1794 – Great Fire at Pearl Street destroys 7 ropewalks and 95 houses

1795 – Six of the seven burned ropewalks relocate to filled land on the banks of the Charles on the Common.
- John and Samuel Gray go to Charlestown

1797 – MacNeills’ ropewalk on the Charles is burned. They moved their business to Charlestown and took over the ropewalk at City Square and Lynde Street.

This detail of Belknap’s map shows his mark for the origin of the fire and the location of houses “saved with difficulty.” The map was enclosed in a 20 September 1794 letter to Ebenezer Hazard. Because of the damage sustained by surrounding residences and shops, the ropewalks were not allowed to rebuild in this section of Boston.