

# Historic Salem incorporated

OFFICE AT OLD TOWN HALL

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

16 WILLIAMS STREET

Built for

JOHN A. CURRIN, mason

in 1878

Research by,  
Joyce King  
March 1985

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

16 WILLIAMS STREET

BOOK 1004 PAGE 83

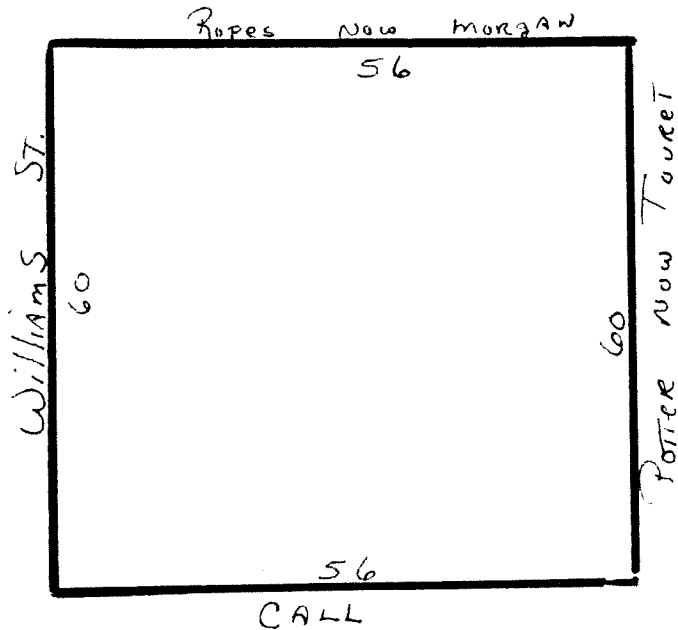
DATE - September 7, 1878

CONSIDERATION - \$300

GRANTOR (seller) - Silas A. Smith, John W. Warren  
and Susan S. Fabens the heirs of  
Joseph Smith

GRANTEE (buyer) - John A. Currin, mason

DESCRIPTION - Lot of land and building (this old  
dwelling house, built by  
Joseph Smith shortly after his  
purchase of the land in 1798, was  
removed by Mr. Currin to make way for  
his new house now known as 16  
Williams St.)



BOOK 1762 PAGE 541

DATE - November 14, 1904  
CONSIDERATION - \$1 and other valuable consideration  
GRANTOR (seller) - John A. Currin, mason  
GRANTEE (buyer) - George H. Averill, provision dealer  
DESCRIPTION - Land and buildings  
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - See deed of Silas A. Smith to myself  
and deed of John V. Warner et al book  
1004 page 83

BOOK 2128 PAGE 462

DATE - December 16, 1907  
CONSIDERATION - \$4,500  
GRANTOR (seller) - William S. Nichols and Frank H.  
Cameron of Beverly, trustees under  
the will of George H. Averill  
GRANTEE (buyer) - Sarah Gould  
DESCRIPTION - Land and buildings  
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Same premises conveyed to George H.  
Averill in book 1762 page 541

BOOK 2274 PAGE 219

DATE - September 9, 1914  
CONSIDERATION - "for consideration paid"  
GRANTOR (seller) - Jacob and Sarah Gould  
GRANTEE (buyer) - David Joyce  
DESCRIPTION - Land and building  
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - The same conveyed by deed of W.S.  
Nichols et al trustees in book 2128  
page 462

BOOK 2555 PAGE 254

DATE - May 22, 1923  
CONSIDERATION - "for consideration paid"  
GRANTOR (seller) - David Joyce, "having no wife"  
GRANTEE (buyer) - Hannah Cody wife of John  
DESCRIPTION - number 16 Williams Street  
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Conveyed by deed of Sarah Gould on  
Sept. 8, 1914

JOHN CODY died on August 17, 1934. His probate (#229895) mentions heirs: Honora I., Elizabeth M., Ellen (died Aug. 2, 1935) and Catherine A. Cody (died Dec. 17, 1947) all daughters, also one son, Cornelius J. Cody. The real estate was listed as: house and land 16 Williams Street valued at \$8,500 less the balance of a mortgage of \$4,050. Equity \$4,450.

BOOK 3721 PAGE 575

DATE - February 15, 1950  
CONSIDERATION - \$8,500 - subject to mortgage \$7,500  
GRANTOR (seller) - Cornelius J. and Helen C. Cody of  
Stoughton, Elizabeth M. and Honora I.  
Cody of Salem  
GRANTEE (buyer) - Murray A. and Ethel C.  
Crowell  
DESCRIPTION - All our right in land and buildings

BOOK 3823 PAGE 423

DATE - June 8, 1951  
CONSIDERATION - less than \$100  
GRANTOR (seller) - Murray A and Ethel Crowell  
GRANTEE (buyer) - Patricia M. Berube  
DESCRIPTION - Land and building  
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Same conveyed by deed of Elizabeth M. Cody administratrix of the estate of John Cody

BOOK 3823 PAGE 424

DATE - June 8, 1951  
CONSIDERATION - less than \$100  
GRANTOR (seller) - Patricia M. Berube  
GRANTEE (buyer) - Murray and Ethel A. Crowell and Peter and Ann B. LeBlanc  
DESCRIPTION - Land and buildings  
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Same conveyed by Murray and Ethel C. Crowell

BOOK 4656 PAGE 67

DATE - April 6, 1960  
CONSIDERATION - "for consideration paid"  
GRANTOR (seller) - Murray A. and Ethel Crowell and Peter and Anna LeBlanc  
GRANTEE (buyer) - Rose M. Girard  
DESCRIPTION - Land and building  
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Same conveyed to us by deed of Patricia M. Berube book 3823 page 424

BOOK 4656 PAGE 69

DATE - April 6, 1960  
CONSIDERATION - \$6,100  
GRANTOR (seller) - Rose M. Girard  
GRANTEE (buyer) - Peter G. and Anna LeBlanc  
DESCRIPTION - Land and building  
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - The same conveyed by deed of Murray  
Crowell et al book 4656 page 67

BOOK 7085 PAGE 17

DATE - April 8, 1983  
CONSIDERATION - \$87,000  
GRANTOR (seller) - Peter G. and Anna B. LeBlanc  
GRANTEE (buyer) - Peter Philip Wales  
DESCRIPTION - Land and building  
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Being the same premises conveyed to  
the grantor by deed of Rose M. Girard  
on April 6, 1960

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.

This two story plus pitch roof, wooden house has handsome features of the Italianate style which are not run of the mill; they include the cornice and paired brackets which are simple but bold, the second-story window pediments and the circular arch which is attached to the front columns of the entrance portico and makes a frame for the central front door. It is larger than most of the houses on the street. (Salem Historic District Study Committee Investigation)

As mentioned, Mr. Currin removed the old Smith house in order to build his handsome new dwelling. A permit was granted to John A. Currin, then of 78 Essex St., in October 1878. The house was to be wooden, 39' X 32', two stories with a pitch roof.

JOHN A. CURRIN was born in Salem, January 15, 1827, the son of Andrew and Susan Currin. He was educated in the Salem schools, graduating from the grammar school kept by Master Oliver C. Felton. He first learned the mason's trade of Samuel S. Standley, and worked for different contractors until 1857, when he was appointed assistant postmaster by Postmaster Joseph S. Perkins.

After leaving the postoffice, he resumed work at his trade in the employ of the late Capt. Benjamin R. White, then a large and well-known contractor of Salem and Essex county. He worked for Capt. White on the second mill of the Naumkeag Steam Cotton company, and when Capt. White was accidentally killed while building the Holyoke building, in July, 1866, Mr. Currin was his foreman, and taking charge of the work finished the building for Capt. White's widow.

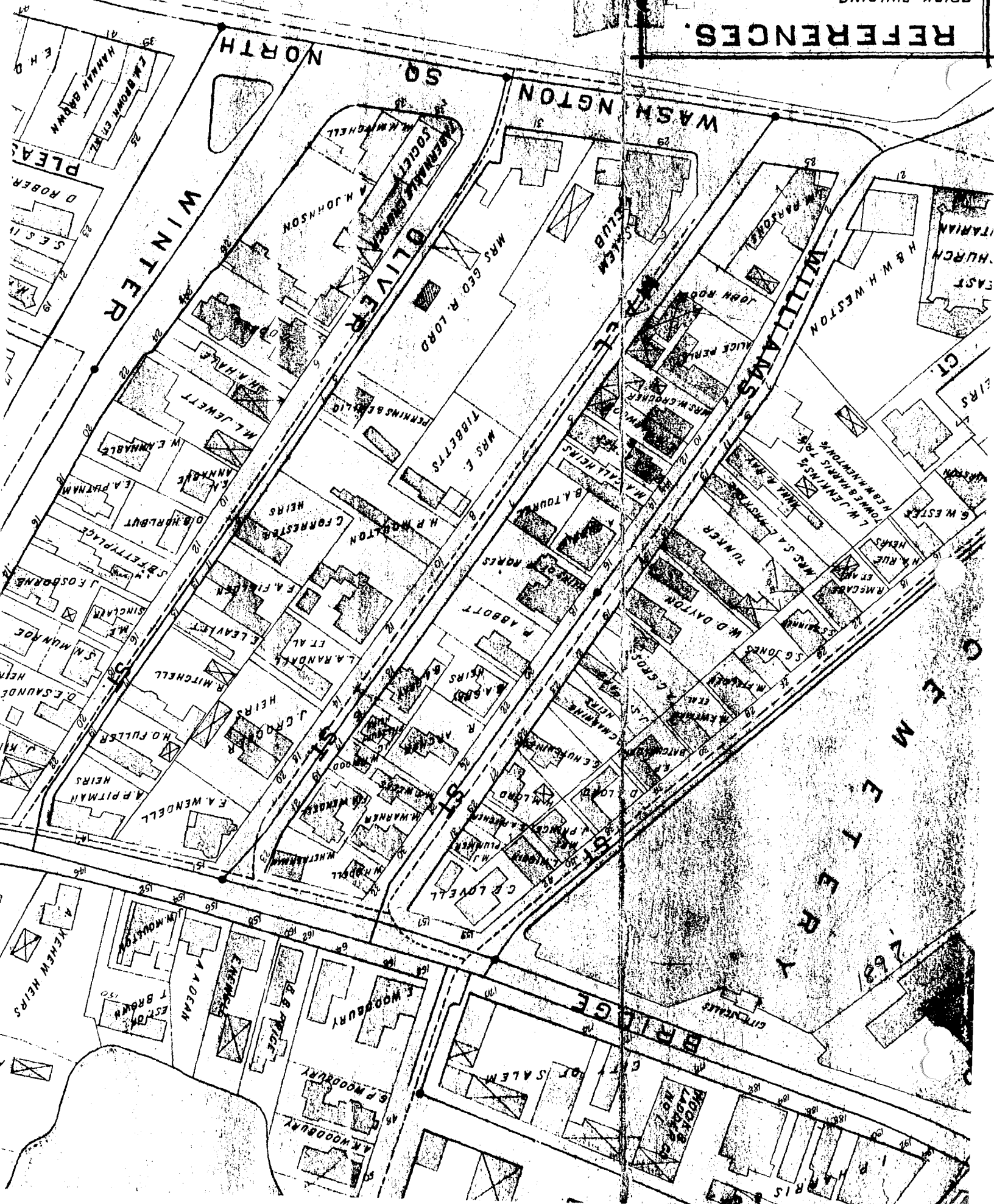
He next became associated in business with H. T. Conant, they buying out the business of Mrs. White. This was continued until 1897, when he retired. Mr. Currin was a lifelong and sturdy Democrat. In his time he knew all the great leaders of his party in the city and state, and many of the national lights. He was appointed registrar of voters by Mayor Rantoul, and held that office six years. His opinion was frequently asked, and his judgement was sound and of the best. He possessed a splendid knowledge of the old merchants and worthies of Salem, gained by his prominence in political affairs and his long service in the postoffice. He also had a fund of local historical information. For several years he was a member and clerk of the old Salem artillery and he occasionally contributed to the columns of the old Salem Gazette and the Salem News. He was a Free Thinker in religion, but as tolerant of the opinions of others.

John A. Currin died on September 13, 1908 at the age of 81.

REFERENCES.

BRICK BUILDING  
WOOD  
BRICK & WOOD BUILDING  
STONE

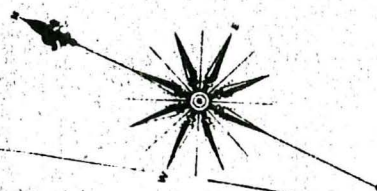
1897





1956

7



OLIVER

MALL

WILLIAMS

HOWARD

NOTHING

KIMBALL CT.

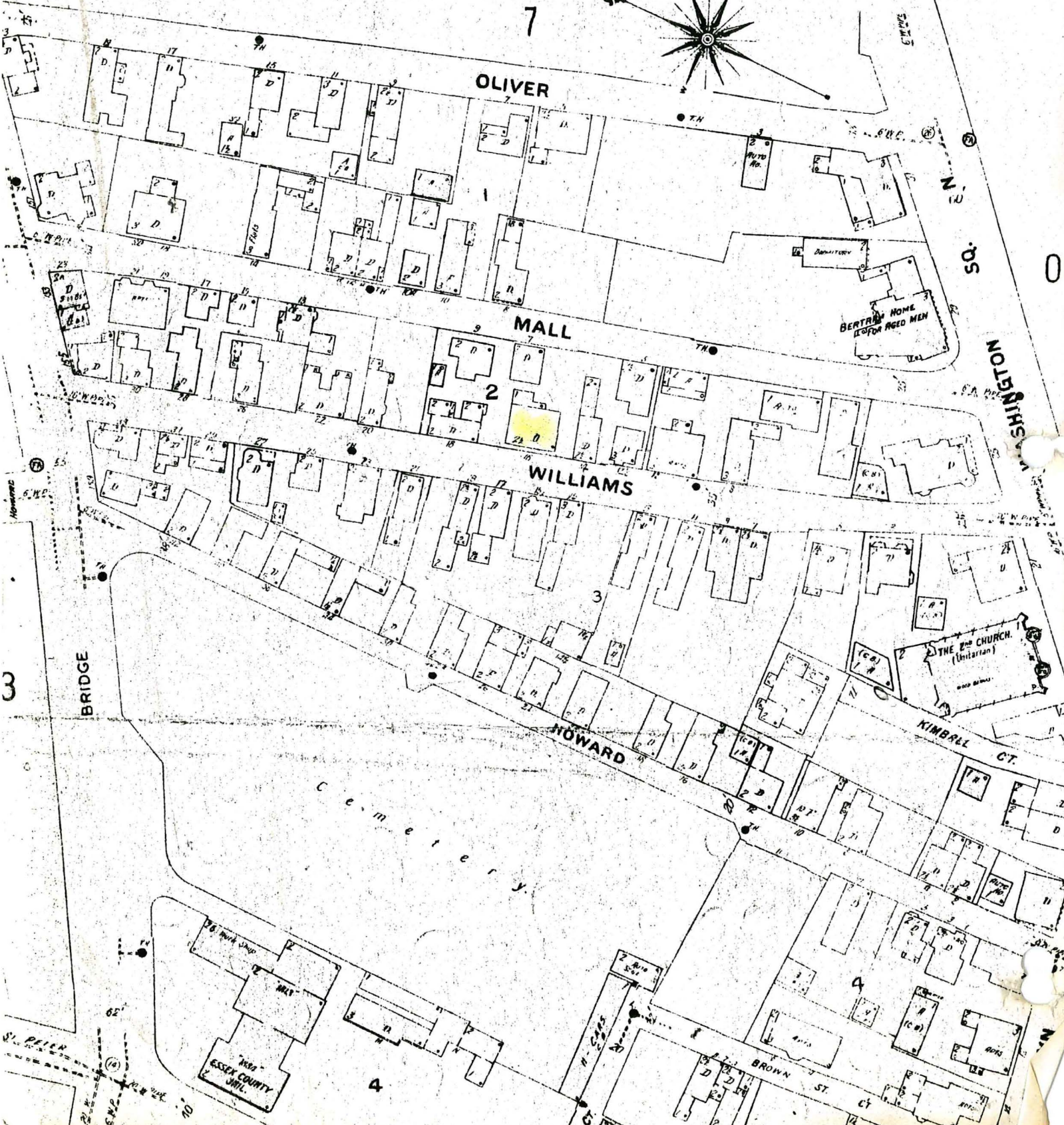
BROWN ST. CT.

BERTRAM HOME FOR AGED MEN

THE 2<sup>ND</sup> CHURCH (Unitarian)

ESSEX COUNTY JAIL

C e m e t e r y



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