## Salem Salem Incorporated

POST OFFICE BOX 865

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS 01970 / PHONE (617) 745-0799

356 Essex Street
Built for
NATHAN FRYE, master mariner
in 1852

Research by, Joyce King Dec. 1981

<sup>&</sup>quot;to preserve Historic Sites, Buildings and objects, and to work for the education of the community in the true value of the same."

The house 354-356 Essex Street is described in the Salem Historic District Study as: "This is a two-story, wooden double house with an entrance on either side. It is no longer symmetrical as a result of the addition of a bay window and probable alterations in the entrance areas."

"Essex street was first called a highway in 1657; street, 1664; town street, 1678; the broad street that goes from ye meeting house westward to the town's end, 1679; the main street, 1679; ye high street, 1695; and Essex street, 1795." (Essex Antiquarian, vol. 7 pg. 116)

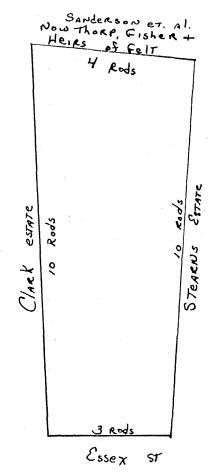
The famed Quaker, Thomas Maule, owned and occupied this lot in 1674. When Mr. Maule sold this land in 1681 he described it as "my now pr'sent habition or dwelling place." The Maule house burned down in 1729 while under the ownership of Richard and Ahijah Estes. (appendix A)

The Estes erected a new house shortly after the fire which they sold on Jan. 1, 1778 to William Pickman. (book 123 page 281) Mr. Pickman sold the property, on March 26, 1784, to John Buffington. (book 137 page 201)

Capt. John Buffington was a soldier in the Revolution, mariner and merchant. The house (described as end-ways to the street) and land were devised by Mr. Buffington to his daughter Eliza Crafts.

Mrs. Crafts devised the dwelling house, barn and out buildings on Essex St. with the land under and adjoining and the garden attached "the same occupied by my late parents at the time of their decease", to Ann Stickney wife of Jeremiah Stickney of Lynn. (probate #36308)

On Sept. 17, 1845 Jeremiah Stickney and his wife Ann conveyed to Lydia Ann Frye the messuage consisting of a dwelling house and land. "Intending to include and convey all the land belonging to said messuage now inclosed by the old division fences. It being the same messuage owned and occupied by Capt. John Buffington at the time of his decease and by him devised to his daughter Eliza Craft and by said Eliza devised to Ann Stickney." (book 359 page 34)



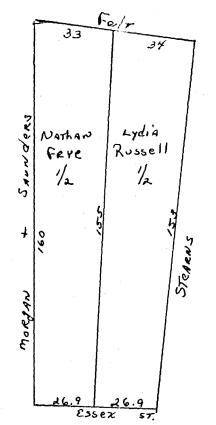
On June 1, 1846 Lydia Ann Frye, singlewoman, sold for the sum of \$2.750, to Nathan Frye, mariner, "all that messuage consisting of a dwelling house and about one quarter acre of land described in the deed given by Jeremiah C. Stickney on September 7, 1845." (book 376 page 58)

The "Buffington House" stood until 1852 when Nathan Frye either tore it down or otherwise removed it and built the third or possibly fourth house to occupy this site. The fact that a new house was built in 1852 is substantiated by a listing in the Salem Street Books preserved at the Essex Institute:

The following are the number & description of the Buildings Errected in the City of Salem from March 1852 to March 1853 - with the name of the Owners and the Names of the Streets errected in or by, & c

Owners Names	Description of Buildings	Names of Streets
Nathan Frye	Double Dwelling House	Essex St.

Further documentation is found in a deed (book 469 page 112) dated Sept. 11, 1852. In this deed Nathan Frye, master mariner, conveyed to his daughter, Lydia Ann Russell, the eastern half of his land. The dividing line was to run through the center of a "new house built by said grantor and grantee, on said Frye's said other land and the above granted premises." (appendix B)



The house appears on the tax records for the first time in 1853. During the first years of its existence this house was enumerated as 358 Essex St. and received its present number in 1855:

1:1 <sub>e</sub> , ~			1 011.	o mamper. TU	±855:	
Essex Str	cet					
	#358 Nathan 358 Nathan	A. Frye	½ house	value	\$2,000	
1854 -	358 Thomas 358 Nathan Nathan	Russell Frye Frye Jr.	house house	Vaule	\$2,000	
1855 -	354 Thomas Nathan	A. Prve	½ house	value	\$2,000	
	356 Nathan	Frye	½ house	11		
1856	same					
1857	same					
1858	same					
1859	1.11 U111 a 15	Frye age Russell "	777	owner Mrs.	Russell	<u>1</u> 2
	JJO Mathan	Frye Jr. "	44 19	owner Nath	an Frye	<u>1</u>

It may be helpful to insert a partial genealogy of the Frye family in order to keep the Nathan Fryes disentangled:

Nathan, the builder of the house at 356 Essex St. was born on Oct. 27, 1787, the son of Nathan and Hannah (Nutting) Frye. He was a sea captain and had protection papers from the Custom House in Salem in April of 1801. He married, on June 14, 1812, Ann Reed who was born in Woburn on April 29, 1789, the daughter of Amos and Lydia (Symonds) Reed. The couple had four children:

Lydia Ann - born Oct. 22, 1813, married Thomas B. Russell (she was the owner of the east half of the house)

Nathan A. - born Nov. 25, 1815 (described below)

Daniel - born March 7, 1817, died Oct. 6, 1817

Daniel O. - born Nov. 21, 1820, died Aug. 15, 1843 at sea

Nathan Augustus Frye, son of Nathan and Ann (Reed) Frye, was a sea captain and merchant. He married, on March 11, 1840, Sarah M. Russell daughter of Thomas B. and Mary (Mosely) Russell. Their children were:

Nathan A. - born Dec. 22, 1840

Anna Mosely - born Feb. 1. 1842, died Feb. 19, 1848

Mary Ellen - born Sept. 26, 1845, died Oct. 26, 1846

Daniel O. \_ born Dec. 5, 1847

Anna Mosely - born Feb. 12, 1852, died Feb. 14. 1852

Charles R. - born March 31, 1853, married Sarah Glover

Arthur M. - born June 17, 1854

The federal census of 1860 gives a close look at the Frye family: 354 Essex St.

Thomas Russell	age	48	machinist box	'n	Mass.
Lydia "	11	46			11
Ellen Reagan	11	18	servant		11
Nathan Frye	11	72	gentleman		11
356 Essex St.					
Nathan A. Frye	11	44	merchant (16 Asiatic bld.	) 11	11
Sarah "	11	43	•	11	11
Nathan A. Jr.	11	19	clerk	11	11
Daniel O.		12		11	1 11
Charles	11	7	•	ti	H 1 H
Arthur	11	6		11	1 11
Maria Trainer	11	15	servant	t	1 11
Bridget Hersey	11	22	servant	1	† †1

The next change occurred in the tax records in 1864: Essex St.

354 - Nathan Frye owner Lydia Russell  $\frac{1}{2}$  33x160 ft. 356 - Nathan Frye " Nathan Frye  $\frac{1}{2}$  33x160 ft. Total value = land \$2,000, house \$2,800, barn \$200 (to each party)

The year 1868 brought sadness to the Frye family for Nathan A. Frye died on Jan. 5. The death notice of Mr. Frye, recorded in the local papers, was very concise: Jan. 5 - Deaths - "Nathan A. Frye age 52 years. 1 month, 11 days." Mr. Frye by a will written Jan. 23, 1864 bequeathed all his furniture and personal property to his beloved wife Sarah. Also bequeathed was \$40,000 in turst for the benefit of his family. The rest and remainder was to be divided equally. (probat #39807) (see also appendix C)

Ten months later, on Nov. 14, 1868, the family lost its patriarch Capt. Nathan Frye. The public was notified that "the funeral will be held at 12 o'clock. Relatives and friends invited to attend without further notice." (Salem Gazette)

Capt. Frye's heirs were listed in his probate (#39806) as: widow Ann: daughter Lydia Russell; and grandchildren Nathan A., Daniel, Charles and Arthur Frye. In his will, written Feb. 1, 1868, Capt. Frye bequeathed to his wife Ann all real estate. After her decease all property real and personal to be for the support of Lydia, at her decease to be shared equally among grandchildren. Daughter Lydia was to have all the furniture and "should Sarah M. Frye wish any part Mrs. Russell will please gratify her in every respect."

The census of 1870 shows the somewhat dwindled households:

## 354 Essex

Ann Frye	age	81 keeps house	born	Mass.
Thomas B. Russell	H	58 merchant	11	tt
Lydia "	11	58 no occupation	. 11	tt
Annie E. Smith	11	13 at school	11	. !!
Mary Goodale	. 11	65 servant	11	11
356 Essex				
Sarah M. Frye	11	49 keeps house	11	11
Nathan A. "	11	28 bank clerk	11	11
Charles "	11	17 at school	Ħ	11 -
Arthur "	11	15 at school	11	11
Mary Hefren	. 11	26 servant	11	Ire.
Jane Casey	11	18 servant	11	11

The tax records for 1870 indicate the change in ownership and value:

Essex S	tre	еt
---------	-----	----

354 Thomas B. Russell	owner Lydia Russell	land	\$3.000 1,400 200
356 Mrs. Nathan Frye	owner Heirs N. Frye	land	\$3,000 1,400 200

The 1880 census reveals little change:

## 354 Essex

<b>ノノ</b> 4	LOSUA					
	Thomas B. Russell	age	68	pattern maker	born	Hass.
	Lydia A. "	11	66	wife - keeps house	11	11
	Annie Smith	11	23	cousin	11	N.J.
	Mary H. Clark	11	64	servant	11	Mass.
356	Essex					
	Sarah M. Frye	Ħ	63	keeps house	11	Mass.
	Charles R. "	11	27	son	* 11	11
	Arthur	11	25	architect	11	11
	Mary Tooney	11	26	servant	11	Ire.
	Caroline Tufts	11	13	servant	11	Maine

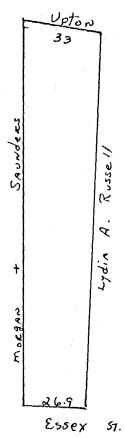
Mrs. Sarah M. Frye died on March 2, 1896. Her obituary indicates that she had moved from the Essex street house:

Salem Evening News - March 3, 1896

"Mrs. Sarah M. wife of Nathan A. Frye, died at her home in Cambridge, Thursday, at the age of 80 years, 6 months. The remains will be brought to Salem for burial. The funeral will be held from 354 Essex street this afternoon at 2:30."

On Aug. 11. 1897 Daniel and Lizzie Z. Frye of Lachine Locke, Province of Quebec, Canada sold to Charles R. Frye 1/3 share of 356 Essex St. "The grantor derives his title as devisee under the will of his grand-father Nathan Frye. See also deed of Lydia A. Frye to Nathan Frye June 1, 1846. (book 1592 page 485)

On Oct. 8, 1897 Nathan A. and Alice H. Frye, of Cambridge, Mass. transferred their 1/3 share of the land and building 356 Essex St. to Charles R. Frye for \$1,600.



(book 1527 page 397 and book 1593 page 338)

Charles Frye remained at the 356 Essex St. house until his death which occurred on Aug. 25, 1927. This simple obituary notice appeared in the Salem Evening News:

"Charles R. Frye, a native and lifelong resident of Salem, died at his home 356 Essex street, yesterday. He was 75 years of age. Burial private."

Mr. Frye's probate (#159033) lists the heirs as:

Francis C. Frye	Cambridge, Mass.	nephew
Charles "	L.A., Cal.	11
John H. "	Westfield, N.J.	11
Mary H. "	Cambridge, Hass.	niece
Arthur O. "	Medra, Pa.	nephew
Grace (Frye) Rowan	Unionville, Pa.	niece
Nathan Z. Frye	Ilron, N.Y.	nephew

Among several bequests in his will, written on March 31, 1927 were: \$500 each to Frank C., Charles C., John, Arthur O., Nathan

\$1,000 each to Mary H. and Grace M.

\$1,000 each to friends Edward A. Palfray and Edward F. Higbee

\$2,000 to the Grace Church

\$2.000 to the 1st Unitarian Church

The rest and residue to his late wife's nephew Joseph G. Woodbury and his wife Adalona B. Woodbury. (The will was contested but allowed to stand) (Inventory, appendix D)

Mrs. Adalena B. Woodbury died on July 24, 1966. Her obituary as printed in the Salem Evening News:

"Mrs. Adalena B. Woodbury wife of Joseph G. of 356 Essex street died Sunday after a lengthy illness.

She was born in Beverly, daughter of the late Thomas P.B. and Emma (Pitman) Broughton. She was a member of the First Church of Salem. Besides her husband, she leaves a sister, Mrs. T.E. Hathaway of New Rochelle, N.Y.; two brothers, C. F. Broughton of South Dartmouth, and T.I. Broughton of Salem.

Funeral service will be private."

On Aug. 7, 1968 Joseph G. Woodbury changed title of the property to include his new wife Stella Woodbury. "For my title see the estate of Charles R. Frye #159033. Adalena B. Woodbury my former wife died July 24, 1966." (book 5549 page 180)

Joseph G. Woodbury died on Hov. 3, 1970. This notice was printed in the Salem Evening News:

"Joseph G. Woodbury, husband of Stella (Drinkwater) Woodbury of 356 Essex St., died Monday after a long illness.

Born in Salem, son of the late Edgar S. and Mattie E. (Glover)
Woodbury, he was a member of the Essex Institute and the 1st Church.
Funeral service will be private."

On Aug. 20, 1981 Stella Woodbury and William Mahoney Jr. of Salem administrator of the estate of Adalena B. Woodbury sold to Lana Lee Barrett of 2 Victory Rd., Apt. 35, Lynn, Hass. the land and building 356 Essex St. "The east boundary line runs through the center of the house on the premises." For title see deed of Joseph G. Woodbury to Joseph G. and Stella Woodbury Aug. 7, 1968. (book 6854 page 90 & 91)

Notes: The Essex Institute has in its photo collection one photo of 358 Essex St. which also shows 356 Essex. (Neg. #207) Also at the Institute is a log book of the brig "Vintage" kept by Nathan A. Frye.

Reference to book and page are deed books at the Registry of Deeds. Probate numbers are cases at Probate Court. Both offices are located in the same building on Federal St. All maps in this report are not meant to be exact, just for illustration purposes.

house and land around it being assigned to Widow Hannah Croo of Salem, daughter of the deceased. She conveyed the "old dwelling house," as the house was then called, to her brother-in-law Joseph Neal of Salem, cordwainer, Oct. 10, 1724.\* While Mr. Neal owned the estate the house was burned down, in 1729, with the Estes house, which stood only a few feet distant.

Matthew Estes House. This lot was a part of the lot conveyed by Thomas Robbins to John Kitchen before 1664. Mr. Kitchen conveyed it to George Dean in or before that year. Mr. Dean who was then of Salem, and a cordwainer, transferred the lot with a house upon it, for forty pounds, to Thomas Maule of Salem, tailor, Oct. 14, 1674.† The following affidavits show that Mr. Maule erected a new house upon the lot:—

"The testimony of Eleazer Linsey aged about 36 yeares, & John Coates aged about 21 yeares: these two p'sons above written testifieth, that when Thomas Male's new house was raised, that there was sufficient rome left betweene the fence next Richard Croad's house, to clabord the whole side of Thomas Male's new house, without removing any part or p'cell of ve abovesd fence, for we slaborded part of ye sd new house on that side next Richard Croad's, & had roome enough to doe our work, betweene ve new house & the fence, from one end of y said house to the other end thereof, for fence as neere as well could be ranged from one end of Thomas Male's land to the other end on a straite line: & to the truth hearof wee abovesd John Coates Eleazer Linsev, witnes. Sworne 28: lune: 1681, before Bartholmew Gedney Assist."

"John Reeves aged about 72 yeares, testifieth, yt to his knowledge, the house of Tho. Male bought of George Deane toth stand wholy on the town's ground. It the fence y' fenced the heads of the

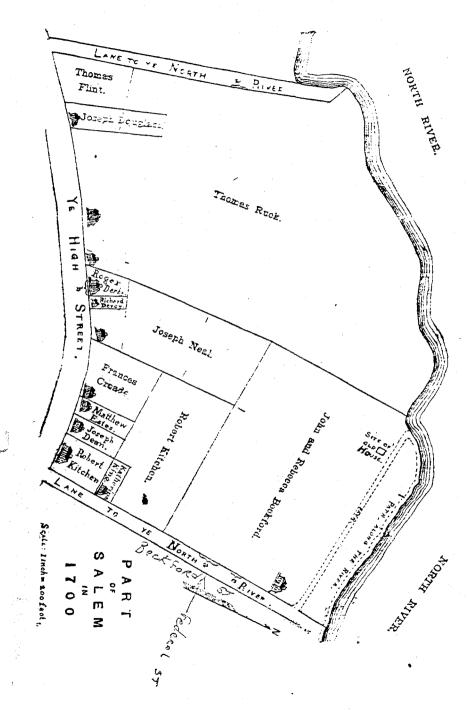
lotts left the said house without about two foot, & the front of Thomas Male's house standeth about 14 foot on the town's ground, being sett upon a sellar that Jno. Kitching had made in y townes comon, sworne 22: June: 1681, before me Bartholmew Gedney Assist.'

"Thomas Robbins testifieth, that y fences that fenced in the lotts that were Barber's & Bownes, which land was since John Kitchens, ranged behind the house that Thomas Mall bought of George Deane, leaving the sd house wholy out the sd fences ranged to Richard Croads house or where it stands, leaving some vacant land betweene the house of Richard Croade & Thomas Male, which he bought of George Deane, & was at least the whole bredth of ye sd house, sworne 23: June: 1681, before me, Bartholomew Gedney Assistant."\*

Mr. Maule conveyed to Jonathan Prince of Salem, cordwinder, the lot and "my now pr'sent habition or dwelling place," July 30, 1681.† For one hundred and one pounds, Mr. Prince conveyed the house, shop and land to Matthew Estes of Pascattaqua, mariner. May 25, 1682.‡ Mr. Estes died in 1723, having devised the house and lot to his grandsons Richard and Ahijah Estes. The house belonged to them when it was burned down, with the Neal house, in 1729.

of the lot sold by Thomas Robbins to John Kitchen before 1664. Mr. Kitchen sold it to George Dean, who was owning it in that year. But Mr. Kitchen died without having received or given a deed of it, and Kr. Robbins, gave a deed of it to Robert itchen, son of the deceased, Oct. 11, 1679, but no deed to Mr. Dean has been found. Mr. Dean died possessed of the house and lot in 1696, having devised the estate to his wife Elizabeth Dean. She survived him, and, for sixty pounds, conveyed the same to her son

<sup>\$</sup> Essex Registry of Deeds, book 7. leaf 123.





<sup>\*</sup> Essex Registry of Deeds, book 43, leaf 270.

<sup>†</sup> Essex Registry of Deeds, book 4, leaf 98.

<sup>\*</sup> Essex Registry of Deeds, book 4 leaf 72.

<sup>†</sup> Essex Registry of Deeds, book 6, leaf 17.

<sup>#</sup> Essex Registry of Deeds, book 6, leaf 53-

all men by these presents, What of I Southan Suthan Page Salem in the Country of Efore, master mariner, in consideray troofine sollie, hand by Rydia Aim Majorth, my saughter, wife of Cydia M. Rufell DA Rufsell of Boston, in the Country of Suffolk, the receipt (ux: DB. R.) Lights hurby acknowledged so hereby give, greant, burguin, sell and and the said Exidea Ann, to her sole and separate use, with. the interference or control of her husband, to her heirs and afsigns a lot of land situated on Efsex street, in said Salem, and boundpartiely on said street, twenty six feet, nine inches; casterly on land for lite of the hever of Milliam Steams, one hundred and fifty for mortherly on land of the hoirs of Well; thirty four feet; westsiter land of said Nathan, one humbred fifty five feet four inches; lip; said western bounds beginning on said street, at a point liverfor fine inches from the southwest owner of sin Suther's soil had and running northerly through the center of a new house built granter and granter, on said Trye is said other land, and the above primines; to a point in the middle of the north side of said house mortherly, inclining to the cast, to the northwest corner of the above primises: meaning hereby to convey to the said Sydia Am, If purt of my estate on Cheex Street, sowing and reserving to my: Mayon; wife Ann, the full control and improvement of the garden the pour of sud house, during the pleasure of wher of us, but Theyer than the life of the survivor. DO have and wo Lette the abovegranted premises, with all the privileges and approximanex thereto belonging, to the said Dydin Arm, her hours and afsigner, to There and behoof forever. And I the said Hathan, for myself, and my The secondors and administrators, so consumed with the said figure a man opinion that the following

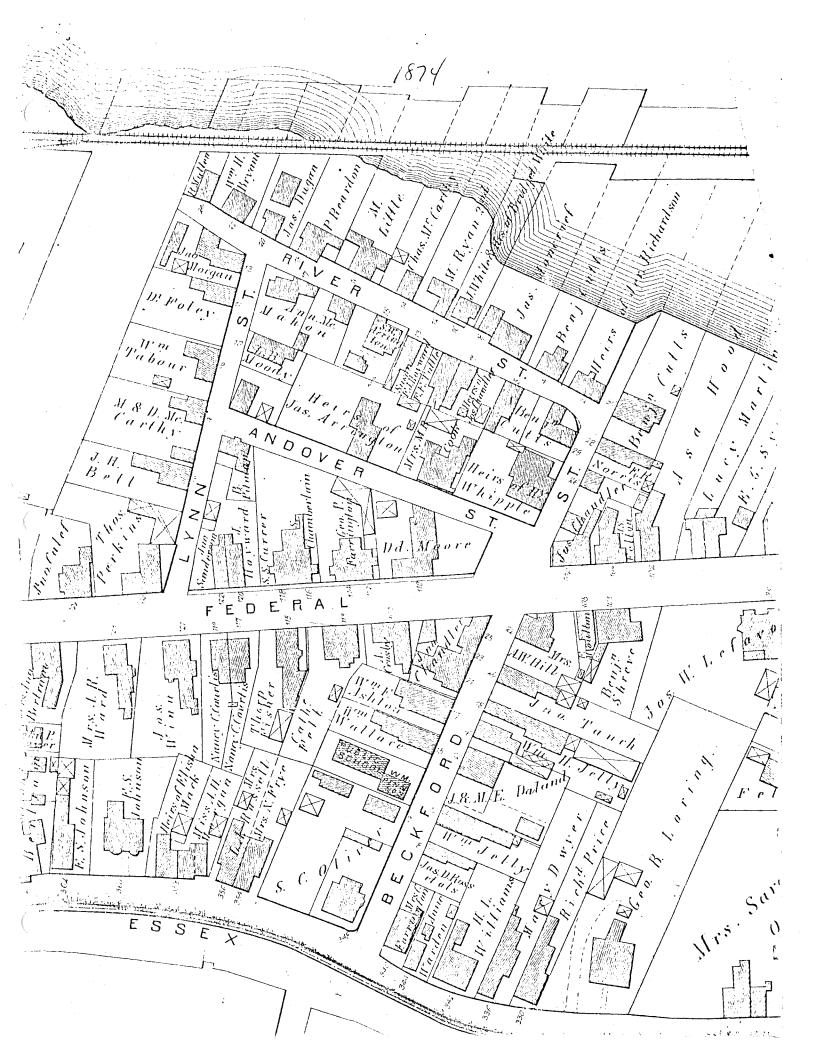
the aforegranted premises; that they are box from all incumbrances; that I have good right to sell and ominey the same to the said Eggia Ann, her hours and assigns forewor, as a foresaid, and that I will, and my heirs executives and administrators shall warrant and defend the same to the said Lye -ia Ann, her heirs and afsigns forever, against the lawful driver on domando of all persons. An winefo whereof the said Nat and Ann his wife, in token of her relinquishment of dower in the P -mises, have hereunto set our hands and seals, this eleventh day to September in the your of our ford one thousand eight hundred and fifty Scaled Signed and delivered in presence of Nathan Offinge Seal CMC Manball to NOH Nat Mayor to A Mil Ann D Trage Seal downmonwealth of Majoachusells, Efsex for Sont, 11th 1852 From personally appeared the above named Nathan OThys, and asknowledged the above instrument to be his free act and deed; before me,

E. M. C. Frimball Justice of the Orace.

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