

Historic Salem Incorporated

OFFICE AT OLD TOWN HALL.

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

15 BARR STREET

Built for

CAPTAIN JAMES SMITH, master mariner

in 1849

Research by,
Joyce King
April 1986

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

15 BARR STREET

BOOK 366 PAGE 288

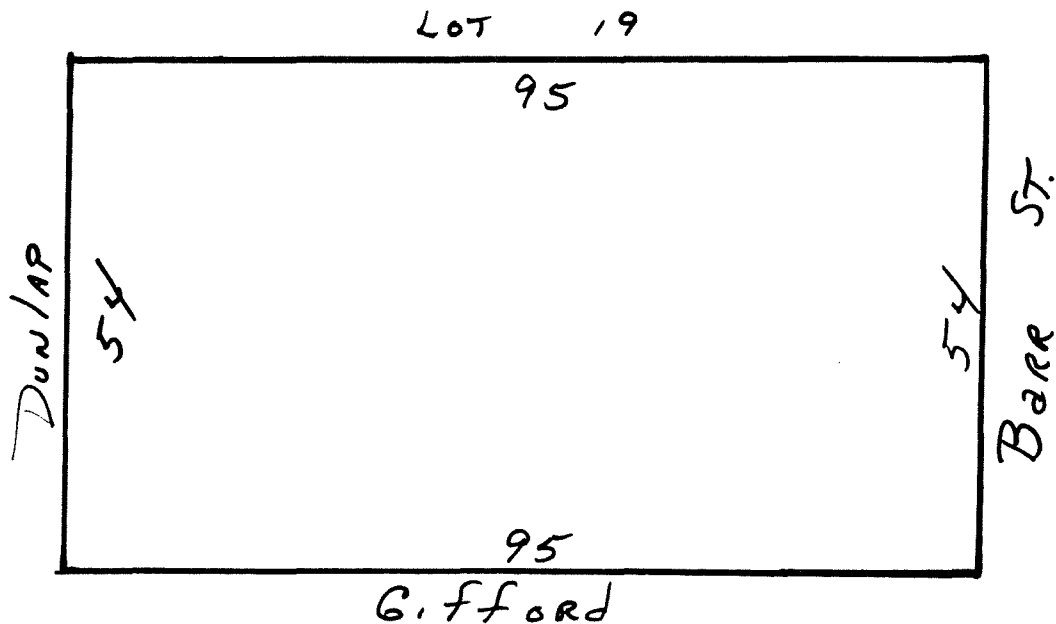
DATE - May 5, 1846

CONSIDERATION - \$200

GRANTOR (seller) - John Howard and his wife Priscila in her own right, Mary Cheever, Malthus Ward and his wife Elizabeth in her own right, Dana Lewis and Sarah his wife in her own right

GRANTEE (buyer) - Edward C. Symonds, cordwainer

DESCRIPTION - Lot of land being #17 on Howard Plan



| | | |
|----|---|-------------------|
| 21 | Sold to James Lewis for 400 ⁰⁰ | 400 ⁰⁰ |
| 19 | Sold to James Lewis for 400 ⁰⁰ | 400 ⁰⁰ |
| 17 | Sold to James Lewis for 400 ⁰⁰ | 400 ⁰⁰ |
| 15 | Sold to James Lewis for 400 ⁰⁰ | 400 ⁰⁰ |
| 13 | Sold to James Lewis for 400 ⁰⁰ | 400 ⁰⁰ |
| 11 | Sold to James Lewis for 400 ⁰⁰ | 400 ⁰⁰ |
| 9 | Sold to James Lewis for 400 ⁰⁰ | 400 ⁰⁰ |
| 7 | Sold to James Lewis for 400 ⁰⁰ | 400 ⁰⁰ |
| 5 | Sold to James Lewis for 400 ⁰⁰ | 400 ⁰⁰ |
| 3 | Sold to James Lewis for 400 ⁰⁰ | 400 ⁰⁰ |

| | | |
|----|---|-------------------|
| 22 | Sold to James Lewis for 150 ⁰⁰ | 150 ⁰⁰ |
| 20 | Sold to James Lewis for 150 ⁰⁰ | 150 ⁰⁰ |
| 18 | Sold to James Lewis for 150 ⁰⁰ | 150 ⁰⁰ |
| 16 | Sold to James Lewis for 150 ⁰⁰ | 150 ⁰⁰ |
| 14 | Sold to James Lewis for 150 ⁰⁰ | 150 ⁰⁰ |
| 12 | Sold to James Lewis for 150 ⁰⁰ | 150 ⁰⁰ |
| 10 | Sold to James Lewis for 150 ⁰⁰ | 150 ⁰⁰ |
| 8 | Sold to James Lewis for 150 ⁰⁰ | 150 ⁰⁰ |
| 6 | Sold to James Lewis for 150 ⁰⁰ | 150 ⁰⁰ |
| 4 | Sold to James Lewis for 150 ⁰⁰ | 150 ⁰⁰ |

Sales
 23200
 19650
 4285
 1895
 2594
 275
 1700
 200
 200
 200
 275
 220
 480
 175
 1074
 1759
 4959
 1200
 Street
 40
 feet
 wide

18th Street

Essex Institute
 Cheever-Howard MSS

4th Mason Street

on Bank

BOOK 403 PAGE 56

DATE - October 12, 1848
CONSIDERATION - \$235
GRANTOR (seller) - Edward and Hannah Symonds
GRANTEE (buyer) - James Smith, mariner
DESCRIPTION - All that lot of land in North Fields
Being number 17 on the plan of lots
belonging to John Howard Jr. et al
PREVIOUS REFERENCE - The same I purchased of Howard on May
5, 1846

The Salem tax records for 1849 mention this house for the first time:

1849 James Smith h(ouse) Barr St. \$700

It is clear that Mr. Smith had the house built shortly after purchasing the land and the date of 1849 should be assigned.

The 1850 census shows the family unit at 15 Barr Street

James Smith age 40 master mariner, prop. val. \$700 born Eng.
Sarah " age 28 born Mass.
Sarah E. " age 5 born Mass.
Hannah " age 1month (in Sept.) born Mass.
Harriet Perry age 12 born Mass.

James Smith, as stated above, was born in England in 1810. He married Sarah, the daughter of Jacob and Hannah Hiltz, in Salem on September 4, 1843. Captain Smith died, in Somerville, on February 23, 1853 at the age of 43. An inventory of his estate (probate #53552) follows:

To the honorable David A. White Judge of Probate for the County of Essex

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

James Smith

late of Salmon in said County, Mariner deceased, intestate, as shown to us by the Administrator.

REAL ESTATE.

4 Lots of land in Barr Street, with a dwelling house, and
where buildings there on 1200.

Personal Estate.

| | | | |
|---|-----|---|-----------------|
| One Mahogany Sofa 10.00 - one Center table 5.00 - one Card table 5.00 | 20 | ✓ | |
| One " work table 4.00 - one Looking glass 5.00 - one Stove 4.00 | 13 | ✓ | |
| One Working Chair 1.00 - 6 Chamber Chairs 3.00 - one Lamp 1.00 | 5 | ✓ | |
| One table Cover 3.00 - One Carpet 8.00 - one hearth Rug 2.00 | 13 | ✓ | |
| One Bureau 8.00 - two Bedsteads 6.00 - Crochery and glassware 3.00 | 17 | ✓ | |
| One Carpets 6.00 - one Secretary 8.00 - 6 Common Chairs 2.00 | 16 | ✓ | |
| two Chamber tables 2.00 - one wash stand 1.00 - one dressing table glass 2.00 | 5 | ✓ | |
| One Bible and other Books 3.00 - wearing Apparel 28.00 | 28 | ✓ | |
| two Feather Beds 20.00 - a lot of Bedding 20.00 | 40 | ✓ | |
| Eleven Silver spoons 7.00 - two large spoons 3.00 - Iron & tin ware, | 12 | ✓ | |
| table linen, 2.50 - Knives & forks 2.00, wooden ware 1.50. | 6 | ✓ | 175.00 ✓ |
| One Chronometer 75.00 - one Sextant 25.00 | 100 | ✓ | |
| One quadrant 4.00 - one spy glass 3.00 - one watch 12.00 | 19 | ✓ | 119.00 ✓ |
| | | | 294.00 ✓ |
| Cash, Received of, Edward D. Kimball, balance of wages | | | 287.53 ✓ |
| | | | <u>581.53</u> ✓ |

The census records follow the Smith family over the years:

1870

Sarah N. Smith age 47 keeps house, prop. val. \$1,200, born MA
Sarah E. " age 25 no occupation, born MA
Edward Morse age 20 currier, born MA
Hannah " age 20 no occupation, born MA

1880

Sarah N. Smith age 56 widow, keeps house, born MA
Sarah E. Smith age 35 daughter, clerk at registry of deeds,
born MA

1900

Sarah N. Smith age 77 born Oct. 1822 in Mass., father born in
N.Y., mother born Mass.
Sarah E. Smith age 54 born June 1845 in Mass. father born
England, mother born Mass. clerk in office

1910

Sarah N. Smith age 87, has own income, born MA
Sarah E. " age 60, indexer at registry of deeds, born MA
Abbie E. Voller age 55, house keeper, domestic born MA

Sarah N. Smith, wife of James, died on June 14, 1913. All
property was bequeath, by will, to her daughter Sarah E.
Smith. (probate 116390)

The local papers carried this notice:

June 16, 1913 DEATH OF AN AGED LADY

Mrs. Sarah Noble, widow of James Smith, died at her home, 15
Barr street Saturday. She was born Oct. 21, 1822 in Salem the
daughter of the late Jacob and Hannah (Noble) Hiltz. She
leaves a daughter Miss Sarah E. Smith. Funeral notice will be
announced later.

Mrs. Sarah N. Smith - The funeral of Mrs. Sarah Noble Smith
was held at her late home 15 Barr street, yesterday afternoon,
Rev. Harry J. Newton of the Crombie Street Church officiated
many friends attended and Mrs Quimby sang. There were
beautiful floral tributes. The burial was in Harmony Grove
cemetery, Rev. Mr. Newton conducting the committal services.

Sarah E. Smith died on December 3, 1914. In her will, written on August 15, 1912, after a bequest of \$500 to the Crombie St. Church, she left all her estate to her mother Sarah N. Smith. If her mother be deceased then all to Doris Alden Brien and Denaes Gray Brien the children of William C. and Abbie Brien of Dorchester, MA. Her personal estate totaled \$6,858.68 including money, furniture and coal in the cellar. The house was valued at \$1,000 and the land \$600.

BOOK 2288 PAGE 293

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| DATE - | February 19, 1915 |
| CONSIDERATION - | none given (mortgage \$1,100 |
| GRANTOR (seller) - | William C. Brien of Pittsburg executor of the estate of Sarah Smith |
| GRANTEE (buyer) - | Martha J. and Catherine G. Clancy |
| DESCRIPTION - | Land and buildings |
| PREVIOUS REFERENCE - | The same conveyed by Edward Symond to James Smith on October 16, 1848 |

1917 directory
vacant

1918 directory
Garland James W. (C. Elizb) distributor 15 Barr

1920 directory
Jutton Frederick F. (Tyra M.) 226 Essex St., h. 15 Barr St.

BOOK 2464 PAGE 320

DATE - September 17, 1920

CONSIDERATION - none given (mortgage \$2,800)

GRANTOR (seller) - Martha J. Koen widow, formerly Martha J. Clancy and Catherine G. Clancy both of Danvers

GRANTEE (buyer) - John J. and Hannah A. Claffey

DESCRIPTION - Land and buildings being lot #17 on plan

PREVIOUS REFERENCE - The same premises conveyed to us by William C. Brien exec. on Feb. 19, 1915

1922 directory

Claffey John J. (Agnes) trainman B&M

1940 directory listing

15 Barr St.

Claffey John J. (Agnes H.)

John J. jr clk

Rose E. sub teacher R15 Barr

1966 directory listing

15 Barr St.

Claffey John J. (H. Agnes)

Rose Teacher Harrington School (L) R15

John J. Claffey died on December 5, 1983.

The house is currently owned by Rose E. Claffey - 1986.

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.

The lot on which this house stands was in the part of Salem called North Fields. There was very little development, in North Fields, until about 1806 and in 1808, Dr. Bentley records in his diary: "walked over in Northfields. The new roads and improved cultivation has made a great change and had Capt. Jonathan Mason lived, he would have accelerated their progress. Now several square, three-storied houses are built and Northfields are rising in competition with any part of the town. Only one road (North street) was formerly passable leading to Waters' bridge (Danversport), now (1808) Orne and School streets are open and good, and the lower road upon North river (Mason street) is very good."

"Almost all of the section east of Tremont and north of School streets, excepting half a dozen houses right on the street, was Barr's pasture, containing nut trees and oaks, and pasturing for cows, and is now covered with houses."
(Northfields by Charles Symonds)



FLINT STREET
EST

UPHAM STREET
TER

NORTH STREET

Treadwell

Wool

BARR STREET

DEARBORN STREET

MECHANIC STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

1851

N O

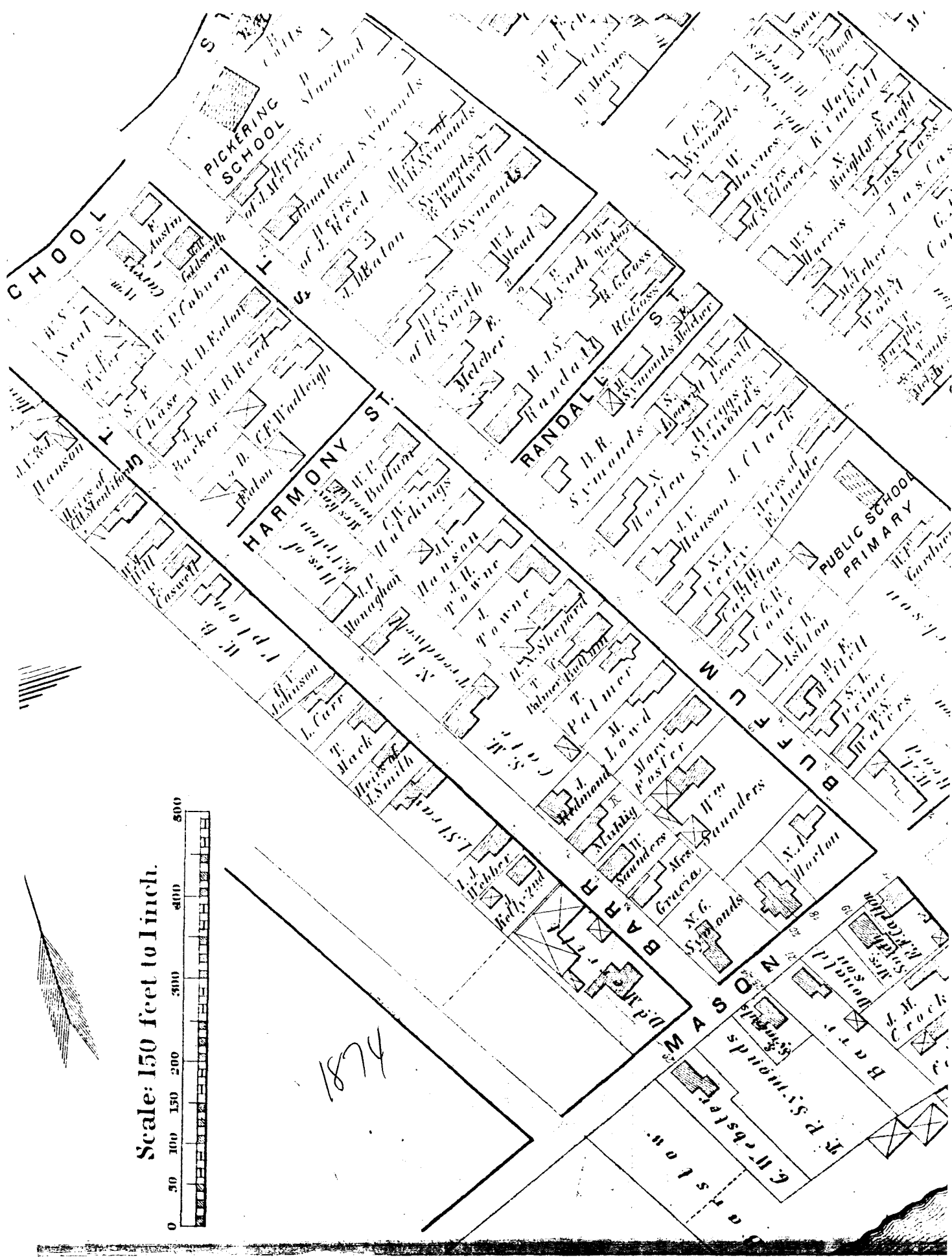
Essex Rail Road

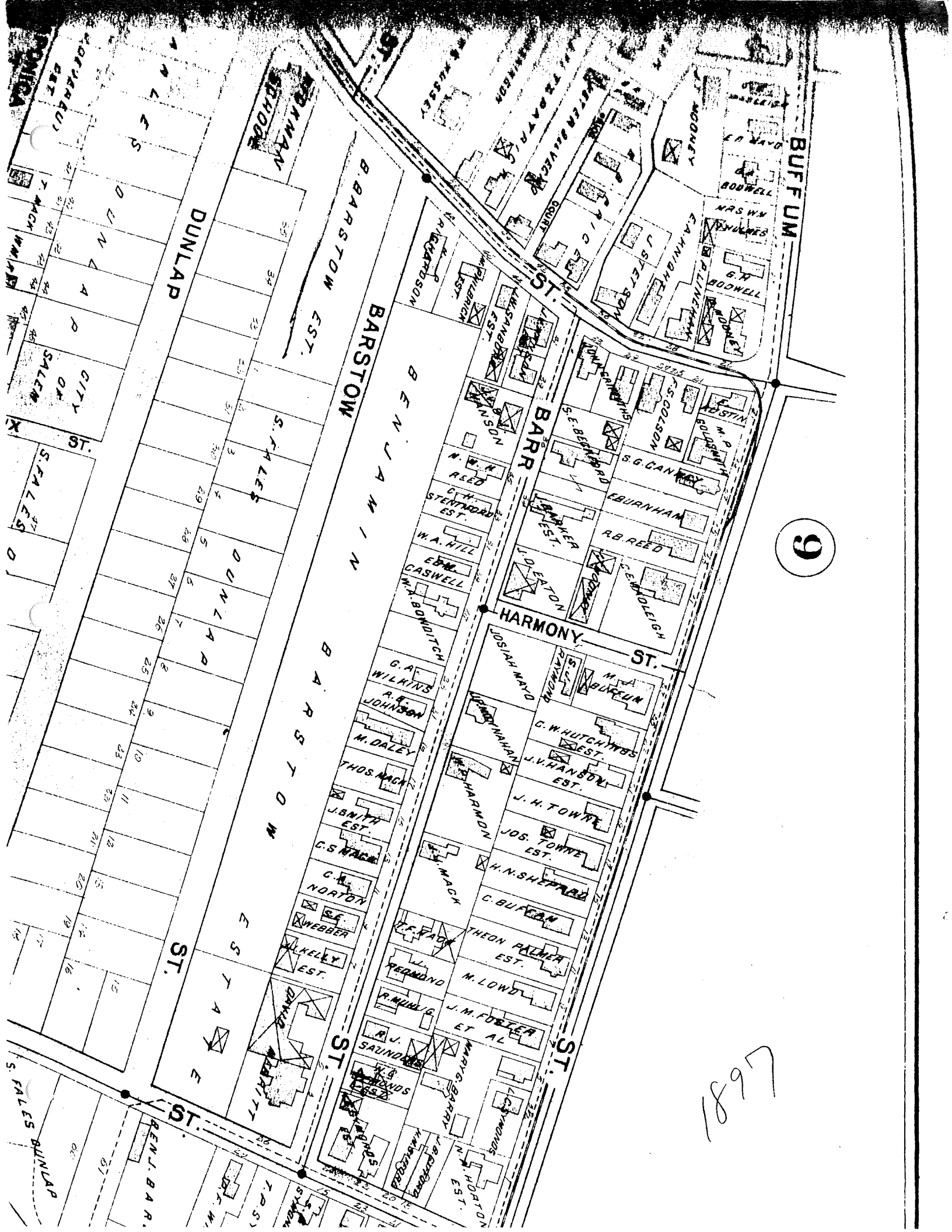
15

Scale: 150 feet to inch.



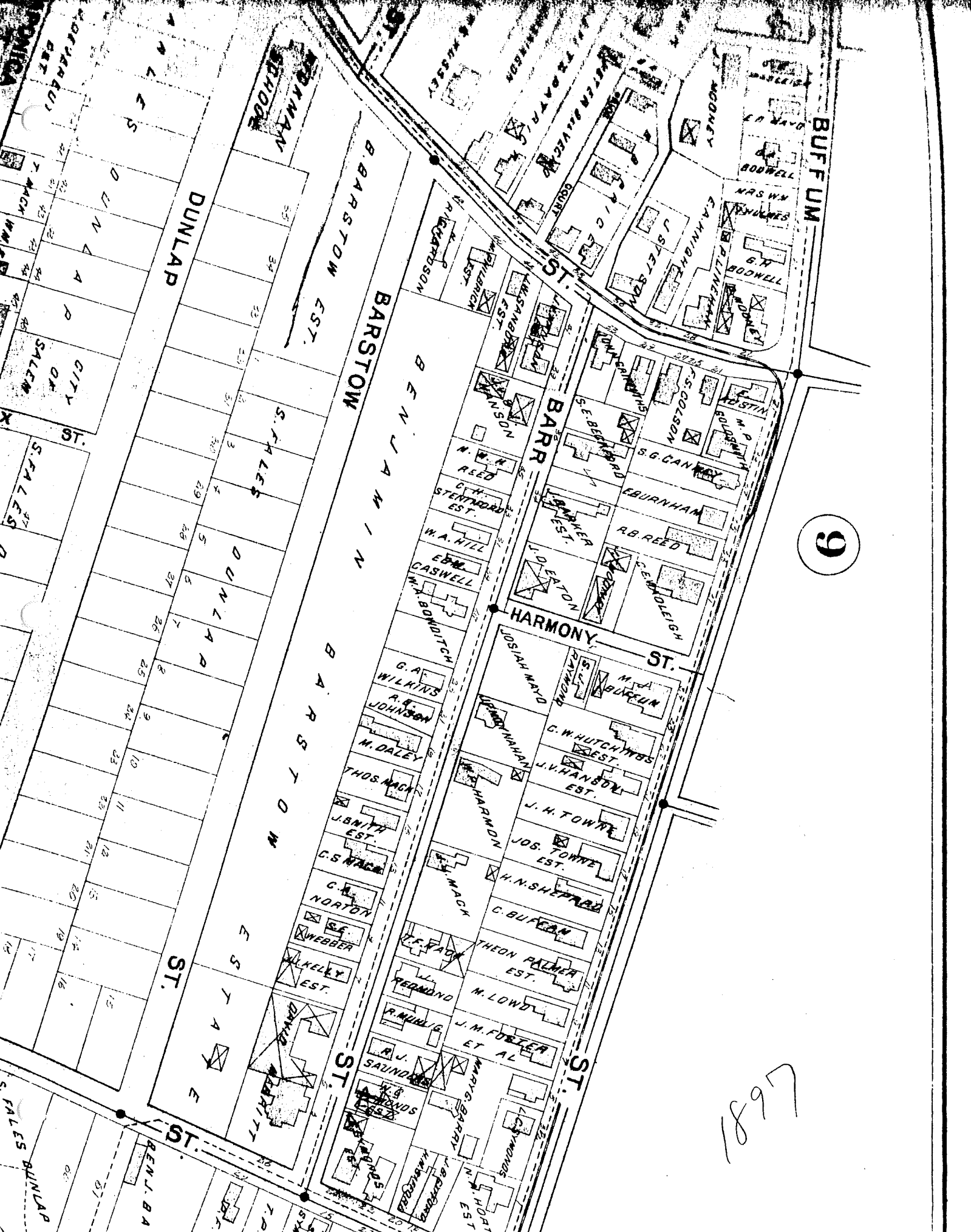
1874





9

6981



BUFFUM

ST.

BARR

HARMONY ST.

ST.

ST.

ST.

DUNLAP

BARSTOW

BARSTOW EST.

BENJAMIN

BARSTOW

ESTATE

S. FALES

DUNLAP

ST.

RENJ. BAR.

MOONEY
BOODWELL
MRS W.M. BODWELL
J. STEVENSON
E. ANNIGHT
M. PLINER
W. H. MONEE

W. J. STEVENSON
S. G. CANNEY
C. G. COLSON
R. B. REED
S. G. CANNEY
G. BURNHAM

W. J. STEVENSON
S. G. CANNEY
C. G. COLSON
R. B. REED
S. G. CANNEY
G. BURNHAM

VOSIAH MAYO
M. J. BLISS
G. W. HUTCHINGS
J. V. HANSON
J. H. TOWNE
JOS. TOWNE
H. N. SHEPPARD

THEON PALMER
M. LOWE
J. M. FORSTER
ET AL

MRS. G. BARRY
J. B. STUBBS
N. W. HOTTON

G. A. WILKINS
A. R. JOHNSON
M. DALEY
THOS. MACK
J. B. NITT
C. S. MACK
C. L. NORTON
G. E. WEBBER
W. KELLY

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G. E. WEBBER
W. KELLY

S. FALES

DUNLAP

ST.

RENJ. BAR.

S. FALES

DUNLAP

ST.

RENJ. BAR.

CITY
SALEM

DUNLAP

ST.

RENJ. BAR.

S. FALES

DUNLAP

ST.

RENJ. BAR.

NORTH

COOPERWELL SCHOOL

N. SALEM
METHODIST
CHURCH

BUFFUM

SCHOOL

HARMONY

BARR

BARSTOW

