

Land & House at 37 Walter Street, Salem, Mass.

This house was built for Alfred B Brown & his wife Helen A (Shannon) in the year 1870, probably, & certainly by 1871.

Towards the end of the 18th century, the land of which this house-lot is a part belonged to Doctor Willm. Walter & his wife Lydia (Lynde); "Walter's Road" was laid out through their property when the Walter heirs began to sell off the numbered lots of their inheritance in the spring of 1801.

Lot #3 (of which the 37 Walter St house-lot was originally a part) was sold by Dr Walter's heirs for \$54 on 28 Ap 1801 to James Nichols, a Salem bricklayer, and his wife Polly; it fronted 112' 10" on Walter's Road and ran back 161' 4" to the land of John Symonds, where it butted 112' 10" (see 167:262). Mr & Mrs Nichols soon sold it, 28 Ap 1801, for \$90 to Obadiah Groce, Salem housewright/gentleman (168:177).

Mr Groce died possessed of the land; on 14 Ap 1820 his heirs gave it to Elisha Mack of Salem, Esquire (224:62). Mr Mack owned it until 9 June 1835, when for \$325 he sold lot #3 and other adjoining lots on Walter Street to Daniel Harris, a Salem farmer (284:37). At this time the lot became part of one large lot along Walter Street; it was probably used as farmland for awhile, then built on.

Mr Harris died in 1866; on 14 Mar 1867 his four sons granted his only daughter, Emeline A, born in 1814 & married to Isaac W Shannon, all their right to a piece of land 161' deep and 148' 5" in the rear & in front (on Walter Street), together with the dwelling house thereon (now #35 Walter St) (719:189).

Three years later, Mr & Mrs Shannon conveyed the northern corner of this lot (40' x 100') for \$400 to their daughter Helen A, the wife of Alfred B Brown, 16 Feb 1870 (792:9). Mr & Mrs Brown built their house on this land, probably in the spring & summer of 1870.

Two years later, the Shannons, for \$651.94, sold the rest of the present lot at 37 Walter Street to their daughter, Mrs Brown, 3 Oct 1872 (874:261).

For more than 30 years, the Browns made their home here, along with their two sons, John Porter Brown & Ellery Brown. Mrs Helen Augusta (Shannon) Brown died 19 Nov 1906; she had been a former president of the Salem Thought & Work Club, and was eulogized as "a woman who enjoyed the esteem & love of a large circle of friends, and was a devoted wife & mother." (See her obituary, Salem Evening News, 20 Nov 1906, p.2, col. 4.)

Mrs Brown left the house & land to her husband, Alfred B Brown, who died about a year later, on the evening of Christmas Day, 1907. A sketch of his life is here given:

"Mr Brown was born in Boston in 1842, and was educated there. When he was 20 years of age, he shipped in the U.S. Navy as paymaster's clerk, and served on the U.S.S. Commodore Perry (during the Civil War). He came to Salem many years ago and for a long time was clerk for his father, the late John P Brown, who was a member of the firm of Woodward & Brown, piano manufacturers of Boston. In 1883, Mr Brown, who was a member of the Salem school board, was elected secretary of that body on the resignation of Henry F Waters, and he had been annually elected ever since...

"Mr Brown had an enviable record as secretary of the school board, was always pains-taking, and he extended every courtesy to all who came to his office on business. The school children who met him, and they were legion, always liked him, and he loved them all..."
(See Salem Evening News, 26 Dec 1907, p.8.)

Mr Brown's eldest son (and administrator of his estate), J. Porter Brown, sold the estate to Martha L Roberts on 12 Oct 1908 (1940:84); she immediately reconveyed the same to Mrs Brown (1940:86), who owned it for six years more and then sold it 10 July 1914 to George Taylor (2264:153).

Mr Taylor died leaving the estate to his wife, Ida M, & only child, Leila M Taylor. On 8 May 1935, Mrs Taylor conveyed her dower third of the premises to her daughter Leila (3034:203), who now came into sole possession of it. Ten years later, 10 May 1945, Leila M Taylor sold the estate to Derby Moore & his wife Dorothy F (3402:410); the Moores owned it for 22 years until the death of Mrs Moore. Mr Moore remarried, and on 3 Nov 1967 reconveyed the premises to himself and his wife Doris E (5489:201). On 9 Feb 1972 the Moores sold the estate for \$32,500 to John G Jennings (5842:155), and two years later, 6 Mar 1974, Mr Jennings sold it for \$42,500 to Paul K LaRoque & wife Mary Lou (6049:128).

For \$44,000 Mr & Mrs LaRoque sold it, 30 Aug 1974, to John A Boris & wife Nancy M, the present owners (6095:134).

Robert Booth
28 Oct 1976

Notes: In using the Salem tax records, I found that the 1870 real estate assessment for Alfred B Brown was \$47.85; in 1871 (& thenceforward), it was \$73.10. I believe that the 1870 assessment included the small lot & new house; the 1871 increase of \$25.25 reflects the purchase of the land adjoining (which purchase did not formally occur until 1872). There is no extant Salem Directory for 1870, unfortunately.

Deed Schedule for 37 Walter Street as presently bounded

- 12 Oct 1908: J Porter Brown to Martha L Roberts; 1940:84.
12 Oct 1908: Martha L Roberts to Helen G Brown; 1940:86.
10 July 1935: J Porter & wife Helen G Brown to George Taylor;
2264:153.
10 May 1945: Ida M Taylor (1/3) to Leila M Taylor; 3034:203.
10 May 1945: Leila M Taylor to Derby Moore & wife Dorothy F;
3402:410.
3 Nov 1967: Derby Moore to himself & wife Doris E; 5489:201.
9 Feb 1972: Derby Moore & wife Doris E for \$32,500 to
John G Jennings; 5842:155.
6 Mar 1974: John G Jennings for \$42,500 to Paul K LaRoque
& wife Mary Lou; 6049:128.
30 Aug 1974: Mr & Mrs LaRoque to John A Bris & wife Nancy M
for \$44,000; 6095:134.

All deed references pertain to the instruments as recorded
at Southern Essex County Registry of Deeds, Federal St, Salem.

D. M. HARRIS

161'

61'

100'

16 Feb 1870

Mr & Mrs Isaac W Shannon

for \$400 to

Helen S, wife of Alfred B Brown
(792:9)

40'

40'

#37

63' 6"

100'

Walter
Street

BROWN

3 Oct 1872

Mr & Mrs Isaac W Shannon

for \$651.94 to

Helen S, wife of Alfred B Brown
(874:261) 161'

27'

148'
5"

148' 5"

HARRIS

House

#35

161'

D. M. HARRIS

Rough Plan of Estate Conveyed 14 Mar 1867
by Heirs of Daniel Harris to Emeline A,
wife of Isaac W Shannon, by deed 719:189



1cm=10'

RECORDED

We, Paul K. LaRoque and Mary Lou LaRoque, husband and wife, as tenants by the entirety, both of Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts in consideration of Forty-four Thousand (\$44,000.00) Dollars

grant to John A. Boris and Nancy M. Boris, husband wife, as tenants by the entirety, both

of 37 Walter Street, Salem, Massachusetts, with quitclaim covenants the land in Salem, Massachusetts, situated at 37 Walter Street, bounded and described as follows:

NORTHEASTERLY by Walter Street, sixty-seven (67) feet; NORTHWESTERLY by land now or formerly of Daniel M. Harris, one hundred sixty-one (161) feet; SOUTHWESTERLY by land now or formerly of said Harris, sixty-three (63) feet, six (6) inches; and SOUTHEASTERLY by land now or formerly of Shannon, one hundred sixty-one (161) feet.

Being the same premises conveyed to us by deed of John G. Jennings dated March 6, 1974, recorded with Essex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 6049, Page 128.



Executed as a sealed instrument this 30th day of August 1974.

Handwritten signatures of Paul K. LaRoque and Mary Lou LaRoque on lines.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Essex ss. August 30, 1974

Then personally appeared the above named Paul K. LaRoque and Mary Lou LaRoque

and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be their free act and deed,

Before me, Charles F. Manning, Notary Public

My commission expires April 11, 1980

ESSEX SS. RECORDED Aug 30, 1974 45 M. PAST 9 A M. INST # 55