

31 Flint Street
Built by
JONATHAN CARLTON, housewright
in the year 1848

Research by,
Joyce King
Sept. 1978

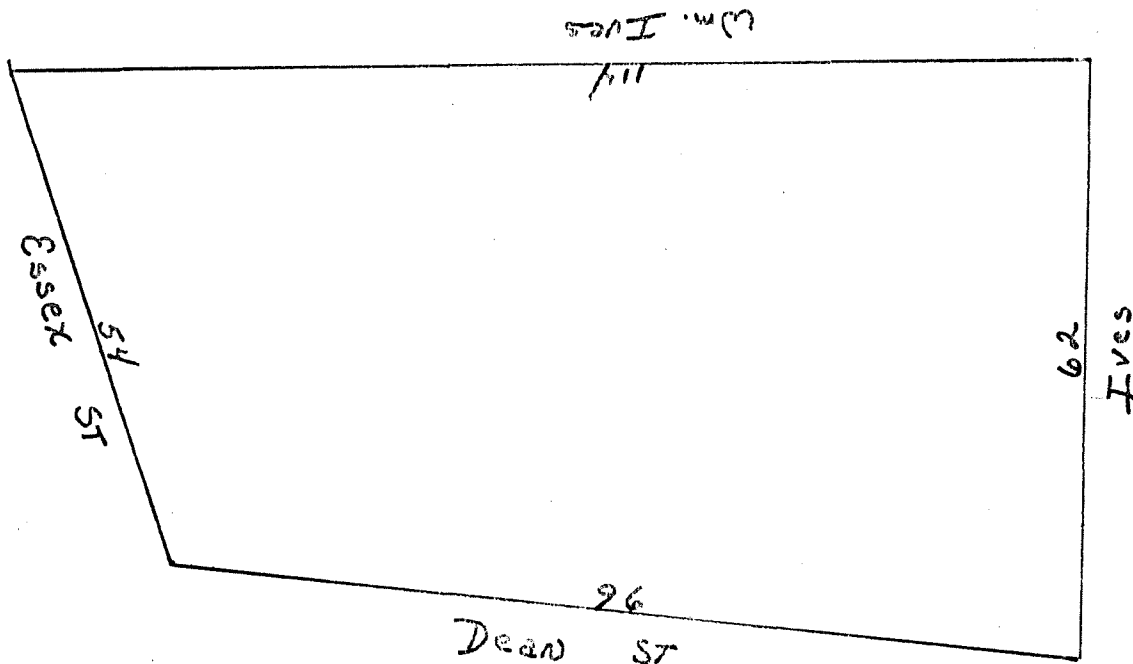
31 Flint Street

This house is described in the Salem Historical Commission report as a good example of Greek Revival architecture. The rear addition is 20th century.

The early history of Flint Street as given in the Essex Antiquarian vol.7 page 67: Flint Street was one of the original lanes leading down to the water. It was called a highway in 1668; lane yt leads to ye north river, 1679; Dean's lane, 1766; Dean Street, 1795; and Flint Street, 1894.

Very early in Salem's history the entire west side of Flint St. was the property of Edward Flint. There was a house on the lot at the time of his decease in 1711. Mr Flint devised the house and barn and all this land, in 1711, to his son Benjamin Flint. Benjamin Flint died in the winter of 1732-3; and, in the division of his real estate in 1734, the old house and corner lot were assigned to his son Edward Flint and daughter Mrs. Mary Wainwright. Mr. Flint and Mrs. Wainwright, conveyed the lot to Joseph Dean of Salem, latter, by 1741. Jonathan Dean sold his share of his fathers homestead to Abner Chase in 1801. The land remained in the Chase family until May 1848.

On May 10, 1848 Philip Chase sold to Jonathan Carlton, the messuage (a dwelling house and adjoining land, appropriated to the use of the household) for \$2,200. With the provision that the portion of the premises where Kimball B. Messer's shop stands, subject to a lease to Messer until Oct. 1848, for ground rent \$1, at the term of the lease the building is to be removed by said Messer.



Joseph F. Pond, trader is listed in the Salem Directory for the year 1850 as living at 388 Essex St. (on the corner of Flint and Essex) A federal census was taken for the year 1850 the entry for Joseph Pond is:

Joseph F. Pond	age	48	trader	born	Mass
Mary S.	"	42		"	"
Joseph F.	"	21	tanner,currier	"	"
Samuel G.	"	23	commerical merchant	"	"
Mary S.	"	13		"	"
Charles E.	"	10		"	"
Fred	"	8		"	"
Thomas	"	7		"	"
Zachary T.	"	3		"	"
Edward	"	1		"	"
Israel Herrick	"	46	cordwainer	"	"
Elizabeth	"	29		"	"
Abby H.	"	2	months	"	"
Sarah E. Capen	"	20		"	"
Elizabeth Buggy	"	22		"	Ire.

The tenants at 3 Dean Street as far as found are:

1850 William Porter, of Streeter and Porter, publishers
William F. Bowdoin, dentist

1851 James Lord age 23

1855 Horace Nutter age 36 owner Joseph Pond
Lewis K. Parsons 32 " " "

1857 Luther Chandler " " "
Hiram A. Curtin " " "
Orim Haskell " " "

1858 Luther Chandler age 38
David M. Riley " 35

During these years Mr. Pond ran into tremendous financial difficulty, all his property was taken and assigned to his creditors.

On Dec. 15, 1858 Joseph F. Pond signed a quit claim deed turning the ownership of the messuage on the corner of Dean and Essex St. to his son Samuel G. Pond, the same property conveyed to Joseph by Jonathan Carlton, subject to three mortgages, one to Philip Chase, one to Jonathan Carlton and the last to Samuel Pond.

(book 580 page 245)

After the transference of his property, Joseph Pond and his family moved into the house at #3 Dean St. The tax entry for the year 1860 for 3 Dean St.:

occupant	owner
Joseph Pond age 58 trader	Samuel G. Pond, non resident value \$1,600

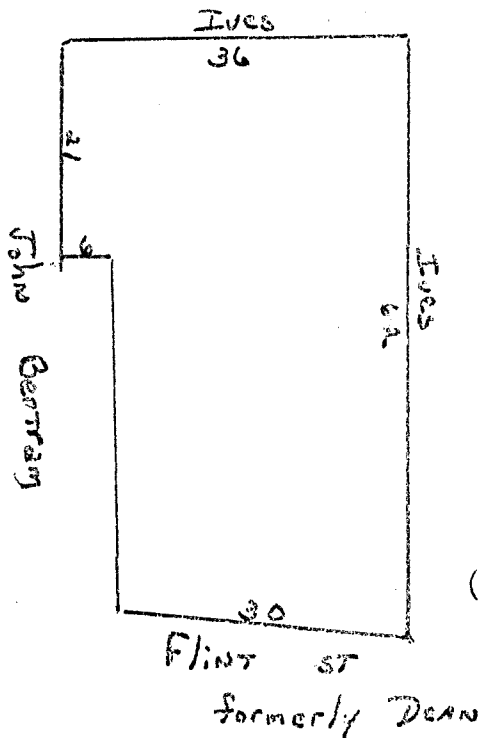
The census listing 1860:

Joseph Pond	58	trader
Mary S. "	52	
Samuel G. "	34	merchant
Frederick "	17	clerk
Charles "	20	mariner
Thomas "	15	
Lucy "	12	
Edward A. "	10	
Mary F. "	22	
Bridget Laughton		servant

1862 tax record: Joseph Pond 60 occ. owner S. Pond, house \$800
 Thomas " 18 land 600

On April 20, 1865 Samuel G. Pond of N.Y. unmarried, sold to John Bertram the messuage and land corner of Dean and Essex, the same conveyed to me by Joseph F. Pond. (book 682 page 193)

On June 1, 1865 John and Mary Ann Bertram of Salem, sold to Charles H. Peirce, for \$2,100.

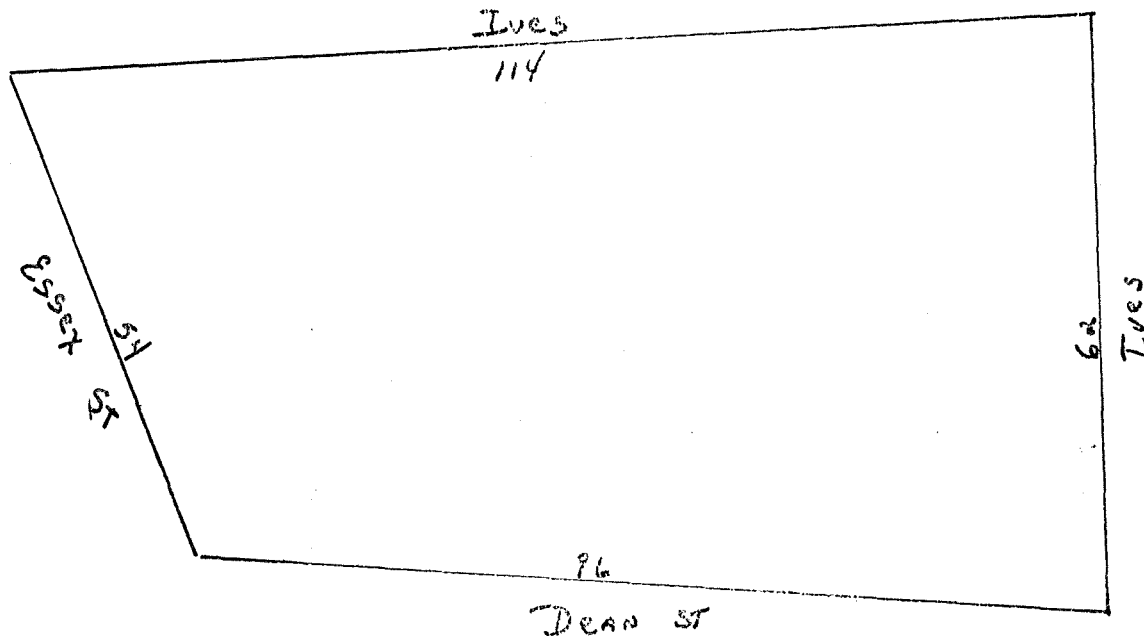


(book 686 page 163)

1848 seems to be the year a great change took place on this corner lot. Jonathan Carlton was a prominent, housewright of the time, the area of Mason and Flint was called Carltonville in honor of Mr. Carlton, because he built quite a few homes in this area. With the removal of Mr. Messer's shop it seems the construction of #3 Dean St. took place. (now #31 Flint)

In an article written by Edward Stanley Water for the Essex Institute Historic Collections is described the area of Dean and Beckford Streets. "The corner lot, became the property of the Dean family. It was the home of Capt. Jonathan, the son of Joseph, and perhaps of his son Jonathan and of his daughter Sarah Chase. The house which he built here remained until within a few years". Also in the Essex Institute Historic Collections by Oliver Thayer as his recollections; "Next to Mr. Hiller's (392 Essex), was the house of Mr. Abner Chase, and then the two-story grocery store occupied by Capt. Stephen Osborn. Passing to the opposite corner of Dean Street we come to the mansion of Col. Sprague, occupied by him and the Stearns family".

On June 20, 1849 Jonathan F. Carlton sold to Joseph F. Pond, trader for \$4,200 the dwelling houses and other, subject to a mortgage to Philip Chase for \$1,900 which Pond agreed to pay.



(book 413 page 73)

On the same day J. F. Pond took a mortgage for \$1,400 from Samuel G. Pond for land and buildings, subject to mortgage to Philip Chase \$1,900 and one of Carlton for \$2,300. The increase in the price and the procuring of mortgages indicate a change of buildings on the lot.

The tax record for 1866:

Charles H. Peirce 32 owner \$1,400 land \$600
Charles C. Daniels 30

The census record 1870:

Charles Peirce	35	house painter	prop. val. \$4,000	born Mass.
Catherine "	34			Scot.
Charles L. "	5			Mass.
Frederick "	4			Mass.
Dean Symonds	54	clerk		Mass.
Eliza "	53			Maine
Martha A. "	21	no occ.		Mass.

On July 10, 1914, Charles H. Peirce of Salem, sold to Charles L. Peirce, of Acton, for \$1; the land and buildings, the same premises sold in deed of John Bertram to me in 1865 (book 2267 page 581)

Charles Peirce died Dec. 8, 1916, the Salem News carried this article at the time of his death:

Sailed His Last Voyage
Once sailed in the famous Salem Merchantship "St. Paul"
He was also in the Navy

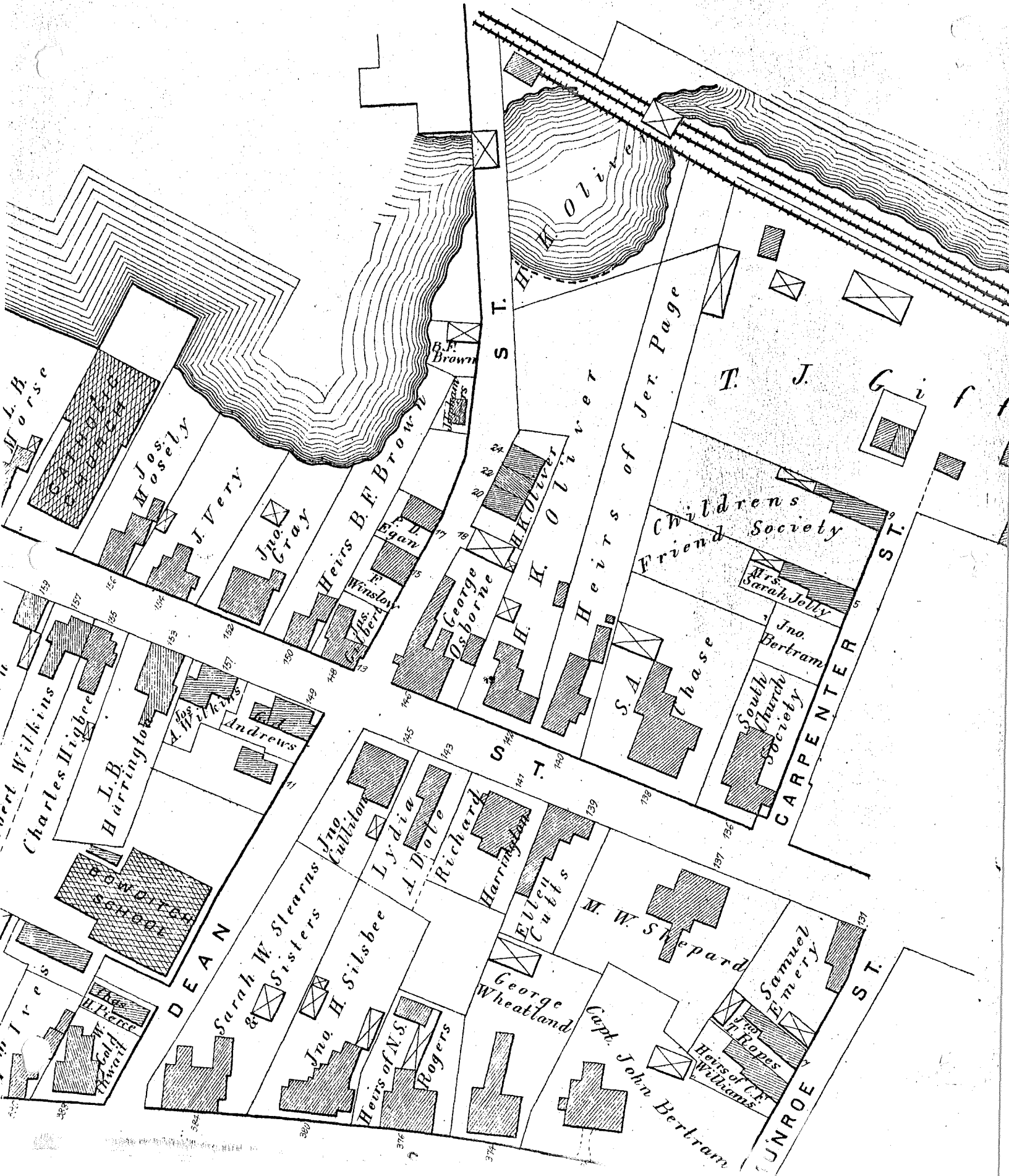
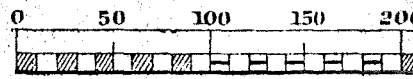
Charles H. Peirce died Thursday afternoon at the home of his son Rev. Charles L. Peirce, of West Acton, with whom he had made his home the last 2½ years. He was born in Salem about 80 years ago and was educated in the public schools; attending the old Hacker School. In early life he went to sea, and by his death, James F. Lundregan, formerly of Salem, now becomes the sole survivor of those who sailed in the ship "St. Paul", a famous old East India trader of Salem. For several years Mr. Peirce worked at painting. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy as acting ensign April 9, 1865. He was a member of Post 34 GAR. He leaves a son Rev. Mr. Peirce of Acton. The funeral will be held in Blake Memorial Chapel, Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Burial at Harmony Grove.

Jan. 14, 1936, Julia W. Peirce, widow of Charles, late of Harvard, unmarried sold to Ruth W. Pierce, of Worcester Co. for less than \$100, land and buildings conveyed to me by Charles L. Peirce by will - Worcester Co. #87840

On July 29, 1959, Ruth W. Knight formerly Ruth W. Pierce sold to John R. Ross and Marjorie J. Ross, the present owners.

(Reference to book and page are deed books at the Registry of Deeds located on Federal St., Salem)

(The Essex Institute Library has a picture of the Bowditch School in the background is #31 Flint St. Neg.# 279)



1874

Article of interest on AREA

EARLY RECOLLECTIONS OF THE UPPER PORTION OF
ESSEX STREET.

BY OLIVER THAYER.

FROM 1804 to 1820, on the right of the Salem end of the Turnpike, there was a colony of ten or twelve negro families, and on the left some four or five houses containing, probably, altogether some fifty or sixty inmates. The principal personages on the right were Mumford—well fitted to be chief of the tribe, Portsmouth, Newport, Tom Piper and others, with their families. On the left, the most noted was Prince Savage, an intelligent black man, highly respected, and probably well remembered by many of our older citizens. He was a native of Africa and once a slave. These were all apparently happy in their humble sphere, especially on Election week, when the American flag was floating from above many of the dwellings, and visits of girls and boys were made from all quarters to listen to the sweet strains of the violin, as poured forth by amateurs of dark complexion.

We now pass the next building on the left going down, a bake house, and then an old dwelling house, where resided for many years Mr. John Chipman; then the house on the corner of May street, belonging to Capt. Samuel Very, afterward purchased by Mr. Nathaniel Pitman. There had formerly resided in the same house, the Turell family. Mrs. Turell kept a school there for small children. Also, in the same house, lived Mr. Clough, the treasurer of the Great Pasture Corporation.

The next, on the corner of May street, was owned by Benjamin Thayer, and sold, I think, about 1808, to Rev.

Nathaniel Fisher, of St. Peter's church; born at Dedham, July 8, 1742; graduated Harvard College, 1763; installed, Feb. 25, 1782; he died suddenly Dec. 20, 1812. I would say, in passing, that his son Theodore was probably the finest penman that ever graduated from the Hacker school. Among the scholars of 1800 to 1804, he certainly stood foremost.

The next building is the store on the corner. As early as 1815, it was a grocery and apothecary store, occupied by Thomas Seccomb, afterwards by Nathaniel Watson and his son Fenton, saddlers.

We now pass over to the eastern corner of Essex and Boston streets, and find the store, with house attached, of Captain Samuel Very, formerly engaged in the coasting trade with Baltimore and other southern ports. He was a fine man and a strong Jeffersonian democrat, ever ready at the polls on election days.

Next we come to the old house belonging to the Grant family, renovated and put in fine order some forty years since, as the present edifice shows. Then two or three small houses, one of which was occupied by Mr. John Bird, a comb maker; another by a Mrs. Day, a famous tailoress, formerly Mrs. Hart, and mother of Capt. Charles Hart of Brig New Priscilla, which was taken by the pirates near Cuba in 1829, the crew never being heard from. Next in order is the old Williams house, a relic of the olden time. Some of the family resided there in 1814. There was a large field in the rear of the house, extending to gardens on Federal street. Following this was a three-story wooden building, used for a grocery store, by Mr. James Thorndike, more recently occupied by John Ward, many years for the same business.

Next in order was the Friends' meeting house, built in 1718, with burying ground adjoining; and then came the

mansion of Mr. Robert Cowan. He and his wife were of English extraction, and had several sons and daughters. He was a person of much ingenuity in the manufacture of lead pencils, and was, I have heard it said, the first that brought into use gum copal as a varnish for carriages. He is also remembered as being one of the crew of Privateer Schooner Pickering, commanded by Jonathan Harraden during the revolutionary war, who was eminently successful in his enterprises against the English, having captured a large number of armed vessels with many guns. All of the buildings from the Grant House have been since torn down or removed and the present edifices have been erected.

From Mr. Cowan's house, we pass a large garden beautifully laid out, in the highest state of cultivation, until we come to the house of Major Hiller, the first United States Collector appointed by General Washington. He was superseded by Col. William R. Lee of Marblehead, August 13, 1802, and soon afterwards removed to Lancaster, Mass., and died there in 1814. I recollect, perfectly well, seeing him at his home on Essex Street, a short time before his removal. Charles Cleveland, Esq., nephew of Major Hiller, afterward City missionary of Boston, who died some few years since nearly 100 years of age, acted as Deputy Collector to his uncle from 1789, until his resignation, and with Col. Lee to February, 1803 when he resigned, and William W. Oliver, Esq., who had lived with Major Hiller for several years was appointed by Col. Lee, to fill his place, which position he held until March 10, 1839. The next occupant of this house was Judge Prescott, father of the historian; another occupant was Thomas P. Bancroft, who lived there several years. It was then purchased by Charles Saunders and a few years after was sold to Mr. William Ives, who built the

new house to the westward. After the death of Mr. Ives, the house was sold and torn down and the site converted into a pleasure ground by Mr. Goldthwaite, owner of the new house on the corner. Rev. James M. Hoppin occupied it for a few years during his pastorate in Salem.

Next to Mr. Hiller's, was the house of Mr. Abner Chase, and then the two-story grocery store of Capt. Stephen Osborn. Passing to the opposite corner of Dean street, we come to the mansion of Col. Sprague, occupied by him and the Stearns family. Col. Sprague died in 1808, and a portion of the Stearns family have resided there ever since. It has been kept in good order, and makes as fine an appearance at the present time as it did half a century ago.

The next, where now stands the residence of John H. Silsbee, Esq., was the site of one of Salem's ancient structures, devoid of paint or beauty, and occupied by the families of Hubbard Oliver, Mr. Johnson, and a Mr. Pettingell. Mrs. Oliver kept a school there for young children. Mr. Johnson was sexton of the old South church,—Dr. Hopkins' church,—and of the new church when finished in 1805. A spacious room on the lower floor was used as a dining hall for the workmen employed in building the turpike at the commencement of operations in 1802. It may not be generally known that Dr. Stearns was one of the prime movers in the enterprise, and was a large stockholder, and took much pride in the building of it, and was bound, as the story runs, to have it when finished, so level and straight as to take an early look from Salem into the Boston market. This old house was the writer's birthplace. Some years later it was torn down, I think about 1806. The brick house now on the spot, the residence of John H. Silsbee, Esq., was erected by Joseph Sprague, son of Col. Sprague, who lived there with his family for

East India house

72 Queen

many years, when it became the residence of Col. Francis Babody and family; it was then sold to Samuel Williams, brother of Rev. William Williams, and from him purchased by Mr. Silsbee. The next house was the home of Aaron Waite, Esq., and built by him in 1796; he and his family lived there many years, and after his death it was occupied by his son-in-law, Nathaniel L. Rogers, and family, during his life, and by the remaining members of his family until the present time. The next house was the estate of Captain Nehemiah Buffington and now the home of George Wheatland, Esq.

The house below was the Mackey house, the residence of Mr. John Dodge, then of Capt. Philip P. Pinel, and next, of Miss Plummer. Then followed Miss Higginson's, and Mrs. Wallis's store. The last was built, as I learn, by Mr. Very. The next, was a two-story dwelling house with a shop below. These four buildings, occupied the site where now stands the beautiful mansion of the late Captain John Bertram. We pass over to the next corner, the Ropes House, now belonging to Mrs. Bertram, the residence once of Rev. Mr. Hoppin, Mr. Ezra Northey, James B. Ferguson, and others. The next, end-ways to the street, was the home of John Prince, Esq. The next, a little west of the house of Mr. Emery S. Johnson, but of which I have no recollection, was said to have been built by Mr. Maule. Then we come to the so-called Clark house, Mrs. Clark living in the western end, and various families at different times, occupying the premises. Next, the estate of Capt. John Buffington, end-ways to the

the corner of Beckford street, stood a large, square building, with an ell, venerable, but dilapidated in appearance, owned by Dr. Stearns. Various families occupied it from time to time. This house was built by Mr. Kitch-