

Historic Salem incorporated

OFFICE AT OLD TOWN HALL

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

24 Grove Street

Built by.

HENRY W. BALCOMB, carpenter

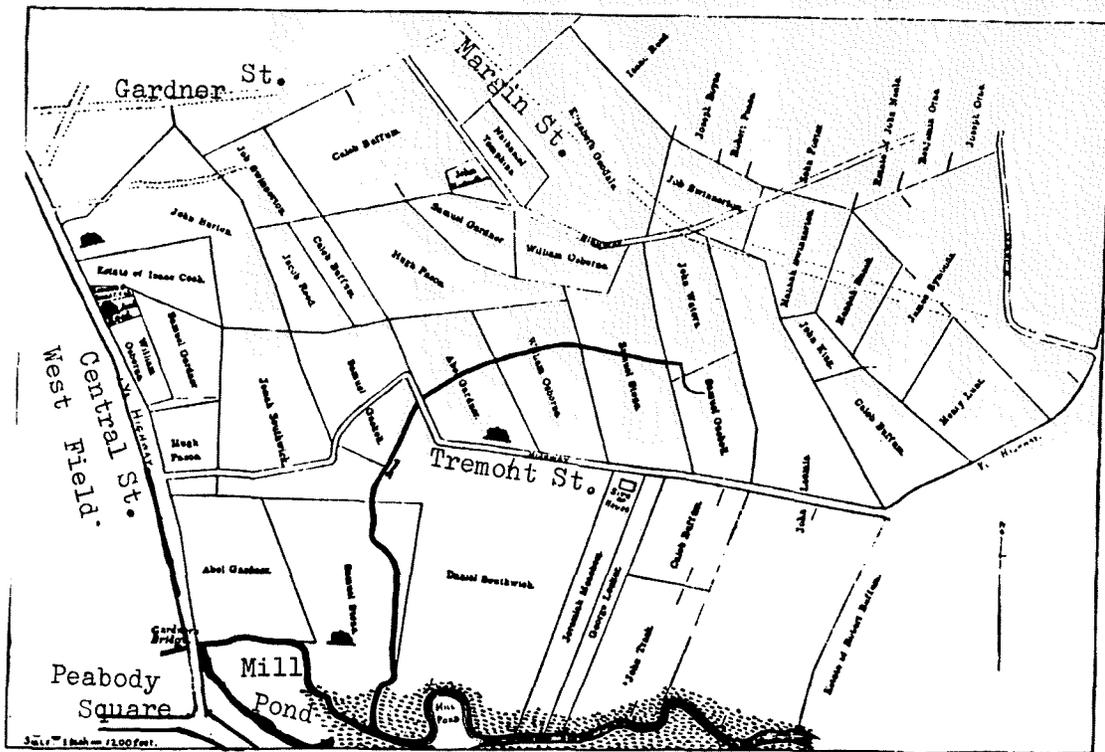
in 1871

Research by,
Joyce King
March 1982

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

24 Grove Street

The land on which this house stands was a portion of a 10 acre lot owned by John Kitchen, a shoemaker, in 1659. Mr. Kitchen and his son-in-law John Sanders, a seaman, conveyed it to Mr. Williams in 1661. (book 2 page 66) Mr. Williams also owned 20 acres adjoining this and in 1669 he conveyed the entire 30 acres to John Loomis of Salem, a seaman. (book 3 page 76)



1700

↑
Loomis
LOT

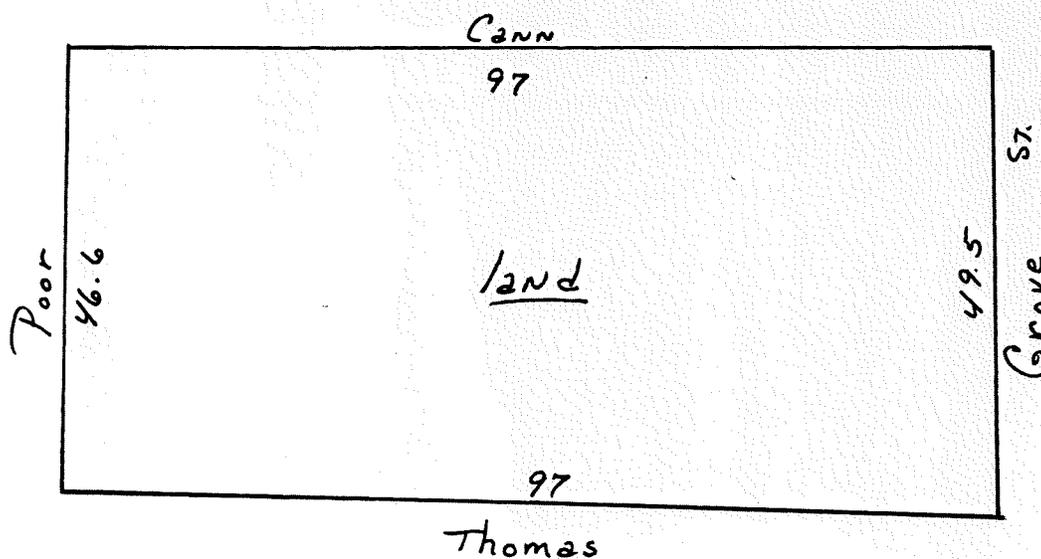
This house stands in the area of North Salem which was called "Paradise" in the early 1800's. Paradise included the whole area of Mason St., Mack Park and Harmony Grove up to Tremont St. "It was so attractive, on account of it's natural beauty, with winding river (now the canal and filled in land of Harmony Grove Rd.), sandy beaches, beautiful groves and fine views." (Northfields, by E. B. Symonds)

A former resident of Salem recollected: "This probably is not the bible Paradise, for there are no Fig trees here, but it is a boy's Paradise, for green apples are plenty just inside the stone wall, and there stands a slippery elm tree____. Over there, by that hillside, just above the lane is a favorite place for bathing for boys who can swim; the water is clear and cool but it deepens rapidly just off shore, and the location is unsafe for those who cannot swim. As we pass on we will take a peep in at the grist mill (in the area now owned by Salem Oil and Grease); this is a dusty place, and there is the dusty miller taking toll from the grist. We will look in at the bark mill; this is a savage grinder, and turns the bark into tan very rapidly; the dust here is worse than it is in the grist mill." (Salem Register, Letter of July 2, 1881 by the "Rambler")

Another account is given by George D. Phippen in which he describes the flora in the area: "Paradise," including Harmony Grove, not then devoted to its present sacred use, abounded in Columbines,

Ranunculus and Violets, two species of Geranium, Genista tinctora of the Puritan dyer's memory. Silene inflata, Dianthus armeria, our only American pink, and that perhaps a strayling from Europe; also many other plants, and some quite rare."

On May 27, 1867 Pamela Peck, wife of William Peck, sold a small portion of Paradise for \$200 to Elizabeth Balcomb wife of Henry:



(book 735 page 189)

At this time the Balcomb family was living at 31 Phillips St. and also owned the house 22 Grove St. The first mention of #24 Grove appears in the tax records of 1871:

Henry Balcomb - horse \$100; house 31 Phillips \$800 on land of Harmony Grove; land on the corner of Summit Ave.

E. Jane Balcomb - house 22 Grove \$1,800. A notation, in pencil, written after the original assessment was made is "house" 24 Grove St. \$1,800; land 6 Phillips St.

The Balcombs were settled in their new house by 1872 when the occupants (only the males over 18 are listed) of 24 Grove St. were:

Henry W. Balcomb	age 45	house val. \$1,800; land \$600
George W. Balcomb	" 38	

The 1880 census gives a close look at the Balcomb family:

<u>Names</u>	<u>age</u>	<u>occupation</u>	<u>born</u>
Henry Balcomb	53	carpenter & builder	Nova Scotia
Elizabeth "	50	keeps house	New Hampshire
Charles "	17	at school	Mass.
Annie M. "	15	at school.	"
Emma Harris	23	boarder	Nova Scotia
2nd family			
George W. Balcomb	47	carpenter & builder	Nova Scotia
Eliza "	52		Mass.

The Salem Street books of 1883 indicate that George Balcomb had moved on, leaving Henry age 56 and Charles S. 20 the only males over 18 in the house.

Elizabeth Balcomb died on March 10, 1884. A simple obituary appeared in the Salem Gazette: Deaths - Elizabeth, wife of Henry W. Balcomb, 54y 4m 18d. Her probate (#61245) shows her heirs as: husband Henry, son Charles S. and daughter Annie M.

Real Estate:	house 22 Grove St.	\$1,950
	house 24 " "	2,000
	land 10 Phillips St.	800
	lot of land Irving	150
		<u>\$4,900</u>

In 1885 a new tenant moved into 24 Grove St. which was owned by the "heirs of E.J. Balcomb" house val. \$1,500; land val. \$600. Henry

Balcomb age 58, Charles Balcomb age 22 and Theron R. Williams age 34.

Theron R. Williams, currier, is the only occupant listed in 1886. In 1887 it seems that the house was turned into a boarding house for tannery workers:

24 Grove St. owned by heirs of E.J. Balcomb house val. \$1,500

Occupants

Andrew C. McPherson	tanner	age	25
L. E. McKay	"	"	28
James McKay	"	"	25
John McKay	currier	"	40
William Stevens	"	"	21
Hugh Campbell	"	"	21
Malcomb "	"	"	22
John McMullen	"	"	25
Ronald McPhail	"	"	21

Mr. Balcomb offered the house up for sale on June 22, 1888 as detailed in an ad printed in the Salem News:

"FOR SALE - Nos. 1 and 2; estate 22 & 24 Grove street, with 24 is a nice garden and desirable fruit trees. No. 3 & 4; estate 1 & 2 Ocean Ave.; these estates are near salt water, with one having beach privileges. No. 5, estate 10 Phillips street; a building suitable for manufactory purposes, about 12,000 feet of land terms easy. For further particulars address Henry W. Balcomb, 41 St. Peter St."

The house #24 Grove St. was not sold at this time but was returned to a two family house with various tenants over the years:

1888	Josiah C. Morgan, carpenter	age	35
	William Lannigan, tanner	"	21
1889	William A. Wilson, currier	"	31
	Patrick H. Nolan, morocco dresser		30

On March 4, 1890 Henry W. Balcomb and Annie M. Balcomb assigned their shares to Charles S. Balcomb, then of Knoxville, Tenn. "All the estate on Grove Street in said Salem described in deed of Pamela Peck to said Henry W. Balcomb dated May 27, 1867 recorded in book 735 page 189."

The census of 1900 gives further information about the occupants:
24 Grove St.

<u>Name</u>	<u>born</u>	<u>age</u>	<u>occupation</u>	<u>where born</u>
William Wilson	2-1857	43	policeman	Mass.
Rose E. "	9-1861	38	keeps house	N.Y.
John F. "	3-1884	16	at school	"
Arthur B. "	3-1886	14	" "	"
Francis S. "	8-1890	9	" "	Mass.
Alice T. "	8-1897	2		"
2nd family				
James Campbell	3-1860	40	foreman shoe shop	Mass.
Ann "	11-1865	34	keeps house	"
Grace "	1-1889	11	at school	"
Frank "	10-1892	7	" "	"

Henry Balcomb died on Dec. 7, 1904. His obituary as it appeared in the Salem Evening News:

H. W. BALCOMB DIED THIS MORNING - The Veteran Contractor and Builder Passed Away at the Age of 78 Years. - ALWAYS ACTIVE IN BUSINESS - Henry W. Balcomb, a veteran contractor of this city, died today, aged 78 years.

Mr. Balcomb was born in Clementsport, Nova Scotia, Oct. 1, 1826, and came to Salem in 1849, being the pioneer of the Balcomb family who reside in Salem and vicinity. He was seventh in descent from

Henry Balcomb of Charlestown, Mass. who is first recorded as living there in 1665. His great-grandfather, Silas, born in Sudbury, Mass. was a pre-revolutionary settler in Nova Scotia in 1765, shortly after Nova Scotia was captured from the French, western Nova Scotia being at the time a part of Massachusetts, and many of the original settlers of Annapolis Valley came from Sudbury and vicinity.

The origin of the Balcomb family was probably at the village of Balcombe, Sussex county, England, about 30 miles south of London.

Mr. Balcomb began business for himself in 1851, being joined later by several brothers and nephews who were more or less associated with him throughout his business career. Later, he formed a partnership with the late Robert P. Bruce, which continued into the seventies, when he became associated with four brothers, as the senior partner of Balcomb Bros. At the dissolution of this, he was in business for himself until 1884, when ill health compelled him to retire. His shop was at 31 Liberty street ____.

During the active years of his life, the deceased had contributed a generous share to the growth of Salem and vicinity, his contracts including many well-known structures.

Mr. Balcomb had long been identified with the Advent Christian church of this city and was an active and loyal member. He was especially interested in the construction of the new church in North Salem.

In 1876 and 1877, he served the city as councilman from Ward Six. He was a director of the Roger Conant bank since it was founded; a member of the John Endicott lodge, Pilgrim Fathers; and also a Mason. For a number of years Mr. Balcomb had been unable to be about except

during the warmest months, but in his retirement had always evinced a keen interest in the welfare of his adopted city. The last time he was out of doors was at the municipal election one year ago, when he cast his ballot for no-license.

In 1851, Mr. Balcomb was married to Miss Elizabeth J. Sanborn of Newfields, N.H. who died in 1885. In 1889 he married Miss Sarah E. Honeycomb, a former teacher of the Bentley school, who survives him. Of his immediate family, he leaves, besides a widow, two children by his former marriage; Charles S. Balcomb of Lynn and Mrs. Annie M. Wheeler of this city; two brothers, John G. and Edmund P. Balcomb, also of this city; and two sisters, Mrs. Eliza M. Jones and Mrs. Susan A. Ingham of Boston.

Mr. Balcomb had an intense sympathy with the sick and unfortunate. In his business career, he was lenient towards those in embarrassed financial circumstances; he never sued a man in his business career of over 30 years. He had an open hand to the poor and the outcast. During his life there had been many acts of secret benevolence, for he was one who separated the deeds of his right hand from those of his left, and there are those who will mourn the man who in time of dire distress and crises gave the needed assistance."

Charles Balcomb died on March 27, 1911. In his will, written on Dec. 14, 1910, Charles bequeathed 2/3 of his estate to his wife Annabel I. (Annie I.) and 1/3 to his son Henry. This estate was listed as:

Real Estate - #8 Ocean Ave.	\$3,600
24 Grove St.	2,000
land at Knoxville, Tenn.	412
	<hr/>
	6,012

Personal Estate: (probate #110763)

5 shares - American Tel. and Tel. Co.	\$600
U.S. Bonds	40
Boston Co-Op	416.38
Roger Conant	40
Deposit Naumkeag	113.17

The obituary notice of Charles gives some insight into his life:

"Charles Sumner Balcomb died at his home, 8 Ocean Ave. yesterday. He was a draughtsman by profession and had been for a long time in the employ of the Boston Elevated R.R. He was 48 years of age, and he leaves a widow and son. He was stricken with a shock last Fri. He was a graduate of Harvard."

On May 16, 1911 Annie I. Balcomb executrix of the will of Charles S. Balcomb sold the land and building at 24 Grove St. to long time tenant Arthur V. Wilson, for the sum of \$2,300. (book 2079 page 229)

The tax records for 1913 show the change in ownership and occupants:

Owner - Arthur V. Wilson	house \$2,000	land \$400
Occupants - William A. Wilson	age 56	
Arthur V.	" 27	
Frank L.	" 23	
2nd family		
Thomas Curran	" 32	

William A. Wilson died on Oct. 6, 1917. His obituary notice:

"OFFICER WILSON HAS PASSED AWAY ---- Patrolman William A. Wilson of the Salem police force died in the J. B. Thomas hospital, Peabody, Saturday. He had been poorly for some time having undergone an operation about a year ago.

Undertaker P. W. Murphy brought the body to Mr. Wilson's late

home, 24 Grove street, Salem.

Mr. Wilson was appointed a reserve officer about 1894, by ex-Mayor Turner, and five years later was transferred to the regular force. He was a brave, efficient and faithful officer, and one ever ready at a moments call to duty.

He had charge of about 100 men during two epidemics of smallpox and diphtheria, and was also at the head of the Salem and Swampscott officers in the Ipswich strike. In 1896 a man was sought to clear up several breaks about the city, and one night Mr. Wilson caught the burglar breaking into a store not far from the old police station on Front street. The officer received a bad cut on the face, but he got his man. however.

Mr. Wilson was past master workman of Oriental lodge, A. O. U. W., the first president of Witch City Aerie, F. O. E., a member of the New England Order of Protection, of Salem lodge of Elks, vice president of the Salem Police Relief association, and a member of the Massachusetts Police association.

He leaves a widow, formerly Miss Rose Connelly; two sons, Arthur V. Wilson of Salem and Frank L. Wilson, the latter in service at Ayer; a daughter, Miss Alice M. Wilson; five brothers, Rev. M. Wilson, Postmaster David Wilson, John, Nicholas and James Wilson, all of Hartford Conn.; four sisters, Miss Alice M., Mrs. Lewis Small, Mrs. Frank Curran of Hartford, Conn., and Mrs. Thomas Grogan of Pittsfield. The burial will be Tuesday in Fantankill cemetery, Ellenville, New York."



PATROLMAN WILLIAM A. WILSON

On Nov. 8, 1923 Arthur V. Wilson, of Hartford, Conn. transferred the title to the land and building at 24 Grove St. to his mother Rose E. Wilson. (book 2580 page 102)

On March 23, 1925 Rose E. Wilson, of Hartford, Conn., sold the land and building to Barbina Kozlowski. (book 2634 page 18)

On May 1, 1945 Mary Kozlowski, administratrix of the estate of Barbina Kozlowski sold the property to Charles E. and Anna M. Ouellette, husband and wife. "Being the same premises conveyed to said Barbina Kozlowski by deed of Rose E. Wilson dated March 23, 1925, and recorded in book 2634 page 18. (book 3403 page 464)

On Sept. 8, 1947 Charles and Anna Ouellette sold the property at 24 Grove St. to Charles A. and Margaret A. Haight. "Being the same premises conveyed to us by deed of Mary Kozlowski ___ May 1, 1945." (book 3565 page 562)

On June 16, 1969 Charles A. and Margaret A. Haight sold the property to the present owners Raymond J. and Barbara J. Haight. "Being the same premises conveyed to us by Charles E. Ouellette, et ux by deed dated Sept. 8, 1947." (book 5615 page 230)

Two building permits are recorded at the building inspector's office for work done on this house:

Oct. 8, 1969 - Renovate piazza = add room

June 24, 1981 - Construct deck 8 X 16; change existing windows to sliding doors.

Notes: 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.

Found after research was completed

Add to 24 Grove Street

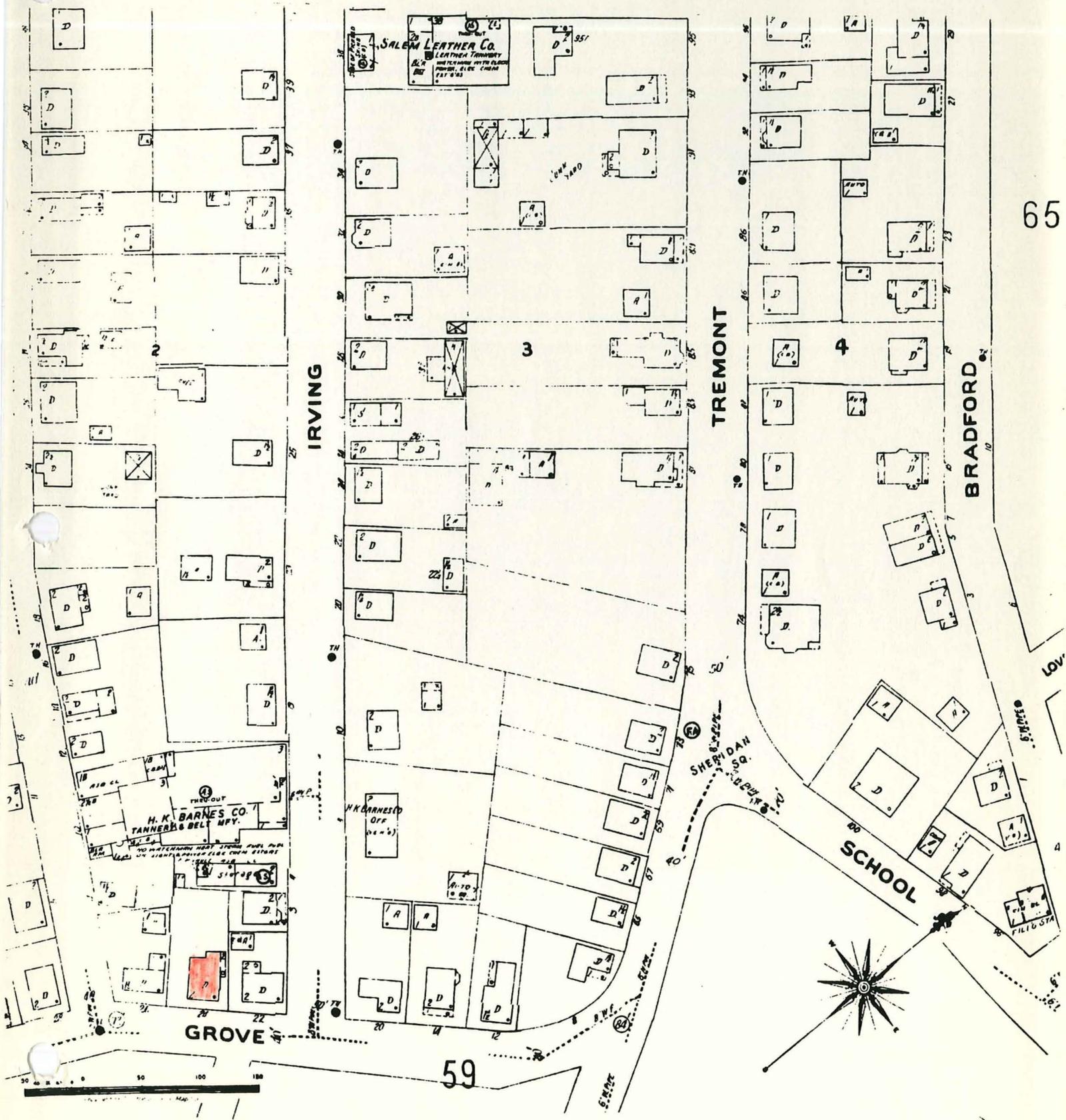
Salem Evening News - August 1884

"FOR SALE - In one of the most healthful neighborhoods of Salem,
two estates 22 and 24 Grove.

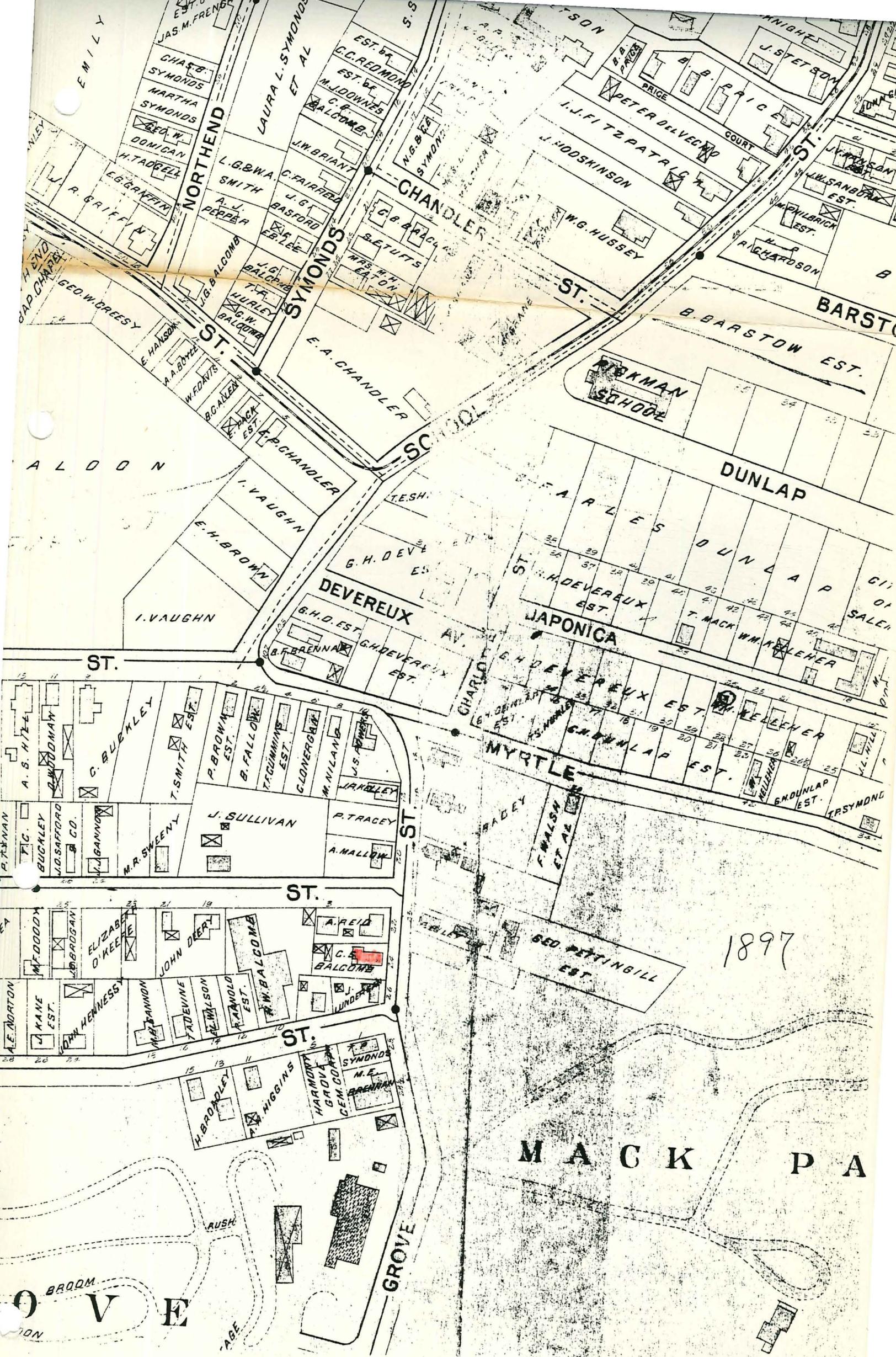
Each house is arranged for two families and has a double shed
in the rear, with facilities for keeping fowls.

Stable in rear of 22, 24 is furnace heated and has a garden well
stocked with grapes, quince and about a dozen choice pear trees."

HISTORIC RESEARCH
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1897

MACK PARK

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