

Built For
JOEL GOLDTHWAIT
Baker

1807

14 Hardy Street
Salem, Mass.

Robert Booth
23 Sept 1977

14 Hardy Street

This house, two stories high, pitch-roofed, and gable end to the street, was built for Joel Goldthwait, Salem baker, in the year 1807.

The land on which it stands was part of a large tract owned by Joseph Grafton in 1700; this tract was later divided, and a piece came into the possession of Rev. William Jenison of Watertown, who on 16 Nov 1742 for 18.15.0 granted a 70-pole parcel to the minister of Salem's East Church (which stood at the westerly corner of Hardy & Essex Sts), Rev. James Diman, who used the land as an orchard (82:164). Derby Street was laid out through the southern portion of this lot, reducing it in area to 55 poles. Mr Diman died 8 Oct 1788; by his will of 7 Feb 1788 he bequeathed his "orchard land, adjoining to my garden, with the store or shop thereon" to two of his children, daughters Mary Diman and Lois, wife of Bernard Green Esq of Malden (#7705).

On 20 Dec 1806 the Greens and Miss Diman made an indenture with Joel Goldthwait, Salem coaster, in which they leased to him, for a ten-year period, "one half the land from Mr Stoddard's line to Timothy Diman's line" (189:218). On this leased land (which included the present 14 Hardy St house-lot), Joel Goldthwait soon caused a house to be built; the valuation books show that in 1807 he was assessed for an unfinished house worth \$400; in 1808 for an unfinished house worth \$500. In 1809 the finished house was worth \$500, in 1810, \$600. From this data, and from the fact that Joel Goldthwait owned no real estate in 1806, it seems clear that this house was built in 1807, at which time it was substantially complete, with some details left to be finished.

On 29 Mar 1810 Mr Goldthwait, who had earlier left the coasting trade (coasters sailed small vessels up & down the coast with cargoes such as lumber) to become a baker, for \$1 assigned the lease to the land to John Frederick Holman, Salem mariner; that same day, for \$600, he granted to Mr Holman "a certain wooden dwelling house now standing on Hardy Street and on land belonging to Bernard Green Esq & wife and Mary Diman; said building is two stories high, 18 feet wide, and 28' long" (189:219, 188:237). How long Mr Holman owned the house could not be determined (he probably did not live here), although it is evident that the ownership of the house remained separate from that of the land it stood on, for many years.

The land remained in possession of Mrs Green and Miss Diman until Mary Diman's death; by her will she gave her half of the land to her nephews James D and Ezra Green. On 25 June 1817 Ezra Green, Malden

yeoman, for \$750 sold his right in their inheritance to his brother James D Green, then at Harvard studying to become a minister; the land in the whole, being undivided among its owners, was bounded by Hardy and Derby Streets, and on the north by Timothy Diman, and on the west by Crowninshield or Silsbee (214:100). On 10 Sept 1828 Rev Mr Green, of Cambridge, for \$400 mortgaged to Samuel Cook his undivided half of this tract of land; the mortgage was discharged on 11 Jan 1832 (257:270).

Mr Green continued as absentee owner of the land until 7 Oct 1851, when for \$500 he sold to Stephen Whipple of Salem a parcel of land 80' long and fronting 39' 9" on Hardy Street (451:238). This was the land on which the house stood. Mr Whipple secured title to the house as well, and rented out the premises for 20 years, selling out for \$1350 to Anton M Liebsch, Salem sail-maker, on 15 June 1871 (826:100). This last deed, made 64 years after the construction of the house, was the first to convey both land and house thereon.

Mr Liebsch, who worked on Derby Wharf as a sail-maker, had seven children, five girls and two boys. He died on 23 July 1893, at which time his daughters were grown, but his sons were still minors. The house & land at 14 Hardy Street were valued at \$1400, and Mr Liebsch left personal property worth \$1291.88, including a sloop, the "Olin," and a piano (#74687). On 18 July 1894 the administrator of his estate for \$1680 sold the homestead to Mrs Mary Ann Moran of Salem (1417:528). It should be noted here that Mr Whipple had reduced the lot to frontage of only 24' 2" in his 1871 deed to Mr Liebsch, and this is the frontage on Hardy Street today.

Mrs Moran, a widow, granted the homestead to Richard Roche of Salem and his wife Nora (1597:58). Mr Roche died on 17 Feb 1910, at which time his half of the premises was valued at \$900 (#107741). The property descended to his two children, Katherine and Nicholas, who on 23 Feb 1910 released their rights therein to their mother Nora (2005:458). On 24 Feb 1911 Mrs Roche released the premises to her daughter Katherine H Roche (2070:297). Miss Roche soon, on 31 July 1911, granted the property to Mr Stefan Zdanowicz of Salem (2096:505).

Mr Zdanowicz owned the property for more than 46 years, dying on 26 Dec 1957 (#327272). On 29 Nov 1974 his widow and heirs released the house and land at 14 Hardy Street to two of the heirs, Frank T and Victoria Zdanowicz, the current owners of this 170-year-old house.

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Notes

This house was difficult to trace, due to its having been built on land owned separately, and to the fact that John Frederick Holman, second owner, apparently never deeded it over, and left no will. Indeed, no probate proceeding of any kind exists for Mr Holman. It seemed possible that the house built by Joel Goldthwait in 1807 could have been (at least according to geographic location) any one of #10, #12, or #14 Hardy Street, all of which were built, it seems on the piece of land that was formerly Rev Mr Diman's orchard. But #12 is obviously of the Greek Revival (1830s-40s) era. This left #10 and #14 to consider. The 1844 valuation book refers to #10 as a "new house;" while the gambrel-roof style was popular in 1807, this "new" designation can only mean that it was a late example of the style, or that it was moved to its spot. This leaves #14 as the only possibility. Further, the 29 Mar 1810 bill of sale from Goldthwait to Holman (188:237) specifies that the house is 18' wide by 28' long, and two stories high. As the accompanying sketch shows, the original house, before later additions, can clearly be discerned at 14 Hardy Street today. The present brick foundation along the street measures 18' 5" (approx.), and if one measures down from the eaves where the original moulding leaves off and the rear addition eave moulding begins, one finds that this point is almost exactly 28' from the corner on the street.

Aside from Mr Goldthwait, it is difficult to determine exactly who lived here before Mr Liebsch moved in (in 1871). In 1836 it was occupied by Cotten L Pratt, a sailor, and Robert Hodgdon, a laborer. They lived there through 1844. In 1845 the tenants were Robert Hodgdon Jr, 22, and Frederick Prince, 26, a sailor. They lived there through 1849. It may have been that the Hodgdon family owned the house at this time; at any rate, Robert Jr seems to have lived there from 1850-55, and in 1854, the Salem street book notes that the owner of the house was Rachel Hodgdon. In 1856 and 1857 Mr Hodgdon lived here, as did William Selby, a 58-year-old mariner; in 1856 it was noted that the land was taxed to S Whipple, while Mrs Hodgdon was not required to pay tax on the house.

It has been said that Capt William Driver lived in this house, based on the fact that the Salem Directory of 1837 lists him at 14 Hardy Street. This hardly seems possible, since Messrs Pratt & Hodgdon and their families were already living there. The answer is to be found in the valuation book for 1836 (the Salem Directory of 1837 was based on information gathered in 1836); it shows William Driver as living at 11 Hardy Street, which was one half of the double house there, Capt Emery Johnson living in the other half, #13. The Directory compilers simply erred in assigning the number to his half of the double house.

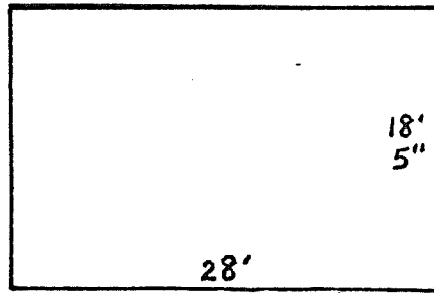
In the Descendants of Thomas Goldthwaite by Charlotte Goldthwaite (Hartford Press, 1899, pps 115-116), it is mentioned that Joel was the son of Ezekiel and Anna (Adams) Goldthwait, and was born at Northbridge, Mass., on 9 Jan 1776. The family, which consisted of parents and eleven children, resided at South Danvers (now Peabody, Mass.) and several of the children lived in Salem. Joel Goldthwait never married, but carried on his baking business for many years, dying on 1 Jan 1853, aged nearly 77 years.

The probate record refers to him as a yeoman (farmer) at the time of his death; he had long lived in the western part of Salem, and owned a house at 45 Broad Street, which house he willed to his sister, widow Prudence Wilson. He had maintained his bakery shop nearby. The inventory shows that he died possessed of real estate worth \$5060 and a personal estate of \$2878 in goods, notes, and cash (#40424).

In Leverett Saltonstall's Reminiscences of Salem, written in 1885 (see EIHC 81:56), Mr Saltonstall (b. 1825) recalled the following: "One of my earliest recollections is, and it is very vivid, that an old bakehouse stood on Flint Street next to the Fogg house facing the sidewalk on Chestnut St, where Uncle Joel Goldthwait made hot cross buns. His door stood wide open, and we children used to stand looking in, while he kneaded his dough by sitting on a long wooden arm while he kept jumping up and moving it around upon the dough which was on a low solid wooden stand of some sort; and while he moved round and round up and down, the old man talked to the crowd of youngsters at the door. For some reason old Prince Savage, the venerable ex-slave, is associated in my mind with this old bakery of 'Uncle Joel's'."

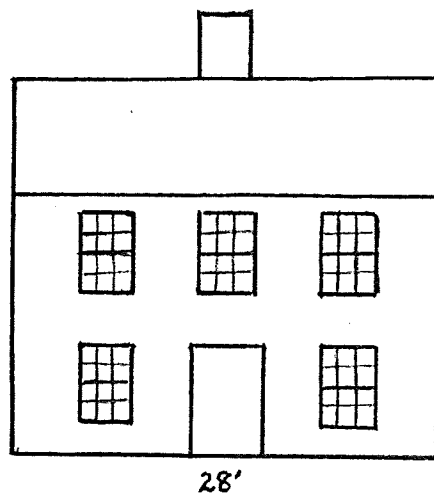
A figure such as (123:45) refers to So. Essex County Registry of Deeds, book 123, page or leaf 45. A figure such as (#12345) refers to So. Essex County probate docket 12345. EIHC 81:56 refers to Essex Institute Historical Collections, vol. 81, p. 56.

The homeowner is encouraged to add to this report anything he may know or find out about the house, and especially a description of any important interior or exterior changes that have taken place.

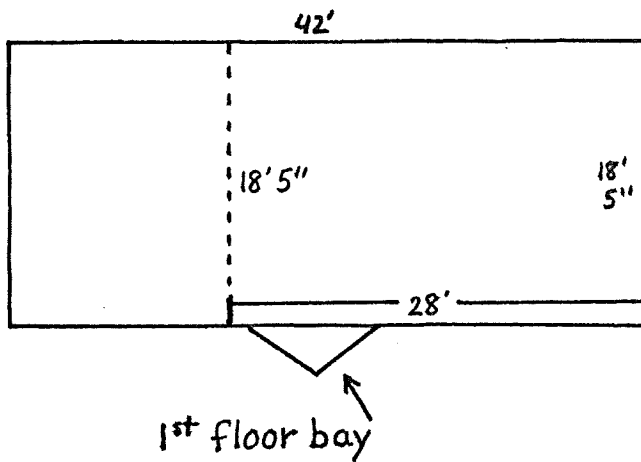


Dimensions of house
as originally built
(see deed 188:237)

Bird's-Eye View



Front Elevation,
house as
originally built



Bird's-eye view of
present house, after
rear addition was
made

scale 1cm = 5'

DL Booth