

# Historic Salem incorporated

OFFICE AT OLD TOWN HALL

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

19 Washington Square

Built for

ABRAHAM TRUE, Naval Officer Custom House

in 1846

19 WASHINGTON SQUARE (formerly 12 Brown St.)

BOOK 368 PAGE 125

DATE - June 2, 1846

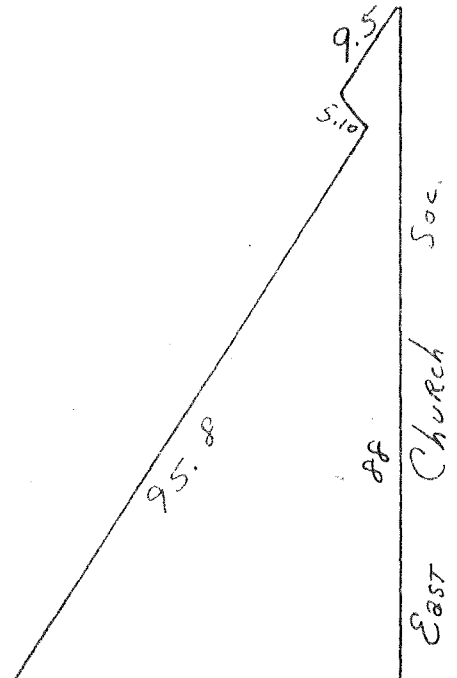
CONSIDERATION - \$700

GRANTOR (seller) - Benjamin Upton, William B. Parker,  
Nathaniel Weston, William Hunt and  
Thomas Davis Trustees of the sub-  
scriptions to a fund for the erection  
of a new house of worship for the  
East Society

GRANTEE (buyer) - Abraham True, gentleman

DESCRIPTION - Certain parcel of land

PREVIOUS REFERENCE - none given



Abraham True had this house built shortly after purchasing the land. His name appears in the Salem Street books (stored at the Essex Institute) on a list labeled:

"The following is the number and kind of Building which have been Erected finished and about being finished from March 1st 1846 to March 1 st. 1847. The names of the owners & the streets Located in etc."

<u>Names of owners</u>	<u>Kind of building</u>	<u>Where located</u>
Abraham True	House	Brown

Abraham True died on November 21, 1851. This notice appeared in the local paper:

Abraham True Esq. aged 63 - Mr. True was born in Chichester, N.H. but came to Salem in his youth, and has been long and generally known amongst us as a most respectable and useful citizen. He was an ardent but honest politician, first as a member of the old Republican party, and subsequently of the Whig; and from the administration of General Harrison he received the commission of Naval Officer for this port. Mr. True deserved all the consideration he enjoyed, for he was a man of good sense and varied information; a man of an active conscience; a man of great kindness of heart and readiness to serve every good cause; a man who loved the praise of good men much, but the praise which cometh from God infinitely more.

Funeral this afternoon, at 3 o'clock, from No 12 Brown Street.

Pursuant to a warrant from your honor, we the subscribers, the committee therein named, having been first sworn, have made the following

**Inventory and Appraisement of the Estate of**

*Abraham Duce,*

late of *Salem* in said county, *trader* deceased, testate, as shown to us  
by the *Executors*.

**REAL ESTATE.**

*Dwelling House in Brown Street.*

\$ 3.500 ..

*Personal Estate.*

*Parlour Furniture, viz;*

*2 Sofas. \$15 each.*

*\$ 30 ..*

*9 Chairs. 2 ..*

*18 ..*

*2 Card tables*

*10 ..*

*1 Work ..*

*2 ..*

*1 Carpet.*

*15 ..*

*Sundries.*

*10 ..*

*Sitting Room Furniture, viz;*

*1 Table.*

*12 ..*

*1 Carpet.*

*10 ..*

*Sundries.*

*25 ..*

*Contents of 2 Closets.*

*30 ..*

*Kitchen Furniture.*

*25 ..*

*Back Chamber Furniture.*

*30 ..*

*Middle " " "*

*30 ..*

I, Abraham Prue of Salem in the County of Essex, do make and declare this my last will and testament.

I give and bequeath unto my wife, Frances P. B. Prue, all my personal estate of every name and nature, to her sole use forever.

I give and devise unto my said wife, Frances P. B. Prue, one half part of all the real estate of which I may die seized or possessed, to have and to hold the same to her and her heirs forever.

I give and devise unto my said wife, Frances P. B. Prue, the other half part of all the real estate of which I may die seized or possessed to have and to hold the same to her use for and during the term of her life; and in case the buildings on the estate should by casualty become untenable; or if it should become necessary for the comfortable maintenance and support of my said wife; my said wife may sell and convey the whole or any part my real estate; and may use or invest the proceeds of such sale as may be necessary or expedient.

I give and devise, upon the decease of my said wife, one half part of the half of my real estate above devised to my wife for her life, to my daughter, Eliza Ann Moody, wife of

other half part of the half of my real estate, above devised  
to my wife for her life.

In case my said daughter and her said son  
should both die before my said wife, then I give  
and devise the whole of said half part of my real  
estate to my said wife, Frances P. B. Price, to have  
and to hold the same to her and her heirs forever.

I hereby constitute and appoint my said wife,  
Frances P. B. Price, to be the Executrix of this my last  
Will and Testament.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set  
my hand and seal this Twentieth day  
of September in the year of our Lord one  
thousand eight hundred and fifty one.

Signed, sealed, published and  
declared by the said Abraham Jones  
as said for his last will and testament,  
in the presence of us, who in his presence  
and in presence of each other, and at his  
request, have hereunto set our hands as  
witnesses.

Abraham Jones

BOOK 553 PAGE 57

DATE - May 19, 1857

CONSIDERATION - \$26.92

GRANTOR (seller) - Samuel Johnson, physican

GRANTEE (buyer) - Frances P. True

DESCRIPTION - Small parcel of land:  
Begining at the northeast corner of  
the barn, then run northwest to the corner of the garden fence  
a the east side of the post as it now stands, 16 ft. 10 in.;  
then turn and run northeast bound northwest by land of said  
Frances True 5 ft. 10 in. to land of said Frances True then  
turn again and again run by land of said Frances True 17 ft. to  
a point of intersection with the line of the north side of the  
barn, then turn on right angles and run 6 in. to point of  
begining.

BOOK 819 PAGE 24

DATE - March 22, 1871

CONSIDERATION - \$6,050

GRANTOR (seller) - Nicholas T. Snell of Salem executor  
of the will of Francis P.B. True,  
Moses B. Moody of Philadelphia, PA  
Eliza Ann Moody wife of Moses  
residing in Salem and Albert B. Moody

GRANTEE (buyer) - Charles Sewall

Charles Sewall died on April 4, 1894. The inventory of his estate (#75688) lists the real estate as:

#19 Washington Sq. \$6,000  
Pasture land Squam Hill Rockport \$600  
Dwelling at Squam Hill Rockport \$200.

Mr. Sewall's obituary:

Charles Sewall, the lawyer, died at his home on Washington Sq. at 10 o'clock today.

Mr. Sewall while a faithful councilor and a persistent worker for the interest of his clients, was personally a man of many kind impulses and generous almost to a fault, his many deeds of unostentatious charity being known only to the recipients.

He came to Salem as a law student in the office of the late Stephen B. Ives whose sister he subsequently married. He was born in Rockport and was educated in the public schools and was a graduate of Brown's University.

He was admitted to the bar in 1850 and succeeded to the practice of E. M. Kimbal when that gentleman removed to the west. He was a man devoted to his family, never having joined any of the fraternal societies.

There were six children 4 sons and 2 daughters. One of the sons was killed by falling from a barn in New Hampshire, two died of diphtheria and a fourth was killed by the explosion of the mortar on the common three years ago. The remaining daughter died of consumption.

Mr. Sewall was 58 years old and leaves a widow.



BOOK 2436 PAGE 193

DATE - December 18, 1919

CONSIDERATION - none given

GRANTOR (seller) - Robert M. Mahoney executor of the will of Margaret P. Sewall widow of Charles

GRANTEE (buyer) - Mary E. McCarthy wife of John now of Danvers but hereafter to be residents on granted premises

DESCRIPTION - 1/2 interest in the land and dwelling house, the title hereby conveyed was devised to said Margaret Sewall by will of her husband

BOOK 2436 PAGE 193

DATE - December 18, 1919

CONSIDERATION - none given

GRANTOR (seller) - Frank Scripture; Charles E. Breene and Florence M. his wife, in her right, all of Rockport; Emma Marshall widow; Howard Goldsmith and Ellen M. his wife in her right all of Lowell; Charlotte G. Coburn of Melrose; Arthur B. Sewall, Fred L. Davis and Mattie E. his wife in her right all

BOOK 3140 PAGE 551

DATE - April 5, 1938

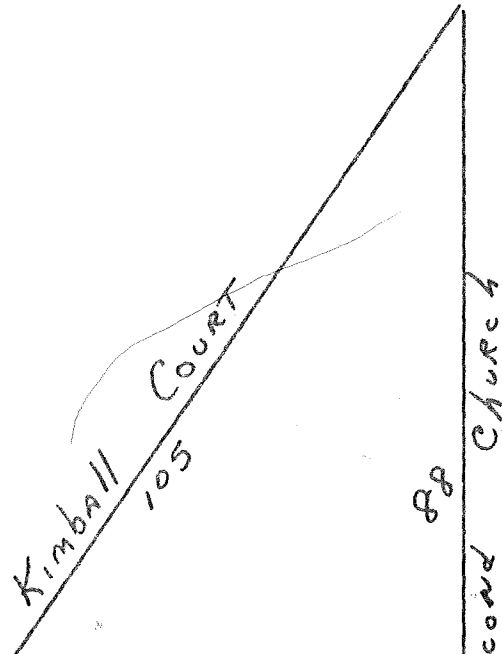
CONSIDERATION - \$5,500

GRANTOR (seller) - John J. McCarthy of Salem, executor  
of the will of Mary E. McCarthy my  
wife

GRANTEE (buyer) - Maybelle G. Wiley of Salem

DESCRIPTION - Land and buildings

PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Being the same premises conveyed to  
Mary E. McCarthy by two deeds of  
Robert M. Mahoney as exc. of will of  
Margaret P. Sewall and by heirs of  
Charles Sewall



BOOK 3677 PAGE 212

DATE - July 15, 1949

CONSIDERATION - none given - mortgge \$7,000

GRANTOR (seller) - John N. Wiley and Maybelle G. Wiley  
of Salem, in her own right

GRANTEE (buyer) - Broneslaw B. and Wanda C. Milewski

DESCRIPTION - Land and building

PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Same premises conveyed to her in  
deed book 3140 page 551

BOOK 7584 PAGE 355

DATE - November 20, 1984

CONSIDERATION - \$103,000

GRANTOR (seller) - William L. Mahoney Jr. conservator of  
Wanda C. Milewski

GRANTEE (buyer) - John and Devon Hamilton

DESCRIPTION - Land and building

PREVIOUS REFERENCE - For title see deed of John Wiley et

BOOK 7599 PAGE 309

DATE - December 7, 1984

CONSIDERATION - \$120,000

GRANTOR (seller) - John H. and Devon A. Hamilton

GRANTEE (buyer) - Donald E. Turner of 5 Pine Tree Rd.,  
Billerica and Donald E. Turner Jr. of  
5 Heritage Dr., Salem

DESCRIPTION - Land and building

PREVIOUS REFERENCE - For grantor title see deed Wm L.  
Mahoney Jr. conservator of Wanda C.  
Milewski on Nov. 20, 1984





NORTH ST

ST. PETERS

URBAND  
HOWARD ST

COUNTY JAIL

HOWARD STREET  
PUBLIC SCHOOL

Aaron  
Smith

Phos Downing  
Mrs H  
Batters

S. B. I. V. M. S. S. T.

STEPHEN B. I. V. M. S. S. T.

CHAS. J. W. S. S. T.

STEPHEN B. I. V. M. S. S. T.

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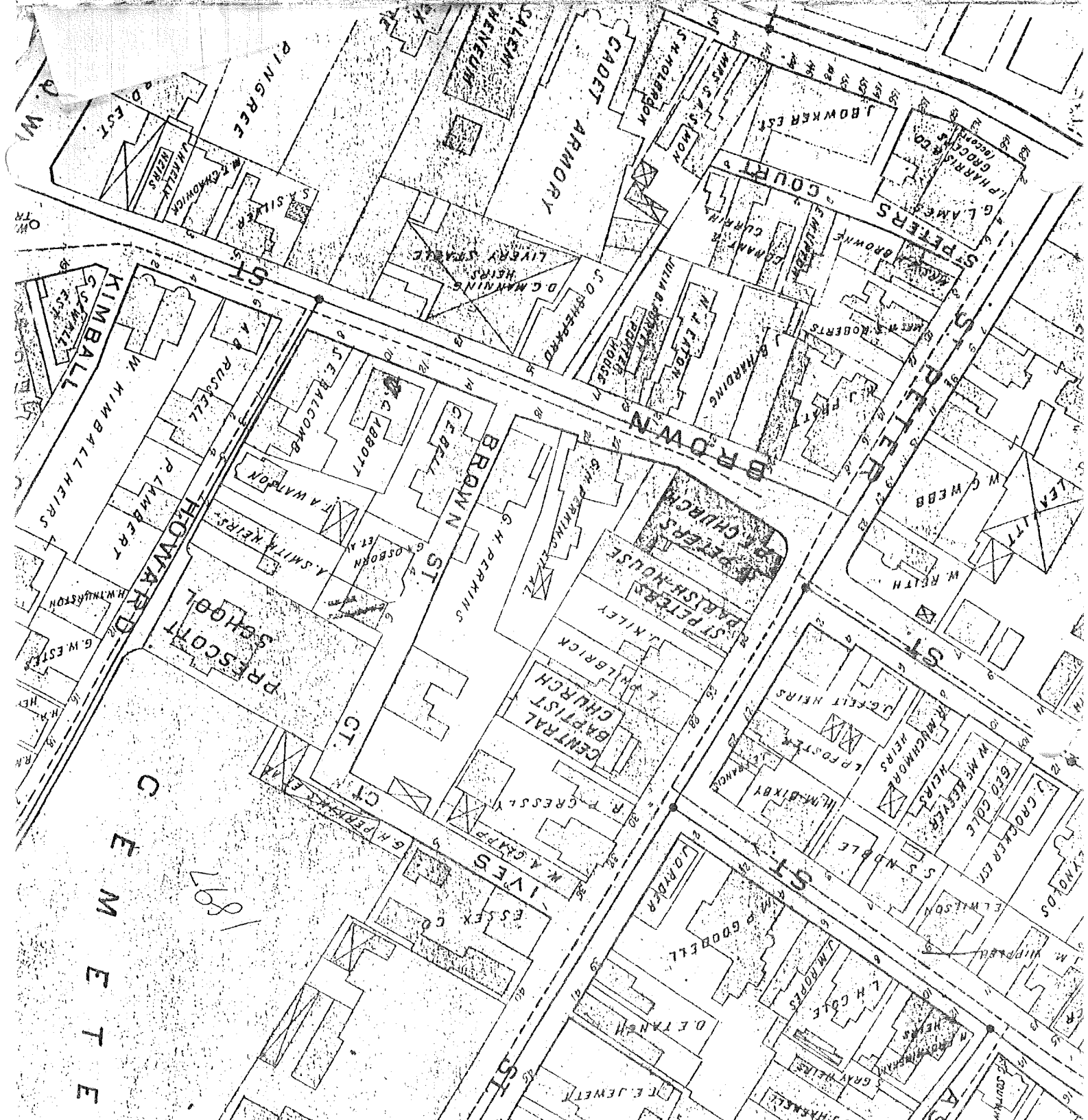
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C E M E

1897

CADET ARMORY

BROWN ST

ST PETER'S CHURCH

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COURT

BROWN ST

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# YOUR HOUSE IS SPECIAL

THERE IS NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE PAST!

Who built your house? When? Who were the first owners? What were their occupations? You can get the answers to these and other questions in an HISTORIC SALEM INC. (HSI) house report, along with the well-known house sign that states the year in which your house was built and the name & occupation of the first owner.

The more we know about the history of Salem's neighborhoods, the more we can work to preserve and protect them. It is generally agreed that the sign and research are a good investment in the value of an older house. Studies have indicated that an historic plaque on a house does increase its value. In addition, it establishes an interesting human history of the house.

Over the years, dozens of Salem homeowners have taken advantage of this program offered by HISTORIC SALEM INC., Salem's non-profit group for historic preservation and education.

- Title research is \$75.00 for HSI members and \$95.00 for non-members. Those wishing to do research are encouraged to do so, but should contact the H.S.I. office for directions and information on what is needed for correct documentation. Self research starts at \$35.00. Sample copies of the various types of reports are available for inspection at the H.S.I. office upon appointment.

HISTORIC SALEM INC. House Research & Sign Application:

DATE: AUG 8, 1985 NAME & ADDRESS (please print)

TELEPHONE Home: 745-2156 DONALD E. TURNER

Work: 19 WASHINGTON SQ. N.

ADDRESS of Property to be Researched: SALEM, MA. 01970

Name of Property Owner: TURNER FAMILY TRUST (DONALD TURNER SR + JR)