

JE

River Side of Strand Between Delaware  
and Harmony Streets

Original Plot B-4. #17 now the property  
of J. J. B. Fulenwider; what was #19 now part of  
#21. owned by Horace Deakyne

The original bank lot B-4, was 60' wide and 600' deep opposite what is now the garden of the Morrison house and the Presbyterian Manse. The property on the west side of the Strand comprising these two sites was in the possession of George More, carpenter, of New Castle, before 1680. That year he sold to Bphralm Herman. The same year, Herman traded part of the Read property site, up the Strand for this lower site to Isaac Tayne Jr. In 1695, after Tayne's death, his heirs divided the property, the north half to Thomas Janvier (the first) and his wife Sarah; the south half to John and Mary Bisk. By this division, Janvier was entitled to the north half of the bank lot opposite, and Bisk to the south half - each plot being 30' wide and 600' deep.

#17

John Bisk's bank lot for which he received title from William Penn about 1702, changed owners frequently for a time, being owned by John and Sarah Brett before 1707, when it was sold to Richard and Lydia Clark, and in 1713 by Richard Clark to Benjamin Sweet. Sweet sold in 1718 to Brinoldus deHaes, mariner, of Philadelphia, descendant of Johannes deHaes of New Castle. DeHaes sold the same year to Nicholas Meers of New Castle, the "house and lot<sup>a</sup>, bounded s.e. by George Hogg, n.e. by Thomas Janvier.

Nicholas Meers, given in the records as mariner and also merchant, died possessed of this bank lot. It was sold by Sheriff Gideon Griffith in 1748 to John Finney. In this sale it is described as bounded n.e. by Thomas Janvier, as before, and bounded s.w. by the "shop and lot of Thomas Janvier." "Value of the property, 40 pounds."

In 1771, Dr. John Finney sold the property for 100 pounds, as "the house and lot in which Thomas Janvier now lives, bounded to the northeast by the alley leading to the wharf of Richard McWilliam." The alley became well-known later as Alexander's Alley from Archibald Alexander's ownership later, in partnership with John Stockton, of the north part of this original plot which was the share of Thomas Janvier the first, in 1695.

The Thomas Janvier, who bought #17 in 1771, is called "boatman" in the deed, and records of the family indicate that he was the son of John, and grandson of Thomas the first, who died in 1728. Thomas I had a son Thomas, his first born, whose later records seem to connect him with Philadelphia, where in 1758 he was made provincial armorer; his descendants used the English form, January, of the French Janvier. But this Thomas II, son of Thomas I, was the only Thomas old enough to have been the "Thomas Jr." of 1730, who had a shop on the site of #13 and #15. Of two grandsons of Thomas Janvier I who were named Thomas, one, the son of Francis is said to have died early without issue. The other Thomas, son of John, lived in New Castled, married Jane Clark in 1766, and was

probably the grandson who bought #17 in 1771; he had at least three children: John, Thomas and Jane, great-grandchildren of Thomas I. John, "a wealthy gentleman, member of the Presbyterian church, died in the spring of 1846" and left equal legacies to Immanuel and the Presbyterian church. He had at least four children. Thomas, his brother, died in 1850. He had several children; he left to his daughter Jane, wife of Joshua N. Danforth, #13 the Strand, which he had bought in 1826.

These two Janviers, John and Thomas, who died 1846 and 1850, together with several cousins, were prime movers and operators in the great transportation advances that followed recovery from the war of 1812. Their work, centered at New Castle, embraced turn-pikes and stage lines, stage boats and cargo packets, sail and steam, between the Delaware and the Chesapeake, and finally the New Castle and Frenchtown railroad, opened in 1832. Their contribution to the progress of trade and travel in the eastern states between north and south has an outstanding part in the history of the period.

#17 seems to have been owned chiefly by descendants of the Janvier and related families to the present. In 1943, it was devised by will of Miss Elsie Black (Elizabeth G.) to a nephew John J. J. B. Fulenwider, the present owner.

#19

After the death of Thomas Janvier I, in 1728, his heirs - he had seven sons and three daughters - held the bank lot (that mould have been #19 between the present k17 and #21), when his son Isaac, as executor, sold it to Richard McWilliam Sr. Richard McWilliam, in the 1750's, owned #13 and #15, aith the alley adjoining #13, running back to the wharf, as well as #19 with wharf and alley, a valuable wharfage to lease or use. Dr. John Finney at this time owned the property, #17, between and adjoining the two properties of McWilliam. This was one of several bank lot properties bought by Dr. Finney for investment.

Upon the death of Richard McWilliam Sr., his son Stephen by release from his brother Bichard Jr. became possessed of the property. In 1783, Stephen McWilliam sold to Thomas Achen\*, **shipcarpenter**, and John Stockton for 280 pounds. Two years later, Achen sold his half-interest to Dr. Archibald Alexander. In 1806, several Philadelphia merchants bought Dr. Alexander's share. At that time the other half interest was owned by Alexander Harvey. In 1813 the sheriff seized as property of Harvey, the "one undivided half part of a lot of land and wharf with a frame dwelling house and brick store erected thereon," and sold it to Hugh I. Ritchie. Ritchie had a drugstore in the house on this site, and 1817 when he was appointed postmaster, this house was the post office. His daughter Hetty Ritchie was afterward postmistress at this site.

\* Thomas Achen was the jailer at New Castle in 1792.

The buildings on this property in which Hugh Ritchie held a half interest were destroyed by the fire of 1824. Both were replaced although the type of the buildings does not appear in the first indentures after the fire. At some time before or after the fire, the Union Line Transportation and Steamboat Company (controlled by John and Thomas Janvier) had acquired a half interest in the property and had made a partition with Ritchie by which "all the unbuilt and unenclosed portion" of the lot upon which the house stood should belong to the Union Company as a separate property, and the house, presumably with some garden behind it as a separate property to Ritchie. Ritchie's son Archibald Ritchie inherited the property. It is marked "the estate of Archibald Ritchie" on Beers map of 1868.

Subsequent data to be added when checked--