

J.E.

DELAWARE STREET

#114 - Log Cabin - now leased by
William J. Reader from the Equitable
Guaranty & Trust Company

Summary: Abraham Jessop, cooper, bought the site of #114 as a 50-foot lot from Edward Blake, Jr. in 1723. This was the first plot sold by Blake out of the "about 187 feet" along Delaware Street inherited from his father in 1696, and it is unlikely that there was a building of any kind on it. When Jessop sold it to John Richardson in 1725, there was a recently built house and "all and singular other buildings, shops, outhouse, fences" etc. (the usual form of covering any improvements). The sale price was 62 pounds, 10 shillings, indicating by comparison with sales of other property near that time that it was a valuable one. Since the small dwelling would not accommodate a cooper shop, such a shop may have been on the back of the lot, or the several coopers who lived in the neighborhood throughout the 1700's may have worked for a boss cooper at a central shop.

That the merchant, John Richardson, who bought the house with its 50-foot lot, lived in it is unlikely. His home was at **Christiana** Bridge and he owned other larger properties in New Castle. Richardson sold the house and **50-foot** lot to Timothy Cummins of Dover, innholder, about 1737. That Cummins held the property in 1738 is known by the indenture of **that** year recording the sale of the "**Harvey house**" to Dr. John **Finney**. The second lot at the back of the Harvey property **borders** a lot that "Timothy Cummins lately purchaeed of Edward **Blake**." Cummins died before he had completed

(#114 Delaware Street, continued)

payment for the property, but his executors completed the payment to Richardson for the heirs. Probably through those heirs it passed to Roger **Pugh**, yeoman, whose executors sold the property to John **VanGezell**, shopkeeper, about 1749. **VanGezell** also bought in 1776 the whole of the "**burnt** lot" on the opposite side of Delaware Street between the Strand and **second** Street. He lived on the Strand on the **Bedford** property (#6) and no indentures or records found indicate that he kept shop in this property. The shop was probably on his bank lot opposite his dwelling. It is likely #114 Delaware Street was investment for rental.

In his will in 1784, **VanGezell** left his "**brick**" house, #114, to his daughter Gertrude with half the ground between it and his frame house to the east (#112).

George Read, executor of the will of **VanGezell**, is given, in indentures for adjoining properties, as the next owner. Read's **disposal** of the property has not yet been found, and a long gap in ownership following him has not yet been solved by the indentures and wills examined.

From the **bounds** of adjoining properties, it is "late of George Readⁿ, "**late of Ingeborg Stidham**"; of Jeremiah Bowman; and of Anna **Bowman**, who, in 1890, left it to the Equitable Trust Company, **Wilmington**, who have since then leased it for store and restaurant **use**.