

HISTORIC SALEM INC

House History and Plaque Program

For Gregory Spanos

1-3 North Pine Street

Salem, Massachusetts 01970

Research and Writing Provided by

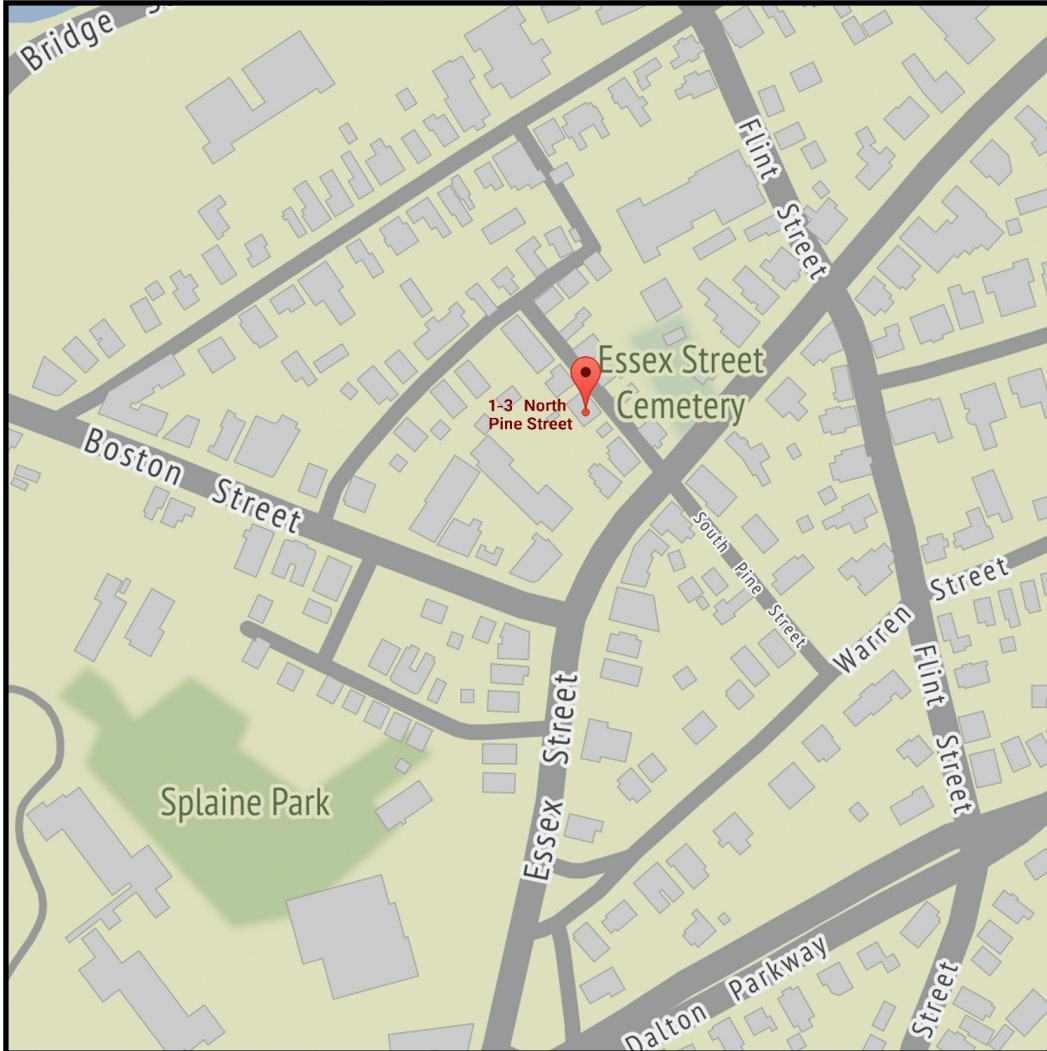
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The House History of 1-3 North Pine Street





Available records indicate that the house at 1-3 North Pine Street was built circa 1866 by Patrick and Ellen Hennessey. This double house held four units, and so, while Patrick was a currier by profession, the Hennesseys were also landlords for the 43 years they owned this building.

Ellen was 27 and Patrick was 29 when they purchased the parcel of land in August 22, 1865 from Nathaniel Frothingham Jr.¹ Frothingham appears to have been some sort of business partner with James C. Stimpson. Stimpson owned a large parcel of land surrounding what became North Pine Street; he parceled it out, and Frothingham sold multiple parcels in the same decade that the Hennesseys purchased their land. The Hennesseys had been born in Ireland, but their children — Mary, James and Joseph, ages 5, 3 and newborn at the time of the land purchase — were born in Massachusetts. A fourth child, Edward, was born in 1871.²

The population of Salem was 21,197 in 1865,³ already half of what it is today. The house adjacent to the Hennesseys' was constructed in the same decade by Enoch Fuller, a carpenter and father of well-known Salem architect Enoch P. Fuller. This house is commonly known for the Swift family, who owned it for 131 years. John and Alice Swift, also from Ireland, purchased that house in 1868, when they were only a few years older than the Hennesseys. John Swift was a currier like Patrick Hennessey. (Webster's 1828 dictionary defines a currier as a person who dresses and colors leather after it is tanned.)

The 1880 census lists the Hennessey family with James, age 18, working as a currier, and Joseph, age 15, away at school. Also at 3 North Pine Street is another Irish family, David Roach, a currier, and his wife Mary, with their 17-year-old daughter, Bridget, who worked in a shoe shop. In 1 North Pine Street lived the Ford family: Jeremiah, a currier, and Mary, with their son Victor, 19; daughter Helen, 17; and little Clarence, 2. The Ford family was all decidedly American by at least one generation. In the other unit lived a tailor, Mary Blackburn, age 35, with her 5-year-old niece Hellen Hubbard. Edward and Martha Hogkins, a young married couple, also lived there. All the adults were born in Canada and perhaps had a family connection. Over the next few years tenants cycled through the rental units with the Ford family staying nearly a decade and an Olssen family living there for five years.

¹ Essex Country Registry of Deeds, Book 687, Page 299

² Census Data 1880

³ City of Salem Directory 1866



Ellen Hennessey died on May 1, 1894 at the age of 55.⁴ Patrick continued to own 1-3 N. Pine Street; however the 1895 City Directory and the 1900 Census record show Patrick, age 65, living with son James at 402 Essex Street. James had married Abby (sometimes shown as Abbie) Lannon on Nov. 15 1887,⁵ and they had two sons, Ambrose and Francis T. The house passed to James on July 14, 1908. It appears from directory information that James owned the house as landlord and that his profession was a druggist with Upton and Hennessey at 96 Boston Street. In the 1911 City Directory, Ambrose Hennessey is listed as a student studying in Rome, Italy, and examination of his passport information indicates that he was a Catholic Priest. Patrick died on July 28, 1912.⁶

Tenants during this time tended to stay for many years. Mrs. Thomasina Arnold, a widow, lived at 1 North Pine Street with her children Elizabeth and Nicholas from 1895 to 1920, and Elizabeth lived there in 1931, presumably after her mother's death. George Graves, a currier, and his wife Susan lived with their four children in the other unit of 1 North Pine Street for 25 years as well. Mrs. A. E. Welsh, a widow, lived in no. 3 for 15 years. Other shorter-term tenants came and went with many holding jobs related to shoe manufacturing.

On June 25, 1914, a fire started at the Korn Leather factory at 57 Boston Street, and in the course of 13 hours it burned 253 acres, destroying a total of 1,792 buildings. The Hennessey family home at 402 Essex Street was burned, while just around the corner (really only two houses away) at 1-3 North Pine Street, the Arnold and Graves families likely evacuated while the fire burned along the rear property line of their home. All the buildings on North Pine Street, including 1-3 North Pine, were spared, which is surprising considering that many on Essex and Fowler streets were lost. The 1914 City Directory lists the Hennessey family as residents of 115 Federal Street, but by 1917 James and Abby were back at a newly constructed 402 Essex Street.

1-3 North Pine Street passed to Ambrose Hennessey on June 1, 1929 (this was for the second time, actually — both Ambrose and Francis had inherited a third of the interest in the property upon the death of their mother sometime in the 1920s, but they sold their interest to their father in 1927). Ambrose continued to be a landlord of the property while continuing his

⁴ Massachusetts Death listing 1841-1915 (online via Ancestry.com)

⁵ Massachusetts Marriages listings 1841-1915 (online via Familysearch.org)

⁶ Massachusetts Death listing 1841-1915 (online via Familysearch.org)



life as a priest. In 1942 Ambrose was a priest at St. Theresa Parrish in Watertown.⁷ Ambrose sold the property on May 29, 1945, thus ending 80 years of Hennessey ownership of 1-3 North Pine.

Longevity of ownership continued as a trend with Mary and William Walsh owning the house from 1945 to 1973 (28 years), Vincent McGrath and Paul Zaido from 1973 to 1998 (25 years), and William and Kristen McGrath from 1998 to 2016 (18 years).⁸ In 2016, Blue Sky Properties owner Gregory Spanos purchased the building. In 2017, Spanos commissioned a house history and plaque for the property.

⁷ From WW2 draft registration form, accessed online via Ancestry.com)

⁸ Registry of deed information; see attached deed chain



From	To	Date	Book/Page	Notes
William H. and Kristen M. McGrath	Blue Sky Properties	July 12, 2016	35093,410	
Vincent F. McGrath and Paul M. Zaido	William H. and Kristen M. McGrath	October 15, 1998	15161,360	Recorded as trustees on Book 15161 page 354
William A. Walsh	Vincent F. McGrath and Paul M. Zaido	October 30, 1973	6029, 389	For \$35,000
Mary I. Walsh	William A. Walsh and Mary I. Walsh	April 26, 1957	4364,7	See also Estate of Mary I. Walsh Probate docket 319032
Ambrose Hennessey	Mary I. Walsh	May 29, 1945	3406,375	
James H. Hennessey	Ambrose Hennessey	June 1, 1929	3162, 60	
Ambrose Hennessey and Francis T. Hennessey	James H. Hennessey (husband of Abbie B.)	March 16, 1927	2906, 11	<i>Index page gives wrong date</i>
Abbie B. Hennessey	Ambrose Hennessey and Francis T. Hennessey (Siblings)			Inherited upon her death (2/3 of the property)
Patrick Hennessey	James Hennessey	July 14, 1908	2159, 418	James was unmarried at the time. Ownership was transferred at some point to his wife Abbie.
				Atlas 1874 shows building in place.
Nathaniel Frothingham	Patrick and Ellen Hennessey	August 22, 1865	687, 299	Frothingham owned several parcels in the North Pine Street area. Conveyed the land as described in the previous deed (no building mentioned).
Stimpson	Nathaniel Frothingham	November 2, 1859	687, 299	Stimpson "convey... the following strip of land" in consideration of 17 dollars.
Stimpson	Frothingham	December 14, 1847	391, 169	Book/page found with index Deed to a larger portion of land than house parcel