

HISTORIC
SALEM INC

198 North Street

Built for
Henry Chew
A free man of color
Mariner
c. 1834

Research & Writing Provided by
Amy E. Kellett

October 2018

Historic Salem, Inc.
9 North Street, Salem, MA 01970
978.745.0799 | HistoricSalem.org
© 2018

HOUSE HISTORY REPORT FOR 198 NORTH STREET



c.1967 PHOTOGRAPH — 198 NORTH STREET

REPORT COMPLETED BY
AMY E. KELLETT
OCTOBER 2018

WWW.AMYKELLETT.COM

198 NORTH STREET

BUILT FOR

HENRY CHEW

A FREE MAN OF COLOR

MARINER

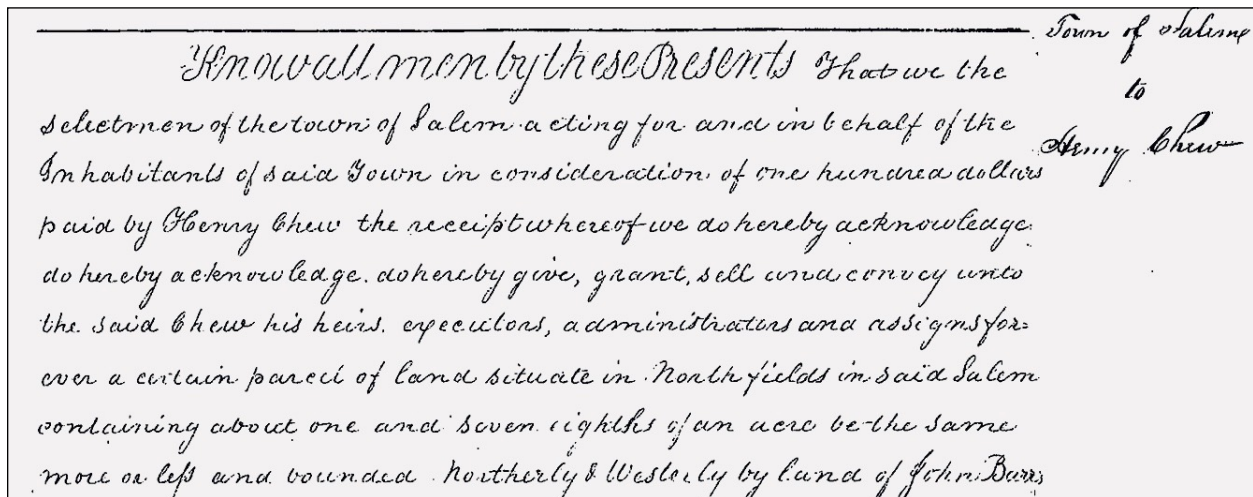
C.1834

1867-1925 | PART OF THE CRESSEY ESTATE

1949-1983 | PROPERTY OF SALEM HOUSING
AUTHORITY — VETERAN'S HOUSING

1833 – Henry Chew, mariner, purchases land from the Town of Salem

Amidst the rapidly expanding neighborhoods of the prosperous seaport town of Salem, Massachusetts a mariner named Henry Chew purchased a plot of land in ‘Northfields’ (what is now North Street) from the Town of Salem for one-hundred dollars on the 2nd of August, 1833. As there is no buildings noted on the deed as being part of the property, it can be assumed that shortly after the land purchase, the Greek Revival dwelling house was built on the land where it stands to this day.



Know all men by these Presents That we the
selectmen of the town of Salem acting for and in behalf of the
Inhabitants of said Town in consideration of one hundred dollars
paid by Henry Chew the receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge
do hereby acknowledge do hereby give, grant, sell and convey unto
the said Chew his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns for
ever a certain parcel of land situate in Northfields in said Salem
containing about one and seven eighths of an acre be the same
more or less and bounded Northerly & Westerly by land of John Barris

Town of Salem
to
Henry Chew

2ND AUGUST 1833 – NORTHFIELDS PROPERTY SOLD FROM TOWN OF SALEM TO HENRY CHEW
ESSEX COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS
BOOK 273 | PAGE 15

This home remains one of the best examples of vernacular Greek Revival architecture in the City of Salem, and has remained largely unchanged on its exterior through the decades of history that have passed by its front door. Indeed, this house is one that is passed by millions of cars every year, as North Street is one of the main thoroughfares in and out of the ‘Witch City’, and its unassuming appearance belies its fascinating and extensive history. The architectural history standard text, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, by Virginia & Lee McAlester notes the historical significance of Greek Revival architecture, which is often associated with government buildings and the like, but the vernacular examples hearken to the same historic influences:

GREEK REVIVAL WAS THE DOMINANT STYLE OF AMERICAN DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE DURING THE INTERVAL FROM ABOUT 1830 TO 1850 [...] DURING WHICH ITS POPULARITY LED IT TO BE CALLED THE NATIONAL STYLE. [IT] ESPECIALLY FLOURISHED IN THOSE REGIONS THAT WERE BEING RAPIDLY SETTLED IN THE DECADES OF THE 1830S, '40S, AND '50S.

... ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION IN THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY EMPHASIZED GREECE AS THE MOTHER OF ROME WHICH, IN TURN, SHIFTED INTEREST TO GRECIAN MODELS. TWO ADDITIONAL FACTORS ENHANCED GREEK INFLUENCE IN THIS COUNTRY. GREECE'S INVOLVEMENT IN A WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE (1821-30) AROUSED MUCH SYMPATHY IN THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT UNITED STATES; AT THE SAME TIME, THE WAR OF 1812 DIMINISHED AMERICAN AFFECTION FOR BRITISH INFLUENCE, INCLUDING THE STILL DOMINANT ADAM STYLE IN DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE.

AN IMPORTANT AND ENDURING LEGACY OF THE GREEK REVIVAL TO AMERICAN DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE IS THE FRONT-GABLED HOUSE. POPULARIZED DURING THE ASCENDANCE OF THE GREEK REVIVAL STYLE IN THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY, THIS BECAME THE PREDOMINANT FORM FOR DETACHED URBAN HOUSES IN CITIES OF THE NORTHEAST...¹

The purchase of this property and the subsequent building is especially significant as the home's builder, Henry Chew, listed in the 1833 City Directory as a mariner living on North Street, was a free black man. Records indicate that he lived at the Greek Revival home on North Street for a number of years with his family, including his wife Venus (married in 1801) and several children. Although the Chew family were of a higher social status than many of their enslaved counterparts in the South, life was not easy for them, as the couple buried several children in the time that they lived at the home on North Street, including a son born the year that the home was built. Just fourteen months later the little boy died of an unnamed illness in 1834. Prior to the family's residence on North Street, they had also buried a daughter, Hannah, who had died in 1822 from consumption, what is today called tuberculosis, at only eight years old.

Unfortunately, not much more is known about the Chew family, as records available from the time are scarce. As a free black family, they were likely involved in the Abolitionist movement that had taken hold in the greater Boston and North Shore region. Furthermore, this property *may* have been involved in the Underground Railroad, as there is evidence that escaped slaves on the Railroad went through Essex County, including Salem, on their route North to freedom. Maybe it is appropriate to note the coincidence here – that Henry Chew and his family purchased land and built their home along a farmland path that would eventually be named 'North Street' before the house was sold to the next generation of owner in 1842.

¹ McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*, Romantic Houses, Greek Revival. Pages 179-84

PEOPLE OF COLOR.

ALLEY, Ellen, Mrs. near High

BARNEY, Samuel, laborer, near Blaney

Barney, Samuel, jr. mariner, 12 Derby

Barney, William, Osgood

Benson, John R. mariner, 15 Pond

Brooks, John, mariner, 4 Essex

Brown, Jacob B. mariner, 13 Rust

Brown, James, hair dresser, 131 Derby, h 17 High

CHADWICK, John P. handcartman, near High

Chase, Jacob, Osgood

Chew, Henry, mariner, North

Chew, Henry, jr. laborer, near Mill

Chew, Venus, 18 Lemon

Clark, William, near Pond

Collins, Henry, laborer, 3 Spring

Colman, William, 12 Porter

Cooper, Daniel, mariner, 15 Pond

Cotman, John F. Lemon

Cox, Andrew, mariner, 14 Becket

Curtis, Mary Ann, cook, 17 High

DICKINSON, George, 58 Broad

Dickinson, Ovid, 59 Federal

Downing, Charles M. mariner, 62 North

Drew, Thomas, clothes cleaner, 6 Washington, h 14
Porter

FARMER, Prince, oysters, 6 market square, h 18½
Crombie

Fletcher, Hazard, near High

Fowler, William, mariner, North

Francis, Ephraim, stabler, h North court

1842 SALEM CITY DIRECTORY — HENRY CHEW, MARINER, NORTH [STREET]

FOLLOWING THE ALPHABETICAL LIST OF NAMES OF SALEM'S WHITE RESIDENTS, THE CITY DIRECTORY INCLUDED A SEPARATE SECTION ENTITLED "PEOPLE OF COLOR" — THE 1842 PUBLICATION OF THE DIRECTORY NOTES HENRY CHEW AS LIVING ON NORTH STREET, AND LISTS THE PLACES OF WORK FOR THE OTHER CHEW FAMILY MEMBERS.

1842 – Elisha Odlin purchases property from Henry Chew

According to the records found through the Essex County Registry of Deeds, Elisha Odlin purchased the property on North Street from Henry Chew, including “a dwelling house and out buildings thereon” for \$100, plus interest. The deed also importantly notes about the North Street property, as “being the same I (Henry Chew) purchased of the City or Town of Salem,” which refers to the earlier cited 1833 deed.

Know all men by these presents. Chew
to
Odlin.
That I Henry Chew, of Salem, in the County of
Essex. Mariner, in consideration of one hundred
dollars paid - Elisha Odlin, of said Salem. Trader,
(the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge) do hereby
give, grant, sell and convey unto the said him the said
Odlin a certain piece of land situated in North Salem,
so called, and bounded Easterly on the road leading to Danvers,

Northerly on land formerly of John Barr, Westerly on land for-
merly known as the Barr Pasture and Southerly on land formerly
of Kimball; with a dwelling house and out buildings
thereon, being the same I purchased of the City or Town
of Salem by deed which is duly recorded reference to which
may be had. ↵

26TH AUGUST 1842 – NORTH STREET PROPERTY SOLD FROM HENRY CHEW TO ELISHA ODLIN
ESSEX COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS
BOOK 333 | PAGE 65

Elisha Odlin’s occupation is noted as ‘trader’ on the deed (above), which likely refers to the maritime trade that supported Salem’s booming economy. Although there are several generations of men named ‘Elisha Odlin’ throughout the decades of the 18th and 19th centuries in Salem, the generation that aligns with this deed suggests it was owned by Elisha Odlin, Jr. son of Samuel Odlin. Unfortunately, just five years after Elisha Odlin Jr.’s purchase of the property on North Street, he died from consumption at only twenty-seven years of age on November 19, 1848. Subsequently, his estate was divided among multiple owners, until the property was procured by Pierce L. W. Gardner, and shortly thereafter sold to Caleb A. Smith in 1855.



1874 SALEM CITY ATLAS

(TOP) NORTH SALEM WAS A RAPIDLY-DEVELOPING NEIGHBORHOOD FROM THE 1830S THROUGH THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY, AND THESE ATLAS IMAGES SHOW THE GREAT SWATHS OF LAND OWNED BY WM A. CREESY, AS WELL AS OTHER PROMINENT SALEM FAMILIES. THE ARROW INDICATES THE PROPERTY THAT IS NOW 198 NORTH STREET.

(BOTTOM) CLOSE-UP VIEW OF THE 1874 SALEM CITY ATLAS THAT NOTES 148 AND 146 NORTH STREET AS BEING THE PROPERTY OF WILLIAM A. CREESY, AND CONTEMPORANEOUS FEDERAL CENSUSES CITY DIRECTORIES LIST DAVID SINCLAIR, CARPENTER, AS THE RESIDENT OF 148 NORTH STREET.



1855 – North Street property becomes part of the Estate of Caleb A. Smith

The Essex County Registry of Deeds records records multiple purchases of property by Caleb Smith in the mid-18th century, including a “parcel of land with the buildings thereon, situated on North Street in Salem” described as “the premises to me (Caleb A. Smith) conveyed by the heirs of Elisha Odlin, by various deeds on record.” Mr. Smith also appears on Historic Salem, Inc. historic house report records as being the builder in 1861 of what is now 3-5 Ridgeway Street, less than a tenth of a mile from the North Street property. For the next twelve years the Smith family would own the property and dwelling house across the street from their own home on North Street, during which time the home would likely have been used as a residence for the Smith family staff, or as an income property that they could rent out.

<p>Know all men by these Presents, That we Caleb A. Smith of Salem in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Franceske Smith wife of said Caleb in her right for Consideration of the sum of fifteen hundred dollars paid by William A. Creesy of Dearborn in the State of New Hampshire the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give grant bargain sell and convey unto the said William A. Creesy the real estate in said Salem which is bounded commencing at the South west corner and running Northwesterly by North Street about one hundred and forty eight feet to land of Dearborn then turning and running North easterly by land of Dearborn about four hundred and twenty feet to land of Cross, then turning and running Southerly by land of Cross about one hundred and thirty feet to land of Newhall, then turning and running South westerly by said Newhall's land to North Street and the point begun at (about three hundred & thirty & one half feet) being the same premises conveyed to Caleb A. Smith by Pierce S. W. Gardner by deed dated May 5, 1855, recorded in the Registry of Deeds for Essex County in Book 513 Leaf 13. To have and to hold the above granted premises with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging to the said Wil-</p>	<p>Caleb A. Smith et ux to Wm. A. Creesy One \$ Paid Pay. One 50¢ Orig. Proc. Re. Stamps Cancelled</p>
--	--

14TH MARCH 1867 – NORTH STREET PROPERTY SOLD FROM CALEB A. SMITH TO WM. A. CREESY
 ESSEX COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS
 BOOK 719 | PAGE 242

1867 – Smith sells Estate, including North Street property, to William A. & Emily F. Creesy

Documentation shows that William A. Creesy, along with his wife Emily, purchased the estate from Caleb A. Smith in 1867. Creesy had made his fortune, along with so many others, in Salem's booming maritime trade industry. According to the text entitled *'Old Marblehead Sea Captains and Ships in Which they Sailed'* published by the Marblehead Historical Society in 1916, William Andrew Cressy (whose name spelling seems to have varied depending on who recorded the documentation) was the brother of Josiah P. Cressy, and was the captain for a number of Salem's ships, including the Oneida, Mary Whittredge, and Cohota.

SALEM DIRECTORY.	53
Creesy William A. captain, house 145 North	
Creesy William A. jr. (bookkeeper, 479 Tremont, Boston), house 145 North	
Cregan Daniel, laborer, boards rear 46 Peabody	
Cregan John laborer house rear 46 Peabody	

1874 SALEM CITY DIRECTORY

CAPTAIN WILLIAM A. CREESY AND HIS SON AND NAMESAKE, WILLIAM A. CREESY JR. ARE BOTH NOTED AS LIVING AT 145 NORTH STREET — THEIR FORMER HOME IS NOW 3-5 RIDGEWAY STREET, AND THE PROPERTY AT 198 NORTH STREET BELONGED TO PART OF THE SAME CREESY ESTATE.

The 1867 Deed, dated March 14th, notes and references the premises as being the same that were purchased by Smith in 1855 from Pierce L. W. Gardner:

...the real estate in said Salem which is bounded commencing at the Southwest corner and running Northwesterly by North Street about one hundred and forty eight feet to the land of Dearborn about four hundred and twenty feet to land of Cross, then turning and running Southerly by land of Cross about one hundred and thirty feet to the land of Newhall, then turning and running Southwesterly by said Newhall's land to North Street and the said point begun at. [...] Being the same premises conveyed to Caleb A. Smith by Pierce L. W. Gardner by deed dated May 5, 1855, recorded in the Registry of Deeds for Essex County in Book 513 Leaf 13.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

ESSEX, ss.

To the Honorable the Justice of the FIRST DISTRICT COURT, of Essex,
begun and holden at Salem, within and for said County,
on the *Second* Wednesday of *February* A. D. 18*87*
and by adjournment to the *first* Wednesday of *March* A. D. 18*87*

Respectfully represents

David Sinclair before

of *Salem No 25 Upper St* in the County of Essex, a free white person, that he was
born at *Sirapool* in the County of ~~Essex~~
in *New Scotia* on or about the *Second* day of *August*
A. D. eighteen hundred and *twenty five* being now about *63*
years of age; that he arrived at *Salem* in the United States of America, on
or about the *ninth* day of *November* A. D. eighteen
hundred and *forty nine* and that it then was and still is his bona fide intention to
become a citizen of the United States, and to renounce all allegiance and fidelity to every for-
eign Prince, Potentate, State and Sovereignty whatever, especially and in particular to Vic-
toria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland,
whose subject he has heretofore been.

He also represents that ever since his arrival at said *Salem* *fore said* he
has continued to reside within the jurisdiction of the United States, to wit, at
Salem

in said County of Essex.

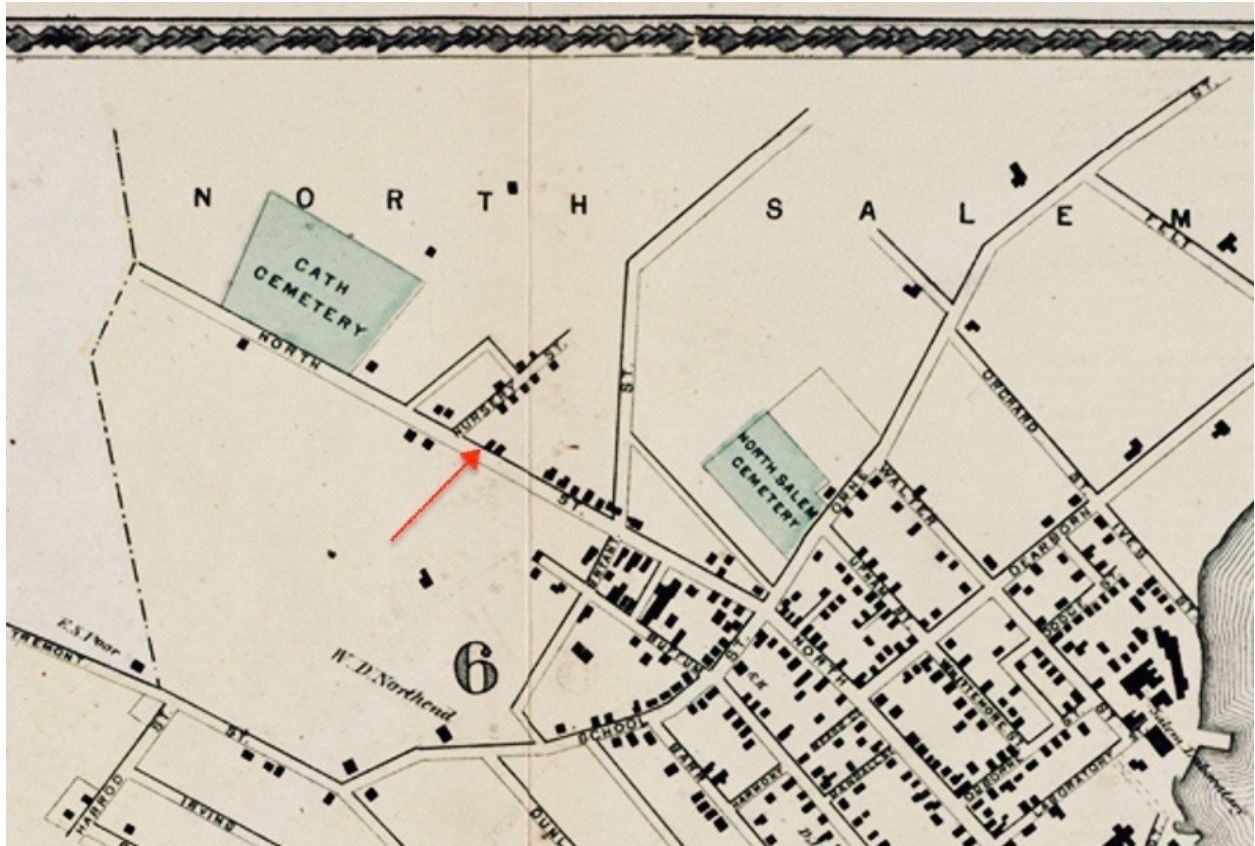
He further represents that he enlisted in the Volunteer forces of the Armies of the United
States on the *twice* day of *October* 18*61*, and was
honorably discharged therefrom on the *fourteenth* day of *January*
A. D. 18*66* and that he has never borne any hereditary title, nor been of any
of the orders of nobility.

He intends to summon as witnesses at his final hearing *Augustus Hulethnis*
whose residence is at *No. 3 Dearborn Street Salem* and *George E. Bousley*
whose residence is at *No. 137 North Street Salem Mass.*

Wherefore your petitioner prays that he may be admitted to become a citizen of the United
States of America, according to the form of the Statutes in such case made and provided.

David Sinclair

Upon William A. Creesy's passing in 1874, the Creesy Estate became the property of Mrs. Emily F. Cressey (whose name spelling yet again changed on subsequent documentation). This is also around the same time frame that the earliest map and atlas images appear showing the property at what is now 198 North Street. By 1872 a carpenter named David E. Sinclair and his family are listed in the City Directories as living at 148 North Street (now 198).



1872 SALEM CITY MAP

THIS CLIP FROM AN 1872 PUBLICATION THAT INCLUDED A MAP OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS WARD 6 AREA OF NORTH SALEM, WHILE THE ARROW INDICATES THE NORTH STREET PROPERTY THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS REPORT.

The larger historic context is important to note before recording the Sinclair's history at 198 North Street: as noted earlier, the neighborhood of North Salem was rapidly becoming more densely populated throughout the 19th century, including a major renovation completed by the city around 1871 near what is now the North Street Bridge (adjacent to the MBTA Commuter Rail station). As a result, land parcels were subdivided as well as the numbering of the dwelling houses throughout the neighborhood, including on North Street, where in the time period between 1870 and 1880 the address for the North Street house that is the subject of this report changed from 148 to 198 North Street. For this reason,

earlier historic records of this property proposed a feasible theory that the building had been moved from another parcel of land to its current location, but further research confirms that the dwelling house at 198 North Street has been on its current foundation since the area was called ‘Northfields’ and the path that now bears the name North Street was little more than a passageway for merchants, goods, and travelers to and from Danvers.

1870-c.1887 – David E. Sinclair & Family live at North Street property dwelling house

Prior to living at the home that would become 198 North Street for nearly two decades, David Sinclair, housewright, and his family lived at a number of addresses throughout Salem. Naturalization records note David Sinclair’s immigration to Salem on the 9th of November, 1849. He and his young wife Margaret are listed on the 1850 Federal Census as living in Ward 1 along with Catherine Humber, Ann Garret, Rebecca Phillips, and James A. Humber. The couple soon had a family of their own, and by 1853 are listed as living at 14 Turner Street (in Ward I of Salem, Mass.), and then at 15 Mall Street by 1855.

The 1860 US Federal Census provides more detail about the Sinclair family ten years after the couple first appeared on Federal records. The family is listed as living in Ward 3, confirmed by the 1861 Salem City Directory which notes the family’s address as 57 Broad Street. In 1860 the family included Mr. David Sinclair, a 35 year-old carpenter, his wife Margaret, now 27 years old attended to the house and the children: David A., age 9; Charles H., age 6, and 2-year-old Frank.

The family of five did not remain in the Broad Street neighborhood of Ward 3 very long, however, as the American Civil War called Mr. Sinclair to join the Union Army, the family moved once again, this time to 15 Essex Street in Salem’s Derby Street neighborhood, during the absence of David. Mr. Sinclair’s naturalization records note his voluntary enlistment into the Army of the United States on October 3rd, 1861 until he was honorably discharged in January of 1866. This is confirmed through Salem City directories that list David Sinclair as serving with Company B of the 24th Army Regiment. Upon the ending of the war, David Sinclair returned to his family at 15 Essex Street where they remained until 1870, when the US Federal Census lists the Sinclair family as living in the 6th Ward of the City: North Salem.

By the 1870 recording of the US Federal Census, the Sinclair family had changed in the preceding decade; the two oldest Sinclair boys, David and Charles Sinclair, now 19 and 16 years old, no longer are listed as living with the family (for reasons yet discovered). David Sinclair, now 44 years old, is again listed as a carpenter, his wife Margaret, now 37, continued to maintain the family home and raise the younger Sinclair children: Joseph F. Sinclair, 12 (most likely the 'F' meaning 'Frank' or 'Francis' – the youngest Sinclair child from the 1860 Census), a 3-year-old daughter, Annie F. Sinclair, and 7-month-old Stephen H. Sinclair. In all, David and Margaret Sinclair would raise four boys and one girl during their lives and time lived at 198 North Street.

Page No. 77 Inquiries numbered 7, 16, and 17 are not to be asked in respect to infants. Inquiries numbered 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20 are to be answered (if at all) merely by an affirmative mark, as /.

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Ward 6 Salem, in the County of Essex, State of Massachusetts, enumerated by me on the 26 day of July, 1870. 749

Post Office: Salem Thomas Bourne Ass't Marshal.

1	2	3	4			7	8		10	11		13	14	15		18	19	20
			4	5	6		8	9		11	12			15	16			
Dwellings numbered in the order of visitation.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	Name of every person whose place of abode on the first day of June, 1870, was in this family.	Age, Sex, Color, Height, Weight, and Complexion, and whether deaf, dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.	Value of Real Estate Owned.	Place of Birth, naming State or Territory of U. S.; or the Country, if of foreign birth.	Parentage.	Education.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Constitutional Relations.								
		<u>Slanders Mary</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>No occupation</u>			<u>New Hampshire</u>									
		<u>" Sarah A</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>At School</u>			<u>New Hampshire</u>				<u>1</u>					
		<u>" Cora B</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>At School</u>			<u>New Hampshire</u>				<u>1</u>					
<u>12675</u>		<u>Sinclair David</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Carpenter</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>New Scotia</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>						<u>1</u>	
		<u>" Margaret E</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Keeping House</u>			<u>New Scotia</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>							
		<u>" Joseph F</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>At School</u>			<u>Mass</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>		<u>1</u>					
		<u>" Annie F</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>At Home</u>			<u>Mass</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>							
		<u>" Stephen H</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>At Home</u>			<u>Mass</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>✓</u>						
<u>12676</u>		<u>Bulger James</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Cassier</u>			<u>Maine</u>									<u>1</u>

1870 US FEDERAL CENSUS — SALEM, MASS. — WARD 6

THE SINCLAIR FAMILY, INCLUDING DAVID SINCLAIR WITH HIS OCCUPATION LISTED AS 'CARPENTER, MARGARET E. SINCLAIR AS KEEPING HOUSE, AND THEIR 3 CHILDREN, JOSEPH (12), ANNIE (3), AND STEPHEN (7 MONTHS).

Salem City Directories during the Sinclair tenure at the North Street property show the change in address for the home from 148 to 198 North Street between 1876 and 1878, just a few years after the family's first appearance at the address. Throughout their time at the residence David Sinclair is listed as a carpenter by trade through the 1886 City Directory, after which he and his family moved to 29 Osborne Street by 1888.

1888-1925 – 198 North Street remains part of the Cressey Estate while rented by several tenants

While the estate was owned and managed by the widow of William Cressey, Emily F. Cressey, the property at 198 North Street was home to several tenants, whose names and occupations are traceable though the Salem City Directories:

1888-1896 : John E. Scanlan – Morocco Dresser

“Morocco Dresser” is a specialization in leather finishing; specifically, ‘morocco’ referred to a type of goat skin leather that is much lighter than other 19th and 20th century finished leathers, and a ‘dresser’ tanned the leather. This type of leather work was most often used in shoe leather applications, so Mr. Scanlan likely worked with one of the many shoe factories in Salem and the greater North Shore region of Boston.

1897 : Walter A. Tarr – Shoe Trimmer

1899 : Ernest A. Oliver – Electrician

1901 : George M. Sinclair – Clerk

1903-1904 : Arthur W. Stevens – Shoemaker

1905-1910 : Frank J. Verry – Brakeman for the Boston & Maine Railroad

1911-1912 : Oliver Collette – Driver

1913 : Otis H. Pickard – Plumber

1914 : Albert Dyer – Teamster

In the early 20th century, ‘teamster’ referred to a person whose occupation it was to manage and be in charge of a team of horses, which could be used for anything from transportation to fire brigades.

1915 : Albert Nolet – Carpenter

1916-1920 – Charles W. Chapman – Machinist

(& Martha A. Chapman)

1921-1922 – John F. Farnsworth – Bricklayer

(& Sadie J. Farnsworth)

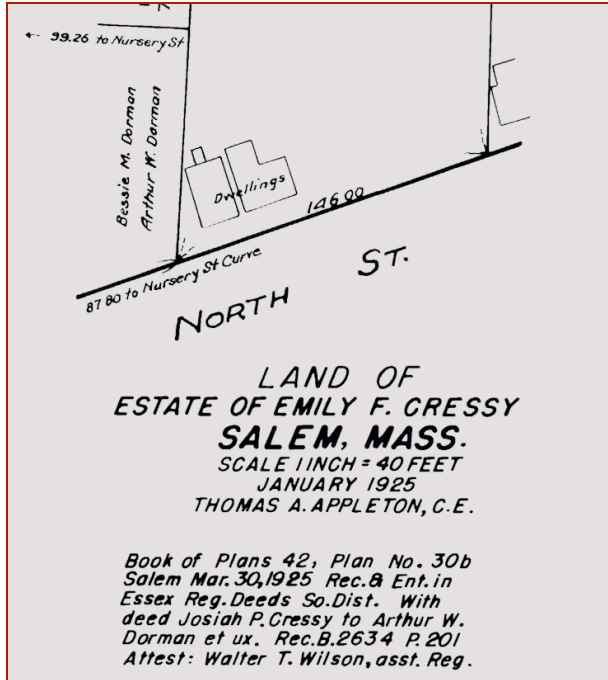
1924-1926 – William A Walsh – Leatherworker

(& Blanche Walsh)

1925 – The Heirs of Emily F. Cressy sell the property at 198 North Street to Arthur W. & Bessie M. Dorman

The property at 198 North Street remained the property of the Cressy Family until 1925, at which time the Essex County Registry of Deeds records indicate the land belonging to the Estate of Emily F. Cressy on the even-numbered side of North Street was sold to Arthur W. & Bessie M. Dorman. Importantly, this deed references an official survey plan recorded by Civil Engineer Thomas A. Appleton of the property entitled “Land of Estate of Emily F. Cressy, Salem, Mass.” which clearly depicts the properties at both 198 and 196 North Street.

2634	201
<p>KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that I, Josiah P. Cressy of Boston in the County of Suffolk and Commonwealth of Massachusetts in consideration of one dollar and other good and valuable considerations paid by Arthur W. Dorman and Bessie M. Dorman, wife of said Arthur W., both of Salem in the County of Essex and said Commonwealth the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Arthur W. Dorman and Bessie M. Dorman, as joint tenants, the following described parcel of land together with the buildings thereon situated on North Street in said SALEM and bounded as follows, viz: commencing at the Southwest corner thereof and thence running Northwesterly by said North Street one hundred and forty six (146) feet to other land of said grantees, thence turning and running Northeasterly by other land of said grantees and by land of others four hundred and twenty one and 87/100 (421.87) feet to land of Chudleigh, thence turning and running Southerly by said land of Chudleigh and by land of others one hundred and thirty two and 83/100 (132.83) feet to land now or formerly of Higgins, thence turning and running Southwesterly by said Land now or formerly of Higgins three hundred and thirty two and 3/100 (332.03) feet to the point of beginning on North Street. Said lot contains 49,281 square feet of land and is the same premises shown on a plan entitled "Land of Estate of Emily F. Cressy, Salem Mass., Scale 1 in = 40 feet, January 1925, Thomas A. Appleton C.E." and said plan to be recorded with this deed. For my title to these premises see Probate Records of the Estates of Emily F. Cressy, (Essex County No. 92,338), William A. Cressy, (Suffolk County No. 158,786), and Josephine E. Cressy, (Suffolk County No. 216,270). TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the granted premises, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, to the said Arthur W. Dorman and Bessie M. Dorman as joint tenants and to the survivor thereof and to his or her heirs and assigns, to their own use and behoof forever. AND I hereby for myself and my heirs, executors, and administrators, covenant with the grantees and their heirs and assigns, that I am lawfully seized in fee simple of the granted premises; that they are free from all incumbrances; that I have good right to sell and convey the same as aforesaid; and that I will and my heirs, executors and administrators shall warrant and defend the same to the grantees and their heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claims and demands of all persons IN WITNESS WHEREOF I the said Josiah P. Cressy, being unmarried, hereunto set my hand and seal this nineteenth day of March in the year one thousand nine hundred and twenty five.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Josiah P. Cressy (seal)</p> <p>Signed and sealed in the presence of) Josephine A. Porter, Charles J. Reckers) Suffolk ss. March 19th 1925 Then</p>	<p>Cressy to Dorman et ux & Plan Six \$1. R. Stamps Documentary Canceled</p> <p><i>See Plan Book 42 Plan 306</i></p> <p><i>See 8 6 1 3 1 P. 205</i></p> <p><i>See 8 6 6 0 5 P. 676</i></p>



JANUARY 1925

LAND OF EMILY F. CRESSY — SALEM, MASS.
BOOK OF PLANS 42, PLAN NO. 30B

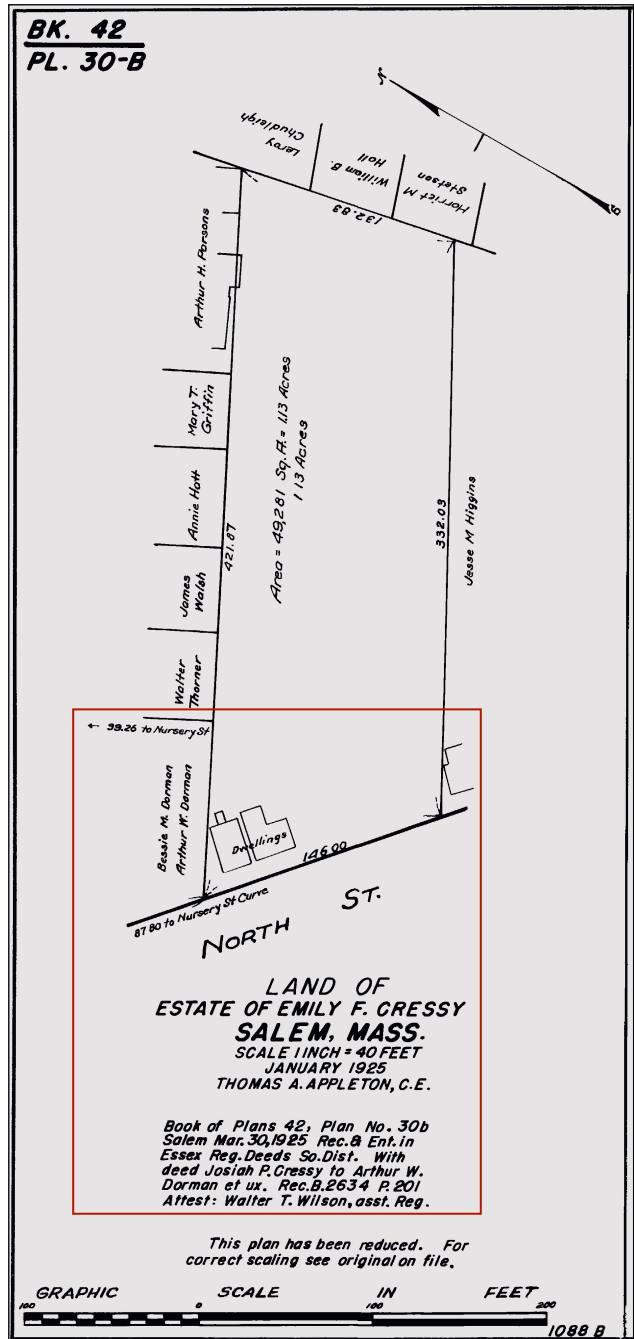
WITH DEED JOSIAH P. CRESSY TO ARTHUR W. DORMAN
ET UX. REC. B. 2634 P. 201

1929 - 1935 — Charles E. Millner — Leatherworker
(& Lillian B. Millner)

1936 - 1939 — Robert J. Preston — Salesman
(& Rose M. Preston)

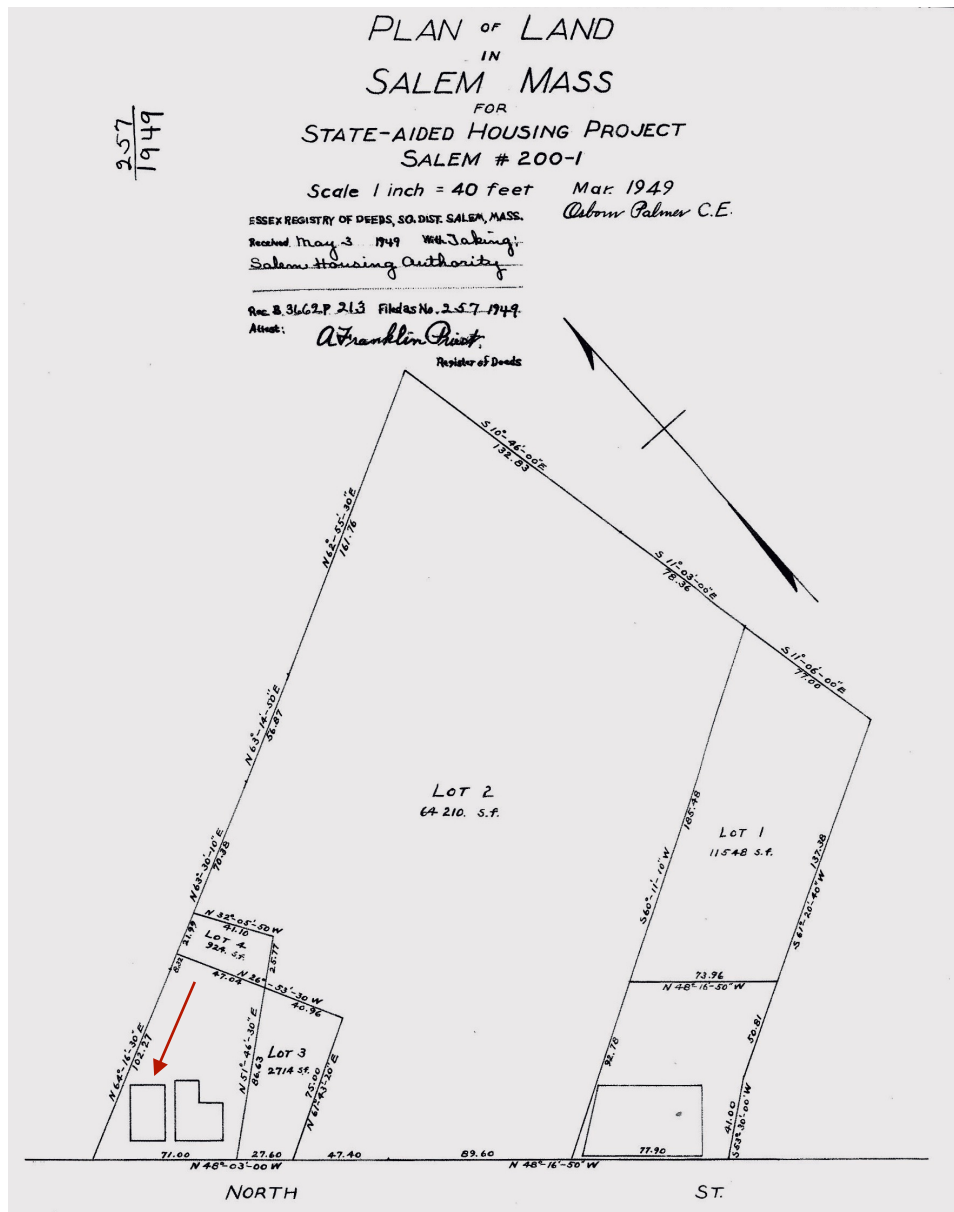
1940 - 1949 — John J. O'Shea — Post Office Clerk
(& Mary A. O'Shea)

After being in the Cressy family for nearly six decades since 1867, Arthur & Bessie Dorman purchased the property at 198 North Street and maintained its ownership until 1949. The City Directories give insight to the tenants of the Greek Revival house at 198 North Street:



1949 – Salem Housing Authority issues an ‘Order of Taking’ for 198 North Street

Following the second World War, the nation’s burgeoning population, known as the ‘Baby Boom’ created a need for veteran’s housing throughout the country, including in Salem, Massachusetts. As a result, the property that had been purchased by Arthur and Bessie Dorman in 1925 was the subject of an official ‘Order of Taking’ by the Salem Housing Authority, by order of an official State-Aided Housing Project. Two documents record this transaction: the Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 3662 Page 213, and the Plan of Land for the ‘State-Aided Housing Project, Salem #200-1’, which included the dwelling houses at 198 and 196 North Street, as well as two additional parcels of land:



1949-1983 – 198 North Street owned by the Salem Housing Authority

Following the government seizure of the property at 198 North Street, the property is listed as ‘Vacant’ in the 1950 Salem City Directory. Available City Directories only give insight to tenants through 1963; the recorded residents of 198 North Street through the early 1960s create a more detailed look into this property’s extensive history:

1951-1953 – Ernest P. Snow – Leatherworker
(& Anna P. Snow)

1954-1962 – Emerson E. Pollock – Masonic Temple Superintendent
(& Lucy C. Pollock)

1964– Leo W. Dragon — Leatherworker at A. C. Lawrence

The final document of this report correlates to the 1983 Deed regarding the property at 198 North Street, by which time the property had been in the ownership and management of a trustee of Allyn Realty Trust. Recorded in October of 1983, the deed and plan record the sale of the property from being managed as State-Aided housing project to a private home, which it remains to this day.

