

OFFICE AT OLD TOWN HALL

# Historic Salem Incorporated

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

15 Essex Street

Built for

CLIFFORD CROWNINSHIELD, ropemaker

in 1759

Research by,  
Joyce King  
May 1984

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

15 Essex Street

Book 23 page 190  
August 4, 1711  
45 pounds

Thomas Wallis of Boston, attorney to Mary Earthy and Anne Earthy, single, the only surviving children of John Earthy and Mary his wife, who was the only surviving child of Thomas Salloes, sold this lot of land to Benjamin Gerrish, merchant. The land was bound:  
Northwest - on Ye Main Street  
Northeast - Joseph Swasey  
Southeast - William Becket  
Southwest - William Becket

This conveyance included "all ye trees, fences, wood, stones, rocks and minerals standing, lying, being or growing thereon." (There was a house on this lot as early as 1655, apparently removed before this transaction.)

Book 100 page 132  
August 4, 1750

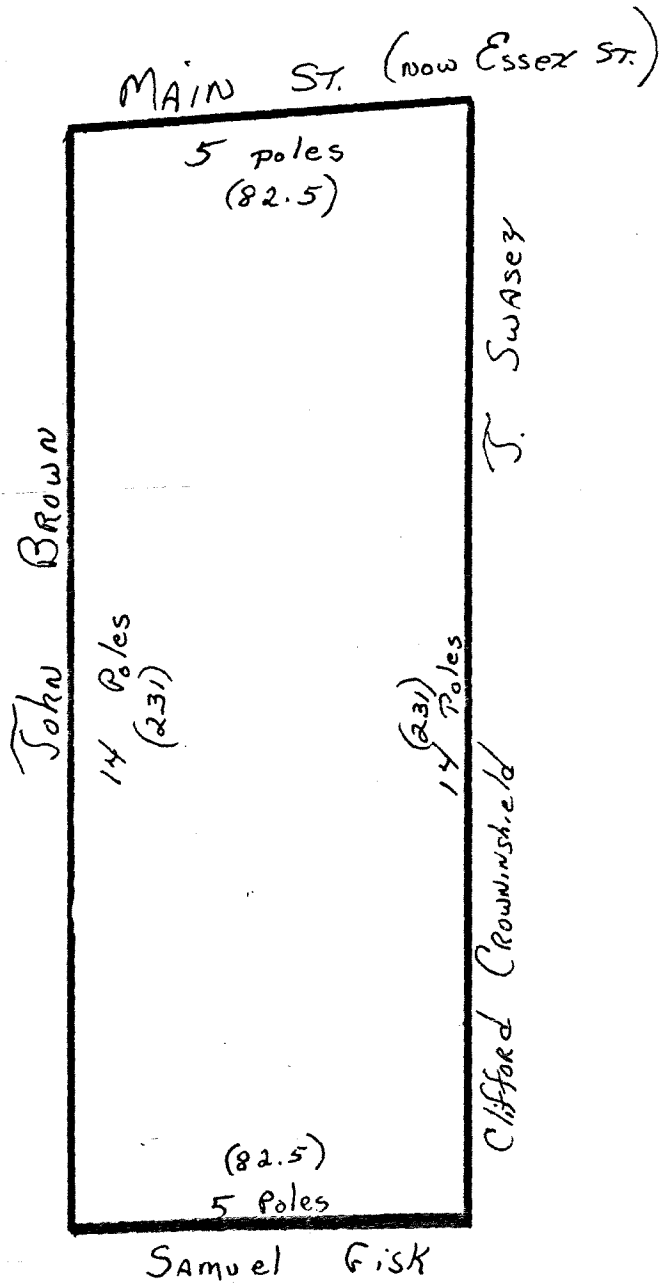
John Gerrish sold all his rights, derived by the will of his father Benjamin Gerrish and of his mother Elizabeth, to William Lynde.

Book 100 page 132  
August 1, 1752

Benjamin Lynde, on account for William Lynde, conveyed all rights to Timothy Wellman.

Book 104 page 211  
August 7, 1758

Timothy and Rebecca Wellman sold the  
lot of land, containing 70 poles, to  
Clifford Crowninshield.



Clifford Crowninshield built a new house shortly after purchasing the land. This is substantiated by the List of Houses Built in Salem From 1750-1773 (Essex Institute Historic Collections), which lists Clifford Crowninshield, along with four other men, as building a house in 1759.

Clifford Crowninshield was the son of Dr. John and Elizabeth (Allen) Von Kronenshelt, born Dec. 10, 1699; died April 4, 1776; married first, May 15, 1721, Martha, dau. of Joseph and Rachel (Allen) Hillard; she was born April 4, 1704; died Aug. 30, 1736; married second, Jan. 6, 1736/7, Christiana, widow of William Cash, and daughter of Robert Bray Jr.

Children by his first wife:

Joseph born about 1726, died young

John born in 1728

Mary born about 1730, married Capt. John Byrne

Children of Christiana by her first marriage:

William Cash died young

Mary Cash born about 1726, married Thomas Dean

After several bequests, Clifford Crowninshield, left the remainder of his estate to his wife, Christiana. Widow Crowninshield then willed half of the dwelling house (15 Essex St.) and the land adjoining to John Crowninshield's children. The rest of the real estate was bequeathed to her daughter, Mary Dean.

Book 156 page 3  
1792

Thomas and Mary Dean released their rights in the house and land to the heirs of Clifford Crowninshield. This was done to avoid an unpleasant law suit initiated by the Crowninshield heirs.

Book 170 page 76  
August 28, 1799

Clifford Byrne conveyed his share of "my grandfather Clifford Crowninshield's estate to Clifford Crowninshield (b. 1762 the son of John Crowninshield). This conveyance was for three parcels, one of which was 15 Essex St.

Book 170 page 75  
Feb. 21, 1801

Mary Molloy, Elizabeth Moseley and Margaret Murphy conveyed to Clifford Crowninshield their interest "in the land of their father John Crowninshield, formerly the land of their grandfather Clifford Crowninshield."

Captain Clifford Crowninshield died on June 3, 1809. His heirs, namely: his sisters Anna Foote, Mary Molloy, Elizabeth Moseley, Martha Palfrey, Margaret Mansfield, Sally Devereux and the heirs of his deceased sister Abigail Very sold their shares of Clifford's estate to Joseph Moseley (book 188 page 72).

Book 188 page 71  
Dec. 20, 1809

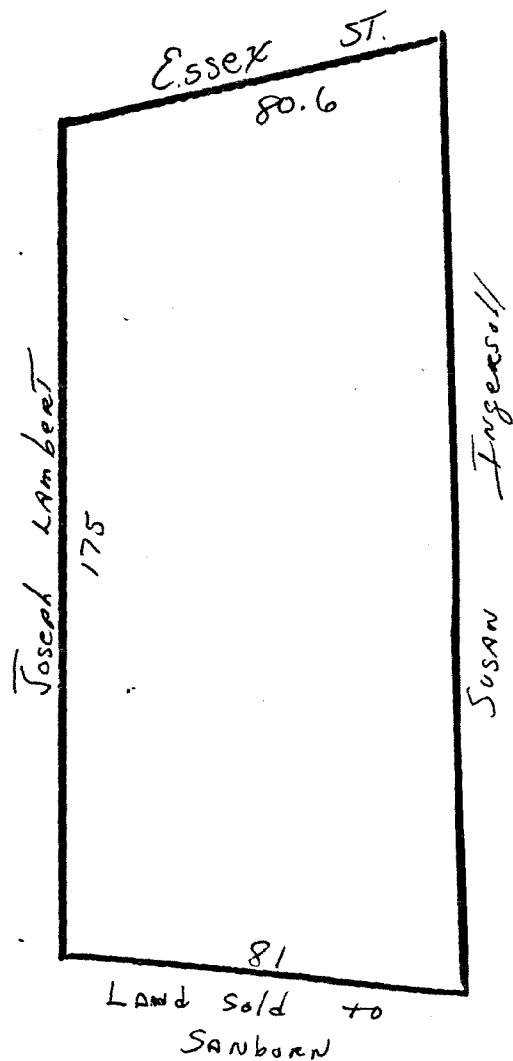
Joseph Moseley sold the land and buildings to his mother Elizabeth Moseley:  
Northwest - Essex Street 81'  
Northeast - Ingersoll, Moore & Patterson  
236'  
Southeast - Babbidge 82'  
Southwest - Lambert & Brown 237.6'

Book 214 page 211  
Nov. 18, 1817  
\$200

Elisabeth Moseley, widow, sold a portion of this land to Theophilus Sanborn.  
"Lot or garden situate on the east part of Essex St. formerly part of the estate of Clifford Crowninshield."

Book 274 page 34  
Oct. 4, 1833

John Moriarty, executor of the will of Elizabeth Moseley, sold the land and dwelling house to Thomas W. Taylor. "Part of the estate of Clifford Crowninshield and included in a deed from Mary Molloy et al to Joseph Moseley recorded in book 188 page 71 and deed of Joseph Moseley to Elizabeth Moseley."



Book 271 page 189  
March 4, 1834

Thomas Taylor, trader, sold the land and dwelling house to Isreal Ward Jr. a tailor.

Book 316 page 290  
Jan. 29, 1840

Isreal Ward Jr. conveyed the land and buildings to George Peirce. The same premises conveyed by Thomas Taylor by deed book 271 page 189.

Book 321 page 242  
Dec. 2, 1840

George and Hannah Peirce sold to Ezekiel Needham the land and buildings 15 Essex St (This also included 17 Essex St. which was formerly a barn, afterwards a store and then converted into a dwelling house. This building was removed around 1965.)

Book 415 page 59  
August 7, 1849  
\$3,000

Ezekiel Needham, of Groton, sold to The Salem Charitable Building Association the "Crowningshield Estate" consisting of two dwelling houses and out buildings. The same estate conveyed by George Peirce on Dec. 2, 1840.

1872 - The Salem Charitable Building Association, with Samuel Arrington as its agent, was inspected. This unfavorable report was made by Perly Derby:

1  
Tenement House

PROPERTY OF  
MUSEUM LIBRARY  
WITHOUT

The Salem Charitable Building Association, owns 3 tenement houses, in Gerrish Place, at the lower part of the city, being <sup>Nos.</sup> 15, & 17 Essex St., — the third building standing in the rear. No. 15, <sup>is 2 1/2 stories high and</sup> was built many years since by Capt. Clifford Crowsingshield, on land bought of John Gerrish, inherited from his father — Capt. Benj. Gerrish, who formerly lived opposite, in the corner of Essex & Forester Sts. It was <sup>afterwards</sup> ~~subsequently~~ occupied by his son Clifford Crowsingshield jr. for many years ~~of~~, and <sup>subsequently</sup> passed through hands of different ~~owners~~ owners till it was purchased by the above named Association, for a tenement houses. It is a heavily framed house, containing 4 tenements of 5 rooms each, occupied by respectable American families, of about 12 persons. ~~throughout~~ <sup>throughout</sup> each family, yet the house itself, is becoming fast untenable, and going rapidly to decay. The main room of each tenement, measures about 15 ft. square, and well lighted and about 8 1/2 ft. high. They are generally well furnished, and the walls are adorned with a number of good pictures — The kitchens average 10 ft. square, with 2 windows, and contain, each a good cooking stove, and serviceable furniture — Bed rooms average 10 ft. square, lighted by one window. The floors in most of the rooms are very much worn, and in the front room of a tenement, up stairs, the floor from



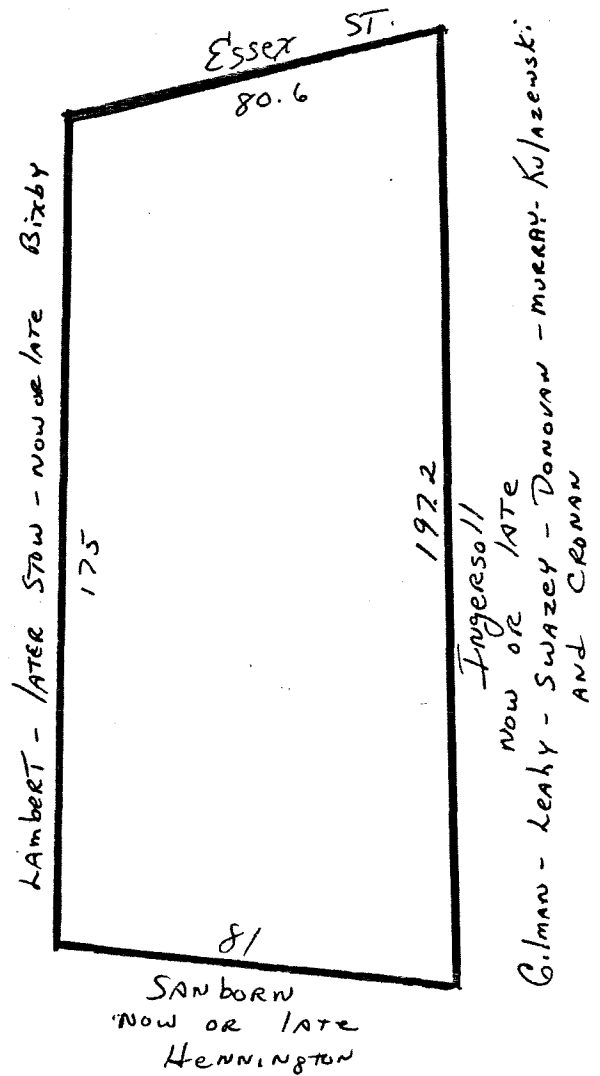
~~in~~ some cause, has sunk in the <sup>middle</sup> <sup>and shrinkage</sup> <sup>of the doors</sup> <sup>and windows</sup> <sup>of the house</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>quite</sup> <sup>difficult</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>keep</sup> <sup>it</sup> <sup>warm</sup> - without a very free use of fuel. The attic or garret is unfinished, unfurnished and runs the length of the roof - Each tenement has a cellar, but is little used, as a corresponding number of sheds in good condition, with a privy at the further end, all under one roof, stand near the house. The privy is in a bad condition, resulting from the flowage of water and rubbish from the yard, and is a complete mudhole -

A pump belonging to the house, stands near it, but the water in the well, is made totally unfit for use, in consequence of the washings from the yard, in stormy weather - And as there is no aqueduct, they are dependant upon their neighbors <sup>in the yard</sup> for water -

Little or no attention, has been paid to the repairs of the house, <sup>from the Association</sup> and what little that has been done, has been at the expense of the tenants. The roof has not been shingled for 30 years, and water finds its way through around the chimney - Each tenement rents for \$8.00 per month, but there is no regularity in the collection of ~~the~~ it, and no great stress ~~is~~ or compulsion laid, upon its payments, if they are not able to do.

Book 2588 page 76  
Feb. 25, 1924

The Salem Charitable Building Association  
sold to Jacob Katz the land and buildings:



The same premises conveyed to said Corp.  
by Ezekiel Needham on August 7, 1849.

Book 2666 page 93  
Jan. 4, 1926

Jacob and Rose Katz, of Beverly, sold to  
John Vasilakopoulos the land and buildings  
"Being the same premises conveyed to us  
by the Salem Charitable Building Assc."

Book 2671 page 252  
March 2, 1926

John and Catherine Vaselakopoulos  
sold the land and buildings to  
William J. Stewart, of Peabody. "Being  
the premises conveyed to me by deed of  
Jacob Katz on Jan. 4, 1926."

Book 2684 page 196  
June 16, 1926

William J. and Henrietta Stewart sold  
the property to Sadie Stillman. "The  
same premises conveyed to me by John  
Vaselakopoulos."

Book 5251 page 132  
March 11, 1965  
\$12,000

Jean Walters and Harry Stillman,  
trustees sold to William H. K. Donaldson  
and John A. Driscoll the land and  
buildings being Lot #1 as shown on  
plan (appendix A).

Book 5972 page 658  
April 13, 1973

William H. K. Donaldson and John A.  
Driscoll sold the two parcels, Lot #1  
and Lot #2, to John J. Connelly III and  
Brian M. Connelly.

Book 6059 page 302  
April 8, 1974

John J. Connelly III, of Danvers, and  
Brian M. Connelly, of Salem, trustees  
of the Gerrish Place Realty Trust sold  
Lots #1 & #2 to Edmund L. and Marguerite  
Phelan, of Marblehead.

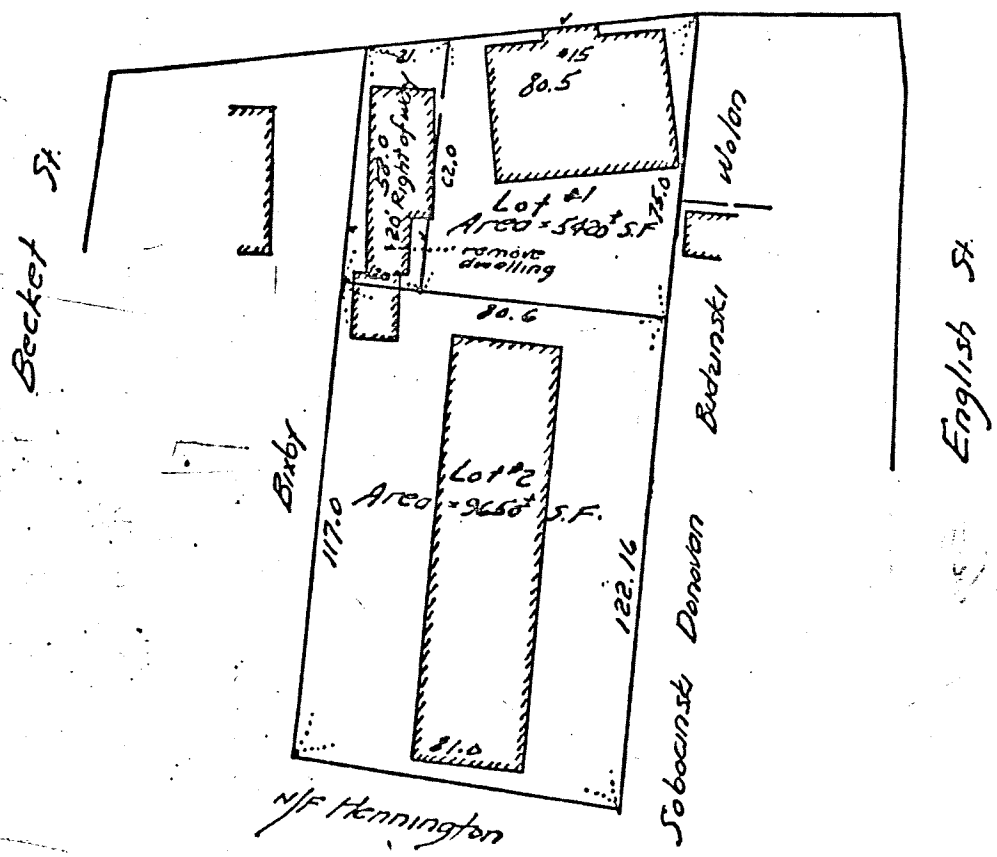
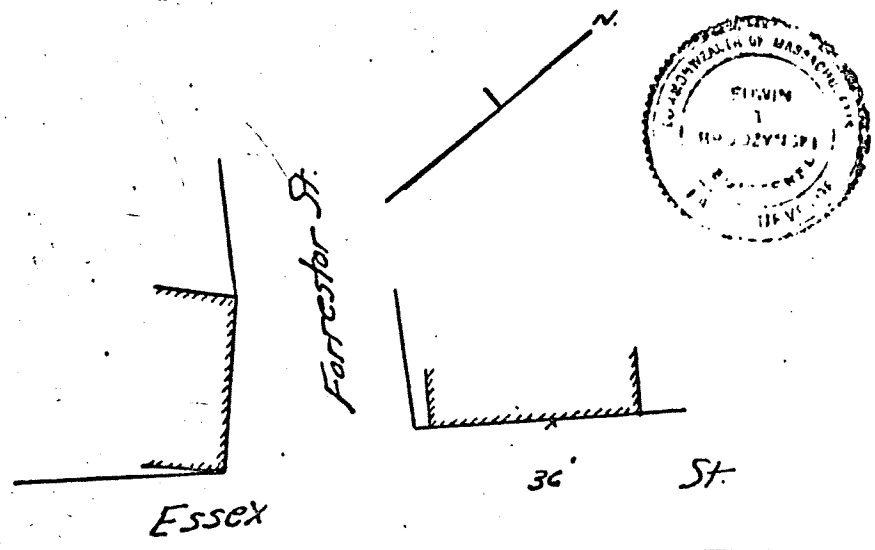
Reference to book and page are deed books at the Registry of Deeds. Probate numbers are cases at Probate Court. Both offices are located in the same building on Federal St. All maps in this report are not meant to be exact, just for illustration purposes.

Essex Institute Photo Collection  
Negative # 147  
" # 5022

107  
196

Land in  
Salem Mass.  
Scale 1 in. = 40 ft. Feb. 1965  
Edwin T. Bostwick  
Registered Surveyor

A.

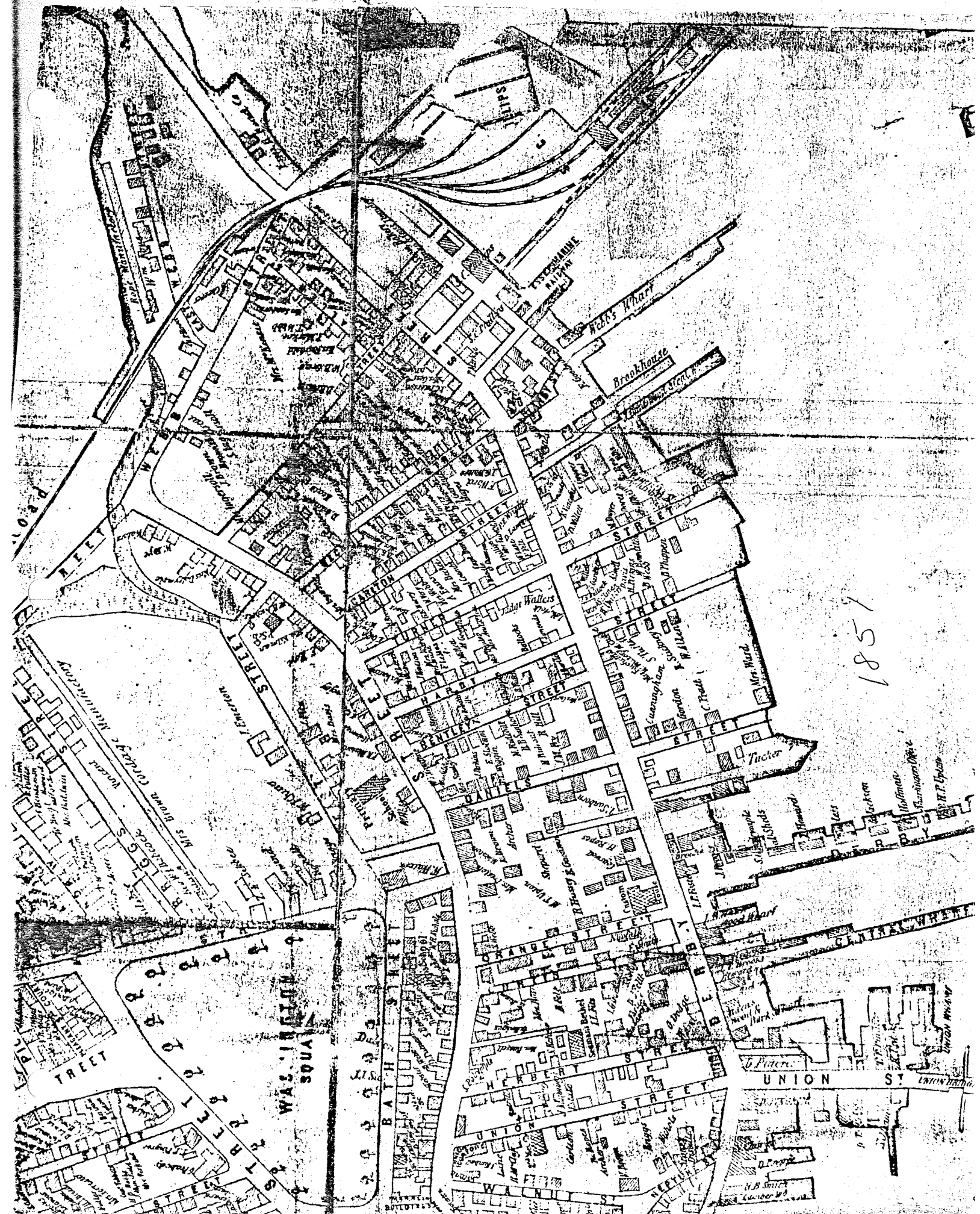


Approval under sub division Control  
 Law not required  
 Salem Planning Board  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: Feb 20, 1965

ESSEX REGISTRY OF DEEDS, SO. DIST. SALEM, MASS.  
 Received March 11, 1965 with Deed:  
 Jeanne (or Jean) Walters + al Trs.  
 To William H. K. Donaldson + al  
 Rec. B 5251 P 132 Filed as No. 107 19 65  
 Attest  
 Leo H. Jones  
 Register of Deeds

Note: Copied from City of Salem, Plan

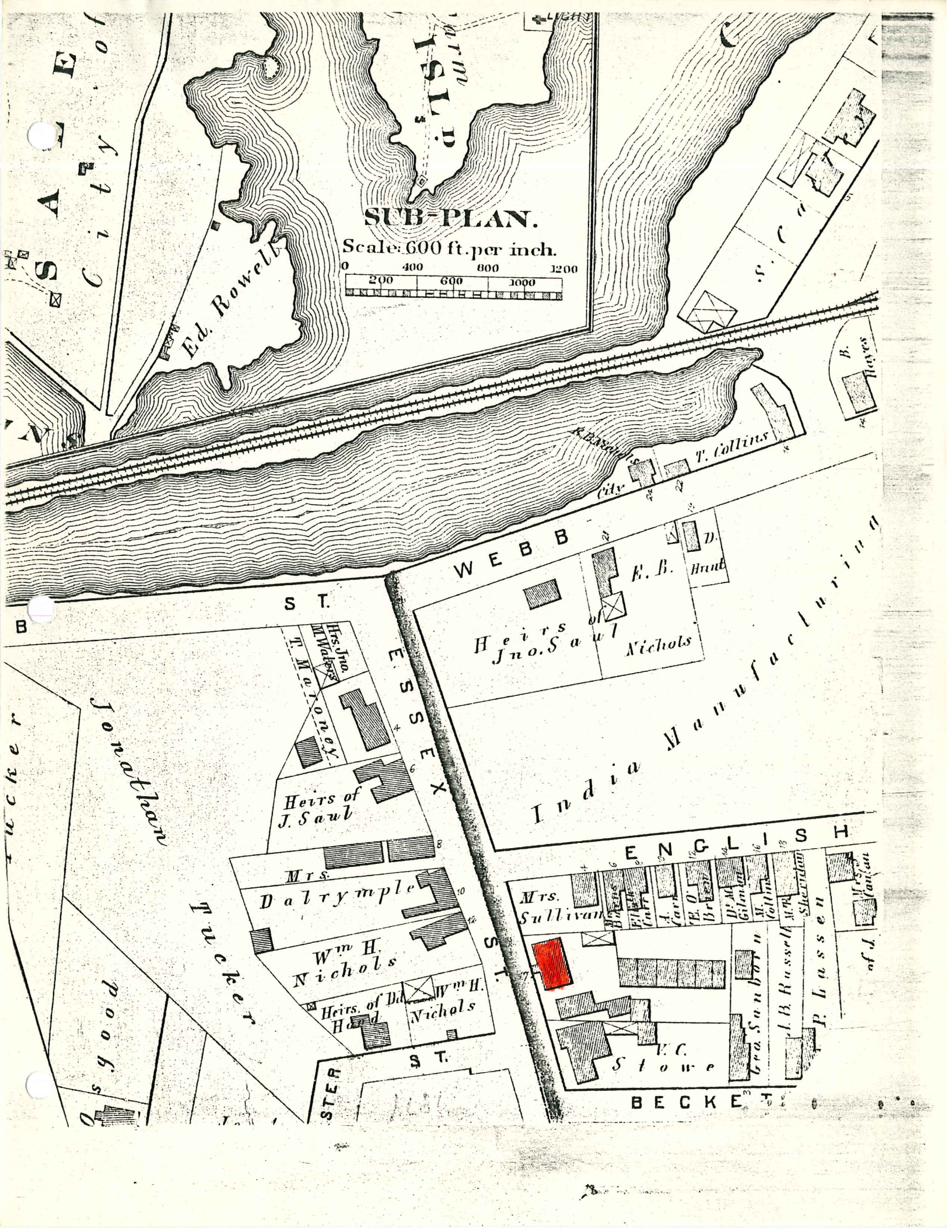
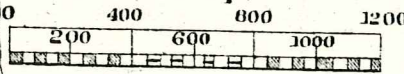
THIS PLAN HAS BEEN REDUCED. FOR CORRECT SCALING SEE ORIGINAL ON FILE.



1857

**SUB-PLAN.**

Scale: 600 ft. per inch.



**S A T E**  
City of

WATER

Ed. Rowell

S. C. A. T. E.

ST.

WEBB

ESSSEX

India Manufacturing

ENGLISH

BECKE

Good  
quicker  
S. Y. O. O. D.

Heirs of  
J. Saul

Mrs.  
Daltymple

Wm H.  
Nichols

Heirs. of Da  
H. Nichols

Heirs  
of  
Jno. Saul  
Nichols

K. B. Hunt

Mrs.  
Sullivan

W. C. Stowe

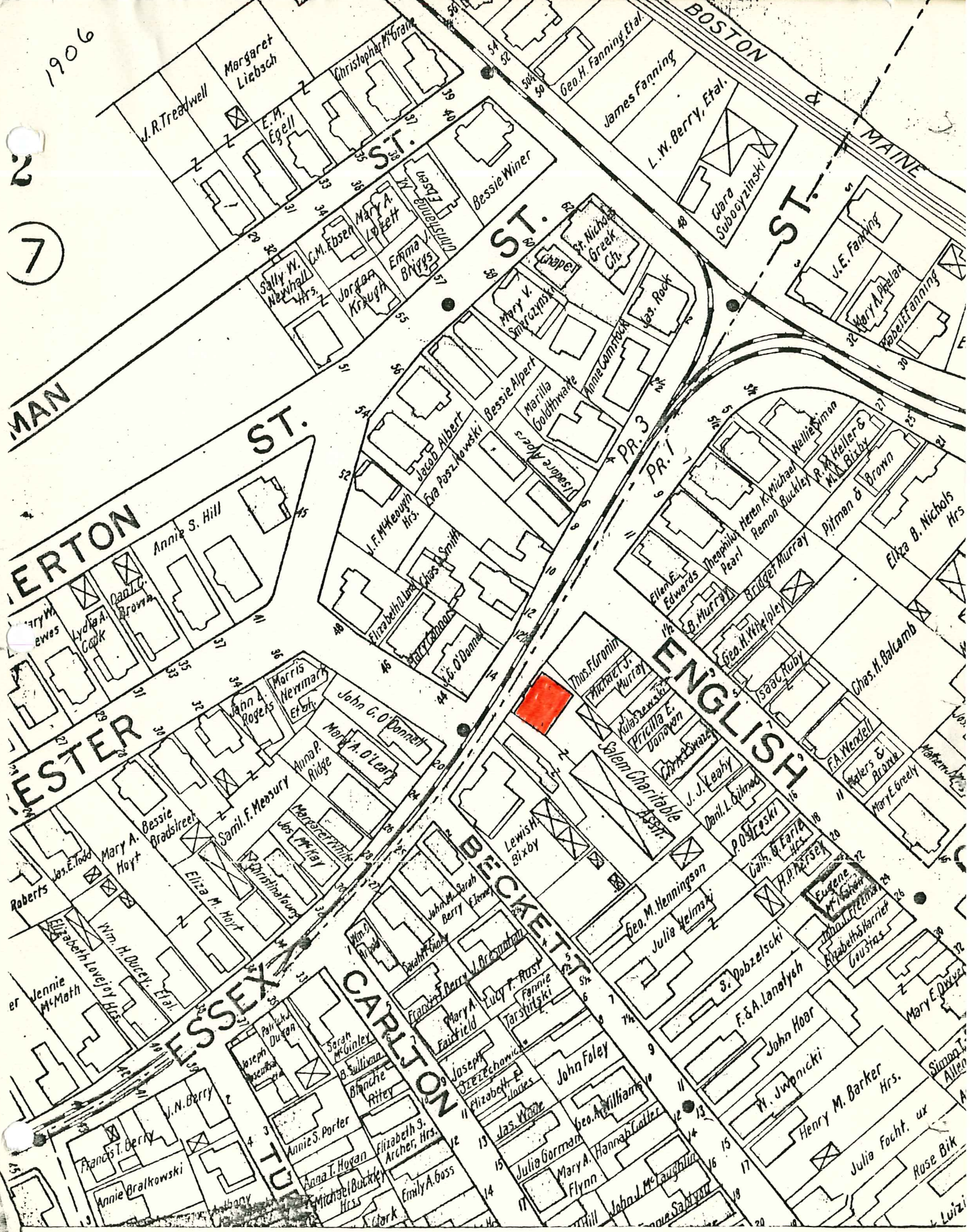
bro. Sanborn  
J. B. Russell

P. Lassen

of J. C. A. T. E.

1906

2  
7



ERTON ST.  
WESTER ST.  
CARLTON ST.  
ENGLISH ST.

J.R. Treadwell  
Margaret Liebisch  
E.M. Egel  
Christopher McGraw

Sally W. Newhall  
Mrs. C.M. Ebsen  
Mary A. Lobert  
Jorgan Krugha  
Emma Briggs

Annie S. Hill  
Mary W. Lewis  
Lydia A. Cook  
Dana C. Brown

Morris Hermark  
John A. Rogers  
John G. O'Donnell  
Mary A. O'Leary

Bessie Bradstreet  
Samil F. Messury  
Anna P. Ridge  
Mary A. Hoyt  
Eliza M. Hoyt

Francis T. Berry  
Annie S. Porter  
Anna T. Hogan  
Elizabeth S. Archer, Hrs.

Bessie Winer  
St. Nicholas Greek Ch.  
Mary V. Smyczynski  
Bessie Albert  
Marilla Goldswake

Jacob Albert  
Eva Posz. Nowiski  
F.M. Meowm Hrs.  
Elizabeth L. Wood  
Mrs. O'Donnell

John G. O'Donnell  
Mary A. O'Leary  
Anna P. Ridge  
Mary A. Hoyt  
Eliza M. Hoyt

John G. O'Donnell  
Mary A. O'Leary  
Anna P. Ridge  
Mary A. Hoyt  
Eliza M. Hoyt

John G. O'Donnell  
Mary A. O'Leary  
Anna P. Ridge  
Mary A. Hoyt  
Eliza M. Hoyt

James Fanning  
L.W. Berry, Etal.  
Gloria Subooyzinski  
J.E. Fanning  
Mary A. Pellar  
Robert Fanning

Thos. E. Cronin  
Michael J. Murray  
Kias News  
Priscilla E. Tompson  
Balem Charitable Assn.

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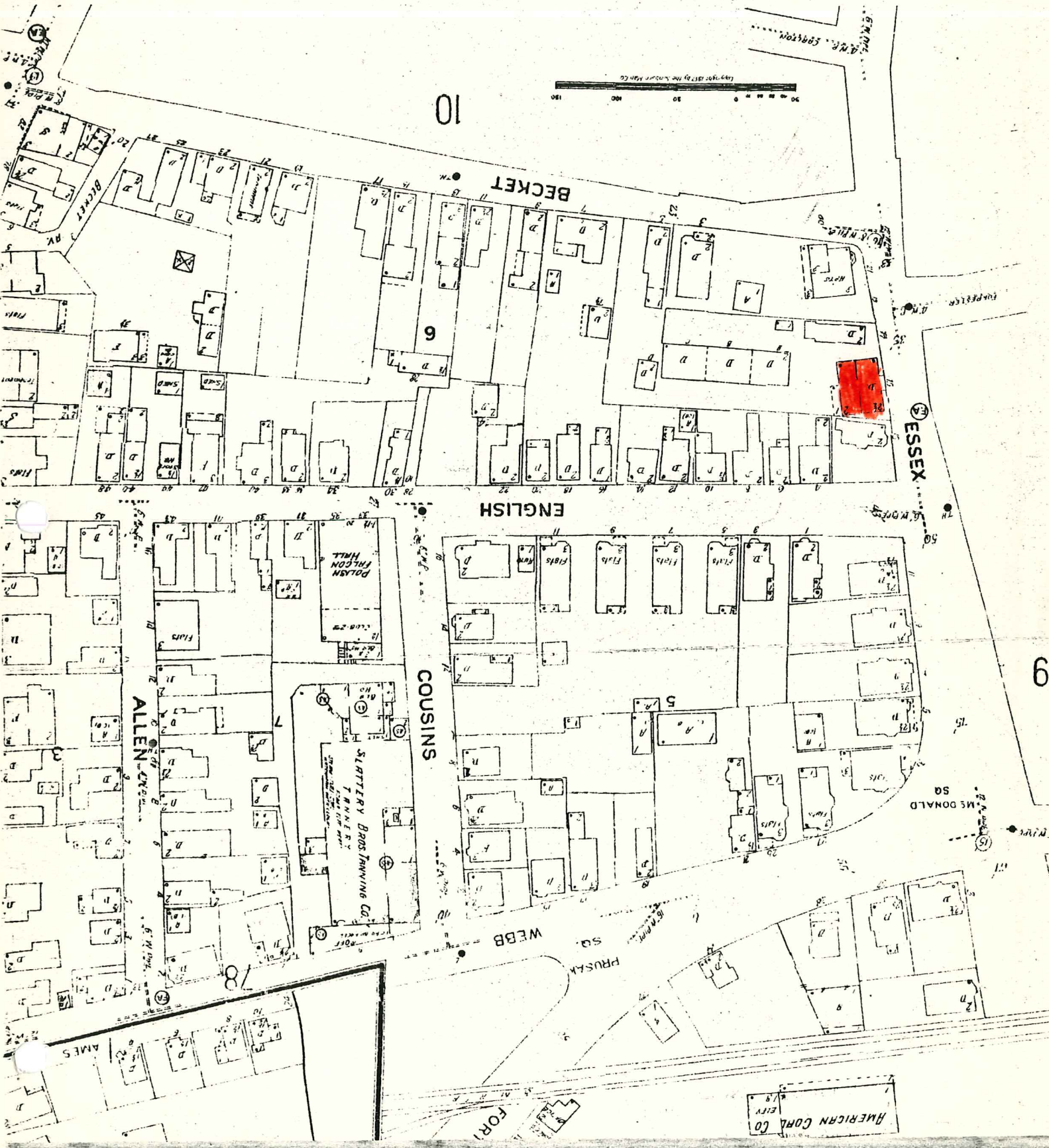
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Kias News  
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Balem Charitable Assn.





10

BECKET

6

ENGLISH

9

ESSEX

COUSINS

ALLEN

SLETTERY BROS. TANNING CO.

POLISH FILSON HILL

AMES

WEBB

PRUSAK

FORI

AMERICAN CORP. CO.

