# Salem Incorporated

POST OFFICE BOX 865

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS 01970 / PHONE (617) 745-0799

14 Winter Street
Built by,
THOMAS BROWNE, housewright
in 1781

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."

The house at 14 Winter Street has been described in the Salem Historic District Study as: "This simple two-story plus pitch roof clapboard house is interesting because its entrance is in the yard at the intersection of the main house and a similar pitch roof ell at right angles to the main house on the street. The doorway is in an enclosed pedimented portico. One detail which suggests that it dates from the pre-Federal period is the cornice under the eaves which protrudes over the second story windows, and which is echoed in the molded window sills of this same cornice of windows; the house also has a large square chimney, which is usually a characteristic of the pre-Federal period. A wooden fence in the Chinese Chippendale style encloses the side yard."

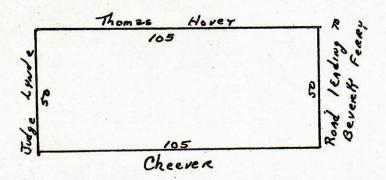
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The history of Winter street as given in the Essex Antiquarian, vol. 8 pg. 66: "Winter street was an ancient road. It was called a lane or highway in 1668; Road leading to Beverly ferry, 1705; Highway leading from the training field to Beverly ferry, 1705; Highway leading from the training field to Beverly ferry, 1760; the way to the ferry, 1769; Road 1771; Way leading to ferry lane, 1771; therefore lane leading to Beverly, 1779; Ferry Lane, 1780; Ferry lane or the way leading to Essex bridge, 1793; and Winter street, 1795."

Very early the entire west side of Winter street was owned by Jacob Pudeater, blacksmith. Mrs. Pudeater lived on this 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 <u>land</u> to Thomas Browne of Salem, housewright:



(book 145 page 94)

Mr. Browne immediately set to work building a new house for his family. The tax records show the progress of the house:

1781 Thomas Brown - 1/3 house, fac<sup>y</sup> and stock, 4 common rights

1782 Thomas Brown - house

Thomas Browne died, on June 30, 1793, at the age of 46. An inventory of his estate (probate #3850) taken on Dec. 12, 1793 lists the contents of the house plus gives valuable information as to the simple implements used by the housewright when building the sturdy homes which survive today. (appendix A)

On Sept. 12, 1799 a committee was appointed to divide the property and award the widow Margaret (Skerry) Browne her dower rights\*.

<sup>\*</sup>This was an automatic 1/3 share of a husband's estate.

There may have been some disagreement with one of the other heirs as to who owned what. When a widow was assigned a certain room of a house she was not usually confined to just this part of the house but affirmed her rights that even if all the other heirs sold their shares of the estate she would retain the priviledge to occupy the room or rooms as long as she lived. In this case Margaret was assigned "the front Lower Room, A Back room and Bed room, also the closset at the northerly side of the Kitchen, (that if Mrs. Brown sees fit to open a back door for an Entry) also the Western Garret, and at the North East Corner of the Cellar, a piece of Eight feet square, and one third part of the Arch under the Chimney, with the priviledge at all times to use the front Door, Entries and stairs from the Cellar to the Garret, also the Outer Cellar Door and Steps, and a passage way of four feet wide to the North East part of the Cellar, and a way of three feet wide from the stairs round the Chimney to the Western Garret, Lickwise to have a Right to Open the front Room Chimney the Southerly Oven, Now belonging to the Kitchen, for her own use and benifit at her cost, also one quarter part of the Pew in the Revd Dr. Barnards Meeting House." She was also awarded part of the barn, necessary house and well located in the rear of the house (appendix B).

When Margaret Brown died on Aug. 11, 1818 Rev. William Bentley made this notation in his diary: "Samuel Skerry & wife, death of his Sister, Widow Margaret Brown, aet. 69, in Winter street & goodness to him..... Mr. Skerry tells me his Sister married Thomas Brown.

The father of his Br. in Law (Thomas Browne) possessed the Farm in Wenham bought of him by J. Gardner whose widow of the Pickering family now lives upon it. Thomas Brown long since died." (Diary of William Bentley, vol. 4, pg. 540)

The probate of Margaret (Skerry) Brown lists the contents of the house at 14 Winter Street (appendix C.) and indicates that her only real estate holdings were the lots assigned to her as an heir of the Skerry family. Margaret had sold her rights in the Winter St. property to her daughter "Betsey Brown (now Osborn)" on March 2, 1813. (book 199 page 141)

The heirs of Margaret Brown were her children; Abraham Brown, Betsey Osborn and Hannah Brown; and grandchildren; Thomas Edwards, Margaret Southward, Abigail Hoyt, and Hannah Brown.

During the period from July 1822 to Feb. 1823 most of the heirs of Thomas and Margaret Browne had sold their shares in the Winter St. property described as house, land and barn, to Aaron Osborn husband of Betsey. (book 223 page 250, book 230 page 242 and book 237 page 184)

Aaron Osborn, housewright, built a house on the portion of the property which fronted on Oliver St. by 1830. The Osborns lived in the Oliver St. house until 1833 when they moved into the Winter St. house. The Salem Street Books indicate that 14 Winter St. was owned by John Edwards et al and valued at \$1,400, the occupants being John Edwards, John Bassett and Brackley Peabody.

The 1836 directory shows the occupants at that time as Aaron Osborn, John Osborn and Lydia Richardson. Over the years Aaron Osborn shared tenancy:

1842 - Aaron Osborn, William Ashton

1845 - Aaron Osborn, Nathaniel B. Osborn, John Bridges, Joseph Ally

1848 - Aaron Osborn, Nathaniel B. Osborn, John H. Young

1849 - Aaron Osborn, N.B. Osborn, James Smith

The federal census of 1850 gives a close look at the Osborn household:

Aaron Osborn age 65 carpenter born Mass.

Susan " " 53 " " "

2nd family

John Frasier age 33 mariner born Scot.

Mary " " 33 " Mass.

Mary E. " 4

The Salem Street Book gives this notation in 1855: 14 Winter St.

Aaron Osborn "died 5-10 at noon suddenly" George W. Crosby

The probate of Aaron Osborn (#48783) includes his will which specifies the widow Susan's share:

"To my wife Susan the use of the front room, side room and Bed room in my house on Winter St. on the lower floor of said house with the little cellar under the same, also privilege of entry to and out of the back door, with all the west attic in said house, with a privilege to and from the same, with 1/3 of the woodhouse, back houses and yard. Also privilege to and from the street to pass in and out front door. Also use of the furniture in the house during her life, at her decease to my grand daughter Margaret Elizabeth Osborne

or her heirs and assigns. The rest to my two sons John and Nathaniel B. (appendix D & E)

The 1860 census gives the occupants as:

Charles Jane Charles 2nd family	11	age "	33 33 7	tinsmith	born "	Mass. Maine Mass.
William	Duzout	. 11	40	cabinet maker	11	France
Victoria	11	11	40		11	11
Leon	n.	11	8		11	11
Mary	11	11	6		11	11
3rd family						
Samuel L	efavour	11	40	master mariner	11	Mass.
Lucy	11	91.	39		11	Maine
Lucy	11		7		n .	Mass.

#### The 1865 taxes:

14 Winter

Charles P. Osborn	age	38	owners - 1/3	Mrs. A. Osborn
Stephen Roberts	11	42		Nathaniel Osborn
Samuel Lefavour	11	40	1/3	Lydia Foster of Bridgton, Maine

On Dec. 22, 1869 Lydia Foster, of Bridgton, Maine, sold for \$500 to Sarah B. Osborn of Lynn, 1/3 the land and building on Winter St. "derived to me by my late husband Nathaniel Brown. Provided they pay Judith Perley of Methuen \$50." (book 802 page 156)

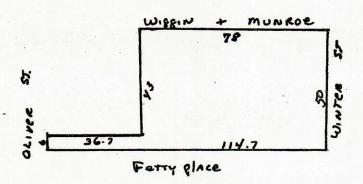
The tax records for 1870:

Marcus Knowlton Charles P. Osborn

owner - estate of A. Osborn house \$1,000 land 900 The 1870 census shows the change in occupants:

					O		
	Charles Os	sborn	age	42	tinplate	bor	n Mass.
	Jane F.	11	11	43	keeps house	- 11	11
	Charles	11	11	17	clerk in apothecary	11	11
	Carrie	. "	11	9	at school	. 11	11
	Agge	11	11	4	at home	11	Canada
2	and family						
	Marcus Kno	wlton	11	24	cabinetmaker	11 .	Mass.
	Mary	11	- 11	24	keeps house	11 -	11
	Marcus	11	11	2	at home	11	11
	Elmer	11	· Ħ	3	at home	11	11
7	ord family						
	Mary Fergu	ison	11	22	keeps house	11	Mass.
	Mary E.	11	11	1	at home	ń	11

On Feb. 21, 1871 Joseph Faulkner and Margarette E. his wife in her right, and Sarah B. Osborn, widow of Nathaniel B., in right of dower sold to Charles P. Osborn the land and buildings 14 Winter St., subject to the life estate of Susan Osborn and of Lydia P. Foster:



(book 816 page 156)

The 1875 taxes reflect this change: 14 Winter St.

Charles P. Osborn age 46 Eleazer Steele " 22 owner - Charles Osborn 2/3 house \$700, land \$600 widow Aaron Osborn untaxed

By 1880 Charles P. Osborn is listed as the sole owner of 14 Winter St. but had moved to his new residence 21 Pickman St. The tenants were: 14 Winter St.

Horace Osborne age 47 owner - Charles P. Osborn house \$1,000 land 800

The 1880 census gives additional information:

Sabrina Steele Eleazer "	age		keeps house		Vermont
2nd family		25	son - dry goods	"	п
Horace Osborn	ĥ	55	currier	11	Mass.
Louise "		64	sister - keeps house	11	11
Mary P. "	11	45	sister -	ti .	tt
Alice H. "	11	14	daughter - at home	•	11

On Oct. 4, 1890 Charles P. Osborne sold for \$1 and other valuable consideration to Agnes M. Osborne the land and buildings 14 Winter St. The same conveyed in the deed of Joseph Faulkner. (book 1291 page 113)

Five days later, Oct. 9, 1890, Agnes M. Osborne sold the same property to Jane F. Osborne for \$1. (book 1291 page 114)

Charles P.Osborn died on Jan. 9, 1900. A simple obituary notice appeared in the Salem News:

"Charles P. Osborn died at the age of 73 years, 2 months, 27 days.

Funeral at residence 21 Pickman St."

On Oct. 1, 1910 James F. Osborne, widow, sold to Thomas F. Cronan the land and buildings, 14 Winter St.. The same premises conveyed by deed of Agnes M. Osborne. (book 2045 page 288)

Oct. 27, 1910 Thomas F. Cronan sold to Nellie A. Heagney wife of William F. the land and dwelling house "being the same premises conveyed to me by deed of Jane F. Osborne on Oct. 1, 1910." (book 2047 page 170)

Nellie Heagney died on Jan. 17, 1911. Her only heir was a daughter Helen M. Heagney. (probate #110127) Mrs. Heagney's real estate holdings were:

House and land on Winter St. \$3,500 House and land on Juniper Point 1,600 Lot of land on Main St., Clinton, Mass. 500

On Sept. 8, 1911 James F. Fielding, of Oil City, Pa., administer of the estate of Nellie A. Heagney sold to Edwin H. Dodge the land and buildings at 14 Winter St., for the sum of \$4,000. The same premises conveyed to Nellie Heagney by deed of Thomas F. Cronan. (book 2100 page 218)

Jan. 5, 1912 Edwin H. Dodge sold to Arthur Derby the same estate conveyed by James F. Fielding. (book 2122 page 368)

Jan. 5, 1912 Arthur Derby of Salem, sold to Frances E. Dodge the land and buildings, 14 Winter St., The same conveyed by Edwin H. Dodge. (book 2122 page 369)

Sept. 14, 1939 Frances E. Dodge, widow, sold to Martha B. Greenough the same property conveyed by deed of Arthur Derby. (book 3193 page 278)

Oct. 29, 1947 Martha B. Greenough, of Beverly, unmarried, sold to Mary Louise Woodward, of Peabody, the same premises conveyed by Frances Dodge. (book 3534 page 554)

Mary Louise Woodward then sold to Annie J. McKenna of Kings Park
Long Island, N.Y., the land and buildings conveyed by deed of
Martha B. Greenough on Oct. 9, 1947. See also deed of Frances E.

Dodge to Martha B. Greenough, Sept. 14, 1939. (book 3574 page 459)

Notes: The Essex Institute has in its photo collection two photos of this house when it was "Crashed by a Truck."

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.

An Swantery of the Estate of Thomas Browne Colory Salem Housewright Du as approused by is the debscribers Commissions appointed by the Hon Benjamin Greenleaf Judge of Chobate de . \_ The mansion house together with the adhouses (with the land under and) adjoining const about Twenty poles\_\$275.0.0 George Batchelders Note of hand taled for 3.9.9 Miles Ward for Note of hand, dated april for & 9.0.0 Miles Word Jan Mush hand Cated august
for 181 for 180 -1 -1 Males Maid June Nolwolhand dates Orle 3 15-1 jonah Richard fory Note hand Valed 24 Dury 3 30 -11 40.0.0 Cash in hand ---Silver Match 48/ 2-8 half frew in the Meetingh where the low The Burnas officety 3 5-1h I Small al al

Amot brought over From Chair 6/. 2 Green de 8/ Looking Glaf 31. 1. 17.0 Mand hons 12/ 1 Small arm 15/ 2 Chests 6/ 1 Busch Desk 15/ 3 feet Table of 1 Small do 4/ 1-8-5010 Chains 5/ 19 brak Candlesticks 6/ 1 Tim de 16 " 12.0 Tim were 12/ Glass Ldelph 8017/ China Bowl 5/ Case Hottles 6/ China lups Hancers 51 .. 16-Hand hery 5! Shoul Hangs 6/ Finder hooks hammel Scewers 1/6 brafs Kittle 20/ Small D. 3/1-10. D. 17 Iron pot 6/ Teskettle 3/ Presper 1/6 Dripping from 31 mying from 1/ warming fram 7/6 : 11 6 And 16 gird ran 31 Scales ditto g Mial Chest 61 Clouthe Horse 4/6 . Hove 3/- 13.6 30 Penter . 10? Crof Cut Jan 9/ - 1.14 find flowe 41 5 Small lawy 12/ hon Spoon 16 Spade 3/ 2 broad axy 1 - . 15 6 Thinguns 10% bench Somes Afotts 201 Jointers 7/6 2 Fouplains 2/2 Shaves 4/6 - 10/6 7 19 hon Journe 1/6 3 wooden de 1/6 2 frostrig plains 2/ " 5-2 Hongling Hammers 1/6 2 Claw de 1/6 21 Sheryels I Greages 7/ Saw Compress Saw fel Gimb & Gouges 1/ " &-Money 16 pannel Plain 4/6 29 Creese plains 15/ 1.2.0 1 (hest 4/6. Con blh Walnut Draway 18/ \_\_ 2-12.0 Summer wheel of Groving plain St Book St .. 16-10.6 touting Desk 7/6 Care low Drawing 3/ not thitle 101. hon was 6/ Trining wheel 3/ New thest of Table 2/6 Soll Majores 2/ 16 6 of the Chart 3/ Major Ladle 1/6 3 Chairs a g . 6. 9 3 flat hom a 1/. Can with bottles 6/ -whillanow 3/ wood are 3/ Candlefuch / - 7,for baf, Jealy 4/ 1 Feather Bot Bottle Spillows W 50-1/6 3-15

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To the Stonble Samuel Hollon bust Soidge of Probate for the County of Eposes Surforant to the Warrant Hereunto annies, appointing the Me Julgeriber a Committeet to divide and fest off by mother and bounds How Being doily Sworn. Have carefully viewed the Beat Effection cluded in the Inventory of the vaid deceased, And have given m. margaret Brown notice, of the time & place of our onthing, and who is trufant, stowe allowed that foreign and have accordingly Soft off with the sond margaret Brown as her Right of Dower in faid Effate, as follows, Un part of the Dwelling Storme, to wit, The front down hoom, a Buch room & Bed over, also the Elefet at the nothing side of the Shitchen ( that for Dorson dee , fit to Open a buch door for an Entry also the Western Garrel, and at the Moth both Corner of the beller, a piece of Eight feet Synane, and one third feart of the link under the Chammey, with the priviledge at all times to life the front Dorr, Entries & stairs from the beller to the Garret, also the Outer Cellar Doon Asteps, and a papage way of four feet wide to the Moth batt part of the bellar, and a way of those feet wide from the their round the Chemny to the Wistern Garret Lich were to have a Right to Open in the front Ocorn Chamny the douthinly Owen, now less tonging to the Ritchon, for her own Up and benight at her book also ene Quarter part of the Pero in the Rev. Dr Barnards Meeting Stones, and part of the Barn to wit twelve feet in the Lower part from the Worldry Bond, with the Land under & adjoining beginning at twelve feel from the broth Wil Comer of s. Barn, then owning Westerly to the South Soft Corner of the necessary house, on a thought line to it blive Sand, then Southerly to Land of to Cheaver then Cartonly to a marker twelve feet East of the d. West Corner of s. Barn, then Morth to the bounds first montioned, also the priviledge to the and take Water from the Will at all times, and to have a priviledge of paping and represent to w from the necessary House in a way of four feet wade, and to make He of the needary House at all times in Common with the proprietor of the other part of vaid House, The yourd Southward and West ward of soid House to be in Commonon, to be life o lay said Margaret & her afigm, with the pohor proprietors, and is bounded as follows begin ing on Winter Street fourteen feit Southing from the South Lettly comer of said Home, then mening westerly to the or & former

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#### Schedule B.

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