

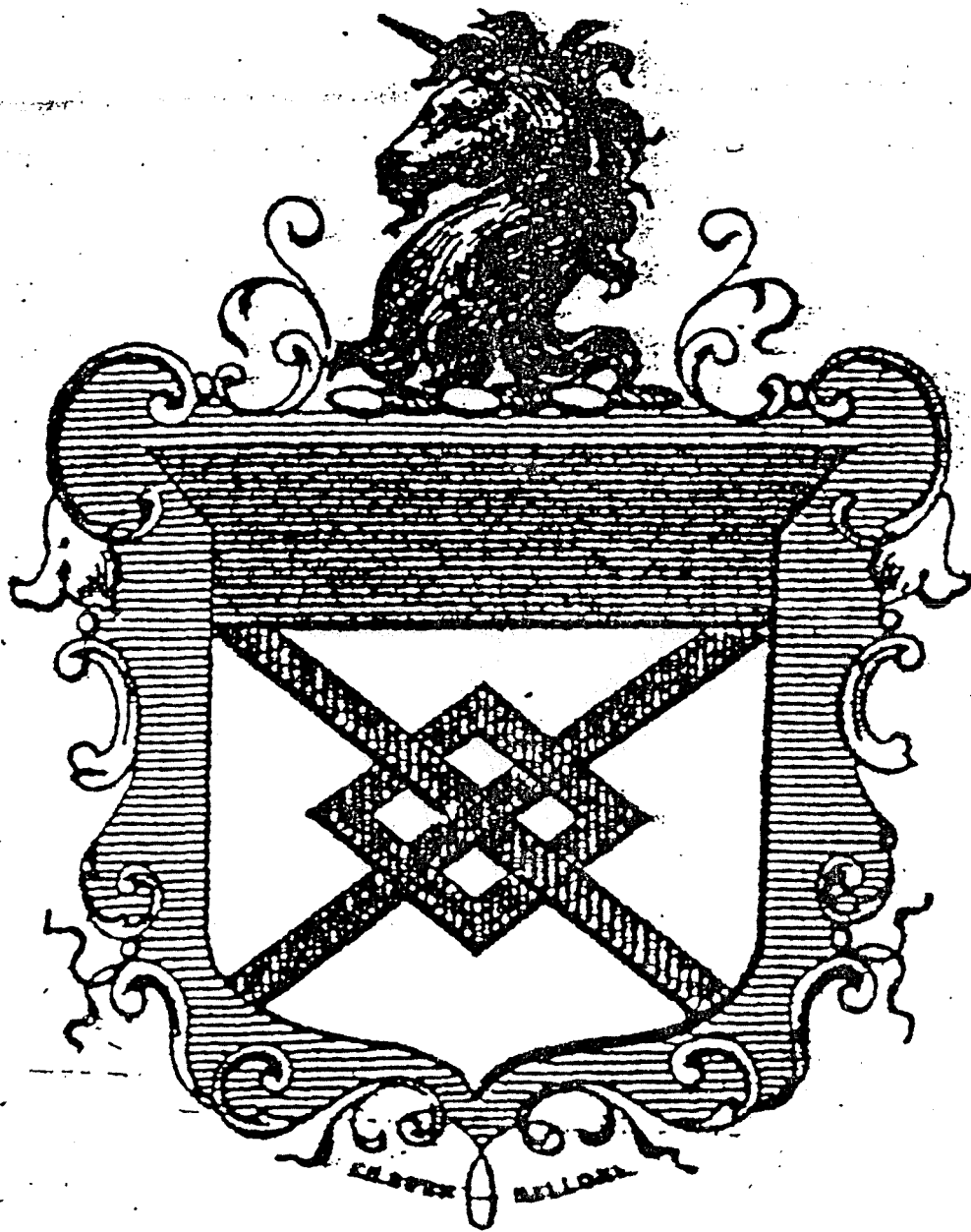
# Historic Salem incorporated

P.O. BOX 865 SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS 01970 / PHONE (508) 745-0799

331 ESSEX STREET

Built for  
JAMES B. CURWEN, merchant  
and  
SAMUEL R. CURWEN, captain  
c. 1854

Research by:  
Mark Droste  
June, 1994



331 Essex Street

Built c. 1854 for James B. Curwen, merchant, and Samuel R. Curwen, captain<sup>1</sup>

In 1850 the population of Salem was 20,263. In 1855 the Republican party was first formed in Jackson, Michigan. Henry David Thoreau's book *Walden* was first published that same year. It was also the year that the Boston Public Library was first opened to the public. Franklin Pierce occupied the Presidency during 1855.

The house is a large wooden, three story structure with quoined corners and a hipped-roof. The symmetrical front facade is covered with rusticated wooden wall boarding in an imitation of stone. The house is in the Italian Revival style, showing the interests of the mid-Victorian period for the architecture of the Italian Renaissance.<sup>2</sup> The house has a large central double portico that is supported by tapered Corinthian columns.

The first of the Curwen family to arrive in America was Captain George *Curwin*, who settled in Salem in 1638. The spelling of the name varied early on with it being spelled Curwin, Corwin, Curwen, and Cordwine. After 1731 this branch of the family has only used Curwen. Captain George Curwin was born in England, in the Town of Workington in Cumberland County, on December 10, 1610. His grandson George Curwen held the office of Sheriff for Essex County during the famous witch trials of 1692.<sup>3</sup>

The house was originally built and occupied by two brothers James Barr and Samuel Ropes Curwen. James and his wife occupied the half of the house at 331 Essex Street, Samuel and his wife occupied the other half of the house at 333 Essex Street. Samuel lived at 333 Essex Street until his death in 1869. His widow then sold her half of the property and building to James A. Gillis, counselor, and his wife Lydia D. Gillis. James Curwen lived at 331 Essex Street until his death in 1894.

A member of the Curwen family remained in the house until 1904. The house was then sold in 1908 to Dorothy and William Osgood, who had been living in the house since 1906. The Osgood's lived in the house until 1915 when they sold the property to Frederick and Lillian Keach.<sup>4</sup>

The Keach's opened the Hotel Puritan on the property in 1915 and ran it until 1920. The Keach's lived at 331 Essex Street until 1924 when they sold the property to Thomas W. Neville.<sup>5</sup>

Thomas Neville lived there until his death in 1928. His widow Anne lived there until 1941. Starting in 1930 the building was run as a rooming house. Mrs. Anne Neville, later to be Mrs. Anne Mahoney, ran the rooming house until 1941, when Lena Mahoney then took over.<sup>6</sup> Mrs. Anne Mahoney sold the property in 1952 to Charles

<sup>1</sup> Bryant F. Tolles and Carolyn K. Tolles, Architecture in Salem: An Illustrated Guide(Salem: Essex Institute, 1983), 173

<sup>2</sup>ibid, 173

<sup>3</sup> The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Volume 10 (Boston: Samuel G. Drake, Publisher, 1856), 304-305

<sup>4</sup> Salem Street Directory

<sup>5</sup> Salem Street Directory

<sup>6</sup> Salem Street Directory

and Grace Donovan.

Charles Donovan lived in Swampscott but he ran his medical practice from 331 Essex Street. His office had been there since 1931. Mr. Donovan is listed as having his office there as late as 1989. The rest of the house was still being run as a rooming house.<sup>7</sup> The Donovan's sold the property in 1986 to Frederick and Karen Small.

The Small's defaulted on their mortgage and the Warren Five Cents Saving Bank sold the property to Alan Howe. He in turn sold the property to himself and John Constable. They too defaulted on their mortgage and the Progressive Consumers Federal Credit Union was forced to resell the property.

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 441 Page 216

Date: March 6, 1851  
Grantor: Sampson Reed, Druggist, and Luther Clark, Physician, both of Boston as executors and trustees under the last will and testament of John Clark, Esquire, of Salem  
Grantee: Rebecca H. Curwen, the wife of James B. Curwen, and Mary S. Curwen, the wife of Samuel R. Curwen, both of Salem  
Consideration: \$2,700 and assume and pay mortgage already on estate  
Description: "free from the interference and control of their husbands to each one undivided half part... consisting of a dwelling house with the land under and adjoining and all other buildings thereon, bounded Northerly on Essex Street seventy feet and eight inches more or less; Northeasterly and easterly on land of Mark Pitman and on land of Chase one hundred and ninety seven feet and ten inches; Southerly on land of Peele formerly of Jonathan Hodges, Esquire, sixty three feet and four inches, and westerly on land of Thomas Holmes one hundred and seventy two feet to the first bound"

Essex County Probate Court

Date: April 1894

Case Number: 75679

James B. Curwen leaves property to James D. Curwen

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<sup>7</sup> Salem Street Directory

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 1931 Page 311

Date: September 1, 1908  
Grantor: James D. Curwen of North Andover  
Grantee: Dorothy V. Osgood wife of William E. Osgood, of Salem  
Consideration: \$1 and other valuable considerations  
Description:

"...a certain parcel of land with all buildings thereon in said Salem bounded, beginning at the most easterly corner on Essex Street at land now or late of Balch, then running southeasterly forty-five feet six inches, then running more southerly forty-four feet then running easterly nineteen feet three inches, all by land of Balch, now or late, then running southerly by said land and land of Salem Seamen's Orphan and Children' Friend Society Eighty-two feet, then running westerly by land of Little thirty-two and one fourth feet, then running southerly by by same land about twenty-eight feet, then running westerly by land of West thirty-one feet six inches, then running northerly by land now or late of Gillis on two courses to Essex Street, then running easterly on Essex Street thirty-eight feet three and one half inches to point begun at"

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 2307 Page 462

Date: September 23, 1915  
Grantor: William E. Osgood and Dorothy V. Osgood, of Salem  
Grantee: Frederick P. Keach and Lillian A. Keach as joint tenants, of Salem  
Consideration: Paid  
Description:

"...the land in said Salem, together with the buildings thereon bounded, beginning at the most easterly corner thereof on Essex Street at land now or late of Balch and running southeasterly 45 feet 6 inches, thence running more southerly 44 feet, thence running easterly 19 feet 3 inches, all by land now or late of Balch, thence running southerly by said land and land of Salem Seamen's Orphan and Children' Friend Society 82 feet, thence running westerly by land of Little 32 feet, 3 inches, thence running southerly by the same land 28 feet, thence running westerly by land of West 31 feet, 6 inches, thence running northerly by land now or late of Gillis on two courses to Essex Street, thence running easterly on said Essex Street 38 feet 3 1/2 inches to the point begun at."

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 2423 Page 199

Date: August 11, 1919  
Grantor: Frederick P. Keach and Lillian A. Keach husband and wife of  
Salem  
Grantee: Walter T. Wilson of Salem  
Consideration: Paid  
Description: see above

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 2423 Page 200

Date: August 12, 1919  
Grantor: Walter T. Wilson, of Salem unmarried  
Grantee: Lillian A. Keach, of Salem  
Consideration: Paid  
Description: see above

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 2423 Page 200

Date: October 28, 1924  
Grantor: Frederick P. Keach and Lillian A. Keach, of Salem  
Grantee: Thomas W. Neville, of Salem  
Consideration: Paid  
Description: See above

Essex County Probate Court

Date: July 1928  
Case Number: 161962  
Thomas W. Neville leaves the property to William Neville

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 3888 Page 380

Date: April 16, 1952  
Grantor: Anne S. Mahoney, formerly Anne S. Neville, and William Neville,

Grantee: being unmarried both of Salem  
Charles E. Donovan and Grace A. Donovan, as tenants by the  
entirety, both of Salem  
Consideration: Paid  
Description: see above

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 8234 Page 321

Date: May 1, 1986  
Grantor: Charles E. Donovan and Grace A. Donovan, husband and wife as  
tenants by the entirety  
Grantee: Frederick D. Small and Karen J. Small husband and wife  
Consideration: \$400,000.00  
Description: see above

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 9757 Page 241

Date: October 27, 1988  
Grantor: Warren Five Cent Savings Bank holder of mortgage of Frederick  
D. Small and Karen J. Small  
Grantee: Alan T. Howe of 10 Chestnut St., Salem  
Consideration: \$295,000.00  
Description: see above

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 9757 Page 245

Date: October 17, 1988  
Grantor: Alan T. Howe of 10 Chestnut Street, Salem  
Grantee: Alan T. Howe of 10 Chestnut Street in Salem and John D.  
Constable of 17 Coolidge Hill in Cambridge Massachusetts  
Consideration: \$1.00  
Description: See above

Note: Alan T. Howe and John D. Constable faulted on their mortgage held by the Progressive Consumers Federal Credit Union. The bank seized the house as payment.

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 12254 Page 303

Date: November 19, 1993  
Grantor: Progressive Consumers Federal Credit Union, Malden, Middlesex  
County, Massachusetts  
Grantee: Richard J. Pabich and Diane G., as husband and wife  
tenants by the entirety, of Salem  
Consideration: Paid  
Description: See above



## PEDIGREE OF CURWEN.

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1. **ELIZABETH WHITE**, widow of Mr. John White, of England, born 1st May, 1611; died at Salem, July 15, 1668. = **CAPT. GEORGE CURWIN**, born in England, Dec. 10, 1610; died in Salem, Mass., 3d Jan. 1684-5. = 2. **ELIZABETH BROOKS**, widow of Robert Brooks of Plymouth, and dau. of Gov. Edward Winslow of Plymouth Colony, was mar. to Capt. George Curwin, 22d July, 1669. She died after 1694.

<p>Abigail, born 1 Aug. 1637; mar. Eleazer Hathorne, 25 June, 1663. Afterwards m. Hon. James Russell.</p>	<p>John, b. 25 July, 1638; mar. Margaret, dau. of Gov. Winthrop, May, 1665; d. 12 July, 1683. She d. 28 Sept. 1697.</p>	<p>Hannah, born 1642, m. Maj. Wm. Browne, Jr., 29 Oct. 1664.</p>	<p>Hon. Jonathan, b. 14 Nov. 1640; m. Elizabeth Gibbs, (widow of Robert Gibbs, and dau. of Jacob and Margaret Sheaf,) 20 March, 1675; died 25 July, 1718; she d. 29 Aug. 1718.</p>	<p>Penelope, b. 7 June, 1670; m. Josiah Wolcott, 19 Feb. 1684-5; d. 28 Nov. 1690.</p>	<p>Susannah, b. 10 Oct. 1672; mar. Edward Lyde of Boston, 29 Nov. 1694; died before 1701.</p>	<p>George, born 1674; d. before 1684.</p>
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Elizabeth, b. 3 May, 1678; m. James Lindall, 15 Dec. 1702; d. 19 May, 1706.	Margaret, b. 15 Feb. 1679; d. 5 Sept. 1679.	Sarah, b. 12 June, 1680; d. 19 Dec. 1689.	Jonathan, b. 2 Aug. 1681; d. 12 June, 1682.	Rev. George, b. 21 May, 1682; grad. Har. C. 1701; m. Mehitable, dau. of Deliverance Parkman, 27 July, 1711. He died 23 Nov. 1717; she d. 13 Nov. 1718.	John, b. 9 July, 1684; died Sept. 1684.	Margaret, b. 30 Nov. 1685; d. 23 Feb. 1686.	Anna, born 1 Aug. 1687; d. 20 March, 1705-6, unm.	Jonathan, b. 15 Sept. 1689; d. 25 Dec. 1689.	Harbert, b. 5 Dec. 1690; d. 10 Feb. 1691.
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George, b. 26 Feb. 1666; m. Susanna and Lydia, daus. of Hon. Bartholomew Gedney. Lydia survived him.	Elizabeth, b. 28 Apr. 1668.	Lucy, b. 11 May, 1670.	Hannah, b. 14 Feb. 1672.	Samuel, b. 12 Aug. 1674.	Jonathan, b. 26 May, 1713, d. 6 Nov. 1718.	Samuel, b. 17 Dec. 1715; grad. at H. C. 1735; m. Abigail, dau. of Hon. Daniel Russell of Charlestown, May, 1750. She was b. 13 Jan. 1725; d. 31 March, 1793. He d. 9 April, 1802.	George, b. 4 Dec. 1717; grad. at H. C. 1735; mar. Sarah Pickman, dau. of Benjamin and Abigail Pickman, 1739; d. at St. Eustatia, 7 June, 1746. She was b. at Salem, Mass., 1 Dec. 1718; d. 3 Jan. 1810.
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Bartholomew, born 21 June, 1693; m. Esther Burt, dau. Mr. John Burt; d. May, 1747.

George, b. 4 June, 1739; drowned at sea, 2 April, 1762. Unmarried.	Mehitable, b. 23 Jan. 1741; m. Richard Ward, 8 Nov. 1764; d. 14 April, 1813. He was b. 5 April, 1741; d. 4 Nov. 1824.	Sarah, b. January, 1742, O. S., died 25 Feb. 1773.
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George, born 12 July, 1718; d. in infancy, d. 1780.	Richard and William fancy, John, b. 23 May, 1755.	John, b. 26 Feb. 1722.	Joseph, b. 24 Nov. 1724.	Samuel, b. 10 March, 1728; d. 1776.	Naomi, b. 16 April, 1752.	Keziah, b. 1 Mar. 1754.	Rachel, b. 27 Feb. 1752.	Lydia, b. 24 Nov. 1753.
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Here the name of Curwen would have been extinct, when, by an act of the Legislature of Massachusetts in 1802, **SAMUEL CURWEN WARD**, son of Samuel Curwen Ward and Jane his wife, and grandson of Richard and Mehitable Ward, was allowed to take the name of **SAMUEL CURWEN**, born in Salem, Mass., 26 Nov. 1795; died near Belton Arsenal, Va., 3 July, 1831; mar. Priscilla Barr, dau. of James and Eunice Barr, of Salem. She was born in Salem, 31 March, 1788.

Esther, b. 31 Oct. 1742.	John, b. 24 Sept. 1744.	Margaret, b. 28 Nov. 1746.	Richard, b. 16 Dec. 1748.	Alice, b. 18 Jan. 1752.	Ruth, b. 23 July, 1754.	James Barr Curwen, b. in Salem, 20 Dec. 1818; m. Rebecca Hovey Endicott, dau. of Samuel and Caroline Endicott, 3 Feb. 1848.	Samuel Ropes Curwen, b. in Salem, 28 Dec. 1820; m. Mary Smith Holman, dau. of Jonathan and Betsey Holman, 15 May, 1848.	George Rea Curwen, b. in Salem, July 4, 1823.
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Samuel Endicott Curwen, b. in Salem, 8 Nov. 1818; d. 6 July, 1849.	Caroline Endicott Curwen, b. in Salem, 7 Jan. 1852.	James Endicott Curwen, b. in Salem, 14 January, 1852.	Henry Curwen, b. in Wenham, Mass., 1852.	Samuel Holman Curwen, b. in Salem, 1852.	Caroline Rea Curwen, b. in Salem, 1852.
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