

Description of the elements found in the 1798 plan titled  
*Plan of an estate situated in the town of Portsmouth belonging to William Gardner Esq. (1798; gift of Stephen Decatur)*



William Gardner bought the House in 1793, five years before the plan was drawn.

[Capt Stephen Decatur (b. 1751 in Rhode Island-d. 1808) was a Navy Captain and privateer in the Revolutionary War, and father of Commodore Stephen Decatur. Their names and contributions to naval history are well recorded. A Decatur descendant, also named Stephen, would later publish the book “Private Affairs of George Washington” and go on to co-own a collection of Washingtonia displayed at the Lear house in 1939. That collection was formed by Col. Tobias Lear, private secretary to George Washington.]

Above the rendering of the larger “Garden” plot it reads  
*“Land belonging to the estate of Capt Tobias Lear deceased”* (deceased)  
*N: 75 E and S: 75 W: 205 feet 3 inch’s*  
 On the left of the Tobias Lear property we read  
*N 19 deg (degrees) W 31 feet*

To the right of the rendering of the larger “Garden” plot it reads  
*Belonging to the estate of Capt Eph Ham dec* (Ephraim, deceased)  
*N: 18 deg (degrees) W: 96 feet S. 7 h: W: 75 feet 4 inche’ (inches) to the street*

[Ephraim Ham, block maker and soldier in the Revolutionary War (b. 1729-d. 1798, interred in the Pleasant Street Cemetery). In 1795 Ephraim sold his dwelling and land to Luke Mills Loughton, who resided in the dwelling. The house and land were previously part of the estate of Capt Luke Mills, maternal grandfather of Luke Mills Loughton. Ephraim's sister was married to John Loughton.]

Below Capt Ephraim's estate on the plan we see a rectangle with a measurement of 20 feet 4 inches. To the right of the rectangle is the "Office" and to its left is the "Arch" (William Gardner's office was above the "Arch," and was demolished in 1858).

To the left of the smaller "Garden" plot it reads *N 22 W and S 22 deg E 134 feet*. To the right is the "Yard" (above "Yard" we read 37 feet 4 (?). Above the smaller "Garden" plot is a "Store" structure, and to its right is a "Wood House" structure. There is a small structure in the yard, but the words are unreadable.

Above the "Store" structure is the next property on the corner of Hunts Lane (now Hunking St.), which reads:

*Capt' Storer's S 72 deg West 42 E: 4 inch' S: 74 W 38 E: 6 inch'*

[Samuel Storer (b. 1752-d. 1815, interred in the South Cemetery), was married to Mary (Polly) Lear (b. 1759-d. 1841), a daughter of Tobias Lear IV (b. 1736-d. 1781) and Mary Stilson (b. 1739 -d. 1828, interred in the Point of Graves Cemetery). Mary Stilson was the daughter Capt James Stilson (b. 1714-d. 1789) and Mary True.

Samuel Storer, whose dry goods store was located on the corner of Hanover and Market Streets, served in the revolutionary war under Col John Langdon. He was also a local Navy Agent during the War of 1812, and the father of George Washington Storer (b. 1789- d. 1864), a rear admiral in the US Navy for whom the "Storer Post, the soldier's memorial" was named.]

To the left of "Hunts Lane" (now Hunking St.) the lane and property continues (it seems to be on the water) and reads "Capt' Storer" (In his will, Tobias Lear IV left to his daughter Polly (Mrs. Storer) half of his house and the wharf).

"Mansion House" and "Kitchen" structure (below we find a "Gate").

To the left, along the "Street" it reads *N 22 W and S 22 deg E: 13 4 feet*

Left of "Mansion House" and "Kitchen" is the street corner, which reads *"45 feet from the ?? on to the corner"*

Across the "Street" is a "Wharfe" and a "Store" structure.

Above the "Store" it reads *S: 72 deg W: 61 f*

*Branch of Piscataqua River*

At the bottom of the plan (current Gardner Street) it reads:

*Lane leading into Water Street (now Marcy St)*

*From the NE corner to Water St. S 75 deg West 352 Feet*

*Note this lane is 20 feet wide in most places*

At the bottom of the plan are the names of the owners of properties on the north side:  
*Mr Luke Leighton's                      Mr Paul Laightons                      Mr Griffins*

*Water Street*

*The office is 2 feet 4 inches back from the street bounds (William Gardner's office).*

The lot was subdivided in 1885 by its then owner C.S. Drown (b. 1858-d. 1935). Mr. Drown subdivided the west garden of the Wentworth House into three lots: in 1887 he sold one lot to Mary Newton (wife of Elvin Newton, who built the house that is currently #30 Gardner St.), in 1891 he sold a second lot to Elvin Newton, and in 1895 he sold a third lot to Sherman Newton (Elvin's son), who built the house that is currently #44 Gardner St.

### **Related News Clips**

Portsmouth Herald, June 17, 1938

1st Lieut. Co. D. . . . . I

The name selected was in honor of Squ an outstanding man who served for hal nearly 56 years in the Navy—George yea Washington Storer. Edwin A. Tilton the was the "Father of Storer Post" and ma it was he who requested the granting tion the charter and arranged for Comdr. me Cushman's visit to Portsmouth, to the muster the charter members and or, age ganize the post. He also suggested the the name of Storer for the Post. . . . . f

George Washington Storer, for whom of the post was named, was a rear ad, one miral in the U. S. Navy. He was a na- me tive of this city, having been born here gle in 1789, the year that President George pos Washington visited Portsmouth. He fac was a descendant of Tobias Lear and Ap when Washington called upon Mrs. 7 Lear (mother of his secretary) among visi the grand-children presented was a the son of Samuel Storer, a dry goods at merchant of Portsmouth, then resid- pas ing in the same house, who had been pu christened "George Washington." hor Storer died in 1864 and in announcing by the death, Gldeon Wells, Secretary of Sto

### Stephen Decatur

The name Stephen Decatur means much in American Naval history and Stephen Decatur, who died on Saturday at his home at Kittery Point, was the fourth of five of that name to serve in the navy of their country. This is indeed a unique record and one that probably cannot be equalled in any other country, as the record of the Decatur family points to five men of the same given name as well as surname, succeeding each other in naval service. It is indeed a proud record.

Stephen Decatur, 4th, who died on Saturday, or "Beb" as he was known by his intimates, was a man of fine, strong character. He was dignified and a man of very positive ideas. He was thoroughly wrapped up in the history of this section and loved every part of this neighborhood. He was a fine fellow to meet and his friends are scattered far beyond the portals of this section. He was very popular with the naval officers who have resided here and with the natives and summer residents of Kittery Point where he had made his home since childhood.

The Decatur family was connected with naval matters even before its connection with the American navy. The founder of the family in the United States was Etienne Decatur, who was a French naval officer before he became a citizen of this country. His son, Commodore Stephen Decatur, 1st., was outstanding in the Revolutionary War as he commanded several privateers, and also captured several French privateers in the short war with France which began in 1798.

The name was nobly carried on by his son, Stephen Decatur, 2nd., who as a commodore gained great distinction in the war of 1812, notably off Algiers, after exploits against French privateers and the Barbary pirates previous to the war. For ridding the world forever of the Barbary pirates he received the thanks of Europe. Stephen Decatur, 2nd., died in a duel and had no sons, but his brother, John Decatur, had three sons and one of them, Stephen Decatur, 3rd., carried on the family's connection with the U. S. Navy. He served with distinction and retired with the rank of commodore.

Stephen Decatur, 4th., who died on Saturday, was the son of Stephen Decatur, 3rd., and served with honor in the Spanish American War as a commissioned officer and was honorably discharged in 1899, after serving during the blockade of Santiago. He was a member of Admiral Schley's staff. When the United States entered the World War Stephen Decatur, 4th., although he was 63 years of age, promptly offered his services to the government, and although he was not accepted, owing to his age, his two sons, Stephen Decatur, 5th and Storer Goodwin Decatur entered the navy and carried on the great tradition of the Decatur family—the fact that in every war in which the United States has ever taken part a member of the Decatur family had served in the navy.