

***Six Gifford Court
Salem***

According to available evidence, this house was built in 1879 for William H. Haskell, shoemaker & Civil War veteran, and his wife Paulina Woodman.

On 23 October 1878 James B. Gifford for \$500 sold to William H. Haskell, a Salem shoemaker, a piece of land fronting 47' 6" on Gifford Court and running 61' deep, its eastern corner being 50' from Carpenter Street (ED 1028:2).

On this lot, Mr. Haskell had the present house built as his residence, in 1879.

William Henry Haskell (1822-1890) was born in Salem on Oct. 14, 1821, the son of William Haskell and Dorcas Larrabee. As a boy, he was apprenticed to learn the trade of a cordwainer, or shoemaker. He became a journeyman when he was 19, and on 24 July 1842 married Paulina Woodman. She was born in Portland, Maine, in June, 1822, the daughter of Samuel Woodman, a native of Salem who had gone to Portland.

William and Paulina evidently had no children. They resided in this general neighborhood (sometimes residing on Hathorne Street or Broad Street) for many years. During William's boyhood, Salem was still a maritime power, sending out ships and cargoes all over the globe; but by the 1830s its foreign commerce had waned, and industrial enterprises became the main source of employment in Salem. Shoemaking rapidly evolved from a hand-craft in the 1820s and 1830s to a highly industrialized occupation in the 1840s and 1850s, as the factory system was introduced and high-speed machinery supplanted the individual's craftsmanship. No doubt Mr. Haskell changed with the times and, by the 1850s, was employed in a shoe factory, perhaps in a supervisory capacity.

In the spring of 1861, with the firing on Fort Sumter, the Civil War began. In early August, 1862, William Haskell, forty, Salem shoemaker, enlisted as a private for a three-year tour of duty in the First Regiment, Mass. Volunteer Heavy Artillery. He was assigned to Company I, and soon found himself in the vicinity of Washington, DC, working on forts. In September, Co. I was sent to Maryland Heights, opposite Harpers Ferry, to repair fortifications there. In spring, 1863, this Company went to Winchester, Va., to participate in a siege.

The siege failed; and, upon the evacuation of the federal army there, Capt. Martin and the men of Company I bravely volunteered to stay behind to spike the guns and destroy the ammunition of the fort so that the Confederates could not use them. Capt. Martin and 44 men, including Mr. Haskell, were captured and made prisoners on June 15th. Mr. Haskell was released on July 8th, and probably rejoined the Regiment at Maryland Heights. He was discharged due to a disability in October, 1863, and probably returned to Salem for the duration of the war, which ended in spring, 1865. (see Mass. Soldiers, Sailors, & Marines in the Civil War, 5:626).

The couple lived in the 1860s and 1870s on Federal Street. The 1878 Directory shows William H. Haskell at 122 Federal Street (note: Directory information was sometimes compiled in the year/s before the date of publication). As has been mentioned, James Gifford sold the lot here to William Haskell in 1878. On 5 Feb. 1880 Mr. Haskell for \$800 mortgaged the land "with the buildings thereon" here on the court "running southwesterly from Carpenter Street" to Eliza J. Branigan (ED 1030:21).

The 1881 Directory shows William H. Haskell at One Gifford Court (it was given that number because the house on the corner was originally numbered as being on Carpenter Street; the numbers changed about 1895, when #1 became #6). During the same period, 1878-1881, James B. Gifford (the seller of the lot to Mr. Haskell in 1878) resided not far away at 18 Mason Street. Farther down the Court resided Edwin Woodman, a baker, perhaps a relative of Mrs. Paulina Woodman Haskell.

On 25 October 1887 James B. Gifford for \$50 sold to Mr. Haskell an adjoining piece of land on the northeast side thereof, fronting 5' on Gifford Court and running 61' in depth (ED 1290:524).

In the 1880s, Mr. Haskell became the janitor of the orphanage of the Salem Seaman's Widow and Orphan Society building on Carpenter Street. By October, 1890, Mr. Haskell was very sick from a number of illnesses, and was dying. On 23 Oct. 1890 he transferred ownership of the homestead to his wife Paulina (ED 1293:359). Three days later William H. Haskell died at home here on Sunday, October 26, 1890, 12 days after his 69th birthday. His brief obituary noted that he had served in the Civil War in Company I of the First Mass. Heavy Artillery Regiment, 1862-1863.

Mrs. Paulina Woodman Haskell resided here alone for more than ten years. In her 82d year, on 11 Sept. 1903, she died here, and was buried alongside her husband at Greenlawn Cemetery.

In April, 1905, the devisees under the will of Paulina Haskell, who were Mrs. Mary E. Beckford and Mrs. Nellie H. Sweet, sold the premises to Mrs. Sarah E. Gifford, a Salem widow (ED 1773:396). Mrs. Gifford conveyed the premises, and in November, 1908, Mrs. Stephen H. (Elizabeth G.) Knight, of Detroit, sold the property to Josiah H. Gifford (ED 1941:510).

During this period, the house was the shop and residence of Mrs. Marcella A. Coffin, a dressmaker. In 1905 the house was vacant. In the years 1907-1920, per the Naumkeag Directory, Mrs. Coffin, the widow of Loren Coffin, occupied the premises, along with Bertha Coffin, a stenographer, perhaps her daughter. In 1920 Mrs. Coffin moved to Ocean Terrace and continued her dressmaking business.

In October, 1920, Josiah Gifford of Salem sold the property to Frederick & wife Frances Grimes of Salem (ED 2466:232). Mr. Grimes was a fireman; his son Frank (who resided here too) was a painter and musician. In the 1930s the Grimeses died and the property was inherited by Frank Grimes. In March, 1934, Frank Grimes of Beverly sold the homestead to Roland & Edith Hinkley of Salem (ED 2985:375).

In June, 1960, the Hinkleys, of Peabody, sold the premises to Mr. & Mrs. Elmer & Eleanor Warner (ED 4674:273). In September, 1960, the Warners sold the homestead to Ray Nutting and Mildred Russell of Salem (ED 4703:128). They married, and resided here.

Mr. Nutting died 23 April 1968. He was long survived by Mrs. Mildred Nutting, who died 25 July 2000.

On 15 November 2000 the executor of Mrs. Nutting's will sold the premises for \$170,000 to Jacqueline Albanese of Brighton (ED 16688:156).

--Robert Booth for Historic Salem Inc, 15 Feb. 2001

Glossary

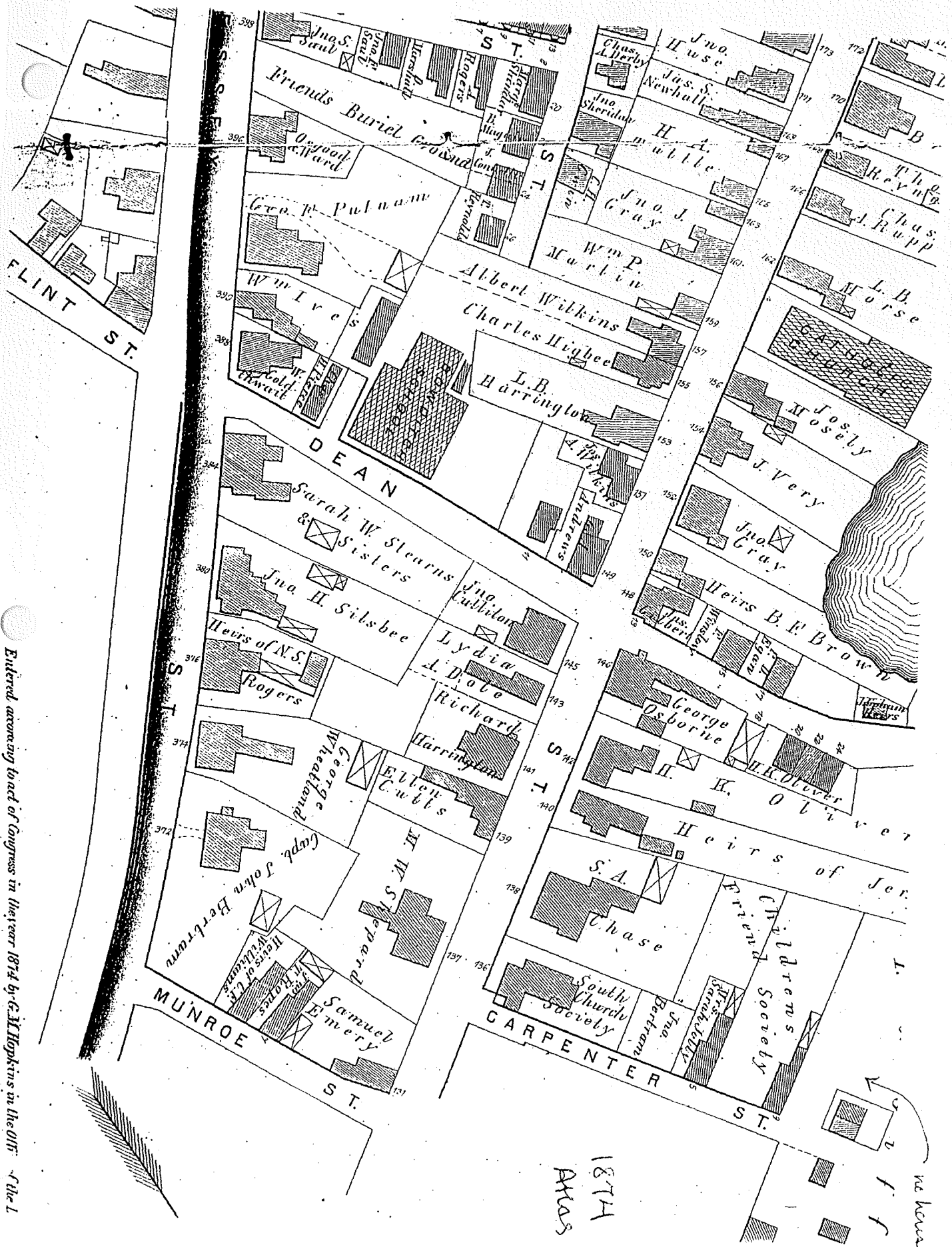
#1234 refers to probate case 1234, Essex County probate

ED 123:45 refers to book 123, page 45, Essex South Registry of Deeds

Salem Directory refers to the published Salem resident directories

Census refers to census records, taken house-by-house with occupants listed.

EIHC refers to Essex Institute Historical Collections



Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1874 by G. M. Hopkins in the Office of the Clerk of the District Court of the District of Columbia

1874
Atlas

see house there

1897 Atlas

N O R

BOSTON

BRIDGE

FLINT ST. CT.

GIFFORD CT.

CHILDREN'S HOME

LUMBER YARD & PLANING MILL

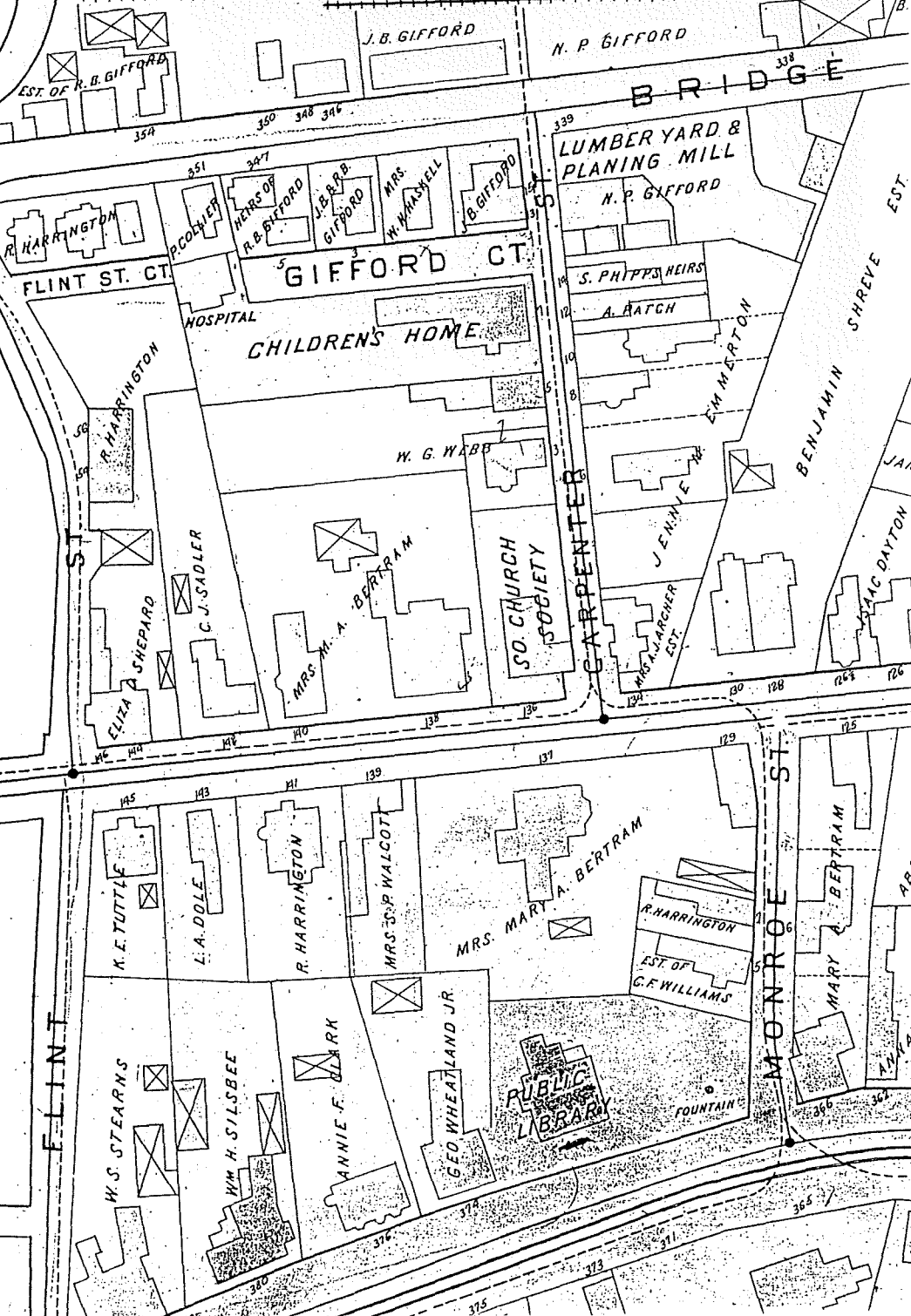
S.D. CHURCH SOCIETY

1897 Atlas

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FLINT ST.

MONROE ST.



23 Oct. 1878 J B Gifford to W H Haskell, 1028:2.

Know all men by these Presents, that I James B. Gifford of Salem J. B. Gifford
County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts in consideration ^{to} W. H. Haskell
of five hundred dollars paid by William H. Haskell of said Salem the re-
ceipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell
and convey unto the said William H. Haskell and his heirs and assigns
forever, a certain parcel of land, situated in said Salem and described as
follows, beginning at a point fifty feet from Carpenter street on a Court
running South westerly from Carpenter street, thence running by said Court
forty seven feet six inches, thence running north westerly by other land of
said grantor sixty one feet, thence running north easterly by said grantor
lands forty seven feet, six inches thence running south easterly by said land
sixty one feet to point begun at, To have and to hold the granted prem-
ises, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, to the said
William H. Haskell and his heirs and assigns to their own use and behoof
forever. And I do hereby, for myself and my heirs, executors and adminis-
trators, covenant with the said grantee and his 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 said grantee and his heirs and
assigns forever against the lawful claims and demands of all persons.
And for the consideration aforesaid I Maria L. Gifford wife of James B.
Gifford do hereby release unto the said grantee and his heirs and assigns
all right of or to both dower and homestead in the granted premises. In
witness whereof we the said James B. Gifford and Maria L. Gifford wife
of said James B. hereunto set our hands and seals this twenty third day of
October in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy eight.

Signed, sealed and delivered } James B. Gifford seal
in presence of Char. B. Fowler } Maria L. Gifford seal

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Essex ss. October 24th, 1878, Then
personally appeared the above named James B. Gifford and acknowl-
edged the foregoing instrument to be his free act and deed,

Before me, Char. B. Fowler Justice of the Peace.
Essex ss. Recd. Nov. 14, 1879, 55 m, part 10 A. M., Rec. 3 Ex. by Chas. D. Woods, Reg.

5 Feb. 1880 Mortgage of W. Haskell to E. Branigan, ED 1030:21 (3 pages)

Know all men by these Presents that I William H. Haskell of Salem in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in consideration of eight hundred dollars paid by Eliza J. Branigan of said Salem the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Eliza J. Branigan a certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon situated in said Salem and described as follows, viz: beginning at a point fifty feet from Carpenter street on a Court running south westerly from Carpenter street thence running by said Court forty seven feet six inches thence running north westerly by land of James B. Gifford sixty one feet thence running north easterly by said Gifford's land forty seven feet six inches thence running south easterly by said land sixty one feet to point begun at. To have and to hold the granted premises, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, to the said Eliza J. Branigan and 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 grantee and her 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 grantee and her heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claims and demands of all persons. Provided nevertheless that if I, or my heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, shall pay unto the grantee or her executors, administrators or assigns the sum of eight hundred dollars in two years from this date with interest semi-annually at the rate of seven per cent. per annum, and until such payment shall pay all taxes and assessments on the granted premises; shall keep the buildings thereon insured against fire in a sum not less than eight hundred dollars, for the benefit of the grantee, and her executors, administrators, and assigns, at such Insurance Office as they shall approve, and shall not commit or suffer any such a waste of the

I may or. Feb. 5. 1883 9, the mortgage herein made, having received satisfaction for this mortgage do hereby fully discharge the same. Eliza J. Branigan
 ATTEST
 RE:

granted premises, or any breach of any covenant herein contained, then this deed
as also a note of even date herewith, signed by me whereby I promise to pay to
the grantee or order the said sum and interest at the times aforesaid, shall be
void. But upon any default in the performance or observance of the foregoing
condition, the grantee or her executors, administrators, or assigns, may sell the
granted premises, or such portion thereof as may remain subject to this mort-
gage in case of any partial release hereof, together with all improvements that
may be thereon, at public auction in said Salem first publishing a notice
of the time and place of sale once each week for three successive weeks in
some one newspaper published in said Salem and may convey the same by
proper deed or deeds to the purchaser or purchasers absolutely and in fee sim-
ple; and such sale shall forever bar me and all persons claiming under me
from all right and interest in the granted premises, whether at law or in
equity. And out of money arising from such sale the grantee or her represent-
atives shall be entitled to retain all sums then secured by this deed, whether
then or thereafter payable, including all costs, charges and expenses incurred
or sustained by them by reason of any default in the performance or observance
of the said condition, rendering the surplus, if any, to me or my heirs or as-
signs. and I hereby, for myself and my heirs, and assigns, covenant with the
grantee and her heirs, executors, administrators and assigns that, in case a
sale shall be made under the foregoing power, I or they will upon request ex-
ecute, acknowledge, and deliver to the purchaser or purchasers a deed or deeds
of release confirming such sale. And it is agreed that the grantee or her exec-
utors, administrators, or assigns, or any person or persons in their behalf, may
purchase at any sale made as aforesaid, and that no other purchaser shall be
answerable for the application of the purchase money; and that, until de-
fault in the performance of the condition of this deed, I and my heirs and as-
signs may hold and enjoy the granted premises and receive the rents and prof-
its thereof. And for the consideration aforesaid I Paulina Haskell wife of
said William H. do hereby release unto the said grantee and her heirs and as-
signs all right of a to both dower and homestead in the granted premises.
In witnesses whereof we the said William H. Haskell and Paulina Has-
kell hereunto set our hands and seals this fifth day of February in the year

one thousand eight hundred and eighty. Wm. H. Haskell seal

Signed and sealed in presence of } Paulina Haskell seal

Charles Odell Thomas M. Dewlin } Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Exec. 11.

February 6, 1880. Then personally appeared the above named William H. Haskell
and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his free act and deed.

Before me Charles Odell Justice of the Peace.

Exec. 11. Recd. Feb. 6, 1880. 30 m. post 10 A.M. Recd. Ex. by Charles Odgood, Reg.

25 Oct. 1887 J. B. Gifford to Wm Haskell, a strip 1290:524.

J. B. Gifford
To
Wm Haskell.

Know all men by these Presents That I James B. Gifford of Salem in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts in consideration of Fifty dollars to me paid by William Haskell of the same Salem the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged do hereby give grant bargain sell and convey unto the said William Haskell and his heirs and assigns forever, a certain parcel of land in said Salem bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a point forty five feet from Carpenter Street on a bowt running South westerly five feet thence sixty one feet on land of said Haskell to other land of grantor thence five feet Northeastly, thence sixty one feet to the point began at. To have and to hold the above granted premises with all the privileges and appertinances to the same belonging to the said William Haskell his heirs and assigns to their own use and behoof forever. And I the said grantor for myself and my heirs executors and administrators do covenant with the said grantee and his heirs and assigns that I am lawfully seized in fee simple of the above granted premises that they are free from all incumbrances that I have good right to sell and convey the same to the said grantee and his heirs and assigns forever as aforesaid; and that I will and my heirs executors and administrators shall Warrant and defend the same to the said grantee and his heirs and assigns

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forever against the lawful claims and demands of all persons In witness whereof I the said James B. Gifford and Maria L. Gifford wife of said James B. in token of her release of all right and title of or to hold, now and here to ad in the granted premises have hereunto set our hands and seal. This twentieth fifth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty seven.

Signed sealed and delivered } James B. Gifford Seal
in presence of } Maria L. Gifford Seal
Samuel Brown. } Salem Essexs. Oct. 25th 1887...
Emma S. Gifford } Then personally appeared the

above named James B. Gifford and acknowledged the above instrument to be his free act and deed.

Before me. Rufus B. Gifford, Justice of the Peace.
Glastonbury, Conn. Def.

Essex Rec. Supt 26, 1890, 10m part 11 A.M. Rec + Cr. 189.