

**DORCHESTER FIRE-ENGINE HOUSES.**

The following are brief descriptions of the Steam Fire-Engine Houses erected by the town of Dorchester during the latter part of the year 1869, and completed at the time of annexation.

**ENGINE HOUSE No. 16.**— This house is located at the corner of River and Temple streets, at the Lower Mills. The building is a substantial brick edifice, 32 by 48 feet in the main part, with a wing 22 by 18 feet for a stable and hay loft; in the basement are located the hose tank, furnace, cistern, etc. The first story or engine room finishes 12 feet high and is sheathed throughout. The second story finishes 13 feet high, and is divided into a parlor 30 by 27 feet, one other large room, two capacious closets and a bath-room. The roof is pitched and slated, and the towers are handsomely capped and corniced. The building was constructed by F. M. Severance, carpenter.

**ENGINE HOUSE No. 17.**— This house, on Meeting House Hill, was enlarged and remodeled so as to furnish accommodations for men and horses. The size of the building on the ground plan is 55 by 39 feet. The basement, which is some 14 feet high, does not extend under the whole building, but is of size sufficient for a large cistern, a hose tank, cauldron, coal-bins, etc. Of the interior, on the first floor a space 27 by 15 feet is partitioned off for a stable. The remainder of the first floor is occupied for the engine and the hose carriage, except the space required by the hose tower, closet and stairway. The apartment finishes 12 feet in height, and is sheathed and ceiled with hard pine. Two capacious doors, 10 feet wide each, and lighted with plate glass of large size, open at the front. The second story is divided into a parlor 21 by 23 feet; two sleeping-rooms for firemen,  $20\frac{1}{2}$  by  $17\frac{1}{2}$ , and 18 by  $14\frac{1}{2}$ ; a bath room, 8 by 10 feet; hay loft, 19 by  $9\frac{1}{2}$ , and store room, 12 by 14, less the space occupied by the hose tower. The hose tower rises 50 feet from the ground floor, and the bell tower about the

same height. The building is surmounted by a French roof. Glidden & Richardson, contractors.

ENGINE HOUSE No. 18.—This house, located on Harvard street, is of brick, two stories in height, with a pitched roof. It differs from the others in exterior appearance in having the bell tower placed in the centre of the front, the hose tower being located at the side about two-thirds of the distance down. The bell tower rises to a height of 61 feet, and the hose tower to a height of 56 feet. The dimensions of the building are 63 by 28 feet. The basement contains a furnace, hose tank, hose trough fifty feet long, a cistern holding about 5,000 gallons, and other conveniences. The basement walls are of Roxbury stone, laid in cement. The first floor is divided into an engine-room 44 by 26, and a stable 16 by 26, with three stalls. Space is taken for the hose tower, which is of ample size, being 6 feet square, interior dimensions, and for a closet and harness-room. The floor, ceiling and sheathing of the walls of the engine-room are of hard pine, the height being 12 feet in the clear. A cornice of black walnut is extended around the room at the intersection of the walls and ceiling. The upper story is finished at a height of 11 feet. The parlor measures 16 by 25 feet. It is adorned with a cornice and centre piece in plaster, and is lighted in the front with two spacious double windows of plate glass. Two sleeping-rooms, 10½ feet square each, and a bath room of the same size, containing bath-tub, basin and water-closet, are also on this floor. The hay loft, 25 by 16 in size, occupies the rear end. All the rooms but one are heated by furnace pipes, and are provided with closets for clothes, etc. The exterior front wall is of pressed brick, and the trimmings of the doors and windows are granite. The roof is slated and provided with copper gutters. Two wide double doors open upon the front, the spaces of the long upper panels being filled with plate glass. Plans by A. E. Richardson; contractor, F. M. Severance.

ENGINE HOUSE No. 19.—The plans for this house, which is located on Norfolk street, were made by Geo. F. Meacham. The building is of the Gothic style, the material being brick, with trimmings of unfinished granite. The first floor is divided into an engine room, 40 by 26½ feet, and stable, 12 by 26½ feet. The second floor is partitioned into a parlor, 23 by 26½; two sleeping rooms, each 17 by 11; bath-room, 9 by 6, and hay-loft, 12 by 26½. In the basement are placed the heating apparatus, cistern, etc. J. H. Burt & Co. were the builders.

ENGINE HOUSE No. 20.—This house is located on Walnut street, midway between the two adjacent villages of Neponset and Port Norfolk. The material is brick, with granite trimmings, and the construction is of the Italian order of architecture. The main building is 50 by 30 feet on the ground plan, but by adding the lateral projection of the towers an apparent width of 43 feet front and 53 feet length is obtained. The towers finish 9 feet square on the inside, the lower part of the bell tower giving space for a circular stairway to the second floor. In the hose tower the same interior dimensions are maintained, which gives abundant room for the manipulation of the hose. The hose trough is located on the first floor, and extends partly into the inclosure of the tower. The hose operations are therefore to be carried on at the front part of the building, not toward the rear as is usual. The engine room measures 32 by 27 feet, and the stable in the rear 15 by 27 feet. Three stalls and a harness closet are provided in the stable, and two large closets in the engine room. The heating apparatus is on the first floor, and a cistern of 5,000 gallons capacity is constructed upon piling beneath. This story is sheathed up five feet, and finished with plastering above. The second floor is divided into a parlor, 22 by 27; chamber, 13 by 20; bath room, 6 by 13; and hay-loft, 12 by 27. Both this and the Mattapan house have one wide entrance door at the

front centre, with smaller doors at the side, giving passage through the towers. The bell tower stands at the right of the main entrance, and rises to a height of 53 feet; the hose tower at the left is 64 feet high, and is surmounted by a flag-staff. The roof of the main building is pitched, but the towers have conical roofs, finished with bracketed cornices, finials and balustrade. Over the front door, and combined with it in forming a central architectural feature, is a large double, circular-headed window, with pilasters on each side, in the panels of which are representations of trumpets, suggestive of the purpose of the building. Contractor, E. A. Perkins, carpenter.

ENGINE HOUSE, No. 21. — This structure, situated on Boston street, near Upham's corner, was built under the supervision of R. T. Glidden, who did the carpenter work. The plans were drawn by A. E. Richardson. The building measures on the ground 68 by 23 feet, and its material is brick and granite in the lower stories, with a wooden, slated, mansard roof, within which are the parlor and chambers. The grade of the land affords a basement 12 feet in height, which is constructed with 16-inch brick walls. A large furnace, hose tank, fifty-foot hose trough of an improved pattern, a cauldron, and a cistern holding 100 hogsheads, comprise the principal accommodations of this story. The next floor, which corresponds to the grade of the street, is divided into an engine room, 47 by 26; engineer's work-room, 6 by 10 feet; water-closet and sink-room, 5 by 10 feet; one large and two small closets, and stable, 13 by 26 feet. The stable has three stalls, the woodwork of which is protected from the teeth of the horses by iron guards. The fixtures include also iron feed troughs and racks, and conduits for drainage. A rear stairway gives access to the hay-loft above. The hose tower rises from a point about two-thirds down the length of the building, passing through the roof about midway between the ridge and the gutter. Measured from the basement floor,

its height is 70 feet. The engine room is finished with hard pine sheathing four feet high, and with plaster above. A handsome cornice extends around next the ceiling, which finishes 14 feet in the clear. A broad stairway of easy slope, and furnished with a black walnut post and rail, ascends to the next floor. This floor is divided into a parlor, 27 by 20; engineer's sleeping-room, 20 by 12; fireman's room, 12 by 14; driver's room, 12 by 12; bath room, 8 by 12; and hay-loft, 13 by 26. Clothes closets are provided in each room, and a furnace register opens also into each. The parlor finishes  $12\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, and is adorned with a centre piece, chandelier and a heavy cornice. Two large double windows open upon the street, and two single windows at the side. The bath-room is finished in black walnut, and furnished with all the modern improvements. The towers are handsome structures, crowned with rectangular shaped domes, presenting convex surfaces.

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