212, 214 Delaware Street New Castle, Delaware



Booth House, Delaware Street, between Second and Third Streets, New Castle.

Eric J. Borden H200- History and Government of Delaware 19 May 1997 The Booth House, located on the south side of Delaware Street, opposite the Court House, is a significant property of historical and architectural importance in the State of Delaware. Situated at 212, 214 Delaware Street in New Castle, many prominent figures in Delaware and American history were born, resided, and/or owned the property. Named after Judge James Booth, Jr., one of New Castle's historical figures, the original part of the house was built around 1713-1719, thus making it one of the earlier houses to be built in the State.

I. Ownership of the Property^{1, 2}

The land which the original house now stands, together with that of the adjoining property to the west was part of the land that the brothers Mathias and A(E)melius deRingh had inherited from their father, Nicholas, whom obtained a patent from the Dutch deputy Alexander d'Hinojossa in 1659 for all of the land on the south side of Delaware Street between Second and Third Streets. According to Deed title Volume B, Book 1, Page 70 (hereafter all deeds cited as "volume"- "book"- "page," i.e., B-1-70), the deRinghs sold the property to Mr. Peter Alrichs in 1670. The property included all the ground along Delaware Street, between Third Street and Second Street extended. Alrichs then sold the property to Mr. Reyneir Vanderculen (deed: B-1-71) in 1683, and Vanderculen to Mr. Anthony Green, Sr. (deed: B-1-60) in 1688 for £120 in silver money. Green Sr. left the property to his son Mr. Anthony Green, Jr. A Map of New Castle Upon Delaware as William Penn Saw It is attached and clearly shows the property owned by Anthony Green, Sr. In addition, a sketch showing New Castle and the Booth House property as it appeared during the property transfer from Vanderculen to Green(e), Sr., is also attached.³

When Green, Jr. sold this double plot to Mr. Sylvester Garland, merchant and innkeeper, (deed: D-1-199) in 1713, there was a dwelling house on the Third Street side of the property. The deed reads "all lands, houses, buildings" etc. and "houses" is repeated in the final description. It is unclear whether "houses" refer to the original part of the present house or other another type of outbuilding(s). However, it is clear that the original part of the house was present in 1719 when the daughter of Sylvester Garland, Soetje, was living in it with her husband, Reverend James Anderson, the second minister of the Presbyterian Church of New Castle. In that year her father died and willed (will: C-1-230) her the whole of the two properties. Therefore, it is fair to say that the oldest part of the house was built before 1719 by Sylvester Garland for his daughter, Soetje.

Soon after her father's death in 1719, Soetje and her husband sold the separate property of the Booth

¹ Deed search, New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, Wilmington, Delaware.

² Eckman, Jeannette. "New Castle Restoration Typed Notes on Properties and City." unpublished manuscript, c. 1946, Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington.

³ Map is from Louise B. Heite, "New Castle Under the Duke of York: A Stable Community." M.A. Thesis, University of Delaware, 1978.

House to Mr. Nathaniel Caruthers (deed: F-1-179). In 1721, Caruthers and his wife sold to Mr. Joseph Richards (deed: G-1-195) the house and lot of ground, "84½ feet on Delaware Street and 448 feet deep."

During 1724, Richards sold the same property to Mr. Gawin Williamson, innkeeper (deed: G-1-135). Williamson died soon afterward still owing 40 pounds, 54 shillings, and 5 pence to Richards. On November 20, 1726, Richards recorded the debt in court against Margaret Williamson, executor for the will of Gawin Williamson. The high sheriff seized "a certain house and lot of ground" to be sold to the highest bidder (appraised value of £120).

Mr. Thomas Smith bought the property in 1726 (deed: H-1-211) for £120 via sheriff sale. Smith must have bought the property for Margaret Williamson, the widow, for he sold it to her in 1727. The deed describes the property boundaries as follows:

...house and lot adjoining the house of Col. John French, beginning at a corner of the lot late of John Earl, now in the tenure of Samuel Griffith by the Market Street running along the same northwest 84½ feet to the lot of Col. John French, then along the said lot southwest 438 feet to the marsh and along the marsh 90 feet to Griffith's lot and along it 384 feet to point of beginnings.

Prior to 1749, the deeds are confusing, but it appears that the original property was subdivided as Margaret Williamson sold parts of the land at various times for payment of her debt.

In 1749, for debt against Margaret Williamson, the house and lot were sold by the sheriff to Mr. Samuel Land, bricklayer (deed: P-1-230). In the same year, Samuel Land, bricklayer, sold the property to Mr. Samuel Land, yeoman (deed: Q-1-291). The property included all previous land owned by Margaret Williamson with the exception of that land left by Margaret Williamson to Thomas Smith in 1730 and described as follows: "for that part of his brick house extending into the property and eavesdrops, thereof, and that part left to Mr. Alexander Davis."

Some years later, the property was sold by sheriff sale to Mr. Robert McLoner (correct spelling?) to pay for the debt of Samuel Land, yeoman (deed: S-1-911). Another sheriff sale followed in 1785 to pay for McLoner's debt and was bought by Mr. James Booth, Sr. and his wife, Anne (deed: F-1-107). The property they controlled was outlined in the deed granted to Samuel Land, yeomen and is described as follows:

Beginning at a corner lot late of Thomas Thompson, now of John McGhee, by the Market street and running along said Street 84½ feet west to a lot late of Samuel French, now of William Allen, along the aforesaid lot southwest 438 feet to the marsh, then along the marsh southeast 90 feet to John McGhee's, then northeast 384 feet to place of beginning_with the exception of that land left by Margaret Williamson to Thomas Smith (by deed J-369, dated 29 October 1730) for that part of his brick house extending into the property and eavesdrops thereof, and that part

left to Alexander Davis (by deed H-146, dated 24 February 1726).

Booth, Sr. sold the property to Mr. John Bird in 1794 (deed: O-2-95) for £450 in gold and silver coins. Booth, Sr. moved into the corner house next door which he had purchased the same year. In 1809, Bird conveyed the property to Mr. John Warner of Philadelphia as security for his debt of \$21,000 to Warner (deed: J-3-396) which includes "a certain two-story brick *messuage* and lot of ground thereto belonging on Delaware Street bounded by lands of James Booth, Esq., by lands of the heirs of James Caldwell deceased, and by lands of Robert Barr . . . provided that if John Bird or his heirs pay to John Warner \$10,561, they get the property back." The real debt due on the mortgage at this time is \$3,500.

In 1810, Bird made the property over to the President Directors and Company of the Farmers Bank of Delaware (deed: H-3-513) as security of payment for loans of \$2,000 and additional loans of \$1,000 and \$250. Suffering from severe financial reverses ending in bankruptcy, Mr. John Bird died suddenly on April 12, 1810 of an acute heart ailment following the failure of his company Riddle and Bird, government navy agents.

On December 24, 1810, the house was sold by United States marshal to Mr. Nicholas Van Dyke (deed: K-3-265). Van Dyke took the young Robert M. Bird, his nephew and son of John Bird, into his own home (Senator Van Dyke House). From 1811 to 1825, the house was tenanted by Hon. James Rogers, Attorney-General of Delaware, and his wife, who was the daughter of James Booth, Sr. During the occupancy of Mr. James Rogers, Joseph H. Rogers was born in the house during May 1817 and James Booth, Jr. was married in the house in 1819. On June 15, 1825, Van Dyke sold the house and property to Hon. James Rogers, who on the following day sold it to James Booth, Jr., soon to be Chief Justice of Delaware.

Booth, Jr., resided in the house for the next thirty years until his death in 1855. Upon his death, the house and property were left (will: W-1-177) to his wife Hannah W., the sister of Hon. James Rogers, and after her death to their sons James R. and Thomas R. Booth.

On June 30, 1870, by indenture (deed: L-9-260), James R. Booth and his wife, Mary E., sold the property to his brother, Thomas R. Booth and his wife, Margaret J., for \$4,500. The property boundaries were the same as before except for the "front or breadth on said Delaware Street" is now 56 feet and "extending of that width in length or depth southwestwardly between parallel lines 190 feet."

After remaining in the Booth family for 93 consecutive years (including Mrs. James Rogers), Thomas R. Booth and his wife sold the property to Mr. George Peirce and his wife, Lucy S., for \$4,000 (deed: L-19-533) on June 1, 1903. The attached Map of New Castle taken from Beer's Atlas, published in 1868, shows the property belonging to T.R. Booth. Perhaps T.R. Booth and his wife had lived in the house for a few years, before buying the house from his brother in 1870.

On October 1921, Mr. George Peirce and his wife sold the property to Mrs. Margaret D. Buck, wife

of Mr. Francis N. Buck for \$8,000 (deed: U-30-96). The property contained the same boundaries as described in deed L-19-533 except for the easement set forth in the indenture (deed: C-27-532, dated November 8, 1917) between the Peirce's and the New Castle Trust Company. In 1926, Margaret D. Buck dies and leaves the Booth House (and Buena Vista) to her son Clayton Douglas Buck (will: A-5-454, dated November 7, 1924).

On May 24, 1939, Clayton Douglas Buck and his wife, Alice DuPont Buck, include the property in a trust for Mr. Francis D. Buck, brother of Margaret D. Buck (deed: K-41-308). On September 30, 1940, Equitable Trust Company, the trustee for Francis D. Buck, sold the property to Dr. Henry T. McGuire and his wife, Louise H., for \$12,500 (deed: B-42-412).

The McGuire's sold the property to Mr. Donald G.B. Gamble and his wife, Dorcas H.B., for \$155,000 on July 23, 1982 (deed: C-119-19). The current owners, Mr. Robert D. Fleck and his wife, Mildred W., bought the property from Mr. and Mrs. Gamble on August 26, 1985 for \$200,000 (deed: 273-187). The current property boundaries were surveyed in 1985 and are shown on the attached plot plan.

II. Historical Figures Associated with the Property

i. James Booth, Sr.

James Booth, Sr. and Anne, his wife, bought the property in 1785 via a sheriff sale - for debt of Mr. Robert McLoner, the previous property owner. Mr. and Mrs. James Booth, Sr. lived at the property for approximately nine years, during which time their son James Booth, Jr. was born.

James Booth, Sr., was born at New Castle, February 6, 1753 and died at New Castle, February 3, 1828. He was a life long resident of New Castle. Mostly remembered as the successor of Richard Bassett as Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, he had filled numerous respected positions of trust and responsibility in both his private and public affairs. At the age of 22, he was an officer of the Umited States Navy, and the following year (1778) a United States Marshall. He was Secretary of State of Delaware from 1778 to 1797 (one of the longest terms ever served by a secretary of state) under Governors Caesar Rodney, John Dickinson, Joshua Clayton and Gunning Bedford.⁴

Mr. Booth, Sr. also held the honorable position of clerk of the Delaware constitutional convention of 1776 and 1792 and had a very active part in the actual writing of the documents. As a member of the constitutional convention during 1792, which included among its members John Dickinson, Richard Bassett, Nicholas Ridgely, and Kensey Johns, Mr. Booth, Sr. was instrumental in calling for the establishment of free public schools by legislative act.⁵

⁴ Henry C. Conrad, *History of the State of Delaware*, 3 vols (Wilmington, 1908), 947.

⁵ Henry G. Alsberg, ed., Delaware, A Guide to the First State (New York, 1955), 50.

In 1797, he was appointed to a five-man commission that included George Read, Jr., Nicholas Van Dyke, Archibald Alexander, and John Crow, to establish boundaries of the town of New Castle. The commission was appointed to "make an accurate survey of the town, fix the boundaries and limits, lay out the streets and alleys by setting stones or posts at the center of the streets intersections, lay pavements and gutters for carrying off the surface water, regulate the building lines and fences on the streets and alleys and the walls and fences erected within the town." The members of the commission were responsible for changing the names of the town streets, to their present day names, and signing the town plan of surveyor Daniel Blaney. Although the town was later planned according to the survey conducted in 1804 by Benjamin Henry Latrobe, the Blaney 1797 survey plan did help establish the boundaries of the town and the street layouts. James Booth, Sr., was replaced on the five-man commission town governing body by John Bird on May 1, 1798.

On April 22, 1799, Mr. Booth, Sr. was chosen as a trustee along with Kensey Johns, George Read, Archibald Alexander, James Caldwell and John Crow, to the new college in the town appropriately named New Castle Academy. On January 30, 1801, the New Castle Academy was incorporated by Act of General Assembly with nine trustees, including Mr. Booth, Sr.⁷

On January 28, 1799, James Booth, Sr. was appointed Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas for New Castle County. He was the successor of Kensey Johns who was transferred as Chief Justice of the Supreme court to succeed the deceased George Read.⁸ For the next thirty years no trained lawyer sat in the Court of Common Pleas.

Mr. Booth, Sr. was not educated in law and was the only layman ever appointed as Chief Justice of either of the Courts. Despite the fact that he had no formal legal training or experience, he was highly respected and "discharged the duties of judge in so acceptable a manner to both the bar and the people that he remained on the bench for the long period of thirty years." His spotless integrity, diligent study, good judgement, and great aptitude for the science were demonstrated every day in his long and useful experiences in court and public life until his death at New Castle, February 3, 1828. On February 8, 1828, Thomas Clayton of Kent County, a man of legal education, was appointed to succeed James Booth, Sr. as Chief Justice.¹⁰

⁶ Lucille P. Toro, "The Latrobe Survey of New Castle 1804-1805." M.A. Thesis, University of Delaware (1971), 16.

⁷ George Gibson, ed., *The Collected Essays of Richard S. Rodney on Early Delaware* (Wilmington, 1975), 81.

⁸ Gibson, Collected Essays of Richard S. Rodney, 265.

⁹ Conrad, History of Delaware, 947.

¹⁰ Gibson, Collected Essays of Richard S. Rodney, 265-267.

ii. James Booth, Jr.

The Booth House is so called from the renown of Judge James Booth, Jr., one of New Castle's historic figures. James Booth, Jr. was born in the house on November 21, 1789 when his father had owned and resided there. During 1819, when Hon. James Rogers occupied the house, he married his wife Hannah in the house and together they purchased the property in 1825.

After graduating from Princeton College he studied law at Litchfield, Connecticut, and at the age of 22 was admitted to the Delaware bar in 1812. Upon the resignation of Richard H. Bayard on March 12, 1841, he was summoned to assume the responsibilities of Chief Justice, thus following in his father's footsteps.¹²

Living directly opposite the Court House, residing in the Booth House fitted in the "Judges's notion of judicial comfort and convenience." A man of exceptional ability and integrity, his highly original and independent behavior cannot be better displayed than in the following story.

When a jury had failed to make up its mind on a verdict and night came on, he would leave the perplexed jurors in the sheriff's care, as judges do, and go home across the street to bed; but instead of leaving the jurymen irrevocably locked up for the night, he gave standing directions to be carried out if the twelve should agree. As soon as a belated jury reached its verdict an attendant would run and ring the court house bell. After its peals had disturbed slumber sufficiently, the Judge would emerge from his door in hastily donned slippers and dressing gown. Hurrying across the street, he would mount the bench, hear the verdict, and if there were occasion, sentence the defendant. It was humane for the jurors and for innocent prisoners, profitable also, no doubt, for innkeepers nearby after jurors were released, and it tended to keep jurors thinking about the case instead of dozing the night out in their chairs.¹³

Judge James Booth, Jr. administered his functions to the satisfaction of the bar and the public, and unto his lasting honor, until he died on March 23, 1855. The Booth House and property remained in his family until his son Thomas R. Booth sold the property in 1903 to Mr. and Mrs. George Peirce.

¹¹ Anthony Higgins, ed., New Castle on the Delaware (New Castle Historical Society, 1973), 84.

¹² Conrad, History of Delaware, 948.

¹³ Higgins, New Castle on the Delaware, 84.

iii. Robert Montgomery Bird

Another famous personality, Robert Montgomery Bird was born on February 5, 1805 in the Booth House at the time his parents, John and Elizabeth Van Leuvenigh Bird, had owned the property. However, at the age of four, his father died, and young Robert Bird moved into the home of his uncle, Senator Nicholas Van Dyke (who purchased the Booth House during the same year, but never resided in it).

In his new surroundings at the Van Dyke House, young Bird was far from unfortunate, for the Van Dyke family was one of the oldest, ablest, and stateliest in Delaware. Nicholas Van Dyke, Sr. had been a member of the Council of Safety in 1776, had helped frame the Constitution of Delaware, and was President of the State from 1783 to 1786. His son, young Bird's uncle, with whom he now made his home was a similar man of note. He had served in the Delaware State legislature, and was successively a member of the House and Senate at Washington in 1809 and 1817. General Lafayette remarked that he was "one of the first statesmen in rank whom he knew in America." ¹⁴

Since his father John Bird had been a trustee of New Castle Academy, young Bird was sent there for his elementary schooling, an experience he never forgot. In later years he spoke frequently of the severity during his early educational period. He was later educated at Germantown and was a medical graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. After graduation, Dr. Bird set up as a practioner, opened an office in Philadelphia and practiced medicine for only one year. During 1825, he embraced his interests as a professional dramatist and set about it full time. ¹⁵ It is for his marked literary talent that Robert Bird is widely acclaimed and which afterward distinguished him.

His romances and dramas gained wide popularity. His most famous novel, *Nick of the Woods* (1837), a tale in the manner of James Fenimore Cooper won wide acclaim in America, while in Great Britain and Germany numerous editions were repeatedly reprinted to a meet a popular demand that lasted more than half a century.¹⁶

As a dramatist, he wrote plays for Edwin Forrest, who produced them with great success in America and overseas. These plays written by Dr. Bird, contributed much to the fame and profit of Forrest. Bird, although credited as the author and modestly paid, never had the glory of seeing his plays in print.¹⁷

¹⁴ Clement E. Faust, A.M., Ph.D., The Life and Dramatic Works of Robert Montgomery Bird (New York, 1919) 1-7.

¹⁵ Faust, Robert Montgomery Bird, 28-29.

¹⁶ Harold Donaldson Eberlein and Cortlandt Van Dyke Hubbard, *Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware* (Dover, 1963), 178-179.

¹⁷ Higgins, New Castle on the Delaware, 85.

He resided in Philadelphia until 1839, when he returned to New Castle and lived there until 1847. In 1847, he returned to Philadelphia and was associated with Morton McMichael in the publication and editorial management of the *North American* and *United States Gazette*. In 1841-43 he was professor of Materia Medica in the Pennsylvania Medical College. He was married to Mary Eliza in July 1837 and his only child Frederic Mayer Bird was born during June 1838. Dr. Bird died on January 23, 1854, of brain fever.¹⁸

Although Dr. Bird was not a man in the line of the town's tradition or pursuit of public honors, he was a true son of New Castle. He was an offspring of traditional and stately local families on both sides, and, without their direct input, he attained a distinguished career in a field where only his talents could assist him.¹⁹

III. Architectural Significance of the Property

The Booth House is the result of (three) separate stages of growth, as were most of the older houses that have survived in New Castle. Deeds mentioning the sale of the land on which the house now stands can be traced back to 1670 when the site of this house together with that of the adjoining property to the west was sold by Mathias and A(E)milius deRingh to Peter Alrichs. It is fair to say that the oldest part of the house was built before 1719 by Sylvester Garland for his daughter, Soetje. The brick addition to the east of the original house dates from 1795-97, around the period that John Bird purchased the property from James Booth, Sr.²⁰ The two-story west wing of the house was built in the 1860s.

The house currently contains 14 rooms and 5 fireplaces and is approximately 75 feet in length along Delaware Street and extends approximately 25 feet along the eastern side of the house and approximately 60 feet along the western side of the house.

i. Exterior

The exterior of the Booth House is noteworthy at first sight for the irregular grouping of the front door and windows that come about from its three separate building stages and for the unusual front stoop with its ample steps. There is also a stoop before the front door at the wing to the west. For a brief period, the entire brick frontage of the Booth House was covered with stucco (see photo). The stucco was removed by Dr. and Mrs. H. T. McGuire and restored to reveal the true quality of the original brickwork.

¹⁸ Thomas Scharf, *History of Delaware*, Vol. I (Philadelphia, 1888), 491.

¹⁹ Higgins, New Castle on the Delaware, 85.

²⁰ Deed Search

The original part of the house (central portion of the present day main house) consisted of the brick two-story and attic portion three bays wide, on the ground floor and included the front door and the two windows to the right of the door. It is approximately 20 feet in length along Delaware Street and extends approximately 60 feet to the back of the house. The first addition, also of brick, is the two-bay part east of the original structure (see photo). It is approximately 35 feet in length along Delaware Street and extends approximately 25 feet to the back of the house.

Eberlein and Hubbard describe the house as follows:

The original structure plainly shows Early-Georgian characteristics. The robust Flemish-bond brickwork and the belt-course between the ground floor and the upper storey; the segmental arches above the windows, including those over the cellar windows, are all features that deserve notice.

When the brick first addition was made to the east (left of the door and dating from 1795) the brick-masons tore away some of the early brick-work at the line of junction and replaced it with later brick of the sort used for the addition, the irregular line of division is still visible today. The brickwork of the addition, still in Flemish-bond, lacks the virile quality of the older work.

When the addition was made, a cornice of contemporary pattern was carried across the whole brick frontage, replacing the former cornice on the older part and partially obscuring there the segmented arches above the upper windows. The present doorway, not the door, coincides with the current fashion of the addition.²¹

The clapboard or weather boarded two-story frame to the west was added in the 1860s when Hannah Booth, wife of the deceased James Booth, Jr., and their sons James R. and Thomas R. were residing in the house. This section of the house is approximately 20 feet in length along Delaware Street and now extends approximately 60 feet to the back of the house.

Many of the early small houses in Delaware were converted into service wings of larger dwellings. In New Castle County, additions to houses were usually higher, broader, and of a more formal design than the older part, and so placed as to form an L- or T-shaped plan with the original dwelling. Examples are the Kensey Johns, Sr. house at New Castle, the Bringhurst house, Wilmington, and the Spruance house, Smyrna. However, there are numerous exceptions in which successive additions have been made on the long axis of the original house, like the John England house near Ogletown and the Booth House.²²

²¹ Eberlein, Historic Houses, 178.

²² Alsberg, Delaware, 157.

ii. Interior

The entrance hallway dates from the original construction of circa 1713 to 1719. Within the classic doorway, with its shutters, the door with its "bulls-eye" windows in the top panels probably dates from this time. The door frame dates from the time of the addition to the east and the original key for the lock is still present (see photo). The woodwork of the hall is particularly noteworthy for the fine stairway that dates to the earliest period of the house (see photo). This stairway has been written about in several architectural books with special note to the "balustrade of vigorous baluster-turned spindles."

The dining room was originally part of the oldest part of the house but was remodeled when the newer (east) wing was added in about 1795. The fireplace mantel in this room, along with the mantel in living room, are among the notably handsome examples of the later colonial craftsmanship in New Castle (see photo). The French-putty figures on the fireplace mantel were added to match the fireplace mantel in the new (east) wing. Some of the windows of the central portion of the house still retain the old glass and a few have old signatures in them. The original rear wing of the older part has been replaced by a later construction.

The living room is situated in the east wing of the house that was added in about 1795. When Judge James Booth, Sr. added this room, he also had extensive work done in the dining room (notably the fireplace mantel). Of special interest in this room are the elaborate fireplace mantel embellished with French-putty figures which resemble those of the George Read house (see photo), the window sills and chair-rails, the examples of punch and gouge and the older windows.

The west wing of the house along Delaware Street was built in the 1860s and still contains the original floor boards. Originally functioning as a lawyer's office, it has since served as a Doctor's office for many years (Dr. H.T. McGuire), a day care center and was used as the premises of a mail order rare book business (Oak Knoll Books). This section of the house now extends to the back of the house in three additional rooms.²³

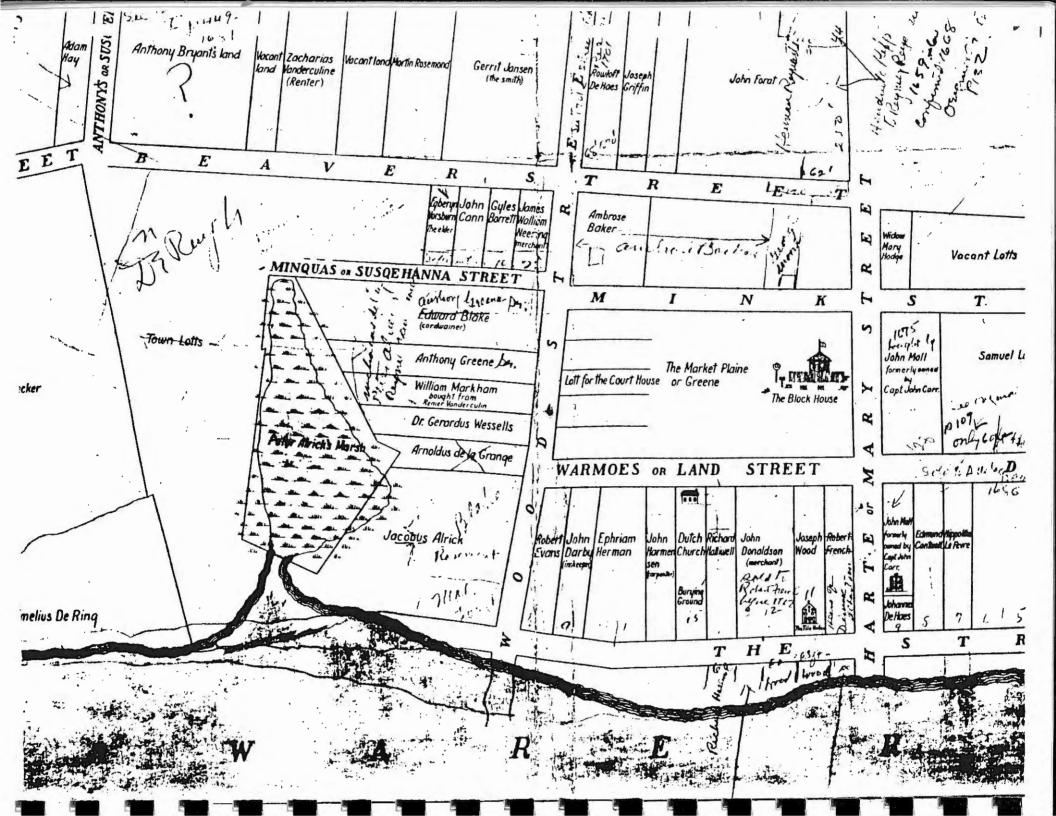
According to deeds, wills, historical mention, newspapers, and reminiscences, the history of the house was a residence without commercial use, except that it may have been an inn during the brief ownership of Gawin Williamson (1724-1726) and during part of the longer tenure of his widow, Margaret (1726-1749); and during Thomas R. Booth's ownership (1870-1901), the northwest end of the house was a tavern, hotel and restaurant in the 1870s kept by Joseph Yarnell.

In conclusion, the history of the Booth House is interwoven with the history of its occupants from its very early Dutch beginnings, to the colonial times, and to the present day. From colonial capital, state capital, court town, market town, seaport, land-and-water route junction, New Castle has lived

²³ Robert D. Fleck, Information on individual rooms provided from literature distributed during A Day in Old New Castle, May 17, 1997.

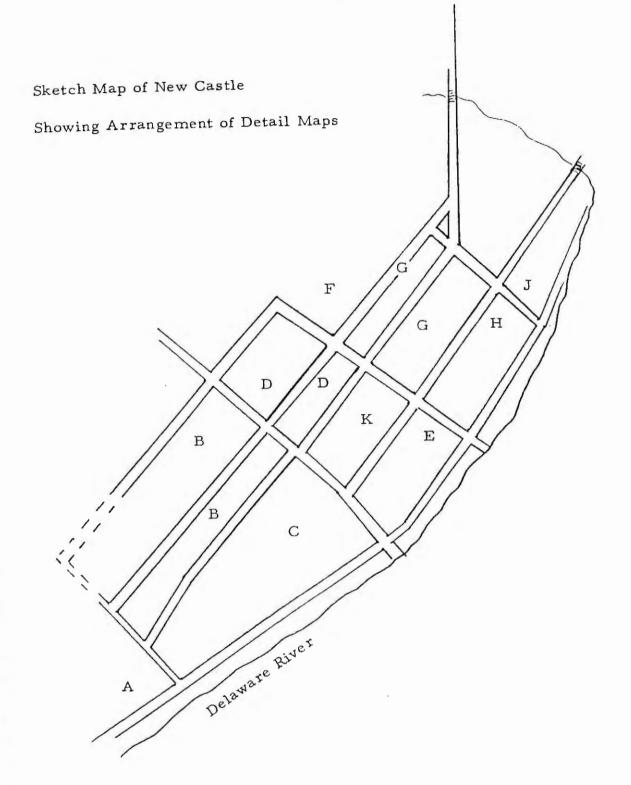
a full life. The Booth House is just one of the many private dwellings of notable array in New Castle that exhibit more than 200 years of American style. The Booth House was inhabited by merchants, landowners, lawyers, doctors, politicians, etc. and each person or family afforded the house its own unique and interesting culture and sophistication.

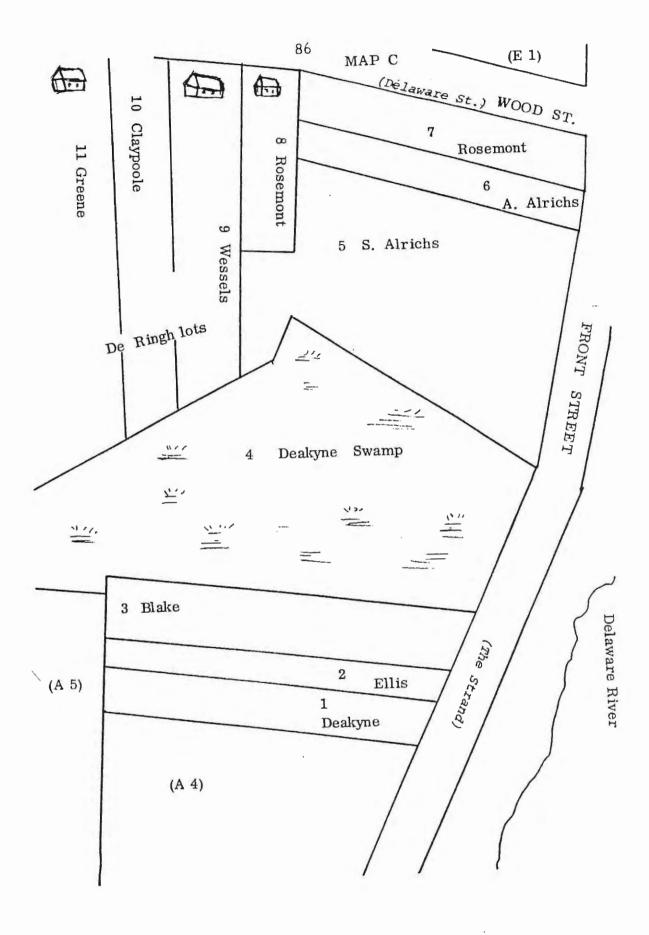
"MAP OF NEW CASTLE UPON DELAWARE, AS WILLIAM PENN SAW IT" Issued to commemorate the 250th anniversary of William Penn's first landing in America. October 25 1682-October 25, 1932. Drawn by Leon DeValinger, 1932.



SKETCH DETAILING PROPERTY IN THE 1680s

Louise B. Heite, "New Castle Under the Duke of York: A Stable Community." M.A. Thesis, University of Delaware, 1978.





Wessels tried to sell this property to John Darby, but Vanderculin protested that he had not yet been paid for it. See below for further transactions.

New Castle Court Records, II, p. 156 April 1687
Gerardus Wessels by James Walliam, acknowledges
to
John Darby

Refers to a deed of mortgage dated 8 July 1686.

N. C. Deed Book B-1, p. 165

New Castle Court Records, II, p. 227

Reyner Vanderculin

to

Cornelius Empson

Bounded on the north by the street fronting on the market, on the south by the swamp extending to the river, on the east by land and fence of Edward Blake, deceased and Peter Alrichs, and on the west by James Claypoole. Appears to be the same house and lot recorded above.

Parcel 10

N. C. Deed Book B-1, p. 80

New Castle Court Records, II, p. 187

Reyner Vanderculin

to

William Markham

6 September 1688

18-21 September 1688

Fenced lot, bounded on the southwest by Alricks Swamp, on the southeast by Dr. Gerardus Wessels, on the northeast by the street or market place, and on the northwest by Anthony Greene, dimensions 60' wide by the length in fence.

N. C. Deed Book B-1, p. 168

William Markham, gentleman, by James Bradshaw, attorney to

James Claypoole

Parcel 11

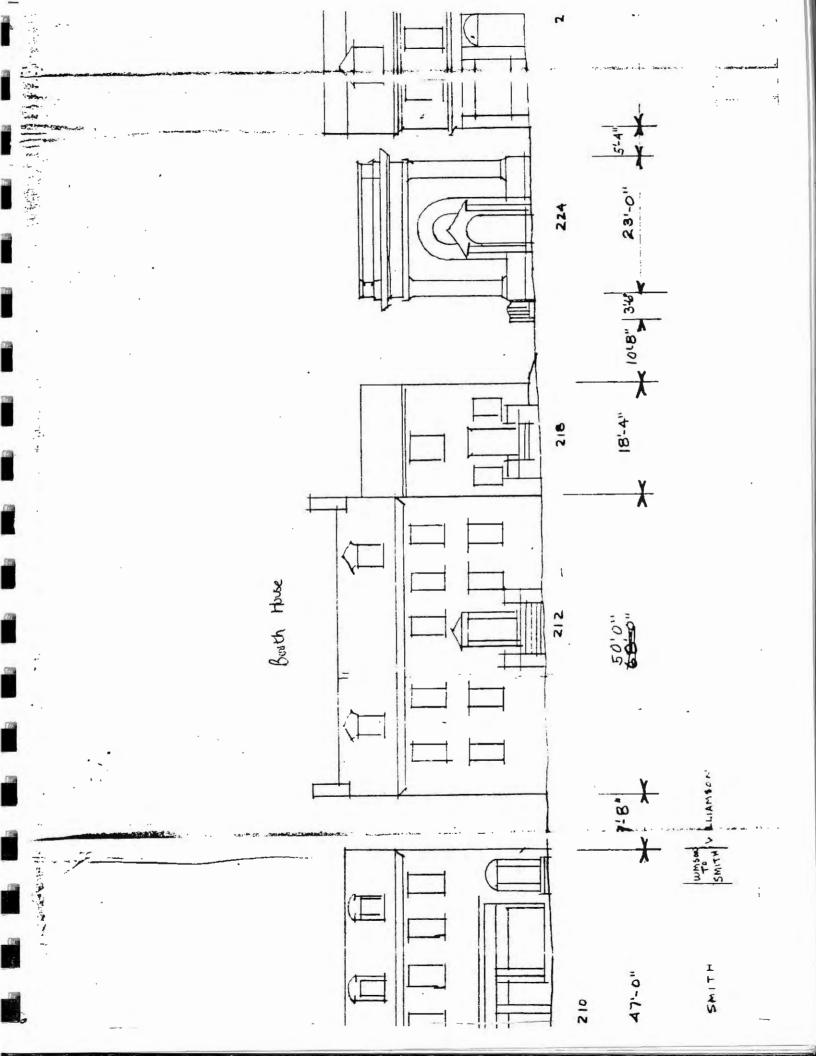
N.C. Deed Book B-1, p. 60
Reyner Vanderculin
to
Anthony Green

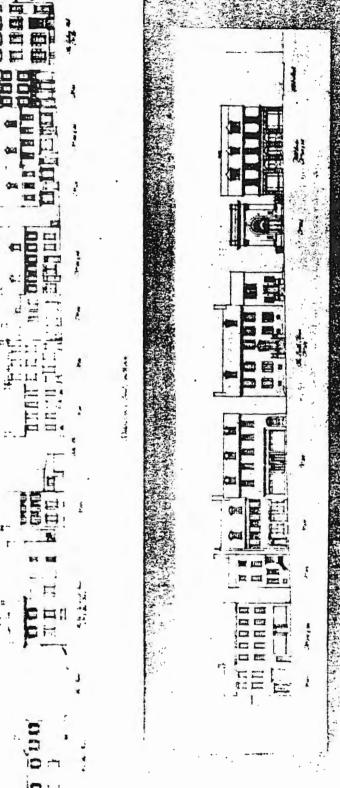
22 June 1688

Lot and messuage in New Castle, bounded by the lot and fence of Captain Markham, by Alricks swamp, by a street, and by the market plain. The acknowledgement mentions a house and ground on the green or market place. Purchase price £ 120.

SKETCHES AND DRAWINGS OF BOOTH HOUSE, 1804-1805

Plan and Street Regulations of the Town of New Castle, 1804-1805, by Benjamin Henry Latrobe.



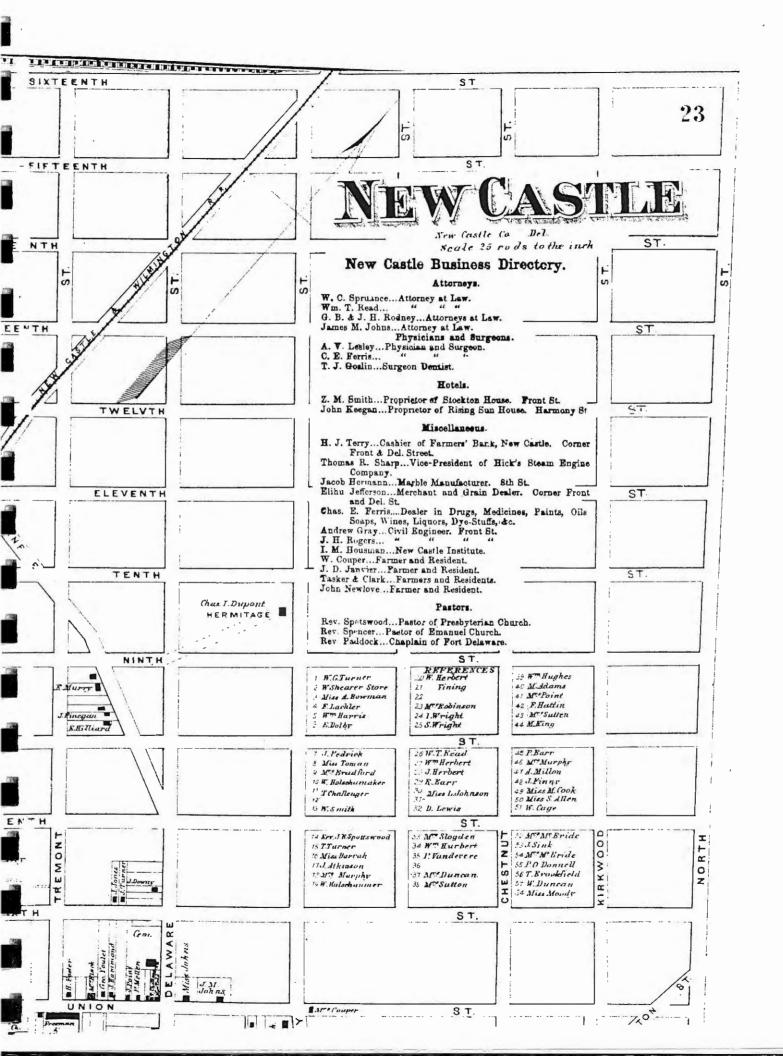


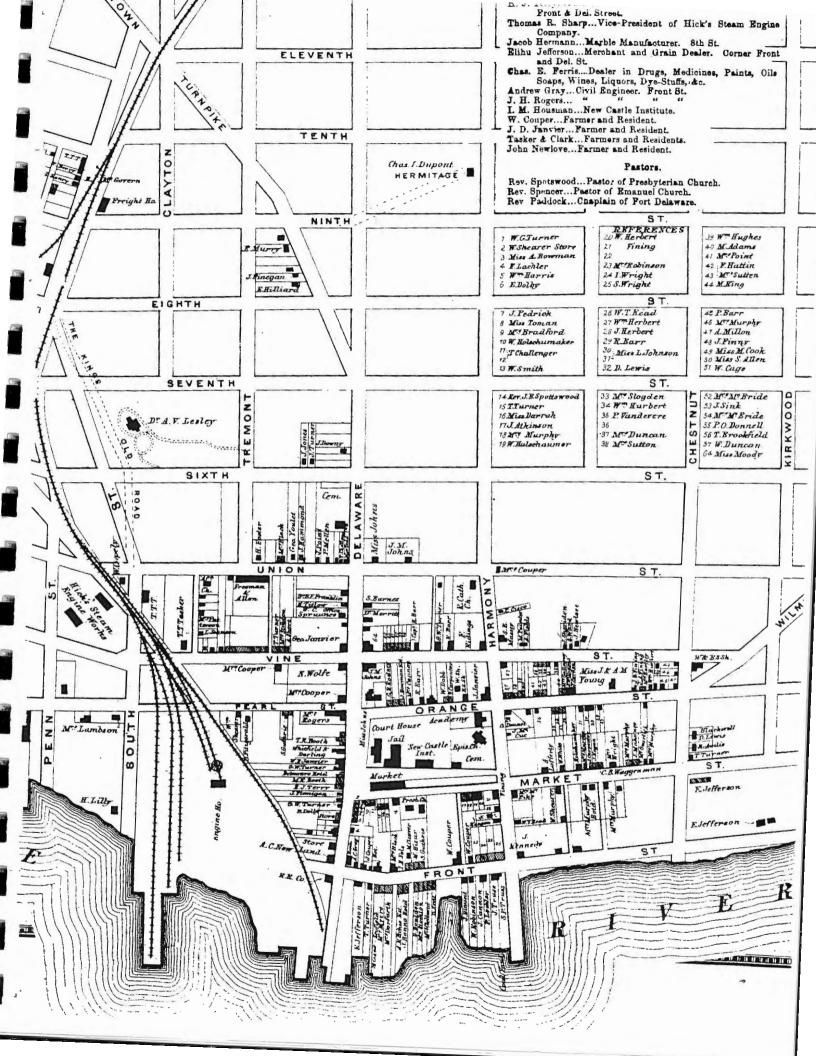
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MAP OF NEW CASTLE SHOWING PROPERTY BELONGING TO T.R. BOOTH, 1868

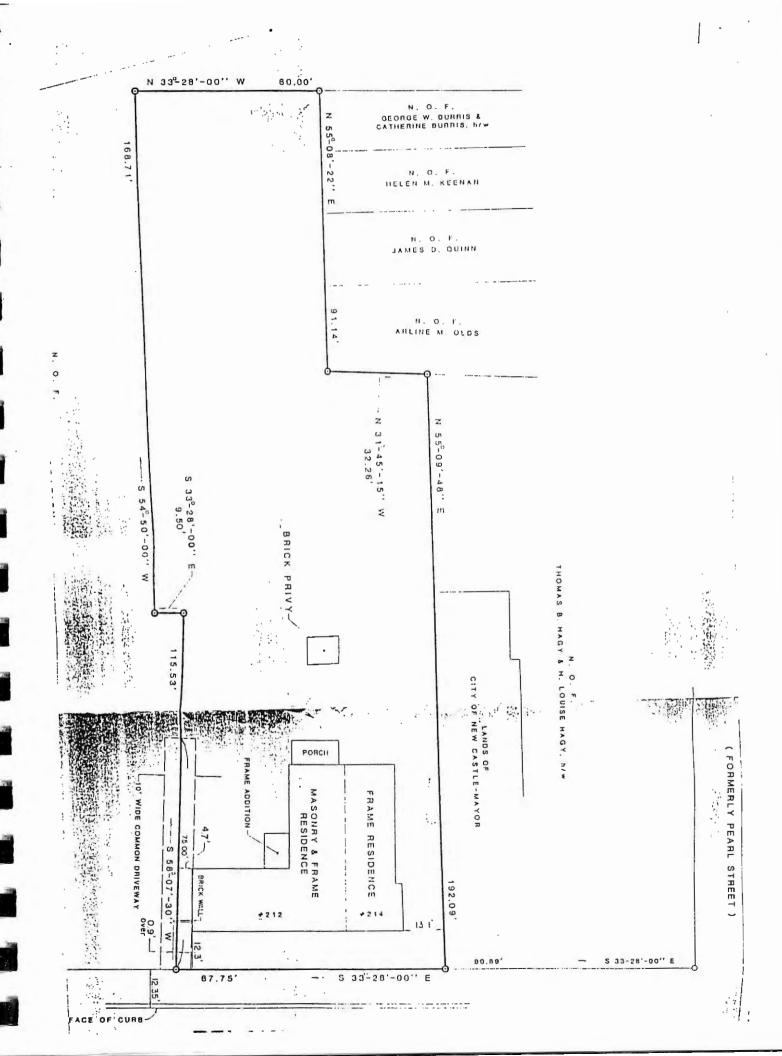
Map of New Castle taken from Beer's Atlas, published in 1868.

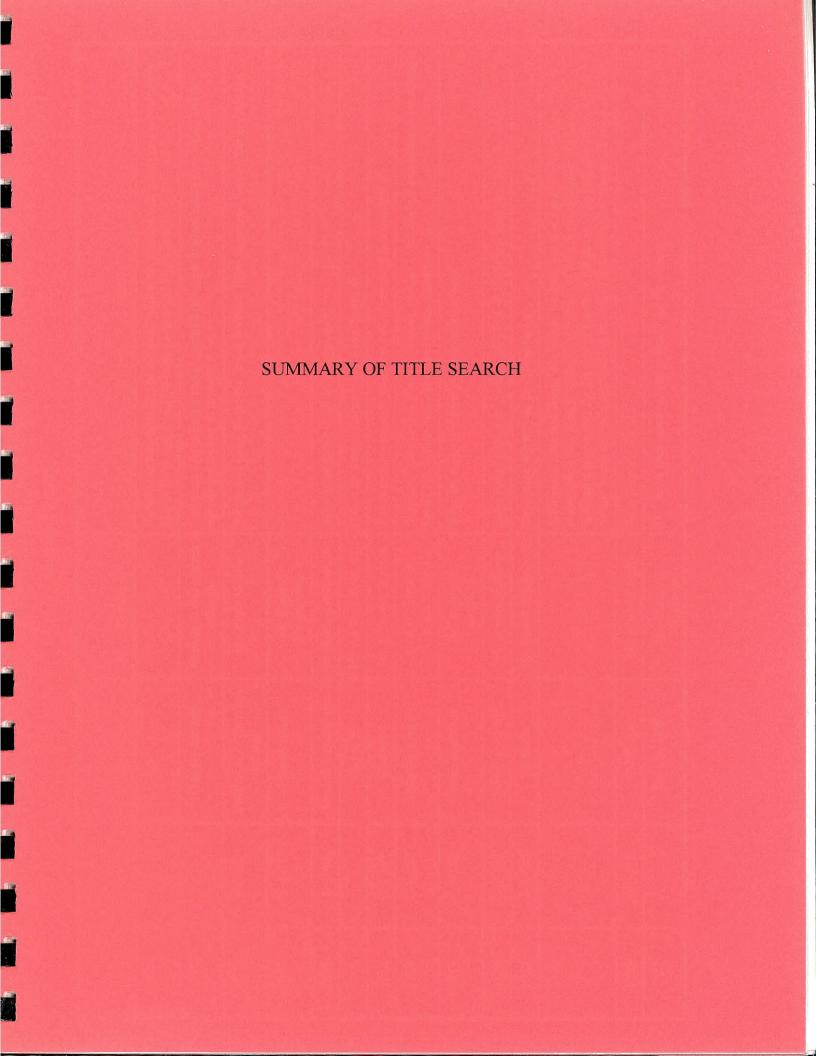




SURVEY OF PROPERTY AND BOUNDARIES, 1985

Survey of Property by Franco R. Bellafante, Inc, August 19, 1985





Transaction Date	Deed/Will Book Number (Vol-Bk-Pg)	Grantor	Grantee	Notes
1659				Nicholas deRingh obtains patent from Alexander d'Hinojossa for all land on the south side of Delaware Street between Second and Third Street.
< 1670		Nicholas deRingh	Mathias & A(E)melius deRingh	Inheritance from Father that included land which original house now stands and the adjoining property to the west.
1670	B-1-70	Mathias & A(E)melius deRingh	Mr. Peter Alrichs	All ground along Delaware Street, between Third Street and Second Street extended.
1683	B-1-71	Peter Alrichs	Mr. Reyneir Vanderculen	
1688	B-1-60	Reyneir Vanderculen	Mr. Anthony Green, Sr.	Buys property for £120 in silver money.
25000		Green, Sr.	Mr. Anthony Green, Jr.	Green, Sr. leaves property to his son Green, Jr.
1713	D-1-199	Green, Jr.	Mr. Sylvester Garland	A dwelling house on Third Street side of property is mentioned.
1719	C-1-230	Sylvester Garland	Soetje Garland & Rev. James Anderson	Sylvester Garland dies and wills (dated: 19 June 1719) the two properties to his daughter Soetje and her husband, Reverand James Anderson.
1719	F-1-179	James Anderson	Mr. Nathaniel Carruthers	Buys the separate property of Booth house only.
1721	G-1-195	Carruthers & wife	Mr. Joseph Richards	Buys house and lot of ground "84½ feet on Delaware Street and 448 feet deep."
1724	G-1-135	Richards	Mr. Gawin Williamson	Buys same property as described above.
1726				Williamson died still owing 40 pounds, 54 shillings, and 5 pence to Richards. On 20 November 1726, Joseph Richards recorded the debt in court against Margaret Williamson, executor for the will of Gawin Williamson. The high sheriff seized "a certain house and lot of ground" to be sold to highest bidder (appraised value of £120).
1726	H-1-211	sheriff sale	Mr. Thomas Smith	Buys property for £120.
1727		Thomas Smith	Ms. Margaret Williamson	Mr. Smith must have bought property for the widow.

Transaction Date	Deed/Will Book Number (Vol-Bk-Pg)	Grantor	Grantee	Notes
1749	P-1-230	sheriff sale	Mr. Samuel Land, bricklayer	Buys house and lot from sheriff sale for debt against Margaret Williamson. Prior to 1749, deeds appear to indicate that the original property Ms. Williamson obtained from Thomas Smith was being subdivided and parts of the land were being sold at various times for payment of her debt.
1749	Q-1-291	Samuel Land, bricklayer	Mr. Samuel Land, yeoman	Same property as described above.
?	S-1-911	sheriff sale	Mr. Robert McLoner	Buys house and lot from sheriff sale for debt against Samuel Land, yeoman.
1785	F-1-107	sheriff sale	Mr. James Booth, Sr., & wife, Anne	Buys house and lot from sheriff sale for debt against Robert McLoner.
1794	O-2-95	James Booth, Sr. & wife	Mr. John Bird	Buys house and property described in deed F-1-107 for £450 in gold and silver coins.
1809	J-3-369	John Bird	Mr. John Warner	Bird conveys property to Warner as security for his debt of \$21,000 to Warner. The real debt due on the mortgage at this time is \$3,500.
1810	Н-3-513	John Bird	President Directors & Company of the Farmers Bank of Delaware	Bird makes property over as security of payment for loans of \$2,000 and additional loans of \$1,000 and \$250.
1810	K-3-265	U.S. Marshall sale	Mr. Nicholas Van Dyke	Buys house and lot from U.S. Marshall sale for debt against John Bird.
1811-1825				Still owned by Mr. Van Dyke, the house is tenanted by Hon. James Rogers, Attorney General of Delaware, and his wife who was the daughter of James Booth, Sr.
1825		Nicholas Van Dyke	Mr. James Rogers	On 15 June 1825, buys same property described in deed F-1-107. The very next day Mr. Rogers sells the property to Mr. James Booth, Jr.
1825		James Rogers	Mr. James Booth, Jr.	
1855	W-1-177	James Booth, Jr.	Mrs. Hannah W. Booth	Mr. Booth, Jr. dies and wills (by will: W-1-177) property to wife, Hannah W., sister of Hon. James Rogers, and after her death to his sons James R. and Thomas R. Booth.

Transaction Date	Deed/Will Book Number (Vol-Bk-Pg)	Grantor	Grantee	Notes
1870	L-9-260	Mr. James R. Booth & wife, Mary E.	Mr. Thomas R. Booth & wife, Margaret J.	By indenture dated 30 June 1870, James R. Booth sells property to brother Thomas R. Booth for \$4,500. Property boundaries are same except for the "front or breadth on said Delaware Street" is now 56 feet and "extending of that width in length or depth southwestwardly between parallel lines 190 feet."
1903	L-19-533	Thomas R. Booth & wife	Mr. George Peirce & wife, Lucy S.	Buys house and property as described above in deed L-9-260 for \$4,000.
1921	U-30-96	George Peirce & wife	Mrs. Margaret D. Buck wife of Mr. Francis N. Buck	Buys property for \$8,000. Contains the same boundaries as described above in L-19-533 except for the easement set forth in the indenture (deed: C-27-532, dated 8 November 1917) between the Peirce's and the New Castle Trust Company.
1926	A-5-454	Margaret D. Buck	Mr. Clayton Douglas Buck	Mrs. Buck dies and wills (by will A-5-454, dated 7 November 1924) Booth House (and Buena vista) to her son Mr. Clayton Douglas Buck.
1939	K-41-308	Clayton Douglas Buck & wife, Alice duPont Buck	Equitable Trust Company, trustee for Mr. Francis D. Buck	Mr. C.D. Buck & wife, Alice duPont Buck include the property in a trust for Francis D. Buck, brother of Margaret D. Buck.
1940	B-42-412	Equitable Trust Company, trustee for Francis D. Buck	Dr. Henry T. McGuire & wife, Louise H.	Buys property for \$12,500. Property is the same as described in deed U-30-96 except the boundary lengths. The boundary lengths are as follows: Southwest = 281 feet, 9 inches; northwest = 61 feet, 9 inches; northeast = 281 feet, 9 inches; southeast = 60 feet, 3 inches.
1982	C-119-19	Henry T. McGuire & wife	Mr. Donald G.B. Gamble & wife, Dorcas H. B.	Buys property for \$155,000.
1985	273-187	Donald G.B. Gamble & wife	Mr. Robert D. Fleck & wife, Mildred W.	Buys property for \$200,000.

Printed and Sold by Hugh George Co., Stationers

This Beed, Made this

26th

day o

August

in the year of

our LORD one thousand nine hundred and eighty-five.

BETWEEN, DONALD G. B. CAMBLE and DORCAS H. B. GAMBLE, his wife, of New Castle County and State of Delaware, parties of the first part,

A N F

ROBERT D. FLECK and MILDRED W. FLECK, his wife, of New Castle County and State of Delaware, parties of the second part,

the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, bereby grant

and convey

unto the said

part les of the second part,

THAT CERTAIN lot, piece or parcel of land with the brick dwelling house thereon erected, situate in the City of New Castle, New Castle County and State of Delaware, known as No. 212 Delaware Street, and being more particularly bounded and described in accordance with a survey prepared by Franco R. Bellafante, Inc., Professional Land Surveyors, dated August 20, 1985, as follows, to-wit:-

BEGINNING at a point on the Southwesterly side of Delaware Street in the center line of a ten feet wide common driveway said point being in the newly established division line between these lands and lands now or formerly of Malcolm K. Beyer and wife, and being distance 167.14 feet measured South 33 degrees 28 minutes East along the said Southwesterly side of Delaware Street from the point of intersection thereof with the Southeasterly side of South Third Street (formerly Pearl Street)at 33.50 feet wide; thence from said point of Beginning South 58 degrees 7-1/2 minutes West along the center line of said ten feet wide common driveway 75.00 feet to the Southwesterly end of said driveway; thence continuing South 58 degrees 7-1/2 minutes West 40.53 feet to a point; thence continuing along the division line between these lands and lands now or formerly of Malcolm K. Beyer and wife the following two courses and distances: (1) South 33 degrees 28 minutes East 9.50 feet to a point; and (2) thence South 54 degrees 50 minutes West 168.71 feet to a point, a corner for this land and the land late of Atlantic Hotel Lots; thence along the same North 33 degrees 28 minutes West 60.00 feet to a point a corner of this land and land late of the Heirs of Samuel Guthrie, deceased; thence along the same and along other land late of Thomas R. Booth fronting on Pearl Street and also along the premises next hereinafter described Northeasterly 281 feet, 9 inches, more or less, to a point in the said Southwesterly side of Delaware Street; and thence along said Southwesterly side of Delaware Street South 33 degrees 28 minutes East 55 feet, 3 inches, more or less, to the point and place of Beginning. Be the contents thereof what they may.

ALSO ALL THAT CERTAIN lot or piece of ground adjoining the aforesaid lands on the Northwest and situate on the Southwest side of Delaware Street in the City, County and State aforesaid, containing a front or breadth on said Delaware Street 32 feet, 6 inches, and extending of that width in length or depth Southwestwardly between parallel lines 191 feet, more or less, to other grounds, now or formerly of Thomas R. Booth fronting on Pearl Street bounded Southeastwardly by the premises above described, Southwestwardly by other ground, now or formerly, of Thomas R. Booth, fronting on Pearl Street, Northwestwardly by ground, now or formerly, of the New Castle Trust Company and Northeastwardly by Delaware Street aforesaid.

TOGETHER with the free and uninterrupted right, use and privilege in common with others entitled thereto forever for driveway purposes of the

1985

above mentioned ten feet wide common driveway, which driveway is more particularly bounded and described in Agreement between Henry T. McGuire and Louise H. McGuire, his wife, and Malcolm K. Beyer and Eugenia W. Beyer, his wife, dated September 27, 1947, and recorded in the Office for the Recording of Deeds in and for New Castle County, Delaware, in Deed Record Q, Volume 47, Page 99, which agreement establishes the Southeasterly boundary line of the first described parcel above and also establishes the above mentioned ten feet wide common driveway. SUBJECT, however, to a proportionate share of the expense of keeping said driveway in good order and repair.

SUBJECT, however, to a certain easement more fully set forth in an Agreement dated November 8, 1917, of record in the Office aforesaid in Deed Record C, Volume 27, Page 534.

BEING the same lands and premises which Henry T. McGuire and Louise H. McGuire, his wife, by Indenture bearing date the 23rd day of July, A. D. 1982, and recorded in the Office for the Recording of Deeds in and for New Gastle County, Delaware, in Deed Record B, Volume 42, Page 412, granted and conveyed unto Donald C. B. Gamble and Dorcas H. B. Gamble, his wife, in Fee.

ALL THAT CERTAIN lot, piece or parcel of land situate in the City of New Castle, New Castle County, State of Delaware, being 212 and 214 Delaware Street, (Hereinafter described as one (1) lot) as—shown—on—the Mortgagee's Inspection Plan, prepared by Franco R. Bellafante, Inc., dated August 19, 1985, and being more particularly bounded and described in accordance therewith, as follows, to-wit:-

BECINNING at a point on the southwesterly side of Delaware Street, at 54 feet wide, a common corner of the Property herein being described and lands of the City of New Castle - Mayor; and further located along the southwesterly side of Delaware Street from the point of Intersection formed by the southwesterly side of Delaware Street with the southeasterly side of Third Street (formerly known as Pearl Street), at 30.5 feet wide, by the following course and distance: South 33 degrees 28 minutes 00 seconds East, 80.89 feet; thence from the point and place of Beginning, continuing along the southwesterly side of Delaware Street, South 33 degrees 28 minutes 00 seconds East, 87.75 feet to a corner of lands, now or formerly, of 100 West Tenth Street Corporation; thence leaving the southwesterly side of Delaware Street, along the lands, now or formerly, of 100 West Tenth Street Corporation, by the following four (4) courses and distances: (I) through, in part, a 10 feet wide Common Driveway, South 58 degrees 07 minutes 30 seconds West, 115.53 feet to a corner; (2) South 33 degrees 28 minutes 00 seconds East, 9.50 feet to a corner; (3) South 54 degrees 50 minutes 00 seconds West, 168.71 feet to a corner; and (4) North 33 degrees 28 minutes 00 seconds West, 60.00 feet to a corner of lands, now or formerly, of George W. Burris and Catherine Burris, husband and wife; thence leaving the lands, now or formerly, of 100 West Tenth Street Corporation, along the lands, now or formerly, of Ceorge W. Burris and Catherine Burris, husband and wife; lands, now or formerly, of Helen M. Keenan; lands, now or formerly, of James D. Quinn; and lands, now or formerly, of Arline M. Olds, North 55 degrees 08 minutes 22 seconds East, 91.14 feet to a corner; thence continuing along the lands, now or formerly, of Arline M. Olds, North 31 degrees 45 minutes 15 seconds West, 32.26 feet to a corner of lands, now or formerly, of Thomas B. Hagy and H. Louise Hagy, husband and wife; thence leaving the lands, now or formerly, of Arline M. Olds, along the lands, now or formerly, of Thomas B. Hagy and H. Louise Hagy, husband and wife; and along the lands of the City of New Castle - Mayor, North 55 degrees 09 minutes 48 seconds East, 192.09 feet to the first mentioned point and place of Beginning. Be the contents thereof what they may.

PARCEL #21-015.30 184

GRANTEE ADORESS: 212 Delaware Street New Castle, DE 19720

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	of Delnin Castle	vare,	Աստւ քը,
the S	<i>indred and</i> ubscriber aforesai	6th eighty-fi , a Notary d, DONALD	Ale It Remembered, That on day of August in the year of our LORD, one thousand personally came before me Public for the County and G. B. GAMBLE and OORCAS H. B. GAMBLE,
part 10 acknow	ledged this	Indenture to	re, known to me personally to be such, and severally be their Deed. my Hand and Seal of office, the day and year aforesaid.
			Notary Public