

OFFICE AT OLD TOWN HALL

# Historic Salem Incorporated

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

21 Lemon Street

Built for

SAMUEL SAWYER, teamster

in 1810

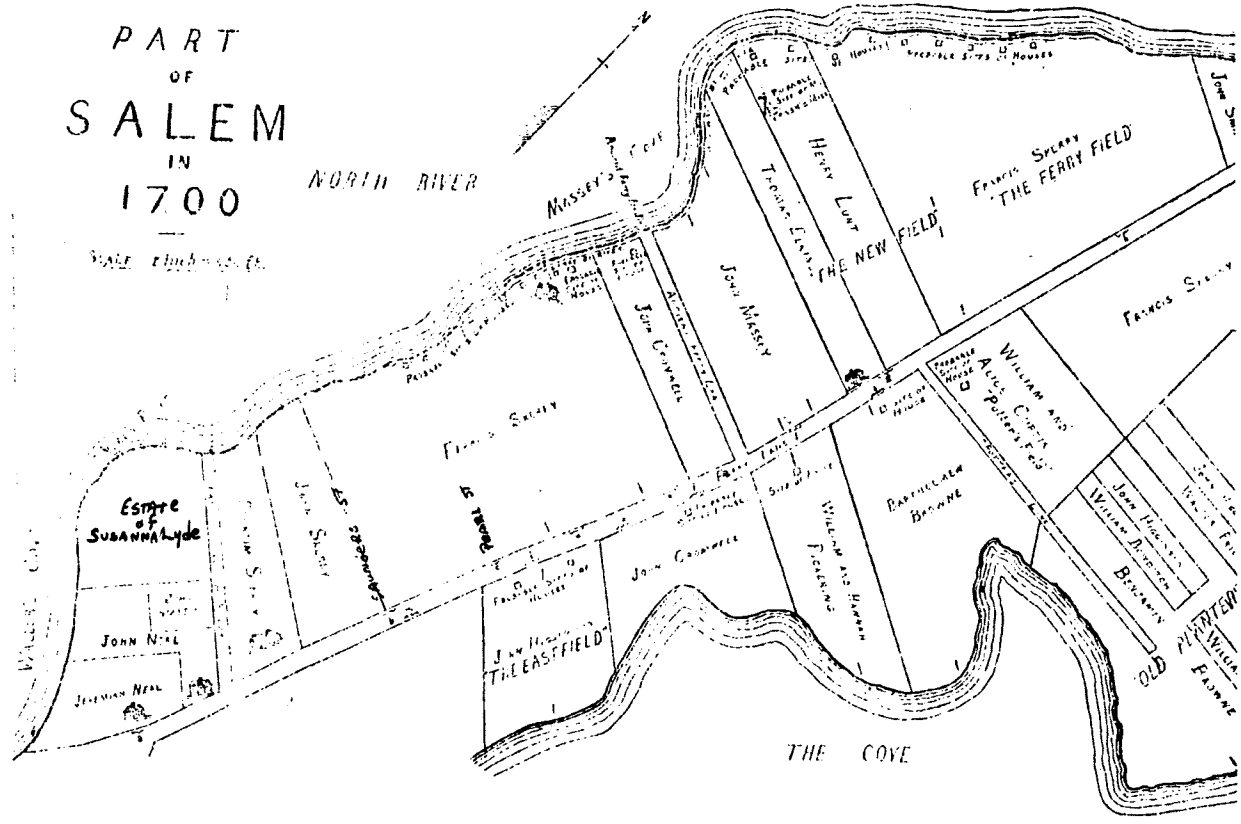
Research by,  
Joyce King  
March 1982

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

21 Lemon Street

"Lemon street was one of the ancient highways laid out from the main street running through the town to the water. It was called a lane or highway y<sup>t</sup> leads down to y<sup>e</sup> North river in 1670; Skerry's lane, 1693; the way leading to the North river, 1727; the way leading from the ferry lane to y<sup>e</sup> north river, 1744; Smith's lane, 1800; Water street, 1819; and Lemon street, 1843." (Essex Antiquarian, vol. 8, pg. 152)

The lot on which this house stands was a small portion of land owned by John Neal, and was devised by him in his will dated May 3, 1672, to his son Jeremiah Neal of Salem. Jeremiah conveyed the lot to Francis Nichols of Salem, on June 10, 1673. Mr. Nichols conveyed it to William Godsoe of Salem, on July 31, 1683. Apparently Mr. Godsoe immediately conveyed the lot to Capt. George Curwen of Salem, merchant; and Capt. Curwen died possessed of it in 1685. In the settlement of his estate it was assigned to his daughter Susanna Curwen, who married Edward Lyde of Boston in 1694, and died, childless, before October, 1696. Her heirs were her brother, Hon. Jonathan Curwen, her sisters, Abigail Russell and Hannah Brown, and her nephews, Samuel and Sheriff George Curwen. George died in 1696, leaving a son, Bartholmew Curwen. Jonathan Curwen, Abigail Russell, Hannah Brown, Samuel Curwen and Bartholmew Curwen were the owners of this lot in 1700. (Essex Antiquarian, vol. 8, pg. 156)

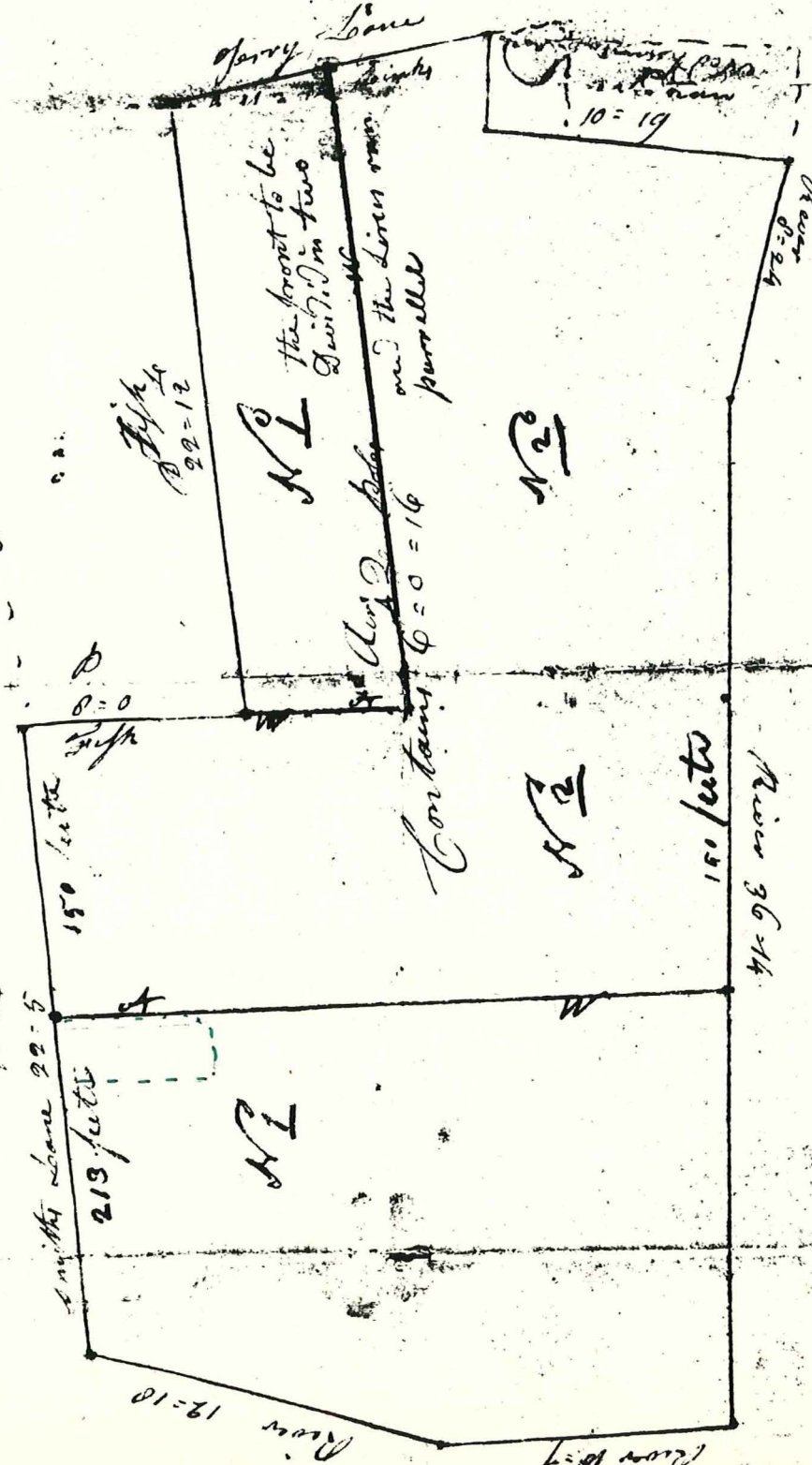


During the 1750's and 1760's David Northey, a member of the Quaker faith, purchased this property and the land adjoining. Friend Northey operated a windmill which was located at the foot of Northey St. In 1790, after the death of David Northey, a plan of his estate was drawn. The lots marked #1 were assigned to his son Ezra. Those marked #2 were assigned to his son Abijah:

1/2 901 696  
2 1/2 181812 251  
16 1/2 11 26  
91 358

This Plan was taken by  
Mr. Goyer

his plan be as those one of the lines  
marked might I am willing to show lots  
at now stand, he that shows N<sup>o</sup> 1 takes the two  
marked N<sup>o</sup>s then takes the two lots marked N<sup>o</sup> 2  
he that shows N<sup>o</sup> 2 shall have a Priviledge to get (buy at the end of the point to put on his Land  
this is agreeable send me word & I will meet you to settle the matter if words



22  
24  

---

46

23  
5  

---

115  
12  

---

127

BROKEN LINES  
INDICATE  
21 LEMON ST.  
LOCATION

16 1/2  

---

23 32879

14 1/2  

---

1267

16  

---

33  
726  

---

363197

16  

---

33  
21  

---

363197

10 6

22 = 5

150 feet

213 feet

12-10

Open Lane

River 36 1/4

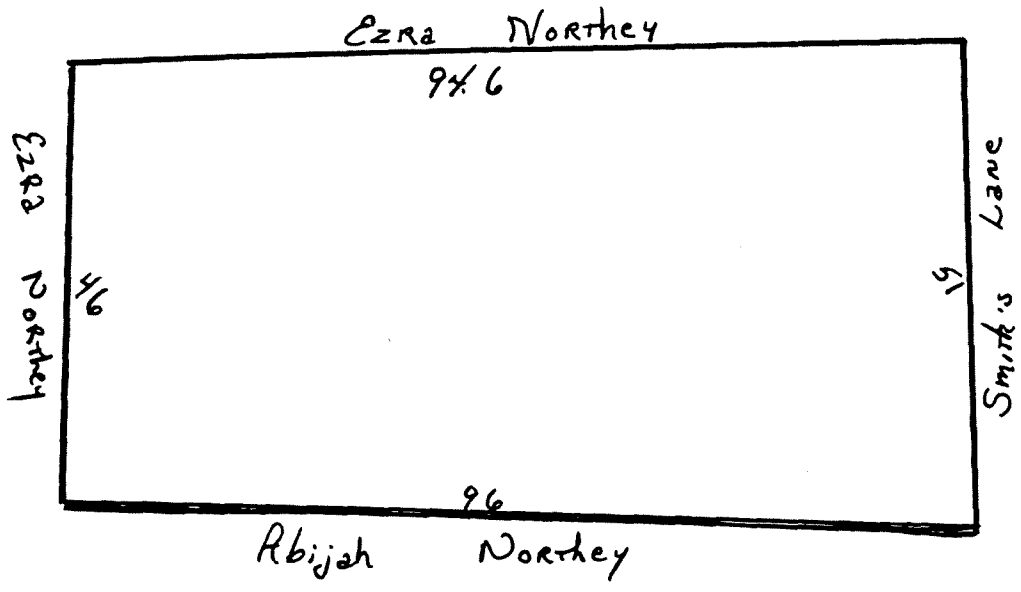
151 feet

Contains 6 = 0 = 16

River 24

10 = 19

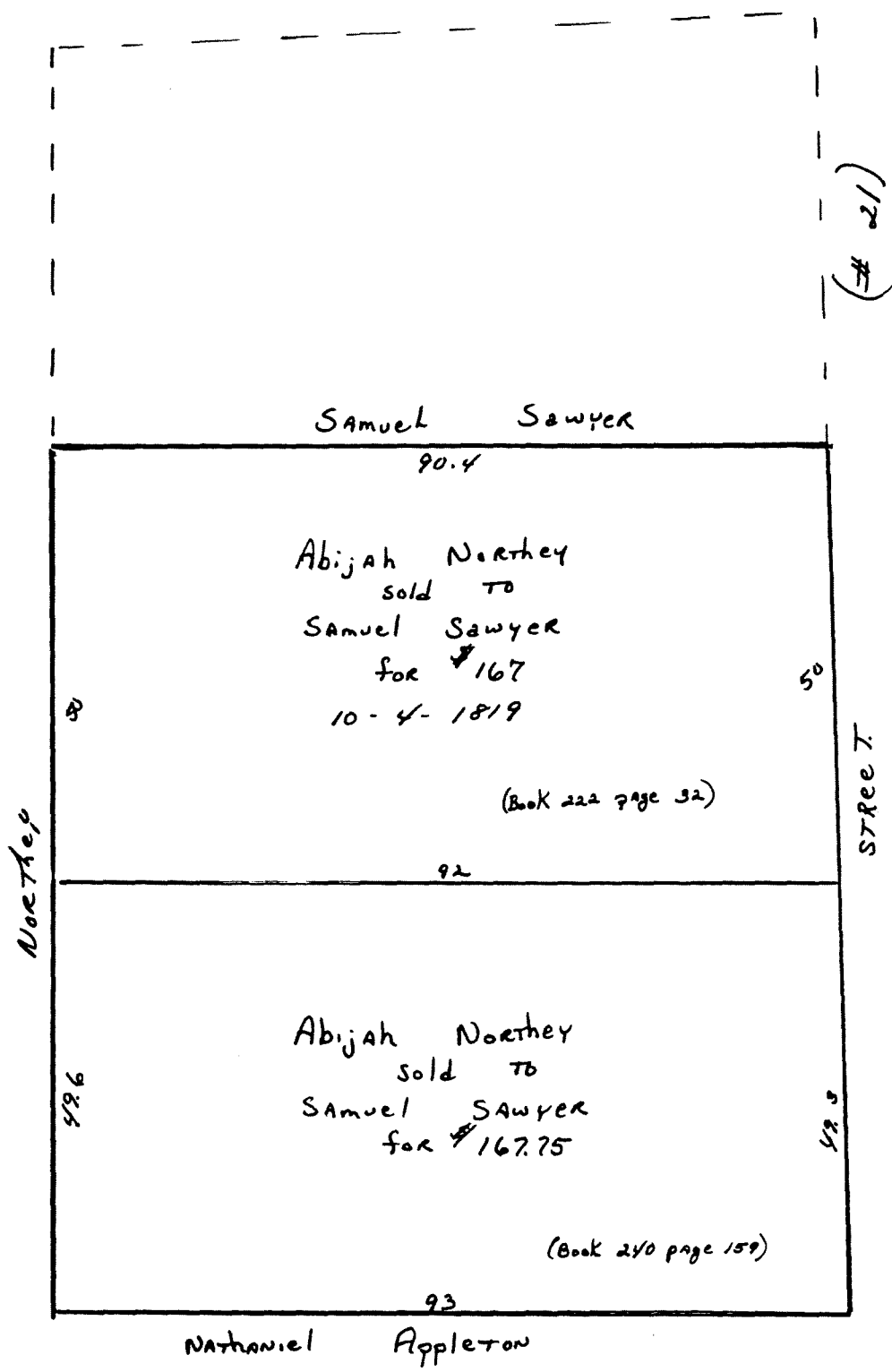
On May 20, 1810 Ezra Northey sold a parcel of land to Samuel Sawyer, teamster, for the sum of \$510. (book 190 page 61) On the same day Samuel Sawyer obtained a mortgage from the said Ezra Northey for the property described as land and buildings thereon for \$510. (book 190 page 61)



Since the first mention of a building is in the mortgage, but not noted in the deed (both made on the same day) it must be assumed that by some prior agreement Samuel Sawyer was allowed to start the building of his house before a registered transaction was made.

The year 1810 is also the time that Samuel Sawyer first appears on the tax rolls in Ward 2. Mr. Sawyer was then 29 years old having been married for 5½ years to Polly Lyttlefield of Kennebunk.

A few years later Samuel Sawyer purchased the adjoining lots from Abijah Northey:



6.

Evidently Samuel Sawyer needed cash on Dec. 20, 1826, for on this date he sold all his property to Thomas Perkins Pingree, a prominent Salem merchant, for the sum of \$1,500. "Being all the land which I purchased of Ezra Northey by deed May 26, 1810, book 190 page 61; of Abijah Northey Oct. 4, 1819, book 222 page 32; and from Abijah Northey on April 5, 1826, book 240 page 159. Saving that the north line is a little shortened by land taken therefrom to widen said street. Together with all buildings now standing thereon with all the erections, betterments, improvements and privileges on part of premises under a mortgage to Ezra Northey for \$300."

The Sawyers continued to live in the house under the ownership of Mr. Pingree until Samuel's death which occurred in 1840. The probate (#24910) of the estate mentions that "Mary, about 50 years of age, has been lame from gout for 3 years and has 1 child at home in her family." (inventory appendix A)

Mr. Pingree transferred the title of the property back to Mary Sawyer, widow of Samuel, on Feb. 17, 1840. "The same estate conveyed to me by Samuel Sawyer on Dec. 20, 1826." (book 325 page 14)

According to the Salem directories and the tax records this house, then numbered 15 Lemon St., was occupied by Widow Mary Sawyer plus two other families:

1844 - Thomas Laskey, Dudley Phipps  
1845 - Dudley Phipps  
1847 - Edward Rea, Christopher Dotey  
1848 - Edward Rea, Edward H. Rea

The federal census for the year 1850 gives a clear insight as to the occupants:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Born</u>
Mary Sawyer	63		Maine
2nd family			
Edward Rea	51	clerk	Mass.
Lois K. "	42		"
Edward H. "	22	tailor	"
3rd family			
William H. Kimball	39	blacksmith	"
Hannah "	36		"
William Otis "	14		"
John H. "	7		"
Emeline "	4		"

The Salem Street books (listing males only) show the tenants of #15 Lemon St.:

1851 - Edward Rea, Edward H. Rea, William H. Kimball  
 1852 - Edward Rea, Edward H. Rea, Samuel H. Lefavour  
 1853 - Samuel Lefavour, William Dodge  
 1854 - " " " "  
 1855 - " " " "

Mary Sawyer died in Jan. 1856. Her probate (#52785) names the administrator of the estate as Asa Sawyer of Readsborough, Vt.

Real estate - dwelling house and land Lemon St. valued at \$1,800  
 Personal estate - \$635

Elizabeth Perkins a daughter was the only heir listed. (inventory appendix B)

The tax records for 1856 verify the death of Mrs. Sawyer:

#15 Lemon - vacant estate of Mary Sawyer value \$1,500



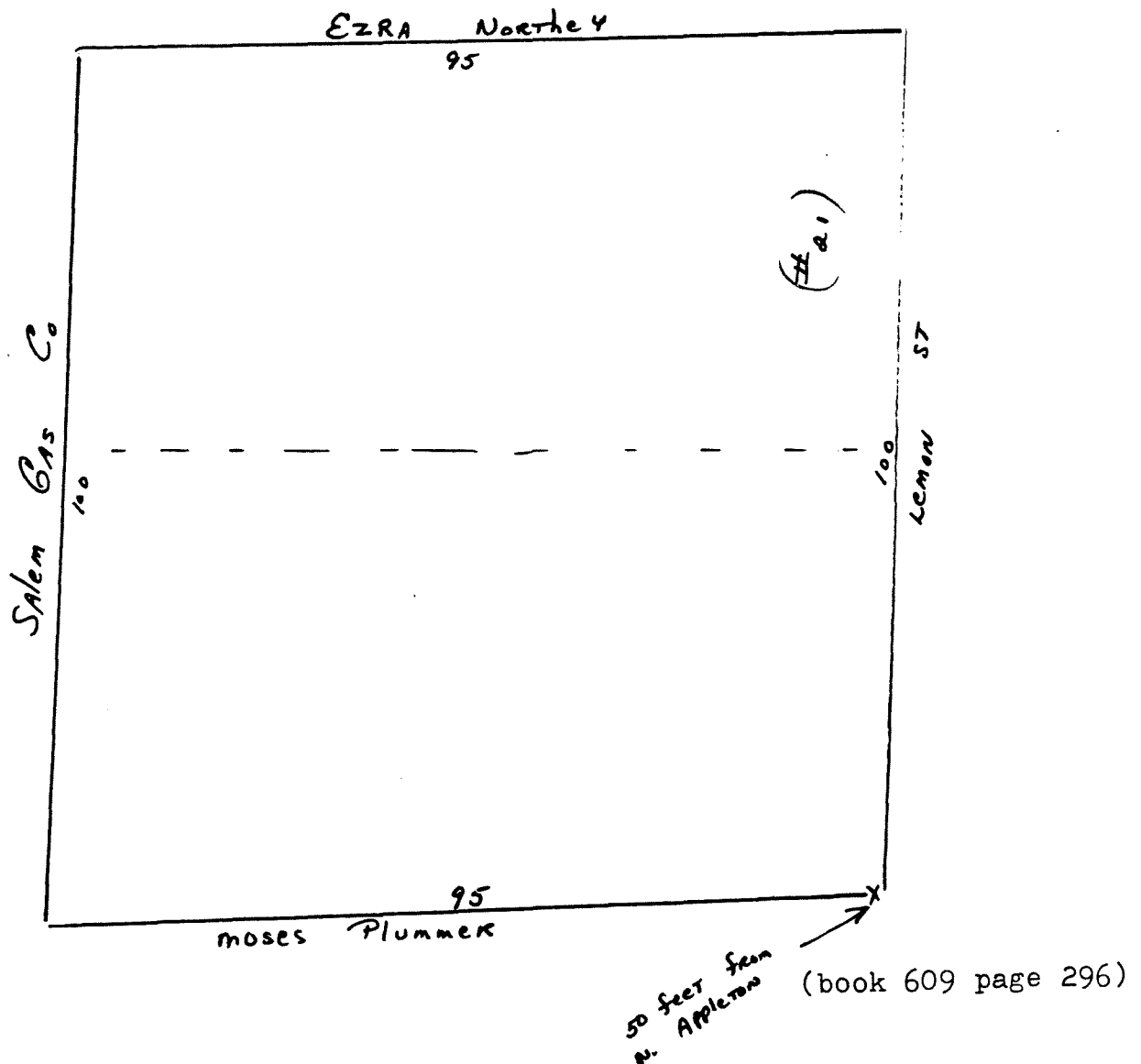
15 Lemon Street

1857 - owned by the estate of Mary Sawyer  
 Samuel Willey age 31 cabinetmaker  
 Daniel Lewis " 50 shoemaker  
 Timothy O'Leary " 28 tailor

1858 - Estate of Mary Sawyer - Asa Ward agent  
 Timothy O'Leary  
 Benjamin C. Sumner  
 Thomas Melzard  
 William H. Green

1859 - Patrick Carr  
 John Weston

On July 9, 1860 Asa A. Ward of Lynn sold to Bernard McShane "the land and dwelling house being a portion of the estate which Samuel Sawyer conveyed to Thomas Pingree on Dec. 20, 1826."



The street books verify the change in ownership to Mr. McShane and name his tenants:

- 15 Lemon Street
- 1861 Bernard McShane owner value \$1,200  
James McShane (during the 1860's James served as a sharpshooter in the Civil War. Later he kept an apothecary store on Bridge St.)
- 1862 Bernard McShane house \$600; land \$700 90 X 102  
James McShane
- 1863 Bernard McShane  
James McShane  
James Galagher  
Charles Teague
- 1868 Bernard McShane  
Ezra Glidden
- 1869 Bernard McShane house \$700; land \$500; barn \$100  
James McShane  
John Neville

In 1870 the occupants of 15 Lemon St. were listed in the census as:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Born</u>
Bernard McShane	60	laborer	Ire.
Mary Ann "	50	keeps house	"
John "	23	laborer	Nova Scotia
Sarah E. "	18	shoe stitcher	Mass.
2nd family			
Albert Townes	24	laborer on Railroad	Mass.
Lydia "	20	keeps house	N.Y.
Albert W. "	1	at home	Mass.
3rd family			
John Mahoney	29	blacksmith	Prince Ed. Is.
Mary "	27	keeps house	Ire.

The 1880 census shows a dwindled household:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Born</u>
Barney McShane	70		Ire.
Mary A. "	60	keeps house	"
Sarah "	27	at home	Mass.
James "	9	grandson at school	"
2nd family			
Dorcas Howard	68	keeps house	Maine

Bernard McShane died on March 9, 1881. In his probate (#66422) his heirs were listed as: Widow Mary A., son James McShane and daughter Sarah B. Roberts the wife of Otis.

Real estate - #15 Lemon St. \$1,500

(both Mary and Sarah died before the probate case was finalized)

On June 26, 1888 James McShane, as guardian of James H. Roberts, the minor child of Otis B. and Sarah Roberts and in his own right sold "the same estate conveyed to Barnard McShane by deed of Asa A. Ward on July 9, 1860 book 609 page 296" to Jane McKliget for a total of \$1,750. (book 1226 page 345)

The 1889 tax records indicate the change:

15 Lemon St.

Owner - Jane McEliget house \$1,000; land \$900; barn \$100  
 Occupants - Daniel McEliget, fruit dealer age 35  
                   John J.                   "                   " 26

In 1895 Lemon St. was renumbered and #21 was assigned to this house for the first time. In August of 1895 Jane McKliget (signed with an X) sold the parcel of land where #17-19 now stand to her daughter Lizzie A. McKliget. (book 1453 page 552)

Jane McEliget died on Feb. 5, 1900. Her obituary appeared in the Salem News:

"Mrs. Jane, widow of James McEliget, died at her home 21 Lemon St. this morning. She was 71 years of age, and leaves a son and three daughters. (Funeral on Wednesday forenoon at 9:30 o'clock at her late residence and solemn high mass at the Church of the Immaculate

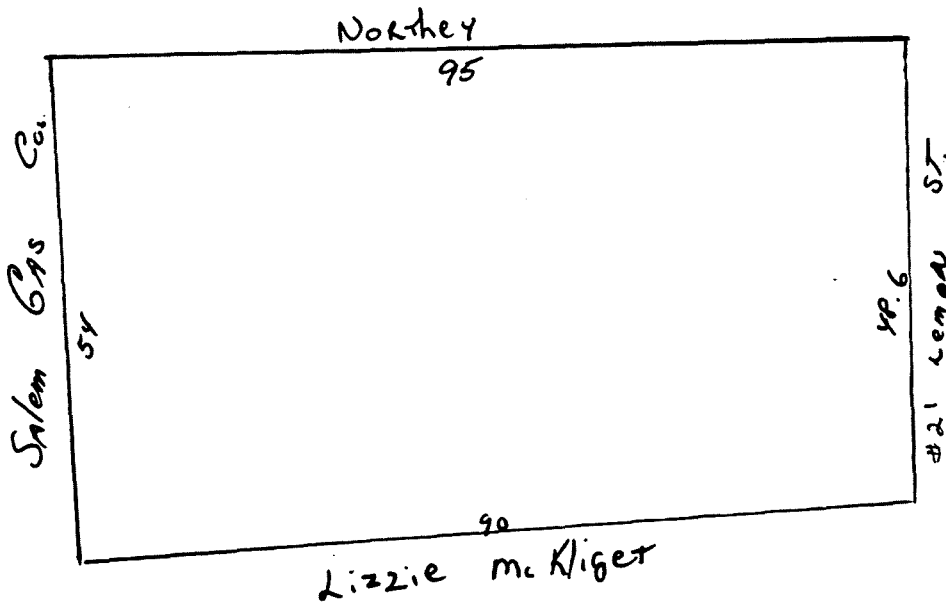
Conception at 10 o'clock. The burial at St. Mary's Cemetery."

The 1900 census:

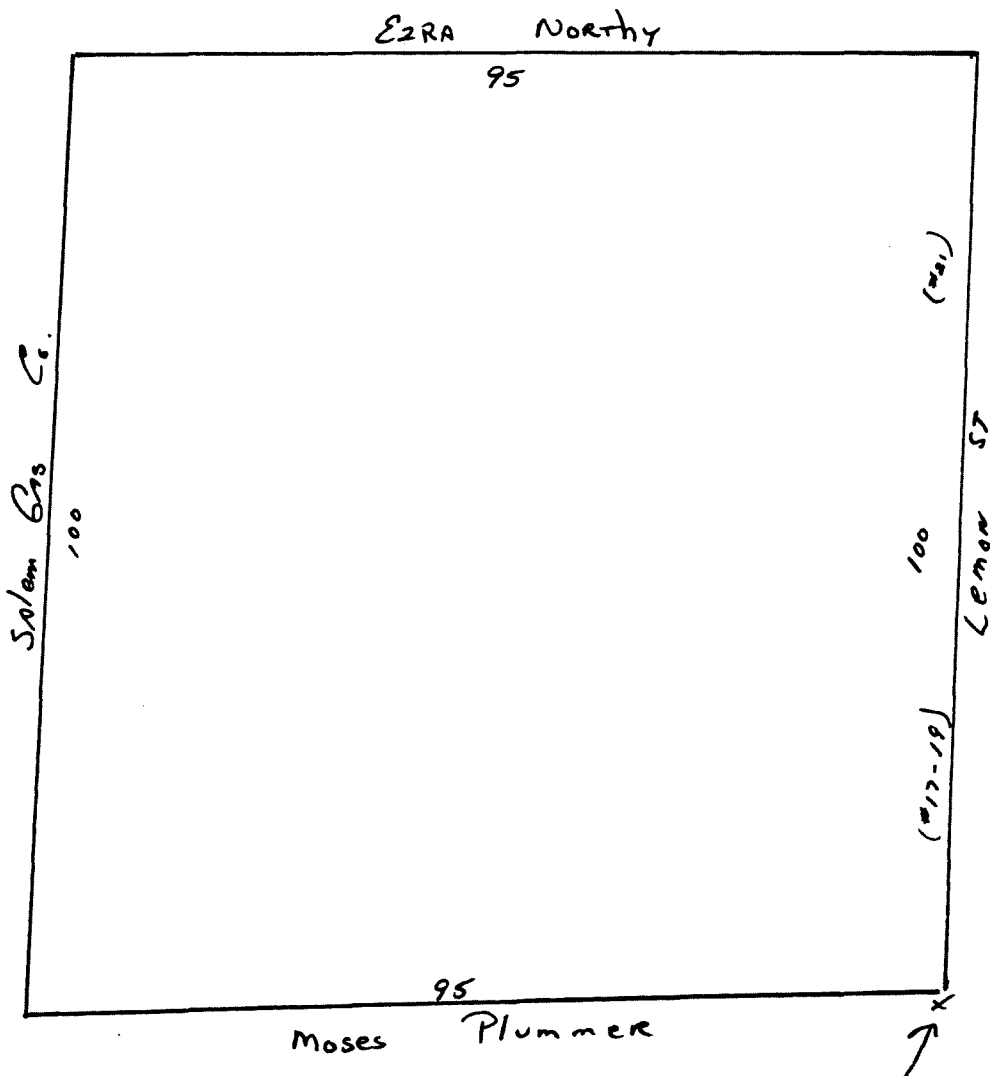
<u>Name</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Where born</u>
John McEliget	2-1863	37	head of house	fruit pedlar	Mass.
Lizzie "	12-1870	29	sister		"
Julia "	7-1872	27	sister	dressmaker	"

(John J. McEliget died on August 14, 1900)

On August 10, 1901 William Felton, licensed by the probate court in order to partition the real estate of Mary J. Nugent, Lizzie Plummer, Julia McEliget, Daniel F. McEliget and Margaret J. Tangley sold at public auction to Lizzie Plummer for \$1,100 the land and buildings:



On June 25, 1907 Lizzie A. Plummer, of Salem for \$1 and other valuable consideration, sold to Annie Collier, wife of Louis, the land and buildings. "Meaning to convey the same estate conveyed to my mother Jane McKliget by deed of James McShane June 26, 1888." "See deed of Jane McKliget to me August 24, 1895. Also deed of William S. Felton to me August 10, 1901":

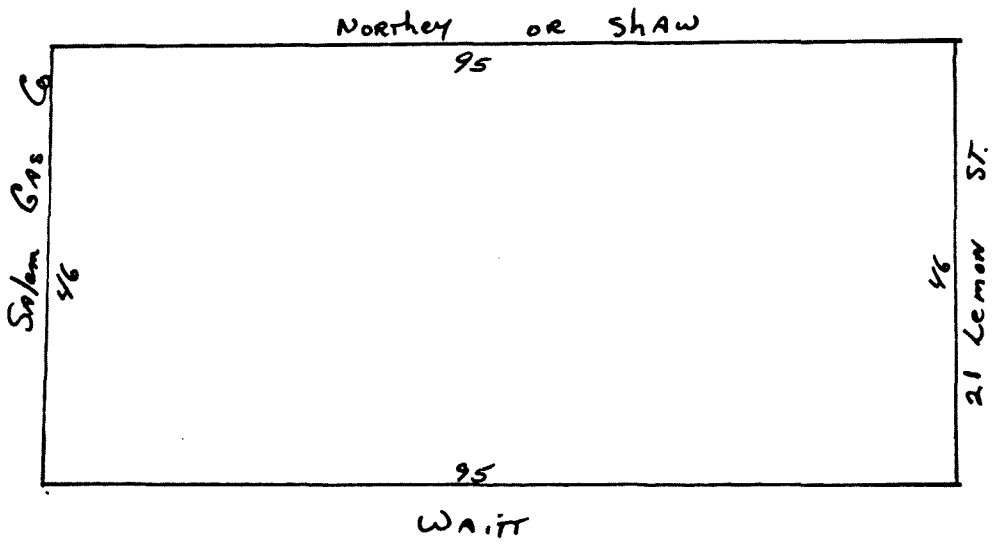


50 feet  
from land  
late Nathaniel  
Appleton

(book 1880 page 386)

On June 29, 1917 Arthur S. Ford, holder of a mortgage from Louis Collier and Annie his wife in her right, by power conferred by said mortgage for \$1,600 sold to Emma E. Waitt, of Ipswich. the land and buildings. "The same premises conveyed to said Annie Collier by deed of Lizzie A. Plummer on June 25, 1907." (book 2370 page 46)

On March 9, 1920 Emma E. Waitt, of Ipswich, sold to Alfred and Eugene Theriault the land and buildings. "Being part of the premises conveyed to me by foreclosure deed of Arthur S. Ford on June 29, 1917."



(book 2442 page 101)

On July 13, 1920 Alfred and Eugene Theriault sold the same property to Philippe Dumais of Beverly. (book 2453 page 255)

On May 2, 1924 an agreement was made between Philippe Dumais and John and Katherine Dziembowski (the owners of #17-19) to create a right of way. Each party allowed a 3.5 X 91 foot strip for this purpose. (see appendix C)

On March 26, 1949 a straw deed was drawn, using Dorothy Clark, to allow the title of the property to include Elmira Dumais, wife of Philippe. (book 3655 page 535)

On August 25, 1966 Philippe and Elmira Dumais sold the land and buildings to Adelard J. Dumas and his wife Alvina M. Dumas. "Reserving however to ourselves a life estate during our natural lives. Being the same premises conveyed to us by deed of Dorothy Clark on March 26, 1949." (book 5390 page 549)

On June 14, 1968 Alvina M. Dumas, widow of Adelard J.. of Danvers sold to Ronald A. L'Heureaux and Mary his wife "the same premises conveyed to myself and my late husband Adelard J. Dumas by deed of Philippe Dumais et ux. (book 5536 page 446)

On May 1, 1973 Roland A. L'Heureaux and wife Mary sold to Donald Koleman and Laurence C. Post Jr. for the sum of \$23,000 the same premises conveyed to us by deed of Alvina Dumas. (book 5970 page 112)

On July 8, 1976 Donald Koleman and Laurence C. Post Jr., Trustees of Laurence Realty Trust sold the same property to James Lafkas and his wife Georgia. (book 6257 page 733)

On Dec. 6, 1979 James and Georgia Lafkas sold the property to Robert Bramble, Trustee of Cook Realty Trust. For title see deed July 8, 1976. (book 6660 page 232)

On Jan. 28, 1982 Robert C. Bramble of Cook Realty Trust sold for the sum of \$60,000 to Edward D. and Canice C. Mc Glynn, husband and wife, of 21 Lemon St., the same premises conveyed by deed of James and Georgia Lafkas on Dec. 6, 1979. (book 6904 page 436)

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.



To the Honorable Daniel A. White Esquire, Judge  
of Probate for the County of Essex.

A.

Pursuant to a warrant from your honor, we, the subscribers, the Committee therein named, having been first sworn, have made the following

INVENTORY AND APPRAISEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF

Samuel Sawyer,

late of Salem  
to use by the Administrator.

in said County, testator, deceased, as, in fact, as shown

REAL ESTATE.

Wm. B. ...  
L. B. ...  
in trust for

Personal Estate			
122.210	1 Bay -	20	00
	1 Truck & Harness	25	00
	1 do	15	00
	1 do	9	00
	1 Cart	9	00
	2 Harness	7	00
	1 Sleigh	2	00
	26 Meal Bags		
	Household Furniture		
Front Room	1 Bureau	10	00
	1 Card Table	2	00
	1 Work do	1	50
	10 Chairs	2	50
	1 Looking Glass	2	00
	1 Carpet & Rugs	7	50
	1 Fire Stove	2	00
	10 pieces of Furniture	10	00
Front Chamber	Contents of Closet	1	50
	1 Bureau	2	00
	1 Baby Chair	3	50
	4 Common Chairs		50
	1 Table & Stand	2	25
	1 Looking Glass		50
	Bedstead Bed & Bedding	27	50
	1 Chest of Bedclothes	7	00
		514	25

Samuel Sawyer

2/9/10

(cont)

*Grand Total* 216.25

Bedroom	1 Bedstead with Mattress	8 00
	1 Desk	50
Living Room	1 Table	50
	4 Chairs	1 00
	1 Clock	1 00
	Contents of Chest	2 00
	Kitchen Furniture	1 75
	Looking Glass & Pictures	3 00
	<i>with received</i>	1 00
		<u>216.25</u>

\$ 232.91

*Handwritten notes and signatures, including 'with received' and 'with'.*

Schedule B

PERSONAL ESTATE.

no 1 Bureau — 8.00  
 no 2 Bureau — 4.00

1 Sofa

no 1 Bedstead — 3.00  
 no 2 Bedstead — 1.00

Mahogany C Table 2.00

Wash Table — 3.00

Toilet Table & Wash Stand 2.00

1 Table — .75

1/2 Doz Round Top y chairs 1.80

1/2 Doz Yellow Chairs 1.50

2 y. R. Chair .50

1 Lane S. R. Chair — 1.00

6 Lane S. Chairs — 2.80

1 Chair — 1.50

1 Gold Frame Mirror 1.50

1 Small Mirror .25

1 Cooking Stove & Pots } 2.00

1 Tire Set — .75

1 yr Iron Duff — .25

8 Double Windows 4.00

1 Canopy Bedstead 2.00

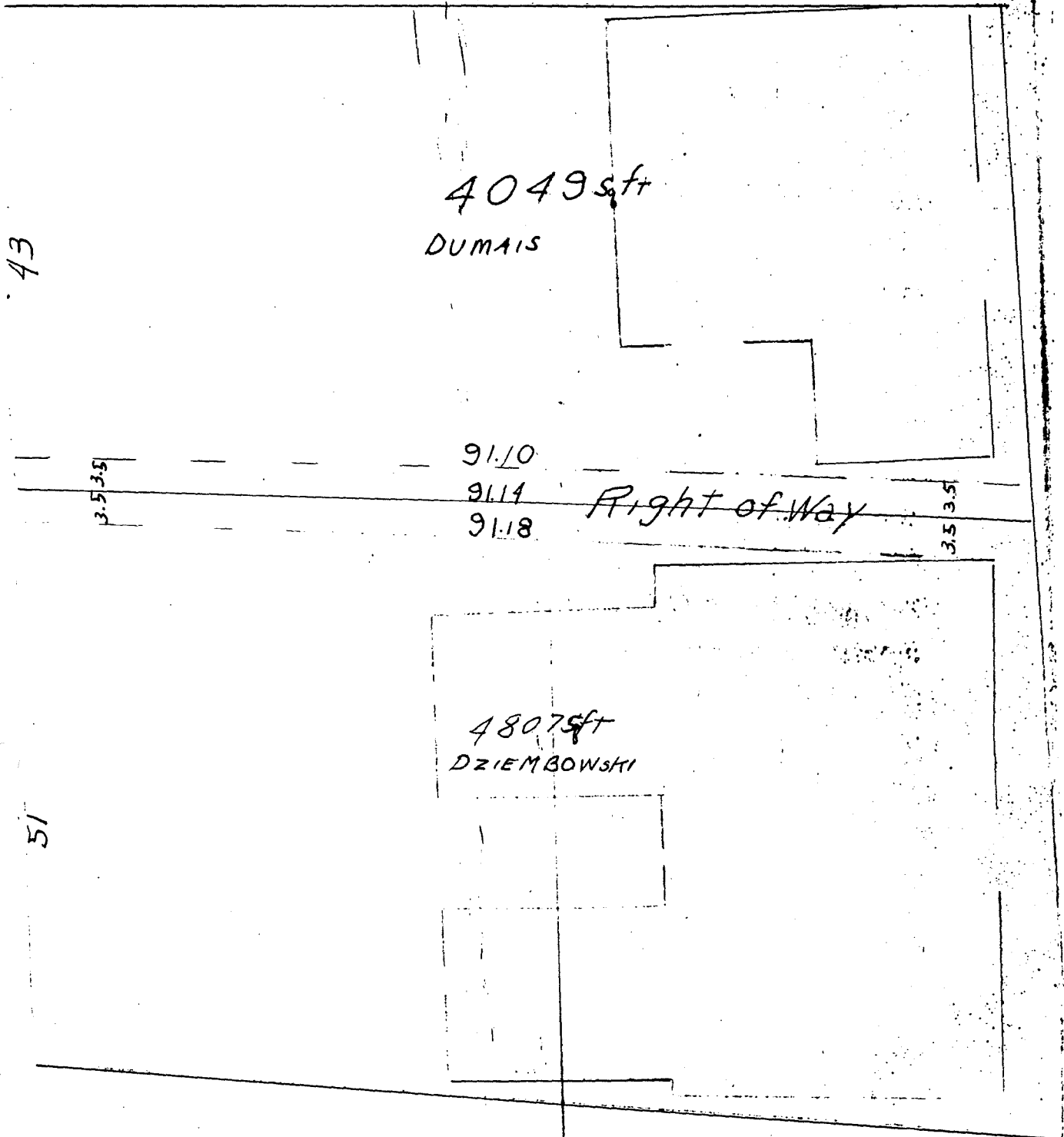
5 Window Shutters .50

49.85

Deposits in S. S. Bank as  
 in Bank

585.65  
 635.50

C



Plan of Land in Salem Mass  
 showing Right of Way by agreement  
 DZIEMBOWSKI & DUMAIS  
 Shay & Leary Civil Engineers

1924

# R I V E R

1851

Eastern Rail Road

SKERRY

CONANT

PEARL

SAUNDERS

CROSS

BRIDGE

WINTER

PICKMAN

BRIGGS

WASHINGTON SQUARE

HOWARD STREET  
CEMETERY

Orthodox

ST PETERS  
COUNTY STREET

COUNTY STREET

EAST

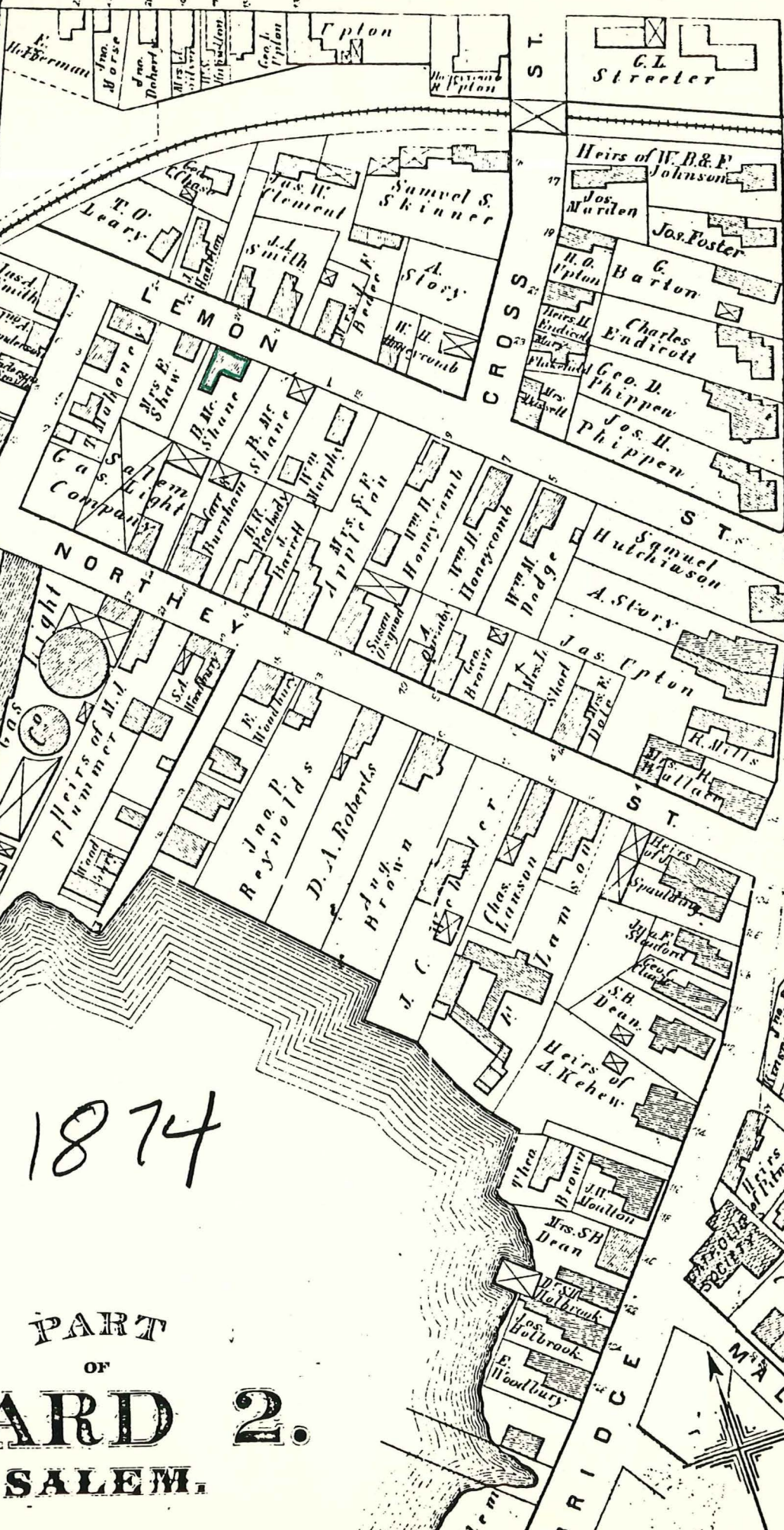




SAUNDERS

S T.

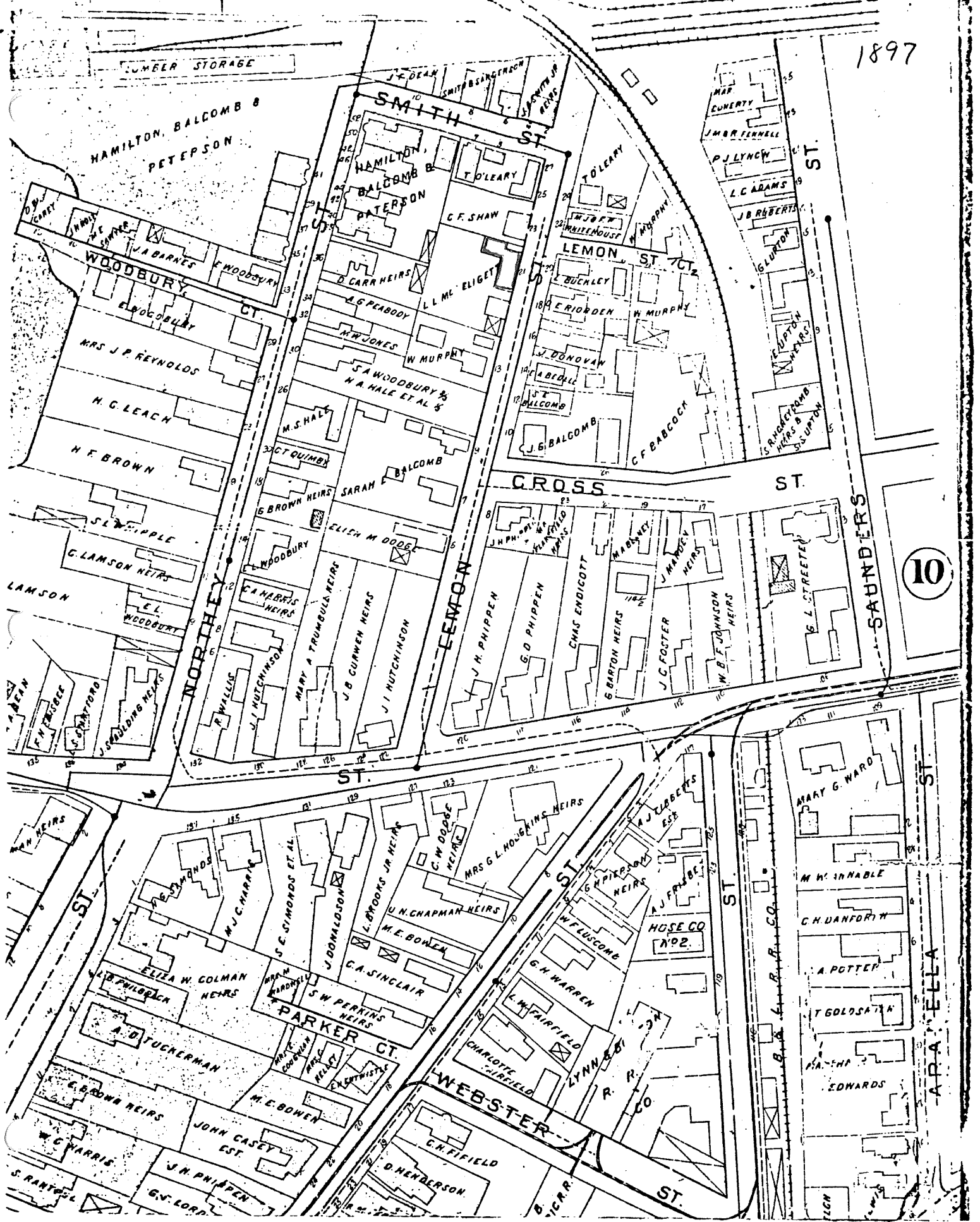
Eastern Rail Road



1874

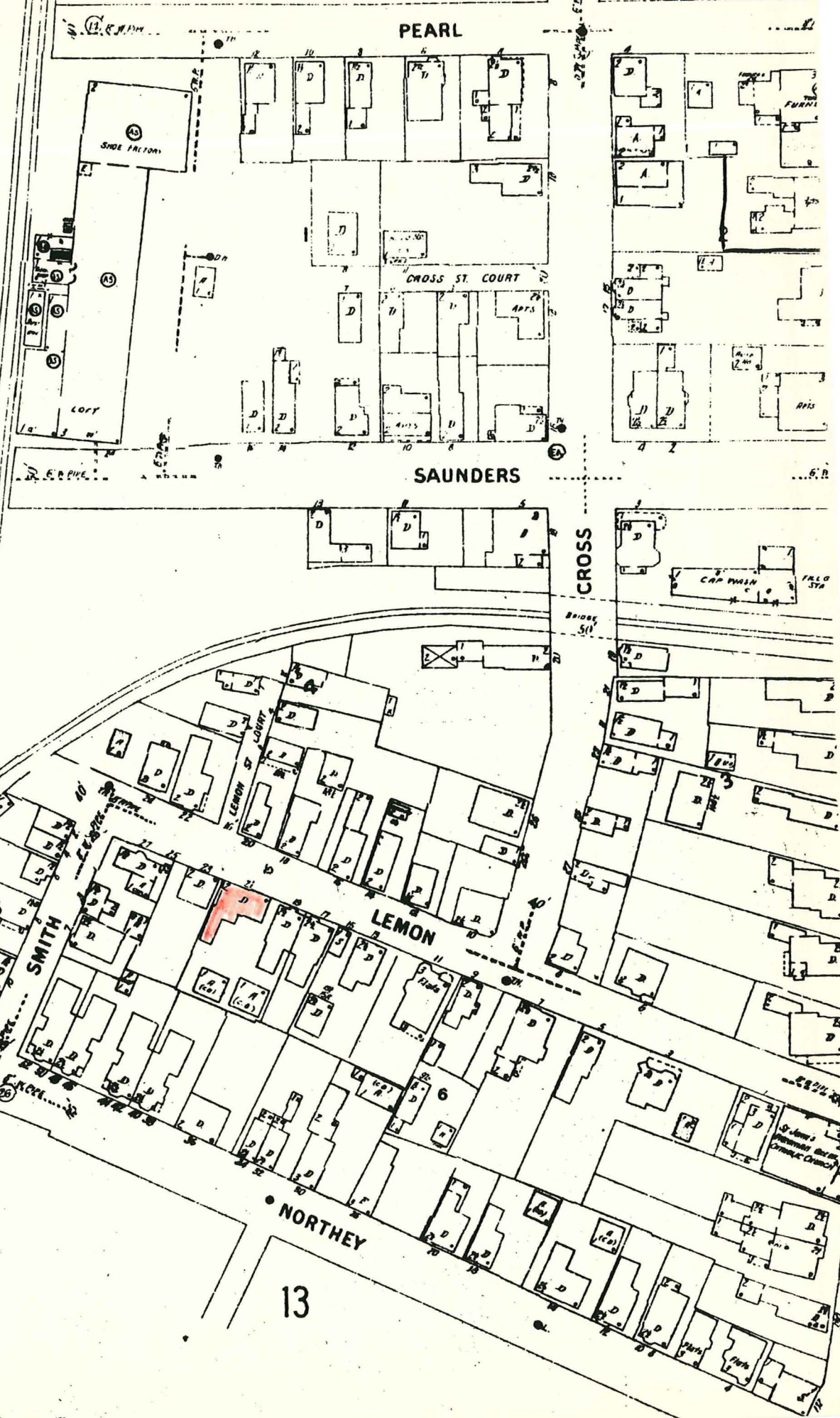
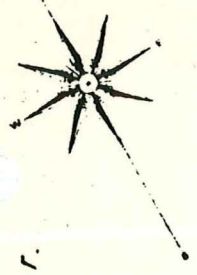
PART  
OF  
**WARD 2.**  
SALEM.





10

RIVER.





30 Salem State of

1810 Samuel Sawyer D  
 July 14 To Cash p<sup>d</sup> in Register's Office " " 77  
 1812 July 14 To Interest on his Bond " " 97 28  
 1816 July 14 To Interest Due on Bond " " 122 40  
 " " " Balls charged in your 2<sup>d</sup> acc " " 1 72  
 " " " Balls paid to your Credit " " 4 12  
226 29

1819  
 July 14 To Interest due on your Bond " " 91 30  
 1820  
 July 14 To Interest due on your Bond to this date " " 32 60  
 Nov 20 To Cash to Balance <sup>for your bill</sup> rendered on Bond " " 187 32  
309 73

1821  
 July 20 To Cash Interest due on your Bond " " 23 00  
 1822 July 20 " One years Interest on \$22 07 " " 19 36  
 1823 July 20 " " One years Interest on \$322 07 " " 19 36  
 1824 July 20 " " One years Interest on \$322 67 " " 19 36  
 1825 July 20 " " One years Interest on \$322 67 " " 19 36  
 1826 July 20 " " One years Interest on \$322 67 " " 19 36  
 1827 July 20 " " One years Interest " \$322 67 " " 19 36  
 1828 July 20 " " One years Interest " \$322 67 " " 19 36  
 1829 July 20 " " One years Interest on \$322 67 " " 19 36  
 1830 July 20 " " One years Interest on \$322 67 " " 19 36  
 1831 July 20 " " One years Interest on \$322 67 " " 19 36  
 1832 July 20 " " amt of Interest due on the above " " 18 76

amt of Interest due on settlement 235 07  
 amt Due on your Bond " " 322 67  
557 74

1814  
 Dec 23 B  
 1817  
 Oct 25 B  
 1816  
 July 14 1  
 1817  
 Dec 12 1  
 1818  
 Dec 14 1  
 1819  
 Nov 20 1  
 1820  
 Feb 12 1

1824  
 Jan 6 B  
 1826  
 July 9 B

1832  
 July 9

Massachusetts

\$	D <sup>m</sup>
	77
	97 28
	122 40
	1 72
	4 12
<hr/>	
	226 29
<hr/>	
	91 80
	32 60
	187 33
<hr/>	
	309 73
<hr/>	
	23 00
	19 30
	19 30
	19 36
	19 36
	19 36
	19 36
	19 36
	19 36
	19 36
	18 76
<hr/>	
	235 97
	322 67
<hr/>	
	558 64

Year	Description	Debit	Credit
1814	Contra		60
Dec 23	By amt. your Bill, sundries, Labouffe	99	
1814	Oct 25	By amt. your Bill, Labouffe, Madge	127 99
<hr/>			226 29
1816	July 14	By Ball's on settlement	2 12
1817	Dec 12	By amt of your Bill dated Dec 2 1817	7 10
1818	Dec 4	By amt of your Bill dated Dec 3 1818	9 20
1819	Nov 22	By amt of your Bill dated Nov 1819	67 16
1820	Febr 2	By amt of your Bill dated this date	70 25
<hr/>			309 73
1824	Jan 6	By amt your Bill from 1821 July 5 1824 July 6	126 78
1826	July 9	By amt your Bill from 1824 to July 9 1826	11 3
<hr/>			138 81
1832	July 9	By Check on transferring My item to Labouffe	421 83
<hr/>			558 64