

Thomas Needham House

125 Essex Street

built 1830

Sally Bee
1972

S U M M A R Y

Thomas Needham was, in his time, a well known Salem cabinet maker and builder. For a few years, he was paying taxes on eight different buildings on various Salem streets.

In 1823 he purchased, in four pieces, a lot of land about 59 ft. along the south side of Essex Street and 80 ft. deep. This land was bounded on the east by land of Thomas West, and on the west by land of Gideon Tucker. The eastern section, approximately 21 ft. along Essex Street by 80 ft. along West's land was the last piece Needham acquired, the deed being recorded on October 3, 1823. The three other parcels Needham had bought in March of 1823. On the same day he bought that last segment, however, he mortgaged the entire lot of land "with a two story shop" on it. No buildings were mentioned in any of the deeds, so it can be concluded that he had erected the shop on the western portion since purchasing those pieces in March. The house #125 is on the eastern half of the lot adjacent to property of Thomas West. By 1845 when Thomas Needham sold the whole property to James Kimball, it had "two wooden buildings thereon".

Tax records fill in the story. For three years, 1827, 1828, 1829 Needham isn't listed as paying any taxes on that property on Essex Street between Thomas West and Gideon Tucker. In 1830 Thomas Needham was assessed for three houses on Liberty Street (one was his home), a house on Williams Street, a "store" and an "unfinished house" both on Essex Street.

In 1831 these buildings were still listed as "store" and "unfinished house" on Essex Street, but in the subsequent years, Needham was assessed for "house" and "store" on Essex Street. All his other assessments were on other streets.

It seems evident from these tax records that 1830 was the year that #125 Essex Street was built, and the attractive wooden structure shows architectural detail consistent with this period.

Gideon Tucker, merchant, of Salem, for \$650 sells to Thomas Needham land in two pieces. The first one bounded N. on Essex Street 19', on E. by an 8½' way, for 25'-3"; on S. by land of heirs of Nathaniel Phippen 19'; and on W. by land of same heirs 25'-3" to Essex Street. The other piece situated up the common way, beginning at the S.W. corner, bounded on S. by land of J. Richardson 37½'; on W. by land of grantor 11'; on N. by land of heirs of Phippen 20½'; on W. again by Phippen heirs 12'; N. again on land of same heirs and said common way 17'; and E. on land Phippen bought of Fisk's heirs to beginning.

Book 230, Page 275

March 11, 1823

Joseph J. Knap of Salem and wife Abigail (Phippen) for \$550 sell to Thomas Needham, cabinet maker, of Salem, land bounded on W. by Gideon Tucker "on which his house stands" (a jagged lot more or less 10' to 20' wide along a common way). This land having descended from her mother the widow Abigail Phippen and subject to her dower.

Book 230, Page 276

March 11, 1823

Abigail Phippen, widow, of Salem, for \$1.00 releases right of dower in same land described above, to Thomas Needham.

Book 232, Page 270

May 10, 1823

Nancy and Mary Brown for \$800 sell land (described below) to brother Nathaniel Brown.

Book 232, Page 272

October 3, 1823

Nathaniel Brown, of Salem, for \$800 sells to Thomas Needham, of Salem, cabinet maker, a lot of land on Essex Street bounded: beginning on Essex Street and running S. by land of Capt. Thomas West 80' more or less to land of Josiah Richardson; then W. by land of Richardson 11'-6"; then N. partly by land of said Needham and partly by a common passageway about 80' to Essex Street; then E. on Essex Street 21' to beginning; being same premises conveyed to me by my sisters, Nancy Brown and Mary Brown, deed May 10, 1823 and entered just before this.

Book 232, Page 272

October 3, 1823

Thomas Needham, of Salem, mortgages for \$800 to Amos Choate a lot of land on Essex Street bounded on N. by Essex Street 58'-6"; on E. by land of Thomas West 80'; on S. by land of Josiah Richardson about 49'; on W. by land of Gideon Tucker about 80'; being land held by virtue of four deeds, one from Joseph J. Knap and wife, one from Abigail Phippen, both recorded in Book 230, Page 276, and one from Gideon Tucker, Book 233, Page 26, and one from Nathaniel Brown entered just before this, together with a two story wooden shop thereon.

(Mortgage was discharged in 1826).

Book 351, Page 77

January 28, 1845

Thomas Needham, of Salem, for \$3600 sells to James Kimball, of Salem, a lot of land in Salem with two wooden buildings thereon (same description as above), being all the land I hold by virtue of four deeds (same as above).

Book 1580, Page 259

June 1, 1899

Harriet P. Tyler, of New Bedford, Mary F. Safford, of Washington, Alice B. Smith, of East Orange, N.J., for \$3100 sell to Arthur Feenan, of Salem, land and buildings at 125 Essex Street bounded as follows:

On N. by Essex Street 29.7'; on E. by land formerly of Thomas West 80'-10"; on S. by land formerly of Tucker 20.2'; and on W. on land formerly of Elizabeth Farley 80.1' to said Essex Street, being the premises marked as the estate of James Kimball on plan of estates of James Kimball and Elizabeth Farley made by Chas. A. Putnam Aug. 19, 1868 and copied from a survey of J. H. Nichols Feb. 25, 1846, and being a portion of premises conveyed to the late James Kimball by deed of Thomas Needham, Book 351, Page 77, and devised to us under will of said Kimball, Probate Number 44347.

Book 3146, Page 453

May 27, 1938

Probate Partition under will of Arthur Feenan. Set off to Mary A. McDermott: 125 Essex Street bounded on N. by Essex Street approximately 30'; on E. by land of Arthur M. Feenan about 80'; on S. by other land of Feenan approximately 26'; on W. by land now or late of Perkins estate about 80'.

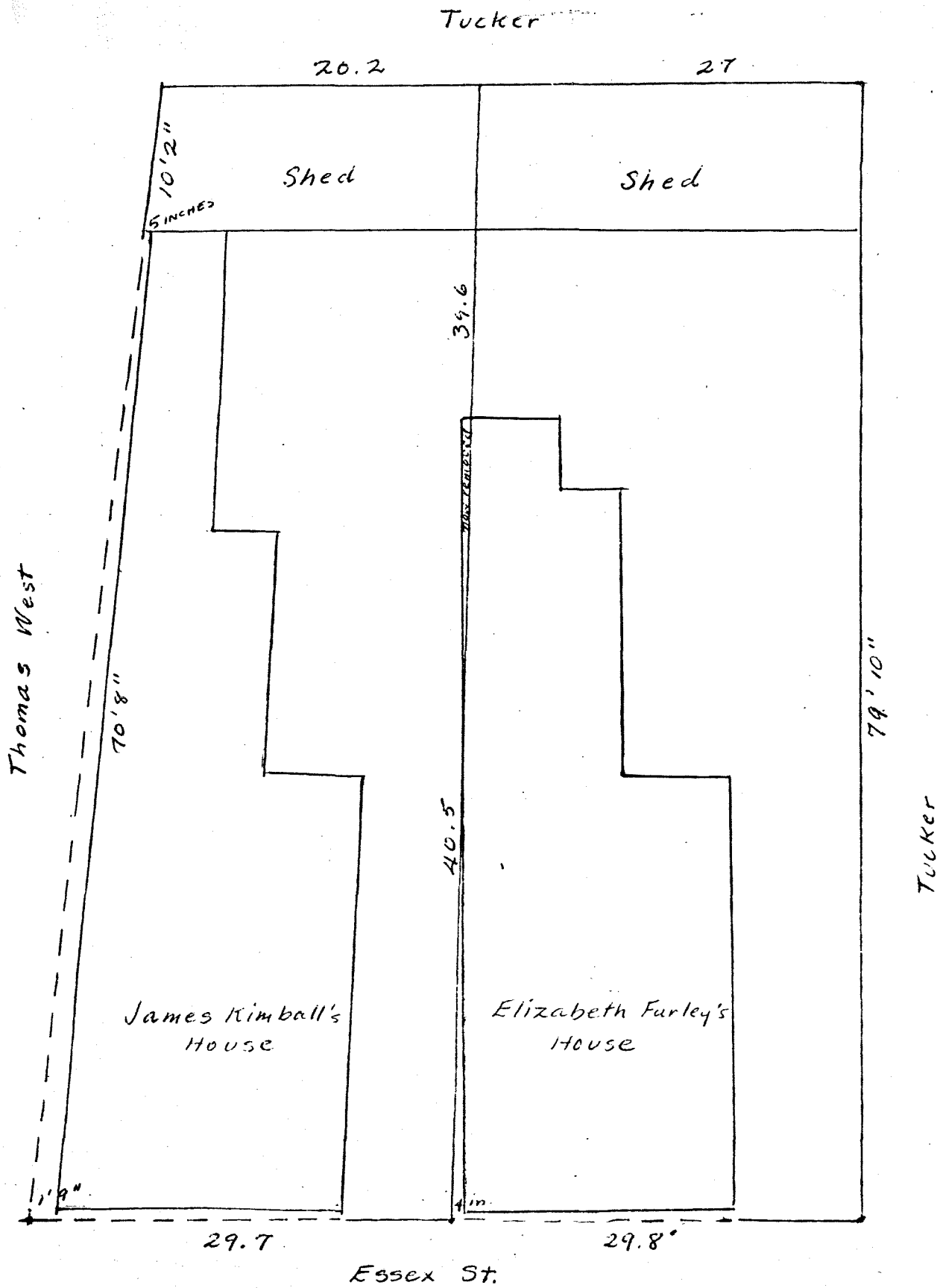
Book 5728, Page 364

October 16, 1970

Confirms deed Book 5719, Page 322. William V. McDermott, Jr. adm. of estate of Mary A. McDermott, late of Salem, sells to Douglas H. Haley, of Salem, and Richard B. Winick, of Marblehead, land and buildings thereon at 125 Essex Street bounded on N. by Essex Street 29.7'; on E. by land now or late of Thomas West 80'-10"; on S. by land now or late of Tucker 20'-2"; and on W. by land now or late of Elizabeth Farley 80.1'.

CITY OF SALEM TAX RECORDS
 (items copied as written, parentheses mine - S.L.D.)

1827	Gideon Tucker	house	
	Thomas West	house	
1828	Gideon Tucker	house and store	
	Thomas West	house	
1829	Gideon Tucker	house	
	Thomas West	house	
1830	Gideon Tucker	house, brick house	
	Thomas Needham	3 houses on Liberty St. recd 800	
		1000 his house 1200	
		store on Essex 1200	
		unfinished house 1600	
		house in William St. 1400	
1831		Essex St. South Side	
	Thomas West	1 /2 house	
	Elizabeth West	/2 house	
	Thomas Needham	store & unf. house	store 1200
			house 1600
	Gideon Tucker	house	
		brick house	
		Liberty St.	
1832	Thomas Needham	house 800 house 1000 house 1200	
		store 1200 house 1800 house 1400	
		Liberty St.	
1833	Thomas Needham	house 800 house 1000 house 1200	
		Essex St.	
		house 1800 store 1200	
1834	Thomas Needham	Essex St. house & shop 3000	
		Liberty St. 3 houses 4000	
		Vine St. 2 houses 3500	
1835	Thomas Needham	(same as above)	
1836	"	"	" " "
1837		Ward 1 South S. of Essex St.	
	Gideon Tucker	1 brick house	8000
		1 house	1500
	Thomas Needham	1 house & store	3000
	Thomas West	1 /2 house	
	Elizabeth West	/2 house	
1838	(same as above)		
1839	Thomas Needham	127 store Essex 1200	
		house no. 12 (?) Essex 1800	
		(also 3 on Liberty St., 2 on Vine St., 1 on Mason Ct.)	



D.C. June 16, 1899 Rec'd + Ent. in
 Essex Ry. Books 50' West.
 with steel Chas. E. Tyler et al. v. Arthur
 Freeman
 recorded B 1580 P 259 at Not. Willard & Hale P.

(plan copied reduced
 and approx. scaled
 by S.L. Dee)

Plan of Estates of James Kimball &
 Elizabeth Farley
 copied from survey of J.H. Nichols Feb. 25th 1846
 By Ch^s A Putnam Aug 18th 1846