

**Twelve Gifford Court  
Salem**

*Built c. 1887  
as the hospital of the  
Seamen's Orphan & Children's Friend Society*

*Twelve Gifford Court*  
*Salem*

**According to available evidence, this house was built as a hospital for the Seamen's Orphan and Children's Friend Society in 1887.**

In May, 1844, Robert Brookhouse, Salem merchant, donated to the Salem Seaman's Orphan & Children's Friend Society a piece of land with a house and buildings and half of a well, fronting 38' 4" on Carpenter Street and running back 100' (ED 345:6). This property had earlier belonged to the Salem Female Charitable Society. The house that he then granted was evidently used as an orphanage.

The Society was founded in 1833 for the purpose "of devising and adopting such measures as may seem best to ameliorate the condition of the fatherless and the widow" (per 1861 Salem Directory). In 1839 it was headed by Rev. Michael Carlton, who, with his wife, had taken in the orphaned children of seafaring families in 19<sup>th</sup> century Salem. The Society was made up of well-to-do merchants and their wives, who shared their wealth with the families of mariners who had died ashore or been lost at sea, leaving widows, fatherless children, and sometimes, orphans. These seafaring men, employed by the merchants to sail their vessels, faced dangers from storms, mischance, disease, and sea-going enemies. Often the sailors died in the service of the merchant, leaving but little for the subsistence of their families. This is where the ship-owning merchant families stepped in, to be sure that no family in Salem would suffer from hunger or want.

Mr. and Mrs. Carlton resided on Charter Street, in the so-called Grimshawe House (still standing, much changed); and they had rooms for the orphans in a nearby building. Beginning in 1844, the orphans and perhaps some fatherless families evidently resided here in a house on the site of 7 Carpenter Street. Later, c.1877, that house was removed and a larger one built, still standing at the corner of Carpenter Street and Gifford Court. The Court did not then exist, but was laid out by the 1880s.

On 2 March 1887 Sidney W. Winslow of Beverly for \$1,010 sold to the Seamen's Orphan and Children's Friend Society a parcel of land in the rear of a Federal Street lot that he had sold to Mrs. Bertram (ED 1192:49). The parcel was bounded southeast 45' 6" on land of Mrs. Bertram, southwest 110' 6" on land late of Oliver, northwest 48' on land of Winslow, and northeast 105.2' on land of Gifford, a court, and land of the Society. Four months later, on 7 July 1887, Mr. Winslow sold the Society a very small sliver of land at the northwest of the lot sold in March (ED 1202:364)

On this newly acquired land, probably in the summer of 1887, the Society built a hospital, which is now the house at 12 Gifford Court.

By that time, Salem's seafaring days were done, but some of the mariners' widows and offspring were still in need of support. The Society may still have operated the orphanage nearby, but its main purpose was to support marginal seafaring families in their own homes.

In 1890, evidently soon after the construction of the hospital here, the all-volunteer society was headed by Mrs. E.M. Proctor, who had the assistance of two vice presidents, a treasurer, a secretary, and more than a dozen volunteer "managers," who were responsible for monitoring the needs of various children and families. The medical advisors were Dr. Frank S. Atwood, of Federal Street, and Dr. C.A. Carlton. The matron was Miss Margaret Barrows, and the Society helped about 60 children from infants to those aged 18 years (per Salem Directory, 1890-1).

Eventually the organization's name was changed to the North Shore Children's Friend Society. On 13 March 1951, after nearly 64 years of ownership of the hospital and its land, the Society sold all of its property on Carpenter Street and Gifford Court to two men, Louis P. Dandelen and Alexander Turkowski, both of Salem (ED 3810:381). The new owners subdivided the property, and in May, 1951, sold the former hospital and its lot to Mr. & Mrs. Patrick J. and Katherine W. McCarrick (ED 3815:130, with plan, appended). The McCarricks occupied the building as a residence.

The McCarricks owned the premises eight years, and in May, 1959, sold the premises to Mr. & Mrs. Ernest P. and Ella I. Ouellette (ED 4562:596). Nine years passed, and in November, 1968, the Ouellettes

sold the property to Anne Byrne Walker of Broad Street (ED 5572:270). After another nine years, Ms. Walker sold the same to Mr. & Mrs. Philip A. and Christiane M. Levy (ED 6377:607); and Ms. Levy, now Christiane Munkholm, owns and occupies the premises today.

--Robert Booth for Historic Salem Inc., 19 Nov. 2000

## Glossary

#1234 refers to probate case 1234, Essex County probate

ED 123:45 refers to book 123, page 45, Essex South Registry of Deeds

Salem Directory refers to the published Salem resident directories

Census refers to census records, taken house-by-house with occupants listed.

EIHC refers to Essex Institute Historical Collections

Know all men by these presents that I, Sidney W. Winslow, of Beverly, in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in consideration of One thousand and ten Dollars paid by Seamens Orphan and Childrens Friend Society, a duly incorporated Society, of Salem, in said County, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell, and convey unto the said Seamens Orphan and Childrens Friend Society, the lot of land in rear of land lately conveyed by me to Mrs. John Bertram on Federal Street in Salem and bounded as follows, viz: - Beginning at the South east corner thereof on land of Mrs. Bertram, thence running Southwesterly by said Bertrams land as the fence now stands forty-five feet six inches to land late of H. N. Oliver; thence turning and running Northwesterly on said land as the fence now stands one hundred and ten feet six inches to other land of mine; thence turning and running Northeasterly on my land about forty eight feet to land of Gifford; thence turning and running Southeasterly one hundred and five and two tenths feet on a bowt and other land of said Seamens Orphan and Childrens Friend Society to point of beginning. To have and to hold the granted premises, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, to the said Seamens Orphan and Childrens Friend Society and its successors and assigns, to their own use and behoof forever.

And I hereby for myself and my heirs, executors and administrators, covenant with the grantee and its successors and assigns that I am lawfully seized in fee-simple of the granted premises, that they are free from all incumbrances, that I have good right to sell and convey the same as aforesaid; and that I will and my heirs, executors, and administrators shall warrant and defend the same to the grantee and its successors and assigns forever against the lawful claims and demands of all persons. And for the consideration aforesaid I, Georgie A. Winslow wife of Sidney W. Winslow do hereby release unto the said grantee and their successors and assigns all right of or to both dower and homestead in the granted premises. In witness whereof we, the said Sidney W. Winslow and Georgie A. Winslow hereunto set our hand and seal the second day of March in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven.

Signed, sealed, and delivered in presence of H. F. Winslow

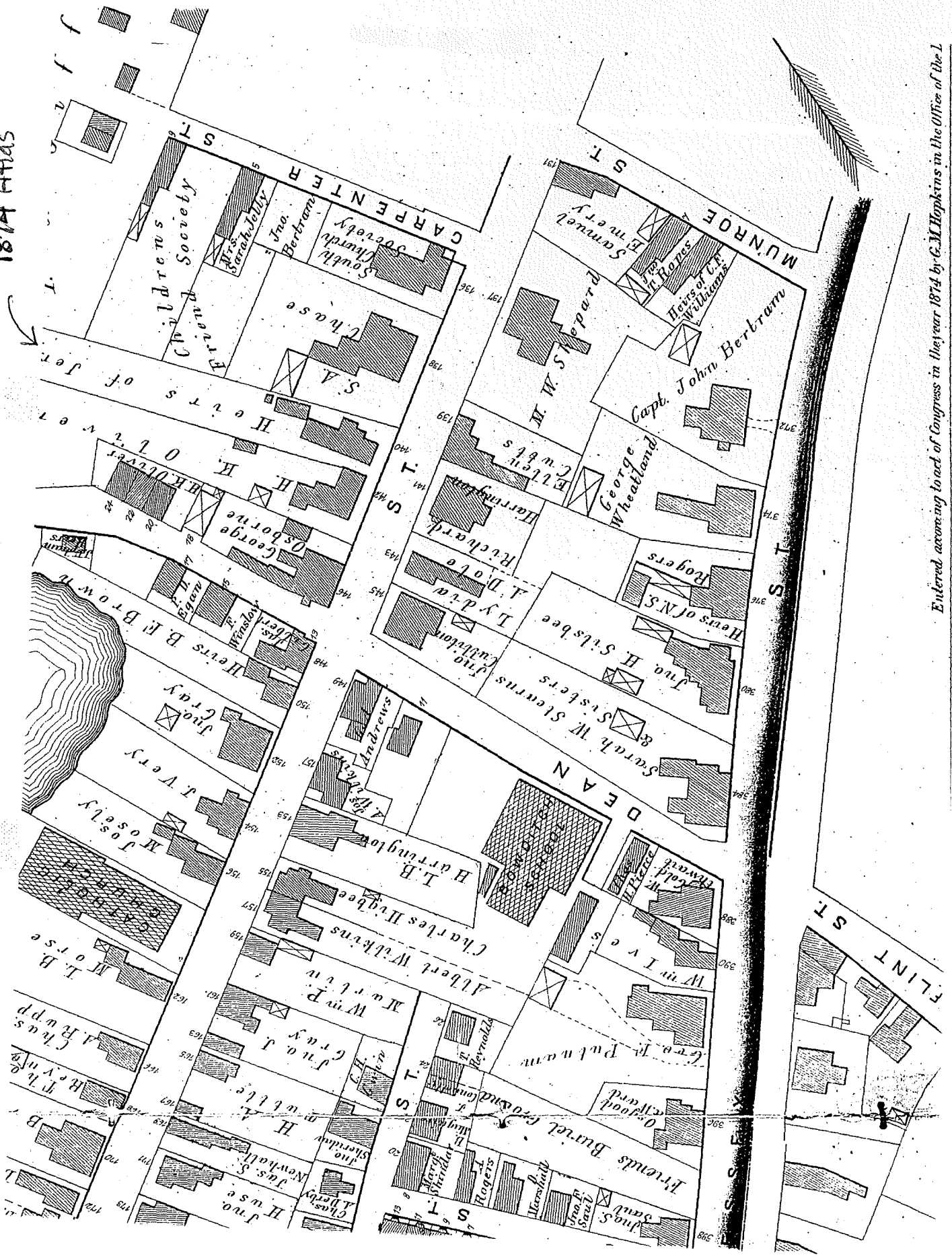
Sidney W. Winslow Seal

Georgie A. Winslow Seal

Bridget Doyle, Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Essex.

March 7, 1887. She personally appeared the above-named Sidney W. Winslow and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his free act and deed, before me, Charles H. Odell, Justice of the Peace.  
Essex Co. Rec'd Mar. 8, 1887, 30 m. hall - 2 P.M. Rec. T. P. *Charles H. Odell*

1874 Atlas



Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1874 by G. M. Hopkins in the Office of the L.



1897 Atlas

NOR

BOSTON

BRIDGE

EST. OF R. B. GIFFORD  
J. B. GIFFORD  
N. P. GIFFORD

354 350 348 346 338

R. HARRINGTON  
COLLIER  
HEIRS OF R. B. GIFFORD  
J. B. GIFFORD  
MRS. W. MARSHALL  
B. GIFFORD

FLINT ST. CT  
X GIFFORD CT  
HOSPITAL  
CHILDREN'S HOME  
LUMBER YARD & PLANING MILL  
N. P. GIFFORD

S. PIPPS HEIRS  
A. BATH  
EMMERTON  
BENJAMIN SHREVE EST.

W. G. WABB  
SO. CHURCH SOCIETY  
JENNIE  
MRS. M. A. BERTRAM  
JAN. DAYTON

ELIZA A. SHEPARD  
C. J. SADLER  
MRS. M. A. BERTRAM

145 143 141 139 137 129 125

7

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MARY A. BERTRAM

MONROE ST.

315 312 311 308 306