

# Historic Salem incorporated

OFFICES AT 15 SUMMER STREET

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26 Arbella Street

Built for

Martha L. and Abraham Edwards, cloth folder  
in the year 1871

Research by,

Joyce King

Nov. 1980

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

## 26 Arbella Street

This Second Empire or Mansard style house was built in 1871 for Martha F. and Abraham Edwards on a relatively new street called Arbella. The land through which Arbella Street runs was called the Deliverance Parkman and Susanna Parkman Pasture in the 1690's (appendix A).

Arbella Street was laid out 40 feet in width and 513 feet in length on Dec. 24, 1860 by George D. Chippen. Mr. Chippen was a writer and lecturer on botany, and knew by name all the Essex County plants. When the garden in back of his house on Bridge St. near Pleasant became too small to hold all the varieties of plants which he wished to grow Mr. Chippen purchased a lot on Pleasant Street and in a short time he needed still more room.

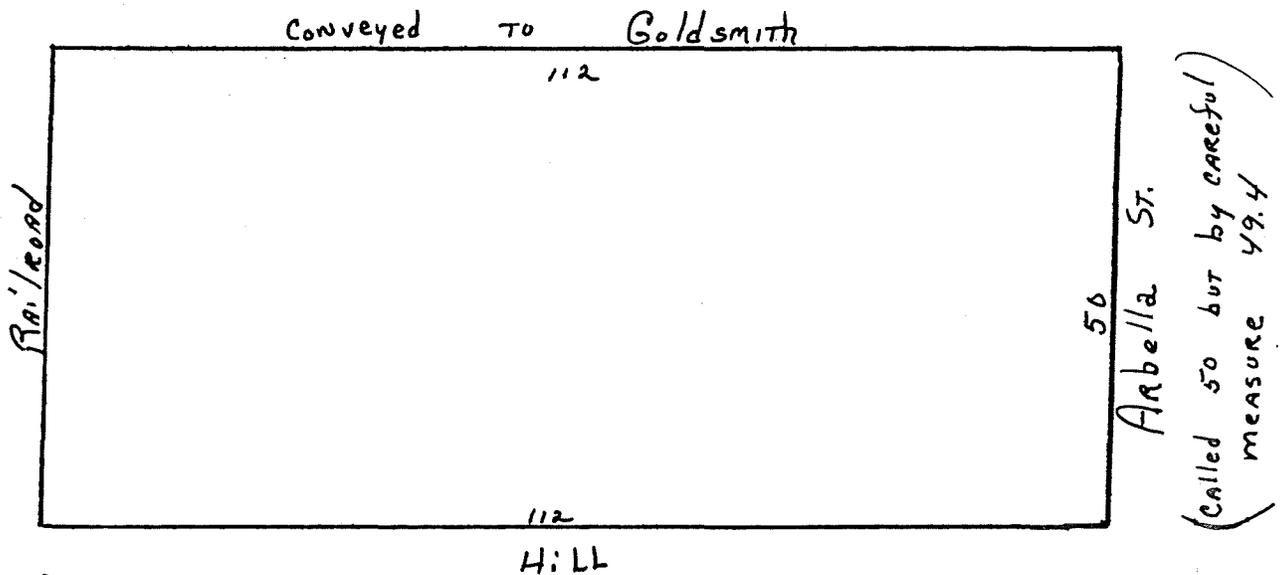
"He then purchased two and a half acres of land, lying between Bridge Street and Collins Cove, bounded by railroad tracks to Phillips Wharf on one side and extending along the cove as far as the present Osgood Street. He laid out Arbella Street and planted the trees on it and enveloped the garden, at first raising vegetables only, then entirely replacing them with rare trees, shrubs, hedges of large peonies of all colors, snowball trees, a rose garden, delicate hyacinths, verbenas, graceful columbines, prickly pears (opuntia), velvety pansies, iris, showy phlox, and lilacs; each in turn attracted the eye and gave of their fragrance. in the rows and rows of plants.

There were retaining walls on two sides of the garden, and on one was a bath house. Other small buildings were covered by trellises and arbors on which hanging vines such as wisteria and honeysuckle grew profusely. The one at the head of the garden had a piazza; tools were kept on the first floor and there was a rest room on the second; the one at the foot of the garden hid the water pipes and hose. There was a small summerhouse built over the edge of the pool where waterlilies grew, and just beyond was a rockery

and more distant Salem harbor. Another building housed the telescope, where one could have the additional pleasure of viewing the stars at night. Mr. Ross Turner, the artist, brought his classes here for water color sketching for several seasons. Many of these paintings still exist and with a few photographs are all that remain of this once glorious garden." (Gardens of Old Salem)

Mr. Phippen had sold most of his land on the west side of Arbella Street by 1865, except for a 112' X 148' lot (this included what is now #26) which was used as a garden until 1869.

On June 5, 1869 George and Mary E. Phippen sold for the sum of \$546 a lot of land to George H. Warren:



(book 783 page 299)

The tax records for 1870 show #10 Arbella (now #26) was a lot 50' X 112' valued at \$500 and owned by George H. Warren.

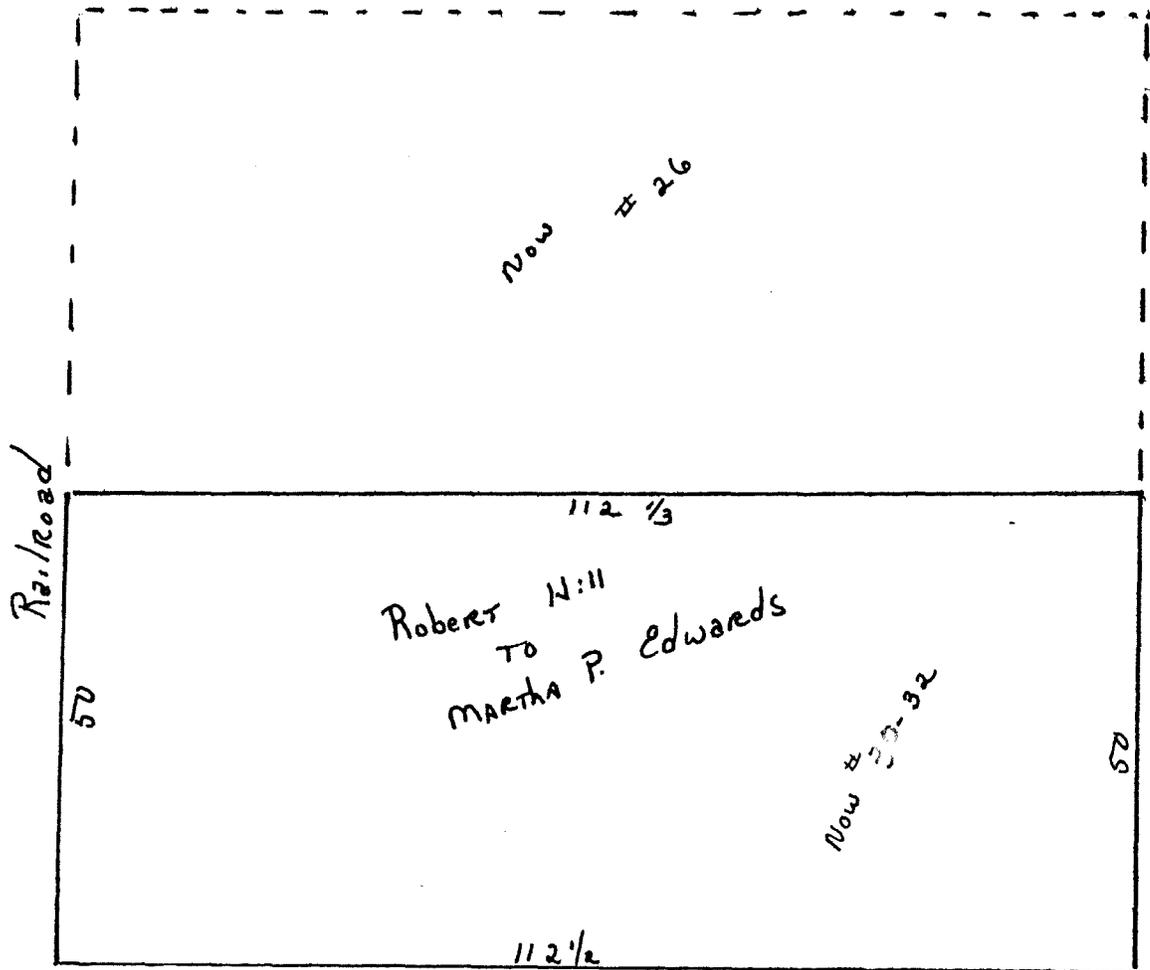
On May 25, 1870 George H. Warren sold the same parcel of land to Martha F. Edwards wife of Abraham Edwards for the sum of \$600 (book 798 page 12).

Prior to moving into their new home on Arbella St. the Edwards family lived on Barton St. Mr. Edwards worked for many years at the Naumkeag Cotton Mills as a cloth folder. The tax records show the progress of their new house:

1871 Abraham Edwards - house 10 Arbella	unfinished	\$600	\$3,000
land 5600 feet			600
tax		\$20.40	
poll tax		<u>2.00</u>	
		\$22.40	

1872 Abraham Edwards - house value	\$3,000
land	600
tax	\$61.20
poll tax	<u>2.00</u>
	\$63.20

The adjoining lot was purchased by Martha P. Edwards on April 15, 1872:



Martha sold this adjoining lot to Sarah H. Plummer wife of William H., on Sept. 6, 1872 with the condition "so long as the grantors or son George shall own and occupy the adjoining property the grantees shall not erect any building or structure in the rear of the dwelling house now standing on the premises over 16 feet high or this deed will be void" (book 862 page 199).

For whatever the reason, the Plummers sold the land and building back to Martha Edwards on Sept. 1, 1873 (book 887 page 283).

The 1880 census gives a closer look at the occupants of this house:

Abraham Edwards	age 51		born Mass.
Martha "	" 51	keeps house	" "
George L. "	" 27	son - druggist	" "
Ida "	" 24	daughter-in-law	" "
George L. "	" 3	grandson	" "
William H. "	" 2	grandson	" "
Elizabeth Lee	" 54	sister-in-law	" "

2nd family

Elmer E. Pike	age 29	tailor	born Mass.
Alice L. "	" 25	wife	" "
Alice B. "	" 6	daughter	" "

The Salem directory for the year 1882 indicates that Abraham was, at that time, a clerk in his son's drug store at 81 Bridge St. (appendix B).

The tax records for the next few years are as follows:

10 Arbella St.

1885	Abraham Edwards	age 55	owner - house	\$2,500-land	\$600
	George L. "	" 32			
	Elmer E. Pike	" 34			
					2,700
1888	Abraham Edwards, no occupation		owner - house	\$2,500	
			land		600
	George "				
	Elmer Pike				

Mr. Edwards died on Sept. 29, 1891. Some account of his life was given in an obituary notice written for the Salem News:

"Abraham Edwards, one of Salem's oldest citizens dropped dead from heart disease at the residence of his son on Conant St., Saturday night.

The deceased had been at work about the house during the day, and was preparing to go home when death came. He had been a life-long resident of this city, and was a large property holder. His circle of friends was large. He leaves a widow and son.

He never joined any secret society or fraternal organization, expressing a strong, though not bitter, dislike to them all.

When the news of Mr. Edwards' death was made known to Mrs. Edwards, she was prostrated, and serious doubts were entertained at the time for her recovery. She rallied, however, later."

The tax records for 1895:

#10 Arbella

Mrs. Edwards owner Martha F. Edwards \$2,700  
land 600

Elmer E. Pike age 44 tailor

#12 Arbella

George L. Edwards no occupation age 41 owner M.F. Edwards \$1,000  
George L. " clerk " 18

The directory listing for 1900 gives the occupants as:

Elmer E. Pike, tailor at 213 Essex St.  
Mrs. Abraham Edwards

The Pike family had moved on by 1904 as indicated in the tax records:

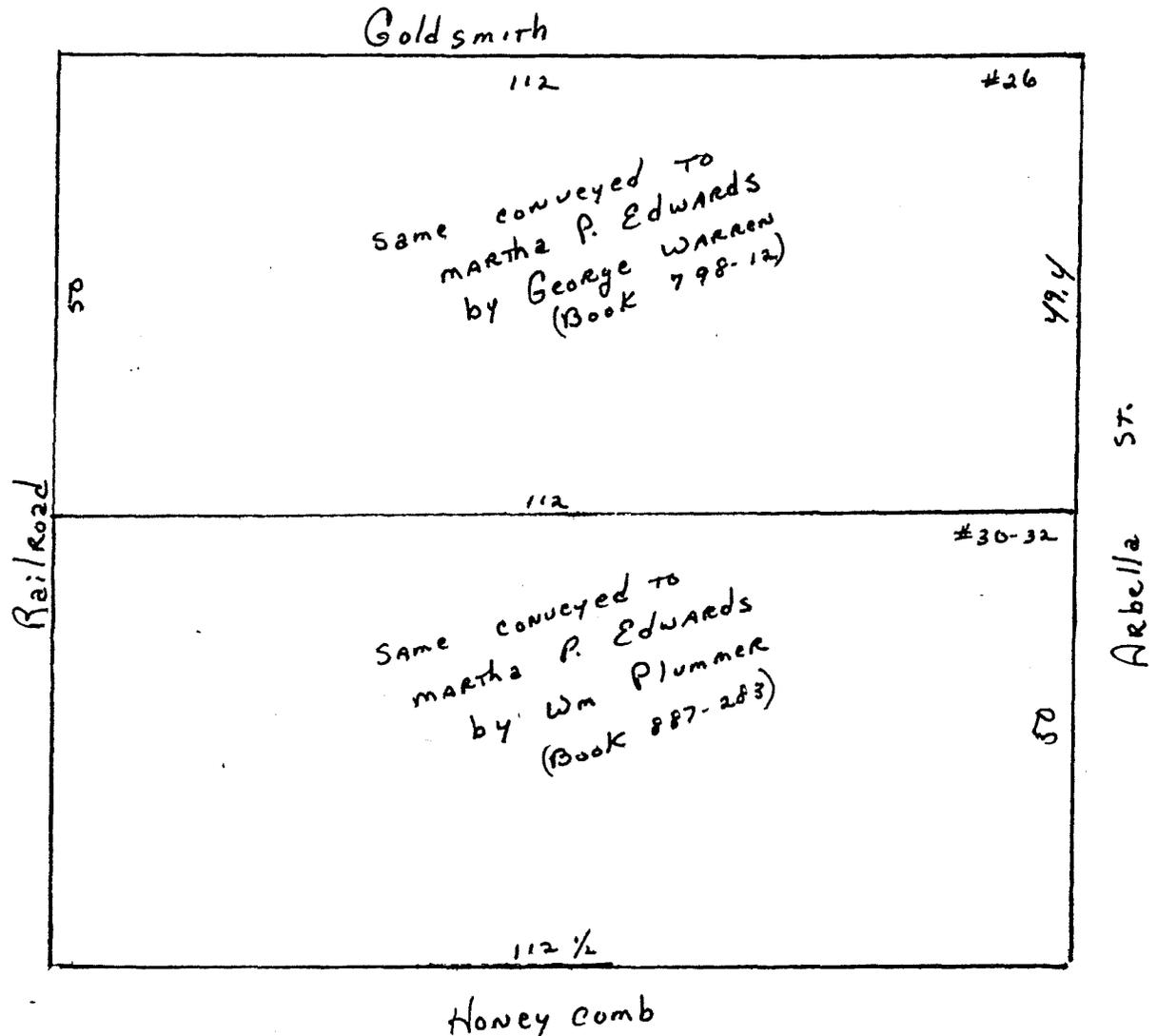
#10 Martha Edwards owner- house \$2,700, land \$1,000  
Richard Johnson, shoemaker

#12 Joseph Higgins, plumber -age 29 owner Mrs. Edwards  
house \$1,000  
land 1,000

Martha F. Edwards died on April 20, 1905. This simple notice appeared in a local newspaper:

Martha F. Edwards died at the home of her son at 73 Webb St.  
She was the widow of Abraham. 77 years 5 months

All of Mrs. Edwards property was bequeathed to her grandchildren; William H., George L., Bessie L. and Chester L. Edwards (probate #96531). The shares of George L., Bessie L. and Chester L. were sold to William H. Edwards shortly after the death of Martha:



(book 1800 pages 352-354)

William Edwards leased the property (now #26) to the following:

- 1905 Lewis E. Bates - shoecutter  
Richard Johnson - sole sorter
- 1907 James A. Smith - watch repairman  
James H. Murphy - motorman
- 1909 James A. Smith  
Warren F. Fitz - clerk

On June 24, 1910 William H. Edwards, of Lynn, sold to Alice R. Meek the same land and buildings sold to him in book 1800 pages 352-354 (now #26,28,30 & 32) also another parcel on Arbella St. (now #22 & 24) (book 2029 page 570).

The directory listing for 1912:

Warren Fitz  
George G. Moreland - janitor at district court  
George F. Moreland - letter carrier, also teacher of dancing at  
10 Arbella St.  
Florence E. Moreland

The taxes for 1914 reveal an increase in valuation:

#10 Arbella owner Alice Meek - house \$3,000, land \$1,100  
Occupants  
Edward H. Morin - foreman, age 35  
Edward F. Cottle - age 44

On March 25, 1914 the property was transferred to Thomas Kilvert (book 2274 page 297) who in turn transferred the title to Mabelle F. Warner and Annie M. Meek on Sept. 25, 1914 (book 2275 page 209).

The tenants over the years were:

1915 Edward F. Cottle - morocco dresser  
Edward W. Cottle  
E. H. Morin - foreman at 28 Goodhue St.

1917 (This is the year in which the street was renumbered -  
#10 was changed to #26)  
J. Hahn - ice man

1918 Vacant

1921 Harry A. Crossley  
J. A. Rivard - shoe worker

1922 same

1924 same

1926 William J. Fennelly - leather worker  
Mrs. A. J. Higgins, widow of David P.

1929 Mrs. Annie J. Higgins  
Raymond E. Skelly

1933 Annie Higgins, widow of David P.  
Catherine Nestor, widow of J. J. Nestor  
Katherine S. Nestor - nurse

On Dec. 10, 1948 Annie M. Hutchins (formerly Meek) widow, of Belmont, Mass and Mabelle F. Adlard (formerly Warner) widow, of Pleasantville, N. Y., sold to Ida M. Higgins, Lot C as on plan (appendix C) in plan book 476 page 300 (book 3637 page 200).

(Reference to book and page are deed books at the Registry of Deeds, all probate numbers can be found in Probate Court. Both are located in the same building on Federal St., Salem. All maps in this report are not meant to be exact - just for illustration purposes)

*Deliverance Parkman and Susanna Parkman Pasture.* This tract of twelve acres of land originally consisted of six two-acre lots apparently running north and south. When the writer first learns of them, there are three lots, first, a six-acre lot, then a two-acre lot, and beyond that a four-acre lot. The six-acre lot belonged, very early, probably originally, to Henry Cook. It then passed to Dr. George Emery; and before 1649 to John Gedney. The two-acre lot belonged, very early, and probably originally, to Richard Graves, who, for forty-two shillings and six pence, conveyed it to John Gedney Jan. 1, 1649.\* The four-acre lot belonged, very early, and probably originally, to Michael Ward. He died, and it passed to his widow Margaret, who married, secondly, Thomas Rix, Barber. Mr. and Mrs. Rix, for five pounds, conveyed it to Mr. Gedney 15: 3: 1655.† Mr. Gedney, for many years, conducted the Ship tavern, and this pasture, being used in connection with that inn, became known as the "Ship Tavern pasture." Mr. Gedney died in 1688, having devised the lot, one-half to Susanna Gedney, widow of his son John Gedney, and her children by her said husband, and the other half to the testator's son Col. Bartholomew Gedney. Colonel Gedney died Feb. 28, 1697-8, possessed of his half of the lot; and his children, Samuel Gedney, Hannah Grafton, Lydia Corwine, Bethiah Gedney and Deborah Gedney, all of Salem, conveyed the same interest to their uncle John's widow, Susannah, who had married Deliverance Parkman, of Salem, William Gedney of Salem, merchant, and Nathaniel Gedney of Salem, mariner, the owners of the other part, Dec. 10, 1698.‡ Fourteen days later, William Gedney of Salem, merchant, and Nathaniel Gedney of Salem, mariner, only surviving children of Mrs. Susannah Parkman, conveyed the lot to the latter's husband, Deliverance

Parkman of Salem, merchant.\* Mr. and Mrs. Parkman owned the lot a number of years after 1700.

*Jeremiah Neal Lot.* This was a portion of the ancient Tuck lot, which was owned by Nicholas Howard, a fisherman, in the early settlement of the town. On this corner was his dwelling house. The depositions of Edward Gaskin, aged about seventy, and Francis Skerry, aged sixty-six years or thereabouts, severally testify "that Nicholas Hayward had to his knowledge a house plott, on which he y<sup>e</sup> said Hayward did live upon, when he came first to Salem, this sd house plott scituate & lying in Salem, upon the west corner of John Neales land, which lyeth as I goe from Salem Ipswich ward on the right hand: this abouesd p'cell of ground or house plott being bounded on the east or south east corner with the well w'ch was in y<sup>e</sup> sd house plott, & westerly neere upon a square home to y<sup>e</sup> sd Neales now standing fence by the road, & from y<sup>e</sup> sd well neere upon a square to y<sup>e</sup> sd Neale's now standing fence sotherly, & further he saith not. Taken upon oath 22: 3 mo: 74. Wm. Hathorne Assistant."† Mr. Howard (or Hayward) removed to Beverly (then called Cape Ann Side) about 1641, but retained the house and lot. The house was probably gone soon afterward. After his death, his son Nathaniel Hayward of Salem, for twenty shillings, conveyed the lot, namely, "that house plott which yet is well known y<sup>t</sup> my father Nicholas Hayward did live on, when he did live in Salem towne," Dec. 14, 1681.‡ The narrow strip on the southwestern side of the lot, being about two feet wide at the southern end and running to a point at the other end, was granted to Jeremiah Neale Jan. 24, 1681, as hereinafter stated.‡ Mr. Neale owned the lot until after 1700.

*Lydia Hart Lot.* This lot was a portion of the Tuck lot, which was owned by

\*Essex Registry of Deeds, book 1, leaves 27 and 29.

†Essex Registry of Deeds, book 1, leaves 27 and 30.

‡Essex Registry of Deeds, book 18, leaf 138.

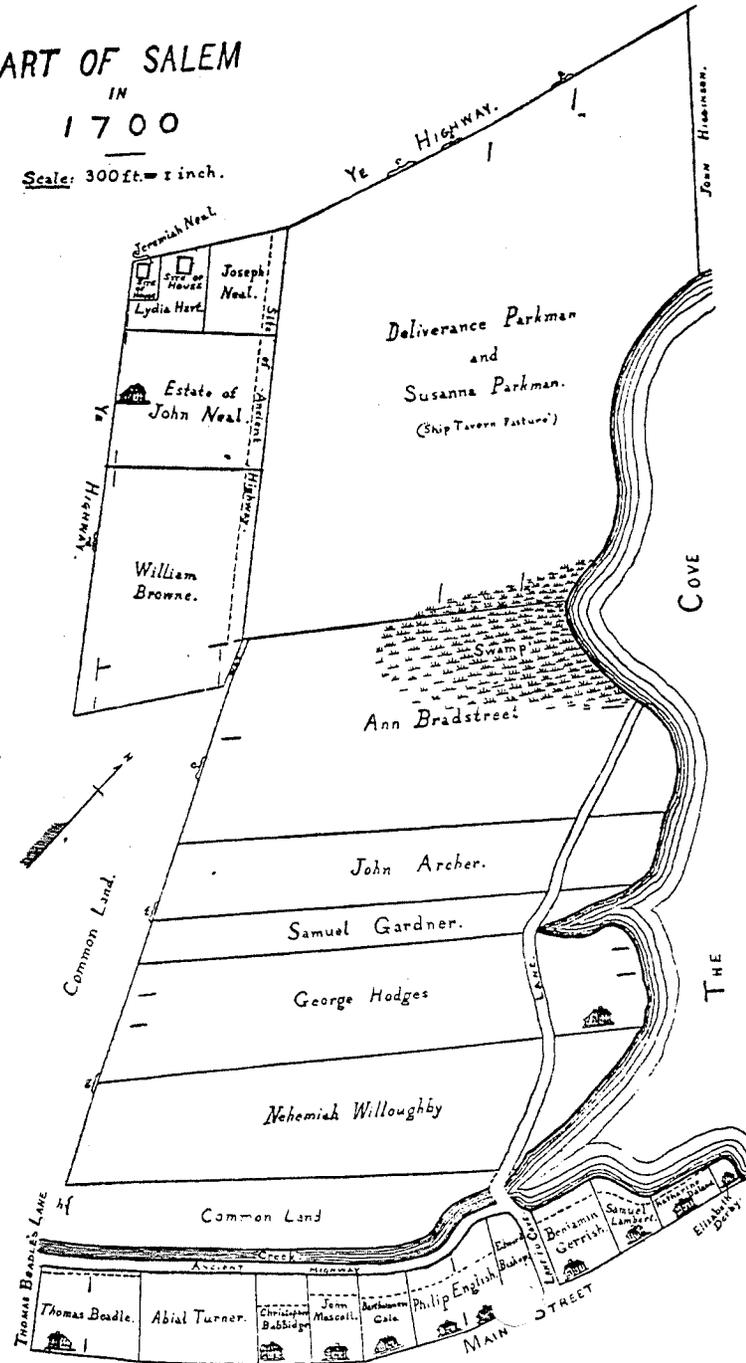
\*Essex Registry of Deeds, book 13, leaf 102.

†Essex Registry of Deeds, book 6, leaf 35.

‡Book of Grants, Salem Town Records, page 140.

## PART OF SALEM IN 1700

Scale: 300 ft. = 1 inch.



(B)

# THE SALEM OBSERVER

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**APOTHECARY,**

54 ESSEX STREET, Salem, Mass.

(C)

880  
1948

LAND OF MABELLE F. ADLARD AND ANNIEM. HUTCHINS

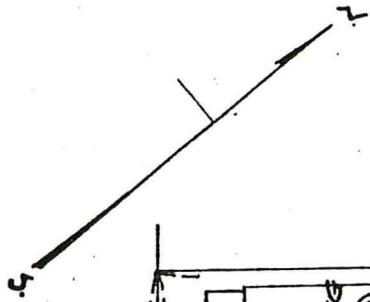
SALEM, MASS.

SCALE 1 IN = 20 FT.

NOVEMBER, 1945.

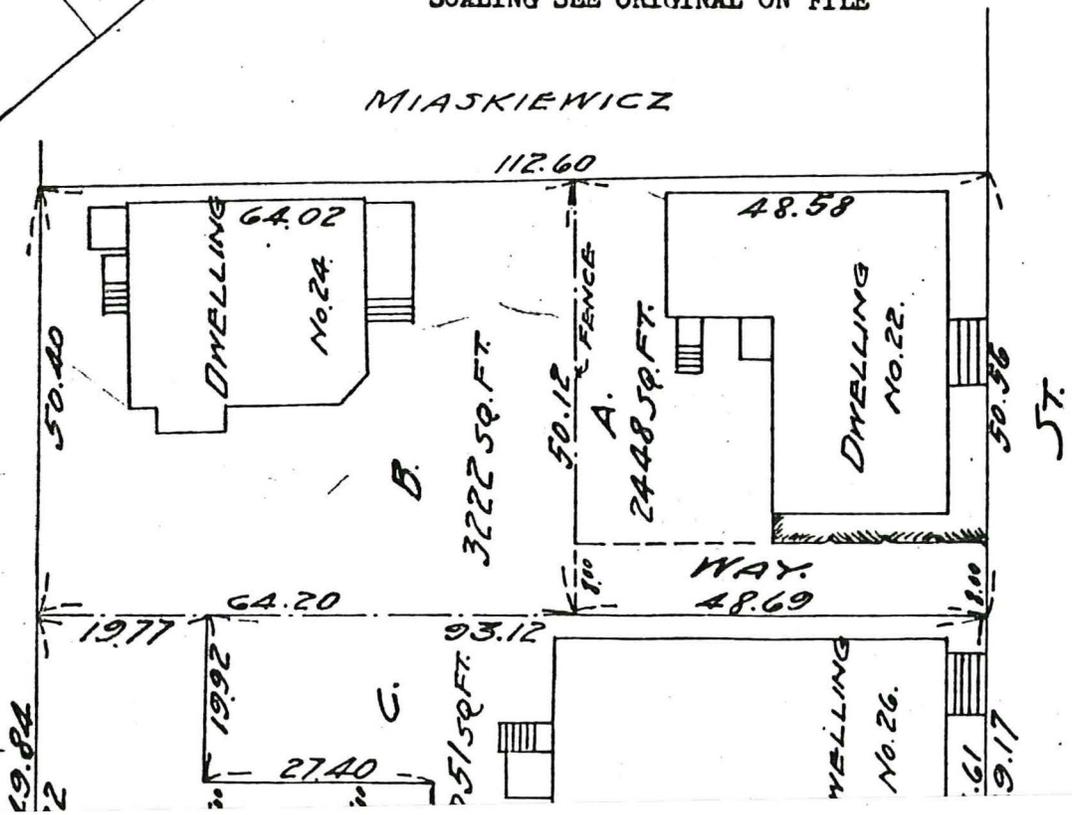
Thomas A. Appleton, C.E.

THIS PLAN HAS BEEN REDUCED. FOR CORRECT SCALING SEE ORIGINAL ON FILE



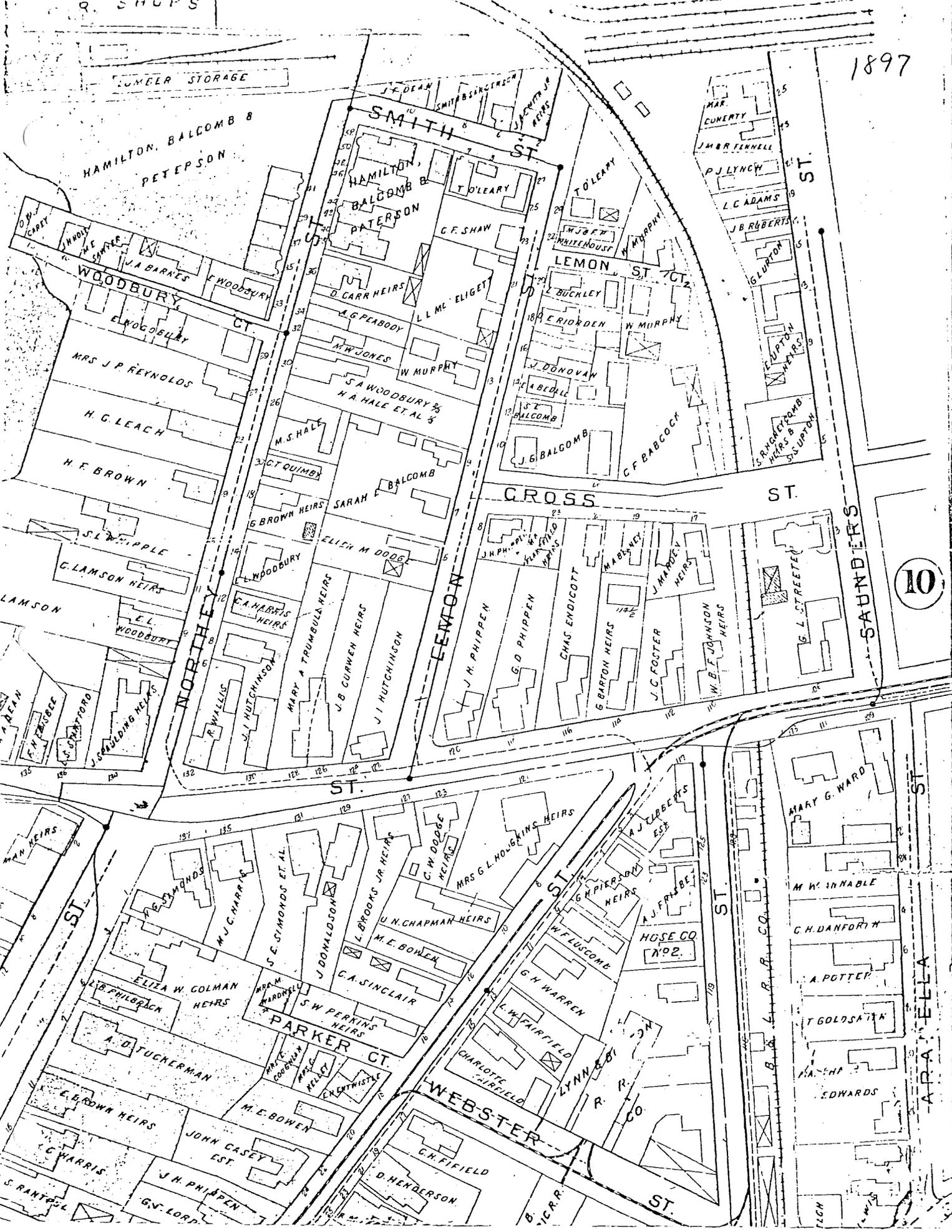
MIASKIEWICZ

TAINIE R.R.







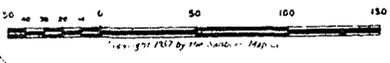


10

LUMBER STORAGE  
 HAMILTON, BALCOMB & PETERSON  
 SMITH ST  
 HAMILTON, BALCOMB & PETERSON  
 T O'LEARY  
 G.F. SHAW  
 TOLLEARY  
 MAR. CUNERTY  
 J.M.B. FENNEL  
 P.J. LYNCH  
 L.C. ADAMS  
 J.B. ROBERTS  
 GURTON  
 WOODBURY CT.  
 WOODBURY  
 EL WOODBURY  
 MRS J.P. REYNOLDS  
 H.G. LEACH  
 H.F. BROWN  
 M.S. HALL  
 CT QUIMBY  
 SARAH E. BALCOMB  
 ELLEN M. DODD  
 J.M. PHIPPEN  
 G.D. PHIPPEN  
 CHAS. ENDICOTT  
 G. BARTON HEIRS  
 J.C. FOOTER  
 W.B.F. JOHNSON HEIRS  
 LEMON ST CT 2  
 L. BUCKLEY  
 E. RIDDEN  
 W. MURPHY  
 S. DONOVAN  
 A. BELL  
 J.S. BALCOMB  
 J.S. BALCOMB  
 C.F. BABCOCK  
 CROSS ST  
 SAUNDERS ST  
 NORTH ST  
 LAMSON  
 G. LAMSON HEIRS  
 E.L. WOODBURY  
 J. PHIPPS  
 W. B. BLANEY  
 J. MARSH HEIRS  
 W.B.F. JOHNSON HEIRS  
 G.L. STREETER  
 WEBSTER ST  
 MARY G. WARD  
 M. W. INNABLE  
 C.H. DANFORTH  
 A. POTTER  
 T. GOLDSMITH  
 A. SHAW  
 EDWARDS  
 ARA ELLA ST  
 HOUSE CO. NO. 2  
 W. FELGOME  
 G.H. WARREN  
 L.W. FAIRFIELD  
 CHARLOTTE FAIRFIELD  
 LYNN & CO  
 R. R. CO  
 J. DONALDSON  
 L. BROOKS JR HEIRS  
 C.W. DODGE HEIRS  
 MRS G.L. HOSKINS HEIRS  
 A.J. CLIBBE'S EST  
 G.H. PIERSON HEIRS  
 A.J. FILLBEE  
 U.N. CHAPMAN HEIRS  
 M.E. BOWEN  
 C.A. SINCLAIR  
 S.W. PERRINS HEIRS  
 PARKER CT.  
 M.E. BOWEN  
 JOHN CASEY EST  
 G.H. FIELD  
 D. HENDERSON  
 ELIZA W. GOLMAN HEIRS  
 A.D. TUCKERMAN  
 E.E. BROWN HEIRS  
 J.C. HARRIS  
 J.H. PHIPPEN  
 G.V. LORD  
 S. RANTALL



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