# Salem incorporated

POST OFFICE BOX 865

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS 01970 / PHONE (617) 745-0799

4 Broad Street

"THE WEST ESTATE"

Moved to this site from 5-7 Summer St.

in 1834

Research by, Joyce King Dec. 1983

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

## 4 Broad Street

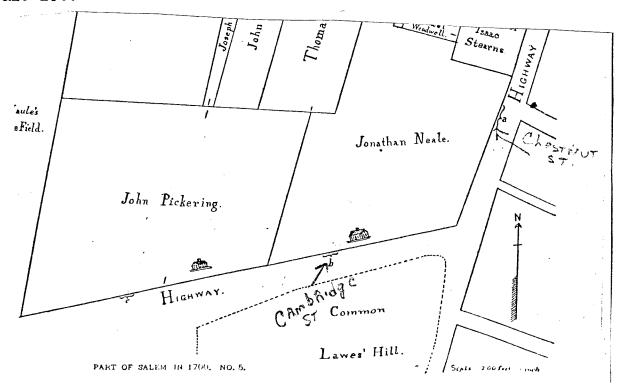
The house 2-4 Broad St. is described in the <u>Salem Historic District</u>

<u>Study Committee Investigation</u> as: "This is a particularly long
example of a gambrel roof wooden house. It is unusual, too, because
the recessed front entrance is not centrally located, and the foundation is high; perhaps it has been moved or altered. There are
three pedimented dormer windows, and rear additions have been made
to the house from time to time."

"Broad street was first called the common in 1659; street or highway, 1687; highway leading to the pound, 1753; and Broad street, 1799."

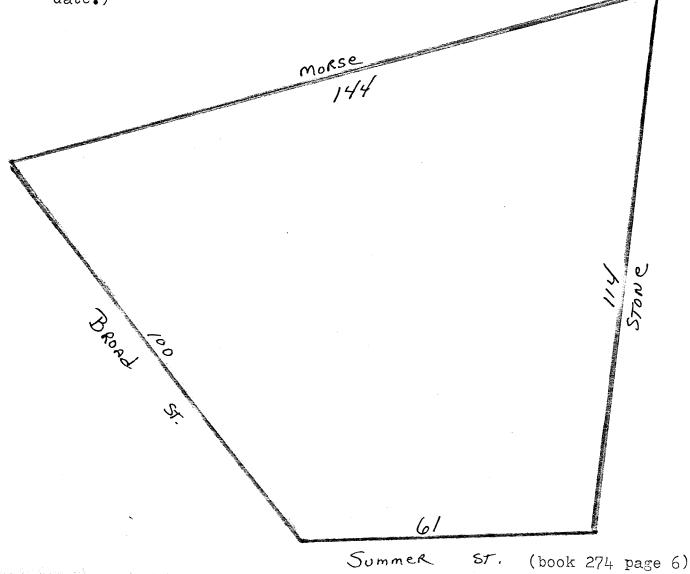
(Essex Antiquarian, vol. 4 page 161)

The land on which this house stands was a portion of the Jonathan Neale lot:



Mr. Neale granted a lot on the southeast corner of his homestead to Thomas Eden in 1761. Mr. Eden built a house on the land (40 Summer St.) and what was called a store or warehouse. This store was located on the portion now occupied by 2-4 Broad St. (appendix A). After the death of Mr. Eden the estate was owned by Sarah (Eden) Smith. Mrs. Smith died on June 25, 1833.

1833 Sept. 16 - James Odell, administrator of the estate of Sarah Smith, widow, sold "a certain dwelling house, barn and out house and land under and adjoining" to Benjamin Cox, merchant. (It appears, by this deed, that the store or warehouse was gone by this date.)



1834 - Benjamin Cox purchased a house from Nathaniel West. This house was on the land where Mr. West was about to construct a large brick block (now 5-7-9 Summer St.) and the old house was to be removed in order to clear the lot.

Jalin May 1834

Mr. Benjamin Good Jakanick Mosts

Bought of Nathanick Mosts

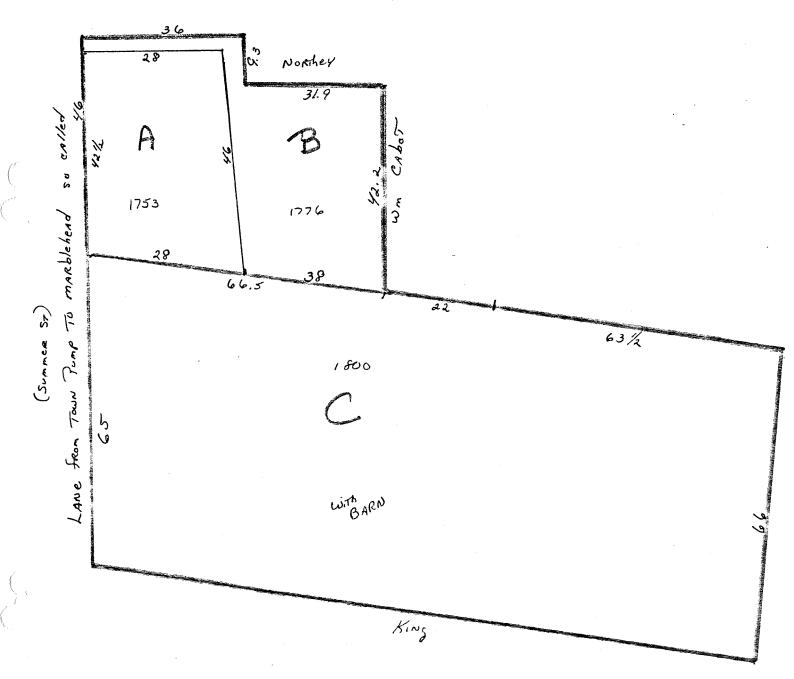
Jummer Street - 3 - 2 5375.110

Remind payment June 10-1834

Nath Mosts

This is substantiated in the recollections of Charlotte (Crowninshield) Browne: "Grandfather Cox was very well-to-do. He made his wealth through real estate (also as a merchant). He owned many properties in Salem. The house at #2 (4) Broad Street, next to ours, he brought from upper Summer Street near Essex Street. Its end, like some Salem houses faced the street. Grandfather saw that it would fit the piece of land on Broad Street and had it moved there. It fitted into place like the piece of a picture puzzle." (Browne - Cox Manuscripts at the Essex Institute)

The land on Summer St. had been in the West family for many years. On Sept. 10, 1753 Samuel West sold a small piece of land to his son William West, described as the lot where "William's new house now stands" (A). On April 29, 1776 Samuel sold the adjoining parcel to William (B). On June 13, 1791 William West sold both parcels with a dwelling house to his son Edward West, mariner. Edward West then purchased the large lot of land to the south from the heirs of Francis Cabot on March 19, 1800 (C).



William West, distiller and merchant, was the son of Samuel and Mary (Gale) West. He married Mary Bickford on Nov. 1, 1750. The couple had children: William (b. 1751), Sally (b. 1754), Mehitable (b. 1754), Benjamin (bpt. 1755), Nathaniel (b. 1756), Ebenezer (b. 1758), Edward (b. 1760), Thomas (b. 1762), John (b. 1764), Mary (b. 1769), and Sarah (b. 1772). Mr. West died at sea on Aug. 17, 1803.

Edward West sold the entire parcel to his brother, Captain Nathaniel, in 1811. There were two dwelling houses on this lot at that time and Captain West was taxed accordingly: house valued at \$1,600 and house valued at \$2,000. The last assessment was in 1834 the time Benjamin Cox moved off the house now located at 2-4 Broad St.

If Mrs. Browne was correct and the house stood end to the street, one could speculate that 2 Broad would fit on lot A and 4 Broad may have been added on lot B or vice versa depending on the facing direction

When Benjamin Cox moved the building to Broad St. a great deal of renovation was done. David Lord finished the entry and two flights of stairs. A. Lord reworked the old jams, Whipple and Newhall supplied some wallpaper. One hundred and two feet of aqueduct line were installed. A new fence was built. Hardy Shillaber delivered 64 feet of steps. Many other local workmen contributed to the completion of this house as verified by documents in the Benjamin Cox manuscripts at the Essex Institute. (a sample follows)

Al Pergamen Con The Chook May 28. To 248 feet Sp. Planch (Smith louse) @13-Italy 8 , 346 " O. Brastfilm (Choad St. 11) 20 - 6 11 " 400 Claptones - (00) 28. 111 " 2/50 feet Hun Brds (00) - 10 - 27.50 19 " 1 / 120 Strayles - 00 - 4 - 28,00 22 " 200 Clapbonus - 100 - 27 - 5.40 " 120 feet Bourds (00) 14 / 68 19 " 576 feet Coards (50) - 19 10,94 19 " 4 " 35 " O. Mide Brd - (40) \_35 - 1:22 26 " 804" Horn Boards (20) 10 - 8.04. 29 . 86 " O'me Clauk (00) -18-1.55 " 262 " - 20 - sitte \_\_\_\_\_\_ 14 3.69 " 368 " Hein sill -1, -10 3.68 " 1153 " De Woards 19 21 90 Depo 10 . 505 . Brds tplank \_\_\_\_ 30\_15.15 " " 153 " so \_\_\_\_\_ 20 3.06 225 Claptoands \_\_\_\_ 28 6.30 20 " 20 Car feeds \_\_\_ 1/ 3.33 21 " 490 feet P. Planh \_\_\_\_ 14 549 " Horn Dette \_\_\_\_ 8 - 439 , 341 " Oine Would \_\_\_\_19 - 6.48 " 1/2 m. Shongles - 21/- 175 17 bedan front - 1 - 2 83 671 feet Plan h - 14 - 9 49 " 493 n Hem Plank \_ 8 3 94 " 16 cedar frost -- 1 15 " 100 feet 15 oachs \_\_\_\_\_ 20 1/ " 40 claptounds - 28 1./2... 18 , 9 feet Junto- 6- 14 Class # 212.00 Salum Nor 20 1834 \$ 207.70 Scujamin Con Esy to Samuel Forguson Luly 20 00 2-4 Squi Sach + glaning 1014 \$1.12 - --1 12 18 14-4 Lyrs Lashes 214 # 2.24-2-2 Eyrs Jackes 314 56 th 280 . yell haunt a 114 y get - 1 gt drying & So - 1 gt spirits 20ch 149 " I lb putty 10 to 1pt varnish 50 to 1/2 pt Spirits 15th 75 · 19 ill drying 124th Setty & Syn in side light 50 th \_\_ 624 " Letty 18 Lyrs in cellar mindows 10 \$ - --1 80 Nov 14 . hunty fire place 25th - 4.984 lb paint 214 of 56.054 56 304 ". 50 days labour \$ 84.50 - 164 lb y ellow +black 314 \$ 2.28. 89 48 . It bred lead of 50th - 4 thurnelian red Du do to \_\_\_ .90 "Ilb crome green \$1.00- 35 lb dry yellows \$ \$ 1.95-275 . 3 gts varnish # 2,25 - 6 galls Spirits 250 \$ . 4. 80 - -405 " 15'2 lb putty 200 \$ 1.50 - 1 gall drying \$ 200 - - -3 50 .. 6 or presion blue \$1.00 - A Sheets of Sand paper 32 85 108 " 14lb yellow wath 343 84 th 12 days labour \$ 2.621 -3 50 " 9 days labour out dide \$15.75 - 5%, lb vordigoist by \$1.91 14 66 1 6 1 lb putty Die 65 th 12 dgri gly 12 B D 22 \$ 2.64 ---3 29 . 28 gall oil 3/6 \$ 26.88 - 12 lb red lead 200 1834 5 --27 063 " 200 lb 143 lead & g 200 \$ 19.50 - -19 50 " Setty 2 Sque gby 13 B at Mh Willis 273 75 . y Sgrs in out house win you the laying 132 rolls paper 2 20 27 1.0 Received Layment Jergeson.

AM Bent & Gox 1834 At Lawrence 1. 23 yels Brown & 6 /4.00

9 Rolls Brown & 4.00

1. 18 - 10 - da 2/
1. 1-8 Rolls - de - 3/2

1. 1-0 cla - de - 3/2

1. 1-1 de de - 3/2 1- 2 da de 2/- - 6; 12 2 de de 1/-1-2 de de 37% Let wet 45% Roll, Paper @3712 -1.7/ ~ 159 - ~ 2/, - 57, - 36 - - 2/--// 1-55-1-9 -2'-1-33 1-1-1-372 ~ 41/2 yds Bader \_ 61/4 - 25 Film Men 1834 & 2517
Rec payment When the house was completely refurbished, Mr. Cox noted:

1834 - "Rev. Lemuel Willis hired my house on (4) Broad St.,
Oct. 28th at \$100 per year."

Rev. Lemuel Willis was the minister at the Universalist Church, Rust St., from March 25, 1829 to May 26, 1837. He organized a Sunday School on May 3, 1829, which "was the first in the denomination this side of Boston, the third known to exist among the Universalists."

1846 directory - 4 Broad St.

Charles Richardson, hardware James L. Tracy, mariner

(Among the vessels mastered by Captain Tracy were: The "Tigris" a brig in 1838 and "Joseph S. Cabot" a brig in 1849.)

# 1850 census

Asa Wheeler	age	50	butcher	born	Mass.
Mahitable "	11	46		11	11
Richard P. "	11	16		11	11
Louisa R. "	11	7		Ħ	tt
Francis "	11	1		11	11
Bridget Harvey	11	50	(black)	1.1	11

1853 directory - 4 Broad St. Richard Lindsey, grocer

Richard Lindsey, the son of Richard and Lois (Devereux) Lindsey, was born in Marblehead on Feb. 22, 1809. He married Sophronia Fiske, the daughter of Capt. Ezra and Polly (Lakeman) Fiske, in 1837.

### 1860 census

Richard L	indsey	age	50	grocer	born	Mass.
Sophia	n e	11	50		**	11
Louisa	11	**	19		11	11
Richard	11	Ħ	12		11	11
Joseph De	nnison	11	26	trader	11	11
Eliza	<b>11</b>	11	22		11	11
Mary Wats	on	11	26	servant	11	11

(Daughter Eliza (Lindsey) Dennison was deaf, caused by scarlet fever.)

### Tax records

186	l <u>Occupant</u>	<u>Owner</u>
#4	Richard Lindsey age 51	Benjamin Cox
	Humphrey Devereux age 80	#2 house val. \$1,000
	- ·	#4 house val. 1,000

1863 Dec. 16 - Benjamin Cox died at the age of 84 years, 3 months, 4 days. This obituary notice appeared in the local papers:

"Mr. Cox was one of our most venerable and widely known citizens. Long engaged in business pursuits and generally able to be about our streets, his presence was familiar to the people at large, who regarded him as one of our most active and thrifty citizens and will miss him greatly in his accustomed walks. His confinment was of It was only the day preceding the last Thanksgiving short duration. that, during a business call at this office, he stated that on the next day he was to eat his eightieth Thanksgiving dinner in the same room in which he had eaten it on every successive Thanksgiving since he was 4 years old, having never once been absent on account of sickness or any other cause - a very remarkable instance of continued health, regularity of habit, and prolonged activity. one of the original proprietors of the present South Meeting House and also of the Universalist one of which was built 59 and the other 55 years ago. He has reared a numerous family to become esteemed,

respected and useful citizens, and leaves an uncommonly large circle of relatives and friends to lament his departure and cherish his memory."  $\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}$ 

Mr. Cox left his wife Sarah and seven grown children with much real estate:

[This schedule should be divided into at least four classes: 1st, household furniture; 2d, shares in corporations; 8d, prominotes and other securities; 4th, property employed in business, \$c.]	ssory 3628	88)
Schedule of Real Estate.		
all the parcels of real estate perein mentioned are situated in s	Dolls.	Cts
Shop house and barn Nos 108 v 110 Derby St, called Hawkes Estate.	li .	• تن
Houses Nos. 1 Broad & 40 Busumer St, called the Smith Estate.	II :	. T.
Houses Nos. 204 Broad Bleet, called die West Estate	if	3.00 100
House No. 8 Broad Street, called the Bartolestate		1770
House, No. 11 freek Street, called the Wallace estate		Land.
House Nell Gadner Bourt, called the alknison Estate-	A	
Itouse in 13 feducy bount, earlied the Tink Estate -		79
There of thigh street & small house in the rear of the same		1
Touses Nor. 19 121 Norman St, called the box Estate, -		1 -
Trouses Nov. 23 v 25 Norman St, called the Lus comb Estate.	!t	المستحدث المستحدث
House No. 31 Summer St, called the Montine Estate.		
House Nos. 432, 434 and 436 Essey St, hear the Tumpike	SI .	
One undivided half of Itouses No 128 v 130 Federal Street	1 / 1	-43
One undivided half of House Nº9 Lynn Street		
one undivided half of lot of land No 5 Leach Street		
one undivided half of house & barn Nº11 Leach Street.	11	1
ous undivided half of lots of land rear of 95 lafayette St.		
one undivided half of house vlare Nº95 Lafayette St.		
all the above named houses with the land under	- track	
and appurtations to the same, and with the	A CONTRACTOR OF	-
outbuildings thereto appurtaining.	35, 75	<i>!.</i> =
		ŧ

1865 tax

	<u>Occupant</u>	<u>Owner</u>	
#4	Richard Lindsey, grocer	Est. of Benjamin Cox	
	John Orne Jr., teacher	#2 house val. land val.	\$800 500
	Richard F. Lindsey	#4 house val. land val.	800 500

Richard Lins	ey ag	çe	55	grocer	born	Mass.	
Sophronia "	11	1	55		11	2 11	
Louisa "	11	!	24		11	11	
Richard "	, 11		17		11	11	
Margaret Con	vey "		40	servant	11	Ire.	

1870 tax

•	<u>Occupant</u>		<u>(</u>	Owner		•
#4	Richard Lindsey	age 61	Cox	estate		
		a see to		#2	house land	\$1,500 800
				#4	house land	1,500 800

1886 Nov. 25 - Richard Lindsey died at the age of 77 years, 9 months. This obituary was published in the local papers:

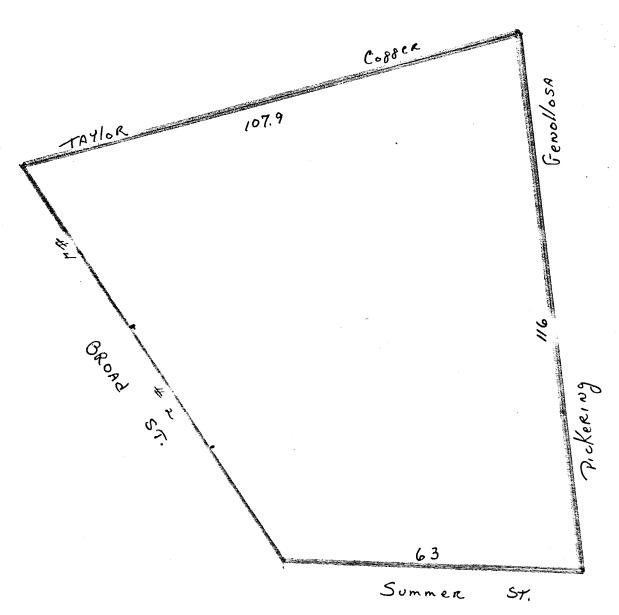
"Richard Lindsey, long known as one of our oldest grocers, died on Monday.

He was long in the grocery store of the late Isreal Putnam and after his death continued the business at different places in South Salem, chiefly at the familiar store now occupied by C. A. Jordan & Co., until his retirement two or three years ago, when he became book-keeper at Charles S. Clark's coal office. He was for a short time an auctioneer. He was the oldest Post Grand of Essex Lodge 100F, having been the eighth Noble Grand of that Lodge.

His daughter married Prof. James Denison, a semi-mute and class

mate of mine (Wm M. Chamberlain) in 47-8. He is now the principal of Kendall Institution for the Deaf & Dumb, which is an "annex" to the National College for Deaf Mutes at Washington D.C."

1889 May 10 - The heirs of Benjamin Cox sold their shares in the estate to Edward C. Brown and Alice Brown.



(book 1251 page 102-4

Salem Directories - 4 Broad Street

1890 - 1899 Mrs. Mary A. Chipman, widow of John M. (she moved to Winthrop in 1899)

1900 - Mary S. Parker, widow

1907 - George B. Ives

1911 May 12 - Edward Browne died at the age of 58 years. His unfortunate end was described in the Salem Evening News:

"EDWARD C. BROWNE, SALEM, ENDED HIS LIFE IN DANVERS HE HAD BEEN DESPONDENT"

Edward C. Browne of Salem, for the last 10 or 12 years dwelling in Danvers in summer having bought and occupied the Israel Putnam estate at the top of Porter's hill on Locust street in Putnamville, committed suicide by hanging yesterday afternoon, probably about 2:30 o'clock in the barn of Horace W. Boardman, a short distance from the Browne home. Mr. Browne had been out of health for a year or more and about a year ago was taken to the McLean hospital for treatment.

About 3:30 o'clock, Allen W. Dudley, a neighbor employed by Mr. Boardman on his farm, went to the large barn in the rear of the old-fashioned house on the westerly side of Locust street, owned by Mr. Boardman, to get some article for use in his work, when he discovered the dead body of a man suspended by a rope from a board laid across two of the timbers. He did not recognize the victim. He sent word to Alphonso McCarthy, station agent, a special officer, who telephoned Chief of Police George, who in turn notified Dr. Horace K Foster of Peabody, medical examiner.

Chief George, Patrolmen Noonan and Connors and Dr. Foster arrived on the scene within half an hour of notification and after the usual investigation, Dr. Foster authorized Chief George to take charge of the body, which had been identified by neighbors. Undertaker William Crosby was sent for, who took the body to the Browne home, and Under-

taker Full of Salem was engaged to take further charge.

Mr. Browne was seen walking up the street about 2 o'clock, with his head bowed and apparently in a despondent condition. It is probable that he premeditated the deed and that it was committed soon thereafter.

He mounted a ladder leading to the hay loft and made careful preparations for death.

Mr. Browne, although wealthy through several inheritances during the last 10 years, had hallucinations that he was losing money, and he feared poverty without reason. His relatives and friends had long been fearful that he might attempt to do away with himself, as he was continually despondent.

Edward C. Browne was born in Salem April 20, 1852, was a son of the late Hon. Albert G. Browne, and resided at 40 Broad street. He was educated in the public schools and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Completing his education, he was a civil engineer for some time, but retired several years ago, being possessed of an affluence. He was always interested in public affairs and was for three terms a member of the Salem common council, where he always labored for the best interests of the city. Mr. Browne was trustee of the Salem hospital, a trustee of Harmony Grove cemetery, formerly president of the Salem Fraternity, a former president of the Essex Conference of Unitarian churches, a member of the Salem Billard Club and of the Salem Civic league, and a prominent member of the North church, Salem.

He married Miss Charlotte Crowninshield, who survives him and he leaves a son, Theodore Browne, two daughters, Misses Sally and Rebbeca Browne, and a sister Miss Alice Browne."

In his will, (#111013) Mr. Browne, bequeathed all of this estate to his wife Charlotte.

1912 Nov. 14 - Alice Browne died, willing all her property to Charlotte C. Browne, widow of her late brother (#114682).

1912 Salem Directory
4 Broad Street
Harrison M. Davis, lawyer

1917 Salem Directory
4 Broad Street
Frederick C. Monroe, N.E.T.&T. Co. (wife Rebecca)

1922 June 27 - Charlotte C. Browne, of Cambridge, sold the land and dwelling house at 4 Broad St. to Susan E. Choate. "Part of the estate of Edward Browne." This was called Lot A on a plan drawn by Thomas Appleton (appendix B).

1949 Feb. 18 - William D. Chapple, executor of the will of Susan E. Choate, sold the land and building at 4 Broad St. to William K. and Marie C. Faircloth. (book 3649 page 323)

1966 Salem Directory

4 Broad St.

Wm K. (Marie C.) Faircloth, serv. mgr. Sears (Saugus) Elynor Pickett, Tel. opr. N.E.T.& T. Co.

1977 Oct. 21 - William K. and Marie C. Faircloth, of Beverly, sold the land and building, for the sum of \$71,500, to Benjamin and Minerva Shreve. "Being Lot A on plan of the estate of Edward C. Browne." (book 6406 page 774)

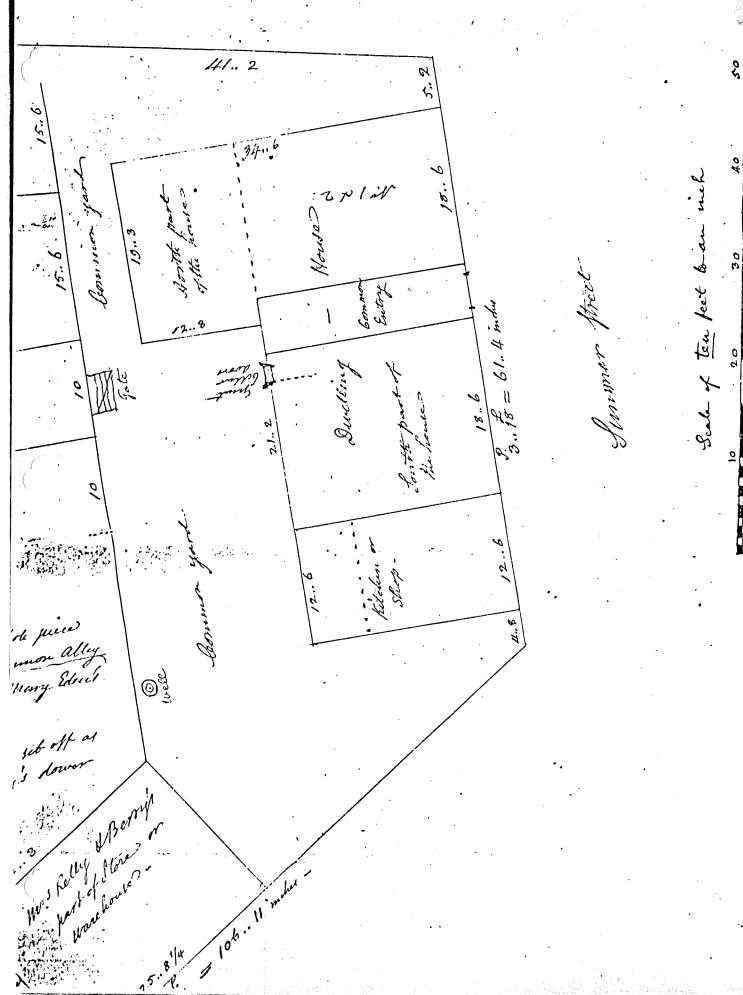
1977 Nov. 15 - Benjamin and Minerva Shreve sold the land and building on "Lot A" to Brian C. and Barbara A. Shaughnessy. (book 6417 page 114)

### NOTES:

It is extemely difficult to place a date on this house. The Salem Historic District Study Committee Investigation has rated the house as Pre-Federal (1720-1790) which would definitely place the house as being on Lots A & B (page 4). Since the house would not fit on the lot if it faced the street, Mrs. Browne must have been correct in her statement that it was "end to street". This poses another problem - did the house face toward Essex St. or Norman St.? This is important in veiw of the small size of the lot (A) when William West's "new house" occupied the site. Only half of what is now 2-4 Broad St. would fit in 1753, but which half? Since lot B was sold as land only in 1776, one would reason that the other half was added after that date. Until solid documentation is found, no definite conclusions can be made about the age of this house. Architectural evidence may also be lacking due to the extensive renovations made by Mr. Cox in 1834.

The Essex Institute has two views of this house in its photo collection (similar but not exact). They show two doorways, one in the 2nd bay and the other in the 5th (from the west end). (Negative #6856 and #6898)

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.



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