

1843

The

House of

DEVEREUX DENNIS

a Salem "house carpenter"

15 Dearborn Street

Salem, Mass.

A CHRONOLOGY

By David T. Gavenda
Salem, Massachusetts

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A CHRONOLOGY

The Dennis house, architecturally, is an excellent Salem example of a moderate-style Greek-revival dwelling. Being situated end -to-the-street, it is similar in form and mass to two other dwellings attributed to Devereux Dennis located on Buffum Street: No. 9 for Mark Lowd in 1851 and No. 22 for Nathaniel Horton in 1850. Thus it could be assumed that the house-wright, satisfied with his own home, was able to sell others on its beauty, integrity, practicality and innovative design during a period (ca. 1843) when most builders could not decide what was to become fashionable.

Previous to Dennis' acquisition of the land on Dearborn Street in 1843, the following two earlier title transfers took place, as a matter of interest:

Bk. 313; Lf. 247.

Thomas Symonds, administrator of the Estate of
Thomas Symonds, dec'd., trader.

to

John M. Ives, Salem, Bookseller.

- 14. June 1839

- two house lots sold at public auction,
"advertised in the Essex Register for three successive
weeks before the sale"

- price: \$ 210.

Bounded: Easterly on Benj. Balch
Northerly and Westerly on Arrington,
formerly of Joshua Upham
Southerly on Dearborn Street

Bk. 336; Lf.20.

John M. Ives, of Salem to William M. Arrington, of
Salem

- February 28, 1843
- "two house lots"

Bounds as in Bk. 313; Lf. 247.

Bk. 336; Lf. 31

William M. Arrington, Salem, to
 Devereux Dennis, of Salem, carpenter.

- February 20, 1843
- price: \$ 170.00
- "one House Lot"

Bounded: Westerly by Arrington 114 ft. 4 in.
 Northerly by Arrington 49 ft. 6 in.
 Easterly by Benj. Palch 114 ft. 4 in.
 Southerly by Dearborn St. 49 ft. 6 in.

At the time of his purchase of the land, Devereux, jr., lived with his father in a house on School Street.

Salem Directory: 1842:

"Dennis, Devereux, custom house, h. School.
 Dennis, Devereux, jr., carpenter, School"

During the year 1843 he apparently lost no time in erecting his house since the following tax excerpts (City Clerk's Office, Salem, Mass.) indicate a new dwelling. He purchased no other land during 1842 or 1843:

- 1842: "Devereux Dennis; 1 poll; house & lot land;
 School Lane; 700.00"
 "Devereux Dennis, jr., 1 poll; School Lane"
- 1843: "Devereux Dennis; 1 poll; house and lot land;
 Buffum (in pencil); 700.00"
 "Devereux Dennis, jr.,, 1 poll; New House 1000.;
 (in pencil); Buffum St. (pencil); lot land
 200.00"

- 1844: "Devereux Dennis; 1 poll; house & lot land;
 School Lane (pencil); 700.00"
 "Devereux Dennis, jr.; 1 poll; house 1000;
 lot land 200."
- 1845: ditto 1844 for both.
- 1846: "Devereux Dennis; 1 poll; house & lot land; 32
 Buffum (pencil); 700.00"
 "Devereux Dennis, jr.; 1 poll; house 1000;
 lot land 200; 15 Dearborn (pencil)"

The pencil notations in the above would indicate that Devereux, jr., lived at his parents' house on Buffum Street at the outset while the following excerpts from the assessors' "Street Books" (those actually carried by hand from house to house; City Clerk, Salem) give a more definitive portrayal of occupants of the new building.

"Street Book; 1845 "
 "Dearborn Street"
 "Deveraugh Dennis, jr., house 1000.
 Benja. M. Chamberlain - mov'd to 3 Br. field
 Richard H. Chamberlain
 ----- Kimball"

"Street Book; 1846"
 "Dearborn Street"
 "D. Dennis, jr., 1 poll; age 31, Buffum St."
 "Joseph Kimball, age 23"
 "R. H. Chamberlain; age 25"

"Street Book; 1847"
 "Dearborn Street"
 "D. Dennis, jr.; 1 poll; age 31"
 "Jos Kimball"

The next Salem Directory was published in 1846 (the only year Devereux apparently lived at home):

"Dennis, Devereux, custom house, h 4 School
 Dennis, Devereux, jr., carpenter, North; ho. 4 School"

A mortgage was taken out by Devereux, jr., with his father on the 6th of November, 1848, for the amount of \$500.00. The description of the property corresponded exactly with the dimensions listed in the deed to Devereux in 1843 and this time included "all the buildings and appurtenances" on "one House Lot" (book 403; leaf 283).

Later Directory entries show not only Dennis' residence clearly, but how he moved his shop:

- 1850: "Dennis, Devereux; house 4 School"
 "Dennis, Devereux, jr., carpenter 35 North;
 house 15 Dearborn"
- 1851: Ditto 1850 for both.
- 1853: "Dennis, Devereux; (Leavitt & Dennis); house
 15 Dearborn"
 "Dennis, Mrs. Elizabeth, house 4 School"
- 1855: Ditto 1853 for both.
- 1857: Ditto 1853 for both.
- 1859: "Dennis, Devereux, carpenter 8 Lafayette, ho
 15 Dearborn"
 His advertisement:

SALEM DIRECTORY.	EDW. D. LORING, MANUFACTURER, WEST PLACE, Rear of the Mansion House. Repairing done in the best manner, at short notice.
DEVEREUX DENNIS, CARPENTER AND BUILDER. No. 8 Lafayette Street, All kinds of jobbing executed on reasonable terms.	COACH & CHAISE MANUFACTURER, WEST PLACE, Rear of the Mansion House. Repairing done in the best manner, at short notice.
H. H. STEVENS, MANUFACTURER OF PATENT AND ENAMELLED LEATHER, MASON HILL, NORTH SALEM. Orders received for ENAMELLING, and promptly attended to.	
JOHN BATTIS, MANUFACTURER OF ROSES & GASKS, OF ALL KINDS, Nos. 147 and 149 Derby Street, Foot of Charter Street. All orders answered with dispatch.	
JOHN T. ROPES & CO., Wholesale and Retail Dealers in STOVES, STOVE PIPE, TIN WARE, &c., Nos. 17 & 19 Front Street, SALEM. JOHN T. ROPES. W. ROPES.	

DEVEREUX DENNIS,



CARPENTER & BUILDER,

No. 16 Lafayette St., Salem.

ALL KINDS OF JOBBING executed on Reasonable Terms.

JOHN BATTIS,

MANUFACTURER OF

KEGS AND CASKS

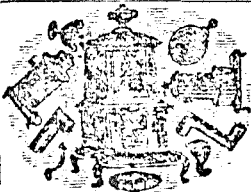
OF ALL KINDS,

Nos. 147 & 149 Derby Street,

(Foot of Charter Street,)

SALEM.

ALL ORDERS ANSWERED WITH DISPATCH.



JOHN T. ROPES,

DEALER IN

STOVES, STOVE PIPE,

TIN WARE, &c.

Agent for Magee's Furnaces and Stoves.

17 & 19 FRONT STREET, SALEM.

S. S. BURNET,

MACHINIST,

No. 8 Franklin Building, Salem.

Particular attention paid to Repairing Sewing Machines.

1864: "Dennis, Devereux, carpenter, 16 Lafayette, no. 15 Dearborn"

His advertisement:

DEVEREUX DENNIS,



CARPENTER AND BUILDER,

No. 8 Lafayette Street,

SALEM.

All kinds of jobbing executed on reasonable terms.

JOHN BATTIS,

MANUFACTURER OF

KEGS AND CASKS,

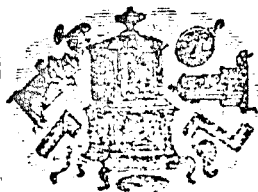
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Nos. 17 & 19 Front Street,

SALEM.

JOHN HUNT,

DEALER IN

STOVES, TINWARE,

LAMPS, &c.,

No. 15 Lafayette St.,

SALEM.

1861: "Dennis, Devereux, carpenter, r. 8 Lafayette, n. 15 Dearborn"

His advertisement:

The estate of Devereux Dennis was probated on the 21st of March, 1881:

Docket# 37341

Devereux Dennis, Salem, carpenter

Inventory: dated March 28, 1881

Real estate: \$ 5300.-
Personal: 1747.68

"Messuage Dearborn Street 2800.
Messuage Osborn Street 2500."

Administratrix and Heiress: Mary J. Dennis, widow

The estate of Devereux's wife was probated on the 7th of April, 1910:

Docket# 107800

Mary J. Dennis, Salem, widow

Will: dated 1910.

"to my daughter Annie J. Dennis, the homestead estate numbered fifteen on Dearborn Street in said Salem"

Inventory:

"House & land 15 Dearborn St.,
Salem.....2600."

The estate of Devereux Dennis' daughter was probated on the 5th of September, 1946, as the property descended to his grand-daughter:

Docket# 217592

Annie D. Horton, Salem, widow

Will: "my house and land at 15 Dearborn Street,
Salem, to my daughter Mary Devereux
Horton"

Inventory: "House and lot at 15 Dearborn Street,
Salem, valued at the assessed
value.....5000."

END

Reproduced from a Map of Salem, by H. McIntyre in 1851:

