

54 Essex Street, Salem

History of the Building and Occupants

by Robert Booth for Historic Salem, Inc., July 2007

This house was built c.1805 as the shop of Capt. Daniel Sage, shipmaster; later, starting in 1823, it was the apothecary shop of William Webb.

This lot was part of the homestead of Capt. Daniel Sage (of 52 Essex Street), a Scotsman who came to Salem in the 1780s. Captain Sage married Deborah Silsbee (who had grown up in the “Daniels House”, corner Daniels and Essex Streets). He worked as a shipmaster, perhaps for the Derby family. In 1800 he bought his Essex Street homestead from the Derby heirs (ED 166:250, etc.). The land fronted 78’ on the street and ran back more than 200’ to East Street. Captain Sage evidently had this building erected on the southerly corner of the lot, perhaps c.1805, and used it as a shop, probably for the retailing of goods brought back from his travels as a shipmaster, although it may have been leased out to other retailers over the years.

In this general neighborhood, the East Parish, the Crowninshields, led by brother Jacob, were especially successful, as their holdings rose from three vessels in 1800 to several in 1803. The Derby Street district seemed almost to be itself imported from some foreign country: in the stores, parrots chattered and monkeys cavorted, and from the warehouses wafted the exotic aromas of Sumatran spices and Arabian coffee beans and Caribbean molasses. From the wharves were carted all manner of strange fruits, and crates of patterned china in red and blue, and piles of gorgeous silks and figured cloths, English leather goods, and hundreds of barrels of miscellaneous objects drawn from all of the ports and workshops of the world.

The greatest of the Salem merchants at this time was William “Billy” Gray, who owned 36 large vessels—15 ships, 7 barks, 13 brigs, 1 schooner—by 1808. Salem was then still a town, and a small one by our standards, with a total population of about 9,500 in 1800. Its politics were fierce, and polarized everything. The two factions attended separate churches, held separate parades, and supported separate schools, military companies, and newspapers. Salem’s merchants resided mainly on two streets: Washington (which ended in a wharf on the Inner Harbor, and, above Essex, had the Town House in the middle) and Essex (particularly between what are now Hawthorne Boulevard and North Street). The East Parish (Derby Street area) was for the seafaring families, shipmasters, sailors, and fishermen. In the 1790s, Federal Street, known as

New Street, had more empty lots than fine houses. Chestnut Street did not exist: its site was a meadow. The Common was not yet Washington Square, and was covered with hillocks, small ponds and swamps, utility buildings, and the alms-house. As the 19th century advanced, Salem's commercial prosperity would sweep almost all of the great downtown houses away (the brick Joshua Ward house, built 1784, is a notable exception).

The town's merchants were among the wealthiest in the country, and, in Samuel McIntire, they had a local architect who could help them realize their desires for large and beautiful homes in the latest style. While a few of the many new houses went up in the old Essex-Washington Street axis, most were erected on or near Washington Square or in the Federalist "west end" (Chestnut, Federal, and upper Essex Streets). The architectural style (called "Federal" today) had been developed by the Adam brothers in England and featured fanlight doorways, palladian windows, elongated pilasters and columns, and large windows. It was introduced to New England by Charles Bulfinch in 1790. The State House in Boston was his first institutional composition; and soon Beacon Hill was being built up with handsome residences in the Bulfinch manner.

Samuel McIntire (1757-1811), who was self-educated and who made his living primarily as a wood-carver and carpenter, was quick to adapt the Bulfinch style to Salem's larger lots. McIntire's first local composition, the Jerathmeel Peirce house (on Federal Street), contrasts with his later Adamesque designs. In place of walls of wood paneling, there now appeared plastered expanses painted in bright colors or covered in bold wallpapers. The Adam style put a premium on handsome casings and carvings of central interior features such door-caps and chimney-pieces (McIntire's specialty). On the exterior, the Adam style included elegant fences; and the houses were often built of brick, with attenuated porticoes and, in the high style, string courses, swagged panels, and even two-story pilasters. The best example of the new style was the Elias Hasket Derby house, co-designed by Bulfinch and McIntire, and built on Essex Street in 1797-8 (demolished in 1815), on the site of today's Town House Square.

A new bank, the Salem Bank, was formed in 1803, and there were two insurance companies and several societies and associations. The fierce politics and commercial rivalries continued. The ferment of the times is captured in the diary of Rev. William Bentley, bachelor minister of Salem's East Church and editor of the *Register* newspaper. His diary is full of references to the civic and commercial doings of the town, and to the lives and behaviors of all classes of society. He had high hopes for the future of a republican America, with well educated citizens. He observed and fostered the transition in Salem, and wrote

in his diary (2 Dec. 1806), "While Salem was under the greatest aristocracy in New England, few men thought, and the few directed the many. Now the aristocracy is gone and the many govern. It is plain it must require considerable time to give common knowledge to the people." On Union Street, not far from Bentley's church, on the fourth of July, 1804, was born a boy who would grow up to eclipse all sons of Salem in the eyes of the world: Nathaniel Hawthorne, whose father would die of fever while on a voyage to the Caribbean in 1808. This kind of untimely death was all too common among Salem's young seafarers, who fell prey to malaria and other diseases of the Caribbean and Pacific tropics.

Bentley was an acquaintance of Capt. Daniel Sage, and in 1798 gave him an order to buy books while abroad, but Captain Sage, no bibliophile, ended up paying three times the value of the books. Captain Sage was a member of the East India Marine Society, and in 1801 donated to its library a chart that he had made, showing the track of his ship's voyage (per Bentley). Capt. Daniel Sage (1759-1836), born at Greenock, Scotland, was the son of a schoolmaster. He came to Salem and married Deborah Silsbee in 1786 and worked as a master mariner. The Sages had several children, some of whom died young. In 1800 he joined the Essex Lodge of Masons, which preserved a brief biography.

In 1806 the British changed their policy toward American shipping, and no longer respected American-flagged vessels as neutral carriers. This disastrous policy change came just as the Derbys extended their wharf far out into the harbor, tripling its previous length to create more space for warehouses and ship-berths in the deeper water. The Crowninshields had recently built their great India Wharf at the foot of now-Webb Street. The other important wharves were White's, Forrester's (now Central, just west of Derby Wharf), and Union Wharf at the foot of Union Street. Farther to the west, smaller wharves extended into the South River, all the way to the foot of Washington Street. Each had a warehouse or two, and shops for artisans (coopers, blockmakers, joiners, etc.). The waterfront between Union Street and Washington Street also had lumber yards and several ship chandleries and distilleries, with a Market House at the foot of Central Street, below the Custom House. The wharves and streets were crowded with shoppers, gawkers, hawkers, sailors, artisans ("mechanics"), storekeepers, and teamsters; and just across the way, on Stage Point along the south bank of the South River, wooden barks and brigs and ships were being built in the shipyards.

Beginning late in 1806, Salem's commerce with the world was repeatedly interrupted by the British navy, which intercepted neutral trading vessels and often impressed American sailors into their service. France, at war with Britain, countered with its own adverse policy toward American shipping; and

virtually overnight Salem's shipping fleet lost its status as neutral shippers for the European nations. Salem and other American ports continued to push their trade into the oceans of the worlds, but now with the expectation that they would have to fight their way across the seas and into and out of foreign ports.

Salem's twenty-year boom came to an end with a crash in January, 1808, when Jefferson and the Congress imposed an embargo on all shipping in hopes of forestalling war with Britain. The Embargo, which was widely opposed in New England, proved futile and nearly ruinous in Salem, where commerce ceased. As a hotbed of Democratic-Republicanism, Salem's East Parish and its seafarers, led by the Crowninshields, loyally supported the Embargo until it was lifted in spring, 1809. Shunned by the other Salem merchants for his support of the Embargo, the eminent Billy Gray took his large fleet of ships—fully one-third of Salem's tonnage—and moved to Boston, whose commerce was thereby much augmented. Gray's removal eliminated a huge amount of Salem wealth, shipping, import-export cargos, and local employment. Gray soon switched from the Federalist party, and was elected Lt. Governor on a ticket with Gov. Elbridge Gerry, a native of Marblehead.

Salem's commerce with the world was repeatedly interrupted by the British, which intercepted neutral trading vessels and often impressed American sailors into their navy. Despite many warnings and negotiations, the British refused to alter their policies, and pushed President Madison into a position where he had few choices other than hostilities. In June, 1812, war was declared against Britain.

Although the merchants had tried to prevent the war, when it came, Salem swiftly fitted out 40 privateers manned by Marblehead and Salem crews, who also served on U.S. Navy vessels, including the frigate *Constitution*. Many more local vessels could have been sent against the British, but some of the Federalist merchants held them back. In addition, Salem fielded companies of infantry and artillery. Salem and Marblehead privateers were largely successful in making prizes of British supply vessels. While many of the town's men were wounded in engagements, and some were killed, the possible riches of privateering kept the men returning to sea as often as possible. The first prizes were captured by a 30-ton converted fishing schooner, the *Fame*, and by a 14-ton luxury yacht fitted with one gun, the *Jefferson*. Of all Salem privateers, the Crowninshields' 350-ton ship *America* was most successful: she captured 30-plus prizes worth more than \$1,100,000.

Salem erected forts and batteries on its Neck, to discourage the British warships that cruised these waters. On land, the war went poorly for the United States, as the British captured Washington, DC, and burned the Capitol and the

White House. Along the western frontier, U.S. forces were successful against the weak English forces; and, as predicted by many, the western expansionists had their day. At sea, as time wore on, Salem vessels were captured, and its men imprisoned or killed. After almost three years, the war was bleeding the town dry. Hundreds of Salem men and boys were in British prison-ships and at Dartmoor Prison in England. At the Hartford Convention in 1814, New England Federalist delegates met to consider what they could do to bring the war to a close and to restore the region's commerce. Sen. Timothy Pickering of Salem, the leader of the extreme Federalists, did not attend; and the Convention refrained from issuing any ultimatums. Nevertheless, it seemed almost treasonous to have convened it; and it signaled the beginning of the end for the national Federalist party.

At last, in February, 1815, peace was restored.

Post-war, America was flooded with British manufactured goods, especially factory-made knock-offs of the beautiful Indian textiles that had been the specialty of Salem importers for 30 years. Britain, dominant in India, had forced the Indians to become cotton-growers rather than cloth-producers; and the cheap Indian cotton was shipped to the English industrial ports and turned into mass-produced cloth. American national policy-makers reacted, in 1816, by passing a high tariff on cheap imported textiles, in order to protect and encourage America's own budding manufacturing capacity. The net result was to diminish what had been the most abundant and lucrative area of Salem's pre-war trade. Nevertheless, maritime commerce was Salem's business, and its merchants rebuilt their fleets and resumed their worldwide commerce, without a full understanding of how difficult the new international conditions had become. For a few years, their efforts were rewarded with reasonable profits, and it seemed that Salem was once again in the ascendant, with almost 200 vessels sailing to Europe, the Orient, the Caribbean and South America, and the southern ports.

The pre-war partisan politics of the town were not resumed post-war, as the middle-class "mechanics" (artisans) became more powerful and brought about civic harmony, largely through the Salem Charitable Mechanic Association (founded 1817). Rev. William Bentley, keen observer and active citizen during Salem's time of greatest prosperity and fiercest political divisions, died in 1819, the year in which a new U.S. Custom House was built on the site of the George Crowninshield mansion, at the head of Derby Wharf. Into the 1820s foreign trade continued prosperous; and new markets were opened with Madagascar (1820), which supplied tallow and ivory, and Zanzibar (1825), whence came coffee, ivory, and gum copal, used to make varnish. This opened

a long-standing trade that Salem would dominate; and its vessels thus gained access to all of the east African ports.

In 1823, evidently, William Webb, apothecary, or pharmacist, was allowed to lease the Sage building here as his apothecary shop. This would be the case for many decades to come. William Webb (1793-1870) married Isabella Donaldson, and they had children. William, a son of Capt. Benjamin Webb and Hannah Bray, was an apprentice to his brother Benjamin Webb Jr., an apothecary, and in 1823 opened his own shop here at #54, according to an article written by Benjamin F. Browne, also an apothecary (EIHC 6:212).

Salem's general maritime foreign commerce fell off sharply in 1824, as a second major tariff act was passed by Congress, to the benefit of manufacturers and the detriment of importers. Salem imports were supplanted by the goods that were now being produced in great quantities in America. The town's prosperity began to wane, and many people saw no future locally. The interior of the country was being opened for settlement, and some Salemites moved away. To the north, the falls of the Merrimack River powered large new textile mills (Lowell was founded in 1823); and in general it seemed that the tide of opportunity was ebbing away from Salem. To stem the flow of talent from the town and to harness its potential water power for manufacturing, Salem's merchants and capitalists banded together in 1825 to raise the money to dam the North River for industrial power. Over the course of three years, the effort gained momentum, but ultimately its many investors failed to implement the plan, which caused several leading citizens to move to Boston, the hub of investment in the new economy.

In 1830 occurred a horrifying crime that brought disgrace to Salem. Old Capt. Joseph White, a rich merchant, now retired, resided in a mansion on Essex Street. His wealth was legendary in Salem, not least among the denizens of the nearby Salem Jail, where plots had long been hatched to break in and steal the Captain's putative treasure chest. One night, intruders did break in; and they stabbed him to death in his sleep. All of Salem buzzed with rumors; but within a few months it was discovered that the murderer was a Crowninshield (he killed himself) who had been hired by his friends, Capt. White's own relatives, Capt. Joe Knap and his brother Frank (they would be executed). The murder, and related lurid events, tarnished Salem further, and more families quit the now-notorious town.

In 1831 (valuation-directory, p.117), Daniel Sage owned a house and shop (evidently leased to William Webb) (house occupied by John & William Sage), while Edward S. Lang owned a "small house" next door. In July, 1836, the Sages for \$3900 sold to William Webb Jr., Salem trader, the dwelling house,

store, and other buildings, and the land bounded southerly 78' on Essex Street and westerly 200' on land of said Webb, formerly of Benjamin Ward (ED 291:262). Thus Mr. Webb, who had run the apothecary shop here for 13 years, became owner of the premises.

In 1836, William Webb Jr., apothecary, was listed as residing at 52 Essex Street with his apothecary shop at 54 Essex Street (per 1837 directory). His brother Benjamin Webb, also an apothecary, resided at 90 Essex with a shop at 102 Essex.

Salem had not prepared for the industrial age, and had few natural advantages. The North River served not to power factories but mainly to flush the waste from the 25 tanneries that had set up along its banks. As the decade wore on, and the new railroads and canals, all running and flowing to Boston from points north, west, and south, diverted both capital and trade away from the coast. Salem's remaining merchants took their equity out of local wharves and warehouses and ships and put it into the stock of manufacturing and transportation companies. Some merchants did not make the transition, and were ruined. Old-line areas of work, like rope-making, sail-making, and ship chandleries, gradually declined and disappeared. Salem slumped badly, but, despite all, the voters decided to charter their town as a city in 1836—the third city to be formed in the state, behind Boston and Lowell. City Hall was built 1837-8 and the city seal was adopted with an already-anachronistic Latin motto of “to the farthest port of the rich East”—a far cry from “Go West, young man!” The Panic of 1837, a brief, sharp, nationwide economic depression, caused even more Salem families to head west in search of fortune and a better future.

Throughout the 1830s, the leaders of Salem scrambled to re-invent an economy for their fellow citizens, many of whom were mariners without much seafaring to do. Ingenuity, ambition, and hard work would have to carry the day. One inspiration was the Salem Laboratory, Salem's first science-based manufacturing enterprise, founded in 1813 to produce chemicals. At the plant built in 1818 in North Salem on the North River, the production of alum and blue vitriol was a specialty; and it proved a very successful business. Salem's whale-fishery led to the manufacturing of high-quality candles at Stage Point, along with machine oils. The candles proved very popular. Lead-manufacturing began in the 1820s, and grew large after 1830, when Wyman's gristmills on the Forest River, at the head of Salem Harbor, were retooled for making high-quality white lead and sheet lead. These enterprises were a start toward taking Salem in a new direction. In 1838 the Eastern Rail Road, headquartered in Salem, began operating between Boston and Salem, which gave the local people a direct route to the region's largest market. The new

railroad tracks ran right over the middle of the Mill Pond; the tunnel under Washington Street was built in 1839; and the line was extended to Newburyport in 1840.

In the face of these changes, some members of Salem's waning merchant class continued to pursue their sea-borne businesses into the 1840s; but it was an ebb tide, with unfavorable winds. Boston, transformed into a modern mega-port with efficient railroad and highway distribution to all markets, had subsumed virtually all foreign trade other than Salem's continuing commerce with Zanzibar.

William Webb (1793-1870), s/o Capt. Wm Webb & Hannah Bray, d. 29 April 1870. He m. 1825 Isabella Donaldson (d.1846). Known issue:

1. *Isabella, 1827, d. 1834.*
2. *Benjamin, 1829, apothecary, m. Lizzie Brown, m/2 1880 Angie Legro of Bangor, Me., he d. 13 Nov. 1900, no issue.*
3. *Elizabeth Donaldson, 1831, m. George M. Whipple*
4. *William, 1833, apothecary, married twice, res. Winchester 1874.*

In 1841, William Webb Jr., apothecary, had his house and shop as in 1836. In 1841 and 1844 Gardner Barton, apothecary, resided in the same house as William Webb Jr., apothecary, at 52 Essex Street (per 1842 directory and 1844 street book). Mr. Barton had an apothecary shop at 6 Newbury Street in 1836 and 1841 and later.

The sleepy waterfront at Derby Wharf, with an occasional arrival from Africa and regular visits from schooners carrying wood from Nova Scotia, is depicted in 1850 by Hawthorne in his cranky "introductory section" to **The Scarlet Letter**, which he began while working in the Custom House.

Although Hawthorne had no interest in describing it, Salem's transformation did occur in the 1840s, as more industrial methods and machines were introduced, and many new companies in new lines of business arose. The Gothic symbol of Salem's new industrial economy was the large twin-towered granite train station—the "stone depot"—smoking and growling with idling locomotives. It stood on filled-in land at the foot of Washington Street, where the merchants' wharves had been; and from it the trains carried many valuable products as well as passengers. The tanning and curing of leather was very important in Salem by the mid-1800s. On and near Boston Street, along the upper North River, there were 41 tanneries in 1844, and 85 in 1850, employing 550 hands. The leather business would continue to grow in importance throughout the 1800s. In 1846 the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company

completed the construction at Stage Point of the largest factory building in the United States, 60' wide by 400' long. It was an immediate success, and hundreds of people found employment there, many of them living in tenements built nearby. It too benefited from the Zanzibar and Africa trade, as it produced light cotton cloth for use in the tropics. Also in the 1840s, a new method was introduced to make possible high-volume industrial shoe production. In Lynn, the factory system was perfected, and that city became the nation's leading shoe producer. Salem had shoe factories too, and attracted shoe workers from outlying towns and the countryside. Even the population began to transform, as hundreds of Irish families, fleeing the Famine in Ireland, settled in Salem and gave the industrialists a big pool of cheap labor.

In 1851, Stephen C. Phillips succeeded in building a railroad line from Salem to Lowell, which meant that the coal that was landed at Phillips Wharf (formerly the Crowninshields' great India Wharf) could be run cheaply out to Lowell to help fuel the boilers of the mills, whose output of textiles could be freighted easily to Salem for shipment by water. This innovation, although not long-lived, was a much-needed boost to Salem's economy as a port and transportation center. Salem's growth continued through the 1850s, as business and industries expanded, the population swelled, new churches (e.g. Immaculate Conception, 1857) were started, new working-class neighborhoods were developed (especially in North Salem and South Salem, off Boston Street, and along the Mill Pond behind the Broad Street graveyard), and new schools, factories, and stores were built. A second, larger, factory building for the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company was added in 1859, at Stage Point, where a new Methodist Church went up, and many neat homes, boarding-houses, and stores were erected along the streets between Lafayette and Congress. The tanning business continued to boom, as better and larger tanneries were built along Boston Street and Mason Street; and subsidiary industries sprang up as well, most notably the J.M. Anderson glue-works on the Turnpike (Highland Avenue).

As it re-established itself as an economic powerhouse, Salem took a strong interest in national politics. It was primarily Republican, and strongly anti-slavery, with its share of outspoken abolitionists, led by Charles Remond, a passionate speaker who came from one of the city's notable black families. At its Lyceum (on Church Street) and in other venues, plays and shows were put on, but cultural lectures and political speeches were given too.

By 1860, with the election of Abraham Lincoln, it was clear that the Southern states would secede from the union; and Salem, which had done so much to win the independence of the nation, was ready to go to war to force others to remain a part of it.

The Civil War began in April, 1861, and went on for four years, during which hundreds of Salem men served in the army and navy, and many were killed or died of disease or abusive treatment while imprisoned. Hundreds more suffered wounds, or broken health. The people of Salem contributed greatly to efforts to alleviate the suffering of the soldiers, sailors, and their families; and there was great celebration when the war finally ended in the spring of 1865, just as President Lincoln was assassinated. The four years of bloodshed and warfare were over; the slaves were free; a million men were dead; the union was preserved and the South was under martial rule. Salem, with many wounded soldiers and grieving families, welcomed the coming of peace.

Through the 1860s, Salem pursued manufacturing, especially of leather and shoes and textiles. The managers and capitalists tended to build their new, grand houses along Lafayette Street (these houses may still be seen, south of Roslyn Street; many are in the French Second Empire style, with mansard roofs). A third factory building for the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company was built in 1865.

In September, 1867, William Webb, apothecary, sold to his son Benjamin Webb Jr., apothecary, "my apothecary's shop" at 54 Essex Street with the land under, on Essex Street, surrounded by other land of the grantor (ED 291:262). William Webb died on April 29, 1870, in his 77th year. In July, 1870, Benjamin Webb purchased the William Webb homestead to the east of the shop (ED 813:299,300). Benjamin Webb carried on the apothecary business for many years more.

In 1870 Salem received its last cargo from Zanzibar, thus ending a once-important trade. By then, a new Salem & New York freight steamboat line was in operation. Seven years later, with the arrival of a vessel from Cayenne, Salem's foreign trade came to an end. After that, "the merchandise warehouses on the wharves no longer contained silks from India, tea from China, pepper from Sumatra, coffee from Arabia, spices from Batavia, gum-copal from Zanzibar, hides from Africa, and the various other products of far-away countries. The boys have ceased to watch on the Neck for the incoming vessels, hoping to earn a reward by being the first to announce to the expectant merchant the safe return of his looked-for vessel. The foreign commerce of Salem, once her pride and glory, has spread its white wings and sailed away forever" (Rev. George Bachelder in *History of Essex County*, II: 65).

Salem was now so densely built-up that a general conflagration was always a possibility, as in Boston, when, on Nov. 9, 1872, the financial and manufacturing district of the city burned up. Salem continued to prosper in the

1870s, carried forward by the leather-making business. In 1874 the city was visited by a tornado and shaken by a minor earthquake. In the following year, the large Pennsylvania Pier (site of the present coal-fired harborside electrical generating plant) was completed to begin receiving large shipments of coal. Beyond it, at Juniper Point, a new owner began subdividing the old Allen farmlands into a new development called Salem Willows and Juniper Point. In the U.S. centennial year, 1876, A.G. Bell of Salem announced that he had discovered a way to transmit voices over telegraph wires.

In this decade, French-Canadian families began coming to work in Salem's mills and factories, and more houses and tenements were built. The better-off workers bought portions of older houses or built small homes for their families in the outlying sections of the city; and by 1879 the Naumkeag Steam Cotton mills would employ 1200 people and produce annually nearly 15 million yards of cloth. Shoe-manufacturing businesses expanded in the 1870s, and 40 shoe factories were employing 600-plus operatives. Tanning, in both Salem and Peabody, remained a very important industry, and employed hundreds of breadwinners. On Boston Street in 1879, the Arnold tannery caught fire and burned down.

In the 1880s and 1890s, Salem kept building infrastructure; and new businesses arose, and established businesses expanded. Retail stores prospered; horse-drawn trolleys ran every which-way; and machinists, carpenters, millwrights, and other specialists all thrived. In 1880, Salem's manufactured goods were valued at about \$8.4 million, of which leather accounted for nearly half. In the summer of 1886, the Knights of Labor brought a strike against the manufacturers for a ten-hour day and other concessions; but the manufacturers imported labor from Maine and Canada, and kept going. The strikers held out, and there was violence in the streets, and even rioting; but the owners prevailed, and many of the defeated workers lost their jobs and suffered, with their families, through a bitter winter.

By the mid-1880s, Salem's cotton-cloth mills at the Point employed 1400 people who produced about 19 million yards annually, worth about \$1.5 million. The city's large shoe factories stood downtown behind the stone depot and on Dodge and Lafayette Streets. A jute bagging company prospered with plants on Skerry Street and English Street; its products were sent south to be used in cotton-baling. Salem factories also produced lead, paint, and oil. At the Eastern Railroad yard on Bridge Street, cars were repaired and even built new. In 1887 the streets were first lit with electricity, replacing gas-light. The gas works, which had stood on Northey Street since 1850, was moved to a larger site on Bridge Street in 1888, opposite the Beverly Shore.

More factories and more people required more space for buildings, more roads, and more storage areas. This space was created by filling in rivers, harbors, and ponds. The once-broad North River was filled from both shores, and became a canal along Bridge Street above the North Bridge. The large and beautiful Mill Pond, which occupied the whole area between the present Jefferson Avenue, Canal Street, and Loring Avenue, finally vanished beneath streets, storage areas, junk-yards, rail-yards, and parking lots. The South River, too, with its epicenter at Central Street (that's why there was a Custom House built there in 1805) disappeared under the pavement of Riley Plaza and New Derby Street, and some of its old wharves were joined together with much in-fill and turned into coal-yards and lumber-yards. Only a canal was left, running in from Derby and Central Wharves to Lafayette Street.

In the 1893-4 Naumkeag Directory, as in years past, Benjamin Webb, apothecary, took out an advertisement listing his specialties (prepared and sold only by him) as Old Dr. Webb's Cough Mixture, Old Dr. Webb's Worm Powders, and Dr. Little's Green Ointment for skin diseases.

In September, 1897, Benjamin Webb conveyed the shop and homestead to his wife Angie (ED 1524:86). He died soon after, and in April, 1902, the widow Angie Webb conveyed the premises, homestead and shop, to Marietta B. Wilkins, wife of S. Herbert Wilkins (ED 1670:447). Mrs. Wilkins, who resided at #52, would own the premises for more than fifty years.

In 1903, the store was the site of Pierce Brothers Home Bakery (per the directory; the Pierce brothers were Franklin & Willard). It remained a bakery for years.

Salem kept growing. The Canadians were followed in the early 20th century by large numbers of Polish and Ukrainian families, who settled primarily in the Derby Street neighborhood. By the eve of World War One, Salem was a bustling, polyglot city that supported large department stores and large factories of every description. People from the surrounding towns, and Marblehead in particular, came to Salem to do their shopping; and its handsome government buildings, as befit the county seat, were busy with conveyances of land, lawsuits, and probate proceedings. The city's politics were lively, and its economy was strong.

On June 25, 1914, in the morning, in Blubber Hollow (Boston Street opposite Federal), a fire started in one of Salem's fire-prone wooden tanneries. This fire soon consumed the building and raced out of control, for the west wind was high and the season had been dry. The next building caught fire, and the next, and out of Blubber Hollow the fire roared easterly, a monstrous front of flame

and smoke, wiping out the houses of Boston Street, Essex Street, and upper Broad Street, and then sweeping through Hathorne, Winthrop, Endicott, and other residential streets. Men and machines could not stop it: the enormous fire crossed over into South Salem and destroyed the neighborhoods west of Lafayette Street, then devoured the mansions of Lafayette Street itself, and raged onward into the tenement district. Despite the combined efforts of heroic fire crews from many towns and cities, the fire overwhelmed everything in its path: it smashed into the large factory buildings of the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company (Congress Street), which exploded in an inferno; and it rolled down Lafayette Street and across the water to Derby Street. There, just beyond Union Street, after a 13-hour rampage, the monster died, having consumed 250 acres, 1600 houses, and 41 factories, and leaving three dead and thousands homeless. Some people had insurance, some did not; all received much support and generous donations from all over the country and the world. It was one of the greatest urban disasters in the history of the United States, and the people of Salem would take years to recover from it. Eventually, they did, and many of the former houses and businesses were rebuilt; and several urban-renewal projects (including Hawthorne Boulevard, which involved removing old houses and widening old streets) were put into effect.

In 1915 the store here was used by the Essex Baking Company, operated by Arthur W. Damon of 206 North Street (per 1915 directory). By 1920, the building changed uses: it was the Roy Eng Laundry, and Roy Eng lived here as well; his brother(?) Charlie Eng ran a laundry at 112 Essex Street. By 1930 (per directory) it was the Hoo Soe Laundry and residence; and it remained a laundry for many years afterward.

By the 1920s, Salem was once again a thriving city; and its tercentenary in 1926 was a time of great celebration. The Depression hit in 1929, and continued through the 1930s. Salem, the county seat and regional retail center, gradually rebounded, and prospered after World War II through the 1950s and into the 1960s. Sylvania, Parker Brothers, Pequot Mills (formerly Naumkeag Steam Cotton Co.), Almy's department store, various other large-scale retailers, and Beverly's United Shoe Machinery Company were all major local employers. Then the arrival of suburban shopping malls and the relocation of manufacturing businesses took their toll, as they have with many other cities.

In April, 1951, for \$3,000 the estate of Marietta Wilkins sold the shop and its land, fronting 20' on Essex Street and running back 50', to Set Ming Fong (ED 3813:545). Since then, the property has been sold as follows: 1985 estate of Fong to How, Set, and Sezto (ED 7735:540); 1991 How to Chew (ED 10931:147); 2001 Chew, Set, Sheung to Jon M. Cahill (ED 18627:364); 2002

Cahill to John Meldrum (ED 19078:313); 2006 Meldrum to Sara Discepolo (ED 26085:381).

More than most, Salem has navigated its way forward into the present with success, trading on its share of notoriety arising from the witch trials, but also from its history as a great seaport and as the home of Bowditch, McIntire, Bentley, Story, and Hawthorne. Most of all, it remains a city where the homes of the old-time merchants, mariners, and mill-operatives are all honored as a large part of what makes Salem different from any other place.

Glossary & Sources

A figure like (ED 123:45) refers to book 123, page 45, Essex South Registry of Deeds, Salem.

A figure like (#12345) refers to Essex Probate case 12345, on file at the Essex Probate Court, Federal Street, Salem, or on microfilm at Mass. Archives, Boston, or at the Peabody Essex Museum's Phillips Library, Salem.

MSSRW refers to the multi-volume compendium, *Mass. Soldiers & Sailors in the Revolutionary War*, available at the Salem Public Library among other places.

MSSCRW refers to the multi-volume compendium, *Mass. Soldiers, Sailors, & Marines in the Civil War*, available at the Salem Public Library among other places.

EIHC refers to the Essex Institute Historical Collections (discontinued), a multi-volume set (first volume published in 1859) of data and articles about Essex County. The indices of the EIHC have been consulted regarding many of the people associated with this house.

The six-volume published Salem Vital records (marriages, births, and deaths through 1849) have been consulted, as have the Salem Directory and later Naumkeag Directory, which have information about residents and their addresses, etc.

Sidney Perley's three-volume *History of Salem, 1626-1716* has been consulted, as has the four-volume *William Bentley's Diary*, J. Duncan Phillips' books, some newspaper obituaries, and other sources.

Salem real estate valuations, and, where applicable, Salem Street Books, have also been consulted, as have genealogies.

There is much more material available about Salem and its history; and the reader is encouraged to make his or her own discoveries.

—Robert Booth

BENJAMIN * WEBB,
☼ APOTHECARY ☼

54 ESSEX STREET, - - SALEM.

SPECIALTIES

"OLD DR. WEBB'S COUGH MIXTURE." A cheap and effectual remedy. Try it.
"OLD DR. WEBB'S WORM POWDERS." Successful through years of trial. A sure remedy.
"DR. LITTLE'S GREEN OINTMENT." Positively cures Eczema and all Skin Diseases. Also Piles.

The above Remedies are Prepared and Sold only by

BENJAMIN WEBB, - Apothecary.

THOMAS E. SHAY,

Registered * Pharmacist,

—+ DEALER IN +—

Drugs, Medicines and Chemicals, Fancy and Toilet Articles, Sponges, Brushes, Perfumery, etc. Choice Tobacco and Cigars.

PHYSICIANS' PRESCRIPTIONS A SPECIALTY.

117 BRIDGE ST., COR. PLEASANT, - SALEM.

*** J. T. TUDBURY, ***

Successor to J. W. CHAMBERLAIN.

410 ESSEX ST., SALEM, MASS.

PHARMACIST,



Drugs, Medicines and Chemicals, Fancy and Toilet Articles, Sponges, Brushes, Perfumery, etc., choice Tobacco & Cigars

Physicians' Prescriptions carefully compounded, and orders answered with care and dispatch. Our stock of Medicines is complete, warranted genuine, and of the best quality.

PIERRE L. M. GAUDETTE,
DRUGGIST

AND DEALER IN MEDICINES.

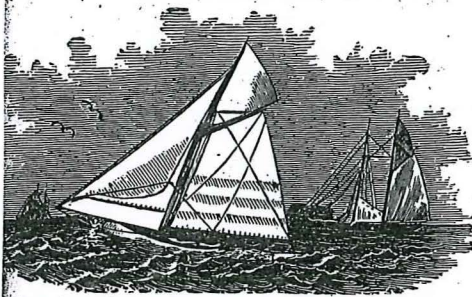
TOILET AND FANCY ARTICLES AND PERFUMERY.

PHYSICIANS' PRESCRIPTIONS A SPECIALTY.

No. 122 Lafayette Street, - Salem, Mass.

1903-4

Remon Bros.



Yacht and Boat Builders.

Repairing in all its branches.

Winter storage for Boats
of all kinds.

57 Turner St., (Foot of Street.) Salem.

Row boats and yacht moorings to let
at the Salem Willows.

Wenham Lake Ice Co.

Office, 20 March St.,
SALEM.

CLAS BOYES, Prop.

Orders Promptly Attend-
ed to.

Telephone 103-2.



Chas. H. Wigley, Groceries and Provisions.

Bridge Street, Salem, Mass.

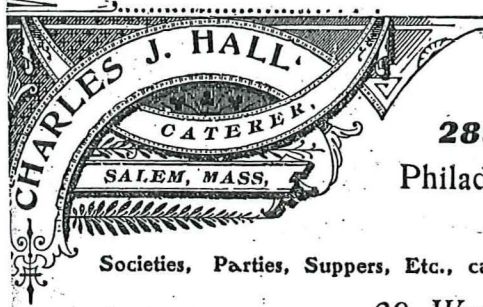
Telephone 79-2.

Pierce Bros. Home Bakery

Also Dealers in

Confectionery, Cigars and
Tobacco.

54 Essex Street, Salem, Mass.



C. J. Hall Caterer.

289 Essex St., Salem.

Philadelphia Ice Cream and
Sherbets

Societies, Parties, Suppers, Etc., catered for at Reasonable Terms.

Telephone Connection.

29 West Ave., Salem, Mass.

Know all men by these Presents, That 291:
 We John Sage, Mariner, William Sage, gentlemen, 262
 Margaret Sage, singlewoman, Ephraim Emerton, Mer- J. Sage & al.
 chant, and Mary Ann wife of said Ephraim in her to
 own right, Charles F. Putnam, trader & Sarah wife of W. Webb Jr
 said Charles in her own right all of Salem in the County
 of Essex, in consideration of Thirty nine hundred dol-
 lars to us paid by William Webb Jr of Salem aforesaid
 trader, the receipt whereof we do here by acknowledge, do
 hereby give, grant sell and convey unto the said William Webb
 Jr his heirs and assigns the following parcel of Real Estate
 situate on Essex street in said Salem bounded Southwly by
 Essex street there measuring seventy eight feet Eastwly
 by land of the City of Salem aforesaid there measuring
 Two hundred and seven feet Northwly by East street,
 there measuring seventy nine feet and six inches --
 Westwly by land of said Webb late of the heirs of Benja-
 min Ward, there measuring Two hundred feet with
 a dwelling house, store and other buildings thereon, and
 all the privileges and appurtenances belonging to said
 estate, **TO HAVE AND TO HOLD** the afore-granted premi-
 ses to the said William Webb Jr his heirs and assigns to
 him and their use forever. And do covenant with the
 said William Webb Jr his heirs and assigns, that we
 are lawfully seized in fee of the afore-granted premises,
 that they are free of all incumbrances, that we have
 good right to sell and convey the same to the said
 William Webb Jr and that we will warrant and
 defend the same premises to the said William Webb
 Jr his heirs and assigns forever, against the lawful
 claims and demands of all persons claiming the
 same by, from, or under us or either of us.

In Witness Whereof, We the said John, William
 & Margaret Sage, Ephraim and Mary Ann Emerton,
 Charles F. & Sarah Putnam have hereunto set our hands
 and seals this twenty sixth day of October in the year
 of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty six.
 Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of us, two then being
 been first written on an instrument
 Adigail Emerton, Joseph Walters }
 Ephraim }
 & Margaret Sage, Ephraim }
 Emerton & Mary Ann Emerton, Charles F. & Sarah
 Putnam acknowledged the above Instrument to be their
 free act and deed, before me, Joseph F. Walters, Justice of the Peace,
 Essex Co. Received Aug. 31. 36, 5 minutes before 9 A.M.

Recorded & examined, by A. S. French, C.

July 1836
 Sage heirs to
 William Webb.
 291:262

1 May 1800 Derby heirs
to Daniel Sage 166: 250.

Know all Men by these presents that we Richard Derby, Samuel Derby and Charles Derby, all of Salem in the County of Essex & Commonwealth of Massachusetts merchants, & Ebenezer Dreble of Boston in the County of Suffolk in said Commonwealth merchant, in consideration of seven hundred and forty seven dollars & forty cents paid in by Daniel Sage of Salem aforesaid mariner (the receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge) do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell & convey unto the said Daniel his heirs & assigns three fourth parts & seven tenths of a fourth part of a piece of land in said Salem bounded as follows to wit, southerly by Essex street, there measuring seventy eight feet, easterly by land of Mrs. Mary Elkins, there measuring two hundred & seven feet, northerly by east street there measuring seventy nine feet & six inches, westerly by land of Capt. Benjⁿ Wood, there measuring two hundred feet, being the same parcel of land which was appraised & set off to Richard Derby & his heirs deceased upon his execution against Daniel Covert, which levy is recorded in Registry of Deeds in the County of Essex Book 185 Leaf 113 with the privileges & appurtenances to the same belonging. To have and to hold the same to the said Daniel Sage his heirs and assigns to him and their use and benefit forever, and we the said Richard, Samuel, Charles & Ebenezer, for ourselves our heirs executors & administrators do covenant with the said Daniel his heirs & assigns that the above described premises, are free of all incumbrances, and that we, our heirs, executors and administrators will warrant and defend the above described premises to the said Daniel Sage, his heirs and assigns, forever, against the lawful claims and demands of any persons, and we Martha wife of said Richard, and Margaret whereof we do hereby acknowledge do hereby acknowledge, do hereby release to him, his heirs & assigns, all our right to dower in the premises. In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands & seals this first day of May in the year of our Lord eighteenth hundred.

Signed sealed & delivered in presence of us, ~~noted~~ }
 "mine" being first dated - - - - - }

Andrew Dunlap Jr, Alexander Young, to the signature }
 of Nathl Derby, Charles Derby & Eben^r Dreble - - - - - }

John Lathrop, Eliza Lathrop, to the signature, of }
 Martha Derby - - - - - }

John Gardner Jun^r Edw^d Allen Jr to the signature }
 of Samuel & Margaret Derby - - - - - }

Suffolk^s Boston May 1st 1800. Then appeared Nathl Derby, Charles Derby & Eben^r Dreble & severally acknowledged the foregoing Instrument by them subscribed to be their free will & deed before William Stevenson Just Peace

Suffolk^s Boston 12th May 1800 Then Martha Derby acknowledged the foregoing Instrument by her subscribed to be her free will & deed before me Sam Gardner Justice of the Peace

Essex^s May 26. A.D. 1800. This day personally appeared Samuel Derby within named and acknowledged the within Instrument to be his voluntary deed before me
 Wm Prescott - Ju^s Pacis - - -

Essex^s Dec^r May - 28 - 1800 & recorded & exam^d by John Pickering Regis^r

R Derby
& others
to
D Sage

Nich. Derby - - - - - a seal
 Sam^l Derby - - - - - a seal
 Charles Derby - - - - - a seal
 Eben Dreble as guardian to } a seal
 Mary, Charles & Caroline Dreble }
 Martha Derby - - - - - a seal
 Margaret Derby - - - - - a seal

I, Raymond S. Wilkins

EXECUTOR under the WILL of ~~Marietta B. Wilkins~~
Marietta B. Wilkins

by power conferred by license of Essex County Probate Court dated April 26, 1951

and every other power,
for three thousand (3000.00) ----- Dollars
paid, grant to Set Ming Fong of Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts

the land in said Salem, together with the buildings thereon, bounded and described as follows:

SOUTHEASTERLY by Essex Street, twenty (20) feet;
SOUTHWESTERLY by land of Drabinowicz, fifty (50) feet;
NORTHWESTERLY by Lot B on plan of land hereinafter referred to, twenty (20) feet; and
NORTHEASTERLY by said Lot B, fifty (50) feet.

Containing 1000 square feet and being Lot A as shown on a plan entitled, "Plan of Land in Salem, Mass., Scale 1 in. = 20 ft., April, 1951," to be recorded herewith.

Being a portion of the premises conveyed to Marietta B. Wilkins by deed of Angle Webb, dated April 17, 1902, recorded with Essex South District Registry of Deeds, Book 1670, Page 447.

See also Estate of Marietta B. Wilkins, Essex County Probate No. 232543.

April 1951
Wilkins estate
to S.M. Fong

land + building
set off from
larger homestead



Witness my hand and seal this twenty-sixth day of April, 1951

Raymond S. Wilkins
Grantor.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Essex, ss.

April 26, 1951

Then personally appeared the above named Raymond S. Wilkins

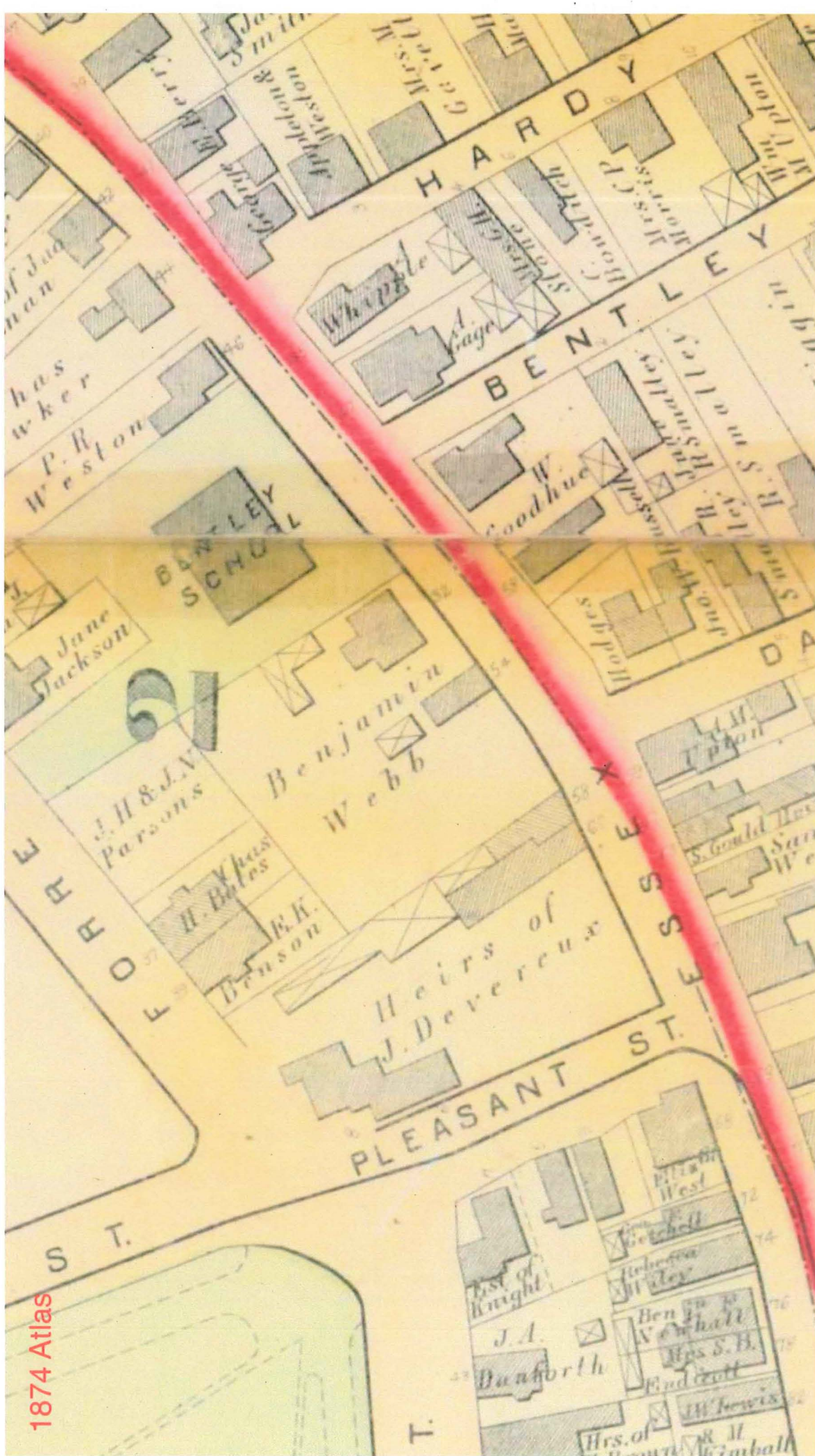
and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his free act and deed, before me

Ernest A. Harding
Notary Public

My commission expires

19

Essex ss. Recorded Apr. 26, 1951. 58 m. past 9 A.M.



Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No: SAL.2665
Historic Name:
Common Name:
Address: 54 Essex St
City/Town: Salem
Village/Neighborhood: Derby Street
Local No: 35-429
Year Constructed: r 1815
Architect(s):
Architectural Style(s): Federal
Use(s): Speciality store
Significance: Architecture; Commerce
Area(s): SAL.FL: Essex Street East Area
SAL.HW: Salem Common Historic District
Designation(s): Nat'l Register District (05/12/1976)
Building Materials(s): Roof: Asphalt Shingle
Wall: Aluminum Siding; Wood



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

The MACRIS database and scanned files are highly dynamic; new information is added daily and both database records and related scanned files may be updated as new information is incorporated into MHC files. Users should note that there may be a considerable lag time between the receipt of new or updated records by MHC and the appearance of related information in MACRIS. Users should also note that not all source materials for the MACRIS database are made available as scanned images. Users may consult the records, files and maps available in MHC's public research area at its offices at the State Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, open M-F, 9-5.

Users of this digital material acknowledge that they have read and understood the MACRIS Information and Disclaimer (<http://mhc-macris.net/macrisdisclaimer.htm>)

Data available via the MACRIS web interface, and associated scanned files are for information purposes only. THE ACT OF CHECKING THIS DATABASE AND ASSOCIATED SCANNED FILES DOES NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LOCAL, STATE OR FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. IF YOU ARE REPRESENTING A DEVELOPER AND/OR A PROPOSED PROJECT THAT WILL REQUIRE A PERMIT, LICENSE OR FUNDING FROM ANY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY YOU MUST SUBMIT A PROJECT NOTIFICATION FORM TO MHC FOR MHC'S REVIEW AND COMMENT. You can obtain a copy of a PNF through the MHC web site (www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc) under the subject heading "MHC Forms."

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 12:55 PM

SAL 2665 DS

FL 2665

AREA 35	FORM NO. 429
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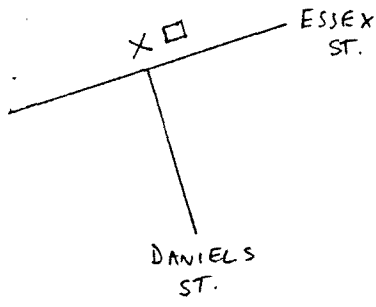
FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116



SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by Debra Hilbert
Organization Salem Planning Department
Date October, 1985

Salem
54 Essex Street
Historic Name _____
Present commercial
Original "
DESCRIPTION:
c. 1810-1820
Source observation

Style Federal
Architect _____
Exterior wall fabric aluminum siding
Outbuildings _____
Major alterations (with dates) _____
Moved _____ Date _____
Approx. acreage less than one acre
Setting residential

(Staple additional sheets here)

SAL 21665

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

54 Essex Street is a simple two-story, hip-roofed structure with a first floor storefront. Oriented with its narrow end to the street, the building is one bay wide and four bays deep. About the only trim consists of paired brackets in the storefront.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

This structure was standing by 1823 when William Webb, owner of the house next door at 52 Essex Street, opened an apothecary shop here. Apparently commercial properties were common on lower Essex Street in the 19th century as one Essex Institute account mentions that Captain Manning's gunsmith shop, as well as painters and barbers were located in the vicinity.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Reardon, Eliz. SHDSCI, Vol. II, p. 82

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

Block 85
Lot 429
SAM

SAL 2665 DS

In Area no. HW FL	Form no. 2665
----------------------	------------------



Town Salmon

Address 54 Essex St

Name _____

Present use Store / Residence

Present owner Sot Ming Fong

Description: _____

Date _____

Source H.D.S.C. 1969

Style Federal

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric Wuik

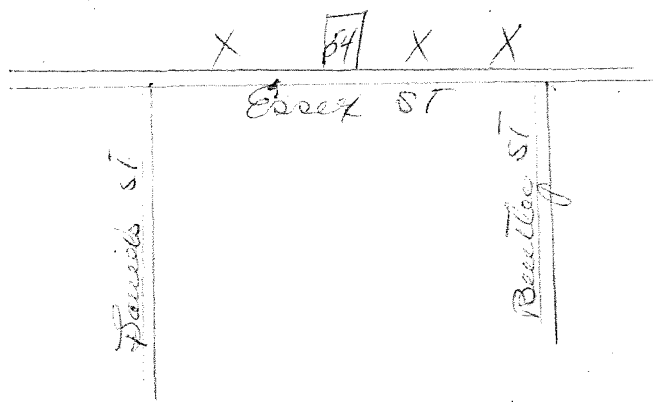
Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features _____

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.

MAY 1977

N ↑



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

Altered _____ Date _____

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:
One acre or less Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 20'

Approximate distance of building from street
0

6. Recorded by EC Welch

Organization Hist Salmon Soc

Date June 1977

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Webb's Apothecary Shop

Original use _____

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| Aboriginal | _____ | Conservation | _____ | Recreation | _____ |
| Agricultural | _____ | Education | _____ | Religion | _____ |
| Architectural | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Exploration/
settlement | _____ | Science/
invention | _____ |
| The Arts | _____ | Industry | _____ | Social/
humanitarian | _____ |
| Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Military | _____ | Transportation | _____ |
| Communication | _____ | Political | _____ | | |
| Community development | _____ | | | | |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

54 Essex Street (Lot A) (35-0429)Deed Search

Date	Purchased By	Purchased From	Notes
07/16/2015	Kathleen Murphy	Kevin & Miriam Phelan	
06/13/2008	Kevin & Miriam Phelan	Sara Discepolo	July 20, 2007: Sara requested research + plaque for house
09/15/2006	Sara Discepolo	John Meldrum	
08/15/2002	John Meldrum	Jon M. Cahill	
04/26/2002	Jon M. Cahill	Moy Ching Szeto (Chew), Den Jin Set, & Tsang Mei Sheyng	Purchased for \$100,000
		Shun How Set	

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ESSEX, ss

PROBATE COURT
DOCKET NO:

95E0094-601

DEN JIN SET, individually and as Administrator of the Estate of Shun How Set,
Plaintiff

vs.

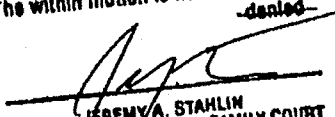
MOTION FOR LIS PENDENS

TSANG MEI SHEUNG and
MOY CHING SZETO
Defendants

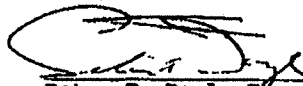
Now comes the plaintiff in the above-entitled matter and moves for approval of a memorandum of lis pendens relating to the real estate of the defendant Moy Ching Szeto, including the real estate located at 54 Essex Street, in Salem, Essex County which land is more fully described in a deed recorded with the Essex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 10931 page 147; the real estate located at 52 Essex Street, Salem, Essex County which land is more fully described in a deed recorded with the Essex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 10931, page 145; the real estate located at 40 Essex Street, Salem, Essex County, which land is more fully described in a deed recorded with the Essex South District registry of Deeds in Book 10931 page 148.

And the Plaintiff says that the subject matter of the action constitutes a claim of a right to title to real property or the use and occupation thereof or the buildings thereon.

Plaintiff's affidavit in support of the above motion are attached hereto.

8/15 189J
The within motion is hereby allowed ~~denied~~

JEREMY A. STAHLIN
JUSTICE OF PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Plaintiff,
By his Attorney,


Peter F. Doyle Esquire
Doyle & Doyle
27 Congress St.
Salem, MA 01970-5541
(508) 740-0470
BBO#548281

Dated: 8/15/95

AUG 15 1995

ESSEX, SS



ATTEST

REGISTER

PROBATE COURT

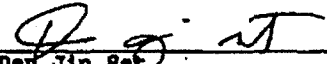
A TRUE COPY

MEMORANDUM OF LIS PENDENS

10.

Notice is hereby given that on 8/15/95 the undersigned Plaintiff commenced an action in the Essex County Probate Court, being Docket No. 95 E 0094-601, a complaint in which the undersigned is named as Plaintiff and Tsang Mei Sheung of Hong Kong and Moy Ching Szeto of Houston Texas, are named Defendants.

Said complaint affects title to the following real estate: the real estate located at 54 Essex Street, in Salem, Essex County which land is more fully described in a deed recorded with the Essex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 10931 page 147; the real estate located at 52 Essex Street, Salem, Essex County which land is more fully described in a deed recorded with the Essex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 10931, page 145; the real estate located at 40 Essex Street, Salem, Essex County, which land is more fully described in a deed recorded with the Essex South District registry of Deeds in Book 10931 page 148.

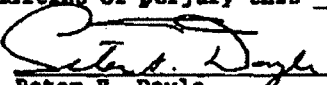

Den Jin Sat

I, attorney for the above named plaintiff, do hereby certify that on 8/15/95, 1995, I gave notice to the below parties that Plaintiff's motion for approval of a memorandum of lis pendens was allowed on 8/15/95, 1995, by mailing the motion, the findings and approval by the court, and the within affidavit, by certified mail to return receipt requested, to the below parties at the below addresses.

Moy Ching Szeto
3611 Cochran
Houston, Texas 77009

Tsang Mei Sheung
FL T/1208 12/F
Wang Yiu House
Wang Tau Hom Estate
Kowloon, Hong Kong

Signed under the pains and penalties of perjury this 15th
day of August, 1995.


Peter P. Doyle

10

2002042600047 Bk:18627 Pg:239
04/26/2002 08:26:00 OTHER Pg 1/1

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT DEPARTMENT
ESSEX DIVISION EQUITY DOCKET NO:95E0094GC1

DEN JIN SET, PLAINTIFF
VS.
TSANG MEI SHEUNG AND
MOY CHING SZETO, DEFENDANTS

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

The above action has been finally disposed of by an Equity Judgment dated December 22, 2000 as of October 23, 2000 in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement which was incorporated into said Judgment.

Sitron K. Gulmet
Clerk of Court

Dated: April 10, 2002

MARGINAL REFERENCE REQUESTED
BOOK 13176 PAGE 533

Cohen & Cohen
Attorneys at Law
81 Washington Street
Salem, MA 01970

aka Moy Ching Szeto

2002042600078 Bk:18627 Pg:364
04/26/2002 08:34:00 DEED Pg 1/2

We Moy Ching Szeto Chew, Den Jin Set, and Tsang Mei Sheung
of Houston, Texas, Salem, Massachusetts, and Hong Kong
in consideration of One Hundred thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00)

COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS

2/8/02

grant to ^{M.} Jon Cahill
1476 Colver St.
of Danvers, Massachusetts

with quitclaim covenants

the land in Salem, Massachusetts
with buildings thereon, bounded and described as follows:

- SOUTHEASTERLY by Essex Street, twenty (20) feet;
- SOUTHWESTERLY by land of Drabinowicz, fifty (50) feet;
- NORTHWESTERLY by Lot B on plan of land hereinafter referred to, twenty (20) feet; and
- NORTHEASTERLY by said Lot B, fifty (50) feet.

Containing 1,000 square feet and being Lot A as shown on a plan entitled, "Plan of Land in Salem, Mass., Scale 1 in. = 20 ft., April, 1951", recorded in the Essex South District Registry of Deeds, Book 3813, Page 542.

Being the same premises conveyed to Moy Ching Szeto Chew by deed of Set Ngor Shun How, also known as Set Gaw see, dated July 22, 1991 and recorded in Book 10931, Page 147 of the Essex South District Registry of Deeds.

See also Entry Public Grant Deed No. 95E-0094

Essex Street, Salem, MA

Executed as a sealed instrument this 15 day of 7 2001

Tsang Mei Sheung Moy Ching Szeto Chew
Tsang Mei Sheung Moy Ching Szeto Chew

Den Jin Set
Den Jin Set

SALEM DEEDS REG 10 ESSEX SOUTH

04/26/02 8:26AM 01
00000 #0855
FEE \$56.00
CASH \$456.00

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Essex ss. April 25, 2001

Then personally appeared the above named Den Jin Set

and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his free act and deed

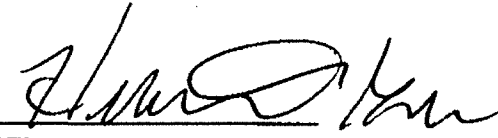
Jon M. Cahill
1476 Colver St.
Danvers, MA 01923

Before me, W.F. O'Leary
Notary Public
My commission expires 11/7/05
19

,SS

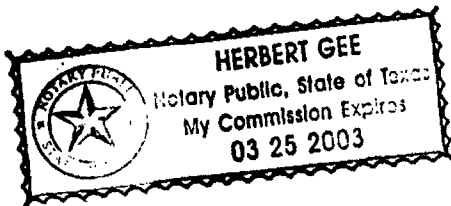
Then personally appeared Moy Ching Szeto Chew, known personally to me or who made herself known to me acknowledged that the foregoing instrument was her free act and deed, before me.

Date 7/15/2001



Notary,


My commission expires: 3-25-2003



,SS Consulate General of the
United States of America
at Hong Kong }SS

Then personally appeared Tsang Mei Sheung, ~~known personally to me or~~ who made herself known to me acknowledged that the foregoing instrument was her free act and deed, before me.

Date JUL 30 2001



~~Notary,~~ MaryKay L. Carlson
American Consul

My commission expires: EOE/DFW

MUNICIPAL LIEN CERTIFICATE
CITY OF SALEM, MA
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Requested by THORNTON & ASSOCIATES

Issuance Date: 07/23/2002

I certify from available information that all taxes, assessments and charges now payable that constitute liens as of the date of this certificate on the parcel of real estate specified in your application received on 07/23/2002 are listed below.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Parcel ID: 35-0429

54 ESSEX STREET



2002081500626 Bk:19078 Pg:312
08/15/2002 15:48:00 ML Pg 1/1

CAHILL JON M,
C/O CAHILL JON M
198 LOCUST STREET
DANVERS MA 01923

Land area : 1,000 SF
Land Value : 77,200
Impr Value : 53,000
Land Use : 0
Exemptions : 0
Taxable Value: 130,200

Deed date: 04/26/2002 Book/Page: 18627-364

FISCAL YEAR	2003	2002	2001
DESCRIPTION			
COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE TAX	668.41	1,304.21	1,234.09
RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE TAX	586.83	1,145.04	1,038.04
TOTAL BILLED:	1,255.24	2,449.25	2,272.13
Charges/Fees	.00	.00	.00
Abatements/Exemptions	.00	.00	.00
Payments/Credits	-627.63	-2,449.25	-2,272.13
Interest to 07/23/2002	.00	.00	.00
TOTAL BALANCE DUE:	627.61	.00	.00

NOTE: Actual 2003 taxes not yet issued.

OTHER UNPAID BALANCES:
2002 UTILITY BILLING

**CONTACT WATER DEPARTMENT FOR
FINAL WATER AND SEWER FIGURES**

Anne L. Busted
ANNE L. BUSTEED
TREASURER/COLLECTOR

THIS FORM APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE

54 Essex Street
Salem, MA 01970

July 31, 2007

Historic Salem Incorporated
The Bowditch House
9 North Street
PO Box 865
Salem, MA 01970

RE: 54 Essex Street, Salem, Massachusetts
Wording of Historic Plaque

To Whom It May Concern:

I received your letter dated July 20, 2007 proposing the wording for the plaque for my property at 54 Essex Street. I would like to make one change. I would propose to add the word "Shop" at the very beginning and prior to the word "Built," so that the plaque would read as follows:

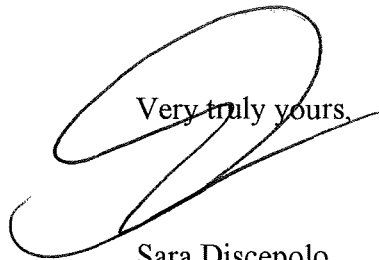
Shop Built for

Captain Daniel Sage, Shipmaster

c. 1805

Please call you have any questions: 978-594-1933 or if you think the change should not be made. I look forward to receiving the plaque and thank you for the research paper.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Discepolo", written over the text "Very truly yours,".

Sara Discepolo

info@HistoricSalem.org

From: Sara Discepolo [Sara_Discepolo@comcast.net]

Sent: Thursday, November 22, 2007 5:32 PM

To: info@historicsalem.org

Subject: Plaque for 54 Essex Street

On July 20, 2007 I received the research paper for my house @ 54 Essex Street but I still don't have the plaque. I sent in my requested change to the proposed plaque soon after receiving the July research paper.

Can you give me a status of when I can expect to receive it? Thank you.

Sara Discepolo

11/23/2007



The Bowditch House
9 North Street
Post Office Box 865
Salem, Massachusetts 01970
Telephone: (978) 745-0799

July 20, 2007

Ms. Sara Discepolo
54 Essex Street
Salem, MA 01970

Dear Ms. Discepolo:

Enclosed please find the research paper completed by Mr. Robert Booth, on the property located at 54 Essex Street Salem, MA.

Please review the document and call this office (978-745-0799) if you have any questions. Please call Historic Salem, Inc. to approve the wording for your plaque which would read as follows:

Built for

Captain Daniel Sage, Shipmaster

c. 1805

"Warehouse"

Very truly yours,

Richard P. Thompson
Executive Administrator
Historic Salem, Inc.

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P.O. Box 865, Salem, MA 01970
(978) 745-0799
[Contact Us!](#)

Historic House Plaque Application

If interested in commissioning a written history of your Salem house and having a plaque to identify its construction date and early owner(s), please fill in the blanks below.

The fee for a professionally prepared house history and plaque is \$400.00. Please send a check for that amount, made out to Historic Salem, Inc., with this application, to the above address.

Name: Sara Discepolo

Name of Owner (if different from above):

Contact Information:

Home Phone: 978-594-1933

Work Phone: 617-549-4537

e-mail: Sara_Discepolo@comcast.net

Street Address: 54 Essex Street

Date Purchased & From Whom:

Sept. '06

Helpful Information about the Building (append copies if necessary):

[Home](#) [About HSI](#) [Site Index](#) [Join Us](#) [News & Events](#)

March 20, 2007

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3715-44247

2008 PLAQUE PROGRAM

TO: Bob Leonard, Ould Colony Artisans
FAX: 207-779-0707

FROM: Dick Thompson, Historic Salem, Inc.

DATE: January 2, 2008

New Plaque order as follows:

Shop Built for
Captain Daniel Sage, Shipmaster
c. 1805

Please ship to:

Sarah Discepolo
54 Essex Street
Salem, MA 01970