

Historic Salem Incorporated

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

41 CHESTNUT STREET

Built for
THOMAS SAUNDERS, merchant
1810

Research: Larry Davis
September, 1994

41 Chestnut Street

The house located at 41 Chestnut Street sits on a prime location in one of Salem's most beautiful neighborhoods. Samuel Chamberlain, who photographed many of the oldest neighborhoods in Salem, called Chestnut Street "the finest, best preserved and most aristocratic thoroughfare in America" (Chamberlain, A Stroll Through Historic Salem, p. 103). The street reflects Salem's proud tenure as a leader of maritime trade, and boasted such residents as merchants, sea captains, diplomats, statesmen, politicians, artists, and literary figures (Nathaniel Hawthorne lived on the street for a time).

According to historian Bryant Tolles, the street was first laid out in 1796 by the town of Salem. Originally measured at forty feet wide, the street's width was doubled in 1804. Tolles notes that the name "Chestnut Street" is a peculiar name, since the first trees to appear on the street were poplars and elms (Tolles, Architecture in Salem: An Illustrated Guide, p. 185).

The house at 41 Chestnut Street is known as the "Saunders-Saltonstall-Tuckerman Double House" by Tolles. Tax records for 1810 show the presence of a new house at this address. It was built by Thomas Saunders, a merchant who lived next door at 39 Chestnut Street. He built it for his two daughters, Caroline and Mary Elizabeth, when they were married to the Saltonstall brothers, Nathaniel and Leverett. Leverett served as Salem's first mayor, when Salem officially became a city in 1836.

Mary Elizabeth and Leverett's family lived in the eastern part of the house until the Tuckermans moved into the house in

the 1860's. The Tuckermans lived at 41 Chestnut Street from this time until the 1890's. They appear to have been prominent in the community, since Leverett Tuckerman worked as a lawyer at the firm of Tuckerman, Huntington, and Fitz, which was located at 256 1/2 Essex Street. While fulfilling his duties as a lawyer, he also served as president of both the First National Bank of Salem and the National City Bank, Boston. J. Francis Tuckerman, whose name appears on the city map (see attached) was also a lawyer (Salem Directories, 1866, 1874, 1895-6).

In 1901 the property was sold to Mary Upton, a widow, who sold the property to the Brown family in 1904. Hulings Brown worked at Little, Brown, and Co., a publishing house located in Boston (which is still in operation today) (Salem Directory, 1910).

In 1912 the property was sold to Sarah Laight. Salem Directories list "Ellen" B. Laight as living in the house until the 1960's. In 1993 the house was sold to Richard Jagolta and Kersten Lanes.

In architectural terms, the house is unique for Federal-era brick houses in Salem, because "this building is asymmetrical, with dissimilar entrance porches at opposite ends. The balustraded, flat-roofed porch facing Flint Street is probably original, while the deep, six-columned Ionic porch on Chestnut Street is believed to date from 1838, when a two-story wing was appended to the east end" (Tolles, Architecture in Salem, p. 211).

DOCUMENTATION

*** Essex County Registry of Deeds, Book 203, Leaf 48 (attached)

Grantor: Thomas Saunders of Salem, Merchant

Grantee: Mary Elizabeth Saltonstall, wife of Leverett Saltonstall of Salem, Esquire

Consideration: \$1.00

Conveyance of: "...a certain lot of land situate in Salem aforesaid and bounded as follows, viz, beginning at the northwesterly corner of the premises, and thence running southerly through the centre of the middle or division brick wall of the building on the corner of Chestnut and Flint Streets in a direct line withsail wall about ninety six feet to land owned by Ebenezer Seccomb and Ward Pool, thence running easterly fifty four feet six inches by said Seccomb and Pools land and by land of Samuel Putnam Esq. to land of Thomas Saunders, thence running northerly by land of said Thomas to Chestnut Street, then westerly sixty feet to the bounds first mentioned, together with the dwelling house and all the buildings thereon ..."

Date Recorded: March 30, 1814

*** E.C.R.D. Book 463, Leaf 207

Grantor: Mary E. Saltonstall of Salem, widow

Grantee: Leverett Saltonstall of Salem, Esquire Trustee for my Daughter Lucy S. Tuckerman wife of John Francis Tuckerman of Salem according to a power given him by and indenture made at said Salem ..." (see attached indenture)

Consideration: \$7,000.00

Conveyance of: "... a certain lot of land situate in said Salem and bounded as follows viz, beginning at the northwesterly corner of the premises and thence running southerly through the centre of the middle or division brick wall of the building on the corner of Chestnut and Flint Streets by land owned by Caroline Saltonstall to Green Street thence running easterly on said street seventy feet and six inches to land formerly owned by Thomas Saunders and lately purchased by me the said Mary E. Saltonstall thence running northerly by said land to Chestnut Street, thence running westerly to the bounds first described or however otherwise bounded or described together with the brick dwelling house thereon and all the other privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging..."

Date Recorded: July 15, 1852

*** E.C.R.D. Book 912, Page 57

Grantor: Leverett Saltonstall of Newton, Middlesex Co.

Grantee: Lucy S. Tuckerman of Salem

Consideration: \$1.00 and other valuable considerations

Conveyance of: "...in pursuance of her written request hereto annexed, a certain parcel of land in said Salem, bounded northerly by Chestnut Street, westerly by land of Caroline Saltonstall, widow, southerly by land of Anne and Caroline Saletonstall, singlewomen..."

Date Recorded: September 11, 1874

*** E.C.R.D. Book 1321, Page 165

Grantor: Leverett S. Tuckerman of Salem, trustee under the last will of Lucy S. Tuckerman, late of Salem

Grantee: Charles S. Tuckerman of Ipswich

Consideration: \$1.00 and other valuable considerations

Conveyance of: See Book 2137, Page 388 (below)

Date Recorded: September 15, 1891

*** E.C.R.D. Book 1643, Page 67

Grantor: Charles S. Tuckerman of Boston, formerly of Salem

Grantee: Marian C. Upton of Salem, widow

Consideration: \$1.00 and other valuable considerations

Conveyance of: See Book 2137, Page 388 (below)

Date Recorded: June 10, 1901

*** E.C.R.D. Book 1728, Page 514

Grantor: Marian C. Upton of Salem, widow

Grantee: Susan L. Brown of Salem

Consideration: \$1.00 and other valuable considerations

Conveyance of: See Book 2137, Page 388 (below)

Date Recorded: January 19, 1904

*** E.C.R.D. Book 2137, Page 388

Grantor: Hulings C. Brown and Susan L. Brown, both of Salem

Grantee: Sarah B. Laight of Keene Valley, Essex Co., New York

Consideration: \$1.00 and other valuable considerations

Conveyance of: "...brick house and wooden stable and outbuildings thereon standing; bounded northerly by Chestnut Street, Easterly by land of Barker formerly of Saltonstall, southerly by Warren (formerly Green) Street, and westerly by land of Sanders, formerly of Saltonstall..."

Date Recorded: March 30, 1912

*** E.C.R.D. Book 11839, Page 300

Grantor: Francis C. Welch of Manchester

Grantee: Richard W. Jagolta, Jr. and Kersten L. Lanes

Consideration: \$328,000.00

Conveyance of:

"Northerly by Chestnut Street;
Easterly by land now or formerly of Barker;
Southerly by Warren (formerly Green) Street; and
Westerly by land now or formerly of Sanders."

Date Recorded: April 22, 1993



James Duncan Phillips Library
 Peabody Essex Museum
 East India Square
 Salem, MA 01970

Samuel Chamberlain

Salem, Engravings:

Two Centuries

of New England Taste and Decoration, New York

Hastings House Pub.

Eno date 7

(1969?)



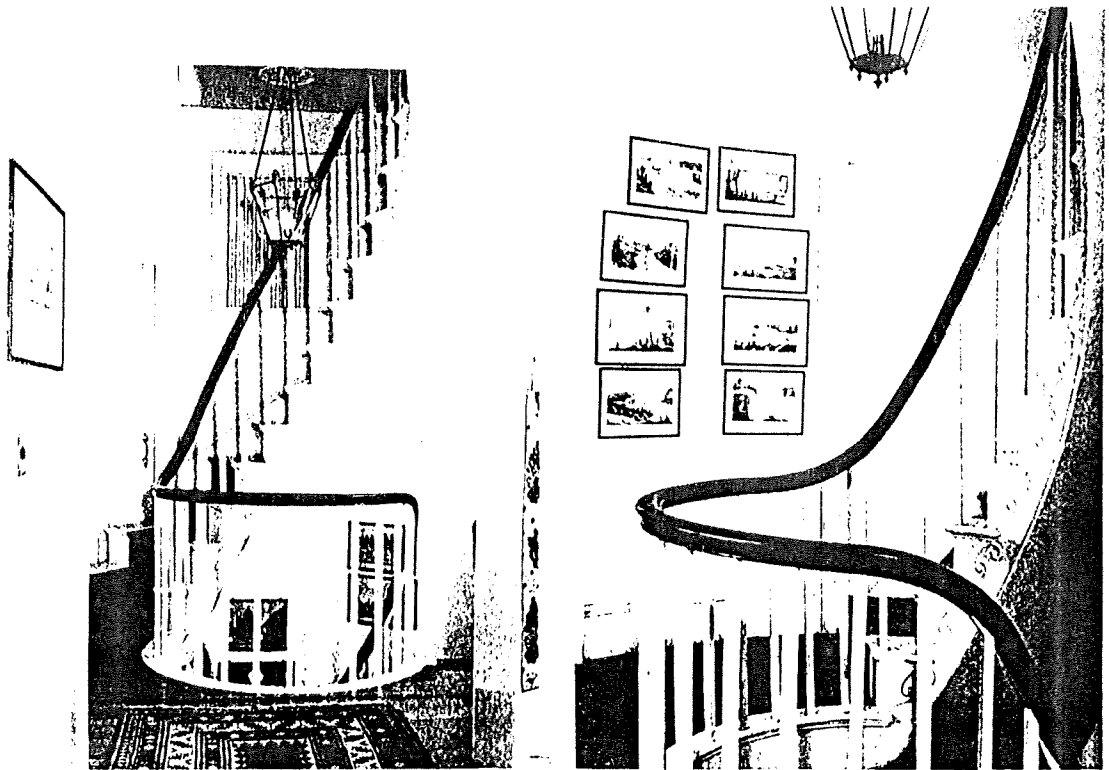
THE SANDERS-SALTONSTALL HOUSE, a large and imposing two-family house at the western end of Chestnut Street, was built by Thomas Sanders for his two daughters, who married Leverett and Nathaniel Saltonstall respectively. The eastern wing, built for the daughter who married Leverett Saltonstall, later Mayor of Salem, contains this spiral staircase, probably the finest in Salem.

rare

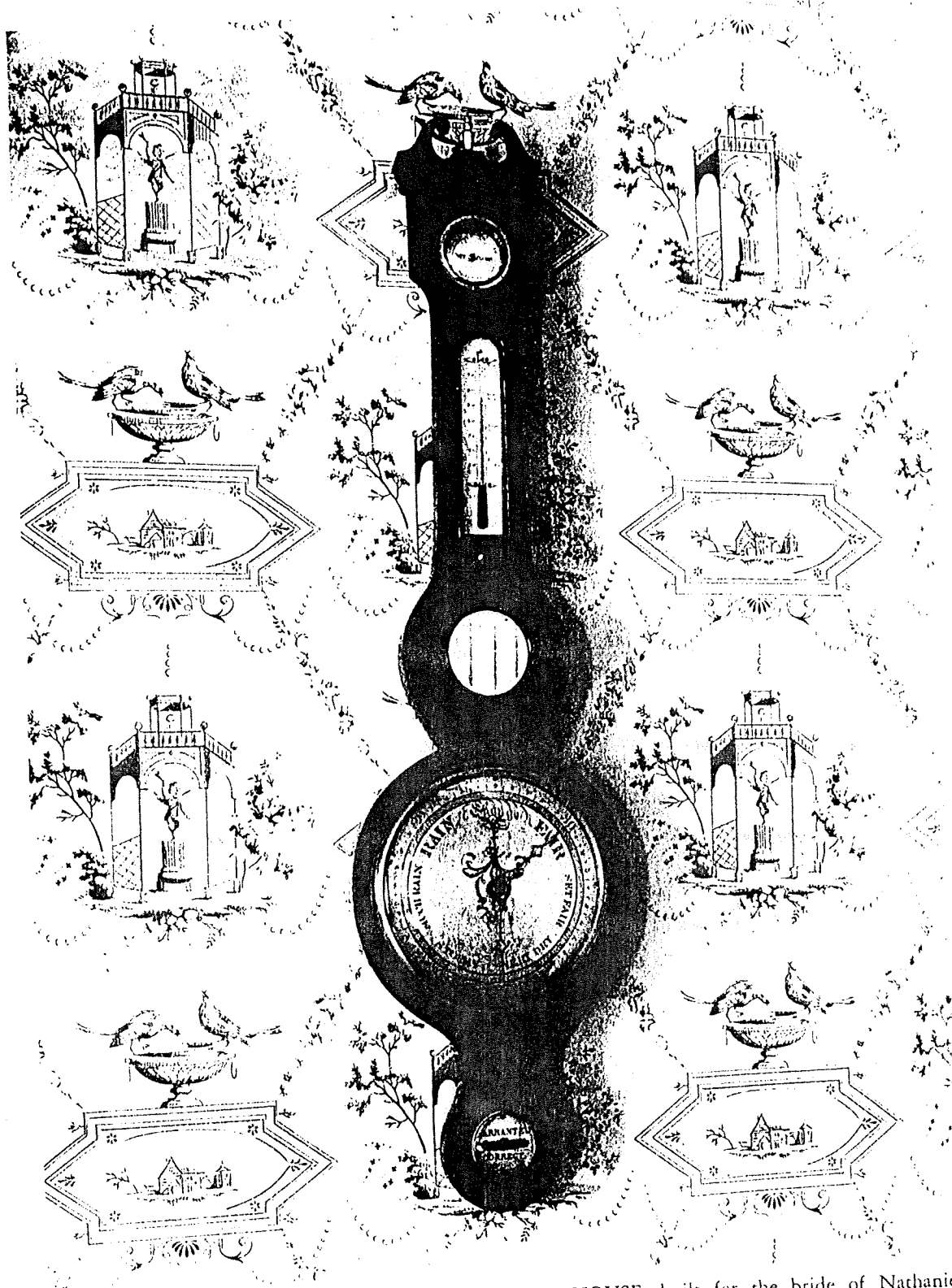
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A commodious double drawing-room extends through the eastern wing of the Sanders-Saltonstall house.



The graceful spiral continues up for two flights. These two views are taken on the second-floor landing.

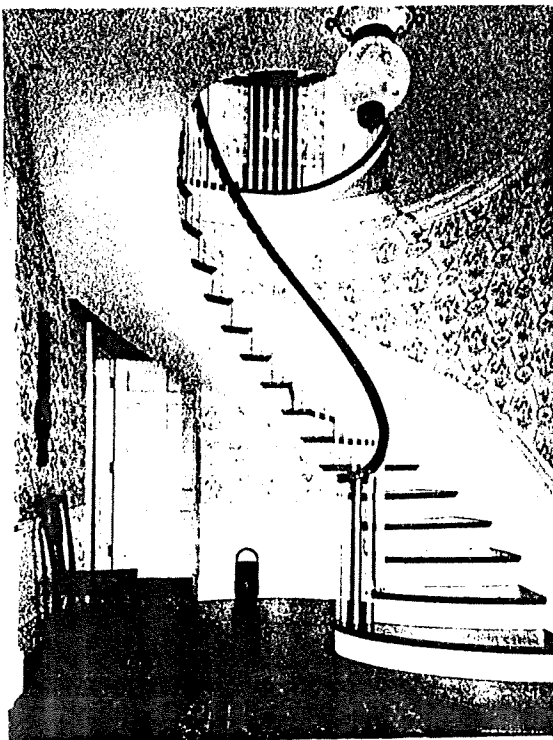


The western half of THE SANDERS-SALTONSTALL HOUSE, built for the bride of Nathaniel Saltonstall, is furnished with many unique pieces, among them this old family barometer.

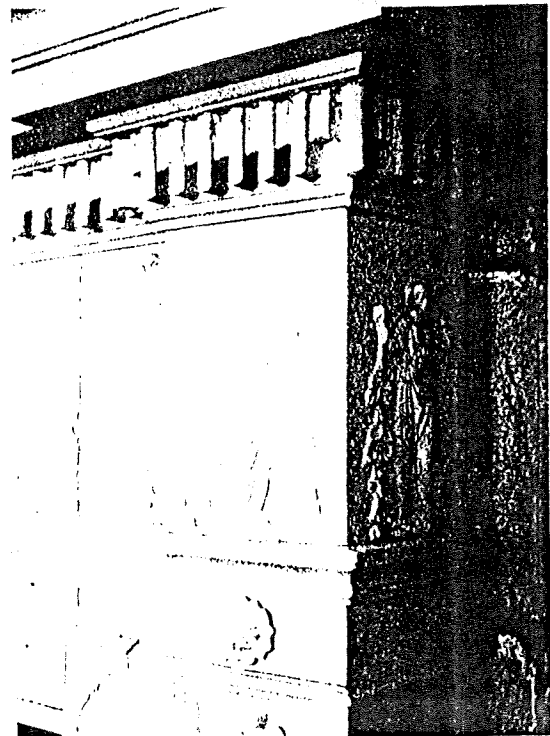
ng.



The dining-room of the western half is furnished with fine period pieces, including a crystal chandelier of Waterford glass, dating from 1750, which was formerly the property of the Duchess of St. Albans.



A restored spiral staircase of wide sweep rises up in the hall.



A close-up of the dining-room mantel reveals classic figures on both sides of the corner.

signed sealed and deliv^d?
 in presence of us
 Richard Sallomstall
 Severell Sallomstall
 Essex ss. Dec^r March 30. 1814. recorded and examined by Amos Choate Regr

Essex ss. March 26. A.D. 1814. Then the above named Dudley L. and Catharine Peckman acknowledged the above instrument to be their free act and deed before me Severell Sallomstall Just. Peace

I know all Men by these Presents That Thomas Saunders of Salem in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, merchant, in consideration of one dollar paid me by my daughter Mary Elizabeth Sallomstall wife of Severell Sallomstall of Salem aforesaid Esquire, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, and also of the natural love and affection which I bear unto my said daughter, do hereby give grant sell and convey unto the said Mary Elizabeth Sallomstall and her heirs and assigns forever a certain lot of land situate in Salem aforesaid and bounded as follows, viz. beginning at the northwesterly corner of the premises, and thence running southerly through the center of the middle or division brick wall of the building on the corner of Chestnut and Third Streets in a direct line with said wall about ninety six feet to land owned by Ebenezer Seccomb and Wood Oval, thence running easterly fifty four feet six inches by said Seccomb & Wood land and by land of Samuel Putnam Esq. to land of said Thomas Saunders, thence running northerly by land of said Thomas to Chestnut Street, thence westerly sixty feet to the bounds first mentioned, together with the dwelling house and all the buildings thereon, and all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging. *To have and to hold* the granted premises with the appurtenances to the said Mary Elizabeth Sallomstall and her heirs and assigns to their use and benefit forever. And I the said Thomas Saunders for myself my heirs executors and Administrators do hereby covenant with the said Mary Elizabeth and her heirs and assigns that I am lawfully seized in fee of the premises, that they are free of all incumbrances, that I have good right to sell and convey the same to the said Mary, and that I will and my heirs executors and administrators shall warrant and defend the same to the said Mary her heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claim and demands of any person. And I Elizabeth wife of said Thomas in consideration of one dollar paid me by said Mary Elizabeth Sallomstall, the receipt whereof I acknowledge, do hereby release to her and her heirs and assigns forever all my right to dower in the above granted premises. *IN WITNESS* whereof we the said Thomas & Elizabeth have hereunto set our hands and seals this twenty ninth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fourteen

Thomas Saunders
 to
 Mary E. wife of
 Severell Sallomstall

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signed sealed and deliv^d?
 in presence of us
 Rebecca Ashby
 Caroline Saunders
 A.B. The printed words "the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge" being first deliv^d.
 Essex ss. March 30. 1814. Then the above named Thomas Saunders and Elizabeth Saunders acknowledged the above instrument to be their free act and deed before me Dudley L. Peckman Justice Peace
 Essex ss. Dec^r March 30. 1814. recorded and examined by Amos Choate Regr