

Historic Salem Incorporated

OFFICE AT OLD TOWN HALL

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

6 River Street

Built for

WILLIAM FERGUSON, taylor

in 1790

Research by,
Joyce King
September 1983

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

6 River Street

"A large square, central chimney dominates this two-story, pitch roof house and lean-to addition. The central front doorway directly on the street is decorated with simple pilasters and entablature. The door itself is modern." (Salem Historic Commission Report)

River Street was called a way in 1739; road 1773; private road 1778; lane 1782; River Street in 1796. (Essex Antiquarian, vol. 7 page 116)

The lot on which this house stands was part of a large tract of land owned by the Beckford family for many years. When the Beckfords sold off this land most buyers bought one lot on the south side of the lane and one across on the north extending to the river. This was the case when on August 3, 1784 John Beckford, yeoman, sold for 41 pounds, 6 shillings to John Chandler, housewright, a lot of land (no buildings) containing 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ poles:

North - on lane 49'2"
East - on Ebenezer Beckford 68'
South - on John Beckford 50'5"
West - on Asa Killam 70'

Also a lot containing 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ poles (no buildings)

(6 River St. lot) North - by a stone wall and flats 49'
East - on Ebenezer Beckford 58'
South - on lane 49'
West - on Asa Killam 59'

(book 151 page 159)

John Chandler sold the second lot of land to William Ferguson, taylor, on Oct. 26, 1789, for the sum of 5 pounds, 8 shillings. (book 151 page 159)

Book 165 page 95
August 4, 1792
35 pounds
(6 River St.)

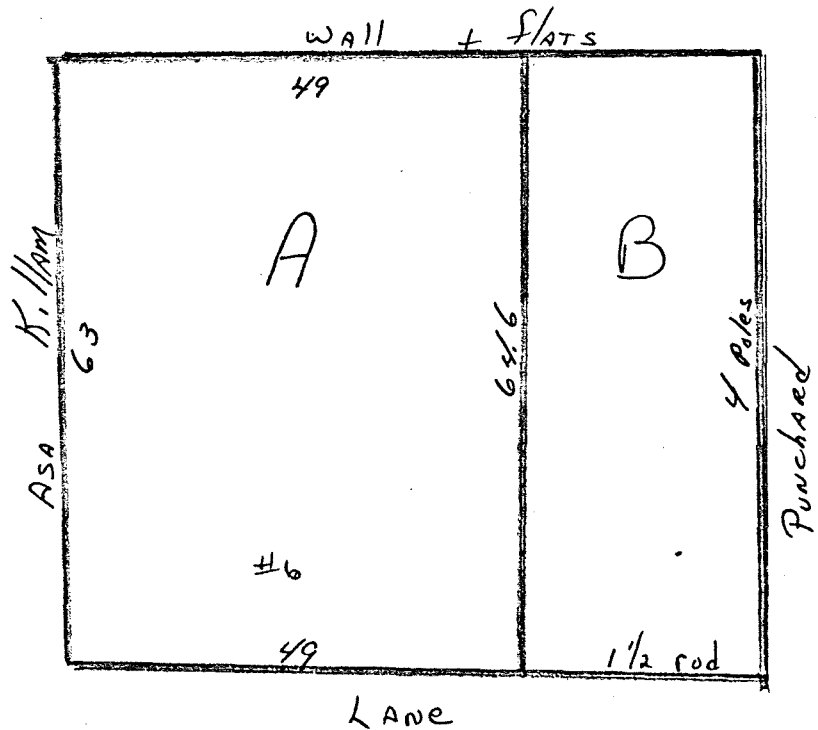
William and Martha Ferguson, of Pepperell,
Mass., sold a house and land to Josiah
Woodberry Jr. "The same lot of land
purchased from John Chandler."

(lot A)

Book 165 page 96
May 22, 1795
(land between 4 & 6
River Street)

Benjamin Punchard, shoreman, sold the
adjoining lot of land to Josiah Woodberry.

(lot B)



Book 210 page 50
March 22, 1816
\$1,600

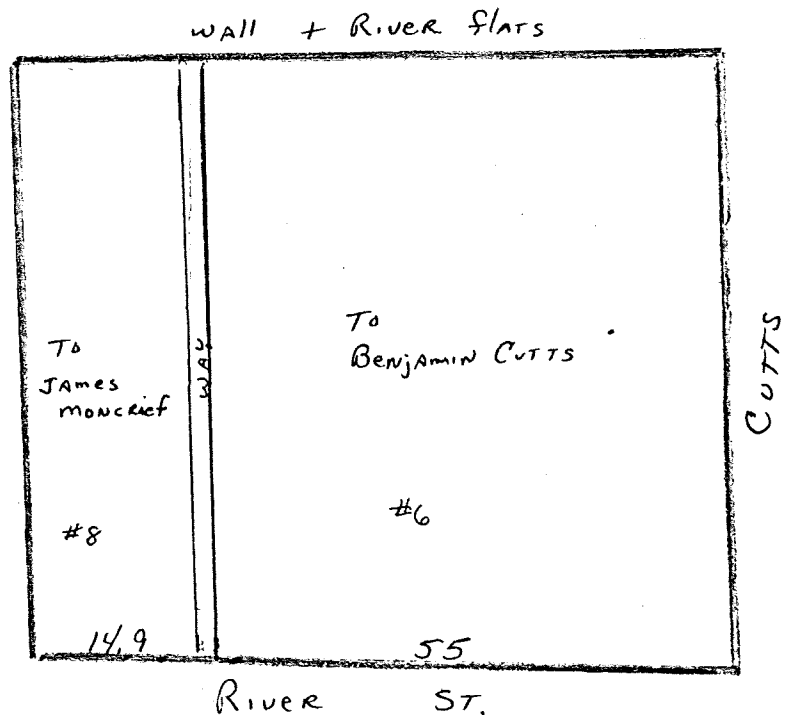
Josiah Woodberry, late of Salem now of
Boxford, sold the land and dwelling
house to Tobias Davis, mariner. "The
same which I purchased by two deeds.
One from William Ferguson and one from
Benjamin Punchard."

Book 215 page 287
Feb. 2, 1818
\$1,075

Tobias Davis, master mariner, sold the land and dwelling house to William Knight, cordwainer. "The same I purchased of Josiah Woodberry on March 22, 1816."

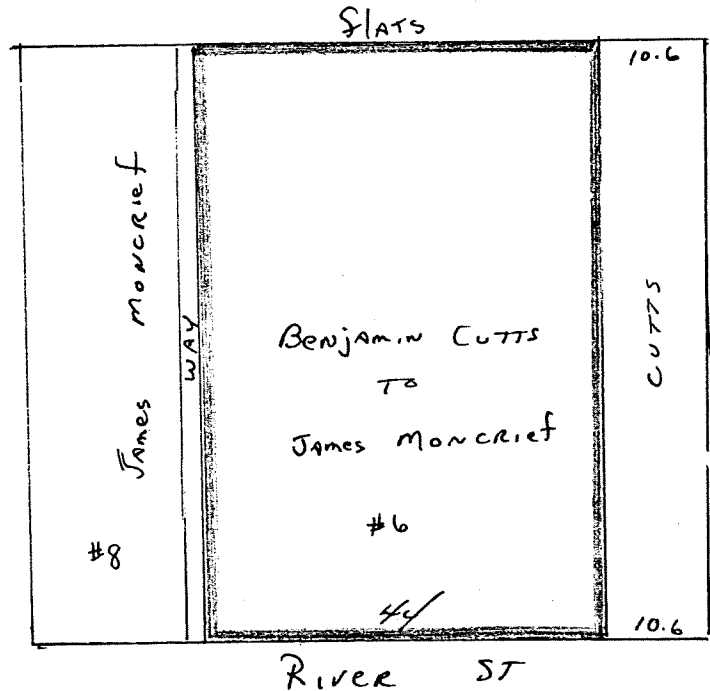
Book 808 page 298
Oct. 13, 1870

The heirs of William Knight sold the land and buildings at 6 River Street to Benjamin Cutts. "Being a portion of the estate conveyed to William Knight by Tobias Davis on Feb. 2, 1818." The remaining portion (#8) was sold by the Knight heirs to James Moncrieff.



Book 809 page 255
Nov. 7, 1870
\$1,530

Benjamin Cutts sold the land and buildings at 6 River Street to James Moncrief. "Except a strip 10½ feet adjoining my land." Mr. Moncrief mortgaged this property to Mr. Cutts on the same day.



Book 1296 page 588
Dec. 1, 1890

James Moncrief defaulted on the mortgage. This mortgage had been assigned by Benjamin Cutts to Samuel Colby on May 24, 1873 and by James Gillis administrator of said Samuel Colby to Emma L. Wilson. "Now Emma L. Wilson by virtue and in execution of the power conveyed in the mortgage for \$1,425 sold the property to James Landers."

Book 2381 page 427
Nov. 24, 1917

Bridget Landers administratrix of the estate of James Landers sold the real estate of the deceased to Bridget Landers. One parcel being #6 & #8 River Street.

Book 2473 page 179
Jan. 27, 1921

James Moroney of Lynn, executor of the will of Bridget Landers sold the land and buildings #6, #8 & #10 River Street to Michael J. O'Rourke.

Book 2538 page 443
Dec. 1, 1922

Michael J. O'Rourke sold the land and buildings on River St. to John J. Brennan. "The same estate conveyed by deed of James Moroney on Jan. 27, 1921."

Book 2566 page 358
August 17, 1923

John J. Brennan conveyed the land and buildings to Emma S. Almy and Donald Emmerton. "Being the same premises conveyed by deed of Michael J. O'Rourke on Dec. 1, 1922."

Book 2591 page 469
March 31, 1924

Emma S. Almy and Donald S. Emmerton of Almy Trust sold the land and buildings to Albert Demeule. The same premises conveyed to these grantors by deed of John J. Brennan on August 17, 1923. Mr. Demeule mortgaged the property to The Almy Trust. The mortgage was foreclosed and the title transferred to the Warren Five Cents Savings Bank on June 16, 1941.

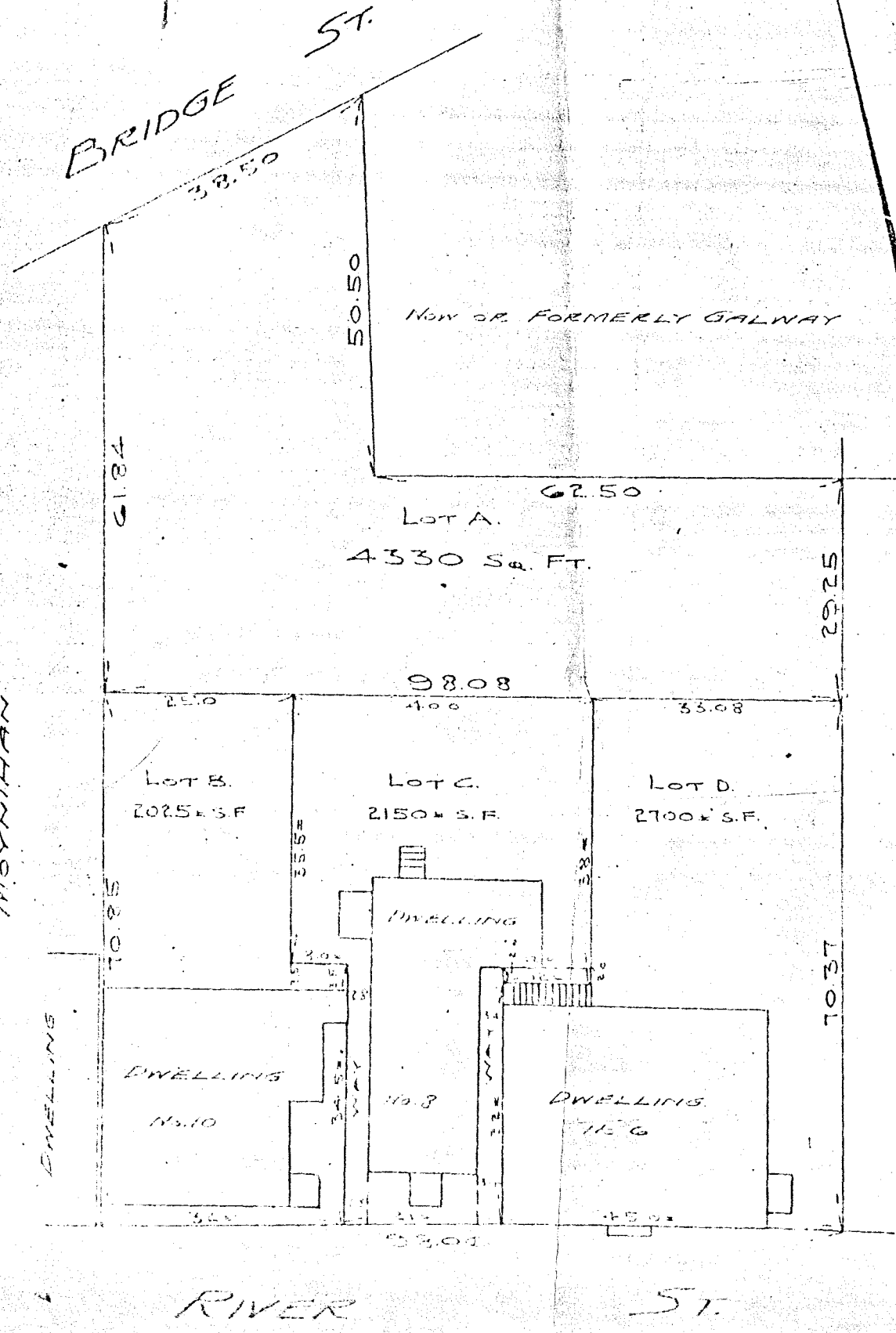
LAND IN SALEM, MASS.

SCALE 1 IN = 20 FT.

SEPTEMBER, 1923

Thomas A. Appleton, C.E.

Book 2591
Pg 469



BRIDGE

NOW OR FORMERLY GALWAY

LOT A.
4330 S.F.

LOT B.
2025 S.F.

LOT C.
2150 S.F.

LOT D.
2700 S.F.

MOYWIHAN

MAGGS

DWELLINGS

DWELLING

DWELLINGS
14.10

14.3

DWELLINGS
11.6

RIVER

ST.

Book 3260 page 118
June 20, 1941

The Warren Five Cents Savings Bank sold the land and buildings labeled B, C & D on the plan to Phillip Saraceno.

Book 4497 page 452
Sept. 24, 1958

Phillip Saraceno, widower, sold the land and buildings called B, C & D on the plan to Carmella P. Hall. "For title see deed of Warren 5¢ Savings Bank."

Book 7193 page 77
August 18, 1983

The Carmella P. Hall estate sold the land and buildings at 6 River Street, called lot B on the plan, to Robert C. Bramble trustee.

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.

DATE DOCUMENTATION

The first mention of a house on this lot appears in deed book 165 page 95 (1792). Since Mr. Ferguson owned the land by late 1789 and is listed in the tax records as paying an increase in property tax for the year 1790, it seems safe to assign the date of 1790 to this house. This date is also substantiated by the 1790 census where William Ferguson's household (1 white male over 16, 2 white males under 16 and 3 white females) is listed along with Robert Wallis and Stephen Driver, other owners and occupants of property on the north side of River Street. (First Census of the United States, page 94)

A few changes have occurred in the 6 River Street house, one by disaster and at least one by design:

1802 April 16 - Yesterday, about 10 o'clock in the forenoon, another fire broke out, in the house of Mr. Woodbury, housewright in River Street. It was probably kindled by sparks from the chimney, which, falling upon the roof, soon made its way through, to beds and other combustables that were under the roof, and got to a considerable height before it was discovered; but the house being low and small it was soon got under, but not without considerable damage to the building and contents.

1890 a permit was obtained to "raise the roof" on #6 River St.



WASHINGTON STREET
RUST S
COURT
DEPT
ESSEX R. ROAD

NORTH
WALLBOURNE STREET
DEPT
ESSEX R. ROAD

WALLBOURNE STREET
DEPT
ESSEX R. ROAD

NORTH
R.I. Road
V.S.B.C.
1251

CHURCH
WASHINGTON STREET
LAWRENCE
ARRINGTON BLOCK
DEPT

WALLBOURNE STREET
SEX
CROMBIE STREET
NORMAN STREET
DEPT

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CROMBIE STREET
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ESSEX R. ROAD
WALLBOURNE STREET

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BROAD STREET CEMETERY
SWIN
STREET
DEAN STREET
GREEN STREET
PICKERING STREET
CHESTNUT STREET
HAMILTON STREET
BLICKFORD STREET
SUMMER STREET
WASHINGTON STREET

1874



8

RIVER CANAL

EASTERN RAIL ROAD CO.

158

BOSTON & MAINE RAIL ROAD

BRIDGE

LUMBERYARD & PLANING MILL
N. P. GIFFORD

GIFFORD CT.

CHILDREN'S HOME

S.O. CHURCH SOCIETY

RIVER ST.

ANDOVER ST.

FEDERAL ST.

BENJAMIN SHREVE EST.

W. H. MORGAN

D. FOLAN EST.

BENJ. SHREVE EST.

D. W. MC CARTHY

JAMES CARNEY

YAC DAYTON

B. SHREVE EST.

LYNN ST.

BENJ. SHREVE EST.

M. L. HAMBLETT

D. LOW & CO.

J. S. CURRIER EST.

G. P. FARRINGTON EST.

D. MOORE

1ST BAPTIST CHURCH

E. A. HOFFMAN

J. F. UPTON

G. W. SHUNDERS

JOS. WINN EST.

ABBY W. TAYLOR

B. BERTRAM

B. BERTRAM

B. BERTRAM

JENNIE

MRS. A. ARCHER EST.

EMMERTON

A. HATCH

S. PHIPPS HEIRS

W. G. WEBB

MRS. M. A. BERTRAM

MRS. W. WASKELL

MRS. B. GIFFORD

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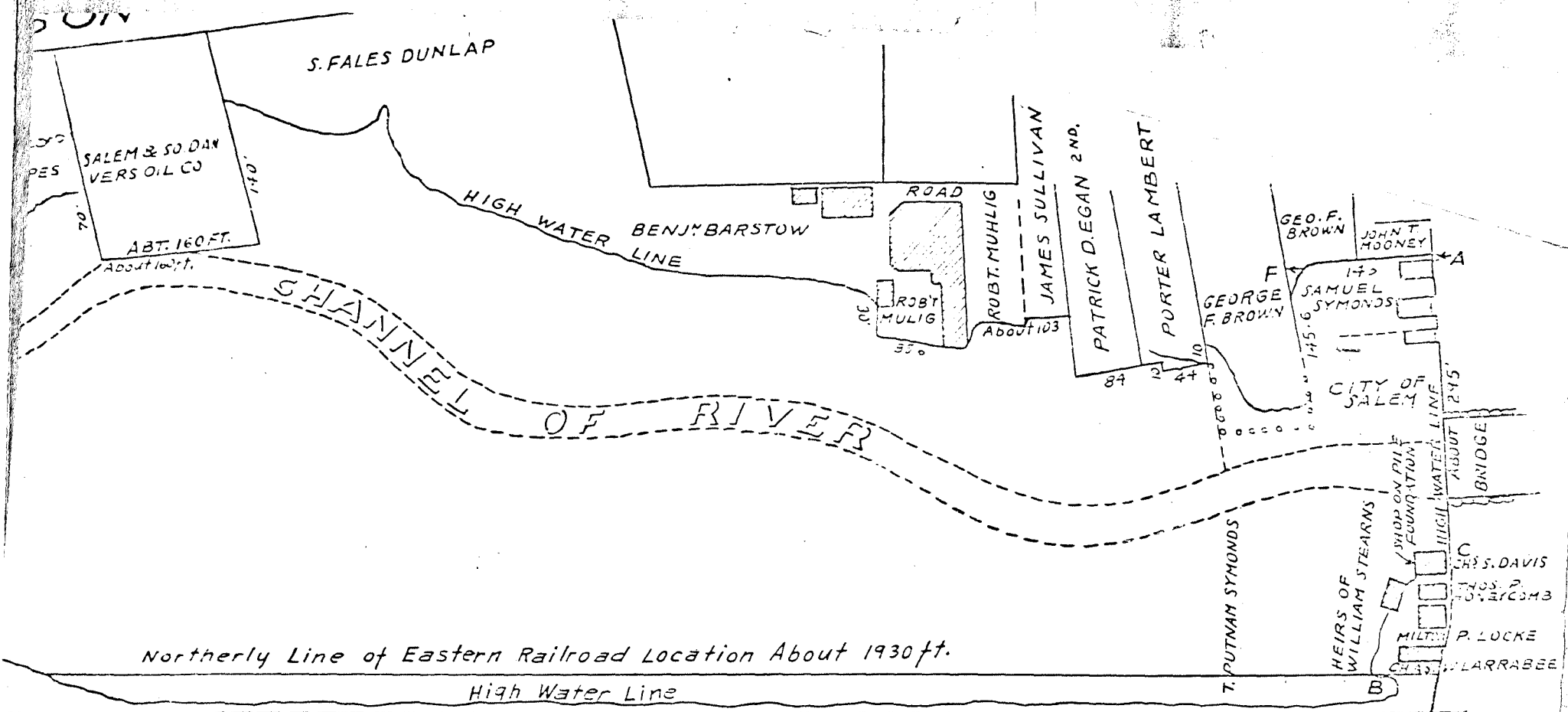
MRS. B. GIFFORD

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MRS. B. GIFFORD

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Northerly Line of Eastern Railroad Location About 1930 ft.
High Water Line

