

**HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT: THE OLD DUTCH HOUSE,
1682-1823**

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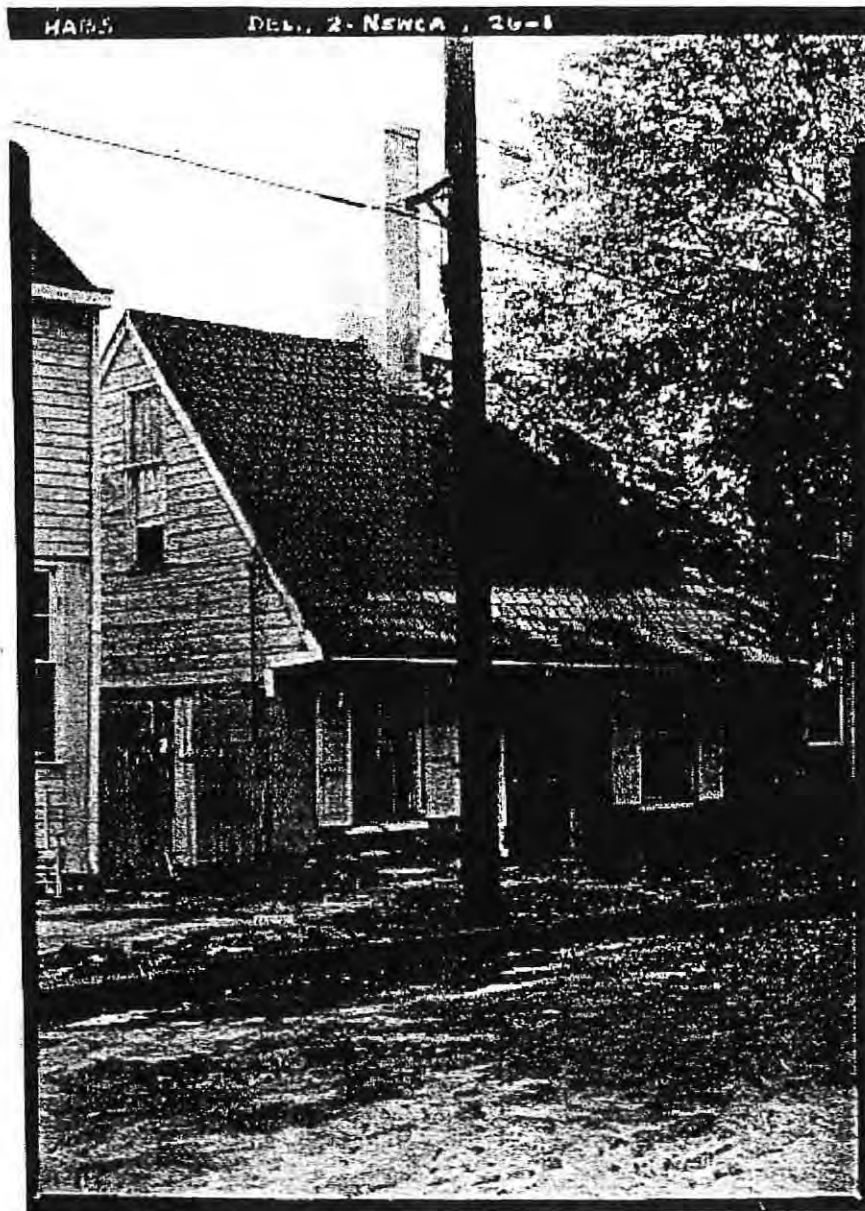


Figure 1. Dutch House from Fourth Street. HABS, 1936.

OLD DUTCH HOUSE, 3rd Street, between Harmony and Delaware Streets, facing the Green, is a small brick dwelling with low pent eaves projecting so far over the front of the house as to give the whole a storybook air, associated with tales and personalities, curious and fantastic. No one knows what span of life the little old house has seen.¹

¹ Entry on the Dutch House from New Castle on the Delaware, compiled by the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration (New Castle: New Castle Historical Society, 1936), p. 71. Compare J[eremiah] Sweeney's meticulous "Annals of the Old Dutch House, New Castle," in the Federal Writers' Papers at the University of Delaware, vol. 13, p. 1-96, 158.

INTRODUCTION

The Old Dutch House clings stubbornly to many of its ancient mysteries. It has, however, given up a few, after two years of careful study by the author, with the help of University of Delaware Professor, Dr. Bernard L. Herman. The confusion that has surrounded it springs, no doubt, from its extreme rarity—precious few buildings have survived in North American cities for as long as the Dutch House and only two Delaware houses can claim to be as antique. Although it may not be accurate to describe it as Netherlandish, its history does indeed stretch back to the era of a significant Dutch presence in New Castle, if not quite to the period of Dutch rule.

The “Dutch” epithet seems to derive from the quite correct observation that the house does not resemble any of the New Castle houses built, from English models, in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. However, no Dutch names appear in the chain of title and the original form of the house does not resemble any known Netherlandish buildings in North

America.² It is true that some houses in the Hudson River Valley have very deep, overhanging roofs, but the pent on the Dutch House was not added until the middle of the eighteenth century.³

Though some will no doubt be disappointed to learn that this relic of Old New Castle is Dutch only in name, aficionados of Delaware history should be pleased to know that its structure is three centuries old. Enough of it survives to permit a reconstruction of its original configuration as a one-room plan, containing only a large hall for cooking, eating, sleeping and socializing. It was assembled using technology current around 1700 and three documents from the end of the seventeenth century mention a house on this property. The earliest of these indicates that there was a still earlier log building on the property

² The 1708 Garretson-to-Silsbee deed that is sometimes cited as evidence for a Dutch heritage was, in fact, for another property on Fourth Street, not Third Street where the Dutch House stands. See Appendix B.

³ The local desire to see the house as Dutch is, in fact, written into the deed record: “ALL THAT parcel of land, with the ancient brick building thereon erected, believed to be of Swedish or Dutch erection, situate in the City...of New Castle,” in New Castle Deeds T-40, 263. In the 1936 HABS entry on the house, Laussat Rogers argued that the steep pitch and central chimney suggested a Dutch origin for the house.

in 1682. The present structure, however, was likely either built by John Walker before 1696 or by Powell (or Paul) Barnes, soon after 1701.

Later owners, especially the families of Samuel Silsbee and John Springer, renovated the house to give it its current appearance. After the 1820s, there were no significant changes to the house, though the exterior brickwork was covered in stucco and the lean-to fireplace was enclosed. The 1938 restoration by the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities replaced failing structural members, rebuilt the south brick wall, and returned the house to its appearance in around 1825.

As a rare example of early eighteenth-century construction in the Delaware Valley, and a rarer-still example of an early colonial urban house, the Dutch House is a property of national significance for what it reveals about the earliest European building traditions in North America. But it is no less important as a source of local pride in, and a priceless relic of, New Castle's antiquity. Despite having never been associated with New Castle's leading citizens—no Johnses, VanDykes, or

Reads have ever lived here—it is reproduced in every book on New Castle architecture as a monument to the earliest period of the town's history. As important as its great age, however, are the changes to the house made by the Thompson and Springer families. Just as the core structure provides precious information about New Castle's early history, their renovations give important insight into ordinary families' architectural choices in the colonial and federal eras. The house is an irreplaceable artifact of everyday architecture in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century New Castle.

PROPERTY HISTORY:

Researching the Dutch House through the written record is problematic for the period before 1795. No documents have survived to demonstrate ownership before Samuel Silsbee, although it was likely held by members of his family through most of the eighteenth century. Fortunately, land records for adjoining properties do indicate who held it in the late seventeenth century. These name George Moore, John Walker, and Powell Barnes as subsequent owners from 1683 to 1701. After 1701, it disappears from the official record until Samuel Silsbee's 1751 will. Therefore, any conclusions about the earliest owners of the Dutch House property must be provisional. This report contains the most credible analysis of the building's history based on the available documentary and physical evidence.⁴

⁴ The starting point for my review of the deed record is J. Sweeney's "Annals of the Old Dutch House," and his discussion of the house in the Federal Writer's Project anthology on New Castle, held by Special Collections at Morris Library.

George Moore: c. 1682—c. 1686

In 1682, the Court of New Castle granted Ambrose Baker a large tract northwest of the public green in New Castle. 343 feet by 169 feet, it was bounded by the green, Wood Street (modern Delaware Street) and Brewer Street (modern Fourth Street) and abutted the house and lot of George Moore.⁵ Baker's lots encompassed roughly half the block bounded by Delaware, 3rd, 4th, and Harmony Streets. Four years later, another transaction fixed the northeastern boundary of Moore's property, when Elizabeth Ogle sold to Henry Vandenburg most of the remainder of the Dutch House block—150 feet of frontage on the green from the corner of modern Harmony Street. This transaction also listed George Moore as an abutter, and specified that its southwestern boundary was the wall of Moore's log house (figure 2). These two records fix the extent of Moore's property as a roughly sixty-five foot wide, 169 foot deep lot near the center of the block, and further specify that it contained a log house along its

⁵ Records of the Court of New Castle on Delaware, Vol. II, 1681-1699. Land and Probate Abstract only (n/p: Colonial Society of

northeastern border. If this house was sited at the front of the lot, Moore's log house, the first known building on the

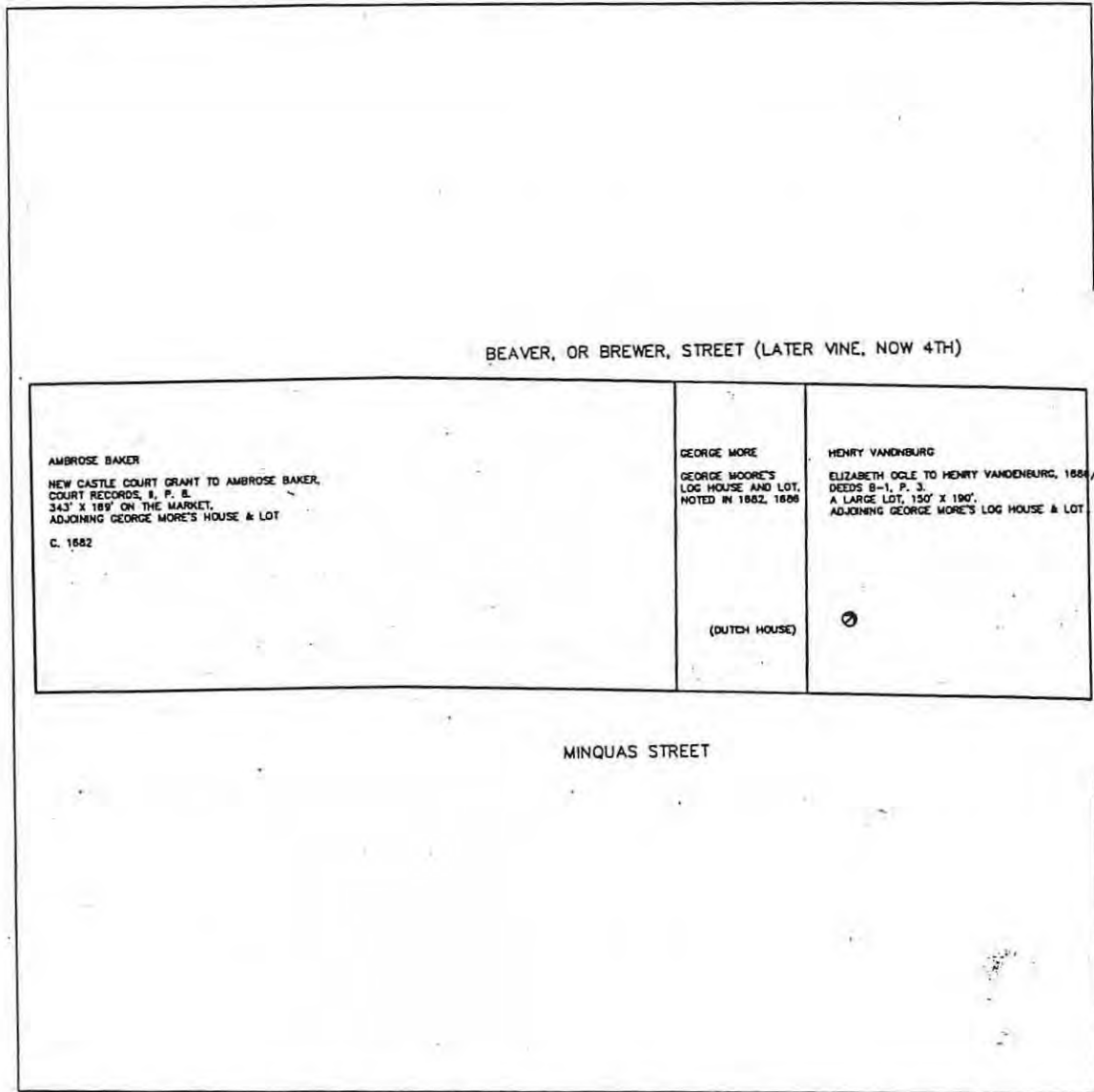


Figure 2. Plan of Dutch House block in 1686, showing property owners.

property, would have been in the location of the present Dutch House.

Pennsylvania, 1935), p. 8. Moore's name is alternately spelled More.

Unfortunately, no trace of this structure survives.

Little else can be gleaned from the public record about George Moore. He bought and sold a handful of properties in New Castle County in the

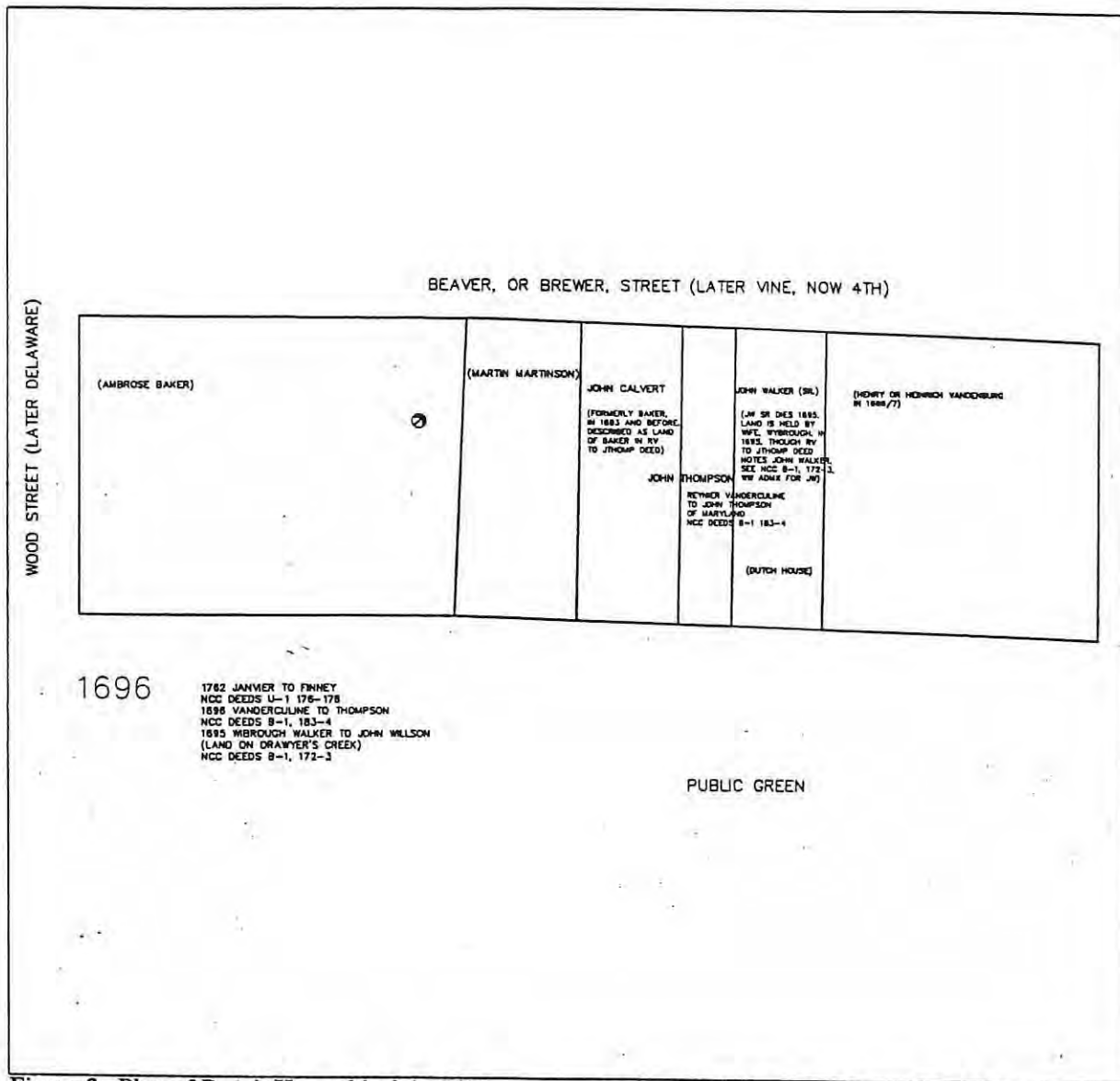


Figure 3. Plan of Dutch House block in 1696, showing property owners.

1670s and early 1680s, but none of the recorded transactions involve the Dutch House lot.⁶ In 1683, he was granted 300 acres of land and described as a

carpenter.⁷ In early New Castle tax records, he was assessed for a lot in town in 1683/4 and again in 1685/6 but not in 1684/5 or 1686/7, the year in which he was described as an abutter to Hannah Ogle.⁸ Additionally, there is no record that survives to explain how or

⁶ As Grantor, Moore conveyed property to James Crafford (A-1, 6) in 1676, John Ogle (A-1, 9) in 1677/8, Job Nettleship et alia (A-1, 75) in 1684 and Harmon Johnson (L-1, 1) in 1673. Another large tract of Moore's was surveyed in 1684 (A-1, 75).

⁷ Records of the Court of New Castle, Vol. II, p. 10.

⁸ For the New Castle Tax lists, see Records of the Court of New Castle, Vol. II.

when he acquired the property. This may be a function of the legal irregularity of very early land transactions or it may simply be because the deed was never recorded.

The next person named as an owner of the Dutch House lot is John Walker. How he acquired it from Moore is also a mystery, but in 1696, Walker was named as an abutter to the property of Reynier Vanderculine, who sold the lot southeast of the Dutch House property to John Thompson. This deed does not mention a log building, but it does indicate that there was a house on Walker's lot (figure 3).⁹ Four years later, a deed for an adjoining lot to the northeast noted "the house and Lott of John Walker" on the site of the Dutch House.¹⁰

John Walker, Jr. & Sr.: c. 1696—c. 1700

John Walker and his father, John Walker, Sr., are more visible in the public record than George Moore, but there is no extant document that describes how the Walkers acquired the property. A connection between the

Moore and Walker families is suggested in a record of partnership between John Walker and a Joseph More, who owned a mill on Drawyer's Creek together.¹¹ This record, however, does not indicate whether John Walker and Joseph or George Moore were kinsmen or whether they owned other property together.

John Walker, Sr. and his wife, Wyburgh, owned a few large tracts of land along Drawyer's Creek.¹² In 1682/3, he was assessed for 500 acres of land outside New Castle, but owned no lots in town. In 1682, John, Jr. was granted an unspecified quantity of land by the Court of New Castle, on condition that he improve the property, but there is no indication whether this was a town lot or farmland. In the same year, he was cited for owing 4 guilders to a William Phillips, for "nayles to finish his [Walker's] house."¹³ Also in that year, a John Walker (probably John, Jr., but possibly Sr.) was assessed for another 950 acres on the north side of the Appoquinomink. In the following year, a John Walker was assessed for 900

¹¹ Records of the Court of New Castle, Vol. II, p. 104.

¹² Records of the Court of New Castle, Vol. II, p. 210, 215.

⁹ New Castle County Deeds, B-1, 183-184.

¹⁰ New Castle County Deeds, B-1, 351.

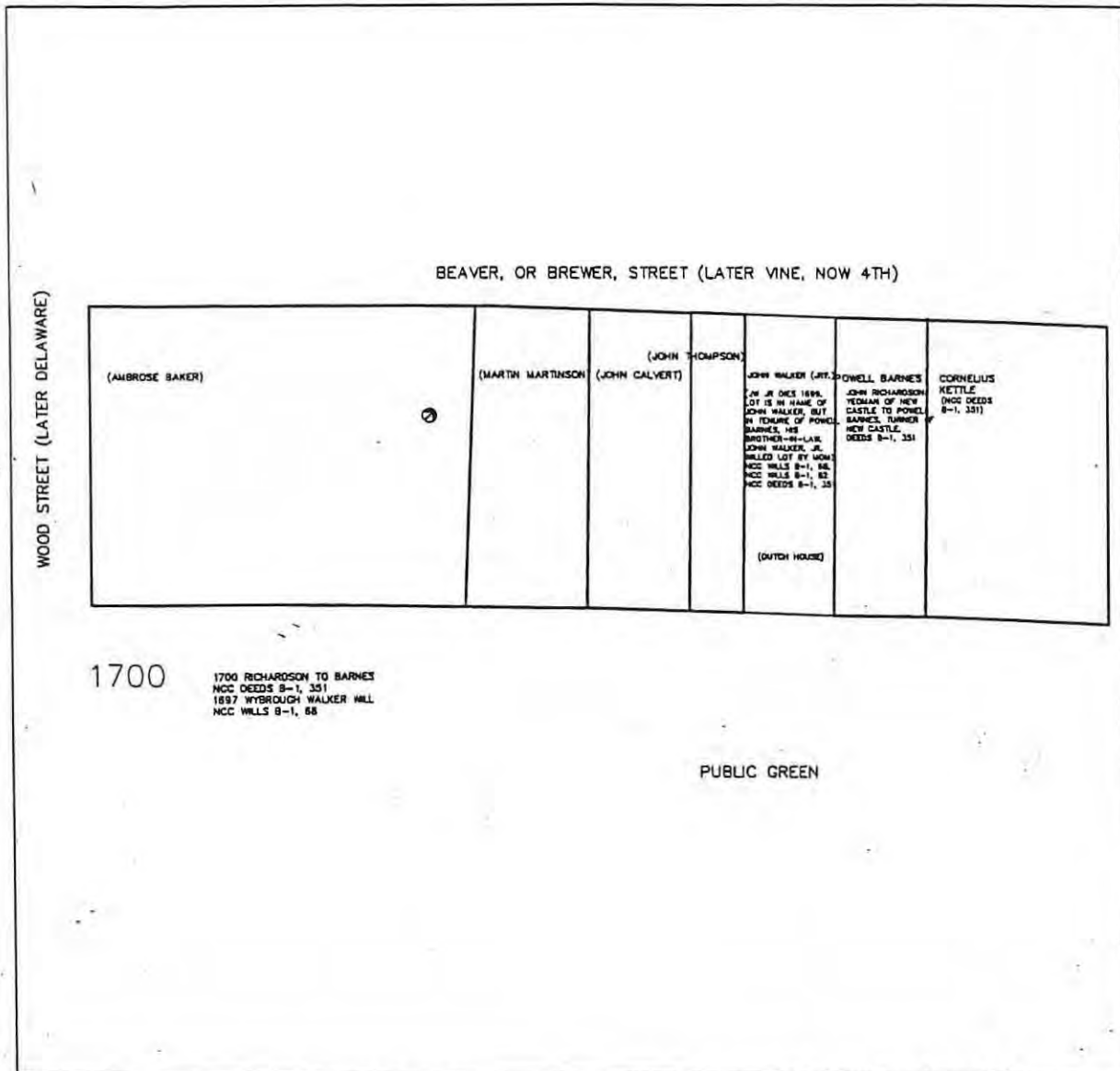


Figure 4. Plan of Dutch House block in 1700, showing property owners.

acres and a single town lot.¹⁴ These transactions and assessments tell us little about the Dutch House itself, other than to suggest that the two John Walkers were farmers who owned considerable

property around New Castle and, by 1696, a house and lot in town.

Powell Barnes: 1700—17??

John Walker the elder died in 1697, leaving his estate in the charge of his wife, Wyburgh. Their son, John Jr., acquired the property at the death of Wyburgh, but he only held it for two

¹³ Ibid., 11. It is not clear whether this house was for John Walker Jr. or Sr.

¹⁴ See assessment records in *ibid.*

years before he died.¹⁵ At his death, the Walkers' real estate apparently passed to Powell (or Paul) Barnes, the son-in-law of Wyburgh and John Walker, Sr. Barnes, a turner, occupied the Dutch House lot in 1700, when he purchased the adjoining property from John Richardson (figure 4).¹⁶ Excepting the Richardson lot, he seems to have acquired property through family connections rather than by purchase. In addition to the Dutch House, he also inherited a tract on the Christiana Creek from his father-in-law, Reynier Vanderculine.¹⁷ He likely passed the Dutch House lot to a family member at his death but no will or probate record for Powell or Paul Barnes survives.

Samuel Silsbee, Sr. and Jr.: 17??—1751

At present, the connection between the Walker/Barnes family and the Silsbee family is not evident. However, lacking a recorded deed, Samuel Silsbee must have acquired the Dutch House property by marriage or inheritance. A Samuel Silsbee (probably the father of the Samuel Silsbee who

died in 1751) purchased property on Fourth Street in 1708, but there is no other record of him buying property in New Castle.¹⁸ Other documents note that Samuel Silsbee, Sr. had died by 1734. Since no record of property transfer exists for Samuel Silsbee, Jr., it is likely that Samuel, Sr. passed the Dutch House to his son, Samuel, Jr. at his death in or before 1734.¹⁹ It is clear that Samuel, Jr. owned the Dutch House lot in 1751, when he willed it to his sons, John and Joseph.²⁰

The Silsbees, like many of their neighbors, were a successful artisinal family.²¹ Samuel Silsbee, Sr., was a blacksmith,²² and Nathaniel Silsbee, likely his brother, was a bricklayer.²³ As late as 1795, the property to the northeast of the Dutch House lot included a blacksmith's shop, but whether this was ever Samuel Silsbee's

¹⁵ New Castle County Wills, B-1 68, 82.

¹⁶ New Castle County Deeds, B-1, 351.

¹⁷ Ibid., H-2, 95.

¹⁸ Ibid., C-1, 46.

¹⁹ Ibid., K-1, 289-90.

²⁰ New Castle County Wills, G-1, 485.

²¹ See Louise B. Heite, "New Castle Under the Duke of York: A Stable Community," Master's Thesis, University of Delaware, 1978, for an occupational profile of this part of New Castle around 1700.

²² New Castle County Deeds, C-1, 46. Samuel, Sr., the blacksmith, died before 1734. See New Castle County Deeds, K-1, 289-90.

²³ New Castle County Deeds, K-1, 289-90.

workplace is not clear.²⁴ Samuel Jr.'s 1751 will included a provision that his two young sons, "as soon as they arrive at a proper age, shall be put apprentice to some trade," letting his wife Mary decide whether their daughter, Mary, should be put out, as well.²⁵ The sons, John and Joseph, were both trained as carpenters, which was probably the trade of their father, as well.²⁶

Heirs of Samuel Silsbee: 1751—1795

In his will, the younger Samuel Silsbee left his real estate equally to his sons, granting his widow, Mary, her right of dower in her lifetime and his daughter, Mary, a sum of cash. The property remained in the family through the end of the eighteenth century, owned jointly by John and Joseph until Joseph died in 1790.²⁷ John died a year later, leaving his sister Mary as the sole heir to Samuel's estate.²⁸ Mary, now Mary

²⁴ New Castle County Orphan's Court records, H-1, 165.

²⁵ Ibid., G-1, 485.

²⁶ New Castle County Wills, C-1, 324; N-1, 51. Samuel Silsbee, Jr.'s probate inventory includes "a persel of Carpenter's tools," and several boards. These are the only indications in the inventory of Samuel's trade.

²⁷ Ibid., N-1, 51. A probate inventory was not made at Joseph's death, since Samuel's will stipulated that the entire estate would pass to the surviving son at the other's death.

²⁸ Ibid., N-1, 233.

Silsbee Thompson, owned the property for the next four years.

Heirs of Mary Silsbee Thompson: 1795—1810

At Mary Thompson's death in 1795, she, like her father Samuel, willed the house jointly to two of her children, John and Mary, stipulating that they hold it "by equal moieties, as Tenants in Common and not as Joint tenants."²⁹

Mary divided the property in half so that her children could occupy, rent, or sell their portions independently. She left the lot adjoining to the northeast to her eldest daughter Catherine. Though the will only describes it as a "Messuage and lot of ground," the Orphan's Court record specifies that it included a brick house and blacksmith's shop.³⁰

1810—1823: John Springer

By 1810, John Thompson had moved to Philadelphia, where he was employed as a mariner, when he sold his half of the house to John Zimmerman, a New Castle tailor.³¹ Later that same year, Zimmerman conveyed this portion

²⁹ Ibid., O-1, 50-52.

³⁰ New Castle County Orphan's Court records, H-1, 165.

to John Springer.³² One month later, Springer also purchased Mary Thompson's share of the property, returning the house to single ownership.³³ At the time of Springer's purchases, both portions were in the tenure of a Henry Rowan, indicating that, although the house was jointly owned from 1795 until 1810, it was rented to a single household.³⁴

**1823—1855: Heirs of John Springer;
1855—1938: Several owners**

At his death in 1823, John Springer conveyed the property to his wife and children, who held it until 1855, when his executors sold it to William H. Dobb.³⁵ Dobb sold to James Maloy, a Philadelphia resident, in 1871, after which the house passed rapidly through several owners until 1900, when Martha Janvier purchased it at a sheriff's

auction.³⁶ Like Samuel Silsbee and Mary Thompson before her, Martha Janvier left the Dutch House to multiple heirs, who sold it jointly to Harry Hushebeck in 1917. Mr. Hushebeck and his wife maintained it as a rental property until they sold to the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities in 1938.³⁷

³¹ New Castle County Deeds, I-3, 168-9.

³² *Ibid.*, I-3, 407-409.

³³ *Ibid.*, I-3, 469-471.

³⁴ Rowan is listed as a tenant in both the 1810 deeds. At that time, his household included five white family members, including three children, three non-white free people and one enslaved person. Third Census of the United States, 1810, Manuscript Population Schedules, New Castle County, Delaware. How many of these nine people lived in the house itself is unclear, as the 1795 Orphan's Court description notes a stable in addition to the brick house on the lot. In 1795, Rowan was renting the adjoining lot.

³⁵ New Castle County Deeds, U-6, 172-177.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, O-18, 25-27 for the Janvier purchase. See Appendix, with J. Sweeney's "Annals of the Old Dutch House," for the specifics of the late nineteenth-century transactions.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, T-40, 263-264.

BUILDING HISTORY

The house that the DSPA purchased in 1938 was the product of over two centuries of improvements—some dramatic, some incremental. The Society's renovations, under the direction of Albert Kruse and James Thompson, obscured some of the house's modern history, but left the core of the house substantially intact. The only significant losses were the ground level floor framing and the southwestern wall, both of which might have provided important clues about the house's earliest history. The lower floor and the outer brick wall were replaced entirely—the wall with a veneer of flemish bond brick over continuous masonry units, and the floor with wide boards over closely-spaced, hewn logs. Kruse and Thompson also rebuilt the two ground-floor fireplace openings and exposed the larger fireplace in the rear lean-to. Since the 1938 renovation returned the house to its appearance around 1825, this report concentrates on the evolution of the building up to that time.

PERIOD I: 1696- 17??,

Walker/Barnes

The Dutch House was built between 1690 and 1710, either by John Walker or his son-in-law, Paul Barnes

The earliest indication of any building on the Dutch House property is George Moore's log house, mentioned in the 1682 Baker grant and 1686 Vandenburg purchase. In the 1680s, New Castle remained sparsely settled, having grown little since mid-century, when one estimate placed the total number of houses in town at 110.³⁸ The bulk of buildings were in the blocks to the northwest and southeast of the market square, with merchants occupying the lots close to the river and a handful of artisans on the inland side of the green.³⁹

³⁸ See Heite, 7-11, for a summary of the early history of New Castle.

³⁹ See Heite, 55-63 for late seventeenth century settlement patterns.

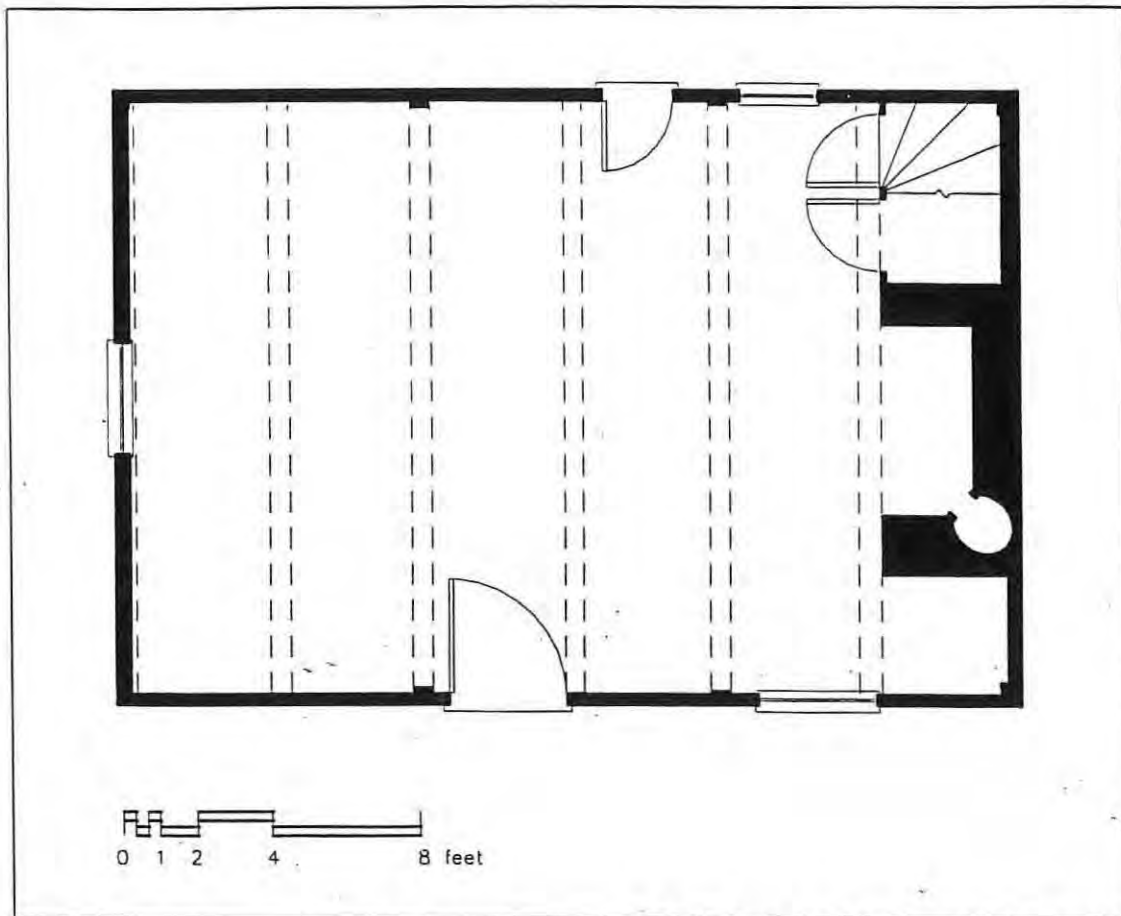


Figure 5. Dutch House, first floor plan, c. 1700.

Around 1693, Martin Martinson or John Calvert built a brick house on his lot, which abutted John Thompson's property on the green to the southwest (figure 3).⁴⁰ The introduction of brick building to this block, coupled with the continuing subdivision of large parcels into smaller, more uniform lots, suggest

⁴⁰ There is some confusion about the construction of the brick house in the deed record. According to later deeds, there was a brick house on the lot when Martinson sold to Calvert in 1693, but the original deed, which was not recorded until 1762. See *New Castle Deeds*, U-1, 176-178.

a developing urban sensibility in this inland, artisanal district of New Castle in the 1690s. In 1696, the Vanderculine-to-Thompson deed described a house of unspecified material on the Dutch House lot, which was then in possession of John Walker. It is possible that this building was George Moore's old log house, but the 1680's deeds for properties to either side of the Dutch House lot both specify material—log—whereas the 1690's deeds for adjoining lots do not. This lack of specificity may indicate that John Walker had replaced

the old log building with a new, more urbane, timber-framed house. It may be, however, that Walker's son-in-law Paul Barnes did so only a few years later. Whether the work was done by Walker or Barnes, the surviving physical evidence indicates that the timber-framed core of the present Dutch House was built between about 1690 and 1710. A more precise date would require dendrochronology.

twenty-four feet wide and seventeen feet deep, with no cellar and only a shallow attic. Inside was a one-room plan, with direct entry into a large hall (figure 5). An eight-foot wide cooking fireplace occupied the northeastern side of the hall, with a tight winder stair behind, in a four-foot deep chimney bay. The hall would have been the primary space for cooking, eating, socializing and sleeping.

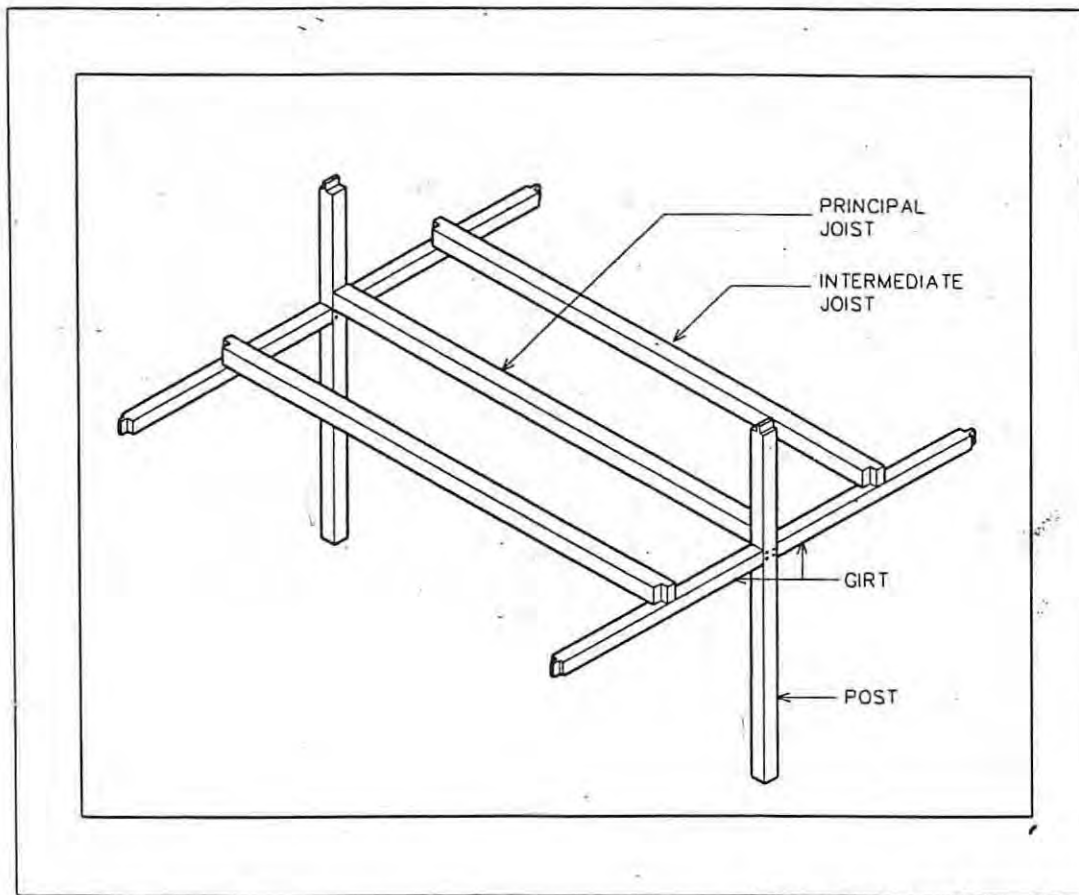


Figure 6. Dutch House. Isometric view of typical structural bent.

The first phase of the building was one story and a half in elevation,

The stair behind the chimney led to a low, half story above. This upper space was finished with a light coat of

plaster over a mud base, but the lower ridge height and wide spacing of the floor joists suggest that it was not originally habitable space. Until the 1820s, the upper floor joists were spaced four feet apart, and eighteenth-century probate inventories do not describe anything of value above the main level.⁴¹

Unlike houses in Massachusetts Bay, however, the bays, or bents, of the Dutch House are evenly spaced—the house consists of four bents set on eight-foot centers. Each bent is composed of two story-and-a-half posts that are bridged by a large beam at the second floor level (figure 6). The four bents are tied

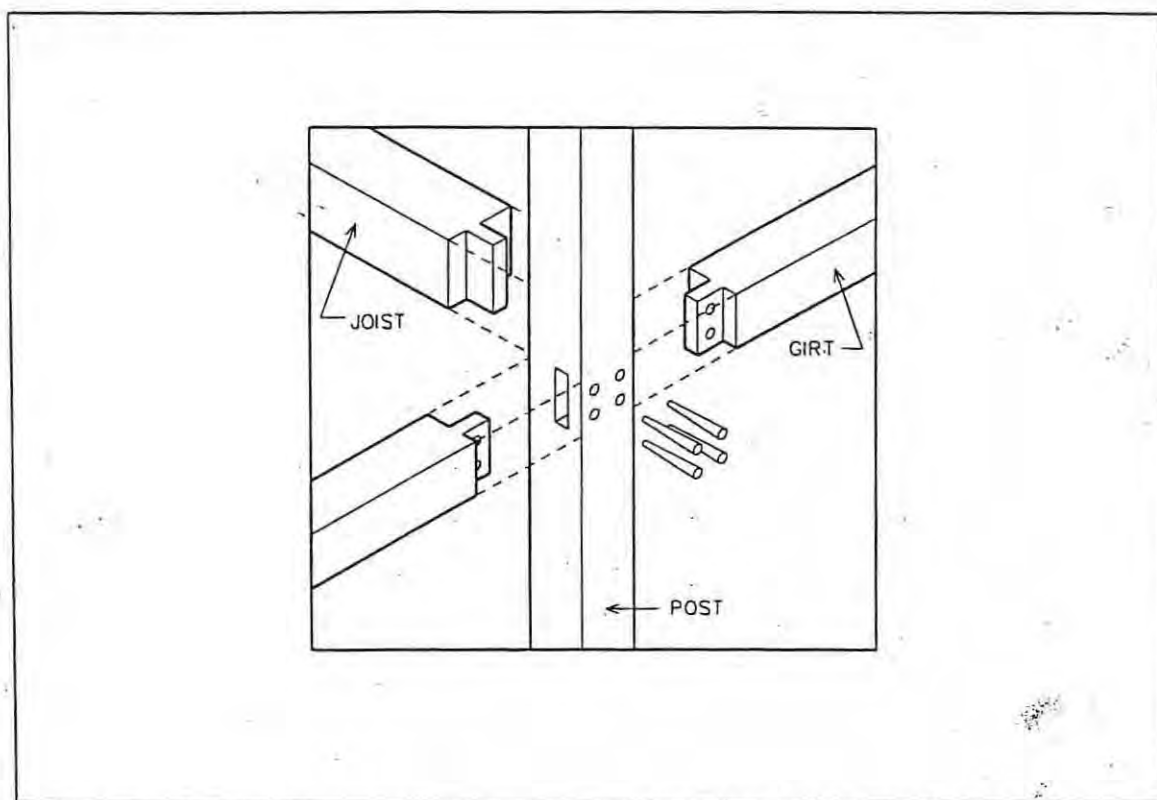


Figure 7. Dutch House. Detail of typical post-girt-joist assembly.

Like many of its New England cousins, the earliest part of the Dutch House consists of a heavy timber frame, which was erected in structural bays.

⁴¹ Mary Thompson's 1795 room-by-room probate inventory describes articles in a "front

together at their tops by a continuous wooden plate that supports, in turn, the roof rafters. They are also joined at the second floor level by shorter girts, which are tenoned into the sides of the principal posts (figures 7, 8). The girts each support a single intermediate joist

room," "back room," kitchen and cellar, but

that is four feet from the adjoining bents. Into this heavy frame are set smaller, intermediate studs that enclose brick nogging and provide a base for exterior clapboard siding and the interior plaster surface. The heavy top plate would have supported a roof of common rafters, though evidence of the original roof structure has not survived.

This frame does not fit neatly into any known European typology—it is neither, quite, English nor Dutch. The builder of the Dutch House used evenly-spaced H-bents, in the Netherlandish manner, but framed them from very heavy material, spaced them widely, and used smaller studs and joists to support wall sheathing and floor boards, in a more English manner. It is, in this way, part of what Bernard Herman has observed as a period of experimentation in early eighteenth-century Delaware Valley building. The range of European architectural and cultural traditions in early colonial New Castle enabled the sharing of knowledge and fostered a climate of innovation that could produce an anomalous, un-classifiable structure

nothing is specified as being in the attic.

like the Dutch House.⁴² In an environment where a Scots-Irish carpenter might build a house for a Huguenot man and his Swedish wife, it was difficult, as it is today, to read ethnic identity into any house. The few remaining traditionally Dutch houses from New Castle's earliest period of European settlement were, by 1700, becoming relics of an earlier, less heterogeneous moment.⁴³

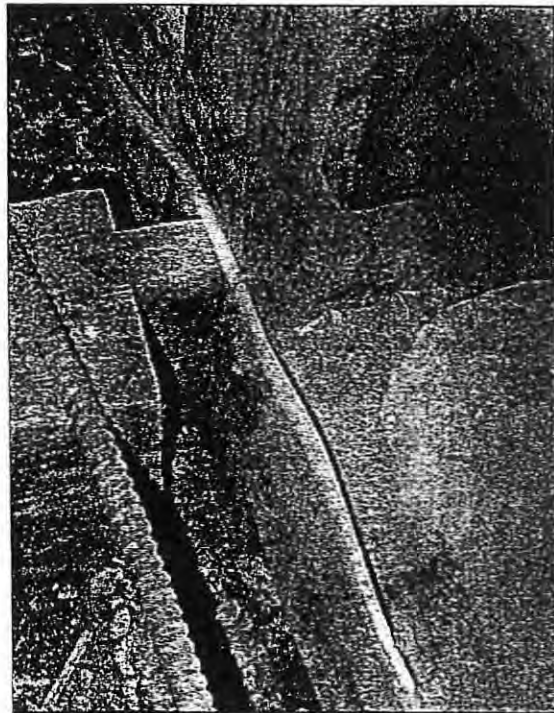


Figure 8. Dutch House. Detail showing intersection of principal post, girts, and later lean-to joist.

⁴² See *ibid.*, and Bernard L. Herman, *Architecture and Rural Life in Central Delaware, 1700-1900* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1987), 14-21.

⁴³ Still, some of these steep-pitched, stepped-gable houses like the Tile House survived into the early nineteenth century, and are visible in the Latrobe Survey of New Castle.

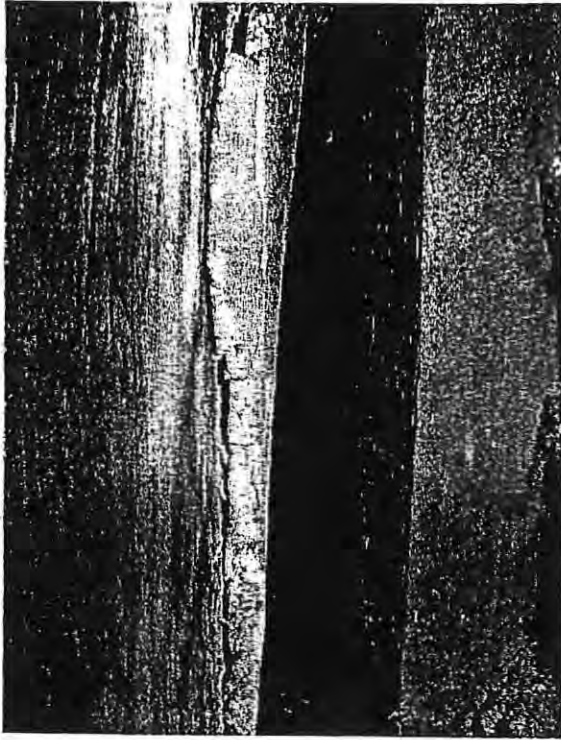


Figure 9. Dutch House. Detail showing original plaster wall surface, visible in lean-to attic.

Surviving finishes from the house's first period of construction are refined but not extravagant. Interior wall surfaces were covered with a base coat of mud and a skim coat of plaster. This wall finish survives in the attic, behind 1938 lath and plaster in the back of the northeast chamber, and on the front wall of the hall (figure 9). On the first floor, all the ceiling joists were exposed and chamfered with simple lamb's tongue stops (figure 10). These were all originally left unpainted. The exterior of the entire house was covered with horizontal wood siding with a

beaded lower edge, set with six to eight inches to the weather. A small area of this original siding survives, held in place with large wrought nails, in the southwest gable wall.



Figure 8. Dutch House. Detail of original floor joist, showing chamfer and lamb's tongue stop.

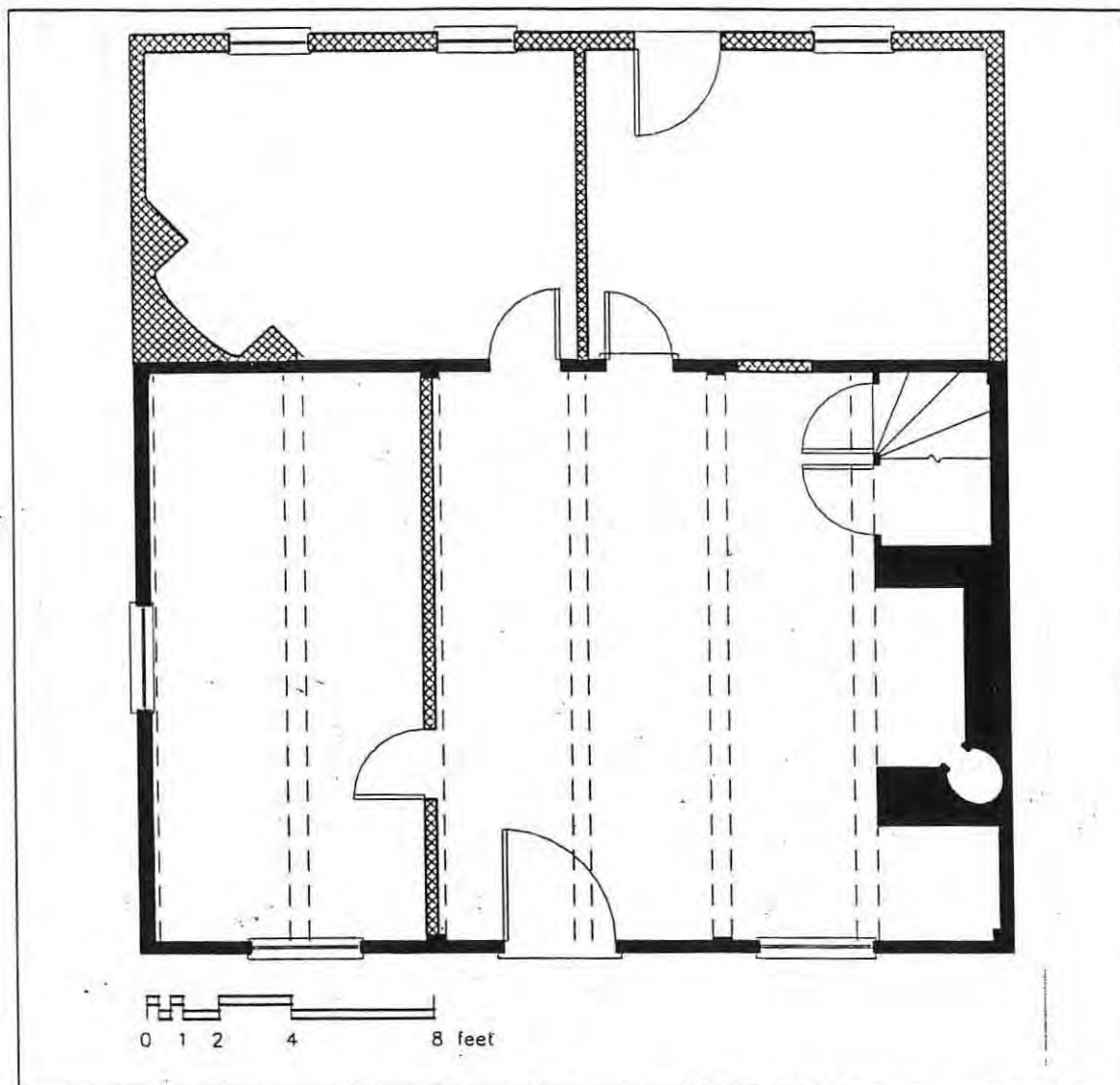


Figure 9. Dutch House. First floor plan, period II, c. 1725–c. 1760.

PERIOD II, III: c. 17??—c. 1760, Samuel Silsbee and heirs

The rear lean-to and an interior partition was added to the Dutch House by 1730. Not long after, its cellar was excavated and the house was cased in brick.

At some point before the 1730s, the Dutch House received its first major renovation when the owner, probably Samuel Silsbee the elder, inserted a

partition in the large hall and added a frame lean-to across the rear of the building. The hall may have been partitioned at a different time, but most likely all the work was done in a single building campaign. The rear corner fireplace in the addition, with its high, segmental-arched opening and curved back, is of a type that was common in London and some North American cities only until the early 1730s, suggesting an

early date for this first major transformation of the house (figure 12). That it was an addition is clear from the manner in which the principal joists are tenoned into the posts of the original house—the new mortises are cut into the existing tenons for the rear girts (figure 7).

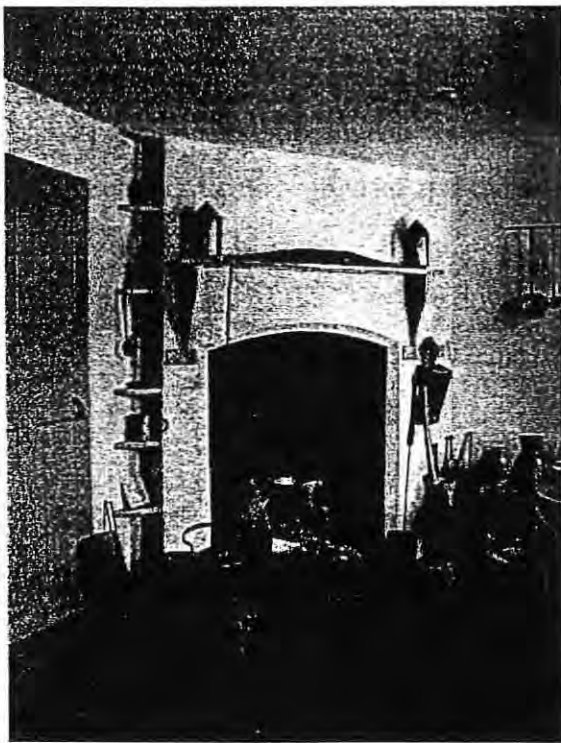


Figure 10. Dutch House. Lean-to fireplace.

The partitioning of the hall created a new, smaller room to the southwest that was better finished but unheated. It was half the size of the now reduced hall, occupying only one eight-foot structural bay. This new room was treated with whitewash on the ceiling

and joists and, later, a skim coat of plaster, to brighten the small space and to testify to its higher status within the social hierarchy of interior space. Most likely, since it was unheated but better finished than the hall, this room was intended as a best sleeping chamber. At the same time, the two large sash windows on the front wall of the house were likely installed—one to light the new room and another in the hall, replacing an earlier, probably smaller, casement window.

The new lean-to at the rear encompassed two roughly equal-sized rooms, with a fireplace in the southeast corner of the southern room. Heated, and finished with split lath and plaster, this space was conceived as the best room in the house, or parlor. The removal of the parlor from the work and ordinary bustle of the old hall represented a further development in the social organization of the house. Whereas the original Dutch House had differentiated only between living spaces and upstairs storage spaces, the added lean-to further subdivided the house by spatially opposing work from leisure, or

“dirty” activities from “clean” ones.⁴⁴

The function of the second room in the lean-to is not clear, but it is likely to have been a secondary, unheated sleeping chamber or possibly ground floor storage for foodstuffs.

The partitioning of interior space into rooms for distinct, specialized functions—sleeping, working, socializing, and storage—reflects a broad pattern of post-medieval building in western European countries and their North American colonies. In the Delaware Valley, of the very few houses to have survived from around 1700, the Stow Creek House in Cumberland County, New Jersey, also contained unheated space on the first floor, away from the enormous cooking hearth. Contemporary houses in New England often provided spaces for cold storage on the ground level, though these tended to be located in a rear lean-to, rather than within the main mass of the house.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ See Robert Blair St. George, “‘Set Thine House in Order’: The Domestication of the Yeomanry in Seventeenth-Century New England,” in Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach, eds., *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture* (Athens and London: University of Georgia Press, 1986), pp. 336-366, for a discussion of spatial dichotomies in the early American house.

⁴⁵ See Abbott Lowell Cummings, *The Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay, 1625-1725*

Later in the eighteenth century, Delaware Valley builders began building more socially articulated houses, with parlors, chambers, and separate storage rooms.⁴⁶

With its new lean-to, the Dutch House was large by eighteenth-century standards, though modern sensibilities would find the quarters cramped. Samuel Silsbee’s 1751 probate inventory describes a house in which at least five family members crowded into two beds. When the Silsbees were awake, they would have jostled one another among four tables, ten chairs, a walnut desk, a chest and a dresser. This inventory further suggests that the Silsbees created a genteel domestic environment through material as well as spatial means: among the earthen ware and carpenter’s tools are a tea set, five silver spoons and a set of silver knee buckles.⁴⁷

(Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1979) for examples of such early plans. Plans of the Stow Creek House have not been published, but field notes for this building are on file at the University of Delaware’s Center for Historic Architecture and Design.

⁴⁶ See Bernard L. Herman and Gabrielle Lanier, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), pp. 10-16 and passim.

⁴⁷ Samuel Silsbee probate inventory, 1751. See Appendix C for a transcript of this inventory.

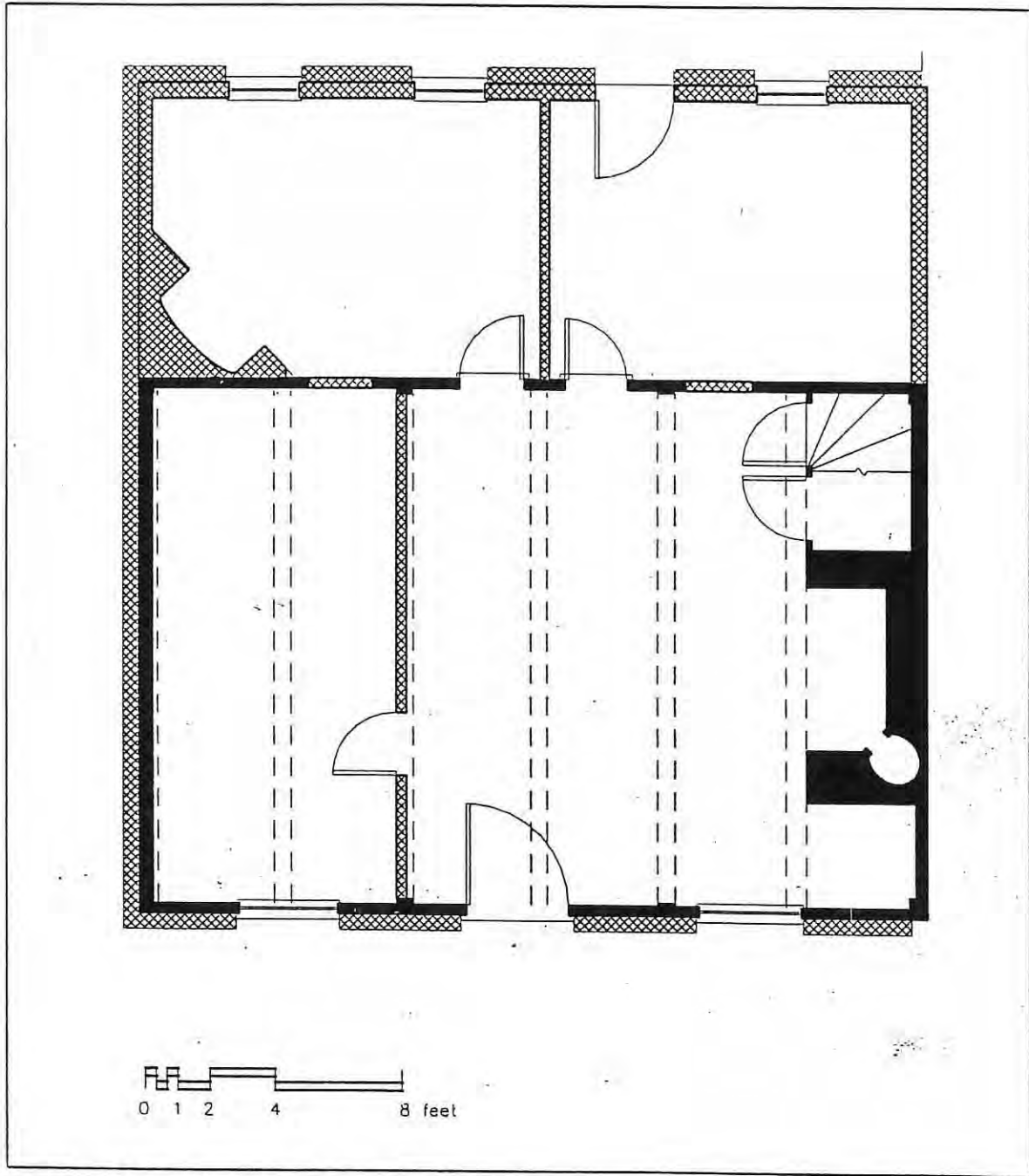


Figure 11. Dutch House. Plan of period III, showing mid-18th century brick veneer on three sides.

PERIOD III: Silsbees, continued

If the lean-to embodied a dramatic and important change to the social structure of the house, it was technologically continuous with the main mass. Heavy hewn timbers were tenoned into the back of the four story-and-a-half posts, and supported at the other end by new, shorter posts. Smaller, intermediate joists provided support for ceiling lath and plaster. Like the original part of the house, it was not cellared.

However, not long after the lean-to was added, the Silsbee family made some extraordinary structural changes to the Dutch House without making any significant alterations to the plan. They raised the house off the ground, excavated a cellar under the main mass of the house, and wrapped three sides of the exterior in brick (figure 11). A fourth side abutted the house to the northeast. There is not now, nor has there ever been, a masonry surface on the northeast wall of the Dutch House.⁴⁸ The date of these changes is not clear, but two likely moments for this work

were the death of Samuel Silsbee, Sr., in or before 1734, and the death of Samuel Silsbee, Jr. in 1751. On the other hand, if the reasons for the brickwork were purely structural—if the groundsills and posts had begun to fail—the work might have been undertaken at any time in the middle of the eighteenth century. In any case, the bricks' large size and lack of uniformity suggest an early to mid eighteenth-century date for this work (figure 12). It was certainly complete in 1795, when Mary Thompson's will described her dwelling house as brick.

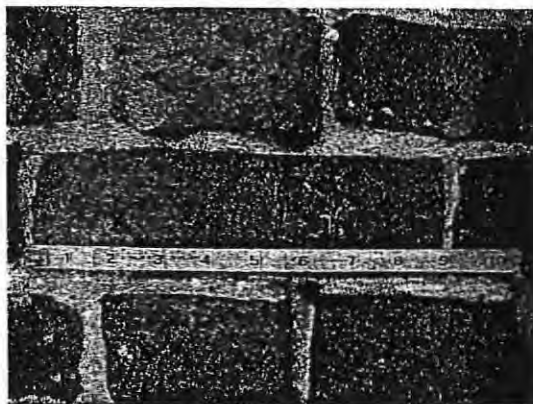


Figure 12. Detail, bricks in front wall.

That the masonry exterior is not original is clearest underneath the deep overhang at the front wall. Here, behind the frieze board, the original story-and-a-half posts survive. They are visible in

⁴⁸ Bricks visible in the northeast corner of the lean-to attic seem to have been inserted during the DSPA renovation.

photographs taken during the DSPA renovations. These posts run behind the brick, and interrupt the front girts, indicating that the original structural wall, like the rear wall of the main block, was timber framed. This wall, like the rear wall under the lean-to attic, was once covered in wood siding. Since the brick front stops at the underside of the soffit, the roof must have been rebuilt and extended at the same time the brick was added. Perhaps water damage to wooden structural members at the front of the building encouraged the Silsbees to cover the Dutch House in brick and to take extra care to shed water away from the house with a deep overhang.

When the Dutch house was covered in brick, a building stood on the lot adjoining to the northeast. The fourth wall of the new foundation was likely the southwest foundation wall of the adjoining house (figure 13). In tandem with the foundation work, the Silsbees probably reduced or even rebuilt the old hearth in the hall, converting the fireplace in the lean-to to cooking and making this rear room a kitchen. Whether they rebuilt the original chimney in the same location or excavated around it, all trace of this

work has been lost. The northeast wall has since been replaced by the current stone wall, which is the foundation for the adjoining building, built around 1825.

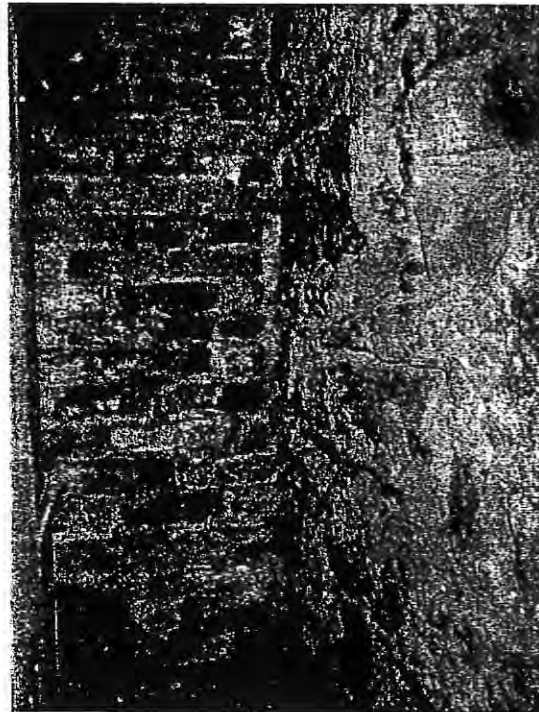


Figure 13. NW corner of cellar, showing mid-18th century brick foundation and c. 1825 cellar wall of adjoining building.

The evenness of the masonry on both sides of this wall, and its importance as a fourth wall of the Dutch House on each level, suggests the possibility that the 1820s renovation of the Dutch House and the construction of the adjoining building were part of a coordinated effort. This hypothesis is supported by the brick seam between the two buildings, which suggests that their

physical relationship began in the mid-eighteenth century (figure 14).

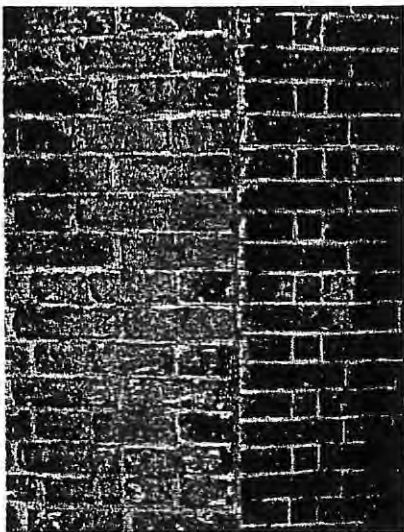


Figure 14. Brick seam between Dutch House and adjoining building to northeast.

The top plates of the Dutch House originally projected a few inches past the end walls, creating a rake overhang in the gables of roughly eight inches on each side. About an inch of this extension remains in the northwest corner of the attic (figure 15). When a later, brick building was erected to the northeast (by the middle of the eighteenth century and before the brick work at the Dutch House), this roof overhang forced the party wall to be built eight inches away from the end wall of the Dutch House. To avoid a narrow space between the two buildings that would have invited water penetration into both buildings, the front

wall of this new brick house extended past the party wall by six inches, below the level of the roof, to front corner of the Dutch House. The short spur of stone wall in the northeast corner of the cellar reflects this extension above. When the Dutch House was bricked over, the coursing of the front wall began at this line, about eight inches southwest of the gable wall of the adjoining building. At a later date, probably in the early nineteenth century, the framed end wall of the Dutch House was removed on the first floor, so that the brick end wall of the adjoining house became the interior surface of the northeast room on the first floor. By “borrowing” the adjoining brick wall in this way, the Dutch House interior was enlarged by about fifteen square feet.

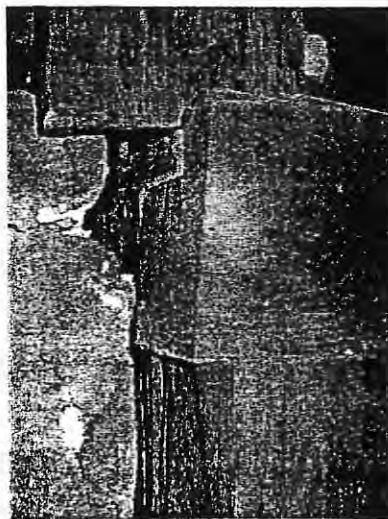


Figure 15. Detail of cut-off plate in attic.

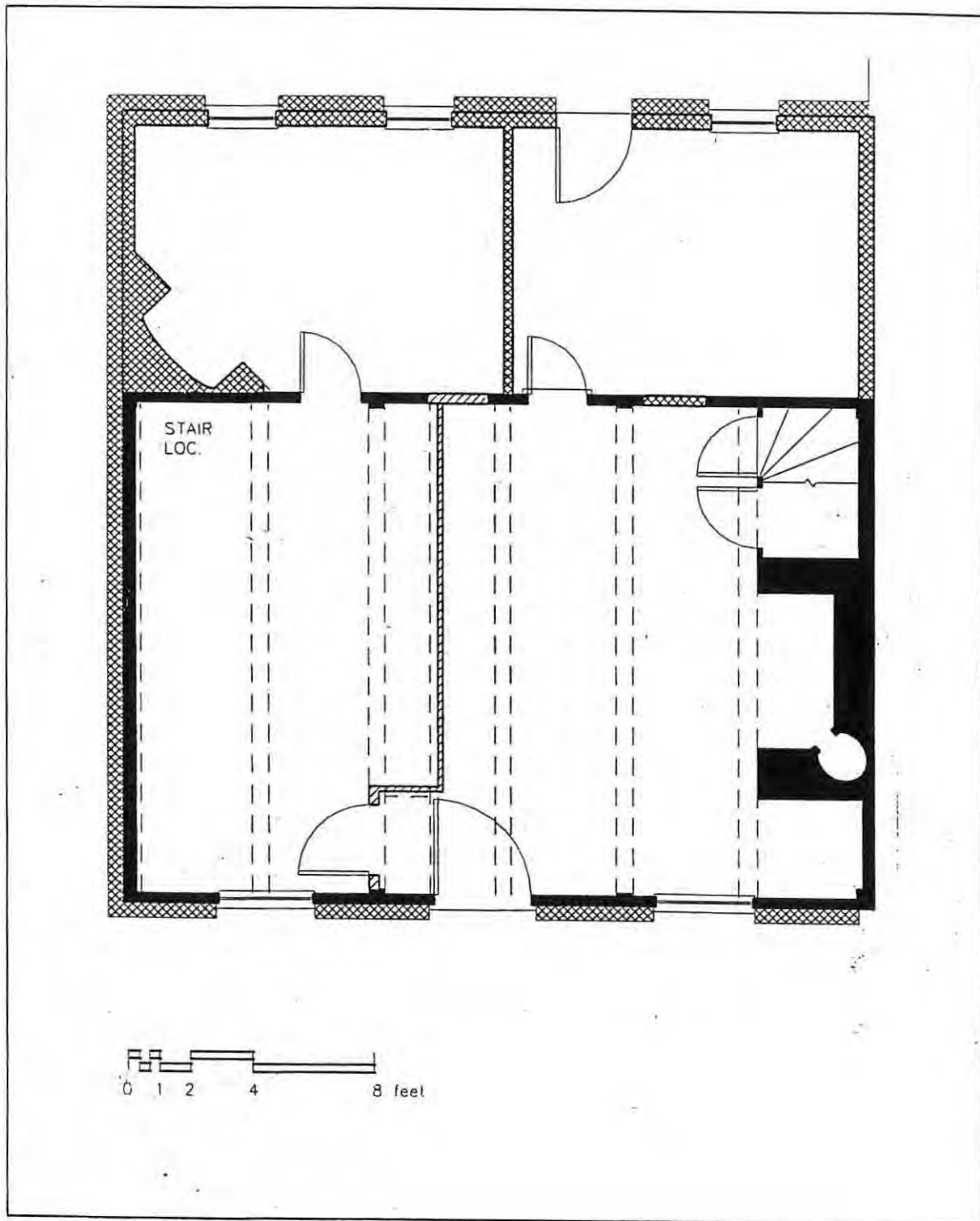


Figure 16. Dutch House, plan of period IV, soon after 1795.

PERIOD IV: 1795-1810, Mary and John Thompson

In 1795, the interior of the Dutch House was reworked to comply with the terms of Mary Thompson's will, which required the house to be divided into two equal parts

At some point in the eighteenth century, the descendants of Samuel Silsbee inverted the spatial hierarchy of his old house, moving the kitchen to the rear lean-to and making the larger front room the main living space. This change in social function is only recorded in Mary Thompson's 1795 probate inventory. Possibly, the shift was made when the house was bricked and cellared, or it may be that the change happened gradually, as the desire for larger space for domestic sociability encouraged the retreat of domestic work into the smaller rear room.

By 1795, the front room had clearly become the busiest and densest space of the house, with the best furnishings crowding out mundane cooking implements. Here, Mary Thompson's inventory relates, a walnut breakfast table stood beside a mahogany dining table, along with the best bed, a walnut bureau, two other tables, and

several chairs. Glass ware, tea ware, bottles and dishes were distributed in closets, on tables, and atop "an old mantle piece." The old mantle, like the chamfered joists in the still-exposed ceiling, were clearly holdovers from Samuel Silsbee's tenure in the house. The front room had undergone a transformation in function, but not form. By this time, the rear room, Samuel Silsbee's parlor, had clearly become Mary Thompson's kitchen. Her inventory records pots, pans, kettles, a bake oven, and "sundrys on a kitchen fire place" in a space in the rear lean-to. It also indicates that, in 1795, the front southeast room was being used as a best chamber and the northwest room in the lean-to as a secondary chamber.⁴⁹

The next physical change to the Dutch House occurred as a result of Mary Silsbee Thompson's 1795 will. She gave Catherine, her eldest daughter, all of the brick house adjoining to the northeast. The Dutch House she divided

⁴⁹ Mary Thompson probate inventory, 1795. There were two beds crowded into the rear bedroom. In addition to the cooking implements and furniture, the kitchen also contained eight pewter plates, 13 silver spoons and two queensware dishes. The inventory also notes sundry items in the cellar but still makes no mention of an attic. See Appendix C for a transcript.

equally between her two children, Mary and John. She, or her executors after her death, moved the stud partition wall on the first floor two feet to the northeast, to create two rooms of equal size, roughly ten feet wide and sixteen feet deep each (figure 16). These changes were done in a way that minimized the work required—the ceilings were left exposed and only a simple ladder stair was inserted in the new southwest room to allow access to the garret from this half of the house.⁵⁰

This new plan contained two roughly equal apartments within the house: each with one heated and one unheated room, and each with access to a spare, low attic above. John and Mary were each given a minimal dwelling that they could sell or rent independently. It appears that they chose to rent jointly to a single household. In 1810, when they each sold their half of the house, Henry Rowan was the tenant in each side.

⁵⁰ There is no physical evidence of this ladder, but nor is there any evidence of a full staircase. There is, however, a reference to the removal of a flimsy ladder stair in the southwest room, among Albert Kruse's notes on the 1938 renovation at the New Castle Historical Society.

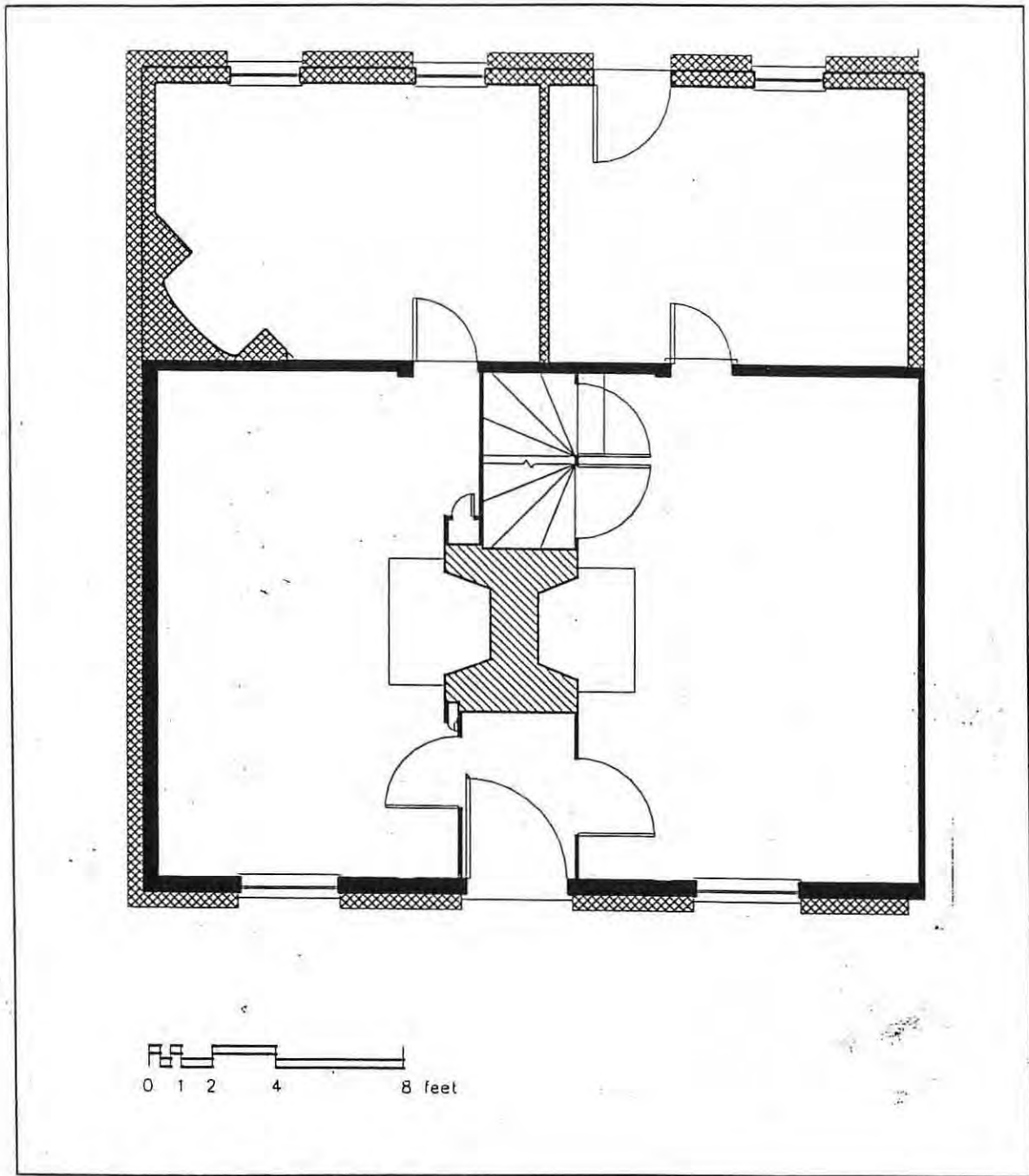


Figure 17. Dutch House plan, period V, 1823.

PERIOD V: 1823, heirs of John Springer

After John Springer's death in 1823, his widow completed the interior renovations that give the house its current appearance

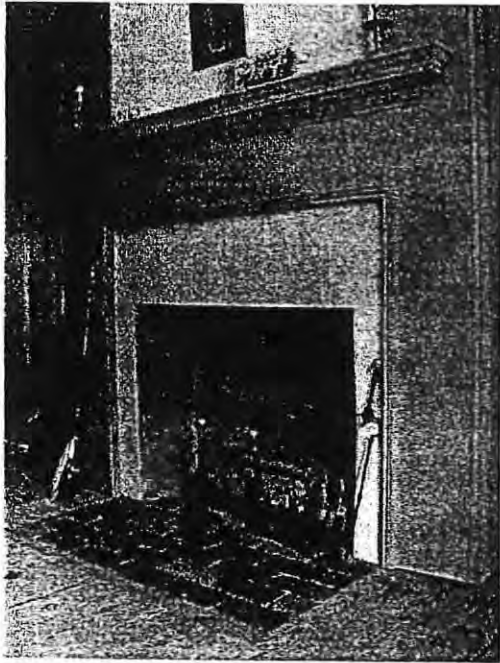


Figure 18. Dutch House. Detail of 1823 mantel in southwest room.

After the Thompsons sold their portions, the Dutch House returned to single ownership under John Springer in 1810. Springer did not improve the house, and may have continued to lease it to Rowan, but after his death in 1823, his wife made the extensive renovations to the interior that give the house its current appearance. This date is determined by the use of early machine-headed cut nails throughout the house—from the second floor floorboards to the

new winder stair. This type of nail was unavailable before about 1815, and had been replaced by an improved type of nail in the late 1820s (figure 20).⁵¹ Mrs. Springer converted the house to a lobby entry plan with a center chimney and rear winder stair. She removed the large chimney mass in the northeast room and replaced it with a much smaller stack in the center of the house, heating the two front rooms with back-to-back fireplaces. She left the rear fireplace intact, now as a cooking hearth.

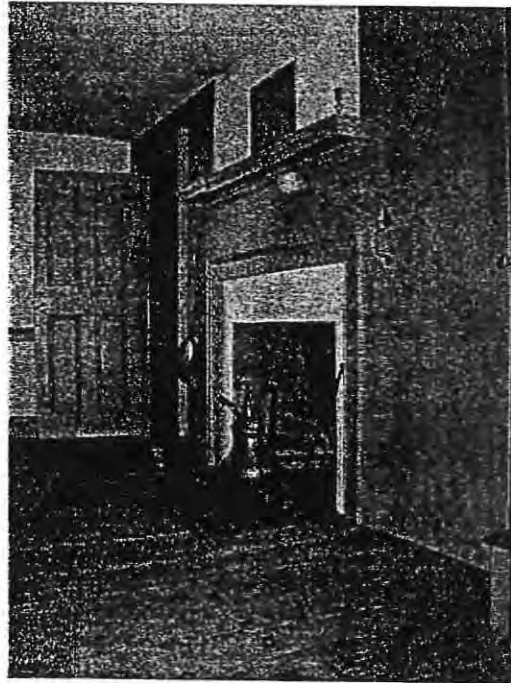


Figure 19. Dutch House. View of fireplace wall in northeast room, as renovated in 1823.

⁵¹ See Lee H. Nelson's "Nail Chronology as an aid to dating old buildings," American Association for State and Local History Technical Leaflet 48, *History News*, Vol. 48, No. 11, November, 1968.

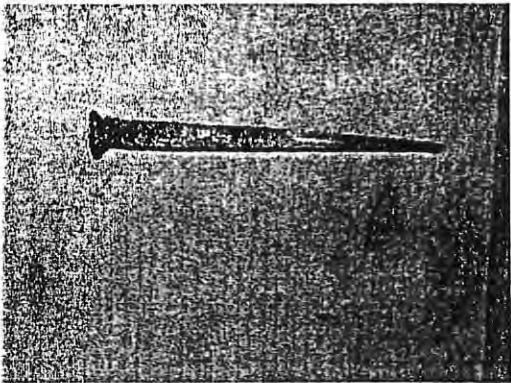


Figure 20. Dutch House. Cut nail from upper level floorboard.

No less important were the changes to the second floor. Mrs. Springer raised the roof to allow more generous chambers above, and stiffened the floor with new joists on two-foot centers. She also replaced the upper floor with new, tongue-in-groove boards, and finished the first floor ceilings with lath and plaster. She seems to have recycled the old floorboards, either on the ground level or, more likely, as fencing in the rear yard (figure 21).



Figure 21. Detail of floorboard, with traces of plaster, recycled as fence rail in rear yard.

Though they were less elaborate than the contemporary treatments in the house next door, these new finishes were a significant improvement over the Silsbees' now old-fashioned interior (compare figures 18 and 22). Deep mantel shelves in the first floor front rooms, a paneled corner cupboard in the southwest room, and new plaster surfaces everywhere reworked an already venerable, still sturdy, house according to the latest federal-style fashion.



Figure 22. Parlor mantel, c. 1825, from adjoining house.

**EXISTING CONDITIONS: 1938,
Albert Kruse for the DSPA**

In 1938, Albert Kruse restored the house to its 1823 appearance, leaving the earliest fabric of the house substantially intact

When the DSPA acquired the Dutch House in 1938, it was largely intact from the Springer era. The rear fireplace had been blocked, and a door was inserted at the side of the lean-to but few other changes were noted by Kruse's committee. Structural failures in the southwest wall forced Kruse to replace it with concrete block and brick up to the second floor level, but he left the framed gable wall above intact. He also replaced the ground level floor framing and rebuilt the two front

fireplaces, but did little reconstruction elsewhere. Despite a contemporary, Colonial Revival mania among restoration architects for stripping away all historical layers except the earliest—and occasionally inventing an earliest layer—Kruse worked with a light touch, only making changes where structural necessity demanded. As a consequence, the building that the New Castle Historical Society operates today may be interpreted as multiple buildings. It is simultaneously the house of the Walkers, the Silsbees, the Thompsons and the Springers, an architectural trace of multiple generations of builders and owners.

APPENDIX A:

Room-by-room notes on historic fabric:

CELLAR

Walls: brick walls on three sides erected with brick veneer, above. This work must have been done after the lean-to was built, so its earliest date is the 1730s. The very large bricks used suggest an earlier date but this evidence alone is not conclusive. The work might have been done at any point during the mid eighteenth century. Sections of the top courses in the rear wall, and elsewhere, have been replaced with modern bricks and laid in portland cement. This work was part of the 1938 renovation.

The stone wall in the northeast is the outside of the southwest foundation wall of the adjoining building. It replaces a foundation wall for an earlier building, which was standing in 1795.

Relieving arch: the base of the central chimney mass was erected with the late federal renovation of the interior, above, in 1823. Its circular arch and the uniform, relatively small bricks used are consistent with an early nineteenth-century date.

Joists: the closely-spaced, rough log joists were installed as part of the 1938 renovation of the Dutch House by Albert Kruse. The logs were presumably chosen over dimensional lumber for their more ancient appearance.

Stair: the winder stair was also rebuilt in 1938, probably as a replica of an earlier stair.

Bulkhead: the bulkhead has been reworked and repaired in places, but the masonry is continuous with the mid-century excavation of the cellar.

GROUND FLOOR:

Northeast room:

Floor: the floorboards, like the joists below, were replaced in 1938.

Fireplace: the openings and hearth beds were rebuilt in 1938. The mantel shelf is consistent with late-federal style trim and dates from the 1823 renovation.

Front wall: This wall's structure is heavy timber with brick nogging, underneath an exterior veneer of flemish bond brick. The window location and opening size are consistent with the first period of construction, c. 1700. The sash itself is a mid-eighteenth-century replacement, however, that was probably installed when the house was clad in brick. The plaster surface of the front wall, with its mud base, is consistent with other early plaster surfaces in the house that have survived from the first period of construction. The door location and trim may predate the 1823 work.

Side wall, northeast: this wall is the outside surface of the brick wall of the adjoining building. This house contains some hand-headed and some machine-headed cut nails, and finishes in the late federal style, and is dated to the early 1820s. The original, large, cooking fireplace, was in this location before being removed in the early nineteenth century.

Rear wall: this wall is also of heavy timber with brick in-fill, but has been much re-worked, as openings have been opened and closed with subsequent renovations. Portions of the plaster surface are likely original, c. 1700, while other sections are later patches.

Fireplace wall and stair box: this wall, and the door to the front lobby, all date to the 1823 renovation.

Ceiling: ceiling was covered in sawn lath and plaster in 1823. At the same time, intermediate joists were inserted between the joists of the original house, at roughly two-foot centers. These joists are mill sawn to 3" wide and 7" deep, matching the depth of the original joists. The c. 1700 joists are all 7" wide and 7" deep, hewn and planed, with 1" chamfers along their lower edges. They are spaced on four-foot centers. On this side of the house, these joists were exposed until 1823, but never painted.

Southwest room:

Floor: the floorboards were replaced in 1938.

Front wall: same as front wall in northeast room. The corner cupboard was installed as part of the 1823 renovation.

Side wall, southwest: this wall was completely rebuilt by Kruse in 1938, with concrete block and a brick veneer.

Rear wall: same as rear wall in northeast room.

Fireplace wall: same as fireplace wall in northeast room. Small cupboards in sides of fireplace, like the corner cupboard, are from 1823 renovation.

Ceiling: same as ceiling in northeast room, except that the joists on this side of the house, above the storage areas, were originally whitewashed. Later, probably after 1795,

they were given a skim coat of plaster. A single joist was inserted in 1795 to provide a nailing surface for the new partition (now gone). This joist was mill sawn but not planed and was whitewashed but not chamfered.

Rear shed:

Floor: the brick pavers were laid in 1938 on a bed of sand. The lean-to has never been excavated, and Kruse believed that the original floor had been brick.

Front wall: same as rear wall of northeast room

Side wall, northeast: this wall has been covered by the modern powder room.

Side wall, southwest: same as southwest wall in southwest room. A door was cut through this wall before 1938.

Fireplace: this opening was uncovered by Kruse but restored to its original profile. The mantel shelf above was invented by Kruse but there was, apparently, some evidence for the shelves to the side of the fireplace. The shape of the opening and the back is consistent with fireplaces in London and some North American cities in the early eighteenth century, but not after about 1730. Therefore, we date the insertion of the fireplace and, by extension, the addition of the rear lean-to, to around 1730.

Rear wall: this wall remains concealed under plaster and exterior stucco. It is expected to be similar to the front wall of the house—a timber structure cased in a later brick veneer. The nature of the timber structure is unclear, though there are tenons for posts on the underside of the principal joists in the ceiling, above.

Ceiling: the split lath and plaster ceiling is contemporary with the addition of the lean-to in around 1730.

UPPER LEVEL:

Attic above lean-to: Here the structural system of the original house is clearly visible, as is the framing for the lean-to ceiling. The short kneewall behind the finished rooms dates to the original house, c. 1700, as does the brick nogging. An original plaster surface survives on the inside of one of the sections of nogging, in the northwest. It has been concealed by a 1938 wall surface.

Stairs: the stairs, which are assembled using machine-headed cut nails, date to the 1823 renovation.

Northeast room:

Front (southeast) wall: In this wall, the tops of the original story-and-a-half posts are visible. This front wall may contain original fabric, although photographs taken during the 1938 renovation of the roof seem to indicate that the original brick nogging was removed.

Side (northeast) wall: this wall was rebuilt in the 1938 renovation. Kruse added a layer of brick and covered it with a furred-out plaster wall to create the two small openings here. These were meant to provide artificial light in the room without inserting electrical fixtures in historic fabric.

Rear (northwest) wall: this wall was covered and patched in the 1938 renovation, but contains sections of 1823 wall, with at least one area of original, c. 1700 wall surface in the northwest corner.

Fireplace wall: the chimney stack, door to the first floor and partition wall to the adjoining room were all installed in the 1823 renovation.

Ceiling: At present, the ceiling is inaccessible. It is unlikely that any part of the ceiling—lath & plaster or collar ties—survives from before the 1823 renovation, which included the raising of the roof and, presumably, the ceiling as well.

Southwest room:

Front (southeast) wall: same as in northeast room.

Side (southwest) wall: this wall was rebuilt below but seems to survive intact at this level. If so, it likely contains a wealth of information about the framing system of the original house, possibly including the only surviving rafter from the eighteenth century. The interior surface is either a combination of c. 1700, mid-eighteenth century and 1823 surfaces, or it is an 1823 covering over earlier surfaces.

Rear (northwest) wall: same as in northeast room

Fireplace wall: same as in northeast room

APPENDIX B

Abstract of deed run for Dutch House, based on J[eremiah] Sweeney's "Annals of the Old Dutch House," edited by Jeffrey E. Klee

The deeds collected by Sweeney, particularly the earliest ones, are fascinating documents in their own right, as they provide precious information about the earliest occupants of the Dutch House, their occupations, and their family connections.

1A) June 23, 1938. Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities from Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. Hushebeck. NCCo deeds, Y-40, 325-26.

\$1500 for parcel with buildings "on the northwesterly side of Third Street...bounded...as follows:"

"BEGINNING at a point on the northwesterly side of Third Street (at 50 feet wide) formerly known as Orange Street, at a corner of other lands recently conveyed by said Harry W. Hushebeck and wife to The Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, said point of beginning being distant southwesterly along the said northwesterly side of Third Street two hundred and two and forty-six hundredths feet from the point of intersection of the said northwesterly side of Third Street with the southwesterly side of Harmony Street (at 54 feet wide); thence from said beginning point along the line of said other lands of the said The Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, northwesterly a distance of one hundred and seventy two and eighty-three hundredths feet to the southeasterly side of Fourth Street (at 54 feet wide) formerly known as Vine Street [previously Beaver: JK], said point on the southeasterly side of Fourth Street being distant southwesterly along the said southeasterly side of Fourth Street one hundred and eighty six and fifty-two hundredths feet from the southeasterly side of Harmony Street; thence southwesterly along the said southeasterly side of Fourth Street about seventeen and forty-five hundredths feet to a corner of lands of Edward A. Taylor a distance of one hundred and thirty five and sixty-three hundredths feet to the north corner of the three story high main part of the brick dwelling located on lands of the said Edward A. Taylor; and thence continuing southeasterly along the outside face of the three story high main part of the brick building located on lands of the said Edward A. Taylor a distance of thirty eight and twenty-nine hundredths feet in the northwesterly direction a distance of about twenty and ninety hundredths feet to the place of Beginning; be the contents thereof what they may..."

"BEING a part of the same lands and premises which were conveyed to the said Harry W. Hushebeck in fee simple by deed of Jane W. Marley et. Al., dated June 26, 1917, and recorded in Deed Record Z, Vol. 26, Page 496."

1B) January 14, 1938. Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities from Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. Hushebeck. NCCo deeds, T-40, 263-64.
Dutch House lot

\$2500 for "ALL THAT parcel of land, with the ancient brick building thereon erected, believed to be of Swedish or Dutch erection, situate in the City * * of New Castle, State of Delaware, and more particularly bounded and described as follows:

"BEGINNING at a point on the northeasterly side of Third Street (at fifty feet wide) formerly known as Orange Street, at a corner for lands of Harry W. Hushebeck, said point of beginning being distant southwesterly along the said southwesterly side of Third Street one hundred and seventy three and sixty-six hundredths feet from the point of intersection fo the said northwesterly side of Third Street with the southwesterly side of Harmony Street (at fifty-four feet wide) said point of beginning being also located at the point of intersection fo the extension in a southeasterly direction of the southwesterly face of the southwesterly wall of the dwelling house of Harry W. Hushebeck with the said northwesterly side of Third Street; thence northwesterly along the said southwesterly face of the said southwesterly wall of the said Harry W. Hushebeck house and along line of land of said Harry W. Hushebeck one hundred and seventy-one and fifty-nine hundredths feet to the southeasterly side fo Fourth Street (at fifty-four feet wide), formerly known as Vine Street [JK: aka Beaver], said point on the southeasterly side of Fourth Street being distant southwesterly along said side of Fourth Street one hundred and fifty-seven and seventy-seven hundredths feet from the point of intersection of the said southeasterly side of Fourth Street with the southwesterly side of Harmony Street; thence southwesterly along said southeasterly side of Fourth Street twenty-eight and seventy-five hundredths feet to a corner for other lands of Harry W. Hushebeck; thence southeasterly and partly along a fence now dividing the alley lying along the southwesterly side of the house on this lot from the alley lying along the northwesterly side of the frame house on the lot to the southwest, along line of other lands of Harry Hushebeck one hundred and seventy-two and eighty-three hundredths feet to the northwesterly side of Third Street; and thence thereby in a northeasterly direction twenty-eight and eighty hundredths feet to the place of Beginning; be the contents what they may:

"BEING part of the same lands and premises which were conveyed to Harry W. Hushebeck by deed of Jane Williams Marley, single woman, et al., said deed bearing date the Twenty-sixth day of June A. D. 1917 and recorded * * in Deed Record Z, Volume 26, Page 496."

2) June 26, 1917. Harry W. Hushebeck from Miss Jane Williams Marley et aliae.
NCCo Deeds, Z-26, 496-99.

\$2,000 for entire Dutch House property, conveyed above in two separate deeds to DSPA.

Jane Williams Marley, Ada J. Pennington, Margaret R. Janvier, Mary M. Janvier, Katherine J. Janvier, Beulah J. Marley, and Caroline V. Janvier, all single women of Wilmington, sold to Harry W. Hushebeck, of New Castle, the "lot of land situate on the northwesterly side of Orange Street (now Third Street) in the City of New Castle * * with a brick and two frame houses thereon erected, having a front on the said side of Orange Street (now Third Street) of about fifty feet and extending through in a northwesterly direction to the southeasterly side of Vine Street (now Fourth Street) and

bounded on the northeast by land late of Samuel Carpenter, now Catherine Platt and on the southeast by land late of Sallie Ritchie now of Richard G. Cooper.

“BEING the same lands and premises which John E. Taylor, sheriff, by indenture dated the 3rd day of November A. D. 1900, and recorded * * in Deed Record O Volume 18, Page 25 &c., granted and conveyed unto Martha E. Janvier in fee, who being thereof siezed afterward departed this life on or about the 27th day of April A. D. 1915, having made her last will and testament which after her death was duly admitted to probate by the Register of Wills, at Wilmington, * * whereby she did devise as follows:--‘I wish to make some disposal of my property, so I make this my last will and testament, I wish all of my property, both personal and real, to go to my niece Jane William Marley for lifetime, and at her death to be equally divided among my nieces Ada Pennington, Margaret R. Janvier, Mary M. Janvier, Catherine J. Janvier, Caroline V. Janvier and my grand niece Beulah C. Marley.’”

3) November 3, 1900. Martha Janvier from John E. Taylor [sheriff]. NCCO Deeds O-18, 25-27.

Sheriffs sale for DH lot, \$550 for lot and buildings, to reduce debt owed to Sarah E. Janvier [collected by her heir, Martha Janvier] by S. Beulah Schenck, of \$1500 plus interest and costs.

“...to be levied out of ALL That certain lot of land situate on the Northwesterly side of Orange Street in the City of New Castle * * with a brick and two frame houses thereon erected...Being the same land and premises conveyed to the said S. Beulah Schenck by deed of Peter C. Schenck and Rebecca Schenck his wife dated the Twenty Eight day of May A. D. 1885 and recorded in the office for the recording of Deeds, etc at Wilmington in Deed Record Q Vol 12 Page 591 [JS notes error in recording here—date is May 28, 1883]. will more fully appear.”

4) May 28, 1883. S. Beulah Schenck from Mr. and Mrs. Peter C. Schenck, NCCo Deeds Q-12, 591-93.

\$1,000 for DH lot and buildings.

“lot of Land situate on the North Westerly side of Orange Street, between Delaware and Harmony Streets, in the City of New Castle * *, with a Brick and two frame dwelling houses thereon erected...and bounded on the North East by land late of Samuel Carpenter now of Catherine Platt, and on the South West by land late of Sallie Ritchie now of Richard G. Cooper.” Cf Deeds M-11, 152 &c.

5) September 5, 1879. Rebecca Schenck [of New Castle] from Martin L. Schenck [of Long Island, NY]. NCCo Deeds M-11, 152-3

\$1 for Dutch House lot and buildings.

Described as in #4, abv. “Being the same land and premises conveyed to the said Martin L. Schenck by indenture under the hands and seals of Peter C. Schenck and Wife bearing date the Fifth day of September An. 1879.” No deed ref given but next one in Sweeney’s chain is #6, below, in M-11, 142-4

- 6) September 5, 1879. Martin L. Schenck [of Brooklyn] from Mr. and Mrs. Peter C. Schenck [of New Castle], NCCo Deeds M-11, 142-44.
\$800 for lot and buildings.

“the lot of land scituate on the North Westerly side of Orange Street in the Town (now City) of New Castle * *, with a brick house thereon erected having a front in the said side of Orange Street of about fifty feet...and bounded on the North-East by land late of Samuel Carpenter now of Catherine Platt and on the South-West by land late of Miss Sallie Ritchie now of Richard G. Cooper...Begin the same land and premises conveyed to the said Peter C. Schenck by William H. Lambson Esq. Sheriff of New Castle County by Deed Poll dated the 29th day of September An. 1874...”
No deed ref given but next one in JS chain is 7), below, in L-10, 346-348.

- 7) December 11, 1874. Peter C. Schenck from Sheriff William H. Lambson. NCCo Deeds L-10, 346-48.
\$1601 from Peter Schenck at Sheriffs sale to recover \$1400 debt and damages due James L. Maloy from James R. Foot and Rachel Ann his wife and Peter C. Schenck.¹

“to be levied out of All that certain Lot of land situate on the North Westerly side of Orange Street in the Town of New Castle * *, with a Brick house thereon erected having a front on the said side of Orange Street...Being the same land and premises which was conveyed to the said James R. Foote by indenture under the hands and seals of James L. Maloy and wife bearing date the Fourteenth day of December A. D. 1871...” Again, no deed ref given but next one in JS chain is 8), below, in O-9, 70-72

- 8) December 14, 1871. James R. Foote, of Mill Creek Hundred, from James L. Maloy, of PHL, and his wife Elizabeth R. NCCo Deeds O-9, 70-72.
\$1700 for Dutch house lot with house.

Described as in 6), above. “Being the same land and premises which was conveyed to the Said James L. Maloy by Indenture under the hands and Seals of William H. Dobb and wife bearing date the first day of March A. D. eighteen hundred and seventy one...” no cf given but next in chain is 9), in I-9, 77-79.

- 9) March 1, 1871. James L. Maloy, of PHL, from William H. Dobb and his wife Rachel, of New Castle, NCCo deeds I-9, 77-79.
\$1400 for Dutch house lot and house.

Described as in 6), above. “Being the same land and premises (except a Small part thereof Sold by the said William H. Dobb to Samuel Carpenter) which was conveyed to the Said William H. Dobb by Deed Poll under the hand and seal of William G. Whiteley Esq. a Trustee appointed by the Chancellor of the State of Delaware, bearing date the

¹ JS notes that Peter G. Schenck may be a brother of Rachel Ann, who is probably the same as Rachel Ann the wife of William H. Dobb in his deed of part of the lot to Samuel Carpenter, G-7, 252-3.

twenty ninth day of October A. D. Eighteen hundred and fifty five..."² no cf given but next in chain is 10), G-7, 252-3.

10A) November 1, 1859. Samuel Carpenter, of New Castle, from William H. Dobb and his wife Rachel Ann, of New Castle. NCCo deeds, G-7, 252-3.
\$100 for 674 sf of Dutch House lot, in back.

"Beginning at the West corner of the Back yard of Samuel Carpenter which is Twenty nine feet six inches from the back wall of his dwelling house on Orange Street, thence running in a line with the end wall of Samuel Carpenter's dwelling, and in the direction towards Vine Street Thirty two feet six inches...thence in a Northeasterly direction and at right angles with the last line Twenty one feet four inches...to Samuel Carpenter's land, thence by and with the lines of his land to the place of Beginning." Being part of the same land sold on 10.29.1855 recorded in U-6, 172.

10B) October 29, 1855. William H. Dobb from Trustee William G. Whiteley, in NCCo Deeds U-6, 172-77.
\$1572.50 for Dutch House and lot, from estate of John Springer. No cf, but next is I-3, 469-471.

10A) October 17, 1810. John Springer, of New Castle, from Thomas Bowen of Philadelphia and his wife Mary Bowen, née Thompson. NCCo deeds I-3, 469-471.
\$200 for half of Dutch house and lot

"Whereas Mary Thompson Widow and Mother of the above named Mary Bowen, late Thompson,...did give and devise unto her son John and Daughter Mary above named all and singular the dwelling House and lot of Ground by the name and style of the Dwelling House of her deceased Brother John Silsbee To hold the same by equal moieties as Tenants in common to them their heirs and assigns forever severally and which is hereinafter more particularly described as in and by the said Will bearing date the twentieth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety five and remaining of Record in the Registers Office at New Castle in and for the County aforesaid may more fully and at large appear reference being thereunto had.

"Now this Indenture Witnesseth that the said Thomas Bowen and Mary his Wife for and in consideration of the sum of Two Hundred Dollars * * Have granted bargained sold * * unto the said John Springer his heirs and assigns All and singular their equal undivided moiety or half part of the dwelling House and Lot of Ground thereunto belonging situate lying and being as aforesaid and now in the Tenure of Neal Campbell and bounded on the South East by Orange Street on the South West by a House and Lot of Archibald Alexander Esquire now in the Tenure of Hugh W. Ritchie Esquire on the North West by Vine Street and on the North East by a House and Lot of Catherine Thompson now in the Tenure of Abraham McCoy a free Black Man containing within these bounds one quarter of an Acre be the same more or less. Together with all and singular the one moiety or equal undivided half part of the Buildings improvements..."

² JS notes that property appears on Beers Atlas as property of William H. Dobb.

no deed ref given but next is 10B, the other half of the house sold to Springer, Book I-3, 407-409. Mary Thompson gets it through will, in Will Record O-1, 50-52

10B) September 17, 1810. John Springer, of New Castle, from Mr. and Mrs. John Zimmerman, of New Castle, NCCo deeds I-3, 407-409.
\$200 for half of Dutch house and lot.

Zimmerman sells to Springer the half of Dutch house he (Zimmerman) purchased from John Thompson.

"All and singular the moiety and equal undivided half part of the said Lot of Ground and improvements thereon erected which said lot of ground and premises was devised to the said John Thompson and his Sister Mary Thompson by their Mother Mary Thompson in and by her last will and Testament dated the 20th day of January A. D. 1795 and Recorded in the Registers Office at New Castle for the County aforesaid...and more particularly described as follows: Bounded on the South East by Orange Street on the South West by a House and lot of Archibald Alexander Esquire now in the tenure of Hugh W. Ritchie Esquire and on the North West by Vine Street and on the North East by a House and lot of Catherine Thompson now in the tenure of Abraham McCoy a free Black Man containing within those bounds one quarter of an Acre be the same more or less."

Cf I-3, 168ff

10B2) July 21, 1810. John Zimmerman, PHL, from John Thompson, of New Castle, NCCo Deeds I-3, 168-169.

\$150 for 1/2 of Dutch house and lot, between "John Thompson now of the City of Philadelphia but formerly of the Town of New Castle Mariner," and John Zimmerman of New Castle, Tailor.

"Whereas Mary Thompson the Mother of the said John...by her last Will and Testament bearing date the twentieth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety five She devised unto the said John and his sister Mary her dwelling House under and by the name and Style of the dwelling House of her deceased Brother John Silsbee to hold the same by equal moieties as tenants in common to them their heirs and assigns for ever severally. Now this Indenture Witnesseth that the said John Thompson...Hath granted bargained sold...all that lot and Messuage as devised to him by his Mother Mary Thompson Scituate in the Town of New Castle and now in the Tenure of Neal Campbell bounded on the South East by Orange Street, on the South West by a house and lot of Archibald Alexander Esquire now in the Tenure of Hugh W. Ritchie Esquire on the North West by Vine Street and on the North East by a house and lot of Catharine Thompson now in the Tenure of Abraham McCoy a free Black Man, containing within those bounds one quarter of an Acre be the same more or less..."

no cf given but next item is will of Mary Thompson, nee Silsbee, Will Record O-1, 50-52.

11) January 20, 1795. John and Mary Thompson from their mother Mary Thompson, nee Silsbee. Will Record O-1, 50-52. [jek note see also DE Orphans Court records, H-1-165 (1795). Morris MF S365]

Dutch House willed to children of Mary Silsbee Thompson in equal halves. Will notes that DH was formerly the house of John Silsbee, Mary Thompson's brother.

"In the name of God Amen. I Mary Thompson of the town and county of Newcastle in the State of Delaware, widow. * * do make this my last will and testament... [first comes personal estate, including walnut bureau, silver spoon, wearing apparel, etc., to her five children. Unallotted items to be sold by executor and proceeds distributed as follows: to Catharine, L. 10; to John, L. 20; to Mary, L. 30; to Joseph and Samuel, the rest, divided equally.]"

"Item I do give and devise unto my said daughter Catharine Thompson all that messuage and lot of ground with the improvements thereon (late of my deceased brother John Silsbee) situate in the town of New Castle now in the Tenure of Henry Rowen bounded on the northwest by Beaver Street, on the northeast by the lot of ground belonging to Mrs. Wharton and Mrs. Williams, on the southeast by another public street and on the southwest by the lot of ground and brick messuage wherein I now dwell, to have and to hold the said Catharine Thompson her heirs and assigns forever. Item I do give and devise unto my son John Thompson and my daughter Mary Thompson the brick messuage wherein I now dwell and the lot of ground thereto belonging with all the improvements thereon (being late the dwelling house of my deceased brother John Silsbee) fronting on the public green or market square on the southeast, adjoining Adam Dyets lot on the southwest, bounded by beaver street on the northwest and by the messuage and lot of ground herein before devised to my daughter Catharine on the northeast, to have & to hold the said John and Mary, their heirs and assigns forever by equal moieties as tenants in common and not as joint tenants. I do give and devised unto my two sons Samuel Thompson and Joseph Thompson all that my lot of ground commonly called the orchard lot and all that house & lot of ground adjoining the said orchard lot on the southwest and now occupied by William Patton both of which said lots are situate in the town of Newcastle afsd. (and were late property of my brother John Silsbee deceased) being bounded on the northeast by a lot of ground belonging to the heirs of George Monroe the elder deceased and on the northwest by beaver Street on the southwest by Adam Boyds lot and on the southeast by another public street to have and to hold unto them the said Samuel and Joseph their heirs and assigns forever by equal moieties as tenants in common and not as joint tenants. Item I do direct that my said sons Joseph, Samuel and John be bound out apprentices by their guardian hereinafter named to such trades respectively as by their said guardian shall be thought most suitable for them as soon as they arrive to proper ages respectively for that purpose hereby requesting and directing the said guardian to give them as good an english education before they are bound out as their small portion will afford," etc. Joseph Tatlow appointed executor and guardian of Catharine, Samuel, Joseph, John, and Mary. Will dated January 20, 1795, witnessed by N. Vandyke and Henry Rowen, and registered February 21, 1795. NCCo Will record O-1, 50-52.

11A1) January 4, 1797. Adam and Mary Dyett, of New Castle County, to Archibald Alexander, of New Castle, DE.

L220 for Dyett's double lot, to SW of Dutch house lot: see plan. Deed recounts conveyance of both to John Finney severally, then together to Dyett, then to Alexander for L 220. Notes John Silsbee, deceased, as former owner of Dutch House lot, to NE.

"Whereas a certain Martin Martinson late of the Town and County of New Castle aforesaid, deceased, was in his lifetime seized in his demesne as of fee, of and in a certain brick Tenement and lot of Ground situate in the Town and County aforesaid [and] by his Deed Poll bearing date the twenty third day of March in the Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and ninety three conveyed the same to a certain John Calvert, in fee, who died intestate leaving Issue one Daughter named Elizabeth who afterwards intermarried with a certain Francis Janvier of the Town and County aforesaid, Cordwainer, also deceased, leaving issue one son named Thomas who died seized of the said Tenement and lot of Ground with the appurtenances, intestate, after whose death administration of all and singular * * of the said Thomas, were granted to a certain Joseph Janvier. And whereas the said Joseph Janvier * * at an Orphans Court held for the County of New Castle the twentieth day of April * * one thousand seven hundred and sixty two, at New Castle aforesaid, obtained an order for the sale of the Real Estate of the said Thomas Janvier, deceased, in the town of New Castle, aforesaid, for the payment of a balance then due to the said administrator, according to the directions of an Act of Assembly in such cases made and provided. And whereas the said Joseph Janvier afterwards, to wit, the first day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty-two aforesaid, at a public auction after due notice thereof, sold and conveyed the same Premises unto a certain John Finney, Practitioner of Physic, in fee.³ And whereas also, there is a certain other lot of land adjoining the aforesaid Tenement and Lot of ground situate aforesaid, which said Lot formerly belonged to a certain Reynier Vanderculine and was after in possession of a certain Doctor Patrick Reily, after whose death it came to the possession of a certain Gideon Griffith, deceased, who intermarried with the widow and Relict of the said Patrick Reily after whose death a certain Caleb Pusey became seized thereof, and died leaving Thomas Pusey his son and Heir at Law, who conveyed the same to the aforesaid John Finney in fee. And whereas the said John Finney by his last Will and Testament in writing, among other things devised the same Premises unto his son David Finney to him his heirs and assigns Forever. And whereas the said David Finney and Ann his wife, by their Indenture of bargain and sale duly executed under their hands and seals, bearing date the tenth day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine, recorded in the Rolls Office of the County of New Castle, at New Castle, in Book D, Vol 2d., fol. 187, did grant and convey the said Tenement and two Lots of Ground unto Adam Dyett, party hereto, in fee. Now This Indenture Witnesseth, that the said Adam Dyett and Mary his wife, for, and in consideration of the sum of Two hundred and twenty Pounds of Gold and Silver coin * * Have granted, bargained, Sold * * unto the said Archibald Alexander his Heirs and assigns All that Brick Tenement and Two lots of Ground situate and being in the Town of New Castle aforesaid, and bounded as follows, to wit, to the North West with Beaver Street [later Vine, now 4th], to the North East with a lot formerly

³ J. S. note: "The deed of this sale is dated August 9, 1762 (see later)."

of John Silsbee, deceased, to the South East with the Green or market square, and to the South West with a Frame Tenement and lot of Ground late of Robert Wiley, deceased, by him in his lifetime purchased of Doctor Nathaniel Silsbee,⁴ in breadth ninety feet, and in length one hundred and sixty nine feet. Together with and singular...

11A2) August 10, 1779. David and Ann Finney, White Clay Creek Hundred, to Adam Dayett or Dyett⁵, of the Town of New Castle.

Finneys convey the double lot SW of Dutch House to Dyetts for L 200, including a brick house. Notes boundary to the northeast by a Lot in possession of the Heirs of Samuel Silsbee, deceased.⁶ Lot described as 11A1, above.⁷

11A3) August 9, 1762. Joseph Janvier of PHL, shipwright (as administrator of estate of Thomas Janvier, late of PHL), to Doctor John Finney, of New Castle.

L 53.10 at auction from Finney to Janvier, for lot SW of Dutch House. Seems half the double lot.

"Whereas a Certain John Calvert late of the Town of Newcastle in the Country of Newcastle on Delaware, wheelwright, deceased, in his life time became Seized in his Demesne as of Fee and at the time of his Death died so Seized of and in a Certain Lott of Land in the Town of Newcastle aforesaid with a Brick Messuage or Tenement thereon erected Situate about the middle of the said Town having on the South side the plain or market place and on the North East side the House & Lott formerly of Reinier Vanderculine and on the South West side the Land formerly of Martin Martinson to the said John Calvert dated the Twenty third day of March 1693⁸ and acknowledged in open Court of Common pleas⁹ at Newcastle the same Day and Year[--] relation thereto had more fully doth appear [--] and being so Seized he the said John Calvert Died Intestate leaving Issue one only Child named Elizabeth who Intermarried with a Certain Francis Janvier of the Town of Newcastle afsd., Cordwainer, deceased, & died leaving issue one only Child the above named Thomas Janvier who died Seized of the before recited Lott with the appurtenances Intestate, after whose Death administration of all and Singular the Goods & Chattels, rights & Credits which were of the said Thomas Janvier at the time of

⁴ J. S. note: "The probate will of Doctor 'Nathaniel Silsbee of the Hundred of Red Lyon' in New Castle County is dated January 19, 1789. New Castle County 'Will Record' N-1, 51. It seems that his residence at the time of his death was in or near the village of St. Georges."

⁵ J. S. note: "The form 'Adam ~~Dyett~~ Dayett appears in this deed, Dyett being crossed out with a pen."

⁶ J. S. note: "Thus, the Old Dutch House lot was in possession of the 'Heirs of Samuel Silsbee' or Silsbie in 1779, 16 years before Mary Thompson, the only daughter of Samuel Silsbee, or Silsbie, or Silsby, bequeathed it to her son John and daughter Mary (1795), and 28 years after Samuel Silsbee, or Silsbie, or Silsby, made his 'last Will & Testament' (1751). John Silsbee was one of the heirs of Samuel, hence, as he resided in the Old Dutch House in or before 1791, there is strong reason to suppose that he also resided in the Old Dutch House in 1779, when this deed was executed."

⁷ J. S. note: "GENERAL NOTE: It is difficult to trace the ownership of the Old Dutch House lot back farther than 1779 through work on this (southwest) side of the its fence."

⁸ J. S. note: "A copy of this Martinson-to-Calvert deed of 1693 is recorded next preceding this Janvier-to-Finney deed of 1762 and it contains no reference to a house of any kind."

⁹ J. S. note: "This deed was acknowledged 'in open Court held at Newcastle—that is to say, in the town or municipal Court of New Castle—on March 23, 1693 (old style calendar). There seems to be no record of the holding of a Court of Common Pleas in or at New Castle until after the year 1700."

his Death was granted to the sd Joseph Janvier by William Till Esquire Register for the probate of Wills & Granting Letters for Administration in and for the said County of Newcastle as by the same Letters Dated the Eight Day of March in the year of our Lord one Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty...and whereas the said Joseph Janvier afterwards to wit the First day of June in the year of our Lord one Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty two at public auction ...Sold the Right Title and Interest which was of the said Thomas Janvier deceased of and in the aforesaid Messuage or Tenement and Lott hereinbefore recited and described with the appurtenances unto John Finney of the Town and County of Newcastle aforesaid, Doctor of physic, being the Highest Bidder, for the sum of Fifty three pounds ten Shillings lawful money..." NCCo Deed book U-1, 176-178.

11A4) March 23, 1693. Martin Martinson of New Castle County to John Calvert, wheelwright of New Castle, "for a valuable consideration." NCCo deeds U-1, 176.

Part of later Dyett's lot? To SW of the Vanderculine lot, below at 11B.

"a Certain Lott of Land in the Town of Newcastle aforesd. Lying and being Scituate about the middle thereof, Having on the south Side the plain or market place and on the North East side the House and Lott of Rineir Vanderculine¹⁰ and on the South West side the Land of the said Martin Martinson and on the North West with Brewer Street¹¹ the which said Lott of Land with every part and parcel thereof beign in length one Hundred Sixty nine feet and in Breadth Sixty feet..."¹²

"Acknowledged in open Court held at Newcastle," March 23, 1693.¹³ Recorded October 11, 1762 (one day before date of another deed of transfer of the same lot, see above.-JS).

11A5) March 8, 1693. Ambrose Baker of New Castle to Martin Martinson of New Castle, "for a consideration," the lot to southwest of Derrickson/Vanderculine, part of Dyetts double lot. NCCo deeds B-1, 464.

"a Certain Lott or peece of Ground lying and being Scituate in the Towne of New Castle, having on the South side the plaine or Market Place, to the West side the Land of the said Ambrose Baker, to the North side the Brewer Street¹⁴, to the East the house and Lott of Cornelius Derrickson, Containing in Breadth one hundred and twenty ffeet and in Length one hundred Sixty and Nine feet," &c."

¹⁰ J. S. note: "Reynier Vandercoolen owned several lots in New Castle during the 1690's, 1680's, and seemingly earlier, but at the time of execution of this Martinson-to-Calvert deed it appears he owned no other lot between the Green or Market Square and Beaver Street (now 4th St.) than this abovementioned lot, which adjoined the Old Dutch House on the southwest [JK: and is described more fully in 11B, the 1696 deed]."

¹¹ J. S. note: "Later Vine Street, now (1930's) Fourth Street..."

¹² J. S. note: "It is clearly evident that this deed was for a lot without a house, notwithstanding that subsequent deeds of the same lot say that a brick house was standing thereon when Martinson conveyed it to Calvert. Perhaps John Calvert built the brick house."

¹³ J. S. note: "NO record of this acknowledgement is contained in the published Records of the Court of New Castle, 1681-1699."

¹⁴ J. S. note: "Brewer Street or Brewers Streets is now (1930's) Fourth Street. See footnote on page 36."

“Acknowledged in the Court of New Castle, March 23, 1693 (O.S.)” J.S. notes no record of this in published Records of the Court of New Castle, 1681-1699.

11B1) June 16, 1696, Reynier and Margaret Vandercoolen (“Reinier Vanderculine” in this indenture) of New Castle, sell to John Thompson, of MD, for L 84, lot adjoining Dutch House to SW, part of Adam Dyett’s double lot. NCCo deeds B-1, 183-184. See also Records of the Court of New Castle, 1681-1699, p. 219.

“a certain house and Lott in the Town of New Castle having on the South side the plain or market place and on the Northeast side the house and lott of John Walker¹⁵ and on the Southwest side the land of Ambrose Baker and on the Northwest side the land with the Brewer Street”; being in breadth 30 feet and in length the same as adjoining lots, and being the same house and lot which Cornelis Derrickson, of the town of New Castle, cooper, “conveyed and acknowledged” in the Court of New Castle to said Reynier Vandercoolen on March 23, 1693 (old style calendar. – JS).

11B2) March 23, 1693 (old style). Cornelis Derrickson, of New Castle, to Reynier Vandercoolen, of New Castle, the lot adjoining the southwest side of Dutch House Lot.

JS notes no reference of this conveyance in Records of the Court of NC, and no deed book ref.

11C) May 12, 1708. John Garretson of Christeene, yeoman, to Samuella Silsby, Blacksmith of New Castle, the [a] lot on Beaver Street, for L 12. NCCo deeds C-1, 46-49. (This appears to be the “Orchard Lot” in Mary’s will?)

“all that Lott or parcell of Land Scituate lying and being in the Towne of New Castle beginning at a Stake Standing by Richard Reynolds Garden ffoure and Runing North Thirty six degrees West one hundred and seventy ffoot to another Stake Standing a little before the said Reynolds ffoure and from thence North ffifty ffour degrees East one hundred and Twney ffoot to another Stake within the Lotts being a Corner stake belonging to the said John Garretsons other Lotts and from thence by a line Drawne South Thirty six degrees East One hundred and seventy ffoot to a Stake Standing by Beaver Street, thence along Beaver Street South ffifty ffour degrees West one hundred and Twenty ffoot to the first mentioned Stake and place of beginning Surveyed and laid out by George Dakeyne Surveyor of the said County of New Castle the Twentieth day of July in the yeare of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and one unto the said John Garretson’ ... Together with all houses Outhouses Edifices [etc.]... To have and to hold’ (this vacant lot – JS).”¹⁶

¹⁵ J. S. note: “This Vandercoolen-to-Thompson deed of 1696, coupled with other deeds forming part of these Annals of the Old Dutch House, shows that THE OLD DUTCH HOUSE LOT WAS OWNED BY A JOHN WALKER IN 1696 AND A HOUSE WAS STANDING ON THE OLD DUTCH HOUSE LOT IN 1696.”

¹⁶ J. S. note: “Note: The description in the foregoing deed shows that the lot which John Garretson sold to Samuel Silsby in 1708 was on the northwest side of Beaver Street, now (1930’s 4th Street, New Castle). The Old Dutch House lot, of course, is on the southeast side of the same street.

“Note continued: The (vacant) lot which John Garretson sold to Samuel Silsbee in 1708 was surveyed and laid out for John Garretson in July 1701, according to the recidtaion in the deed of sale in 1708, and,

12) No deed given for John Silsbee's acquisition. But, John Silsbee dies intestate, c. 1791. See probate record in NCCo wills N-1, 233? See below for Samuel Silsbee's willing property to his sons, Joseph and John.

"Memo: That letters of Administration on the Estate of John Silsbee of New Castle Hundred deceased were granted unto Mary Thompson sister and proper Administrator. An Inventory to be Exhibited at or before the Fourth day of July next, and render an Account at or before the fourth day of January A. D. 1792." NCCo Will record N-1, 233.

12A) April 28, 1768. Robert and Eleanor Furness, of New Castle, mortgage to John Silsbee, of New Castle, a 28-acre tract. NCCo deeds Y-1, 549-550.

L 60 mortgage for 28-acre tract of land "by the Old King's Road leading from the Town of New Castle to Christiana Ferry," repaid by April 6, 1772. This tract is not related to Dutch House except that it may be one of the three properties noted in the Orphan's Court records for Mary Thompson in 1795. Also, it shows that John Silsbee has reached his majority by 1768.

13) Joseph Silsbee dies intestate, c. 1790. (see above for notes)

"Memo: That letters of Administration on the Estate of Joseph Silsbee late of the Town of New Castle, Carpenter, deceased, were granted unto John Silsbee, next of kin and proper Administrator, an Inventory to be Exhibited at or before the Seventeenth day of June next, and render an Account at or before the Seventeenth day of December, A. D. 1791." NCCo will record N-1, 51.

13A) March 19, 1734. James Merrewether, currier of New Castle, sells to Nathaniel Silsbee, Bricklayer of New Castle, a tract of marsh in New Castle, for L70. NCCo deeds K-1, 290-291.

Tract was acquired from John van Gezell, of New Castle, saddler, on August 8, 1726.¹⁷ Tract described as follows:

"a Certain Piece or Parcel of Marsh Scituate lying & being in the Town of New Castle afd. Beginning at a Post in the Fence that leass to the free Wharf at the head of a small Cut or Ditch which parts this from (formerly, William Battell's) now John Potts deead &c. Marsh & runs thence South forty five Degrees East Ten Perches & four foot to the Corner of the Fence & Street that goes towards the Broad Dyke, thence North Forty Eight Degrees & a half East Twenty Perches to another Corner of the said fence thence five Degrees East Twenty Perches to (formerly) Daniel Merciers Gate (now Doctor John Finneys &c) thence North Thirty Eight Degrees west Eleven Perches a little past the sd.

although there does not appear to be an extant copy of this survey, it may be inferred from the deed and from copies of other surveys in the same period that John Garretson did not possess the lot before it was surveyed and laid out for him. The survey of 1701 probably included 'John Garretsons other lotts' mentioned in the deed of 1708. These questions, however, are of little or no importance insofar as the history of the Old Dutch House is concerned."

¹⁷ J. S. note: "Recorded in New Castle County 'Deed Vol.' H-1, 48-49."

John Van Gezell's Gate (as it was formerly but now Doctor John Finney's &c) to the Mouth of the first Mentioned Gut or Ditch that parts this from the above mentioned Marsh thence South Twenty six Degrees West Thirty Nine Perches to the Place of beginning, containing Three Acres & Twenty Three Perches together with the Appurts."

13B) January 29, 1734. James and Rebecca Moore of MD sell lot on Beaver Street for L9 to Nathaniel Silsbee, Bricklayer of New Castle. NCCo deeds K-1, 289-90.

"all that Lott of Ground Situate lying & being in the Town of New Castle afd. Joining to the Lott that was formerly Samuel Silsbee's deced¹⁸ on the North Side & to the Lott that was formerly Peter Johnston's deced on the South Side, it being Sixty Seven foot fronting Beaver's Street & running back one Hundred & Seventy six foot joining East to the Lotts formerly belonging to John Garretson Senr. Together with all & Singular..."

¹⁸ J. S. notes: "Note: This Samuel Silsbee who died in or probably before 1734 is the Samuel Silsby, of the town of New Castle, blacksmith, who purchased the lot (referred to in this indenture of 1734) on the northwest side of Beaver Street (later Vine Street, now Fourth Street) from John Garretson in 1708.

"Note continued: Samuel Silsby or Silsbee, the blacksmith, probably was a or the brother of Nathaniel Silsbee, the bricklayer, and probably was the father of Samuel Silsbie or Silsbee whose probate will is dated in 1751.

"Note continued: Nathaniel Silsbee, the bricklayer, probably was the father of Nathaniel Silsbee, the physician, whose probate testament is dated in 1789; because, if he happened to be a son of Sameul Silsbie or Silsbee who made the will in 1751, Doctor Nathaniel Silsbee would be named in the will of 1751 and be bequeathed therein at least an item to prevent his making future claim to the estate disposed of thereby."

Additional early documents of consequence, not listed in Sweeney's "Annals":

14) October 17th, 1695, NCC deeds B-1, p. 172-3. Wibrough Walker, as Administrator of estate of John Walker, her husband, to John Willson, a 110-acre tract on Drawyer's Creek.

John Walker seems to have died recently:

"To all to whom these presents shall come, Wybrough Walker, Admx of John Walker, late of the Town of New Castle, sendeth Greeting. Whereas the said Wybrough Walker, for a valuable consideration to her late husbnd, John Walker, in hand paid by John Willson of Apoquinamink Creek in the County of New Castle, the receipt whereof shee doth hereby acknowledge, hath given, granted, bargained, alienated, Entoffed and by these presents confirmed unto him the said John Willson, his heires & as a certain tract of Land in the County of New Castle aforesaid called Will [Qwill?] fforke, situate lying and being on the North side of Drawyers Creek...containing, with a small part of the marsh, one hundred Eleven acres..."

15) August 20, 1700, NCCo Deeds B-1, p. 351. John Richardson to Powell Barnes, a lot northeast of Dutch House. This lot was conveyed in 1701

Know all men that John Richardson of the County of New Castle, Yeoman, for and in Consideration of a Competent Valuable Sum of money to him in hand paid by Powell Barns of New Castle, Turner, the receipt whereof he doth hereby acknowledge, Hath Given, Granted, Bargained, Sold, Alienated, Entoffed, and by these presents Confirmed unto him the said Powell Barns a piece of Ground in the Towne of New Castle, bounded to the North East with the Ground of Cornelius Kettle, to South West with the house and Lott of John Walker, Deceased, now in the Tenure of the said Powell Barnes, To the South East with the Green or markt place, and to the North West with Beaver Street, Containing in breadth ffifty foot at least and in length accordng to the other Lotts. To have and to hold the said piece of Ground with the premises and Appurtenances to the use of the said Powell Barns To the only Use and behoofe of him, the said Powell Barns, his heires and Assignes for ever. And the said John Richardson and his heires, the premises and every part thereof to the said John Richardson, his heires and all persons whatsoever shall and will Warrant and for ever Defend by these presents. In Wittness whereof the said John Richardson hath hereunto Sett his hand and Seale this Twentieth day of August, 1700. John Richardson. Sealed and Delivered in the presence of Hipo Lefever, John Smith.

APPENDIX C:

Early Will, Probate and Orphan's Court records for the Dutch House

- 1) Wybrough Walker Will, 1697
- 2) Powell (Paul) Barnes letter of administration for John Walker (Jr.)
- 3) Samuel Silsbee Will, 1751
- 4) Samuel Silsbee Probate inventory, 1751
- 5) Mary Thompson Will, 1795
- 6) Mary Thompson Probate Inventory, 1795
- 7) Mary Thompson Orphan's Court Record, 1795

1) Wybrough Walker's Will, 1697. NCCo Wills, B-1, 68.

By the tenor of these presents we John Donaldson and James Claypoole by virtue of a Commission from the Honble William Markham Esqr governor of the Province of Pensilvania and Countyes annexed doe make known unto all people that on the nineteenth of November in the ninth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King William over England Annoq B 1697

Before us at New Castle was proved approved allowed and registered the Testament of Wibrough Walker late of the town of New Castle deceased to these presents annexed and the administration of all the goods rights and Creditts of what sort soever concerning the sd deceased and his said Testament was committed to John Walker or her son in the said Testament named Executrix well and faithfully to administer the same and to make a perfect and Just inventory of all and singular the goods right and creditts of the Sd deceased and the same to exhibit and a plain and true Calculated account thereof to render when he is thereunto required dated at New Castle the day and year aforesaid under our hands and seall of the County

Jon: Donaldson

Ja: Claypoole

In the name of God Amen this sixth Day of May An Don 1697 I Wibrough Walker Executrix of John Walker late of the Town of New Castle deceased being sick and weak in body but of perfect mind and memory thanks be to God therefore calling unto mind the mortality of my body and knowing it is appointed for all once to dye I do make and ordain this my last will and Testament in manner and form following.

First and principally I give my soull to God who gave it to me and my Body I commend to the Earth to be buried when it shall please God to call me out of this transitory world. And for what worldly Estate it hath pleased God me withall in this life I give and bequeath devise and dispose of the same in manner following. Imp: I give and bequeath unto my son John Walker my house and grounds thereto belonging in the Town of New Castle. I give unto my Grandson Andrew Hudde three pewter dishes three pewter plates one pewter Bason one bed bolster and blankett and the remainder of my Estate both reall and personall after my Just debts are paid I give and bequeath unto my son Powell Barnes and to my Daughter Christian Colvert to each of them one bed one bolster and one blankett and I give to my daughter Christian Colvert one warming pann and the remainder of my whole Estate I give and bequeath to my son John Walker. And of this my last will and Testament I make and ordain my son John Walker my sole Executor hereby utterly revoking and making void all other wills Testaments Bequests or Legacies by me before this time named willed or bequeathed Ratifying & Confirming this and no other to be my last will and Testament. In wittness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seall the day and year first above written.

Signed Sealed and delivered by
The said Wibrough Walker as her
last will and Testament in the
presence of us
Ja: Read
Sylvester Garland
John Smith

Wibrough Walker

2) Barnes, Powell, letter of administration for John Walker, 1699. NCCo Wills B-1, 82.
No probate inventory recorded

John Donalson and James Claypoole by virtue of a Commission from the Honble William Markham Esqr governor of the province of Pensilvania and Countyes annexed. To Powell Barnes brother in Law to John Walker Greeting- Reposing trust and Confidence in your fidelity we doe committ administration of all the goods rights and Creditts which were John Walkers in his life time and at the time of his decease within the County aforesaid and doe ordain and depute you the said Powell Barnes administrator of the same goods and other the premises by these presents charging you that a true and perfect Inventory of all the said goods you make and to the office exhibit all the debts owing by the said decedent at the time of his decease according to Law in that behalf you well and truly pay and that a plain and true account of your administration aforesaid into the said office at New Castle you render when thereunto required. Given at New Castle the first day of December 1699.

3) Silsbee, Samuel Will, 1751. New Castle County Will Book G-1, p. 485 ff.

I, Samuel Silsbee, of the Town of New Castle on Delaware in the County of New Castle, being sick and weak of Body but of sound & perfect mind & memory, Blessed be God for it, & calling to mind the mortality of my Body, Do make, Ordain, Constitute & appoint this to be my last Will & Testament in manner & form following, Vizt.

First, I commend my Soul into the hands of Almighty God who gave it and my Body to be decently buried in the Earth at the discretion of my Execut. hereinafter named.

2dly, It is my will that all my Just debts & funeral Charges be first paid and discharged out of my personal Estate.

3dly, After all my Just debts & funeral Charges are paid out of my personal Estate as aforesd., the residue of my sd. personal Estate I give and Bequeath unto my Beloved Wife Mary & her Assigns for ever and the one third part of my whole real Estate, to wit of my Mansion house & lott in the town of New Castle aforesd., and of my meadow scituate lying and being in ye great mash on the North side of the South of New Castle aforesd., I give & bequeath unto my sd. Wife Mary for and during her natural life, as her full right of Dower; and also the whole clear rent, fines & proffits of the remaining two thirds of my sd. real Estate untill my Sons John and Joseph arrive at the age of twenty one years for the Educating & maintaining them & my Daughter Mary untill they are fitt to be put out Apprentice to trades.

4thly, I give & Bequeath unto my Sons John & Joseph my sd. Mansion house and lott in the town of New Castle aforesd. & my meadow Scituate lying & being in the green marsh on the north side of ye town of New Castle aforesd., to be equally divided between them, their heirs & assigns for ever and in case either of my sd. Sons should die before he arrive at ye age of twenty one years, the part of him so dying shall fall And belong to his surviving Brother, his heirs and assigns.

Each to enjoy his part when he arrives at ye age of twenty one years any thing herein contain'd to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding. My wife Mary if she be then living only excepted.

It is my will that my sd. Son John shall well & truly pay or cause to be paid unto my Daughter Mary the sum of Ten pounds Curr. money when she arrives at ye age of Eighteen years and that my sd. son Joseph when he arrives at ye age of twenty one years shall then well & truly pay or cause to be paid unto my sd. Daughter Mary the sum of ten pounds Curr. Money and in case either of my sd. Sons should die before he arrives at the Age of twenty one years, the survivor shall pay unto my sd. Daughter Mary both ye sums abovementioned.

6thly, I Give and bequeath unto my Daughter Mary her heirs & Assigns ye sum of twenty Pounds Currt. money to be paid by her Brothers, my sd. Son John & Joseph at the times abovementioned.

7thly, It is my will that my sd. Sons John & Joseph, as soon as they arrive at a proper age, shall be put apprentice to some trade, and as to my Daughter Mary, I leave it intirely to the descretion of my sd. Wife Mary to put her out or not as she may think most to her Advantage. Lastly, I do hereby Nominate, Constitute & Appoint my sd. Wife Mary Executrix & her Brother Peter Jaquet Executor of this my last will & testament, hereby revoking, disanulling & making void all other & former Wills & testaments by me

heretofore made & declaring this only to be my last will & testament and desireing that it may be truly observed, kept & fulfilled according to the true intent & meaning thereof by my ds. Executs. In testimony whereof I have hereunto put my hand & Seal the Eighth day of July in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred & fifty one.
Samuel Silsbee

Sign'd Sealed published & declared
In presence of
Benja. Swett
Thomas Craghead
Joseph Jaquet

4) Samuel Silsbee probate inventory, 1751.

Inventory and Appraisment of the Goods Chattles and Effects wich [were] of Samuel Silsbee, late of the town and County of New Castle, decd., maid the 24th August, 1751, by Zacharias Kittle and Nathaniel Silsbee, they being duly qualified.

1 large bay mair bridle and saddle and one sack of Close	15.0.0
the other wearing apparil	3.0.0
1 small mair and bridle	3.0.0
1 Bedsted with Bed and Cloths with Curtins to itt	7.0.0
1 Bed with the short bedsted and Cloths	4.0.0.
2 old sheets 1 old table cloth 2 pillow cases	0.7.5
1 walnut desk	4.10.0
1 walnut table	1.10.0
1 small pine oval table and 1 pine squair Do.	0.7.0
6 new Chairs and four old ones	1.5.0
1 old chest one small case of draws and walnut stand	1.10.0
1 warming pan, 1 pair of andirons and one spaid	0.16.00
1 small looking glass, 2 drinking glasses, 6 earthen plates, with some tee cups and sausers, tee pot and suger cup	1.5.0
1 tee kettle, one bello, fire shovel and tongs	0.15.0
1 gridle, 3 potts, 1 frying pan	1.5.0
2 pot racks, 1 gridiron and toaster	0.15.0
a parcel of tin and Earthen ware and some Glass bottles	0.10.0
2 tups [taps?], 2 pigins, one churn	0.8.0
2 large silver spoons and 3 small Do. And silver knee buckles	2.6.0
Carryed over	48.19.6
[begin page 2]	
2 Candle sticks, snuffers, Box iron and heaters	0.4.0
1 large Bible and one small do. and other books	1.0.0
a parcel of new paper Chails [?] and weights	0.8.0
3 pair Coffin handles	0.4.0
1 gun	1.0.0
1 small pestle and mortar	0.15.0
a cart a slay with the runers and a sled	3.15.0
a little square table and skillet	0.6.0
a dung fork, a pair of new hinges, a persel of old trumpery [?]	0.10.0
a persel of Carpenters tools	4.0.0
2 cows	5.0.0
1 colt	2.0.0
Boards, Walnut and pine	2.0.0
	21.2.0
Brought from the other side	48.19.6
Total	70.1.6

5) Mary Thompson Will, 1795. Recorded in Will Book O-1, p. 50.

In the Name of God Amen. I, Mary Thompson, of the Town and County of New Castle in the State of Delaware, Widow, begin sick and weak in Body but of sound and disposing mind, memory and Understanding, and calling to mind the uncertainty of Human life, do make this my Last Will and Testament in the manner and form following. To wit. Imprimis, I direct that all my just debt and funeral Expences be paid by my Executor hereinafter named, out of that part of my personal Estate which is hereafter charged with the payment thereof, as soon after my Decease as conveniently may be done. Item I do give and bequeath unto my eldest Daughter, Catherine Thompson, my Walnut Bureau, and Walnut Breakfast Table, my Silver Cream Pot and Silver Tea Tongs, my Best Bed, Bedsted, Bolster and Two Pillows, two pair of Sheets, one pair of Blankets, one blue and white Rug, and the Sacken Bottom belonging to the Bedsted, and also one half of my wearing apparel, all which I do give to my said Daughter Catharine over and above what is hereafter given to her out of the neat amount of the Remainder of my personal Estate. Item, I do give and bequeath unto my youngest Daughter Mary Thompson my Silver Soup Spoon, my three Large silver Table Spoons, my six new and my four old Silver Tea Spoons and the other half of my Wearing Apparel, all which I do give to my said daughter Mary over and above what is hereafter given to her out of the Neat Amount of the Remainder of my personal Estate, as hereinafter mentioned. Item, I do direct that the Remainder of my personal property not herein before disposed of be sold by my Executor hereinafter named, and I do give and bequeath the Neat Amount of all my personal Estate (except the articles herein before disposed of) after deducting the amount of my Debts and funeral Expences, to and among my five Children in the manner and proportions following, to wit.

To my Daughter Catharine, the sum of Ten pounds, To my son John, the sum of Twenty pounds, To my Daughter mary, the sum of Thirty pounds, and to my sons Joseph and Samuel All the Residue of the said neat amount to be equally divided between them, the said Joseph and Samuel share and share alike. Item I do give and devise unto my said Daughter Catharine Thompson All that Messuage and lot of ground with the Improvements thereon (late of my deceased Brother John Silsbee) Situate in the Town of New Castle, now in the tenure of Henry Rowen, bounded on the Northwest by Beaver Street, on the North East by the Lot of ground belonging to Mrs. Wharton and Mrs. McWilliams, on the South East by another public Street, and on the South west by the Lot of ground and Brick Messuage wherein I now dwell, To have and to hold the said Catharine Thompson, her heirs and assigns forever. Item I do give and devise unto my Son John Thompson and my Daughter Mary Thompson the Brick Messuage wherein I now dwell and the Lot of ground thereto belonging with all the Improvements thereon (being late the Dwelling House of my deceased brother John Silsbee) Fronting on the public Green or Market Square on the South East, adjoining Adam Dyets Lot on the South west, bounded by Beaver Street on the North West, and by the Messuage & Lot of ground herein before devised to my Daughter Catharine on the North East. To have and to hold to the said John and Mary, their heirs and assigns forever, by equal moieties, as Tenants in Common and not as Joint tenants. Item I do give and devise unto my two sons Samuel Thompson and Joseph Thompson All that my Lot of ground, commonly called the Orchard Lot, and all that House & Lot of ground ~~thereunto~~ adjoining the said orchard

Lot on the South west & now occupied by William Patton, both of which said Lots are situate in the Town of New Castle afsd. (and were late the property of my Brother John Silsbee deceased) being bounded on the North East by a Lot of ground belonging to the Heirs of George Monro the elder, deceased, on the Northwest by Beaver Street, on the Southwest by Adam Boyd's Lot and on the South East by another public Street. To have and to hold unto them the said Samuel and Joseph, their heirs and assigns, forever by equal Moieties as Tenants in Common and not as Joint tenants. Item I do direct that my said sons Joseph, Samuel and John be bound out apprentices, by their Guardian hereinafter named, to such Trades respectively as by their said Guardian shall be thought most suitable for them—as soon as they arrive to proper ages, respectively, for that purpose hereby requesting and directing their said Guardian to give them as good an English Education before they are bound out—as their small portions will afford. And lastly, I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint my trusty and esteemed friend Joseph Tattow [Tatlow?], Esquire, Executor of this my Last Will and Testament, and also Guardian of my said Children Catharine, Samuel, Joseph, John and Mary in full confidence that he will discharge the Trust reposed in him to the best of his knowledge and Ability for the Benefit and advantage of my Children—hereby recommending them to his particular Care and friendship, and allowing him all necessary and reasonable expenses in the executing of his said Trust; And I do hereby revoke all other and former Will or wills by me heretofore at any time made. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, January the Twentieth A. D. 1795.

6) Mary Thompson's probate inventory, 1795.

An Inventory of the Goods and Chattles of Mary Thompson, decd., late of the Town of New Castle, which was appraised by us this twenty first day of February, Anno Domini 1795

→ Wearing apparel, eight dollars	8.0
Walnut Breakfast Table, four dollars	4.0
Mahogeney dining Table, four dollars	4.0
Breakfast Table, three dolls & fifty Cents	3.50
Old walnut desk, ten dolls	10.0
Looking Glass, five dolls	5.0
→ Four windsor Chairs in front Room	2.66
Old gun	3.50
A pair of andirons	2.0
Shovel and tongs	0.80
Two pot Racks	1.60
Three old flat Irons	0.75
A pair of Brass Candle Sticks	1.25
A pair of Iron ditto	0.25
Lanthorn	0.25
Hackel [?] fifty cents, warming pan one doll & twenty five Cents	1.75
→ Sundry Glass ware on old mantle piece	2.0
Sundrys in closet	2.0
Morter and pestel	1.25
Old Tea ware and Basket	0.75
Six windsor Chairs	3.0
Two waiters	0.75
Walnut Beaurou	8.0
Pine Cupboard	2.0
Small pine Table	0.50
Sundry dishes and Botles	0.66
Bedstead and Botem [?] willed to Keaty [Catherine? See will]	6.0
Feather Bed, Bolster, pillows, two Blankets, Rug, Bed quilt,	
One pair of Sheets and pair of Pillow Cases, willed to Keaty	20.0 ↗
→ Bedstead and Botem in front Room	4.0
Bed in ditto w/ 52 Ct. ... [?] 25 Cent P...	13.0
Bed Cloaths on ditto six dolls, small looking Glass, twenty five Cents	6.25
Sundry Articles in Cupboard, one doll, Tea Table, three dolls	4.0
Old pair of Andirons, twenty five Cents, small stand, twenty five cents	0.50
Beadstaed & Cord, one dollar, old Curtains, one dollar	2.0
Bead in Back Room w/ 48 Ct at 25 Cents P	12.0
Bed Cloaths on ditto	5.0
Bed on floor, Back Room, w/ 55 ft [Ct?] at 33 Cents P	18.15
	Dollrs 160.2

[page 2]

Brought over	160.2
3 Blankets, two dolls, Sheets and quilts, one dollar	3.0
Bread Basket and [?] Rictines	0.75
Large Iron pots and Hooks	3.25
One ditto with ditto	1.50
Two small pots	1.0
A Gridle one dollar	1.0

Bake oven and Skillet & frying pan	0.85
Two old Skillets, Tub, pail & Basket	3.50
Old Spaid and Table	0.25
Sundrys in [on?] Kitchen fire place	0.25
Gridiron, fifty Cents, four Pewter dishes and Bason, 4 dols	4.50
Sundry articles in Kitchen	0.66
Beef in pickle at 72 Ct w/ five Cents P	3.60
Porke in ditto at 48 Ct w/ five Cents P	2.40
Two meat Casks	0.75
Cow and Calf	20.0
Walnut case	0.75
Walnut Table	3.0
Three pine Tables	0.75
Andirons & Trunk [?]	2.0
Two Old Bedsteads, Botem and Cord	2.0
Cradle and pillow	1.50
Old Iron and Chest	1.25
Sundry Old Articles	1.0
Tennant saw and drawknife	0.50
Watring pot, Candle box and Sundrys	0.66
Two queans ware dishes	0.50
Old bag	0.12
Saw, [?] a pair of sheets [?] & five Table Cloths	8.16
8 Pewter plates	1.50
Shovel and tongs	0.80
Pitch forke	0.25
Sundrys in Cellar	0.25
Two old axes	0.50
Soup Spoon, 3 table Spoons & Nine Tea Spoons at 13 oza,	
7 grains of Silver	14.2
Silver Cream pot and tea tongs	6.40
Silver Snuff box, three Table Spoons & Stock [?] Buckle	6.42
Hay.	1.20
	Dolls. 251.75

John Crow }
Alexr. Duncan } appraisers

7) Mary Thompson Orphan's Court record, 1795

We the subscribers named in the annexed order do certify that in pursuance thereof we have met and viewed the premises late of Mary Thompson, deceased, and find one brick messuage and lot of ground wherein the decd. lived with a stable belonging thereto, which we value at sixty dollars pr year, also one other brick messuage and lot of ground with a blacksmiths shop, belonging to the same, now in the tenure of Henry Rowan, which we value at Sixteen pounds, also one other lot of ground with a messuage thereon and also an orchard, both in the tenure of William Salton which we value at seventeen pounds and do further certify that what repairs are necessary we think ought to be done at the discretion of the guardian.

Witness our hands, Jno. Stockton, Arch'd. Alexander, Jas. Riddle. March 4, 1795.
Newcastle county LS.

I do hereby certify, that John Stockton, Archibald Alexander, Esquires and James Riddle, gentlemen, subscribers to the within return were legally qualified according to law.
March 5, 1795 Before Joseph Tatlow

The above return is approved & confirmed by the court May 19, 1795.