

SOUTHEAST SIDE OF SECOND STREET FROM  
DELAWARE STREET TO THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#9 East Second Street

(See Photo #109)

#9 East Second Street is a three-story brick house located on what was the north part of the Second Street end of Original Strand Plot 2 of Henrick Jansen.

In 1730, John VanGezell who owned all of Jansen's plot, sold all the Second Street end, extending back toward the Strand 103', to John McGhee and Esther Glenn. He sold McGhee the south 23'-9" on Second Street and the north 23'-9" on Second Street to Esther Glenn, a widow. However, it was soon noted that these measurements were wrong and Esther Glenn's lot was really 30'-9" on Second Street; so within days, Esther Glenn sold McGhee the southern 3' x 103' of her lot to make each lot closer to 1/2 of the frontage on Second Street.

Esther Glenn married John Connolly, a wheelwright. In 1737 there were transfers of the property from Esther to Thomas Reynolds and back to John Connolly. The sale or mortgage prices in these transfers were 150 pounds and 205 pounds, so that a good house must have been on the site of #9 East Second Street at this time even though there is no particular mention of it in the deeds.

In 1743, Connolly sold to John Eves, yeoman. In 1770, Eves sold to Edward Creed, butcher. In 1786, the property was seized and sold to Joseph Tatlow, storekeeper, and in 1787 Tatlow sold to James Caldwell.

Only in the last mentioned sale (1787) is there particular mention of "a certain message" on this site, but there is little doubt that one existed from the 1730's until after 1787.

Between 1787 and 1797 James Caldwell built the present three-story house and conveyed it to his mother, Ann Jamison in 1797.

In 1812 Ann Jamison and her heirs sold the property, described as a brick dwelling house, to John Conklin. In 1827, the sheriff seized it and sold to Thomas Challenger. In this deed it is also called a brick dwelling house and no doubt closely resembled the structure of the house as it now stands.

Thomas Challenger remodeled the first floor of the dwelling into a drug store and operated it as such. The brick work clearly indicates the position and size of the store window. The window was first divided into small panes, later one large pane. This large glass is now used as a mirror in the present living room of the house, now remodeled back to a dwelling house. The house is at present owned by James Challenger Jr.

#9 is in good condition and would need little or no attention in a future program of preservation.