hair, piece of wax taper used by General Lee on the night before the Battle of Appamatox, original letter of Benedict Arnold proposing marriage to Peggy Shippen, ancient treaty seal formerly used by the U. S. Government, chair owned by Richard Bassett, first elected Senator of the U. S., portrait by Wertmuller of James A. Bayard, a signer of the Treaty of Ghent, medallion of Benjamin Franklin by Nini, Lowestoft platters.

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

Site of Fort Casimir

(Erected by Dutch in 1651)

Site under water but indicated by monument erected by Colonial Dames at Second and Chestnut Streets.

Frenchtown Monument

On Market Square. Erected of stone sleepers on which wooden and iron rails bore the trains of the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad in 1831.

Swanwyck

A Regency House, on Lander's Lane, near Farnhurst. Built about a century ago. Interesting example of French architecture. It is about two miles north of New Castle.

Packett Alley

Corner Strand and Packet Alley, East side, between Delaware and Harmony Streets. Packet boats from Philadelphia met stage coaches and railroad for Frenchtown, Maryland, chief line of communication from North to Baltimore and South. Andrew Jackson, David Crockett, Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, Lord Ashburton, Sam Houston, Louis Napoleon, Stonewall Jackson, Indians (led by Osceola and Black Hawk) en route to visit "Great Father" in Washington—all passed this way.

SHORT HISTORY

New Castle was founded by the building of Fort Casimir by the Dutch in the summer of 1651. It was captured by the Swedes on Trinity Sunday, 1654, and by them called Fort Trefalldigheet, meaning "Fort Trinity". Retaken by the Dutch under Peter Stuyvesant in person, September 11, 1655, and the name changed to New Amstel. Captured in turn by the English under Sir Robert Carr, October 13, 1664, and named New Castle. New Castle with land within a radius of 12 miles conveyed to William Penn, August 24, 1682, by James, Duke of York.

Center of 12-mile circle forming northern boundary of Delaware.

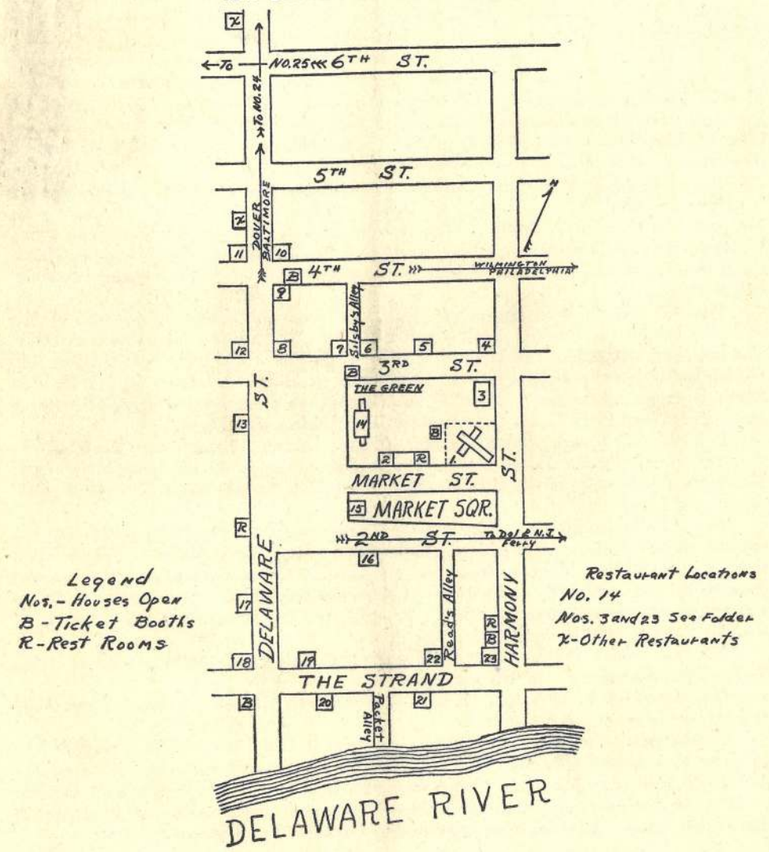
Colonial Capital until 1776.

County Seat until 1882.

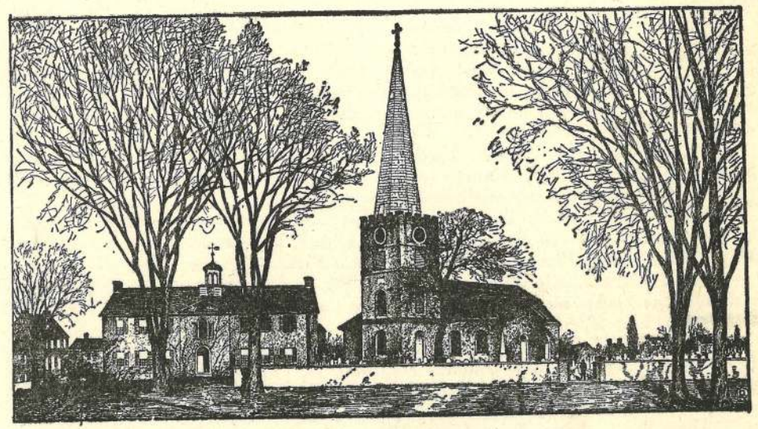
Terminus of New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad, one of the first railroads in the country and principal road to travel between North and South.

Here William Penn first landed in America, October 24, 1682.

Map Showing Location of Houses



A day in
Old New Castle, Delaware



Immanuel Church, Founded 1689, Built 1703

Saturday, May 15, 1948

ELEVEN TO SIX, ADVANCED TIME, PRIVATE HOUSES
TEN TO SIX, ADVANCED TIME, PUBLIC BUILDINGS

BUSES leave Fifth and Market Streets, Wilmington, for New Castle every twenty minutes. Concrete roads make New Castle easily accessible from all directions. Ferries between New Castle and Pennsville, New Jersey, leaving every 12 minutes.

Beginning at 11:30 o'clock, cold luncheon may be obtained at the Parish House at a moderate price.

FRIENDS of Immanuel Church, New Castle, Delaware, (built 1703) have arranged an interesting day, to procure funds for its improvement. On May 17th, 1947, the historic homes of New Castle will be open to visitors, revealing many quaint and beautiful bits of Colonial furniture and exhibiting some charming specimens of the builder's art.

A list of the houses to be open, with some of the treasures to be seen, appears on the following pages . . .

Tickets will be sold at two dollars and fifty cents each, admitting the holder to all the houses, and can be obtained at ticket booths only. See map. Tickets are not valid unless purchased from an authorized distributor. Tickets will be required for children over 12 years of age.

No. 1—Immanuel Church. Founded 1689. Built 1703. Communion Silver by Simeon Saumaine (1710). Church records dating from 1710 on view. In the churchyard are the graves of many celebrated Delawareans.

No. 2—The Arsenal. Built by the United States Government in 1809 occasioned by the threat of war with England. In 1831 soldiers garrisoned here under command Major Benjamin K. Pierce brother of President Franklin Pierce. Rest rooms.

No. 3—New Castle Academy. Built 1798 by Peter Crowding. Exhibition of old religious books, maps, surveys, and New Castle records. *SANDWICHES AND COLD DRINKS WILL BE SERVED HERE.*

No. 4—North West Corner of Third and Harmony Streets. Harmony House. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Holcomb, II. Table set with Colonial silver, glass, and canton china. Silver, portraits, and mahogany belonging to Lydia Darragh, who saved the American Army in 1780. Original deed from Indian Chief Seckatarius to William Penn. Letter from George Washington to George Read. Silver Tankard by Elias Pelletreau (1740). Colonial kitchen in rear.

No. 5—No. 32 East Third Street. Old Dutch House. Built in the latter half of the 17th Century. Undoubtedly, the oldest house in Delaware. Restored in 1938 by the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiques.

No. 6—No. 18 East Third Street. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Myers. Built 1798 by Peter Crowding. Interesting handcarved woodwork throughout. Exhibition of old quilts and shawls.

No. 7—No. 16 East Third Street. Residence of Judge and Mrs. Richard S. Rodney. Erected 1831 by George Brydges Rodney. Exhibit of interesting manuscripts and letters of Colonial and Revolutionary period. Portraits of George Read, Signer of Declaration of Independence by Gilbert Stuart, George Ross, also a Signer, by Benjamin West, and Rev. George Ross, first Rector of Immanuel Church by Hesselius.

No. 8—North corner of Third and Delaware Streets. Residence of Mrs. Lewis Booker. Erected 1789 by Chief Justice Kensey Johns. Fine staircase, mantels and panelling. A kitchen as it was in olden times.

No. 9—South East corner of Fourth and Delaware Streets. Residence of Mrs. George A. Hyde. Formerly the home of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Rodney. Built in 1823 by Chancellor Kensey Johns, Jr. Exhibition of early American glass.

No. 10—North East corner of Fourth and Delaware Streets. Amstel House. Historical Museum. Built before 1730. Here Washington was a guest at the wedding of Ann Van Dyke, daughter of Governor Nicholas Van Dyke, to Kensey Johns, Sr. Portraits of bride and groom in drawing room. Costumes on third floor. Colonial interior furnished with period furniture. Panelled rooms. Collection of ancient implements. Fine doorway and woodwork. Recently restored kitchen and staircase. Tool house in Colonial garden. Ancient sun dial, pedestal from Old London Bridge.

No. 11—North West corner of Fourth and Delaware Streets. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Newlin T. Booth. Erected 1799 by U. S. Senator Nicholas Van Dyke. Characterized by its substantial proportions and by the symmetry of its facade. Handsome woodwork and mantels. Chair originally owned by John Bartram, Botanist (1699-1777).

No. 12—North West corner of Third and Delaware Streets. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur G. Logan. Built about 1820 by U. S. Senator Nicholas Van Dyke. The marriage of Dorcas Van Dyke to Charles I. du Pont took place here October 6th, 1824. Marquis de la Fayette was a guest at this wedding. All doors on first floor of Santo Domingo mahogany. Front door and shutters of unusual design. Interior a good example of early Empire architecture. Exhibition of old fans.

No. 13—Delaware Street, opposite Court House. Former residence of the younger Chief Justice James Booth. Now the residence of Dr. and Mrs. H. T. McGuire. Built early in the 18th century. Beautiful mantels and stairway. Exhibition of old jewelry.

No. 14—Court House. East wing built before 1682. Here was performed the ancient rite of "Livery of Seizin". Penn received "turf, twig, water and soyle" as a sign of ownership. Main building built in 1703. Colonial Capital where annual Assemblies met until 1776 and all Courts convened until 1882. Scene of all Colonial activities and many interesting trials. From it in 1776 were taken the "Baubles of Royalty" and burned in the streets.

No. 15—Town Hall. Built by Trustees of New Castle Common about 1823. Market House adjoined it on the northeast.

No. 16—Old Presbyterian Church (now Church House). Erected about 1707 and largely in its original condition.

Presbyterian Church. Built 1854. On site of Old Dutch Church, founded in 1657 by Rev. John Polhemus. William Penn in a letter to London in 1683 spoke of the Dutch Church. The Dutch, who were Calvinist, joined the Presbyterians prior to 1700, so the congregation is undoubtedly the oldest Presbyterian congregation in the United States. Silver service presented by Nicholas Van Dyke.

No. 17—No. 110 Delaware Street. Residence of Miss Ruth Colby. Home of John VanLeuvenigh (father of Zachariah VanLeuvenigh) who died in 1754. Front of house built in early 1700's. Rear about 1690. Panelling characteristic of the period.

No. 18—North West corner of Delaware Street and The Strand. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. Danforth Bush. Built 1732. Here Zachariah VanLeuvenigh received the messenger who brought news of the Battle of Bunker Hill. Exhibition of old silver.

No. 19—No. 8 The Strand. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas McIntire. Small town house. Built circa 1690. An interesting survival of the early Colonial period. One of a few not destroyed by the great fire of 1824. Once the residence of Richard McWilliam, who came to New Castle in the 1730's and held many positions of trust from 1748 until he died in 1781. Interesting panelled chimney breast.

No. 20—On The Strand. Residence of Mrs. John MacLulich. Front of house built about 1825. Rear much older.

No. 21—On The Strand. Residence of Mrs. J. Ralph Baily. Built circa 1840 on the site of an old tavern. Period Queen Anne pieces, in particular fine Queen Anne walnut desk on frame. Early kitchen with primitive utensils. Original portrait of Commodore Thomas MacDonough (1783-1825) by John T. Trumbull (1756-1843).

No. 22—Read House on The Strand. Residence of Mrs. Philip D. Laird. Erected in 1801 for George Read, 2nd, son of George Read, Signer. A perfect specimen of Colonial architecture with exquisite woodwork and mantels and charmingly complete with period furniture. The beautiful garden which adjoins the house was laid out in 1847 by Andrew Jackson Downing, the foremost landscape gardner of his day.

No. 23—Parish House. Corner of The Strand and Harmony Street. Built about 1801 by Peter Crowding. Recent restoration of ancient carved mantel. Fine doorways. *BEGINNING AT 11:30 O'CLOCK, COLD LUNCHEON MAY BE OBTAINED HERE AT A MODERATE PRICE.* Rest rooms.

No. 24—Buena Vista. On du Pont Highway, 5 miles from New Castle and 2½ miles south of Hare's Corner. Home of Hon. C. Douglass Buck, U. S. Senator from Delaware, and Mrs. Buck. Built 1842 by Hon. John M. Clayton, Secretary of State under President Taylor, United States Senator, etc. Portrait of Queen Elizabeth painted about 1580 by Nicholas Hilliard (1547-1619). Portraits by Gilbert Stuart. Portraits of the children by Jessie Willcox Smith. Portraits of Ann Van Dyke, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel du Pont and Jeremiah M. Buck. Portraits of United States Senator and Mrs. Coleman du Pont by Fred Wright. Original grant (1699) from William Penn to John Donaldson for property of which Buena Vista is a part.

No. 25—Ommelanden. On the River Road, 3½ miles below New Castle. Residence of Mrs. William S. Hilles. The farm originally given under warrant by the Dutch in 1683 to Peter Alrichs. Here are to be found lock of General Washington's

founded in 1657 by Rev. John Polhemus. William Penn in a letter to London in 1683 spoke of the Dutch Church. The Dutch, who were Calvinists, joined the Presbyterians prior to 1700, so the congregation is undoubtedly the oldest Presbyterian congregation in the United States.

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Town Hall

Built by Trustees of New Castle Common about 1823. Market House adjoined it on the northeast.

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Court House

East wing built before 1682. Here Penn received turf, twig and water as a sign of his ownership. Main building built 1703. Colonial Capital where annual Assemblies met until 1776 and all Courts convened until 1882. Scene of all Colonial activities and many interesting trials. From it in 1776 were taken the "Baubles of Royalty" and burned in the streets.

No. 21

Delaware Street, opposite Court House. Former residence of the younger Chief Justice James Booth. Now occupied by George Winchester, Esq. Built early in the 18th Century. Beautiful mantels and stairway.

No. 22

Booth Hurst. Family Estate for over two centuries. On New Castle-Wilmington road, about a mile from New Castle. Home of Laussat R. Rogers, Esq. Original part of house pre-revolutionary. Architect Notman, of Philadelphia. Main part built 1845. Studio. Old-fashioned garden. Primeval oak grove. Furniture and old books.

No. 23

Buena Vista. On Du Pont Highway, 5 miles from New Castle and 2½ miles south of Hare's Corner. Home of Hon. C. Douglass Buck, Governor of Delaware. Built 1842 by Hon. John M. Clayton, Secretary of State under President Taylor, United States Senator, etc. Portrait of Queen Elizabeth painted about 1580 by Nicholas Hilliard (1547-1619). Portrait of Ann VanDyke, and portraits by Gilbert Stuart. Portraits of the children by Jessie Willcox Smith.

No. 24

"Ommelanden." On River Road, 3½ miles below New Castle. Farm belonging to Mrs. William S. Hilles. Originally given under warrant to Peter Alrichs from the Dutch. Here are to be found lock of General Washington's hair, letter of Benedict Arnold proposing marriage to Peggy Shippen, medallion of Franklin, Dr. Samuel Johnson's walking stick, portrait by Wertmuller of James A. Bayard, signer of the Treaty of Ghent, etc.

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

Site of Fort Casimir

(Erected by Dutch in 1651)

Site under water but indicated by monument erected by Colonial Dames at 2nd and Chestnut Streets.

Frenchtown Monument

On Market Square. Erected of stone sleepers on which wooden and iron rails bore the trains of the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad in 1831. At Washington Street and Delaware Railroad is the original ticket office, probably the oldest in the country. Now used by flagman.

Swanwick, a Regency House, on Lander's Lane, near Farnhurst. Built about a century ago. Interesting example of French architecture.

Short History

New Castle was founded by the building of Fort Casimir by the Dutch in the summer of 1651. It was captured by the Swedes on Trinity Sunday, 1654, and by them called Fort Trefalldigheet, meaning "Fort Trinity." Retaken by the Dutch under Peter Stuyvesant in person, September 11, 1655, and the name changed to New Amstel. Captured in turn by the English under Sir Robert Carr, October 13, 1664, and named New Castle. New Castle with land within a radius of 12 miles conveyed to William Penn, August 24, 1682, by James, Duke of York.

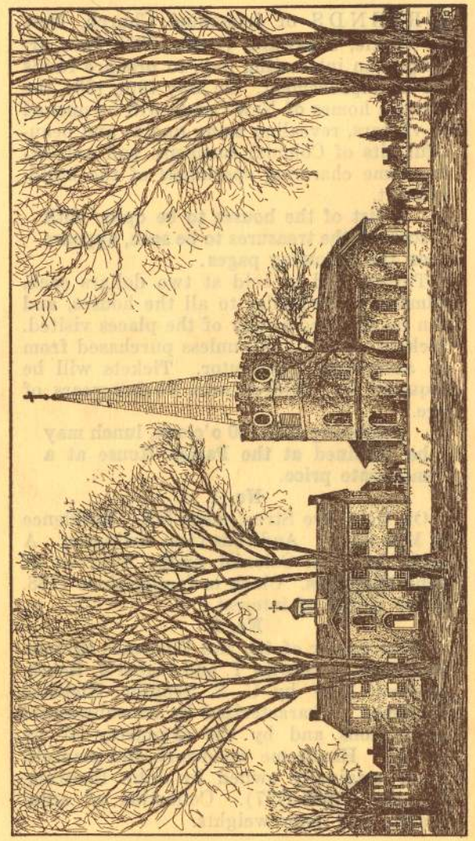
Center of 12-mile circle forming northern boundary of Delaware.

Colonial Capital until 1776.

County Seat until 1882.

Terminus of New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad, one of the first railroads in the country and principal road of travel between North and South.

Here William Penn first landed in America, October 24, 1682.



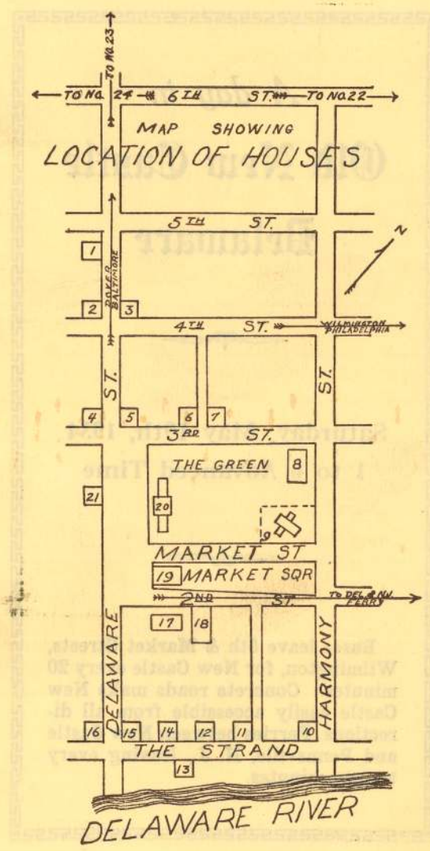
A day in

Old New Castle Delaware

Saturday, May 19th, 1934

1 to 6 Advanced Time

Buses leave 5th & Market Streets, Wilmington, for New Castle every 20 minutes. Concrete roads make New Castle easily accessible from all directions. Ferries between New Castle and Pennsville, N. J., leaving every twenty minutes.



FRIENDS of Immanuel Church, New Castle, Delaware, (built 1703) have arranged an interesting day, to procure funds for its improvement. On May 19th, 1934, the historic homes of New Castle will be opened to visitors, revealing many quaint and beautiful bits of Colonial furniture and exhibiting some charming specimens of the builder's art.

A list of the houses to be open, with some of the treasures to be seen, appears on the following pages....

Tickets will be sold at two dollars each, admitting the holder to all the houses, and can be obtained at any of the places visited. Tickets are not valid unless purchased from an authorized distributor. Tickets will be required for children over twelve years of age.

Beginning at 11:30 o'clock, lunch may be obtained at the Parish House at a moderate price.

No. 1

On Delaware Street, near 5th. Residence of Miss Shaw. Andirons from Arlington. A table set as in Colonial times. Portrait of Jane Sharpless. Clock in family since 1788. Other things of interest.

No. 2

West corner of 4th and Delaware Streets. Residence of Newlin T. and Isabel J. Booth. Erected 1799 by U. S. Senator Nicholas VanDyke. Characterized by its substantial proportions and by the symmetry of its facade. Handsome woodwork and mantels. Chair originally owned by John Bartram, Botanist (1699-1777). Collection of autographs and paperweights.

No. 3

North corner of 4th and Delaware Streets. Amstel House. Historical Museum. Built before 1730. Here Washington was a guest at the wedding of Ann VanDyke, daughter of Governor Nicholas VanDyke, to Kensey Johns, Sr. Portraits of bride and groom in drawing room. Colonial interior furnished with period furniture. Panelled rooms. Collection of ancient implements. Fine doorway and woodwork. Recently restored kitchen. Colonial garden. Costumes on third floor.

No. 4

West corner of 3rd and Delaware Streets. Residence of Arthur G. Logan, Esq. Erected about 1820. Also a VanDyke House. Beautiful staircase. Here General Lafayette was present at the wedding of Dorcas VanDyke to Charles I. du Pont in 1824.

No. 5

North corner of 3rd and Delaware Streets. Residence of Dr. Lewis Booker. Erected 1789 by Chief Justice Kensey Johns. Fine staircase, mantels and panelling. A kitchen as it was in olden times.

No. 6

No. 16 North 3rd Street. Residence of Judge **Richard S. Rodney.** Erected 1831 by George B. Rodney. Exhibit of interesting manuscripts and letters of Revolutionary period. Portraits of George Read, Signer of Declaration of Independence by Gilbert Stuart and of George Ross, Signer, by Benjamin West.

No. 7

No. 18 North 3rd Street. Residence of Mrs. Z. Gemmill. Built 1800. Fine doorway and woodwork. Exhibit of shawls and quilts.

No. 8

New Castle Academy. Built 1798 and recently acquired by Immanuel Church. To be used as a Parish House when restored by contributions and proceeds of Day in Old New Castle. Exhibit of Colonial costumes worn by New Castle dames of long ago. Loan exhibit.

No. 9

Immanuel Church. Founded 1689. Built 1703. Colonial silver. Church records dating from 1710 on view. In the churchyard are the graves of many celebrated Delawareans. Organ recital during the afternoon by Mr. George H. Madden, Organist and Choirmaster.

No. 10

Parish House. Corner of The Strand and Harmony Street. Built about 1801. Fine mantels and doorways. Beginning at 11:30 o'clock, lunch may be obtained here at a moderate price.

No. 11

Read House on The Strand. Residence of Philip D. Laird, Esq. Erected in 1801 by George Read, 2nd, son of George Read, Signer. A perfect specimen of Colonial architecture with exquisite woodwork and mantels and charmingly complete with period furniture. Portrait by Sir Peter Lely. A beautiful garden adjoins the house.

No. 12

Presbyterian Manse on The Strand. Built about one hundred years ago. This property was owned by the Janvier family for about two centuries. Now occupied by Rev. William Gibson.

No. 13

On The Strand. Residence of Mrs. Louise Rodney Holcomb. Built about 1825. Antique furniture, silver and portraits.

No. 14

Small town house. Built circa 1690. Residence of George McIntire, Esq. An interesting survival of the early Colonial period. One of a few not destroyed by the great fire of 1824. Once the residence of Stephen McWilliam, an original member of the Society of Cincinnati. Interesting panelled chimney breast.

No. 15

North corner of The Strand and Delaware Street. Residence of Francis deH. Janvier. Old Farmer's Bank Building. Here are silver, portraits and mahogany belonging to Lydia Darragh, who saved the American Army in 1780. Interesting corner cupboard. Original deed from Indian Chief Seckatarius to William Penn. Letter from George Washington to George Read. Portrait by Cosmo Alexander (1768).

No. 16

West corner of Delaware Street and The Strand. Residence of Ernest du Pont, Esq. Built 1732. Here Zachariah Vanleuvenigh received the messenger who brought news of the Battle of Bunker Hill.

No. 17

Old Presbyterian Church
(Now Church House)

Erected about 1707 and largely in its original condition.

No. 18

Presbyterian Church

Built 1854. On site of Old Dutch Church,

Bill Frank

Restore Fort Casimir

A retired Du Pont Co. engineer has virtually challenged the trustees of the New Castle Commons and the historically minded residents of the colonial capital of Delaware to restore or reconstruct an ancient fort that was the first seat of government in what is today's Delaware.

It was known as Fort Casimir, built in 1651 by the Dutch on the Delaware River shore, down where many years later the old ferry slip was located at the foot of Chestnut Street in New Castle.

Hugh G. Ryan Jr. of New Castle, with 30 years working service with Du Pont, has undertaken considerable research into Fort Casimir. He believes it can be restored (or reconstructed) much as it was during the mid-17th century era of Dutch-Swedish-English control.

He is convinced it could become a major attraction for hordes of tourists from all parts of the United States and also from Sweden and Holland.

What did the old fort look like? Fortunately, in 1654 Peter Lindstrom, a Swedish engineer, made a drawing of the fort and surroundings. The drawing is now supposed to be in the archives of the Historical Society of Delaware.

Ryan issued his challenge to the trustees in a letter in the New Castle Eagle and again the other night at a meeting of what is quaintly known as the Bull Hill Neighborhood Association in the home of Mary Lou McIntyre, 201 Chestnut St., not far from the presumed site of the old fort.

It was very interesting for me to attend this meeting, because Mary Lou McIntyre is the widow of the well-known New Castle historian Nicholas McIntyre, who would have applauded Ryan and helped to launch the project immediately.

In my imagination, I seemed to hear Nick say on the conclusion of Ryan's talk, "Okay! Let's go!"

First, a brief history of the fort:

In 1638, the Swedes and Finns came up the Delaware and turned into the the river they named Christina and laid the foundations of present-day Wilmington.

In 1651, the Dutch under Peter Stuyvesant claimed they controlled the Delaware River. The one-legged, egocentric Stuyvesant ventured into the Delaware and claimed he bought a lot of land from the Indians, just about where today's New Castle is located.

To protect his claims, he built a fort that he called Casimir after a friend of his in the old country.

According to a Historical Society of Delaware report, the fort was on high fast ground, 200 feet long and almost 100 feet wide, with foundations for 12 guns. Small houses were also built outside the fort walls where 26 families at one time were known to be living.

The Dutch were later displaced by the Swedes and then the Swedes were pushed out by the Dutch and finally, the English took over. Gradually, the fort disappeared.

There are two historic markers near where the fort was supposed to have been.

One was placed there by the Delaware Colonial Dames of America, the text of which authorities say is in error.

The more accurate marker was placed there by the old State Archives Department in 1932 and indicates that Fort Casimir was on land and was not, as some historians have indicated, eventually submerged by the river.

Ryan suggests that the site was under the old ferry slip of more recent years and that archaeological digs could prove this. But even if it develops that the original site of the fort is now under water, it still ought to be reconstructed as an addition to the visible history of old New Castle.

Ryan admits it would take a lot of money to restore or reconstruct Fort Casimir. It would also require many man hours of research, planning and construction but he, for one, as an engineer with considerable experience in designing, project preparation, personnel coordination and field-following for projects in excess of a million dollars, is willing to volunteer his service at once.

"Objectively," Ryan adds, "we should hold cost to a minimum and create interest for outside funds from those who want to help. We should examine existing records in Dover and the Historical Society of Delaware, prepare our own drawings and pursue from that point."

I would also recommend that the trustees of the New Castle Commons and Ryan himself consult C.A. Weslager of Hockessin, a qualified historian who is exceptionally knowledgeable in the Swedish-Dutch-English colonial era of Delaware. As matter of fact I would recommend that they consult Weslager even before they make a decision on the project.

Ponder for a while the basis of Hugh Ryan's plea:

"Let our children see the beginnings of a town. Let our people enjoy the historic atmosphere of Fort Casimir's restoration."

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St. Mark's High School is Located Off
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