



built for Col. Timothy Pickering
32 Clifton St. Salem

COLONEL PICKERING'S "SOUTHFIELD" FARM HOUSE

The land we know now as "Forest River Park" was, according to historian Sidney Perley, owned by William Jeggles, whose name still remains on Jeggles' Island, the small rocky island just offshore and south of what then was called "Jeggles' Point". William Jeggles died in 1659, and in the next 10 years this property went from his widow to John Becket, to William Brown, Sr., and to William Flint. In 1669, Flint sold it to John Pickering. This man was the son of the 1st John Pickering who came to Salem from England. (see geneology table). This 2nd John Pickering was married to Alice, the daughter of William Flint; she subsequently received more land from her parents. In 1694, the third John Pickering inherited, among other property, the Jeggles' Point land from his father. By 1721 the two surviving sons of the 3rd John, Theophilus and Timothy, inherited the southfields land from their father on the condition that if either sold his share, the other got first refusal. Theophilus was a minister, never married, and lived north of Beverly. By 1741 his brother Timothy, called "Deacon", possessed the land, and purchased another adjoining piece from John Flint.

Deacon Timothy and his wife had 6 daughters and 2 sons. John, the elder, never married, and by his death in 1811, he owned all of the southfield "mowing lot" and "pasture lot" on what was now called "Pickering's Point". The 2nd son, Timothy was the distinguished Colonel of Revolutionary War fame. He, his wife and large family left Salem for various places during the War years, although he sent his eldest son John home to live with Uncle John, and be educated at Harvard. Finally in 1801, Colonel Timothy and his wife returned after 24 years away. A farmer at heart, he settled in Wenham where he bought

a farm, and took up an active life in politics, serving many terms in Congress.

When John Pickering died in 1811, he left no will. His nephew John, the Colonel's son administered his property. The real estate inventory lists among other property Pickering's Point mowing land, 21 acres, and pasture 15 acres. There is no mention of any building on this land. Tax records up to 1811 list John Pickering as being assessed for only one of these 2 lots, and again no building mentioned.

By 1826 Henry, the 3rd son of Colonel Timothy, released any rights he had in this property to his father. The tax records for the 7 years after John's death, 1812-1819 show no Salem land assessed to Colonel Timothy. There is no listing at all of "Pickering Point" land. In 1820 however, began 7 years of the Colonel being assessed for "house and land" in the Southfields. We know from personal letters written to his wife while he was away in Congress that the Colonel was using this Southfields land prior to 1820. In a letter dated July 4, 1817 he makes a specific reference to "the cabin" at Southfields, so the house was in existence by 1817, and very probably for some years before that.

Henry Pickering thought his father was getting too old to work the Wenham farm, so in 1820 he persuaded Colonel Pickering and his wife to move to Salem, where they lived on Warren St. (and eventually owned the house). The old Colonel loved his farm in Wenham, however, and would often walk the distance out there, even when he was 80. His beloved wife died in August, 1828, and he followed her a year later, in January 1829. Colonel Pickering's will listed, among his other holdings, "land in Southfields consisting of 13½ acres of tillage,

15½ acres of pasture: 2 field together". No "house" mentioned, although he was paying taxes on one there. Three months later, his sons as executors sold the Southfields property, "land, tenements," etc. to William Batchelder. Curiously, since 1827, William Batchelder had been listed as paying taxes on this same "house and land at Pickering's Point", whereas Colonel Timothy was just paying taxes on a "house". (Warren Street undoubtedly.)

William Batchelder and wife lived at what was later always referred to as the "Batchelder Farm" from 1827 until 1859, but were beset by financial troubles the whole time. The property was mortgaged and re-mortgaged. William Batchelder, Jr. tried to help his father out, but by 1855 the bank had taken possession. Richard Savers bought the property from the bank in 1859, and from that year on no owner lived there. More mortgage complications ensued, and another bank took possession, selling the "Batchelder Farm" in 1864 to Jay Moulton of Salem. 1887 the property was signed over for \$1 to Augustus Hemingway of Canton. He and his wife conveyed it for \$1 in 1892 to Mary Hemingway, a widow of Milton. After her death, it was bought in 1906 by John E. Spencer, of Salem for \$18000. It is said that Mr. Spencer, who sold it a year later to the City of Salem for a park, bought it purposely to save it from developers, and persuaded the City to acquire it for a public park. A "South Fields Golf Club" had operated a golf course on this land for many years: moving eventually to land off North St., Peabody, and now off Forest St., Peabody, where it is know as the "Salem Country Club".

The lovely old shingled house at what is now "Forest River Park" has become the Park Superintendent's dwelling. It has a simple shape,

one room wide, and shows evidence of one or two additions built on to the structure. Cellar beams are round logs, flattened on top to receive the floor planks, and the foundation is rough field stones. The earliest date we can assign makes the house now, in 1971, 154 years old.; but the overall look of the construction makes one think that Colonel Pickering's "cabin" could be much older.

DOCUMENTATION

Will of John Pickering, May 3, 1694 (Pickering Geneology, Vol I, p.32)

----- to my eldest son John, my homestead, all my part of Brondfield by the Millpond, a piece of land called Jeggel's Point in the southfield --- to my sons Benjamin and William --- also land in the southfield bought of Richard Adams, dec. --- to my son Benjamin my piece of marsh at Forest River consisting of 1 acre, also my lot in the Southfield called More's lot. --- to my son William --- Archer's lot in the Southfield.

Will of Alice Flint, wid. of William Flint, August 22, 1696 (Pickering Geneology, Vol. I, p. 37) (Deeds Vol. 14, p. 88) gives to daughter Alice Pickering 3 plots in Southfield of husband William Flint: 5 acres, 2 acres, 3 acres.

Probate records Vol. 313, p. 476-479 (Pickering Geneology, Vol. 1, p. 45)

Will of John Pickering, November 20, 1721 --- to my eldest son Theophilus Pickering --- one half of my pasture in the Southfield formerly called Jeggle's Point, (if he sells) brother Timothy is to have first offer --- also $\frac{1}{2}$ of the land I bought of William Hardy, dec., in the Southfield --- to my son Timothy Pickering --- also half of my pasture in the Southfield formerly known as Jeggle's Point (if he sells) his brother Theophilus is to have first offer; also other half of land I bought of William Hardy, dec. in Southfield, also my part of More's lot in Southfield --- also half of Harwood's lot so called in Southfield. ---

Book 80 p. 224 April 20, 1741

Joseph Flint of Salem, husbandman (and Hannah his wife sell for £ 365 to Timothy Pickering of Salem, gentleman, a lot of land in the Southfields as it lies enclosed with land belonging to said Timothy Pickering, containing about 9 acres, bounded N on land of Timothy Pickering; W on my own land on stone wall as it runs crooked; S on land of Timothy Pickering and his brother Theophilus; E on the Harbor, (right to collect rockweed and privilege of cart way over lot.)

Probate 21815 John Pickering, Esq. September 2, 1811, died intestate. Letter from Col. Timothy Pickering in Wenham declining to be administrator to his brother's will - suggests his own son John who had handled his uncle John's affairs. Inventory lists among other real estate:

Lot of land on Pickering's Point - mowing land 12 acres - \$1300.
Lot of land on Pickering's Point - pasture about 13 acres - \$800.
(none of this real estate mentioned "buildings")

Col. Timothy Pickering's Letters, Pickering Papers, Vol 3, p. 307, July 4, 1817 --- "Let James --- go into the Southfield, and keep the cattle in their proper pasture, that they may neither trespass on my mowing land nor get into Mr. Derby's field. Let James take with him some provisions, and the key to the cabin (which recollect hangs on the nail by the desk in your chamber) that in case of rain he may have shelter. For I would have him stay up in the field all day on Sunday --- I forget whether the small grindstone is in the cabin or at home - they will want it in the Southfield".

Book 243, P. 94, September 1, 1826.

Henry Pickering for \$4500 releases to his father Timothy Pickering

all his rights in the titles to (various properties including) a lot of

land in S. Salem set off to my father in division of his brother John's estate.

Probate 21822 Timothy Pickering of Salem, February 17, 1829 real estate listings:

- 1. house and land on Warren Street
- 2. land in Southfields (2 fields together, bounding N on land of E.H. Derby; on W by land of Jonathan West) consisting of 13½ acres of tillage, 15½ acres of pasture.
- 3. pew
- 4. farm in Wenham
- 5. salt marsh in Ipswich

Book 253, p. 26, April 11, 1829 --- John and Octavius Pickering, both of Boston, exec. of the will of Timothy Pickering, late of Salem, for \$1841.50 sell to William Batchelder, yeoman, of Salem the lands, tenements, and hereditaments described: all that parcel called the Appletree lot in So. Salem bounded NW on land of E.H. Derby; NE on Salem harbor, E. on Pickering's Point Pasture, and SW on land now or late of West; 13 acres more or less. Also the Pickering Point Pasture bounded by said Appletree lot, Salem Harbor, and land now or late of West.

Book 253, p. 27, April 20, 1829, William Batchelder (and wife Mehitable) mortgage this same land to John Winn of Salem, merchant. Later assigned to David Pingree, Book 288, p. 45, possession taken later.

Book 329, p. 4, January 17, 1842 - George Wheatland of Salem for \$7500 sells to William Batchelder, Jr. of Salem, brickmaker, 2 lots of land - with buildings thereon -- being the estate conveyed to William Batchelder by died from exec. of Timothy Pickering's estate Book 253, p. 26 (subject to Jon. West's privilege of taking rockweed, and a cartway)

Book 329 p. 5
(Mortgage on the above for \$6500)

Book 338 p. 268, August 24, 1843
William Batchelder, Jr. of Salem for \$1000 paid by William Batchelder, Sr. that estate situated in South Salem which George Wheatland Esq. conveyed to me Book 329, p. 5, together with all personal property on said place.

Book 454, p. 254, December 4, 1851
George Wheatland assigns this mortgage for \$1 to Asiatic Bank, this assignment to be void if payment is made of \$7,440.57 due bank.

Book 549, p. 52, November 13, 1854
For \$1 George Wheatland assigns mortgage of William Batchelder, Jr. to Otis P. Lord, mortgage and note for \$6500; Lord authorized to pay said bank and redeem same.

Book 594, p. 30, Sept. 17, 1859
Asiatic Bank in Salem for \$10,000 sells to Richard Savers the parcel of land in Salem bounded on N by land of Derby; W on land of Morse and others; S and E by Salem Harbor, being premises conveyed to William Batchelder by exec. under will of Timothy Pickering, Book 253, p. 26, 7. The Bank's title being derived from a mortgage deed from William Batchelder, Jr. to George Wheatland, bank foreclosure under a judgment and possession taken December 24, 1855.

Book 594, p. 30, Sept. 17, 1859
Richard Savers mortgages for \$7800 to the Salem Savings Bank land he has this day bought from the Asiatic Bank (see above) (Salem Savings Bank takes possession, Book 669, p. 84)

Book 594, p. 32, same day as above
Richard Savers mortgages 2 lots of land, Appletree lot and Pickering Point Pasture to William Calley. (P. 33, a complicated indenture)

Book 669, p. 125, June 1, 1864

Salem Savings Bank for \$7000 sells to Jay H. Moulton of Salem a parcel of land known as the Batchelder Farm, being premises conveyed to Bank in mortgage by Richard Savers, Book 594, p. 30.

Book 1210, p. 140, November 8, 1887

Jay H. Moulton of Salem, and wife Olive for \$1 and considerations sell to Augustus Hemenway of Canton a certain parcel of land known as the Batchelder Farm, being same premises conveyed to me by Salem Savings Bank, Book 669, p. 125.

Book 1360, p. 309, October 8, 1892

Ebenzer H. Morse for \$1 sells to Mary Hemenway a small piece of land in Salem bounded on S by Forest River, 53'9"; on E on various courses as the wall stands by land of Hemenway, formerly Batchelder; on N by land of Ives formerly Derby 21'; and on W by land of heirs of West.

Book 1360, p. 247, November 3, 1892

Augustus Hemenway and wife Harriett of Canton sell for \$1 and considerations to Mary Hemenway, widow, of Milton, a parcel of land known as the Batchelder Farm, bounded NW by land formerly of E.H. Derby; NE, SE, S, and SW by Salem Harbor; SW by land now or late of West, being same parcel conveyed to me by deed Book 1210, p. 140.

Book 1853, p. 239, December 7, 1906

August Hemenway of Canton, Horatio Lamb, of Milton and Morris Gray of Newton trustees of the will of the late Mary Hemenway of Milton sell for \$18,000 to John E. Spencer of Salem land and buildings in Salem known as the Batchelder Farm, being premises conveyed Book 1360, p. 247 and Book 1360, p. 309.

Book 1899, p. 378, December 14, 1907

John E. Spencer and wife Minnie receives \$19,000 from the City of Salem

which takes by right of imminent domain for the purpose of a public park land in South Salem known as the Hemenway land, formerly the Batchelder Farm with the buildings thereon, bounded on NW by land formerly of E.H. Derby; NE, SE, S and SW on Salem Harbor; W on land now or late of West. Premises are conveyed subject to whatever rights the South Fields Golf Club may have to remove any buildings thereon.

Other sources used.

City of Salem Directories

City of Salem Tax Valuations

Vital Statistics

Charles W. Upham "Life of Timothy Pickering" Vol. IV

TAX RECORDS (VALUATION)

WARD 3

- 1885 Jay Moulton farmhouse 800 barn 500 30 acres Pickering Pt.
1875 " " " 1000 2 barns 600 " " "
1865 " " Batchelder farmhouse 400 2 barns 200 30 acres Pickering Pt.
1855 Wm. Batchelder farm + buildings 6000 S. Salem
1845 " " " " 3000 lot of land 400 Pickering Pt.
1835 " " house + land 3000 land 400
1831 " " Farm South Salem Pickering Pt. 29 acres 3000
(no Tim. Pickering listed)
1830 Wm. Batchelder house + land Pickering Pt. 3600
Wm. Batchelder 1 poll house + land Pickering Pt. 1200
1828 Timothy Pickering 0 " house dead 1500
Wm. Batchelder 1 poll house + land Pickering Pt. 1200
1827 Timothy Pickering 0 " house 1500
1826 " " 0 house + land 2000
1825 " " 0 " " "
1824 " " 0 " " "
1823 " " 0 house + land 4000
1822 " " 0 " " "
1821 " " 0 house + land in S. Salem 4000
1820 Timothy Pickering 0 house + land in S. Salem ³⁰⁰⁰/₁₀₀₀ total 4000
1819 } No Timothy Pickering listed
TO }
1812 } No John Pickering Esq. listed
other Pickering's listed but not correct land
1811 John Pickering 1 homestead B^d St. 2000
(dead) land in d^o d^o 400
248 acres pasture
4 by Mill Pond 2000
12 Apple Orchard 800
11½ by Mill Pond West 1000
9 acres by Broadfield 700
4 Common Rights 400
1810 }
TO } John Pickering (all these years the items listed are the
1805 } same as 1811)

