

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received NOV 14 1984

date entered OCT 11 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Mathew Livermore House

and/or common General Porter House

2. Location

street & number 32-34 Livermore Street n/a not for publication

city, town Portsmouth n/a vicinity of

state New Hampshire code 33 county Rockingham code 015

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name General Porter Condominium Association
(see continuation sheet)

street & number Post Office Box 4493

city, town Portsmouth n/a vicinity of state New Hampshire 03801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rockingham County Registry of Deeds
Rockingham County Courthouse

street & number Hampton Road

city, town Exeter, state New Hampshire 03833

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title An Architectural Survey of the Historic District of Portsmouth, NH
has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Portsmouth City Hall & Portsmouth Public Library
Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801

city, town Portsmouth, state New Hampshire 03801

JUL 8 1985

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>1809 & 1899</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Matthew Livermore/General Fitz John Porter House is a large, gambrel-roofed, white-painted, clapboarded Georgian mansion of 2-1/2 stories built c. 1751. Twice moved, the house has occupied its present site on the east side of Livermore Street since 1899. It faces what is now Haven Park, which encompasses both the original site of the house and the location of its c. 1809 re-orientation.

The original rectangular five-by-two bay form of the house, a typical Portsmouth "double house" with central doorway and symmetrically placed windows and chimneys, evolved to its present configuration with additions to the sides and rear made between c. 1809 and c. 1900. A 1-1/2 story 19th Century carriage house at the rear is connected to the southeast corner of the house by a two-story addition of the early 20th century.

The house is set back from the brick sidewalk about eight feet behind a Colonial Revival fence with turned vases on three of its five panelled wood posts. A driveway along the south side of the house terminates at the carriage house. Another drive extends along the north side of the house to a parking area at the rear.

Foundations are cut granite, as are the five steps leading to the central entrance.

At the first story of the principal (west) facade, the house is distinguished by a Georgian doorway with stop-fluted pilasters on pedestals, a transom, a narrow pulvinated frieze and a modillion-block cornice surmounted by a segmentally arched pediment. The six-panel door is painted dark green. Windows on this elevation are 9/9 at the first story and 9/6 at the second story, and are fitted with dark green louvered shutters. On the lower slope of the wood-shingled gambrel roof are five dormers with 2/4 sash. The roof of the central dormer is segmentally arched; the others are gabled. The two chimneys rising from the upper roof ridge are painted white with black trim in the Colonial Revival manner, as they were by 1902.⁽¹⁾ Recent alterations and additions to this facade include the 1983 restoration of multi-paned sash on the first two stories, replacing 2/1 sash which were in place by 1902, and the five small dormers added in 1981 with the approval of the Portsmouth Historic District Commission.

Extending the front facade by one bay at the south end is a c. 1809 one-story, flat-roofed addition along the south wall of the house. Approached by a walk flanked by a wooden fence and five wooden steps, this bay contains a six-panel door with flanking fluted pilasters, a transom, and modillioned cornice. This doorway by 1935 replaced a window in this bay.⁽²⁾ The transom and door were blocked in from inside during 1983 condominium conversion.

8. Significance

300 0 1995

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

Specific dates Const. c.1751 **Builder/Architect** unknown
 Alts. 1809, 1900, 1933, 1981, 1983

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Matthew Livermore/General Fitz John Porter House is significant for its architecture and for its historic association with 18th and 19th century notables in politics and government, military history, commerce, and science. A fine example of mid-18th century Georgian architecture, the house is an increasingly rare surviving Portsmouth (NH) gambrel-roofed house retaining original exterior and interior examples of regional craftsmanship--most notably the segmentally pedimented central doorway and the typical Piscataqua River region triple stair balusters. In politics and government, the house is associated with first owner Matthew Livermore and his cousin Samuel, lawyers who held important pre-Revolutionary posts when Portsmouth was the seat of New Hampshire provincial government; with Samuel Coues, a State Legislator in the early 1830s, promoter of the State's first mental institution and President of the national American Peace Party 1841-1846; and with Albert R. Hatch, five-term member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives and Speaker in 1874. The association of the house with Mexican and Civil War hero General Fitz John Porter has been firmly embedded in the local consciousness for over eighty years, since the placement of a bronze equestrian statue of Porter in Haven Park almost directly opposite the house of his birth. Porter's twenty-four year battle for vindication after a politically motivated 1863 court martial was a widely publicized chapter in 19th century U.S. military history. Portsmouth area shipbuilding, a mainstay of local commerce since the late 17th century, was substantially aided in its recovery from a period of decline after the war of 1812 by the 1820s-1850s investments of Samuel Coues. The Livermore/Porter House is also associated with Elliott Coues, eminent 19th century natural scientist and author of the influential 1872 Key to the North American Birds.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .203 ± (10,410 sq. ft.)

Quadrangle name Portsmouth NH-NE

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification The property being nominated is roughly rectangular. The boundary begins at a point on the east side of Livermore Street 120' southwardly from the southeast corner of Livermore and Pleasant Streets and runs (see continuation sheet 10-1)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Candee and Jane Porter, Preservation Consultants

organization date February 1984

street & number Route 1 - Box 376 telephone (207) 363-6635

city or town Kittery state Maine 03904

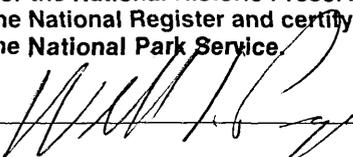
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

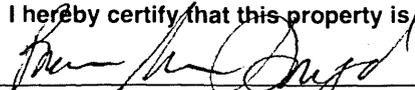
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title New Hampshire Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 10/26/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register


Keeper of the National Register

date 10/11/85

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

JUL 8 1985

9. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500-1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
___ 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates Const. c.1751
 Builder/Architect unknown
 Alts. 1809, 1900, 1933, 1981, 1983

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Matthew Livermore House is primarily significant for its architecture and for its historic association with 18th and 19th Century notables in politics and government, military history, commerce, and science. A fine example of mid-18th Century Georgian architecture, the house is an increasingly rare surviving Portsmouth (NH) gambrel-roofed house retaining original exterior and interior examples of regional craftsmanship -- most notably the segmentally pedimented central doorway and the typical Piscataqua River region triple stair balusters. The house has integral historical associations in politics and government with its first owner, Matthew Livermore, the colony's first college-educated lawyer who held important pre-Revolutionary posts when Portsmouth was the seat of New Hampshire provincial government; with Samuel Coues, a State Legislator in the 1830's, promoter of the State's first mental institution and President of the national American Peace Party 1841-1846; and with Albert R. Hatch, five-term member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives and Speaker in 1874. Samuel Coues is also significant for commerce, aiding the recovery of Portsmouth-area shipbuilding after its decline following the War of 1812, through his investments in this major local industry from the 1820's to the 1850's. The house also has a secondary commemorative association with Mexican and Civil War hero General Fitz-John Porter, whose most well-publicized achievement was winning vindication and reinstatement after a politically-motivated court martial following the second battle of Manasses. Soon after his death the house was recognized and commemorated in local histories as his birthplace. This preceded the placement of a memorial bronze equestrian statue in Haven Park opposite the relocated house.

Revised
Section 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 203⁺ (10,410 sq. ft.)

Quadrangle name Portsmouth NH-NE

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References

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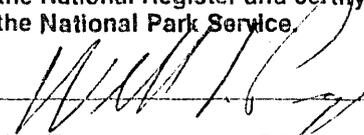
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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national state local

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Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title New Hampshire Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 10/26/84

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

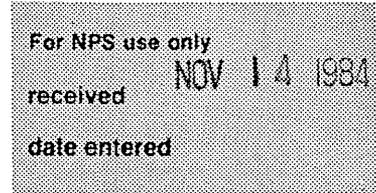
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Owners of Property, 32-34 Livermore Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801

Units #1 and #4: Francis and Mary Ann McCone
32-34 Livermore Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Unit #2: Anthony L. and Jean M. Antin
92 Five Mile Road
Darien, CT 06820

Unit #3: Turbar, Inc.
Post Office Box 4493
Portsmouth, NH 03801

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Balancing the front facade at the north end is a one-story screened porch with dentilled cornice added along the north wall soon after 1900.

On the south elevation, above the c. 1809 one-story addition, is a late 19th century second story bathroom addition located between the original two bays of the wall. Sash on this south wall are 9/9 at the first story and 9/6 at the second story, with a narrower 6/4 window on the west wall of the second story addition. The single attic window is 8/8, and is the only window on this wall without shutters.

At the eastern (rear) extremity of the south wall of the main house is a one-bay, two-story addition with shed roof built c. 1900 as a connector to the carriage house. The addition contains on this elevation a doorway at driveway level and 6/6 sash at both stories. The first story window is fitted with shutters.

At the north elevation of the main block of the house, openings at the first story are, from west to east, a 9/6 window, a French door opening onto the screened porch, and two windows with 6/6 sash. The two bays of the second story contain 9/6 sash; the two attic windows are 8/8. All windows on this wall have shutters. The pitch of the lower slope of the gambrel roof at the east end of the north wall is evidence of an addition made by the 1860s to the Northeast quadrant of the house, which accounts also for the third, easternmost first story bay of the north wall.⁽³⁾ The French door is a c. 1900 addition.

The rear (east) end of the house displays several additions to the original five-bay wall. The northern two bays project about five feet from the original wall and contain 6/6 sash on both stories. The lower slope of the gambrel roof was raised and extended to accommodate this addition (made by the 1860s). This portion of the roof contains a gabled dormer with 6/6 sash added c. 1900. At the central bay of the east wall, a flat-roofed, one-story entry addition of c. 1900 projects an additional six feet. It contains a single 9/6 window on the east wall. On the north wall of this addition is a door reached by wooden steps with diagonally braced balustrade, and a narrow 6/4 window. Above the entry is the central arched window, which lights the landing of the interior stairway. On the lower slope of the gambrel roof above the arched window are two gabled dormers with 6/6 sash, also added c. 1900. The southernmost two bays of the rear wall of the house consist of 9/6 sash at the first story and a 9/6 window and a 1983 door (access to a fire escape) at the second story. The rear slopes of the roof are shingled with light brown asphalt.

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Immediately to the south of the entry addition, a wooden fire escape extends from the ground to the attic dormers. This is a 1983 addition, as is the diagonally braced wooden balustrade on the entry roof.

The two-story connector to the carriage house added in the early 20th century is embedded in the southeast corner of the main house. It contains on the north wall a single second-story 8/4 window. A first-story window was blocked in and the opening clapboarded in 1983.

The 1-1/2 story, gable-roofed carriage house is evidently the same structure which was at the rear of the house at its previous location and shown in a c. 1860s plan of the house and grounds, although its gable end was turned c. 1900 to face the street.⁽⁴⁾ On the clapboarded north wall are three bays of 6/6 windows and a diagonally boarded barn door with a narrow band of transom lights inserted in 1983. Above the door is a large, gabled wall dormer, formerly the opening to the hay loft, with 12/12 sash installed in 1983. The hay hoist beam extends from the peak of the gable of the dormer. A 1983 skylight is on the north slope of the dark gray asphalt-shingled roof.

The east wall of the carriage house is shingled. At the first story are two 6/6 windows and French doors with 3/5 glazing. The single attic window is 6/6. A wooden deck with diagonally braced balustrade was added at the first story in 1983.

There are no openings on the clapboarded south wall.

The west wall, facing the street, is shingled and has a diagonally boarded barn door, painted black, with transom light insert (1983) and a 6/6 attic window.

The interior of the house contains a central stairhall, with two rooms opening off it on each side on the first and second floors. Especially noteworthy is the finish of the hall, with original Georgian paneled dado and stair soffit; and the staircase with typical Piscataqua region triple balusteres (vasiform, straight-fluted and swash-turned) at each tread. The staircase displays squared, fluted newel and corner posts, with corresponding fluted pilasters on the stairway wall dado. The landing is illuminated by an arched window.

The northwest front parlor contains the original Georgian dado and fluted corner posts; the southeast corner room on the first floor and the four principal rooms of the second floor also retain Georgian paneled work and moldings. The southwest front parlor was remodeled following the c. 1809 one-story addition to the south wall; the

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Federal syle woodwork includes cabled moldings. The northeast dining-room was remodeled c. 1900 with Colonial Revival fireplace, window and door surrounds. The significant features of the Georgian, Federal and Colonial Revival styles in these rooms, representing changing taste over 150 years, were carefully preserved during 1983 ITC-approved rehabilitation. Also saved is the 1930s sepia mural on canvas painted by Gladys Brandon and depicting local historic sites located in the northwest corner second floor room.

The interior of the carriage house was, until 1983, exposed frame with no interior finish.

Footnotes, Section 7

- (1) C. S. Gurney, Portsmouth Historic and Picturesque, Portsmouth (NH): C. S. Gurney, 1902, p. 86.
- (2) John Mead Howells, The Architectural Heritage of the Piscataqua, Architectural Book Publishing Company, 1935, Plate 129.
- (3) Alfred M. Hoyt, "Plan of the Residence of Albert R. Hatch", (Archives, Strawberry Banke, Inc., Portsmouth NH) undated
- (4) Ibid.

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Architectural Significance:

The Livermore/Porter House has been traditionally dated c. 1735.⁽¹⁾ However, the customary reference to buildings on the property does not appear on the 1751 deed transferring from Job Strong to Matthew Livermore 1-1/4 acres "on the south side of the road" (not yet named Pleasant Street) "that leads from the North Meeting House to Pickerin's Mills." Livermore paid 109 pounds for the land, which extended from Pleasant Street to the South Mill Pond.

Matthew Livermore (1703-1776), a native of Watertown, Massachusetts and a 1722 Harvard graduate, came to Portsmouth in 1726 to teach grammar school while studying law, and in 1731 became the first college-educated lawyer to practice in New Hampshire. In 1733 he was appointed Attorney General and King's Attorney to the Admiralty Court for the Province of New Hampshire, positions he held for over thirty years. Livermore's 1751 purchase of the house site coincided with his election to the New Hampshire House of Representatives, where he served as Clerk of the House and on committees to revise the laws of the Province. In the late 1740s, Livermore also did legal work for the proprietors of the vast Masonian land grants, and became himself a Proprietor of over twenty-seven New Hampshire towns--a circumstance which undoubtedly contributed to the prosperity which enabled him to build his house on Pleasant Street.⁽²⁾

The Livermore/Porter House, the only remaining one of at least four gambrels built along Pleasant Street within view of one another, originally faced Pleasant Street, which from the mid-18th century to well into the 19th century was a choice location for the substantial houses of governors, merchants, lawyers and clergymen.

The 2-1/2 story clapboarded house is architecturally significant as an example of a Portsmouth gambrel-roofed house retaining its original pedimented Georgian doorway. The gambrel roof, popular in Portsmouth 1740s-1760s, continued to be built in the city through the 1780s. Charles Brewster, in his Rambles, describes a number destroyed by the major 1813 fire.⁽³⁾ At least twenty-two gambrels survived to the 1880s.⁽⁴⁾ Unknown is the number destroyed without documentation, or altered to conceal the gambrel roofline. Of the twelve gambrels existing today in the compact part of Portsmouth, the Livermore/Porter House is one of only three with original segmentally pedimented doorways.⁽⁵⁾ Like the 1759 John Paul Jones House and the

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1762 Chase House (both on the National Register), the Livermore/Porter doorway is distinguished by fluted pilasters on pedestals, a transom, and a narrow pulvinated frieze below the pediment. The treatment of the front facade with unpedimented windows is probably closest to the 1749 Rev. Samuel Langdon House which stood nearby on Pleasant Street until its removal to Old Sturbridge Village. The Langdon House is attributed to the mulatto housewright Hopestill March (a.k.a. Cheswill), but there is no documentation for the builders and craftsmen of the Livermore House.

Typical of the houses of the well-to-do in mid-18th century Portsmouth, the Livermore/Porter House contains a central stairhall with two rooms on either side on each floor. In the stairhall are the original paneled dado, arched landing window, and triple stair-case balusters. The particular pattern of three differently turned balusters--vasiform, straight-fluted, and swash-turned--at each tread is characteristic of the Piscataqua region. Thought to have first appeared in this arrangement c. 1735 in the Sir William Pepperrell House across the Piscataqua River at Kittery Point, Maine, these distinctive balusters were produced by local craftsmen through the 1780s.⁽⁶⁾ The stair newel and corner posts are fluted, with corresponding fluting on the stair dado. Fluting also appears on the corner posts of the northwest front parlor, which retains its Georgian paneled dado. Original dado and fireplace wall paneling survives in the four principal rooms of the second floor.

Associational Significance:

Matthew Livermore suffered financial reverses in 1766, when he sold at auction wilderness lands and "his whole library except his Law Books."⁽⁷⁾ He continued to practice law and lived in the house until his death in 1776.

The house was briefly (1757-1758) the residence of Matthew Livermore's cousin Samuel Livermore (1732-1803) at the beginning of his long career as a jurist and politician. The only other known extant structure associated with him is the 1797 Trinity Chapel in Holderness, New Hampshire, where he lived from 1775-1803 in a house destroyed by fire in 1882.⁽⁸⁾ Like his cousin, Samuel Livermore was a lawyer and was appointed in 1769 King's Attorney General for New Hampshire under Governor John Wentworth. He was also Judge Advocate of the Admiralty Court during the Colonial era. Following the Revolution he became Attorney General of the State (1776-1777) and Chief Justice of New Hampshire (1782-89). He served in 1784 on the commission to revise the disputed boundaries of land claimed by New

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York, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and was a 1784 delegate to the Continental Congress. In 1789 he was a member of the first U. S. Congress, where he served until his 1793 election to the U. S. Senate; in 1797 and 1799 he was President, pro tempore.⁽⁹⁾

The Livermore/Porter House was sold in 1779 by Matthew Livermore's widow to Nathaniel Sparhawk, Jr. (1744-1815), then of Haverhill, Massachusetts. His only apparent claim to distinction is that he was the grandson of Sir William Pepperrell of Kittery, Maine, and the brother of the second Sir William. Sparhawk may have lived in the house before and after his second wife's death in 1782. Sparhawk's third marriage, to Deborah Adams of Portsmouth, ended in separation after "a brief life together," and he departed to join his brother in England in 1786.⁽¹⁰⁾ He sold the house to Boston merchant Joseph Russell in the same year.

There is no evidence that the house was occupied by Russell or by the next owner, Edward St. Loe Livermore of Newburyport, Massachusetts. Livermore (1762-1832) was the son of Samuel Livermore and a lawyer who practiced in New Hampshire, becoming Justice of the Superior Court before moving permanently to Massachusetts in 1799.⁽¹¹⁾ Livermore bought the property in 1803 and in 1807 began to sell off parcels of the 1-1/4 acres. By 1809 he had opened Livermore Street running south from Pleasant Street to the South Mill Pond. The house was moved back from Pleasant Street about this time and turned 90° to face east on the new street. In 1809 the house was sold, with a large lot extending to the Mill Pond, to Nathaniel Haven, owner of adjacent property to the west. Tax Records indicate that the house was occupied by then by Alexander Ladd, Haven's son-in-law, who bought the house from Haven in 1813. Both Haven and Ladd were prosperous. Either could have been responsible for the one-story addition to the present south end of the house and the remodeling of the thus enlarged southwest parlor in the Federal style. It is not clear why the Ladds occupied this house rather than the impressive Moffatt-Ladd mansion on Market Street given them as a wedding present by the Havens in 1807. The Ladds had probably moved to Market Street by 1815 and subsequently rented out the Livermore Street house.⁽¹²⁾

A tenant in the early 1820s was Captain John Porter, Commandant Major of the Portsmouth Navy Yard. Fitz John Porter (1822-1901) was born and lived in the house until 1825. Despite a family tradition of Naval service, he went to West Point and distinguished

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himself at the 1847 storming of Mexico City during the Mexican War. Porter's promising Civil War career, which included the repulse of General Lee's forces at Malvern Hill in 1862, was cut short by an 1863 court martial, where he became the scapegoat for General Pope's failure at the second battle of Manassas. It took Porter fifteen years to achieve vindication from a Military Board of Inquiry in 1879. His much-publicized case, which has been compared to the Dreyfus Affair, continued to be a political embarrassment, however; Porter was 64 when an 1886 Act of Congress finally reinstated him in the Army. While Porter lived in the Livermore Street house only during early childhood, his peripatetic military career, frequent relocations during his fight for vindication, and the fact that his mother was a member of a prominent Portsmouth family made the place of his birth a logical site for a memorial statue after his death. (13)

Charlotte Haven Ladd, daughter of Alexander Ladd, returned to her birthplace on Livermore Street following her 1833 marriage to Samuel E. Coues. Coues (1797-1867), the son of a Portsmouth sea captain and chandler, was by 1833 well established as a merchant in the West Indies trade and an importer of European salt. He was also an important investor in ships built in Piscataqua River shipyards.

A mainstay of the local economy since the late 17th century, Portsmouth area shipbuilding suffered its worst decline following the imposition of protective tariffs in 1816, recovered slightly in the 1820s, and enjoyed a renaissance in the 1830s, 1840s, and 1850s. Coues, according to Portsmouth tax and U.S. Customs records, was between 1823 and 1851 part-owner of thirteen ships and two schooners built in the Piscataqua shipyards in Portsmouth, Kittery, Maine and South Berwick, Maine. In 1839, Coues and his junior partner Ichabod Goodwin (later Governor of New Hampshire) each had investments in five ships totalling \$30,500, placing them among the top six Portsmouth owners. (14) Coues and Goodwin were also agents for two marine insurance companies, and both were directors of the Piscataqua Bank. By the late 1840s Coues was also owner of a brick commercial building on Congress Street.

Coues had many interests outside the business world, however, and engaged in numerous political, humanitarian and intellectual pursuits. In the 1830s he was President of various local school

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committees, President of the Lyceum where he also lectured, President of the local Temperance Society, and a Representative in the State Legislature. As a member of a Select Committee, he wrote the 1832 report favoring the State's establishment of an "Insane Hospital." He also wrote and lectured on the primitive and inhumane treatment of the insane in New Hampshire, introduced the legislation which would have created a state institution (not enacted until 1839), and served as trustee and member of the site selection committee of the corporation which preceded the state institution. Rejection of a site in Portsmouth, whose citizens contributed generously to a fund for the hospital, was the probably cause for his declining an 1843 appointment to the Board of Trustees of the State Hospital which was built in Concord. On the national scene, Coues opposed both military action against the Seminole Indians and the Mexican War; from 1841-1846 he followed his brother-in-law William Ladd as President of the American Peace Party. Charlotte Coues had a brief journalistic career in the early 1850s before the family moved to Washington D.C. in 1854 when Samuel Coues took a position with the U. S. Patent Office. Using the initials "JS" and "N" to sign her articles in New Hampshire journals, she wrote critiques of such Lyceum lecturers as Oliver Wendell Holmes and produced essays on the birds, trees, and flowers of Portsmouth.⁽¹⁵⁾

The Coueses' son Elliott was born in the house in 1842 and spent his formative years there before the family moved. Elliott Coues (1842-1899) combined an eighteen year career as an Army Surgeon (1863-1882) with voluminous research and writing on birds and mammals, much of it undertaken at the request of the Smithsonian Institute. (Some 2,383 specimens were gathered by Coues for the National Museum during this period.) No single location except his birthplace is associated with Coues' most productive years as a naturalist as these coincided with his Army assignments to posts all over the United States. ⁽¹⁶⁾ His 1872 Key to the North American Birds, considered the the most enduring of his works, went to six editions. Admired for its graceful and accessible writing style and for its innovative keys which enabled students to identify birds by family, genus and species, the book is credited with inspiring a generation of ornithologists. ⁽¹⁷⁾

The Livermore/Porter House was bought in 1854 by Albert R. Hatch (1817-1882) and was occupied by his family until 1925. Hatch studied and practiced law in Portsmouth after his 1837 graduation from Bowdoin College, and by the 1840s was involved in Democratic politics.

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In 1848, he began twenty-five years as the Clerk of the U. S. Court for New Hampshire. He was elected to the State Legislature five times and was Speaker of the House in 1874.⁽¹⁸⁾ Like Samuel Coues, Hatch invested in Portsmouth-built ships, the largest being the 1193-ton Sarah E. Pettigrew, built in 1857.

The Hatch property was mapped, probably in the 1860s, by Alfred M. Hoyt. The "Plan of the Residence of Albert R. Hatch" shows that the house had by then been extended on one half of the rear wall (the present northeast quadrant).⁽¹⁹⁾ A woodshed connected the house to the barn at the rear; a greenhouse was attached to the then south end of the house (the present location of the screened porch on the north end of the house). Two substantial trees flanked the house at the front. The grounds extending south to the Mill Pond were laid out with circular walks, trees and other plantings.

These grounds became part of Haven Park at the end of the century. The park was the creation of the Haven sisters, the Hatches' neighbors to the west. They left bequests in the late 1890s for the purchase of the land on either side of their house between Edward and Livermore Streets and for the removal of the houses thereon. The Hatches were paid \$10,000 by the Executors of the Havens' wills. (The Havens directed the dismantling of their own house, a 1750s gambrel built by their ancestor Samuel Haven and later "Federalized".) The sisters had apparently discussed their plans nearly thirty years earlier, because in 1870 Albert Hatch bought the lot on the east side of Livermore Street to which the house was moved in 1899. A photograph taken shortly after the move shows the house with the fence not yet installed at the front and the porch on the north end under construction.⁽²⁰⁾ The remodeling of the northeast dining-room in the Colonial Revival style, the addition of the rear entry, dormers at the rear, and the two-story connector to the carriage house were probably accomplished at this time.

In May of 1901, the will of Fitz John Porter's Boston friend R. F. Eddy bequeathed the City of Portsmouth \$30,000 for a memorial statue of Porter. Over the next three years, until a bronze equestrian statue by J. E. Kelley was finally placed in Haven Park, the issues of where the statue should be placed and who the sculptor should be were topics of polls, petitions and public meetings. In a May, 1902 poll conducted by the Portsmouth Herald, the public cast ballots favoring Haymarket Square over Haven Park for a site. This preference was probably the result of uncertainty whether the Havens' wills prohibited a statue in Haven Park, popularly conceded to be the most appropriate location because of the proximity to the house of Porter's birth. A change in City government and a legal

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opinion that the Havens did not specifically exclude a statue (though there was to be no "pavilion, kiosk, greenhouse, museum, shed or other building") led to the final choice of Haven Park. (21)

Anti-Porter sentiment surfaced in 1903 when the base of the statue being prepared in a Portsmouth granite shed was defaced. The Mayor stated that he realized "there is some opposition on the part of Civil War veterans...to erecting a statue of General Porter in this city" but urged that "the last judgment in General Porter's case...be accepted by every veteran." (22)

Members of the Hatch family, including Rear Admiral James K. Cogswell of the Navy, lived in the Livermore/Porter House at its new site until 1925. It was then bought by retired Admiral Douglas Dismukes, who converted the house to a two-family dwelling in the Depression, substituting a door for a window at the west wall of the one-story parlor addition. After changing hands several more times, and the addition of five dormers on the front in 1981, the house in 1983 underwent needed rehabilitation and was converted to condominiums.

* See Continuation Sheet No. 17

Footnotes, Section 8

- (1) C. S. Gurney, Portsmouth Historic and Picturesque, Portsmouth (NH): C. S. Gurney, 1902, p. 85.
- (2) Clifford K. Shipton, Sibley's Harvard Graduates, Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society, 1945, Volume 7, p. 90.
- (3) Charles W. Brewster, Rambles About Portsmouth (Second Series), Portsmouth (NH): Lewis W. Brewster, 1869, pp. 223-231.
- (4) Gurney illustrates or cites nineteen. James L. Garvin, Historic Portsmouth, Somersworth (NH): New Hampshire Publishing Company, 1974, p. 83 includes an additional example; two others not included in these publications still exist.
- (5) 130 Gates Street has a triangular pediment which may be original; 28 Manning, 38 Marcy and 24 Salter Streets have simpler doorway treatments; the entrances of the other five (182 Market, Seven Islington, 13 Salter, 31 Hancock and 171 Washington Streets) have been reworked.
- (6) James L. Garvin, "Academic Architecture and the Building Trades in the Piscataqua Region of New Hampshire and Maine", Ph.D. dissertation, Boston University, 1983, p. 99.

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Footnotes, Section 8 (continued)

- (7) Shipton, p. 91.
- (8) Determined by David Ruell (Lakes Region Planning Commission, NH) in research on Trinity Chapel, Holderness, NH. Telephone Interview, 4 May, 1984.
- (9) Walter Eliot Thwing, The Livermore Family of America, Boston: W.B. Clarke Company, 1902, pp. 82-84.
- (10) Cecil Hampden Cutts Howard, Materials for a Geneology of the Sparhawk Family in New England, Salem (MA): By author, 1892, pp. 15, 34.
- (11) Twing, p. 143.
- (12) Charles W. Brewster, Rambles About Portsmouth (First Series), Portsmouth (NH): By author, 1859, p. 147. Brewster states that Col. E. J. Long, John Wardrobe, Mr. Toscan the French Consul, and Capt. Samuel Ham occupied the house (presumably as renters) but gives no dates.
- (13) Otto Eisenschiml, The Celebrated Case of Fitz John Porter, Indianapolis and New York: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., 1950, was the principal source on Porter. Gurney in 1902 labeled the house the General Fitz John Porter House (p. 85).
- (14) 1839 Tax Records (Portsmouth) show the largest investor to have been Robert Rice, with \$50,500, followed by Henry Ladd (\$34,334), Ichabod Rollins (\$33,750), and Samuel Hale (\$33,750).
- (15) Brewster, (Second Series), pp. 246-247, and Paul Russell Cutright and Michael J. Brodhead, Elliott Coues, Urbana (IL): University of Illinois Press, 1981, pp. 15-16.
- (16) Cutright and Brodhead follow Coues' military career from Arizona (1863-1865) to South Carolina (1866-1868), North Carolina (1869), Maryland (1870-1872), South Dakota (1872-1873), along the 49th Parallel with the Northern Boundary Commission (1873-1874), with the U. S. Geological Survey of Territories (1876-1880), and ending in Arizona (1880-1882).
- (17) Cutright and Brodhead, p. 133.

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- (18) D. Hamilton Hurd, comp., History of Rockingham and Strafford Counties, Philadelphia: J. W. Long and Co., 1882, pp. 23-24, and Agnes Bartlett, "Portsmouth Genealogy," (Manuscript, New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, (NH), Volume 2, p. 588.
- (19) Alfred M. Hoyt, "Plan of the Residence of Albert R. Hatch, Portsmouth, N.H.," (Archives, Strawberry Banke, Inc., Portsmouth, NH), undated.
- (20) Gurney, p. 86.
- (21) Portsmouth (NH) Herald, 1, 17, 23 May, 6 June, 8, 13 August 1902; 30 March, 1, 14 April, 9 September, 11 December, 1903.
- (22) Portsmouth (NH) Herald, 3 February, 1 April 1903.

JUL 8 1925

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The house was moved in 1809 when a series of small streets extending to the South Mill Pond were laid out in the city. There is no map basis to determine the exact location of the house before the map of 1813 (appended) which shows the new siting. It appears that the Livermore house was turned on its axis and reoriented toward Livermore Street, although it always seems to have set back from Pleasant Street. The 1899-1900 relocation turned the facade 180 degrees and sited the house on the opposite side of Livermore, between two existing buildings and no more than 50 feet from its previous location. See appended tax map.

While the associations with Mathew Livermore, Samuel Coues, and Albert Hatch are integral with the history of the house, those of Samuel Livermore and General Fitz-John Porter are commemorative. As early as the city's first historical guidebook, The Portsmouth Guide (J.H. Foster: 1884) the house was named the Livermore House and the author states that Mathew Livermore "died here in 1776. His relative Samuel Livermore, who also lived here, was a distinguished man in his time." It is from this source that we also learn "that at the time the house was built it faced Pleasant Street, having an open front yard."

Even before the erection of the Porter statue in Haven Park, C.S. Gurney published Portsmouth Historic and Picturesque and names the house as the "General Fitz-John Porter House." This change in name, while describing the Livermore occupancy, commemorated Porter's history by noting his birth in the house. This book, published in 1902, refers to the General's "long contest" for reinstatement, clearly the most significant aspect of his life, and relates that bronze castings for the statue "are at the present time in process of construction." Thus, naming the house in commemoration of Porter after his vindication preceded other memorials. The statue to him in Haven Park is, in fact, located on a lot unrelated to the Livermore-Porter house site and is closest to Edwards Street. The house continues to be called after General Porter, as it has since the time of his death, reflecting local efforts of that period to commemorate this locally born officer.

The birth of Elliott Coues is of supplementary significance to his father and mother's occupancy. Because he lived in so many places for such brief times it is impossible to determine any one other standing site most significant to commemorate this locally born scientist whose work was a product of cumulative application of knowledge.

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southwardly along the east side of Livermore Street 80'; thence eastwardly 126.51'; thence northwardly 85.18'; thence westwardly 125.78' to the point of beginning. The boundaries are those of the lot purchased in 1870 by Albert Hatch to which the house was moved in 1899.

Portsmouth Tax Assessor's reference map U-9, Parcel #20.

The boundaries of the nominated property have been highlighted in yellow on the attached sketch map.

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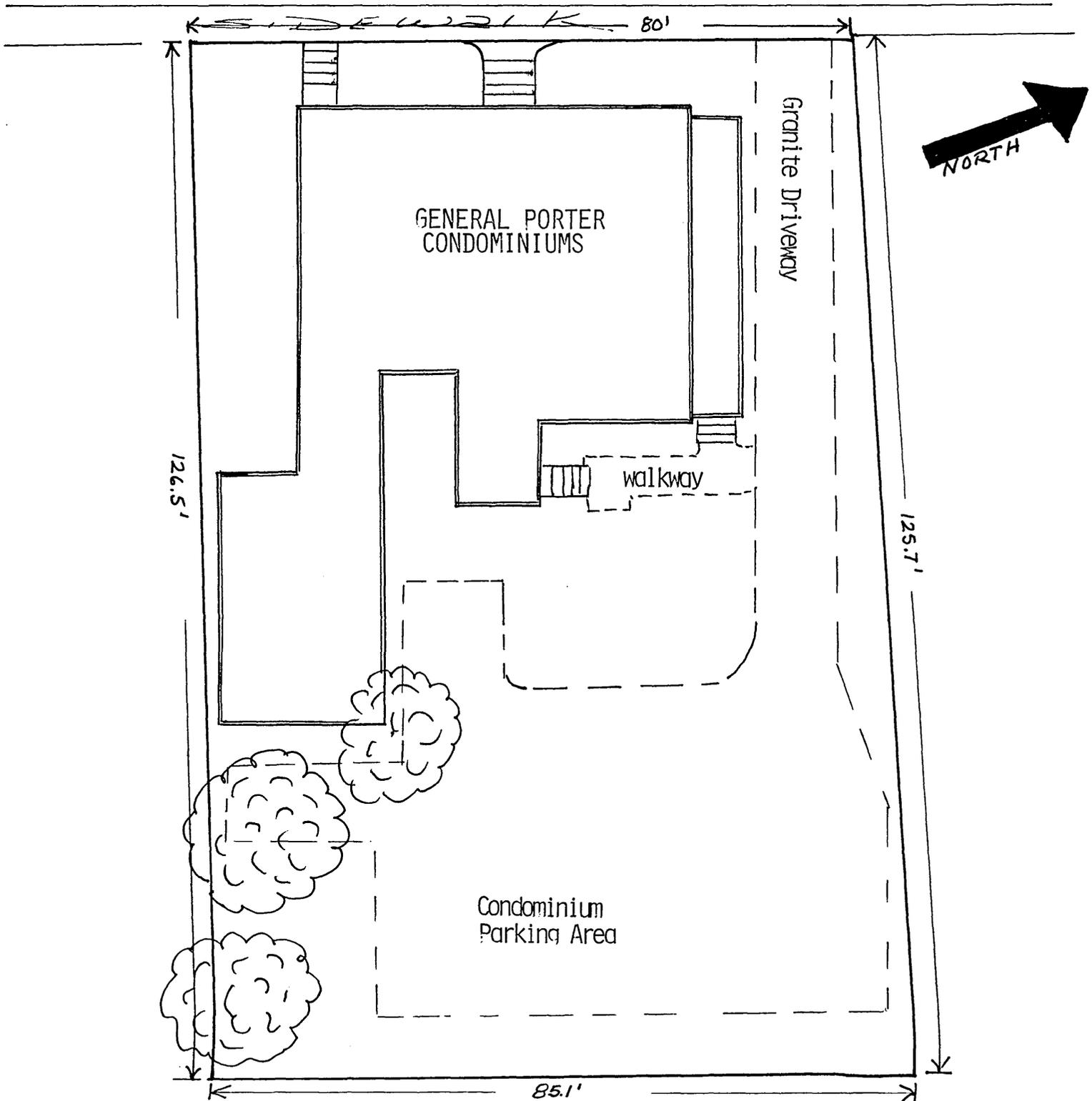
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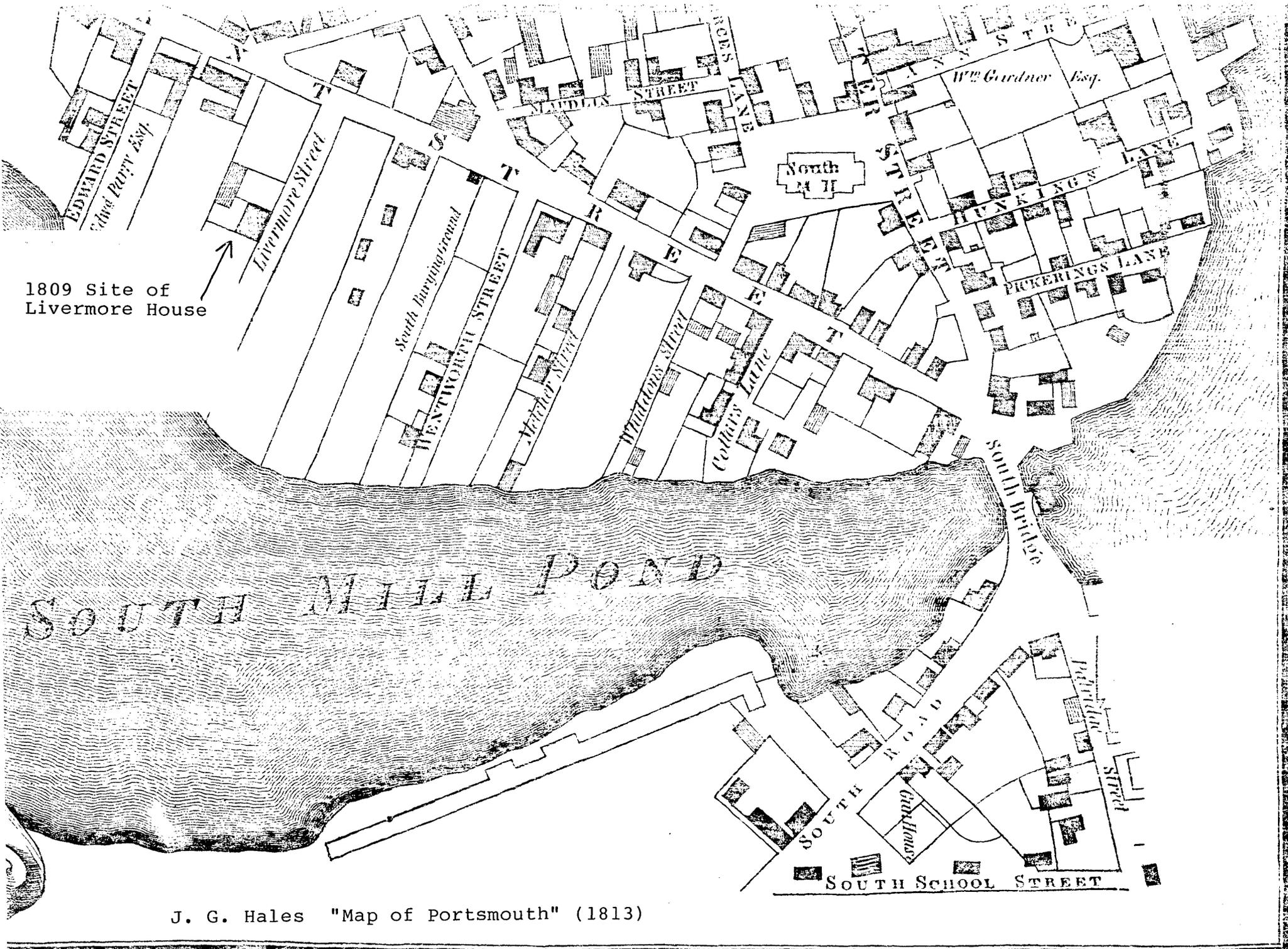
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Livermore Street

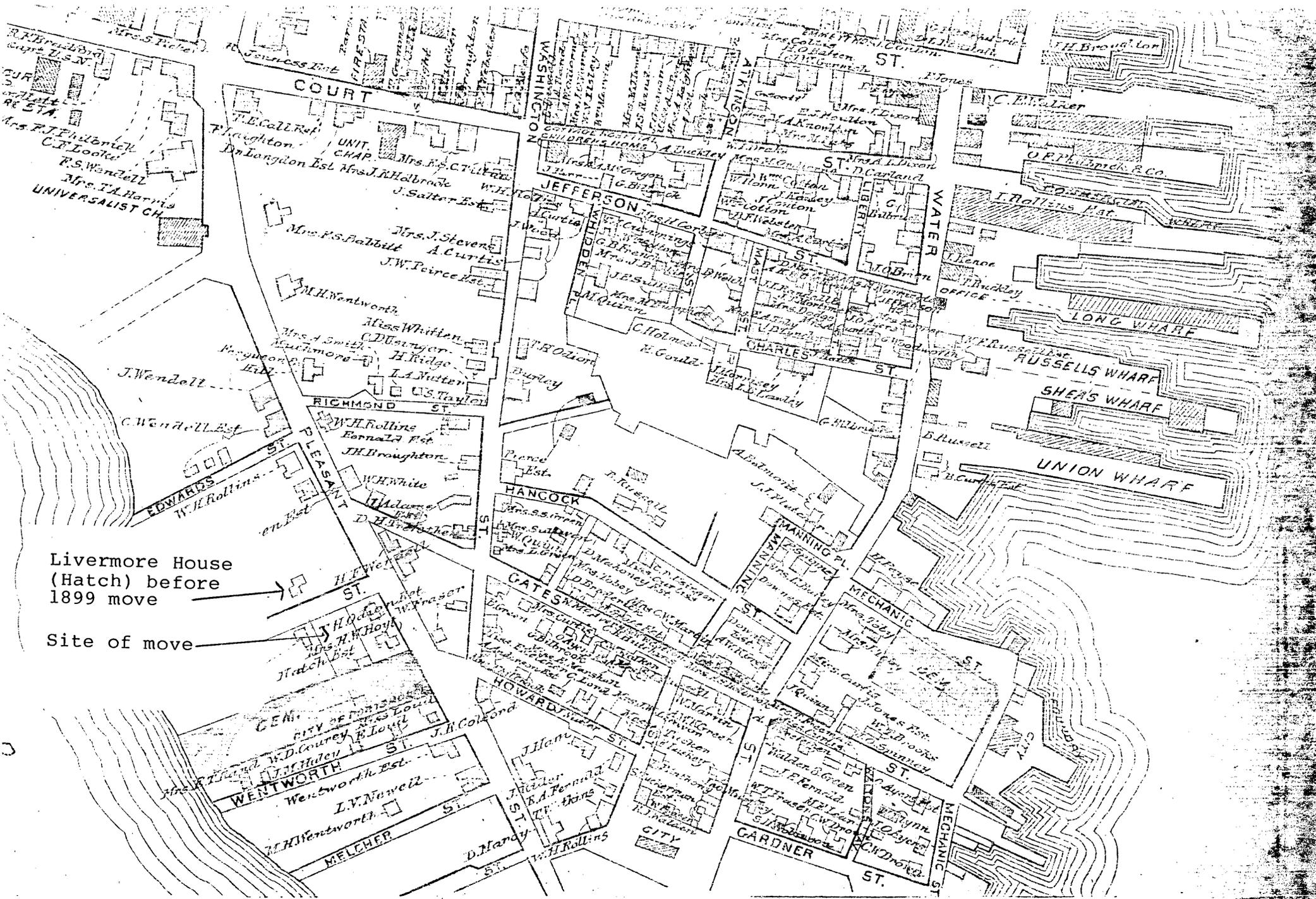


JUL 8 1935



1809 Site of
Livermore House

J. G. Hales "Map of Portsmouth" (1813)



Livermore House
(Hatch) before
1899 move

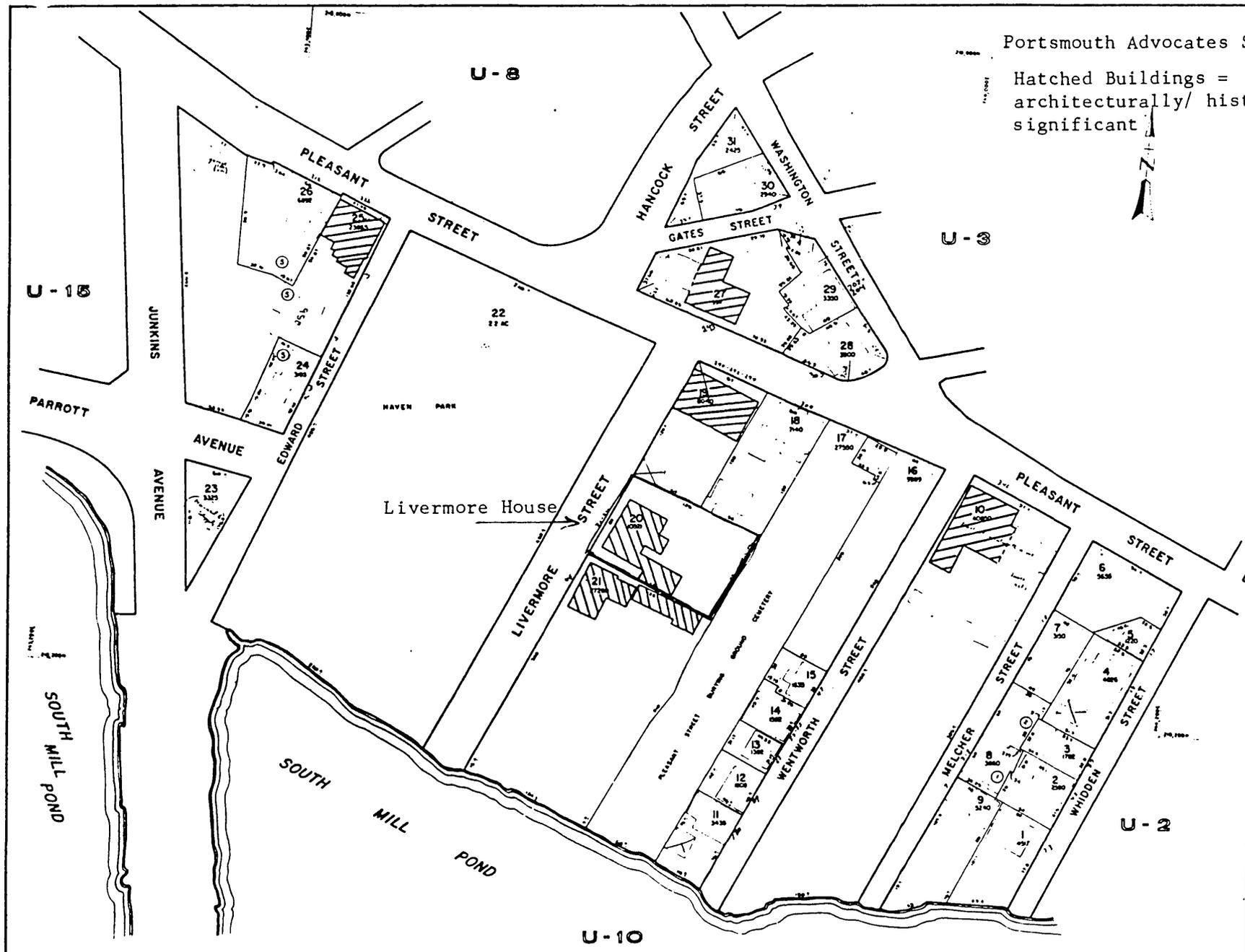
Site of move

JUL 27 1934

JUL 8 1985

Portsmouth Advocates Survey

Hatched Buildings =
architecturally/ historically
significant



PREPARED BY PHOTOGRAMMETRIC METHODS BY
JOHN E. O'DONNELL & ASSOCIATES
ALBANY, MASSACHUSETTS

LEGEND
ADJACENT SHEET TO
OWNER'S OWNERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT LOT NO.
SCALED DIMENSION

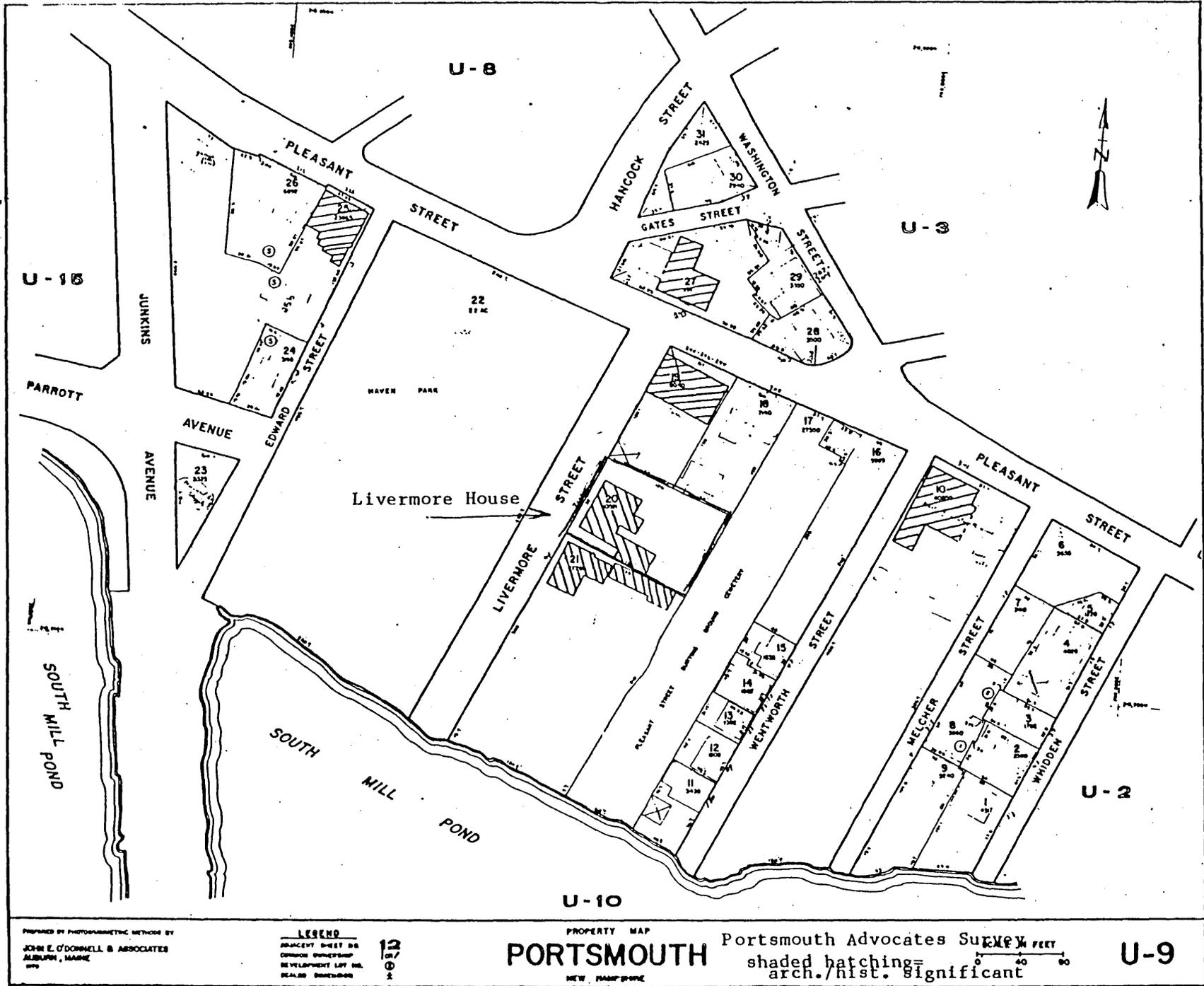
12
10/12
2

PROPERTY MAP
PORTSMOUTH
NEW HAMPSHIRE

SCALE IN FEET
0 40 80

U-9

MAR 19 1984
JUL 8 1983



PREPARED BY PHOTOGRAMMETRIC METHODS BY
JOHN E. O'DONNELL & ASSOCIATES
ALBURN, MAINE
1983

LEGEND
BRACKET SHEET OR
COMMON SURVEYSHIP
DEVELOPMENT LOT NO.
SEAL NO. 12
OR 2

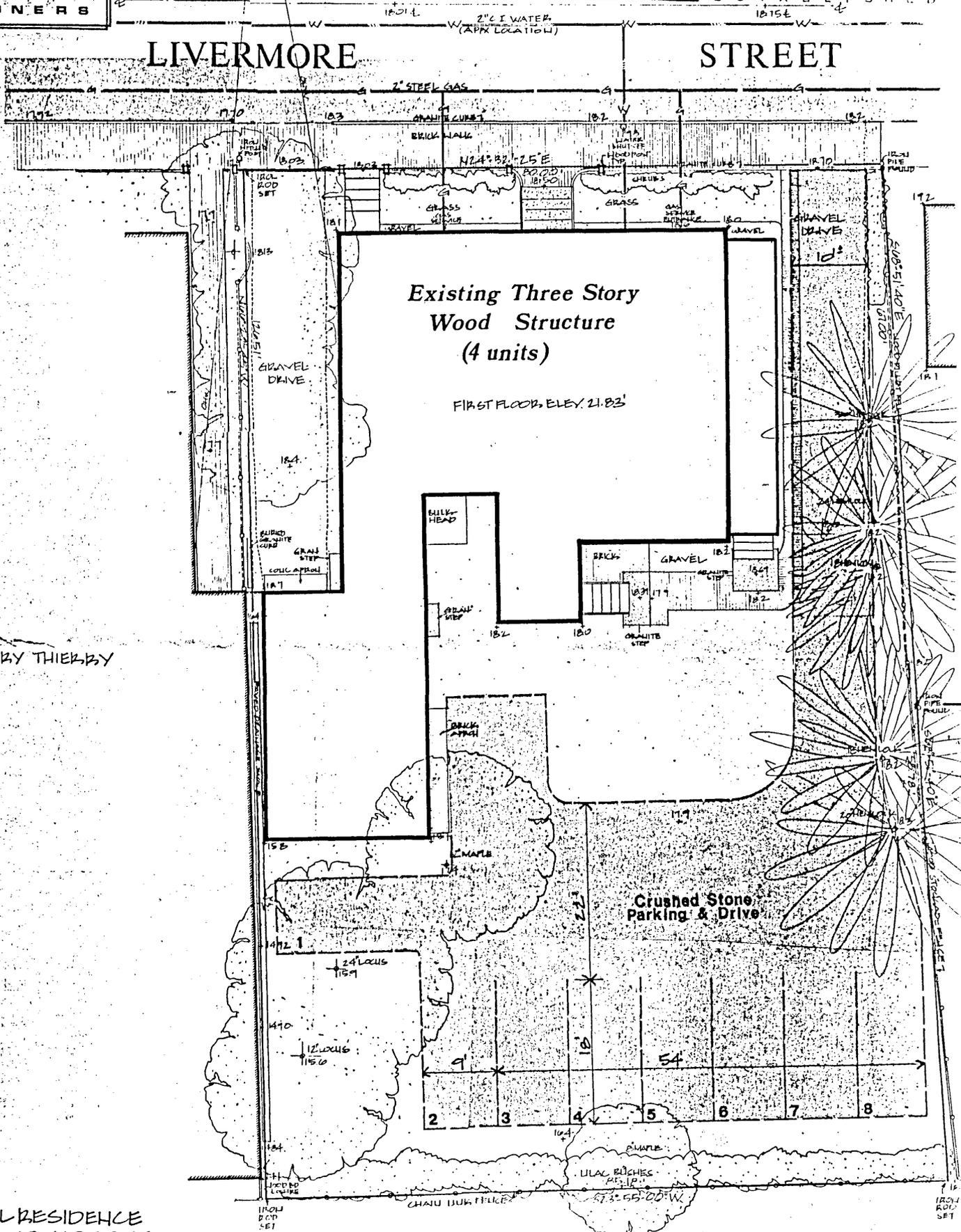
PROPERTY MAP
PORTSMOUTH
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Portsmouth Advocates Survey
shaded hatching =
arch./hist. significant

U-9

1983 Tax Assessor Map of Portsmouth

JUL 31 1934
JUL 3 1936



8/17 MARY THIERRY

ZONE: GENERAL RESIDENCE
PARCEL AREA: 10,410 SQ. FT.

NO. 2230
NO. 50051

8/13 CITY OF PORTSMOUTH