

# Historic Salem Incorporated

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

255 LAFAYETTE STREET  
BUILT FOR WILLIAM S. MESSERVY  
TENTH MAYOR OF SALEM  
1868

Research by  
Rory Goff  
June 1990

255 LAFAYETTE STREET:  
BUILT IN 1868 FOR WILLIAM S. MESSERVY  
TENTH MAYOR OF SALEM

*office*

NOTE:

255-259 Lafayette Street lies upon the 17th-century land lot of Thomas Flint, bounded on the west by the "highway" (now Lafayette Street) and on the east by the harbor (See Map of Salem in 1700). This lot consisted of 4 acres, 116 poles. It was conveyed by Richard Raymond of Salem, mariner, to his son-in-law Oliver Mannering of Salem, seaman, on October 13, 1662 (Essex Registry of Deeds, Book 2, Page 128). Mannering sold it April 30, 1667 to William Flint, yeoman, for fourteen pounds. Upon William's death (April 2, 1673), the land passed to his son, Quartermaster Thomas Flint. Thomas died in 1719, and his son Joseph, cordwainer and husbandman, conveyed the lot on May 5, 1724 to Richard Pike, anchor smith, for 101 pounds, 10 shillings (Book 42, Page 190). Pike sold it April 9, 1735 for 120 pounds to Ahijah Estes, hatter (Book 71, Page 113), and on September 22, 1757, Ahijah Estes transferred the lot for 89 pounds to Benjamin Ropes, cooper (Book 104, Page 137). Ropes sold it May 2, 1788 for 121 pounds, 2 shillings, sixpence to Benjamin Pickman, Esquire (Book 148, Page 199). Pickman conveyed it for the same amount on August 28, 1794 to Ichabod Nichols, merchant (Book 157, Page 239), who in turn sold it on April 14, 1801 for \$1600 to Hannah Browne Derby (Book 169, Page 157). The lot was combined with several others to form what is described as "Lot no. 4," in several deeds conveying the Derby farm from Hannah Browne Derby (via intermediary Mary Fessenden) to her husband, Ezekiel Hersey Derby, on January 11, 1817 (Book 211, Pages 201 and 202). Containing about 40 acres, Lot no. 4 is described as "bounded Westwardly by the Marblehead road, Northwardly by land of Stephen Phillips and Nathan Peirce, Eastwardly by the harbour and [Southwardly] by land of Timothy Pickering Esqr. and partly by land occupied by Jonathan West." Upon Ezekiel Hersey Derby's death on October 31, 1852, the land passed to his daughters, Marianne Browne Derby, Hannah Matilda Derby, and Caroline Rosina Derby; they sold a portion of this lot to Gorham Brooks:

DATE- July 1, 1853

CONSIDERATION- \$9,702

GRANTORS- Marianne B. Derby, H. Matilda Derby and Caroline R. Derby of Salem ... Executrices of the last will and testament of E. Hersey Derby Esquire, late of Salem, deceased

GRANTEE- Gorham Brooks of Medford

DESCRIPTION- "...a parcel of land [in] Salem, containing twelve acres, more or less, and bounded and described as follows, viz.: Northerly, by land late of Stephen Phillips, Easterly, by Salem Harbor, Southerly, by a new street, commonly called Willow Street to land sold ... to Elizabeth Hill, thence bounded Westerly by said lot seventy feet, thence bounded Southerly by said lot ... one hundred and fifty feet to Lafayette Street, thence bounded Westerly by Lafayette Street, two hundred and sixty four and one half feet to land late of Stephen Phillips", on condition that the buyer "never erect or permit to be erected upon the said granted premises any building within twenty feet of said Lafayette Street and that the grantors reserve to themselves for the present season the [agricultural] proceeds of said granted premises"

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- None

DATE- July 26, 1858

CONSIDERATION- \$9,000

GRANTORS- Peter Chardon Brooks, younger, and Shepherd Brooks, both of Medford, Gentlemen, being the only heirs of Gorham Brooks, late of Medford, dec'd

GRANTEE- William S. Messervy of Salem

DESCRIPTION- Same as above

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- "Hereby conveying ... the same piece of land, conveyed by the Executrices of E. Hersey Derby and others to Gorham Brooks by deed dated July 1, 1853, ... Lib. 481, Fol. 16 ..."

NOTE-

Until Lafayette Street's number adjustment in 1893, No. 255 was called No. 117 Lafayette Street. The Tax Collector's Book for 1868 shows #117 Lafayette Street as "House building" for William S. Messervy (City Hall Records; see Map, Atlas of the City of Salem, 1874).

The History of Essex County, Mass. (Vol. 1, p. 226) provides a brief biography: "William Sluman Messervy was the tenth mayor [of Salem], serving in 1856-57. He was born in Salem, August 26, 1812, and began business in a counting-room in Boston about 1830. In 1834 he went into business in St. Louis, Mo. In 1839 he was a Mexican trader, and spent several years in Chihuahua and Santa Fe. When the Territory of New Mexico was organized he was elected delegate to Congress, and was afterwards acting Governor. Having had financial success in his various operations, he returned to Salem in 1854, and was afterwards made a director in various corporations. He was interested in literary and scientific institutions, and a great reader. He was also interested in politics; an Old Line Democrat, but during the [Civil] War a strong Republican. He died Feb. 19, 1886."

His obituary in the Salem Evening News (February 20, 1886) adds that on his return to Salem, he "was instrumental in building up the southerly section of the borough. ... He was a leading member of Essex Institute, and a trustee of the Salem Athenaeum. ... Out of respect to his memory, the flag on the City Hall flies at half-mast."

After William S. Messervy's death, his widow, Mrs. Lucy J. Messervy, continued to reside at No. 117 (255) Lafayette Street until her death, on October 1, 1904. The estate passed to their son George, and to their deceased son William's widow, Sarah Ann Messervy. In 1905, it was occupied by Dr. Francis B. Carlton, physician at 2 Park Square in Boston and at 174 1/2 Essex Street in Salem.

BOOK 1840 PAGE 24

DATE- August 21, 1906

CONSIDERATION- \$1 and other valuable consideration

GRANTOR- Sarah Ann Messervy of Hamilton, widow of William Messervy, late of said Hamilton, deceased

GRANTEE- Aroline C. Gove of Salem, wife of William H. Gove

DESCRIPTION- "... all my right, title and interest in and unto a certain lot of land, with the buildings thereon, situated in said Salem, and bounded westerly by Lafayette street one hundred and thirty (130) feet, northerly by land late of Devlin one hundred and ninety-nine and 7/10 (199.7) feet, easterly by land of Morrell, Chamberlain and Allen one hundred twenty nine and 6/10 (129.6) feet, and southerly by land of Glazier and Merrill two hundred (200) feet, and also the right to build and maintain sewers between this lot and Summit avenue, if such right exists."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- None

BOOK 1840 PAGE 25

DATE- August 21, 1906

CONSIDERATION- \$1 and other valuable considerations

GRANTOR- George P. Messervy of New York [and Harriet Colegate Messervy, his wife]

GRANTEE- Aroline C. Gove of Salem, wife of William H. Gove

DESCRIPTION- "... one undivided half of a certain lot of land, situated in said Salem, together with the buildings thereon, bounded [then same as above]"

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- None

DATE- September 4, 1906

CONSIDERATION- \$6,250

GRANTOR- "Leland H. Cole, as trustee for the benefit of Sarah Ann Messervy and others under the last will of William Messervy, late of Hamilton, Mass., by virtue [of] said will, and by virtue of a license granted to me on [September 4, 1906] by the Probate Court for the County of Essex ..."

GRANTEE- Aroline C. Gove of Salem, wife of William H. Gove

DESCRIPTION- "One undivided half-part or portion of a certain lot of land, with the buildings thereon, situated in said Salem [then same as above], being all the said deceased's right, title and interest ..., including the right to build and maintain sewers [then same as above]"

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- None

NOTE- Aroline C. Gove acquired a considerable amount of real estate in Salem (See Maps, Atlas of the City of Salem, 1897; Atlas of Salem, 1911). She rented No. 255 Lafayette to Frank S. Price, secretary in Boston, in 1906. The following year, Mr. Price moved into the Margati house (No. 256; he remained there until its removal to No. 259 Lafayette Street in 1915), trading places with Mrs. Mary A. Williams, who came to live at No. 255, remaining here until 1917, followed by Miss Ellen O. Williams, who lived here until 1936.

The Salem Evening News (May 22, 1939) provides the following obituary:

"Mrs. Aroline C. Gove, one of Salem and Marblehead's most prominent citizens, passed away early yesterday morning at her Marblehead estate, "Carcasonne," after a brief illness. She was in her 81st year. A noted philanthropist and public benefactor, she was general manager and treasurer of the Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co. of Lynn. She was the only surviving child of the late Lydia E. Pinkham.

NOTE (Continued)-

"Mrs. Gove was the widow of Hon. William H. Gove, former member of the governor's council, Lynn school committeeman, and state representative. He passed away in 1920. ...

"Deceased was the daughter of the late Isaac and Lydia E. Pinkham, and was born in Bedford, Mass. She received her education in the Lynn schools and for a time taught there. Later she became the Pinkham Medicine Co.'s initial and only treasurer. Upon her marriage to William H. Gove, former Salem attorney, she moved to Salem and resided on Lafayette street [at 114 or 254 Lafayette; next north of the Margatti house]. A few years ago she built the estate "Carcasonne." at Marblehead Neck, where she passed away. ...

"As a resident of this city for many years, she drew a large circle of friends and was most active in advancing the position of members of her sex. She was a past president of the Salem Society for the Higher Education of Women.

"An astute woman in business, Mrs. Gove was just as well known for her philanthropies. In memory of her mother, the Lydia E. Pinkham Memorial, a clinic for children, was founded and endowed by her. She gave \$30,000 worth of radium to the Massachusetts General Hospital in memory of her husband, as well as a Greek scholarship to Harvard. A ward in memory of her daughter, Mrs. Mary Pitman, she endowed at the Baker Memorial Hospital.

"Mrs. Gove is survived by two daughters, Lydia P. Gove of Salem and Marblehead and Mrs. Caroline Doty of Greenwich, Conn., who is now in Italy. ..."

BOOK 2991 PAGE 593

DATE- May 10, 1934

CONSIDERATION- Unspecified

GRANTOR- Aroline C. Gove of Salem, widow

GRANTEE- Caroline Gove Doty of Salem

DESCRIPTION- "Also the land with the buildings thereon situate in said Salem and bounded as follows: Westerly by Lafayette Street one hundred and thirty (130) feet; Northerly by land now or late of Devlin one hundred ninety-nine and 7/10 (199.7) feet; Easterly by land now or late of Morrell, Chamberlain and Allen one hundred twenty-nine and 6/10 (129.6) feet; and Southerly by land now or late of Glazier and Merrill two hundred (200) feet."

PREVIOUS REFERENCE- "Being the premises conveyed to me by deeds of Sarah Anne Messervy and George P. Messervy dated August 21, 1906 and deed of Leland H. Cole, Trustee, dated September 4, 1906, recorded ... Book 1840, Page 24, 25, 26"

NOTE- As mentioned above, Caroline Gove Doty was a daughter of Aroline C. Gove. No. 255 Lafayette St. was vacant from 1937 through 1939, and was remodeled with No. 259 to form the Avallon Apartments, with 10 flats, by 1940.

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]

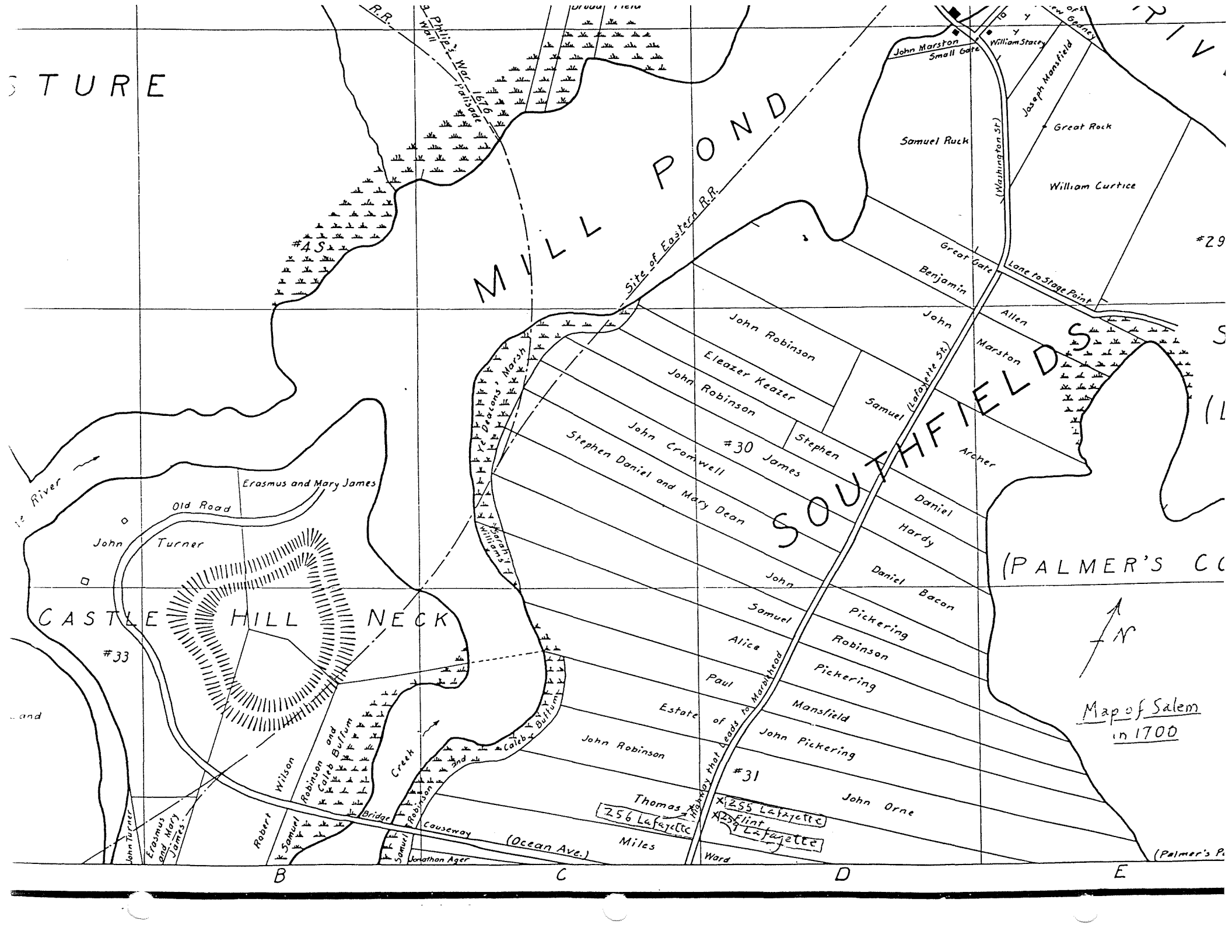
DESCRIPTION- "... the land, together with the buildings thereon, situated in said Salem and bounded and described as follows:  
WESTERLY by Lafayette Street, 130 feet;  
NORTHERLY by land formerly of Devlin and now or late of Dunne, 199.7 feet;  
EASTERLY by land now or formerly of Morrell, Chamberlain,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

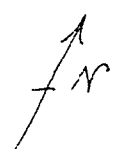
STURE



MILL POND

SOUTHEAST FIELDS (PALMER'S CC)

CASTLE HILL NECK



Map of Salem in 1700

Erasmus and Mary James

John Turner

#33

Wilson  
Robinson and  
Caleb Burlum

Robert  
Samuel

Jonathan Ager

Causeway (Ocean Ave.)

Thomas  
256 Lafayette

Miles

255 Lafayette  
256 Flint  
257 Lafayette

John Orne

#31

Estate of

Paul

Alice

Samuel

John

Stephen Daniel and Mary Dean

John Cromwell

John Robinson

Eleazer Keazer

John Robinson

Samuel Ruck

William Curtice

Great Rock

Benjamin

John

Allen

Marston

Archer

Samuel

Daniel

Hardy

Daniel Bacon

Pickering

Robinson

Pickering

Mansfield

John Pickering

Great Gate  
Lone to Stage Point

(Washington St.)

John Marston  
Small Gate

William Stacy

Joseph Mansfield

R.R.  
Wall  
Philip's War  
1675-1679

Site of Eastern R.R.

Deacon's Marsh

Creek

the River

Old Road

B

C

D

E

(Palmer's P.)

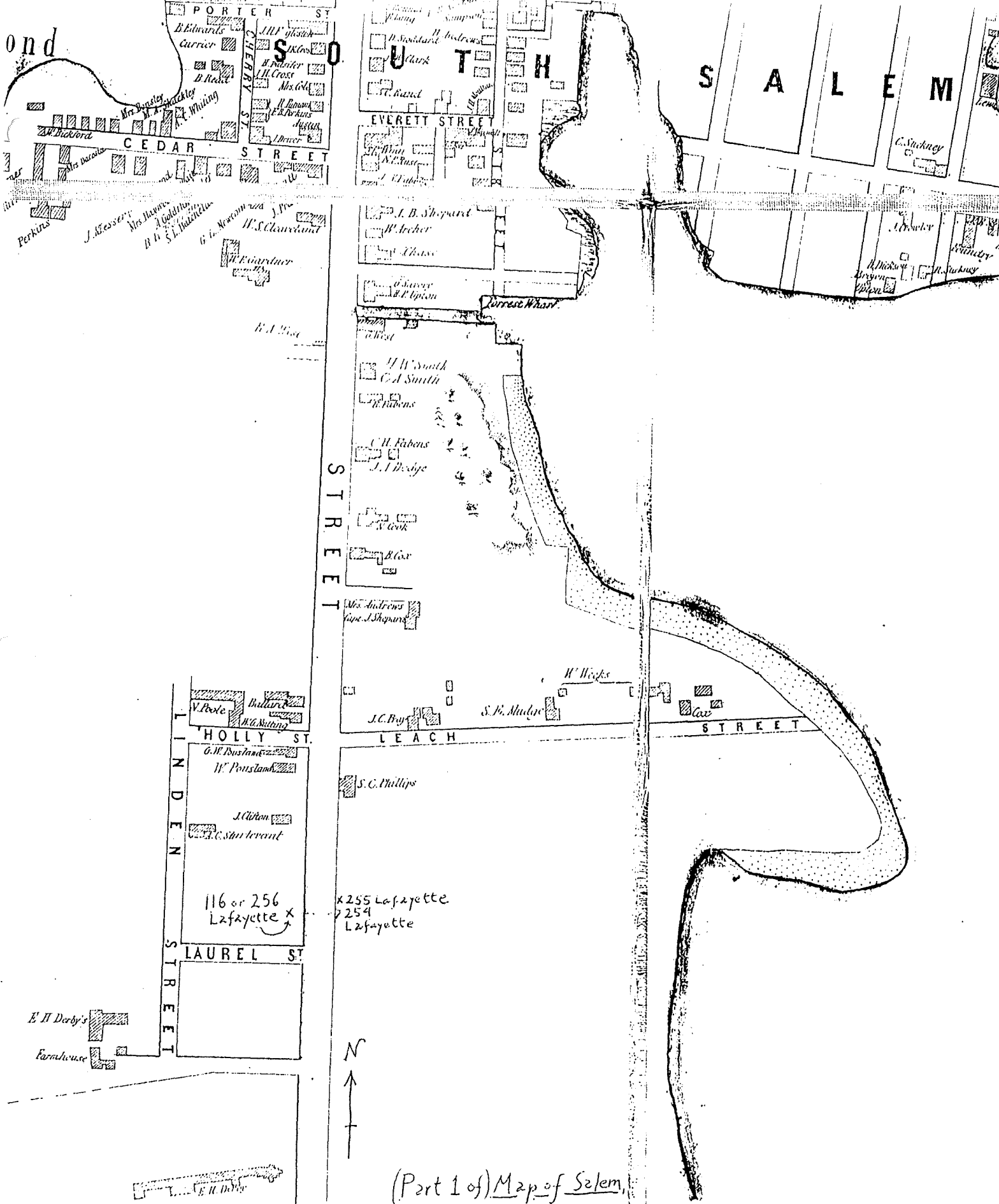
#29

(L)

(S)

(N)

(V)



(Part 1 of) Map of Salem, 1851

Sold by H. Whipple, 190, Essex St.

**S T.**

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

**L E N**

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

**Osborn**

Page	Chas. E. E. W.	Ho	I. Harrison	S. A. Merrill	M. Wiggim
Upton	Chas. E. E. W.	Ho	I. Harrison	S. A. Merrill	M. Wiggim

**E D E N**

Jas. W. Averill	A. W. & C.	Jno. S. Henderson	Wm. S. Messervey
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**S T.**

W. L. Nam	Wm. M. Bales	E. J. Langmaid	J. H. Langmaid	120
E. H. Smith	J. D. Langmaid	J. H. Langmaid	J. H. Langmaid	122
I. J. Patch	Almy Wiggins & Clark	P. H. Peuch	P. H. Peuch	124
I. J. Patch	Wm. P. Gavell	F. S. Thayer	F. S. Thayer	124

**L I N D E N**

Jno. F. Cole	Rev. Geo. Bachelor	A. W. & C.	H. Alwert
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**W I L L O W**

G. R. Harris	J. H. Webb	Almy Wiggins & Clark	A. Walen	123
J. F. Smith	P. H. Peach	C. C. Pettingill	L. D. Pettingill	125

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

**G L E N D A L E**

A. S. Ham	Jno. P. Browning	Jos. H. Webb	C. H. Newcomb
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Mrs. S. S. Mosman	Wm. H. Fletcher
Almy Wiggins & Clark	A. W. & C.
Almy Wiggins & Clark	G. C. Whittemore
Almy Wiggins & Clark	A. W. & C.
Almy Wiggins & Clark	Cassell

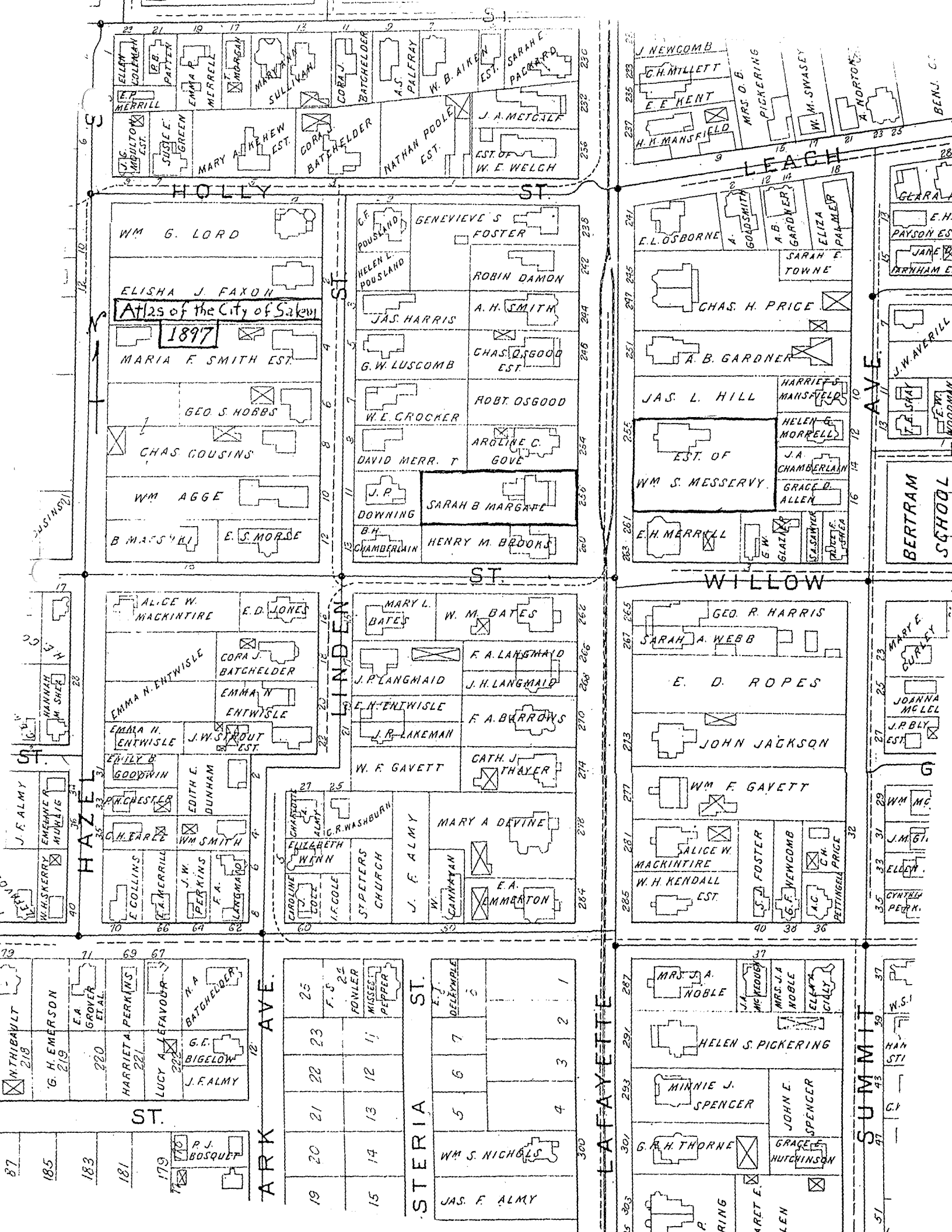
**L A F A Y E T T E**

Geo. P. Rust	A. W. & C.	Nathaniel Wiggim	G. F. Cox
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**C L I F T O N**

**A V E.**

Julian
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23 21 19 17 15 13 11 9 7 5 3  
 ELLIOTT COLLEMAN I.B. PATTEN EMMA F. MERRELL MARY ANN SULLIVAN CORA J. BATCHELDER A.S. PALFRAY W. B. AIKEN SARAH E. PACKARD  
 E.P. MERRILL J.C. MOUTON EST. SUGGE E. GREEN MARY ANNE HEW EST. CORA J. BATCHELDER NATHAN POOLE EST. J. A. METCALF EST. OF W. E. WELCH

J. NEWCOMB G.H. MILLETT E.E. WENT H.H. MANSFIELD MRS. D. B. PICKERING W. M. SWASEY A. NORTON BENJ. C.

HOLLY ST.  
 WM G. LORD  
 ELISHA J. FAXON  
**At 25 of the City of Salem**  
**1897**  
 MARIA F. SMITH EST.  
 GEO. S. HOBBS  
 CHAS COUSINS  
 WM AGGE  
 B. MATSYRI E. S. MORSE

GENEVIEVE S. FOSTER  
 ROBIN DAMON  
 A. H. SMITH  
 CHAS. Q. GOOD EST.  
 ROBT. OSGOOD  
 ARGLINE C. GOVE  
 SARAH B. MARGATE  
 HENRY M. BROOKS

LEACH  
 E.L. OSBORNE  
 CHAS. H. PRICE  
 A. B. GARDNER  
 JAS. L. HILL  
 EST. OF WM S. MESSERVY  
 E.H. MERRILL  
 GOLDSMITH A. B. GARDNER ELIZA PALMER SARAH E. TOWNE HARRIET S. MANSFIELD HELEN E. MORRELL J.A. CHAMBERLAIN GRACE D. ALLEN G.W. GLAZIER S. S. SMITH RUDY C. FISHER

HAZEL ST.  
 ALICE W. MACKINTIRE E.D. JONES  
 EMMA N. ENTWISLE CORA J. BATCHELDER EMMA N. ENTWISLE  
 EMMA N. ENTWISLE J.W. STROUT EST.  
 EMILY B. GOODWIN EDITH E. DUNHAM  
 PRICESTER EDITH E. DUNHAM  
 G. HEARL WM SMITH  
 E. COLLINS J.W. PERKINS F.A. LANGMAD

LINDEN ST.  
 MARY L. BATES W. M. BATES  
 F. A. LANGMAD J. H. LANGMAD  
 F. A. BURROWS  
 CATH. J. THAYER  
 W. F. GAVETT  
 MARY A. DEVINE  
 E. A. MERTON

WILLOW  
 GEO. R. HARRIS  
 SARAH A. WEBB  
 E. D. ROPES  
 JOHN JACKSON  
 WM F. GAVETT  
 ALICE W. MACKINTIRE W. H. KENDALL EST.  
 FOSTER F. NEWCOMB A.C. G. H. PETTINGELL PRICE

ST.  
 MITHBAULT 218  
 G. H. EMERSON 219  
 GROVER ET AL. 220  
 HARRIET A. PERKINS 221  
 LUCY A. BEAUFORT 222  
 M. A. BATCHELDER  
 G.F. BIGELOW  
 J.F. ALMY

STERIA ST.  
 25  
 F.S. FOWLER  
 MISSELT PEPPER  
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 WM S. NICHOLS  
 JAS. F. ALMY

LAFAYETTE  
 MRS. J. A. NOBLE  
 HELEN S. PICKERING  
 MINNIE J. SPENCER  
 G. R. H. THORNE  
 MRS. J. A. NOBLE  
 ELAINE GIALY  
 JOHN E. SPENCER  
 GRACE E. HUTCHINSON  
 MRS. J. A. NOBLE  
 JOHN E. SPENCER  
 GRACE E. HUTCHINSON

ARK AVE.  
 P. J. BOSQUET  
 179

ST.  
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**LINDEN** (Vertical text on the left side of the block)

**LAUREL** (Horizontal text at the top of the block)

**HOLLY** (Horizontal text at the bottom of the block)

**ST. 10** (Vertical text on the right side of the block)

Map showing lots 15-25 on Linden St. and lots 238-254 on Holly St. Owners include Mary E. Washburn, Geo. E. Symonds, Canavan Hrs., F.C. Hood, Nellie Barton, Mary B. Hawkins, Ellen L. Harrington, Frank A. Longmaid, M.F. Perkins, Mary L. Bates, Clara H. Ford, G.A. Evans, A.C. Gove, J.P. Downing, J. P. Downing Chamberlain, Wm. E. Crocker, Robert Osgood, Charles Osgood Hrs., Alonzo H. Smith, Robin Damon, John McMorrill, Oliver Goodell, and Aroline G. Gove.

**ST. 9** (Vertical text on the left side of the block)

**WILLOW PR. 9** (Horizontal text at the top of the block)

**ST. LEACH** (Horizontal text at the bottom of the block)

**AVÉ.** (Vertical text on the right side of the block)

Map showing lots 255-268 on Willow Pr. 9 and lots 255-268 on Leach St. Owners include E.H. Merrill, Hrs., B.M. Herrow, Mary E. Lord, Grace D. Allen, Sarah E. Chamberlain, A. Morrill, Harriet S. Mansfield, Harry G. Wright, Charles B. Price, J.F. Devlin, J.L. Gardner, Aroline G. Gove, E.L. Osborn, A. Goldsmith, M.A. Street, A. Lussler, A.D. Palmer, Alice E. Foster, Sarah A. Webb, Edwin F. Woodman, Nellie Simen, J. Jackson Hrs., W.F. Gannett, A. Macmillan, Z.F. Harris, Geo. F. Swcomb, Wm. V. Sayer, and Frank A. Longmaid.



LAFAYETTE

(PUBLIC)

STREET

CORNER GRANITE CURB

RIM S.M.H.  
ELEVATION 5000  
(ASSUMED)

690

N 02° 17' 30" E

200.00

29.74

5.9

34.7

2.9

WOOD BUILDING

(C)

29.84

40.6

59.8

26,000 ± S.F.

21.3

51.8

CONCRETE  
BLOCK  
GARAGE

(E)

31.1

16.0

16.0

5.8

CONCRETE  
BLOCK  
GARAGE

(D)

507° 30' 00" E

JOHN H. & DEVON A.  
HAMILTON

ROBERT D. & JEANNE M.  
BROPHY

JOHN L. & ALEXANDRA  
TRANOS

26.77

18.2

12.3

31.7

WOOD BUILDING

(B)

26.84

19.1

14.5

31.6

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

SUMMIT

(PUBLIC)

STREET