



The Joseph Cabot House 1744  
~~356~~ Essex St. Salem  
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## Historical Summary of the Joseph Cabot House

The land where half a century later Joseph Cabot's house was to be built was originally a large open tract known as "Meetinghouse Field." In 1700 Thomas Maule owned it, along with other land near the Pickering property. The name of the field derives from the Quaker meetinghouse which occupied the northwest corner until 1736. The north edge of the field bordered the "main street" as Essex St. was known in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Thomas Maule's land passed down to his son John, and after John Maule's death, his widow Charity began to sell off his property. She had 6 spinster daughters at the time, and with each sale of land, all the daughters had to release legally their inherited "dower rights." In 1735 Jeffrey Lang, a Salem goldsmith, bought 6 acres, and a few years later built a large house to shelter his growing family. (eleven children eventually)

Three years later in 1738 the widow Maule sold a smaller piece of Meetinghouse Field (1 $\frac{1}{4}$  acres) adjoining the Langs to three men: brothers Enos and Samuel Pope and Jeffrey Lang. Lang immediately resold his third to the Popes. The brothers did nothing with the land themselves for the next 5 years, although they apparently permitted a "Sam'l Parrot" to put up a house on it. Samuel Sibley bought the property in 1743, described as being "enclosed by a fence", and

Mr. Parnot was given one month to move his house off.

A year and a half later in 1744 this same acre and a quarter was purchased by two Cabot brothers Francis and Joseph. Joseph was a merchant in his father's prospering business. He married Elizabeth Higginson this same year, and in time this family too produced eleven children. Joseph in 1749 bought his brother Francis' half of the land title. At some point in these years Joseph built what was described as "the finest house in Salem; designed in the beautiful Georgian style by an English architect." Three different books date the house 1744, 1745, and 1746. It seems most likely that the house was begun shortly after the Cabots acquired the land in 1744.

After Joseph's death in 1767, his widow moved to Beverly with her youngest children, and sold her Salem mansion to her second son Joseph, then 21. This son was married to Rebecca Orne; their family included another son Joseph among the six offspring. Poor Rebecca: in only seven years her husband died and left her with all the babies. She was left well-off financially, as the family owned a great deal of property, much of it income-producing. She lived to the age of 70 in the lovely family home, outliving several of her children. In 1820 her will was probated. Her unmarried daughter Rebecca received the family house, land, and all her mother's furniture. Several

other pieces of property were entrusted to Rebecca for two grandsons living in the family home also: Joseph Sebastian and William Payne, sons of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Joseph Cabot who had died in 1799 only 29 years old. This young man according to the Rev. William Bentley drank himself to death in Boston!

The second Rebecca Cabot never married. She lived on in the family homestead with her nephew Joseph Sebastian Cabot and his second wife Susar Burley Howes. (his first wife died a year after marriage) He was an attorney and Rebecca turned the family finances as executrix of her mother's estate over to Joseph. Meanwhile in the house next door built by Jeffrey Lang, two Lang sons inherited the building and divided it in two. These east and west ends were sold separately. Joseph Cabot bought the nearer end in 1840, and the farther end in 1845. This western half had been bequeathed by a Lang to the "Bible Society of Salem and Vicinity" and the "Salem Society for Moral and Religious Instruction of the Poor." The Cabots apparently kept the property as rental income.

In 1860 the old aunt Rebecca died and left all her property to her nephew Joseph. Joseph S. Cabot was a prominent figure in Salem. He was an Alderman, and from 1845 to 1848 Mayor of Salem. Although a graduate of Harvard Law

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School, he didn't practice much, as he was a very wealthy man. He increased his fortune by shipping ventures and banking interests. He and his wife Susan never had children. Horticulture was a great hobby of Joseph Sebastian's: he is said to have grown 600 varieties of tulips in the lovely gardens behind his mansion.

In 1870 Judge William C. Endicott and his wife Ellen purchased the Cabot estate. The elderly Cabots moved to Chestnut St., and two years later Joseph S. Cabot died aged 78, and his widow moved to Beverly. The Endicotts, as had the generations of Cabots, entertained many famous people at their stately home. Judge Endicott in addition to being a Justice in the Mass. Supreme Court, was appointed Secretary of War.

The Endicotts were great friends of Daniel Low and his wife Eliza. Mr. Low was founder and owner of Salem's best known jewelry store. After the Endicotts had lived for 24 years in the "Cabot House" they sold it to their great friends the Lows for "\$1 and considerations." Daniel Low, his wife and their children Seth, Florence, and Harry occupied #365 Essex St. from 1894 to 1919. During all the century and a half preceding, the old Jeffrey Lang house had sat right up by the Essex St. sidewalk next door and actually in front of the Cabot barn. Owned by the Cabots since 1840, it had had a succession of rent-

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-ors including a Sally Bacon who ran a little shop inside her (west end) front door. Daniel Low had the house removed, thereby giving the Cabot House the wide graceful front yard it has now.

After the deaths of the elder Lows, the three grown children sold the property to the family's good friends Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Ives who lived right next door. The Iveses raised their four children in the spacious Cabot House from 1919 to 1947. Reluctantly then, with their family grown and moved away, the Ives' decided to sell. Even though the house was now too large for them, Mrs. Ives hated to leave it for smaller quarters on Chestnut St.

Mr. and Mrs. George S. Parker, and later the widowed Mrs. Parker alone owned the Cabot House until her death in 1964. Sally Parker Barton, the only surviving child of the Parkers, had her own lovely estate in Marblehead. Large houses are expensive and difficult to keep up in this age of high taxes and disappearing household help. Many gracious homes have succumbed to the fate of being made into rooming houses, nursing homes, or small apartments: a sad alternative to tearing them down. Fortune down through the years has favored the Cabot House. In 1964 Dr. John B. Ballou and his wife bought it; and with their 5 handsome children are now living in their 224 yr. old home: still in 1969 as in 1745, the "finest house in Salem."

## Documentation

Page 169 Perley - "Salem in 1700"

Thomas Maule conveyed Meetinghouse Field to his son John Maule Book 19 p. 164. As late as 1736 a Quaker meetinghouse stood on the N.W. corner of the land.

Book 77 Page 69 July 25, 1738

Charity Maule; widow of John Maule of Salem for 300 £ sells to Enos Pope (worsted comber) Samuel Pope (blacksmith) and Jeffrey Lang (goldsmith) a part of Meetinghouse Field containing 1 acre and  $\frac{1}{4}$ , bounded on N. by street; on E. partly by Mr. Kitchen's and partly by Pickering's land; on S. by land of Gerrish and Lee; on W. by land sold to Jeffrey Lang.

Book 77 Page 69 July 25, 1738

Jeffrey Lang for 100 £ sells his  $\frac{1}{3}$  share of the above land to Enos and Samuel Pope.

Book 82 Page 266 May 25, 1743

Enos Pope of Salem, clothier, and Samuel Pope of Boston, blacksmith, for 87 £ 10 sh. sell to Samuel Sibley of Salem, cordwainer, a piece of land in Salem containing  $\frac{1}{4}$  acres bounded: beginning at N.W. corner of land of Edward Kitchen running W. by street 8 poles 10' to land of Lang; then S.  $38^{\circ}$  E. 1 pole 8', then S.  $13^{\circ}$  W. 1 pole  $14\frac{1}{2}'$ , then S.  $3^{\circ}$  E. 28 poles all by land of said Lang; E. by land of Lee

and Gerrish 8 poles 10' ; then N. 5° W. 33 poles 10' by land of Kitchen to street aforesaid ; land now enclosed by fence. Save only preserving house of Sam'l Parrot now standing on land, and liberty to remove same at any time within one month of date hereof.

Book 90 Page 39 Sept. 22, 1744

Samuel Sibley for 112 £ 10 sh. sells to Francis and Joseph Cabot of Salem, merchants, a piece of land in Salem 1/4 acres bounded: beginning at N.W. corner of land of Edw. Kitchen, on street running W. 8 poles 10' by street to land of Lang; then S. 38° E. 1 pole 8' by land of Lang, then S. 13° W. 1 pole 14 1/2' by said Lang's land, then S. 3° E. 28 poles by land of Lang; then E. by land of Lee and Gerrish 8 poles 10'; then N. 5° W. 33 poles 10' by land of Kitchen to street: the same land as is enclosed by fence.

Book 95 Page 12 May 10, 1748

Naomi, Hannah, Elizabeth, and Mary Maule, spinsters of Boston, William and Charity Maule Buxton of Rhode Island for 5 sh. release to Joseph Cabot all dower rights to a piece of land in Salem described: 1/4 acres bounded N. on main street; E. on land of Edward Kitchen; S. on land of Lee and Gerrish; W. on land of Jeffrey Lang, as it is now enclosed by a fence.

Book 93 Page 162 July 1, 1749

Francis Cabot for 62 £ 10 sh. paid by his



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brother Joseph Cabot of Salem, merchant, releases to Joseph his half of a piece of land in Salem,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acres described: bounded on E. by land of Edw. Kitchen; S. on land late of Lee and Gerrish; W. on land of Jeffrey Lang; and N. on the main street as described in deed from Samuel Sibley.

Book 12) Page 271 Aug. 29, 1768

Elizabeth Cabot widow sells for 1000 £ to her son Joseph Cabot of Salem, merchant, and Rebecca his wife, the mansion house, shop, store, and barn and homestead land (on part where of said buildings stand) left me in the last will and testament of my late husband. The land butting N.W. on the main street; W. in several courses by land of late Jeffrey Lang; S. by land late of Lee and Gerrish; E. partly by land of Timothy Pickering and partly by land late of Edw. Kitchen (dec.) and being about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acres.

Vol. II Bentley's Diaries Page 323

" Mr. Joseph Cabot age 26 was this day brought to Salem from Boston to be buried. His uncommon intemperance has hastened his ruin. He was thrown in convulsions and died in that state. He has left a wife and 2 children and a handsome estate."

Probate Docket # 4447 Rebecca Cabot

Will drawn 1812, probated 1820  
daughter Rebecca (single) exec.

will gives to daughter Rebecca mansion house with land, also furniture, etc. She receives other properties in trust for the 2 grandsons Joseph Sebastian and William Payne Cabot.

Book 318 Page 59 April 11, 1840

Deborah Fuller wife of Joseph Fuller of Lynn for \$1600 sells to Joseph S. Cabot of Salem the eastern part of a dwellinghouse and land described: bounded E. on land of Cabot; N. on Essex St.; W. on land now or late of Lang; S. on Chesnut St.; being estate which Edw. Lang conveyed to Hannah Holman, Deborah Holman Fuller, Hannah and Nathaniel Holman (except what is part of or cut off now by Chesnut St.) by deed Book 147 page 185

Book 362 page 111 Dec. 17, 1845

"Bible Soc. of Salem & Vicinity" and "Salem Soc. for Moral and Religious Instruction of the Poor" for \$800 sell to Joseph S. Cabot of Salem property bequeathed by Daniel Lang, late of Salem, trader, dec. described: bounded N. by Essex St.; W. by land of Ropes; S. by land of West; E. by other land of Cabot.

Probate docket # 34399 Rebecca Cabot, single, of Salem will probated 1861. Real and personal estate bequeathed to nephew Joseph Sebastian Cabot.

Book 854 page 257 May 11, 1872

Joseph S. and Susan B. Cabot of Salem for \$25,000 sell to Ellen Endicott, wife of William C. Endicott

real estate and homestead described: beginning at N.W. corner thereof by land of Ropes running N.E. along Essex St. 67'6", then more E. on same street 134'9" to land of Creamer; then S. by said land 209' to a point 160' distant by the E. line of said Cabots' other land from Chestnut St.; then W. by other land of said Cabot parallel to Chestnut St. 140' to land of Ward; then N. by land of Ward 8'; then W. by said land 17'; then N. by land of Ropes 70'6"; then N.W. by land of Ropes 61'6" to Essex St. and point begun at. Property conveyed to Grantor in part by deed (B. 318 p. 59) (B. 362 p. 111) and in part by will of Rebecca Cabot.

Book 1013 page 298 Mar. 20, 1879

Susan B. Cabot of Beverly sells for \$5464 to William C. Endicott of Salem land described: bounded S. on Chestnut St. 109'9"; W. on land sold this day to Webb 160'; N. by land of Endicott 104'; and E. on land this day sold to Cole 160'.

Book 1015 page 187 Mar. 26 1879

William C. and Ellen Endicott for \$4000 mortgage the Chestnut St. land to Wm. S. Dexter of Boston. Mort. dsch. Book 1428 p. 389

Book 1428 page 389 Nov. 3, 1894

William C. and Ellen Endicott of Salem for \$1 and considerations sell to Eliza J. Low, wife of Daniel Low, land and buildings described: beginning at the N.W. corner thereof on Essex St. by land of Ropes, N.E. on Essex St. 67'6", then more E. by said street 134'9" to land of Creamer; then S. by said land in st. line 209' to a point 160' in st. line from Chestnut St.; then W. by land of Wilson on a line parallel to

Chestnut St. 10', then S. by land of Wilson 160' to Chestnut St. ; then W. by said St. 109' 9" to land of Webb; then N. by said land 160' to a corner; then W. by land of Webb 30' to a corner at land of Webb; then N. by land of Webb 8' to a corner; then W. by land of Webb 17' to a corner; then N. by land of Ropes 70' 6"; then N.W. by said land 61' 6" to Essex St. and point of beginning.

Book 2418 page 61 June 23, 1919

Seth F. Low of Danvers, Harlan P. and Florence Low Kelsey of Salem, and Harry C. Low of Brookline, heirs of Eliza J. Low sell to Elinor G. Ives wife of Oscar J. Ives of 373 Essex St. land and buildings in Salem described: beginning at N.W. corner thereof on Essex St. by land formerly of Ropes now of the grantee running N.E. on Essex St. 67' 6", then more E. on said St. 134' 9" to land of Creamer; then S. by said land in st. line 209' to a point 160' in st. line from Chestnut St.; then W. 160' 3" to S.E. corner of other land of grantee, then N. by said other land 70' 6"; then N.W. by said other land 61' 6" to point begun at.

Book 3535 page 209 Nov. 3, 1947

Oscar J. and Elinor G. Ives sell to George S. Parker of New Hampshire land and buildings described: beginning at N.W. corner thereof on Essex St. by land late of Ropes, N.E. on Essex St. 67' 6", then more E. on Essex St. 134' 9" to land now or late of Creamer; then S. by said land in st. line 209' to a point 160' in st. line from Chestnut St.; then W. 160' 3" to S.E. corner of land now or late of Ives; then N. by said other land of Ives 70' 6", then N.W. by this land 61' 6" to point begun at.

Book 4009 page 300 Sept. 10, 1953

Grace M. Parker, exec. of will of late George S. Parker receives title to same property described above.

Book 5224 page 279 Nov. 16, 1964

Sally Parker Barton exec. under will of Grace M. Parker sells to John B. and Mary E. Ballou of Salem land and buildings at 365 Essex St. described: beginning at N.W. corner on Essex St. 67'6", then more E. on said St. 134'9" to land now or late of Creamer; S. by land now or late of Creamer in st. line 209' to a point which is 160' in st. line from Chestnut St.; then W. 160'3" to S.E. corner of land now or late of Ives; then N. by said land of Ives 70'6" then N.W. by said land of Ives 61'6" to point of beginning.

Vol. I Cabot Genealogy Chap. V

Joseph Cabot b. in Salem 1720 went into his father's mercantile business. Married Elizabeth Higginson in 1744, 11 children. "Ample fortune and prosperous business enabled him to build in 1748 the finest house in Salem," designed by an Eng. architect in Georgian style. He lived there until his death in 1767. Soon after, his widow moved to Beverly where she built a fine mansion. She sold the Salem house to her 2<sup>nd</sup> son Joseph (1746-1774) He married Rebecca Orne and had 6 children. He died aged 28. His widow lived in the house, died in 1818 age 70. Property went to her son Joseph's (1770-1799) son Joseph Sebastian Cabot (1796-1874)

P. 254 Whipple - Scrapbook #6 says "Cabot House" built 1745

P. 109 Belknap, Henry Wyckoff: "Pedigreed Properties in Salem". Cabot House

He says it was built in 1748 by Joseph Cabot

Vol. 21 page 220 Essex Inst. Hist. Coll. "Recollections" by Oliver Thayer

-described house of Judge Endicott as built by ancestor of Joseph S. Cabot in 1744; next to it is Jeffrey Lang house 1740.