

129 Essex Street

This house was built in 1808-9 for Gideon Tucker, merchant; the architect was Samuel McIntyre.

The house was built on land bought by Gideon Tucker from the Grafton sisters in 1803 and from Moses Little in 1808 (185:57), as well as smaller parcels. Born in Salem on 7 Mar 1778, the son of John and Lydia (Jacobs) Tucker, Gideon attended Salem schools and then became a clerk in the merchant house of Joseph Peabody, an eminent merchant who later made Tucker a partner in his firm, which sold general merchandise. On 27 May 1804 Gideon Tucker married Martha Hardy Goodhue, daughter of US Senator Benjamin Goodhue of Salem and his wife Frances (Ritchie). Four years later construction of this house was begun.

During the War of 1812 Gideon Tucker was an aide to Major General Gideon Foster; he himself became a Major. He went into business on his own account, and continued to live here with his wife. He owned several ships and much property, including various stocks. His wife Martha (1787-1848) died on 23 April 1848, never having had children. He died in his 83d year on 18 Feb 1861, "a venerable man, of exact habits and strict integrity" (EHC 4:132-3).

By his 1859 will he made bequests to his house-keepers, Susan Ellen Dodge, Agnes Danforth, and Dollie Jewett Hale; the rest of his estate he devised to his two surviving brothers and his nephews and nieces. At his death, his holdings were worth \$45,610.48; this, the "brick mansion house on Essex Street with barn and land under and adjoining, was valued at \$8000 (#55749).

On 1 July 1862 and subsequent dates, Gideon Tucker's various heirs granted their rights in the homestead on Essex Street to Dr George A Perkins, a Salem physician (640:102, etc). Dr Perkins owned the premises until 6 Sept 1869, when for \$13,700 he granted the same to Mrs Alice C Earle of Salem (783:22). On 15 Ap 1880 the two surviving heirs of Mrs Earle for \$9200 granted to George Chase, trustee under their mother's will, all their right to the land and buildings. In 1896 the premises were sold to the Father Mathew Catholic Total Abstinence Society, as their Club House. The Society remodelled the building to its present appearance in 1910; the original front porch and doorway were removed at that time, and are now to be seen on the back of the Essex Institute.

The property was eventually sold to Mr & Mrs Henry G Rice, and finally to the present owner, Mr Moses Alpers.

Robert Booth  
13 Feb 1978

Notes:

Valuation records show, for Gideon Tucker Esq, ward I: 1808, homestead, \$1800; 1809, house \$1600, new brick house \$1800; 1810, house \$3500.

Three fine exterior views of the house, taken before the alterations of 1910, are on file at the Essex Institute, negative numbers 1478, 4270, 8136. There are views of the original interior (including wall paper) as well. A view of 1911 of the recentl-completed building is also to be found, negative #8339.

The following is copied from Fiske Kimball's book, Samuel McIntyre

### Gideon Tucker House

*129 Essex Street*

*Built 1808-1809*

*Principal owners: Tucker, Rice*

*(Figures 292-294)*

Bentley wrote September 24, 1803 (III, 47): "This day the family house of Grafton, Essex Street just above Elm Street, was sold for 5000 dollars at Public Vendue." This was then an old house, which Colonel Benjamin Pickman had described in 1793 as "owned and occupied by three old maids, the Grafton's." Gideon Tucker, who bought it, contented himself at first with a new fence, as we see by the following bill:

## Works in Architecture

### *Gideon Tucker, Esqre to Saml McIntire Dr.*

to festoons & pattireas for 4 Piers at 9/6  
Carving Blaze on 4 Vases at 1/6

6:33:0  
1: :  

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£ 7:33:

*Salem 17th July 1804*

This fence was replaced before the age of photography by one of cast iron.

The brick house still standing was not built at this time, for it does not appear in the list of brick houses standing in Salem in 1806 published in the *Salem Gazette* for February 4 of that year. The period of its erection and McIntire's responsibility for the plans and the carving is indicated by another bill, as follows:

### *Major Gideon Tucker Esqr to Saml McIntire Dr*

to Several Drawings for Dwelling house, Chaise house, Barn &c	£ 10: 0:0
to pr hard wood Capitals for Chimneypiece	11:67:
to hard wood Basket 18/ pr Blockings	4:
to two 7 inch Capitals for Portico at 10/ pr Inch	23:33
to two 3/4 Do	15:86:
to two Do for Pilasters	12:50:
to 4 small Capitals for front fence	6: :
to Carving 4 Vases for Do	3: :
	<hr/> £ 86:36:0

*Salem 31st Augt 1809*

Among the Tucker papers at the Essex Institute are the complete bills of which we quote those for interior work as follows:

### *Mr. Gideon Tucker to Micaiah Johnson Dr.*

1808	Oct.	21	To turning fourteen Doz & eight banesters @	\$100	
				2.25 pr doz <sup>n</sup>	33.00
			To turning two do		00.37
					<hr/> 33.37
1809	Feb.	15	To turning four jamb Columns		1.83
		16	“ turning two feet & four inches of Cheese moulding @ 1/6		0.58
	Mar.	28	“ turning five feet of Cheese moulding		1.25
		31	“ turning Seven feet & nine inches do. @ 2/		2.58
			“ turning Eight Stair posts		3.00
	Aprl.	3	“ turning five feet of Cheese moulding @ 2/		1.67
		4	“ turning four jamb columns		1.83
		8	“ turning two do @ 4/		1.33
	May	8	“ turning one stair post		0.37
	Jun.	13	“ turning four Columns for portico		12.00
					<hr/> \$26.44
				deduct	.81
					<hr/> \$25.63

## Mr. Samuel McIntire, Carver

### *To Eben' Moulton Dr.*

May	23	1809	for Boring Columns 44 feet at 4 Cents a foot to Splicing a Ventilock	\$1.76
				<u>\$1.25</u>
				\$3.01

### *To Micaiah Johnson Dr.*

1809	July	13	To turning three doz <sup>n</sup> & five banesters	6.67
		20	“ turning six doz <sup>n</sup> of Closepins @ 40 Cents	2.40
	Aug.	3	“ hewing & turning four Eight inch urns	6.00
				<u>\$15.07</u>
			<i>discount</i>	<u>1.07</u>

### *To Elijah Johnson Jr Dr.*

Sep.	9	1808	To 4 fanlights 1 of 6 <sup>dols</sup> & 3 of 3 <sup>dols</sup>	15:00:0
Dec.	27		To 1 fanlight 9 <sup>dols</sup>	9:00:0
				<u>£ 24:00:0</u>

### *To William Luscomb Jr (among other items)*

May	19	1809	Painting y <sup>c</sup> House, outhouses & fences &c	490.00
			Laying 62 Rolls paper	50 <u>31.00</u>

### *To Benjamin Day*

Feb.	14	1809	to two pair of Jams to Mantles masureing 36-6 At 75 Cents pr. foot	\$27.37
May	15		to two freestone Harths Masure 29-5 to Cutting Marble Returns	22. 7 1.25
Jul.	29		to one top step Masure 52 foot att 1 dollar foot to narrow steps Masuering 10 foot At 75 cents to one Gutter Stone	52.00 75.00 2.00
				<u>\$179.69</u>

### *To Levi Maxey Dr*

Mar.	31	1809	For 2 setts of Marble slips for fireplaces meas <sup>s</sup> 22 feet @ 9/	\$33.00
			“ Carting Do.	<u>.37½</u>
				\$33.37½

### *To Thomas Perkins Dr*

May	5,	1809	3 marble hearth pieces	@ 10.      \$30.00
			6 pcs for ditto	@ 75¢ <u>4.50</u>
				\$34.50

### *To John Archer Jr*

1809	Nov.	11	4 Chimney Boards	<u>\$5.27</u>
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## Works in Architecture

### *To Samuel Bacall [sic] Dr*

1809	To Stucco Cornice for 2 Rooms containing 169½ feet @ 2/6		70.62
	To rendering walls in Do. 87 yards (with plaster of Paris) @ 8¢		6.96
	To 2 Center pieces		21.00
			\$98.58

### *To Saml Torrey Dr.*

1809	18	<i>Apl.</i>	6 Rolls paper	@ 1.05	6.30
			11 do. do.	@ 2.25	24.75
			14 do. do.	@ 2.85	39.90
					70.95

### *To J. & I. Newhall Dr.*

	<i>Aug.</i>	15	8 Pieces paper	@ 7/6	\$10.00
			14 do. do.	@ 7/6	17.50
		18	1 do. do.		1.25
		28	2 do. do.	@ 5/6	1.84
					\$28.09

### *To Eben Francis Dr*

1809	To 18 Rolls of French Paper Hanging with Borders		\$51.50
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Among the Tucker papers at the Institute is also a detail-drawing endorsed "Bacoll [sic] Sketch of Stucco Cornice in Western Room."

After being in the ownership of Rice, the house passed in 1896 to the Father Matthew Catholic Total Abstinence Society. The porch which formerly adorned the house was removed, and is preserved in the garden of the Essex Institute. We publish for the first time some interior views taken before the remodelling of 1896. The original stairway was then already gone, and today little of the old interior detail survives.

## Archer or Franklin Building

*Essex and Newbury Streets*

*Built 1809-1810; burned 1860*

(Figures 295-300)

Two plan studies marked "Col Archer's Plan at Andrew's Corner" exist in McIntire's scrap-book, and the papers at the Essex Institute also include a bound set of drawings with the title "Plan of Franklin Building" added at some early date. McIntire's handwriting abounds on all the drawings and there is no doubt that this building is to be added to the list of his works.

The time occupied by the building of the block is fixed by three entries in Bentley's diary: June 21, 1809: "This week was taken down the Old Higginson House at the Corner of the Common . . . now sold to Col. Archer. The buildings are to be removed & New Brick Stores to be erected" (III, 442). August 9, 1809: "The foundations of the new Building corner

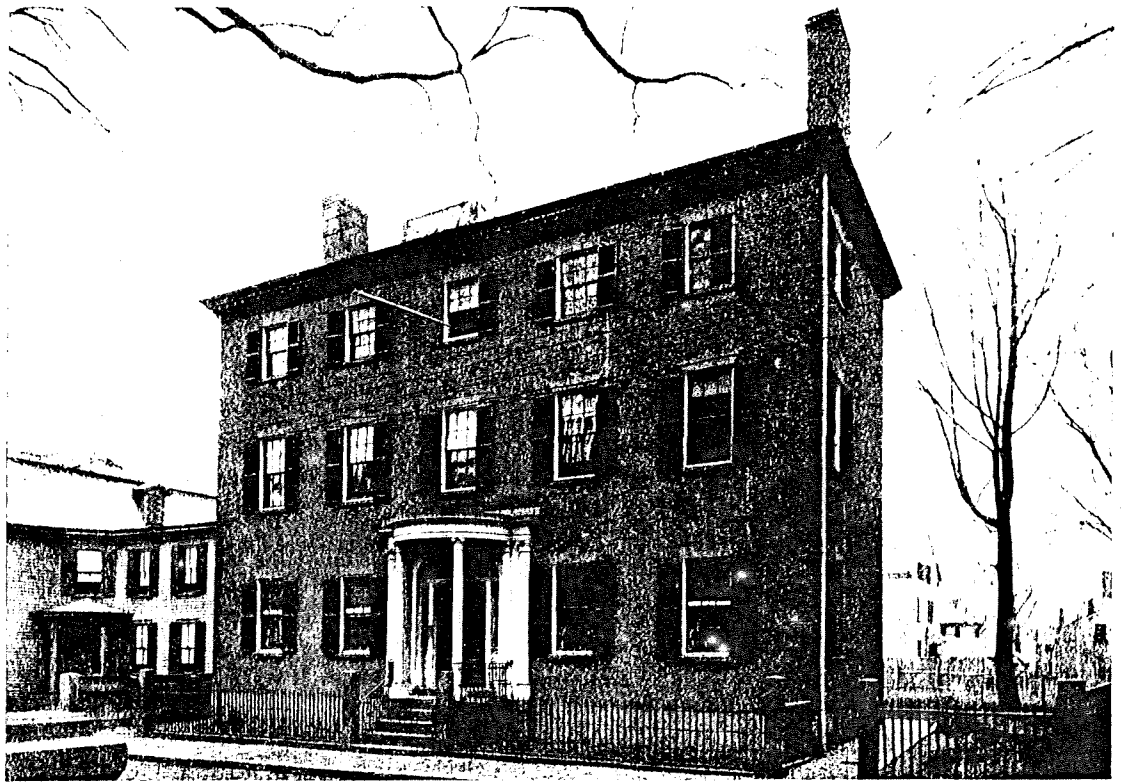


Figure 292. Gideon Tucker House, 129 Essex Street, 1808–1809.

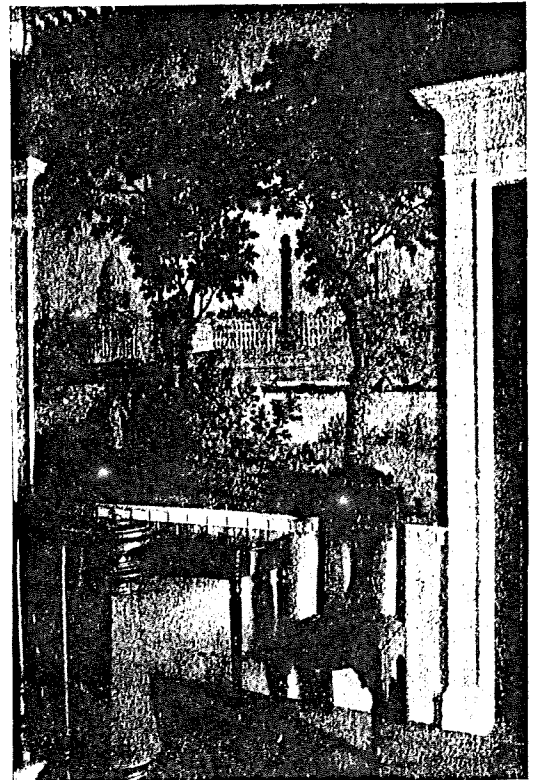
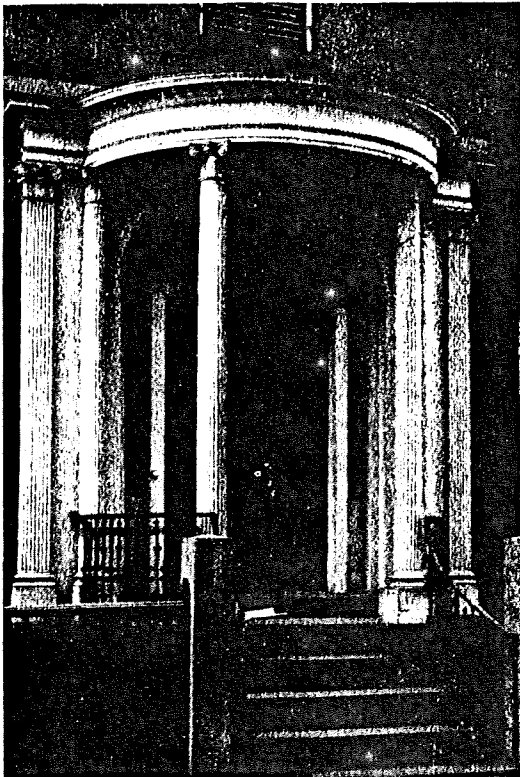


Figure 293. Gideon Tucker House. Porch. Preserved by the Essex Institute.  
Figure 294. Gideon Tucker House. Hall. Photograph before 1896.

Inventory of Real Estate of Gideon Tucker, taken in 1861

Schedule A. REAL ESTATE.

Brick Mansion House on Essex Street } with Barn & Land under & adjoining	\$8000. 00
Two Story Wooden House adjoining Mansion } & Land under & adjoining	1400. 00
Five Stores on Derry Wharf, numbered } 10, 11, 12, 27 & 28 with Land } which belongs	800. 00
Holyoke Estate on Essex Street, occupied } as Shops, Printing Office, &c. with Land } under and adjoining	4000. 00
Wooden House on Elm Street with } Land under & adjoining	900. 00
House and two Shops, with Land } under and adjoining, known as } the Jenks' Estate	3500. 00
Brick Building on Central Street } occupied partly as a Dwelling } House & partly for business purposes } & Land under & adjoining	4000. 00
Two Wooden Shops on } Central Street } with Land under & adjoining	1000. 00
	<hr/> \$23,600. 00 <hr/>

Inventory of Personal Estate of Gideon Tucker, taken in 1861

Schedule B. PERSONAL ESTATE.

Stocks.

1 Share Amoskeag Co	\$800.00	- 2 do Manchester Print	\$1400.00	\$2200.00
2 " Amoskeag St. C. Co.	\$200.00	- 15 " Fremont Bank	\$1500.00	1700.00
25 " Exchange Bank	\$1600.00	- 31 " Asiatic "	\$700.00	2500.00
1 " Amoskeag do	\$75.00	- 6 1/4 " S. D. Acqueduct Co	\$5400.00	6495.00
24 " Salem Turnpike	\$700.00	- 1 " Salem M. Ins. Co.	\$180.00	880.00
1 " Athensium	\$5.00	- 3 " E. R. Road Co	\$1500.00	1505.00
3 " Great Pasture	\$40.00	- 2 " E. Boston Ferry	\$20.00	60.00

Eastern Rail Road Bonds 1200.00

Contents of Best Room in Mansion House	\$150.00	- do Closet	\$80.00	\$230.00
do Lower Entry	\$20.00	- do East Room	\$250.00	270.00
do Kitchen	\$115.00			385.00
" East Chamber & Closet	\$100.00	- do West Chamber	\$80.00	180.00
do Material Ware in Closet	\$75.00			255.00
" Kitchen Chamber	\$50.00	- 4 Trunks & contents of Hoopery	\$15.00	65.00
1 Musket, 2 Pistols, Belt &c.	\$12.00	- Contents of Kitchen Chamber Closet	\$2.00	14.00
do Dressing Chamber & Books	\$100.00	- do Bedchamber & contents	\$5.00	105.00
" Pantry Chamber	\$5.00	- do Back Entry, doct		5.50
" East Chamber S. Story	\$12.00	- do West Chamber do	\$30.00	42.00
do Kitchen	\$12.00			54.00
" Pantry	\$2.00	- do Dressing "	\$4.00	6.00
do Cellar	\$7.00	- do Barn	\$30.00	37.00
Lot of Wood (Sawed & split)	\$60.00	- Contents of Shed	\$3.00	63.00
Bed & other Linen, Quilts, Puffs, Pillow Cases, Bed & Window Curtains &c				140.00
1 piece Yellow Silk	\$12.00	and a lot of Sewing Silk	\$6.00	18.00
China Tea and Coffee Set	\$15.00	- 288 oz Silver Ware	\$300.00	315.00
2 Watches	\$14.00	- 1 Camper Trunk	\$4.00	18.00
1 Gold Snuff Box	\$6.00			24.00
Seal and Key - Gold Eye Glasses, Silver Hunt Knife & Snuff Box		Velvet Box		10.00
Note of Gideon T. Mansfield	\$200.00	- do do do do	\$256.66	456.66
antiquing and uncollected				2000.00
1/8th of Whaling Ship James not yet returned				1102.32
By Cash on Hand				

\$22010.48