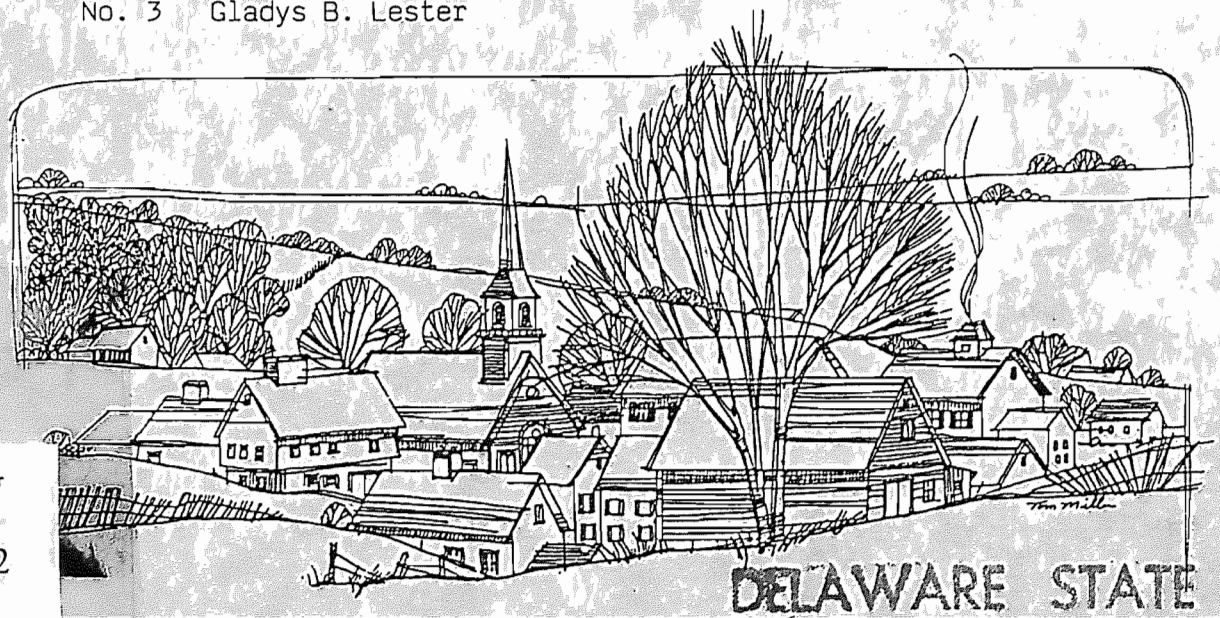
Ye Towne Of St. Georges

Buildings and Homes

"Wm. Goforth's Three Acre Plot"

No. 3 Gladys B. Lester



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DELAWARE STATE ARCHIV

YE TOWNE

of

ST. GEORGES

BUILDINGS and HOMES

" WILLIAM GOFORTH'S
THREE ACRE PLOT "

No. 3

JUNE 1992

GLADYS B. LESTER

ALSO MENTIONED

SUTTON'S DRUG STORE

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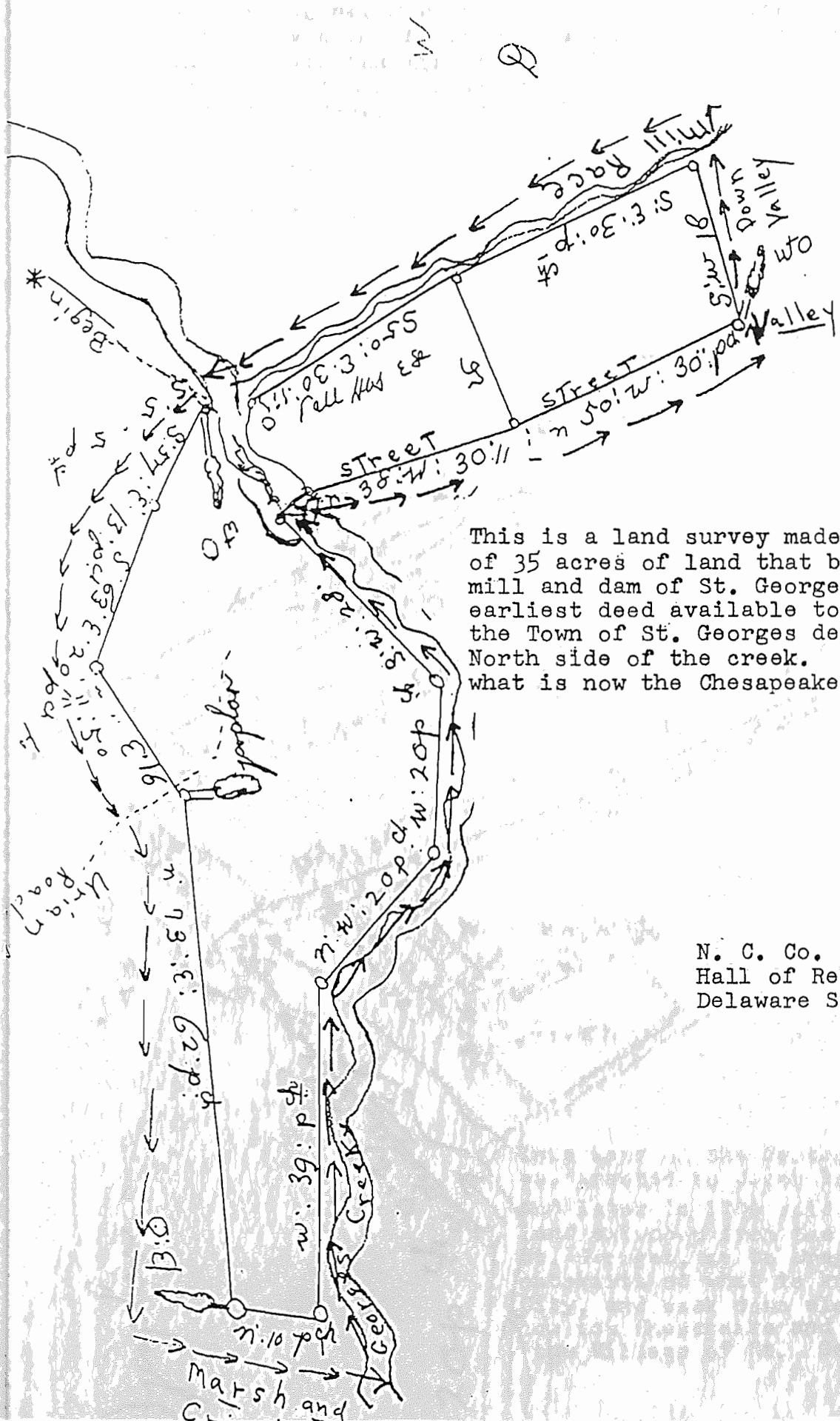
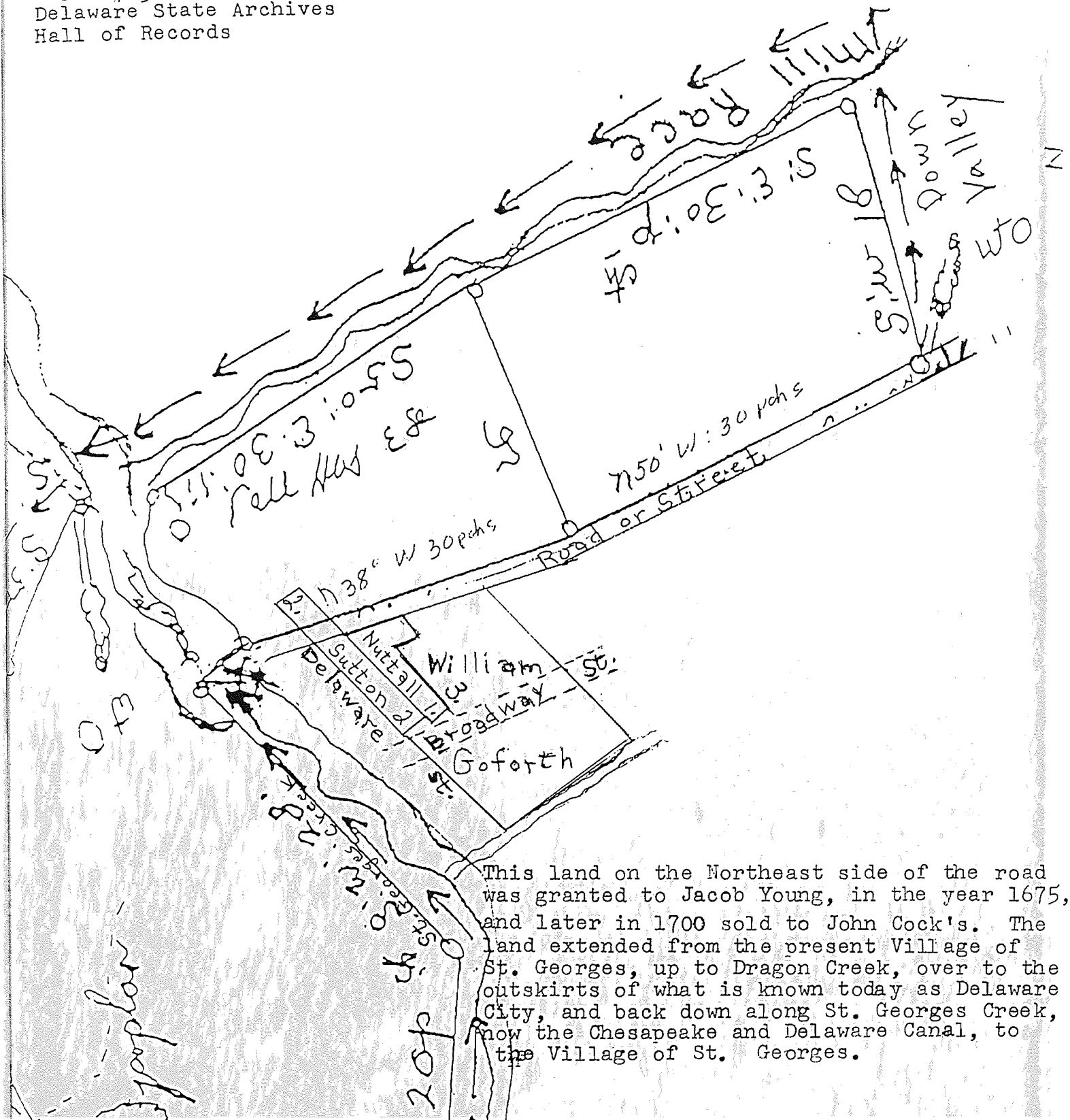


This is a land survey made August 29, 1718 of 35 acres of land that belonged to the mill and dam of St. Georges Creek. This is the earliest deed available to use to show how the Town of St. Georges developed on the North side of the creek. The creek became what is now the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal.

N. C. Co. Survey B^2 #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 and 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



This land on the Northeast side of the road was granted to Jacob Young, in the year 1675, and later in 1700 sold to John Cock's. The land extended from the present Village of St. Georges, up to Dragon Creek, over to the outskirts of what is known today as Delaware City, and back down along St. Georges Creek, now the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, to the Village of St. Georges.

William Goforth's Three Acre Plot

William Goforth, a weaver, was and early settler to the area of St. Georges. He acquired large tracts of land from the John Cock's (Coxe) heirs as well as land from John Gooding who had bought Coxe land. Some of his lands were later left to a son, William Goforth Jr., a carpenter, living in the St. Georges Creek area.

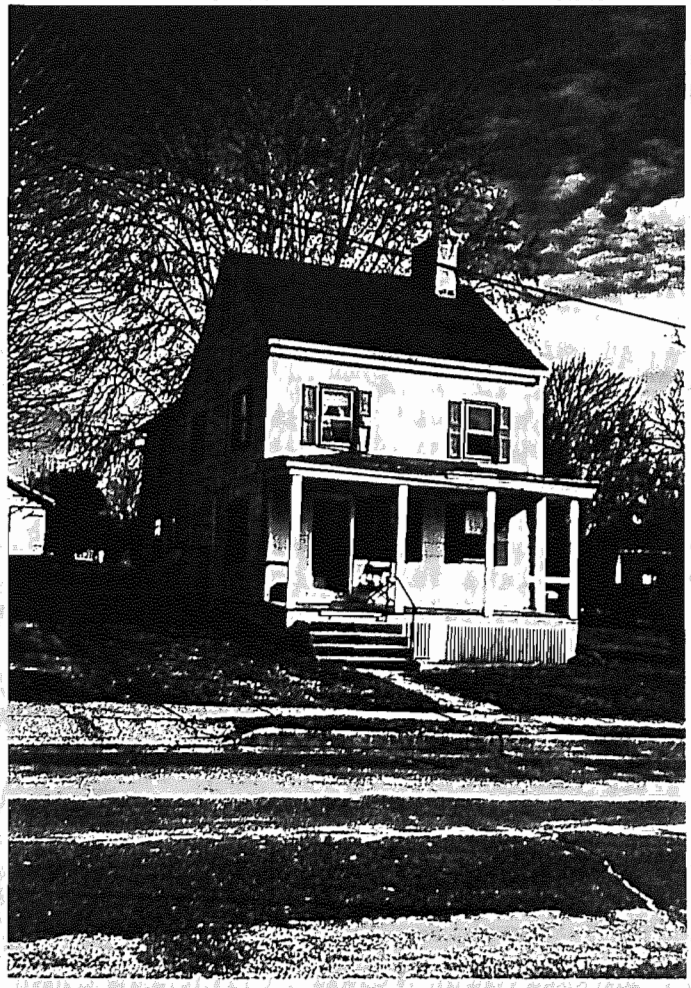
On July 23, 1731 William Goforth sold to Andrew Jubart, a weaver, 330 acres of land. (Bk. I Vol 1 pg. 455 - 1731) The land lay between Dragon Run Creek and St. Georges Creek and bordered on the north end of the St. Georges Mill Race and along the east side of the main road or street, later Kings Highway, Clinton Street, and now Main Street, in St. Georges Village. Wm. Goforth reserved 3 acres out of the 330 acres of land sold to Mr. Jubart on which there was a house and probably the home of William and Ann Goforth. Andrew Jubart deeded the 3 acres with messuage land and tenement, situated in the village of St. Georges, back to Wm. Goforth. Onthe south side the lot adjoined to Enoch Cornwalls lot, later Adam Nuttal and others. The lot is outlined on page 6 which will show its location along Delaware Street and Main Street in the town of St. Georges. On the north and east the plot joined lands of Benjamin Swett and others. On page 2 the Wm. Goforth lot is marked #3 showing its location pertaining to the growth and development of the town.

This house is best known as the Howard Othoson Home.

Based on inside architecture one can believe sections of this home are original as being the home on the 3 acre plot belonging to William Goforth in the year 1731.

This picture taken in 1991 .

No older pictures available of the house.



In the year 1734 John Daniel Tony, owner of the mill in St. Georges, bought from William Goforth and wife Ann the 3 acre plot and messuage. The deed is in very bad condition but tells enough to identify the lot and it claims the lot to be 3 acres 16 perches.

John Daniel Tony died April 6 1748 after writing his will on March 12, 1748. (N.C. Co Wills and Probate 1748) He left the 3 acre plot, bought from Wm. Goforth and wife, to his wife Elizabeth and daughter Mary and after their deaths it went to his wife's nephews, John, Lewis, and Reese, sons of Thomas Reese. Isaac Dushane, son in law of Elizabeth Tony, managed the property for her until her death. By 1800 Elizabeth Tony and the daughter Mary had died and the 3 acre plot was handled by John Reece, one of the heir nephews of Elizabeth Tony. (N. C. Co. Orphan Crt. Bk. I Vol. 1 pg 5, 152, 202- 1822) The brother Lewis Reece died September 10,1814 and by 1820 the brother Thomas Reece had died and left two children so the guardian for Thomas's children and Jeremiah Lewden, administrator for Lewis Reece went into orphans court in the year 1820 to settle the property. Mr. Lewden was to report back to the court by April 7 1823 on what had been accomplished on settleing the estate. On October 19, 1822 the plot of land with the frame dwelling was sold to the brother John Reece for $20. This settled the brother Thomas's share. On April 9, 1823 Jeremiah Lewden, Administrator, made a report to the court on the sale and reported that no judgements or liens were found against the property. Lewis Reece had had only a very small interest in the said house and lot in the Town of St. Georges. There were no title papers in relation to the house and lot. Catherine Mc Intire formerly widow of said Lewis Reece could give theadministrator, Mr. Lewden, no information and could furnish no title papers. The children of Lewis Reece had no knowledge of a title of ownership by Lewis Reece in the said house and lot and this return being read in court by Mr. Lewden the court confirmed the order. By 1828 settlement was finally made on the property. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. G Vol. 4 pg. 243 - 1828) Jeremiah Lewden on August 28, 1828 presented a deed for the house improvements and 3 acres 16 perches of land in the Town of St. Georges to John Reece of Mill Creek Hundred for $72 to cover debts of Lewis Reece and to settle the estate. John had now paid $92. for his two brothers share of the property.

John Reece was a resident and Miller of Mill Creek Hundred and Lewis Reece had been a resident of White Clay, Hundred so they did not reside on the property. John Reece seemed to have been the responsible person for the upkeep and improvements mentioned in the deed. A tenant probably lived on the 3 acre plot using it for grain, pasture and garden crops.

John Reece and wife Margaret on May 5, 1838 sold the property and house fo $400 to Henry L. Peckard, a storekeeper in the town of St. Georges. (N.C.Co. Deed Bk. A Vol 5 pg. 403 - 1838) Since Mr. Reece did not live in the area of St. Georges he may not have been aware of the growth and economic movement in the town, but Mr. Peckard living in the town saw the land as a real estate investment.

The small St. Georges Creek running through the village had been transformed into a canal with locks and had been in use since July 1829. Shipping industry was a boon to the area. Stores, inns and other small businesses had flourished by the early 1800's.

The following page will give deed details of the 330 acres Wm. Goforth sold to Andrew Jubart and the small 3 acre plot, from this land , deeded back to Wm. Goforth.

A later booklet will tell of Andrew Jubart laying off lots, from the 330 acres, north of Goforths property which added to the size of the village of St. Georges.

(note the spelling of the name from Reese to Reece. This often happens from older documents such as deeds, will, etc. to a newer document)

July 23, 1731 N.C Co. Deeds Bk.IVol. 1 pg. 455 (In Brief)

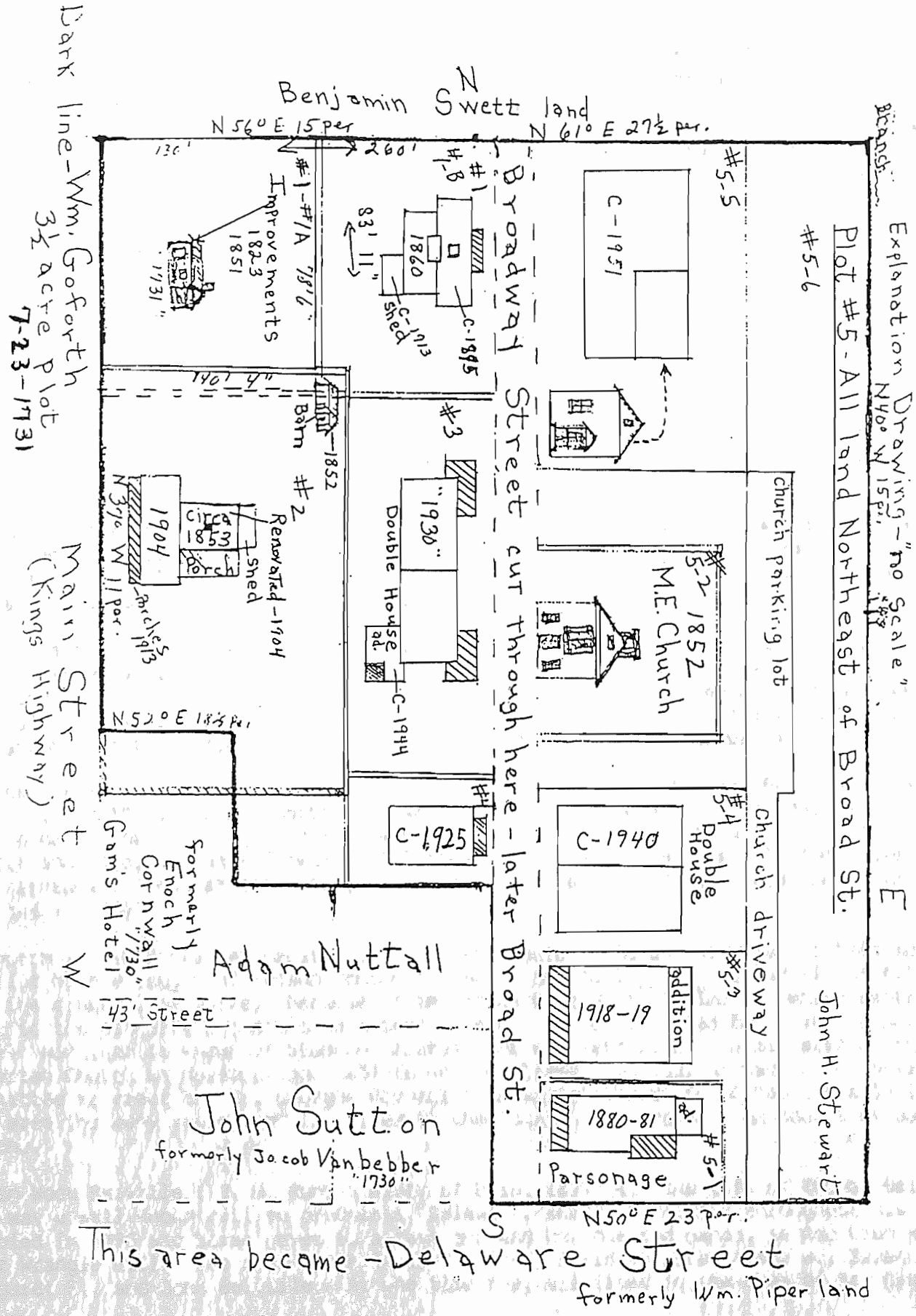
William Goforth, weaver, to Andrew Jubart - Tract of land in Red Lion Hundred, Village of St. Georges. Begin at a corner of James Anderson land standing in a valley being a corner post of David Stouts land and running by a dividing line N 36o East 262 perches to a corner marked black oak standing by Dragon Run, thence East along the Run and bounding therewith 90 perches to a corner marked red oak sapling standing by the said Run, then by a line dividing this from land of John Cox South 252 perches to St. Georges Creek, then up ye side of ye swamp by ye several courses thereof South 63o West 65 perches North 82o West 35 perches, South 44o West 49 perches, North 81o West 50 perches, North 70o West25 perches to and old stump on ye North side of ye St. Georges Mill Race by the Kings Road then along the said road by the several courses therof North 39o West 28 perches to the aforesaid stake and first mentioned place of beginning. Containing 330 acres.

July 23, 1731 N.C.Co. Deeds Bk I Vol. 1 pg 456 (In brief)

Between Andrew Jubart and William Goforth - Messuage land and tenement situated in the Town of St. Georges. Begining at ye upper corner of ye tract of Enoch Cornwey (Wall) Cornwall lott and running with lot of William Goforth North 37o West 11 perches until it intersects a line of Benjamin Swetts lott, then with said Swetts lott North 56o East 15 perches to a corner of said lott, then North 61o East 27 perches and ½ perch to a stake near a branch, then begining again at ye first station and running with Enoch Cornwall lot North 52o East 18½ perches for to back corner of said Cornwall lott, then South 31½o East or with back line of Cornwalls lott and lott of Jacob Van Bebber lott, thence with said Vanbebber lot North 50o East 23 perches to a corner maple tree standing in a marsh, which is a but, then through said marsh and all of said run North 40o West 15 perches to a stake standing at ye extent of a line drawn North 61o East 27½ perches thereby closing ye survey. 3 acres of land

The July 23, 1731 3 acre or 3 acre 16 perches plot perimiter is shown on page 6.

The explanation drawing contains sketches or outlines of buildings pertinent to the development of the plot.


Benjamin Swett land
N
N 56° E 15 per
N 61° E 27½ per.
Branch
Explanation Drawing - "no scale"
N 40° W 15 per.
Plot #5 - All land Northeast of Broad St.
#5-6
#5-5
C-1951
#1-#1A
Improvements
1823
1851
1731
#1
#1-B
1860
83' 11"
C-1913
shed
C-1895
Broadway Street cut through here - later Broad St.
140' 4"
Barn
1852
#3
#2
1904
circa 1853
Porch
Renovated - 1904
shed
N 3½° W 11 per.
Porches 1913
"1930"
Double House
ad.
C-1944
#5-2
1852
M.E. Church
church parking lot
N 52° E 18½ per.
C-1925
#4
C-1940
#5-4
Double House
church driveway
E
Dark line - Wm. Goforth
3½ acre plot
7-23-1731
Main Street
(Kings Highway)
formerly Enoch Cornwall "1730"
Gam's Hotel
W
Adam Nuttall
43' Street
#5-3
1918-19
addition
John H. Stewart
John Sutton
formerly Jacob Vanbebber "1730"
1880-81
ad.
#5-1
Parsonage
S
N 50° E 23 per.
This area became - Delaware Street
formerly Wm. Piper land

Henry L. Peckard was the son of Henry Jr. and ____ Peckard. Born c-1809. Died in September 1865. On January 29, 1829 E. W. Gilbert, pastor, married Henry Peckard and Mary Cann at Christiana Bridge, Wilmington, Delaware. (N. C.Co. Mrg. records Vol. 82 pg. 192 - Vol. 13 pg. 246) Mary was the daughter of Isaac Cann. (Witness to her will - N. C. Co. Wills - Mary Cann 1893) Henry had grown up in and area known as "The Levels" in AppoquiniminkHundred, in a westerly direction, between Middletown and Townsend Delaware. A farm located in that area had belonged to his grandparents Henry Peckard Sr. and Hannah Peckard. Henry L. Peckard bought the farm in May of 1839 and upon his death in 1865 had requested, in his will, to be buried in the family cemetery located on that farm.

Henry's father had died when Henry was very young. It is not known when he came to the St. Georges area, but, he became a prosperous shopkeeper as he owned lands in Delaware City as well as St. Georges and Pencader Hundred. He was a devout Methodist. It is known he had one son named Edwin H. Peckard.

Henry L. Peckard and wife Mary C. on August 30, 1841 sold a portion of the 3 acre 16 perces plot for,$225, to Joseph Donoho, a resident of the Village of St. Georges. (N. C. Co. Deeds Bk. I Vol. 5 pg. 383 - 1841)

Broadway Street had now become a reality and the parcel of land sold was between Broadway Street and Main Street. See explanation layout on page 6 , lots marked #1. The lot size being 260' by 83'11". This was the beginning of the division of William Goforth's lot and house set aside in 1731 for a town called St. Georges.

Joseph Donoho and wife Ann Elizabeth did live on the property in the small house thereon, but, by November 15, 1849 had moved from the town of St. Georges to Appoquinimink Hundred and sold a part of the lot binding on the Main Street to Stephen Lecates. Mr. Donoho's occupation is unknown. (N. C. Co Deeds Bk. F Vol. 6 pg. 344 - 1849) See explanation layout on page 6 for lot sold to Stephen Lecates marked #1A.

Stephen Lecates one year later, on November 6, 1850, bought of Henry Peckard and wife Mary C., for $225, another portion of Wm. Goforth's plot and this lot adjoined the southwest side of the lot bought from Joseph Donoho and ran along the northeast side of Main Street and adjoined lands formally of Cornwall, Nuttle, and Margaret Sutton. See page 6 lot marked #2. Thus another change in boundary lines. (N. C. Co. Deeds Bk. F Vol. 6 pg. 346 - 1850)

On March 24, 1852 Stephen Lecates and wife Anna sold to Sarah Belville for $700 most of the lot he had bought of Joseph Donoho in 1849. See page 6 marked #1 and #1A including the broken line marks. Because of the price of $700 it indicates improvements again made to the property and could have been a barn. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. T Vol. 7 pg. 324 1852) Not much is known of Stephen Lecates. He was married by the minister of the Presbyterian Church on November 30, 1837 to Anna Williams. In 1851 he was on the building committee to erect the St. Georges Methodist Episcopal Church so he had probably lived in the area for many years and also lived in the home on the property he bought of Joseph Donoho.

Sarah Wood Belville (J. M. Runk - Hist. of Dela. 1899) was the wife of Thomas Belville, who was a well known citizen of Odessa, Delaware, where he resided throughout his life. He died in 1890 and Sarah moved to a farm she and her husband owned, in Red Lion Hundred, near Wrangle Hill. She died there in 1897. Their children were Thomas W., Sarah Rebecca, Margaret E., and John Belville. At one time they all lived in the area of St. Georges.

Sarah Belville bought the lot and house for the use of her daughter, Sarah Rebecca, who had married Isaac Vandyke Clark. They resided on the property in St. Georges. According to Sarah Belvilles will written in 1863, Curtis B. Ellison, a grandson, was to hold the property in trust for the sole and separate use of my daughter Sarah Rebecca Clark, wife of Issac Vandyke Clark, and to hold it in trust until she died and then convey the property to Sarah Clark and her heirs. In 1863 Sarah Belville valued the home and lot at $850. Only $150 more than she paid in the year 1852.

Curtis B. Ellison died May 5, 1899 and had made no conveyance in accordance with the will. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. R Vol. 40 pf. 352 1934) Sarah Rebecca and Isaac Vandyke Clark had both passed on but had left children.

Edwin W. Jester by proper Court of Chancery proceedings was made trustee on May 5, 1900 of Sarah Belvelle and conveyed the house and land to Sarah A. Othoson, Lydia E. Johns, Margaret E. B. Clark, Harry C. Clark, George F. Clark and Linda W. Clark. They were all the heirs of Sarah Rebecca Belville Clark and Sarah Wood Belville. Sarah Othoson and Lydia E. Johns on June 8 1900 conveyed their part to sisters Margaret and Linda Clark. Margaret died January 10, 1906 and left her part to Linda W. Clark and the remaining parts were held by Harry C. Clark, George F. and Laura B. Clark. Laura unmarried and childless died intestate December 12, 1917, now leaving Linda and the two brothers Harry and George owning the property. Linda who had resided with her brother Harry C., on the property, died September 1, 1928 leaving her share of the property to brother Harry. Linda sold patented company salves and medications while living at the residence with her brother to help support herself. George Clark died July 13, 1929 intestate leaving 2 children, Fred and Daisy Clark Ewing, with his interest going to them, who in turn gave it to Harry. Harry C. Clark prevailed and was the final descendant of Sarah Wood Belville to receive the home according to her will written in 1863.

Around the year 1931, The Evening Journal Newspaper interviewed Mr. Harry C. Clark of St. Georges. He said he was 85 years young and his vitality and high spirits upheld his assertion. Although Mr. Clark is now the oldest male in St. Georges, he still gets about the town with the same regularity he once did and his prescence in the civic life of the town is part of the town itself. Mr. Clark is the last of his immediate family living in the same house where his parents Sarah Rebecca Belville Clark and Isaac Vandyke Clark brought him over 79 years ago. He would have been about 7 years old.

The old Clark home is a nine room frame dwelling. The interior of the house is much the same as when his family dwelt there. Mr. Clark has not allowed the furniture to be changed nor will he permit a housekeeper to superintend his domain. He lives entirely alone, cooks his own meals, and save for a few visitors, spends his evenings reading. Two years ago he fell and fractured his hip and today he walks with the aid of a cane and crutch when out on the street. Until then he followed his trade as painter and paper= hanger and it was this trade that caused his fall from a high scaffold when he became dizzy. The townspeople have been accustomed to seeing him teetering on the edge of a high roof or church steeple high up in the air, when he persisted in following his trade after 80 years of age. They feared for his safety. At age 85 he says he is waiting for warm weather to paint and paper his home. Thus the last of the Clark pioneers in St.Georges carries on. He says he will probably live to a far greater age as he was born with a sign of longevity- two teeth at birth. He clings to the modes of his generation, and today he still uses oil lamps in his home and refuses to wear any other glasses than the small lenses with gold frames which he bought a quarter of a century ago.

Mr. Clark's death date is unknown but on March 2, 1934 he had sold the property to Howard Othoson of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mr. Othoson had been a deputy warden and then warden of a Pennsylvania State Penitentiary. He retired to St. Georges and died on December 21, 1941. His son Howard C. Othoson acquired the property and he lived on the property until his death, September 18, 1981. The home was sold and is now owned by Benjamin Hutchinson.

OTHOSON - HUTCHINSON
Year 1991
This is the front and Southside of the home located on Main Street

Year 1991

North and East side and back of the home, with view of St. Georges Bridge to the West

GOFORTH TONEY(TONY) BELVILLE CLARK OTHOSON HUTCHINSON

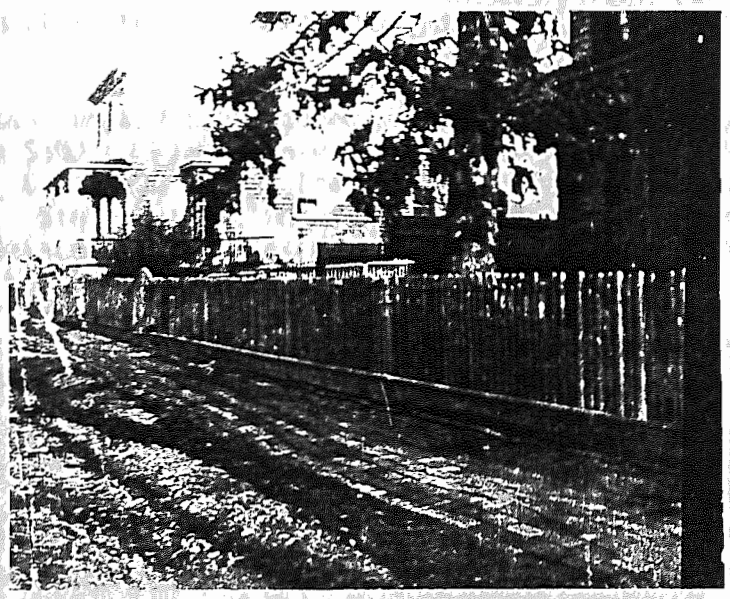
PROPERTY

The house on the property has been mentioned as early as the deed of 1731 when William Goforth kept the land from the 330 acre parcel he sold to Andrew Jubart. All deeds point to the fact the original structure is under the many improvements made to the house in the past 260 years.

The rooms in the home are small with the ceilings on the first floor very low being not much more than 6' 6' high. The main stairway small and narrow. The kitchen area contained a hugh, on the floor, fireplace which was removed to modernise the kitchen.

Howard C. Othoson kept the home in good repair. No old pictures are available of the home before new siding was added covering the old. The property like many others in the town around 1907 sported a match stick slat picket fence based on top of a wide solid board bottom. A brick sidewalk went across the front of the property.

The home is well placed on its lot sitting privately alone with its plain lines and quaint charm. The trend seems to be modernization and not restoration, but, the spot does mark a location of the early beginning of the Village of St. Georges.



Circa - 1932

Brick sidewalk and a wooden match stick slat picket fence in front of the Clark - Othoson house.

MURPHY McWHORTER CUSH SNEDEKER LESTER

Claude N. Lester residence c 1943

The parcel of land on which the Lester home was built was divided off, from the original Wm. Goforth plot of 1731, in the year 1850 when Henry L. Peckard and wife Mary C. on Nov. 6, 1850 sold the plot to Stephen Lecates for $225. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk F Vol 6 pg 346 - 1850) Two years later, on September 21, 1852, Stephen Lecates sold the property to James Murphy resident of the town for $500. (Bk. L Vol. 6 pg. 251 1852)

A barn has never been mentioned on any deeds, pertaining to this property, but because of the large increase in price in just two years it is felt Mr. Lecates had built a barn on the property, sold to Murphy, between 1850-52 to accomodate his home on the adjoining property that he had also sold in 1852 to Sarah Belville. The barn remained with the Murphy property and is still there today much renovated. James Murphy and his wife Susanna probably built a home on the property soon after the purchase as they were there until the year 1866.

On January 3, 1866 James Murphy had moved to the Village of Christiana and his wife sold the property for $800 to Richard Hayman, who was aresident of St. Georges. N. C. Co. Deeds Bk. C Vol. 8 pg. 420 1866) The deed now states - all that lot of land with a house thereon erected. Since this is the first reference to the house, credit goes to James Murphy for its existence. See lot #2 on page 6. Richard Hayman and his wife Cassandra may have lived on the property, but it was only for a year as on February 22, 1867, for $950., they sold the property to Thomas Mc Whorter. The deed stated house, outhouses (barn), and garden being on the property. (N. C. Co Deeds Bk. V Vol.8 pg380 1867) As you can see on the plot drawing on page 6 the lot #2 was in and L shape.

Joseph and Mary Gam owned the land and hotel adjoining Mc Whorter and since Mr. McWhorter wanted to square up his plot the Gams sold, for $100,a small part of their property. Mr. Mc Whorter gave up a part of his property to the Gams and both properties were a more suitable size and shape. The diagonal row line shown on the plot plan on page 6 lot #2 shows the new division.

(J. M. Runk - History of Dela. 1899)
The McWhorter name was well known in the area of St. Georges. They were engaged in farming, the mercantile business, tobacco manufacturing, and the manufacture of agriculture machinery The earliest member of the family to settle in Delaware was Thomas McWhorter,

who was born in Virginia and came to Delaware in the late 1700's and settled in St. Georges Hundred where he resided the rest of his life. He married Mary McCaulley of Delaware and their children were Leontine, Thomas, the owner of the home in St. Georges, and a daughter Mary. Leontine married Ann Jane McCrone, Thomas married Emma Scott and Mary married Wm. G. Janvier.

Thomas and Emma McWhorter sold the property and home to Mary Cann Peckard on March 1, 1872. (. C. Co Deeds Bk. B Vol. 10 pg. 177)

Mary C. Peckard sold the property for $1,000 to John Atherly on November 3, 1874. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. K Vol. 10 pg. 310 1874)

John Atherly died December 12, 1875 and the property was sold at public auction on December 19, 1876 to Sarah A. Atherly. N. C. Co. Deed Bk. U Vol. 10 pg 441 - 1877)

A suit was brought against the property and on November 17, 1887 the property was sold, for $385., to the highest bidder, who was, Henry L. Peckard. Henry was the grandson of the Henry L. Peckard who had bought the whole 3 acre plot in 1838 from John Reece.(N . C. Co. Deeds Bk. D Vol. 14 pg. 112 1887) The property must have detiorated as the selling price in 1874 was $1,000 and now in 1887 sold for only $385.

Three months later Henty L. Peckard and wife Maggie, on February 10, 1888, sold the property to David Adams. (N.C. Co. Deeds Bk. H Vol. 14 pg. 390 - 1888)

David Adams and wife, Susanna, on December 21, 1892 sold the home and lot for $825. to Eliza Cush, a widow. (N. C. Co Deeds Bk. Z Vol. 15 pg. 308 - 1892)

Eliaz Cush owned other properties in the town of St. Georges, but, in her will of 1905 she is leaving this property to her son, Daniel Cush, and describes it as a new two-story frame dwelling house situated in St. Georges on Main Street adjoining the property of Edward Gam and the property now in tenure of Harry Clark. Montgomery Gray was a tenant on her property. There had been a home already on the property when she bought it and so the referral to a new two-story frame home gives the reason the home became a T-shape house. It had been newly renovated.

The back of the home, originally built in C- 1853-54 had 3 rooms downstairs, and 3 rooms upstairs, with a small curving stairway. Also there was a basement. The front was added making a T-shape house. See the floor plan drawing on page 15 . It contained a large central hall and open stairway with a room on each side of the hall. The hall led from the front back to a dining room, which was part of the old original house, where a central wall had been removed to make one large room. The old original curving stairway was left in the old house section and the closed door entrance led to the back upstairs section from the center dining room. The kitchen remained in the same area as it had been in the original section. In later years, porches and back sheds were added. The sheds being used to hold coal or wood and a laundry room and sometimes a section enclosed for a pantry. In the early 1930's a bathroom was installed upstairs and in the mid 1930's the front porch enclosed.

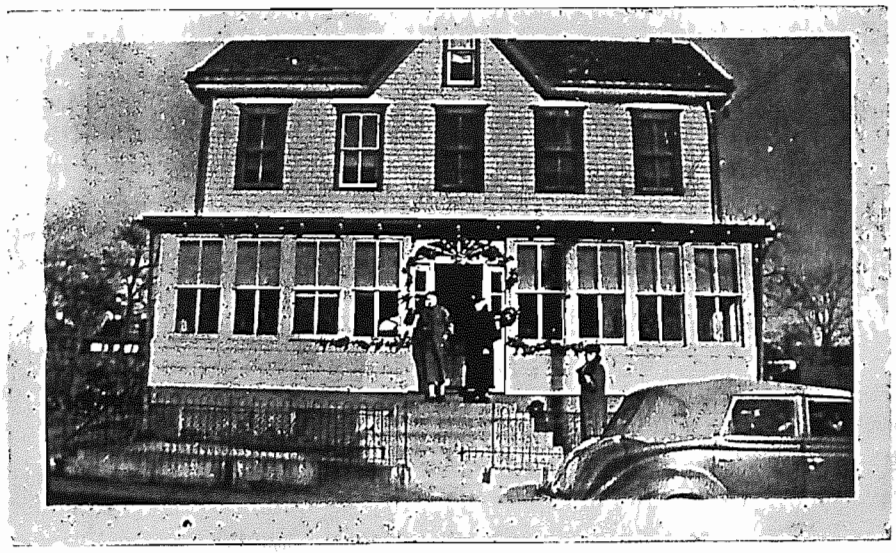
Eliza Cush, before her death, sold the home and property, on March 11, 1905, to Katherine Richard and husband, Alfred, of Philadelphia. Katherine was her daughter and referred to as Kate in the will of Eliza Cush. (N.C. Co. Deed Bk. G Vol. 20 pg. 480 - 1905) Katherine and her husband sold the property to her brother Daniel Cush on February 10, 1910 as he had resided on the property.

Daniel Cush and wife Anna J. on March 27, 1913 sold the property, for $3,200, to George Snedeker. (N.C. Co. Deed Bk G Vol. 24 pg. 596) The deed will be for two parcels as

Daniel Cush had acquired the property behind this lot adjoining to Broadway Street which will be identified later as property #3 of the plot plan on page 6 .

Mr. Snedeker was a business man and farmer in the area. He and his family lived in the home from 1913 until the end of 1922 when they moved to Wilmington and then later to the Mc Coy Farm (now Au Clair School) located on the St. Georges Kirkwood Road.

The Snedekers sold the town property to Claude N. Lester and wife, Clara Eleanor, for $4000 on March 1, 1923. (N. C. Co Deed Bk. R. Vol. 31 page 114) Mr. and Mrs. Lester and sons Claude E. and Earle J. only had to move a short distance as they lived just down the Main Street in the 'Steamboat Hotel' building.



Lester Home 1938

Mr. Claude N. Lester married the former Clara Eleanor Hance, daughter of Edward and Hannah Cleaver Hance of Delaware City on June 6, 1917. After moving to their new residence another son, Richard H. Lester, was born on March 8, 1923. Lester family members were residents of the home from 1923 to about 1979.

Mr. Claude N. Lester, while living at this residence, became a prominent civic leader and banker in the area; but his main love was farming and agriculture. He had accumulated many acres of farmland in the area. The main crop from the farms was growing the best possible sweet corn he could, to supply the cannery he owned in St. Georges.

Mr. Lester was born October 26, 1892 on a farm near to the town of St. Georges. His parents were John and Clara Nelson Lester. He received his education in the public schools at St. Georges and after graduating there he attended Beacom Business College in Wilmington. He earned his first money husking corn at the cannery located on the south side of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. The cannery was the St. Georges Fruit Packing Co.. Little did Claude Lester realize then, that one day he would become a partner and owner of that business which became known as the St. Georges Canning Co. in 1908-09. His father, John Lester, bought a farm located in the middle of what became New Castle County Air Base. On this farm at age 17, in 1909, Claude Lester started a retail milk business serving milk in the city of Wilmington until 1919. In 1919 he moved back to St. Georges, and bought one-half interest in the St. Georges Canning Co. owned by George R. Snedeker. By 1923 he purchased Mr. Snedeker's half and became the sole owner of the business.

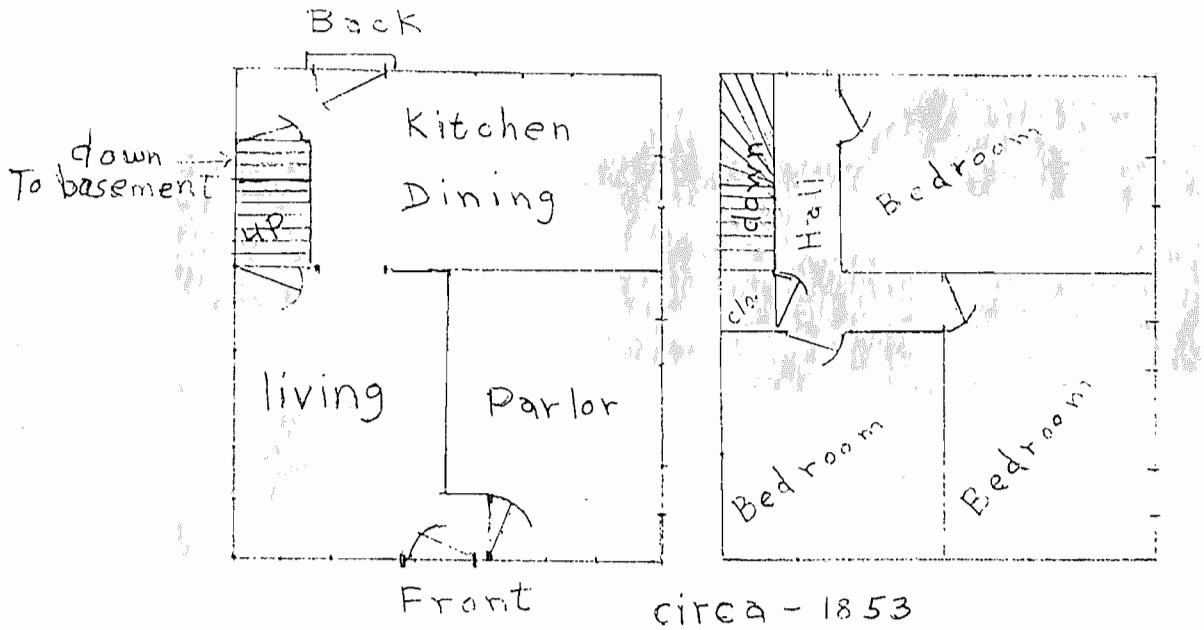
Mr. Lester was tax collector for Red Lion Hundred from 1924 to 1930. He was elected in

1936 and served one term in the General Assembly and was then re-elected again to Levy Court. He was New Castle County Treasurer and receiver of taxes during World War II. He was a republican and for a short time was chairman of the Republican State Committee. He was elected a director of the St. Georges Trust Co. in 1936. He was later elected President and served in that office until the company merged with Wilmington Trust Co. He then became branch vice-president and continued in that capacity until his death. He had served for many years as President of Gracelawn Memorial Park and then later was chairman of the cemetery's board of directors. He was on the school board of Commordore Mac Donough School, held office and was and active member of the St. Georges Presbyterian Church. He was active and served on committees pertaining to governing the town of St. Georges. The three sons Claude, Earle, and Richard married while living at the home and many of their children and families still live in the area today.

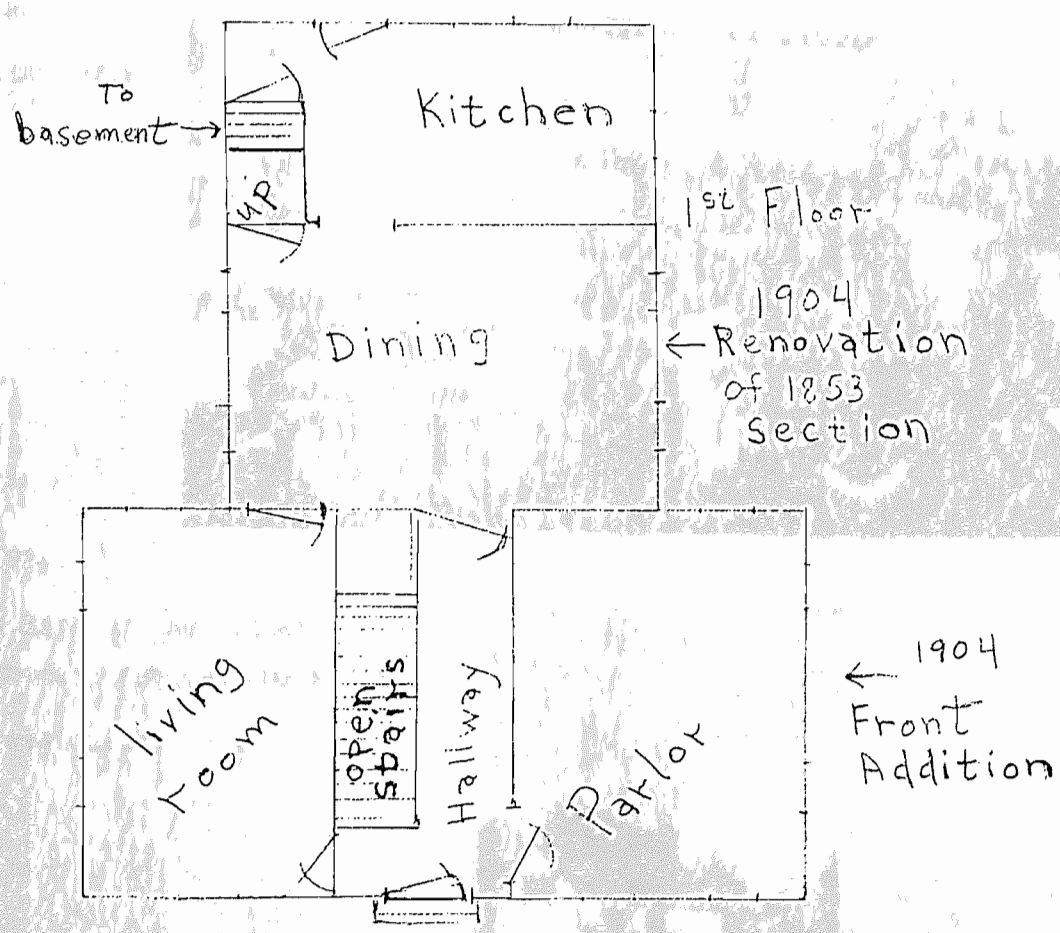
Mrs. Eleanor H. Lester died while living at the residence on June 26, 1949. Mr.Lester in the year 1955 married Edith Cullison, of Baltimore, Maryland, and they resided at the home until the year 1956 when they moved to a new home on Kirkwood Road, located on Linden Hill Farm, owned by Mr. Lester. Mr. Lester died, in his sleep, at this residence June 14, 1966.

Earle Lester received the home in St. Georges, located on Main Street, and sold the house to John Weik who now owns and occupies the residence.

Left picture - c - 1927 L-R Earle J. Lester, Claude E. Lester, with a friend in front of the Lester home before the front porch was enclosed.
Right picture - year 1945 - Earle J. Lester home from the service. The front is enclosed with iron fence and gate still intact in front of the home.



circa - 1853
James Murphy House



The second floor of the renovated Murphy - Cush house was identical to the first floor having three large bedrooms and one small bedroom. A closed door hid the stairway, in the front upstairs hall, leading to the commodious attic covering both the old Murphy section and the new Cush addition. The house became a T shape.

1949

Lester Home

Rear View

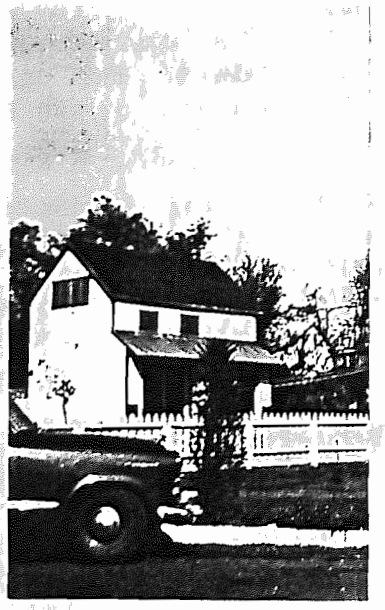
1954

Side View

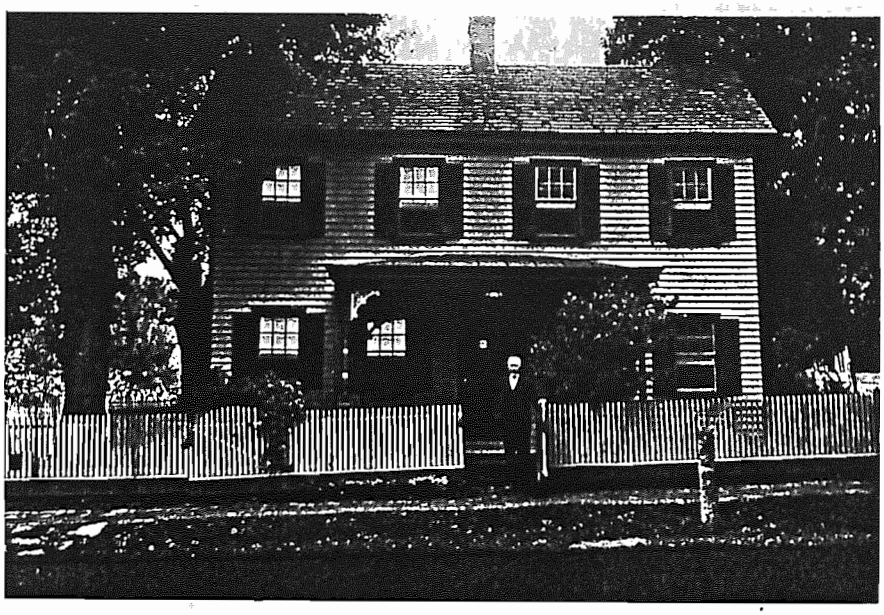
Mr. Claude Lester
Owner

1954

Old Barn on the property
with many renovations since
it was built.



JAMES CANN - JAMES PAYNTER HOME



1907 View

The Cann-Paynter house was built along the southwestern side of Broadway Street. Broadway Street was layed off through the original plot of Wm. Goforth 1731, John D. Toney 1734, John Reece 1800, and in 1838 Henry L. Peckard. There had been a Broadway Street mentioned in 1744 deeds, but, it had been to the north end of this street and later closed off for many years, and so there was a need to open another street to accomodate a circle passageway between Main Street, Second Street and Delaware Street. Broadway had been drawn into the 1825 plan and survey for the Town of St. Georges to become incorporated. Many streets drawn into that plan did not materialise. Broadway was layed off in honor of John Broad, but, nothing has been found to connect him to the St. Georges area or town.

St. Georges became incorporated and received its charter February 17, 1825. Henry Peckard laid off a plot along Broadway Street, 260' x 83'11", and sold it to Joseph Donoho August 30, 1841. Joseph Donoho, in 1849, divided a part of this lot to Stephen Lecates and on, April 2, 1853, he sold a part of the lot bordering Broadway to Outten D. Jester. See plot #1 - #1B on page 6.

Outten D. Jester and wife Caroline, on March 23, 1855, sold the lot to James Edwards. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. V Vol. 6 pg. 49 - 1855) The lot sat vacant and James Edwards died. Albert O. Newton acted as administrator for the estate and there was a surviving mortgage suit brought against the survivors, being Elizabeth, Ellen, William and John. P. Edwards, by the former owner, O. D. Jester. The property was sold on April 26, 1860 by sheriff Abraham Cannon to James Cann. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. M Vol. 7 pg. 34- 1860)

James Cann built a home on the property (C-1860) and lived there. He had made his will on June 20, 1863 and died September 14, 1863. In the will Mr. Cann left the house and

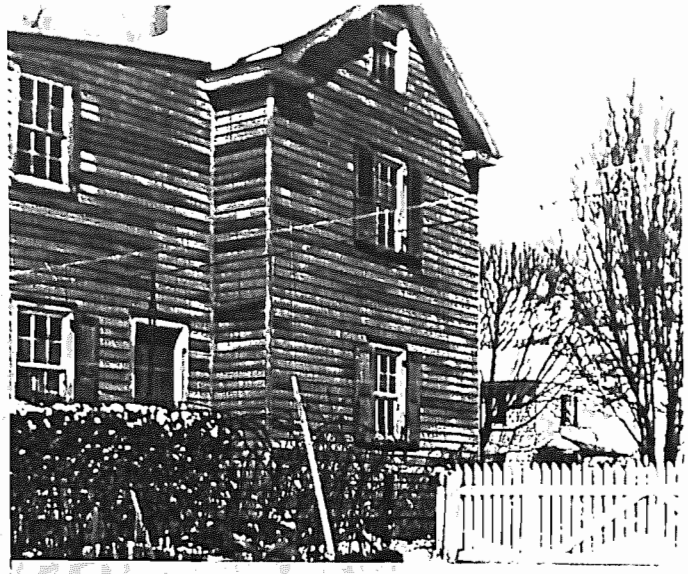
lot in St. Georges, where I live, to my sister Elizabeth Cann and Emiline Sibley their lifetime and after their death it went to his nephew Elbridge Gerry Sibley, if he be living. Elizabeth Cann lived on the property. By 1888 the property went to Elbridge G. of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. D Vol. 14 pg. 409 1888) On January 20, 1888 he sold the property to John W. Carrow of St. Georges Hundred. Mr. Carrow sold the house and ground , on November 11, 1888 for $500 to James H. Paynter of Red Lion Hundred. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. Vol. 14 pg. 469 1888)

James H. Paynter during his residency made a large addition (C-1895) to the front of the house. His occupation was a painter. He and his wife Olivia spent the rest of their lives in this home. He passed on first and when Miss Olivia, a colorful and well liked citizen of St. Georges, passed on at quite and old age the home had begun to show deteriorization. The home sat vacant for many years and became unsightly as well as a fire arson hazzard.

In the late 1950's Florence Nelson, a neighbor to the home, bought it and had it torn down. The lot is now vacant with only a well cover showing evidence a home had been on the property.

1991 Scene of vacant lot on Broad Street where the Cann and Paynter house once stood

Top right - C-1945
Snow covered roof and southside view of the Paynter House



Center - C - 1945

Snow scene showing the back and south side of the Paynter House. Notice the hedgerow used to divide properties. Most were manicured to a height where one could view one another for their neighborly talks.

Lower Right - C - 1945

Young neighbor, Betty Nelson, standing by a hedge and gate used to divide properties with the Paynter House in the background.

LESTER - SMITH - NELSON - HOUSE

Nelson (1991) Home

Mr. Henry L. Peckard sold no more property from the 3 acre plot after selling lots to Joseph Donoho, in 1841, and Stephen Lecates in 1850. He used the rest of the land for growing corn except for a small lot set aside on which a church was built.

Henry Peckard wrote his will August 15, 1865 and died on or about September 12, 1865. The will stated that the lot of land situated in St. Georges lying to the West of Back Street (Broadway St.) bounded by lands of Dr. Latta (Nuttall property) and others, I leave to my wife (Mary). This lot is #3 on the plot plan on page 6. Mary did not build on the land and requested, in her will in 1881, that her son Edwin Peckard sell the lot after her death. Edwin Peckard, on August 7, 1895, sold the lot to Henry Peckard and Alinda Peckard. On September 21, 1895 Alinda Peckard, single woman, of Camden, New Jersey, and Henry Peckard and wife, Maggie, of Appoquinimink Hundred sold the lot to Eliza Cush. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. W Vol. 16 pg, 482- 1895)

Eliza Cush, widow, in 1905, sold the land to her daughter and son-in-law Katherine and Alfred Richard. They in 1910 sold it to her brother Daniel Cush. Daniel had a livery stable on the property.

Daniel Cush and wife, Anna, on March 27, 1913, sold the property to George Snedeker. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. G Vol. 24 pg. 596 1913)

George Snedeker, on March 1, 1923 sold the lot, excepting a small parcel with buildings thereon erected, being #4 on the plot plan on page 6 to Mr. Claude N. Lester. Lot #4 contained the livery stable. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. R Vol. 31 pg. 114 1923)

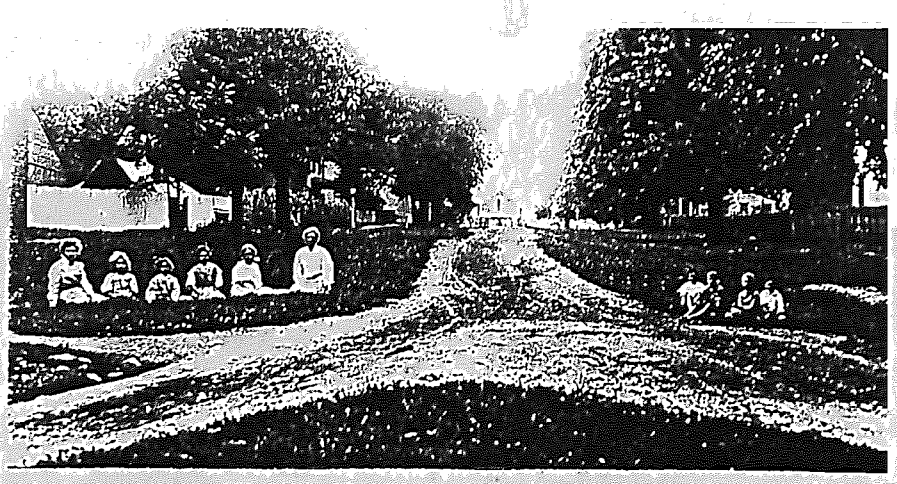
It has been said Mr. Lester used the lot for growing sweet corn until the year 1930, when

he built a double house on the property. It was a two-story frame structure with and attic and basement. Each side had its own large porch setting off from the front door and around to the side of the house. Each side was identical with 6 rooms and a bathroom. The dining room featured a two step up landing curved open stairway to the second floor. The double house is still in excellent repair and the main changes were enclosed porches with windows and new siding on the house.

John and Florence Nelson were the second family tenants to live on the North side of the double house. Here they raised their three daughters, Mary Phyllis, Grace, and Betty Jane. John was a descendant of William W. Nelson whose family came from England and settled on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, near Eastville, in Northhampton County. William came north to Delaware to learn the carriage business at a very young age, then got married and stayed in Delaware to raise his family. John Nelson married Florence Lester on March 29, 1923. Florence is a descendant of the Lester (Lister) family from Lincolnshire England which settled in the St. Georges area in 1854. The Nelson and Lester families were early members and supporters of the St. Georges Methodist Episcopal Church. John B. Nelson passed away in June 1955. Florence is the eldest senior citizen living in St. Georges. She takes pride in the beautiful flowers grown in her yard, and is still active in caring for her vegetable garden and flowers. She is still and active member and office holder in the Methodist Church and a good neighbor and citizen of the town. Florence and her daughter, Grace, live on the property located on Broad Street.

Mrs. Elva Nelson Smith was a tenant, on the south side, of the double home for many years, and was the aunt of Claude Lester. She bought the property from him on March 29, 1939. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. H Vol. 41 pg. 351 - 1939) After the death of Mrs. Smith, in 1956, her neice and neighbor, Florence Nelson, bought the home. Florence altered the wall on the stair landings of the double house making the building into a single residence.

The home has been a well kept property, in the community, since being built in 1930.



Circa 1909 Scene of Broad Street looking North from Delaware Street intersection.

LESTER - SMITH - NELSON - HOUSE

Front View - C - 1945

Back view of the double house showing and addition put on by Mrs. Elva Smith, during the 1940's, after she had purchased the property.

HUXTABLE - CROMPTON - MULLINS - HOUSE

Year 1991

The lot was 35' x 142'. The lot was a part of land willed by Henry Peckard to his wife, Mary C. Peckard. After Mrs. Peckard's death the heirs sold the lot to Elizabeth Cush. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. W Vol. 16 pg. 482 - 1895) Elizabeth Cush gave it to her son Daniel and wife Anna Cush. They sold the property to George Snedeker and Mr. Snedeker sold half interest to Benjamin Vinton and wife Lucy. They by deed on March 15, 1927 sold the property to Fred Huxtable. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. Z Vol. 34 pg. 101 - 1927) The lot is #4 on the plot plan on page 6.

A small frame, cedar shingle siding, bungalow, narrow in width and long in length, had been built on the lot before being sold to Fred Huxtable. At one time the Cush Family had a livery stable on the lot. Mrs Eliza Cush mentions the frame stable being on the property in her 1905 will. The home would have been built between 1923 and 1927.

Fred Huxtable was a barber and for awhile used the house for home and business. He also had been a postmaster in St. Georges. Mr. Huxtable and wife, Alice, sold the property to Frances Crompton, and she resided on the property. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. T Vol. 38 pg. 512 - 1933)

Frances Crompton willed the property to her grandson, William Burrell Crompton, Jr. . He in turn sold it to relatives, Burt and Mary Sanders. After Mr. Sanders death, Mary sold it to James Mullins, who is the owner today and leases or rents out the property.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH PARSONAGE

Circa - 1907

The land for the parsonage house was bought , on July 9th, 1880, from John P. Hudson and George Townsend, for $125.00, by the trustees of the Methodist Church. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. Y Vol. 11 page 341 - 1880) The trustees at that time were John B. Nelson, Isaac Cleaver, Wm. L. Sparks, Levin Hopkins, Mark H. Pierce and Joseph Parker.

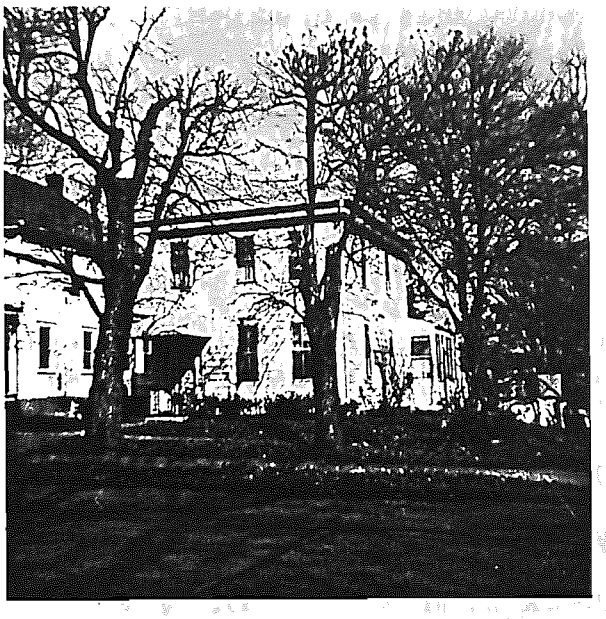
The lot was small and the deed tells of it fronting on Broadway Street, going along the church fence line on the north and along the side of Delaware Street on the south.

A frame house was erected, on the property, during 1880-81 at a cost of near $1,800.00. The pastor, at the time, was J. O. Sypherd and he probably had the honor of being the first pastor to reside on the premises.

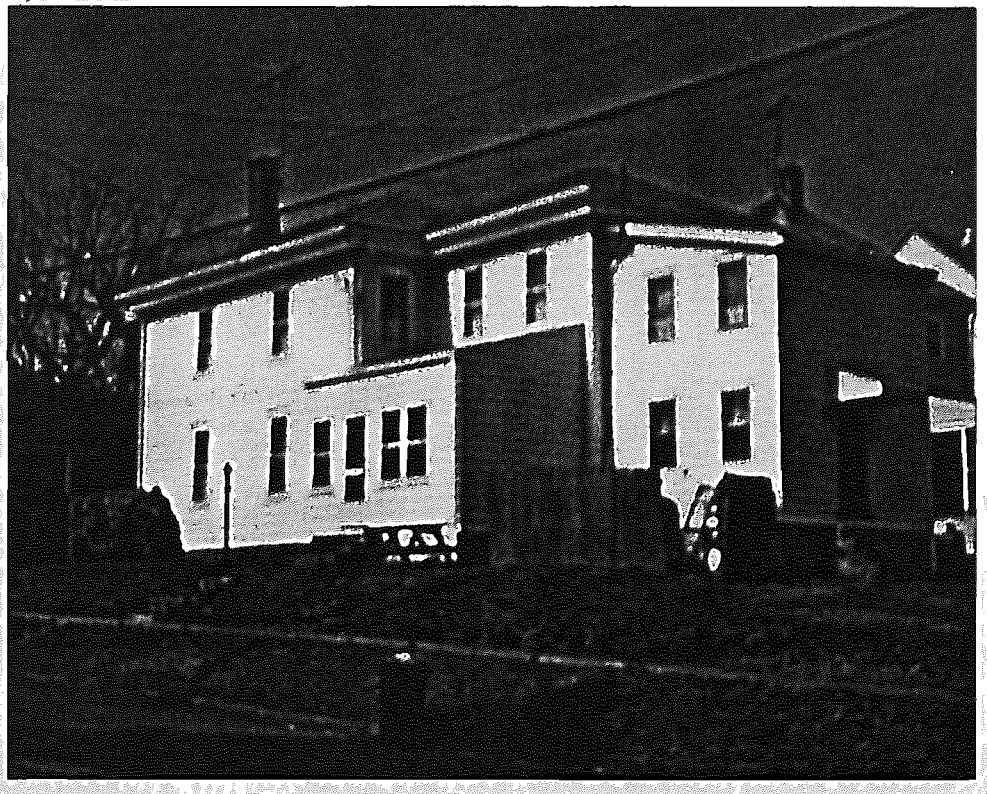
The parsonage still has its original lines. A porch, across the perimeter of the front of the house, has been removed. The porch on the Delaware Street side was enclosed. A two-story frame addition was attached to the back of the house probably in the early 1900's.

Refer to page 6 # 5-1 showing parsonage land.

METHODIST CHURCH PARSONAGE



Year 1964



March 1992

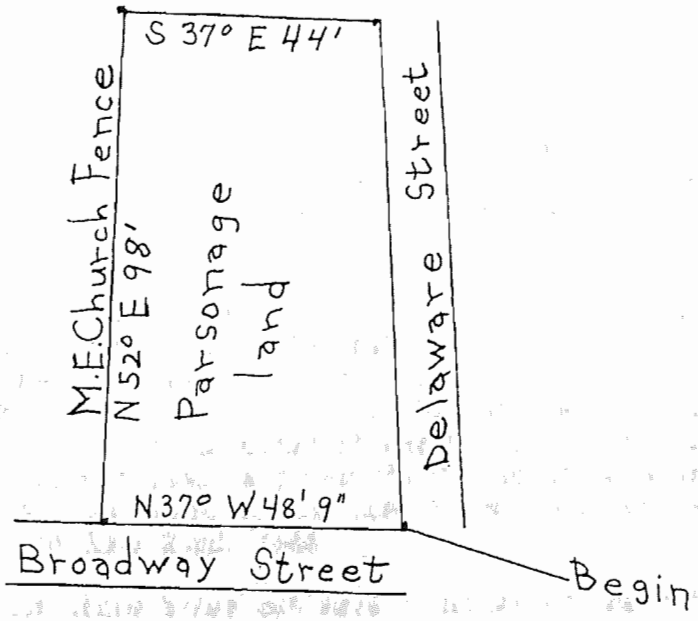
View from Delaware Street
South side and back of the house

METHODIST CHURCH PARSONAGE LAND

Deed in Brief Form

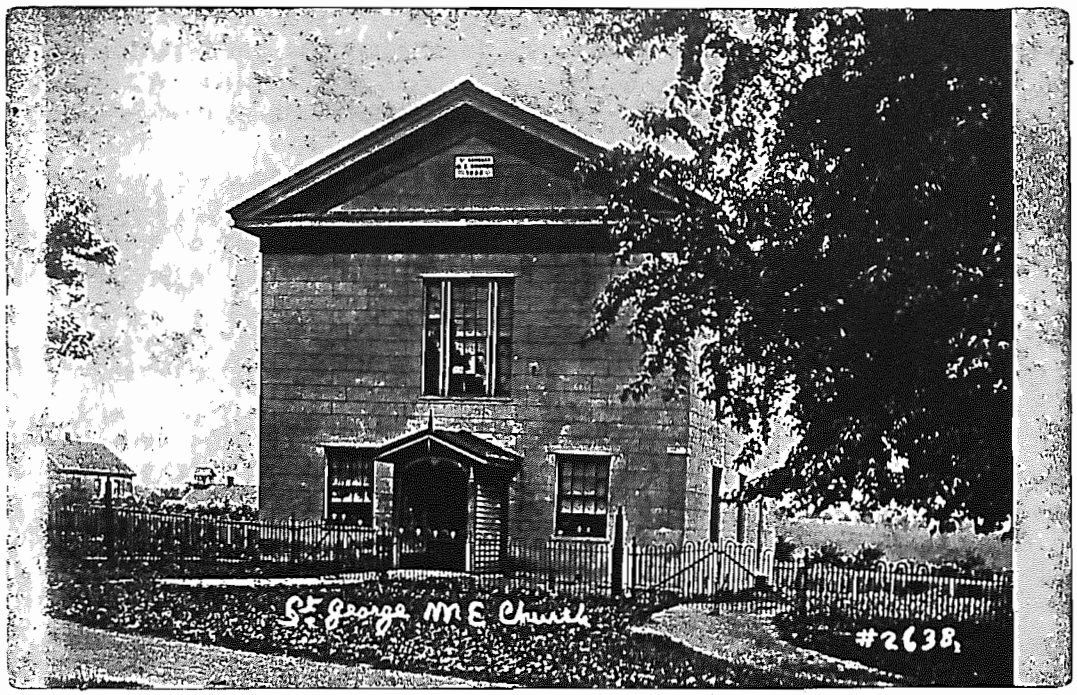
N. C. Co. Deed Bk. Y Vol. 11 page 341 July 9, 1880

Between John P. Hudson and George W. Townsend, both of St. Georges Hundred, New Castle County, State of Delaware, and Mary and Elizabeth, their wives- First Part and John B. Nelson, Isaac Cleaver, William L. Sparks, Levin Hopkins, Mark Pierce and Joseph Parker. (Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church at St. Georges) of the Second Part, $125.00 paid by said trustees. All that certain lot or piece of land situate and being in the town of St. Georges aforesaid commencing at the junction of Broadway with Delaware Street and running thence with Broadway North 37o West 48' 9" thence North 52o East 98' to a stake on a line with the Methodist Episcopal Church fence thence South 37o East about 44' thence with Delaware Street to the place of beginning- containing within said bounds _____ square feet. Being a part of the same lot which Francis Dunlap and J. R. Price, executors of the estate of Henry L. Peckard, (deceased) by their deed of bargain and sale executed the 23rd June A. D. 1866 did convey to Job Townsend and others in fee, reference being had to the said Indenture will more fully and at large appear. Together with all and singular etc. . No deed was recorded, in county records, on the sale executed on June 23rd 1866 by Henry L. Peckards executors.



Drawing not to scale

ST. GEORGES METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Circa - 1909

In the year 1851 plans were prepared and a building committee appointed composed of the following persons: George Townsend, Samuel Boggs, Steven Lecates, Isaac Morris, E. M. Richardson and John H. Calder. A frame structure, for a church, was proposed but a Mr. Reybold persuaded the committee to erect a brick church building. It is not known who designed the church, but it was built by local help and Mr. Reybold spared as many men as he could and also gave financial assistance. The brick structure was 38' x 50' with $3000.00 allowed for the construction. The corner stone was laid in the summer of 1852 and the church dedicated the following winter of 1853 by Bishop Beverly Waugh and assisted by Rev. Andrew Manship. (Information from Church Records Vol. 34 St. Georges Methodist Church, Hall of Records, Dover)

The church was built on land donated, presumably, by Henry L. Peckard. Refer to page 6 #5-2 on the plot plan. Mr. Peckard died in September 1865. At that time he was still in possesion of the large tract of land to the northeast of Back or Broadway Street. On this tract the Methodist Church had been built. In his will Mr. Peckard stated that all land in St. Georges Northeast of Back or Broad Street be sold. The executors of the will, John Price of Chesapeake City, Maryland, and Francis Dunlap of Delaware City, Delaware, sold the land to Job Townsend, George H. Smith, John P. Hudson, John H. Calder, George W. Townsend and John B. Nelson on June 23rd, 1866.

The 1866 transaction does not state these men were trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, but, they must have bought the land as church members, or trustees, to protect the church and land as there had been no deed recorded to the church or trustees by Henry L Peckard before his death in 1865.

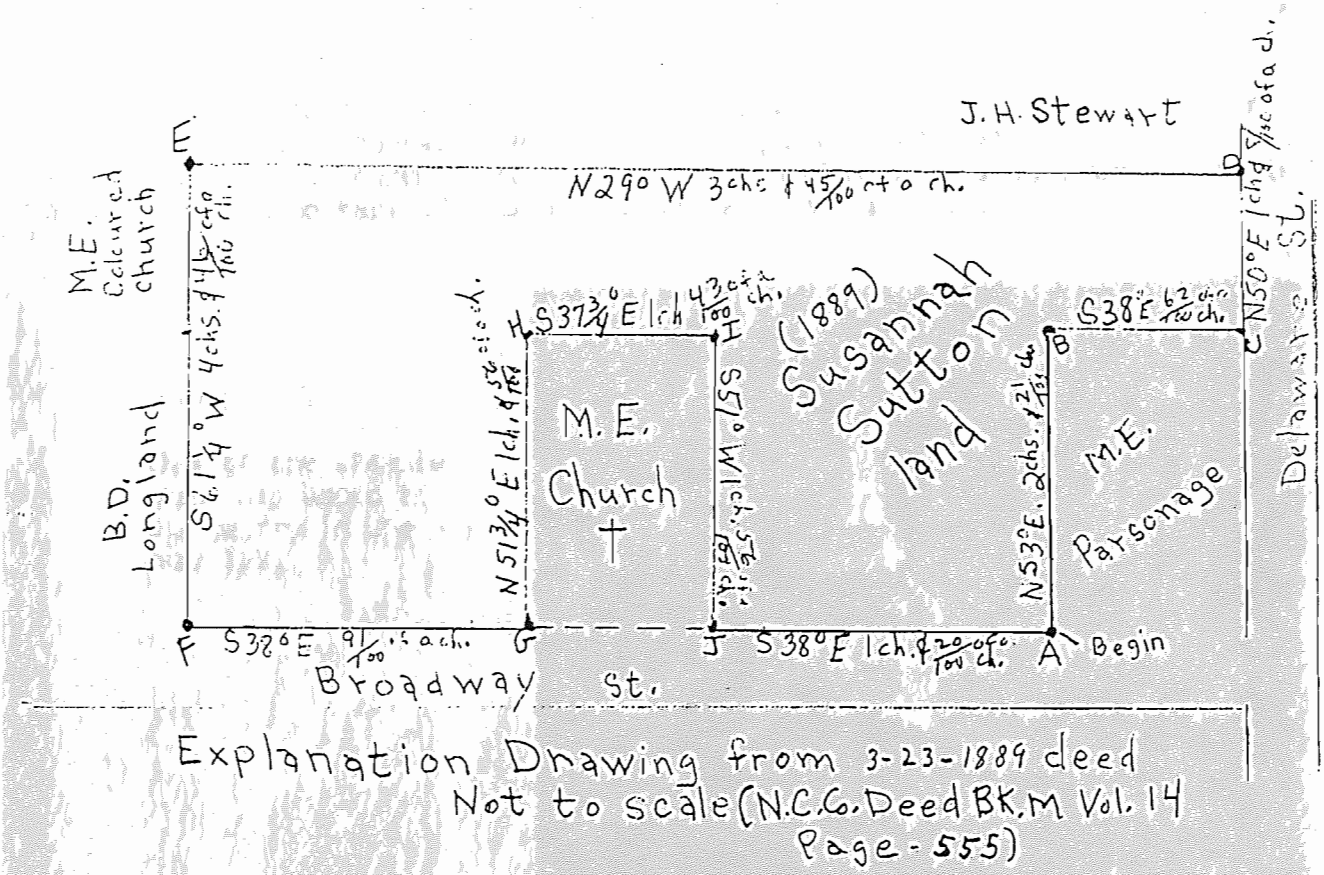
Settlement papers of the will show John P. Hudson made a payment in 1866 of $1000 for a lot and 1867 he paid the balance of $1000 owed on the lot. This could have been for the church and large plot.

On July 9, 1880 John P. Hudson and George Townsend sold off a small area of the large plot for $125 to the Methodist Episcopal Church trustees for the purpose of building a parsonage. In that deed the northeast line runs along the fence of the Methodist Church. This indicates the bulk of the land was for the use of the church. The land was probably used for parking horses and carriages.

According to Church Records of St. Georges M. E. Church Vol. 34, Hall of Records, Dover Delaware, Pastor F. J. Cochran in 1883 had been given a deed for the church lot, for the purpose of having it recorded as it had not been done. The deed was not recorded and the St. Georges Methodist Church today has no deed for the church property. If there ever was one-- it has not been found.

The earliest deed found giving any hint as to the size of the plot, on which the church was built, was in 1889. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. M. Vol. 14 Pg. 555 3-23-1889) Land surrounding the church was sold to Susannah L. Sutton and from the deed a description can be drawn showing the size of the plot allowed for the use of the church.

The plot size from the 1889 deed can be drawn as such - begin at stone G, a corner for the Methodist Episcopal Church lot, thence with said lot North 51 3/4o East 1 chain and 56/100 of a chain to the stone marked H at the corner of said M. E. Church lot, thence with said lot South 37 3/4o East 1 chain and 43/100 of a chain to a stone marked I, thence with said church lot South 51o West 1 chain and 56/100 of a chain to a stone marked J, thence (in order to close the lot) along Broadway Street North 37 3/4o West 1 chain and 43/100 of a chain to Stone G and beginning.



Explanation Drawing from 3-23-1889 deed
Not to scale (N.C.Co. Deed BK.M Vol. 14
Page - 555)

Susannah L. Sutton had bought 1 acre and 36 perches surrounding the church and the parsonage.

The parsonage debt was paid off in the Spring of 1883 and the church was closed and alterations of the 1852 building were begun. The church was refitted with a new tin roof. The outside of the church painted. The gallery upstairs was removed and the stairs were widened. New seats with cushions were installed and new carpeting put down. A new Bailey's patent Reflector was installed and the pulpit platform lowered and enlarged. The desk or speaker stand was made smaller and the audience room frescoed at a cost of about $1,700.00. When the refitting was finished, the church reopened on November 18, 1883. The cost of the refitting was paid off by January 1884 except for $100.00.

During 1884 the trustees of the church were recorded at the court house in Wilmington making it possible for the St. Georges Methodist Episcopal Church to become incorporated. The laws of the State of Delaware made it necessary to record church trustees before it could become a corporation. Recording trustees had not been done previous to 1884.

In 1888 the downstairs section of the church, used for Sunday School, was refurnished at a cost of $150.00. There was no listing as to what the refurnishing was. L. W. Layfield was the pastor at this time. John Warthman was appointed in 1888 to follow Layfield.

Around 1918-19 a belfry and bell was placed on to the roof at the front of the church. A steeple was donated by, church member, Grace Nelson, and erected on to the top of the belfry November 23, 1971.

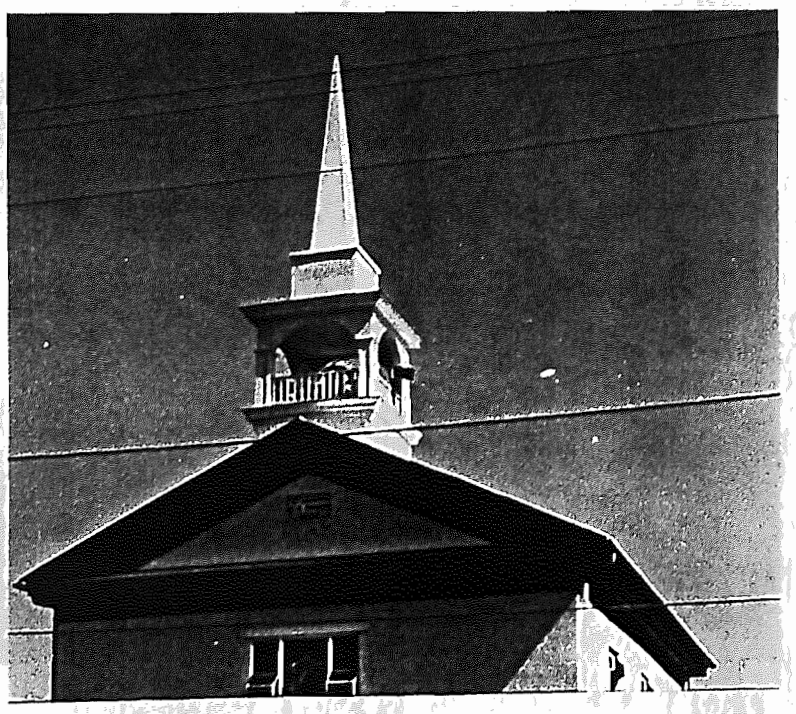
In early 1949 while laying the foundation for the addition of a two-story Sunday School section to the back of the main church building, the back end gave way and collapsed. This destroyed the usefulness of the building for a time. In the mid summer of that year under the pastorate of Rev. G. S. Ross the addition of the Sunday School was resumed with a thirty by forty-five foot area for church school rooms and the damage to the main building also restored. The re-opening was December 18, 1949, under the supervision of the District Superintendent of the Wilmington District, Rev. Hamilton P. Fox, DD..

The 100th Anniversary of the church was on October 19, 1952. At this time the new building was dedicated, including the chimes and a new piano.

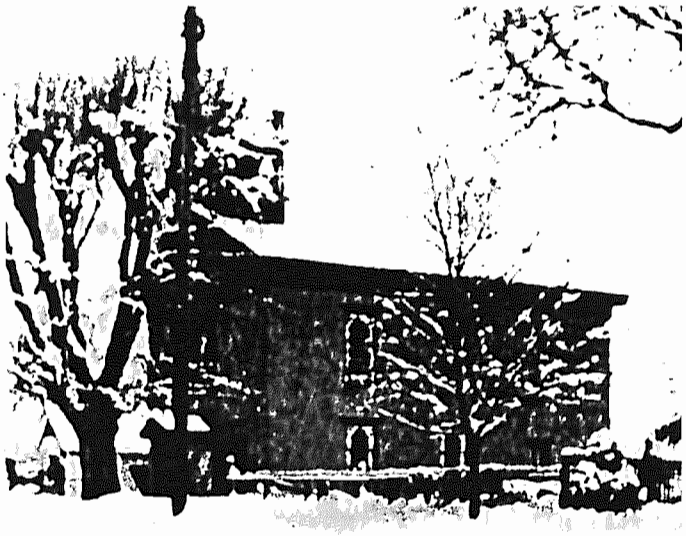
The Methodist Church has been through change and renovation, but still holds its country charm. The church contains beautiful stain glass windows with many names of early supporters of the church. The church also contains many plaques and memorials of past members and supporters of interest to members and visitors.

Year 1991

View of the steeple which was added to the belfry in the year 1971.



Circa
1916



Snow Scene - 1934

Circa
1964

ROBERTS - GILL HOME

Mr. James R. Roberts, a carpenter and contractor in the St. Georges area, built the home in the year 1918 or 1919. The home was a sturdily built frame structure and a show place building of that era; containing large windows, spacious rooms, and a large porch across the front of the home.

Many homes, additions, and repairs, in the St. Georges area, can be contributed to Mr. Roberts trade as a carpenter. The Roberts Home is #5-3 on the plot plan on page 6.

One of his characteristics was walking around smoking his pipe upside down or maybe when he finished smoking the pipe he kept it clenched in his teeth in that position. He was a rugged man who worked in extreme climates, cold or hot. He was mayor of St. Georges at the time the iron lift bridge, over the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, was knocked over by a ship in January 1939. He was very concerned and immediately called a meeting of the town people to organize a plan to help the community face the serious problem of the little town being commercially and neighborily split in two parts because there was no bridge to connect the two sections split by the canal waterway, and the town was incorporated as one.

Mr. Roberts married Lillian Laws. Their children were Katherine, (married Burrell Crompton) Mary, (married Burt Sanders) and James R. Roberts, Jr. (married Helen Lea). Descendants live in the area today.

After Mr. Roberts death in 1940, Mrs. Lillian Roberts continued to live in the large home and operated a boarding and rooming house business. At that time construction workers building a new overhead bridge over the Dhesapeake and Delaware Canal, at St. Georges, needed accommodations and many homes in the area entered the business of Room and Board. Mrs. Roberts lived at the home until her death in 1962. The home was sold to Norman Wheatley.

At some time, after the construction of the home, a frame addition was added to the back section of the house, but it still has the same characteristics as when it was built. Mrs. Vanita Gill is the present owner and keeps the home in excellent repair.

The home sits on and L shaped lot. Mr. Roberts bought the lot in 1918 from Susanna Laws Sutton. (N. C. Co. Deed Book C Vol. 28 page 399 - 1918) The deed to Mr. Roberts was not recorded until February 3, 1919 and the reason for the late recording, being Susanna Sutton needed to get a clear deed to the lacre and 36 perches of land, she had bought on March 23, 1889, left after the Methodist Church and Methodist Parsonage had been built on the land, formerly owned by Henry L. Peckard. Mr. Peckard died in 1865 and in 1866 executors of his will sold all the land on the Northeast side of Broad Street to Job Townsend, George H. Smith, John P. Hudson, John H. Calder, George W. Townsend and John B. Nelson. (N. C. Co. Reg. of Wills Bk. Z page 150 - 1865) The executors and men who bought the property never had the deed recorded. In 1889 when Sussana L. Sutton bought the property, the parties of the first part of the deed were George Townsend and wife Amanda. Alfred L. Hudson and wife Sarah, and John P. Hudson and wife Mary. Other original owners of the plot were not on the deed and were now dead, being Job Townsend, George H. Smith, John H. Calder and John B. Nelson, and so in order to get a clear title, surviving members of those men had to sign a deed. A new deed for the same property sold in 1889 was written on June 2, 1917 and finally recorded Februaryl, 1919, giving a clear deed to Susanna Sutton and clearing the James Roberts deed, for land, she had sold to him from the 1 acre and 36 perches of land.

It's interesting to note that the Methodist Church Trustees could have also, at this time, drawn up and gotten a deed for the church and its land as the same surviving heir members,

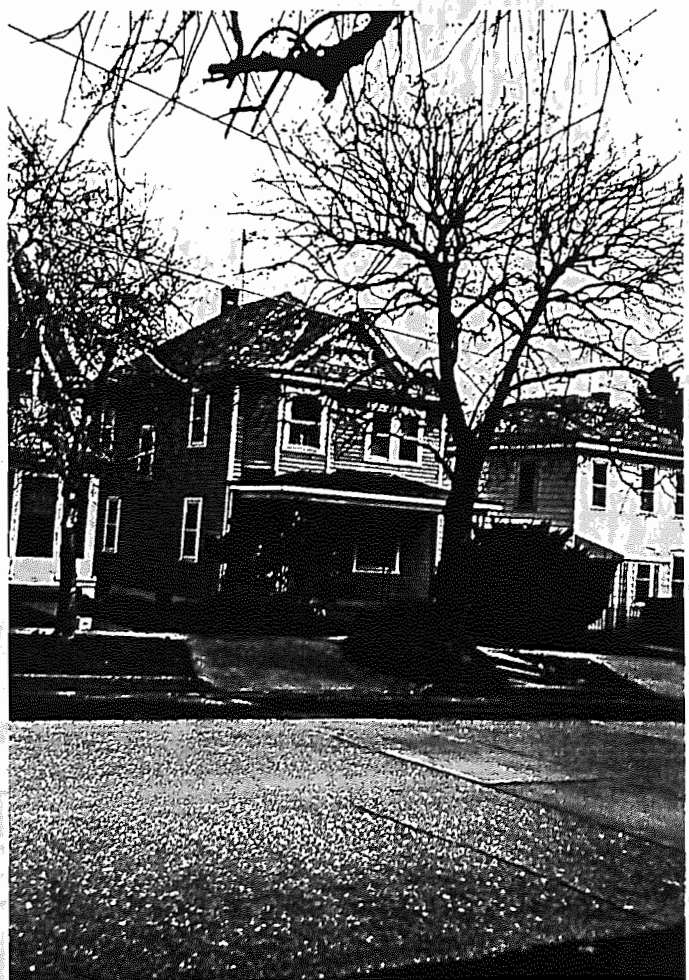
of the men who bought the land from Henry L. Peckards executors in 1866, could have signed over a deed for the church. Since no action was taken, the Methodist Episcopal Church property is still today without a deed. Many descendants and people living in the St. Georges area today will remember the names and persons who gave a clear deed to the Sussanna Sutton property. William B. Nelson and wife Lydia, Harrcy C. Nelson and wife Elena, John Fletcher Nelson and wife Annie, John H. Lester and wife Clara, Sally N.Stapleford, widow, Ethel Sparks, Singlewoman, Norman R. Sparks, John Nelson Sparks, Irving V. Sparks, single men, Emma S. Feaster, widow, Elva N. Smith and husband Thomas J. Smith.

Roberts
Home

Circa - 1919-20

Roberts
and
Vanita Gill
Home

1991



JAMES R. ROBERTS
Phone Delaware City 6601

DANIEL L. ATWOOD 33
Phone Delaware City 6604

ROBERTS & ATWOOD

CONTRACTORS AND BUILDERS
CONCRETE WORK A SPECIALTY
ESTIMATES CHEERFULLY GIVEN

ST. GEORGES, DELAWARE, July 29 19 39

Mr. C. M. Lester

Roberts & Atwood

27 blocks @ 12½	3 38	
1 man 1½ hrs @ 90	1 35	
1 " (Plaster)	2 50	7 23

Rec'd Payment Jas R Roberts

PHONE: DELAWARE CITY 40-R-22

ST. GEORGE'S, DEL., Nov. 13th 1935

Mr. C. N. Lester

To **JAMES R. ROBERTS,** Dr.

Contractor and Builder

Interest Added After 30 Days

For work on stables on farm tenanted by Lee Davidson

Labor,		
Jas R. Roberts Sr. 119 hrs @ 75 c hr.	89	25
Jas R. " Jr. 37 " @ 45 c "	16	65
Chas Powell 16 das @ 2.00 da.	32	00
W. Camac, 8 " @ 2.00 "	16	00
W. Aspril 79 hrs @ 50 c hr.	39	50
W Morrison 67 " @ 35 c "	23	45
Labor	$ 216	85
Equipment from Star Co.	148	50
Sand & Stone	58	85
pipe	6	00
8 das mixer & gas. 2.00 da.	16	00
5 loads dirt 1.25 load	6	25
	452	45
Material from St Geo lumber Co.	174	85
	$ 627	~~30~~
Received on acct.	250	00
	$ 377	~~30~~
Pd 12/6/35 on acct	177	~~30~~
	200	

Paid in full 1/17/36. Jas R Roberts

JAMES R. ROBERTS
CONTRACTOR AND BUILDER
PHONE 40 R 22, DELAWARE CITY
ST. GEORGES, DEL.

July 21th 1928.

C. N. Lester Dr to
Jas R. Roberts.

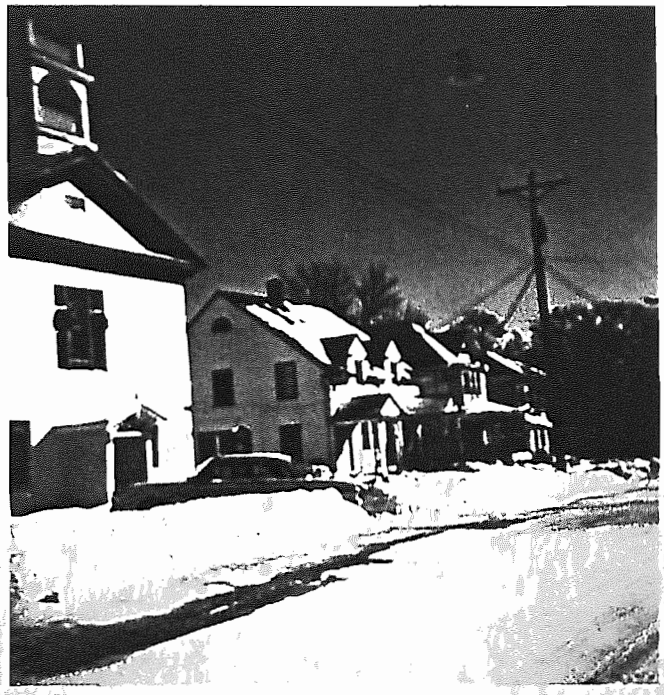
For carpenter work.

46 hrs @ 90 c per hr.	41.40
72 hrs @ 70 c " "	50.40
72 " @ 55 c " "	39.60
67 " @ 55 c " "	36.85
68 " @ 55 c " "	37.40
19 " @ 65 c " "	12.45
27 " @ 75 c " "	20.25
	238.25

Paid by check
529 — 7/21/28
Jas R Roberts

REYNOLDS - SUTTON

Double House



Circa - 1949

Snow scene showing location of colonial type double house to the south of St. Georges M. E. Church along the North-east side of Broad Street.

The double house was built circa 1939-40 by James R. Roberts for Frederick Sutton. When built the double house gave the appearance of a colonial dormer window row house. The simplicity and charm added to the quaintness of the country church and village. Mr. Frederick Sutton rented the properties for many years and then they were sold. Both sides of the double house have had additions and alterations to suit the needs of their owners. Aluminum siding covers the wooden frame house. The double homes have been well kept and complement the church property as well as the area along Broad Street of St. Georges.

The double house is located as #5 - 4 on the plot plan of, Wm. Goforths 3 acre lot, page 6 .

The double homes, today, are owned by Eugene and Judith Reynolds on the north side and Robert and Eleanor Lee Sutton on the south side.

The land was part of the Susanna Laws Sutton plot bought in 1889 and later purchsed by Zodac A. Poole, at public auction, on July 20, 1929 to settle and estate; then sold to Frederick Sutton on July 22, 1929.

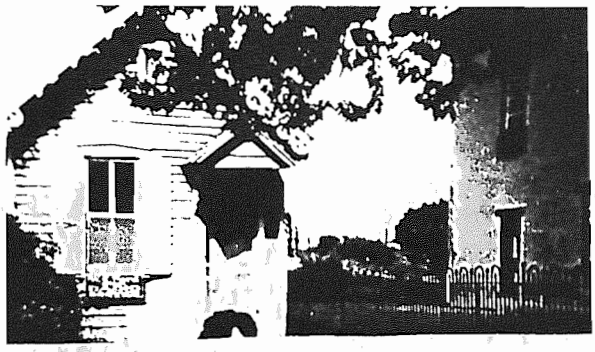
REYNOLDS - SUTTON

DOUBLE HOUSE

Year 1991

The double house shows many improvements since being built in 1939-40. Additions were made to the front and back. A fireplace and a bay window were added on the north side. Aluminum siding covers the original wood frame double house.

STUCKERT'S VICTORIAN GRAIN OFFICE



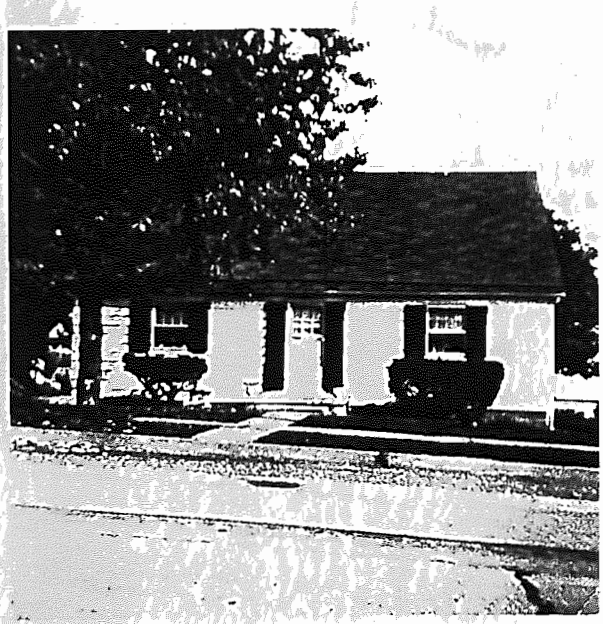
Circa - 1946

The small grain buying office was located near the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. Ships could dock and load grain and Mr. Stuckert's office handled the sales. The canal and docks became too small to handle the larger ships that handled the grain and Mr. Stuckert sold the office building to Frederick T. Sutton. Mr. Sutton used the building to sell ice cream and refreshments. The canal was widened and the locks removed and Mr. Sutton had the small office moved to a property, he owned, located on Broad Street just north of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The property is marked #5-5 on the plot plan of William Goforth, page 6.

This lot is a part of the land Susanna Laws Sutton acquired in 1889 and Frederick T. Sutton bought in the year 1929.

Mr. William Ford, of St. Georges, operated a radio repair business in the building for many years.

In the early 1950's Mr. Sutton decided, to again, make good use of the building by having it moved further back on his lot; turning the rectangular building to face North and South, and built up and around it with a frame addition, that became a small Cape Cod Type Home. The grain office became the kitchen of the house.



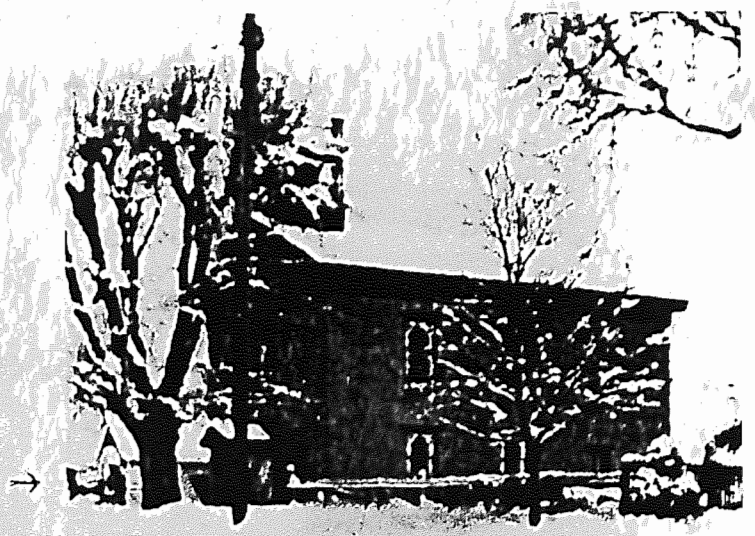
Circa - 1956

The home was rented for many years and after Mr. Suttons death became the property of Mrs. Mathilda Sutton and the son James Sutton IV.

Deeds were exchanged on the property, a few times, and it is now owned by Gerald Holman.

The cape cod structure has been modified many times since it was built.

March 1991



Circa 1934

This snow scene shows the grain office and radio repair shop, on the left, behind the large maple tree in front of the Methodist Church located on Broad Street. Mr. Fred Sutton also built a double house on the large lot south of the church in 1939.

RADIO SETS
BUILT, INSTALLED, REPAIRED

AERIALS ERECTED
PHONE 105

WM. C. FORD

Radio-Trician

(TRADE MARK REG. U. S. PATENT OFFICE)

St. Georges, Del.

TRAINED BY THE
NATIONAL RADIO INSTITUTE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To Mr C. Sexter
St Georges
Del

Date Nov 4 1935

TERMS: CASH

Items--Material and Service	
1 - 58 tube	90
1 - 56 tube	70
2 resistors @ 30¢	60
1 condenser	100
Service call and labor	250
Paid in full Wm. Ford	$5.70

1935 copy of Wm. C. Ford bill-head

JOHN H. STEWART LOT

The Stewart lot is the last parcel of land left in the division of Wm. Goforth's plot of 3½ acres, later bought by Henry L. Peckard. The Stewart lot is # 5-6 of the William Goforth plot plan on page 6.

Lot # 5-6 was bought by Samuel Sutton, from the Henry L. Peckard executors. The executors failed to record the deed like some other properties sold by them. The lot joined other land of Mr. Sutton.

When Samuel Sutton died in 1887, the property had to be sold as a suit was brought against Mary A. Sutton, Administsrator, of his estate. Giles Lamborn, Sheriff, sold the land to the highest bidder, which was John H. Stewart. (N. c. Co. Deed Bk. F Vol. 14 pg. 582 March 31, 1888.)

Mr. John Stewart died intestate in 1906 and his heirs, in 1908, sold the land to Samuel C. Lester. Mr Lester, for awhile, had a car dealership business, in a small building, located along the Delaware Street line of the property.

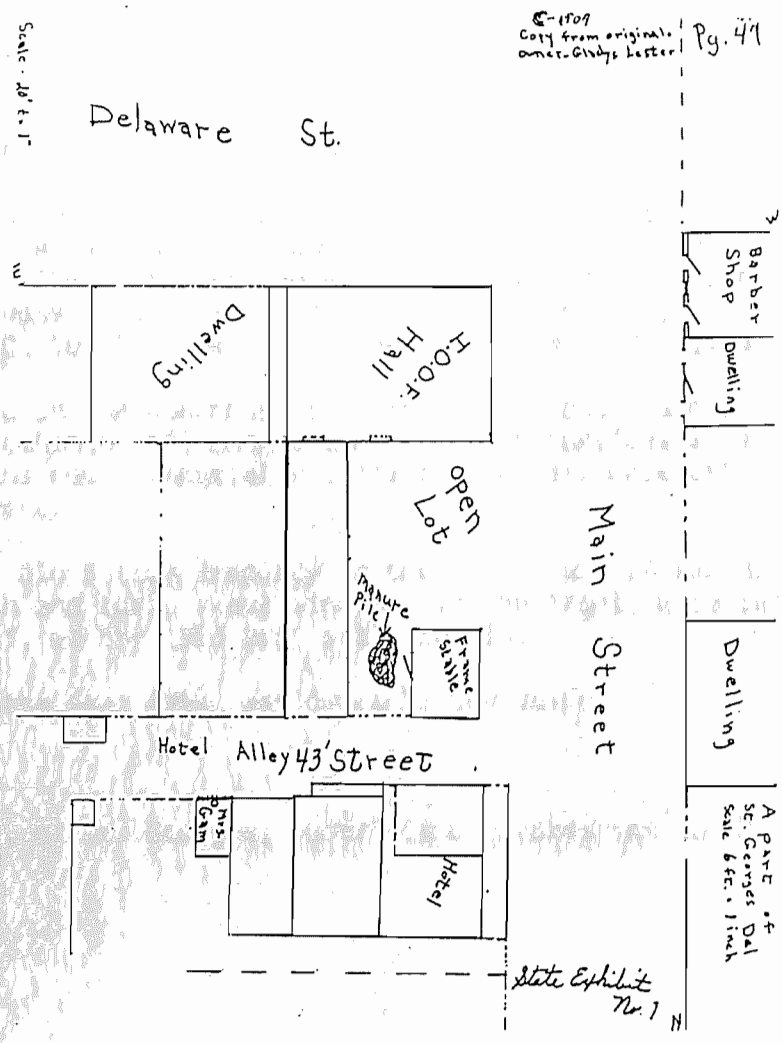
After Mr. Lester's death, the land was in and family estate, and later became the property of Irving and Elva Lester Sparks, who in the year 1962-63 sold the land to the St. Georges Canning Co., which was located just north of the stream bordering this property, and the boundary line of the original plot belonging to Wm. Goforth and Henry Peckard. The land was bought by the canning company for the purpose of drilling a deep water well to supply more water to the cannery operation. After the cannery discontinued business. the land, around 1971-72, was sold to Getty Oil Co., which had a refinery near by, to gain control of the water well.

A part of the land had been deeded to the Methodist Church so they could have access off of Delaware Street for a driveway and parking lot behind the church.

The property is now owned by Star Enterprise Texaco Co. who bought out Getty Oil Refinery.

SUTTON DRUGSTORE - SODA FOUNTAIN

Year 1942 - Odd Fellows Hall - Sutton Drug Store



Open lot with stable purchased by Frederick T. Sutton Feb. 6, 1912.

Drugstore built on the lot in 1914.

The land along Main Street, where the drugstore was built, was a part of John Sutton land purchased by him in 1799 and recorded in the year 1800. John Sutton willed this land to his son, John Jr., and it later went to John Jr's. wife and family who sold it to Wares. The Ware family, in January 1897, sold the property to James H. S. Gam. James Gam on Feb. 6th, 1912 sold the property to Frederick T. Sutton and wife Mathilda. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. S Vol. 23 pg. 259 - 1912)

A frame drugstore with a fountain section was built in 1914 to accommodate the druggist, Albert N. Sutton, assisted by his son Frederick. Mr. Albert N. Sutton was postmaster and so the U. S. Post Office also occupied a section of the building. Adjoining the drugstore was a frame addition, on the south side, which was used as a barbershop in the front section and a two room pool hall was in the back section.

In 1923 Mr. Sutton built a six room modern apartment above the store with a front and rear entrance. James R. Roberts, Fred Nelson, William Shivery, and Elmer Staats built the apartment.

Mr. Albert Sutton died in 1924 and the post office was moved from the building. The prescription medicine business came to and end and only patent medicines were sold. A newer and larger soda fountain section was moved from the Delaware Trust Building - later Hog Island Building - across the street to the renovated drugstore. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sutton lived in the new apartment above the store and operated the renovated store as a luncheonette. There were also gasoline pumps installed in front of the store. Candies, cards and other assortments of merchandise were handled. The business was very successful due to the quality atmosphere and cordiality of Mr. and Mrs. Sutton. In the late 1930's and early 1940's it was the place to go to relax in the summer heat for a cool refreshing coke or other ice cold drinks. In the winter it was known for Mrs. Sutton's hot oyster stews. Thick milk shakes and sandwiches were also a favorite.

Mr. Fred Sutton, in 1928, helped his young son, James, start a tackle and bait business at the store since the surrounding area was a prime spot for fishing.

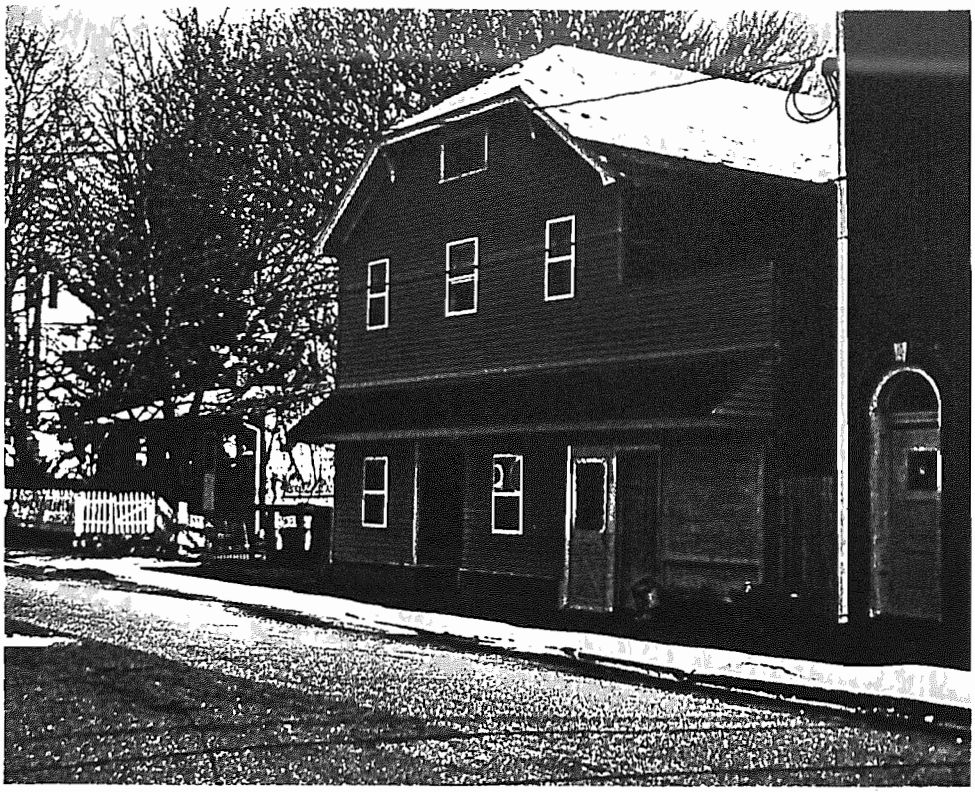
Mr. and Mrs. Sutton moved from the apartment, above the store, after buying and renovating the former home of Albert N. and Susanna Laws Sutton, located at the corner of Broad and Delaware Streets. The apartment above the store was rented, but, they continued in the luncheonette business until 1944 when the business and building was sold to Walter J. and Edna Hamm. (N. C. Co. Deed Bk. T Vol.44 pg. 85 Nov. 21, 1944)

Mr. Hamm continued in the business for a few years, but, larger super markets and more modern forms of combined refreshment and fast food services were drawing the people away from the old to the new; especially since prices were more attractive in the newer and larger establishments.

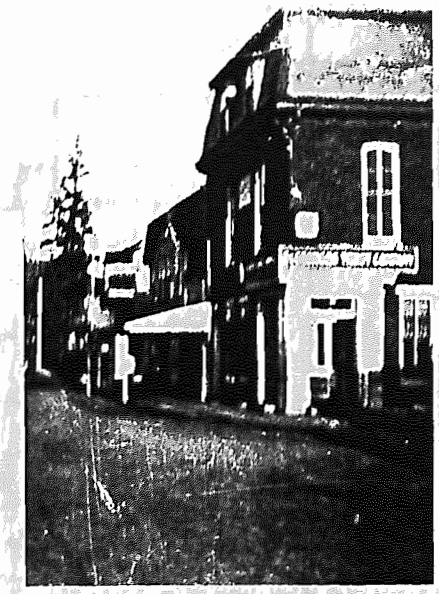
Mr. Hamm sold the old Sutton property in the 1950's and it was made into several apartments. Recently the porch and large store windows, in the front, were removed, but, the original shape and hip roof, of the 1923 era, still remain.

The building, in the year 1991, was owned by Guy Walker.

(Mr. James Sutton, of St. Georges, contributed information to this article.)



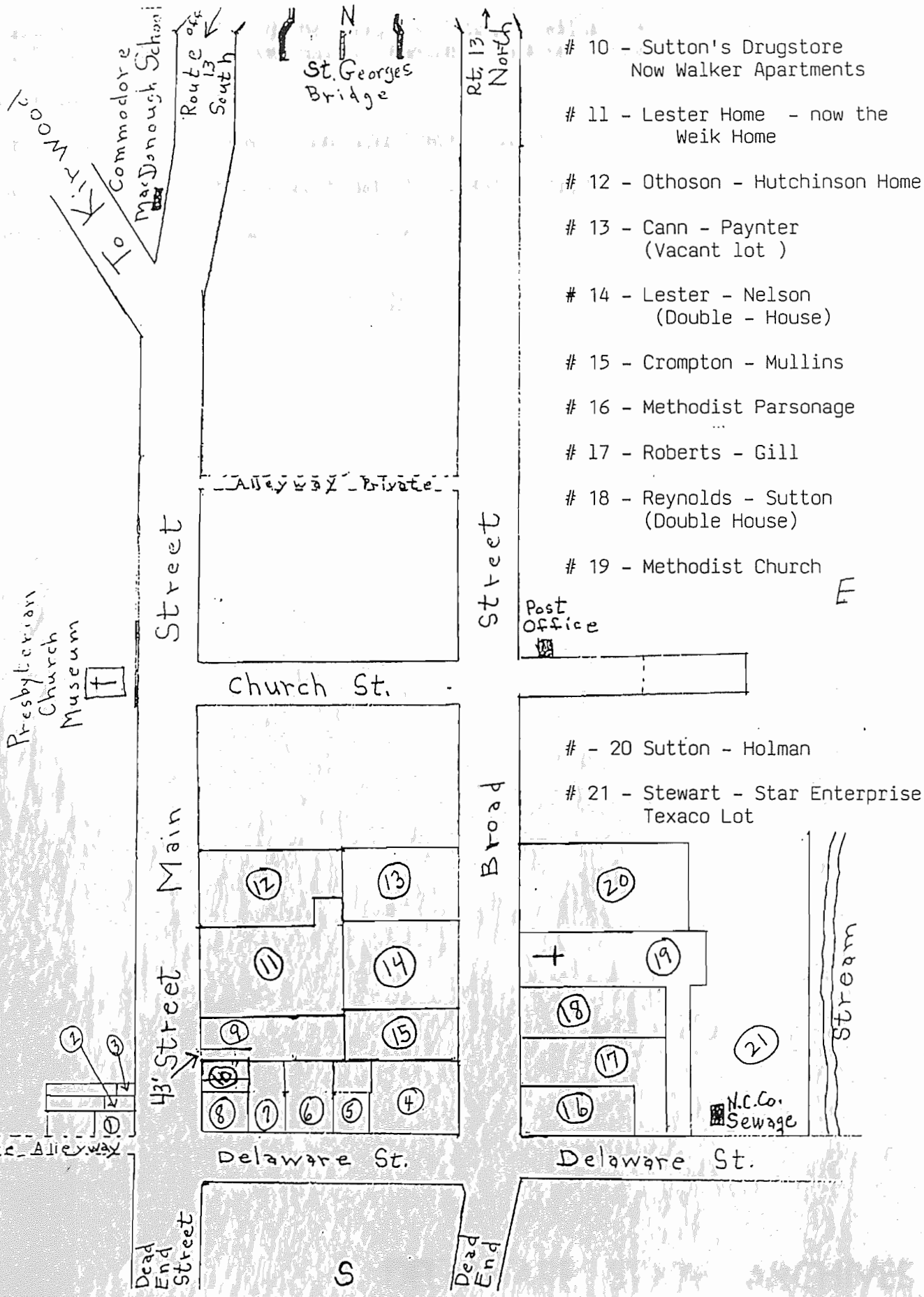
Year 1992 - Old Sutton Drug and Luncheonette
renovated and now owned by Guy Walker



Circa 1936

Sutton Drug Store
next to the tall
building showing the
porch and gas pump
along the street

BOOKLET # 3 -- LOCATIONS



10 - Sutton's Drugstore
Now Walker Apartments

11 - Lester Home - now the
Weik Home

12 - Othoson - Hutchinson Home

13 - Cann - Paynter
(Vacant lot)

14 - Lester - Nelson
(Double - House)

15 - Crompton - Mullins

16 - Methodist Parsonage

17 - Roberts - Gill

18 - Reynolds - Sutton
(Double House)

19 - Methodist Church

- 20 Sutton - Holman

21 - Stewart - Star Enterprise
Texaco Lot

REFERENCES

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

Cover Sketch - Tom Miller

Picture - James Roberts Home - John and James Crompton

Pictures - Many copied from collection of Florence Nelson

Collection and Files of Gladys Boyd Lester

NOTES

DELAWARE STATE ARCHIVES