

HISTORIC
SALEM INC

17 ½ River Street

Built for
Ann McMahon
Widow
of County Clare Ireland
1884

August 2018

Historic Salem, Inc.
9 North Street, Salem, MA 01970
978.745.0799 | HistoricSalem.org
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From HSI House History for 17 River Street by Joyce King, 1983

1858 Sept. 1 - The heirs of Susan Marston sold the dwelling house and land to Thomas Perkins. Mr. Perkins was a wealthy merchant having his residence at 124 Federal St. The real estate assessed to Mr. Perkins was: 124 Federal St. valued at \$3,000; Brick storehouse \$400; 7 Ash St. \$2,000; 10 Lynn St. \$1,000; 17 River St. \$600; 21 North St. and a lot of land on Walter St. no value given.

1860 census

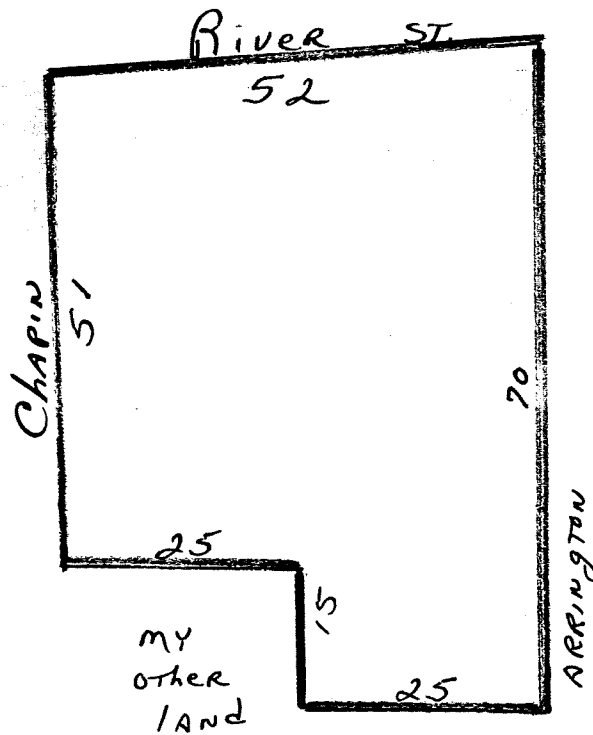
James Lawrence	age 25	currier	born Ire.
Hannah	"	" 24	" "
John	"	" 1	" Mass.
2nd family			
James Shortell	"	29 currier	" Mass.
Mary	"	" 28	" "
Anna	"	" 5	" "
Ellen	"	" 4	" "
Thomas	"	" 2	" "

1866 tax

<u>Occupant</u>	<u>Owner</u>
Michael Kenney	Thomas Perkins
	house \$350
	land 350

1869 July 6 - Thomas Perkins sold the dwelling house and land to Ann McMahon. "The same purchased by Perkins except a jog piece 15'X 25' sold to Mary Jackson et al."

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(book 776 page 162)

1870 census

Michael McMahon	age 35 laborer	born Ire. (County Clare)
John "	" 25 currier	" "
Bridget "	" 20	" "
Ann "	" 66 keeps house	" "

2nd family

Henry McGee	" 30 butcher	" "
Margaret "	" 28	" "
William "	" 9 months	" Mass.
Margaret "	" 2	" "
Mary Ann "	" 4	" "

1872 tax

<u>Occupant</u>	<u>Owner</u>
Michael McMahon	Ann McMahon
Patrick Sullivan	house \$900
John McMahon	land 600

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1880 census

Michael Boyle	age 40	currier	born Ire.
Anna "	" 25	keeps house	" Nova Scotia
Bessie "	" 4	daughter	" Mass.
Charles "	" 3	son	" "
Louisa "	" 1	daughter	" "

2nd family

John McCabe	" 24	plumber	" N.H.
Anne "	" 22	keeps house	" Mass.
William "	" 4	son	" "

1884 August 4 - John "McMeahon" was granted a building permit to build an "addition" to the dwelling house at 17 River St. This then became 17½ River St. (Building Permits at the Essex Institute)

1886 tax

Occupants

John McMahan

Owner

Ann McMahan
 house \$1,100
 land 400
 addition 200

1887 tax

#17 John J. McMahan

Patrick Lynch

Ann McMahan
 house \$1,300
 land 400

#17½ James Landers

John Doyle

1890 tax

#17 John J. McMahan

#17½ James Landers

Edward Morris

John J. O'Keefe

Ann McMahan
 house \$1,300
 land 400

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1892 March 5 - Ann McMahon, the widow of John, died at the age of 90 years. John J. McMahon and Mrs. James Landers then became the owners of 17-17½ River St.

1900 census

		age			<u>Came to U.S.</u>
#17	Amos Sullivan	77		born Ire.	1860
	John Whiting	25	grandson	" Eng.	
	(illegible)	17	grand daughter	" "	1884
	Delia Leahey	43	laundress	" Ire.	1873
#17½	John McMahon	52	city worker	" "	1864
	Katherine "	42		" "	1874
	John "	15		" Mass.	
	Patrick "	14		" "	
	Annie "	11		" "	
	Mary "	8		" "	
	Katherine "	10		" "	
	Margaret "	6		" "	
2nd family					
	James Landers	44	currier	" Ire.	1882
	Bridget "	48	variety store	" "	1868
	James "	20	nephew, general labor	" "	1895
	Ellen "	17	niece, shoemaker	" "	
	Minnie "	13	niece, at school	" "	

1905 tax

	<u>Occupant</u>	<u>Owner</u>
#17	Robert Carson	Mrs. James Landers
	Thomas Carson	John J. McMahon
	Charles Carson	house \$1,300
		land 500
#17½	John J. McMahon	
	James Landers	
	John J. McMahon Jr.	
	Patrick Landers	

From HSI House History for 17 River Street by Joyce King, 1983

1910 census

#17	Edward Jacobs	age 28	teamster	born Mass.
	Mary	"	" 27	" "
	Sara	"	" 2	" "
	daughter no name	- new born		" "
	Kathleen Connelly	" 15	sister-in-law	" "
2nd family				
	John Robinson	" 42	blacksmith	" Canada
	Anna	"	" 30	" "
	Earl	"	" 7	" "
#17 $\frac{1}{2}$	James Landers	" 55	grocer (own shop)	" Ire.
	Bridget	"	" 53	" "
	John J. McMahon	" 66		" "
	John	"	" 26 city worker	" Mass.
	Patrick	"	" 24 fireman shoe fact.	" "
	Annie	"	" 22	" "
	Katherine	"	" 20 stenographer	" "
	Mary	"	" 18 stenographer	" "
	Margaret	"	" 16	" "

1917 May 13 - James Landers died. This obituary notice appeared in the local papers:

"James Landers died at his home, 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ River St. this morning. He was the son of Patrick and Ellen (Donnelly) Landers, and for years conducted a grocery store (10 River St.)."

He was born in Ireland and served as a member of the constabulary in his native land. He was a thorough student of the Emerald Isle and its history. He leaves a widow, Bridget (McMahon) Landers.

From HSI House History for 17 River Street by Joyce King, 1983

1972 July 26 - The property passed from the McMahon family when Rita McMahon sold the land and buildings (12 Lynn St. and 17-17 $\frac{1}{2}$ River St.) to Laurence C. Post Jr. and Donald Koleman for the sum of \$20,000. (book 5880 page 170)

1975 Aug. 26 - Laurence C. Post Jr. and Donald Koleman sold the land and buildings at 17-17 $\frac{1}{2}$ River St. to Nancy Witham. (book 6175 page 624)

1976 August 12 - Nancy L. Witham trustee of 17-17 $\frac{1}{2}$ River St. Trust sold the land and buildings to Robert C. Bramble of Allyn Realty Trust. (book 6268 page 557)

Reference to book and page are deed books at the Registry of Deeds. Probate numbers are cases at Probate Court. Both offices are located in the same building on Federal St. All maps in this report are not meant to be exact, just for illustration purposes.

of June in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and sixty nine
Signed, sealed, and delivered } Anna M. Needham seal
in presence of us. J. W. Porter for W. N. } William Needham seal
Essex. June 29, 1869 Then personally appeared the within-
named William Needham and acknowledged the foregoing
instrument to be his free act and deed.

Before me, John W. Porter Justice of the Peace.
Essex. ss. Rec. July 6, 1869. 12 m. before 5 P. M. Rec. & Ex. by Eph. Bowdler.

S. Perkins
to
A. M. Mahon of Salem in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Mass-
achusetts, in consideration of Sixteen hundred dollars paid.
Two of H. L. Stamps
For Exchange
Cancelled. by Ann M. Mahon of said Salem, widow the receipt where-
of is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell,
and convey unto the said Ann M. Mahon her heirs and as-
signs forever, the following described lots of land, with the dwell-
ing house and all other buildings standing thereon, situate
in said Salem, described as follows, commencing at a point
on River Street and running southerly by lot six fifty one feet
to my land, thence turning and running easterly by my land
twenty five feet, thence turning and running southerly again
fifteen feet; thence turning and running easterly again twen-
ty five feet; thence turning and running northerly to said
River Street seventy feet thence turning and running west-
erly fifty two feet on said River Street to the point begun at, said
distances being more or less. Being the same estate, except-
ing a fog or piece measuring fifteen by seventy five feet, which
I purchased of Mary Jackson and others, by deed recorded in
Essex Registry of deeds, Book 577, Leaf 184, reference being had
to the same. To have and to hold the above granted
premises, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto
belonging, to the said Ann her heirs and assigns, to have and
their use and behoof forever. And I the said Thomas for my

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SAL.3834
Historic Name:	McMahon, John House
Common Name:	
Address:	17 1/2 River St
City/Town:	Salem
Village/Neighborhood:	Central Salem
Local No:	26-647
Year Constructed:	1882
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	No style
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	SAL.HD: Federal Street SAL.HL: Chestnut Street Historic District Enlarged SAL.HU: McIntire Historic District
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register District (10/04/1978); Local Historic District (03/03/1981)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Random Laid Rubble; Stone, Uncut



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 at 11:20 AM

Assessor's number
26-647

USGS Quad
Salem

Area(s)
HD,HU,HR,HL

Form Number
3834



Town Salem
Place (neighborhood or village) Central Salem

Address 17 1/2 River Street

Historic Name McMahon House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 1882

Source Building Permit

Style/Form ---

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Stone

Wall/Trim Wood Clapboard

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

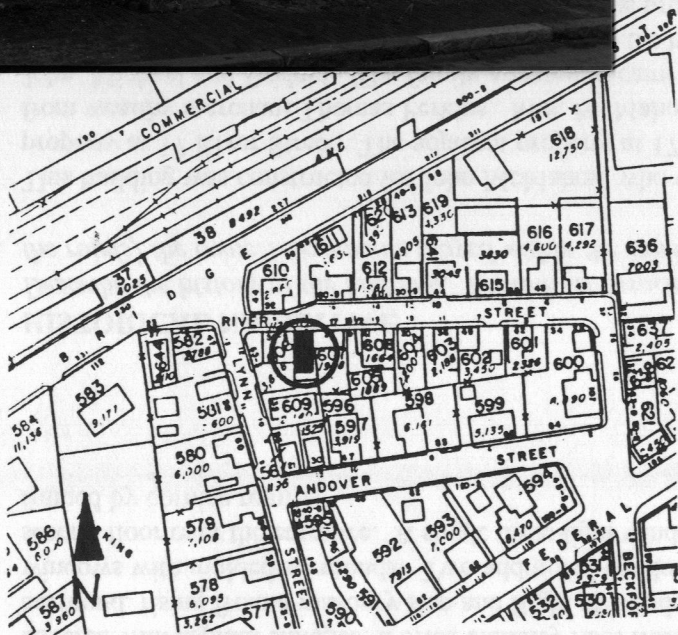
Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage less than one acre

Setting set on sidewalk on narrow street of late 18th and early 19th century dwellings near water



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Salem Planning Department

Date (month/year) January 1997

AUG 05 1997 Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of the building in terms of other buildings within the community.

17 1/2 River Street is a narrow 2 1/2-story, gablefront building which is built right up to the sidewalk, adjacent to and to the west of 17 River Street. The simple, clapboarded building rests on a high, mortared stone foundation. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles; a brick chimney rises from just off the ridge. The recessed sidehall entry is framed by a plain surround, rising from a masonry step and flight of wooden stairs. Adjacent to the entrance there are two somewhat higher 6/6 windows with molded surrounds. Two additional windows are in alignment on the second floor; there is no window on the second floor over the entrance. A single three-light window punctuates the stone foundation. The 6/6 window in the attic is framed by cornice returns.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Describe the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

This building was constructed for John McMahon, who was granted a building permit in 1882 to build an addition to his property at 17 River Street. The adjacent property at 17 River Street was acquired by his mother, Ann McMahon, in 1869 from wealthy merchant Thomas Perkins. Mrs. McMahon was born in County Clare, Ireland, as were her three children, John, Michael and Bridget. The family apparently came to this country in the 1860s. After the construction of 17 1/2 River Street, both John and Bridget's families moved into the building; the family continued to rent out 17 River Street to a variety of tenants. After Ann McMahon's death in 1892 the property passed to her children, John McMahon and Mrs. James (Bridget) Landers. James Landers (c. 1917) operated a grocery store at 10 River Street. The property remained in the McMahon family until 1972 (King 1983).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of Salem, Massachusetts. Philadelphia: 1874.
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Tolles, Bryant F., Jr. Architecture in Salem: an Illustrated Guide. Salem: Essex Institute, 1983.
Walker Lithograph and Publishing Company. Atlas of the City of Salem, Massachusetts. Boston: 1911.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

SALEM

17½ RIVER ST

Area(s)

Form No.

SAL.HD, SAL.HL, SAL.HU

SAL.3834

Supplemental photograph by Patti Kelleher, Salem Department of Planning & Community Development, March 2017



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