

# Historic Salem Incorporated

OFFICE AT OLD TOWN HALL

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

16 Oliver Street

Built by,

AARON OSBORN, housewright

by the year 1830

Research by,

Joyce King

Oct. 1981

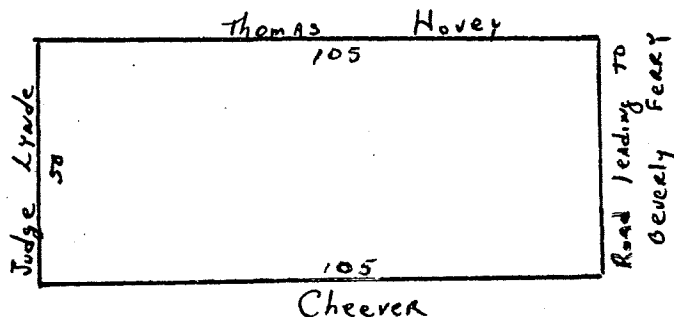
*"to preserve Historic Sites, Buildings and objects,  
and to work for the education of the community  
in the true value of the same."*

16 Oliver Street

This house is described in the Salem Historic Commission District Study as: "The three-bay facade of this small two-story plus pitch roof, clapboard house is directly on the street. The entrance trimmed with pilasters and an Ionic entablature, is at one end of the facade. Attached to the rear of the house is an addition which appears to be quite old, if not original. There are lilacs in the yard beside this house."

Very early the entire west side of Winter St. (including this lot) was owned by Jacob Pudeater, blacksmith. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Pudeater lived on this large parcel of land until the summer of 1692, when she was condemned as a witch and executed Sept. 22, 1692, being about seventy years of age. Later the land became the property of the Cheever family.

On Aug. 29, 1781 Benjamin and Ruth Cheever sold a lot of land to Thomas Browne of Salem, housewright:



(book 145 page 94)

Mr. Browne built a house (now 14 Winter St.) and lived there with his family until his death which occurred on June 30, 1793. The portion of land on which 16 Oliver St. stands was the area occupied by Mr. Browne's barn. Margaret (Skerry) Browne sold her share of the estate to her daughter Betsey (Browne) Osborn, wife of Aaron. (book 199 page 141)

Other heirs sold their shares to Aaron Osborn (sometimes spelled Osborne) during the period July 1822 and Feb. 1823. (book 223 page 250, book 230 page 242 and book 237 page 184)

The tax records indicate that Mr. Osborn was taxed as part owner of the Winter St. house until the year 1830 when for the first time Aaron Osborn was assessed for a house valued at \$800:

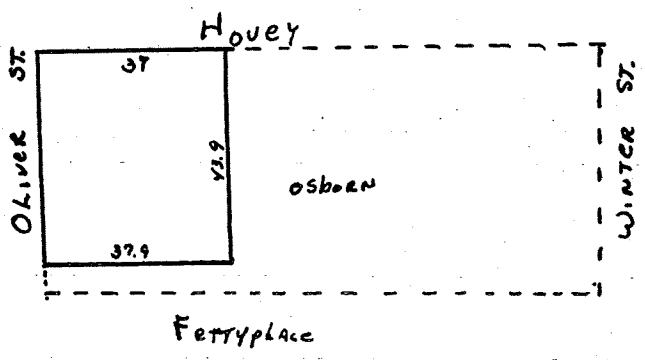
1823 - Aaron Osborn	pt. house	value \$300
1828 - Aaron Osborn	pt. house	" 300
1830 - Aaron Osborn	<del>pt.</del> house	" 800
	lot of land	" 100
1831 - Aaron Osborn	house	" <del>800</del> 700
	lot of land	" 100
	lot of land	" 100
	pt. house	" 500
1832 - Aaron Osborn	house	" 700
	lot of land	" 100
	lot of land	" 100
	pt. house Winter St.	500

The Salem Street Books verify this:

1831 - Oliver St.

Aaron Osborn - house \$800

The Osborns only lived in this house a few years, for on April 5, 1833 Aaron and Betsey Osborn sold the land and all buildings to John Willis, mariner, for the sum of \$1,075:



(book 269 page 82)

Also granted to Willis was the privilege in and to a passage to and from the well situated on the estate of the late Thomas Browne and now in the possession of his heirs and to hold the above privilege during the natural life of Aaron.

One of Capt. Willis' ventures is recorded in Salem Vessels and Their Voyages, by George Granville Putnam:

"Arrived at Salem, April 30, 1847, barque "Three Brothers", John Willis, Penang, January 9, with block tin, pepper, etc., to David Pingree. Passed St. Helena March 19. Voyage nine months and nineteen days. Passenger, Thomas Perkins, Jr., of Salem. Charles Endicott of Salem was mate on this voyage. She sailed on her return June 9, 1847, J.K. Stickney, master."

The federal census records give a closer look at the Willis family:

1850

John Willis	age	59	mariner	born	Mass.
Mary "	"	50		"	"
Mary Tuttle	"	27		"	"

1850 (cont.)

Mary E. Tuttle	age 3		born Mass.
George G. Willis	" 23	painter	" "
Joseph A. "	" 20	mariner	" "

1860

John Willis	age 68	master mariner	born Mass.
Mary "	" 65		" "
Joseph A. "	" 30	clerk	" "
Mary E. Tuttle	" 37		" "
Mary E. "	" 12		" "

Capt. John Willis died on Oct. 2, 1862. In his probate (#57328)

his heirs were:

John G. Willis, son of Salem  
 Mary E. Tuttle, widow of Stephen a daughter  
 William H. Willis, son  
 George E. Willis, son  
 Joseph Willis, son of Boston

In his will Capt. Willis bequeathed \$1 to each child and the rest "to my beloved wife Mary." (inventory appendix A)

Taxes for 1863:

16 Oliver

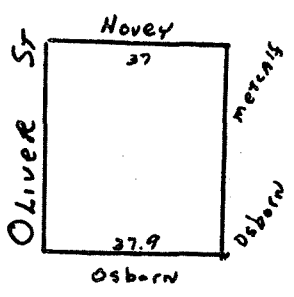
Mrs. John Willis	owner - est. of John Willis
William H. Willis	house value \$500
	land value 200

The 1870 census yields additional information:

W. H. Willis	age 45	tailor	born Mass.
Mary "	" 77	keeps house	" "
Mary E. Tuttle	" 46	no occupation	" "
Mary E. "	" 21	clerk in dry goods	" "

Mrs. Mary (Gale) Willis, died on Aug. 27, 1872 leaving as her heirs:  
 John G. Willis - son  
 Mary Elizabeth Tuttle - daughter  
 William Willis - son  
 George and Lizzie Ellen Willis - children of son George  
 Joseph A. Willis - son

On Dec. 11, 1872 John G. Willis administer of the estate of Mary Willis sold, for the sum of \$2,700, to Mary E. Tuttle the land and buildings 16 Oliver St.:



(book 870 page 133)

The 1880 census reflects several changes in the household:

Mary E. Tuttle	age 55	keeps house	born Mass.
John Willis	" 50	brother - clerk	" "
Mary E. Sinclair	" 30	daughter - millinery clerk	" "
Mary E.	" 9	granddaughter	" "
Harry	" 6	grandson	" "
Oliver	" 3	"	" "

In 1887 the valuation is given as - house, \$900; land \$300; owner Mary E. Tuttle. In her probate (#79800) Mary E. Tuttle's estate was assigned to her daughter Mary E. Sinclair.

6.  
Mary E. Sinclair died on March 6, 1939. In her probate (#193445)

Mrs. Sinclair's heirs were:

Mary S. Jones - daughter - of Malden

Edward Sinclair - son - of Salem

Dorothy Lord - granddaughter - of Gardner

Barbara Jackson - " " - of Danvers

On July 18, 1939 Mary S. Jones administratrix of the estate of Mary E. Sinclair, late of Salem, sold to Anna L. Russell the land and buildings at 16 Oliver St. (book 3188 page 189)

June 27, 1950 Henry L. and Anna L. Russell sold to John Joseph Manning and Marie L. Manning the same premises conveyed to Anna L. Russell by deed of Mary S. Jones admx. (book 3749 page 323)

Notes: Reference to book and page are deed books at the Registry of Deeds. Probate numbers are cases at Probate Court. Both offices are located in the same building on Federal St. All maps in this report are not meant to be exact, just for illustration purposes.

57329

(B)

[This must be filed in the Probate Office within one year after the sale.]

I, do testify and say, that, being authorized by the Probate Court for the county of Essex, on the *fifth* day of *November* A. D. 1872, to make sale of the real estate of *Mary Willis* deceased, for the purposes in the license set forth, I gave public notice of the time and place of sale, ~~by causing notifications thereof to be posted thirty days before the sale, at where the deceased last dwelt, on the~~ ~~day of~~ ~~adjoining town, on the~~ ~~at~~ ~~another adjoining town, on the~~ ~~day of~~ ~~where the real estate lies, on the~~ ~~A. D. 187~~, and by publishing a notification thereof, three weeks successively in the newspaper called the *Salem Gazette* printed at *Salem* on the *fifth* day of *November* A. D. 1872; and the following is a true copy of said notices:

**WM. ARCHER, Auctioneer.**  
**REAL ESTATE AND STOCK BROKER, 61 Front St.**  
**Administrator's Sale of Real Estate in Salem.**  
 BY ORDER OF PROBATE COURT,  
 Will be sold at public auction, on the premises, on **TUESDAY**, the 3d day of December next, at eleven o'clock A. M.:  
**18 THE MESSAGE** on Oliver street, in Salem, numbered 18, the same being bounded as follows: Beginning on the easterly side of Oliver street by land formerly of Thomas Hovey, thence running easterly by said Hovey's land thirty-seven feet to land formerly of Lydia Metcalf, thence southerly on said Metcalf and Osborn's land forty-three feet nine inches, thence westerly by said Osborn's land thirty-seven feet nine inches to the highway, thence northerly by the highway forty-three feet four inches to the bound first mentioned.  
 The house contains six rooms, besides attic, pantry, washroom, closets, and dry cellar, all in good order, with water brought to the kitchen; was newly shingled two years since, and is located in an unexceptionable neighborhood, making it a very desirable estate for a small family. Terms made known at the sale.  
**JOHN G. WILLIS, Adm'r.**  
**WILLIAM ARCHER, Auctioneer.**  
 Salem, Nov. 15, 1872.  
 Estate in Pond Street

*John G. Willis* Adm.

Essex, ss. *see 11th*  
named *John G. Willis*  
above affidavit by him subscribed.

A. D. 1872. Personally appeared the above  
and made oath to the truth of the

Before me,

*Geo. W. Hubbard* Justice of the Peace.



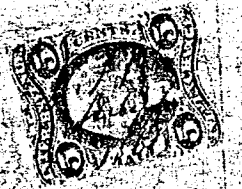
to be divided into at least four classes: 1st, household furniture; 2d, shares in corporations; 3d, promissory  
 4th, property employed in business, &c.]

Schedule of Personal Estate in detail.

Schedule of Real Estate.

	Doll.	Cts.
Trust of Land in Oliver Street	700.	00

	Doll.	Cts.
<u>Furniture</u>		
In Parlor - Carpet and Rugs \$5.00, Card Table \$2., Sofa \$8.	15.	00
Chairs \$1.50, 2 Crickets 50c, Mirror \$2.50, Closet \$5.	9.	50
Lower Bed Room - Carpet, 25, Dining Table & Cover \$2, Work Table \$1.50	3.	75
Warders \$1.00, 2 Chairs, 3c	1.	37
Entry - Work Table, Mat & Cover \$1.50, Stair Carpet \$1.50	3.	00
Parlor Chamber - Carpet & Rugs \$3., Stove \$8., Lounge \$1., Bureau \$3.	15.	00
Centre Table Cover & Lamp \$2.50, Mirror \$2., Pine Table \$1.	5.	50
8 chairs, 80c, Clock \$5., Mantel contents, 25	6.	05
Bed Room Wash Stand & contents, 50, Bedstead, Bed & Bedding 10.00	10.	50
Rocking chair, 25	.25	
Entry - Bureau \$1., 2 chairs, 20, Carpet, 25	1.	45
Upper Chamber - Bedstead, Bed & Bedding \$12., Bureau \$1.50	9.	50
Table Linen \$3., Bedding & Bed linen \$10., Silver Plate \$6.	19.	00
In Kitchen - Cooking Stove \$5., 5 chairs, 50., 2 Pine Tables, 20	6.	00
2 mirrors, 50., Closet \$2., Pantry \$1.00, Cellar, 50c	3.	50
Cash	45.	00
	<u>\$154.</u>	<u>37</u>





57329

Mary Willis

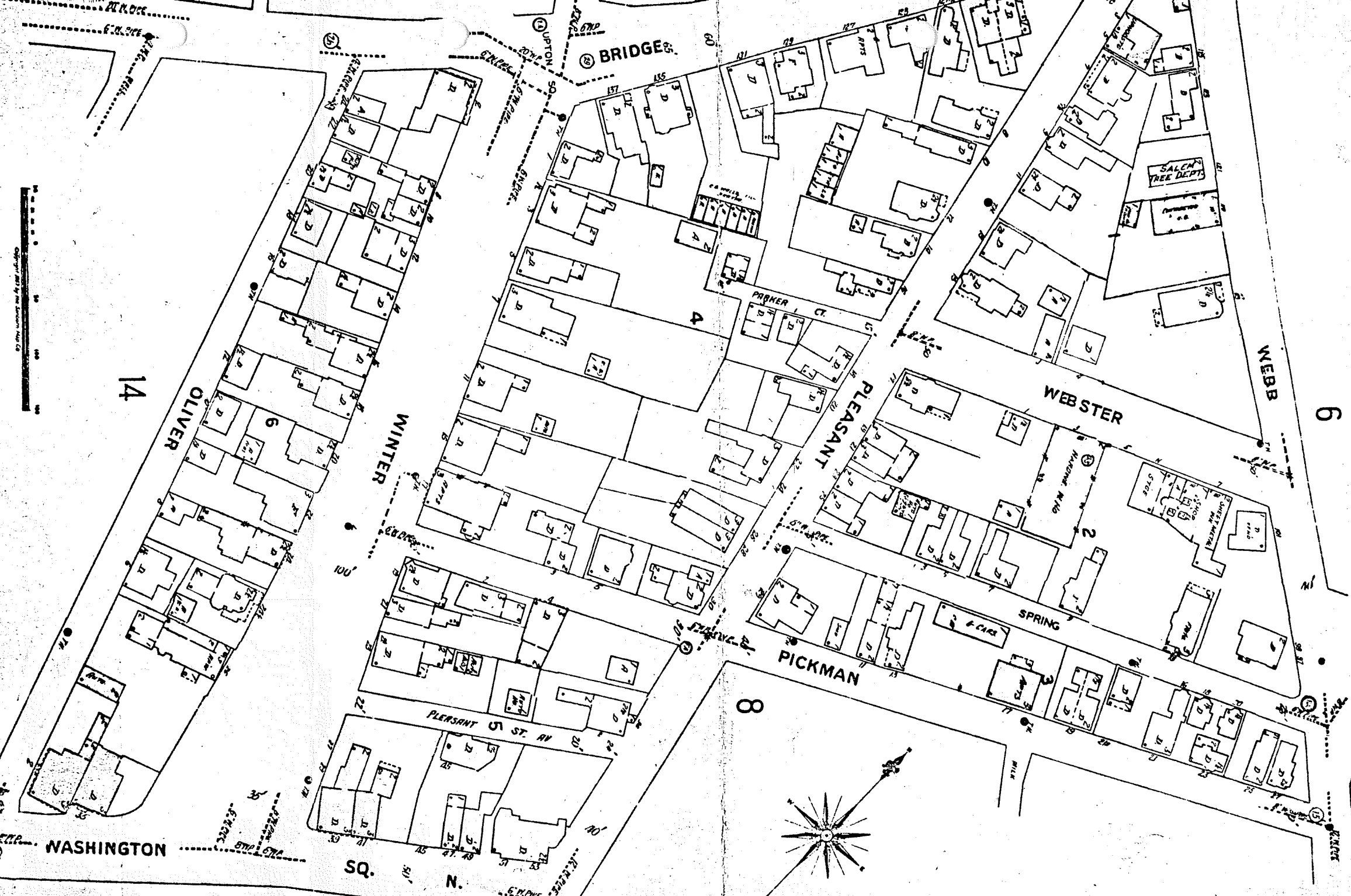
[This Schedule should be divided into at least four classes: 1st, household furniture; 2d, shares in corporations; 3d, promissory notes and other securities; 4th, property employed in business, etc.]

Schedule of Real Estate in detail.

Schedule of Personal Estate.

	DOLLS.	CTS.
House owned on Oliver Street Salem	260000	

	DOLLS.	CTS.
Parlor Carpet 10. 6 chairs & 2 arm chairs #12	2200	
Sofa #25 - Table #15 - 2 Ottomans, & Key 3.	4300	
Minor #3. - Parlor table #5.	800	
Walter Weston #2. Parlor Stove #5	700	
8 Kitchen chairs #2. - 2 Kitchen table #1	300	
clock #150. - Cooking stove & cabinets #5 -	650	
Map & chairs Man #12. - Chamber cabinet #4	1600	
clock #3. - 4 table #5. Mahogany Bureau 10	1800	
6 chamber chairs #150. Minor #2.	350	
Peric Bureau #1. - Bedstead & wash stand #2	400	
Bed & Bedding #12. - Central of attic Chamber 10	2200	
3 tons coal	2400	
	<u>17700</u>	



BRIDGE ST.

14

OLIVER

6

WINTER

PLEASANT

WEBSTER

6

WEBB

SPRING

PICKMAN

8

PLEASANT ST. AV.

WASHINGTON

SQ.

N.