

Ye Towne  
of  
St. Georges  
Buildings and Homes  
The  
"Steamboat Hotel"  
&  
128 Perches of land

No. 2 Gladys B. Lester



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S8  
L642  
V.2

YE TOWNE  
of  
ST. GEORGES  
BUILDINGS & HOMES

"STEAMBOAT HOTEL"

No. 2  
JANUARY 1991

Gladys B. Lester

Also Featured  
" ST. GEORGES HOTEL"

*B. M. 00*

November 1990

For over 14 years, on occasions of stolen time and spare time from my household, mother and grandmother duties, as well as other extracurricular activities, I have been researching the area from Red Lion Creek to Augustine Creek east of the present Route 13 in the State of Delaware.

My main interest was in a tract of land, by warrant, in the year 1675 of 1,280 acres received by Jacob Young from Gov. Andros and forming what was known as Georges Neck, Cock's Neck and now Cox's Neck. It was the Southwest end of this tract that was divided into small acreages which formed the town of St. Georges, Delaware. Only the north side of the town would have been on this tract. The south side of St. Georges is another story. The incentive to set aside lots, for a town, began in 1730.

I am working on breaking the acreage down, of the town area, to the point of identifying how the town formed and how the plots for homes developed and identify homes and buildings we can, today, relate to those plots.

As I am able to compile my information I will be putting it in the form of reports or booklets which will be available to interested persons.

The research has been rewarding as well as interesting and enjoyable due to the fact of what is available in Delaware, to persons wanting to know more about the area, in which they live, as well as the State of Delaware.

I am indebted to the Delaware Archives Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware for the amassed information I have compiled. I really cannot give enough thanks for the courtesy, understanding help, and kindness shown me by the staff members of the research room now and in the past as some have moved to higher positions, but still make themselves available when needed. My endeavor to continue research and finish my project stems from the attitudes of interest and help the members have shown.

I will try to present the facts as I find them and hope they will be of interest and help to descendants, of the area, as well as others seeking history of the area.

Gladys B. Lester

## FORWARD

Many are under the misconception that streets were laid out in the year 1730 to form the town of St. Georges. Only a main road existed then and the town formed along that road using the term by the main street.

In the early 1700's a lane or small road would run through landowners property and many owners set aside so many acres for the use of roads. Landowners in the area near the mill , creek and main road started in 1730 to talk about and plan for a town and were setting aside plots of three acres or smaller adjoining to the St. Georges Creek and the only road running down to a small bridge over the creek.

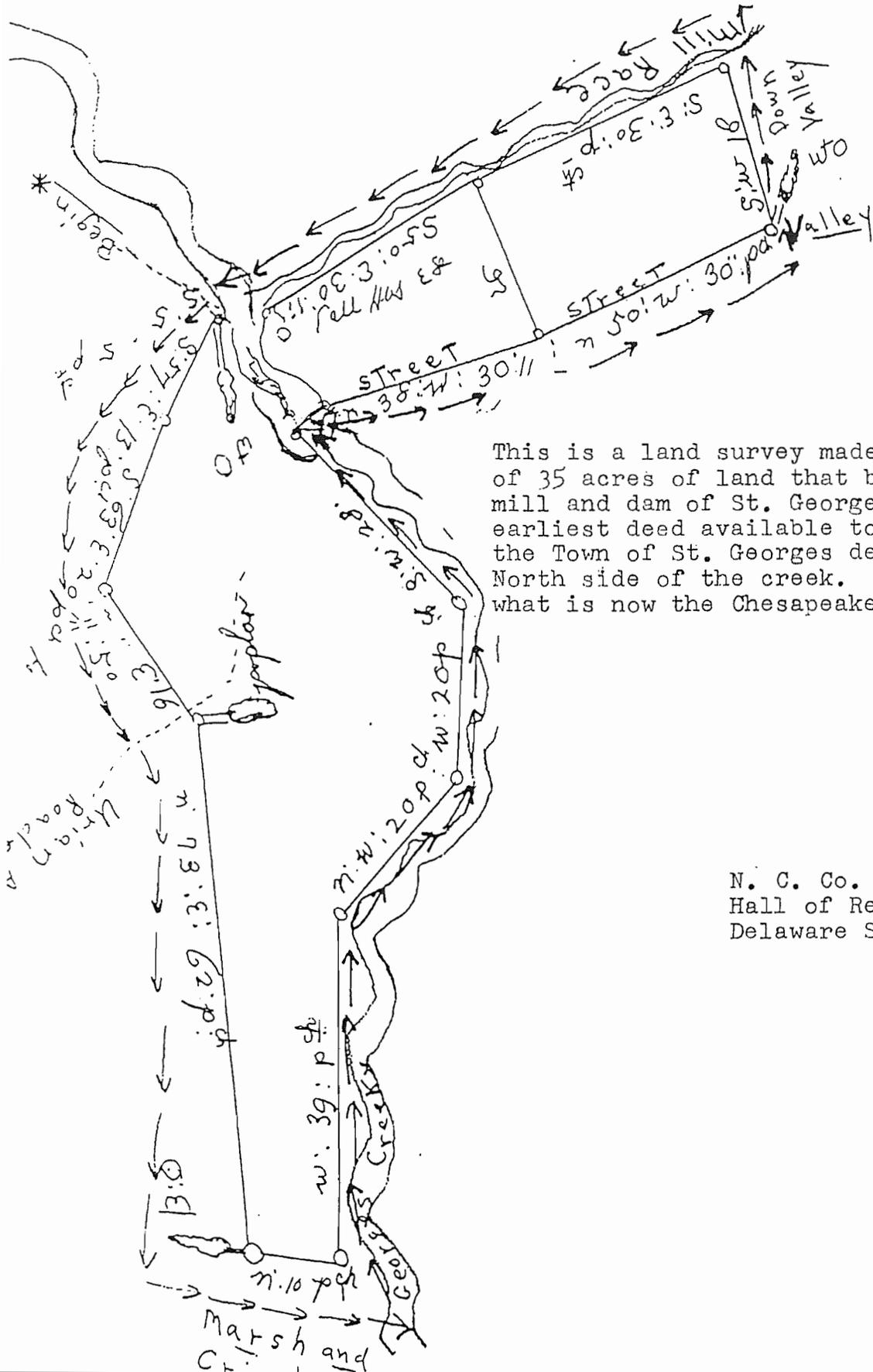
Early surveys and deeds quite often point out gates and gate-post on division lines. Fences surrounded the properties in the creek area and gates accommodated the roadway. To go through one anothers properties they would open and close the road-gate. Farmlands that lay one behind the other off of a main road used the lane and gate system to get to their respective properties and owners drew up right-of-way papers and all involved had to keep fences and lane in good repair.

Jacob Young in the late 1600's and later in the 1700's John Cocks, who acquired the Young property, had a cart path running through their land, from the East, that adjoined to the main road coming from the West and North above St. Georges Creek. That cart-path today is known as Cock's (Coxes) Neck Lane or Road. The road the cart-path joined coming in from the West, now Kirkwood Road, and going down Main Street through the Town of St. Georges later became The Kings Highway.

Andrew Jubart, circa 1743-4, added several small plots to adjoin to other plots already along the main road. This is when Second Street, now Church Street, and Broadway, now Broad Street came into the town plans. A part of Broad Street was closed off above Church Street in the late 1750's and was not opened again until the 1920's. Delaware Street came into being around 1820. Main, Broad, Church and Delaware are, still today, the only streets in North St. Georges.





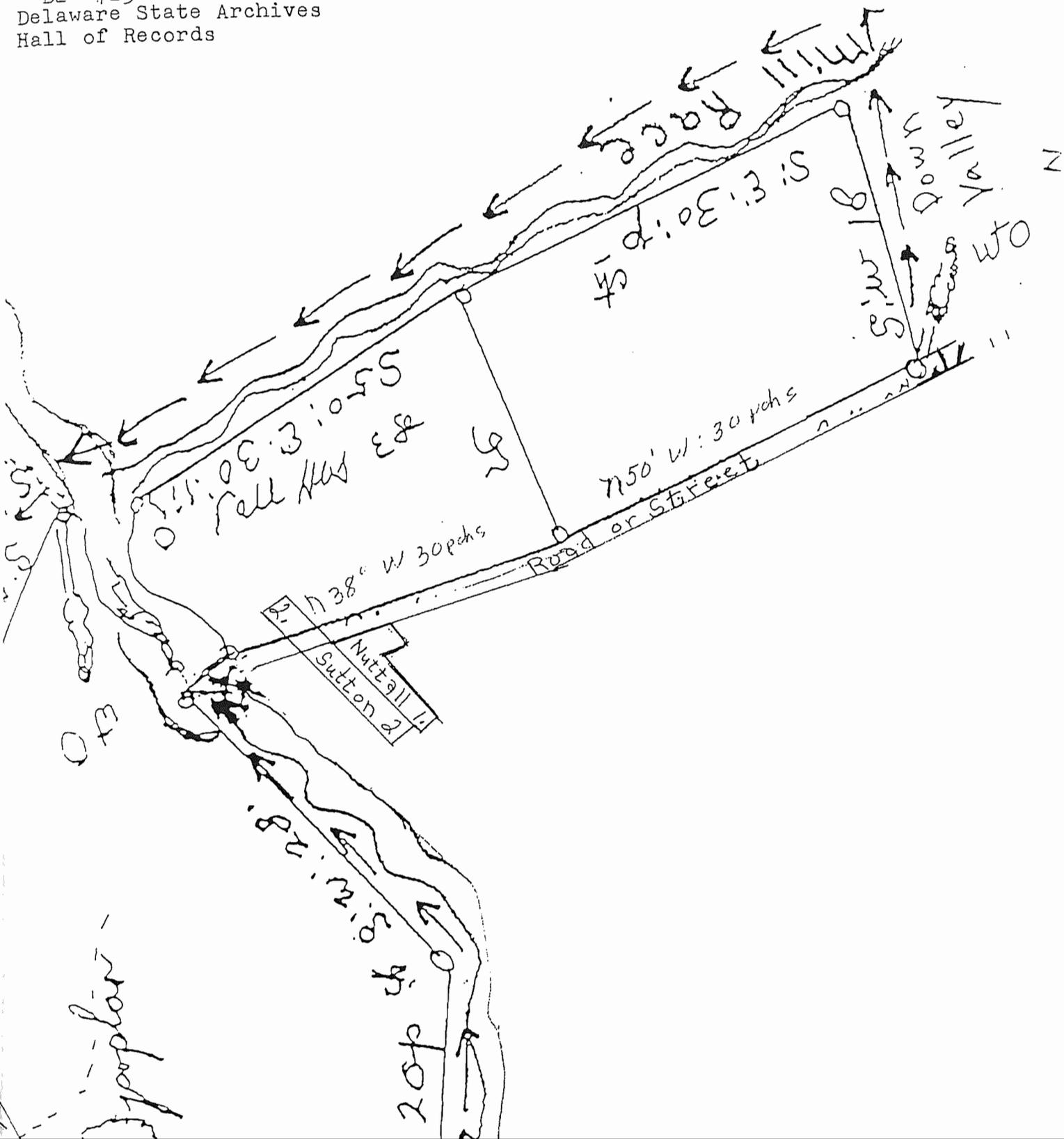


This is a land survey made August 29, 1718 of 35 acres of land that belonged to the mill and dam of St. Georges Creek. This is the earliest deed available to use to show how the Town of St. Georges developed on the North side of the creek. The creek became what is now the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal.

N. C. Co. Survey B<sup>2</sup> #123 1718  
 Hall of Records Dover, De.  
 Delaware State Archives

Using this blown up survey of land, by St. Georges Creek, in the area where the Town of North St. Georges developed there will be an attempt to show, to some degree, how the town developed. The creek belongs close to the line and not the bulk of water it seems to be. The land at this time, 1718, belonged to Abraham Kirbly and William Betteridge. The land included the mill and mill house which probably was incentive to begin the town. The town developed on the Northeast side of this property.

N. C. Co. Land Survey 1718  
 B2 #23  
 Delaware State Archives  
 Hall of Records



## INTRODUCTION

On page 2 of my booklet #1, "Ye Towne of St. Georges, Buildings and Homes, Nuttall-Sutton Home," in reference to settling the estate of Michael Dushane - I said I would indentify the brick messuage and 128 perches of land that went to Anthony Dushane, son of Michael Dushane in another article. This booklet is in reference to that 128 perches of property and other buildings built on that property along now the North side of Delaware Street and a small section of Main Street intersecting Delaware Street. The main building being featured is "Steamboat Hotel".

The Dushane family came from Ireland and were early settlers to the area of St. Georges. They owned land south of St. Georges Creek as well as to the north. They were farmers and also had a fulling mill on Scotts Run. The name appears often in the development of the town and can be considered one of the families contributing to the growth of the community.

Gladys B. Lester

## INN - TAVERN &amp; STEAMBOAT HOTEL



Circa 1906

The hotel is the first building on the left, with dormer window and a porch. Intersection of Main Street & Delaware Street. Frame home attached to hotel also has a porch. There is an attached cellar-way entrance on the end of the home. The streets are dirt.



Circa 1960

Hotel with frame home attached. Much renovated. Dormer removed.



Circa 1923

Main Street opposite Delaware Street intersection.  
 Hotel (Second building on left), Philip Simmons Home and Meat Market.  
 Then Carrow Home. First building on the left - Delaware Trust Building.  
 Cement center streets with dirt sidings.



Same area as above. January 1991 On the right - Brick I.O.O.F.  
 building and a former Drugstore and Soda shop

Jacob Vanbebber, a merchant, made his will August 14, 1733 and died soon after as his will was probated September 10, 1733. He owned houses and plots of land in the town of St. Georges. He also owned 31 acres of land near the main road leading from St. Georges to Dragon Branch. Jacob Vanbebber's origin is German. Jacob left one-half of his estate to his wife Mary and the other half to his son Jacob Vanbebber Jr.. (N. C. Co. Wills 1733 Jacob Vanbebber) Mary Ashton Vanbebber died and left a part of her share from Jacob Vanbebber to her daughters, Grace and Mary, by her former husband Joseph Ashton, and one-third part of her real estate to her son Jacob Vanbebber Jr.. Jacob Jr. now stood seized in two-thirds part of his deceased father's estate. N. C. Co. Deeds Bk. C Vol. 1 pg. 244 1749, N. C. Co. Deed Bk. U Vol. 1 pg. 558 1761)

Jacob Vanbebber Jr. was a saddler and lived on the property in the town of St. Georges. He died circa 1749 and left no survivors except his father's brother and his uncle, Peter VanBebber of Lunenburg, Colony of Virginia, who inherited Jacob's share. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. C Vol. 1 pg. 244 Sept. 16, 1749) Peter VanBebber sold all of such lands to Jacob Gooding, a merchant, of St. Georges. There was a house on one of the parcels of land as on Nov. 16, 1729 (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. I Vol. 1 pg. 270) John Goforth of St. Georges, a tanner, sold to Jacob Vanbebber, a merchant, for 35 pounds, near St. Georges Creek, a messuage on a lot and two water lots.

Jacob Gooding Sr. had died intestate and on August 25, 1761 the heirs of Jacob Vanbebber Sr. and heirs of Jacob Gooding Sr. sold the tenement and two lots of land to settle the estate. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. U. Vol. 1 pg. 558 1761) The deed in brief - Daniel Britt of Red Lion Hundred from heirs of Jacob Vanbebber Sr. deceased, town of St. Georges, merchant, and heirs of Jacob Gooding Sr. deceased. Jacob Gooding had acquired the tenement and two lots of land hereinafter which did belong to Jacob Vanbebber Jr. and Peter VanBebber.

Parcel #1 is the lot located on the East side of Main Street. Begin at a corner post near to where the gate now stands on the Northeast side of the

Northeast side of the main street being also a corner of a lot late of William Piper deceased, thence by a line dividing this from the said Wm. Piper lot N $48^{\circ}$  E 21 perches, thence N  $41\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  W 4 perches and  $\frac{6}{10}$  of a perch. Then dividing this from another lot of Jacob Gooding Sr., deceased, S  $53^{\circ}$  W  $21\frac{1}{2}$  perches, thence down Main Street to beginning.

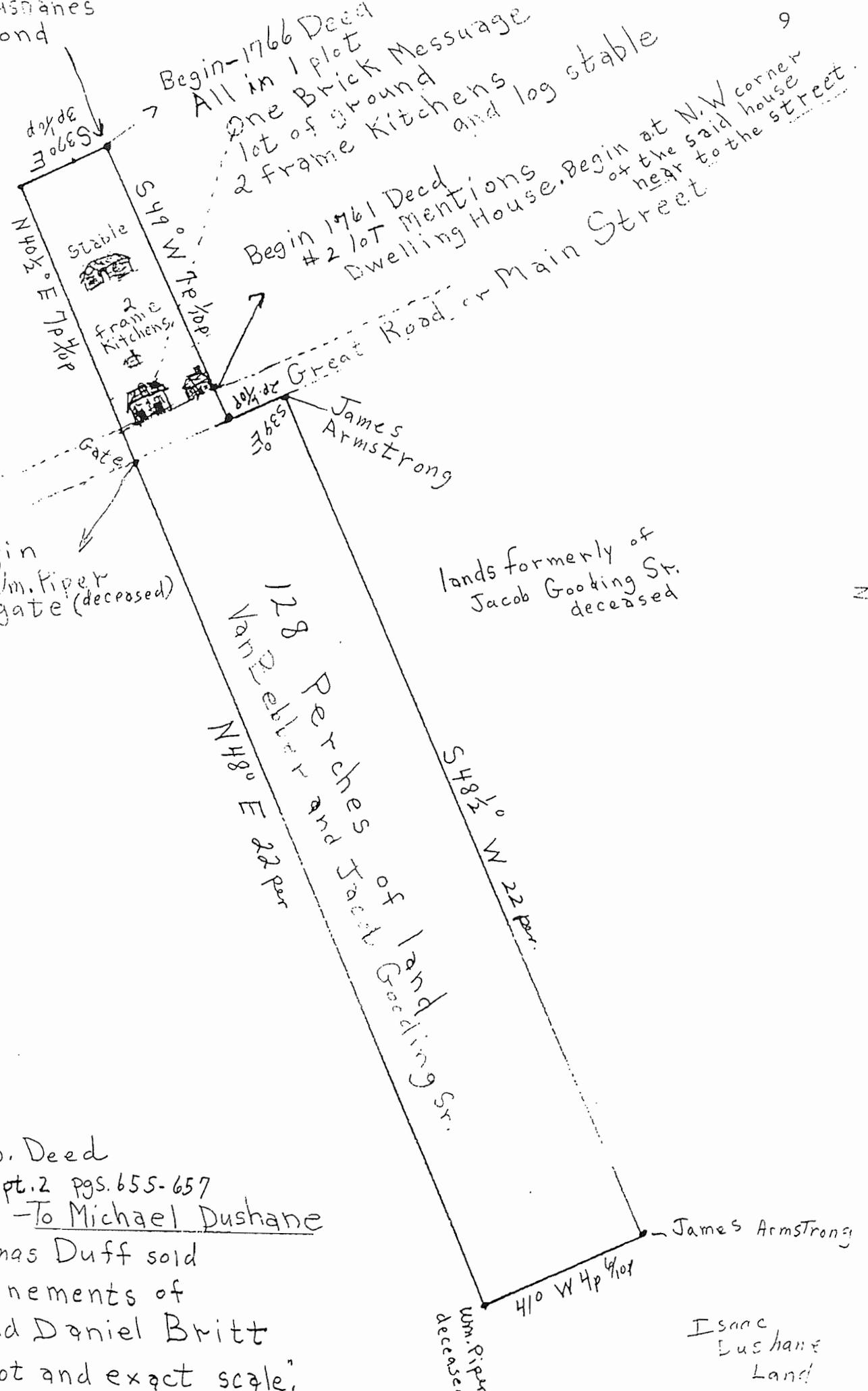
The other lot lying on and being on the Southwest side of the Main Street whereon the Dwelling House stands. Begin at the Northwest corner of the said house and near to the street thence running down the street S  $41^{\circ}$  E 3 perches and  $\frac{3}{10}$  of a perch, then S  $55^{\circ}$  W 6 perches to a branch of the mill pond, then up said pond N  $40^{\circ}$  W 3 perches and  $\frac{3}{10}$  of a perch, then N  $55^{\circ}$  E 6 perches to the beginning. Whatsoever quantity of land be contained within said bounds etc. to the said tenement and two lots of land etc. to Daniel Britt, his heirs etc. forever. The heirs of Gooding and VanBebber are as follows: John Bayard, Margaret Bayard, Joseph Hart, James Ashton Bayard, Agnes Bayard, Isaac Gooding, Susannah Gooding, Andrew Cannon, Veronica Cannon, Henry VanBebber, Jacob Gooding.

Daniel Britt, a farmer, made many improvements to the land and one being a new brick house. Daniel Britt and his wife may have operated and Inn on the property as in 1766 Daniel Britt had died and Susanna, wife and widow, and executor of the will, sold the property to settle debts.

(N.C.Co. Deed Bk. X Vol. 1 pg. 655 October 21, 1766)

The deed states Michael Dushane from I. Thomas Duff, sheriff, property of Susanna Britt etc. and shows the property to have one brick messuage and lot of ground, 2 frame kitchens and log stable adjoining lands of James Armstrong. The old dwelling house is not mentioned- so it probably was destroyed when the brick house was built between the years 1761-1766. The need for two frame kitchens is a possible clue of and Inn being present on the property. Michael Dushane bought it for 113 pounds. The deed now has the two properties joined as one with the road going between the two lots and it contains 128 perches of land. A deed drawing showing the outlines of the property in 1761 and 1766 is on the next page.

Isaac Eushanes  
of the mill pond



Begin 1761 Deed  
str. lot  
Wm. Piper  
gate (deceased)

lands formerly of  
Jacob Gooding Sr.  
deceased

Castle Co. Deed  
X Vol. 1 pt. 2 pgs. 655-657  
t. 21, 1766 - To Michael Dushane  
Sheriff Thomas Duff sold  
lands and tenements of  
Isaac and Daniel Britt  
drawing not and exact scale.

James Armstrong  
Isaac Eushane  
Land

Anthony Dushane and wife Sarah received the brick messuage and 128 perches of land around the year 1778 upon the death of Michael Dushane, Anthony's father. Anthony did not stay much longer on the property as he sold it to Henry Hollingsworth October 7, 1779. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. D Vol. 2 pg. 276)

Henry Hollingsworth and his wife Jane owned the brick messuage and land for 18 years. It's probable they lived on the property and kept an Inn and then later rented it out to other Innholders. It is known that David Higgins in his Inn Petition, to the State of Delaware, March 25, 1794, mentioned he had provided himself with suitable accommodations for keeping an Inn in the said Town of St. Georges in a convenient house long occupied as such. On November 9, 1797 Henry Hollingsworth and wife Jane, now living in Elkton, Cecil County, Maryland, sold the property to Solomon Maxwell of Christiana Bridge, New Castle County, Delaware.

Solomon Maxwell was also an innkeeper, but did not take residence on the property as within the year he had passed away and the administrators of his estate had made petition on December 21, 1798, to orphans court of New Castle County, to sell his properties as there was insufficient money to pay his debts. The Inn property had been rented to Mary McBrierty as she had petitioned, in May 1798, to the Judges of the Court of the General Sessions of the Peace, at New Castle, Delaware, for a tavern license and mentions that the petitioner hath kept a house of entertainment for travelers and others for one year past in the Village of St. Georges, on the property of Solomon Maxwell, deceased. The said house has been occupied as a tavern for several years past and a stand for the public stages passing from Dover to the City of Philadelphia at the present time.

On February 26, 1799 the brick messuage and lot of land was sold at Public Auction to John Sutton for 200 pounds, paid in gold and silver coin. ( N. C. Co. Deed Bk. U Vol. 2 pg. 251 Recorded July 3, 1800) When John Sutton bought the Maxwell land, the deed showed that the Nuttall land, on which John lived, and owned by his wife Margaret, adjoined on the Southwest line to the newly bought Maxwell property. John Sutton treated the two properties as one. He already had a 43' street, as use

To the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Justices of the Court of  
Quarter Sessions for the State of Delaware

The Petition of David Higgins of  
St Georges in the County of Newcastle humbly  
sheweth, that your Petitioner hath provided  
himself with suitable accommodations for  
keeping an Inn in the said Town of St Georges  
in a convenient house long occupied as such  
and means to keep the same in a decent and  
orderly manner. Wherefore he prays the Court to  
Grant him Licence for keeping the same in a  
lawful manner as a house of Public entertain-  
ment for Travelers and others, and as in duty  
bound, will ever pray to. David Higgins  
March 25<sup>th</sup> 1794.

We the Subscribers beg leave to recommend the  
Petitioner David Higgins to the Court as a Person  
who we expect will give general satisfaction in  
the Premises: Having been well known to us as a sober  
orderly person, and one whom we wish to see author-  
ized to keep a public Inn in said Place. And as  
the Revenue of the State are promoted by Licensing  
Inns we flatter ourselves the prayer of the Petitioner  
will be granted.

Anthony Dushane  
David Thompson  
Thos W Thompson

Jesse Higgins  
W McKernan  
Abel Miles

To the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Judges of the Court of the General Sessions of the Peace, now sitting at Newcastle for the County of Newcastle, May Term 1798.

The Petition of Mary M. Brierly humbly sheweth.

That your petitioner hath kept a House of Entertainment for Travellers and others for one year past in the Village of St. Georges, the property of Solomon Maxwell Decard, the said House have been occupied as a Tavern for several years past, and a stand for the public Stages passing from Dover to the City of Philadelphia at the present time your petitioner have been at a considerable expense in furnishing every necessary for the Accommodation of the public Stage and others, who will favour her with <sup>their</sup> custom, your petitioner therefore requests that your Hon<sup>rs</sup> will grant her a Licence to keep a public Inn for the Entertainment, at St. George and House &c. And your petitioner is well assured, she will Merit the Esteem of the public in General.

Mary M. Brierly

(N.C. Co. Tavern Petitions)  
Hall of Rec'ds Dover, DE  
Delaware State Archives

We the Subscribers being well acquainted with the above Subscriber, we recommend her to be a fit Person to keep a House of Entertainment, & prays a Licence may be granted,

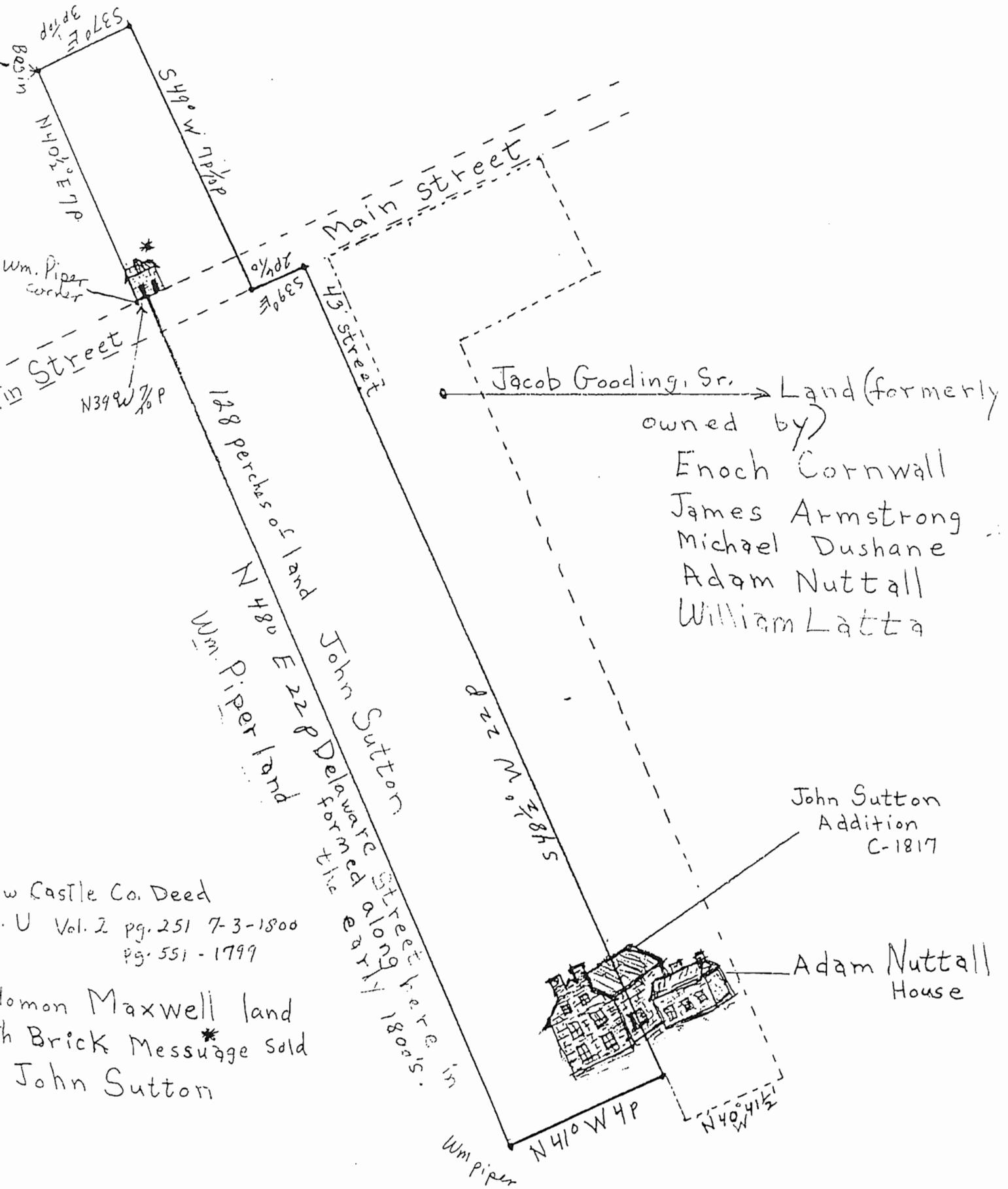
- |                |                |                    |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| John Carr      | Maxwell Baines | John Darragh       |
| Isaac King     | John Bitson    |                    |
| James Moore    | Jos. McElwain  | Wm. J. Wagon       |
| Eben. Rutledge | Wm. Myatt      |                    |
| William James  | Isaac Cannon   | Wm. Carpenter Junr |
| Wm. Scott      | Joseph Isaacs  | Dan. Lantry        |
|                | Lawrence Moore |                    |

forever, off of the main street, set aside in a 1730 deed from John Gooding to Enoch Cornwall, which could now serve for an entrance to both properties. See page 14. There was no Delaware Street at that time. When John and Margaret Sutton put an addition on the south side of the Adam Nuttall home in the early 1800's it was built on Nuttall land as well as the newly bought 128 perches of land by John Sutton; being now located on two separate parcels of land. The new addition, facing Southwest, was now the main front section of the home. The new entrance featured a semicircular fanlight over the portal facade which entered into a hallway and stairway with two large rooms adjoining off the hallway. A new lane was probably put in on the southwestern section of the property to accommodate the new entrance and addition. This lane and a portion of William Piper's land later became Delaware Street. See page 14. Another story has now come about on the Nuttall - Sutton home featured in the first booklet "Ye Towne of St. Georges Homes and Buildings. When John Sutton wrote his will he did not acknowledge, the fact, that the brick house and lot of land which his son James N. Sutton now occupies, and was to have until his death, when it went to his daughter Jane Latta's children; was on a parcel of land owned by his former wife Margaret Nuttall and also on a parcel of land he had bought from Solomon Maxwell. This brought about the grandson William Latta petitioning orphan court and receiving the home and land before James N. Sutton's death. However, because a portion of the house was on land owned only by John Sutton, and the land went to James N. Sutton until his death, other Latta relatives were settled with in orphans court in 1868 getting paid for their share of the land, on which the brick home was built, per John Sutton's will, and giving William Latta a clear title to the Nuttall-Sutton home and land. William Latta then sold the property.

(N.C.Co. Wills 1854 John Sutton)

The brick house and lot situated on the southwest side of the main street through St. Georges, once again as in the deed of 1761, is separated from the other parcel of land situated on the Northeast side of the main street. John Sutton let the brick building continue as a tavern house as according to his will written September 24, 1847 he states, " I give and bequeath unto my son John Sutton, Jr. and Margaret, his wife, for and during their natural lives, all that part of the lot of ground in the Village of

puod!!!W

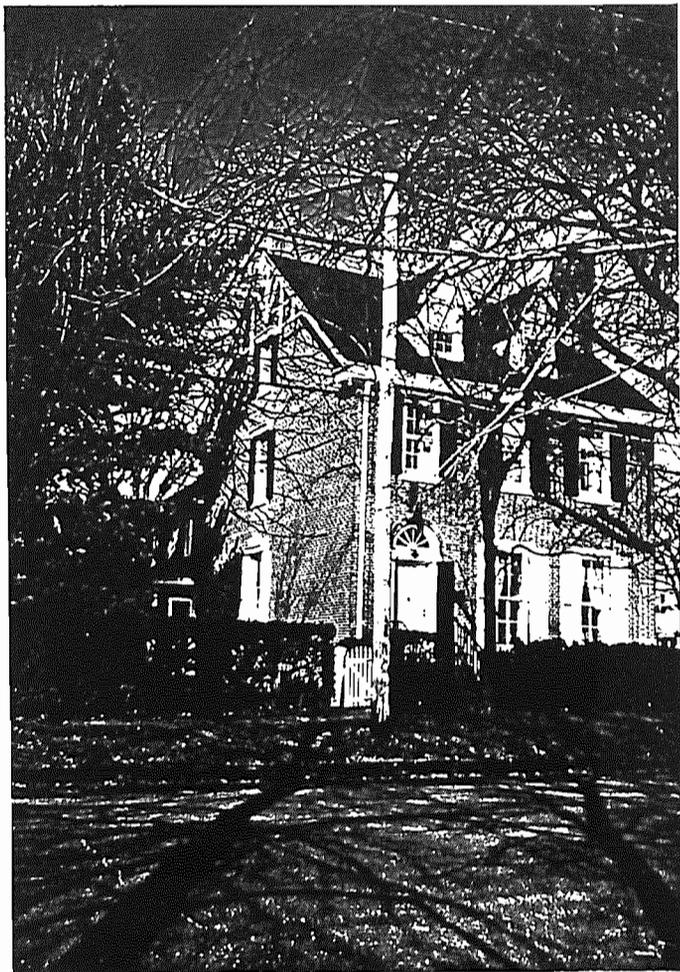


w Castle Co. Deed  
U Vol. 2 pg. 251 7-3-1800  
pg. 551 - 1799

omon Maxwell land  
h Brick Messu<sup>\*</sup>age sold  
John Sutton

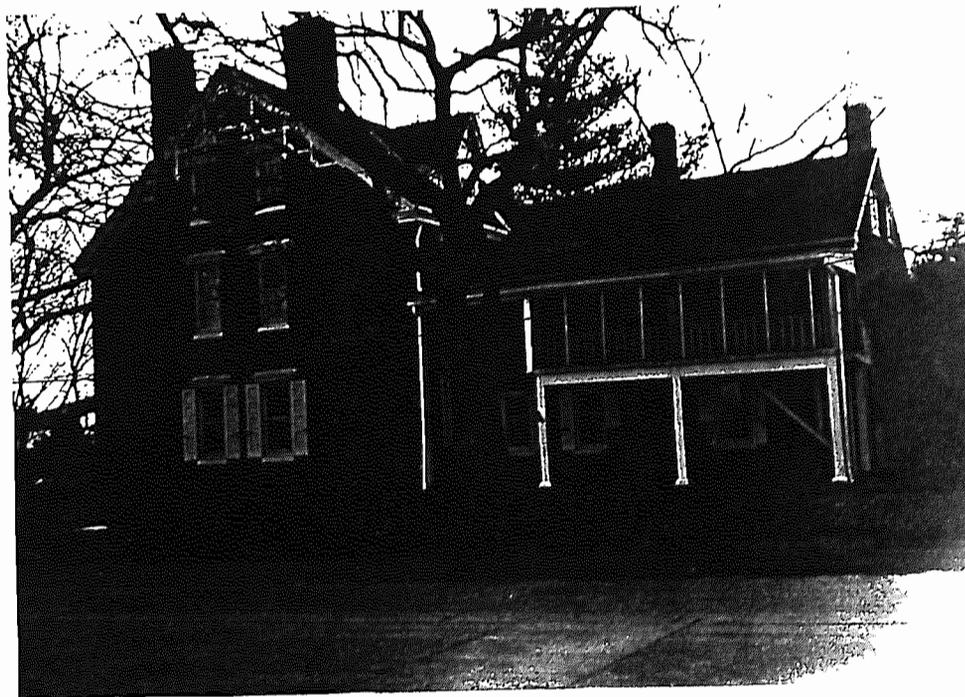
xplanation  
rawing not to scale

F



Picture taken January  
1991

Circa 1817 John Sutton  
addition. South Front  
and West end on Delaware  
Street.



Circa 1817  
Sutton

Circa 1783  
Nuttall

North and East side of the home off Broad Street.

St. Georges, that I purchased from the heirs of Solomon Maxwell that lies on the Southwest side of the State Road, together with the Brick Tavern House, out houses and other improvements thereon erected."

John and Margaret Sutton updated the tavern and Inn image to "Steamboat Hotel". This name probably was chosen because of the new traffic of steamboats using the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal.



In 1844 The Baltimore and Philadelphia Steamboat Co., using the name of Ericsson Line began a daytime water route from Philadelphia to Baltimore. It became a very popular form of transportation. The ships were especially built to pass through the locks of the canal. The Village of St. Georges, located by a lock in the canal, was a scheduled stop. Passengers could get off the boat at scheduled stops, stay overnight and catch the boat when it returned the next day.

In 1861 the Steamboat Hotel was sold to David Ware formerly from Camden New Jersey. Included with the hotel property was a small plot on the northeast side of Main Street. (N.C. Co. Deed Bk. Q Vol. 7 pg. 60 March 25, 1861) John Sutton Jr. and his wife had both passed away and the children and heirs selling the property were- Margaret, wife of Edward Jones, Charles Co. Maryland, Julia, wife of David B. Griffith of Kent Co. Md., Elizabeth, wife of John D. Ocheltree New Castle Co. Delaware, and William B. Sutton, Charles Co. Maryland. The hotel and lot sold for \$3,000. David Ware supposedly had rented and operated the hotel prior to buying. He may have built the small house adjoining the property after he bought it in 1861 adding to the expense of buying the property. The hotel business must not have been too prosperous for David Ware. In 1875 the administrator for Margaret Sutton's estate brought suit against him for

damages and debts and the properties were sold at sheriff's sale for \$3,575. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. O Vol 10 pg. 327 June 18 1875) to Charles Schmitz and William H. Ware of Philadelphia being the buyers.

On October 26, 1878 Charles Schmitz and wife Mary sold their half to William H. Ware for \$1,375.

William H. Ware died in 1882 and his wife Amelia and sons Morris, William and Charles Ware, all of Philadelphia, Penn., sold the property on January 6, 1897, for \$700, to James H. S. Gam of St. Georges. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. F Vol. 17 pg. 550 1897) The property because of the price had probably deteriorated to some degree and was in need of repair. It was referred to in the deed as a two story brick hotel and frame barn. After James Gam bought the property, the era of it being a hotel ended. It may have been rented and used as a boarding room house since they were becoming popular around that time.

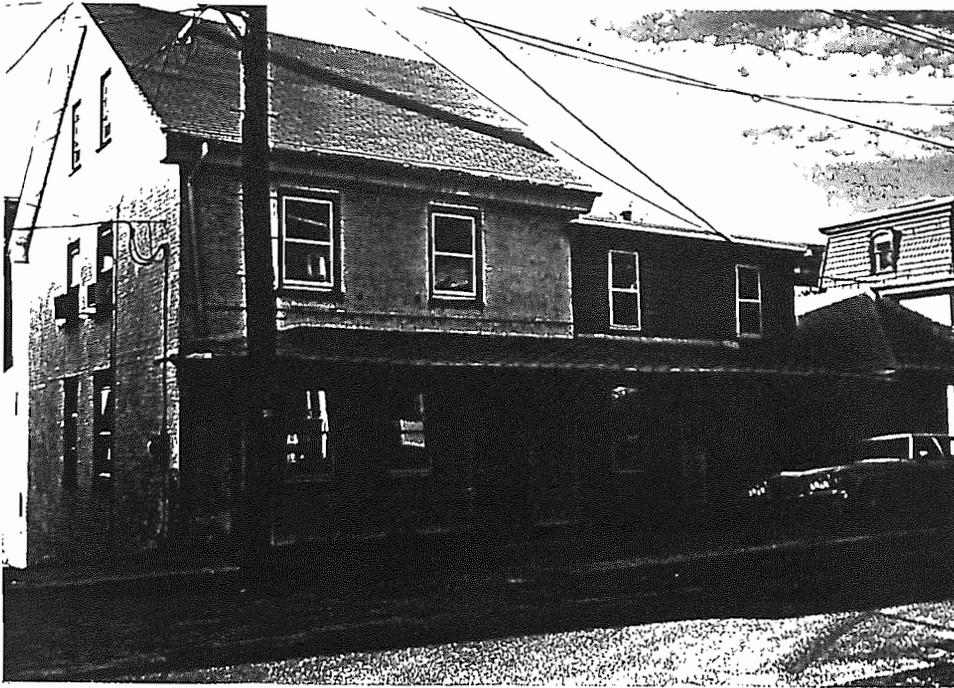
The brick building built between 1761 and 1766 seems to have been a continuous Inn, Tavern, and Hotel serving the needs of travelers, by horse-back, stagecoach, carriage, steamboat and vehicles.

From early pictures the brick building never looked elegant or pretentious. It looked sturdy and plain as if built for the purpose it had served, and to withstand the elements. Daniel Britt had the brick message, as it was called, built after he bought the property in 1761. It's reasonable to date the building from the year 1762-3 making it now in 1990 two-hundred and twenty eight years old. There are not many pictures available of the brick house, but one taken circa 1907 show and attic with a dormer window and a porch on the front. Originally it had two doors on the front and one window between the doors. The south door entered the front room or parlor and the north door opened into a hallway and stairs. The doors opened directly off the street and sidewalk. The 1907 picture also shows the frame home attached to the hotel. The building was rented by A. A. Weik for several years for his barbershop business around the year 1907 or before. After that it became a residence building.

On December 15, 1920 James H. S. Gam and wife, Mattie, sold the property and adjoining land for \$4,500 to Claude N. Lester of New Castle Hundred. Mr. Gam reserved the parcel, contained in the deed, located on the north-east side of Main Street. Mr. Lester, his wife, Clara Eleanor and son Claude E. in 1921 moved into the home after Mr. Lester, at a public farm sale, had sold his cows, dairy and farm implements, located at Tybout's Corner. Mr. Lester had been born in the area and had left the area at a young age, with his parents, moving to upstate Delaware. In his youthful prime along with farming he had operated a dairy and bottled milk and now as a young man returned to St. Georges with his family and his interest is leaning toward the general store business and canning. While living at this home Claude and Eleanor had another son, Earle John, born on October 22, 1921. Mr. Lester and family by 1923 had moved further up Main Street and on November 19, 1924 sold the brick tavern building back to James Gam for \$1,200. (. C. Co. Deed Bk. Q Vol. 32 pg. 538)

The Lester (formerly Lister) family migrated from Lincolnshire, England in the year 1854, settling in Red Lion Hundred and the St. Georges area. Many Lesters' are in the area today and also descendants of that family are in the sixth generation of continuous living in the area since Henry Lister and wife Elizabeth Vickers Lister arrived at the Port of Philadelphia in June 1854 aboard the ship "Chaos".

## PHILLIP SIMMONS MEAT MARKET



January 19 91  
 Left to Right  
 Hotel  
 Frame Home  
 Simmons Meat Market

Claude N. Lester, and Clara Eleanor, his wife, on February 20, 1922 sold to Philip E. Simmons, Jr. and Harriet L. Simmons, of the Town of St. Georges, for \$1,800 a part of the lands sold to Claude N. Lester by James Gam. ( N. C. Co. Deed Bk. Y Vol. 30 pg. 245) The property included the frame building attached to the brick house and a small yard. Harriet was a sister to Claude N. Lester and had married Philip Simmons, of the St. Georges area, on February 2, 1920. They lived in the frame house and Mr. Simmons built a small store adjacent to the house and operated a meat market.

They had one daughter, Clara Phyllis, born while living on this property. Clara married Vance Gray and they as well as their children and grandchildren still live in the St. Georges area today.

Philip and Harriet Simmons moved to a farm on Dutch Neck Road but rented the store which continued as a merchandise business for many years. At one time John and Bertha Carrow, neighbors to the store, rented the premises and Clara says, "she remembers Mrs. Bertha slicing cheese there."

Philip Simmons on December 26, 1946 sold the property to Burrell and Kathryn Crompton and Kathryn operated a dry goods and merchandise shop. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. U Vol.46 pg.211)

KATHRYN R. CROMPTON

DRY GOODS AND HOUSEWARE  
GIFTS AND NOVELTIES

St. Georges, Del.

May 31. 1949

Mr. C. D. Lister  
St. Georges Del

2% Cash

Apr. 10	- 3 pr. shorts @ 79	2.37
" 28	Box cigars	4.50
" 10	Pants	3.75
May 6	Pants	3.75
		<hr/>
		14.37
		1.58
		<hr/>
		15.95
		3.2
		<hr/>
		15.63

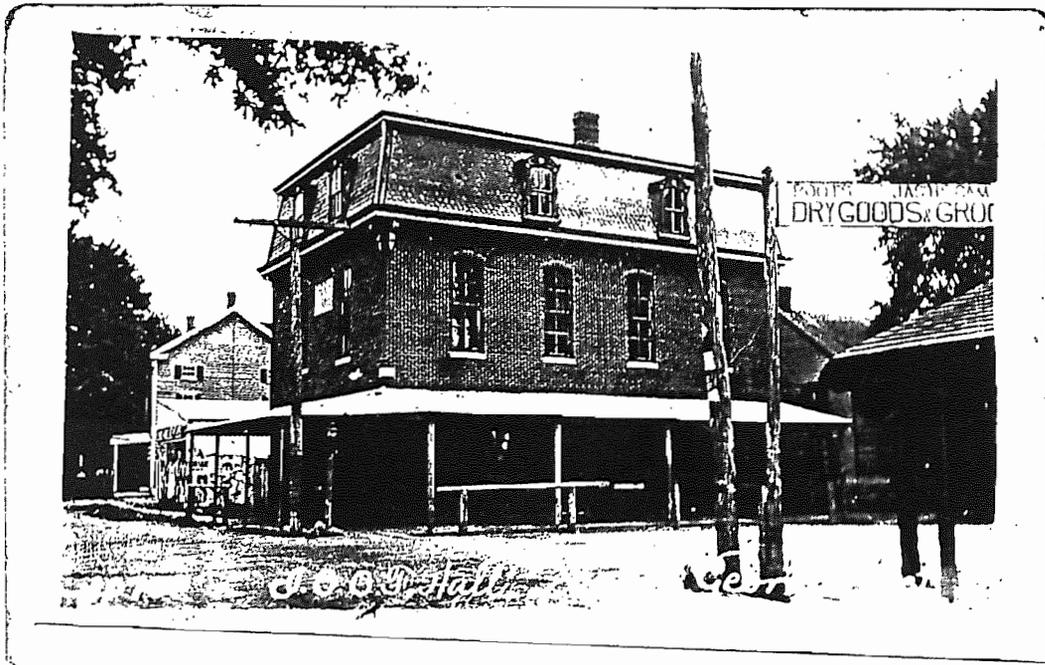
Received Pmt  
K Crompton

After Burrell and Kathryn sold the store it was renovated into a small home and has continued in that capacity into 1990.

The frame house between the brick hotel and meat market was always used for a residence and continues as such today.



Circa -1878  
Northeast Corner  
Main  
and  
Delaware Street



Circa - 1910



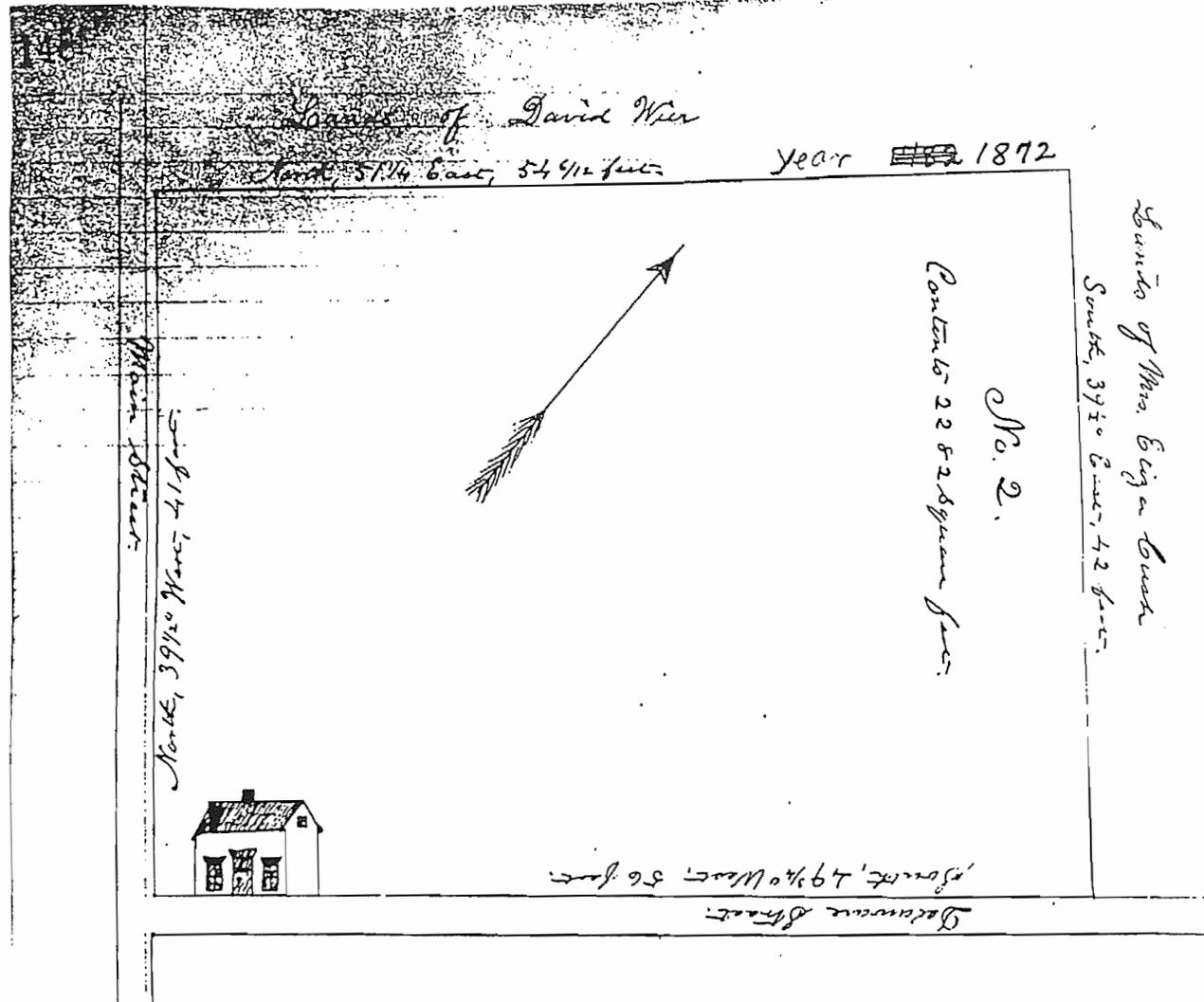
Circa - 1934

## ODD FELLOWS BUILDING

The Odd Fellows building was built across the street from the "Steamboat Hotel" on the plot of the 128 perches of land bought by John Sutton in 1799. The building is located on the Northeast Corner of the intersection of Main and Delaware streets. The small lot of land used from the 128 perches was willed to his son William A. Sutton. John Sutton's will of 1847 stated there was storehouse on the lot.

William Sutton died around 1865. In 1871 (Bk. B Vol. 2 pg. 99 N. C. Co. Orphan Court) his estate went into orphans court by petitioner William. F. Weaver, trustee for Adelia W., his wife, and daughter of the late William A. Sutton. This petition will be touched upon again, at a later time, on other properties but plot #2 being the one pertinent to this booklet seemed to be considered the land of William F. Weaver (see page 23 ) and then was sold to National Lodge #32 I.O.O.F which had organized in the town in 1865. In 1875 an impressive three story brick building, 34'x 52', was erected at a cost of \$6000 on the lot. Around 1906 a porch was added on the street sides of the building as a protection to accommodate patrons loading and unloading their horsedrawn wagons and carts with farm produce, eggs, poultry, supplies and purchases. The building has been used for many purposes. When built, the third floor was restricted for the lodge. The second floor a public hall. The first floor for a druggist, E. W. Jester, and two general stores. Edwin W. Jester was postmaster, in St. Georges, beginning March 19, 1869 until June 23, 1885. The post office was set up in this building during the year 1878.

The building has served many kinds of business including a pool hall, beauty shop and two banks; the Delaware Trust Co. and St. Georges Trust Co. Delaware Trust ended business in the building on April 30, 1927. St. Georges Trust opened for business on May 2, 1927 ending February 1, 1942 when it moved to the town of Newport.



No. 2, A certain lot of land situated in the Village of St. Georges  
 Red Lion Hundred, Newcastle County, State of Delaware,  
 the metes and bounds of which are as follows, Beginning at a  
 stake at the North East corner of Main and Delaware Streets;  
 thence with Main Street, North, thirty nine and a half degrees  
 West, forty one feet to a stake, corner for these premises and  
 lands of David Ware; thence leaving said Main Street  
 and passing with said Ware's land, North, fifty one and one  
 quarter degrees East, fifty four feet six inches to a stake  
 corner for these premises lands of David Ware and Mrs  
 Eliza Bush; thence with Mrs. Bush's line, South, thirty nine  
 and a half degrees East forty two feet to a stake on the  
 North side of Delaware Street, corner for these premises  
 and lands of Mrs. Eliza Bush; thence with Delaware  
 Street, South, forty nine and three quarter degrees West,  
 fifty six feet to the beginning; containing within these  
 metes and bounds, Two thousand two hundred and  
 eighty two square feet of land, be the same more or less,  
 within frame stone house thereon erected.

*With Diagram*

(No. 40.)

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

CONTRACT OFFICE

WASHINGTON

*Feb 16, 1878*

SIR:

To enable the Topographer of this Department to determine, with as much accuracy as possible, the relative positions of Post Offices, so that they may be correctly delineated on its maps, the Postmaster General requests you to fill up the spaces and answer the questions below, and return the same, verified by your signature and dated, under cover to this Office.

Respectfully, &c.

THOS. J. BRADY,

Second Assistant Postmaster General.

TO POSTMASTER AT

*Saint Georges  
New Castle Co.  
Del.*

The (P. O. Dept.) name of my office is *Saint Georges*

Its local name is *Schubert No 57 in Rea Linn Hundred*

It is situated in *New Castle* County of *Delaware* State of *Delaware*

The name of the most prominent river near it is *Delaware*  
The name of the nearest canal is *Chapeake & Delaware Canal*  
This office is *4* miles from said river, on the *East* side of it, and is *3 or 4* miles from said nearest canal, on the *North* side of it.

The name of the nearest office on route No. *9554* is *Kirkwood*, and its distance is *3* miles, by the traveled road, in a *N. W.* direction from this my office.

The name of the nearest office, on the same route, on the other side, is *Delaware City* and its distance is *4* miles in a *N. E.* direction from this my office.

The name of the nearest office off the route is *McDonough*, and its distance by the most direct road is *1/2* miles in a *S. E.* direction from this my office.

This office is at a distance of *1/2* miles from the *Kirkwood* Station of the *Delaware* Railroad, on the *West* side of the railroad.

State, under this, the names of all other offices near your office, in different directions from it, and their distances from it by the most direct roads.

\* If the town, village, or site of the Post Office be known locally by another name than that of the Post Office, state that other name here, that it may be identified on any published map of the State (or Territory), if appearing therein.  
A diagram of the township (or, where the land is not so divided, a sketch map), showing the precise location of your office, together with the adjoining Post Offices, towns, or villages, the roads, railroads, and larger streams or creeks, in addition to the above verbal description, will be useful, and is desired.

A correct map of the locality and adjacent country might be furnished by your County Surveyor, but this must be without expense to the Post Office Department; it being, however, for the general interest and advantage of the community to have the Post Office correctly located on the maps; it may be expected that this will be cheerfully furnished on proper application.

State (on margin of this sheet) whether there is on file at your county seat (court-house), or in the hands of your County Surveyor, a map of the county.  
State also the present Surveyor's name and Post Office address.

(Signature of Postmaster.)

*E. M. Britton P.M.*

(Date.)

*March 9 1878*

*J. H. Roberts*

*Middleton Del is County Surveyor & has map*

Post Office Dept. Reports of site locations  
1837 - 1950 - Delaware #0514  
RG- o710.1 Reel 1  
Hall of Records- Dover  
Delaware State Archives



GRAY HAIR, produced from whatever cause, is *always* restored to its original color by a faithful use of Hall's Hair Renewer according to directions. It never fails; and, although it restores color to the hair, it may be freely applied with the hands without fear of the slightest stain to the skin.

Its power of restoring gray hair to its original color is known in every neighborhood; but it is not so generally known, that in cases of itching of the scalp it relieves immediately, giving a cooling, soothing sensation of great comfort. Also, for removing dandruff, no means is so quickly and surely effectual, and yet so cheap and agreeable.

Falling hair should have prompt attention. An immediate application of the Renewer, and its continued use for a short time, checks it at once, and stimulates the glands to healthy action, thus averting baldness, which when of long standing, and in aged persons, cannot always be cured. We do not claim that our Renewer will in every instance restore the hair to bald heads; for there are cases where the follicles are destroyed, and in such no human power can restore the hair. Yet we have in our possession statements from persons entitled to perfect confidence, whose hair

has been restored by its use; and there are doubtless many persons suffering the inconvenience of baldness, whose hair might be restored.

Those who desire simply a dressing for the hair will find in the Renewer an article that embodies every requisite for this purpose. It gives the hair a soft, glossy appearance, of great beauty; and its effects remain much longer than others, rendering only an occasional application necessary.

The whiskers are not as susceptible to the restorative qualities of the Renewer as is the hair of the scalp, and more time is required to effect a change. We therefore recommend, for the use of those who desire to change the color of the beard, our Buckingham's Dye for the Whiskers, which may be found in any drug-store, and is an article of real merit, being in convenient form, cheap, safe, and effectual, whether the beard has turned gray from age or disease, or is naturally of an undesirable shade.

PREPARED BY

R. P. HALL & CO.,

NASHUA, N. H.

SOLD BY

E. W. JESTER, St. George's, Del.

Post Office Dept. Reports of site locations  
 1837-1950- Delaware #0530 -  
 RG. 0710.1 Reel 1  
 Hall of Records - Dover  
 Delaware State Archives

## National Lodge, No. 32, I. O. O. F.



MEETS EVERY TUESDAY EVENING

St. Georges, Delaware, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> 1938.

This agreement, made this First day of January, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Eight.

Witnessed: That the St. Georges Trust Co., of the town of St. Georges, State of Delaware, County of New Castle, has rented from National Lodge No. 32 I. O. O. F. of the same Town, County and State. Aforesaid Ground Floor and Cellar in the Odd Fellows Building which is owned by National Lodge No. 32 I. O. O. F., situated on the corner of Main and Delaware Sts., of the Town of St. Georges, Delaware for the term of Five years, ending Dec. 31, 1942.

The rental value of the Ground Floor and Cellar, is Three Hundred and Sixty Dollars per year, payable quarterly, at Ninety Dollars per quarter, beginning Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 1938 ending Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> 1942.

In case of change by either party a notice of One year will be required before expiration of the contract.

This copy was sent for your approval or disapproval only. Please return with same.

(Original) Files of G. B. Lester)

# ST. GEORGES TRUST COMPANY

ST. GEORGES, DEL.,

January 11, 1932.

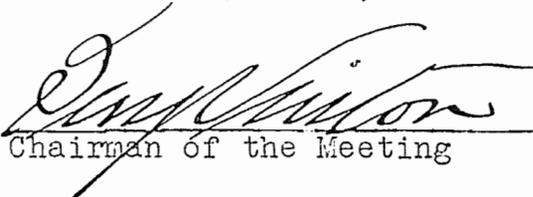
Mr. Claude M. Lester;  
St Georges. Delaware.

Dear Mr. Lester;

It is with a great deal of pleasure and personal pride that the honor falls on me to notify you that The stockholders of the St Georges Trust Company at there meeting today elected you a director and there representative for the ensuing year of 1932 or until your successor may be elected.

Kindly advise us of your acceptance by letter for our files and be present at the organization meeting of the board on Thrusday the 14ty day of January 1932 at 7;30 in the P.M. at the Banking House of the Company.

Cordially yours,

  
Chairman of the Meeting

(Original) Files of G. B. L.

# ST. GEORGES TRUST NEWS

A HOME PAPER FOR HOME PEOPLE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE ST. GEORGES TRUST COMPANY, ST. GEORGES, DELAWARE

ASK TO BE PLACED ON OUR MAILING LIST

Vol. VI

MAY, 1937

No. 6



Front page of a news booklet sent out to patrons of the bank.

RESOLUTION OF DIRECTORS OF ST. GEORGES TRUST COMPANY,  
a corporation of the State of Delaware

WHEREAS, the stockholders of record of this Corporation did, at a special meeting called by the Board of Directors, adopt the amendment changing its principal place of business from the Town of St. Georges to the Town of Newport, New Castle County, State of Delaware, said amendment being now of record in the Office of the Secretary of State in and for the State of Delaware, and did authorize and empower the officers and directors of the Corporation to do any and all things necessary to complete the said change; and

WHEREAS, since the enactment of the said amendment the directors and officers of said St. Georges Trust Company did make an effort to accommodate the depositors and residents to the extent that no undue hardship should result to the public by reason of the discontinuance of banking facilities and the removal of the principal place of business to the Town of Newport.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the maintenance of any accommodations and facilities heretofore maintained at St. Georges be, and it is hereby discontinued on or before, but not later than February 1, 1942; and the officers are hereby authorized and directed to do any and all other acts necessary in their judgment to move any and all the equipment from St. Georges to the Town of Newport, and to take any other action that they may deem necessary for the proper discontinuance of any facilities heretofore maintained.

(Original) Files of G. B. Lester

## REUTTER - LUTZ HOUSE

1867



Picture  
January 1991

John Sutton Sr. devised a portion of the 128 perches of land to a son John Sutton Jr.. A portion of this would be identified today as the home of Phyllis Thompson Blanchfield on Delaware Street. It was willed to John Sutton Jr., his wife Margaret, and their children or survivors. John Jr. was a farmer and so never built on the land in town. Mr. Tawresey in 1863, when a neighbor to the land, had a portion of it in ground rent.

John Jr. died in 1856 intestate leaving a widow, Margaret, and six children who received the land. Margaret Sutton died in 1866 and the surviving children - Margaret, wife of Edward Jones, Prince George Co. Maryland; Elizabeth, wife of J. V. Ocheltree of New Castle Co.; William B. Sutton, New Castle Co.; Emma V. Sutton, Kent Co. Md.; Julia wife of David B Griffith, Talbot Co. Md; sold the property May 28, 1867 to Lewis Lutz and Andrew Reutter for \$1000. (N.C.Co. Deed Bk. N Vol. 8 pg. 121) During the year of 1867 they built a frame double house on the lot with two doors in the center fronting on Delaware Street. On April 29, 1868 they split the house and land drawing a line between the front doors,

going through the house and back yard with each deeding one-half of the house and land to the other. (N.C. Co. Deed Bk. R Vol. 8 pg. 389 and Bk. U Vol. 8 pg. 207 1868)

Andrew Reutter was a shoemaker and also made saddles. Lewis Lutz's occupation is unknown.

Robert Tawresey had acquired the Andrew Reutter and Lewis Lutz property by 1873 and sold it to Martin Reutter. (N.C.Co. Deed Bk. E Vol. 13 pg. 350 1880) On August 28, 1880 Martin Reutter of Williamsport, Lycoming County Pennsylvania, sold the property to Frank and Mary Shonlee. Frank Shonlee died in 1920 and the property went to his wife, Mary, who in 1920 sold the property to Alfred Hughes and Hughes sold the property to George Snedeker.

There were other owners but the home remained a double house until owners George and Minerva Ford converted it to a single house in the late 1950's or early 1960's. George Ford, of the Town of St. Georges, married Minerva Biddle, of the Odessa area, and they bought the home in the 1940's. The main change was removing and framing in one of the front doorways. Also a chimney on the east end was removed. George was a carpenter and so was able to keep the home in repair.

George and Minerva moved to the State of Florida and sold the home to James and Phyllis Thompson. James died and Phyllis remained at the home and has since remarried.

The two story frame, with a small attic area, was plain but sturdily built. It is still in good shape today surviving many owners and tenants. It is worthy of mention as a historical site in the town.

SUTTON - TAWRESEY  
 Now  
 SAMUEL ROBERT BRIGHT HOUSE



Picture  
 January 1991

Another small part of the 128 perches of land bought by John Sutton and recorded in 1800 was deeded to son James N. Sutton February 20, 1845. ( N. C. Co. Deed Bk. M Vol. 8 pg. 305 1845) It. fronted 41' on Delaware Street. The frame building was built soon after and from all indications built for a store as well as living quarters. It had a central door in the front to enter a shop and a door to the east end which may have led upstairs or into a hall and living quarters. It was simple in structure without decoration except for shutters which seemed a necessity in that era.

James N. Sutton willed the 41' lot covered in front by frame buildings to his son John Sutton, now residing in San Francisco, California, for him to retain or sell as he thinks proper. The will was written June 4, 1859. (N. C. Co. Wills 1860 James Sutton) John Sutton was unable to receive the property. James Sutton had made John P. Belville and his wife Susan G. executors of his will. It was found James was heavily in debt and his wife Susan refused to act as executor. The estate went to orphans court with John P. Belville appointed to continue as executor. John P. Belville sold the property at public auction, November 7, 1863, for \$655 to Robert P. Tawresey, of St. Georges Hundred (N.C.Co. Deed Bk. M Vol.8 pg. 307 Feb. 27 1864)

Robert P. Tawresey had been in the area, at least, since 1858, as according to an article in a July 1858 Delaware Gazette about St. Georges he had recently started a saddle and harness business. The business was probably located south of the canal as the deed stated he was of St. Georges Hundred. The reporter stated his work would have reflected credit on the largest establishment in the country. When Tawresey bought the Sutton property, he may have done so for his wife's benefit as Beer Atlas - 1868 shows Tawresey's as a dealer in fancy goods and trimmings. During Tawresey's occupation the building was also used as a post office. He became Postmaster August 29, 1866 and his term ended in early 1869.

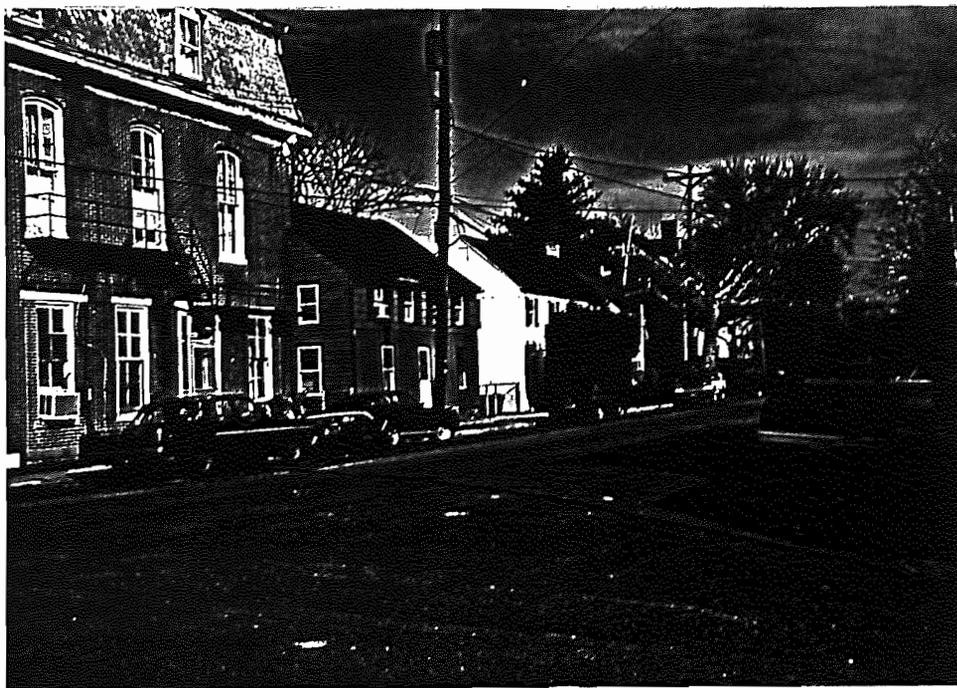
Around 1876 Robert Tawresey moved to the City of Wilmington and sold the property to Frank Shonlee of St. Georges. Mr. Shonlee set up a general store business and it was in operation until about the year 1919. Frank Shonlee made his will in 1909 and died in 1920 (N. C. Co. Wills) All of the property went to his wife, Mary, as there were no children. Mary Shonlee moved to Odessa and in 1920 sold the store-building and adjoining property to Alfred Hughes and he sold the property to George Snedeker. (N. C. Co. Deeds Bk. W Vol. 29 pg. 563 1920, Bk. Z Vol. 30 pg. 538 1924) George Snedeker sold the property to Benjamin Vinton and wife Lucy.

Mr. Samuel J. Bright and wife Grace E. acquired the property in 1932. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. F Vol. 38 pg. 72 1932) Mr. and Mrs Bright were respected citizens of St. Georges and carried on a small general store business. The Chesapeake and Delaware Canal and nearby ponds were favorite fishing spots and Mr. Bright kept a good supply of minnows on hand to sell for bait. He also, for a time, operated a small ice house on Main Street. Grace E. Bright used the business and resident building for post office services when she became Postmaster in May 1933 and continued in office until the end of 1945. Members of the Bright family live in the surrounding area of St. Georges today.

S. Robert Bright received the property after the death of his father. He and his wife, Marcelle, now occupy the home.

The frame two-story with attic has been renovated, but not beyond the point of taking away its old charm. The west end chimney was removed and doors, windows, and siding changed. Renovation was an enhancement to the point its a pleasure to see and have the building of yesteryear still in existence.

The pictures below show a contrast of yesteryear of the Odd Fellows Building, Reutter-Lutz Home, Sutton House, circa 1907 on Delaware Street; and today, year 1991, Odd Fellows Building, Phyllis Blanchfield House, and S. Robert Bright Home .



## SUTTON APOTHECARY SHOP

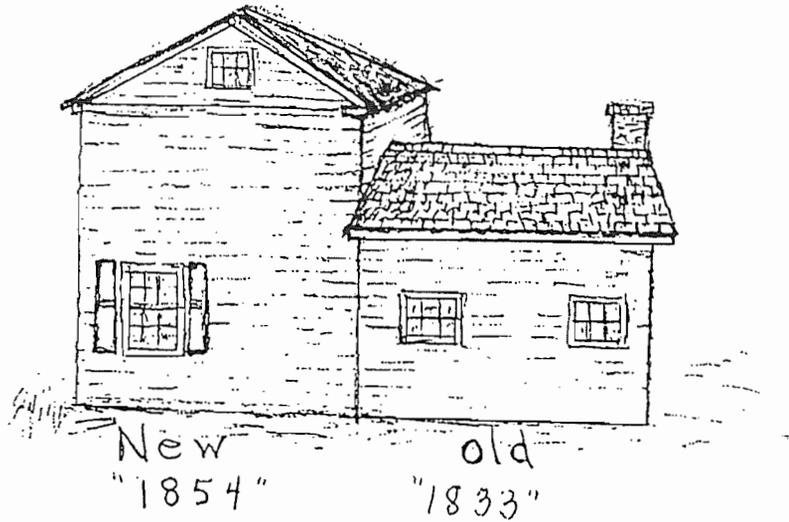
The Apothecary Shop was identified in Booklet #1 and was known to have been built in the year 1854 by Dr. James N. Sutton near or soon after the death of his father John Sutton. (N. C. Co. Wills 6-4-1859 probated on 11-10-1860 James N. Sutton)

There was some suspicion and hope that a part of the apothecary may have been a part of the old 1730 house of Enoch Cornwall referred to in Booklet #1, but there is no evidence the 1730 home survived.

Before Dr. Sutton had started the front of the building he had informed the heirs, of said John Sutton, of his wishes and intentions to build the shop on his father's property and being a part of the 128 perches identified in this booklet. There had been no objection from the Sutton heirs.

When James N. Sutton wrote his will June 4, 1859 he left a building now occupied by me as a drugstore to my wife. He could only leave the building as he states; that the land on which the drugstore was built was bequeathed to the children of my sister Jane Latta by my father John Sutton. James Sutton had built a part of the apothecary shop before his father died, possibly as early as 1833. A reference in N. C. Co. Deed Bk. M Vol. 8 pg. 305 refers to a lot conveyed by John Sutton to James N. Sutton 19th February 1833, but it was never recorded. Also Mr. John Sutton in his will of 1847, wrote, "the ground and so much as is covered by that part of his apothecarie shop that was first erected," so a part of the shop had been built before the making of the 1847 will and then the addition was added after the father died in 1854 without objection of Sutton heirs.

Observation of old pictures show the back section was built, in length, north and south with and A frame wide low over-hung roof. There was a central chimney on the north end. The windows were very small. The new added front was East and West facing Delaware Street with and underpass alleyway, in the frame structure, leading to the back yard. It was adjoined almost to the house built on the property next to it and along the same lines of architecture.



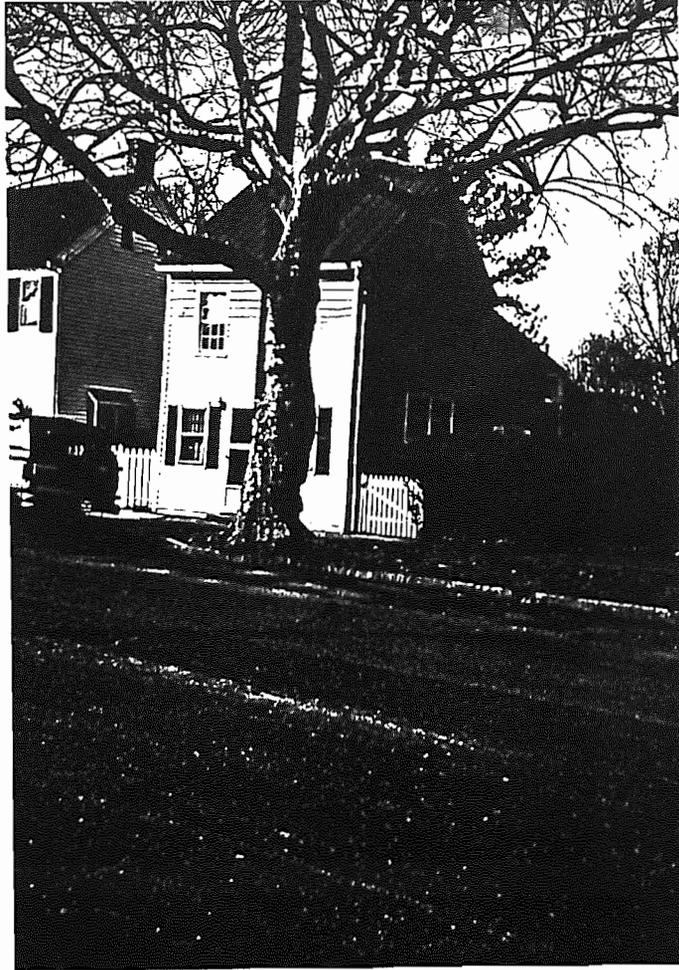
The shop housed a library for the St. Georges Library Association founded in 1872.

The building was renovated at one time to having two large store windows in the front with center doors as the entrance. Fred Huxtable had a barbershop there and also a post office beginning in August 1929. Mr. Huxtable had operated the post office on North Main Street but asked the government to have it moved down to Delaware Street as his lease had ~~exp~~ ~~ired~~ and townpeople were requesting to have the post office in the business district instead of the residential area. Also a new extension was added to Broad Street leading from the iron lift bridge, over the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, and Broad Street was one way North and Main Street was one way South and the location on Delaware Street would be the better spot in which to serve the people.

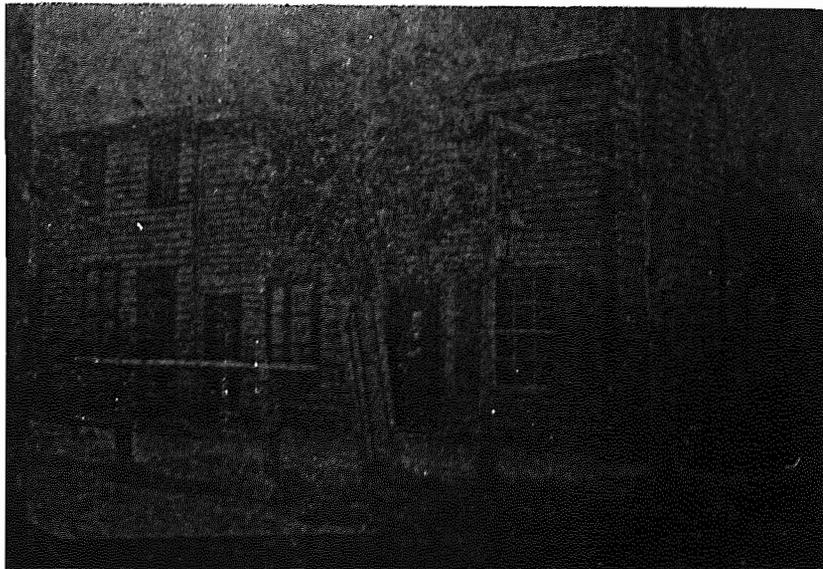
The shop has went through many transitions of removal and repair. One being removal of the wooden underpass alleyway section. Later the pointed roof of the back section was removed and a single slant roof added. Windows were altered or added; The chimney altered and a new frame section added to the rear of the central section. It transpired into a complete dignity and charm all its own and was and is now used as a resident home owned by James N. Sutton.

James Sutton willed , to his son James, the fixtures, furniture, books and stock of the drugstore, as it may be found at my death, for him to

occupy as I leave it, provided he pays any ballances due in Phildelphia for drugs purchased by me. In a year or two the fixtures were moved to a new drug store, which had been built, almost across the street from the present drugstore.



Delaware St.  
Apothecary Shop  
Home  
Old Tree  
January 1991



Circa  
1901  
Apotheacry Shop  
Young Tree

In connection with change of site for Post Office 704 Post R.R. Please execute this Location Blank and return same to this office at your earliest convenience.

1021 PROPOSED CHANGE IN LOCATION OF POST OFFICE

DIVISION OF POSTMASTERS' APPOINTMENTS

IN REPLYING MENTION INITIALS AND DATE

Post Office Department

FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL

AP:MCK,

Washington

August 1, 1929

Mr. Fred A. Huxtable, P.M.

Saint Georges,

Delaware.



Sir:

With reference to the proposed change in site of the post office named below, and in order that the office if changed to the proposed location may be accurately represented upon the post-route maps, it is requested that you carefully answer the questions below and furnish a sketch according to instructions on opposite side of paper, which should be returned to the First Assistant-Postmaster General, Division of Postmasters' Appointments, as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL

Saint Georges

New Castle

Delaware,

(Post Office)

(County)

(State)

If the town, village, or site of the post office be known by another name than that of the post office, state that other name here

The post office, if changed to the proposed site, would be 5.86 air-line distance East from its present location.

The post office would be situated in the quarter of section No. in Township

Range of the principal meridian, County of New Castle

State of Delaware

The name of the nearest river is Delaware River and the post-office building would be at a distance of 7.5 miles on the West side of it.

The name of the nearest creek is Red Lion Creek and the post-office building would be at a distance of 7.4 miles on the South side of it.

The name of the nearest office on the same route as this post office is Delaware City Del and its distance is 4 1/2 miles, by the traveled road, in a South direction from the proposed site of this office.

The name of the nearest office on the same route, on the other side, is Farnham Del and its distance is 1.2 miles, in a North direction from the proposed site of this office.

The name of the nearest office not on the same route as this post office is Kirkwood Del and its distance is 3 miles, by the traveled road, in a West direction from the proposed site of this office.

The post office building would be on the North side of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and at a distance of 3 miles from the station. The railroad station name is Kirkwood Del

The post office would be 1.7 miles air-line distance South from the nearest point of my county boundary.

Signature in full: Fred A. Huxtable

Date: Aug 2 - 1929

Post Office Department
Reports of site locations
1837 - 1950: Delaware R. G. 0710.1
#0508 Reel 1 Delaware state Archives

On what date do you desire to move the office to the new site? *Aug. 24 - 1929*

What is the reason for the change in location? *Expiration of lease, changes in our State Highway, and a desire to locate in a more central location*

How many patrons of the post office reside within a radius of one mile thereof? *400*

How many patrons would reside within a radius of one mile of the office at the proposed site? *400*

(If the proposed site is on a railroad, the following certificate should be filled out and signed.)

I, *[Name]*, agent of *[Name]* Railroad; hereby certify that the proposed site of the post office at *[Name]* County, *[Name]* is *[Distance]* feet from this station by the shortest route open to public travel.

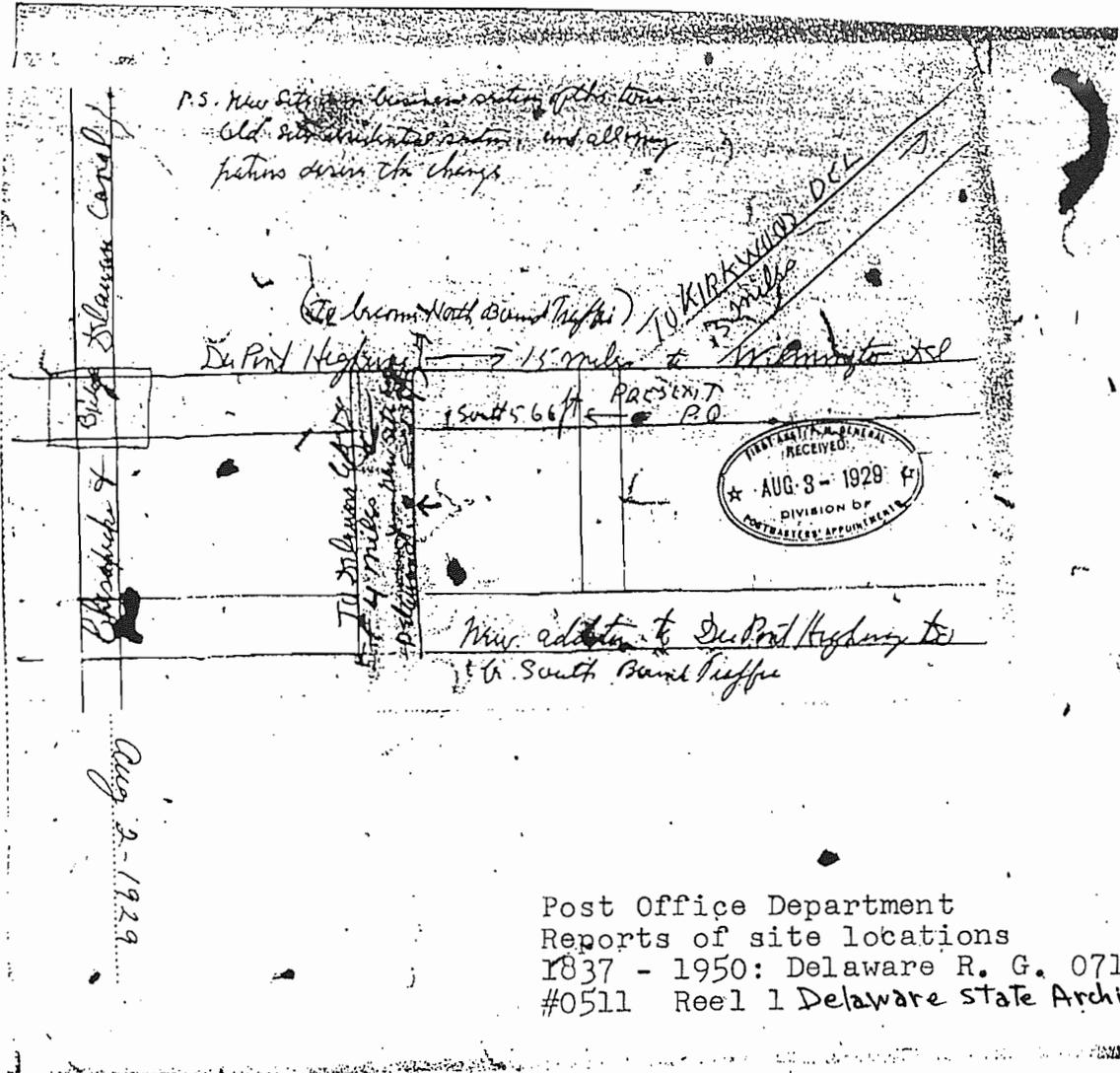
Railroad Agent.

QUESTIONS.	REPLIES.
Give cancellations at your office in proper blanks for the last four quarters available.	<i>1. Qr. 2. Qr. 3. Qr. 4. Qr.</i> Cancellations: <i>205-32-388-09-200-46-226-76</i>
Ascertain from the most reliable source, and state whether the proposed change in site would increase or decrease the distance necessarily traveled by the carrier or carriers now supplying your office (both rural and star routes) in going once over the route or routes from office to office, without regard to residence of carrier, and if so, give the exact distance.	Mail Messenger Service..... Star Route No..... Rural Route No..... Steamboat Route No..... Electric Route No..... Mail crane.....
If on more than one route, give increase or decrease on each route.	Decrease (how much?)..... Increase (how much?).....
If the change in site will permit or necessitate the carrier deviating from the road now traveled, how many boxes now supplied would be omitted?	Boxes to be omitted..... Boxes to be erected.....
How many boxes would probably be erected on the new road?	.....
Indicate on the diagram on second page the present and the proposed line of travel, with distances from point to point.	.....

Signature: *Fred A. Huttoble*  
*Aug 2 - 1929*

Post Office Department  
Reports of site locations  
1837 - 1950: Delaware R. G. 0710.  
#0510 Reel 1. Delaware State Archives

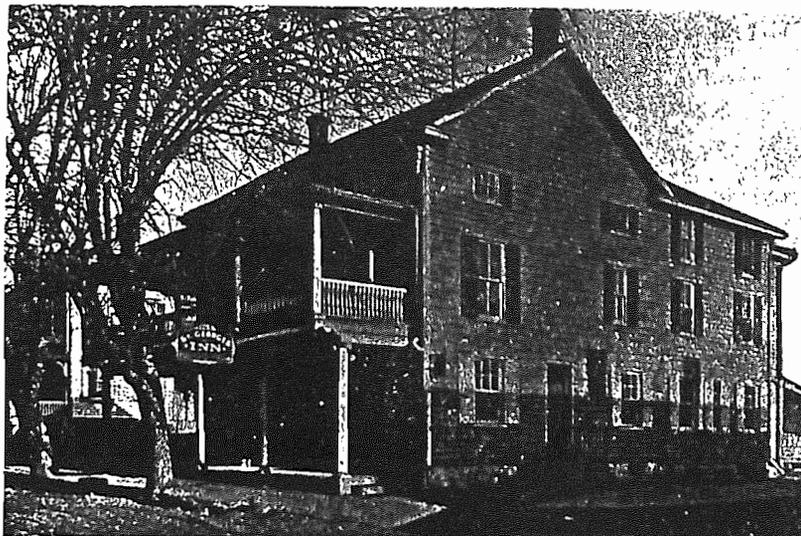
Notice in August 1929 their were 400 patrons in one mile radius of the post office location. The reason for the change in location was Expiration of lease, changes in our State Highway, and a desire to locate in a more central location for all concerned.



Post Office Department  
 Reports of site locations  
 1837 - 1950: Delaware R. G. 0710.1  
 #0511 Reel 1 Delaware State Archives

Mr. Huxtable added a postscript on the reason for changing to the new site.  
 P. S. New site is in business section of this Town. Old site residential section, and all my patrons desire the change.

## ST. GEORGES HOTEL



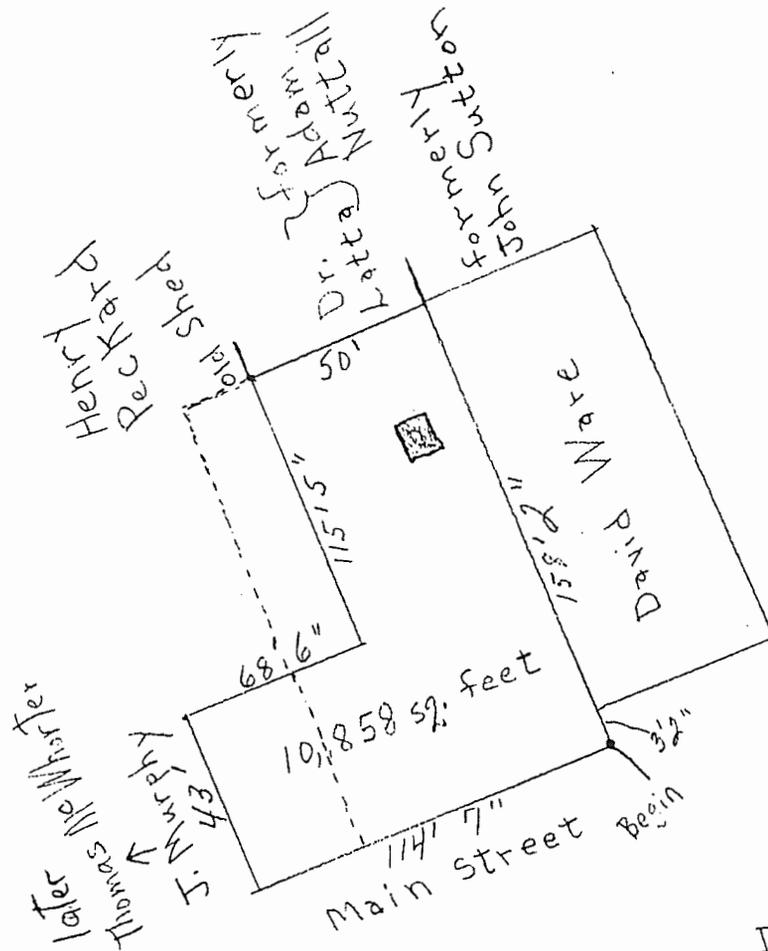
ST. GEORGES HOTEL, St. Georges, Del.

Picture - Circa 1920

On March 28, 1862 William Latta, Physician of Sadsbury Township, Chester County Pennsylvania, and his wife, Margaret, sold to Joseph Gam of Red Lion Hundred New Castle County Delaware a part of the former Adam Nuttall property being 10,858 square feet of land surface for \$700. The land contained a *messuage* or house. The size of the house or when it was built, is not known, but Mr. John Sutton mentions tenements (houses) being on the property in his will of September 24, 1847 so one can assume the house was on the property at that time. (N.C. Co. Deed Bk. R Vol. 7 pg.424 1862)

William Latta had acquired the land of his grandmother, Margaret Nuttall Sutton, through orphan court in 1857.

By 1867 Thomas McWhorter owned the land North of this property and through exchanges of property deeds, with the Gams, had shaped the plot into an even rectangle but now the hotel parcel was contained in two separate deeds. The Gams must have used the house, mentioned in the deed, for their home as in a later deed it mentions, by the northern wall of said "Gams Old House." (N. C. Co. Bk. K Vol. 36 pg. 584 1929) The home is also shown on a circa 1909 State Exhibit #1 drawing of the hotel area. See page 47. It was separate from the hotel building.



1862 Deed BK.R Vol. 7  
Pg. 424.

No Scale

Wm. Latta to Joseph Gam (Explanation Drawing)

Dotted lines  
1867

New Division  
line between  
Gam & McWhorter

From all indications the frame hotel was built in three sections and the first section finished in 1864. Joseph Gam on April 25, 1864 took a mortgage with Albert O. Newton and he also became trustee for Mary Gam. It was granted that Newton and his heirs would from time to time permit and suffer Mary Gam, wife of Joseph, to let occupy and enjoy the said lot or piece of land and any part to receive collect and take rents and income thereof during all the term of her natural life for her own use and support. (N.C. Co. Deed Bk. W Vol. 7 pg. 170 1864) Joseph Gam died, at age fifty, on February 14, 1870 and Mary continued with the business.

(N.C. Co. Deed Bk R. Vol. 15 pg. 308 1892)

It was ordered March 29, 1892, since Albert O. Newton was deceased, by Chancellor, State of Delaware, that the premises should be conveyed by Charles H. McWhorter, Clerk of Court of Chancery to Edward Gam Trustee. Edward Gam, Trustee, and Mary Gam sold the original lot #1 to James Gam. Mary Gam widow of Joseph Gam sold lot #2 the adjoining hotel property bought from Thomas and Emma McWhorter to James Gam. (N.C. Co. Deed Bk. R Vol. 15 pg. 447 1892) Since Joseph and Mary Gam had owned the hotel property since 1862, its probable that the building was complete in size by 1892 when sold to James Gam.

Mary Gam the proprietress of the hotel from 1864 to 1892 died January 3rd, 1897 at age 68. She was age 33 when she and her husband bought the property to begin the hotel business and age 63 when she sold the business. She continued to live in the Town of St. Georges until her death.

From early photographs there was nothing distinctive in the change of architecture to the building except adding a porch above the ground level porch. An area was partitioned off on the first floor of the building for a bar and the selling of alcoholic beverages with others than the owner procureing license for keeping the bar. The building was sturdily built along plain lines. It was a large hotel for the size of the town, but it was on the main route of travel through the State of Delaware and close to produce, fresh dairy products, and near businesses situated in the town, in its era, that were needed to make repairs etc. which kept the cost of running the hotel on a profitable basis. In the era of horse and buggy travel the hotel had its own small stables to care for and board the horses, located across the alley and entrance adjoining the hotel property. The railroad was nearby, in Kirkwood, and in earlier days proved useful in keeping the hotel supplied with the beverages it served. Horse and wagon teams met the train and hauled fresh supplies to the hotel daily. When the hotel era went out it housed a store and also was rented to tenant residents. In 1940 to 1942 the hotel, as well as being a home for the George Johnson family, was used by Harriet Johnson, wife and mother, as a boarding home to accommodate workers constructing a new overhead

bridge over the Chesapeake and Delaware canal. The metal lift bridge that served the main street and highway, through St. Georges, and crossing the canal, was destroyed by a ship hitting it and knocking it over in January 1939.



Picture- Circa 1909. The ground level hotel front porch was social gathering place for men to sit and gossip and watch traffic going through the town.

The hotel had many owners. James Gam sold the hotel to Edward and Elizabeth Gam, on March 20, 1893. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. A Vol 16 pg. 506 1893) Edward Gam had been a policeman, in the City of Wilmington, before purchasing the hotel. Edward and Elizabeth Hirsch Gam had bought the hotel soon after the birth of their first child, John E. Gam, born on January 6, 1893. While living in and operating St. Georges Hotel they had seven other children: Joseph A., Mary Louise (died at 3 months), Edward, Martin, Benjamin F. (died at 8 months), Emma S., Gwendelyn. When Edward and Elizabeth sold the hotel in 1911 they moved to a farm known as Bloomfield, adjoining the town of St. Georges to the west off of the road to Kirkwood. They purchased the farm and while there they had one more child named Francis M. Gam. Francis (Buck) continued to live on the farm after the death of his parents. Today he is the only immediate survivor of the family and he and his wife Margaret (Peggy) live near Kirkwood, Delaware.

Correction--Page 44-- Gwendelyn Gam Hesson, of Ocala Florida, is also and immediate survivor of Edward and Mary H. Gam.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gam had kept journals on the hotel business. Three pages copied from the years 1895 - 1896 - 1897 are on pages 48-49-50.

Edward and Elizabeth Gam sold the hotel November 25, 1911 to Albert J. McGovern. (N. C. Co Deed Bk. O Vol. 23 pg. 498 1911)

In 1918, a sheriff, Theodore W. Francis sold the hotel property to Stockle Brewing Co. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. M Vol. 31 pg. 451 Nov. 14, 1922) Joseph Stoeckle Brewing Co., in 1922, sold out to a Mr. John Lurtz and wife Laura, and they in turn sold it to a Lawrence J. Broman. Lawrence J. Broman and wife Esther sold it to Laura J. Freeland of Newport, Penns. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. T Vol. 34 pg. 444 March 2, 1927) Laura Freeland died about one year later and willed the property to a brother J. Curtis Freeland. Harry Freeland and wife Annie, and John W. Freeland, single, of Newport, Perry Co. Pennsylvania deeded the property over to James Curtis Freeland. (N.C.Co. Deed Bk. K Vol. 36 pg. 584 7-22-1929)

James C. Freeland died June 21, 1937 and willed it to John W. Freeland subject to a life estate in Martha M. Freeland, who died and then John W. Freeland died June 3, 1942 intestate and the only heir Harry Freeland inherited the property.

The hotel was being rented out and sometimes only a part of it used. The upkeep and deterioration taking place was beyond the means of funds and the hotel fell into a state of disrepair. Its condition was becoming unsafe and unsightly.

Mr. Claude N. Lester, being a neighbor to the property, sought out the owner and bought the hotel property from Harry Freeland in 1950. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. U Vol. 49 pg. 74 1950) The building was torn down within a year and the land later sold to a son Earle J. Lester. No statistics were done, on the building, so the size and contents are unknown. Earle Lester built a small bungelow on the property which is still present today.



Circa 1914  
St. Georges Hotel on the Main Street of St. Georges, Delaware



January 1991  
Same location as the above picture.

In Monday July 15<sup>th</sup> 1895 Pd. Out  
 (Monday)  
 \$8.00 Pin Mutual Relief Assn 5.30  
 5 30

Tuesday  
 Peter Edner Beer & Soft Stuff 35.80  
 Medicine 35 Nipples 15 .50  
 Mrs Glick 25 Meat 30 .55  
 Freight on Beer 29 Hauling 30 .59  
 Sohn Stewart Store 100 1.00  
 Apples 25 Butter 25 Bottles 16 .66  
 \$15.00 \$39.10

Wednesday  
 \$9.00

Thursday  
 Harry J. Stockle Manager 352.70  
 J. R. Pennington Lumber 570 5.70  
 \$60.00 \$364.40

Friday  
 \$35.00

Saturday  
 Geo. Wright Milk 80 Corn 15 .95  
 James Paynter 150 Bottles 2.5 1.75  
 F. Shore 300 Bottles 14 3.74  
 Freight on Beer 29 Hauling 30 .59  
 Francis Haines wages 100 1.00  
 Ice Cream 20 papers 17 .37  
 Bologna 20 20

\$38.00 Courtesy of Francis Gam  
 \$165.00 Owner of Originals \$8.00  
 416.80

In

Monday June 1<sup>st</sup> 1896

Pd. Out

Monday

Nails 38	Wire Screen 22	.50
Batts 40	Telephone 15	.55
John Moore \$2.00	Strawberries 25	2.25
		3.40

\$14.00

Tuesday

M. Biggar 78	cherries 25	1.03
Hauling Beer 25	Strawberries 50	.75
Freight on B Vat 45	Hauling 50	.95
Jos. Simpers chickens 122		1.22
		3.95

\$20.00

Wednesday

Wirescreened traps 45	.45
Strawberries & Cherries 50	.50
	.95

\$20.00

Thursday

Strawberries 50	Dried beef 15	.65
M. Biggar 160	Nails 15	1.75
John Moore wages \$2.00		2.00
Freight on B Vat 45	Hauling 50	.95
		5.35

\$25.00

Friday

\$4.00

Saturday

H. C. Clark Parting	\$34.00	
Philip Simmons Mills 130	1.30	
Annie Robinson 100	1.00	
Strawberries 75	Pears 25	1.00
Hauling Beer 60	Podistes 20	.80
Hauling Logs 60	Butter 75	1.35
F. Shore 479	Papers 16	4.95

\$38.00

\$131.00

Courtesy of Francis Gam  
Owner of ORIGINAL

\$44.40

\$175.40

The original owner of the hotel.

Monday Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> 1897

Death of Mary Gam Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1897

closed on acct. of death

Monday

1 Black Shell 12 <sup>00</sup> Neckties 50	12.50
1 Black Veil 5 <sup>00</sup> Overcoat 12.50	17.50
Overcoat for Jan 5 <sup>00</sup> Suit cloth 15.00	20.00
2 Skirts 125 Knitted Dress 2.00	3.25
2 pairs 80 Hackfars 25	1.05
Hooks 115 Oysters 25	1.40
Paper Pins 10	.10
	55 80

closed Tuesday

Wednesday

Janie Gam 30.00	30.00
	30 00

Thursday

Fairfax Insurance Co. 17.45	17.45
" " for B. Gam	6.00
Chesler Co. Insurance Co. 6.90	6.90
" " for J. B. Stewart	1.74
Butter 28 Oysters 45	.73
	32 82

Friday

Saturday

Philip Simmons 931 - Paper 20	1.57
Mrs. Glick 15 Mr. Stephens 75	.90
Sausage 64 Postal cards 8	.68
	3 09
	121 71

Courtesy of Francis Gam

Owner of the Original

Mr Edward Gambr

To E. H. Heckard

1897	June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	to	June 24 <sup>th</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup> to	June 30	54
	35	"	" 36 - 31 <sup>st</sup> "	" 28	64
	Aug 5	"	" 20 - 17 <sup>th</sup> "	" 25	45
	" 10	"	" 40 - 17 <sup>th</sup> "	" 90	1.30
	" 18	"	" 40 - 25 <sup>th</sup> "	" 4	.44
	Sept 1	"	" 1.00 - 11 <sup>th</sup> "	" 10	1.10
	" 17	"	" 7.33 -		<u>7.33</u>
			Recd Payment		11.80

Courtesy  
Francis Gam

# St. Georges Hotel

EDWARD GAM, PROPRIETOR



ST. GEORGES, DEL. February 24<sup>th</sup> 1910

Recd Seventy Five Dollars in Full for One Bay  
man from Edward Gam

75.00

Edgar Carrow,

per Gilbert Carrow

In the Name and by the Authority of the State of Delaware.



# The State of Delaware, ss:

*John H. Burr*

Governor of the said State.

To all Persons to Whom these Presents May concern, Greeting:

This License is granted for the

*Keeping of an Inn or Tavern,*

*in School Dist #53 + 53 1/2 Red Lion Hundred*

*Harry C. Clark*

*St Georges*

*"St Georges Hotel"*

*New Castle*

*county, and sale thereof of intoxicating Liquors in Less Quantities than One Quart to be drunk on the premises; the requirements of the law in order to obtaining such license having been complied with.*

**Such License Has Force For One Year Only From This Date**

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND and countersigned by the Secretary of State, and sealed with the seal of his office, at Dover, the

*5<sup>th</sup>* day of *December*

in the year of our Lord one thousand one hundred and

By the Governor:

*John H. Burr*  
*John H. Burr*

Secretary of State.

Wilmington, Del., May 12, 1905

For value received, Harry C. Clark, of the town of Saint Georges, Delaware, the out-going tenant, hereby assign, transfer, and set over unto Edward Gam, of St. Georges, aforesaid, the in-coming tenant, all my interest in and to the within license. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twelfth day of May, A. D., 1905.

*Harry C. Clark*

*May 13, 1905. Approved*

*Wm. S. ...*

140

Courtesy Francis Gam from original

Wilmington, Del., May 12, 1905

For value received, I Harry C. Clark, of the town of Saint Georges, Delaware, the out-going tenant, hereby assign, transfer, and set over unto Edward Gam, of St. Georges, aforesaid, the in-coming tenant, all my interest in and to the within license.

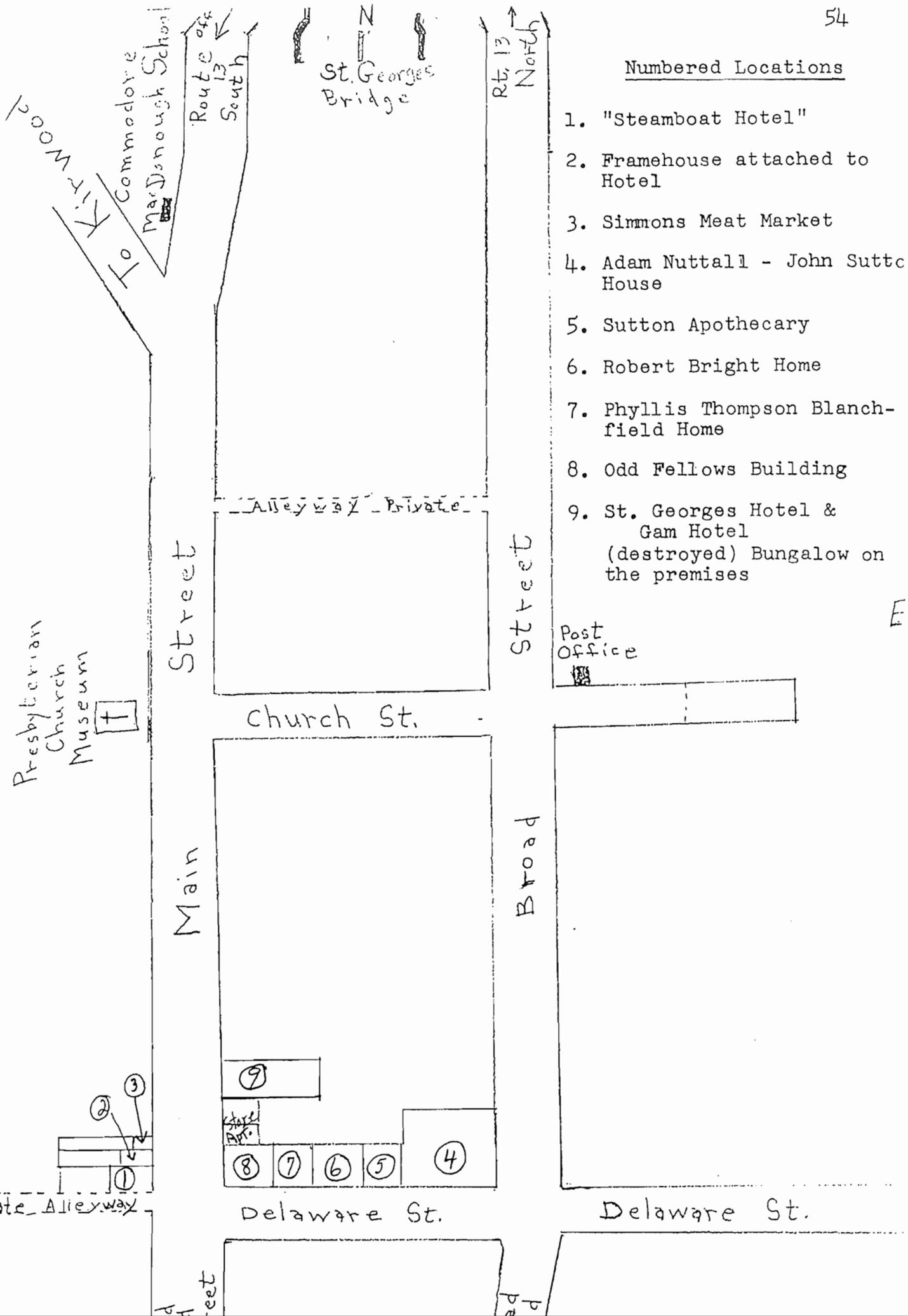
In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twelfth day of May, A. D. 1905.

Numbered Locations

1. "Steamboat Hotel"
2. Framehouse attached to Hotel
3. Simmons Meat Market
4. Adam Nuttall - John Suttic House
5. Sutton Apothecary
6. Robert Bright Home
7. Phyllis Thompson Blanchfield Home
8. Odd Fellows Building
9. St. Georges Hotel & Gam Hotel (destroyed) Bungalow on the premises

Post Office

E



Presbyterian Church Museum

Street

Street

Main

Broad

Church St.

Delaware St.

Delaware St.

Private Alleyway

Street

Street

References

New Castle County - Deeds, Orphan Court, Probate-Wills, Newspaper micro-films, etc: Delaware State Archives, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware

The State of Delaware Pomeroy & Beers Atlas--1868

Scharf - History of Delaware

St. Georges Yesterday

St. Georges A Remembrance

Gam Memorabilia -- Francis M. Gam

Gladys B. Lester - Collection & Files

Ye Towne of St. Georges, Buildings & Homes No. 1

Cover Silhouette - Dover Pictorial Archive Series By Carol Belanger Grafton  
Dover Publications, Inc. New York, N. Y.

Notes