

WATERBURY

THE JACKSON STREET NEIGHBORHOOD

Archaeology of the "Dog's Nest"
Waterbury, Connecticut



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INTRODUCTION—Discovering the “Dog’s Nest” Neighborhood

Beneath Waterbury’s Jackson Street and the adjacent lots, lie the foundations of houses belonging to a lost neighborhood, erased from the landscape over one hundred years ago. Archaeologists rediscovered it in 2015, offering a glimpse into the city’s past, when Irish and Italian immigrants built their lives here. In some of the historic records, the neighborhood was referred to as the “Dog’s Nest.”

Discovery of a historic archaeological site starts with paper records that can be found in libraries, archives, and increasingly on the internet: documents such as maps, land deeds, censuses, and city directories. Historic maps often provide archaeologists with their initial information about the built environment of the past.

But maps can mislead: the Jackson Street neighborhood was not shown on maps of Waterbury until 1868, but land records and city directories prove that homes had been built here by the beginning of the 1850s. By the time of the 1900 federal census, there were 22 houses, and 363 people lived in the Dog’s Nest. Soon though, between 1904 and

1911, all of the houses would be demolished as the railroad and nearby gas works expanded and bought up the land. No physical trace of the once-vibrant neighborhood of first and second generation Irish and Italian immigrants remained on the landscape.

The first buried foundations were discovered in 2015, when archaeologists hired by the City of Waterbury excavated small test trenches along the side of Jackson Street, which was slated for reconstruction as part of the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence (W.A.T.E.R.) Project. Many more foundations were unearthed in 2017, when the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) sponsored archaeological testing at the adjacent site of a temporary bypass for the Route 8/I-84 Interchange Rehabilitation Project.

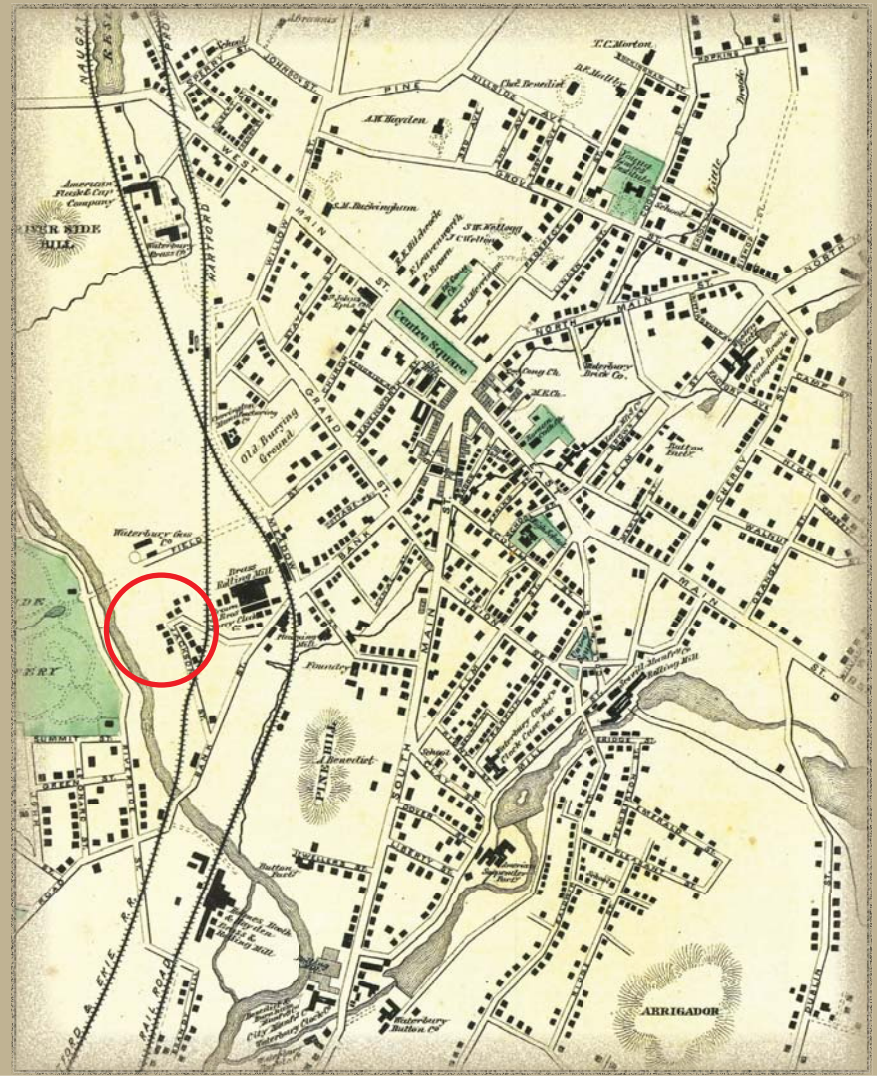
By then, as they carefully recorded the buried remains of individual houses, the researchers had amassed a good deal of information about the people who once lived in them.



EARLY MAPS



WHEN THIS MAP OF WATERBURY WAS MADE IN 1856, JACKSON STREET ALREADY EXISTED AND THERE HAD BEEN HOUSES ON IT FOR SEVERAL YEARS, BUT IT WAS SHOWN AS VACANT LAND ON THIS DOCUMENT (RED CIRCLE). H. & C.T. Smith. *Map of New Haven County, Connecticut*. Philadelphia: Published by H & C.T. Smith, 1856.



BY 1868, MAPS BEGAN TO SHOW THE JACKSON STREET NEIGHBORHOOD. BY THAT TIME THERE WERE AT LEAST 13 HOMES HERE. F.W. Beers. *Plan of the City of Waterbury, New Haven Co., Conn.* New York: Published by Beers Ellis & Soule, 1868.



THE SETTING

The Jackson Street neighborhood was in an undesirable location, despite the rather bucolic, overly spacious depiction on this 1876 birds-eye view. The small residential enclave became increasingly isolated over time, tucked away behind enormous Bank Street factories, cut off by the tracks of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, and next-door to the coal gasification plant of the Waterbury Gas Light Company.

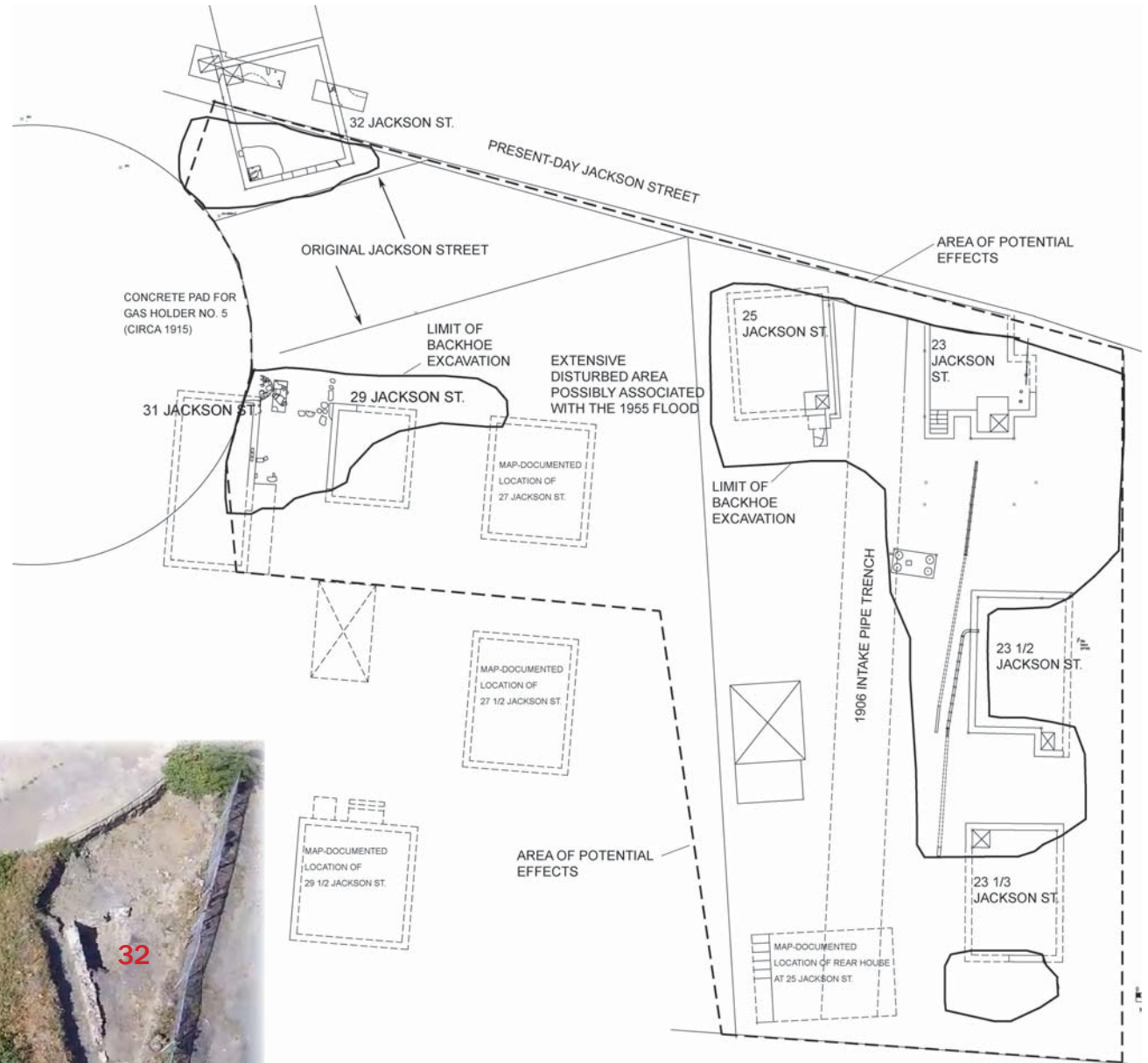
THE VIEW IS TO THE SOUTH IN THIS 1876 PANORAMA OF WATERBURY.
View of the City of Waterbury Connecticut. Boston: O.H. Bailey & Company, 1876.



ARCHAEOLOGISTS WITH BACKHOE REMOVING FILL TO EXPOSE HOUSE FOUNDATIONS. THE NAUGATUCK RIVER AND ROUTE 8 ARE IN THE BACKGROUND.



AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING EXPOSED PORTIONS OF FOUNDATIONS AT NUMBERS 29, 31, AND 32 JACKSON STREET NEXT TO THE CONCRETE GAS HOLDER PAD. THE VEGETATION-COVERED SPACE IN THE MIDDLE WAS NOT EXCAVATED BECAUSE IT IS WITHIN THE ORIGINAL ALIGNMENT OF JACKSON STREET. PRESENT-DAY JACKSON STREET IS AT RIGHT.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE PLAN SHOWING AREAS EXCAVATED AND HOUSE FOOTPRINTS BASED ON FIELDWORK FINDINGS AND AS EXTRAPOLATED FROM MAPS. THE REAR HOUSE AT NUMBER 29 WAS OUTSIDE THE IMPACT AREA, AND NUMBER 27 WAS PARTIALLY OBLITERATED BY PRIOR IMPACTS AND PARTIALLY WITHIN A CONTAMINATED AREA THAT COULD NOT BE TESTED BY ARCHAEOLOGISTS.

A SMALL RIOT IN JACKSON STREET

This local news item appeared in the *Waterbury Democrat* on May 20, 1896. John McNamara owned number 25 Jackson Street and had recently built a rental house at the rear of his lot near the river. The episode illustrates relations between second-generation Irish owners and their tenants from Italy, difficulties communicating, struggles over space resulting from the large and sudden influx of immigrants—and residents' concerns about the neighborhood's name and reputation.

There was a small riot in Jackson street yesterday afternoon which furnished considerable amusement for a large number of spectators and was fought with great bitterness on both sides for over an hour In the forenoon an Italian family moved out of John McNamara's house and a few hours later another family of Italians started to move into the tenement without saying anything about it to the landlord. The door was locked and the new comers raised a window and had about half their traps on the inside when Mr McNamara appeared on the scene and demanded an explanation. He got but very little satisfaction and finally opened the door and started to fire what things they had moved in out onto the street. The Italians kept putting them back and this was kept up amid a volley of mutterings of contempt until the fellows on the outside began to see that if they continued much longer their furniture would be fit for nothing but kindling wood and they withdrew the siege vowing vengeance upon McNamara. The house was rented by another party, who intend to move to the place in a few days and the landlord is of the opinion that some of his neighbors put up a joke on him by renting the building in his absence. The family that left there got out of the place, Mr McNamara says, because they did not want to have it said that any of their children were born in 'The Dog's Nest.' They were ragpickers and kept a boarding house for peddlers and the remark almost drove the owner of the house out of his wits.

AN ITALIAN Foothold

Beginning in the 1890s, the Jackson Street neighborhood changed along with the nation as a whole as immigration from southern and eastern Europe skyrocketed. Italians outnumbered all other foreign-born nationalities in Waterbury by 1910.

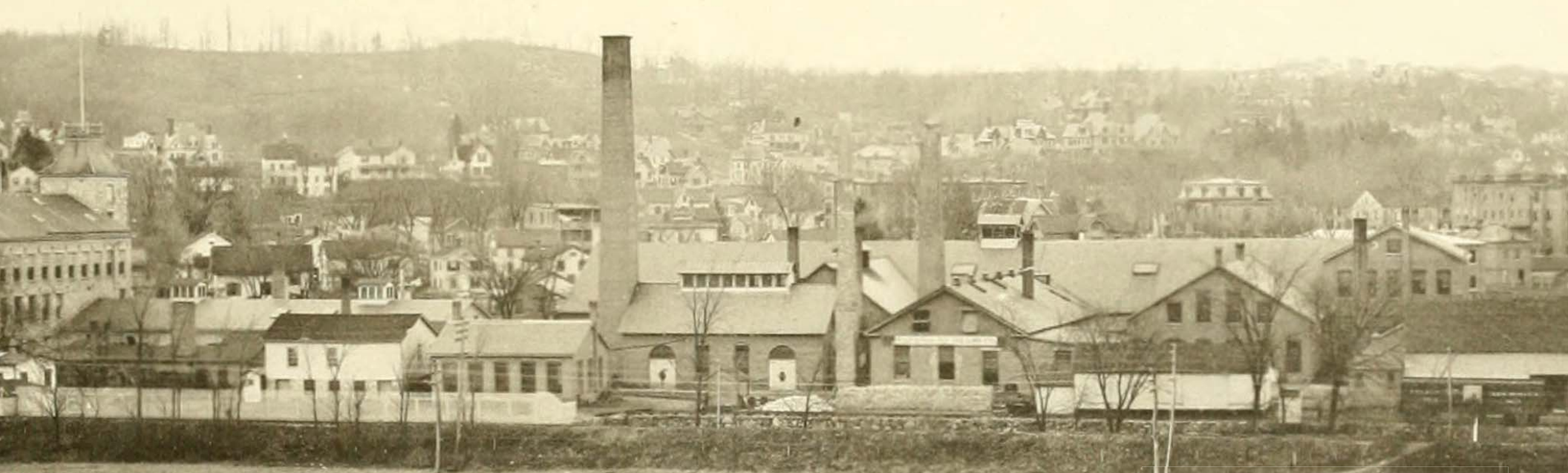
WATERBURY'S FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION: 1890—1910			
Place of Birth	1890	1900	1910
Ireland	5,402	5,866	5,838
Canada	1,362	2,266	1,901
Germany	887	1,195	1,433
England	692	938	1,175
Italy	308	2,007	6,567
Poland	N/A	277	N/A
Russia	N/A	1,265	5,600

Adapted from *Brass Valley: The Story of Working People's Lives and Struggles in an American Industrial Region*. Jeremy Brecher, Jerry Lombardi, and Jan Stackhouse, Brass Workers History Project, Temple University Press, 1982.



ITALIAN IMMIGRANTS ATTENDING AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASS, CIRCA 1900. Courtesy of Archives & Special Collections of the University of Connecticut Library.

WORKERS IN THE INDUSTRIAL CITY



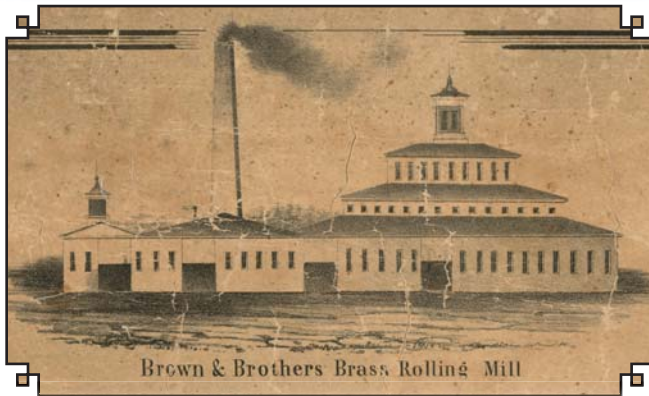
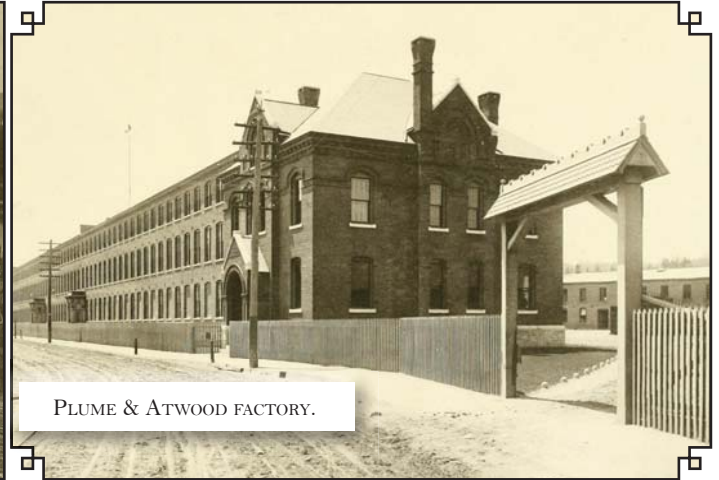
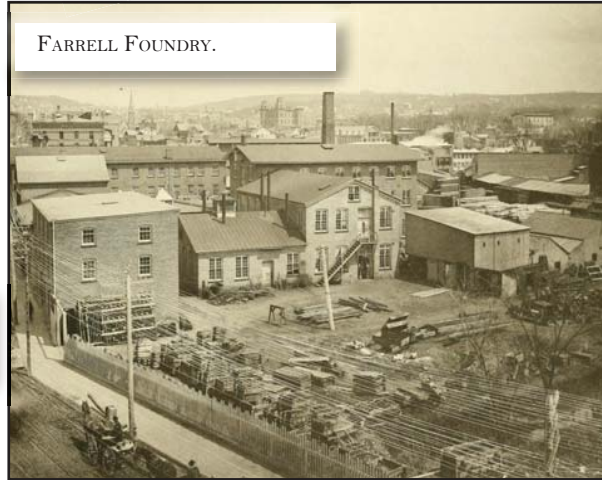
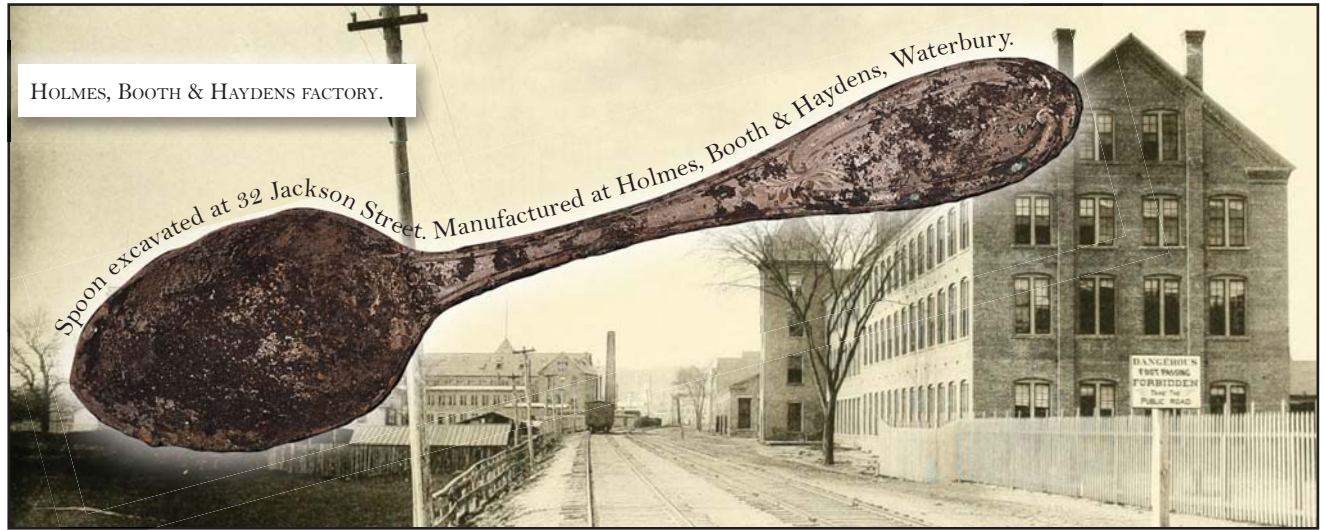
WATERBURY BRASS COMPANY FACTORY.

The Dog's Nest was a working-class neighborhood. Most of the men who lived here were day laborers or factory operatives. They helped fill the huge demand for labor at Waterbury's famous brass and metalware factories like Scovill; Holmes, Booth and Hayden; Benedict and Burnham; Waterbury Brass; American Pin; and the Farrell Foundry, but they also worked at the nearby gas works, in construction, and for the railroad. Michael Collins, at number 32, turned entrepreneur, building a bottling factory at the rear of his lot. By 1900, the growing city offered other opportunities too, with Jackson Street men listing jobs such as shoemaker, bicycle repairman, and grocer.

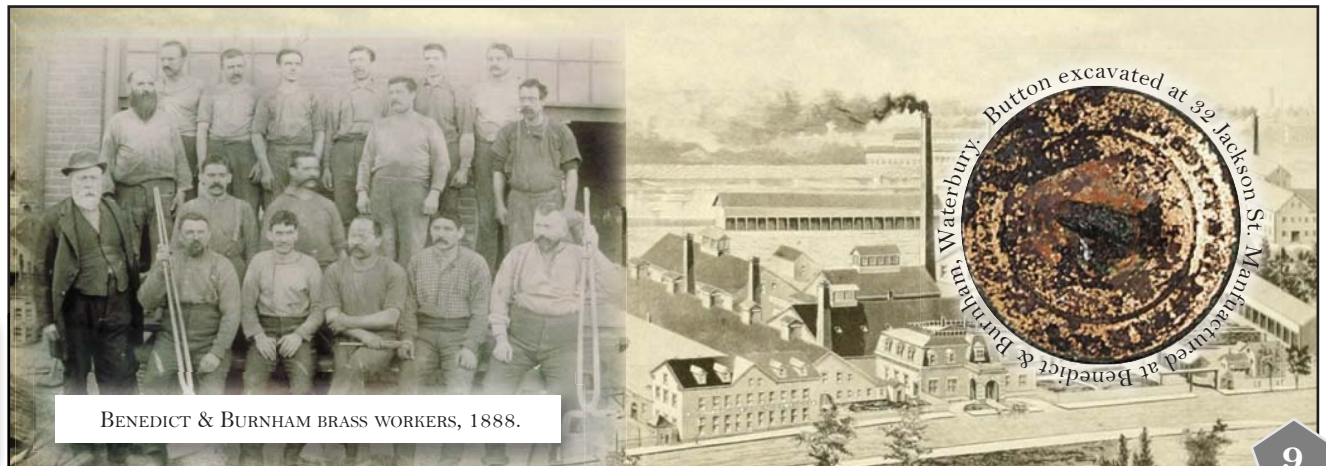
Married women on Jackson Street apparently did not typically work outside the home: censuses simply recorded them as "keeping house." Older girls and boys, as well as unmarried women, went out to work in the mills and factories along with the men, their wages contributing to the household's finances.

Cooke, Nathan, h. Grove n. Cooke.
 Cooke, W. H., clerk, h. Grove n. Cooke.
Cooke, R. W., restaurant, h. Bank below Grand.
 Cook, A. B., clerk, E. T. T., h. S. Main n. S. Grand.
 Cook & Parsons, carps., S. Main n. Grand.
 Cook, E. L., Cook & Parsons, h. Elm n. N. Main.
 Cook, James, emp. Sil. Man. Co., h. Hill.
 Cook, J. O., dentist, h. W. Main n. Elm.
 Cook, Miss Mary, b. Mrs. H. P. Peck.
Cook, Patrick, lab., H. B. & H., h. Jackson.
 Cook, W. H., clerk, M. Platt, h. Grove.
 Cook, —, clerk, b. Johnson's dining rooms.
 Coomer, Wm., gardener, h. Cherry.
 Coan, E. C., emp. B. & B. M'fg Co., b. Clay.
 Coan, Mrs. Mary, widow, h. Hopkins.
 Coan, —, S. Main, S. Liberty.
Coragan, M., emp. W, Brass Co., bds. Jackson.
 Corden, Henry, h. Wall.
 Corfield, John, emp. B. & Bro's, bds. River.
Corklan, John, emp. Gas Works, h. Jackson.
 Corklan, Patrick, emp. Am. F. & C. Co., h. River.
 Corklin, J., emp. R. Bro's, h. Pemberton.
 Corrigan, M., h. E. Main, n. Cherry.
 Corvill, N., cl'k. Scovill House Billiard Room, bds.
 Cosgrove, Wm., emp. R. Bro's, h. Niagara.
 Cotter, Wm., h. —.
 Cottle, —.
 C...

PAGE FROM 1871 CITY DIRECTORY, LISTING JACKSON STREET RESIDENTS WORKING AT HOLMES, BOOTH, & HAYDENS, WATERBURY BRASS, AND THE GAS WORKS.



THE BROWN & BROTHERS FACTORY WAS BUILT IN 1851, IMMEDIATELY ACROSS THE RAILROAD TRACKS FROM THE FIRST HOMES BUILT IN THE DOG'S NEST. A NUMBER OF RESIDENTS WORKED HERE. *Detail from H. Irvine, Map of the City of Waterbury, published by Richard Clark, Philadelphia, 1852.*



BENEDICT & BURNHAM BRASS WORKERS, 1888.

HOUSEHOLDS OF THE DOG'S NEST

A house could contain one or more households, and a household could include immediate family, relatives, and boarders. Most houses on Jackson Street were multi-family homes, either by design or because over time, they were subdivided to accommodate increasing numbers of occupants. Numbers 23 and 32 Jackson Street illustrate changing household configurations.

23 JACKSON STREET ~ THE KELLY HOUSES

The Kellys, railroad-worker Thomas and his wife Margaret, bought their house at number 23 in 1876. Margaret was a widow from the neighborhood when she married Thomas; she and her first husband had lived nearby at number 36. Her daughter Anna, at school, lived with the Kellys, and they rented their extra space to tenants — single men who typically worked at local factories or for the railroad. Within ten years, the Kellys' savings, along with \$1,300 borrowed against their first house, enabled them to build two more houses on their property. They moved into the new middle house and rented out the older house at the front, and the other new house, at the far rear.

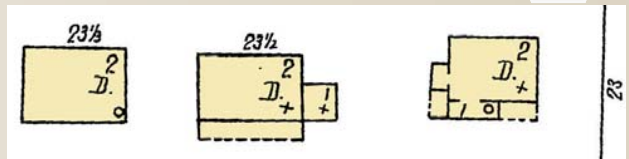
In 1900, two Italian families lived in the front house: the Colesanti household included Domenico and Giuseppa, both 27, their four small children and four boarders. The Aldorisi family included 42-year-old Generoso, his wife Pasquelina, a school-age son, and a married daughter and son-in-law. In the house at the back of the lot lived the Dilorio family: Antonio, his wife Giacinta, their seven children, a mother-in-law, and two Italian boarders; and the Duomo family: Pietro and his wife Maria, with their toddler, a brother- and sister-in-law, and five boarders. Occupations of the Italian heads of household were surprisingly diverse: Pietro Duomo was a day laborer, Domenico Colesanti was a bicycle repairman, Generoso Aldorisi was a stone cutter, and the Dilorios were shoemakers.



THIS LOT ON SOUTH MAIN STREET IN WATERBURY HAS FRONT AND REAR HOUSES STILL STANDING. THOUGH ALTERED, THEY ARE FROM THE SAME TIME PERIOD AS THE 23 JACKSON STREET HOMES.



THIS AERIAL VIEW SHOWS EXPOSED FOUNDATIONS OF ALL THREE KELLY HOUSES. JACKSON STREET IS AT RIGHT.



DETAIL FROM 1901 MAP. *Sanborn-Perris Map Co., 1901.*



THE FIRST HOUSE OWNED BY THE KELLYS AT 23 JACKSON STREET WAS AT THE FRONT OF THE LOT. STEPS AT THE BACK OF THE HOUSE LED TO THE BASEMENT.

NAME of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Exclude every person living on June 1, 1900. Omit children born since June 1, 1900.	RELATION. Relationship of each person to the head of the family. Color or race.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.									NATIVITY.			CITIZENSHIP.			OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION of each person TEN YEARS OF AGE AND OVER.	
		Sex.	DATE OF BIRTH.		Age in last birthday.	Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced.	Number of times married.	Number of how many children.	Number of foreign-born living.	Place of birth of this parent.	Place of birth of father of this person.	Place of birth of mother of this person.	Year of immigration to the United States.	Number of years in the United States.	Naturalized.	Occupation.	Number of years.	
			Month.	Year.														
13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Colesanti, Domenico	Head	M.	M.	May	1873	27	M.	10		Italy	Italy	Italy	1891	9		Briggle repairs	4	
—, Giuseppe	Wife	W.	F.	Dec	1872	27	M.	10	4	Italy	Italy	Italy	1891	9				
—, Maria A.	Daughter	W.	F.	Aug	1892	7	S.			New York	Italy	Italy				At school		
—, Tessa	Daughter	W.	F.	Feb	1894	6	S.			New York	Italy	Italy						
—, Thomas	Son	M.	M.	Oct	1896	3	S.			Italy	Italy	Italy						
—, Michele	Son	M.	M.	June	1899	11/2	S.			Connecticut	Italy	Italy						
Fariello, Francesco	Boarder	M.	M.	Nov	1873	27	M.	9		Italy	Italy	Italy	1898	2	Al	Shoemaker	0	
Fariello, Antonio	Boarder	M.	M.	Nov	1877	22	S.			Italy	Italy	Italy	1900	0	Al	Brass molder	0	
—, Nicola	Boarder	M.	M.	Sept	1873	26	S.			Italy	Italy	Italy	1899	1	Al	Brass molder	1	
—, Angelo	Boarder	M.	M.	Mar	1876	24	S.			Italy	Italy	Italy	1899	1	Al	Brass molder	2	
Aldorio, Barbara	Head	W.	W.	July	1857	42	W.	20		Italy	Italy	Italy	1893	7	Na	Stone cutter	6	
—, Pasquina	Wife	W.	F.	Oct	1859	40	W.	50	3	Italy	Italy	Italy	1899	1				
—, Luigi	Son	M.	M.	Apr	1888	12	S.			Italy	Italy	Italy	1899	1		At school		
Cipriano, Filomena	Daughter	W.	F.	Jan	1882	18	W.	0	0	Italy	Italy	Italy	1899	1				
—, Rocco	Son-in-law	M.	M.	Oct	1881	19	M.	0	0	Italy	Italy	Italy	1892	8		Brass factory (helper)	2	

DETAIL FROM THE US CENSUS OF 1900 SHOWING OCCUPANTS OF THE FRONT HOUSE AT 23 JACKSON STREET.



IMMIGRANT FAMILIES SENT THEIR YOUNGER CHILDREN TO WATERBURY'S SCHOOLS. CIRCA 1900.
Collection of the Mattatuck Museum Arts & History Center, Waterbury, Connecticut.

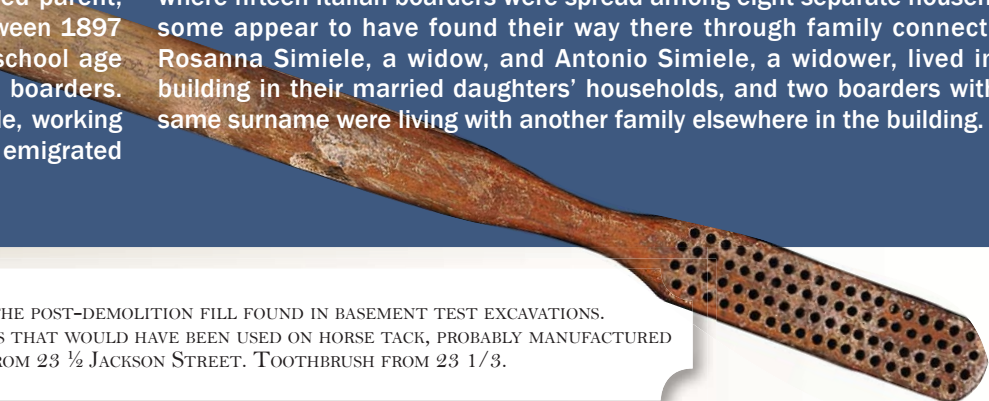
BOARDING ON JACKSON STREET — A SNAPSHOT FROM 1900

Boarders were typically unrelated to the families they lived with, and received meals as well as lodging. Tenant households took in boarders even when their own living space was tight, as a way to make extra money. Younger couples, for instance, whose children were too young to earn wages, often took in boarders to help make ends meet. At number 32, the new parents Antonio and Inoronata Cipriano took in three boarders — day laborers Domenico Fariello and Joseph Petito, and Salvatore Fasano, a brass worker. The Velerios, also at number 32, had a four-month old, a widowed parent, and five boarders, all day laborers who had arrived from Italy between 1897 and 1900. The DiLorio at number 23, with seven children all school age or younger, plus Mrs. DiLorio's mother, still made room for two boarders. Boarding provided housing for newly arrived immigrants and single, working men. In 1900, almost all of the boarders on Jackson Street had emigrated

from Italy in the 1890s, and had low-paying jobs as day laborers, or were skilled and unskilled factory operatives. Several people from one family sometimes emigrated together or in succession, and sought lodgings together. At 23 Jackson Street, the boarders living with the Colesanti family included three Fariello brothers who had recently arrived from Italy—all brass molders. The Duomo family also counted two brothers, Antonio and Michele Iapalucci, among their five boarders. In the large tenant house at number 32, where fifteen Italian boarders were spread among eight separate households, some appear to have found their way there through family connections. Rosanna Simiele, a widow, and Antonio Simiele, a widower, lived in the building in their married daughters' households, and two boarders with the same surname were living with another family elsewhere in the building.



ARTIFACTS FROM THE POST-DEMOLITION FILL FOUND IN BASEMENT TEST EXCAVATIONS. COPPER-ALLOY BELLS THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN USED ON HORSE TACK, PROBABLY MANUFACTURED IN WATERBURY, FROM 23 1/2 JACKSON STREET. TOOTHBRUSH FROM 23 1/3.



HOUSEHOLDS OF THE DOG'S NEST (cont'd)

32 JACKSON STREET ~ THE COLLINS HOUSE

One of the first houses built on Jackson Street went up sometime between 1851 and 1853 at what would become number 32. The owners were Michael and Mary Collins, who had emigrated from Ireland during the famine with their two young children and had a baby born in Connecticut. By 1860, they had added four more children to their family and they would have two more children in the 1860s, for a total of nine. The Collinses had no less than 16 boarders in 1860, mostly factory workers and day laborers, mostly from Ireland. Even though Michael listed his occupation as day laborer, the family had the distinction of being the wealthiest in the neighborhood at that time, their real estate worth \$2,000 and their personal estate worth \$1,000.

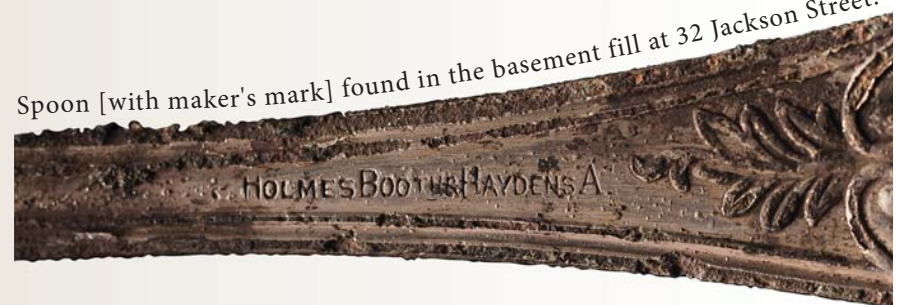
By the time the Collins house showed up on detailed maps, it was depicted as a large structure measuring 26' wide by 63' long. But it was actually two buildings with abutting walls, and an insurance map of 1890 indicates that there was no interior opening between the sections. It is possible the Collinses built the rear section of the house sometime before 1860 as essentially a boarding house. Each section of the house had its own first-floor and basement entrances.

The Collins family had only nine boarders listed in their own household in the 1870 census, but they were renting out part of the house to two other families. Most of the boarders were single Irish men in their 20s, but three members of the Hines family also boarded with the Collinses, 50-year-old John, William (10), and Nelly (7). Hines may have been a widower, and boarding solved a real problem — Mrs. Collins would have prepared meals for him and the children. The two tenant families who lived at 32 Jackson in 1870 were Patrick and Marcella Garity, a middle-aged couple with six children, three of them old enough to work, including Ellen (18) and Mary (16) who were factory girls; and the McBrides: Michael, his wife Bridget, and their toddler. The configuration of household space within the double house is unknown; possibly the Collins family and their boarders shared the front section and the tenant families the rear.

Collins Michael	53	M	Ir	At Home	None	
Mary	40	F	Ir	Washing	None	
John	23	M	Ir	Street Sweeper		
Mary	19	F	Ir	At Home		Connecticut
Margaret	15	F	Ir			
William	14	M	Ir			
Eugene	11	M	Ir			
Michael	9	M	Ir			
Henry	5	M	Ir			
Nelly	2	F	Ir			
Nancy Sullivan	10	M	Ir			
W Longfin Palfrey	24	M	Ir	House Painter		Ireland
W Danielson	23	M	Ir	App Stone Mill		
Nancy Hines	50	M	Ir	Stamper		
Donna James	21	M	Ir			Connecticut
Daly Michael	51	M	Ir	Water at P. B. Dept		Ireland
Collesman Daniel	25	M	Ir	Days Work		
Sydney Andrew	21	M	Ir			
Nancy Apple	7	F	Ir	At Home		Connecticut

DETAIL FROM US CENSUS OF 1870 SHOWING THE LISTING FOR THE COLLINS FAMILY AND THEIR BOARDERS WITH OCCUPATIONS AND COUNTRY OF BIRTH. MICHAEL COLLINS DID NOT GIVE AN OCCUPATION, AND MAY HAVE BEEN AN INVALID; IN THE 1880 CENSUS HE WOULD BE LISTED AS SUFFERING FROM PARALYSIS.

Spoon [with maker's mark] found in the basement fill at 32 Jackson Street.



In the early 1880s, Michael Collins Jr. bought his siblings' share in the property at 32 Jackson and established a bottling works and a saloon there, using a large rear barn. The business venture was short-lived: in 1882 Collins relocated, sold the bottling equipment, and sold off the family property to Michael Mack Jr. (who owned the house across the street at number 25). When Mack died the following year, 32 Jackson went to his heirs. Tenants occupied the large double house throughout its remaining years, at first mainly Irish but

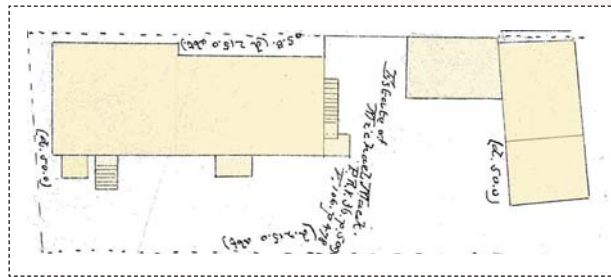


increasingly Italian beginning by the end of the 1880s. At the time of the 1900 census, eight tenant families, four with additional boarders — a total of 48 people — lived at 32 Jackson Street. All but the youngest children had been born in Italy. The men were factory workers, day laborers, and one fruit store owner, Vincenzo LaPorte.

BOTTLE SUCH AS THOSE USED FOR SODA AND GINGER ALE AT THE 32 JACKSON STREET BOTTLING WORKS. FOUND IN THE FILL OVERLYING THE HOUSE FOUNDATIONS.

*Know all men by these Presents
That I Michael J. Collins of Waterbury, Connecticut,
for the Consideration of a Valuable sum in dollars, re-
ceived to my full satisfaction of Thomas H. Hayes, of
said Waterbury do hereby bargain, sell, transfer and con-
vey unto the said Hayes, the following articles of personal
property, the same being articles used by me in my
bottling Establishment No. 2 Jackson Street, Waterbury
to wit: One horse wagon & harness, lease of one Cen-
trator & two fountains, twenty five gross of soda and
Ginger Ale Bottles and boxes therein, five gross tonic
Bottles, fifteen gross Lager Beer Bottles, one Bottling
Rench and fixtures including all extracts and so forth.*

DEED FOR SALE OF BOTTLING EQUIPMENT AT 32 JACKSON STREET.



DETAIL FROM A SURVEY OF JACKSON STREET BY THE WATERBURY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, 1890. 32 JACKSON STREET HAD A LARGE DOUBLE HOUSE AT THE FRONT OF THE LOT (LEFT), WITH SEPARATE STOOP ENTRANCES FOR EACH HALF.



BASEMENT-LEVEL WINDOW OPENINGS AT 32 JACKSON STREET HAD BEEN FILLED IN WITH STONEMWORK AT SOME PERIOD, BUT THERE WAS EVIDENCE OF PLASTERING ON THE INTERIOR BRICK AND STONE FOUNDATION WALLS.



THE INTERIOR CORNER OF THE FRONT SECTION OF 32 JACKSON STREET. THERE WAS AN EXTRA-WIDE FOUNDATION WALL, ACTUALLY TWO ABUTTING WALLS, BETWEEN THE TWO SECTIONS OF THE BUILDING.



LAMP CHIMNEY, MARBLE AND BUTTONS FOUND IN THE BASEMENT FILL AT 32 JACKSON.

FOUNDATIONS



The Jackson Street houses were small but well-built, with stone foundations and wood-framed first and second stories. Basement steps or the remains of basement stairwells were exposed at numbers 23, 23 ½, and 25, but most of the other houses probably also had basement entrances. Based on historic maps, entrance stoops and porches were on the sides of the houses.

There were observable differences in the masonry among the foundations that were partially exposed. For example, at 23 Jackson Street the earliest (front) house had foundation walls that were about one-and-a-half feet thick and were built of mortared, uncoursed, random-sized cut granite blocks. In contrast, the middle house, built by the Kellys in the early 1880s, had a foundation of mortared, un-coursed, random-sized fieldstone cobbles and boulders with dressed stone above. As with other Jackson Street houses, there was a clear distinction between above-grade (which would have been visible on the exterior) versus below-grade (not visible) portions of the foundation. In most cases, the interior of these foundations, which formed the basement walls, had flush surfaces. The rearmost of the three Kelly houses at number 23 differed from the others in that there appeared to be no distinction between the above- and below-grade portions of the foundation.

Some of the foundation excavations provided other details of construction. At the Kellys' house at number 23 ½, the locations of two basement windows were clearly indicated by low spots in the north foundation wall and the rotted remains of wooden sills, which anchored the frame superstructure. Modifications to the foundation were represented by two areas with brick infill. At number 25, the Mack family's house, the foundation was constructed of a continuous run of rounded fieldstones and boulders with minimal hand facing, but faced stones were used in the one corner that was exposed during the project. At number 31, the McAuliffe house, the above-grade portion of the foundation was brick. The remains of the Collins house at number 32 revealed modifications over time, with windows filled in and a basement entrance at the southwest corner apparently removed. This building was unique in having traces of plaster as well as a small niche, of unknown function, on the interior basement wall.

ARCHAEOLOGIST EXCAVATING A TEST UNIT AT THE INSIDE CORNER OF NUMBER 25 JACKSON STREET, THE MACK HOUSE



MORTICE-AND-TENON STRUCTURAL TIMBER FROM THE MACK HOUSE AT 25 JACKSON STREET.



A DISPLACED GRANITE FOUNDATION STONE FOUND ON THE KELLY LOT AT NUMBER 23, WITH DRILL HOLES FROM QUARRYING.



FOUNDATION AT 23 1/2 JACKSON, SHOWING THE LOCATION OF A WINDOW WELL WITH A DISPLACED WOODEN SILL, AND TO THE LEFT A SANITARY PIPE EXTENDING THROUGH THE FOUNDATION.



FOUNDATION OF THE MCAULIFFE HOUSE, 31 JACKSON STREET. LINE OF MORTAR SHOWS WHERE BRICKS OF THE UPPER PART OF THE FOUNDATION WERE PLACED. DISPLACED MASONRY IS RELATED TO A SIDE ENTRANCE.



SOUTH FOUNDATION OF THE MACK HOUSE AT 25 JACKSON STREET. THE DISTURBANCE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WALL IS WHERE A PORCH OR STOOP ONCE STOOD.



THE NICHE IN THE BASEMENT WALL AT THE COLLINS HOUSE.



FOUNDATION MASONRY, FRONT HOUSE AT 23 JACKSON STREET, EXTERIOR OF NORTH WALL.



NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE FOUNDATION AT 23 1/2 JACKSON STREET.



STEPS LEADING TO THE BASEMENT OF THE FRONT HOUSE AT 23 JACKSON STREET.

URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE

In addition to the house foundations, archaeologists found some evidence for utilities and sanitation at the Jackson Street site. What they did not find, however, were the outhouse (or “privy”) pits, cisterns, and wells that are often part of the infrastructure of urban house lots dating to the pre-utilities era. Only one pit feature was found in the excavations, a stone-lined probable dry-well that was built in between numbers 29 and 31 Jackson Street. Its function would have been to drain structural runoff, and based on an apparent stone drain between the buildings and the well, it was probably shared by the two houses.

Each house lot would have had at least one outhouse in the back yard, and some probably had several, given the numbers of residents at each address. A water main was laid in Jackson Street in 1869-1870. Starting then, homeowners and landlords had the option of installing running water, and some undoubtedly did so. But there was never a sewer on Jackson Street. Most of the occupants would have continued to use outhouses, and even when flush toilets were put in, waste disposal would have been handled on site.

The following is a summary of pipe laid the past year.

6 inch, West Main Street west of H. P. and F. R. R.	471½ feet.
4 “ Field Street,	908 feet.
4 “ Riverside Street, and Railroad Hill Street,	1,966 “
4 “ Leonard Street,	524 “
4 “ Town Plot Road,	1,232½ “
4 “ Jackson Street,	840 “
4 “ Jewelry Street,	535 “
4 “ Canal Street,	518 “
4 “ Orange Street,	627 “
4 “ William Street,	466 “

ARCHAEOLOGISTS RELY ON OLD CITY REPORTS TO DETERMINE WHEN HOUSES WOULD HAVE HAD ACCESS TO MUNICIPAL WATER. FROM *Annual Report of the Board of Water Commissioners, City of Waterbury, for the year ending June 13, 1870.*



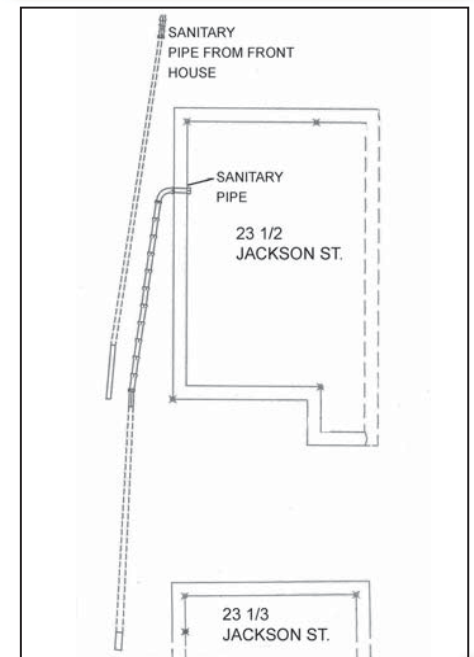
ON THE INTERIOR OF THE FOUNDATION WALL OF THE FRONT KELLY HOUSE, GAS AND WATER LINES AND TWO VALVE COLLARS WERE FOUND. THE WATER LINE EXTENDED INTO THE HOUSE FROM THE JACKSON STREET MAIN.



A GAS LINE AND VALVE AT 32 JACKSON STREET. DUE TO THE PROXIMITY OF THE TOWN'S GAS WORKS, THE JACKSON STREET NEIGHBORHOOD MAY HAVE HAD ACCESS TO GAS LIGHTING EARLY IN ITS HISTORY. INSTALLATION AND SERVICE WOULD HAVE BEEN AN ADDED EXPENSE, BUT ONE THAT THE ORIGINAL HOMEOWNERS MAY HAVE BEEN WILLING TO INCUR.



LONG WASTE PIPE AT 23 JACKSON STREET.



SANITARY PIPES EXTENDED FROM THE FRONT AND MIDDLE KELLY HOUSES BACK TOWARD THE REAR OF THE LOT, WITH A SLIGHT DOWNWARD SLOPE; THEY PROBABLY EMPTIED INTO THE NAUGATUCK.

At 23 Jackson Street, archaeologists discovered that the Kellys' solution was sanitary pipes carrying waste from the houses out to the Naugatuck River. Two parallel pipes were revealed, one coming from the front house and one from the middle house. They were made of sanitary stoneware and cast iron. It is possible the third house, which was only partially excavated, also had a sanitary pipeline. What this tells us is that the Kellys had indoor toilets, possibly installed both for themselves and for their tenants. How well this site-specific system worked is not known. The pipe sections were connected incorrectly, with the bell ends downslope instead of upslope, suggesting a do-it-yourself installation.

It was not possible (or necessary) to clear all of the landfill over the entire extent of each house lot on Jackson Street. Therefore, it is likely that pit features are still present in some yard areas that were not excavated. If so, they will be protected by retaining the overlying fill as a protective barrier during roadway construction by CTDOT.



STONE-LINED DRY WELL SITUATED BETWEEN THE FRONT CORNERS OF NUMBERS 29 AND 31 JACKSON STREET.

The Afterlife Of A Privy

Archeologists typically discover privy pits in back yard areas of historic urban house lots. These pits, along with abandoned cisterns and wells, are often a gold mine for archaeological research because people tended to use them for refuse disposal both during their period of use and after they were abandoned. Household trash such as food bone, broken dishes, discarded clothing and shoes, empty or broken bottles, and small objects that were swept up during housecleaning often wound up in these backyard privy pits. These collections speak to “material culture” and can be used to better understand the lifeways of former occupants, as well as to compare households with one another based on ethnic, economic, or life-cycle differences, or over time. The Dog’s Nest privies would have provided excellent research material, especially if early ones were abandoned and filled, creating “time capsules” from the households that used them for trash disposal. The failure to locate any privy features in the Jackson Street excavations poses a bit of a mystery.



THIS 1894 PHOTOGRAPH OF NEARBY BROOKLYN NEIGHBORHOOD OF WATERBURY SHOWS HOUSES THAT WERE PROBABLY SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE DOG’S NEST, WITH OUTHOUSES IN THE YARDS. *Courtesy Waterbury Republican-American Archives.*

DEMISE OF A NEIGHBORHOOD

A few years before the Jackson Street houses were torn down, the Sanborn-Perris Insurance Map for 1901 showed the tiny houses dwarfed by the neighboring Plume & Atwood and Randolph & Clowes factories. But it was the railroad that ultimately forced out the people who lived here.

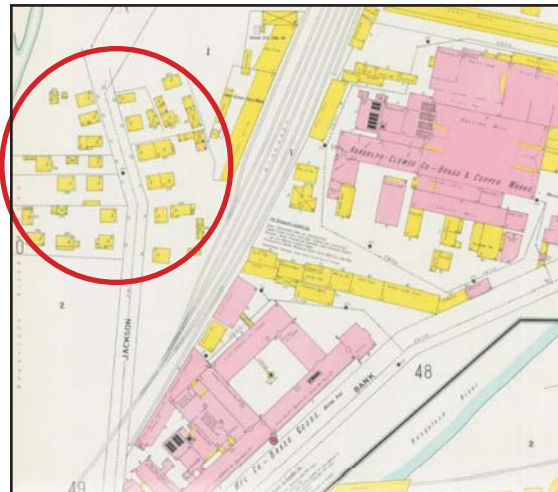
Waterbury's iconic clock tower was built as part of a massive rail project that was under way in the first decade of the 20th century. The Jackson Street neighborhood was demolished as part of that same undertaking. The New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad bought up the lots between 1904 and 1906, and the houses were all gone by 1911. The gas plant built its enormous No. 5 Gas Holder (used to hold manufactured coal gas prior to its distribution) shortly thereafter, re-using some of the old foundation stones from neighborhood houses.



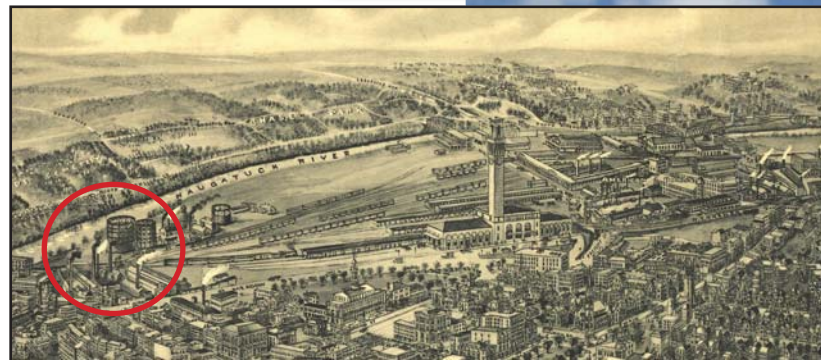
THE INTAKE OPENING ON THE NAUGATUCK RIVER FOR THE 1906 FACTORY WATER SUPPLY PIPE THAT RUNS BENEATH THE JACKSON STREET SITE.



BASE FOR CIRCULAR CONCRETE PAD OF NO. 5 GAS HOLDER THAT LIES ATOP SEVERAL JACKSON STREET HOUSE SITES.



THE DOG'S NEST IN 1901, AT THE PERIOD OF MAXIMUM DEVELOPMENT, AND ENORMOUS ADJACENT FACTORIES ON BANK STREET. *Sanborn-Perris Map Co., 1901.*



DETAIL FROM A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF WATERBURY, RENDERED AFTER THE DEMOLITION OF THE JACKSON STREET NEIGHBORHOOD AND EXPANSION OF THE RAIL YARD AND GAS WORKS. *Fowler, T. M., and Hughes & Bailey. Aero view of Waterbury, Connecticut. Boston: Hughes & Fowler, 1917.*



After demolition of the Jackson Street homes, the foundations were filled with debris and soil and covered over, and the property was used by the railroad, the gas works, and a small metalware factory. In 1906, a new water supply line from the Naugatuck River was laid approximately 20 feet below ground, running beneath the railroad tracks to a well serving the factories lining Bank Street. The pipeline ran between numbers 23 and 25 Jackson Street, its trench causing a large disturbance to that part of the site. The flood of 1955 also caused severe damage along the riverfront. Probable flood scouring was observed in the excavations at number 25. The pipeline and flood are two of many 20th-century impacts to the archaeological remains of former Dog's Nest houses and yards. With the decline of the railroad, and the closing of the gas works, the former Dog's Nest neighborhood was left vacant land.

The fill that overlay the site included a thick layer of ash and household, commercial, and industrial debris from the use of the site as a dump in the 1930s and 1940s; artifacts were abundant, and included items manufactured in the late 19th and early 20th century. The archaeological team did not collect all of this material, as it cannot be attributed to the Jackson Street homes nor to any other specific places in Waterbury, but they did keep a sample of labelled bottles and other items of local historic interest.



RAILYARD CIRCA 1910, SEEN FROM THE CLOCK TOWER, LOOKING SOUTH TOWARD JACKSON STREET. *Collection of the Mattatuck Museum Arts & History Center, Waterbury, Connecticut.*

AFTER THE DOG'S NEST

LARGE QUANTITIES OF BOTTLES WERE FOUND IN THE 1930S-40S DUMP THAT OVERLAY THE HOUSE FOUNDATIONS. SHOWN LEFT: EXAMPLES OF LABELLED ITEMS (BOTTLES, JUG AND STOPPER) FOUND IN THE DUMP LAYER.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The excavations on Jackson Street grew out of the environmental review process for federally-funded construction projects. The research began with the City of Waterbury's Naugatuck River Greenway Phase 1 Extension Project, which envisioned a future Riverfront Park that would replace the empty lots along Jackson Street and provide recreational access to the Naugatuck. Subsequently, the City obtained funding through a Federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant for its Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence (W.A.T.E.R.) Project, which included the reconstruction of Jackson Street. NV5, Inc. was hired to determine whether the project would potentially affect archaeological deposits. Meanwhile, CTDOT was planning a temporary bypass roadway during work on its Route 8/I-84 Rehabilitation Project. That project also required an archaeological investigation of the land between Jackson Street and the Naugatuck prior to construction.

We wish to thank the following individuals for their assistance with the archaeological research:

Salvatore Porzio, Project Manager, Public Works Department, City of Waterbury provided logistical assistance and project management. Sal also located and provided the researchers with historic maps and other records stored at the Bureau of Engineering.

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Catherine Labadia, Staff Archaeologist, Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, consulted on the excavations and supported the idea of this booklet as a way to partially mitigate possible damage to the archaeological site from the city's reconstruction of Jackson Street.

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The Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence (W.A.T.E.R.) Project will revitalize Waterbury's river and rail corridor neighborhoods and downtown center. It includes three components: 1) Freight Street Improvements, which involves reconstructing this street from Riverside to Meadow as a "complete street" with green infrastructure, new utilities, drainage, sidewalk, and a bicycle side path connecting the riverfront to the railroad station; 2) Jackson Street Improvements, which involves reconstructing this dead-end street and extending it northward to West Main with new curbs, sidewalks, drainage, water main, sanitary sewers and lighting to create a new north-south connection and begin a block network

for the redevelopment of the district; and 3) Meadow Street Improvements, which involves creating a "complete street" on Meadow from West Main to Bank by extending the Freight Street bicycle side path to the newly improved train station waiting room while enhancing connections to the downtown with new curbs, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, roadway rehabilitation and/or reconstruction, associated utility relocations/modifications, drainage, and cutting-edge pedestrian safety technology at key intersections.

The W.A.T.E.R. Project is funded by a U.S. Department of Transportation Transportation Improvement Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant.



2018 VIEW OF FREIGHT STREET WITH NEW BICYCLE LANE AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE.