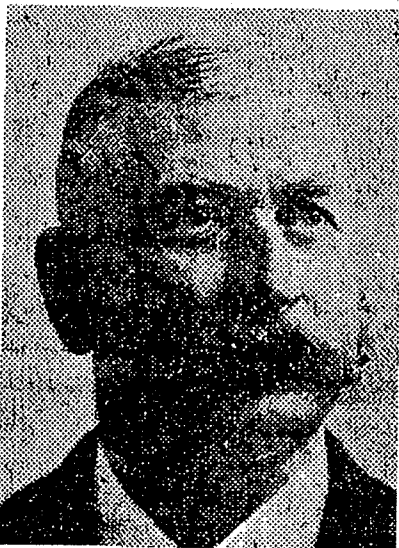


**22 Boardman Street  
Salem**

Built for  
Henry C. Page  
railway manager  
1896

**Occupant of house, 1903-4**



*William Putnam Pousland*

**22 Boardman Street  
Salem**

**According to available evidence, this house was built in 1896 for Henry C. Page, railroad manager.**

On 23 July 1894 James A. Gillis sold to Henry C. Page of Salem a lot of land bounded northerly 42' 7" on Boardman Street, easterly 83' 10" on land of Choate, southerly 42' 7" on Emerton Street, and westerly 83' 10" (ED 1419:166). Mr. Page, who mortgaged the same lot for \$1500 to Miss Kate Emmerton (ED 1419:166), proceeded to have a house built on (or moved to) the part of the lot that fronted on Emerton Street.

In July, 1895, Mr. Page for \$3000 mortgaged the premises (no buildings mentioned in mortgage deed) to the Salem Five Cent Savings Bank (ED 1451:277). This mortgage would be satisfied in 1897. The 1896 Salem real estate valuations credit H.C. Page, Ward One, Precinct Two, with a piece of land worth \$600, 3160 square feet, with the house (his "residence") at 13 Emerton worth \$1700 and the house ("new") on Boardman Street worth \$2500. It would therefore appear that Mr. Page had built a new house on the lot by 1896—perhaps it was so new that he had not had a chance to move in at the time of the valuation. Many years later, the lot would be subdivided, and the two houses would have separate histories of ownership.

Since the 1830s, Salem, once a major center of maritime trade, had pursued a manufacturing course. By the 1870s (when Boardman Street was laid out) the company managers and capitalists tended to build their new, grand houses along Lafayette Street (these houses may still be seen, <sup>south</sup> west of Holly Street). For the workers, they built more and more tenements near the Naumkeag Mills. More factories and more people required more space for buildings, more roads, and more storage areas. After withstanding the pressures of the new industrial city for about 50 years, Salem's rivers began to disappear. The once-broad North River was filled from both shores, and became a canal along Bridge Street above the North Bridge. Slowly, over decades, the large and beautiful Mill Pond, which occupied the whole area between the present Jefferson Avenue, Canal Street, and Loring Avenue, was buried here and there and finally vanished beneath streets, storage areas, junk-yards, rail-yards, and parking lots. The South River, too, with

its epicenter at Central Street disappeared under the pavement of Riley Plaza and New Derby Street, and its old wharves (even the mighty Union Wharf, formerly Long Wharf, at the foot of Union Street) 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 and a little beyond.

Salem kept building infrastructure, and adding new businesses, and expanding established businesses. Retail stores prospered, and machinists, carpenters, millwrights, and other specialists all thrived. Beginning in the 1870s, French-Canadian families came to town to work in Salem's mills and factories, and more houses and tenements filled in what had been open areas of the city.

One of the late developments was the laying out of Forrester and Boardman Streets, through land that had been part of large old estates, running down to the marshy ground along the shores of Collins Cove. The Cove's shorefront was filled in for the creation of Webb Street and for use of the railroad that ran from the North River to Phillips Wharf, where the freight cars picked up coal for the factories and houses of Lowell and Lawrence and dropped off textiles for export on ships.

Henry Chase Page (1866-1934) was born and raised in Brownville, Maine (note: information about him is taken largely from the Masonic record in Hadley's book on the Essex Lodge, p. 156). As a young man, he went to Somersworth, NH, and clerked in a general store. In 1889 he, 23, married Cora M. Foss, then 22. By 1893, the Pages had left Maine and settled in Salem, where they resided at 13 Boardman Street (see Salem Directory 1893-4). In that year he joined the local Essex Lodge of Masons. Mr. Page worked as a conductor on the horse-drawn trolleys of the Lynn & Boston Street Railway, and within a year was assistant superintendent of that line. He soon advanced to the job of superintendent of the Lynn & Boston and the Boston & Northern lines, based in Salem.

Having bought the land here (#22) in 1894 and mortgaged it in 1895, on 22 May 1897 Mr. Page mortgaged the property again to the Salem Five, for \$3000, with the obligation to keep all buildings insured; and the mortgage was released by deed 1690:261 (ED 1512:554). The Pages evidently resided in the new house at #22 in 1896, along with Miss Mary E. Page, who worked here as a dressmaker and was a boarder here too (Directory 1897-8). She would move back to Brownville, Maine, in 1899-1900 (see Directory notation).

In late 1896 Mrs. Cora Page became pregnant with the couple's first child; and in July, 1897, she gave birth to a son, whom they named Ralph Foss Page. Mr. Page prospered in his job; and in May, 1897, was able to purchase the house and land at 14 Pleasant Street (the Cook house) (ED 1512:549); and in November, 1902, Cora Page would sell the same to Alice Wilson (ED 1690:175).

In October, 1899, the Pages had a daughter, whom they named Viola F. In 1900 they resided here, and they had two boarders: Volney W. Verry, 28, an electrician born in Maine, and Anna B. Cash, 12, a student (see 1900 census, ward two, ED 443). By 1901, they were joined by Miss Emma R. Page, a boarder here, and probably a sister of Henry (per 1901-2 Directory).

In 1903 Henry transferred the title of the homestead to his wife Cora (ED 1697:120). Then they moved to Pittsfield (per 1903-4 Directory), for Mr. Page had been hired by the New York & New Haven Steam Railroad Co. as general manager for the Worcester Consolidated and Interstate Consolidated Railroads. He would remain in that position for many years more, and retire in 1932. He died on 19 August 1934, at Worcester.

In 1903 and 1904 the house was rented by William Putnam Pousland, 51, a Beverly native who worked as chief clerk in a Boston office; and Alden P. Pousland, also a clerk, was a boarder here (per Directories; see also p. 171, with photo, for W.P. Pousland's listing in Hadley's Essex Lodge history). In 1905 the Pouslands moved to Briggs Street, and the new tenant here was Pascal Jones, a cook (formerly an insurance solicitor) who had recently resided at 20 Mall Street (see 1906 Directory). By 1907, the new tenant was the Boston *Globe's* Salem correspondent, Edwin O. Foster (per 1908 Directory). His office was at 101 Washington Street. Aged 54 in 1907, he resided here with his wife Ellen, 51. They had three grown children (per 1910 census). After 1913 the Fosters lived at the Juniper, on Columbus Avenue, where they resided in 1915, 1921, and perhaps later.

After living for a while in Pittsfield and Springfield, the Pages had settled in Worcester. In June 1913 Cora M. Page, of Worcester, sold 22 Boardman Street premises to William B. Dawe (ED 2216:108), who, less than a month later, conveyed the same to Michael J. Doyle, of Salem, as 1697:121 (ED 2219:444).

Mr. Doyle worked as an hostler for Swift & Company. He, his wife Catherine, and their four daughters moved in here in 1913. The parents were Irish immigrants, in a city full of immigrants. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century large numbers

of Polish and Ukrainian families settled primarily in the Derby Street neighborhood. By the eve of World War One, Salem was a bustling, polyglot city that supported large department stores and large factories of every description. Its politics were lively, and its economy was strong.

On June 25, 1914, in the morning, in the distant Salem neighborhood of Blubber Hollow (Boston Street opposite Federal), a fire started in one of Salem's wooden tanneries. This fire soon consumed the building and raced out of control, for the west wind was high and the season had been dry. The next building caught fire, and the next, and 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 the "Nauvoo" section of the city--Hathorne, Winthrop, Endicott, and other residential streets. Men and machines rushed from miles around, but they could not stop it: the enormous fire crossed over into South Salem and destroyed the neighborhoods west of Lafayette Street. The fire devoured the mansions of Lafayette Street itself, and raged onward into the tenement district. Despite the combined efforts of heroic fire crews from many towns and cities, the fire overwhelmed everything in its path: it smashed into the large factory buildings of the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company (Congress Street), which exploded in an inferno; and it rolled down Lafayette Street and across the water to Derby Street. There, just beyond Union Street, after a 13-hour rampage, the monster died, having consumed 250 acres, 1600 houses, and 41 factories, and leaving three dead and thousands homeless. It is likely that Edwin O. Foster, former resident here, covered the Great Fire for the *Boston Globe*.

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, and the people of Salem would take years to recover from it. Eventually, they did, and many of the former houses and businesses were rebuilt; and several urban-renewal projects (including Hawthorne Boulevard, which involved removing old houses and widening old streets) were put into effect.

In 1915 the Doyles moved to #18 Boardman, and this house (#22) was tenanted by the Gould family. Jacob Gould (wife: Sarah) was the manager at Reliable Furniture Co. at 6 Front Street, while Bernard Gould (wife: Rose) was a lawyer at 209 Essex Street, and Joseph Gould, waiter, boarded here, as did Zenia Gould, a stenographer. They all lived here with Mrs. Sarah Gould, owner of Reliable Furniture Company.

The owner, Michael J. Doyle, hostler, died on 21 Dec. 1918 at his home, 18 Boardman Street. He left his wife, Catherine Dolan Doyle, 38, four daughters, brother Bartholomew, and sisters Marcella and Madeline, who were nuns. (*Salem Evening News*, 21 Dec. 1918).

The Goulds moved on, and then the house was (in 1920) the residence of the Grays. Lucy F. Gray, 50, widow of Herbert T. Gray, lived here with her children Herbert M. Gray 27, a shoe factory worker (soon to be an electrician); Marion F., 24, a stenographer in a railroad office; Mildred, 22, saleslady at a creamery; Evelyn, 18, an operative in a box factory; and George, 15, in school. The Grays had earlier lived on Saunders Street. They would remain here on Boardman Street for some years.

By the 1920s, Salem was once again a thriving city; and its tercentenary in 1926 was a time of great celebration. From that time forward, Salem boomed right through to the 1960s.

Although suburban shopping malls and the relocation of manufacturing businesses have taken their toll, as they have with many other cities, Salem has navigated its way forward into the present with success, trading on its share of fame arising from the commercialization of the witchcraft delusion, but also from its great history as an unrivalled seaport and as the home of Hawthorne and McIntire. Most of all, it remains a city where the homes of the old-time merchants, mariners, mill-operatives, and machinists are all honored as a large part of what makes Salem different from any other place.

--8 Feb. 2003, Robert Booth for Historic Salem Inc.

## Glossary & Sources

A figure like (ED 123:45) refers to book 123, page 45, Essex South registry of Deeds, Federal Street, Salem.

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

Census records (censuses were taken every 10 years from 1790 on, and in 1855 and 1865) are available on microfilm; they list the heads of households 1790-1840, and then list family members from 1850 on.

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

MSSCRW refers to the multi-volume compendium, *Mass. Soldiers, Sailors, & Marines in the Civil War*, available 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.

The six-volume published Salem Vital records (marriages, births, and deaths through 1849) have been consulted, as have the Salem Directory and later Naumkeag Directory, which have information 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 newspaper obituaries, 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.

--Robert Booth

23 July 1894 JA Gillis to H Page, 1419:166

J. A. Gillis  
to  
H. L. Page

Know all men by these presents that I, James A. Gillis, of Salem, in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in consideration of one dollar and other valuable considerations paid by Henry L. Page of said Salem the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Henry L. Page and his heirs and assigns a certain lot of land situate in said Salem bounded as follows: - Northwesterly by Boardman Street forty-two feet seven inches, easterly by land of Belmont formerly of Collier eighty-three feet ten inches, southerly by Emerson Street forty-two feet seven inches, westerly by land now or formerly of Freee eighty-three feet ten inches. To have and to hold the granted premises, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging to the said Henry L. Page and his heirs and assigns, to their own use and behoof forever. And I do hereby for myself and my heirs, executors and administrators, covenant with the grantee and his heirs and assigns that I am lawfully seized in fee simple of the granted premises, that they are free from all incumbrances, that I have good right to sell and convey the same as aforesaid, and that I will and my heirs, executors and administrators shall warrant and defend the same to the grantee and his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claims and demands of all persons. In witness whereof I the said James A. Gillis, being unmarried hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty-third day of July in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four.

Signed, sealed and delivered James A. Gillis Seal  
in presence of } Commonwealth of Mass-  
Chas. A. Merrill } chusetts, Worcester ss. July 27,

1894. Then personally appeared the above named James A. Gillis and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his free act and deed before me.

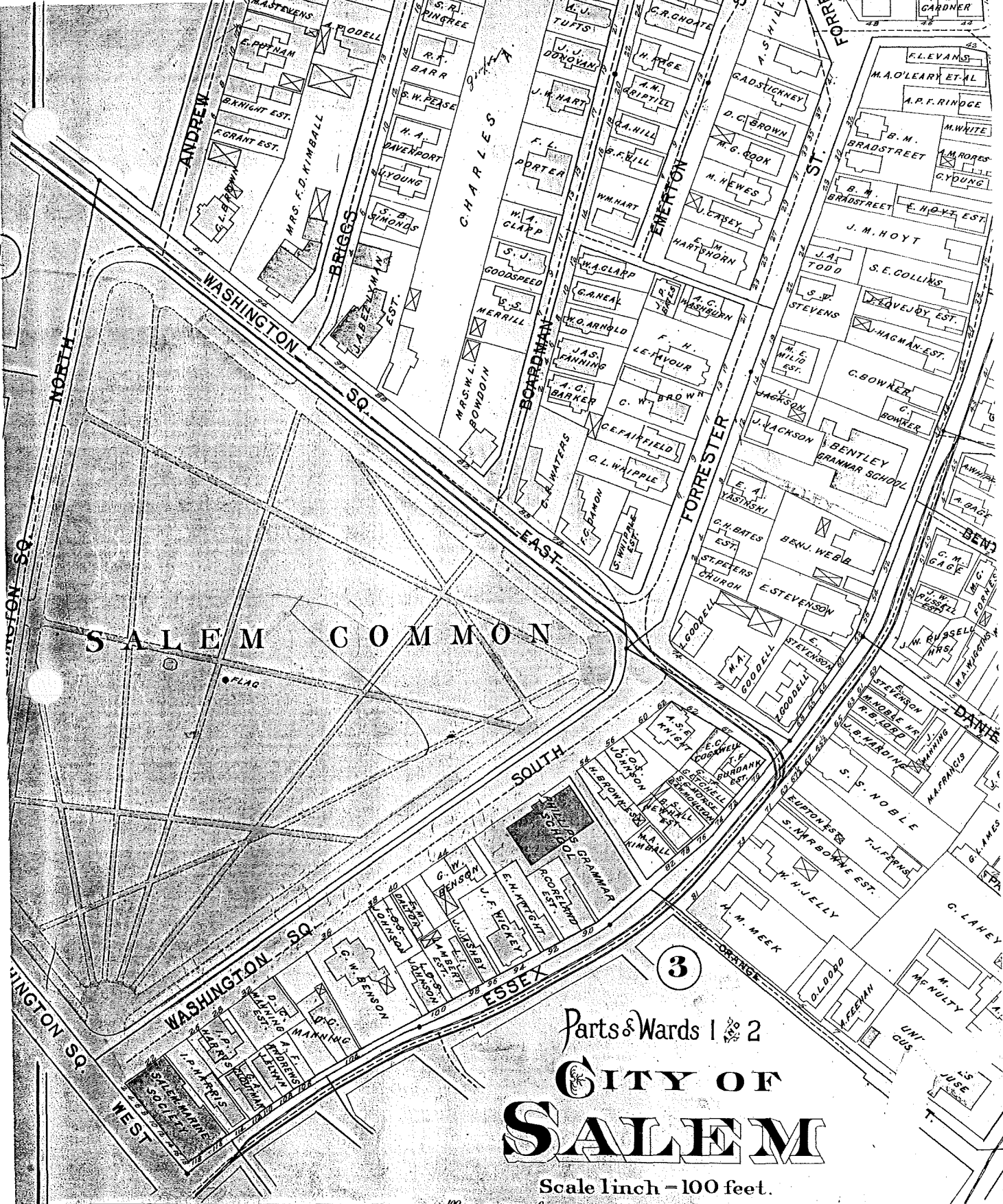
Chas. A. Merrill, Justice of the Peace.

Examined July 30, 1894 20m. 4 P.M. Notary

Chas. O'Connell Esq.



1897  
Atlas



Parts of Wards 1 & 2  
**CITY OF SALEM**

Scale 1 inch = 100 feet.

