



1914 MIDDLE STREET c. 1875. The Devereux Mansion, built by Charleston architect John Henry Devereux, was called "Picnic." An elaborate architectural composition, the structure featured an entrance flanked by two 10-foot whale jaw bones taken from a whale that had beached itself on Sullivan's Island. One island resident said it took weeks to get rid of the whale. Devereux practiced architecture from 1865 into the early 20th century. He was a student of Edward C. Jones, one of Charleston's finest antebellum architects. Devereux's works include St. Mathew's Lutheran Church (1867-1872), the Academy of Music (1869), and the Charleston Post Office, as well as other prominent commercial buildings throughout the city and country. In 1885 Devereux served the Treasury Department as superintendent of construction and repairs and as traveling inspector of public buildings. Mr. Devereux was born in Wexford, Ireland. [Gene.]

from Sullivan's Island by
Gadsden Cultural Center
Arcadia ©2004



1914 MIDDLE STREET. The Devereux Mansion was vacant for many years in the early 20th century, and local residents recall wandering through the abandoned structure prior to its demolition. The mansion's decline came about after the death of John Henry Devereux in 1920. James Tippin, who lived about 75 feet from the Devereux Mansion, recalled the golden globe on top of the dome-shaped roof, which furnished heat or insulation to him as a teenager. "When we were small and there were days we would stay in our back porch and with 22 children in the house at that globe just to stay a day, that was fun for us all." Both Leon and Agatha P. Mueller Thomas, another long-time Sullivan Island resident, recalled the Elks Club renting out the Devereux house for dances and the famed B.P.O.E. (Beneficent Protective Order of the Elks) set up the home. Mrs. Thomas also remembered that soldiers would rent out the dining room for dances. She recalled walking across the dining room floor, which had started to slant as the house deteriorated. Tippin left for military service in World War II in 1944. When he returned the Devereux Mansion had been torn down. (Courtesy: Mrs. Charles Liebermann II.)