

THE
HISTORY
AND
DOCUMENTATION
OF:

#17 Buffum St.
Salem, Mass.

1849

Compiled by:

David T. Gavenda
17 Buffum St.
Salem, Mass.

June, 1969

Copy # 2

1.

DEED TITLES

concerning #17 Buffum St., Salem, Mass.

<u>Book</u>	<u>Leaf</u>	
3423	485	- Martha H. Sinclair to Tadeus S. and Genevieve S. Gavenda - dated: 19. September 1945 - bounded: Northeasterly by Buffum St., 53 ft. Southeasterly by Shepard, 9 rods Southwesterly by Harmon, 53 ft. Northwesterly by Very, 9 rods
3167	593	- Adam Stefanski to George M. Sinclair - dated:
3167	592	- George M. Sinclair to Adam Stefanski - dated:
3098	548	- George G. Sinclair to George M. Sinclair - dated: 8. January 1937
3020	24	- George M. Sinclair to George G. Sinclair - dated: 30. July 1934
2499	87	- William J. Ready to George M. Sinclair - 31. October 1921
2264	467	- Harold Colson Feast to William J. Ready - dated: 13. June 1914
No. 113391		- Probate of the estate of Lydia Ann Towne - dated: 20. May 1912 - Will: dated: 25. June 1908 (real estate to Harold Colson Feast) - Inventory: dated: 1. July 1912 "House and land, #17 Buffum St., Salem, Mass. - \$ 3000."
1811	159	- Mary Woodward Towne to Lydia Ann Towne - dated: 12. February 1906 - "\$ 1.00 and other valuable considerations" - "my undivided third is the same estate derived from my late husband John C. Towne formerly of Salem" - "with the buildings thereon"

No. 91092

- Probate of the estate of Joseph Hardy Towne of Salem
- dated: 22. June 1902
- Will: dated: -----
 "to my sister Lydia Ann Towne in fee, my undivided third part of the dwelling house and land numbered 17 in Buffum Street in said Salem."
- Inventory: dated: 3. November 1902
 "Interest in House and land:
 17 Buffum St. - \$ 800."

No. 55486

- Probate of the estate of Joseph Towne, Salem, gentleman
- dated: 14. July 1874
- heirs at law:
 Joseph H. Towne (son)
 John C. Towne (son)
 Lydia A. Towne (daughter)

393 242

- Nathaniel Horton, Salem, carrier, to John Henfield, jr.,
- dated: 1. March 1848
- "he [J. Henfield, jr.] is trustee under the will of John Henfield, deceased [# 42108] dated: 7. May 1840, for the benefit of Lydia Towne, wife of Joseph Towne, of said Salem"
- "\$ 300."
- no buildings mentioned
- land bounded as follows:
 NE by Buffum St., socalled, 53 ft.
 SE by Sanborn, about 9 rods
 SW by Cheever, 53 ft.
 NW by Jona. Buffum of Lynn, about 9 rods

369 17

- Mark Sanborn to Nathaniel Horton
- dated: 26. May 1846
- "\$ 230."
- no buildings mentioned

344 211

- Israel Buffum to Mark Santorn
- dated: 17. May 1844
- "\$ 200."
- no buildings mentioned

Documentation extracted from manuscript City of Salem books now (1969) on file at the Essex Institute, Salem

Expenses, etc.; Streets: 1848-1853
unnumbered page:

Heading entitled: "Buildings Built in Salem from March 1, 1849 to March 1, 1850"

Extract: "owner of property: Joseph Town
type of building: House
location: Buffum St."

Edgestones; 1856-1875
unnumbered page:

Extract: "date ordered: May 12, 1871
Feet of Edgestones: 53 ft.
Address: 17 Buffum
Signature of Subscriber: Jos. Towne.
per J. C. Towne"

The following was extracted from the original tax records of the City of Salem presently (1969) located in the cellar of City Hall, Washington St., Salem. It should be noted that the numbering system was changed on Buffum Street in the late 1850's. Therefore, 13 Buffum later became no. 17.

Taxes; 1849

Extract: "John Henfield, jr., 1 poll, 7 Lvnn house - unfinished \$ 1000 Whose is it? Buffum"

Taxes: 1850

Extract: "Joseph Towne, 1 poll, new house 13 Buffum \$1400. ... tax \$ 4.70"

"Joseph H. Towne, 1 poll, 13 Buffum"

17 Buffum Street

This building, at first glance, appears to be a typical Victorian home with what seems to be a mansard roof from the front as well as a later nineteenth century doorway. Upon closer examination one will notice that, in reality, the roof is a gambrel with extended cornice mouldings on the gable ends and possesses the Dutch characteristic of having the roof ends curve upwards. The basic shape of the house is that of a large L and there are a total of three chimneys in the structure. The first is located in a back addition and is probably of late-nineteenth century origin, having two stove-pipe flues. Another is located in two front rooms and is also only for stoves, having two flues. This one, however, seems to be original, as does the third, huge central chimney. This large structure contains four fireplaces (complete with original mantels) as well as a large beehive oven. Woodwork throughout the house is of Greek-revival style of the block-in-corner type. The fireplace mantels appear to originally have been grained to simulate black marble and beneath two of them are sets of tiles. The blue-on-white Minton set is in a simple geometric pattern and appears to be original, while the other set is multi-colored and seems to be a little bit later. Original floors in the dwelling are of pine and all the original window glass is still in place. Doors are of two categories: one type possesses only light mouldings while another set on the first floor is of the raised block-panel type usually found in earlier homes.

The front staircase is pegged and continues through to the third story, while the rear staircase is enclosed.

Originally the front doorway was probably of Greek-revival style complete with pilasters, but about the time of the Civil War it was replaced by the present double mahogany doors and overhang. Unique about these doors is the fact that they are not faced with applied mouldings, but rather are incised and chamfer-edged. Also, matching door brasses and doorbells of this period are still in place, inside as well as out.

The barn in the rear of the house, according to evidence received, was built about 1871 and is of little architectural interest.

- David T. Gwendol