

# Historic Salem incorporated

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

259 LAFAYETTE STREET  
BUILT FOR  
JOSE MARGATI, BOOKKEEPER  
1869

Research by  
Rory Goff  
June 1990

259 LAFAYETTE STREET:  
BUILT IN 1869 FOR  
JOSÉ MARGATI, BOOKKEEPER  
MOVED TO THIS PLACE IN 1915 FROM ACROSS THE STREET

*office*

NOTE:

This house was built on the west side of Lafayette Street, directly opposite where it now stands, at what was then called number 116; after 1893, number 256 (in Essex Institute Photograph "262 Lafayette St.," the Margati house appears in the background). Like the land across the street underlying No. 255-259 Lafayette Street, this land belonged to Thomas Flint in 1700 (See Map of Salem in 1700), and was a part of the farm of Ezekiel Hersey Derby in 1851 (See Part 1 of Map of Salem, 1851).

Ezekiel Hersey Derby, third son of the renowned Salem merchant Elias Hasket Derby and Elizabeth (Crowninshield), was born on November 1, 1772. He graduated from Harvard College in 1791, married Hannah Browne (Fitch) in 1794, and embarked on a merchant career. Shortly afterwards, however, he turned to agricultural pursuits, living on the "Derby Farm" in South Salem, joining the earliest Massachusetts Agricultural Society and similar organizations, and indulging in experimental and scientific farming. He also straightened Lafayette Street, planted elms along it, and ensured that the houses to be built would be well back from the street. He died on October 31, 1852, at one day less than eighty years of age.

BOOK 446 PAGE 234

DATE-	June 4, 1851
CONSIDERATION-	\$1539
GRANTOR-	Ezekiel Hersey Derby of Salem, Esquire
GRANTEE-	Oliver Thayer of Salem

DESCRIPTION-

"A House Lot of land situated in South Salem, and bounded as follows; East by Lafayette Street and measuring eighty-five and a half feet on said Street, South by land of Timothy Brooks, and measuring three hundred feet by said land to Linden Street, West by Linden Street measuring eighty-five and a half feet on said Street, North partly on land of E. Hersey Derby and partly by land of Clark James and measuring three hundred feet by the same to Lafayette Street. Any House erected on Lafayette Street to be set in a line with those already put up and any on Linden Street to be six feet from that street. The fences to be put up by the purchaser."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- None

NOTE-

Book 446, Page 234 also records Oliver Thayer's mortgage of the above property to E. Hersey Derby for \$1239, discharged on June 28, 1852.

The Salem Evening News (June 2, 1893) gives the following obituary:

"... Capt. Oliver Thayer was born March 12, 1798. He was a native of this city, and attended the public schools ... shipping aboard the American ship Augustus for Smyrna when but 19 years of age. On that voyage he remained the whole summer of 1817.

"He rose in his profession rapidly, and was made commander of the brig Stork in 1826. He afterwards sailed in and commanded many vessels. His last voyage was made in the ship Amazon, in 1832. This vessel he took to New Orleans, loaded her with cotton, and made a successful voyage to Marseilles. On the voyage home he stopped at Matanza.

"He was taken sick after his voyage to Marseilles, in the Amazon, and upon arriving home gave up following the sea. After his retirement, he entered into the lumber business, which he continued for many years. Of late years he had done little in active business circles, devoting his time to benevolent institutions, various charities, looking after his own personal interests, and visiting old acquaintances. ...

He was a Congregationalist, and always took a deep interest in religious matters. He was a

NOTE (Continued)-

member of the Crombie street church, and also a deacon of that house. ...

"Capt. Thayer was elected a director of the Mercantile Bank October, 1849, and continued in that capacity until October, 1885. He was always a very interested and attentive member. Even after ceasing to be a director, he would frequently call at the bank and was always welcome.

"He was made a trustee of the Five Cent savings bank upon its organization in 1855, became one of the vice presidents in May, 1873, and continued as such until 1892, when, though re-elected, he declined to serve on account of inability to attend any active duty."

Oliver Thayer married Rachel L. Bancroft, daughter of Daniel and Sarah Bancroft, on April 6, 1824. The Salem Directory of 1837 lists Oliver Thayer with his father-in-law Daniel Bancroft as Bancroft and Thayer, lumber, at 45 Water Street (now part of Derby Street, directly across from the Charter Street cemetery; see Part 2 of Map of Salem, 1851); the Directories 1842-53 show him alone, same business address, house at 29 Broad Street. By 1855, Water Street was made part of Derby Street, and Thayer's lumber wharf is now called "199 Derby," where it remained through 1879.

He lived at 29 Broad Street until 1869, when he moved into the house that his son-in-law José Margati built, at 116 (now 259) Lafayette St., on the land that Thayer sold to him, in the transaction below.

BOOK 666 PAGE 242

DATE-

April 20, 1864

CONSIDERATION-

\$3550

GRANTOR-

Oliver Thayer of Salem, lumber dealer

GRANTEE-

José Margati of Salem

DESCRIPTION-

"... a lot of land situated in South Salem and bounded as follows ... East by Lafayette street and measuring eighty-five and one-half feet on said street, South by land of Henry M. Brooks and measuring three hundred feet by said land to Linden street, west by Linden street measuring eighty-five and a half feet on said street, North partly by land of Daniel Bruce and partly by land of Ripley Ropes, and measuring three hundred feet by the same to Lafayette street [then same as above]"

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- None

NOTE-

The Valuation List for May, 1869 shows José Margati first at 115 Lafayette (the house next north of Messervy's), but this is "sold to Brooks," and pencilled in is "New House 116 Lafayette St," valued at \$8,000. (City Hall Tax Records; see Map, Atlas of the City of Salem, 1874).

On April 13, 1882, José Margati was granted a building permit for an addition to his dwelling house at 116 Lafayette street (Essex Institute, Building Permits).

José Margati was born in Manila c. 1841, to Lorenzo and Dolores Margati. On June 16, 1863, he married Oliver and Rachel B. Thayer's daughter, Sarah B. Thayer; he was aged 22, she was 21. The Salem and Boston Directories list him as "clerk" and "bookkeeper" at 178 Devonshire St., Room 34, in Boston; probate records list him as "corporation treasurer." He died June 21, 1887.

The Salem Evening News (June 21, 1887) provides the following obituary:

"José Margati, a resident of South Salem, died suddenly at his residence on Lafayette street. He had been sick for some time, but a fatal result was not expected. Mr. Margati was Spanish by birth, and has been a resident of Salem for a number of years. He was a son[-in-law] of the venerable Capt. Oliver Thayer, and leaves a family of several daughters; he was a cultured, educated gentleman, highly esteemed by a large circle of acquaintances. He was a fine linguist, an excellent musician, and he was a member of the Tabernacle Church. He was about 40 [sic] years of age."

NOTE (Continued)- On March 25, 1885, José Margati had conveyed the estate to his wife through intermediary George R. Curwen, as shown in the following two deeds:

BOOK 1147 PAGE 230

DATE- March 25, 1885

CONSIDERATION- \$1 and other good considerations

GRANTOR- José Margati of Salem

GRANTEE- George R. Curwen of Salem

DESCRIPTION- "... a certain lot of land with the buildings thereon, situate in said Salem, and bounded Easterly by Lafayette Street, eighty-five and one-half feet, Southerly by land of Henry M. Brooks, and land of Charles W. Richardson, three hundred feet, Westerly by Linden Street, eighty-five and one-half feet, and northerly by land of David Merritt, and land of Sarah F. Gallup, three hundred feet ..."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- "... subject to the restrictions contained in my deed, from Oliver Thayer, recorded in ... B[ook] 666, L[eam] 242 ..."

BOOK 1147 PAGE 230

DATE- March 25, 1885

CONSIDERATION- \$1 and other good considerations

GRANTOR- George R. Curwen of Salem

GRANTEE- Sarah B. Margati, wife of José Margati of Salem

DESCRIPTION- Same as above

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- Same as above

NOTE- Mrs. Margati rented a portion of 256 Lafayette Street to George B. Harris, clerk at 28 State St., Boston (1895-'96), and to Charles E. Allen, asst. rec. teller at Eliot National Bank, Boston (1899-1900).

DATE- December 22, 1900

CONSIDERATION- \$1 and other valuable considerations

GRANTOR- Sarah B. Margati of Salem, widow

GRANTEE- Aroline C. Gove

DESCRIPTION- "... a certain lot of land with the building thereon situated in said Salem, bounded Easterly by Lafayette Street, eighty-five and a half (85 1/2) feet, Southerly by other land of said Gove formerly of Brooks two hundred (200) feet, Westerly by land heretofore conveyed by me to the said Gove, eighty-five and a half (85 1/2) feet, Northerly by other land of said Gove two hundred (200) feet."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- "Meaning and intending to convey all that I now own of the premises conveyed to me by deed of George R. Curwen, dated March 25, 1885 ... Book 1147, Leaf 230 [excepting portions previously sold]. Subject to the restrictions contained in the deed to José Margati from Oliver Thayer, ... Book 666, Leaf 242."

NOTE- Aroline C. Gove rented No. 256 Lafayette to John M. Potter, publisher in Amesbury (1901) and then to his widow, Mrs. Josephine T. Potter (1903-'04), and then to Mrs. Mary A. Williams, widow of Henry F. Williams (1905-'06). Mrs. Williams then exchanged living quarters with Frank S. Price, who had been living at No. 255; Mr. Price, secretary and then president at 160 Pearl St., Boston, continued living at No. 256 until 1914.

Aroline Gove herself lived at 254 Lafayette Street, the house next north of the Margati house (then at No. 256; see Maps, Atlas of the City of Salem, 1897, and Atlas of Salem, 1911). Perhaps to give herself room for a garden ("Gove Greenhouses" appears at No. 256 in the 1939 Directory), or perhaps simply to consolidate her two Second-Empire rental structures, in 1915 she apparently moved the house from No. 256 to a spot directly across Lafayette street, just south of No. 255, now calling

NOTE (Continued)-

it No. 257 or 259. The Valuation List for "Gove," April, 1914 shows a house at 256 Lafayette and a house at 255 Lafayette; the List for April, 1915 shows only a plot of land at 256 Lafayette, with two house entries at 255 Lafayette Street. The Collector's Book is still more specific; for 1915, No. 256 Lafayette Street has the pencilled notation "moved away" and No. 257 is pencilled in. For Precinct 9, 1916, No. 257 is changed to No. 259 Lafayette Street, with a note: "3-5-15: addition to dwelling, 10' X 7'" (City Hall Tax Records).

The Salem Directory shows J. Frank Boynton, oiled clothing manufacturer in Gloucester, living at No. 257 Lafayette in 1915; he is listed at No. 259 (No. 257 is "Vacant") in 1916. Charles W. Merrill, sales, Boston (and Sallie S. Merrill), appears at No. 259 in 1917; Lewis W. Newell, employee at Raymond R. Whitcomb Co., Boston, appears here from 1918 through 1926 (No. 257 is still "Vacant" through 1918, and then disappears entirely through 1922).

From 1924, both No. 257 and No. 259 appear; No. 257 contains Nathaniel F. Hopkins and Florence Hopkins, teacher at the Bertram school (1924) and then Stella P. Hopkins, dressmaker (through 1929), followed by Henry J. Campbell (1930-'37). No. 259 contains Herbert H. Talbot, sales (1929-'32) and Mrs. Priscilla Talbot (1933-'35), then Mrs. Priscilla Farnham (1936); No. 259 is not listed in the 1937 Directory, and 1939 omits Nos. 255, 257, and 259; they are apparently undergoing conversion at this time. In 1940, 255-259 Lafayette Street appears as the Avallon Apartments, with 10 apartments listed.

BOOK 6759 PAGE 152

DATE-

October 30, 1980

CONSIDERATION-

\$285,000

GRANTOR-

Caroline G. Doty of Salem, unmarried

GRANTEE-

"Designtech, Inc., a Massachusetts corporation with a principal place of business in Ipswich" [John Sanidas, President and Treasurer]



DESCRIPTION-

"... the land, together with the buildings thereon, situated in said Salem and bounded and described as follows:  
WESTERLY by Lafayette Street, 130 feet;  
NORTHERLY by land formerly of Devlin and now or late of Dunne, 199.7 feet;  
EASTERLY by land now or formerly of Morrell, Chamberlain, and Allen, 129.6 feet; and  
SOUTHERLY by land now or formerly of Merrill and Glazier, 200 feet."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE-

"Being the second parcel described in deed from Aroline Gove to Caroline G. Doty, dated May 10, 1934, ... Book 2991, Page 593."

NOTE-

On December 8, 1980, Designtech created the Lafayette Court Condominium, comprising the land and buildings of 255-259 Lafayette Street (Book 6771, Page 578).

LAFAYETTE

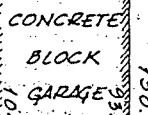
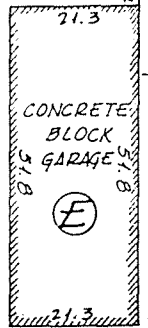
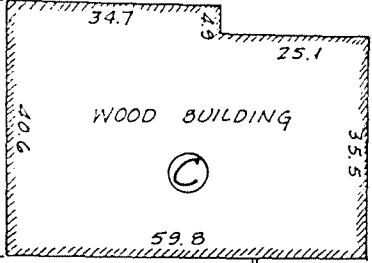
STREET

SUMMIT (PUBLIC) STREET

N 82° 17' 30" E

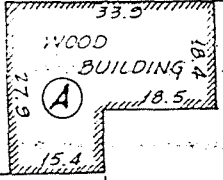
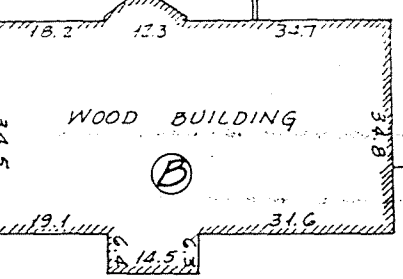
200.00

JOHN H. & DEVON A. HAMILTON



ROBERT D. & JEANNE M. BROPHY

26,000 ± S.F.



JOHN L. & ALEXANDRA TRANOS

200.00

S 82° 17' 30" W

CHAIN LINK FENCE

CHAIN LINK FENCE POST

MARIE GIANOULIS

PAUL E. & DOROTHY M. LORD

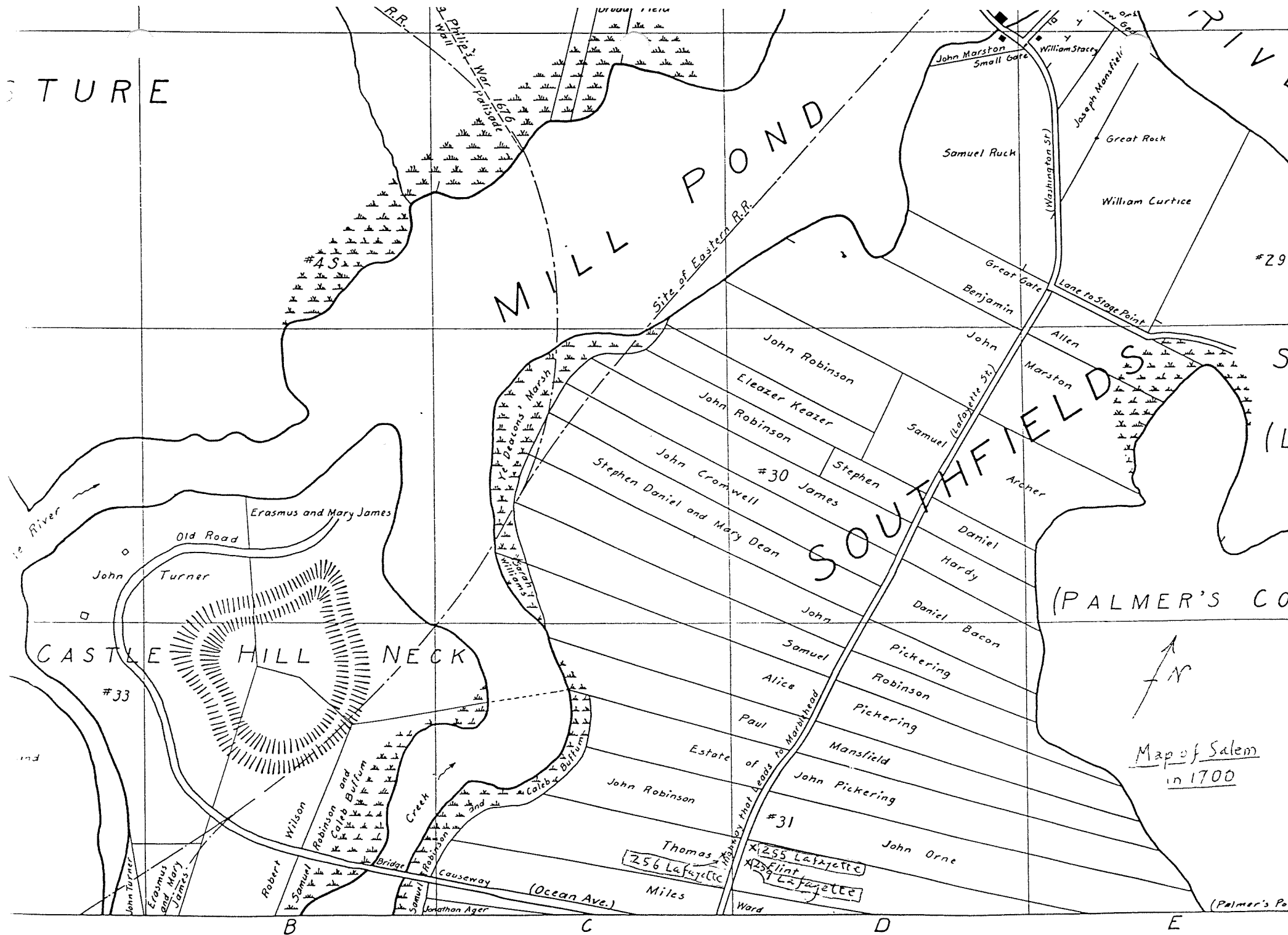
ELIZABETH A. & HELEN F. TRAINOR

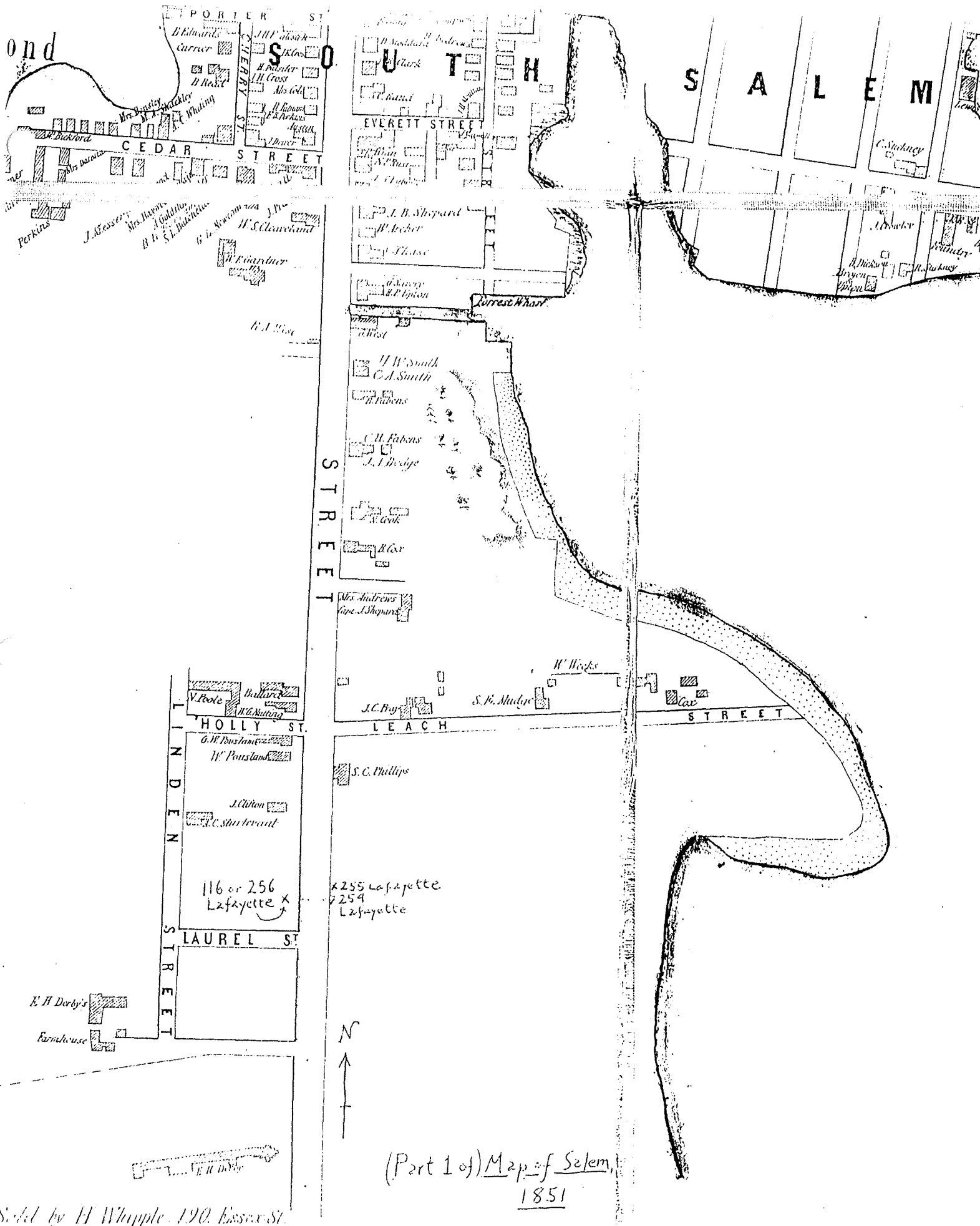
WAYNE H. & BARBARA B. WEINER

CORNER GRANITE CURB  
N 07° 30' 00" W  
RIM S.M.H.  
ELEVATION 50.00  
(ASSUMED)

690

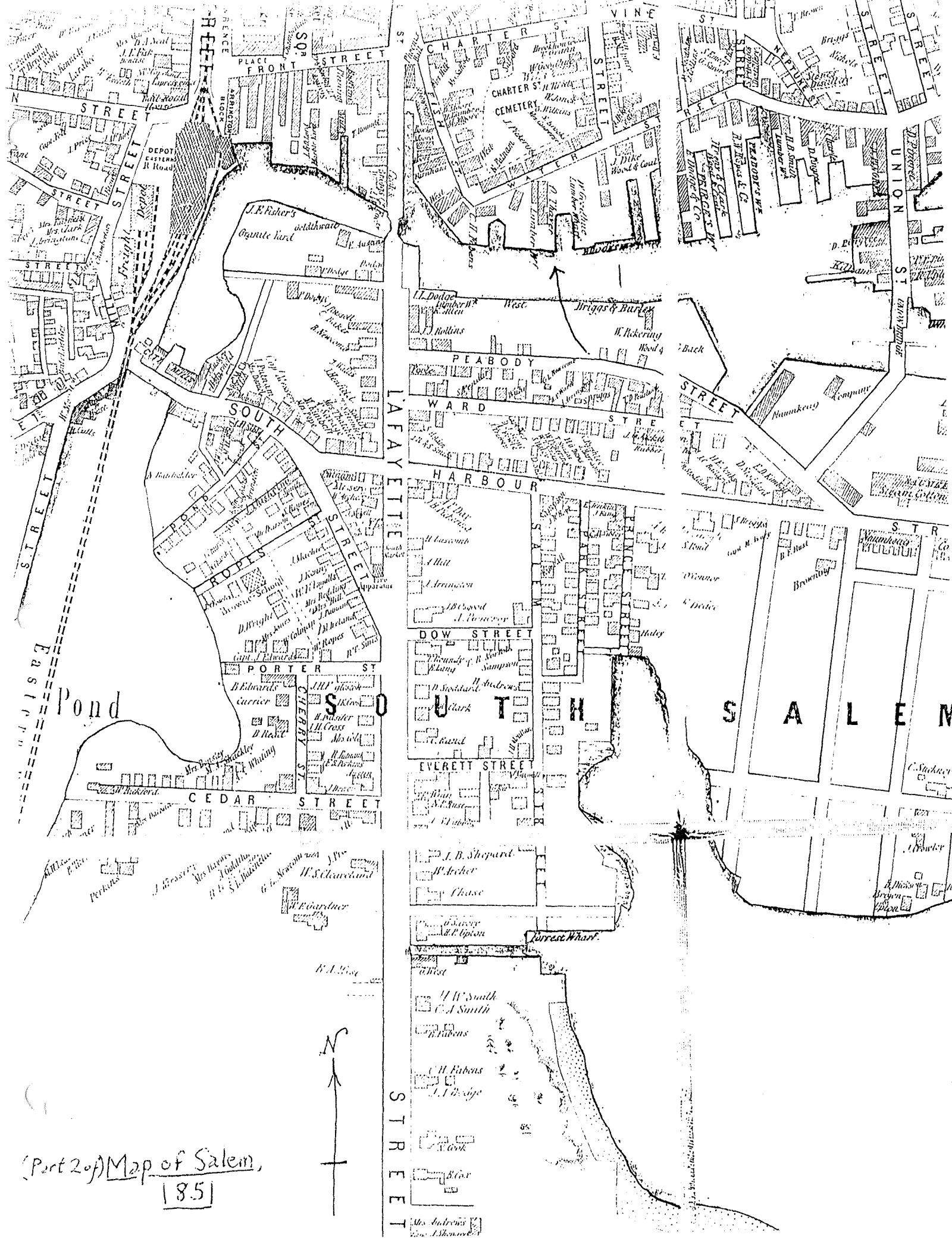
STURE





Sold by H Whipple 190 Essex St.

(Part 1 of) Map of Salem,  
1851



(Part 2 of) Map of Salem,  
1851

J. K. Fisher's  
Granite Yard

U. Dodge  
J. Collins  
West  
Briggs & Burley  
W. Hicking

PEABODY  
WARD  
STREET

HARBOUR

H. Caswell  
A. Hill  
J. Trueman  
J. B. Caswell  
J. Trueman

DOW STREET

U T H

EVLETT STREET

J. B. Shepard  
W. Archer  
Chase

Correct Wharf

H. W. Smith  
C. A. Smith  
H. Ribens

H. Ribens  
J. I. Bridge  
Blair

STREET

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S T.

ord	Geo. W. Pousland	Geo. W. Pousland	104
E. J. Faxon	Jas. Harras	Mrs. Wm. Pousland	106
Smith	Wm. Silver	Chas. Osgood	110
Jno. W. Perkins	Jas. C. Babbard	Chas. Osgood	117
West	D. Merrill	R. Ropes	119
Agge	Jose Margali		116
l. E. S. Morse	H. M. Brooks		118

S T.

W. L. L. L.	Wm. M. Bates		120
E. H. Smith	J. D. Haignmaid	E. A. Haignmaid	122
I. J. Patch	Almy Wiggins & Clark	P. H. Peach	124
I. J. Patch	Wm. P. Gavett	E. S. Thayer	126
Low	Rev. Geo. Bachelor	H. Nilwert	128
Smith	Jno. F. Cole		130
J. Burdick	A. W. & C.		132

LINDEN

A V E.

RAILROAD

L L.

D. d. Buffum	Wm. H. Palmer
C. C. Pellingill	
C. H. Price	
J. F. Brooks	
Wm. S. Messervey	
R. S. Andrew	G. R. Harris
	Sawyer

WILLOW

G. R. Harris	
J. H. Webb	
Almy Wiggins & Clark	
A. W. Allen	
J. F. Smith	
P. H. Peach	C. C. Pellingill
L. D. Pellingill	

Osborn	Page	Upton	Chas. B. E. W.	Ho	I. Harrison	S. A. Merrill	M. Wiggins
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E D E N

Jas. W. Averill	A. W. & C.	Jno. S. Henderson	Wm. S. Messervey
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A V E

J. A. Fogg	Jas. E. Payne	A. W. & C.
Chas. Nelson	J. P. Blye	

GLENDALE

A. S. Ham	Jos. H. Webb	C. H. Newcomb
Jno. P. Brown		

A V E.

Almy Wiggins & Clark	Mrs. S. S. Mosman	Wm. H. Fletcher

A V E.

LAFAYETTE

Geo. P. Rust	
A. W. & C.	
Almy Wiggins	
G. F. Cor	Nathaniel

CLIFTON

SUMMIT

J. W. Julian	

22 21 19 17 13 11 9

ELLAN COLLEMAN  
PATTEN  
EMMA P. MERRELL  
MARGAN  
MARY ANN SULLIVAN  
CORAL J. BATHCHELDER  
A.S. PALFRAY  
W. B. AIKEN  
SARAH PACARRA

J. G. MERRILL  
J. G. MERRILL EST.  
SUBIE GREEN  
MARY ANN KEHEW EST.  
CORAL BATHCHELDER  
NATHAN POOLE EST.  
J. A. METCALF  
EST. OF W. E. WELCH

230 232 234 236 238 240

J. NEWCOMB  
E. H. MILLETT  
E. E. KENT  
H. H. MANSFIELD  
MRS. O. B. PICKERING  
W. M. SWASEY  
A. NORTON  
BENJ. C.

HOLLY ST.

WM G. LORD  
ELISHA J. FAXON  
**Atlas of the City of Salem**  
**1897**  
MARIA F. SMITH EST.  
GEO. S. HOBBS  
CHAS. GOUSINS  
WM AGGE  
B. M. ASHRI  
E. S. MORSE

CF. POUSSAND  
HELEN L. POUSSAND  
GENEVIEVE S. FOSTER  
ROBIN DAMON  
JAS. HARRIS  
A. H. SMITH  
G. W. LUSCOMB  
CHAS. OSGOOD EST.  
W. E. CROCKER  
ROBT. OSGOOD  
DAVID MERR. T  
AROLINE C. GOVE  
J. P. DOWNING  
SARAH B. MARGATE  
B. H. CHAMBERLAIN  
HENRY M. BROOKS

LEACH ST.

E. L. OSBORNE  
SARAH E. TOWNE  
CHAS. H. PRICE  
A. B. GARDNER  
JAS. L. HILL  
HARRIET S. MANSFIELD  
EST. OF WM. S. MESSERVY  
H. H. MERRILL  
G. W. ELAZER  
S. S. SWANER  
P. LICE  
E. S. FREA

GLARA  
E. H. PAYSON EST.  
JANE BARNHAM EST.  
J. W. AVERILL  
J. E. SHAW  
M. W. WOODMAN

BERTRAM SCHOOL

HAZEL ST.

ALICE W. WACKINTIRE  
E. D. JONES  
EMMA N. ENTWISLE  
CORAL J. BATHCHELDER  
EMMA N. ENTWISLE  
EMMA H. ENTWISLE  
J. W. STROUT EST.  
EMILY B. GOODWIN  
P. CHESTER  
EDITH E. DUNHAM  
G. HEARLE  
WM SMITH  
F. COLLINS  
J. A. MERRILL  
J. W. PERKINS  
F. A. LANGMAY  
M. WASHBURN  
ST. PETERS CHURCH  
J. F. ALMY  
MARY A. DEVINE  
E. A. HAMMERTON

MARY L. BATES  
W. M. BATES  
F. A. LANGMAY  
J. H. LANGMAY  
F. H. ENTWISLE  
F. A. BURROWS  
J. R. LAKEMAN  
GATH. J. THAYER  
W. F. GAVETT

WILLOW ST.

GEO. R. HARRIS  
SARAH A. WEBB  
E. D. ROPES  
JOHN JACKSON  
WM F. GAVETT  
SALICE W. WACKINTIRE  
W. H. KENDALL EST.  
J. J. FOSTER  
G. F. WENCOMB  
A. C. G. H. RETTINGELL PRICE

MARY E. DUNLEY  
JOHANNA MCLELL  
J. P. BLY EST.  
WM MC  
J. M. G.  
ELLEN  
CYNTHIA PERKINS

ARK AVE.

N. THIBAVULT  
G. H. EMERSON  
E. A. GROVER ETAL.  
HARRIETA PERKINS  
LUCY A. LEFAVOUR  
H. A. BATHCHELDER  
G. C. BIGELOW  
J. F. ALMY  
P. J. BOSQUET

25  
23  
22  
21  
20  
19

F. S. POWLER  
MISSEY  
PEPPER  
E. J. DELEYMPLE  
WM S. NICHOLS  
JAS. F. ALMY

STERIA ST.

LAFAYETTE ST.

MRS. J. A. NOBLE  
HELEN S. PICKERING  
MINNIE J. SPENCER  
G. R. H. THORNE  
P. RING  
MRS. J. A. NOBLE  
ELLEN G. GILLY  
JOHN E. SPENCER  
GRACE HUTCHINSON  
MRS. J. A. NOBLE  
LEN

SUMMIT ST.

