

HISTORIC SALEM INC

7 Williams Street

Salem, MA

Built for Nathaniel
Weston Merchant
1856

Researched and written by Amy Kellett and Robert Booth, Public History Services Inc.
December 2019

Historic Salem, Inc.
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Salem, MA 01970
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Owners & Occupants

7 Williams Street, Salem

By Amy Kellett & Robert Booth, PHS, December 2019

According to available evidence, this house was built in 1839 for Nathaniel Weston, merchant, and was renovated in 1856. It occupies the site of an earlier house built c.1797 for Nehemiah Adams, cabinet maker.

In August, 1827, Mrs. Eliza (Story) White for \$4200 sold the property, with house and store, to Nathaniel Weston (ED 247:30).

Nathaniel Weston Jr. (1793-1868) was born in Woburn, the son of Nathaniel Weston and Hannah (Richardson) Weston who had come to Salem by 1800 and had a house (now gone) on North Street, near the "Witch House."

Nathaniel Weston (Jr.) was bred to the sea as a mariner. He went privateering during the War of 1812 and was captured and imprisoned at Dartmoor Prison, in England. He returned to Salem in 1815, at the end of the war. In October, 1815, he shipped out as a crewman on board the brig "Hope," for South America (~CL). He was described as 22, light complected and 5' 4" tall. By October, 1817, he was a mariner on board the brig "Betsey," sailing for Matanzas (SCL).

Capt. Nathaniel Weston became a shipmaster and in 1819 married Christiana Waters (1795-1877), of an old Salem family. They would have four sons and a daughter. He was successful as a mariner and was able to come ashore c.1829 and set up as an import-export merchant. In 1830 they moved to Williams Street and resided in a house which may have occupied the site of this one. It is evident that some houses that stood hereabouts in the early 19th century were removed.

Early history.

In October, 1789, John Gardner, merchant, for 150 li sold to Henry Williams, mariner, a store or warehouse, part of a barn, and a well on about 20 poles of ground bounded s. on a way by the north side of the Common, w. on land of Putnam, and n. & e. on land of Williams (ED 148:248). Capt. Henry Williams would proceed to lay out Williams Street through this and adjoining parcels of land. Just as that was happening, in February, 1796,

Captain Williams for \$850 sold to Nehemiah Adams, cabinet-maker, the same 20 poles of land and buildings that he had bought in 1789 (ED 159:232); and in September, 1796, Williams sold to Adams (for \$511.50) the adjoining piece of land (46.5.poles in area) fronting 80' on Williams Street (ED 161!55).

Nehemiah Adams had a house built on the land. He took out a mortgage in March, 1810, for \$6500, from Henry White Jr., merchant, who soon foreclosed and in October, 1811, sold the premises (house, shop, land) for \$6500 to his brother Col. Joseph White Jr., merchant (ED 202:182). Colonel White, who lived nearby in a brick mansion, died in 1816; and the Williams Street property remained in his estate for eleven years.

In August, 1827, Mrs. Eliza (Story) White for \$4200 sold the land, house, and store to Nathaniel Weston (ED 247:30}.

Captain Weston and family moved from Pickman Street evidently, for in 1829 he ("merchant") sold a house and land on Pickman Street (corner of Pleasant) to Capt. John Bertram. This was the first mention of Weston as a merchant; hitherto, he had been a shipmaster. In 1831 (valuation) Nathaniel Weston and Benjamin Stone were listed at the same house, Williams Street.

The Weston homestead at Williams Street included a house worth \$3000-\$3500, and the shop worth \$500 (per valuations, 1830 p. 40, 1831 p. 59}. Presumably these were the buildings owned by Nehemiah Adams, cabinet maker, when, in 1810, he had mortgaged the property for \$6500.

The house evidently stood on the site of this one, but was a different house, purely on stylistic grounds-a house dating from 1796-1810 would have been built in the "Federal" style, whereas this house is in the Greek Revival style, which would not appear until 1835 or so in Salem.

Evidence from Valuations.

In 1831 (per valuation), Nathaniel Weston and Benjamin Stone occupied a house on Williams Street. In the 1832 valuation (p. 59} Captain Weston was assessed for a house, Williams St., and land under Adams' shop, total \$3500, and also for a house on Essex Street, \$1000. Likely Adams's shop stood on the corner.

In **1838** (p. 66), Nathaniel Weston was assessed for "new house at 9 Brown," not yet valued, also for house "9 Williams" valued at \$3500, also "65 Essex" worth \$1000. Note that the "shop" had disappeared. The new house is the

one now fronting on Washington Square, next to the Witch Museum (formerly the East Church) and at the corner of Williams Street. Evidently mason Benjamin Stone occupied the old house on Williams Street (p. 61, notation in pencil).

In the 1839 valuation (p. 67), Nathaniel Weston was assessed for his own house at 9 Brown, \$2500, for an "unfinished house" (pencil notation) \$2500, and for 65 Essex, \$1000.

The "unfinished house" is probably this one (the brick double house at 7-9). The former house was probably removed, perhaps farther down Williams Street. In the 1840 valuation, the house (formerly "unfinished") was valued at \$4000. At that time, Benjamin Stone was listed as occupying 9 Williams.

Having resided here in the late 1830s, Mr. Stone may have been the mason involved in the construction of this house for Captain Weston.

In the 1841 valuation (p. 59), Benjamin Stone was listed at 9 Williams Street, while (p. 49) Thomas Kinsley was listed as having come from Ward 3 to Williams Street, a move which perhaps placed him here, since the 1842 valuation (pp. 48-9, p. 58) shows Benjamin Stone and Thomas & John Kinsley at "9 Williams" (with James Kinsley at "7 Mall Street").

In 1844 (per Street Book), John Messervey and family resided here (#7).

In the 1845 valuation, Nathaniel Weston resided at 9 Brown (\$2500), while his house worth \$4500 was evidently occupied by James Kinsley (#7, p. 47) and by Benjamin Stone (#9).

Per the 1850 valuation (p. 71) Nathaniel Weston owned houses worth \$4500, \$2500, and \$1000 (locations not noted).

The 1851 Henry McIntyre atlas shows a modest-sized rectangular building on this spot (#7-9), fronting the street, without rear ells.

In 1854, Captain Weston's valuation (p. 89) shows his house at 9 Brown as worth \$5000, 65 Essex at \$1000, and 7 Williams at \$2000. Evidently 9 Williams was then assessed separately.

The 1855 valuation assessed Nathaniel Weston (p. 86) for 9 Brown Street (\$6000), 65 Essex (\$1000), and 7 Williams (\$2000), with personal property worth \$30,000.

So it remained in 1856 (p. 9~); but in 1857 the value of the "Williams Street" house had jumped to \$7000. The long-time tenant, Benjamin Stone (who likely had paid taxes on #9), had just moved to another house on Williams Street, so (evidently) Captain Weston had proceeded to enlarge and remodel the double house at 7-9. The 1857 valuation was no fluke, and was confirmed by the same valuation in 1858.

It is impossible to say what changes were made in 1856 to the house that was completed by 1840.

People who lived here.

James Kinsley (1811-1852) was born in Salem in 1811, the son of James Kinsley & Lydia Owens, who had married in 1805. Evidently his siblings were Jane, Lydia, Thomas, and John. His father, probably a mariner, died in 1834, aged 48; and his mother would die in 1854.

James Kinsley (Jr.) was a mariner. In 1830, aged 20, he was described as 5' 8" tall, fair complected and light haired, sailing on board the brig "Plato," Capt. George Creamer, bound for Maranhão in Brazil. The first mate was Samuel B. Kehew and there were four other crewmen. James does not afterwards appear in the usual Salem records, so he may have sailed out of Boston or perhaps primarily sailed as a coaster, to American ports rather than overseas.

In the 1830s, Salem's main business was leather-making, for the city's maritime commerce had failed in all but Brazil, Zanzibar, and a few other markets. Salem's remaining merchants took their equity out of wharves and warehouses and ships and put it into manufacturing and transportation, as the advent of railroads and canals diverted both capital and trade away from the coast. Some merchants did not make the transition, and were ruined. Old-line areas of work, like rope-making, sail-making, and ship chandleries, gradually declined and disappeared. Salem slumped badly, but in 1836 the voters decided to charter their town as the third city to be formed in the state, behind Boston and Lowell. City Hall was built 1837-8 and the city seal was adopted with an already-anachronistic Latin motto of "to the farthest port of the rich East"-a far cry from "Go West, young man!" The Panic of 1837, a brief, sharp, nationwide economic depression, brought economic disaster to many younger businessmen, and caused even more Salem families to depart in search of a better future.

In September, 1836, James Kinsley married Mahala Cheever (1814-1852), born in Beverly, daughter of Ebenezer Cheever and Hannah Coffin. Evidently

they had no children. In the 1837 Directory, James Kinsley, mariner, is listed at 7 Williams, while his mother, Mrs. Lydia (Owens) Kinsley, is at 9 Williams.

Salem had not prepared for the industrial age, and had few natural advantages. The North River served not to power factories but mainly to flush the waste from the 25 tanneries that had set up along its banks. Throughout the 1830s, the leaders of Salem scrambled to re-invent an economy for their fellow citizens, many of whom were mariners without much sea-faring to do. Ingenuity, ambition, and hard work would have to carry the day.

One inspiration was the Salem Laboratory, Salem's first science-based manufacturing enterprise, founded in 1813 to produce chemicals. At the plant built in 1818 in North Salem, the production of alum and blue vitriol was a specialty; and it proved a very successful business.

Some Salem merchants turned to whaling in the 1830s, which led to the building of two small steam-powered factories producing high-quality candles and machine oils at Stage Point. The manufacturing of white lead began in the 1820s, and grew large after 1830, when Wyman's gristmills on the Forest River were retooled for making high-quality white lead and sheet lead (the approach to Marblehead is still called Lead Mills Hill; the empty mill buildings burned down in 1960s).

These enterprises started Salem in a new direction. In 1838 the Eastern Rail Road, headquartered in Salem, began operating between Boston and Salem, which gave the local people a direct route to the region's largest market. The new railroad tracks ran right over the middle of the Mill Pond; the tunnel under Washington Street was built in 1839; and the line was extended to Newburyport in 1840.

By 1842 (per directory) James Kinsley, now a cooper, resided here with Mahala, and so did Benjamin Pearson, tobacconist, and family (soon he would have a house built on Howard Street).

Note: On Oct. 15, 1844, Nathaniel Weston, Salem merchant (assent of wife Christiana) for \$4500 sold to the proprietors of the East Church (he being one) a lot fronting 133' 3" on Brown Street, running back about 120' between his land on the n.e. and land of Samuel Johnson on the s.w. (ED 368:121). On this land the new East Church would be built.

The 1840s proved to be a decade of explosive growth in Salem's leather industry, still conducted largely as a mass-production handicraft, and its new textile manufacturing, applying leading edge machine technology.

The tanning of animal hides and curing of leather, a filthy and smelly enterprise, took place on and near Boston Street, along the upper North River. In 1844, there were 41 tanneries; a few years later, that number had doubled and in 1850 they employed 550 workers. Salem had become one of the largest leather-producers in America; and it would continue to grow in importance throughout the 1800s.

In 1847, along the inner-harbor shoreline of the large peninsula known as Stage Point, the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company completed the construction of the largest steam cotton factory building in the world, four stories high, 60' wide, 400' long, running 1700 looms and 31,000 spindles to produce millions of yards of first-quality cotton sheeting and shirting. It was immediately profitable, and 600 people found employment there, many of them living in new houses on The Point. The cotton sheeting of The Point found a ready market in East Africa, and brought about a revival of shipping, led by the merchants David Pingree (president of the Naumkeag company) and John Bertram. Probably Nathaniel Weston was involved as well.

In Lynn, the factory system was perfected, and that city became the nation's leading shoe producer. Salem had shoe factories too, and attracted shoe workers from outlying towns and the countryside. Even the population changed, as hundreds of Irish families, fleeing the famine in Ireland, settled in Salem and gave the industrialists a big pool of cheap labor.

The Gothic symbol of Salem's new industrial economy was the outsized twin-towered granite-and-brick train station-the "stone depot"-smoking and growling with idling locomotives, standing on filled-in land at the foot of Washington Street, on the site of shipyards and the merchants' wharves.

The town's shipping consisted of vessels carrying coal and importing hides from Africa and Brazil, and Down East coasters with cargoes of fuel wood and lumber. A picture of Salem's waterfront is given by Hawthorne in his mean-spirited "Introduction" to *The Scarlet Letter*, which he began while working in the Custom House.

Per the 1850 directory (based on 1849 data), this house (#7) was occupied by John Carlton Jr., probably a mariner, son of John Carlton, chaplain at the Alms House, who lived in the other side with his family. The 1849 Street Book shows the heads of household at #7 as John Carlton and James Kinsley.

In 1850 (per census, h. 309) #7 was occupied by the Kinsleys (James, 36, mariner, Mahala, 34, and Mahala's mother, Mrs. Hannah (Coffin) Cheever,

80), and the Browns (William, 42, English-born mariner, Sarah, 27) and the Restells (John, 76, born in England, and Thomas, 26, a cigar maker).

Tragically, in 1850 James Kinsley fell desperately ill and became "so furiously mad, as to render it manifestly dangerous to the peace and safety of the community." His brother-in-law, Alexander Donaldson (husband of Lydia Kinsley), petitioned that James be placed in the Lunatic Hospital at Worcester. The probate court agreed, and the Sheriff, or Rev. James Thompson, was ordered to carry out the order. James may have been able to return to Salem, where his death, by fits, was recorded as occurring on July 26, 1852. His widow, Mahala, also died in 1852.

Salem's industrial growth continued through the 1850s, as business expanded, the population swelled, new churches were built, new workingclass neighborhoods were developed (especially at The Point, South Salem along Lafayette Street, in North Salem, off Boston Street, and along the Mill Pond behind the Broad Street graveyard); and new schools, factories, and stores were erected. A second, even-larger factory building for the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company was added in 1859, down at Stage Point, where a new Methodist Church went up in 1852; and many neat new homes, boarding-houses, and stores lined the streets between Lafayette and Congress. The tanning business continued to boom, as better and larger tanneries were built along Boston Street and Mason Street; and subsidiary industries sprang up as well, most notably the J.M. Anderson glue-works on the Turnpike (Highland Avenue).

As it re-established itself as an economic powerhouse, Salem took a strong interest in national politics. It was primarily Republican, and strongly antislavery, with its share of outspoken abolitionists, led by Charles Remand, a passionate speaker who came from one of the city's leading black families. At its Lyceum (on Church Street) and in other venues, plays and shows were put on, but cultural lectures and political speeches were given too.

Per the 1855 census (h. 350Y this house was occupied by Jonathan S. Temple, 45, cabinetmaker, wife Frances, 39, and children Howard, 15, and infant Frances. This family would soon move to Gloucester.

It should be noted that the owner, Nathaniel Weston, was still residing in his house overlooking the Common, at the head of Williams Street.

In the late 1850s (once it was renovated and enlarged) this house (#7) was occupied by Capt. Edward Weston, a son of Nathaniel, and his family members.

Edward Weston (1825-1863) was a mariner at sixteen, sailing as a seaman (5' 2", light complected) on board the brig "Rattler", Capt. John F. Webb, for Zanzibar, departing Aug. 6, 1841. He made the same voyage in 1842 under Capt. John Lambert. In 1845 he sailed on the bark "William Schroeder" for India; and in 1847 and 1848 he sailed on board the brig "Emily Wilder" on voyages to Zanzibar. Edward Weston, 24, was first mate to Capt. Daniel H. Mansfield on board the brig "Cherokee," bound for the East Indies, departing Salem on June 1, 1849.

Edward Weston became a shipmaster, perhaps sailing out of Boston. In 1856 he married Angeline McKenzie (1833-1892), 23, daughter of Isabel (Hutchinson) McKenzie, a native of Scotland, and her late husband Reuben, a Maine-born Salem shipmaster. In 1857 the Westons had a son Edward S.

In 1860, this house was occupied by Capt. Edward Weston, 35, mariner, wife Angeline, 27, son Edward, 3, and domestic Susan Bosman, 21, of Nova Scotia; also by Angeline's mother Mrs. Isabella McKenzie, 62, and brother Roderick McKenzie, 19, a mariner. Also living here were Joseph H. Millett Jr., a dealer in hats in Boston, and his wife Isabella, another McKenzie daughter.

With the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860, it was clear that the Southern states would secede from the union; and Salem, which had done so much to win the independence of the nation, was ready to go to war to force others to remain a part of it.

The Civil War began in April, 1861, and went on for four years, during which hundreds of Salem men served in the army and navy, and many were killed or died of disease or abusive treatment while imprisoned. Hundreds more suffered wounds, or broken health.

Capt. Edward Weston died in 1863, aged 37 years. He left his wife Angeline, 32, and three young sons, Edward S., 8, Henry E., 4, and William H., 3, who lived here with Isabella McKenzie, 68, and son Roderick, 25, mariner (1865 census, h. 419).

During the war, the remaining leather workers went on strike against the owners for a 10-hour workday, better pay, and improved working conditions. The strike lasted for weeks, and was non-violent. At the end, the owners won and most of the men went back to work.

As to the men in uniform, the people of Salem contributed generously to efforts to alleviate the suffering of the soldiers, sailors, and their families; and there was great celebration when the war finally ended in the spring of 1865.

Through the 1860s, Salem pursued manufacturing, especially of leather and shoes and textiles. The managers and capitalists tended to build their new, grand houses along Lafayette Street (these houses may still be seen, south of Holly Street; many are in the French Second Empire style, with mansard roofs). Factory workers lived in smaller houses and tenements.

In 1868, Nathaniel Weston died. By his will, this house evidently stayed in trust for the benefit of his widow and other family members, no doubt including his widow Christiana, 73, and his three fatherless grandsons here. Their mother was well-provided-for. In 1870 (per census, h. 380) the occupants were Mrs. "Anna" Weston, 37, with \$17,000 in r.e. and \$40,000 in p.e., with sons Edward, 13, Henry, ten, and William 8, also her mother Mrs. Isabella McKenzie, 73.

In 1870 Salem received its last cargo from Zanzibar. By then, a new Salem & New York freight steamboat line was in operation. Seven years later, with the arrival of a vessel from Cayenne, Salem's foreign trade came to an end. After that, "the merchandise warehouses on the wharves no longer contained silks from India, tea from China, pepper from Sumatra, coffee from Arabia, spices from Batavia, gum-copal from Zanzibar, hides from Africa, and the various other products of far-away countries. The boys have ceased to watch on the Neck for the incoming vessels, hoping to earn a reward by being the first to announce to the expectant merchant the safe return of his looked-for vessel. The foreign commerce of Salem, once her pride and glory, has spread its white wings and sailed away forever" (Rev. George Bachelder in *History of Essex County*, II: 65).

Salem continued to prosper, carried forward by the leather-making business. In 1874 the city was visited by a tornado and shaken by a minor earthquake. In the following year, the large Pennsylvania Pier (site of the present coal-fired harborside electrical generating plant) was completed to begin receiving large shipments of coal, most of it shipped by rail to the factories on the Merrimack. In the neck of land beyond the Pier, a new owner began subdividing the old Allen farmlands into a development called Salem Willows and Juniper Point. In the U.S. centennial year, 1876, A. G. Bell of Salem announced that he had discovered a way to transmit voices over telegraph wires.

Mrs. Christiana (Waters) Weston, Nathaniel's widow, died in April, 1877. There was a lawsuit involving family members in 1878. As a result, in November, 1878, trustees under the will of Nathaniel Weston conveyed to Lawrence W. Jenkins one-half undivided of the real estate bounded e. on

Williams Street, s. on land willed to Weston's widow, w. on now/late land of Estes and Ruee, and n. on land of the late Daniel Perkins (ED 1013:8). It was subject to the right of Angeline Weston under the will, and of Charles T. Jenkins (father of Lawrence, whose mother was Lucy Weston Jenkins, a daughter of Nathaniel Weston), and the trustees under the will.

In this decade, large numbers of French-Canadian families came to work in Salem's mills and factories, and more houses and tenements were built. The better-off workers bought portions of older houses or built small homes for their families in the outlying sections of the city; and by 1879 the Naumkeag Steam Cotton mills would employ 1500 people (including hundreds of children) and produce annually nearly 15 million yards of cloth. Shoemanufacturing businesses expanded in the 1870s, and 40 shoe factories were employing 600-plus operatives. Tanning, in both Salem and Peabody, remained a very important industry, and employed hundreds of breadwinners. On Boston Street in 1879, the Arnold tannery caught fire and burned down.

In 1879 Mrs. Angeline (McKenzie) Weston married, second, Charles T. Jenkins (1823-1885), who had married, first, her sister-in-law Lucy D. Weston (1834-1874), with whom he had a son Lawrence Jenkins. The Jenkinsees resided at then-129 Essex Street in 1880 (per census). It should be noted that Angeline's eldest son, Edward Stanley Weston, was a graduate of Harvard in 1879. In 1882 he and a chum, L. A. Plumer, went to Europe to make a Grand Tour; but Edward died in London of typhoid.

After 1877, the house was rented out to non-Weston tenants. In 1880, per Directory, Josephine J. Mahers lived here. In the 1880s the occupants were Frederick S. Poor and his family, he being a principal of Buffum, Poor & Co., livery stablers, at then-23 Brown Street (per Directory).

In the 1880s and 1890s, Salem kept building infrastructure; and new businesses arose, and established businesses expanded. Retail stores prospered; horse-drawn trolleys ran every which-way; and machinists, carpenters, millwrights, and other specialists all thrived. In 1880, Salem's manufactured goods were valued at about \$8.4 million, of which leather accounted for nearly half.

In the summer of 1886, the Knights of Labor brought a strike against the manufacturers for a ten-hour day and other concessions; but the manufacturers imported labor from Maine and Canada, and kept going. The strikers held out, and there was violence in the streets, and even rioting; but the owners prevailed, and many of the defeated workers lost their jobs and suffered, with their families, through a bitter winter.

By the mid-1880s, Salem's cotton-cloth mills at the Point employed 1400 people who produced about 19 million yards annually, worth about \$1.5 million. The city's large shoe factories stood downtown behind the stone depot and on Dodge and Lafayette Streets. A jute bagging company prospered with plants on Skerry Street and English Street; its products were sent south to be used in cotton-baling. Salem factories also produced lead, paint, and oil. At the Eastern Railroad yard on Bridge Street, cars were repaired and even built new. In 1887 the streets were first lit with electricity, replacing gas-light.

Note: In June, 1897, the trustees under the will of Nathaniel Weston sold the former Nathaniel Weston homestead, fronting on Washington Square (formerly Brown Street) 57.8' and running 166.8' down Williams Street.

In the 1890s, the house was tenanted by Albert A. Blossom, a traveling salesman, and family (per Directories). The Blossoms were here until 1899.

In 1900 (per census) the house was occupied by Arthur Quincy, 35, a native of New Hampshire, working as a bookkeeper at Merchants Bank, Boston; his family consisted of wife Maud, 29, and sons Lyman, 6, and Josiah, 3. They resided here for some years.

More factories and more people required more space for buildings, more roads, and more storage areas. This space was created by filling in rivers, harbors, and ponds. The once-broad North River was filled from both shores, and became a canal along Bridge Street above the North Bridge. The large and beautiful Mill Pond, which occupied the whole area between the present Jefferson Avenue, Canal Street, and Loring Avenue, finally vanished beneath streets, storage areas, junk-yards, rail-yards, and parking lots. The South River, too, with its epicenter at Central Street (the Custom House had opened there in 1805) disappeared under the pavement of Riley Plaza and New Derby Street, and some of its old wharves were joined together with much in-fill and turned into coal-yards and lumber-yards. Only a canal was left, running in from Derby and Central Wharves to Lafayette Street.

Salem kept growing. The Canadians were followed in the early 20th century by large numbers of Polish and Ukrainian families, who settled primarily in the Derby Street neighborhood, and by Sicilians, in the High Street neighborhood. By the eve of World War One, the bustling, polyglot city supported large department stores and factories of every description. People from the surrounding towns, and Marblehead in particular, came to Salem to do their shopping; and its handsome government buildings, as befit the county seat, were busy with conveyances of land, lawsuits, and

probate proceedings. The city's politics were lively, and its economy was strong.

In 1910 the house was vacant for a while.

On June 25, 1914, in the morning, in Blubber Hollow (Boston Street at Proctor), a fire started in small wooden shoe factory. This fire soon raced out of control, for the west wind was high and the season had been dry. Out of Blubber Hollow the fire roared easterly, a monstrous front of flame and smoke, wiping out the houses of Boston Street, Essex Street, and upper Broad Street, and then sweeping through Hathorne, Winthrop, Endicott, and other residential streets. Men and machines could not stop it: the enormous fire crossed over into South Salem and destroyed the neighborhoods west of Lafayette Street, then devoured the mansions of Lafayette Street itself, and raged onward into the tenement district of The Point. Despite the combined efforts of heroic fire crews from many towns and cities, the fire overwhelmed everything in its path: the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company factory complex exploded in an inferno. At Derby Street, just beyond Union, after a 13-hour rampage, the monster died, having consumed 250 acres, 1600 houses, and 41 factories, and leaving three dead and thousands homeless. Some people had insurance, some did not; all received much support and generous donations from all over the country and the world. It was one of the greatest urban disasters in the history of the United States.

In September, 1914, the trustee under the will of Nathaniel Weston for \$9000 sold John Ganey of Peabody "the double brick dwelling house now numbered 7 and 9" on Williams Street, bounded east on Williams Street, north on land of now/late Cousins and formerly of Ray, etc. (ED 2272:419). The lot's dimensions were not described in feet and inches.

By 1916 #7 was occupied by James E. Fitzgerald and family. Mrs. Mary J. Fitzgerald was a daughter of the owner, John Ganey. James was a druggist with a store at then-169 Essex Street. In 1920 he was 53, his wife Mary J., 50, and their children here were Catherine V., 18, James E., 16, and Geraldine, 12.

In January, 1917, John Ganey sold the unit #7 to his daughter, Mary Josephine Fitzgerald (ED 2356:576).

Many years later, in 1946, Dolores E. Labrie acquired the property (ED 3444:535, etc.).

Glossary & Sources

A figure like (ED 123:45} refers to book 123, page 45, Essex South Registry of Deeds.

A figure like (#1234S) refers to Essex Probate case 12345, on file at the Essex Probate Court, or on microfilm at Mass. Archives, Boston, or at the Peabody Essex Museum's Phillips Library, Rowley.

MSSRW refers to the multi-volume compendium, *Mass. Soldiers & Sailors in the Revolutionary War*, at the Salem Public Library among other places.

MSSCRW refers to the multi-volume compendium, *Mass. Soldiers, Sailors, & Marines in the Civil War*, at the Salem Public Library among other places.

EIHC refers to the Essex Institute Historical Collections (discontinued), a multi-volume set (first volume published in 1859) of data and articles about Essex County. The indices of the EIHC have been consulted regarding many of the people associated with this house.

Salem Crew Lists (SCL}, online at Mystic Seaport website.

The six-volume published salem Vital Records (marriages, births, and deaths through 1849} have been consulted, and the Salem Directory and later Naumkeag Directory, with data about residents and their addresses, etc.

Sidney Perley's three-volume *History of Salem, 1626-1716*, has been consulted, as has the four-volume *William Bentley's Diary*, J. Duncan Phillips' books, some newspapers, and other sources.

Salem real estate valuations, and, where applicable, Salem Street Books, have also been consulted, as have genealogies.

There is much more material available about Salem and its history; and the reader is encouraged to make his or her own discoveries.

-Public History Services

Regarding JAMES KINSLEY 1850

Balem Aug 17 1850 - I certify that I have been notified by Mr Alex Donaldson of his intention to make application for the admission of James Kinsley to the Lunatic Asylum at Worcester -
Nathl Silsbee
Mayor

dangerous to the peace and safety of the community that he should be at large"

Alex Donaldson

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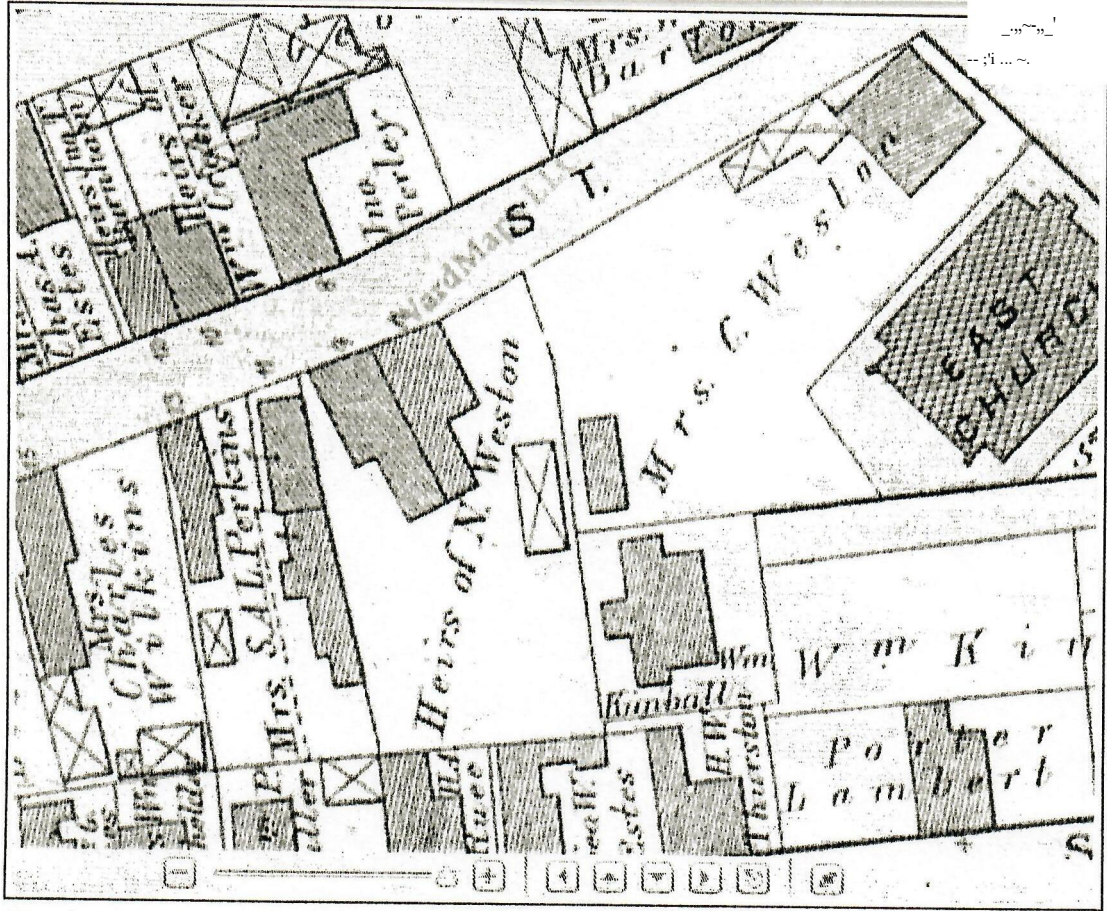
..... L7, -t/4.d. l,,_ 4~ &. ,,,, ; L,i' ,; -; - J1-t.d tf:t.-vcwt- , Lec,,, ~e , L,,_ J qa,-/a, Y~-'j-df, .. , ~ da.e-t-Jl, -Nz,, d

j/li, z... l fa-(/f~ ~"H.; cf. t, t/l. _6focL1> ~«-,, /~ ~ ~ ~ /..; fluo _; u, J-r.fl; ; ; 6 //1:; _ sff, ,,,, ff, ,; -(,,,, ,; ; .. ~O/(&r IL. ~ ~4JI, :>U''7

UTM-lt.; f?-of .f., ; J,,, J; (_l ~ tfi, _v, ~ ncl. l&l'f'4, ~<<~("t; > J~f.ta: ~1.. ~e., ,,,, .

be appointed to carry into effect this order: Warrant issuing accordingly in due form.

Dr. White judge of probate.



1874 Atlas

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No: ... 1, SAL.2402
Historic Name:
Common Name:
Address: 7-9 Williams
St
City/Town: Salem
Village/Neighborhood: Salem Common
Local No: 35-164
Year Constructed: c 1837
Architect(s):
Architectural Style(s): Greek Revival
Use(s): Multiple Family Dwelling House
Significance: Architecture
Area(s): SAL.HW: Salem Common Historic District
Designation(s): Nat'l Register District (05/12/1976)
Building Materials(s): Wall: Brick; Wood; Stone, Cut



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

The MACRIS database and scanned files are highly dynamic; new information is added daily and both database records and related scanned files may be updated as new information is incorporated into MHC files. Users should note that there may be a considerable lag time between the receipt of new or updated records by MHC and the appearance of related information in MACRIS. Users should also note that not all source materials for the MACRIS database are made available as scanned images. Users may consult the records, files and maps available in MHC's public research area at its offices at the State Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, open M-F, 9-5.

Users of this digital material acknowledge that they have read and understood the MACRIS Information and Disclaimer (<http://mhc-macris.net/macrisdisclaimer.htm>)

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Sunday, September 8, 2019 at 1 :02: PM

Plan 50

FORM B - BUILDING

1077

Sr-h .240 2.

AREA : : : J FORM NO. 1

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

~lf- .. " ".1-~!~ h6.:



Address 7-9 Williams Bt.
City Name _____

Present HA Frdn:ntin1
Original Residential

DESCRIPTION

~ j:y 1837.

Style Ci tv Di:i~ecto1 •itrn!

Style Greek Revival

Architect _____

Exterior Wall Fabric Brick

Outbuildings _____

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

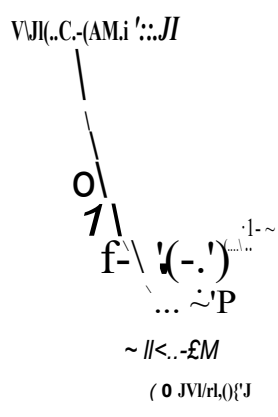
Condition - . . . i . . i . = ' _____

Moved _____ Date _____

Acreage Under 4 acre

Setting Be~; denti aJ v 11-rban

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s). Indicate north



UIM REFERENCE _____

USGS QUADRANGLE _____

SCALE _____

Recorded by Debra Hilbert & Kim Withers
Bregle Organization Salem PJ ;uminr.i: 1kmt.

Date tlPJ:i:~ 1 ~ 0 ~ - , E)tr

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

Contributing building in existing National Historic District.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

This structure is a fine example of a Greek Revival brick double house. While not numerous in Salem, variations of this type can be found in this and other neighborhoods (39-41 Washington Square North, 5-9 Summer St., 2-4 Chestnut St.). Symmetrically arranged, the house has a gable roof and six-bay facade. The two recessed entries are located at the center of the building, each with 4-panel doors, full-length sidelights, transoms, and stone lintels. The windows also have stone lintels as well as sills. Another feature is the dentiled cornice. Altogether the structure is restrained, yet elegant in its simplicity.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

Williams Street was opened from the Common to Bridge Street in 1796 by Captain
William Williams. The street developed rapidly with at least five houses built by 1800, and several others moved there. This double
house appears to date from the 1830s, and was occupied in 1837 by James Kinsley, mariner, Benjamin
Stone, mason, and Lydi Kinsley. Still occupied by Stone, in 1851 the house was owned by
merchant Nathaniel Weston, a merchant who lived at 21 Washington Square North at the corner of
Williams Street. Weston's residence is still on the site. Williams Street in 187A - ...

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

City Directories, 1837
1851 Map
1874 Atlas

Toilet and Arrangement of Architecture in Salem: An Illustration of the City of Williams
in 1837. Williams, 1837. p. 17.



Added by: RememberMe on 18 Oct 2019

Harmony Grove