

Historic Salem incorporated

OFFICES AT 15 SUMMER STREET

POST OFFICE BOX 865 SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS 01970 / PHONE (617) 745-0799

18 Northey Street

Built by,

GEORGE BROWN JR.

Housewright and stairbuilder

In the year 1839

Research by,

Joyce King

Nov. 1979

*"to preserve Historic Sites, Buildings and objects,
and to work for the education of the community
in the true value of the same."*

18 Northey Street

Northey Street was laid out on April 16, 1807, by an agreement between Abijah Northey, Ezra Northey and Moses Hale:

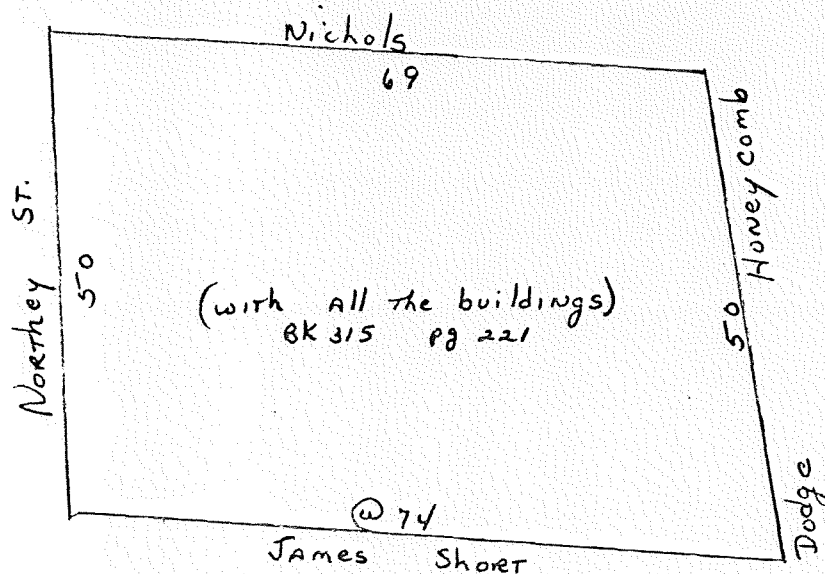
"The said Abijah, Moses and Ezra doth covenant and agree to lay out a street through their land bounding on Bridge St. and the North River (commonly known by the name of Windmill Point"). The street was to be 45 feet wide and always to be kept open without any obstruction. It was also agreed to put fences on the street within 30 days and no obstruction was to remain in the street after this 30 day period. (book 181 page 165)

Mr. Benjamin F. Browne mentions Northey Street in his "Youthful Recollections of Salem" written in 1869 and subsequently printed in the Essex Institute Historic Collections. (vol. 49 page 304)

"All the streets leading from Bridge street, north and south to the rivers, have been opened since my remembrance, except possibly Northey Street. I think that had been then recently opened as a street, as there was no house in it when I first knew it. The land had for several generations been in the Northey family. There had been a cartway running through it to Windmill Point, where had been for a long time a windmill, but I beleive it was not there when the street was opened."

The lot on which this house stands was a portion of Moses Hale's land. After Mr. Hale's death the heirs of his estate sold their rights in the property to Jere Hale. (book 385 page 38, book 315 page 115, and book 315 page 203) On Oct. 21, 1839 Jere Hale of Salem, housewright sold to George Brown Jr., housewright for \$400 the lot of land. (book 315 page 219) On the same day (Oct. 21, 1839) George Brown Jr. obtained a mortgage from the said Jere Hale, for \$350 to be repaid on or before the seventh day of March 1844. (book 315 page 221)

Since the first mention of a building is in the mortgage, but not noted in the deed (both made on the same day) it must be assumed that by some prior agreement George Brown Jr. was allowed to start the building of his house before a registered transaction was made.



The house is taxed for the first time in 1840 and at that time valued at \$1,000.

George Brown Jr., was born Oct. 24, 1812, the son of George and Lydia Brown. George Brown Sr. is mentioned as being the stair-builder of the Fickering Dodge House, Chestnut St. (Essex Institute Historic Collections, vol. 82 page 374). Mr. Brown passed the skills of stairbuilding to his son George Jr. who carried on this profession during his lifetime. On June 4, 1837 George Brown Jr. was married to Elizabeth M. Carr in the North Church, in Salem. The couple was blessed with a son, George Franklin born April 5, 1838. It seems safe to assume that the young family was comfortably settled in their new home by the beginning of 1840. The following year, on August 3, 1841, their son Charles Warren, was born.

According to the Salem directories and the tax records the house was occupied by two families during the 1840's, the first being the Browns and the second James Walton, a carpenter. By 1850 the tenant was John C. Luscomb and family. The federal census for the year 1850 gives a clear insight as to the occupants:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Born</u>
George Brown	36	stairbuilder	Mass
Elizabeth M. Brown	34		"
George F. Brown	12		"
Charles W. Brown	8		"
Horace Brown	2		"
Martha Ann Green	20		"
John C. Luscomb	52	mariner	Mass
Sarah Luscomb	42		"
John Henry Luscomb	21	mariner	"
William F. Luscomb	15	tailor	"
George H. Warren	23	carpenter	"
Sarah A. Warren	19	(daughter of J. Luscomb)	
Anna A. Warren	1		

This house was numbered as 8 Northey St. until the entire street was renumbered about 1896. The Salem tax records for 1853, which lists males over the age of 18, states that George Brown Jr., John C. Luscomb (at sea), John H. Luscomb (at sea), and William Luscomb all lived at 8 Northey St. The value of the house is still \$1,000.

The federal census for 1860:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Prop. Value</u>	<u>Born</u>
George Brown Jr.	47	stairbuilder	\$1,000	Mass
Elizabeth M. Brown	45			"
Charles W. Brown	18			"
Horace Brown	13			"
John Luscomb	60	mariner		Mass
Sarah Luscomb	52			"
William F. Luscomb	25	carpenter		"

The directories show that the Luscombs moved to 42 Pleasant St. around 1862. While the Luscombs lived in this house (18 Northey), Mr. Luscomb spent a great deal of time on the high seas. He is listed as the master of the "Angelica" in 1850, the master of the "Susan Kelley" in 1851 and the Essex Institute has in its collection the Journal of his voyage from Salem to Africa and back, aboard the Brig "Allen", in 1853. In his obituary notice Capt. John C. Luscomb is recorded as being born May 5, 1798 and died Feb. 24, 1881 at the age of 82 years, 9 months, 18 days. A veteran shipmaster. He was second officer of the "America", Capt. J. Dewing in 1823, which brought Rev. P. Fisk to Salem and was probably the last survivor of the crew of that brig. He for many years commanded vessels in the African trade.

After the Luscombs moved away the second apartment was taken by Charles W. Brown and his wife, as shown in the 1870 census:

<u>Name</u>	<u>age</u>	<u>occupation</u>	<u>prop. value</u>	<u>born</u>
George Brown	57	house carpenter	\$2,000	Mass
Elizabeth Brown	55			"
Charles W. Brown	29	draftsman		Mass
Annie Brown	25			"

1880 federal census:

George Brown	67	stairbuilder (unemployed 12 mo.)		Mass
Elizabeth Brown	65			"
C. Warren Brown	38	grocers clerk		Mass
Annie Brown	35			"

George Brown Jr. died on Oct. 12, 1884. His obituary notice simply stated "Deacon George Brown Jr. died at his home at the age of 71.

In Probate Court, docket #61365, George Brown Jr's will is on file. In this will, written on March 17, 1876, Mr. Brown made these provisions:

1. To wife Elizabeth Brown \$4,000.
2. To wife Elizabeth, the dwelling house and land for her use during her lifetime.
3. To his sons \$1,000 each.
4. American Baptist Missionary Union \$400
5. American Baptist Home Mission Soc. \$400
6. To such benevolent purposes as my wife elect \$200
7. To wife Elizabeth all the rest of the estate.

The heirs are listed as:

Elizabeth M. Brown	-	widow	-	resident of Salem
George F. Brown	-	son	-	" " N.Y., N.Y.
C. Warren Brown	-	son	-	" " Salem

On Feb. 12, 1901, Charles W. Brown passed away. His will, probate #87834, written on Nov. 11, 1898, states that all his estate both real and personal is left to his wife Sarah E. Brown. The heirs are : Sarah E., widow and Elizabeth M., mother.

The Salem News Feb. 13, 1901 reports:

"C. Warren Brown a well known citizen died at his home 18 Northey St. yesterday afternoon after a long illness. He was born in Salem, Aug. 3, 1841, and was the son of Elizabeth M. and the late George Brown.

He was educated in the public schools, and he afterwards became a draughtsman having an office in Boston for many years. He was also a fine penman and copyist. For some time he was a clerk for the old firm of I. P. Harris and Co., whom he left to engage in the manufacture of wheels and rubber tires in Amesbury, the firm name being Lockwood and Brown, and which he continued up to the time of his death.

Mr. Brown was for many years an active member of the old Constitution Hand Engine Co. #9 and also the company clerk. He was a

member of the common council in 1871. He was a member of Essex lodge, F. and A. M. of Washington Royal Arch chapter, of Winslow Lewis commandery, K. T. and a past officer of North Star lodge K. of P.

He was a fine singer and at one time chorister of the Central Baptist church, but for several years had been connected with the Universalist church. He was twice married, and he leaves a widow, brother and an aged mother."

Seven months after the death of her son, Elizabeth M. Brown died. Mrs. Brown's will, written Aug. 1898, (probate #89121) bequeath \$1,000 each to her sons George F. and C. Warren Brown. To her two grandchildren, Elizabeth and Carrie \$100 each. To Caroline, wife of Henry Brown, \$50. To Martha A. Green, of Newburyport, \$500 in trust. To the Woman Christian Temperance Union of Salem \$50. To the city \$100 for burial lot upkeep. All the rest of the estate to sons George and C. Warren.

Elizabeth's obituary merely said: "Elizabeth Brown age 86 years, 5 months, 10 days, widow of George, died Sept. 25, 1901. Funeral at her home 18 Northey St. Burial private."

On Jan. 27, 1904, in order to effect a partition between Mary D. (widow of George F.) Brown and Sarah E. (widow of C. Warren) Brown, the property was sold at public auction to Edward Stover, for \$2,700. (book 1741 page 39)

Mary D. Brown, of N.Y., N.Y., as guardian of Elizabeth and Carrie Brown, minors, children of George F. Brown late of N.Y. released her rights to Edward B. Stover, of Newburyport on May 3, 1904. (book 1741 page 40)

Edward Stover then transferred his rights to Sarah E. Brown, making her the sole owner of the property. (book 1741 page 41)

Sarah E. Brown died June 4, 1916. All her estate both real and personal were bequeathed to her brother, Edward B. Stover of 20 Olive St., Newburyport. Her personal estate was listed as: Piano \$100, Victrola and records \$50, Household furniture \$366, Watch \$20, Diamonds \$80, and Bank accounts. The real estate was the house and land at 18 Northey St. \$3,200. (Probate #124222)

Sarah's obituary as written in the Salem News June 5, 1916:

"Mrs. Sarah Brown, widow of C. W. Brown, died at 18 Northey St. yesterday after a brief illness. She was born in Newburyport, the daughter of the late George and Betsey C. (Doyle) Stover and was in her 74th year. She was a regular attendant for many years at the Universalist Church. She leaves a brother Edward Stover of Newburyport. Burial at Greenlawn cemetery, Salem.

On Oct. 27, 1919 Edward B. Stover and his wife Jennie G., of Newburyport sold to Homer H. and Ruth L. Haydock, husband and wife, the same property conveyed by deed of Brown et al 1904, see also administration of Sarah E. Brown #124222. (book 2431 page 39)

August 22, 1938 there is a notice for filing a partition between Homer H. Haydock and Ruth L. Haydock. (book 3155 page 179)

Oct. 16, 1950 Ruth L. Haydock sold to James and Rita Nolan, husband and wife the land and buildings at 18 Northey St. (book 3778 page 18)

On April 5, 1957 James and Rita M. Nolan sold to Edward W. Olszewski the same land and buildings conveyed to them by Ruth Haydock in 1950. (book 4358 page 226)

Reference to book and page are deed books kept at the Registry of Deeds and probate numbers are cases at Probate Court, both located in the same building on Federal St., Salem.

Maps are not meant to be exact, just for illustration purposes.



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APARILLA

J. J. Hale
G. Brown Jr.

Know all Men by these Presents, That I,

Jer. J. Hale of Salem in the County of Essex, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Housewright

in consideration of *Seven hundred Dollars* to me paid by *George Brown Junior* of said Salem, Housewright.

the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, do hereby give, grant, sell and convey unto the said

Brown all my right, title and interest in and to the following described Lot of land lying in said Salem, and bounded Westerly on *Northey Street* fifty feet; Northealy on land of *Nichols* about sixty nine feet; Easterly on lands of *Honeycomb & Dodge* fifty feet, & Southerly on land of *James Short*; with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging.

To Have and to Hold the afore-granted premises to the said *Brown* his heirs and assigns, to his and their use and behoof forever.

And I do covenant with the said *Brown* his heirs and assigns, that I lawfully seised in fee of the afore-granted premises that they are free of all incumbrances; that I have good right to sell and convey the same to the said *Brown*

And that I will warrant and defend the same premises to the said *Brown* his heirs and assigns, forever, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons.

In witness whereof I the said *Jer. J. Hale*

have herunto set my hand and seal this *twenty first* day of *October* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *thirty nine*.

Signed sealed and delivered in presence of us,

Geo. Wheatland

Jer. J. Hale Seal.

Essex, ss. *Oct. 21st* 1839.—Then the above-named

Jer. J. Hale

acknowledged the above Instrument, to be his free act and deed,

before me, *Geo. Wheatland* Justice of the Peace,

Essex, ss. Received *Oct. 25th* 1839, 25 m. past 9 o'clock, A. M. Recorded and examined,

by *R. H. French* Register.

G. Brown
to
J. J. Hale

Know all Men by these Presents, That I
George Brown Junr of Salem in the County of Essex and
State of Massachusetts, Housewright,
in consideration of three hundred and fifty dollars paid me by
Jere J. Hale of said Salem, Housewright,

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the original as recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for the County of Essex, Massachusetts, on the 23rd day of October, 1839.

(The receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge,) do hereby give, grant, sell and convey unto the said Hale all my right, title and interest in and to the following described Real Estate lying in said Salem and bounded westerly on North Street, fifty feet; northerly on land of Nichols about sixty nine feet; easterly on land of Honeycomb & Dods, fifty feet; and southerly on land of James Short, being the premises this instant conveyed to me by said Hale and recorded in Reg. of deeds just before this deed, with all the buildings thereon & the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging

To Have and to Hold, the granted premises with the appurtenances to the said Hale forever. And I the said Brown his heirs and assigns, to his & their use and behoof for my self, with my heirs, executors and administrators, do hereby covenant the said Hale, his

heirs and assigns, that I am lawfully seised in fee of the premises, that they are free of all incumbrances,

That I have good right to sell and convey the same to the said Hale and administrators shall warrant and defend the same will, and my heirs, executors and administrators shall warrant and defend the same to the heirs and assigns, forever, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons.

Provided Nevertheless, That if said Brown, his heirs, executors, or administrators, shall pay said Hale, his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns said sum of three hundred and fifty dollars on or before the seventh day of March which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty four with lawful interest then this Deed, as also a certain promissory note bearing even date with these presents, given by said Brown to said Hale

the first mentioned sum and interest at the time aforesaid, shall both be void; otherwise shall remain absolute.

In Witness whereof, we the said George Brown Jr. and Elizabeth M. Brown, wife of said George who for one dollar paid her hereby releases her right of dower in said premises have hereunto set our hands and seals this twenty first day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty nine.

Signed sealed and delivered in presence of
Geo. Wheatland
Lydia Brown

George Brown Jr. Seal
Elizabeth M. Brown Seal

Essex, ss. Oct. 21st 1839 - Then the above named George Brown Jr.

acknowledged the above Instrument to be his free act and deed, before me, Geo. Wheatland Justice of Peace.

Essex, ss. Received Oct. 23rd 1839, 25 m. past 9

o'clock A.M. Recorded and examined, by N.H. French Register.