

T.E

DELAWARE STREET

#110 - Colby House

nor **owned** and used as a residence by Miss Ruth Colby

See Photos No. 36 and 36-A

Summary: The first house mentioned on the site, **was** "new-built" **when** Martin Rosemont moved into it in 1675. Rosemont had been a salaried man, working for councillor **Cleyn** in the Dutch period; he **was** also "deacon or master of the poor" and a warden of the Dutch church and "gentleman". The house, the back part of the present house, is mentioned in connection with successive changes of ownership: Rosemont's heirs to John Cann, Cann to John **White**, **White** to Robert Turner, Turner to **Edward Blake**. These men were "**gentlemen**", officials or attornies.

Edward Blake, Jr. inherited by will of his father in 1696. Blake Jr., evidently a minor at the time, **was** a "**cordwainer**" in 1723, having the house and a shop on the site. **He** sells the property in 1730 to John **Richardson**, prosperous merchant and trader, living at Christiana Bridge. There is no indication that Richardson lived here, or at #114 which he **had** bought in 1725. Both properties had houses which may have been rented to boatmen or others who looked after **Richardson's** consignments at New Castle. No indentures or **wills** have been found that throw any light on Richardson's disposal of this property, but in 1749, when the adjoining property to the west, formerly **Richardson's**, is sold, the indenture shows that Zachariah **VanLeuvenigh** owned the Colby house.

In 1765, when Zachariah **VanLeuvenigh** bought at **sherrif sale** the property to the east, that is known by his name (now of J. D. **Bush**) the Colby house **site was** "late of Robert Dyre, **deceased.**"

(The Colby house, continued)

The VanLeuvenighs, Dyres and the Hussey family who owned the Colby and VanLeuvenigh properties for many years, were closely related and some of them lived In the Colby house. None of the occupations of those living in #110 up to this time are given in indentures and records. No records in connection with subsequent owners give evidence that the house was **other** than a residence, **but** as merchants, innkeepers **and** a carpenter are among them, there may have been trade or workshops connected with **it** at that time, probably in the back. No suggestion has been gained from the indentures and other **records** examined, as to the builder of the main part of the house or its date. There was architectural opinion at the time **it was** baing repaired for the present owner, that the construction of the **main** house **was** of the first decade or **two** of the eighteenth century.

#110 was rented to George Read II in 1787 soon after his marriage. Zachariah VanLeuvenigh left this house to his wife for her lifetime, and after her death to his son **George**.

Conclusion: Undoubtedly, #110 has been a dwelling for most of its history, without commercial activity in the building itself.

-----Detailed history on file-----

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(The Colby house, continued)

The house is in good condition at present and contains very interesting paneled chimney pieces, cornices and chair rails. The early wing to the rear is on a lower level and with very low ceilings, and its much cruder detail indicates its early origin.