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**37 Clark Street**

Mattie Simard  
Harry Rodetes  
Housewife and Shoemaker  
Built in 1947

Researched and written by Amanda Eddy  
November 2021

Historic Salem Inc.  
The Bowditch House  
9 North Street, Salem, MA 01970  
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37 Clark Street,  
City of Salem Assessor's Office

The land northwest of Highland Avenue in Salem, Massachusetts is a more recently developed area of the city. It wasn't until the early to mid-20th century that homes started being built and in consequence, formed Ward 3. The area was originally pastureland owned by R.S. Fay. In 1918, a plan was drawn up by Eastman & Bradford, surveyors, splitting the land into mostly 1-acre plots. In 1921, Frederick H. Griswold and his wife Isabella J. Griswold purchased most of these plots and immediately began selling them to individual buyers. In 1925, Mattie Simard purchased lot 288 from the Griswold's. Later on, she purchased lot 287. The land was left untouched until 1947, when she and her husband built the home that now stands on lot 288.

The home is a fine example of mid-century modern architecture. This style of home is associated with post-World War II due to the American trend of soldiers coming home from war and beginning to build houses in this style during the mid to late 1940s. 37 Clark Street fits this

stereotype with its ranch style and wooden structure that does peaked gables at the front of the home and is geometrically pleasing to the eye. Its lack of decorative embellishments makes this home a near perfect example for its time. It seems 37 Clark Street was interchangeable with 288 Clark Street, referring to the lot number. City directories list the home at number 288, while the 1947 permit shows 37.

## The Rodetes Family

The first of the only two families that have lived in the home is the Rodetes family. Harry Stelianos Rodetes (1887-c.1962) was born on the island of Zakynthos, Greece on June 27, 1887. Harry came to the United States in 1906. After having been in Salem for 11 years, Harry registered for the draft in 1917. His registration card shows that he was a shoe worker for Martin Silberman Company in Marblehead, Massachusetts at the time. Harry married Mattie Simard (1885-c.1966) in 1925. Harry and Mattie were neighbors on Prescott Street prior to their marriage. Between the two of them, they have lived at numbers 4, 8, and 10. It seems that their relationship as neighbors may have been the reason they were married some years later.

Mattie's birth name was Josephine Delphine Madore. Nearly all of the records differ when referring to her. She went by Delphine, Matilda, Josephine, and/or Mattie, the latter being the most frequently used. She was born in Augusta, Maine on March 18, 1885, to Thomas Madore and Delphine (Deveau) Madore. Mattie's first marriage was to Joseph Cyr in 1900. They had four children together: Odilon, Louis, Irene, and Gilbert. After Joseph passed away in 1912, Mattie married Narcisse Simard in 1914. Mattie and Narcisse continued to live in Mattie's childhood home on Prescott Street. Unfortunately, Narcisse passed away in 1921, leaving Mattie a widow for a second time. Four years later, Mattie and Harry would marry and continue to live on Prescott Street at number 8.

Although Harry and Mattie had no children of their own, Mattie's granddaughter, Patricia Cyr, lived with the couple at 8 Prescott Street in Salem. Sometime before moving to Clark Street, the Rodetes moved to 10 Prescott Street. Harry continued to work in the shoe industry, working as a laster. A laster is the workman who shapes the boots and shoes in the shoe making process. Mattie remained a housewife throughout all three of her marriages. Records are unclear exactly when Harry and Mattie passed away, but it is estimated that Harry passed around 1962 and Mattie around 1966.

The Rodetes family sold the home on August 8, 1952, to James F. and Joan B. Silveria.

## The Silveria Family

James Francis Silveria (1920-1972) was born to Manuel and Laura (Baptista) Silveria of Peabody, Massachusetts on March 21, 1920. His father, Manuel was born in the Azores (Portugal) in 1873 and his mother, Laura was born in Massachusetts in 1885. James grew up at 87 Tremont Street in Peabody. He had one brother, Francis Silveria (1921-1982). James and his brother worked as laborers at Wilson Square farm where their father was the operator. It is recorded that in 1941, James married Doris Silveria, whose maiden name is seemingly untraceable. They lived at 23 Beaver Street in Salem. Soon after they married, James was deployed in World War II as a Private First-Class United States Marine. He sustained injuries while on duty and was honorably discharged. When he returned, he worked as a chauffeur for Beverly Mattress Company. Doris and James divorced sometime before his next marriage which occurred on April 1, 1950. James then married Joan Marilyn Bishop (1933-1999). Joan was born June 1, 1933, to Albert L. Bishop and Vivian N. (Collins) Bishop. At the time of marriage, the couple was living at 138 President Street in Lynn, Massachusetts. James was working as a truck driver and Joan was at home. James and Joan were married when they

owned the home on Clark Street. In 1955, James' brother, Francis Silveria, married Joan's sister, Beverly E. Bishop. Joan passed away November 18, 1999.

While James was living at 37 Clark Street, he is listed as working as a laborer. After moving from Clark Street, James moved back to Peabody where he worked as an operator at N N Flynn Contracting. James and Joan divorced not long after moving from Clark Street to Peabody. James was then remarried to Anna T. Brisbois on June 30, 1956. Anna was born to William Emmett and Stacia (Borowski) Emmett around 1916. They divorced sometime within six years. On November 2, 1962, James married his fourth wife, Elaine E. (Tetreault) DeVarenes in Seabrook, New Hampshire. Elaine was born in 1929 to Arthur W. Tetreault and Catherine (Dubiel) Tetreault. The newlyweds lived at 23 Parsons Street in Peabody. James was a heavy machine operator at the time and Elaine was at home. James and Elaine divorced and James married a fifth time on March 3, 1972, in Florida; a woman whose name is illegible. Eight months later, James passed away on November 12, 1973, in Levy, Florida.

James sold the home to Edward F. Colbert and Edith A. Colbert on June 11, 1954. The Colbert family continues to live there to this day. The home has been owned by their son, Dennis Colbert, since June 28, 1996, when Edward sold the home for \$125,000.

# SOURCES

## Table of Deeds

Date Purchased	Home Owner	Years of Ownership	Number of Years	Purchase Price	Deed Referenced	Notes
November 30, 1921	Frederick H. Griswold Isabella H. Griswold	1921	4		Certificate of Title #3862	Griswold owned a majority of the plots on Clark Street and sold them at different times over a span of many years.
June 17, 1925	Mattie Simard	1925-1952	27		New Cert: 5598 Document:13351	Lot 288 and Lot 289
April 23, 1947	Harry Rodetes Mattie (Simard) Rodetes	1947-1952	5	n/a	Permit No.192	The permit to build the home was approved by the City of Salem.
August 8, 1952	James F. Silveria Joan B. Silveria	1952-1954			Document 66077-1&2	James F. Silveria purchases lot 287
June 11, 1954	Edward F. Colbert Edith A. Colbert	1954-1996	42	For consideration paid	16-3862: Document 71997	Both parcels of land (lot 287 and 288) are combined.
June 28, 1996	Dennis W. Colbert	1996-present	25+	\$125,000	66933-325: Document 320652	

## Residents Table

<b>Resident Name</b>	<b>Directory Year</b>	<b>Occupation</b>
Harry Rodetes	1947-1953	Shoemaker
Mattie (Simard) Rodetes	1947-1953	At home
James Silveria	1954-1955	Laborer
Joan B. Silveria	1954-1955	At home
Edward Colbert	1956-1996	Specialist at General Electric



