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34 Howard Street

Salem, Massachusetts 01970

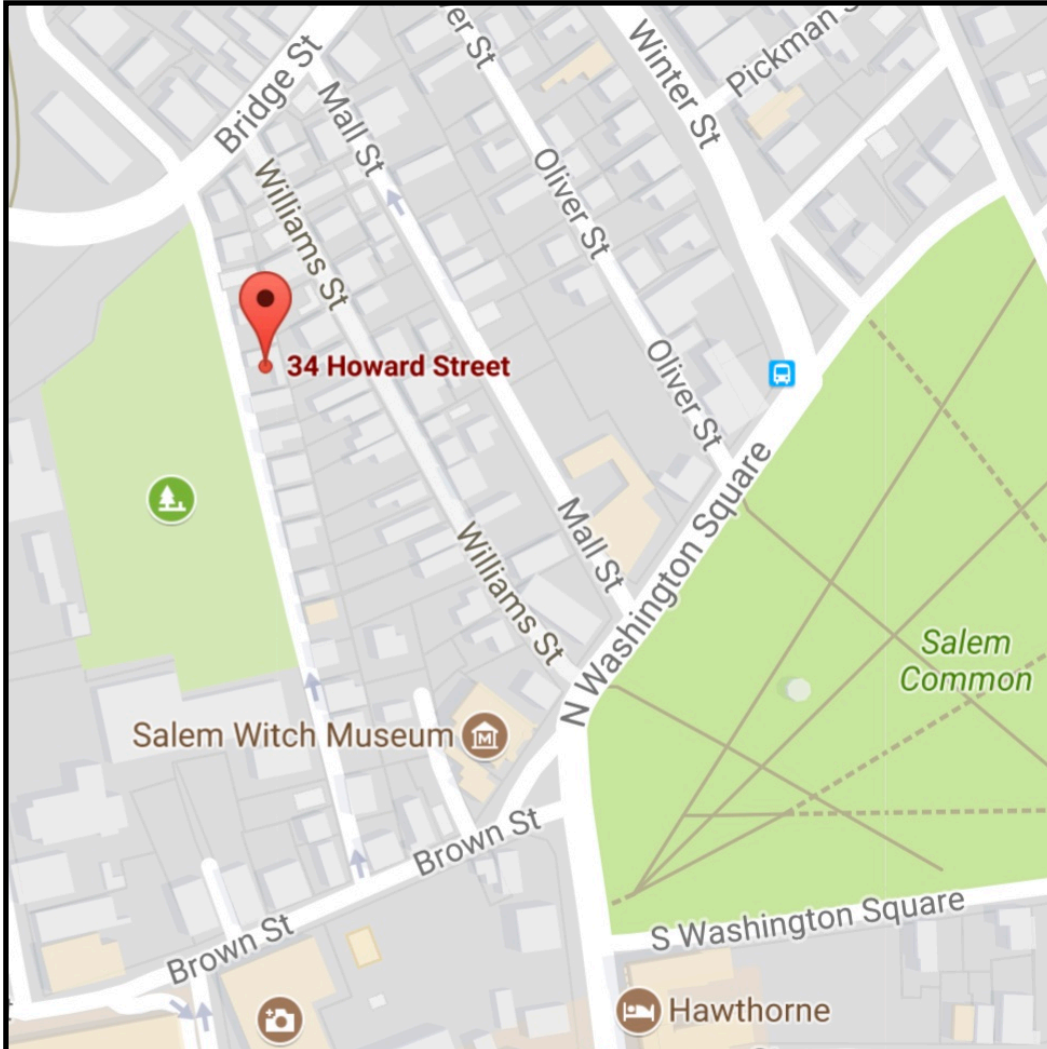
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The House History of 34 Howard Street





Nathaniel Hawthorne, in the opening chapter of *The Scarlet Letter*, noted that “The founders of a new colony, whatever Utopia of human virtue and happiness they might originally project, have invariably recognized it among their earliest practical necessities to allot a portion of the virgin soil as a cemetery, and another portion as the site of a prison.” Though Hawthorne was writing about Boston, the same pattern held true for his native Salem.

Those who died early in Salem’s settling were laid into the earth near the South River, in what is now the Charter Street Burying Ground. Among the first laid to rest there were Jane Francis, the first wife of Governor John Endecott, the first minister Francis Higginson, and Lady Arabella Johnson, the namesake of Governor John Winthrop’s flagship. In 1669, it had become necessary to enlarge the first plot of land to accommodate new burials.¹ A new cemetery was created in 1655 near the western edge of town. This would eventually come to be called the Broad Street Cemetery.² The Howard Street Burial Ground, adjacent to 34 Howard Street, was established in 1801 to billet an ever-growing population of souls.

Salem’s first jail was built in 1684, where the brick office building at 10 Federal Street sits today. Within a decade it would achieve infamy as the dungeon where accused witchcraft suspects were kept in 1692. In 1763, the jail was rebuilt using many of the original timbers.

In 1811, a new stone jail was built in a Federal style along the western side of the cemetery. The building material was granite from Rockport and the foundation an eight-foot

¹ Perley, Sidney. *A History of Salem, Massachusetts, Vol. I: 1626-1637*. Salem, MA: Sidney Perley, 1924. pp. 182-183.

² Perley, Sidney. *A History of Salem, Massachusetts, Vol. II: 1638-1670*. Salem, MA: Sidney Perley, 1926. pp. 219-220.



thick stone base.³ In 1813, a beautiful Federal mansion was built for the jailer or sheriff, possibly by Samuel Field McIntire, the son of Salem's most celebrated architect.⁴ In 1884 and 1885, the prison was enlarged with a new Gothic Revival section designed by Rufus Sargent of Newburyport.⁵

The house at 34 Howard Street has a marquee view of the new jail and the new cemetery, the markers of Salem's transition into a modern city in a new republic. The classical urns on the graves of the Federal-era merchants and the large granite blocks of the jail show a society in the midst of reinventing itself and looking for a more permanent legacy.

I: Early History

The neighborhood around Howard Street, situated as it is at the northern end of the Salem peninsula on the North River, has been an important part of downtown Salem since the late 1600s. According to Sidney Perley, the earliest recorded property owner in that area was John Gedney in 1640. John Whitlock owned the land at the near the present intersection of St. Peter Street and Brown Street in 1650. In 1658, Richard Stackhouse and Christopher Waller owned land in the area.⁶ The latter lent his name to that section of the North River, called then Waller's Cove, and may have owned the land at what is now 34 Howard Street.⁷

³ Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS); SAL.2416

⁴ MACRIS; SAL.2418.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Perley, vol. 1, pp. 313-314.

⁷ Perley, Sidney. "Salem in 1700, No. 15." *The Essex Antiquarian*, Vol. 8. Salem: Sidney Perley. p. 66.



John Gedney, born around 1603, came to Salem in 1637 and worked as a vintner and an innkeeper. He ran the Old Ship Tavern on what is now Central Street and owned a large farm in what is today Peabody. He purchased land from Waller and divided the lot near what is now Howard Street between his son, John Gedney, Jr. and his son-in-law Nicholas Potter.⁸ His son Bartholomew Gedney (born in 1640) served as a judge and was one of those who presided over the witchcraft trials of 1692. Another son, Eleazar Gedney, married Elizabeth the sister of John Turner, builder of The House of the Seven Gables. In 1665, Eleazar built a house on High Street which remained in the family until 1773 and still stands today.⁹

In the early days, a road ran along the shore of the North River, much closer to the property at 34 Howard Street than it is now. St. Peter Street was in existence as early as 1662. A private way jutted off southwards along what is now Howard Street, stopping short of the highway to the common, which is today Brown Street, but which existed as early as 1661.¹⁰

The eastern end of this private way (the strip of land which today contains 34 Howard Street) which belonged in 1700 to William Gedney.¹¹

Gedney, the son of John Gedney Jr. and grandson of the original property owner, was born in 1668. Gedney was a merchant and sheriff.¹² His will, dated to 1730, leaves to his widow

⁸ Waters, Henry Fitzgilbert. *The Gedney and Clarke Families of Salem, Mass.* Salem: The Salem Press, 1880. pp. 6-7.

⁹ Historic New England. Accessed 7/29/2017. <https://www.historicnewengland.org/property/gedney-house/>

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Phillips, James Duncan, Sidney Perley, and William W.K. Freeman. "Part of Salem in 1700." Map. In *Salem in the Seventeenth Century*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1933.

¹² Waters, pp. 17-18.



Elizabeth “liberty...to live in any part of my house during her widowhood.”¹³ The real estate was divided between his son, Batholomew Gedney, Jr., and his daughter, Hannah Grant, providing them each with right of first refusal before the other sold their property.¹⁴ His property was valued in probate at £2837, a considerable sum. It included a shop, a warehouse, a cow, a calash (a convertible carriage), an orchard, and common rights. The house that stood at the spot had 5 rooms: a parlor, a kitchen, and a back room on the first floor, a parlor chamber on the second, and a garret.¹⁵

The western end was the land of Stephen Haskett, who had a house down by the shore of the river. Farther to the east of Gedney’s land were two large lots belonging to John Williams and William Browne, where today can be found Williams, Oliver, and Mall Streets.

To the west were a number of house lots along Prison Lane, including John Ward, a currier whose 1684 house was moved to Brown Street in 1910 by the Essex Institute and survives today as part of the Peabody-Essex Museum.

Popular legend has it that accused witch Giles Corey was pressed to death in what is now the Howard Street Burying Ground during the Salem Witch Trials of 1692. However, according to research by Emerson Baker, the site of Corey’s death was likely farther down Federal Street, near the pedestrian passage towards Bridge Street.¹⁶

¹³ Essex County Probate Records.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Emerson Baker, lecture. Salem State University. 10 June 2017.



Howard Street was laid out in 1801, the same year that Howard Street Cemetery was laid out.¹⁷ Originally called Branch Street, it was renamed in 1828 for John Howard, a sailmaker and warden of St. Peter's Church.¹⁸

The first burial in the new cemetery was Benjamin Ropes, who was just 19 years old. His headstone explains his sad fate, crushed by a mast while working on a ship:

*While employed in the duties
of his Station
on board the ship Belisarius
a fatal accident put a period to his life
August 4, 1801*

The headstones in the cemetery which are closest to the house at 34 Howard Street date from the early part of the nineteenth century. There are two children of Edward Turner lost in the course of two years: Charles, an infant son who died in January of 1812, and Cassandana, who died in September of 1813 at 13 years old. There are also the stones of Seeth Ropes, widow of Captain George Ropes, who died in 1823 at 54 years old, and Desier Weed, the wife of George Weed. She died in 1826 at the age of 51.

¹⁷ Perley, p. 67.

¹⁸ Stella, Jeanne. "Howard Street had varied history." The Salem News, 10 January 2016. Accessed 7/29/2017 <http://www.salemnews.com/opinion/letter-howard-street-had-varied-history/>



II: The Neighborhood

Jonathan Peele Saunders' 1820 map of Salem shows Howard Street labelled as Branch Street, and down at the shore of the river can be seen the new "County Goal."¹⁹ An 1832 map by Saunders shows three shaded buildings in the block between St. Peter Street and Howard Street, presumably the St. Peter's Episcopal Church, the Second Baptist Church, and the Howard Street Orthodox Church.

Salem in the mid-nineteenth century was very much a city of churches. In addition to those mentioned above, from the 1830s through the 1870s, nearby could be found St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church and the Universalist Church on Forrester Street, the Tabernacle Church on Washington Street, the First Baptist Church, on what is now Federal Street, and the East Church on the corner of Washington Square (now the Salem Common).

Of those closest to 34 Howard Street, the Howard Street Orthodox Church, also called simply the Howard Street Church, was built in 1805. The church had a strong abolitionist bent, including hosting the Grimké sisters, famous abolitionists.²⁰ One of the church's early ministers, Charles Turner Torrey, died of tuberculosis in a Baltimore prison on charges of stealing slaves.²¹ In 1835, a mob of 200 people stoned the church and rioted when it was thought that the British

¹⁹ Saunders, Jonathan Peele. "Plan of the Town of Salem in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts From actual Surveys made in the years 1796 & 1804: with the improvements and alterations since that period as Surveyed by Jonathan P. Saunders." Map, 1820. Engraved by Annan & Smith, Boston. Norman B. Leventhal Map Center, Boston Public Library. <http://www.leventhalmap.org/id/12094>

²⁰ Stella, 2016.

²¹ "Charles Turner Torrey" *Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography*. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1889. Accessed 29 July 2017. https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Appletons%27_Cyclop%C3%A6dia_of_American_Biography/Torrey,_Charles_Turner



anti-slavery speaker George Thompson.²² The church was overseen in 1842 by the Reverend Joel Mann, who lived at 2 Briggs Street.²³ In 1871, the church became the Prescott School.

The Second Baptist Church, built in 1826 on St. Peter Street²⁴ The minister in 1842 was the Reverend Joseph Banvard.²⁵ St. Peter's Episcopal Church was a stone Gothic Revival building constructed in 1833 on the plans of Isaiah Rogers. The church housed an Anglican congregation which had begun meeting in the 1730s around the time of the Great Awakening.

The majority of houses on Howard Street date from the decade of 1842 to 1852. 34 Howard Street is either the oldest or the second oldest house built on the street which survives today.

The other candidate is the current 5 Howard Street, next to next to the location of the old Howard Street Church. Stephen and Sarah Webb, who owned a large parcel in the area, sold part of it to Aaron Smith, a carpenter, in 1829.²⁶ Listed as 3 Howard Street, it appears in the 1842 Directory lived in by Aaron Smith, Jr. also a carpenter, and Benjamin Vanderford, a mariner.²⁷ In 1851 the house was lived in by Aaron Smith, Jr. and Augustus A. Smith, a clerk with W. and S.B.

²² "Mob in Salem" Vermont Watchman and State Gazette [Montpelier, Vermont] 10 Nov. 1835: n.p. 19th Century U.S. Newspapers. Web 24 August 2016.

²³ Ibid. p. 55.

²⁴ The first Baptist Church had been built in 1805 on Marlboro Street (today Federal Street), that building was moved in 2008 to the corner of North Street where it now serves as a law library.

²⁵ *The Salem Directory and City Register; Containing Names of the Inhabitants, their Occupations, Places of Business, and Residences, with Lists of City Officers, Banks, Insurance Offices, Societies, &c. Names of the Streets and Wharves; and Other Useful Information.* Salem: Henry Whipple, 1842. p. 7.

²⁶ Essex County Registry of Deeds, Deed 254:78. 2 November 1829.

²⁷ 1842 Directory, p. 82 and p. 91.



Ives, book binders at 232 Essex Street.²⁸ The house at 3 Howard Street may have been altered to create the present-day house at 5 Howard Street, or it could have been torn down and replaced by a Queen-Anne style house around 1895.

Number 34 was followed roughly by 18 Howard Street built by Henry A. Ruee²⁹ and 30 Howard Street, built by Nancy Felton.³⁰ Both were built around 1845 in the Greek Revival style.

The Greek Revival filtered down from the work of European antiquarians and architects to American polymaths like Thomas Jefferson and architects like William Strickland and received a great boost of popularity from the 1830 pattern-book, *The Practical House Carpenter*, by Connecticut-and-Massachusetts-based architect Asher Benjamin. It was the dominant American architectural style of the 1830s, and lasted into the 1860s.

Around 1846, four more Greek Revival houses were built on Howard Street. Number 16 by an unknown owner³¹, number 22 by Samuel W. Pease³², number 26 by Samuel G. Jones³³, and number 28 by Willaim Aiken³⁴. The following year, Daniel B. Lord built a neighboring house at 38 Howard Street also in the Greek Revival style.³⁵

²⁸ 1851 Map; 1851 Directory, p. 186.

²⁹ MACRIS, SAL.2387

³⁰ MACRIS, SAL.2382

³¹ MACRIS, SAL.2388

³² MACRIS, SAL2386

³³ MACRIS, SAL.2384

³⁴ MACRIS, SAL.2383

³⁵ MACRIS, SAL.2380



The first Italianate house appeared on the street, built at number 24 in 1850.³⁶ The Italianate style of architecture, which drew on Italian Renaissance architectural features such as flat roofs, long arched windows, and heavy cornices, reigned from the 1840s to the 1860s. Though as with the Greek Revival, changes in architecture were slow to catch on in Salem in the mid-nineteenth century and the Italianate arrived as late as the Greek Revival had in comparison to New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore.

In 1851, three houses were added to the street. One, the house at number 42 built by Levi Wiggin, was wholly Italianate;³⁷ another, at 12 Howard Street built by Henry W. Thurston, was entirely Greek Revival;³⁸ a third, the Lambert Porter house at 8 Howard Street, a mix of the two styles.³⁹

A Greek Revival house was built by John Prince in 1852 at 40 Howard Street. This would be the last architectural addition for more than 40 years.⁴⁰ The Queen Anne Style of architecture became popular in the United States around 1880 and lasted into the early twentieth century. It was an elaborate and fanciful style, incorporating steep gables, oriel windows, turrets, balustrades, and terra cotta tiles among other features. Two (potentially three) Queen Anne houses were built in 1894 and 1895 at the Southern end of Howard Street, including the Sarah E.

³⁶ MACRIS, SAL.2385

³⁷ MACRIS, SAL.2378

³⁸ MACRIS, SAL.2389

³⁹ MACRIS, SAL.2391

⁴⁰ MACRIS, SAL.2379



Balcomb House at 1-3 Howard Street.⁴¹⁴²⁴³⁴⁴ In 1906 a plain house built by Frances Findlay at number ten as a residence and apartments, became the latest addition to Howard Street.⁴⁵

An 1851 map of Salem by Henry McIntyre was the first to show individual homes.⁴⁶ Those who are listed along the street are Rev. Dr. J.T. O’Flaherty⁴⁷⁴⁸, N. Jackson (who may be Nathaniel Jackson, a stonecutter listed at St. Peter Street),⁴⁹ Daniel B. Lord, a carpenter⁵⁰ and William B. Aiken, a mariner.⁵¹ Farther down the street are Samuel G. Jones, a tailor and draper who worked at 8 Front Street⁵², Samuel W. Pease, a tin-plate worker, who worked at 128 Derby

⁴¹ MACRIS, SAL.2428

⁴² MACRIS, SAL.2392

⁴³ Historic Salem, Inc., “1-3 Howard Street, Salem, Massachusetts 01970,” *House Histories of Salem*, accessed August 1, 2017, <http://hsihousehistory.omeka.net/items/show/396>.

⁴⁴ MACRIS, SAL.2429

⁴⁵ MACRIS, SAL.2390

⁴⁶ McIntyre, Henry. “Map of the City of Salem, Mass. From an actual survey By H. Mc. Intyre. Cl. Engr.” Map, 1851. Henry McIntyre, Salem, MA. Norman B. Leventhal Map Center, Boston Public Library. <http://www.leventhalmap.org/id/15108>

⁴⁷ *The Salem Directory and City Register; Containing Names of the Inhabitants, their Occupations, Places of Business, and Residences, with Lists of City Officers, Banks, Insurance Offices, Societies, &c. Names of the Streets and Wharves; and Other Useful Information.* Salem: Henry Whipple, 1846., p. 82.

⁴⁸ His wife, Jane O’Flaherty, is the only one listed in the 1851 Directory: Adams, George. *Salem Directory...also including a directory of the towns of Beverly, Peabody, Danvers, and Marblehead.* H. Whipple, Salem, MA. 1851, p. 114.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 92.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 101

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, p. 35

⁵² *Ibid.*, p. 93



Street, ⁵³ Henry A. Ruee, a carpenter⁵⁴, and George W. Estes, a restaurateur who owned a confectionary at 10 Newbury Street.⁵⁵

Along Bridge Street (then called Forrester Street) at the bottom of the cemetery are the hay market, the city scales, and the pig market, the latter floating in the North River. The city's scales were for the weighing of hay and were overseen in 1842 by Elias W. Fabens.⁵⁶ The pig market goes unmentioned in the directory, but ten butchers were located around the city. The closest to 34 Howard Street was likely Joseph S. Leavitt, Jr. a butcher in the Franklin market at 114 Essex Street on the other side of the Common.⁵⁷

⁵³ Ibid. p. 118

⁵⁴ Ibid., p. 131

⁵⁵ Ibid., p. 70

⁵⁶ Ibid., p. 30.

⁵⁷ Ibid., p. 52.



Table 1: Houses on Howard Street

No.	Date	Builder	Occupation	Style
8	c. 1851	Lambert Porter	Cabinetmaker	Greek Revival/Italianate
10	1906	Frances Findlay	Landlord	Generic early 20 th century
12	c. 1851	Henry W. Thurston	Cabinetmaker	Greek Revival
16	c. 1846			Greek Revival
18	c. 1845	Henry A. Ruee	Carpenter	Greek Revival
22	c. 1846	Samuel W. Pease	Tin-plate worker	
24	c. 1850			Italianate
26	c. 1846	Samuel G. Jones	Tailor and draper	Greek Revival
28	c. 1846	William Aiken	Mariner	Greek Revival
30	1845	Nancy Felton	Unlisted if any	Greek Revival
34	c. 1842-1845	James Trask	Postman	Greek Revival
38	c. 1847	Daniel B. Lord	Carpenter	Greek Revival
40	1852	John Prince, Jr.	Mariner	Greek Revival
42	c. 1851	Levi Wiggin	Provisions	Italianate



III. James and Lucy Trask, c. 1845- c. 1887

James Trask was born about 1808 in New Hampshire.⁵⁸ On December 3, 1833, he married Lucy Smith Pearce.⁵⁹ In September of 1835, their first child, Ebenezer Pierce Trask, was baptized.⁶⁰ Elizabeth and James Edward were both baptized on April 17, 1849.⁶¹

Salem in the 1840s was transitioning from its heyday as a maritime port towards its latter nineteenth-century identity as a manufacturing center. In 1846, the brig *Lucilla* became the last Salem ship to bring a cargo of pepper from Sumatra, ending a half century of Salem's most lucrative trade. Caleb Smith ran a sperm whale oil and candle factory at 64 Harbor Street.⁶² Daniel Hanson had a hair manufactory at 48 Bridge Street,⁶³ and Andrew and Jonathan Harraden had a cordage factory at 18 Brown Street.⁶⁴ Other industries included lead, twine,⁶⁵ oil and acid,⁶⁶ and stockings.⁶⁷ Salem in the early Victorian age was a city of cabinetmakers, cordwainers, and curriers deeply invested in numerous charitable and moral societies, including the Salem

⁵⁸ The forms of the 1810 census have offered two potential parents for James Trask: Retire Trask, from Alstead in southwestern New Hampshire, who had 1 son under 10, or the widow Hannah Trask from Wolfboro in north central New Hampshire, who had 3 sons under the age of 10.

⁵⁹ *Vital Records of Salem, Massachusetts to the End of the Year 1849*. Salem: The Essex Institute, 1916. Vol. 2: Salem Marriages, p. 394

⁶⁰ *Vital Records of Salem*, Vol. 1: Births, p. 357

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, p. 358

⁶² 1842 Directory, p. 82.

⁶³ *Ibid.*, p. 41.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 59.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 80.



Charitable Marine Society, the Salem Charitable Mechanic Association, and the Female Moral Auxillary society.

In 1842, Trask was a “post man” who lived at 28 Beckford Street, a large house near the river which by 1846 was lived in by William T. Morse, a currier, and Herron Leavitt, a carpenter.⁶⁸ By 1846, Trask is listed at Howard Street,⁶⁹ though I have yet to locate a deed or a passing of the property to Trask by probate.

The house is Greek Revival and very similar in design to the houses at numbers 38 and 40 along the street to the north. ½ stories and 6 bays wide with a south facing door and an ell, 2 bays wide, added by 1874 which extends from the southern façade of the house with a sloping roof. There are heavy eaves, particularly on the gable-end of the house, and a dormer to the right of the front door. The windows are 6 over 6, as they likely would have been when the house was first constructed. There is only one window on the northern façade. The front door has a simple but elegant entablature with six sidelights. It has been upgraded from its appearance in 1998, when it was a simple storm door.⁷⁰ The house was reclapboarded around 1980⁷¹ and further restored in the mid-2010s.

The 1851 directory lists Trask as working for the “penny post,”⁷² a type of postal system where letters could be sent for a penny. There were several short-lived local penny post operations in the United States in the 1840s and 1850s. The Federal Post Office was located at

⁶⁸ 1846 Directory, p. 68 and p. 77.

⁶⁹ 1846 Directory, p. 114.

⁷⁰ MACRIS, SAL.2381.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² 1851 Directory, p. 145



165 Essex Street. Caleb Foote, who lived at 4 Warren Street, was the Post Master in 1842.⁷³ George Russell, who lived at 14 St. Peter Street, was a clerk in the post office. By 1883, the Post Office will have moved to Washington Street, near the intersection with Essex Street.⁷⁴ By the early 20th century, when postal employees are listed together in the directories, there were 79 employees at the post office.⁷⁵ The current Colonial Revival post office on Margin Street was built in 1932.⁷⁶

In 1852, Trask purchased a parcel of land in North Salem on Buffum Street for \$1000. The seller, John A. Innis, was an auctioneer, and a seller of dry goods and groceries.⁷⁷ In 1857, Trask was listed as a “letter carrier” and his son, Eben, was listed as a clerk at 109 Boston Street.⁷⁸ In that year 109 Boston was the home of Mary Stone, a widow, and Charles P.R. Saunders, a carpenter.⁷⁹

In 1860, the census listed Trask’s real estate value at \$4,000. The only other residents of Howard Street with property of similar value were Levi Wiggin, a provisions dealer, Mary Flinn, an Irish immigrant, and George W. Estes, a fruit and confectioner.⁸⁰ One of residents of the street

⁷³ 1842 Directory, p. 33.

⁷⁴ D. Mason & Co. “Salem, Mass. 1883.” Map. Syracuse, New York, 1883.

⁷⁵ 1914 Directory, p. 481.

⁷⁶ MACRIS, SAL.1140.

⁷⁷ Essex County Registry of Deeds. Deed Book 464, Page 126. 28 July 1852.

⁷⁸ Adams, George. *The Salem Directory containing the City Record, Schools, Churches, Banks, Societies, Etc., Names of the Citizens, A Business Directory, General Events of the Year 1854 and 1855, An Almanac for 1857, and a Variety of Miscellaneous Matter.* Salem: Henry Whipple & Son, 1857. p. 172.

⁷⁹ 1857 Directory, p. 166 and p. 157.

⁸⁰ United States Census, 1860", database with images, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MZHK-PKQ> : 26 July 2017)



at that time, however, was a 30-year-old William Filene, a recent immigrant from Prussia. He lived with the Batchelders (seemingly no relation to the family Elizabeth married into) at number 14 Howard Street in 1860, with his wife Clara and two young children.⁸¹ In 1881, he founded Filene's Sons & Co., which became a large chain of department stores which existed until 2006.

An 1874 map shows the house still in possession of James Trask, with most of the neighboring houses still in possession of the families which constructed them.⁸² 47 St. Peter Street was used by Trask as a store, as his list of personal estate shows. The fixtures were worth \$15 in his probate inventory.

Trask died on April 16, 1879. Eben P. Trask, his son, was his executor.⁸³ His 1878 will left his property to his wife, Lucy. On his wife's death, the house was to go to his daughter, Elizabeth. Trask describes it as the House Land, and furniture situated on Howard Street belonging to me, and in which I now live."⁸⁴

The three appraisers included Trask's neighbor Daniel B. Lord. The house at Howard Street was valued at \$1,800, while a two-and-one-half story dwelling house and land on St. Peter Street were valued at \$3,300. A quarter of a tomb in the Broad Street Burying Ground was worth \$5. The total value given to his real estate was \$5,105.

The valuation of his personal property gives an insightful look at the functions of the rooms in the house in the late 1870s. There were a sitting room, a bedroom, a dining room, a

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Busch, Edward. *Atlas of the City of Salem, Massachusetts. From actual Survey & Official records.* G.M. Hopkins & Co. Philadelphia, 1874.

⁸³ Essex County Registry of Deeds. Probate Record No. 55585.

⁸⁴ Ibid.



store room, a panty, a sitting chamber, and a back chamber. The total value of the articles in the rooms was \$170, as shown in Table 2 below. In addition to the household furniture, he had owned a gold watch worth \$15 and U.S. Government bonds worth \$600. At the time of his death, his debts amounted to \$372.77 and the expenses of his funeral and end of life care were \$144.25.

Table 2: Personal Property of James Trask by Room, 1879

Sitting Room	\$55
Bedroom	\$30
Dining room & store room	\$30
Pantry	\$10
Sitting Chamber & Back Chamber	\$45
TOTAL	\$170

James' widow, Lucy, continued to reside in the house with their son, James Trask, Jr. until at least 1886.⁸⁵⁸⁶⁸⁷⁸⁸ James was a painter and roofer at 208 Bridge Street in 1886.⁸⁹

⁸⁵ *The Salem Directory, 1881 Containing in the City Record, Business Directory, and Street Directory, No. XIX.* Sampson, Davenport, & Co. Salem: A.A. Smith & Co. p. 347.

⁸⁶ Meek, Henry M. *The Naumkeag Directory for Salem, Beverly, Danvers, Marblehead, Peabody, containing a list of the Inhabitants and Business Firms of the Districts and other Matters of General and Local Interest. No. 1 – 1882-83.* Salem: Henry M. Meek & Francis A. Fieldler. p. 67.

⁸⁷ *The Salem Directory 1884 Containing a Directory Citizens, Street Directory, The City Record, and Business Directory with Map. Also Directories for the Towns of Beverly, Peabody, Danvers, and Marblehead. No. XXI.* Boston: Sampson, Davenport, & Co. p. 49.

⁸⁸ *The Salem Directory 1886 Containing a Directory of the Citizens, Street Directory, The City Record, and Business Directory with Map. Also Directories for the Towns of Beverly, Peabody, Danvers, and Marblehead. No. XXII.* Sampson, Murdoch, & Co. Salem: Mackintire and Henry P. Ives. p. 50.

⁸⁹ *Ibid.* p. 359.



IV. Elizabeth Batchelder, c. 1887-1914

Elizabeth Trask married Charles F. Batchelder, of Danvers in 1870.⁹⁰ Batchelder, the son of a morocco dresser, lived on High Street in Danvers.⁹¹ The Batchelders had three children: Lucy F., born in 1872, Charles E., born in 1873, and Frederick Putnam, born in 1875.⁹² In 1900, Charles was a morocco worker, Lucy was a milliner, and Frederick was a bookkeeper.⁹³

Though she owned the property at 34 Howard Street, Elizabeth Batchelder did not live there. The 1900 Census lists her address as 13 Jacobs Street in Peabody.⁹⁴

The earliest renter to appear is George G. Tyler, in 1891, a conductor on the Boston & Maine Railroad.⁹⁵ He is listed in the property in 1893-4, 1895-96, 1897-98 as well.⁹⁶⁹⁷⁹⁸ In 1896 o 1897, the street was renumbered and 34 Howard Street, which had previously been numbered

⁹⁰ Essex County Registry of Deeds. Probate Record No. 55585.

⁹¹ Danvers City Directory, 1882. p. 6; Naumkeag District Directory, 1882, p. 340.

⁹² "United States Census, 1900," database with images, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M9R8-935> : accessed 1 August 2017), Elizabeth Batchelder in household of Charles Batchelder, Precinct 3 (west half) Peabody town, Essex, Massachusetts, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 434, sheet 22A, family 468, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1972.); FHL microfilm 1,240,647.

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ "United States Census, 1900," database with images, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M9R8-935> : accessed 1 August 2017), Elizabeth Batchelder in household of Charles Batchelder, Precinct 3 (west half) Peabody town, Essex, Massachusetts, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 434, sheet 22A, family 468, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1972.); FHL microfilm 1,240,647.

⁹⁵ Salem Directory, 1890-91. p. 119 and p. 322.

⁹⁶ 1893-1894 Directory, p. 118.

⁹⁷ Meek, Henry M. *The Naumkeag Directory for Salem, Beverly, Danvers, Marblehead, Peabody, Essex, and Manchester. Containing a list of the Inhabitants and Business Firms of the District and Other Matters of General and Local Interest. No. 7.* 1895-96. Salem: The Salem Observer Office. p. 339.

⁹⁸ Meek, Henry M. *The Naumkeag Directory for Salem, Beverly, Danvers, Marblehead, Peabody, Essex, and Manchester. Containing a list of the Inhabitants and Business Firms of the District and Other Matters of General and Local Interest. No. 8.* 1897-98. Salem: The Salem Observer Office. p. 124.



at 22, received the street number it bears today. An 1897 map has the property belonging to E.P. Batchelder.⁹⁹

By 1899-1900, James G. Beals, a hostler, lived in the house with his wife Christine and his daughter, Mary E. Dominic. Christine's father was a German immigrant. Mary was 41 and worked as a shoe stitcher. She had three living children, including Bessie, aged 12, who lived with the family.¹⁰⁰ The 1900 Census lists the Beals family at Brooks Court in Salem.¹⁰¹

Warren D. and Emma G., employees at the Salem jail, moved into 34 Howard Street by 1901.¹⁰² In 1900, there were seven employees at the jail. Samuel Johnson, age 52, was the sheriff, and lived at the jailer's house with wife, Lily, and two children. Catherine Dimeen was his family's 19-year-old Irish servant. Warren Cobb was the first officer, Emma was the matron. John F. Horse and Francis F. Johnson were the turnkeys, George F. Derby was the steward, Israel P. Leavitt was the watchman, and James W. Brient was the shop officer.¹⁰³ There were 131 prisoners listed in that year. They had diverse backgrounds, mainly from Massachusetts, Maine,

⁹⁹ Map of the City of Salem and Towns of Marblehead, Peabody, and Danvers. L.J. Richards & Co., Philadelphia, 1897. p. 341.

¹⁰⁰ Meek, Henry M. *The Naumkeag Directory for Salem, Beverly, Danvers, Marblehead, Peabody, Essex, and Manchester. Containing a list of the Inhabitants and Business Firms of the District and Other Matters of General and Local Interest.* 9. 1899-1900. p. 177.

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² Meek, Henry M. *The Naumkeag Directory for Salem, Beverly, Danvers, Marblehead, Peabody, Hamilton, Wenham, Middleton, and Topsfield. Containing a list of the Inhabitants and Business Firms of the District and Other Matters of General and Local Interest.* No. 10. 1901-1902. p.

¹⁰³ Population schedules: Essex Co. (ED 426, sheet 2-end, and ED's 427- 442, 1786 (House of Correction and Jail); 443-452.



Nova Scotia, French Canada, Ireland, Italy, and New York. Matt Jacobsen was a prisoner from Finland, George Dennett from Scotland, and Patrick Ryan from Illinois.¹⁰⁴

Previously, the Cobbs had lived at 16 Howard Street.¹⁰⁵ The Cobbs continued to live at 34 Howard until 1909.¹⁰⁶ In that year, they moved to New Hampshire.¹⁰⁷

In the 1911 atlas of Salem, the house is depicted as still belonging to James Trask's daughter Elizabeth P. Batchelder.¹⁰⁸ From 1910 until 1914, James Needham, a machinist, and Frederick J. Needham, a shoe cutter and substitute letter carrier, lived at 34 Howard Street.¹⁰⁹ Two year previous, the Needhams had been at 18 Ropes Street.¹¹⁰

The 1914 Directory lists J. Needham, perhaps Frederick J. Needham, a postal clerk.¹¹¹ In that year, Frederick J. Needham was listed as a postal clerk.¹¹² Perhaps the postal connection is how Frederick was able to rent the house from Elizabeth. Elsewhere in the directory, Needham's

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ 1897-1898 Directory, p. 186.

¹⁰⁶ Meek, Henry M. *The Naumkeag Directory for Salem, Beverly, Danvers, Marblehead, Peabody, Essex, and Ipswich. Containing a list of the Inhabitants and Business Firms of the District and Other Matters of General and Local Interest.* No. 16, 1908. p. 188.

¹⁰⁷ 1910 Directory, p. 217

¹⁰⁸ *Atlas of the City of Salem, Massachusetts Based on Plans in the Office of the City Engineer.* Walker Lithograph & Publishing Company, Boston, 1911.

¹⁰⁹ *The Naumkeag Directory for Salem, Beverly, Danvers, Marblehead, Peabody, Essex, Ipswich, containing a List of Inhabitants and Business Firms of the District and other Matters of General and Local Interest.* No. 18. Salem, Massachusetts: Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, 1910. p. 330.

¹¹⁰ 1908 Directory, p. 298.

¹¹¹ *The Naumkeag Directory for Salem, Beverly, Danvers, Marblehead, and Peabody, Containing an Alphabetical List of the Inhabitants and the Business Firms of the District, Street and Householders Directories, and Other Miscellaneous Matters for each City.* Naumkeag Series- No. 22. Salem, Massachusetts: Henry M. Meek Publishing Co., 1914. p. 136.

¹¹² Ibid.



address is given as boarding with his brother, James Needham, an engineer for the Salem Fire Department, at 25 Winthrop Street.¹¹³ Rachel C. Craig, matron of the Salem jail, is said to be living at 34 Howard Street and there is a Robert A. Craig, a chauffeur, listed at 25 Winthrop.¹¹⁴

A group of trustees of Elizabeth P. Batchelder sold the property in October of 1914 to Mary and Hannah Cotter.¹¹⁵ The group of trustees were mostly family: Fred P. Batchelder, Elizabeth's son, was a stock clerk for an electrical company who lived in Peabody with his wife Alice M. Batchelder. Lucy F. Crehore, Elizabeth's daughter, is listed along with her husband, Minot. Minot Crehore lived with Howard W. Trask at 80 Franklin Street in Peabody,¹¹⁶ and ran a grocery called M. Crehore & Co. at 1 King Street in Peabody.¹¹⁷ Howard W. Trask worked at J. Arthur Trask and Sons, masons, though the relation if any, is unclear. Her other son, Charles F. Batchelder, still a bachelor at age 41, was listed as well. John B. Maynard was an auto supplier and his wife, Grace B. Maynard, who lived at 6 Humphreys Place in Dorchester. Her relation to Elizabeth is currently unknown.

¹¹³ 1914 Directory, p. 78

¹¹⁴ 1914 Directory, p. 243.

¹¹⁵ Essex County Registry of Deeds. Deed 2278:262. 15 October 1914.

¹¹⁶ 1914 Directory, p. 1023.

¹¹⁷ Ibid, p. 1061.



V. The Cotters and the Ronans, 1914-1963

Mary E. and Hannah Cotter are first listed as the residents in the 1915 Directory.¹¹⁸

Hannah was born in 1865, Mary in 1870, to Fanny and Simon Cotter. Fanny was born in Ireland in 180 and was widowed by 1890.¹¹⁹

From 1890 to 1894, Hannah and Mary lived at 85 Derby Street with their widowed mother, and two older brothers, James and John, both day laborers.¹²⁰ Hannah worked as a shoe buttoner and Mary a shoe stitcher.¹²¹ In 1895, the family moved to 133 Derby Street.¹²² The 1900 census shows Hannah and Mary as weavers.¹²³ By 1901-2, Hannah moved to 12 Becket while Mary stayed at 133 Derby.¹²⁴ They then lived together at 12 Becket Street from at least 1904 to 1910.¹²⁵¹²⁶¹²⁷

¹¹⁸ *The Naumkeag Directory for Salem, Beverly, Danvers, Marblehead, and Peabody, Containing an Alphabetical List of the Inhabitants and the Business Firms of the District, Street and Householders Directories, and Other Miscellaneous Matters for each City.* Naumkeag Series- No. 23. Salem, Massachusetts: Henry M. Meek Publishing Co., 1915. p. 220.

¹¹⁹ United States Census, 1900," database with images, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M9R8-NVM> : accessed 1 August 2017), Hannah Cotter in household of Fannie Cotter, Salem city Ward 1, Essex, Massachusetts, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 439, sheet 2A, family 28, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1972.); FHL microfilm 1,240,647.

¹²⁰ 1893-94 Directory, p. 186.

¹²¹ 1890-91 Directory, p. 181.

¹²² 1897-98 Directory, p. 190.

¹²³ 1900 Census.

¹²⁴ 1901-2 Directory, p. 204.

¹²⁵ 1905 Directory, p. 238.

¹²⁶ 1906 Directory, p. 195.

¹²⁷ 1910 Directory, p. 224.



Their mortgage was \$1,200.¹²⁸The Cotters lived at 34 Howard Street through 1924.¹²⁹¹³⁰
In 1924, Annie M. Ronan, widow of John H. Ronan, moved to 34 Howard Street.¹³¹ Mary continued to live there as well. This arrangement existed until 1926.

The Ronans lived previously at 7 Oakland Street in Salem, near the border with Peabody. Frederick H. Ronan, the head of the family, was 25 and a tacker at a tannery. His mother, Annie M., was 56 and already a widow. Her parents were immigrants from Ireland. Also at home was Frederick's sister, Frances C. Ronan, who was 32 and a bookkeeper at an insurance agency.¹³²

In late 1928, Annie C. Ronan filed a petition to partition the property as it was transferred in 1914. Those listed in the petition were Victoria Daltus, also called Annie Cotter, her guardian Frances Ronan, and mortgagee Arthur D. Fowler.¹³³

In 1929, Annie E. Ronan and Victoria Daltus, received the property from Horace P. Farnum, Commissioner, through probate.¹³⁴ That year's directory lists Frederick J. Ronan, a gardener, as the primary resident. Annie M. and Frances are also at 34 Howard Street.¹³⁵ Annie

¹²⁸ Essex County Registry of Deeds, Document 2278:262. 15 October 1914.

¹²⁹ *Directory for Salem and Beverly, Containing an Alphabetical List of the Inhabitants and the Business Firms of the District, Street and Householders Directories, and Other Miscellaneous Matters for each City.* Naumkeag Series- No. 28. Salem, Massachusetts: Henry M. Meek Publishing Co., 1921. p. 240.

¹³⁰ Ellen F. Hallisey, the widow of James, lived the year previously at 6 Flint Street and moved to 40 Howard Street, though the index of the 1922 Directory erroneously lists her at 34 Howard.

¹³¹ 1924 Directory, p. 256.

¹³² "United States Census, 1920," database with images, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MXYY-ZS8> : accessed 1 August 2017), Frances C Ronan in household of Fredrick H Ronan, Salem Ward 6, Essex, Massachusetts, United States; citing ED 279, sheet 8B, line 53, family 68, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 697; FHL microfilm 1,820,697.

¹³³ Essex County Registry of Deeds. Petition for Partition 2789:133. 26 Nov. 1928.

¹³⁴ Essex County Registry of Deeds. Deed 2794:573. 24 January 1929.

¹³⁵ 1929 Directory, p. 410.



Ronan, a widow, gave the property to her daughter Frances Ronan in 1931 for consideration paid.¹³⁶ The directories continue to list Frederick as the householder in 1920, 1931, and 1932. The 1935 polls listing shows Frederick as the owner and Annie and Frances as residents.¹³⁷ In 1937 and 1939, Frances is listed as the householder in the directories. The 1937 poll listing gives Frederick's profession as laborer, and Annie and Frances as bookkeepers. By that year, Annie was 69 years old, while Frances was 49 and Frederick 45.¹³⁸

In 1940, Catherine J. O'Hare, a 52-year-old WPA worker, moved in to the house.¹³⁹ In 1943, Barbara M. Brown, a 56-year-old clerk, moved in as well.¹⁴⁰ Frances is listed as clerk and stenographer in these years, and O'Hare may have been a coworker.

In 1950, Frances Ronan owned the property with her profession listed as a trustee.¹⁴¹ The following year, the residents are listed as Frances Ronan, a trustee, Angus Naugle, a city employee, William Brady, retired. Angus was 67 and Brady was 74. The year previous, Brady had lived at 5 Oliver Street with two nurses, and Naugle had lived at a boarding house at 8 Brown Street.¹⁴²

¹³⁶ Essex County Registry of Deeds. Deed 2875:151. 3 March 1931.

¹³⁷ List of Polls 1935, City of Salem, Mass. Salem: Newcomb & Gauss. p. 258.

¹³⁸ List of Polls 1937, City of Salem, Mass. Salem: Newcomb & Gauss, p. 32.

¹³⁹ List of Polls 1940, City of Salem, Mass. Salem: Newcomb & Gauss, p. 30.

¹⁴⁰ List of Polls 1943, City of Salem, Mass. Salem: Newcomb & Gauss p. 28.

¹⁴¹ List of Polls 1950, City of Salem, Mass. Boston: Spaulding-Moss Company, p. 23.

¹⁴² Ibid, p. 21.



In 1954, Frank Lord, age 78, moved from either Pittsfield or Florida to also live at 34 Howard Street.¹⁴³ In 1962, just Lord and Ronan were left.

John T. Ronan, possibly a nephew, received the property in 1963.¹⁴⁴ He had been born in 1922 to James J. Ronan, a superior court judge, and Marie T. Ronan. He grew up at 348 Essex Street, a Federal mansion.

VI. Later History, 1963-2005

Ronan rented out the house for seven years before selling it. Salvatore G. Zavaglia, a custodian, and his wife Priscilla A. moved from 25 High Street to 34 Howard Street in 1964.¹⁴⁵ The couple lived in the home until 1968 or 1969.

Leo R. and Jeanette Jalbert purchased the home from John T. Ronan in April of 1970.¹⁴⁶ Leo was a carpenter and later a “game worker” born in 1912.¹⁴⁷ Leo was the son of George Jalbert, a French Canadian immigrant and laborer, and Lena Jalbert, from Maine. In 1940, Leo was working as a laborer on a W.P.A. sewer project.¹⁴⁸

¹⁴³ List of Polls 1955, City of Salem, Mass. Everett, MA: Acme Offset Printing Co. p. 21.

¹⁴⁴ Essex County Registry of Deeds. Deed 5112:253. 9 October 1963.

¹⁴⁵ 1964 Poll Listing for the City of Salem p. 16.

¹⁴⁶ Essex County Registry of Deeds. Deed 5678:387. 21 April 1970.

¹⁴⁷ 1972 Poll Listing for the City of Salem.

¹⁴⁸ "United States Census, 1940," database with images, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K4XL-FT2> : accessed 1 August 2017), Leo Jalbert in household of George Jalbert, Ward 5, Salem, Salem City, Essex, Massachusetts, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 5-356, sheet 4B, line 76, family 78, Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940, NARA digital publication T627. Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790 - 2007, RG 29. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2012, roll 1589.



Willard Fullerton, Sr. a boat builder and fisherman was listed in 1971, likely as the tenant of a portion of the house.

Leo died in 1978 and Jeanette became the sole owner of the property.¹⁴⁹ In 1984, Evelyn Fullerton became a joint tenant.¹⁵⁰ Jeannette Jalbert, born in 1917, continued to live at the property until 1996. She sold her part to Willard and Evelyn in 2000.¹⁵¹

Willard Fullerton Sr. (born in 1941) and Evelyn Fullerton (born 1944) continued to live at the property until 2004. Willard Fullerton, Jr. (born in 1961) , Veronica Fullerton (born in 1962), and Frederick Fullerton (born 1967) appear at different times as well. The two senior Fullertons transferred ownership to Willard Jr., Veronica, and Evelyn in 2001.¹⁵²

The Fullertons sold the property in 2005. At that time Willard and Evelyn lived in Bridgewater, New Hampshire, and Veronica lived in Lowell.¹⁵³

¹⁴⁹ Essex County Registry of Deeds. Document 6605:276. 26 June 1979.

¹⁵⁰ Essex County Registry of Deeds. Document 7324:348. 27 January 1984.

¹⁵¹ Essex County Registry of Deeds. Document 16542:561. 28 August 2000.

¹⁵² Essex County Registry of Deeds. Document 17038:445. 26 March 2001.

¹⁵³ Essex County Registry of Deeds. Document 24348:476. 5 April 2005.



Table 3: Primary Owners and Inhabitants of 34 Howard Street

Years	Owner	Other Inhabitants
c. 1845-1879	James Trask	Lucy Trask, Elizabeth Trask, James Trask Jr., Eben P. Trask
1879-1890	Lucy Trask	James Trask Jr.
1890-1914	Elizabeth Trask	-George G. Tyler et al., 1891- c. 1898 -James G. Beals et al. c. 1898-1901 -Warren D. and Emma G. Cobb, 1901-1909 -Frederick J. Needham and James Needham, 1909-1914
1914-1929	Hannah and Mary Cotter	Annie Ronan, 1924-1929?
1929-1931	Annie Ronan and Victoria Dialtus	Frances and Frederick Ronan
1931-1963	Frances Ronan	Frederick J. Ronan, Annie Ronan.
1963-1970	James T. Ronan	Salvatore and Priscilla Zavaglia, 1963-1970?
1970-1978	Leo and Jeannette Jalbert	Willard Fullerton, Sr., Evelyn Fullerton, Willard Fullerton, Jr., Veronica Fullerton
1978-1984	Jeannette Jalbert	
1984-2000	Jeannette Jalbert and Evelyn Fullerton	
2000-2001	Evelyn Fullerton and Willard Fullerton	
2001-2006	Evelyn Fullerton, Willard Fullerton, Veronica Fullerton	
2006-2009	Andrew & Sara Balter	
2009-2012	John Paul & Meghan Collette	
2012-2016	Tara Eschbach	
2016-present	Edward & Maren Juliano	



VII. Conclusion

34 Howard Street has had an interesting history over the last century and a half. Bordering the two great macabre marks of early nineteenth-century Salem, the house has a special window to the ghoulish spirit and legacy of this city. It was the house of a postman turned grocer whose neighbors were middle-class strivers and immigrants. Later, it became a rental property whose inhabitants often had connections to the Salem Jail. For much of the twentieth century, it was the home to immigrants and their descendants: A German-American, Irish-Americans, Italian-Americans, and Quebecois-Americans. Many of its residents were part of the systems of government, such as the Salem jail, the post office, and the city water department. Their lives tell of the changing nature and persistence of our institutions. The house at 34 Howard Street is a testament to the ambitions and changes of almost two centuries of New England.