

Historic Salem Incorporated

OFFICE AT OLD TOWN HALL

POST OFFICE BOX 865 SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS 01970 / PHONE (617) 745-0799

12 Osgood Street

Built for

THADDEUS GWINN, ropemaker

in 1806

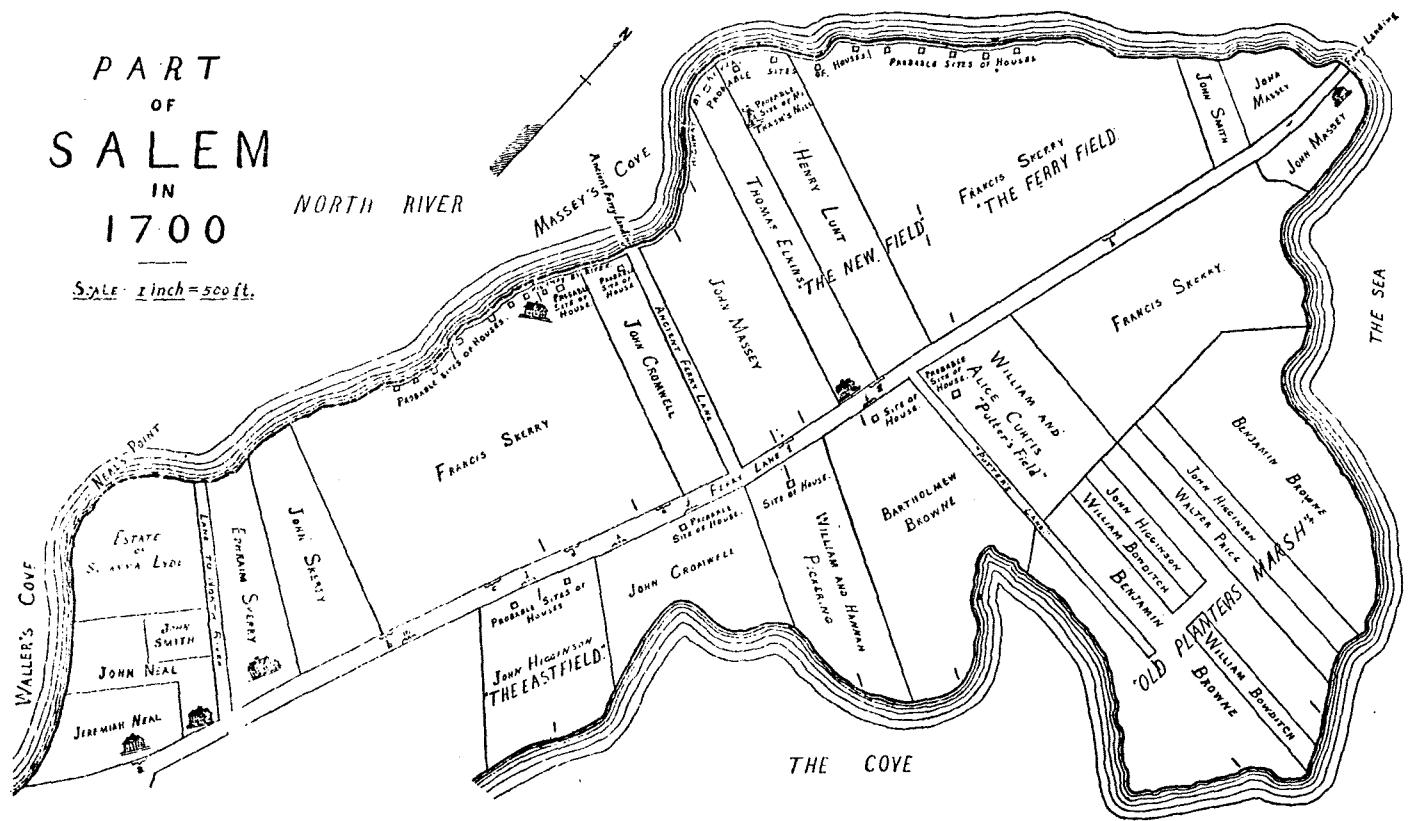
moved to this site in 1876

Research by,
Joyce King
June 1982

*"to preserve Historic Sites, Buildings and objects,
and to work for the education of the community
in the true value of the same."*

12 Osgood Street

This house was built, in 1806, on land now known as 53 Bridge St. That land, along with the land where the house now stands, were part of a large parcel called the Bartholmew Browne Lot:



Bartholmew Browne Lot. That part of this lot lying east of the dashes was owned very early by Joseph Young, and he lived in the house that stood upon it as early as 1641. Samuel Ebourne, sr., aged about eighty-seven, Lt. Nathaniel Felton, sr., aged about eighty-two, and John Massey, sr., aged about sixty-six, all of Salem, testified, June 7, 1697, "that y^e Lot of land now in y^e Pofsefsion of Bartholmew Browne lying on y^e lane that leadeth to planters marsh was formerly y^e Land of one m^r young & that there was Erected & Standing on y^e vpper Side of Land next to m^r Geffard's Land a dwelling house in which y^e Said m^r young did lue before y^e yeare One thousand Six hundred Sixty & one."* John Robinson of Salem, tailor, subsequently owned the lot; and, for thirty-eight pounds, conveyed it (the house being gone) to Bartholmew Browne of Salem, chemist, Nov. 8, 1694.†

That part of this lot which lies west of the dashes was in the improvement of Gervasse Garford 23: 11: 1636, when the town voted that "for as much as m^r Gervas Garford hath built a Cowhouse & impaled a portion of ground neere his dwelling howse vpon the Townes Comon to the hindering of it from receauing of an other inhabitant That beinge a place fit for a dwelling house & also it beinge an act not onely done w^{ith}out order or warrant from the Towne but rather ageanst order & warneing. It is therfor agreed That the said m^r Garford shall pay to the Towne twentie shillings fine: & that he pay annually the Rent of Tenn shillings vpon demande so longe as

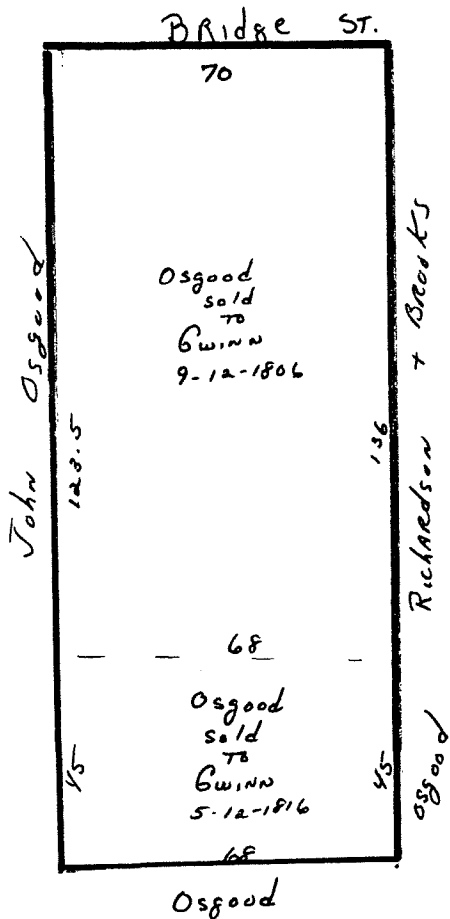
the sd. cowhouse and impaleing so remaine vpon the said Comon, vpon demand." Mr. Garford continued to occupy the lot vntil shortly before 6: 1 mo: 1653-4, when the town "Granted to John Browne all that land inclosed as well medow as vpland wch was latelie in the possession of mr Garford to all intents and purposes to him and his heyres for euer." Mr. Browne died in 1685, having devised it to his grandson Bartholmew Browne. By agreement between widow Hannah Swinnerton (daughter of Henry Bartholmew, and widow of James Browne, father of said Bartholmew Browne) and her children by her former husband, James Browne, this lot was assigned to the son Bartholmew Browne Sept. 15, 1694.* Bartholmew Browne owned the lot until after 1700.

"That portion of Bridge street lying between Winter and Planters street is substantially in the same location as the old road was in the colonial days. It is probably the first road in Salem, and was undoubtedly used by the old planters before Endecott came_____."

"It was called the Lane in 1657; ye common country road, 1680; common lane towards Bass River ferry, 1680; ye highway which leadeth down to Beverly ferry, 1695; Ferry lane, 1702; ye country road or highway to ye north ferry, 1704; highway leading from Salem common to Essex bridge, 1791; and Bridge street, formerly Ferry lane, 1795." (Essex Antiquarian, vol. 8 pg. 152)

In March of 1806 Thaddeus Gwinn (1763-1829), a well established ropemaker, removed his ropewalk from Williams St. to a lot which he purchased from John Osgood on the north side of Bridge St. Salem and the Indies, by James Duncan Phillips describes a ropewalk as "a long building as long as the longest rope desired, and for long cables this meant something like two hundred and eighty yards (740'); thus a ropewalk was a conspicuous object in the landscape. They also had to be straight. In the earlier days they had been shorter, but increased with the size of ships." (Mystic Seaport Museum has an excellent exhibit on the art of ropemaking)

In September of 1806 Mr. Gwinn purchased the lot of land directly opposite his new ropewalk on Bridge St. It was on this lot that the house now known as 12 Osgood St. was built:



(book 180 page 23)

Thaddeus sold his house on Williams St. and moved into the new house with his wife, Mercy (Beadle), and their seven children. The tax records show an increase in Mr. Gwinn's valuation:

1806	house and ropewalk	\$1,800
1807	house and ropewalk	2,000

Mercy Gwinn died on Oct. 18, 1819 at the age of 54. Four months later, on Feb. 13, 1820, Thaddeus married Widow Mary Brown.

4.

On Jan. 22, 1822 Thaddeus Gwinn sold his property for \$2,000 to his stepson, Joseph Ropes Brown. This included the dwelling house, barn and outbuildings on the south side of Bridge St. also the ropewalk on the north side. The property was still subject to a mortgage and several notes to Capt. Joseph White for a total of \$1,800. (book 228 page 94)

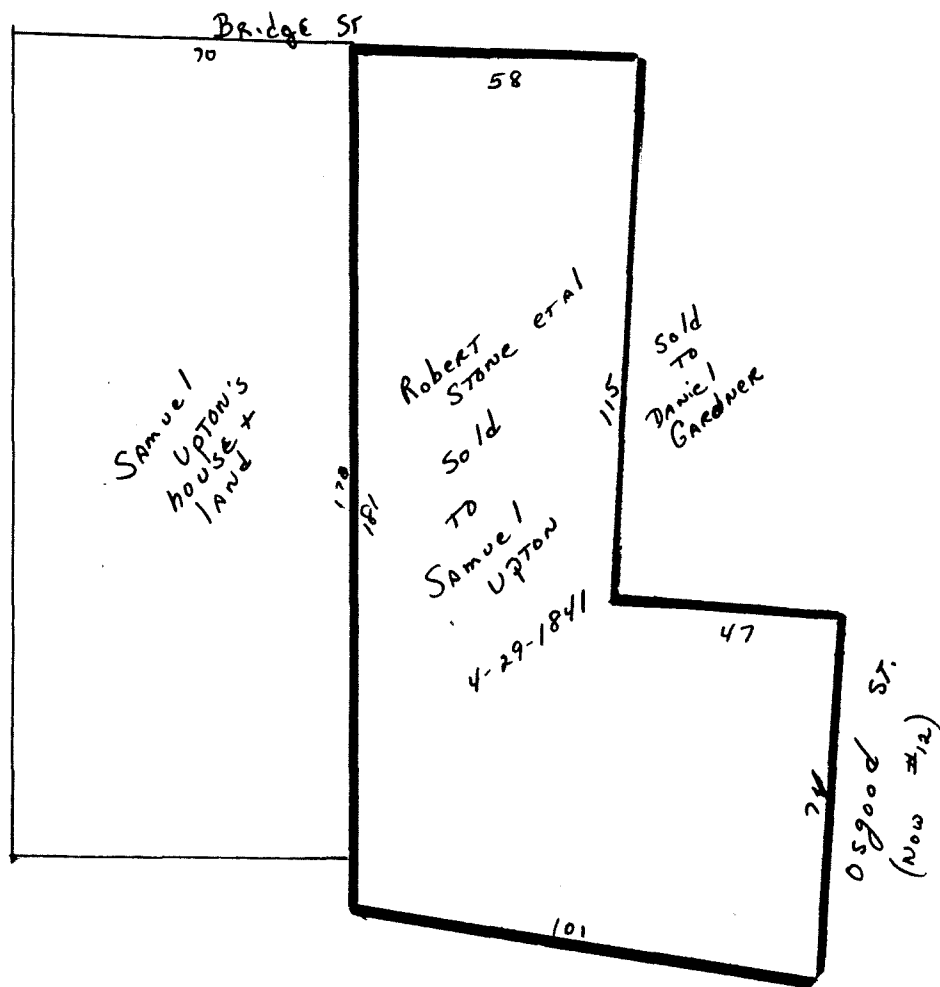
Evidently the Gwinn and Brown families had financial difficulties and were unable to pay the outstanding mortgages. Joseph Ropes Brown was forced to transfer all his rights in the property back to Thaddeus on July 3, 1823. Thaddeus then sold to Joseph White "my dwelling house and outbuildings on Bridge St. where I now dwell. Being the same land which I purchased of John Osgood in 1806, book 180 page 23 and in 1816 book 224 page 28. The buildings have been erected by me since I purchased the land." (book 233 page 185)

On Aug. 1, 1823 Joseph White, merchant, sold to Samuel Upton, mariner, "the lot of land on Bridge St. and dwelling house and all other buildings which was lately conveyed to me by Thaddeus Gwinn." (book 233 page 191) (On April 7, 1830 Capt. White became the victim of the most sensational murder of the nineteenth century. Thaddeus was not a suspect, for he had the best of alibis, he died on May 10, 1829 at the age of 66 from "chronic inflammation of ye liver".)

Captain Samuel Upton was the son of Paul and Rebecca (Peirce) Upton born on Dec. 6, 1791. He married Mary R. Fabens on Jan. 22, 1818. The couple moved into the Bridge St. house with their son Samuel F., then age 2.

Seven additional children were born to the couple viz: Paul (1827), William F. (1831), Charles H. (1833), Horace (1839), Harriet M. (1842) Rebecca (1844) and Mary R. (1846).

Capt. Upton added on to his real estate, on April 29, 1841, with the purchase of the adjoining parcel of land:



(book 324 page 197)

The 1850 census gives a closer look at the Upton family:

Samuel Upton	age 54	master mariner	born Mass.
Mary	" 47		" "
Paul	" 23		" "
William	" 19		" "
Charles	" 17		" "
Horace	" 11		" "
Harriet	" 8		" "

(The two youngest daughters, Rebecca and Mary, apparently died young)

Samuel Upton died on Oct. 24, 1851. This simple obituary notice was printed in the Salem Register:

Deaths
 Friday Capt. Samuel Upton aged 58.

Mary continued to live in the house, then number 39 Bridge St., as indicated in the 1860 census:

Mary F. Upton	age 54		born Mass.
Charles	" 24	mariner	" "
Horace	" 20	currier apprentice	" "
Harriet	" 17		" "

The house was taxed as follows:

39 Bridge St.

	<u>occupants</u> (males over 18)	<u>owner</u>
1860	William F. Upton	Estate of Samuel Upton ½ tax \$1,000
1863	Charles H. Upton, at sea Horace G. " (Mary R.F. Upton died on June 4, 1863)	Estate Samuel Upton ½ tax house \$800 land 800
1866	Eliphalet L. Patterson age 52 Horace G. Upton " 27	Estate of Samuel Upton 24,840 sq. ft. land \$900 house 800 barn 100

The property was put up for auction on May 4, 1869 in order to settle the estate. This ad appeared in the Salem Register on April 3, 1869:

Guardian's Sale of Valuable Real Estate in Bridge St.

On Tues. May 4th, at 12 o'clock AM will be sold by order of probate court:

One undivided sixth part of that valuable estate known as the Upton Estate situated on Bridge and Osgood streets, and described as follows viz:

A certain piece of land with a dwelling house and barn thereon, situated on Bridge St. in said Salem, and bound northwest by said street, east by Osgood St., southeast by land of Paul Upton and northeast by land of Tracy - for a more particular description of the same reference being had to a deed of Joseph White, dated the 1st day of Aug. 1823, and recorded in the register of deeds book 233 page 191, and to a deed of Robert Stone, dated 29th day of April 1841, and recorded in said register book 324 page 197. Said minor being seized of 1/6 of the said piece of land with said building thereon, which was formerly owned and occupied by his grandfather Samuel Upton, dec.

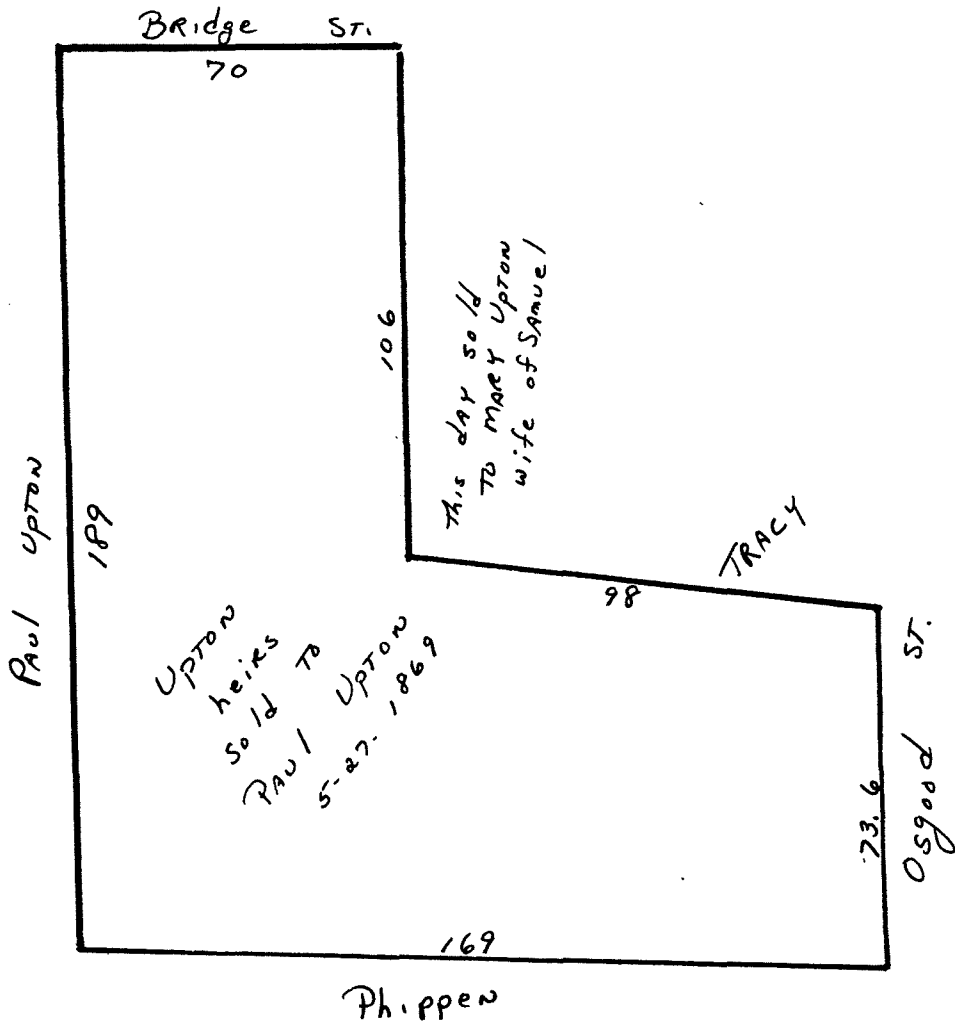
Sophronia P. Upton, guardian

Also at the same time and place will be sold the remaining 5/6 of said estate.

Terms easy and made known at the sale.

On May 27, 1869 Samuel F. Upton, of Chelsea; Charels H. Upton; Horace G. Upton; Harriet G. Howard, wife of William; and Sophronia L. Upton guardian of William P. Upton minor child of William F. Upton sold the

land and dwelling house "part of the estate owned and occupied by Samuel Upton dec." to their brother Paul Upton:



(book 774 page 231)

Paul Upton immediately mortgaged the same to the Salem Savings Bank for the sum of \$2,000. (book 774 page 233)

Mr. Upton did not live in the house but leased it out as an investment:
occupants (males over 18) owner

1871

James N. Skinner, cigar manufacturer
 Joseph Chipman, teamster
 James Kenney, teamster
 John Lovett
 William Dodge

Paul Upton house \$1,500
 land 1,100
 barn 100

<u>occupants</u>			<u>owner</u>		
1874	George B. Larrabee	age 50	Paul Upton	house	\$1,800
	Cornelius	" 54		land	1,500
	Cornelius	" 29		barn	100
	James	" 23			
	Alfred	" 19			

The documentation showing that this house was moved appears in the valuation books stored at City Hall. These books list both the real and personal estate of Paul Upton for the year 1876:

- residence - 3 Hamilton St.
- personal estate - shipping \$300,000
- real estate - house 43 Bridge St. \$1,800
- house 39 Bridge St. (a notation in blue pencil states "moved to Osgood St.")
- barn \$100
- (also written in blue pencil - 1 & r Osgood St. \$2,500)

This move is substantiated by the tax records which indicate that although the house was moved to the even numbered side of the street, it was assigned the odd number one. (The number 12 was used for the first time in 1894 when the entire street was renumbered.)

1877	39 Bridge St.	barn	\$100	owner	Paul Upton	
	1 Osgood St.	empty		"	"	\$1,500
	1R Osgood St.	"		"	"	600

1878	1 Osgood St.			owner	Paul Upton
	Richard Collins	age 32			
	George O. Stephens	age 29			

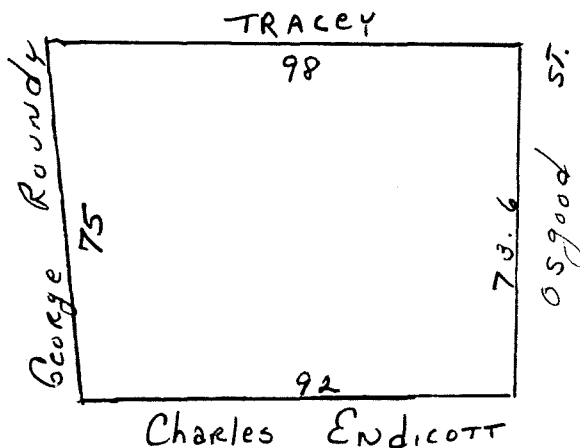
1879	1 Osgood St.			owner	Paul Upton
	William Shatswell	age 50			
	Nathaniel	" 21			

The 1880 census:

William Chastwell	age	51	works in morocco(a type of leather)	born	Mass
Mary	"	49	wife keeps house	"	"
Mary	"	25	daughter works in shop	"	"
Nathaniel	"	22	son turner	"	"
James	"	16	son works in morocco	"	"
2nd family					
George Ferguson	"	37	carpenter	"	Me.
Sarah	"	33	wife keeps house	"	"
Hardie	"	11	son at school	"	Mass.
George	"	8	son at school	"	"
Clementine	"	2	daughter	"	"

In June of 1880 the Salem Savings Bank took possession of the property for breach of mortgage. William Shatswell remained as a tenant under the bank's ownership. The Ferguson family moved by 1882 and Alfred R. Perkins and family took up residence in this house.

On March 17, 1884 the Salem Savings Bank sold the property to George A. Neal for the sum of \$2,000. Being part of the premises conveyed in the mortgage recorded in book 974 page 200:



The tax records for 1885 confirm the change in ownership:

1 Osgood St.				
	<u>occupants</u>		<u>owner</u>	
William Shatswell	age 56		George A. Neal	house \$1,000
Alfred Perkins	" 64			land 600
Charles	" 19			

1887 shows a change in occupancy:

1 Osgood St.	
Alfred Perkins	age 66 (carpenter at the B&M car shop)
Eben	" 21
Alfred	" 29
Clarence D. Crowell	37 (yard foreman at B&M car shop)

George A. Neal sold the property to Edmund and Katherine Heffernan on June 1, 1892 for the sum of \$2,100. (book 1344 page 55)

The 1900 census shows a very full household:

Edmund Heffernan	age 62	laborer	born Ire.	came to U.S.A. in 1880
Katherine	" 60		" "	" " "
Eliza	" 26	sticher	" "	" " "
Margaret	" 24	bookkeeper	" "	" " "
2nd family				
M. Pelliter	" 22	teamster	Canada	" " "
Sylvia	" 25		Mass.	
Mary H.	" 5		" "	
Arthur	" 2		" "	
3rd family				
John Stacy	" 30	shoemaker	Mass.	
Emma	" 24		" "	
Amelia	" 7		" "	
John W.	" 5		" "	
George	" 4		" "	
Emma	" 2		" "	
Ray	" 9 months		" "	

Edmund Heffernan died on May 15, 1900. This simple obituary appeared in the Salem News:

"Edmund Heffernan died at his residence 12 Osgood St., yesterday afternoon. He had been a resident of Salem for many years and he leaves a family."

Katherine Heffernan transferred the title to the property, on Feb. 11, 1909, to her daughter Margaret T. Heffernan. (book 1955 page 34)

Margaret T. Heffernan died in 1921. Her real estate was listed as:

12 Osgood St.	\$3,000
35 Daniels St.	2,600

(probate #140437)

The heirs of Margaret Heffernan conveyed the property to Elizabeth F. Downey on August 13, 1926. (book 2736 pages 28, 29 & 30)

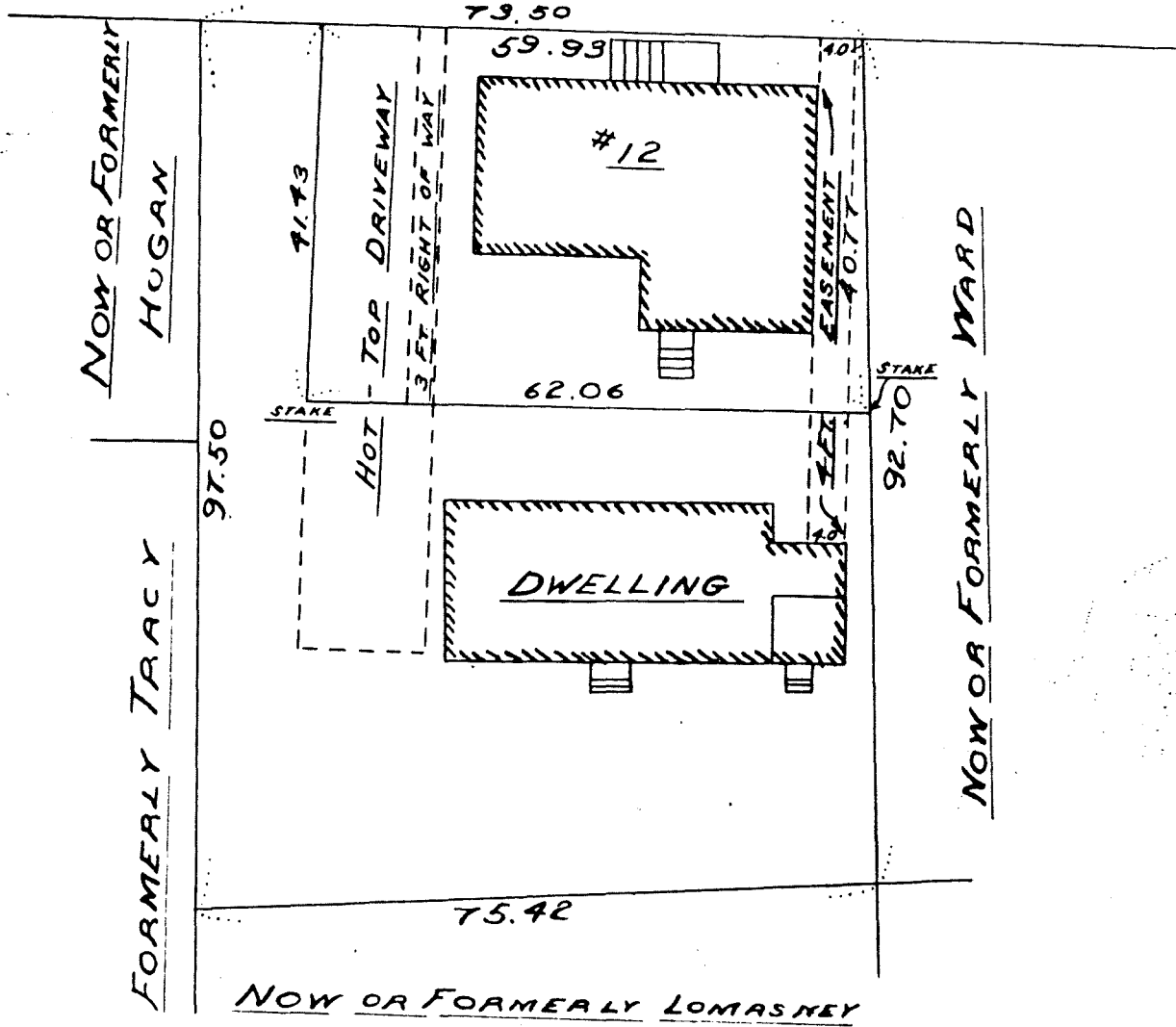
On April 1, 1929 James J. Downey and his wife Elizabeth F., in her own right, sold the same premises conveyed to Elizabeth Downey to John Nowak. (book 2791 page 50)

On Oct. 6, 1945 Lillian P. and John Nowak, other wise known as John Gardiasz, sold the property to Joseph O. LeBlanc. (book 3425 page 498) Joseph O. LeBlanc then transferred the title back to John and Lillian Gardiasz.

On Sept. 22, 1955 Lillian P. Gardiasz, widow of John, divided the property into two lots. The front lot containing the house #12 Osgood St. was sold to Elmer H. Warner, together with the following rights and easements:

1. A 3 foot right of way for purpose of a foot pass over the hot top drive way as shown on plan (page 13) near the N.W. bound running from Osgood St. to other land of the grantor.

2. A 4 foot easement for the purpose of laying and maintenance of sewer and water pipes on said plan along the S.E. bound on said plan running from Osgood St. and other land of grantor. Being a portion of the premises conveyed to John Gardiasz in 1945.



ESSEX REGISTRY OF DEEDS, SO. DIST. SALEM, MASS.

Received Sept. 22 1955 with Deed:
Lillian P. Gardiasz to
Elmer H. Warner

Rec B 4207 P. 12 Filed as No. 737 1955

Attest: A Franklin Priest.

Registrar of Deeds

PLAN OF LAND
IN

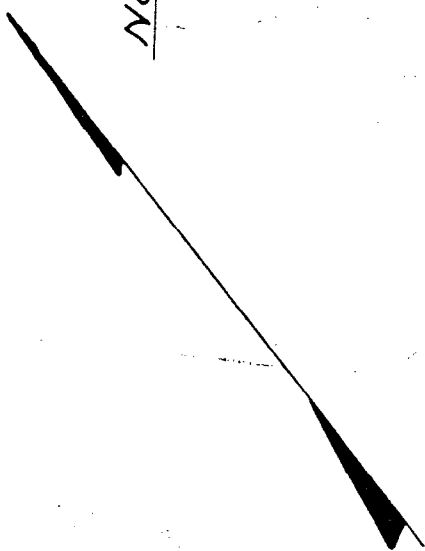
SALEM, MASS.

BELONGING TO

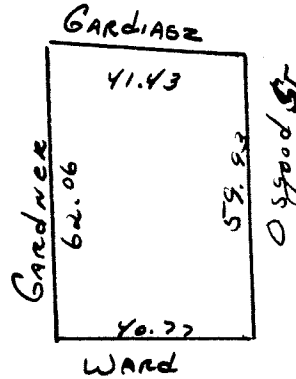
LILLIAN GARDIASZ

SCALE 1 IN. = 20 FT. AUGUST 1955

GARDEN CITY ENGINEERING



Jan. 4, 1956 Elmer H. Warner sold the property to Charles V. and Alice Boyson. "The same conveyed by deed of Lillian Gardiasz."



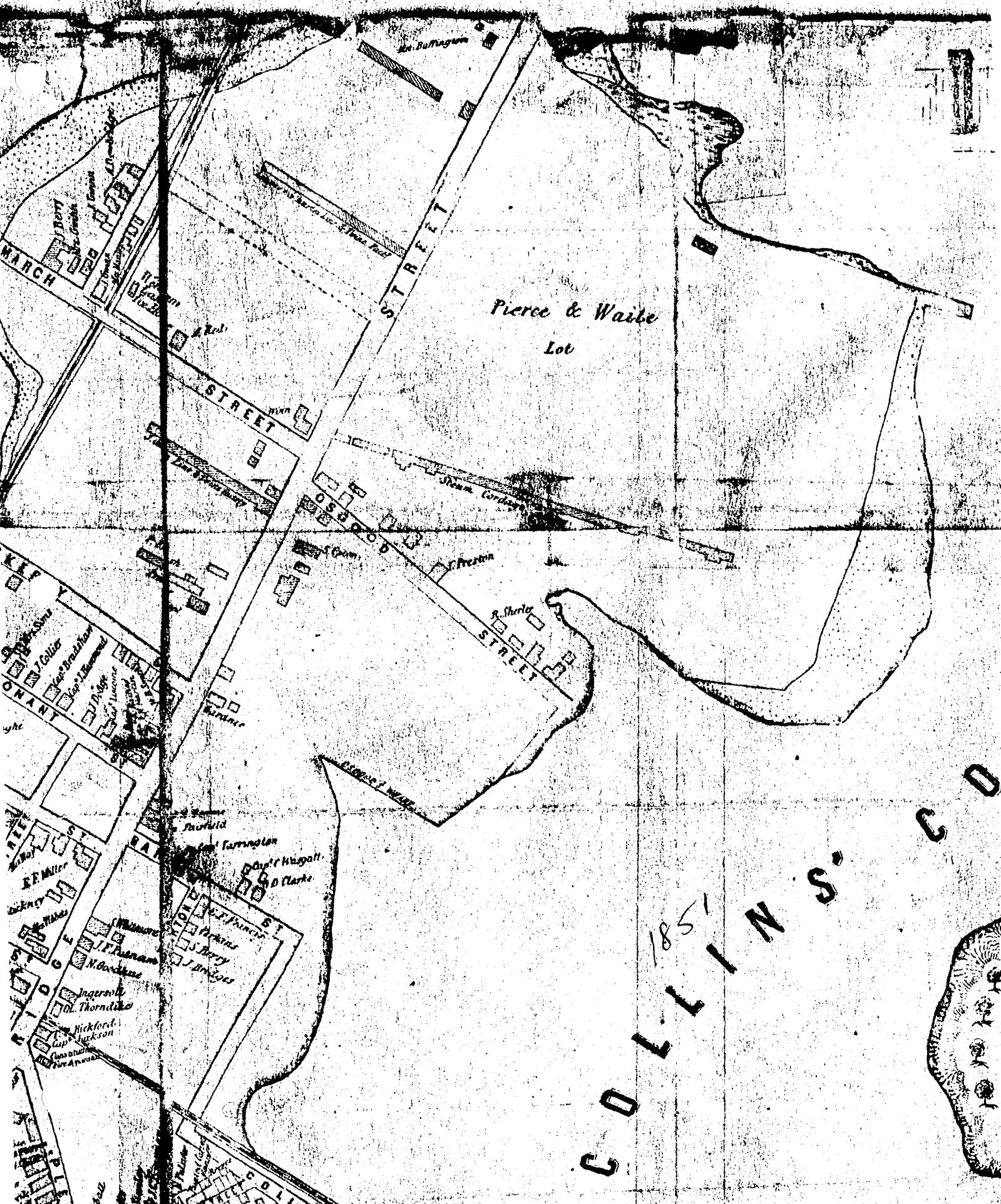
(book 4238 page 317)

Oct. 4, 1965 Charles V. and Alice A. Boyson, husband and wife, sold the land and building to Jennie R. Tansey. "The same conveyed by Elmer H. Warner on Jan. 4, 1956." (book 5307 page 218)

June 5, 1973 Jennie R. Tansey sold the property to Kenneth S. and Valerie Bliss. "The same conveyed by deed of Charles Boyson et ux on Oct. 4, 1965." (book 5980 page 637)

Aug. 4, 1981 Kenneth S. and Valerie A. Bliss sold 12 Osgood St. to Edward & Gina Zaikowski. "The same conveyed to Kenneth and Valerie Bliss on June 5, 1973." (book 6847 page 478)

Note: Reference to book and page are deed books at the Registry of Deeds. Probate numbers are cases at Probate Court. Both offices are located in the same building on Federal St. All maps in this report are not meant to be exact, just for illustration purposes.

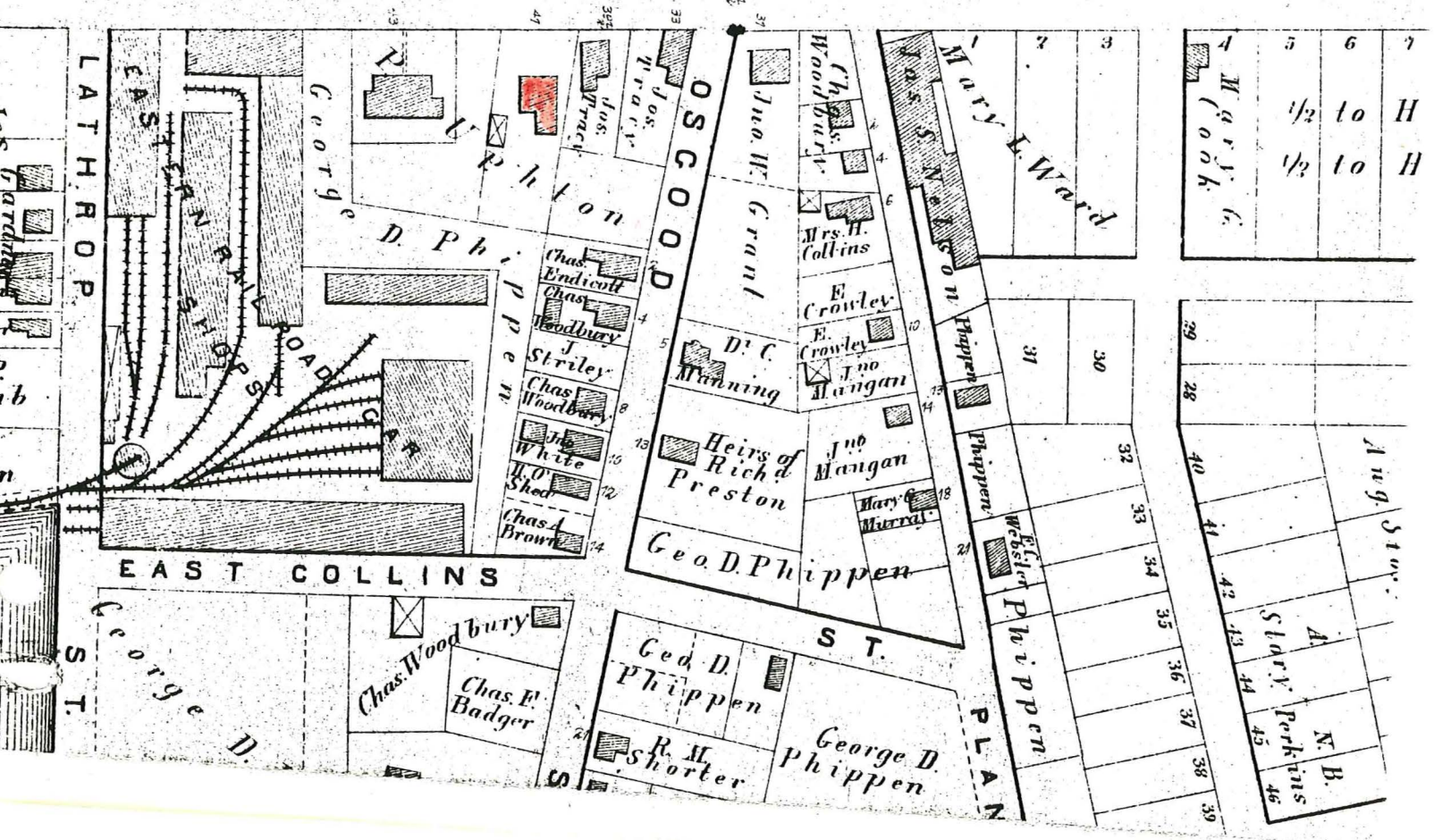
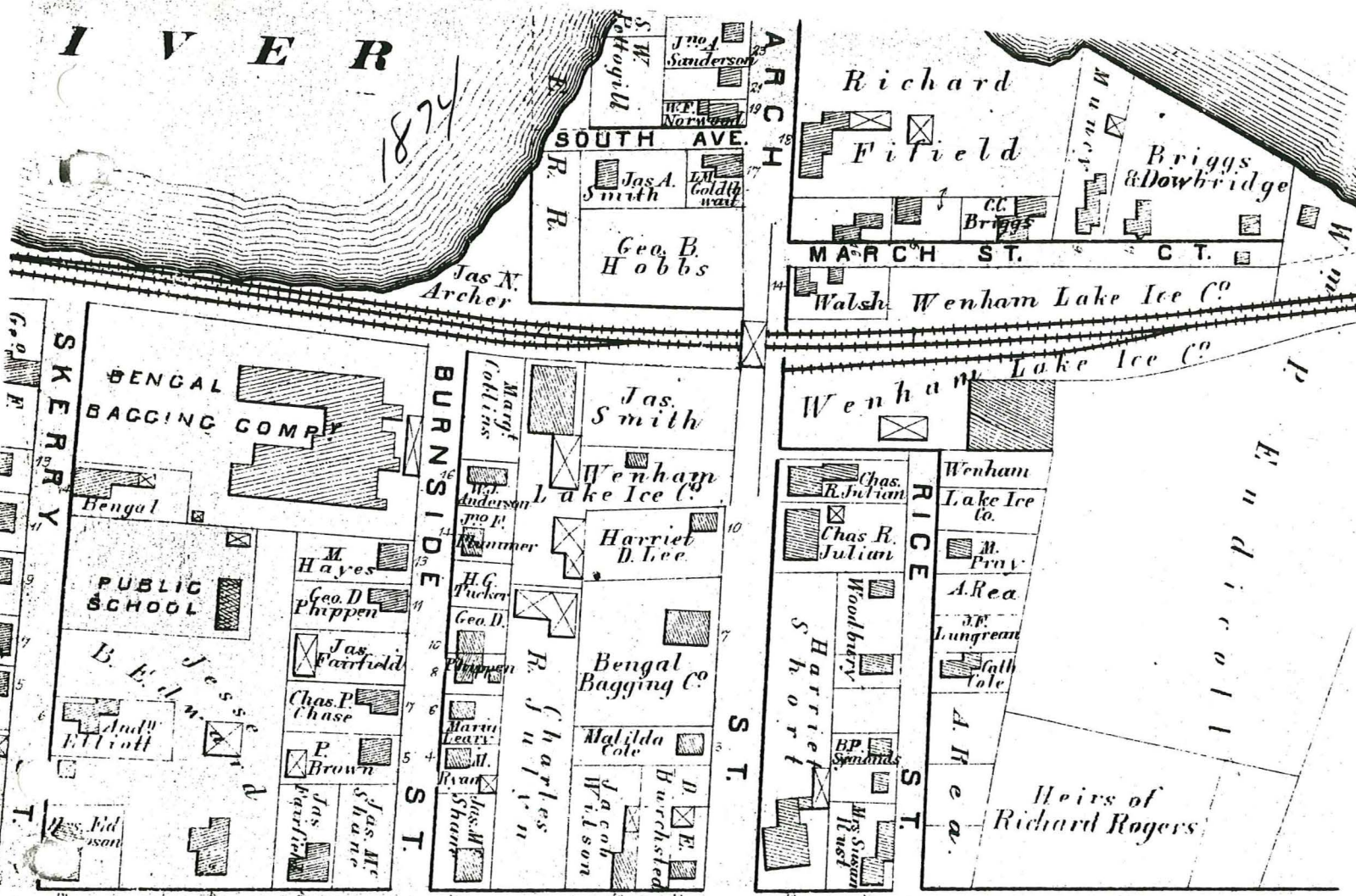


Pierce & Waite
Lot

1851
COLLINS S. CO

I V E R

1872



4	5	6	7
Mary E. Ward	1/2 to H	1/2 to H	

29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46				
		Aug. Stov...	A. Slary	Perkins	N. B.					

COTT EST

R S ROGERS

FERRY

LYNN & BOSTON R R CO

HANNAN SHORT

JAS L WARD

J WARD

JOHN W GRANT

W D LEE
R D JORDAN
M L LEWIS ET AL
C W JULYN
R COLLINS EST

D S GOOD

GEO D STEVENS

GEO D PHIPPEN EST

G D PHIPPEN EST

CROMWELL ST

PASS CAR SHOP

REPAIR SHOP

REPAIR SHOP

REPAIR SHOP

LEATHROP

J A TADD

G A AYERHARD

M MURRAY

J P SOMERY

BEACON

SCHOLAR

STICHERNEY

STICHERNEY & S VERY EST

GODDELL

J A

W A

PLANTERS

HOGAN

JOS TRACY

F PETERMAN

GEO D PHIPPEN EST

G D PHIPPEN EST

G D PHIPPEN EST

CROMWELL ST

PASS CAR SHOP

REPAIR SHOP

REPAIR SHOP

REPAIR SHOP

LEATHROP

J A TADD

G A AYERHARD

M MURRAY

J P SOMERY

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