

DOCUMENTATION * 15 Beckford St.Bartholomew Browne House, 1795Book page

156 123 April 17, 1793

William Pickman, esq. of Salem, for £ 32 12 sh. sells to Bartholomew Brown, housewright, of Salem, a certain piece of land in Salem containing 16 poles bounded W. on land sold by me this day to Joseph Felt 37'-5" ; S. on land sold by me this day to William Stearns 110' ; E. on Turner's (this is an error by the recording clerk) Lane 40' ; and N. on land sold by me to Abner Goodhue 110'.

City of Salem Tax Records Valuations

Ward 3	1790	Barth. Browne	1 pt. house	40
" "	1791	" "	1 house	50
" "	1792	" "	part of a house	100
" "	1793	" "	part of a house & house lot	100
Ward 4	"	" "	(something indeciph.) No. 3	
" "	1794	" "	2 (polls) house + house lot	100
" "	1795	Barth. Browne	1 house	600
		" " Jr.	1 (poll)	
" "	1796	(B. B.)	1 house	600
		(B. B. Jr.)	1-(poll)	
" "	1798	(B. B.)	1 pt. house	600
		(B. B. Jr.)	1 pt. house	200
" "	1800	(B. B.)	1 house	1100
		(B. B. Jr.)	1 pt. house	250
	1802	(same)		
	1803	(same)		
" "	1804	(B. B.)	1 house	1100
		(B. B. Jr.)	1 pt. house	300
" "	1805	Barth. Browne dead	1 pt. house	250
		B. " Jr.	1 pt. house	500
" "	1806	(B. B.)	1 pt. house	500

Tax Records cont.

(2)

Ward 4	1807	Barth. Browne	1 pt. house	500
"	"	"	" (2 polls) "	600
"	"	1810	(same)	
"	"	1811	(B. B.) (2 polls) house Beckford St.	700
"	"	1812	(no listing for Bartholomew Browne)	
"	"	1813	" " " "	

Book Page

176 62 April 8, 1805

Bartholomew Brown, house wright of Salem for \$2200 sells to Bartholomew Brown, Jr. housewright (and B. B. Jr. mortgages to his father for \$1000) 16 poles of land with buildings thereon bounded on W. by land of Joseph Felt 37'-5"; on S. by land of Stearns 110'; on E. by Beckford's Lane 40'; on N. by land of Goodhue 110'. This being same land I bought from William Pickman Book 156 p. 123

205 131 March 11, 1815

William Dean, merchant, of Salem, transfers to Joseph Gardner Jr. for \$715.95 land (with mortgage) (same bounds as above) (a complicated document: this mortgaged property having been assigned to Dean from Edward Brown, adm. of estate of Bartholomew Brown Sr. Possession of premises delivered to Dean by sheriff after a court judgment in Dec. 1812 against Mary Brown, widow. Next page - a 2nd deed Dean to Gardner, same property, \$858.48 paid by G.) Bartholomew Brown Jr. housewright dec. April 20 1805, for \$1000 deed of mortgage transferred to his father Bartholomew Brown Sr. housewright, now dec., this property.

Book page

232 266 September 27, 1823

Joseph Gardner Jr. hairdresser, formerly of Salem now of Portland Me. for \$2000 sells to Thomas Perkins, chairmaker, a certain messuage on Beckford St. 16 poles of land with dwelling house see Book 205 p. 182, 183 bounded (same description).

373 18 October 20 1846

Thomas Perkins, merchant sells for \$2500 to Benjamin Brierly clergyman a certain messuage on Beckford St. (same description). Page 19 (Brierly mortgages to Perkins for \$1996.24 this was paid off in 1851)

443 65 March 29, 1851

Benjamin Brierly of San Jose, Calif. for \$2500 sells to Charles W. Farrington a certain messuage on Beckford St. (same bounds) Being same property conveyed Book 373 p 18

482 121 and 20 August 15, 1853

Charles W. Farrington, master mariner for \$1 conveys to William Jelly, who for \$2 conveys in turn to Mary Jane Farrington, wife of Chas. W. Farrington for her sole use and free from control of her husband a certain messuage on Beckford St. (same bounds) Being all the same property conveyed by Benj. Brierly Book 443 p. 65

685 62 June 10, 1865

Charles W. Farrington, master mariner, and wife Mary Jane

④

for \$2500 sell to William Wallis a certain messuage on Beckford St. # 15 bounded: W. on land of Joseph Felt 37'-5"; S. on land of City of Salem 110'; E. on Beckford St. 40'; N. on land of heirs of John Grant 110'. Being same land and buildings conveyed Book 482 p.20

Probate # 56264 William Wallis, gent. Dec. 3, 1877

will dated June 1877. (many bequests incl. sums to his "much beloved" minister, the Baptist missionary work, his house keeper, etc.) "I give and bequeath to the First Baptist Society and the Church connected therewith the estate wherein I now live, consisting of a house and land on Beckford St. being #15, this estate to be held in trust for a parsonage for said Church." (he also bequeathed to the Church all his furniture and books.)

Book Page
3901 383 June 11, 1952

First Baptist Church in Salem sells to Clarence F. and Ada F. Hamilton land and buildings (same description).

For title see Book 685 p.62 and Probate # 56264.

Property mortgaged to Salem Five Cents Savings Bank for \$3000; disch. see Books 4560 p.355 and 4567 p.267

4560 356 May 14, 1959

Ada F. Hamilton, widow, of Salem, grants to Peter E. and Helena M. Copelas land and buildings described (same as above) Being same premises conveyed Book 3901 p.38

Book page
4890 128 March 12, 1962

⑤

Peter E. and Helena M. Copelas sell to Peter Jr. and Barbara H. Copelas land and buildings bounded:
on W. by land now or formerly Joseph Felt 37'-5";
on S. by land of City of Salem 110'; on E. by Beckford
St. 40'; on N. by land now or formerly John Grant
110'. Being same premises conveyed Book 4560 p. 356

Summary.

This land, which retains to this day the original dimensions, has a house which at first glance doesn't appear to be very old. However the interior reveals that the left side is an extensive addition, and that the original south side was the front, with the familiar Federal Style symmetry of a central entrance and just inside, a triple-run stair. The framing of the house and the fireplaces are definitely 18th C.

The old City tax records are a scanty and sometimes erroneous lot, but close inspection does give us the picture of Bartholomew Browne and his son moving from Ward 3 to Ward 4 either in 1793 when he purchased the Beckford St. lot or in 1794. By 1795 the house assessment is a respectable size, indicating that Mr. Browne, housewright had completed the house. I could find no pertinent information on this house in either Bentley's Diaries or the Essex Inst. Hist. Collections. From the tax records (which give no street address except an occasional notation) it is impossible to deduce where Barth. Browne Jr.'s "part house" was. He may have built, lived in, and payed taxes on the back all

at #15 Beckford. Sadly, he died the year he purchased his father's house. (the tax records confuse the father with the son in noting that death.) The father re-possessed the house after his son died, but a scant 7 years later he himself died, leaving the property heavily in debt. His widow lost it for this indebtedness 2 years later.

William Wallis, one of the subsequent owners, apparently had a comfortable living and no family. My guess is that he added the large livingroom onto the front of the house between 1865 and 1877.

Sept. 1973

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