

19 Union St.
Salem

Built
CA. 1750

Moved here For
ALEXANDER McCLOY
Blacksmith
1839

Robert Booth
24 Jan 1978

Nineteen Union Street

This house, probably built about 1750, was moved here for Alexander McCloy, blacksmith, in 1839.

In the early nineteenth century this house lot was part of a larger tract owned by Richard Manning, a well-to-do blacksmith and stage-coach line owner who also was grandfather to the writer Nathaniel Hawthorne. After Mr Manning's death his estate was divided amongst his heirs, daughter Mary receiving this lot as part of her share (299:160). On 31 July 1837 for \$900 Mary Manning granted to her Salem sisters Elizabeth C Hathorne, widow (Hawthorne's mother) and Priscilla M, wife of John Dike, this lot, running from Union to Herbert Street, as well as two Derby Street lots (322:256). On 8 Feb 1841 for \$900 Mrs Hathorne and Mrs Dike for \$900 granted to William Lummus, Salem housewright, a "parcel of land" (no buildings) bounded westerly 52' on Union Street and running about 100' across to Herbert Street, where it bounded easterly about 38' 6" (322:256).

William Lummus had already moved a house to this parcel in 1839, two years before he formally purchased the land; the occupant of this house was Salem blacksmith Alexander McCloy, who lived here from 1839 forward, while Mr Lummus resided with Isaac Cushing at 107 Essex Street. The valuation books show that Alex McCloy lived in a house at #4 Union Wharf in 1838, but in 1839 was assessed for a house at "15 Union Street." In 1840 he was taxed for the house at 19 (formerly 15) Union Street, worth \$800, and in 1841 was assessed for the same house, now numbered 17, still worth \$800. In 1842 he and his son Alex Jr were assessed for the 17 Union St. house, worth \$1000, the \$200 increase perhaps reflecting the construction of the northerly leanto that extends back along Union Street and definitely shows evidence of a ca. 1845 building date. It should be added here that in those days the tenant, not the owner, paid taxes on a house. It is clear that Alex McCloy lived here from 1839 forward, and probable that he was the first occupant on this site; William Lummus the owner appears to have resided for a long time at 107 Essex Street, which he did not own.

Mr Lummus, a bachelor originally from Ipswich, died in Salem on 26 Feb 1850, leaving two brothers, a sister, and a deceased sister's three children, as his heirs (#45844). On 12 Ap 1850, for \$900 they released all of their rights in this land with "the dwelling house, barn, and other buildings thereon" to Alexander McCloy of Salem, the man who had been living here and paying taxes all along (433:286).

*No buildings were mentioned because the Manning heirs owned no buildings on the site, and so could not convey them to Mr Lummus, who did own the House (this one) thereon.

Alexander McCloy was born in Ireland, where he married Jane, his wife, and where they had at least one child, Alex Jr, in 1815. Mr McCloy had come to Salem by 6 Aug 1829, when he bought a wooden building (probably a combination house/blacksmith shop) for \$305 from William Lummus; this building was two stories high, about 18' x 36', and stood near the head of Union Wharf. Investigation into the land on which this building stood reveals it to have been owned by James Browne, who had two stores thereon at his death in 1827 (#3608) and also in 1828, at which time the stores were occupied by Aaron Perkins and others. This house was obviously built as a house, probably before 1750, so if the building that Mr McCloy bought in 1829 was one of the stores, that same building could not be this house, even if the wharf building were moved to this site (which it was not).

As has been shown, Alex McCloy moved to Union Street (this house) in 1839-- exactly where this house came from is unknown, but it probably stood nearby before being moved. The McCloy family lived here (Alex & wife Jane, Alex Jr, John, Elizabeth, & Margaret Jane) for many years, Alexander continuing to practice the trade of blacksmithing. His eldest son, Alex Jr, became a carpenter; his younger son became a blacksmith. At some point Mrs Jane McCloy died, and Alex married, secondly, a woman named Elizabeth, who may have been the Elizabeth Coene of Salem to whom Mr McCloy gave one-third of all his real and personal estate, "said real estate consisting of a certain lot by Union Street with a two story dwelling house and two out-buildings standing thereon" (748:146).

Mr McCloy died in 1872 or 1873 at an advanced age, and his estate came into the possession of his wife Elizabeth and his heirs (except for Alex Jr, who may have released his rights therein already in an unrecorded agreement). On 23 Mar 1874 Mr McCloy's widow, Elizabeth, in consideration of certain premises released to her on Herbert Street, released to her husband's children this house and a lot of land bounded just as it is today (900:268). Soon after, on 15 May 1874, John J McCloy, William H Pope, of Salem, and Margaret J Abbott and husband Elias, of Boston (the McCloy heirs minus Alex Jr) for \$2325 granted their father's house and land to David Harding of Salem (904:275).

Mr Harding owned it for many years; after his death in 1893 the premises, in accordance with his will, were held in trust by John B Harding for the benefit of himself and of widow Elizabeth F Driscoll and Margaret F and Joseph H Driscoll, under which trust it continued well into the 20th century (see deed 1391:162, 11 Oct 1893).

Robert Booth
24 Jan 1978

McCLOY

I. Alexander, blacksmith, came from Ireland in or before 1829, was already m. (1) to Jane _____; he m. (2) 1867 (?) Elizabeth Coene (?); he died between 1872-4; she survived him and moved to Philadelphia in 1882.

Known children, all by his first wife Jane:

- 1) Alexander Jr, 15 June 1815, carpenter, m. 6 June 1844 Jane K McCormick.
- 2) Margaret Jane, 1822, m. 31 Dec 1846 Elias Abbot, carpenter.
- 3) Elizabeth, 1823, m. 31 Oct 1844 William A Pope, 24, son of Ebenezer.
- 4) John J, blacksmith, alive 1874.
- 5) Robert, 1838, died of croup 3 Mar 1842, aged 4 years.

Contemporary with Alexander there was a Robert McCloy on the even side of Union Street; perhaps they were brothers.

Notes:

The Salem Directory lists this house as 17 Union Street until at least 1874. The Directory shows that, in addition to Alex McCloy Sr, Alex Jr lived there in 1841 but soon moved to his own house; in 1849 Elizabeth McCloy, dress-maker, and Mary Ann McCloy, tailoress, shared the house with Alex Sr; in 1861-65 John McCloy, blacksmith, also lived there. Mrs Alex (Elizabeth) McCloy, widow, was there in 1873; by 1875 she had moved to 8 1/2 Herbert Street.

Street books in the vault at City Hall indicate that in 1844 Mr McCloy shared the house with William H Barry, 19; in 1845-8 with William Newhall; and in 1849-50 with Benjamin Hutchins, 31.

This house, which measures about 18' x 41' under the original gambrel roof, has some very interesting features. The house was built in a late post-and-beam style, beaded rather than chamfered, with the summers running into the front girt (or plate) unsupported by posts. Rooms in the original part display exposed sills, plates, girts, summers and corner posts. A very fine original dormer is to be found in the roof, very nearly in a line with the front door and upper middle window. It is entirely possible that the house dates from a good deal earlier in the 18th century; 1750 is an upward limit (or close to it).

Know all Men by these Presents, That WE,

Elizabeth C. Hathorne, widow, and John Dike, trader, & Pissilla M. Dike, his wife in her right, all of Salem.

in consideration of Nine hundred Dollars to us paid by William Summus of Salem, housewife.

the receipt whereof WE do hereby acknowledge, do hereby give, grant, sell and convey unto the said

Summus A parcel of land in Salem bounded Northerly 100 feet on land of Hodges and Bowker, Easterly 38 1/2 feet on Herbert Street Southerly 96 feet on land of Mary Manning, & Westerly 52 feet on Union Street.

To Have and to Hold the afore-granted premises to the said Summus —

his heirs and assigns, to the — ^{set forth in writing by me} their use and behoof forever. And WE do covenant with the said Summus his heirs and assigns, that WE are lawfully seized in fee of the afore-granted premises; that they are free of all incumbrances; that WE — have good right to sell and convey the same to the said Summus

And that WE — will warrant and defend the same premises to the said Summus, his heirs and assigns, forever, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons.

In witness whereof WE the said Elizabeth C. John. and Pissilla M.

have hereunto set our hands and seals this Eighth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty one.

Signed, sealed and delivered by J.L. in presence of me
J. J. Merrill
W. D. Hathorne & E. C. Hathorne.
Mynie Sewall & John Dike.

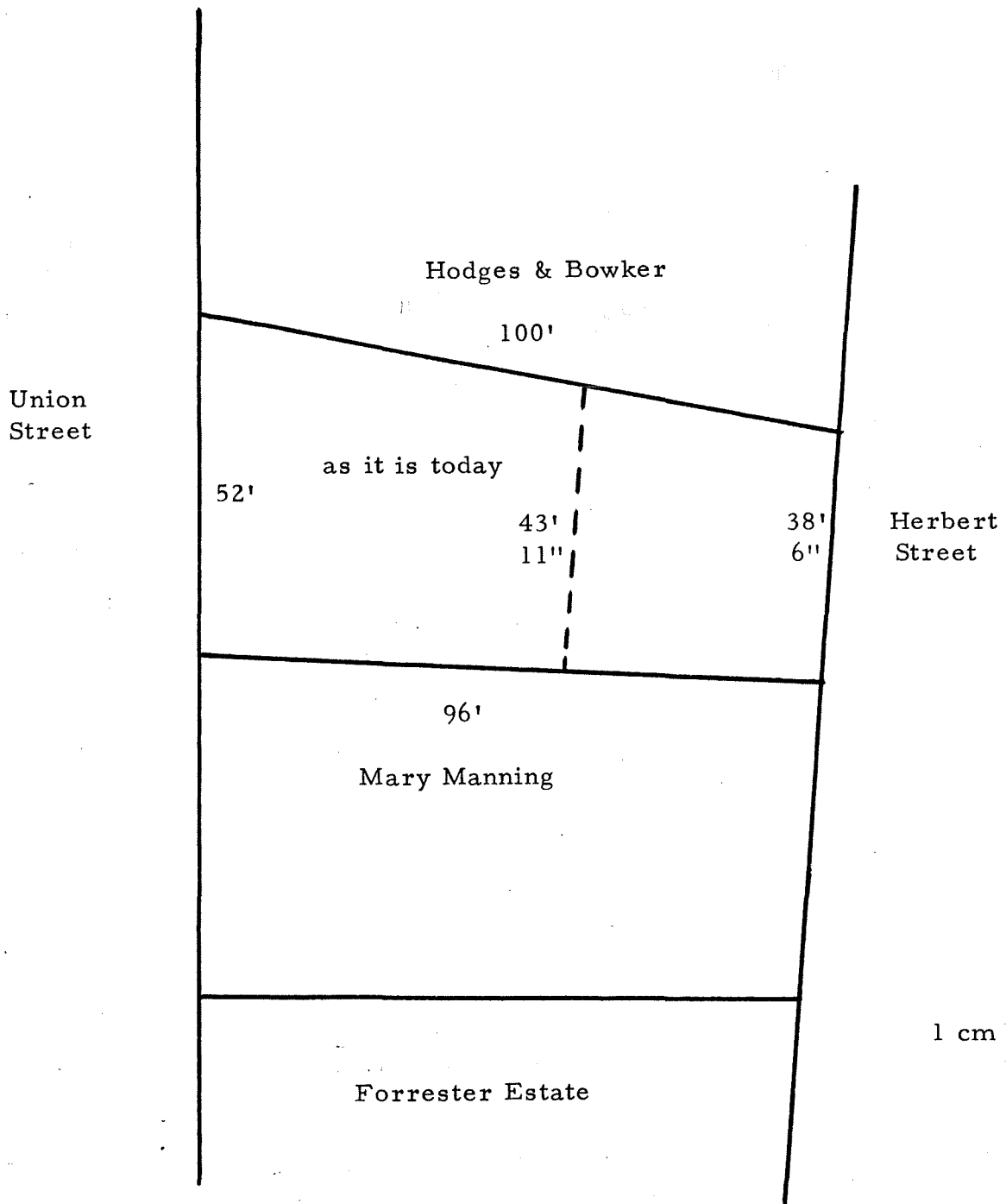
Elizabeth C. Hathorne — Seal.
John Dike — Seal.
Pissilla M. Dike — Seal.

ESSEX, ss. Feby 9th 1841 — Then the above named John Dike

acknowledged the above instrument to be his free act and deed, before me, Benj Merrill Justice of the Peace.

ESSEX, ss. Received Feby 9th 1841 10 m. before me, A. M. Recorded and examined, by A. H. French — Register.

Rough Plan of Land conveyed 8 Feb 1841, Elizabeth C Hathorne and Priscilla M Dike to William Lummus, Salem housewright, as described in deed 322:256.



R Booth



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