

Historic Salem Incorporated

7 CAMBRIDGE STREET SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS 01970 / PHONE (508) 745-0799

238 LAFAYETTE STREET:
BUILT IN 1910 FOR JOHN MCMORRILL, BROKER

Researched by Rory Goff & Nancy Englehardt
Rockport, Massachusetts
May, 1991

**238 LAFAYETTE STREET:
BUILT IN 1910 FOR JOHN MCMORRILL, BROKER**

Claire D. Johnson lucidly describes the houses at 238 Lafayette Street in her article, "Domestic Architecture in Victorian Salem: A Lafayette Street Sampling" (Essex Institute Historical Collections, vol. 115, p.172 ff.). In it, she says that the current house "was built in 1910 and is a replacement or remodeling of the original house which was built on the site in 1843. The present owners have architectural plans dated 1909. They have found parts of the original foundation at the rear of the house. The existing house is so different in its appearance from the house in an 1878 photograph (fig. 1) that it would appear to be a new building rather than a remodeled one. The house of 1843 was built by a twenty-eight-year-old mariner, George W. Pousland. The Pousland house seems to have been a two-family residence for its first four or five years. Mr. Pousland's co-owner was William T. Felton, who was in the wholesale lumber business. . . . There is no indication of anyone sharing the ownership with the Pouslands after 1848. As seen in the 1878 photograph, it is a fine-looking residence in . . . the then-popular Greek Revival style.

"The present house appears to date from an exchange of property between Salem resident John McMorrill and his wife, Catherine, and the Lafayette Street Methodist Church in 1909. The McMorrills conveyed to the church the land on which the present parish house stands at 269 Lafayette Street in return for which the church conveyed 238 Lafayette Street to the McMorrills. Number 238 served as a parsonage for the church from 1904 to 1910. At that time the church was located across the street at the corner of Lafayette and Harbor Streets."

Listed below are all the conveyances involving No. 238 Lafayette Street, from 1843 to the present:

BOOK 338 PAGE 298

DATE-	September 4, 1843
CONSIDERATION-	\$450
GRANTOR-	E. Hersy Derby, of Salem, Esquire [and Hannah B. Derby, wife]
GRANTEE-	George W. Pousland of Salem, gentleman

DESCRIPTION- "... a house lot situated in South Salem and bounded as follows, Easterly by Lafayette Street, and measuring sixty feet on said street, Northerly by a new street to be laid out right angles with Lafayette Street, and to be known as 'Holly Street', the lot to measure one hundred and fifty feet on said Holly Street, Westerly on land of said Derby -- the line to run parallel with Lafayette Street and to measure sixty feet, Southerly by land of said Derby, the line running parellel with Holly Street and measuring one hundred and fifty feet from the Western boundary to Lafayette Street . . ."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- None

BOOK 805 PAGE 283

DATE- September 14, 1870

CONSIDERATION- \$1

GRANTOR- George W. Pousland of Salem

GRANTEE- David N. Pousland of Salem

DESCRIPTION- "... the message in said Salem which is bounded commencing at the southeast corner thereof on Lafayette Street thence running north by said street about sixty feet to Holly Street, thence running west by Holly Street three hundred feet to Linden Street, thence running south by Linden Street about one hundred and fifty feet to land of Harris, thence running east by land of Harris one hundred and fifty feet to land of William Pousland, thence running north by land of said William about sixty feet and then turning and running east by said William's land one hundred and fifty feet to Lafayette Street and the point begun at."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- None

BOOK 805 PAGE 283

DATE- September 14, 1870

CONSIDERATION- \$1

GRANTOR- David N. Pousland of Salem

GRANTEE- Elizabeth Pousland, wife of George W. Pousland of Salem

DESCRIPTION- "The messuage on said Salem which is bounded east by land of William Pousland and by Lafayette Street, north by Holly Street, west by Linden Street and south by land of Harris and land of William Pousland."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- "Being the same premises conveyed to me by George W. Pousland by deed by even date recorded herewith . . ."

BOOK 1232 PAGE 221

DATE- September 7, 1888

CONSIDERATION- \$1 and other good and valuable considerations

GRANTORS- George H. Pousland, David N. Pousland, Syrena A Pousland, single woman, Charles F. Pousland, all of Salem, and Elizabeth F. Weeks, wife of Samuel F. Weeks of San Francisco, California

GRANTEE- George W. Pousland of Salem

DESCRIPTION- ". . . all that parcel of land situated in said Salem bounded, beginning at the southeasterly corner on Lafayette Street and running northerly on said street sixty feet, thence running westerly on Holly Street two hundred and twenty-five feet to land conveyed by said grantee and wife to said Charles F. Pousland by deed dated June 16, 1876 recorded Book 960 Leaf 185, thence running southerly sixty-five feet and westerly seventy-five feet by said land conveyed to said Charles F. Pousland to

DESCRIPTION (cont'd)- Linden Street, thence running southerly by Linden Street fifty-five feet to land of Harris, thence running easterly by land of Harris one hundred and fifty feet to land of the grantee, thence running northerly sixty feet and easterly one hundred and fifty feet to Lafayette Street and the corner begun at . . ."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- "meaning hereby to convey all that parcel conveyed to Elizabeth Pousland deceased, late wife of said grantee, and mother of the grantors, by deed of David N. Pousland, dated September 14, 1870 recorded Book 805 Leaf 283, excepting that portion conveyed by said grantee and wife, Elizabeth, by the deed above referred to to said Charles F. Pousland."

BOOK 1232 PAGE 223

DATE- September 26, 1888

CONSIDERATION- \$5 and other valuable considerations

GRANTOR- George W. Pousland of Salem

GRANTEE- Genevieve S. Foster, wife of James M. Foster, of Salem

DESCRIPTION- ". . . a certain messuage situated in said Salem bounded easterly by Lafayette Street sixty feet, southerly by land of the grantor one hundred and fifty feet, westerly by other land of mine sixty feet and northerly by Holly Street one hundred fifty feet; said dwelling house being numbered 104 on Lafayette Street."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- None

NOTE- The house was called #88 Lafayette Street through 1855, #100 through 1869, and #104 until 1893, when it was renumbered #238 (see Salem Street Directories).

BOOK 1720 PAGE 542

DATE- October 10, 1903

CONSIDERATION- \$1 and other valuable considerations

GRANTORS- James M. Foster and Genevieve S. Foster of Salem

GRANTEE- Nathaniel B. Fisk of Salem

DESCRIPTION- "... a certain parcel of land with the building thereon and situated in said Salem and bounded Easterly by Lafayette Street sixty (60) feet, South-erly by land now or late of Pousland one hundred fifty (150) feet, Westerly by other land of Foster . . . sixty (60) feet and Northerly by Holly Street one hundred fifty (150) feet."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- Conveyed by George W. Pousland to Genevieve S. Foster, September 26, 1888, Book 1232, Page 223.

BOOK 1726 PAGE 410

DATE- November 20, 1903

CONSIDERATION- \$1 and other valuable considerations

GRANTOR- Nathaniel B. Fisk of Salem

GRANTEES- Trustees of the Lafayette Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Salem

DESCRIPTION- "... a certain parcel of land with the building thereon and situated in said Salem and bounded Easterly by Lafayette Street sixty (60) feet, South-erly by land formerly of Pousland now of Damon, one hundred fifty (150) feet, Westerly by the parcel next described sixty (60) feet and Northerly by Holly Street one hundred fifty (150) feet."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- None

DATE- November 26, 1909

CONSIDERATION- \$1 and other valuable considerations

GRANTOR- Lafayette Methodist Episopal Church, in Salem

GRANTEE- John McMorrill, of Salem

DESCRIPTION- Same as above

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- Conveyed by Nathaniel B. Fisk to the Church trustees, November 20, 1903, Book 1726, Page 410.

NOTE- In a Vote appended to the end of the deed, the trustees are empowered to sell to John McMorrill ". . . the real estate of said Church formerly used as a parsonage, situate at the corner of Lafayette and Holly streets, numbered . . . 238 on said Lafayette street."

The 1910 tax assessor's Street Book shows 238 Lafayette Street to be vacant, and lists John McMorrill as the owner of a yet-unfinished new house at this address. In 1911 John McMorrill owns and occupies it; he is a 57-year-old broker who had resided at 9 Gardner Street in May 1910.

On December 19, 1928, the Salem Evening News provided this obituary: "John McMorrill, a well known citizen, died at his home, 238 Lafayette street, last evening, after a long illness. He was born in Newburyport, but came to Salem when a young man and opened a barber shop on Central street, which he conducted several years, and afterwards opened a real estate and brokerage business which he continued until his death. He was a charter member of Salem lodge of Elks and also a member of Veragua council, K. of C. He married Miss Catherine Donnelly, but she died a year ago this month, and he is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Henry A. Barry and Mrs. Grace Barr, both of Salem."

DATE- May 2, 1929

CONSIDERATION- \$12,000

GRANTORS- Anna G. Barry and Grace C. Barr, both of Salem, administratrices of the estate of John McMorrill

GRANTEE- Anna G. Barry of Salem

DESCRIPTION- "... the land together with the buildings thereon situate in said Salem, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the Southeasterly corner thereof on Lafayette Street, at land formerly of Damon, and thence running Northerly by said Lafayette Street, sixty (60) feet to Holly Street; thence turning and running Westerly by said Holly Street, ninety-two (92) feet to Lot B on plan hereinafter referred to; thence turning and running Southerly by said Lot B sixty (60) feet to said land formerly of Damon; thence turning and running Easterly by said land . . . ninety-one and twenty-nine hundredths (91.29) feet to Lafayette Street. Containing 5,498 square feet. Being Lot A on plan of 'Land of the Estate of John McMorrill, Salem, Mass; Scale 1 in. = 20 feet, May 1929, Thomas A. Appleton, C.E.' recorded herewith."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- None

DATE- May 1, 1929

CONSIDERATION- Paid

GRANTOR- Grace C. Barr of Salem, unmarried

GRANTEE- Anna G. Barry of Salem

DESCRIPTION- Same as above

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- "... meaning and intending to convey thereby all my right title and interest in said premises under the will of my father John McMorrill late of ... Salem."

BOOK 2806 PAGE 136

DATE- May 7, 1929

CONSIDERATION- Paid

GRANTOR- Anna G. Barry of Salem

GRANTEE- Mary L. Walsh of Salem

DESCRIPTION- Same as above

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- Conveyed by Anna G. Barry et al., May 2, 1929, Book 2803, Page 369; and deed of Grace C. Barr to Anna G. Barry, May 1, 1929, Book 2803, Page 370.

BOOK 2806 PAGE 137

DATE- May 7, 1929

CONSIDERATION- Paid

GRANTOR- Mary L. Walsh of Salem

GRANTEES- Henry A. Barry and Anna G. Barry, husband and wife, both of Salem

DESCRIPTION- Same as above

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- Conveyed to Mary Walsh by Anna G. Barry, deed of same date.

BOOK 5493 PAGE 119

DATE- November 20, 1967

CONSIDERATION- \$24,000

GRANTOR- William P. Evans of Beverly, Conservator of Henry A. Barry of Salem

GRANTEES- Clayton E. Gardner and Marjorie Gardner, husband and wife, both of Salem

DESCRIPTION- Same as above

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- None

BOOK 6157 PAGE 449

DATE- June 20, 1975

CONSIDERATION- \$40,000

GRANTOR- Clayton E. Gardner, survivor of a tenancy by the entirety with Marjorie Gardner, late of Salem

GRANTEES- Richard J. Smith and Carol A. Smith, husband and wife, of 238 Lafayette Street, Salem

DESCRIPTION- "... the land in Salem ... together with the buildings thereon, known as #238 Lafayette Street, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the Southeasterly corner thereof on Lafayette Street at land now or formerly of Damon [then same as above]"

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- Conveyed to the Gardners by William P. Evans, November 20, 1967, Book 5493, Page 119.

BOOK 6326 PAGE 627

DATE- February 25, 1977

CONSIDERATION- \$42,510

GRANTORS- Richard S. Smith and Carol A. Smith, husband and wife, of Salem

GRANTEES- William L. and Frieda M. Swartzbaugh, husband and wife, of 238 Lafayette Street, Salem

DESCRIPTION- Same as above

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- Conveyed to the Smiths by Clayton E. Gardner, June 20, 1975, Book 6157, Page 449.

BOOK 6523 PAGE 467

DATE- October 3, 1978

CONSIDERATION- \$61,900

GRANTORS- William L. Swartzbaugh, Jr. and Frieda M. Swartzbaugh of Salem

GRANTEES- Christopher D. Miller and Jean P. Freeman, husband and wife, of 238 Lafayette Street, Salem

DESCRIPTION- "... the land in Salem ... together with the buildings thereon, known as 238 Lafayette Street, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the Southeasterly corner thereof on Lafayette Street, at land now or formerly of Damon; thence running Northerly by Lafayette Street, sixty (60) feet to Holly Street; thence turning and running Westerly by said Holly Street, ninety-two (92) feet to Lot 'B' on a plan hereinafter referred to; thence turning and running Southerly by Lot 'B' sixty (60) feet to said land formerly of Damon; thence turning and running Easterly by said land ... ninety-one and twenty-nine hundredths (91.29) feet to Lafayette Street. Containing 5,498 square feet of land. Being Lot 'A' on plan of 'Land of the Estate of John McMorrill, Salem, Mass; Scale 1 in. = 20 feet, May 1929, Thomas A. Appleton, C.E.' ..."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- Conveyed to the Swartzbaughs by Richard J. and Carol A. Smith, Feb. 25, 1977, Book 6326, Page 627.

BOOK 6802 PAGE 689

DATE- March 24, 1981

CONSIDERATION- \$83,000

GRANTORS- Jean P. Freeman and Christopher D. Miller of Salem

GRANTEES- James L. Lewis and Renee D. Lewis of 238 Lafayette Street, Salem

DESCRIPTION- Same as above

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- Conveyed by the Swartzbaughs to Jean P. Freeman and Christopher D. Miller, Book 6523, Page 467.

BOOK 8074 PAGE 337

DATE- November 2, 1985

CONSIDERATION- \$181,000

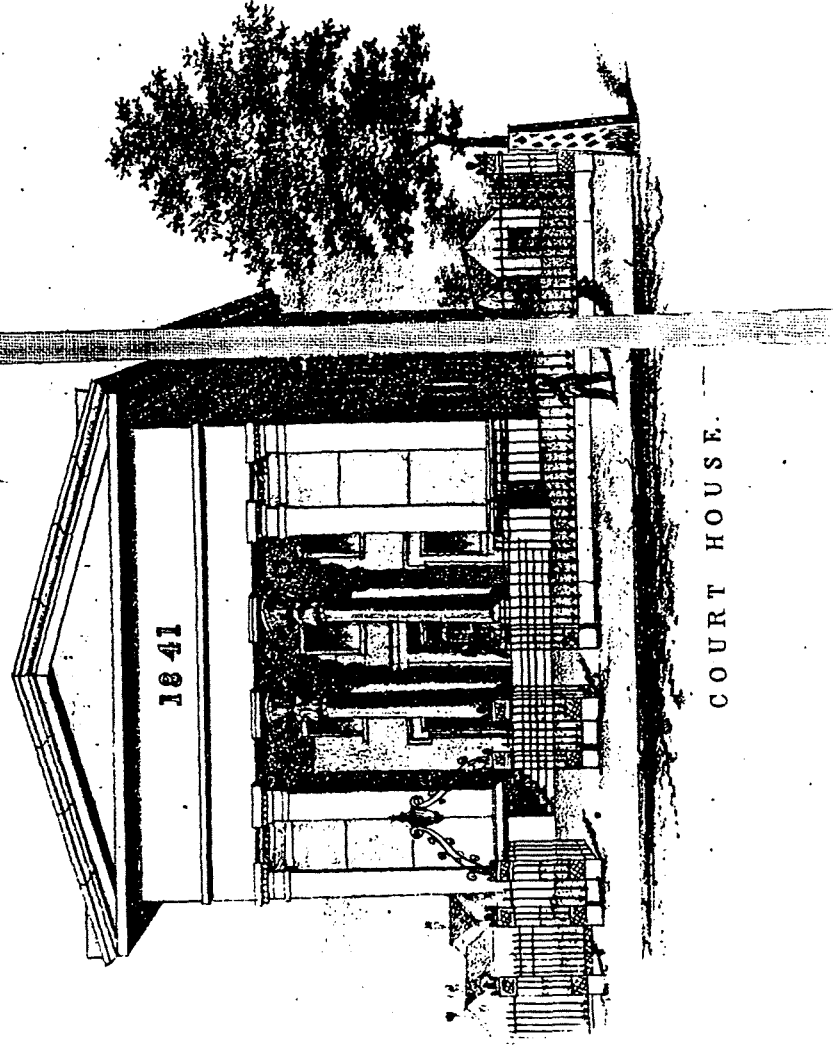
GRANTORS- James L. Lewis and Renee D. Lewis, husband and wife, of 238 Lafayette Street, Salem

GRANTEE- John W. Bitner, of 238 Lafayette Street, Salem

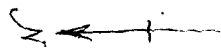
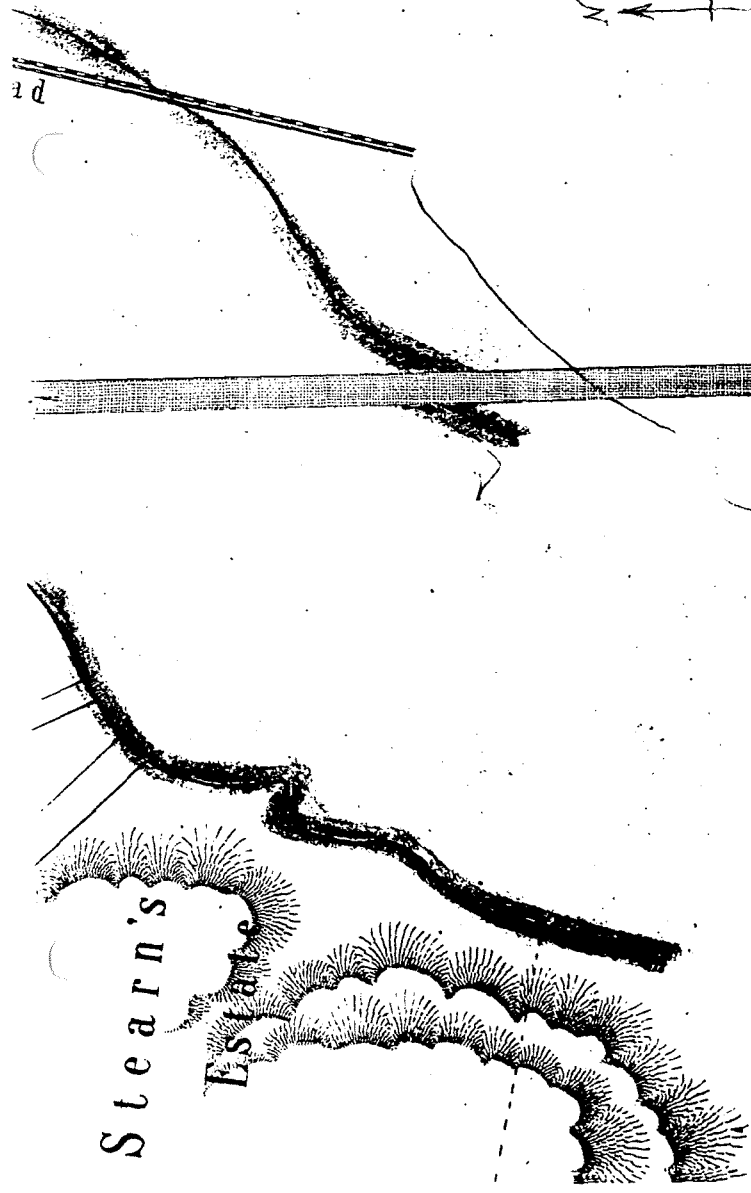
DESCRIPTION- "... the land in Salem . . . together with the buildings thereon, known as 238 Lafayette Street, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the Southeasterly corner thereof on Lafayette Street, at land now or formerly of Damon; thence running Northerly by Lafayette Street, sixty (60) feet to Holly Street; thence turning and running Westerly by said Holly Street, ninety-two (92) feet to Lot 'B' on a plan hereinafter referred to; thence turning and running Southerly by Lot 'B' sixty (60) feet to said land formerly of Damon; thence turning and running Easterly by said land . . . ninety-one and twenty-nine hundredths (91.29) feet to Lafayette Street. Containing 5,498 square feet of land. Being Lot 'A' on plan of 'Land of the Estate of John McMorrill, Salem, Mass; Scale 1 in. = 20 feet, May 1929, Thomas A. Appleton, C.E.' . . ."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- Conveyed to the grantors by deed of Jean P. Freeman and Christopher D. Miller, on March 24, 1981, in Book 6802, Page 689.

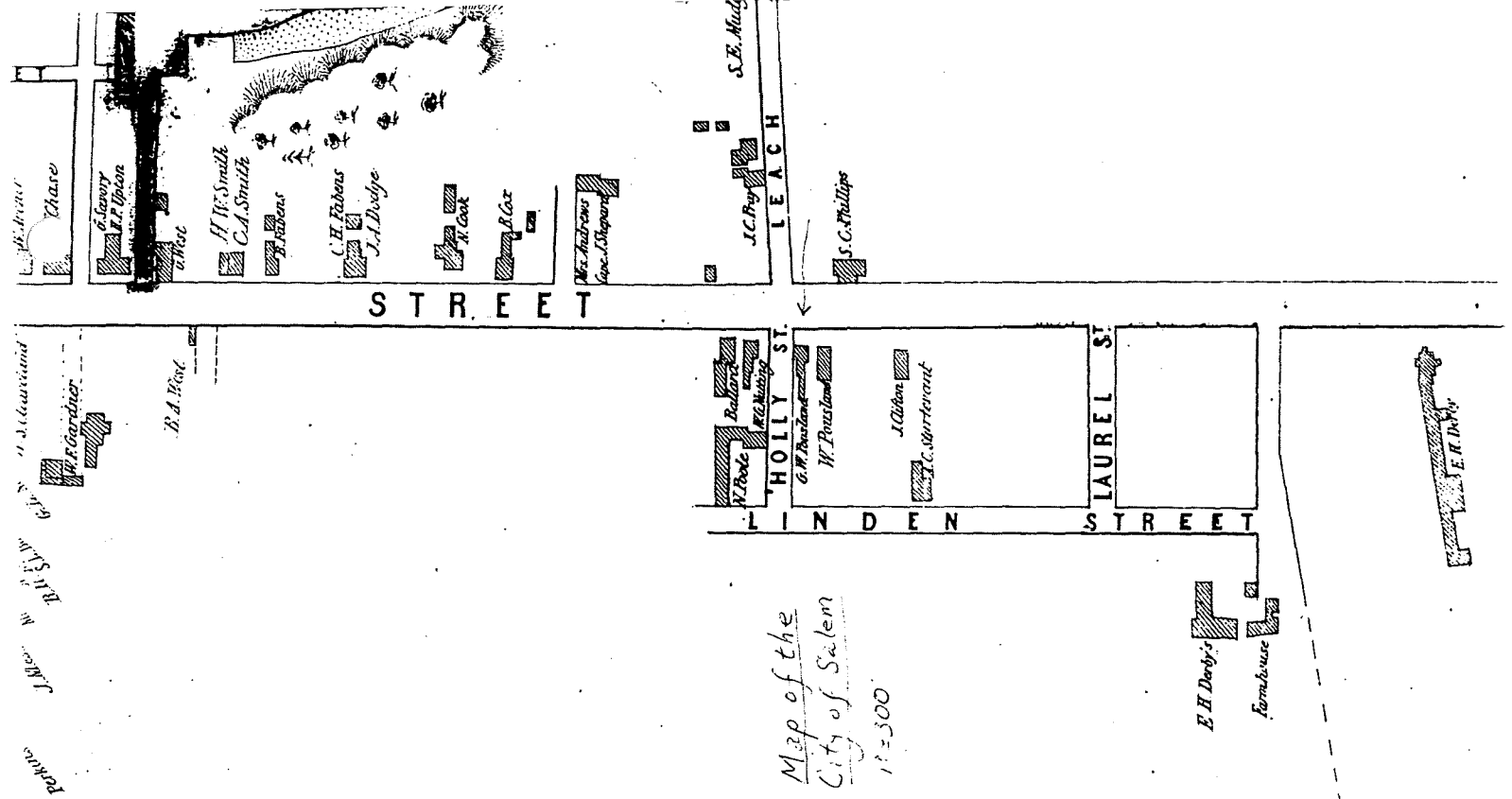
Stearn's
Estate



COURT HOUSE.



1851 Map of the
City of Salem
1:2500



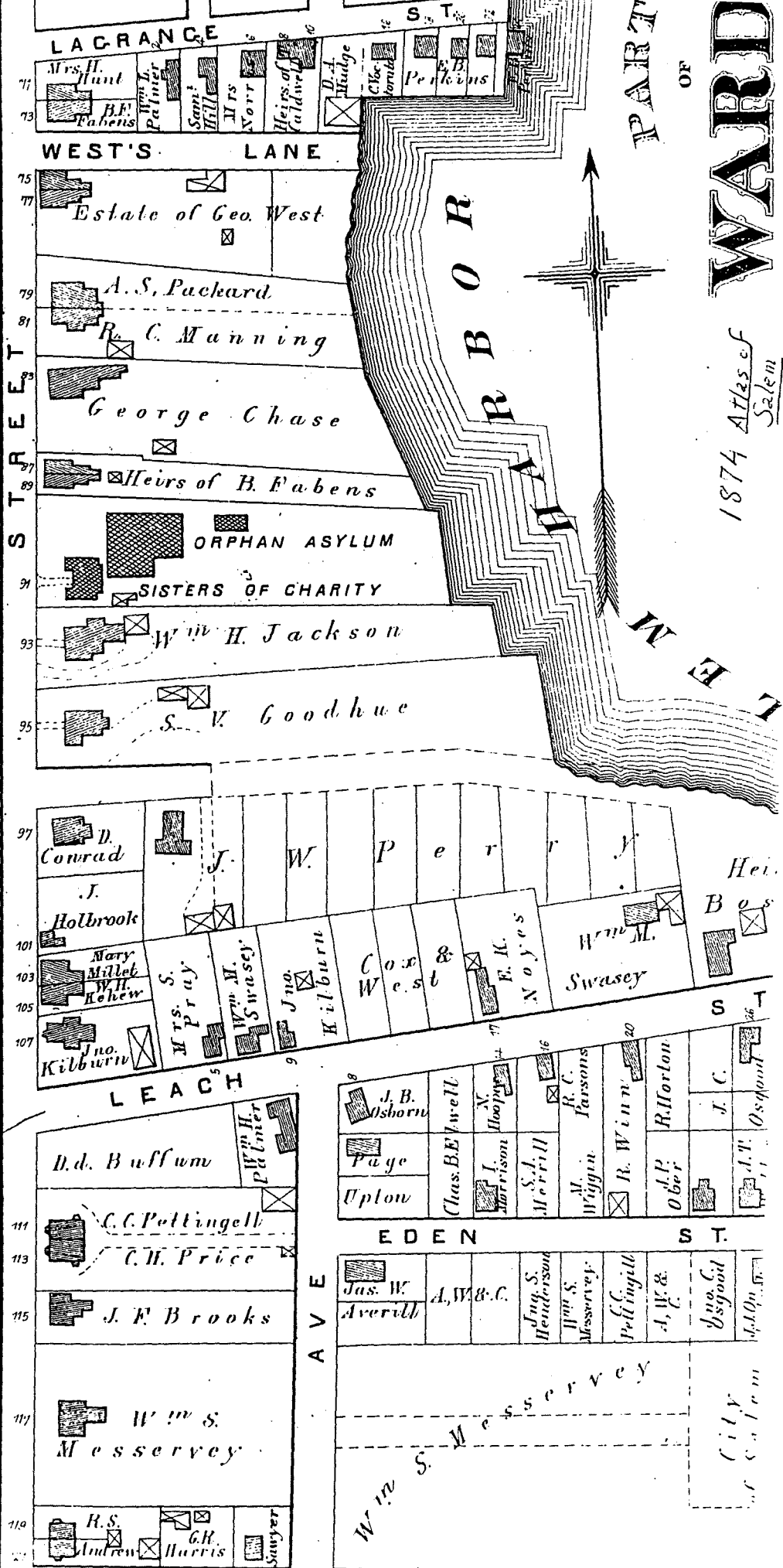
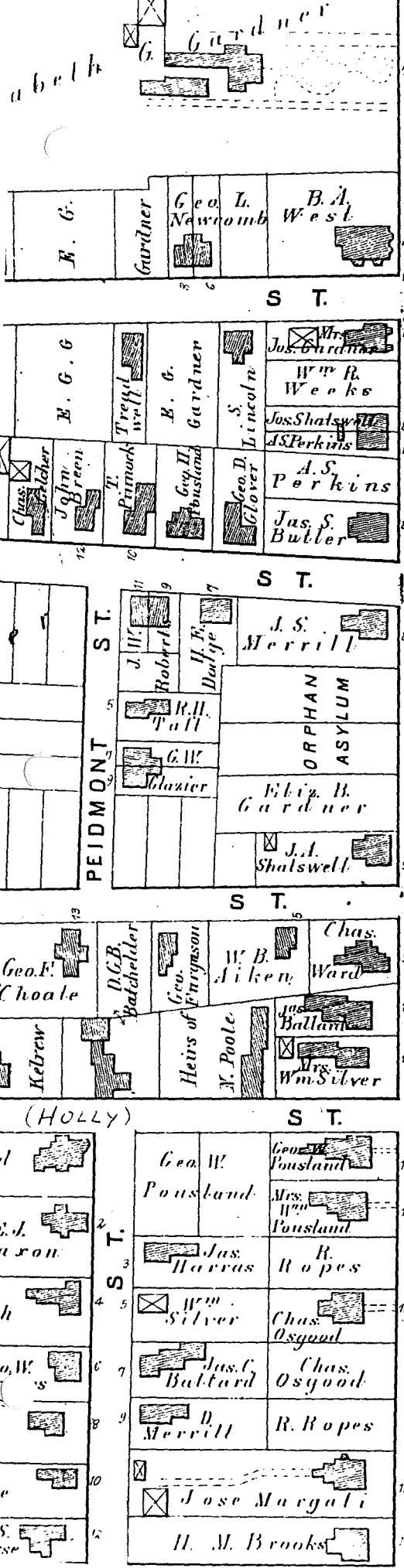
STREET

LINDEN STREET

LAUREL ST.

HOLLY ST.

LEACH



PART OF
WARD
1874 Atlas of
Salem

for the church from 1904 to 1910. At that time the church was located across the street at the corner of Lafayette and Harbor Streets.

The second house (1845) in the Holly to Laurel Street block belonged to another Pousland, William. Records do not clarify William's relationship to George, although they indicate that they were related and that William was seven years older. William, too, was a mariner and later a captain. His house, number 242, was typical of the Greek Revival style of domestic architecture and was most suitable for the lot. That there have been architectural changes is evident without confirmation in the 1878 photograph (fig. 1). There is a later wing on the north side beyond the pediment and a front veranda. Red bricks now cover the first-floor façade.

Continuing south, one finds at 244 Lafayette Street a most interesting hybrid dwelling (fig. 1) combining the older French Academic style with the more current Queen Anne. On 1 October 1877 a building permit was issued to Alonzo Smith for a wooden building 36 by 55 feet, 2½ stories with a mansard roof. Mr. Smith, an iron founder, was thirty-six years old at the time. His house has a three-sided bay at each end, giving it a pavilion-like appearance. The bay at the north side extends upward through the lower half of the mansard roof to form an octagonal tower capped by a pyramidal roof. Above the second-story windows in the center of the front façade and in the center of the north bay are two small bracket-supported roofs placed too high for function and quite awkward in appearance. There are oriels on the north and south sides of the building. A suggestion of the classical style appears at the entrance. A portico is supported by shortened columns terminating in capitals of highly stylized acanthus leaves. The columns rest on squared blocks of two sizes, the lower ones larger. A chimney, hidden by the tower, is decorated with stepped brickwork.

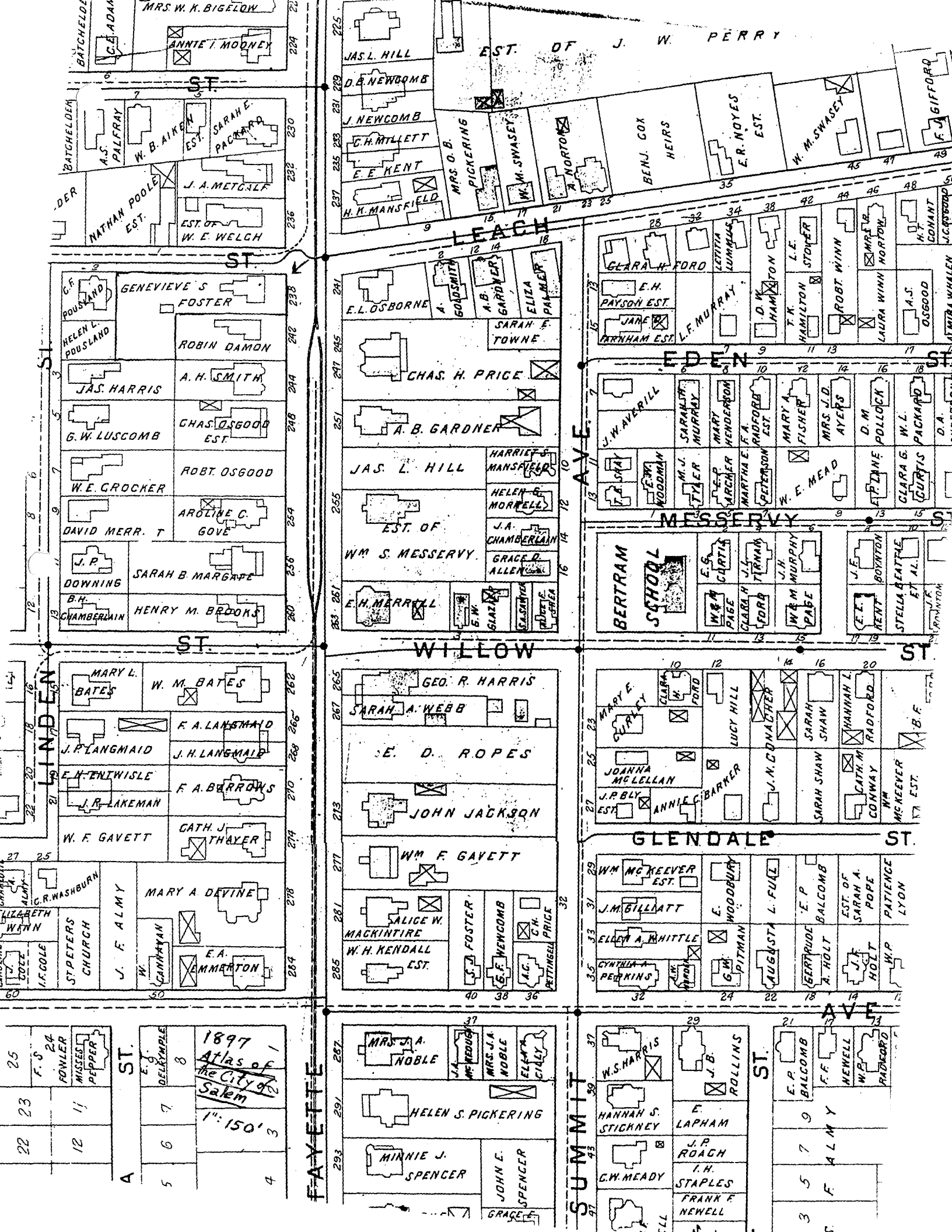
The next house (fig. 1), 248 Lafayette Street, built in 1848, expresses a style much admired in the mid-nineteenth century. Its Greek Revival character is established by an overall symmetry, a gable end to the street, a framed pediment within the front gable, and Doric columns supporting the front porch. The usual tranquillity of a Greek façade is jarred by the heavy use of large wooden brackets suggesting the Italianate influence. The brackets are placed at frequent intervals in support of the roof and cornices. There are decorative cornices over the long six-over-six pane windows. The builder was John Clifton, a merchant.

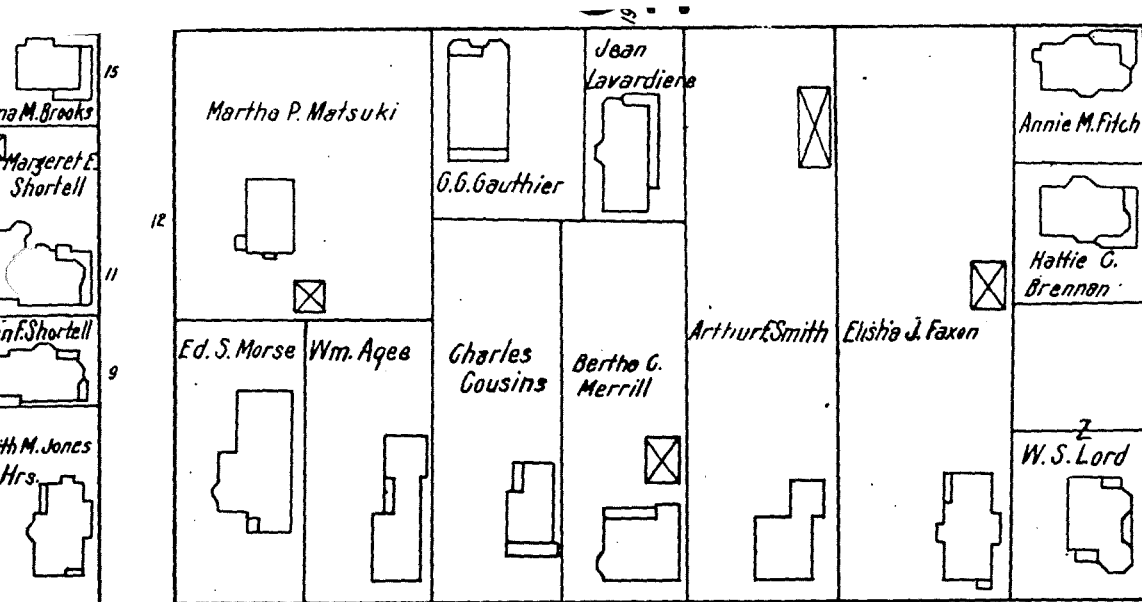


Fig. 1. John Clifton house (1848, left), 248 Lafayette Street, Salem; Alonzo Smith house (1877, left center), 244; William Pousland house (1845, right center), 244; George W. Pousland house (1843; right), 238. *Essex Institute photograph, 1878.*



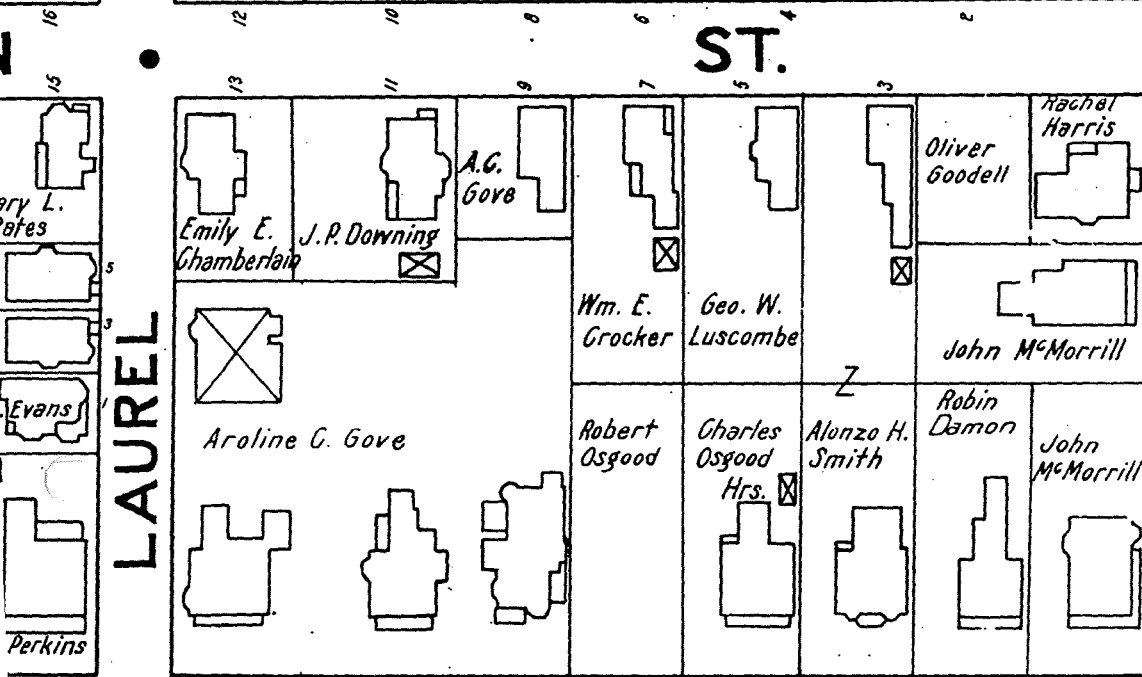
Fig. 2. William H. Gove house (1888), 254 Lafayette Street, Salem. *Photograph by the editor.*





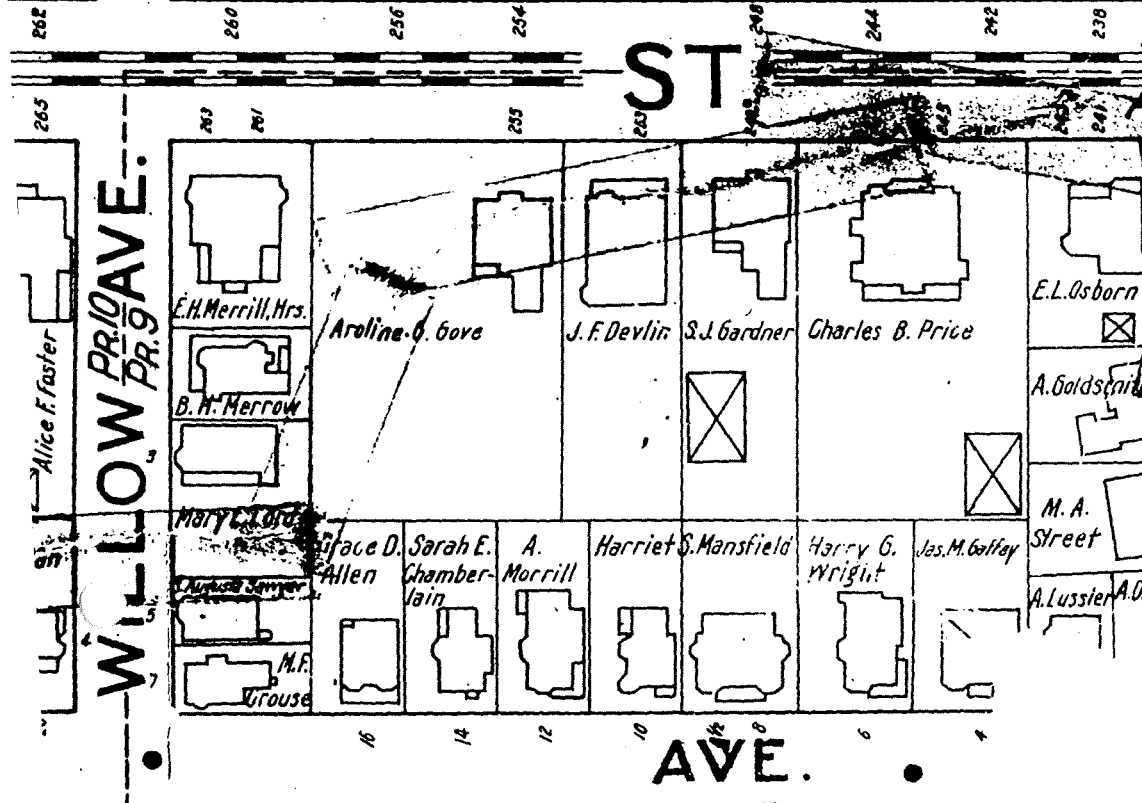
3

1911 Atlas of Salem



LAUREL

HOLLY



WILLOW PR. 10 PR. 9 AVE.

ST.

AVE.

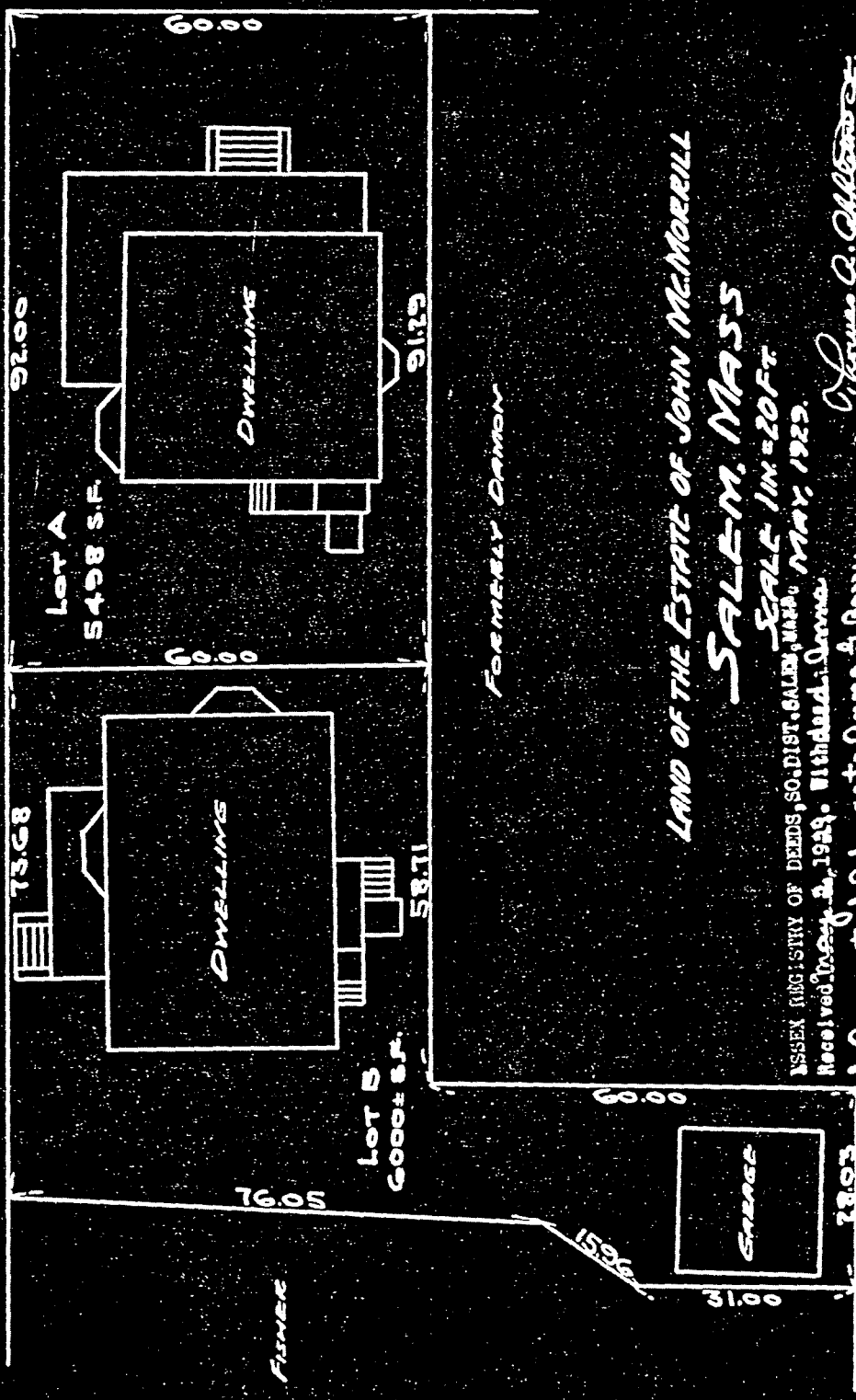
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1929 89
13042

LAFAYETTE ST.

ST.

HOLLY



FORMERLY DAMON

LAND OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN McMORRILL

SALEM, MASS

OFFICE OF THE REGISTER, SALEM, MASS.
RECEIVED MAY 2, 1929. WITHHELD.

James C. O'Connell

Attest: Mandy Kimball
Register

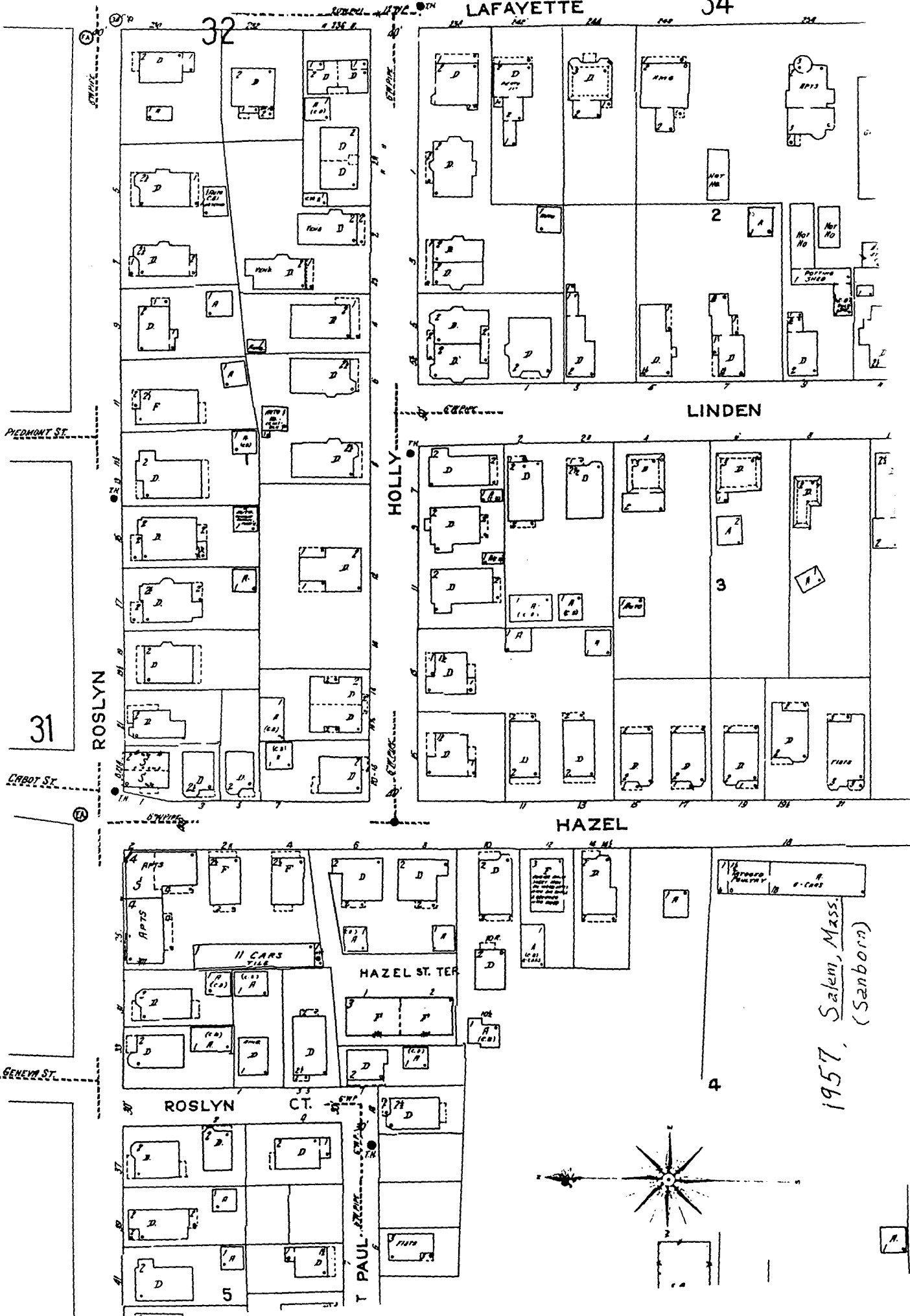
FORMERLY SMITH

33

LAFAYETTE

34

32



1957, Salem, Mass. (Sanborn)