

DELAWARE STREET

#122-124 - "The Harvey House" - now owned and operated as a grocery store by E. V. Platt & Brother (See Photo No. 40)

Summary: The plot, 30 feet wide on Delaware Street, was sold by Edward Blake, Jr. to John Kent, "cordwainer" in 1720. After **Ken's** death, his widow married Robert Street, "plastereir". To settle **Kent's** estate, the property was sold at public sale to John Land, "bricklayer", as "house and lot" in 1729, for 75 pounds and 15 shillings. Land sold it back to Robert and Elizabeth Street, the same year for the same sum. In 1738, Robert and Elizabeth Street sold the property to Dr. John Finney (with an additional "lot or piece of a lot" behind it). In 1771, Dr. **Finney** sold the property to **William** Buchanan. From Buchanan it went to **Esther Mackey** in 1774. No records have been found for the time between **Esther Mackey's** acquiring the house and the late 1790's, when it is mentioned as Alexander Harvey's house. Harvey was the jailor of the county jail in 1798. He was a warden of **Immanuel** Church as early as 1767 (unless this was his father). He was on the assessment list for property at \$1,761, and tax \$5.88 - by the town in 1804. His marriage and the birth of his children are given in the Records of Old Swede's, **Wilmington**. In 1813, his Delaware Street property and one on the Strand which he owned were sold by the sheriff to Dr. Archibald Alexander; by will of Alexander it went to his daughter, the wife of Hugh W. **Richtie**. **Richtie** was a druggist who in 1824 had his shop on the Strand.

(The Harvey House, continued)

In 1867, **Ephraim Fithium** sold the Delaware Street property, 30'x 96', having on it a two-story frame house, to George Turner. By will, 1891, Turner (who lived in the Penn house) described 122-124 as "**the** brick store and dwelling house and lot of land", but there is no record so far found to show where he replaced the frame house on the property by the "**brick** store and dwelling house" after he bought the place in 1867.

Alexander Cooper, writing **New Castle** history in 1907-8, describes the property as "**the** two quaint little old brick **store-**houses which adjoin each other on the southeasterly side of L. M. Chase & Sons' Store." The store in the east end had long been an ice cream and catering establishment; the west end next to #126 was feed-stuffs, groceries, hardware and **house** furnishings (George F. **Deakyne**); then boots and shoes.

Marshall N. Wier, whose "**fine groceries**" store was here in the late 1800's was the son-in-law of **Lucien M. Chase**.

-----Detailed history on file-----

From the above history, it may be said that the present brick store and dwelling replaced an earlier two-story frame house some time between 1867 and 1891. Front of the building is intact as built with the exception of the small door to the east (#122). A longer wood lintel, still in place, and joints in the brick-work about 2'-0" from the present west jamb of the door, would indicate that this door was a double one (like #124) and that the ground floor at one time was two separate and identical shops.

The brick work is "common bond", a row of headers every seventh course and has been painted. A small brick cornice with dentils finishes the wall at the eaves following the detail of #120 although four courses higher. The front part of this building has no chimneys and since it was built by the owner of #120, the chimney of the later was probably used for stoves in both buildings. A late pipe column and wood roofed awning covers the sidewalk and extends across the front, shading the two bulk windows.