

Derby Waterfront NRHD, 1974; Derby Waterfront LHD, 1976

FORM B - BUILDING

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
 Massachusetts Archives Building  
 220 Morrissey Boulevard  
 Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Assessor's  
 Number

35-325

USGS Quad

Salem

Area(s)

HO

Form Number

2556



Town Salem  
 Place (neighborhood or village) Derby Street  
 Address 188 Derby Street  
 Local Name Simon Forrester House  
 Present Residential

Original "  
 Construction 1790-1791  
 See Bibliography\*

Form Federal  
 Architect/Builder Samuel McIntire  
 Primary Material:

Foundation Granite  
 Wall/Trim Clapboard/Wood  
 Roof Asphalt Shingles

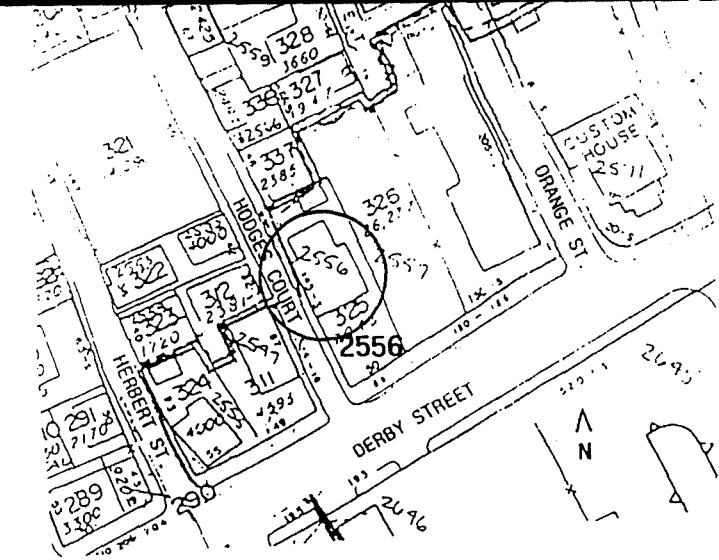
Outbuildings/Secondary Structures  
 Rusticated Cement Block, Early 20th  
 Century, 1-Bay Garage

Major Alterations (with dates)  
 Converted to tenements in the mid 19th  
 Century. Architectural detail removed in  
 the early 20th Century.

Condition Good  
 Moved  no  yes Date

Acreage 7,073 SF

Setting Set behind a landscaped  
 fenced front lawn on the NE  
 Hodges Court & Derby Street  
 House area of 18th & 19th



Recorded by: Dianne L. Siergiej and  
 Susan Ceccacci  
 Organization: Commonwealth Collaborative  
 Date: June 1995

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION X See continuation sheet.

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

This 3-story, 5 x 4-bay, center-entry, rectangular, hip-roofed house has been expanded with the addition of a compatible 2-story, rear ell (added between 1851 and 1874). Fenestration consists of 2/2, double-hung sash with molded trim. At the first and second levels of the main body of the house, a narrow frieze remains above the window frames -- a remnant of lost cornice caps. A gabled, pedimented, entry porch with heavy, smooth-shafted, Doric columns accents the main entrance. Four inside, end-wall chimneys remain.

According to Tolles' Architecture in Salem, this house was shorn of much important, exterior detail early in the twentieth century. Corner quoins were removed, chimneys were shortened, corniced window caps were removed and 2/2 sash replaced the earlier 6/6 lights. The front porch was also greatly altered by the removal of triglyphs from the frieze and mutules from the eaves. The present porch columns are late 20th-century replacements of earlier, square substitutes of the original supports.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE X See continuation sheet.

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Begun by Captain Jonathan Ingersoll in 1790, this house was completed in 1791 by Captain Simon Forrester. The death of his wife, Mary Hodges Ingersoll, in January is presumed to have prompted its sale in February 1791. The transaction included the unfinished house, Cobb Wharf (later Central Wharf), a store and flats at a price of about L 700.

Captain Jonathan Ingersoll (b. Salem, 1751), son of Captain Nathaniel and Bethiah (Gardner) Ingersoll, was a successful commander of privateers during the Revolutionary War. After the war, he is notable for having commanded the Grand Turk, one of the most famous ships of Elias Hasket Derby built in 1781 as a privateer. In 1784, Ingersoll sailed the Grand Turk on her first voyage to the Cape of Good Hope. Ingersoll's success in that voyage opened trade between Salem and the Cape. Ingersoll sold rum, cheese, salt provisions and chocolate, loaf sugar and butter for cash and a quantity of ginseng. Unable to buy the Bohea tea he intended, he sold the ginseng and purchased fine teas in private trade, then sailed to Guinea to sell rum for ivory and gold dust, proceeded to the West Indies to buy sugar and cotton with which he sent the ship back to Salem.

Captain Simon Forrester (b. Killeenach, Ireland, May 10, 1748; d. July 4, 1817) went to sea at age nineteen. He apparently apprenticed under Salem captain, Daniel Hathorne and by the age of 27 commanded vessels. Like Ingersoll, Forrester was a successful privateer. He worked for Derby and other merchants. After the war Forrester became a prominent merchant and shipowner in his own right. In 1791-1792, he built Central Wharf immediately

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES X See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places;  
If checked, see attached National Register Criteria Statement form.

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Architectural historian, Fiske Kimball, attributed the design of this house to Salem architect, Samuel McIntire (1757-1811) because of its similarities in its style and detail to known McIntire consignments including the Peirce-Nichols House, the Joshua Ward House and the Francis Boardman House. Evidence of McIntire's hand is found in the interior woodwork. According to Tolles, a mantelpiece removed in 1895 from the east parlor, now in the Essex Institute, "is believed to be the only significant example of McIntire's carving from his early career."

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (continued)

across the street, parallel to and west of Derby Wharf. This close association of merchant's residences on Derby Street to their waterfront businesses was the practice in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. In the period between 1790 and 1817, Forrester owned 12 vessels. One of the ships Forrester owned was the 245 ton Perseverance, built in Haverhill in 1794 and commanded by Richard Wheatland. In October 1798, the Perseverance made the first entry at Salem from Archangel. The next year, she is reported to have fought a French privateer in the Bahama Channel. The wreck of the Perseverance at Tarpaulin Cove, Cape Cod on January 31, 1805 is represented in a painting by M. Corne owned by the Essex Institute.

Rachael Forrester, wife of Simon Forrester inherited lifetime use of this house and outbuildings and their furnishings, but title passed to his sons, John and Thomas H. Forrester. Rachael Forrester died June 29 or 30, 1823. They sold the mansion to their brother-in-law, Captain John Andrews, also a merchant married to their sister, Catherine.

The house became a duplex c. 1826, after it was purchased by Thomas Farless, listed in 1837 as a rigger with a shop on Pierce's Wharf, and Richard Savory (or Savary), a cooper. In 1851, residents were Thomas Farless (d. c. 1865) and Betsey Savory (d. 1861), widow of Richard, and William Savory, mariner.

By 1886 and perhaps earlier, the Ingersoll/Forrester House, like other Federal mansions in the Derby Street area, had been converted to "tenements." By the turn of the century, Salem's expanding industrial base attracted Eastern European immigrants. Around 1920, reflective of the transition within the neighborhood, residents at 188 Derby Street changed from renters largely with Irish surnames to those with Eastern European, typically Polish names.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Salem Directories, 1851, 1874, 1884, 1886, 1890-91, 1893-94, 1895-96, 1901-02, 1905, 1910, 1915, 1920, 1926, 1930, 1935, 1940 and 1945.

C. Expansion of Forrester/Central Wharf, 1805-1950

<u>Date</u>	<u>West Shoulder</u>	<u>Central Pier</u>	<u>East Shoulder</u>
1805	(26 ft. wide)	(34 ft. at N. end) (28 ft. at S. end)	(23 ft. wide)
(feet south of Derby Street)			
1805	72 ft.	273 & 280 ft.	135 ft.
1818	122 ft.	780 & 795 ft. (a cobb wharf extension) 35 ft. wide)	150 ft. (brick warehouse ca. 1810)
1859	122 ft.	780 & 795 ft.	441 ft. (3 bldgs. built on piles along E. side)
1867	122 ft. (widened to 71½ ft. front)	780 & 795 ft.	441 ft.
1874	122 ft. (1 bldg. added)	780 & 795 ft.	441 ft. (1 bldg. on piles added)
1897	147 ft.	785 & 800 ft. (43 ft. wide)	441 ft.
1939	147 ft.	789 & 804 ft.	444 ft.
1950	259 ft.	789 & 804 ft.	444 ft.

E. Notes on Two Early-Nineteenth-Century Merchant-Owners  
of the Ingersoll/Forrester/Central Wharf

1. Simon Forrester (1748-1817)

Simon Forrester, the builder of the Forrester/Central Wharf, was one of Salem's most prominent late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth-century merchant princes. Beginning his seagoing career with nothing, he laid the foundation of his future fortune through his services as a commander of American privateers during the Revolutionary War. Leaving the sea in 1791, Forrester became

a merchant and shipowner, and upon his death in 1817 he left a princely fortune of \$806,000.<sup>44</sup>

Forrester was born in Killeenach, Ireland, May 10, 1748. At the age of 19 he decided to try his fortune in America and, over his father's opposition, made his way to Liverpool, where he fell in with Capt. Daniel Hathorne of Salem. Forrester shipped before the mast in Hathorne's vessel on the return voyage to Salem in 1767. He then apparently served an apprenticeship under Hathorne as a seaman and clerk, and by 1775 Forrester was commanding vessels. On December 7, 1776, he married Rachel Hathorne, the daughter of his merchant benefactor. (Rachel's brother was to become the father of Nathaniel Hawthorne, the author.)

The War for Independence had already begun, and on July 12, 1776, the colony of Massachusetts granted Forrester his first commission as the captain of a privateer.<sup>45</sup> Taking command of the sloop Rover, Forrester made a series of successful privateering voyages between 1776 and 1781 and took many rich prizes. Prize money from these vessels provided the capital he needed for his subsequent career as a merchant.

List of Privateer Vessels Commanded and/or owned by Forrester<sup>46</sup>

<u>Year</u>	<u>Vessel</u>	<u>Armament</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Owners</u>
1776-78	<u>Rover</u> , sloop	60 men, 6 guns, privateer	Forrester	Joseph Sprague Jacob Ashton
1778	<u>Black Snake</u> , sloop	60 men, 12 guns	Henry Phelps	Simon Forrester Zachariah Burchmore

44. Data for this essay is drawn largely from Henry Wyckoff Belknap, "Simon Forrester and His Descendants," Essex Institute Historical Collections, LXXI (Jan. 1935), 17-64. Belknap's article summarizes the original material found in the Essex Institute's Forrester Family MSS Collection.

45. Forrester's petition for a commission is printed in William B. Clarke (ed.), Naval Documents of the American Revolution (Washington, D.C., 1970), V, 1034-45.

46. Belknap, "Simon Forrester and His Descendants," pp. 27-28, 42-44.

1779	<u>Washington</u> , 163-ton brigantine		John Murphey	Simon Forrester
Jan. 4, 1780	<u>Centurion</u> , sloop	priva- teer	Forrester	Boston owners
June 8, 1780	<u>Jason</u> , ship	24 men, 10 guns, priva- teer	Forrester	Bartholomew Putnam and others
Sept.29, 1781	<u>Patty</u> , ship	20 men 8 guns, priva- teer	Forrester	Elias Hasket Derby
Dec. 1781	(Port or) <u>Salem Packet</u> , ship	20 men, 8 guns	Forrester	Elias Hasket Derby
Feb.12, 1782	<u>Exchange</u> , ship	40 men, 8 guns, priva- teer	Forrester	Elias Hasket Derby Nathaniel Silsbee

The 1782 Exchange voyage was Forrester's final privateering expedition of the Revolution, for on April 4, 1782, the Salem Gazette reported: "The ship Exchange, Capt. Simon Forrester, and the brig Revolt, Capt. Phelps, both belonging to this port, are taken and carried into New York." Four days later the newspaper announced that the captured vessels had been sent to Bermuda.

In August 1778, Forrester served as one of the 52 volunteers that Salem sent to be a part of the Massachusetts militia force that marched against British-held Newport, R. I., that summer. This was Forrester's only Revolutionary War service that did not have a profit-making motive.<sup>47</sup>

In February 1791 Forrester purchased the large three-story frame mansion of Capt. Jonathan Ingersoll (located on Lot 6A), fronting on Derby Street, together with Ingersoll's cobb wharf and store (located on Lots F-1/F-5) for £685.<sup>48</sup> Forrester

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47. "List of Salem Volunteers Serving the Rhode Island Campaign of 1778," Essex Institute Historical Collections, I, No. 3 (1869), pp. 112-13.

48. The architectural history of Captain Forrester's mansion at 188 Derby Street, 1790-91, is found in Fiske Kimball,

completed the house and resided there until his death in 1817. He also rebuilt and enlarged Ingersoll's wharf, probably in several steps, between 1791 and 1804. In 1792 he built a new three-story wooden warehouse with a hip roof on the new wharf. By 1805 his wharf was 280 feet long. Between 1805 and 1817, probably 1809-11, he extended it again until it reached 795 feet into the South River. This wharf and large warehouse served as the base for Forrester's mercantile and trading operations from 1791 to 1815.

Simon Forrester Vessels that Utilized the Forrester Wharf<sup>49</sup>

<u>Year</u>	<u>Vessel</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Master</u>	<u>Owners</u>
1790	<u>Good Hope</u>	163-ton brigantine	John Burke	Forrester
1792	<u>Good Hope</u>	altered to barque	Michael Haskell	Forrester
1790	<u>Good Intent</u>	171-ton barque	Michael Haskell	Forrester
1799- 1801	<u>Vigilant</u>	194-ton ship	James Clemmons	Forrester
1794- 1805	<u>Perseverance</u>	245-ton ship	James Cook Richard Wheatland	Forrester <sup>50</sup>
1795- 1812	<u>Sukey</u>	102-ton brigantine altered to 145 tons in 1802	William Patterson	Forrester
1811- 1814	<u>Eliza</u>	132-ton brigantine	Jerathmiel Briggs	Forrester

Samuel McIntire, Carver, Architect of Salem (Gloucester, Mass., 1966), p. 67, Plates 71-74.

49. Belknap, "Simon Forrester and His Descendents," pp. 44-46.

50. There is a 1794 watercolor of the ship Perseverance in the Peabody Museum. For a black-and-white photo of the same ship, see Belknap, "Simon Forrester and His Descendents," p. 42.

*Kimball  
Braille  
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*Ernest  
90-563  
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1803	<u>Bonetta</u>	ship 227 tons	Benjamin Russell Thomas B. Osgood	Forrester Thomas B. Osgood Benjamin Pickman, Jr.
1804- 1817	<u>Endeavor</u>	234-ton ship	Samuel Johnson	Forrester
1809	<u>Little James</u>	126-ton brigantine	William Webb	Forrester
1805- 1812	<u>Restitution</u>	247-ton ship	John Derby III	Forrester
1805- 1814	<u>Messenger</u>	277-ton ship	James Buffington	Forrester

Simon Forrester died on July 4, 1817; the following day the Reverend William Bentley commented in his diary:

Yesterday died in Salem, Capt. Simon Forrester, aet. 71. He was said to be from Waterford in Ireland. He was an apprentice to Capt. Daniel Harthorne, Union Street & afterwards, much against the wishes of the parents, married one of his daughters. With a mind full of superstition, with a temper as boisterous as a Tempest & with habits of occasional intemperance like a ship without a helm, he still retained so much of his industry in the active parts of life as to have more than common success. And for the last ten years when confined to his bed, & often threatened by the civil magistrate, he accumulated by the gifts of fortune so as to die the richest man in Salem. His wealth is given at 14 h. undred th. ousand D. ollars. He has two sons, one of which is at sea, & very dissipated Thomas Haley, the elder John at home as a merchant. The eldest daughter Catherine married a merchant John Andrews, the second Nancy a Physician Dr. Gideon Barstow, the third Eleanor a priest Rev. Thomas Carlile. His will gives a sum to his widow, an equal sum to his Sons & d. daughter but possession to the first & the interest only to the parents during life, so that the sons in law have the interest only at their disposal. He has given 15 h. undred D. ollar to the poor, to be given them for a dinner annually from the interest at the discretion of the Overseers. . . .<sup>51</sup>

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51. The Diary of William Bentley, D.D., IV, 462-63.



Timothy Williams, a merchant and one of the executors of Simon Forrester's will, provides us with a different estimation of Forrester's character:

Simon Forrester departed this life July 4, 1817, aged 69 years, the honored father of the above named children [this was written in the family Bible]. An honored merchant who came to this country at an early age, and after passing through the several stages of a sea-faring life commanding a vessel in the Revolutionary War in the service of one of the most distinguished merchants the town has ever produced [Elias Hasket Derby?], accumulated a great estate, the fruits of honest industry. May it ever be an example to excite others. Without going beyond his means, free from rash enterprise, or grasping speculation, always exercising a sound judgement, he conducted his business with honour and ease. Generous to those he employed, faithful to them if they were faithful to him. In politics an undeviating and discriminating Federalist. He sought no public honors for offices, but he respected men who deserve the former or will perform the latter. His family and friends will long cherish his memory and respect his virtues. One who has received for himself and others the inestimable privilege of his friendship and confidence presumes to intrude on the Public eye

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A year earlier, April 11, 1816, Bentley also noted Forrester family troubles, writing: "A succession of events has directed the public attention to the fate of a family of Forrester. He came an Irish lad in service to W. [sic] Harthorne & afterwards married his daughter. By uncommon success in business he became one of the wealthiest men in the Country. I knew him above 30 y. ago & visited his house. He was a man of business, of strong passions, & such a man as his condition might readily form. Upon his prosperity he became intemperate, & severe in his family & irregular. But his wealth gained him suitors for his daughters, first a young merchant, then a young Doctor, then a young Clergyman. One of his sons [Simon, Oct. 31, 1807] leaped from the windows of a Cabin into the sea. Another [Charles] has died this day in fits after a few hours illness. He has two sons [John and Thomas H.] left, one at sea. The whole eccentric." Ibid., pp. 381-82.

this tribute of the heart.<sup>52</sup>

The total value of Capt. Simon Forrester's estate in 1817 was found to be \$805,731.14. His real estate was valued at \$44,017. Of this, his house on Derby Street was appraised at \$8,000, his library at \$500, and "his wharf and stores on Derby Street" at \$14,000.<sup>53</sup>

Rachel Forrester (1757-1823), the widow of Captain Forrester, died in 1823. In 1826 the family sold the large Forrester mansion on Derby Street, including the front land and large garden, to Richard Savory and Thomas Farless for \$5,000. Forrester's two surviving sons, John Forrester (1781-1837) and Thomas Haley Forrester (1791-1830), were the owners of the Ingersoll/Forrester/Central Wharf from July 1817 to March 1834. John Forrester, after 1819, made his residence in a large brick mansion that he built on Washington Square at Brown Street in 1818-19. After 1819 Thomas H. Forrester made his home in South Reading, Massachusetts.

Ships owned by John and Thomas H. Forrester,  
Associated with the Ingersoll/Forrester/Central Wharf<sup>54</sup>

<u>Year</u>	<u>Vessel</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Master</u>	<u>Owners</u>
1815	<u>Eliza</u>	132-ton Brigan- tine		John Forrester Thomas H. Forrester Charles Forrester
1806- 1812	<u>Restitution</u>	247-ton ship		John Forrester Simon Forrester, Jr. Thomas H. Forrester
1809- 1811	<u>Perseverance</u> (second ship of this name)	241-ton ship	James Silver	John Forrester and others
1811	<u>Mary Ann</u>	240-ton ship	Timothy Wellman	John Forrester and others
1816- 1817	<u>Two Brothers</u>	288-ton ship	James Gilchrist	John Forrester Thomas H. Forrester

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52. Belknap, "Simon Forrester and His Descendents," p. 28.

53. The complete inventory and accounting of Simon Forrester's estate is published in ibid., pp. 33-42.

54. Ibid., pp. 45-46.