

# Historic Salem incorporated

OFFICES AT 15 SUMMER STREET

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

1-3 Howard Street  
Built for  
SARAH E. BALCOMB, educator  
in the year 1894

Research by,  
Joyce King  
July 1979

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

### 1-3 Howard Street

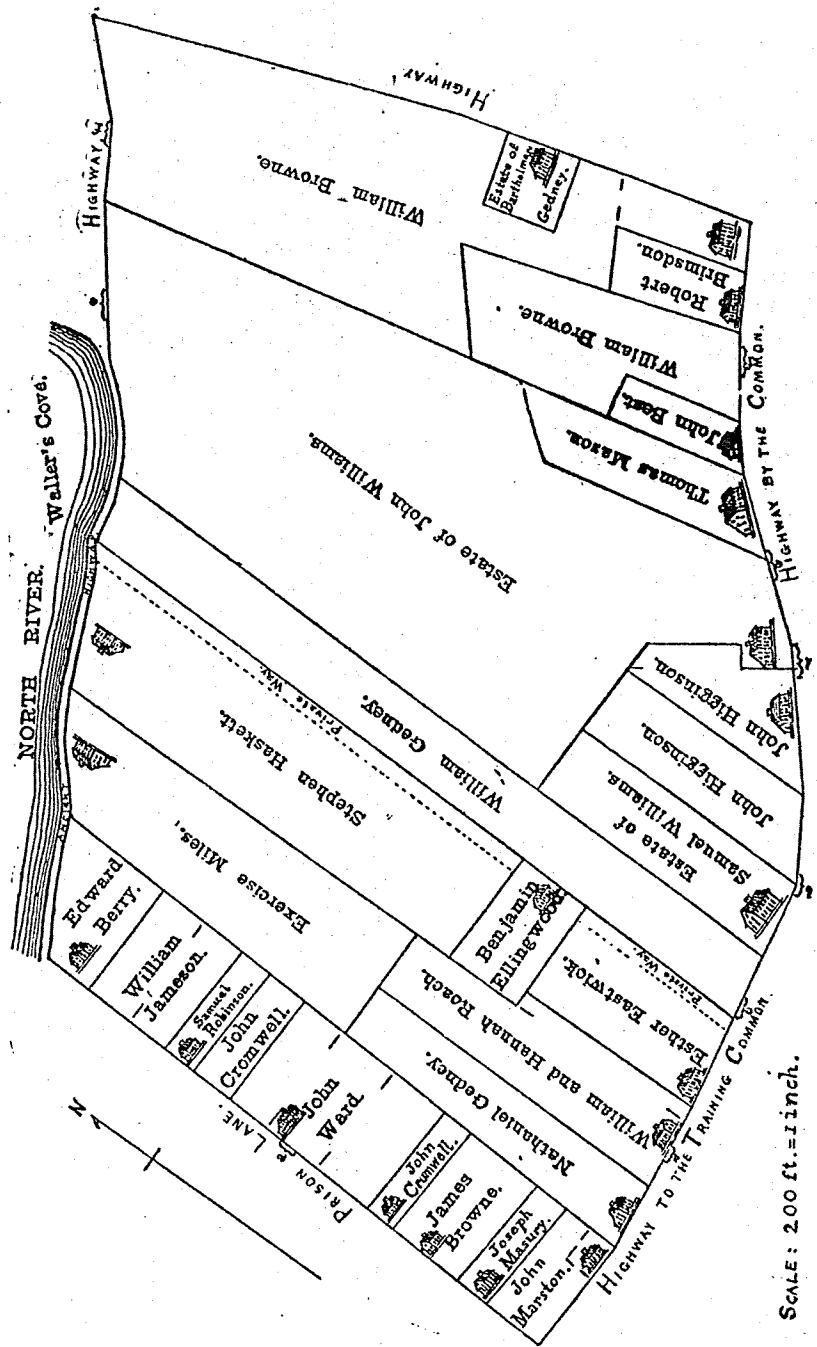
The house at 1-3 Howard Street is described by the Salem Historic Commission Report as: "This two story plus pitch roof, wooden house is gable to the street. The two story bay window which balances the simple double entrance on the gable end and the jig saw cut strips of trim and fancy shingles are characteristic of a style popular at the end of the 19th century."

This same report also gives an excellent history of this side of the street: "Howard Street was laid out in 1801 according to Perley. Bentley wrote on March 16, 1801, "The Town of Salem have actually purchased part of the Locust Field for a Burying Ground (The Howard Street Cemetery). This object is at length obtained. The entrance is near the Rope Walk on Brown Street. The Burying Ground will lay upon North River. The extent is between one and two acres including the passage." This "passage" undoubtedly refers to Howard Street. The ropewalk belonged to Captain Jonathan Haraden, a hero of the Revolution.

It is thought that the street was named for John Howard, a corporal in General Glover's Marblehead regiment in 1775, who later sailed under Samuel Tucker on the schooner Hancock. In 1779, Howard settled in Salem and went into partnership with Samuel Buffum as sailmaker on Gray's Wharf. Howard continued in this business until he retired in 1839; he was the first president of the Salem Charitable Mechanic Association and lived at 33 Brown Street.

It is worth mentioning the Salem tradition that it was on or near what is today Howard Street that Giles Corey was pressed to death in 1692. Corey, when he was to be tried for witchcraft, stood mute and refused to plead. The punishment for this was "peine forte et dure" according to the English law. Corey was indeed pressed to death, and in this way was able to convey his property to his heirs instead of having it confiscated by the government, which would have occurred had he stood trial and been found guilty of being a witch or wizard."

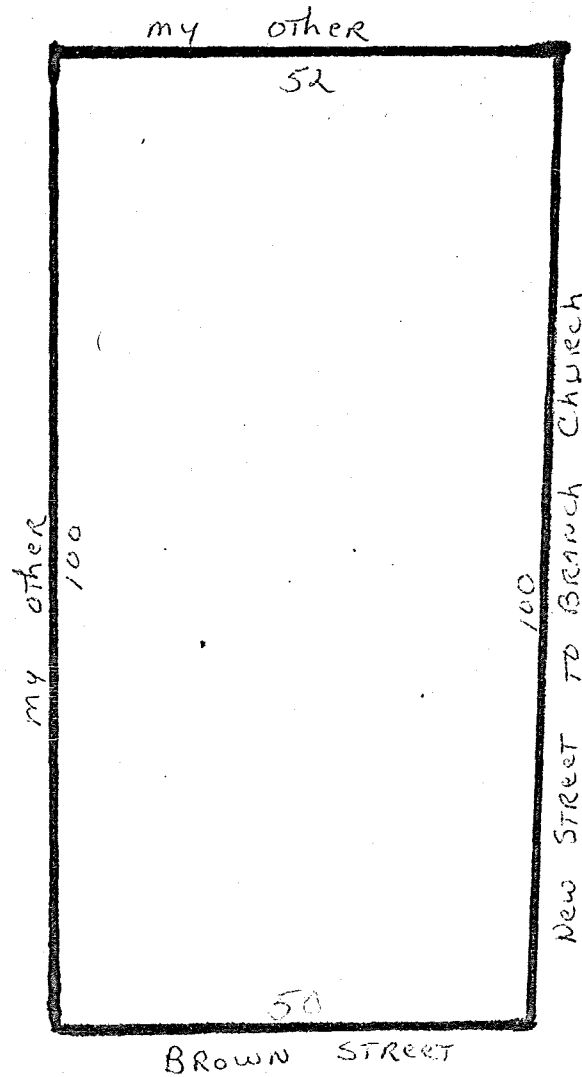
The lot on which this house stands was part of the Esther Eastwick property in the 1677's. Mrs. Eastwick probably inherited it from Capt. Benjamin Fermaies, whose widow died possessed of the whole lot with a house upon it before 1661. Mrs. Eastwick conveyed the strip included in the Roach lot to Mr. Roach in 1697 and died about 1700. (see next page for map) The house and lot descended to Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Searle, and Elizabeth's brother Eastwick Bush. The house was standing in 1702 and gone in 1715.



SCALE: 200 ft. = 1 inch.

PART OF SALEM IN 1700. NO. 15.

This land was presumably vacant for many years, for in 1806, when Stephen and Sarah Webb sold to Joseph Howard, sailmaker, it was described as a lot of land. (book 178 page 257)



This land also includes #8 Brown Street.

On Oct. 15, 1827 Joseph Howard sold to Thomas Downing Jr., merchant, the same land purchased of Stephen Webb, including the brick dwelling house ( 8 Brown St.) for \$3,800. (book 247 page 118)

On May 26, 1893 the heirs of Thomas Downing Jr. sold their shares in the property to Joseph and Emily D. Smith. (book 1380 page 186)

Mr. and Mrs. Smith passed the property on to Sarah E. Balcomb, wife of Henry W., for \$1. It was described as a message, brick dwelling house and outbuildings and land under and adjoining on June 15, 1893. (book 1380 page 187)

A check of the tax records and atlases for this period of time shows clearly that Mrs. Balcomb was responsible for the building of the house 1-3 Howard St. in 1894, on the spot where the barn formerly stood.

Salem tax records:

1893 - 8 Brown St., unoccupied - owner Sarah E. Balcomb  
house value \$3,500, land \$1,200, barn \$200

1894 - Until this time the house which is now numbered 5 Howard St. was called #1 Howard St. With the building of a new house by Sarah Balcomb, the problem of numbering was solved by calling this new house 1½ Howard St.:

1½ Howard St. occupied by Charles Pickering, clerk, age 41.  
Owner Sarah Balcomb, new house valued at \$2,800, the land is taxed with 8 Brown St.

1895 - This year the houses were renumbered, This house was now called 1-3 Howard St. A new tenant was listed - John French, grocer, age 47, owns 2 horses, in 1893 Mr. French resided in Washington. Charles Pickering, clerk, age 42 is still a tenant. The owner is Sarah Balcomb - house value \$2,800 and the land taxed with 8 Brown St.

1901 - Occupants:

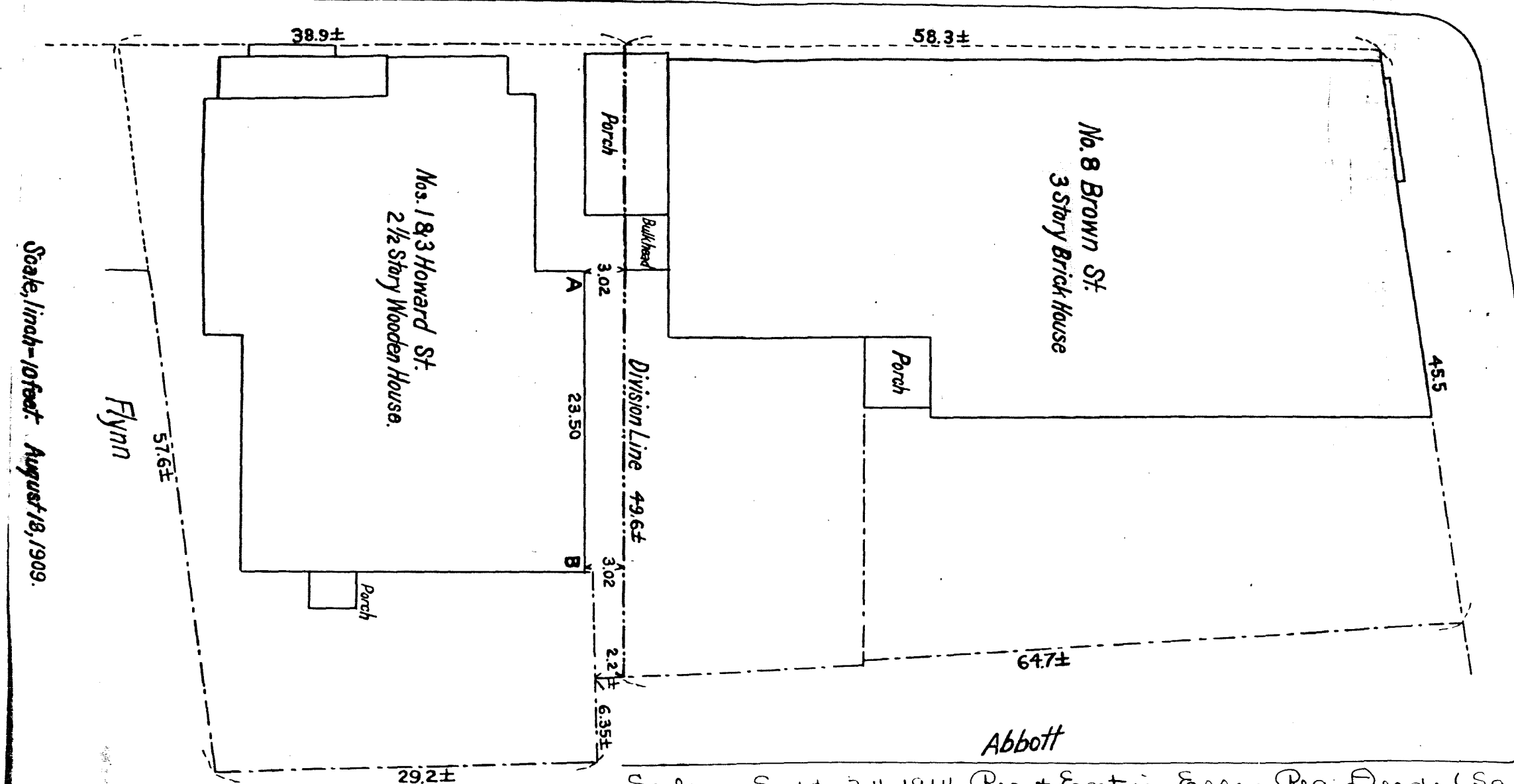
John French, clerk at 85 Washington St. and Miss Nellie French  
Charles F. Pickering, clerk at 124 Washington St. and Miss Elizabeth Pickering

1903 - Occupants:

John H. French, clerk at Marblehead  
Miss E. B. Pickering (Charles F. died Dec. 30, 1902)

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOWARD ST.



Scale, 1 inch = 10 feet. August 18, 1909.

*Part of land owned by Sarah E. Balcom  
 showing division of lots.  
 Land situated in Salem*

BROWN ST.

Salem, Sept. 24, 1914. Rec. + Ent in Essex Reg. Deeds (Sg. Dist.)  
 Attest: *Richard J. Bull. Reg.*

*power 25, 1914*

The obituary of Mr. Pickering gives a better insight of the lifestyle of the first occupant of this house:

The citizens of Salem were greatly surprised this morning to learn of the death of Charles F. Pickering. Mr. Pickering had hardly been missed from his usual place of business having been at his desk as late as last Saturday. He went home, however, feeling poorly, and tonsillitis developed. No anxiety was felt for him and he passed away in his sleep at 6 o'clock this morning.

Mr. Pickering was born in Salem, in April 1852, and was the son of the late William and Mary A. Pickering, his father being for years a leading coal and wood merchant. As a boy, Charles attended the Salem schools, afterwards he learned the gentleman's furnishing business, and was a member of the firm of Covell and Pickering, and subsequently carried on that business alone. Of later years he had been a bookkeeper for his brother, George W. Pickering, the coal merchant.

He was a member of the Thorndike Club, but of no other organization. He was unmarried, and had made his home for many years with his only sister, Miss Elizabeth B. Pickering, at 3 Howard St., where he died. He also leaves two brothers, U.S. Marshall Benjamin P. Pickering and George W. both of Salem, and several nephews and nieces.

Mr. French and Elizabeth Pickering remained as tenants until 1907, when both moved to different parts of the city. With their leaving Mrs. Balcomb rented the premises to a Mr. Roswell C. Richardson and Mrs. Annie M. Wheeler, widow of James. Mr. Richardson only lived in the house a short time. He was replaced by Joseph L. Stowe in 1909. Mr. Stowe and Mrs. Wheeler remained tenants for many years.

Mrs. Sarah Ellen Honeycomb Balcomb died Dec. 30, 1922. In her Probate #144333 a list of real estate and its value is given:

house and land 1-3 Howard St.	\$3,975
" " " 7 Lemon St.	4,000
" " " 9 Lemon St.	2,350
" " " R9 Lemon St.	1,200

In her will the house and land 1-3 Howard St. was given to her stepdaughter Annie Wheeler.

Salem News Jan. 2, 1923

Mrs. Sarah Ellen Balcomb, widow of Henry Balcomb, and daughter of the late William H. and Sarah (Boardman) Honeycomb, died at her home, 7 Lemon street, last Saturday.

Mrs. Balcomb was born in Salem, Feb. 24, 1837, and in her younger days taught for some years at the Bentley school, being associated with Miss Cogswell, Miss Choate, Miss Brown and Miss Coleman. In addition to her school duties she was a musician of ability, having inherited her gift from both father and mother, one of whom played the bass viol in the Universalist church before the advent of the pipe organ, while the other was the leading soprano in the choir of the same church. Mrs. Balcomb was an industrious teacher of piano after school hours and an organist on Sunday, and served for years with the Tabernacle, the Central Baptist and Lafayette Street Methodist churches.

In early youth she united with the Central Baptist church but after the Calvary church was built in her neighborhood she transferred her membership to that society. Mrs. Balcomb was deeply interested in church and missionary endeavor, also in the charitable work of her native city, and during her long period of invalidism was not content to wholly lose touch with these activities. Years ago she was interested in educating young men for the ministry and among those she assisted was Rev. Louis Eaton, who became a missionary to Siam.

Mrs. Balcomb had been confined to her bed for seven years, during which time she exhibited great patience and cheerfulness, and being mentally active until within a few months, she would pass away the hours by writing clever poems for various occasions, birthdays, anniversaries and greetings to old friends also a weekly message to be read at the prayer service of her church.

The deceased leaves a daughter, Mrs. Annie Wheeler, of Salem, two grandsons Henry Balcomb of Salem and Henry L. Wheeler of Natick, two great-grandchildren and several cousins, Mrs. George Pickering, Mrs. Sylvia Millett, Miss Anna Wright and Charles Guinn, all of this city.

On July 24, 1952 Ann J. Wheeler, of Westbough, guardian of Annie W. Wheeler, sometimes called Anne M. by power Docket #236793 sold to Victor Stanowicz and Alma husband and wife, for \$8,500 the property 1-3 Howard St. (book 3911 page 333)



On Aug. 11, 1960 Victor and Alma Stanowicz, of Salem, sold to John D. and Rosalie M. O'Connell the land and building same conveyed by Ann J. Wheeler, guardian of Annie W. Wheeler. (book 4693 page 58)

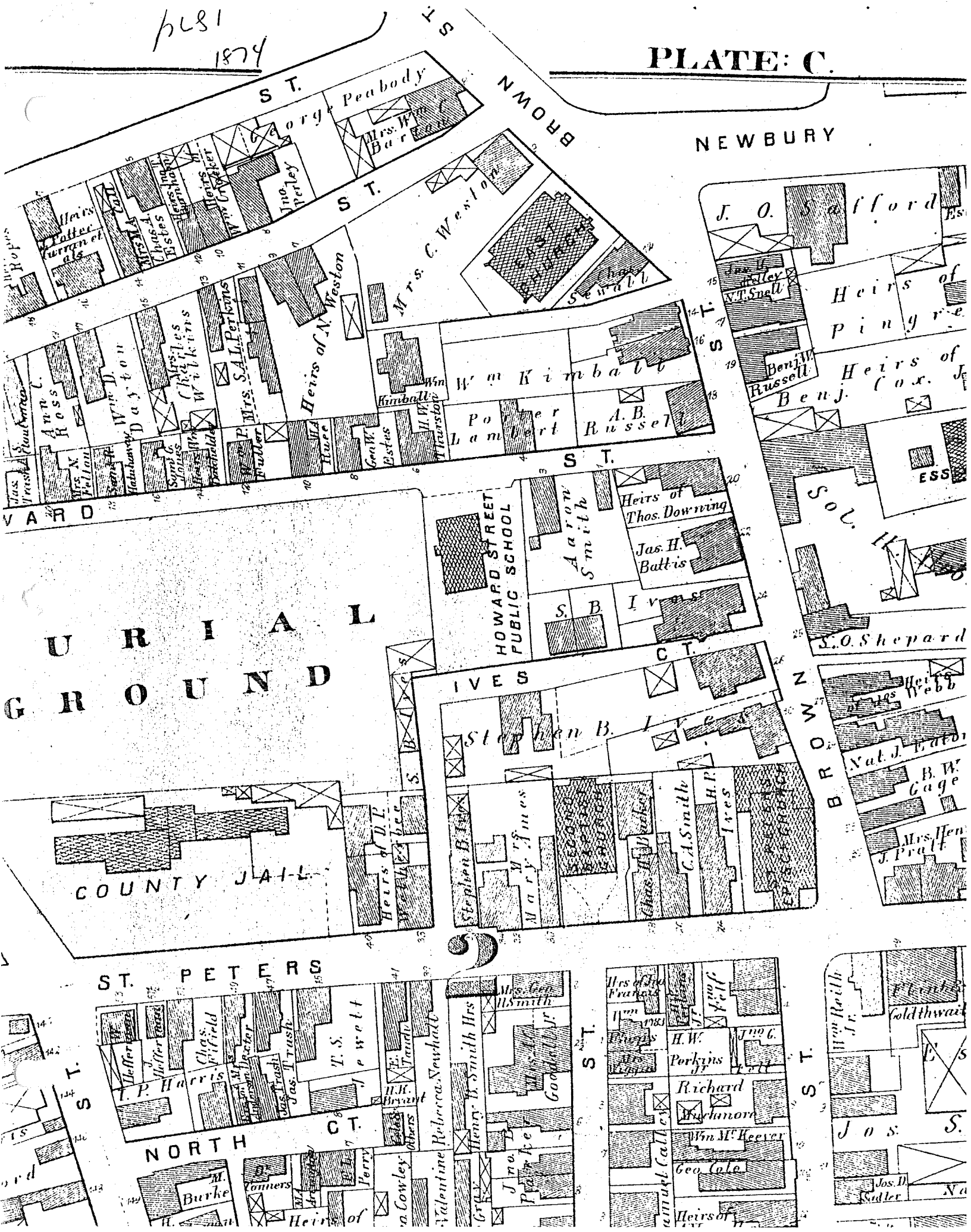
Sept. 1, 1967 John D. and Rosalie M. O'Connell sold to David E. Hayes and Honora M. Hayes, husband and wife, the land and buildings at 1-3 Howard St. shown on Plan of Sarah E. Balcomb book 2274 page 1. The same conveyed to John D. O'Connell et ux by Victor Stanowicz. (book 5472 page 318)

June 21, 1979 David E. and Honora M. Hayes sold to Kenneth E. Lindauer, Howard St. Trust, for \$45,000 the property 1-3 Howard St. (book 6604 page 38)

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

6281  
1874

# PLATE C.



ST.

ST.

BROWN

NEWBURY

ST.

WARD

## COURT HOUSE GROUND

HOWARD STREET  
PUBLIC SCHOOL

IVES

Stephen B. Ives

COUNTY JAIL

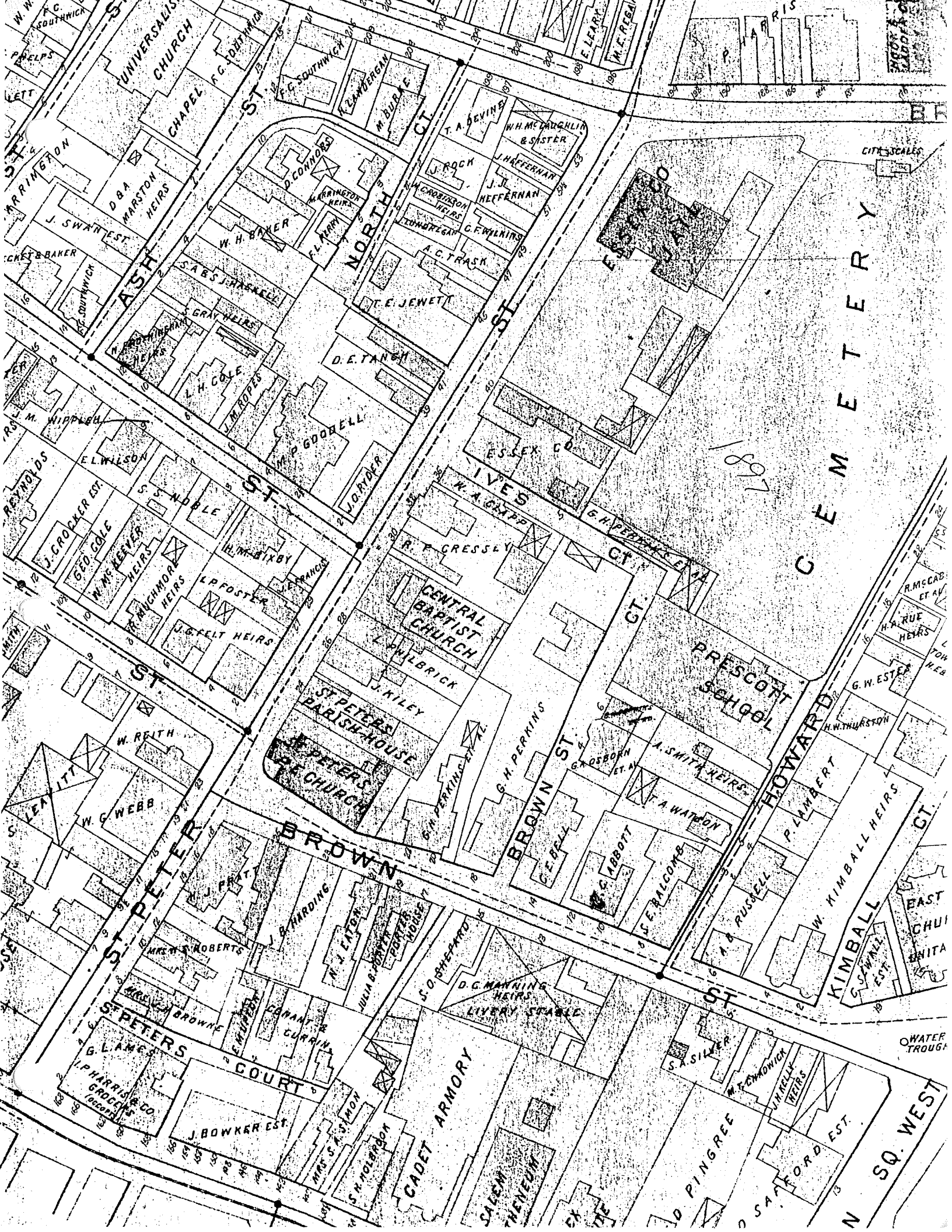
ST. PETERS

NORTH CT.

ST.

ST.

JOS. S.



W. W. F. C. SOUTHWICK  
P. HELPS  
LETT  
M. PRINGLE

UNIVERSAL CHURCH  
CHapel  
D. B. A. MARSTON HEIRS

ASH ST  
NORTH ST  
D. CONNORS  
M. RAYNETON HEIRS

K. LANGRISH  
M. BLAKE  
T. A. DEVINE  
W. H. McTAGHLIN & SISTER

ROCK  
J. J. HEFFERNAN  
J. J. HEFFERNAN  
M. W. PROBERTON HEIRS

TONDRIGAN  
C. F. WILKINS  
A. C. TRASH  
T. E. JEWETT

ESSEX CO.  
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G. H. PERKINS  
R. F. GRESSLY

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H. W. THURSTON

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R. MCCABE ET AL  
H. A. RUE HEIRS  
L. TOWN HEIRS

J. SWAN EST  
C. H. BAKER  
P. M. WIDDELL  
REYNOLDS

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GEO. COLE  
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ST. RICHMORE HEIRS

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