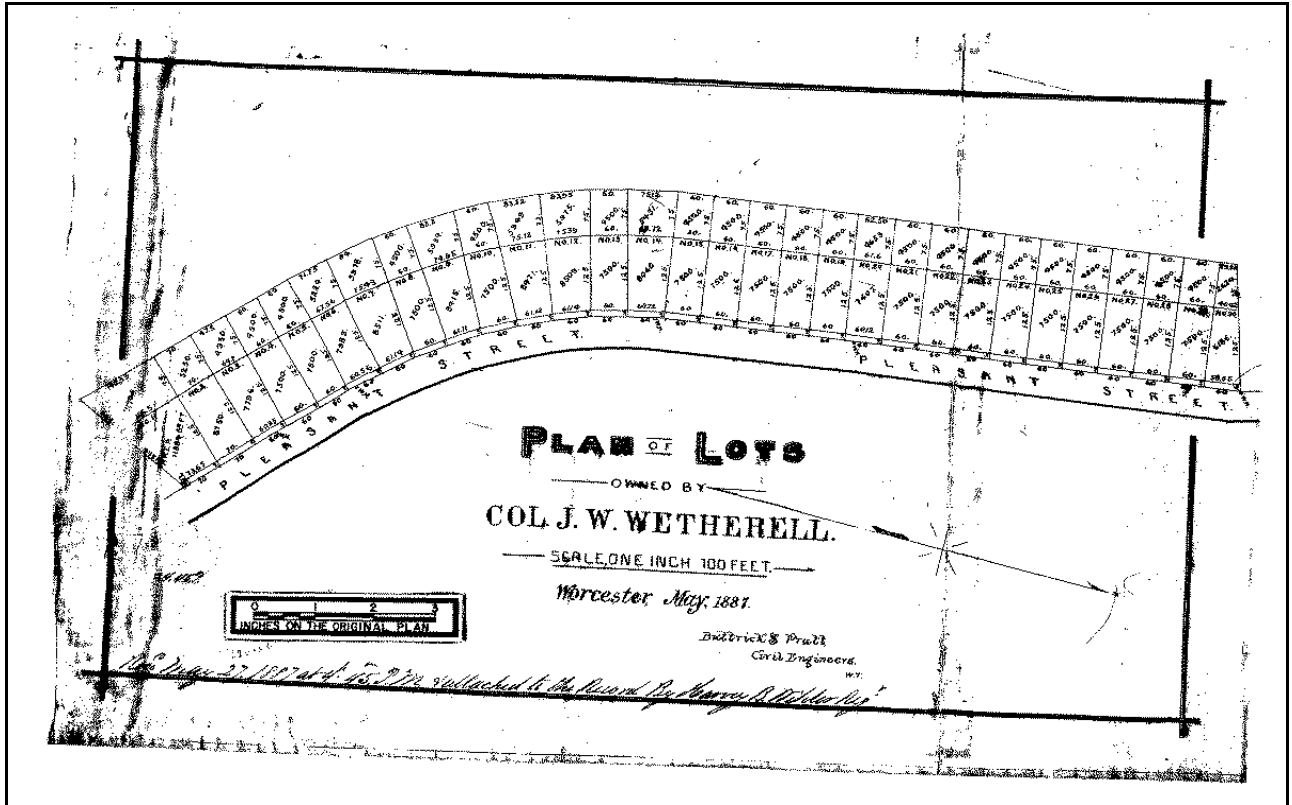


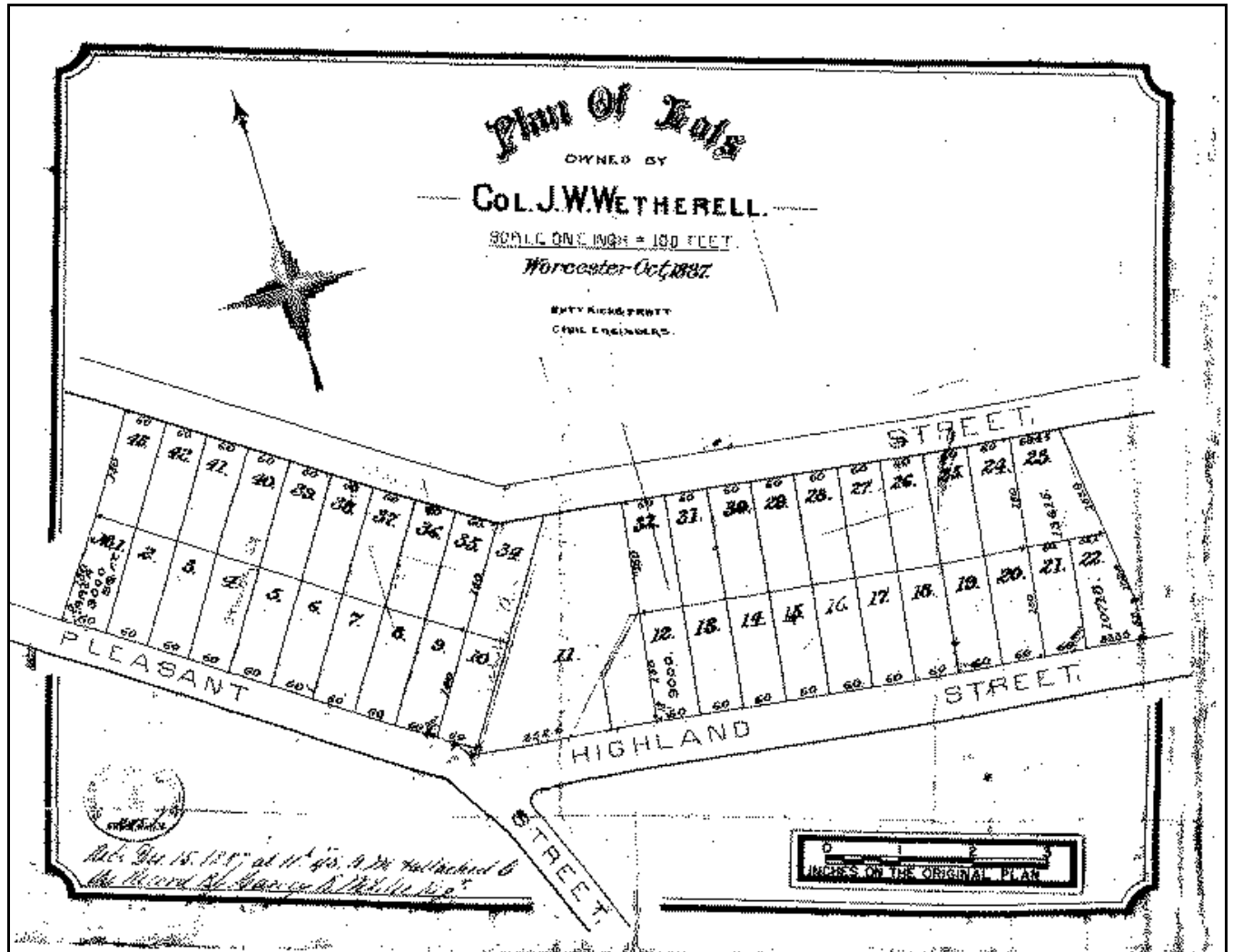
Subdivision Plan of J. W. Wetherell, No. 1235
Segment of Pleasant Street, May 1, 1887



Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 1235, Page 653, May-01-1887

Note: This plan abuts Plan No. 1276 at its north (right) end.

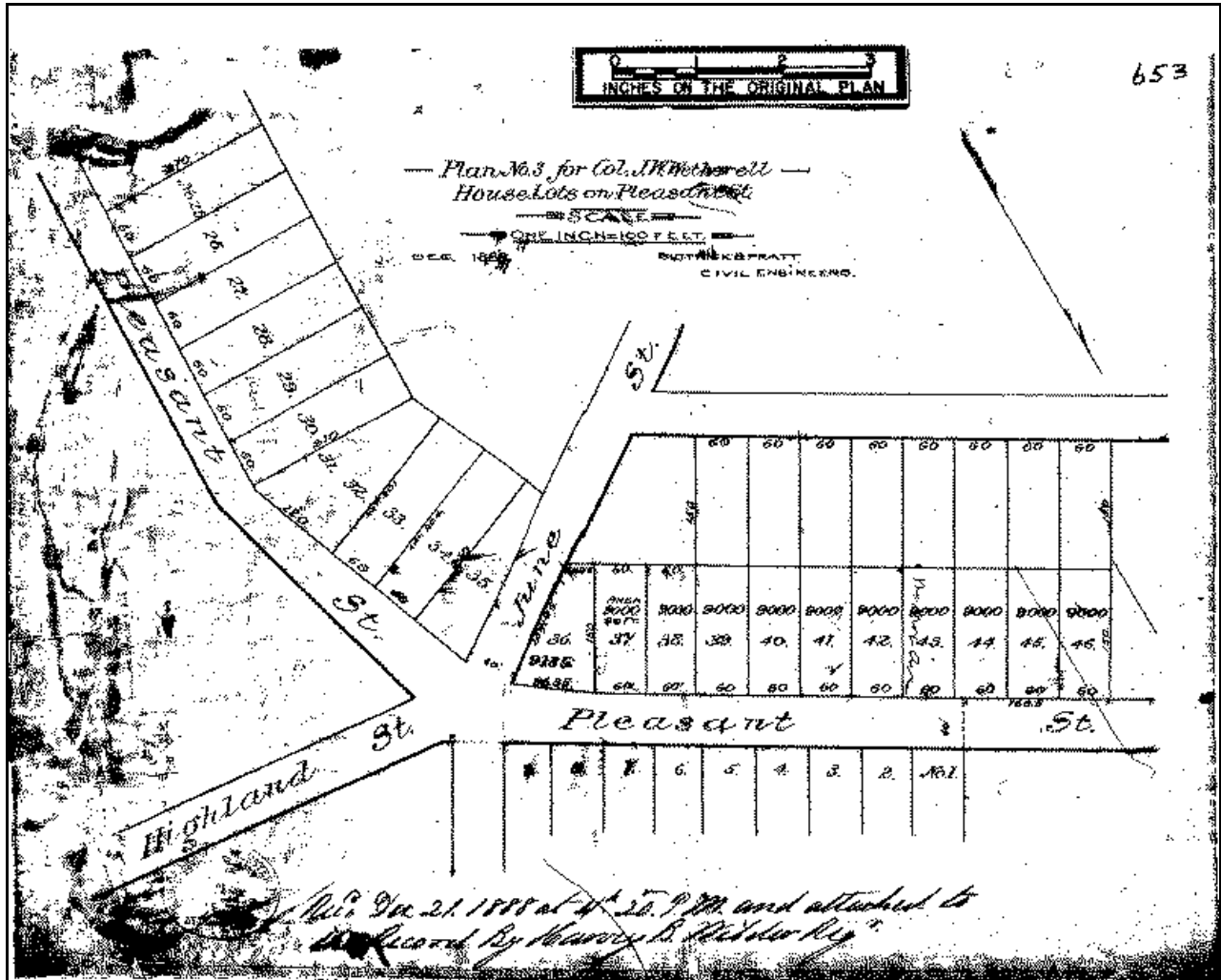
Subdivision Plan of J. W. Wetherell, No. 1247
Segment of June Street, October 1, 1888



Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 1247, Page 653, Oct-01-1888

Note: This plan abuts Plan No. 1276 on the south, or opposite, side of its Pleasant Street segment.

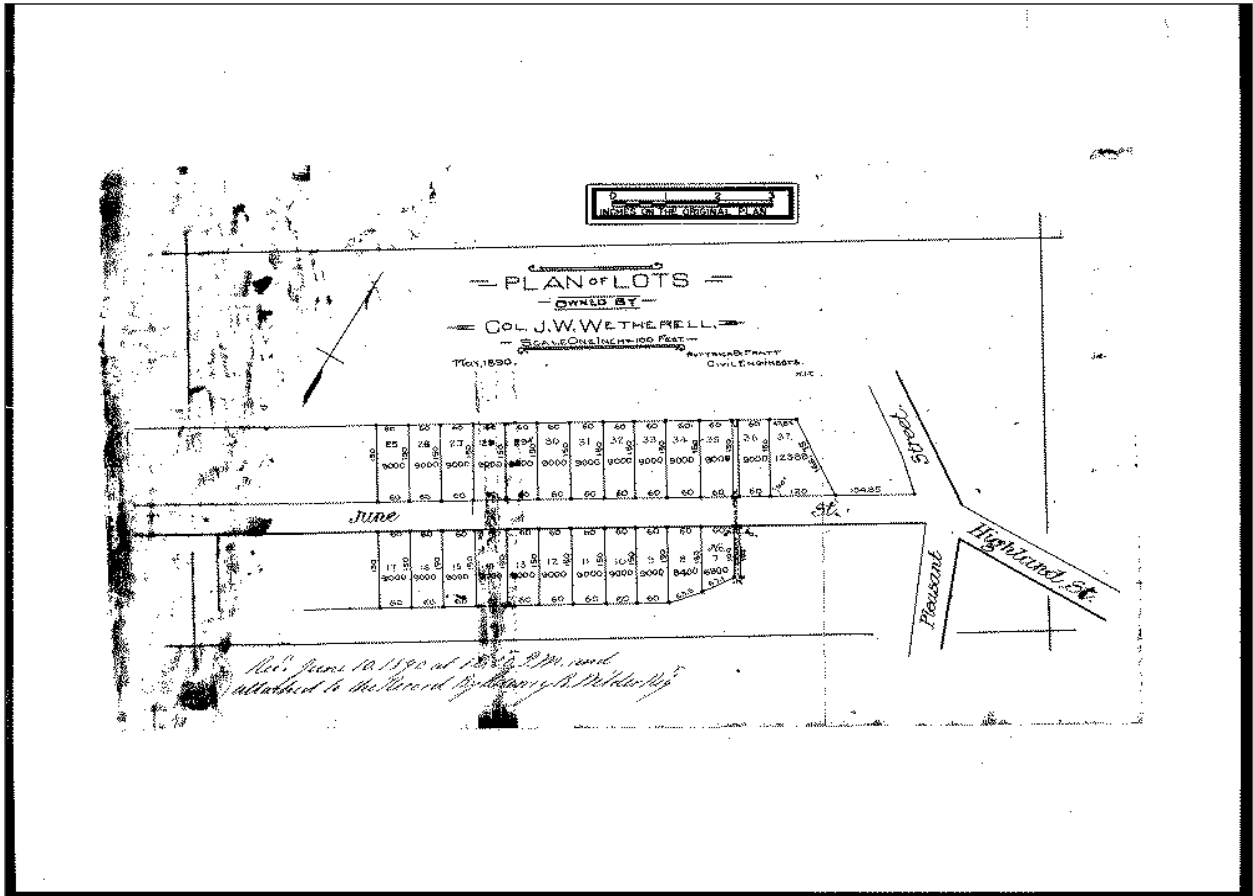
**Subdivision Plan of J. W. Wetherell, No. 1276
Two Segments of Pleasant Street, December 1, 1888**



Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 1276, Page 653, Dec-01-1888

Note: This plan abuts Plan No. 1235 on the south end of its Pleasant Street segment (upper portion); Plan No. 1320 on June Street; and Plan No. 1247 at both Highland and the northeast side of Pleasant Street at the intersection.

Subdivision Plan of J. W. Wetherell, No. 1320
Segment of June Street, May 1, 1890



Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 1320, Page 653, May-01-1890

Note: This plan abuts Plan No. 1276 at its east (right) end.

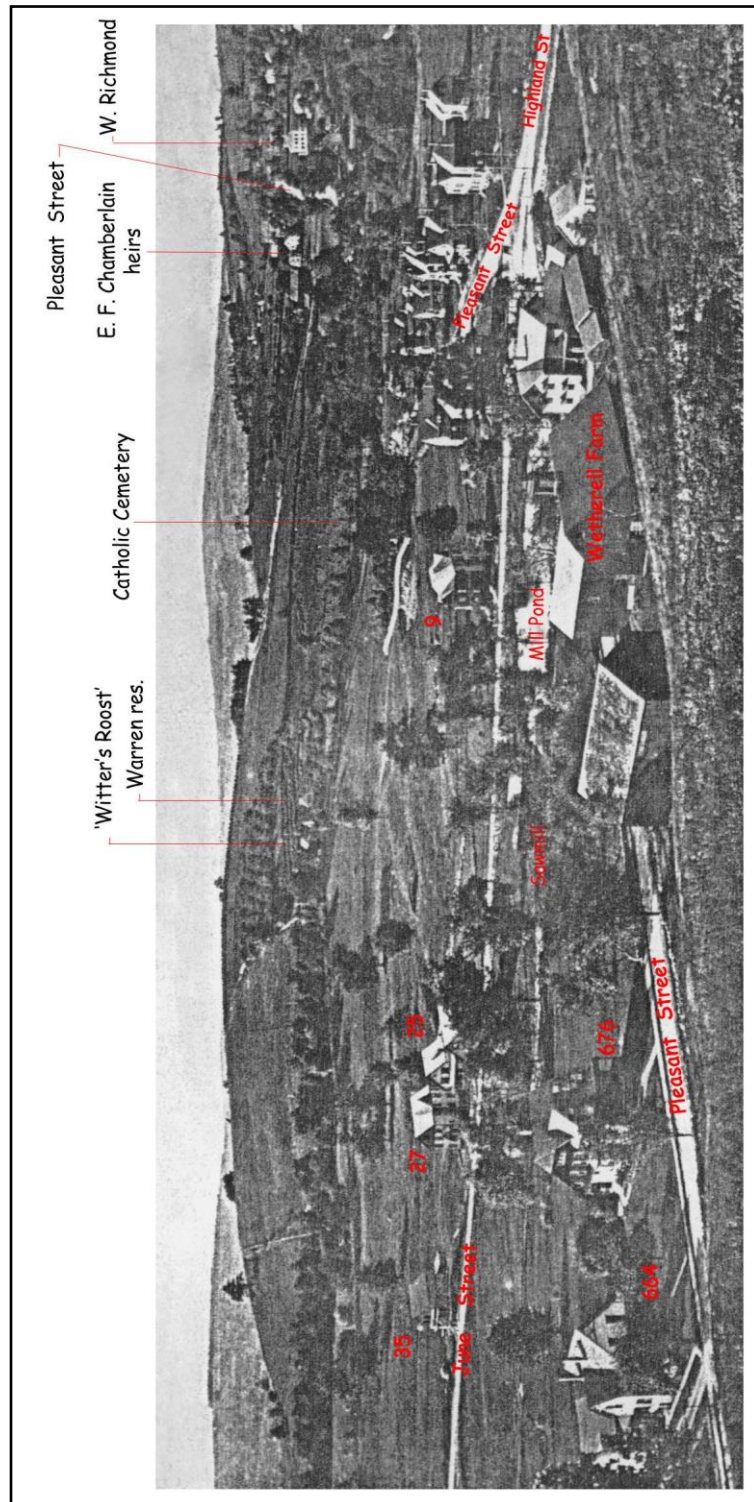
Richards Atlas of Worcester, 1896, Plate 27 (partial)



from photograph, courtesy of Worcester Public Library

View of Newton Square and Lenox from Newton Hill, 1891

(annotated by author)



Cover of *Worcester Magazine*, May, 1916

Worcester Telegram, October 4, 1897

COL JOHN W. WETHERELL

**Death of a Worthy Servant of
Country and State**

AIDE TO THE WAR GOVERNOR

**Best Years of His Life Given
to Work for the Union**

Col John W. Wetherell, for half a century a prominent citizen of Worcester, died at his residence, 2 State street, at 10.50 o'clock, Saturday evening, after a long illness. He was 76 years of age. The cause of death was Bright's disease. Col Wetherell had been practically confined to his house for a long time, and for three months had been unable to leave his bed. He left a widow, but no children. He was the last of three brothers, and the last of his house.

Col Wetherell was one of the best known residents of Worcester. Of late years his life had been a retired one. Before his sickness had taken hold of him to the extent of compelling him to cease work, he had gone to his office daily, but his active work was confined to the management of his estate. But while he did not seek society, he had warm friends who mourn his loss sincerely.

Col Wetherell was born in Oxford in 1820. His father, John Wetherell, was a prominent man in his town and was known and respected all over the county. His mother was Clarissa Sigourney, one of the well-known Oxford Sigourneys. After a few years in the village school, John W. Wetherell entered Leicester academy. He was then 12 years of age and he continued his studies at Leicester until he was fitted for Yale college, which he entered in 1840, and took his degree four years later, with the class of 1844. Determining to make law his profession he entered the Harvard law school, and later came to Worcester and went into the office of Judge Barton and Peter C. Bacon, who were then in partnership as Barton & Bacon. After being admitted to the bar, in 1846, Mr Wetherell entered into partnership with his younger brother, George, who had also been a student in Barton & Bacon's office. George died soon afterward

and the surviving member of the firm continued in practice alone. He was successful at the bar, but when the war broke out he was called away from his profession to devote very energy for the cause of his country and his state.

When John Andrew was elected to fill the executive chair of Massachusetts he picked Mr Wetherell as a member of his staff. In those days the staff of a governor of Massachusetts consisted of four officers only, called aides, and with rank of colonel. Gov Andrew's colonels found that they had work to do, and they did it. As everyone knows, the "War Governor" was indefatigable during the four years of his Administration - years corresponding to those of the rebellion - in successful endeavor that his state should send its full quota of men, and more, and that the men who went to fight should have every comfort possible for a State to give to those whom she has sent to battle. Gov Andrew was ably seconded by his staff, who became right-hand men as time went on. Their labor was ceaseless. Col Wetherell gave up his practice and every possible business interest to devote his time to the new duties. Every week day morning when in Worcester he went to Boston on the 7 o'clock train, and he never returned home until midnight. There was one gap of six weeks during which he was confined to his bed, worn out and sick, but after a single day of convalescence, a brief 24 hours out of bed, he shocked both his family and the Governor by going to Boston and resuming his duties. He declined to wait longer, because, as he put it, the four aides, had reduced the work to a system which made the absence of one the breaking up of the whole routine.

Gov Andrew repeatedly said that his aide from Worcester was of the greatest assistance to him. The

Governor relied upon him in the selection of officers for Worcester county regiments as they were organized. After the battle of Fredericksburg the Governor sent him to the front to look into the condition of the Massachusetts regiments and to provide for the better comfort of the men so far as was possible. And Col Wetherell always accompanied the Governor upon his trips to Washington and elsewhere.

During the war, the Wetherell mansion kept open house for the soldiers. Men gathered here to join their regiments, sometimes to wait for a day or two. As a rule they could ill afford to go to a hotel, for what means they had were left for the women and children of their families. There was no need of their spending money for hotel bills, if they knew Col Wetherell or his estimable wife.

Col Wetherell's patriotism was a true one. He devoted four of the best years of his life to unremitting toil for his country. He sacrificed his health; he never fully recovered from the strain put upon him for so long a time, and his friends believe that the seeds of the disease from which he died were sown in the overwork. His duty was in the organization at home, although it took him to the front as well; to see that the Massachusetts volunteers were what they should be in numbers and health, so far as he could. And there was a crowning triumph, as it has since been proved.

To Col Wetherell is due an appreciable portion of the credit of raising the famous regiment of colored troops which the brave Robert Shaw commanded. Even in Massachusetts, the home and hot-bed of abolition, the prejudice against the negro was so great that the suggestion of sending colored troops to fight side by side with white regiments was greeted with vigorous resentment. To equip a regiment funds were necessary, and the task seemed almost hopeless at first. Gov Andrew gave to Col Wetherell, whom he knew to be deeply interested in the project, a subscription paper and asked him to collect funds if he could. The Colonel went to work with a will, and a handsome sum was the result. And the largest subscriber was E. A. Goodnow of Worcester. It was a deep regret of Col Wetherell's last days that he could not attend the exercises of dedication of the Shaw Memorial at Boston, and few men would have been more worthy spectators.

When the war was at an end and Gov Andrew's last term expired, Col Wetherell returned to the quiet of civic life. He did not seek especially to renew his law practice, although he retained an office until recently. The care of his estate and that of Mrs Wetherell required his time. Although a quiet man, and not seeking society, he was a pleasant companion and a charming host. His manner of greeting, his care of his guests were those of the old school of gentlemen. He had a fund of anecdote and told

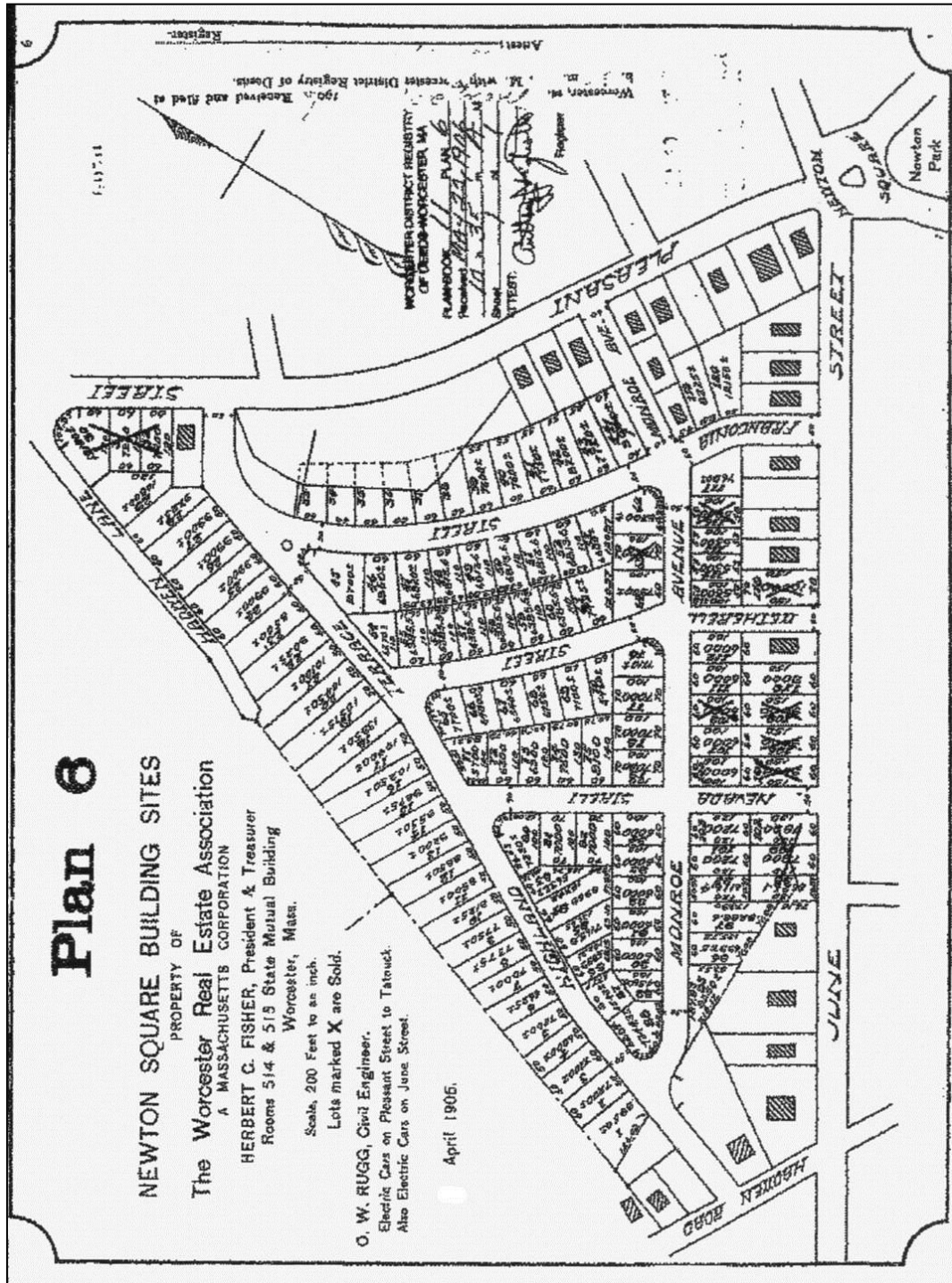
his stories well. Personally he was a striking figure, tall and broad, and, until old age came, straight and strong.

Col Wetherell's estate included the farm, owned jointly with Mrs Wetherell, at what is now called Newton square. Mrs Wetherell is the daughter of the late Maj Rejoice Newton, for whom Newton hill and the square were named. The hill was sold to the city, and as the area included the farm buildings a reservation was inserted in the deed which gives to Mr and Mrs Wetherell the privilege of retaining the use of the farmhouse and barns for a time. Much of the neighborhood of Newton square was comprised in the farm, and Col Wetherell so disposed of it that no disfiguring buildings have been erected, and the result is one of the most desirable localities in Worcester, with a nucleus of other neighborhoods, which are gradually becoming one with it.

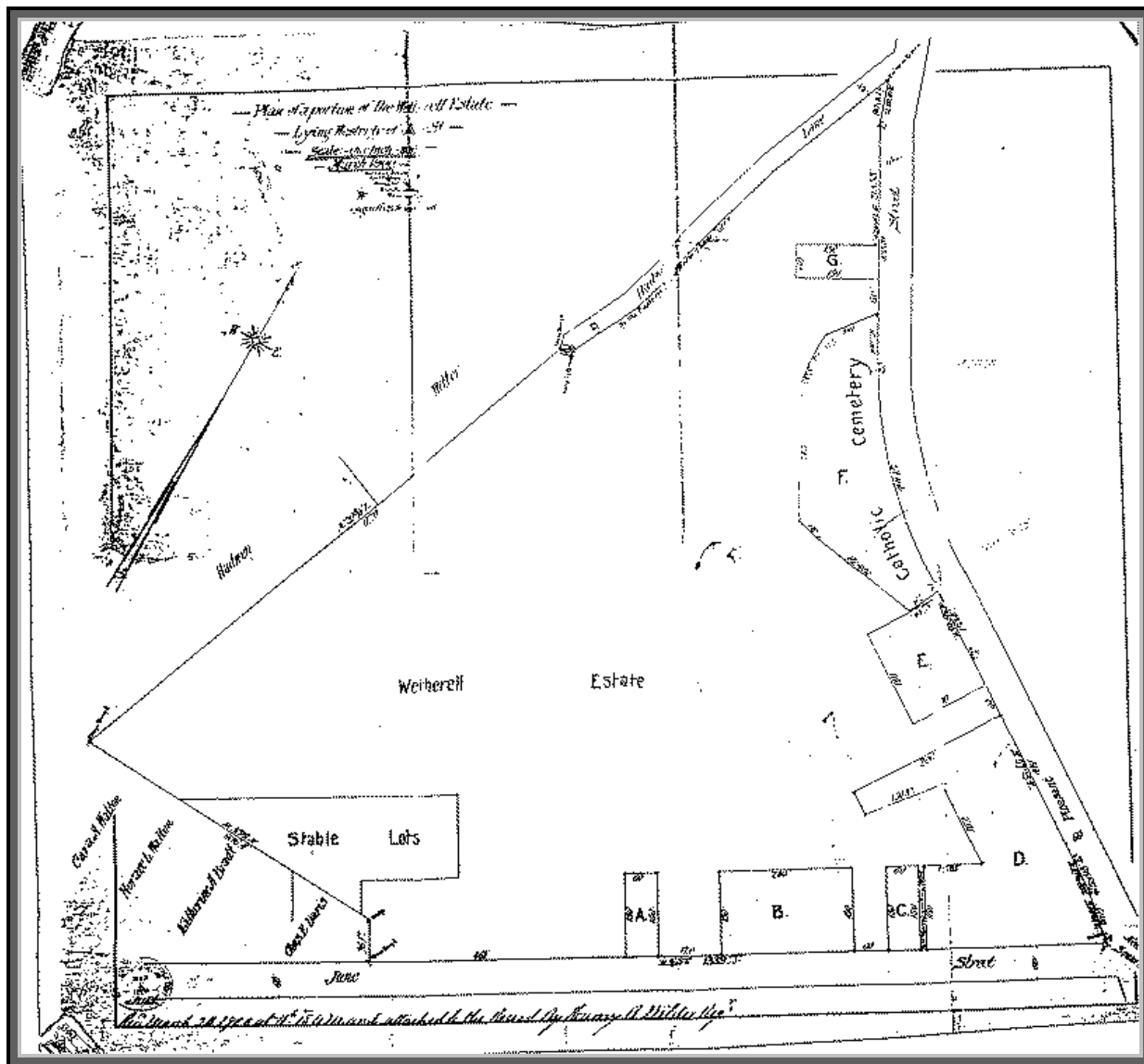
Col Wetherell had always been a staunch Republican. During the campaigns just before the war he was prominent as a campaign speaker. He had held several offices, in the House of Representatives, as president of the common council in 1859, and in the school board in 1853. He was a trustee of the Worcester County Institution for Savings, one of the board of advisers of the Children's Friend society, and president of the Bay State house corporation. He was a Mason and a member of Morning Star lodge. He was a Unitarian, and was at one time president of the conference for this district. The funeral will be held from the State street residence on Court hill, on Tuesday afternoon, at 3 o'clock.

Plan of Newton Square

Worcester Real Estate Associates, April, 1906



Supplement 2-K
(continued)



Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 1634, Page 653, Mar-01-1900

Richards Atlas of Worcester, 1896, Plate 28 (partial)



Richards Atlas of Worcester, 1896, Plate 28 (partial), via photograph, courtesy of Worcester Public Library

courtesy of Worcester Public Library
(photograph by author)