

THE JOSEPH MILLET HOUSE

Built 1779

26 Beckford St.

William Tinti 11/84
16 Beckford St.
Salem
Tinti
1967

SUMMARY OF HISTORY

In 1753, Samuel Cook of Salem, a fisherman, conveyed to John Bullock, Jr., of Salem, a cordwainer, for the price of 13 pounds, 6 shillings, and 8 pence a parcel of land bounded Westerly and Northerly on the highway, Easterly on land of John Bullock, and Southerly on land in occupation of Nathaniel Archer, containing 40 poles or 700 feet. (Sheet #8)

In 1757, John Bullock, Jr., purchased for 19 pounds from the same Samuel Cook another parcel of land, this bounded Westerly 56.10 feet on Bickford's Lane, Northerly 73.92 feet on land already owned by John Bullock, Jr., Easterly 58.08 feet on land of John Bullock, father of John Bullock, Jr., and Southerly 73.92 feet on land of Nathaniel Archer. (Sheet #9)

A few years later in 1762, John Bullock, Jr., purchased for 40 pounds from Thomas Moore of Salem, a mariner, another parcel of land and a house, bounded Easterly on Toppon's land, Southerly on Archer's land, Westerly on land already owned by John Bullock, Jr., and Northerly by the North River. (Sheet #10)

The land to the South owned by Nathaniel Archer was purchased by John Bullock, no longer "Jr.", in 1767. (Sheet #11)

The two parcels with definite measurements, one purchased from Samuel Cook and one purchased from Nathaniel Archer, are shown on the sketch, Sheet #12, bounded on the "New Way", Federal Street, which street was laid out in 1768.

In 1773, John Bullock sold to his three sons, Benjamin Bullock, Nathaniel Bullock, and Isaac Bullock, all of Salem, mariners, a dwelling house in Salem bounded Southerly on the "New Street" 64.02 feet and running back to the North River. (Sheet #13)

This Deed recites John Bullock's own land as lying on the Western side of the premises.

John Bullock died in 1774. In his Will, which was probated in the Essex County Probate Court (Sheet #), he left all his real estate to his wife, Elizabeth, for life, thereafter to his four sons, John, Benjamin, Nathaniel, and Isaac. The Will also included provisions which stated that when the estate should come into the hands of his sons, which is to say when his wife, Elizabeth, had died, his sons would pay to his daughters, Elizabeth Millet, wife of Joseph Millet, Mary Brown, Preserved McMelon, Sarah Bullock, and Abigail Bullock, a portion of the proceeds from the sale of said Estate.

Four years later in 1779, three of the sons of John Bullock, Benjamin, Nathaniel, and Isaac, sold for 7 pounds to Joseph Millet of Salem, mariner and their brother-in-law,

"a piece of land in Salem in Bickford's Lane, so-called, containing 3 poles upon part of which said Millet's house now stands and bounded Westerly on said Lane and there measures 39 feet, Northerly on other land of Benjamin, Nathaniel, and Isaac, and there measures 20 feet, Easterly upon other land of said Benjamin, Nathaniel, and Isaac, and there measures 39 feet, and Southerly upon other land of said Benjamin, Nathaniel, and Isaac." (Sheet #)

The description in this deed conveys a land area that follows closely the contours of the house at 26 Beckford Street (See Plot Plan, Sheet #).

Benjamin Bullock died in 1794, the inventory of his estate listing "3/4 of dwelling house and land"--probably his share of the property conveyed to him and his brothers by John Bullock (Sheet #17)--and "undivided shares in the reversion of his father's (John Bullock's) Estate after his mother's decease." (Sheet #18) Nathaniel Bullock had died in 1787 (See Appendix A) and his inventory listed "Share and interest in the Eastern part of a dwelling house and land under and adjoining it set in Federal Street in Salem"--his share of property deed by father, John Bullock (Sheet #13)--

and "his share and interest in the real estate of his father John Bullock, late of Salem". (Sheet #16)

In 1799, Elizabeth Bullock, the wife of John Bullock, having outlived her sons Benjamin and Nathaniel, by order of the Court of Common Pleas, sold to son Isaac Bullock of Salem, mariner, a piece of land bounded Westerly partly on Bickford Street and partly on a town way, 5 poles and 13 links (96.18 feet) to a sea wall at the Northwest corner of the premises, then running Easterly by the sea wall 3 poles 9 links (58.44 feet), then running Southerly bounding Easterly on other land of John Bullock, 5 poles and 4 links (90.14 feet), then running Westerly bounding Southerly on John's Estate 3 poles and 9 links (58.44 feet) to Beckford Street (Sheet #17). This parcel was located North of 26 Beckford Street; at the end of Beckford Street a town way was located running down to the North River.

In 1805, Benjamin Bullock, one of the grandsons of John Bullock, conveyed his one-sixth of one undivided fourth part of the Estate of his grandfather, John Bullock, to William Farrington of Salem, trader, the description being Westerly on Beckford Street, Southerly on Federal Street, Easterly on land late of Benjamin Bullock, deceased (the property conveyed to sons by John Bullock (Sheet #15) and Northerly on North River. (Sheet #18)) The deed refers to Elizabeth Bullock, widow of John Bullock as deceased. This conveyance ignored the deed to Joseph Millet (Sheet #15) and the deed to Isaac Bullock (Sheet #) and treated the property of John Bullock as if it had never been divided. Two months later, William Farrington obtained a release of all the rights that Abigail Bullock obtained under the will of John Bullock (Sheet #17). In October of the same year, 1805, the children of Nathaniel Bullock conveyed all the interest of their father in the Estate of John Bullock to Sarah Bullock, widow of Benjamin Bullock, describing the property as bounded Southerly by Federal Street 134 feet, Westerly by

Beckford Street to the North River, Northerly by low water mark to Benjamin Bullock's land and Easterly by his land to Federal Street (Sheet #30). This conveyance as well made no mention of the deeds to Millet and to Isaac Bullock.

One year later, in 1806, William Farrington and other parties claiming interest in the Estate of John Bullock made mutual conveyances in an apparent attempt to straighten out the confusion caused by prior conveyances. George Martin, Sarah Bullock, widow of Benjamin, and Anna Haskell conveyed to William Farrington a parcel of land with two buildings thereon bounded Southerly by Federal Street, Westerly by Beckford Street, Easterly by land of Sarah Bullock, and Northerly in part by land of Sarah and by land of Widow Millet, Joseph Millet having died in 1797. (Sheet #31) This deed carefully drew a line around the property conveyed to Joseph Millet in 1779, and places that property where 26 Beckford Street is today (See Plot Plan Sheet #50) (See Appendix B for Vital Statistics on Millet family).

Thus it is clear that the property deeded to Joseph Millet in 1779 on which his house was then standing is the same property now numbered 26 Beckford Street containing approximately the same boundaries that it does today.

In return for the conveyance to him cited above, William Farrington deeded to Sarah Martin, Anna Haskell and to Betsy and Preserved Bullock, minor children of Benjamin and Sarah Bullock, a lot of land that is shown as Lots 1 and 2 on Sketch, Sheet #23. This conveyance as well was bounded in part by land of Widow Millet. (Sheet #22).

On the same day, April 30, 1806, William Farrington and Anna Haskell joined in a deed to George Whitefield Martin of Salem, cabinet maker, of a parcel of land bounding the property conveyed to Sarah Martin, Anna

Haskell, Betsy and Preserved Bullock (Sheet #23) on the East further up Federal Street (Sheet #21).

In 1808, the children of Joseph Millet (died 1797) conveyed 26 Beckford Street to their brother, Jonathan Millet of Salem, chaise maker, with the dwelling house thereon, subject to the condition that their mother, Elizabeth Millet, have the use of the property for her life. (Sheet #23). Apparently, to assure his brothers and sisters that he intended to abide by their wishes, Jonathan gave a deed to Elizabeth Millet, "honoured mother", providing that she would have possession of 26 Beckford Street for life. (Sheet #23) We know from the Vital Statistics that this did not happen as Elizabeth Millet died of old age at the almshouse in Salem on September 25, 1826. (See Appendix B)

In 1821, William Farrington sold his property between Federal and Beckford Streets to Peter E. Webster (Sheet #23). In 1822, Anna Haskell conveyed to Jonathan Millet one undivided fourth part of two parcels, one of which was the property conveyed to Anna and Sarah Martin, Betsy and Preserved Bullock by William Farrington (Sheet #21), shown as Lots 1 and 2 on Sketch, Sheet #23, being the property descended to her as one of the children of Benjamin Bullock (Sheet #21).

In 1825, Jonathan Millet, now a trader, Preserved Bullock and Elizabeth Bullock conveyed to Lucy Martin a lot of land shown as Lot 2 on Sketch, Sheet #23, ^(Sheet #30) and Lucy, in turn, conveyed this parcel to Asa Lamson (Sheet #31). The deed to Lucy Martin was in consequence of a division that set off to Jonathan Millet a lot of land without any building shown as Lot 1 on Sketch, Sheet #23. ^(Sheets #32 & #33)

Thus by 1825, Jonathan Millet owned 26 Beckford Street and a parcel of land to the North and East of 26 Beckford Street. Beginning in June, 1825, and continuing to 1830, a number of petitions were brought against

Jonathan Millet claiming that he "does by excessive drinking and idleness, waste his estate". (Sheet #37) Finally, in August of 1830, George Wheatland was appointed Guardian of Jonathan Millet (Sheet #37). In the proceedings of the Guardianship an Affidavit was filed stating that Jonathan Millet's Estate consisted of a lot of land with a one-story dwelling house and a two-story dwelling house thereon, and that the two houses were so situated that they had to be sold together (Sheet #39). Thus it appears that Jonathan Millet built a two-story house, presently 28 Beckford Street between 1825 and 1831 on the lot of land set off to him in the division (Sheets #33, & #33).

In 1831, George Wheatland as Guardian of Jonathan Millet conveyed all of Millet's property on Beckford Street to Peter E. Webster (Sheet #35), who had already purchased William Farrington's property (Sheet #28).

Peter E. Webster owned all the property with the buildings thereon on Beckford Street from Federal Street to and including 28 Beckford Street from 1831 to the time of his death in 1850. The inventory of Webster's Estate mentions four dwelling houses, i.e., the house on Federal Street, 24 Beckford Street--now gone, 26 Beckford Street, and 28 Beckford Street (Sheet #36).

In 1857, there was set off to Louisa S. F. Webster, widow of Peter E. Webster, 28 Beckford Street and 26 Beckford Street (Sheet #37).

In January of 1871, the heirs of Peter E. Webster deeded 26 Beckford Street to Joseph Chandler of Cambridge, Massachusetts, (Sheet #38) with a parcel of land as shown on Plan, Sheet #39. In the same year, 1871, Joseph Chandler died (See Estate, Sheet #41) and in 1883, the house and land were sold by the Administrator of his Estate to John H. Bell. (Sheet #43) In 1890, John H. Bell conveyed the property through a straw to his wife, Charlotte E. Bell. (Sheets #47 and #45). Charlotte E. Bell died in Salem on July 18,

1904, leaving her husband, John H. Bell, and a daughter, Mary A. Jodrey, of Salem (Sheet #47). John H. Bell died on November 29, 1913, leaving 26 Beckford Street to his daughter, Mary A. Jodrey of Salem (Sheet #48).

In 1920, Mary A. Jodrey, then of London, England, conveyed 26 Beckford Street to Ellis H. Porter, Jr., of Salem, the boundaries being as shown on Plot Plan, Sheet #52. (Sheet #49)

Thus 26 Beckford Street was owned by the Bell family from 1883 to 1920, 43 years, during which time the lot was reduced to its present proportions (See copy of 1897 Atlas, Sheet #42). In 1921, Ellis H. Porter, Jr., deeded a half interest in 26 Beckford Street, in consideration of "love", to his wife, Marion G. Porter (Sheet #51). Ellis H. Porter and Marion G. Porter, who had moved to Denver, Colorado, sold the property to Zaida E. Coffin of Salem in 1927 (Sheet #52). In the same year, Zaida Coffin conveyed to Charles S. Johnston of Salem (Sheet #53) who in turn conveyed to Clara S. Lemp of Salem (Sheet #54). Clara S. Lemp then mortgaged the property to Sarah Dambofsky of Salem, which mortgage was foreclosed in 1935 (Sheet #55), and Sarah Dembofsky conveyed 26 Beckford Street by foreclosure deed to Gardner M. Damon of Salem, in the same year (Sheet #56). Gardner Damon owned the property until 1949 when he sold to John H. Snyder and Grace E. Snyder (Sheet #57). The Snyders, who moved to Chesterfield, Missouri, held title until 1964 when they conveyed to Raymond D. Truche and Sylvia A. Truche of Danvers, Massachusetts (Sheet #58).

In 1966, 26 Beckford Street was purchased by William J. Tinti and Hester L. Tinti from Raymond D. Truche and Sylvia A. Truche (Sheet #59).

Appendix A

VITAL STATISTICS

BULLOCKS-

John Bullock

born- April 21, 1711- son of John Bullock
married- Elizabeth Stileman Oct. 27, 1737
death- 1774 (see Probate # 3987)

Elizabeth Stileman Bullock

born- baptized Jan. 21, 1727
married- Oct. 27, 1737
death- (no record)

Children of John & Elizabeth Bullock

1. Abigail

born- daughter of John & Elizabeth Bullock, baptized May 7, 1758
at Tabernacle Church
married - Thomas Goss July 10, 1779
death- June 3, 1813 at age of 87 years

2. Benjamin

born- son of John & Elizabeth Bullock, baptized Mar. 6, 1747 at
Tabernacle Church
married - Sarah Sherry Mar. 14, 1771
death- 1794 (see Probate # 3983)

3. Elizabeth

§ (see Elizabeth Millet)

4. Isaac

born- son of John & Elizabeth Bullock, baptized April 19, 1752
at Tabernacle Church
married- Elizabeth Boyd Aug. 21, 1776
death- consumption, Dec. 21, 1826, at 74 years

5. John

born- son of John & Elizabeth Bullock, baptized Jan. 23, 1742
at First Church
married- Rosina Barberina Ulmerin Sept. 20, 1762
death- (no record)

Children of John & Elizabeth Bullock (cont.)

- 6. Mary
 - born- daughter of John & Elizabeth Bullock, baptized Jan 23, 1742 at First Church
 - married- (no record)
 - death- (no record)

- 7. Nathaniel
 - born- son of John & Elizabeth Bullock, baptized Mar. 4, 1749 at Tabernacle Church
 - married- Elizabeth Crawford, Feb. 26, 1774
 - death- noted in April 14, 1787 issue of "Salem Mercury"

- 8. Preserved
 - born- daughter of John & Elizabeth Bullock, baptized Jan. 19, 1745 at Tabernacle Church
 - married- John Mackmillon, at Danvers, Jan. 7, 1772
 - death- (no record)

- 9. Samuel
 - born- son of John & Elizabeth Bullock, baptized Feb. 16, 1755 at Tabernacle Church
 - married- (no record)
 - death- (no record)

- 10. Sarah
 - born- daughter of John & Elizabeth Bullock, baptized April 25, at Tabernacle Church
 - married- Cook Osborn Sept. 29, 1780
 - death- (no record)

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Appendix B

VITAL STATISTICS

MILLETS-

Joseph Millet

born - (no record)

married - see Elizabeth Bullock

died- Aug. 16, 1797 (?) a. 60 years , V. 6 P. 68

Elizabeth Bullock Millet

born- daughter of John Bullock Jr. & Elizabeth Bullock,
baptized First Church Jan 23, 1742

married- Elizabeth Jr. & Joseph Millet, Oct. 11, 1759 -
Rev. Dudley Leavitt's marriages in Vital Records
manuscripts now in possn of Essex Institut

died - (widow of Joseph Millet) Newspaper record, Salem
Gazette, died of old age, at the almshouse, Sept.
25, 1826, age 91 years

Children of Joseph & Elizabeth Millet

1. Andrew Stephens

born- son of Joseph & Elizabeth Millet, baptized
Sept. 23, 1770 at Tabernacle Church

married- (no record)

death- (no record)

2. Andrew Stephens

born- son of Joseph & Elizabeth Millet, baptized Mar. 1, 1778
at South Church

married- (no record)

death- (no record)

3. Anna

born- daughter of Joseph & Elizabeth Millet, baptized Sept. 12,
1773 at Tabernacle Church

married- Hubbart Haskell (3rd of Gloucester) Nov. 7, 1793

death - (no record)

Children of Joseph & Elizabeth Millet (cont.)

4. Joseph

born- son of Joseph & Elizabeth Millet, baptized Oct. 6,
1765 at Tabernacle Church

married- (no record)

death- (no record)

5. Joseph

born - son of Joseph & Elizabeth, baptized Mar. 13, 1768 at
Tabernacle Church

married- (no record)

death- (no record)

6. Mary

born- daughter of Joseph & Elizabeth, baptized Aug. 3, 1760

married- Anthony Diver, April, 1778

death- (no record)

7. Elizabeth

born daughter of Joseph & Elizabeth Millet, baptized
June 12, 1763 at Tabernacle Church

married- (no record)

death- (no record)

8. Daniel

born- (no record)

married- Elizabeth Caldwell, Mar. 25, 1807

death- (no record)

9. Johnathan

born- (no record)

married- Sally _____ (see deed 238-152)- Sally
Millet, wife of Jonathan Millet died of consumption
Feb. 12, 1829 at 44 years - p. 69 V. 6

death-(no record)

-(records of death of three unnamed children of Jonathan
and Sally Millet, 1807, 1811, & 1813 , p. 69 V. 6)-