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River Side of Strand Between Delaware
and Harmony Streets

#9, #13, #15 the Strand

Original Plot B-3. #9 now the property
and dwelling of ~~Mrs. Edmund Rogers~~; #13 now
the property of Richard W. Appleby; #15 nor
the property of Judge Richard S. Rodney

The Dutch Commissary, Foppe Jansen Outhout, who served the expedition of Director Stuyvesant when he came to take the settlements on the Delaware from the Swedes in 1655, remained at ~~Mw~~ Castle as a tavern keeper. The Commissary was then only 23 years old, but he received several choice sites on the west side of the Strand. One of these comprised the sites of the ~~McIntire~~ garden and the Morrison house, #10 and #14.

Another site was where the Read house stands and the third was on the Strand above Harmony Street. Jansen soon disposed of the lower site to Jacob Vandever, as "house and garden." Vandever sold to Thomas Snelling, Snelling to John Henry, and from Henry and his widow, Justa ~~Andries~~, another Dutch innkeeper secured possession of the whole plot, 66'-4" wide, in 1777. ~~Andries~~ sold to a third innkeeper, Ralph Hutchinson and Hutchinson to the ~~inkeeper~~ John Darby. Hutchinson and Darby seem not to have paid the mortgages to ~~Andries~~, who had the property back in 1685, when he divided it, selling the south 33' with a small house on it to Derrick Vandenburg, a ~~mason~~ from New York, and the north part with the inn to John White of New Castle, prominent in public life (see Summary of 0-3 the Strand).

The foregoing were the men who with their families doubtless used the front lot on the water in connection with the tavern and other business, and for bathing and recreation. The water came to within 70' of the street in front of the two houses. Jacob Vandever, a planter and trader whose chief activities were near the Christina and on the Brandywine, owned a plot above Harmony Street also. The occupations of Snelling and Henry have not been found but they owned plantations.

George Hogg, cordwainer, acquired the south half of the plot with a house on it in 1689, and the north half with the tavern and dwelling from John White's heirs in 1695. In 1701 he received a legal grant from William Penn for the bank lot opposite, 66'-4" wide by 600' deep. Whether the shoemaker fulfilled the requirement of each grantee that he build a wharf within seven years does not appear from the record.

#9 the Strand

In 1715, George Hogg sold to Cornelius VanGezell, brother of John, the south part of his bank lot, approximately 25' wide by 70' deep, for 70 pounds, a price indicating at the time that it contained dwelling house or wharf or both. Following the death of Cornelius, two years later, the mother of John and Cornelius (the widow, Gertrude VanGezell), inherited the plot with a dwelling house in which she lived. Mrs. Gertrude VanGezell's daughter

Catherine, sister of John and Cornelius, became the second wife of the Reverend George Ross of Immanuel Church, about 1728. Her granddaughter, Gertrude Ross, daughter of Catherine, married George Read the Signer. Her great-granddaughter Mary Thompson (daughter of Catherine Ross and, who married Captain William Thompson) became the wife of George Read 2nd.

In 1730 Gertrude VanGezell sold to George Ross for 100 pounds, the house and lot with an alley* on the north side of it between this property and "the shop and ground of Thomas Janvier Jr." together with all'houses, wharfs, ways, etc. The house and lot remained in the Ross family until 1788, when George Ross 2nd, grandson of Gertrude VanGezell, sold it to Jacob Webb. Jacob Webb's daughter, "Anna Bond" and her husband, Joseph Way, sold the property to Henry Rowan, blacksmith, in 1805.

In 1821, the property, then belonging to William S. Davis, was sold by the sheriff to Jeremiah Bowman, carpenter and builder for \$225, still having on it a frame house. Two years later Bowman acquired adjoining lots to the north also with frame houses. James Riddle was Bowman's neighbor, adjoining to the south, Behind his frame houses near their wharves at the river side, Bowman who was a lumber merchant as well as carpenter and builder, had his lumber yard, Hisstock piles of lumber fed the flames

*In 1788, the alley is described as 16' wide.

of the great fire that started in the stable on James Riddle's property in 1824. Jeremiah Bowman lost the three frame houses: #9, #13 and #15, together with his shop and other buildings.

Soon after the fire, Bowman rebuilt the three houses of brick. Disposition of #9 by Bowman has not yet been found in this search, but it may probably be found in the Orphan's Court records at Dover as his estate was settled by authorization of that court.

Before 1890 Thomas Turner owned #9 and before 1911, Turner sold to Pauline H. Rogers, Mrs. Edmund Rogers the present owner.

#13 and #15 the Strand

When George Hogg died in 1721, his will directed that the north part of his bank lot be sold to pay a debt owed by his son George Jr. At that time the site of #13 and #15 was an undivided plot 35' wide. The next owner found of this plot is Thomas Janvier 2nd who had a shop on it in 1730, and who owned also the lot adjoining to the north. In 1748, Richard McWilliam Sr. owned "a house and lot with a wharf and store" on this site. In 1753 he bought the site of the Morrison house opposite, the old tavern of Justa Andries, but kept this property only until 1759, when he sold it to a relative. The bank lot opposite was in his possession when he died. The undivided lot with dwelling house, other buildings and wharf was inherited by his two sons Richard Jr. and

Stephen; Stephen died 1784 leaving the property to his brother Richard, who died 1786.

The Orphan's Court authorized the executors of Richard **McWilliam** Jr., his wife, **Rebecca VanLeuvenigh McWilliam**, **Isaac Grantham** and **James Booth**, to sell the property, In 1801 they sold to **Henry Rowan, blacksmith**, who at that time owned #9 adjoining south with the alley between.* By 1807 when **Henry Rowan** and his wife **Mary**, traded this Strand bank lot to **William Young** for Young's plantation in **New Castle Hundred**, the lot had "two frame dwelling houses" probably a double house, both leased, one to **David Morrison** and the other to **Chambers Gaw**,

The following year **William Young** sold house and lot to **John McCoy** of **New Castle**, a baker, for \$3,983.33. The lot was then described as **30'** wide. **Young** bought it back in 1811 from the sheriff, who seized it from him in 1813, when it was bought as "a certain frame messuage and lot" by **Thomas G. Cable**. The sheriff again seized the property in 1822 from **Cable**, and sold it to **Purnell Warrington** in two parts: "No. 1: a lot with a two-story frame house and frame stable thereon. No. 2: adjoining No. 1 and lands of **Thomas Janvier** with a frame house thereon." This deed shows that the two-story house with stable, was on the

- #13 and #15 on the north part of the lot may have been one large house made into two houses by **Henry Rowan**. The alley or driveway to the wharf was there in **Joseph Janvier's** time.

site of #13 next to the alley, and the other adjoining it on the site of #15, next to Thomas Janvier Jr.

Barrington had the property only a year, when it was bought by Jeremiah Bowman who then owned #9 on the south. All three of Bowman's houses having been destroyed in the fire of 1824, he re-built #13 and #15 of brick, and two years later sold #13 to Thomas Janvier for \$2,000. Thomas Janvier 3rd left the brick house, #13 to his daughter Jane, who married Joshua N. Danforth of Alexandria, Virginia. The property was described as a two-story brick dwelling house on a lot 19-1/2' wide extending back 76'. Joshua and Jane Danforth sold the property to Emily C. Schofield in 1853 for \$1,800. The Schofields were related to the wife of Andrew C. Gray who was then living at #6 the Strand. Andrew C. Gray, father of the Delaware statesman, the late George Gray, married Elizabeth M. Schofield of Connecticut.

In the foregoing and the following exchanges, the use of the 10' alley between #9 and #13 is included. Joseph Snavely, nephew of the Schofield sisters who were the last of the Schofield name to live in this two-story brick dwelling, sold, in 1897, to Sarah A. Houseman for \$1,800, the lot 19'-6" wide, extending back 76' as in previous deeds. Sarah Houseman's heir, Anna Houseman, sold the same property in 1920 to William and Frances Wright for \$3,300. In 1928, Thomas McSweeney and his wife paid Frances, widow of William Wright, \$6,200 for house and lot, same description as given

in previous deeds. Subsequent owners were Edward Gormley 1931, and the present owner, Richard M. Appleby, who acquired it in 1938.

#15 the Strand

This property adjoining #13 on the north with a party wall, either remained in the possession of Jeremiah Bowman or was again acquired by him before his death. In the settlement of his estate the property finally came into possession of William Myers. In 1915 Myers sold it to Wolston Brown for \$1,800, the house and an irregular shaped lot, 76' deep along the line of #13, then extending behind #13 to the 10' alley, then 524' s.e. to the river (channel), then across the back at channel site, 36' to the property of Thomas Janvier, n.w. 600' to the Strand and 16'-6" to the place of beginning. The 16-1/2 foot house had party walls on both sides on the Strand front.

From Brown, the Equitable Trust Company, and James Myers the property was conveyed in 1916 to Leighton Dorsey and by him to Frances Porter in 1922. In the deed for this transfer the property is 600' deep on both sides, without the extension behind #13, and is 16-1/2' wide back and front. A subsequent owner was the late Mrs. Louise Rodney Holcomb, sister of Judge Richard S. Rodney, the present owner.