

# Historic Salem incorporated

OFFICE AT OLD TOWN HALL

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

8 BOTTS COURT (345 Essex Street)

Built for

DANIEL LOW & CO., jewelers

Circa 1896

Research by,  
Joyce King  
February 1987

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

8 BOTTS COURT (345 ESSEX STREET)

BOOK 1482 PAGE 523

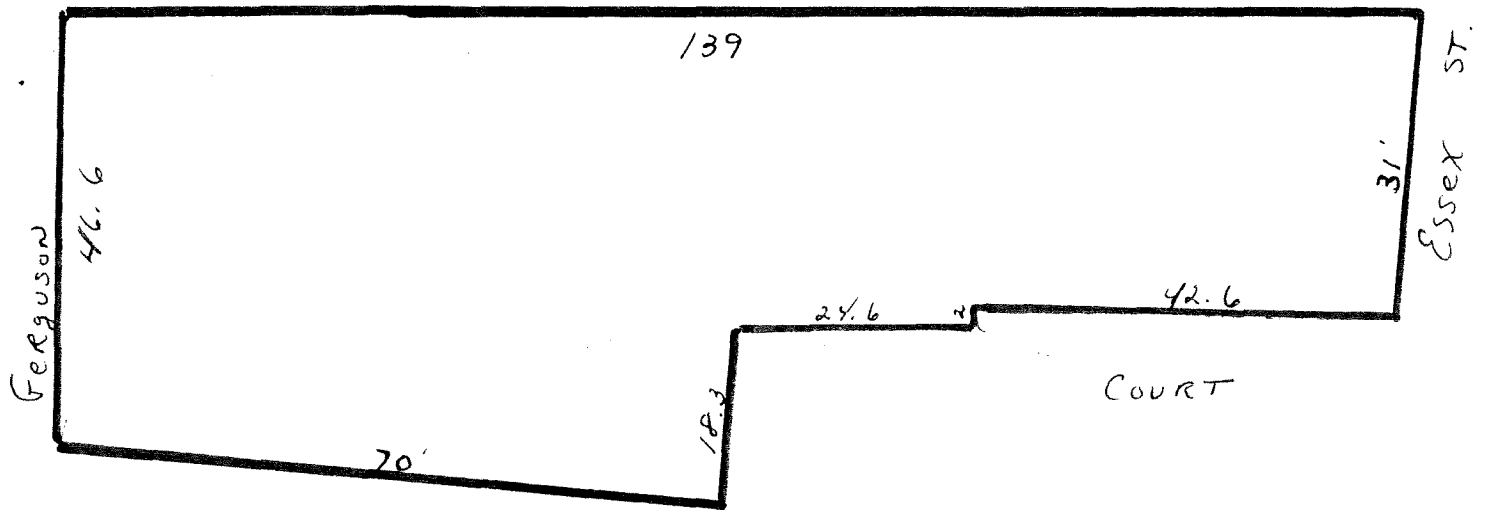
DATE - June 24, 1896

CONSIDERATION -

GRANTOR (seller) - Wesley B. Ferguson of Salem  
Thomas B. Ferguson of  
Grace E. Day wife of Frank of Medford

GRANTEE (buyer) - Daniel Low and Seth F. Low  
Doing buisness under the firm name of  
Daniel Low & Co.

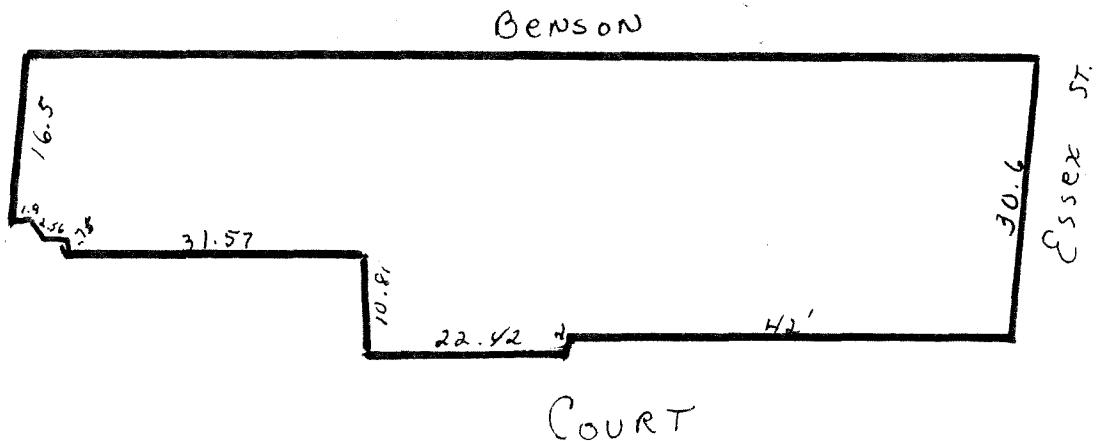
DESCRIPTION - Land and buildings  
(This deed mentions that the kitchen  
projects over the land conveyed to  
Joseph Smith. This statement does  
not seem to apply to the house now known as 8 Botts Court.  
When Thomas Ferguson purchased the property in 1867 the kitchen  
projection was also mentioned in that deed.)



BOOK 2360 PAGE 573

DATE - April 16, 1917  
CONSIDERATION - None given  
GRANTOR (seller) - Daniel Low & Co. Inc.  
GRANTEE (buyer) - William T. Haley  
DESCRIPTION - Land and dwelling house

PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Being part of land conveyed to Daniel Low et al by Wesley B. Ferguson et al on June 24, 1896. Also the right in common with others to pass and repass over said Bott's Court between Essex and Chestnut Streets. (No mention of the kitchen projection.)



BOOK 2497 PAGE 92

DATE - November 1, 1921  
CONSIDERATION - None given  
GRANTOR (seller) - William T. Haley  
GRANTEE (buyer) - John J. Sullivan of Ipswich  
DESCRIPTION - Land and dwelling house  
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - The same premises conveyed to me of  
Daniel Low & Co. Inc. on April 16, 1917.

BOOK 3025 PAGE 589

DATE - January 25, 1922  
CONSIDERATION - None given  
GRANTOR (seller) - John J. Sullivan of Ipswich  
GRANTEE (buyer) - Mary Elizabeth Sullivan " my wife"  
DESCRIPTION - Land and dwelling house  
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Being the same premises conveyed to  
me by deed of William T. Haley on November 1, 1921

BOOK 3388 PAGE 236

DATE - November 1, 1944  
CONSIDERATION - \$7,500  
GRANTOR (seller) - William D. Chapple and Blanche R.  
Goodhue of Ipswich exc. of the will  
of Elizabeth M. Sullivan, also known  
as Mary Elizabeth Sullivan  
GRANTEE (buyer) - Edna L Chamberlain wife of Calvin  
of Topsfield  
DESCRIPTION - Land with dwelling house  
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Being the same premises conveyed to  
Mary E. Sullivan by deed of John J. Sullivan January 25, 1922.

BOOK 3560 PAGE 123

DATE - July 30, 1947

CONSIDERATION - None given

GRANTOR (seller) - Calvin B. and Edna L. Chamberlain

GRANTEE (buyer) - Gail S. Hamilton and Ruth S. Hamilton

DESCRIPTION - Land and buildings

PREVIOUS REFERENCE - The same premises conveyed to Calvin Chamberlain et ux by deed of Blanche R. Goodhue and William D. Chapple exc. of the estate of Elizabeth Sullivan.

BOOK 4807 PAGE 238

DATE - August 22, 1961

CONSIDERATION - None given

GRANTOR (seller) - Gail S. Hamilton and Ruth R. Hamilton

GRANTEE (buyer) - Elizabeth and Leo T. Malloy Jr.

DESCRIPTION - Land and buildings

PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Being the same premises conveyed to me by deed of Calvin B. Chamberlain et ux on July 30, 1947.

BOOK 5284 PAGE 705

DATE - July 14, 1965

CONSIDERATION - None given

GRANTOR (seller) - Elizabeth C. and Leo T. Malloy Jr.

GRANTEE (buyer) - Harold E. and Dorothy G. Hall of Boston

DESCRIPTION - Land and buildings

PREVIOUS REFERENCE - The same premises conveyed to us by deed of Gail S. Hamilton et ux on August 22, 1961.

BOOK 5801 PAGE 598

DATE - September 10, 1971  
CONSIDERATION - None given  
GRANTOR (seller) - Dorothy G. Hall  
GRANTEE (buyer) - Richard and Nancy Granito  
DESCRIPTION - Land and buildings  
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - For grantor title see deed from Leo J. Malloy Jr. to Harold E. Hall recorded in book 5284 page 706 and the estate of Harold E. Hall.

BOOK 5857 PAGE 731

DATE - January 15, 1972  
CONSIDERATION - None given  
GRANTOR (seller) - Richard P. Granito  
GRANTEE (buyer) - Nancy L. Granito  
DESCRIPTION - Land and buildings  
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - The same premises conveyed to Ricahrd P. Granito and Nancy L. by Dorothy G. Hall on September 10, 1971.

BOOK 6004 PAGE 49

DATE - August 15, 1973  
CONSIDERATION - \$55,000  
GRANTOR (seller) - Nancy L. Granito  
GRANTEE (buyer) - Claudius and Mary C. Britell  
DESCRIPTION - Land and buildings  
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Being the same premises conveyed to me by deed of Richard P. Granito on January 15, 1972.

BOOK 6363 PAGE 248

DATE - June 24, 1977  
CONSIDERATION - \$69,000  
GRANTOR (seller) - Claudius J. and Mary C. Britell  
GRANTEE (buyer) - Alan E. and Rose E. Hooley  
DESCRIPTION - Land and buildings 345 Essex St.  
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - The same premises conveyed to us by deed of Nancy L. Granito on August 15, 1973.

BOOK 6778 PAGE 199

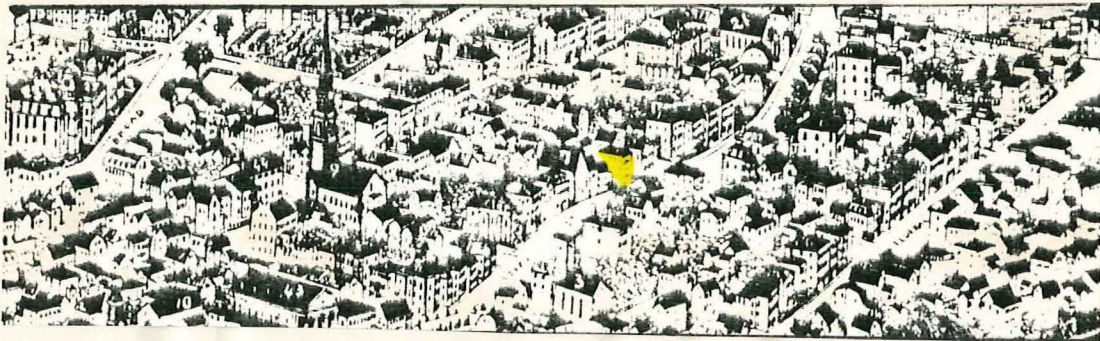
DATE - December 29, 1980  
CONSIDERATION - \$120,000  
GRANTOR (seller) - Alan E. and Rose E. Hooley  
GRANTEE (buyer) - Peter R. and Elizabeth Merry  
DESCRIPTION - Land and buildings on Botts Court  
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Being the same conveyed to us by deed of Claudius J. Britell and Mary Constance Britell on June 24, 1977 as recorded in book 6363 page 248.

8 BOTTS COURT (345 ESSEX STREET)

"The end of this two-story, wooden, gambrel roof house is on Essex Street. There is an ell in the rear and Georgian dormer windows; the entrance is from the side of a small front piazza. It is said to have been built about 1900 by Daniel Low."

"Bott's Court is named for James Bott, who came to Salem from London and advertised in 1768 that he was a coach and chaisemaker doing business at the "Sign of the Saddle." The court was earlier known as Bradshaw's Gutter and was wet enough so that a punt was kept there in which to cross the "Marsh" formerly between Essex and Chestnut Streets." (Salem Historic District Study Committee Investigation)

The house, now called 8 Bott's Court, is not the first to occupy this lot. An old three story dwelling stood here and was probably the house with the kitchen projection mentioned in the 1896 deed to Daniel Low & Co.



The old house was assessed to the Thomas B. Ferguson estate in 1896:

h(ouse) 1,600; land 3596 ft. 1300; h. 8 Botts Ct. 800; shop 10 Botts Ct. 200; land 1875 ft. 400.

Daniel Low & Co. must have removed the old house shortly after the purchase and had a new dwelling built on the site.

The newly wedded couple, Mr. and Mrs. George S. Parker, were the first occupants as listed in the 1897 city directory. The Parker family remained at 345 Essex St. until 1904 when they moved to 249 Lafayette St.

The 1900 published assessments show a change in value:

Daniel Low & Co. 231 Essex Street  
stock 20,000; h. 345 Essex 3,000, land 3596 ft. 1,400;  
h. 343 1/2 Essex 2,800, land 1875 ft. 600; street watering  
62 cts.

The property had the same assessment in 1905.



# SUDDEN DEATH OF DANIEL LOW IN HIS STORE YESTERDAY

## WELL KNOWN BUSINESS MAN

HEAD OF THE BIG MAIL ORDER JEWELRY AND SILVERWARE FIRM EXPIRED SUDDENLY; HAD DEVELOPED ENORMOUS TRADE ALL OVER THE WORLD FROM A SMALL STORE AT THE CORNER OF ESSEX AND WASHINGTON STREETS.

The announcement in the last editions of The News yesterday afternoon of the death of Daniel Low came to thousands of citizens as a flash of lightning out of a clear sky, and expressions of the great loss sustained by the city in the death of one of her most active business men and

Mr. Low had been ailing for some time, and his condition was well known to himself and his family, but it had also become so pronounced of late that it was apparent to his business associates. Even yesterday afternoon, a prominent business man remarked, after Mr. Low had left him, that "Mr. Low looks poorly, and I am afraid that he needs to be watched."

He came from his home in a carriage in the forenoon and attended to business as usual, visiting several places and attending a meeting of the directors of the Merchants' bank, as was his custom. About 1 o'clock in the afternoon, while dictating correspondence to his stenographer, Miss Coughlin, he complained of not feeling well. He took a pill which he had for such attacks, but he seemed

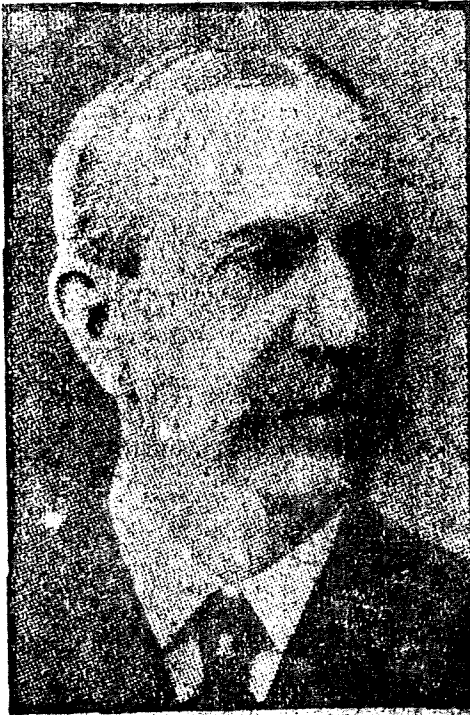
### To Grow Steadily Worse,

although he did not say very much about it.

In fact he talked with his son, S. Fred Low, and Henry Mitchell, the business manager, but in a few minutes it was apparent that the attack, which up to that time was similar to those to which he had been subject, was growing worse and word was instantly dispatched by telephone and messenger for three doctors. Drs. Peirson, Sargent and Ferguson responded.

Mr. Low expressed the belief to Mr. Mitchell that he guessed that this attack would be fatal, and lapsed into unconsciousness from which he never rallied in spite of the efforts of the doctors, and he breathed his last just before 2 o'clock.

Mr. Low had been at work all the forenoon, attending particularly to the details of the alterations which are going on in the store. He appeared as well as usual until just before 1 o'clock when he was attacked



DANIEL LOW.

foremost citizens were heard of on every side. As the old merchants of Salem, by their trade with their ships, sent the name of Salem to all parts of the civilized world, so the firm of Daniel Low & Co., by its tremendous business, kept the fame of the old city familiar to the people of the world in the remotest parts of the earth.

with pains in the chest around the heart. He had these before and was provided with medicine for relief which he took.

When it became apparent that the unfortunate man was beyond the help of earthly agencies, the shock to the entire corps of employes was terrible. Men and women alike wept for Mr. Low was held in the fondest regard by his entire corps of employes from managers down to the most humble errand boy. One man, in fact, was so affected that he fainted, while some of the young women employes were almost prostrated. The store was at once closed for the day and the employes allowed to go to their homes.

Under the law regarding sudden deaths in public places. Medical Examiner Frank S. Atwood was notified, and after an examination, he decided that death was caused by angina pectoris, an

#### Affection of the Heart.

The body was removed to Mr. Lew's home by Undertaker John B. Ether-

Low was born in Salem, Feb. 11, 1842, was the son of Richard and Margaret (Brown) Low. He was educated in the Salem public schools, being a member of the 27th class of the old Salem English High school, the last to graduate from that institution. Among his classmates were Samuel Turner Abbott, Ephraim Augustus Annable, Edward C. Bryant, Charles T. Chandler, William H. Cook, John P. Downing, George H. S. Driver, Henry Endicott, Charles H. Emerson, Edward P. Emmerton, Alvan A. Evans, Joseph H. Glidden, Theophrastus E. Goodhue, Francis Goss, Cyrus L. Hayward, William A. Hill, John T. Kimball, George B. Lamb, Charles H. Mansfield, Ira K. Mansfield, Charles A. Metcalf, Frederick L. Benjamin C. Nichols, Robert George O. Pierce, George Charles C. Perkins, William Phillips, Edward W. Phillips, Henry Pousland, David E. Rogers, Nehemiah A. Smith, Alonzo A. Smith, Edward A. Symonds, Benjamin F. Sweetser, Henry Varney, Benjamin F. Very, Oliver H. Walker, Samuel Johnson Waters and John F. Webb.

He was early apprenticed as a watchmaker and jeweler, and soon after the war he opened a store on the corner of Essex and Central streets. His business continued to grow, and on the remodeling of the First Church he moved to this present store, which has been constantly enlarged to meet the demands of his business, and a few years ago he purchased property on Higginson square where a great deal more space was secured.

The firm is still adding to its store by taking in the quarters just vacated by the Naumkeag Trust company, alterations now being in progress. When these are finished it will be hard to find a handsomer or more complete store in all New England, and it will be one that will reflect the very highest credit on the business enterprise and

#### Sagacity of the Firm.

The firm of Daniel Low & Co., of

lands in 1907. In 1907, very important transactions involving the entire business of the Nevius company of New York, including their exquisite and important colonial reproductions, were handled very large business by mail. It is possible for Daniel Low & Co. to carry in their retail store a very much greater and more varied stock of sterling silver or solid gold than could be found in any city of similar size in the United States.

The Salem firm was among the first jewelers to sell solid gold and sterling silver by mail, and for 25 years it has held the lead in this form of merchandising. Four times, during this period, the firm has been obliged to increase its quarters, and last summer another enlargement was made by the additions of one or more stories to its stores in Higginson square, where is located the shipping department.

The Nevius company was recognized as the most important jewelry firm in New York city, selling goods by mail, and their catalog was similar to the Daniel Low & Co. book. A few years ago the Lows purchased the large mail order business of R. Harris & Co. of Washington, D. C.

Ever since Daniel Low & Co. brought out the Witch spoon, one of the first souvenir spoons made in this country, and now to be found in almost every collection, the firm has from time to time produced exclusive articles in silver and gold that have been out of the usual. Among the new things in 1907 was a tea caddy and spoon of sterling silver, hand engraved with the ship Grand Turk, which brought the first cargo of tea to Salem from China in June, 1781. The Grand Turk was owned by Elias Hasket Derby, who led the way to China and India, and opened for Salem that extensive foreign commerce which will always hold a prominent place, not only in her history, but in that of the country.

#### Low & Co., Incorporated in 1907.

In September, 1907, the secretary of state of Massachusetts, granted a certificate of incorporation to Daniel Low & Co., Incorporated of Salem, with a capital of \$100,000. Daniel Low was the president of the new company, Seth Low, treasurer, and Alice B. Felt, clerk. These three formed the board of directors. The purposes of the corporation are set forth in the charter as follows:

"To manufacture, buy, sell, exchange, export, import and generally deal in, both at wholesale and retail, gold and silverware, both solid and plated; precious stones, both real and imitation; works of art, articles of vertu, watches, clocks, novelties, glassware, china, porcelain, pottery, metalware, cutlery, leather goods, carved goods, lenses, optical goods, instruments of science and stationery of all classes and descriptions. Also to buy, sell, exchange, lease, improve, manage, mortgage, and loan real estate for corporate purposes or for investment."

The most friendly relations always existed between the

employed by the firm. Many served in the army and navy. In 1888, he was elected a member of the National bank, in place of Benjamin W. Currier. In the forenoon he came down to the store and called at the bank on his way to his store. Since his election he had been one of its wise counselors, and his death is deeply felt by all connected with the bank. President Henry M. Batchelder spoke very highly of Mr. Low, saying that he had known him many years, and he regarded him as a most valuable director.

Mr. Low was one of the original members of the Colonial club, of Starr King lodge, F. & A. M., was at one time an active member of the Salem Light Infantry and later of the Veteran association, of the Salem club, the Tedesco Country club, and was formerly connected with the Corinthian Yacht club. He was an attendant at the North church and a member of the standing committee. He was a Republican in politics and served at one time on the city committee. He was a director of the Holyoke Mutual Fire Insurance company.

Through the mail order business of the firm, the rating of the Salem postoffice was brought up to a very high standard. Mr. Low himself was considered one of the best judges of diamonds in the country. Patrons abroad, wherever located, were just as sure to get the real articles for which they sent, as though they stood right at the store counters. The name of the firm is a synonym for the squarest dealings.

Mr. Low resided in the fine old Colonial mansion, 365 Essex street, built by Joseph Cabot in 1748, and which was afterwards the home for 30 years of William C. Endicott, secretary of war in President Cleveland's cabinet.

A widow, who has been an invalid for some time; two sons, one of them, Seth F., associated with his father in the business as treasurer of the concern; one Dr. Harry Low, who is connected with a Boston Hospital, and a daughter, Mrs. Harlan P. Kelsey, survive.

The funeral will be held Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock at his late home.

### Parker Brothers.

From a small beginning has arisen a business which is well-known, not only in our own country, but in many foreign parts of the world. The first of the Parker games was invented by George S. Parker when a boy in the high school. It was called "Banking" and its success was such as to warrant the young publisher in originating and publishing several additional games in the following year. The

line was again increased, and in 1886 a store and office were opened in the Franklin building, on the corner of Washington square, under the name of Geo. S. Parker & Co. Lawn tennis was at that time coming into

vogue, and was, in addition to the parlor games, sold at wholesale and retail. The business developed rapidly, and in 1888 Charles H. Parker left other business to become a member of the firm. From this time the name of the firm became Parker Brothers, and through the united efforts of the brothers, has grown to its present importance. The Parker games include over 200 varieties, ranging from scientific games such as "Chivalry" to simple and laughable pastimes which have, nevertheless, scored immense successes, such as "Tid-

dledy Winks" and "Pillow Dex." The list includes educational, literary, humorous and strategic games and puzzles. The firm occupies the whole of the three-story building on the corner of Bridge and St. Peter streets and lease portions of other buildings. A large addition to the present building is now contemplated. Parker Brothers' travelers cover the entire country from Maine to California. The firm also does the largest export business in games of any house in the country, and has

agents in England, Canada, Australia and South America. The factory of this concern which has been greatly enlarged within a few years, employs a large number of hands adding much to the prosperity of Salem.



PARKER BROTHERS' FACTORY.





