

Historic Salem incorporated

OFFICE AT OLD TOWN HALL

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

81 ESSEX STREET

Built for

JOHN HODGES, mariner

circa 1750

*Original Research is in (1966-1968)
in Historic Salem files*

Research by,
Joyce King
August 1985

(new one in book for 1985)

The lot on which this house stands was originally owned by Paul Mansfield. Its history is documented by Sidney Perley in *The Essex Antiquarian* vol. 10 pg. 128:

Benjamin Stone House. This lot belonged to Paul Mansfield of Salem, fisherman, very early. For fourteen pounds, he conveyed that part of it lying westerly of the dashes to William Reeves of Salem, butcher, Jan. 2, 1670-1.* Mr. Reeves built the house upon the lot immediately after his purchase, and, for seventy pounds, conveyed the house and land to Robert Stone of Salem, seaman, March 10, 1674-5.*

That part of the lot easterly of the dashes was evidently conveyed by Mr. Mansfield to George Holland of Boston and his wife Sarah in 1675; and, for eighteen pounds, Mr. and Mrs. Holland conveyed it to Mr. Stone Jan. 6, 1676.† Timothy Laskin of Salem, cooper, for five shillings, released this part of the lot to Mr. Stone Sept. 20, 1688.‡

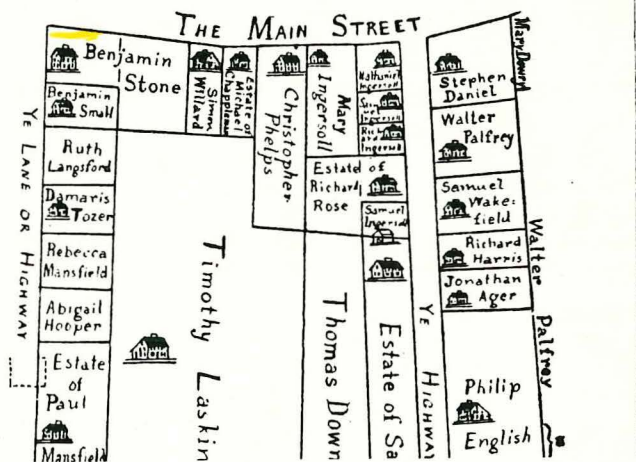
Thus Mr. Stone became the owner of the house and the entire lot. He died, possessed of the estate, in 1690. In the division of his real estate, this part of it was assigned to his son Benjamin Stone. Benjamin Stone died, possessed of it, Nov 30, 1703. It was then appraised at one hundred pounds. By the will of Mr. Stone, the estate passed to children of his brothers Samuel Stone and Robert Stone and of his sister Sarah Manning, namely: to Samuel, Robert, Elizabeth, Katherine, Mary and Sarah, children of Samuel Stone; Robert, Jacob, Elizabeth, Sarah, Richard and Benjamin, children of Sarah Manning; and Robert, son of Robert Stone. A division of the house and land occurred before 1720, though it was not done in writing until Feb. 7, 1728,§ the southern half being assigned to Samuel Stone for his children's share, and the northern half to Jacob Manning for his children by his wife Sarah (Stone). The dividing line ran through the stack of chimneys. Samuel Stone, who was of

*Essex Registry of Deeds, book 4, leaf 117.
 †Essex Registry of Deeds, book 4, leaf 152.
 ‡Essex Registry of Deeds, book 8, leaf 99.
 §Essex Registry of Deeds, book 53, leaf 267.

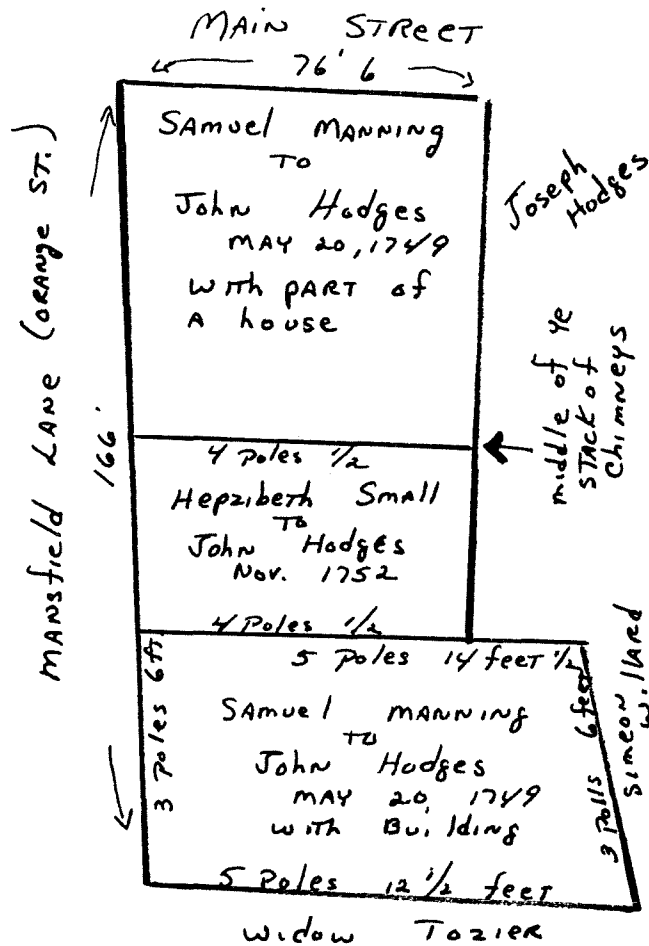
SALEM IN 1700.

Salem, bricklayer, for fifty pounds, conveyed the southern half to Jacob Manning, who was then of Salem, gunsmith, and a resident of this house, Jan. 21, 1719-20.* Mr. Manning's children continued to own the northern half of the house and lot. Between the date of Benjamin Stone's will and his death three more children had been born to his sister Sarah Manning, and three had died before Dec. 13, 1722, when an agreement and conveyance was made by which this part of the house and lot became the property of Sarah Manning, Katherine, wife of John Berry, and Mary Manning, all of Salem.† The three owners of this part, or one hundred and thirty-three pounds, conveyed it to their brother Samuel Manning of Salem, gunsmith, Oct. 25, 1730.‡ Samuel Manning removed to Oxford, and conveyed the same part of the estate to John Hodges of Salem, mariner, May 20, 1749.§ How much longer the house stood is not known to the writer.

Benjamin Small House. This land belonged to Paul Mansfield of Salem, fisherman, in 1670. For ten pounds, he conveyed this lot to Benjamin Small of Salem, sailmaker, Feb. 15, 1674.¶ Mr. Small died about 1700; and the house was standing Nov. 3, 1752, when Mr. Small's granddaughter, Hepzibeth Small of Boston, spinster, for five pounds, six shillings and eight pence, conveyed one-half of the house and land to John Hodges of Salem, mariner.¶¶



As stated, a portion of the Stone estate was conveyed to John Hodges in 1749:



Book 93 page 138
 Book 98 page 46

As illustrated, the old Stone house stood far back from the street (the chimney center being about 70 feet in), leaving the north west portion vacant and available for building. How long the Stone house was allowed to remain on the lot is not known.

The name of John Hodges 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.

Since Mr. Hodges purchased the property in 1749 and his name appears on the above list, it seems safe to assume that building commenced in 1750. This is also the year that he is first taxed. The strongest indicator of a construction date prior to 1788 is found in Benjamin Hodges' account book (Peabody Museum "Betsey" - "Astrea" et others 1781-1805):

1788	D ^{or} Mansion House bought of my Father	£	s	d
Sep ^r	To paid purchas money's	525
..	.. Buldclin out Houses & Repairs	194	10	..
1798	Sundry's Repairs	719	10	..
Sep ^r	To 15 ^m Shingles	7.5	0	
..	.. Asa Hillam for Labour	31.6	9	
..	.. Ditto Sundry's furnished	1.16	-	
..	.. Sam ^r Archer's bill	7.5		

OWN

SOUTH

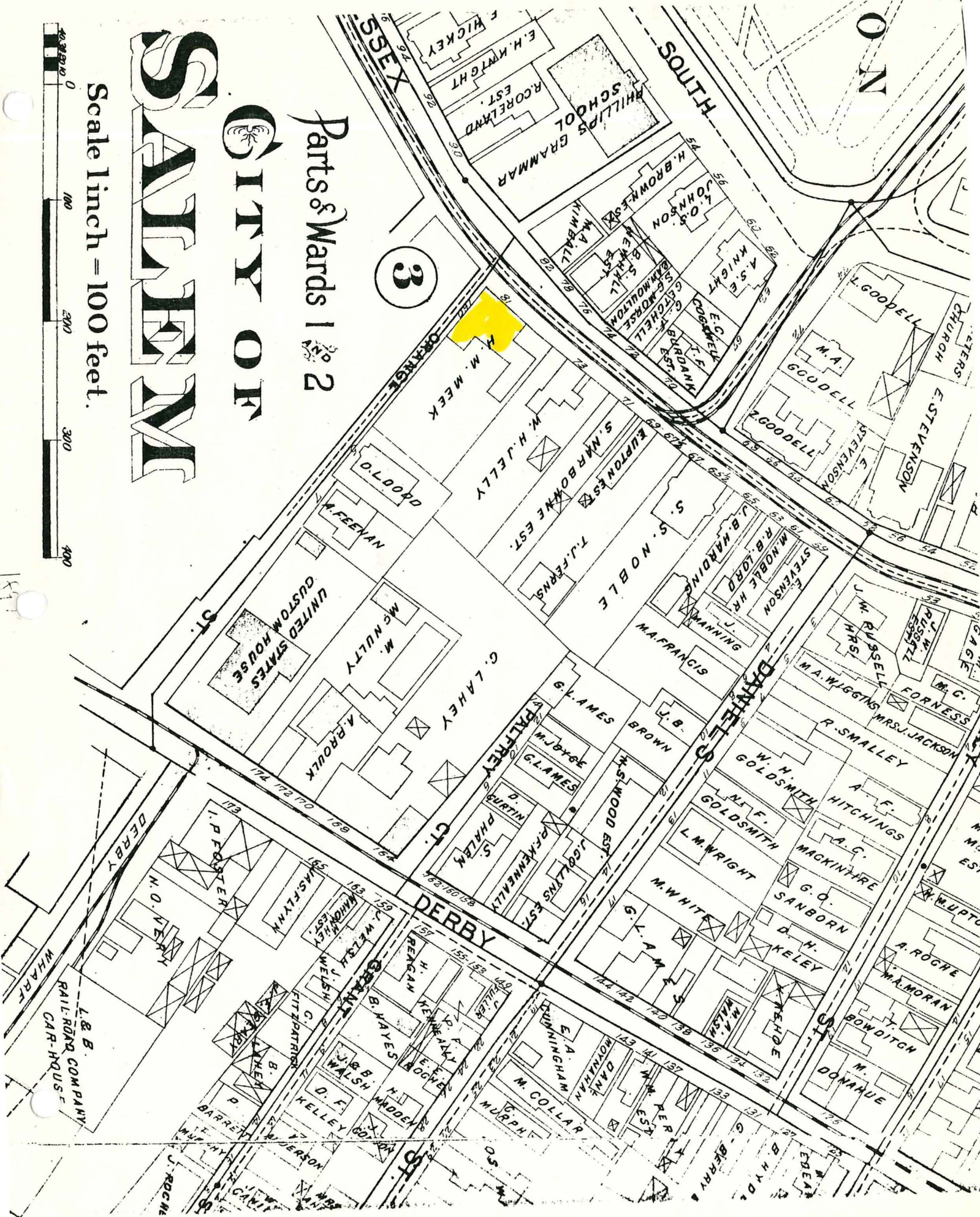
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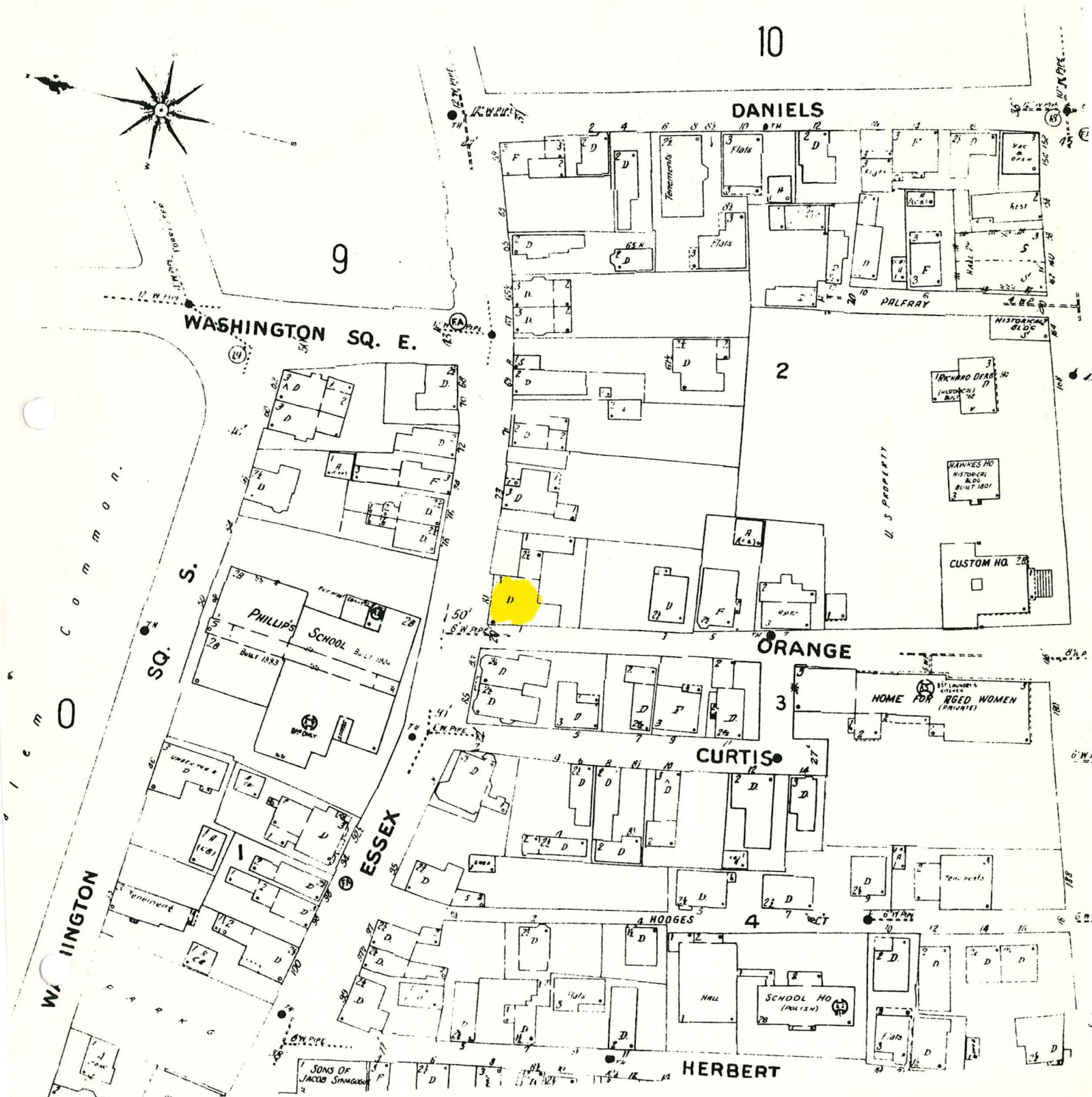
Parts of Wards 1 & 2

CITY OF

SALFORD

Scale 1 inch = 100 feet.





10

9

DANIELS

WASHINGTON SQ. E.

2

SQ. S.

PHILLIPS SCHOOL
BUILT 1883

ORANGE

CURTIS

ESSEX

HOME FOR
AGED WOMEN
(PRIVATE)

WILMINGTON

HODGES

4

HERBERT

1 SONS OF
JACOB SIMMONS

CUSTOM HQ. 28

U. S. PROPERTY



Salem in 1700
No. 24
Bentley Diary
IV:194
F.I.F.Colls.
LVIII
81 Essex St.
Site of the
Reeves house

50

This lot belonged to Paul Mansfield very early. He sold the northwesterly corner to William Reeves in 1674, who at once built a house which he sold to Robert Stone in 1674/5. Stone, by 1688, owned the whole lot and died in 1690. His son Benjamin received the estate, owning it at his death in 1703. His will gave it to many nephews and nieces and in 1720 a division was made, though not a formal one until 1728. The southern part came to Samuel Stone for his children and the northern half to Jacob Manning for his children ~~and his~~ by his wife Sarah (Stone). Samuel sold the southern half to Jacob Manning in 1719/20 whose children still owned the northern end. In 1722 by an agreement it came to Sarah Manning, Katherine, wife of John Berry and Mary Manning, who all conveyed it to their brother Samuel in 1730. He removed to Oxford, Mass. and conveyed it to John Hodges in 1749. Mr Perley did not discover how long the house stood. Hodges died in 1798, his wife Mary (Manning) having died in 1773. Bentley speaks of the house as standing in 1813. Did he refer to the old house or to the one now standing? In a list of houses built between 1750 and 1775 appears the name of John Hodges in 1750, that is the year after he acquired the land. Did he then take down the house and build the fine one in its place? The style of the house with its gambrel roof is just what one would expect and it was in that year Hodges was first taxed. In 1800 and until 1807 the owner has not been found but in or before the latter year Stephen Webb was living there and until his death in 1809. A gap of seven years ensues until, in 1876 it was bought by Henry M. Meek who remained there until 1900. Since then it has changed hands at short intervals and used some of the time as a lodging house.

Reeves House

HISTORIC RESEARCH
JOYCE KING
30 UPHAM STREET
SALEM, MASS. 01970

James Kearney
Historic Salem Inc.
Hamilton Hall
Chestnut Street
Salem, Mass.

*just P. Kearney -
Chambers (husband) - Jim to return
old one here
@ his convenience -
Rando Clark
Siller*

August 26, 1985

Dear Mr. Kearney,

Mr. James Bailey has engaged my services to review the history of his house at 81 Essex St. Historic Salem Inc. has previously assigned the date of 1788 built by John Hodges.

A review of the available sources strongly indicates that the house was built by John Hodges circa 1750. Considering the attached documentation, I request that a new sign be granted reflecting this change. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joyce King
Joyce King

1798	..	Rock & Brown's dills	4.8. 2		
Sept.	..	Proper & Page	2.17. 6		
	..	Adams for 4 rocks	10. -		
	..	Jon ⁿ Mason & Co. Lime	12. 0		
	..	Isaac Perkins bills	6. 10. -		
	..	Flat Rock.	10. 16.		
	..	1/2 ^m bricks	1. 1.		
	..	Upton & Porter for pine Plank	2. 1. 9		
	..	Relatiah Brooks bill for lumber	5. 4. 1		
	..	W ^m Carlton for shingle Nails	2. 18. 6		
	..	Henry Hunt for pine plank.	1. 8. 4		
	..	Woodbury & Chamberlan	18. 11. 2		
	..	John Needham for Rocks.	11. 3. 4 1/2		
	..	James Beckett for 6. Posts.	1. 5. 6		
	..	Crosby & Smith for shingles	3. 9. -		
	..	P. & A. Chase for painting &c.	18. 15. 2		
	..	Brown for labor	1. 16. 9	163	11 0 1/2
				883	1 0 1/2

1799	D continued Contra		C ⁿ L ⁿ 5 2
5799	To amount brought over	883	1 0 1/2
May	To finishing upper chambers	72	13 7 1/2
	.. Gravit for yard & cellar		14 "
	.. building walk on roof of House	27	" "

When Benjamin Hodges purchased this house from his father, for the sum of 525 pounds in 1788, it was already of an age to need repairs and even more by 1798. It is interesting to note that the upper chambers were not finished until 1799 and that a walk was built on the roof that same year.

19687

81 Essex Street, One Orange and Three Orange Street, Salem, Massachusetts,

Essex County South Registry of Deeds

<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Description</u>
5574	88	James A. Bailey Joan M. (wife)	Alice G. Feenan (Maiden Lady)land and buildings on the corner of Essex and Orange Street in said Salem, bounded and described as follows:

Northerly on Essex Street 76 feet 6 inches

Easterly on land now or late of Hodges about 162 feet 6 inches

Southerly on land now or late of Tozer 65 feet

Westerly by Orange Street 166 feet

"Being all my right, title and interest in the land and buildings at 81 Essex Street, One Orange Street and Three Orange Street in said Salem.....Being same premises conveyed to Arthur Feenan by deed recorded in Essex South District Registry of Deeds, Book 2138, Page 129. See also Essex County Probate No. 181,339 Estate of Arthur Feenan and Notice of Probate Partition recorded in Essex South District Registry of Deeds, Book 3146, Page 453.

Hands and Seals November 19, 1968"

<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	
3146	453	records: "To The Honorable The Judge of the Probate Court in and for the County of Essex; Pursuant to the foregoing warrant to us directed dated July 26 A.D. 1937, as amended December 23, 1937, we, the commissioners therein named, having been first sworn and having given notice to all persons interested, as herein directed, have appraised all the real estate in said warrant, and which was required to be included in the partition as follows:

several listed (words of researcher)

Recorded in Division 4: We have set off to Alice G. Feenan individually, the following described parcels of land:

81 Essex Street and 1 and 3 Orange Street, Salem, Bounded:
 Northwesterly on Essex Street approximately 80 feet
 Northeasterly by land now or late of Mr. Jelly approximately
 150 feet,
 Southeasterly by land now or late of Arthur Feenan approxi-
 mately 75 feet, and Southwesterly by Orange Street
 approximately 160 feet."

"Hands and Seals May 27, 1938"

<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	
2138	129	Arthur Feenan	James J. Welch Mary E. Welch	"A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon situated in said Salem at the corner of Essex and Orange Streets, bounded and described as follows viz. North on Essex Street about 76 feet 6 inches East on land now or late of Hodges about 162 feet 6 inches, South on land now or late of Tozer about 65 feet, West on Orange Street about 166 feet. Being the same premises conveyed to me by deed of Dennis Brady etux of even date to be recorded herewith

for \$1.00 and other valuable considerations

(page 128 same book; words of
researcher)

Hands and seals April 12, 1912

Book 2138 page 128 records:

"Being the same premises conveyed to me the said Emma J. Brady by deed of Annie M. Meek
et al dated April 2, 1906 recorded in deeds Book 1817 page 475."

Written on side of page: "Dennis Brady and Emma J. Brady to J. J. Welch

Hands and seals April 12, 1912."

<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Description</u>
1817	475	Emma J. Brady wife of Dennis Brady (Salem)	Annie M. Meek Alice R. Meek	Same

For \$1.00 and other valuable considerations.

"Being the same premises conveyed to Henry M. Meek by deed of Emery K. Benson dated May 1, 1877 and recorded at Essex South District Registry of Deeds Book 975 page 159. Hands and seals April 2, 1906."

<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Description</u>
975	159	Henry M. Meek	Emery K. Benson	Same

For \$6,500.00

"Being the same premises devised to my brother George W. Benson and myself by my mother Sarah Maria Benson and of which said George W. conveyed his share to me by deed recorded in Essex Registry South District Book 876 page 265.

Hands and seals May 1, 1877."

Researcher: Listed below on the page "Discharge recorded Book 1166 page 53 - \$5,500.00"

<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Description</u>
876	265	Emery K. Benson	George W. Benson	Same

For \$3,750.00

"Being the same premises conveyed by Martha T. Webb and others to Sarah Maria Benson by deed dated June 28, 1870 recorded in Book 800 page 49

Hands and seals March 18, 1873."

<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Description</u>
800	49	Sarah Maria Benson Widow	Martha T. Webb, Salem, Widow, Martha Webb, Isabella Webb, John F. Webb and William G. Webb all of Salem	Same

"For \$6,000.00

Hands and Seals June 28, 1870."

Vital Records, Essex South District, Registry of Deeds:

Webb: Isabella, d. Stephen, Cashier, and Martha, May 6, 1847
 " John F., son of Stephen and Martha T. Oct. 6, 1838
 " Martha, d. Stephen and Martha T., February 6, 1840
 " William George, S. Stephen and Martha T., August 5, 1832
 " Stephen, S. William & Hannah bp. Nov. 18, 1798 (Father) *

Stephen* and Martha T. Luscomb Married and parented the above listed children in addition to one other child whose demise was early.

<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Description</u>
579	250	Stephen Webb	Lucy O. Goodhue	Mtge. paid by Stephen Webb to Lucy O. Goodhue, Guardian Hands and seals November 20, 1858

<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Description</u>
459	245	records:	"Stephen Webb, Salem, Gentleman,	in consideration of \$2,000.00 to me paid by Lucy O. Goodhue of Salem, widow, as she is guardian of her minor children, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged do hereby give grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Lucy, Guardian as aforesaid, my message consisting of a dwelling house, out buildings and the land under and adjoining on Essex Street in said Salem, bounded Northerly by Essex Street 76 feet 8 inches, Westerly by Orange Street 167 feet 2 inches thence Southerly by land now or late of Tozzer 91 feet 9 inches and Easterly on several courses by land of Hodges to the first bound. It being the same message which was conveyed to me by Alfred Greenleaf by his deed dated January 13, 1837 and recorded in Book 296 Page 68.

Hands and seals March 28, 1852."

<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Description</u>
296	68	Stephen Webb, Salem, Cashier	Alfred Greenleaf Lucy ux Schoolmaster	

"for \$3,400.00 Give, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Stephen Webb, his heirs and assigns forever a certain lot of land with all the buildings thereon situate in said Salem bounded as follows: Beginning at the North Easterly corner thereof by land of Hodges and by Essex Street, then running Westerly bounding Northerly by Essex Street and measuring there 76 feet and 8 inches then running Southerly by Orange Street and bounded Westerly thereby and measuring 167 feet 2 inches to land of Tozzer, then running Easterly by said Tozzer's land 91 feet 9 inches to land of Hodges then running northerly and bounded Easterly by land of Hodges and measuring 56 feet; then turning at right angles and running Westerly by land of Hodges and measuring 25 feet 8 inches then running northerly at right angles by land of Hodges 107 feet 6 inches to bound begun at.

The premises hereby conveyed are the same which were conveyed by John Hodges to his son Benjamin by deed dtd September 20, 1788 and recorded in Registry of Deeds for the County of Essex Book 149 pge 82, and likewise conveyed by Mary Silsbee, Hannah Hodges and Elizabeth Hodges to Alfred Greenleaf by Deed dated the 31st day of January A.D. 1835 and recorded in Registry of Deeds aforesaid Book 280 leaf 89.

Hands and seals January 13, 1837."

<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Description</u>
280	89	Alfred Greenleaf	Mary Silsbee, Salem, Widow, Hannah Hodges, Elizabeth Hodges, Singlewomen	Same

for \$2,650.00 convey (same description)

Hands and seals January 21, 1835

<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Description</u>
149	82	Benjamin Hodges	John Hodges, Salem Merchant	Typed below

"in consideration of 550 pounds lawful money paid me by son Benjamin Hodges of Salem, Mariner, convey my dwelling house in said Salem with the land under and adjoining the same with all other buildings on said land which land lies in the easterly part of the Town and is bounded Northerly on the Main Street there measuring 77 feet, then Easterly on land of Gamaliel Hodges 110 feet, then again northerly on said Gamaliels land 25 feet then again Easterly on his land 55 feet then southerly on Tozzer's land 97 feet then Westerly on a lane leading from the Main Street to the South River or harbour 170 feet or be the lengths of said lines more or less the boundaries being as the fences and buildings now stand, reserving to myself for and during my natural life the use and improvement of the northwest lower room in said house, the south chamber or that over the kitchen, of one third part of said kitchen, of the garret and cellar with the free use of the several passageways to said parts of said house also the use of the yard, garden, barn and all other outbuildings, viz. one third of each.....And I do covenant with the said Benjamin his heirs and assigns that I am lawfully seized in fee of the premises, except one undivided half part of about ten poles of said land, bounding on said lane and which was the property of one Small, that said premises are free of all incumbrances, that I have good right to sell and convey the same to the said Benjamin to hold as aforesaid and that I will warrant and defend the same to the said Benjamin his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claims of all persons subject to the reservations to my use as aforesaid.....And it is agreed and understood that all my interest in and title to said ten poles of land is hereby conveyed but said half is not hereby warranted.

Hands and seals September 20, A.D. 1788."

<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Description</u>
98	46	John Hodges	Hephzebah Small	Typed below

for 5 pounds, 6 shillings, 8 pence

"One moiety or half part of a certain piece of land in said Salem containing ten poles butting westerly on a lane or highway and is there two poles and an half in breadth and extends from Lane and same breadth easterly four poles in length bounded northerly and easterly on land of Jacob Manning and Southerly on land of said John Hodges or however otherwise ye same is bounded with ye priviledges and appurtenances thereof, it being ye same piece of land which Paul Mansfield conveyed to my grandfather Benjamin Small on the 15th day of February, 1674 as appear by his deed of that date of record. Saving and reserving ye common rights allowed for arising from or belonging to ye said piece of land

Hands and seals November 3, 1752."

Research at the Essex Institute herewith attached indicates ambiquity as to difinitive dating of present structure. Map of Salem 1700 (Perley) defines the lot as belonging to Benjamin Stone with a small structure indicated back from the Main Street on the Lane (Orange Street). Map of Salem 1780 (Perley) indicates no structure at the corner of Essex Street and the Lane (Orange Street).

The Small Family, The Manning Family, some of whom were heirs of Benjamin Stone, an owner of note in the area, records much proper division of real estate in the vicinity of what is now Essex and Orange Streets area. Probate records indicate that as early as 1703 Benjamin Stone was the owner of record of a dwelling house, small bake house and land. Indeed, as indicated Essex Street is known as Main Street in the early records of the Town of Salem. The present single structure of 81 Essex Street and

Number One Orange Street that is of primary importance in the area indicates architecturally a date of later 18th century. Therefore, the researcher requests a House Sign by Historic Salem Inc. for 81 Essex Street and One Orange Street (a single structure) as reading:

John Hodges

Merchant

1788

Number Three Orange Street to be unsigned.

335 Essex Street

This house was the residence of Col. and Mrs John Page, perhaps as early as 1793.

The lot was part of the homestead of Thomas Maule, who bought the land from the Neal family, from 1681 forward. Salem's leading Quaker, an author, and a successful merchant, Mr Maule built his house where the large yellow house presently stands at 333 Essex Street. Mr Maule's house stood until about 1856, when it was razed (see illustration in Sidney Perley's History of Salem, vol. II, p. 272). Thomas Maule conveyed this house and its large lot (about 1½ acres fronting 171' on Essex Street) to his son John in 1707. John eventually moved to Philadelphia; after his death his heirs (in 1746, 1747, & 1752) released their rights to the estate (one dwelling house, a shop & smokehouse used by Samuel Hayward, and the 1½ acres) to Gabriel Holman, Salem hatter (88:182, 199,273; 91:43; 96:251). A note: Nathaniel Hawthorne named his "wizard" Maule in The House of the Seven Gables.

In 1780, after Mr Holman's death, his heirs released their rights in the estate to their brothers Samuel and Gabriel (137:52). Three years later, on 22 Oct 1783, the estate was partitioned: Samuel received the mansion house, hatter's shop, and land fronting 104' on Essex Street (including the 335 lot); another heir named Hastie received a small lot to the west fronting 24' on the street (the Hastie lot later went to Gabriel Holman); Gabriel received a small dwelling house on a lot fronting 43' on Essex Street (141:142).

Deacon Samuel Holman, a hatter like his father, lived in the Maule house until his death on 24 Nov 1825; he left "a dwelling house and outbuildings and land on Essex Street, worth \$3500" to his son Samuel Holman and to his daughter Ruth, wife of Col. John Page, as well as to the heirs of his deceased daughter Eunice Carlton (#13585). On 28 Jan 1826, Samuel Carlton, son of the deceased Eunice, released to his uncle Samuel for \$605 his right in the estate (240:94); Samuel Holman thus came to own 2/3 of the rights to the estate. Note that at this time only one house (the Maule house) is mentioned as standing on the property.

On 7 Ap 1826, Samuel Holman and Mrs Ruth (Holman) Page partitioned their father's estate: Samuel received the eastern 2/3 of the homestead, fronting 70' 8" on Essex Street and including the Maule house; Ruth received the western 1/3 of the homestead,

"with all the buildings thereon, except the barn;" Ruth's portion is the present lot at 335 Essex Street (240:167,168). On 28 Nov 1826 Col. & Mrs Page mortgaged for \$500 to John Perkins, Salem housewright, their "certain messuage on the southerly side of Essex Street consisting of a dwelling house and outbuildings and land; this mortgage was discharged 5 Sept 1832 (243:174). This deed is the first mention of a dwelling house standing on the lot.

Col. John Page married Ruth Holman (b. 1761) on 9 July 1793; she was his third wife; they had one child,* Elizabeth, born in 1799. The Salem real estate assessments for the period show that up to the year of his marriage, Col. Page owned a house and part of a distillery; from 1793 on, however, he was assessed for half a house, which soon became half a house and half a shop. I can only assume that Col. Page, on marrying Ruth Holman, moved from his Federal Street house (which he proceeded to rent out for many years, selling it in 1823) to a house which he either moved or built on his father-in-law's property at what is now 335 Essex Street. Once there, he rented out half of the house and shop to someone else, who paid the taxes on the same. The house would not have been mentioned in the probate of Samuel Holman's estate, since Holman himself did not own Page's house, but just the land it stood on.

At any rate, on 2 Aug 1833 Col. Page and his wife Ruth gave the house and land to their daughter Elizabeth (271:60). On 22 Ap 1842 Elizabeth Page granted the premises for \$800 to widow Nancy Felton and her four daughters (331:173). Two years later the Feltons sold the place for \$1800 to Francis Scott, a Salem hosiery merchant (354:188). Up to this point, the house is described, inexplicably, as standing 16' ½" east of the north-west corner of the lot, which has remained the same to the present day. I cannot account for this phenomenon. On 12 June 1848, Mr Scott for \$2475 granted the premises to Capt Thomas Holmes, a Salem mariner; in this deed, the house is described as being 6" east of its western boundary, as it is today (399:23); Capt Holmes immediately leased to Samuel Holman, his neighbor to the east, a small strip of land adjoining his property (399:24).

Oliver Thayer, in his reminiscences, stated that this house was at one time in the mid-19th century the tin-shop of Deacon Richard M Chipman; I tend to think that Mr Thayer was mistaken, since all the information that I have found indicates that Mr Chipman lived & worked up the road a bit, at what was 347 Essex Street; I suppose that his house and workshop could have been separate, but the tax records do not show this (see Essex Institute Historical Collections, vol. 21, p.219).

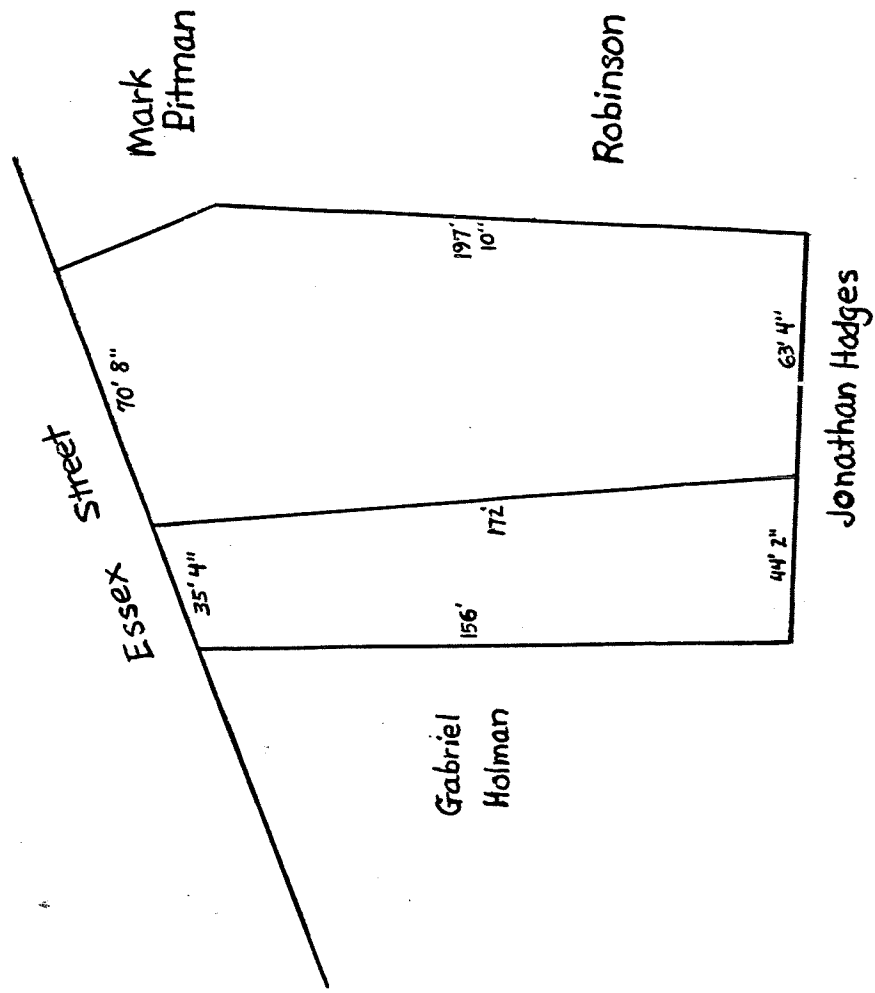
* Actually they had Samuel, 1794; William, 1796; Elizabeth, 1799; and Henry Lawrence, 1802, who died in infancy.

Capt Thomas Holmes continued to own the premises until his death in 1864, at which time the executor of his will sold the estate for \$3500 to Mr Abbot Walker of Salem (672:187). On 30 June 1879 Mr Walker's heirs for \$4760 granted the premises to Mary Cousins of Salem (1019:272). The house and land remained in the Cousins family until 18 May 1926, when the executor of the will of Frank Cousins granted the estate to the survivor of William Crowninshiel Waters and Mary Devereux Waters (2680:129). The estate remained in the Waters' possession until the death on 19 Sept 1964 of William C Waters, who by a 1960 codicil to his will devised the premises to the Salem Athenaeum (#280991). After renting out the premises for several years, the Proprietors of the Salem Athenaeum for \$46,000 granted the house and land at 335 Essex Street to Robert H Vickerman and his wife Dana Sue (6242:483).

Robert Booth
11 Mar 1977

Note: According to the Masonic obituary printed in Essex Institute Historical Collections, vol. 3, pp 92-3, Col. John Page was born 20 Nov 1751 in Medford, the son of Samuel & Elizabeth (Clark) Page. He came to Salem in 1772 and in 1773 married Sarah Porter of Danvers, with whom he had four sons, two of whom, John & Josiah, survived to maturity. He next married Esbher Mackay, and after her death married Ruth Holman; they had three children who survived: Samuel, William, and Elizabeth, called Eliza. Col. Page was at one time a public weigher and gauger in the Custom House and afterwards a ship chandler of the firm of Page & Ropes, which firm continued more than 40 years. In 1795, he was Colonel of the Salem Regiment, and he was also an officer in the US Army. During the Revolution, he was a volunteer in the Rhode Island expedition of 1778. He died in Salem on 2 Dec 1838, aged 87 years.

Rev. William Bentley mentions going sailing with Col. Page and Capts Derby & Prince to Baker's Island on 20 May 1798 (Bentley's Diary, v. 2, p271). Bentley also mentions, on 8 Feb 1803, that Col. Page had become embroiled with a Major Watkins over the high price of the Major's services in building tombs: "The proprietors (of the graveyard) deputed Col. Page to make enquiry into the charges. Major Watkins drew upon him and beat him with his hanger (sword). The Colonel took such satisfaction as he chose for his bruises and on Monday got a warrant to apprehend the Major. The major has come out & done penance to the public satisfaction by asking pardon & imploring forgiveness. The reduction of the account will probably be more terrible to him." (v. 3, p 8)



Rough Plan showing
partition of estate of Deacon
Samuel Holman between his heirs,
Samuel Holman and Ruth Page
7 April 1826 (240:167,168)

1 cm = 20'

Clayton



mural behind wall of
bookcase 81 Essex St
1st floor right (facing the
building)

N.Y. artist Lisa Boganman 1991
while Baileys owned 81 Essex
now John Hodges House condominium