



THE ELDREDGE HOUSE

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In 1773, John Reynolds built a house that is now known as the Eldredge House. It was originally owned by Nathan and Daniel Greene, two founding fathers of East Greenwich. In 1816, Charles Eldredge bought the house. He came to East Greenwich to take over for Dr. Tibbetts in 1810 and became very attached to the town. He lived in this home until he died in 1838. When he died, his son, James Henry Eldredge, had the house passed down to him. James, like his father, was a popular physician in our town. He was also a member of the School Committee for forty years and President for twenty of those years. James was the founder of the Rhode Island Medical Society and was an excellent writer. He recorded lots of important information about East Greenwich and made a

manuscript, which is now in the Varnum House Museum. James H. Eldredge was on the Town Council and was state Senator from 1887-1888.

The Eldredge House stands at 28 Division Street and is one of the oldest houses still standing in East Greenwich. It was built at the site of the first tannery in our town. The Eldredge House is a square colonial with white shingles, black shutters, and tons of windows. James H. Eldredge used the basement of the house as an office for his sick patients. In fact, there is a Greek inscription on the stone wall in front of the house which says, "I was sick and you visited me". Patients could come to the Eldredge House, but the Eldredge's would often ride their horses to the patient's house if there was an emergency.

Eldredge School is located on First Avenue and was named after James H. Eldredge because of all the hard work he did for our town. It is a large, rectangular, red brick building with many windows. The classrooms are spacious with hardwood floors and it has three levels. The school used to teach grades kindergarten through sixth grade, but now teaches third through fifth.

The Eldredge house has changed very little over the past two hundred years. How wonderful to have such a historic building still standing in our community!