

4 Becket St.  
Salem

Built for  
BENJAMIN PHIPPEN  
Fisherman  
1718

Robert Booth  
17 Jan 1978

#### 4 Becket Street

This house was built as a double house for Benjamin Phippen, Salem fisherman, in 1718.

Late in the 17th century this lot was part of the land of Habakkuk Turner of Salem, whose widow Mary married deacon John Marston, a Salem house carpenter, in 1686. The Marstons eventually sold off this land, which had been orchard, as houselots, and on 22 Jan 1717 for 25 li they granted to Deacon Marston's son-in-law Benjamin Phippen, Salem fisherman, "a certain parcel of land" containing about 1/4 acre, bounded east 5 poles 2' (84.5') "at ye front against ye lane or highway" (now Becket St.); west 5 poles 2' on land formerly of William West; south on land of Samuel Phippen; and north on land of Bray, formerly of Coombs (33:74). It was too late in the year to build in 1717, so this house was probably built in 1718 (perhaps by housewright father-in-law John Marston); it was certainly here by 8 Dec 1719 when, for 72 li, fisherman Benjamin Phippen mortgaged to Capt William Bowditch, merchant, "all that my homestead, consisting of a new dwelling house and about 1/4 acre of land;" this mortgage was discharged on 26 Mar 1722 (36:190).

Benjamin Phippen (1688-1725?) was the son of a pump-maker and fisherman, Joseph Phippen, who had fled to Salem during the Indian uprising at his home in Maine. Benjamin was always referred to as a fisherman in the old records; he was undoubtedly master of a fishing vessel, and was referred to as "skipper" Phippen (only masters of merchant vessels were called "captain"). He was evidently quite successful at his calling, for he made a good marriage, and this double house was very fine and large for its time. He evidently died about 1725, for his widow remarried in 1726; perhaps he was lost at sea. Administration on his estate was not granted until 1738, the year in which his eldest son came of age.

On 6 Nov 1738 son Benjamin, a cordwainer (shoemaker) was appointed administrator of his father's estate; the inventory reveals that this "double house with about 40 poles of land" was valued at 220 li, and that his "pew in the gallery of the meeting house in the East Parish in Salem" was worth 10 li (#21743). A double house was a house built for two-family occupancy.

On 2 Jan 1738 for 228 li the house and land were sold to Thomas Lisbrill, Salem mariner, with Benjamin's widow Ruth (now Mrs Henry West) releasing her dower right therein on 22 Mar 1738 for 5 shillings (77:253). Thomas Lisbrill (also, LeSbriel) owned the place for six years; on 28 July 1744, when he was resident at the Isle of Jersey in the English Channel, for 100 li he sold the Salem house and garden to John Balcum of the Isle of Jersey (formerly of Mansfield, Connecticut), (87:20; this deed, written on Jersey, is in French). Three years later, on 22 Ap 1747, John Balcum, having returned to Mansfield, for 550 li granted the "mansion house" and land in Salem's "Lower Society" (East Parish) to Salem brothers, mariners Peter and James Murray (88:278). The house and land would remain in possession of their descendants for more than a century.

Peter Murray owned the eastern half of the estate, and brother James the western half. In 1745 Peter had married Hannah Slate; in 1746 they had a son Peter, who became a cooper (barrel-maker). After the death of Peter Sr and then his widow Hannah (who died of palsy on 28 Dec 1796, aged about 73 years), Peter Jr, the cooper, inherited the eastern half. He had married Margaret Webb of Salem in 1771; she died of consumption (tuberculosis) on 19 July 1795, leaving her husband Peter and daughter Mary ("Polly"), who'd been born in 1779. Peter the cooper died of consumption at the age of 61 years on 13 Feb 1807, leaving his daughter Polly, by then the wife of Israel Ward, a hairdresser whom she'd married in 1803. Peter's half of the premises was valued at \$1500, his personal estate (including such items as his "cooper's old tools," two breakfast tables, a walnut case of drawers, old pewter, & a small brass kettle) at \$116.13 (#19114).

Meanwhile, in the western half: James Murray, mariner, had married Elizabeth Foot of Salem on 14 May 1746; they had a daughter, Elizabeth, who married John Fairfield in 1767. After the deaths of her parents, she inherited the western half. Many years later, when a widow, Mrs Fairfield, on 28 Aug 1815, for \$1030 granted to one of her sons, James Murray Fairfield, mariner, the westerly half of the house and land (208:139). It remained in his possession for many years. After his death, this half (which had long been mortgaged) was sold to his sons, James and Samuel G Fairfield, for \$775 in May 1845 (358:29; also mortgage 215:160).

Over in the eastern half: in the spring of 1814 Mrs Polly (Murray) Ward, the owner, was dying; on 3 Mar 1814 via straw Jonathan Archer she granted her half to her husband Israel Ward (203:24, 25). Three weeks later, 24 Mar 1814, aged 35 years, she died. Her husband Israel eventually (in 1831) married again, to Sarah Gerrish; he died 4 June 1849, aged 70 years, and was survived by his second wife Sarah and his eldest son Israel; the eastern half was then valued at \$625, and he also owned a garden plot on Carlton Street and the house & land where his son lived in Lynn (#56302). On 24 June 1864 Israel's widow Sarah, then of Hamilton, Mass., granted her right in the Salem premises, in consideration of "friendly feelings," to her step-son, cordwainer Israel Ward of Lynn; the other half was then occupied by Samuel G Fairfield (855:281). Soon after, on 27 July 1864, Israel Ward of Lynn for \$200 sold the eastern half to James Fairfield of Salem (673:197). On 26 Aug 1864 for \$200 James granted the eastern half to his younger brother Samuel G Fairfield (673:198). This evidently gave Samuel full ownership of the house at 4 Becket Street.

Samuel G Fairfield died possessed of the house & land on 3 Sept 1889, having willed it to his wife Jane S; he left a son William M and a daughter Lucy S, wife of William A Rust (#68269). Mrs Fairfield owned the estate until 22 Nov 1902, when she sold it to her daughter Mrs Rust (1690:528). Mrs Rust owned it nearly twenty years; on 14 June 1921, a widow, she sold the house & land to Joseph U LeMay of Salem (2484:554). The house had been in possession of the Murray brothers and their direct descendants since 1747--a period of 174 years.

On 1 Feb 1924 Joseph U LeMay granted the premises to Joseph Polansky and his siter Mrs Frieda Kaplan of Salem, and the same day they mortgaged it to the Salem Savings Bank (2587:440,441). After 22 years this mortgage was foreclosed (1 Jan 1946) and on 1 Ap 1946 the Bank granted the house and land to Peter A Tzortzes of Salem (3457:66). On 10 Nov 1950 Mr Tzortzes granted the 4 Becket Street estate to Veronica Graboski and Wladyslaw Dobrosielski of Salem (3783:572).

On 12 July 1951 Graboski & Dobrosielski granted the Benjamin Phippen house to Peter N Drillis and his wife Harriet D Drillis, of Salem (3830:576).

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Notes:

This house has post-and-beam construction characteristic of the period; all the formerly exposed timbers were long ago covered up by box-mouldings with beaded trim--all except that part of the girt directly over the inside door-frame of the door to Becket Street, which part of the girt is uncovered and therefore reveals its chamfering. Over the years additions were made to the wsstern part of the original house, and a small lean-to added to the back or northerly part of the eastern half of the house, accounting for the present roofline there. The eastern cellar beam is one of the largest sticks in Salem. The western (kitchen) summer beam has cracked. The original central chimney is long-gone.

Mrs Drillis, present owner, was told by a Mr McDonald (?), now dead, of Marblehead, that he had moved this house to its present location from old Elm or Walnut Streets before they were turned into Hawthorne Boulevard. This never happened: photographs show that there never was a house like this (with side door and slightly elongated pitch roof) on those streets; the Hopkins Salem atlas of 1874 clearly shows the outline of a house that could only be this one, at 4 Becket Street; and measurements given in early deeds correspond to measurements of the present house in its present location. This house has never been moved, and is probably the oldest still standing on Becket Street.

## PHIPPEN

I. Benjamin, fisherman (b. 29 Sept 1688, son of Joseph & Damaris (widow of Thomas Searle) Phippen of Salem), m. 1 Nov 1715 Ruth Marston (bp 14 Mar 1697, dtr of deacon John & Mary (Gardner) (widow of Habakkuk Turner) Marston of Salem; he probably died in 1725 or 1726; she m(2) 22 Dec 1726 Henry West of Salem. Known children of Benjamin and Ruth:

- 1) Benjamin, bp 28 Ap 1717, cordwainer, m. 5 July 1739 Hannah Becket; had a dtr Mary, bp 6 July 1743.
- 2) Elizabeth, bp 7 Sept 1718
- 3) Ruth, 1719, d. unm'd 10 Dec 1785.

## MURRAY (and descendants)

A. Peter, mariner, m. 29 Oct 1745 Hannah Slate (she died, his widow, 28 Dec 1796, of palsy, aged abt 73 years). Issue:

- 1) Peter, 1746, cooper, m. 7 May 1771 Margaret Webb of Salem (1751-95); she d. 19 July 1795, a. 44y, of consumption; he d. 13 Feb 1807, a. 61y, of consumption. Issue:
  - a) Mary ("Polly"), 1779, m. 9 Jan 1803 Israel Ward; she d. 24 Mar 1814; he m. (2) 7 Aug 1831 Sarah Gerrish; he d. 4 June 1849, a. 73y.  
Issue of Israel & Polly, surnamed Ward:
    - 1) Israel, 3 Oct 1803, married, of Lynn in 1864.
    - 2) Peter Murray, 15 June 1805, d. at sea 4 Aug 1824.
    - 3) Jonathan, 20 June 1808, d. 8 May 1809.
    - 4) Jonathan, 2 Jan 1814, d. 21 Oct 1814.

B. James, mariner, m. 14 May 1746 Elizabeth Foot of Salem.

- 1) Elizabeth, 1747?, m. 28 Mar 1767 John Fairfield; they had at least:
  - a) James Murray, 16 Jan 1777, mariner, m. 24 Dec 1809 Deborah Goodridge of Beverly; they had atleast this issue; *surnamed Fairfield*:
    - 1) James, 11 Aug 1806, m. 3 Mar 1828 Mary Ann Archer.
    - 2) Samuel Goodridge, 19 Feb 182\_, m. 29 Ap 1849 Jane S Hill; issue
      - a) William M, of Lynn in 1889.
      - b) Lucy S, m. William A Rust .

1757

Deacon John Marston & W<sup>fe</sup>: To Benj<sup>a</sup>. Shippen Rec<sup>d</sup>: on Record Jan<sup>y</sup>: 23<sup>d</sup>

Know all men by these Presents that we deacon John Marston of Salem in  
 the County of Essex in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New Englands  
 house Carpenter and Mary my wife for and in Consideration of the Sum of  
 Twenty five pounds Current money of New England to us in hand paid by  
 Benjamin Shippen of Salem aforesaid Fisherman the Receipt whereof we  
 do hereby Acknowledge and our selves therewith fully Satisfied and con-  
 tented have bargained and Sold and do hereby grant Bargain Sell Aliens  
 Endow convey and Confirm unto the said Benjamin Shippen and to his heirs  
 and Assignes for ever a Certain parcel of Land Situated lying and being  
 in Salem aforesaid Containing a quarter of an Acre and Six pole Be it more  
 or Less Bounded as followeth viz: the said Land at the front Easterly against  
 the Land or highway is five pole and two foot and So Running the same  
 Breadth westerly abutting against the Land formerly in the possession of  
 Will<sup>m</sup>: West and Bounded Southerly w<sup>th</sup>: the Land of Sam<sup>l</sup>: Shippen and North-  
 ly w<sup>th</sup>: the Land formerly of Michael Combes now Grays or however Other  
 wife the same is Now Butted and Bounded or reputed to Be Bounded To  
 have and to hold the said piece or parcell of Land Containing a Quarter  
 of an Acre and Six pole be it more or Less Together w<sup>th</sup>: all the fences Fruit  
 Trees Orchards waters wayes wells Casements rights Liberties priviledges  
 Hereditaments and Appurtenances whatsoever thereunto Belonging or in  
 any wise Appertaining unto the said Benjamin Shippen his heirs and Assignes  
 for ever to his and their proper Use Benefit and behoof for ever as an Estate  
 in Fee And we the said John Marston and Mary my wife for our selves our heirs  
 Executors and Adm<sup>r</sup>: do Covenant promise and Grant to and w<sup>th</sup>: the said Benj<sup>a</sup>:  
 Shippen his heirs and Assignes By these presents in manner following the  
 is to Say that we are at the time of the Enrolling hereof the true Sold and Lawful

Owners of  $\frac{1}{2}$  Bargained premises and have good Right full power and Law  
 full authority to grant Bargain Sell and Convey  $\frac{1}{2}$  Said in manner as afo-  
 -said and  $\frac{1}{2}$  Above Bargained premises is free and Clear and freely and  
 -clearly Acquitted Exonerated and discharged of and from all and all man-  
 -ner of former and Other gifts grants Bargains Sales Leases Mortgages  
 Executions Entails Fines Amorcements Titles Troubles Charges and  
 Incombrances whatsoever and further that we  $\frac{1}{2}$  Said John Marston and  
 Mary my wife our heirs Executors and Administrators Shall and will  
 warrant Acquit and defend him  $\frac{1}{2}$  Said Benj<sup>d</sup> Shippen his heirs and Assigns  
 in  $\frac{1}{2}$  peaceable and Quiet possession of  $\frac{1}{2}$  Above Bargained premises  
 against all Lawfull Claimors from time to time and at all times for-  
 -ever hereafter In witness whereof we have herunto Set our hands  
 and Seals this 22 day of January Anno Regni Regis Georgi Nunc Mag-  
 nae Britanniae &c. Quarto Annoq<sup>3</sup> Dom: 1757.

Sign'd Seal'd & Delivered,

John. Marston & a Seal

In  $\frac{1}{2}$  presence of.

The mark of Mary<sup>m</sup> Marston & a Seal

us. After  $\frac{1}{2}$  word formerly) and  $\frac{1}{2}$  words (now Brayer) were Enter lined.

Edward Gyles. Mark of Mary W Stacey.

Esox. fs.

Salem  $\frac{1}{2}$  22. of Jan: 1757<sup>th</sup> Then Deacon John Mar-

-ston and Mary his wife personally Appeared and Acknowledged  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  Above writton Instrument, to be Their Voluntary Act & deed.

Exam

Stephen Sewall. Jus<sup>t</sup> peace

An Inventory of the Estate of Benjamin  
 Shippen, Late of Salem Deceased and  
 Taken by us the Subscribers Nov. 7 1738  
 a Double house with about 40 poles  
 of Land Situate in ~~the~~ Eastern  
 Parish in Salem, bounded Easterly  
 on Parkets lane Southerly on Land of 220  
 of Rachel Shippen West. on Land of  
 Sam<sup>r</sup> Hartton North on Land of Dan  
 Webb<sup>r</sup> & Widow Aray . . . . .  
 a few in the <sup>gallery of the</sup> meeting house in the Land of 10  
 Parish in Salem . . . . . 230

Salem Sept. 20. 1738  
 then this above named Jos<sup>r</sup> Bowditch  
 Esq<sup>r</sup> of the Middle Ward  
 of Timothy Pickering Miles Ward  
 appeared before mee the  
 Subscribers and took their  
 respective oaths to give true  
 appraisement and that they acted faithfully  
 as appraisers of sd<sup>r</sup> Estate  
 Benj<sup>r</sup> Shippen Esq<sup>r</sup> Bay<sup>r</sup> & Broome J. D<sup>r</sup>



*Essex* An Inventory and Appraisement of the  
Estate of Mr Peter Murray late of Salem  
in said County Cooper deceased

Uz. The Eastern end of a dwelling house, with the  
Land under & adjoining, Situate in Bukett  
Street, in said Salem . . . . . \$150.00.

Walnut Case of drawers \$6 / Stand Table mah<sup>y</sup> 2/50 9.50  
4 feet mahog<sup>y</sup> Table \$4 / 2 Breakfast Tables / 60 -- 4.60  
Six Chair 2/50 beaded Tackon bottom 4/ -- 6.50  
Glass 1/75 Bellows / 40 drapiron Shovel & Tongs / 3.15  
Tea kettle / 50 Warming Pan / 50 -- 1.00  
Copper scales & w<sup>ts</sup> of 2 Iron Pots 1 Dish kettle / 50 7.50  
2 Skillets & 1 Spider 1 Frying Pan, Spit, Gridiron, Summer<sup>s</sup> / 2.50  
2 Flatirons / 50 Slice & 2 Hammels / 70 Oven lid / 75 -- 1.95  
Old Pewter 10 1/4 @ 20 Turn ware / 30 Black turn Tea Pot / 50 -- 2.85  
Small Brass kettle / 25 Knives & forks & Tray 30 -- 0.55  
Choping knife, Candlestick & rolling Pin / 83 -- 0.33  
Old Silver 18 / 70 Crockery ware / 150 Light Stand / 12 20.32  
one Feather bed bolster & 2 Pillows w<sup>ts</sup> 51 @ 33 -- 16.83  
one Feather bed & Bolster w<sup>ts</sup> 48 @ 25 -- 12.00  
one Quilt 1/50 3 Blankets 2/ 4 15 Sheets 5/50 -- 9.00  
4 Pillow cases 2/ 2 Table Cloths / 75 5 Towels / 50 -- 3.25  
Wearing Apparral 107 Beadles & wedges / 30 -- 10.30  
wood ax / 75 spade & ho / 75 Grind Stone 1/ -- 2.50  
Coopers Old Tools 1/50 -- 1.50  
\$116.13

Salem July 20. 1807

Benjamin Ward  
Samuel Siblee  
Samuel Herrin

Committee  
sworn

Israel Ward Adm<sup>r</sup>  
I, Israel Ward Adm<sup>r</sup> do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Inventory of the Estate of Peter Murray late of Salem in said County Cooper deceased Interteste, so far as it comes to the hands or knowledge, and that if anything further shall hereafter occur, he will cause it to be added.  
before me *[Signature]*

HONORABLE *Daniel A. White* ESQUIRE, JUDGE OF PROBATE FOR THE  
 county of Essex.

Pursuant to a warrant from your honor, we, the subscribers, the committee therein named, having been first sworn,  
 have made the following

INVENTORY AND APPRAISEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF

*Israel Ward*

late of *Salem* in said county, *Hair dresser* deceased, testate, as  
 shown to us by the ~~testator~~ *Executrix*.

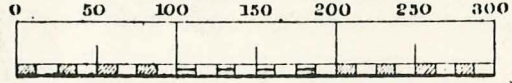
REAL ESTATE.

	Doll.	Cts.
<i>The Eastern half part of a Dwelling House situated on Becket Street in Salem, with the Land under and adjoining, which is the same Estate which was occupied by the deceased.</i>	625	00
<i>A Lot of Land bounding Westerly by Carlton Street in Salem, being the same which was improved by the deceased as a Garden.</i>	300	00
<i>A Dwelling House with the Land under and adjoining situated on Church Street in the City of Lynn, being the Estate which is now occupied by Israel Ward the son of the deceased.</i>	500	00
	Dollars.	1425 00
<i>Personal Estate.</i>		
<i>Bedstead, Bed &amp; Pillow \$3.00</i>	<i>Dress \$2.00</i>	5 00
<i>Looking Glass - - - - - 50c</i>	<i>Tally .25</i>	75
<i>8 Chairs - - - - - 1.00</i>	<i>Stove 1.00</i>	1 80
<i>Contents of Closet - - - 1.00</i>	<i>Contents Parlor \$1.00</i>	2 00
	Doll.	9 55

*September 1850*

# PARTS OF WARDS 1. & 2. SALEM.

Scale: 100 feet to 1 inch.



1874 Atlas

