

All in the Family:
Sociability and Service in the Darragh Household

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Town House in England and America

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Located at No. 19 E. Second Street in the quiet town of New Castle, Delaware, the Darragh family house speaks an architectural language rich in the themes of sociability and service. Owned by the Darraghs from 1829 to 1893, the house retains much of its original finish. The house was built between 1826-1829 by Samuel Battersby. Soon after its completion, the house was extended with the addition of a rear kitchen wing. The addition expanded the polite spaces of the house, reflecting the Darraghs' position among the wealthy elite of New Castle. The addition also removed domestic functions even further from the main house, creating a clear segregation between utilitarian and social spaces. A number of hired and enslaved people staffed the house, enabling the Darragh family to carry out a genteel lifestyle of relative comfort and ease.

The original lot from which 19 E. Second Street is derived was part of a long, narrow plot acquired by Thomas Janvier and Jan Biske in 1695, which ran from Second Street (then called Market) to the Strand. In 1728 Thomas Janvier left the property, now with a frame house at the Strand end, to his sons Benjamin and John. In his will, Thomas specified that the "alley or passage as it is settled by me shall be & remain forever."¹ This passage, later known as Church Alley, was about five feet wide and extended from Second Street through to the Strand. The frame house along the Strand was still the only dwelling mentioned on the property when in 1798 Mary Janvier sold "the said lot of ground frame messuage and alley" to Samuel Rowen for £55.² Between 1798 and the 1804 Benjamin Latrobe survey of New Castle, Rowen erected a frame house along the Second Street end of the lot, adjoining it to the brick house on the adjacent lot. The only surviving physical evidence of this early house is the faint trace of the roofline that remains on the brick gable end of the house at 17 E. Second St. The brick house stands two and

¹ New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, Deed Book B, vol. 2, p. 342 (hereafter NCCRD, book: volume: page)..

² NCCRD, R: 2: 176-177.

one half stories tall, so the frame house appears to have been only one and a half stories. The Latrobe survey also showed the Church Alley running between the frame house and the Presbyterian Church.³ Rowen also divided the long lot in half, creating the present lot of 19 E. Second Street, and began renting the frame house on Second Street. In his will of 1807, he left to his son James, “My House and Lot in the Town of New Castle now occupied by John Martin fronting on market Street and bounded by the Presbyterian Church yard and the property of the Heirs of William Passmore.” James also inherited the Front Street lot and a third lot with a frame house in town. By 1813, James fell into debt and the three lots were seized from him and sold at a sheriff’s sale to Abraham See for a total of \$456.00.⁴

In 1826, the heirs of Abraham See sold the frame house and lot on Market Street to Samuel Battersby.⁵ Battersby sold the property to Alexander P. Darragh in 1829 for \$2,300.00. The deed reveals that the frame house had been replaced, stating that “the said Samuel Battersby has since erected a large Two Story Brick Messuage and Kitchen and other Improvements.”⁶ Battersby is referred to in another deed as a carpenter by trade and purchased at least one other property that year jointly with Jeremiah Bowman, who was the contractor for the Rodney House, built in 1831.⁷ It is unknown whether Alexander Darragh engaged Samuel Battersby to build the house through custom work or by contract, or if Battersby built the house on speculation in anticipation of finding a buyer. Battersby’s designation as a carpenter could cover anything from actual construction to framing windows, building staircases, and installing flooring. Because the house is brick, masons would have built the walls and Battersby may have been in charge of

³ See figure 1.

⁴ NCCRD Q: 3: 209-212.

⁵ NCCRD, E: 4: 501-503.

⁶ NCCRD, I: 4: 389-390.

⁷ NCCRD, E: 4: 484-486. Battersby seems to have left New Castle soon after selling the property to Alexander Darragh. In 1830 he and his wife appointed their daughter Mary to oversee the collection of debts owed the estate of Samuel’s father, James Battersby. Samuel and his wife Jane are recorded as residents of Cincinnati, Ohio. NCCRD, L: 4: 540.

overseeing the finishing of the interior.⁸ Unfortunately for Alexander Darragh, he did not live in his house for long, as he was a purser for the U.S. Navy and died at sea in 1831.⁹ In his will, he left the house to his widowed mother Margaret, writing:

I also give and bequeath to my mother Margaret Darragh during her life or widowhood the house in which she now lives...together with the furniture in the same. This bequest is to be considered as made with a view of keeping the family together, so long as my mother lives and my sisters remain single.¹⁰

From this statement, it appears that not only Alexander's mother, but also his four unmarried sisters (Margaret S., Ann, Eliza, and Susan), were all living in the house with him. Alexander had one child, named Margaret Porter after his mother, from his marriage to Eliza Tucker Armistead. His wife is not mentioned in his will, the census, or anywhere else, so it seems that she may have predeceased him.¹¹ The presence of Alexander's mother and sisters in the household would have allowed his young daughter to be cared for and domestic matters attended to while he was off pursuing his naval career.¹² In 1841 when Margaret died, three of the four sisters (Margaret S., Ann, and Susan) were still single and living in the house. She left the house and its furnishings to these three daughters, "to be held and enjoyed by them in common so long as they keep house and live together."¹³ The house then passed from sister to sister and finally to Alexander Darragh's daughter Margaret, who sold it to John G. Lenoir in 1893.¹⁴

⁸ Donna Rilling identifies these three ways of building a house in *Making Houses, Crafting Capitalism: Builders in Philadelphia, 1790-1850* (Philadelphia: Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 2001), 5-7.

⁹ A purser is an officer in charge of financial accounts on a ship.

¹⁰ New Castle County Probate Records, will of Alexander P. Darragh, dated 12 November 1829 (hereafter APD, will). For a transcription of his will, see Appendix F.

¹¹ For vital statistics related to Alexander Darragh and his family, see Appendix B.

¹² Such networks of relationships with family members, friends, and associates were common in federal Delaware and "enabled many individuals to achieve economic success and emotional support." See Rebecca Siders, "Nathaniel Smithers and the Business of Family Relationships," in *After Ratification: Material Life in Delaware, 1789-1820*, eds. J. Ritchie Garrison, Bernard L. Herman, and Barbara McLean Ward (Newark, Del.: Univ. of Delaware, 1988), 39.

¹³ New Castle County Probate Records, will of Margaret Darragh, dated 20 June 1838 (hereafter MD, will). For a transcription of the will, see Appendix G.

¹⁴ NCCRD, C: 16: 162. For a complete list of all the property owners to present, see Appendix A. Little is known of Alexander's daughter Margaret. Cornelius Blaney, a trustee of New Castle in the 1820s, was appointed her guardian, but it appears that she remained in the Darragh household until at least 1840. She married at some point, as the 1893 deed of sale lists her name as Margaret Porter Darragh Newton.

The house that Alexander Darragh bought in 1829 was a three-and-a-half story, side-passage brick house with an attached, two-story kitchen ell. Unlike the earlier frame house on the lot, it stood free and unattached, a private residence that was an “emblem of personal independence.”¹⁵ The side-passage double-pile plan was used for urban merchant housing in eighteenth century Philadelphia. By the 1780s developing towns such as New Castle began using this plan, with slight modifications. Non-urban examples typically used the two first floor rooms as a parlor and dining room, and placed “cooking, washing, and other domestic work functions in a rear service wing” instead of a cellar kitchen.¹⁶ Such was the floor plan of the Darragh house. Situated at the end of a row of older houses along Second Street, the Darragh house made a very grand impression. Although it was not the finest house in town, along Second Street across from the market it was the most fashionable dwelling for decades. It was taller, bigger, and located eight to ten feet nearer to the street than others of the row, stepping up to engage the public green and market before it. New Castle restoration architect Albert Kruse, in describing the Darragh house during a walking tour along Second Street, wrote: “At the end of the row is No. 19, projecting a little farther into the pavement towards the curb, as if anxiously awaiting a parade and too impatient to keep in line.”¹⁷ The Darragh house does seem to have set the standard, because around 1870 the houses at 13-17 E. Second Street received front additions to extend them forward about eight feet.

The Darragh house resembles several other houses that were built on the Strand following the fire of 1824, which feature three bay façades, double parlors, paterae detailing, and single dormer windows. As the house was built between 1826-1829, it made sense for the house

¹⁵ Elizabeth Blackmar, *Manhattan For Rent, 1785-1850* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell Univ. Press, 1989), 110.

¹⁶ Gabrielle M. Lanier and Bernard L. Herman, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic* (Baltimore, Md.: The Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1997), 38.

¹⁷ Albert Kruse, “An Impression of the Old Manner of Building in New Castle, Delaware,” *Delaware History* 4, no. 3 (June 1951): 181.

to look not to its older neighbors for inspiration, but to other newly constructed homes. Through its similar façade, decorative features, and double parlor floor plan, the Darragh house engaged the Strand houses in an architectural language of common understanding that reflected attempts by town residents to systematize the urban landscape.¹⁸ The April 26, 1824 fire that destroyed many buildings on the Strand was followed by a period of intense rebuilding.¹⁹ Although the construction was architecturally conservative, the new houses communicated a knowledge of classical design. Sweeping changes did not meet with everyone's approval, however. In 1856, railroad executive John Fanning Watson complained of Philadelphia that "To my eye, the whole aspect is changing.—It is indeed, already, another City—A city building on the top of the former! All the houses now, above three stories—present an elevation so manifest, as to displease the eye; and particularly, where several, go up so exalted, as to break the former line of equality, and beauty."²⁰ Who knows what Watson and others like him would have thought of the Darragh house, which replaced a smaller frame building and towered over its neighbors on Second Street.

The façade of the Darragh house presents a fine front to the street and central green, containing neoclassical features as signposts of wealth and knowledge.²¹ The front wall is constructed of the more decorative Flemish bond brick, while the sides are common bond. Prior to 1900, about three-fourths of buildings in New Castle County were of frame construction, placing this house within an elite group.²² The front door is ornamented with an elliptical fanlight, full-length shutters, and elaborate brass knocker. Large windows of six-over-six panes

¹⁸ Dell Upton, "Another City: The Urban Cultural Landscape in the Early Republic," in *Everyday Life in the Early Republic*, ed. Catherine E. Hutchins (Winterthur, Del.: Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, 1994), 63.

¹⁹ Constance J. Cooper, ed., *350 of New Castle, Delaware: Chapters in a Town's History* (New Castle, Del.: New Castle Historical Society, 2001), 91-92.

²⁰ Quoted in Upton, "Another City," 62.

²¹ See figure 2.

²² Lanier and Herman, 71.

of glass, two on the first floor and three on the second, are pleasingly arranged in two rows. The window lintels are ornamented with paterae or bulls' eyes in the upper corners, a decorative element repeated in the woodwork inside of the house. The third floor has a single dormer window, complete with side-columns topped with triple capitals and a hooded pediment, projecting from each side of the roof.²³ The finish on both dormers is the same, although the rear one overlooks the kitchen yard behind the house. The house stands much closer to the Presbyterian church than the earlier frame house. Indeed, the house was erected on top of the old Church Alley that ran along the edge of the lot to the Strand. The space between the house and church wall is only about ten feet. Between the other side of the house and the house at 15-17 E. Second Street, there is an open passage back to the kitchen yard and rear of the lot.

Sightlines from the front of the house intersect with spaces and monuments of civic and religious authority. The house today overlooks the central public green and restored court house and town hall. In the nineteenth century, the Darragh house was located on the border of a busy, dirty, and loud environment that began to the southwest at the town hall, built in 1823. A public market that would have been filled with filth, smell, and noise extended directly in front of the house from the back of the town hall. On the other side of the market was the jail, complete with prison yards, pillory, and whipping post. To the northwest of the jail along the green was a government arsenal, erected in 1809 and used in the 1830s and 1840s for munitions storage and at times to quarter soldiers. In 1852, the arsenal was expanded and used as a school until 1930. To the east side of the Darragh house on the adjoining lot stood the Presbyterian Church, built c. 1707 and used as a church until a large brown sandstone church was built in 1854 on the same

²³ See figure 3.

lot.²⁴ Although the very organized and neat façade of the Darragh house created a barrier between the house and its noisome and bustling environment, no doubt its occupants would have been very aware of their surroundings. At the same time, patrons of the market and public buildings must have been duly impressed by the status statement of the large house looking down on them.

The original 1829 floor plan consisted of an entrance hallway, front parlor, and rear dining room that could also double as a parlor. Through the rear of the hallway was a kitchen ell.²⁵ The relegation of household work to the back of the house and presence of a parlor for formal entertaining were the critical characteristics of a “refined house.”²⁶ The parlor testified to the family’s gentility, and all the better if there were two of them. Sometime in the 1830s the house was extended with the addition of a new kitchen wing.²⁷ This modification expanded the polite spaces of the house while further removing the service area from the rest of the house. The former kitchen was turned into a dining room, while the front section became a double parlor. Upstairs, additional sleeping quarters for servants were gained by the addition. The replacement of the earlier frame house with a large brick dwelling, followed soon after its construction with an addition, was not atypical of larger trends. The period 1820-1870 in New Castle County witnessed three basic types of architectural activity: “extensive remodeling of existing structures, the replacement of old buildings with completely new ones, and the substantial remodeling of new buildings within a few years of their initial construction.” This period of rebuilding saw little in the way of architectural innovation, but revealed a “general

²⁴ The brick church was then used as a Sunday school, until its restoration and the demolition of the 1854 church in 1949-1950. Information on public buildings taken from Anthony Higgins, ed., *New Castle on the Delaware* (New Castle, Del.: New Castle Historical Society, 1973), 65, 68-9. For maps of the house in relation to its surroundings, see figs. 4 and 5.

²⁵ See figure 6 for a floorplan.

²⁶ Richard Bushman, *The Refinement of America: Persons, Houses, Cities* (New York: Vintage Books, 1993; Alfred A. Knopf, 1992), 251.

²⁷ See figure 7 for a floorplan.

push towards a prevailing architectural sameness by class-oriented individuals who could afford to build.”²⁸

The entrance hallway served as one of the most formal spaces of the house and was critical as the point of first impression. It also acted as a buffer “against weather and public society.”²⁹ The fanlight above the door flooded the hall with light and created an attractive focal point. The door is topped by a compass arch surround, complete with paterae blocks at the top of the side columns and center of the arch. When guests entered through the front door, they had a view of the large open stair ahead. The door at the end of the hall, leading into the kitchen or later, the dining room, is finished in the same manner as the parlor doors and could be kept closed to preserve the grand formality of the front of the house. The open stair passage is lit by a large window at the landing before it turns to go up to the second floor. The chair rail molding in the hall continues up the stair, drawing the eye upward along with it and emphasizing a connection between the two floors. Unpainted turned drops at the turn of the stairs and the unpainted turned newel post and squared balusters stand in strong contrast to the white painted stairs and trim, and serve to “break up the passage into a series of spaces to be experienced sequentially.”³⁰ Under the stairs, the wall is ornamented with elaborate carved molding and paneling with sections of finely reeded banding. The hall runs the length of the house and provides access into the adjoining rooms, avoiding the need to pass through one room to get to another and thus “preserving privacy and the specialized function of each space.” The hall also served as an important vetting area, allowing “social peers of the homeowner” to be entertained

²⁸ Bernard L. Herman, *Architecture and Rural Life in Central Delaware, 1700-1900* (Knoxville, Tenn.: Univ. of Tennessee Press, 1999; 1987), 12.

²⁹ Herman, 191.

³⁰ John Templer, *The Staircase: History and Theories* (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1992), 7.

in the “formal spaces of the home, while social inferiors remained in the hall or were directed elsewhere and kept from intruding upon the family or its guests.”³¹

There are two almost identical parlors on the first floor, given a light and airy feel by their large windows and high ceilings. The parlors have King of Prussia marble fireplaces, painted white at present but originally intended to show off the fine gray polished marble. The fireplace columns and lintels each have three carved grooves.³² Inside the front parlor fireplace is a cast iron insert that is probably very early or original. The insert was both decorative and helped reflect more heat out into the room. On either side of the projecting fireplace walls are original jamb cupboards, intended to store books and secure expensive items such as silver. A large double doorway connects the front parlor to the back parlor, which is slightly smaller and likely served as a dining room in the original 1829 floor plan. These doors could be closed to create a more intimate space within each parlor, or opened for larger entertainments that utilized both rooms. The rear parlor is minimally lower in terms of hierarchy of finish than the front parlor. The two windows in the room, one to right of the fireplace and one centered in the rear wall, are both smaller and less expensive nine-over-nine panes. The rear window overlooks the kitchen yard and back of the property, probably a much busier messier scene in the nineteenth century than the current quiet and neatly landscaped yard. Servants would have passed through the yard frequently to access the service wing, hauling in water, firewood, and food, and removing refuse and garbage from the house. Although the fireplaces are identical, there is no evidence that the rear one was ever fitted with an iron insert.

³¹ Kenneth L. Ames, “Meaning in Artifacts: Hall Furnishings in Victorian America,” in *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, eds. Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach (Athens, Georgia: The Univ. of Georgia Press, 1986), 244.

³² See figure 8. This fireplace style was popular around 1830 and examples are extant in other New Castle houses, such as the 1831 Rodney House, which has almost identical mantels that are only slightly more elaborate, with five carved grooves instead of three.

As part of the original 1826-1829 construction, a one-room kitchen ell was attached to the rear of the main house. The decorative treatment of the door into the kitchen ell at the end of the entrance hall matches the parlor door surrounds, concealing the utilitarian function of the room beyond. Behind this door, the kitchen was probably very plainly finished, reflecting its segregation from the polite spaces in the front of the house.³³ A triple arch chimney stack support in the cellar indicates that the kitchen had a large cooking fireplace across the rear wall.³⁴ A door in the south wall provided servants with direct access to the kitchen yard without passing through the main house. Sometime in the 1830s, the house was expanded with the addition of a new kitchen wing at the rear of the ell. The former kitchen was then converted into a dining room, which allowed the Darraghs to separate the function of dining from the parlor. This change reflected a trend in the nineteenth century for the segregation of space. Rooms were increasingly meant to have a specific purpose, and a room that functioned as both a parlor and dining room was problematic.³⁵ The large cooking fireplace was removed from the former kitchen and replaced with a smaller fireplace and wooden mantel in the shape of the marble ones in the parlors.³⁶ To the left of the fireplace a built-in cupboard was installed. Evidence of nailing strips on the shelves inside the cupboard indicate that it was intended to be able to display plates. The wall paneling that is now present above the fireplace was added by a previous owner in the mid-1900s. At one time the former kitchen had a winder staircase in the southeast corner that gave access to the heated chamber above. The stairs were likely removed when the room

³³ Ames, 245.

³⁴ See figure 9.

³⁵ Herman, 231.

³⁶ See figure 10. It is possible that the wooden mantel installed in the dining room was moved from the front bedchamber on the second floor, which has a replaced mantel. The rear bedchamber, which was likely finished similar to the front one, has a wooden mantel that matches the one now in the dining room. Perhaps after Alexander Darragh's death in 1831, the family decided that it was more important to have nicely finished entertaining spaces than bedchambers and relocated the mantel from what presumably was his chamber.

was converted into the dining room, as they would have been out of keeping with the room's now formal role.

To the right of the dining room fireplace was the entrance to the new kitchen. The kitchen had a brick floor and was one to two feet lower than the rest of the house, signifying its step down in the hierarchy of finish.³⁷ On the rear wall of the kitchen was the cooking fireplace, now boxed in behind a plaster wall, and perhaps a brick bake oven. The kitchen had its own door, later made into a window, that entered in from the yard, isolating the hustle and bustle of daily domestic activities from the main house. The exterior wall contains a row of spikes that point to a pent roof, which would have provided some protection to the dooryards. Windows positioned in the gable walls roughly across from one another provided important cross-ventilation. In the northwest corner of the kitchen, a narrow winder staircase gave access to a small chamber over the kitchen. This room was likely occupied by a servant who served as a housekeeper or cook, because of its convenient access to the kitchen below. The chamber is heated by a small fireplace, which originally had to mantel. There are small closets to either side of the fireplace and three three-over-six pane windows with very simple trim. Beside the top of winder stairs is a connecting doorway into a second servants' chamber, with shelving on either side of the threshold. This chamber has a similar plain finish with a small fireplace that also originally had no mantel. There is a small closet to the left of the fireplace, and three three-over-six paned windows.

The main second floor is accessed from the entrance hallway by the open stair, which makes a dogleg turn after a short landing. In addition to the simple function of moving between

³⁷ Letter dated 14 May 1987 from Henry P.C. Culp to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Burkart (hereafter Culp to Burkart). Culp, who lived in the house as a child, recalled that "...the kitchen had a brick floor and was lowered somewhat from the level of the dining room."

floors, the staircase also demonstrated “secular power and authority, prestige and status.”³⁸ On the landing is a doorway that opens into the back chambers above the service wing. The door surround has the same level of finish as the first floor parlor entrances, hiding the plainness of the rooms behind it. After this showy door, however, the second floor has a lesser degree of finish than the first floor. In the second floor hallway, the door surrounds into the bedchambers lack the paterae detailing present in the parlors. The mantel in the rear chamber imitates the shape of the marble ones in the parlors, but is smaller and made of wood. The mantel in the front chamber has been replaced, but likely was the same as the one in the rear chamber. The front chamber has closets on either side of the fireplace and large windows which overlook the street. This room was probably intended for Alexander Darragh and his wife, and the rear chamber was used by his mother. There is also an unheated room at the end of the hall which may have served as a dressing or storage room.³⁹

Although the level of finish declines as one moves up through the house, the stairs retain the same decorative treatment on all floors. The stairs feature the same turned drops and balusters on the second floor as those in the front hallway. Moving from the second to third floor, the decorative molding continues around through the dogleg turn, where it is visible only from the landing before going up the shorter flight of steps to the third floor hallway. The landing itself is curtailed by the slope of the roof, which means one has to hug the railing to make the turn to avoid bumping into the low ceiling. The two upper chambers each have dormer and gable end windows and are unheated, although the chimney stacks running through them may have provided some warmth. These rooms probably were occupied by the four unmarried sisters of Alexander Darragh who lived in the house with him and their widowed mother. At the

³⁸ Templer, 25.

³⁹ See figure 11 for floorplan of second floor.

end of the hall is a small unheated room, similar to the one on the second floor. The attic entrance is a narrow door at the end of a long closet in the hall. The door opens to a very narrow and steep staircase, which leads to an unheated and low-ceilinged attic space, dimly lit by a tiny window in each end. The attic was likely only used for storage and not for sleeping quarters. A trapdoor in the attic ceiling, which is early but perhaps not original to the 1829 construction, provides access to the roof.⁴⁰

The architectural style and details of the Darragh house reflect the social standing of its early owners. The themes of sociability and significance of family relationships that are evident in the architectural features of the house are also reflected in two detailed probate inventories of items within the household. The 1831 inventory of Alexander Darragh's estate totaled \$37,550.00, with \$8,000.00 of it invested in the Farmer's and Mechanic's Bank of Washington, D.C. and \$26,250.00 in the Bank of the United States. In settlement papers dated March 31, 1840 and after his debts had been paid, income on Alexander's investments had raised his estate's value to \$41,858.92, an enormous sum of money at the time.⁴¹ The detailed inventory of his personal property reflected his wealth and social standing. The household was elegantly appointed with two expensive Brussels carpets, worth \$28 and \$32, and an ingrain carpet valued at \$20. Numerous items related to entertaining at the highest level were listed, including a pair of mahogany dining tables and set of twelve chairs. Darragh also possessed a china dinner set, twenty silver tea spoons and table spoons, and four dozen china cups and saucers. The china set was likely used for both family and guests. Family dinners were increasingly elaborated in the early nineteenth century, becoming occasions for "improvement and social happiness." Because formal dinner parties were almost exclusively for men in the early-to-mid nineteenth century, the

⁴⁰ See figure 12 for floor plan of third floor.

⁴¹ APD, inventory and estate papers.

tea ceremony became a very important ritual for women and “provided an arena for the display of household status to outsiders.”⁴² The high number of cups and saucers that Darragh owned may reflect the fact that five adult women occupied the household at the time. Other items that made the house comfortable and impressive included three lamps and a piano forte, which at \$60 was the single most expensive item in the inventory. Darragh also owned \$106 worth of books, which ranged from Shakespeare to Voltaire and included works in Spanish and French.⁴³

By the time Margaret Darragh’s inventory was taken in 1841, the family had acquired many more items related to polite entertaining.⁴⁴ There was also a good deal of continuity from the 1831 inventory, with items such as the carpets and silver spoons again listed. New furnishings included a sideboard, another set of twelve chairs, and a pair of card tables. In addition there were two tea sets, two pairs of casters, table linens, napkins, and two china services. The household had also been updated with the addition of two pairs of Venetian blinds, probably used in the two parlors or the front parlor and front bedchamber, and a stove for use in the kitchen.⁴⁵ A study of Federal era Washington, D.C. households identified the possessions of the most elite homes to include: sideboards, multiple dining tables, lighting devices, casters, napkins, and sets of silverware and dishes. Carpets, window hangings, and looking glasses were also important markers of status.⁴⁶ The inventoried items of the Darragh household included all of these items, putting them at a remarkably high social level. Also represented in the 1841 inventory is the increasing attention to comfort that in the early 19th century came to represent

⁴² Diana diZerega Wall, “Family Dinners and Social Teas: Ceramics and Domestic Rituals,” in *Everyday Life in the Early Republic*, ed. Catherine E. Hutchins (Winterthur, Del.: Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, 1994), 263-264.

⁴³ APD, inventory. See Appendix C for transcription of the full inventory.

⁴⁴ New Castle County Probate Records, Margaret Darragh inventory, 14 October 1843 (hereafter MD, inventory).

⁴⁵ MD, inventory. See Appendix D for transcription of the full inventory.

⁴⁶ Barbara G. Carson, *Ambitious Appetites: Dining, Behavior, and Patterns of Consumption in Federal Washington* (Washington, D.C.: American Institute of Architects Press, 2000; 1990), 45.

“women’s success at domesticity” and men’s as economic provider.⁴⁷ Rocking chairs and feather beds made life more comfortable, while additional toilet glasses and wash tubs indicated a concern with personal hygiene.

Using census records, it is possible to partially reconstruct the occupants of the Darragh household. In the 1830 census, Margaret Darragh is listed as the head of a household containing herself and four other women between the ages of twenty and forty, presumably her unmarried daughters. There is also a five-to-ten year old girl residing with them, who was likely Alexander’s young daughter Margaret. Alexander Darragh himself does not appear in the census, although he bought the house in 1829. Perhaps because of his occupation in the navy, he was rarely home and therefore not listed as a resident. Other recorded occupants of the house in 1830 were two ten-to-twenty-four year old males, one who was enslaved and the other a free colored person.⁴⁸ In the 1840 census, Margaret Darragh again appears as head of the household, living with her granddaughter Margaret and two of her daughters. One daughter, Eliza, married John Janvier Jr. and she is likely one of the two daughters who are no longer in the household. There is still a ten to twenty-four year old male slave listed, and also now a thirty-six to fifty-five year old free female colored person.⁴⁹

By 1850 the household shows some more significant changes. Margaret Darragh died in 1841, and her daughter Margaret died in 1849.⁵⁰ Ann Darragh is listed as the head of the household, with property valued at \$3,000.00. She and Susan, the other surviving sister, are the only Darragh family members residing in the house. Alexander’s daughter Margaret is no longer in the household, likely because she had married. Unlike the previous censuses, there are no

⁴⁷ John E. Crowley, “The Sensibility of Comfort,” *American Historical Review* 104, no. 3 (June 1999): 780-782.

⁴⁸ AncestryPlus online database, U.S. Federal Census Images, 1830 census, “Margaret Darragh,” <<<http://www.gale.ancestry.com/search/rectype/census/usfedcen/default.aspx>>> (hereafter AncestryPlus).

⁴⁹ AncestryPlus, 1840 census, “Margaret Darragh.” See Appendix E for census transcriptions.

⁵⁰ See Appendices F and G for a transcription of their wills.

enslaved or free colored persons listed. Instead, it appears that Ann and Susan took in renters. Three members of the Platt family are listed: Samuel, age 27, Elizabeth, age 21, and Samuel, age 2. The elder Samuel Platt is identified as a lawyer, with property valued at \$600.⁵¹ The Platts would have provided some income to the Darragh sisters from an otherwise large and mostly empty house. Possibly Elizabeth Platt performed some housekeeping tasks within the household, or non-resident domestic servants were employed.

The census provides only a snapshot of information about the servants and enslaved people who were living in the house in 1830 and 1840. Other documents have helped to further reconstruct the household occupants. The 1831 probate inventory of Alexander Darragh's property included a "Coloured Boy named Randall, a slave aged about 13 years," valued at \$150.00.⁵² In 1832, his executors obtained an export license to sell Randall, described as a mulatto boy about thirteen years old, to John Farr of Philadelphia as a "house servant or waiter."⁵³ However, it appears that Randall remained with the Darragh family. An entry within Alexander Darragh's estate settlement papers dated March 21, 1840 lists a "Colored Boy remaining with family." Randall may very well be the ten to twenty-four year old male slave listed in both the 1830 and 1840 census.

Information about other enslaved Africans in the household comes from a series of deeds signed by Margaret Darragh in May of 1830. On May 1, Margaret signed a document manumitting "my Female Slave, named Ann Owens, now aged about twenty four years," on the condition that Ann serve her for another five years. That day she also signed a similar document manumitting "my Male Slave named Edward Owens, aged about twenty one years," providing

⁵¹ AncestryPlus, 1850 census, "Ann H Darragh."

⁵² APD, inventory.

⁵³ Mary Fallon Richards, "New Castle County Licenses to Import and Export Slaves," in *Delaware Genealogical Society Journal* 1, no. 1 (October 1980): 8.

that he served her until March 1, 1837. Within several weeks, however, Margaret's plans changed. On May 25 she signed a deed stating that she had sold Ann Owens for the sum of \$75.00 to Major Benjamin Pearce of the U.S. Army, stationed at Fort Delaware. Margaret also transferred James Owens, the infant son of Ann Owens who had been born on April 28 of that year, to Benjamin Pearce, with the specification that James was to serve Pearce until he was twenty-four years old.⁵⁴ What prompted Margaret's decision to sell Ann and James Owens? Perhaps she was reluctant to house and feed a young child who would not be able to do useful work for several years and would limit his mother's abilities to perform her own work.⁵⁵ Although the relationship between Edward and Ann Owens is unknown, it seems likely that they were somehow related, perhaps as siblings or a couple. From the documents, it appears that they were separated when Ann and James were sold to Benjamin Pearce, as no sale was recorded for Edward Owens. As cruel as this separation was, Edward and Ann Owens were fortunate to have been among the small minority of slaves who were able to live together, however briefly, in urban settings.⁵⁶ Assuming that Edward was manumitted in 1837 and that Randall is the enslaved male listed in the 1840 census, it appears that Edward left the household after being granted his freedom.

Although housing in the nineteenth century increasingly separated the workplace from the home, dwellings did not become a separate cultural 'sphere' and always remained places of work. Cooking, cleaning, and laundry all had to be done, no matter how refined the house became otherwise. Cultural shifts, however, meant that aspiring and elite families like the

⁵⁴ NCCRD, K: 4: 547-548; L: 4: 2-3.

⁵⁵ Billy G. Smith, "Black Family Life in Philadelphia from Slavery to Freedom," in *Shaping a National Culture: The Philadelphia Experience, 1750-1800*, ed. Catherine E. Hutchins (Winterthur, Del.: Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, 1994), 85. Smith wrote that "most urbanities viewed [slave] children as an extra expense and an added burden."

⁵⁶ Smith, 87.

Darraghs owned slaves or employed hired help because performing “heavy and exposed domestic labor associated with slavery” or hired help was seen as putting them “outside...[their] own class.”⁵⁷ Employing domestic servants appealed to a sense of gentility and self-respect that a woman like Margaret Darragh probably felt she deserved. Servants provided the necessary props for the requisite performance the Darraghs engaged in when guests were present. Visitors to the house expected to find consistency between “setting, appearance, and manner.” The house and its contents, “involving furniture, décor, [and] physical layout,” provided the setting for polite performances.⁵⁸ The Darragh family’s employment of multiple live-in domestic servants and slaves also reflected the huge amount of work that went into social display involved with formal activities such as tea ceremonies and dinner parties. In addition, having several servants ensured that messy tasks such as laundry could be assigned to one or two, while another servant was on hand to answer the door and wait on the family. The servants may have resented their use in “status competition[s],” knowing that “guests meant more work, with no extra pay.”⁵⁹ The lives of the enslaved and colored people who lived in the house would have been very different from those of the Darragh family members. Their spaces were primarily the service wing and small chambers above, along with the kitchen yard and cellar. The separation of these areas from the front section of the house heightened the sense of social distance between the Darraghs and their servants. Documents have helped to provide some information on the free and enslaved servants who lived in the house; a closer consideration of their architectural spaces and domestic activities will help to fill in some of the gaps.

⁵⁷ Blackmar, 112-113, 117.

⁵⁸ Erving Goffman, *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life* (New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1959), 22.

⁵⁹ Faye E. Dudden, *Serving Women: Household Service in Nineteenth-Century America* (Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan Univ. Press, 1983), 108-9, 123, 145.

The layout of the Darragh house reflected the idea that servants “should inhabit areas of the home where all the work was to be performed, while the family lived in other areas designed for display, comfort, intimacy, even study, but not for housework.”⁶⁰ Separate back stairs, sleeping quarters over the kitchen wing, and a rear entrance from the kitchen yard achieved this separation. Despite the vast worlds of difference between the main rooms and service wing, the servants had little escape from their masters, however, with their rooms located only a few short steps away. The front staircase was a constantly surveillable space, but the back stairs circumvented this by giving servants direct access to their chambers, or from their chambers to exit the house. Although the servants and slaves may have preferred their relative isolation, it also created additional work, by increasing “the steps necessary to serve a meal, answer the door, or attend to anything else while working in the kitchen.”⁶¹ The small heated chambers above the dining room and kitchen were likely shared by the servants and enslaved Africans who lived in the house. They likely accessed these rooms primarily by the back stairs, although it meant a lesser degree of privacy in both of these spaces. The exterior access provided by the kitchen door into the rear courtyard allowed servants and slaves to circumvent “the social statement made by the formal approach.” A house with such an arrangement allowed servants and slaves to pass in and out “almost at will, while whites from outside had to observe the formalities.”⁶² By virtue of their lesser status, servants and slaves could avoid the formal barriers of the front door and hall passage and enter directly into the rear of the house.

Servants’ activities within the household would have included such tasks as bringing in wood and stoking fires to keep the house heated, tending to candles and lamps, and going to

⁶⁰ Dudden, 119.

⁶¹ Dudden, 132.

⁶² Dell Upton, “White and Black Landscapes in Eighteenth-Century Virginia,” in *Material Life in Early America*, ed. Robert Blair St. George (Boston: Northeastern Univ. Press, 1998), 365.

market. Hauling water, either from the river or a cistern believed to have been located on the property, was a frequent and onerous task.⁶³ Keeping the house clean was another important chore, which grew more complicated with the addition of carpets and Venetian blinds to the household. Food preparation and service would have comprised a great deal of the servants' time. Cooking over a fireplace involved lifting heavy iron pots and tending to food cooking over numerous small fires. The 1841 inventory of Margaret Darragh's property included a stove, which was likely a coal cooking stove in the kitchen. Stoves were more fuel efficient than fireplaces, but it took a large stove to replace the fireplace's size and adaptability to both cooking and baking. Lighting a coal fire, however, took a great deal of skill, and stoves required more maintenance than fireplaces. Stoves needed almost constant ash removal, frequent cleaning of the flues and pipes, which was dirty and messy work, and daily blacking to prevent rust.⁶⁴ Warm in the winter, the fireside or stove would have been a hot and sweaty workplace in the summer months.

Preserving food for storage was another chore. The cellar was likely stocked with many casks and barrels of cider, pickled or salted meat, pottery containers of preserves, molasses, vinegars, and pickles, along with fruits and vegetables stored in barrels of sand for the winter. Eggs, butter, milk, and other dairy products were kept cool in the cellar. Servants would have carried these items to and from the cellar through either the passage under the main staircase or from an exterior stair that opened into the kitchen yard beneath the rear window of the back parlor.⁶⁵ Flour was likely kept in a wooden bin in the kitchen, with additional quantities perhaps

⁶³ Culp to Burkart. Culp wrote that attached to the gable end of the kitchen was "an old wooden storage shack," in which there was a cistern under the floor.

⁶⁴ Priscilla Brewer, *From Fireplace to Cookstove: Technology and the Domestic Ideal in America* (Syracuse, N.Y.: Syracuse Univ. Press, 2000), 61, 64-65, 87-88.

⁶⁵ See figure 13 for cellar floor plan.

hauled up to the attic.⁶⁶ Weekly baking was another activity that would have occupied the better part of a day.⁶⁷ Laundry was one of the most disagreeable tasks and one of the first to be given to servants. It involved hauling large amounts of water, heating it up, lifting and carrying heavy wash tubs, putting one's hands into lye-filled water, and wringing out heavy, sopping wet clothes. One activity the Darraghs' servants do not seem to have engaged in was textile production, as none of the requisite objects are listed in the probate inventories. However, besides the laundry, there was likely enough sewing and mending to provide ample work in relation to clothing.

The lives of the Darragh family and the enslaved and free people who lived and worked in their household could not have been further apart. Despite the vast world of difference between these two groups, somehow they were all able to live under the same roof. The house itself offered a solution to the potential problem of sharing spaces, by providing a clear delineation between the ceremonial and utilitarian spaces, as well as the personal family rooms and servants' chambers. An architectural reading of the Darragh family home provides a level of insight into the lives of its many and varied occupants. Combined with information from surviving documents, a more complete interpretation of the house and people who lived there is possible. Owned by the same family for sixty-four years, the Darragh house witnessed a period of great social and political change. The story that emerges from the building and documents is one of expanding sociability and refinement, all the while following the view expressed in Alexander Darragh's will of "keeping the family together."

⁶⁶ Judith Quinn, "Food Ways," in *After Ratification: Material Life in Delaware, 1789-1820*, eds. J. Ritchie Garrison, Bernard L. Herman, and Barbara McLean Ward (Newark, Del.: Univ. of Delaware, 1988), 138-139.

⁶⁷ Dudden, 104-106.

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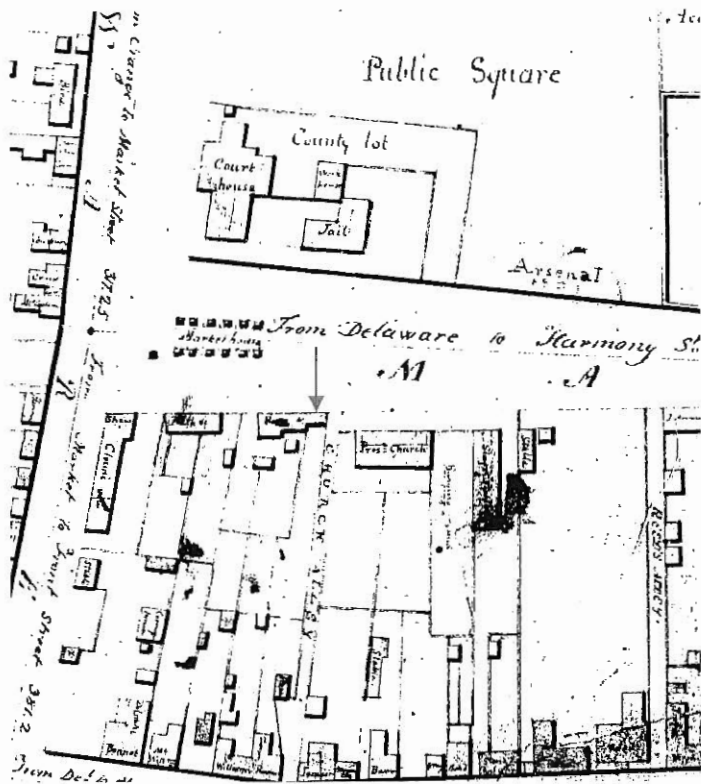


Figure 1. Benjamin Henry Latrobe, detail of 1804 survey of New Castle. Arrow points at frame house on lot.



Figure 2. Front façade of 19 E. Second Street.



Figure 3. Front dormer window and attic trapdoor.

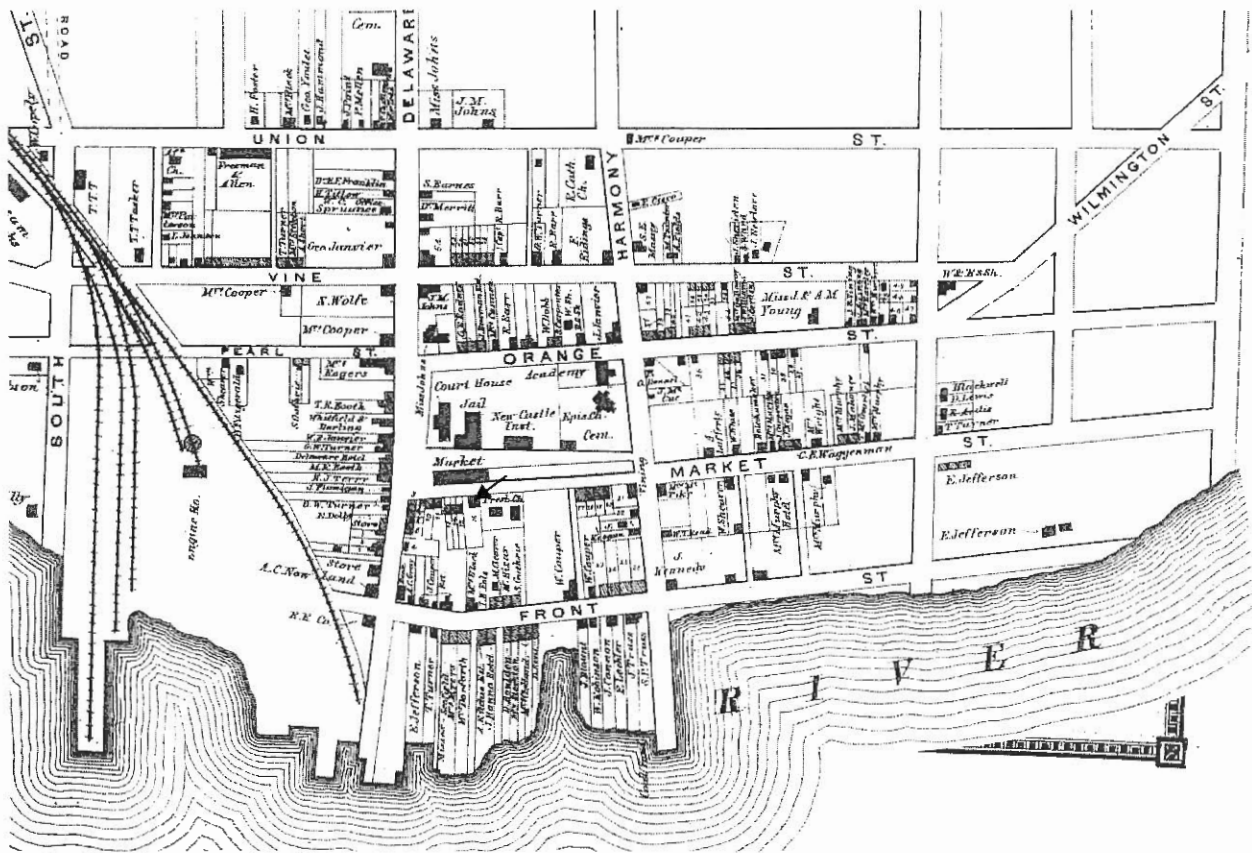


Figure 4. Detail from Beer's Atlas, 1868. The market is shown extending directly in front of the Darragh house, which is indicated by an arrow. The owner is listed as "Miss Darrah," presumably Susan Darragh, the surviving sister, who lived until 1880.

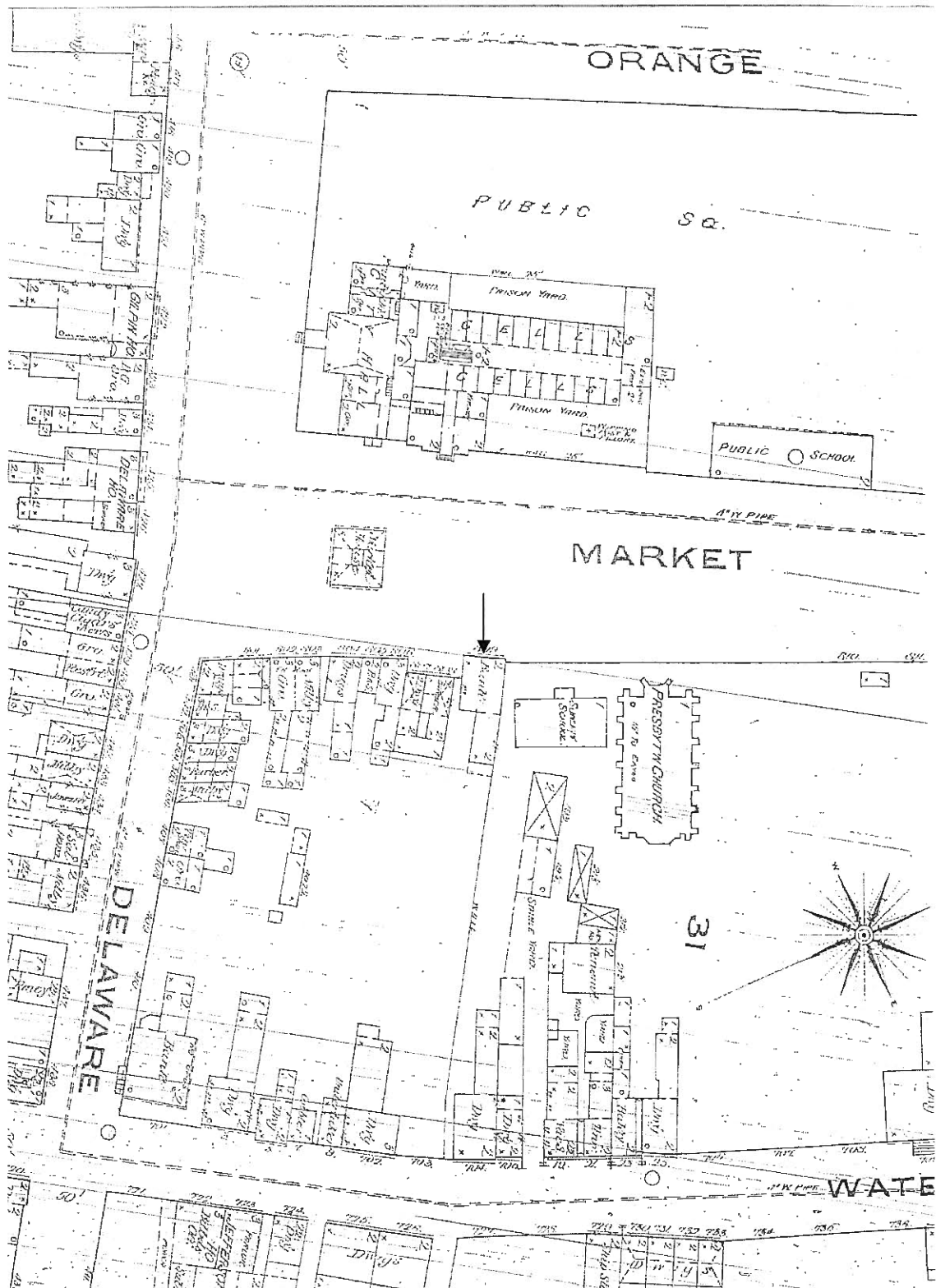


Figure 5. Detail from Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, March 1885. The dashed line on the rear of the kitchen may be a small shed or lean-to added to the outside of the house. To the northeast of the house behind the Presbyterian church, there are additional buildings and a stable yard.

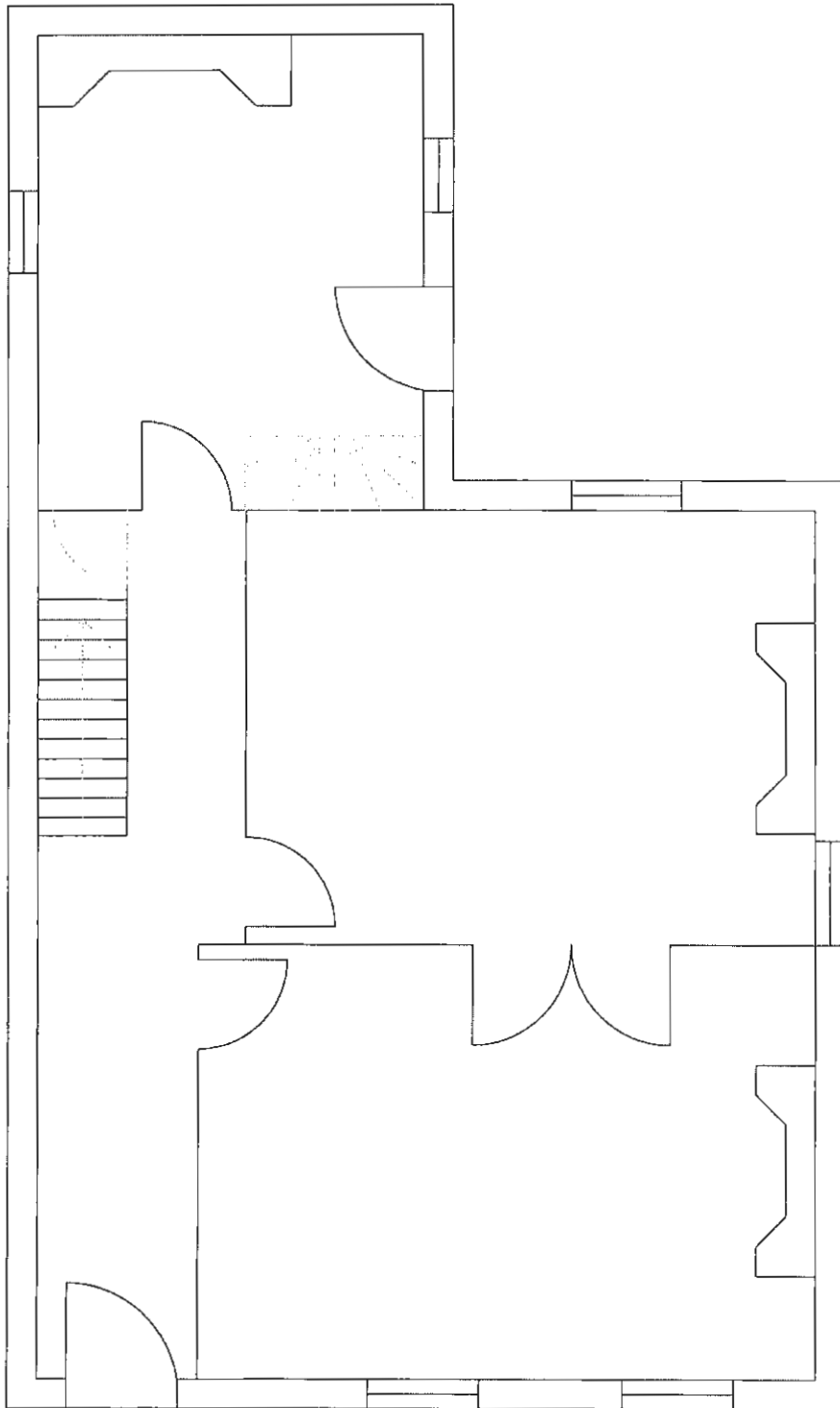


Figure 6. Floor plan of first floor as it looked in 1829 when Alexander Darragh bought the house.

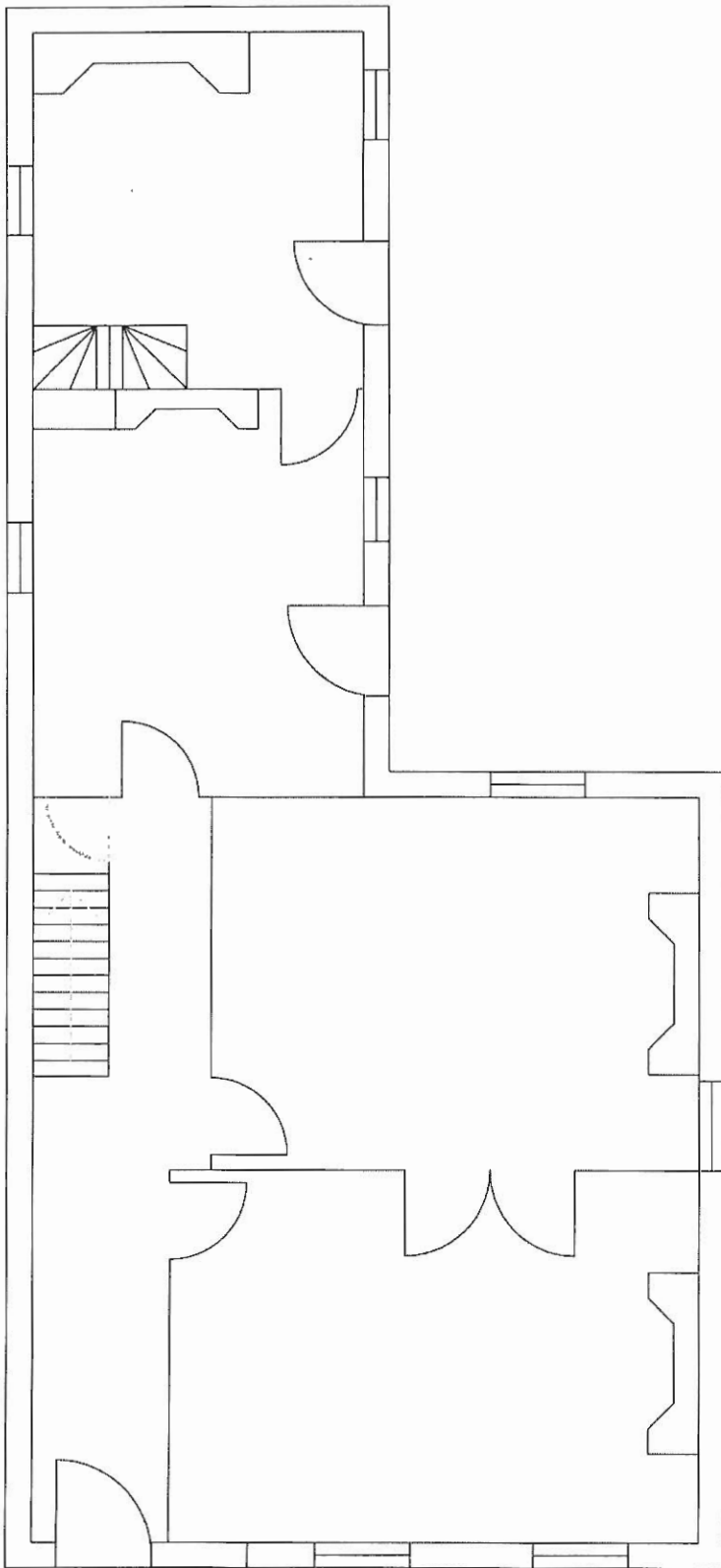


Figure 7. Floor plan of first floor after 1830s addition and renovation.



Figure 8. Fireplace in rear parlor.

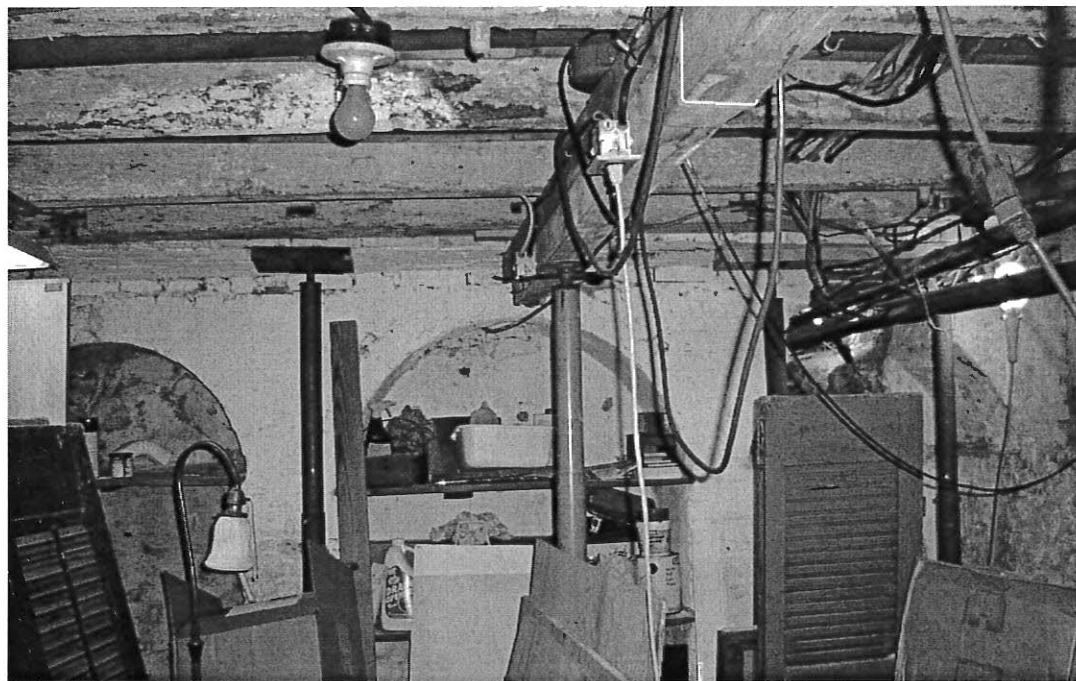


Figure 9. Triple arch support in cellar for kitchen fireplace removed during 1830s renovations. The arch on the right was cut through to access a crawlspace under the kitchen addition, which does not have a full cellar underneath it.

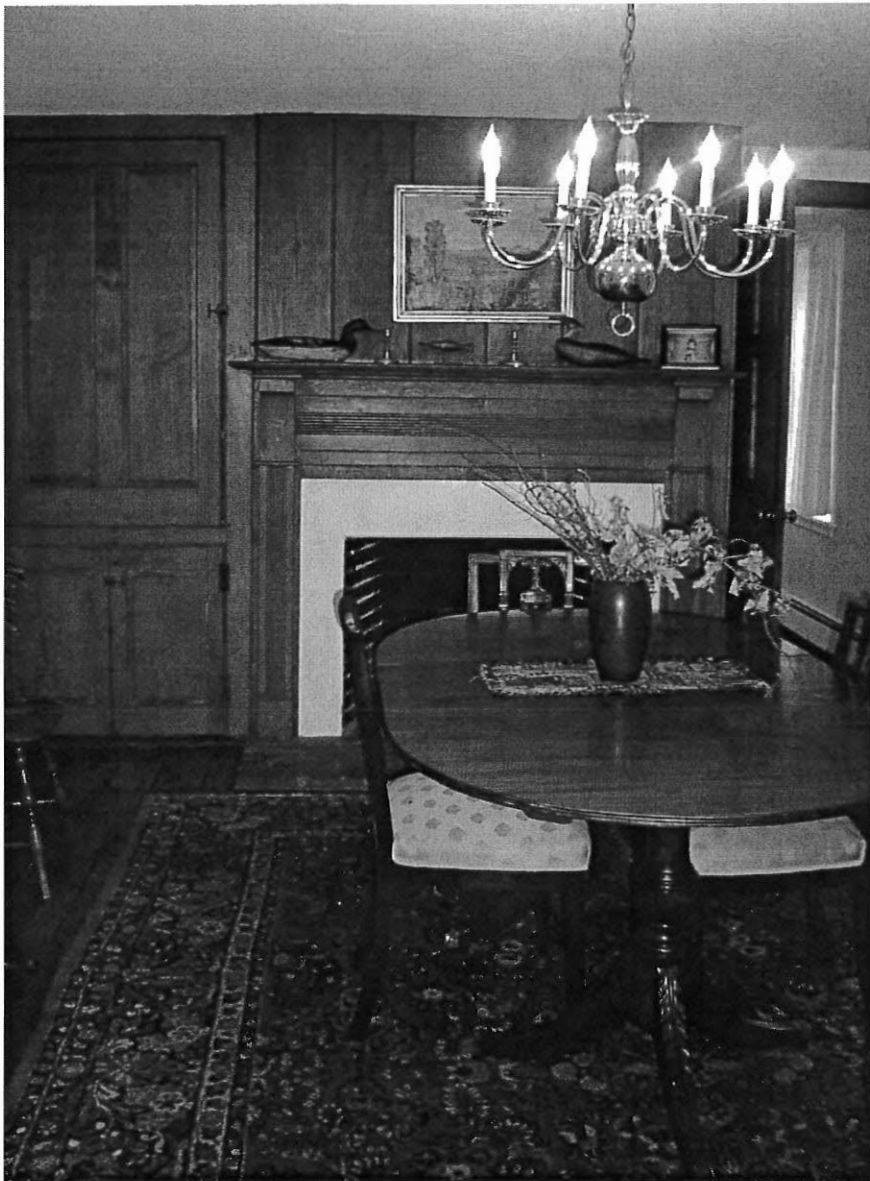


Figure 10. Dining room fireplace and cupboards, added during 1830s renovation. Paneling above fireplace added in mid-1900s.

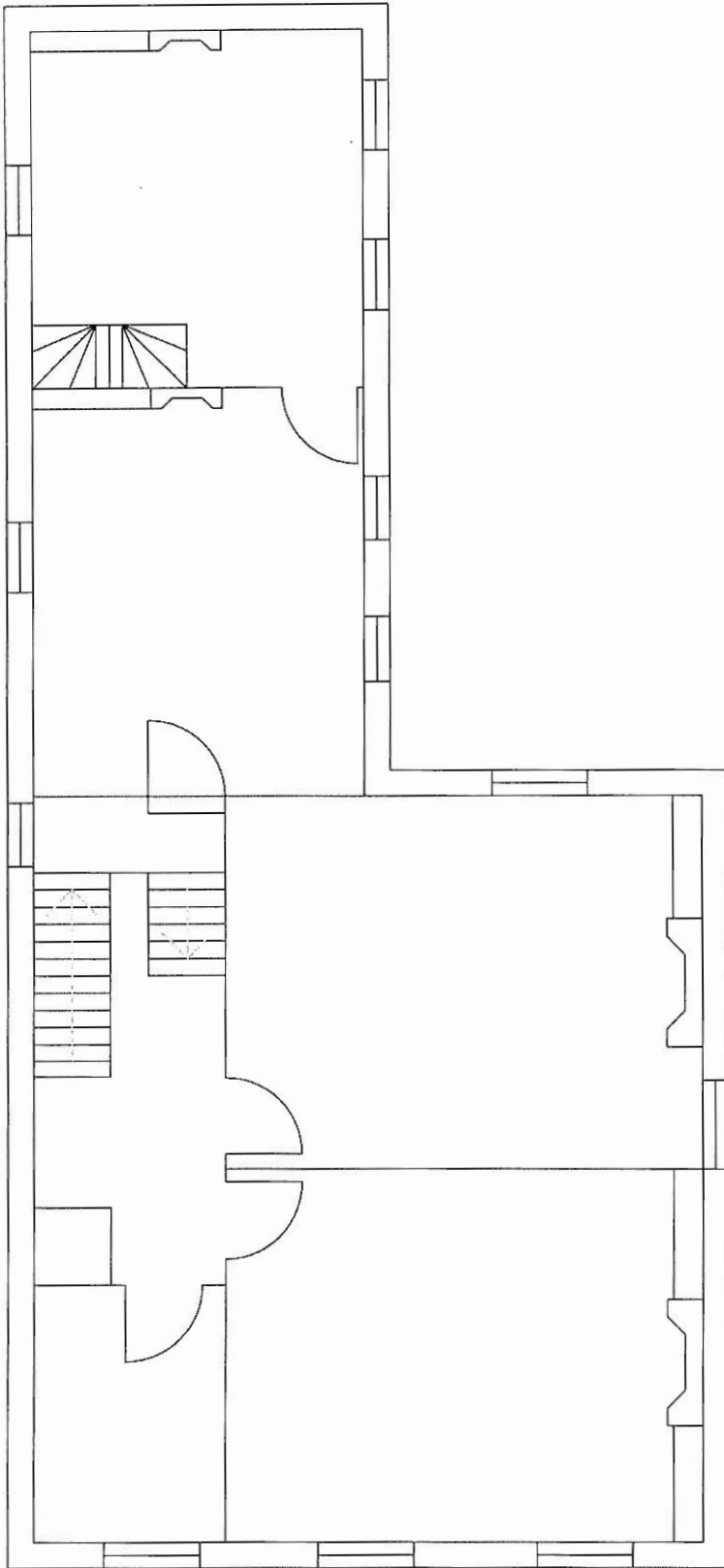


Figure 11. Floor plan of second floor.

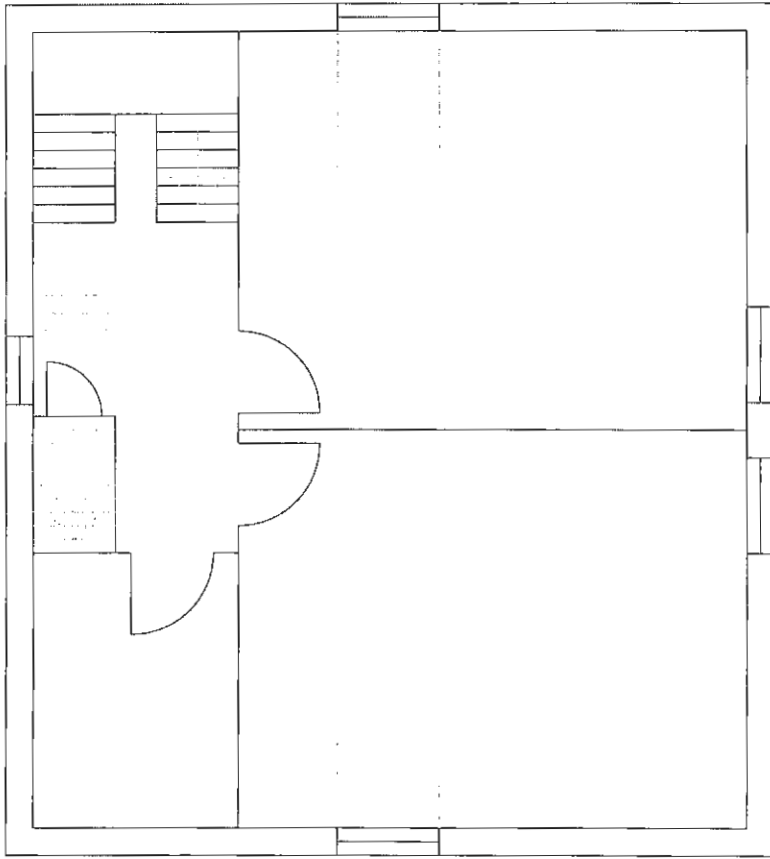


Figure 12. Floor plan of third floor.

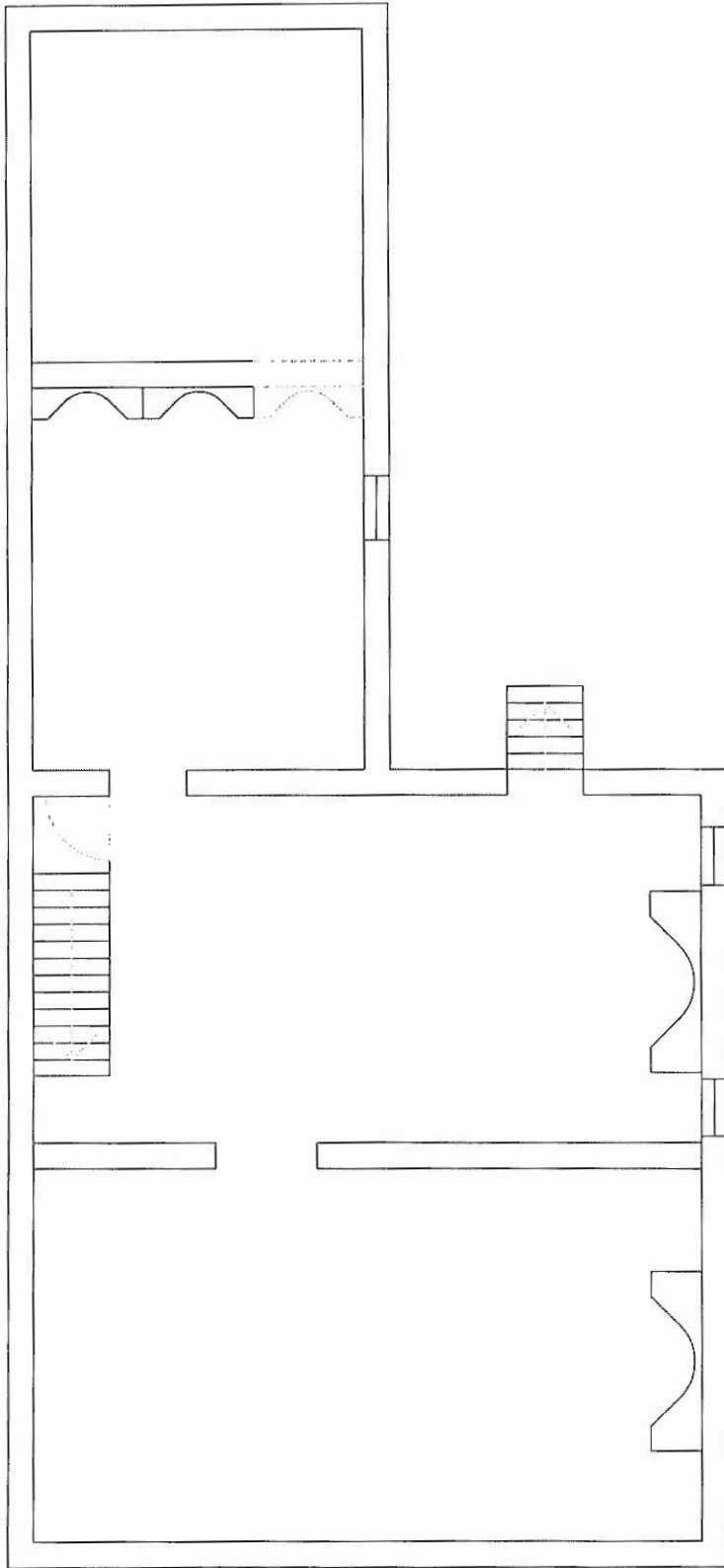


Figure 13. Floor plan of cellar.

Appendix A—Ownership of property

1695 Thomas Janvier and Jan Biske acquired plots between Strand and Second Street.¹

1728 Thomas Janvier left property to his sons Benjamin and John, with a frame house on Strand end of lot.

1746 Benjamin Janvier sold lot to Joseph Hill.

1770 Mary Hill (widow of Joseph Hill) sold property to Thomas Pusey.

1774 Thomas Pusey sold lot to Mary Thomas, a widow who later remarried to Richard Janvier.²

1798 Mary Janvier, daughter of Richard and Mary Thomas Janvier, sold property to Samuel Rowen for £55.³

1808 Samuel Rowen died and left property to his son James Rowen.⁴

1813 On February 1 the sheriff seized three lots from James Rowen for failure to pay debts owed to James Frazer. Abraham See bought Rowen's three lots, each with a frame houses, at a sheriff's sale on December 24 for a total of \$456.00.

1826 Heirs of Abraham See, Eliza Keisler [widow of Abraham See; remarried] and Mary Ann See [his daughter] sold Second Street property to Samuel Battersby for \$261.00.⁵

1829 Samuel Battersby sold property, now with a "large Two Story Brick Messuage and Kitchen and other Improvements," to Alexander P. Darragh for \$2,300.00.

1831 Alexander Darragh died and left property to his mother Margaret Darragh

1841 Margaret Darragh died and left property to her daughters Ann, Margaret S., and Susan Darragh.⁶

1893 Margaret P. Darragh Newton [daughter of Alexander P. Darragh] sold property to John G. Lenoir⁷

1945 Lenoir family sold property to Charles P. Culp and wife.

¹ Ownership information is taken from NCCRD and Jeannette Eckman's unpublished notes on historic houses of New Castle, Historical Society of Delaware.

² NCCRD, B: 2: 342. Deed between Thomas Pusey and Mary Thomas records property ownership back to 1728.

³ NCCRD, R: 2: 176-177.

⁴ NCCPR, Samuel Rowen will, 1 November 1806.

⁵ NCCRD, E: 4: 501-503.

⁶ Margaret S. Darragh died in 1849 and Ann Darragh died in 1866. In 1868, Beer's Atlas lists the house as owned by a "Miss Darragh," presumably Susan Darragh, the surviving sister, who lived until 1880. The house then likely passed to her niece, Margaret P. Darragh Newton.

⁷ NCCRD, C: 16: 162.

1964 Culp family sold property to Richard Appleby.

1984 Richard Appleby sold property to Joseph and Nanette Burkart.

1992 Burkarts sold property to William and Roberta Walker and Dawn Gwynn.

1995 Walker and Gwynn sold property to Steven Martin and Cynthia Robbins.

Appendix B—Porter-Darragh Family Genealogy

The Darragh family descended from the Porter and Stewart families of New Castle County, Delaware. Alexander P. Darragh's position with the U.S. Navy was part of a long family tradition of seafaring. Several generations of Porters served at sea, including privateer captains in the Revolution, a commodore during the War of 1812, and an admiral in the Civil War. The Porter-Darragh family also showed a distinct pride in family heritage, passing on the names of Alexander and Margaret through generations of descendants.¹

Alexander Porter married the widow **Margaret Stewart Vandike**, daughter of Dr. David Stewart, the founder of Port Penn. They had three children: Alexander, John, and **Margaret**.

Margaret Porter (September 2, 1768-May 10, 1841) married **John Darragh** (December 5, 1763-July 24, 1821) on February 7, 1787. John and Margaret Darragh may have lived in New Castle for at least several years. In the June 24, 1795 edition of the *Delaware and Eastern Shore Advertiser*, a John Darragh advertised the "GENTEELEST ENTERTAINMENT" at his "Sign of the Ship and Pilot-boat" in New Castle.² On May 8, 1797, James McCullough advertised that he "has taken the TAVERN-HOUSE &c. in New Castle, lately occupied by Mr. John Darragh, where every convenience for the accommodation of travelers, is comfortable provided..."³ A final mention of John Darragh is in the 1804 Latrobe survey, which listed the house across from

¹ Information on the Porter family from Francklyn Wynne Paris, "The Three David Porters: Captain, Commodore, and Admiral, and Their Delaware Roots," parts 1-3, *Delaware Genealogical Society Journal* 1, no. 2 (October 1980): 25-30; no. 3 (May 1982): 49-54; no. 4 (November 1982): 73-77.

² Quoted in Cooper, 80.

³ Quoted in Higgins, 138. Higgins notes on p. 83 that a branch of the Janvier family was descended from Lydia Darragh, a Philadelphia woman who attained fame for warning Washington of a British move that resulted in a surprise defeat of the British at Edgehill in 1777. According to Higgins, the Darragh family came to New Castle following the Revolution. The Janvier-Darragh connection to which Higgins refers to is likely the marriage of John Janvier Jr. to Eliza Darragh, sister of Alexander Darragh. John Janvier owned Harmony House at 46 E. Third St. and left the property to his daughter Margaret, perhaps named after her grandmother Margaret Porter Darragh.

the courthouse at 210 Delaware Street as the “Darragh Tavern.”⁴ John and Margaret Darragh

had eight children:

1. Lydia Barrington Darragh b. 17 Dec. 1787, m. James Short, d. 10 Jan. 1834
2. **Alexander Porter Darragh**, b. 26 Aug. 1789, d. at sea 9 Jan. 1831, m. Eliza Tucker Armistead, one child: Margaret Porter Darragh (later Newton)
3. **Ann Darragh** b. 5 Dec. 1791, d. 24 July 1866
4. John Darragh b. 26 Dec. 1793, d. 29 Dec. 1793
5. **Margaret Stewart Darragh** b. 28 Dec. 1795, d. 25 Jan. 1849
6. **Susanna Darragh**, b. Jan. 14 1798, d. Jan. 1, 1880.
7. Eliza Darragh b. 16 July 1800, d. 19 July 1801
8. **Eliza Darragh** b. 24 Apr. 1802, m. John Janvier Jr., d. 26 July 1885

⁴ Higgins, 97.

Appendix C— Probate Inventory of Alexander P. Darragh

An Inventory of the goods and chattels which were of Alexander P. Darragh, late of the Town and County of New Castle, deceased, at the time of his death, —appraised this twenty fifth day of October in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and thirty one, in current lawful money of the United States, by us, the subscribers, appointed appraisers thereof by the Register of said County, and duly sworn in manner and form as prescribed by law.

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| One Brussels Carpet | 32. [dollars] |
| One ditto ditto | 28. |
| One Ingrain Carpet | 20. |
| One oil floorcloth | 10. |
| One Sofa | 40. |
| One Pier Glass | 15. |
| One Astral Lamp | 4. |
| One pair of Mantel Lamps | 6. |
| One pair of shovel + tongs | 3. |
| One brass Fender | 3. |
| Twelve rush-bottom chairs | 24. |
| One pair of mahogany dining tables | 30. |
| One mahogany breakfast table | 5. |
| One Toilet Glass | 3. |
| One bed and bedstead | 35. |
| One wardrobe (mahogany) | 25. |
| One picture (Chinese Portrait) | 4. |
| One washstand | 3. |
| One bureau, mahogany | 15. |
| One Piano Forté | 60. |
| One dinner set of china | 30. |
| Ten table spoons of silver | 20. |
| Ten tea spoons of silver | 10. |
| Four Dozen China Cups and Saucers: | 12. |
| 1 ½ doz. Plates | |
| Box with set of large chessmen | 10. |
| Amt. Forward | 447. |

[Page 2]

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Amount br. Forward | 447. |
|--------------------|------|

Four hundred shares of stock in the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank of Georgetown, District of Columbia; the per value being twenty five dollars per share 8,000.

Two hundred and ten shares of stock in the Bank of the United States, the per value being one hundred dollars per share 26,250.

Two hundred shares of stock in the New Castle and Frenchtown Turnpike and Rail Road Company; upon which but one instalment was paid in the Testator's life time, to wit, five dollars on each share 2,600.

| Books | |
|--|---------|
| French Encyclopedia, 14 vols. | 20. |
| Gibbons' History of the decline + fall of the Roman Empire 8 vols. | 10. |
| Heime's History of England 8 vols. | 12. |
| Analectic Magazine 8 vols. | 4. |
| Blackstone's Commentaries 4 vols. | 8. |
| Edinburgh Review 13 vols. | 15. |
| Ferguson's Astronomy | 2.50 |
| Ferguson's Lectures 2 vols. | 2.50 |
| Shakespeare's Plays 6 vols. | 3. |
| Rollin's Ancient History 9 vols. | 5. |
| Life of Buonaparte 4 vols. | 3. |
| Harris' Encyclopedia 4 vols. | 2. |
| Voltaire's Works 14 vols. | 3. |
| Am't. forward | 37,387. |

[Page 3]

| | |
|--|---------|
| Amount bro't. forward | 37,387. |
| History of Napoleon (in Spanish) 3 vols. | 2. |
| Gil. Blas (in Spanish ^{French}) 3 vols. | 2. |
| Gil. Blas (in English) 3 vols. | 3. |
| Relacio etc. (in Spanish) 4 vols. | 3. |
| La Morale des Poetes 3 vols. | 2. |
| Persian Letters 2 vols. | 1. |
| A lot of old books | 3. |
| Coloured Boy named Randall, a Slave aged about 13 years | 150. |

[Total] 37,550.

Appendix D— Probate Inventory of Margaret Porter Darragh

Inventory Margaret Darragh Taken on October 14, 1843
New Castle County Probate Records. Microfilm no. 3087. Reel 24.

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| 26 Shares of F.B. Stock | 1300.00 |
| 1 Side Board | 10.00 |
| 1 Mantel Glass | 6.00 |
| 1 Dozen chairs | 12.00 |
| 1 Do do | 6.00 |
| 1 Hair cloth rocking chair | 12.00 |
| 1 Windsor do | 2.00 |
| 1 Carpet | 20.00 |
| 3 do | 20.00 |
| 1 pair of Card Tables | 10.00 |
| 2 pair of Venetian Blinds | 8.00 |
| Andirons shovel + tongs | 9.00 |
| 3 pair do. | 6.00 |
| 1 Stair carpet | 12.00 |
| 2 do. | 6.00 |
| 2 Bureaus | 20.00 |
| 3 Wash stands | 6.00 |
| Chamber setts | 3.00 |
| 1 Bed stead | 10.00 |
| 4 do | 10.00 |
| 5 Feather beds | 40.00 |
| 1 Mattress | 16.00 |
| Counterpanes + blankets | 25.00 |
| Sheeting &c | 20.00 |
| 2 Looking glass | 8.00 |
| 2 Toilet glasses | 2.00 |
| 1 Desk + bookcase | 5.00 |
| 1 Dining Table | 6.00 |
| Breakfast Table | 4.00 |
| (column 2) | |
| Walnut Cupboard | 5.00 |
| 1 stove | 4.00 |
| 1 Dinner sett | 25.00 |
| Liverpool sett | 8.00 |
| Tea sett | 16.00 |
| Table Linen | 30.00 |
| 1 pair of Butter knives | 10.00 |
| 2 pair of Casters | 15.00 |
| Table + Tea spoons | 25.00 |
| Tea pot Candlesticks | 8.00 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Napkins | 10.00 |
| Dinner sett of knives & forks | 12.00 |
| Tea sett | 8.00 |
| Washing kettle tubs &c | 10.00 |
| 2 Candle stands | 3.00 |
| Kitchen Furniture | |
| Cooking utensils | |
| &cc. | 20.00 |
| Sundries | 20.00 |
| [Total] | \$1843.00 |

Appendix E— Census Information

Census 1830, Margaret Darragh

| | |
|---|--|
| one 5-10 year old female | [Margaret Porter Darragh, daughter of Alexander] |
| two 20-30 year old females | [Eliza and Susan] |
| two 30-40 year old females | [Ann and Margaret S.] |
| 1 60-70 year old female | [Margaret Darragh] |
| one 10-24 year old male slave | [Randall] |
| one 10-24 year old free male colored person | |

total: 8 people

Census 1840, Margaret Darragh

| | |
|---|--|
| One 15-20 year old female | [Margaret Porter Darragh, daughter of Alexander ?] |
| One 30-40 year old female | [Susan] |
| 1 40-50 year old female | [Ann or Margaret S.] |
| 1 70-80 year old female | [Margaret Darragh] |
| one 10-24 year old male slave | [Randall] |
| one 36-55 year old free female colored person | |

Total: 6

Census 1850, Ann Darrah

| | |
|--------|---|
| Age 50 | Ann H Darrah [property valued at \$3000] |
| Age 46 | Susan Darrah |
| Age 27 | Samuel Platt [Lawyer, property valued at \$600] |
| Age 21 | Elizabeth F. Platt |
| Age 2 | Samuel Platt |

Total: 5

Appendix F— Will of Alexander Darragh

I Alexander P. Darragh Purser in the United States Navy and at this time a resident of the town and county of New Castle and state of Delaware, being in good health of body and of sound and disposing mind and memory, do here by make and publish this my last will and testament and do dispose of all my estate as follows—

I will first declare that all my accounts with the government are settled and that I am not indebted to it in any manner whatever.

First-Altho' I have paid many times over for the farm in Whiteclay creek hundred on which my Father died, I hereby relinquish all claim to it, and wish it to be divided among my mother and sisters, according to the Laws of this State, in the same manner it would have been supposing my father to have it free from incumbrances.

Secondly-I give and bequeath to my mother Margaret Darragh the sum of seven hundred Dollars per year during her life or widowhood out of which she is to provide my four sisters Ann, Margaret, Susan, and Eliza, or those of them that may live so long as she does, with plain and decent boarding, provided they think proper to live with her; otherwise they are to have no claim on her or this sum. I also give and bequeath to my mother Margaret Darragh during her life or widowhood the house in which she now lives (bought by me from Samuel Battersby), together with the furniture in the same. This bequest is to be considered as made with a view of keeping the family together, so long as my mother lives and my sisters remain single. I also give and bequest to my mother Margaret Darragh during her life and to my sisters Ann, Margaret, Susan and Eliza, during the same period, or while they remain single, the sum of Fifty Dollars per year each, for clothing, or [second page] to be expended in such other way as they think proper. On the death, or marriage, of my mother Margaret Darragh it is my will that all the above mentioned legacies shall cease and that my four sisters already named, or the survivors of them, shall each receive the sum of Two thousand five hundred Dollars after which they shall have no further claim on my estate.

Thirdly-I give and bequeath to my nephew Alexander D. Shortt the sum of One thousand Dollars-I have not mentioned his Mother [Lydia Darragh Shortt] in this will because I am sure he will always be sensible of the duty he owes her, and will extend to her all the comfort and support she may require.

Fourthly-I give devise and bequeath all the rest and residue of my estate, real, personal or mixed, to my daughter Margaret, her heirs and assigns forever.

Fifthly-I appoint my friend Cornelius D. Blaney to be the guardian of my said daughter, and desire him from time to time as often as it may be conveniently practicable, to vest the profits or income of her estate, over and above what may be necessary for her genteel support and liberal education, in such manner as he thinks most conducive to her interests.

Lastly, I nominate and appoint as Executor of this my last will and testament (revoking all others) my friends Cornelius D. Blaney and James Booth Esquire, of the county of New Castle and State of Delaware, and Edward Fitzgerald Purser in the navy of the United States and at present residing in the Borough of Norfolk and state of Virginia.

[Signed Nov. 12, 1829]

Appendix G— Will of Margaret Porter Darragh

In the name of God Amen

I Margaret Darragh of the Town of New Castle in the State of Delaware, Widow, being weak in body, but of sound and disposing mind and memory, do make and publish this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following, to wit,

First. It is my Will, and I do Order that all my just Debts, (if any) and funeral Expenses be paid and satisfied.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Eliza, Wife of John Janvier Junior, Four Shares in the Capital Stock of the Farmers Bank of the State of Delaware.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my Daughters Ann, Margaret, and Susan the residue of my Stock in the said Bank (now being Twenty three shares) or whatever may remain at the time of my decease, to be equally divided between them.

Item To my beloved Grand daughter Margaret Porter Darragh I give and bequeath a Gold mourning Ring which I desire my Executor to have made with some of my hair in it, to be kept by her as a token of my love and esteem and in remembrance of me.

Item The rest and residue of my Property and Estate of whatever nature or description, I give and bequeath to my three Daughters Ann, Margaret and Susan Share and Share alike. And it is my Will and desire that all my household and kitchen furniture there and Articles of every description in the house shall be held and enjoyed by them in common so long as they keep house and live together; But in case of the marriage of either or of either of them chusing to reside seperately then a division of the same shall be made equally between them and each take her separate portion and hold the same in severally.

[June 20, 1838]

Appendix H— Will of Margaret Stewart Darragh

In the name of the Lord Amen

I Margaret Stewart Darragh of the Town of New Castle in the County of New Castle and State of Delaware, being weak in body, but of sound and disposing mind and memory, do make and publish this my last Will and Testament in manner following, to wit,

First. It is my Will, and I do Order that all my just Debts (if any) and funeral Expenses be paid and satisfied.

Item. I give and bequeath all my wearing Apparel unto my Sisters Ann, Susan and Eliza to be equally divided between them.

Item. I give and bequeath to my beloved Niece Margaret Porter Darragh a Gold Medallion which I direct my Executor to have made with some of my hair therein, to be kept by her as a token of my love and esteem and in remembrance of me.

Item The rest and residue of my Property and Estate of whatsoever nature or description, I give, devise, and bequeath to my Sisters Ann H. Darragh and Susan Darragh, Share and Share alike, their heirs, and Assigns.

And lastly I nominate and appoint to be the sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament (revoking all others) my brother in law John Janvier Junior of New Castle Hundred.

November 6, 1841

Probate Inventory of Alexander P. Darragh
New Castle County Probate Records. Microfilm no. 3087. Reel 24.

An Inventory of the goods and chattels which were of Alexander P. Darragh, late of the Town and County of New Castle, deceased, at the time of his death, -- appraised this twenty fifth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty one, in current lawful money of the United States, by us, the subscribers, appointed appraisers thereof by the Register of said County, and duly sworn in manner and form as prescribed by law.

| | |
|--|---------------|
| One Brussels Carpet | 32. [dollars] |
| One ditto ditto | 28. |
| One Ingrain Carpet | 20. |
| One oil floorcloth | 10. |
| One Sofa | 40. |
| One Pier Glass | 15. |
| One Astral Lamp | 4. |
| One pair of Mantel Lamps | 6. |
| One pair of shovel + tongs | 3. |
| One brass Fender | 3. |
| Twelve rush-bottom chairs | 24. |
| One pair of mahogany dining tables | 30. |
| One mahogany breakfast table | 5. |
| One Toilet Glass | 3. |
| One bed and bedstead | 35. |
| One wardrobe (mahogany) | 25. |
| One picture (Chinese portrait) | 4. |
| One washstand | 3. |
| One bureau, mahogany | 15. |
| One Piano Forte | 60. |
| One dinner set of china | 30. |
| Ten table spoons of silver | 20. |
| Ten tea spoons of silver | 10. |
| Four Dozen China Cups and Saucers: 1 ½ doz. Plates 12. | |
| Box with set of large chissmin (sp?) | 10. |

Amt. Forward 447.

[Page 2]

Amount br. Forward 447.

Four hundred shares of stock in the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank of Georgetown, District of Columbia; the per value being twenty five dollars per share 8,000.

Two hundred and ten shares of stock in the Bank of the United States, the per value being one hundred dollars per share 26,250.

Two hundred shares of stock in the New castle and Frenchtown Turnpike and Rail Road Company; upon which but one instalment was paid in the Testator's life time, to wit, five dollars on each share 2,600.

Books

| | | |
|--|------|-----|
| French Encyclopedia, 14 vols. | 20. | |
| Gibbons' History of the decline + fall of the Roman Empire 8 vols. | | 10. |
| Heime's History of England 8 vols. | 12. | |
| Analectic Magazine 8 vols. | 4. | |
| Blackstone's Commentaries 4 vols. | 8. | |
| Edinburgh Review 13 vols. | 15. | |
| Ferguson's Astronomy | 2.50 | |
| Ferguson's Lectures 2 vols. | 2.50 | |
| Shakespeare's Plays 6 vols. | 3. | |
| Rollin's Ancient History 9 vols. | 5. | |
| Life of Buonaparte 4 vols. | 3. | |
| Harris' Encyclopedia 4 vols. | 2. | |
| Voltaire's Works 14 vols. | 3. | |

Am't. forward 37,387.

[Page 3]

Amount bro't. forward 37,387.

| | | |
|--|------|--|
| History of Napoleon (in Spanish) 3 vols. | 2. | |
| Gil. Blas (in Spanish ^{French}) 3 vols. | 2. | |
| Gil. Blas (in English) 3 vols. | 3. | |
| Relacio ? (in Spanish) 4 vols. | 3. | |
| La Morale des Poetes 3 vols. | 2. | |
| Persian Letters 2 vols. | 1. | |
| A lot of old books | 3. | |
| Coloured Boy named Randall, a slave aged about 13 years | 150. | |

37,550.

[Accounts of estate settlement show numerous investments in stocks, bonds, loans, combined with \$553.00 of personal possessions remaining in house as of March 21, 1832, estate totals in excess of \$51447.00]

[In 1840 accounts show a payment of \$23,850.00 to Doctor ? Newton husband of Margaret, late M. P. Darragh, daughter of the Testator...]

[1832 "Coloured Boy remaining with family 150"]

Inventory Margaret Darragh Taken on October 14, 1843
New Castle County Probate Records. Microfilm no. 3087. Reel 24.

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| 26 Shares of F.B. Stock | 1300.00 |
| 1 Side Board | 10.00 |
| 1 Mantel Glass | 6.00 |
| 1 Dozen chairs | 12.00 |
| 1 Do do | 6.00 |
| 1 Hair cloth rocking chair | 12.00 |
| 1 Windsor do | 2.00 |
| 1 Carpet | 20.00 |
| 3 do | 20.00 |
| 1 pair of Card Tables | 10.00 |
| 2 pair of Venetian Blinds | 8.00 |
| Andirons shovel + tongs | 9.00 |
| 3 pair do. | 6.00 |
| 1 Stair carpet | 12.00 |
| 2 do. | 6.00 |
| 2 Bureaus | 20.00 |
| 3 Wash stands | 6.00 |
| Chamber setls (sp?) | 3.00 |
| 1 Bed stead | 10.00 |
| 4 do | 10.00 |
| 5 Feather beds | 40.00 |
| 1 Mattress | 16.00 |
| Counterpanes + blankets | 25.00 |
| Sheeting &c | 20.00 |
| 2 Looking glass | 8.00 |
| 2 Toilet glasses | 2.00 |
| 1 Desk + bookcase | 5.00 |
| 1 Dining Table | 6.00 |
| Breakfast Table | 4.00 |
| (column 2) | |
| Walnut Cupboard | 5.00 |
| 1 stove | 4.00 |
| 1 Dinner sett | 25.00 |
| Liverpool sett | 8.00 |
| Tea sett | 6.00 |
| Table Linen | 30.00 |
| 1 pair of Butter knives | 10.00 |
| 2 pair of Casters | 15.00 |
| Table + Tea spoons | 25.00 |
| Tea pot Candlestand (?) | 8.00 |
| Napkins | 10.00 |
| Dinner sett of knives & forks | 12.00 |

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Tea sett | 8.00 |
| Washing kettle/tubs | 10.00 |
| 2 Candle stands | 3.00 |
| Kitchen Furniture | |
| Cooking utensils | |
| &cc. | 20.00 |
| Sundries | 20.00 |
| | \$1843.00 |