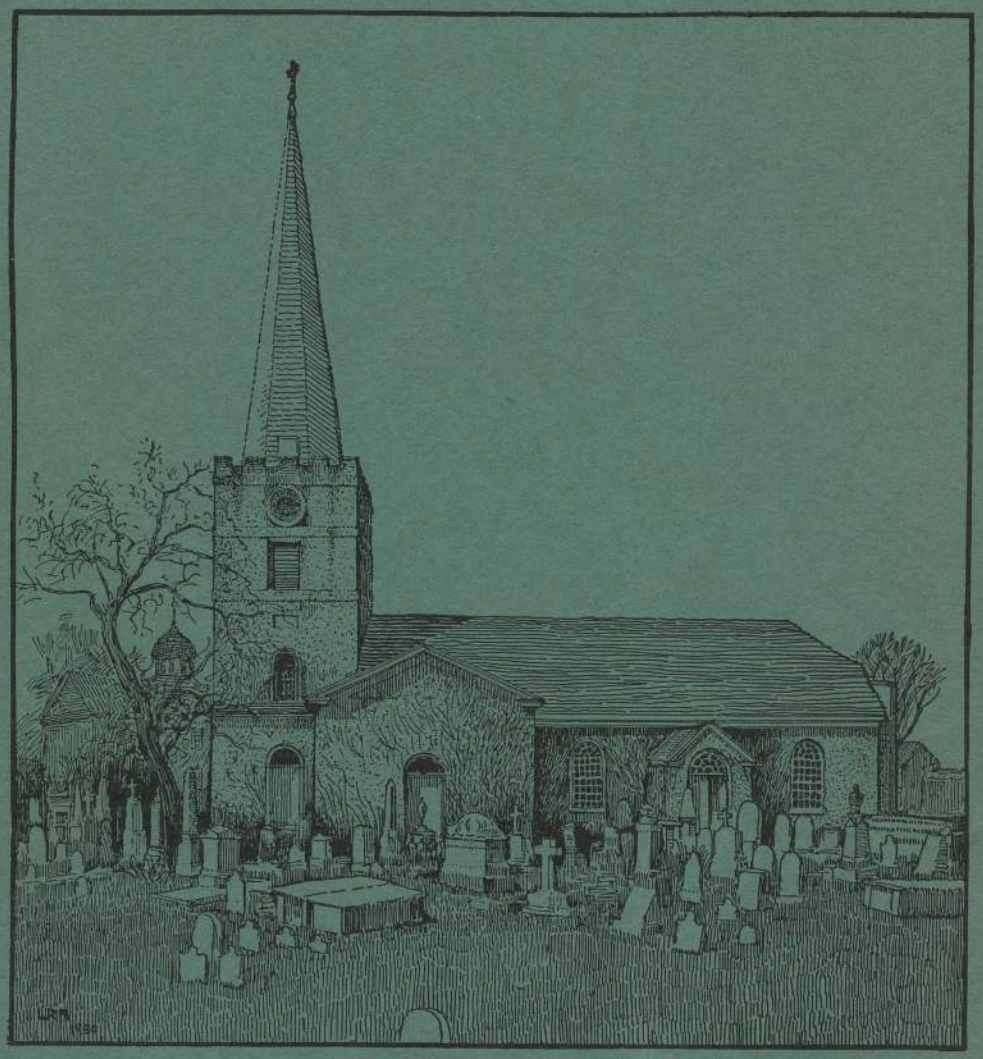
Delaware - New Castle

A Day in Old NEW CASTLE



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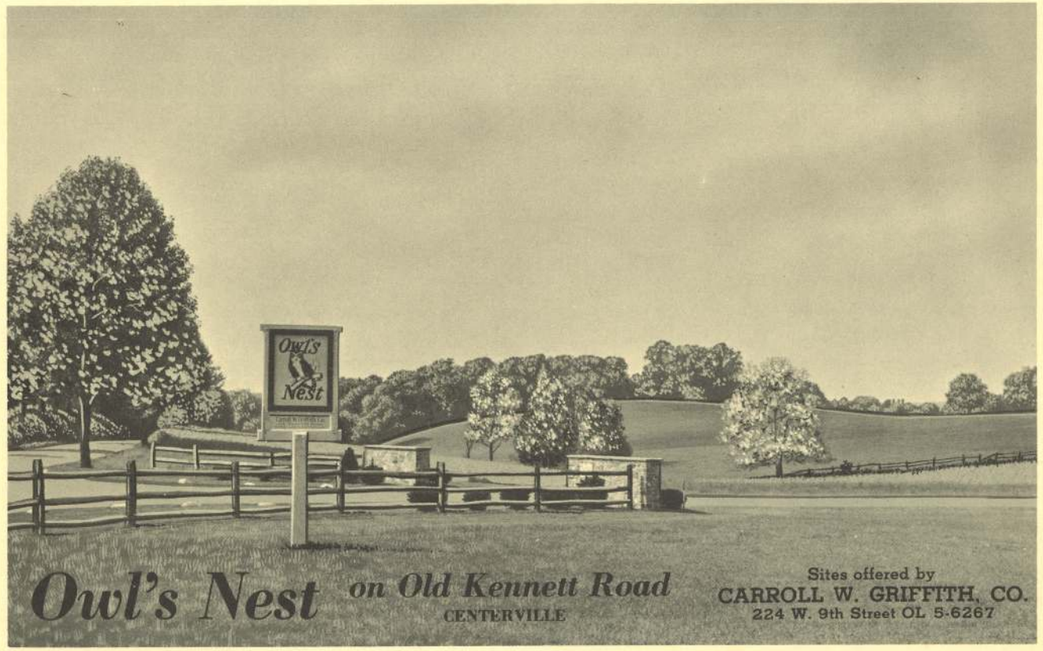
Third Saturday in May Annually



Court House

YEARS OF CHANGE

As elsewhere in the New World, the early years of New Castle were times of change. Competition for territory and commerce among Colonial powers brought five changes of sovereignty and four changes of name in only a little over thirty years. Founded in 1651 by Peter Stuyvesant, Fort Casimir, as New Castle was first called, gave the Dutch command of all traffic on the important South or Delaware River. Nearby Swedes considering this an encroachment on prior claims and anxious to protect their own river position, captured the settlement in 1654, christening it Fort Trefaldighet (Trinity) in honor of the day. Only a little more than a year later in 1655, the Dutch regained the fort which then became New Amstel. It was not until 1664, when the English seized all Dutch possessions in North America, that the town was called New Castle. Except for a year of Dutch rule a few years later, New Castle remained under the British flag for the rest of the Colonial period. In 1682 William Penn, newly landed in America, received the proprietorship of the Three Lower Counties of New Castle, Kent and Sussex from James, Duke of York. The enactment of the ceremony of "Livery of Seizin" in which Penn received "Turf, Twig, Soyle and Water" in token of his ownership of the property took place on the site of Immanuel Church (No. 1).



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COLONIAL CAPITOL

Penn soon found The Counties determined to rule themselves, and in 1704 the Proprietors granted them a separate legislature. This Assembly made New Castle the Colonial capitol and later first state capitol of Delaware. Removal of the state government to Dover in 1777 did not diminish the importance of the town. Already an established stopping place, New Castle became even more popular after the 1800 relocation of the federal government in Washington. New Castle's location on the eastern side of the land dividing the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays made it an ideal transfer point for trips to and from the new federal capitol and other destinations along the Atlantic seaboard. Many important people of the later Eighteenth and early Nineteenth Centuries passed through here on their journeys up and down the coast. Landing at Packet Alley (No. 28) from the Philadelphia packets, they proceeded by stage to Frenchtown on the Elk River for re-embarkation to Baltimore, Annapolis and other destinations. One of the earliest American railroads, the New Castle and Frenchtown was built to facilitate this portage. Its ticket office survives (No. 23); and a number of the roadbed's stone sleepers can be found in the paving of The Strand and at other points. A modern trans-shipment carry-over was the New Castle-Pennsville ferry which conveyed the heavy motor traffic of U. S. Route 40 and U. S. Route 130 across the river until the completion of the Delaware Memorial Bridge in 1951.

* * * * *

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

One of the oldest Delaware valley settlements, New Castle offers a notable array of homes, churches and public buildings spanning over 150 years of American architecture. Especially unique is the proportion of old houses in continuous use, some still inhabited by descendants of the original owner (Nos. 8 and 9). The site of Fort Casimir is now under water, but an interesting reminder of the founding period is the Old Dutch House (No. 6) built prior to 1700. Other pre-revolutionary examples include: Immanuel Church (No. 1) built in 1703; the Presbyterian Church (No. 19) in 1707; and the main portion of Amstel House in 1730 with service wings earlier. Many early structures have been incorporated, usually as kitchens, at the rear of later, larger dwellings (Nos. 3, 7, 10) and others have been built where old houses once stood. For this reason it is often difficult to ascribe an exact date to a building. Although many buildings reveal a typically Colonial English influence, they retain an unusual degree of local and individual modification and invention. It is this creative touch that "makes New Castle seem architecturally harmonious without being uniform or monotonous."

* * * * *

A PROUD PRESERVATION

The survival of these buildings is due, no doubt, to the later decline in New Castle's importance. Development of modern transportation outmoded its harbor and carried through traffic west of the town by rail and highway. Failing to grow like Wilmington and Philadelphia, New Castle's old buildings providentially were not torn down and replaced by up-to-date structures. Although it is now the seat of several industries, prosperous local businesses, and the center of a growing residential area, New Castle's old civic center and riverside residential area remain intact. In the last generation increasing interest in American antiques has attracted new residents and encouraged both new and old families to provide for the proper care and restoration of historic buildings. Outstanding examples are found in the interest of the late Phillip D. Laird, Daniel Moore Bates, Louise duPont Crowninshield, and, more recently, in the state-supported restoration of the Court House by the New Castle Historic Buildings Commission. Two of the oldest buildings, the Dutch House and Amstel House, are now the property of the New Castle Historical Society and are maintained as museums.

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A DAY IN OLD NEW CASTLE

In 1924 a group of ladies of Immanuel Church arranged to open for a day a number of interesting houses and to exhibit antique furnishings, heirlooms and other objects of historical importance. The purpose was two fold: to arouse interest in early Americana and to raise money for the preservation of historic buildings belonging to the Parish. The success of this tour led to its continuation as an annual Day in Old New Castle, held each year on the third Saturday of May (except for an interruption during World War II). The scope and complexity of the event have greatly increased. However, all work is still done by volunteers, and expenses of printing and publicity are held to a minimum. After contributions are given to other churches and cooperating non-profit organizations, the proceeds are used to help preserve the historic buildings owned or leased by Immanuel Parish.

* * * * *

TICKETS

Individual tickets, including admission to two museums, are priced at $3.50 with no charge for children under twelve years old. Group rates when arranged prior to May first are $3.00 per person on groups over 20, $2.75 per person on groups over 40. A group of 5 school children over twelve years of age and one teacher is $10.00. Tickets are sold at the Court House and at the New Castle-Frenchtown Ticket Office (at entrance to the parking lot).

* * * * *

PARKING, EXHIBITS, FOOD

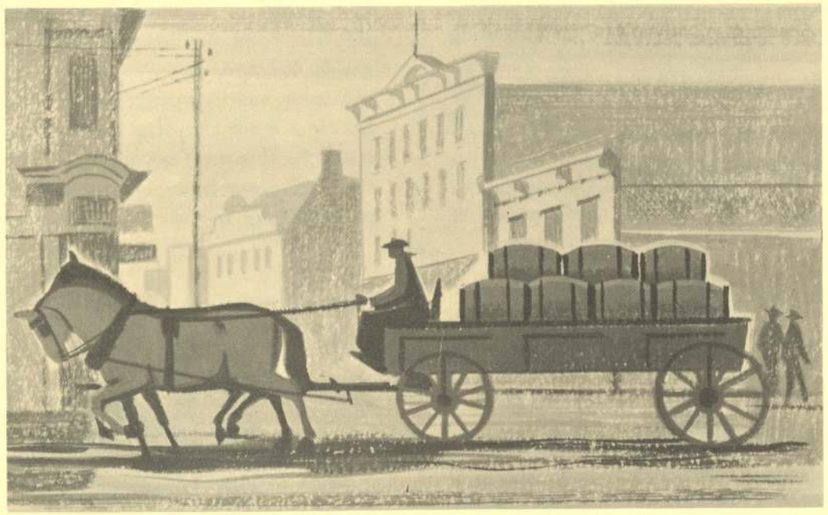
Ample, convenient parking space is provided without charge. Practically all points of interest are located within easy walking distance in an area of approximately two by four city blocks. If exhibits are located outside this area, free transportation is provided. Arrangements can be made for lunch at the Parish House (No. 34) and the Committee operates a snack bar at the Academy (No. 2). Several restaurants and soda fountains are in or near the tour area.

* * * * *

HOMES AND BUILDINGS OPEN

This booklet contains brief descriptions of all houses that *have been* or *may be opened.* The list of those actually available varies from year to year, and usually comprises fifteen to twenty homes, as well as churches, museums and public buildings. A final list is furnished with this booklet at each ticket office. All open buildings are marked with the blue and yellow New Castle Day signs with numbers keyed to this booklet. Public buildings are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (DST) and private homes from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For further information please write:

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Interior

1 IMMANUEL CHURCH

Harmony and Market Streets

Founded in 1689, this was the first Church of England parish in Delaware. The church building, however, was not started until 1703, the original part being the nave of the present structure. About 1820 the church was lengthened, transepts, tower and steeple were added and the altar moved from the east to the west end. The copper-covered wooden cross on the steeple was added in 1848.

In the churchyard are the gravestones of many of the men and women who led New Castle to its position of prominence in the Delaware community before and after the Revolution, including Governor Gunning Bedford; George Read, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a framer of the Constitution of the United States; Kensey Johns, Sr.; and the Nicholas Van Dykes, father and son. Here a restoration project goes on from time to time, and many of the old stones, victims of the attrition of wind and weather, have had their inscriptions recut.

Visitors on New Castle Day may see the old Queen Anne silver communion service made by Simeon Soumaine in 1710 and used by the congregation on Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday. Also on display are church records from that date, and Queen Anne-Chippendale transition arm and side chairs in the chancel believed to date about 1750.

The Reverend James O. Reynolds, rector.

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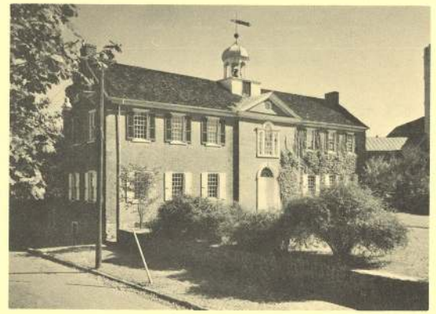
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2 *THE ACADEMY*

Third and Harmony Streets

Planned for many years but delayed by the Revolution, this building was finally built in 1798 and is attributed to Peter Crowding, a builder responsible for much of the construction of that period in New Castle.

Here may be seen the Secret Garden behind the Academy, shut off from the streets by a high brick wall, above which rises a gnarled old paulownia tree. Legend has it that the tree was grown from seeds carried in by ships engaged in the China trade, either blowing off the vessels as they proceeded upriver or dropping from cargoes unloaded here, but the tree generally has been planted elsewhere in the eastern United States.

For 130 years the building was a school, first private, then semi-private, finally a public school. Now it is leased by Immanuel Church for church and community use. Several fine pieces of antique furniture are in the building.

* * * * *

3 *HARMONY HOUSE*

Third and Harmony Streets

This handsome dwelling was built, like many New Castle homes, in sections. The restored back kitchen dates from about 1695, the center section from about 1725, and what is now the front on Third Street, from 1836. Among its antiques are a secretary in the front room, made in Philadelphia about 1780; a Queen Anne armchair attributed to William Savery; a portrait by Sully; and miniatures, including the work of Charles Willson Peale; jewelry, furniture, china and silver owned by the Revolutionary heroine Lydia Darragh.

The dining room is set with Chinese export porcelain, silver, and Waterford glass of the Colonial period.

A document of interest is the original deed from Chief Seckatarius to William Penn for land near Chester, Pennsylvania.



Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Holcomb II

* * * * *

4 *THE LIBRARY*

East Third Street

This half-octagon brick structure was built in 1890. Formerly owned by the New Castle Library Company, a private organization established in 1812, it is now supported by the Trustees of the Common as a public library. Some 5,000 volumes and a collection of old books are on display.

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5 *HOLDEN HOUSE*

34 East Third Street

The dining room is believed built before 1759, as a deed of that year records a dwelling on the site. The second part was added in 1770, when the lot was enlarged, and the final section between 1820 and 1830. Solid brick walls show clearly the divisions between the older and the newer of the sections.

The changes in craftsmanship in the three areas are clearly shown in contrasting styles of the woodwork and fireplaces. The house has been restored by the Holdens since 1951 to show the charm and liveability of a small house of the Federal period. Staffordshire and other Nineteenth Century china is on display.

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth V. Holden

* * * * *

6 *OLD DUTCH HOUSE*

32 East Third Street

The only survivor in its original form of the New Castle of the 1600s, the house was restored in 1938 by the Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, and is now a museum run by the New Castle Historical Society. The garden around the one and a half story little dwelling has been restored by the Arasapha Garden Club. The exact date of construction is not known.



* * * * *

7 *ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER HOUSE*

26 and 28 East Third Street

The four-story double house with yellow brick facade was built by Archibald Alexander, one of five men who surveyed and established the town's boundaries in 1797. The house was built some time between 1800, when he bought the land, and 1804 when existence of the building was established by survey.

A low-ceiling single story and loft at the rear of No. 26 is believed to have been built about 1690. The two and one-half story brick building faced with stucco, forming the central part of both houses, was later built in front of the old part.

Much of the original woodwork is still in the Fiske house. The two houses are similar but not identical. No. 28 is built to the property line and formerly had a covered passage to the garden. No. 26, slightly narrower, has an open path at its side.

Residences of Colonel and Mrs. John F. Fiske and Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Taylor

* * * * *

8 *GEMMIL HOUSE*

18 East Third Street

This four-story brick dwelling was built about 1801 and is attributed to Peter Crowding. Its features include the original 24-paned windows, an excellent fanlight over the front door, and fine interior woodwork. Mrs. Meyers is a direct descendant of Jeremiah Bowman who bought it from John Wiley soon after it was built. Silsbee Alley at the side of the house has served as a public way since the early Eighteenth Century.

Residence of Mrs. William E. Meyers

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9 *RODNEY HOUSE*

16 East Third Street

This comfortable town house, built in 1831 near the end of New Castle's great building period for George Brydges Rodney, has remained in the family of the builder for its 132 years.

Exhibits include letters and documents of historical interest from the Colonial and Revolutionary periods, and a collection of Delawareana.

Portraits include George Read, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, by Gilbert Stuart; George Ross, another signer, and of the Reverend George Ross, Sr., first rector of Immanuel Church, by Heselius; and of the elder Ross's daughter, ascribed to Benjamin West. Also on display is a deed bearing the signature of William Penn.

No. 14 next door was also built by G. B. Rodney and served as Judge Richard S. Rodney's law office.



Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Cooch, Jr.

* * * * *



10 *KENSEY JOHNS, SR., HOUSE*

Two East Third Street

This house was built in 1789-90 by Kensey Johns, a lawyer who was to serve as Delaware's chief Supreme Court justice for thirty-two years from 1798 to 1830.

The kitchen wing, however, is considered much older than the rest of the house, and is believed to have been the home of Ambrose Backer, a prosperous Dutchman, who lived on the corner for more than 10 years prior to his death in 1695.

Of interest here is the interior, including wall paneling in white pine, as in the older houses, and the later fashion of fireplaces, faced with marble and surmounted with delicately carved woodwork.

When Mount Vernon was restored in 1910, two brass keyplates from this house were sent there, as they duplicated those put in by Washington.

Some original plans of the house, including cost, still exist and are generally on exhibit on New Castle Day.

* * * * *

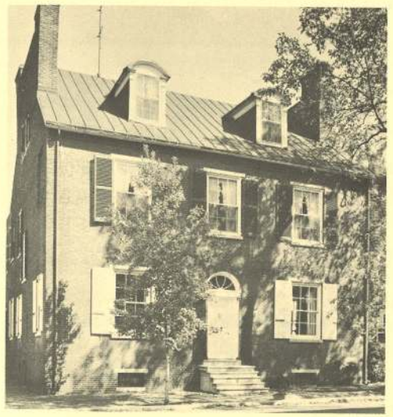
11 *KENSEY JOHNS, JR., HOUSE*

Fourth and Delaware Streets

Built in 1823 on part of the grounds of Kensey Johns, Sr., this house has the plain elegance of New Castle's later homes. The doorway is typical of the period with arch and woodwork. Many fine pieces of furniture may be seen.

Kensey Johns, Jr., followed his father in the law and in public life. He served two terms in the House of Representatives and succeeded his father as Chancellor.

Residence of The Honorable and Mrs. Daniel F. Wolcott



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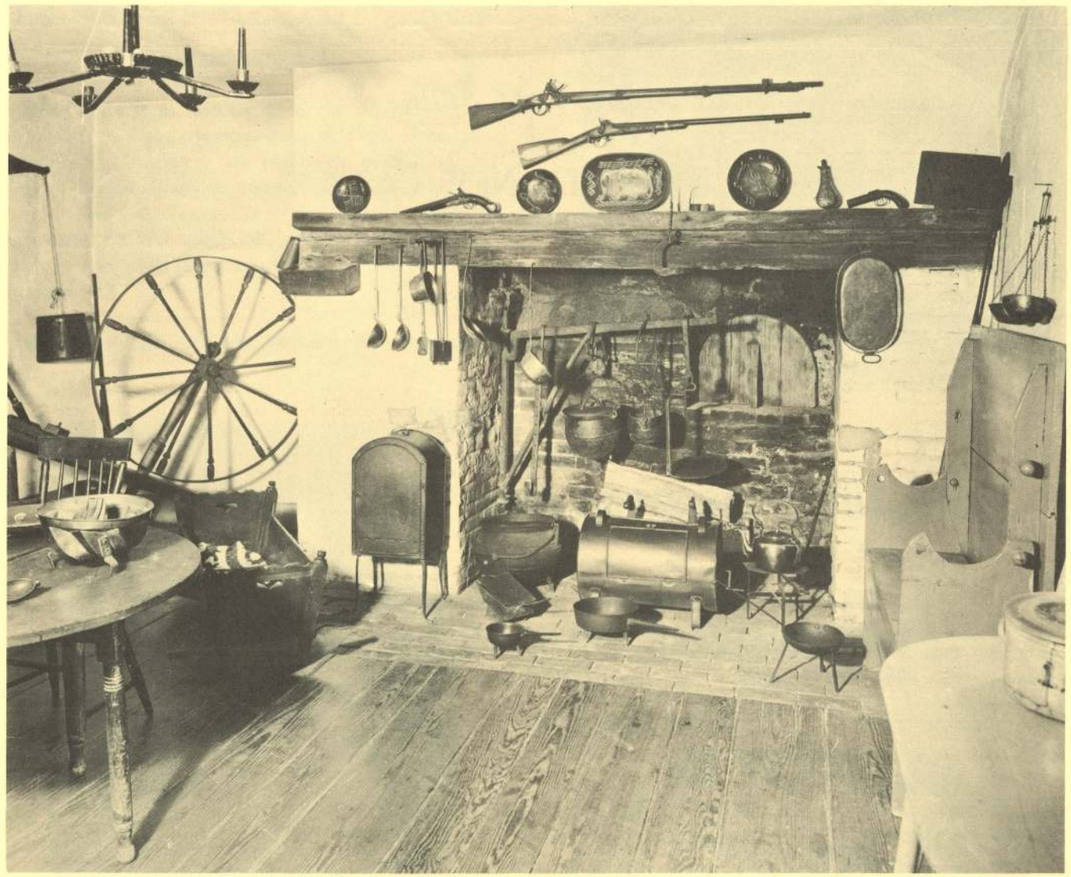
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Kitchen

12 *AMSTEL HOUSE*

Delaware and Fourth Streets

Built about 1730 for Dr. John Finney, the main portion probably incorporates parts of an older structure in its service wing. Thus it predates the other large houses of New Castle. Lower ceilings and a narrower door indicate the concern of this early period for conserving heat; the eight foot ceiling of the ground floor is unusually high for its time.

Later in the Eighteenth Century the house was occupied by Nicholas Van Dyke, Sr., an early governor, whose son, Senator Nicholas Van Dyke, built the house opposite at No. 400 Delaware Street. In Amstel House, on April 30, 1784, President Washington attended the wedding of Ann Van Dyke to Kensey Johns, Sr.

Amstel House now belongs to the New Castle Historical Society, which has maintained it as a museum since 1929. It is open throughout the year for a small admission fee (included in Day in Old New Castle ticket). Extensive restoration has been made by the Society. The kitchen is equipped with utensils of the Colonial period; other rooms are appropriately furnished; and there are displays of antique dolls, period clothing and other artifacts. There are portraits of Ann Van Dyke and Kensey Johns, and, in the dining room, a large portrait of Mrs. Jehu Curtis, attributed to John Heselius circa 1750. Additional exhibits are received from time to time as gifts from friends of the New Castle Historical Society.

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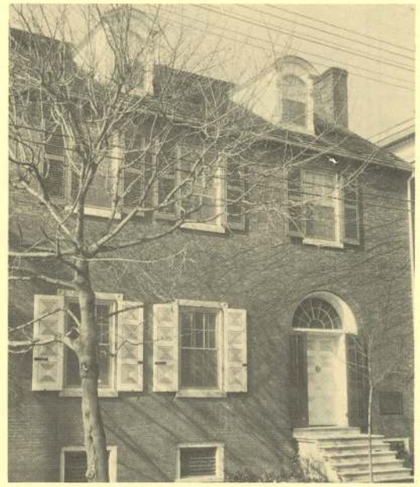
13 *SENATOR NICHOLAS VAN DYKE HOUSE*

400 Delaware Street

Five stone steps bring you to the doorway of the Senator Van Dyke Mansion built in 1799. Form, proportion and symmetry are pleasantly evident in this first of several residences constructed in the area.

The interior displays rich and delicate taste in ornament. Carved woodwork, marble fireplace facings and French putty figures under the mantels are of interest.

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. William B. Bridgewater





14 *KENSEY JOHNS VAN DYKE HOUSE*

300 Delaware Street

Built by Senator Nicholas Van Dyke in 1820, the house was given by him to his son, Kensey Johns Van Dyke. The Senator's taste tended toward the severe and restrained in his latter years, and many hold this to be among the finest examples of New Castle's best architectural period.

Interior woodwork includes mantlepieces and Santo Domingo mahogany doors. On October 6, 1824, the Marquis de Lafayette gave Dorcas M. Van Dyke, the Senator's daughter, in marriage to Charles I. duPont.

Residence of Dr. and Mrs. Harry A. Carl

* * * * *

15 *BOOTH HOUSE*

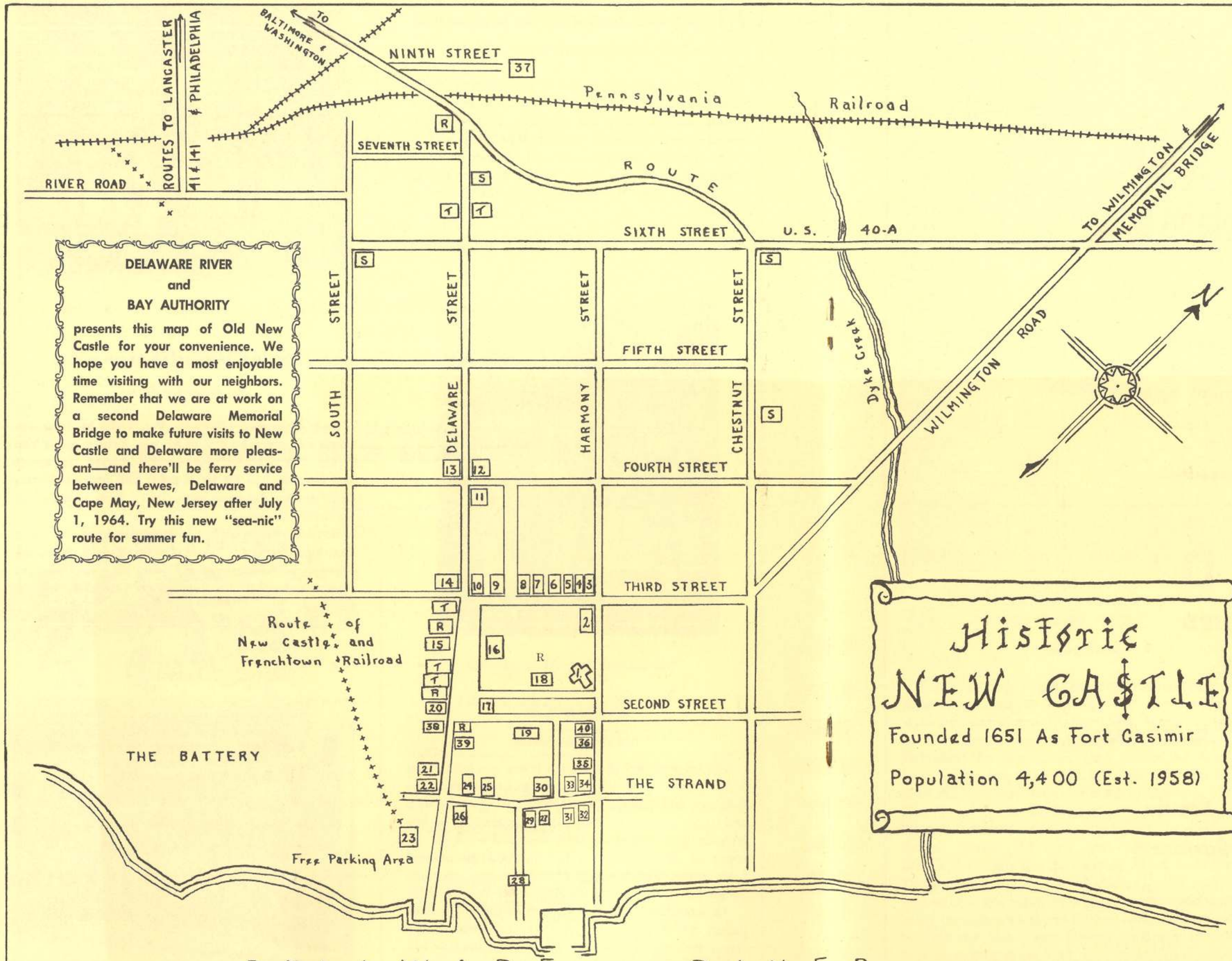
216 Delaware Street

The original part of the main house was built about 1730 with the second part, the section east of the doorway, added later. The clapboard wing at the west end came after that. Particularly interesting is the irregular grouping of the front door and windows, the result of its two building periods, and the unusual front stoop. The house is named for the renowned Judge James Booth, Jr., who was born here in 1789.

An interesting pair of bulls-eyes in the upper door panels which served as peepholes are seen in the classic doorway. The house contains an extremely old stairway, and the mantels are outstanding examples of Colonial craft skills. Robert Montgomery Bird, an early Nineteenth Century author, was born here.



Residence of Dr. and Mrs. Henry T. McGuire



DELAWARE RIVER and BAY AUTHORITY

presents this map of Old New Castle for your convenience. We hope you have a most enjoyable time visiting with our neighbors. Remember that we are at work on a second Delaware Memorial Bridge to make future visits to New Castle and Delaware more pleasant—and there'll be ferry service between Lewes, Delaware and Cape May, New Jersey after July 1, 1964. Try this new "sea-nic" route for summer fun.

1. Immanuel Church
2. New Castle Academy
3. Harmony House
4. New Castle Library
5. Holden House
6. Old Dutch House
7. Alexander House
8. Gemmill House
9. Rodney House
10. Kensey Johns, Sr. House
11. Kensey Johns, Jr. House
12. Amstel House
13. Van Dyke House
14. The Kensey Johns - Van Dyke House
15. Booth House
16. The Court House
17. Town Hall & Market Place
18. The Arsenal
19. The Presbyterian Church
20. Terry House
21. Rosemont House
22. Van Leuvenigh House
23. New Castle & Frenchtown Railroad
24. Gunning Bedford House
25. McIntire House
26. Lee House
27. Gallery House
28. Packet Alley
29. The Old Stage Tavern
30. The Read House
31. Aull House
32. Galloway Residence
33. McCallmont House
34. Immanuel Parish House
35. The Rising Sun Tavern
36. Jordan House
37. The Hermitage
38. Dalby House
39. Cloud's Row
40. Foster House

Historic NEW CASTLE

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INFORMATION

- HEADQUARTERS "A DAY IN OLD NEW CASTLE" AT 16 - THE OLD COURT HOUSE.
- TICKETS AVAILABLE AT NUMBERS 16 & 23.
- PARKING ADJACENT TO NUMBER 23.
- TOURIST ACCOMODATIONS - T.
- MEALS OR SNACKS SERVED AT NUMBERS 2, 34, AND R.
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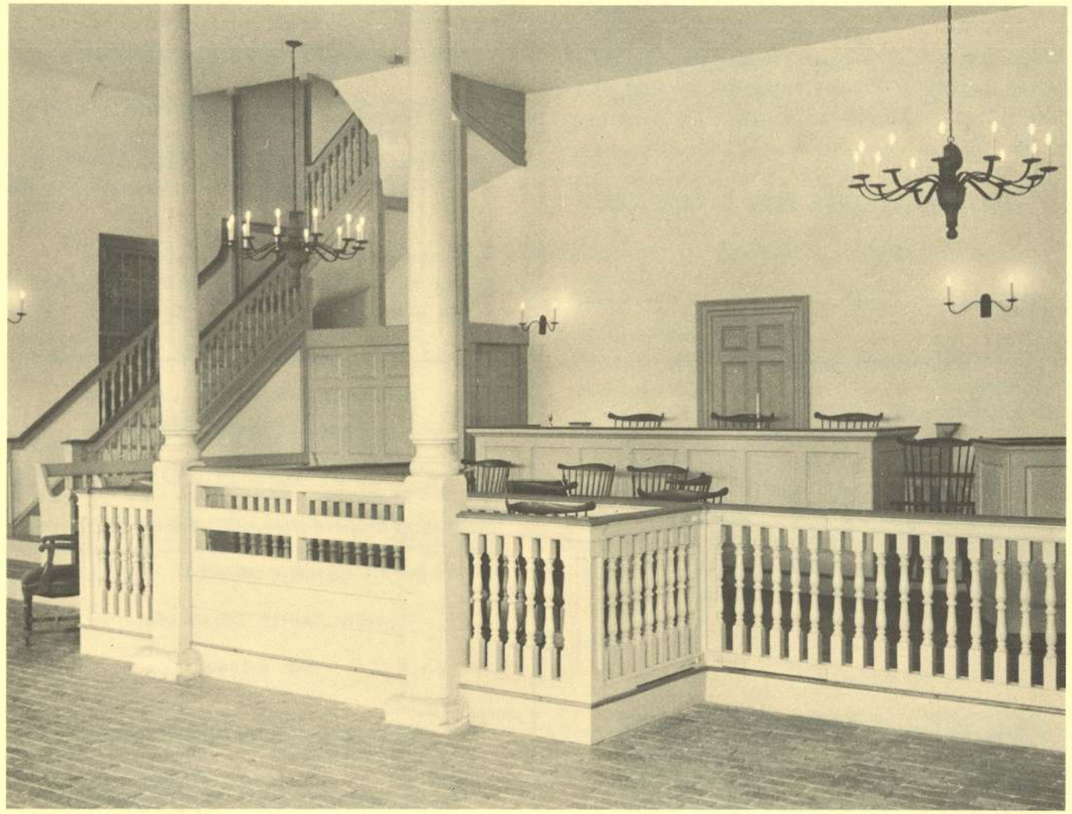
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Court Room

16 *THE COURT HOUSE*

Delaware Street

This fine Georgian-style building, also known as the State House, was the meeting place of the Colonial Assembly and Courts of the Three Lower Counties of New Castle, Kent and Sussex (now the state of Delaware) for seventy-two years before the Revolution. It was thus briefly the first capitol of Delaware until the state seat was transferred to Dover in 1777. Here in 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved. Here the first constitution of Delaware was drafted. From 1777 until 1881 when Wilmington became the county seat the building served as the New Castle County Courthouse. Thereafter it was used for various civic and commercial purposes and deteriorated badly through neglect and lack of maintenance funds. In 1957 the New Castle Historic Buildings Commission, an agency of the State, took control of the Court House and other State property surrounding The Green. State funds were provided for restoration of the central part. This work is now complete; and some renovation has been done in the east wing, with money provided by the Trustees of the Common. Furnishings in the central courtroom are a gift from Mrs. Daniel Moore Bates, in memory of her husband, the late Colonel Bates, who was influential in arousing interest in preservation of New Castle landmarks.

The central part of the Court House was built in 1732 on the site of an earlier court house, dating from the 1680's and destroyed by fire in 1729. Two small wings were added in 1765; and the roof and cupola were modified later in the same century. An addition to the east wing in 1802 gave that end of the building its present appearance. The original west wing, however, was torn down in 1845 and replaced by the present larger structure (as a supposedly fireproof storage place for county records). Overall plans call for gradual restoration of the entire building to its 1802 appearance as funds are made available.

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17 *TOWN HALL AND MARKET PLACE*

Second and Delaware Streets

This site was used as a town market as early as 1682, and was solidly established when the city fathers in 1730 passed an ordinance to the effect that on Wednesday and Saturday no food except fish, milk and bread might be sold anywhere else in the town, a "franchise" which went on for several years.

The Town Hall, the arched building at the end of the Market Place, now houses City Council on its second floor, the Police Department and shops in other parts of the building. It was built in 1823, and is now maintained by the Trustees of the Common.

* * * * *

18 *THE ARSENAL*

The Green facing on Market Street

Built by the federal government in 1809 in the face of the threat of war with England, the building was at first of one story with a wagon entrance at each end, traces of which may still be seen. In 1831 it housed the garrison of Fort Delaware when buildings there burned. In 1846, it became again an arsenal for the Mexican War.

About this time, it was decided that New Castle could not legally transfer any part of The Green, and subsequent arrangements forbade the storage of ammunition or the quartering of soldiers.

In 1852 the second story and cupola were added to provide space for a free public school, which it remained until 1931. Once again in 1943 it served briefly as a school and was used by the Presbyterian Church. At the present time the building serves as a restaurant.

* * * * *

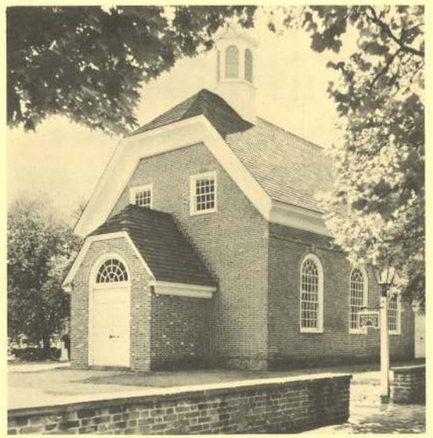
19 *THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*

Second Street

Built in 1707, this Colonial brick church continued in use for services until 1854, after which it housed the Sunday school. After World War II the original building was renovated and restored, and the less attractive Nineteenth Century brownstone church which had been erected was pulled down. In 1957 the brick Sunday school was added at the rear of the plot.

The congregation traces its beginnings to the arrival of the Dutch Reformed clergymen with the founders in 1651. Forty-nine years later the Dutch group was absorbed by the Presbyterians.

The grave markers date to the early 1700s, although unmarked Dutch graves going back 50 years earlier are also in the plot.



The Reverend Ralph R. Johnson, Jr., pastor

* * * * *

20 *TERRY HOUSE*

130 Delaware Street

Built in 1876 by Howell Terry, this is a typical town house of the period. It features a handsome stairway, fine woodwork and mantels, and an unusual fireplace. A collection of antique furniture is also on display.

Residence of Mrs. George H. Williams

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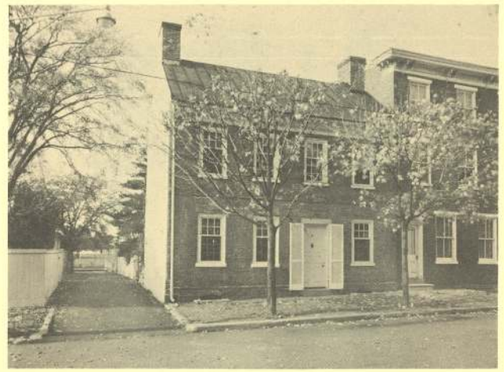
21 *ROSEMONT HOUSE*

110 Delaware Street

The back wing of this house was "new built" when Martin Rosemont, an officer under the Dutch and a deacon of the Dutch church, moved in in 1675. The main portion of the house was, it is believed, built prior to 1704.

In the old wing the ceiling rafters are heavy beams of hand-hewn oak covered with flat boards. When the house was restored, there was so much whitewash on the boards it resembled plaster.

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Reinhardt Bamberger



* * * * *

22 *VAN LEUVENIGH HOUSE*

Two The Strand

Believed to be more than 200 years old, this building shows few signs of wear. It differs from other New Castle homes in that it was heavily influenced by French design. Interesting woodwork and a fireplace of unusual design are among a number of notable interior features.

The house took its name from Zachariah Van Leuvenigh, New Castle chief magistrate, who bought the property in 1765. Post riders bearing the news of Lexington and Bunker Hill stopped here on their way south to spread the word.

Residence of Dr. and Mrs. Robert T. Beattie

* * * * *

23 *NEW CASTLE AND FRENCHTOWN RAILROAD TICKET OFFICE*

The Battery at the foot of Delaware Street

Built in 1832, this was a ticket office for one of the first steam railroads in the country. Long used by the Pennsylvania Railroad as a crossing tender's shack in Wilmington, it was presented to the town about 1954 as a memento of the long-vanished New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad.

* * * * *

24 *GUNNING BEDFORD HOUSE*

Six The Strand

This brick house, now stucco covered, was built about 1730 by John van Gezel, the grandson of one of New Castle's Dutch founders. The house was also the home of Gunning Bedford, the eleventh Governor of Delaware, serving in 1796-97. George Read, the younger, lived here with his aunt Mrs. Bedford while building his home a little way to the north. The house then passed to Caleb Bennett in 1803. Bennett, a prominent Quaker, operated it as a hotel to accommodate travelers arriving here by packet boat from Philadelphia to take the stagecoach, and later the railroad to Frenchtown on the Elk river. He, too, was to serve the state as governor from 1833 to 1836. It was a residence again when George Gray, lawyer, statesman and judge was born here on May 4, 1840.

Originally, the house stood on a mound, but was left high above the street when The Strand was levelled for the cobblestone paving in the 1820's. The change necessitated construction of the stoop, a rarity among the old homes.



Residence of Mr. Elmer Bailey

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25 *McINTIRE HOUSE*

Eight The Strand

This is one of the most interesting of the old smaller brick houses in New Castle, outstanding for its wood paneling and chimney pieces of simple design executed with consistent harmony in all the rooms. The owners believe with architectural support that it was built about 1690.

The property was included in the purchase by John van Gezel from the heirs of Dr. Samuel Monkton of Philadelphia. In the 1660s the double plot had been owned by Martin Gerritsen, a member of the family which had early grants from Peter Stuyvesant.

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas McIntire



* * * * *

26 *LEE HOUSE*

Nine The Strand

This dwelling is typical of the houses built to replace those destroyed in the fire that swept the river side of The Strand on April 23, 1824. Built on a narrow front, it is surprisingly roomy and affords an excellent view of the river and its shipping.

It is of interest to note that relief funds after the fire were raised in Boston, in return for similar funds raised in New Castle during the 1774 blockade of Boston harbor.

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert R. Lee

* * * * *

27 *GALLERY HOUSE*

17 The Strand

Historically, the site of No. 17 is interesting as part of the stretch along The Strand where Thomas Janvier, who fled from religious persecution in France, his son and two grandsons carried on the crafts, merchant, and transportation activities that contributed largely to the development of colonial New Castle and the later town. After the fire of 1824, great-grandsons John and Thomas Janvier built this brick house on the exact site of the previously existing frame dwelling. Architects of the 1947-48 survey regarded it a well-designed and dignified representative of the period. Until now No. 17 seems to have been owned chiefly by descendants of the Janvier and related families.

Residence of Dr. and Mrs. William V. Gallery

* * * * *

28 *PACKET ALLEY*

From The Strand to the River

This little alley takes its name from the days of packet stages and boats, when it was traveled by many prominent persons who debarked here to begin their land journeys to south and west. A tablet at the entrance of the alley lists many of them.

Flaked oyster shells and crushed shells are now the only evidence of the days when the alley rang to the shouts of wagon drivers and accommodated well-painted coaches and fours. Today the once-bustling wharf lies in a state of ruin at the water's edge.

* * * * *

29 *THE OLD STAGE TAVERN*

25 The Strand

This building was erected after the 1824 fire as a store and was used as such until recently. Before the fire the site was occupied by a tavern known at various times as the "Delaware Hotel", "State Tavern", "Indian King" and "Ship Tavern". Located fortuitously close to the wharf, it can be imagined the tavern did a thriving business.

Residence of Mr. Sverre E. Bergh

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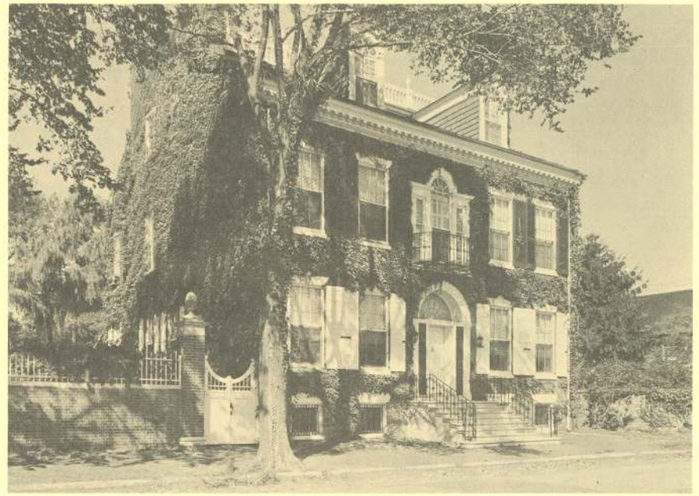
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30 *THE READ HOUSE*

The Strand

This beautiful Georgian mansion was built by George Read II, son of the signer of the Declaration of Independence, and completed in 1801.

The first thing to strike the visitor is the handsome doorway with fanlight, surmounted by an iron balcony, and a Palladian window above. The exterior woodwork carries ornamentation also on the cornice, and the third floor dormers as well.

The entrance hall features a triple arch with intricately worked pilasters, and every room has a fireplace with decorated mantels. All woodwork and hardware are original and are considered perfect examples of the period.

A fine collection of antique furniture including Queen Anne, Chippendale, Hepplewhite, Sheraton and Duncan Phyfe will be seen here, as well as beautiful antique Savonarie and Aubusson rugs.

In 1847 when the property was owned by the Couper family, the formal garden was laid out by Andrew Jackson Downing, the foremost landscape architect of the time.

Residence of Mrs. Philip D. Laird

* * * * *

31 *COOPER HOUSE*

49 The Strand

This clapboard house, built about 1750, managed somehow to survive the fire despite its wooden construction. It may have been damaged, however, as the first story corner and front have been replaced as may be seen from the difference in the height of windows on either side of the doorway.

Originally the house was a double dwelling but the late Philip D. Laird replaced the double entry with a single door salvaged from an old Wilmington home, and later the two units were combined into a single dwelling and restored. The original woodwork and fireplaces are of the oldest types.

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. John J. B. Cooper, Jr.



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32 *GALLOWAY RESIDENCE*

53 The Strand

This double brick house also was built by William Aull, probably in the last quarter of the Eighteenth Century. An interesting item is found in the windows, which are nine-over-nine on the first floor, six-over-nine on the second floor, and six-over-six on the third. The woodwork, mantels and fireplaces are typical of the period, as is the furniture. There is a lovely view of the river from the porch.

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh C. Galloway



* * * * *

33 *McCALLMONT HOUSE*

56 The Strand



Dr. James McCallmont, a wealthy physician and Trustee of the Common, fell heir to this property in 1796. By 1804, when the present elevation appears on the Latrobe Survey, he had incorporated an already existing "ancient dwelling" in this small but elegant townhouse.

After a long and checkered existence in various commercial capacities, including service as a saloon and rooming house of doubtful character, the building has been restored by its present owners to its late Eighteenth Century state, preserving at the same time, some of the architectural details of the earlier building. Of particular interest is the massive living room fireplace with its original herring bone brick fire-back, the curved rear wall of the dining room, and the fine woodwork.

On display are selected early volumes from the Maisano collection of Delaware books together with some documents and an interesting assortment of tools and implements used by cabinet makers and joiners in Philadelphia in the Eighteenth Century.

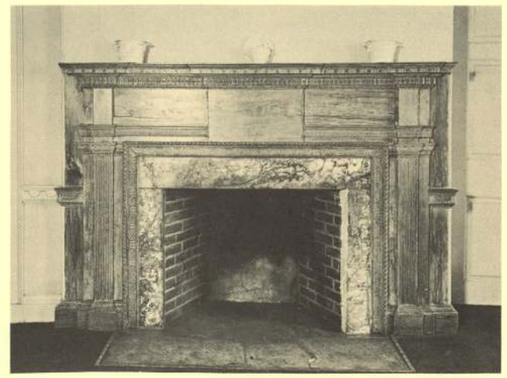
Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew D. A. Maisano

* * * * *

34 *IMMANUEL PARISH HOUSE*

Harmony Street and The Strand

This large building was built in 1801 by Peter Crowding for Charles Thomas. Designed as a combined hotel and dwelling, it has two principle entrances, one on each street, and it comprises three and a half stories, surmounted by an attic. During most of the Nineteenth Century, however, it served as a private house. And, in 1891, it was given by a descendant of the original owner to Immanuel Church. A two-story addition on Harmony Street was built in 1913 to provide an auditorium and classrooms for the church school. Church offices and a kitchen occupy the ground floor of the old house, and three rental apartments the upper floors. Its high-ceilinged rooms contain handsome mantels and woodwork, and from the upper floors afford a river view equalled only by the Read House.



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35 *THE RISING SUN TAVERN*

118 Harmony Street

The front portion, built by William Armstrong in 1796, included a small room and a large room on each floor. The kitchen was in the basement with a dumb-waiter located beside the fireplace connecting it to the upstairs. The rear portion was added in 1801 by Daniel Lafferty and consisted then, as it does today, of one room on each floor.

In its tavern days, the front room was the public room, and the rear room was used for private gatherings. Those not welcome inside were served through the window on the river side. The mantel in the rear is believed built under the direction of Peter Crowding. The garden held a stable, as was required by law.

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. C. Stephen Bartha

* * * * *

36 *JORDAN HOUSE*

124 Harmony Street

Built by William Armstrong about 1800, the house was owned by Michael Nagle, a butcher, in 1804, and used as a dwelling. The interior is in its original form, including mantels and paneling. The tulip valences were added later.

A collection of early Nineteenth Century pewter and two grandfather's clocks: one signed by Wilmington clockmaker Thomas Crow in 1801; the other, by Christian Bixler of Easton, Pa., are on display.

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Jordan

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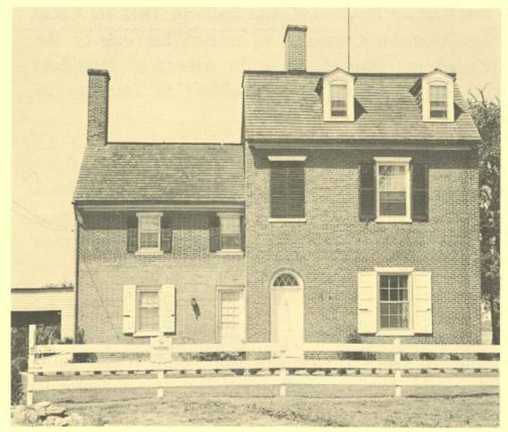
37 *THE HERMITAGE*

Ninth Street behind William Penn High School

The house was named by Senator Nicholas van Dyke who added the latest and largest part of the building in 1818. The original portion, where the doorway has a fanlight, probably was built before 1700, while a larger section is believed to have been built by John Finney, one of the original trustees of the Common, about 1750.

The interior includes fine woodwork and mantels, interesting use of color throughout the house, and a curved door built to conform to a curved wall in the entrance hallway. Family portraits, oils and primitives are on display.

The house, now well within the city limits, was originally a country summer residence.



Residence of Mr. and Mrs. B. Scranton Deemer

* * * * *

38 *DALBY HOUSE*

118 Delaware Street

The records of the Historical Society in Wilmington indicate that the main portion of this comfortable though simple Colonial home was built prior to the Revolution. The house is being restored with minimum replacement by the present owners. A collection of antique timepieces is on display.

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Milton H. Kern, Jr.

39 *CLOUD'S ROW*

117-123 Delaware Street

This row of tall, narrow brick houses was built by Harlan Cloud of Chester County, Pennsylvania, some time prior to 1804 as an investment. A survey map of that year shows the three and a half story dwellings with dormers in the roofs just as they appear today. Well designed in a simple, unpretentious manner, some feature original doors, woodwork, mantels and window panes.

* * * * *

40 *FOSTER HOUSE*

122 Harmony Street

Built in the late Eighteenth Century, this is a fine example of the builder's ability to create a completely liveable home in a small area. In 1804, William Armstrong sold the property to Thomas Turner, a hatter, for $100. Thomas and his son, George Washington Turner, were prominent business men of New Castle. In 1863, the house was sold to the keeper of Rising Sun Tavern for $750.

Residence of Miss Elizabeth Foster

* * * * *

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

Buena Vista, the ancestral home of the Honorable and Mrs. C. Douglass Buck, located south of New Castle on the duPont Boulevard, was built in 1842 by Chief Justice John M. Clayton and named for one of the battles of the Mexican War in tribute to President Taylor under whom Clayton served as Secretary of State.

* * * * *

Spread Eagle Hotel, 114 East Second Street, residence of Clarence E. Twilley. Travellers from packet boats and the railroad paused here en route to Washington or New York.

* * * * *

John M. Foster House, 159 East Third Street. This Eighteenth Century structure has probably remained in the same family longer than any other house in New Castle.

* * * * *

The Cave, northwest side of The Strand past Harmony Street. Site of Barney Murphy's famous tavern, this was the oldest such gathering place recorded in New Castle. Here crews from the ships would gather from the four corners of the world and swap yarns.

* * * * *

54 The Strand. Site of New Castle's most unusual building, the Old Tile House, built in 1687 and demolished in 1884. Three stories high, the walls were of brick smaller, thinner and more apricot in color than those used locally.

The Jefferson House, Five The Strand. The main part of the building is the old Riddle and Bird dwelling, hotel, office and center of a shipping business that was conducted until 1810. After that date James Riddle operated a lumber yard at the rear. The Great Fire of 1824 started here and swept up The Strand destroying most of the east side and some of the west. The iron initials on the southwest side are those of James Riddle. The building is now converted into apartments.

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The Broad Dyke, north from Third and Chestnut Streets. This was New Castle's first cart road built across the marsh, meadows and lowland. It sprouted a branch to Swanwyck, a village up the river and one to Fort Christina (Wilmington).

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The Battery, along the river shore a short distance from The Strand, is now an informal park and recreation ground. It is named for the "fine battery" erected here in 1748 to protect New Castle from pirates.

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The Glebe House, half a mile north on the Wilmington Road, residence of the Reverend James O. Reynolds. This handsome dwelling stands on a tract of 60 acres given in 1719 by Richard Halliwell to Immanuel Church for the rector's use. He might use it for a residence, cultivate the farm or rent it to a tenant farmer.

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