

HISTORIC
SALEM INC

18 Chestnut Street

Built for
James B. Bott
c. 1800
Home of
Nathaniel Hawthorne
1846-1847

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

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SAL.1035
Historic Name:	Bott, James B. House
Common Name:	Fabens, Augustus and Benjamin House
Address:	18 Chestnut St
City/Town:	Salem
Village/Neighborhood:	Central Salem
Local No:	25-424
Year Constructed:	c 1800
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Federal
Use(s):	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	SAL.HJ: Chestnut Street Historic District SAL.HU: McIntire Historic District
Designation(s):	MA Archaeo/Historic Landmark (06/22/1970); Nat'l Register District (08/28/1973); Local Historic District (03/03/1981)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Cobblestone; Coursed Ashlar; Granite; Stone, Uncut



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

The MACRIS database and scanned files are highly dynamic; new information is added daily and both database records and related scanned files may be updated as new information is incorporated into MHC files. Users should note that there may be a considerable lag time between the receipt of new or updated records by MHC and the appearance of related information in MACRIS. Users should also note that not all source materials for the MACRIS database are made available as scanned images. Users may consult the records, files and maps available in MHC's public research area at its offices at the State Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, open M-F, 9-5.

Users of this digital material acknowledge that they have read and understood the MACRIS Information and Disclaimer (<http://mhc-macris.net/macrisdisclaimer.htm>)

Data available via the MACRIS web interface, and associated scanned files are for information purposes only. THE ACT OF CHECKING THIS DATABASE AND ASSOCIATED SCANNED FILES DOES NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LOCAL, STATE OR FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. IF YOU ARE REPRESENTING A DEVELOPER AND/OR A PROPOSED PROJECT THAT WILL REQUIRE A PERMIT, LICENSE OR FUNDING FROM ANY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY YOU MUST SUBMIT A PROJECT NOTIFICATION FORM TO MHC FOR MHC'S REVIEW AND COMMENT. You can obtain a copy of a PNF through the MHC web site (www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc) under the subject heading "MHC Forms."

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 1973; LHD 3/3/81

Assessor's number

25-424

USGS Quad

Salem

Area(s)

HU,HJ,HK

Form Number

1035

8128/73

MTHL
4/30/71
6/22/70

SAL. 1035



Town Salem

Place (neighborhood or village) Central Salem

Address 18 Chestnut Street

Historic Name James B. Bott House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction by 1800

Source Tolles, Wiswall

Style/Form

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite, Cobblestone

Wall/Trim Wood Clapboard

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) late 19th c. - entrance

moved from west side to south end

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage less than one acre

Setting set on sidewalk, corner lot, area of impressive

18th and 19th century residences

Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Salem Planning Department

RECEIVED

Date (month/year) January 1997

AUG 05 1997 Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

BUILDING FORM

SAL.1035

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of the building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Located at the northeast corner of Botts Court, the house at 18 Chestnut Street is a three-story, hip-roofed, wood-frame residence with a foreshortened third story. It is capped by an asphalt hip roof with two large brick chimneys. The house is oriented with its narrow three-bay end to the street. Outlining the clapboarded house are simple wooden cornerboards and a plain watertable. It rests on a coursed granite foundation with cobblestone on the side elevation. In 1888 the principal entrance was moved from the five-bay west side to the present sidehall entrance on the south side. The six-panel door is capped by a delicate segmental fanlight with geometric tracery which also fills the sidelights. The Doric entrance porch consists of a flat roof with a thin projecting cornice and triglyphs, lacking an entablature. Modillions decorate the underside. Supporting the roof are reeded side timbers supported by round columns and square attached pilasters. Above the entrance is a flat-roofed rectangular bay window containing 1/1 windows with recessed panels below. The remaining windows contain 6/6 sash with molded surrounds and blinds.

The wooden spindle fence in front of the house displays simple posts capped by balls..

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Describe the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

According to Tolles, the Bott-Fabens House may be the oldest surviving residence on Chestnut Street and may predate 1800, although this has not been firmly documented. The house may have been built before Chestnut Street was laid out in 1796. The first owner was saddler, James B. Bott although it is not clear if he ever lived here. Bott emigrated from Tudbury, England in 1768 and established a shop on Essex Street constructing fancy carriages. (About 1783 he constructed a house nearby at 5 Botts Court for his own use). The Chestnut Street building seems to have served as a multi-family residence in its early years. Miss Mary Orne Pickering was born in the house in 1805. The Prescott family lived here from about 1825 to 1832 (Wiswall, p. 210). For about 16 months in 1846 and 1847, while serving as surveyor of the Port of Salem and Beverly, Nathaniel Hawthorne occupied this house with his family (Cousins: 81). Dr. David Coggin lived in the house from 1881-1887. Augustus and Benjamin Fabens purchased the building in 1888 and converted it to a single-family house. They also moved the entrance from the west elevation to the south end. The Fabens family continued to own the property until 1905. The Misses Lathrop occupied the house from 1924 until at least 1939 (Wiswall). Later residents included Oliver and Ann Goodell, Mrs. Rebecca Bradley and Mrs. Lillian Phillips and Jacqueline Frederickson.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Cousins, Frank and Phil M. Riley. The Colonial Architecture of Salem. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1919.
- Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of Salem, Massachusetts. Philadelphia: 1874.
- "House Report for 5 Botts Court, Prepared for Historic Salem, Inc. [no date].
- McIntyre, Henry C.E. Map of the City of Salem. Philadelphia: 1851.
- Richards, L.J. Atlas of the City of Salem, Massachusetts.
- Salem City Directories, 1836-1970.
- Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1890, 1906, 1950, 1957, 1965, 1970. [Massachusetts State Library].
- Tolles, Bryant F., Jr. Architecture in Salem: an Illustrated Guide. Salem: Essex Institute, 1983.
- Walker Lithograph and Publishing Company. Atlas of the City of Salem, Massachusetts. Boston: 1911.
- Wiswall, Richard Hall and Henry W. Belknap. "Notes on the Building of Chestnut Street", EIHC 75 (July 1939): 227.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attached a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

SALEM

18 CHESTNUT ST

Area(s)

Form No.

SAL.HJ, SAL.HU

SAL.1035

Supplemental photograph by Patti Kelleher, Salem Department of Planning & Community Development, March 2017



RECEIVED

JUN 20 2017

MASS. HIST. COMM.

SAM Block 25 SM 1035
 LOT 424
 2. Town Salem 49 CS
 1035



SION
 Street 18 Chestnut ST Race
 Name HO, HJ, HK
 Original Use NR015/LHD/EA/MA-HL
 Present Use _____
 Present Owner Fredericksen
 Date Early 19th Style Federal
 Source of Date Wrentham
 Architect _____
 Deteriorated Moved Altered _____

APRIL
 1968

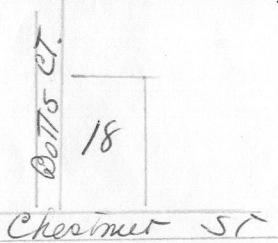
IMPORTANCE of site to area: Great Little None SITE endangered by _____

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: Granite blocks
 WALL COVER: Wood Brick Stone Other _____
 STORIES: 1 2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular
 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency _____ Simple/Complex
 PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony front enhance Recessed _____
 ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard
 Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork _____
 FACADE: Gable End: Front/Side Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Simple/Complex Ornament
 Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features: Four columns/laurels
 Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied 6/6 front; 12/12 rear
 Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured _____

OUTBUILDINGS _____ LANDSCAPING _____

5. Indicate location of structure on map below 6. Footage of structure from street 8'
 Property has 32' feet frontage on street



Recorder _____

For _____

Photo _____

MAY 1968

NOTE: Recorder should obtain written permission from Commission or sponsoring organization before using this form. (See Reverse Side)

FOR USE WITH IMPORTANT STRUCTURES (Indicate any interior features of note)

Fireplace

Stairway

Other

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

Nathaniel Hawthorne residence - 1846-7
While he was surveyor of Ports of Salem & Beverly
First house built on Chestnut St. now standing, James Bott,
may have built it prior to 1800

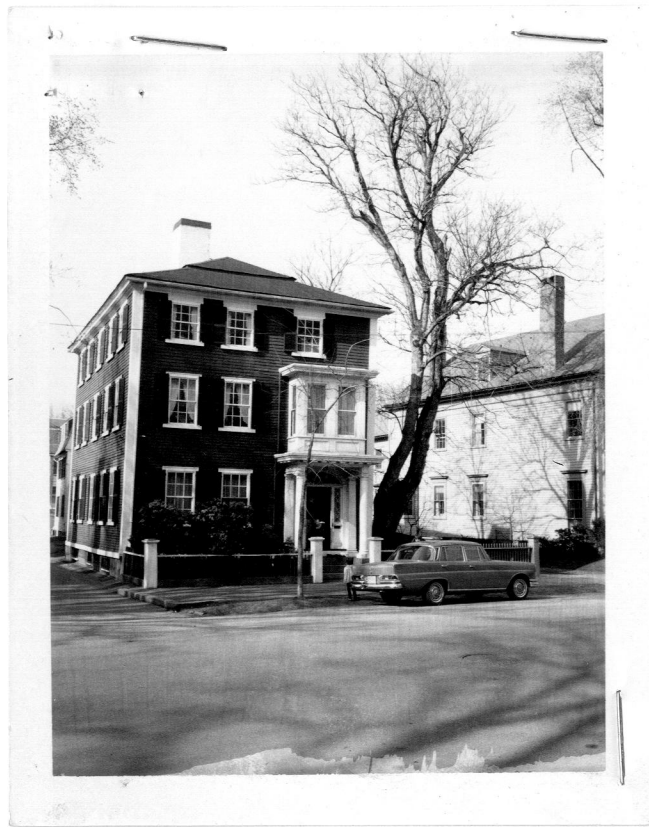
FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High (regular) Low
WALL COVER: Wood
STORIES: 1 2 3 4
CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4
ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency
PORCHES: 1 2 3 4
Portico Balcony Deck

REFERENCE (Where was this information obtained? What book, records, etc.)

Cousins & Riley - The Colonial Architecture of Salem 1919
Wissall, R. H. Essex Inst. Hist. Coll. July '39, "Notes on the Building of Chestnut St"

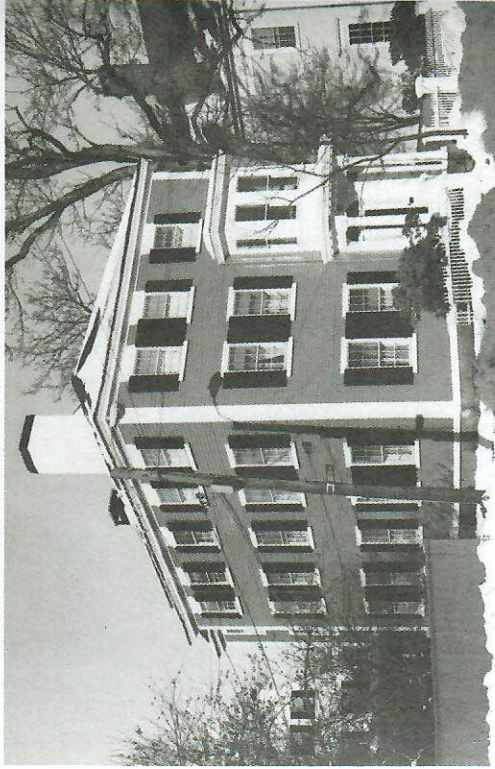
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Original Owner: _____
Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____, _____ Registry of Deeds



Gardner-Pingree house (see A-2) at 128 Essex Street, built under Samuel McIntire's direction at the same time. The three-sided bay window above, rather than an abrupt intrusion on the facade, may date from the 1883 remodeling. The 6/6 double sash windows are set in molded "plank-frames" with sills but no lintels. A wooden service ell extends to the rear, and a two-story, hipped-roof, wooden barn is attached to the west side of the house by a one-story shed.

E-10



E-10 BOTT-FABENS HOUSE

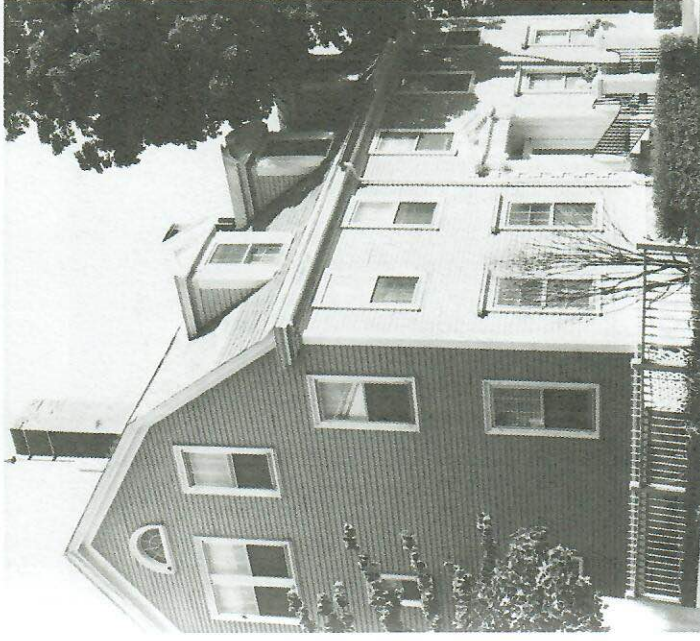
18 Chestnut Street at Botts Court
NR; MHD

Before 1800

Although it has not been firmly documented, the Bott-Fabens house is considered to be the oldest residence on Chestnut Street, and supposedly dates from before 1800. In fact, this three-story, hipped-roof building may have been built before Chestnut Street was laid out in 1796, with access to it from Essex Street (north) through surrounding marshy land. The first owner was James B. Bott, who maintained a saddle shop. In 1847 the famed author Nathaniel Hawthorne lived here with his family for a brief time. After a succession of owners, Augustus J. and Benjamin H. Fabens purchased the building in 1888 and converted it to a single-family house, moving the principal entrance from the west side to the south end. This entrance features fine geometric tracery, in the doorway (anlight and sidelights, and an unusual Doric porch. The porch consists of a flat roof with a thin projecting cornice and mutules (no entablature is present) set on reeded side timbers supported by round columns and square attached pilasters. The bay window above was added by the Fabens.

Standing on the west side of Botts Court (and the east corner of Hamilton Street) at numbers 20-22 is a three-story, hipped-roof, wooden double house (NR; MHD) erected for Rev. James Thompson (eastern half) and William Rea (western half) in c. 1836. Highlighting its front matched-board facade is a double Roman Doric entrance porch protecting identical doorways with paneled transoms and full-length sidelights.

E-11



E-11 HENRY P. BENSON HOUSE

7 Hamilton Street
NR; MHD

c. 1898

One of Salem's finest Colonial Revival wooden residences, the Henry P. Benson house has had a most interesting history. From the time that it was built c. 1898 until 1957, it was owned by Mr. Benson and his wife, Rebecca. After his death in that year, Mrs. Benson lived here until 1960. Henry P. Benson was the mayor of Salem in 1916/17, and a director of the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company. For a designer the Bensons selected Henry's brother, John P. Benson (1865-1947), a New York-area architect and later an accomplished marine scene painter, who also prepared the plans for the Wheatland-Phillips house (see E-19) at 30 Chestnut Street.