

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

#5 and #7 East Second Street

(See Photo #110)

The present #5 and #7 East Second Street, originally one house, are now the third and fourth houses north of Delaware Street. #5 is a florist shop and #7 a dry goods store. They are located on the southern part of the Second Street end of Original Strand Plot 2 of Henrick Jansen.

In 1709 Thomas Tresse acquired this plot and in deeds for adjoining properties there is mention of a house on this Second Street end of the plot. The house may have been small, because by 1730 when John VanGezell sold the site of present #5 and #7 to John McGhee, tailor, for 26 pounds, VanGezell stipulates in the deed that if McGhee builds within 2' of the north line, VanGezell can build against his wall.

The same year, McGhee bought 3' more frontage to the north of his lot, a lot 3' x 103' from Esther Glenn, owner of the site of #9 Second Street. John McGhee built "a certain messuage or tenement" and sold it with the lot to Francis Janvier, cordwainer, for 104 pounds in 1741.

Some time after the death of Janvier (1751), the house was owned by Benoni Bird and was seized in 1795 and sold by the sheriff to Michael King, another tailor, for 210 pounds.

John Aull, carpenter, who with his brother, Captain William Aull, built Aull's row, bought this house for \$850 in 1810 at a

(#5 and #7 E. 2nd St., continued)

sheriff's sale of the property of Michael King and Alexander Reynolds, terre tenants. John Aull's son James acquired it at John's death in 1826, and Thomas Challenger bought the house on the site of present #5 and #7 for \$500 in 1837.

Challenger, who owned #9 East Second Street, next door to the north, either built a new house or extensively remodeled the old house on the site of present #5 and #7. When he sold it in 1853, for \$1,000, to James A. Bates, it was described as a two-story brick house with "a room as now built over the 3'-6" wide alley (between this and #9), about 11' above the pavement and 16' back. Thomas Challenger reserving to himself all the lower part of said alley and all the upper part excepting the 16' on the front as now built over." That is, he sold #5 and #7 with an addition of 3'-6" on the second floor over the alley, extending back 16', and kept for himself the ground floor alley extending back into his property.

James A. Bates sold the site of present #5 and #7, the house and room over the alley, to William Holschumaker in 1866, and between then and 1899 the present two three-story dwellings with stores, #5 and #7, were built or remodeled from the former two-story house. The room over the alley was removed.

After William Holschumaker's death, his administrator, Henry Holschumaker sold #5 East Second Street as a store and dwelling to

(#5 and #7 E. 2nd St., continued)

Agnes Gallagher in 1899. It is at present owned by Ellis L. Bennett.

In 1903 Emmitt Stidham, the sheriff, sold the other half of Holschumaker's property, #7 East Second Street, to Alexander Goodiss, in whose family it has remained. It is at present owned by Mrs. Rose Goodiss.

This report would recommend that at an appropriate time further search be made for photographs and additional evidence of the earlier house and that the present one be removed, as it is of so late a date as to be entirely out of character with the street.