

# Historic Salem Incorporated

P.O. Box 865

Salem, Massachusetts 01970

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53 Essex Street

Owned by

REBECCA SILSBEE

moved to this site by 1843

Research by

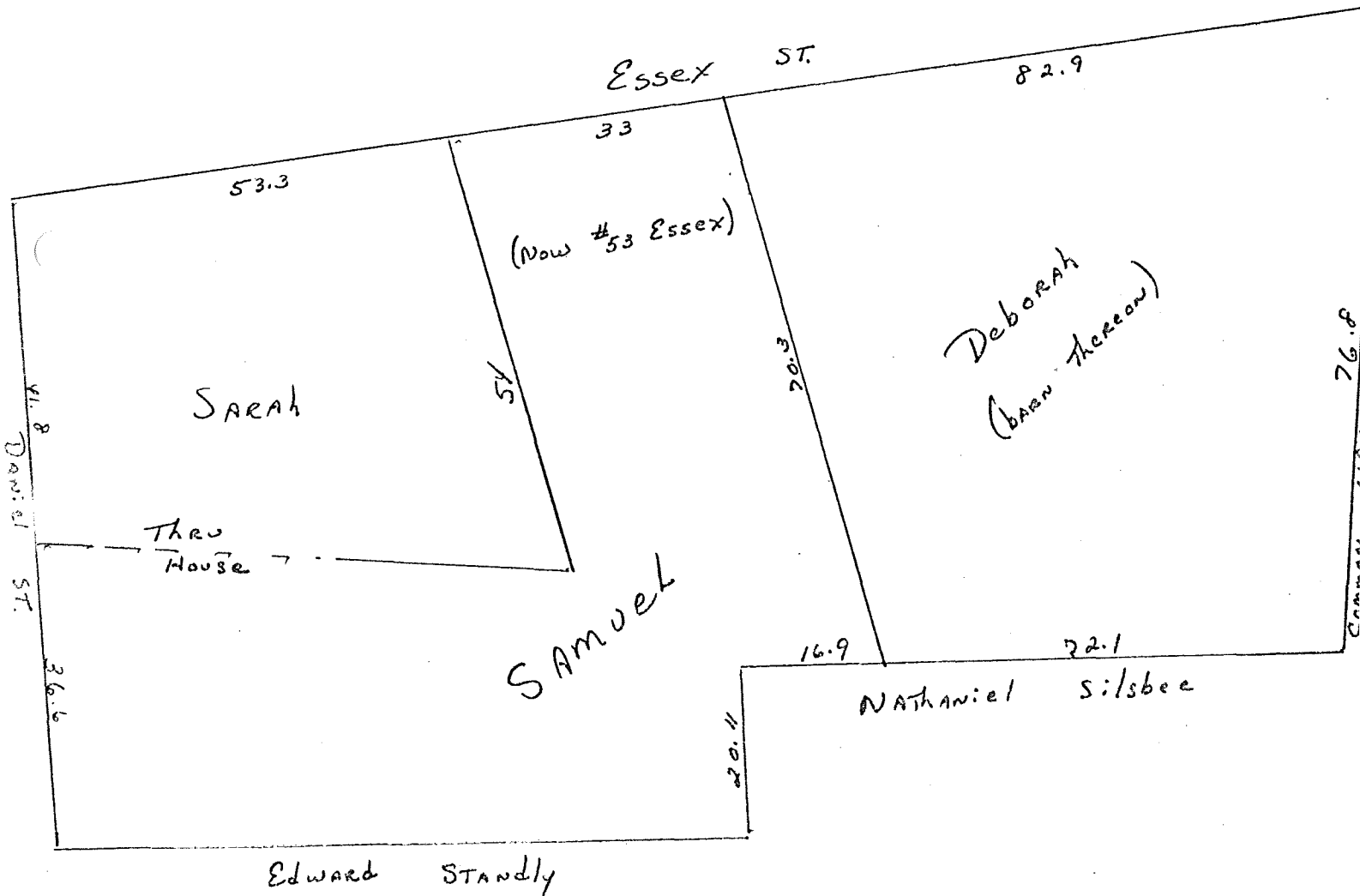
Joyce King

March, 1979

53 Essex Street

The land on which this building stands was part of the estate of Stephen Daniel. His house is better known as the Daniel House. Stephen Daniel conveyed this estate to his daughter, widow Mary Silsbee in 1748. The estate then descended to her only surviving child, Samuel Silsbee. Mr. Silsbee died Dec. 14, 1803, leaving three children, Samuel; Deborah, wife of Daniel Sage and Sarah, wife of David Patten. Mr. Patten died, and in 1808 Sarah married Haffield W. Reed.

These three children signed their rights in the estate to their mother, Martha (Prince) Silsbee, on April 18, 1804. Martha was to receive all rents and profits from the estate for her life time. (book 196 page 129) Mrs. Silsbee died Sept. 15, 1817, at the age of 86. A year after her death the three children divided the Essex St. property as follows:

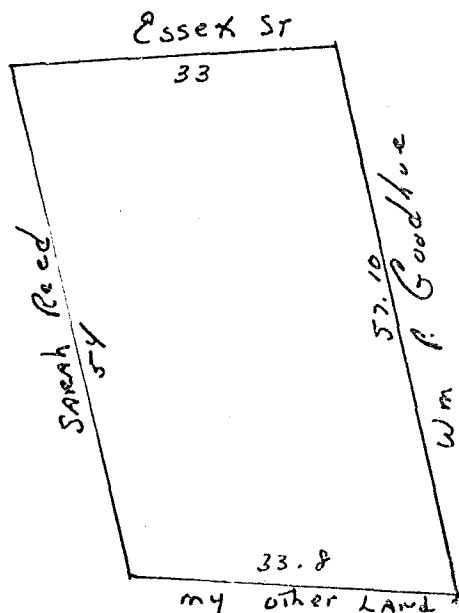


Samuel Silsbee, housewright, died June 7, 1822, leaving to his wife Rebecca (Read) Silsbee, half of the house on Essex and Daniels Streets, which half is now occupied by Philip Manning and Mr. Savory, together with the land under said half and land consisting of a garden usually occupied therewith and the buildings standing thereon (probate #25319).

The Salem tax record and directory of 1837, listed by street, states: on the south side of Essex St., Sage owns a lot of land and barn (Deborah's); Silsbee owns  $\frac{1}{2}$  house (Samuel's) and Sarah Reed owns  $\frac{1}{2}$  house. (Since these are the only buildings listed, it seems #53 Essex St. was not there at this time.)

An indenture between Rebecca Silsbee and John and Sarah Russell, was drawn up in March of 1843:

Leased and farm let to John W. and Sarah Russell, all that messuage and tenement, in Salem, known as house #53 Essex St. Russell is to pay \$200 in advance for rent of house, in case of decease of Rebecca, before the term, if Russell or wife shall not be permitted, by the heirs of Rebecca, to occupy till the end of the term, then the \$200 is to be refunded. All repairs and taxes are to be paid by Russell.



(book 341 page 144)

The tax records show, John W. Russell paid the tax on this house in 1844.

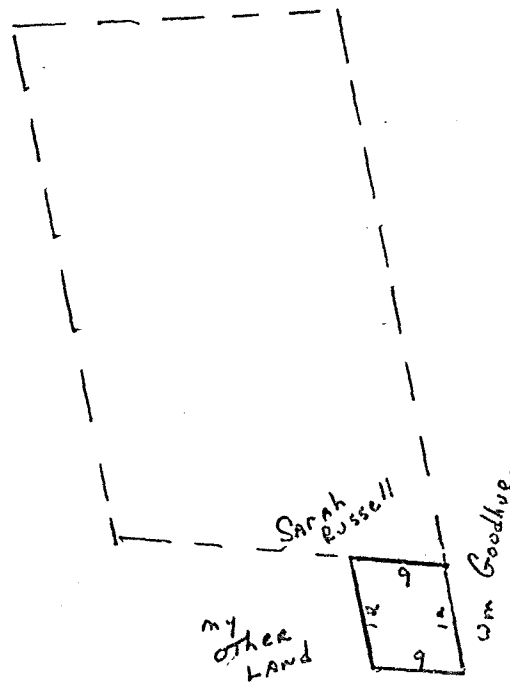
Sarah (Hood) Russell was Rebecca's granddaughter. Sarah married John W. Russell, carpenter, on Nov. 20, 1842. Until this time John lived at 10 Turner St. The newly weds moved into 53 Essex St. in 1843 and made this their home for the rest of their lives.

On July 19, 1849, Rebecca Silsbee, widow, sold to Sarah Russell for \$1 and other consideration, the land with a two story dwelling house thereon (same description as the lease). The same property conveyed to her by will of husband Samuel. (book 414 page 49)

A Federal Census taken in 1850 gives the listing for the Russell household as follows:

John W. Russell	age 30	carpenter	born Mass.
Sarah "	" 29	"	" "
Rebecca S. "	" 7	"	" "
Sarah E. "	" 2	"	" "
Catherine Sullivan	" 19	"	Ire.

On Oct. 20, 1852, Rebecca Silsbee, widow, sold to John W. Russell a small piece of land, and the expense incurred in building of an outhouse partly on land conveyed, the same being for use of my own family and in common with his.



(book 469 page 218)

A listing found in the street books stored at the Essex Institute states: Russell and White's men, Thomas Hurd and Wm Dogget and others, laid edge stones in front of John W. Russell's estate at 53 Essex St., 29 feet 6 inches.

John W. Russell, housewright, died on May 10, 1875. The real estate listed in his probate was the house and land #3 Daniel St. valued at \$1,200 (sold to him by the heirs of Rebecca Silsbee in 1857) the income of rents to be paid to his widow. (probate #52322)

Federal census listing 1880:

Sarah S. Russell	age 56	born Mass.
Stephen Burger	" 32 son in law	" "
Rebecca "	" 34 wife of Stephen	" "
Stephen "	" 1 son	" "

Sarah S. Russell died March 29, 1886 leaving her property to her heirs: Rebecca Burger and Mrs. Sarah E. Dexter, of Lynn.

Rebecca S. Burger died May 13, 1920. Her heirs were Stephen Burger, husband, and Louise R. Burger, granddaughter (minor). In her will, made out May 5, 1920, she left all real estate owned being  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sarah S. Russell's estate on the corner of Essex and Daniel St.: 53 Essex and 1 & 3 Daniel, shall be in trust for use of my husband as long as he lives, at his death to Louise R. Burger. (probate #143463)

Sarah R. Dexter died Jan. 1, 1926. Her heir was Louise Burger Waters of Salem, grandniece. In her will of June 27, 1922, all real estate being  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sarah Russell's estate corner of Essex and Daniel: 53 Essex and 1 & 3 Daniel Streets to be kept in trust for the use of my son Oliver for life - at his death to my heirs. (probate #153877)

May 2, 1932 Louise B. Waters, wife of Ernest, sold to Jacob and Isador Galper, the land and buildings (boundary lines changed to include land now belonging to Daniel house) (book 2915 page 520)

July 9, 1932 Jacob Galper, unmarried and Isador Galper and wife, sold to Margaret McGarry the same property conveyed by Louise B. Waters. (book 2921 page 531)

Apparently, after some dispute over boundary lines a survey map was made and the land court named Margaret E. McGarry, of Salem, married to John E., as owner in fee simple, land as on Plan #15464A. (registered land book 42 certificate #10397)

Subsequent owners:

Sarah Novick not married, of Salem and John Russo and Dorothy, his wife, of Beverly, May 18, 1956. (certificate #25476)

Robert Maguire, Oct. 5, 1972 (certificate #42554)

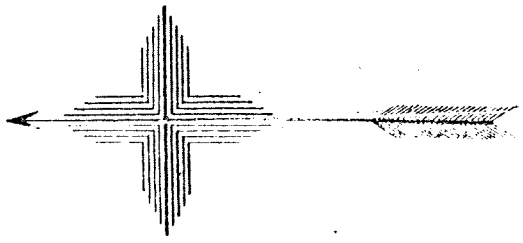
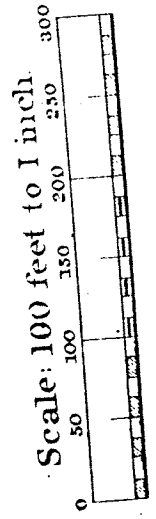
Anthony F. Di Croce, Nov. 4, 1977, the present owner.

Note: all reference to book and page are deed books at the Registry of Deeds and probate numbers refer to cases in Probate Court, both located in the same building on Federal St. in Salem.

All maps in this report are not meant to be exact - just as an illustration.

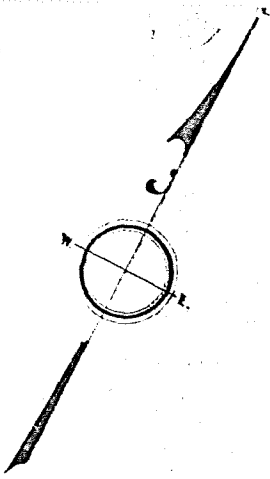
# WARDS I. & II.

## SALEM.



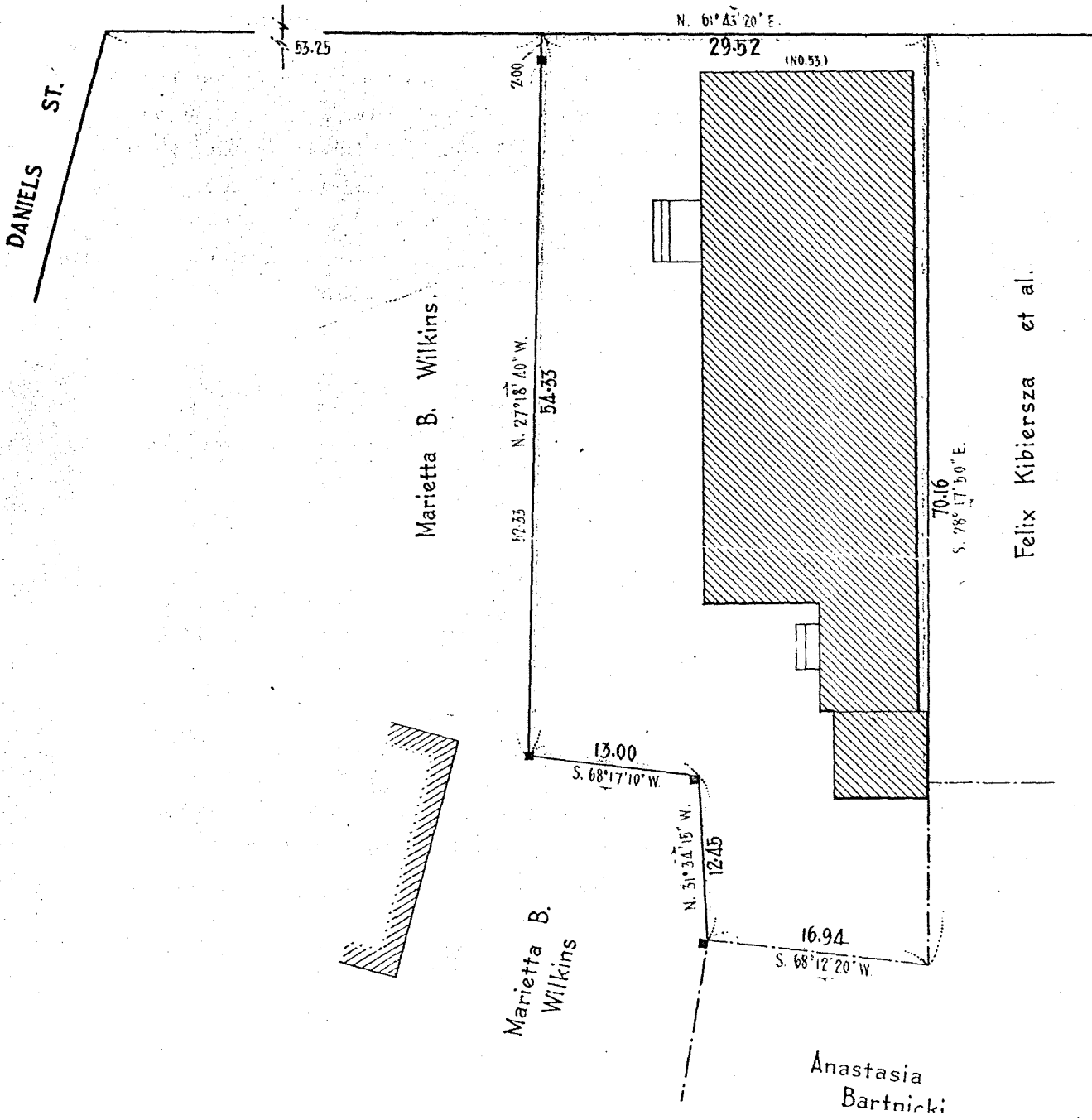
15464<sup>A</sup>

PLAN OF LAND IN SALEM  
Thomas A. Appleton, C. E.  
AUGUST 1933.



ESSEX STREET

DANIELS ST.



[This schedule should be divided into at least four classes: 1st, household furniture; 2d, shares in corporations; 3d, promissory notes and other securities; 4th, property employed in business, etc.]

Schedule of Real Estate.

Schedule of Personal Estate in detail.

	DOLLS.	Cts.
House and land numbered 3 Daniels Street Salem	1200.	
	<u>1200</u>	

	DOLLS.
Household furniture, including carpets, bedding etc	200
One undivided half of building tools & stock owned with Daniel B. Lord; said half worth	15
Chest of Tools	16
Claim against Salem Mutual Benefit association	578
Money in Salem Savings Bank, exclusive of interest	579
	<u>1369</u>