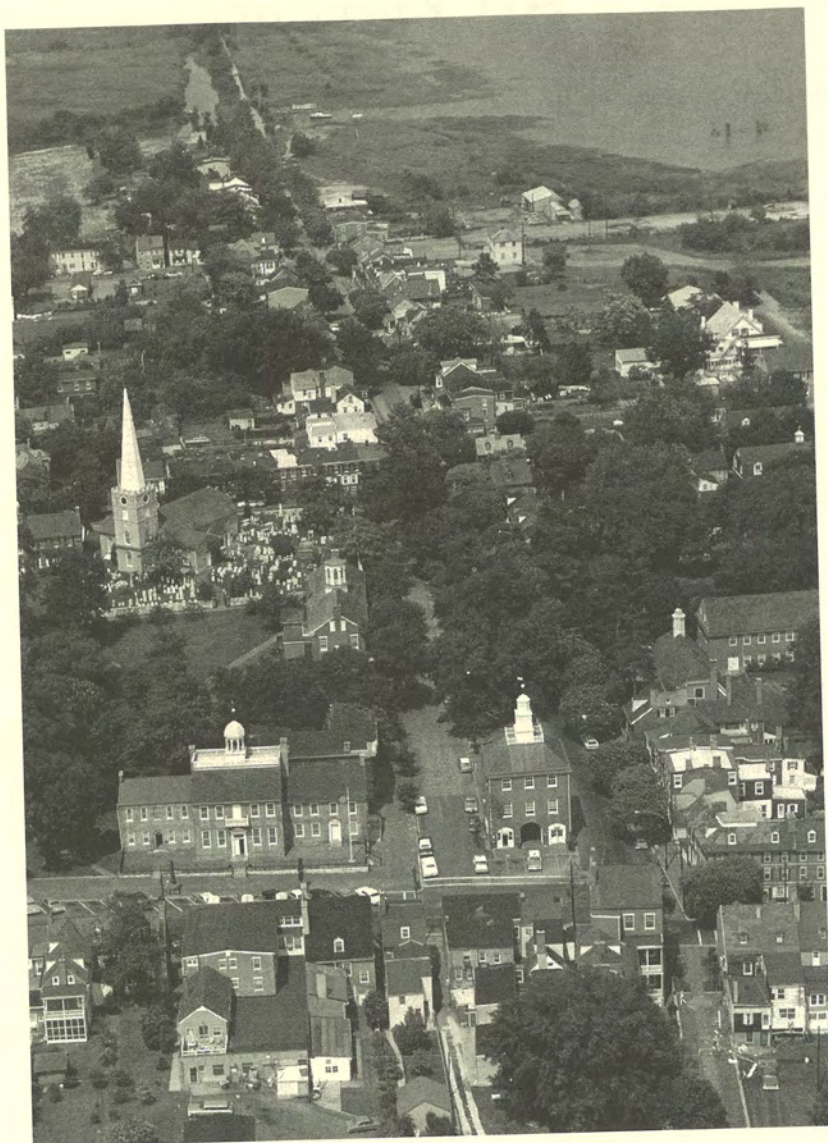




*Detail from aerial view of New Castle, ca. early 1960s.
(Courtesy of the Historical Society of Delaware.)*

350 Years of New Castle, Delaware

Chapters in a Town's History

CONSTANCE J. COOPER, EDITOR

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of the Founding of New Castle, Delaware



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Mount Salem Methodist Church, 140 East Fourth Street, 1930s–1940s.
(Courtesy of the Historical Society of Delaware.)

Thomas Garrett

Excerpt from Thomas Garrett's speech at the close of his trial in 1848:

I should have done violence to my convictions of duty, had I not made use of all the lawful means in my power to liberate those people, and assist them to become men and women, rather than leave them in the condition of chattels personal. I am called an Abolitionist, once a name of reproach, but one I have ever been proud to be considered worthy of being called. For the last twenty-five years I have been engaged in the cause of this despised and injured race, and consider their cause worth

suffering for; but owing to the multiplicity of other engagements, I could not devote so much of my time and mind to their cause as I otherwise should have done. The impositions and persecutions practiced on those unoffending and innocent brethren, are extreme beyond endurance. I am now placed in a situation in which I have not so much to claim my attention as formerly, and I now pledge myself, in the presence of this assembly, to use all lawful and honorable means to lessen the burdens of this oppressed people, and endeavor according to ability furnished to burst their chains asunder, and set them free—not relaxing my efforts on their behalf while blessed with health, and a slave remains to tread the soil of the state of my adoption—Delaware; and after mature reflection, I can assure this assembly it is my opinion at this time that the verdicts you have given the prosecutors against John Hunn and myself, within the past few days, will have a tendency to raise a spirit of inquiry throughout the length and breadth of the land, respecting this monster evil (slavery), in many minds that has not heretofore investigated the subject. The reports of those trials will be published by editors from Maine to Texas and the Far West; and what must be the effect produced? It will no doubt add hundreds, perhaps thousands, to the present large and rapidly increasing army of abolitionists. The injury is great to us who are the immediate sufferers by your verdict, but I believe the verdicts you have given us within the last few days will have a powerful effect in bringing about the abolition of slavery in this country, this land of boasted freedom, where not only the slave is fettered at the south by his lordly master, but the white man at the north is bound as in chains to do the bidding of his southern masters.⁴