

Historic Salem incorporated

OFFICES AT 15 SUMMER STREET

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377 Essex Street

Built for James Ford, 1764

Remodeled by Nathan Gifford, 1893

Deed Research by Doris O'Brien

Concluded by Joyce King - May 1980

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

July 3, 1980

After an inspection of the house at 377 Essex St., by Bob Guethlen, a member of Salem's Historic Commission and Joyce King, house researcher, the following observations were made:

The size and shape of the present building are basicly the same as indicated in the old picture and on the old atlas maps.

Some hand-hewn beams are evident in the cellar which pre-date 1893. These timbers are supported by newer mill cut beams.

There is a great possibility that the old frame was used when Mr. Gifford made his great change in 1893. It is also apparent that Mr. Gifford used a great variety of the best imported flooring and mouldings to refurbish his house in 1893.

377 Essex Street

Book 5465 Page 612
Aug. 7, 1967
Less than \$100

Lydia Pizzi of Swampscott to Doris J. O'Brien the land and buildings the same conveyed to Paul A. and Doris O'Brien by deed of Frederick A. and Esther B. Farrington Oct. 28, 1948 book 3630 page 387. (The title to Lydia Pizzi was used as a straw to transfer the title from Paul and Doris into Doris' name alone)

Book 3630 Page 387
Oct. 28, 1948

Frederick A. Farrington and Esther B. his wife in her own right, sold to Paul A. and Doris J. O'Brien of Winthrop. The same property conveyed to Esther by deed from Paul Chaput May 23, 1927 book 2724 page 341.

Book 2724 Page 341
May 23, 1927

Paul N. and Josephine Chaput sold to Esther B. Farrington the same property conveyed by William J. Murdock on Oct. 29, 1926 book 2698 page 573. Subject to mortgage of \$9,000 to Salem Savings Bank.

Book 2698 Page 573
Oct. 29, 1926

William J. and Mary Murdock, of Chelsea sold to Paul N. Chaput. For our title see book 2684 page 174. ("For boundaries of Grace Church see deed from me recorded with said deeds book 2687 page 354.")

Book 2684 Page 173
June 2, 1926

William J. Murdock holder of a mortgage given by Daniel J. and Kathleen A. Long foreclosed. This mortgage was assigned to Mr. Murdock from the Warren Five ¢ Savings Bank, book 2684 page 174 by public auction May 29, 1926.

Book 2395 Page 140
July 10, 1918

Nathan P. Gifford of Salem by mortgage deed Aug. 16, 1917, book 2371 page 166 conveyed to Salem Savings Bank the premises 377 Essex St. authorized to sell for default in performance or observance of condition of mortgage. Whereas there has been such default, Gifford conveyed all power enabling Salem Savings Bank to sell to Katherine A. Long wife of Daniel. The same conveyed to Gifford by David P. Ives in Sept. 20, 1892, book 1354 page 269.

Book 1354 Page 269
Sept. 20, 1892

David P. and Sarah C. Ives of Lynnfield sold to Nathan P. Gifford, the parcel of real estate I purchased of Benjamin Shreves, July 11, 1873 book 885 page 105.

Book 885 Page 106

Benjamin and Elizabeth Shreve of Salem sold to David P. Ives of Lynnfield the parcel of real estate purchased from heirs of Rev. Brown Emerson June 2, 1873.

Book 885 Page 13
June 2, 1873
\$9,550

Daniel and Lucy Hopkins Emerson of Philadelphia Penn.; Edward B and Ann Emerson, Susan H. Little Harriet and John Latting all of N.Y., N.Y.; Wm and Elizabeth Emerson of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Henry and Caroline Emerson, of N.Y., N.Y.; and Sarah and Samuel Nichols of Salem sold to Benjamin Shreve of Salem the same estate owned and occupied by Rev. Brown Emerson, deceased, known as #377 Essex St.

Book 385 Page 11
Dec. 12, 1838
\$1,266

Nathaniel F. Hopkins, Henry W. Hopkins and Susan Hopkins children and heirs at law of Daniel Hopkins, mariner sold to Brown Emerson of Salem Doctor of Divinity, 1/3 messuage occupied by him. The same estate conveyed in deed from samuel Blyth administrator of Mary Ford on sept. 14, 1788, book 147 page 283.

Book 147 Page 283
Sept. 16, 1788
215 pounds

Samuel Blyth administrator of the estate of Mary Ford late of Salem sold to Daniel Hopkins

Book 121 Page 197

William and Judith Brown, Esq. sold to James Ford

There is a strong possibility that this is the same house built by James Ford in 1764 (see Appendix A). The size seems to conform to the original frame (see Appendix B) (also atlas maps).

Mrs. O'Brien, the present owner, says that there is evidence that indicates the old structure in the interior. The consensus is that when Nathan Gifford purchased the property in 1892 he completely remodeled the house. Mr. Gifford was the owner of a lumber company, specializing in mouldings, gutters and flooring. (This lumber yard was completely burned in 1916, which probably was the cause of Mr. Gifford losing the 377 Essex property in 1918.) A permit issued Nov. 14, 1892 was found:

Nathan Gifford, owner
George F. Woodbury, builder
42 x 55 2½ story - hip roof - slate
General repairs and alterations

The tax records for 1892:

377 Essex-David Ives, occupant	N Gifford David-Ives , owner	\$4,600
	land	3,400

1893:

377 Essex- vacant	house unfinished (as of May 1)	Nathan Gifford new house	\$6,000
		land	3,500

This poses the problem, was it a new house or an old one that was remodeled so extensively that it was considered new?

May 1980

corner was the old house of Mr. Moses Wallis, now the property of Joseph Hanson, Esq., renovated, and I may say, rebuilt, making a very fine appearance.

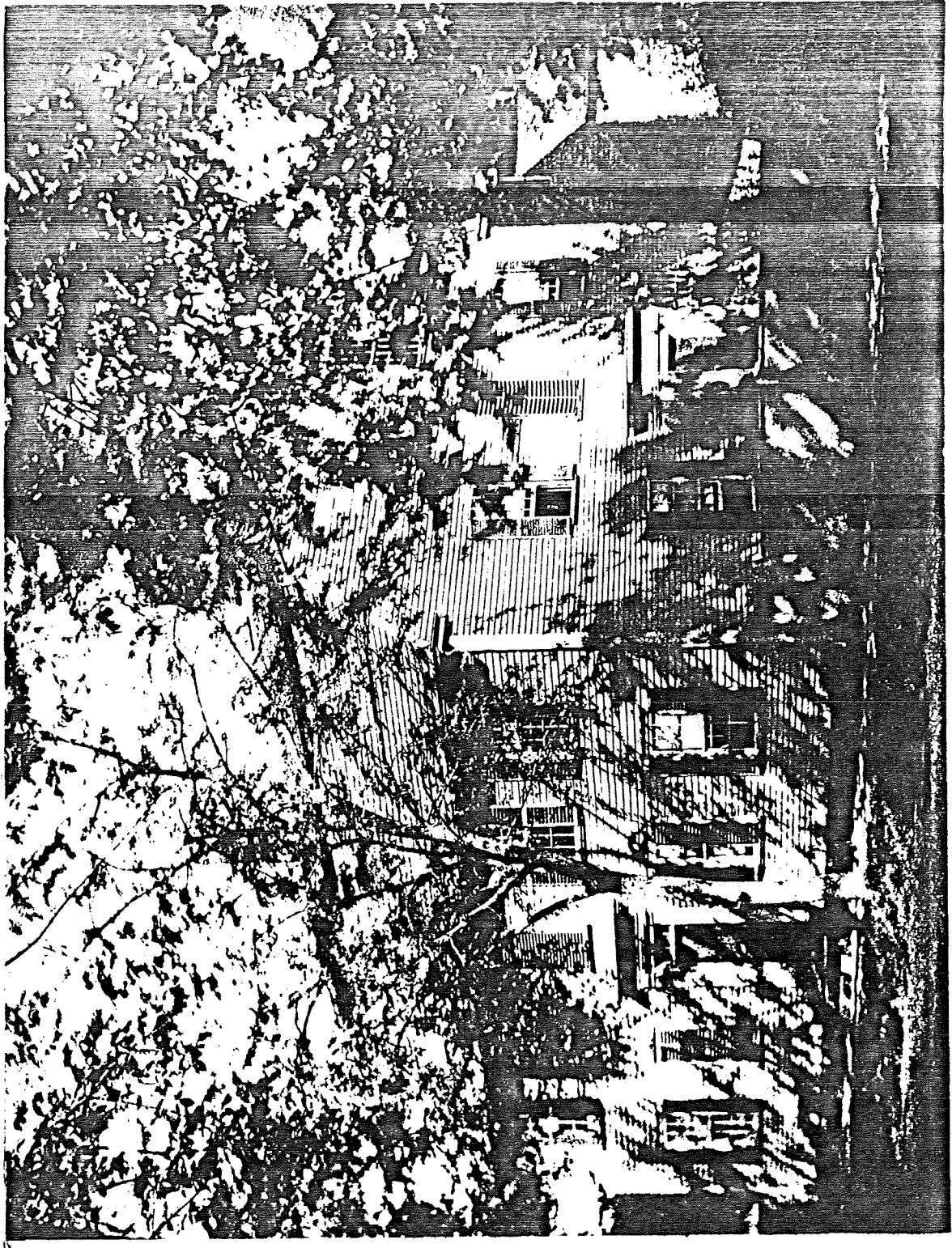
The next was the house of Capt. John Foster, afterward of Captain Stephen Field, then of William H. Foster, the son of Captain Foster, who still resides on the premises. The next, Captain Samuel Endicott's house, was occupied by him as early as 1815. It is still occupied by his son, Mr. William P. Endicott and family. The next house was Michael Webb's. It was there certainly as early as 1804. His son Michael and myself were school-fellows, and I frequently visited the place. In after years, it was sold to Capt. Benjamin Creamer, and is still retained by the family. Next on the Cabot land was a large two-and-one-half story wooden building. As late as 1812, there was a grocery store in the lower story, kept by Mr. Cornelius Briggs; and William Newhall, our late City Crier, was his clerk. I think it was removed to Boston street. Next, the Cabot house. It was built by an ancestor of the late Joseph S. Cabot in 1744, and is now in possession of Judge William C. Endicott. Long may it remain a beautiful memorial of the style of old English architecture.

Next to Judge Endicott's stands the Jeffrey Lang house, built by him in 1740; he had quite a large family and died in 1758. His oldest son Richard, a silversmith, in the early years of the century, occupied the eastern front of the house, and I think the Leach family the western end; Mr. Lang died in 1820. There were three sons of the Leach family: George, Hardy, and Ropes. The two eldest were members of the first class, in the Hacker school, ranking high in penmanship, which was then thought to be more important than all other branches of learning combined. Next was the old Holmes house so called, a two-story old building with a pitched roof, end to the street,

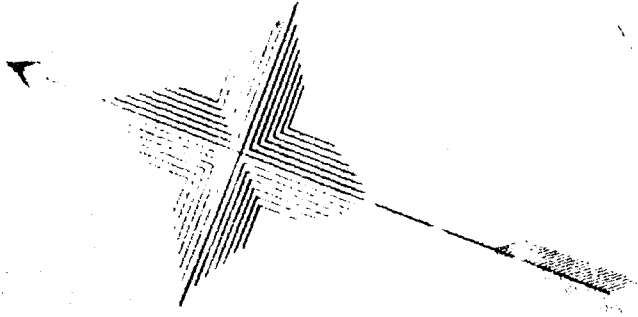
occupied by several families; the front room was a small shop kept by Sally Bacon for many years. This was taken down some years since by Miss Mary Ann Ropes, now Mrs. John Bertram, who built the present house on its site. The house next above was the home of Capt. Timothy Ropes and family. Next, that of Rev. Dr. Daniel Hopkins, of the South Church. This house was built in 1764, by Mr. James Ford and purchased by Dr. Hopkins in 1788. He was the son of Timothy and Mary [Judd] Hopkins, born in Waterbury, Conn., Oct. 16, 1734; a graduate of Yale College, 1758; came to Salem in 1766, and for some years kept a young ladies' school, preaching occasionally, until his ordination, Nov. 18, 1778; married in 1771 to Susanna, daughter of John Saunders of Salem, by whom he had six children. He was the sole pastor until 1804, in which year he received the aid of a colleague, in the person of the late Rev. Dr. Brown Emerson, who subsequently became his son-in-law. He is spoken of in his biography, written by Dr. Emerson, as a gentleman of highly polished manners, and a kind and amiable disposition. He was tall and manly in bearing, his figure being surmounted by a high triangular hat, and there was grace and dignity in his movements. The remark was often made, that, in his looks and bearing, he much resembled Washington. He was a favorite with his children, and once a month, being one of the boys of the parish, I made a visit to his house to receive religious instruction, and repeat the Assembly's Shorter Catechism. He died December 14, 1814. Dr. Emerson and family occupied the house until his death, which occurred July 25, 1872, after a pastorate of sixty-seven years. It was afterward purchased by David P. Ives, Esq., and is now in his possession and is in a fine state of preservation.

Next came three small houses, one of which still re-

(B)

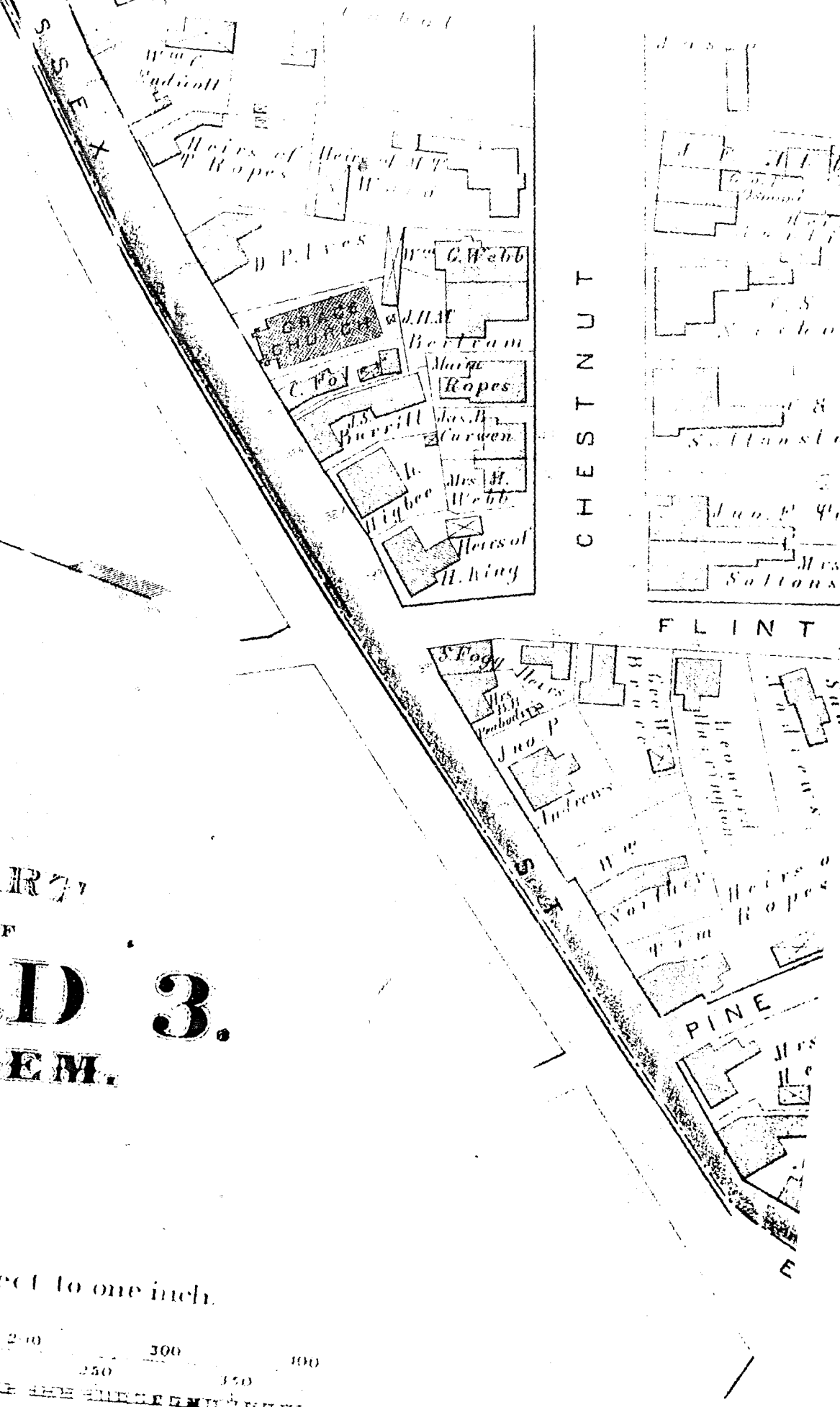
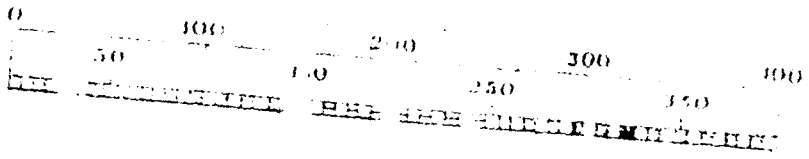


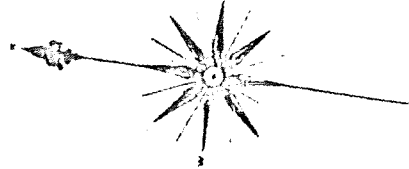
016 031 110
b580 2 20



PART
OF
WARD 3.
SALEM.

Scale 100 feet to one inch.





42

HAMILTON

43

PICKERING

45

ESSEX

WHEATSTREET

WARREN

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHAPEL

FLINT

53

