

OFFICE AT OLD TOWN HALL

Historic Salem incorporated

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

6 Oliver Street

Built for,

JAMES WRIGHT, baker

1800

Research by,

Joyce King

August 1981

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

Note: Tradition has it that this house was originally on the Common and moved to this site. This researcher has been unable to document this supposition. The documentation found seems to indicate that this was a new house in 1800. It is possible that documents will be found at a future date which will help solve this dilemma.

Joyce King

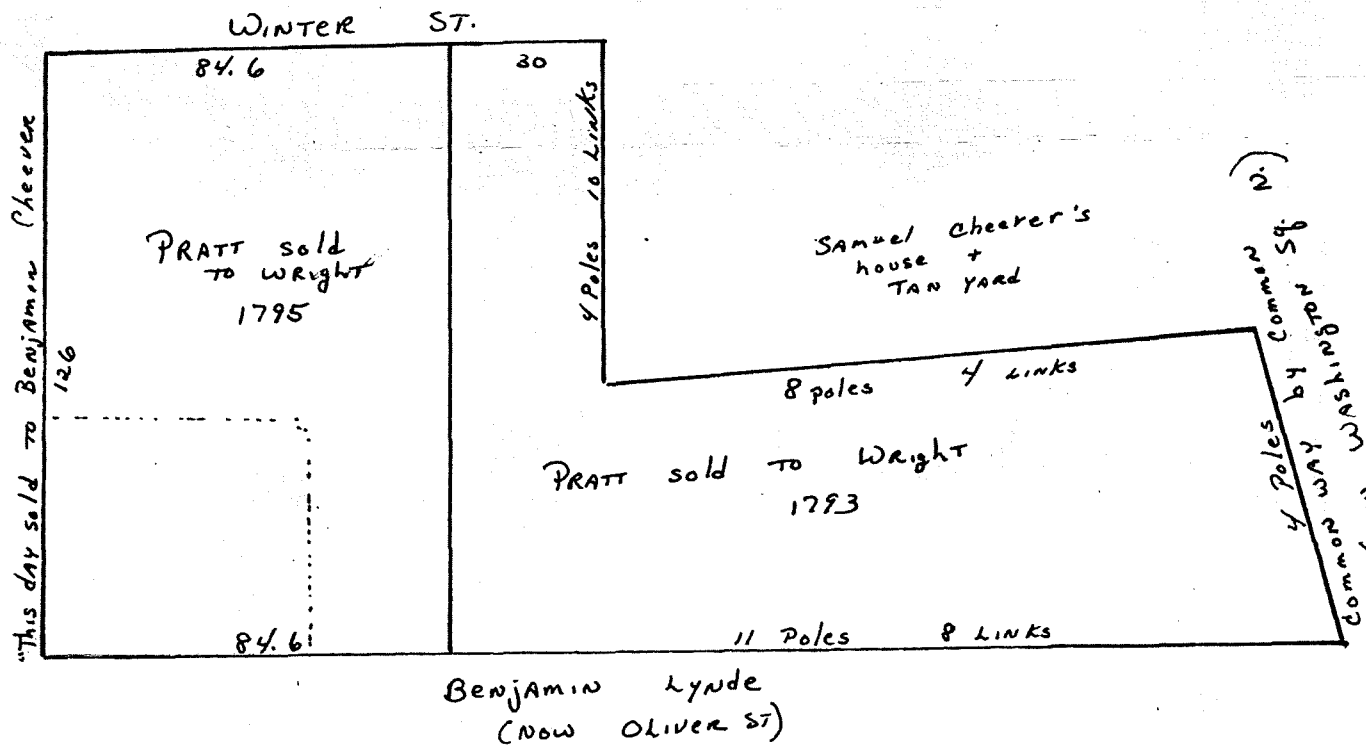
6 Oliver Street

"This long two-story plus pitch roof, wooden house faces the street. It has a six-bay facade and off-center entrance which is trimmed with simple pilasters; architecturally unspoiled. Browne wrote that this is one of the oldest houses on the street ---. It belonged to the Scobie family for some years and was the home of John James Scobie, master mariner who sailed on the famous ship "George" to Calcutta and was a member of the Salem Light Infantry and the Salem Marine Soc." (Salem Historic Commission District Study)

The lot on which this house stands was part of the homestead of Thomas Watson which was conveyed to Jacob Pudeater (Mrs. Pudeater was executed as a witch in 1692). "Mr. Pudeater conveyed this lot (which included #2 Oliver) to John Knight, sr., of Beverly Jan. 24, 1674, Mr. Watson having sold it to Thomas Brackett, who in turn had sold it to Mr. Knight, but Mr. Watson having died without giving a deed of the lot. Mr. Knight was a yeoman, and removed to Salem. He (or Thomas Brackett, after 1661) built upon this lot a house 26 x 18 feet (this old house was removed when the brick house was built at #2 Oliver), and conveyed the house and lot to Robert Brimsdon of Boston, merchant, Oct. 16, 1673. Mr. Brimsdon let the house, and in the spring of 1681 a Mr. Mould was living in it. Mr. Brimsdon died in Boston about 1705 (?), and his children, Benjamin Bronsdon of Boston, merchant (the deceased's only son), Samuel Greenwood of Boston, shipwright (executor of the will of the deceased), and his wife Elizabeth, Jonathan Evans of Boston, merchant, and his wife Mary, and William Clark and his wife Sarah, for twenty pounds,

conveyed the house and lot to John Williams of Salem, cooper, Oct. 20, 1708. For one hundred pounds, Mr. Williams conveyed the house and lot to Peter Cheever of Salem, cordwainer, Sept. 13, 1728. Mr. Cheever lived in the house, and conveyed the house and lot, for five shillings and his support for life, to Joseph Pratt of Salem, fisherman, May 8, 1780. For two hundred and sixty pounds, Mr. Pratt, who was then of Orford, N.H., yeoman, conveyed the house and lot to James Wright of Salem baker, June 18, 1793." (Essex Antiquarian, vol. 8 pg. 77). The Rev. William Bentley mentioned this transaction in his diary "Pratt's house sold to Wright, and store formed into a Bakehouse, and front."

On June 27, 1795 Joseph Pratt, of Orford, N.H. sold the adjoining parcel of land to James Wright:



BROKEN LINES
INDICATE
6 OLIVER ST

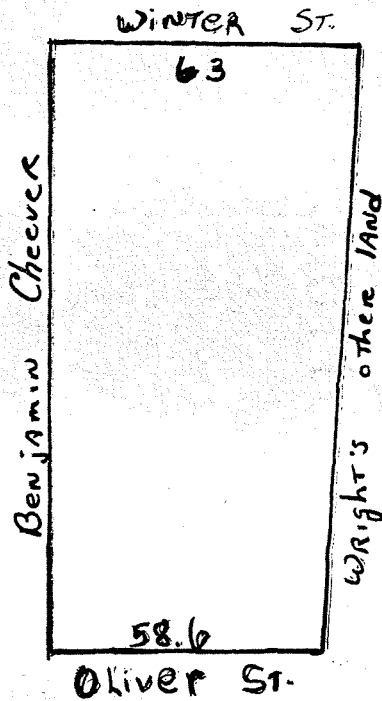
(book 156 page 182 and book 159 page 227)

3

When Mrs. Oliver, daughter of Benjamin Lynde, put a street through her land, Mr. Wright was one of the first to build a house (6 Oliver) fronting on it. This is substantiated by the tax records which state that in 1799 James Wright owned a house (Washington Sq.) and a house lot (where 6 Oliver now stands). In 1800 Mr. Wright had a homestead and a new house and land. Rev. William Bentley wrote, "1800 - Oliver has opened a street from the common to Needham's Lane & to North River. Wright has finished a house in this street."

Benjamin F. Browne in his Youthful Recollections of Salem tells about James Wright. "West of Samuel Cheever and fronting the Common, was a wooden house occupied by James Wright, a Scotchman. His brother Daniel had a dry goods shop on the corner of Essex and Cambridge streets, in the shop lately occupied by George Bennet as a saddlery. His wife was a Giles, from Beverly, and she has recently, died in that town, aged nearly one hundred years. Jimmy Wright, as we called him, was well known to the boys as making excellent gingerbread, and to the parents as making good bread. In one of his chambers a man named Alexander, who was a brass and copper founder, held a meeting, which I sometimes attended from curiosity. I know not what was his denomination, but his preaching was of a sensational character. Alexander left town, and a new preacher inaugurated his services by preaching from the text, "Alexander the Coppersmith did me much evil, the Lord reward him according to his works."

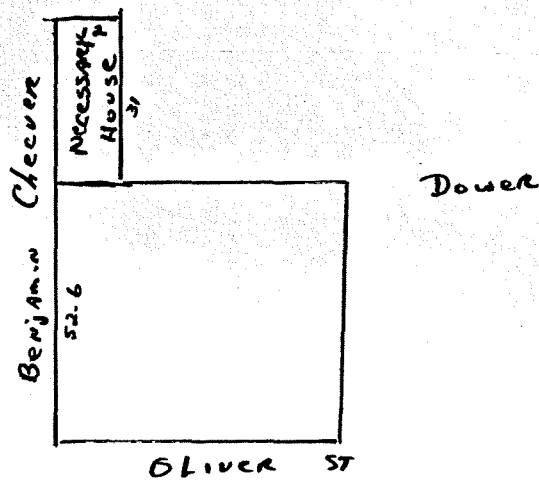
On August 21, 1802 James and Elizabeth Wright sold the dwelling house and land to John Scobie for the sum of \$1,700:



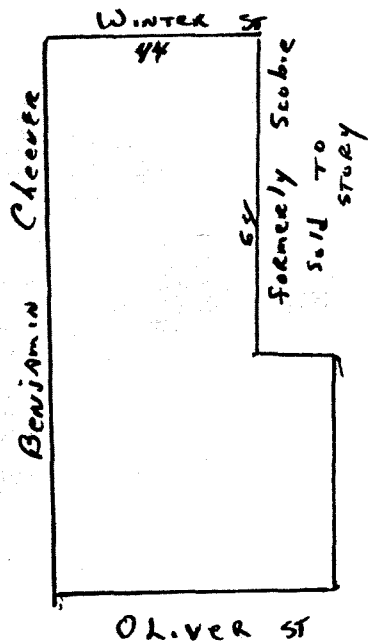
(book 170 page 250)

Shortly after purchasing the house and land, John Scobie married Lydia Maley, on Sept. 4, 1802. The Rev. William Bentley made note of this marriage, "This evening Mrs. Maley was married. She was a daughter of Capt. Mason. She was addressed by Capt. E. Allen jr. but his parents prevented the marriage. She then married a Maley of Newburyport, who was killed at sea by accident. She is now married to a Scotchman, John Scobie a dry goods merchant in this town."

John Scobie died of "delirium tremens" (a form of acute insanity marked by trembling, sweating and mental distress, caused by excessive use of intoxicants), on July 26, 1823 at the age of 59. In his probate (#24947) an inventory of John Scobie's personal estate was taken (appendix A). It appears that in 1822, Mr. Scobie was involved in a law suit with Kirk Boott and Sons recovering judgment of \$8,237.98. At that time the dwelling house on Oliver St. and Mr. Scobie's shop on Vine St. were taken by the Bootts as partial payment. The court allowed Mrs. Scobie dower rights in the Oliver St. property (appendix B):

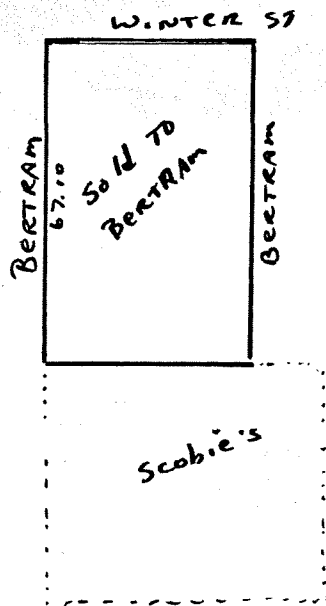


On June 3, 1824 Lydia Scobie, redeemed the property from John, Kirk, and James Boott. "All the messuage of John Scobie who was the husband of said Lydia, the dwelling house and other buildings:



Lydia Scobie died in April of 1833 at the age of 68. The estate then descended to her son John J. Scobie. John James Scobie, master mariner, was born about 1808. In 1827 he was a seaman in the famous ship "George" and later commanded several vessels. Capt. Scobie married on June 21, 1846 Caroline Savory (b. 1816) the daughter of Richard and Betsey (Lewis) Savory. The couple lived at 6 Oliver St. along with John's sisters Catherine T. and Mary Jane Scobie.

The Salem Street Books indicate that William H. Clough and family shared tenancy at 6 Oliver St. in 1844. In April of 1844 John J. Scobie sold a parcel of land to John Bertram for \$900:



(book 342 page 283)

By 1847 John Scobie had moved to 12 Bath St. with his wife (who died on Dec. 11, 1849) and sister Mary Jane Scobie. Catherine remained at the 6 Oliver St. house as shown in the federal census taken in

in 1850:

6 Oliver Street

	Catherine Scobie	age 45		born Mass.
2nd family	Hannah Swan	" 61	" "	
	Ellen "	" 26	" "	
	Miranda "	" 23	" "	
	Eugene Bemis	" 8	" "	

After the death of his wife John Scobie returned to the 6 Oliver St. house as shown in the 1855-57 taxes:

John J. Scobie house 6 Oliver value \$1,600

Captain Scobie was lost at sea between May 21, 1857 and the end of that year. He was survived by his sisters, Catherine and Mary J. his only heirs. His probate (#52864) contains an inventory of his estate (appendix C).

On Oct. 11, 1858 Mary Jane Scobie, singlewoman sold for the sum of \$750 to Catherine T. Scobie, singlewoman her 1/2 share of the dwelling house and other buildings, "The same my late brother John J. died "seised" of." (book 580 page 189)

The census of 1860 gives a closer look at the occupants at that time:

	Catharine Scobie	age 58		born Mass
2nd family	James Caulfield	age 40	master mariner	" "
	Hannah "	" 38		" "
	Mary E. "	" 16		" "
	James F. "	" 13		" "
	Anna "	" 7		" "
	Frederic "	" 1		" "

The tax records give some indication of the occupants for the next few years:

1863	Mary J. Scobie William Edds	owner Catherine Scobie age 37	untaxed
1865	Mary Scobie Mrs. Pinkham	owner Catherine Scobie	

On May 11, 1867 Catherine T. Scobie, singlewoman, sold for \$1,700 to Laura Savory wife of William T., the land and dwelling house #6 Oliver St. "The same premises my late brother J.J. Scobie died seized of." (book 724 page 149)

On June 21, 1867 William T. and Laura Savory sold for \$1,900 to John Jewett the land and dwelling house 6 Oliver St. "The same conveyed by Catherine Scobie in book 724 page 149." (book 725 page 300)

The 1870 census shows that Catherine was still living at 6 Oliver:

Catherine Scobie	age 55 (?)	keeps house	born Mass.
2nd family			
Mary A. Shepard	" 48		" "
Francis "	" 24	expressman	" "
Samuel "	" 15	at school	" "

It may be worth noting since 1870 is the last mention of a Scobie at 6 Oliver, that when Mary Jane Scobie died, on Oct. 15, 1890, this interesting account was given:

"The old Mason tomb in Charter street burial ground was opened for the first time in fifteen years on Friday morning to receive the body of Miss Mary Jane Scobie, who died on Wednesday at the age

of 86. Miss Scobie's mother was of the Mason family. It was necessary to consult Mr. Brooks of the Essex Institute before the exact entrance to the tomb could be located. This old family mausoleum is now one hundred years old. This being the first interment in the Charter street ground for many years, quite a crowd was gathered by the rarity of the event. No burials are now allowed in the cemetery."

The new owner, John Jewett, had been a neighbor of the Scobie family since 1855, when Mr. Jewett purchased the Bertram estate at 24 Winter St. John Jewett (b. 1798) was a cabinetmaker in Beverly in 1817 and in Salem at Liberty and Vine streets in 1820 (also the location of John Scobie's dry goods shop). On June 5, 1829 he moved to work in the shop of A. Hersey opposite the Salem Hotel. In 1837 he was at 261 Essex St. and later he was of the firm Prime, Kenney and Co., dealers in mahogany, fancy woods, furniture and grain at the City Mills on Mill St. Mr. Jewett married April 24, 1825 Catherine Felt. Prior to moving into the house at 24 Winter St. the couple made their home at 17 Barton Sq. During the Jewett ownership the house at 6 Oliver St. was rented for a time to Elbridge H. Hildreth. Mr. Hildreth was one of the most familiar figures on Salem streets. He was employed for many years by the firm of Smith and Manning as a driver of teams and coaches. He was reckoned as about the most skillful driver of a four or six horse team in the county, and had performed some difficult feats. The Massachusetts Humane Society gave him a bronze medal for the following episode. He was driving a four horse barge loaded with children from one of the

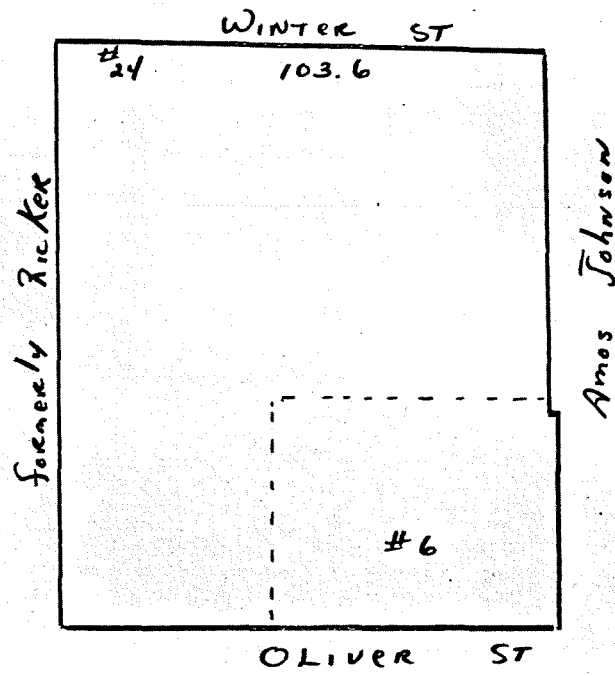
local charitable institutions, and while on Brown street some of the occupants wanted to get out. He stopped the horses but the door of the barge would not open, so he got down to render aid. While he was working on the door the horses started to run. Mr. Hildreth started after the runaways, and succeeded in stopping them before they had done any harm, but in doing so he fell down and the barge ran over one of his arms, inflicting a bad wound (Salem News, Oct. 11, 1889).

John Jewett died Feb. 28, 1874. The property at 24 Winter and 6 Oliver streets was given in trust to his wife Catherine. After Catherine's death, in April 1875, the house was rented to John G. Sinclair aged 84 and John A. Lyons aged 46. The census record for 1880 lists the occupants of 6 Oliver as:

James Mann	age 30	bookkeeper	born Mass.
Eliza "	" 27	wife - keeps house	" "
Grace "	" 7	daughter - at school	" "
Ernest "	" 10	months - son	" "
2nd family			
Joseph Fitz	" 30	grocer's clerk	" "
Ellen "	" 25	wife - keeps house	" "
Harry "	" 4	son	" "
Warren "	" 8	months - son	" "

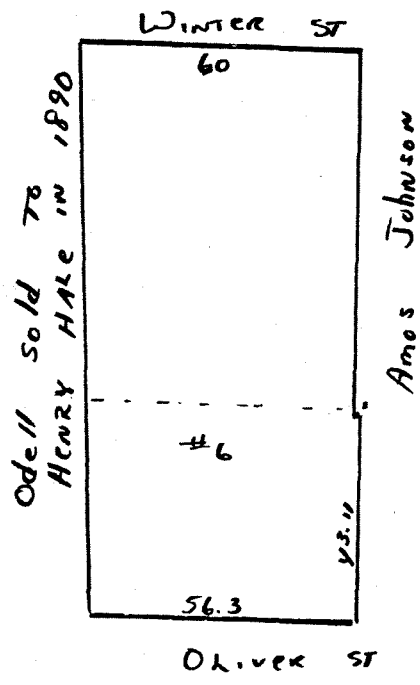
In May of 1887 Gilbert L. Streeter trustee under the will of John Jewett, also trustee under the will of Catherine Jewett, widow of John, sold the land and dwelling houses for the sum of \$10,000 to Charles Odell:

Streeter to Odell:



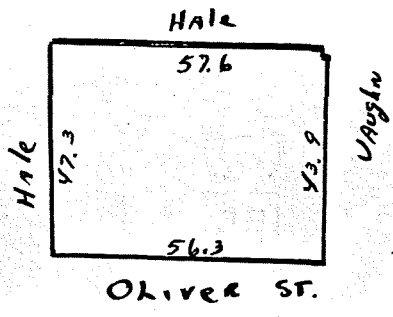
(book 1196 page 117)

Charles Odell declared bankruptcy in 1899. Jeremiah T. Mahoney was appointed as trustee of the estate of Charles Odell. On June 6, 1899 Mr. Mahoney transferred the property title to Alice Odell:



(book 1578 page 114)

On Oct. 24, 1910 Alice F. Odell sold, "The westerly portion of the premises", to Florence G. Mac Innis. Subject to the right of Alice F. Odell to maintain a drain leading from her house on Winter St. across the granted premises to Oliver St. and also the right to enter the said premises to repair said drain from time to time."



(book 2047 page 173)

On June 6, 1913 Florence G. Mac Innis sold the same premise conveyed to her by deed of Alice F. Odell to Stanislaw Szczechowicz (book 2215 page 261).

On Oct. 18, 1916 Stanislaw and Katrina Szczechowicz sold the land and building 6 Oliver St. to Bessie Purtell (book 2345 page 370).

On Nov. 15, 1941 a straw deed transferred the property from Bessie Purtell to Lawrence and Bessie Purtell (book 3278 page 108).

On Oct. 9, 1961 Vera C. Coyle of Windsor, Ct., and Robert A. Purtell of Portland, Maine, executor of the will of Bessie S. Purtell (#269208) sold to James T. and Eleanor P. Dauphinee the land and

building at 6 Oliver St. The same conveyed to Lawrence Purtell and Bessie by deed 1941. Subject to the rights reserved to Alice F. Odell by deed of Florence Mac Innis (book 4831 page 204).

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.

1 Desk	at	85
1 Sideboard	at	10
2 Round Tables	at	3
9 Chairs	at	8
Frieder	at	2
1 Looking Glass	at	2
1 Carpet	at	4
3 old Table & Light stand	at	1.75
5 Chairs	at	1
Cooking utensils	at	3
Bedding & Bedstead	at	7
6 Chairs	at	7.20
3 Trunks	at	1.50
1 Dressing Table	at	2
1 Chamber looking Glass	at	1
1 Field Bed Bedding & bedstead	at	10
1 Bureau	at	2.50
7 Chamber chairs	at	5.20
1 Trunk & contents	at	10.15
2 old Great coats	at	3
9 Cotton shirts	at	4.50
14 pair old Stocking	at	2.25
8 old Handkerchiefs	at	1
2 D per Blankets	at	3
Glass & Crocheting ware	at	6
		<u>\$100.5</u>

Salon 26 August 1893

Nath Knight

Benja Day

Committee

Ho Elkins

Lydia Julia

Adm.

In Pursuant, to a Warrant, is directed, by the
Honor. Daniel White Esq. Judge of Probate of Wills
for the County of Essex

We the subscribers having been appointed a committee
being first sworn as the said Warrant directs to divide and
sell off one third part of all the Real Estate of John Sobus
late of Salem Merchant, deceased intestate, unto his
Widow Lydia Sobus —
which we have done in the following Manner,

1st We have sold off to said Widow of said deceased the
Dwelling house with the land under and adjoining to
as the road fence, on Oliver's Street. Measuring twenty feet
three inches, on said street, then running N. easterly to said
cross fence, fifty two feet six inches, likewise ^{twenty} feet
of land from Benjamin Cheever's land running Southly
along the cross fence, then thirty one feet N. Easterly
then ^{twelve} feet Northly to said Benjamin Cheever's
land with the Voluntary there on

Salem November 18th
1823

Daniel Sage

Joseph Lamb } Committee
Nathl Wright }

By

Salem Nov. 18. 1823 I have seen the above
Return, & take notice that the same is to be
presented for acceptance at the Probate Court this
day, to which I shall not object, but I hereby attorney
to the Probate Court, and to the
of the said deceased

ESTATE OF John J. Sobiech

SCHEDULE B.

PERSONAL ESTATE.

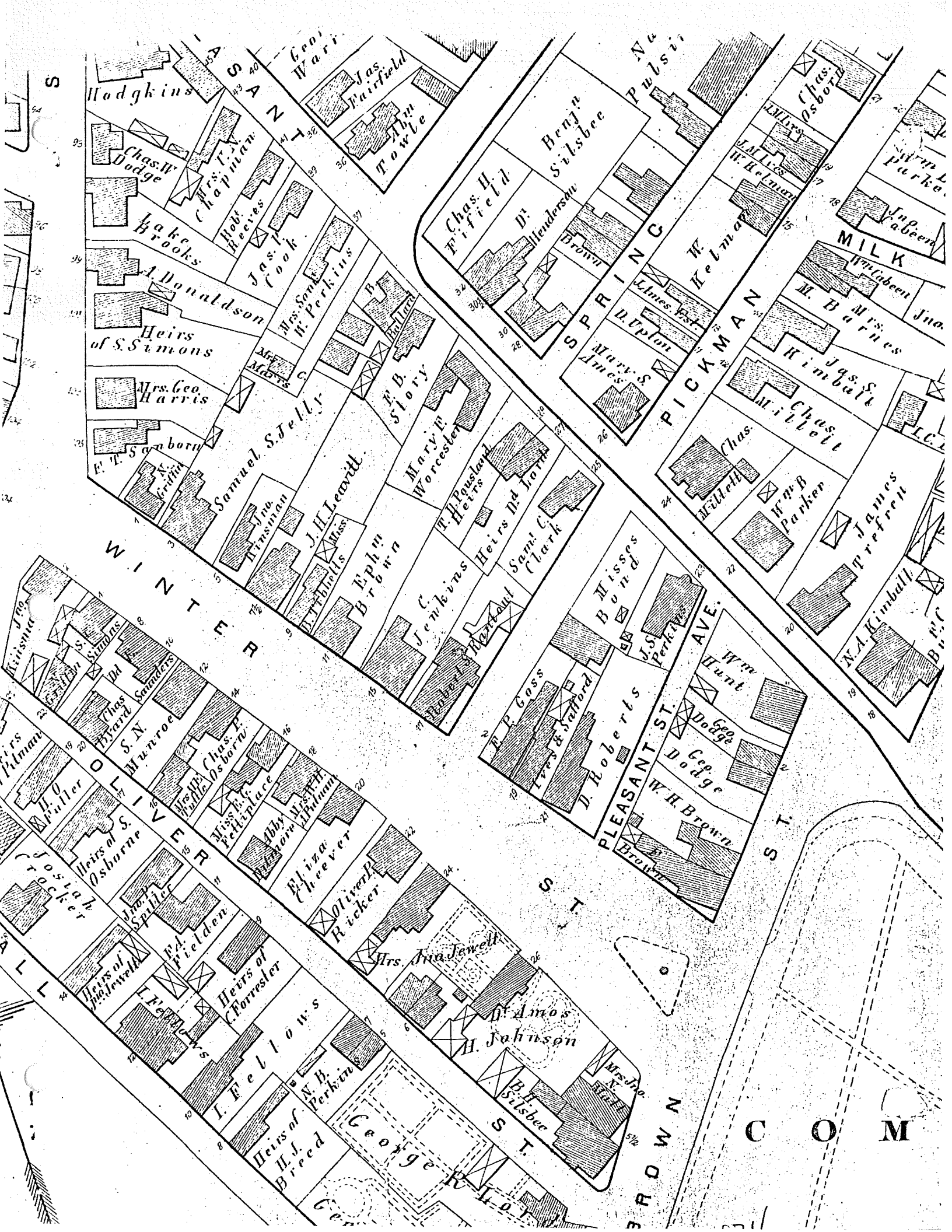
(C)

3 shares in Staurenberg Steam Cotton Company		294.00
dividend on the above in January '08	12.00	52.00
Rest of Stock	40.00	
Furniture &c. in Chambers		
plain lamp glass French	12.00	
2 Blankets & 2 Comforts	10.00	22.00
black camphor French	12.00	
10 cotton & 2 linen sheets	10.00	22.00
11 linen Pillow cases	2.00	
12 Dogbeds	1.00	
4 Mattings	1.00	4.00
3 Table cloths	6.00	
Bed Matting	1.00	
5 Ostrich Feathers	1.00	8.00
2 in mahogany Drawers	14.00	
Wash Stand & Ware	9.00	25.00
2 in Drawers	5.00	
Centre Table Cloth	8.00	
Bed & Umbrella Stand	8.00	16.00
Bedstead	10.00	
Pillows, Feather Bed & Bedding	25.00	
Pine Trunk	1.00	26.00
7 Chairs	10.00	
Arm Chair	7.00	
air tight Stove	3.00	
2 Dressers	0.50	14.25
clock & Pictures	2.00	
black camphor French	8.00	
Fire Bucket &c.		11.00
stair carpet and Rods	3.00	
Chamber Carpet	12.00	15.00
Furniture in Parlor		
carpet	15.00	
Pier Table	10.00	
small looking glass	2.00	27.00
Solar Lamp	2.00	
Commode	6.00	
Knife Tray, Trays & Forks	2.00	10.00
Wash Bot.	2.00	
French Clock	10.00	
large Mirror	12.00	
Sofa	10.00	34.00
2 Parkington chairs	10.00	
2 easy chairs	2.00	
2 stools & ottoman	15.00	25.00
Centre Table	12.00	
large Solar Lamp	3.00	
Table & Table Ornaments	4.00	17.00
clock & Ornaments &c.	5.00	
M. Grogan Stone & oil cloth	8.00	10.00
2 traps & pillows & 2 Dressers	3.00	
2 Canton Chairs & brackets	3.00	6.00
French Sofa	18.00	
5 Pictures	12.00	
mahogany chairs	18.00	48.00
Travelling Bot.	2.00	
Silver Spoons & Forks	17.00	
Plated Tea Table	8.00	27.00
2 plated table Brackets	7.00	
plated Butter Dish	3.00	
Custard	2.00	12.00
gilt, silver Ware	7.00	
Glass Ware	4.00	
Dining Ware, Tray, Tea Bot. &c.	5.00	16.00
Barometer	4.00	
Rest of House	20.00	
return from a fire policy	9.67	13.67
balance of 4m against owners of Park John Gardner, agreement		300.00
to award of Referees		
dividend on 3 shares Staurenberg Steam Cotton Co.		12.00
		<u>\$1,134.92</u>

52864

Real est

House on Olmott St \$2,100



S

Hodgkins

WARR

Jas Fairfield

Towle

Benjn Silsbee

Publ's

Osborn

Wm Parker

Chas W Dodge

Chapman

Hobbs Reeves

Jas Cook

Chas H. Field

Dr. Henderson

W. Kelman

W. Kelman

W. Kelman

Brooks

A. Donaldson

Mrs. S. Perkins

Story

James East

U. Upton

W. Kelman

W. Kelman

W. Kelman

Heirs of S. Simons

Mrs. Geo. Harris

Mrs. S. Perkins

Story

James East

U. Upton

W. Kelman

W. Kelman

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Mrs. S. Perkins

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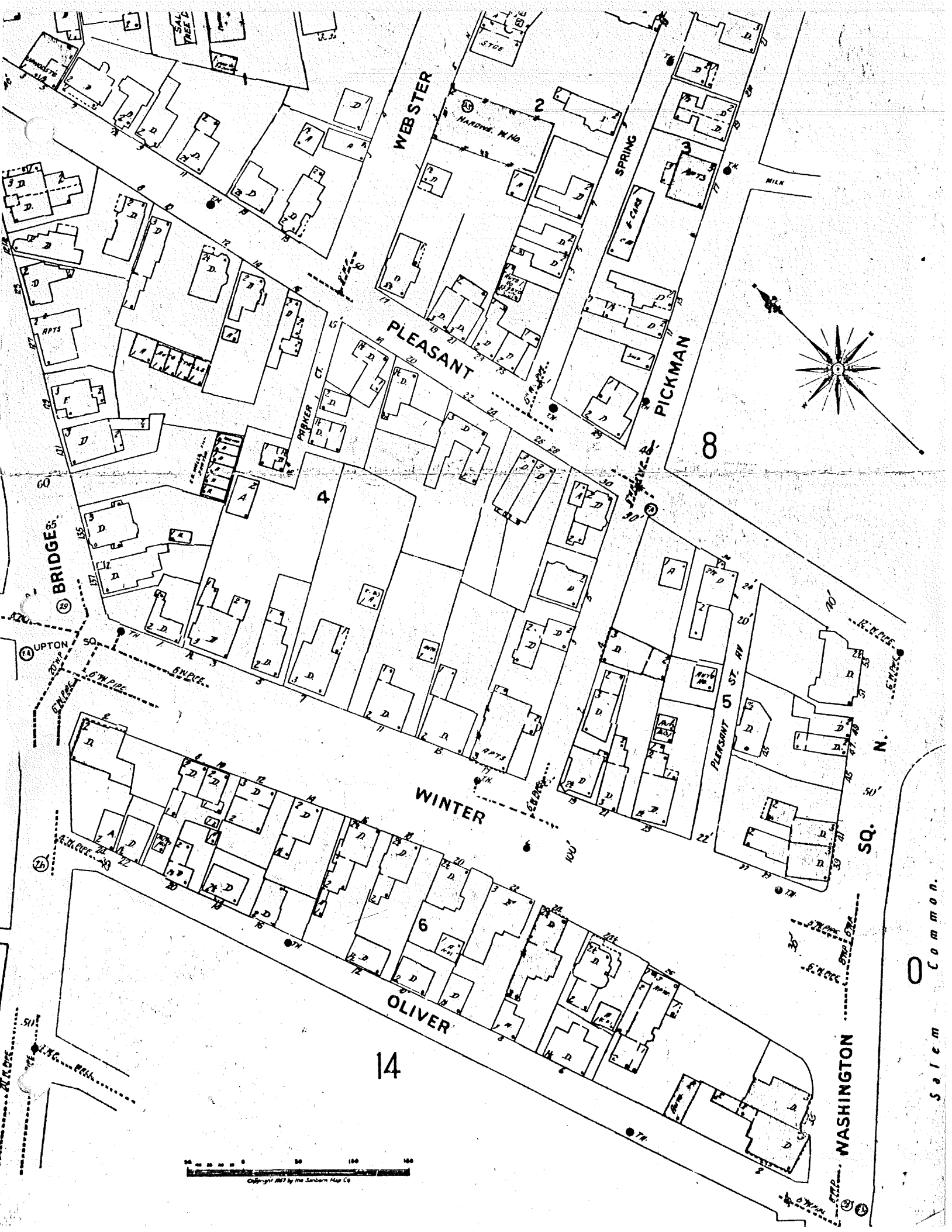
U. Upton

W. Kelman

W. Kelman

W. Kelman

W. Kelman



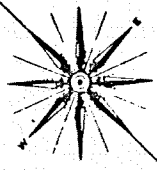
WEBSTER

PLEASANT

PICKMAN

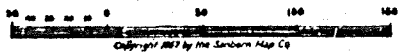
WINTER

OLIVER



8

14



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Salem Common

WASHINGTON

SQ. 50' N.

BRIDGE ST.

UPTON

PLEASANT ST. AV.

50'

50'

50'

50'

50'

50'

50'

50'

50'

50'

60'

55'

50'

45'

40'

35'

30'

25'

20'

15'

10'

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0' 10' 20' 30' 40' 50' 60' 70' 80' 90' 100'

0' 10' 20' 30' 40' 50' 60' 70' 80' 90' 100'