



**THE W.M. WALLACE HOUSE**  
**9 Ladson Street**  
**c. 1910**

**1996**

**Home of Mr. and Mrs. John Winthrop**

Ladson Street began as a narrow court opening only into Meeting Street. It was widened and cut all the way through to King Street in 1895, becoming Ladson Street. Of the five lots which were developed at that time, the Wallace family bought the two lots facing King Street. However, when they built their new home a few years later, they chose to orient it to Ladson Street instead.

This clapboard, two-story house set on a high foundation in the Colonial Revival style actually started life as a grand edifice in the Victorian tradition. In 1937, after the death of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace, the property was sold. The John A. Hertz family were the new owners and many changes took place. The bay windows, elaborate carvings and baroque trimmings were removed. The entire facade was transformed to reflect the Colonial Revival style. The old square front porch was removed and in its place, the semi-circular one with the double set of curved front steps that you see today, was constructed. The Federal style fan and sidelights replaced the original ones which were composed of intricately (and expensively) executed stained glass with leaded strips.

Recently, the house has once again changed hands. The current owners, Mr. and Mrs. John Winthrop and their young son, have been in residence for three and a half years.

#### **ENTRANCE HALL**

Some minor interior changes were made in 1937. Notice the generous size of this entrance hall with its square sitting rooms on either side with corner fireplaces. This is a not uncommon floor plan associated with Victoriana.

The architectural embellishments of the reception room with free standing columns and Federal style moldings suit the period very well, and the question of whether this was a design change or serendipity remains unanswered.

The handsome collections of furnishings are primarily family pieces which have come to the present owners through acquisition and inheritance.

ENTRANCE HALL - (Continued)

Long Case Clock, Joshua Wilder, Hingham, MA., dark crotch mahogany veneer, with inlay. The dial was most likely painted by a local craftsman instead of being imported from Birmingham, England where clock faces for American exports often were made. Notice the open fretwork over the rounded hood with three brass urn finials. c. 1815-25.

Double Chest, English, c. 1770, crotch mahogany veneer  
Arm Chair, c. late 18th century, mahogany. The back has a sophisticated shape with its curved top rail and beautifully designed and carved splat. Restrained carving on knees.

Bowfront Chest of Drawers, c. 1800, mahogany with inlay

Mirror, c. early 19th century, gilded with columns

Statue, of Boar (Owner has personal fancy for the species.)

Portrait, Robert Charles Winthrop, ancestor of owner, partner of J.P. Morgan

Oil painting, "Eagle Rock in Manchester, Massachusetts", by Ernest Wadsworth Longfellow, brother of the famous American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Four Watercolor Scenes, by A. Lassell Ripley, on either side of front door depict quail hunting on the Savannah River family property known as Groton Plantation.

DRAWING ROOM

The outstanding architectural feature of these rooms is the elaborate Rococo doorway between this room and the dining room. When the renovations were being made in 1937 by the Hertz family, they removed this elegant door from their former home on Wentworth Street (across from Grace Church). This may be one of the few interior changes made when they "colonialized" their new home.

Splendid yellow silk curtains are a fine foil for the moldings and the upholstered pieces. Note the simple but effective design of the mantel and ceiling moldings, simulated gougework with alternate oval medallions.

Sofa, Chippendale style

Two small Side Tables, mahogany, family pieces

Ceramic pieces, on mantel, including a pair of covered urns and the "vegetables"

Side chairs, 18th century, Chippendale style

Portrait, "Governor John Winthrop (1588-1644)", first governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Artist unknown

Painting, "Landscape - Country scene", W.L. Pinknell, a New England artist and forerunner of the Impressionists

Small French porcelain-lidded boxes, on the table

Oil Painting, narrow and rectangular, Vietnamese artist, Le Pho, depicting a vase of lovely blooms

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### DINING ROOM

Table, three-pedestal, relate to the American Federal designs, fashionable at the end of the 18th century  
Side and Arm Chairs, with ladderbacks, relate to American Federal designs fashionable at the end of the 18th cen.  
Sideboard, Hepplewhite style, same period  
Pair of 2-branch ormolu and crystal candelabra  
Glass animals, an American collection, many Steuben crystal  
Large portrait, "Owner's grandmother", end of the 19th century  
Landscape "Cows", William Brown, giltwood frame  
Pair of Porcelain Lambs, English, on the corner mantel shelf  
Silver urn, Classical style, on the corner mantel shelf  
Painting, "Still Life - Bouquet of flowers", in the Low Country (Dutch) tradition  
Portrait, Grenville Winthrop, painted in the style of a Rembrandt Dutch burgomaster. His art collection became the basis of the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University

### FAMILY DEN

Room also has corner mantel. Note the dark green walls.

Two elephant paintings, "Tsaro Waterhole " and "Elephant Sketches" by David Shepherd  
Zebra skin rug fits into the wildlife mode  
Arm Chair, Regency style  
Double Pedestal Desk, robustly carved trim  
Windsor Chair, 3 wide splats instead of the usual series of narrow spindles  
Four Paintings, "Watercolor Scenes", Western Indian, on far wall  
Wall clock, c. 1810, like those by Simon Willard of Roxbury, Mass., ornamental painted panels, trimmed with a pair of expertly fashioned curved brass pieces and eagle finial.