

Historic Salem Incorporated

OFFICE AT OLD TOWN HALL

POST OFFICE BOX 865 SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS 01970 / PHONE (617) 745-0799

5 CURTIS STREET (formerly 85 Essex Street, moved about 1898)

Built for

JOHN WHITE, mariner

circa 1753

Research by,
Joyce King
August 1985

*"to preserve Historic Sites, Buildings and objects,
and to work for the education of the community
in the true value of the same."*

5 CURTIS STREET (formerly 85 Essex St.)

BOOK 98 PAGE 59

DATE -

November 23, 1752

CONSIDERATION -

42 pounds 13 shillings

GRANTOR (seller) -

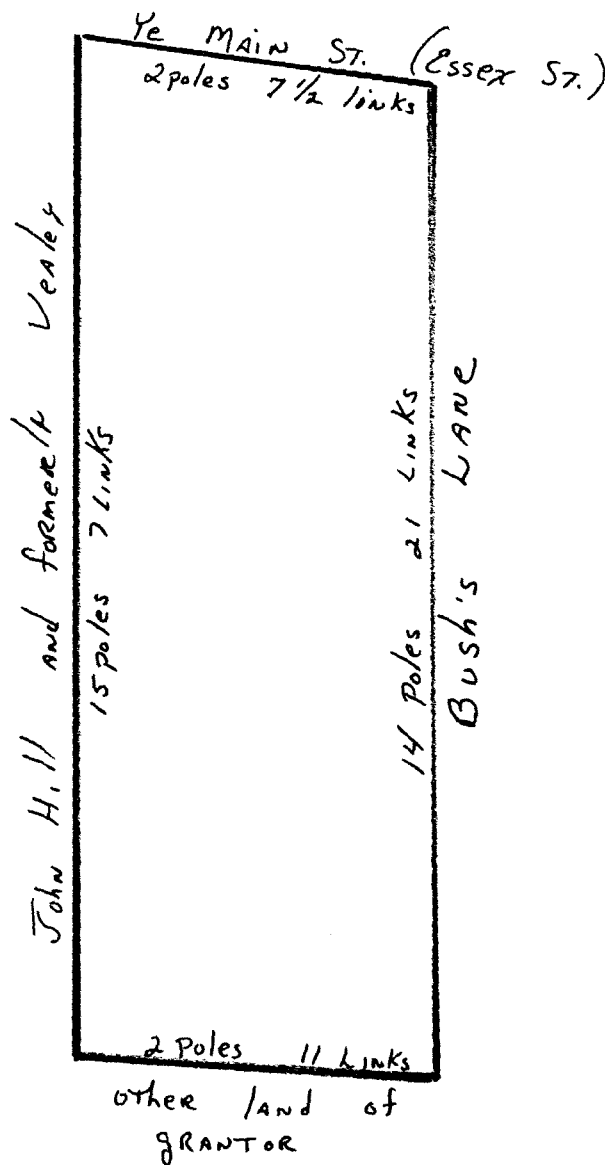
John Masury, mariner

GRANTEE (buyer) -

John White, mariner

DESCRIPTION -

Parcel of land



Mr. White apparently built his house shortly after the purchase of the land. His name appears on what is commonly called "Curwen's List of Houses" (Essex Institute Historic Collections):

LIST OF HOUSES BUILT IN SALEM FROM
1750—1773.

1750-1760.

Jona. Cook, William Doust, David Smith, Benjamin Hathorne, Tobias Davis, Jona. Bancroft, John Symonds (North Field), Samuel West, jr., James Barr, Benja. Daland (now G. D.), Wm. West, Francis Cox, William Luscomb, Nathl. Pease, The Ivess (O. F.)*, John Bray, Robert Mackentire, Joseph Ropes, Wm. Browne, Esq., Thomas Mason (O. F.), Widow Hannah Ropes, N. A. now Geo. Peale, William Gray, Jona. Phelps, Widow Bott, John Hodges, John White, John Ives, Edm. Whitmore, Jona. Andrew, George Beckford, Jno. Bullock, jr., Arch.

John White died on October 26, 1792 at the age of 70. By will, the real estate was to be divided equally amongst his five daughters: Abigail Watson, Rebecca Brown, Elizabeth Treadwell, Sarah Rea and Mary Ashby.

BOOK 157 PAGE 235

DATE - April 19, 1794
GRANTOR (seller) - The heirs of John White
GRANTEE (buyer) - Thomas and Mary Ashby
DESCRIPTION - John White's mansion house and land

Mary (White) Ashby died on December 13, 1801. Capt. Thomas Ashby died on December 29, 1804.

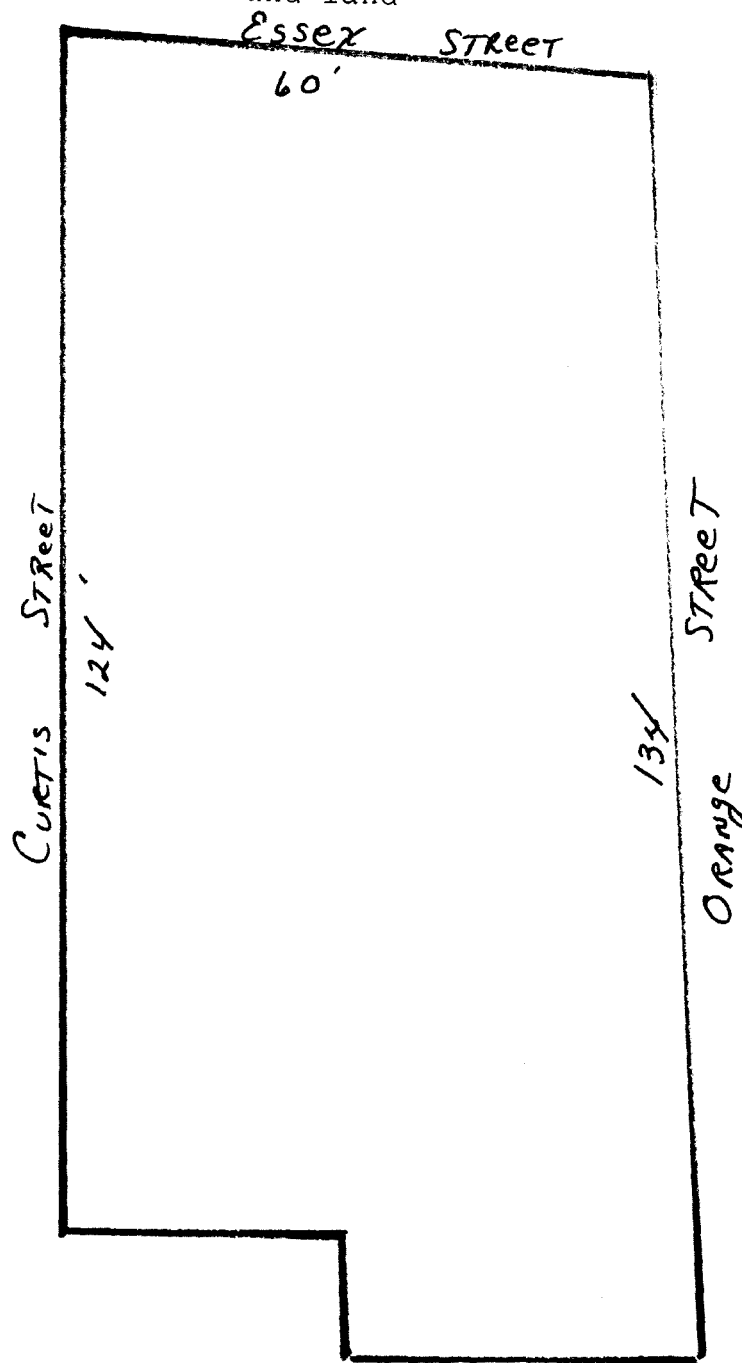
BOOK 176 PAGE 201

DATE - July 1805

GRANTOR (seller) - John Watson representative of the Ashby children

GRANTEE (buyer) - Joseph Andrews

DESCRIPTION - Real estate with dwelling house, store and land



MA

BOOK 176 PAGE 204

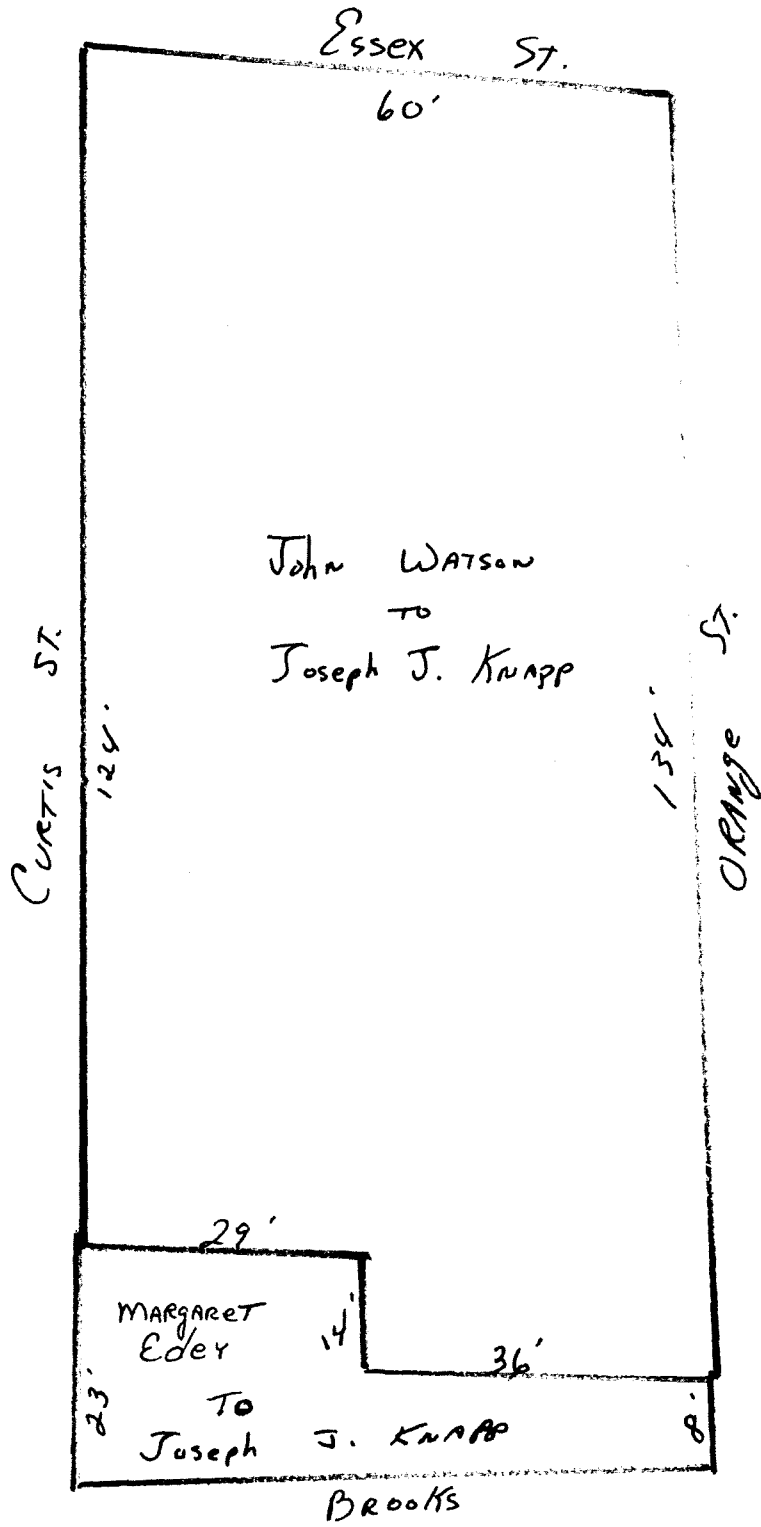
DATE - July 27, 1805
GRANTOR (seller) - Joseph Andrews
GRANTEE (buyer) - John Watson
DESCRIPTION - Land, dwelling house and store

BOOK 187 PAGE 121

DATE - June 27, 1808
CONSIDERATION - \$5,120
GRANTOR (seller) - John Watson, gentleman
GRANTEE (buyer) - Joseph J. Knapp, merchant
DESCRIPTION - Lot of land, dwelling house,
store and other buildings
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - None given

BOOK 187 PAGE 121

DATE - November 1, 1808
CONSIDERATION - \$500
GRANTOR (seller) - Margaret Edey of Salem
GRANTEE (buyer) - Joseph J. Knapp
DESCRIPTION - Parcel of land - also the old
dwelling house standing thereon
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - None given



JK

Joseph J. Knapp died on July 21, 1847.

BOOK 922 PAGE 135-137

DATE - July and August 1848
CONSIDERATION - \$2,785.00
GRANTOR (seller) - The heirs of Joseph J. Knapp
GRANTEE (buyer) - Hannah H. King of Boston
DESCRIPTION - Three story dwelling house and land
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - Messuage of the late Joseph J. Knapp

BOOK 986 PAGE 187

DATE - November 12, 1877
CONSIDERATION - \$1,300 subject to \$1,500 mortgage
GRANTOR (seller) - Gardner Barton exc. of the will of Hannah King, singlewoman
GRANTEE (buyer) - Samuel Calley
DESCRIPTION - Messuage
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - None given

BOOK 1615 PAGE 25

DATE - July 14, 1900
CONSIDERATION - Mortgage \$9,000
GRANTOR (seller) - Andrew J. and Emma L. Wilson
GRANTEE (buyer) - Salem 5 cents Savings Bank
DESCRIPTION - Land and building
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - See deed to Samuel Calley book 986 page 187. (It seems that Mr. Calley failed to make payment on a mortgage. The land and building were assigned to Emma J. Wilson - the exact transfer was not found)

5 Curtis Street

NOTES: (Observations made per an inspection by Sally Dee and Joyce King on Aug. 27, 1985. The only access being the front hall and first floor apartment on the left.)

The landing at the top of the staircase has been raised about 2 feet thereby blocking the full effect of the Palladian window. The turn of the staircase has been altered, as evidenced by the wainscoting. Although not as elaborate, this hallway is similar to the Hodges house at 81 Essex Street. It is possible that the White house (5 Curtis) was also a Gambrel with the third story being added at a later date (by the Knapp family?? It is never referred to as a three story house until 1848). This is speculation since access to the third floor was not gained.

The former occupants of this house have led most interesting lives.

HISTORIC RESEARCH
BY
JOYCE KING
30 UPRIM ST.
SALEM, MA 01970
744-2580

were first-rate "Letter-Writers," and in an informal way "Journalists." These two wrote not to instruct and admonish their children, not to leave their precepts to posterity, not to list their ships or their enterprises; rather they wrote from the letter-writer's chief concern, their interest in people, their wish to put themselves on paper before their friends and acquaintances — in short they wrote from all the human and gregarious instincts. Even if their travels were merely a journey around their sitting-room or garden, there would still be an adventure to relate. And in their journeys which, fortunately for us, took them very much farther afield, they clearly enjoyed themselves for the "joy of the road" and not merely for the arrival!

In March of 1882 when Susan was over seventy years old, and had recently become a widow, her devoted son John brought her a book and "a new-style of pen, the stylographic" with the request that she write in it some reminiscences of her life and anecdotes of her experience. Susan immediately and gladly agreed, and in time was completed her "Magnum Opus" — a most delightful inheritance for the generations to come, written in five full school copybooks by her facile pen!

Characteristically, Susan starts her family chronicle and brings it down to her time entirely through the line of her father. So we learn that:

"The first record of a Treadwell is of Elizabeth White's marriage to Jacob Treadwell of Ipswich, October 2, 1782. She was his second wife. He died December 3, 1814. Their Oldest son was John White Treadwell, born July 12, 1785.

"I commence as perhaps I should, with an introduction first to my great Grandfather, John White, in his character of lover to Miss Bailey, daughter of Mr. Thomas Bailey, a respectable citizen of Salem, a straight Quaker. This may have been the reason of his opposing the marriage of his daughter to a very determined and progressive person as J. W. is proved to be:

'To Mr. Thomas Bailey, Salem

'Salem May 20, 1743

'Dear Sir,

Very lately I understand that you cannot compose yourself that I should still make my addresses to your daughter Abigail. For what reason I would be very glad to know, Sir. You know ever since I was

a child I have loved her, as I have given account to you, — I beg you would make yourself entirely easy & content with what God in his all wise Providence has allotted & by no means to hurt or ruin your daughter in relation.

'Sir, to let you know it, I scorn that you should put any slight upon me, notwithstanding I am poor and miserable. What end, Sir, do you think I have in spending my time, as I may call it, for so is all our time! I say what end in so doing Do you think it for my worldly advantage? No, it is from pure affection & nothing else.

'However, if you have anything to object to either to my person, purse, or religion, pray discover it to me privately that I may consider and weigh the same. Sir, I value myself more highly than to bind myself to any, without really considering what I am doing, which I pray God & do so continually that he may lead me to the choice of a person agreeable both for promoting His glory & my contentment in this life. Again, Sir, I would let you know also, that in the marriage state I aim higher, by the blessing of God, than only a bed fellow, or the fashion of the world. I trust she does also Sir. I desire to reverence you as I ought, being her Father, who has my heart & with a view of completing my love, by the blessing of Heaven, sharing life. I presume so to say, considering & persuading myself that she loves me & not in vain!

'Sir, I willingly acknowledge that it is prudent in you to lead your children according to your own fancy but to *drive* Sir, I am persuaded will not do, considering she is of a tender disposition.

'Sir, I conclude, wishing you all happiness in life and after & subscribe myself yours to serve in all that is right.

John White, Jr.'

"Perhaps" Susan goes on, "she persuaded her husband to look more favorably upon John White, after his manly letter, as he & their daughter Abigail were married June 4th, 1745. Mr. Charles Sanders has informed me that they lived in their old age in a very nice house, afterwards the Knapp house in the East end of Essex Street in Salem. He, an elegant gentleman, was often found engaged in reading or writing with black velvet cap and tassel on his head, & a rich dressing gown, & woe to the noisy boys who visited his house as relatives but sometimes disturbed him in his study! They had ten children of whom my grandmother Elizabeth White was the fifth. They lost several. August 2, 1776 Mrs. John White died, & her husband remarks of her

'she was lovely in her life & I think happy in her death, — a sincere christian, appeared to be!'

"the letters I have copied were given to my father by an old Quaker 'Friend Dean' of Salem who found them among his family letters, which we value much as proving the good blood of our ancestors on my Father's side."

Susan goes on . . . To be sure she outlines her mother's fine lineage also through Farleys and Felt's *Annals of Ipswich*. But it is very evident throughout her journal that her own emotional attachment and "feeling of inheritance" is on the side of her father's family, the Treadwells.

Another page in the old family account book tells of Abigail's parentage:

"Salem — October 8, 1725

"My dear Heart,

Having this good opportunity to inform thee that our family is all in good health, I send thee word my dear I am sorry for thy misfortune, and I hope the Lord will give thee patience and order all things for the best. I have not time to add much but thou must judge in some measure of the sorrow that I have at home by the trouble that thou dost meet in my absence. So my dear heart take good care of thyself I do entreat of thee and bid farewell remaining thy loving wife until death.

"Desire Bailey

For Thomas Bailey"

Desire Dean had married Thomas Bailey, Quaker, the ninth of October 1720. Three children, Joseph, Elizabeth and Thomas, their children, were born before Abigail who was born May 4th, 1728.

1743 Thomas Jr. married Alice Pesley in Haverhill. April 1753, the tenth child was born. 1783 in January, mother Bailey died.

Susan's family, the Treadwells, also tell of themselves eloquently through very full genealogical records and through an ancient Bible enfolded in a very old and beautiful red damask cover, and this Bible is still accompanied by its stand among the family treasures which today are to be found in the Essex Institute. On a blank page we may read this notation:

"This is the family Bible of my Father, Jacob Treadwell, who died in the year 1814. From some unaccountable accident or carelessness was sold among his other effects, and was purchased by Jabez Farley of Ipswich. I purchased it from his widow a few years since and value it as a choice family relic. In my childhood I was familiar with its sacred pages, and am made now happy in remembrance of my father's family prayers, a general Thanksgiving in a church service being always repeated by him."

On the next page was another notation as follows: "John W. Treadwell's Bible which was the family Bible of my parents in my childhood, and as such is of great value to me, and my children and posterity are enjoined to preserve it and cherish its teachings.

Salem, July 4, 1853."

In a letter to her mother, written in the year 1840, Susan proudly describes in detail the family crest which she is embroidering, as follows:

"Dear Mother,

"I send herewith dear Grandma's Coat of Arms which I am happy to have completed & hope I have done so to your satisfaction (but a notation indicates that the work of embroidery was yet not finished to Susan's satisfaction when she wrote.)

"The colored leaves are called the 'Mantlings'

"The birds are called the 'Crests'

"The roll under the 'wreath'

(Red and silver indicate Courage)

"Under that 'The Helmets'

" " " 'The Escutcheon'

"Then 'Chevrons'

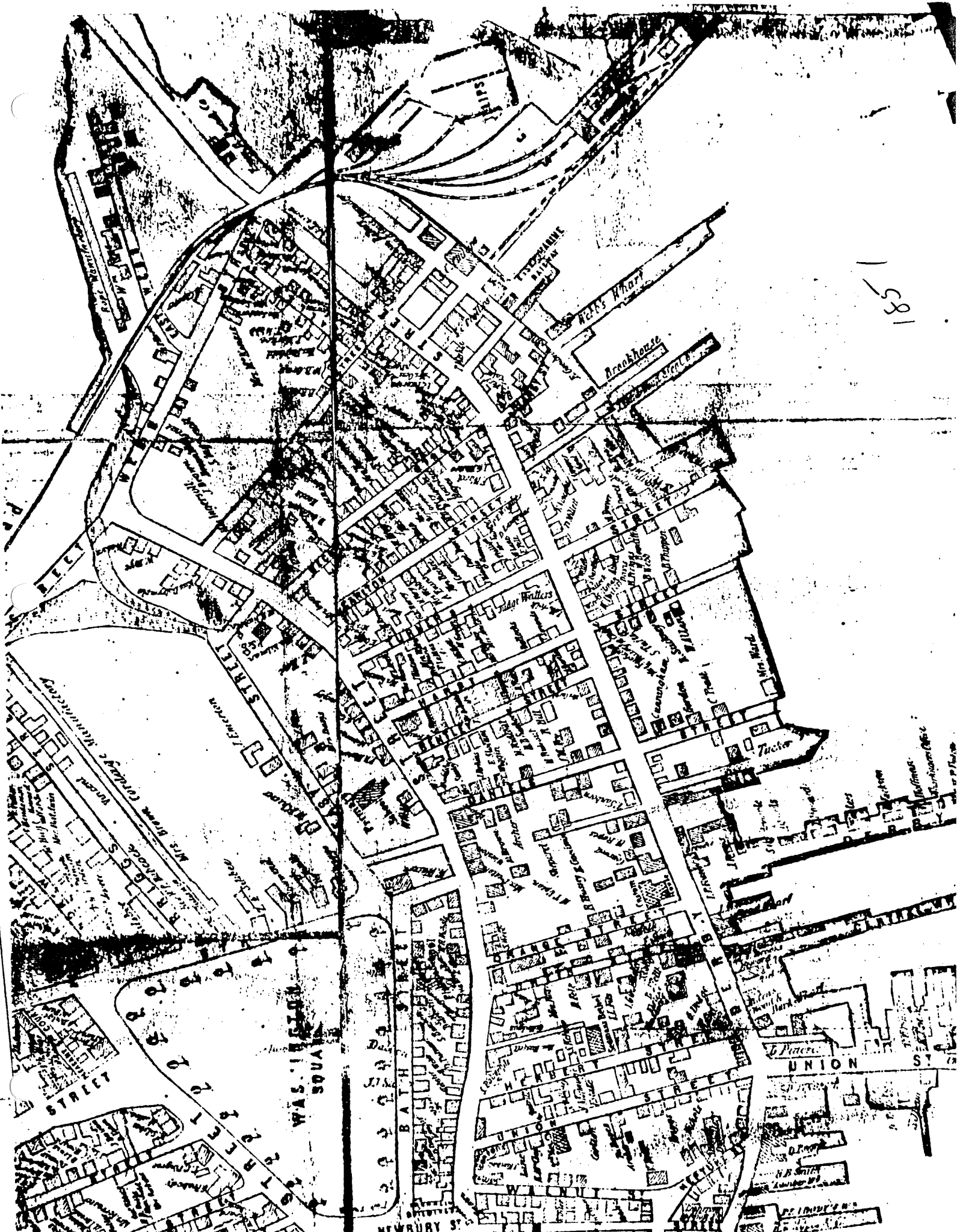
"The Lion and Swords 'The Charges'

"Under the Escutcheon is the Scroll containing the name.

"You may note that the Lion Rampant signifies Strength and Valor."*

The religious life and faith of John White Treadwell may perhaps best be traced to this account and letter given in his devoted daughter

*Unfortunately it has been impossible to locate this particular Treadwell Coat of Arms in the Family Collection or at the New England Historic Genealogical Society.



1581

NEWBURY ST

UNION ST

WASHINGTON SQUARE

BATH ST

STREET

Bankhouse

Webb's Wharf

Tucker

St. Peter's

St. Paul

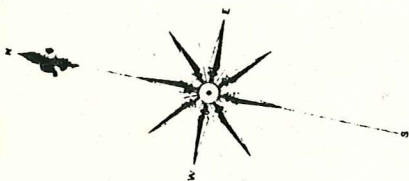
St. Andrew's

St. Andrew's
St. Paul
St. Peter's



1874

Map of Congress in the year 1874 by G.M. Hopkins in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington, D.C.



9

WASHINGTON SQ. E.

DANIELS

2

ORANGE

CURTIS

HODGES

HERBERT

S a l e m C o m m o n .

S. SQ.

ESSEX

WASHINGTON PARK

PHILLIPS SCHOOL BUILT 1833

U. S. PROPERTY

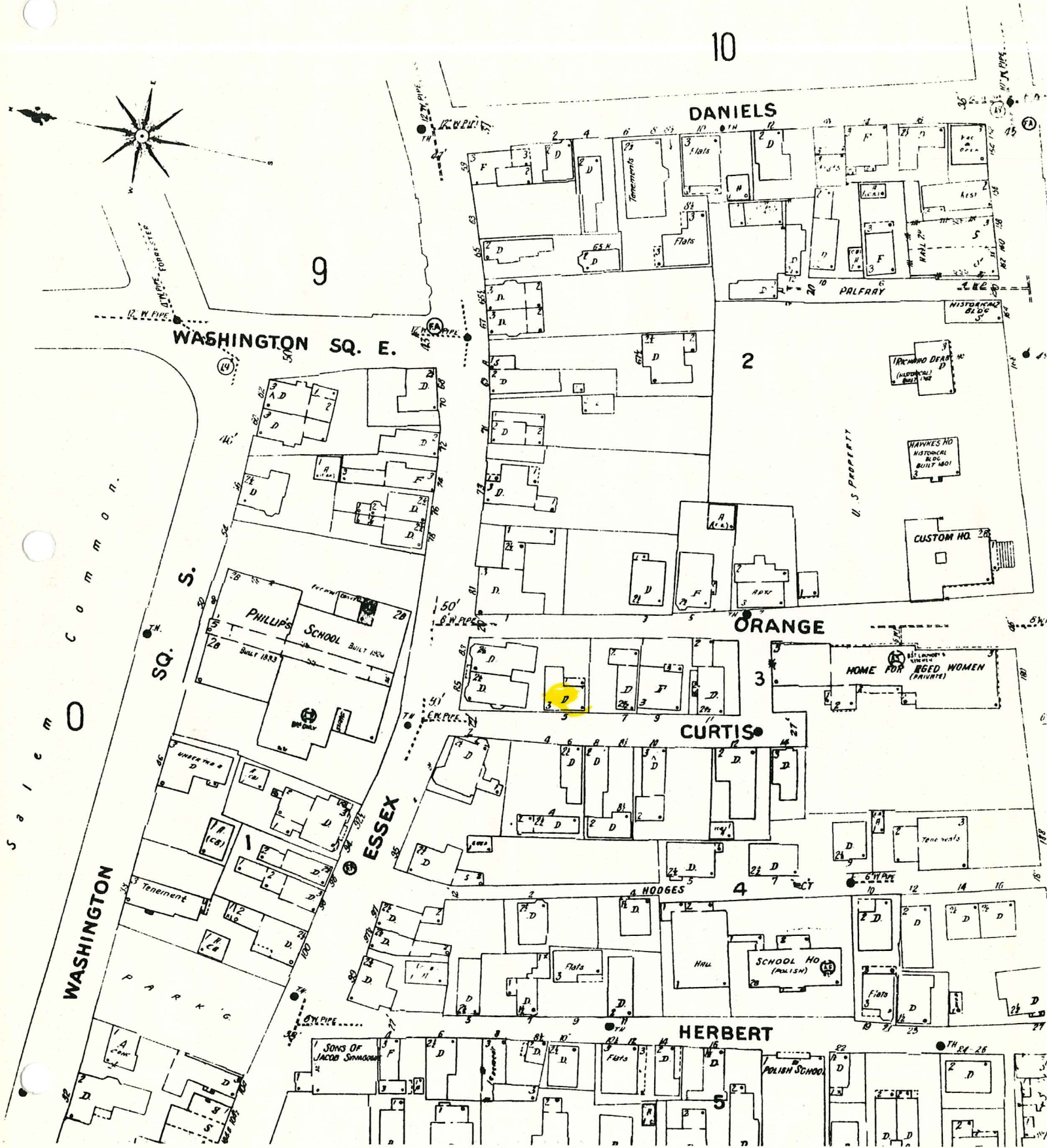
CUSTOM HO.

HOME FOR AGED WOMEN (PRIVATE)

SCHOOL HO. (POLISH)

POLISH SCHOOL

SONS OF JACOB SIMMONS



✓ TINTI, QUINN & SAVOY

222 ESSEX STREET

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WILLIAM J. TINTI
WILLIAM F. QUINN
RICHARD E. SAVOY
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August 27, 1985

Mrs. Frederick King
30 Upham Street
Salem, Massachusetts 01970

Dear Joyce:

Per our telephone conversation this morning, this will serve as a formal request for the research which I believe you have substantially completed on behalf of our client, Jim Bailey.

What Jim would like you to accomplish is the research for an Historic Salem, Inc. house sign for 5 Curtis Street at the regular fee and enough additional research on an hourly basis to establish a more accurate (presumably earlier) construction date for 81 Essex Street, which already has a sign.

You and Historic Salem, Inc. may bill Jim at this address unless you have made other arrangements with him.

Please keep me posted and let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Very truly yours,

✓ Marcia
Marcia M. Cini

/bs

Bill:
Marcia
for
\$ 7500

Re:

- CALL - Salem
for
sign
for