

Almshouse and Hospital for Contagious Diseases Burial Ground



Researched by
JEN RATLIFF
2019



**HISTORIC
SALEM INC**

September 27, 2019

Collins Cove Condominium Association
37 Settlers Way
Salem, Massachusetts, 01970

Dear Board Member,

We are writing to request your support for the installation of a historic marker to commemorate the burial ground of the former Almshouse and Hospital for Contagious Diseases on the site of the Collins Cove Condominium Complex.

The almshouse, the last to be built in Salem, opened in 1816. It was large — five stories — and was designed by Charles Bulfinch of Boston. To this day one of the most famous architects in American history, Bulfinch designed Faneuil Hall, the State House, the “ether dome” building of Mass General Hospital, University Hall in Harvard Yard, and the layout of Boston Common. Bulfinch also designed other buildings in Salem, including the Salem Fraternity building at 11 Central Street. As U.S. Commissioner of Public Buildings, Bulfinch designed important features of the Capitol Building in Washington and oversaw the final 10 years of that building’s construction.

Bulfinch’s almshouse was intended to house 100 residents, many of whom were expected to work the adjacent farm to offset the cost of their stay. In 1884, after years of overcrowding, an additional building, designed by W.D. Dennis, was built on the property to serve as a hospital for contagious diseases. In all, the site was active for over a century and burials are often referenced in city documents. This cemetery would have served as the only option for patients who were unable to afford a funeral or that had no family to claim their remains.

The almshouse building was razed in 1954, and the adjacent hospital in the 1980s (to make way for the Collins Cove Condominium Complex.) Many locals recall playing among the headstones as children while the site sat unused.

The 1985 sale of this plot to McNeil & Associates, Inc. included stipulations that they identify, maintain, and provide public access to the cemetery site. To uphold these requirements, we suggest a well-designed, durable plaque be properly located near the public way.

To date, the stipulations specified in the master deed have not been met. The burial site remains unmarked and is only identifiable by the remnant of a single slate headstone. During the construction of the condo complex, at least five headstones were reported to have been uncovered, yet their whereabouts are unknown. The names of those who rest here have yet to be discovered, though with additional research their identities may be revealed.

We therefore respectfully ask the Collins Cove Condominium Association for their commitment to honor the master deed stipulations by rehabilitating this final resting place and properly marking its location.

Sincerely,

Historic Salem, Inc.

cc: Elizabeth Rennard, City Solicitor
Patricia Kelleher, Preservation Planner



Salem Historical Commission

98 WASHINGTON STREET, SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS 01970 (978)

619-5685

November 7, 2019

Ron Harrison, Chair
Salem Cemetery Commission
93 Washington Street
Salem, MA 01970

RE: Proposal to install commemorative signage in Broad Street Cemetery and at the former Almshouse site

Dear Mr. Harrison,

At its meeting on November 6, 2019, the Salem Historical Commission was presented with three proposals to install new commemorative signage to recognize Salem's historic burial sites:

- 1) Install small commemorative sign recognizing the former Almshouse burial ground on Collins Cove.
- 2) Install small bronze marker at the Pickering Tomb in the Broad Street Cemetery.
- 3) Install small temporary marker at the gravesite of John Prince, a participant in the Boston Tea Party event.

The Commission is fully supportive of these efforts to recognize and honor Salem's heritage and we would like to thank the individuals and organizations who have led these initiatives. Salem's history is extensive, and these new signs will continue a citywide effort to recognize historic neighborhoods, buildings and sites with markers and interpretive panels. To ensure the successful implementation of the current signage proposals, we offer the following suggestions for consideration:

- 1) Expand Almshouse cemetery sign effort to include an interpretive panel on the adjacent public walkway on Collins Cove to present an illustrated history of the Almshouse and Hospital for Contagious Diseases, which was active for over a century and included a building designed by Charles Bulfinch.
- 2) Prior to installation of the DAR marker at the Pickering Tomb, the Cemetery Commission and/or the Pickering House should contact the Massachusetts Historical Commission to determine necessary permits for excavation in an historic burial ground.
- 3) Work with the City's Preservation Partners, including the Friends of Broad Street Cemetery, to promote these commemorative efforts and include historic information about each site on the City's historic preservation website: www.preservingsalem.com.

Sincerely,

Laurence Spang, AIA
Chair

Cc: Jen Ratliff
Linda Jenkins, Pickering Foundation
Evan O'Brien, Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum

Sources

Compiled by Jen Ratliff



Cousins, Frank. "Salem, Salem Neck, Almshouse, 1815-1816." Photograph.
c. 1865-1914.

Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum

1747 – Pest House built on Roache’s Point (Collins Cove)

Small pox victims graves in small enclosure near wharf, just below Almshouse.¹

1799 – Pest House moves to Hospital Point (Salem Willows)

Some Small Pox victims are buried at Hospital Point, also known as Watch House Point. Headstones were visible in the 1860s. ²

1816 – November 30, 1816, Almshouse designed by Charles Bulfinch opens on Collins Cove

The site consisted of two hospitals and a chapel.³

1884 – Hospital for Contagious Disease designed by W.D. Dennis opens adjacent to the Almshouse

1953 – Almshouse closes on December 31st

Remaining patients distributed to other local institutions⁴

1954 – Almshouse building is razed

1985 – Hospital for Contagious Diseases is razed

1985 – Construction of Collins Cove Condominium Complex begins

1987 – Construction of Collins Cove Condominium Complex is complete

- Salem almshouses previously located on Broad Street adjacent to the Broad Street Cemetery and on Salem Common, near Pleasant Street.

- Almshouse also referred to as Charity House, Poor House, Poor Farm, and Work House.

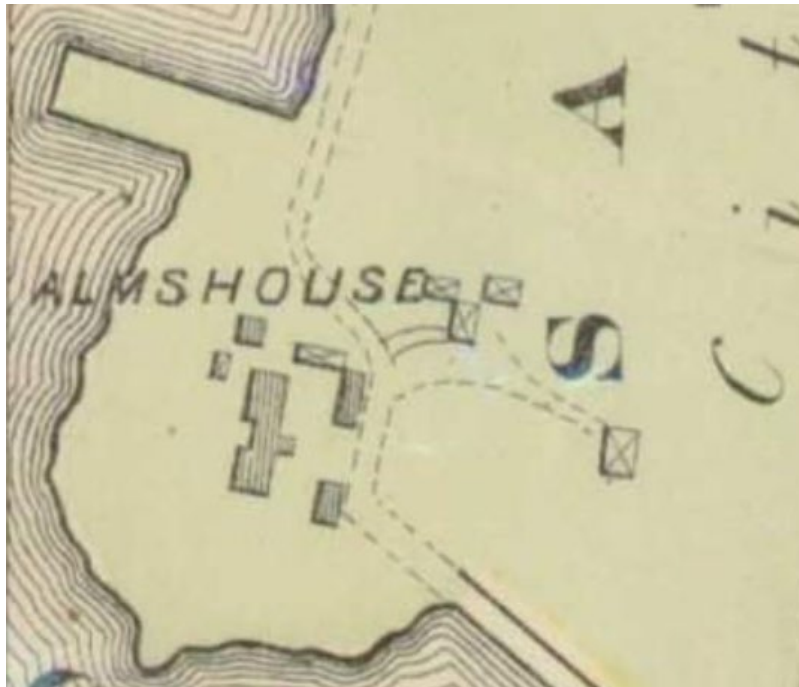
- Hospital for Contagious Diseases also referred to as Chronic Care Hospital, Small Pox Hospital, Salem Willows Hospital, Insane Ward, Asylum, and Hospital on the Neck.

¹ “Essex Institute Historical Collections, Volumes 33-34” 1898. Pg. 83.

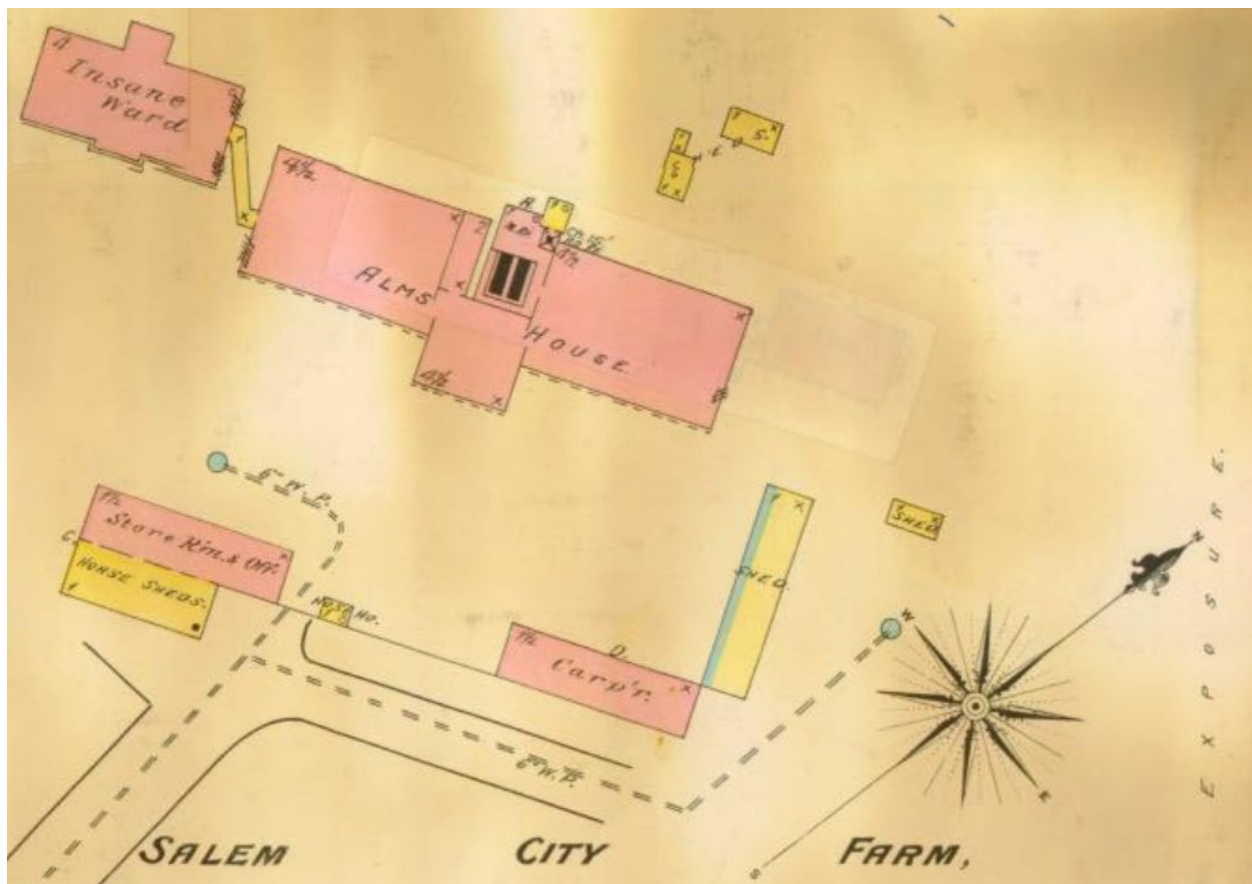
² “Essex Institute Historical Collections, Volumes 33-34” 1898. Pg. 83 – 86.

³ “Annals of Salem, Volume 2” 1923. Pg. 402.

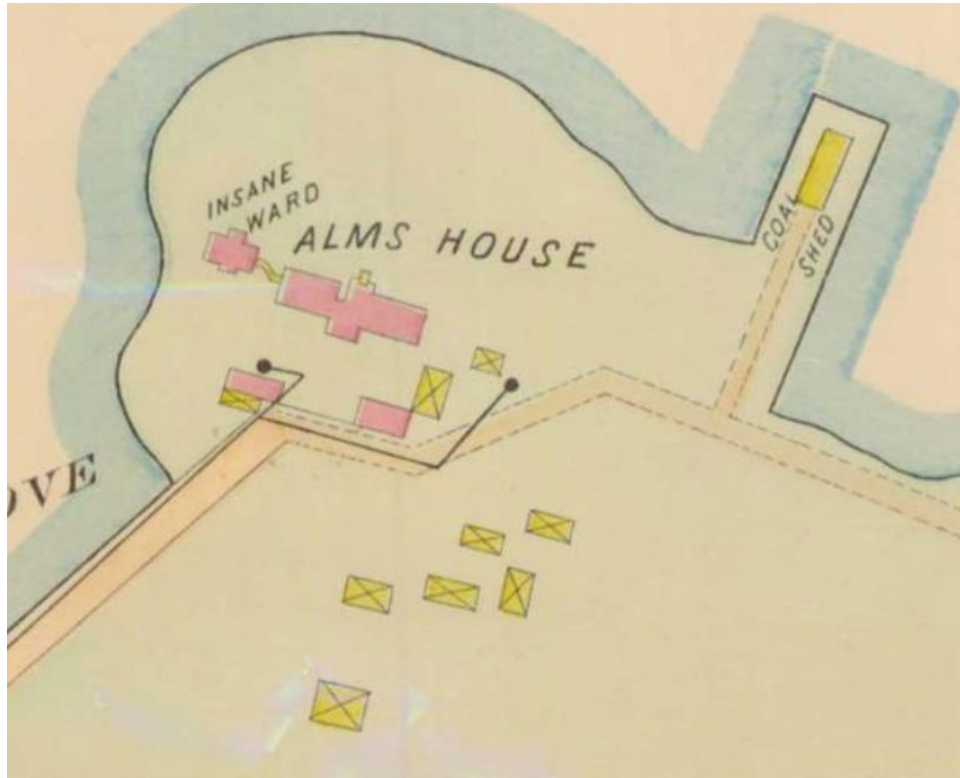
⁴ Daily Boston Globe (1928-1960); Boston, Mass. [Boston, Mass]29 Nov 1953: D4.



Salem Atlas, 1874 (Plate B)



Salem Atlas, 1890-1903 (Plate 38)



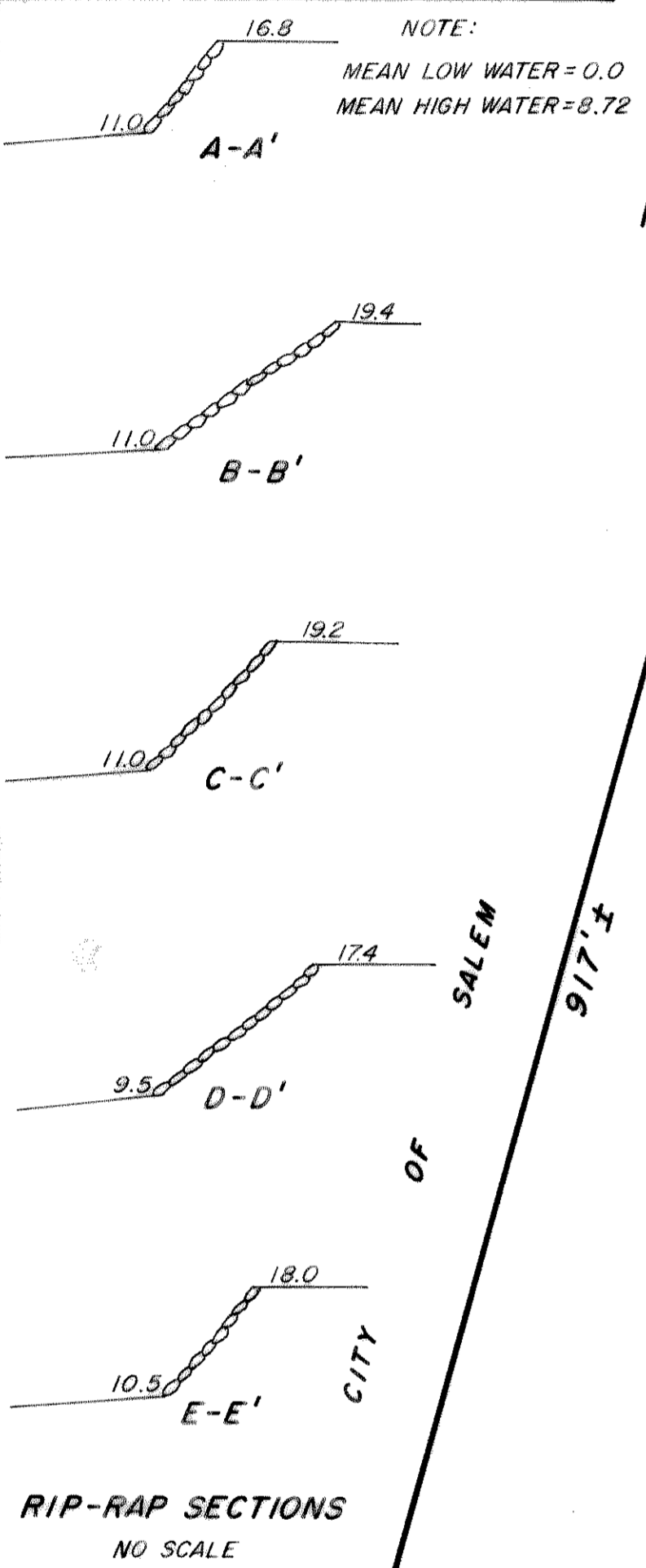
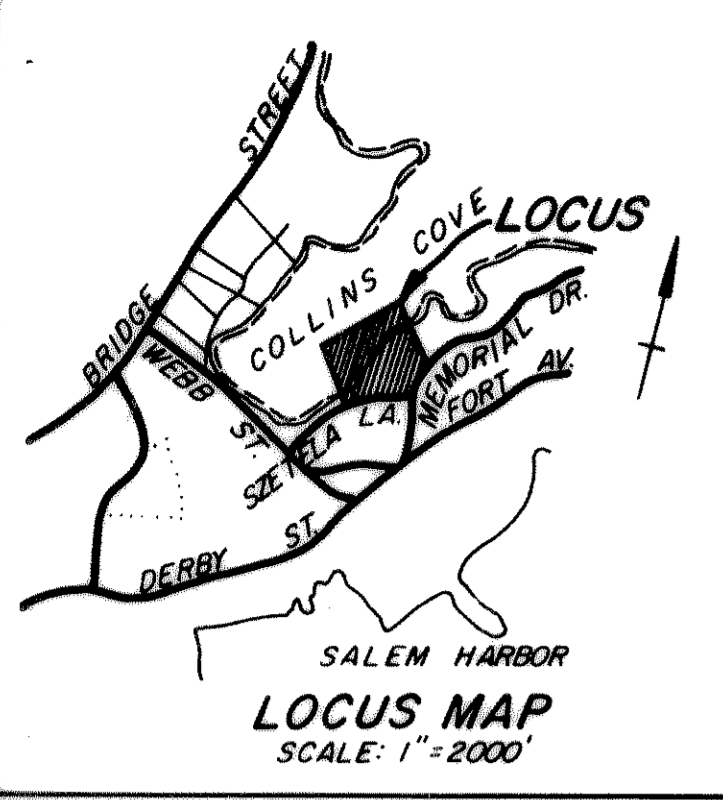
Salem Atlas, 1897 (Plate 11)



Salem Atlas, 1911 (Plate 6)

20/226 (3-PLS)

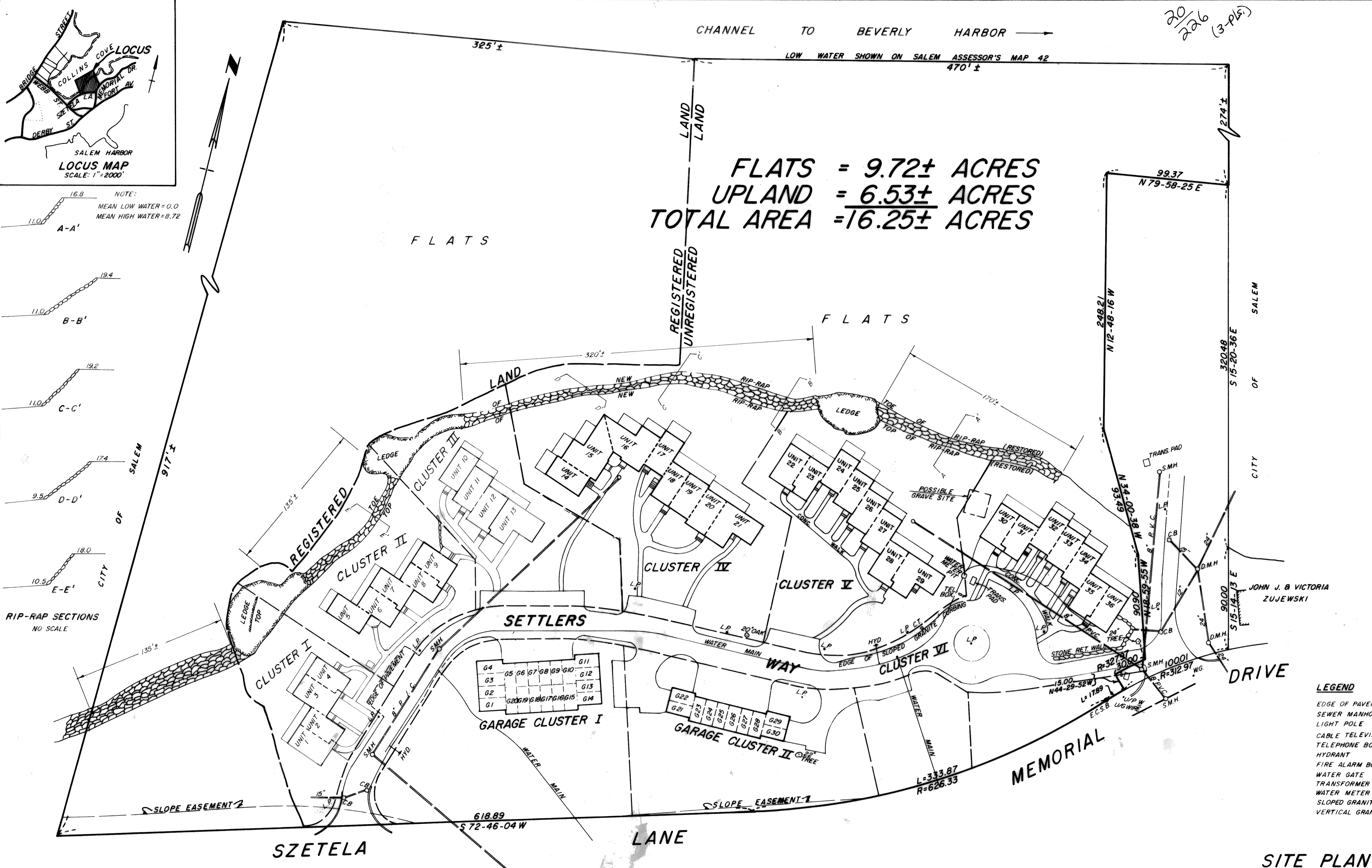
PLAN BOOK 226 PLAN 20
 ESSEX REGISTRY OF DEEDS, SO. DIST. SALEM, MASS.
 Received June 5, 1987
 with Amd. Mstr. Deed:
 Collins Cove Assoc. Limited Partner-
 ship + al. Rec. 9009 P. 170
 Attest: [Signature]
 Register of Deeds (3-PLS)



FLATS = 9.72± ACRES
 UPLAND = 6.53± ACRES
 TOTAL AREA = 16.25± ACRES

UNIT LOCATIONS

| UNIT N° | ADDRESS |
|---------|-----------------|
| 1 | 1 SETTLERS WAY |
| 2 | 2 SETTLERS WAY |
| 3 | 3 SETTLERS WAY |
| 4 | 4 SETTLERS WAY |
| 5 | 5 SETTLERS WAY |
| 6 | 6 SETTLERS WAY |
| 7 | 7 SETTLERS WAY |
| 8 | 8 SETTLERS WAY |
| 9 | 9 SETTLERS WAY |
| 10 | 10 SETTLERS WAY |
| 11 | 11 SETTLERS WAY |
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| 27 | 27 SETTLERS WAY |
| 28 | 28 SETTLERS WAY |
| 29 | 29 SETTLERS WAY |
| 30 | 30 SETTLERS WAY |
| 31 | 31 SETTLERS WAY |
| 32 | 32 SETTLERS WAY |
| 33 | 33 SETTLERS WAY |
| 34 | 34 SETTLERS WAY |
| 35 | 35 SETTLERS WAY |
| 36 | 36 SETTLERS WAY |



LEGEND

- EDGE OF PAVEMENT
- SEWER MANHOLE
- LIGHT POLE
- CABLE TELEVISION
- TELEPHONE BOX
- HYDRANT
- FIRE ALARM BOX
- WATER GATE
- TRANSFORMER PAD
- WATER METER PIT
- SLOPED GRANITE CURBING
- VERTICAL GRANITE CURBING

- S.M.H.
- L.P.
- C.T.
- TEL. BOX
- † HYD.
- F.A.
- W.G.
- TRANS. PAD
- W.M. PIT

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN FULLY AND ACCURATELY DEPICTS THE LOCATION AND DIMENSIONS OF THE BUILDING COMPRISING CLUSTER I, II, III AND GARAGE CLUSTER I AND FULLY LISTS THE UNITS CONTAINED THEREIN AS BUILT.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN SHOWS THE PROPERTY LINES THAT ARE LINES OF EXISTING OWNERSHIPS AND THE LINES OF STREETS AND WAYS SHOWN ARE THOSE OF PUBLIC OR PRIVATE STREETS OR WAYS ALREADY ESTABLISHED AND THAT NO NEW LINES FOR DIVISION OF EXISTING OWNERSHIPS OR STREETS AND WAYS ARE SHOWN.

NOTE: THIS SURVEY AND PLAN WERE PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURAL AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR THE PRACTICE OF LAND SURVEYING IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE BUILDINGS SHOWN ON THIS PLAN ARE NOT LOCATED IN A FLOOD HAZARD AREA AS DEFINED BY F.I.A. FLOOD HAZARD BOUNDARY MAPS FOR THE CITY OF SALEM.

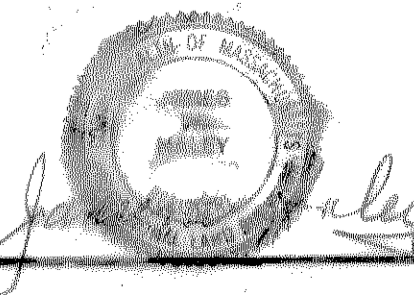
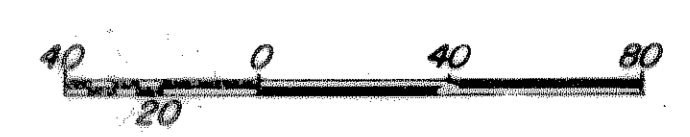
I CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN CONFORMS TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE REGISTERS OF DEEDS AS AMENDED JANUARY 1, 1976.

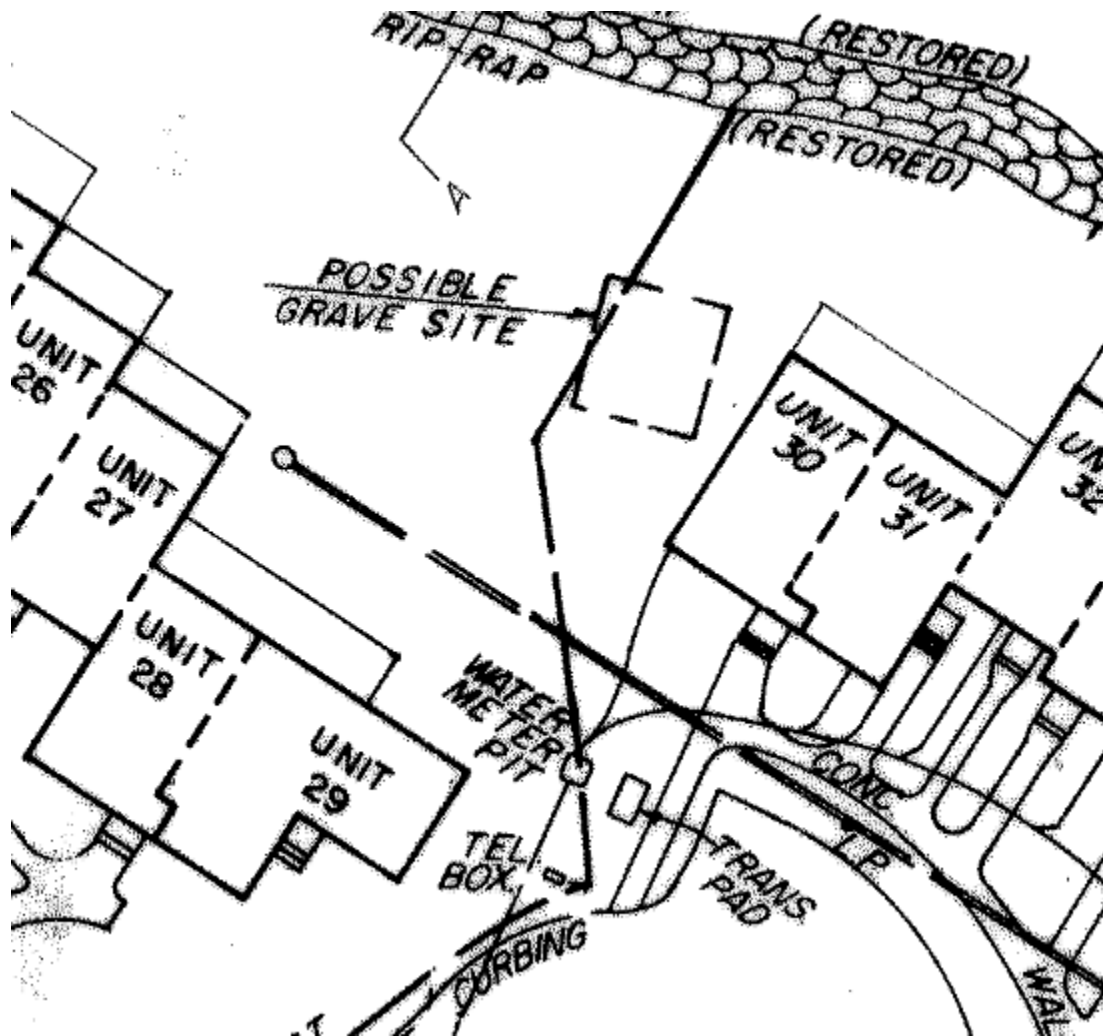
NOTE: RIP-RAP DATA ADDED APRIL 17, 1987

SITE PLAN
 "AS BUILT"
 COLLINS COVE CONDOMINIUM
 SALEM, MASS.

SCALE: 1 IN. = 40 FT.

MAY 27, 1987





Detail of 1987 of Site Plan as Built
Plan 226:20

- 20.) The cemetery site will, as defined, be restored and retained in perpetuity and public access will be allowed.
- 24.) The Developer and the City agree the aforementioned conditions, as well as the conditions in the original Agreement, shall be covenants running with the land enforceable against the Developer and its successors and assigns and so recited in the deed to the Developer.

Excerpts from land deed between the City of Salem and McNeil & Associates, Inc., 1985
(8056:492)

20. Garages, Basements, Decks, Sidewalks, Fireplaces and Clubhouse, cemetery sites.

There are forty-one outdoor parking spaces as shown on the site plan. There are thirty (30) garages, contained in two buildings, one garage building containing garages G1 through G20

Declarant is constructing a clubhouse on land owned by Declarant adjacent to the land comprising the Condominium. Declarant shall offer to lease a portion of the clubhouse to the Condominium Trust for the use of the Unit owners on a yearly basis under such terms and conditions as are satisfactory to Declarant. Neither the Declarant nor the Condominium Trust shall be obligated to renew such lease.

The property comprising the Condominium was formerly used as a hospital with adjoining burial sites. Several such sites have been located and are shown on the site plan. Other burial sites have been located in the course of construction of the Condominium.

- 17 -

The Declarant and all those claiming by, under or through the Declarant agree that no such burial site or human remains, whenever discovered shall be disturbed until the Salem Cemetery Commission has been notified and has removed or otherwise addressed the situation of any such burial sites and remains. The cemetery sites shown on the site plans shall be continually maintained by the Condominium Trust.

Excerpts from Master Deed, 1986
(8711:464)



Views of area on Site Plan marked as "possible burying ground."



Headstone fragment at site

"It is difficult to say exactly who the marker was for or what purpose it served by its current condition, but that said, slate was a commonly used material for grave markers through the 17th and 18th centuries. Combined with what we know of the site and the existence of a burying ground both through research and oral history, I have every reason to believe this is a graveyard relict and perhaps with some exploration of the area other artifacts may be found.

With so very little of the site still intact, and so few reminders of those who were housed in the almshouse and treated at the contagious hospital, it is indeed one of the few reminders of the former life of this site and those who lived and perished there. Because of its significance and the tendency to forget the stories of the poor, it would be meaningful to the history of Salem to mark this site with a sign as a show of respect and dignity. "

- Rachel Meyer, Stone Conservator
Epoch Preservation

In 1747 a Pest House was built on this point, then called Roache's Point; some gravestones of the victims of the small pox at that time can be seen in the enclosure, near the head of the wharf just below the present Alms House; this pest house was discontinued, except as a residence for some indigent persons, and a new one erected on the northeast point of the Neck in 1799.

Except from "Essex Institute Historical Collections, Volumes 33-34" 1898
Page 83.

After passing the beach we turn to the left and go to the point where, a few years ago, a wharf was built for the landing of passengers. This was originally called "Watch-House Point." Here was built, in the early settlement of the town, one of the first block-houses, and some time it had a cannon in it; it was called "Old Block-House," in 1758. Here was the place of interment of the victims of the small-pox who died in the hospital on the point that we have just passed. Many of the head stones were standing up to 1860 and later.

Except from "Essex Institute Historical Collections, Volumes 33-34" 1898
Page 86.

to the impoverished, had opportunity for its benevolent exercise.

1815. It was decided to have a brick alms house on the Neck, and unite the town's land there with it for a farm. This was about 70 acres, increased, 1824, by the addition of Winter island. Notice was given, Nov. 30, 1816, that this edifice was ready to receive the poor. Paul Upton had been lately chosen master of it, and, as such, he more than came up to the high expectations of his fitness for so trying an office. The dimensions of the building are 200 feet long, in which are two wings of 50 feet wide and one projection of 40 feet width, 20 of which are in advance of the wings. It is 5 stories high in front, and 4 in the rear. It has two hospitals and one chapel. The plan of its structure is chaste, and it makes an attractive appearance. The agricultural arrangements impart health and enjoyment to many of the inmates, and diminish the expenses of their support. The operation of the establishment is alike honorable to sound judgment and kind hearts. Here the language of another presents itself. Though its latter line may be more fanciful than real, it as fully applies to this asylum, as to any other of the kind.

“ Behold yon almshouse, neat, but void of state,
Where age and want sit smiling at the gate.”

Excerpt from “Annals of Salem, Volume 2”

Page 402.

penalty of 50 per sheep to him y takes them up and impounds them for each time." In 1728, the Neck contained above 102 acres, exclusive of Col. John Higginson's pasture of over 23 acres, besides about 20 acres of other land. It then allowed 2½ acres for a cow, and 4 acres for a horse. The former was assessed 20/, and the latter 32/ a season. For that year, 30 cows and 12 horses were fed there and in Higginson's, or, as previously called, Abbot's pasture. Benjamin Ives, having recently bought the latter property, proposed, in 1730, to hire about two acres towards Watch-house Point. His request was allowed, the next year, to continue a century. He offered, in 1739, to exchange Pignal's or Roache's Point for an equivalent at the Point before named. The town agreed to allow him, on such an offer, two acres for three. On Roache's Point, a Pest-house was ordered, 1747, to be erected. As to its martial applications, the Neck, in 1758, had long been guarded by two block-houses, at the gate, and another at Watch-house Point. Besides these defences, it had a Fort on its heights, called new, to distinguish it from the old one on Winter Island, and reconstructed in the last war with England. In 1765, the town Treasurer was instructed to let this Island and the

Excerpt from "Annals of Salem, Volume 1"

Page 192

abode for their poor. On the premises of the old Pest-house, where lie the silent remains of many a respectable tenant, swept away by contagious disease, they erected an Alms-house in 1815, and connected with it the larger portion of the Neck, for agricultural purposes. The former establishment had been discontinued, except for indigent families, and another prepared in 1799, on the north-east point. A small proportion of the Neck is still employed in conformity with its ancient use, for the pasturage of cattle.

Excerpt from "Annals of Salem, Volume 1"

Page 193

| Name | Date of Death/Burial | Age | Notes |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------|---|
| Gen. Stephen Abbot | August 9, 1813 | 64 | |
| John Andrews, Jr. | December 26, 1773 | 3 | |
| Sally Avery | August 29, 1836 | Unknown | |
| Peter Bertram | May 25, 1813 | 3.5 | Drowned on South Bridge Son of John and Mary |
| Lucy Blyth | August 20, 1787 | 37 | Paralytic wife of Samuel |
| Hannah Britton | September 27, 1782 | 57 | Wife of Capt. John Britton |
| Capt. David Britton | December 25, 1786 | 80 | Died of Old Age Husband of Hannah Britton and Sarah Britton (February 3, 1771) |
| S. W. Fisher | October 31, 1774 | 19 months | Son of I. and A. Fisher |
| Ephraim Ingalls | April 15, 1766 | 68 | |
| Bethia Ingersoll | July 30, 1773 | 58 | Consumption Wife of Nathaniel Ingersoll |
| Capt. Nathaniel Ingersoll | April 28, 1762 | Unknown | |
| Sarah Jackson | June 19, 1810 | 58 | Widow of John of Boston |
| James Jeffrey | April 23, 1753 | Unknown | |
| Simon Lamb | b. May 6, 1795 | 19 months | Son of Simon and Elizabeth |
| Simon Lamb | July 24, 1800 | 4 | Throat Distemper Son of Simon and Elizabeth |
| Susanna Luscombe | September 3, 1781 | Unknown | Wife of Samuel |
| Sarah Manning | April 21, 1791 | 33 | Yellow Fever Wife of William |
| William Manning | Unknown | Unknown | Husband of Sarah |
| Hannah Mottey | March 17, 1768 | Unknown | Wife of Joseph |
| Elizabeth Mylod | March 7, 1813 | 64 | Wife of Samuel |
| Capt. Israel Ober | August 7, 1773 | 39 | |
| Jonathan Ober | January 30, 1789 | 22 or 26 | Lung Fever |
| Dorethea Palfrey | June 11, 1797 | 44 | Wife of Richard, a sailmaker |
| John Sanders | January 21, 1750 | 16 | Son of Phillip and Mary |
| Mary Sanders | January 14, 1795 | 85 | Widow of Phillip |
| Sarah "Sally" Sanders | July 16, 1795 | 17 | Daughter of Capt. Daniel Sanders |
| Alexander Story | October 30, 1742 | 6 | Son of Capt. and Sally |
| Stephen Varney | November 24, 1840 | 49 | |
| John Watson, Jr. | January 1, 1774 | 2 months | |
| Abigail Williams | September 17, 1812 | 67 | Widow of William |
| William Williams | Unknown | Unknown | Husband of Abigail |
| Joseph Young | April 22, 1803 | 47 | Lung Fever Organist at St. Peter's Church |

Deaths marked as "Hospital Burying Ground, Salem" until 1849
Massachusetts Vital Records

Five Graves are Mystery On Salem Willows Land

BY ARTHUR
PEABODY

SALEM — Developers submitting plans for the purchase and use of more than six acres of land at Salem Willows, the site of the old city hospital, may not be aware

that the property contains a cemetery — Not a very large cemetery, and far enough out of the way not to interfere with the development.

There, at one corner of the land, are five headstones. If they were adorned with names at some time in the misty past,

the rains and snows of more than a century have washed them away.

"Neath those old slabs bending forward,

Where the weeds grow thick and fast,

Where the night winds sadly whistle,

Rest these spirits of the past."

Unheralded and unknown they sleep, as they have done for perhaps 150 years.

Prior to the city hospital the site was occupied by the

(Continued on page 2)

Mysterious Graves —

(Continued from page 1)

almshouse, commonly referred to as the "poorhouse."

Before that there was a contagious hospital there, often called the "pesthouse."

A note on a card, hidden in the records of the health department, and uncovered some years ago by Dr. John J. Toomey, retired health agent, is a reference to a family of five, including children, being fatally stricken by a strange disease in the 1830s, possibly dying at the "pesthouse."

There was talk of a "plague" at the time and it is noted that the bodies of the family members were placed in graves and covered with lime. The beds and clothing of the family were also buried.

Medical science was limited in those days, commented a health official and today it might have been learned that the deaths resulted from one of the fevers or even diphtheria.

Former Mayor Francis X. Collins, who served as chief

executive for a record 20 years, remembers that there was a story that the bodies at the Willows were those of French sailors who died of "the plague," but there were no details.

While no Salemite living today can feel any personal loss in the long-time dead at the Willows, all must sense to some degree compassion for those unfortunates in the neglected and unmarked graves.

Lynn Sunday Post (c. 1985)

Word By ABP

NOV 2, 1980

Lynn Sunday Post

stituents all through the term. He has been endorsed by Representative **J. Michael Ruane**. Nick Mavroules deserves to be reelected.

Candidates for governor's council, state senator, representative, county commissioners, and sheriff are all Democrats, with no Republican opposition, but do not pass them by. It will take but a few seconds to punch holes beside their names and your vote will let them know that you are satisfied with their performance in office. They are **John F. Markey**, Senator **John G. King**, Representative **J. Michael Ruane**, Commissioners **Katherine M. Donovan**, and **John W. McKean** and Sheriff **Charles H. Reardon**.

Are all these falling wires and electric blackouts necessary? It seems that when the wind blows the wires come down. Wires rubbing against trees cause sparks and fires. That can be corrected easily. Just cut down the trees. It does seem though, that if the wires were fastened securely there wouldn't be so many of them falling. Maybe the company might try using Scotch tape, or even bubble gum.

→ Frank Remon, a former excellent assistant harbor master, is of a family that goes back a long way in Salem. He is also the possessor of a fine collection of Salem historic documents. Frank informs me that there were a number of persons buried on the old city hospital land and the place was known as the Hospital Burying Ground. He has a record of one **Simon Mugford Lamb**, age four, who died July 24, 1800, being buried there.

According to the record the child died of "throat distemper". **John Langley**, age 42, a native of Ireland, also is buried there. He died of consumption in the almshouse in

1822. Another was **Elizabeth W. Mylord**, age 64, who died March 7, 1813. Frank, who grew up in the area, says he used to walk around there when young and that there were names on the headstones. He also has **Dr. William Bentley's** books on "Vital Records of the City of Salem." Dr. Bentley was pastor of the East Church.

Those store coupons giving you 10 cents on the next purchase of this or that are a nuisance. I am not a merchandiser, thank Heaven, but it seems to me that considering the cost of printing and distributing the coupons, plus the work of sorting them and returning them to the manufacturers, it would be easier just to forget the coupons and reduce the price of the product. But that is probably too simple. Cash value of the coupons is 1-20th of a cent.

Mrs. **Annie Barker's** observance of her 90th birthday anniversary last Sunday at the Ivy Manor Rest Home was perfect. Cards, flowers, party, and gifts. Then when the excitement had decreased somewhat in the late afternoon, there came a beautiful ice cream cake, complete with horns and other favors, from an anonymous donor. Mrs. Barker has not yet descended from the cloud on which she has been riding all week long.

When Council President **Frances J. Grace** filed an order in the council some months ago for some sort of a rent review board the members voted it down. Rents have been skyrocketing for some time and if the trend continues there will be many persons pitching tents on the Common. That wouldn't be very comfortable in the winter. Mrs. Grace should try again. Or maybe the members are not interested in the less affluent people of the city.

Once again the Moose organization


Lynn Sunday Post (November 2, 1980)



Storage tomb at Collins Cove (June 1963)
Photo by Len White




Hospital for Contagious Diseases, 1983
Rick Ouellette

 **Louise** [redacted] I played there! I remember headstones in back between the hospital and the water, near the chestnut trees.


Like · Reply · 22w



 **Lynda** [redacted] There were about 8 headstones & the legible ones stated the person died of small pox.


Like · Reply · 22w



 **Kathy** [redacted] There was a small cemetery next to the crow 2 club beach when we were kids (1950's) but I think it was from the board of health hospital in the 1930's it was between the beach and the stone cave


Like · Reply · 22w



 **Tim** [redacted] I think the spot you have described is within a few feet of where the graves were. I remember it as very small plot, three to six graves. The markers that were still there during my childhood were inscribed slate headstones set in granite curbstones. At least one could still be read, and marked the grave of the young daughter of a captain. It said she had died of smallpox. The markers were often vandalized, snapped off where they were set in their curbs and smashed, though the curbs remained in the ground for years after the slate markers were gone. I understand that the granite "cave" whose door faced Collins Cove was never a grave or mausoleum, but had been used for storing the remains of smallpox victims during the winter when the ground was too frozen to dig their graves.


Like · Reply · 22w




 **William** [redacted] The cemetery was to the right of the yellow mark, closer to the (now) dirt road, and all the way to the beach. the last building was built on the cemetery. People put up a real stink about it when under construction

Like · Reply · 22w · Edited




 **William** [redacted] there was a little stone wall boundary separating the beach from the graveyard, and a little tree close to the roadside end of the wall.

Like · Reply · 22w

 **Dennis** [redacted] From what I can recall, there were Gravestone remnants to the right of the Building closest to the Willows direction. We used to go there as kids in the late 60's -70's to use a Tree Rope Swing that went out into the Cove.


Like · Reply · 22w



 **Rich** [redacted] Try the Building Dept. I was on the Zoning Board when the town houses were approved. They may have submitted a copy of the cemetery area with their petition. I also believe the cemetery was discussed by the Board and developer.

Like · Reply · 22w · Edited



 **Kathy** [redacted] I think where you marked them is also where the developer had them marked. My understanding is that the neighbors tried to point out the mistake but were ignored. This led to the folly of digging up the graves. I am hoping someone who still lives in the neighborhood at that time knows what they did with the bodies.

Like · Reply · 22w



Hospital for Contagious Diseases, c. 1980
Unknown source

1818: The hospital was once again destroyed and rebuilt in the lower part of Salem Neck, on Collins Cove.

1846: For the third time, the hospital is destroyed.

1860: The hospital is rebuilt in the same location and named the Salem Hospital for Contagious Diseases.

1930: The hospital was renamed the Salem Health Department Hospital.

1952: With the advent of better drugs to fight contagious diseases, the Board of Health decides the facility should address the care of the aged and chronically ill.

1975: The 160-bed Dr. J. Robert Shaughnessy Rehabilitation Hospital/Dr. Israel Kaplan Public Health Center is dedicated at its new location off of Jefferson Avenue in Salem, behind Salem Hospital.

2015 Salem News

Salem Almshouse Closing Doors Dec. 31

SALEM, Nov. 28 — This city's almshouse will "go out of business" Dec. 31, it was announced today. The 50 inmates will be transferred to nursing homes.

It was estimated months ago that it would cost \$1,000,000 to replace the present structure, 150 years old and badly in need of repair.

Under present plans the superintendent of the almshouse will hold his job, for he will be coordinator of arrangements for boarding present and future patients in nursing homes or other suitable places.

Apartments & Condos



Drawing of Collins Cove units.

Collins Cove condos

McNeil Associates Inc. of Westwood has begun building Collins Cove, a 36-unit waterfront residential condo development on Salem Neck in that city.

Designed by Benjamin Nickerson, the two-story units will have two or three bedrooms, 1½ baths and decks facing Beverly Yacht Club. Units will be arranged in six clusters, and most will have full basements.

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09 Jan 1987: pg. 72