

JAMES CURRAN

laborer

1861

16 Kosciusko St  
Salem, Mass.

16 Kosciusko Street, House & land

This house was built by James Curran, "laborer," sometime between 6 Mar 1861 (when the lot was sold to Curran) and 1867 (when Salem first assesses him for property, vizt at "12 Tucker's Wharf, a house worth \$400 & its 1500' sq lot worth \$200."

Usually a person buys an urban lot with the intention of building on it, & so I tend to think that James Curran built the house right away, although the (notoriously erroneous) Salem property-assessment records indicate a 6-year wait before building. The house probably was not built before 1861, despite its older appearance: the absence of fireplaces--of any trace of fireplaces--tends to confirm an 1860s building date, although it is possible that this was an older house that was moved to this site in 1861. Doubtlessly, its anachronistic "throwback" appearance can be attributed to the fact that James Curran, an Irish immigrant laborer, had no need for (and probably could not afford) a modish Victorian residence, & was quite content to build a simple, solid, old-fashioned house.

James Curran first appears in Salem records with the Directory of 1855, when we find him living in a house at "Tucker's Wharf" (no number specified), where he is also listed in 1857 & 1859. This situation leads me to wonder if he might have bought the house in 1855 from Jesse B Edwards, the house-carpenter who, on 13 Dec 1854, bought the lot that was sold to Curran in 1861. It could be that Edwards built the house soon after buying the land, sold the house alone to Curran in 1855, & later sold him the land on which the house stood. But this is sheer speculation.

At any rate, the 1861 Directory lists James Curran as living in a house at #6 Tucker's Wharf. Possibly the present house was then #6; but one cannot be sure, since, as McIntyre's 1851 map of Salem shows, a great deal of the present even-numbered side of the street was then salt water, & there is a 23-year gap between the maps of 1851 & 1874, for which period no record has been left regarding the filling-in & development of Tucker's Wharf.

Throughout the 1860s James Curran is listed only as living in a house on Tucker's Wharf; in 1867 & 1869, he is called James Cullen (sic), the name under which the city assesses him from 1867-70! By 1872, his house on Tucker's Wharf is numbered 8, & it is not until 1874 that it finally becomes 16 Tucker's Wharf, which is the number it bears into the 20th century.

James Curran, Salem laborer, died 2 Oct 1881, leaving a house & land at 16 Tucker's Wharf worth \$480, and 2 children: Lizzie (Curran) wife of John Watson; & John Curran, who in 1882 sold his father's estate to Thomas Murphy. At the time of his death (by his own hand), Mr Curran was 58 years old. (For further reference, see the back page of the Salem Evening News for 3 Oct 1881.)

All things considered, I submit 1861 as the year in which this house was built.

Robert Booth  
14 May 1976

Decds relating to house & land at

16 Kosciusko St.

13 Dec 1854: Jonathan TUCKER, Salem, for \$500 sells Jesse B EDWARDS, Salem housewright, a Salem lot bounded

- e. on the Way over Hawkes Wharf
- n. on sd JB Edwards
- w. on Derby estate
- s. on the Channel
- e. again by land & flats of Ward
- n. again on Wm Mathews

(Deeds, 505:161)

13 Dec 1854: Jesse B EDWARDS for \$425 mortgages the above premises to widow Frances P B TRUE, Salem, who discharges the mortgage on 18 Nov 1862.

(Deeds, 505:161)

6 Mar 1861: Jesse B EDWARDS for \$150 sells James CURREN, laborer of Salem, a lot bounded

- e. 40' on the Way over Hawkes Wharf
- n. 42' on sd J B Edwards
- w. 40' on Derby estate
- s. 42' on sd J B Edwards;

subject to the mortgage to Frances P B True, who for \$1 releases her right to the property.

(Deeds, 619:72)

4 Oct 1882: John CURREN, Salem, for \$600 sells to Thomas MURPHY, Salem, a parcel with buildings thereon, bounded

- e. 40' on the Way over Hawkes Wharf
- n. 42' on now or late (n/l) Jesse B Edwards
- w. 40' on Derby estate
- s. 42' on n/l Jesse B Edwards;

being the same estate that John Curren's deceased father James Curran bought 6 Mar 1861 (Deeds, 619:72) of Jesse B Edwards; subject to a \$275 mortgage (8 Ap 1882, Deeds 1079:111) to Hattie L Kimball, which the grantee now assumes.

(Deeds, 1092:90)

18 Jan 1907: Thomas MURPHY, Salem, for \$1 sells to Wactaw (alias William) KOHN, Salem, a parcel with buildings thereon, on Tucker's Wharf, bounded

- e. 40' on a private way laid out over Hawkes Wharf & now known as Grant Street
- n. 42' on n/formerly Jesse B Edwards
- w. 40' on n/f Derby estate
- s. 42' on n/f Jesse B Edwards

(Deeds, 1858:321)

8 June 1908: Wactaw KOHN, Salem, for \$1 sells Eleanora, wife of Karol KOHN, Salem, a parcel with buildings thereon on Tucker's Wharf, bounded exactly the same as in the deed above.

(Deeds, 1924:10)

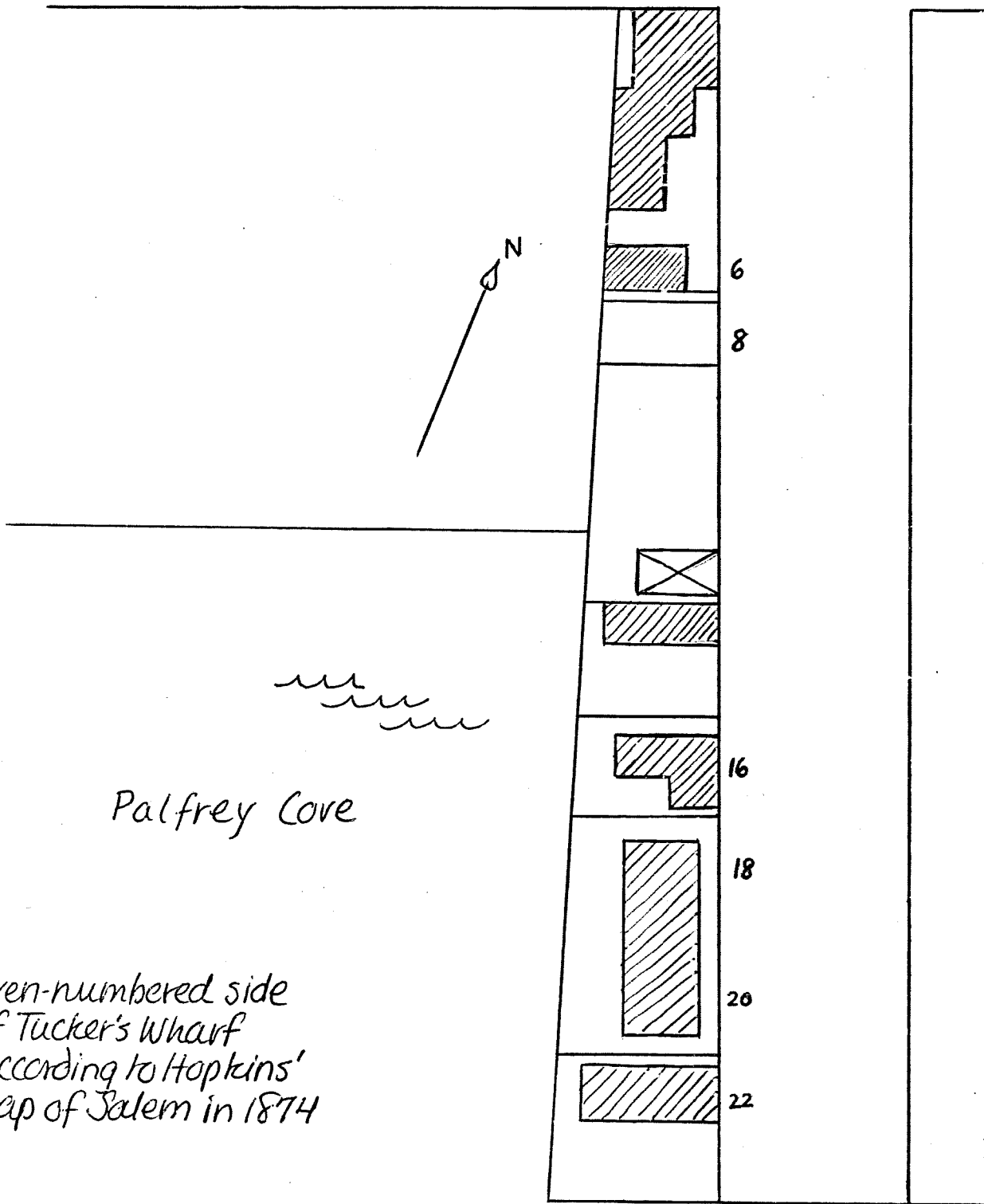
12 July 1926: Karol & Eleanora KOHN in her own right, grant to Stanislaw & Anna KULIK (husband & wife), all of Salem, a parcel with buildings thereon, bounded

- e. 40' on Kosciusko Street (formerly Grant Street)
- n. 42' on n/f Jesse B Edwards
- w. 40' on n/f Derby estate
- s. 42' on n/f Jesse B Edwards (Deeds, 2686:177)

17 Ap 1970: Stanislaw & wife Anna KULIK, Salem, grant to their survivor the parcel with buildings thereon at 16 Kosciusko Street (formerly Grant Street), bounded exactly the same as in the deed above. (Deeds, 5688:526)

1 June 1972: Anna KULIK, Salem, for \$18,500 sells to David W & wife Alice V JOHNSON, Salem, a parcel with buildings thereon at 14 Kosciusko Street (formerly Grant Street), bounded exactly the same as in the deed above. (Deeds, 5871:793)

Derby Street



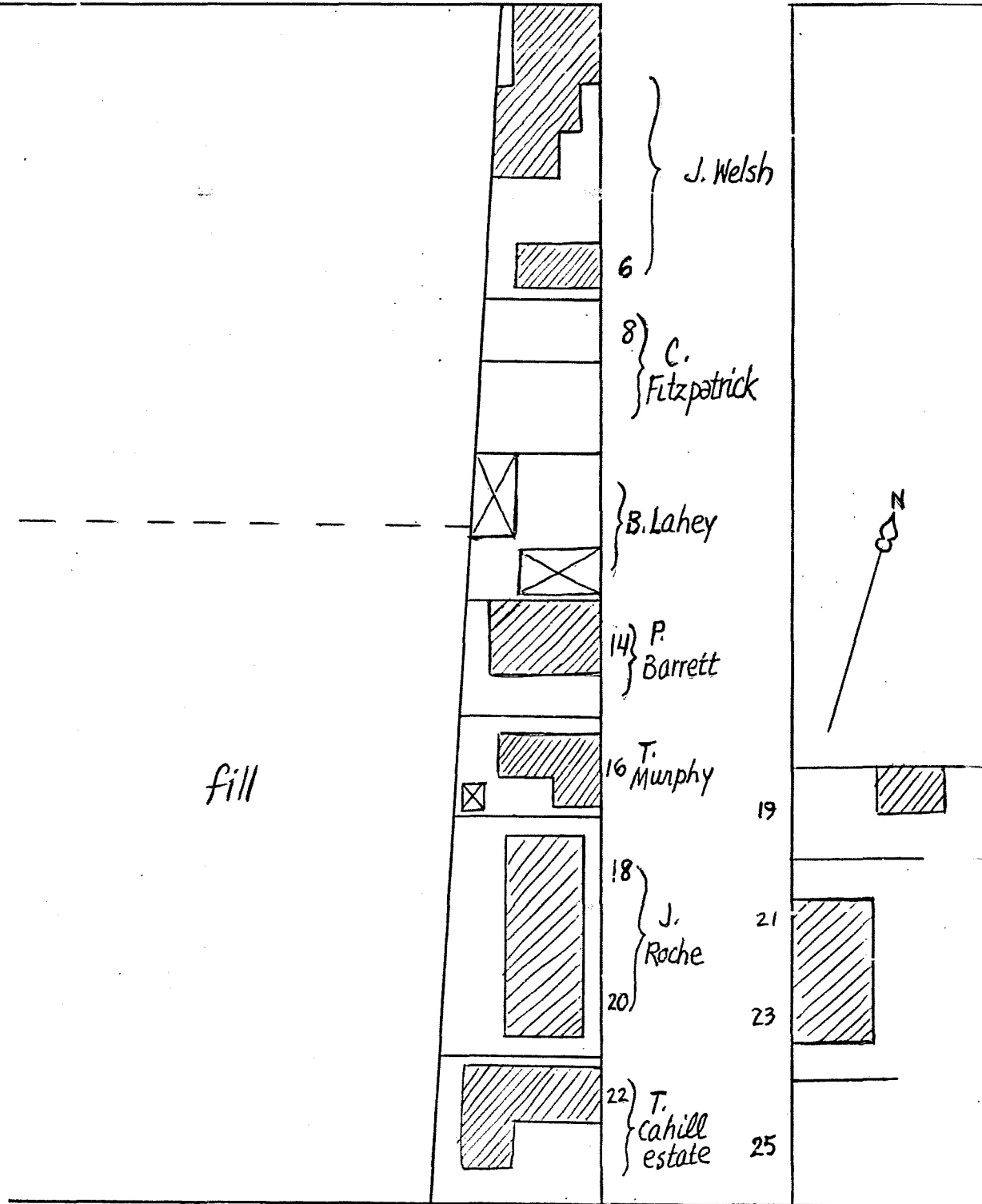
Palfrey Cove

Even-numbered side  
of Tucker's Wharf  
according to Hopkins'  
Map of Salem in 1874

Salem Harbor

Scale: 1" = 50'

Derby Street



Most of the houses  
on Tucker's Wharf  
(Grant Street) according  
to  
Map of Salem, 1897

Salem Harbor

Scale 1" = 50'