

A Documentary History of the Arsenal  
New Castle, Delaware

CENTER FOR  
HISTORIC  
ARCHITECTURE  
& DESIGN

**A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF THE ARSENAL  
NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE**

by

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## I. History of the Arsenal

In 1804 the United States Government enacted legislation that allocated money to the Secretary of War for the expense of constructing "fortifications, arsenals, magazines, and armories."<sup>1</sup> Further legislation was enacted in 1809 to "complete the fortifications commenced for the Security of the Ports and harbors of the United States" as the threat of war with England loomed.<sup>2</sup> The Arsenal in New Castle, Delaware, was constructed by the Quarter Master General's Office, a subordinate unit of the Office of the Secretary of War, in accordance with this legislation. New Castle's location along the Delaware River south of Philadelphia, and its proximity to established inland transportation routes, made the growing town an ideal location for the storage of ordnance supplies.

The Trustees of the Market Square acquired control over the ground on which the Arsenal was eventually constructed by an Act of Assembly passed in June 1772.<sup>3</sup> The Arsenal was apparently constructed between 1809 and early 1811, when Caleb P. Bennet accepted a post there as military store-keeper.<sup>4</sup> A note from the Secretary of War suggests that the location of the Arsenal was selected and planned by a Captain Bainford.<sup>5</sup> Latrobe's survey of New Castle in 1804 suggests that the Arsenal was planned as early as that date, when he showed a circle marked

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<sup>1</sup> Mirror of the Times, 25 February 1804.

<sup>2</sup> Museum of Delaware, 24 June 1809.

<sup>3</sup> Every Evening, "New Castle's Title to Public Property," 19 June 1922. This article contains a transcription of a letter written by Francis de H. Janvier, solicitor for the City of New Castle, to the New Castle Board of Education. Janvier's letter cites the Act of Assembly which was passed on 13 June 1772, and which is referenced in Volume 1, Chapter 212 of the Laws of Delaware.

<sup>4</sup> Letter from C.P. Bennett to William Linnard, 15 January 1811; Record Group 92, Box Number 724, National Archives Textual Branch, Washington, DC. Unless otherwise noted, all letters cited in this document are from the same location.

<sup>5</sup> Letter, undated. The letter documents orders from the Secretary of War to "erect an arsenal at New Castle which will be laid out and a place given by Captain Bainford."

“Arsenal” on a spot roughly matching the current location of the building (Figure 1).<sup>6</sup> The only source for the original appearance of the Arsenal, apart from possible evidence provided by the structure itself, comes from an 1822 painting that reveals the Arsenal as a one-story structure with an attic (Figure 2).<sup>7</sup> The building measured 96 feet in length by 26 feet wide. Surviving evidence of seams in the brick work of the central bays of both the north and south elevations suggest that arched wagon entrances may have been located in each gable end of the original building.

Supplies for the Arsenal came from the United States Arsenal on the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia. William Linnard, military agent at the Quartermaster General’s Office in Philadelphia, was in charge of coordinating the shipment of supplies from the Schuylkill Arsenal to New Castle.<sup>8</sup> A shipment list from April 1813 provides an idea of the types of items stored at the New Castle Arsenal. Shipped materials included cannon and grape shot, cannon powder and carriages, backbands, collars, haversacks, and other military supplies.<sup>9</sup> Following the end of the War of 1812, arms and munitions continued to be stored at the Arsenal. In the early 1820s, a local militia regiment known as the “Washington Greys” requested permission to use some of the arms from that location.<sup>10</sup> By the late 1820s, however, the Arsenal seems to have given up its primary function of arms storage.

In February 1831, a fire occurred at Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island, seriously damaging the fort and making it impossible to keep troops on the island. Although initially Fort

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<sup>6</sup> Latrobe’s Survey of New Castle, 1804. Delaware Public Archives, Dover, Delaware.

<sup>7</sup> Tilson, “ Southwest view of Immanuel Church and the Academy in the Town of New Castle,” 1822. In the collections of the Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington, Delaware.

<sup>8</sup> Letters from William Linnard to George Ingels, 25 April 1813 and 26 April 1813.

<sup>9</sup> Shipment list from George Ingels to Captain Cluny, Deputy Quarter Master at New Castle, 27 April 1813.

<sup>10</sup> Inventories of arms and supplies and other correspondence from the period between 1816 and the early 1820s document the contents of the Arsenal. Personal communication from Charles Fithian, Delaware State Museums, based on evidence found in the Executive Papers, Delaware Public Archives, Dover, Delaware.

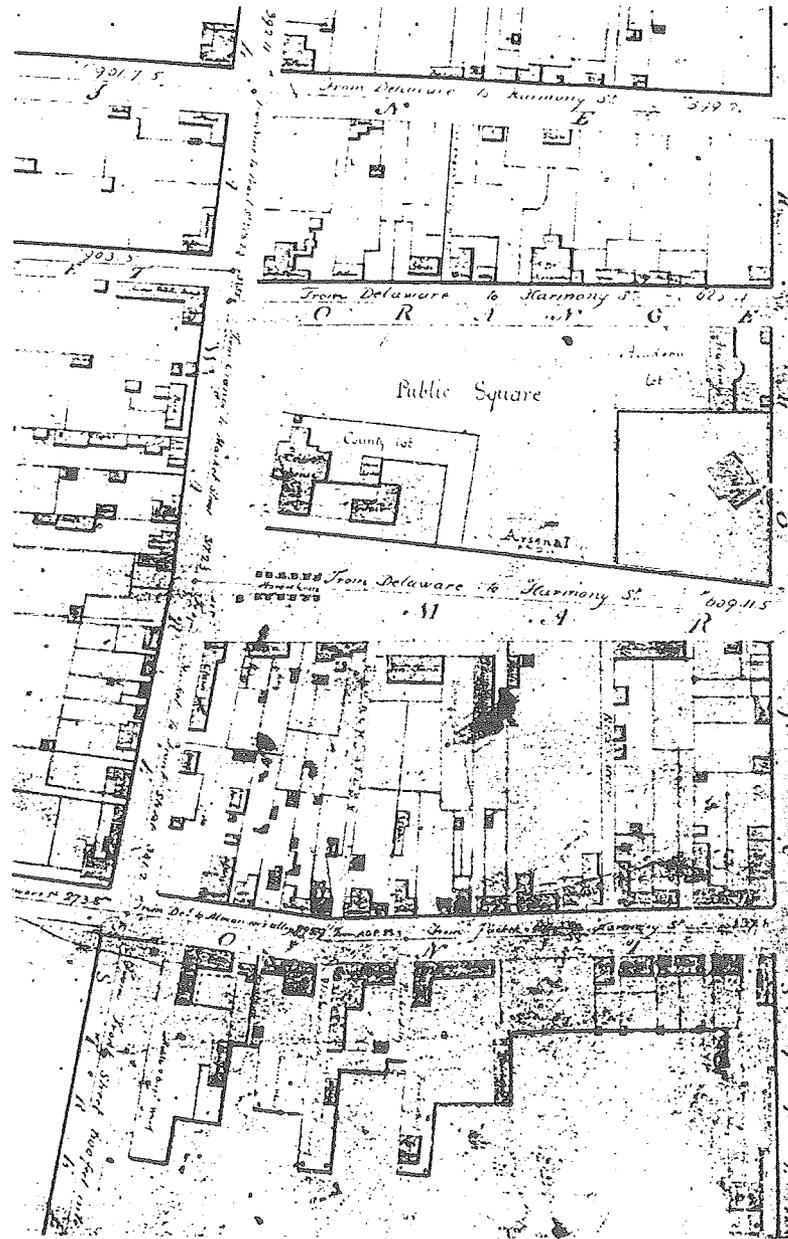


Figure 1: Benjamin Latrobe's Survey of New Castle, 1804. Note the space marked for the Arsenal near the Courthouse. Courtesy of the Delaware Public Archives, Dover, Delaware.

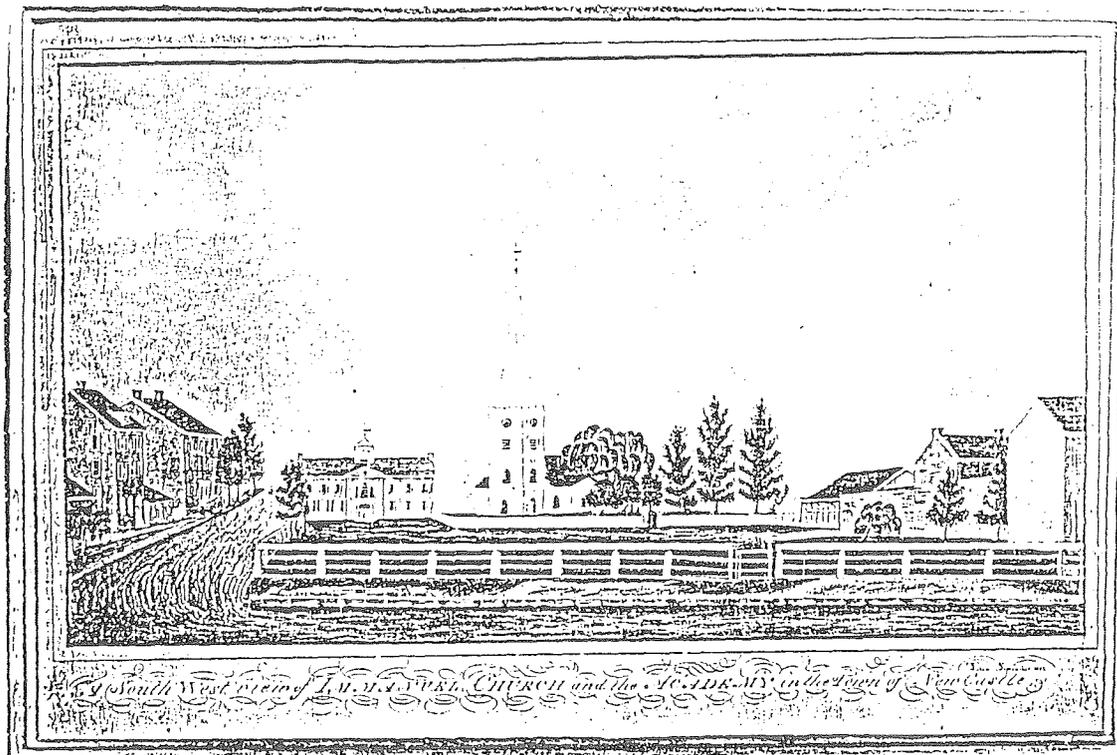


Figure 2: Tilson, "Southwest view of Immanuel Church and the Academy in the Town of New Castle," 1822. Note the appearance of the Arsenal building on the right side of the image. Courtesy of the Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington, Delaware.

Mifflin was being prepared to house the troops, Major B. K. Pierce suggested that the Arsenal would provide suitable accommodations for two companies of the Fort Delaware troops. He wrote:

There is at New Castle an Arsenal belonging to the United States, unoccupied and a fine building calculated with some little alteration to accommodate two Companies of Men and in the Village contiguous to the Arsenal Quarters for the Officers may be rented cheap. This perhaps may be considered the most elligible situation for this command until Fort Delaware can be reoccupied -- or Fort Mifflin -- when the navigation opens might be repaired and occupied. But it is not expected here that the river will open before the 10th of March -- The Guard is left at Fort Delaware, the remainder of the Troops are at the City of Delaware Where I propose continuing them...The men are many of them destitute of clothing, and arms and accoutrements and the Artificers destitute of Tools necessary for making Bunks -- and other conveniences...The situation at Fort Mifflin is said to be extremely unhealthy and [therefore] the situation at New Castle would on the whole be the most eligible and economical...<sup>11</sup>

Pierce received permission to move the troops from Delaware City to New Castle in February 1831. After ordering necessary supplies and equipment, Pierce's men made some modifications to the Arsenal and were soon "comfortably situated and quartered."<sup>12</sup> They erected bunks, built partitions, and constructed "such other improvements as will afford each company a commodious Kitchen and Mess Room, and a large Room to each company containing Bunks and other conveniences."<sup>13</sup> This suggests that the Arsenal was probably divided into four rooms, depending upon the division between the kitchen and mess room areas. The four-room plan would have included two kitchen and mess rooms and two rooms for general use. An alternate arrangement would have been a six-room plan that would have separated the kitchens and mess areas into individual rooms. With 50 men in each of the two companies, the Arsenal now held 100 men.

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<sup>11</sup> Letter from Major B.K. Pierce to General Macomb, 14 February 1831.

<sup>12</sup> Letter from Major B.K. Pierce to Colonel R. Jones, 6 March 1831.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

Pierce's letters suggest that the building was still a one-story structure in 1831, describing the use of the loft for store rooms for each company.<sup>14</sup> Officers from the companies did not live in the Arsenal, but rented quarters in the town, paying "an average of about ten Dollars per month each."<sup>15</sup> A hospital, guard house, storehouse, and stables were also rented in the town as well. The hospital, storehouse, and stables were rented from a local property owner, William Read, for \$450 per year.<sup>16</sup>

Correspondence indicates that firewood for the troops at the arsenal was a problem. Initially, the troops brought fuel with them from Fort Delaware, but after that was consumed, they had to advertise for someone to supply them with fuel. On one occasion, 100 cords of wood were delivered to the Arsenal, at a cost of \$4 per cord.<sup>17</sup> Storage of the fuel once it was delivered was a second problem, since the land controlled by the federal government included just the Arsenal and no spare ground to store the wood. At one point Linnard suggested that a vacant lot might be rented on the edge of town so that wood could be brought to the Arsenal as needed, eliminating the larger storage problem.<sup>18</sup>

The troops from Fort Delaware were removed from New Castle in June 1832.<sup>19</sup> The departure of Lieutenant W. P. Bainbridge with the troops left the bookkeeping between the town and the army in some disarray. In October 1832 Pierce was still trying to finish paying the bills for rent of buildings in town as well as for supplies such as fuel.<sup>20</sup> In January 1833, the army tried to deliver some ordnance supplies to the Arsenal, apparently part of "a quota of arms

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<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Letter from Pierce to Major T. Cross, 8 October 1832. William Read's identity cannot be positively confirmed, but later correspondence suggests that he was related to the Read family on the Strand.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Letter from William Linnard to Major General Thomas S. Jessup, 22 February 1831.

<sup>19</sup> Letter from Pierce to Major Cross, 5 October 1832.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

furnished to the State of Delaware [in] 1808.”<sup>21</sup> The army could not deliver the arms because they could not locate the agent responsible for their storage. Finally, in July 1833 (more than a year after the troops left New Castle), Captain Arneas Mackay traveled to New Castle to resolve a dispute with “Mr. G. Read” over alleged damages to the house Read had rented to the troops during their stay. The repairs focused mainly on cleaning the house, fixing plaster walls, repainting and papering, and some carpentry work.<sup>22</sup> With the resolution of this dispute, the military presence at the Arsenal disappeared.

Sources point to a variety of uses of the Arsenal in the years following the departure of the Fort Delaware troops. Colonel Joseph Henry Rogers was a life-long resident of the Town of New Castle. Born in 1817, in 1905 he detailed his memories of the town to Alexander B. Cooper. Rogers recalled that in 1832 or 1833 the Arsenal served as a hospital during a cholera epidemic. Colonel Rogers, who was in grade-school at the time, remembered peering in the windows of the Arsenal to look at the cholera patients. “After that,” he said, “the second story was used for school purposes” and “John Riddle used it as a post-office when he was post-master, that is, a part of it.”<sup>23</sup>

Correspondence between E. E. Camp and the U.S. Government provides further evidence of the use of the building between 1832 and 1836. In 1836 Camp wrote to Colonel Bomford of the U.S. Ordnance Office that he desired to rent one of the four rooms in the Arsenal for a printing office for the *New Castle Gazette*.<sup>24</sup> Bomford referred the letter to Major General Jessup, Quarter Master General, since the building was not under the charge of the Ordnance

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<sup>21</sup> Letter from Major Henry Stanton to Lieutenant C. A. Waite, 28 January 1833.

<sup>22</sup> Letter from Captain Arneas Mackay to Major General Thomas S. Jessup, 22 July 1833.

<sup>23</sup> “Recollections of New Castle, Delaware, as detailed by Joseph H. Rogers, Esquire, to Alexander B. Cooper and Noted by Charles G. Guyer, Stenographer, September 15, 1905”, p. 52. Copy of transcription is located at the New Castle Public Library, New Castle, Delaware. Although Rogers specifically recalled as cholera epidemic, it may also have been yellow fever. Confirmation from period sources of this activity has not been located.

<sup>24</sup> Letter from E. E. Camp to Colonel Bomford, 5 March 1836. This letter confirms that the renovations made by the troops in 1831 divided the Arsenal into four rooms.

Office. Camp's letter to Bomford describes the way in which the Arsenal was being used in 1836 and confirms that the Customs Service occupied most of the space. One room, wrote Camp, "is used by Mr. Delany, an Inspector of the Customs--the other by the Revenue Custom--and the balance by nobody and everybody."<sup>25</sup> In this letter to Bomford, Camp proposed to pay rent in the amount of \$20 per year for the room, and also offered to insure the entire building. In a subsequent letter to Major General Jessup, Camp changed his strategy and made an alternate proposal. He wrote,

The Arsenal situated in the public square of this town is a very fine building and not long since was put into very good repair when occupied by the U.S. troops -- for more than three years it has had no superintendants and has been used and abused as individuals chose. I propose to the Quartermaster Generals Department to take charge of this building and grounds, for the compensation of a room in the buildings...<sup>26</sup>

Camp's character for the position of military storekeeper was endorsed by George Read, James Rogers, Andrew Gray, Evan H. Thomas, James Booth, and Thomas Clayton.

Major General Jessup did begin to consider the future of the Arsenal on the basis of Camp's letter. A note signed by Jessup at the bottom of Camp's letter indicates that by 1836 "the lot and buildings...are understood to be partly occupied by the revenue Department." Since they were not required for any military purpose, Jessup recommended that the property should be either sold or placed under the direction of the Treasury Department. General Jessup then referred Camp's letter to Major Arneas Mackay, Assisant Quarter Master in Philadelphia, instructing him to send someone to inspect the condition of the buildings, and if they were not needed by the Revenue Department, to employ someone to take charge of them or to rent them as he saw fit.<sup>27</sup>

Mackay's investigation discovered that "parts of the building were occupied by the

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<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Letter from Camp to Major General Jessup, 10 March 1836.

<sup>27</sup> Letter from Jessup to Major Arneas Mackay, 7 April 1836.

Customs house officer for his boatmen--and the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad company had made use of another part for their convenience."<sup>28</sup> In addition Richard Delafield, Captain of Engineers, informed Major Mackay that the Arsenal was also being used by the United States Engineer Department as a store house for tools and as quarters for the mechanics and laborers employed to repair the harbor of New Castle and protect ships from floating ice. Delafield wrote that all the tools for the harbor operations at New Castle, Marcus Hook, Port Penn, and Chester were being stored in one room of the Arsenal prior to the renewal of operations. Finally Delafield requested that he be allowed to have the use of the whole building, as "the work to be done will make these buildings or similar storerooms and quarters indispensable."<sup>29</sup> As a result of Mackay's investigation, Major General Jessup decided to turn the Arsenal over to Captain Delafield for the use of the Engineer Department rather than rent it to Camp.<sup>30</sup>

Two secondary sources suggest that the Arsenal was in use for military purposes related to the Mexican War in 1845, but provide no indication of the source of their information.<sup>31</sup> In any event, the storage of ammunition at the site is unlikely at that time due to the terms of a deed executed between the Town of New Castle and the U.S. Government in 1843. While the Arsenal was built some time shortly after 1809, a deed granting the land to the United States government was not issued until 1843.<sup>32</sup> According to this deed, a public meeting was held in New Castle on August 9, 1809, "for the purpose of taking into consideration the Subject of erecting an Arsenal,"

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<sup>28</sup> Letter from Captain Richard Delafield to Major Mackay, 11 April 1836.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Letter from Jessup to Mackay, 18 April 1836. This letter is the last in the series of correspondence related to the Arsenal. Future investigation into the records of the Engineer Department might reveal how long they occupied the building.

<sup>31</sup> Gibson, George H., editor, The Collected Essays of Richard S. Rodney on Early Delaware, (Wilmington, Delaware: Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Delaware, 1975), p. 85. Also, lecture on the history of the Arsenal, given by Charles Smith, January 14, 1976, as part of a public education series sponsored by Historic New Castle '76; typescript held by the New Castle Public Library. Neither of these articles mentions any source for the military activity at the Arsenal related to the Mexican War.

<sup>32</sup> New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, Book K, Volume 5, pp. 556-559.

and the town voted in favor of allowing the construction of the building. However, no formal record was kept of the meeting and the Trustees of the Market Square failed to execute a proper deed to transfer the land to the federal government. At a later town meeting, held in November 1843, the townspeople voted to allow the existing Arsenal to remain standing “provided that the said Arsenal shall never in any Case be used for the Storage of Gun Powder; nor for the quartering of Troops without the express assent of the inhabitants of the Town.”<sup>33</sup> This decision likely reflects the experience of the townspeople with the troops from Fort Delaware and essentially made the Arsenal of little value to the military. Sometime between 1852 and 1854, “the building was taken over, presumably with the full consent of the United States, by the Committee on Education of the Trustees of the New Castle Common.”<sup>34</sup> Since Janvier could find no record of the transaction conveying the property from the federal government back to the Trustees, it was his legal opinion that in 1922 “the control of the building is now exclusively in [the Board of Education]...if abandoned for school purposes...it would pass into the control of the Trustees of the Court House and Market Square.”<sup>35</sup>

In 1852 the Arsenal began its new life as a school. The Trustees of the New Castle Common formed a sub-committee on education, which resolved that a school for girls be organized to commence “on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October next” and to engage a female teacher at \$400 per annum.<sup>36</sup> The principal of the New Castle Institute was asked to “obtain the use of the western lower room of the Arsenal, make such alterations therein as may be necessary and procure suitable seats and desks for the girls school.”<sup>37</sup>

Records of the Trustees of the New Castle Common provide additional information about

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<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Report from Francis de. H. Janvier to the New Castle Board of Education, 5 June 1822, as reported in the Every Evening, 19 June 1922.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> Minutes of the Trustees of the New Castle Common, Committee on Education, 6 May 1852.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

the process of altering the Arsenal into a two-story high school building. In May 1853 the Trustees requested that the Committee on Education “inquire into the alterations necessary to make the Arsenal...suitable for a school house for the children of said town, the probable cost and the terms upon which the building can be procured by the Trustees of the New Castle Common.”<sup>38</sup> One month later the trustees heard a proposal for changes to the Arsenal. This proposal provides some insight into the original appearance of the one-story building as well as the later changes:

That the walls be raised 7 feet so as to give a second story of about 13 feet, and thus furnish 4 fine rooms of about 43 by 25 feet each in the clear, and a hall of 10 feet wide with a stair case leading to the upper story, the whole to be ceiled and plastered; that the windows be enlarged to the size of 8 feet in height by 4 feet in width, or thereabout, and the same numbers as at present with the addition of one over the front and another over the back door to light the hall, the doorways to be altered so as to correspond with the windows and although it would be more convenient in some respects to close up the end doors, it is better on the whole to have these additional entrances. It is believed that the roof which is good and well framed can be raised entire so as to allow the walls to be built up under it, at a moderate expense.<sup>39</sup>

Minutes from subsequent meetings indicate that the proposed changes were made as laid out here, except that a new roof was added.

The cost of adding the second story and furnishing the new space was expected to be no less than \$2000 and the Trustees set aside that sum for the work. The Trustees of the Market Square agreed to lease the Arsenal to the Trustees of the New Castle Common for a “nominal consideration” and for use as a school, a purpose in keeping with their mission. Accordingly, the Committee on Education was instructed to proceed with the alterations. In October the Committee on Education reported that “the shortness of the period between the last report of the Committee and the time when the schools might regularly be reopened and the advance of the

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<sup>38</sup> Minutes of the Trustees of the New Castle Common, 10 May 1853.

<sup>39</sup> Minutes of the Trustees of the New Castle Common, 25 June 1853.

season, rendered it unadvisable to commence the alterations of the Arsenal...the committee therefore recommended that the whole matter be delayed until next year."<sup>40</sup>

In March 1854 a Mr. Ratan was given use of the northeast end of the Arsenal "for the purpose of accommodating the workmen employed in building and repairing the new pier," indicating that construction on the school had not yet started.<sup>41</sup> By July the Committee on Education had received several proposals for the alterations and requested the Board to consider them.<sup>42</sup> Thomas M. Ogle submitted a proposal which was rejected. The Trustees accepted the proposal of John G. Lankey. The Committee on Education was "instructed to have the building covered with galvanized iron, and to have the whole completed by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October next."<sup>43</sup> William Janvier and William Dobb were appointed to "procure from the proper Trustees a lease for the Arsenal and such portion of ground attached thereto as may be deemed necessary for the convenience of the schools, for the term of 999 years for a nominal consideration."<sup>44</sup>

In October the Trustees agreed to have the Arsenal roof "covered with shingles of a good quality in lieu of the galvanized iron roof heretofore directed to be put on."<sup>45</sup> Six months later, an additional \$500 was appropriated to the Committee on Education for "defraying the expense incurred in altering the Arsenal building into a school house."<sup>46</sup> Finally in August 1855 the Committee on Education reported that

they have attended to the duties of their appointment and that the changes and additions directed by the board to be made have been completed except the

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<sup>40</sup> Minutes of the Trustees of the New Castle Common, 4 October 1853.

<sup>41</sup> Minutes of the Trustees of the New Castle Common, 7 March 1854.

<sup>42</sup> Minutes of the Trustees of the New Castle Common, 5 July 1854.

<sup>43</sup> Minutes of the Trustees of the New Castle Common, 10 July 1854.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> Minutes of the Trustees of the New Castle Common, 4 October 1854.

<sup>46</sup> Minutes of the Trustees of the New Castle Common, 17 March 1855.

painting of the outside walls which it is intended shall be done in the course of the ensuing autumn. As is already known to the Board, your committee made a contract in August last year with John G. Lankey to do the work therein specified for the sum of \$2199.84. This amount has been paid to him in full...The cupola and other items of extra work having lately been finished the committee was called on by Mr. Lankey for the purpose of having a settlement.<sup>47</sup>

The minutes included a lengthy discussion of the costs of the renovations, indicating that Mr. Lankey's final charges were greater than the estimate he originally provided. In Lankey's defense, "considerably more expense was incurred in taking down more of the old and putting up the new walls than the contractor expected."<sup>48</sup> Given this and the "satisfactory manner" in which the work was done and the quality of the work, the committee decided that the whole sum, amounting to \$4300, should be paid. On August 18, \$1800 was appropriated for "paying the expense of the alterations and additions made to the Arsenal building." In March 1856 the treasurer, William Couper, presented an account of the receipts and expenses for the Arsenal renovations. His attached statement lists \$662.50 as "cash paid" to the "Committee on Education for altering Arsenal" and \$1137.50 as "cash paid" to the same for "repairs to the Arsenal."<sup>49</sup> This is the last surviving entry pertaining explicitly to the Arsenal, although the existing records of the Trustees may not be complete. While the Trustees directly administered the school, known as School Number 1, the minutes make no subsequent reference to it.

Historian A. J. Rhodes suggests that

although separate departments existed for girls and boys, both sexes were taught the same subjects. Exams from 1852 and 1853 reveal a rigorous course of study including Greek, Latin, English, etymology...algebra, arithmetic, history, physiology...and constitutional history. By 1868 there were 340 students enrolled,

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<sup>47</sup> Minutes of the Trustees of the New Castle Common, 18 August 1855.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> Minutes of the Trustees of the New Castle Common, 4 March 1856.

200 males and 140 females.<sup>50</sup>

Both Beers' Atlas of Delaware in 1868, and Baist's Atlas in 1893 show the building clearly marked as the New Castle Institute (Figures 3 and 4). A speech delivered by Richard S. Rodney at the opening of the William Penn School in 1930 provides a good summary of the transfer from the Trustees of the New Castle Common to the new Board of Education in 1875.

In 1874 the Trustees of the Common found it necessary to withdraw financial support from the schools because the trustees had guaranteed an annual sum in order to have a water system introduced into New Castle, and a general reduction in the income of the board made it necessary to place the burden of the schools directly in the hands of the people. (This was done by notification made March 31, 1875.) On March 10, 1875 the Board of Education was established by the General Assembly and the management and operation of the schools was directly under this board until the adoption of the present School Code. During these years the board had a most difficult task with insufficient funds. The total cost of the operation of the schools could not exceed about \$5000. Twenty years later, in 1894, we find the total income of the board was \$7075, being \$1575 from the state and \$5500 raised from taxation of the city.<sup>51</sup>

The Arsenal served as the New Castle High School until 1930 when the William Penn School was opened. Surviving photographs and maps suggest that several physical changes were made to the building during this period. First, a two-story projection off the central bay of the east elevation provided a porch over the entry and an enclosed room on the second floor. The addition appeared on the building between 1891 and 1901 (Figure 5).<sup>52</sup> Between 1912 and 1923, a square two-story central bay addition appeared on the west (rear) elevation (Figures 6 and 7).<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> Rhodes, A. J., Buildings Books and Blackboards: Education in New Castle from 1657 to 1930, (New Castle, Delaware: New Castle Historical Society, 1993) p.18.

<sup>51</sup> The Collected Essays of Richard S. Rodney, p. 85-86.

<sup>52</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps, Town of New Castle, 1891 and 1901. Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Company Inc.

<sup>53</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps, Town of New Castle, 1912 and 1923. Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Company Inc.



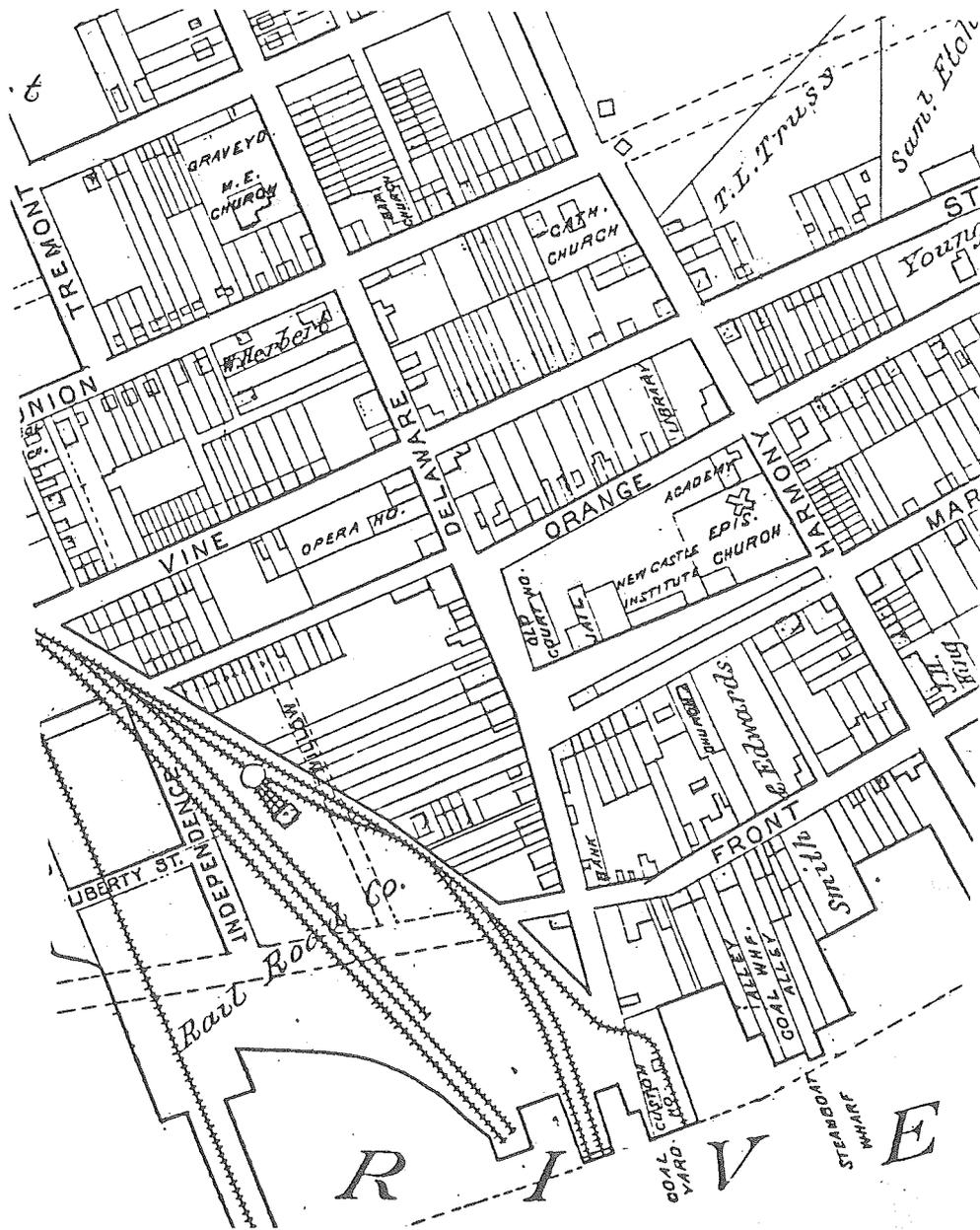


Figure 4: Baist's Atlas of New Castle County, Delaware, 1893.

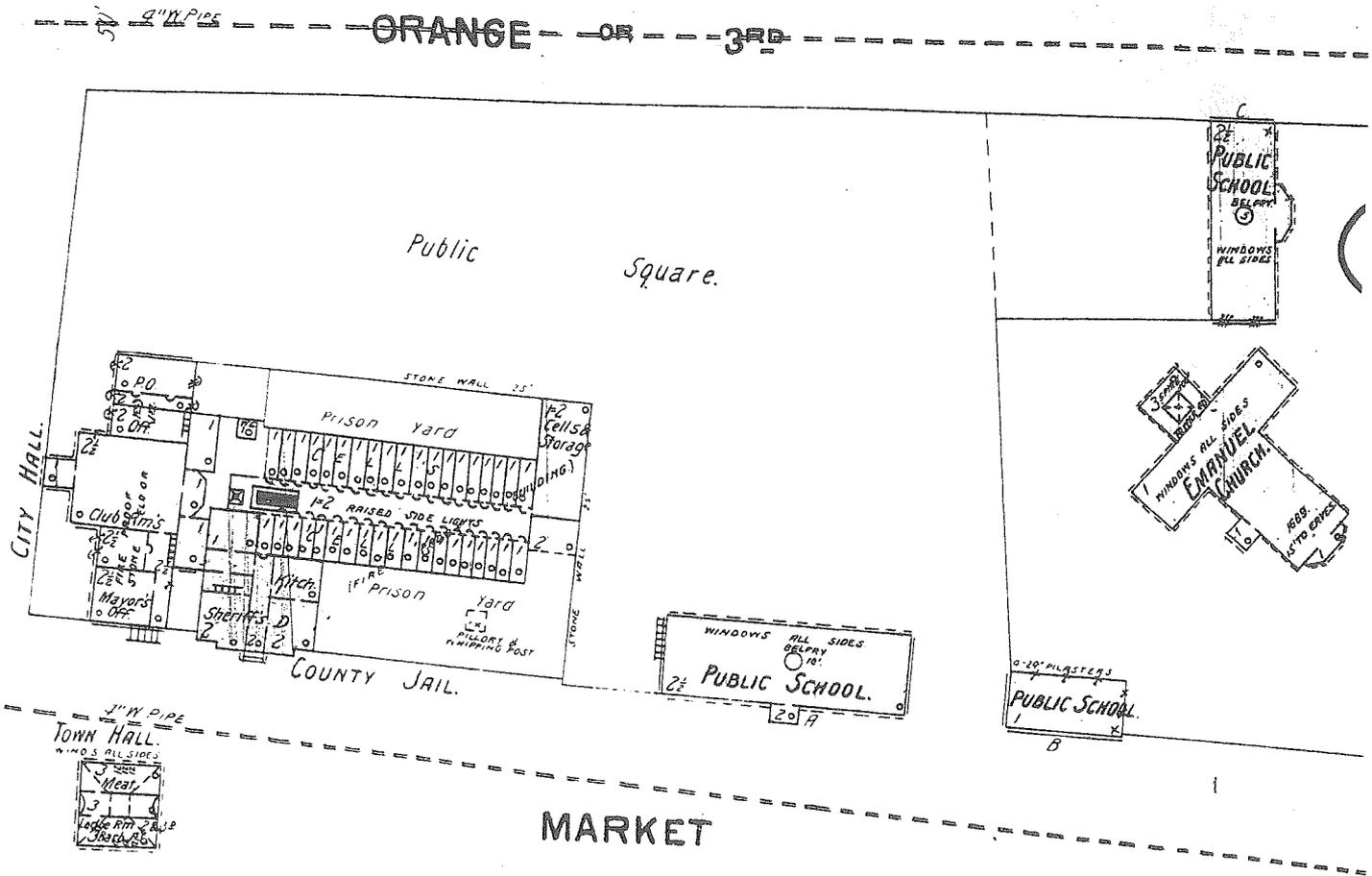


Figure 5: Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map, 1901.

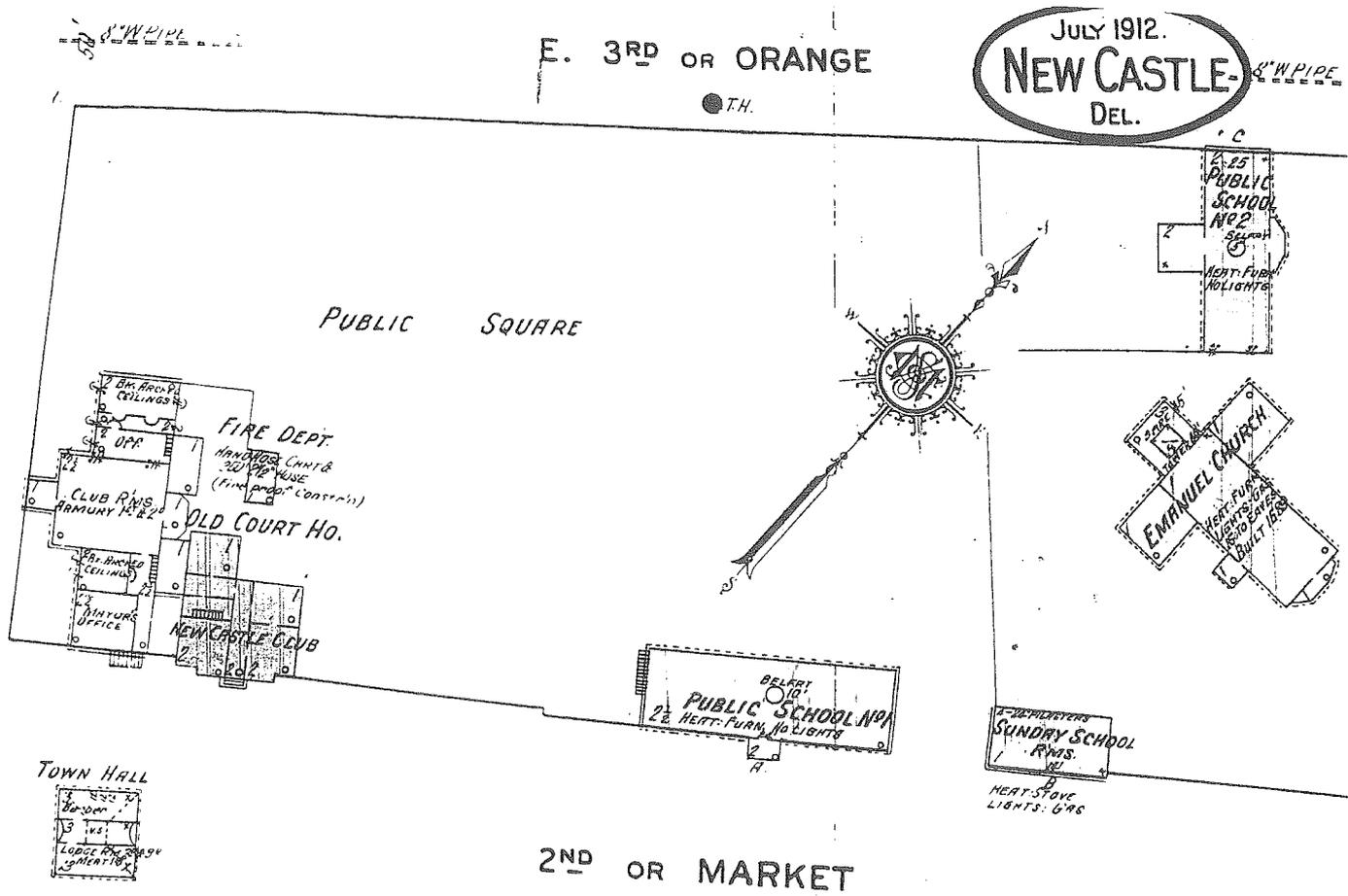


Figure 6: Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map, 1912.

History of the Arsenal

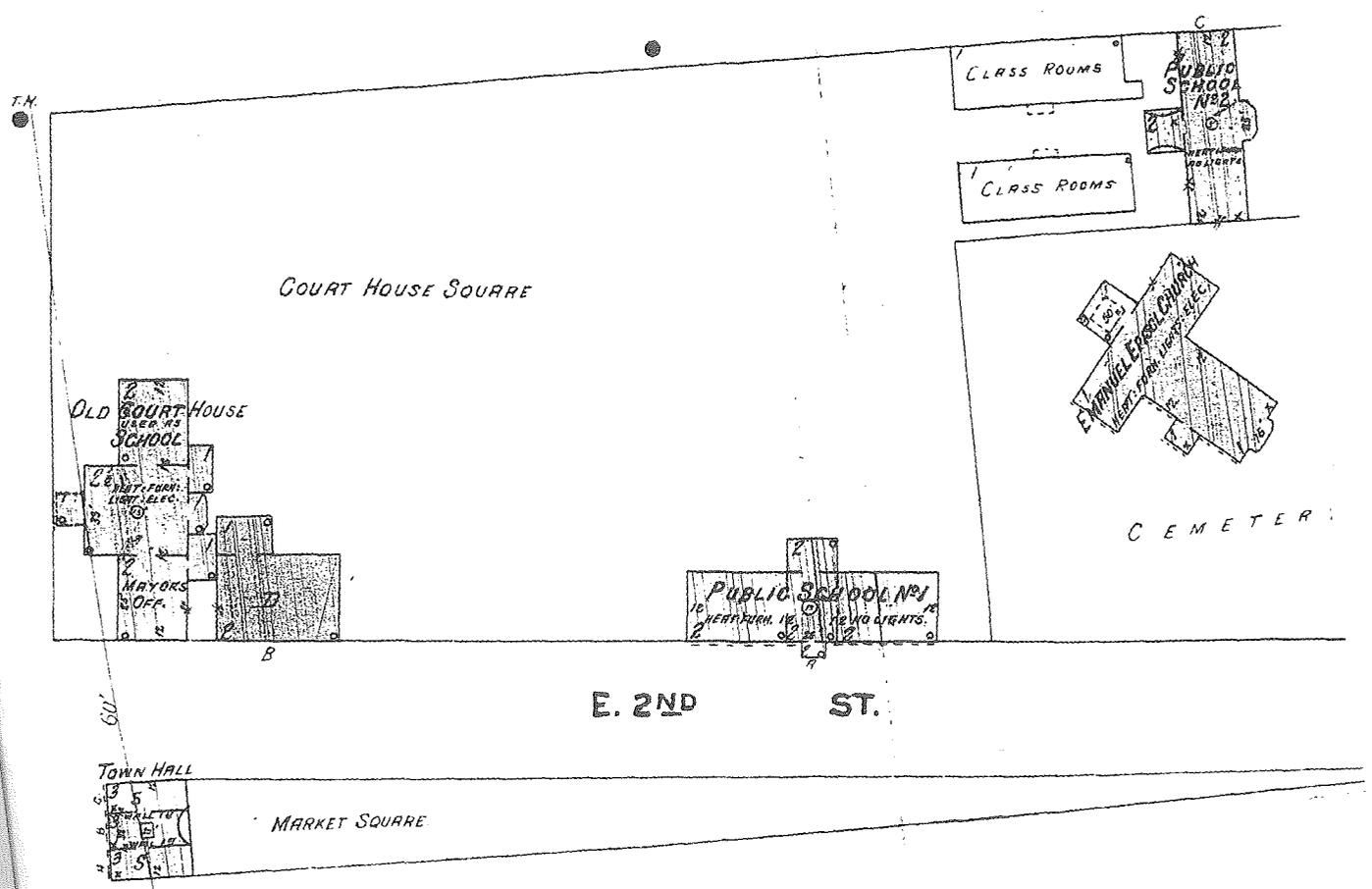


Figure 7: Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map, 1923.

The Arsenal was remodeled extensively in 1936 under the Works Progress Administration.<sup>54</sup> Charles Smith, former principal of the school, indicated that this work was directed by the Trustees of the Market Square.<sup>55</sup> The 1852 cupola was replaced with one considered to be more appropriate to the "colonial" character of the town. It is likely at this time that the second-story bay that is visible in photographs was taken down, and the doors on the north and south elevations added. The cannon and eagle bas-relief, which appears on the north gable elevation in 1930, was probably moved to the south elevation at this time (Figure 8). The current appearance of the building is similar to that of 1936.

No research was conducted to determine the use of the Arsenal between 1930 and the present time. According to previous research, the Arsenal served at one time as National Youth Administration headquarters, and during World War II as an office for the Bellanca Aircraft Corporation, "then engaged in building parts of the nation's air arm on a subcontract basis."<sup>56</sup> By the 1950s it was owned by the state of Delaware. It was first leased as a restaurant in 1963, a function that continues at the present time under the name "The Arsenal on the Green."

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<sup>54</sup> Anthony Higgins, editor, New Castle on the Delaware, (Newark, Delaware: New Castle Historical Society, 1973), p. 68-69. Earlier editions, 1936 and 1950, edited by Jeannette Eckman.

<sup>55</sup> Charles Smith lecture, p. 7.

<sup>56</sup> Charles Smith lecture, p. 6.

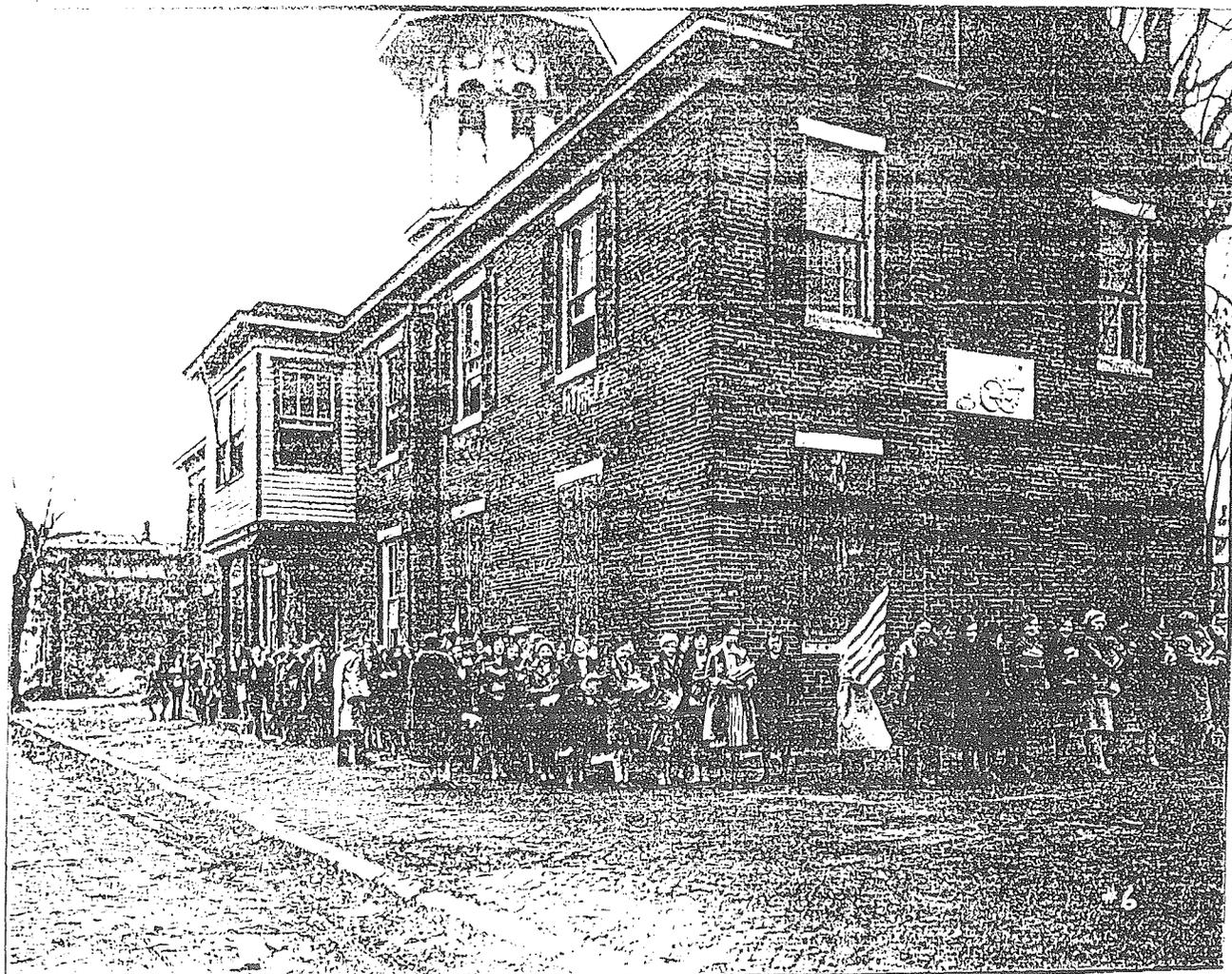


Figure 8: North and east elevations of the Arsenal, January 5, 1930. Courtesy of the sanborn Collection, Historical Society of Delaware.

## II. Annotated Bibliography of Sources

This bibliography lists all sources consulted during the research project and indicates particular information that can be found in that source. The bibliography is divided into two major sections, one for primary sources and another for secondary sources.

### A. Primary Sources

#### Manuscripts

Eckman, Jeannette, Collection. "New Castle Restoration." Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington, Delaware.

- Comprehensive search of the Eckman collection for reference to the Arsenal: none found.

Manuscript Collection, Hagley Library, Wilmington, Delaware.

- Searched for references to the New Castle Arsenal, New Castle, and the War of 1812. This was a general search for records in the sense that I did not search under associated persons or other events. No materials were located.

Manuscript Collection, Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington, Delaware.

- Searched for references to the New Castle Arsenal, New Castle, and the War of 1812. This was a general search for records in the sense that I did not search under associated persons or other events. No materials were located.

Minutes of the Trustees of the Market Square.

- Searched for records--not located.

Minutes of the Trustees of the New Castle Common. New Castle Public Library, New Castle, Delaware and Delaware Public Archives, Dover, Delaware.

- These records provide much information on the conversion of the Arsenal to a school. Entries from the following meetings make reference to the Arsenal and provide a time-line for the conversion process:

May 10, 1853  
June 25, 1853  
October 4, 1853  
March 7, 1854

July 5, 1854  
July 10, 1854  
October 4, 1854  
March 17, 1855  
August 11, 1855  
August 18, 1855  
March 4, 1856

Minutes of the Trustees of the New Castle Common, Committee on Education. New Castle Public Library, New Castle, Delaware and Delaware Public Archives, Dover, Delaware.

- The minutes of the Committee from 1851-1878 were reviewed. While these do not appear to be complete records (for example, there are no entries between January 1854 and March 1868), the following entries do contain information pertinent to the Arsenal:

May 6, 1852  
December 9, 1852  
May 28, 1853  
January 14, 1854

National Archives Mid-Atlantic Regional Office. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

- A conversation with Dr. Robert Plowman confirmed that this branch would not have any information on the Arsenal. Dr. Plowman executed a search for the Arsenal and New Castle within their collections, specifically in relation to the use of the Arsenal as a Customs House. The branch's records neither extend this far back, nor have any information relating to the New Castle Arsenal building.

New Castle County Levy Court Records, 1806-1808. Record Group 2200, Delaware Public Archives, Dover, Delaware.

- Reviewed files briefly for reference to Arsenal, none found.

New Castle County Levy Court Records, 1809. Record Group 2200, Delaware Public Archives, Dover, Delaware.

- Reviewed the following files closely, no reference to Arsenal found.
  1. New Castle Accounts of Buildings
  2. Accounts--General, 1809 (file 1)
  3. Accounts--General, 1809 (file 2)
  4. Accounts--General, 1809 (file 3)
  5. New Castle Levy Court Proceedings, Minutes of the Levy Court, March, 1809.
  6. New Castle Levy Court Proceedings, Proceedings, 1809.
  7. New Castle Levy Court, Allowances

New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, Grantee/Grantor Indexes, 1640-1873. Delaware Public Archives, Dover, Delaware.

- Book K, Volume 5, page 556-559. Deed transferring the Arsenal property from the Trustees of the Market Square to the United States government. Includes a summary of the town meetings that occurred in 1809 and 1843.

Record Group M22: Register of Letters Received by the Office of the Secretary of War, Main Series, 1800-1870. Textual Reference Branch, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

- A fire occurred November 8, 1800, destroying nearly all the records of the Department of the Secretary of War to that time. The series which continues to December 31, 1889, is part of the Records of the Office of the Secretary of War, Record Group 107.

From the Descriptive Pamphlet for M22: "The Department of War was created by an Act of Congress, on August 7, 1889, which made the Secretary of War responsible for all military and naval matters, including Indian Affairs and the granting of bounty lands for military service. Three years later, on March, 23, 1792, the administration of military pension laws was added to his duties. On April 30, 1898, the department of the Navy was created and Naval affairs were withdrawn from the jurisdiction of the Secretary of War. It became apparent that the responsibilities of the Secretary of War were too great and various subordinate units were established to handle specific functions. Among those offices or departments established before the Civil War were the following: Quarter Master's, Ordnance, Adjutant Generals, Engineer, Pay, and Subsistence.

According to the record keeping practice of the time, registers were maintained as a permanent record of the receipt and dispositions of letters. They also served as finding aids to the letters which were arranged to correspond with the entries in the registers. The letters were entered in the registers alphabetically by initial letter of surname or office of writer and then chronologically by date of receipt. For the period 1800-1835 (volumes 1-36) the entries in each register under each letter of the alphabet are numbered in a separate sequence.

The letters themselves are on microfilm as separate publications of the National Archives:

- M221 Letters Received by the Secretary of War, Main Series, 1801-1870  
If the letter is in their collection, an X or check mark appears to the left of the columns. Many of the actual letters have been lost. The consultant also noted that many documents were lost in the War of 1812 when Washington was burned by the British.

The finding aid also references additional microfilm publications of the National

Archives which might be worth checking. Registers are available on microfilm for the following Record Groups:

- M6 Letters sent by the Secretary of War relating to Military Affairs, 1800-1889
- M 370 Miscellaneous Letters sent by the Secretary of War, 1800-1809

Other potential sources:

- M7 Confidential and Unofficial Letters Sent by the Secretary of War
- M222 Letters Received by the Secretary of War, Unregistered Series, 1789-1861

The above (M6, M370, M7, and M222) are the letters themselves. M7 and M222 do not have registers. M7 are copies made at the time of the writing to be kept on file. None of these were examined due to time constraints.

- M22, Roll 4 (April 10, 1808 to December 31, 1909), Registers of Letters Received by the Secretary of War, 1800-1860. Corresponding rolls of M221 are 16-33.

The register is divided into columns giving the date received, from whom, date, and summary of letter's substance. In all cases this last column indicated the place name or location of the author. Therefore, the film was reviewed for reference to New Castle, Delaware. The only potentially relevant letters were from "Du Pont De Nemours." One letter, dated June 28, 1808 "states the terms on which they will manufacture gun powder" (M22, Roll 4, p. 108). A second letter from "Du Pont De Nemours," dated June 20, 1808, is "Relative to the gun powder remanufactured by them, wish for further employment, will forward their account" (M22, Roll 4, p. 108). Due to time constraints, review of this reel ended at page 109, although the "N" portion of the reel was reviewed for any reference to New Castle. No references were found.

Record Group 92: Quarter Master Consolidated Correspondence File (Office of the Quarter Master General Consolidated Correspondence File 1794-1915), Box No. 724. Textual Reference Branch, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

- These files are arranged by location. Thirty letters addressed to the Quarter Master General regarding New Castle and/or specifically the Arsenal were located. These letters are transcribed in section III of this report.

Maps

*Baist's Property Atlas of New Castle County, 1893.* Philadelphia: G. Wm. Baist, 1893.

- Arsenal labeled "New Castle Institute."

*Beer's Atlas of the State of Delaware, 1868.* Philadelphia: Pomeroy and Beers, 1868.

- Arsenal labeled "New Castle Institute."

*Latrobe's Survey of New Castle, Delaware, 1804.* Delaware Public Archives.

- "Arsenal 1809" is circled, no outline of a building.

*Plan of New Castle Delaware.* Boston: Perry, Shaw and Hepburn, 1947.

- Labeled "Arsenal." West elevation projection visible. Solid lines to indicate building should be retained.

*Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: New Castle, Delaware.* Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Company Inc.

- 1885--Arsenal labeled "Public School." Circle marks cupola. Designated two stories in height.
- 1891--Arsenal labeled "Public School." Circle marks cupola. Designated two stories in height.
- 1901--Arsenal labeled "Public School." Stairs on south elevation exterior. Circle for cupola, marked "windows on all sides. Belfry 10'." Marked two-and-one-half stories. Square second-story projection indicated on center of east elevation.
- 1907--Arsenal labeled "Public School." Marked two-and-one-half stories. Circle for cupola, marked "Belfry 10'." Stairs on south exterior. Square second-story projection indicated on center of east elevation.
- 1912--Arsenal labeled "Public School No. 1." Marked two-and-one-half stories. Circle for cupola, marked "Belfry 10'." Also indicated, "Heat: Furn., No Lights." Stairs on south exterior. Second-story central square projection indicated on east elevation.
- 1923--Arsenal labeled "Public School No 1." Marked two stories. Circle for cupola, appears to have a dimension, possibly 13. West elevation, two-story projection indicated. Second-story central square projection indicated on east elevation. Also marked, "Heat: Furn. No Lights." Some interior divisions indicated, with some dimensions. Single pile, central hall plan, plus addition room

accessed from hall.

- 1923 amended in 1943--Arsenal labeled "Offices." Marked two stories. Circle for cupola, appears to have a dimension, possibly 13 feet. West elevation, two-story projection indicated. Second-story central square projection indicated on east elevation. Some interior divisions indicated, with some dimensions. Single pile, central hall plan, plus addition room accessed from hall.

### Newspapers

*American Watchman*. Wilmington, Delaware. 1809.

- Searched August to December 1809 (the only months available) for reference to the Arsenal: none found.

*Delaware Gazette*. Wilmington, Delaware. 1809-1810. Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington, Delaware.

- Searched from July 8, 1809 to June 6, 1810, for reference to the Arsenal: none found.

Note: The Delaware Gazette was published weekly, semi-weekly, and tri-weekly June, 14, 1785, to September 7, 1799, under various titles. It was succeeded by the *Mirror of the Times* from November 20, 1799 to August 22, 1806 under various titles. *Museum of Delaware* was published weekly June 23, 1804 to June 24, 1809. The *Delaware Gazette* resumed publication in June 1809 and ran until June 30, 1810, and from 1814 to 1902, weekly and semi-weekly, under various titles.

*Every Evening*, June 19, 1922, "New Castle's Title to Public Property." Wilmington, Delaware.

- This article reprints a letter from Francis de H. Janvier (from the Trustees of the Market Square and City Solicitor) to the New Castle Board of Education, submitted on June 5, 1922. In the letter Janvier outlines the history of the occupation of the lot on which the Arsenal was located, specifically in reference to the legality of the board's use of the lot and building.

### Prints and Photographs

Searched collection of the Historical Society of Delaware (Wilmington, Delaware) under the following headings: New Castle, military, restaurants, schools, streets. Also searched the Hagley Museum (Wilmington, Delaware) collection of prints and photographs. Hagley's collection included only aerial photographs. Prints and photographs found in these two collections are indicated below, organized chronologically.

View of the Green from Second Street and Delaware Avenue with Arsenal in background, circa 1907-1912. Postcard Collection (Nitrate 100), Historical Society of Delaware.

- South and west elevations visible. No bas-relief or entry on south elevation. Rear central addition visible.

"New Castle High School," photograph in *New Castle, Delaware*, (New Castle, Delaware: New Castle Board of Trade, 1915).

- North elevation visible.

New Castle, aerial photograph, 1925. Hagley Museum and Library.

- Cupola of Arsenal is visible.

High School students peering out windows of New Castle Institute, January 5, 1930, photograph. Sanborn Collection, Historical Society of Delaware.

- North elevation.

High School students lined up outside New Castle Institute, January 5, 1930, photograph. Sanborn Collection, Historical Society of Delaware.

- North and east elevations visible, central second-story square projection, Italianate cupola, bas-relief visible between first and second stories of north elevation.

"Arsenal, Built 1798, New Castle, Delaware." no date, probably post-1931. Postcard Collection, Historical Society of Delaware.

- East elevation, post-1931, second story projection has been removed. Central-bay window is flanked by side-lights. Pedimented portico surrounds double-door entry with side-lights. Current (1997) cupola in place.

"New Castle Waterfront," watercolor by Robert Shaw, circa 1830. Historical Society of Delaware.

- Building is not visible.

"Southwest view of Immanuel Church and the Academy in the Town of New Castle," painting by Tilson, 1822. Historical Society of Delaware.

- Arsenal is seen in background as one-story in height with an attic and no cupola.

Architectural Index, National Archives II, Cartographic and Architectural Branch, College Park, Maryland.

- Checked for listings under New Castle and Delaware: no references found.

Civil Works Map File, National Archives II, Cartographic and Architectural Branch, College Park, Maryland.

- Arranged by state, checked under Delaware: pulled the following maps, arranged

- by date, all are from Record Group 77
1. Plan of New Castle Harbor, 1826--RG 77, E11.  
Map shows the harbor to Water Street (The Strand), no relevance.
  2. Sketch of New Castle Harbor, 1827--RG 77, E14 (roll).  
Harbor only, no relevance.
  3. Harbor of New Castle, 1829--RG 77, E44A.  
Similar map to other E44A, no relevance.
  4. Survey of Delaware River Between New Castle and Port Penn. Headquarters Map File, 1834-- RG 77, E-32-1.  
Map includes outline of public buildings in town, the Arsenal and Court House. Copy made of section showing New Castle.
  5. Plan of the Harbor of New Castle in Delaware, 1835-- RG 77, E35--1  
Map shows the wharf only, no relevance.
  6. Fortifications Map of the Harbor, 1837--RG 77, DR 46-6.  
Harbor only, no relevance.
  7. Map at New Castle Harbor, 1839--RG 77, E44A.  
Harbor only, no relevance.
  8. Plan of Additions and Improvements for New Castle Harbor, by Major Sam Babcock -- RG 77, E14 (Roll).  
Harbor only, no relevance.
  9. Harbor of New Castle, Plan of Pier, no date--RG 77, E44B-2.  
Harbor only, no relevance.
  10. Plan of New Castle, no date, Series Headquarters Map File--RG 77, E35--2.  
Harbor to Water Street, no relevance.

Guide to the Holdings of the Still Picture Branch. National Archives II, Still Picture Branch, College Park, Maryland.

- Searched guide under: Arsenal, New Castle, Delaware, Customs Houses: no references found.

Public Building Service, Finding Aid to Record Group 121. National Archives II, Still Picture Branch, College Park, Maryland.

- Although not created until 1939, Archives staff suggested that existing prints/photographs might be here. No references were found.

Military Forts, Finding Aid to Record Group 77. National Archives II, Still Picture Branch, College Park, Maryland.

- Checked for references to Delaware and New Castle: no references found.

Military Posts Index, National Archives II, Cartographic and Architectural Branch, College Park, Maryland.

- Checked for listings under New Castle, Fort Casimir, and Delaware: no references

found.

Record Group 77, National Archives II, Cartographic and Architectural Branch, College Park, Maryland.

- The only possibility for plans, blueprints, or engineering drawings pertaining to military projects, according to Archives staff, was Record Group 77, which contains plans for projects built between 1790 and 1941. No references to the Arsenal or New Castle were found. The blueprints or plans for the Arsenal, in all likelihood, do not survive or are not held by the National Archives.

Record Group 107, Secretary of War, Maps Separated from Register of Letters Received, Main Series, 1801-1889. National Archives II, Cartographic and Architectural Branch, College Park, Maryland.

- Checked under New Castle and Delaware: no references found.

### B. Secondary Sources

Conrad, Henry C. *History of the State of Delaware*. Wilmington, Delaware: by the author, 1908.

- Use of Arsenal as a school, p. 521.

Cooper, Constance. *A Town Among Cities: New Castle, Delaware, 1780-1840*. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Delaware, 1983.

- No reference to Arsenal.

Cottrell, Robert Curtice. "Town Planning in New Castle, Delaware, 1797-1838." M.A. thesis, University of Delaware, 1991.

- No reference to Arsenal.

Duane, William. *A Military Dictionary*. Philadelphia: by the author, 1810.

- Defines use of arsenals in general.

Eberlein, Harold, and Cortlandt Van Dyke Hubbard. *Historic Houses of Delaware*. Wilmington, Delaware: Wilmington Litho-Print Inc., 1962.

- Arsenal has had many uses, served as schoolhouse 1852-1930, p. 163.

Eckman, Jeannette. *New Castle on the Delaware*. New Castle, Delaware: Federal Writers Project, 1936.

- Describes building and its use, 1936; reason for/date of building's construction; original appearance; use in 1813; use in 1831; use in 1846; execution of new deed after 1946 (no date); use as contagious ward in epidemic (no date); changes made

for use as school, 1852-1930; remodeling with WPA, 1936; expected use for town offices, 1936; pp. 66-67.

Federal Writers Project of the Works Progress Administration. *Delaware: A Guide to the First State*. New York: The Viking Press, 1938.

- Describes reason for/date of building's construction; use in 1813; use in 1831; use in 1846; execution of new deed after 1946 (no date); changes made for, use as, school 1852-1930; repair/remodeling with WPA, 1936; lease to Unemployment Compensation Commission of Delaware, 1937; pp. 240, 243.

Harper, Deborah Van Riper. "'The Gospel of New Castle': Historic Preservation in a Delaware Town." *Delaware History* (Fall/Winter 1992): 77-105.

- No reference to Arsenal.

"Historic New Castle '76, a Public Education Program of Six Presentations." Transcript of Lectures held by Rodney Room Collections, New Castle Public Library, New Castle, Delaware.

- This lecture series took place in the Arsenal building. Prior to a lecture by Dr. Carol Hoffecker on 14 January 1976, Charles Smith, a former principal at the New Castle High School, outlined a brief history of the Arsenal. The lecture repeats some of the more commonly understood uses of the Arsenal and also provides some new information on WPA changes in the 1930s and on its use as a high school.

McIntire, Nick. *The Best of Behind the Times: Selected Columns About New Castle*. New Castle, Delaware: New Castle Historical Society, 1986.

- The following columns relate to or include information on the Arsenal:

3 January 1947--Praises Trustees of the Market Square for excellent condition of, and for saving, the Arsenal.

14 March 1947--Discusses announcement that Arsenal will be put back into use as school, mentions that it has been 16 years since use as school, memories of use of school and persons associated with, addition of second floor in 1852 for use as school, need for greater financial support for schools.

19 October 1951--Arsenal was a one-story structure converted to two-story for use as a schoolhouse in 1852 (as an example of change to historic fabric of town in relation to proposal of historic zoning ordinance).

26 October 1951--Trustees of the New Castle Common provided the funding to have Arsenal made into two-story building for use as school.

16 August 1957--Arsenal currently used as a church house for the Presbyterian Church; suggestion for use as museum and/or municipal headquarters for city agencies.

12 May 1967--History and roles of Trustees of Market Square and Trustees of Common and dissolution of New Castle Historic Buildings Commission that absorbed the former. States that Trustees of Market Square controlled the Arsenal during their existence.

25 June 1969--Use of Arsenal as New Castle High School; construction and appearance in 1809; use in 1813; use in 1831; use in 1846; use of as contagious ward during epidemic (no date); conversion of, for use as school; abandonment for 5 years after 1931 departure, 1936 WPA repairs/alterations--replacement of overhang, change of cupola under Laussat Rogers and Trustees of Market Square; use as headquarters for National Youth Association (no dates); use for offices of persons engaged in national defense work in World War II; use as school, 1950-52 prior to construction of Carrie Downie school.

27 August 1979--Discussion of public utilities in New Castle; recounts story of ritual of dunking freshmen entering "old New Castle High School" under pump along Second Street.

*New Castle, Delaware.* New Castle, Delaware: New Castle Board of Trade, 1915.

Rhodes, A. J. *Buildings Books & Blackboards: Education in New Castle from 1657 to 1930.* New Castle, Delaware: New Castle Historical Society, 1993.

- Outlines the history of establishment of the New Castle Institute, converting the Arsenal, and composition of classes and range of courses taught.

Rogers, Joseph Henry. "Recollections of New Castle, Delaware." Interview by Alexander B. Cooper (15 September 1905). Typescript of the interview held by New Castle Public Library, New Castle, Delaware.

- Rogers mentions the lease from the Trustees of the Market Square; use by troops of Fort Delaware; use as a cholera hospital; pp. 51-52.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Delaware, 1609-1888*, 2 volumes. Philadelphia: L. J. Richards & Company, 1888.

- References "the school house in the same locality" as having been erected by the United States as an arsenal, also used in 1831 as garrison for troops of Fort Delaware.

### III. Letters

This section contains transcriptions of thirty letters from the correspondence of the Quarter Master's Department, located in Record Group 92 at the Textual Reference Branch of the National Archives in Washington. All are contained in Box 724 of that Record Group and copies of the letters are included in the documentation package accompanying this report.

Each transcription is headed by the date, author, and addressee. The contents of the letter and any important information from the reverse side are also included. As the reverse side of these letters served as the envelope, typically addresses, postmarks and the like are located here. This information is not transcribed but used to list the to/from categories at the top of the transcriptions. On some occasions, the person receiving the letter would indicate on the reverse side the action to be taken on the contents of the letter.

Words that are difficult to read and may not be discerned correctly are enclosed in brackets. Where a word cannot be determined, "illegible" is placed in brackets. Capitalization, spelling, and punctuation are transcribed as written. In some cases the spelling of particular names differs between or within letters, so that it is impossible to be sure of the correct spelling. For clarity, one spelling has been chosen for these instances and then used consistently throughout.

The letters are arranged chronologically and broken into two major sections, one including the material relative to the War of 1812 period, and the other relating to the occupation and use of the Arsenal between 1831 and 1836.

#### Letters from War of 1812 period

1. No Date                      No signature

To enable Mr. Swearinger to cover the gun carriages -- to finish the brick building -- lay platforms & paint the brick work of the fort -- to purchase Stone for a mound-

To erect an arsenal at New Castle which will be laid out & a plan given by Captn Bainford.

To erect another arsenal at Wilmington -- as projected by Captn Bainford provided the site is purchased.

On reverse: Secretary of War  
Authorizing me to erect an arsenal at New Castle

2. January 15, 1811 C. P. Bennett to William Linnard Esquire  
New Castle Military Agent  
Philadelphia

Dear Sir

I herewith acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 14th Inst, this evening with the contents, and have made up my mind to accept of the appointment of Military Store Keeper at New Castle, agreeable to the Secretary of War proposition. I should have been better satisfied provided there had been a further sum attached thereto. I shall call upon Mr. Riddle for the key tomorrow, and take possession.--enclosed you will find the duplicate Copy's of the Invoices eluded to, with my proper signature attached, yours not coming to hand until this Evening, prevent an answer as soon as might have been calculated upon.

I am Sir  
With due respect  
your Friend,  
C. P. Bennett

3. April 25, 1813 William Linnard to George Ingels, Esquire  
Quarter Master Military Store Keeper  
Philadelphia U.S. Arsenal on Schuylkill

Sir

Be pleased to let Mr Mitchel have two of the lightest 24 Prs & the 200 bale & Grape ordered for New Castle Peter must bring in the Harness and implements The Powder must also be prepared for tomorrow or next day if there are any muskets to go they must be sent in by Mitchell

There was either a mistake in the Invoice of the articles sent with two last 18 Prs to Wilmington or some were neglected to be sent on the Invoice mentioned some Muskets but there was none sent in if the Muskets are to go it was a great mistake not sending them with the other articles as there will be the expence of freight now and there would have been none before the vessel being engaged for the Trip They must be sent in on Tuesday morning if was not a mistake in the Invoice

I am respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
Wm Linnard

On reverse: April 25, 1813  
Cannon for New Castle

4. April 26, 1813 William Linnard to George Ingels, Esquire  
Quarter Master Military Store Keeper  
Philadelphia U.S. Arsenal on Schuylkill

General Bloomfield having gone to the Jerseys without issuing his order for the Cannon &c for New Castle and Colo Duane not having the copy of the return it being locked up in the Genl Desk he requests that two boxes of Grape for 24 Prs and six Barrels of Cannon Powder may be sent which shall be covered by a requisition agreeably to the Invoice Colo Duane would have made the requisition at once but he prefers making it from the Invoice

April 26 1813

William Linnard

5. April 27, 1813 George Ingels to Captain D. Cluny  
Military Store Keeper  
U.S. Arsenal on Schuylkill

U.S. Arsenal on Schuylkill April 27 1813 Invoice of Stores for delivery by George Ingels Mil Store-keeper, to Captain D. Cluny, for transportation to New Castle Delaware.

[Three columns marked "Packages", "Marks", "Contents". Under "Packages" the word "Loose" is written. No comments under "Marks." Under "Contents" is the following list.]

2 Cannon 24 pdrs-  
2 Travelling Carriages & Limbers for 24 pdr Cannon  
200 - 24 pdr: Round Shot  
502 Lbs Grape Shot, 600 Lb Cannon powder  
2 Budge Barrels, 20 Slow Match  
2 prs Dragropes, 2 Sheep Skins  
2 Lint Stocks, 2 Gunners Havresacks  
2 Gunners Belts, 2"- Thumb Stalls  
2 Portfire Stocks, 2 Tompions  
4 Trail Handspikes



at Frankford, to issue necessary Arms and Accoutrements and Tools upon my Requisition authorizing me to send it direct to the Arsenal. A similar one to the Commissary at Phila to issue Clothing & [incomprehensible] equippage on a Requisition made out and sent direct from here and also the Qr Master at Philadelphia to be instructed to furnish the Assistant Qr Master of this Command Such Amount of Funds as Should be required to defray the Expenses of Quarters while we remain at the City of Delaware.

B. K. Pierce  
Major Army

P.S. The situation at Fort Miflin is said to be extremely unhealthy & perhaps the Situation at New Castle would on the whole be the most eligible & economical, & being contiguous To Fort Dela a guard can be kept up at the Fort with great convenience & superintended daily by the Commanding officer.

7. February 18, 1831            Major B. K. Pierce    to            Major General Thomas Jessup  
   Delaware City    Quarter Master General  
      Washington

Delaware City, Feby 18, 1831

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 14th inst -- The materials for fitting up the arsenal, the fuel & other things requisite are supplied by the [office of the Quarter Master] agreeably to your wishes as expressed] in your letter -- The officers have hired quarters in New Castle & I shall shortly remove the troops there -- As early as possible Lt Bainbridge will forward to you an estimate of funds required for the contingencis of your Department at this Post-- Several of the soldiers were so destitute of Clothing after the fire, that humanity] required that they should be supplied, particularly those who were burnt and wounded in their exerting to arrest & extinguish the fire a few prs boots or shoes, a few shirts, stockings &c I have directed to be purchased & issued for immediate relief. The disbursement does not properly come within your department for these articles, but in the present emergency, a resort to the Qr Master was my only means. I hope the accounts may be considered admissible, as they are of small amount & I request you to inform me if they can be passed at your office.

I am Sir, very respectfully your Ob servt  
B. K. Pierce  
Major Army Post

P.S. The allowance of wood to the officers & men for the month of Feby was generally placed in the garrison under different case mates, & all consumed -- I presume that there can be no

objection to their redrawing the allowance, which is absolutely necessary here & at New Castle. It will save expense to individuals & to the government, the public wood at the Fort cost but about \$4 per cord, while owing to scarcity here we are obliged to pay seven

Respectfully yours  
B. K. Pierce

8. February 22, 1831 Lt Col William Linnard to Major General Thomas Jessup  
Quarter Master Quarter Master General  
Philadelphia Washington

Sir

It is now two weeks over the usual time for advertizing for proposals to supply fuel for Major Peirce's command I am at some loss how to require proposals for the Major's command untill I know for certain whether they will occupy Fort Mifflin or to remain at New Castle if the former I presume I may be safe in contracting for the years supply at that place but if they are to remain at New Castle as there is no spare ground attached to the public Building there I cannot see how a quantity of wood can be laid in there without renting a vacant lot in the skirts of the town from which the fuel must be hauled as it may be wanted or buying it when wanted at an advanced price. Be pleased to favor me with early instructions on this subject for which I shall be much obliged.

With sentiments of the highest respect I have the honor to be  
Your Obt Servt  
William Linnard  
Quarter Masters Office

9. March 6, 1831 Major B. K. Pierce to Colonel R. Jones  
New Castle

Sir

I have the honor to state to the Commanding General that the two Companies of Artillery composing this command, with the exception of the Officers and a Guard at Fort Delaware, are comfortably situated and quartered in the Arsenal at this place, which is a U States Building free from rent. -- Partitions have been made, Bunks erected and such other improvements as will afford each Company a commodious Kitchen and Mess Room, and a large Room to each company containing Bunks and other conveniences to accommodate each Fifty men. -- In the loft company Store Rooms for the preservation of Company Clothing and other articles appertaining to the Company have been established. Lieut Brown, Lieut Ward, Doctor Elwes, and myself have rented Quarters agreeably to the instructions of the Qr Mr Genl but, in hiring quarters it was

necessary to hire by the Year -- Captain Gardner being absent no Quarters have as yet been provided for him Lieut Bainbridge having been left at the Fort is in the Same Situation, and also Lieut Morris who boards in Town -- By hiring Quarters by the Year the Officers can be Supplied at an average of about ten Dollars per month each.

The rent of Quarters for the Officers amounting perhaps to about \$1200 per Year including a Building for the Hospital, will be according to present appearances the only difference of expense between this place and Fort Delaware and deducting \$300 for the annual supply of water at the Post will still diminish the expense I continue a Guard at Fort Delaware for the preservation of Buildings and Public Property. I conceive that the public service requires that I should preserve the command of that Fortification by continuing an established Guard to prevent detriment to such public improvements Buildings and Property as remain uninjured and to superintend myself almost daily the execution of this trust to which our present situation affords every facility and convenience.

Within four or five days I have established 5 or 6 men and have every prospect of shortly suppling the deficiency of the Organization of each Company by recruits and I have the most sanguine hopes that the conduct of this command will be such as to gain and maintain the confidence of this Community; if so, this being a very healthy position, it is hoped, that it will be considered for the interest of the Government, as it would undoubtedly be for the Officers and Men, to remain at this place -- It would be a happy coincidence Should there be an union of interests under our present circumstances--in relation to our Selves and the Government to remain here for the present Year -- thereby avoiding the inconvenience and expense of another removal which would be particularly Embarrassing under the losses and sufferings so lately sustained --, I do not, however, wish to be understood as communicating an idea that any reluctance would be felt, or that any has been expressed, on the part of any individual, to repair to the post where their services would be required -- All of which I request you will submit to the Commanding General --

I am Sir very respectfully  
Your Ob Servt  
B. K. Pierce

10. March 10, 1831 Major B. K. Pierce to Major General Thomas S. Jessup  
New Castle Quarter Master General  
Washington

Sir

I have the honor to enclose an estimate of expenses already or immediately to be incurred, to include the 31st of March -- There was sufficient fuel outside & saved from the fire at Fort Dela to fill the requisitions & supply the necessary quantity for the use of the troops last month, which I had transported over, thereby avoiding the expense of purchasing at a very high price. -- At the time of the fire the river was full of ice -- our own boats in the eastern side of the Island,





Received Philadelphia April 1831 from Colonel Wm Linnard One. One horse Cart in full of the above requisition

No 2 Special Requisition For 1 Suit of Sails for Water Boat

I certify that the above requisition is correct and that the articles specified are absolutely requisite for the public Service rendered so by the following circumstances – The old Sails were completely rendered unfit for Service in the late gale of the 9th April

Signed B. K. Pierce  
Major Comdg Post

Received Philadelphia of Colonel Wm Linnard of the US Army One Suit of Sails for Water Boat in full of above requisition

No 3 Requisition for Hospital Furniture

- 1 Stand of Medecine Drawers and Case
- 2 large Tables
- 4 Small do
- 6 Bunks
- 1 Clothes Press
- Shelving for Medicines

I certify that the above articles are necessary for the comfort of the Sick and the protection of the medicines Stores Bedding &c belonging to the U States Hospital at New Castle Delaware-  
Signed Alfred W. Elwes ass. Surgeon

The act ass Qr Master will furnish the articles required ---

Received New Castle Del April 1831.-- 1 Stand of Medicine Drawers and Case -- 2 large tables -  
- 4 Small tables, 6 Bunks -- 1 Clothes Press -- Shelving for Medicines

Signed A.W. Elwes  
Ass. Surgeon

Will Colonel Linnard purchase the above articles -- if so -- a chest of apothecaries drawers can be procured as one item among the rest from Mr. Riddle for 8 dollars -- Please ascertain --

The clothes press is for the protection of the Hospital Bed Clothes--





Sirs,

Soon after the troops were removed to this place, Major Pierce made a requisition (among other things) for a Cart, and for a Suit of Sails for the Water Boat. Major Linnard to whom it was presented, submitted it to you for instructions -- He visited this port in order as he says to judge for himself of the necessity of these supplies, and afterwards again wrote to you expressing that judgement favorable, as I understand him, to the supply He says in this letter to me "I have not heard from the Qr Mr Genl since, and I don't like to pester him with letters -- If you are of opinion that a Cart is necessary and that the Boat is necessary for the service I have no doubt that if you were to write to the Qr Mr Genl referring to Major Pierce's requisition they would be allowed" -- I write you, in accordance with this suggestion -- avering my belief in the necessity of these supplies, and in the hope that you will see fit to order them -- This hope is based on the well known confidence you justly repose in Major Linnards noted propensity to economy in public expenditures and in the opinion which he entertains in favor of our claim.

It is proper to add that I have been repeatedly asked by Major Pierce since his confinement to write you on this subject.

I have the honor to be with great respect

Yr Obt Servt

M. L. Gardner

Captain and Act Comdg Post

|                     |                             |    |                                |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|----|--------------------------------|
| 17. October 1, 1831 | Charles Ward                | to | Major General Thomas S. Jessup |
|                     | 1st Lieut. Comdg D Company  |    | Quarter Master General         |
|                     | 4th Regiment U.S. Artillery |    | Washington                     |
|                     | New Castle                  |    |                                |

Sir

I request the favor of information in relation to the mode of obtaining Carpenters' and other Artificers' Tools, for the use of Companies of Unites States' Artillery -- D Company 4th Artillery which I have Commanded nearly three years, has been almost destitute of Artificer's Tools; except those which I purchased -- and those were destroyed in the burning of Fort Delaware -- As the Government authorizes the mustering and payments of three Artificers to each Company; it seems reasonable to suppose that it was intended that Such Tools Should be furnished as might be necessary for the Artificers to perform any work which the exigencies of the Service Should require -- It is doubtless a Saving to the United States to have the Companies Supplied with Tools; as they are thereby enabled to execute much work which would otherwise have to be done at the expence of the Quarter Master General's and other Departments

I have the honor to be Sir with much respect Your Obedient Servant

Charles Ward

1st Lieut. Comdg. D Compy  
4th Regt. U.S. Artillery

18. March 12, 1832 Lieutenant W. P. Bainbridge to Major General Thomas S. Jessup  
New Castle Quarter Master General  
Washington

Sir

I have the honor to enclose a Summary Statement for Febry & an estimate for March 1832.

I will thank the Quarter Master General to inform me whether I shall issue proposals for Fuel, Forage &c for the ensuing Twelve Months.

I am Sir Very Respectfully Your Obt Servt

W. P. Bainbridge  
Lieutenant

19. October 5, 1832 Major B. K. Pierce to Major T. Cross  
New Castle Assistant Quarter Master  
Washington

Sir

I have recd a letter today from Maj Bender Qr Mr at Phila in relation to Fort Dela barge. He states to me that if instructed by the Qr Mr Genl he can pay for the repairs & wharfage & send the Boat to Fort Hamilton -- The boat is represented as subject to injury & to expense where she now is -- and Maj Bender appears to have no use for her in Phila. The Boat was sent up to Phila for repairs, & the troops were removed from New Castle & Fort Delaware on the 19th June before the repairs were completed. Lt Bainbridge being sick & unable to attend the duty the expenses of wharfage have been unavoidably incurred -- I request that Maj Bender may be instructed to pay expenses for repairs &c of the Boat and send her around to Fort Hamilton at New York Harbour.

With great respect Yr Obt Servt  
B. K. Pierce  
Major

20. October 8, 1832 Major B. K. Pierce to Major T. Cross  
New Castle Acting Quarter Master General







Respectfully yours,  
E.E. Camp

On reverse: Ordnance Office  
March 7<sup>th</sup> 1836

In consequence of the Ordnance Dept having no control in the U.S. building at New Castle Delaware, referred to in the within communication from Mr. Camp -- This letter is respectfully referred to the Qr Master General of the U.S. Army.

Geo. Bomford  
Colonel of Ordnance

25. March 10, 1836 E. E. Camp to Major General Thomas S. Jessup  
New Castle Quarter Master General  
Washington

Sir

The Arsenal situated in the public square of this town, is a very fine building, and not long since was put into very good repair, when occupied by the U.S. troops -- for more than three years it has had no superintendant and has been used and abused as individuals chose. I propose to the Quartermaster Generals Department to take charge of the building and grounds, for the compensation of a room in the buildings, and I provide you with I trust satisfactory recommendations of my trust worthiness.

Respectfully yours  
E. E. Camp

We recommend Mr. Camp as in every way qualified for the place of Military Storekeeper at the Arsenal at New Castle --  
George Read Jr, James Rogers, Andrew Gray, Evan H. Thomas, James Booth, T. Clayton, Kensey Johns, [one name illegible]

On reverse:

The lot and buildings referred to are understood to be partly occupied by the revenue Dept. They are not required for any Military purpose and it is respectfully recommended that they be sold or placed under the exclusive direction of the Treasury Department.

26. April 2, 1836 E. E. Camp to No address (probably Jessup)  
New Castle



houses for tools &c – Other parts of the building were occupied by the Custom house officer for his boatmen -- and the New Castle and Frenchtown Rail Road Company had made use of another part for their convenience.

At the present time I have all the tools belonging to the "Harbors of New Castle Marcus Hook Port Penn & Chester," stored in a room of the buildings preparatory to a renewal of the operations at New Castle whenever Congress shall think proper to appropriate the necessary funds.

The work to be done will make these buildings or similar storerooms and quarters indispensable, and my intention was to take possession of the whole for the use of the Government until someone came forward duly authorized to take charge of the buildings -- and in that case ask of the department that might be charged with their preservation the use of them until the harbors were finished, whereby a great expense would be saved to the Government.

Understanding that you are about to take charge of them, I have to request you will make known my desire to the Quarter Master General, that the whole be put in my charge for the use of the Government in the construction of the Harbors on the Delaware, and until such time as they are finished.

Respectfully  
Your Obed Servant  
Richard Delafield  
Captain of Engineers

|                    |                          |    |                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------|----|--------------------------------|
| 29. April 12, 1836 | Major Arneas Mackay      | to | Major General Thomas S. Jessup |
|                    | Assistant Quarter Master |    | Quarter Master General         |
|                    | Philadelphia             |    | Washington                     |

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> instant enclosing two letters from Mr. Camp of New Castle respecting the public Buildings at that place and have thought proper before proceeding any further in the matter to enclose for your consideration a letter addressed me by Captn Delafield of the U.S. Engineers on the subject, who now occupies a part of the Building in question and wishes to have the whole of it turned over to him for the use of the U States.

I am sir with great respect  
Your Humb Servant  
Arneas Mackay  
Assistant Quarter Master

On reverse: Let the building be turned over to the Engineer Department  
T.S.J. (Jessup) April 18, 1836

