

26 Hathorne Street:  
moved to this site  
ca. 1890  
for  
Miss Deborah R. Arrington  
Singlewoman

Researched by: John V. Goff  
post office box 8655, Salem, MA 01971

February 21, 1991

26 Hathorne Street  
House moved here  
ca. 1890  
for  
Miss Deborah R. Arrington

1. Site:

The present Daniel & Denise Sklar residence is numbered 26 Hathorne Street in Salem, and is located on the west side of Hathorne Street, two buildings south of the entrance to Hathorne Place. The building is located approximately midway along the length of Hathorne Street, between Broad Street and Jefferson Avenue in Salem. Most of the houses on Hathorne Street and Hathorne Place appear to be early 20th century in style and date of construction, although some are distinctly earlier. The neighboring house at 24 Hathorne Street is a two-story Federal style house with a documented 1824 construction date. 26 Hathorne Street appears also to have been built in the early 19th century, and is one of the oldest structures in the neighborhood. Unfortunately, it is without question a "moved-in" building, and by its move became disconnected from its earliest history on another piece of property. Questions will remain until the earlier site is identified. [site analysis 2/12/91; map, directory and deed study, cited below]

2. The Hathorne Family--early landowners in this area and ancestors of author Nathaniel Hawthorne:

Hathorne Street is named for the Hathorne or Hawthorne family of Salem, whose American ancestral lands were here, and whose family came to include the famous mid-19th century author Nathaniel Hawthorne. A brief sketch of this family is necessary to appreciate the antiquity of these lands.

Prior to coming to America, the Hawthorne or Hathorne family were yeomen, "of Hawthorn Hill, Berkshire" in England [Philip Young, Hawthorne's Secret...An Untold Tale. David R. Godine, Boston, c. 1984, p.12]. In 1607, the last of the English ancestors of the Salem family was born: William Hathorne (1607-1681). William Hathorne was the progenitor of all the American Hathornes. He crossed the Atlantic and settled in Salem in the 1630s. (Young, op. cit, p. 12 has noted that he "may have arrived here as early as 1630." On page 63 of the 1904 Salem City Directory, however, it was noted that this same William Hathorne was "in town since 1636.") From the 1700 Map of Salem, it appears that the original "Ancient House" of the Hathorne family was located somewhat near Hathorne Street--actually on the south side of Broad Street, opposite Flint Street. Nathaniel Hawthorne, William's great-great-great grandson, wrote that William was "grave [and] bearded...who came so early with his Bible and

his sword." According to the famous author, this first American Hathorne was "a bitter persecutor, as witness the Quakers, who have remembered him in their histories." (Young, op. cit, p. 4).

William's son John Hathorne (1641-1717), was called by Nathaniel Hawthorne a "witch judge." In fact, he was a magistrate like Jonathan Corwin (who built the so-called "Witch House" on Essex and North Streets) and the names of Jonathan Corwin and John Hathorne appear together on many of the documents from the famous Salem witch trials of 1692. [for example, see pp. 131, 288, 290, 296, 298, 299, etc. of Volume 1 of The Salem Witchcraft Papers...edited by Paul Boyer and Stephen Nissenbaum, DaCapo Press, New York, 1977]. Young has written that Colonel John Hathorne "helped determine which suspects the judges should try as witches. He witnessed the executions, and was present when Sarah Good placed the famous curse on the minister Nicholas Noyes." (Young, op. cit, p. 12). Nathaniel Hawthorne saw it a bit differently. He wrote that William Hathorne's son "inherited the persecuting spirit, and made himself so conspicuous in the martyrdom of the witches, that their blood may fairly be said to have left a stain upon him." (Young, ibid, p. 4). By the year 1700, William's "Ancient House" was no longer standing, but all around the old site, Col. John Hathorne owned extensive lands. Hathorne's ancient lands were located north of the present Jefferson Avenue, bounded roughly by Prospect Street on the west, , Broad Street on the north, and Hathorne Street on the east. When the Hathorne family lived here, the grounds were largely a "broad field" which bordered a dammed up portion of the South River called the Mill Pond (which was later filled in; Jefferson Avenue marks the old shore line) [comparison of 1700 and 1851 maps of Salem with present landscape].

Prior to being prominent in the witch trials, Col. John Hathorne was a merchant. In 1666, he aquired some 9,000 acres between the Damarascotta and Sheepscot Rivers in Maine from Indian sagamore Robin Hood. This property continued to benefit John Hathorne's heirs as late as 1765, and was known in the family as "The Eastern Land claim." Descendent Nathaniel Hawthorne used the land claim as a key element in his famous book, The House of the Seven Gables in 1851. [Visitor's Guide to Salem, Essex Institute, 1953, p. 67]. Nathaniel used Col. John Hathorne's name and other pieces of local family lore to enrich The House of the Seven Gables, The Scarlet Letter, and his other famous writings [ibid., p. 64, also James R. Mellow, Nathaniel Hawthorne in his Times, Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1980, p.94].

In 1676, a palisade fence was erected across the western part of Col. John Hathorne's land (and other lands to the north) to protect downtown Salem from Indian attacks during King Philip's War. [Map showing "Part of Salem

in 1700" copyrighted 1933 by J.D. Phillips.] John Hathorne died in 1717, and was buried in the old burying ground on Charter Street in Salem. His son Joseph (a sea-captain) fathered Daniel (a privateer during the Revolution), who in turn fathered Nathaniel (another sea captain) who was the father of author Nathaniel Hawthorne, who was born in Salem at 27 Union Street in July, 1804.--that house has since been moved to stand near the famous House of Seven Gables on Turner Street. (Young, op. cit, p. 13;)

### 3. The Establishment of Hathorne Street in Salem

Col. John Hathorne's ancestral lands near Hathorne Street remained largely open and undeveloped for all of the eighteenth century, and for nearly the first half of the nineteenth century. It was not until circa 1842 that the present roadbed was established, creating Hathorne Street "from Broad Street to Mill Pond." [1842 Salem City Directory]. In 1842, City Marshall Perley Putnam recorded receiving \$100.00 from the "Proprietors of Hathorne Street." [City Reports, 1840s, p.31] By 1851, Hathorne Street and Phelps Lane (both carved from the ancestral Hathorne property) had thirteen new houses each. Prospect Street to the west had just been laid out, but had no houses at all [1851 Henry McIntyre Map of Salem]. The lot upon which 26 Hathorne Street now sits remained empty until circa 1890 [research cited below]. When it was established, Hathorne Street was named to honor local landowner William Hathorne and his Salem progeny. Author Nathaniel Hawthorne was not yet famous as an American writer, and it was he who changed the spelling of the family name back to its original English spelling with a "w." [Hawthorne's national fame was established in 1850 with the publication of "The Scarlet Letter."--Visitor's Guide, op. cit, p. 54].

### 4. The Architecture of 26 Hathorne Street:

26 Hathorne Street is a small 5-bay Cape Cod type cottage oriented gable end towards the street. It sits on a granite foundation, is sheathed with weathered wood shingles, and has a small flat-roofed addition on the back (west side). The rear addition rests on a concrete foundation and is clearly a 20th century addition. The "Cape" is a simple but well-proportioned building, which may date from ca. 1800-ca.1830 as suggested by its Federal Style exterior window casings, frame proportions and minimal cornice overhang. Beneath the wood shingles, it is probably clad with typical Federal period clapboard; Federal woodwork details may also survive in the interior.

The house is classified as a "Cape" because it is one example of a type of house which evolved in America on Massachusetts's Cape Cod peninsula during the 18th and 19th centuries. This house type typically has a

pitch-roofed, 1-1/2 story form with a front door, staircase and chimney located in the exact center of one of the short walls. On either side of the entrance/stair/chimney bay, the house is typically arranged with a room on each side. Each of these front rooms has two windows, in separate structural bays. In all, the house thus shows a symmetrical 5-bay facade up front with a door at the center. This house form became a common New England house type by the mid-19th century. It was called a "cottage" by 19th century contemporaries because of its modest and romantic size. It remains one of America's most popular house forms to this day.

Although 26 Hathorne Street does retain Federal-period elements (listed above), the exterior also displays elements, e.g. the 6-over-6 windows and Classical front door design, which are of a later Greek Revival style and period. (The front door and ground floor windows were probably inserted between ca. 1840 and 1850 when this style was at its peak. Prior to this time, it is likely that the windows would have had smaller, more numerous panes, and that the door would have had a different panel design, with an elliptical fan-light above.) However, the house may have been built at one time combining Federal and Greek Revival elements. Some housewrights built with a mix of Federal and Greek Revival style elements in the 1830s, 1840s and 1850s. Determining 26 Hathorne Street's original "build" site may help to pinpoint the original year of construction.

#### 5. 26 Hathorne Street as a Moved Building:

Although 26 Hathorne Street was probably built between ca. 1800 and ca. 1850 when the Federal and Greek Revival styles were first developed, it was clearly not put on its present Hathorne Street site until ca. 1890. This ca. 1890 date can be established by inspecting the 26 Hathorne Street listings in the Salem city directories. As late as the 1888-1889 directory, no building was listed for the 26 Hathorne Street address. Beginning with the 1890-1891 directory, however, a building was listed on this site. Salem maps also confirm a late 19th century date for this building on this site. The 1874 Salem map shows an un-numbered lot in possession of D.R. Arrington between numbers 24 and 30 Hathorne Street. The 1897 Salem map shows the newly assigned street number (26), and the present building in its present site, owned by Deborah R. Arrington. However, it is highly unlikely that the building was built ca. 1890 given the Federal and Greek Revival features listed above. Most likely, the building was moved to the lot circa 1890 from an older site in Salem. There are numerous reasons for moving old buildings, the most common being to salvage a usable or historic structure from an original site that is soon to be redeveloped for other purposes. By the late 19th century, Federal and Greek Revival Cape Cod-style houses were common and outdated in light of the new Victorian fashions. Fortunately, they were small, substantially built, and easily

moved to other sites. 26 Hathorne Street appears to be one such "moved" early 19th century Cape.

It is sometimes possible to track moved buildings back to their earliest sites (and site histories) by closely studying accounts of new urban building projects for the "moved" years, in this case the period 1889-1891. We must identify which new buildings were built in Salem between 1889 and 1891, and then look to see if Arringtons were involved with these projects, or if older Cape-type houses earlier stood on these properties. Three possibilities immediately come to mind:

- 1) It is possible that the 26 Hathorne Street earlier stood on the site of the Power Block at 138-144 Washington Street in Salem. Bryant Tolles identified this as an 1889-1890 Salem building on pp. 95-96 of his text Architecture in Salem (1983).
- 2) The building might have been moved from the site of the Wesley Methodist Church on North Street in Salem; this too was an 1888-1889 project. (Tolles, p. 121)
- 3) The building may have been moved from near 10 High Street or near 6 Andover Street in Salem for these were houses of sentimental value to Deborah R. Arrington, who appears to have put the structure on the 26 Hathorne Street lot ca. 1890. [see Arrington history, below]

Other possibilities have not yet been identified.

#### 6. The Arrington family of Salem:

The earliest Arrington of interest is James Arrington (1769-1810), whose wife Deborah bore at least five children: James Arrington, Junior (b. 1801), George S. Arrington (b. 1803), Polly Arrington (b. 1805), Benjamin R. Arrington (b. 1807) and Lydia Arrington (b. 1809). [Salem Vital Records]. Most of this family lived at 10 High Street in Salem (near Steve's Market and Riley Plaza) in 1842; in this year Deborah also managed a grocery store in the small flat roofed addition on the back of 10 High Street which is officially known as 12 High Street. [1842 Salem City Directory, also field inspection of these buildings.]

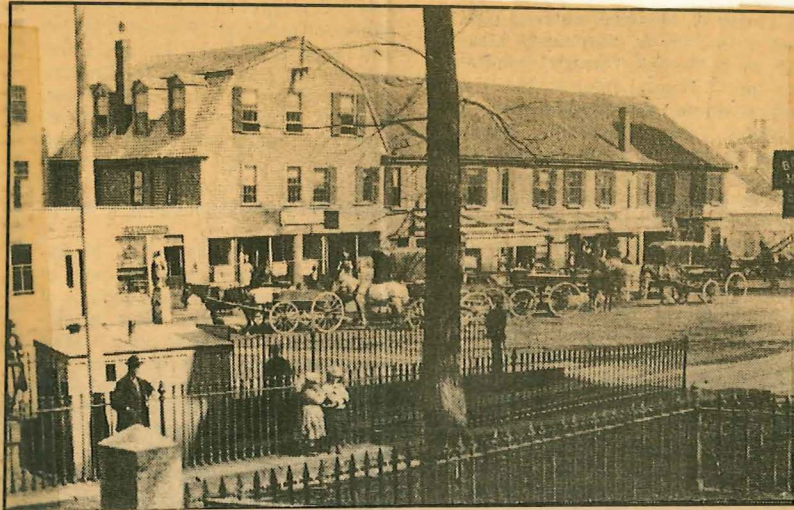
James Arrington, Junior (1801-1866) commenced a career as a sailor and mariner, but achieved his greatest local fame as a real estate developer. In 1845, he purchased the old Ward family wharf on the present site of the Salem Evening News Building, and here built the Arrington Block, a substantial three story gambrel and pitched roof building. In this new building, James set up shop as a "trader", his brother George also had an

office, and brother Benjamin set up a new railroad express office. [article by Edward Carberg in Salem Evening News, January 2, 1991, p. 9; also 1846 Salem City Directory]. The Arrington Block survived until 1873, when it was demolished to make way for the present building at 159-187 Washington Street in Salem. [Carberg article cited above].

In 1845, James Arrington Junior married Mary A. Arrington, who bore at least three children in the subsequent years. Son Samuel W. Arrington (later a retailer of cigars and tobacco in the Arrington Block) was born in 1846; daughter Deborah R. Arrington was born in 1847; daughter Lydia was born in 1849 [Salem Vital Records, also 1872 Salem City Directory]. By 1850, James and Mary Arrington's family moved from High Street to 6 Andover Street (off Federal Street) in Salem. The family lived here through the 1880s; new children listed in the Salem City Directories included Philip P.P. Arrington, and Zachary T. Arrington, who worked as a life insurance agent in 1881. [1851 Salem Map cited, Carberg article cited, also Salem City Directories from 1843 through 1886].

Miss Deborah R. Arrington (who is not known to have married) followed her father's footsteps as a real estate developer. She first acquired at least six different parcels of land (four with street frontage) on Hathorne Street in 1869 and 1870 [Deeds 764:222, 770:33, 785:207, 790:143 and 855:152.] By 1874, she owned and used a square building on some of this property as an office for a "machine stitching" business at 28 Hathorne Street. Her office building was a square structure, and was set back approximately 100 feet from the street. While she worked here, she lived at 12 High Street, where her grandmother Deborah Arrington formerly operated the grocery store in the 1840s; the 26 Hathorne portion of the property remained vacant. [1874 Salem map, Plate G; 1874 and earlier Salem Directories.]

Salem city directories first list a building at 26 Hathorne Street in 1890-1891. Although the occupants were listed as "Mrs. Emily F. Smith" and "William H. West," it is clear that 26 Hathorne Street in the 1890s was the same building which survives there now, and that it was actually owned by Deborah R. Arrington. [Salem City Directories; 1897 Salem Map, Plate 6.] Miss Arrington appears to have moved the old Cape onto her land for rental purposes. A number of different tenants lived in 26 Hathorne Street during the 1890s: Charles E. Leighton, grocer S.A. Leighton and Mrs. Emma A. Morrill in 1893-4, William H. Ryan and machinist James J. Hebron in 1895-1896, and William H. Ryan and shoe cutter Peter J. Blazer in 1897-1898. Ryan was a clerk at 203 Essex Street in 1897-1898, and he ran his own coal and wood business in 1899-1900. [Salem City Directories]



The 'Arrington Block' at 159-187 Washington St., built in 1845 on the site of the old Ward family wharf, was demolished for the 'Central House' in 1873.

The Arrington Block, built by Deborah R. Arrington's father James [reprinted from the Salem Evening News, January 2, 1991, p. 9]

#### 7. Occupants of 26 Hathorne Street in the Early 20th Century

As the 20th century opened, 26 Hathorne Street continued to be used as a rental property, with a fairly steady turnover of tenants. In 1899-1900, William H. Ryan shared the house with Samuel A. Strout. In 1920, salesman Arthur M. Clarke shared the building with shoe worker George F. Wilson. In 1922, shoe worker Charles O. Morse lived here with his wife Mary and their family. Between 1924 and 1926, the Thorburns lived here -- jeweler George J. Thorburn, with his wife Fannie M. Thorburn, and any family that they may have had [1920, 1922, 1924, 1926 Salem City Directories].

#### 8. William F. Abbott's legacy at 26 Hathorne Street:

From circa 1925 through circa 1980, 26 Hathorne Street enjoyed a long stable period during which the house was owned and occupied by William F. Abbott. William was a son of George F. Abbott in Salem. Father and son managed the George F. Abbott & Son construction business at 8-1/2 Norman Street in Salem. The firm advertised its capabilities as "General contractors, Builders and Architects" in Salem City Directories for 1926 and 1930 [1926 Salem City Directory, p. 1114, 1930 Directory, p. 17].

William's wife was named Florence Abbott, and together they appear to have kept the house at 26 Hathorne Street in good maintenance. The house has new windows in both gable end walls at the second story level; presumably the two 12-pane casement windows on the east wall and the fancy window on the west wall were all introduced by the Abbotts. The



west end addition(s) on concrete foundation(s) also were probably built by William Abbott, perhaps with assistance from other members of the George F. Abbott & Son construction company. It may be possible to interview elderly Salem residents who were affiliated with this company in the 1920s and 1930s. Increased knowledge about this company would increase the historical (and perhaps real) value of this house.

9. Title confusion beginning after the death of William F. Abbott:

Although William F. Abbott, Florence Abbott and family resided at 26 Hathorne Street for most of the twentieth century, they also owned a house at 10 Hathorne Street,(north of 26 Hathorne Street)after 1899. Old legal descriptions did not often include street addresses mentioned by number; 10 Hathorne Street was described as a property bounded "Southerly by land now or formerly of Lowd." [Deed 2653:204, also subsequent deeds 6726:355, and 9851:182.] Plate 6 of the 1897 Salem Map locates the Lowd property on Hathorne Street as number 12 Hathorne, south of number 10 Hathorne Street. The property was also identified by location as the place where Asa Hayford was a "life tenant" in 1899 [Deed 1584:536]. The 1899-1900 Salem Directory additionally confirmed that Asa Hayford "boarded" at 10 Hathorne. To contemporaries, the 10 Hathorne Street property was clearly identified by abutters and occupants in a legal sense. Unfortunately, these names had apparently lost their significance to the Abbott family in the 1980s.

10. After the Abbotts: the Sklars:

Following William F. Abbott's death circa 1980, [Probate 349581] 26 Hathorne Street was occupied by other members of the family. The Salem City Directories tell us that Lilly S. Abbott resided in this house from circa 1982 through circa 1986. Lilly is believed to have been a wife of either of William F. Abbott's sons--William F. Abbott Jr. of Westport, Connecticut or George E. Abbott of Eastham, Massachusetts in 1980 [Deed 6726:355, also 9851:182]. These two sons aquired their title in August, 1980 from their mother Florence [Deed 6726:355]. Presumably, the elderly widow believed she was transferring title to 26 Hathorne Street; yet in fact she transferred the title to 10 Hathorne Street as is seen by the reference to the Lowd property to the south. On January 5, 1989, the Abbotts sold the property to Daniel and Denise M. Sklar of 352 Essex Street in Salem. The legal description was transcribed verbatim into the new deed, apparently without anyone recognizing it as the legal title to 10 Hathorne Street, not 26 Hathorne Street! The Sklars reside at 26 Hathorne Street presently [Historic Salem Inc. house research and plaque application dated 21 January, 1991]; they may wish to consult an attorney to correct the Abbott's title confusion. If the Abbotts simply confused the deeds to their two Hathorne Street properties, it may well be that the present occupant of 10 Hathorne Street holds a deed for 26 Hathorne Street. The correct deed would legally trace to Deborah R. Arrington's ownership in the 19th century.

## 11. The Problem of Hathorne Street's Deep Lots and the Establishment of Hathorne Place:

When Hathorne Street was first laid out in the 1840s, it was designed to have deep lots on both sides. At the future 26 Hathorne Street site, the division line which separated Hawthorne Street properties from Phelps Lane properties was approximately 180 feet back from Hawthorne Street! The potential thus existed for locating Hawthorne Street houses quite removed from the street line. In many areas--including at nearby #28 Hathorne Street-- new houses were built on these "back" properties. At first, these houses shared driveways with other houses closer to Hathorne Street. Later, separate access roads were established specifically to serve the back houses. The present Hawthorne Place, which intersects Hawthorne Street between houses 20 and 24 Hathorne Street was established in 1918, and is the latest of numerous experiments to solve the access problem. In 1911, another "Hawthorne Place" performed a similar function, entering Hathorne Street between houses 6 and 8 Hathorne Street. [1911 Salem Map]. A "Hawthorne Crescent" also once existed to access rear buildings on Hathorne Street, as did private, unnamed drives south of 25 Hathorne Street, and south of 30 Hathorne Street. [Salem City Directories, 1911 Salem Map].

It might have been more logical to have established some sort of rear "alley" access for Hathorne, Phelps and Winthrop Streets. Common rear alleys would have provided the potential for rear access to all, regardless of whether people wanted to build on the back portions of their lots. The beauty of Chestnut Street as seen from the "back" Warren Street side shows how successful "alley" schemes can be. Alley geometry also allows for greater urban density in the future.

Although the history of 24 Hathorne Street is not immediately relevant to 26 Hathorne Street, it is curious to note that prior to 1918, a building on this site was situated parallel to 26 Hathorne Street. The long axis of both buildings ran perpendicular to Hathorne Street, contrary to 24 Hathorne's present orientation. It is possible that 24 Hathorne Street was moved when Hawthorne Place was constructed circa 1918. Given 24 Hathorne Street's similar Federal and Greek Revival details and early (1824) documented date of construction, it is also possible that this too was a "moved -in" building. Either of these causes would explain the very late date of the brick foundation which currently supports 24 Hathorne Street. [field inspection, 1897 and 1911 Salem Maps, research cited above.]

## DEED SUMMARIES:

Note: Deed summaries, which are normally included in Historic Salem house reports, are being withheld from the 26 Hathorne Street report until present or future occupants resolve title to the property. As explained in the text, the Sklars in February 1991 hold a January, 1989 deed to their house which contains an erroneous legal description, and erroneous source citations. (Both pertain to 10 Hathorne Street, not 26 Hathorne Street.) Any summaries of this deed and its chain of title are irrelevant for historical purposes, as they do not describe the history of 26 Hathorne Street, the property in question. Miss Deborah R. Arrington's sources for the 26 Hathorne Street property are cited in the text.

**2007 PLAQUE PROGRAM**

**TO:** Bob Leonard, Ould Colony Artisans  
**FAX:** 207-779-0707

**FROM:** Dick Thompson, Historic Salem, Inc.

**DATE:** May 7, 2007

**New Plaque order as follows:**

Moved to this Site  
c. 1890  
for Deborah Arrington,  
Singlewoman

Please ship to:  
Stephen Walker  
26 Hathorne Street  
Salem, MA 01970