

OFFICE AT OLD TOWN HALL

Historic Salem Incorporated

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

14 Mall Street

Built for

PETER EDGERLY, truckman

in 1824.

Research by,

Joyce King

Sept. 1981

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

14 Mall Street

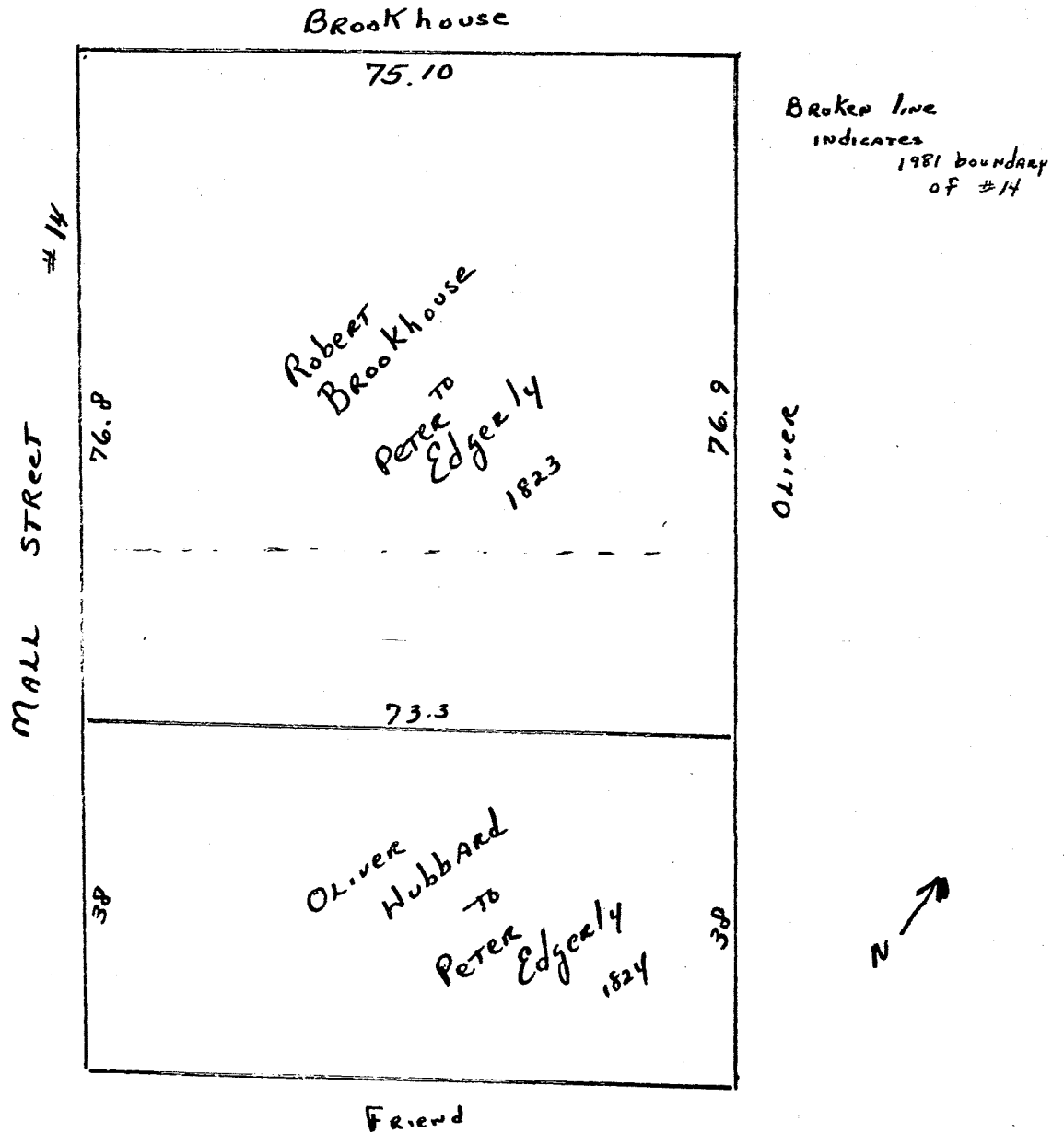
The house at 14 Mall Street is described in the Salem Historic Commission District Study as: "This three story plus hip roof, oblong house is wooden except for the brick north wall and has its narrow end on the street. The central entrance in the side yard is typical of the Federal style with a recessed semi-elliptical fanlight, sidelights, reeded pilasters and a modillioned cornice. The molded cornice under the eaves is also typical of the period. There are now a series of additions to the back of the house, and in the front yard there are lilacs, forsythia and other flowering shrubs."

Mall Street was laid out through land owned by J. Fairfield in the early 1800's. For the first few years of its existence this new street was known as Fairfield St. and by 1810 it was called by the present name of Mall St.

On March 16, 1816 John Fairfield, then of Londonderry, N.H., sold to the Directors of the Marblehead Bank the lot of land which extended from Bridge St. up to about #12 Mall St. (book 210 page 79)

On May 7, 1822 The Directors of the Marblehead Bank sold to Robert Brookhouse the land and buildings conveyed to them by John Fairfield except that part conveyed to Rev. John Cheverus for the use of the Roman Catholic Church Soc. (the Catholic Church stood on the corner of Mall and Bridge streets from 1821 to 1877).

On Dec. 3, 1823 Robert Brookhouse, merchant, sold to Peter Edgerly, truckman a piece of land on the east side of Mall St. for the sum of \$550 (book 236 page 110):



On March 17, 1824 Oliver Hubbard, physician, sold the adjoining land to Peter Edgerly for \$250 (shown above). (book 236 page 109)

Peter Edgerly operated a trucking business for many years at the corner of Derby and Union streets (the site of what is now Tammany Hall). Mr. Edgerly started construction on his new house shortly after purchasing the Mall St. land as indicated in the tax records:

Peter Edgerly

- 1824 - pt. house and stables and an unfinished house \$900
(this record is listed under Ward 1 but Peter Edgerly never owned any property in that ward.)
- 1825 - house, stable and office \$900
- 1826 - house, stable and office \$1,000
- 1827-1829 - same
- 1830 - "see ward two"
Ward two - Mall St. - house and land \$1,800, part of land in North Salem \$100
- 1831 - Mall St. - house and land \$1,800, 6 horses, land in North Salem \$50

Mr. Edgerly was in deep financial difficulty by 1834. On Jan. 18, 1834 Peter Edgerly assigned and released his property to Joseph G. Waters in trust for the benefit of Edgerly's creditors (book 274 page 255). Shortly after this date an ad appeared in the Salem Gazette:

"By order of Assignee

On Friday the sixth day of June next at 11 o'clock A.M. will be sold by public auction (unless previously sold at private sale).

The large and commodious dwelling house now occupied by Mr. Peter Edgerly, with the land under and adjoining it situate on

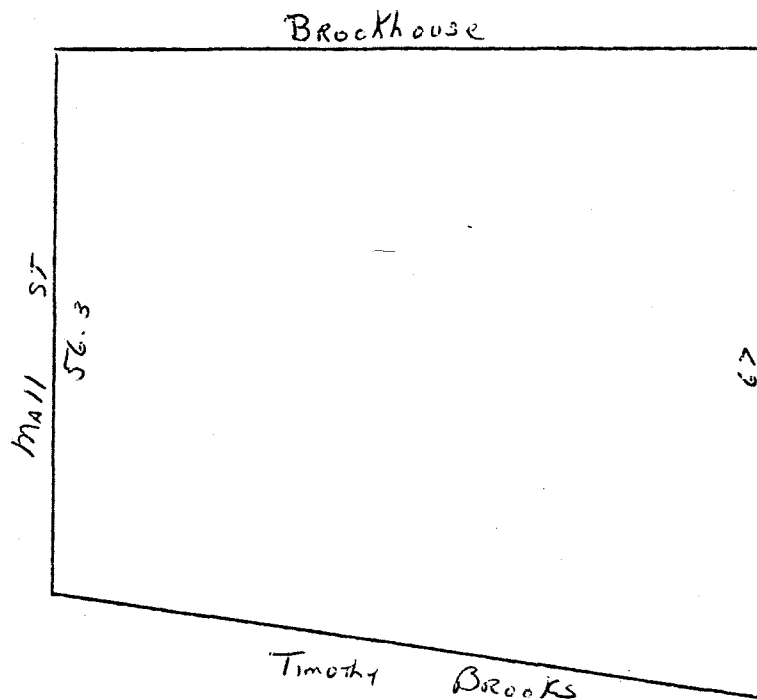
Mall St., bounded south on land of T. Brooks, west on Mall St., north on land of R. Brookhouse, and east on land of Lefavor.

It will be sold free from incumbrances and can be examined at any time before the sale, on application to

C. G. Newhall, auctioneer"

On June 18, 1834 Peter and Vesta Edgerly, and Joseph G. Waters counsellor at law assignee of Peter sold for the sum of \$2,130 to Joseph S. Leavitt et al the dwelling house and other buildings.

"The same estate assigned and released to Joseph Waters in book 274 page 255:



(book 277 page 55)

The same day Vesta (Clarke) Boynton Edgerly was given the sum of \$350 and the assignment of half a tomb, also a double pew in the Second Baptist Meeting House as her payment for releasing her dower rights to the property (appendix A & B).

The Edgerlys remained in the house for a year or so under the ownership of Joseph Leavitt but by 1836 they had moved to 35 Derby St. Mr. Leavitt was the owner of the famed Essex House at 176 Essex St. along with a great deal of other real estate. Over the next few years the house was let to various tenants:

- 1836 - A. G. Cornelius, tailor at 177 Essex St.
Francis Skerry Jr., fancy goods at 184 Essex St.
- 1842 - Daniel B. Skerry, painter
Francis Skerry Jr., fancy goods
- 1845 - John Howard
Wadleigh Dow

In September 1847, Nathaniel Hawthorne moved his family into the house at 14 Mall St., making it one of Salem's most historic sites. An account of the house as written in the Visitor's Guide to Salem:

"The quiet "study" which Hawthorne was to have to himself, and which made this house so desirable, was the front room in the third story next the street. Here the volume entitled "The Snow Image" was prepared and "The Scarlet Letter" was written. It was a house from which the Hawthornes expected much joy, but reaped, instead, sadness and financial distress, although lasting literary fame and

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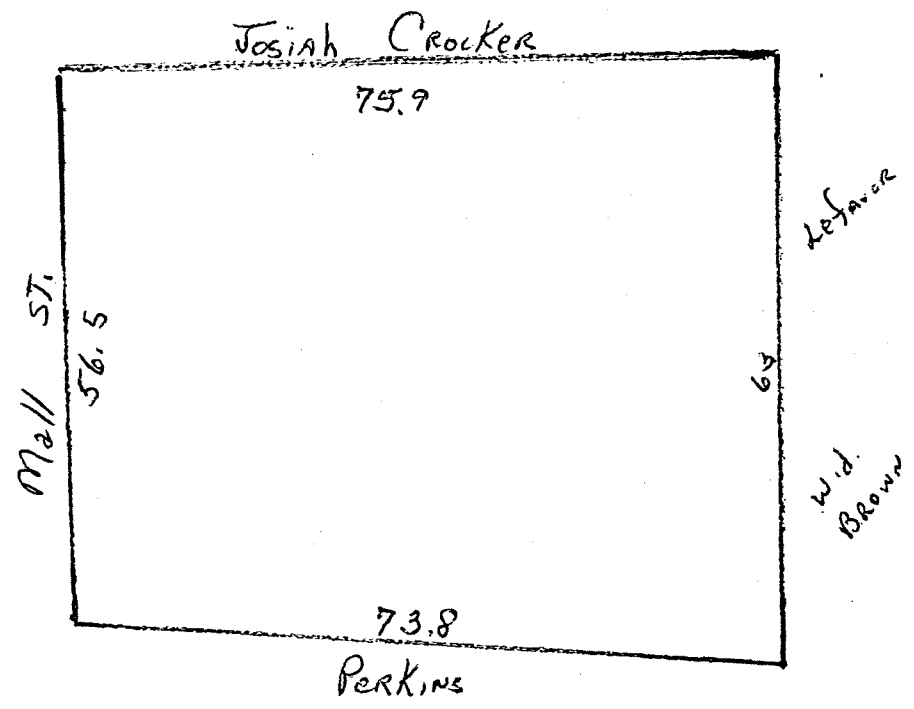
public recognition were achieved there. He received the Custom House appointment in March, 1846, and retained it until June, 1849, when he writes "I am turned out of office." It was to this house he went home to make the significant announcement to his wife. Upon hearing it, she said. "Very well, now you can write your romance," at the same time, and in answer to Hawthorne's query as to how they should live meanwhile, she opened the bureau drawer and showed him the gold she had saved from the portion of his salary which from time to time, he had placed in her hands. The "romance" was "The Scarlet Letter." It was written under extraordinary pressure; for dismissal from office, pecuniary distress, Madam Hathorne's death, July 31, 1849, and severe personal illness, afflicted the author "midway in its composition."

It was in "a chamber over the sitting room" that Fields found Hawthorne, despondent and "hovering near a stove," and had the fateful conversation with him detailed in "Yesterdays with Authors." After great reluctance and repeated refusals,- so doubtful was he of the success of his greatest work, - Hawthorne gave Fields the manuscript of "The Scarlet Letter." It was immediately published. Knowing these facts one must look upon this house with feelings of the deepest interest. The house and its surroundings have hardly changed since Hawthorne left it, in 1850, to reside in Lenox."

The next tenant was the Rev. William H. Eaton minister of the Baptist Church. The census taken in 1850 will give a closer look at the Eaton family:

William H. Eaton	age 31	Baptist Clergy	born N.H.
Caroline "	" 27		" Mass.
Julia M. Bartlett	" 22		" "
2nd family			
Nancy Garney	" 69		" "

On April 21, 1852 Joseph S. Leavitt, innholder, sold for the sum of \$3,500 to James Conway, clergyman, the land and buildings, "The same I purchased of P. Edgerly on June 18, 1834."



(book 459 page 127)

Rev. James Conway was born in Ballinmore, Ire. in 1796. He was received by Bishop Fenwick into the Diocese of Boston; and, after due preparation, was ordained priest, in the Boston Cathedral, on July 31, 1831. He was sent to take charge of the Mission of the Penobscot River, in Maine and worked among the Indians for four years at Bangor, Oldtown and in the neighboring country.

He was recalled to Boston, in Oct. 1835 and made pastor of the Endicott Street Church. On Dec. 17, 1839 he was appointed assistant at St. Patrick's Church, in Lowell, and in 1846 was made pastor of St. Mary's in Salem. He enlarged and beautified "old St. Mary's (on the corner of Mall and Bridge) and later built St. James Church.

8.

He also purchased and opened the Catholic Cemetery (St. Mary's).
(Salem Catholic Churches, by Louis Walsh)

The taxes for the years:

14 Mall Street

1853 Occupant - Thomas E. Payson

Priest House

1854 Occupants - Thomas Payson
Charles Flint

owner James Conway, priest
value \$2,800

Rev. James Conway died before 1859 leaving in his will, written
Sept. 28, 1855, all his real estate to John Bernard Fitzpatrick, of
Boston viz:

10 and 14 Mall Street

15 Walnut Street

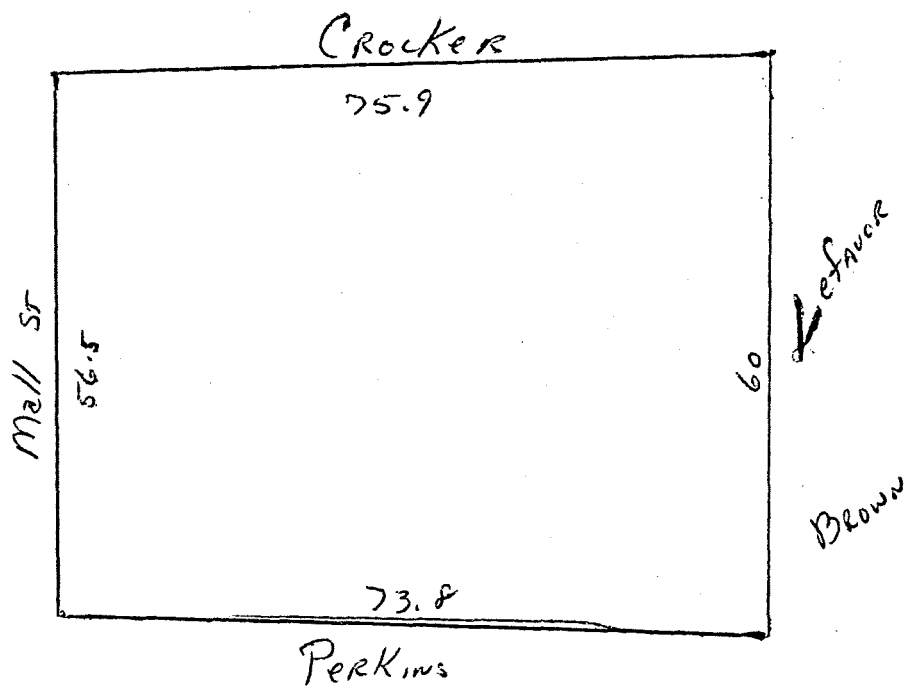
All his furniture and English books were left to Mary Flynn, niece.
(Probate #36062)

On Feb. 1, 1859 this ad was placed in the Salem Gazette:

"Three story dwelling house #14 Mall St., with the out
buildings connected, and the land under and adjoining; for sale on
very favorable terms, or will be rented. For conditions apply at
42 Washington St.

John H. Nichols"

On Sept. 1, 1859 John B. Fitzpatrick of Boston sold for \$3,000 to
Elmira G. Christian, widow, "The same estate conveyed by Joseph
Leavitt to James Conway and by him devised to John." (book 594
page 52)



The 1860 census:

Almira G. Christian	age 39	born Mass.
John Grant	" 60 cabinetmaker	" "
2nd family		
Joseph B. Morris	" 31 (black) restorator	" "
Elizabeth "	" 25 (mulatto)	" N.H.

On Jan. 30, 1863 Elmira G. Christian sold to Charles S. Nichols,
 "The dwelling house and land being the whole conveyed to me by John B.
 Fitzpatrick on Sept. 1, 1859." (book 646 page 287)

Mr. Nichols sold the property shortly after, on April 27, 1863, to
 John Jewett for the sum of \$2,200 (book 651 page 204)

John Jewett (b. Dec. 1798) was a cabinetmaker in Beverly in 1817 and in Salem at Liberty and Vine Streets in 1820. In 1837 he was at 261 Essex St. and later he was of the firm Prime, Kenney and Co. dealers in mahogany, fancy woods, furniture and grain at the City Mills on Mill St. Mr. Jewett married, April 1825, Catharine Felt. The Jewett's made their home at 24 Winter St. and never lived at the 14 Mall St. house, but bought it as investment property.

The Salem Street books (listing males only) give a good indication as to the tenants:

1865

Benjamin Averill	owner John Jewett
Joseph J. Averill	house \$1,200
George Averill	land 800
William Averill	
Frederick Coffin	
Frederick Bancroft	

"in the chambers"

Albert Andrews
Joseph McNeil
Joseph Potter

1870

Benjamin Averill	age 72	owner John Jewett
George Averill	" 25	house \$2,000
Ephraim Holmes	" 31	land 1,000
Matthew Hughes	" 41	
George Lyons	" 19	
James Lyons	" 51	
Walter Norwood	" 24	
Richard Andrew	" 22	
John Fagen	" 21	
Henry E. Collins	" 32	

On April 11, 1872 Benjamin Averill died. His obituary appeared in the Salem Register:

"Sudden Death - Mr. Benjamin Averill, a well known and respected citizen, fell dead in Essex street, at the corner of Elm street, on Tuesday forenoon. He had for several years manifested symptoms of heart disease, and it is supposed that death resulted from that cause. The body was taken into Dr. Emerton's drug store, and Dr. Cate, who happened to be passing, was called in, but found life extinct, and the remains were conveyèd home to the late residence of the deceased on Mall street. Mr. Averill was nearly 74 years of age, and a year ago this month commemorated his golden wedding. He leaves a widow and a large family of sons and daughters, upon whom this sudden bereavement falls with sad severity. He had only a few moments before left the house of his daughter, Mrs. E. H. Randall, where he had seemed in cheerful health, and had enjoyed an unusually pleasant visit with his little grandchildren. Mr. Averill possessed a happy disposition and had endeared himself to a large circle of acquaintances, and he will be greatly missed from the community where his ever welcome presence has so long been familiar. He was born at Ipswich in June 1798, but has for many years resided in Salem. The funeral will take place this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at his late residence."

John Jewett died on March 2, 1874. The property was willed to Elizabeth (Jewett) Averill as shown in the 1875 Street Books:

14 Mall Street

Mrs. Elizabeth Averill	owner Mrs. Elizabeth Averill
Benjamin Averill age 39	house \$2,000
George Averill " 28	land 1,000
Edward H. Randall " 37	

of the direction by power as of book 1104 page 70 and book 1844 page 179. (book 2016 page 220)

On June 19, 1912 Carrie F. Ordway sold 4/5 shares of 14 Mall St. to Louis Dembofsky. "See will of John Jewett, book 1104 page 70 and book 2016 page 220." (book 2159 page 484)

The same day Edward H. Randall, Annie Randall, Lila A. Goldsmith and Edward H. Randall Jr. sold their 1/5 share to Louis Dembofsky. "The same estate which came to us from the estate of Lucy A. Randall, we being children of Lucy Randall." (book 2159 page 483)

On Sept. 6, 1912 Louis Dembofsky sold #14 Mall Street to James J. Devlin. "The same premises conveyed by deed of Edward H. Randall and deed of Carrie F. Ordway." (book 2168 page 560)

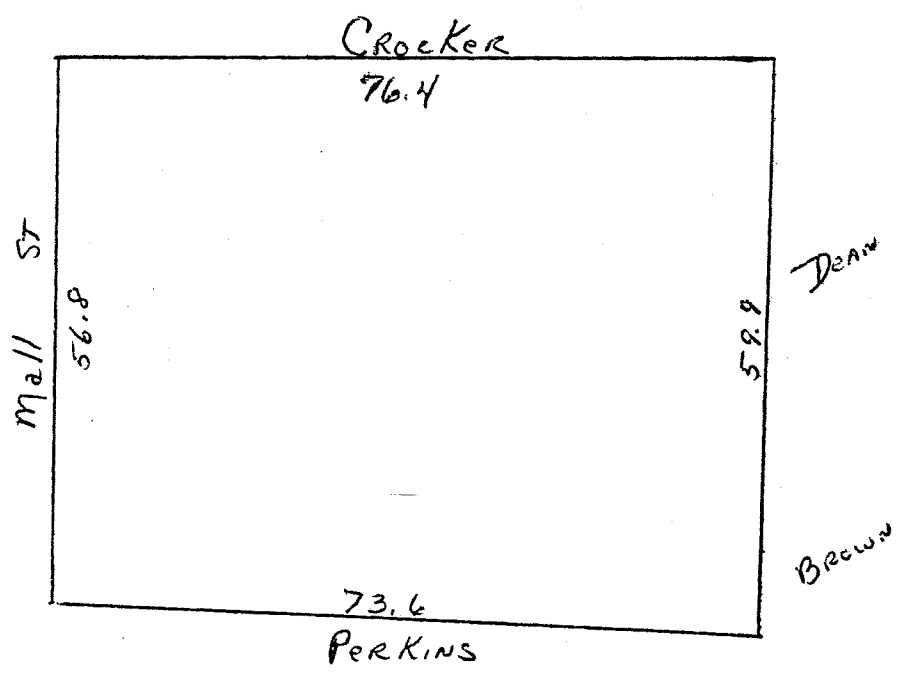
Nov. 26, 1920 James J. and Mary Devlin sold the land and building 14 Mall St. to David M. and Ida Drube the same conveyed by deed of Louis Dembofsky. (book 2469 page 493)

Aug. 18, 1921 David M. Drube sold to Jacob and Freida Kaplan the land and building 14 Mall Street. "The same conveyed by James Devlin." (book 2492 page 348)

May 7, 1928 Freida and Jacob Kaplan sold the land and building to Maximilian Dobrzeniecki and Jozefa his wife. (book 2763 page 294)

July 29, 1933 Wladsylaw Marcinkowski and Pelagia Marcinkowski holders of a mortgage from Maximilian and Jozefa Dobrzeniecki by power conferred in book 2763 page 295 took possession of the property.(book 2957 page 277)

July 30, 1953 Pelagia Marcinkowski, widow, sold to Antonio R. Frechette and Anne T. his wife. "For title see book 2957 page 277." (book 3996 page 458)



June 13, 1958 Antonio Rene Frechette transferred title to Anne T. Frechette. "The same conveyed to Anne T. Frechette and Antonio by deed of Pelagia Marcinkowski." (book 4467 page 504)

May 24, 1963 Anne Therese Frechette sold to Paul R. and Sandra Roulier of Lynnfield the same conveyed by deed from Antonio Frechette. (book 5065 page 17)

July 17, 1981 Paul R. and Sandra Roulier, husband and wife sold to Robert C. Bramble trustee of Allyn Realty Trust the same conveyed by deed of Anne Frechette. (book 6841 page 781)

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.

The Essex Institute Photo Collection has old photos of this house. Copies can be made for a fee by contacting Mary Lou Birchmore at the Essex Institute.

Many books have been written about and by the Hawthorne family which include the time when the Hawthornes made their home at 14 Mall St. These are available at most libraries.

(A)

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WITHOUT PERMISSION

I Vesta Edgerly wife of Peter Edgerly of Salem
 in the County of Essex do hereby Covenant promise
 and agree to & with Joseph Waters of Salem aforesaid
 to whom the said Peter has assigned all his property, in
 trust for the benefit of his Creditors, that in consideration
 of my receiving from said Waters an assignment of the pew
 & tomb which said Waters holds in trust for my husbands Creditors,
 together with the sum of three hundred & fifty dollars
 that I will execute & deliver to said Waters a
 good & sufficient release of all my right title
 and interest in dower, in and to the dwelling house
 with the land under & adjoining situate in Mall
 Street in Salem, and now occupied by said Peter
 Edgerly. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set
 my hand & seal this fifth day of June 1834
 Signed sealed &
 delivered in presence of.

Vesta Edgerly

Sally Brimmer

Salem June 18. 1834

Received of Joseph Waters assignee
 of Peter Edgerly the sum of three hundred & fifty
 dollars, and a deed of assignment of one half
 of a tomb, and a double pew in the Second
 baptist meeting house in Salem, in full consid-
 -eration of my releasing to Joseph Hewitt, Nehem-
 -iah Brown, and Caleb Ames, all my right and
 title of dower in the Real estate of my husband Peter
 Edgerly -

Vesta Edgerly

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ESSEX INSTITUTE LIBRARY
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WITHOUT PERMISSION

(B)

1834
We the undersigned Creditors of
Peter Edgerly of Salem, who has assigned
his estate to Joseph G. Waters of Salem aforesaid,
in trust for our benefit, hereby give our consent
to said Waters purchasing a release of dower in & to
said estate, of the wife of said Peter, by paying
to her the sum of three hundred & fifty dollars
and conveying to her, the joint and the fees
assigned by said Peter to said Waters in
trust aforesaid.

Salem June 4th 1834

John Stone
Witness by J. Balanda
With Shepard
B

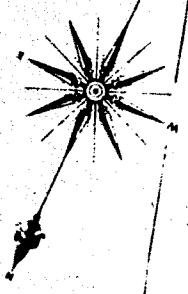
The 1880 census gives a detailed list of the occupants:

Elizabeth Averill	age 78	keeps house	born Mass.
Elizabeth L.	"	" 57 daughter	" "
Sarah J.	"	" 54 "	" "
Harriet	"	" 48 "	" "
Ellen H.	"	" 40 "	" "
George J.	"	" 36 carriage painter	" "
Georgianna	"	" 28 daughter-in-law	" "
2nd family			
Edward H. Randall	"	43 son-in-law tinsmith	" "
Lucy A.	"	" 47 keeps house	" "
Gertrude	"	" 20 daughter has a cold	" "
Alice H.	"	" 17 at school	" "
Annie F.	"	" 15 " "	" "
Lila A.	"	" 13 " "	" "
Edward H.	"	" 7 " "	" "

An obituary notice announcing the death of Lucy A. Randall was printed in the Salem News Nov. 1, 1905:

"Mrs. Lucy Ann, wife of Edward H. Randall, died at her home, 14 Mall street, this morning, after a long illness. She was born in Ipswich and was the daughter of the late Benjamin and Elizabeth (Jewett) Averill. She leaves a husband, a son Edward H. Randall Jr., the well known opera singer, now in the west; two daughters, Mrs. John Goldsmith and Mrs. Annie F. Randall; a brother James W. Averill of Salem, and two sisters Miss Harriet Averill of Salem and Mrs. T. Prescott Powers of Philadelphia, Pa."

On April 8, 1910 Arthur F. Goldsmith trustee of Elizabeth L. Averill et al sold 4/5 shares of 14 Mall Street to Carrie F. Ordway, pursuant



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SQ.

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WASHINGTON

OLIVER

MALL

WILLIAMS

HOWARD

BRIDGE

KIMBALL CT

BROWN

21E

C e m e t e r y

ST. PETER

20

BROWN ST

4

ESSEX COUNTY JAIL

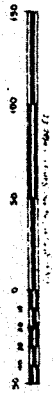
POLISH CATHOLIC CHURCH

ST. PETER'S EPISC. CHURCH

BERTON HOME FOR AGED MEN

THE EP. CHURCH (Episcopalian)

ST. GEORGE'S EPISC. CHURCH





STREET

MINTON

SPRING

PICKMAN

MILK

PLEASANT ST. AVE.

BROWN

Wm H. Nelson
Mrs Wm Q. Johnson
Jno H. Whipple
Mrs B. Plummer
Jas T. Goldsmith
Abm Edwards
Wm H. Plummer
Saml R. Honeycomb
A. Walden

CONSTITUTION NO. 2 City

Walden

COM

128