



The Joseph Cook House
14 Beckford St.
built in 1733

CHRONOLOGY FOR DATING THE JOSEPH COOK HOUSE

- 721 John Cook, mariner, dies aged 46, leaving widow Hannah (Dean) Cook, and 8 children: Joseph, the oldest, about 21 and George, the baby, under 2. His real estate was considerable land on the East side of Beckford Street, and two "old" dwelling houses. These (Perley "Salem in 1700") were the Dean House (Approximately where #14 is) and the Swaysey house (probably South of where #10 used to be). The latter house, the larger of the two is where Hannah Cook lives.
- 1728 Joseph Cook marries Eunice Pone. They may have been living in the Dean house. (15' x 18')
- 1730 He buys the house and land of John Ruck (Book 61 p. 226; property is farther West on Essex Street.)
- 1731 John Cook's property is divided 10 years after his death. Joseph gets the part with the small Dean House.
- 1732 He buys a strip of the Beckford St. land from his mother for 40 pounds. (Book 60 p. 281)
- 1733 *** (builds a house this year?)
- 1734 Joseph sells the John Ruck house and land to Samuel Sibley (Book 64, p. 189) By this time the Cooks have 2, possibly 3 children;
- 1735 He buys another strip of land on Beckford St. from his mother for 30 pounds (Book 68 p. 267) This was between parcels he already owned. (I think it was approx. Tinti's land.)
- 1749 Joseph's mother Hannah Cook dies intestate. Her oldest son Joseph administers her estate which listed her dwelling house, 8½ poles of land, and a well. (She left debts including a formidable rum bill !). Her six remaining children shared the estate. Benjamin got the (Swaysey) house: eventually it went to his son John Cook (Book 121 p. 142) in 1766, and Curwen's list has "John Cook 1771." Probably John took down the old house and built a new one on the lot.

- 1750 Samuel Curwen's list of " Houses built in Salem" begins. No listing of Joseph Cook.
- 1769 Joseph Cook's will drawn.
- 1770 He dies age about 70. His property, now listed as a "dwelling house, outhouse, 100 poles of land valued at 400 pounds" went to his widow for her life, and would go subsequently to his 2 married daughters, except for 1 parcel of land (Tinti's land) to a grandson Joseph Daland.
- 1784 The estate was settled, presumably on the death of widow Eunice Cook. Hannah Cook Daland was the only daughter living, and she paid 5 pounds, 15 shillings to one niece, and 31 pounds fifteen shillings to the other niece's heir. Then Hannah Cook Daland owned her father's "mansion house."

SUMMARY

Perley says "Mr. Cook(Joseph) probably removed the (old Dean) house before 1770". (year of Cook's death) There is no visible evidence in #14 Beckford St. that the present house was enlarged by Joseph Cook from a 60 yr.old 15' x 13' "small old house". (built about 1675 by Abraham Cole - Perley) It seems reasonable from the circumstantial evidence described above that Joseph Cook took down the old house shortly after he obtained that portion of his father's property. He was probably living at this time with his wife and children in the house he bought from John Ruck. A year later he bought land from his mother that was adjacent to his inherited lot. By 1734 he had sold the Ruck house. I estimate that by now his family was living in his new house that he built on his Beckford St. land probably in 1733, between his acquisition of the land and his selling of his other house.

Curwen's list of houses built in Salem seems quite comprehensive. He lists houses built (on Beckford St.) in 1764 by George Beckford; 1765 by Benj. Eunchard and 1771 by John Cook. Living as he did, a block away, it seems unlikely that he would have omitted the building of a good-sized house on Beckford St. during the years he listed new houses. Therefore I am sure the house preceded Curwen's list. Architectural evidence supports the view that the house is at least early 18th Century. Undated photographs in the Essex Institute show that originally the house, now 10' from the sidewalk,

was right beside the walk. Probably it was moved, and set a trifle higher on its new foundation around 1915.

Further House History

Hannah Cook Daland and her husband may have moved into her father's house in 1784 after her mother's death: we don't know. In 1810 Benjamin Daland died, and a year later, widow Hannah died, aged 83. Her real estate listed only her dwelling house and land on Beckford St. Of her 8 children, only 5 were still alive, and the estate was divided (in complicated fractions!) among the living children and heirs of the deceased ones. Within a year, son John Daland began to buy up the shares held by the other heirs until the old house was his. He had 3 wives, the first two dying young. John Tucker Daland, son of his first wife, inherited his father's house.

Tucker Daland, as he was called, had one child by his 1st wife, and seven by his second. He became a wealthy Salem merchant, and lived in an elegant house he had built on Essex Street (across from the Naunkeag Trust Co.) After his death in 1858, his will listed much real estate including the Beckford St. house. Salem directories (the earliest is 1837) list people living at 12-14 Beckford St. (house has both numbers in the old days) probably renting rooms. By 1846 Tucker Daland's cousin George Daland had been dead over 20 years, and now his widow Joanna Trow Daland with her daughters Joanna and Mary Elizabeth are listed as living there. Joanna was a "carpetmaker" and her sister a "tailoress". Tucker Daland's estate was divided among his children. By 1866 Joanna and Mary Daland were still at #14, and their mother was dead. The two spinsters bought the house for \$2100, paid to all the heirs of Tucker Daland.

By 1879, Mary had died. Joanna never married. She had a succession of women boarders who lived at her house. In 1892, aged 82, Miss Daland died. Her only beneficiaries were Mary A. Trask, wife of a Daland cousin Asa Trask, plus their four children. Mary Trask claimed to have been "brought up like a sister" with Joanna Daland, and from 1897 till 1910 Asa Trask is listed as living

at the house along with other boarders.

By 1915 Asa Trask is no longer at #14; he probably had died. We know his wife died in 1914. His two married daughters who lived in Beverly and Gloucester sold the house to Lucy S. Jelly. The Jellys had owned the lot(# 10) adjacent since at least 1866, and now they owned several parcels on the other side of #14. The next year, instead of 3 or 4 boarders, the directory lists Fredericka Pitman and " The Marble Faun Tea Room." (It may be at this time that the house, shabby and run-down in photos, was moved back from the street and spruced up.) In 1928 Mrs. Jelly, living next door, sold #14 to her son Donald, who moved in himself. 25 years later, after Donald Jelly's death, the house was owned by the Dorseys for 4 years, then by the Parks for 2 years.

In 1959 the Griffin family bought it. The beauty of this venerable dwelling has been enhanced greatly, as the Griffins also acquired the small lot and house (#10) on the south. That house was taken down, so the lovely south front of the old Joseph Cook house once again sits in the sun, facing a green lawn. Now, in 1972 it is approaching its 250th birthday with all the restored grace and dignity befitting its advanced age.

- S. L. Doe

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DOCUMENTATION

Book 8 p. 40 February 21, 1687

George Bowers and wife Priscilla of Penn. for a valuable consideration sell to George Dean land 7 rods square all fenced with one house 13' long and 15' wide bounded on E. by land of Joshua Buffum; on S. By land of Stephen Sewall; on N. with land of said Geo. Dean; and on W. with ye street.

Book 19 p. 113 December 19, 1706

Joseph Dean of Salem, adm. of estate of Elizabeth Dean, late of Salem, dec. for 22 pounds sells to John Cook Jr. of Salem, mariner, a small dwelling house and $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of land bounded: S. & E., with land of Buffum; N. with other land of mine; and W. with ye lane or highway, it being $\frac{1}{4}$ of land that is there belonging to me.

Book 21 p. 34 March 12, 1708

Samuel Buffum late of Salem, now of Newport, cooper, for 25 pounds sells to John Cook Jr. of Salem, mariner, a parcel of land about $\frac{3}{4}$ acre bounded: on N. with land of John Simpson; on E. with land of William Hirst; on S. partly with land of Samuel West and partly with land of Samuel Woodwell; W. partly with ye lane and partly with land that was George Dean's and now in ye tenure and occupation of said John Cook.

Book 24 p. 110 January 8, 1711

Elizabeth Swaysey, of Salem, widow of Joseph Swaysey, and Samuel, eldest son for 95 pounds sell to John Cook Jr. mariner, dwelling house and outhouse with about 16 poles of land, being about 67 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' in front and rear, and about 60' deep, bounded: W. on ye lane; S. on land of Abraham Cole; E. & N. with land of ye Woodwells.

Probate 6240

John Cook, mariner died Dec. 29, 1721 intestate

Inventory of real estate:

one old dwelling house and

about 16 poles of land belonging

£ 70.0.0

one old dwelling house and

49 poles of land belonging
1 piece of land $\frac{3}{4}$ acre

£ 35.0.8

Hannah Cook, widow executor, also John Chapman and Samuel Hayward.

expense item allowed: ye funeral charges of my son John Cook aged 21¹/₂ 6. 0. 0 also allowande for buying cup for ye youngest child 1 yr. old when father dec.

(estate was divided in 1731. See scale drawing copied from the Probate docket papers.)

division of real estate: $\frac{1}{2}$ to widow Hannah; the south part of dwelling house and land it stands on where she is living.

First Division, called No. 1 contains N. part of dwelling house in ye present tenure of William Bickford, and about 8 pole of land, butting W. on ye lane; N. on Hannah Cook's land; E. on Capen's land; S. on Widow's third. value 80 pounds

(plus Common Rights in St. Pasture)

Second Division, No. 2, with a small dwelling house bounded W. on lane 60'; S. on widow's third 165';

(no buildings on #3, val. £ 60. or #4 val. £50)

- | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-----------|
| No. 1 ----- | to Samuel Cook | Shares: |
| No. 2 | to Joseph Cook | Joseph |
| No. 3 | to Benjamin Cook | Samuell |
| No. 4 | to George Cook | George |
| | | Benjamin |
| | | Elizabeth |
| | | Hanna |

Book 39 p. 208 January 1, 1722

Samuel Hayward of Salem, leather dresser, for 30 pounds sells to Hannah Cook, widow, of Salem, a certain lot of land in Salem containing 36 poles, being in length 7 poles E. @ W. and 5 poles 3' N. @ S. bounded: W. on ye lane; N. on ye lane of John Cook, dec.; E. on ye land of Samuel West Sr.; S. on my own homestead in part and partly with land of aforesaid John Cook, dec.

Book 60 p. 281 January 20, 1732

Hannah Cook widow, of Salem, for £40 sells to my son Joseph

Cook, fisherman, of Salem, a lot of land in Salem (described above) being that lot of land which I formerly purchased of Samuel Hayward.

3 additional deeds deal with the buying and selling within the Cook family of small strips of land, all in the Beckford St. property: Book 70, p.116, Book 68 p, 270 and Book 38 p. 73

Book 68 p. 267 January 16, 1735

Hannah Cook of Salem, widow for £ 30 sells to my son Joseph Cook of Salem, fisherman, a strip of land in Salem containing 15 poles more or less, butting W. on the lane; N. on land of my son Joseph; E. on land of Dr. Toppan; S. on land of aforesaid Joseph Cook.

Probate 6224 Hannah Cook, Salem, widow dec. intestate April 8, 1745. Joseph Cook, fisherman adm. of his mother's estate. Inventory of real estate listed only "dwelling house, 3½ poles of land and a well, value £ 20.0.0 estate was divided among her children: Joseph, Benjamin (received the house) Samuel, Mary Glover, Hannah Archer, Elizabeth Henderson.

(Among the widow's debts settled from her estate was a formidable rum bill!)

Probate 6249 Joseph Cook fisherman Feb. 6, 1770 will drawn July 18, 1769. Gives to wife Eunice all of his estate for the rest of her life, or till her remarriage. After her death (or remarriage) all goes to his daughters Eunice Bickford and Hannah Daland, except a piece of his homestead land which goes to grandson Joseph Daland. This piece bounded : on W. by Bickford's lane 2½ poles; N. by land of George Bickford; E. on land of Toppan's heirs; S. by my other land.

Inventory of Real Estate:

a dwelling house, outhouse, and about 100 poles of land under and adjacent, value : £ 400

Settlement of estate 1734

Hannah Daland received the "mansion house" and land (lying S. of piece given to Joseph Daland) Hannah paid £ 5 15s to Eunice ~~Morgan~~, heir of Eunice Bickford dec.,

and to the administrator of the estate of Hannah Bickford, dec. the other heir of Eunice Bickford, dec. for the use of Hannah Bickford's heir £ 31, 15s. (Eunice Morgan was also assigned the lot of land, part of said Testate's estate lying N. of piece given to Joseph Daland. This last piece was the land under what is now Cooney's house)

Probate 7000 Hannah Daland, widow, Oct. 21, 1811 son John Daland, exec.

Inventory of Real Estate: dwelling house and land on Beckford St. valued at \$3000. Her estate real and personal to be divided among her children and legal repres. of her late children as follows:

son Joseph $\frac{1}{7}$, daughter Eunice Creamer $\frac{1}{7}$, son Benjamin $\frac{1}{7}$, son John $\frac{1}{7}$, daughter Mary Driver $\frac{1}{7}$, children of late daughter Hannah Dunham $\frac{1}{7}$, children of late daughter Bethia Herrick $\frac{1}{7}$

Book 195 p. 135 January 9, 1812

George Daland Dunham, mariner, of Salem, for \$140 releases to John Daland one undivided 14th part of a lot of land and buildings on Beckford St. being part of the real estate devised to me by the will of my grandmother Hannah Daland dec. and was bequeathed to said Hannah by her father Joseph Cook, bounded on W. by Beckford St.; N. on land of Moses Smith; E. on land of Jacob Ashton; S. on land of Benjamin Shillaber

Book 196 p. 159 February 10, 1812

Benjamin Daland, yeoman of Billerica, for \$428.57 paid by Joseph Daland, truckman, Eunice Creamer, widow, Thomas Driver cordwainer and Mary his wife, Stephen Burchmore and Hannah, his wife, George D. Dunham, mariner, John Daland, merchant, William M. Herrick, Hannah, Lydia, Benjamin, Sally, Eliza, and Henry Herrick all of Salem; releases to them one undivided seventh part of certain

real estate in Salem(described above) it being the same estate which my mother Hannah Daland devised me in her will.

Book 195 p.139; Book 196 p. 160; Book 199 p. 27; Book 202 p. 68; Book 206 p. 162. All of these deeds convey fractions of the estate willed by Hannah Daland to her heirs, now being bought up by son John Daland.

Probate 7007 July 15, 1811 bond of guardianship of John Tucker Daland, age 16 by his father John Daland.

Probate 36857 June 8, 1858 Tucker Daland gives to his wife mansion house at Essex and Brown Sts. ---- estate I own on Beckford St. to my daughters unless they prefer to take it as their share of residue of estate. (Real estate inventory lists several other buildings in addition to the two above)

Book 704 p 226 May 14, 1866
Henry T. Daland and Edward F. Daland both of Boston, Henry L. Williams and wife Elizabeth T. D., Octavius R. Shrove and wife Sarah D., Mary F. Cheever, widow all of Salem Benjamin Cox and wife Susan D. of Salem John Daland of of Hamilton and William T. Daland of New York City for \$2100 sell to Joanna B. Daland and Mary E. Daland of Salem the messuage on Beckford St. bounded on W. by Beckford St. 77'; S. on land of Jelly 115'; E. on land of Dwyer 77'; N. on land late of Innis 115'.

Probate 71303 Joan B. Daland single, of Salem, Feb. 15, 1892. Petitioner Mary A. Trask wife of Asa Trask was brought up as a sister with testatrix, and she and her children are the only beneficiaries. (only other relatives are 2nd cousins: Henry Brown executor having dec.) (Mary Trask was wife of her cousin). Among bequests, real estate on Beckford St. nos. 12 & 14, and to her children on Mary A. Trask's death.

Book 2290 p. 476 March 30, 1915

Annie L. Mason widow of Beverly, and Mary D. Blythe of Gloucester for \$1 and considerations sell to Lucy S. Jelly wife of Wm.M. Jelly of Salem land and buildings (described above) being most of premises willed by Joan B. Daland to Mary Ann Trask and her 4 children, the grantors being 2 of said children. The other 2 children being Edward D. and James E. Trask whose interest has been conveyed to Annie L. Mason by deeds duly recorded, said Mary Ann Trask having deceased May 5 1914.

Book 2753 p. 81 January 14, 1928

Lucy S. Jelly of Salem, for a consideration sells to Donald B. Jelly of Salem land bounded: on W. by Beckford St. 61.28'; on N. by land of Wm. M. Jelly and Lucy Jelly 114.57'; on E. by land now or late of Pingree 67.25'; on S. by land formerly of Wm. Jelly 115', being premises conveyed Book 2290 p. 476 except portion on northerly part conveyed me by Wm. M. Jelly.

Book 3960 p. 324 February 7, 1953

Harvey Dickerson, executor of will of Donald B. Jelly late of Boulder City Nevada, for \$14,000 sells to William R. and Eleanor P. Dorsey land (described above) being premises conveyed to Donald B. Jelly Book 2753 p. 81

Book 4340 p. 409 January 16, 1957

William R. and Eleanor P. Dorsey sell to Edward C. and Helen T. Park land and buildings (same description) being premises conveyed to us by deed Book 3960 p. 324

Book 4620 p. 313 November 16, 1959

Edward C. and Helen T. Park of Salem sell to Thomas McLean and Hope W. Griffin land and buildings on Beckford St. (same description) being same premises conveyed to us Book 4340 p. 409

Book 4628 p. 64 December 11, 1959

Beatrice M. Emerson of Salem sells to Thomas M. And Hope W.

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Griffin land and buildings on Beckford St. bounded on W. by Beckford St. 39' - 1"; on N. by land now or late of Daland 50'-2"; on N. nearly same course 64'; on E. by land now or late of Dwyer 35'-9"; on S. by land now or late of Wm. Ross 115'.

(this lot is adjacent to S. side of lot with Joseph Cook house)

Historic District Study Committee, Report 1963

#14 Beckford St. 17th Cen. House, entrance is in later style

Salem Directories

People living at 12 - 14 Beckford St.

- 1837 Jesse Smith, Susan Dennis, Teacher (Jelly at #10)
- 1842 Jesse Smith, Mrs. Hannah Marshall, tailoress
 Nicholas Bovey cordwainer
- 1846-1861 Mrs. Joanna Daland, Misses Joanna and Mary Daland.
 after 1861 to 1876 Miss Joanna Daland carpetmaker, Miss Mary
 Daland Tailress plus at various times, Miss Wadleigh,
 dressmaker; Mrs. Mugford, Mrs. Thompson, nurse.
- after 1876 to 1891 Miss Joanna Daland, plus two or three boarders,
 names vary.
- by 1897 to 1914 Asa Trask plus 2 or 3 boarders.
- 1916 to 1924 Fredericka Pitman, Marble Faun Tea Room
- 1926 R. H. Wiswall
- 1930 Donald B. Jelly

9/5/73

insert in HOUSE BOOKLET
at page 2

REVISION

by Sally Dee 1973, August

In 1972 I summarized the available documentation gathered on the house at 14 Beckford St. Although there is documentation extending back to a "small old house" (15' x 18') built in 1675 by Abraham Cole, and although both the dining room and the living room (E. and W. halves, respec.) measure approx. 15' x 18', in my own search in the interior I could not find evidence that one end was earlier than another.

A letter from Edward and Helen Park to the Griffins supplies additional evidence. During the Parkes' ownership (1957-1959) Abbott L. Cummings inspected the house and pried away part of the boxing of the summer beams in both dining and living rooms. The dining room beam was oak, and had beaded corners. The living room beam was oak, and unchamfered. Mr. Cummings concluded that the living room beam was therefore boxed originally and that half of the house (W. end) dated after 1720. The dining room beam, being beaded but not chamfered is indicative of construction after 1700 and before 1720. The lean-to (N. side) probably added after 1750. Another determining feature is the height from floor to under side of summer beam. Before

1700, it was usually around 6'-6". Between 1700 and 1725 ceilings went up, and that measurement was apt to be around 7'-6". In the 18th C. the room size was apt to be even, also. Well - the two rooms are even sized, and the summer beams are 7'-4½" (living room) and 7'-6" (dining room.)

These clues seem to make it definite that the E. end of the house was built earlier but not prior to 1700.

My revised guess about this puzzling and intriguing house is that Joseph Cook in 1733 added the W. end on to the house he inherited when his father John Cook died in 1721 and the property was divided. John Cook, in 1706, bought the ¼ acre and "small dwelling house" of the dean, William Dean. This was the original 1675 house. Probably this earliest house was either burned down or torn down, and John Cook built the present E. end of 14 Beckford St. in the years immediately following the purchase in 1706.