

Edward & Martha Lay's Tavern and Inn
2538 East Main Rd
Circa early 1660s

1 Aug 1679 Edward Lay petitioned the Assembly for liberty to keep an Inn, pleading age and debility of body for hard labor. It was recommended that the Portsmouth Town Council consent to his desire. He was 71 years of age.

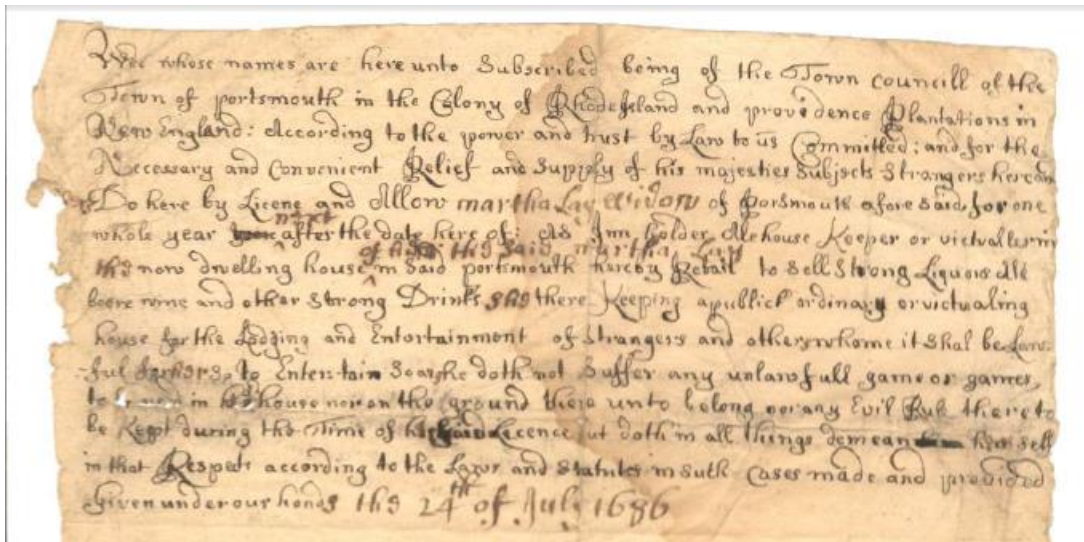
The yearly license granted allowed a "House for Publick Intertainment" [sic] John Brigs Sr. and John Sanford were listed as sureties for good behavior. "for every defect to keepe [sic] good orders" he was to pay 10 shillings.

7 Sep 1680 he was indicted for selling strong drink by retail without a license

26 Oct 1681 his fine of 40 shillings laid on him by the General Court of Trial was remitted by the Assembly due to his pleading age and debility.

1682 Edward Lay died naming his wife Martha as his sole heir.

24 July 1686 Tavern license shows that 'Martha Lay Widow' continues to operate her home as an Alehouse and Inn.



In 1814 at the same location Oliver Davis Greene (1780-1847) ran a Tavern
The Post Office was located here. Oliver D Greene was appointed
postmaster July 1822, son Oliver E Greene was appointed July 1845, ODG's
wife Phoebe Loomis Greene, appointed June 1851, served until her death.

The original building which housed the Post Office is to the rear