

THE
HISTORY
AND
DOCUMENTATION
OF:

#32 Buffum St.
Salem, Mass.

1832

Compiled by:

David T. Gavenda
17 Buffum St.
Salem, Mass.

June, 1969

Copy # 3

SEARS & PLUNKETT

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
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745-3030

February 4, 1970

Mrs. James A. Bailey
120 Federal Street
Salem, Massachusetts

Re: 32 Buffum St.
Salem, Mass.

Dear Joan:

Enclosed please find history and documentation prepared by David T. Gavenda on the above house. There was clearly no house on 32 Buffum Street on September 10, 1832 when lot was purchased by Edward Melcher (B.266 P.92). The house was certainly standing in 1877 when Edward Melcher made out his will (Docket No. 46818) and the house is shown in existence in the 1874 atlas of Salem.

The final dating of the house will have to depend on the architecture.

Very truly yours,



William J. Tinti

WJTpme
Enclosure

1.

DEED TITLES

concerning #32 Buffum St., Salem, Mass.

<u>Book</u>	<u>Leaf</u>	
5473	115	- Nathalie L. Ashworth, James E. Farley and Naumkeag Trust Co., trustees, to Anthony J. (Shirley M.) Cervoni - dated: 6. September 1967
#283561		- Probate of the estate of Harry A. Bliss of Peabody - Will: dated: 1965 - Trustees named: Nathalie L. Ashworth James E. Farley Naumkeag Trust Co.
4047	121	- Ione E. Story to Harry A. Bliss - dated: 16. February 1954
4047	115	- Harry A. Bliss and Marion L. Bliss to Ione E. Story of Salem - dated: 16. February 1954
3234	591	- James E. Farley, trustee, to Harry A. Bliss et ux - dated: 18. October 1940 - \$ 1800. - Bounded: Westerly by Buffum St., 66 ft. Northerly by Bickford, 145 ft. Easterly by Welch, Meade's Ct., and Wiggin, 66 ft. Southerly by Peterson, 146 ft.
#197555		- Probate of the estate of Nathaniel E. Melcher - Will: dated: October 1940 - Trustee named: James E. Farley
#46818		- Probate of the estate of Edward Melcher - Will: dated: 6. August 1877 "I give, devise and bequeath to my wife Harriet Melcher my house and land on Buffum Street in said Salem where I now live"

- Inventory: dated: 30. September 1878
"House and Land 32 Buffum St. - \$ 2350."

266

92

- Hannah Frye, widow, to Edward Melcher, house carpenter
- dated: 10. September 1832
- \$ 125.
- "a certain lot of land situate in North-fields"
- no buildings mentioned
- "being the same land I formerly purchased of James Kimball as by deed dated May 12th A. D. 1820 and recorded Book 222 Leaf 278"
- Bounded:
 - "Westerly by Buffum St.. 4 poles
 - Northerly by Hannah Frye
 - Easterly by John Skerry now of Upton, 4 poles
 - Southerly by land formerly Cloutman now of Randall. 8 poles, 22 links"

The following was extracted from the original tax records of the City of Salem presently (1969) located in the cellar of City Hall, Washington St., Salem.

Taxes; 1831

Extract: Edward Melcher unlisted

Taxes; 1832

Extract: "Edward Melcher, 1 poll, unfinished house N. Salem \$ 200"

Taxes; 1833

Extract: "Edward Melcher, 1 poll, house \$ 200. Buffum Street"

Taxes; 1834

Extract: "Edward Melcher, 1 poll, house \$ 300."

The following is a list of architectural features from the Melcher house, all typical of early-nineteenth century style and construction.

- One two-flue chimney containing two fireplaces and one brick oven
- Unusual dentil cornice running along the roofline
- A fine, simple front staircase with bracketed step ends, unpretentious newel post and in good Federal style
- The pilasters of a Greek-revival doorway
- Interior six-panel doors of pine, hand-painted (grained) to simulate rosewood, in excellent condition
- Hand-adzed and pegged beams and supporting timbers in at least the front half of the house. It is believed that originally the dwelling consisted of two and a half stories with two rooms on each.