

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Salisbury Mansion 1983 Restoration
Collection

2000.106

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Collection Information

Abstract : Paraphrased memoranda from Salisbury Family papers relating to interior decor, 1772-135; with interior room pain analysis; assembled for 1983 restoration by Worcester Historical Museum.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Printed by Ben Bergenholtz for Archives.

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lcsh, aat, tgm, gmgcp)

Salisbury, Stephen, 1746-1829.

Worcester Historical Museum.

Salisbury mansion.

Historic buildings – Massachusetts – Worcester.

Historic buildings – Massachusetts – Worcester – Conservation and restoration.

Historic buildings – Massachusetts – Worcester – Maintenance and repair.

Architecture, Domestic – Massachusetts – Worcester – 18th century.

Worcester (Mass.) – History.

See Also: Salisbury Mansion Associates Records 1981.05
Stephen Salisbury Letter 1994.187

Historical/Biographical Notes

Stephen Salisbury settled in Worcester about 1767, and operated a store, primarily hardware but including additional products such as seasonings and spices. The store was very successful for Salisbury, and, along with a successful farm, made him a wealthy person. Salisbury mansion was built for Salisbury as a home befitting his status and wealth. It was constructed in 1772 by Deacon Joseph Allen of Hardwick, and built according to plans drawn by Abraham Savage, a Boston architect.

The Salisbury family lived in the mansion until 1851, but retained ownership until 1905. During the last half of the 19th century the mansion was used as a school, a lodging house, and for offices. Following the death of Stephen Salisbury III in 1905, the mansion was bequeathed to the American Antiquarian Society. The building housed the Hancock Club until 1910, the Levana Club until 1914, and was subsequently used by the Red Cross and later as Headquarters of the 52nd Infantry Brigade, Massachusetts National Guard.

In 1929 the house was moved from its original location at Lincoln Square to its present site to allow for civic improvement projects in Lincoln Square. For some time subsequent to the move, the mansion was used by the Worcester Art Museum as an art school. In 1950 the mansion was sold to the Worcester Employment Society as a proposed crafts center. A deed restriction prevented alterations to the building which would change its historical appearance. In 1955 the Worcester Employment Society requested approval to remove the deed restriction so that the building could be radically altered, or demolished to build a more suitable facility for their purposes.

The Salisbury Mansion Associates was formed at this time to raise money to preserve the building by purchasing it from the Worcester Employment Society and to begin rehabilitation of the building, which was in need of major structural repairs. The building was acquired in 1958. Much of the building was rented to the Worcester Girl Scout Council, with the Council paying routine maintenance and repair costs, and the Associates funding structural repair and restoration. This relationship lasted for nearly 20 years. In the late 1970s a number of grants were received to allow the Associates to restore the mansion to its historical appearance, as well as completing structural repairs to the building. A lease arrangement was worked out with Worcester Historical Museum so that the mansion could be presented as a period museum of late 18th - early 19th century Worcester. In 1985 the Salisbury Mansion Associates, Inc. merged with the Worcester Historical Museum. The mansion is now operated as a museum by the Worcester Historical Museum, and forms an important part of the Museum's programs.

Scope and Content

The collection comprises a transcription of paraphrased Salisbury Family papers relating to decor in the Salisbury Mansion, 1772-1885, compiled by Ann Keck-Henderson, Curator, in 1983. Also included is a paint analysis of the interior rooms, by Sarah B. Chase, 1982.

Series Description

Series 1: Notes. Paraphrased Salisbury Family papers relating to room decor, 1772-1875; paint analysis of interior rooms.

Salisbury Mansion 1983 Renovation Collection
2000.106
Series 1, Notes

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2000.106.1.1	Notes relating to the interior decoration of Salisbury mansion, from its construction in 1772 through 1835 / compiled by Ann Keck-Henderson, Salisbury Mansion curator; with paint analysis of interior rooms carried out in 1982 by Sarah B. Chase. aqp