

An Act for establishing the boundaries of the town of Dover, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Delaware in General Assembly met, That on the first Monday of March next after the passing of this Act, there shall be an election held at the State House in Dover, in the manner hereinafter prescribed for the purpose of electing five persons, who shall be resident freeholders in the said town of Dover to be denominated, Commissioners of the town of Dover who shall have full power and authority, and they, or any three of them, are hereby required and directed, as soon as conveniently may be after their election, taking with them a skilful surveyor to be qualified upon his solemn oath or affirmation, to make an accurate survey of the town of Dover aforesaid, and to ascertain and fix the boundaries and limits of the same; and to regulate the streets, lanes and alleys now open within the said town; and the said surveyor shall, under the superintendance and direction of the commissioners aforesaid, make out a careful plot or map of the survey, so to be made as aforesaid; which plot or map shall contain an account of the boundaries of the said town, and the courses, width and names, of the several streets, lanes and alleys, (the names of said streets, lanes, and alleys, to be given by the commissioners aforesaid, or a majority of them;) and the said plot or map shall be signed by the said surveyor and a commissioner or a majority of them, and the same shall be lodged in the Recorder's office for the County of Kent, there to be recorded, which

said plot or map, or the record ² thereof, shall be deemed, taken and received in all Courts of law ~~and~~ ^{or} Equity, or elsewhere ^{with} in this State, to be conclusive evidence of the boundaries of the said town of Dover, and of the courses, width and names, of the several streets, lanes and alleys, within the same: Provided always, that the said Commissioners, in ascertaining and fixing the said boundaries of the town of Dover aforesaid, not extend the same in a northern and southern direction, ~~more~~ ^{more} than eighty perches from the centre of the Green in said town; and in regulating the streets, lanes and alleys in the said town, they shall confine themselves, as nearly as may be to the now reputed streets, lanes and alleys within the same; and that they be not permitted, and they are hereby forbidden to open any street, lane, or alley, or to interfere with any building formerly erected on the side of any street, lane or alley: Provided nevertheless, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to hinder or prevent the laying out, opening or altering any such street, lane or alley as aforesaid, for the purpose of ~~straitening~~ ^{straightening} the same or otherwise, where the person or persons through whose ground the same would run shall voluntarily agree that the same may be done.

Section 2. And be it enacted, That the said Commissioners shall fix posts or stones in the earth in the centre or middle of the streets, ^{respectively where they intersect one another} as aforesaid, as well as all such other posts and stones as shall ^{which posts & stones so set & fixed in the earth} from time to time hereafter be so set or fixed in the earth, by the Commissioners hereafter to be elected, shall in all cases, and in all Courts of law ~~and~~ ^{or} equity within this State, be deemed ~~and~~ taken and allowed, as land marks; and if any person or persons shall,

at any time hereafter wilfully pluck up or remove any of the said posts or stones, every person so offending shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof in the Court of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace in and for Kent County shall severally forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred dollars, besides the costs of prosecution, to the use of the Commissioners and inhabitants of the said town of Dover to be employed in, and towards the defraying the expenses of any ^{public} improvement which may be undertaken or executed by virtue of this act by the said Commissioners of the town of Dover.

Section 3. And be it further enacted, That if any owner or owners of any House, lot or lots, or of part of a House lot or lots, within the said town of Dover shall conceive him, her or themselves aggrieved by any act or acts of the said Commissioners or a majority of them, relative to the boundaries of the said town, the location of the said streets, lanes and alleys, or any other matter or thing which the Commissioners aforesaid may do or perform by virtue of this act, that then it shall and may be lawful for such person or persons, at any time within thirty days next following the delivery of the said return into the Recorder's office, or within thirty days next after the determination of the said Commissioners to do or perform any other matter or thing shall be made public, but not after, to appeal therefrom to the next Court of Common Pleas, or to the next Supreme Court to be holden at Dover, in and for Kent County aforesaid, he, she, or they first entering into a recognizance before the Prothonotary, or Clerk of the said Court, with at least

one sufficient Surety, in double the value of the property in controversy, and sufficient to answer all costs to prosecute the said appeal with effect, and to abide the order of the said Court.

Section 4. And be it enacted, That in case of an appeal ^{or appeals} in manner aforesaid, the person or persons who may conceive, him, her or themselves to be aggrieved shall be the appellant or appellants, and the Commissioner for the time being or a majority of them, shall be the appellee, and the Court of Common Pleas, or the Supreme Court, are hereby authorized and empowered to direct such proceedings to be had therein as will cause a trial to be had by the Court and Jury of the matter in controversy between the parties by a feigned issue, and to give judgment accordingly; and if in any such case, it shall be determined by a Jury, that the appellant or appellants ^{is or} are ~~injured~~ or aggrieved, the quantity of land claimed, or how and in what particular the appellant or appellants are injured or aggrieved shall be particularly described by the Verdict of the ^{Says} Jury, and Judgment of the ^{Said} Court; and in all such cases, the Court and Jury shall have full and ample power and authority to take into consideration all circumstances relative to the parties, and to do justice according to the ^{best} right of the matter and law of the land.

Section 5. And be it enacted, That the Clerk of the ^{County} of Kent County aforesaid, be empowered and required on the first Monday in the month of March next, and on the first Monday in the month of March in every succeeding year thereafter to hold an election for five Commissioners of the town of Dover, after giving five days previous notice of the time and place of holding

said election; that he shall take to his aid two freeholders of the said town to assist him in holding such elections; that at such elections every inhabitant of the said town, entitled to vote at any General or Special election in this State; provided they shall have resided in the said town for the space of twelve months ^{next} preceding the time of holding such election and be taxable therein; and also every free white man and woman of the age of twenty one years and upwards, who shall have a freehold interest in any real estate within the boundaries of the said Town of Dover and which is the subject of taxation, although not an inhabitant of the said town, shall be entitled to vote at such election. And the five citizens, as aforesaid who shall have the highest number of the votes given in at any such election, to be held on the first Monday of March in every year after the passing of this act, shall be the Commissioners of the town of Dover, aforesaid, until the first Monday of March in the year thereafter, and until successors shall be elected, and duly qualified to enter upon the duties of their office.

Section 6. And be it further enacted, That the Clerk of the Peace, aforesaid, shall administer an oath or affirmation, to the freeholders, which he shall appoint to aid him in holding such election, which said oath or affirmation may be after the following form; You — — do solemnly swear on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, (or, and truly declare and affirm, as the case may be) that you will discharge the duties of a Judge of this election with fidelity, and that you will not consent to the receiving or rejection of any vote,

through favour, fear, affection malice or the hope of reward. So help you God. [or, so you declare and affirm] The Clerk of the Peace shall first administer the oath or affirmation to the freeholder, after which one of the freeholders shall administer it to him; and the said oath or affirmation shall be administered to the Freeholders and the Clerk of the Peace respectively before the opening of such election or the receiving of any vote. The Clerk of the Peace and the freeholder, aforesaid, shall make out a return, under their hand and seal respectively, of the election of the said Commissioners, and shall cause the same to be filed in the office of the Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas of the State of Delaware on and for Kent County aforesaid; and an authenticated copy of the said return, under the hand and seal of the Prothonotary of the said County, shall be evidence of the matter therein contained in any Court of Justice in this State.

Section 7. And be it further enacted, That the said Commissioners of the Town of Dover, shall have power and authority, & they are hereby required as soon, as conveniently may be after their election on the first Monday of March next, and the first Monday in March in ~~the~~ ^{every} year thereafter, to appoint some suitable person or persons to make an assessment on the lands and tenements and assessible personal estate included within the bounds of the town of Dover, to be ascertained by the Commissioners aforesaid, and on all those persons residing within the same, that are liable under the existing laws of this State, to be assessed to any County or State rate; which assessment shall be made and returned to the said Commissioners, within six weeks next after the appoint-

ment of ^{the} said Asepmen; who shall cause three or more Copies thereof to be set up in at least three of the most public places in the said town, giving notice of the time when, and the place where the said Commissioners will hear and decide upon all appeals from the said Asepmen; and they shall when ^{the} said appeals ^{all} shall be settled, put up at least three lists of the Rates, as finally settled and established by them, in some ^{the} suitable public places, with the sum each taxable is to pay against his name. The said Commissioners shall be, and they are hereby, empowered to determine the sum to be raised on the said Town, and shall on the said Rates of Asepmen, respectively apportion the sum so ^{by them} directed ~~by them~~ to be raised on the said Town; and also to cause such additional Wells and pumps to be settled as they shall deem necessary for the security of the said Town of Dover against fire; to provide fire ladders and hooks and buckets; to impose a fine of five dollars upon every Housekeeper, who shall permit his, her or their Chimney to catch on fire, in such a state of weather as would be likely to endanger the said Town; to cause gravel, sand, or earth, to be carted and thrown on such foot paths or ways of the said Town as require improvement; to lay out the proper pavements and gutters for carrying off the water, at the expense of the proprietors of the ground in front of which such pavements and gutters are made; to fix upon some eligible situation ^{and to erect} a Market House, which shall not however cost exceeding the sum of Four hundred dollars; and upon application of either party made to them to enter upon the lands of any person or persons, in order to lay out the foundation

and regulate the walls ^{8'} to be built between party and party within the said town, as to the breadth or thickness thereof, which foundation shall be laid equally upon the lands of the persons between whom such party walls shall be made; and the first builder shall be reimbursed one moiety of the charge of such party walls, or for so much thereof as the next builder may have occasion to make use of, before such next builder shall in any wise use or break into the said wall; and the charge or value thereof shall be set by the said Commissioners or any three of them; Provided nevertheless, that nothing in this act shall be construed to abrogate, annul or alter any contract that hath heretofore been, or that may hereafter be made, by the owners of adjoining lands in the said town; or to authorize laying out and putting down any pavement of brick, other than in front of the buildings in the said town, or for the purpose of joining pavements where the space between the buildings shall not exceed fifteen yards. The said Commissioners or any three of them, shall have full power to regulate all partition fences within the said town; and where the adjoining owners or possessors do improve or inclose their lots, such fences shall be made in the manner generally used, and kept in good order at the equal cost of the parties; and the said Commissioners shall be the judges of the cost or charges to be borne by both, or either of the said parties; and if either party between whom such partition fence is or shall be made, on request of the other shall neglect or refuse to pay his or their share or proportion of the expense of such partition fence to be ascertained and fixed by the Commissioners as aforesaid, and for keeping the same afterwards in repair, that then the party at whose

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costs the same was so made and repaired may recover the same before any Justice of the Peace for the County of Kent aforesaid or in any Court of this State as debts of a like amount are recovered by the laws of this State, and the said Commissioners shall be paid by the party or parties between whom such partition fence or party wall is or shall be made one dollar and no more.

Section 8. And be it further enacted, That the said Commissioners shall have power and authority, and they are hereby required, to appoint annually, a collector of the taxes imposed by them on the persons and property within the bounds of the said town; and the collector by them ^{to be} appointed, shall have as full and ample power to collect or enforce payment of the said taxes or rates imposed by the Commissioners as aforesaid, as the Collectors of County rates and levies have or may have, by the laws of this State; and that the said Collector shall be allowed by the Commissioners aforesaid, five per centum for the collection of the said rates or taxes and the said collector shall on the first day of September next after his appointment pay over to the Town Treasurer, who shall be appointed by the said Commissioners at the same time and place that they appoint the said collector, the whole amount of the rates or taxes imposed as aforesaid on the persons and property within the bounds of the said town as aforesaid, deducting therefrom only the amount of delinquencies, which shall have been allowed by the said Commissioners, and his compensation or per centum for his trouble. The said Collector shall take an oath or affirmation before he enters upon the duties of his office to perform the same with fidelity, which oath or affirmation shall be administered to him by one of the said

Commissioners; and he shall also enter into a Judgment Bond, with sufficient surety in double the amount of the rates and levies, which it shall be his duty to collect, to the said Commissioners and their Successors, with Condition thereto annexed that the same shall be void, if the said Collector shall faithfully and diligently discharge the duties of his said office, and pay over to the Town Treasurer aforesaid the amount of the rates, and taxes, as aforesaid, or otherwise to be and remain in full force and effect; and in case of delinquency by such Collector the said Commissioners may enter such bond and issue execution immediately for the amount of such delinquency.

Section 9. And be it further enacted, That the said Commissioners shall take from the person by them appointed as aforesaid Town Treasurer a Judgment Bond in the penal sum of two thousand dollars, with sufficient securities for the faithful performance of his duties as prescribed by this act; which said Bond shall be taken in the name of the "Commissioners of the town of Dover". And the said Commissioners, shall also appoint a Clerk of the said Town, who shall keep minutes of the proceedings of the said Commissioners in a Book to be by him provided for that purpose, which said book of minutes shall be evidence, in any Court of Justice in this State, of the proceedings of the said Commissioners; and the said Clerk shall keep all books of accounts, and perform all other matters and things which may appertain to his said office, for which he shall receive a Compensation to be fixed by the said Commissioners.

Section 10 And be it further enacted, That the town

Treasurer aforesaid, shall not pay out ~~of~~ any money that shall come to his hands, except it be upon a written order signed by at least a majority of the said Commissioners, and attested by the Clerk of the said Town; that he shall settle his accounts once a year before the said Commissioners, at such time as they shall appoint for that purpose, and pay over to his successor in office any balance that may appear to be in his hands after deducting therefrom two per centum on the amount by him received and paid out to the orders of the Commissioners as aforesaid for his trouble; and that the said Treasurer shall deposit all money by him received by virtue of this act, in the Farmers Bank of the State of Delaware, and may draw for the same from time to time to pay the orders of the said Commissioners, or the amount of his Commissions.

Section 11. And be it further enacted, That the Commissioners aforesaid or a majority of them, are authorized, empowered and required to cause to be put down a pavement in front of the State House, and to repair ^{the roof to prevent its leaking.} the walls of the said House by filling up the pudlock holes and otherwise to repair the same as to them may seem necessary, and to draw on the State Treasurer for the amount of the said pavement and repairs who is hereby authorized and required to pay ^{the said or del} out of any monies in his hands not otherwise appropriated: Provided that the sum expended in repairing said walls do not exceed Twenty five dollars.

Section 12. And be it further enacted, That if the proprietor of any House, or land before or in front of, which

the said Commissioners shall have laid out pavements, and gutters for carrying off ~~the~~ water, shall neglect or refuse for the space of three months to put down such pavement, or to cut and make such gutters, it shall and may be lawful for the said Commissioners, to cause such pavements & gutters to be made, and to recover the costs of the same by distress and sale of any goods, chattels, lands and tenements belonging to such proprietors within the bounds of the said Town. And if any pavement already down shall be deemed an insufficient pavement by the said Commissioners or a majority of them, they shall have power to direct the owner thereof to make a sufficient one, and upon his neglecting or refusing to do so, for the space of three months, the said Commissioners shall cause the same to be done, and recover the expense of the same in the same manner as is herein prescribed for the recovery of the costs of constructing and making new pavements and gutters for carrying off ~~the~~ water when the owner ~~when the owner~~ of the House or land in front of which the same is made, hath neglected or refused to do so for the space of three months. The said Commissioners shall also have power to abate nuisances within the boundaries of the said town, to ascertain fix and limit the rent to be paid for the use of the Stalls in the Market House by them to be constructed, to appoint a Clerk of the said Market and to make rules & regulations to govern the same, and to inflict penalties for the violation thereof.

Section 13. And be it further enacted, That the said commissioners shall not, themselves, receive any money to be raised by virtue of this act, and their drafts or orders upon the said Treasurer shall always be in favour of those to whom it may be due for services rendered, or for materials furnished, the said town; and that if any Commissioner shall get into his possession, any money raised upon the said town, against the provisions of this law, or be guilty of any malpractices to the injury of the said town, he shall thereby forfeit his office, and a suit may be instituted and maintained against him in the name of the Commissioners of the said town, to recover compensation in damages for the injury sustained; - and the said Commissioner, or any one of them, shall be liable to be indicted and fined, on conviction ~~of~~^{for} any fraudulent or oppressive act done by them, or any of them, under colour of their said office.

Section 14. And be it further enacted, That, the Commissioners of the town of Dover, to be elected as herein before prescribed, shall be and they are hereby created a body politic and Corporate, in law; and the said Commissioners of the Town of Dover, and their Successors shall be able and capable to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered, defend, and be defended, in all Courts of judicature whatsoever in this State by the Corporate name of, "The Commissioners of the Town of Dover;" and may have and use a common seal, with such device or device as they shall think proper, with power to alter or change the same as may be deemed expedient; to purchase

take, hold, receive and enjoy any messuages, lands, tenements or hereditaments in fee simple or otherwise, and also goods and chattels rights and credits, and to alien, grant, demise, sell and dispose of the same in such manner and form as they may deem expedient; provided nevertheless that there is hereby reserved to the Legislature ^{the} power and authority, to repeal this act or any part thereof or any other law which may be hereafter be enacted respecting the said Town of Dover.

Section 15. And be it further enacted, That all fines and forfeitures which may accrue or be recovered by virtue of this act, shall be for the use of the said town of Dover.

Section 16. And be it further enacted, That if the place of any of the said Commissioners shall become vacant, by death, resignation or otherwise during the term for which such Commissioner was chosen it shall be supplied by the remaining Commissioners, who are hereby directed and required, to elect by ballot as soon as conveniently may be thereafter some suitable person to fill such vacancy.

Section 17. And be it further enacted, That the said Commissioners, shall have power and authority to direct the planting of ornamental trees, in such places, and at such distances from each other, as they or a majority of them may deem meet and proper; and also to direct what kind of defences shall be erected around the same. If the said Commissioners shall direct the planting of any tree or trees,

and the erection of defences for the same in front of any house or lands within the bounds of the said town, the costs thereof shall in all cases be borne and defrayed by the proprietor of such house or lot; and if such proprietor shall neglect or refuse to plant such tree or trees, or to erect such defence or defences for the space of three months, it shall and may be lawful for the said Commissioners to cause such trees to be planted and such defences to be erected, and to recover the costs thereof from such proprietor in the manner prescribed in the twelfth section of this act for the recovery of the costs of putting down pavements and cutting and constructing gutters to carry off water. In all cases where it shall become necessary under the provisions of this act for the said Commissioners to cause any work or labour to be done and performed, in consequence of the neglect or refusal, of any proprietor of any house or ground situated within the limits of the said town, to do the same, it shall and may be lawful for the said Commissioners to authorize, by writing under their hands or the hands of a majority of them, the collector of the said town to levy the distress upon and to make sale of, the goods and chattels, lands and tenements of such neglecting or refusing proprietor.

Section 18. And be it further enacted, That nothing herein contained shall be construed or understood to affect the public roads running through or about the said town, all of which shall remain ~~to~~ ^{to} be kept up and protected as they heretofore have been by the existing laws of the State.

Passed at Dover
Feb 9. 16. 1829

William P. Morris
Speaker of the House of Representatives
and Speaker of the Senate

No 132. A. H.

An Act
for establishing the
boundaries of the town
of Iron, and for other
purposes therein
mentioned.

Feb. 16. 1829.

A Supplement to the act entitled "An act for establishing the boundaries of the Town of Dover and for other purposes therein mentioned."

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Delaware in General Assembly met, That it shall be the duty of the Commissioners of the Town of Dover, and of the Justices of the Peace and constable ^{for Kent County} residing within the said Town to suppress all riotous, turbulent, disorderly or noisy assemblages or gatherings of negroes, mulattoes or other persons, in the streets, lanes, alleys, or on the public square of the said Town after night or on the Sabbath day, and for this purpose it shall be the duty of the said Constable, upon the requirement of any one of the said Commissioners, and without further warrant ^{forthwith} to seize and arrest any such negroes, mulattoes or other persons, so assembled or gathered together and offending as aforesaid, and to carry such negroes, mulattoes or other persons so offending before any Justice of the Peace residing in the said Town, and upon conviction of any such negro, mulattoe or other person for so offending as aforesaid, before the said Justice (whose duty it shall be to hear and determine the case) the said Justice is hereby authorized and required to commit every such negro, mulattoe or other person so convicted to the Common Jail of Kent County for the space of twenty-four hours, and until the costs of the proceedings be paid; or the said Justice may in his discretion, sentence any such negro, mulattoe or other person so convicted, to pay to the State a fine not exceeding five dollars and commit the

party to the jail aforesaid until the said fine and costs be paid. It shall be the duty of each of the said Justices of the Peace upon complaint made before him of any such riotous, turbulent or noisy assemblage, or gathering of ~~such~~ negroes mulattoes or other persons as aforesaid, to issue his warrant to the said Constable commanding said Constable to bring every such negro, mulatto or other person so offending as aforesaid before him the said Justice for trial.

Section 2. And be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of the said Commissioners, Justices and Constable to suppress, extinguish and prevent all bonfires from being lighted or kept up on the public square of the said town, or in any of the streets lanes or alleys of the said town: and to suppress and prevent the firing of guns, crackers or squibs by boys or others within the limits of the said town.

Section 3. And be it enacted, That upon every conviction of a riotous, turbulent or disorderly person under the provisions of this act the Justice and Constable shall each be entitled to a fee of sixty cents, to be paid by the defendant or person convicted: and if any Constable shall neglect or refuse to perform the duties enjoined upon him by this act he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor in office, and upon conviction thereof shall forfeit his office: and it shall be the duty of the

Commissioners aforesaid to present every such neglect or refusal to the Grand Jury that the same may be inquired into.

Section 4. And be it enacted, That the said Commissioners shall have charge of the Streets lanes and alleys of the said town, of Dover, and of the public square in said Town; and shall have authority to make such regulations relative to the travelling over and upon the said streets and public square, and to the use thereof, the standing of carts or carriages or the placing of other obstructions thereon, as they may deem proper; and if any person shall wilfully violate the regulations of the said Commissioners in this behalf, every such person shall, for every such offence forfeit and pay to the said Commissioners for the use of the said Town, the sum of one dollar, to be recovered, with costs of suit, at the suit of the said Commissioners before any Justice of the Peace in the same manner as other debts under fifty dollars are by law recoverable.

Passed at Dover
February 8th 1832.

Thomas Davis speaking
for the House of Representatives,
James P. Lofland,
Speaker of the Senate.

^{July 8. 70 & Co}
A Supplement to the
Act entitled an Act
for establishing the
boundaries of the town
of Dover, and for other
purposes therein men-
tioned.

2-8-1832

An Act in relation to the town of Dover.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Delaware in General Assembly met as follows to wit.

Section I. The limits of the town of Dover shall be and are hereby reduced to be the same as marked and designated on the Plot of said town made out by the Commissioners under the act entitled "An act for establishing the boundaries of the town of Dover and for other purposes therein mentioned" passed at Dover February 16. 1829. and as extended by the act entitled "A further additional Supplement to the act entitled 'An act for establishing the boundaries of the town of Dover and for other purposes therein mentioned' passed at Dover March 2. 1853.

Section II. The Justice of the Peace & Just in commission resident in said town shall be Alderman of said town and ex officio a town commissioner and President of the town Committee. It shall be his duty to execute all laws enacted for the peace and good government of the town and to carry into effect all the lawful orders and directions of the town Committee made in pursuance of any law of this State or by any ordinance that the said town Committee may be empowered to make and establish. He shall have all the powers of a Justice of the peace concurrent with said Justice within the town and shall have jurisdiction and cognizance of all breaches of the peace and other offenses in said town so far as to meet.

and hold to rail or fine and imprison offenders and all fines for future and penalties which may be prescribed by any law of this State or by any ordinance of the town committee regularly passed and established for the government of the town and of all budgets omissions or defaults of any town constable collector receiver treasurer town clerk or any other officer or person whose duty it may be to collect receive pay or account for any money belonging to said town or is a cents or by any law or ordinance thereof provided that he shall not impose any fine exceeding ten dollars or have jurisdiction in civil matters exceeding one hundred dollars exclusive of costs. It shall be his duty at the request of any citizen to convene the town committee for any purpose connected with their duty. No fees for any service under this section shall be the same as those of a Justice of the Peace for a like service. He shall upon every conviction of a riotous turbulent or disorderly person under the provisions of this Act shall be one dollar: and for any service or duty for which no fee may be provided by law the fee may be established by the ordinance of the town committee: but the Alderman shall have no vote in establishing any such fees nor upon any ordinance or question touching his compensation or any duty to be performed by him.

Section III. In the first Monday in March next there shall be an election held in the town room in Dover for four commissioners of the town of Dover two of whom

Shall be elected for two years and two of whom shall be elected for one year.
 There shall also be an election held at the place aforesaid on the first Monday
 of March A.D. 1862, for two Commissioners to succeed those two elected for one year
 as aforesaid, and to continue in office for two years. And there shall be an election held
 on the first Monday in March in each and every year after the year A.D. 1862 for two com-
 missioners who shall continue in office for two years; so that after the first election herein
 before provided for, there shall be two commissioners elected at the election in each
 year for the term of two years. The Commissioners shall be resident freeholders in said town
 at the time of their election. Said election shall be opened at one o'clock and
 close at four o'clock P.M. At such elections every free white male citizen residing
 in said town, who shall be of the age of twenty one years and shall have paid the town
 tax last assessed to him shall have the right to vote. Immediately after the election
 shall be closed, the votes shall be read out and counted and the two persons having the high-
 est number of votes shall be elected. In case of a tie the Alderman may give the casting
 vote. The election shall be held by the Alderman and the two Commissioners, who hold over.
 The Alderman shall receive the ballots, and deposit them in a box to be provided for
 that purpose. And the assisting Commissioners shall each keep a list of the
 votes voting. When the election shall be closed, the Alderman or one of his assistants
 shall draw said tickets out of the box, open, and read out the same, and pass the same

over to one of the others for his inspection, while the third election officer shall tally the votes. After the result shall have been ascertained, the election officers shall make out certificates and deliver one to each of the commissioners elect with a notice of the time and place of the next meeting of the town committee. The commissioners elect shall be sworn in at said next meeting or any subsequent meeting by the alduman or one of the commissioners holding over. The first election hereinbefore provided for, shall be held by the alduman and two of the present commissioners. If at any election the alduman or the commissioner whose duty it is to hold said election should not be present for that purpose at the time hereinbefore designated, the voters present may proceed to elect some one of their number in lieu of the alduman or absent commissioner or commissioners. A minute of each election containing the names of the commissioners elect shall be entered immediately after said election in a book to be provided for that purpose and subscribed by the persons holding said election. Said book shall be preserved by the town commissioners and shall be evidence.

Section IV. The commissioners to be elected as hereinbefore provided for and the Alduman shall be and they are hereby created a body politic and corporate in law and shall be able and capable to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in all courts of this state by the corporate name of "The Town of Dover". And may purchase, take, hold and enjoy, lands tenements and hereditaments, in fee simple or otherwise, and also goods and chattels,

rights and credits, and may alien, grant, demise and dispose of the same as they may deem proper, and may do all other things which a body politic and corporate may lawfully do, to carry out and effect the object and purposes of this act. The alderman and commissioners for the time being shall have the superintendance and oversight of all the roads and streets now open within the limits of said town, and no overseer of any of said roads or streets shall be appointed by the Levy Court of Kent County, but the said Levy Court shall annually appropriate for the repair of said roads and streets a sum of money not less than one hundred and fifty dollars and shall make an order for the payment thereof to the said commissioners, which sum so appropriated shall be expended for that purpose and no other. The said commissioners shall account to the Levy Court for the said money in the same manner as overseers of roads in said county, they shall severally receive and be allowed for each days actual service on said roads or streets, one dollar and for each half days service fifty cents, but no compensation shall be allowed for any fraction less than half a day.

Section V. The alderman and commissioners shall have power upon the application of ten or more citizens of the town by petition for that purpose, to locate, lay out, and open any new street or streets or reopen any old street or streets now closed or which may hereafter be closed which ten or more citizens may desire to be located, laid out and opened, or reopened, allowing to the persons respectively through or over whose grounds such street or streets may pass such compen-

-sation therefor as they shall deem just and reasonable under all circumstances which compensation if any be allowed, shall be paid by the Treasurer of the town out of the monies of said town upon warrants drawn upon him by the commissioners as aforesaid.

Section VI. Whenever the alderman and Commissioners shall have proceeded to locate and lay out any street and shall have fixed the compensation therefor it shall be their duty immediately after the survey and location of the said street, to notify in writing the owner, or owners of the real estate through or over which such street may run, of their determination to open the same and to furnish a general description of the location thereof, and also the amount of the damages or compensation allowed to each, and if such owner be not resident within the said town, to notify the holder of said real estate. If any owner be dissatisfied with the determination to lay out and open the said street or with the amount of the compensation or damages allowed by the alderman and commissioners he may within ten days after receiving notice from the alderman and commissioners as aforesaid appeal from the said determination, or assessment or both by serving written notice to that effect on the said alderman and commissioners or some one of them. In order to prosecute said appeal such owner or owners shall within ten days after the expiration of the ten days allowed for appeals, apply to the Prothonotary of the Superior Court of the State of Delaware in and for Kent County who shall within three days thereafter, and upon notice to said alderman,

and commissioners or some one of them select and write down on a list the names of twenty one judicious and impartial freeholders residing in Dover & numbered ten of whom shall be freeholders owning no real estate in said town, and eleven of whom shall be freeholders owning real estate in said town. Upon receiving said notice from the Prothonotary said Alderman and Commissioners shall immediately notify all persons owning real estate on the said street and residing in said town who have notified him of their intention to appeal of the time and place when and where the said names will be selected and at the time and place mentioned in the notice of the prothonotary said appellants and Alderman and Commissioners shall attend. Their appellants their agent or attorney shall first strike one of said names and the Alderman and Commissioners their agent or attorney shall strike out another and so on alternately until there shall be but seven freeholders left upon the list who shall constitute the freeholders to determine concerning the necessity of said street and assess the damages of all the owners of real estate through or over whose grounds said street shall pass who shall have notified the Alderman and Commissioners of their intention to appeal and their award and assessment shall be final. And a copy thereof shall be communicated to all the parties appellants and respondents. In case either side be not represented before the Prothonotary or shall refuse to strike the Prothonotary shall strike for the party or absent neglecting or refusing, any one of the parties may within ten days after the appointment of the said freeholders and upon five days notice to the other parties resident in said town or in case of non-residence

the notice to the holders of any real estate will be the freeholders or those who shall thereupon proceed upon oath or affirmation to enquire of the necessity of such street and if they deem such street to be necessary to apportion the damages of the several owners their award shall be made within twenty days from the time of notifying them to meet. If any freeholder thus appointed or notified shall refuse to serve he shall forfeit the sum of twenty dollars to be recovered in an action of debt before any Justice of the peace of Kent County in the name of the town of Dover and for the use of said town. If in any case the award of the freeholders shall be against the necessity of any such street, then no petition for any such street so condemned shall be entertained by the Alderman and commissioners then acting for one year. The act of the majority of the said freeholders shall be as good as the act of the whole in making any such award or assessment of damages.

Section VII. If on any such appeal the award shall be against the necessity of a street or the freeholders shall increase the damages of any appellant then the costs of the appeal shall be born by the town. But if the freeholders shall affirm the necessity of the street and shall not increase the damages of any appellants then the costs shall be paid by the appellants equally. The fee of the freeholders shall be one dollar in day.

Section VIII. The damages which may be assessed upon the occasion of open-

-ing any street shall be paid out of the town funds or duly levied before the property of any person in whose favor the damages are assessed shall be appropriated for the opening of any such street: and in case any such owner or owners in whose favor damages are assessed shall be a minor, nonresident, or shall refuse to receive or be incapable or any cause of receiving the same such damages may be deposited in the Farmers Bank of the State of Delaware at Dover to the credit of such person or persons and subject to his or their order, and such deposit shall operate as payment.

Section IX. The alderman and commissioners or a majority of them are hereby authorized and required to direct in writing the proprietor or proprietors of any house or land in the town of Dover, before or in front of which they may deem proper that a pavement or gutter or both should be made to lay a pavement of bricks or smooth stones or to make a gutter or lay a pavement and make a gutter of such length width or depth (if a gutter) as the said commissioners may specify in such direction, and if such proprietor or proprietors shall neglect or refuse for the space of three months after being directed as aforesaid to lay such pavement with good and sufficient curbs, or to cut and make such gutters, it shall and may be lawful for the said Alderman and Commissioners, and they or a majority of them are hereby authorized and required to cause such pavements and gutters to be made, and to recover the costs of making the

same by distress and sale of any goods and chattels, lands and tenements, belonging to such proprietor or proprietors within the limits of said town. If any pavement or gutter already made shall at any time by the said Alderman and Commissioners, or a majority of them, be deemed an insufficient pavement or gutter, they or a majority of them shall have power and are hereby required to direct in writing the proprietor, or proprietors thereof to make a sufficient one, and then neglect or refusal so to do, for the space of three months the said Alderman and Commissioners, or a majority of them shall cause the same to be done and recover the cost of doing the same in like manner as above described in case of new pavements. Notice to one coproprietor shall be notice to all: in case no proprietor shall live in the town, notice to the occupier of the said property shall be deemed a sufficient notice to the proprietor. The said Alderman and Commissioners or a majority of them may cause such sidewalks or portions thereof as are unpaved, and which they may not deem proper to be paved to be curbed and covered with gravel sand or dirt and to be put in good order for the convenience of the citizens of said town, at the proper cost and charge of the owners of the property. They may cause flag stones to be put down at the crossings of the streets whenever they may think necessary and the cost of doing the same shall be defrayed out of the funds of the town.

Section X. It shall be the duty of the Alderman and Commissioners of the town.

and of the Constable of Kent County residing in said town and of the town constables to suppress all riotous, turbulent, disorderly or noisy assemblages or gatherings of negroes, mulattoes, or other persons, in the streets, lanes or alleys of said town after night, or on the sabbath day, or at any other time or season whatever: and for this purpose it shall be the duty of any of said Constables upon the requisition of the Alderman or any one of said Commissioners and without further warrant forthwith to seize and arrest any such negro, mulattoes, or any other persons so offending and to carry them before the Alderman, whose duty it shall be to hear and determine the case and upon conviction before him said Alderman shall sentence any such negro, mulatto, or other person so convicted to pay a fine not exceeding five dollars and may commit the party to prison for a period not more than five days, or until said fine and costs be paid, or in the case of a negro, or mulatto, he may order said negro or mulatto to be whipped at the whipping post in said town by one of the constables designated by him for that purpose, with not less than ten, nor more than twenty lashes. It shall be the duty of said Alderman upon complaint made before him of any such riotous, turbulent or noisy assemblages as aforesaid, to issue his warrant to any one of the Constables, aforesaid commanding him to bring any such negro, mulatto or other person, so offending as aforesaid before him for trial. Any Constable arresting any such negro, mulatto or other person, offending as aforesaid after the hour of twelve o'clock at night, may take said negro,

mulatto, or other person and deliver him into the custody of the keeper of the jail of Kent County, to await a trial before the alderman as aforesaid. The fee to the alderman for the trial of any case under this section shall be fifty cents. The constable making the arrest and the keeper of the jail shall each also receive in case of commitment, whether by the alderman or by the constable fifty cents. In case of conviction the constable shall have an additional fee of fifty cents.

Section XI. The alderman, commissioners, and constables, shall have power, and authority to suppress, extinguish, and prevent all bon fires in any of the streets, lanes, alleys, or squares of the said town and to suppress and prevent the firing of guns or pistols, or the letting of fireworks, or the making and throwing of fireballs within the limits of said town: and the said Alderman and Commissioners may enact and publish ordinances with reasonable penalties for preventing the same, and punishing persons guilty of their violation. Any fine imposed by any such ordinance may be collected before said alderman or any justice of the peace in said town during his absence and in default of payment said alderman or justice may commit for any time not exceeding five days.

Section 12. The said alderman and commissioners shall annually appoint four town constables who with the constable of Kent County residing in said town shall constitute the town police.

Section 13. If any constable shall neglect or refuse to perform the duties above

enjoined by this act he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor in office and it shall be the duty of the Alderman and Commissioners to present him to the grand jury: and upon conviction he shall be fined in a sum not less than ten nor more than twenty dollars, and shall also forfeit his office.

Section 14. The said Alderman and Commissioners shall have authority to make such regulations and ordinances relative to the travelling over and upon the said streets and to the use thereof, and the standing or placing of carts, carriages, and other vehicles or obstructions in and upon any of said streets, lanes, alleys, or sidewalks as they shall deem proper to secure the free and uninterrupted enjoyment thereof. and if any person shall wilfully violate the regulations and ordinances of the Alderman and Commissioners in that behalf. Every person so offending shall forfeit and pay to the Alderman and Commissioners for the use of said town a sum not exceeding five dollars with costs at the suit of - said Alderman and Commissioners in the same manner as debts of that amount are by law recoverable.

Section 15. The said Alderman and Commissioners are hereby authorized and required to cause all obstructions and nuisances that may at any time be and exist within the limits of said town whether in the streets, lanes, alleys, or on the sidewalks or in any other place within the limits aforesaid, to be removed.

and abated. The said Alderman and commissioners or a majority of them may proceed either on their own view or upon complaint of any other citizen in writing stating the character of said nuisance or obstruction and when the same exist if the said Alderman and Commissioners or a majority of them either of themselves or upon such information and upon view shall determine that an obstruction or nuisance exists and ought to be removed they shall give notice in writing to the person causing the obstruction or nuisance or who is responsible for its existence or continuance to remove or abate the same and if such person shall refuse or neglect for the space of two days after such notice he shall forfeit and pay the sum of five dollars with costs to be recovered by the Alderman and Commissioners in the use of the town in the same manner as debts of that amount are recoverable and for every additional day the same shall remain unabated and unremoved shall forfeit the further sum of one dollar to be recovered with costs in the same manner.

Section 16. It shall and may be lawful for the said Alderman and Commissioners to use the jail of Kent County for the purpose of carrying into effect any Judgment or Sentence pronounced under the provisions of this act or for carrying into effect any ordinance or legislation adopted under the provisions of this Act

Section 17. The Alderman and Commissioners shall have authority to use the money in the treasury of said town for the improvement benefit

and ornament. Thus as they may seem advisable. In the general performance of their duties, the acts, doings, and determinations of a majority of the town committee consisting of said Alderman and commissioners shall be as good as the acts, doings and determinations of the whole. In case of a vacancy among the commissioners the survivors or others shall have the same power and authority as the whole.

Section 18. The said alderman and commissioners shall have power and authority and they are hereby required as soon as conveniently may be after the election of the commissioners on the first Monday of March next, and the first Monday in March in every year thereafter to appoint a treasurer, collector, and clerk, and also some suitable person, assessor, who shall be at the time of his appointment a freeholder in said town, to make a true, just and impartial valuation and assessment of all the real estate within said town and also an assessment of all the white male citizens residing in said town above the age of twenty one years, as well those owning as those not owning real estate within the limits of said town and also the personal property of such citizens subject to county assessment. And the said assessor shall make such assessment and return the same to the alderman and commissioners within six weeks next after the appointment of said assessor. The alderman and commissioners shall assess the real estate,

and person, and taxable personal property of the Assessor. The Alderman and Commissioners shall within five days next after receiving the said assessment list cause a full and complete transcript of said assessment list to be hung up at the post office in said town then to remain for the space of ten days thereafter for public information. And the said Alderman and Commissioners shall on the Monday next after the expiration of the said ten days hold a Court of appeal which shall continue open from one o'clock till four o'clock P. M. of said day, when they shall hear and determine appeals from the said assessment. Notice of the hanging up of the list and also at the same time, notice of the time and place of hearing appeals shall be given by publication in a newspaper published in said town, or by notices posted in at least six public places therein. The decision of the Alderman and Commissioners upon any appeal shall be final and conclusive. No Commissioner shall sit upon his own appeal, but the same shall be heard and determined by the others. The assessor in making the assessment shall include therein all dogs owned or kept within the said town, and the owner or keeper of any dog or dogs included in said assessment shall be liable to pay a yearly tax of fifty cents for each and every dog so owned or kept by him. After the valuation and assessment shall be examined and adjusted by the said Alderman and Commissioners, all taxes shall be levied, assessed and raised, on the real estate,

personal property, persons and dogs, thus valued and assessed, in just and equal proportions and rates. The assessor, immediately after his election and before entering upon the duties of his office shall be sworn or affirmed, by some judge or justice of the Peace, diligently, faithfully and impartially to perform the duties of his office to the best of his ability, knowledge and judgment, and a certificate thereof shall be made by the person administering the oath or affirmation in the record book of the commissioner and alderman containing the certificate of the election of the commissioner, assessor and treasurer aforesaid.

Section 19. The Alderman and Commissioners after having ascertained the sum necessary to be raised on the said town for the purposes of this act, (which said sum shall in no year exceed five hundred dollars, nor be less than two hundred dollars,) and after having apportioned the same on the assessment and valuation aforesaid shall yearly in the month of April or as soon thereafter as convenient furnish the treasurer of said town with a list containing the names of the taxables, as well the owners of real estate, as those not owning real estate, and opposite the names of each the amount of the real estate his poll and assessable personal property and also the number of dogs owned by each person, and the tax on the whole valuation and assessment and the rate per hundred dollars. The list shall be signed by the alder-

=Oran and commissioners or a majority of them. The Treasurer immediately after receiving the said list shall proceed to collect the taxes mentioned in the said list and in collecting the same shall have the same powers as are given by law to the collector of County rates and levies. The Treasurer before he enters on the duties of his office shall give bond with sufficient surety in the penal sum of one thousand dollars, to the town of Dover conditioned for the faithful discharge of the trust reposed in him and the payment over to his successor in office of all such sum of money as may remain in his hands upon the settlement of his accounts.

The said Treasurer shall pay all orders drawn on him by the said Commissioners or a majority of them, and shall settle his accounts with the said Commissioners annually in the month of February and as often and at such times as they or a majority of them shall require. The said treasurer, clerk and assessor shall each have a reasonable compensation to be determined by the Commissioners and alderman. Provided the compensation of the Treasurer as such shall not exceed three per cent, and that of the collector or of the Treasurer acting as collector shall not exceed ten per cent.

Section 20. The said alderman and commissioners shall have power in any year in which they may think proper to appoint a collector for said town, to collect the town tax levied by the said commissioners. The said collector before he enters upon the performance of his duties shall give bond in

the sum of one thousand dollars to the allduman and commissioners conditioned for the discharge of his duties and the payments to the treasurer of all monies collected by him and for the settlement of his accounts with the treasurer in the month of February and at such other times as the allduman and commissioners shall require. In case a collector be appointed the list which the allduman and commissioners by section 19. are required to deliver to the treasurer shall be delivered to the collector. The collector shall have the same powers in the collection of the taxes as are conferred on the treasurer by said section and shall receive reasonable compensation to be determined in like manner.

Section 21. The present commissioners, treasurer, clerk and assessor, shall remain in office until the election next after the passage of this act, and until successors be duly chosen.

Section 22. All acts and parts of acts so far in consistent with the provisions of the act, or which have been supplied by, and embraced in this act, are hereby repealed.

Section 23. This act shall be deemed and taken to be a public act, and shall be printed among the laws of this State.

Passed at Dover.
February 27. 1861.

John F. Williamson
Speaker of House of Reps
John Martin

Speaker of the Senate

An Act in relation
to the Town of Dover.

Copied

Passed February 27. 1861.



Dover

Railroad Station: Pennsylvania Station, W. end of Loockerman St., for Delmarva Division of Pennsylvania R.R.

Bus Station: 322 W. Loockerman St., for Greyhound, Trailways, Short Line, Red Star.

Airlines: Scheduled service at Dover Airforce Base, 3 m. S. of U.S. 113.

Accommodations: Three Hotels (one for Negroes); tourist homes; no seasonal rates, good motels.

Information Service: State Development Department, Legislative Hall; Highway Building.

Motion Picture Houses: Two.

Hunting and Fishing: Areas and facilities within short driving radius.

Annual Event: "Old Dover Day," first Saturday in May, when many houses are opened to the public for an admission, proceeds used for further beautification of the city.

DOVER (20 alt., 6,500 pop.), capital of Delaware and county seat of Kent, borders St. Jones Creek and Silver Lake at the approximate center of the State. It is the market and shipping point for the fruit, vegetables, and other products grown in the low, fertile orchard and farm lands that surround it. Approached through this cultivated land, Dover has the aspect of a manorial park where houses and other buildings have been set down among oaks and elms and flowering trees. The town extends north and south between the creek on the east and the railroad on the west. State Street and Governor's Avenue, the main north and south arteries, and the streets parallel to them are bordered chiefly by residences. They are crossed at right angles by other residence streets and by the main exclusively business thoroughfare, Loockerman Street, near the center of the town. Two short blocks south of Loockerman Street, State Street runs into and through the Green, an open square, planted in grass under tall elms, and surrounded by old houses and public buildings.

Though US 13 follows Governor's Avenue and US 113 is a bypass east of town, State Street remains a popular route. One of the oldest streets, the section near the Green, originally part of the King's Highway, is broad, heavily shaded by tall elms and oaks. Here are many of the larger homes, outlined against shrubbery and trees affording glimpses into celebrated back gardens.

The older industries of Dover lie by the railroad tracks to the west,



COURTHOUSE, DOVER

with the exception of the nationally-known Richardson and Robbins Plant in the center of town. Several newer plants are in the east-central section. Dover industries include canning and the manufacture of silk hosiery, mattresses, baskets, auto bodies, cheese, plumbing supplies, and rubber products.

The biennial convening of the General Assembly, when its fifty-two members converge from all parts of the State, scarcely disturbs the flow of Dover life, except for the dignified bustle that pervades the streets and the mall adjoining the State buildings.

A lively scene is usually presented by Loockerman and other streets of the business district, lined with stores, banks, and markets. Here, Dover residents and crowds of people from the countryside throng the streets, especially on Friday nights. Occasionally one sees a Mennonite from the colony near Dover, in his severe black garb, his stiff-rimmed black hat, and his long beard; or a group of "yellow people," the so-called Moors of Cheswold who are related to the Moors of Indian River in Sussex County (*see Tour 15*). In the total of 6,322 inhabitants (1950 census), there were only 131 of foreign parentage.

The Negroes, numbering 1,643, or over 26 percent of the population, are with few exceptions natives of Delaware, mostly descendants of Delaware slaves. A few are in the professional class, but most are laborers, porters, and domestics. Those who can afford it reside on N. Queen Street; the remainder live in small frame houses of two and four rooms in the city's outskirts.

When the territory about Dover became a county separate from the Whorekill (Sussex) in 1680, with the name of St. Jones County (now Kent), the site of the town was a part of an estate of 800 acres, called "Brothers' Portion," belonging to John and Richard Walker. The Indian rights had cost the Walkers three match-coats, twelve bottles of drink, and four handfuls of powder. John Walker had been one of the petitioners for a separate court district or county, and was one of the first to receive a grant of land from the newly-appointed court at its session, November 17, 1680.

William Penn, in 1683, gave orders that a county seat, named Dover, be laid out along the King's Road with a broad cross street from the river, on which a courthouse and prison were to be erected, and in 1694 representatives of the county bought from William Southbee, who had bought the land from Walker, 200 acres for the town. Meanwhile, the court which had at first met at the home of one of the justices, Edward Pack, at Town Point near the mouth of St. Jones Creek east of the site of Dover

(see *Tour 2A*), was being held at James Maxwell's tavern on land adjoining the site for the county seat.

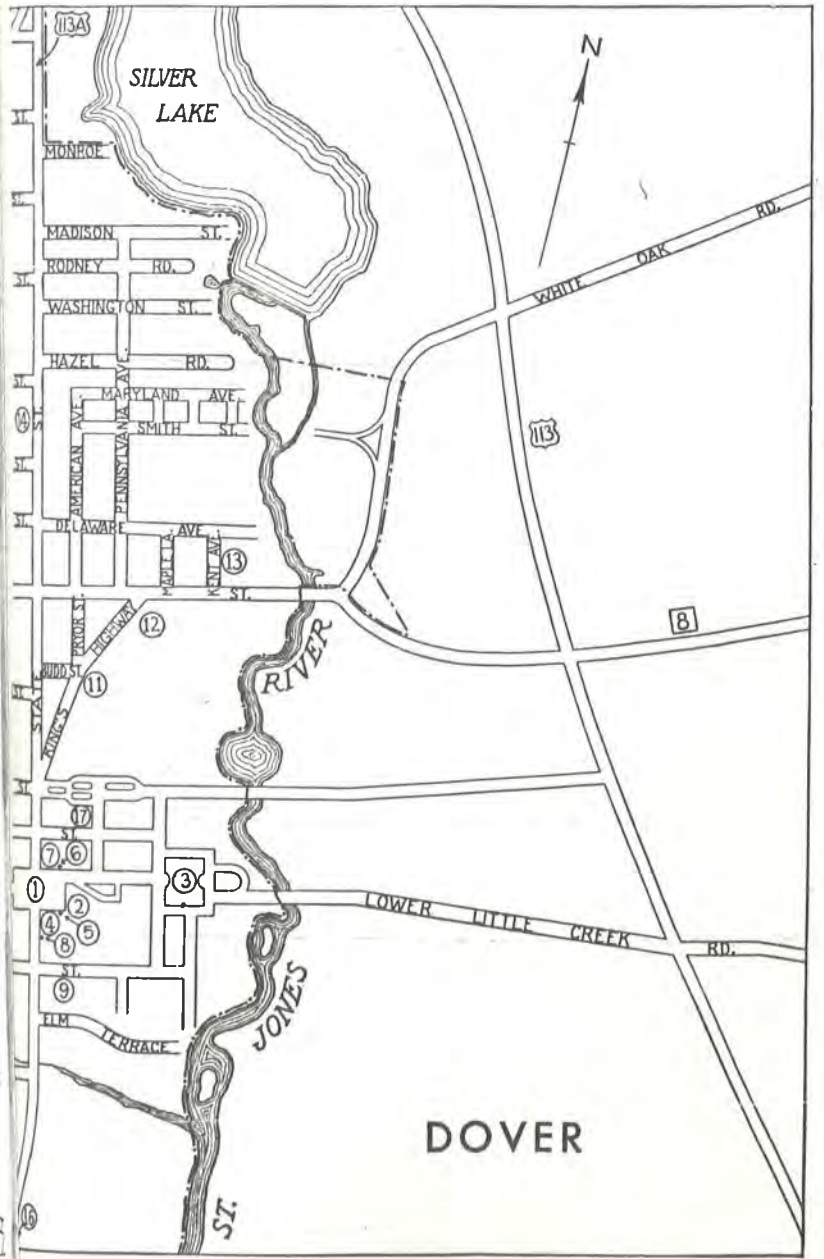
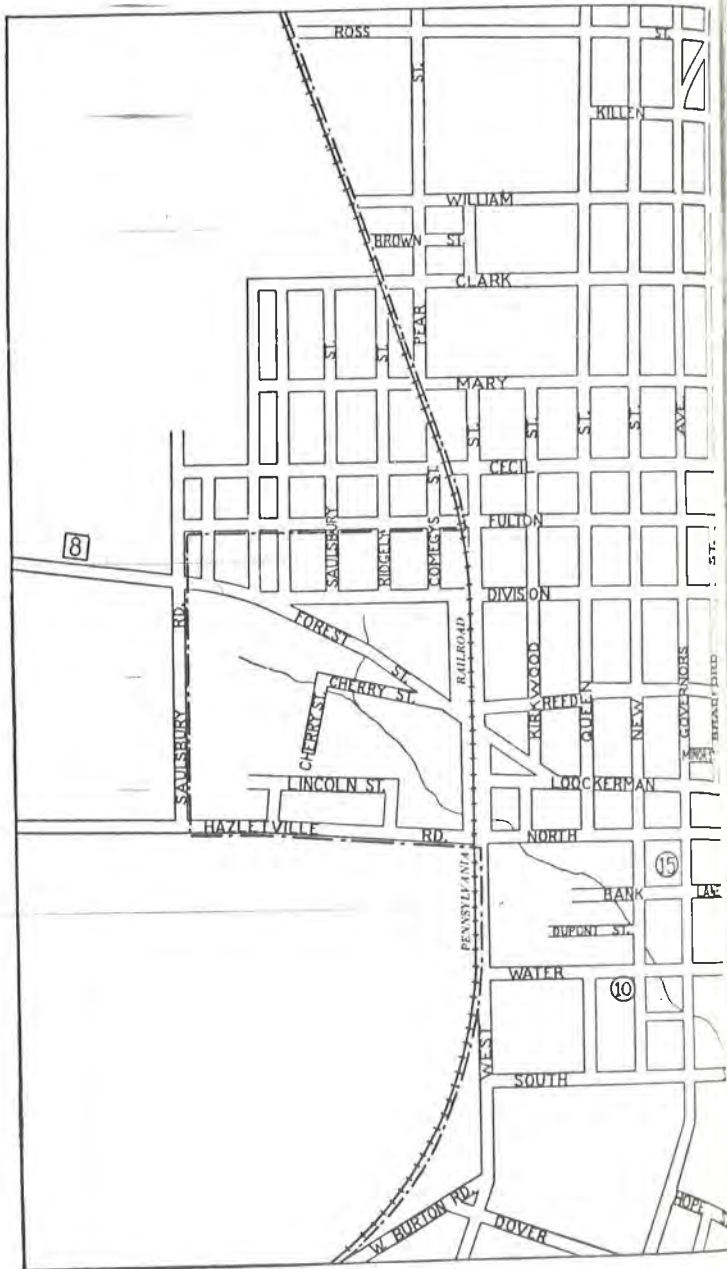
The courthouse and prison were built between 1694 and 1697 on the site of the present Kent County Courthouse. Nothing was done about laying out the town, however, until 1717, when the Delaware Assembly meeting at New Castle appointed three commissioners to lay out the town of Dover, the work to be finished on or before March 10, 1718. The commissioners so arranged the street from the creek running at right angles across the King's Highway that the courthouse stood in the spot appointed by Penn in the original plan, in the northwest corner of a courthouse square extending south and east.

For the town plot only about 125 of the 200 acres were used. Sixty-nine of the remaining 75 acres were bought by John Mifflin, who sold them to Nicholas Ridgely in 1748. This land is still owned by his descendants, and is known as "The Ridgely Farm."

The courthouse lot, including the courthouse and jail, was sold in 1722 to John Lindsay. A tavern, the King George, later occupied the site. A new courthouse was built on the site of the present State House probably about the time of the sale.

From its laying out in 1717 to the Revolution, Dover grew slowly. A schoolhouse known as the Academy was built on the present Governor's Avenue, south of Bank Alley, soon after the middle of the eighteenth century. As early as 1708, a wooden church existed near Dover in charge of a missionary of the English Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and soon afterwards a Presbyterian clergyman was in residence. A Quaker meeting was organized later.

In 1738, Samuel Dickinson, father of John Dickinson, Signer of the Constitution and closely identified with the progress of Dover, became one of the magistrates of the Kent County court, later bought a town site, and lived but a few miles away (see *Tour 2A*). On another large estate nearby, lived Caesar Rodney, who as a member from Delaware in the Continental Congress of 1776 was to save Delaware's vote for Independence. In June 1776, Rodney, who was Brigadier-General of Kent County militia as well as member of Congress, came home from the Congress at Philadelphia to help deal with a threatened Tory uprising. For the final vote on Independence, Rodney's vote was needed to break the tie between Thomas McKean "for" and George Read "opposed," so a messenger was dispatched to notify Rodney to return to Philadelphia. He was found at his farm, and rode the 86 miles back to Philadelphia without stop, except for change of horses. Upon news of the signing of the Declaration of Inde-



pendence, patriots took the portrait of King George III from the walls of the Courthouse and burned it at a celebration on the Green.

At this period Louis Philippe, Comte de Ségur, kinsman of Lafayette, having come with the French squadron to Delaware Bay, made his overland way to the north. In his *Memoirs and Recollections*, he writes under the date of September 11-12, 1778:

I set out early in the morning for Philadelphia, and I could therefore only see Dover in passing. It was the first American town to which fortune had conducted me. Its appearance struck me; it was surrounded with thick woods because there, as in other parts of the thirteen States, the population was still scattered over an immense territory, a small portion of which was cultivated.

All the houses in Dover offered a simple but elegant appearance. They were built of wood and painted with different colors. This variety in their aspect, the neatness which distinguished them, the bright and polished knockers of the doors, seemed all to announce the order and activity, the intelligence and prosperity of the inhabitants.

Dover became the capital of the State on May 12, 1777, the seat of government being transferred from New Castle. Legislative sessions were held in the Kent County Courthouse, which between 1772 and 1776 had been enlarged and rebuilt at a cost of £800 or more.

At Dover on December 7, 1787, a convention of thirty delegates ratified the United States Constitution adopted in Philadelphia on September 17. This unanimous action brought Delaware the honor of being the first State in the Union.

Little change came in the picture of Dover during the first quarter of the nineteenth century, except that more houses, chiefly of brick, were built at a distance from the Green. Fears were expressed for the safety of the capital when the British fleet cruised in Delaware Bay during the War of 1812, but the conflict came no closer than Lewes.

KEY TO DOVER MAP

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. The Green | 9. Christ Church |
| 2. State House | 10. Kent County Jail |
| 3. Legislative Hall | 11. Richardson and Robbins Plant |
| 3a. Hall of Records | 12. Woodburn |
| 3b. Highway Building— | 13. Elizabeth W. Murphey School |
| 4. Kent County Courthouse | 14. Wesley Collegiate Institute |
| 5. No. 49, The Green | 15-16. Old Presbyterian Church
now State museum |
| 6. Ridgely House | 17. Post Office Building |
| 7. Parke Building | 18. City Hall |
| 8. Lookerman House | |

At the approach of the Civil War, Dover was the scene of active controversy between the majority for the Union and the minority whose sympathies were with the South. In 1862, Union troops disarmed some young Secessionists in the town and for a time kept the leaders under guard in the State House.

In 1873, the Courthouse containing the legislative hall and offices was sold to the State, and next year a new County Courthouse was erected on Penn's original site where the Courthouse of the 1690's and later King George Tavern stood.

Beginning in 1889, Dover was the scene of a hard-fought political battle over the attempt of the late John Edward Addicks of Boston and Philadelphia to win a seat in the United States Senate from Delaware. Until his final defeat in 1906, the biennial sessions of the General Assembly degenerated into sensational deadlocks, with vacancies in the Senate. The cry was "Addicks or Nobody" on one side; "Nobody," on the other.

In the twentieth century, the expansion of Dover has been notable. Population has doubled since 1920. Industry developed, and the business of government brought more and more residents to the town and also finer public buildings. One of the most important activities of the State government in Dover is the granting of corporation charters and the collection of fees and franchise taxes. About one-fifth of all the active United States corporations listed in Moody's *Manual* have been chartered in Dover (*see Government*).

When the Du Pont Boulevard supplemented the Delaware Railroad, the capital came within an hour of Wilmington. To celebrate the completion of this modern highway, an important ceremony took place on the Green in 1924. Coleman du Pont presented the state-long road to the State, handing over the deed to the Governor. A map of Delaware in silver with the highway traced in gold was presented by citizens to Mr. du Pont.

In 1929, Dover adopted a modified form of city-manager government under a charter changing the corporate name from "The Town of Dover" to "The City of Dover." The mayor and council serve without salary. One mayor served fifteen successive terms and the town actually had only three mayors in 21 years. The city-owned electric generating plant is next to the largest on the Delmarva Peninsula, and, together with the efficient municipal government, has been a factor in the establishment of the present low city tax rate. The water supply and distribution system is also publicly owned, and in the summer of 1936, an incinerator and sewage disposal plant, sufficient to meet the needs of a population of 7,000, was completed.

Serving the needs of Dover and intended as an emergency hospital for middle Delaware, the Kent County General Hospital, west side of South State Street, near the city line, is thoroughly modern and well equipped and staffed. It was opened in October 1927, after a spirited campaign in which nearly everyone in Kent County participated, and represents an investment, including equipment, in 1953 of \$771,700. Its medical staff includes all the physicians of the vicinity, and its capacity is about 96 beds. A property adjoining is used as a nurses' home. Support for this hospital comes in part from the General Assembly and the Kent County Levy Court, and in part from gifts and payment of fees by patients.

A 35-acre park on both sides of the St. Jones River from the mill dam to the wharf near the Legislative Hall was originally laid out and constructed by the Works Progress Administration. Adjacent is the new section laid out by the city for the new public buildings, of which the Post Office, Legislative Hall, Hall of Records, and Highway Building are a part. The St. Jones River has been widened to form a beautiful lake.

Among other parks in Dover at the present time is Richardson Park in the northwestern section of the city. This recreation ground, while privately maintained by the Richardson family, is open to the general public. Silver Lake at the north end of State Street is popular for fishing, boating, and outboard motor races held in the summer, and ice skating during the rare freezing weather.

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. **THE GREEN**, junction of State St. and Bank Lane, Dover's tree-shaded public square, is surrounded by office buildings, law and corporation offices, and private residences. Laid out in 1717 in accordance with William Penn's 1683 order, in the Green were held early fairs and markets including slave markets. Here during the Revolution, the First Delaware Regiment was mustered and marched to join Washington's army. Because much of the history of the State has centered about this quiet spot, fact and legend have peopled it with notables for 250 years.

Here took place, in 1745, the laying of the restless ghost of Chief Justice Samuel Chew by a public ceremony. Chew, born in 1693, was appointed Chief Justice of the Three Lower Counties in 1741, and retained that office until his death in 1744. Late one night a rustic on his way home over the Green was astonished to see a shadowy figure under a popular tree. Upon drawing nearer, he recognized it as the late Chief Justice, standing in his favorite attitude, head bowed in deep meditation. By

DOVER

(Ordered laid out in 1683)

DOVER GREEN, laid out by order of William Penn in 1717 at which time Dover contained about 300 souls. Here old markets and fairs were held; here the Declaration of Independence was read to the assembled towns-people, who burned King George in effigy. Here the first Delaware regiment was mustered in the Revolution.

STATE HOUSE. East side of The Green, oldest State House in the United States still in use. Built in 1722 for the Court House of Kent County. It also housed the Assemblies at Dover until 1775. It became the State House of Delaware in 1777 when Dover was made the capital and was remodelled 1788-91. In this building the Federal Constitution was ratified by the State of Delaware, December 7, 1787. Delaware was the first State to ratify.

COURT HOUSE. South side of the Green, on the site of the old Court House built in 1699. In 1722 converted into the famous Inn, the King George Tavern. On the outbreak of the Revolution this Inn changed its name to the George Tavern. Here, Thomas McKean's mounted messenger delivered to Caesar Rodney the letter recalling him so urgently to the Continental Congress and here, after an hours rest, he took horse and continued his memorable ride to Philadelphia in season to cast his vote for Independence. On the north side of the Green stood the French Battell Tavern, where the Capitol Hotel now stands. Here the Assembly held a banquet in honor of the birth of the Dauphin of France in 1782. On the north west side of the Green stood the Harris Tavern on site of the present Martin House. It was later called Steamboat Hotel.

Where the library wing of the State House now stands was the fine

old mansion built in 1730 and soon after, the home of Samuel Chew. Later Judge Jas. Sykes, a member of the first Congress, resided here. In 1824, John M. Clayton became the owner and resided here until 1842. The house had a famous garden, ruthlessly destroyed after it became the property of the State.

RIDGELY HOUSE. On the northeast side of the Green. The oldest house on the Green and the only one which has preserved its original form. Built in 1728 and since 1760, circa, residence of the Ridgely family. Dr. Charles Ridgely, member of the Colonial Assembly, and of the Convention which framed the Constitution lived here in Revolutionary days and was succeeded by U. S. Senator Henry M. Ridgely. Present occupant is Henry Ridgely, great-grandson of Charles. The office was occupied by the Ridgelys, except for a short period when John M. Clayton resided here, and for 40 years after the death of Henry M. Ridgely, occupied by Chief Justice Comegys.

Northwest Corner of the Green, near Harris Tavern, was the home of John Vining, called the Patrick Henry of Delaware, also of Mary Vining, the Revolutionary beauty. Adjoining the Vining home on the west was the residence of Chancellor William Killen.

West side of Green, north of Bank Lane, three-story brick mansion. First deed 1739. Between 1744-1813, owned successively by John Banning, Caesar Rodney, Dr. James Tilton and the Claytons. Present owner, Mrs. Beniah Watson.

South of Bank Lane, was the home of Richard Bassett, United States Senator, Governor of Delaware, etc. Remodeled for Farmers Bank in 1807, now an office building.

No. 36, The Green, was built in 1791-92 by John Fisher. In 1816 United States District Judge. In 1854 the house was partially reconstructed by Joseph P. Comegys. From 1837 until his death in 1893, the residence of Joseph P. Comegys, U. S. Senator and Chief Justice of Delaware. His daughter, Miss Harriett Comegys, who was Regent of the Mt. Vernon Society resided in this house until her death.

KING STREET, old King's Highway. "Woodburne". Fine old Hilliard House. Built 1790, circa. Reputation for hospitality, ghosts and beautifully carved wood work. Vide "Entailed Hat," G. A. Townsend.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. On Meeting House Square, 1714. Present Church erected in 1791. Interesting tombs in Church yard; Col. John Haslet, and other Revolutionary heroes, and John M. Clayton, Secretary of State of the United States.

CHRIST CHURCH-EPISCOPAL. First Church 1708. Present Church begun on Church Square 1734. Restorations made in 1913-16. Silver Chalice and Paten of 1766. Bible of 1767.

Old tombs in Church yard:

Capt. William Phillips, born 1690, died 1778.
Capt. Thomas Benson, born----, died 1749.
Nicholas Ridgely, born 1694, died 1755.
Thomas Parke, born 1721, died 1766.
Benjamin Vining, born----, died 1785.
Caesar Rodney, born 1728, died 1784.

South State Street and Church Square owned by Mrs. A. H. Culbreth, built by Nicholas Lockerman, for his son Vincent, in 1746. Contains much fine paneling and wood carving. Opposite Lockerman house, small brick building, the residence in Revolutionary days, of King Dougall.

Christ Church Rectory, west side of State Street below Church Lane, now Water Street. Used as dwelling and shop shortly after Revolution. Old Academy, east side of State Street, overlooking fields. During Revolution, the home of John Banning, State Treasurer.

VICINITY OF DOVER.

Church Lane, or Water Street, ends at the gate of Eden Hill Farm, the home place of the Ridgely family. The residence in 1740 of Judge Nicholas Ridgely and Mary Vining, his wife. Birthplace of Dr. Charles Ridgely and the adopted home of Caesar Rodney, Mr. Ridgely's ward. Residence of Nicholas Ridgely, Chancellor of Delaware, until his death in 1830. Present owner, Henry Ridgely.

PLEASANTON ABBEY. North of Silver Lake, on Leipzig Road, first turn to right into Persimmon Tree Lane, a mile further, to rear entrance. Built by Henry Stevens, where he resided during Revolution. An ardent Tory. He concealed British soldiers in his house upon several occasions. Contains handsome paneling.

CHIPPING NORTON, the County seat of Charles Marim, is opposite Pleasanton Abbey.

Charles Marim, son of John, was a lawyer of unusual ability. From 1837 to 1841, he was Delaware's Secretary of State.

CHERBOURG. Three miles east of Dover on Little Creek Road. Deeded to John Marim in 1715. Inherited by his grandson, John Marim, a lieutenant in Col. Patterson's regiment of Dela. troops, Revolutionary War. Home of Cornelius P. Comegys, Lieutenant Colonel in the War of 1812, Governor of Delaware 1837 to 1841. Present owner Harry McDaniel.

WHEEL OF FORTUNE. One mile northwest of Chipping Norton. Brick, with paneled drawing room, pre-Revolutionary. For many years in the ^{feet and} Nicholson families. Present owner James H. Hughes.

Take road from Pleasanton Abbey east to Cowgill's Corner. Ancient brick school house in octagon shape. First road to right Quaker Lane to Friends Meeting House, built 1802. Follow Lane to Little Creek, pass farm house, property of Mifflin family for three generations and old Wilson family seat, with very fine cedar lane. Brick mansion. Quaint fishing village of Little Creek half a mile beyond.

MAPLE WOOD FARM. Close by Dover Water Works; Brick colonial house of quaint pattern, faced with wood. For many generations owned by Cowgill family. Present owner D. Mifflin Wilson.

Four miles beyond Water Works, lies a group of old farms with brick dwellings of colonial days, for more than a century the residence of members of the Society of Friends, notably the Cowgill family; known as CHERRY VALLEY, WILLING BROOK, and the PRICE FARM.

BAY ROAD. Leave Green North of State House; one mile east road turns south. Four miles beyond on right, Holcomb farm, now owned by Mr. Charles Postles of Dover. Old house, built in 1770-80. Elaborate paneling. One mile beyond on left, Wharton farm, once owned by Brinklee family, Colonial mansion.

Three miles further on right, old residence of Samuel Dickinson, main building 45 feet, and with two wings makes a front of about 80 feet. Originally called "Kingston-upon-Hull". Slave burying ground, where 400 are said to be interred. Land was part of Logan tract, containing

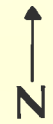
one thousand acres and nine or ten brick dwellings, most of which are of generous size and date back to early days. The most notable on the tract is Towne Point, on the St. Jones Creek, with view of Creek and Bay. Here the first Courts in Kent County were held. In 1688 W. Darrell, was in possession and kept a noted public house and a ferry. The house is approached through a mile long lane of maples.

BYEFIELD. Opposite entrance to the Dickinson farm, a road forks to Northeast; bear to left, one mile, to Caesar Rodney House, Byefield, a tract of nine hundred acres, taken up in 1680 and inherited by Caesar Rodney from his grandfather, William. This was the home to which he returned after making his famous ride. Long low building with dominating dormers.

DOWNTOWN DOVER

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3 The Plaza
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"Full service commercial bank servicing the Dover area since 1865"
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Style Hospitality and First Class Accommoda-
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Husky & Slim"*

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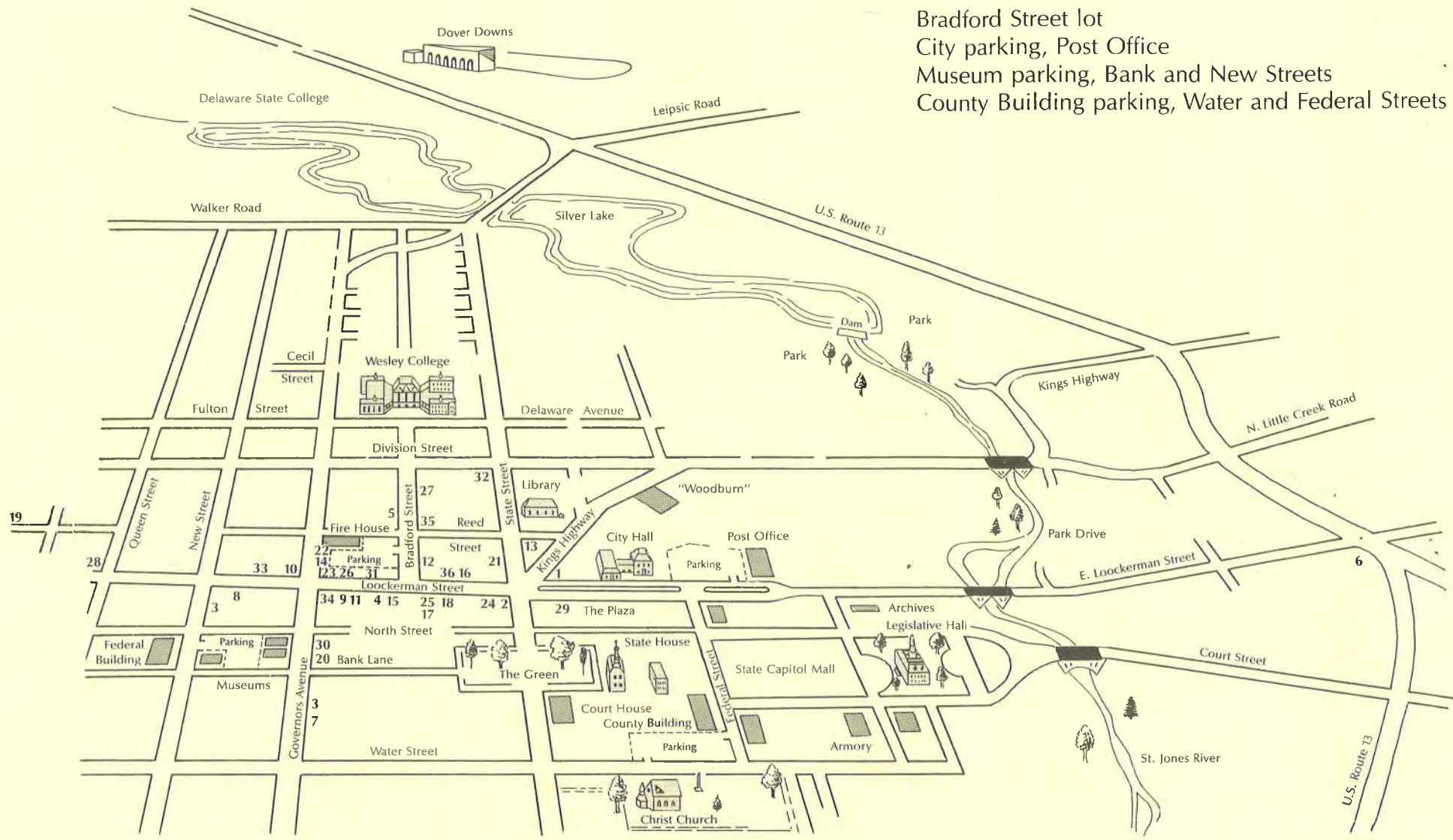
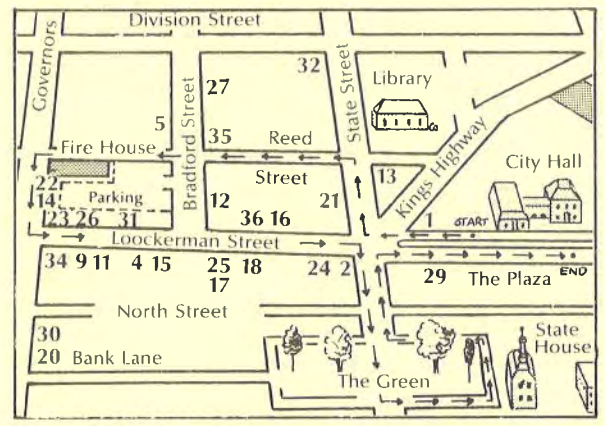


DOWNTOWN PARKING

- Bradford Street lot
- City parking, Post Office
- Museum parking, Bank and New Streets
- County Building parking, Water and Federal Streets

Central Dover Kent County · Delaware©

A ONE MILE WALK IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN DOVER



Thank you for patronizing Downtown Dover and the members of the Central Dover Business Association.

DOVER

DELAWARE

The Capital City of the First State



Kent County Court House

Issued by
DOVER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Dover, Delaware

FOREWORD

This is a booklet of "brass tacks" information for busy executives. It is condensed to give only the high spots and beauty in and around the City of Dover; also, the manufacturing and distributing opportunities which will enable you to visualize the actual trade conditions in this rich and growing country. Opportunities here for particular types of industry will be outlined in detail in an exhaustive survey to executives who make inquiry to the Chamber of Commerce. Dover invites you to come and see for yourself. You will receive a cordial welcome from people, hospitable by nature and training.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Dover, the capital of the State of Delaware, is a busy legislative and industrial center whose history dates back to 1683, when William Penn ordered the town laid out. It is located half-way between the north and south boundaries of the State. In 1699, according to history, permission was received from Philadelphia for the formal erection of the town to be called Dover. In that year a court house was erected on the ground now occupied by the Kent County Court House. In 1717 the Dover Green was laid out, and which, even until today, remains practically unchanged. In 1722 the old court house was abandoned and converted into the Old King George Tavern, and the new court house, located on the site of the present court house, was built. Although alterations and additions have been made to this old building, it remains practically the same as it was more than two hundred years ago, and is today the oldest state house in the country. Its walls are adorned with rare paintings of Delaware's famous sons and the principal epochs of Delaware's history.

There are many other old colonial buildings in Dover, in addition to the State House. The Ridgely home, built in 1728; the Loockerman House, built in 1746; the old home of Caesar Rodney, still in a good state of preservation; are all monuments to the builders of the colonial period.

GOVERNMENT

Dover operates under a modified City Manager form of government. The legislative functions are vested in a Mayor and Council, who serve without pay, while the administrative details are under the direction of a paid City Manager. Under this plan, the City is managed efficiently and economically without political disturbance. The City is in splendid financial condition. Its bonded indebtedness carries a low interest charge, and is in the form of serial bonds, a portion of which has to be paid each year. The tax rate is \$1.00 per \$100 and the assessment of real estate is based on one-half valuation.

Dover owns and operates the utilities of the city. The water and electric light departments are under the Mayor and Council, and are supervised by the City Manager. The electric plant is a modern steam turbo-generating plant and has a total capacity of 5,000 kilowatts. The rates compare favorably with those of the largest privately owned utilities, and the service is dependable.

The water supply comes from artesian wells and is ample under all conditions. The water is pure and wholesome, and no treatment is necessary.

The city is sewered completely and the sewage disposed of in a modern treatment plant.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Dover is a trading center for approximately 30,000. Its importance in this respect is evidenced by the presence of a number of nationally operated chain stores and flourishing independent merchants. The stores are modern and carry complete stocks of merchandise. Dover is an important center in the milk industry of the State. It is the home of two nationally known industries: Richardson & Robbins Company, the largest packer of poultry products in the world, and the International Latex Corporation, which enjoys a wide distribution of "latex" products, in addition to several smaller plants. Two modern and well equipped cold storage warehouses provide facilities

for the fruit growers of the surrounding territory, and also for the freezing of fruits and vegetables. The industrial life of the community is stable as wages are comparatively high and labor troubles unknown.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Dover boasts of three splendid banks, well managed and sound financially. The First National Bank is a National Bank and the Farmers Bank and Delaware Trust Company operate under State charters. Deposits in the banks, according to the report of the Delaware State Banking Commission, amount to over 32 million dollars. The surplus, undivided profits and reserves total over three and one-half million dollars, and the total assets exceed \$35,000,000.

Dover also has two building and loan associations, which enjoy a long record of uninterrupted progress.

CHURCHES

In the development of Dover as a thriving city of business and industry, the spiritual side of the community has not been overlooked. Dover is the city of many churches, some of them having unusually beautiful and commodious edifices. They are presided over by well-informed and forceful ministers, who are actively engaged in promoting every good enterprise that looks to the betterment of the city.

SCHOOLS

A modern combined Grade and High School takes care of the educational needs of the community. The school offers, in addition to the academic course, courses in agriculture, manual training, art, music, and an up-to-date business course. It possesses ample facilities for athletic activities, and provisions are made for the development of the body as well as the mind of the student. Social activities of the school and student body are numerous.

The educational needs of the colored population are taken care of by the Booker T. Washington

School, one of the finest schools for colored children in the country.

Wesley Junior College, the only institution of its kind on the Eastern Shore, is also located in Dover.

Situated on the outskirts of the city, is the State College for Colored Students.

An hour's ride from Dover, at Newark, is the University of Delaware, a co-educational institution. This university is rated among the best in the country.

INSTITUTIONS

The Kent General Hospital, a community enterprise containing 50 beds, is one of the best equipped hospitals in lower Delaware. It serves not only Dover, but the entire county as well, and is partly maintained by income from endowments and public subscriptions.

The Elizabeth W. Murphey School, Inc., is a unique institution, located here and given to the community by the late Sanford S. Murphey. It is for the use, without charge, of children whose parents are not able to give them proper advantages, and its policy is to endeavor to give its children every parental advantage, even to the extent of a college education. The school is heavily endowed and the board of directors is composed of the leading citizens of the community. No indigent or unfortunate family of the county, therefore, need fear for the welfare of its children.

AGRICULTURAL

Dover is situated in the center of a fertile agricultural section of the State, where the land is practically level, and the soil is of a sandy loam character which is very responsive to modern farming practices for growing all kinds of crops.

Throughout the area surrounding Dover are numerous commercial apple and peach orchards and grape vineyards, in addition to the many farms that are adapted to the growing of grain crops and tomatoes. This section also offers ex-

RECREATION

Dover's hotels, restaurants, and tea-houses are noted for serving the famous Eastern Shore dishes.

The city has two theatres. The Capitol Theatre is the last word in modern theatre construction. The Temple Theatre, a smaller moving picture house, is under the same management.

The Mapledale Country Club, located about one mile west of Dover, has proven to be quite a factor in the social life of the community. The attractive club house and fine golf course is a center of attraction.

Silver Lake, located near the city, is a famous fishing place, well stocked with bass and other fresh-water fish. Little Creek and Bowers Beach, to the east, and on the Delaware Bay, are well known to the people of Delaware and other states, who indulge in fishing and crabbing. Oysters are in abundance at these resorts, and the towns have achieved great fame because of the fishing and oyster industries.

The Bays and Inlets near Dover are the home of the Canvas-back Ducks and the stopping places of Mallard, Blue and Green-winged Teal and other ducks. Quail and rabbits are numerous, and fox hunting and coon hunting are favorite sports.

TRANSPORTATION

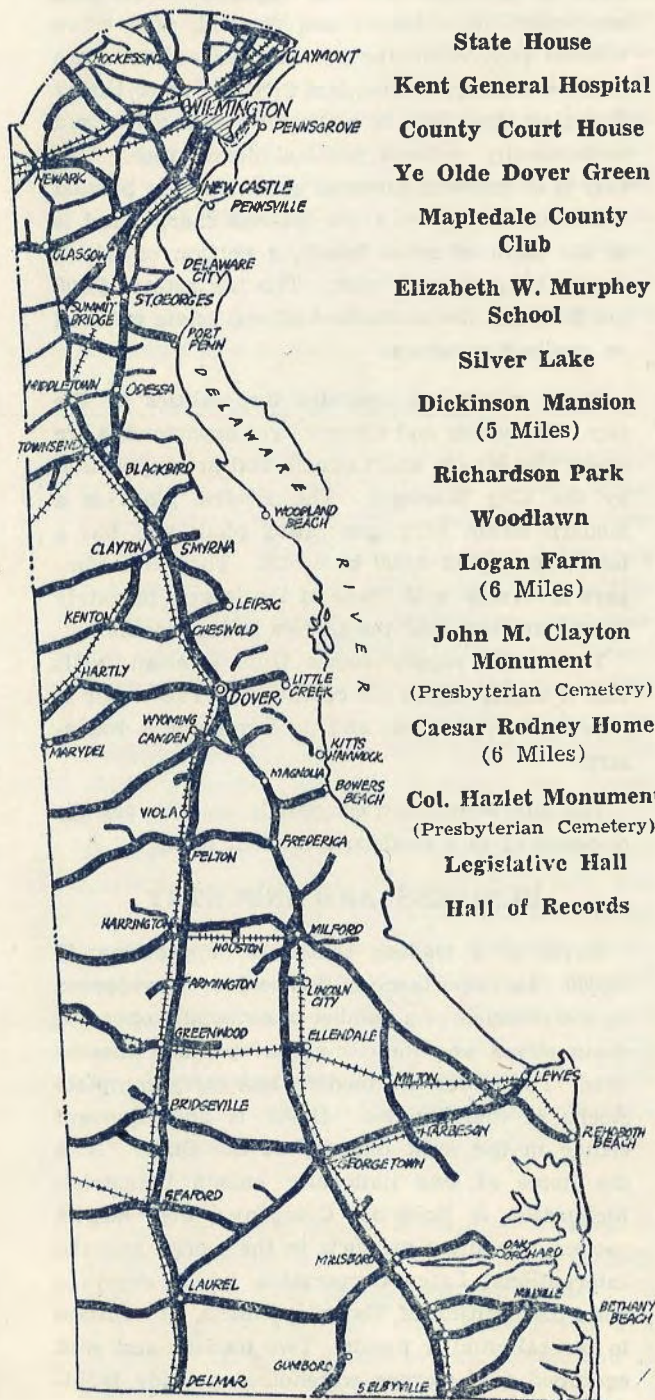
Dover is on the main line of the Delaware Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, with splendid passenger and freight service. Several bus lines supplement this service, operating between Wilmington and all points south.

Daily motor truck freight service is also available, covering practically the entire Peninsula, and making overnight deliveries as far north as New York City.

The City is on the most direct route connecting the North Atlantic States with Florida and the South. It is connected in all directions with a network of paved highways, and is within twenty-four hours of one-half of the population of the United States.

There are three Airports available for light planes within walking distance of the city limits.

POINTS OF INTEREST



- State House
- Kent General Hospital
- County Court House
- Ye Olde Dover Green
- Mapledale County Club
- Elizabeth W. Murphey School
- Silver Lake
- Dickinson Mansion (5 Miles)
- Richardson Park
- Woodlawn
- Logan Farm (6 Miles)
- John M. Clayton Monument (Presbyterian Cemetery)
- Caesar Rodney Home (6 Miles)
- Col. Hazlet Monument (Presbyterian Cemetery)
- Legislative Hall
- Hall of Records

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DOVER DELAWARE

DOVER DELAWARE



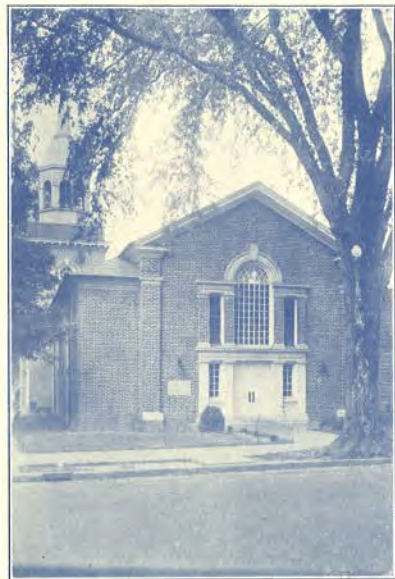
The Capital City of the First State The Capital City of the First State



Residence Dr. Cahall Sipple Facing Silver Lake, Dover



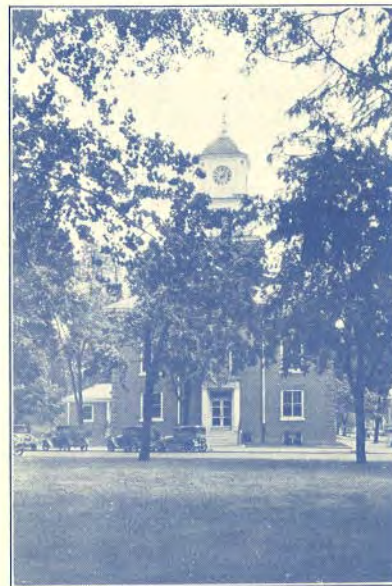
State St. Looking South, Dover



Presbyterian Church, Dover

foreword

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Kent County Court House, Dover



Residence of Dr. Frank Hall, Dover



Park and Silver Lake, Dover

JAN 26 1944

DOVER

The Capital City of the First State
DELAWARE

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with rare paintings of Delaware's famous sons and the principal epochs of Delaware's History. The Hall of Records in which are collected all the important historical documents of the State from the time of its founding is open to visitors each week day.

There are many other old colonial buildings in Dover besides the State House. The Ridgely home built in 1728, the Lockerman House, built 1746, the old home of Caesar Rodney still in a good state of preservation, all monuments to the builders of the colonial period. In the cemeteries of Dover are to be found the graves of many of Delaware's illustrious sons, including Caesar Rodney, signer of the Declaration of Independence, John M. Clayton, the Secretary of State of the Nation, and Col. John Hazlet, a famous hero of the Revolutionary War. The traditions of the old Delaware families, the Rodneys; the Bayards, the Saulsburys, the Ridgelys, the Claytons and the McKeanes and many others are still heard in and about the capital.



South Part of Silver Lake, Dover

DOVER, DELAWARE

CLIMATE

THE climate of Dover and the surrounding territory is quite similar to that of the entire Delmarva Peninsula, and when considered "all the year around" is one of the most delightful in the United States.

The average summer temperature is about 76°, and the average temperature during the coldest part of our winter is about 34°. This is due to the tempering influences of nearby bodies of water and to its proximity to the warm Gulf Stream. The annual rainfall averages 43 inches, and its distribution throughout the year is almost ideal. The average annual snowfall is small, and, as a rule, it does not remain on the ground for any great length of time. The normal growing season is approximately 187 days in length, as the average date of the last killing frost in the spring is April 20, and that of the first heavy frost in the fall is October 24. There are never any cyclones, floods, blizzards or earthquakes.



First National Bank, Dover



Richardson & Robbins Plant, Dover, Del.



New Warehouse of J. A. Frear & Sons, Dover



Office and First Warehouse of J. A. Frear & Sons, Dover

The Capital City of the First State

TRANSPORTATION

DOVER is on the main line of the Delaware Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and on a paved State Highway. There are from 75 to 100 trains daily, 14 of them being passenger, and bus service extends as far north as Wilmington and south to the ocean at Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, and to Salisbury, Maryland.

Daily motor truck freight service is also available covering practically the entire Peninsula.

The city is on the most direct and "shortest-by-a-day" all improved route connecting the North Atlantic States with the Southland. In fact it is connected in all directions with a network of improved highways and is within twenty-four hours of one-half the population of the United States. Its situation on the St. Jones River makes it accessible by pleasure craft to the Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean.

GOVERNMENT

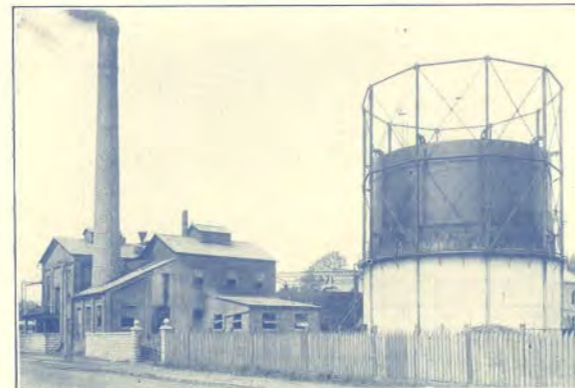
DOVER operates under a modified form of City Manager government. The legislative



Pennsylvania R. R. Station, Dover



Service Ice and Cold Storage Plant, Dover



Plant of Dover Gas Light Co.

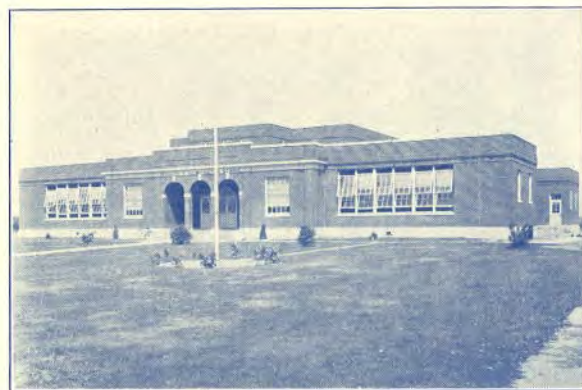


East Coast Ice & Storage, Inc.

DOVER, DELAWARE



New Building at Colored College, Dover



School for Colored, Dover

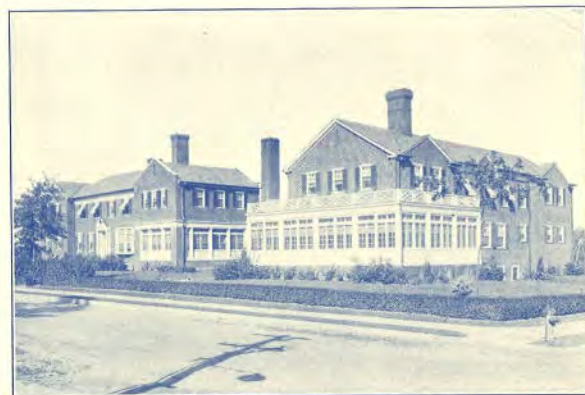


Colored College Campus, North of Dover

branch is composed of the Mayor and Council who serve without salary, while the Administrative branch is under a paid City Manager.

Dover owns and operates her own utilities. The electric plant is modern in every detail. Equipped with water-tube boilers, force draft underfeed stokers and automatic feedwater regulation, enables the generation of steam at the highest efficiency. The generating room is equipped with the most modern turbo-generators, surface condensers and automatic voltage regulation. Current is generated at 2300 volts and distributed at that voltage over the entire city and surrounding country. It is sold at a top rate of 10 cents with power as low as two cents per K. W. H. The service is un failing, as the power-house is in duplicate, giving a source of reliable supply.

The water works is in conjunction with the electric plant. Water is from deep wells, furnishing an un failing supply of 100% pure water. Dover has twenty-seven miles of pipe lines, ranging from 14" to



Cottages, Elizabeth W. Murphey School, Dover

The Capital City of the First State

4", with a 100,000 gal. elevated tank for reserve. Practically 100% of her residences are connected to the water system. Ample fire hydrants are distributed over the entire city, and the best of fire protection therefore exists.

The streets of Dover are better lighted than any city of its size on the Eastern Shore. Three of the streets are entirely illuminated with ornamental white-way lighting standards and no poles or wires are on these streets. Other streets are partly illuminated in this way, while all streets are well lighted.

Over fourteen miles of hard surfaced streets are now in use. The street and sewer department is equipped with power sweepers and all modern apparatus for maintaining these streets and sewers in the best of condition. You will always find the streets clean and beautifully shaded. The equipment is entirely motorized and all trash, garbage, ashes, etc., are hauled free weekly. The entire city is supplied with both storm and sanitary sewers having pipes as large as 48" in diameter.



Bank of Delaware Trust Co., Dover



People's Christian Church, Dover



Elizabeth W. Murphey School Administration and Infirmary



Post Office, Dover



Dover Public School

SCHOOLS

A NEW combined Grade and High School has recently been built in Dover at a cost of approximately \$250,000. The school offers courses in all branches usually taught in the best High Schools. It has good athletic equipment and takes a real interest in the development of the body as well as the mind of the student. Social activities of the school and student body are numerous and on a high plane.

The Wesley Collegiate Institute, a preparatory school is located in the heart of the city and is rated as one of the best schools of its type in the State.

Situated on the outskirts of the city is the State College for Colored Students as well as the Booker T. Washington School, a separate public school for colored children.

About an hour's ride from Dover, at Newark, is the University of Delaware, which is co-educational. This is a State Institution, rated among the best in the country and free to Delaware students.



St. Paul's M. E. Church, Dover

First Baptist Church, Dover



Hotel Richardson, Dover

Wesley M. E. Church, Dover



Catholic Church, Dover

Hotel Bayard, Dover



M. P. Church, Dover

CHURCHES

IN THE development of Dover as a thriving city of business and industry, the spiritual side of the community life has not been overlooked. Dover is a city of many churches, some of them having unusually beautiful and commodious edifices. They are presided over by well-informed and forceful ministers who are actively engaged in promoting every good enterprise that looks to the betterment of the city.

INSTITUTIONS

THE new Kent General Hospital, a community enterprise, containing 35 rooms is one of the best equipped hospitals in lower Delaware. It serves not only Dover but the entire county as well, and is partly maintained by income from endowments and public subscriptions.

The Elizabeth W. Murphey School, Inc., is a unique institution located here and given to the community by the late Sanford S. Murphey. It is for the use without charge of children whose parents are not

DOVER, DELAWARE



Kent General Hospital, Dover

able to give them proper advantages, and its policy is to endeavor to give its children every parental advantage, even to the extent of a college education. The school is heavily endowed and the board of directors is composed of the leading citizens of the community. No indigent or unfortunate family of the county therefore need fear for the welfare of its children.

HOTELS

DOVER has good hotel facilities. The Richardson Hotel offers accommodations which compare favorably with those of cities of like size. In addition there are smaller hotels which also offer clean and comfortable accommodations at reasonable rates; prominently among these are the Hotel Bayard, Cook's Hotel, Hotel Bell, and several smaller hotels with ample room to take care of the summer vacationists.

THEATRES

THE city has two theaters. The new Dover Opera House recently remodeled at a cost of over \$100,000 is said to be the



Farmers Bank, Dover



Wesley Collegiate Institute, Dover



Dover Water Works and Electric Plant

The Capital City of the First State

last word in modern theater construction. The Temple Theater, a smaller moving picture house is under the same management.

RECREATIONAL

THE Mapledale Country Club located about one mile west of Dover has proven to be quite a factor in the social life of the community. The attractive club house and fine nine hole Golf Course is a center of attraction for the 200 members.

Silver Lake, located near the city, is a famous fishing place, and Little Creek and Bowers Beach to the east are well known to the people of Delaware and other states who indulge in fishing and crabbing. Oysters are in abundance at these resorts and the towns have achieved great fame on account of the fishing and oyster industries.

The Bays and Inlets near Dover are the home of the Canvasback Ducks and the stopping places of Mallard, Blue and Green-winged Teal and other ducks. Quail



Fishing Boats on River at Bowers



Richardson & Robbins Plant, Dover, Del.



Ridgely House, Dover



Oyster Fleet and Motor Boats at Little Creek

DOVER, DELAWARE



Pilgrim Holiness Church, Dover



Armory, Dover



Lockerman St. Looking West, Dover

and rabbits are numerous and fox hunting and coon hunting are favorite sports.

AGRICULTURAL

DOVER is situated in the center of a fertile agricultural section of the State, where the land is practically level, and the soil is of a sandy loam character which is very responsive to modern farming practices for growing all kinds of crops.

Throughout the area surrounding Dover are numerous commercial apple and peach orchards and grape vineyards, in addition to the many farms that are adapted to the growing of grain crops and tomatoes. This section also offers excellent opportunities for dairy farming and the raising of poultry, as well as all kinds of truck.

The total value of all farm crops in Kent County, including our most important ones such as corn, wheat, soybeans and tomatoes, amounts to approximately \$4,500,000, with an additional value of \$2,000,000 for our apple, peach and grape crops.



Lutheran Church, Dover

The Capital City of the First State

The poultry industry, which has been expanding very rapidly during the past five years, represents a total value of \$5,500,000 for poultry and the sale of eggs.

All dairy products such as whole milk, cream, and butter, sold in the county, return an income of almost \$1,000,000 annually, which equals practically one-half the value of all dairy cattle.

Taking into consideration all of the agricultural products and livestock in Kent County, we have an aggregate value of at least \$15,000,000 which indicates that this county is one of the leading farming sections in the east.

A SUBSTANTIAL COMMUNITY

The final test of a permanent work of any community is the substantial developments in its area, its latent possibilities, its citizenship, its location and its financial resources.

The combined statement of the three Dover Banks as of June 29, 1929, shows total de-



Sinclair Oil Tanks, Dover



E. L. Jones & Co., Inc., Plant, Dover, Del.



East Coast Ice & Storage, Inc.



Tomatoes at Factory of F. Romeo and Co., Dover



DOVER, DELAWARE



Farmers Cooperative Canning Plant, Dover



Delmarva Warehouses, Inc., Warehouse No. 1, Dover

posits of \$17,889,647.82. These accounts are carried by home owners, manufacturers, farmers and business concerns. The city has two Building and Loan Associations which are functioning well in aiding to provide more homes. Dover has a property valuation of approximately \$7,500,000.00.

Owing to its location and its accessibility many travelling men make it their headquarters. It is a jobbing center for groceries and produce, and the main retail shopping center for a trading radius of twenty miles.

The city tax rate is 95c on \$100.00 of assessed valuation.

The average weekly payroll is \$85,000.00.

Last but not least the police and fire protection is excellent, there having just been a reduction in the basic insurance rate.



Robbin's Hose House, Dover



Delmarva Ice Cream Co., Inc., Plant, Dover, Del.



Brick Plant, Dover



The Capital City of the First State



Canning Plant, Scott & Daly, Dover



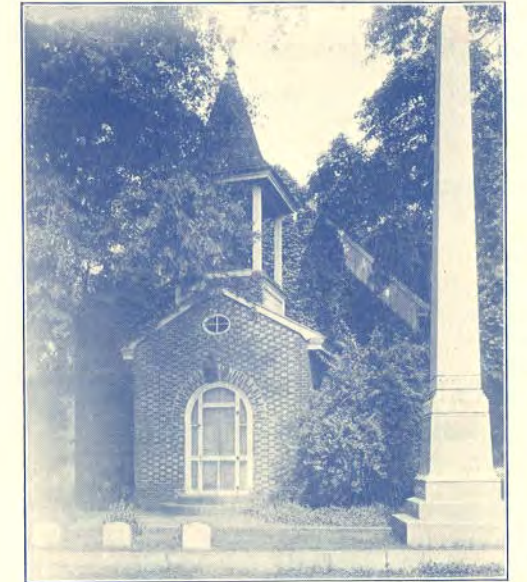
Layton & Co., Inc., Wholesale Grocery Warehouses, Dover



Dover Opera House

FOR YOUR INTEREST

Observe our excellent public buildings, beautiful homes, up-to-date schools and churches, the attractive window displays in our retail establishments, the well-paved and sanitary condition of our streets, and you will agree that Dover should be proud to be known as "The Capital City of the First State."



Christ Episcopal Church, Dover



Country Club, West of Dover



View of Gulf, Texaco and Holt Oil Tanks, Dover



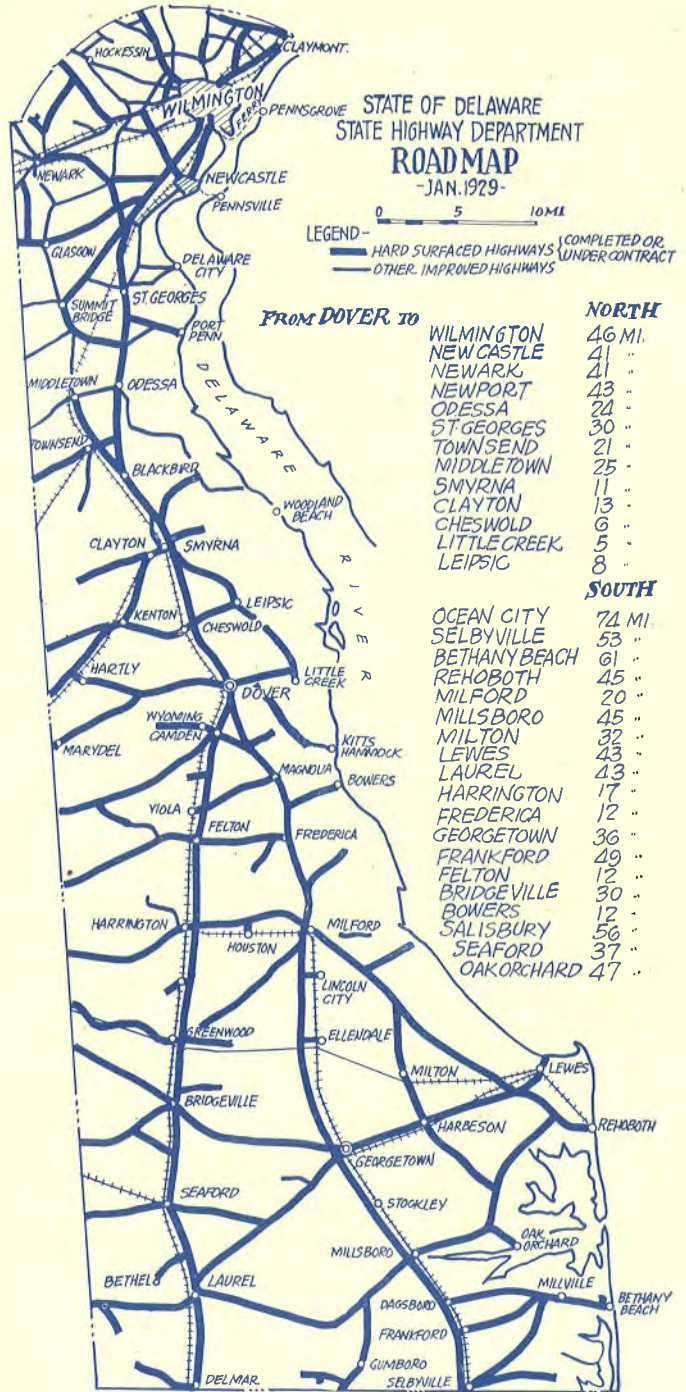
POINTS OF INTEREST



- STATE HOUSE
- KENT GENERAL HOSPITAL
- COUNTY COURT HOUSE
- YE OLDE DOVER GREEN
- MAPLEDALE COUNTRY CLUB
- WESLEY COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE
- STATE ARMORY
- ELIZABETH W. MURPHEY SCHOOL
- SILVER LAKE
- RICHARDSON PARK
- OLD HILLIARD HOUSE
- LOGAN FARM (6 MILES)
- JOHN M. CLAYTON MONUMENT
(Presbyterian Cemetery)
- CAESAR RODNEY HOME (6 MILES)
- COL. HASLET MONUMENT
(Presbyterian Cemetery)



Issued by
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
DOVER, DELAWARE



"All Roads Lead to Dover"

DOVER HERITAGE TRAIL



AN
ACCOUNT
OF THE
PRINCIPAL HISTORY
OF THE TOWNE OF DOVER
FROM EARLY TYMES
ALONG TOGETHER WITH
YARNS AND
GOSSIBE

When the first settlers came to the St. Jones Creek area of Kent County around 1670, they found friendly Indians, dense forests, rich soil, and a navigable river for their small vessels. Here too they found wildlife, including rabbits, foxes, raccoons, bears, turkeys, game, and an abundance of fish in the streams.

By 1680 there were only 26 families or about 72 people listed in this area of Kent County. Such names as Hodges, Jones, Humphrey, Bedwell, Brinkloe, Morgan, Webb, Claypoole, Young, Whiteley, and Walker appeared in the early land grants and deeds. The settlers laid claims along the tidewater, sometimes in large tracts of a thousand acres or more. Many, in addition to taking legal English title to their land, confirmed their claim by bargaining with the Indians using matchcoats, powder, whiskey, or other goods. Indeed, the 200 acre plot, purchased in 1694 for the site of Dover, had been included in a larger tract called Brothers Portion, bought in 1683 from the Indian Petequoque, Chief Sachem of the Lenni Lenape Tribe.

The early Kent County settlers owed allegiance to the Duke of York, and petitioned his representative, Governor Andros, in New York for a "court to be held in St. Jones Creek" because of the difficulty in reaching "the Whorekill Court" (Lewes). The petition was received favorably, and the new county of St. Jones was formed in 1680. It was renamed Kent by William Penn on Christmas Day, 1682.

Although it was not formally laid out until 1717, Dover enjoys the distinction of having been planned by Penn in 1683, the year after his arrival in America. It is believed that he selected the name Dover because of his happy association with the ancient port city of Dover, in Kent, England. Today the modern corporate seal of the City of Dover is in part emblazoned with the arms of Dover, England.

Although one early missionary wrote in 1711 for a transfer claiming that "... it is impossible for a Stanger to Continue there (Dover) without Extreme Danger." (He was referring to various "Bugs and Mascatoes!"). Dover grew and became the chief business center for Kent County. Semi-annual fairs were authorized and held from a very early date. In 1741 an Act of Assembly provided for the establishment and regulation of a market square. A year later, a rough census, taken privately by an Episcopal clergyman, estimated the population in Kent County to be 1,005 families.

Dover resounded to the noise of saws and brickwork throughout the early part of the 1700's. It was at this time that many of the notable buildings in the county and town were originally constructed. In 1722, a court house was erected on the site of the present Old State House, and six years later the venerable Ridgely House rose to command the north side of the Green. Between 1734 and 1747, the central portion of Christ Church was built. The 1740's saw Vincent Loockerman build his home, now known as the Bradford-Loockerman House; Nicholas Ridgely build Eden Hill Farm near Dover; and Samuel Dickinson, father of the "Penman of the Revolution," build the handsome plantation house now called the John Dickinson Mansion.

Succeeding years witnessed the construction of many fine homes by wealthy landowners throughout Kent County. Great Geneva, Wheel of Fortune, Wildcat Manor, Woodburn, Snowdon, Belmont Hall, Aspendale, Loockerman Hall, Pleasanton Abbey, and Mordington, were erected before the end of the century. There were also numerous new smaller homes built for farmers and craftsmen of the middle income group. A few of these, too, have survived.

The friction between England and her American colonies influenced events in Dover. The tension mounted with news of the closing of the Port of Boston; in Delaware, as well as in other colonies, each new development was met with varying responses.

By June, 1776, Kent Countians were anxiously keeping abreast of developments at the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. Post riders and boats coming down river carried the news of the great debates centered in Philadelphia. In May, the Continental Congress had urged each colony to take over its own government suspending Crown authority. On Saturday, June 8, this step was debated in Dover by the Kent County Committee of Inspection before a large crowd. Excitement mounted. As Thomas Rodney and James Tilton related the story long afterward, a certain John Clarke was one of the few opposing the move. As he was leaving the meeting he was seized by the crowd, dragged toward the pillory, and pelted with eggs before he could be rescued by cooler-headed patriots. Clarke's supporters, aided by a Light Horse Company under Tory leadership, planned in revenge to surprise and to burn Dover. Throughout Sunday, June 9, grapevines hummed. The result was "Black Munday" when Tory units converged on Dover ready to fight, but hesitated on the outskirts upon learning that the Dover Light Infantry was armed and ready to defend the town and that the leader of the Light Cavalry had been put under house arrest. Their demand that four Whigs be turned over for hanging met stern refusal, and brought a warning from Thomas Rodney, commander of the Infantry, that they had best disperse while they had the chance to do so "unmolested." Rodney, in his account of the event, recorded that they fled like "Sea Fowl from the shore," and he later composed the following poem to commemorate the defeat of the "insurrection."

A
SONG
of
1776

Black Munday was a Mighty day
For Refugees and Tories
Three hundred bravely run away
Chock full of lies and Stories
Lang do Lang Diddle

The Captain of the brave Light Horse
Began the insurrection
His Videts flew on every course
To spread the wide infection.
Lang do Lang Diddle

Dark and Secret was their plan
To burn the Town of Dover
But e're their furious work began
They were all quite don Over
Lang do Lang Diddle

Tidings came about Midnight
The Town would be invaded
And the Infantry 'er Morning light
Like Lyons all Paraded
Lang do Lang Diddle

They placed bright Guards around the Town
Determined to Defend it
And bare bold insurrection down
And to the Devil Send it.
Lang do Lang Diddle

For Sattin first the standard reard
Of Impious Insurrection
And to him Each Evil Mind repaird
Who caught the foul infection
Lang do Lang Diddle

He was Ever deemed thence
The Prince of proud Rebell'on
And all Insurgents hurried Since
With all their crimes to Hellon
Lang do Lang Diddle

Tidings came they were undone
Their Captain was arrested
Their Impious plans were all made known
And all their Crimes detested
Lang do Lang Diddle

Action in the events surrounding the Declaration of Independence and the Revolution was generally centered in other states, but it was from Dover that Caesar Rodney, one of Delaware's foremost patriots and heroes, was called to cast his vote for Independence and assure the state's adoption of that document. His adventurous and inspiring gallop to Philadelphia has placed him in the annals of American History, and earned him the love and respect of succeeding generations of Delawareans.

It was from Kent County that the famous Delaware Battalion marched to join Washington's main army and win the timeless respect of all American warriors and the nickname, Blue Hens Chickens. This epithet refers to the spirited fighting cocks that Delaware men carried with them to the war. The bird has since been honored by its adoption as the State Bird.

The post-war years were ones of political change, and because Dover was the state capital, its residents were involved in the founding of the nation. The most important single event which occurred in Dover was the ratification of the Federal Constitution on December 7, 1787. Delaware was the first state to ratify the new document, thus earning her the nickname First State.

During these years, Dover continued to thrive. In 1785 it had an estimated population of 600, and according to one observer had "a lively appearance," considerable trade with Philadelphia, and about 100 houses, "principally of brick."

The tumultuous times in the new Republic, as the young United States was buffeted by the effects of a major European conflict, had their reverberations in Dover. Henry M. Ridgely, a Dover resident and United States Representative, joined his fellow Federalists in voting "No" to a Declaration of War in 1812. During the war, a British Squadron blockaded the Delaware Bay, cruised menacingly off the coast, and succeeded in bombarding the pilot town of Lewes, Delaware. Much to its credit, however, the town stoutly defended itself, and escaped with "1 chicken killed, 1 pig wounded!"

Dover was incorporated in 1829. It has remained one of the smaller state capitals. During the period 1830-1860, Dover prospered; the railroad arrived in 1856. The crops and provisions of the Kent County fields were shipped by train to Wilmington and Philadelphia. With the advent of the railroad, old river packets and river towns began their decline.

Thirty years of relative peace was broken by the Mexican War in 1846, and by the gathering clouds of social reform centering around the slavery question. Doverites were divided on this issue, as was the nation. Every shade of opinion was reflected. Free Negroes were kidnapped from the vicinity for sale in the South, and Southern fugitives found protection and help here on their road to freedom in the North. Some of the historic homes in and near Dover were reputedly stops on the Underground Railroad. Some of Delaware's prominent families were involved in helping runaway slaves escape to the north. The Mifflin house near Camden, the homes of the Hunns near Lebanon, and Woodburn, now the Governor's House in Dover, reputedly figured in many daring and adventurous episodes from this troubled time. It was in these pre-Civil War days that the infamous Patty Cannon and her band engaged in kidnap and murder to obtain slaves for Southern markets. A favorite legend, used in *The Entailed Hat*, by George Alfred Townsend, tells of a raid upon a group of free Negroes gathered at Woodburn for a servant's party.

Harriet Tubman, the famous Black patriot, made her way through Dover several times shepherding escaped slaves to the North. Her heroic exploits and impassioned belief in freedom earned her the title "Moses of her people."

Every possible attitude toward the Civil War had adherents in Delaware, although outright secessionists were rare. Among the overwhelming majority loyal to the Union, there were passionate patriots, others who criticized the Administration but accepted the war itself as necessary, and still others unwilling to force the South to remain. Governor Burton, a peace-loving elderly man, teetered between the latter two positions, to the despair and fury of more ardent partisans. Among the State's militia companies were a few suspected of disloyalty. Twice Federal troops came into the State to disarm such units, once late in 1861 and again in March, 1862. On this second "invasion," two companies of Colonel James Wallace's Maryland Home Guards appeared in Dover, blocked exits from the capital and, when arms were not promptly surrendered, forced an entrance into the State House. There, they were quartered for several days. One of the Marylanders, Lt. J. E. Rastell, left an interesting account of the incident. When the troops prepared to leave, taking five suspects from the immediate vicinity, a

hostile crowd gathered, apparently intending to rescue the prisoners, but fixed bayonets prevented open violence as the party marched to the railroad station. On two other occasions Federal troops entered Delaware for a few days, each time to act as guards at the polls in the elections of 1862 and 1864. This touched off intense protest, and was one element that helped embitter Delaware politics for a generation.

Dover continued to thrive in the post-Civil War era. The Dover Gas Works Company expanded and provided more of the elaborate street lights used until the advent of electricity. A building spree added the Post Office, the Roman Catholic Church on Bradford Street, and the new Kent County Court House. In 1874, the Wilmington Conference Academy (Wesley College) rose to four stories between State Street and Governor's Avenue.

The recession of 1873 caused hardship in the county, but by 1882 the economy was on its feet. A Public School on New Street was erected, and the Hotel Richardson, for many years the finest on the Peninsula, graced the triangle between State Street and Kings Highway at City Plaza. Around this time, the Richardson and Robbins meat processing plant moved to its present location, and the Robbins Hose Company, Dover's volunteer fire department, was organized. The first fire of record, a dwelling house, occurred January 28, 1883. In that same year, a fire house was built for the hose carriages "The Robbins" and the "Dover."

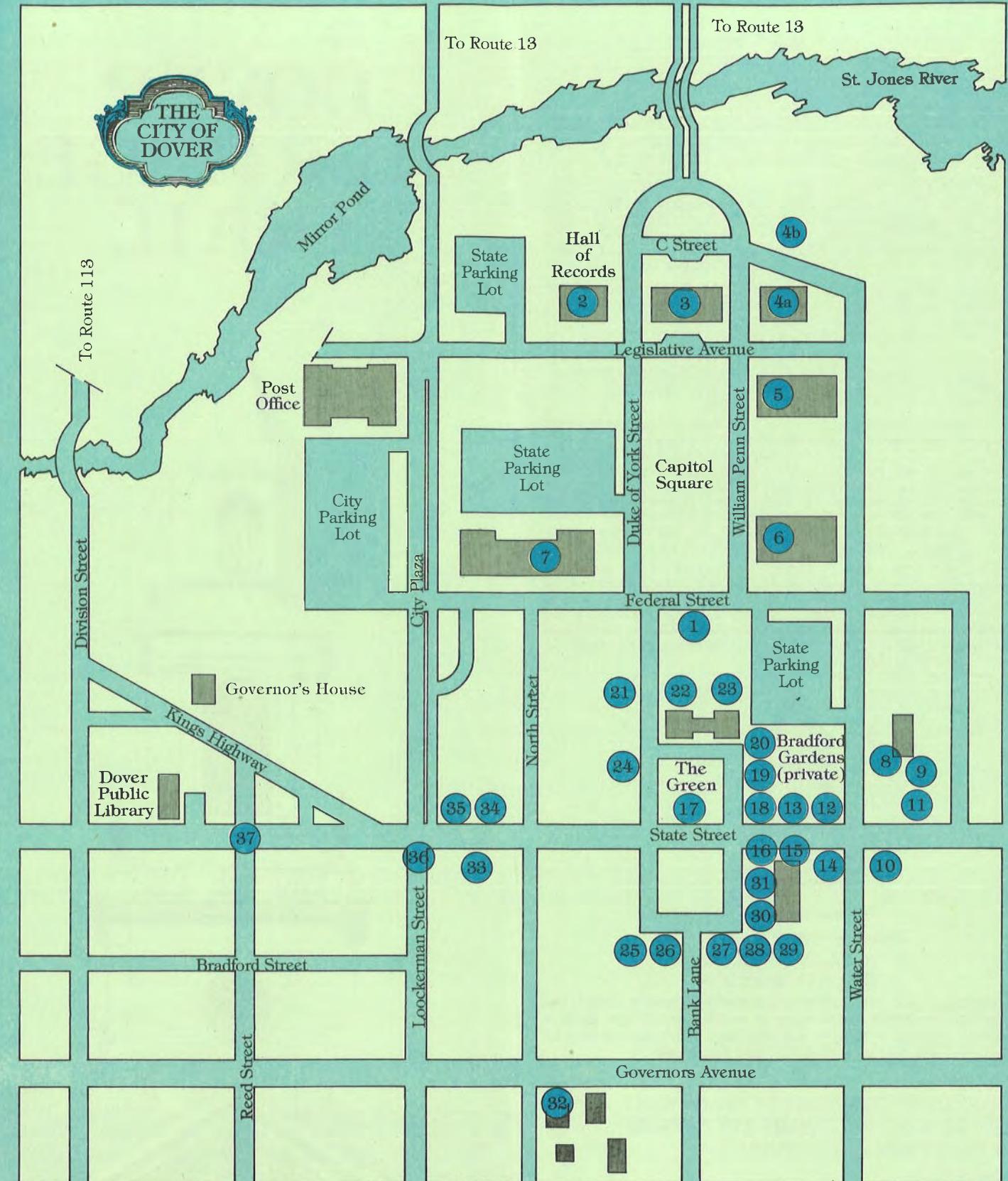
The nineteenth century closed in a blaze of glory. On New Year's Eve, 1899, fourteen stores on busy Lookerman Street, and 41 arc lights on the streets of Dover flashed on in a wondrous display of electric light. Dover entered the twentieth century in illuminated brilliance.

Caesar Rodney might be Dover's "Favorite Son," but Annie Jump Cannon is probably its "Favorite Daughter." A graduate of Wilmington Conference Academy, Annie Cannon went on to Wellesley. She was the first woman to receive an honorary degree from Oxford University, the second person elected honorary member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Great Britain, and the first woman ever elected to be an officer of the American Astronomical Society.

From 1897 until shortly before her death, she was a distinguished member of the Harvard Observatory staff. Her work in the spectral classification of stars filled 10 quarto volumes, including 9 volumes of the "Henry Draper Catalogue." Her "extension to the Henry Draper Catalogue" included over 400,000 stellar bodies. Annie Jump Cannon watched the heavens; as a small child in Dover she took delight in the rainbow. Later, on the roof of her father's home on State Street she scrutinized the star-lit skies. She organized her first observatory in the attic of that house. She is buried in a modest grave in Dover's Lakeside Cemetery.

In 1933 Capitol Square was laid out, and Legislative Hall became the home of Delaware's General Assembly. The creation of the capitol complex, along with the expansion of City Plaza, has given Dover a spacious air, in keeping with William Penn's original vision of his county seat in Kent.

Broad, tree-lined avenues, shady side streets, expansive greens, and the meandering St. Jones River parks, lend a natural setting to Dover's Georgian and Victorian architecture. Park your car on Capitol Square and trace the friendly steps of Dover's Heritage Trail.



The Visitor Center in the State House Annex (1), is open from 10-5, Tuesday through Saturday, and 1-5, Sunday. Here can be found information on Dover sites, as well as others in the state. It is here that tours for the State House begin.

The Hall of Records (2), the home of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, is the repository of preserved documents relating to the history of Delaware. Ask to see the Royal Charter, granted by Charles II to James, Duke of York, for the Delaware territory, and a series of three deeds and leases transferring this area to William Penn. In addition, don't miss William Penn's order for laying out Dover (1683) and the order for the new Kent County Court house (1691).

Legislative Hall (3), the home of the General Assembly of Delaware and the first Georgian-revival capitol in America, contains the offices of the Governor. Stroll through the halls, look into the two Assembly chambers, visit the Governor's Reception Area, and examine the portraits of Delaware governors and heroes of World War II. The exterior is of handmade brick; the interior is embellished with exquisite woodwork and other detailing characteristic of fine eighteenth-century buildings. It was opened January 3, 1933 and enlarged in 1970.

Capitol Square is surrounded by other State Office Buildings. The **Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's buildings (4a and 4b)**, the **Colonel John Haslet Armory (5)**, the **Department of Health and Social Services headquarters (6)**, and the **Townsend Building (7)** all lend to the colonial charm of Capitol Square and function as modern office installations.

Christ Church (8), an eighteenth-century church set in a grove of old trees, is a fitting site for the memorial to Delaware's colonial patriot and Signer of the Declaration of Independence, Caesar Rodney, whose remains were moved here in the early part of this century. The monument pays homage to a man who was also instrumental in founding the state government, in fighting the War of Independence, and in welding the basis of our modern democracy—Liberty and Independence. The church congregation dates from 1703 and the building was constructed between 1734 and 1747. It was enlarged in 1859, 1887, and 1916. In the yard are many early tombs, including the oldest, that of Captain Thomas Benson, 1748, many of the Ridgely family memorials, and the grave of former Governor Charles L. Terry, Jr. (1970).



Christ Church Parish House (9) was built in this century in the Georgian style, and houses a Bible presented to the church by Benjamin Wynkoop, Esquire, a merchant of colonial Philadelphia. It is on display in the church on Old Dover Days as is the 1766 silver communion service which has been restored to its original appearance.

Christ Church Rectory (10) at 502 South State Street was built around 1770 by James Bellach, a Dover shop joiner. Since 1879 it has been the property of the parish and has been used as the residence of the rector of Christ Church.



The Old Academy of the John Banning House (11) is a private residence built by John Banning around 1766. As Treasurer of the Delaware State, he is said to have paid many returning Delaware veterans out of his own pocket from the porch of his house. During the nineteenth century, this house was the Dover Academy, a private school, and also, after 1832, a public school.

Travelling up South State Street, you will notice many eighteenth-century brick houses, including the Bradford-Loockerman House, which shares a party wall with the Eagle Tavern. Across the street the LeFevre or Richard Bassett House, the King Dougall House and Store House, and the McDowell-Collins Store House deserve your attention. All of the above,

except the McDowell-Collins Store House, are private, but are open annually on Old Dover Days.

The Bradford-Loockerman House (12) was built after 1747 by Vincent Loockerman, Sr., a local Dover merchant, whose descendants have owned the house to the present. A beautiful garden is adjacent to the house. The house was built in two sections. The original five-bay brick portion is Georgian in detail; while the frame wing is nineteenth century. **The Eagle Tavern (13)**, once a part of the Bell Family Tavern complex to the north, was built before 1791 by John Bell II. Bell's son-in-law, John Freeman, the first Dover postmaster, ran the Eagle Tavern here in the late eighteenth century.

The LeFevre or Richard Bassett House (14), built in the early eighteenth century, was owned by Richard Bassett, a signer of the United States Constitution and President of the Delaware State from 1791 to 1801.

The King Dougall House (15) and Store House are typical of the house-and-store brick structures which once lined State Street. King Dougall used the larger portion as his home and the smaller wing to the north as his store during the eighteenth century. A part of the property was a tavern called The Sign of the Bleu Anchor which was sold in 1724 to Nicholas Nixon, a tavern keeper.

The McDowell-Collins Store House (16) is an early nineteenth-century frame structure built while Wesley McDowell, a Dover merchant, owned the property between 1828 and 1861. In the late nineteenth century Robert Collins ran a store here. It is to this period that the building was renovated by Dover Heritage Trail, Inc., a local, non-profit tour and preservation society, and the Dover Bicentennial Committee.

The Green (17) was first laid out in 1717 to the south of its present location in accordance with William Penn's orders of 1683. By 1723 it had been moved north to its present location. The true center of life in a county seat and state capital, it was the site of early fairs and markets, and today hosts political rallies, public events, and the festivities of Old Dover Days in May. It was on the Green in 1776 that Delaware's Continental Regiment was mustered for service in the Revolution, and from here they marched to the main corps of Washington's Continental Army. In 1776 the Declaration of Independence was read to the public, sparking a celebration which witnessed the public burning of King George III's portrait. On January 23, 1800, John Vining delivered a eulogium on the death of George Washington. It was near here, in the jail yard, that the infamous "Red Hannah," or Delaware whipping post, was located. The Green was not landscaped until the mid-nineteenth century.

The Kent County Court House (18) was erected in 1874 on the site of an earlier Kent County Court House. For over a century, from 1723 until 1863, the site was occupied by a tavern under a long series of owners. During the eighteenth century, the Bell family ran the tavern complex under the names of the Sign of King George, the Sign of General Washington, and Liberty Hall. John Bell II is said to have had his sign, a portrait of King George III, painted out and replaced during the Revolution with likeness of Washington. The legend relates that in later years the old name and portrait of the King began to show through and overlap the new and thus George Washington and old King George shared the same sign, and gave Doverites quite a chuckle.



The John Bell Office, a small frame house, is the earliest frame structure on the Green and was a shop in the Bell Tavern complex during the eighteenth century. It is also known as the **Old Post Office (19)** because a nineteenth-century post office was reputedly located here. Throughout its long history, it has served as various shops and offices.

The Dr. James Sykes House or the Sykes Building (20) houses the offices of Attorney General of Delaware. It was built between 1812 and 1815 by Sykes, a noted surgeon, and enlarged in the 1850's by Mary S. Reed, mother-in-law of John A. Nicholson. It was also the home of many noted Dover lawyers, including Chief Justice Thomas Clayton, Judge George Fisher, Nathaniel Smithers, Robert Frame, Chancellor John R. Nicholson, and James M. Satterfield.

The Old County Building (21) which originally stood to the north of the State House fronting the Green, was designed by the architect Alonzo Reynolds and was built in 1858. It was moved to its present location facing Court Street in this century.

Presbyterian Church, located on Meeting House Square, one of the original squares in Dover. Distinctive features of the church are the circular stair to the gallery and belfry, a corner alcove furnished with original pews, a memorial tablet to the first minister, the Reverend John Miller, communion silver, and two original tin sconces. In this building and the second, there are exhibits on Delaware's Indians, natural resources, industry, agriculture, commerce, and transportation. There are also displays of early Delaware life as shown by period furniture, silver, woodworking tools, costumes, and volunteer firemen's exhibits. The Eldridge Reeves Johnson Building or Building Four, contains records, recording equipment, and memorabilia of Mr. Johnson and the Victor Talking Machine Company of which he was the founder and president. Among the notable Delawareans buried in the churchyard are John M. Clayton, Thomas Clayton, the Reverend John Miller, and Colonel John Haslet.

The Governor's House (c. 1790) (Kings Highway, Dover)—this home is an excellent example of middle Georgian architecture. A pretentious structure, it features a wide entrance hall with adjoining reception rooms. Its interior carving, in the Chippendale manner, is among the best in Delaware, and the house is furnished in fine, period antiques. The home of Delaware's Chief Executive is open on Thursday afternoons from 2:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Included in the tour are the upstairs living quarters of the Governor and his family, and highlights of the visit include many objects of "Delawareana"—artifacts and antiques reminiscent of Delaware history. The home, known for years as "Woodburn," was according to tradition, a stop on the famed Underground Railroad in the pre-Civil War era.



The John Dickinson Mansion—(South on U.S. Rt. 113, to Rt. 68 and Kitts Hummock). This structure is a fine example of Delaware plantation architecture, and was built by Samuel Dickinson, around 1740. It was the boyhood home of John Dickinson, the "Penman of the Revolution," and the author of the Articles of Confederation. He was President of the Delaware State in 1781 and 1782, and was prominent in Delaware's delegation at the Constitutional Convention. The house and out-buildings are open to the public Tuesday-Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sundays 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; closed on Mondays and holidays. There is no admission charge.

Barratt's Chapel—(near Frederica, Rt. 113) Here, in November, 1784, Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury first met, communion was first administered in America according to Methodist rites by authorized Methodist ministers, and preliminary plans were made for the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States. This chapel, long a focus of pilgrimage for Methodists from all over the country as the "Cradle of Methodism," now has an added museum and reception area. Open Tuesday through Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sundays 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. There are Sunday evening services in summer at 7:30 p.m.



The Allee House (Bombay Hook Wildlife Refuge, off Delaware Rt. 9)—this is a Queen Anne style house built by the Huguenot Allee Family, c. 1753. It features interesting brickwork, old pine floors and antique furnishings. Open 2:00-5:00 p.m., Saturday-Sunday—Admission free.

Duck Creek Village (one and a half miles north of Smyrna on Duck Creek)—the settlement at Duck Creek occurred about 1700, and a survivor of the original village is "The Lindens"—erected as a miller's house before 1765. Adjacent to this Dutch gabled dwelling is The Plank House, a log cabin moved to its position by the Duck Creek Historical Society. The Quaker Cemetery is used by genealogists for research back to 1750. Duck Creek Village is open to the public every day 9:00-5:00 p.m. Admission is free.



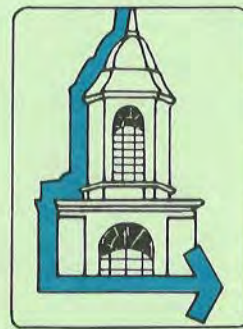
Camden Friends Meeting House (Camden, Delaware, 3 miles south of Dover on Rt. 13)—The Camden Meeting was organized in 1795 and the House built in 1805 on land given by Jonathan Hunn. Tradition states that either this Jonathan or a later namesake lost his large landholdings at sheriff's sale because of his activity in the Underground Railroad. Camden, a Quaker center, figured in many episodes from the pre-Civil War era.

Octagonal School House—Located on Route 9, 1.5 miles north of Little Creek. Built in 1836, this unique one room school has been restored to its original appearance with an exhibit of textbooks published from 1800 to 1920's. Open Saturday and Sunday, 1-4 p.m. and by appointment.

To return to the Visitor Center, retrace your steps or follow North Street eastward to the Townsend Building and then go southward. On the way see the John Bullen House, Wesley United Methodist Church, and the former parsonage just to the north on South State Street.

The John Bullen House (33), 214 South State Street, is a rare, documented example of the work of Dover master builder, John Bullen. It was built between 1775 and 1781. **Wesley Church** (34) was built in 1850 and is a two-story, Gothic-revival, brick structure. The tombstone of Richard Whatcoat, third Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, has been framed and hung near the front entrance. The former parsonage of **Wesley Church** (35), or the front portion of the house at the corner of South State Street and the Plaza, was built in 1856 and was furnished through the efforts of the ladies of the church. Today, it is a law office and private residence.

Loockerman Street (36) is noteworthy because of the numerous nineteenth-century commercial structures still standing and being used by merchants today. To the north, on **South State and South Bradford streets** (37), is the Victorian part of Dover, originally laid out in the 1850's by the Reverend Thomas Bradford as a planned community. The tree-lined streets have numerous well-proportioned examples of the various styles of architecture which encompass the term Victorian.



Delaware State Visitors Service
630 State College Rd.
Dover, Delaware 19901

No person or group shall be excluded from participation, denied any benefits, or subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in any facility or attraction listed in this publication in full compliance with Title VI, of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Prepared by:

DIVISION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Printed in U.S.A.

For Guided Tours of Historic Dover

DOVER HERITAGE TRAIL INC.



Welcome to Dover! The "Capital City of the First State" is a charming and historic town with many interesting attractions for you and your family. Laid out by William Penn's order of 1683, Dover became the capital of Delaware during the Revolutionary War after the British captured New Castle in the north. Surrounding "The Green" and along our shady brick walkways are many notable buildings, private homes and public museums, which you may enjoy.



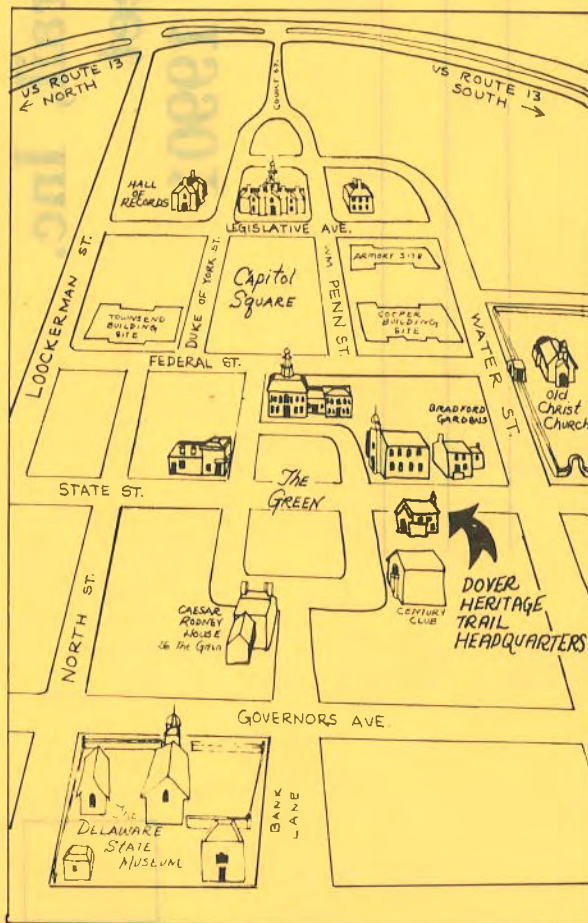
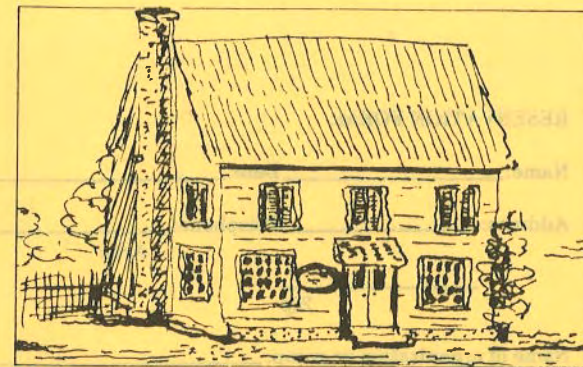
You may visit the Hall of Records, Legislative Hall, old Christ Church, the Old State House, Delaware State Museum, and the Governor's House on the Dover Heritage Trail, a walking tour outlined in a brochure available in several locations throughout the city. Or, if time permits, please be our guest on a guided tour. Our volunteer guides are Doverites and Kent Countians who wish to make your stay here in Delaware as pleasant as possible.

Dover Heritage Trail, Inc., is a non-profit group dedicated to the preservation of Kent County's unique culture and heritage. The modest fees collected from the tours will provide a preservation fund. We hope you have time to join us on a guided tour of historic Dover. Please feel free to call or write and plan your visit; we will try our best to hand-tailor our tour to fit your interests. Phone: (302) 678-2040.

McDowell-Collins Store House

Our office is located in the McDowell-Collins Store House, which our organization has recently renovated to its late nineteenth century appearance in cooperation with the Dover Bicentennial Committee.

The Store House dates back to the early nineteenth century on a lot where Wesley McDowell opened a store in the 1820's. Since that time, there have been a variety of stores and businesses on the lot, and at times, the building has been used as law offices, and for other commercial purposes.



The renovation was based on store ledgers from the period when Robert Collins operated a general store here between 1888 and 1907. The interior lay-out, and the displays of typical mercantile goods were based on several recollections of older Doverites who visited the store as youngsters. Items on display have been donated, or are on loan, from interested residents of the city. The Store House is open between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm, Mondays through Fridays, and storekeepers are volunteers from Dover Heritage Trail, Inc.

The Store House serves as an interesting, central location from which our tours originate. If you are interested in scheduling a professional tour for your family, or group, please look over the information, and give us a call. We would enjoy hosting you in the McDowell-Collins Store House, and providing you a tour of Dover, The Capital City of The First State.

Would you care to donate to our preservation fund? Patrons receive handsome certificates, and donations are tax deductible. Make checks payable to Dover Heritage Trail, Inc.

**Dover Heritage Trail, Inc.
408 So. State Street
Dover, Delaware 19901**

RESERVATION FORM:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____
Area

Zip

Name of organization or group: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____
Area

Zip

Date of Tour: _____ Number in Group: _____

Time of Arrival: _____ (AM) (PM)

Type of Tour Desired: _____
Code (from below)

DOVER HERITAGE TRAIL TOURS

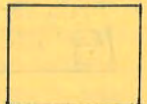
TOUR A - Regular walking tour - Includes Hall of Records, Legislative Hall, Christ Church; North on State Street with a description of various buildings; Supreme Court Building, The Green, State Museum. \$1.75 per adult, .50 per child under 16.

TOUR B - Thursdays - Walking Tour and Governor's House. Same price as "A".

TOUR C - School Groups - Hall of Records, Legislative Hall, Christ Church, Supreme Court Building, The Green, State Museum, and Governor's House, if possible. \$.25 per student. (Directions can be given for visiting Octagonal School House and Dickinson Mansion, if time permits.

We welcome bus groups. Fee: \$1.75 per person.

Visit to private homes may be arranged at an additional cost of \$1.00 per adult, .50 per child.



Historic
Downtown

DOVER

Dover, Delaware



Main Street
DOVER

INCORPORATED

Welcome

Welcome . . .
to Downtown Dover.
We want to share with
you our history,
architecture, beauty
and our hospitality.

Our first
downtown was The Green, laid out in 1722 in
accordance with the orders of William Penn in
1683. Center of life for the County Seat and
State Capital, it was the site of early fairs and
markets. Craftsmen and artisans such as
cabinet makers, shoemakers, carpenters, tailors
and hatters shared the historic Green with
government officials and residents, as well as
several inns and taverns. At one of these inns,
The Golden Fleece Tavern, Delaware ratified
the United States Constitution on December 7,
1787, becoming the FIRST STATE to do so.

The mercantile activities of the City
shifted several blocks north to Loockerman
Street as Dover began to grow after the Civil
War. Many buildings on this street retain their
turn-of-the-century facades. A stroll down this
street reveals architectural details from
throughout the Victorian era as well as more
contemporary Art Deco and Post Modern.

We have two distinct historic areas to
share with you ... one Colonial and one
Victorian. You are invited to visit these areas as
you enjoy our flowers, grand shade trees and
brick walks. Throughout our downtown are
specialty shops, neighborhood stores,
restaurants and very friendly people.

DOWNTOWN PARKING - Look for this symbol



Bradford Street lot
(Bradford Street between
Loockerman and Reed
Streets). Free 2-Hour Parking Monday through
Friday. No limits on weekends.

City lot
(One-half block East of State Street on
Loockerman Street). Free 2-Hour Parking
Monday through Friday. No limits on weekends.

Governors Avenue lot
(Governors Avenue between Loockerman and
Reed Streets - North side of Parking Lot).
Free 2-Hour Parking Monday through Friday. No
limits on weekends.

Water Street lot (Water Street between
Governors Avenue and State Street). Parking
Meters.

**On-street parking on Bradford, Division,
Loockerman, Governors Avenue.**
Free 2-Hour Parking Monday through Friday. No
limits on weekends.

Museum Parking
(Bank and New Streets) Free Parking.

PUBLIC RESTROOMS

Dover City Hall, The Plaza, Loockerman Street
Delaware State Visitors Center, 406 Federal
Street

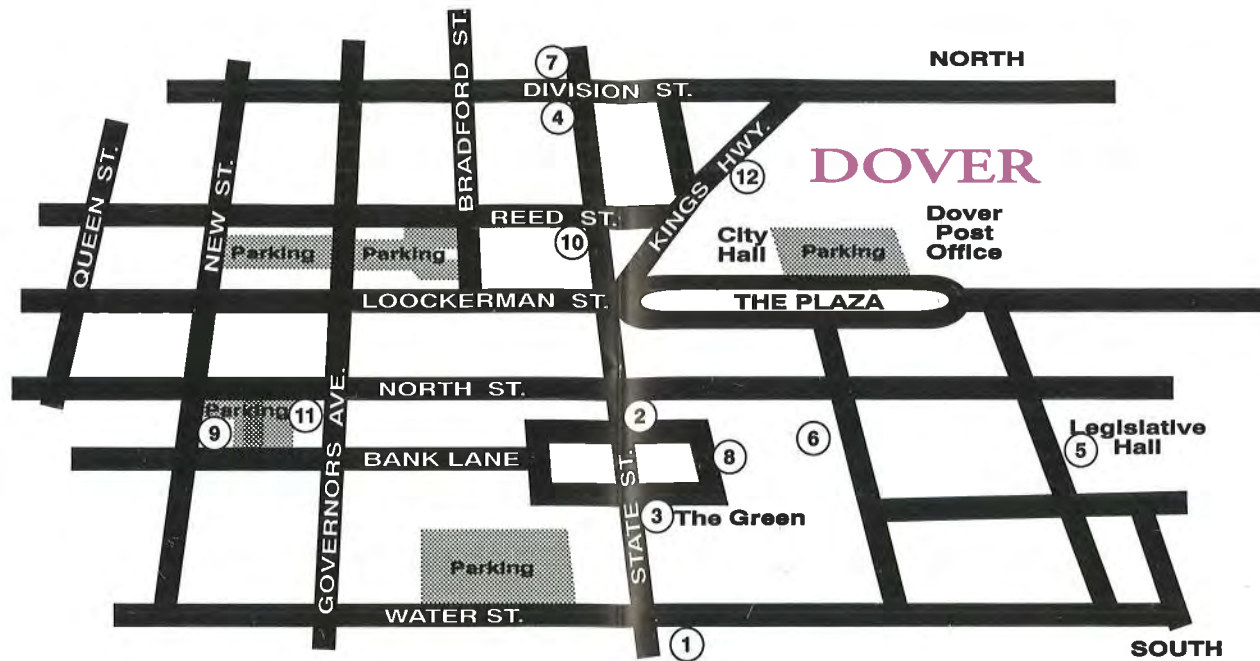
State Museums, see *Museums section in this
brochure*

Dover Public Library, 45 South State Street.

TOUR DOVER'S HISTORIC DISTRICTS.

Enjoy walking tours of the Old Dover or
Victorian Dover Historic Districts conducted by
certified guides of Dover Heritage Trails, Inc.
Tours for one person or a bus load. By
appointment. Call (302) 678-2040 or write to
Box 1628, Dover, DE 19903. Fees for students,
adults, senior citizens. Handicapped accessible.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES AND MUSEUMS



1. Christ Episcopal Church (1734)

State and Water Streets

Originally an Anglican mission, Christ Church has been the place of worship for a number of famous Delawareans including Nicholas Ridgely, ratifier of the United States Constitution. A monument to Caesar Rodney, signer of the Declaration of Independence, can be found in the graveyard. The church building evidences several architectural fashions of the last three centuries and is open daily for prayer and meditation.

2. Golden Fleece Tavern Site (c. 1740)

State Street and The Green

Delaware was the first state to ratify the constitution and did so on this site on December 7, 1787.

3. Kent County Court House (1874)

The Green

This is the third County Court House. Tricentennial celebrations were held in 1983.

4. Landmark (1896)

6 South State Street

This Second Empire home with Italianate features was built by Dr. Henry Ridgely, physician, farmer and organizer of the Delaware Railroad.

5. Legislative Hall (1932)

Legislative Mall

Delaware's General Assembly meets here. This and the other government buildings that line Legislative Mall are Georgian Revival.

6. Delaware State Visitors Center and Sewell C. Biggs Museum of American Art
406 Federal Street

The Visitors Center features visitor information and changing exhibits. The Biggs Museum features regional decorative arts and American paintings. A Delaware State Museums site.

7. Mifflin House (1885)

2 North State Street

The application of green serpentine stone makes this Queen Anne residence distinguished in Dover.

8. Old State House (1792)

The Green

The State House is the second oldest state House in continuous use in the country. This "official state capitol" contains the Governor's presentation and ceremonial office and 18th century courtroom and legislative chambers. A Delaware State Museums site.

9. Johnson Victrola Museum (1967)

Bank Lane and New Street

This museum features Delawarean, E.R. Johnson (founder of the Victor Talking Machine Company) victrolas, recordings and artists 1901-1929. A Delaware State Museums site.

10. Rose Cottage (1862)

Corner of State and Reed Streets

This Victorian Gothic cottage was built by Reverend Thomas B. Bradford, the namesake of the Victorian District north of Loockerman St. called Bradford City.

11. Meeting House Galleries I & II (1790-1880)

316 S. Governors Avenue

Gallery I features an exhibit on 12,000 years of Delaware archaeology. Gallery II "Main Street Delaware" features exhibits on small town Delaware including printing presses and a general store. A Delaware State Museums site. The Presbyterian cemetery is the burial site for many famous Delawareans.

12. Woodburn (1791)

Kings Highway

The official residence of the Governor of Delaware. Architecturally it is one of the State's finest houses and was a known stop on the Underground Railroad. A fine boxwood garden covers the spacious grounds.

DOWNTOWN DOVER BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ACCOUNTANTS

*Mitten and Winters
117-119 W. Loockerman Street

ANTIQUES

*Antiques, Art & Collectibles
329 W. Loockerman Street

R.A. Baker Jewelry
114 W. Loockerman Street

*Heart Strings
136 W. Loockerman Street

ARMY NAVY STORE

*Dover Army Navy Store
222 W. Loockerman Street

ART GALLERIES/PICTURE FRAMING

*Dover Art League
102 W. Loockerman Street

New Dimensions Frames
& Ruyters Art Studio
434 S. Governors Avenue

*Raubacher Gallery
106 S. Governors Avenue

AUTOMOBILES, NEW/USED

*Delaware Auto Sales, Inc.
319 W. Division Street

BAKERIES

*Fleischer's Bakery
149 S. Governors Avenue

BANKS

*PNC Bank
3 The Plaza, W. Loockerman Street

Beneficial National Bank
Bank Lane and New Streets

*Delaware Trust
101 W. Loockerman Street

*Mellon Bank
8 W. Loockerman Street

*Wilmington Trust
139 S. State Street

BARBER SHOPS

Colonial Barber Shop
151 S. Governors Avenue

Wayne & Sammy's Barber Shop
315 W. Loockerman Street

BEAUTY SALONS AND NAIL CARE

Agie's Hair Den
231 W. Loockerman Street

Ana & Co. Hair Design
32 Loockerman Square

Chris' Classinique Hair Studio
119 S. Bradford Street

Fresh Look Hair Studio
415 W. Loockerman Street

Head to Toe Nail Salon
108 W. Loockerman Street

Jackie's Ultimate Touch
33 W. Loockerman Street

Images Hair Styles
135 S. Bradford Street

Jimmy's Salon de Coiffure
329 W. Loockerman Street

Miriam's Hair Clinic
8 N. Governors Avenue

Nubian Hair Design
415 W. Loockerman Street

Sadie's & Co.
129 S. Bradford Street

BED AND BREAKFAST

*Inn at Meeting House Square
305 S. Governors Avenue

BOOKS

Book Bin
207 W. Loockerman Street

BRIDAL/FORMAL WEAR

Simon's Bridal Shoppe
215 W. Loockerman Street

Veils & Tails
213 W. Loockerman Street

CLOTHING

Ben's Mens Store and Tailor Shop
142 W. Loockerman Street

Beyond Basics
207 W. Loockerman Street

*Class, The Store for Gentlemen
118 S. Bradford Street

Kohn's Men's Wear
21 W. Loockerman Street

Simply You
239 W. Loockerman Street

COSMETICS

*Merle Norman Cosmetics
115 W. Loockerman Street

DRY CLEANERS/LAUNDRY

*Capitol Cleaners
217 S. New Street

*Harry Louie Laundry & Dry Cleaning
129 S. Governors Avenue

GIFT SHOPS

*Body Sense & Delightful Gifts
32 Loockerman Square

*Delaware General Store-
Home of Delaware Made
214 S. State Street

*Beyond Dimensions
59 S. Governors Avenue

*Forney's Too
140 W. Loockerman Street

HARDWARE STORES

*Dover Hardware
128 W. Loockerman Street

Larrivee Designer Hardware Center
505 S. Governors Avenue

JANITORIAL SUPPLIES

*Holt Distributors Co., Inc.
Reed & West Streets

*Dover Jewelry & Broker
201 W. Loockerman Street

*Forney's Ltd.
106 W. Loockerman Street

NEWS STAND

*Dover Newsstand
126 W. Loockerman Street

OFFICE PRODUCTS/FURNITURE

*Capitol Office Products
116 W. Loockerman Street

PHOTOGRAPHY

*Young's Studio
134 W. Loockerman Street

REAL ESTATE COMPANIES

* Chabbott Petrosky
Commerical Realtor Ltd.
2 N. State Street

Paramount Realty
32 Loockerman Square

Stoltz Realty
305 S. State Stree

*Woodburn Realty
64 S. Kings Hwy.

RESTAURANTS/BARS/PUBS

Angelo's Pizza
20 W. Loockerman Street

Bradford Street Cafe
150 S. Bradford Street

C Moore's Place
24 W. Loockerman Street

Center City Restaurant
154 S. Governors Avenue

Food King
27 W. Loockerman Street

Junior's Bagels & Delicatessen
154 S. State Street

Market Sub & Steak
210 S. Governors Avenue

My Place Tavern
312 W. Loockerman Street

Irish Mikes Olde Towne Pub
107 W. Loockerman Street

W.T. Smithers
140 S. State Street

Spanky's Loockerman Street Lounge
132 W. Loockerman Street

*Webby's Cafe
25 W. Loockerman Street

SHOE STORES

*Kennett Shoes
147 S. Governors

SPORTS CARDS/COMICS

Comics, Cards & Collectibles
114 W. Loockerman Street

Superior Comics
214 W. Loockerman Street

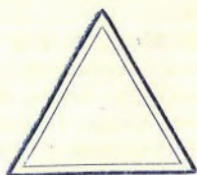
TRAVEL AGENCIES

*Welcome Aboard Travel, Ltd.
206 S. State Street

* Members of Main Street Dover, Inc.
We are sorry that, because of space limitations,
we were not able to include all businesses in
the Main Street Dover district.

OTHER MAIN STREET DOVER, INC. MEMBERS

John Alstadt
B. Gary Scott Realtors
Becker, Morgan, Moore, Olds & Richter, Inc.
Bell Atlantic
Burns & Ellis Realtors
Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce
Chesapeake Utilities
City of Dover
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Clark
Dee Coffey
Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc.
Delaware Petroleum Council
Dover Art League
Dover Arts Council
Dover Post
Duane, Morris & Heckscher
First National Bank of Wyoming
Friends of Old Dover
GMS Enterprises
Hardesty Insurance
Harrington Realty, Inc.
Ann Baker Horsey
Rev. and Mrs. Gregory Howe
Jackson Architects
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Johnson
Kent County Visitors & Convention Bureau
Mr. and Mrs. Irving Levitt
Dr. Elizabeth Lloyd
Nations Bank
Parkowski, Noble & Guerke
Prickett, Jones, Elliott, Kristol & Schnee
Mr. and Mrs. Jon Schladen
Schmittinger & Rodriguez, PA
Brigitte H. Smith
Dr. and Mrs. Reed Stewart
Donna Stone
Dr. and Mrs. F.A. Stratford
Dr. J. Thomas Sturgis
Then - Again LLC
Mary Alice Tuttle
Twilley, Street, Rich & Braverman, PA
Gigi Windley



A
Statistical
View
of
DOVER
and
KENT
COUNTY
Delaware

The Capital of the First State

— Compiled by —

DOVER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Some Facts About **DOVER**

AREA:

Dover has an area of 1200 acres within the corporate city limits.

CLIMATE:

Average summer temperature about 76; coldest part of winter about 34. Annual rainfall averages 43 inches. The normal growing season is approximately 187 days. We do not experience cyclones, floods, blizzards or earthquakes.

GOVERNMENT:

Dover is governed by a Mayor and Council elected biennially and it employs a City Manager for business administration.

TRANSPORTATION:

If motoring by car, Delaware offers the best in highways connecting New Jersey and the metropolitan areas by the Delaware Memorial Bridge, and the U.S. Capitol and southern areas by the Chesapeake Bridge.

By Bus: Red Star, Greyhound, Short Line.

By Train: Pennsylvania Railroad, Delmarva Division.

By Plane: Allegheny Airlines, (passenger, mail, freight).

By Truck: Three truck lines with connecting carrier service.

INDUSTRIES:

Manufacturing concerns in Dover employ approximately 3,000 men and women. Products manufactured include beverages, building materials, boned chicken, concrete products, compressed gas, dairy products, ice, ice cream, latex products, fats, gravel and ready-mix concrete.

FIRE PROTECTION:

There is a volunteer fire system with 50 active members and a total membership of 100 . . . having the total of nine pieces of equipment.

ORGANIZATIONS:

Alpha Kappa Alpha; AAUW; Amer. Legion and Aux.; Aviation Club; Beta Sigma Phi; Beth Sholom; Blessed Virgin Sodality; Capital City; Capital Grange; Century; Chamber of Commerce; Del. Vets & Aux.; Dover BPW; Eastern Star; BPO Elks & Aux.; Holy Name Society; IOOF; Jr. Board of Kent Gen. Hospital; Jay Cees; Kiwanis; Lions; Rotary; Soroptimist; VFW & Aux.; Women's Aux. of Kent Gen. Hosp.; YMCA; Library maintained by Library Comm., 13,434 volumes; Optomist; PTA.

DOVER — The Capital City of the First State

within corporate limits, estimated	7,000
population	60,000
receipts, 1955	\$497,149
in service, March 31, 1957 (Dover Exchange)	9,217
of Commerce Membership	145
& Loan Companies Assets, June 30, 1956	\$913,210
ources Dover Banks, June 30, 1956	\$43,226,000
eters in service, June 30, 1956	6,500
s in service, June 30, 1956	1,700
chool Enrollment, 1956-57	
hite	Dover 2,693 Kent County 7,611 Parochial 400
egro	797 1,892
Enrollment, June 30, 1956	
esley Junior College	208
elaware State College	240
es of all denominations, estimated total membership	3,980
Picture Theatres, total seating capacity	1,500

VITAL STATISTICS — 1955

	White	Negro	Total
County	162	73	235
County	1112	300	1412
County	353	112	465

BONDED INDEBTEDNESS AS OF JULY 1, 1956

10—Serial bonds maturing \$100,000.00 per year.
owns its Electric Light, Water Plant and Sewage Disposal Plant, and no extra charge for garbage collection in city limits.
owns: One Recreation Center (building and playground) and helps to maintain others.

**KENT COUNTY — The Fertile Agricultural Section of Delaware
Dover is the Capital of Delaware and County Seat for Kent County**

in Kent County (1956 Census) estimated	40,000
--	--------

ASSESSED VALUATION

56	Real Estate	\$18,923,000	Poll Tax	\$ 1,299,600
nty, July 1, 1955 - June 30, 1956				\$73,196,762

AUTOMOBILE REGISTRATION, 1956 — KENT COUNTY

24,118 Trailers	3,154 Motorcycles	101
6,992 Tractors	84 Farm Trucks	1,325
		TOTALS
		35,774

TAX RATE — CITY, COUNTY, STATE — 1956

rate	\$.90 on Real Estate plus \$3.60 Capitation over 21 years of age
ool tax	\$.40 plus \$7.00 Capitation per person over 21 years
x rate	\$.50 plus \$1.25 Capitation per person over 21 years
sonal property tax	NONE
estate tax	NONE
oline tax	\$.05 per gallon

and Cigar tax but NO other Sales Tax Revenue
has NO Corporation Income Tax

of Delaware asseses no taxes against manufacturers. They are required to take a State license, the fee for which is 40th of 1% of gross receipts.

information was gathered from sources we believe reliable; it is not guaranteed.

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE:

Dover Air Force Base is one of the chain of Military Air Transport bases on the East coast. It is growing to be one of the greatest cargo-handling airports in the world.

HOSPITAL:

The Kent General Hospital, has a 100 bed capacity. There are 21 physicians and 3 surgeons on the staff. The recently opened new wing has 3 operating rooms, 2 delivery rooms and contains the newest and best equipment and protection available.

POLICE PROTECTION:

Police protection is supplied by the municipality, there being a total of 18 on the police force, including 2 desk clerks.

COUNTRY CLUB:

Maple Dale Country Club. 9-hole golf course on 18-hole plan.

RADIO STATIONS:

WDOV—(1410 KC), 1,000 watts.
WKEN—(1600 KC), 500 watts.

NEWSPAPERS:

Daily: Delaware State News. Circulation 8,520.
Weekly: The Dover Index. Circulation 655.

HISTORIC DOVER:

Created by Order of William Penn, 1683

State House: Second oldest in America, still in use. Here Delaware ratified the Federal Constitution December 7, 1878, the first State to enter the Union. Since 1777 Dover has been the State capital.

Hall of Records: Repository of the Public Archives of Delaware. Outstanding documents include the original Royal Grant from King Charles II, to his brother, James Duke of York, in 1682, and subsequent grants from Duke of York to William Penn, in 1682, for the territories on-the-Delaware; William Penn's order for the laying out of Dover in 1683.

Legislative Hall: Built after a Colonial pattern contains many interesting architectural features and valuable eighteenth century portraits. Chambers of State Senate, House of Representatives, and offices of the Governor and Secretary of State.

The Dover Green: Laid out 1717 in accordance with William Penn's order of 1683. Here the early markets, fairs and slave markets were held. Throughout Delaware history, The Dover Green has been the background for many important episodes.

"Dover Days": Held annually the first Saturday and Sunday in May under the auspices of the FRIENDS OF OLD DOVER, visitors are welcome to tour open houses and gardens, and see our ancient documents and loan collections.

DOVER

DELAWARE

A
GRAND

PLACE TO

LIVE

AND

WORK

IN THE *HEART* OF
DELAWARE

FARMERS BANK
of the
STATE OF DELAWARE

Established 1807

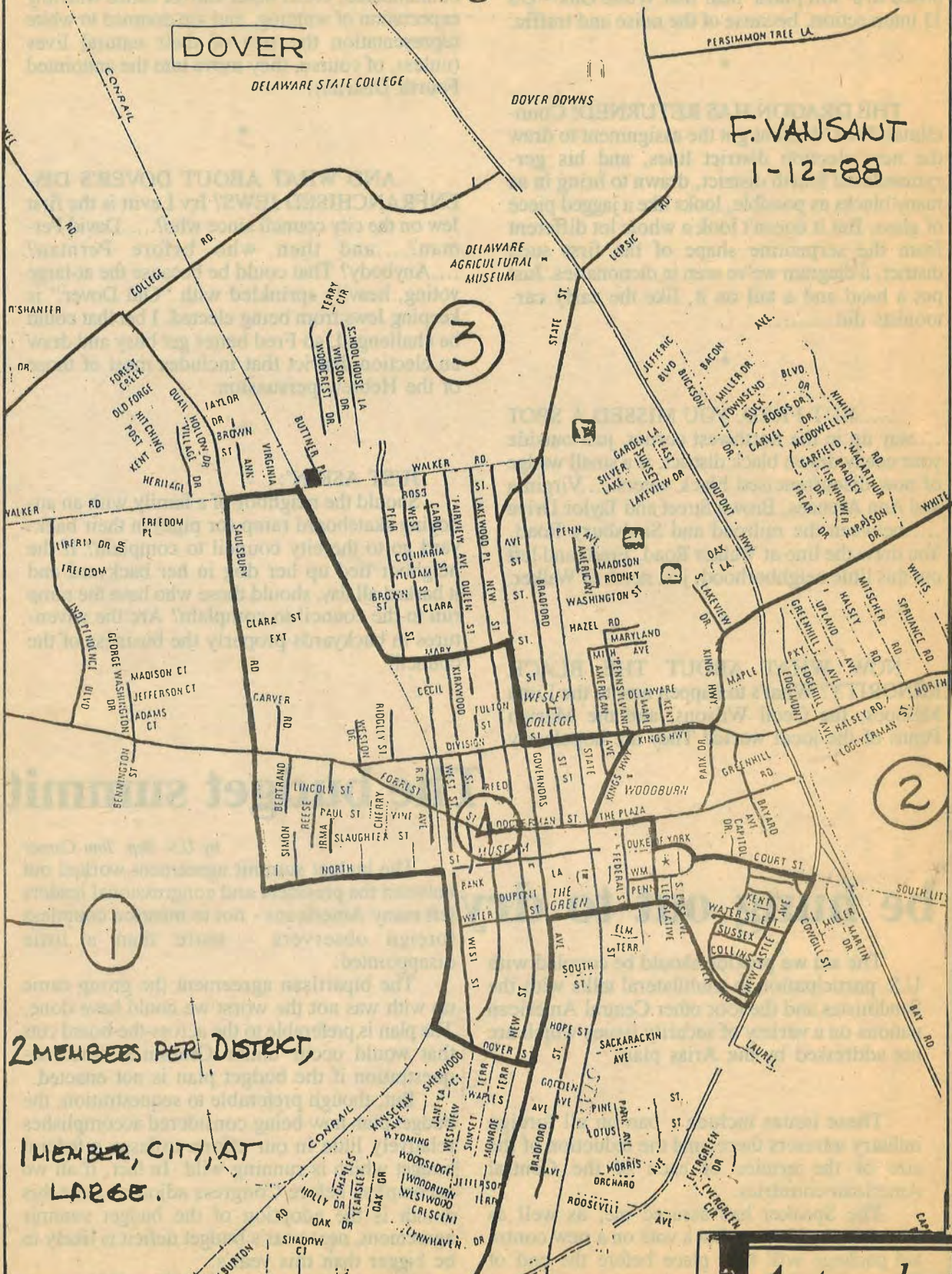
Dover ● Georgetown ● Newark
Rehoboth ● Smyrna ● Wilmington

Deposits up to \$10,000 Insured by the Federal
Deposit Insurance Corporation

98125

The new voting districts

What Dover's new voting districts will look like



The fourth district, to cover central Dover,

Duck Creek and Mispillion, and one for each of the other hundreds, Little Creek and St. Jones.

An amendment February 9, 1796, provided that every freeman over twenty-one years of age shall be rated, in addition to his amount of other tax.

An amendment January 19, 1797, authorizes the court to raise money to maintain the poor and build poor-houses, for laying out and repairing, amending and erecting bridges, causeways and public roads.

The Levy Court records of Kent County are not to be found in continuous record until 1851. A few of the members are here given :

John Marlin.....1798	Major Anderson.....1798
John Pleasanton.....1798	Jonathan Hunn.....1798
John Stewart.....1798	Caleb Sipple.....1798
Nimrod Maxwell.....1798	Benjamin Burrows.....1798

The following list is from the Levy Court records. The members in office in 1851 were as follows :

John Bell.....1851	James Longfellow.....1851
William Collins.....1851	John Hopkins.....1851
James Knight.....1851	John Thompson.....1851
Samuel McGonigal.....1851	John Reynolds.....1851
Danfel George.....1851	

From this date the names of the members elected every two years are given.

Henry Pratt.....1853	David Reese.....1871
Philemon C. Carter.....1853	Wm. H. Hobson.....1871
Thomas H. McIlvaine.....1853	James Williams.....1871
Wm. H. Powell.....1853	John S. Harrington.....1871
John S. Bell.....1855	Charles H. Register.....1873
John Eaton.....1855	Wm. G. Postles.....1873
Andrew N. Harper.....1855	George H. Gildersleeve.....1873
Chas. M. Wharton.....1855	James K. Burnside.....1873
Clement L. Sharp.....1855	Wm. L. Morten.....1873
John C. Pennewill.....1857	Nathaniel H. Griffin.....1875
Ambrose Broadway.....1857	Henry M. How.....1875
William C. Brown.....1857	Philemon Scotten.....1875
Llewellyn Tharp.....1877	James A. Marlin.....1875
John M. Voshell.....1859	Joseph Moore.....1877
Thomas H. Denny.....1859	Ezekiel C. Frazier.....1877
John Slay.....1859	John Harrington.....1877
S. M. Collins.....1859	Zebulon Hopkins.....1877
Robert Hill.....1861	Charles H. Register.....1877
Thomas Postles.....1861	Peter E. Lowber.....1879
Wm. Blay.....1861	Daniel V. Hutchins.....1879
Robert W. Reynolds.....1861	Silas T. Jenkins.....1879
John Booth.....1861	David S. Wilds.....1879
Stephen M. Collins.....1863	John Farrell.....1881
Henry Pratt.....1863	George W. Collins.....1881
Wm. Duhamel.....1863	Joseph S. Burchenal.....1881
John M. Voshell.....1863	John P. Curtis.....1881
David S. Wilds.....1865	Peter K. Meredith.....1881
Wm. Duhamel.....1865	D. M. Clouds.....1883
James D. Kimmey.....1865	B. C. Cabbage.....1883
Richaball Allaband.....1865	J. W. Kirby.....1883
Roe.....1865	D. S. Wilds.....1883
".....1865	John Farrell.....1885
".....1867	Wm. Fisher.....1885
".....1867	Peter K. Meredith.....1885
".....1867	Charles C. Case.....1885
".....1869	Jacob S. Graham.....1885
".....1869	Thomas A. Rees.....1887
".....1869	David M. Clouds.....1887
".....1869	Ezekiel Maaten.....1887
".....1869	Charles C. Case.....1887
".....1800	

Treasurers.

b., 1744	Benj. Vining.....1774
	Wm. Jordan.....1780
709-79	John Baning.....1784

Joseph Taylor.....1788	John M. Voshell.....1869
Ebenezer Blackiston.....1797-1809	Robert Wilson.....1871
Gideon Cullen.....1809	Wm. C. Brown.....1873
Wm. Keith.....1853	Thomas H. Dorman.....1875
George M. Manlovs.....1855	Wm. E. Hall.....1877
Wm. Satterfield.....1857	Benj. C. Cabbage.....1879
Wm. Satterfield.....1859	David Rees.....1881
Henry Whitaker.....1861	James R. Powell.....1883
Martin Harrington.....1863	Eben Hughes.....1885
Whitely W. Meredith.....1865	Wm. R. Dickson.....1887
A. J. Wilson.....1867	

CHAPTER LV.

DOVER.

THE town of Dover enjoys the distinction of having been projected by William Penn, the next year after his arrival in this country, although it was not laid out until 1717. The settlements in 1683 were mostly along the streams, and "Towne Point," near the mouth of St. Jones' Creek, was the place where the courts were held, but, as settlement in the interior was rapidly increasing, Penn conceived the idea of creating a town for a county-seat for St. Jones' County (Kent) and on the 11th of the Sixth Month (August), 1683, he issued a warrant authorizing the surveyor to lay out, for the Governor, a town to be called "Dover," a copy of which is here given :

"William Penn, Proprietary & Governor of ye Province of Pennsylvania & ye Territories thereunto belonging.

"I do hereby order thee to lay out, or cause to be layd out, in ye land appointed for ye town of Dover, in ye county of Kent, one high street one hundred and fifty feet wide, and two back streets each sixty-six feet broad, to run from ye water side throughout, and one cross street one hundred and fifty feet broad where ye high road crosseth ye said Town land, & to lay out ye Lotts in ye sd Town so as each may contain one acre and a half of land, to grant to any person, upon application to thee for a Lott, one Lott in ye sd Town, they building forthwth on ye same & paying unto me as a Ground Rent yearly one bushel of good winter wheat or four shillings, &c.

"I do also order y^t ye Court House and Prison be built in ye cross street of ye sd Town. Given at Philadelphia ye 11th of ye 6th mo., 1683.

Wm. Penn.

"TO WILLIAM CLARKE,
"Surveyor of ye counties of Kent and Sussex."

Endorsed as follows,—

"The Govern^r war^t to lay out the Town Lotts and Streets in the Town of Dover, Kent County."

On the same date William Penn issued the following warrant :

"These are to will and require thee forthwith to lay out or cause to be layd out one of ye corners of ye cross streets in ye towne of Dover, in ye county of Kent, containing eight Lotts for my own use, and make returns thereof into my Secretary's office."

In the warrants issued by Penn during the years 1683-84 he provided that the quit-rents on land in this vicinity be paid at the "town of Dover." It was not at once laid out, probably owing to other business of moment in the province. The history of the county seat and courts of Kent County contain an account of the trouble in locating the town, but upon the decision of the justices that it be upon the land of William Southebee, all controversy ceased. The two hundred acres of land purchased in 1694, was part of a larger tract called "Brothers' Portion," containing

eight hundred acres, which John and Richard Walker took up under a warrant in 1680. On the 20th of February, 1682-83, they purchased the Indian right of this tract of Christian, *alias* Petogogue, owner of all the land between the Murther Kill and Duck Creek, for three match-coats, twelve bottles of drink and four handfuls of powder. On the 16th of February, 1684, John Walker, then sole owner, sold the whole tract to William Southebee, of Philadelphia. It may be well here to state that John Walker and William Southebee were both members of Penn's Council from Kent County, and after the sale of all this land by Southebee, he removed to Philadelphia and became a member of the Council from that county.

Richard Wilson and William Morton were authorized to purchase two hundred acres of William Southebee, which Wilson bought November 23, 1694, for twenty-five pounds, and on the 4th of February following, conveyed it to the county of Kent. It was a tract one hundred perches on Dover River by three hundred and twenty perches westward. The court-house was built about 1697 where the present court-house stands. At that time there was no village or settlement of considerable proportions in the limits of Kent County, and the inhabitants, realizing the necessity of making the place where the courts were held of some importance and convenience, also for the transaction of other business than the public, united in the year 1699 in a petition to the Council at Philadelphia, which was read before that body May 15th. John Curtis and Griffith Jones, residents of the county, were members of the Council, and John Walker, Thomas Bedwell, Samuel Burberry and John Bradshaw, of the Assembly, were also residents of Kent. The petition set forth—

"that yras [whereas] there is a certain peece of land in ye sd County of two hundred acres, on the south side of dover river near the bridge in the King's Road, upon which the court-house now stands, wch ye sd Inhabitants Latelee pchased from Wm. Southebee for the publick use of the sd County; and yras [whereas] ye sd Land being conveniently accomodated in all respects for ye good and benefit yrof, and it being highlee necessary that a township, with all other privileges and benefitts, be erected and established for the good of the said county, with fairs at convenient times, &c., and the sd Land being convenientlie situated for ye purpose; and yrof Requesting yt ye sd Land may be from henceforth erected into a township and called by the name of Canterbury, & that they have a fair yrin [therein] twice a year, and that the same may be laid out into Lotts, a comon and market place, as the county court and Grand Jury shall order and appoint, with streets and publick Landings, & ye freeholders of the said countie may have their Lotts proportionable to what they have paid towards itt, and that whatsoever else may be necessary and convenient for ye good and benefit yrof may be left to the court and grand jurie, from time to time, as ye same shall be needful to be done."

The petition and all its provisions were granted except the name, which was declared to be called "Dover" after the 20th of June next (1699).

The records of the court of Kent County are not to be found; therefore the action of the grand jury or the court is not known. It is evident that even with the approval of the Council, the town was not laid out for several years after. It has not been ascertained whether fairs were held. James Maxwell's tavern, where the courts were formerly held, was not very far away. John Walker, who originally owned

the land on which Dover was laid out, also kept an ordinary on his other land. Certainly no title was in any of the two hundred acres bought for the county of Kent. It is evident that from the time of the answer to the petition, the place became known as Dover, for in the act of assembly passed in 1717, before it was yet laid out, the place is mentioned as being commonly called the town of Dover. Early in the term of Sir William Keith as Governor of Pennsylvania and the provinces in 1717, an act passed the Assembly of the three lower counties appointing persons to lay out the land in lots and streets adjoining to the court-house in Kent County, and to sell the lots. The preamble recites:

"Nothing being of more consequence to a country than the improvement thereof by the addition of tradesmen, and others, in such measure as may not be of great expence to the new settlers; Therefore be it enacted," etc.

Section 1 provided

"that it shall and may be lawful, and it is hereby made lawful, for Benjamin Shurmer, William Brinkloe and Richard Richardson, or any two of them, to survey and lay out into lots a certain tract of land in the county of Kent, adjoining to the court-house of said county, and purchased by the people thereof and commonly called the town of Dover, in such measures and proportions as to them shall seem meet and convenient, and the said lots so surveyed and laid out as aforesaid, to dispose of and sell to such persons as are willing to purchase and buy. . . .

"Sec. 4. That the said survey and allotment and laying out shall be finished and completed at or before the tenth day of March next."

The commissioners laid out the town-plot one hundred perches wide, the width of the tract, and two hundred perches westward, embracing one hundred and twenty-five acres, leaving seventy-five acres on the west end of the tract. The King's Road, leading from Philadelphia southward to Lewes, passed through the plot and is the present Main Street. At right angles with this road is another road or street, which is mentioned in early deeds as Long Street, was located, extending from Dover River westward, passing in front of the residence of Hon. John A. Nicholson, the court-house, office of the *Delawarean* and the residence of Chief Justice Comegys.

At the intersection of these two roads a square was laid out, twenty-two perches on each side, exclusive of the roads. Penn in his instructions directed that the court-house be built at the intersection of the two main streets, and the commissioners, in laying out the town, laid the Long Street in such a way that the court-house occupied that position, and it was in the southeast quarter of the Public Square, where the present court-house now stands. Two other public lots were laid out, one called "Church Square," the other "Meeting-House Square."

It will be noticed that the town-plot was to be completed by March, 1718, and it evidently was at that time or soon after that the plot was made one hundred by two hundred perches, leaving about seventy-five acres to the westward not laid out. On the 13th of May, 1718, John Mifflin bought of the commissioners sixty-nine acres of this tract, which, after passing through several owners, on July, 1748, with some other land adjoining, came to Nicholas Ridgely, whose descendants still own it. It is known as the Ridgely farm.

Ephraim Emerson purchased the remaining portion of the tract outside of the town-plot as laid out. On August 7, 1718, Richard Richardson, one of the commissioners, purchased a lot "beginning at the north-west corner of a square laid out by the authority aforesaid and designed as a place for a court-house and other public services for the use of the said County of Kent, and running thence east by north eleven perches to the corner laid out for a street, and also for the King's road; thence north and by west along the western side of the same street seventeen and a half perches to a stake; thence west and by south twenty-eight and a half perches to a stake; thence south and by east twenty-eight and a half perches to a stake in the line of another space laid out for a street, proceeding from Dover Creek through the body of the said tract; thence down the side of the said street east and by north seventeen and a half perches to the western side of the said square; thence north by west eleven perches to the place of beginning."

In this description the square is mentioned as laid out "and designed as a place for a Court-House and other public services for the use of the said County of Kent," and that the land purchased by Mr. Richardson is eleven perches on the north and west sides of the square; that his south line extends to "another space laid out for a street, proceeding from Dover Creek through the body of the tract," which clearly proves that the street, as originally designed in the plot, ran from Dover Creek in front of the present court-house, through the tract westward, and on the south side of the present Public Square.

On the day of Commissioner Richardson's purchase, Absalom Cuff, of Saulsbury (now Duck Creek), bought a lot containing thirteen acres at "the southern end" of the town, and on the 16th of August the same year Samuel Greenwood purchased thirteen and eight-tenths acres of land on the southern side and western end of the town-plot. The names of John Hefflin and Ephraim Emerson are mentioned as owning lots adjoining Absalom Cuff, which were probably purchased the same day, but they are not of record.

In several deeds made to Benjamin Shurmer, May 20, 1719, by which he bought the lots of Absalom Cuff, Samuel Greenwood, Ephraim Emerson, and later the sixty-nine acres of John Mifflin, mention is made of the land as lying along Long Street, laid out from Dover Creek through the body of the town land, the land and lots all lying south of Long Street. Mention is made in several other early deeds of Long Street, having reference indisputably to the Street that was abandoned about 1722 when the court-house lot was sold to John Lindsay.

No other deeds are recorded until February 12, 1722, when John Lindsay purchased of the commissioners a lot of land "whereon the old court-house now stands," and which at the time of sale was in his possession. The lot is described as "beginning at a stake at the corner of the now court-house green,

and running thence east by north along the line of the said green twenty-seven perches to another corner post; thence south by east twelve perches; thence west by south twenty-seven perches in a line of the east by north side of the chief street of the town called King Street; thence north by west along the line of said street to the place of beginning" laid out for two acres of ground.

It is evident from the sale of this quarter of the square that the original idea of the public square was abandoned, as the sale of this lot and an additional perch on the south side disposed of the whole of it. The square was doubtless intended to be nearly in the middle of the town, but the change makes the block from the present square to Water Street, nearly as large, again as from the square to North Street. The street mentioned in the Richardson deed is found entirely closed a few years later as far as running through the town is concerned by the sale of the lot, now owned by the State, by the commissioners south of the State-House. It was sold March 12, 1729, to Francis Richardson, of which more hereafter.

The next purchaser after John Lindsay was Thomas Wells, of Murtherkill, who on February 10, 1724, bought two lots; one on the north side of Church Square, the other on North Street, each containing one acre. On the 16th of February he purchased two more lots; one being No. 32, on which the Capital Hotel now stands, four perches on the square and extending along King Street to North Street. The other lot was on North Street eight perches, and on East Street fourteen perches.

On August 12, 1727, John Bell bought a lot on High Street, fourteen by twenty-two perches on the south-east side of Church (Meeting-House) Square containing two acres. February 12, 1729,¹ Thomas Tarrant bought two lots, one of which was No. 31 on the north side of the Court-house Square, adjoining a lot of Charles Hillyard on the east and on the west, a lot "designed for Andrew Hamilton," seventy-seven feet by two hundred and thirty-one feet, extending to North Street. The other lot was on North and High Streets, fourteen by eighteen perches.

On November 12, 1729, Francis Richardson, of Philadelphia, who was a large land-owner in Kent County, purchased lot No. 26, fronting on the east side of the public square one hundred and ten feet, and extending three hundred and sixty-three feet eastward to East Street. This lot takes up the street laid out originally from Dover Creek westward. The south line was irregular and joined the Linsey or Lindsay lot, and on the north line was also irregular, as lot 34, ninety-seven feet in depth, on which the State-house now stands, was part of the original lot No. 26. This lot No. 34 was evidently in the second laying out of the town reserved for the court-house. Lot 33, on which the office building now stands, was

¹ The dates here given are dates of deeds. It is evident from them that Articles of Agreement had been made prior as reference is made thereto.

originally part of lot No. 27, and was also ninety-seven feet in depth. In the map made by Thomas Noxon in 1740, No. 34 is marked as court-house, and No. 33 as office.

Francis Richardson on November 12, 1729, also bought three and one-half acres of land in the Town Plot lying on the east side of East Street, opposite the south corner of his other purchase; thence along East Street ten and one-half perches; thence east by south fifty-four perches to the back of Dover River; down the same ten and one-half perches; thence west by south to beginning.

August 12, 1729, Waitman Sipple and Joseph Booth, Jr., received a deed for two lots on the south side of Water Street, forty perches by one hundred and thirty-two perches containing, two acres, called "Elinor's Dowry."

The same day Charles Hillyard received deeds for two lots, one of which began "at the north-westerly corner of the prison in the Court-House Square, thence thirty feet west along the square to the lot of Thomas Tarrant, No. 31; thence north to North Street, along line of said street, east by north sixty-six feet to corner betwixt North and High Streets; ¹ thence along west side of High Street, south by east forty feet to a corner of prison lot; thence along lower line, west by south thirty-six feet to corner of said lot; thence south by east by the line thereof to beginning."

The other lot began on the southeasterly corner of High Street, where it intersects the line of South Street; along the line of the street east by north twelve perches to corner on South Street; thence north by west twenty-two perches to corner; thence west by south twelve perches to corner on High Street; along the street twenty-two perches to beginning line, and for two hundred and sixty-six square perches. August 16 following he also bought a lot beginning at western side of High Street and the northern side of the Church Square (Meeting House Square); along High Street three perches; thence west by south twelve perches; south by east to corner of the square, three perches and along the square to beginning, containing twenty square perches.

On the 10th of November, 1729, David Rees bought a lot on King Street, sixty-six feet south by east of John, south of Bell's lot, formerly the Court-House lot and Linsey lot, fifty-three feet front by twelve perches deep. On April 10 the next year he bought the lot south, sixty-six by one hundred and twenty-nine feet extending to Water Street, and on the 14th of May following he bought a lot nine by fourteen perches, containing one hundred and twenty-eight square perches lying on the west side of High Street at the intersection of South Street. The house now owned and occupied by Mrs. Thomas G. Murphy stands on the lot. The house is solid, sub-

stantial, and built many years ago. McKimney Smack kept a tavern in this house at one time.

On May 13, 1730, Robert Bohannon purchased two lots, one on the west side of King Street, adjoining a lot of Charles Hillyard; the other west from the Meeting-House Square to West Street, eighty feet by twenty-seven perches. He was one of the founders of the Presbyterian church and one of the first trustees. Daniel and Niel Books each bought lots, the deeds bearing date May 12, 1730, lying on the west side of King Street.

The same date Joseph Booth, Jr., purchased two lots at the corner of High and Water Streets, now the property of Thomas Draper and Mrs. Stuart.

The first lot was purchased, it will be remembered, by Richard Richardson, one of the Commissioners, but for some reason that was given up by him and was deeded by the Commissioners to several others. The lot No. 82, in the corner of the Square, fronting both on the north and west sides, extended back to North Street, and was sold to Andrew Hamilton. By agreement a deed was not made until May 15, 1760, when James Hamilton, his son, represented to the Commissioners that his father was deceased and had left the lot mentioned to him and requested a deed, which was given upon that date.

On February 4, 1731, William Rodney, grandfather of Caesar Rodney, and at the time an official of the County, purchased a lot fronting on the west side of the public square, adjoining the lot of Andrew Hamilton, extending to North Street, High Street and Court-House lane (now Bank lane). The same day he sold it to Thomas Nixon, a tailor, who built a house in which he resided. Owing to some irregularity in this deed it was confirmed by the Commissioners January 10, 1739.

Other sales were made by the Commissioners but not recorded, and the Rodney deed was the last one issued by the first commissioners. Benjamin Shurmer was the last survivor, and died in 1736. By the terms of the original act, the power of the Commissioners were not left in trust to heirs, and accordingly about 1737 or 1738, an act of General Assembly was passed, appointing John Halliday, James Gower and Thomas Skidmore, Jr., commissioners with power to sell lots and confirm titles to those already disposed of.

The first deed recorded of the new commissioners is the confirmation of Thomas Nixon's purchase, which was the lot bought by William Rodney, but the deed was made from Benjamin Shurmer to Thomas Nixon.

On June 10, 1741, Robert Willcocks bought four lots, No. 38, 39, 40, and 41, on Water Street, from the Church Square to King Street, and sixteen perches on King Street. August 15th following he also bought lots east of East Street, and west of Front Street. August 14th, the same year, John Houseman, who was recorder of the county many years, bought six lots, No. 14, lying on South Street from

¹ This discrepancy cannot be reconciled, as by all known plots High Street was on the west side of the town.

Front to East Street, and lots 15 to 20, fronting on East Street from South Street to the Church Square. The same date Thomas Noxon, then surveyor of the county, and who the year previous made the plot now preserved in the recorder's office bought lot 93 on Water Street from Queen to High Street.

Cornelius Empson, who came from New Castle at the same time, bought three lots, Nos. 87, 88, 89, on North and Queen Streets and adjoining the Meeting-House lot. On May 12th, 1742, Margaret Caton, daughter of John Caton, one of the magistrates of the court, bought a lot on the north side of South Street, and August 14th Samuel Dickinson bought lots on the north side of South Street and east side of King Street. In 1747 and prior to that time, Cornelius Empson was a merchant in Dover and kept store on the lot east of the Morris lot on the public square, which had formerly been sold to Charles Williams. This lot, as the property of Cornelius Empson, was sold by Cæsar Rodney, sheriff, March 3, 1758, to John Clayton, Jr., on a mortgage to the Trustees of the Loan Office.

The Presbyterian Church was erected on Meeting-House Square before title to the land was obtained. On May 12, 1748, one acre and eighty-five perches was conveyed to Robert Jamison, minister; John Caton and Robert Bohannon, elders, of the Presbyterian congregation in and about Dover, for the use of the congregation, it being "all that lott or parcell of Ground within the town of Dover, whereon the Presbyterian meeting-house now stands." It is described as being on the west side of High Street.

Mention is made in the deed of Thomas Tarrant of the lot "designed for Andrew Hamilton," as adjoining his lot on the west. It was not taken by Hamilton, but was sold prior to 1729 to Thomas Parke, who resided there in that year. In the deed of January 30, 1730, to William Rodney, he stated that the deed from the commissioners was never recorded. Errors were made in the document, which were corrected in a deed of November 2, 1731. In the mean time, Rodney sold it, August 14, 1731, to Thomas Skidmore, innkeeper. A portion of the lot had been reserved, whereon the widow of Thomas Parke lived in 1735.

John Brinckloe, on May 3d, 1735, by an article of agreement, became owner of this lot, which was not conveyed by deed during the life-time of Skidmore. After Skidmore's death, May 14, 1760, Daniel Robinson, as administrator of the estate, gave deed to John Brinckloe for the property, who, on the 28th of August, 1760, sold it to Nicholas Loockerman, who, May 23, 1769, conveyed it to Charles Ridgely, by whose descendants it is still owned. The lot lies east of the Capital Hotel, and the old house upon it, long known as the Ridgely House, is probably the oldest in Dover. A brick in the building bears date 1728. Thomas Parke owned the lot at that time and stated in 1730 that he lived there at that time. The original house contained but two rooms, and was added to on the west end and the rear to its present size by the Ridgelys.

About the year 1739 an act was passed establishing a market at Dover, to be held upon a market-square selected by the magistrates, until a market-house should be erected. Markets were to be held on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Bakers were required to stamp every loaf of bread with some mark. Bread was to be of three kinds, white, middling or brown, and the size and weight of the loaves were to be regulated by the magistrates.

Thomas Nixon was appointed clerk of the market.

No attention appears to have been paid to this act, and, between 1748 and 1754, another was passed which recites:

"Whereas, the said act hath been found insufficient so far as it concerns the town of Dover in regard that no place within the said town hath yet been laid out and called by the name of a market-square, nor any place yet allotted for building a market-house, or appointed where provisions may be bought and sold on market-days, until such house shall be built; for remedy whereof" it was enacted that Nicholas Ridgely, Esq., Andrew Caldwell and Thomas Alford, of Kent County, "lay out with all convenient speed a square plot of ground in or near the middle of that part of Dover commonly called the Court-House Square, which said plot of ground shall be called the Market Square." They "shall also allot and describe some spot of ground within the market-square for building a market-house upon," and to have the oversight of the erection of the building.

Thomas Parke was by the act appointed clerk of the market and empowered to set up stalls or booths and rent them for such an amount as three of the justices should decide upon; the clerk to have the fees for his compensation.

No account of the market or market-square has been obtained from any records, and a square probably was not laid out or house built.

In 1750 Benjamin Chew, James Gorell and Robert Willcocks were appointed commissioners to sell lots in the town, and in 1764 Cæsar Rodney, Charles Ridgely and Thomas Parke were appointed and made the last sale of records by Dover commissioners to Simon W. Wilson, December 23, 1783, (who was at that time recorder of the county.) The purchase was two acres "lying on the west side of town and without the bounds as laid down by Thomas Noxon in plan, but within limits as first directed to be laid off," adjoining the lots of Absalom Cuff and Samuel Greenwood.

In 1763, the people of Dover and vicinity petitioned Governor James Hamilton, asking the liberty and privilege of keeping a public fair twice a year in the town. This was granted September 12, 1763. The first fair was appointed to be held October 12th, and to continue that day and the next following, for the purpose of buying and selling horses, cattle and all kinds of goods and merchandise. The governor was to be paid yearly, and on the 1st of March forever

one peppercorn if demanded. No account of any fairs under this permit is found.

On November 15, 1754, Nicholas Ridgely bought a lot of the commissioners that had been known as the jail lot and is laid down on the plan of 1740. It fronted on the east side of the public square, and extended north to North Street and is still owned by the Ridgely family. That portion of the lot on the square was without doubt, the location of the first jail of Kent County, as special mention is made of it in the deed to Charles Hillyard in 1729. In 1753, trustees were appointed to sell the old jail and jail lot, and this lot was sold the next year to Mr. Ridgely.

The Capital Hotel property passed August 4, 1731, from Thomas Wells to Timothy Cummings, and in 1745 James Byrne was an inn-keeper and kept tavern at the place. He also kept store, and a few years later sold to John Clayton, who May 15, 1765, conveyed it to Vincent Lookerman, who is mentioned as a merchant. The tavern was rented to French Battell, who on March 10, 1774, became the owner of the property. He kept the tavern during the Revolution and died about 1781, bequeathing the business and real estate to his widow Elizabeth. It was at this place of public entertainment that in June, 1782, was held the feast ordered by the General Assembly in honor of the birth of a Dauphin of France, the young prince who disappeared after the execution of Louis XVI., and whose fate is still one of the deepest mysteries of history. The tavern property remained in the hands of the Battell family until 1829, when it was sold to John Reed. In 1818, the house was kept by Joseph Buckmaster, and when the sale was made the inn-keeper was Jacob Biddle, who removed to the house where Benaiah Watson now resides and there continued his business until Reed erected a new tavern on the Battell land. Biddle then became his tenant, and was succeeded from 1840 to 1852 by Joseph McDaniels.

The hotel was kept by many hosts from that time until it was destroyed by fire, in February, 1881, when in charge of William Fountain. It was rebuilt at once and is now kept by George A. Millington.

The Andrew Hamilton lot on the northwest corner of the square was later owned by Charles Ridgely, who was a merchant in Dover, and on December 26, 1787, sold it to Nicholas Ridgely, his brother, who was an attorney-at-law and had filled important offices of the State. Charles Ridgely was one of the commissioners to build the new court-house, and was killed at the building during its erection. The property a few years later passed to Dr. William Winder Morris and remained in possession of the family until recently and is now owned in part by Dr. L. A. H. Bishop.

The lot of Charles Hillyard, now occupied by Kirk & Son's printing office, was owned in 1782, by Edward Tilghman, who February 11, sold it to James Sykes. At that time Hon. William Killen owned the Tarrant's lot and next north from Mr. Bousell's.

The property south of the state-house on which Hon. John M. Clayton resided, now owned by the State but still best known as the Clayton house, was sold by Francis Richardson, March 26, 1730, to Benjamin Shurmer who died in 1736, and left it to his son William, from whom it is thought to have passed to Samuel Chew, as tradition sometimes calls it the Chew house. About 1777, it came into possession of James Sykes, who was that year elected Prothonotary. He filled many important positions and was a member of the House of Representatives when he died in 1794. His son, James Sykes, was prominent as a physician and surgeon, and in 1812, built the residence of Hon. John A. Nicholson, with an office in the east part and a dissecting room on the second floor. His son James, also a physician, occupied the office. John M. Clayton opened his first law office in this place. The old house remained in possession of the Sykes family until November 5, 1824, when it was sold to Mr. Clayton and was his residence until his death, when it passed to Dr. Isaac Jump, and now belongs to the State. The old court-house lot that was sold to John Linsey in 1722, was conveyed by him April 27, 1724, to John Curtis, who sold to John Rees, "Innholder," soon after. November 17, 1727, Rees conveyed it to John Bell, in whose family it remained over a century. On this lot was the old-time tavern that had for a sign a portrait of George III. After the Revolution the portrait of George Washington was painted over it, and as time passed and colors faded both portraits could be indistinctly made out. James Wells was landlord in 1766, and John Bell during the Revolution. The latter's son-in-law, Jacob Furbee, was his successor, and was followed by Elizabeth Cook. In 1818, the inn keeper was Thomas Coombs, and in 1820, Marshal Grouchy, who failed to support Napoleon at Waterloo, and was in part the cause of his defeat, was for some time a guest at the house, and spent his time hunting.

The old hostelry was headquarters for the Democratic party and also the place where for many years gubernatorial receptions were held. It was used as a hotel until destroyed by fire, Nov. 10, 1863. Captain William Mullen became the landlord in 1859 and died July 5th, preceding its destruction. His widow remained in charge and lost much by the fire.

John Baning, saddler, on the 10th of June, 1766, bought of the Dover commissioners a lot on King Street to South Street and east to East Street, where he built a dwelling, in which he also kept a store during the Revolution, and June 18th, purchased thirteen lots south and east of Rev. Charles Inglis. He was a member of the Council in 1791 and died in that year. His dwelling became the Dover Academy and is now the carriage-shop of W. A. Reilly.

In 1818 the hip-roofed house north of the Baning house was owned by the Lookerman estate and occupied by John Christfield, a tailor. A two-story house next east was used as a wheelwright-shop by Benjamin Gould.

Rev. Charles Inglis, who was rector of Christ Church from 1758 to 1764, bought a lot of Vincent Loockerman, where he resided during his pastorate here. His wife, Mary Vining, a step-daughter of Nicholas Ridgely, and a sister of Chief Justice John Vining, died here and lies buried in the churchyard, near where she lived. The lot is on the east side of King Street and extended eastward on Water Street to the church lot. He sold it to John Pryor, a merchant in Dover, February 10, 1762. Mr. Inglis also owned thirteen lots and a messuage and tenement lying between King, South, Front and Water Streets, which he sold June 18, 1766, to John Baning.

Hon. John Dickinson owned land in the southeast part of the town prior to 1766, which passed to Hon. William Killen, who, August 14th in that year, sold lot No. 10, containing six acres, to Andrew and Richard Butler, and August 16th, lot 9, five acres, to James Wells, who is mentioned as an innkeeper of Dover. These lots were on Water Street between East and Front. The Butlers later owned lots 100 and 101, on the southwest part of the town plot.

A large lot fronting on the west side of King Street, and extending along the south side of the Public Square and through the Governor's Avenue, at an early date not known, came into possession of Richard Richardson, who, in 1718, purchased the land on the northwest of the Public Square. On May 2, 1775, it was divided into two lots, and John Richardson, son of Richard, received the north lot fronting on King Street and the Square, and Ann, the wife of James Townsend, was given the south lot, bounded south by the lot then owned by Hugh Parke. In the survey dwellings are shown on both lots as fronting on King Street.

The north lot was sold, November 28, 1783, by John Richardson to Mark Coudright, who erected the present office of the *Delawarean*. The land lying on the Public Square, except the corner lot, was seized in 1788 by Ezekiel Anderson, sheriff, who divided it into six lots and, February 5th, sold lot No. 1 to Stephen Allston; Nos. 2 and 3 to Purnell Lofland and No. 4 to Joshua Fisher. The remainder, through to High Street, soon after passed to Stephen Allston, who, in 1790, sold lots 5 and 6, to Joshua Fisher, who built the present residence of Chief Justice G. P. Comegys.

The lot formerly owned and occupied by James P. Wilds and now by Miss Manlove, was in the Long Street that was originally laid out to run from Dover Creek through the town plot. It was originally bought by Thomas Nixon, who owned all the land north of it to North Street in 1730. He left it to his son, Thomas Nixon, who was a physician in practice in Dover. He sold the west part of it, now belonging to the bank, August 4, 1783, to Richard Bassett, then member of the Council and later chief justice and President of the State. On November 30, 1787, Mr. Bassett bought three lots of Charles Nixon, executor of the estate of Dr. Thomas Nixon, lying west of his residence and in rear of the bank lot, then owned by Fidelio Rodger-

son, to Governor's Avenue, and bounded south by the lots of Eleazer McComb. Until his departure from the town Miers Corson owned the lot on the Square south of Bassett's residence, which Mr. Bassett bought and owned in 1790.

Charles Kimmey, in 1806, opened a store in the south part of King Street, in the house now occupied as the parsonage of Christ Church. The public printing was done in the town for many years by the following persons: 1806, Wooten & Allen; 1807-12, John B. Wooten; 1813-16, Augustus H. Schee and again in, 1835-36; 1837-52, Samuel Kimmey; 1853-60, William Sharp; 1863-75, James Kirk & Son, and at the office of the *Delawarean*; from 1875 to 1883 the printing was done at Wilmington, but since the latter year it has again been performed by J. Kirk & Son and the *Delawarean* establishment.

King Dougall, in 1797 and to 1819, was a merchant in Dover and kept a store. His day-book is in possession of Thomas O. Culbreath, and contains many curious entries, some of which are for spirits, rum and wine furnished to Assemblymen at Miller's. Samuel Miller, in 1798, kept one of the taverns. Dr. Jacob Jones, a native of Smyrna and a student under Dr. James Sykes, whose sister he married, was practicing medicine in Dover in that year, and about that time entered the navy of the United States, where he rose to the position of commodore. The State honored him by a portrait painted by Thomas Sully, which hangs in the chamber of the House of Representatives. At the same time Dr. John Horn was in practice in the town.

The Ridgely family, that for over a century and a half have resided in Dover, were first represented by Nicholas Ridgely, who was born in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, in 1694, and resided there in early manhood. He came to the town of Saulsbury (now Duck Creek) about 1732, where he lived for a year or two, removing thence to Salem, N. J., where he married the widow of Benjamin Vining. In 1738 he settled in Dover and became one of the magistrates of the court, and in 1740 one of the provincial justices of the Supreme Court. July 15, 1748, he bought the farm in the original Dover tract still held by the family, and four other lots of land in the town plot as laid out. In 1754 he purchased the "jail lot," and died the next year, and was interred in Christ Church burying-ground. He left one son, Dr. Charles Ridgely, and several daughters.

Charles Ridgely, in 1769, purchased what is known as the Ridgely House, on the public square, where he died in 1785. He left sons,—Nicholas, who was member of the Council in 1788, and filled other important offices in the Government; Abraham; Charles, a Dover merchant, who was killed during the erection of the present State-House; George W., who was a midshipman in the navy and was lost at sea, on board the "Insurgent," off the coast of Peru; and Henry M., an attorney-at-law, whose sons, Dr. Henry and Edward, are still residing in Dover. The

daughters of Dr. Charles Ridgely were Wilhelmina, Mary (wife of Dr. William Winder Morris), and Ann.

The Loockerman family, for over a hundred years prominent in the county, were first represented by Nicholas Loockerman, who settled on the "Range," known in later years as the Drew Farm, and was married in 1721. In 1722, Vincent Loockerman was born, and upon reaching maturity he settled in Dover, and purchased, about 1742, a lot on the north side of King Street, and built the residence where Mrs. Thomas B. Bradford now has her home. He left a son Vincent who was born in 1747, and in 1774 he married, Elizabeth, the daughter of John Pryor, a merchant in Dover, by whom he had two children, Elizabeth and Nicholas. He was at one time a member of the General Assembly of the three lower counties, and a prominent Whig during the Revolution. He died at his residence, on King Street, in Dover, August 26, 1785, aged sixty-three years, and with his wife, Susannah, is interred in the family burial-place, on the "Range." Vincent, his eldest son, died April 5, 1790, aged forty-three years, and is also buried in the family ground.

Nicholas, son of Vincent, born in 1789, was in 1808, a member of the House of Representatives, and died unmarried in 1850. Elizabeth was born in 1779, and in 1805 married Thomas Bradford, LL.D., of Philadelphia, counselor-at-law. Her father died in 1785, and left her a large estate, which, after her death, in 1842, was divided among her five children,—Vincent L., Elizabeth L., Benjamin R., William and Thomas B. Vincent L. adopted the profession of his father, and became a noted counselor. He removed to Michigan in 1835, and in 1837 was elected to the State Senate. He returned to Philadelphia in 1843, and resumed practice. Elizabeth married Rev. William T. Dwight, D.D., of Portland, Me., son of Rev. Timothy Dwight, former president of Yale College, New Haven, Conn.

Thomas B. Bradford became a Presbyterian minister, and after the death of his mother returned to the paternal mansion in Dover, where he resided until his death, March 25, 1871. The property in and near Dover was left to his mother by will, March 9, 1784, and by lease and release came into the possession of Rev. Thomas Bradford, who, in 1852, laid out Bradford City, now the new part of Dover.

A number of lots lying just outside the town were bought by citizens of Dover as out-lots for pasturage and other purposes. The four hundred acres of the "brother's portion," bought of William Southebee by Richard Wilson in 1699, were later owned by Hon. John Dickinson and passed to William Killen. A tract of land, part of the above, containing one hundred and ten acres lying south of and close to the town plot, between St. Jones' Creek and the road that leads from Dover to Lewes, was laid out by William Killen, August 13, 1766, into lots long and narrow, each having a front on the creek and on the King's

Road. Lot No. 1, containing ten acres, next the town, was sold to John Pryor, a merchant in Dover. At the foot of it, on the creek, near where the tan-house ditch enters it, was a place called William's Landing, now known as the ship-yard, where, in 1831-32, James Waples built two schooners and a sloop. No. 2 was taken by James Maxwell and contained five acres; No. 3, of five acres by James Morton; No. 4, of five acres by George Goforth; No. 5, of five acres by Matthew Boggs; No. 6, of ten acres by Caesar Rodney; No. 7, of twenty acres by Samuel McCall; No. 8, of ten acres by Hugh Parke; No. 9, of five acres by James Wells; No. 10, of six acres by Richard and Andrew Butler; No. 11, of twenty-eight acres by Thomas Nixon. The lands are now owned by Manlove Hayes, James M. Kerbin, George Parris and James Slaymaker.

The first addition made to the town was by the selling of a few lots north of North Street and on the King's Road or King Street. This land was part of a tract of four hundred acres known as "Morgan's Calf Pasture," and also "Lassene," which is given as the north boundary of the town plot in 1694. It was taken up by David Morgan in 1679 by warrant from Whorekill Court, and February 27, 1681-82, he bought the Indian right of Christian, the Indian owner of all the land between the Murther Creek and Duck Creek. Two hundred and fifty-four acres of it was sold to William Annand, who, by his will dated December 26, 1714, devised it by the name of "Bellyhill" to Andrew Hamilton, who retained it until August 23, 1775, when it passed to Vincent Loockerman. In 1777 he sold a few lots along the east side of the King's Road leading through Dover to John Bell, who, in 1782, sold to Peter B. Fury. They passed to William K. Boyce, and, February 21, 1816, were sold to James Kirbin, in whose family they still remain.

On October 21, 1779, there was surveyed from part of the "calf pasture" three lots on the north side of North Street. The first contained one acre on the corner of North Street and the King's Road, and was sold to John Bullin. In 1783 this lot was divided, and William Howell purchased the corner, forty-four feet on King Street, running along North Street. The next lot north, forty-four feet front, was sold to John Bullin, Jr., also fronting on King Street, and improved by a house. The rest was the estate of John Bullin, deceased. North of this was property owned by John White.

The second lot was sold in 1779 to Rev. Samuel Megaw, rector of Christ Church. It was west of the Bullin lot on North Street and contained one acre. West of this lot and on North Street was four acres bought by James Cookley. The north lines of these lots is now the south line of Loockerman Street.

These lots were sold and built upon within a few years after 1780. In 1818 Thomas L. Hillyard and Martin W. Bates kept a store on the northeast corner of King and North Streets. Joseph Harper, an old Revolutionary soldier, and clerk of the peace from

1792 until after 1805, resided a short distance above.¹ Miss Martha Allman, a widow, taught school several years in an old house that stood on the site of the present Methodist Church. Chief Justice J. P. Comegys and William J. Clark learned their alphabets in the old house, under the teaching of Widow Allman. Widow Eunice Biggs was her neighbor on the north, and next was a store-house, both on the site of the present post office. The Kirbin house and blacksmith-shop were next north. A school-house that had formerly been kept by Stephen Sykes was between the Kirbin house and the old Hillyard house. On the northeast corner of the lot Jacob Stout had a large tannery in 1818, and for several years later.²

On the west side of King Street, where David Barton's drug-store now stands, Jeremiah McKnott, a Revolutionary soldier, lived in a two-story house.³

Next was the residence of Myers Casson. The house, now the property of Edwin M. Stevenson, presents about the same appearance now that it did in 1820. The parlor was occupied as the office of the Secretary of State, and the rest of the house was used by a Frenchman, who taught language and drawing. A few small dwellings other than these were on King Street and upper side of North Street, and in one of them Mrs. Betty Riley had a cake and candy shop to draw the pennies from the children.

It was not until some years after the removal of the Rev. Thomas B. Bradford to Dover that the land from the new part of Dover was offered for sale. Early in 1852, Mr. Bradford laid out "Bradford City" into lots and streets, set out many trees along the streets, and offered lots for sale, since which time it has grown rapidly, and at present this new section is much larger than the original town. Mr. Bradford built the houses on State Street now occupied by Samuel W. Hall and J. A. Fulton. He also erected three cottages on Bradford Street, and moved two houses from old State Street to Lookerman Street, and made many other improvements. Samuel Culbreth soon after built the store on the corner of Look-

¹ Joseph Harper died at Dover, June 9, 1824, aged sixty-eight years. He was in nine engagements in the Revolution, among which were the battles of Trenton, Princeton, White Plains and Long Island. He was a resident of Dover forty years, and held office under the State and county from the close of the Revolution until within two years of his death.

² Governor Stout was rumping the tannery while he was Governor, and at one time, when stooping over testing some liquor in a tan vat, a pet ran, noticing a favorable opportunity to exercise his propensity, butted his Excellency and landed him in the vat. The Governor, dripping with the liquor, called out to Betty, the housekeeper, to "look at the impudence of the d—d ram to butt the Governor of the State of Delaware into a tan vat."

³ An incident of the War of 1812-14 is of interest, and is taken from a Wilmington paper of the date given:

"At Dover on Sunday, March 21, 1813, in consequence of the movements of the British up the Delaware, the drum beat to arms. The whole population, of all sects and persuasions, religious and political, capable of shouldering a musket, assembled. Arms were distributed, and in three hours three hundred and fifty men were ready for service. All the soldiers of the Revolution in the neighborhood were present. Jeremiah McKnott, an old Revolutionary, tottering on his staff, received a musket and with hearty will entered the ranks. He was a strict Methodist, and, Sunday as it was, immediately after the drill he returned home and set himself to work making ball cartridges and teaching the boys how to make them. The force mustered frequently after with him in the lines."

erman and State Street, and the dwelling north. David F. Barton and the Hon. Eli Saulsbury and Geo. B. Dickson each erected the dwellings where they now reside. In 1857 Andrew Smithers and Richard M. Jones built the houses where Andrew Smithers and Edward Ridgely now live, and N. B. Smithers the residence now owned and occupied by George V. Massey.

One of the most thrifty and energetic merchants of Dover was John Reed, a native of Missillion Hundred. He descended from John Reed, who settled in the county about 1700. John Reed, the merchant, came to Dover in 1825, and bought the two corners of King Street facing on the north side of the public square. In 1831 he erected a large brick store, now occupied by the First National Bank, and the same year erected the Capital Hotel. He became the first merchant in the place and owned several vessels that ran from Leipsic. He was also an extensive landholder in different parts of the county. His wife was Mary, daughter of Judge Jacob Stout, and granddaughter of Hon. William Killen. His daughters were Angelica K., wife of John A. Nicholson, and Elizabeth, wife of Daniel Cowgill.

The town⁴ of Dover grew but little for many years; the powers of the commissioners were extended from time to time, and on July 16, 1829, an act was passed authorizing them to cause additional wells and pumps to be put down; to provide buckets, hooks and ladders for fire purposes; to lay pavements and gutters; and to erect a market-house not to exceed the cost of four hundred dollars. All previous efforts to get a market-house failed and so did this one.

The town⁴ of Dover was incorporated by act of General Assembly February 16, 1829. It provided for the laying out of certain territory by metes and bounds and for the election of town commissioners and other officers. The officers were elected in March following, and the first meeting of the town commissioners was held March 24th, when Henry Todd was chosen surveyor to define the boundaries of the town. On the 28th of April in that year contract was made to lay a pavement in front of the State-House. August 31st, John M. Clayton was ordered to lay a pavement of brick, twelve feet in width, in front of his property on the square (now owned by the State), and at the same time Nehemiah Clark and Samuel M. Harrington, tenants of Kent County, were ordered to lay down a pavement of brick, twelve feet wide, "in front of their offices," (or the "old jail," as then commonly called).

The beef-house of Daniel W. Duhamel being declared a nuisance, it was ordered to be removed.

On September 29, 1829, it was ordered that two pumps be settled in the town, and Abel Harris was appointed to superintend the work. The locations were not mentioned at that time, but one was for

⁴ The town did not cover the plot originally laid out, and for many years remained the same. It was not until the agitation for a railroad through the town that there was any effort made to extend its limits.