

**67 Ocean Avenue
Salem**

According to available evidence, this house was built in 1893 for Miss Lucy J. Lefavour, and her mother, Mrs. Lucy S. Lefavour, the widow of Capt. Samuel H. Lefavour.

Construction Date of The House.

On 6 April 1894 James M. Gilliatt sold to Lucy J. Lefavour, of Salem, a parcel of land that ran easterly 50' by Ocean Avenue, southerly 98' by land of Batchelder, westerly 50' by land of Almy, and northerly 98' by land of Perkins (ED 1407:303). On this lot, Miss Lefavour proceeded to have this house built in 1893. The boundaries of the lot are nearly the same today; and the lot still fronts 50' on the street (ED 5191:89).

By the time, in April, 1894, that Miss Lefavour purchased the lot, the house had already been built thereon. A review of the Salem City Valuations tells the tale:

1. 1893 Ward Five, Prec. 10: Mrs. Lucy Lefavour, "27 Ocean Ave.", h. \$2000 plus 9800 sq. ft. of land (all in pencil, rest of listings in pen)
2. 1894 (p.159) Ward Five: Mrs. Lucy Lefavour, "27 (crossed out)" 67 Ocean Ave., house \$2000, barn \$200, and 9800 s.f. land. Notation: "part of lot 78." Also (in pencil): Castle Hill St. house \$900 (3800 s.f.), ditto \$700 (3400s.f.).
3. 1895 Ward 5: Mrs. Lucy Lefavour, 67 Ocean Ave., house \$2000, barn \$200, 9800 s.f. land \$1k
4. 1896 Ward 5: Lucy Lefavour 67 O. Ave. ("Ellen M. Flynn in 1897" in pencil) : house \$2000, barn \$200, 9800 s.f.; also (in pencil: "new house, 13 Messervey" \$1600, 400 s.f.

The valuations were made in ink, and any recent changes were noted in pencil. From this, it is evident that this house was built on its 9800 square-foot lot in 1893, and that a barn was added in 1894, on the back part of the original lot (as

on atlas). The house was considered to be the property of Mrs. Lefavour, although the deed was in the name of her daughter and namesake.

Notes: The Salem Directory for 1893/4, based on data from 1892 and early 1893 evidently, does not list a house on this site. The 1897 atlas of Salem (copy appended) shows a house standing at this address, belonging to "Lucy A. Lefavour," who was Mrs. Lucy Ann Saunders (Tufts) Lefavour.

History of The Lot.

James M. Gilliatt (who sold it to Miss Lefavour) had purchased the lot (same boundaries as when sold to Lefavour) the same day he sold it, 6 April 1894, from James F. Almy and Charles S. Clark (ED 1407:302). Messrs. Almy & Clark recited in their deed that the lot comprised parts of Lots 136, 137, and 138, on a plan of the Derby Estate. The Derby estate here, once a part of the large Derby Farm, ran along Lafayette Street between Forest Avenue and Laurel Street and extended westerly to the Mill Pond. It was subdivided in August, 1868 (see plan at ED 755:300, appended), and the lots were sold at public auction in September, 1868. At that time, Ocean Avenue did not run from Park Avenue to Lafayette Street, but did run (its name was then Castle Hill Avenue) from Park Avenue to the Mill Pond. The banks of the old Mill Pond were about where Canal Street is today (see appended plan and atlas of 1897).

In the 1868 subdivision of the Derby Estate, this lot consisted of the westernmost portions of Lots 137 and 138, and the easternmost portion of Lot 136 fronting 30' on "Castle Hill Avenue". By 1874 Ocean Street had its present name and had been laid out from Park Avenue easterly, so that it now ran from Lafayette Street to the banks of the Mill Pond, where it evidently continued as a bridge over the water. "H. Sleeper" then owned the westernmost part of what would become the #67 house-lot, while the easterly portion was owned by "Almy, Wiggins, & Clark" (see 1874 atlas, appended).

The Owners.

Mrs. Lefavour was born Lucy Ann Saunders Tufts, evidently in Maine, in the year 1828. In 1849 she married Samuel H. Lefavour, 26, a mariner, in Salem. He lived at 12 Winter Street in 1846; Winter Street was the site of the residence

of his mother's family, the Hoveys. He was the son of Thomas Lefavour, who had come to Salem from Marblehead.

Capt. Samuel Hovey Lefavour eventually rose to the top of his trade, and was a shipmaster sailing in the African trade, and at one time was associated therein with Capt. George Pousland. Capt. Lefavour later became the assistant lightkeeper at Baker's Island light-house. Capt. Samuel, wife Lucy, daughter Lucy, son John (and whatever other children they may have had) resided at 150 Washington Street (which they ran as a boarding house) in the 1870s, and at 107 Essex Street in the 1880s.

Through the 1860s and 1870s, Salem continued to pursue a manufacturing course. The managers and capitalists tended to build their new, grand houses along Lafayette Street (these houses may still be seen, west of Roslyn Street). For the workers, they built more and more tenements near the Naumkeag Mills. More factories and more people required more space for buildings, more roads, and more storage areas. After withstanding the pressures of the new industrial city for about 50 years, Salem's rivers began to disappear. The once-broad North River was filled from both shores, and became a canal along Bridge Street above the North Bridge. Slowly, over decades, the large and beautiful Mill Pond, which occupied the whole area between the present Jefferson Avenue, Canal Street, and Loring Avenue, was buried here and there and finally vanished beneath streets, storage areas, junk-yards, rail-yards, and parking lots. The South River, too, with its epicenter at Central Street disappeared under the pavement of Riley Plaza and New Derby Street, and its old wharves (even the mighty Union Wharf, formerly Long Wharf, at the foot of Union Street) were joined together with much in-fill and turned into coal-yards and lumber-yards. Only a canal was left, running in from Derby and Central Wharves to Lafayette Street and a little beyond.

Miss Lucy Lefavour found a place in Salem's economy: in 1889 she was a shoemaker in a factory. Her brother John S. Lefavour was a landscaper, who, in 1890, went into business as a landscape photographer with a studio at One Odell Square. Many of his photographs are in the collection of the Peabody Essex Museum.

Capt. Lefavour died on 29 July 1890, in his 68th year (see obituaries in Salem *Gazette* and Salem *Observer*, Aug. 1 and Aug. 2, 1890, respectively). His wife and daughter took up residence at 20 Boardman Street, off Washington Square, while John resided at Odell Square.

As has been noted, Mrs. & Miss Lucy Lefavour had the new house built in 1893. They resided there for just a few years, and then moved to Wakefield, Mass. On 23 December 1896, Lucy J. Lefavour of Wakefield sold the property here to Ellen M. Flynn, the wife of John S. Flynn of Salem (ED 1500:215). The property then included a back lot that ran to Hersey Street and had the barn or carriage house thereon (as per 1897 atlas). That same day the Flynns took out a \$2000 mortgage on the property with the Salem Savings Bank (ED 1500:216).

John S. Flynn was associated with S.C. Williams & Co., bottlers, located at 20 Derby Square (see Salem Directory, 1897-8). He may have been the president of the company. The Flynns did not long own the property. In September, 1899, they sold the homestead to Julia A. Ferguson, wife of George P. Ferguson, then of Peabody (ED 1588:330). The Fergusons moved in here. In 1900 the house was occupied by George P. Ferguson, 58, a baker and variety-store proprietor, his wife Julia, 55, their daughter Clara, 22 a teacher at the Oliver School (they had another child living elsewhere), and two boarders who worked in shoe-manufacturing: Rufus E. Sears, 32, a laster, and William H. Pratt, 32, a trimmer (see 1900 census, Ward 5, ED 458, sheet 7).

Unfortunately, Mrs. Julia Ferguson soon died; and in May, 1903, the property was sold to a widow, Nora A. Devine, of Salem, for \$3750 (ED 1706:12). Mrs. Devine, of Cliff Street, now moved to 67 Ocean Avenue, where she resided with her family. Her husband, P. Henry Devine, had died in June, 1902, aged 28, when his horse-carriage collided with a trolley at the corner of Forrester Street and Washington Square. He had been managing his father's liquor business in Lynn and was active in Salem politics as a Democrat (see obit 25 June 1902, Salem *Evening News*). He and his family—wife Nora and three young children—had just moved to Cliff Street from Lafayette Street at the time of his death.

Mrs. Nora Devine resided here for some years. In 1910 she occupied the house along with her mother, Nora Cleary, 79, her brother, Maurice Cleary, 38, a shoe-cutter, and her three Devine children: Thomas, 11, Mary C., 10, and Henry, 9 (see 1910 census, Ward Five). She married again, but her new husband, William A. Crouse, soon died.

Salem kept building infrastructure, and adding new businesses, and expanding established businesses. Retail stores prospered, and machinists, carpenters, millwrights, and other specialists all thrived. In the late 1800s, French-Canadian families began coming to town to work in Salem's mills and factories, and more

houses and tenements filled in what had been open areas of the city. They were followed in the early 20th century by large numbers of Polish and Ukrainian families, who settled primarily in the Derby Street neighborhood. By the eve of World War One, Salem was a bustling, polyglot city that supported large department stores and large factories of every description. Its politics were lively, and its economy was strong.

On June 25, 1914, in the morning, in Blubber Hollow (Boston Street opposite Federal), a fire started in one of Salem's wooden tanneries. This fire soon consumed the building and raced out of control, for the west wind was high and the season had been dry. The next building caught fire, and the next, and out of Blubber Hollow the fire roared easterly, a monstrous front of flame and smoke, wiping out the houses of Boston Street, Essex Street, and upper Broad Street, and then sweeping through the "Nauvoo" section of the city--Hathorne, Winthrop, Endicott, and other residential streets. Men and machines rushed from miles around, but they could not stop it: the enormous fire crossed over into South Salem and destroyed the neighborhoods west of Lafayette Street. Fortunately for the Devines, the wind pushed the flames eastward, just a few streets down from their home. The fire devoured the mansions of Lafayette Street itself, and raged onward into the tenement district. Despite the combined efforts of heroic fire crews from many towns and cities, the fire overwhelmed everything in its path: it smashed into the large factory buildings of the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company (Congress Street), which exploded in an inferno; and it rolled down Lafayette Street and across the water to Derby Street. There, just beyond Union Street, after a 13-hour rampage, the monster died, having consumed 250 acres, 1600 houses, and 41 factories, and leaving three dead and thousands homeless.

Some people had insurance, some did not; all received much support and generous donations from all over the country and the world. It was one of the greatest urban disasters in the history of the United States, and the people of Salem would take years to recover from it. Eventually, they did, and many of the former houses and businesses were rebuilt; and several urban-renewal projects (including Hawthorne Boulevard, which involved removing old houses and widening old streets) were put into effect.

In October, 1915, Mrs. Nora Crouse sold the homestead here to Mrs. Sarah Banks of Salem (ED 2309:546); and in July, 1919, Mrs. Banks conveyed the property to Mary, wife of Charles R. Banks, of Salem (ED 2417:532).

By the 1920s, Salem was once again a thriving city; and its tercentenary in 1926 was a time of great celebration. From that time forward, Salem boomed right through to the 1960s. Members of the Banks family resided here for almost 50 years.

Charles R. Banks, born in Canada in 1864, came with his parents to Salem in 1888. By 1893 he was a foreman at the Chadwick Lead Mills in Salem; and on 27 April 1893, at Immaculate Conception Church, he married Mary J. McCusker, also 28. She was born in Ireland but had come to America as a child. A brother, P.J. McCusker, was a Salem lawyer. The Bankses had a daughter, Sarah, in 1894, and a son, James, in 1899.

Charles was a painter by 1915, and the family then resided on Meadow Street. Next year, they moved into this house. Charles soon switched jobs and worked as a machinist in a machine shop by 1920, while daughter Sarah was the assistant secretary of the Salem Chamber of Commerce and son James was a storekeeper at an electrical-supply store (see 1920 census, Ward 5).

Charles R. Banks died sometime in the years 1924-1926. His widow, Mary, and son James continued to reside here. Sarah married Harold Regan. Mrs. Mary (McCusker) Banks died by the summer of 1934. In July, 1934, James J. Banks sold his half-interest in the property to his sister, Mrs. Harold W. (Sarah E. Banks) Regan, of Salem (ED 2999:21). At that time the lot ran back from Ocean Avenue to Hersey Street.

In July, 1964, the Regans sold the homestead to Lawrence R. and wife Irma M. Guerrette, of Salem (ED 5191:89). The Regans had, by then, sold off the back part of the lot fronting on Hersey Street. The Guerrettes are the owners and occupants of the house today.

Although suburban shopping malls and the relocation of manufacturing businesses have taken their toll, as they have with many other cities, Salem has navigated its way forward into the present with success, trading on its share of fame arising from the commercialization of the witchcraft delusion, but also from its great history as an unrivalled seaport and as the home of Hawthorne and McIntire. Most of all, it remains a city where the homes of the old-time merchants, mariners, mill-operatives, and machinists are all honored as a large part of what makes Salem different from any other place.

--7 July 2001, Robert Booth for Historic Salem Inc.

Glossary

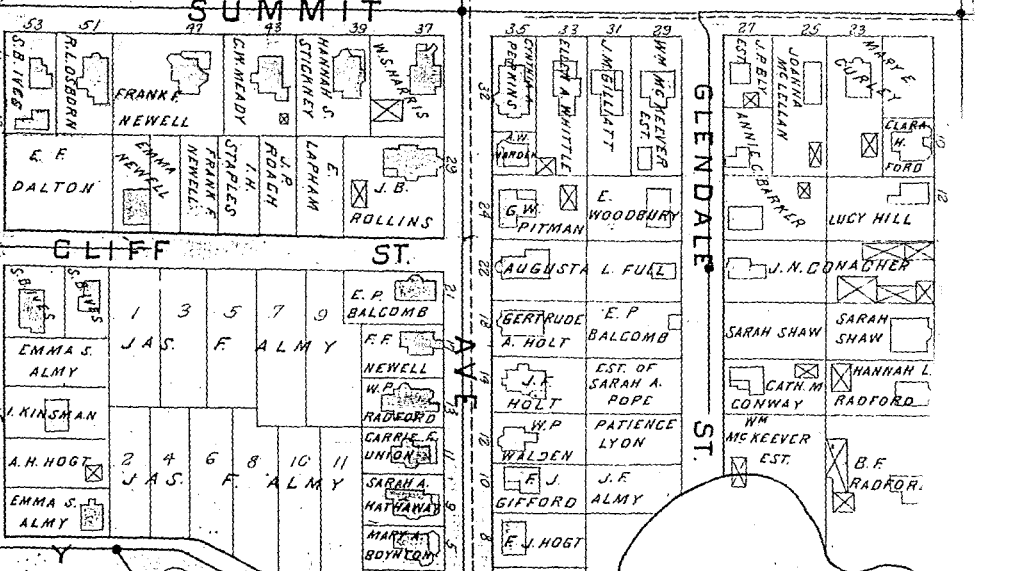
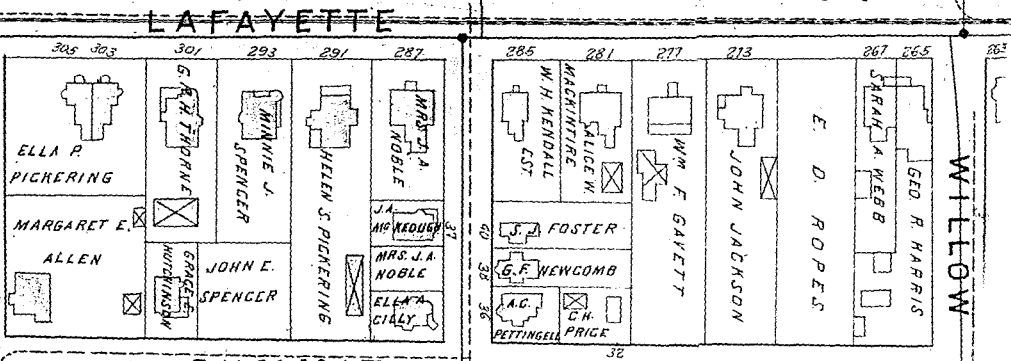
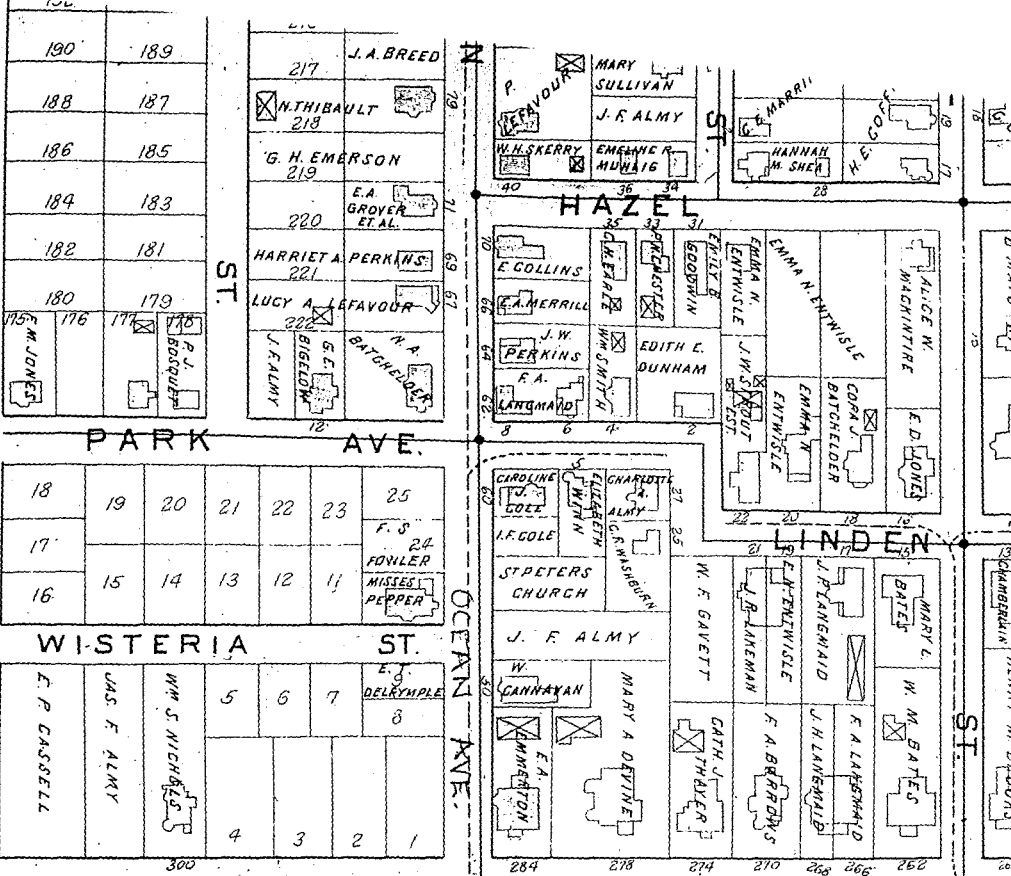
#1234 refers to probate case 1234, Essex County probate

ED 123:45 refers to book 123, page 45, Essex South Registry of Deeds

Salem Directory refers to the published Salem resident directories

Census refers to census records, taken house-by-house with occupants listed.

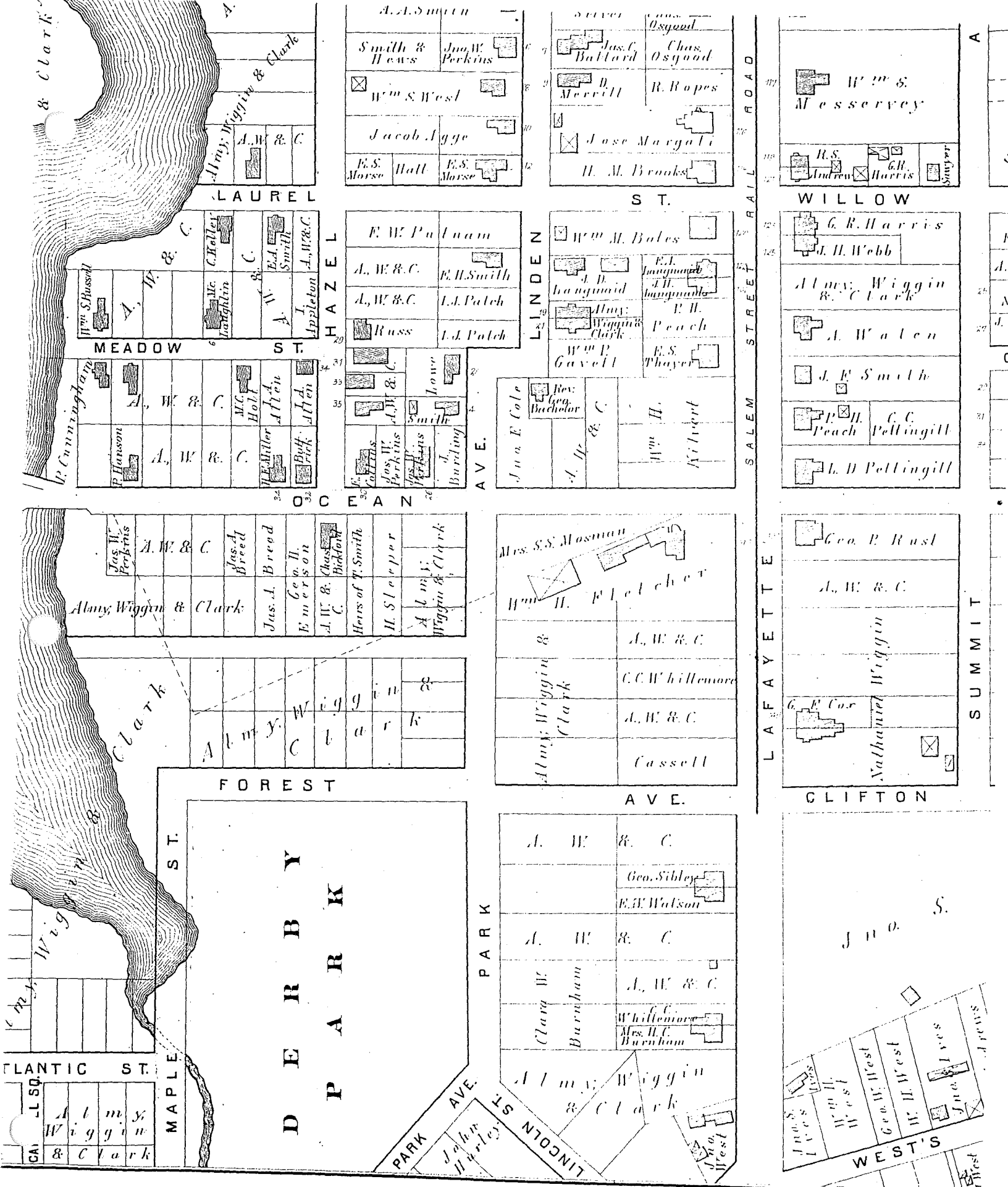
EIHC refers to Essex Institute Historical Collections



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1897

REFER
 BRICK BUILDING
 WOOD
 BRICK & WOOD E
 STONE
 IRON
 BARN, STABLE O
 GREEN HOUSE

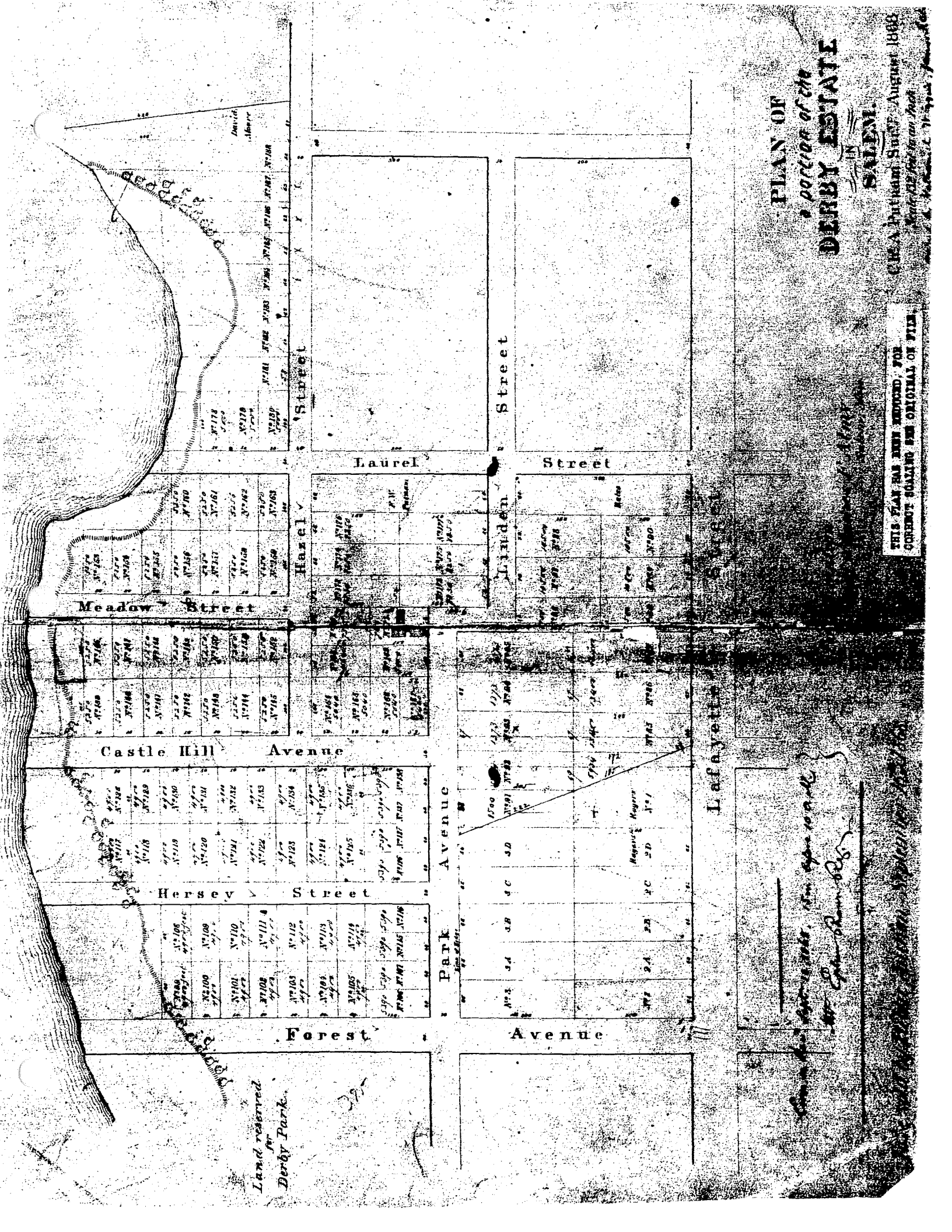


1874

PLAN OF
 A PORTION OF THE
DERBY ESTATE
 IN
SALDEN.

CHAS. A. PUTNAM SURVY August 1868
 100/100 Feet from each

THIS PLAN HAS BEEN RECORDED, FOR
 CORRECT SCALING SEE ORIGINAL OF FILE.



Handwritten note:
 See plan for details, from page 10 to 11
 Mr. Chamberlain

6 April 1894 Almy + Clark to Gilliott, 1407:302 (2 pages)

Know all men by these presents, that we, James F. Almy and Charles S. Clark, of Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts, in consideration of one dollar and other valuable considerations paid by James M. Gilliott, of said Salem, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said James M. Gilliott and his heirs and assigns, a certain parcel of land situated in said Salem, and bounded, beginning at land of Batchelder, on Ocean Avenue, at a point ninety feet westerly from the corner of said Ocean Avenue and Park Avenue, thence running southerly by land of said Batchelder, ninety-eight feet, thence running westerly by land of the grantors, fifty feet, thence running northerly by land of Perkins, ninety-eight feet, to Ocean Avenue, thence running easterly by said Avenue, fifty feet, to the point begun at, being parts of lots 136, 137, and 138, on a plan of a part of the Derby Estate, recorded in Essex So. Dist. Registry of Deeds, Book 755, leaf 300. To have and to hold the granted premises, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, to the said James M. Gilliott, and his heirs and assigns, to their own use and behoof forever. And we do hereby for ourselves and our heirs, executors and administrators, covenant with the grantee and his heirs and assigns, that we are lawfully seized in fee-simple of the granted premises, that they are free from all incumbrances, that we have good right to sell and convey the same as aforesaid, and that we will and our heirs, executors and administrators shall warrant and defend the same to the grantee and his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claims and demands of all persons. And for the consideration aforesaid we, Emma S. Almy, wife of said James F. Almy, and Lucy M. Clark, wife of said Charles S. Clark,

herely release unto the grantee and his heirs
and assigns, all right of or to both dower and
homestead in the granted premises. In witness
whereof, we, the said James F. Almy, Emma S.
Almy, Charles S. Clark, and Lucy M. Clark, here-
unto set our hands and seals, this sixth day of April
in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four.

Signed, sealed and delivered, } Jas. F. Almy - seal
in presence of, E. Dora Clark, J. S. D. C. } Emma S. Almy - seal
Commonwealth of Massachusetts. } Charles S. Clark, seal
Essex, ss. April 6. 1894, I have } Lucy M. Clark, seal

personally appeared the above-named James F. Almy
and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be
his free act and deed.

Before me, Andrew Fitz. Justice of the Peace.
Essex, ss. Rec. Apr. 9, 1894, 5m. part 8 and Rec. V Ex by Chas. Wood P. 4.

6 April 1874 Gilliatt to Lefavour, 1407:303

Know all men by these presents, that I, James M. Gilliatt, of Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts, in consideration of one dollar and other valuable considerations paid by Lucy J. Lefavour, of said Salem, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Lucy J. Lefavour and her heirs and assigns forever, a certain parcel of land situated in said Salem, and bounded, beginning at land of Batchelder on Ocean Avenue at a point ninety feet westerly from the corner of said Ocean Avenue and Park Avenue, thence running Southerly by land of said Batchelder, ninety-eight feet thence running Westerly by land of James F. Almy et al. fifty feet, thence running Northerly by land of Perkins, ninety-eight feet, to Ocean Avenue, thence running Easterly by said Avenue, fifty feet, to the point begun at, being parts of lots 136, 137, and 138, on a plan of a part of the Derby Estate, recorded in Essex South District Registry of Deeds Book 755, leaf 300. To have and to hold the granted premises, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, to the said Lucy

J. M. Gilliatt
to
L. J. Lefavour

6 Apr. 1874
in Salem