

Historic Salem incorporated

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NINE NORTHEY STREET

Researched by Donna Vinson
January 1997

Nine Northey Street

built by 1874 for Frederick Lamson,
"Florist and Seedman"

The "Woodbury House"

History of the property:

The house and lot which presently bear the address Nine Northey Street have connections to three of Salem's most eminent families: the Woodbury family, after whom Woodbury Court is named, the Lemmon family, whose holdings surrounded the present Lemon Street, and the Northey family, who laid out Northey Street in 1807.¹ The house was built on Northey Street between 1870 and 1874 by Frederick Lamson as an apparent investment property, and was sold to Ezra L. Woodbury two years later.

Nine Northey Street and these adjacent streets are located on the seventeenth-century holdings of the Neal family off "Ferry Lane", or Bridge Street, one of Salem's first ways, if not the first. Prior to its designation as Ferry Lane around 1700, it was generally referred to as the "common country road" or lane. After the first bridge to Beverly was built in 1789 it became Bridge Street.

John Neal, a yeoman, and his son Jeremiah, a carpenter, built their houses adjacent to one another on Bridge Street and used their rear property as farmland. After the younger Neal's death in 1722, the entire property passed to his son Jeremiah Jr., who conveyed it to John Lemmon, a mariner, in 1749.² His widow, Sarah Lemmon, transferred the property to John Fisk, a Salem lawyer, in 1794.³ A decade later, Mr. Fisk sold the property to the Northeys, a prominent Salem family of silversmiths and metalworkers whose family records are part of the collection of the Phillips Library of the Peabody Essex Museum.

Abijah Northey sold "a certain lot of land situated in Salem on the western side of Northey Street" to Asa Lamson, a Salem grocer, whose Bridge Street shop and adjoining house were on the

¹ Essex Country (South) Registry of Deeds, Book 181, leaf 165; April 16, 1807.

² E.C.R.D. Book 93, leaf 51; April 25, 1749.

³ E.C.R.D. Book 157, leaf 143; March 20, 1794.

opposite side of the street, in 1833.⁴ Lamson and his two sons, Charles and Frederick, owned a considerable amount of property on both sides of Northey Street for most of the nineteenth century, and there were several Lamson houses. Frederick Lamson "boarded" with his father and sister at Four Northey Street, adjoining the Bridge Street grocery store, while his brother lived across the street at Five Northey Street. After Asa Lamson's death in 1870, Frederick purchased the lot adjacent to his brother's house and erected Three Northey Street, now known as Nine Northey Street.⁵ The house's distinctive mansard roof and Italianate bracketing might have been added later, after Lamson sold the property to Ezra L. Woodbury in 1876.⁶

Various members of the Woodbury family owned, occupied, and expanded Nine Northey Street for nearly a century. As there is no evidence that Frederick Lamson ever resided in the house that he built, it is more appropriately referred to as the "Woodbury House". Ezra Woodbury, whose family owned several additional properties on and around Northey Street, purchased an additional adjoining lot from Frederick Lamson in 1901.⁷ In that same year, he transferred his properties to Mary Hale Woodbury, though he continued to reside at Three/Nine Northey Street until his death.⁸

Mary Hale Woodbury, a music teacher with appointments in both the Salem and Springfield school systems, was the legal owner of Nine Northey Street until her death in 1959. In addition to Ezra, her sister Alice Choate Woodbury, a clerk at the Essex Institute and, more recently, the Registry of Probate, also resided at Nine Northey Street until 1970.⁹

In that year Alice Woodbury's guardian transferred the Woodbury estate to Antoinette M. Cerra of Boston, who conveyed the house to her relatives Jossef Dinisman and Linda A. Dinisman three years later in return for "love and affection".¹⁰ The Dinismans owned and occupied the house for an additional four years, after which they sold it to Daryel R. Duhaime of Salem, who maintained it

⁴ E.C.R.D. Book 269, leaves 280-281; June 6, 1833.

⁵ E.C.R.D. Book 800, leaves 11-12; June 22, 1870.

⁶ E.C.R.D. Book 949, page 197; March 8, 1876.

⁷ E.C.R.D. Book 1659, page 393; November 7, 1901.

⁸ E.C.R.D. Book 1659, pages 394-396; December 14, 1901. Salem Directories, 1901-1940.

⁹ Essex Country Registry of Probate #181950 (will of Ezra L. Woodbury) and #304144 (guardianship of Alice C. Woodbury).

¹⁰ E.C.R.D. Book 5710, page 750; September 10, 1970. E.C.R.D. Book 5941, page 717; January 11, 1973.

as a rental property and transferred it to its tenants, James and Catherine Adams, only two years later.¹¹ In 1987 its current owners, the Greenblatt family, acquired Nine Northey Street.

Transfers of title:

Essex County Registry of Deeds, Book 93, leaf 51

Grantor: Jeremiah Neal, Jr. of Salem, Yeoman
Grantee: John Lemmon of Salem, Mariner
Consideration: paid
Conveyance of: property adjoining "Ferry Lane" and "Waller's Cove"
Date recorded: April 25, 1749

E.C.R.D. Book 157, leaf 143

Grantor: Sarah Lemmon of Salem, Widow
Grantee: John Fisk, Esquire, of Salem
Consideration: paid
Conveyance of: property adjoining Bridge Street
Date recorded: March 20, 1794

E.C.R.D. Book 269, leaves 280-281

Grantor: Abijah Northey of Boxford
Grantee: Asa Lamson of Salem, Trader
Consideration: \$375
Conveyance of: "a certain lot of land situated in Salem on the western side of Northey Street beginning at the northeast corner of the land...bounding on said street 49 feet...containing about forty-four poles with all said Northey's right and title to the flatts bounding on the above described land."
Date recorded: June 6, 1833

E.C.R.D. Book 800, leaves 11-12

Grantors: Charles Lamson and Rebecca Wallis, both of Salem, and Edward F. Lamson of Peabody, children and heirs-at-law of Asa Lamson, late of Salem deceased
Grantor: Frederick Lamson of said Salem
Consideration: "\$1 and other good considerations"
Conveyance of: "a certain lot of land situated in said Salem, beginning at a point on Northey Street...being the same

¹¹ E.C.R.D. Book 6406, page 501; October 21, 1977. E.C.R.D. Book 6653, page 288; November 9, 1979.

estate which was bought of Abijah Northey by said Asa Lamson by deed recorded in the Essex Registry of Deeds book 269, leaf 280."

Date recorded: June 22, 1870

E.C.R.D. Book 949, pages 197-198

Grantor: Frederick Lamson of Salem

Grantee: Ezra L. Woodbury of Salem

Consideration: "\$1 and other good and sufficient considerations"

Conveyance of: "a certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon situate on Northey Street in said Salem and bounded and described as follows: beginning at the northwesterly corner thereof on Northey Street at land of Charles Lamson, then running southeasterly on said Northey Street thirty-two feet and six inches, then turning and running south westerly as the fence now stands seventy-one feet six inches, then turning and running northwesterly thirty-three feet two inches as the fence now stands to land of Charles Lamson, then turning and running northeasterly by said Charles Lamson's land seventy-one feet and six inches to Northey Street at the point begun at."

Date recorded: March 10, 1876

E.C.R.D. Book 1659, pages 393-394

Grantor: Frederick Lamson of Salem

Grantee: Ezra L. Woodbury of Salem

Consideration: "\$1 and other valuable considerations"

Conveyance of: Additional adjoining property to the rear of Woodbury's estate "together with the flats which were set off to Lamson by a commission appointed by the Supreme Judicial Court, the decree of said commission being approved by said Supreme Judicial Court in May, 1882."

Date recorded: December 14, 1901

E.C.R.D. Book 1659, pages 394-397

Grantor: Ezra L. Woodbury of Salem

Grantee: Mary Hale Woodbury of Salem

Consideration: \$1000

Conveyance of: Three Northey Street

Date recorded: December 14, 1901

E.C.R.D. Book 5710, page 750

Grantor: Sumner L. Raymond of Salem, Guardian of Alice Choate Woodbury, otherwise known as Alice C. Woodbury of said Salem

Grantee: Antoinette M. Cerra of 16 Wall Street, Charlestown
Consideration: \$22,000
Conveyance of: Nine Northey Street
Date recorded: September 10, 1970

E.C.R.D. Book 5941, page 717

Grantor: Antoinette M. Cerra of Charlestown
Grantees: Jossef Dinisman and Linda A. Dinisman,
as tenants by the entirety
Consideration: "the consideration for this deed is love and
affection"
Conveyance of: Nine Northey Street
Date recorded: January 11, 1973

E.C.R.D. Book 6406, page 501

Grantors: Jossef Dinisman and Linda A. Dinisman of Salem
Grantee: Daryel R. Duhaime, 18 Oliver Street, Salem
Consideration: \$40,000
Conveyance of: Nine Northey Street
Date recorded: October 21, 1977

E.C.R.D. Book 6653, page 288

Grantor: Daryel R. Duhaime of Salem
Grantees: James M. Adams and Catherine E. Adams of Nine
Northey Street, Salem
Consideration: \$63,000
Date recorded: November 9, 1979

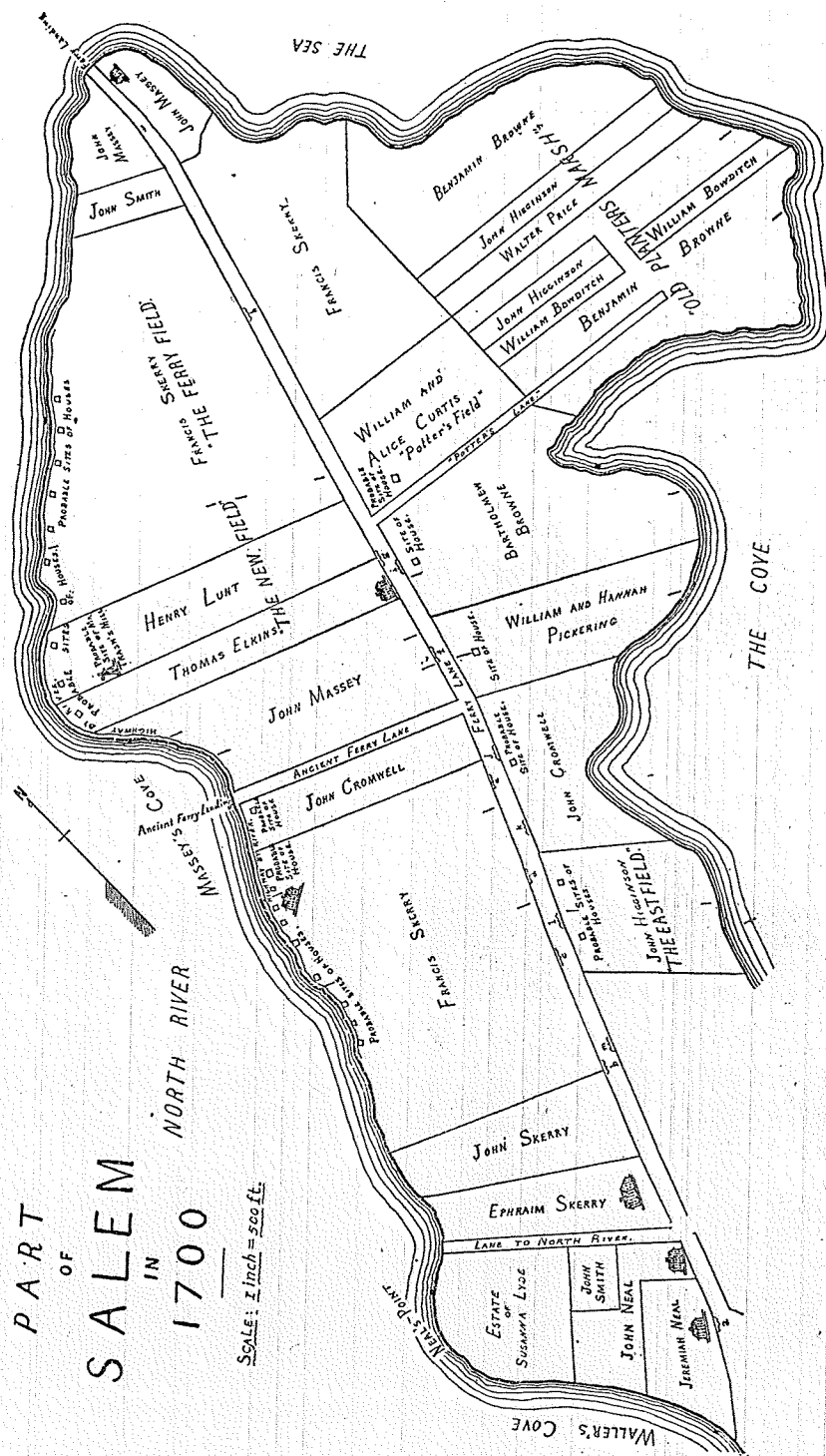
E.C.R.D. Book 9119, pages 144-151

Grantors: James M. Adams and Catherine E. Adams of Salem
Grantees: Mark Greenblatt and Susan Dinan Greenblatt of Salem;
Paul Greenblatt and Kathleen Greenblatt, of Marblehead
Consideration: paid
Conveyance of: Two "undivided half interests" in Nine Northey
Street
Date recorded: July 23, 1987

E.C.R.D. Book 11012, page 118

Discharge: of mortgage held by James and Catherine Adams to
Mark, Susan, Paul and Kathleen Greenblatt
Date recorded: October 7, 1991





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