



Notes on 38 Peabody Street, Salem

According to Patricia Kelleher at the Salem Historical Commission, all of the buildings at the point were destroyed in the Great Fire, which happened on June 25, 1914.

In reviewing both the current assessor's map and the 1911 Walker Lithograph and Publishing Company Map, it would appear that the lot area that was 24-32 Peabody Street on the 1911 map includes the area that is now 38 Peabody Street on the current assessor's map.

Prior to the fire, the area that is 38 Peabody Street was owned by Mendel Collier and Sarah Collier. The deeds at the Essex South Registry of Deeds list his name as Collier, but he is also listed as Collier on other documents. The name Collier is of English origin whereas the name Collier is a variant of the German or Swiss Koller or Kohler—I believe the name Collier is the correct spelling for his name as the 1920 census lists Mendel “Collier’s” place of origin as Russia.

The pamphlet “1914 Data on Burned District at Salem, MA,” published by F.W. Dodge Co. lists the “Colliers” as owning 2 wooden apartment houses at 261/2 & 28 Peabody Street, 2 wooden apartment houses and shop at 24-26-26R Peabody Street and a wooden apartment building at 12 Peabody Street.

Deed references have the property owned by Mendel Collier and Sarah Collier in 1915. The following evidence indicates that Mendel Collier was the likely builder of the property that is now 38 Peabody Street and that the building was built c. 1915-1916:

Deed descriptions from the Essex South County Registry of Deeds

Plans on record at the Essex South County Registry of Deeds, particularly Book 2294, Page End.

Building Inspection records from the Salem Historical Commission; no record card is specific to this property as to 24-32 Peabody Street, but it is clear that he owned numerous properties that were inspected by the City within a year or so after the fire. There are a number of buildings on in the area that are called “Collier Building.”

MACRIS On-Line Database

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According to Salem Town Directories in 1913 and 1915, Mendel Collier's profession is listed as “Real Estate” under the “Estate and Insurance” business listings. In 1913 he is listed as living at 24 Peabody Street and in 1915 he is listed as living at 33 Ward Street. Interestingly, in the 1910 Salem Town Directory, a Mendel Collier is listed as a peddler living at 24 Peabody—is this the same person? According to the 1920 United States Census, he lived in Salem with his wife Sarah Collier and his occupation is listed as “none”; at that time they were living as renters at 41 Ward Street. In 1920, Mendel Collier was 62 years of age, born about 1858 in Russia; he immigrated to the United States in 1884 and was not a naturalized citizen as of 1920. He was Jewish and his mother tongue was Yiddish. In 1920, Sarah was 57 years of age, born about 1863 in Russia. She was also Jewish and her mother tongue was Yiddish.

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Plaque to read: Built by Mendel and Sarah Collier, Real Estate Investors Replaced 2 apartment buildings and a shop destroyed in Great Salem Fire of 1914

