

# JOSEPHINE NAPOLEON LEARY'S PROPERTIES IN DOWNTOWN EDENTON

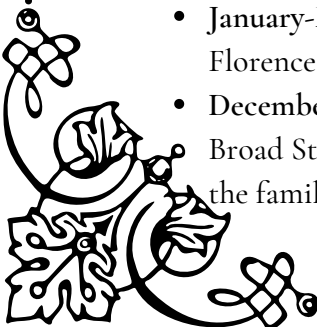
- 1 Josephine Napoleon Leary  
Building: 421-423-425 South Broad  
Street, 1894
- 2 Josephine Napoleon Leary  
Barbershop: 317 South Broad  
Street, 1907 (currently JoVon  
Fashions)
- 3 Josephine Napoleon Leary  
Homesite: 102 South Broad Street,  
demolished ca. 1960  
(approximately where part of the  
Exxon station and the Sotheby's  
office stand today)
- 4 Williams-Flury-Burton House: 108  
North Granville Street, ca. 1779-  
Josephine purchased this house  
from her daughter, Clara, in 1898  
and maintained it as a rental  
property



- 5 Original location of Williams-Flury-Burton House: 133 East  
Church Street, ca. 1779-After Josephine's heirs lost the  
property in the 1930's, the house was sold in 1941 and moved  
to Granville Street the following year (See #4)



# JOSEPHINE NAPOLEON LEARY TIMELINE

- ca. 1856: Josephine is born into slavery, likely on one of the Williams plantations near Williamston
  - January 1, 1863: Legally freed through the Emancipation Proclamation. The family ultimately takes the last name of "Williams"
  - 1870: According to the census, lives in a rental home in Williamston with her grandmother, Milly, and a boarder-Sweetie Leary. Occupation: Attending School
  - ca. 1873: Marries Sweetie Leary and re-locates to Edenton. Learns her husband's trade and becomes a barber
  - March 13, 1873: Purchases a vacant lot on Road Street in Elizabeth City for \$550, cash in-hand. Represents a considerable financial investment and the beginning of her real estate portfolio. Lot was previously contracted to be sold to Sweetie
  - April 7, 1874: Gives birth to her eldest daughter, Clara
  - July 7, 1875: Purchases the former Cheshire Storehouse situated on three lots in "Cheapside" from the estate of Edward Wood (see #1 on the map)
  - April 18, 1879: Purchases the house and lot at 102 South Broad Street from C. W. Rae (see #3 on the map)
  - January-February, 1880: Gives birth to her youngest daughter, Florence
  - December 30, 1881: Purchases the building and lot at 317 South Broad Street, which would become the permanent location of the family's barbershop (see #2 on the map)
  - ca. 1891: Sends her daughter Clara to an institute of higher learning in Raleigh
  - September 20, 1893: The "Cheapside Fire" destroys the Cheshire Storehouse on Broad Street
  - 1894: Initiates divorce proceedings but later decides to reconcile with Sweetie. Contracts with Theo Ralph to re-build on her South Broad Street lots. This structure still stands today as the J. N. Leary Building (see #1 on the map)
  - January 18, 1898: Purchases her daughter Clara's house at 133 East Church Street and maintains as a rental property (see #4 and #5 on the map)
  - 1900-1906: Loses her mother, grandmother, and husband. Continues to buy and sell properties throughout Chowan County
  - June 3, 1907: Borrows money to construct a new brick barbershop at 317 South Broad Street, which still stands today (see #2 on the map)
  - October 15, 1915: Mortgages part of the J. N. Leary building to pay for medical expenses. Over the next few years, she faces financial ruin due to ongoing medical treatments, and ultimately sells the majority of her properties, including her lot in Elizabeth City and all sections of the J. N. Leary building (see #1 on the map)
  - March 13, 1923: Josephine Napoleon Leary passes away after a long and devastating battle with stomach cancer
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