

# Historic Salem Incorporated

P.O. BOX 865 SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS 01970 / PHONE (508) 745-0799

6 HARDY STREET

Built for  
DANIEL C. BOWDITCH, shipwright  
1844

Research by:  
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## SIX HARDY STREET

Six Hardy Street was once part of the estate of Rev. James Diman. Rev. Diman was born on Nov. 29, 1707 and was a pastor in Salem for 52 years, until his death on Oct. 8, 1788. He was a graduate of Harvard College and was ordained in 1736. He was married to Mary, daughter of Timothy and Lois (Pickering) Orne of Salem.

Rev. Diman was a colleague of the famous Salem cleric Rev. William Bentley. The two men endured a tumultuous relationship since Rev. Bentley's appointment, in 1783, to a joint ministry at the East Church. Rev. Diman was an outspoken critic of Bentley, and "treated him uncourteously." (Rev. William Bentley Diary, vol. I. (1784-1792), p. x). For nearly two years, Diman neglected to invite Rev. Bentley to participate in the rites of communion or baptism. After this period of bad feeling, a movement in the parish to restore peace and harmony forced Rev. Diman to withdraw from the pulpit in October 1785.

A deed dated June 27, 1817 lists the plot as willed to James D. Green of Cambridge, a student at Harvard College, and Ezra Green of Malden, a yeoman, by their aunt, Mary Diman, daughter of Rev. Diman [Essex County Registry of Deeds, Book 214, Leaf 100].

Daniel C. Bowditch bought the plot from James D. Green in a deed dated May 9, 1843. The deed carried the following stipulation:

"Provided however, that the grantee of this lot his heirs or assigns shall never erect any building, or part thereof, on

said land which shall be used for the trade or calling of a butcher, currier, tanner, varnish maker, ink-maker, tallow chandler, soap boiler, brewer, distiller, sugar baker, dyer, tinman, working brazier, founder, smith, or brick maker, nor occupy such lot for the purpose of any nauseous or offensive trade or one calculated to disturb the quiet or comfort of the neighborhood." [Essex County Registry of Deeds, Book 337, Leaf 8].

Bowditch and his wife Eliza were married on May 21, 1836 [Salem Vital Records]. At the time of the purchase, they resided at 23 Becket Street, with Daniel's occupation listed as "boatbuilder." By 1864 he was employed as a shipwright, and as head of Phillips Wharf. [Salem Directories, 1842-1864]. Phillips Wharf, Derby Wharf, and Union Wharf were three of the largest and most prominent wharves in Salem and were crucial to the city's maritime economy. [James Duncan Phillips, Salem in the Eighteenth Century].

Tax records from the year 1844 indicate a new house at 6 Hardy Street. [Tax Valuations, 1844]. The couple occupied the house until Daniel's death in 1885 and Eliza's death in 1889. Over the years, the Salem Directory lists the names of persons who boarded at the Bowditch residence. From 1876 until 1883, Samuel Henderson, who worked as a "flagman--Derby St. crossing" lived at 6 Hardy Street with his wife Hannah, who continued to live in the house for roughly three years after Samuel died in 1883 [Salem Directories, 1876-1886].

After Daniel's death in 1885, Ebed and Anstiss Bowditch are listed as living in the house along with Eliza. Anstiss was Eliza's sister [Salem Vital Records]. After Eliza's death in 1889, Ebed (d. 1896) and Anstiss, along with their sons Thomas and George, lived in the house. Thomas and George were employed as masons. The cellar beam with the inscription T. BOWDITCH--1892 probably refers to Thomas [Salem Directories, 1893-1898]. Thomas died in 1913.

The house was sold to Julie Nester, wife of Wasil Nester, both of Salem, in a deed dated May 29, 1916. The grantors were Annie (Anstiss) E. Bowditch, George S. Bowditch, and May L. (Bowditch) Johnson, all of Salem.

Today the property is owned by Amelia Nestor.

DOCUMENTATION

\*\*\* Essex County Registry of Deeds, Book 214, Leaf 100

Grantor: Ezra Green of Maiden, Yeoman

Grantee: James D. Green of Cambridge, a minor, student at  
Harvard College

Consideration: \$750.00

Conveyance of: "two certain tracts or parcels of land being one fourth part situated in Salem, in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and being a part of the estate of the Rev. James Diman deceased, and that was willed to the said James D. and myself, by our late Aunt Mary Diman deceased viz, one tract a parcel of land containing half an acre, more or less, bounded easterly by Hardy Street, southerly by Derby Street, westerly by land of Mr. Crowninshield or Sylsbe, and northerly by land of Timothy Diman. One other tract containing one fourth of an acre, more or less being between the old mansion house of the late Rev. James Diman deceased and Mr. Bentley's meeting house, bounded easterly by Hardy Street, southerly by Derby Street, westerly by Crowninshield's land or Sylsbe as the case may be, northerly by land belonging to said meeting house."

Date Recorded: June 27, 1817

\*\*\* E.C.R.D. Book 337, Leaf 8

Grantor: James D. Green of Cambridge, Clerk

Grantee: Daniel C. Bowditch of Salem, Shipwright

Consideration: \$325.00

Conveyance of: "a certain piece or parcel of land, situated in said Salem, and bounded and described as follows, viz. beginning at the southeast corner thereof at a point on Hardy Street just twenty five feet from the line of Ebenezer Lescomb, thence running northerly and bounding easterly on Hardy Street, (illegible) Lescomb's land, then turning and running westerly by said Lescomb's land about eighty feet 'till it comes to five feet 'till it comes to Bentley Street, then turning and running southerly bounding westerly by Bentley Street twenty feet exactly, then turning and running easterly, bounding Southerly land of me the said James D. Green about eighty feet 'till it comes to the corner first mentioned; said piece of land being a portion of the estate of the late Rev. James Diman of Salem, which was bequeathed by the late Mary Diman and Lois Green daughters of the said James Diman to Ezra Green and me the said James D. Green, by deed bearing the date June 25th 1817..."

Date Recorded: May 9, 1843

\*\*\* E.C.R.D. Book 338, Leaf 93

Grantor: James D. Green of Cambridge

Grantee: Daniel C. Bowditch of Salem

Consideration: \$110.00

Conveyance of: "a certain lot or parcel of land situated in said Salem and bounded as follows, viz. beginning at the Northeast corner thereof on Hardy Street by land of said Bowditch and running Southerly by said Hardy Street ten feet to land of me the said Green, then turning at right angles and running parallel to the South side of said land of Bowditch about eighty feet to Bentley Street, then turning and running by Bentley Street Northerly ten feet to land of said Bowditch, then Easterly by said Bowditch about eighty feet to the point began at containing eight hundred square feet, more or less, and forming a part of the estate formerly of Rev. James Diman, deceased, and lying South of land contiguous to the parcel of land formerly sold from said Diman estate to said Bowditch..."

Date Recorded: July 13, 1843

\*\*\* E.C.R.D. Book 2333, Pages 11-12

Grantor: Annie E. Bowditch, George S. Bowditch and May L. (Bowditch) Johnson, all of Salem

Grantee: Julie Nester, wife of Wasil Nester, of Salem

Consideration: "for consideration paid, grant to Julie Nester wife of Wasil Nester of Salem with warranty covenants except subject to all taxes assessed in year 1916 which grantee is to pay the land No. 6 Hardy St..."

Conveyance of: "No. 6 Hardy Street in said Salem with the buildings thereon and bounded as follows Northeasterly by Hardy St. about 35 feet, Southeasterly by land late of Szezechowitz about 80 feet, Southwesterly by Bentley St. about 35 feet and Northwesterly by land now or late of Bartnicki about 60 feet."

Date Recorded: May 29, 1916