

Historic Salem Incorporated

OFFICES AT 15 SUMMER STREET

POST OFFICE BOX 865 SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS 01970 / PHONE (617) 745-0799

12 Chestnut Street

Built for

Captain Jonathan Hodges, town treasurer

in the year

1805

Research by,

Joyce King

May 1980

*"to preserve Historic Sites, Buildings and objects,
and to work for the education of the community
in the true value of the same."*

12 Chestnut Street

"Chestnut street was laid out from Summer street nearly to Flint street in 1801. It has always been called by its present name." (Essex Antiquarian, Vol. 4, Page 161) (Appendix A - The History of Chestnut St. as written in the Salem Historic Commission District Study)

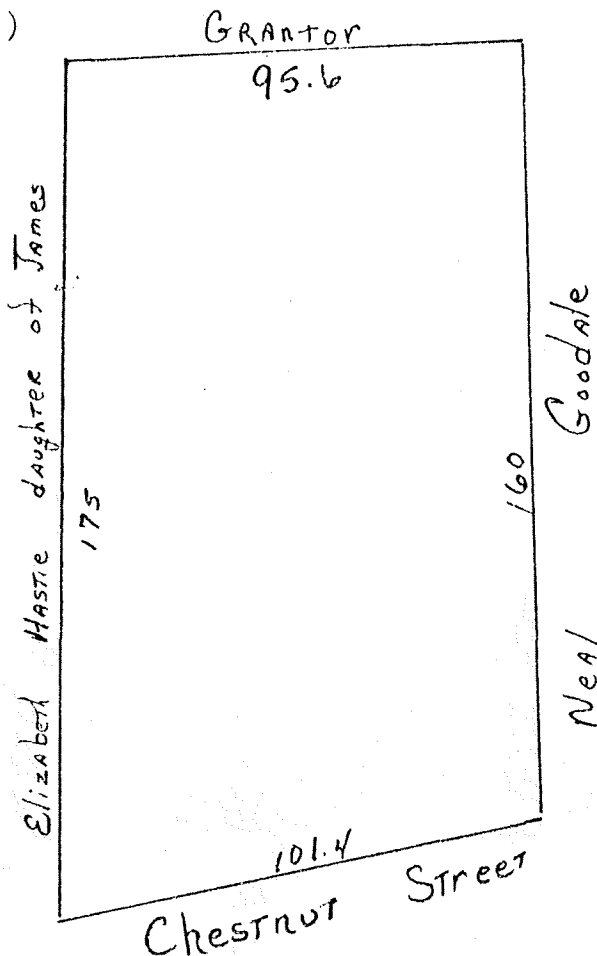
The house at 12 Chestnut St. is described by the Salem Historic Commission as:

"This 3 story; square, brick (Flemish Bond), hip roof house was designed by Samuel McIntire for Capt. Jonathan Hodges as a two-family house and was built in 1805, according to the Gazette 1806 list. Fiske Kimball believes that it was altered about 1845, and that the front portico with its acanthus leaf capitals dates from that period. He also suggests that other changes have been made inside the house from time to time. He does not mention the rectangular window lintels which are strikingly different from any of the others used on the street during this first decade of the 19th century, but similar to those on houses built around 1830.

The house is set back from the street and occupies a large lot of land. East of the house in the yard there is a Federal period wooden chaise house which was partially burned several years ago, and beyond that there is a large garden.. On the west side a row of Cherry trees used to separate this house from #14. A trim, cast iron fence separates the residence from the sidewalk."

The lot on which this house stands was part of the land owned by Thomas Maule in 1681. (Mr. Maule's house stood on Essex St. and was removed around 1856) The grandchildren of Thomas Maule conveyed the estate to Gabriel Holman, latter in the 1740's. Mr. Holman died before 1765. Deacon Samuel Holman, son of Gabriel, became the owner of the house, latter's shop (both on Essex St.), and the eastern part of the estate in the 1780's.

On Dec. 27, 1802 Samuel Holman, hatter, sold to Jonathan Hodges, for the sum of \$1,200, "the south part of land belonging to me partly by inheritance and partly purchased of William Holman, Elizabeth Archer, Judith Lamson and Hannah Holman; and which was assigned to me in the division of the estate of my father Gabriel." (book 171 page 135)



The tax records indicate that Capt. Hodges had his elegant residence built on this lot in 1805:

1804	Jona. Hodges	- house lot on Chestnut St.	\$800
1805	"	- new house on Chestnut St.	\$3,000

(Appendix B - Fiske Kimball's documentation as a McIntire house)

The Lee Collection at the Essex Institute includes a letter written by John Clarke which states that James Nichols, of Cambridge St., was the mason for the Robinson House #10 Chestnut and probably for the Hodges House #12 as well.

Captain Hodges moved into his new dwelling house, shortly after its completion, with his wife Mary and six children: Elizabeth age 16, Mary 14, George A. 11, Samuel R. 8, Priscilla S. 6 and Edward 1.

This house must have provided a beautiful setting for at least three weddings during the Hodges occupancy: Elizabeth's marriage to George Cleaveland, Mary's marriage to John Stone on May 2, 1819, and Priscilla's marriage to John Clark in Sept. of 1821.

A notation in the Lee Scrapbooks at the Essex Institute (vol. 3, page 131) states:

"Captain Hodges arranged his house for two families at the time Mr. John Clark was to marry Priscilla daughter of Capt. H. After Mr. and Mrs. Clark left town Capt. George Cleaveland occupied it. Mrs. Cleaveland was also a daughter of Capt. H."

Another notation states that a poplar tree which stood between #10 and #12 Chestnut Street was uprooted in the gale of 1815.

On May 8, 1829 Jonathan Hodges, Esq. sold for \$13,000 to Elizabeth R. Orne, of Salem, minor, and \$4,309 to Sally F. Orne for her own use and in trust for minor "my mansion house and outbuildings"

North - Holman and Page
East - Cloutman and Robinson
South - Chestnut St.
West - James Hastie

"Also the dwelling house and land on Summer street I purchased of Sally Blyth 1796, land in the great pasture and land on Broad St."
(book 252 page 61)

Sally F. (Ropes) Orne was the widow of Joseph Orne. Mr. Orne died in 1818 at the age of 22 leaving Sally and their 8 month old daughter Elizabeth R, as his heirs. Capt. Jonathan Hodges (uncle of Sally, by marriage) was named trustee of \$40,000 which Mr. Orne left for his daughter Elizabeth.

The Hodges family continued to live in the house at 12 Chestnut St. after the transfer of ownership to Mrs. Orne and her daughter, as shown by the tax records and directory listings:

12 Chestnut St.:

1831 tax - Sally F. Orne, owner house \$5,000

occupants George Cleaveland

Samuel R. Hodges

1836 dir. - George Cleaveland

Jonathan Hodges, town treasurer

John Stone, distiller

(Sally F. Orne lived at 318 Essex St. - Ropes Mansio

A letter written in 1884 by H. W. S. Cleaveland mentions:

"Uncle George (Cleaveland) lived in half the house of his father-in-law, Jona Hodges and I have delightful recollection of many happy days spent there and of him and his wife who for many years was crippled with rheumatism so that she could not rise from her chair." (Lee Scrapbooks, vol. 1 page 114)

Capt. Hodges died May 23, 1837 at the age of 73. One account of his life is given in "The Salem Cadets" an organization formed in 1785, as an infantry company:

Commander Jonathan Hodges, 1793-1795

"Died May 23, 1837, aged 73. He was a son of Gamaliel Hodges, and was born March 1, 1764. He was in early life a merchant, and owned and carried on a distillery in Neptune street. He was for some years cashier of the Salem Bank, and later the Town Treasurer. He owned and occupied the J. Willard Peele house in Chestnut street, now owned by Mr. Nathan Nichols."

After the death of Capt. Hodges the house was leased as indicated in the directory of 1842:

John Chadwick - 12 Chestnut St., cashier Exchange Bank

Daniel Bickford - "

1844 tax record:

12 Chestnut John Chadwick, cashier - Mrs. Ornes house \$6,000

On May 6, 1845 Sarah F. Orne, of Salem, & Benjamin Merrill, of Salem, executor and trustee under the will of Elizabeth R. Orne (she died March 8, 1842) sold to Jonathan Willard Feele, merchant, for the sum of \$6,000 the brick dwelling house and land:

North - Samuel Holman
East - Thomas, Charles and Mehitable Choate
South - Chestnut St.
West - John C. Lee

(book 356 page 51)

It may be of interest to include the obituary notice of Sally Fisk Orne even though she died more than 30 years after selling the house.

" Sally Fisk Orne, widow of Joseph Orne, Esq., and daughter of the late Nathaniel and Sarah (Putnam) Ropes, born in Salem May 11, 1795, died at her residence on Essex street on Tuesday morning, March 28, 1876, after a long and painful illness which she bore with Christian patience and submission. During the last years of her life the trials of her situation were rendered doubly severe by total blindness to her a dreadful affliction, depriving her of the power of seeing and freely conversing with friends to whom she had been for so many years so devotedly attached. It was seldom, however, that the slightest murmur escaped her lips; her strong and vigorous mind retained to the last its serenity and composure. Mrs. Orne was descended from families established at Salem in the first period of its history and always maintaining a high character in this neighborhood. She inherited many of the excellent qualities that so conspicuously marked the characters of the puritans of former days. Unswerving fidelity to truth and religious faith, tenacity of affection in domestic life, intense dislike of all that was pretentious or false, and a charitable and kindly disposition that avoided all public notice, made her the object of deep regard and respect to her family and friends. While her death must be considered only a beneficent release from mental and bodily suffering, it still brings sorrow to many hearts; sundering as it does so many pleasing and dear associations of the past, and extinguishing a name once frequent and honored in this community."

"Jonathan Willard Peele; merchant; lived in Salem and Boston, and removed to Beverly about 1869; married Sarah Ann Silsbee March 19, 1846; died Sept. 29, 1871; she survived him; children: 1. Willard Silsbee, born Nov. 20, 1847; living in 1888; 2. Jane A., born Dec. 8, 1848; unmarried in 1871; 3. Mary S., born April 17, 1851; married Daniel Dwight of Boston; 4. Edward L., born 1856; died Dec. 22, 1856, in Boston." (History of Salem, by Sidney Perley; vol. 3, page 59)

The federal census of 1850 gives a close look at the Peele household at 12 Chestnut St.:

J. W. Peele	age 40	prop. value \$8,000	born Mass
Sarah S. "	" 35		" "
Willard "	" 3		" "
Jane "	" 2		" "
Eileen Kelly	" 38		" Ire.
Catharine Mason	" 25		" Mass
Susan Kelly	" 22		" Me.
Eugene Kelly	" 13		" N.Y.

The tax records for the 1850's read:

1853 - J. W. Peele	house \$9,000	personal \$50,000
1854 - " "	" "	" "
1855 - " "	" "	" "
1857 - J. W. Peele	owner \$10,000	
1859 - J. W. Peele,	merchant at Phillips Wharf -	house \$10,000

On Nov. 1, 1865 J. Willard and Sarah A. Peele sold for \$17,000 to Nathan Nichols, "the message on Chestnut St.":

North	-	Curwin et al
East	-	Neal
South	-	Chestnut St.
West	-	John C. Lee

(book 692 page 53)

1866 tax record:

Nathan Nichols	age 56	owner--\$9,000	barn \$200	land 17,686 sq. ft.
		\$5,000		

The census of 1870 gives an insight as to the Nichols family:

			<u>Real est.</u>	<u>Personal</u>		
Nathan Nichols	age 54	shoe findings	\$17,500	\$5,000	born	Ms
Elizabeth R. "	" 49	keeps house			"	R.
Francis W. "	" 21	clerk in store			"	Ms
Elizabeth "	" 6	at home			"	"
Ann Rodman	" 58	no occ.			"	R.
Margaret O'Connell	" 22	domestic servant			"	Ir
Irene Storrel	" 27	nurse			"	Ir
Margaret Cass	" 28	domestic servant			"	Ir

The 1880 census shows the changes in the household:

Nathan Nichols	age 64				born	Ms
Elizabeth "	" 59	wife			"	R.
Francis "	" 21	son			"	Ms
Mimmi "	" 27	daughter-in-law			"	Ms
Millicent "	" 5	granddaughter			"	Ms
Frances "	" 3	" "			"	"
Ann Rodman	" 68	sister-in-law			"	R.
Bessie Nichols	" 16	daughter -	at school		"	Ms
Margaret Maloney	" 38	servant			"	Ir
Mary O'Brian	" 35	"			"	"
Lizzie Murray	" 21	"			"	"

On Feb. 28, 1888 Nathan and Elizabeth R. Nichols sold, for \$1 and other valuable consideration, to Emily C. F. West, wife of Arthur W., the same property conveyed to them by J. W. Peele:

North - James Curwen, Gillis Cousins
 East - formerly Fabens, now Little
 South - Chestnut St.
 West - Curwen and Lee

(book 1217 page 316)

(Mr. Nichols died two years later - see appendix C for obituary)

March 4, 1941 Anna Fessenden, of Salem, unmarried, sold to George E. Benson the land and buildings at 12 Chestnut St., the same conveyed to Emily C. F. West by deed of Nathan Nichols in 1888. I acquired my title by inheritance from my sister Emily C.F. West. (book 3247 page 344) (also see appendix D)

June 10, 1941 George E. and Corrine L. Benson sold to Chestnut St. Associates the same property conveyed by deed from Anna Fessenden. (book 3257 page 583)

On Dec. 28, 1943 John Pickering, secretary of the executive Committee of the Chestnut St. Assc. held at 29 Chestnut St., Nov. 8, 1943 authorized the property at 12 Chestnut St. to be delivered by deed of the Association to Nathalie G. Seamans for \$11,500. (book 3358 page 160)

Nov. 18, 1968 Nathalie G. Seamans, widow, sold to Channing and Joan H. Bacall, of 4 Federal Ct., the land and buildings at #12 Chestnut St.

North - Cousins, Gillis, Curwen
East - Mc Dermott
South - Chestnut St.
West - Benson and Curwen

(book 5573 page 491)

(Note: The Essex Institute has in its collection excellent photos of this house; Neg.#5259, #15676, #7068, #16039 and #5257)

Reference to book and page are deed books at the Registry of Deeds, all probate numbers can be found in Probate Court. Both are located in the same building on Federal St., Salem.

(A)

Chestnut Street was laid out in 1796 by the town of Salem. Originally it was to be only forty feet wide, but John Pickering and Pickering Dodge wanted it wider, and in 1804, it was finally agreed that it should be its present width. The April 1945 copy of the Essex Institute Historical Collections contains an amusing story about the squabbles resulting from the differences of opinion about its width which resulted in a wall built to divide uncooperative land owners from the street. The author, John Nichols, wrote that when Captain Phillips' house at 17 Chestnut Street was being built, each workman was to carry away a stone from the wall each time he left work until the wall was finally removed. The short portion of the street from Cambridge to Summer Street was probably a lane prior to 1796, which would have given access to a brick yard then on the site of Hamilton Hall. However, the northern section of Cambridge Street was also open some years prior to Chestnut Street. It is thought that Ruck's Creek or Sweet's Cove came nearly up to the eastern end of Chestnut Street, and supposedly the land around it was boggy.

Why the new street was named Chestnut Street is not known. The first homeowners planted elm and Lombardy poplar trees along the street; the poplars blew down in a storm in 1815 and were replaced by more elms. The householders also provided their own sidewalks and a visitor to Salem in 1826 (Essex Institute Historical Collections, Volume 42, page 276) wrote, "there is one (church) in a noble street which has lofty spire. . . This street. . . is one of the finest I ever saw. It has noble sidewalks and the buildings on each side gave the impression of comfort and elegance." The elms and slender, soaring Federal period chimneys give the street a vertical rhythm just as the porticos provide accents at the sidewalk level. The average visitor to Salem

CHESTNUT STREET

(A)

the fact is that he is responsible for very few of them. The street is proof that Salem had an abundance of excellent master builders during this period. Salem in the early 1800's was a wealthy and cosmopolitan city as a result of its mercantile successes, and its merchants, who had sailed to the ends of the earth, built these large and impressive homes for themselves. Occasionally several of the houses fly the "house flags" or private signals of the merchants who built the houses. When the street was younger the proud householders undoubtedly enjoyed showing ^{it} off frequently, just as all Salem does today. In 1846, Bentley mentions that the Militia "troops were first displayed in Chestnut Street and there received the Regimental Standards." Certainly most of the visiting dignitaries were entertained on and saw the street. Chestnut Street has been the home of many of Salem's mayors. Several of the finest buildings are said to have been built for Pickering Dodge; it would be interesting to study his influence on the street and try to discover his reasons for building more than one house.

CHESTNUT STREET - SOUTH SIDE #'s 1-43

#1 Chestnut Street RATING: ONE. PERIOD: THIRD QUARTER

According to Wiswall, this interesting house was built about 1846 by Francis Cox on land previously a garden, and before that Aiken's Bakery. Charles Archer in a 1922 Salem News article wrote that Cox bought the land in 1825.

The wooden house has two stories, plus a combination pitch and hip roof and is asymmetrical, a characteristic of the new romantic architectural styles. The house represents a clean break with the balanced classical facades of the Federal period, ^m and the Greek Revival. There are paired

(B)

Mr. Samuel McIntire, Carver

The Custom House occupied quarters in the building from 1805 to 1807. There have been removed from the building a number of plain mantels like the simpler ones used by McIntire in upstairs rooms of his houses. The late Henry M. Batchelder had two in his house on Lafayette Street; another is in the headmaster's house at the Loomis Institute Windsor, Connecticut.

Jonathan Hodges House

12 Chestnut Street

Built 1805

Principal owners: Hodges, Peete, Nichols, West

(Figures 261, 252)

The plan, with McIntire's technique and handwriting, has his inscription on the back stating that it is "for Capt. Hodges." Its identity was recognized by Henry W. Belknap; he has checked by its dimensions and original arrangement, in spite of later changes.

Samuel Holman sold the land to Jonathan Hodges, December 27, 1802. The *Salem Gazette* for August 20, 1805, advertises the auction of a lot at the corner of Chestnut and Cambridge Streets, "between the elegant residence of Jonathan Hodges and the new South Church." The house is listed as "Built 1805," in the contemporary list of brick houses standing in Salem at the beginning of 1806, frequently cited in this volume.

As the "Rough plan," with its two pantries suggests, the house was built as a double house with three stairs and doors, southwest and north. On the east wall the rear tier of windows in the front rooms was omitted. It was altered after 1845 by J. Willard Peete to a single house with a new porch, the west door and stairway being removed, and the arrangement of the northeastern quarter being modified. At this period the old woodwork was mostly removed and replaced by black walnut and marble, removed in turn by Arthur Webster West, who bought the house in 1888. The only original interior finish left is the scrolls on the stair ends. The front doorway and porch, with its Greek detail, is evidently later in date than the house itself.

Residents of the eastern half have been: George Cleveland, 1837, Daniel Bickford 1842, J. Willard Peete, 1846, Martha Nichols, 1856, Francis W. Nichols, 1869, Nathaniel Nichols, 1881, Arthur Webster West, 1888.

CHAPTER

Steeple of the Tabernacle Church

Washington and Federal Streets, Salem

Church begun 1776; steeple erected 1805; building demolished 1854

(Figures 263, 264)

The steeple shown in the drawing is identical, in the main, with that of the former Tabernacle Church, as shown in an old lithograph here reproduced, in a woodcut in the Tabernacle Memorial, 1855, and in the old painting of Washington Street at the Essex Institute.⁴⁸ Proportions and general arrangement tally exactly; the position of the balustrade

⁴⁸ Reproduced by Cousins and Riley: "The Woodcarver of Salem," Plate cxv.

the choir sang the bridal chorus by Cowen. A reception was held by the bride's parents at the close of the wedding, which was largely attended. The elegant residence of ex-Gov. Smith was beautifully decorated for the reception, and the newly-wedded pair were the recipients of hearty congratulations from all present. Music was furnished by the St. Albans Orchestra. The wedding gifts numbered several hundred, including many rare and costly ones. A fine collation was served the guests, and at the close of the reception the bridal couple left for New York, from whence they will sail on Saturday for a two months' bridal tour. Among the more prominent invited guests present at the wedding from abroad were Mr. and Mrs. Carleton Coffin, Oliver and Mrs. Crocker Stevens of Boston, Hon. Edward J. Phelps, Lieut. Gov. U. A. Woodbury, Hon. and Mrs. B. B. Smalley, Rev. M. H. Buckham, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Peck of Burlington, ex-Gov. and Mrs. Samuel E. Pingree of Hartford, Hon. and Mrs. Charles P. Marsh of Woodstock and Col. and Mrs. E. H. Powell of Richford.

Salem Gazette.

FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1890.

BIRTHS.

In Gloucester, July 7, a son to Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Ingersoll; 20th, a daughter to City Clerk and Mrs. W. T. Kimball of Lawrence.

In Minneapolis, Minn., July 19, a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Kendrick.

MARRIAGES.

In this city, July 22, by Rev. Mr. Jaques, Mr. Joseph Aronault to Miss Delphine Richard.

21th, by Rev. J. P. Franks, assisted by Rev. Harry P. Nichols (brother of the bride), Rev. Franklin W. Bartlett, D. D., of Williamstown, Mass., Miss Katherine F. A. Nichols of Salem.

In Lynn, July 20, by Rev. Mr. Greeno, Charles A. Harwood to Miss Nellie L. Kent; 23th, by Rev. Mr. Williams, Arthur Hawkes to Mrs. Lizzie Howard; 21st, James E. Downing to Miss Lydia M. Cleveland; 21st, by Rev. Mr. Hinckley, William M. Mayberry to Miss Eliza M. Merritt, both of Quincy; 20th, by Rev. Dr. Pullman, Elliott H. Lewis of Swampscott to Miss Elizabeth Titus of Marblehead.

In Hamilton, July 21st, by Rev. Mr. Alvord, Mr. Francis Dane of H. to Miss Jennie N. Burnham of Cambridgeport.

DEATHS.

In this city, July 19, Alice, daughter of James and Annie F. Campbell, 7 mos. 10 days.

Joseph, son of John F. and Honora T. Ambrose, 23 days.

21st, Mrs. Mary, widow of Dennis Donahue, 66 yrs.

Harold P., son of Charles H. and Lillian F. Huskellford, 1 yr. 5 mos. 7 days.

22d, Joseph Wilfrid, son of Edouard and Olivino Garon, 3 mos. 22 days.

23d, Mrs. Adeline, wife of Mr. Zehiro Bercler, 64 yrs.

24th, Nathan Nichols, 74 yrs. 8 mos. 2 days.

Funeral Saturday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, from 44 Chestnut street. Burial private. Friends kindly requested not to send flowers.

In Marblehead, July 23, at the Neck, of diphtheria, Edgar, son of Edgar and Sara Robinson Harding, 3 yrs. 11 mos. 21 days.

In Lynn, July 19, Frank Choate, 25 yrs.; Samuel Tarbox, 55 yrs.; Charles Smith, 23 yrs. 8 mos.; 20th, Alice S., daughter of the late Benjamin F. Edmunds of Charlestown, 73 yrs. 5 mos.

In Saugus, July 22, Susan D., daughter of Thos. C. and Harriet C. Hill, 19 yrs. 6 mos. 23 days.

In Nahant, July 19, Nathan H. Twist, 62 yrs.

In Essex, July 21, Mrs. Martha S., widow of William A. Richardson, 58 yrs. 10 mos. 12 days.

In Gloucester, July 22, William Jackson of Boston, 30 yrs.

In Dedham, July 18, Mrs. Lena R., wife of Henry D. Humphrey, and oldest daughter of Sidney and Susan Witham of Gloucester, 24 yrs.

In Dover, N. H., July 21, Ann Ashton, 75 yrs. mos.

In Rawdon, N. S., July 20, Dean Seaman Dudley, 81 yrs. 10 mos. 12 days.

OBITUARY.

NATHAN NICHOLS, a well known and highly respected citizen, died at his residence in Chestnut street yesterday (Thursday) forenoon, at the age of 74 years 8 months and 2 days. He was born in Salem, Nov. 22, 1815. He was a son of Ichabod and Cassandra (Frye) Nichols, who were members of the Society of Friends, and the youngest of the well-known brothers, William F., Thomas, and Joseph S. Nichols, all of whom were men of real worth and like the younger brother who has just passed away, respected members of this community. There were also three sisters, one of whom died, and two are still living at the old homestead. Born into the Society of Friends, Mr. Nichols retained his active relationship with it for most of his life. He attended the Yearly Meeting of Friends for not less than fifty consecutive years, which is a noteworthy record, and perhaps one that is not equalled.

At an early period of his life Mr. Nichols became a bookkeeper in one of the Lynn banks. He then went with Hustin, Sumner & Co., of Boston, who were engaged in the dry goods commission business, of which shoe finding was a department. He later went into business in Boston as a member of the firm of Boyce & Nichols, and afterwards was the senior member of the firm of Nichols & Farnsworth in the same city. While a member of these firms, the business was exclusively shoe-finding. Mr. Nichols has always been prominently identified with the Exchange Bank of Salem, under both its State and National organization, and he was president of the bank at the time of his death.

We think Mr. Nichols never held a public office, not because the community would not have gladly bestowed it upon him, but for the reason that he had no taste for public life. He was an unassuming man, quiet, undemonstrative, but very genial and companionable. Though not aspiring to public position, he was very far from being indifferent to public affairs, and was always interested in the public questions of the day. He was a very intelligent man, a careful and extensive reader, and consequently more than ordinarily well informed upon a wide variety of subjects.

Mr. Nichols was taken sick some ten weeks ago. He showed no improvement and within the past three weeks his failure has been steady and rapid until yesterday forenoon, when he passed peacefully away. Mr. Nichols leaves a wife, one son and two daughters, besides many personal friends who will hold him in very pleasant remembrance.

MRS. MARTHA W. CUMPTON, one of the oldest twins in America, died at Portland, Me., on Wednesday. Mrs. Cumpston and her sister, Mrs. Mary M. Hademan, were born during the memorable snowstorm of January 27, 1806. Their maiden name was Powell.

plant, thoroughly equipped and maintained in the highest sanitary condition.

Aside from his business, Mr. Butrick is active in fraternal work, being a member of Sagadahew Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons; Pentucket Chapter, Royal Arch Masons; Haverhill Council, Royal and Select Masters, Haverhill Commandery, Knights Templar, and the Scottish Rite bodies, including the thirty-second degree, and is a member of Aleppo Temple, Mystic Shrine, at Boston. He is also a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Knights of Pythias, and socially, of the Pentucket Club. He is a member of the West Parish Congregational Church, and is prominent in its work.

Mr. Butrick married, in 1908, L. Agnes Callahan, of Haverhill, who, as mentioned above, is active in business.

ARTHUR WEBSTER WEST—Philanthropist and man of affairs, Arthur Webster West was for many years an important and familiar figure in the life of Salem. He inherited wealth and distinguished position but he keenly felt the responsibilities which accompany them, and his fine public spirit and enlightened social conscience made his career beneficial to his community.

Mr. West was born in Salem on August 24, 1861, a son of Benjamin A. and Nancy (Downing) West. His father was a leading merchant of Salem at the height of the city's commercial prosperity and his vessels plied the seas in the China and East Indian trade and visited the ports of the world.

Arthur Webster West was educated in Salem public schools and subsequently spent two years at Harvard. He inherited his father's large estate but never engaged in business, devoting himself to the management of his private interests and to the many civic activities in whose constructive influences it was the privilege of his com-

munity to share. Mr. West was a member of the Salem Board of Aldermen over a long period and for a dozen years or more was an overseer of the poor. He brought to these duties the fidelity and fine talents which always distinguished him and when he resigned from the board he was given a testimonial dinner at the Salem Club by his associates, in appreciation of his unselfish service. As one of the "City Fathers" he was always progressive in his outlook and it was largely through his insistence that hospital treatment was furnished, when needed, for the inmates of the city home.

Mr. West was deeply interested in the Salem Hospital and his efforts on behalf of this institution endeared him to all the people of Greater Salem. For twenty years he was a trustee and later was president of the hospital, during which time it grew from its make-shift quarters in a remodeled dwelling to a commodious establishment occupying its own modern building, equipped with every facility to relieve suffering and cure disease. Mr. West not only formulated the forward-looking policy of the institution but personally kept in charge the overseeing of all details and finances of the hospital. He gave unsparingly of his time and energy in this work and made many substantial contributions to the cause. His talents as an organizer and as a leader of the varied community interests of Salem were well recognized.

Mr. West had numerous other local connections. For fifteen years he was a director of the Naumkeag National Bank and at the end of that time assumed the duties of the presidency, serving to fill a vacancy until a permanent successor could be elected. Thereafter, he continued to give his valuable counsel and sound judgment to the management of the bank's affairs. In 1894 he became a trustee of Harmony Grove Cemetery and in 1902 was chosen president of

office he occupied until his death. In this, as in his other active interests, he served with devotion and success, and was instrumental in having the chapel and the crematory of the cemetery built. Their usefulness in later years proved his foresight and judgment many times over. Mr. West was also a member of the Essex Institute from 1880 until his death and was a director of the society. He was a member of the Salem Marine Society and was always very proud of that membership, in which he succeeded his father who was active in the society for many years. Mr. West attended the First Church of Salem. He was generous in his support of all worthy causes, whether or not they occupied his personal attention, and was a constant friend to the poor and needy of the community.

On April 13, 1886, Arthur Webster West married Emily C. Fessenden, of Salem, daughter of Dr. Joseph P. and Anna (Titcomb) Fessenden, who survives him.

Mr. West died in Salem on April 20, 1925. Endowed with large abilities, he was successful in whatever he undertook, and in all the activities of his life exemplified the highest type of citizenship. To a rare degree he enjoyed the esteem and confidence of his fellows and was greatly beloved for his tenderness of heart, his ready sympathy and unselfish kindness.

GEORGE W. RICHARDSON—As a successful manufacturer and later prominent in social circles, George W. Richardson has succeeded to occupy a prominent and influential position in the social, civic and business life of Newburyport.

Mr. Richardson, a native of the State of Massachusetts, was born in Jamaica Plain, May 25, 1861, the son of William H. and Frances S. (Coffin) Richardson. His father, who is deceased, for a number of years en-

gaged in the wholesale mercantile business and during the Civil War was a member of the Boston Light Infantry. Mr. Richardson received his early education in the public schools of his native community and later attended business college. After completing his studies he entered the novelty and comb manufacturing business, establishing the G. W. Richardson Company in Newburyport. He directed the activities of this business until 1919, when a disastrous fire completely destroyed his plant. Shortly after this calamity he turned his attention to the banking business, becoming president of the Ocean National Bank. During his administration the Ocean National Bank absorbed the First National Bank and changed its name to the First and Ocean National Bank, of which institution he became chairman of the board. In 1923 he was elected president of the Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank, a relation which continued until 1934, when he resigned because of poor health. His interests have not been limited solely to this phase of the business life of the community, for he has also served in an advisory capacity to many of the leading enterprises here, among them the Towle Manufacturing Company, of which he was a member of the finance committee for a number of years and later president for two years.

In his social activities he has become identified with the leading organizations, holding memberships in the Dalton Club, the Newburyport Chamber of Commerce, where he had the honor of serving as first treasurer, the Ould Newbury Golf Club, the Oldtown Country Club, and the Union Club of Boston. During the World War he was manager of the four Liberty Loan drives that were conducted here, and for the splendid work he accomplished in this connection he received a certificate of recognition for his services.

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Arthur W. West

House No 12. Brick

* Built by Jonathan Hodges in 1809 and a Double House until 1845 when Willard Peete, who moved into it, changed it to a single house.

Heretofore occupants.

Jonathan Hodges

* Samuel Williams

with Martha West

Rev Dr Wayland

James Frask. 1841

John Chadwick.

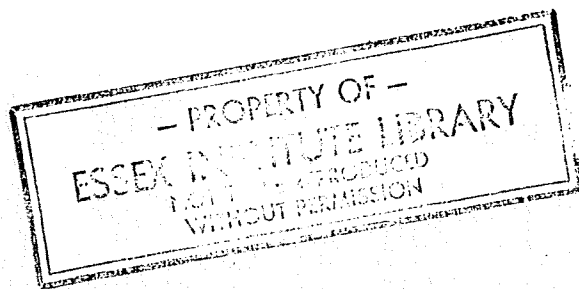
Even Wheelwright. 1843-45. Miss Wheelwright says 1841-43.

Willard Peete 1840-

Nathan Nichols.

George Cleveland.

Rev Rowland.



In old times, within my memory was a row of tall Magnolia Cherry trees along the line separating it from our Estate. (1800-1810)

Rev Dr Wayland was first a Baptist and afterwards an Episcopal Clergyman and was a brother of Dr Francis Wayland Pres of Brown University.

An error. The widow of Mrs John S. Williams informs me he never resided in the Street. She informs me that he never lived in the Street.

12 Chestnut Street

Notes:(found after the completion of the report)

"Priscilla S. (Hodges) Clark daughter of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Ropes) born Nov. 4, 1799, married John Clark, Sept. 4, 1821, died at Salem Oct. 12, 1882. Elected a member of the Essex Institute June 1, 1864. Mr. Clark son of John and Lydia (Sanderson) was born in Waltham March 14, 1796, gr. Harvard Coll. in 1816, soon after graduation was a teacher of a private school, in Salem, for several years; 1824 merchant in Boston; 1830 agent of Merrimac Manf. Co. Lowell; 1848 Treasurer of Great Falls Manf. Co, place of residence, Salem, where he died Jan. 28, 1851." (Essex Institute Annual Report 1882)

Gazette 1845:

West $\frac{1}{2}$ of brick dwelling house #12 Chestnut St. formerly occupied by E. Wheelwright. For rent.

B. Merrill (agent)

From
 The Buildings Commission
 117 N. Bowditch 1773-1838
 117 N. Bowditch 1773-1838

must be attributed to politics too, for Harvard College was distinctly Federalist in sentiment. The change to the First Church was a natural step, for Dr. Prince no less than Dr. Bentley had been Bowditch's friend and adviser from the days of his apprenticeship, and at that early time had given him access to the books of the Philosophical Library, which were kept at his house.

No. 15. The second Jonathan Hodges House. The search for Bowditch's next residence has been interesting. He himself supplied the first clue. In *Library Life*, the Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library, Vol. LV, No. 5, 15 February 1925, p. 54, there is printed for the first time Bowditch's manuscript account of his observation of the solar eclipse of June 1806, in which he says: "The observations were made in the garden adjoining the house of Mr. Hedges in which I then lived." Mr. Henry Noyes Otis, after trying in vain to find the house of Mr. Hedges, suggested that this might be a misprint for Mr. Hodges; and an examination of the original manuscript (B. P. L. MSS. **E. 5111. 29.) showed that this was the case. In the mean time it was found that in the printed account of the event (A. A. S. III. 1. 1809) Bowditch said: "I made preparations for the observation in the garden adjoining the house, in which I reside, near the northern part of Summer street, Salem." This shows that "in which I then lived" does not imply "from which I have now moved," but means "in which I was living by that time" (1806) and that he was still living there in 1808 when he wrote the published account. With these two clues the house was not hard to find. Jonathan Hodges bought from Samuel Holman a lot of land on the North side of Chestnut Street, a little west of the corner of Cambridge Street, 27 December 1802, and here he built his house (F. K. p. 112.). The date of the building is sometimes given as 1804, but it is included among the houses built or finished in 1805 in a list published in the Salem Gazette of 4 February 1806 (E. I. I. 55.). Chestnut Street was doubled in width to 80 feet, the work being completed 10 December 1804 (R. H. W. p. 2.), so it was probably after this date that the first brick houses were begun, the Hodges house being one of the first two brick houses on Chestnut Street



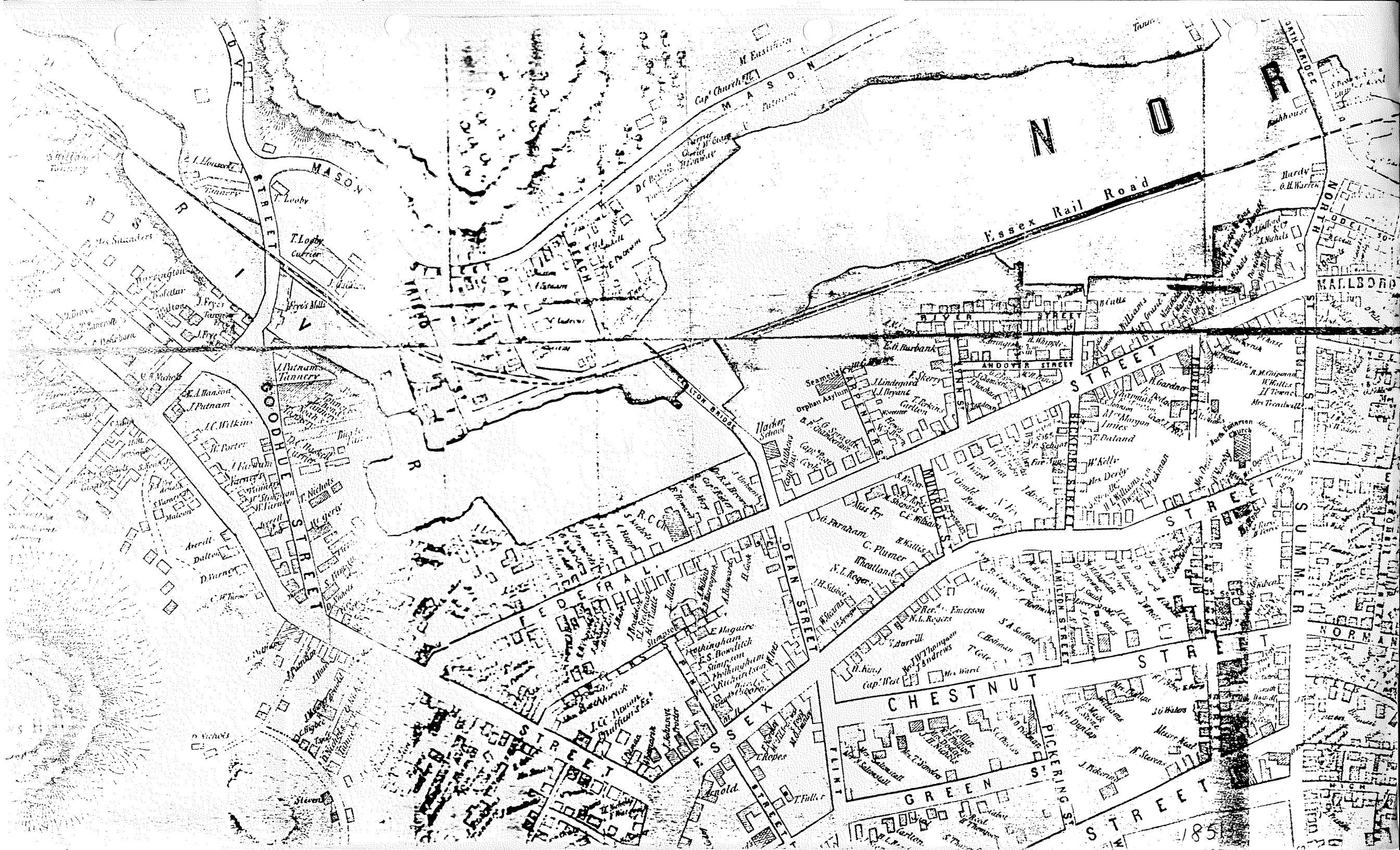
JONATHAN HODGES HOUSE
 Chestnut Street

1773-1838
 117 N

(R. H. W. p. 10.). The plans of the architect, Samuel McIntire, show it as a double house with three doors, one each in the middle of three sides, South (front), West and North (back), and three staircases (F. K., plans.). Just when Bowditch moved in is uncertain. His first child was born in January 1805 and it is unlikely that the house was ready for occupancy so early, but it is referred to in an advertisement of August 1805 (R. H. W. p. 10.). We do know that he was living there by June 1806, and at this time had but one child. By this time Jonathan Hodges was the father of seven children, so the Bowditch family probably occupied only a part, and not a full half, of this double house. Just why, in describing the location of his post of observation in June 1806, Bowditch did not use the name of Chestnut Street is not clear, for the street had received its name by 1796, being then a new street (B. D. II. 189.). The house is standing and in good condition, though greatly altered from its original state; it is now a single house and almost all of the McIntire decoration has been removed, but this was done many years ago. Its number on Chestnut Street is 12, next but one to the corner of Cambridge Street, and behind it is a beautiful garden. The identification of this house has a certain interest in connection with the study of the solar eclipse of 1806 and the observed latitude and longitude of Salem. It also has a genealogical interest, for children at that time were born at home, not in hospitals, so that we may pretty safely give the places of birth of the children of Nathaniel and Mary Bowditch. Nathaniel Ingersoll Bowditch, the first child, was born 17 January 1805, presumably in the Boardman house, now No. 82 Washington Square East. The second, third and fourth children—Jonathan Ingersoll Bowditch, born 15 October 1806, Henry Ingersoll Bowditch, born 9 August 1808, and Charles Ingersoll Bowditch, born 1 December 1809—must have been born in the Hodges house, now No. 12 Chestnut Street. This supplies an item missing in Dr. Vincent Y. Bowditch's account of his father, *Life and Correspondence of Henry Ingersoll Bowditch*, 1902.

No. 16. *His final residence in Salem.* On the 6th day of May 1811 Nathaniel Bowditch bought from William

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N O R

Essex Rail Road

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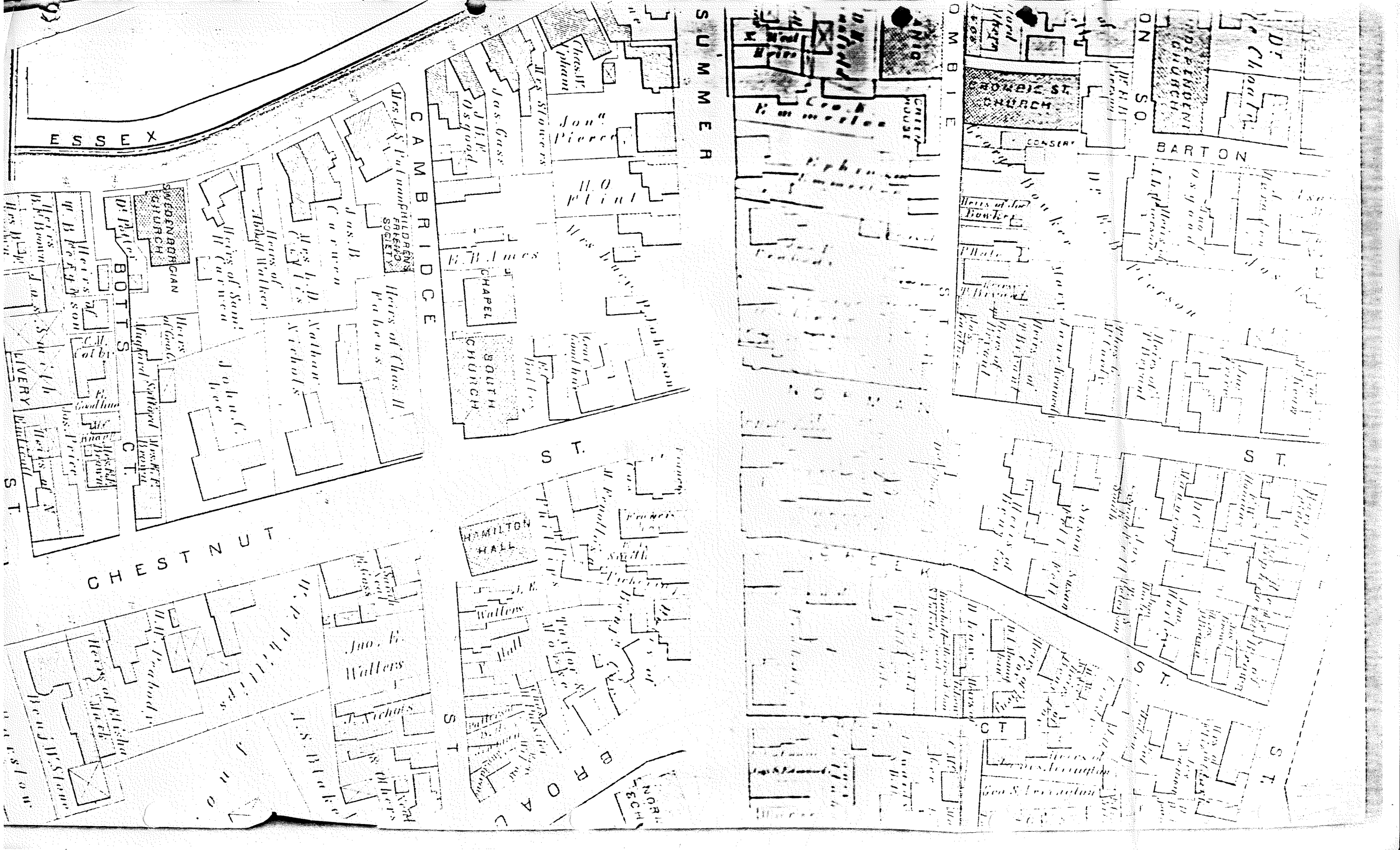
COOCHUE STREET

DEAN STREET

CHESTNUT

GREEN

1851



ESSEX

CAMBRIDGE

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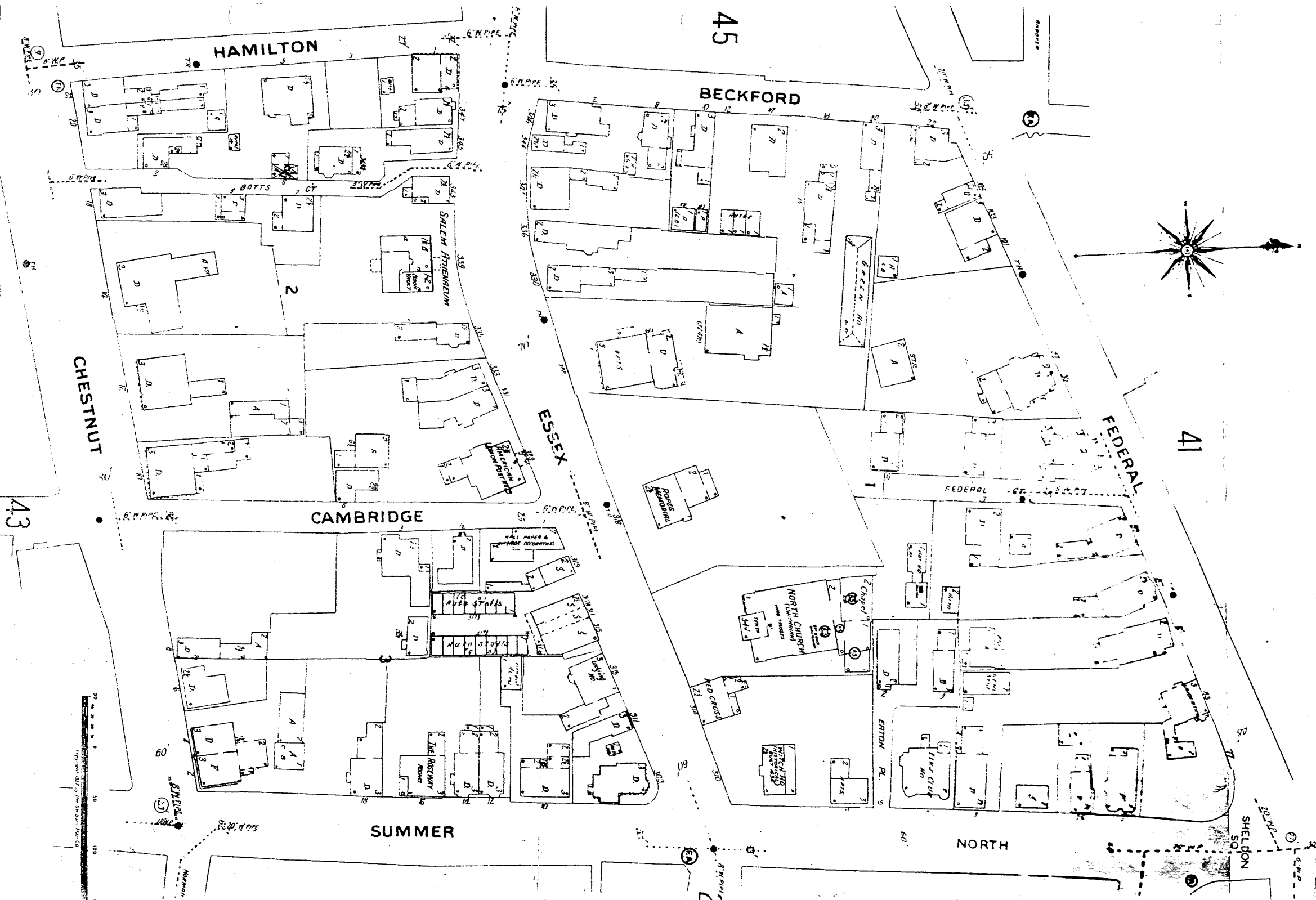
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45

HAMILTON

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41

43

SUMMER

NORTH

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