

# Historic Salem Incorporated

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

18 Summer Street

HOUSE of CAPT. TOBIAS DAVIS, merchant  
in 1805

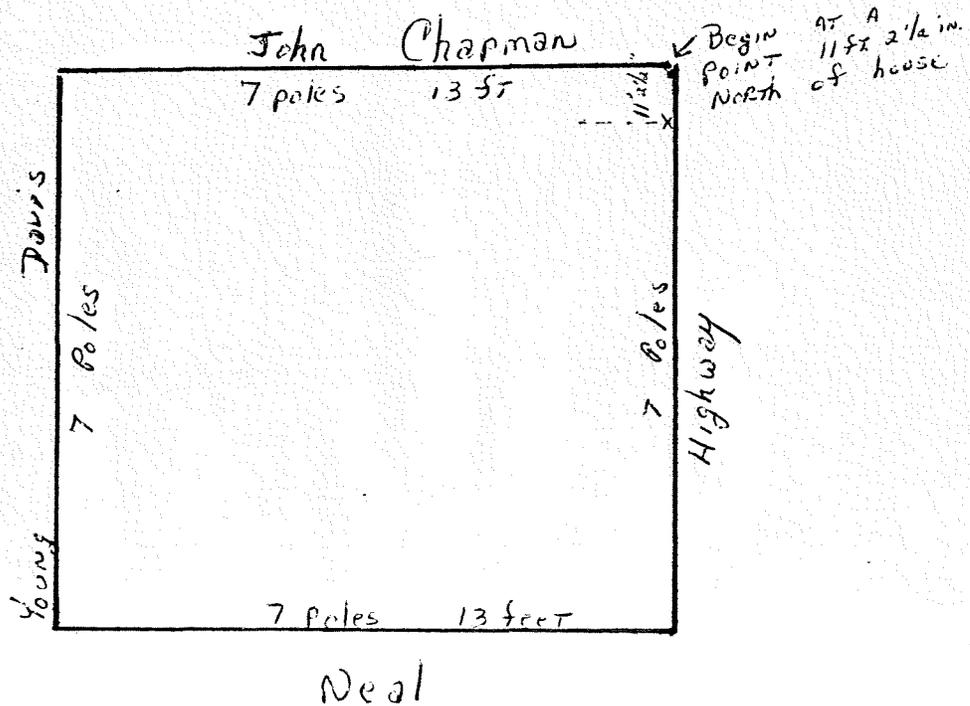
Research by,  
Joyce King  
Nov. 1980

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

18 Summer Street

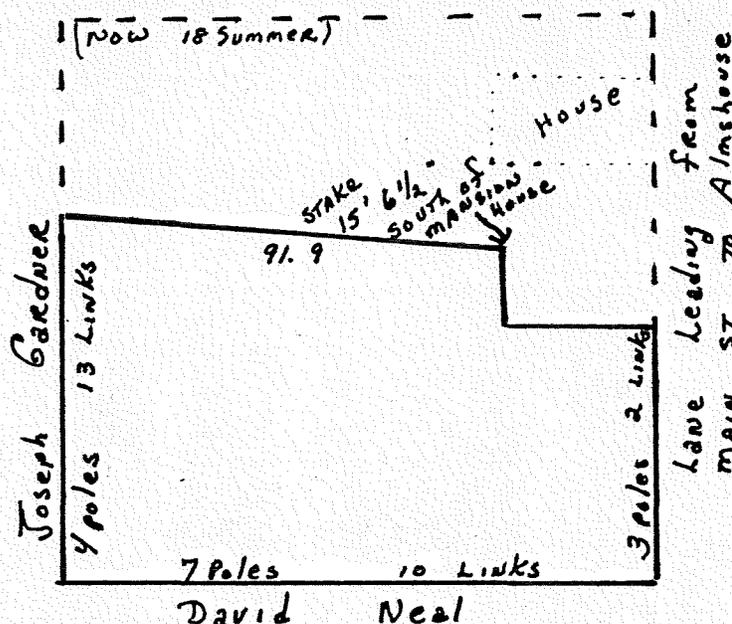
"Summer street was first called a street or highway, 1661; lane that leads into ye main street, 1687; Main street, 1711; highway leading from the main street to the almshouse, 1753; road leading to Marblehead, 1760; street leading to the Duck factory, 1793; and Summer street, 1803." (Essex Antiquarian, vol. 4 page 161)

The lot on which this house stands was a portion of property owned by John Cooke Sr., blacksmith, in 1706. Mr. Cooke conveyed a large parcel of land to John Chapman, taylor, in a deed recorded Feb. 23, 1714-5 (book 27 page 144). Mr. Chapman erected a house thereon, and on Feb. 23, 1738 John and Elizabeth Chapman of Salem, and John Chapman and wife Hannah of Boston, conveyed to William Campbell, cordwainer, a message consisting of a dwelling house and 54 poles of land:



(book 76 page 43)

William Campbell died on May 1, 1751. His estate (probate #4571) consisted of a dwelling house, shop, 1 bed, 1 desk, 3 tables, 18 chairs and 1 chest. On March 18, 1758 Sarah Campbell, widow of William, sold a portion of their "homestead land" to Benjamin Daland, truckman, for the sum of 16 pounds and 14 shillings:



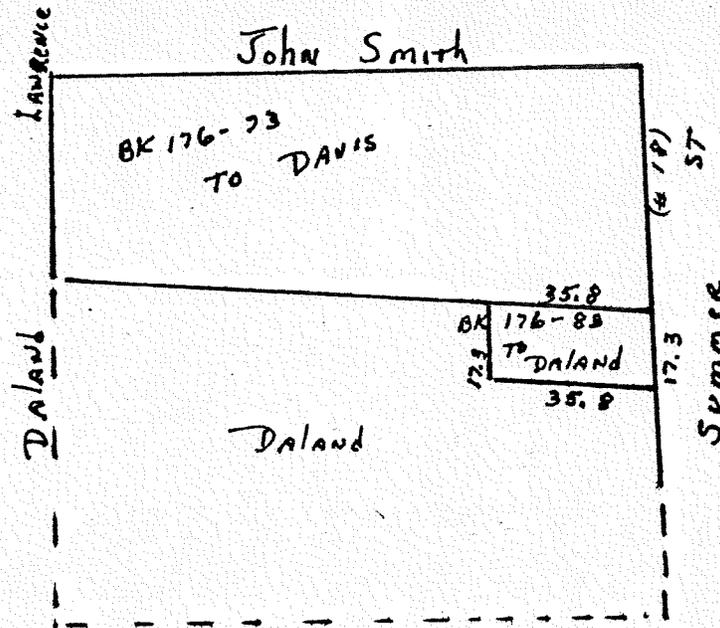
(book 108 page 176)

Sarah Campbell died, at the age of 88, possessed of her portion of land and the dwelling house on it, on May 20, 1803.

On July 5, 1804 William Campbell of Buckfield, Me.; William and Sally Berry; and Sarah Howard widow, of Salem, sold to Benjamin Daland their 2/5 parts of the real estate bound - North by John Smith, East by Summer St., West by Lawrence and Daland, South by Daland. (book 173 page 296)

Other shares were sold to Tobias Davis by William and Susanna Lander; William and Folly Davis; Andrew Campbell; Samuel and Sarah Merrill; Mary Durrick; and Sarah Hovey, all heirs of William Campbell between Dec. 8, 1804 and April 23, 1805. (book 176 page 74, book 176 page 199, book 185 page 5, book 185 page 6)

On April 20, 1805 Tobias Davis and Sarah Hovey sold a small portion of land to Benjamin Daland (book 176 page 83). Three days later, April 23, 1805, Sarah Hovey sold her 1/5 share to Tobias Davis, "except such portion as by my deed April 20 I conveyed to Benjamin Daland" (book 176 page 74). On the same day, Benjamin Daland sold his 2/5 shares of the estate sold to him in book 173 page 296, to Tobias Davis for the sum of \$760 (book 176 page 73). This transaction made Tobias the sole owner of the estate:



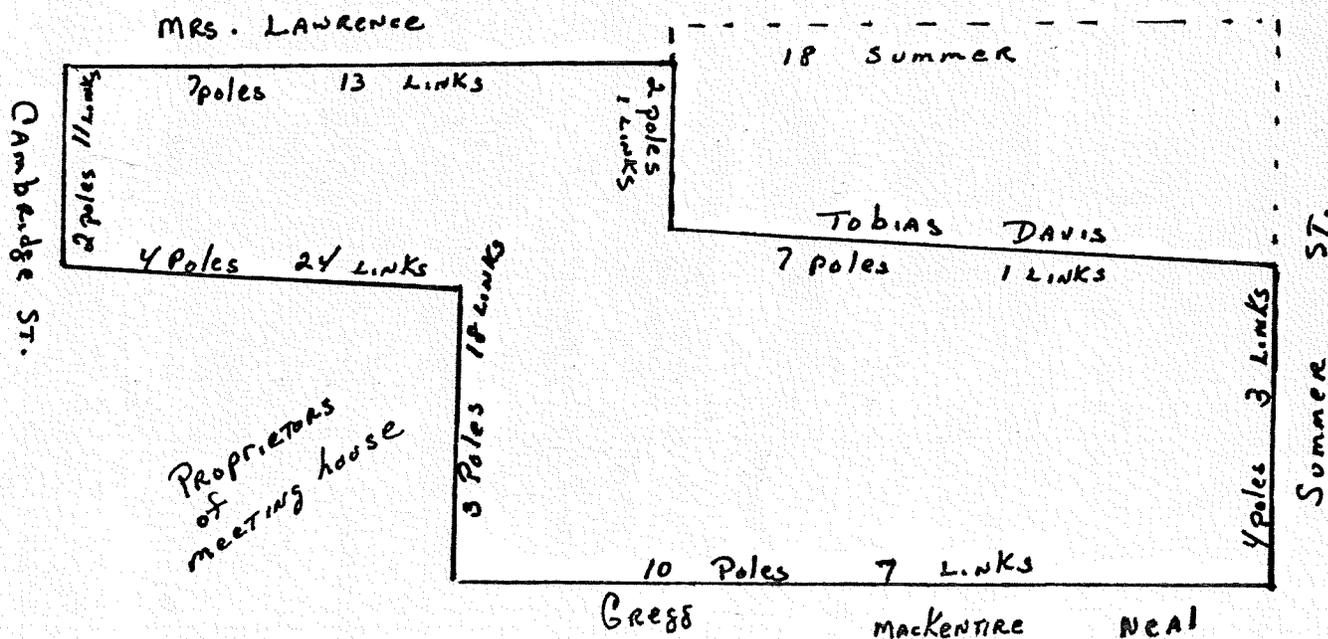
(Note: It is at this point that a controversy emerges. According to Samuel Chamberlain, this house was originally built in 1715 by John Chapman and extensively altered by Capt. Tobias Davis in 1805. By deed research alone this is a plausible conjecture. Although, also by deed research, the indications are that the original house was much smaller (probably 16-17 feet wide on the Summer St. side) than the house now known as 18 Summer St. and certainly not of three stories. After an inspection, by Staley McDermet (preservation architect) and Joyce King (house researcher), the conclusion was drawn that if indeed this house was of the 1715 era there is no visible evidence now extant and the date of 1805 is a more reasonable one to attach to this Federal Style house. It is also worth considering that Capt. Tobias Davis was born and grew up in a very old house (on Cambridge St.) and after his marriage in 1799, may have built this beautiful house to keep up with the trend of other sea-captains and show his rising status. This determination may be proven false at a future date, but for the purpose of this report the date 1805 will suffice.)

The Salem tax records for Tobias Davis:

1800	-	T. Davis	pt. house	\$250
1801	-	"	"	"
1802	-	"	"	300
1803	-	"	"	"
1804	-	"	"	"
1805	-	"	"	250
1806	-	"	"	1,000

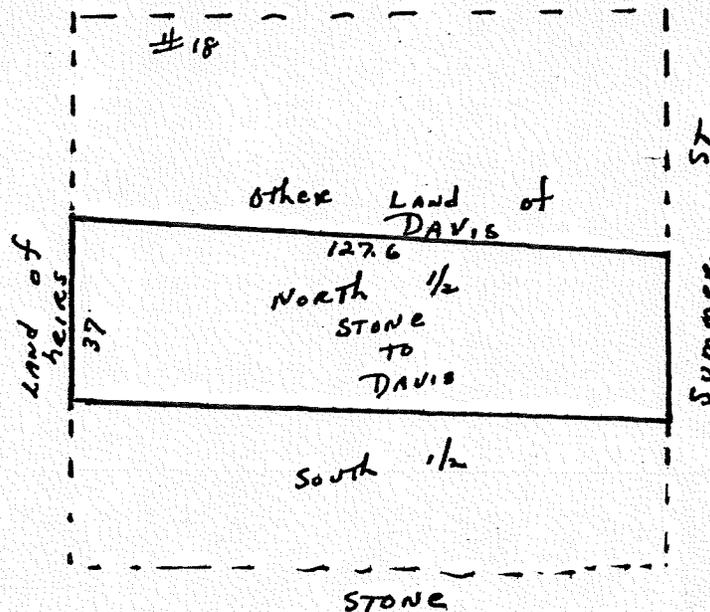
(The following is not the land on which 18 Summer Street stands but is the area now occupied by the garage)

Benjamin Daland died on Dec. 15, 1810. In his estate (probate #6997) Mr. Daland's property is listed as Mansion House and out buildings on Summer St. value \$3,000, dwelling house and out buildings on Cambridge St. value \$1,500, and 3 rights in the great pasture. A partition of Mr. Daland's property was made in 1812. The whole was described as:



(book 200 page 29)

The heirs of Benjamin Daland sold a portion of this land to John Stone (book 241 page 196 - April 11, 1826) (book 244 page 120 - May 1827). On Sept. 21, 1827 John and Mary Stone sold the north  $\frac{1}{2}$  of this land "on the west side of Summer St." to Tobias Davis, master mariner for the sum of \$1,200 (book 246 page 121).



The tax records for the next few years are as follows:

1828 Tobias Davis pt. house \$1,400 - personal \$1,500  
 1831 " " and William Davis  
 1836 Tobias Davis, Tobias Davis Jr., William A. Davis, Edmund Currier  
 1840 Tobias Davis house 18 Summer St. \$2,500  
 Tobias Davis Jr. (dead)

On August 31, 1841 Tobias and Mary Davis, now residents at Peruambuco, S.A., sold for the sum of \$3,800 to Benjamin Fabens merchant, the dwelling house and land:

North - by John Smith  
 East - by Summer St.  
 South - John Stone  
 West - Thomas Perkins and Mrs. Gardner

Benjamin Fabens was born in Salem on Sept. 9, 1785. He married 1st Hannah Stone Sept. 11, 1808; she was born Aug. 1, 1787, and died June 14, 1848; 2nd Mary Tay daughter of Benjamin and Jerusha Tay born in 1800, and died May 1, 1879. Mr. Fabens was a prominent merchant in the Cayenne trade principally. He lived at 75 Lafayette St. and allowed his sons Francis and Benjamin Jr. to live in his house at 18 Summer St.:

Street Book City Hall 1844

18 Summer St. - James Sweetser, R.R. clerk	-	age 25
F. Fabens, counsellor	-	" 30
Benjamin Fabens, merchant	-	" 32
William Emmerton, tailor	-	" 50
William Emmerton Jr.	-	" 23

The 1850 census gives a long list of occupants:

I.S.Hill	age 43	machinist	born N.H.
Mary "	" 43		" Mass.
Mary E. "	" 20		" "
Sophronia "	" 18		" "
Susan "	" 16		" "
John "	" 14		" "
Sumner "	" 12		" "
Chase "	" 10		" "
George "	" 8		" "
Annah "	" 7		" "
Abigail "	" 67		" "
Eliza Perkins	" 46		" N.H.

(transient boarders)

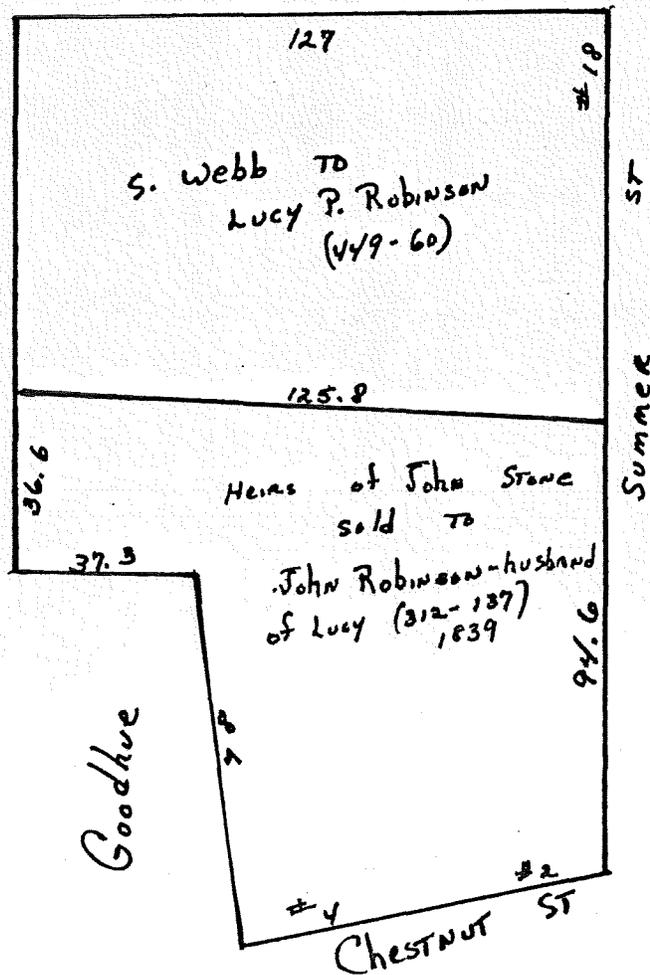
E.A.Dergen	age 34		born Me.
Sarah Larriby	" 30		" Mass.
Jane Moore	" 23		" "
Ann "	" 18		" "
Charles Thompson	" 25		" Me.
Janry Toomz	" 27		" Ire.
John Kent	" 20	tailor	" Me.
Benjamin Clark	" 25	laborer	" "
John Carr	" 21		" "
Catherine Carr	" 23		" "
Michael Denny	" 21		" Ire.

Benjamin Fabens died on May 24, 1850, leaving an estate valued at \$40,029.69 (Frobrate #38679 - Inventory appendix A)

On August 4, 1851 the heirs of Benjamin Fabens, namely Benjamin, Charles, Joseph, Caroline A. and Francis A. Fabens, sold to Stephen P. Webb for the sum of \$5,400, "the same estate sold by Tobias Davis to Benjamin Fabens as recorded in book 326 page 250 and which we inherited from our father Benjamin." Mary, widow of Benjamin, also released her dower rights in this deed (book 449 page 153).

Three days later on Aug. 7, 1851 Stephen P. and Hannah Webb sold the land and dwelling house "the same estate conveyed to Benjamin Fabens dec. by deed of Tobias Davis on Aug. 31, 1841 afterwards conveyed to said Stephen Webb by heirs at law of Benjamin on Aug. 4, 1851", to Lucy F. Robinson, widow (book 449 page 60).

Lucy F. Robinson was the widow of John Robinson who was the treasurer of Newmarket Manufacturing Co. for many years. Lucy was the daughter of John and Catherine (Dodge) Stone and along with her brothers, Henry O. and John H., inherited the adjoining property at 2 & 4 Chestnut St.



The 1851 street book suggests that 18 Summer St. was still the boarding house for transients:

Charles Dergen  
Jones Clarke  
David Chandler  
Fricket Deverux  
Michael Dowing

Charles Woods  
Moses Eastman  
Nathaniel Treadwell  
Westerly Perkinson

18 Summer St. is not listed in the 1852 street book. It is possible that the house was given a remodeling at this time. For shortly after this date Mrs. Robinson's brother John H. Stone and family took up residence at 18 Summer St.

John Hubbard Stone was educated in the Salem schools, and at an early date, began a business life as clerk in the store of Kimball & Clark. Later, he went on a voyage to South America, and on his return removed to North Reading, where he engaged in business. He was afterwards in business in South Reading, now Wakefield, and Calais, Maine. He returned to Salem in 1850, and was for a number of years in the Adjutant General's office in Boston; and afterwards in the Salem Custom House, under Democratic administration. For the latter part of his life, he was connected with the Essex Institute, being, at the time of his death, its librarian. He was interested in historical and especially in genealogical matters, and was associated with John Flint in preparing the Genealogy of the Descendants of Thomas Flint of Salem, besides preparing other work of a like character while at the Institute. (Pickering Genealogy, vol. 2 page 463)

The Stones lived in this house for many years as indicated in the tax and census records:

Taxes					
1853-59	John H. Stone		owner	Mrs. Robinson	- value \$5,000
1860	"	"	inspector	"	"

1860 census:

John H. Stone	age 50	clerk	property val. \$2,000	born Mass.
Emily J. "	" 44			" "
Henry "	" 19			" "
Catherine A. "	" 12			" "
Frank "	" 8			" "
Abby Gerry	" 30	servant		" Ire.

Taxes

1861

John H. Stone owner Lucy P. Johnson (Lucy Robinson remarried in 1857 - see appendix B)

1862 - John H. Stone died on Nov. 17.

1863 - Mrs. John H. Stone owner Lucy P. Johnson

1865 - property of Lucy P. Johnson

National Bank stock	\$6,000
R.R. stock	1,000
Cash	1,000
Personal	8,000
House 4 Chestnut St.	2,500
" 2 Chestnut St.	2,900
Barn	100
House 18 Summer St.	3,000

1870 census:

Eliza Stone	age 54	keeps house	prop. val. \$2,000	born Mass.
Henry "	" 29	clerk	" " 1,100	" "
Catherine "	" 21	at home	" " 1,100	" "
Frank "	" 17	attends school	" " 1,100	" "
Arthur "	" 9	" "	" " 1,100	" "
Ellen Noonan	" 19	servant		" Ire.

1872 tax:

18 Summer St.

Mrs. Elizabeth Stone	- owner Lucy P. Johnson house	\$4,000
Frank Stone	age 19 greenhouse	300
	land	1.200

1874 tax:

18 Summer St.

Mrs. Elizabeth Stone	- owner L.P. Johnson house	\$4,400
	greenhouse	300
	land	1,200

A permit was granted on April 7, 1879 to Lucy P. Johnson, of 2 Chestnut St. to build an addition to her property on Summer St. (permit book at Essex Institute). After the completion of the addition, Lucy P. Johnson and her son John Robinson moved into the house at 18 Summer St.

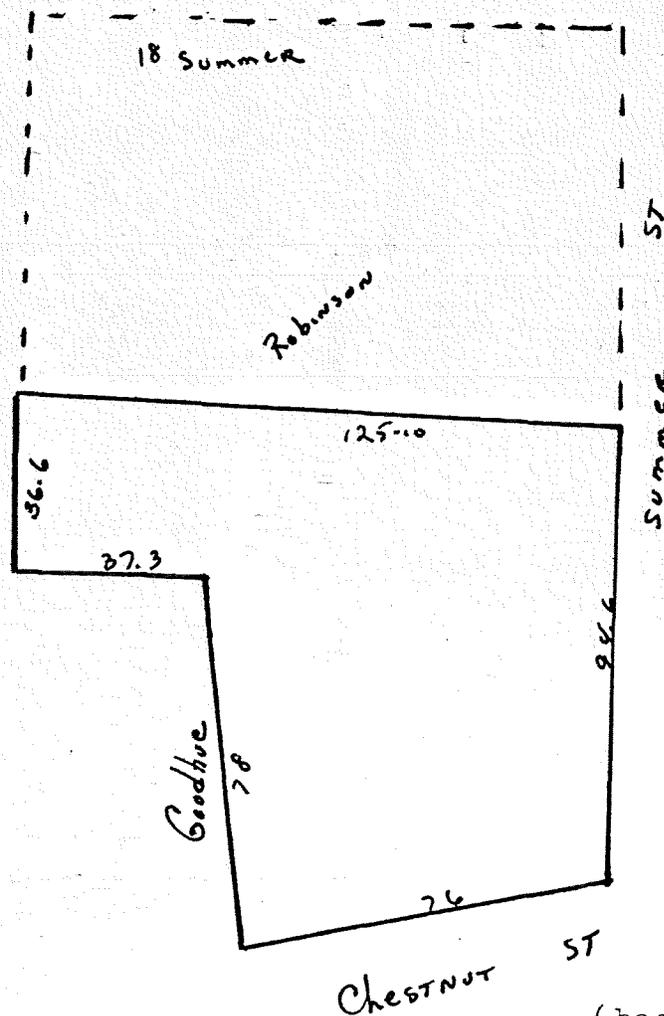
This move was reflected in the 1880 census:

18 Summer St.

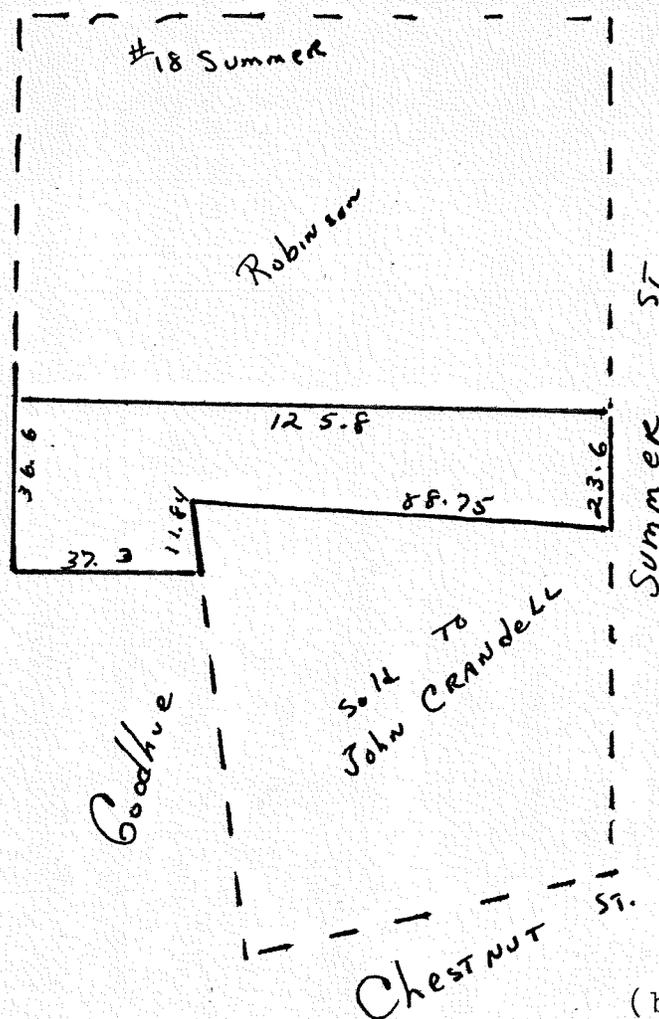
John Robinson	age 33	botanist	born Mass.
Elizabeth "	" 29	housekeeper	" "
Mary "	" 9	at school	" "
Lucy P. "	" 8	" "	" "
Lucy P. Johnson	" 65	mother	" "
Lawrence Kemble	" 19	boarder at school	" "
Ellen Bauen	" 29	servant	" Ire.
Anna Lillehan	" 22	"	" Mass.

Lucy P. Johnson died on May 9, 1893. Mrs. Johnson bequeathed the house at 18 Summer St. to her son John Robinson. Mr. Robinson was also left "all furniture, linen, plate, china, glass, jewelry and other personal and household effects". The rest of her estate was left to her son John in trust for the education of his children. (Probate #74232). (see appendix C for life of John Robinson)

On Feb. 1, 1898 John Robinson, trustee under the last will of Lucy P. Johnson sold to Mary K. Wheatland wife of Richard a parcel of land with the buildings:



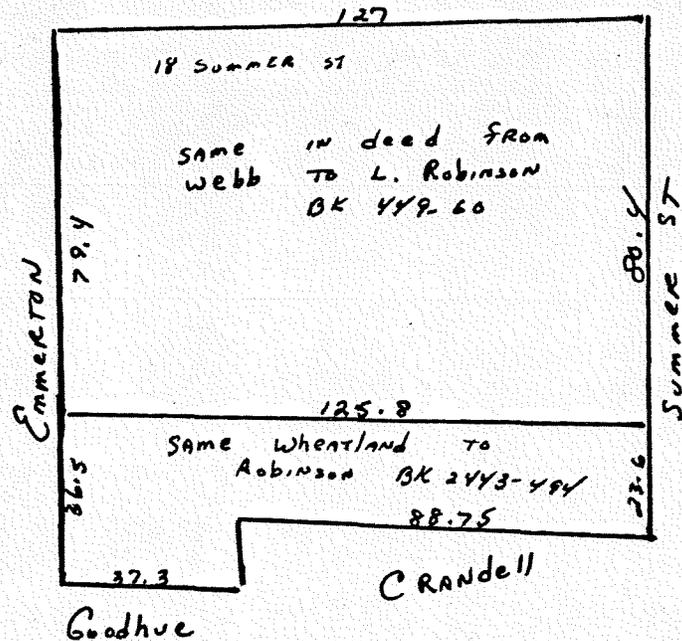
On March 4, 1920 Richard Wheatland and Mary K. Wheatland, in her own right, sold a portion of land back to John Robinson:



(book 2443 page 494)

(This is the portion of land on which the carriage house stands. Prior to a fire, which occurred on Sept. 16, 1950, this carriage house was decorated with swags taken from the stable of the Derby-Brookhouse estate designed by McIntire now the site of the Masonic Temple. The buildings on the Brookhouse estate were demolished by May of 1915 the date of the ground breaking for the Masonic building. The newspaper account of the fire states that the front portion of the carriage house was converted into a two car garage in May of 1949 and that the top of the "shed" was a pigeon coop. (Appendix D, an account of the fire by Francis J. Bates) (See also the photo collection at the Essex Institute - Washington St.)

On July 2, 1945 John Robinson sold to Anna D. H. Sanders wife of Richard D. two parcels of land and the buildings:



(book 3410 page 271)

May 1, 1952 Anna D. H. Sanders and her husband Richard D. conveyed the same premises to Charles M. Ewing (book 3892 page 101)

June 26, 1956 Charles M. Ewing of Swampscott, sold to John W. and Pauline J. Ward the same premises conveyed to them by Anna D. H. Sanders in 1952 (book 4281 page 540)

April 10, 1973 John W. and Pauline J. Ward sold to Robert Bramble the same premises conveyed to them by Charles M. Ewing in 1956 (book 5963 page 595)

Sept. 30, 1975 Robert C. Bramble, trustee of Allyn Realty Trust, sold to Martin Levitan the land and buildings at 18 Summer St. the same conveyed to the grantor by John Ward (book 6185 page 431)

On March 29, 1976 a permit was granted to remodel the existing bathroom into a kitchen on the 2nd floor - add 3rd floor kitchen fixtures and 3rd floor bath - add class II fire escape.

On July 14, 1980 Martin Levitan sold to Richard P. Thompson the land and buildings at 18 Summer St. "For title see book 6185 page 431 deed to grantor" (book 6717 page 126)

(Notes: The Essex Institute has a great collection of photos of this house. Also at the Essex Institute are two volumes containing photos of many of the occupants of 18 Summer St. Library # E

R662  
1969

Reference to book and page are deed books at the Registry of Deeds. Probate numbers are cases at Probate Court, both offices are located in the same building on Federal St. All maps in this report are not meant to be exact, just for illustration.)

(A)

Honorable  
of Essex.

Samuel A. White

Esquire, Judge of Probate for the

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

INVENTORY AND APPRAISEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF

Benjamin Fabens

Late of Salem in said county, merchant, deceased, intestate, as shown to us by the administrator.

REAL ESTATE.

A Dwelling House & land 75 Lafayette St.	\$ 6000 00
A Dwelling House & land 77 Lafayette St.	5500 00
Two Dwelling Houses & land 3 South St.	1500 00
A Dwelling House & land near of High St.	1000 00
Western half Dwelling House & land High St.	1200 00
A Dwelling House & land 18 & 20 Sunnyside St.	4500 00
An undivided half of Shop & Store Water St.	3650 00
A Double Pew in Columbian St. Church.	25 00
	<u>\$23,375 00</u>

Personal Estate.

Cash	\$ 2513 73
A John Nassau & appurtenances	3700 00
A Brig Jacob Story & appurtenances	3600 00
A Brig Venus & appurtenances	2000 00
25 Shares in the Nainburg Bank	2450 00
12 Shares in the Nainburg Cotton Factory	1080 00
300 Bonds in Essex Rail Road	300 00
5 Shares in the Essex Rail Road	100 00
#1030.96 Scrip in New England Mut' Ins Co Boston	567 00
#79.92 Scrip in Equitable Mut' Ins Co Boston	43 96
A Mortgage of Charles Bond	300 00
Amount carried over	<u>\$16,654 69</u>

(B)

Samuel Johnson, M. D., was born in North Andover, December 18, 1790, the son of Joshua and Martha (Spofford) Johnson. His father was by occupation a farmer and lived and died in Andover. Dr. Johnson was graduated from Harvard College in 1814 and received his degree of M. D. from the same college three years later. He married, on June 7, 1821, Anna Dodge, born in Salem January 7, 1797, the daughter of Joshua and Elizabeth (Crowninshield) Dodge. They had a large family of children, among them the Rev. Samuel Johnson, famous for his liberal thinking, much in advance of his times. Dr. and Mrs. Johnson made their home on Brown Street, Salem, where Mrs. Anna (Dodge) Johnson died on October 22, 1849. On June 1, 1857, Dr. Johnson married Mrs. Lucy Pickering (Stone) Robinson, daughter of John and Catherine (Dodge) Stone, and widow of John Robinson, by whom she had a son, John Robinson, so well known for many years as curator of the Peabody Museum in Salem. Dr. Johnson enjoyed an extensive practice of medicine in Salem, and was for forty years the city's leading physician. At the time of his death, on May 28, 1876, at 4 Chestnut Street, Salem, he was the senior member of the medical profession in Essex County. His widow, Mrs. Lucy P. S. Johnson, passed away on May 9, 1893, at the residence of her son, John Robinson, 18 Summer Street, Salem. [See Johnson, *Johnson Genealogy*, p. 127; *Salem Vit. Rec.* (printed), vol. 3, pp. 263, 551, vol. 5, p. 362, vol. 6, p. 189; *Andover Vit. Rec.* (printed), vol. 1, p. 231, vol. 2, pp. 200, 480; *Dodge Family*, pp. 143, 209; *Salem City Hall Records*, vol. 9, p. 149, vol. 15, p. 100, vol. 18, p. 21; *Salem Register*, issue of June 1, 1876; *Salem Gazette*, issues of May 30, 1876, May 10, 1893; *Quinquennial Catalogue of Harvard College*, pp. 137, 297; Bailey, *Historical Sketches of Andover*, p. 116.]

He is a son of Nathaniel and Emily Matilda (Hall) Curtis. *Edward Fitch Hall* [26. VIII. 261] was his first cousin once removed. His ancestry includes the following families: Curtis, Eliot, Polly, Crafts, Seaver, Ballard, Topliffe, Curtis, Eliot, Polly, Gore, Gardner, Crook, Bass, Alden, Mullins, Belcher, Breck, Wisewell, Oliver, Reed, Hall, Green, Sill, Belcher, Danforth, Walker, Read, Fowle, Carter, Jones, Potter, Edmunds, Chandler, Symonds, Hayward, Treadwell, Hartwell, Wheeler, Brasher, Gashenic, Kortwright, Cannon. See ANCESTRY TABLES  $\frac{VIII}{856}$ .

59. VIII. 737. Henry Radcliffe Stone [John H. 59. VII. 346], born in North Reading, Mass., died in Salem, of epilepsy. A clerk. Residence: Salem.

Mr. Stone was educated in the Salem schools, and began his business life as a book-keeper in Salem. During the Rebellion, he was in the Provost Marshal's office. He afterwards went to Manila, and remained for a number of years in the mercantile house of Messrs. Peele, Hubbell, & Co.

59. VIII. 739. Frank Stone [John H. 59. VII. 346], born in Salem, died in Salem. A clerk. Residence: Salem.

Mr. Stone was for some years an inspector in the Boston Custom House.

59. VIII. 743. John Robinson [Lucy P. 59. VII. 347], born in Salem. Residence: Salem.

Mr. Robinson received his education in the public schools of Salem and under a private tutor. After leaving school, he spent several years as clerk in a business office in Boston, but abandoned this situation to accept a position more in line with his tastes. While yet a lad he became interested in the work of the Essex Institute, and perhaps he is one of the best examples of the influence exercised by the late Dr. Wheatland [17. VIII. 189] in leading young men to take up scientific and historical pursuits. Beginning as a youthful collector of coins and articles of local historical interest, he became interested in the study of botany, and soon became prominent in this line of research. His papers, prepared for the Institute, made his name known outside of Essex County; and his volume on the

ESSEX INSTITUTE  
JAMES DUNN LULLIPS LIBRARY  
745

Flora of Essex County, while still further enhancing his reputation, became a model on which many other similar publications have since been formed. He attended lectures at Cambridge by Professors Gray, Goodale, and Farlow, and received some laboratory instruction. He was an assistant to Charles Sprague Sargent at the Arnold Arboretum, and for some years devoted himself to the scientific study of trees and the arranging of cabinet specimens. He left the Arboretum, and accepted the treasurership of the board of trustees of the Peabody Academy of Science, of which board he was a member, and assumed charge of its museum and collections. Coming to this work as he did with the experience gained by his connection with the Institute and its methods, and without any of the prejudices and limitations which are the natural outcome of the work of a specialist, he proceeded to entirely rearrange the collection of this museum, and to change the character of its work, so that from being a place where a few specialists could pursue their investigations, it became a great educational establishment for the public. In a surprisingly short space of time, he, with the hearty co-operation of Professor E. S. Morse, the scientific head of the Academy, brought this institution into touch with the people, without in any way lowering its standing from a scientific point of view. This has been done by the introduction of lectures at low prices, by the establishment of classes on special subjects, and by the exhibition of objects in which there may be special local interest.

Mr. Robinson's taste and happy faculty, in the arrangements of specimens for public exhibition, make the additions of this museum particularly attractive, and this is increased by a simple form of labelling, so that persons not gifted with a knowledge of scientific terms can still know what they are looking at, and can see what books to consult at the Public Library, if they wish to pursue any further research.

For fifteen years Mr. Robinson was Professor of Botany and Vegetable Physiology of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. For two years he was a trustee of the Essex Agricultural Society, and for one year of the Salem Hospital. For several years he was treasurer and member of the Boston Numismatic Society. For three years he has been vice-president of the Salem Fraternity, an organization formed to furnish a reading and play

room for boys. He is a manager of the Old Ladies Home in Salem, and a trustee of the Salem Public Library. From 1882 to 1886, he was a member of the Salem Common Council, and during the last two terms he was its president. He was also chairman of the Board of Health for two years, and for three years was a member of the school committee.

Mr. Robinson's literary work has been chiefly devoted to the subject of natural history, and, besides minor papers and addresses at agricultural meetings, he has published "Ferns in Their Homes and Ours," "Flora of Essex County," "Trees of Essex County," and "Ferns of Essex County and Our Trees." He writes easily and pleasantly, and his works have had a widespread circulation.

59. VIII. 743. *Elizabeth Rollins Kemble*, the wife of John Robinson, probably born in Salem.

Mrs. Robinson is connected with the "Woman's Bureau" and the sewing guild of "Cheerful Workers."

She is a daughter of the Hon. Edmund and Mary White (Beckford) Kimball. Her ancestry includes the following families: Kimball, Scott, Potter, Whipple, Gilbert, Cross, Porter, Beckford, Ramsdell, White, Metcalf, Flint, Johnson, Maverick, Harris, Muchmore. See ANCESTRY TABLES  $\frac{VII}{851}$ .

59. VIII. 744. *Mary Isabella Stone* [Henry O. 59. VII. 348], probably born in Salem.

Miss Stone has done some literary work, including several acceptable book-reviews; but having been an invalid for several years, this work has been largely given up.

59. VIII. 745. *George Forrester Devereux* [George H. 59. VII. 349], born in Salem. A farmer. Residence: Red Oak, Iowa.

Mr. Devereux was living in Scotland, Mo., Feb. 4, 1888. He served in the Union Army during the civil war, from the three months' campaign to the end.

59. VIII. 745'. *Mary A. Niecewanger*, his first wife, born in Columbus, Ohio.

tember days, we lifted the latch of the garden gate, and halted under the peach trees, picking up the ripe fruit, leaning far out and over to enjoy it, with the juices trickling to the ground; we did not stop devouring one, two or three; counting was useless; we indulged in a veritable orgy of home grown peaches. Our ministers, our doctors, our neighbors and friends always received baskets of perfect fruit during the season. My brothers as well as myself trudged here and there, over the old brick sidewalks of Salem to deliver them."

Delicate lettuce and radishes were grown in the greenhouse. Joel Bowker took much pride in cultivating the black Hamburg and the white grapes under glass and he received many prizes for his fruit at the Horticultural Exhibitions.

"The garden held its charms in all seasons of the year. In my generation, the inspiration and thrill of the coming of spring, was never to be forgotten. Early February brought the crocuses under our southern windows and the first bumble bee even when there was snow around. Spring was never long enough, summer passed too quickly, the mellow autumn glided into winter. But frosty days lengthened as the sun rose earlier and set later, bringing again the certainty of the renewal of life in the old garden. Yes, Spring was here again."



## ROBINSON GARDEN

At No. 18 Summer Street, there is one of the entrancing hidden gardens.

A glimpse visible through the garden gate reveals some of the plantings of the owner, John Robinson, and of his son who later maintained the garden, keeping many of its lovely things which can still be found there.

Mr. Robinson was noted for his contribution of several books on horticulture, including "Flora of Essex County" published in 1880.

In this century old garden there are cinnamon roses and a York and Lancaster rose still blooming; there is also a large planting of ferns and many wild flowers including the pink and the white lady-slippers. There is a drooping variety of horse-chestnut raised from seed brought from China in 1818, a rare smoke bush, tamarix and ginkgo trees. There was a Sumatra clam shell in which the birds splashed at will and to complete the mystery of spring, the purple tones of the drooping clusters of wisteria were added to the whiteness of the blooming pears and the softness of the pink in the apple blossoms.

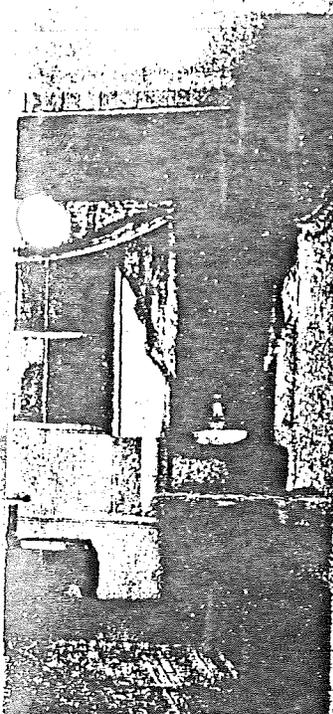
## JOHN G. WATERS GARDEN

At No. 14 Cambridge Street is the house with the noted "winder" stairway built by McIntire in 1805 and owned by the Waters family since 1834.

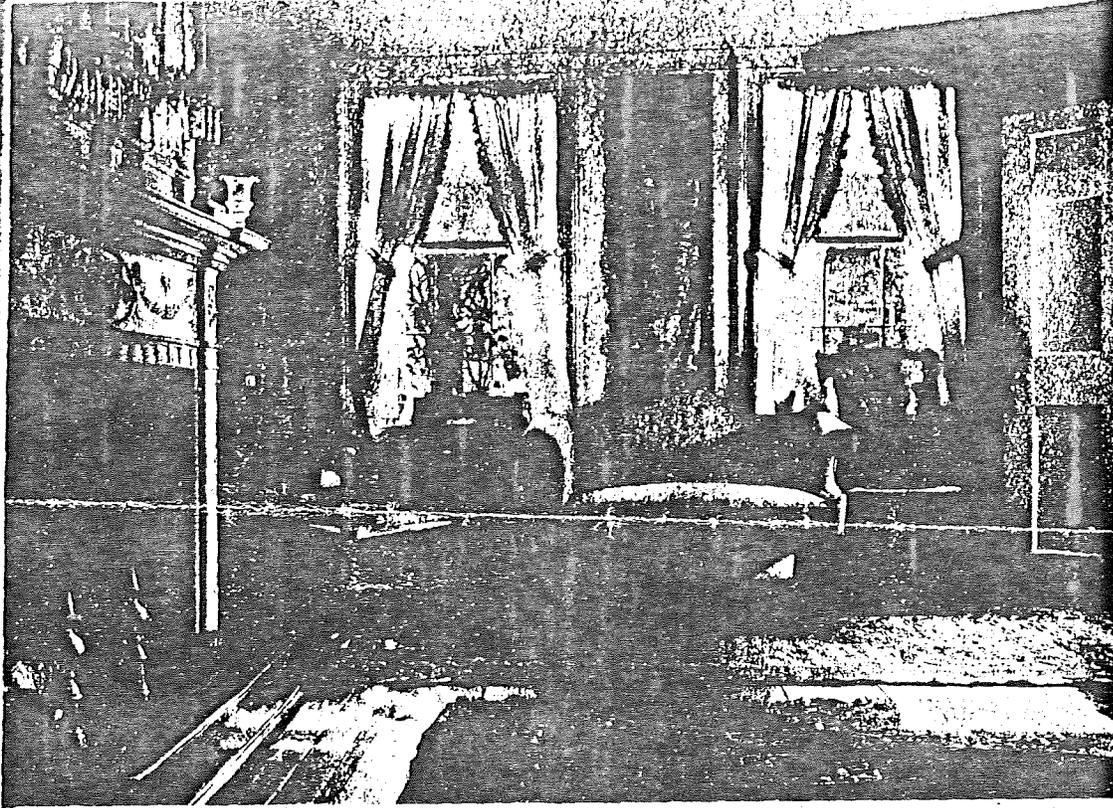
The end of the house faces the street, and sets on a banking, and the garden extends its entire length. There are two beautiful spruces at the left of the garden steps. A central path leads to the foot of the garden, where in olden days, box-bordered beds extended each side of the path. The box winter killed and had to be replaced frequently, but some of it is still there.

There were the usual fruit trees and one apple tree with five grafts was exquisite when in bloom. So much depredation occurred in the garden that the fruit trees were cut down. Small fruits, lilacs and peonies were plentiful and gorgeous delphiniums predominated and are a feature of the garden today.

Numerous trees served to invite many birds, and golden robins always came with the apple blossoms and built their nests in the nearby elms.

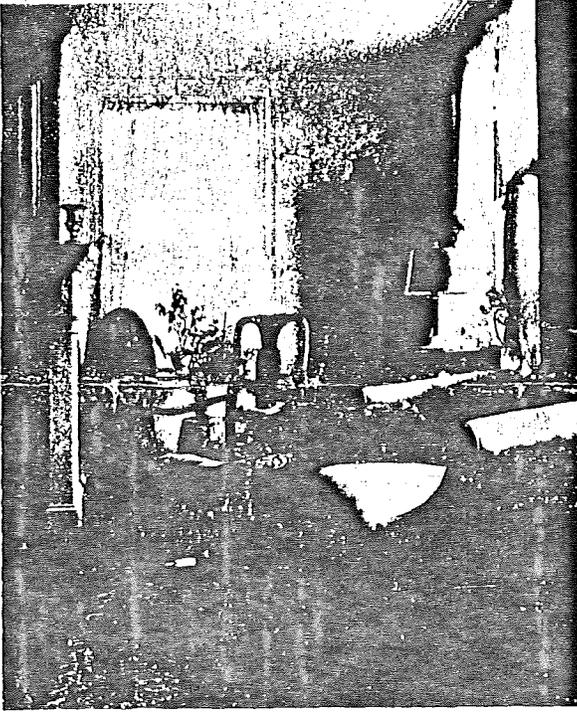


windows and ceiling give it a Thomas Jefferson. A delicate



### The Chapman-Davis-Sanders House

On Summer Street in Salem, where Samuel McIntire built his own unassuming home, is an unusual house, originally built by John Chapman in 1715, and extensively altered by Captain Tobias Davis in 1805. The handsome woodwork is from McIntire's time. The house is now in the possession of Richard D. Sanders. The 18th-century armchair shown in these views was made in Marblehead. A carved Chinese table and an American Chippendale chair flank the small sofa.



from the "Banks of the Rhine" pitchers, and ivory chessmen

## The Summer Street Fire

In addition to the post hydrants, there is another type of a hydrant called a lowry hydrant or chuck. This is a portable hydrant carried on each engine, with a few spares for outside mutual-aid companies. The spare chucks are kept in headquarters and placed on the outside companies' equipment when they are covering for us in cases of multiple alarms.

At street level, directly over the water main, and usually at intersections, there is a circular cap which covers a twelve-inch opening. Each piece of apparatus carries an L-shaped tool which removes this street level cap. Once the cap is removed, one can see an eight-inch pipe with female threads and, further down, a brass keyway directly over the main.

The location of these lowry hydrants must be known to all officers, especially in districts where they are found at every block. The winter snows cover these street hydrants so that it is difficult to find them when rolling in to a fire. Usually the water department personnel patrol the city, putting salt all around the cap area so that one can spot this slush in comparison to the hard packed snow adjacent to the area.

Extra shovels are carried on the apparatus in the winter just in case the snow is deep, as the streets may not be plowed at the time of an alarm. Also, each hydrant location is different; there is no set pattern, as the direction of the main regulates the location. Sometimes it may be close to the curb or it may be in the middle of the street.

The portable hydrant, or chuck, that attaches to the lowry hydrant is approximately 3½ feet high; the base is eight inches in diameter, with male threads and a large rubber gasket below the flange. There is a T-shaped handle keyway opening at the bottom. There are two 4½-inch openings and two

2½-inch openings, or four 2½-inch openings located at the top. The water will flow through these openings after the hose is connected. Each one of these connections has an individual controlling valve independent of the others. The T handle extends directly through from the top to the bottom of this hydrant.

To put this portable hydrant into operation requires one or two men to remove it from the apparatus. It is carried to the location of the street cap, which is lifted up by the L-shaped tool. One man then puts his shoulder under the T handle and by pushing upward against the handle, he will keep the keyway from jamming. One hand is placed on each projecting 2½-inch opening and the hydrant is lifted up enough to drop into the street opening, where the threads will mesh together. Sometimes one must drop this hydrant into the street opening about eight to twelve inches before the threads make contact. Also, the hydrant must be moved in all directions as the street connection is not level. It may be a little to the right or left, and by feeling and listening, the hydrant is dropped into position. It is then turned clockwise until it is made up tight. The handle which has been kept up high by the shoulder is then dropped down where the keyway is contacted. By turning this handle clockwise, the water from the main directly below is then turned on and controlled by the independent gate valve for each opening.

To set a chuck is a tough assignment under fire conditions, especially when the water is needed in a fast-burning fire. But to set one in adverse weather conditions with snow covering the street is something that only a fireman knows how to do.

In order to relate the following fire, the above explanation has been given so the reader may be acquainted with the term "lowry hydrant." I doubt that many fire departments throughout the country are familiar with this portable hydrant.

Box 312, Norman and Cromble streets, was struck at 9:30 p.m. The alarm was for a fire in one of Salem's two remaining historic carriage sheds. The historic carriage shed, converted

into a two-car garage and storage shed, was enveloped in flames upon our arrival.

The first line to this fire was from a lowry hydrant located on the corner of Summer and Chestnut streets. As soon as the water was turned on to supply the first line to the fire, the hydrant blew off the connection. This resulted in a huge geyser flooding the area directly from the main. It was later ascertained that a water main sleeve blew out as the hydrant was turned on by the crew of Engine 1. This put the lowry hydrant out of commission, and Engine 3, parked nearby, was ordered to proceed to another lowry hydrant on the corner of North and Essex. Just as Engine 3 started to roll to carry out this order, it was disabled by a broken rear axle.

At this point, a historic carriage house was involved in fire; adjacent properties were threatened, as this carriage house is located in the rear of a three-story brick house; a large geyser was sending gallons of water all over the area; and an engine company could not be moved due to a broken axle.

Engine 2 took the hydrant at the intersection, six hundred feet from the fire, and laid two lines to the yard in which the large shed was situated. The lowry hydrant was set in the middle of the intersection. Then in a matter of minutes, both of these lines at North and Essex streets were rendered useless after a car knocked over the lowry hydrant. The car shattered the hydrant in avoiding a collision with another car converging on the fire scene. This sent another geyser of water into the area.

The confusion had mounted, as now there was a flood at each end of the fire area. Traffic conditions on the main route were completely snarled, necessitating immediate police action. At this point, all lines were out of commission, the street was lined with hose, and yet there was no water on the fire.

Deputy Chief Jake Grady arrived, and as luck would have it, we came face to face. He was a huge man with a ruddy complexion. His eyes were blue, and his ridged eyebrows punctuated everything he said.

"What is going on?" he asked.

"All lines out of commission," I replied.

The deputy could see the two large geysers, and immediately he sized up the situation. He remained very cool headed. One line was being laid from the post hydrant on the corner of Norman and Crombie; it quickly delivered water to the front of the shed. Other lines followed.

The deputy stated, "Let's start from scratch; get water on this fire." He proceeded to send in the general alarm, bringing all off-duty manpower to the fire.

My orders were to take Engine 4 and lay a line from the post hydrant on the corner of Summer and Broad to a driveway leading to the carriage shed. A ladder was thrown to the second floor, and this line was advanced to the interior of the shed, the second and the third floors.

Due to the preliminary difficulties, the fire was off to a roaring start, and the tremendous heat melted out windows in the red brick home which adjoined the carriage shed. To prevent the spread of flames, a crew was stationed in the house to be ready for any emergency.

The combination of the flames shooting high into the sky and the geysers attracted hundreds of motorists and nearly three thousand spectators. The police had their hands full keeping the crowd back and keeping the traffic moving. Traffic at North and Essex streets was snarled for at least two hours.

The flames roared through the front of the structure facing Summer Street and soon spread through most of the upper part of the carriage shed, where valuable antiques, as well as two filled trunks and a number of miscellaneous articles, were stored.

An irreparable loss was the frieze above the garage door, designed by Samuel McIntire, an internationally known architect and designer. In addition to the loss of the building, the owners also suffered the loss of two valuable beds made in France as well as two sleighs valued as antiques. At the extreme top of the shed there was a coop of pigeons. It was

believed that they were able to escape.

With the destruction of the Sander's shed, the only remaining carriage shed in the city is at the Pierce Nichols House.

When things go bad, they generally come in bunches; yes, wasn't it always that way—and still is, as I have often found out.

In cases like this, a lesson is taught. It is better to light a candle, than to curse the darkness.

## New Quarters

The captain in charge of headquarters called me into his office and stated, "I thought you would like to know that you are being transferred to Ladder 2." I just listened as he continued, "The general order which will make it official will be out on Friday."

I thanked him for the advance notice of my leaving the crew of Engine 1. Whether I wanted to stay at headquarters did not matter, as the order was that I was assigned to Ladder 2 come Sunday.

The work done by the crew of a ladder company is altogether different from that of an engine company. I actually had to start fresh, as the duties of a hoseman were not the same. Engine companies take the hydrants, lay the lines to the fire, and advance the hose to the interior of the building. When a line is going to be laid, the hydrant is spotted, and the work of a hoseman begins. As long as water is being passed, the crew of the engine company stays at the scene.

The functions of a ladder company at the fire scene include rescue, laddering the building, forcible entry, ventilation, salvage, opening up, overhauling, and elevated streams.

At the Ladder 2 station, the officers and the crew were well trained in every evolution. All of them had been with the truck

for such a long time that one could consider them experts in the trade. It was indeed a challenge, as there had been no personnel changes at the station for some time. For a boot, still wet behind the ears, to report to this house on this day, naturally, would arouse resentment. That I did as soon as I stepped in the door.

The Ladder 2 house was a two-story wooden building, located on Bridge Street. It was built in the late 1800s, and at that time it housed two horse-drawn ladder trucks. After the reorganization of the department, Ladder 1 was relocated on upper Essex Street, at the Engine 4 house. Ladder 2 had been a two-door house, to accommodate the two pieces, but it reverted back to a one-door house, with just the American La France ladder truck in quarters.

The memories of this house are many, and just recently this station has been removed completely. A parking lot has been constructed on the site. Ladder 2 has been consolidated with Engine 6, located on Fort Avenue.

On the day that I reported, the captain of the truck was on duty. He was from the old school and very stern. The night shift as well as the incoming shift were waiting for the roll call. As the signal was given for the calling of the roll, I took my place at the end of the line. I could feel the captain's eyes checking my appearance for any flaws. However, I took pride in my uniform and knew that he would have difficulty in observing an infraction. I passed inspection.

Following the roll, the captain asked, "Do you have a license to drive?"

I answered, "Yes sir."

"You'll drive both ends," the captain stated.

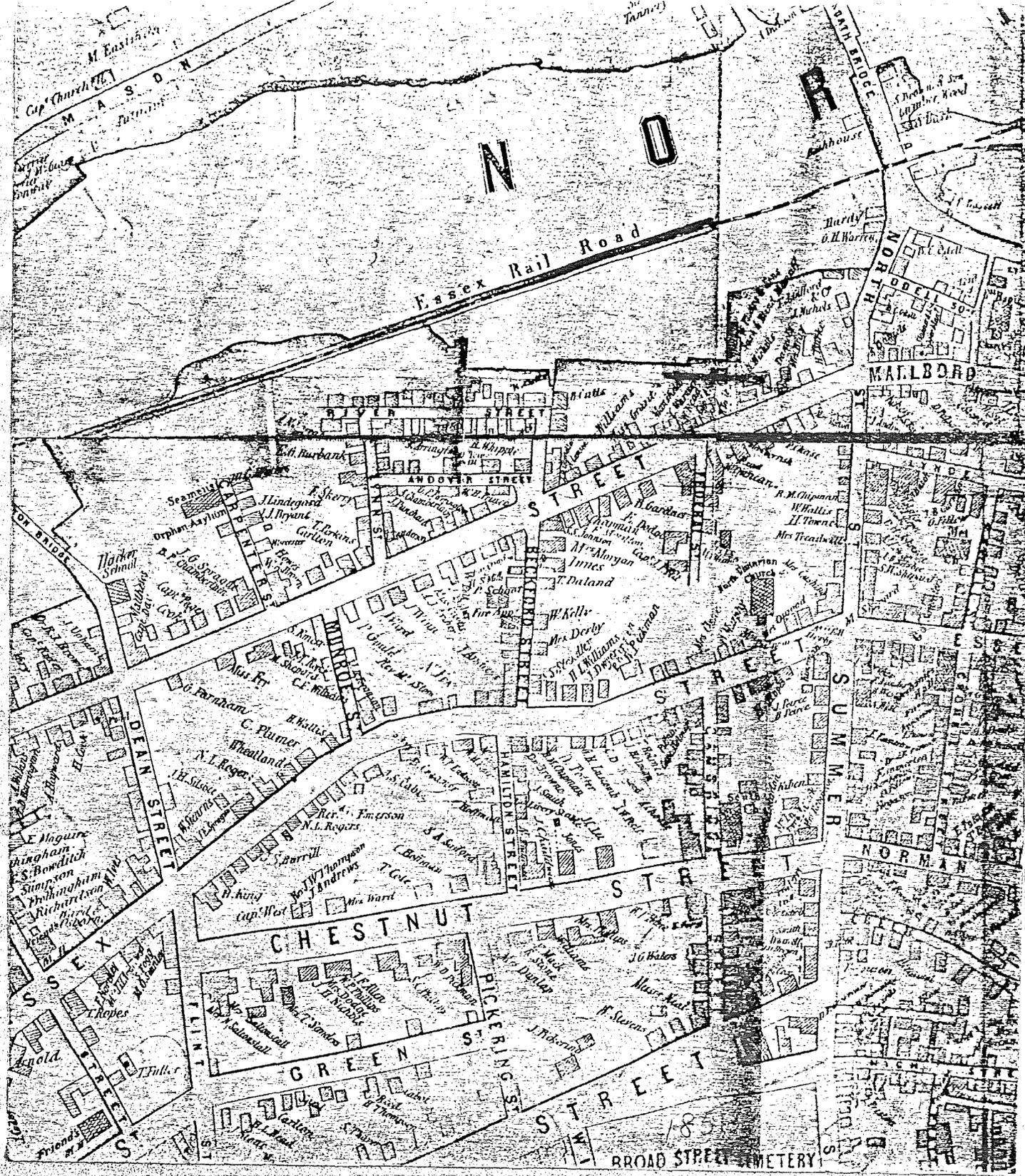
Again, I said, "Yes sir."

Before the morning had passed, arrangements had been made to teach me the operation of the tiller. The tillerman sits on a small seat located at the rear of the truck and controls the length of the apparatus from the turntable back to where he steers just above the rear wheels.

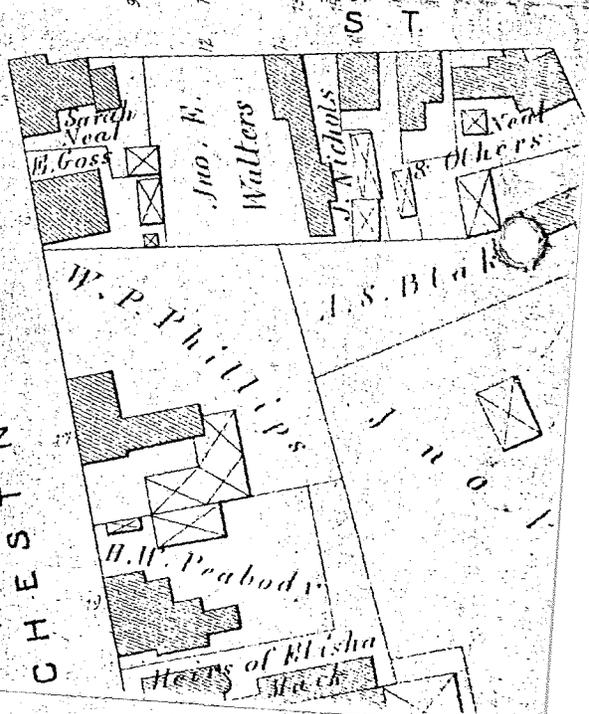
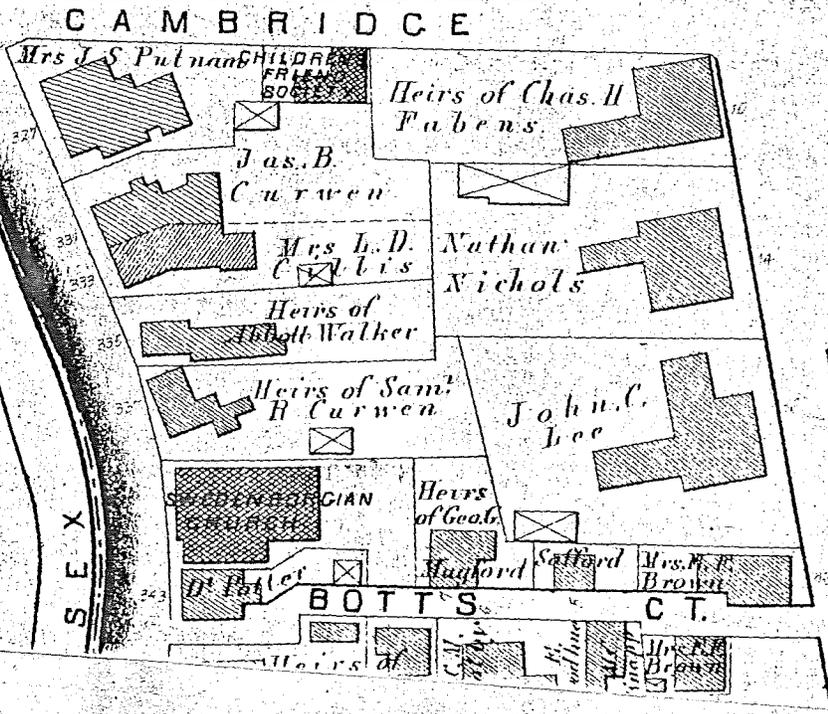
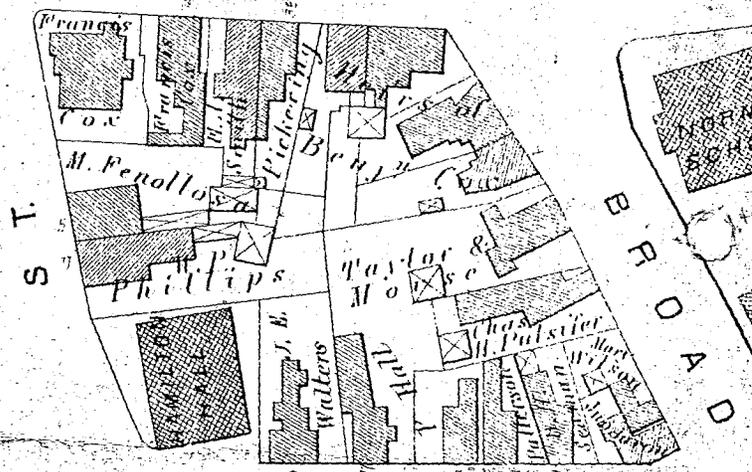
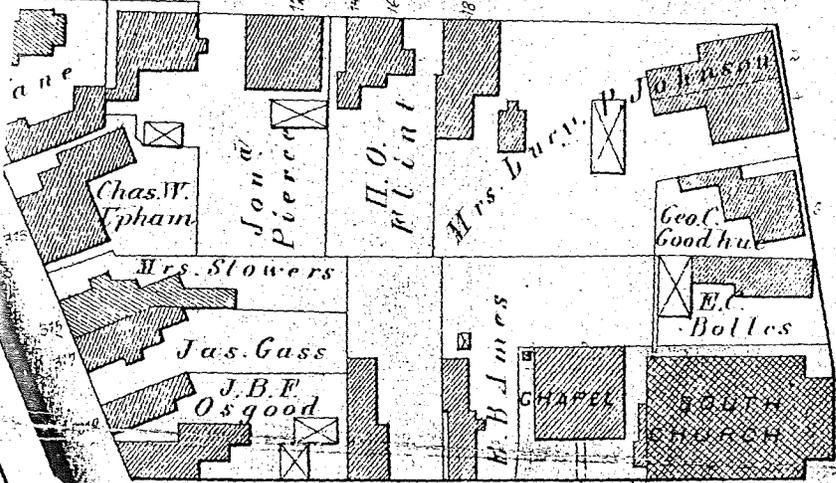
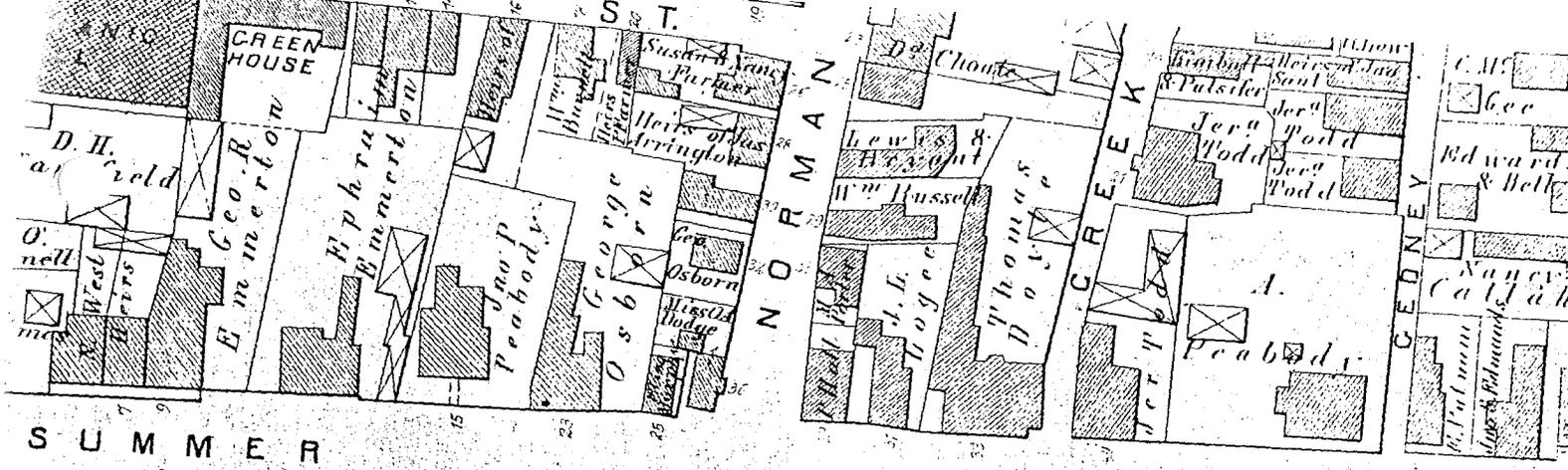
The length of this truck was approximately fifty-five feet; it

78  
April  
12  
1836  
run from his cell - to its entrance into the  
at Point, it is three feet from the top  
and the deepest plain from the top of the stairs to the

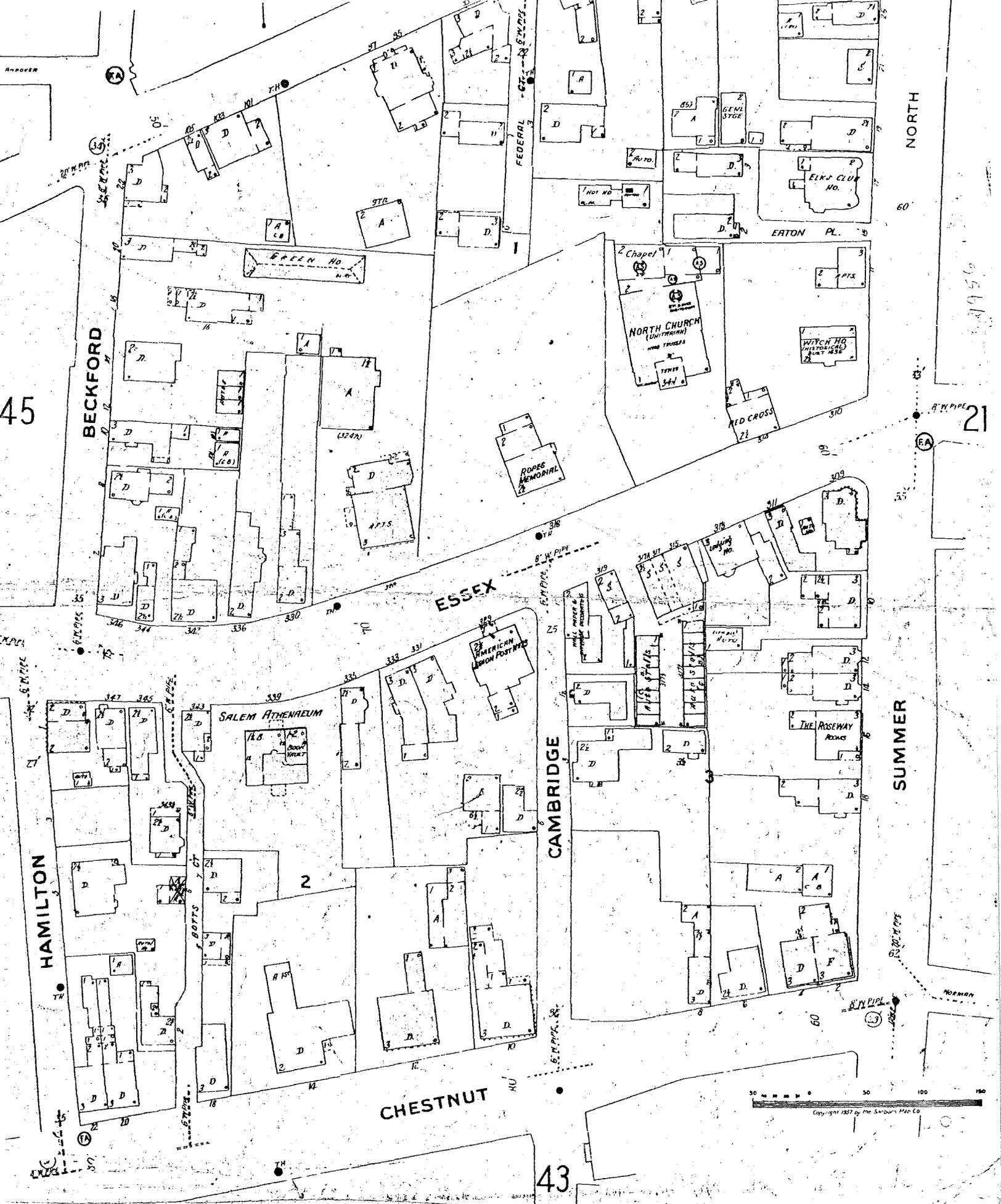
This day Major Charles J. Putnam, set a  
gang of men to work, in Summer Street to  
dig up the drains, which has drained the  
water from the cellar of his store in Essex,  
street, and which Drain has recently been stopped  
some where in its course, from his cellar, to the  
outlet into the Town's Drain in Summer Street,  
This Drain enters Major Putnam's cellar about  
Two feet from the South West corner of the  
cellar, and from there it runs in a straight  
line to the corner of Summer Street, to within  
Five feet, of the circular edge stone, or  $8\frac{1}{2}$   
feet, from the west side of the body of the Elm  
Tree; which stands on the side walk at North's  
corner, so called; - from thence it runs in a  
straight line to the Town's Drain on the west side  
of Summer Street, where it forms a junction with  
said Drain, nearly abreast of the middle of the  
Large Gate between Gate Tobias Davis, and  
Late John Smith Houses, that is to say,  
measure, from the underpinning of the North corner  
of Davis's house on a line with the line "



1851



1874



1956

78  
 April  
 12  
 1836

of the street, to the top of the drain, and the deepest plain from the top of the street to the  
 Tawns Drain, is 34 1/2 feet, and at that point, it is three feet from the top of the street to the  
 Tawns Drain, from his cell - to its entrance into the street.

This day Major Charles F. Putnam, set a  
 Gang of Men to work, in Summer Street to  
 dig up the drains, which has drained the  
 water from the cellar of his store in Essex  
 street, and which Drain has recently been stopped  
 some where in its course, from his Cellar, to the  
 outlet into the Tawns Drain in Summer Street.  
 This Drain enters Major Putnam's Cellar about  
 Two feet from the South West corner of the  
 Cellar, and from there it runs in a straight  
 line to the corner of Summer Street, to within  
 Five feet, of the Circular Edge Stone, or 8 1/2  
 feet, from the west side of the body of the Elm  
 Tree; which stands on the side walk of Northway  
 corner, so called, - from there it runs in a  
 straight line to the Tawns Drain on the west side  
 of Summer Street, where it forms a Junction with  
 said Drain, nearly about of the Middle of the  
 Large Gate between Capt Tobias Davis, and  
 Late John Smith House, that is to say,  
 measure, from the underpinning of the North corner  
 of Davis's house on a line with the line 14  
 feet, then at right angle with the line to  
 the east side of the Tawns Drain, 17 1/2 feet  
 then, diagonally from this point to the corner of  
 the underpinning of Davis's house, <sup>22 feet</sup> by this method  
 you will find the place where this Drain enters  
 the Tawns. The Diagram below, shows the angles  
 to be measured to find, the precise point where  
 Putnam's Drain, enters the Tawns Drain.

This Drain was laid in the month of  
 October 1834, by Henry Thompson and  
 William Roberts, and the average  
 depth of this Drain, from the top of  
 the Street to the top of this drain is  
 about 5 feet, the Street has been  
 raised considerable since this drain  
 was first laid - The diameter of the  
 Bore of the Pipes of which this Drain is  
 made of, is about 3 1/2 inches.

