



## House History

### Capt. Robert B. Dix House

Address: 714 Tremont Road (Route 102)

City: West Tremont

State: Maine

Map and Lot Number: Map 4 – Lot 32

Town of Tremont Account Number - 546

Map: CS 1887 – SEAL COVE SOUTH – South side of the road

Build Date: Circa 1855

First Owner - Dix – Robert B. Dix (1837-1901)

See also:

Thomas Clark Store

Capt. Robert B. Dix Store

Isaac T. Murphy House

Later site of Loren W. Rumill Store

711 Tremont Road, West Tremont, Maine

"Harbor View House/Jeanette Lawson Reed House

The lot on which this house sits was once part of Lot #21 as shown on • Salem Towne's map of 1808. The first owners of this lot that I'm aware of so far were John M. Gott and his wife, Nancy T. Gott.

On 19 Oct 1854 John M. Gott sold to George Reed about 2 acres for \$60.00. At that price it seems to me there could have been no building(s) on these two acres. The lot was bounded as follows: Starting on the highway at Sullivan Webster's Southwest line, following said line 29 rods to the head of the creek (what we now know as Webster's Creek), thence 12 rods West, thence 29 rods to the highway and parallel with the first line, thence 12 rods East following the highway to the first bound.

Then, on 18 July 1855, George Reed sold this same lot to his brother, Capt. Nathan Adam Reed, for the same \$60.00. At some point not long thereafter, a dwelling house was erected on this lot and it then came into the possession of one Mary A. Young. On 23 Aug 1861 Mary A. Young sold this same lot, now called a 3 acre lot, plus the buildings thereon, to Maria L. Dix for \$550.00. The bounds were the same as above.

Maria L. Dix was originally a Lunt, a sister to George W. Lunt who married Abbie F. Clark (the ones we called Uncle Wash and Aunt Abbie). Maria married Capt. Robert B. Dix, one of the many children of Capt. Jonathan and Apphia Bartlett Dix. Capt. Robert and Maria Dix lived on in this house until his death in 1901. They brought up their two children there. There was a son, Ernest Dix, and a daughter, Lillian. Ernest Dix married Blanch Latty, daughter of Abram and Letitia Latty. After Ernest

Dix was lost at sea, his widow married Rev. Arthur Thompson. The Dix daughter, Lillian, married George Murphy, and they built a small home a short distance west of Robert's and Maria's house.

Capt. Robert Dix decided he would stay ashore and become a store owner. He and his wife obtained a store building across the road (Rt 102) from their home and he became a storekeeper. The business formerly had been owned and operated by Thomas Clark and then by his brother, Eaton Clark. Capt. Dix made the same mistake as did Capt. Andrew Lopau. He extended too much credit to his neighbors. Soon he was in great financial difficulty. The only way he could see to recoup some of his losses was to go back to sea again. On his first trip he was shipwrecked and lost his life at sea on 7 April 1901 at the age of 69 years. His wife, Maria, lived on there and died at the age of 85 in 1924.

The West Tremont Village Improvement Society later bought and used the house for some time. Their "sewing circle" sales were held on the lawn or in the ell of the house. Shown here is a picture of the ladies in the "sewing circle" back in the early 1920's, in front of the Dennis Norwood house.

Ned and Elsie Lawson rented the house for some years before they bought the building across the road and moved there in 1937. That house was the former Clark, then Dix, store. Ned and Elsie lived out the rest of their lives here.

When Elsie Lawson took over the job as Postmaster from Nettie Rumill, she operated the post office in the ell of the Harbor View House, as the Robert Dix house had come to be called. I can remember going up there to the post office to pick up our mail, and once to get bicycles which had been mailed to my sister and me from Sears Roebuck & Co. Later, Elsie bought L. W. Rumill's little store and moved it to the low lot beside their home and that then became the West Tremont Post Office. She made it into a combination post office and small store. You could buy candies, bread, milk, crackers, cookies, other dairy products, cereals, coldcuts, etc. The dairy products were kept in a refrigerator. Out front were two gasoline pumps.

After Dr. George Dix had the vestry built at the West Tremont Methodist Church, the "sewing circle" held its sales in the vestry-and still does. The Harbor View House was rented out to several different families before being bought by Ned Lawson. Among the people who lived there were Norris "Buster" Gray and his wife, Dorothy; Carrie Atcherson and her family, and Lernice Martis Dalzell. A few years after Ned's daughter, Jeanette Lawson, and Allen Reed were married, they bought the Harbor View House from her father, and moved in there. Although they are no longer married, Jeanette still lives there. Her children are grown and away. Jeanette has done wonders with the house!

At the back is a new "family room" from which she has a nice view of Goose Cove and part of Blue Hill Bay. " - "A History of the Houses of West Tremont, Maine" Volumes II, compiled and written by Raymond E. Robbins, Jr., s.n., 1997, p. 84-87.