

Ye Towne  
Of  
St. Georges  
"Buildings and Homes"

No. 5 Gladys B. Lester

"Mill Land"  
- Below -  
"Delaware Street"



F174  
S8  
L642  
V.5

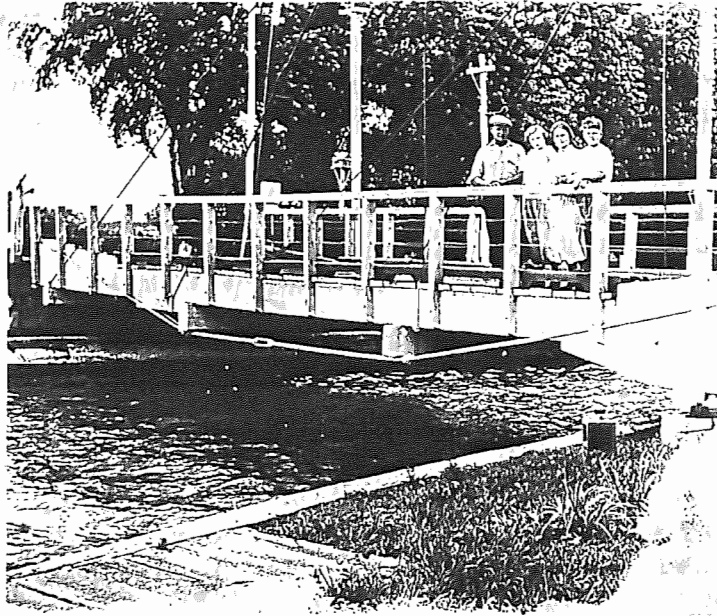
DELAWARE PUBLIC ARCHIVES

YE TOWNE  
OF  
SAINT GEORGES  
"BUILDINGS AND HOMES"  
MILL PROPERTY  
AND  
BELOW DELAWARE STREET  
BY  
GLADYS B. LESTER

Booklet # 5

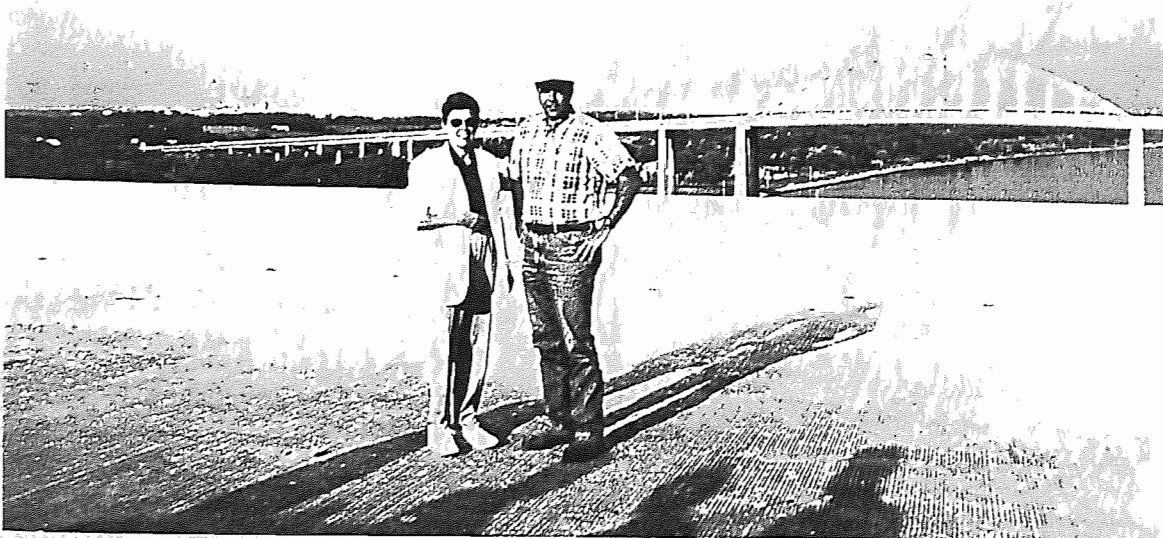


OLD and NEW



Scene - Circa - 1921 Locks and bridge built  
Circa - 1855

Victor and Edna Gray with relatives on the bridge  
and locks of the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal,  
St. Georges, Delaware.



October 6, 1995 - Gladys Lester and son, Gordon, on a tour of  
the, nearly finished, new Route 1 Bridge West of St. Georges.  
The scene in the background represents lands researched by  
Gladys from the date 1675 to 12-31-1999.

What does the future hold ???

As Mr. and Mrs. Gray stood proudly on the little wooden bridge over the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal in the 1900's they could not have envisioned the growth of the area or the widening of the canal or that three more bridges would replace the little wooden bridge over that body of water.

Also, as Gladys and her son stand on the new bridge, West of St. Georges, over the canal, they can only apprehend the beauty of the bridge and the surrounding majestic view.

The future of this area will unfold in time, and one can only hope it will be well recorded. Without the records, held in the Hall of Records Archives, in Dover, Delaware, I would have been unable to bring together large areas of land that became lots to form the Town of St. Georges, incorporated in the year 1826.

I don't claim to be a writer; barring some typing errors and my non-professional grammar, I hope people who have read my booklets can appreciate true documentation that brings the town of St. Georges to reality.

The State of Delaware can be proud that we now have a beautiful new archives building for preservation of records - but - the State can also be proud of the staff and their conscientious service to the public, that helped to promote the new archives, and will make visits to the state archives worthwhile.

I again thank the courteous staff members, of the archives, for their help and kindness during my years of research.

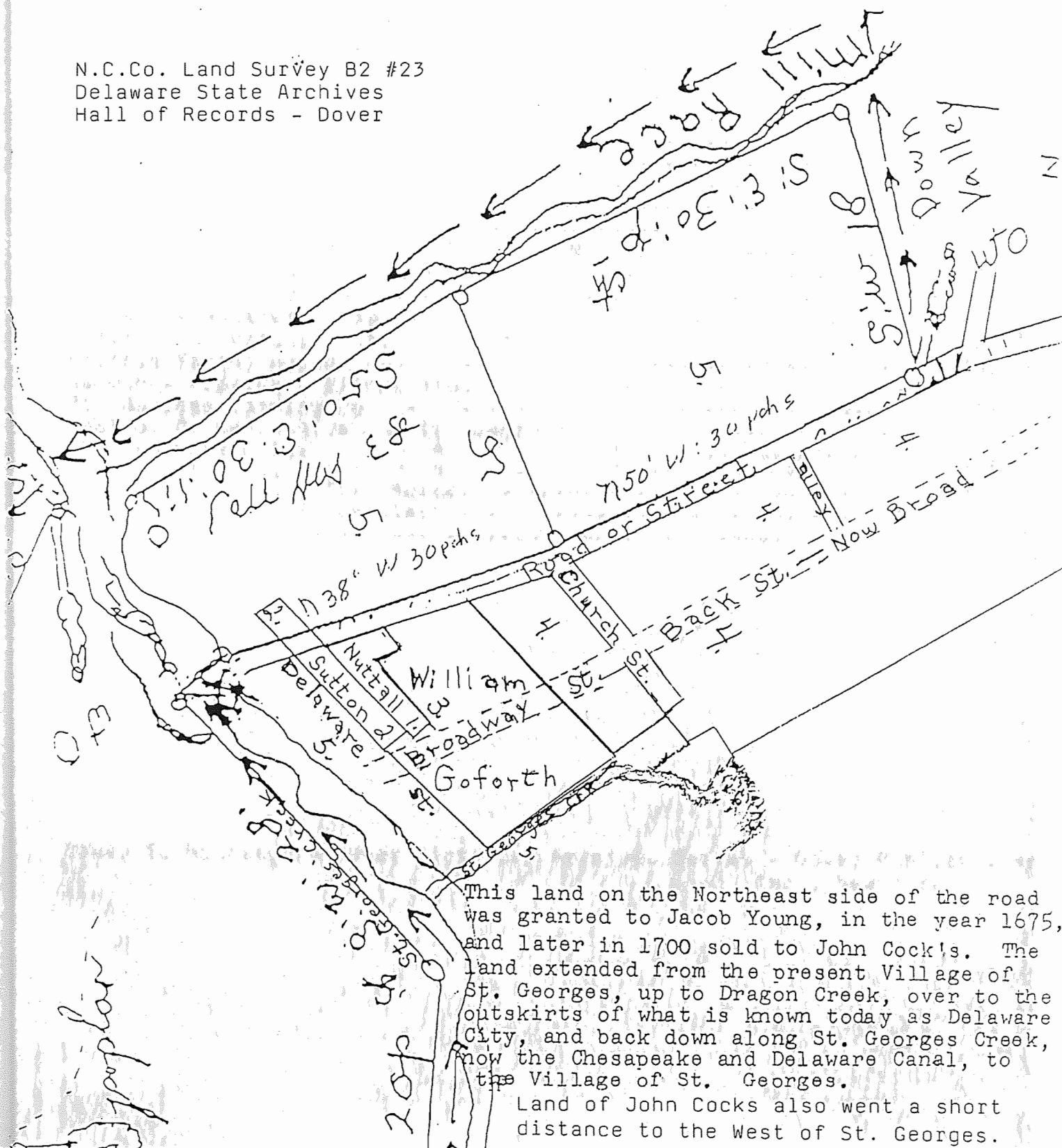
Gladys Boyd Lester  
December 30, 2000

*Gladys B. Lester*  
4-10-2001



Using this blown up survey of land, by St. Georges Creek, in the area where the Town of North St. Georges developed there will be an attempt to show, to some degree, how the town developed. The creek belongs close to the line and not the bulk of water it seems to be. The land at this time, 1718, belonged to Abraham Kirbly and William Betteridge. The land included the mill and mill house which probably was incentive to begin the town. The town developed on the Northeast side of this property. The Mill House Property Southwest of Main Street also developed into lots adding to the town, as well as a row of lots to the South of Delaware Street.

N.C.Co. Land Survey B2 #23  
Delaware State Archives  
Hall of Records - Dover



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Cover Silhouette -- Dover Pictorial Archives Series - Dover Publications  
Inc., New York



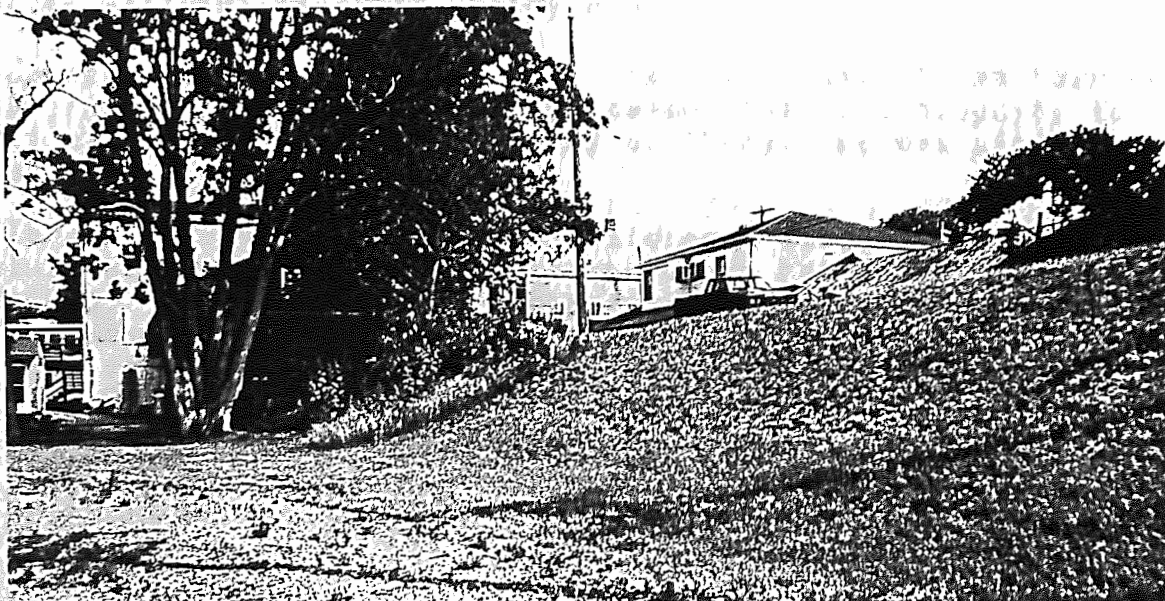


III

The mill was to be built near St. Georges Creek, on the westerly side of the bridge that leadeth over the aforesaid creek near unto the house of Joseph Neale. The mill was to be erected within two years of the April 2, 1711 deed or by April 2, 1713. If this agreement failed or the mill ever fell into decay or ruin the men mentioned in the 1711 deed had the right to destroy the mill-dam and mill pond and return the lands to their former estates.

It is estimated, now in the year 2000, the mill was built south of the Earle Marvin Billips House. It would have been about 125 feet or so up from where the Georges Bridge and Georges Creek were then located. The creek later became the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal.

The pictures below, taken in July 2000, below Delaware Street and near the electric pole is the area where the mill would have been located.





John Demarest on August 29, 1713, for 7lbs. 10 shillings, granted Floren Sorency owner of the mill on St. Georges Creek, the privilege to keep up the dam belonging to the mill; in the extent Sorency may have to raise it, to successfully run the mill or to lower the flood waters to repair the dam which may affect the Demarest property consisting of 318 acres lying to the southerly side of the creek. This was witnessed by Magdaline Morgan and Samuel Griffith.

On April 12, 1714 it was written on the back of the 1711 deed that the mill did grind three months within mentioned time of the two years granted. It was witnessed by Joseph Neale, Edward Edwards and the millwright - Henry Davis. (N.C.Co. Deed N-1-361--1711 Recorded in December 1742 Hall of Records Dover)

Soon after witnessing the April 12, 1714 paper Joseph Neale died and his sons sold his existing properties. The land near the St. Georges Creek and mill containing his home were sold to David Stout and by Stout to Magadalene Morgan and John Gill. This land today is east of Main Street (formerly Mill Dam Road) and below Delaware Street. It will be discussed later in the book. (N.C.Co. Deed Q-1-78--1748 Dover Archives)

Floren Sorency held ownership of the mill until August 21, 1718 when a survey was drawn to sell the land to Abraham Kirbly and William Betteridge. See Page 2. (N.C.Co. Survey B2#123--1718 Dover) The contents of the immediate land by the mill building was 35 acres. This is the earliest survey available of the mill land.

The 1718 survey failed to tell of Floren Sorency having had a tanyard on the mill property or adjoining it and also there was a tenement lot and two water lotts joining the mill dam and pond. This property was deeded to a William Holmes. No deed is available as to how Holmes received the property. Holmes sold the property to John Goforth in the Year 1725 and the deed tells of the property being by the mill dam and adjoining John Gills property. (N.C.Co. Deed G-1-535--8-12-1725 Dover) John Goforth was a tanner and farmer and held the property until November 1729 when he sold it to Jacob Van Bebber, a merchant. (N.C.Co. Deed I-1-270--11-16-1729 Dover) Jacob died and his heirs sold the property to Jacob Gooding Sr., Merchant, in the year 1749. Gooding died and his heirs sold the property to Daniel Britt. (N.C.Co. deed U-1-558--8-25-1761 Dover) This is the property known as The Steamboat Hotel, featured in Book #2- Building and Homes of St. Georges. More about a part of this property will follow later in the book.

On August 6, 1723 Abraham Birkley, now a merchant of the town and County of Burlington, in West New Jersey, deeded the mill property for 220 lbs. to Millwright John Daniel Tony - alias Thony. He was also known as Johnathon D. Toney.

The land was 35 acres along with buildings, mill, millpond, mill dam, all running geers, tools and utensils thereunto belonging in the hereditaments described. The deed was very precise as the water-rights of the pond and tail-race were important to the function of the mill. Also the mill dam was used as the main road going through the village and area. (N.C.Co. Deed G-1-495--1724 - Archives-Dover)

On July 10, 1723 John D. Toney bought 56 acres, in St. Georges Hundred, from James Anderson, a son and heir of Urian Anderson. This land was included in the mill property. (N.C.Co. Deed G-1-314--1723 Dover)

After purchasing the mill Mr. Toney built a frame home on the mill property plus a brick kitchen, brick smoke house and carriage house. This was built, on a hill, up the street from the mill and later referred to as attached with The Grist Mill. John Daniel Tony's will tells of the location of his home. Around the year 1824 it is mentioned as a lot of its own and will be noted later in the book.

Mr. Toney was a prosperous millwright and owned other lands in the area. He and his wife Elizabeth only sold one lot off of the mill property and that was to Andrew Cannon, a hatter, on May 17, 1743. This lot will also be noted later in the book.

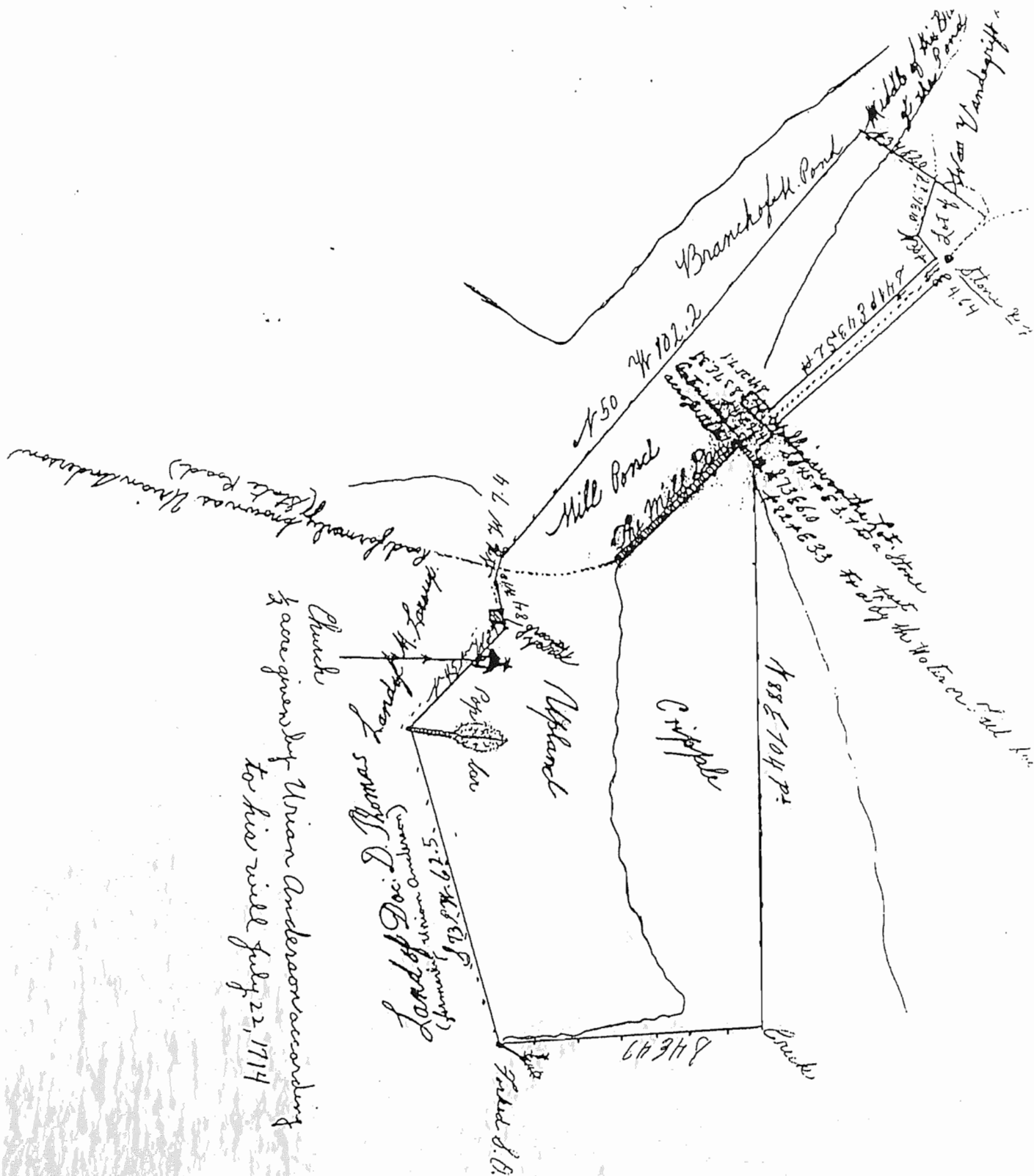
John D. Toney died on or about April 6, 1748. From his will it is surmised his in-laws by the names of John, Lewis, and Thomas Reece, sons of his wife's brother John Reece of Mill Creek Hundred, Millwrights, took over the operation of the mill. The complete mill property went to his daughter Elizabeth Dushane, wife of Issac Dushane. Her property holdings were now referred to on deeds as property of her husband, Isaac Dushane, until his death in early 1790. Isaac was a clothier and son of Valentine Dushane who owned the Fulling Mill on Scott's Run south of the St. Georges Creek

Elizabeth Dushane died near the end of January 1792; a very prosperous lady. After all debts and legacies were carried out by her executors, John Reece, Millwright, and Samuel Eccles; they were to sell all personal and real estate at Public Auction Sale. (N.C.Co Wills- Elizabeth Dushane 1792 - Dover Archives)

A survey and draught (see page 6) was drawn up on March 28, 1792 for land belonging to the St. Georges Mill Property, late the property of Elizabeth Dushane. (N.C.CO. Land Records - Hall Of Records - Dover D3 #83 - - 1792) Compare this survey with the survey of 1718 on page 2.

On April 2, 1792, for 935 lbs., a deed was given to John Laroux, a farmer of St. Georges, by Elizabeth Dushane's executors for the Messuage and Grist Water Mill plus water covered properties inherited. (N.C.Co. Land Record R3 #49 Deed - 1792 Dover) On May 24, 1792, by deed, John Laroux confirmed unto Enoch Thomas, farmer, the one-half of a certain Grist Mill and piece or parcel of land, meadow, swamp and land covered with water situate on both sides of St. Georges Creek in the hundreds of Red Lyon and St. Georges, 35 acres. Also the one-half of all the land covered by the waters raised by the Mill Dam across St. Georges Creek situate in both aforesaid hundreds containing 500 acres together with all the one-half buildings etc.. (N.C.Co. Deed Land Records Dover - L3 #54--1792)

Exempt from this, which is shown on the March 28, 1792 survey was a grave yard and church in St. Georges Hundred, the Hollingsworth Lot, (formerly Wm. Holmes) and the heirs of Abraham Vandegrift Lot, (formerly Andrew Cannon) on the west side of the street in Red Lyon Hundred.



N.C.Co. Land Records  
Hall of Records - Dover  
D3 #83 N.C.Co. Survey  
March 28, 1792



No description of the mill building was found, but the mill was located at the west end of the mill dam. Note the Mill Dam Road and the main street were off course. You had to veer off of the main street and go down and around the mill house. Also note the mill property line went across the main street and southward by other properties. There was no Delaware Street at this time. The southward line divided the mill property from the Joseph Neale property later owned by Magdalene Cox located below Delaware Street. (See page 74)

John Laroux wrote his will on December 17, 1795 and died on or about December 29, 1797. He had ordered his executors to make a deed of conveyance unto Enoch Thomas for all the remaining moiety or one-half part of the premises in the May 24, 1792 deed. Wm. Carpenter executor for J. Laroux complied with the will and by deed transferred the property to Enoch Thomas in the year 1798. No month or day were stated. ( N.C.Co. Deed Land Records- Dover C6 #104)

Enoch Thomas kept the mill running, hiring a millwright. He did not live on the mill property.

During his ownership, on March 24, 1804, he and his wife Jane, for 5 shillings, granted a lot 60' x 70' from the mill property, next to the Vandegrift property, to John Sutton and Anthony Higgins for the use of a school house and no other purpose. This lot will be discussed later in the book. (N.C.Co. Deed D-3-385--1804 Dover)

Enoch Thomas made his will May 14, 1811 and died on or near May 30, 1811 leaving his entire estate to his wife Jane and beloved son Nathan Thomas, agreeable to the intestate law of the State of Delaware. (Will and Probate Enoch Thomas - Hall of Records Dover) Nathan was considered a minor and orphan when his father died in 1811 and Jacob Vandegrift was chosen, by the court, to be his guardian. The evaluation of the mill property made to the court on November 23, 1811 was 39 arable acres with the Grist Mill, frame house, brick kitchen, small brick smokehouse, and carriage house all in bad repair was \$333.33. The property in 1811 was occupied by Jesse Dushane, a probable millwright. (N.C.Co. Orphan Court K\_1-46--1811 Dover) The 1811 records also show there is beginning to be a division of lots on the mill property to the west of Main Street.

Nathan's mother, Jane Thomas, died around March 7, 1816.

Nathan Thomas died intestate December 10, 1822 leaving a wife Martha and one child, Margaret Ann Thomas. (N.C.Co. Orphan Court L-228-229-1819 to 1824, Dover Archives)

Margaret Ann received the mill property, but being of a minor age, the court appointed David Nivin to be her guardian. In the year 1823 he made a report to the New Castle County Orphan Court that the long established Grist and Merchant Mill known by the name of St. Georges Mill had on or about February 22, 1822 been thrown down by flood waters of a violent rain storm and was in a state of delapidation and ruin causing injury to the real estate of said Margaret Ann Thomas. Because of the original grant in 1711 by the proprietors affecting the mill pond land be kept in running order and if it ceased running for a span of two years the said water rights land would be forfeited and revert to the proprietors of the lands. The mill would have to be erected on or before February 22, 1824 to be of value to the estate.

Timber could be taken from woodland owned in the estate and when completed the mill would bring an annual rent of \$600. The court did order that David Nivin, guardian of the estate, rebuild the mill near and to the present dam and pond as will be most convenient and beneficial to the said minor and all expenses incidental to the rebuilding not exceed the sum of \$1,000.00, but not including the timber to come off of the late Nathan Thomas land.

The mill was rebuilt, but, not on the same location, as a later 1826 deed drawing shows the mill to be located just northeast of the old site centered across the mill dam road below Clinton Street. (Now Main Street.) Clinton Street was 55' 2" wide. The mill building was 43' long, across the front. The flow of the mill race was now changed from flowing down along the old Neale property as seen on page 74 to flowing across the Neale property now in the Nathan Thomas estate to a ditch that entered into the St. Georges Creek and the new Chesapeake and Delaware Canal in progress. Traffic still had to veer off Clinton Street to go past the mill building and across the mill dam road. The mill was only about 50 to 55 feet below, now, Delaware Street. When Garmans built the storehouse on the corner of Main Street and Delaware Street it was not on the Mill Property but on the Neale, Cox, Piper and Thomas deed property as will be shown later in this book. Also note on the 1868 Beers Atlas of Delaware page 115 that the mill site location had been widened to 55' 2" to extend Clinton Street or Main Street. The road leading on down to the canal was only 32' wide. The 32' wide section was owned by the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Co. and came under a law passed on February 10, 1851 by the State of Delaware to keep it in repair.

On April 9, 1824 Martha N. Thomas and David Nivin administrators for the Nathan Thomas Estate had appealed to the orphan court to sell some of the estate in order to pay debts. (N.C.Co. Orp. Crt. L-191-- 1819 - 1824) Permission was granted by court to sell some of the estate at public auction. At public auction on May 15, 1824, in the Village of St. Georges at the house of John Ball, Innkeeper, 80 acres were sold for \$11,000 to James C. Fisher, being highest bidder. He bought the land for The Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company. A survey of the property had been made on April 6, 1824 by Benjamin Wright, Engineer, for the canal company. The property bought by the canal company went across the mill dam at the halfway point and took in the millpond going over into St. Georges Hundred near the highland by the sawmill. The grist mill and house property were not in the 80 acres. (N.C.Co. Orp. Crt. L-329 -- 1824 N.C.Co. Deed B-4-156--1824 - Dover Archives)

According to plans submitted by Benjamin Wright and other engineers the canal would cut through St. Georges Meadows to St. Georges Mill Dam, there to be lifted by a lock of 8 feet, then through St. Georges Mill Dam etc., etc.. Adopted January 26, 1824 (Dela. History - Ralph D. Gray - Randel - Ches. & Dela. Canal Vol. 8 - 1958-59 pg. 392 - Dover Archives)

David Nivin Administrator of the Thomas Estate died around April 1824. He was the father of Martha N. Thomas, also an administrator, and the guardian of his grand-daughter Margaret Ann Thomas. John Nivin, executor for David Nivin, now became Margaret's guardian and administrator, with Martha to settle the estate.

Since a new administrator was taking over the estate, the orphan court ordered a new evaluation be made of the lands and premises of Margaret Ann Thomas minor orphan child of late Nathan Thomas. A report was made on August 2, 1824 and recorded in court on August 26, 1824. Bills were

presented for rebuilding the mill which had been destroyed in 1822 and approved by the court in 1823 to rebuild. Bills presented to David Nivin before his death amounted to \$956.33½ on April 17, 1824. From April 17, 1824 to August 20, 1824 bills presented to the new administrator amounted to \$831,98½. The cost to rebuild the mill did exceed the \$1000 limit set by the court. (A presentation of the bills examined by the court for rebuilding the mill will be at the end of this article)

The three subscribers reporting to the court on the estate were George Clark, Philip Reybold, and Robert Ocheltree. The work of rebuilding the mill was in vain. Their report stated - Item 9 - One large frame building, in the Village of St. Georges intended for a Grist Water Mill now in a state of delapidation in consequence of the breaking of their dam last Spring (1824) as tis probable that the canal will take the water and the building could not operate as a Mill - We would recommend that it should be converted into a warehouse or made tenantable, some repairs should be done soon as the frame is now injuring. We find in Red Lion Hundred twelve (12) acres of woodland which has heretofore been considered part of the mill property, it should not be cleared. (N.C.Co. Orp. Crt. Bk. L 1819 - 1824 - 8-26-1824 Dover Archives)

The St. Georges Mill was destroyed but the exact date is not known, but probable before the year 1835.

On November 14, 1826 Martha Nivin Thomas, mother of Margaret Ann Thomas, and former wife of Nathan Thomas married Samuel Woodland. He proceeded to claim dowers rights of one equal third part of her former husband's estate. By the year 1828 she was awarded her lifetime dowers right share. She did not receive any of the actual mill property. It belonged to Margaret Ann. (N.C.Co. Orp. Crt. N - pg. 44 -- 1828 - 1831 Dover Archives)

Martha Thomas Woodland died on January 5, 1844. By this time her daughter Margaret Ann Thomas had married John Osborne.

It was Margaret and John Osborne, plus Wm. J. Hurlock and David Nivin, who were given Power of Attorney by the Osborne's in Sept. 1857, that sold the Mill and neighboring properties located to the West of Main Street and South of Delaware Street featured in this book. (N.C.Co. Deed L-7-165-1857 Dover Archives)

No actual survey was ever found making a division of the mill building from the 37 acre mill property.

A division was made --- a deed in 1872 shows Wm. J. Hurlock purchased some of the land near the mill on May 17, 1853 from Margaret and John Osborne. No recorded deed was found.

Robert M. Lewis and wife Martha, William Platt and wife Mara F., and John K. Kane and wife Jane D. L. owned the actual land where the mill stood before January 6, 1835. The 1872 deed states Wm. J. Hurlock bought a part of this lot from the previous mentioned people on that date. No deed can be found when they actually bought the property but probable between 1831 and 1835. There were 23 perches of the land left after Hurlock made his purchase and it's very probable he had bought the end section containing the mill building and later used the timber to build a home on his lot near the mill site. (N.C.CO. Deed X-9-332 - August 21, 1872 Dover Archives)



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The 23 perches of land left were sold for \$500 to the Chesapeake and Delaware Company by a Warrantee Deed from Wm. J. Hurlock and wife Caroline to Lewis, Platt, and Kane on November 20, 1850. The canal company was planning to build new locks for the canal and wanted the property. There was no mention of a building in the deed. (N.C.Co. Deed E-6-459 --1850 Dover Archives)

The last reference found on the mill property was in the Laws of the State of Delaware - page 481 - Chapter CCCCLxxxvIII - Passed at Dover February 10, 1851. An act requiring and compelling the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Co. to keep in repair the road known as the St. Georges Mill Dam in New Castle County. Whereas the C & D Canal Co. fearing a breach in their towpath above the St. Georges Dam, applied to the Levy Court of New Castle Co. to permit them to raise the dam upon an equal height with their towpath, and to put good and substantial fences upon each side of said dam and whereas the said company have constructed said road. Therefore Section 1 - Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Delaware in General Assembly met, that the President, Directors and Company of the aforesaid Ches. & Canal Co. be and they are hereby required and compelled henceforth to keep in repair the said road known as the St. Georges Mill Dam, and at no time suffer it to be reduced under 32 foot in width, between the fences, and keep at all times each side of the road a good and substantial fence.

The era of the mill and dam had ended.

It is now known the original mill built in 1711-1712 was destroyed by flood and the second mill built in 1823 - 1824 also suffered flood damage in 1824 as the dam gave way leaving it in a state of delapidation. No evidence was found to show the building operated again as a grist mill. The Mill House was left out of the metes and bounds encompassing the town of St. Georges. The line for the town began at the southwest corner of the Mill Dam, thence by the front of the said Mill House N56° E 45feet by the edge of the Marsh etc. . The line did not go across the back of the mill house which would have included it in the charter perimeter.

The Estate of Margaret Ann Thomas, a minor  
Orphan child of Nathan, deceased to  
David Nivin Guardian

These are the names of people involved in building the new mill.

1	- Amount of bill for provisions, etc. herewith	\$ 198.91½
2	- Isaac Price's bill	1.42½
3	- " " "	1.73
4	- John Sutton & Sons bill	3.15½
5	- D. Eastburn for lime	.55
6	- Samuel Spear Stone Mason 's bill	35.00
7	- Jeremiah Williams - Labourer Per Receipt	57.75
8	- Henry Batten - Drawing logs	10.00
9+	- Stephen Wills - Bill designating Mill Seat	94.99
10	- H. Guier - hauling stone - in part - per receipt	2.82
11	- William Batten - Smith Work	100.00
12	- John Evans & John Kerr's - Carpenters	6.043/4
13	- John Kerr - Provisions	369.10
14	- John Sutton & Sons Bill	3.78½
15	- Sam'l Ringold - Labourer's Bill	3.62½
16	- Charles Hart - Labourer -	18.043/4
17	- Thomas Shearwood - Labourer	14.77¼
18	- David Clarkson - Labourer	5.40
19	- Absolom Lockwood - Labourer	13.68
20	- Abraham Kinslow - Labourer	1.82
21	- Charles Butter - Labourer	1.25
22	- Williams Williams Labourer	6.00
23	- Benjamin Chew - Labourer	1.25
24	- Benjamin Jacobs - Labourer	2.25
25	- Eli Irons - Labourer	.50
		4.00
		<hr/>
		\$ 956.33½
26	- Robert P. Crosby	
27	- Hezekiah Quier - a balance due him	
28	- Heckerick Neberkoff	.50

These last three item #26 - 27- 28 are left open for John Nivin the Administrator of David Nivin to settle them with Crosby & Guier respectively - they not being at this time properly adjusted and ascertained. 17 April 1824 - This account to the Amount of \$956.33½ cents is this day allowed by Court.

Attest: Matthew Kean C.O.C.

Continued on next page

9+ - correction Stephen Willis



The Estate of Margaret Ann Thomas a minor  
orphan daughter of Nathan W. Thomas  
deceased to John Nivin Guardian

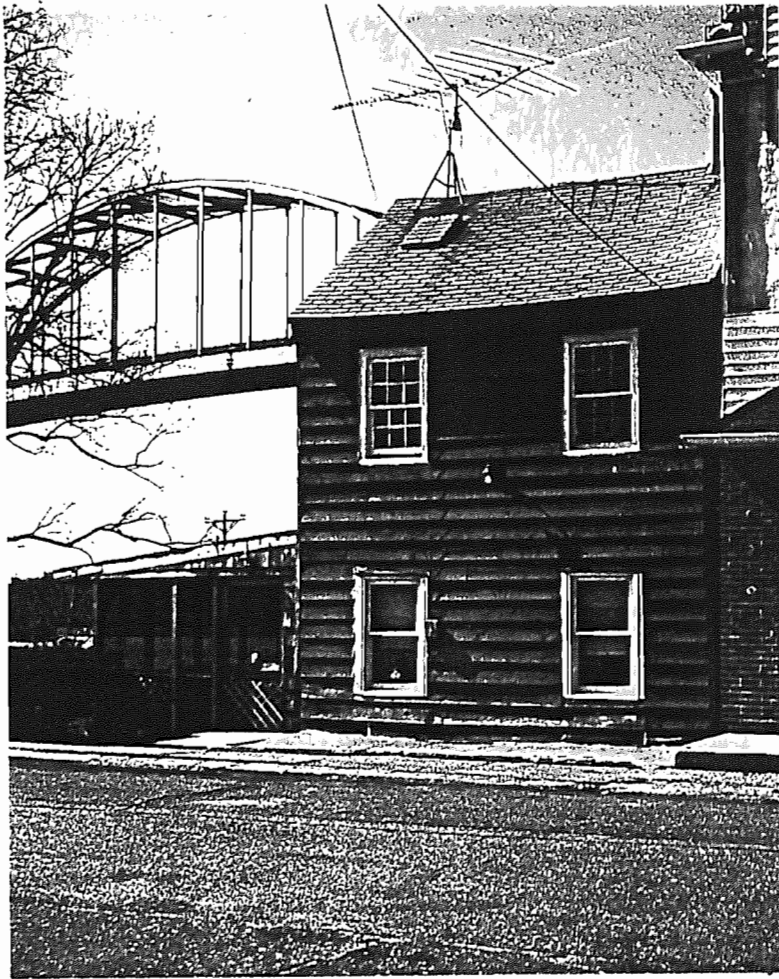
1	- To amount of my own bill - Provisions & Expenses	\$ 78.76
2	- John Hedrick's - White Pine Boards	26.00
3	- H. Guier bill - for drawing White Pine Boards	5.50
4	- Benjamin Whiteman's bill of nails	1.27 $\frac{1}{2}$
5	- Isaac Price & Co. " " "	4.50
6	- Joseph Grubbs " " "	1.90
7	- E. Thomas & Co. Bill for 2 Bases for WaterWheel	2.05
8	- E. Thomas & Co. Bill for Counter Gudgeons & Bases	9.95
9	- John Hedrick's - Pine Boards	52.00
10	- Samuel Spears - for Mason Work	2.50
11	- William Cooch's Bill for Cogs and Rounds	13.50
12	- Benjamin Whitman's Bill of Brads, Lead etc.	3.06
13	- J. & A. Ritters Bill for Bolting Cloth	30.00
14	- Jeremiah Williams Bill - Labourer	26.95 $\frac{1}{2}$
15	- John D. Vaughn - Bill for Mackerel	5.50
16	- John Hedrick's Bill for Shingles	55.50
17	- H. Guier for hauling to St. Georges	13.00
18	- John Evans for seasoned Plank	7.293/4
19	- Benjamin Bowin Millwright Bill	293.87 $\frac{1}{2}$
20	- Azariah Foster Dressing Mill Irons	33.25
21	- William Batten Smith Work	39.72
22	- William T. Herlock for Drawing etc.	7.00
23	- John Kerr Provisions etc.	1.53 $\frac{1}{2}$
24	- Sarah Lee Cook	6.48
25	- David Clarkston Labourer	.96
26	- Charles Hart Labourer	1.15 $\frac{1}{2}$
27	- Syrus Williams Labourer	.37 $\frac{1}{2}$
28	- William Lee Labourer	.37 $\frac{1}{2}$
29	- Jesse Freeman Labourer	1.31 $\frac{1}{4}$
30	- Stephen Lawless Labourer	.56 $\frac{1}{4}$
31	- Tobias Deating Labourer	3.19
32	- Nicholas Frisby Labourer	.50
33	- John Johnson	6.50
34	- Absalom Lockwood Labourer	1.50
35	- Abraham Kinslow Labourer	1.12 $\frac{1}{2}$
36	- Eli Irons Laborer	3.00
37	- Samuel Ringold Labourer	20.00
		<hr/>
		\$ 761.66 $\frac{1}{4}$
38	- John Sutton & Sons	\$ 26.07
39	- John Sutton & Sons	\$ 44.25
		\$ 70.32

April 17, 1824 - The within bill from No. 1 to No. 39 inclusive are allowed excepting Numbers 19, 20, 21, 22, 38, and 39 which are left open for Mr. Nivin to obtain receipts.

This day 20th August 1824 - The items No. 19, 20, 21, 22, 38, and 39 are allowed by the Court being first inspected and examined.

ATTEST: Matthew Kean -clerk of Court

## HURLOCK - BILLIPS HOUSE



Picture 1992 Built Circa - 1853

This lot contained a part of the mill building area and is now the home and property of Marvin and Sandra Billips.

The lot was formed in two parts. Mr. Willaim Hurlock claims he bought a part of the lot on May 17, 1853 from John and Margaret Thomas Osborne and the other part of the lot from Robert M. Lewis and wife Martha, William Platt and wife Maria F. and John Kane and wife Jane on Jan. 6 1835. There are no recorded deeds for these transactions. No deed was found recorded to Lewis, Platt and Kane receiving the land from Martha or Margaret Thomas or the administrators of the Nathan Thomas Estate; David or John Nivin, but a deed tells of Lewis, Platt and Kane having the land where the Mill House stood. (N.C.Co. Deed x-9-332--8-21-1872 E-6-459--11-20-1850)

Lewis, Platt & Kane owned farmland in St. Georges Hundred near to St. Georges Creek and southeast of Scotts Run. Their interest in the Mill House land is not known, but it's evident they made no improvements to the property except to sell a part to Mr. Hurlock and later be a party to sell the rest of the land, being 23 perches, to the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal.

Wm. J. Hurlock had bought land adjoining to the St. Georges Mill Pond and St. Georges Creek as early as May 4, 1819. (N.C.Co. Deed W-3-33--1819) It is understandable why he bought the mill and lot as it joined his property. He may have used the mill building for storage since it was located close to his farm. It's also very probable after the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Co. took the adjoining 23 perches of land in 1850 and he buying the adjoining lot in 1853, from the Osborne's, tore down the mill using some of the timbers to build the house on the Billips Lot.

A part of the lot transformed into the main street which was 55 foot wide and connected to the old mill dam road which went over the canal lock.

The 1868 Beers Atlas page 115 shows a house and wheelwright shop on the lot. It's possible it was also built of the mill timbers. On August 21, 1872 Wm. J. Hurlock and wife Caroline sold the lot for \$1,300. to Henry Straub. The deed only mentions a house erected on the herein described lot, but no mention of a wheelwright or blacksmith shop. It is not known what happened to the shop. The lot contained 6,105 sq. feet. The lot was not exactly rectangular as a 2foot 2 inch alleyway went 26 feet down the side of the house between this house and the old David Ware tenant house next door. When the cement block building was built in 1921 it encroached onto this alley taking away the 2' 2" walkway alley belonging to Mr. Straub. (N.C.Co. Deed X-9-332--1872- Dover)

Henry Straub was a Butcher and rented David Ware's tenant house next door for his butcher shop business. He resided in his home with his second wife, Mary Caroline, moving from the town of Odessa, Delaware. Henry W. Straub was German. His first wife was Rachel Annie Beach.

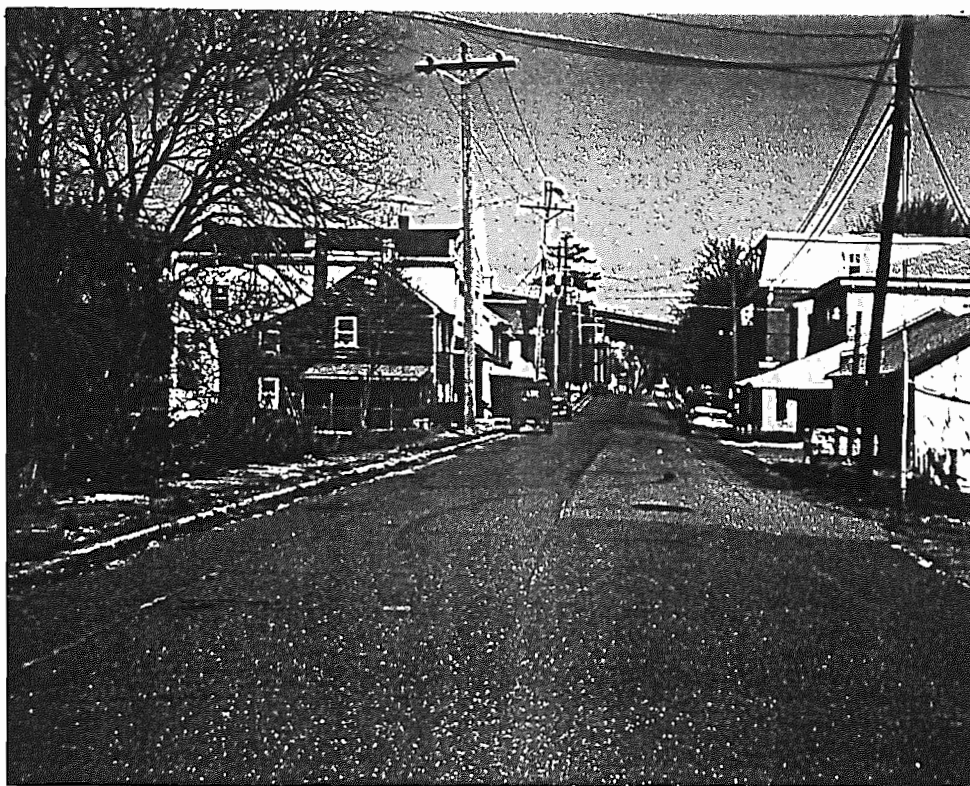
After the death of Henry, his wife, Caroline moved to New Castle, Delaware and on October 1, 1947 she and other family members, for \$10.00, sold the property to Joseph and Ruby Bigelow. He was a Barber. (N.C.Co. Deed-- S - 47 - 564 --1947 - Dover)

After the death of his wife in 1961, Joseph Bigelow sold the property to Robert D. Morrow and wife Marjorie A. on September 7, 1962. They resided on the property. (N.C.Co. Deed A - 70 - 204 --1962 Wilm. Recorder of Deeds Office)

The Morrow's sold the property in the early 1970's to Earl Marvin and Sandra Louise Billips. They reside on the property. ( N.C.Co. Recorder of Deeds Office 4-22-9991-- 1165-160- 1991)

There are no early pictures of the house. The frame house built circa - 1853 has its original lines. The siding is wide wooden weather boards rough-cut by a sawmill. Clues show the original kitchen to have been in the basement. Some of the windows have been refitted but there are a couple of the old wood frame glass sash type in the front of the house. The roof hatch has been removed as well as the wooden shingle roof. The roof now contains asphalt shingles. A porch was added to accommodate the side main entrance. The property is landscaped with flowers and trees adding to the charm the little house presents; situated by the Old Mill Land with the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal flowing by in the background.





Year 1992 - Looking north on Main Street with the Billips house on the left. Just below his house, centered in the middle of the street, was the location of the rebuilt second Millhouse.



Year 2000 - Summer - Side and rearview view of Billips House.

## DELAWARE TRUST BUILDING



Circa - 1924 Delaware and Main Street



Circa - 1927 Main and Delaware Street  
Intersection

# DELAWARE TRUST BUILDING

Research on the mill property shows that the land on which the cement block building was erected had been a part of the brick hotel property later known as "Steamboat Hotel" featured in Book #2 by Gladys Lester.

The property bordered the mill dam and grist mill and by John Gill. A corner of John Gill's property was across the street. There was a tanyard on the property owned by Floren Sorency that went down behind the brick hotel.

A William Holmes had acquired the property. No deed is recorded on this transaction, but, he sold the property to John Goforth in the year 1725. The deed tells of a tenement and two water lots by the mill dam. (N.C.Co. Deed g-1-535-- 8-12-1725 Dover)

John Goforth sold the property to Jacob Van Bebber. He died and the heirs sold the property to Jacob Gooding. He died and his heirs sold the property to Daniel Britt. Upon his death his wife, Susannah, sold the property to Michael Dushane in 1766. (N.C.Co. Deed X-1-655--10-21-1766 Dover Archives) Michael Dushane died and the property went to a son Anthony Dushane (N.C.Co. Orp. Crt. F-1-1778 pg. 92 Dover) Dushane sold the property to Henry Hollingsworth in 1779 (N.C.Co. Deed D-2-276-1779 Dover) Hollingsworth sold the property to Solomon Maxwell. It went on to John Sutton, John Sutton, Jr., Margaret Ann Sutton, David Ware, William Harrison Ware and wife Amelia, then to James H. S. Gam in the year 1897. A frame barn had been mentioned on the deeds along with the brick house but later deeds tell of Ware's tenant house on the lot. After David Ware bought the lot on 3-25-1861 and before 1868 a frame house was built on the lot where the cement block building now stands. A two foot two inch alley walkway divided the properties. The frame tenant house was rented by Henry Straub, a butcher, who used it as a meat market. ( No pictures are available of the meat market.)

James H.S. Gam on January 6, 1897 bought the property from Amelia Ware and sons. (N.C.CO. Deed f-17-550--1897 Dover)

James Gam sold the property on December 15, 1920 to Claude N. Lester. (N.C.Co. Deed L-30-72--1920 Dover) It was Mr. Lester who made this lot separate from the "Steamboat Hotel". An alleyway was put in separating the properties but giving access to properties on both sides of the alley. The old tenant house used for the meat market was torn down.

In the year 1921 Mr. Lester built the cement block building, now on the lot, and extended the building to cover the 26" walkway alley belonging to the Hurlock House Property. He had planned a basement and one story but as the work progressed went on up to two stories. Cement mixed by hand and poured into molds, making one block at a time, on location, and allowed to harden a couple of days formed the structure. Elmer Staats made the blocks. Mr. James Roberts, Sr., Mr Lester and a colored man named Harvey who was a farmhand for Mr. Lester, built the building. A small section on the first floor was partitioned off for the Delaware TRust Co.. The building was finished by July 1921 and a lease signed by the trust company August 17, 1921. The building was named for the bank.

The bank held office here until April 30, 1927. The rest of the first floor was a store selling everything from candy, ice cream, cigarettes, sodas, to gasoline, oil and tires. The second floor of the building was used for entertainment, school classes, and meetings. Two forms of entertainment being dancing and movie shows.

Mr. Claude Lester was buying a partnership into the St. Georges Canning Company. The St. Georges Canning Co. Corporation was formed, including the building and store operation, along with the cannery business. The State of Delaware awarded a certificate of corporation on Sept. 26, 1921. Corporation members were Claude N. Lester, George R. Snedeker, Clara Eleanor Lester and Eleanor M. Snedeker. On October 25, 1921 Mr. and Mrs. Lester deeded the property to St. Georges Canning Co. (N.C.Co. Deed Y-30-515--1921 G. B. L. Files)

Mr. Lester and wife , on March 1, 1923, as Vice President and Secretary of the corporation gave a mortgage deed to Mr. George Snedeker, President, to buy out his and his wife's share. The mortgage was satisfied on December 31, 1924. Mr. Lester had operated the store business. On December 30, 1924 Mr. and Mrs Lester had signed a deed selling the property to Frederick T. Sutton. He continued a business in the building. (N.C.Co. Deeds L-19-13--1923 I-33-188--1924 G. B. L. files)

In the year 1946 Norman B. Stapleford had a Chevrolet - Olds Dealership with a sales and service business in the building.

After the death of Fred Sutton, his son, James N. Sutton, sold the property to Willie B. Mullins. He tenant rented the building. At one time Alvin and Elizabeth Othoson operated a Soda and Luncheonette Business in the building.

Willie Mullins and wife Maggie, on May 5, 1974, sold the building to George F. Kern. (N.C.Co. Deed C-89-488--1974 Rec. of Deed N.C.Co.)

The present owner is known as Delaware Trading Partners and used by George Thorogood and his musical band group for practice and recording. There is one apartment in the building.



Circa - 1977



750  
\$750<sup>00</sup>  
St. Georges, Del. June 27 1926  
Fifty days after date I promise to pay  
the order of Delaware Trust Company at the  
No. 1355  
DUE Aug 27  
**DELAWARE TRUST COMPANY**  
ST. GEORGES, DELAWARE  
Two hundred fifty 00 Dollars  
without defalcation for value received.  
AND FURTHER, I or we hereby jointly and severally authorize and empower any Justice of the Peace in the State of Delaware, or elsewhere, without process to enter judgment, any Clerk, Prothonotary or Attorney of any Court of Record in the State of Delaware, or elsewhere, without process to appear for me, or us, or either of us, and to confess judgment in the Superior Court of the State of Delaware, or any other Court of Record in the State of Delaware, or elsewhere, on the above obligation, with legal interest, together with five per centum (5%) of the amount of principal and interest as counsel fees, without process against me, us, or either of us, my, our, or either of our heirs, executors or administrators, at the suit of the holder of this note, his, her, or their executors, administrators, successors or assigns, at any time after the date hereof, without any of execution; and I or we do hereby jointly and severally release all and all manner of law, or errors in any such judgment and execution to be issued thereon; AND FURTHER, I or we hereby jointly and severally waive the benefit of any and all exemption laws of the State of Delaware, or elsewhere. AND the makers and endorser and endorsers each hereby waives demand, protest and notice of non-payment.  
Witness our hands and seals the day and year aforesaid.  
L 876  
[Seal]  
[Seal]

ST. GEORGES, DELAWARE 1926  
**DELAWARE TRUST COMPANY** 62-71  
DE LA WARR  
PAY TO THE ORDER OF \$  
DOLLARS  
No. \_\_\_\_\_

To **St. Georges Canning Co., Dr.**  
**ICE CREAM AND CONFECTIONERIES**

## Tires, Tubes and Oils

## Packers of Fancy Corn and Tomatoes

[illegible]

CONFECTIONERY, SODA  
AND ICE CREAM

21  
PACKERS OF FANCY  
CORN and TOMATOES



*When at St. Georges stop at*  
**THE DELAWARE TRUST BUILDING**

FOR  
TIRES KELLY TUBES  
GASOLINE — OILS

**ST. GEORGES CANNING CO.**

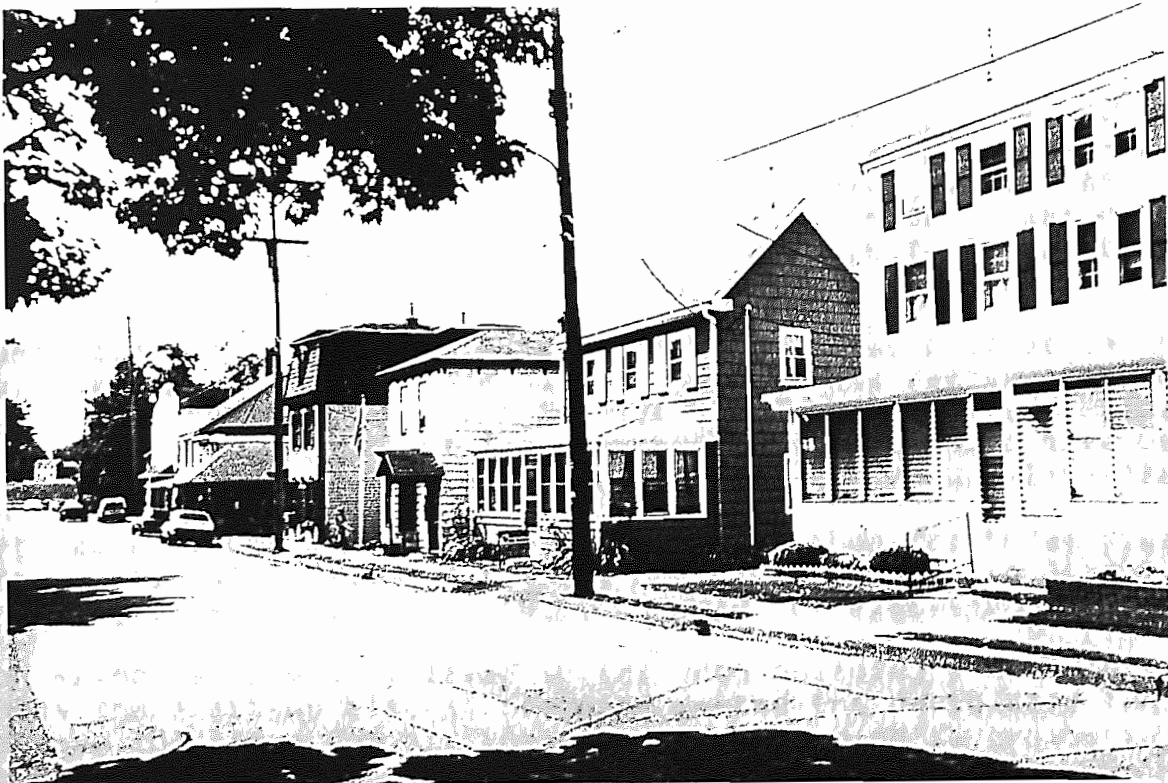
*St. Georges, Del.*

*Keep smiling with Kelly's*

131'	64'35"	64'35"	10' 21'35" 2'6" 21'3"
Robert Tawressey - 3-26-1860			
Joseph S. Reynolds - 5-30-1863			
Mary Gam - 9-23-1878			
John W. Jr & Bertha Carrow 7-15-1941			
Eric Dressler - 12-20-1992			
138'6"	142'	152'	
John Calder - 3-26-1860			
Wm. & Lena Aspril - 10-2-1926			
Lawrence R. Bias - 9-16-1983			
John P. Hudson - 1-9-1878			
Wm. Oakes - 10-1-1889			
Walter & Josephine Moore 12-8-1926			
C. G. Squires - 185'12"			
Driveway	148'		
John Calder - 2-26-1850			
J. H. Crossland - 10-25-1937			
Alvin & Eliza Othson - 7-13-1951			
Wm. & Sarah Nickle - 150'			
John & Rhoda Clark - 10-31-1951			
21'	153'		
64'35" Main St.	64'35"	52'	

Explanation Drawing-No Scale

WEST SIDE OF MAIN STREET



Street Scene Summer 1992



## DRESSLER HOUSE



Scene - 1992 - Built Circa 1854 - Additions 1880 - 1916  
 Tailor - Sadler - Gunsmith - Confectionary Shop  
 Post Office

To the north of the mill, brick hotel and tanyard property was a lot of about one-half acre known as #4 with a tailor shop thereon and #3 a small lot occupied as the yard, on the Osborne Real Estate 1857 Power of Attorney Deed. Wm. J. Hurlock and David Nivin, on September 8, 1857, were given Power of Attorney by John Osborne and wife Margaret to sell certain inherited properties of Margaret.

The one-half acre was split in half and sold to two parties on the same day by Hurlock and Nivin. The half with the frame rectangular tailor shop was sold for \$293 on March 26, 1860 to Robert Tawresey. The other half was sold to John Calder for only \$150, so that would have been the half with no building. (N.C.Co. Deeds L-7-165--1857 N-7-259--1860 Dover)

Robert Tawresey was a Sadler and occupied the shop for three years. Robert and his wife Susan, for \$350, sold the property to Joseph Reynolds, a Gunsmith, on May 30, 1863. (N.C.Co. Deed U-7-286--1863 Dover)

Joseph Reynolds probably lived in the shop building and had his business there but he also at one time rented the David Ware Tenant House down the street for his business and according to census records rented a room in the St. Georges Hotel across the street.

Joseph Reynolds died in 1878. It seems he was a bachelor as he, by will, devised the property to his sister Mary Todd. Sylvester W. Clement

was executor of his will and had to sell the property at public auction to pay his debts. The sale was held on September 3, 1878 and the highest bid was \$315 made by Mary Gam of St. Georges. She received a deed to the property on April 9, 1879. (N.C.Co. Deed K-11-110--1879 - Dover)

Mary Gam probably bought the house because it was across the street from the hotel she owned and the house they lived in behind the hotel was falling in to disrepair. Mary Gam can be credited with adding to the small rectangular house making it into a T shape and adding the third floor with a mansard roof with wood shingle siding and dormer windows.

Mary had came to America at age 15 with her parents Adam and Mary Metchler. She later married Joseph Gam who also was born in Germany and migrated to America. They operated the St. Georges Hotel. Joseph died on February 14, 1870 at age 50 leaving Mary a young widow to raise four sons.

The 1880 Census shows Mary Gam as age 50 and a Bavarian Immigrant who made candy and so would have had her confectionary store on this property. Her sons were of age to run the hotel business. They were Edward 28, Benjamin 21, John 19 and James 16. Mary Gam, at age 68, died in Port Penn, Delaware on January 3, 1897 and was buried in St. Georges Cemetery. ( 1880 Census Records - Death Record N.C.Co. #50371 - 1-3-1897 - 1864 Provost General Bureau - Civil War Enrollment List for N.C.Co. - Dover)

It is not known how long Mary continued in the confectionary business but on April 13, 1887 she sold the property, for \$1,500, to James H. S. Gam. He resided on the property.

James H. S. Gam and his wife Mattie, for \$1,600 sold the property to William Reynolds on May 10, 1911. The price from 1887 to 1911 was only \$100 more than in 1887, so this doesn't indicate much improvement. (N.C.Co. Deed F-23-498--1911 Dover)

Wm. Reynolds resided on the property and added a two-story frame section to the back of the house. He probably added the porch and large glass paned windows.

Mr. Reynolds passed away January 15, 1941. He had willed the residue of his estate be divided among his children. On July 15, 1941 the lot with a three story frame dwelling was sold to a daughter Bertha M. Carrow and husband John W. Carrow, Jr., by other family members: Harvey G. Reynolds and wife Clara, Franklin Lee Reynolds and wife Hattie, Raymond B. Reynolds and wife Elizabeth. (N.C.Co. Deed P-42-427 & 430 --1941 Dover)

John and Bertha Carrow resided on the premises with their youngmen sons, John III and Reynolds Carrow. While in residence Mrs. Carrow became acting Postmaster on 3-31- 1946 having been assistant before that time. She became Postmaster on 3-25-1949. She maintained the post office in the front section of the house where a door entrance was located just off of the sidewalk. She retired on November 30, 1962.



Carrow House - Post Office 1949

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Carrow, in the year 1974 retired to a nursing home. On January 27, 1978 she sold the property to Dean Nelson. He and his family resided on the property.  
(N.C.Co. Deed C-100-90- 1978 N.C.Co Rec. of Deed )

Dean Nelson sold the property to John M. Douglas on February 24, 1989 and Douglas sold the property to Eric Dressler December 20, 1992.  
( N.C.Co. Deed #1450 - 144 --1992 Rec. of Deeds)

Eric with his wife Emma, daughter Sarah and son Geoffrey reside on the property.

No outside structural changes have been made to the house after the ownership of Wm. Reynolds .

The Dresslers have added stain-glass panes in the transoms above the front doors and a large colorful leaping frog scene replaced two large lower glass panes in the back window on the left side of the home.



Scene 1992 Focus on the center house - Built Circa 1860-61  
CALDER - ASPRIL - BIAS - HOUSE

This is the one-half lot, next to the tailor shop, bought by John Calder on March 26, 1860, for \$150, from Wm. J. Hurlock and David Nivin representing John and Margaret Osborne. (N.C.Co. Deeds L-7-165--1857 C-11-84--1860 Dover)

John Calder was a carpenter and it's very probable he built the rectangular frame building on this lot soon after the purchase of the property. It was built for a home as well as a trade. Word carried down claims it was a tailorshop and the bay window used for display purposes. A building was on this lot on the 1868 Beers Atlas page 115 and still was owned by John Calder.

On January 9, 1878 John Calder sold the property to John P. Hudson. It was Mr. Hudson who divided this one quarter acre lot into two lots. On May 7 1881 John and his wife Mary Hudson, for \$850, deeded the house and this part of the lot to Annie S. Armstrong, a seamstress and dress-maker. She lived on the property as well as conducted her trade here. By April 14, 1883 Annie had married Ashel D. Campbell and for \$950 they sold the lot and framehouse back to John P. Hudson. (N.C.Co. Deed-X-11-463--1881 P-12-463--1883 Dover)

John P. Hudson died and his sons, Alfred and John Jr., inherited the property and sold it on October 26, 1889 to Eliza Cush. Mrs. Cush was known for operating Boarding Room Homes and this was one of them. She kept the property until 1901, and for \$800 on December 28, 1901, sold the property to John Swartz. (N.C.Co. Deed W-14-313--1889 U-18-532--1901 Dover Hall of Records)

John Swartz was a single man who resided on the property. For \$700, on December 21, 1909, he sold the building to Delaware City Building Loan Association. The Association on October 26, 1926, for \$650, gave a deed



to William Aspril. The price indicates the building and lot is losing its value and probably in need of repair. Mr. Aspril with his wife Lena and son William resided on the property. Mr. Aspril sold the property, for \$100, on April 8, 1963 to Harry A. Schragrin of Middletown, Dela.. A few repairs were made to the house and tenant rented.  
(N.C.Co. Deed A-71-428--1963 Rec. of Deeds Wilm.)

Harry A. Schragrin , for \$22,500. on September 16, 1983, sold the property to Lawrence R. Bias and he resides on the property.  
(N.C.Co. Deed U-123-158--1983 Rec. of Deeds - Wilm.)

The framehouse built around 1860-61 has kept its original lines except for a one story shed-roof addition to the back of the house and a modern wooden deck. Aluminum siding covers narrow wood weather boarding. Mr. Bias, in the year 1999, began extensive restoration to salvage his home.



Winter - 1995 Scene - Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Land which borders the properties and homes on the Southwest side of Main Street.

## HUDSON PROPERTY



Scene 1912-13 Rachel Hudson House

The property is the north part of the one-quarter acre lot sold by Wm. J. Hurlock, trustee, to John Calder March 26, 1860, then by Calder to John P. Hudson in the year 1878. John Hudson dies and his heirs, John P. Hudson, Jr. and wife Mary, Alfred Hudson and wife Sarah, John Calder and wife Mary, James Hudson and wife Rachel, for \$200, on October 1, 1889 sold the property to William Oakes. The size of the lot being 5,016 square feet, but later deeds claim the size 5,600 square feet. (N.C.Co. Deeds C-11-84--1860 D-15-86--1889 Dover Land Records - Dover H5 #991--1889)

William Oakes, for \$250 sold the lot to Rachel Hudson on July 2, 1890. (N.C.Co. Deed D-15-89--1890 Dover)

There was no house on the lot. Beers Atlas 1868 page 115, Hopkins Atlas 1881 page 116 and Baist Atlas 1893 page 117 show only one house on the lot and do not show a division of the lot made by John P. Hudson in the year 1881.

Rachel Hudson is responsible for the house on the lot. Rachel died February 3, 1912 having made her will June 26, 1909, stated this property was to be sold at her death and that Clayton M. Riley occupied the property, which indicates a house on the lot by the year 1909. Rachel lived in the south side of the double house next door.

The picture above, of the home taken around 1912-13 shows the home shut up with all but two shutters closed and may have been taken during the settlement of her will.

Word carried down by older owner family members claim the house was moved to the lot. This is very probable as the details of the frame house viewed in the 1912-13 picture and the inside architecture indicate the house was built in the 1860's and not in the period of 1900 after Rachael Hudson acquired the lot.

The building is tall and narrow being about 28 feet across the front and 13 feet along the side being two stories with and attic. A kitchen was added in the late 1920's and a shed like partition off of the kitchen around 1935. The front porch addition was later enclosed with windows forming a sunroom atmosphere.

Howard Othoson, executor of Rachel's will. exposed the property to public sale February 6, 1913 and it was sold for \$620 to James P. Cannon and a deed issued to him May 8, 1913. (N.C.Co. Deed S-24-68--1913 Dover)

It's presumed the Cannon Family lived in the home. James P. Cannon died intestate in the year 1922. J. Frank Biggs was appointed by the New Castle County Orphan Court, on March 2, 1922, as trustee for Louisa M. Cannon, wife of the late James. The property was put up for public auction on Saturday April 29, 1922 and sold for \$800 to Louisa M. Cannon. On the return to Orphans Court on May 10, 1922 Louisa had her dowers interest of \$406.97 deducted from the purchase price and received a deed May 15, 1922 taking ownership of a tract of land with a frame house dwelling thereon erected. (N.C.Co. Deed Z-30-221--1922 Dover)

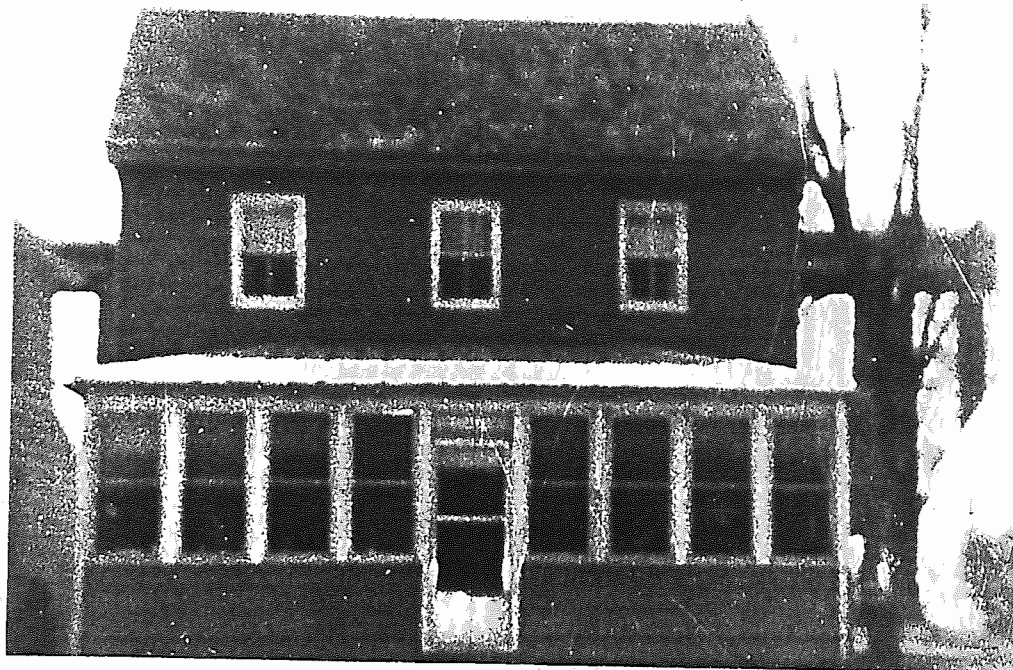
Louisa M. Cannon sold the property to Walter R. Moore and Josephine C. Moore for \$1,650 on December 8, 1926. (N.C.Co Deed L-34-447--1926 Dover) They resided on the property but when Josephine (Jodie) became a widow she lived in residence as a practical nurse caring for the ill. At her request her brother Holt Crossland and his wife, Bessie, moved into the home. He being a handyman carpenter the house was kept in good repair. They were highly respected residents of the town and resided in the home until the late 1960's then moving to a new home in South St. Georges near their son, Richard Crossland and family.

On May 29, 1969 Josephine C. Moore, Walter M. Crossland and wife Alice, for \$6,500, sold the property to Horace Mc Kinney and wife Janette. N.C.Co. Deed E-62-68--1958 M-82-147--1969 Rec. of Deeds Wilm.)

Other owners and residents were William H. Prettyman and Virginia Lee 1975 to 1979. (N.C.Co. Deed E-90-682 F-92-191--1976)  
Rickie E. Knaub and wife Debra - 1980-1983.  
(N.C.Co. Deed K-108-11--1979 G-112-311--1980)  
Kevin Mc Kinney - 1983-1998 (N.C.Co. Deed C-121--1957)

Mc kinney sold the property to Christopher George Squires in the year 1998 and he resides on the property.

The wooden shingle roof was removed and replaced with asphalt roof shingles. The original shutters were removed and the wood weather-boarding is covered with asphalt shingle siding.



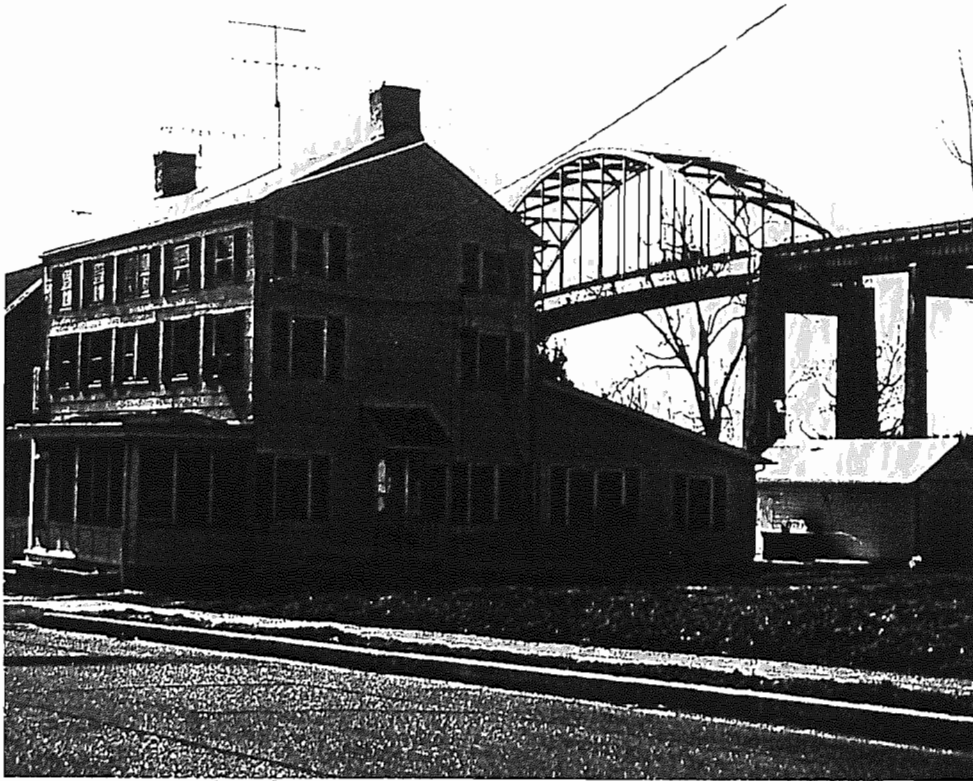
Year 1960 - Josephine Moore Property



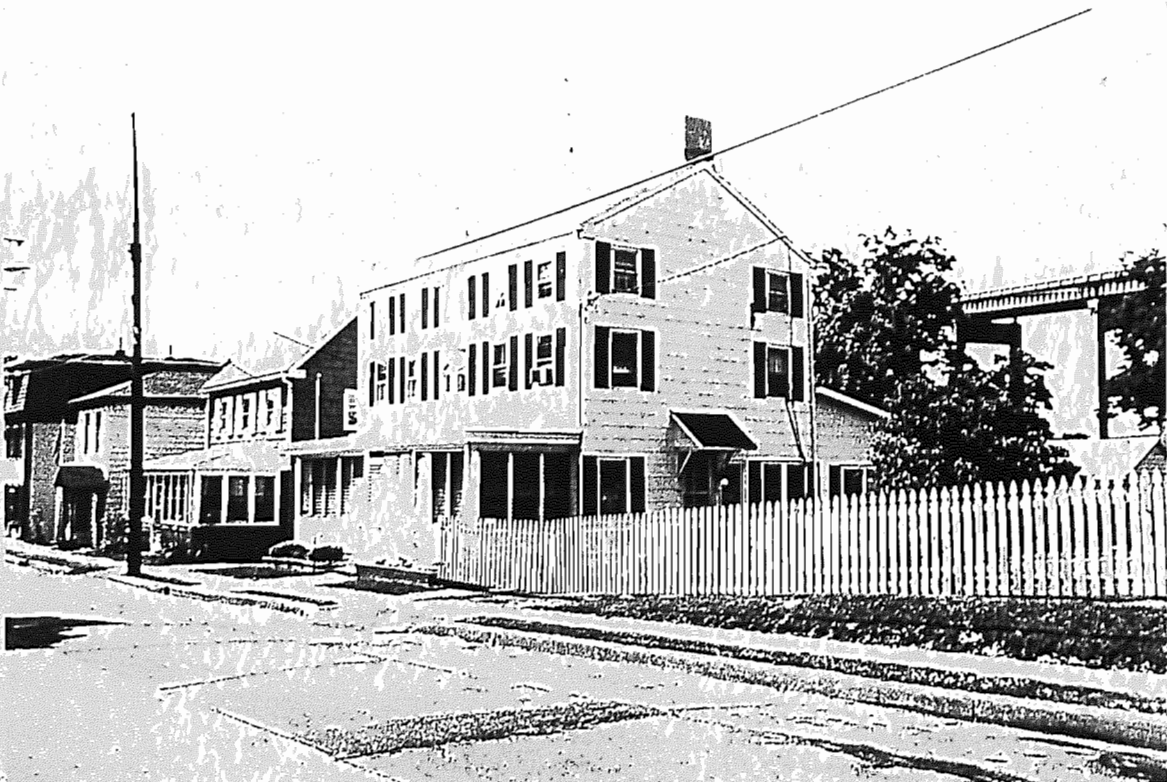
Winter - 1992 - Christopher Squires House



JOHN CALDER - DOUBLE HOUSE  
Built - Circa - 1860 - 1867



1995 Scene  
Nickle and Clark Home



Scene - 1998 Wm. and Sarah Nickle - Rhoda Clark

The era of this lot of land begins with Nathan Thomas, late of St. Georges Hundred, who died intestate, and his one surviving child Margaret Ann Thomas, now married to John Osborne, received the property. John and Margaret, for \$260 on February 26, 1850, sold the lot to John H. Calder, a carpenter and resident of the village of St. Georges. (N.C.Co Deed o-9-208--1850 Dover)

Between 1850 and 1867 John Calder had built a double house on the lot as it is shown on the 1868 Beers Atlas, page 115. The width of the lot was 52' 6" wide across the back and 52' across the front. The northern line from front to back was 153 feet, and the southern line 147 feet front to back. John allowed 21 feet for each side of the double house and a 10 foot alleyway which was already in place, to accomodate this double house and the adjoining property he owned to the south of this lot.

John H. Calder and wife Harriet on March 19, 1872, for \$1,850, sold the house and lot with one-half interest in the alley or lane running to the south side of the property to Mary C. Peckard. (N.C.Co Deed A-10-106--1872 Dover) The outline began on the north side of a 10 foot alley or lane dividing this from other lands of Calder and running then with Main Street N39½° West 21' to a stone, then with a new line running through the center of a double dwelling house, South 51½° West about 150 feet to a corner stone of Wm. J. Jurlock, then with Hurlock's line South 46° East 21'3" to a corner on the northerly side of aforesaid alley or lane, then with said alley North 50½° East 148' to beginning. Contents 3,129 square feet. Also one-half interest in alley or lane situated on the southerly side of said lot binding thereon and running parallel therewith said lot and lane etc. .

Mary Peckard sold the property to Rachel Hudson. Rachel lived in the home until her death on February 3, 1912. (N.C.Co Deed T-15-130--1872 Dover Hall of Records)

Howard Othoson, executor of Rachel's will, on February 6, 1913 at public sale, for \$660, sold the property to James H. S. Gam. They resided in the home. (N.C.Co Deed S-24-65--1913 - Dover)

On September 23, 1919 James and Mattie sold the home to Thomas Swan. Thomas and his wife Hannah lived in the home. After their deaths two surviving ladies and their husbands, Elmer R. Pierce and wife Bessie, of San Antonio, Texas and Harvey G. Reynolds and wife, Clara M., of St Georges, for \$1,910, on October 24, 1937 sold the property to James Howard Crossland. (N.C.Co Deed B-29-277--1919 - S-40-509--1937 Dover) Mr. Crossland tenant rented the property as he at this time resided in the adjoining north side of the double house. He rented the home to Alvin Dean Othoson and wife Elizabeth. They resided here with their three children, Rhoda, Sarah and Eleanor Lee. They bought this side of the double house from James and Nora May Crossand July 13, 1951 for \$3,000. (N.C.Co Deed O-51-127-1951 - Dover)

The residents and owners are now William Nickle and wife Sarach Othoson Nickle

## NORTH SIDE OF JOHN CALDER DOUBLE HOUSE

The north side of the double house was sold by John Calder and wife Harriet to James Lyle for \$800 on March 25, 1871. Because of the price being \$1,050 cheaper than when the Calders sold the south side to Mary Pecard for \$1,850 in March 1872, may indicate the house was not completely finished off inside or had been used for a business. Word carried down claims a shoemaker rented this part of the double house. That may well have been as shoemakers were in the area but cannot be pinpointed to any certain location.

This side of the property was outlined as beginning at a stone on the side of Main Street, a corner for land of Margaret Osborne and running with said Osborne line south  $50\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  west 153' to lands of Wm. J. Hurlock, then with said Hurlock line south  $46^{\circ}$  east 21' 3" to a corner stone, thence by a new line and running through the center of a double dwelling house north  $51\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  east 150' to a new corner stone at the side of the said street, then with said street north  $39\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  west 21' to beginning. Containing 3,180 square feet. Also one-half interest in a 10 foot wide alley or lane lying on the southerly side and adjoining thereunto running parallel therewith of a lot of land sold and deeded by John Calder to Mary Peckard (N.C.Co. Deed O-9-487--1871 Dover)

It is evident that Mr. Lyle made improvements to the house and may have lived there. On January 1, 1876 James Lyle and wife Catherine, for \$1,200, sold the property to trustees of the St. Georges Methodist Church, being John P. Hudson, John B. Nelson, Isaac Cleaver, Michael Bryan, W. L. Sparks, David Vail, I. Wallace, Joseph Heisel and George W. Townsend. The home was used as the church parsonage.  
(N.C.Co. Deed Q-10-308--1876 Dover)

George W. Townsend and trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church sold the property to James H. S. Gam. (N.C.Co. Deed Y-27-25--? Dover)  
There must to have been a discrepancy in the deed as a confirmed deed was issued to James Gam, March 1, 1930 from Charles H. Grantland, Sect. of State of Delaware. (N.C.Co. Deed V-36-529--1930 Dover)

James Gam died in the year 1932 and the property went to his wife Martha Swain Gam, better known as Mattie. Mattie sold the property for \$1,800 on August 4, 1936 to James Howard Crossland. (N.C.Co. Deed Z-39-375--1936 Dover) Mr. Crossland, at one time, served as a Justice of The Peace or Magistrate in the Town of St. Georges during the time he and his wife Nora May lived on the property.

This side of the double house at one point was made into two apartments.

J. H. Crossland and Nora May sold the property to John M. Clark and wife Rhoda Othoson Clark on October 3, 1951. (N.C.Co. Deed W-51-19--1951 Dover)  
John and Rhoda were residents in the home. They were responsible for making the residence back into a single home. After the death of John, Rhoda continues to live in the home.

The three story frame double house has kept its original lines. A one-story frame slant -roof addition was added to the back of the house.

The wood shingle roof was replaced with asphalt roof shingles. Asbestos shingles covers the wood-slat weather board siding. A porch was added across the entire front of the double house and later enclosed with slat jalouise windows. The old shutters were removed and new shutters were positioned by all of the windows on both sides of the double house. The properties have always been kept in prime condition.

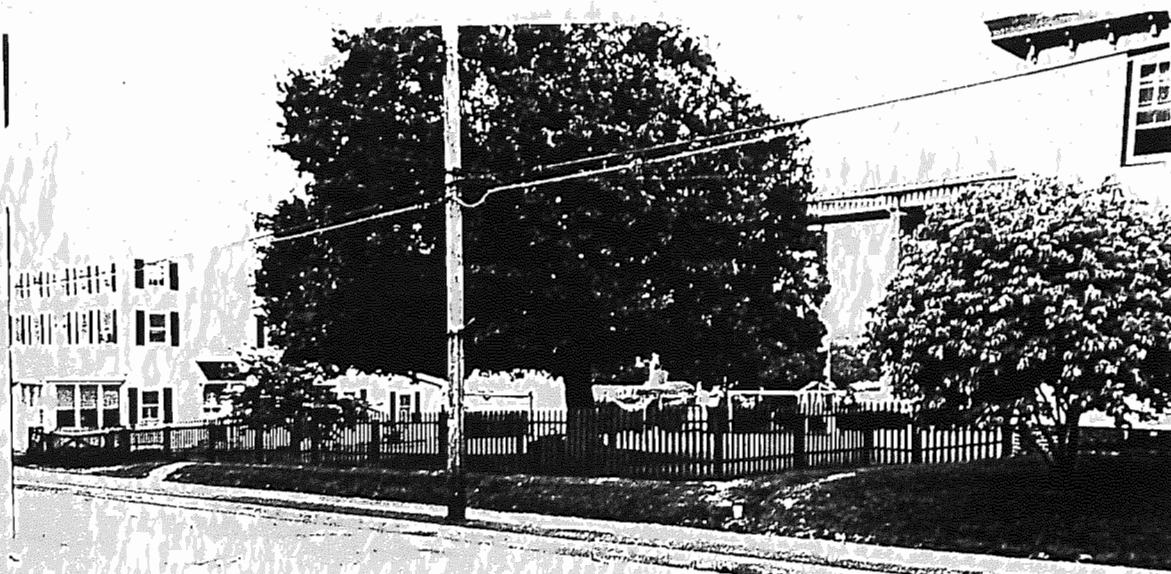
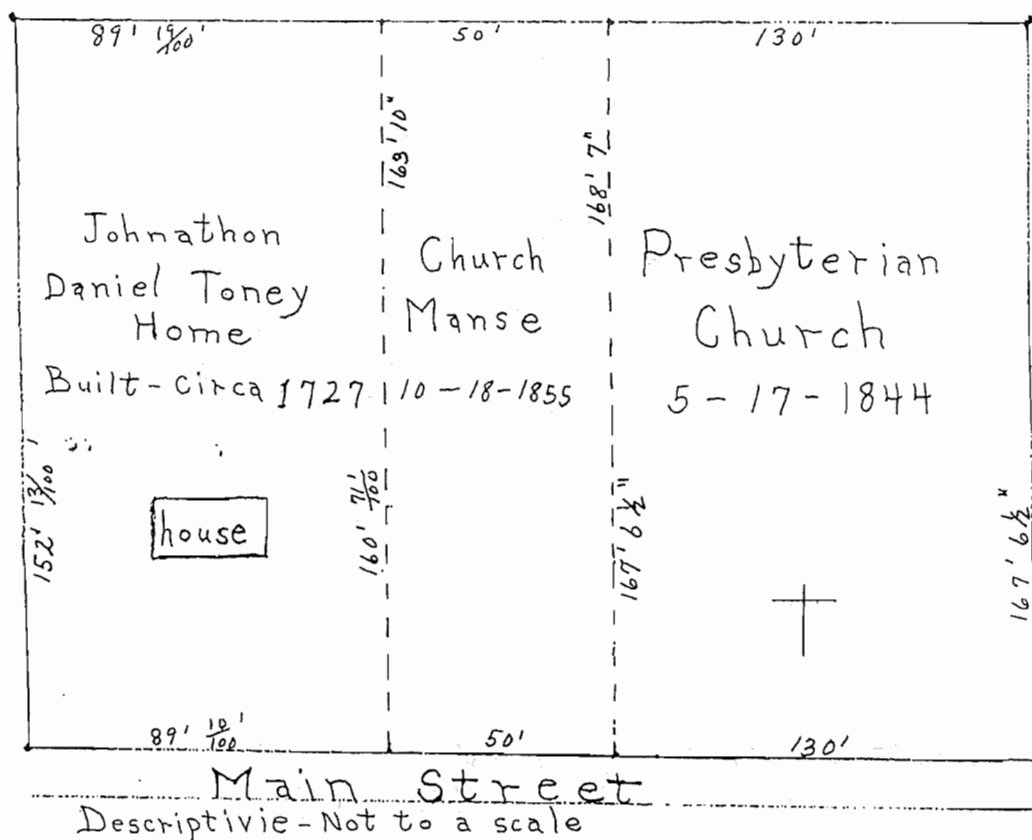
John Calder, the builder of the double house, is listed on the 1850 Census as a carpenter, age 28, born in Maryland. His wife's name was Mary and their were three children - Martha age 6, Mary age 4, and John Cookman age 2 years. John owned other properties in St. Georges and it is not known whether he lived on this property or another. It is known Mary had died before 1871 and he had remarried to Harriet \_\_\_\_\_.

James Lyle was listed on the 1860 Census as age 36 and a labourer. The 1864 Provost Marshall General's Bureau for Civil War Enrollment lists him as a Lime Agent, born in Pennsylvania. His wife's name was Catherine and their were two children in 1850 - Josephine age 5 and Alexander age 7 months. (Census Records and 1864 Provost Marshall Civil War Enrollment - Hall of Records Dover)



1940 Looking North from South of the C & D Canal. Pillars being erected for new overhead bridge.





Scene - June - 2000

The fence encloses the lot where Johnathon Daniel Toney, Millwright and owner of the St. Georges Mill, built his home.

JOHNATHON DANIEL TONEY (alias THONY)  
HOME PROPERTY

When J. D. Toney, Millwright, bought the Mill House Property on August 6, 1724, there would have been no other buildings on the West side of now Main Street, formerly Mill Dam Road, except for buildings that were on the location of what later became John Sutton's Brick Hotel and Steamboat Hotel featured in Book #2 Buildings and Homes of St. Georges by Gladys B. Lester.

Since the Grist Water Mill was referred to as a Millhouse the miller and his family would have lived in the building. Mr. Toney decided to build a house and chose the location to be the hill up from the mill on the west side of the road or street. It's not known exactly when he began building but probable to have been soon after buying the mill property. It is known the house was a one and one-half story frame house. There was a brick kitchen, small brick smoke house and carriage house on the property. (N.C.Co Orp. Crt. K-1-46--1811 L-1-270 -- Higgins Memiors DElaware History April 1970 Vol. XIV #1 page 68 )

According to records this home was always associated with the mill property up until about the year 1828 when the land on the west side of the street started to form lots. The frame dwelling house and other buildings thereon bounded by the public street and by lands of John Sutton (Brick Hotel) was noted as lot #7 on orphan court records. The now Merchant Grist Mill was listed, by itself, as lot #14. (N.C.Co. Orp. Crt. Bk. N -1828-1831-pg. 44 - &-9-1828)

In the year 1811 the home and buildings were referred to as being attached with the Grist-Mill and all in bad repair. Jesse Dushane occupied the premises and probably was the millwright for the mill. At this time it mentions two other lots nearby which was a blacksmith shop and the other land as being under ground rent to William W. Haslet. The blacksmith shop lot was the only lot ever sold off by J. D. Toney and wife Elizabeth to Andrew Cannon, a hatter, on May 17, 1743 and later became the property Of Abraham Vandegrift, Blacksmith. (N.C.Co. Orp. Crt. K-1-pg. 46--1811 Dover Hall of Records)

At the time of writing his will, March 12, 1748, J. D. Toney tells of living on this property. He died on April 6, 1748. (N.C.Co. Wills Dover) In his will he bequest the property to his daughter, Elizabeth Dushane, who had married Isaac Dushane and describes it as all my present dwelling house, out houses and lands and lots with these appurtenances thereunto belonging or adjoining lying on the west side of the street or highway passing through the town of St. Georges. Also the will tells of this property being opposite to land he had bought of Wm. Gorforth which was the Howard Othoson House across the street and featured in Book #3 - Buildings and Homes of St. Georges-Gladys B. Lester -Wm. Gorforth's Three Acres.

Elizabeth Toney (Thony) and her daughter, Mary, probably remained living in the home. It is not known when Elizabeth died but probably in the year 1754 as this is when J. D. Toney's will was probated. The daughter, Mary, married Samuel Alrich circa 1751. There is no indication Elizabeth or Isaac Dushane ever lived on the property.

After Elizabeth Toney Dushane's death all of her properties were sold at public auction including the mill land property. John Laroux bought it all and deeded one-half to Enoch Thomas and upon Laroux's death his half also went to Enoch Thomas. It is not known if any of Enoch's descendants occupied the former Toney Home but quite possible. When Margaret Thomas (osborne) received the property around the year 1822 the home and buildings were still on the former Toney Lot.

Through research on deeds of this lot and adjoining lots it is known the house was still there on 5-17-1844 and occupied by Nathaniel Covington. In October of 1855 it was occupied by Andrew K. Neilson.  
(N.C.Co. Deed B-10-242--1844 B-10239--1855 Dover)

The deed of March 25, 1873, for \$750, when Margaret Osborne, now a widow, sold the lot to the trustees of the Presbyterian Church, indicates the house was still there. The trustees probably had the house and out-buildings still standing destroyed to give more open space for the Presbyterian Manse and Church. (N.C.Co. Deed A-10-457--1873 Dover)

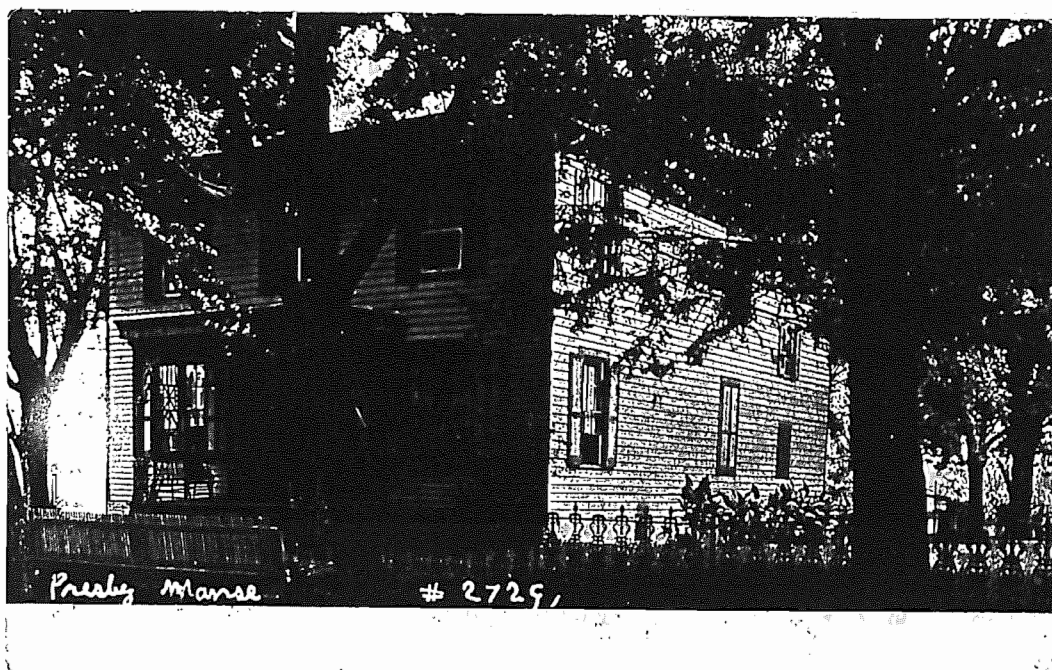
The home is shown on the Beers Atlas - page 115, but the 1881 Hopkins Atlas - page 116, shows the house missing.

The lot is now owned by Marc A. Hynson and Linda C. Ely. They purchased the lot from the New Castle Presbytery on March 15, 1988. They enclosed the property with a modern picket type fence.  
(N.C.Co. Deed Bk 672 - page 295 1988 Rec. of Deeds Wilm.)



Scene June - 2000 Marc Hyson and Linda Ely lot.  
Former location of J. D. Toney, Millwright, Home.

# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MANSE



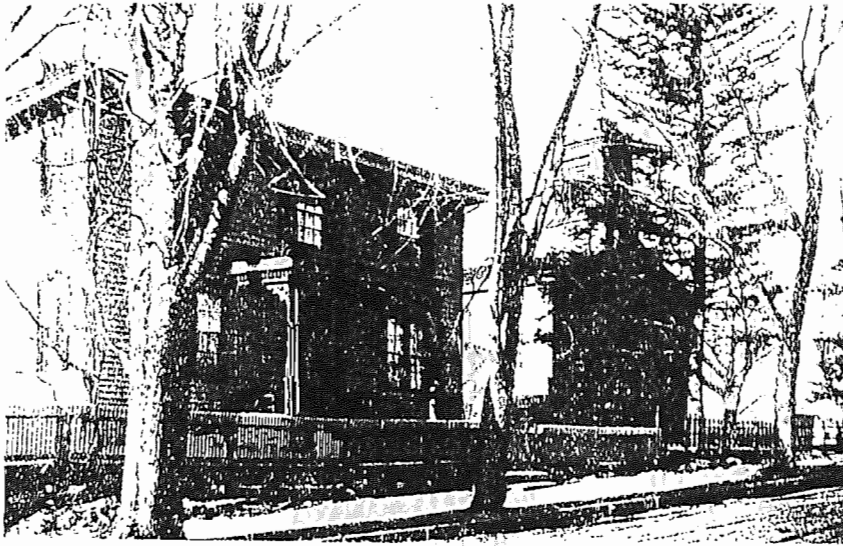
Post Card Scene - Circa 1910 - House Built 1856

John W. Osborne and wife Margaret Thomas Osborne on October 18, 1855, for \$300, sold a lot of land to the trustees of the St. Georges Presbyterian Church for the purpose of building a church Manse. The Manse was built in the year 1856. It was a box like frame home with a flat roof, but, the thick curved brackets around the roof cornice, plus and elegant front porch with much scroll work, especially on the front pillars, and along with well placed windows adorned with paneled and louvered shutters, the home was quite prestigious in appearance. The Manse was well kept up into the early 1960's, then it began to deteriorate. The front porch and shutters were removed. Asbestos siding was put over the original weather board. A porch was added to the back and later enclosed. At one time a match stick slat fence was across the front of the property.

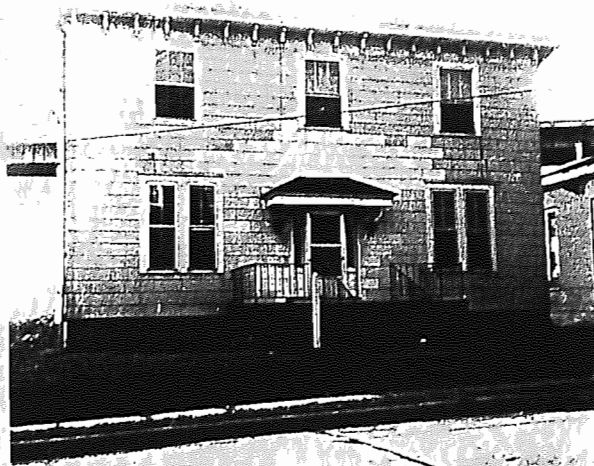
The last performance as a church manse was a church service held there on February 24, 1985. The church next door had been condemned and the New Castle Presbytery disbanded the congregation, but, about ten people faithful to the church arranged the final service held in the manse.

The New Castle Presbytery sold the Manse and lot next to it for \$50,000, on March 15, 1988, to Marc A Hynson and Linda C. Ely. They reside on the property. (N.C.Co Deed Bk. 672 - pg. 295 1988 Rec. of Deeds Wilm.)



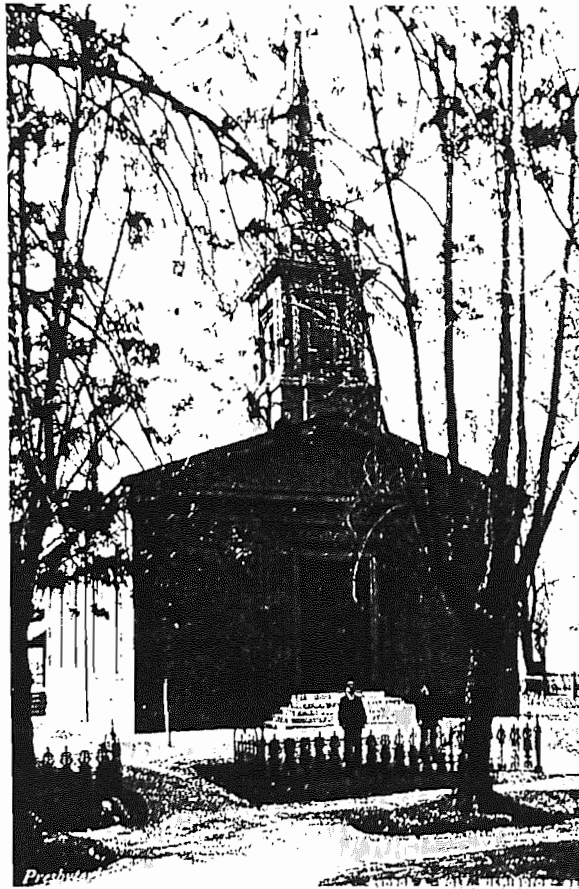


Presbyterian Church Manse Winter 1932



Presbyterian Church Manse  
Circa 1964

ST. GEORGES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ST. GEORGES HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Scene - Circa - 1912-13      Built - 1844-45

On May 17, 1844, for \$250, John W. Osborne and his wife Margaret Ann gave a deed to St. Georges Presbyterian Church, a religious corporation of New Castle Co. and the present trustees: John Sutton, Wm. J. Hurlock, John C. Clark, Thomas J. Higgins, Robert Rhoads, John McWhorter and Philip Reybold, Jr. . The deeded lot was taken from a parcel of a larger tract of four acres. The lot deeded was precisely One-half acre of land and no more. (N,C,CO. Deed B-10-242--1844 Recorded Oct. 4, 1873 Dover and Rec. of Deeds Wilm.)

A brick church was to be built on the lot and a contract was drawn up for a completion date of November 20, 1844. The brick church was not completed until July of 1845. Edward Allen was the contractor to build the church. He did not fulfill the agreement and the trustees of the church finished the work. It's probable the actual structure was complete except for some finishing work associated with the inside of the building.

The brick church represents a Greek Revival Style. A plain square brick addition was added to the back, circa 1853-54, for a sabbath school.

The first windows were clear glass. Around 1904-05 they were replaced with beautiful stain glass windows made in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by William Reith.

A tall wooden steeple graces the roof above the entrance. It is not known if this was in the contract when building the church or added later. It is known Reverend James How had a bell installed during his pastorate in the new church which was from 1845 to 1855. Reverend How had began his pastorate in 1830 in the Presbyterian Church located in what is now St. Georges Cemetery. Large rectangular slabs of granite form steps to enter the front doors and vestibule of the church. A small wooden kitchen, in the 1940's, was added to the back of the church.

No early pictures are available of the interior of the church but there are stairways on both sides of the vestibule leading to a balcony over the vestibule. Doors on either side of the front vestibule wall lead into the sanctuary aisles flanked on both sides by pews. The original pews were replaced but the pipe organ you view on the pulpit is the original, circa 1890, and had to be hand pumped to produce air needed for the pipes to make music.



Steel beams are seen up the outside of the brick church walls. The walls started to bulge from the weight of the roof and heavy cast bell in the bell-tower and steeple. The beams did not control the bulging movement. Vibration of large trucks crossing the overhead bridge behind the church was also deterrent to the bulging problem.

On march 1, 1984, The Department of Public Works of New Castle County sent a Notice of Unsafe Structure, revealing many structural deficiencies, to Reverend John Oldman, The New Castle Presbytery and Jan Crossland, Clerk of the St. Georges Session. On March 21, 1984, the county building

inspector placed a building comdenation notice on the door ordering the building closed.

Members of the church, plus residents, and former residents of the area rallied together to try to find a solution to save the church building from demolition. The first successful move being, the building was placed on the National Regsiter of Historic Places.

By the year 1985 The St. Georges Historical Society was formed. Talks were in progress with the New Castle Presbytery to buy the church.

The historical society worked legally and diligently toward the goal of the building becoming a town museum. By January 1986 the society received tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service. Many fund raising events were held, plus grants and private donations toward procurement of a deed from the New Castle Presbytery.

By October of 1987 bids and proposals were being accepted to correct the structural damage and do restoration work. At the end of October 1988 or early November 1988, New Castle County Officials issued the church building a Certificate Of Occupancy, and the Notice of Comdenation, which had hung on a side door of the church building for over four years, was removed.

Today the St. Georges Historical Society Building and Museum contains a library plus memorabilia and artifacts relating to the St. Geores area.

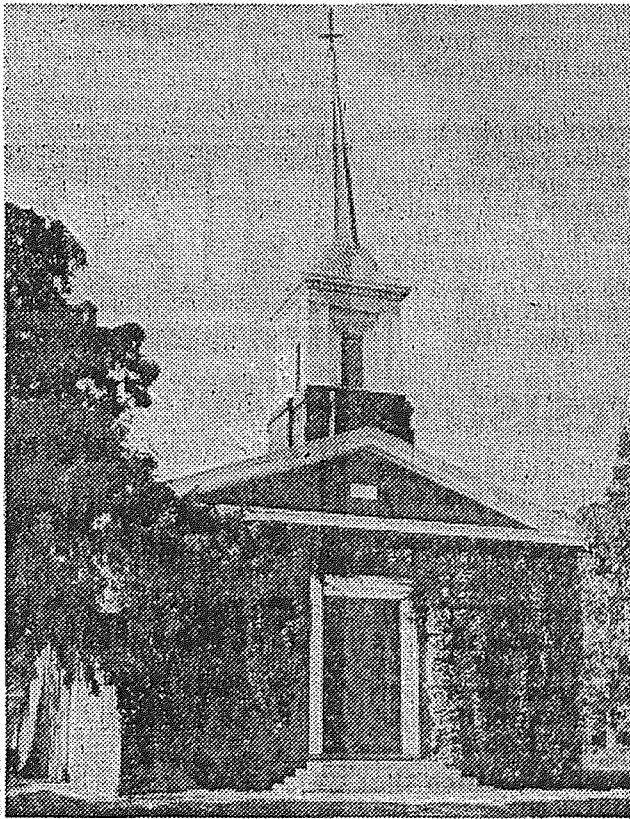


Scene - Late Fall - 1940 Presbyterian Church and Manse

Work on the new overhead St. Georges Bridge was in progress in the background. A pillar is to the right of the church building.



# Demolition Threatens Landmark

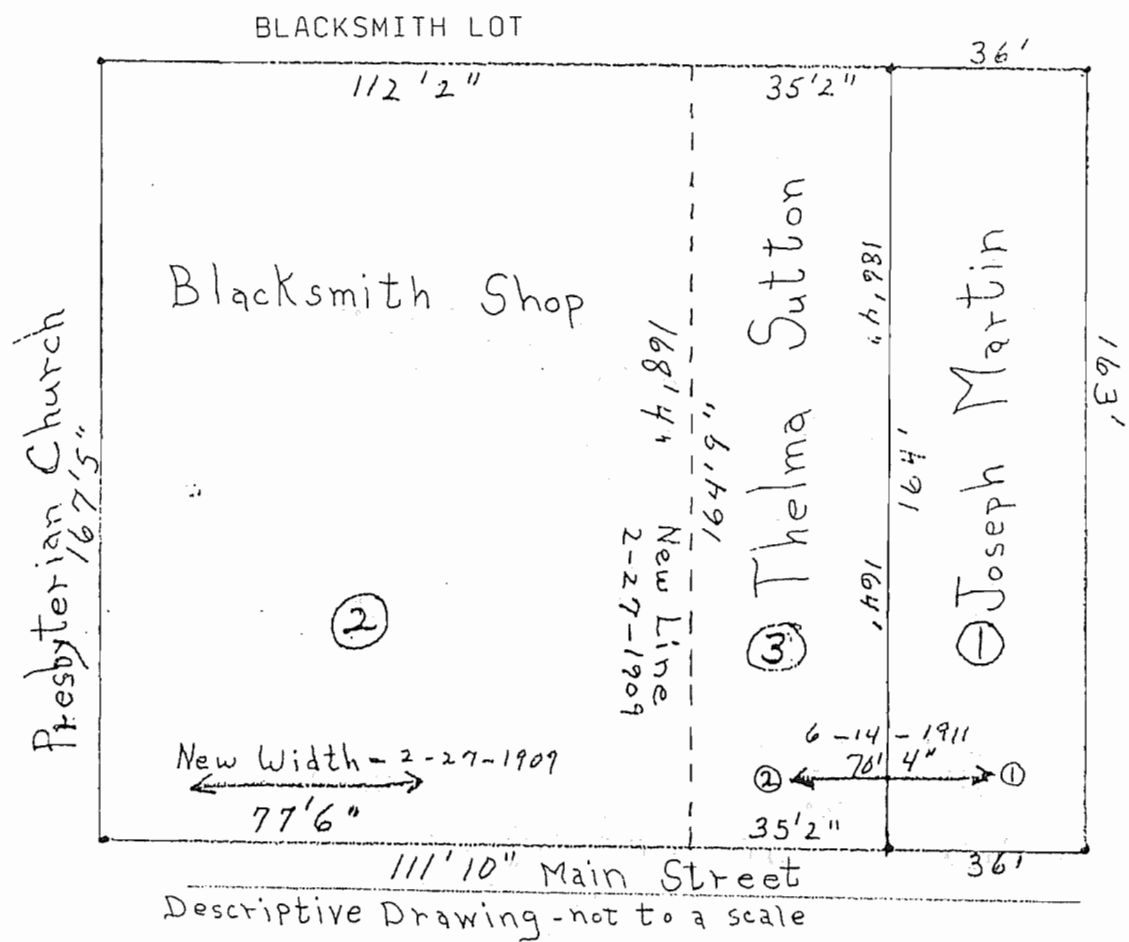


It's been a hot day at the beach—jammed with wall to wall people. You've been fighting your way through the Sunday night traffic when you start over the St. Georges Bridge. Coming down the bridge you see a familiar landmark—the brightly lit steeple on the brick church and think to yourself — “almost home.”

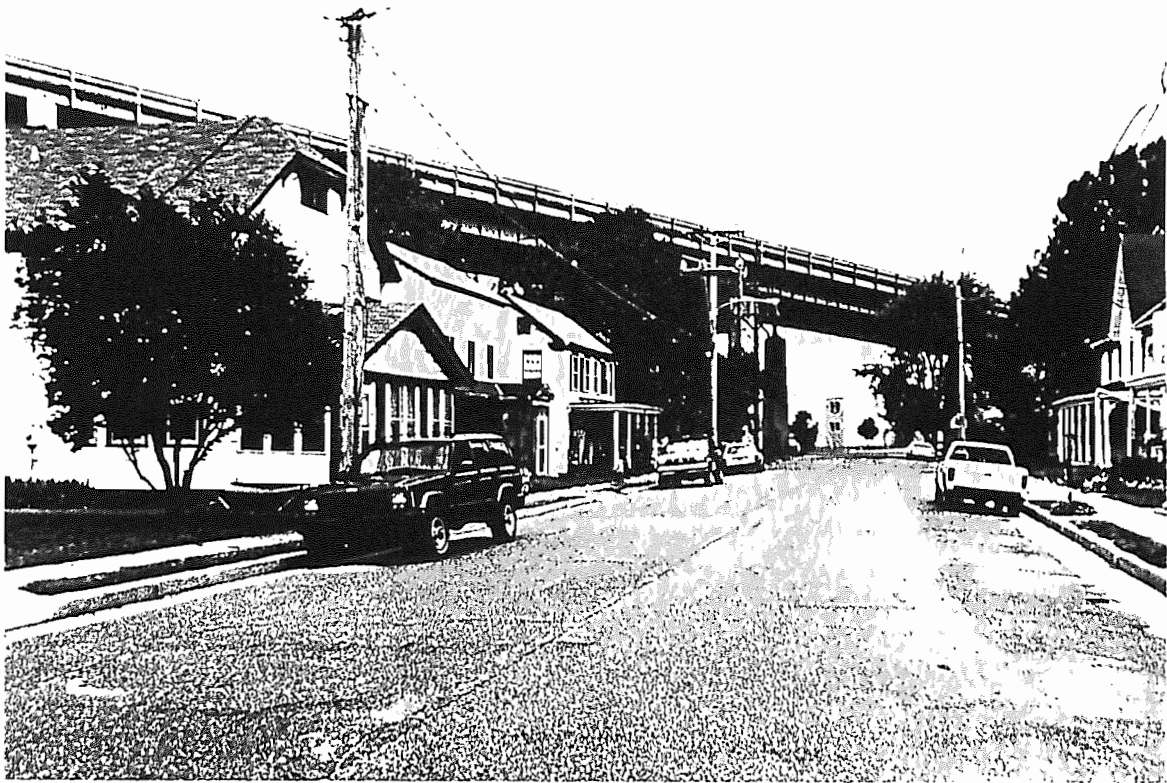
This familiar landmark may soon be lost without your help. For 139 years it has stood as a beacon for weary travelers—from those on horseback, in coaches and wagons, through the present day parade of cars, vans, busses and trucks. The building has been declared unsafe and could be condemned for demolition.

***YOUR HELP IS URGENTLY NEEDED TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING. PLEASE HELP . . . . . Send your donations to:***

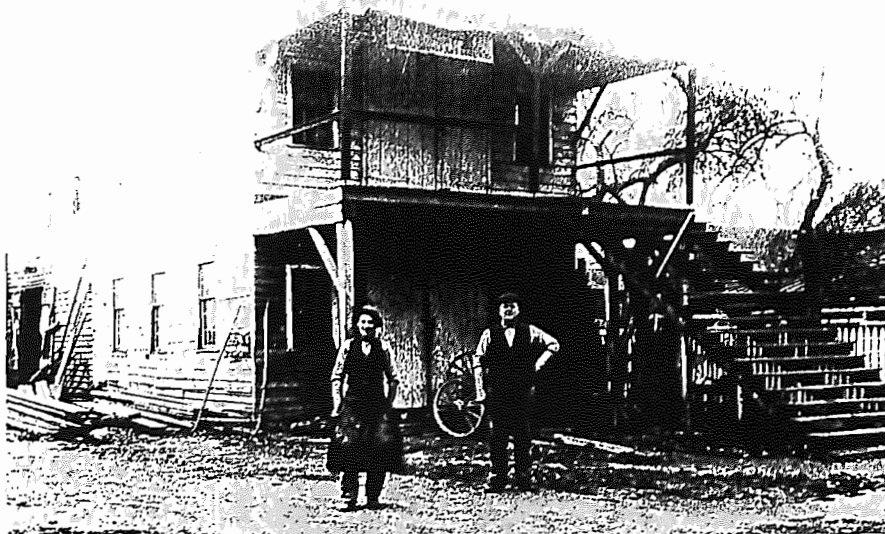
**“LANDMARK”** P.O. BOX 207, ST. GEORGES, DELAWARE 19733



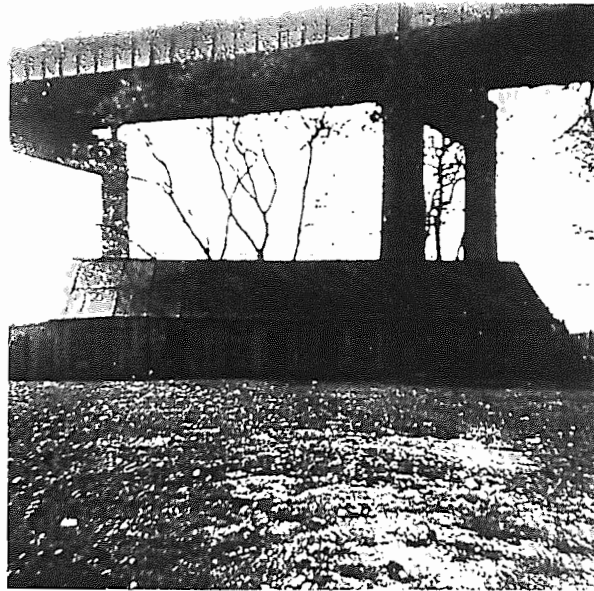
Scene - Circa - 1935-36 Looking northwest on the West side of Main Street from the Blacksmith Shop Lot to Commodore Mac Donough School



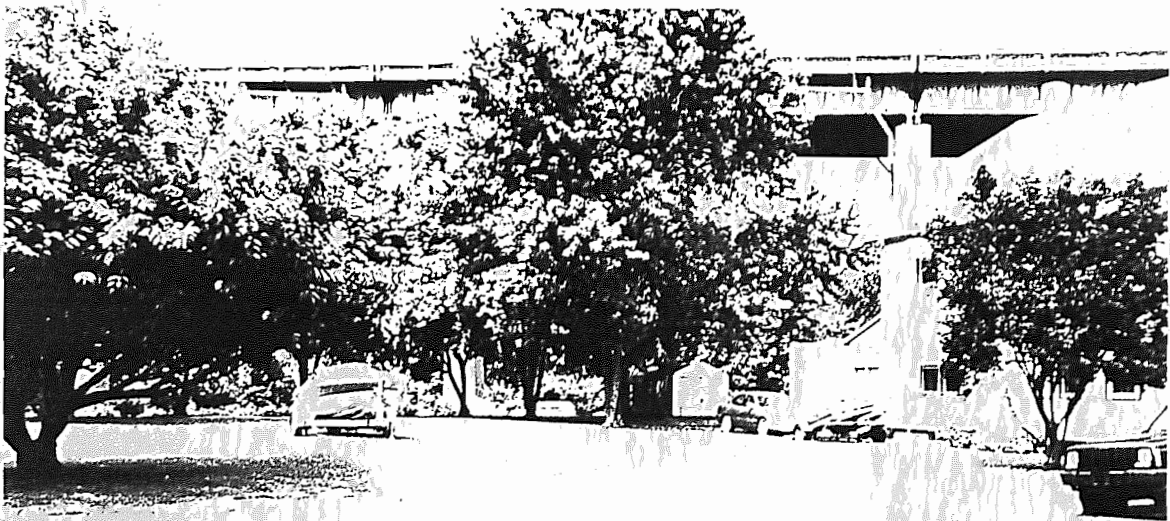
Scene - Summer 2000 Looking northwest on the West Side of Main Street from the Blacksmith Shop Lot to Commodore Mac Donough School.



Scene Circa - 1908 Blacksmith Shop  
Herbert Gibbons in Leather Apron



Second Blacksmith Shop  
Built Circa - 1915  
Scene - Circa 1945-46  
When Herb Gibbons owned the shop.



Scene - Summer 2000 - Blacksmith Shop Lot



BLACKSMITH LOT  
Calhoun and Sutton  
Stewart - Heisel - Calhoun - Quinn - Gray - Martin

A parcel of ground binding to the north of the Presbyterian Church Property was divided to become three lots of land. Refer to diagram.

The Blacksmith Lot #2 adjoining the church when sold by John and Margaret Thomas Osborne, for \$25, to Jacob Stoll, March 25, 1852, was about 112 feet along Clinton(Main) Street and 168 feet deep. (N.C. Co. Deed K-6-146--1852)

Lot #1 adjoining north to the Blacksmith Shop Lot was sold by John and Margaret T. Osborne to Daniel Stewart, for \$125, on May 13, 1847 being 36 feet by 164 feet. (N.C.Co. Deed V-5-104--1847)

In the year 1850 Wm. J. Hurlock brought judgement against Daniel Stewart and wife Elizabeth and Lot #1 was sold by Sheriff Isaac Grubb to John A. Johnson for \$250 and a deed granted on June 12, 1850. (N.C.Co. Deed I-6-31--1850)

John Johnson on May 25, 1852, for \$700, sold Lot #1 to Jacob Stoll. The price indicates a home had been built on the lot between 1850 and 1852. (N.C.Co. Deed K-6-145--1852) Jacob had probably bought the house so he and his wife would have a home near to where he would build his wheelwright and blacksmith business, on lot #2. After ten years in business Jacob and his wife Louisa for \$3,500 on April 4, 1863, sold the Blacksmith and Home lot to Daniel Stewart. (N.C.Co. Deed T-7-1--1863)

Daniel Stewart remained in the business a little over three years. He and his wife Mary Elizabeth, for \$3000, sold lots #1 and #2 on August 4 1866 to Joseph Heisel. Joseph was a Blacksmith. He lived in the home on Lot #1 probably making improvements to both the home and business property as the price of \$3000 indicates a decline in property worth as both properties were \$3,500 in 1863. Joseph Heisel was in the blacksmith business for many years. On March 1, 1895 Joseph and wife Martha deeded the two properties to Thomas Heisel and on November 11, 1896 Thomas deeded the properties to Herbert Heisel and on November 2, 1897 Herbert deeded the two properties back to Thomas in trust for their mother Martha during her natural life with Thomas as Trustee to collect rents, dispose of property etc.. (N.C.CO. Deeds T-16-214--1895 E-17--449--1896 U-20-323--1897) This indicates Joseph Heisel may have been in failing health and legally preparing for the care of his wife's welfare. Joseph Heisel died in the year 1906. Herbert Heisel hadhelped his father and carried on the business for a time.

Martha Heisel on February 27, 1909 directed her son Thomas, trustee, to sell a part of the Blacksmith Shop Lot to George F. Vincent for \$1000. The size of lot #2 was now only 77 feet 6 inches across the front instead of 112 feet. This left a vacant lot of 35½ feet between lot #1 and lot #2. (N.C.Co. Deed C-22-306--1909) Martha died in the year 1911.

Mr. Vincent was known as a wheelwright and horseshoer as well as selling farm implements. He had bought a home and property up the street in the year 1907. He improved the Blacksmith Shop and made it into a two-story building. The two-story building was later completely destroyed

by fire. A new ground level one-story building was built to the very back of the lot, probably with the thought if there was ever another fire it would be less threatening to surrounding buildings. George Vincent and wife Emma moved to Ostiga, New York. They sold the lot with buildings thereon to Herbert D. Gibbons, for \$1000, on December 20, 1920. (N.C.Co. Deed E-29-371--1920)

Mr. Gibbons had worked in the business for the Heisel's and George Vincent. He remained in the business until around the year 1941. The lot and business remained vacant for many years. After the death of Herbert Gibbons and his wife Rebecca the deteriorated shop and lot were sold to Mr. and Mrs. Francis Sutton, neighbors to the lot. Mr. Sutton demolished the building and the blacksmith lot is vacant.

#### LOT #1

The home of the Heisels and vacant lot #3 was sold on June 14, 1911 by Thomas B. Heisel and wife Frances, for \$1,200, to William W. Calhoun. Martha Heisel had died March 13, 1911. William and wife Emma resided on the property. They sold the small vacant lot #3 to their son William R. Calhoun, for \$200, on December 12, 1922. (K-1-584--1922)

William R. Calhoun immediately built a store home on the lot and was in business until the 1930's. He had a gasoline pump in front and sold gas and oil products as well as Groceries, Dry Goods, Medicinal Products and Farm Produce. He had operated his business across the street before moving to this new storehome.

Mr. Calhoun on June 7, 1940 sold a small parcel of land, from the back of the property, to the State of Delaware for the new overhead bridge to be built over the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. On June 19, 1942, for \$3,800, Mr. Calhoun sold the property to Francis Orlando Sutton and wife Thelma Laura Sutton. The home has been well preserved and still carries the lines of the period in which it was built.



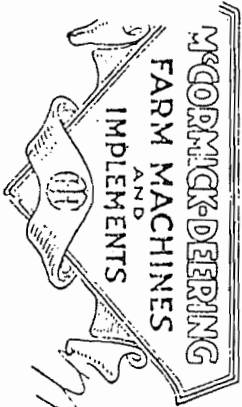
Calhoun and Sutton House

Scene - Winter 1992

House Built - 1923

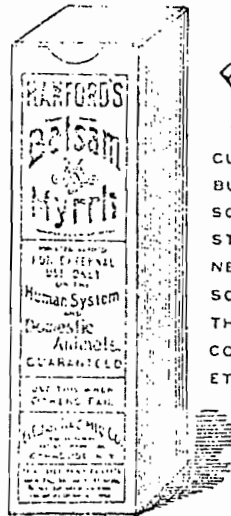
WE GUARANTEE HANFORD'S BALSAM OF MYRRH TO SUIT OR COST YOU NOTHING

ST. GEORGES, DEL.



If not delivered within 5 days, return to  
**JOHN G. CROMPTON**  
 General Merchandise

FOR  
 —  
 CALLS  
 KICKS  
 CALKS  
 THRUSH  
 WIRE-  
 CUTS  
 NAIL-  
 WOUNDS  
 ETC.



FOR  
 —  
 CUTS  
 BURNS  
 SORES  
 STIFF-  
 NECK  
 SORE-  
 THROAT  
 CORNS  
 ETC.

SPRAINS  
 STRAINS  
 BRUISES  
 PUTES  
 BUNCHES  
 ETC

St. Georges, Del. *July 6 1817*

*Mrs. Elizabeth Gam*  
 BOUGHT OF

W. R. Calhoun

General Merchandise

Groceries, Dry Goods, Etc. Farm Produce

1916  
 Oct. 11- 2 lbs. Meat 40  
 " 12- 2 bread 10  
 " 17- 1 gal. machine oil 35-  
 " 23- 1 lb. butter 39  
 " 26 1 bread 05-  
 " 27- 1 pkg. hair pins 01  
 " " - box corn flakes 10  
 " 30- 2 bread 10  
 " " - Dutch Beans 10  
 Nov. 4- glass mustard 05-  
 " 9 bag meal 30  
 " 10 box Mothers rats 10  
 " 14 2 lbs. crackers 24  
 " " - bottle shoe polish 10  
 " 21- 2 bread 12  
 " " - 1 lb. rice 10  
 " 22- 2 bread 12

\$2.73

Courtesy - Francis and Peggy Gam

GEO. F. VINCENT



Horseshoer and Wheelwright.

All work done in a satisfactory manner.

ST. GEORGES, DEL.,

Mr E Gam

Sep 1<sup>st</sup> / 1911

Geo F Vincent

June 1<sup>st</sup> 1911 3 Tires cut

.90

10 5 spokes 1/2 Rim of spoke - glued &amp; Tire cut 1.50

1 New shaft<sup>1.25</sup>, Linglet<sup>.75</sup> & shaft Iron<sup>.25</sup>Welded 1 clip<sup>.25</sup> 2 shaft Bolt<sup>.50</sup> 2.55

19 4 shoes

.90

Mowers repaired 2 Bolts for Swamp

.30

Aug 11 1 spoke, 1 Tire cut &amp; glued

.60

17 4 shoes

.90

29 1 Tire cut &amp; Hoe put in

.35

8.00

Received Payment

To Date Sep 14<sup>th</sup> 1911

Geo F Vincent

Courtesy - Francis and Peggy Gam



51  
Lot #1 - The home of Wm. W. and Emma Calhoun was sold after their deaths, by family members for \$1,500 on September 15, 1934. Surviving members were Florence C. Truitt - widow, Wm. R. Calhoun and wife Susan F., Florence C. Golt and husband Noble. They sold the home to Robert and Elizabeth Quinn. (E-39-209--1934)

The Quinn's resided on the property. Mrs. Elizabeth Quinn, widow, sold the home and lot on May 4 1940 to the State of Delaware for the new bridge right right-of-way. Mrs. Quinn's husband, Robert, was one of the bridge tenders on the old metal lift bridge that crossed the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal and lost his life on January 10, 1939 when the Waukegan collided into the bridge, knocking the bridge and the tenders quarters, located on the bridge, into the canal water.

The State of Delaware did not destroy the Quinn Home. The state only used about 39 feet of land across the back of the property. The State sold the property to Harry L. and Annie Gray for \$1,480 on June 27, 1941. Mr Gray had been a store merchant in the town. The Gray's resided on the property. There are no early pictures of the home.

The house is now owned by Joseph H. Martin III. He completely gutted the inside of the house. Aluminum siding was added to the outside walls covering all windows except for those in the front. Only the rectangular shape of the early house remains, plus additions added to the back used as workshops.

**Harry L. Gray,**

DEALER IN

**General Merchandise.**

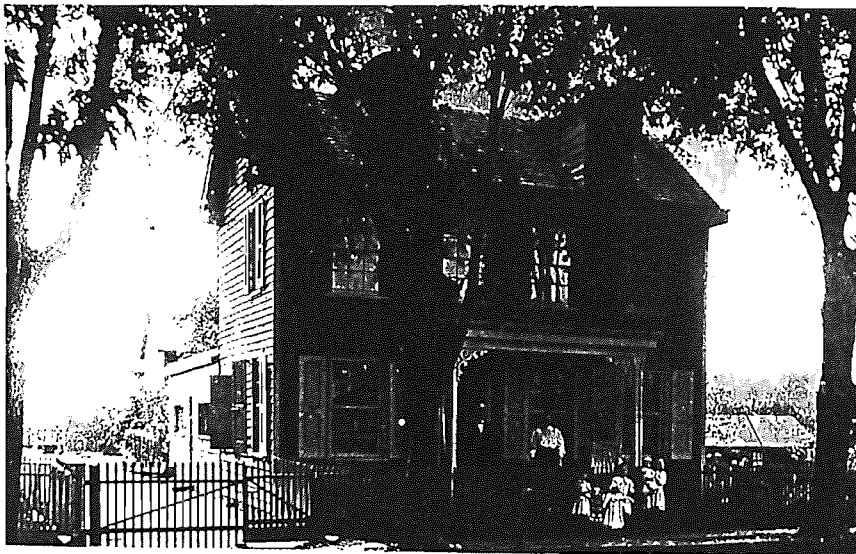
PHONE. ....

St. Georges, Del., *Dec 10<sup>th</sup>* 19*41*

*Received of Philip Simmons  
\$145.00 For Rent ending Nov #730  
in full,*

*James B Moore,*

# GOTTLIEB STREINGER PROPERTY



Scene - Circa 1918 - Edward Lester family in the picture

John Osborne and wife Margaret Ann Thomas Osborne sold the property to Gottlieb Streinger July 27, 1848 for \$277.50. The lot was in the shape of and L and a large size. See page 59. There was no mention of a building in the deed. (N.C.Co. Deed B-6-104--1848)

Gottlieb Streinger died November 15, 1862, age 49, intestate leaving his wife Sophia R., a son Charles T. and wife Caroline. Gottlieb had came from Whittenburg Germany. He was a shoemaker according to 1850 and 1860 census records. His only child, Charles, was age 16, on the 1860 census and was and apprentice shoemaker. It is not known exactly how long the family stayed in St. Georges after Gottlieb's death, but, by December 18, 1871 they were in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and had sold the property in St. Georges to Albert N. Sutton for \$1,800. The price indicating improvement to the property since 1848, but, still no mention of a building on the site. (N.C.Co. Deed - 0-9-302-- 1871 Dover)

Albert N. Sutton and wife Susanna Laws Sutton for \$1,850, on March 25, 1873, sold the property to James Lyle, known as a labourer and Lime Agent.

James Lyle and wife Catherine C. for \$1,800, on December 17, 1877, sold the property to Edwin W. Jester. Mr. Jester was a druggist in St. Georges and also postmaster in the years 3-19-1869 to 6-22-1885 and also from 3-30-1889 to 4-3-1893. Edwin W. Jester and wife had a judgement of \$1,000 or more brought against them by George W. Miller in Superior Court and Sheriff I. Paul Gillis on September 21, 1895, at public sale, sold the property for \$1,152 to Mattie (Calhoun) Jones. No mention of buildings was in the deed. (N.C.Co. Deed A-11-393--1877 X-16-36--1895 Dover)

Mattie (Mary) Jones, born Dec. 25, 1848, was the daughter of John W. and Ann Calhoun. Her father was a farmer in the area. On March 7, 1878 Mattie married Theodore Jones, a farmer of Wrangle Hill. Theodore was born August 19, 1842, the son of William Jones and Sarah Bowers Jones, of Bowersville and Wrangle Hill. Theodore, when 20 years of age, was one of the first to enlist when Captain Charles Corbit and Henry Reybold raised Company C of the 1st Battalion Delaware Calvary, at the beginning of the Civil War. The Calvarys day came on June 29, 1863 at Westminster, Maryland; just before the battle of Gettysburg.

General J. E. B. Stuart was in the Westminster area with his men to join General Lee and position his men for the battle of Gettysburg 40 miles away. Around 4p.m. the Delaware Sentinel reported the enemy; Stuart's men were in the town and upon them. Captain Corbit and his calvary troops charged down the street with sabre's drawn. They attacked the enemy at full speed, rolling the enemy back at point of contact. During this charge Theodore Jones was shot through the breast and lung, the conical bullet lodging under the skin of his back. He was carried into a neighbors house and with tender nursing care and good medical attention was saved for future usefulness.

Corbit's horse during the attack was shot in the forehead and dropped dead. With Capt. Corbit standing with the dead horse between his legs, Stuart's men held carbines at his chest yelling "SURRENDER". He did surrender. His men were taken prisoners. Some men had managed escape and rode back toward Baltimore, Maryland and wired to Washington for help and General Alfred Pleasonton was sent to intercept Stuart. Because of the sharpness and force of Capt. Corbit's attack, Stuart thought he had struck a heavy force. He took time to hang around and to countermand. This gave Gen. Pleasonton time to get into position to attack and the next day when Stuart's troops moved out, Pleasonton attacked Stuart's troops at Hanover Junction, Pennsylvania and won the battle. All Delaware Prisoners were paroled and set at liberty. It is noted because of the attack of Capt. Corbit's Delaware Calvary at the town of Westminster, he prevented General Stuart joining with General Lee at Gettysburg and the reason General Lee lost the Battle of Gettysburg.

Theodore Jones and Mattie lived in the home on this property. He was postmaster in St. Georges - 1904--1914, a Justice of the Peace, Notary Public and treasurer of The St. Georges Cemetery Co. He died on April 12, 1917, age 74, and is buried in St. Georges Cemetery by his wife and parents. Mattie left the area soon after his death and was residing in Marshallton, Delaware at the time of her death on February 17, 1945, age 97. Their were no children.

Mattie Jones, widow, for \$3000 sold the property on February 20, 1920 to Edward Lester. The deed states two lots which included the adjoining lot to the north of this property being 20' 6" x 84' 6" which had contained a one room frame shop and also owned by Mattie. This is the first deed that mentioned buildings although there is knowledge buildings were on the property. Edward Lester and family lived on the Property. (N.C.Co Deed F-29-256--1920- Dover) Dela. Hall of Records Microfilm Middletown Transcript 3-21-1917 - (Theodore Jones N.C.Co Mg. Vol. 52 pg. 276 -- 2-25-1878 Bond Mg. Every Evening Commercial Vol. 82 pg 198 --3-7-1878) (Dover - Death Cert. #224 - 4-12-1917 T. Jones-- Death Cert. #549--2-17-1945 M. Jones 1850 Census) (Dela. History - October - 1969 - Vol. 13 #4 Higgins Memiors - pg. 326-327 Historical Society of Dela.)



Scene - Early 1950's  
Streinger House  
Burrell and Kathryn Crompton  
Residence

On May 31, 1940 the State of Delaware bought the land and buildings for the right-of-way for the new overhead bridge. Mr. Edward Lester had passed away and his widow, Mary Groves Lester, son, William E. Lester and wife Mollie, daughter, Florence L. Nelson and husband John, and daughter Bessie K. Bendler reluctantly sold the land feeling the home would be destroyed. (N.C.Co. Deed Z-41-113--1940 Dover)

The home was not destroyed but a wide stretch of land across the back was used for the bridge right-of-way.

On June 27, 1941, for \$1,780, The State of Delaware sold the property to William Burrell and Kathryn R. Crompton. The lot had lost the L shape and had new demensions which included a part of the former Hill property next door. The former frontage of the lot was about 56' and now was 131.67'. The back line is 163.63'. The depth had been 163' and was now 98.39'.

W. Burrelland Kathryn lived on the property the remainder of their lives and made many changes inside and outside of the house. Dormers were removed from the attic and the front porch removed. New siding was put on. (N.C.Co Deed N-42-535--1941-Dover)

After the death of Kathryn Roberts Crompton family members sold the property to Marvin and Jennifer Roberts. (No relation to Kathryn)

Burrell and Kathryn were residents of the town since childhood and were active members of the community. Burrell held positions in the St. Georges Trust Company as well as Wilmington Trust Company when the two bank companies merged. Kathryn was known for her good humor, quick wit and compassion for people. Two sons, John and James and family live



in the area. A son, W. Burrell, Jr lives elsewhere.

Marvin and Jennifer Roberts added a porch across the front of the house. They resided in the house for a time but a job transfer took them to a northern state. The property was sold to Roger McCall and Wendy Patterson.



Scene - Summer - 2000 Residence of Roger McCall - Wendy Patterson

Research to date the house begins around November 23, 1811 after the death of Enoch Thomas on May 30, 1811 and all of the mill property went to his son Nathan. Nathan's guardian, Jacob Vandegrift, made a report of Enoch Thomas's estate to N. C. CO. Orphan Court. (Bk-K pg.46--1811 Hall of Records Dover) The land on the west side of now Main Street was still open except where a school house lot had been laid off from The Andrew Cannon plot acquired by E. Thomas around the year 1800, which was a one-quarter lot with a frame house and shop occupied by Robert Clark in good repair bringing in rent of \$20 per year, and a lot with brick house thereon unfinished with log kitchen and blacksmith all in good repair bringing \$50 per annum. One open lot next to this on ground rent to Wm. W. Haslet at \$5 per year, being 60 foot by 90 foot. The year 1811 excludes any division to the later, Gottlieb Strienger lot, or a building thereon.

Nathan Thomas died intestate on December 10, 1822. The property went to his daughter Margaret Ann Thomas. (N.C.Co Orp Crt.L--1819-1824 date-August 20, 1824 pgs. 329-333)



Scene April 1996 Owners - Marvin and  
Jennifer Roberts

The August 20, 1824 evaluation of Margaret Ann Thomas's lands mentions #7 lot of land on ground rent to Wm. W. Hazlett now about 75' X 90' at \$5.60 per year. It's probable this now includes the lot with the frame house and shop, mentioned in 1811 occupied by Robert Clark. The next lot #8 bordering #7 is described as one lot, on ground rent, to Aleander Porter about 10' or 12' frontage running back 20' or 25', \$2.00 per year.

A July 1828 Orphan Court Record once again describes divisions of Nathan Thomas land as his widow Margaret N., remarried to Samuel Woodland and he went into orphan court to seek widow dowers rights for his wife and self. Lot #7 75' X 90' in 1824 is now in 1828 lot #12 with a house thereon and in tenure of John Sutton. Lot #8 in 1811 is now Lot #13 on which Alexander Porter had erected a stable. More land had been allotted to the stable lot, but Porter only rented the lot. When Gottlieb Streinger bought the lot, in 1848, with the stable, even though it's not mentioned in the deed, it is the belief he was renting, in 1848, the adjoining lot #12 which contained a house and shop. Gottlieb, after buying the lot #13 renovated the stable into a small two-story shop and home combined and lived there as their was only he, his wife, and son. The 1868 Beers Atlas shows a small rectangular building on his lot next to the frame shop and house marked Mrs. Jackson. See pg. 115 .

When the property was sold after Gottlieb's death to Albert N. Sutton for \$1,800 in 1871 it certainly indicates improvements as Gottlieb only paid \$277.50 for the property in 1848. Albert Sutton sold the property for \$1,850 in 1873 to James Lyle. The price shows no improvements. It's evident Lyle didn't make improvements as in 1877, for \$1,800, sold it to Edwin W. Jester. Mr. Jester can probably take credit for the addition to Gottliebs stable home.

The stable would have been the beginning of the building which was there in the year 1828. Gottlieb renovated it in 1848 and Edwin Jester added

the large addition, circa 1878, including the attic with dormer windows. Outbuildings were probably built on the lot by Jester's, Jones's, and Lester's. The Jones's and Mr. Lester probably added the porches and enclosed the side porch for kitchen or shed area etc. .

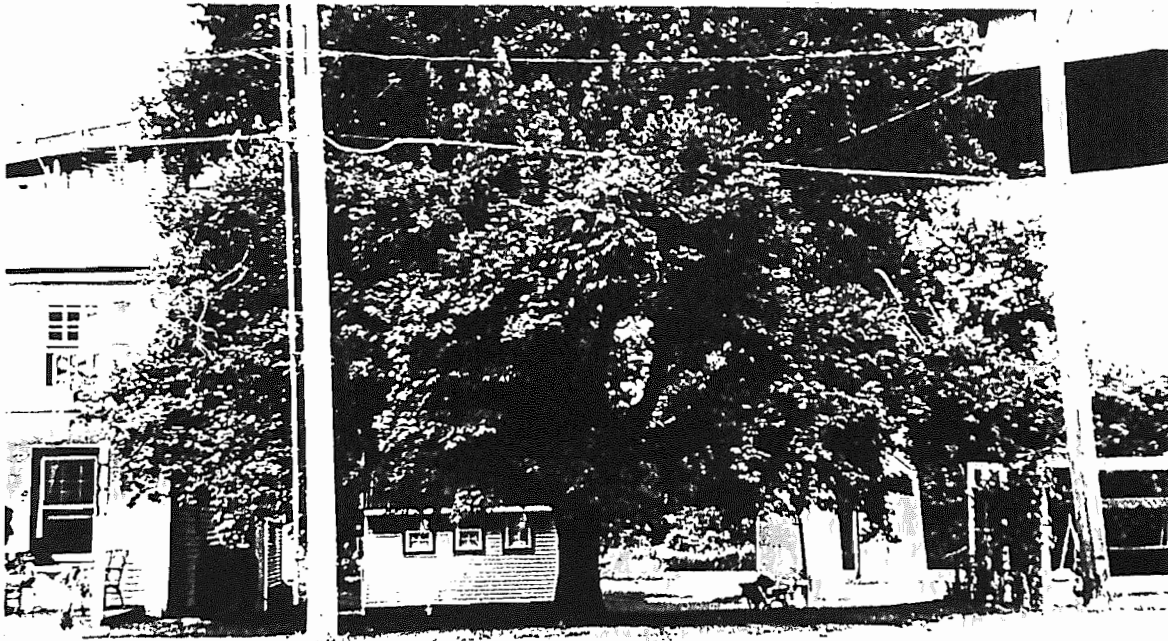
Burrell Crompton in the 1950's removed the dormer windows, shutters, and the front porch - adding a new modern porch across the entire front of the house. Later he removed the porch and put just an alcove above the front door. Marvin and Jennifer Roberts put aluminum siding and shutters on the outside and also put a porch back across the front. After much renovation the house still retains its size and shape as when sold in the years 1895 and 1920.

(July 1828 N.C.Co. Orphan Court Record N -1828-1831 pgs. 44-45 Dover Hall of Records- Lester Family Home and Crompton House Picture - Courtesy of Florence Lester Nelson)



Scene - April 1996 Gottlieb Streinger House  
Residents - Marvin and Jennifer Roberts

This side view shows the small size of the original back section of this house. Notice the old stone foundation that joins the new foundation for the front section. The back chimney leads up from the original fireplace that flanked the outside wall of the original building, which according to records began as a stable.

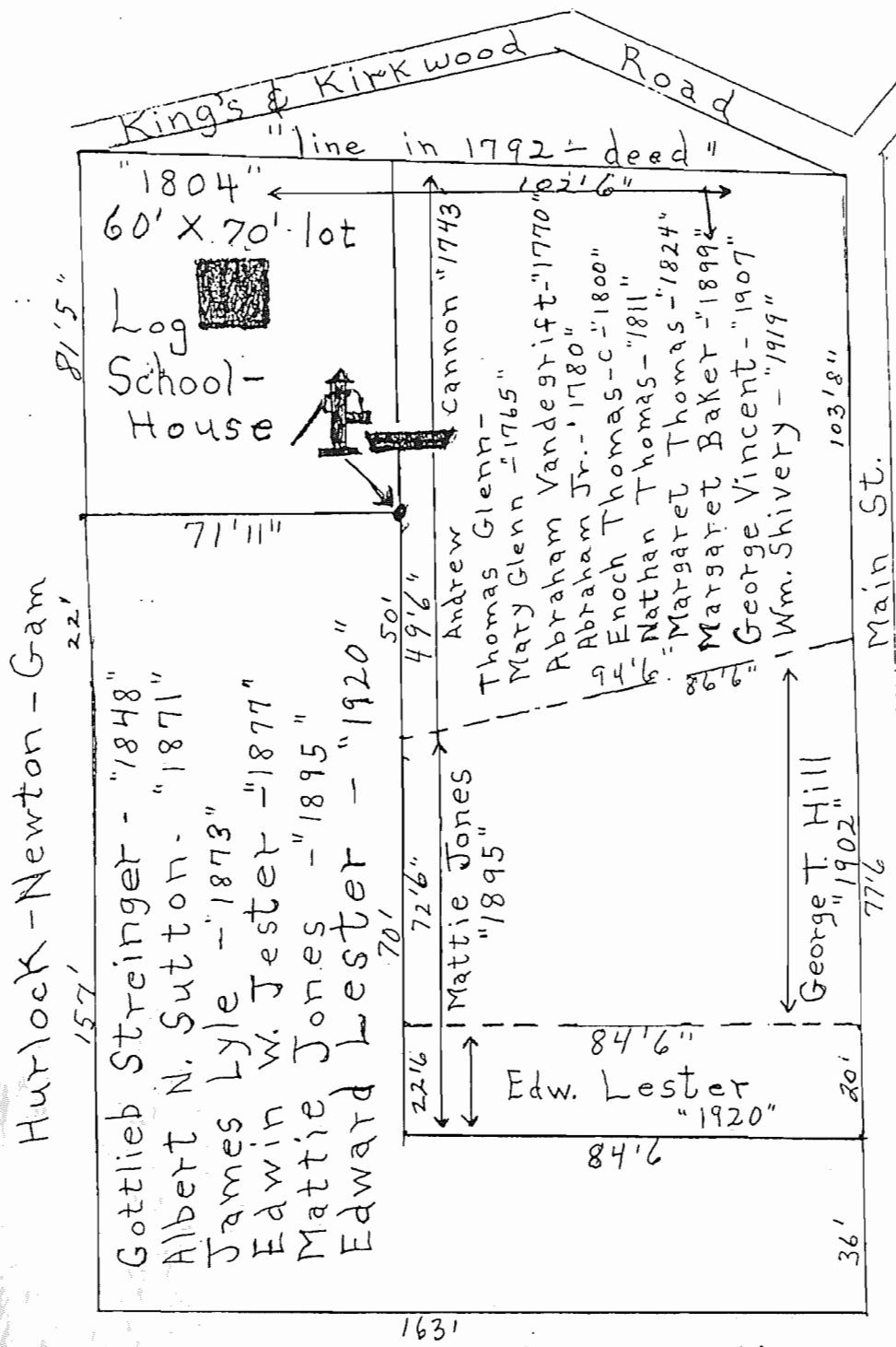


Scene - Summer - Year 2000

This little storage shed belonging to Roger Mc Call sits on the 20' X 84'6" lot sold to Edward Lester to adjoin to his lot he bought in the year 1920. At one time Andrew Cannon - Circa 1743-44 had a one room Hat Shop on the small lot. Levi Clark was another hatter in the area to use the shop.

Other trades were also carried on in the little shop.





Description Drawing - not to scale or proportion

"ANDREW CANNON PLOT"

## ANDREW CANNON PLOT

John D. Toney and wife Elizabeth, during his ownership of the Mill Property, on May 17, 1743, sold off a lot for 5 lbs. 10 shillings to Andrew Cannon whose occupation was a Hatter.

The deed describes the land - a certain lott or piece of land scituate lying and being at St. Georges Bridge. Beginning at a corner stake where the Neck Road joynes the King's Road leading from New Castle to Noxonton, by Andrew Jubart's land etc. . (Words spelled as in deed) The King's Road was a road coming into St. Georges from now Kirkwood and joining Main Street. The Neck Road was where Cock's (Cox's) Neck Road came down through Andrew Jubart's property. There are some measurement discrepancies in the deed as well, as it claims to be one-quarter acre. Later deeds show it was a three-quarter acre plot. (N.C.Co. Deed - N +1-560--1743 Dover)

The road positions, in the 1743 deed, of course, are not what you see today in that area of the town. The land on the east side of Main Street was still all open land as Andrew Jubart's property on that side of the street was not drawn up into lots until the year 1744.

The Cannon Plot became divided into three lots. They are marked on the Beers Atlas 1868, as Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Osborne lots by the school house. See page 115. The small building on the lot of Mrs. Jackson is where Andrew Cannon built his hat shop. It was a large frame one room shop.

Andrew Cannon, who died in the year 1785, had sold the lot before the year 1762 to Thomas Glenn, a shopkeeper, who also owned farmland in the area. No recorded deed can be found on this transaction.

Thomas Glenn built a house on the property. He died intestate in the year 1762 or 1763. Mary Glenn, his widow, and Michael Dushane became administrators and through New Castle County Orphan's Court settled the estate. Court records show Thomas Glen, a shopkeeper, at the time of death had a message and lot of ground in the town of St. Georges. His farmlands and lot had to be sold. It's probable Thomas and Mary Glen lived on the property. Cornelius Kittle (Kettle) a farmer in the area bought the lot at public auction on January 17, 1764 and sold it back to Mary Glenn. Deed recorded July 10, 1765. (N.C.Co. Deed B-2-675, N.C.CO. Orp. Crt D-1-90--1763--pgs. 101 - 114- 148 Dover)

Mary Glenn remarried to Anthony Dushane. Mary and Anthony sold the property on May 9, 1770 to Abraham Vandegrift, a Blacksmith. (N.C.Co. Deed Z-1-239--1770 Dover) He built a blacksmith shop, barn and a kitchen on to lot which already had a house and shop. Abraham died around the year 1780 leaving a minor son Abraham Jr. . Christopher Vandegrift became the guardian to Abraham to handle the estate. (Orp. N.C.Co. F- 1778-1780 Dover) The records on page 309 show the property being rented at 13 lbs. 10 shillings a year. Necessary repairs needed in the dwelling house lower room were a new brest from the chimney to staircase and stairs. The door needs three panes of glass. Upstairs - one sash window needed. In the lodging room of the upper floor or attic, the boards be joined and nailed down. The lodging room on the upper floor would have had its own small stairway and used for the servants or the hired hands. The kitchen is in midling repair. The well to

have a new curb and the wall raised 18 inches with brick. The wall of the cellar repaired. The stable to be moved further back on the lot and underpinned with stone and a few clapboards needed on the east end. The smithshop needs some new logs and a new oak roof on the north side. The whole lot which contains three quarter acres to be enclosed with Post and Rail Fence of Oak Timber. April 4, 1784

Page 474 of the orphan court records reports the lot as three-quarter acres with dwelling house and kitchen, and a mortgage taken on the property in the year 1776 be renewed for Abraham Vandegrift Jr. .

Orphan Court records on August 16, 1794 show that Christopher Vandegrift, guardian, received rent money and to allow it for repairs. Four glass panes for the dwelling house downstairs, one pane of glass upstairs, two panes for the tailor shop. The fireplace in the house and kitchen to be repaired. The paling (fence) around the lot to be repaired. The wall around the well to be raised one foot with brick. The curb to be repaired. The work to be done at the descretion of the guardian. The court approved the work on November 16, 1797. (N.C.Co. Orp. Crt. H- 1-131 ---8-15-1794 Dover)

It would be well to say that guardians chosen, by court, to represent children of deceased parents were held accountable for funds, repairs etc. to the court. Children were called orphans, then, until they reached the age twenty-one. Estates handled by guardians could either provide effeciently for their clients, or sometimes cause estates to fall into ruin and everything lost.

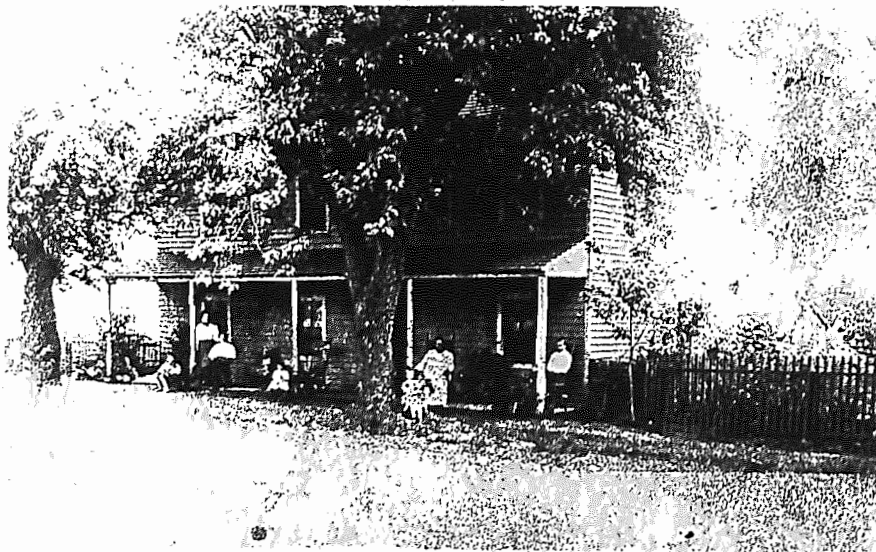
The last tax assessment on this property for Christopher Vandegrift, guardian, was in the year 1798. By the year 1801 tax assessment records listed the property in the name of Enoch Thomas. No recorded deed was found of this transfer to Enoch Thomas.

As previously written in the Gottlieb Streinger property; research in 1811 shows the Enoch Thomas property going to his son Nathan. Since Nathan was considered a minor; Jacob Vandegrift was his guardian. The 1811 orphan court shows the property as being divided into parcels. A brick house unfinished with log kitchen and blacksmith on one parcel and frame-house and shop on another parcel. Nathan Thomas died December 10, 1822 and the property went to his daughter Margaret Ann Thomas who later married to John W. Osborne. The unfinished brick house mentioned in the 1811 orphan court record was being built along side of the log kitchen. A 1909-12 circa picture shows that the kitchen was later attached to the brick house and wooden clapboard siding covered the logs. The bricks were covered with a cement siding. The 1868 Beers Atlas shows the division line of the two buildings.

Margaret Osborne, widow, on November 22, 1895, for \$100, sold the piece or parcel of land with the frame house and shop to Mattie Jones. This was the frame house and shop mentioned in the early orphan court records in 1794. After Enoch Thomas received the property in 1801 it's probable he made additions and repairs as when his son Nathan received the property in 1811 the property was being tenant rented. The 1868 Beer's Atlas shows the house as being two houses joined together with a black line division between the two buildings. (N.C.Co Deed Y-16-430--1895 Dover) The Beers Atlas page 115 shows the parcel as two lots with the name Mrs. Jackson on the lots. Mrs. Jackson never owned the property. She was a tenant in the house and lived there until her death. The other building marked on the lot to itself was the shop which had been used

by hatters, tailors and shoemakers. Mattie Jones continued to rent the double house to Mrs. Jackson. Mattie and her husband Theodore Jones sold the property with building thereon, for \$75, to George T. Hill on March 13, 1902. The price indicates the house was not in the best condition. George Hill and wife Nettie moved from White Clay Creek Hundred to St. Georges and lived in one side of the house and Mrs. Jackson the other side until her death. Mr. Hill made improvements and added a porch across the front of the two story, with attic, plain clapboard building which had began in the year 1763.

George and Nellie had five children - Lucie, Marian, Margaretta, Francis, and George. Mr. Hill died September 30, 1910 and his widow lived on the property until it was sold August 10, 1940 to the State of Delaware for a right of way for the new overhead bridge. (N.C.Co Deed D-42-60-1940) Mr. Hill had died intestate and the property was sold by surviving family members - wife Nellie Blake Hill, Lucie J. Cannon and husband Clement, Marian Sterling and husband Ephriam, Margaretta and husband Frederick, George C. and wife May. Francis Hobson Hill, a son, had also died intestate leaving a wife Elizabeth, son George H. and daughter Hilda, George H. had a wife Ethel but Hilda was still single. Francis H. Hill's wife had remarried to Joseph G. Kahn. They were all involved in the deed selling the property to the State of Delaware.

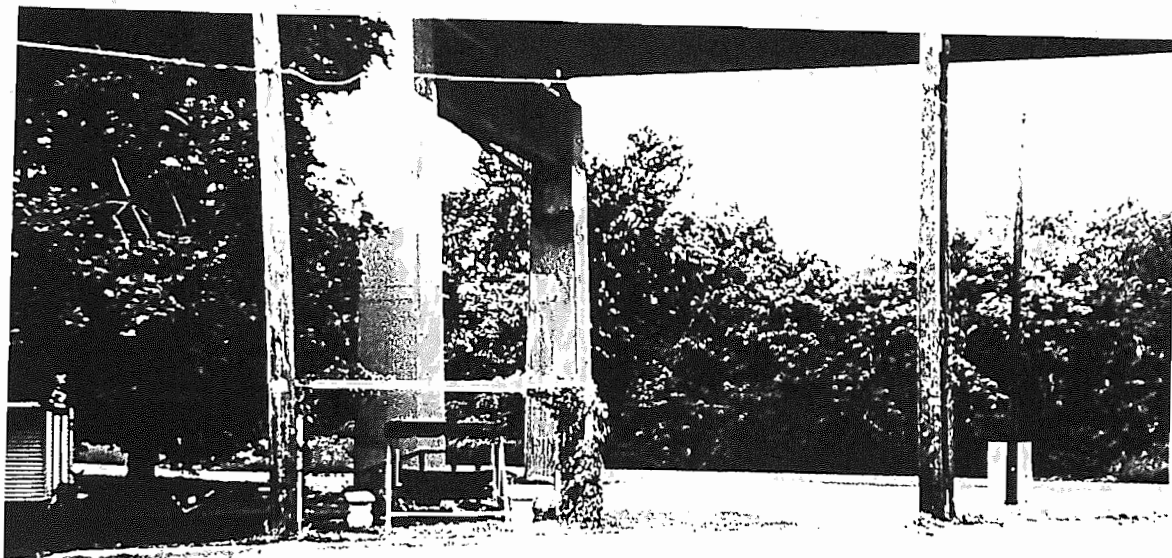


George T. Hill House - Circa 1910

House first built in circa 1762 - Additions in 1800's - 1900's

The house was destroyed. The only marker to place where the house stood is a large rectangular slab of cement adjoining the cement walk that was in front of the home. A part of the Hill property was included in the deed, by the State of Delaware, when the adjoining property was sold to Wm. B. and Kathryn Crompton in the year 1941. Marvin Roberts, after purchasing the Crompton property, made a garden area behind the slab of cement which distinctly marks the area.



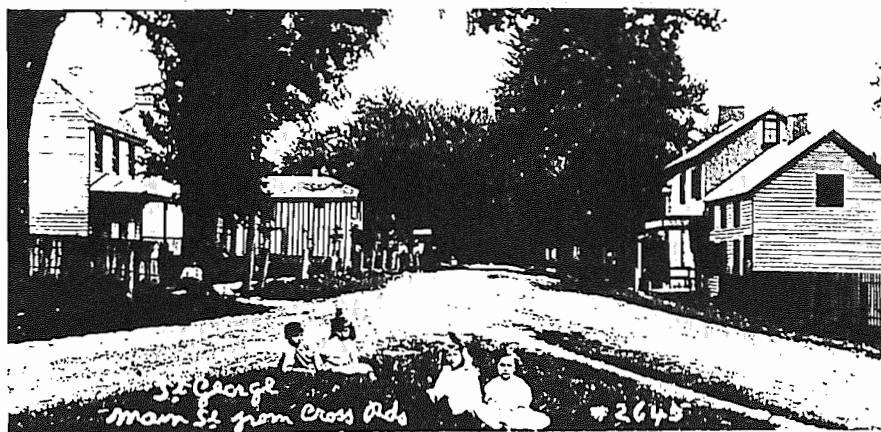


Summer - Year 2000  
Former location - George T. Hill House



Summer - Year 2000  
Former location - Margaret Osborne - George Vincent -  
and William Shivery House

## Margaret Osborne Property



Picture - Circa - 1909 - 1912 Focus- House on Right  
 Brick Cement Stucco part of the house - built in 1811. The frame  
 section built - circa - 1772  
 George F. Vincent - owner 1907

The Margaret Osborne property next to the Hill Property according to November 23, 1811 orphan court records contained a small brick house thereon unfinished with a log kitchen and blacksmith shop all in good repair. The property was tenant rented bringing in \$50 per year. (N.C. Co. Orp. Crt. K - 1 -pg. 46-47 Dover) The orphan court report of August 20, 1824, #5, list one brick dwelling house and log kitchen in tolerable repair, and old blacksmith shop, garden and yard paled (fenced) in good repair. To make this property tenantable it was necessary last Spring to put a new roof on the kitchen and new palings around the yard and garden. It was still only bringing \$50 per year. (N.C.Co. Orp. crt L-1- --1819-1824 pg. 330 Dover) The orphan court petition given to the court on July 9, 1828 listed as #6 claims a lot of land and brick dwelling and other buildings thereon bounded by public street and lands of William Hurlock. The lot also joined to the log school house. (N.C.Co. orp. crt. N - 1828-1831- pg.44 Dover)

At one time Jacob Keiler, a tailor, occuppied the residence and also sold candy. At the foot of his garden stood the old school house - a low unfit place and the water in the school pump- not good. (Higgins Memiors - (Dela. History - Apr. 1970 Vol. xiv - #1 HHistorical Society of Delaware)

Margaret Thomas Osborne died intestate in 1899. The property went to the only child of Margaret and John Osborne: Margaret T. Baker. Margaret, widow, of Wilmington, Delaware, sold the house and lot for \$800, on April 26, 1907 to George F. Vincent, blacksmith, of St. Georges Hundred. He resided on the property and in 1909 bought the Heisel Blacksmith Shop just down the street from his home. In the year 1919 George Vincent and

wife Emma had moved to Cooperstown County, Oslego, New York. On December 22, 1919, for \$1,200 they sold the property to William and Mary Shivery. The Shivery's lived on the property. (N.C.Co. Deed X - 28 - 290 ---1919 Dover)

During the Shivery ownership when DuPont Highway entered Main Street into St. Georges, crossing Kirkwood Road entrance, a sharp curve was in the street. New modern automobiles found the curve in the road hard to manuever and one or two cars ran into the house. A fence was put up to protect the home but from time to time cars continued to hit the fence causing many repairs. Their woes of repairing damaged fences and fear of cars ramming the home ended in 1940. On May 29, 1940 William and Mary Shivery sold the property to the State of Delaware for a right of way for the new overhead bridge. (N.C.Co. Deed - Y-41-221 --1940)

Bridge pillars now grace the property replacing monumental old houses of the town.



Scene - Summer Year 2000

Bridge pillars in location where monumental houses once stood.

Note : Some older pictures, postcards, and copies of old pictures were not in the best shape for printing, but were used, as they show enough of that era to be important to the background and research of the property.

## LOG SCHOOL HOUSE

The property on which the school was located was pinpointed to be in a certain area so as to share the well water which was located on the Enoch Thomas lot, formerly the Andrew Cannon lot, and other lands bordering this property owned by Enoch Thomas. The lot of land allowed for the school was still surrounded by Thomas property. It is not known who built the log school or the date it was built, but it was on the land when the deed was written on March 24, 1804.

The deed will be printed in the entirety because of its information.

Deed N.C Co. D - 3 - 385 -- 1804  
Dover Hall of Records

This Indenture made 14th March 1804 Between Enoch Thomas and Jane, wife, of one part and John Sutton and Jessee Higgins Trustees of the Saint Georges School of the second part. That Enoch Thomas and Jane for five shillings a lot of land whereon stands the Saint Georges School House now under the direction of James Townsend, preceptor. Beginning at the old well about twelve feet southeasterly of the corner of said school house and from thence road running from St. Georges to the Meeting House and the Westerly side so as to embrace a lot 60 foot by 70 foot of land including the school house and half the said old well with privilege to take water at all times therefrom for the use of said school. To have and to hold the said lot so above described with Buildings and Improvements now built thereon and the use of the said well to them the said trustees and their successor Trustees of said school and to such as may at anytime hereafter be elected or created Trustees to the only use and behoof of such Trustees for the sole benefit of a school for Saint Georges and its neighborhood and to no other purpose whatsoever. --

Witnes- Martha Bouldin  
Noah Bradshaw

Enoch Thomas  
Jane Thomas

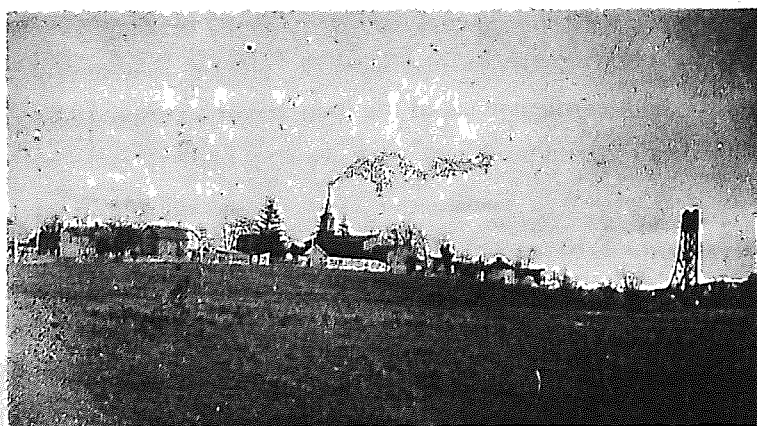
After placing the lot to share the well there were problems as it seems the water was unfit for drinking. Orphan Court records from 1784 to 1794 when the well was located on the Abraham Vandegrift property tell of having to raise the well wall and put new curbing around it. After Enoch Thomas procured the Vandegrift property there is no more mention of the well or repairs in his estate records.

The Memiors of John Clark Higgins when he describes Main Street in St. Georges states - Beginning at the right side of the North end of St. Georges and going south, the first house was brick. It was then occupied by Jacob Keeler, Tailor, as his sign declared. At the foot of his garden the old schoolhouse stood, a low and unfit place too, it was; and the water of the school pump not good. On the other side of the street, Higgins states - the next house was occupied by James Jackson. This was the former Frank Cleaver property and Edith Morris property. The well was noted for the excellence of its water. From it the school supply of water came, two boys being sent for a bucket of water when the supply ran out. No other complaints were made of the school and so the education one received there was worth its purpose toward education. (Memiors - J. C. Higgins Dela. History April 1970 Vol.XIV#1 page 66-67 Published Historical Society of Delaware)



A new school was built, down in town, off of Broad and Church Streets around 1888 - 1889. The log school was abandoned and the property reverted back to the Enoch Thomas descendent Margaret Thomas Osborne. The property was included with the brick house and blacksmith lot formerly a part of the Andrew Cannon and Abraham Vandegrift lot.

The school was still there in 1893. After that date the fate of the building is unknown. A Middletown Transcript, September 27, 1961, article tells of the school being made of logs. See Tribute to Mrs. Nellie B. Carrow next page.



Picture - Circa - 1928 -29

Open land behind the properties on the Southwest side of Main Street. The topography of the area is shown before the building of the overhead St. Georges Bridge in 1940.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1961

THE MIDDLETOWN TRANSCRIPT,

## Tribute Is Paid To Mrs. Nellie B. Carrow

Mrs. Nellie Burton Carrow was born September 14, 1871, in Wilmington, Delaware, her parents having come from England two months earlier. She spent her girlhood days at "Bloomfield," a beautiful farm home known as the Newton mansion of eighteen rooms, located just outside of St. Georges on the Kirkwood road. Her early school education was obtained at the old log school house there.

At the age of 20, she married Edgar Carrow, a young man of the community, and they engaged in farming in the vicinity for many years. Mrs. Carrow had six children, five daughters and one son. They are Mrs. Susan Stapleford and Mr. Gilbert Burton Carrow of St. Georges; Mrs. Helen Sartin, St. Petersburg, Florida; Mrs. Nellie Francis, of near Taylors Bridge; Mrs. Grace McCarthy, Delaware City, and Mrs. Florence Kumpel Herbert, Silver Spring, Maryland (now deceased as of April 19th of this year).

There are 10 grandchildren, 8 living; 15 great-grandchildren, 1 deceased; and 3 great-great grandchildren, making thirty-four descendants in all.

After the death of her husband in 1934, Mrs. Carrow has divided her time among her children. Having been a farmer's daughter and a farm wife, she naturally has chosen to spend from early spring until late fall with her daughter, Nellie Francis, on the farm. The winter months she divides with her other children, who reside in town.

At ninety, she enjoys very good health and is quite active. Since becoming a widow, she has elected herself the family nurse. Any member in the family becoming ill, she arrives, suitcase in hand, to nurse them back to health.

She is also the self-appointed family seamstress and can still sew a fine seam, and much of her time is spent in lowering and raising the family hemline, as fashion dictates. She can read without glasses and is an avid reader of good literature, the favorite being her Bible. She maintains a keen interest in world affairs and delights to join in the family conversation. Her hands are seldom idle, and she

does beautiful needle work—having crocheted several tablecloths, countless doilies, and many crocheted and braided rugs, to be left to her children as family heirlooms.

Mrs. Carrow, an excellent cook in her time, still finds pleasure in cooking and even now can prepare a fine meal, if allowed, and the occasion arises. Her greatest delight is whipping up a cake, a tasty pie, or some "goodie" for her grandson, Ervil Francis—and he has long ago written down her recipe for molasses candy made in an iron skillet and received instructions in the art of taffy pulling.

Mrs. Carrow also delights in telling her grandson Ervil, of the "Good Old Times" she had in St. Georges long ago. How in the days before the ship canal, the boats were pulled through the locks of the Chesapeake and Delaware by the tow-path mules—the old wooden draw-bridge having been turned off for the boat's passage, after the blow of a whistle. How the town's people gathered to watch the passenger-filled day and night boats as they passed through the locks—this being the "Old Ericsson Line" which made the trip from Baltimore to Philadelphia.

How winters were winters then, and snows were hugh ones. Of the joy she had in skating from St. Georges to Delaware City or from St. Georges to the railroad bridge when the canal was frozen over. Of the large sledding and skating parties that took place on the ice while the canal was still frozen, and the hugh bonfires built thereon to warm one's self. Much sleighing was to be had, but the best of all, was the sleigh races which took place upon the ice and never failed to thrill one's heart.

Then in the spring, there were the "Strawberry Festivals" and the hay and straw rides by moonlight. And suppers were suppers then, she said. Why the Odd Fellows Lodge held a "ten nights supper," where each evening you could eat your fill and linger to chat until midnight. Yes, those were the days as she now recalls them.

She is still a good traveler, for on New Year's Day, 1960, she board-

ed a noon train in Wilmington and made an overnight journey alone to St. Petersburg, Florida. The reason being to visit her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Sartin and his family. After staying three months with them, she quietly took another train on Palm Sunday and returned home. When asked how she made out on her trip she said, "Just fine. "Why I watched the scenery until it grew dark and then I got out my crocheting."

Her longevity, we the family believe, is first a blessing from God—plus the fact that she makes life interesting for herself with her nimble fingers; that her mind has remained alert by her interest in current events; that her step has remained quick and active is the fact that she enjoys her work and making others happy. She had a purpose in life—a job to do and she has done it well. Her love and devotion to her family is superb.

Her 90th birthday was quietly observed, as she wished it—with her family and a few close friends. She was the recipient of many cards and congratulatory messages

Nellie Francis,  
Her Daughter.

## Mrs. Edgar Carrow

Mrs. Nellie Burton Carrow, 96, died yesterday at the Emily P. Bissell Hospital, where she had been a patient since March.

She was the widow of Edgar Carrow, who died in 1934. She and her husband were engaged in farming in the St. Georges area for many years.

A native of this area, she spent her early life on the Bloomfield Estates on the St. Georges-Kirkwood Road. Since the death of her husband she had alternately made her home with two daughters, Mrs. Nellie Francis of Taylors Bridge and Mrs. Grace McCarthy of Delaware City.

Mrs. Carrow also is survived by two other daughters, Mrs. Susan Stapleford of St. Georges and Mrs. Helen Sartin of St. Petersburg, Fla.; seven grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

Services and interment will be at the convenience of the family.

## COMMODORE MAC DONOUGH SCHOOL



February - 1924



Arriving for  
Dedication Day  
Ceremonies

February 9, 1924

Courtesy Melvin  
Sparks

Commodore Mac Dounough School was built during the year 1923 on six and one-half acres of land formerly owned by Anthony Higgins but owned at time of sale by Mary Craven and John P. Nields. (N.C.CO. Deed P - 32 - 533 -- 1-12-1924 Dover)

The original school building had a 131 foot frontage and 107 foot width along the side, built with buff color bricks. There were seven full size classrooms to accomodate 40 pupils in each room but under pressure could accomodate 47 pupils to a room. The rooms were 25x72 feet. A vestibule led into and auditorium with a stage at one end which had a 500 seating capacity. The ceiling in the auditorium was much higher than the classrooms flanking both sides. The auditorium would be used for school assembly purposes and will also be available for community meetings by authority of the school trustees. Coat rooms adjoin each classroom, and separate toilet rooms for boys and girls are accessible from opposite sides of the auditorium. There are direct exits from the classrooms, other than in to the auditorium. The rooms extending off of the sides had doors leading to outside iron stairways. Special attention was given to the arrangement of pupils. Seats and desks with reference to light. A lunch room to seat 84, a kitchen, lavatory and boiler room were located in the basement. Behind the school was a matching buff brick triple garage to house the school's auto-busses with a rest room built in one corner for the bus chauffeurs. The Architect was James O. Betelle. Builders were A. J. Taylor and C. C. Tarburton..

The total cost for the school, garage, and two omnibuses was \$140,000 which was to be borne by the Delaware School Auxiliary Association through a trust fund created by Pierre S. DuPont.

The localities uniting in the use of the school, when open, will be St. Georges, Red Lion, and Hickory Grove; other communities within a radius of six or seven miles, once the school is in full operation and after the intial opening are expected to avail themselves of the school facilities.

The school was dedicated on Saturday February 9, 1924 at 2 p.m. . Quite a number of people arrived early to attend the Parent Teacher Meeting and the meeting of county teachers in the morning, preceding the dedication. There was a large turnout of St. Georges residents and the surrounding territory creating a holiday atmosphere.

Henry P. Scott presided at the dedication held in the school auditorium. When introducing Pierre S. duPont to the audience he jokingly suggested that the people of Red Lion, St. Georges, and Dragon confer to Mr. duPont the freedom of the community, including the right to fish in the canal any week day. The audience responded their approval with a hearty applause.

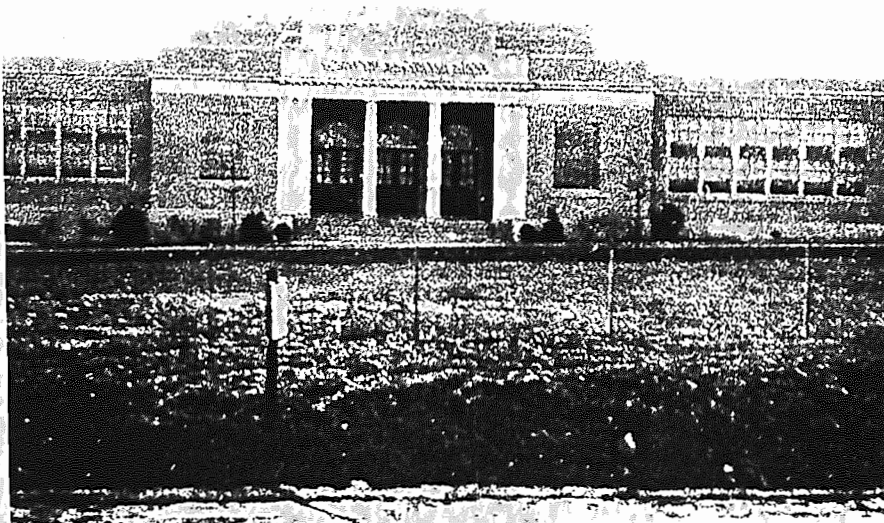
Mr. duPont, after expressing thanks of himself and Mrs. duPont for the bouquet and basket of flowers which had been presented earlier in the program, said: "It may seem like casting a shade of gloom over this otherwise cheery occasion to remind you that there is a string attached to what has been alluded to as the gift of this school. Not a string by which the gift may be withdrawn, rather and obligation laid on all here today and on all who shall see this building to exert themselves and use all their influence to secure advantages of similar character to meet similar situations elsewhere in Delaware.



There are, I understand, at least 10 other localities where such schools are indicated at the present time; and as the Delaware School Auxiliary is not prepared to build many such schools, it is up to the people who want them to use those it has completed to demonstrate to the members of the coming Legislature what can be accomplished, and to persuade them to adopt a program that will favor school building and rebuilding." "The Legislature is responsible for the finance of the state, and can authorize bond issues and fix conditions on which such bonds may be paid off. I hope that every face into which I am looking today may be seen at Dover next year; that you will be doing your best to get better schools for others. You can tell from your own observations whether such a community school as this is useful and what its advantages are. Where the 'string' binds you is this obligation to do your part in securing them for others. There seems to be no reason why this school shall not serve the needs of your community for the next 10 years; I hope it does and that you will be pleased with it."

Hearty applause was evoked by Mr. duPont's speech, which seemed sufficient assurance that his wish was fully responded to so far as satisfaction with the new school is concerned. (Every Evening - Monday February 11, 1924)

The school surpassed the 10 years predicted. The school has gone through additions and renovations. On July 19, 1940, the school lost the nice field and space in front of the school to the State of Delaware for a new road to enter the town of St. Georges as the new overhead bridge to be built would be taking the land and old road that entered the town. (N.C. Co. Deed - D-42-58--1940 Dover)



Commordore Mac Donough Circa - 1936

Some claimed it was against the law to build a structure, like the bridge that close to a school. None-the-less the bridge was built and today the controversy is that the bridge may be destroyed since a new bridge was built over the canal to the west of town. Also, there is talk the school is now in a state of being obsolete in structure to serve modern

education and a new replacement school is being built, on open land, next to the Gunning Bedford Jr. Middle School on Cox's Neck Road between St. Georges and Delaware City.

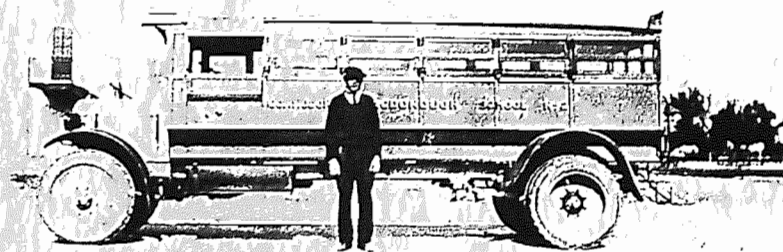
The school built in St. Georges was named for Commodore Thomas Mac Donough of the United States Navy, who was born and lived a few miles below St. Georges. He was born in 1783. He was distinguished, in the world, as the Hero of Lake Champlain against the British. He died at sea of pulmonary consumption while on his return from the command of the American Squadron in the Mediterranean on Nov. 10, 1825. He was buried near Middletown, Connecticut in Riverside Cemetery.



Commodore Mac Donough School  
Summer - Year 2000

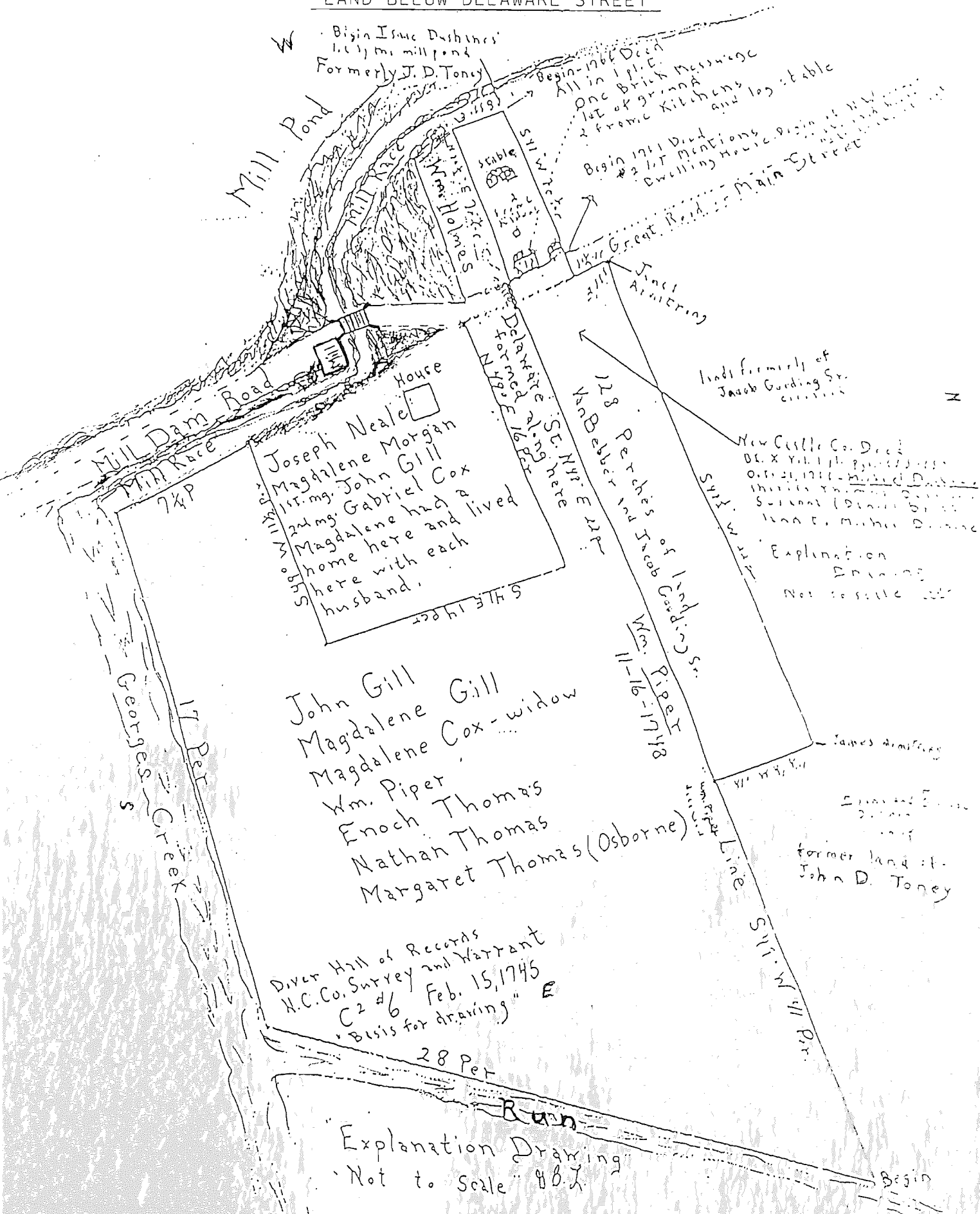


The two new omnibuses bought for Commodore  
Mac Donough School on display Dedication Day.  
February 9, 1924



Spring 1924  
Irving V. Sparks - First Bus Driver  
Pictures - Courtesy - Melvin Sparks

LAND BELOW DELAWARE STREET



W  
Begin Issue Dashes  
1.6 by the mill pond  
Formerly J. D. Toney

Mill Pond

Begin 1761 Deed  
All in 1 pl. E.  
one Brick Messuage  
1st of granna  
2 frame Kitchens  
and log stable  
Begin 1761 Deed  
2 1/2 l.r mentions  
dwelling house begin of Main Street

Wm. Holmes

Delaware St. where  
for 1/2 E 1/2

128 Perches of Land  
Wm. Piper  
11-16-1748

Land formerly of  
Jacob Gording Sr.

New Castle Co. Deed  
Dec. 17th 1741 p. 100  
O. 17th 1741 - 1742  
Shirley Thomas  
S. 17th 1741 - 1742  
1741 to 1742  
1741 to 1742

Explanation  
Drawing  
Not to Scale

House  
Joseph Neale  
Magdalene Morgan  
Mr. mg. John Gill  
Mrs. Gabriel Cox  
Magdalene had a  
home here and lived  
here with each  
husband.

John Gill  
Magdalene Gill  
Magdalene Cox - widow  
Wm. Piper  
Enoch Thomas  
Nathan Thomas  
Margaret Thomas (Osborne)

Diver Hill of Records  
H.C. Co. Survey and Warrant  
C2 #6 Feb. 15, 1745  
Basis for drawing

28 Per

Run  
Explanation Drawing  
Not to Scale

Begin



Edwin Peckard to Thomas Heisel  
 Heisel to Edw. Gam  
 Gam to John Moore - 1898  
 John Moore to - ?

- Edwin Peckard to Thomas Heisel  
 Heisel to Edw. Gam  
 Gam to Harry C. Clark - 1898  
 Clark to Howard Othoson - 1938  
 Othoson to sons - Howard & Carl  
 Howard Othoson - died - to his  
 estate - Barbara Crather et al  
 (W-9-1962-WR 79645)

Back St.  
 Broad St.

Delaware Street N. 47 3/4 E.

5 #1  
 1860 - Henry L. Peckard  
 Then to son Edwin H. Peckard  
 25 #2  
 100'

1860 - Hurlock & Nivin - trustees to Benjamin Garman Jr.  
 50 1-1-1863 - Garman to Phillip Redding  
 (Beers Atlas 1868)

1860 - Hurlock & Nivin - trustees to Benjamin Garman Jr.  
 12-29-1860 - Garman to Francis Taroni  
 (Beers Atlas 1868)

1860 - James N. Sutton from -  
 1863 - J. P. Belville - Exc. Jas. N. Sutton to  
 50 Jas. Garman - Garman to John H.  
 5 Cornelius. 1881 - Cornelius to Mary  
 Gam. (Beers Atlas - 1868 has - A. F.  
 Pennington) He did not own the lot

2 lots - James N. Sutton from -  
 1863 - J. P. Belville - Exc. Jas. N. Sutton to  
 50 James Garman & Benj. Garman Jr.  
 5 Benj. Garman died - Estate to Orp. Cr. T.  
 1890 - Shf. W. G. Whitely to Andrew  
 Reutter

After death of Benjamin Garman Jr.  
 In 1867 to Jas. & Mary Garman in 1869.  
 1890 - Garman's to Andrew Reutter  
 3-parcels of Reutter - 1890 Alvin Allen  
 Sheriff to Edwin Peckard  
 Peckard to Thomas B. Heisel

1861 - Hurlock & Nivin trustees to  
 James Money.  
 1861 - Money to Samuel S. Baldwin  
 1865 - Baldwin to John Calder  
 (Beers Atlas - 1868)  
 1868 - Calder to Andrew Reutter

13-0 H-  
 1860 - James N. Sutton from -  
 1863 - John P. Belville - Exc. J. N. Sutton  
 To - James H. Sutton  
 1865 - J. H. Sutton to James Garman  
 (Beers Atlas - 1868)

150'  
 1860 - Hurlock & Nivin trustees to Benjamin Garman Jr.  
 Benj. Garman died - 1867  
 Estate to Orp. Cr. T.  
 1869 - to James Garman  
 (Beer Atlas 1868)  
 Store  
 150'

Wm. J. Hurlock & David Nivin trustees for Margaret & John Osborne  
 to Henry L. Peckard 450. March 6, 1860 H.C. Co. Deed O-7-88-1860  
 5 acres 3 2/100 perches

Main Street

"1860" Division of property  
 Explanation Drawing

Edwin Peckard to Thomas Heisel  
Heisel to Edw. Gam  
Gam to John Moore - 1898  
John Moore to - ?

2-Edwin Peckard to Thomas Heisel  
Heisel to Edw. Gam  
Gam to Harry C. Clark - 1893  
Clark to Howard Othoson - 1938  
Othoson to Sons - Howard & Carl  
Howard Othoson - died - to his  
estate - Barbara Crather et al  
(W-9-1962-WR 79645)

Back St.  
Broad St.

Clearance Street 47 3/4' E

Main Street

5 #1

1860 - Henry L. Peckard

Then to son Edwin H. Peckard

5 #2

1860 - Hurlock & Nivin - trustees to  
Benjamin Garman Jr.  
01-1-1863 - Garman to Phillip Redding  
(Beers Atlas 1868)

1860 - Hurlock & Nivin - trustees to  
Benjamin Garman Jr.

12-29-1860 - Garman to Francis Taroni  
(Beers Atlas 1868)

1860 - James N. Sutton from -  
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Jas. Garman - Garman to John H.  
Cornelius. 1881 - Cornelius to Mary  
Gam. (Beers Atlas - 1868 has - A. F.  
Pennington) He did not own the lot

2 lots - James N. Sutton from -  
1863 - J. P. Belleville - Exc. Jas. N. Sutton to  
James Garman & Benj. Garman Jr.  
Benj. Garman died - Estate to Orp. Cr.  
1870 - Shf. W. G. Whitely to Andrew  
Reutter

After death of Benjamin Garman Jr.  
in 1867 to Jas. & Mary Garman in 1869.  
1890 - Garman's to Andrew Reutter  
3 - parcels of Reutter - 1890 Alvin Allen  
Shenitz to Edwin Peckard  
Peckard to Thomas B. Heisel

1861 - Hurlock & Nivin trustees to

James Money.  
1861 - Money to Samuel S. Baldwin  
1865 - Baldwin to John Calder  
(Beers Atlas - 1868)

1868 - Calder to Andrew Reutter

1860 - James N. Sutton from -  
1863 - John P. Belleville - Exc. J. N. Sutton  
to James H. Sutton

1865 - J. H. Sutton to James Garman  
(Beers Atlas - 1868)

1860 - Hurlock & Nivin trustees to  
Benjamin Garman Jr.  
Benj. Garman died - 1867  
Estate to Orp. Cr.

1869 - to James Garman  
(Beers Atlas 1868)

Store  
150'

"1860" Division of Property  
Explanation Drawing

Wm. J. Hurlock & David Nivin trustees for Margaret et al John Osborne  
to Henry L. Peckard #450 March 6, 1860 N.C.C. Deed O-7-88-1860  
5 acres 3 1/2 perches

84' 048'

## THE LAND BELOW DELAWARE STREET

The land to the south of Delaware Street was a small part of the land granted, by the Duke of York, to Jacob Young and by his heirs to Charles Anderson and John Cock's, who divided the land. They in turn sold land to Joseph Neale. After Neale's death in early 1714, the heir, Joseph Neale Jr. sold the land to David Stout. Stout sold the one acre lot containing Neal's house to Magdalene Morgan. Three acres around the lot were sold to John Gill. No actual deeds were recorded, but reference of their ownership is made in future deeds. (Q - 1 - 78 - 1748 - N. C. Co. Warrant & Survey C2 #6 - 1745 Dover)

Magdalene Morgan - circa 1715 - married John Gill, a farmer in the area. It's probable they lived in the home as in many deeds the house lot is referred to as John Gill's house.

Not much is known about Magdalene Morgan (Gill), but in order to buy property in the early 1700's she would have been a lady of means. She was educated as she could sign her name to documents. She was involved with the mill, being a witness to mill deeds in April and August in the year 1713. (N.C.Co Deed N - 1 - 361 --1711 Dover) The name Morgan is Welsh, but parentage research was unsuccessful. In April of 1742 Magdalene (Cox) gave 97 perches of land northwest of St. Georges for the building of a Meeting House. This plot was taken from 106 acres of land Magdalene had acquired from John Gill. The Meeting House Land is now a part of the St. Georges Cemetery.

John Gill had died intestate in 1719. On October 10, 1719 Magdalene Gill was granted full powers to handle his estate and have all goods and chattels etc. in the Registrar Office of New Castle County by April 21, 1720 and accounts etc. by October 21, 1720. (N.C.C. Wills - Orp. Crt. C - 1 - 146 --1719) Dover) No further records are available until 1744 when surveys were made and the three acres around her house and other lands granted to her. (N.C.Co. Survey General Returns 1700 - 1776. AF #24 -- 6-22-1747, Warrants and Surveys C2 #7 --79 Also confirmation from Patent Authorities - -6-22-1747 Philadelphia - Bk- A Vol. 13 pg. 305 Or 385 - Note this reference cannot be found- Hall of Records - Dover)

After the death of John Gill Magdalene married Gabriel Cox. Marriage date unknown. Gabriel Cox was the son of John Cock's Jr. and Rebecca Cock's. Rebecca remarried to Edmund Shaw. Edmund, Rebecca and Gabriel executors of John Cock's (Cox) Jr., who had died in 1714, were in 1734 involved with selling off some of the land John Cox Jr. had received from his father. Gabriel had probably farmed the land. (N.C.Co. Deed K - 1 - 304 --1-21-1734 Dover) After this deed there was no more mention of Gabriel Cox in connection with his father's land, only the name of Edmund Shaw. It is not known when Magdalene Morgan, Gill, Cox died, but by the year 1742 Gabriel Cox had died as deeds of that year and thereafter referred to her as a spinster. Her name ends on deeds in the year 1749. The date of her death and burial place are unknown.

Magdalene and Gabriel lived in the house with the surrounding property, across from the mill and near George's Creek, later named St. Georges Creek. He was known as an Inn Holder and probably the home used as an inn. A 1737 mortgage deed to John McCoole tells of Magdalene and

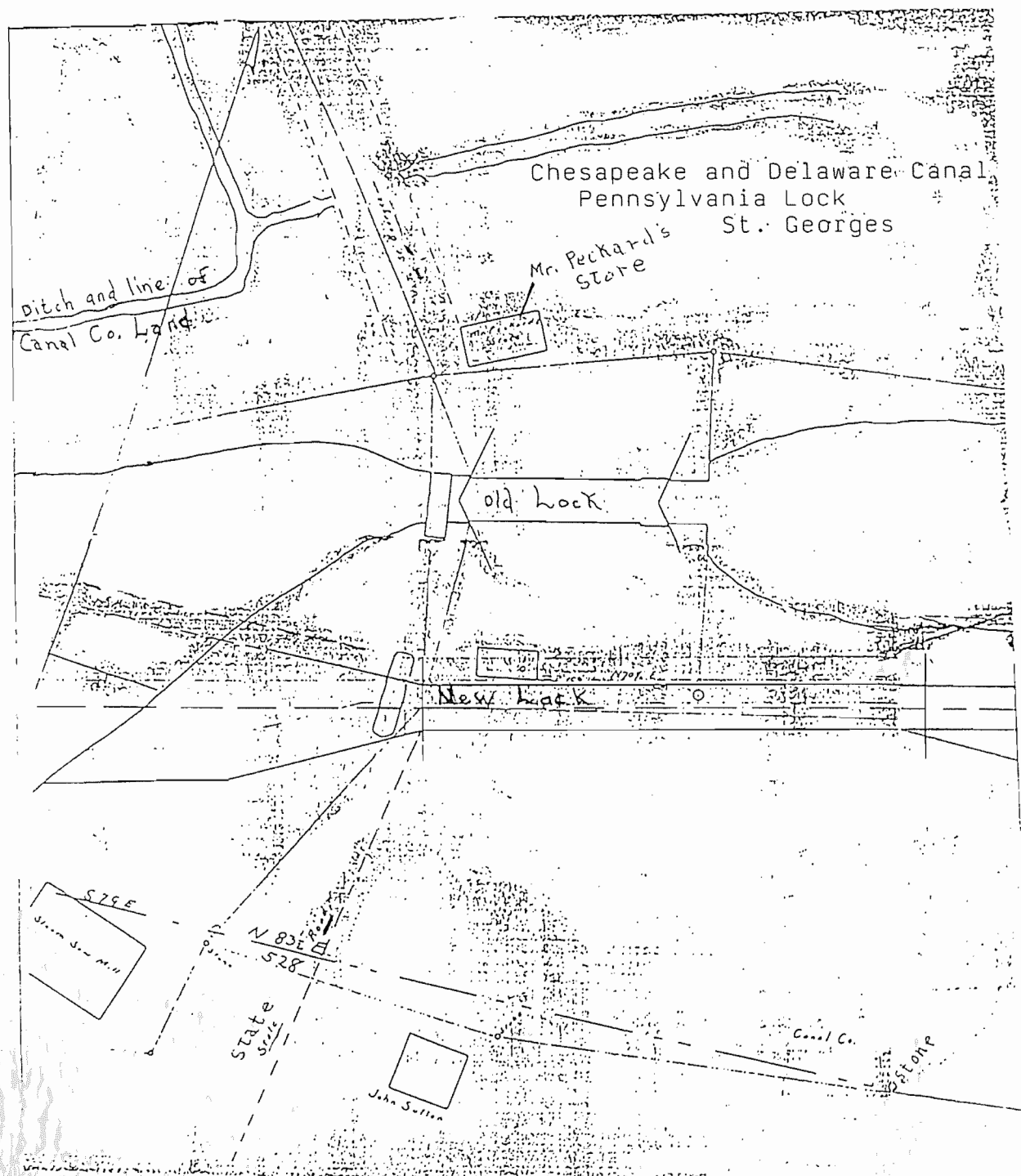
Gabriel living in the house. By November 14, 1748 Gabriel had died and Magdalene paid off the mortgage of 30 lbs. and received her deed to the property. (N.C.Co. Deeds L-1-163--8-17-1737 Q-1-56--1748) Dover Hall of Records. Two days after paying the mortgage on November 14, 1748. Magdalene Cox on November 16, 1748 sold the lot to William Piper, a merchant, who probably used the home as a storehouse. (Home and store combined. (N.C.Co Deed Q-1-78--1748 Dover)

It is well to note, at this point, that the original St. Georges Creek bordered the four acre plot, to the South, being just about where the edge of the present Chesapeake and Delaware Canal is located. All of the land you see along the canal today is fill dirt and it is not easy to realise you went downhill from the Main Street and Delaware Street to get to the creek surrounded by marsh and cripple.

William Piper had bought 103 acres of land near St. Georges in January of 1744. He also had bought two lots in November of 1763 up the street which were part of Andrew Jubart's plot plan of 1744. Wm. Piper died before building on the two lots. He owned other property in the town area according to deed references, but the deeds are missing and presumed lost so the location is unknown. When he died the only survivor was his wife Margaret and she inherited his estate. Margaret remarried to John Warford, a minister, in the area. By May 10, 1796 they were living in the State of New York and had given Power of Attorney to Peter Hyatt Esquire, Captain Wm. Mc Kennan and Christopher Vandegrift to sell her properties. (Deed N.C.Co. P-2-535--5-10-1796 Dover) On June 13, 1797, for 61 lbs. 10 shillings, Peter Hyatt and William Mc Kennan sold the house and surrounding lot to Enoch Thomas. It's probable the house continued to be contained by a fence and tenant rented and the open land used for cattle grazing or farming. (N.C.Co. Deed U-2-533--1797 Dover)

Enoch Thomas died circa - 1811 and the property went to his wife Jane and minor son Nathan. After the death of his mother Nathan was the sole heir. He married Margaret Nivin and they had one child, Margaret Ann Thomas to whom the property descended. She married John Osborne. Margaret and John Osborne gave Power of Attorney to Wm. J. Hurlock and David Nivin, in the year 1857, to sell certain properties. (Deed - N.C.Co. L-7-165-170--1857 Dover ) This property was described as #2 - A lot of land with a small house thereon situated in Red Lion Hundred bounded by the State Road leading from St. Georges to Odessa, also by the road leading from St. Georges to Delaware City, by land of Samuel Sutton and land of Henry L. Peckard and containing about 6 acres of marsh and upland, more or less. The Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Co. had bought some of the land below St. Georges Creek which adjoined this old parcel of Wm. Piper and at that time was considered in St. Georges Hundred. When the first canal locks were installed, circa - 1825-26, the creek bed was shifted and land that the canal had not bought was added to this lot. Henry L. Peckard owned land to the south of the creek which adjoined to this lot in the year 1839 and 1842. (N.C.Co. Deed W-16-197--1839 W-16-202--1842 N-17-40-44--11-4-1897 Dover) Also around the year 1855 the canal and locks were again shifted further to the south changing the pattern of land and flow of water. See page 78.

The large lot of 6 acres, almost 7, before being sold to Henry Peckard had been divided - containing 7 lots 50' x 150', and one lot being 80' x 150', fronting on Delaware Street and the rest of the property sold to Mr. Peckard being 5 acres 3 and 28/100 perches.



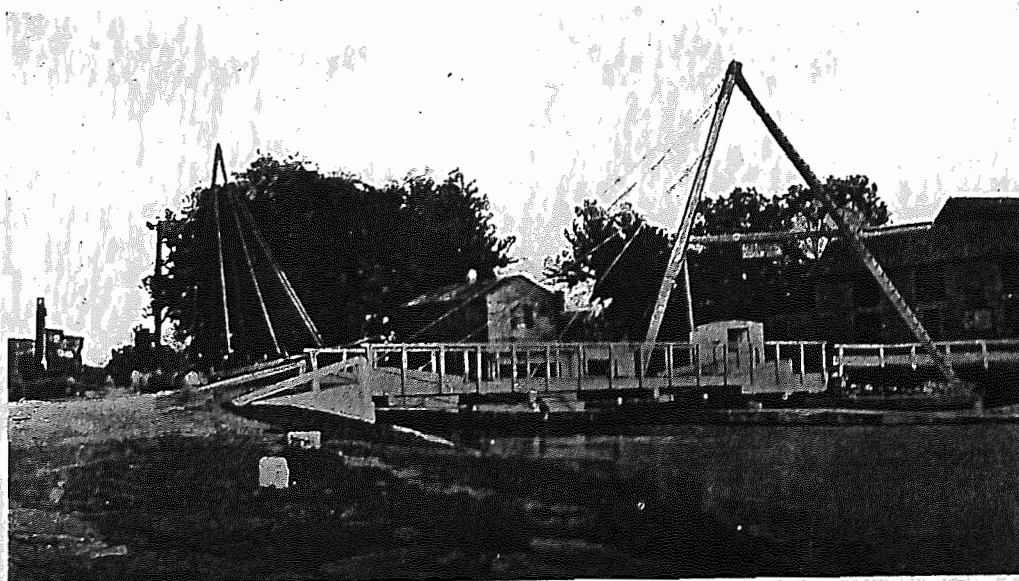
Files - Gladys B. Lester



Henry Peckard's son, Edward Peckard, later received the property and sold off two 25' x 100' lots fronting Delaware Street near a small ditch emptying out into the canal. The 1881 Hopkins New Castle County Map page 116 and 1893 Baist Atlas - page 117 shows the Peckard (Pecard) land below Delaware Street.



Scene - circa 1914 - New Lock built in the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal circa 1855 - St. Georges, Delaware. The lock was named The Pennsylvania Lock.

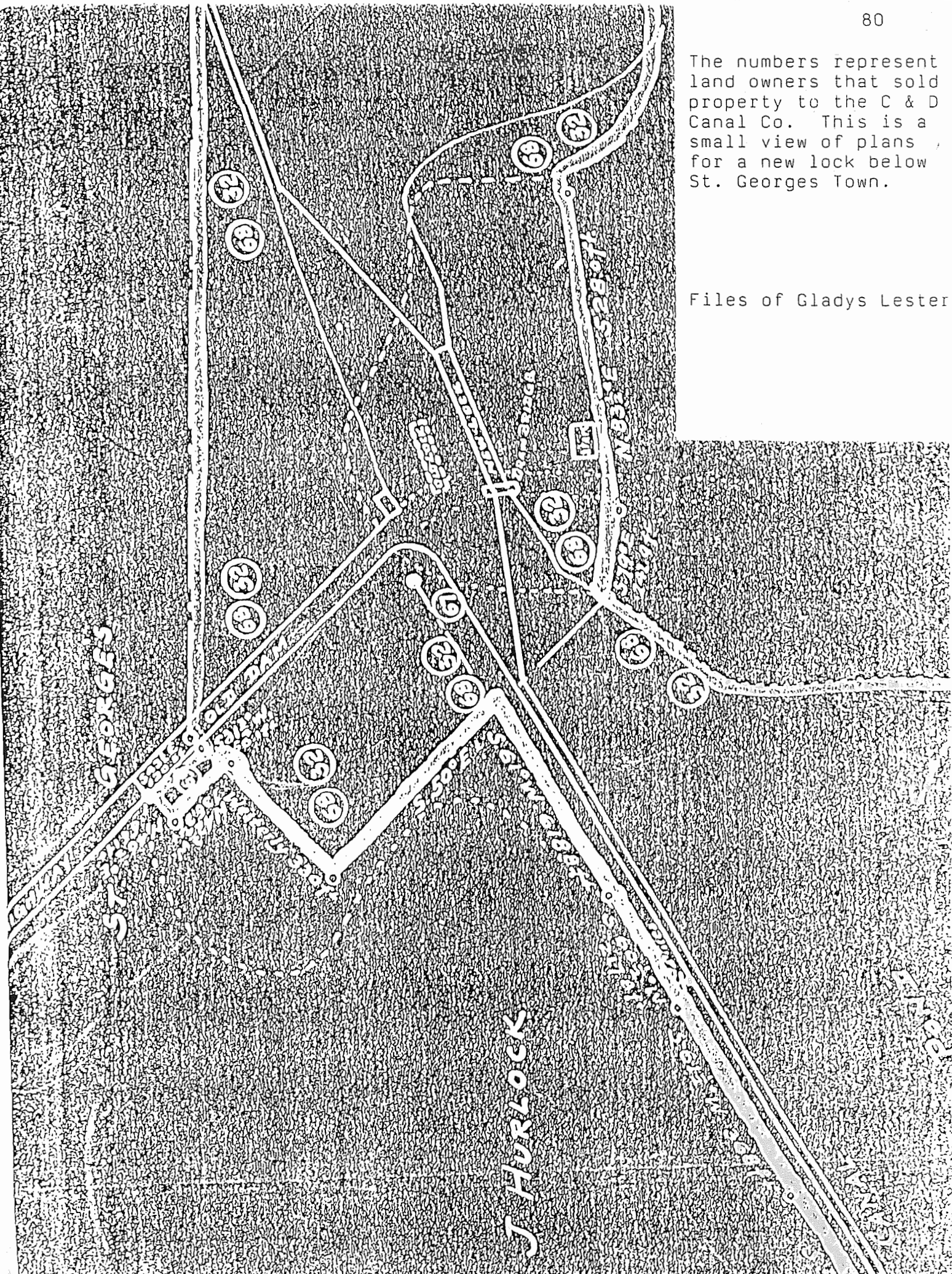


CANAL BRIDGE AND LOCKS, St. Georges, Del.

Scene - circa 1916 - Bridge built over the new lock circa - 1855. The bridge was called the H style bridge.

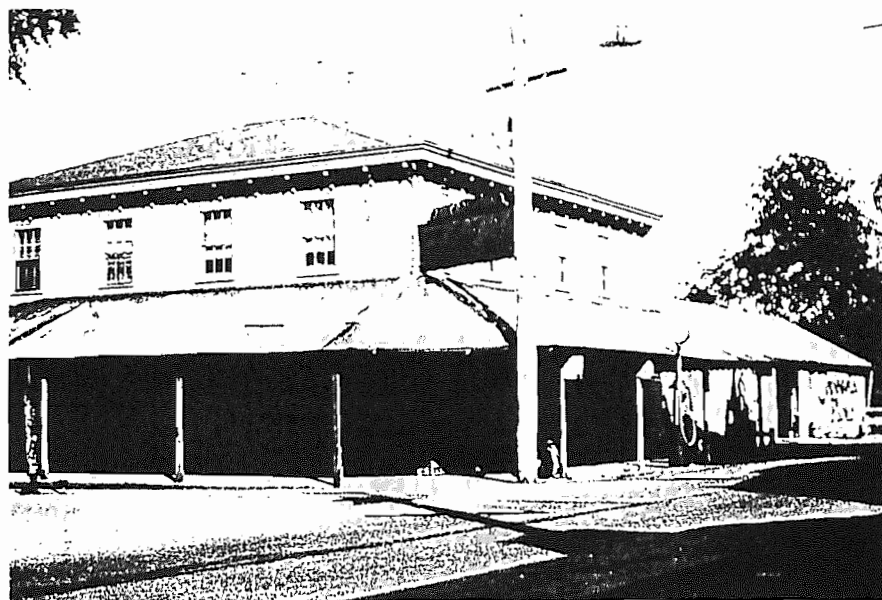
The numbers represent land owners that sold property to the C & D Canal Co. This is a small view of plans for a new lock below St. Georges Town.

Files of Gladys Lester





## CORNER STORE - HOUSE



Picture - Circa - mid - 1920's during  
ownership of John G. Crompton

Built Circa - 1711      Circa - 1861-62

The corner lot was 80' x 150' . This lot would have contained the small house mentioned on deeds since the year 1711 as Joseph Neale's house, then Magdalene Morgan , Gill, Cox; and William Piper, etc.. The lot was sold to James and Benjamin Garman Jr. for \$487.50, on March 26, 1860 by Wm. J. Hurlock and David Nivin, trustees for Margaret Thomas Osborne and John Osborne. James Garman had been in the area as early as 1858 and was known as a lumber merchant and was the brother of Benjamin. The price indicates a building on the lot as the other lots laid out as 50' x 150' were only 30' less in width and sold for \$50, \$55, and \$105.

The small house was well built by Joseph Neale as he was a joyner (carpenter) who had came to St. Georges from Salem, New England. Since it was located near the creek and lowlands it would have been built on a high stone foundation. It is believed the Garman's added to Neale's house and foundation when they built the large frame house and store section. Upon inspection it is found the small back section, now a kitchen, shows it was definitely older than other parts of the building. The exterior of the small frame house was changed to conform with the new added frame section. The original foundation is still intact and one can see where other stone foundations were added for the basement of the new structure. The first floor was made into a kitchen section for the new home and the small stairway and bedrooms kept intact. The added two story frame building, facing Delaware Street, was quite commodius having large double front entrance doors leading into a large entrance hall and open stairway. The rooms were quite spacious. A brick walk was in front with a large rectangular horse and carriage stepping stone along the curb. A wooden walkway ran along the store side on Main Street. The center of the low rectangular roof contained a cupalo. A wide shingle roof porch was later added to the front and

store side of the building giving protection from rain and sun where shoppers could gather for idle talk and have protection loading their carriages, wagons, and later motor vehicles.



Picture - January 1991

Original house - built circa 1711. It was renovated to conform with the front addition.

The Garman's also added a Creamery Building to the back facing Main Street. Many structural changes have been made to the interior and exterior but the original character of the building is still present. At one time a private school was conducted in the building. The store section sold everything from Dry Goods, Shoes, Groceries, Horse Collars and Harness, Fresh Meats, Gasoline and Oil, then on to Farm Machinery and parts, and mowers.

Benjamin Garman died in August 1867. His estate went into New Castle County Orphan Court. A public sale was held October 23, 1869. The dwelling and storehouse was sold to James Garman for \$1,575. (N.C.Co. opr. crt. A - 2- 1869-70 pgs. 22,23,56,57,207,223,224 Dover)

James Garman and wife Mary for \$8,500, on March 19, 1875, sold three properties to Albert N. Sutton. The two story store and dwelling was one of the properties. (Deed L-10-272--1875 Dover) It seems James and Mary Garman continued to rent the building, but charges were brought against Albert N. Sutton as he was in debt to Dr. Edward Silcon, Jr. . A public sale was held and Isaac Grubb, Sheriff, on December 14, 1876, deeded the property to Susie Garman for \$1,300. (N.C.Co. Deed A-11-75-1876 Dover) The Garman's continued in business, but once again in 1889 the property fell into hard times as Edward Bringhurst, Sr. had

died and the Garman's were in debt to him. Bringhurst, Jr. executor of his fathers will brought charges against them and Sheriff Alvin Allen sold the property to Edward Bringhurst, Jr. for \$1,300. Bringhurst sold the property to George McKay, a merchant, on February 8, 1892 and he operated the store. (N.C.Co. Deeds V-14-294--12-10-1889 -Q-15-142--1892 1891 Dela. State & Peninsula Directory Dover)

George McKay and Albert N. Sutton were in partnership with the drugstore next door as well as this store and again Edward Bringhurst Jr. brought charges against them in the amount of \$1,500. On January 11, 1895 Sheriff Pierce Gould awarded a deed to Bringhurst. On March 9, 1895 Bringhurst sold the drugstore, next door, and the dwelling house store for \$1,500 to Lydia C. Simpler. The properties continued on as before. The Simpler's were merchants in the area. (N.C.Co Deed Q-16-450--1895 R-16-299--1895 Dover)

Lydia C. Simpler and husband George W. Simpler by the year 1900 had moved to Philadelphia. They sold the two properties to James H. S. Gam for \$1,500. (N.C.Co. Deed K-18-197--1900 Dover)

James Gam continued to operate the store until 1913 when he sold the store and dwelling to John G. Crompton. He continued to operate the Dry, Goods, Boots, Shoes and Grocery Store. Mr. Crompton died on or around April 9, 1927. He had made a will on September 28, 1916 leaving the store and house to his wife Frances, sometimes referred to as Fannie.

Frances, on October 29, 1927 for \$7,500, sold the property to Walter Crompton, a brother to John. (N.C.Co. Deed G-35-277--1927 Dover) Mr. Crompton, with his wife Ella, sons Albert W., Charles, and daughter Helen M., moved into the dwelling and continued the mercantile store business. The Crompton Family kept the business in operation for 68 years; longer than any other owners or tenants since the new addition was made to the little 1711 circa house in the year 1861-62 circa. Walter organized the business down to more of a Grocery Store and in the back section, where the Creamery had operated, placed items needed by farmers such as harness, chicken feeders, hardware, buckets, shovels, hoes, etc. . Mr. Crompton around 1938 included his sons in the business and it was known as Walter Crompton and Sons. Mr. Walter Crompton passed away in the year 1948. His wife Ella continued to live in the dwelling until her death in the year 1974. Ella Crompton had on April 15, 1966 deeded the property to the sons Albert, Charles and their wives. (N.C.Co. Deed X-76-354--1966 Recorder of Deeds Office) Wilm.

In 1948 the store was known as Crompton Brothers. Charles and Albert in future years modernized the store by extending the store into and across the front section of the home taking away the large front hall entrance and a parlor living room and double entrance doors. A garage building, down the street from the store, located between Main and Broad Street was purchased and Albert started in the business of farm machinery and motorized riding and push mowers. He managed the machinery section and Charles managed the grocery market. The brothers closed both sections of business on January 1, 1982. The store and Crompton Family were such a landmark of the town plus the family's generosity and excellence service to the community, that on Sunday January 31, 1982, a gathering of over 300 residents of St. Georges and the surrounding community met to honor Albert and Charles and mourn the loss of the store. The affair was held in the cafeteria of the Gunning Bedford Jr. School located on Cox Neck Road.



Albert and wife Mildred with children Albert Jr., Loretta and Frank had resided on the store dwelling premises. Charles and wife Jean with sons Charles Jr. and Thomas lived in Delaware City. Charles was so devoted to the business that no matter what the weather, or how severe, would walk if need be to St. Georges to do his duty to the store and the public.

The daughter of Walter and Ella Crompton, Helen M., was raised as a lady and not allowed to participate in the store business. She attended business collage and held secretarial positions. Helen married Claude E. Lester; the son of another business man in the community and they resided in the area with their sons, C. Edward Jr., Kenneth and Larry.

The store property including the garage that had housed the farm machinery was put up for sale. The contents of the store and farm implements were sold at public aution on May 11, 1985. Albert had passed away. The son Frank and mother, Millie, continued to live in and upstairs apartment. They later moved to Newark.

On July 12, 1991 the property, for \$55,000, was sold by Crompton Family Members - Charles Sr. and wife R. Eugenia, Albert W. Crompton, Jr., Frank Crompton and LOretta Lea Rittenhouse to E. David Meck. (N.C.Co. Deed 1202 - pg. 24 --1991 Recorder of Deeds Office Wilm.)

David and wife Barbara opened the store again. Their specialty was a delicatessen section and home baked goods. The dwelling section is tenant rented. David Meck and family live on a farm adjoining the town of St. Georges.



Delaware Street Circa 1936-37

July 14

TO Mr. E. N. Lester

IN ACCOUNT WITH

WALTER CROMPTON

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

HAY, GRAIN, and  
CORN MACHINES  
PLOWS, HARROWS  
DRILLS, SEEDERS  
PLANTERS, CULTIVATORS  
THRESHERS  
FEED GRINDERS  
CORN SHELLERS  
MANURE SPREADERS



TRACTORS  
ENGINES  
MOTOR TRUCKS  
CREAM SEPARATORS  
FARM WAGONS  
BINDER TWINE  
GENUINE REPAIRS



"GOOD EQUIPMENT MAKES A GOOD FARMER BETTER"

Nov.	15/37	1- 5 gal. can	1 00
Dec	6	9- bulbs. @ .15	1 35
	27	1- pr. gloves - bolts .10	25
Jan	7/38	1 pr gloves	20
	21	1- pr. rubbers	1 15
	29	1- bulb.	20
Mar	30	1- box '85 seeds .55 gloves .25	1 65
Apr	19	1- overalls.	1 35
"	26	flow lines 5.60	45
"	29	1- Ckw- 3680 1- Ckw. 3610 Telephone call 40	6 70
		postage .51 1 cultivator 8.50	9 01
"	30	2- 1441 D.S. Shares	1 70
May	12	2- 1441 D.S. Shares	1 70
		3 overalls	3 00
		3 bulbs	45
	13	1 bucket 1.15 2 lbs food hook beans 50	1 65
	23	rock salt .75 2 shares. 1.70	2 45
	24	1- 5 gal. can	1 00
	25	1- T 419 .30 postage 8	38
	27	2- hatcher handles .30 1 ax handle 35	65
June	9	1- straw hat	35
	10	1 " hat	35
	17	4 doz eggs	1 12
	23	1 overalls	1 00
July	8	3 overall 3.00	3 50
Total \$42.61			

ORDERS DELIVERED Phone Del. City 6602

**WALTER CROMPTON**  
GROCERIES - FRUITS - MEATS

St. Georges Del. \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_

M is Lester

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Reg. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ ACCOUNT FORWARDED

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Land 17

Butter 12

Ham 41

Chances 20

1 32

Your account stated to date. If error is found return at once.

ORDERS DELIVERED Phone 834-4602

**CROMPTON BROTHERS**  
SELF-SERVICE - MARKET

St. Georges, Del., \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_

M \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Reg. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ ACCOUNT FORWARDED

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26

OLIVER EQUIPMENT & REPAIRS

FULTON PAPER CO., WILMINGTON, DEL. 336293-2

## TO OUR CUSTOMERS

You need your money

And I need mine,

If we both get ours

It will sure be fine.

But if you get yours

And hold mine too

What in the world

Am I going to do?

THINK IT OVER

FULTON PAPER CO., WILMINGTON, DEL. 309,745-1

Printed on the back of Crompton Brothers Charge Slips

## SERVICE STATION BETWEEN MAIN AND BROAD STREETS



Picture Circa 1937  
Garage Built Circa 1934

A new iron metal lift bridge was built over the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal beginning in July 1924 and opened in March 1926 to traffic. The Main Street going through the town of St. Georges was now connected by the new bridge and there was a sidewalk on the bridge for pedestrians.

Main Street on the north side of the bridge was only 50 foot wide. Many residents parked their cars along the side of the street in front of their homes. With Northbound and Southbound traffic passing on this street it began to cause problems, especially when the bridge had lifted allowing boat passage on the canal, and traffic backed up on the street. To relieve this narrow dangerous passage of traffic, low-land was bought by the State of Delaware, circa 1930, filled with dirt and a road was connected from the bridge veering off to the east up to Broad Street. This road formed a pattern for only Northbound traffic on Broad Street through North St. Georges and Main Street traffic was only Southbound.

A triangle of land north of the bridge was formed between Main Street and Broad Street. Gasoline Companies took business opportunities, such as this, to place Service Stations in convenient areas to serve transient travel as well as local residents.

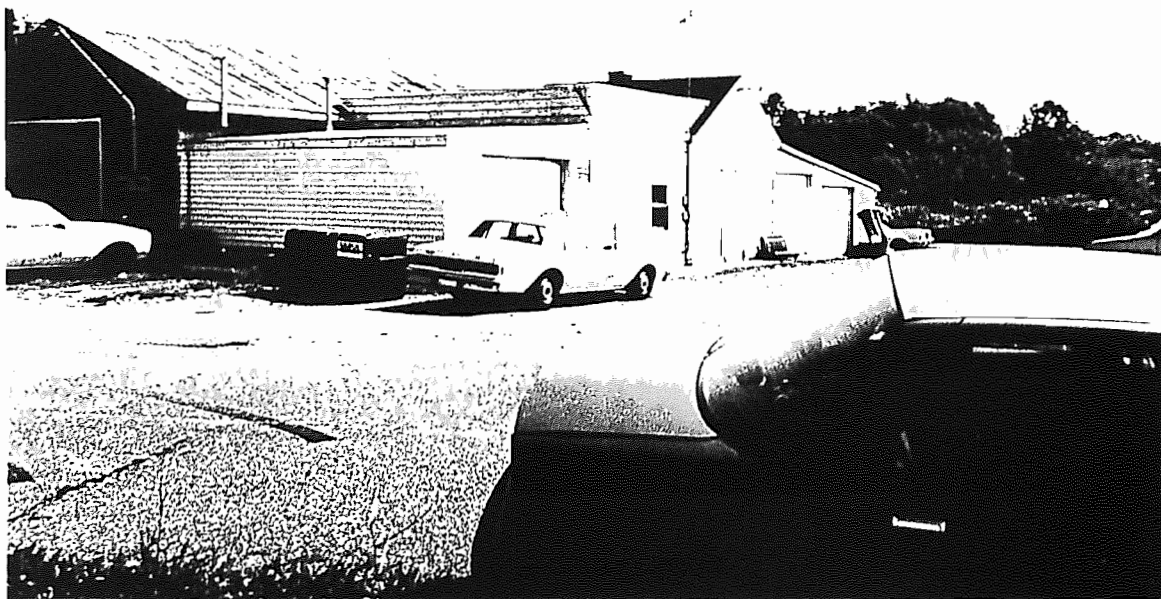
The land was owned by descendents of Edward and Elizabeth Gam. A service station was built, circa 1934, being leased by gasoline companies, and was profitable until the metal lift bridge was destroyed in January 1939. The business closed soon after as local business was not sufficient to keep it going. The building sat idle for many years.



In January of 1965 descendents of Edward and Elizabeth Gam sold the property to Charles, Gene, Albert, and Mildred Crompton. Albert Crompton operated a lawn mower and farm machinery business on the property. In the year 1980 the business and property was deeded to Albert Crompton. Adjoining property belonging to the Delaware State Division of Highways was also obtained by Mr. Crompton. The property is now owned by David and Barbara Meck.

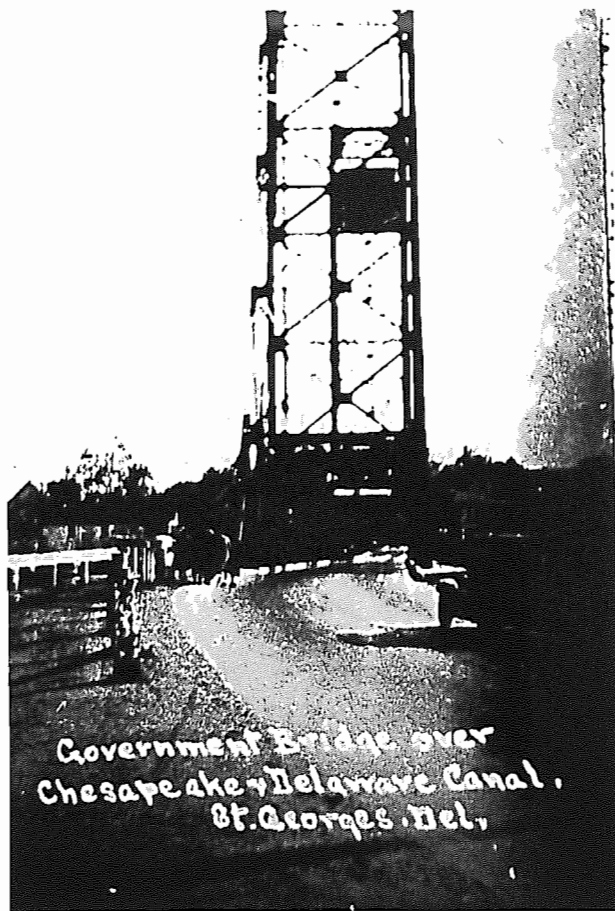
The building has been transformed and added to over the years. It is now a repair shop and taxi transport business.

(N.C.Co. Deeds - Recorder Deeds Office Wilm. - H-74-275 --1-2-1965  
Q-112-175-192---11-7-1980 H-111-204--7-23-1980 H-37-272--1930)



Summer - Year 2000

Former Service Station between Main and Broad  
Streets



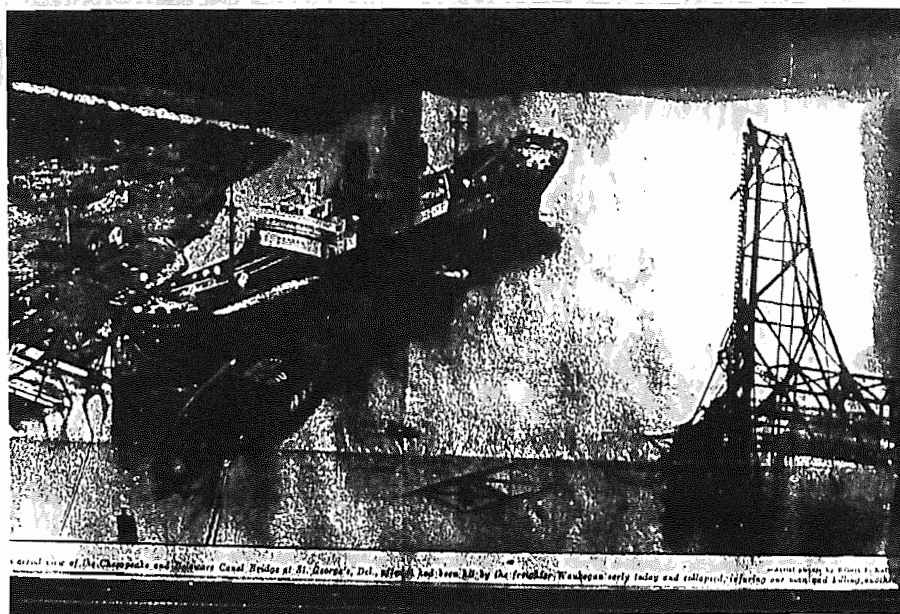
Scene - Circa - 1928-29  
Before Northbound cut-off  
road connecting to Broad  
Street was put in north of  
the metal lift bridge.

Below

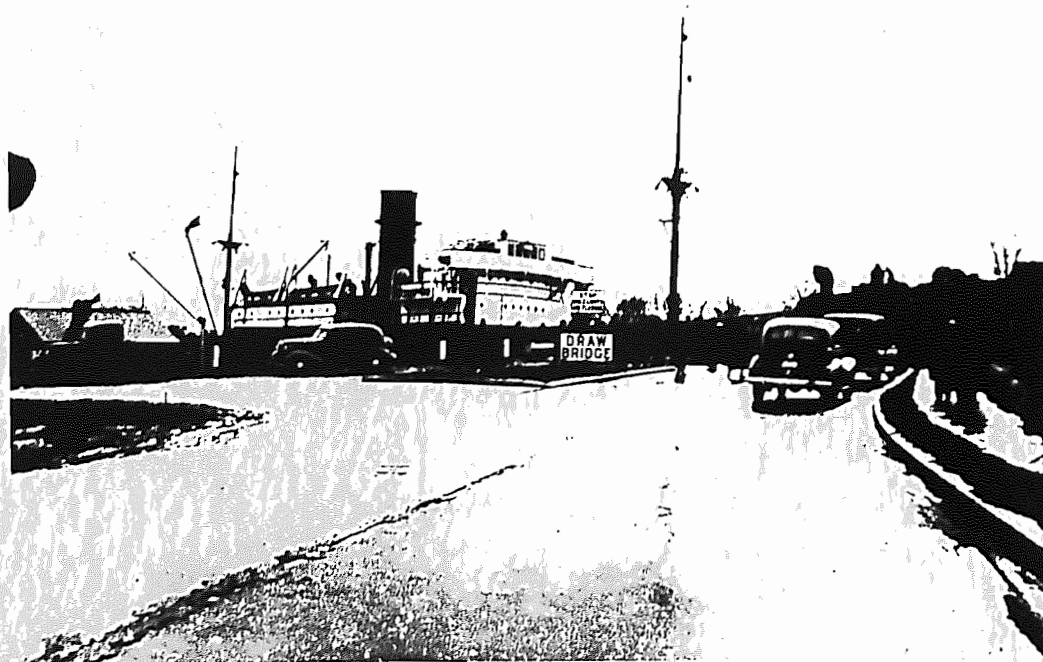
Scene - Circa - 1935

Shows connecting road  
veering off to the left  
forming lower Broad Street.



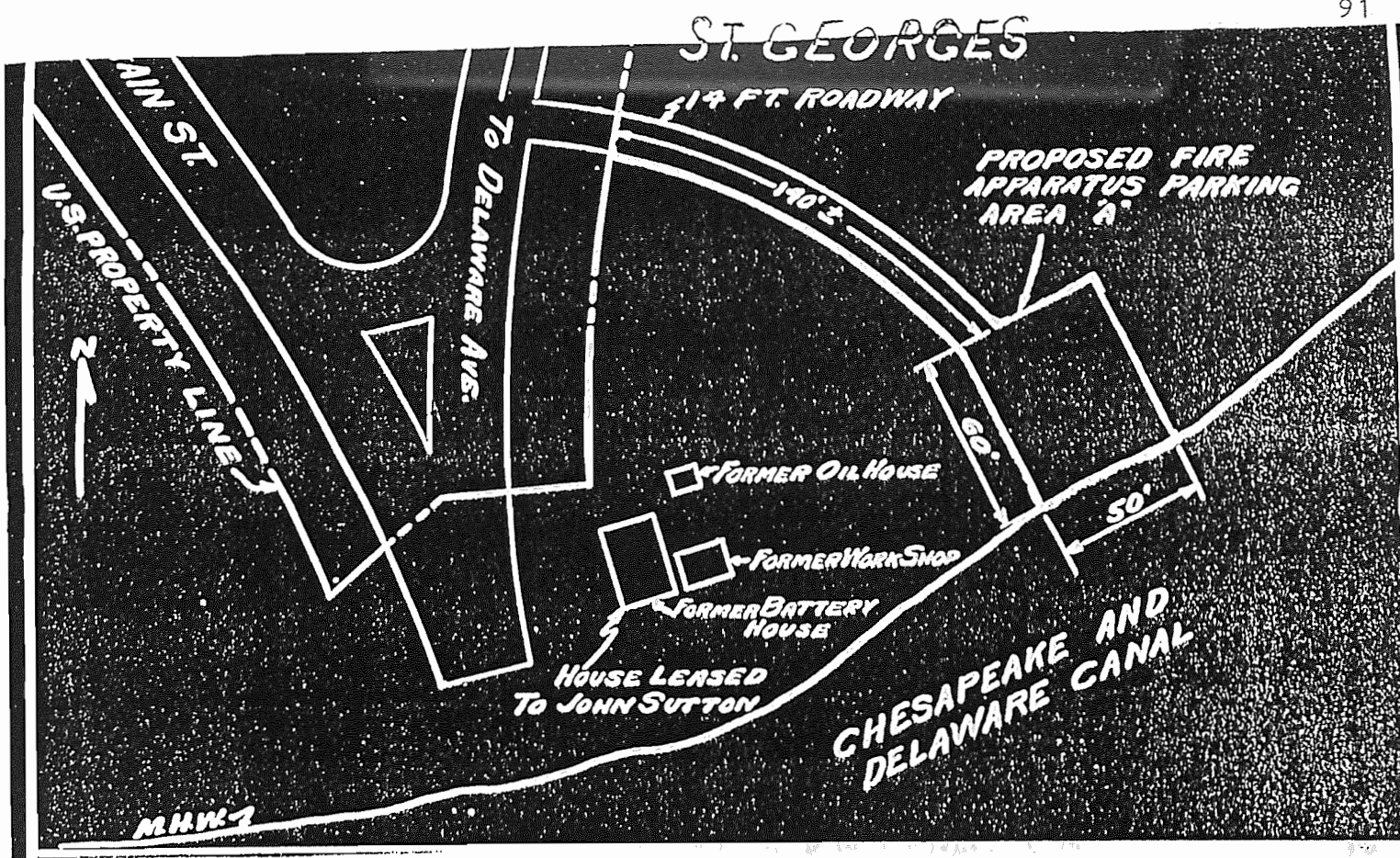


Air Photo - Evening News Journal - Jan. 10, 1939 showing the destroyed metal lift bridge over the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal - St. Georges, Dela.



Scene - January 10, 1939 The area just north of the metal lift bridge after the bridge was destroyed.





April 18, 1947 Application for fire apparatus near the canal. Layout of the area near the canal where the old lift bridge once stood and before widening of the canal. When the canal was widened with roads running along its edge it took all the buildings you see in the layout and the line today is the line you see below the triangle point perforated. And access road for fire apparatus was later put in off of Delaware Street by a drainage stream that enters the canal.







Scene - Summer year 2000  
Looking North on Broad Street from the  
Chesapeake and Delaware Canal property line.



Scene - Circa - 1910  
North of the Chesapeake and Canal Locks.  
Henry Peckard home and store bought by the  
Canal Co. to house the bridge tender.

## SUTTON DRUG STORE



Scene - Circa - 1937

Sutton Drug Store - First building on the right.  
A small sign on the building reads - Calvin H. Staats  
Magistrate. Drugstore built in the year 1860

James N. Sutton, M.D. had bought this property after making his will on June 4, 1859. No record can be found. All of the Margaret Thomas Osborne lots along Delaware Street were sold in March of 1860.

The lot size was 50' x 150' facing Delaware Street. James N. Sutton M.D. built a frame drugstore on the lot during the year 1860. Dr. Sutton died November 10, 1860. John P. Belville, executor of his estate, through orphan court proceedings and public sale sold the drugstore lot on November 7, 1863, for \$800, to Dr. Sutton's son, James H. Sutton. (N.C.Co Orp. Crt. Bk. Y -1-454--Feb. 1864 N.C.Co. Deed A-8-348--2-27-1864 Wills & Probate Dover)

On May 17, 1865 James H. Sutton, for \$800, sold the property to James Garman. (N.C.Co. Deed A-8-347--1865 Dover) The drugstore was tenant rented.

After the death of his father, who was Postmaster in St. Georges at the time, James H. Sutton, a druggist merchant, was appointed as the Postmaster and had the post office in the drugstore. He only served for four months.

Mrs. Susan G. Sutton, wife of Dr. James Sutton, was postmaster from March, 16, 1861 until March 1, 1865 and the post office was quartered in the building. The building was also rented to George C. Webb and he had the post office here from March 3, 1865 until August 29, 1866. Edwin W. Jester, Druggist, rented the building and had the post office here from March 19, 1869 until the year 1875 or 1876 when he moved his drugstore business into the newly built Odd Fellows Hall, built in the year 1875.

James Garman and wife Mary sold the drugstore to Albert N. Sutton on March 19, 1875. On December 14, 1876 Isaac Grubb, Sheriff, seized the property as Dr. Edward Silcox Jr. sued A. N. Sutton for a debt of \$850. The property was sold to Susie Garman, for \$600 in October 1877. ( N.C.Co Deeds L-10-272--1875 A-11-75--12-10-1877 Dover)  
Susie D. Garman turned the property over to James and Mary Garman.

In October of 1889 charges were brought against James and Mary Garman for debts owed to Edward Bringham, deceased, by his executor Edward Bringham Jr.. Superior Court of New Castle County ordered the drugstore property sold at public auction. Edward Bringham, Jr. bought the property for \$300 on November 16, 1889 (N.C.Co. Deed V-14-294--12-10--1889 Dover)

The Bringham Family were doctors and druggist in Wilmington. Their interest and tenure in St. Georges is vague. They may have conducted a pharmacy on the property. The Bringham did upgrade the property as Edward Bringham, Jr. and wife Anna, of Wilmington, Delaware, for \$1,800, sold the property on February 2, 1892 to Georges McKay, a resident and merchant in St. Georges. (N.C.Co Deed Q-15-142--1892 Dover)

George McKay and wife Sarah on April 2, 1892, for \$350 gave a deed to Albert N. Sutton. (N.C.Co. Land record Deed Mc3 #50 --1892 Dover)  
On March 28, 1892 Albert N. Sutton and wife Susanna L. of St. Georges made a deed of the property to Frederick G. Sutton of Chicago, Illinois for the amount of \$2000. (N.C.Co land record S5 #92 Apr.26, 1892 Dover)  
Pierce Gould, Sheriff, on January 11, 1895 gave a deed back to Edward Bringham Jr. who had brought judgement against George McKay and wife Sarah and Albert N. Sutton in debt to him for \$1,500 plus interest. (N.C.Co Deed Q-16-45--1895 Dover) Two months later on March 9, 1895 Edward Bringham Jr. sold the property to Lydia C. Simpler. Albert N. Sutton, Druggist, continued to rent the building. (N.C.Co. Deed R-16-299---1895 Dover) While Albert N. Sutton was in tenure he was the St. Georges Postmaster and the post office was in the building. Also when Daniel B. Stewart was postmaster in 1897 to 1904 he had post office quarters in the building.

Lydia C. Simpler and husband, George W. of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, sold the drugstore property to James H. S. Gam, who continued to rent the property. (N.C.Co. Deed K-18-197--1900 Dover)

James H. S. and Mattie Gam sold the property on December 21, 1920 to Calvin H. Staats. His wife Lillian had died during the year 1920. Mr. Staats resided on the property. (N.C.Co. Deed K-30-39--1921 Dover)  
As well as farming he had been a horse trainer. He also had lived in a house near the canal locks, owned by the C & D Canal and was the bridge tender. He was a Justice of the Peace and Magistrate. A carriage house or garage next to the home was made into a jail. Many times it was used to hold arrested overly drunk persons until they became sober or more serious criminals until they were bailed out or delivered to a state prison. His daughter, Lillian Gertrude Staats, who resided with him, served as his secretary and was a notary public. She would also help local residents with legal documents.

The front door of the building faced Delaware Street and entered the large office which accommodated magistrate procedures. The balance of the building was living quarters. A large porch, on the east side was added to accommodate entrance to these quarters. Mr. Staats was and active participant of town affairs.

The drugstore building served the community well and was always kept in good repair and pristine appearance.

Mr. Staats died in the year 1962 and since his wife had preceded him in death he had willed the property to his daughter L. Gertrude Staats. She continued to live at the residence until her death in the year 1978. She had left the property to her nephew, Tyson F. Sartin, who had preceded her in death in the year 1976. His heirs; daughters Patricia S. Wilson and Susan Barron Stapleford, sold the property to James Gestwicki and wife Karen on May 25, 1978 for \$27,500. Jim and Karen resided on the property for many years making some alterations and additions but not destroying the appearance of the period in which it was built. (N.C.Co. Deed H - 101 - 162--1978 Rec. of Deeds Wilm.)

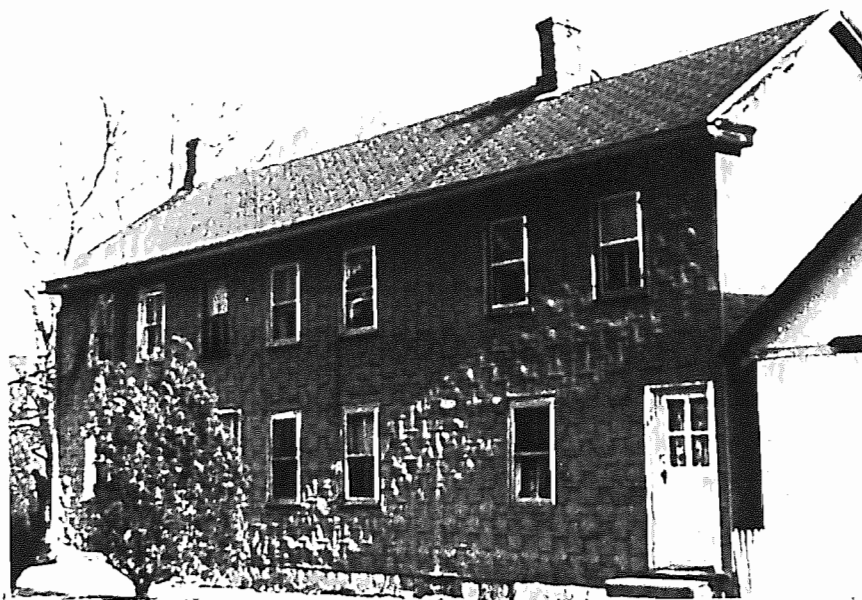
Steve Carey is the present owner.



James Gestwicki Home - March 1992



## BALDWIN - REUTTER HOUSE



Scene - Early Spring - 1980  
The House is Vacant.



Scene - Early Spring - 1980  
Left side Built - Circa - 1862  
Right Side - Built - Circa - 1871-72

## BALDWIN - REUTTER - HOUSE

On March 27, 1860 Wm. J. Hurlock and David Nivin, Trustees, sold a lot 50' x 150', for \$105 to James Money. Mr. Money and wife Elizabeth sold the lot for \$120 on January 10, 1861 to shoemaker, Samuel S. Baldwin. The lot was worth more as a drugstore had been built on the adjoining lot. (N.C.Co. Deed - A-8-189--1860 Z-7-302--1861 Dover)

Samuel Baldwin between 1861 - 65 built a small two and one-half story frame home with a finished room and dormer window being on the top floor. Ladder steps led up into the third floor alcove bedroom with dormer window from the second floor bedroom.

Samuel and wife Mary sold the property to John Calder, a carpenter, for #300 on April 3, 1865. N.C.Co. Deed T-8-3--1865 Dover) See Beers Atlas page 115 J. Gulder on Delaware Street. The property was transferred to Andrew Reutter June 18, 1868 but no deed can be found on the transaction.

Andrew Reutter was a sadler and may have made boots. Andrew had bought vacant lots adjoining to this house property to the east in 1868 and 1870. (N.C.Co. Deed G-9-273--1868 G-9-270--1870 Dover)

Mr. Reutter during 1871-72 added a two story frame house with attic to the small Baldwin and Calder house removing the dormer window and changing the roof structure of the small house to connect to the new roof line and house. The new house was quite elegant with boxing and fancy trim along the roof line on each end of the house. A wide front door with side windows opened into a wide hall and stairway dividing a large living and dining room. The upstairs contained a large hall and three bedrooms. The windows were flanked by shutters. Mr. Reutter moved into the home. A large area in the basement was bricked off and designed for the shoe and sadler business with an outside door and inside stairs leading up into the main house. Andrew Reutter fell into hard times as on June 6, 1890 Alvin Allen, Sheriff, at Public Auction sold the house sitting on the large parcel of land to Edwin H. Peckard for \$9000 as Mary Peckard had brought suit against Mr. Reutter for mortgage debts. (N.C.Co. Deed F-15-58--Nov. 4, 1890 Dover)

Edwin Peckard sold the property to Thomas B. Heisel of Delaware City on November 4, 1897. Heisel and his wife Frances sold the property to Edward Gam and wife Elizabeth on April 15, 1898. (N.C.Co. Deed N-17-40-1897 Q-17-234--1898 Dover) Residents after Mr. Reutter is unknown.

Harvey Reynolds and family were tenants in the 1900's.

In the late 1930's and early 1940's the house began to deteriorate. At some point in time the windows in the front were replaced with large four pane windows, removing nine over nine pane windows. Shutters were removed and green asphalt shingles covered the wood shingle roof and wood weather board siding. Minimum electricity was put in the house. There was never any plumbing in the building from the time it was built. A metal hand pump, in the kitchen, provided water from a dug well.

Edward and Elizabeth Gam died and surviving children - Joseph, a single man, Francis and wife Frances, Martin B. Gam and Elizabeth Gam sold the property to Howard S. and Anna Deputy for \$1,300 on March 4, 1944. The Deputys with their three children resided on the property. Howard Deputy died March 25, 1962 and the property went to his wife Anna who continued to live in the home.

Anna, for \$10,000, on November 18 1979 sold the property to Albert Crompton. She moved from the home. It was the size of the lot on which the home was located that set the value. Mr. Crompton had the home demolished in 1980. (N.C.Co. Deeds C-44-556--1944 Y-4-273-63--1938)

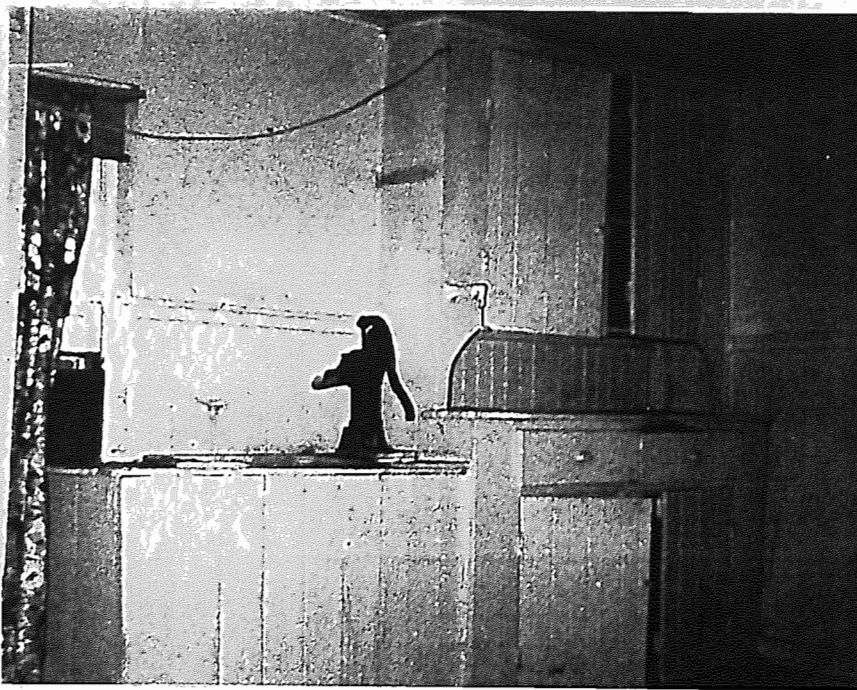
The vacant lot was sold by Albert Crompton Jr. et. al. to Kenneth D. and Helen Sutton on August 18, 1992. (N.C.Co. Recorder of Deeds Wilm. 1384 pg. 87 --1992) The lot remains vacant.

Broad Street below Delaware Street was a part of the property but had been sold off by the Gam's to the State of Delaware in order to build the new street.



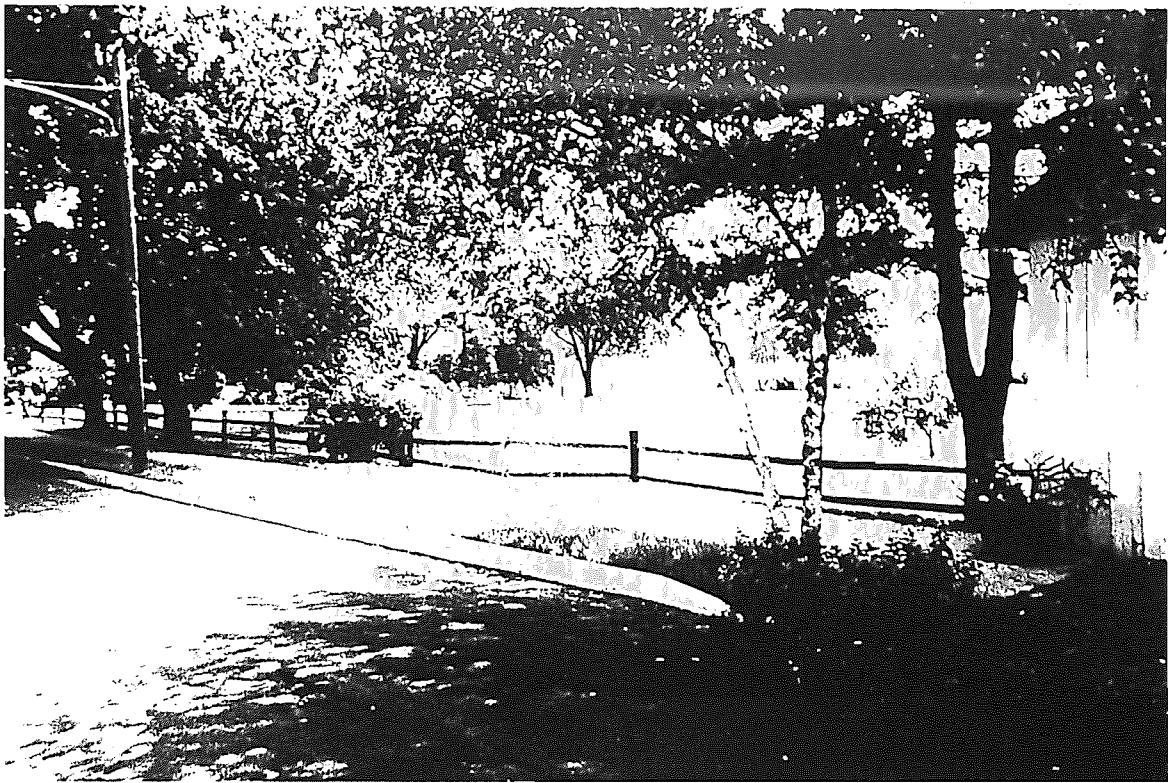
Scene - 1930

Fancy boxing  
and trim  
deteriorate on  
the home.



Scene 1980

Wooden base sink  
with metal pump.  
Old wooden built  
in cupboards.



Scene - Year 2000 - Vacant lot where Baldwin - Reutter house stood.



Scene 1948 - North St. Georges Town from St. Georges Bridge. Good view of below Delaware Street showing Deputy House roof on West side Broad Street and Johnson House on other side of Broad Street. Carrow Farm on the left of road now Colton Meadow Development.





Scene - Circa - 1937

Calvin H. Staats and Claude N. Lester supervising the removal of maple trees to make room for sidewalks on the West side corner of Broad Street. On the South East corner of Broad Street behind the car and tree sat a frame double house built around the year 1861.

John P. Belville excutor of James N. Sutton, M.D., for \$530, gave a deed to James Garman March 3, 1864 for a lot with frame double dwelling there on. (N.C.Co. Deed W-7-29--1864 Orp. Crt. Y-1-11-7--1863 Dover) Dr. Sutton had built the double house on the lot after his purchase in the year 1860. No recorded deed was found to Dr. Sutton. The next owners after James Garman was a John or Jesse Cornelius. No recorded deed can be found as to how he procured the property. On Beers Atlas page 115 the property is marked under the name A. F. Pennington. No recorded deed could be found in his name. He was a surveyor.

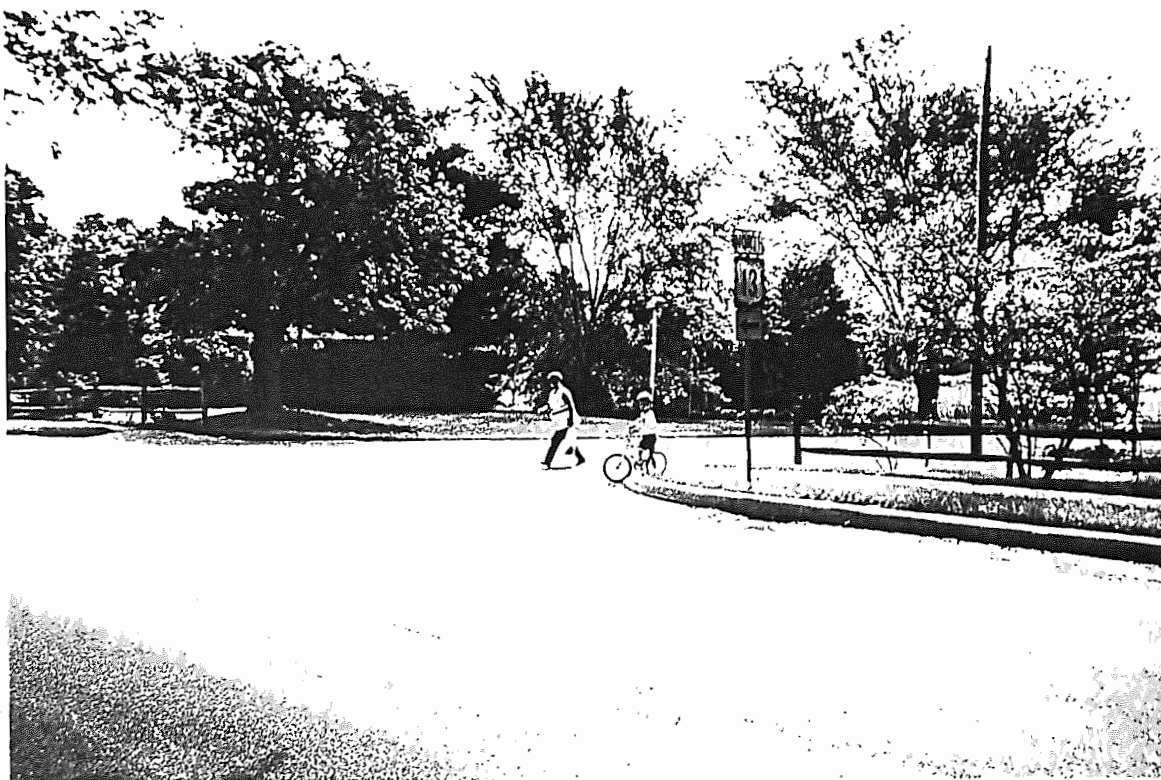
Jesse H. Cornelius and wife Prudence Ann, for \$500, on March 14, 1881 sold the property to Mary Gam. (N.C.Co. Deed V-11-485--1881 Dover) Mary Gam willed the property to her son Edward. When she wrote her will on November 9, 1895 she mentioned a Mr. Simmons and Mr. White occupied the double dwelling. Edward Gam married Elizabeth Hirsch and upon his death, in 1916, the property went to Elizabeth and surviving children. Joseph H. Gam and surviving members of the Edward and Elizabeth Gam estate for \$2,250, on November 30, 1944, sold the double house to Harriet and George W. Johnson. They resided on the property. (N.C.Co. Deed -V-44-152--1944 Dover)

George died October 17, 1959 intestate and Harriet died intestate March 5, 1963 leaving survivors Alice Farra, Mary R. Simmons, Harriet Louise Sutton, Daniel R. Camac, Joseph W. Camac, Charles M. Camac,

William T. Camac, John H. Camac and George W. Johnson, Jr. .

In the year 1963 surviving family members sold the property to John W. Collins and Alice Collins. (N.C.Co Deed H-Vol. 37 -272--8-9-1963 Recorder of Deed Ofc. Wilm. ) Mr and Mrs. Collins failed to pay taxes on the property amounting to \$496.50 from 1964 - 1971. Judgement in court was brought against them and John J. Smith, Sheriff, at public auction, for \$775, sold the property on June 13, 1972 to James N. and Shelby R. Sutton. (.C.Co. Deed G-88-197--9-10-1973 N.C. Co. Recorder of Deeds Wilm. )

The double frame dwelling house had fell into disrepair and was destroyed. The plot is vacant but landscaped with flowers, bushes and trees which is a compliment to surrounding properties.



Scene Summer - Year 2000

Corner of Broad and Delaware Street - vacant lot where the double frame dwelling house once stood.

## FRANCIS TARONI HOUSE



House built - circa - 1862  
Scene - Summer - 2000

William J. Hurlock and David Nivin, Trustees, for Margaret and John Osborne, for \$55, sold the 50' x 150' lot on March 16, 1860 to Benjamin Garman Jr. and he on December 29, 1860, for \$90, sold the lot to Francis Taroni. (N.C.Co. Deed L - 7-450--1860 Q-7-487--1860 Dover)

The 1860 Census shows Francis Taroni, age 27, as a house painter and he came from England. His wife, age 26, was Sarah. He worked with a carpenter William Bevan and he and Bevan probably built the Taroni house. Taroni was also known as a glazier. By March 27, 1870 Francis Taroni had bought land in Middletown, Delaware from Edward Fennemore, for \$300, on the corner of Crawford and Catherine Street. (N.C.Co. Deed T-11-139--1870 Dover) Francis and Sarah Jane Taroni had sold their home in St. Georges, for \$1,100, on April 3, 1868 to Mary Riley. The price indicates a good house. Mary and her husband Samuel lived on a farm south of St. Georges just below Scotts Run. Samuel Riley died January 1, 1868 and Mary moved to the town of St. Georges and lived in her home until her death on Saturday, August 6, 1881.

Research of interest on the date of her death shows Dr. Vallandigham. of St. Georges, is spending these warm days in Atlantic City.

J. P. Hudson Esquire had a serious accident. He sold some cattle to a butcher. In driving them, they made a stampede at the canal bridge and

started back for home. In trying to stop them, one of the cattle ran over him, knocking him down and trampled upon his back. The dry season caused considerable dust, but, on Saturday night there was a considerable thunder shower laying the dust and cooling the air.

Mrs. Riley died about 10:30 o'clock in the night.

On Sunday, August 7th, the Presbyterian Church was closed as Reverend Henry Rumor was away taking vacation.

(Journal Every Evening - 8 - 8 - 1881 )

It's probable J. P. Hudson received medical attention from Dr. John De Witt who also resided in St. Georges as well as Dr. Vallandigham.

Mary Riley, according to her tombstone, was age 81 at the time of her death. The 1880 Census stated she had some paralysis. A grandson, G. Clayton Riley, age 22, and a grand-daughter Martha Riley, age 30 lived with her.

Mary had made her will on November 9, 1873 and the house went to her brother John M. Woods. (Wills Probate Mary Riley 1883 Dover Archives) According to appraisals of her estate, in 1883, the house consisted of four bedrooms, entry and stairway, parlor, a living and dining area, and a kitchen. The kitchen contained a cook stove, a table, two irons, two tubs and wash-stand and a safe, indicating the kitchen was the work area of the house. The house has had considerable renovation and does not now conform to the 1883 appraisal. The stairway entry was removed and a small curved stairway put in leading upstairs from the living room. A back bedroom was decreased in size with a slant type roof. The slant type roof over the bedroom does not conform with the house. It's probable a fire may have caused damage and a pointed roof done away with, for lack of funds, when repairs were made. A small addition was made one story high on the west side consisting of a small kitchen, bath and bedroom around the years 1939-40. The original wood siding has been covered with a brick design asphalt shingle. Aluminum siding has been added to cover the brick asphalt.

John M. Woods sold the property to Isaac Woods and on October 8, 1887 Isaac and Sarah R. Woods sold the property to Clannie (Clarine) J. Brinton. Clannie on November 4, 1887 gave a deed of the property to Ella F. Webb of Wilmington, Dela.. (Mortgage Deed B-14-217--1887 B-14-220--1887 Dover)

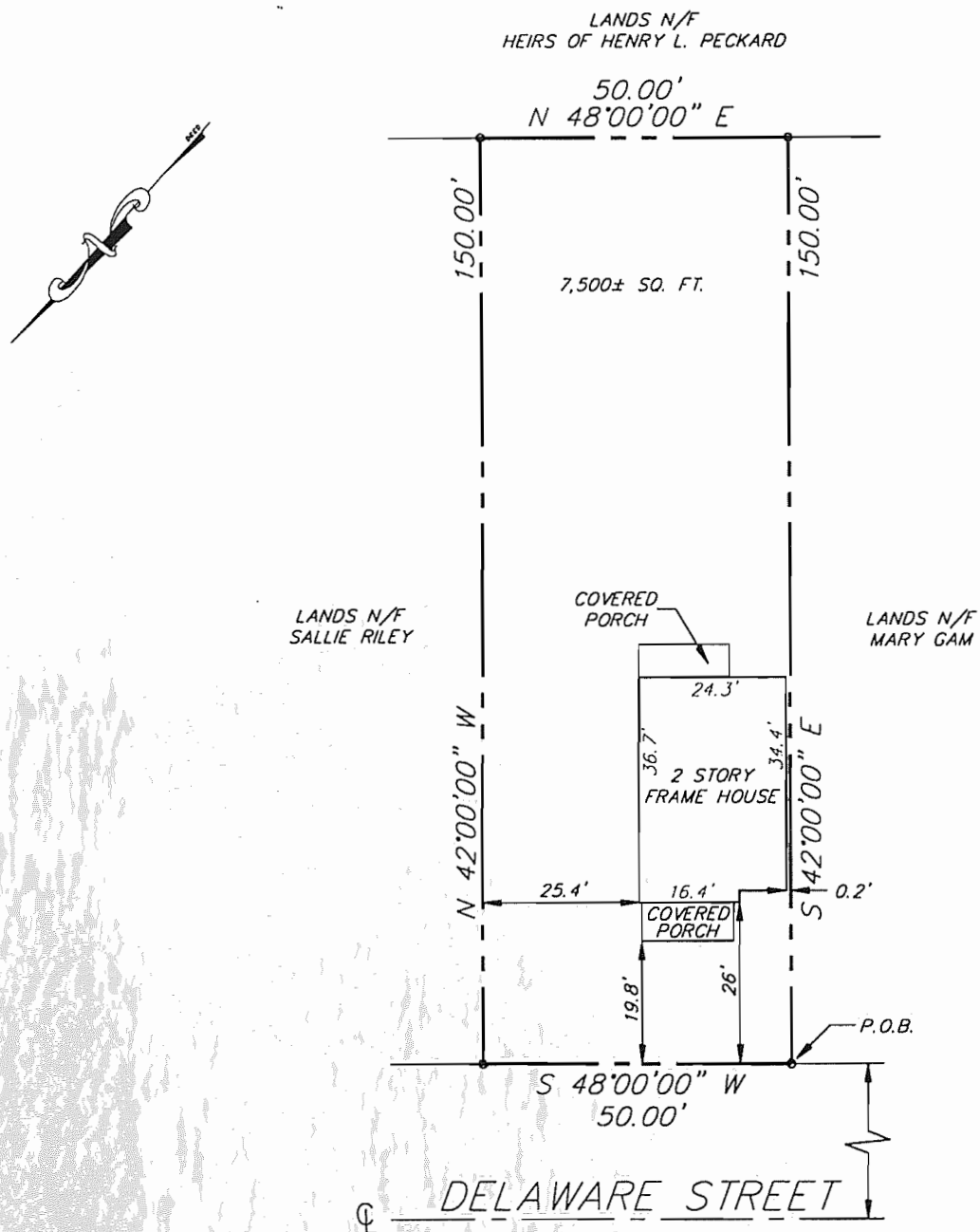
Ella F. Webb Ogden on November 19, 1906 signed a deed, of the property, back to Clannie J. Brinton. (N.C.Co. Deed Y-20-390--1906 Dover)

Between the years 1887 to 1913 the house fell into almost dis-repair. Clannie J. Brinton, for \$425, on July 15, 1913 sold the property to James H. S. Gam. (N.C.Co. M-24-482--1913) Mr. Gam did some repairs and tenant rented the property until June 18, 1938 when he sold the property for \$1,200 to Daniel Atwood, a carpenter contractor. Mr. Atwood made major changes to the inside and added the small west wing.

Daniel Atwood on February 27, 1942 sold the property to Jarvis Fred Tate, and wife Lydia B. Tate. They resided on the property with their children. Mr. Tate died February 19, 1970. The property went to a son Fred Henry Tate. He and his wife Iola lived on the property and after the death of Fred, on December 18, 1975, the property went to Iola. She resided on the property until May 1998. She had sold the property fo



\$31,000, to William and Sandra Reynolds in December of 1997. They repaired the building and put aluminum siding on the outside walls. The house was tenant rented and sold by the Reynolds the latter part of 1998 to Kenneth and Helen Sutton, non-residents of Delaware, who continue to tenant rent the property. (N.C.Co Deed C-43-134--11-19-97)



GARMAN - REDDING - RILEY - OTHOSON - BATTEN - BAXTER - DIENNO



Scene - Year 1992 Built -1860 - 63

Wm. J. Hurlock and David Nivin, trustees for Margaret Thomas Osborne and John Osborne, on March 26, 1860, sold the 50' x 150' lot for \$50 to Benjamin Garman Jr. Mr. Garman built a small frame house on the lot. On January 1, 1863, for \$700 he sold the home to Phillip Redding, a man of color, (negro) of St. Georges Hundred. (N.C.Co. Deed - L-7-448-1860 T-7-343--1863 Dover)

The 1850 Census lists Phillip Redding as age 28 and occupation - a butcher. His wife's name was Isabella. Richard Redding, age 22, lived with them and was a hired laborer. The Redding Family lived on this property and Phillip died near the Fall of 1878. Mary Gam brought suit against Thomas H. Gould, administrator, for Phillip Redding and Isabella Redding on a surviving mortgage of \$300 and interest of \$14.05 from January 1, 1876. Sheriff Isaac Grubb sold the property at public auction, for \$450 to John P. Hudson. Sheriff Grubb's term expired and the new sheriff John Pyle through petition of John P. Hudson issued a deed on November 25, 1878 to Hudson. It's not known if the widow Redding continued to tenant the property or moved elsewhere. (N.C.Co, Deed L-11-422--1878 Dover)

John P. Hudson died and his son Alfred L. Hudson and wife Sarah on March 25, 1886 sold the property to Sallie (Sarah) A. Riley. Sallie died intestate December 27, 1901 leaving heirs - at - law who sold the property on October 9, 1937. Three children - Samuel A, Elizabeth S., and Mary T. all received 1/3 interest. Elizabeth S. was married to Howard Othoson, Mary T. married Harry J. Stewart. Mary had died June 1904 leaving four sons and four daughters - all to receive her 1/3 part, Joseph-William-Ernest-Samuel-Mabel-Mary-Sarah-Rachel. The husband, Harry J. of Mary T., had died by 1937. Rachel Stewart, a daughter, died unmarried November 10, 1919 leaving her shares to brothers and

sisters. Joseph, a brother, had died January 19, 1934 childless, leaving his shares to brothers and sisters. Mabel Stewart, after her mothers (Mary T.) death, married William Collins, who abandoned her and unheard of for 15 years. Mary Stewart married Walton Rhodes but was divorced by decree November 12, 1930. (The preceding was included for benefit of geneaology purposes)

The property was sold to Elizabeth S. Riley Othoson and her husband Howard Othoson of Philadelphia, Pa. for \$266.67 deducting Elizabeth's 1/3 interest in the property. (N.C.Co. Deed R-40-495--1937 Dover)

The daughter of Howard and Elizabeth - Ann, wife to Alvin Batten, lived on the property along with their sons Howard A. and Eugene W. .

Howard Othosondied in the year 1941 and the daughter Ann Batten received the property. After the death of Alvin and Ann the sons received the property. They sold the property to Raymond and Shiela Baxter on June 21, 1982. Raymond was a carpenter contractor and made renovations and repairs while a resident. Raymond sold the property on October 26, 1989 to Carmen R. and Kathleen R. Dienno. (N.C.Co Deed T-18-291--1982 Bk 947 pg. 195 --1989 Rc. Deeds Wilm.) The Dienno Family resides on the property.



Scene - Summer 1997

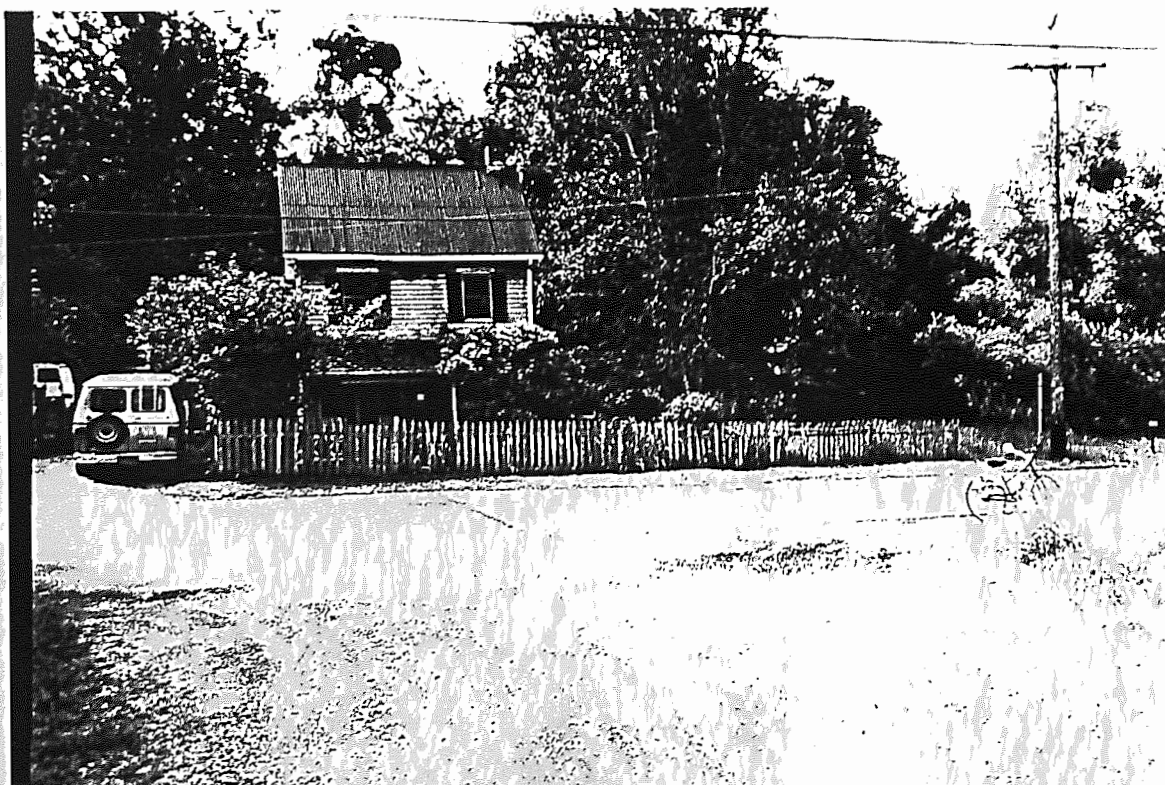
Dienno Home

Two vacant properties are to the Northeast of the Dienno property adjoining the government canal road and drainage ditch, each being 25' x 100' in size. See page 75.

The land formerly belonged to Henry Peckard and then to his son Edwin Peckard. (N.C.Co. Deed 0-7-88--1860 Dover) Edwin Peckard sold the lots to Thomas Heisel. Heisel sold the lots to Edward Gam. Mr. Gam sold one lot to John Moore in the year 1898. Nothing was found on the property past this date. ( N.C.Co. Deeds N-17-40--11-4-1897 - P-20-326--8-16-1898 Q-17-234--4-15-1898 Dover)

Edward Gam sold one lot to Harry C. Clark. Harry C. Clark sold the lot to Howard Othoson of Philadelphia, Pa. . Howard Othoson died around the year 1941 and the lot went to sons - Howard and Carl Othoson. Carl died and the lot went to Howard. Howard died and the lot went to his estate - Barbara Crather et-el. (N.C.Co. W-9--1962 - WR79645) (N.C.Co Deed P-20-326--8-16-1898 P-20-326 U-40-200--1-25--1938 P-20-328--1898)

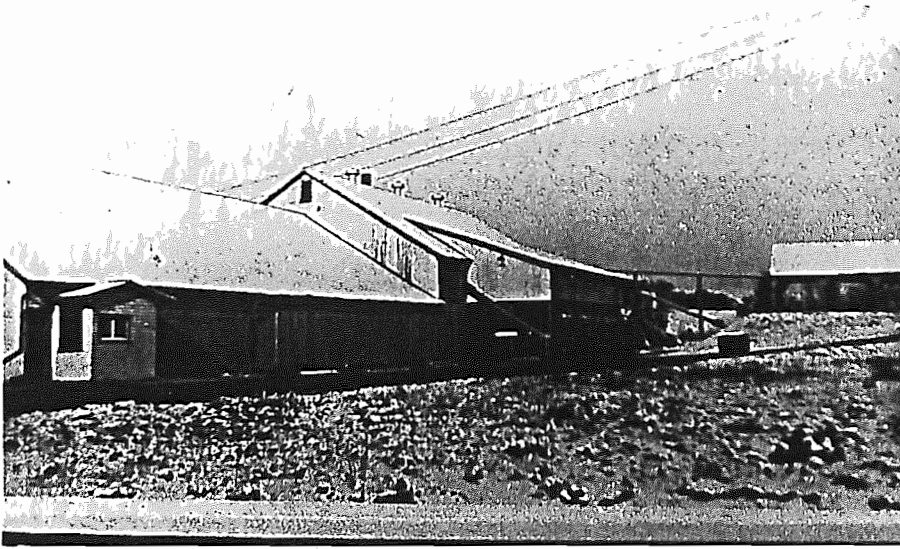
A small two story framehouse sits across the drainage ditch opposite the former St. Georges Canning Co. driveway. The property was given to a negro family by the farmland owners for whom they worked. Ethel Lloyd was and owner before the now resident and owner - Helen Boyer. Research is incomplete.



Scene - Summer 2000



## ST. GEORGES CANNING CO.



St. Georges Canning Co. Circa - 1939  
Location - Delaware Street

The cannery re-established its business to the Delaware Street location in the year 1937.

A news article in The Middletown Transcript - May 30, 1937 states -  
WORK STARTS ON NEW CANNING FACTORY

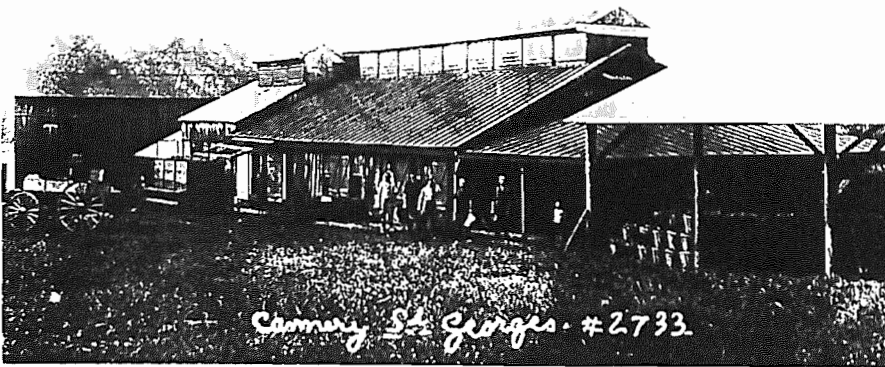
Claude N. Lester has started work on his new canning factory east of St. Georges. Workmen are laying the foundations and block for the corn shed and the factory proper will be rushed to completion as rapidly as possible.

Mr. Lester expects to have the factory ready for the sweet corn pick which will come about August 15th. The new factory is located on the southeast part of the Harry Lester farm just east of town. (Harry Lester was the tenant, not the owner.)

Mr. Lester was forced to abandon his old factory near the canal, just over the bridge on the south side, because the government took over the property to enlarge the canal in that section. The entire building has now been torn down and removed. Mr. Lester repurchased parts of the old equipment for his new factory.

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The history of the cannery began with its location on land south of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. On April 4, 1883 the St. Georges Fruit Packing Co. incorporated with the following members - James Garman, Mark H. Pierce, George S. Simpler, John C. Stuckert, Clayton M. Riley and W. S. Smith. Many of these names, you will find, are already mentioned in this book as business men and property owners.

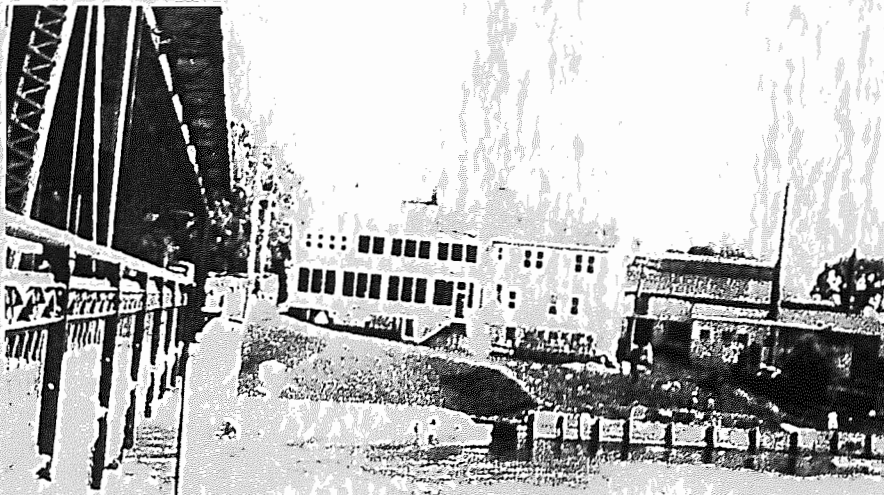


Built - 1883

Picture - circa 1915



Circa - 1932



Circa - 1932

Located  
along side and  
behind  
Buckson's Store

The cannery was erected in the year 1883 on land near the canal. This made it possible to ship goods into and from the cannery.

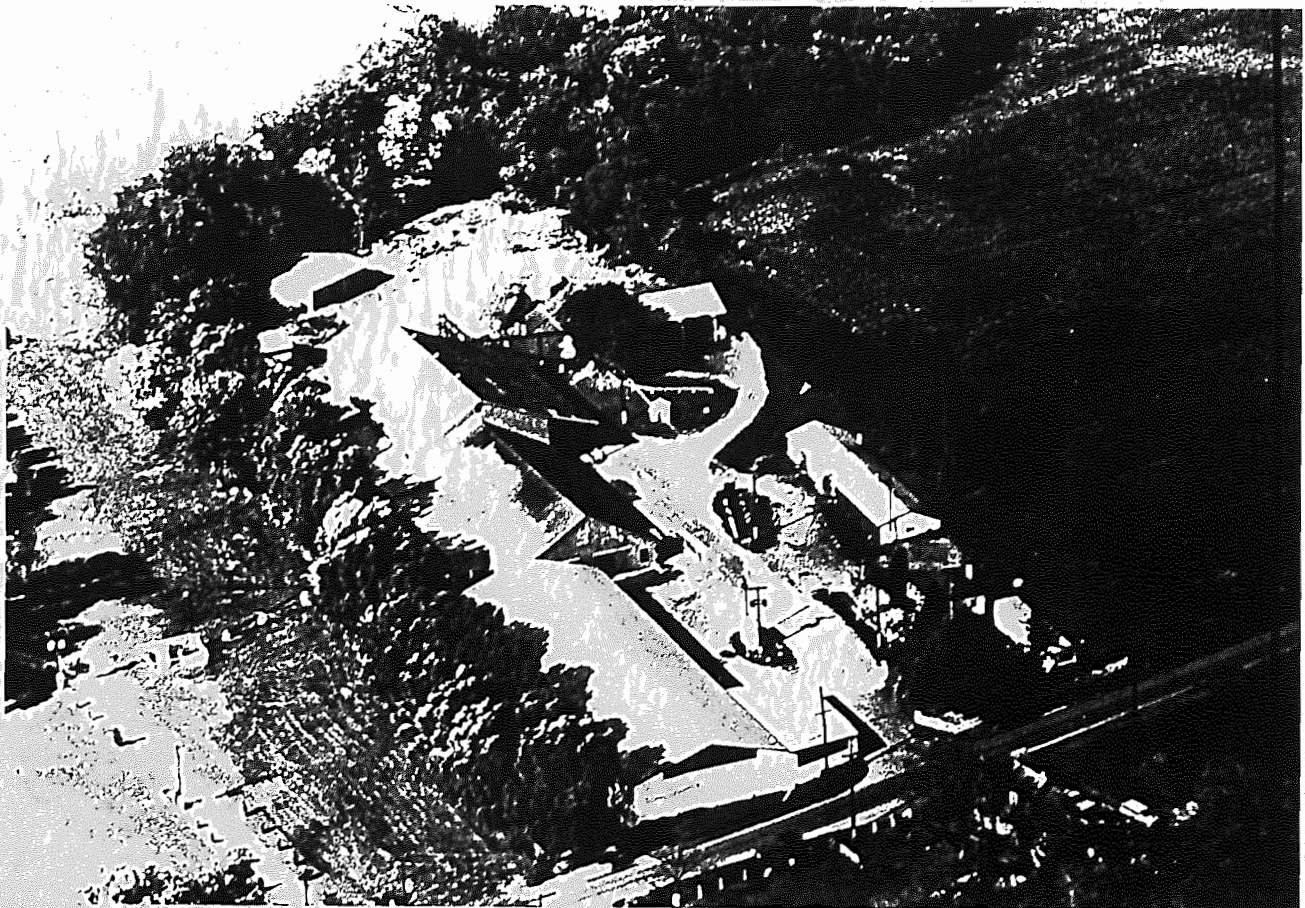
In 1908-09 the name was changed to St. Georges Canning Co. and it remained that until it was sold in the year 1972.

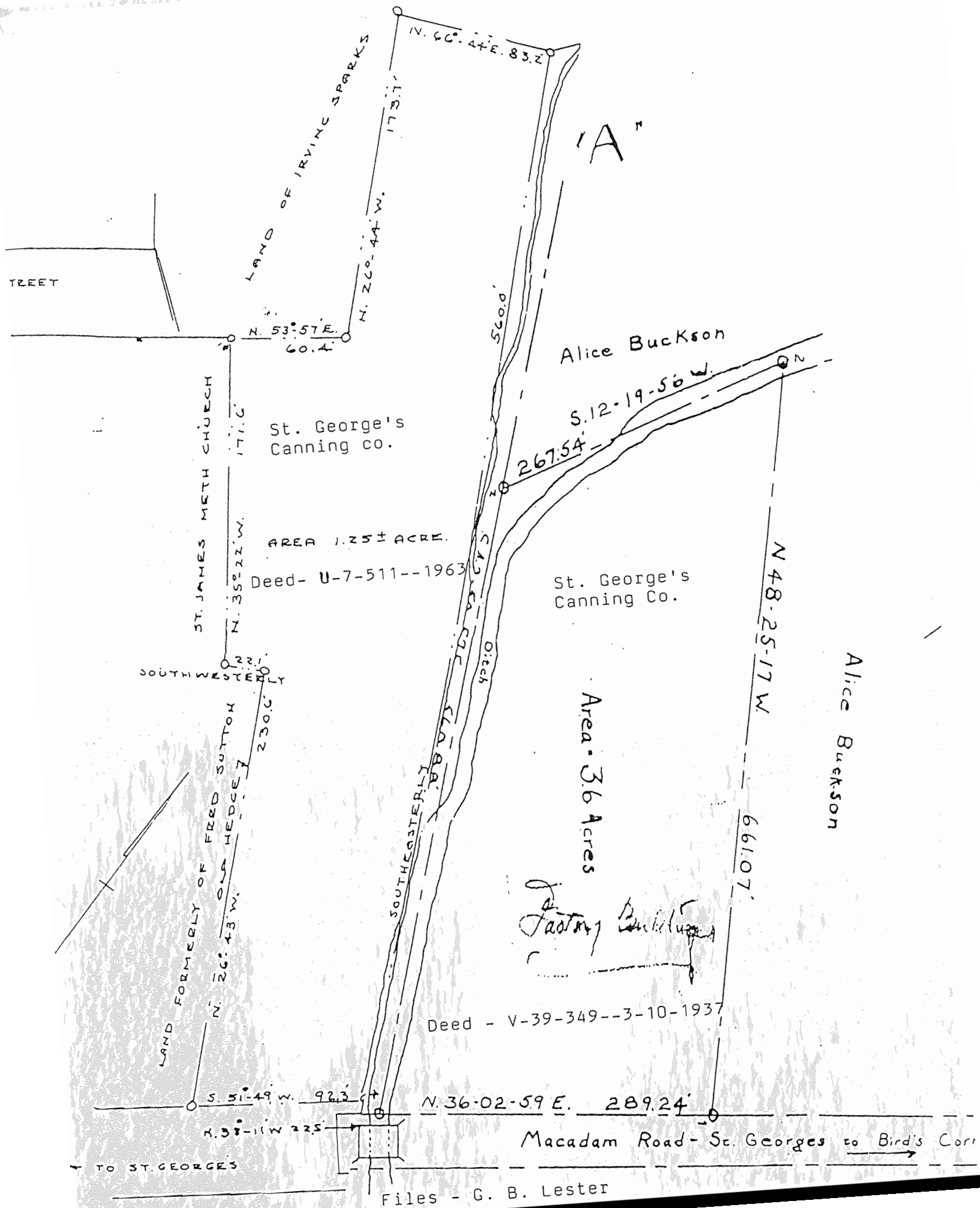
In 1920 the canning company was owned by Mr. George Snedeker. On September 26, 1921, The St. Georges Canning Co. was incorporated. Mr. Lester owned a half interest, and in 1922 he bought Mr. Snedeker's one-half interest and became the full owner. It was in his ownership until the year 1956 when it became a partnership including his three sons, Claude E., Earle J., and Richard H. Lester.

Sweet corn was the specialty; packing white and yellow varieties, crushed and wholegrain. The cannery had also canned tomatoes and asparagus. The land on Delaware Street at the edge of town was purchased in 1936 from Alice Buckson and a deed given on March 10, 1937. (N.C.Co Deed V-39-349--1937 Files G. B. Lester) In 1963 more land was bought from Irving Sparks. The land adjoined the cannery property on the west. (N.C.Co. Deed U-7-511--1963)

Corn was sold to major market stores and shipped all over the United States and overseas during World War II.

On November 17, 1971 a public sale was held selling the machinery contents of the cannery. In 1972 the land and cannery buildings were sold to Getty Oil Co. The buildings were destroyed. Later Texaco Refinery became the owner and now the property is owned by Motiva. The property in the year 1963 was zoned M-3 Heavy Industry and remains in that category. The well water used by the cannery was piped out to the oil refinery, east of St. Georges, now the Motiva Refinery.



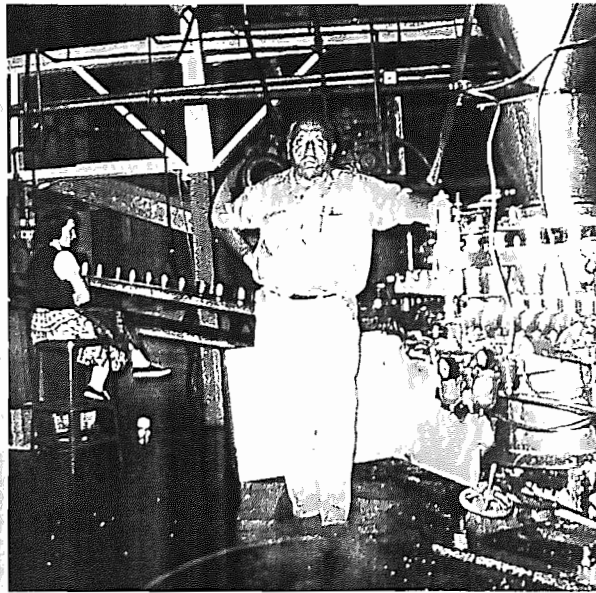




PHONE DELAWARE CITY 5572

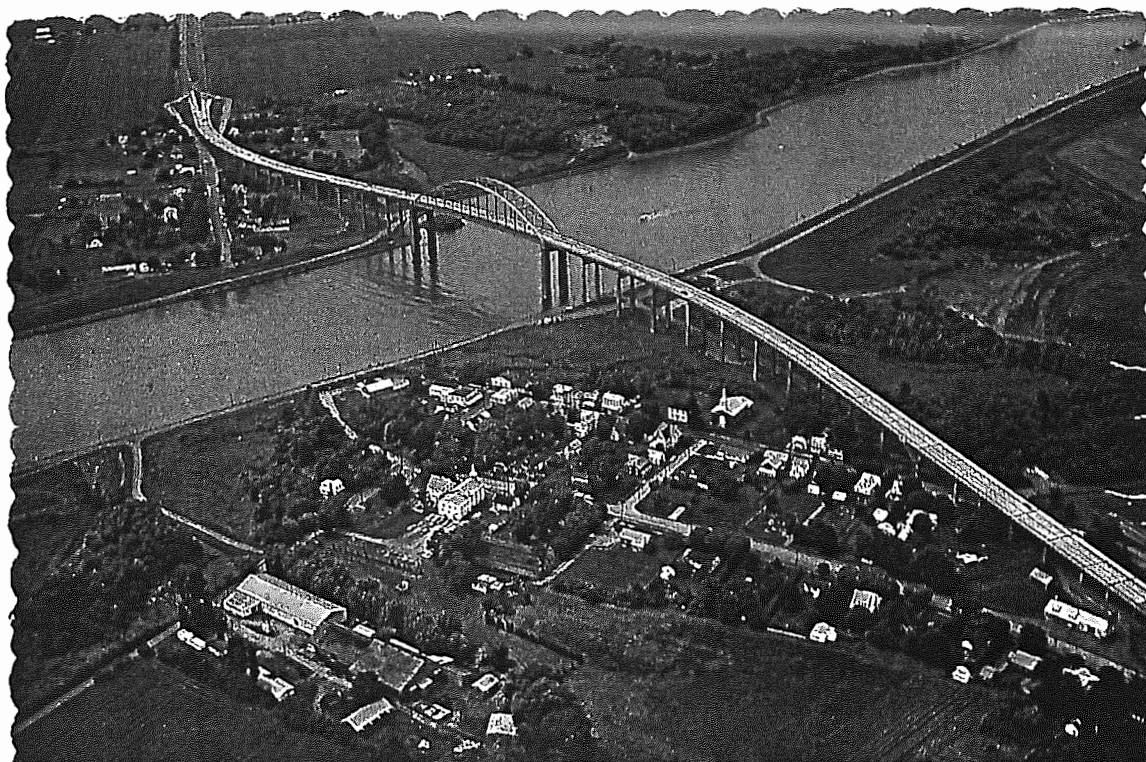
ST. GEORGES CANNING COMPANY  
PACKERS OF  
FINEST QUALITY CREAM STYLE CORN  
CONSUMERS' FAVORITE and MAPLE VALLEY BRANDS  
ST. GEORGES, DELAWARE

(One of the early letterheads)



Picture - circa 1964

Mr. Claude N. Lester standing before the conveyer belt that carries empty cans to the filler. The filler machine fills the cans with the prepared corn mixture and then it goes by conveyor into the cooker machine.



*St. Georges Bridge*

*Photo by Richard Pulling*

1972 Air View of St. Georges showing the location of  
the cannery.

Heitz Photopic Service, Dover, Dela.



Vacant property where former cannery buildings stood.

Summer - 2000

Owned by Motiva Oil Refinery

## RECIPE

### CORN FRITTERS

1 cup flour, 1 teas. baking powder, 3/4 teas. salt, 2 beaten eggs, 1-1/2 cups Corn, 2 teas. shortening melted, 1/4 cup milk.

Sift flour with baking powder and salt. Combine eggs and milk, add to dry ingredients, and mix smooth. Stir in the corn and shortening. Drop from a tablespoon into deep hot fat (375 degrees). Drain on absorbent paper. Serve with syrup or sprinkle with confectioner's sugar. Serves 4 to 6.

*won its favor  
by its flavor*

# LESTER'S Consumers Favorite

NET WT.

1 LB.

COLOR & FLAVOR  
RETAINED WITH NEW PROCESS



WHOLE KERNEL  
GOLDEN

## SWEET CORN

NET WT. . . . . 1 LB.

Can Size . . . . . 303

Cups, Approx. . . . . 2

Servings, Average . 3-4

Whole Kernel  
**GOLDEN SWEET CORN**

PACKED BY  
LESTER BROTHERS  
**THE ST. GEORGES  
CANNING CO.**  
ST. GEORGES, DEL.



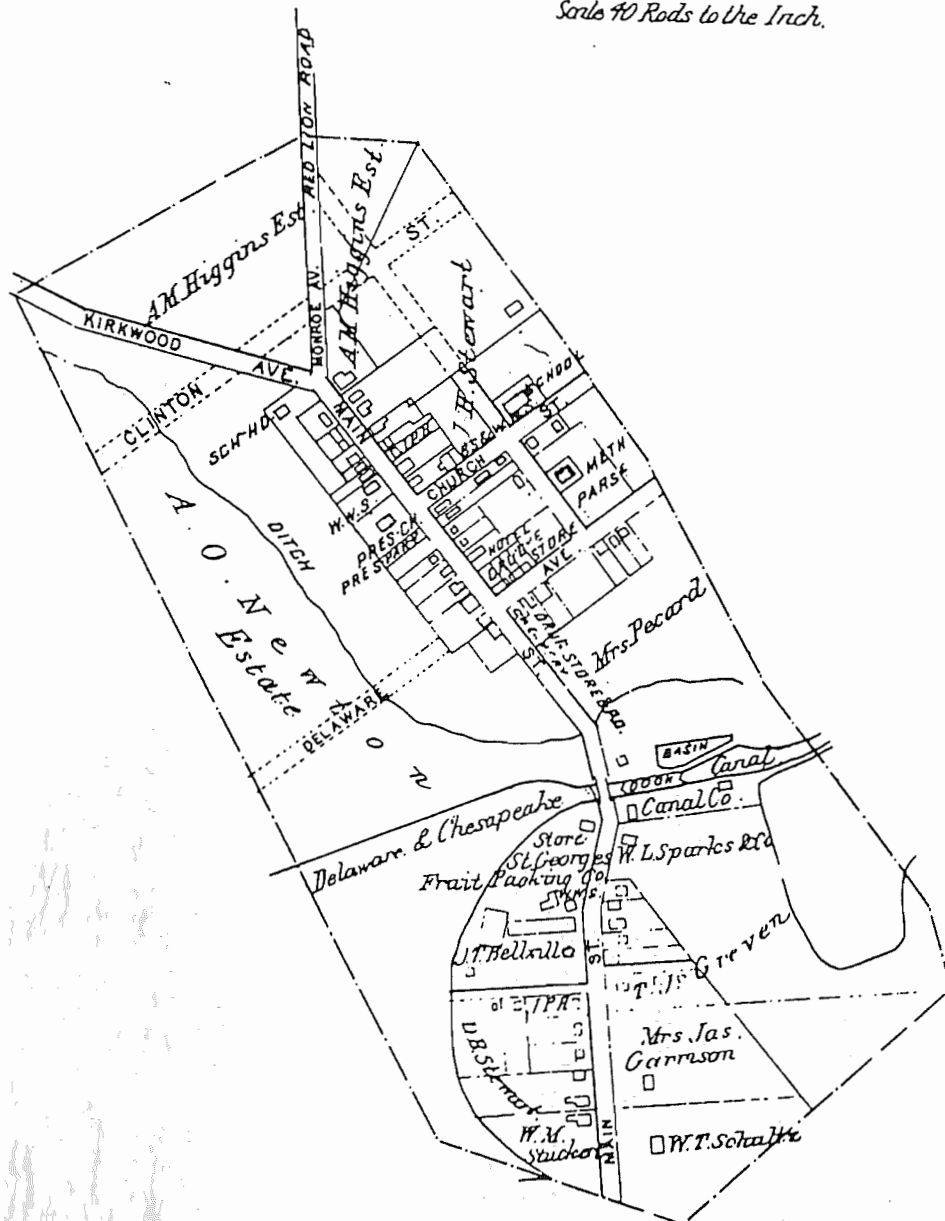




# ST. GEORGES

Red Lion Hd.

Scale 40 Rods to the Inch.







## Guide to #5 Book Properties

No.

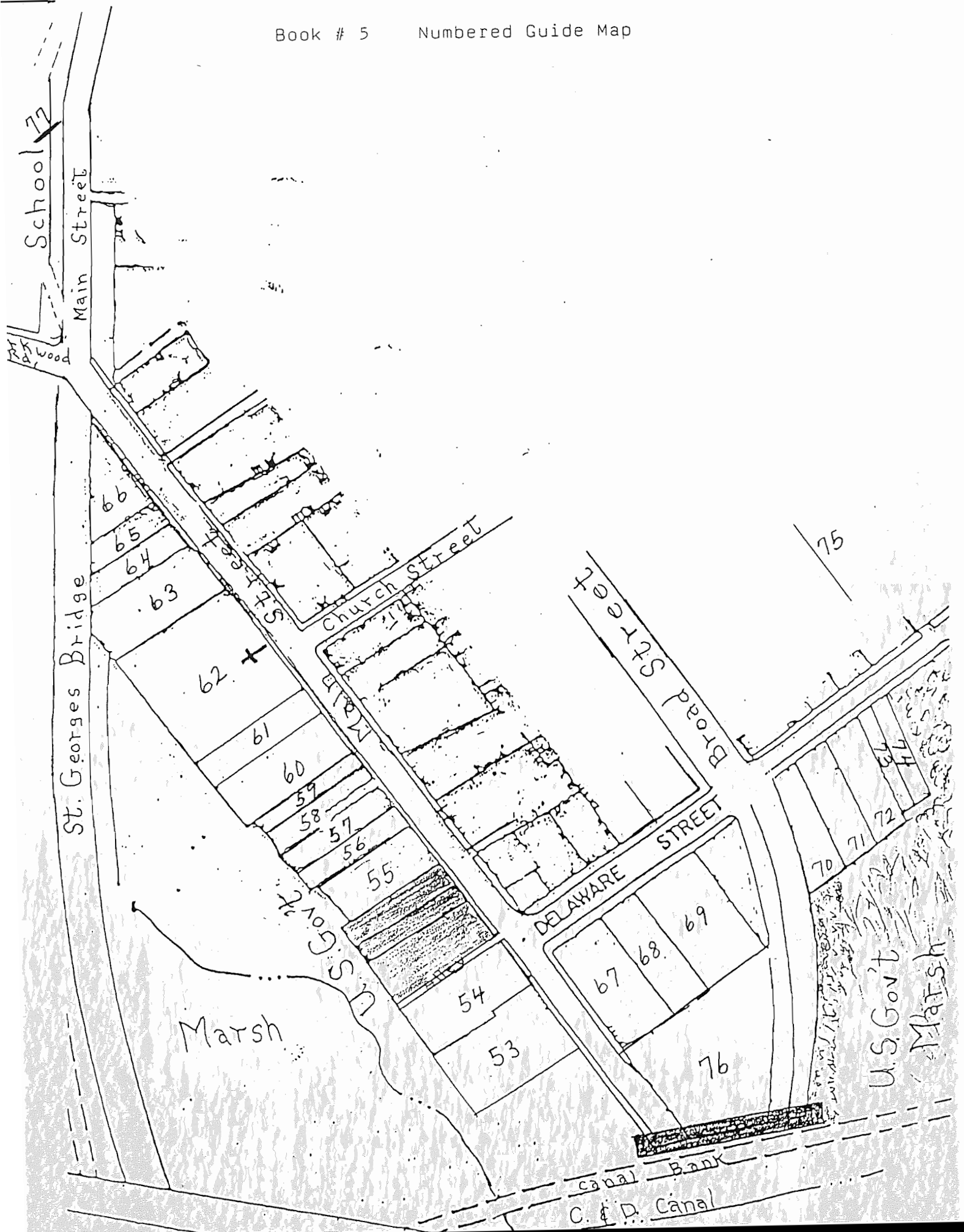
- 53 - Hurlock House - Marvin & Sandra Billips
- 54 - Delaware Trust Building
- 55 - Sadler - Gunsmith - Confectionery etc. - Eric Dressler
- 56 - Calder - Aspril - Bias House - Lawrence Bias
- 57 - Hudson Property - Christopher Squires
- 58 - John Calder Double House - Wm. & Sarah Nickle
- 59 - John Calder Double House - Rhoda Clark
- 60 - Vacant lot - Former site Johnathon Daniel Tony House
- 61 - Presbyterian Church Manse - Hynson Home
- 62 - St. Georges Presbyterian Church - St. Georges Historical Society
- 63 - Blacksmith Lot - Vacant
- 64 - Calhoun & Sutton House - Thelma Sutton
- 65 - Joseph Martin House
- 66 - Gottlieb Streinger Property - Edw. Lester - Roger Mc Call - Cindy Patterson
- 67 - Corner Store House - Garman & Crompton Store - Barbara & David Meck
- 68 - Sutton Drugstore - Gestwicki - Carey
- 69 - Site - Baldwin - Reutter House - Vacant
- 70 - Sutton - Cornelius - Gam - Johnson - Vacant (Sutton)
- 71 - Francis Taroni House - Tate - Kenneth and Helen Sutton
- 72 - Redding - Riley - Othoson - Batten - Carmen Dienno
- 73 - Howard Othoson - Barbara Crather et. el. - vacant
- 74 - Moore or U. S. Gov't. -- vacant
- 75 - St. Georges Canning Co. Site - Vacant - Motiva Refinery Co.
- 76 - St. Georges Service Station - Taxi Business
- 77 - Commodore MacDonough School



Scene - 1917 Near St. Georges - South  
of the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal



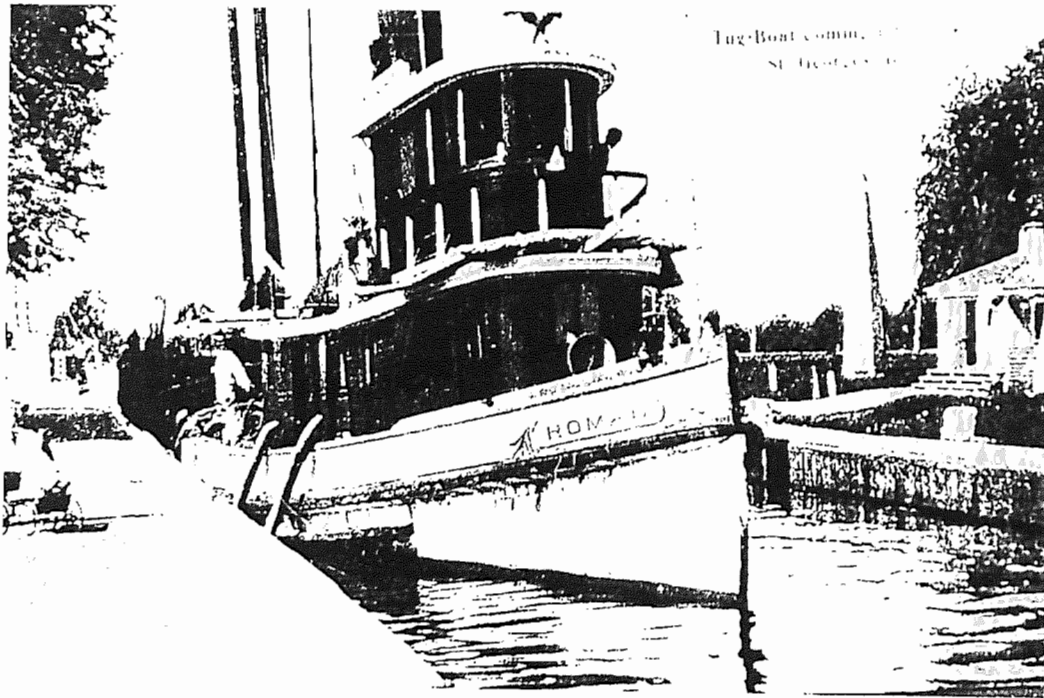
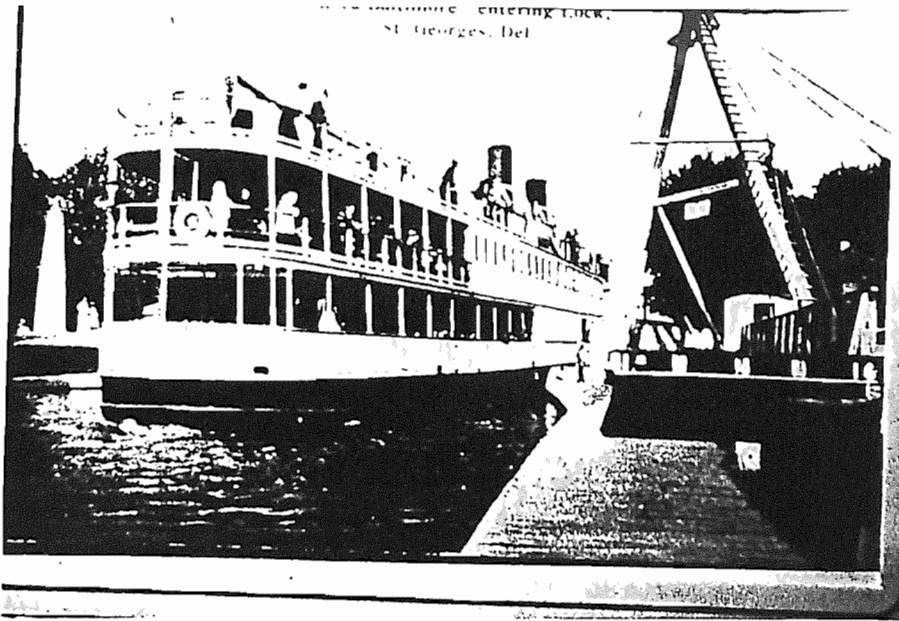
Book # 5      Numbered Guide Map

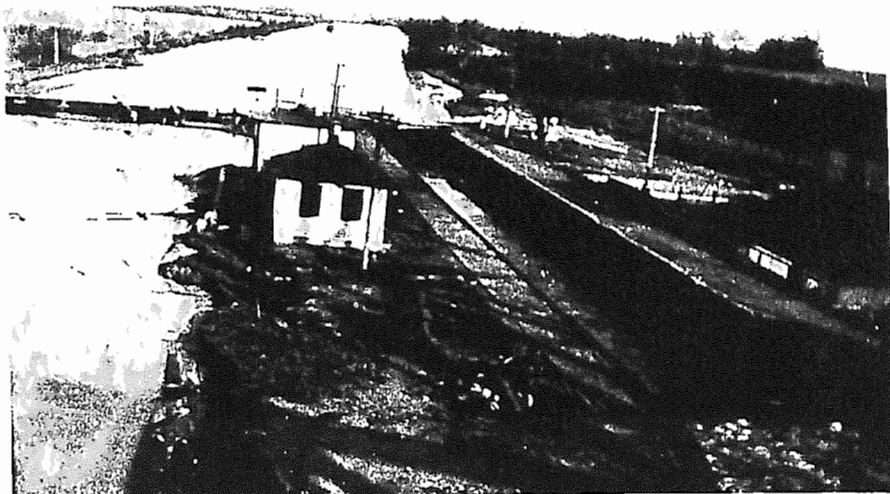


## CANAL SCENES

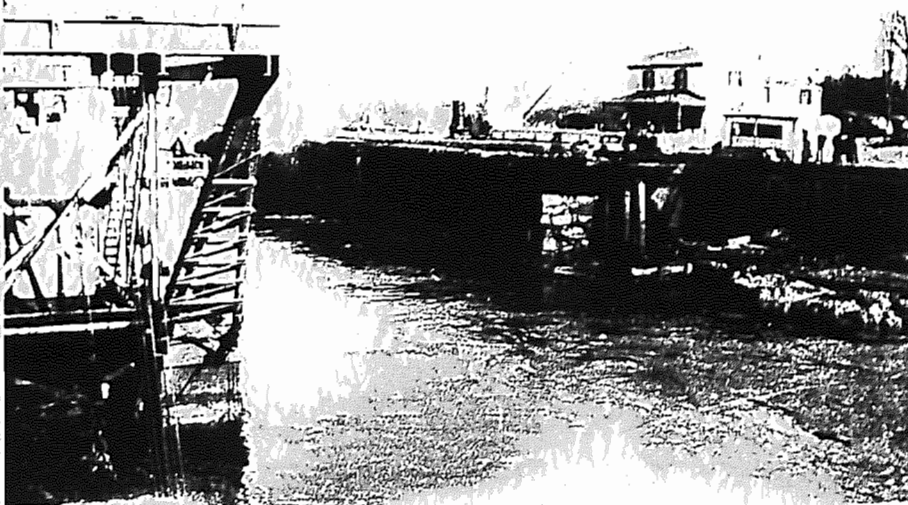
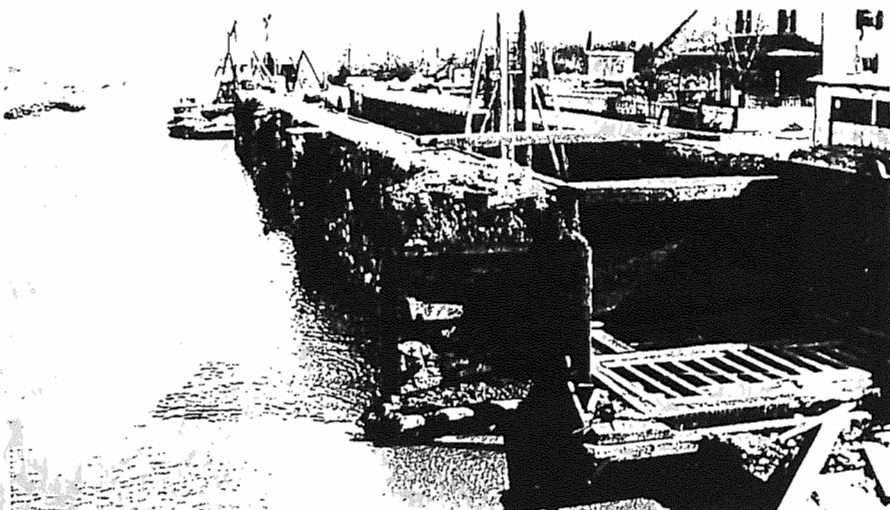
Lord Baltimore of  
Ericson Steamship  
Line- going through  
Lock Bridge opening.

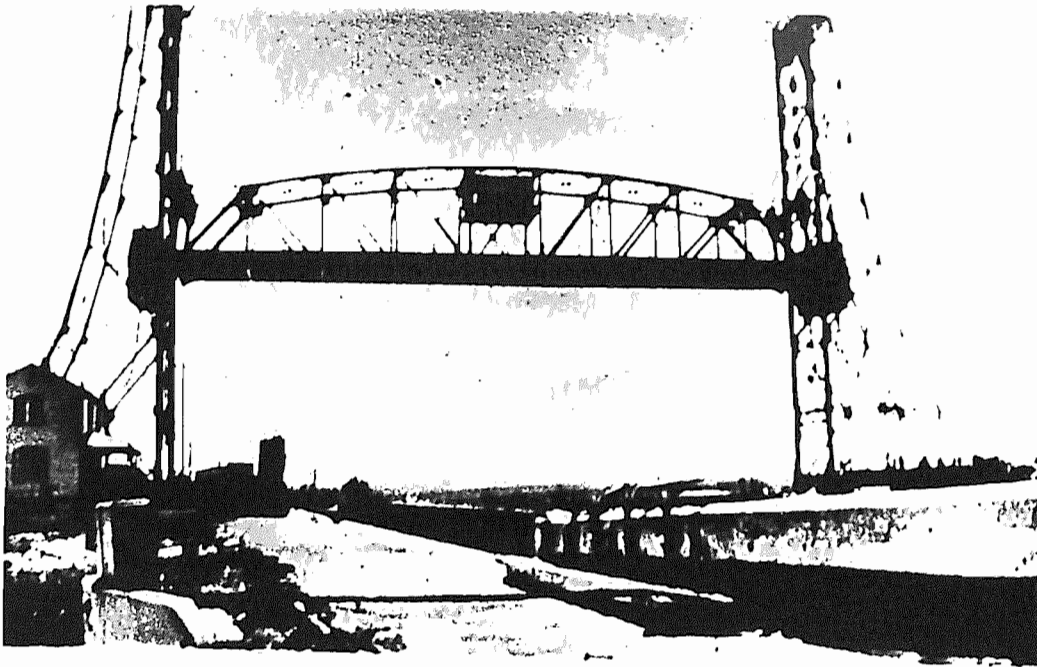
Tugboat in locks



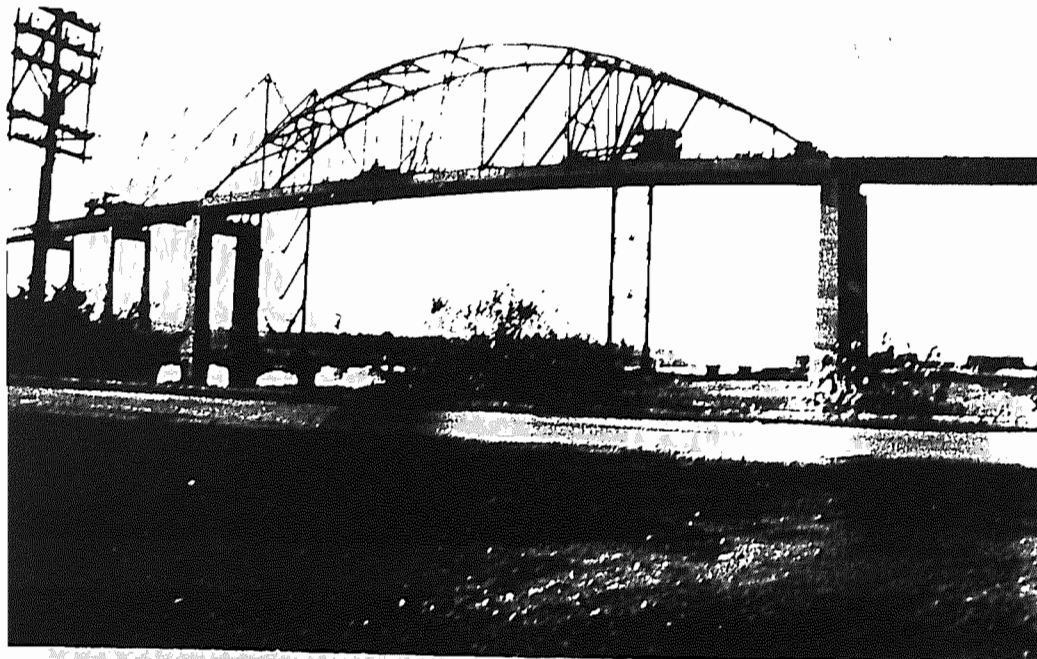


The Chesapeake and Delaware Canal's existence as a lock barge waterway will be brought to an end at midnight, Jan. 31, 1927. For two weeks following no boats other than those engaged in engineering work will be permitted to enter the canal. (Dela. Ledger - Jan. 28, 1927)





Construction begun July 1924. Bridge opened to traffic March - 1926. The locks were still in place and open. Destroyed by a ship on January 10th 1939.



Construction began in early 1940. October 20, 1941 steel beams were joined together forming the road bed. Within two weeks the upper arches of the main supports were riveted together. The bridge opened to traffic in 1942.



April 3, 1995  
Last two segments on road bed put in place.  
Dedicated -  
December 9, 1995

Work began on the bridge - April 1992.

Open to traffic -  
December 18th & 19th, 1995.