

# Historic Salem incorporated

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6 BROWN STREET  
Built for  
HENRY RUSSELL JR., mason  
in 1844

Research by:  
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6 Brown Street (formerly 18 Brown st.)  
Built in 1844 for Henry Russell Jr. a mason in Salem.

The house that Henry Russell Jr. built at what was 18 Brown Street was constructed during 1844. In 1844 the President of the United States was John Tyler. President Tyler did not gain enough support to get reelected so the Democrats nominated James K. Polk who would on December 4, 1844 win the election for the Presidency. Henry Clay a Whig was the losing opponent. On June 15th of that same year Charles Goodyear received a patent for vulcanizing rubber. Early in 1844 on May 24th the first telegraph message was sent to Alfred Vail in Baltimore Maryland. He received the message "What hath God wrought" from the telegraph's inventor Samuel F. B. Morse, who sent the message from the chambers of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington D.C.. And on July 29th the oldest surviving yacht club was established, the New York Yacht Club. Finally the Civil War was 17 years away in the future. The population of the city of Salem in 1845 was 16,762 persons.

The land that 6 Brown st. is built upon was originally the site of one of Salem's several rope walks. Captain Jonathan Harraden, who was a distinguished private naval commander during the Revolutionary War (Gilbert L. Streeter, *Proceedings of the Essex Institute Vol. I 1848-1856*, Essex Institute, Salem, Mass., 1856, p.77), made the rigging for the mainmast of the frigate Essex which was built at Winter Island in Salem in 1799. The cordage factory remained at the site until 1842, then in 1844 a section of the land was sold to Thomas Downing a merchant of Salem.

Downing in turn sold the land that same year to Henry Russell Jr. who was a mason. Russell along with Benjamin R. White were masonry contractors who ran a firm called Russell and White. They were the masons for several prominent buildings in Salem. One of which was the East Church built between 1844 and 1846, which today is the Salem Witch Museum. The church was the oldest branch of the First Church of Salem which was established in 1718.(Bryant F. Tolles Jr. with Carolyn K. Tolles, *Architecture in Salem an Illustrated Guide*, Essex Institute, Salem, Mass., 1983, p.13) Another church that Russell and White worked on was the Church of the Immaculate Conception at 15 Harthorne Boulevard. It was built during the years between 1857 and 1864.(Tolles, *Architecture in Salem an Illustrated Guide*, p.51-52) They also worked on the Court House that is on the corner of Washington and Federal Streets during the time between 1839 and 1841.(Tolles, *Architecture in Salem an Illustrated Guide*, p. 119)

The house that Russell built was a two story brick house in the Greek Revival style. Henry Russell Jr. lived at the house until his death in 1857. His widow continued to live in the house until 1859. The house was then occupied by several different tenants until 1888 when Albert B. Russell moved in. Albert who in 1869 was a clerk in the U.S. Internal Revenue Office, then in 1884 he became a teller at the Merchants National Bank of Salem. After a few years as a teller he then opened his

own business, A.B. Russell & Company, a real estate and insurance office that was located at 252 Essex Street. Albert died in 1900 and his widow lived in the house until 1909 when she sold it to Daniel Low a merchant of Salem. (Salem Street Directory) In 1888 Albert had a second wooden house built on the property with its entrances being 2 and 4 Howard Street.

Low owned the property for less than a year before he sold the brick house to William McDermott who was a physician. William along with his wife Mary lived in the house from 1910 to 1943, before they then moved to Chestnut Street. In 1955 the house was then sold again, this time to Honora Hayes. She owned the house for almost a year before she sold the house to Elinor Johnston. Honora did not occupy the house while she owned it. Elinor lived in the house until 1985 when she then sold the house to a trust headed by Arthur J. Jannell. (Salem Street Directory)

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 341 Page 272

Date: February 9, 1844  
Grantor: Jonathan Haraden and Andrew Haraden Rope makers of Salem  
Grantee: Thomas Downing a Merchant of Salem  
Consideration: \$1,400  
Description: "a certain parcel of land in said Salem... commencing at the Southeast corner and running Westerly bounded Southerly by Brown Street forty seven (47) feet five (5) inches, thence running Northerly bounded Westerly by Howard Street one hundred and twenty three (123) feet, thence running Easterly bounded Northerly by other land of said Grantors forty six (46) feet ten (10) inches, thence running Southerly bounded Easterly by land of Dr. Samuel Johnson one hundred and fifteen (115) feet four (4) inches to the point begun at."

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 343 Page 216

Date: April 29, 1844  
Grantor: Thomas Downing a Merchant of Salem  
Grantee: Henry Russell Jr. a Mason of Salem  
Consideration: \$1,400  
Description: Same as above

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 1421 Page 543

Date: September 6, 1894  
Grantor: Albert B. Russell of Salem  
Grantee: John M. Raymond of Salem and Frank L. Lombard of Somerville  
Consideration: The house was indentured for debts that Albert Russell was unable to pay.

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 2015 Page 425

Date: September 6, 1896  
Grantor: John M. Raymond of Salem and Frank L. Lombard of Somerville  
Grantee: Edward C. Battis of Salem  
Consideration: \$1 and other valuable considerations and certain mortgages  
Description:

A certain "parcel of land with the brick dwelling house and the new dwelling house and all other buildings situated in said Salem and bounded beginning at the Southeasterly corner and running Westerly by Brown Street forty-seven (47) feet five (5) inches, thence running Northerly by Howard Street one hundred and twenty three (123) feet, thence running Easterly by land of Lambert forty six (46) feet ten (10) inches, thence running Southerly by land of Kimball one hundred and fifteen (115) feet four (4) inches to the point begun at."

Note: "Being the same estate conveyed to Henry Russell Jr., late of Salem, deceased, father of said Albert B. Russell..."

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 2015 Page 427

Date: September 6, 1896  
Grantor: Edward C. Battis of Salem  
Grantee: Albert B. Russell of Salem  
Consideration: \$1 and other valuable considerations and certain mortgages  
Description: same as above

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 1984 Page 421

Date: August 24, 1909  
Grantor: Clara L. Russell widow, Anna Russell unmarried, and Henry L. Russell unmarried, all of Salem, legal heirs to Albert B. Russell  
Grantee: Daniel Low merchant of Salem  
Consideration: \$1 and other good and valuable considerations  
Description: same as above

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 2015 Page 428

Date: April 11, 1910  
Grantor: Daniel Low merchant of Salem  
Grantee: William V. McDermott  
Consideration: \$1 and other good and valuable considerations  
Description: "... parcel of real estate with the brick dwelling house thereon, situate in said Salem and bounded as follows: Commencing at the Southeasterly corner of said premises on Brown Street at land now or formerly of Kimball, and running Westerly by said Brown Street forty seven (47) feet, five (5) inches more or less to Howard Street; thence running Northerly by said Howard Street sixty four (64) feet, seven (7) inches more or less to land conveyed by me to H. K. Gardiner; thence running Easterly about forty eight (48) feet, five (5) inches by said land of Gardiner to land now or formerly of Kimball; thence running Southerly by said land of Kimball fifty nine (59) feet, eleven (11) inches more or less to Brown Street and to point begun at."

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 3619 Page 358

Date: August 21, 1948  
Grantor: William V. McDermott  
Grantee: Alice G. Feenan  
Consideration: of less than \$100  
Description: same as above

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 3619 Page 359

Date: August 21, 1948  
Grantor: Alice G. Feenan  
Grantee: William V. McDermott and Mary A. McDermott husband and wife  
Consideration: consideration for this conveyance is less than \$100  
Description: same as above

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 4214 Page 94

Date: October 13, 1955  
Grantor: Mary A. McDermott widow of Salem survivor of a tenancy by the entirety with William v. McDermott (said William V. McDermott deceased January 16, 1950)  
Grantee: Honora M. Hayes of Salem  
Consideration: nominal consideration  
Description: "the land in said Salem, with the building thereon, situate on Brown Street, bounded and described as follows:  
Commencing at the Southeasterly corner of said premises on Brown Street at land now or formerly of Kimball; and Running Westerly by said Brown Street forty-seven (47) feet, five (5) inches, more or less, to Howard Street; thence Northerly by said Howard Street sixty-four (64) feet, seven (7) inches, more or less, by land now or formerly of H. K. Gardner; thence running Easterly About forty-eight (48) feet, five (5) inches by said land of Gardner to land now or formerly of Kimball; thence Southerly by land now or formerly of Kimball fifty-nine (59) feet, eleven (11) inches to Brown Street and point begun at."

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 4309 Page 130

Date: September 22, 1956  
Grantor: Honora M. Hayes of Salem married  
Grantee: Elinor Johnston wife of Charles S. Johnston Jr. in her own right, of  
Beverly  
Consideration: nominal consideration  
Description: same as above  
  
Note: This conveyance is made subject to a mortgage held by Roger  
Conant Cooperative Bank of Salem Mass. dated October 13, 1955

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 7970 Page 299

Date: October 18, 1985  
Grantor: Elinor A. Johnston widow of Salem  
Grantee: Arthur J. Jannell, as trustee of the Elinor A. Johnston Nominee  
Trust  
Consideration: of less than \$100  
Description: same as above  
  
Note: This conveyance is subject to liens and encumbrance of record

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 9409 Page 304

Date: February 26, 1988  
Grantor: Trustee of A. Johnston Nominee Trust  
Grantee: Donald J. Clarke and Sheila A. Clarke husband and wife as  
tenants by the entirety  
Consideration: Paid  
Description: same as above