

# HISTORIC SALEM INC

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## House History and Plaque Program

For Frank Camarda

47 Summer Street

Salem, Massachusetts 01970

Research and Writing Provided By

Allison Williams

March 2015

Historic Salem, Inc.  
9 North Street, Salem, MA 01970  
978.745.0799 | [HistoricSalem.org](http://HistoricSalem.org)  
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## ***The House History of 47 Summer Street***

Research suggests that this house was built in 1838 for Henry Derby, a tailor.

Henry Derby purchased the land from Robert Brookhouse, a merchant, in October of 1838.<sup>1</sup> Derby was a tailor, who by 1850 employed 3 men and 11 women, and produced approximately 5,000 woolen garments per year.<sup>2</sup> However, Derby did not keep the property long because he then sold it to Thomas Downing in 1840. Unlike the deed from Brookhouse to Henry Derby, this deed specifically mentions a dwelling-house, suggesting that this house was built as early as 1838.<sup>3</sup>

As described by a historical building survey form, "This house is predominantly in the Greek-revival style, although it does contain some elements of the Federal style as seen in the lightness of the gable front around the main entrance of the house. It containing a side-hall plan and gable end and is a common type of house of small New England towns in the 1830s-50s. Above the main entrance is a one-story, gabled roof rear ell and a three-faceted bay window that projects out of the second story. The remnants of a pilaster/architrave/cornice doorframe around the entrance include slim, fluted, Doric pilasters and part of a frieze. Sometime later, however, the cornice top was removed for the application of the bay window. The six-panel door has heavy molding in the style of the mid to late nineteenth century."<sup>4</sup> The John S. Edwards House next-door at 49 Summer Street was built in a similar style a few years later.

The Downing family lived at this house for many years. Thomas Downing was a merchant who owned T.D. & Co, a dry goods store, located at 211 Essex Street. The individuals that formed the "& Co" portion of this business were J.W. Downing (Thomas' brother), Augustus J. Archer and John D. Hammond.<sup>5</sup> In the 1842 city directory, Thomas'

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<sup>1</sup> Deed of Sale from Robert Brookhouse to Henry Derby, 26 Jan. 1838, Deed book 312, page 141, Filed 26 Jan. 1838, Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts, Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds, Web, Accessed 17 Aug. 2014.

<sup>2</sup> United States Census Bureau, *Non-Population Census Schedules for Massachusetts, 1850-1880*. Year: 1850; Census Place: Salem Wards 1 and 2, Essex, Massachusetts, Microfilm. Publication number T1204, Roll 5, Page 362, Line 13, (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration).

<sup>3</sup> Deed of Sale from Henry Derby to Thomas Downing, 13 Oct. 1840, Deed book 312, page 299, Filed 15 Oct. 1840, Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts, Southern Essex Registry of Deeds, Web, Accessed 17 Aug. 2014.

<sup>4</sup> Massachusetts Historical Commission, 47 Summer Street, *Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System*, Web, Accessed 30 Oct. 2014. <http://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?MhclId=SAL.1141>

<sup>5</sup> *The Salem Directory and City Register*, (Salem: Henry Whipple. 1842), p. 28.

Ebenezer Putnam had many accomplishments before he moved into the house. He was nominated for mayor in the late 1840s, was a talented horticulturist, and even served as Postmaster for the Salem Post Office in the 1820s.<sup>18</sup> By 1874, one of their sons, Charles, had moved into the house, perhaps to take care of his elderly parents. Charles was both an engineer and land surveyor.<sup>19</sup> (page 155). Using his background as a civil engineer, he produced many works that related to Salem's city planning and rapid expansion in the late nineteenth century. (See advertisement enclosed). Eben Putnam passed away in 1875, and 1880 federal census recorded a servant by the name of Hannah Donahue living at this house with Elizabeth and Charles.<sup>20</sup>

Elizabeth owned the house until 1897, when it became part of her estate. In October of 1899, the house was sold to Sarah Pickering,<sup>21</sup> Sarah, the widow of Thomas Pickering, moved in with her three children, Edith (age 33), Gertrude (age 31), and Arthur (age 22). Arthur worked in Boston, Edith worked for the Registry of Deeds<sup>22</sup> and Gertrude worked as a schoolteacher at the Bowditch School, a grammar school located on Flint Street.<sup>23</sup> Interestingly, all three of Sarah's children are listed as boarders at this residence.

Although Arthur eventually moved out of the house, both Edith and Gertrude would live in the house until the 1940s, well into their 70s. During this time, the name of Gedney Court, which borders the house on its northern side, was changed to its current name of Gedney Street in 1944. Additionally, a portion of Gedney Court, which immediately bordered the house on its northern side, was discontinued according to a city ordinance dated September 29, 1944.<sup>24</sup> This portion of Gedney Court, which extended from Summer Street to Gedney Court Street, became a part of an enlarged Gedney Street.

The 1949 City Directory records new tenants living at this residence. Edith Pickering rented rooms to Wayne and Carrie Ramsdew. Judging by the age differences, Carrie (age 62), and Wayne (23), may have been a mother and son. Wayne worked as a technician at the Children's Hospital in Boston.<sup>25</sup>

The house has been home to many other individuals, many of whom lived there for only a few years at a time. Some of the house's occupants include Richard Hutchinson and

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<sup>18</sup> Eben Putnam, *The Putnam Lineage*, (Salem: The Salem Press, 1907), pp. 340-341.

<sup>19</sup> Sampson, Davenport, & Co, *The Salem Directory, 1874*, No. XV, (Salem: Geo. M. Whipple and A. A. Smith, 1874) p. 155.

<sup>20</sup> *United States Census Bureau, Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Census Place, Salem, Essex, Massachusetts, Microfilm, Publication number 9, Roll 532, Page 649C, Lines 6-8, (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration).*

<sup>21</sup> Deed of Sale from Alfred Stone to Sarah Pickering, 8 Oct. 1899, Deed book 1592, page 186, Filed 30 Oct. 1899, Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts, *Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds*, Web, Accessed 16 Aug. 2014.

<sup>22</sup> The Naumkeag Directory for Salem, Beverly, Danvers, Marblehead, Peabody, Hamilton, Manchester, Middleton, Topsfield and Wenham. No. 15. 1907, (Salem: Henry M. Meek Publishing, 1907), p. 309.

<sup>23</sup> The Naumkeag Directory for Salem, No. 20, comp. Henry M. Meek Publishing, (Salem: Henry M. Meek Publishing, 1912), p. 437.

<sup>24</sup> Discontinuance, Sept. 28, 1944, Deed book 3384, page 464, Filed 5 Oct. 1944, Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts, *Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds*, Web, Accessed 16 Aug. 2014.

<sup>25</sup> *Polk's Salem (Essex County, Mass) City Directory*. Vol. XLIX. (Boston, R.L. Polk, 1949), p. 237.

brother and the clerk at his store, John Williams Downing is listed at this residence,<sup>6</sup> while Thomas is listed at 20 Brown Street<sup>7</sup>. By 1851, the business had moved to 173 Essex Street, and Thomas' son, Thomas Warren Downing, also worked as a clerk at this business.<sup>8</sup>

While living in this house, John and his wife Sarah (Pomeroy) had two children, Anna/Annie W. (b.1844) and Alice Ropes<sup>9</sup> (b.1849).<sup>10</sup> Sadly, Anna died 9 months later, in September of 1845 of dysentery. John moved out of the house around 1854, and the house appears to have been unoccupied for a few years. John passed away on February 20, 1858.

In the mid-1820s, Salem began its shift from a merchant-based economy to one based on industrial output. Sea trade slowly diminished while the trading of goods by land increased, facilitated by construction of a railroad that ran through Salem and the subsequent establishment of railroad companies. The city's population increased, new factories and stores were built and a railroad station was constructed that facilitated the transportation of both goods and people to cities such as Boston, Marblehead, Ipswich, Maine, and even New Hampshire. One of the new railroad companies established during this time was the East Railroad Corporation, which was incorporated in 1836.<sup>11</sup>

The April of the year that John Downing died, his brother Thomas sold the house to David A. Neal.<sup>12</sup> David Neal, an accomplished man in the Salem community, was very involved in Salem's new railroad depot. Previous to buying the house, he served as one of the Presidents of the East Railroad Corporation.<sup>13</sup> The Essex County directory suggests that, even though David Neal owned the house, he purchased it for his daughter. Harriet C. Neal married Robert S. Rantoul in May of 1858<sup>14</sup> and they moved into this house in 1861. Robert was a lawyer, whose office was at 251 Essex Street.<sup>15</sup>

In another series of quick transactions, the house was sold to Elizabeth Shepard in May 1865.<sup>16</sup> She quickly sold it to Elizabeth Appleton Putnam. in May of the next year.<sup>17</sup> She was the wife of Eben (Ebenezer) Putnam. Although he may have been retired by then,

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid, p. 27.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid p. 28

<sup>8</sup> Adams, George. *The Salem Directory*. Salem: Henry Whipple. 1851. p. 67

<sup>9</sup> Town and City Clerks of Massachusetts. *Vital Records of Salem, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849. Volume V—Deaths*, (Salem: The Essex Institute. 1924), p.217.

<sup>10</sup> *Vital Records of Salem, Massachusetts to the End of the Year 1849*. Vol. 1. Births. Salem: the Salem Institute. 1916.

<sup>11</sup> George Adams, *The Salem Directory...*, (Salem: Henry Whipple, 1851), p. 199.

<sup>12</sup> Deed of Sale from Thomas Downing to David A. Neal, 12 Apr. 1858, Deed book 570, page 224, Filed May 12, 1858, Salem, Essex, Massachusetts, Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds, Web. Accessed Aug 16, 2014.

<sup>13</sup> Adams, *The Salem Directory...*,(Salem: Henry Whipple. 1851), page 199.

<sup>14</sup> Town and City Clerks of Massachusetts. Massachusetts Vital and Town Records, Image 1447 of 2670, Massachusetts, Tow and Vital Records, 1820-1988, Web, Accessed 16 Aug. 2014.

<sup>15</sup> Adams, Sampson, & Co. *The Salem Directory...*, (Salem: G.M. Whipple & A.A. Smit), p. 151.

<sup>16</sup> Deed of Sale from David A. Neal to Elizabeth Shepard, 15 May 1865, Deed book 683, 300, Filed 19 May 1865, Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts, *Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds*, Web, Accessed 16 Aug. 2014.

<sup>17</sup> Deed of Sale from Elizabeth Shepard to Elizabeth Putnam, 18 May 1866, Deed book 705, page 260, Filed 9 June 1866, Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts, *Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds*, Web, Accessed 16 Aug. 2014.

his wife Theresa, as well as Lawrence Hutchinson, who was most likely their son. Richard worked as a shoe worker in 1964.<sup>26</sup>

When Edith Pickering died, the house was sold to Frank and Margaret Rizzotti,<sup>27</sup> and they purchased the house in July 1960. There is uncertainty in the passage of ownership, however, because in the deed recorded in Book 4689, page 42, the house is sold by Charles Bates, the executor of the will of Edith Pickering, to Frank and Margaret Rizzotti. However, in the mortgage that they received from Salem Savings Bank, Margaret and Frank stated that they received the house from Ethel J. Hayford. In May 1967, the Rizzottis later sold the property to Louis and Grace Spychalski.<sup>28</sup> Grace was Margaret's daughter, and the godmother of the current owner, Phil Marchand.

Frank and Margaret owned the house until May of 1967, when it was sold to the Spychalskis.<sup>29</sup> They lived here for about 10 years, then the house was sold to Margaret Marchand and Florence Femino.<sup>30</sup> In the 1970s, an addition was constructed off the back of the house. Eventually, Margaret (Peg) turned the house into a Bed & Breakfast, and it has been operating as such since (year).

After Peg's death in 2012, the house continued to operate as a Bed & Breakfast, but ownership of both the house and the business went to her husband, Frank Camarda, who put the property in both his name and that of his stepson, Philip Marchand in 2014.<sup>31</sup> Phil and his then-fiancé Jocelyn Croke took over running the B&B in 2012, and are still operating the business. In the spring of 2014, the gabled front of the house, especially the rear ell above the main entrance, was repaired and plastered because much of the wood in that area had rotted.

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<sup>26</sup> Polk's Salem (Essex County, Mass) City Directory (Boston: R.L. Polk 1964), p. 262.

<sup>27</sup> Deed of Sale from Charles Bates to Frank and Margaret Rizzotti, 9 Jul. 1960, Deed book 4689, page 42, Filed 29 Jul. 1960, Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts. *Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds*, Web, Accessed 18 Aug. 2014.

<sup>28</sup> Deed of Sale from Frank and Margaret Rizzotti to Louis and Grace Spychalski, 31 May 1967, Deed book 5447, page 051, Filed 31 May 1967, Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts. *Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds*. Web. Accessed 18 Aug. 2014

<sup>29</sup> Deed of Sale from Frank and Margaret Rizzotti to Louis and Grace Spychalski, 31 May 1967, Deed book 5447, 51, Filed 31 May 1967, Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts, *Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds*, Web, Accessed 16 Aug. 2014.

<sup>30</sup> Deed from Louis and Grace Spychalski to Margaret Marchand and Florence Femino, 22 Apr. 1977, Deed book 6341, 596, Filed 22 Apr. 1977, Salem, Essex, Massachusetts, *Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds*, Web, Accessed 16 Aug. 2014.

<sup>31</sup> Deed of Sale from Frank Camarda to Frank Camarda and Philip Marchand, 11 Feb. 2014, Deed book 33214, 290, Filed 11 Feb. 2014, Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts, *Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds*, Web, Accessed 17 Aug. 2014.

Toward the late twentieth century, Salem gradually became a popular tourist destination for those interested in its history related to the Salem Witch Trials as well as those who appreciate its long and deep-rooted history as a city based on maritime trade. Since its establishment as a Bed & Breakfast, this house has accommodated hundreds of tourists and has facilitated the growth of tourism in Salem.

Allison Williams  
Historic Salem, Inc.  
October 2014

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*United States Census Bureau, Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. Census Place, Salem, Essex, Massachusetts. Microfilm. Publication number 9. Roll 532. Page 649C. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration. Ancestry.com. 1880 United States Federal Census. Web. Accessed 17 Aug. 2014.*

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# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

**Inventory No:** SAL.1142  
**Historic Name:** Edwards, John S. House  
**Common Name:**  
**Address:** 49 Summer St  
**City/Town:** Salem  
**Village/Neighborhood:** Central Salem  
**Local No:** 25-579  
**Year Constructed:**  
**Architect(s):** Edwards, John S.  
**Architectural Style(s):** Greek Revival  
**Use(s):** Single Family Dwelling House  
**Significance:** Architecture  
**Area(s):** SAL.HU: McIntire Historic District  
**Designation(s):** Local Historic District (3/3/1981)



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on:

Wednesday, April 02, 2014 at 11:16 AM

LHD 3/3/1981

SAL 1142

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's Number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

25-579

Salem

HU

1142



Town Salem

Place (neighborhood or village) Central Salem

Address 49 Summer Street

Historic Name John and Charlotte (Somes) Edwards House

Uses: Present Residential

Original "

Date of Construction 1846

Source See Bibliography\*

Style/Form Greek Revival

Architect/Builder Possibly John S. Edwards, Housewright

Exterior Material:

Foundation Brick

Wall/Trim Clapboard/Wood

Roof Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates)

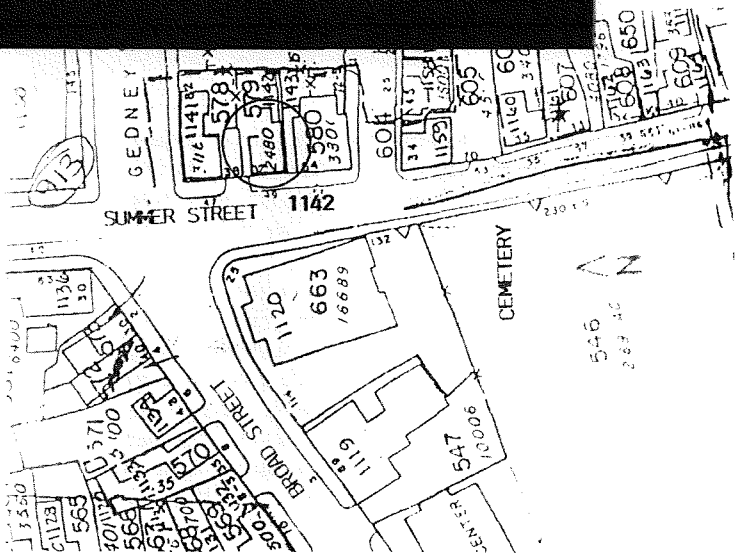
Condition Good

Moved  no  yes Date

Acreage 2,480 SF

3/23/95

ms  
ers,  
ient



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

Date: July 1995

RECEIVED

SEP 29 1995

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Setting Set directly on the sidewalk in a densely-settled, mixed-use neighborhood of primarily 19th and 20th-century buildings.

SA 1142

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION  See continuation sheet.

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

This two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, sidehall-entry, gable-front house has a full pediment and a matchboard facade. A two-story wing projects from the north side and a one-story ell extends from the rear. Window frames on the facade have pediment-like caps and others are molded. Window sash are 6/6. The door frame at the recessed entrance has reeded, paneled pilasters, an Ionic architrave, and a cornice cap. The door is surrounded by a transom and full length sidelights. A Colonial Revival style addition to the south side is an oval oculus window. Inside, original marble fireplaces with grates survive.

Although 49 Summer Street has essentially the same form and many similar details as the adjacent dwelling at 47 Summer Street (Form No. 1141), the latter has much lighter proportions. This house has the much more-weighty details of the Greek Revival style in its full-fledged expression.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE  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.

This house was built in 1845 by John S. Edwards (1808-1888), housewright and master builder. Because of his trade, it is likely that Edwards designed and built the house himself. He purchased the house lot for \$500 and took out a building permit in March of 1846. Curbstones were laid in 1847. The 1851 Salem directory shows Edwards as the occupant of 49 Summer Street. The 1850 census shows Edwards and his wife, the former Charlotte Somes of Gloucester (married 1832), as residents. By the time of the 1880 census, a resident female servant was also listed at this address.

Edwards died in 1888, leaving to his wife all his "furniture, beds, bedding, clothing, linen, silverware, watch, clocks, stores and fuel in my dwelling house...all the personal property in said dwelling house, excepting bonds, stocks, bankbooks and money." At the time of his death, he also owned other houses, one at 22 High Street, and one half each of 18 Prescott Street and 20 Prescott Street.

In 1896, 49 Summer Street became the property of Edward W. Merrill. It was sold out of the Merrill family in 1933. Further information on owners of this house is available in a Historic Salem, Inc. research report by Barbara Wuertz and Joyce King.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES  See continuation sheet.

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

SAL 1142

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Salem  
49 Summer Street

Area HU Form No. 1142

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

\*Wuertz, Barbara, Research Report 49 Summer Street, June 1982  
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3/23/95



Block 25

Area 375 CS  
SAZ 1142

Y 2. Town Salem  
 MISSION Boston lot 579 Street 19 Summer Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Applicant to: SAM Name \_\_\_\_\_ L4D Area # HU  
 Original Use HOME  
 Present Use HOME  
 Present Owner \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_ Style York Renewal  
 Source of Date SHDSC  
 Architect See reverse  
 Deteriorated Moved Altered \_\_\_\_\_

IMPORTANCE of site to area: Great Little None SITE endangered by \_\_\_\_\_

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: \_\_\_\_\_  
 WALL COVER: Wood Brick Stone Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 STORIES: 1 2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular  
 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency \_\_\_\_\_ Simple/Complex  
 PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony \_\_\_\_\_ Recessed \_\_\_\_\_  
 ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork \_\_\_\_\_  
 FACADE: Gable End: Front/Side Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Simple/Complex Ornament  
 Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied 6/6  
 Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured \_\_\_\_\_

OUTBUILDINGS \_\_\_\_\_ LANDSCAPING \_\_\_\_\_

5. Indicate location of structure on map below 6. Footage of structure from street \_\_\_\_\_  
 Property has \_\_\_\_\_ feet frontage on street

*Similar to 76-47 Prop. H.D. West*

Recorder \_\_\_\_\_  
 For \_\_\_\_\_ NOV 1967  
 Photo 02

E-05	258-1-375
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NOTE: Recorder should obtain written permission from Commission or sponsoring organization before using this form. (See Reverse Side)

SAL 142

FOR USE WITH IMPORTANT STRUCTURES (Indicate any interior features of note)

Fireplace

Stairway

Other

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

S.H.D.S.C., Vol III, page, 111, Rating 2, Period GR

"This house is very similar to #47 except that it has pointed molded window pediments and a slightly different treatment of the front door entrance".

REFERENCE (Where was this information obtained? What book, records, etc.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Original Owner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deed Information: Book Number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Registry of Deeds

Historic House Plaque Application

**If interested in commissioning a written history of your Salem house and having a plaque to identify its construction date and early owner(s), please fill in the blanks below.**

The fee for a professionally prepared house history and plaque is \$400.00. Please send a check for that amount, made out to Historic Salem, Inc., with this application, to the above address.

Name: Philip Marchand

Name of Owner (if different from above):

Frank Camarda

Contact Information:

Home Phone: 978-745-1080

Work Phone: 978-888-5515

e-mail: pmarchand79@gmail.com

Street Address: 47 Summer St.

Date Purchased & From Whom:

Sept 2006 Margaret Camarda

Helpful Information about the Building (append copies if necessary):

Currently occupied by Philip + Jocelyn

Marchand and operating as the

Henry Derby House B+B.

Any and all historic info about the building

is appreciated!

Thank you,

Phil Marchand

