

OFFICE AT OLD TOWN HALL

Historic Salem Incorporated

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

6 CURTIS STREET

House of

HENRY MEEK, mariner

Built circa 1800

Research by,
Joyce King
June 1986

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

6 Curtis Street

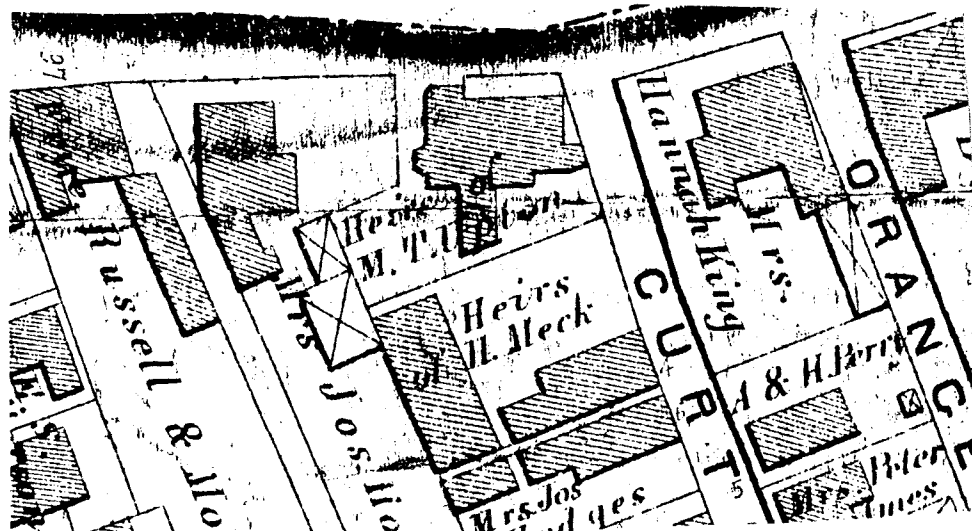
Dating this house is difficult due to the strong evidence of its being moved to this site. When the original building site is unknown, documentation is next to impossible. This report will record the data found, to date, with the hope that positive proof will be found in the future.

"This is one of three similar gable end-to-the-street, two-story plus gambrel roof, wooden houses on Curtis Street. The simple pilastered entrance is on the north side of the building, which still has its old narrow clapboards. There is a small ell in the rear. The two-over-two windows are not original, of course, and the high brick foundation suggests the possibility that the house was either raised or moved here."
(Salem Historic District Study Committee Investigation)

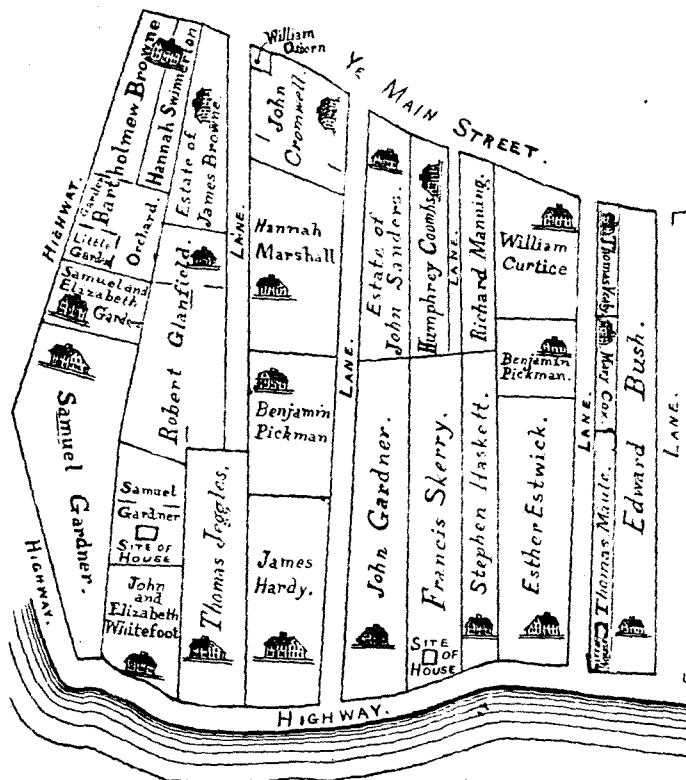
The Map of the City of Salem, 1851, surveyed by H. Mc Intyre, shows that the house in question was not on the 6 Curtis St. site at that time.



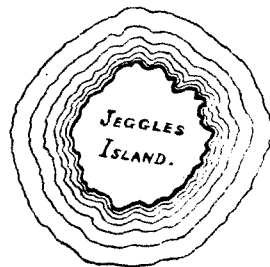
The earliest Atlas of Salem was printed in 1874. The house is definitely in place at that time.



The lot on which this house stands was once a portion of the William Curtice estate.



YE RIVER.



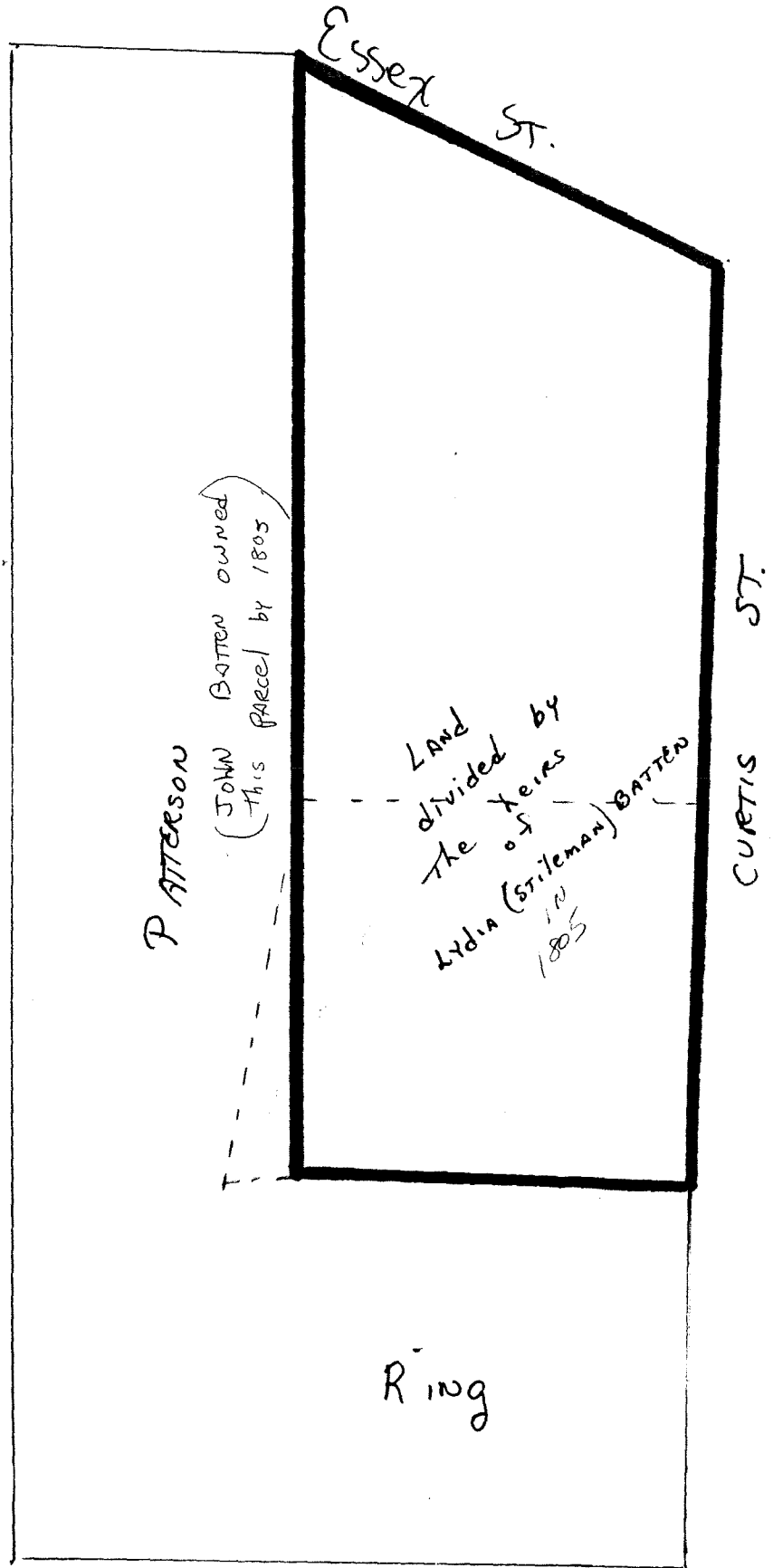
PART
OF
SALEM
IN
1700
NO. 25

SCALE: 1 inch=200 ft.

William Curtice House. This lot was a portion of the two acres of land conveyed by John Baylies of Salem, tailor, for five pounds and five shillings, to Edward Estwick of Salem, mariner, 8: 8: 1649.† Mr. Estwick died in 1666; and his widow, Esther Estwick, who was appointed administratrix, conveyed this lot (which is described as being "on Bass River Side") to William Curtice of Salem Feb. 23, 1668.§ Mr. Curtice built a house upon the lot. He was a blacksmith, and lived in Salem, when he gave the house, barn, shop and lot, by deed, to his son William Curtice, jr., of Salem, Feb. 17, 1704-5.|| The grantee was then living in the house. William Curtice, jr., died in 1741, having devised the house and land around it to his daughter Lydia Stillman, who lived in Salem. She died, a widow, before March 3, 1779, when administration upon her estate was granted to her son William Patterson, who became the owner of the estate. In the inventory of her estate the house is described as "an old house," and with the land adjoining belonging to it was valued at one hundred and forty-seven pounds. Mr. Patterson died before June 26, 1793, when his children, John Patterson, mariner, Joseph Smith, mariner, and his wife Rebecca, Obadiah Wilcock, mariner, and wife Lydia, and John Bolton, mariner, and wife Sarah, all of Salem, for twenty-two pounds and sixteen shillings, conveyed four-fifths of one-third of the land and buildings to Capt. William Patterson of Salem, mariner.* Captain Patterson died Sept. 6, 1793, possessed of the entire house and land around it, having devised a life-interest in the estate to his wife Mehitable, and the remainder to his children. It subsequently came into the possession of his son William Patterson of Salem, mariner, before 1803, when the house was gone.

(The Essex Antiquarian, Vol. 10)

The above account fails to follow the portion owned by the daughter of Lydia Stileman, Lydia (Stileman) Batten.



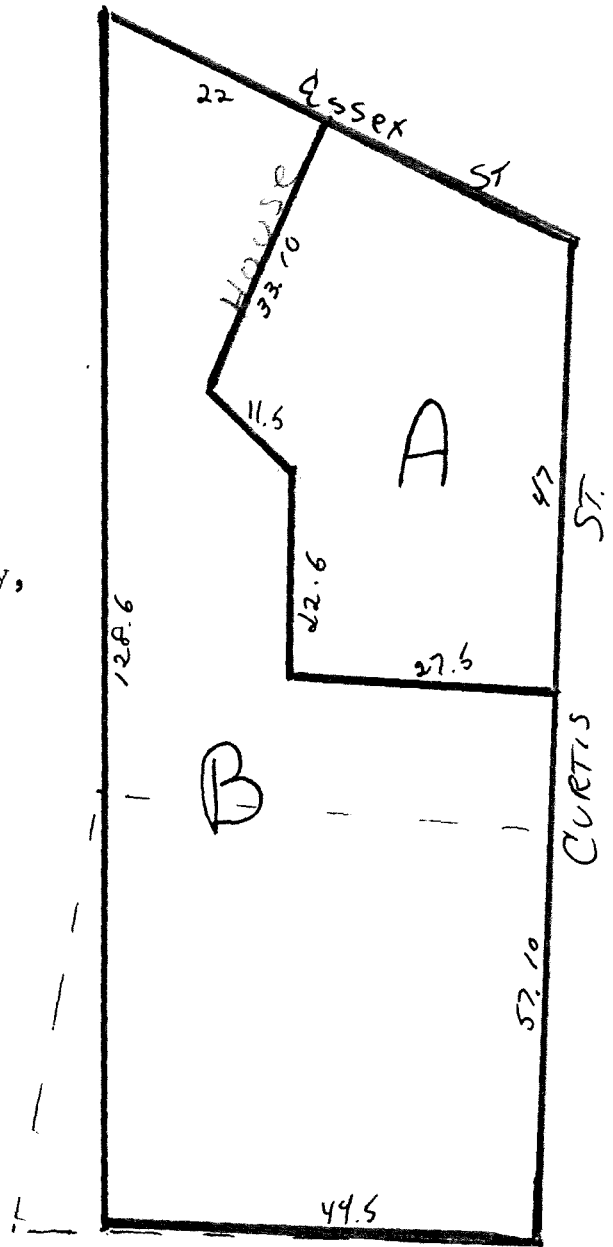
(broken line indicates the present bounds of 6 Curtis St.)

1805

A - Book 176 page 209
July 29, 1805
John Batten, yeoman;
Hannah Austin, widow;
Nehemiah Rand and Sally his
wife in her own right all of
Francestown, N.H. conveyed
their rights in the lot of
land to Esther Ashby.

Book 176 page 207
August 1805
Esther Ashby conveyed the
lot of land to John Batten
provided that said Esther Ashby
her heirs or administrator shall
when her daughter, Caroline Ashby,
a minor of about 17 months comes
to age give a deed according to
conditions of her bond.

B - Book 176 page 206
August 1805
Esther Ashby sold her rights to
the lot of land, building and $\frac{1}{2}$
chimney to John Batten, Hannah
Austin, and Nehemiah & Sally Rand



(Broken line indicates the
present bounds of 6 Curtis)

R. 28

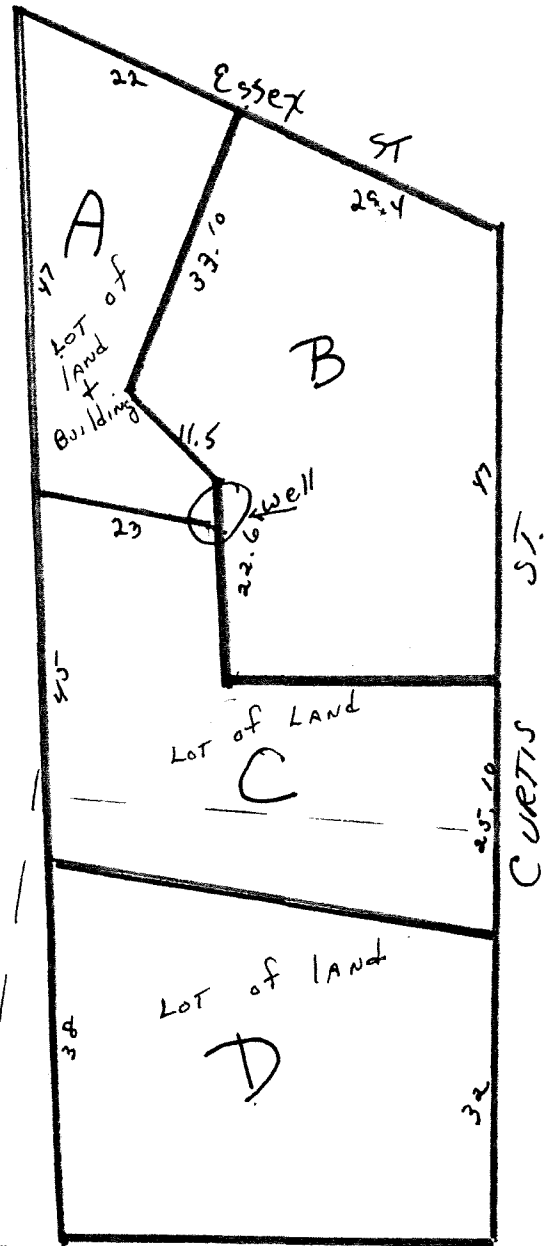
A - Book 185 page 251
 Sept. 25, 1806
 John Batten and wife Procinda,
 Nehemiah and Sally Rand sold their
 rights to the lot of land, building
 and $\frac{1}{2}$ chimney to Hannah Austin.

B - Owned by John Batten.

C - Book 185 page 251
 Sept. 25, 1806
 John Batten and wife Procinda,
 along with Hannah Austin conveyed
 their interest in the lot of land
 to Nehemiah Rand.

Book 237 page 51
 June 10, 1824
 Nehemiah and Sally Rand sold their
 rights to the lot of land to John
 Batten.

D - Book 188 page 66
 Sept. 1806
 Nehemiah and Sally Rand along with
 Hannah Austin sold their interest
 to this lot of land to John Batten.



(By 1824 John Batten owned **B**, C & D)

John Batten died on December 11, 1844. In his will (#32675) all the real estate was bequeathed to his wife, Procinda, for her natural life. His daughter, Aroline, was to have the privilege of living with his wife, provided she remain single. After the death of his wife and daughter the estate was to be divided equally between his children. (Aroline died on November 12, 1839. Procinda died on January 12, 1849.)

The inventory of John Batten:

Real estate

#1 Dwelling house with land under & adjoining situate on Curtis Street \$800 (this was the house on the corner of Essex and Curtis, as John is listed in the 1842 Salem directory as living at 2 Curtis St.)

#2 Dwelling house in the rear & land under and adjoining \$1,500 (this is what is now 4 Curtis St.)

#3 Lot of land situate on said Curtis St. \$300 (this is the land in question, now 6 Curtis St.)

Personal estate

Lot of household furniture beds - bedding & c. \$50

The other children of John and Procinda Batten were: Nancy (born 1795) married Josiah Merrow, Richard (born 1797), Lydia (born 1799) married Henry Meek, Procinda (born 1803) married Ephriam Richardson, Louisa (born 1806) married Soloman Wells and John (born 1809).

On September 27, 1845 John Batten Jr., cordwainer, conveyed the "dwelling house and ut building on Curtis street the same mylate father John Batten deceased, now in the possession and occupation of my mother Procinda, to Henry Meek in trust that Henry shall apply the income or proceeds of the estate for the purposes of my support in such sum or sums from time to time as he shall deem necessary and proper giving hereby full right and authority to sell and dispose of the same and to give a good and sufficient deed. This deed to take effect from and after the decease of my mother." (book 406 page 150)

The remaining heirs conveyed their right to the estate, as listed in the inventory, to Henry Meek during the period 1851-1853 (book 452:146, 470:52, 476:268 & 482:219). Henry Meek mortgaged the property many times over the years, but the exact dimensions are not given.

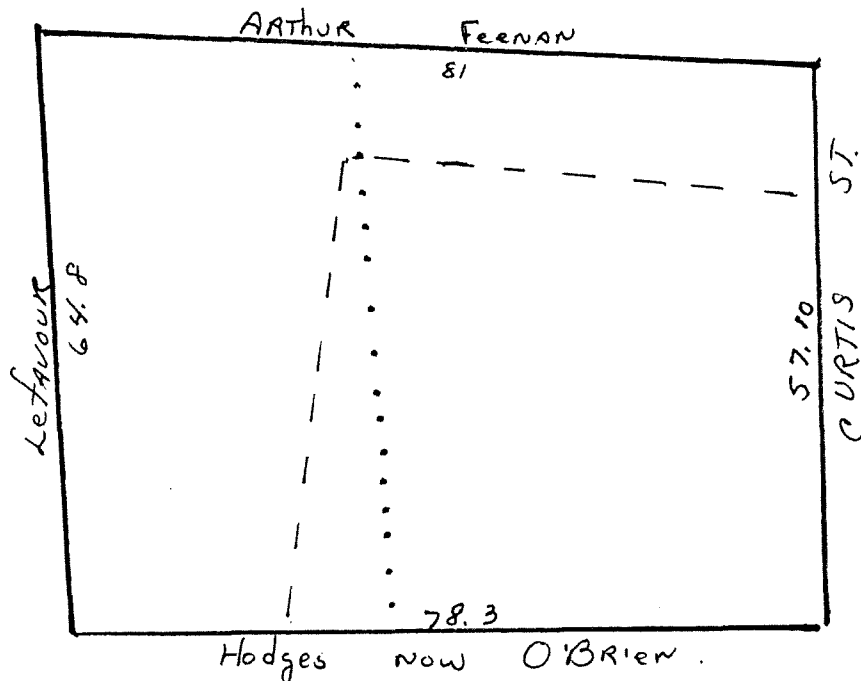
Henry Meek died on August 19, 1870. Mr. Meek bequeathed all of his estate to his wife, Lydia, and after her death the property was to be divided between his children:

L. Cornelia Hodkinson, wife of Jabez
Mary Ellen Carver, wife of Horatio B.
Aroline B. Meek
Julia F. Odell, wife of Charles
Henry M. Meek

(One interesting conveyance occurred on July 24, 1876. The property was put up as bond for the surety of Horatio B. Carver upon a complaint made against him for manslaughter. (book 957 page 42)

On June 15, 1877 John Batten, formerly of Bowdoinham, Maine, now of Salem for \$150 conveyed to Lydia Meek widow of Henry and Lydia C. Hodskinson, Mary E. Carver, Julia F. Odell, Aroline B. Meek and Henry M. Meek all children of Henry Meek. To Lydia for and during her natural life and after her decease to the others, the land and buildings on Curtis street as described in a deed of trust in book 406 page 150. (book 979 page 31)

November 1883 - The heirs named above conveyed their interest in the estate to Henry M. Meek. The land was then described as:



(As noted previously, the portion to the left of the dotted line was also the property of John Batten)

Henry M. Meek died on July 10, 1900 leaving a widow Annie M. and one daughter, Alice R. Meek.

On February 19, 1917 Annie M. Meek and Alice R. Meek sold the land and buildings at 4 & 6 Curtis Street to Arthur Feenan. "Our title derived as devisees under the will of Henry M. Meek." (book 2357 page 361)

April 6, 1959 - Alice G. Feenan sold the same land and buildings to John J. and Winifred Larkin. "For our title see deed Annie M. Meek et al to Arthur Feenan, February 19, 1917." As recorded in book 2357 page 361. (book 4552 page 154)

The Larkins mortgaged the property to the Roger Conant Co-op Bank on April 16, 1959 and October 28, 1959. The bank released their rights to Winifred M. Larkin on July 7, 1960. Winifred Larkin then conveyed her interest to John J. and Barbara Larkin. "The same premises conveyed by Alice G. Feenan on April 16, 1959." This was called parcel A on the plan recorded in book 4682 page 173. (appendix A)

John J. and Barbara Larkin mortgaged the property to the Naumkeag Trust Bank. This mortgage was foreclosed on February 22, 1983 and the title conveyed to the Saugus Bank and Trust. (book 7060 page 336)

On June 8, 1983 the Saugus Bank and Trust Co. sold the land and buildings, being lot A, to Richard H. and Marie C. Oedel, of 21 Garden Rd., Wellesley Hills. Subject to the right of the owners of Lot B to use the way 4 feet wide, as shown on said plan, as set forth in deed of Winifred M. Larkin to John J. Larkin et ux, dated July 7, 1960 recorded in book 44682 page 174 and the right to maintain pipes as therein set forth. For grantor's title see deed book 7060 page 336. (book 7129 page 206)

6 CURTIS STREET

NOTES:

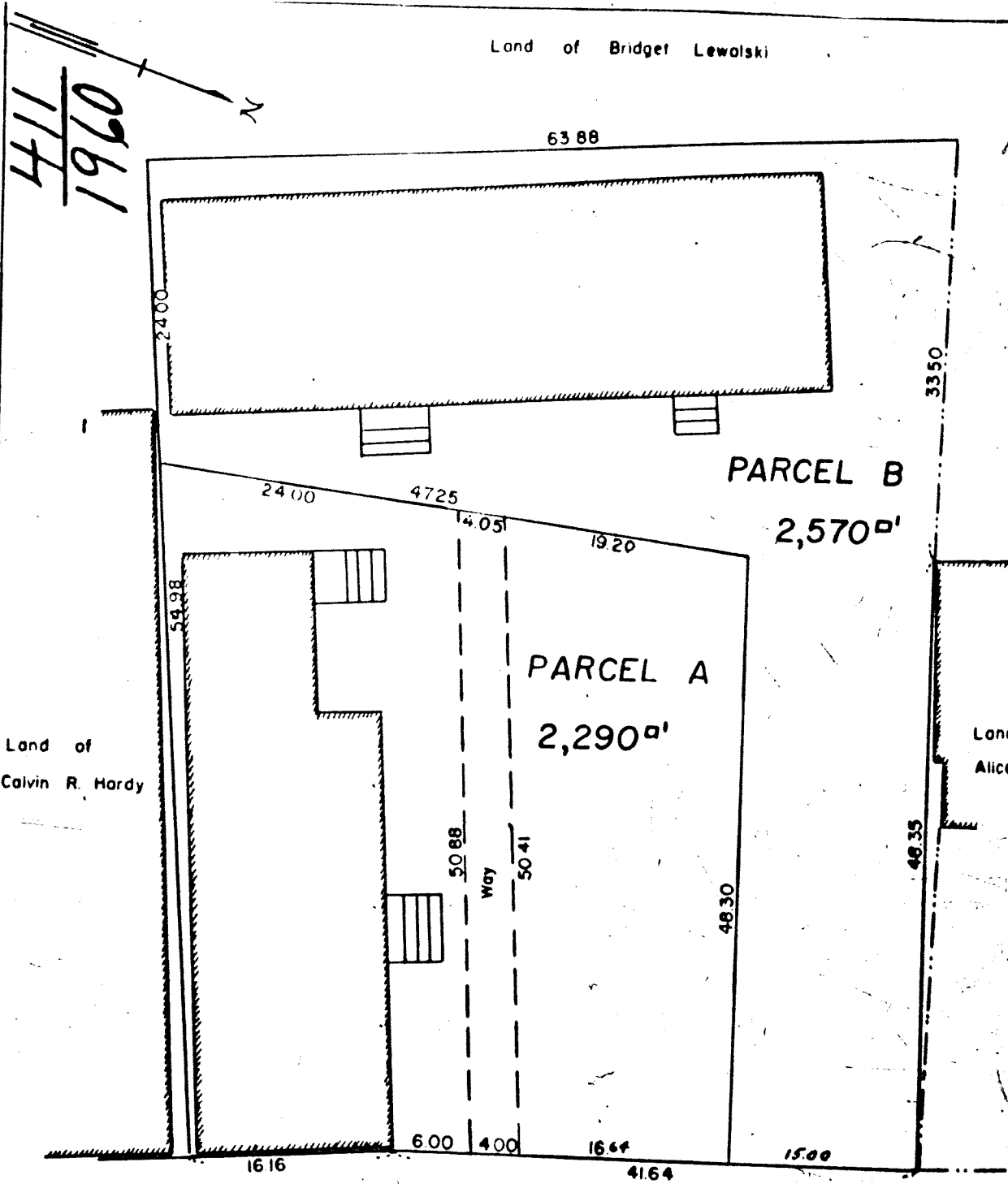
Since the ownership of Henry Meek is so well documented, his name has been assigned to this house. The date, circa 1800, was given according to the findings of Sally Dee's interior inspection.

It is very difficult to determine just when this house first appears. As previously shown, the house does not appear on the 1851 map. Tax records and moving permits are inconclusive. The Batton family owned the entire corner of Essex and Curtis streets, with several buildings, for many years. It is possible that the house was moved from one location on their lot to its present site. This would account for the lack of a moving permit. Permits were needed only if the move would take the building over city pavement.

Future research may provide documents to better date this house. Changes may be made at that time to reflect any new evidence.

Land of Bridget Lewolski

411
1960



Land of
Calvin R. Hardy

Land of
Alice G. Feenah

CURTIS (PUBLIC) STREET

THIS PLAN HAS BEEN REDUCED. FOR CORRECT
SCALING SEE ORIGINAL ON FILE

SALEM, MASS

LAND OF LARKIN

ESSEX REGISTRY OF DEEDS, SO. DIST. SALEM, MASS SCALE 1"=10'

JUNE 29, 1960

Received July 7, 1960 with Release:
Roger Corant Co-operative Bank to
Winifred M. Larkin

W. T. FOSS CO-ENGINEERS

Doc. B 4682 P 173 Filed as No. 411, 1960

Attest: *Lev H. Jones*

Register of Deeds



CURRY

FORRESTER

S T.

S T.

ESSEX

WALNUT

ELM

CHARTER

DERBY

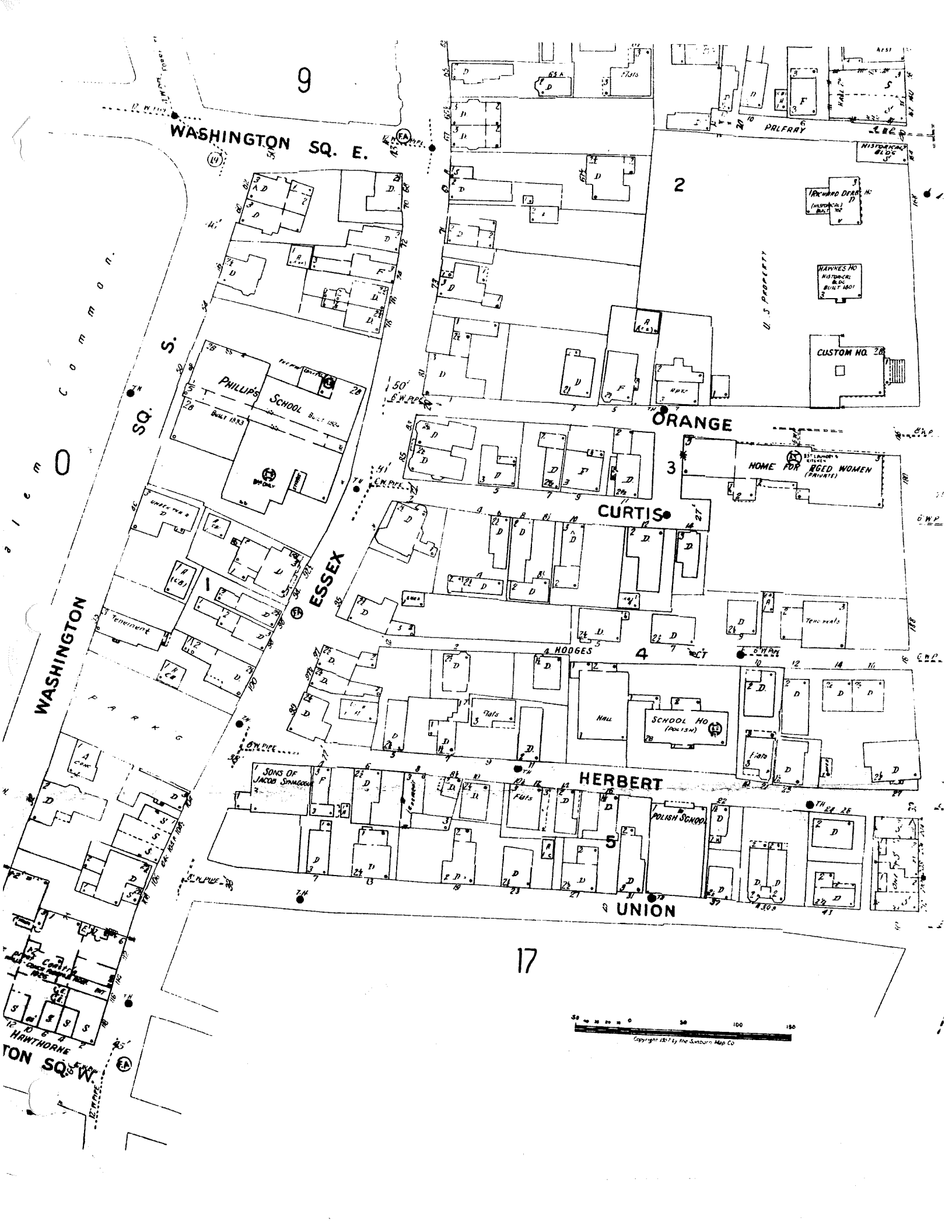


Reading Room of Congress in the year 1874 by G.M. Hopkins in the Office of the Librarian of Congress

1897



RIVER



9

WASHINGTON SQ. E.

2

WASHINGTON SQ.

PHILLIPS SCHOOL
BUILT 1883

ORANGE

HOME FOR AGED WOMEN
(PRIVATE)

ESSEX

CURTIS

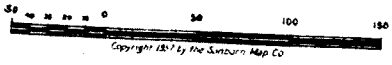
WASHINGTON

4 HODGES

HERBERT

UNION

17



HAWTHORNE
TON SQ. W.