

Devenish-Haigh House
108 E. Third Street
Madison
Jefferson County
Indiana

HABS No. IN-125

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DEVENISH-HAIGH HOUSE

HABS No. IN-125

Location: 108 East Third Street
Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana

Present Owner
and Occupant: Rachael Haigh

Present Use: Residence

Significance: This simple Greek Revival house features pediment-like stone lintels and two iron benches fixed to the front wall and stone steps of the home. It is believed that the home has undergone two building periods: the rear wing is believed to have been constructed between 1837-1839 for Solomon Devenish, a merchant-tailor, while the front portion was constructed in 1852-1853 for William H. Fry, a Madison ironware dealer. Descendants of Fry have been in possession of the home to this day.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Dates of erection: The rear wing of the Devenish-Haigh House was constructed from 1837 to 1839; the front portion facing Third Street was added in 1853. In 1837, Solomon Devenish's property as part of lot 41 was assessed at \$473. By 1839 the tax list of the City of Madison showed an assessment of \$675 with \$1000 of improvements, indicating that the present rear portion was built between 1837 and 1839. The 1852 assessment of Devenish's property was \$1200 and increased to \$2500 in 1853. Thus, the front portion probably was added in 1853.

2. Architect: None known.

3. Original and subsequent owners: The Devenish-Haigh House is located on Parcel 59, lot 41 in the Old Town Northwest, Madison, Indiana. The following deed references may be found at the Recorder's office of the Jefferson County Courthouse, Madison, Indiana:

1834 Warranty Deed May 22, 1834 recorded August 15, 1834 in Book I page 362 (part of lot 41)

L. R. and G. W. Leonard to Solomon Devenish

- 1852 Warranty Deed August 19, 1852 recorded April 5, 1859 in Book 16 page 420
Solomon Devenish to William H. Fry
- 1877 Court Assignment December 31, 1877 recorded May 25, 1878 in Miscellaneous Record 1 page 501 Court of Common Pleas of Jefferson County appointed
Henry C. Adams and Smith H. Myers (after mortgage default by William H. Fry)
- 1878 Court Conveyance ordered by Court of Common Pleas on 4/4/78 May 21, 1878 in Deed Book 41 pages 287-288
Henry C. Adams and Smith H. Meyers to Charles E. Walker
- 1879 Warranty Deed August 19, 1879 recorded August 30, 1879 in Book 42 page 313
Charles E. and Harriet E. Walker to Lydia D. Fry (Mrs. William H.)
- 1879 Warranty Deed August 19, 1879 recorded August 30, 1879 in Book 42 page 314
William H. and Lydia D. Fry to Eunice A. Haigh
- 1931 Warranty Deed February 6, 1931 recorded February 10, 1931 in Book 98 page 436
Eunice A. Haigh to Rachel and Lydia Haigh

4. Original plans and construction: The rear wing of the Devenish-Haigh House was constructed first, and may have had a wing attached to its front. Somewhat older than the front portion, the rear wing has no decorative embellishment. The west side of the house is a party wall. The east wall has porches on both stories, probably original, which now are tucked behind the Third Street addition.
5. Alterations and additions: The Third Street addition (1853) was executed in a conservative Greek Revival style. Two iron benches, fastened to the wall and the limestone steps, may have been installed by William H. Fry, a dealer in iron and hardware. (The house next door, owned by Madison's first Mayor, Moody Park, has similar benches).

The fence which encloses the lawn is similar to a fence design manufactured by Cobb and Stribling, a local foundry, and probably was erected when Fry purchased and removed a frame house on the property in 1859-60.

Few alterations have been made to the house. A window on the addition has been filled in with brick and minor repairs have been made to the rear porches.

- B. Historical Context: Solomon Devenish, a merchant-tailor, was born in Kent County, Maryland in 1801, and arrived in Madison in 1831. He moved to Illinois in 1852 and to Indianapolis in 1860 where he remained until his death on June 16, 1869.

William H. Fry, who purchased the property in 1852, was born on September 2, 1799, at St. John's Newfoundland. In 1810 he traveled to Fayal in the Azores where he served with the British Consul for three years. Fry then became a merchant sailor, completing three voyages in the Mediterranean before returning to the Azores in the service of Samuel Dabney, the American consul. In Fayal, Fry married Lydia Daggett Butts in 1827. In 1833, Dabney left the foreign service for the coal industry. Fry accompanied him to work on the coal tracts in and around Coal Port in Meigs County, Ohio.

In 1846 Fry moved to Pomeroy, Ohio, and to Madison in 1849, where he opened a coal distributorship at the corner of Ohio and Main Street, now Vaughn and Jefferson Streets. After a few years, Fry closed this business and opened a new one with partners John M. Maxwell and J. P. Walker called Fry, Maxwell & Company ("Salt Agents Commission Merchants and Dealers in iron, nails, steel, castings, blacksmith tools, azles, springs, woodwork, etc."), at the corner of Ohio and Vine Streets, now Vaughn and Vine Streets. Later, the store was moved to West Street between Main Cross and Second Street, and also was located on Mulberry between Main Cross and Third Streets. Fry sold the business in 1863.

In 1871 Fry was listed in the Madison Directory in connection with the John R. Stuart Company, builders of steamboats, but it is not known what he did. He declared bankruptcy because of default of a mortgage taken in June, 1877. Fry died at his Third Street home on August 31, 1881. His house is now owned by his granddaughter, Miss Rachel Haigh.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Deed Books, Jefferson County Courthouse Records, 1834-1931.

Tax Lists and Assessment Books, the City of Madison, 1837-1854.

2. Secondary sources:
 - a. Directories of the City of Madison 1859-1879.
 - b. Madison Courier: June 16, 1869; June 29, 1859; August 31, 1881.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A brick row house with a three-bay front, side-hall entrance.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The three-bay front, L-shaped house is approximately 30' x 70'. There are two stories above a cellar.
2. Foundations: The stone foundations have foundation vents. A stone string course is located at the sill.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The walls are common bond brick painted a light sage green. A small enclosure on the east side of the house at the second floor has clapboard siding. The east end wall of the front portion of the house slopes up toward the center and terminates at a flat, raised parapet that extends a short distance across the center ridge.
4. Structural system, framing: Brick load-bearing walls with timber framing.
5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: A stone stoop is situated on the main north facade. Small ornamental iron benches with wooden seats have been placed on each side of the entrance doorway. The seat is anchored to the wall on one side and has an iron support attached to the stone step.

A two story porch formed by the intersection of the front and rear portions of the L-shape is located on the east facade. The lower floor has brick paving an extension of the brick sidewalk. The upper floor is supported by three wooden box columns. A part of the upper porch has been enclosed with clapboard siding and the remainder screened. A wooden bannister runs along the perimeter, outside the screening.

A small pent roof covers a stoop at the rear door near the southeast corner of a rear addition. At the southeast corner of the L on the east side is a bulkhead to the cellar with an asphalt-covered wood closure across it.

6. Chimneys: A large brick chimney through the roof on the south end wall of the L and a large brick chimney both project through the roof on the west party wall. Each has a projecting brick cap.
7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance is at the stoop on the northeast corner of the north facade. There is a deeply recessed opening with raised wooden panels on the jambs and soffit. There is a stone sill, wooden surrounds and a three-light transom window. The wooden door has four double-raised panels, a porcelain doorknob and metal keyhole cover. Above this opening is a slightly pedimented stone lintel.

There is a doorway opening onto the side porch on the first floor which has wooden surrounds, a three-light transom window and a wooden door with five horizontal wooden recessed panels. The doorway on the side porch at the second floor has a wooden door with two horizontal panels below a nine lights. There is a wooden surround and a louvered, wooden shutter at each side.

At the small addition on the rear there is a doorway on the east wall. The wooden door has a four lights above two horizontal panels. The opening has wooden surrounds.

- b. Windows, shutters: Wooden, double-hung windows have six-over-six-light sash, wooden surrounds and wooden, louvered shutters. The windows in the front portion of the house have stone sills, slightly pedimented stone lintels, aluminum storm sashes and wooden shutters with adjustable louvers in the lower panel. The windows in the ell have a brick rowlock lintel on the second-floor windows and no lintel expressed on the first floor. The wooden shutters have fixed louvers.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: There is a gable roof on the front portion of the house and a shed roof on the rear portion. A shed roof sloping to the south is on the small rear addition. All are covered with asphalt shingles. At the gable end on the east wall of the front portion is a small parapet with a projecting cap. There is a stepped parapet on the small rear addition, capped with two rows, each projecting out from the other.

- b. Cornice, eaves: Across the north front facade is a brick cornice with brick dentils. There is a boxed wooden cornice on the rear addition. There are metal gutters and downspouts. There is a wooden fascia and rake board on the ell.

C. Description of Interior:

The interior was not accessible.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces north on the south side of East Third Street. It shares a wall with a house on the west side. The garden on the east side bordered by an alley has an iron fence around the north and east sides. A large garden to the rear is enclosed by a wire fence with metal lattice on the east side and a garage and brick wall on the alley side at the south rear. There are several large trees in the rear and side yard and two large trees at the curb on the street side. The house faces residential properties across the street. Across the alley at the rear is commercial property fronting on Main Street.
2. Outbuildings: There is a brick garage at the southeast corner of the site at the intersection of two alleys. The double, wooden garage door opens onto the alley at the east side. The garage, in good condition, has a pent roof, concrete floor and the south wall extends to become a fence across the rear property line.
3. Historic Landscape: There is a very large grapevine on an arbor at the east porch. According to local custom, it is reportedly one given to Rachel Haigh's father by Nicholas Longworth.

Prepared by: John P. White
Project Supervisor
July 1978

III. Project Information:

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with Exxon Company, U.S.A. and Historic Madison, Inc. and the Indiana Historical Society. Under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief, H.A.B.S., and Kenneth L. Anderson, Jr., Principal Architect, the project was completed during the summer of 1978 at the Historic American Buildings Survey Field Office, Madison, Indiana, by John P. White, Project Supervisor (Architect and Associate Professor, Texas Tech University); John Hopkins, Project Historian (Skidmore College); and

Student Assistant Architects Richard Berliner (Rhode Island School of Design); Jon Lourie (University of Maryland); Eric Swanson (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute); and Peter Whitehead (State University of New York at Buffalo). The written data were edited by Jan Cigliano, HABS Historian, in November, 1978, and by Alison K. Hoagland, HABS Historian, in December, 1984.

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