

March 27, 1959

DIV. OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION	
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Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Chief of Design and Construction 207

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I - Hawkes House,
Salem Maritime National Historic Site

The Historic Structures Report, Part I, for the Hawkes House, Salem Maritime National Historic Site, transmitted with your memorandum of March 17 has been reviewed by the interested Divisions in the Washington Office and is recommended for approval.

Members of the Branch of History were pleased to see the furnishings section, which contemplates the furnishing and exhibition of the parlor and kitchen. They believe that this is an important interpretive feature to be developed in this building.

SIGNED

Thos. C. Vint, Chief of
Design and Construction

Copy to: Chief, EDC (2)
Supt., Salem Maritime
Branch of History
Mr. Vint

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Historic Structure Report
on
the Hawkes House

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Prepared by
Superintendent
Salem Maritime National Historic Site
Salem, Massachusetts

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March, 1959

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER I. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

- Section 1. Name and Number of Building
- Section 2. Approved Use of Structure and
Justification
- Section 3. Provision for Operating the Structure
- Section 4. Preliminary Estimate of Cost for
Rehabilitating the Structure
- Section 5. Recommendation for Research

CHAPTER II. HISTORICAL DATA

- Section 1. Historical Account
- Section 2. Historical Associations
- Section 3. Historical Evaluation

CHAPTER I
ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Prepared by Superintendent H. I. Lessem

Chapter I
Section 1
Page 1

NAME AND NUMBER OF BUILDING

Hawkes House, Building No. 3.

APPROVED USE OF STRUCTURE AND JUSTIFICATION

The Hawkes House will be used essentially as a residence for members of the staff. The second and third floors of this three-story building will each contain a set of quarters.

This structure, completed in 1801, coincides with the great flood-tide period of Salem's commerce, and under the MISSION 66 Program its chief function, apart from the housing facility, is to lend authentic atmosphere to the Site.

PROVISION FOR OPERATING THE STRUCTURE

When completely rehabilitated, the Hawkes House will be maintained and operated as quarters.

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF COST FOR REHABILITATING THE STRUCTURE

The quarters will be ready for occupancy when the following items are completed:

1. Connect Radiators.	\$ 200
2. Purchase Lighting Fixtures.	500
3. Interior and Exterior Painting.	8,000
4. Linoleum for 1st and 2nd Floor Halls & Kitchens	<u>600</u>
Total	\$9,300

RECOMMENDATION FOR RESEARCH

No research on this structure is recommended for the present or immediate future. When all essential research is completed on the Park Story and the other structures (Derby, Custom, and Scale Houses, and the Derby Wharf), attention can be directed to the Hawkes House, particularly its remodeling by Benjamin Hawkes in 1801.

CHAPTER II
HISTORICAL DATA

Prepared by Superintendent H. I. Lessem

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

For the student of Salem architecture, the Hawkes House provides an interesting enigma. Evidence points to the fact that Elias H. Derby started the construction of this house in 1780 from a design prepared by Samuel McIntire. The structure was never completed. The ubiquitous Dr. Bentley noted in his diary on January 2, 1790 that Derby was "making large preparations at the unfinished house near the wharf, for a commodious shed, saw pit & work yard for his Ship Building." When Derby's ship, the second Grand Turk was launched, Bentley observed that "a very handsome collation" was held in the "great unfinished house." His diary entry for September 23, 1800 reveals that the rear of the house was completed, but the front which was merely boarded up was "very rotten." Incidentally, Bentley considered the design an architectural failure.

The house today bears no resemblance to McIntire's drawings. The front, originally 52½ feet long, now measures only 32 feet. In the chain of title can be found the most suitable explanation for this diminution. In the course of several real estate transactions after Derby's death in 1799, the plot on which the house stands was divided into two parcels. The dividing line running north and south bisected the center of the house. On June 2, 1801, Benjamin Hawkes owner of the western parcel purchased the eastern portion, but the vendor reserved the right to remove his half of the structure. The right was exercised.

Hawkes, a shipbuilder and merchant in moderate circumstances compared to Elias H. Derby, completely remodeled the house on a reduced and modest scale. Its relationship to the unfinished mansion "by the worfe" was discovered only after long hours of study and research by competent students of historical architecture.

In 1830, Hawkes suffered economic reverses and a local bank took over the house. Its subsequent history is depressing. When transferred to the National Park Service, it was a shabby structure, sub-divided into tenements.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

The house is associated with two significant personalities. It is one of the earliest designs of Samuel McIntire whom Fiske Kimball regards as America's finest "craftsmen-architect." It was started by Elias H. Derby, Salem's great merchant prince and a monumental figure in the epic of America's foreign commerce.

Benjamin Hawkes lacks distinction. He was a merchant ship-owner and shipbuilder. Several of his vessels are well-known in the maritime annals of Salem during the first half of the 19th century.

HISTORICAL EVALUATION

Although the Hawkes House has definite historical connections, it lacks significance per se. The physical associations with Derby and McIntire have long since disappeared. It is interesting rather than important.

There are in Salem any number of superb examples of the simple yet elegant style of federal architecture which evolved in this section of New England. Two are furnished and open to the public. Thus, there is no need for the National Park Service to operate the Hawkes House as a historic house museum.

Hawkes House, Derby St., Salem, Massachusetts
Second and Third Floors

It is understood that this part of the house is not to be treated as a museum display but is to be planned for use as staff living quarters. Nevertheless, an effort has been made to keep the finish of the walls and woodwork in harmony with the period of the house. As it is apparent that most of the original interior woodwork has disappeared in the course of time, it is now impossible to ascertain the first paint colors. Where old colors have been found under later paint, it is suggested that they be reproduced, and samples of the originals be retained. Otherwise, colors which are correct for the period are specified.

Because of yearly changes in decorator's materials, recommendations for specific wallpapers and paints should be made at the time work is to be undertaken.

TWO CENTRAL HALLWAYS

Paper, with documentary pattern

Paint color to be decided with reference to wallpaper

Stairs, treads and risers dark gray, balusters painted same as hall woodwork.

Hand rail, mahoganzed

SECOND FLOOR

Southwest parlor: Woodwork pale grayish-green as per sample of old paint. Sample to be preserved in place. Walls to be painted buff.

Two bedrooms: Wood^{work} a warm gray to match old sample on cornice in northwest bedroom. Old sample to be retained. A different small-patterned paper of Colonial type in each room.

Southeast parlor: Same walls and woodwork as southwest parlor.

Bathroom and entry: Woodwork buff. Walls blue to harmonize with tiles.

Hawkes House, Derby St., Salem, Massachusetts

SECOND FLOOR (continued)

Entry beside chimney: Plaster to be painted white

Kitchenette: Woodwork same as bedrooms, walls white

TOP FLOOR

Ballroom: Woodwork green to match old sample on paneled partition. Leave one panel untouched to show old colors. Clean and oil remainder of partition. Plaster walls to be white. Paint fireplace facing dull black.

Two bedrooms: Woodwork buff, two small-patterned wallpapers.

Bathroom and entry: Woodwork buff. Walls blue to harmonize with tiles.

Kitchenette: Woodwork buff. Walls pale green.

All closet interiors to be painted white. All ceilings to be finished off-white.

Woodwork to be finished in a semi-gloss

Painted plaster walls to be washable finish

Hawkes House, Derby St., Salem, Massachusetts

The parlor and kitchen are planned to be public exhibition areas, and it is suggested that the furnishings illustrate the period 1800 to 1825 with emphasis on earlier rather than later styles. One or two items of earlier date could well be included to show what the Hawkes family might have inherited or brought to the house at the time of its purchase early in the nineteenth century. The best and newest pieces of furniture would presumably have been in the parlor, made of cherry and mahogany of simple design. There might have been also a set of painted side chairs.

Accessories should reflect Salem's early nineteenth century foreign trade, and also the Hawkes' shipping interests.

Documentary wallpaper of suitable period and harmonizing woodwork in a period color should be specified in detail when work is to be undertaken. Tie-back curtains of a sheer light-toned fabric might be finished with a simulated hand-made edging which is available commercially.

The following plan might be modified by the discovery of further data on the Hawkes' occupancy of the house, and by the availability of individual items at time of acquisition.

PARLOR:

Sofa - a Salem type would be ideal

Secretary or Secretary-Desk for books

Pedestal-base table for center of room

Easy chair - small upholstered, preferably not a wing chair

Set of side chairs - four or six matching, mahogany or fancy-painted

Two small candle tables

Looking glass

Clock - for wall or mantle

Hawkes House, Derby St., Salem, Massachusetts

PARLOR (continued)

Andirons, shovel and tongs

Pair candlesticks - brass

Extinguisher and tray

Pair whale-oil lamps - brass, pewter or glass

Barometer

Pair of firefans for mantle

Desk fittings - inkwell, sander, quill pens. If a secretary-desk is not available, a folding "captain's desk" may be set on table.

Center table fittings - decanter and glasses; game of chess, dominoes, or checkers; pair of spectacles; family Bible

Nautical items - any of the following would be suitable: portrait of a sea captain or sailing ship; model or half-model, preferably of Salem interest; pictures of Chinese honggs; nautical instruments; scrimshaw work; ship's medicine chest; carved wooden ornaments made by sailors on voyages; curios brought back from foreign voyages.

China - Chinese export porcelain, Canton, English Liverpool ware

Carpet - imported English Brussels, Wiltons and Ingrain, also painted canvas floor cloths, were used in Salem in this period

KITCHEN

Walls to be painted white in simulation of whitewash, woodwork soft shade of pumpkin yellow. An effort should be made to achieve the effect of a practical working kitchen of the period, rather than to create an unrealistic display of poorly arranged furnishings.

Dresser - with shelves for household equipment

Long work table, another table

Dry sink

Curtains - blue checked material giving effect of homespun. Half (sash) curtains. Probably no curtains would originally have been used in kitchen

Hawkes House, Derby St., Salem, Massachusetts

KITCHEN (continued)

High stool

Four side chairs

Woodbox

Andirons, shovel and tongs, pothooks, over peel

Cooking utensils - iron pots, skillets, tea kettle, toaster,
tin kitchen, trivet, skimmers, forks, ladles, rolling pin, etc.

Candlesticks \varnothing assorted, or several pairs, iron and brass

Butter churn

Box irons

Candle molds

Contents of dresser - wooden ware, pewter, American redware pottery,
(bowls, jugs, plates, mugs, etc.)