

HISTORIC  
SALEM INC

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**15 Beckford Street**

Built by  
Bartholomew Brown  
Housewright  
1795

Research and Writing Provided by  
Alyssa G. A. Conary

February 2018

Historic Salem, Inc.  
9 North Street, Salem, MA 01970  
978.745.0799 | [HistoricSalem.org](http://HistoricSalem.org)  
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15 Beckford Street lies within the National Register's Chestnut Street Historic District and the City of Salem's McIntire Historic District, an area traditionally associated with maritime wealth and fine architecture. Although the streets of Salem west of Washington Street tend to be newer than those east of Washington Street, Beckford Street is ancient, and in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries provided a route between the "high street" (modern-day Essex Street) and the North River. According to Sidney Perley, "Beckford street was called a lane in 1657; street or lane, 1677; street or highway, 1679; lane or highway that leads from ye main street to ye north river, 1696; Beckford's lane, 1773; Kitchen's lane, 1783; Turner's lane, 1793; and Beckford street in 1797."<sup>1</sup>

The ownership of the land upon which the house at 15 Beckford Street stands can be traced back to the mid-seventeenth century. According to Perley, the land was owned by Thomas Trusler in 1654; by Edward Phelps in 1655; by Thomas Robbins in 1657; and by Rebecca Pinson in the 1690s. On January 11, 1699, Rebecca Pinson and her second husband, Joseph Boobier of Marblehead, conveyed the land with a house and a barn (neither of which are extant today) for thirty pounds to Rebecca's daughter, Rebecca Beckford, wife of John Beckford of Marblehead. On July 23, 1739, Rebecca and John conveyed the estate to their son, John Beckford Jr. of Salem, shoreman. Perley's map of Salem in 1780 shows the land belonging to Joseph Gavet Sexton.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Chestnut Street Historic District, Salem, Essex, Massachusetts; City of Salem Local Historic Districts, McIntire District; Bryant F. Tolles Jr., *Architecture in Salem* (Hanover: University Press of New England, 2004), 127; Sidney Perley, "Part of Salem in 1700. No. 12," *The Essex Antiquarian* Vol. 7, No. 1 (January 1903): 116, 119.

<sup>2</sup> Perley, "Part of Salem in 1700. No. 12," 123, 124; "Map of Salem about 1780," Sidney Perley, James Duncan Phillips, and Henry Noyes Otis, 1937.

In April of 1793, William Pickman, Esq. of Salem conveyed to Bartholomew Brown, housewright, of Salem “a certain piece or lot of land situate in Salem aforesaid.” No buildings are mentioned in the deed. Salem tax records indicate that in 1795, Brown was assessed for a complete house valued at 600 pounds. This house was the original iteration of the one that stands at 15 Beckford Street today.<sup>3</sup>

Built in the 1790s, the house is representative of the Federal style of American architecture, and more specifically the “vernacular” Federal style. This style is typified by gabled roofs and wooden frames, as opposed to the hipped roof, brick-construction mansions of the same period lining Chestnut Street and surrounding Salem Common. According to the house’s MACRIS inventory, the ell projecting to the south was added in 1878, and this is corroborated by Salem street maps. In her original report on 15 Beckford Street produced for Historic Salem, Inc. in 1973, researcher Sally Dee noted that the interior of the house indicates “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.”<sup>4</sup>

The house’s first owner, Bartholomew Brown, was born in Salem in July of 1721. His son, Bartholomew Brown Jr., was baptised in Salem on January 27, 1751, and married Polly Smith in 1798. On April 20, 1805, Bartholomew Brown Jr. purchased the Beckford Street estate

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<sup>3</sup> Essex County Registry of Deeds (ECRD) Book 156, page 123, April 17, 1793; Sally Dee, “Documentation #15 Beckford St.,” prepared for Historic Salem, Inc., 1973.

<sup>4</sup> Historic Salem, Inc. & Anderson Notter Associates, Inc., *The Salem Handbook* (Historic Salem, Inc., 1977), 14; Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS): SAL.1547; G.M. Hopkins & Co., *Atlas of the City of Salem, Massachusetts*, Philadelphia: 1874; Sanborn Map Company, *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts*, March 1890; Dee, “Documentation #15 Beckford St.”

from his father. Unfortunately, he died on November 10th of the same year, aged fifty-four.

Bartholomew Brown Sr. passed away on February 14, 1812.<sup>5</sup>

On October 11, 1813, Edward Brown of Candia, New Hampshire, administrator of the estate of Bartholomew Brown Sr., conveyed the house at 15 Beckford Street to William Dean, merchant, of Salem. Less than two years later, Dean sold it to Joseph Gardner Jr., hairdresser, of Salem. Gardner sold the house to Thomas Perkins, chairmaker, of Salem on October 1, 1823.

Twenty-three years later, Perkins conveyed it to clergyman Benjamin Brierly of Salem.<sup>6</sup>

Reverend Benjamin Brierly was ordained minister of the Second Baptist Church of Salem in September of 1846. One can assume that the house he purchased in October of 1846 at 15 Beckford Street was a new home to accompany this new job. The Vital Records of Salem indicate that Reverend Brierly welcomed a son in January of 1848. On August 25th of that year, Brierly left his position as pastor of the Second Baptist Church. Massachusetts records reflect the death of an infant named Benjamin A. Brierly, son of Benjamin Brierly and Frances M. Brierly, on December 14, 1848. Three years later, Brierly sold his house, but he would not be the last Baptist minister to live there.<sup>7</sup>

On April 1, 1851, Charles W. Farrington bought the house at 15 Beckford Street from Reverend Brierly. Farrington was born to William & Mary Ward Farrington in Salem on April 8,

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<sup>5</sup> *Vital Records of Salem, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849 (VRS)* Vol. 1 (Salem: Essex Institute, 1916), 121; *VRS* Vol. 3 (Salem: Essex Institute, 1924), 143; ECRD Book 176, page 62, April 20, 1805; *VRS* Vol. 5 (Salem: Essex Institute, 1925), 111.

<sup>6</sup> ECRD Book 201, page 112, October 11, 1813; ECRD Book 205, page 181, March 10, 1815; ECRD Book 232, page 266, October 1, 1823; ECRD Book 373, page 18, October 20, 1846.

<sup>7</sup> Rev. George Batchelor, "Salem," in *History of Essex County, Massachusetts, with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men*, ed. D. Hamilton Hurd (Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis & Co., 1888), 59; *VRS* Vol. 1, 113; "Massachusetts Deaths and Burials, 1795-1910," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FHZJ-QLC> : 10 February 2018), Benjamin A Brierly, 14 Dec 1848; citing , reference v 6 p 87; FHL microfilm 855,364; ECRD Book 443, page 65, April 1, 1851.



1810. Like many Salem natives in the years following the American Revolution, his life revolved around the sea. In 1825, at the age of fifteen, he was a crew member aboard the brig Java of Salem, bound for India. His height was listed as four feet, ten inches, and his complexion and hair were both described as “light.” Farrington also appears on the following crew manifests<sup>8</sup>:

YEAR	VESSEL	DESTINATION	RANK	AGE
1825-1826	Ship Caroline of Salem	Europe & India	Not Listed	16
1827-1828	Brig Abby M of Salem	Cape Verde Islands	Not Listed	18
1829-1830	Ship Lotos of Salem	East Indies	Seaman	20
1833-1834	Ship Shepherdess of Salem	East Indies	2nd Officer	23
1835-1836	Ship Shepherdess of Salem	East Indies	Not Listed	24

<sup>8</sup> ECRD Book 443, page 65, April 1, 1851; *VRS* Vol. 1, 290; "Massachusetts Deaths, 1841-1915," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NWZJ-YVM> : 10 December 2014), Charles W. Farrington, 11 Aug 1869; citing Salem, Massachusetts, v 220 p 250, State Archives, Boston; FHL microfilm 960,194; "Massachusetts, Salem and Beverly Crew Lists and Shipping Articles, 1797-1934," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QKFK-RJN4> : 6 October 2015), Charles W Farrington, ; citing Immigration, Massachusetts, United States, Ship Java, NARA microfilm publication NAID 1600758, 1600870, and 1600759 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration), Roll 23,; FHL microfilm 100,744,008; "Massachusetts, Salem and Beverly Crew Lists and Shipping Articles, 1797-1934," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QKFK-RGVJ> : 6 October 2015), Charles W Farrington, ; citing Immigration, Massachusetts, United States, Ship Caroline, NARA microfilm publication NAID 1600758, 1600870, and 1600759 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration), Roll 24,; FHL microfilm 100,744,009; "Massachusetts, Salem and Beverly Crew Lists and Shipping Articles, 1797-1934," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QKFK-TSP4> : 6 October 2015), Charles Farrington, ; citing Immigration, Massachusetts, United States, Ship Abby M, NARA microfilm publication NAID 1600758, 1600870, and 1600759 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration), Roll 26,; FHL microfilm 100,744,011; "Massachusetts, Salem and Beverly Crew Lists and Shipping Articles, 1797-1934," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QKFK-TX5D> : 6 October 2015), Charles W Farrington, ; citing Immigration, Massachusetts, United States, Ship Sotos, NARA microfilm publication NAID 1600758, 1600870, and 1600759 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration), Roll 28,; FHL microfilm 100,760,028; "Massachusetts, Salem and Beverly Crew Lists and Shipping Articles, 1797-1934," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QKFK-YQTP> : 6 October 2015), Charles W Farrington, ; citing Immigration, Massachusetts, United States, Ship Shepherdess, NARA microfilm publication NAID 1600758, 1600870, and 1600759 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration), Roll 32,; FHL microfilm 100,760,032; "Massachusetts, Salem and Beverly Crew Lists and Shipping Articles, 1797-1934," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QKFK-Y826> : 6 October 2015), Charles W Farrington, ; citing Immigration, Massachusetts, United States, Ship Shepherdess, NARA microfilm publication NAID 1600758, 1600870, and 1600759 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration), Roll 34,; FHL microfilm 100,760,034.

On June 3, 1841, Charles Farrington married Mary Jane Jelly, a Salem native born on October 18, 1818 to William and Hannah Jelly. By the 1840s, Farrington was well established in his maritime career, and on February 24, 1843, he joined the venerable Salem Marine Society, established in 1766 and still in existence today. He served as the society's clerk in 1868 and 1869.<sup>9</sup>

Mary Jane gave birth to a daughter named Annah McDonald Farrington on November 20, 1843. In 1850, Charles, aged 40, Mary Jane, aged 31, and Annah, aged 6, lived at 2 Ash Street in Salem. That year's United States Census lists Charles's profession as "Master Mariner." On April 1, 1851, Charles Farrington purchased the house at 15 Beckford Street. The Farringtons lived there until the last year of the American Civil War. For the remainder of their lives, Charles and Mary Jane lived at 346 Essex Street. He died of "anemia" on August 11, 1869 and she died of diabetes on September 22, 1887.<sup>10</sup>

William Wallis purchased 15 Beckford Street from the Farringtons on June 12, 1865. Wallis was born in Salem on March 5, 1801 to Moses and Hannah Wallis of Ipswich. He married Priscilla Blanchard on November 8, 1827. In 1850, Wallis lived at 11 North Street and his profession was listed as secretary of the "Savings Bank" in that year's Salem Directory. The 1855 directory lists him in the same profession, but living at 23 Summer Street. Wallis lived at 15 Beckford Street from 1865 until his death from "Chronic Bronchitis" on November 8, 1877.

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<sup>9</sup> *VRS* Vol. 3, 349; *VRS* Vol. 1, 472; *Laws of the Salem Marine Society, with the Several Acts of General Court Relating to the Society, &c., and a List of Members* (Salem: Observer Steam Book and Job Printing Rooms, 1873), 122, 137.

<sup>10</sup> *VRS* Vol. 1, 290; "United States Census, 1850," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MD92-KV7 : 12 April 2016>), Chas W Farrington, Salem, Essex, Massachusetts, United States; citing family 710, NARA microfilm publication M432 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); ECRD Book 443, page 65, April 1, 1851; ECRD Book 685, page 62, June 12, 1865; Salem Directories, 1850, 1866, 1869, 1872, 1874, 1876, 1878, 1881, 1882-83, 1884, 1886.

He and his wife Priscilla, who died exactly six months before her husband on May 8, 1887, are buried in Harmony Grove Cemetery in Salem.<sup>11</sup>

In his will, William Wallis bequeathed “the Estate wherein I now live, situate in said Salem, consisting of the land and house and other buildings thereon, being numbered Fifteen on Beckford Street” to the First Baptist Church of Salem “to be held in trust for a parsonage.” Wallis left five hundred dollars to the pastor of First Baptist Church, Reverend George E. Merrill, who would become the first resident of the church’s new parsonage at 15 Beckford Street.<sup>12</sup>

Over three-quarters of a century, the house at 15 Beckford Street provided a home for a succession of Baptist ministers, including George Merrill, Edwin P. Farnham, A. Blackburn, Frederick W. Buis, and Ralph A. Sherwood. The house was only a short walk from the First Baptist Church’s location at 56 Federal Street. Although the congregation relocated to Lafayette Street in 2007, this nineteenth-century brick building still exists today, albeit 180 feet from its original location; it was moved in 2009 to accommodate the J. Michael Ruane Judicial Center. The structure, with portions dating to 1806, is Salem’s “earliest extant ecclesiastical building.” Today it houses the Essex County Law Library.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> ECRD Book 685, page 62, June 12, 1865; *VRS* Vol. 2 (Salem: Essex Institute, 1918), 386; "Massachusetts Deaths, 1841-1915," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NWS1-WT5 : 10 December 2014>), William Wallis, 08 Nov 1877; citing Salem, Essex, Massachusetts, v 292 p 274, State Archives, Boston; FHL microfilm 960,212; *VRS* Vol. 4 (Salem: Essex Institute, 1924), 430; Salem Directories, 1850, 1855, 1866, 1869, 1872, 1874, 1876; <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/120969139/william-wallis>.

<sup>12</sup> *Essex County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1638-1881*. Online database. *AmericanAncestors.org*. New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2014. (From records supplied by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Archives.) <https://www.americanancestors.org/DB515/i/14217/56264-co1/260025238>.

<sup>13</sup> All Salem Directories available, beginning in 1881 and ending in 1936; [http://www.salemnews.com/archives/first-baptist-church-will-celebrate-christ-s-birth-in-its/article\\_02857a04-5483-54ae-ba15-1ace91c32601.html](http://www.salemnews.com/archives/first-baptist-church-will-celebrate-christ-s-birth-in-its/article_02857a04-5483-54ae-ba15-1ace91c32601.html); Steven Rosenberg, "A Piece of Salem History Relocates," *Boston Globe*, Jan 08, 2009. <https://corvette.salemstate.edu:5208/docview/405147133?accountid=13661>;

The Board of Directors of the First Baptist Church voted at their annual meeting in January of 1952 to sell the parsonage at 15 Beckford Street. On June 11th of that year, the house was conveyed to Clarence and Ada Hamilton. Ada Hamilton, now a widow, sold it to Peter and Helena Copelas on May 14, 1959. Peter and Helena sold it to their son Peter Copelas Jr. and his wife Barbara on March 12, 1962.<sup>14</sup>

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<https://www.salem.com/sites/salemma/files/uploads/courthouse30.pdf>;

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/article/20120301/NEWS/303019225>; Tolles, *Architecture in Salem*, 120.

<sup>14</sup> ECRD Book 3901, pages 383-384, June 11, 1952; ECRD Book 4560, page 356; ECRD Book 4890, page 128.

<b>Chain of Title, 15 Beckford Street, Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts</b>								
<b>Date Recorded</b>	<b>Grantor(s)</b>	<b>Grantee(s)</b>	<b>Consideration</b>	<b>Conveyance of</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>Page</b>
April 17, 1793	William Pickman, esquire	Bartholomew Brown, housewright	"thirty two pounds twelve shillings"	"a certain piece or lot of land situate in Salem aforesaid..."	Essex County Registry of Deeds	Deed	156	123
April 20, 1805	Bartholomew Brown, housewright	Bartholomew Brown Jr., housewright	\$2,200.00	"a certain piece or lot of land situate in Salem aforesaid... with all the building thereon standing..."	Essex County Registry of Deeds	Deed	176	62
October 11, 1813	Edward Brown, Administrator of the Estate of Bartholomew Brown Sr.	William Dean, merchant	\$659.28	"all that piece or lot of land situate in Salem aforesaid... with all and singular the buildings thereon standing..."	Essex County Registry of Deeds	Deed	201	112
March 10, 1815	William Dean, merchant	Joseph Gardner Jr., hairdresser	\$715.95	"a certain piece or lot of land situate in Salem aforesaid... with all the buildings thereon standing..."	Essex County Registry of Deeds	Deed	205	181
October 1, 1823	Joseph Gardner Jr., hair dresser	Thomas Perkins, chairmaker	\$2,000.00	"a certain messuage situated on Beckford Street in Salem aforesaid..."	Essex County Registry of Deeds	Deed	232	266
October 20, 1846	Thomas Perkins, merchant	Benjamin Brierly, clergyman	\$2,500.00	"a certain messuage situate on Beckford Street in Salem..."	Essex County Registry of Deeds	Deed	373	18
April 1, 1851	Benjamin Brierly	Charles W. Farrington	\$2,500.00	"a certain messuage situate on Beckford Street in said Salem..."	Essex County Registry of Deeds	Deed	443	65
August 15, 1853	Charles W. Farrington, master mariner	William Jelly, merchant	\$1.00	"a certain messuage situate on Beckford Street in said Salem..."	Essex County Registry of Deeds	Deed	482	121
August 17, 1853	William Jelly	Mary Jane Farrington	\$2.00	"a certain messuage situate on Beckford Street in said Salem..."	Essex County Registry of Deeds	Deed	482	20
June 12, 1865	Charles W. Farrington, master mariner, & Mary Jane Farrington, his wife	William Wallis	\$2,500.00	"a certain messuage situated on Beckford Street #15..."	Essex County Registry of Deeds	Deed	685	62
December 3, 1877	William Wallis	First Baptist Church in Salem	NA	"the Estate whereon I now live situate in said Salem... being numbered Fifteen on Beckford Street..."	Essex County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1638-1881	Will	NA	NA
June 11, 1952	First Baptist Church in Salem	Clarence F. Hamilton & Ada F. Hamilton	"consideration paid"	"A certain parcel of land, together with the buildings thereon, situated on Beckford Street in Salem..."	Essex County Registry of Deeds	Deed	3901	383
May 14, 1959	Ada F. Hamilton, widow	Peter E. Copelas & Helena M. Copelas	"consideration paid"	"the land in said Salem, with the buildings thereon, bounded and described as follows..."	Essex County Registry of Deeds	Deed	4560	356
March 12, 1962	Peter E. Copelas & Helena M. Copelas	Peter Copelas Jr. & Barbara H. Copelas	"consideration paid"	"the land in said Salem, with the buildings thereon, bounded and described as follows..."	Essex County Registry of Deeds	Deed	4890	128

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	SAL.1547
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Browne, Bartholomew House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Gardner, Joseph - Perkins, Thomas House
<b>Address:</b>	15 Beckford St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Salem
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Central Salem
<b>Local No:</b>	26-528
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1795
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal
<b>Use(s):</b>	Parsonage; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Religion
<b>Area(s):</b>	SAL.HD: Federal Street SAL.HJ: Chestnut Street Historic District SAL.HU: McIntire Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (08/28/1973); Local Historic District (03/03/1981)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Brick; Granite; Stone, Cut



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
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This file was accessed on: Sunday, October 8, 2017 at 8:23: PM



8/28/73

SAL. 1547



Town Salem

Place (neighborhood or village) Central Salem

Address 15 Beckford Street

Historic Name Bartholomew Browne House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 1795

Source HSI Report

Style/Form

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite, Brick

Wall/Trim Wood Clapboard

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

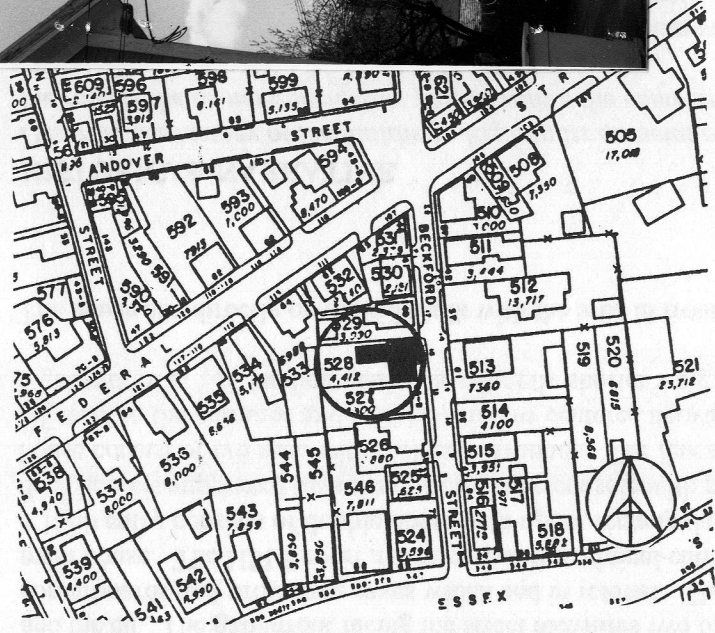
Major Alterations (with dates) 1878 - addition to south

Condition good

Moved  no  yes Date

Acreage less than one acre

Setting set on sidewalk in 18th and 19th century residential area



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Salem Planning Department

RECEIVED (month/year) January 1997

AUG 05 1997 Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

## BUILDING FORM

SAL. 1547

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of the building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

15 Beckford Street is a 2 1/2-story, clapboarded gablefront dwelling with a two story, low-pitched gable ell dating to 1878 projecting to the south. The front walls of the foundations are constructed of granite with brick underlying the other walls and the ell. The gablefront facing the street measures two bays wide and is outlined by a plain wooden watertable, cornerboards and projecting eaves which end in returns. The main entrance is located on the front of the ell, adjacent to the main house. The HSI Report indicates that the original entrance was centered on the south side. Fronted by granite steps, the c.1860 entry consists of double doors with upper rectangular glass panes and are capped by a two-light transom. The flat door hood is supported by a single decorative console with pendant; the other side abuts the house. Windows on the main house consist of 6/6 sash with molded surrounds. The fenestration pattern on the ell is irregular with a pair of 6/6 windows adjacent to the entrance and a single window centered above. There are two brick chimneys on the north slope in addition to a gable dormer. Extending behind is a slightly shorter wing, resting on a granite foundation.

The house sits directly on the sidewalk with the area in front of the ell paved with brick.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Describe the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

According to research by Historic Salem, Inc., this house was constructed in 1795 for Bartholomew Browne, housewright. Browne purchased the land in 1793 from William Pickman. Tax records indicate that Browne was first assessed for a complete house in 1795. In 1805 Browne sold the house to his son, Bartholomew Brown Jr., also a housewright, for \$2200. The property was acquired by Joseph Gardner, hairdresser, in 1815, who sold it to Thomas Perkins, chairmaker, in 1823. In 1846 Thomas Perkins sold the property for \$2500 to Benjamin Brierly, clergyman. Charles Farrington, master mariner, purchased the house in 1853 and sold it to William Wallis in 1865. Upon Wallis' death in 1877, the house was bequeathed to the First Baptist Church which used the house as a parsonage until 1952. Salem Street Books indicate that the building was extended and improved in 1878. Later owners included Ada Hamilton (1952-1959) and the Copelas family (1959-?) (Dec 1974).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attached a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*



FORM B - BUILDING

SAM Block 26  
LOT 528

SAL 1547  
RAD/HR HD 1547  
In Area no. CC/SS  
Form no. 12 475 (CS)  
HD, HO, HS, HR  
NRD15/LHD/LHD



East + South facade August 1975

1. Town Salem

Address 15 Beckford Street

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Present use Residence

Present owner Peter, Jr. + Barbara H. Copelas

3. Description:

Date late 18th century - early 19th

Source S.H.D.S.C. I.

Style \_\_\_\_\_

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior wall fabric siding

Outbuildings (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Other features \_\_\_\_\_

Altered  Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

One acre or less  Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 40'

Approximate distance of building from street

0'

6. Recorded by E. B. Wheaton

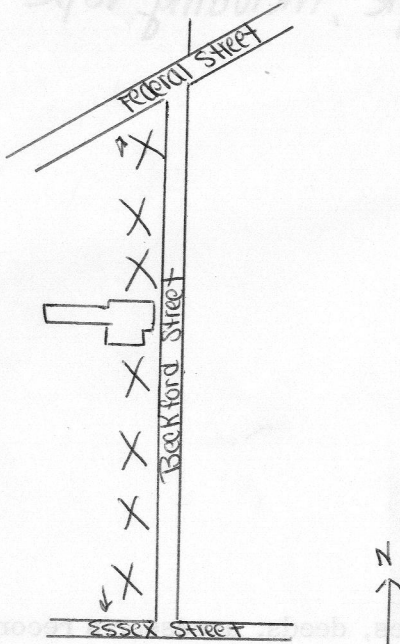
Organization S.H.C.

Date September 1975

RECEIVED

OCT 23 1975

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE  
USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_

MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Original use \_\_\_\_\_

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

- |                       |                                     |                            |       |                         |       |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| Aboriginal            | _____                               | Conservation               | _____ | Recreation              | _____ |
| Agricultural          | _____                               | Education                  | _____ | Religion                | _____ |
| Architectural         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Exploration/<br>settlement | _____ | Science/<br>invention   | _____ |
| The Arts              | _____                               | Industry                   | _____ | Social/<br>humanitarian | _____ |
| Commerce              | _____                               | Military                   | _____ | Transportation          | _____ |
| Communication         | _____                               | Political                  | _____ |                         |       |
| Community development | _____                               |                            |       |                         |       |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Victorian remodeling of the entrance and addition of an ell disguise what appears to be originally a Federal-style structure. Interior includes some trim of early 1800's style, including rope cornice over mantle.

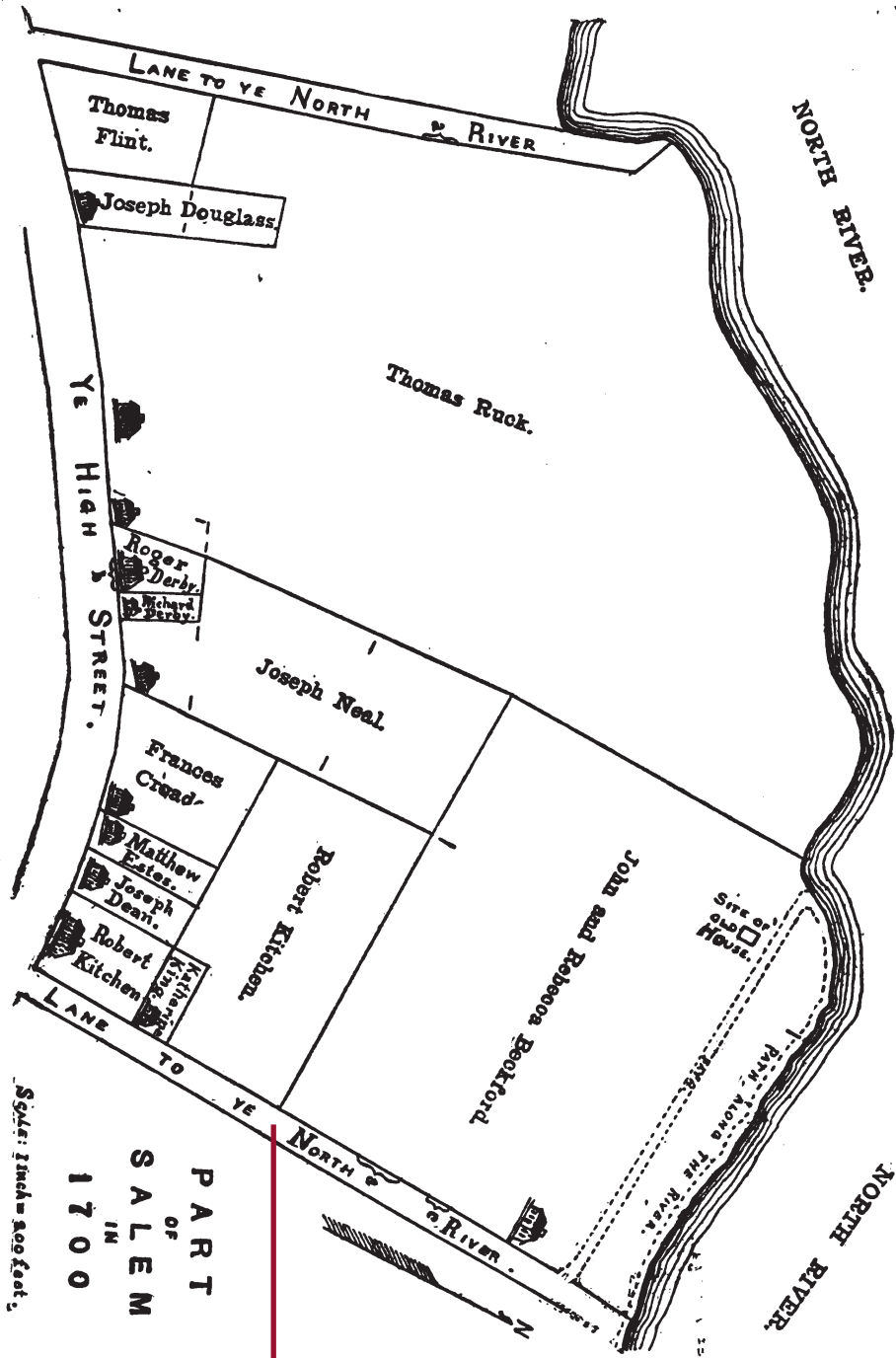
10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local historie early maps, etc.)

S.H.D.S.C.I.  
assessor's records





Sidney Perley  
Essex Antiquarian Vol. 7, No. 1  
January 1903



Modern-day Beckford Street







**G.M. Hopkins & Co.**  
**Atlas of the City of Salem,**  
**Massachusetts**  
**Philadelphia, 1874**

This map indicates that as of 1874, there was no southern ell addition.

PART  
OF  
**WARD 4.**  
**SALEM.**



I, William Wallis of Salem, in the county of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being of sound mind and memory, do make public and declare this instrument to be my last Will and Testament. viz.

First. I direct my Executor herein after named to pay out of my Estate all my just debts and funeral charges.

Second. I give and bequeath to Rev Robert C Mills of Salem my former beloved pastor. Five Hundred Dollars.

Third. I give and bequeath to my friend Samuel B Buttrick of Salem. Five Hundred Dollars.

Fourth. I give and bequeath to Mrs Mary Hannah Griffing of Ipswich, Two Hundred Dollars.

Fifth. I give and bequeath to Theresa Jane Griffing of said Ipswich, Five Hundred Dollars.

Sixth. I give and bequeath to William A Bowditch of said Salem. Two Hundred Dollars.

Seventh. I give and bequeath to Mrs Mary Ann Upton of said Salem. Two Hundred Dollars.

Eighth. I give and bequeath to Elizabeth B Bowditch of said Salem. Two Hundred Dollars.

Ninth. I give and bequeath to Mrs Martha Eunice Dawson of Quasville in Canada. Two Hundred Dollars.

Tenth. I give and bequeath to William Henry Kehew and Sarah Hovey Kehew, his wife, of said Salem. Two Hundred Dollars.

Eleventh. I give and bequeath to Joanna Daland of Beckford Street in said Salem. One Hundred Dollars.

Twelfth. I give and bequeath to Rev. George C Merrill the present pastor of the First Baptist Church and Society in said Salem. Five Hundred Dollars.

Thirteenth. I give and bequeath to Mrs Margaret B Wiggins of said Salem. Two Hundred Dollars.

Fourteenth. I give and bequeath to Sarah<sup>B</sup> Blanchard of said Salem. Two Hundred Dollars.

Fifteenth. I give and bequeath to Joanna Blanchard of said Salem. Two Hundred Dollars.



Eleventh. I give and bequeath to Joanna Daland of Beckford Street in said Salem. One Hundred Dollars.

Twelfth. I give and bequeath to Rev. George E Merrill the present pastor of the First Baptist Church and Society in said Salem. Five Hundred Dollars.

Thirteenth. I give and bequeath to Mrs Margaret B Wiggin of said Salem. Two Hundred Dollars.

Fourteenth. I give and bequeath to Sarah<sup>B</sup> Blanchard of said Salem. Two Hundred Dollars.

Fifteenth. I give and bequeath to Joanna Blanchard of said Salem. Two Hundred Dollars.

Sixteenth. I give and bequeath to Rebecca A Peirce of said Salem. Two Hundred Dollars.

Seventeenth. I give and bequeath to my faithful servant for many past years, Bridget Lyndsey of said Salem the sum of Three Hundred Dollars.

Eighteenth. I give and bequeath to the American Baptist Home Mission Society Five Hundred Dollars; also my pew being numbered Ninety Eight, in the First Baptist Meeting House in said Salem.

Nineteenth. I give bequeath and devise to the First Baptist Society and the Church connected therewith in said Salem the estate whereon I now live, situate in said Salem, consisting of the land and house and other buildings thereon, being numbered Fifteen on Beckford Street: this estate to be held in trust for a Parsonage for said Church and Society by Joseph Price, as Treasurer of said First Baptist Society, and Charles H Price as Treasurer of said First Baptist Church, and their successors in office, in fee simple forever: the sum to be always kept in said Society.

I also give and bequeath to said First Baptist Church and Society all my furniture, of every description, including pictures and books; excepting therefrom such articles as are specified in a schedule thereof with specific directions respecting the disposition thereof by my executor; said articles to remain in my keeping till my decease.

The residue of my estate, if any there be, I direct my executor to divide equally among my legal representatives.

I hereby appoint said William A Bowditch to be the Executor of this my last Will and Testament, and request the Judge of Probate not to require any Sureties on his official bond.



Price as Treasurer of said First Baptist Church, and their successors in office, in fee simple forever, the same to be always kept in repair.

I also give and bequeath to said First Baptist Church and Society all my furniture of every description, including pictures and books; excepting therefrom such articles as are specified in a schedule thereof with specific directions respecting the disposition thereof by my executor; said articles to remain in my keeping till my decease.

The residue of my estate, if any there be, I direct my executor to divide equally among my legal representatives.

I hereby appoint said William A Bowditch to be the Executor of this my last Will and Testament, and request the Judge of Probate not to require any sureties on his official bond.

Hereby revoking all former wills by me made.

In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand and seal this Second day of June A D Eighteen Hundred and Seventy Seven.

Signed, Sealed, Published and declared by the said William Wallis to be his last Will and Testament, in the presence of us, and of each other, who at his request, have hereto subscribed our names as witnesses.

William Wallis

David Moore,  
John P. Glavin  
John Chandler





Harmony Grove Cemetery, Salem. Photo: [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com)

## First Baptist Church

56 Federal Street  
Salem, Massachusetts  
WALTER H. LOOMIS, MINISTER

January 23, 1952

At the annual meeting of the First Baptist Church, Salem, Massachusetts, January 14, 1952, it was voted as follows:

VOTED: That the Board of Directors be authorized to negotiate a sale of the parsonage property at No. 15 Beckford Street in Salem, Massachusetts, in accordance with the decree of the Supreme Judicial Court, and that they be authorized to designate an officer of the Corporation to sign and execute a deed conveying said parsonage property in accordance with the said Court Decree.

Also, that the said Directors turn over the net proceeds of the said sale to the Board of Trustees of the Corporation to be administered in accordance with the decree of the Supreme Judicial Court.

*Marilyn W. Addison*  
Marilyn W. Addison  
Church Clerk

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN SALEM, MASS. INC.

June 10, 1952

To whom it may concern:

On Sunday June 1st 1952, at a special meeting, after Service, the Board of Directors of the First Baptist Church in Salem, Inc., did vote the following-----that Kenneth R. Bain, Treasurer of First Baptist Church-Salem "be authorized to sign the necessary papers\* relative to the selling of the Property located at 15 Beckford St. Salem, Mass.

~~Robert H. Cushing~~  
*Robert H. Cushing*  
Secretary  
Board of Directors  
First Baptist Church  
Salem, Inc.

\*taken from the Records of the Board of Directors  
First Baptist Church in Salem, Inc.

Essex ss. Recorded June 11, 1952. 28 m. past 1 P. M.





**First Baptist Church, Salem, Massachusetts on its original foundation**  
**Photo by Frank Cousins**  
**Frank Cousins Papers, 1891-1901**  
**Urban Landscape Collection**  
**Duke University Libraries**





**First Baptist Church today, as home to the Essex County Law Library**  
**Photo by Donna Seger in 2011**  
**Courtesy of [www.streetsofsalem.com](http://www.streetsofsalem.com)**