

24 Winter Street
Built for
CAPTAIN JOHN BERTRAM, merchant
in the year 1844

Research by,
Joyce King
Oct. 1978

24 Winter Street

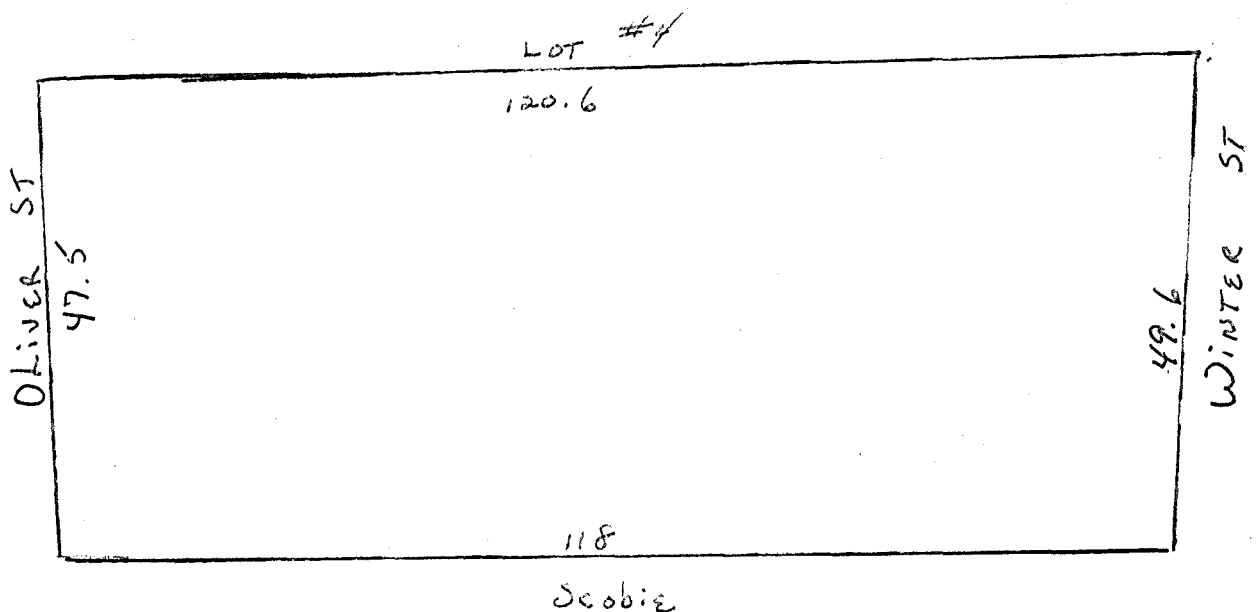
This house is described in the Salem Historical Commission report as being a two story plus, pitch roof, gable end to the street house, one of the few brick Greek Revival houses in Salem. The original recessed entrance was "colonialized" around 1900 and the bay window has been altered.

The history of Winter St. as given in the Essex Antiquarian vol.8 page 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, 1760; the way to the ferry, 1769; Road 1771; Way leading to ferry lane, 1771; the ferry lane leading to Beverly, 1779; Ferry Lane, 1780; Ferry lane or the way leading to Essex bridge, 1793; and Winter Street 1795.

Verly early in Salem's history the entire west side of Winter St. 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 and at one time there was a tanyard located on it.

The lot on which this house stands had been part of the estate of Benjamin Cheever, tanner in the early 1800's. After Mr. Cheever's death his land was divided among his heirs on Sept. 20, 1842. The lot called #5 in this division became the possession of Benjamin's daughter Eliza (Cheever) Ward, wife of Malthus A. Ward. (book 334 page 184)

On Nov. 23, 1842 Malthus A. Ward, physician of Athens, Georgia and his wife Eliza, in her own right, sold to John Bertram, merchant, the lot of land assigned to them in the division of the estate of their father Benjamin Cheever, the lot known as #5. (book 334 page 106)



After the purchase of the lot known as lot #5 in 1842 Mr. Bertram bought two adjoining parcels, one from Robert Upton in 1843 and the other from John Scobie in 1844, these were used as garden area. It was on lot #5, in 1844 that Mr. Bertram built his new brick house, shown in the Salem tax records for that year.

Captain John Bertram was married three times. His first wife Mary C. Smith died in 1837. He married second Clarissa McIntire and in 1845 moved with Clarissa and family into the new house at 24 Winter St. Clarissa died in childbirth in June 1847. A year later Capt. Bertram married Mary Ann Ropes. The Bertram family living on Winter St. is listed in the 1850 federal census as follows:

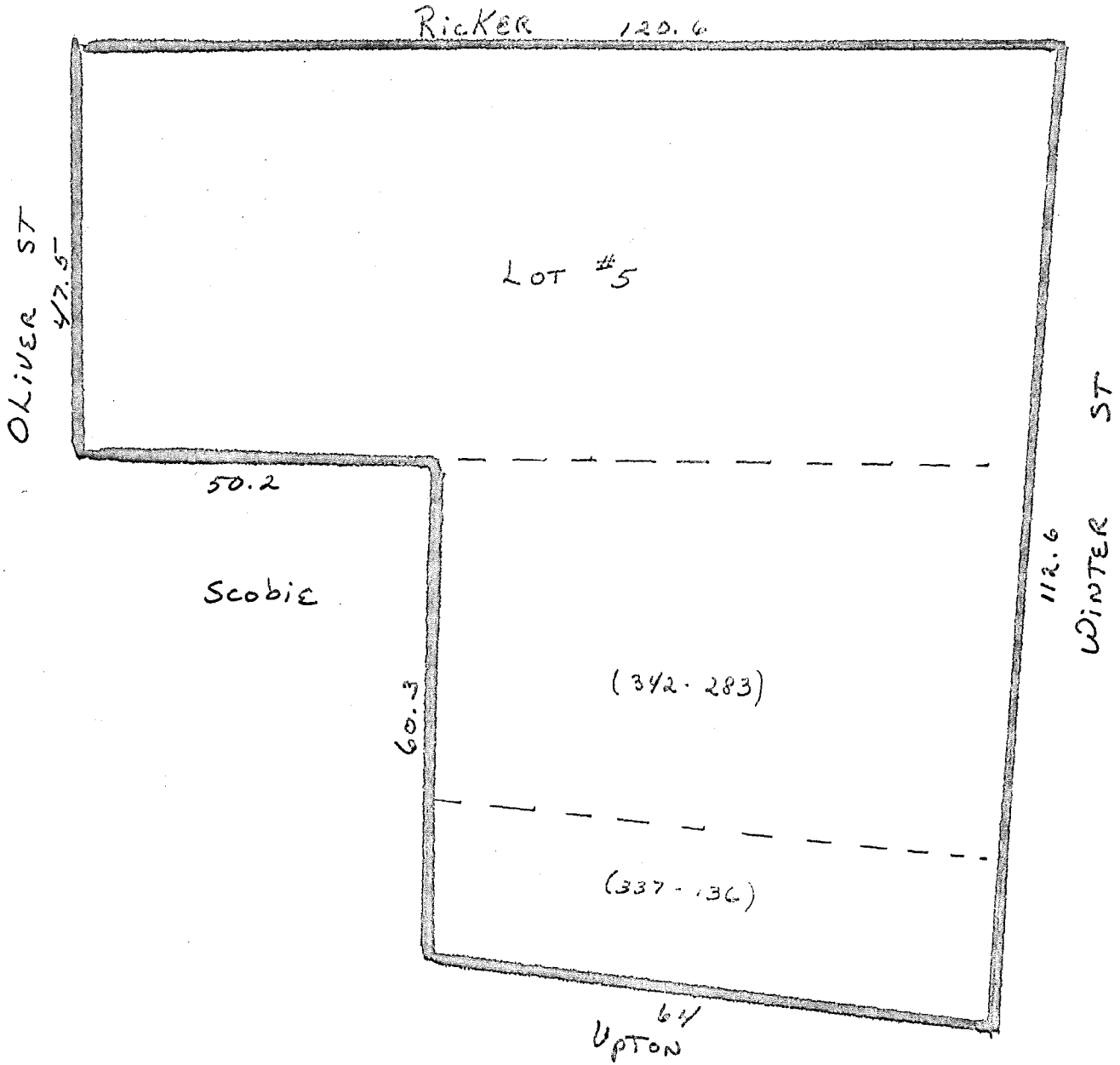
John Bertram	age 53	merchant	born Jersey Isle
Mary Ann Bertram	" 39		" Mass
Joseph H. "	" 16	mariner	" "
Mary J. "	" 13		" "
Clara M. "	" 11		" "
Annie "	" 5		" "
June Markie	" 40		" Ire.
Arthur Winn	" 26	laborer	" "
Jane Winn	" 22		" "

The Bertrams lived at 24 Winter St. until 1855 when the family moved into their new brick house on Essex St. (now the main branch of the Salem Public Library)

On May 19, 1855 John Bertram, of Salem, merchant and his wife Mary A. sold to John Jewett of Salem Esq. for \$10,000 the parcel of land all more or less as the fences now stand, with the brick dwelling house and all other buildings standing. For more particulars of bounds etc. refer to three deeds:

Robert Upton	to John Bertram	book 337	page 136
Malthus A. Ward	" " "	book 334	page 106
John J. Scobie	" " "	book 342	page 283

Meaning to convey the same property conveyed in these three deeds. (book 513 page 165)



John Bertram
edited by,
Rosamond De Laittre

where I had lived a long time with my grandmother. Another, a merchant in St. Helier. The sister, Mrs. Gregg, was married to the clerk of the Parish, all in very comfortable circumstances. Of my father's relatives, none were nearer than second or third cousins, who I never knew, were living. My father had only one brother who died soon after I was there.

Unknown (from choice) I travelled over the whole ground I had done when a boy, but everything looked so much smaller that but for being perfectly acquainted with every locality, I should not have recognized many of them.

After staying on the Island with my uncle, visiting all known relatives and friends of my father and mother, I returned to London where I remained some days before going to Birmingham and Manchester on business — then to Liverpool. I went by steamer, which was, in the early days, of the Cunard Line.

1841 I not only purchased the iron for the whole road, but made all the arrangements for its payment and shipments, without paying commissions to anyone. Although I made my purchases in London, I visited Bristol and Wales before purchasing. All my expenses were paid, but I did not charge anything for my services. I was then a stockholder in the Road.

The Fall of this year I was chosen a Member of the Legislature, once again in 1857 and 1863, refusing positively to accept any office, having neither taste nor inclination to serve the people in that way. I also gave up being a Bank Director, an office I held for twenty years.

1842 I commenced the Para business on my own account, having previous to this time been connected with T. P. Pingree, and gave up the trade in 1857. This year I purchased the house on the corner of Winter and Pickman Streets, in which we lived until we moved in our new brick house on the opposite side of the street in 1845, where we lived until we moved in the house we built on Essex Street in 1855.

About the same time I purchased a lot of seven acres in Northfield for the purpose of raising fruit trees. I increased it at different times afterwards to about twenty acres with House Grapery.

1847 From 1842 to 1847 nothing of importance occurred in my family. This year I lost my second wife in giving birth to a son that died also, but leaving me with five children, including hers, and mine by my first wife, a responsibility I was poorly prepared to assume and to which I felt wholly inadequate, my time and mind having been wholly devoted to my business, which had prospered since 1838.

1848 While in search of a school for my children, I found a mother also. After the children had been at her school a short time I married Miss Mary Ann Ropes in June (27) 1848. Besides getting them a good mother, I got a good wife that took the whole charge of the house and family, leaving me all my time to devote to business.

We commenced the California business this year (1848), the sole object being to assist an unfortunate friend who had, before gold was discovered, asked me to join him in a voyage, but having as much business



John Bertram

He was a notable representative of a class of men who, as civilization advances, grow more and more important in their influence upon society. In a business age like our own, a great merchant is pre-eminently a factor of force. He and his work touch the community at an infinite number of points. His honest successes are an inspiration to the multitude of workers, the patience and industry by which he wins his wealth and standing are a rebuke to the idlers who take life easily and hope to find shortcuts to fortune, his methods are suggestive and healthful, and his history is a school book for beginners to study. In the record of human activities there is nothing finer than the story of the career of a truly great and honorable merchant.

And both as a great and honorable merchant John Bertram was exceptionally eminent. He owed nothing to fortune. Born in humble circumstances with no friends to push him, and no capital with which to begin the world, he shouldered himself to the first rank of successful business men by sheer force of will and patient endurance. He first saw the light in the Isle of Jersey, February 11, 1796. His family were residents of the Parish of St. Saviour, to which parish his ancestry as far back as he was able to trace it had always belonged. The Bertram family belonged to the middle class, in the somewhat peculiar society of the unique island which is both French and English. The ancient parish church is still standing, and in later life Mr. Bertram had the pleasure of revisiting the very locality where, as a boy, he had played, and of entering again the old church in whose very shadow he had perhaps in his earlier years nursed ambitions and hopes that were to be realized in his later life. Beyond question, that old church and its surroundings had something to do with imparting a permanent tinge to his thoughts and feelings, for through a long life he showed a profound reverence for and interest in religious matters, and a sketch of the old church procured in his later years was one of the most highly esteemed of his household treasures.

The family came to America in 1807, and settled in Salem. Like all adventurous Salem boys of that day, John conceived a grand passion for the sea. The shop where he worked was within hearing of the lapping of the waves, and through the windows he could catch sight of the lines of masts and the white gleam of the canvass and the songs of the sailors outward or homeward bound, seemed to invite him to become a wanderer on the ocean. At last a decision was reached, and in December, 1812, Captain Bertram, then sixteen years old, shipped for his first voyage on board a vessel bound for Alexandria and Lisbon, rated on the ship's lists as a "boy" with a pay of five dollars a month. Then came the exciting times of the War of 1812, and after his return from his first

until he found himself a prisoner on board the prison ship, "Alicant," at Bermuda, and in 1815 one of the unhappy captives confined in the prison ship at Plymouth, England.

The close of the war released Captain Bertram from his captivity, and he found himself at home again, with very little to show for his years of hard service. But the boy's romance had become the purpose of the man, and he was soon afloat again, serving in vessel after vessel, voyaging to all parts of the world, rising from grade to grade, until he found himself in command, retiring from the hard life of the sea in 1832, after twenty years of tasking and faithful service. From thence on he continued in the ordinary routine of commercial business until 1848, when the discovery of gold in California set the world on fire. Captain Bertram was quick to discern the value of this new opening for business, and sent out the first vessel from the States after the discovery of gold, and the third vessel which arrived from any port. He, with others, subsequently built a number of ships for the trade, most of them clippers, some of them very large. From 1852 to 1858 he gradually narrowed the range of his commercial business, until at last he confined it to trade in the Indian seas. In 1856 he became interested in Western railroads, and carried into the new business the same energy and caution and foresight which had characterized him in other departments of activity. There, as elsewhere, his ability commanded success, and his faculty for organization enabled him to spend his last years with his business so well in hand, that he was free from anxiety and relieved from overburdensome labor. At the same time he did not intermit his vigilance. Useful occupation was his delight, and he devoutly believed that if a man wished to be well served, he must serve himself. His quiet office was an observatory, whose windows looked north, south, east and west, and he kept watch of what was going on that concerned him, both on the far shores of Zanzibar and beyond the roll of the Mississippi. Wherever the business was the man was, to plan and oversee and superintend.

Perhaps the most notable thing about Captain Bertram—certainly the thing by which he will be longest and most lovingly remembered—was his open-handedness. He was no importunate creditor in the transaction of business. The number of obligations due him, which were cancelled without payment, will never appear upon the open record. Impatient as he might be at any attempt to defraud him, intolerant as he was of all shiftness and extravagance, yet when misfortune overtook his debtors, they had nothing to fear from him. Instead of being their persecutor, demanding the pound of flesh nominated in the bond, he was sure to become their helper. He took especial interest in young men in their early business struggles, and was ready to assist them, both with advice, which, however valuable, is cheap, and

also with financial aid, which most men do not furnish so readily. He had been young himself, and knew all the perplexities of beginnings, and, out of his own experience, caught the impulse to save others from what he had suffered himself.

And this open-handedness was not a matter of selfish calculation. It came out of large-heartedness. This business consideration was supplemented by most munificent liberality. During the dark days of the War of the Rebellion he was a most intense patriot, in purse as well as profession. The wants of the soldiers never plead with him in vain, and he often anticipated the cry for help before it was uttered. The records of the Grand Army show that this generous interest was not a momentary enthusiasm. To the close of his life he kept in mind the needs and the deserts of the defenders of the Union, and his unrecorded liberalities in their behalf were quite as numerous as his formal donations. The forlorn condition of the race whom the war liberated was constantly and pressingly present with him, and any plan for their elevation was sure to receive generous consideration at his hand; so that he made himself powerfully felt in the schools and educational movements undertaken in behalf of the freedmen. Soldiers and freedmen alike never lost a better friend than Mr. Bertram.

The needs of his own community made constant and large demands upon his sympathy. He was always ready to listen to a story of want, and no deserving applicant failed of a helping, as well as a hearing. His generous instincts often foresaw the formal appeal for assistance. He kept a list, to which he was constantly adding new names, of needy families, to whom he annually sent supplies of fuel, and he left in trust to the city a large amount, the income of which was to be used year by year in providing wood and coal for the poor, and no nobler or more judicious legacy was ever made. Morning by morning his hand kindles the fires on scores of the hearthstones of the destitute, and his memory is kept alive by the gracious light and warmth in multitudes of the homes of poverty. A benefaction of that sort is a well-considered charity.

Captain Bertram's liberalities of this nature were numerous. His gifts to the Salem Hospital, his establishment of the Bertram Home for Aged Men, his legacy to the Children's Friends' Society were all on a munificent scale, and will go on doing a work of blessing for generations to come.

No other single citizen of Salem has done more for the good name and real welfare of the municipality than Captain John Bertram. His life was a striking illustration of the fact that wise and generous giving does not impoverish a man. The serene content of his old age was the result of a useful and unselfish life,—a forcible and instructive lesson to those whose highest ideal of living is a constant struggle for merely personal advantage. The tears of the hun-

deeds whom he had helped, that watered his grave when he was borne to his rest at the ripe term of eighty-six years, were the most satisfying tribute which any man can receive. The regret at his loss, with which his name is always spoken, is conclusive evidence that a useful and generous life is the fairest which any man can live. This is the true earthly immortality which is best worth the having.

So long as Salem is well spoken of by those who are acquainted with the ancient city, there will be coupled with its other claims to regard and renown the name of JOHN BERTRAM.

JACOB PUTNAM.

The late Jacob Putnam was one of the founders of the leather business in this vicinity. He was a man of a kindly nature, of indomitable energy and unflinching integrity, and possessed a large share of that intuitive knowledge of human nature which lies at the foundation of success in every vocation.

He was of English descent and traced his lineage back among the earliest settlers of this Commonwealth, to John Putnam, of Aylesbury, Buckingham County, England, who, with his wife and three sons, sailed from London, in 1631, for New England. He disembarked that same year in Boston, and, after a short stay in Charlestown, proceeded with his family to the then infant village of Salem, and here fixed his new place of abode. That he had been a man of note and had attained prominence in his native country is shown by the fact that a tract of land in Salem was now granted to him by the Crown for distinguished services rendered to the English government. Upon this tract he soon erected a house for himself and one also for each of his three sons, and devoted himself to the subjugation of the wilderness and the development and improvement of his new estate. His family increased and multiplied with the lapse of years, and by the achievements of many of its members the family name of Putnam has attained a deservedly high reputation both in the arts of peace and of war. The immediate descendants of this first emigrant were active, discreet and courageous men, fully alive to all the interests of the early settlers of New England and active and stirring in all the exciting struggles which marked our colonial history. They took part in all the combats with the Indians, at Bloody Brook, Brookfield, Lancaster and other now famous fights. The family soon attained prominence in Salem and, indeed, in the whole of Essex County, the sound judgment and vigorous integrity of its members making them fit leaders in all new enterprises, from the institution of a church to the prosecution of a business venture, and safe guides to wise decisions in the many knotty points that tasked the ingenuity of our ancestors as they laid broad and deep the foundations of our present commonwealth.

General Israel Putnam was from one of the branches

of this family; and his impetuous zeal and daring, which might have degenerated into audacity had it not been so shrewdly tempered with New England discretion, have been displayed in many other members of the family.

One of the sons of this John Putnam, the founder of the family, was Nathaniel, and through him, his son Benjamin, his grandson Stephen, and his great-grandson Stephen, the younger, a share of the ancestral estate originally granted by the Crown to John Putnam came to Jacob Putnam, the subject of this sketch, and fifth in the line of descent from the original settler. Jacob Putnam was born at Danvers November 17, 1780, near the close of the Revolutionary War, and grew up to manhood in Salem and in Danvers. He did not enjoy great opportunities of education, having to depend upon the common schools of his neighborhood for the slender education which he obtained from others. But his best education, as is not infrequently the case, was that which he owed to himself alone. He had inherited the traits of his ancestors in no small measure, and his good judgment and common sense enabled him always to be equal to the demands of any situation in which he found himself, and fully capable of carrying on an active business career. The same adventurous spirit which had found vent in the daring achievements of General Putnam led Jacob Putnam in his early manhood to seek fortune in maritime commerce; but his sound judgment soon persuaded him to settle down into the steady pursuits of a business life. In the year 1805 he made a trip to Calcutta, in the good ship "Boston Packet," and was absent from his home for two years.

Upon his return to Salem from this voyage, in the year 1807, he established himself in the hide and leather business. This business he prosecuted in all its branches, dealing in hides, tanning, currying and marketing the finished product, extending his operations as opportunities offered, and always availing himself of whatever improvements were within his reach. He also engaged in the South American trade importing both hides and India rubber from that country. He was interested in the Sumatra trade and became a ship-owner and importer. He continued the active prosecution of his business until his death, which occurred January 13, 1866, when it passed to his youngest son, George F. Putnam, of Boston, the present proprietor.

Mr. Putnam's wife was the daughter of Captain James Silver, of Salem, an East India merchant.

Though Mr. Putnam held himself aloof from any political office, he was a highly public-spirited man, and always took a sagacious and intelligent interest in all matters relating to the improvement of his native city. His generous and kindly nature was also active in many directions, especially in private charities, for he had none of that vanity which seeks to make a public display of its benefactions; and his humane and kindly disposition was known by its

John Jewett (b. Dec. 1798 in Ips.) was a cabinet maker in Beverly in 1817 and in Salem at Liberty and Vine Sts. in 1820. On June 5, 1829 he moved to work in the shop of A. Hersey opposite the Salem Hotel. 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 24, 1825 Catharine Felt. Prior to moving into the house at 24 Winter St. the couple made their home at 17 Barton Sq.

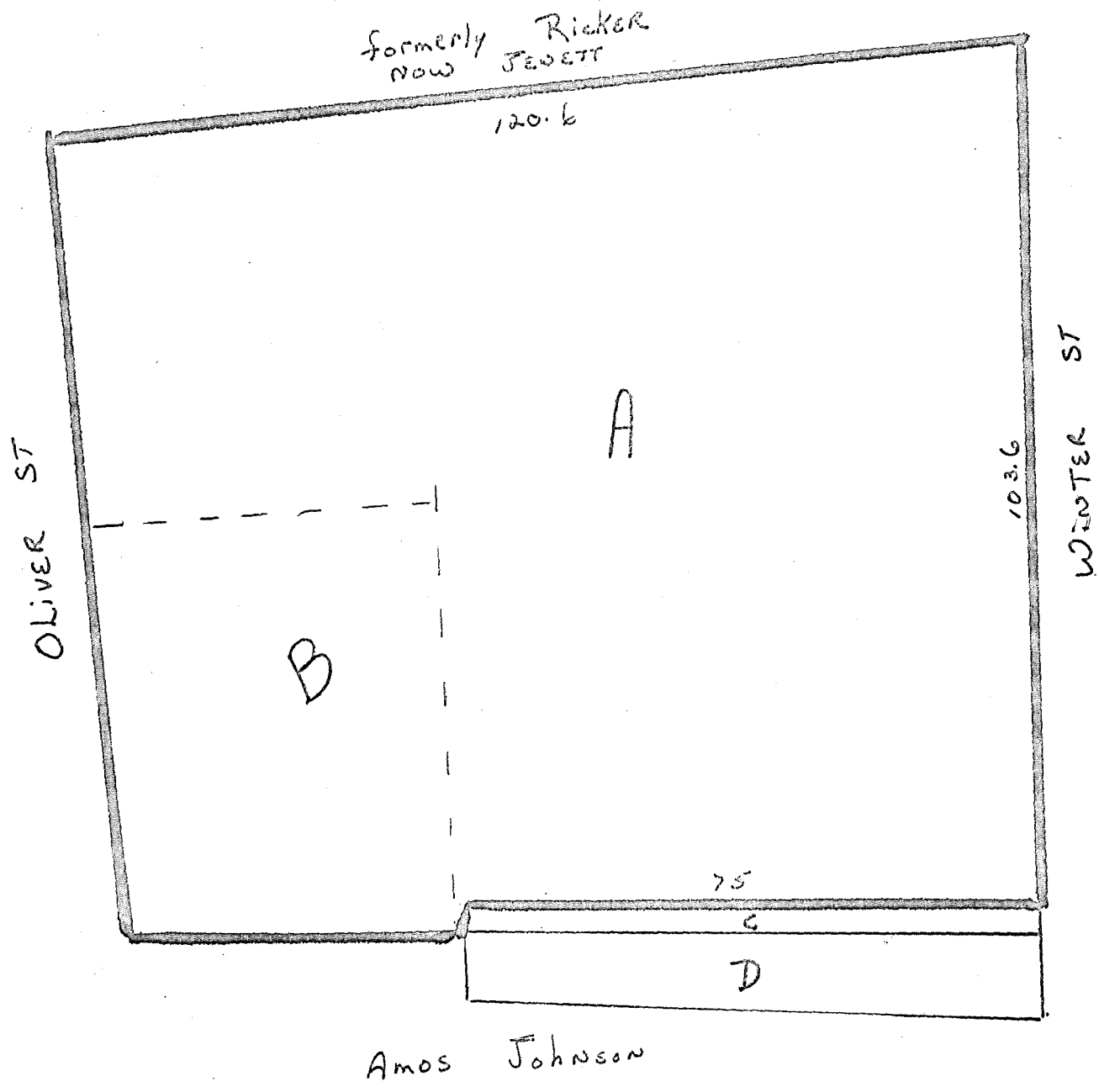
During the time the Jewetts lived at 24 Winter St. two federal census schedules were taken, one in 1860 and the other in 1870:

1860	John Jewett	age 63	cabinetmaker	born Mass.
	Catherine Jewett	" 59		" "
	James Coolidge	" 30	merchant	" "
	Henrietta Coolidge	" 21		" "
	John J. Coolidge	" 3	months	" "
	Margaret O'Connor	" 21	domestic	" Ire.
1870	John Jewett	age 74	merchant	born Mass.
	Catherine Jewett	" 69	keeping house	" "
	James Coolidge	" 40	chemist	" "
	Henrietta Coolidge	" 30	no occupation	" "
	John J. Coolidge	" 10	at school	" "
	Anna H. Coolidge	" 8	at school	" "
	Robert W. Coolidge	" 2	at home	" "
	Kate J. Coolidge	" 10	months	born July "
	Mary Buckley	" 32	servant	born Ire.
	Elice Eagan	" 20	servant	" "
	Mary Felt	" 64	house keeper	" Mass.

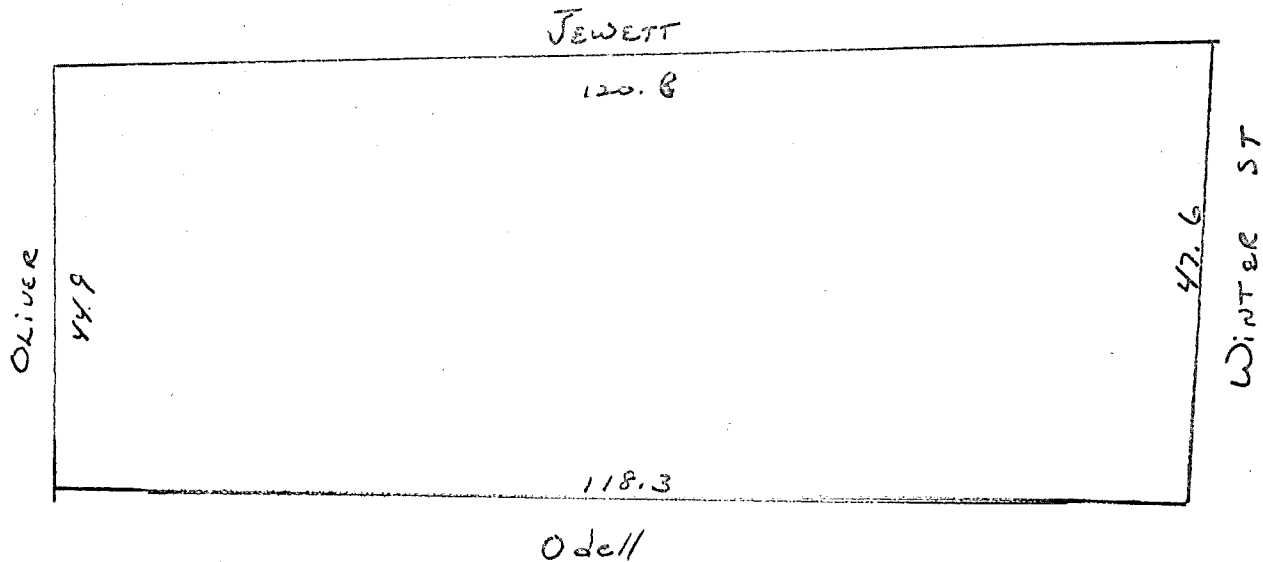
Mr. Jewett died Feb. 28, 1874 in Salem. The property at 24 Winter St. and 6 Oliver St. was given in trust to his wife Catherine. After Catherine's death in April 1875 the house was rented to Lewis Hunt, a hardware dealer. The census record for the Hunt family taken in 1880 is as follows:

Lewis Hunt	age 36	hardware dealer	born Mass.
Ellen M. Hunt	" 35	wife, keeping house	" "
Anstia S. Hunt	" 12	daughter	" "
Alice M. Hunt	" 10	daughter	" "
Mary D. Hunt	" 7	daughter	" "
William Hunt	" 5	son	" "
Margaret Holland	" 40	servant	" Ire.
Margaret Murphy	" 19	servant	" Mass.

During the time Mr. Jewett owned this house he bought and sold parcels of land around the main lot. When he died the land included 24 Winter St. and 6 Oliver St. This is the land Gilbert L. Streeter, trustee under the will of John Jewett and also trustee under the will of Catherine F. Jewett, sold for \$10,000 in May of 1887 to Charles Odell, of Salem, land and dwelling houses and all other buildings. Meaning to convey the premises conveyed to John Jewett, deceased, from John Bertram in 1855 (A) & William Savory et ux, in 1867, (B). Except that parcel conveyed by John Jewett to Amos H. Johnson in 1869 (D) and that part conveyed by Streeter, trustee, to Johnson in 1877 (C).



On June 14, 1890 Charles and Julia F. Odell of Salem, husband and wife sold to Henry A. Hale, for \$1, the land and brick dwelling house and all other buildings. This parcel being part of the premises conveyed to Charles Odell by deed of Gilbert L. Streeter, trustee under the will of John Jewett and Catherine F. Jewett. The Hales mortgaged the same to the Salem Savings Bank for \$4,500.



(book 1280 page 181)

On Oct. 15, 1931 Alice F. Hale, widow of Henry, sold for consideration, to Ruth H. Adams, wife of John G. Adams, the land and brick dwelling house and all other buildings the same premises conveyed to Henry A. Hale by Charles Odell. (dimensions the same as above) The Adams mortgaged the property to the 5¢ Savings Bank for \$10,000 at $5\frac{1}{2}\%$ for one year and also mortgaged to Alice Hale for \$3,500 at 6% for six years. (book 2898 page 247)

Col. Henry A. Hale.

Col. Henry Appleton Hale is

descended from among the earliest settlers of this section, his grandfather on his father's side coming to Salem from Newbury in 1801, was a charter member of the Salem Light Infantry in 1805, and was a successful merchant in the Mediterranean trade until his death. He is also a descendant of Major Samuel Appleton, a pioneer of the town of Ipswich, and a com-

mander of the Massachusetts forces during the early colonial wars. Col. Hale's father was a successful business man of this city, engaging in the hardware trade from 1828 until the time of his death in 1890, and was the builder of the Hale block. The subject of this sketch was born in Salem and is a graduate of the public and high schools. He left with the first company of the Salem Light Infantry

for the front in 1861, his original enlistment being for three months. Up to the time of his final discharge, November 11, 1865, Mr. Hale rose through the various grades of private, lieutenant, captain, brigade inspector, assistant adjutant-general, with the brevet of lieutenant-colonel connected with the staff of General Ruger of the twenty-third army corps. Throughout his entire service Col. Hale was conspicuous for courage, and was wounded at Antietam and Cold Harbor. Returning to the more peaceful pursuits of life, Col. Hale associated with his father in the hardware business, and after the latter's death continued until 1896, when he disposed of the business. He has been president of the Salem Gas Light Company for five years and for a much longer period has been a director in the same enterprise. In rooms adjacent to the office of the gas company, Col. Hale does a large business in the most approved appliances for gas lighting and heating. He is one of the vice presidents of the Salem Five Cents Savings Bank and a member of the investment committee. He belongs to the Salem club, Veteran Light Infantry Association, Ancient and Honorable Artillery Association, Society of Colonial Wars, and of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, an organization composed entirely of officers in the late war. He has recently retired from an extended service upon the board of

park commissioners. Col. Hale is a typical Salemite of the most substantial type, and his name has become synonymous with unswerving integrity in the various walks of a busy life.

COL. HENRY A. HALE, PRESIDENT SALEM GAS LIGHT CO.

Dr. John G. Adams was a physician specializing in eye, ear, nose and throat. For many years his office was in his home 24 Winter St.

On July 14, 1967 Ruth H. Adams, of Salem, sold to Lester W. Strock the land and building at 24 Winter St. the same premises conveyed to her by deed of Alice E. Hale. (book 5458 page 570)

July 15, 1977 Lester W. Strock sold to David M. Sheehan and Janet S. Owens, husband and wife, the land and buildings at 24 Winter St. the same conveyed to the grantor by Ruth H. Adams in 1967. (book 6371 page 363)

(Reference to book and page are deed books kept at the Registry of Deeds and probate numbers are cases at Probate Court, both located in the same building on Federal St., Salem.



STREE

PLEASANT

WINTER

OLIVER

WALL

PICKMAN

ST

Hodgkins
Chas. W. Dodge
W. Jackson
T. Donaldson
Heirs of S. Simons
Mrs. Geo. Harris
W. T. Swaborn

Geo. H. Pierson
Wm. P. Muscomb
George Warren
Jos. Fairfield
Wm. G. Cole
C. G. Peck
S. J. Perkins
Mrs. Sarah B. Perkins
Mrs. Mary S. Starr
Mary P. Worrester

Chas. H. Field
Dr. Henderson
Wm. S. Silsbee
Chas. H. Field
Dr. Henderson
Wm. S. Silsbee

Wm. H. Hunt
J. B. L. 90
J. B. L. 90
Wm. H. Hunt
Chas. Mitchell
Wm. B. Parkson

Samuel S. Jewett
J. H. Beavell
Miss E. P. Brown
J. C. Jenkins
Heirs of Clark
J. P. Mansfield
Mrs. M. S. Osborn
Miss M. F. Wallace
Abby M. Wallace
Mrs. M. S. Osborn
Miss M. F. Wallace
Abby M. Wallace

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