

74 Essex Street

This house was built for Samuel Very 3d, Salem block-maker, in 1810.

In 1757 this land, with a dwelling house thereon, was sold to Salem spinsters Elizabeth & Anna Philpott, sisters (114:155, 156). They owned it for more than 50 years, Elizabeth surviving Anna until sometime before 16 Mar 1810, when the administrator of her estate for \$840 sold to Samuel Very 3d, Salem block-maker, "a lot of land in Salem with a dwelling house thereon . . . being the same message whereof (Elizabeth Philpott) died seized" (190:299).

Samuel Very 3d (1785-1813), the son of Capt Samuel and Abigail (Crowninshield) Very, had married Alice Palmer on 4 Dec 1804. He was a trader and block-maker, in which trade he made the blocks through which the lines of sailing vessels were led; he maintained a shop on Derby Street for this purpose. In addition, he made use of his deceased uncle Clifford Crowninshield's land & wharf off Derby Street. In 1810 he paid taxes on the Crowninshield property (worth \$1800) and on part of a house & a shop (worth \$700); these taxes reflected his estate as of early 1810. Soon after buying this land in March 1810, he caused this house to be built thereon; in the tax valuation of 1811 he was assessed for "a house in Essex St and a shop in Derby St" worth a total of \$1700, as well as for the \$1800 Crowninshield property. The jump in assessment (\$700 in 1810 to \$1700 in 1811) reflects the presence of this new house.

On 19 Ap 1811 Mr Very, then styled a Salem trader, for \$500 mortgaged to Salem widow Susanna Ingersoll "a certain lot of land situated on the northerly side of Essex Street . . . together with a new three story dwelling house and all other buildings thereon" (193:64). Mrs. Ingersoll died that winter, and Mr Very failed to redeem the mortgage. On 30 May 1812 Mr Very, having fallen into debt, was obliged to sell his right in equity to redeem the mortgage at public auction, at which for a high bid of \$835 Mrs Sarah Johnson of Marblehead bought the same (197:25); on 1 June 1812 Mrs Johnson bought of the administrator of Mrs Hathorne's estate, for \$533.33, all her right to the premises (197:24). The house & land thus came into the ownership of Sarah, wife of Capt Benoice Johnson, Marblehead mariner & merchant.

Mrs Johnson owned it for more than 30 years, evidently renting it out all or most of that time; she died on 8 Sept 1846, at which time the house & land (valued at \$1725) descended to her two heirs, the children of her daughter, Mrs Harriet S Cabot and John C Dodge (#43775). On 30 Sept 1847 Mr Dodge for \$862.50 granted his right in the place to the trustee of Mrs Cabot (388:121). Then on 15 July 1850, for a total of \$1500 the estate was bought by George A Nichols of Salem from Mrs Cabot and from her trustee (431:199, 208).

George Andrew Nichols died on 17 Aug 1851; a Salem cooper, he owned the houses at 72 & 74 Essex St at the time of his decease (#48190). It is not clear as to how the property was disposed of, but it soon came into the possession of Sarah (Nichols), the wife of Joseph Augustus Danforth. Mrs Danforth may have been a sister to the deceased.

She owned the premises for nearly twenty years, selling for \$2900 on 20 Oct 1870 to widow Rebecca Whiley of Salem (808:285). Mrs Whiley (or Wiley) died on 8 Jan 1879, at which time the homestead (worth \$2400) descended to her two daughters, Mrs Sabra C Morse and Mrs Abigail W Moulton (#57187). They owned it until the death of Mrs Morse on 18 July 1905, at which time her right to the premises descended to her daughter Mrs Rebecca F Davis of Salem (#97083). On 11 June 1906 Mrs Davis and her aunt Mrs Moulton granted the estate to Simon Naczor of Salem (1827:461). Mr Naczor owned it a very short time, selling on 7 July 1906 to Mrs Sarah A Fay (1829:376). Mrs Fay owned it until 12 Sept 1914 when she sold to Sarah F Dore of Salem (2274:361). Sarah Dore was deceased by 7 July 1921 when her heir & administratrix sold the estate to Mrs Lena M Abernathy of Salem (2486:375, 376).

Mrs Abernathy owned the premises for more than 25 years, selling on 12 Nov 1946 to Mr & Mrs Louis J Pelletier (3515:195). On 15 Ap 1954 Mr & Mrs Pelletier granted the place to Mary L Higgins of Peabody (4060:194), and she immediately reconveyed to Mrs Pelletier (4060:195). On 28 Oct 1955 Mrs Rose A Pelletier granted the estate to Mr & Mrs John D O'Connell of Salem (4221:490).

Thirteen years later, on 11 Sept 1968, Mr & Mrs O'Connell sold the house and land to the present owners, Mr & Mrs Richard D Anderson of Salem (5557:101).

Robert Booth  
26 July 1977

Note: The death of Samuel Very 3d, for whom this house was built in 1810, was reported in the Salem Gazette, issue of 27 April 1813; he was only 28 years old. He and his wife Alice evidently had no children. Mr Very was called a block-maker in 1810 and a trader in 1811 and 1812.

A figure such as (12:34) refers to deed book 12, page or leaf 34 at the Southern Essex County Registry of Deeds; a figure such as (#1234) refers to probate docket 1234 at Southern Essex County Probate.

Mortgage Deed of Samuel Very 3d to Mrs Susanna Ingersoll,  
19 April 1811, 193:64

Sam<sup>c</sup>. Very 3<sup>d</sup>  
to

Susanna Ingersoll  
vide: Book 197  
Leaf 24. assignment

Know all men by these Presents That I Samuel Very 3<sup>d</sup> of Salem in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Trader, in consideration of five hundred dollars to me paid by Susanna Ingersoll of Salem aforesaid widow, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge do hereby give grant sell and convey unto the said Susanna Ingersoll his heirs and assigns forever, a certain lot of land situated on the North side of Essex Street in said Salem bounded as follows, to wit. Southerly on Essex Street, westerly on land of Peter Cheever formerly but now of Timothy Wellman, Easterly on land formerly of Richard Prince but now of Archer and others, and Northwesterly on the Common, with all the privileges & appurtenances thereof, being the same land I purchased of Jonathan Archer adm<sup>r</sup> of Elizabeth Philpot dec<sup>d</sup> by deed dated March 16. 1800, recorded in the Registry of deeds for said County, Book 190, Leaf 298. together with

(continued over)

A New three story dwelling house and all other buildings thereon. So  
 said Susanna her heirs and assigns to her and their use and benefit forever  
 and she said James of her self and my heirs executors and assigns  
 Truors do hereby covenant with the said Susanna and with her heirs and  
 assigns that all the execution hereof I am lawfully seized in right of the Premises  
 that they are in full number that I have good right to sell and  
 convey the same to the said Susanna like and in mortgage, and that I  
 will and my heirs executors and administrators shall, toward and against  
 the same to the said Susanna and to her heirs and assigns forever, against  
 the largest claims and demands of any person, and of the wife of said  
 James of consideration of ten cents paid me by said Susanna, the receipt  
 whereof I acknowledge do hereby surrender up to her and her heirs and assigns  
 all my right of dower in the premises. Provided, nevertheless that if  
 said James himself his heirs executors or administrators shall pay off  
 the said mortgage before the nineteenth day of April which will fall  
 in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eleven  
 and interest at the time agreed shall both be void; otherwise shall  
 remain absolute, My witness whereof we the said James of and Alice  
 Very have herunto set our hands and seals this nineteenth day of  
 April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eleven  
 signed and delivered by said James of  
 in presence of us  
 James Clarke Robert M. Barker  
 Martha Cummings witnesses to  
 Sarah Bate } of Alice  
 before me Amos Clarke Justice of Peace.  
 Essex Co. Dec. April 20. 1811. recorded & exam. by Amos Clarke Judge

of Sarah Johnson wife of Benoni Johnson all sums of money which were due to me by virtue of this  
 mortgage, and in consideration thereof I do hereby fully discharge the same.  
 This discharge was written and signed  
 and the mortgage was cancelled and assigned  
 to Amos Clarke Judge  
 Essex Co. Dec. April 20. 1811. recorded & exam. by Amos Clarke Judge

Rough Plan of House Lots, #74 and #76-78 Essex Street

