

This week – 1776 – 1850

(local scale)

- War comes to the Delaware River, in a big way
- Another setback to New Castle
- A town divided – who's on which side
- Diary entries of a notable visitor to the town
- 1797 Finally home rule
- 1800 The Academy
- 1803 The C&D Canal to start/end in New Castle
- 1804 Ice Piers
- 1809 The Arsenal
- 1824 FIRE !!!
- 1832-39 NC&FT RR

- Architecture– Early vs mid-Georgian

War has Started!

The News Comes to New Castle

“After **the battle of Concord** the news was sent by messenger and receipted for in each town and sent forward - no matter what the hour day or night. The message was received here in New Castle on Wednesday evening **April 26, 1775**, and receipted for **by Zachariah Van Leuvenigh** and Stephen Spencer, a relative. Van Leuvenigh, at the time, lived in the house at Delaware & The Strand. They sent the message to "Christiana Bridge" where it was received by Samuel Patterson who sent it on to Col. Thomas Cooch, and he forwarded it to Tobias Rudolph at Head of Elk or Elkton, where it was received at 4: 30 A.M. on Thursday morning April 27.”

Collected Essays of Richard S, Rodney,(1955), 1975

The battles were on April 19.
(Remember “twas the 18th of
April in ‘75; hardly a man is now
alive...)

Van Leuvenigh house: Delaware & Strand.
Typical early Georgian house: hip roof,
string course
water table
symmetrical



General William Howe was Commander in Chief during the Revolution His Secretary (Ambrose Searle) visited New Castle

Sept. 11, 1777

...We passed by Newcastle, an inconsiderable Town pleasantly situated upon the Delaware. The Prospect of the Ships Sailing up this River, the Banks of which are extremely beautiful and the most like the Banks of the Thames of any River I have yet seen in America, was very grand and Splendid

...The Admiral is about 10 or 15 miles higher up, about Chester; and as much firing was heard to-day, we conjectured it passed between our Ships and the Rebel Batteries, as our people were removing the **Obstructions** in the River.

Oct 14, 1777

Landed at Newcastle and walked about the Town & its Environs, which are by far the most pleasant and the most fertile Lands I have yet seen in America.

Hessian Fortification Map of Wilmington, Sept. 1777

verz2117774

Identifier: HStAM, WHK, WHK 29/58a

Description model: Map / Plan

Series title: Nordamerikanische Kriege von 1775-1782

Title: Plan der Besetzung von Wilmington durch Oberst Loos, 14. September 1777

Dating: (1777) 1790

Original title: Plan von Wilmington wie solches im Feldzuge von 1777 vom Obristen Loos...

Description of contents: Nach Westen ausgerichtete Karte von Wilmington an der Straße von...

Description of contents: Unterer Kartenrand: Delaware

(Previous) provenances: Wilhelmshöher Kriegskarten

Author: H. Bädicker

Format: 220x280 mm

Scale: 1 Englische Meile = 4,5 cm [1:33.800]

Design: Handzeichnung, farbig

Number of sheets: 1

Descriptors: Loos

Descriptors: Bädicker, H.



<https://arcinsys.hessen.de/arcinsys/detailAction.action?detailid=v2117774>

New Castle, A Town Divided

Patriots (Whigs) Supported Revolution

They were often Scots-Irish, often Presbyterian, often radical

The three ministers of the New Castle Presbyterian Church from 1769 to 1824 were born in Ireland or were of Scots Irish descent.

The congregation as well as the population of New Castle County had a strong Scots-Irish presence by the revolution.

Minister: Joseph Montgomery preached to the militia in 1775 on the Continental Congress day of fasting, urging the need to "separate from our parent state". In 1776 he became Brigade Chaplain to Delaware Regiment of the Continental Army

Leader: Thomas McKean. helped organize resistance to the Stamp Act (1765), in 1774 organized a mass meeting to protest the post-tea party treatment of Boston. He held NUMEROUS positions public simultaneously in both Delaware and Pennsylvania.

Patriot gangs roamed the town. Howe's secretary Ambrose Searle was almost captured when "60 of the Rebel militia" seized the seamen accompanying Searle.

New Castle, A Town Divided

Loyalist, Tories, often Anglican, loyal to crown

Leader: George Read (Dublin Irish descent, inside the "Pale")
was moderate, and respected

Openly loyalist residents faced abuse: surgeon John Watson
was "mobbed and insulted by the People of the Town."

Innkeeper John Drake and his wife fled New Castle.

His wife "received a Musket Ball in the back of her neck "
when the militia fired at her as she fled to a British vessel. [one of
150 in 1777]

Service during the war (including militia) was widespread

Richard Adair, William Adams, Veazy Alexander, Robert Bail, Samuel Barr, Gunning Bedford (1742-97), James Booth, Joseph Booth, James Boyd, Archabald Boyd, Hugh Brown, Robert Bryan Jr, Charles Bryson, William Buchanan, William Clark, Thomas Clark, John Clark esq, John Clawson, Sator Clay, Thomas Clay, John W. Clay, William Coffey, William Colsbery, James Crawford, James Creed, John Dougherty, Cornileous Dushane, John Elliots, Joseph Enos, Richard Enos, John Enos, David Finney esq., William Fryar, Robert Furnis, Isaac Grantham, Samuel Hanna, Hance Harman, Fredrick Hill, David Irvin, Francis Janvier, Richard Janvier, Thomas Janvier, Samuel Janvier, Philip Janvire, John Jaquet, Peter Jaquet Jr., John Jordan, Robert Kerr, John Kirk, James Kirkpatrick, John Lewden, John Lewden Jr., John Maleclon ? esq., Andrew McCahan, Patrick McCormick, John McGinnis, William McGinnis, Thomas McKean esq., John McKee, John McKinly esq., William McKinney, Richard McWilliam esq., Robert Mears, Alexander Montgomery, Thomas Morton, Morton Morton, Daniel Murphy, William Norris, John Pasmore, James Patrige, Samuel Patterson esq., David Porter, Alex Porter, John Powel, James Read, George Read esq., John Reynolds, James Rezous, Samuel Ruth, Abraham Sankey, William Scott, William Shannon, Abraham Short, Sampson Smith, John Stafford, John Stewart, William Stidham, Jospeh Tatlow, John Thompson esq., John Titus, Abraham Vandigrift, Robert Wiley, James Wilson, John Yeates

94/226 entries in annotated 1776 tax records had service in the military

<http://nc-chap.org/census/riordan/tax1776.php> Liam Riordan

Prominent N.C. Residents Active in the Revolution

Patriots, Whigs, support revolution
 Predominantly Scotch-Irish,
 Presbyterian

T. McKean, N. Van Dyke

Quaker

C. Bennett

Anglican

F. Hopkinson, J. Booth Sr.

Loyalists, Tories, loyal to Crown
 Predominantly Anglican

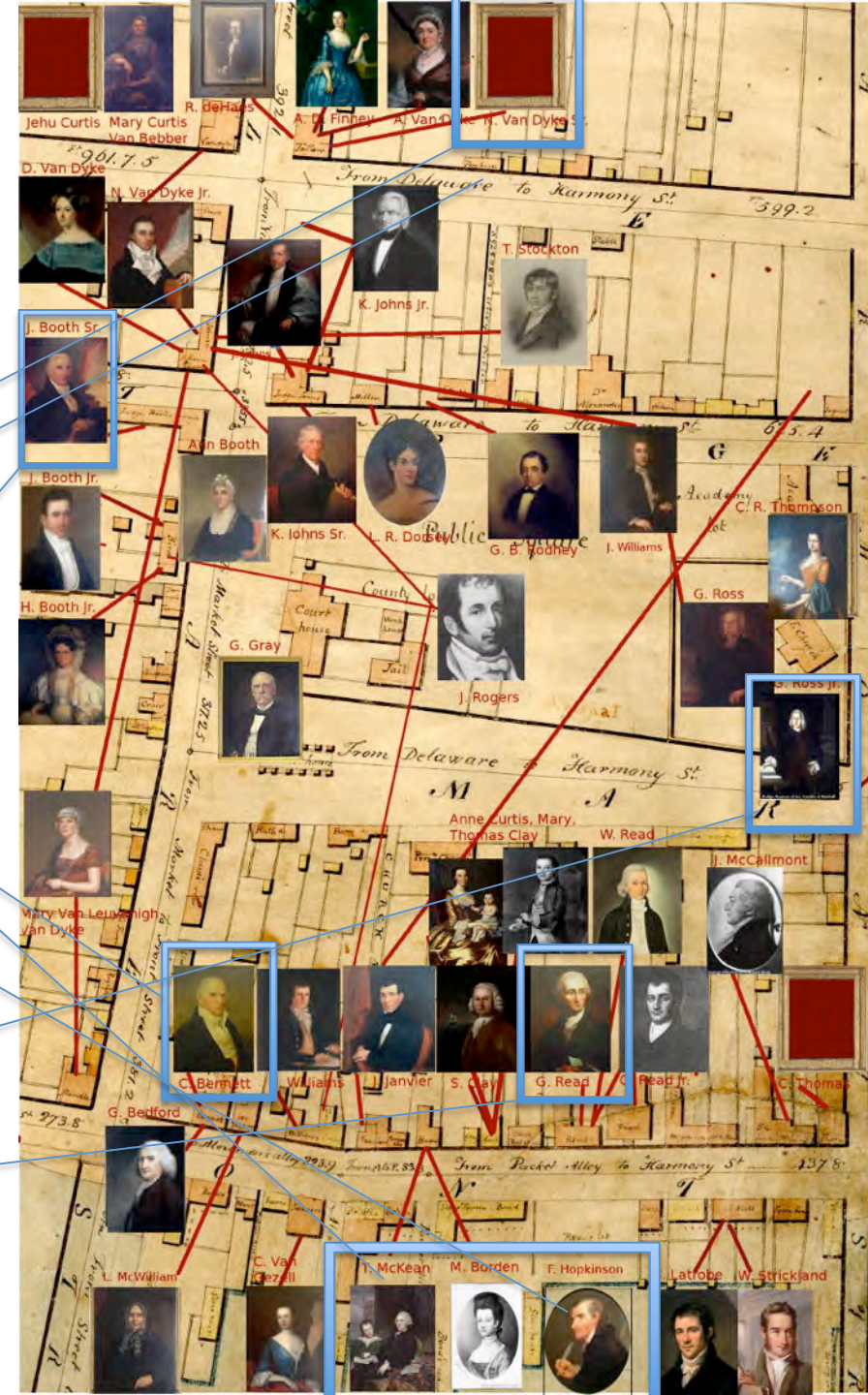
Switched to Patriots 1774-1776

Anglican

G. Ross Jr.

G. Read Sr.

Riordan lists 121 individuals with military service



Lord Howe's Secretary 1777 Visit to New Castle

The principal Houses, of wch there are but few, are utterly abandoned by the Inhabitants on account of their Concern in the Rebellion. I walked to a handsome Country House about a mile from Town, belonging to a **Richard McWilliams Esq.** (a native, like most of the People in the Neighborhood, of Ireland) and had some Conversation with him. He was too old [d 1785] to be concerned actively in the Rebellion; but by some of his Expressions, I could not but perceive with Sorrow, that he was tainted with its Principles.



McWilliam House
8 The Strand



McWilliam House, Spring Garden,
New Castle, NCHS



Fireplace wall removed in 1929 from
"Green Spring Manor", New Castle for
Hennage House, Williamsburg, Va

Where, When, was Spring Garden?

Look at maps, aerial photos: present in 1868, 1926, gone in 1937, replaced by Bellanca

Beers Atlas, 1868



http://firstmap.gis.delaware.gov/arcgis/rest/services/DE_Imagery/DE_Imagery_1937/ImageServer?f=jsapi



Searle's description of New Castle

The Town is small, and its Buildings mean & scattered; yet, though inferior in Size & every other Respect to Wilmington, it is the principal Town of the County where the Courts of Justice are held: and here are a Parish Church, a Presbyterian Meeting House, a Court House, a Gaol, a Pillory, a Pair of Stocks, one old Cannon for Signals or rejoicing Days, and a Pound for Hogs. The inhabitants seem poor, and their appearance is by no means healthy, though the Country about them is pleasant. The Fever & Ague prevails here in Autumn, as in all the Low Lands of Delaware Bay & River. There being no Wharf or Dock, [???] where Ships can ride out of the strong Current, it does not seem probable that this Town will ever grow (at least not grow rapidly) into Consequence.

--The Flat Boats were this evening ordered to Wilmington, in order to take the Troops stationed there (about 3,000 men) up the River to assist in opening the Passage to Philadelphia by annoying the Rebel Ships from the Shore.

Incidents near New Castle During the Revolutionary War

1. *Roebuck* was attacked below New Castle by 'row-galleys' and due to shallow water, able to be driven off.



H.M.S. Roebuck,
1769-1811, 44 gun-9, 18lb

May 10, 1776 from George Read

Gentlemen...the Roebuck ... were in the bight below New Castle.. We have had warm cannonading between the ships and galleys these two days past, -- all within our view. ... They compelled the ships to retire... much powder and shot have been expended by the galleys, but they have produced a very happy effect upon the multitudes of spectators on each side of the river.., British ships of war will not be though so formidable.

William T. Read, Life and Correspondence of George Read,

[Cannonballs from the Roebuck were fired into houses: the Eves place (nr. I-295), and a house in Port Penn.]

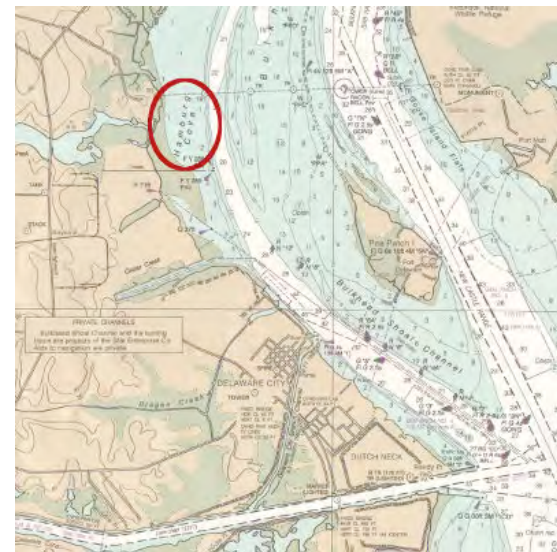
Incidents near New Castle During the Revolutionary War

2. *Hamburg Landing* – capture of troops foraging for food 1777-1778 Hamburg Landing was a small settlement – a hotel and mill about where the power line crosses from N. J., just above Delaware City.

Winter 1777-1778, One boat captured, 6 men sent to Wilmington.

Feb. 1778, a Lt. put on farmers clothes and lured a boat from a man-of-war with promises of food. His men ambushed the boat and captured 8 men.

Hamburg landing was never very large. In 1803, it and Bear each had only 3 buildings in Latrobe drawings. However, it was considered significant. It was included with Newark, Wilmington, New Castle and Newport in supporting the 'Philadelphia Agreement' of non-importation



Finally, Self Government

Local Improvements after the Act of 1797

- Fixed the limits of the town, lay out and name streets, lanes and alleys (Daniel Blaney, surveyor)
- Public water pumps installed
- Market house repaired
- Regulations for curbs, sidewalks, building lines and street obstructions
- Lamp posts installed



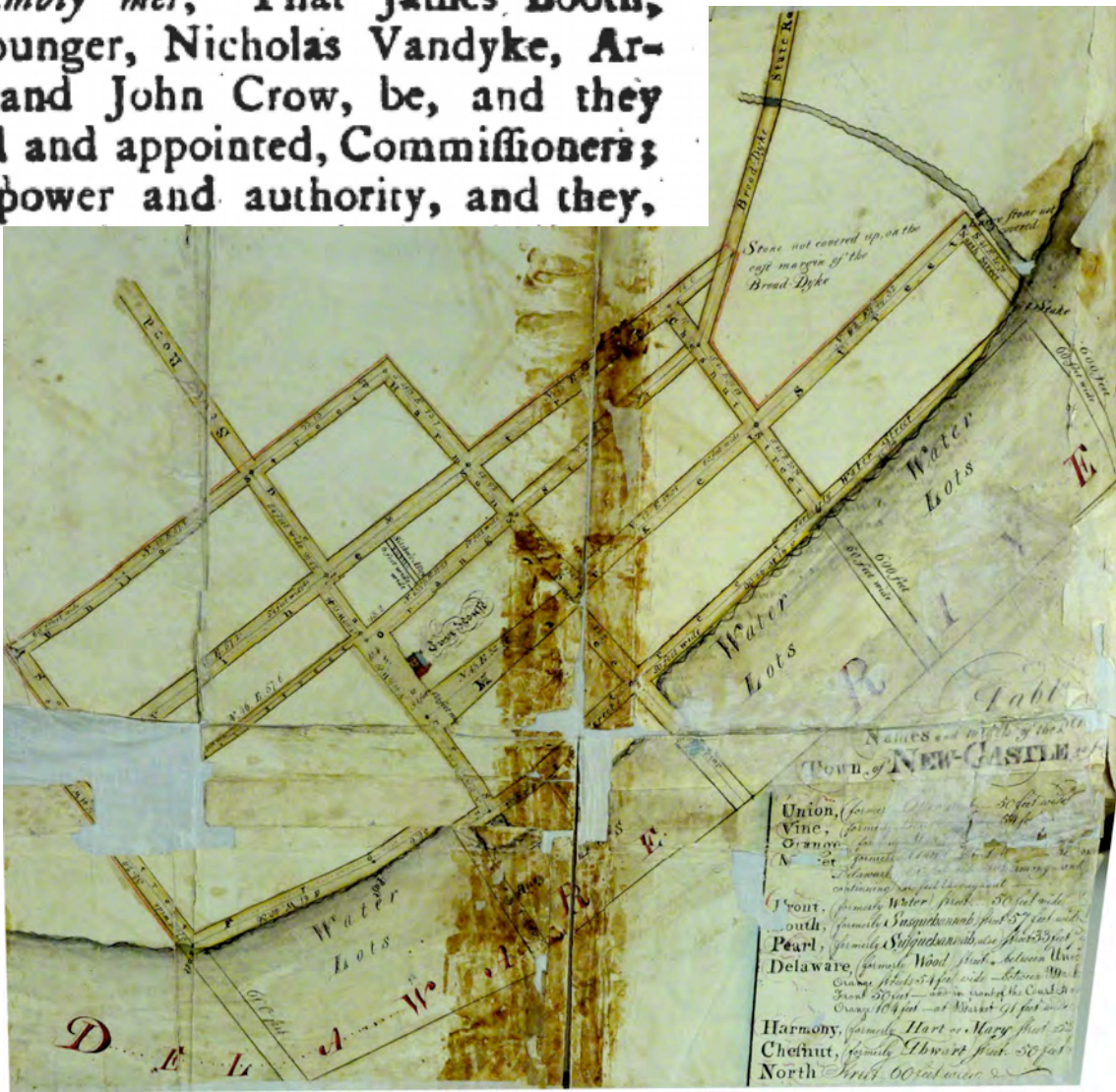
1797.

An ACT for establishing the boundaries of the town of New-Castle, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

SECTION I. BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the state of Delaware in General Assembly met, That James Booth, George Read the younger, Nicholas Vandyke, Archibald Alexander, and John Crow, be, and they are hereby nominated and appointed, Commissioners; who shall have full power and authority, and they,

Commissioners appointed to fix the limits of the town, and to lay out and regulate the streets, lanes and alleys.

Former	1798	Modern
Otter	Union	Fifth
Beaver	Vine	Fourth
Minque	Orange	East Third
Land	Market	Second
Water	Front	The Strand
Susquehanna	South	South
Susquehanna	Pearl	West Third
Wood	Delaware	Delaware
Hart or Mary	Harmony	
Thwart	Chesnut	Chesnut
--	North	--





The Academy (c1800)



- 1772 Land was granted for a school
- c1800 Building erected, apparently by Trustees of New Castle Common
- 1801 "Trustees of the New Castle Academy" was created*
- 1811 Library Company (initially members only) established in the Academy



Punch & gouge decoration similar to those on George Read Jr. house (c1800) by Peter Crouting

Although a general free school system was established throughout the State in the year 1829, New Castle did not adopt it. The school was supported by students (initially \$30/year), and by the Trustees of New Castle Common. New Castle schools did not come under control of the state until 1875.

* Kensey Johns, James Booth, George Read, Archibald Alexander, James Riddle, James Colwell, Nicholas Van Dyke, James McCallmont, and John Bird.

1798 Be it ordained that the Funds arising from the Lands...New Castle Common shall be and they are hereby appropriated for the erection and support of a College in the Town of New Castle...(Mar. 17, p44)

1801 Whereas by Ordinance of the Board of Trustees of the New Castle Common... the funds arising ... was appropriated for the erection of and support of a Seminary of Learning... and whereas a building for that purposes has been erected... (Mar. 11, p49)

Trustee Minutes, and Alexander B. Cooper, 1906

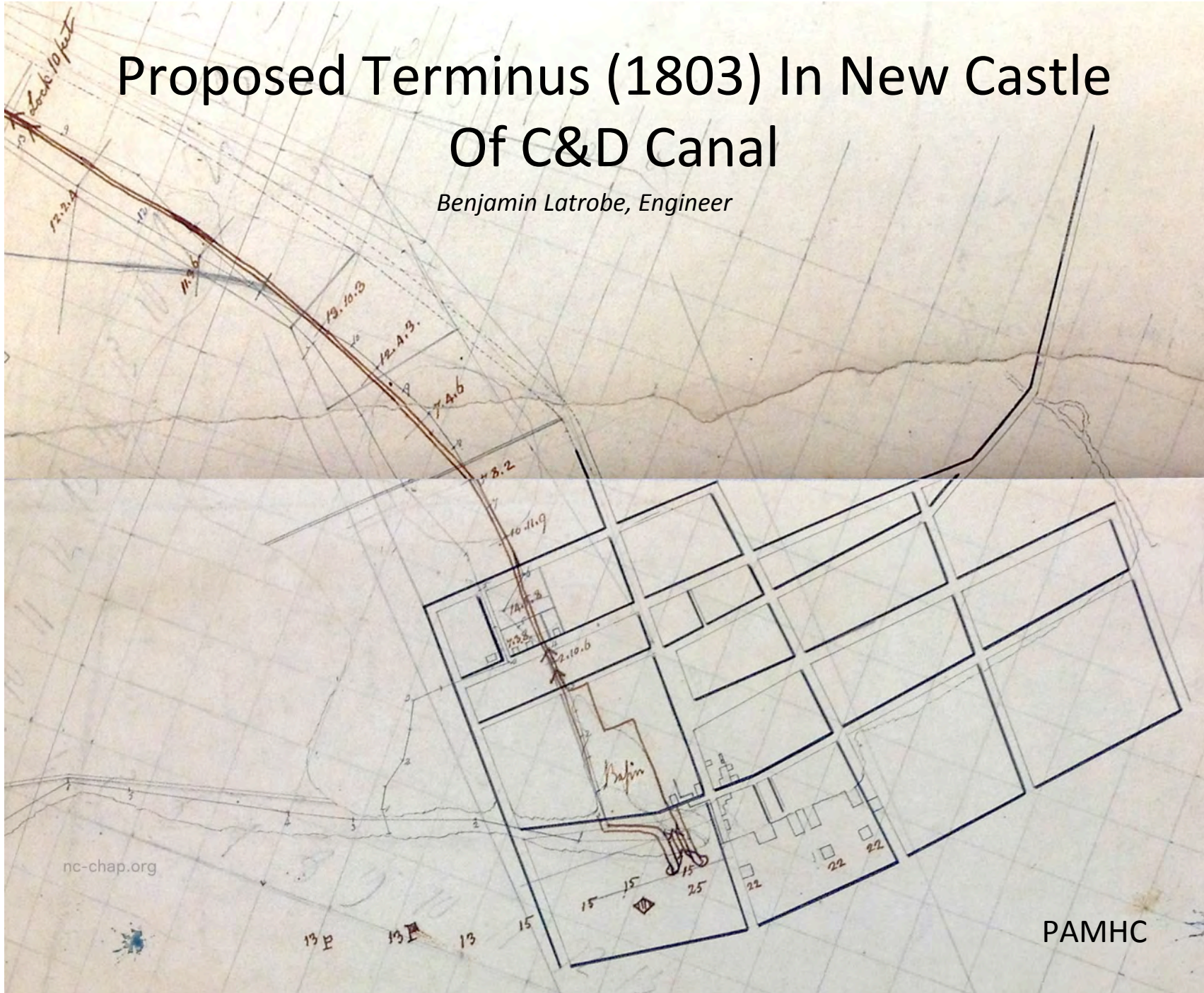
Details of the Academy

- There were two “Schools” in the Academy, run by Joseph Dana and Michael Smith
- There was also a “female institute”, possibly in the Academy
- Boys and girls went to both of the schools
- Children’s ages extended from ~6 to ~15 or more
- Students included children of Johns, Booth, McCullough, Van Dyke, Darby, Riddle, Crow, Read, Moore, Armstrong, Betson, Duncan, Wilson, Lighthall, Darragh, Magen, Bowman, Lefever, McCallmont, Williams, Caldwell...

20
 1799 July 16 To Tuition Money for George Read to Mr. Smith's School @ 6 Dol. # Quarter } 6-00
 To D^r. for Mrs. Read to D^r. @ 3 Dol. # Quarter } 3-00
 To D^r. for Catherine Read to Mr. Smith's School @ 3 Dol. # quarter } 3-00
 To an app^t. of 50 cents # scholar for contingent Expenses of one quarter 3 scholars } 1-50
 13-50

Proposed Terminus (1803) In New Castle Of C&D Canal

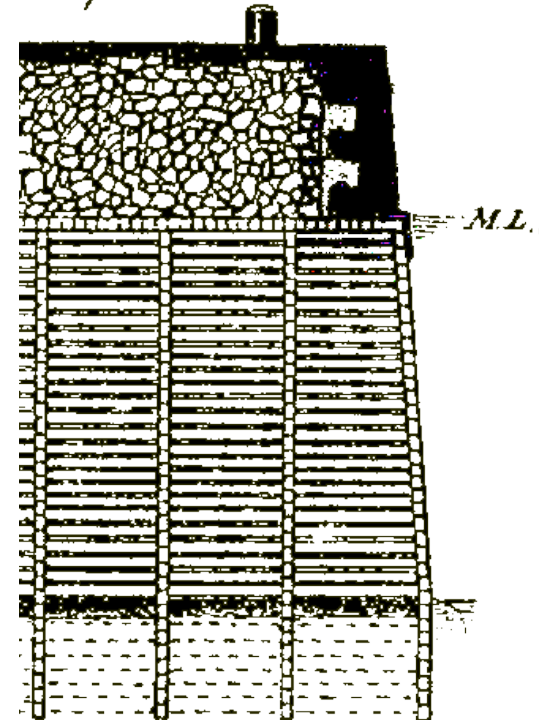
Benjamin Latrobe, Engineer



Ice Piers (town: 1794, U. S.: 1804-1870)



42 foot ----->



1794 The Assembly approved a lottery to “erect two piers in the harbour of the town”.

1804-1870 More piers are erected by the U.S.
They are the “first public works project of the U.S.”

The piers are granite blocks on top of a rubble-filled wooden crib

1804-1805 Survey of New Castle by Latrobe, Mills, Strickland

They were living in town while working on the C&D Canal
They were hired draw plans for improving the drainage of the town.
The beautiful work by 'America's First Architect' are a fabulous resource.
It includes a drawing of the Courthouse, elevations of buildings and
detailed maps of each street.
Worth a whole class by itself! (With a PBS video!)



War of 1812, The Arsenal

Selected events:

- 1807 U. S. frigate “Chesapeake” attacked, 4 seamen seized
 (“Don’t give up the ship”)
 Embargo on all exports to Britain
- 1809 **Arsenal built in New Castle**
- 1812 War declared
 American privateers seize 450 prizes in 6 months
 British capture 150 American privateers
 Fort built on Rocks in Wilmington
 British blockade Chesapeake & Delaware bays
- 1813 McDonough victory on Lake Champlain
- 1814 **British attack, burn D. C. on Sept. 12 and attack
 Ft. McHenry, Baltimore, Sept 13 (Rockets’ Red Glare)
 “Corps of Flying Artillery” formed in New Castle**
- 1815 Battle of New Orleans

Many theaters of war:

- 4 on the Canadian border,
- 1 each on Chesapeake, southwest, Gulf coast, high seas



Fear in New Castle (1813-1814)

George Read Jr. sends 6 loads of furniture & goods to Christiana Bridge
(account books 4 and 5/1813)

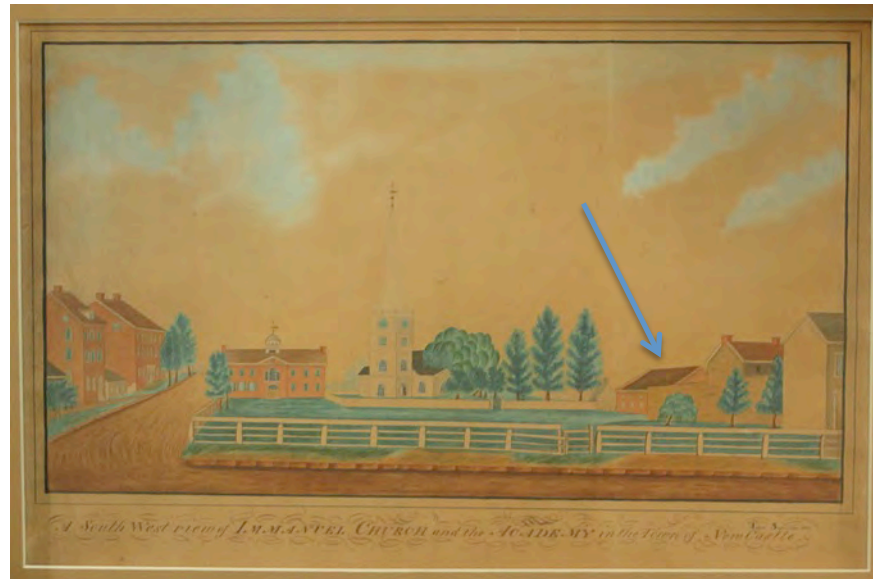
Letters. From Mary Read — March 29, 1813

“New Castle is in a state of alarm... difficulty in procuring food. Mr. [] McMahon has offered the Reads asylum in case of an attack”.

George Read II to James Hamilton — November 8, 1814 [2 months after burning of D.C.]

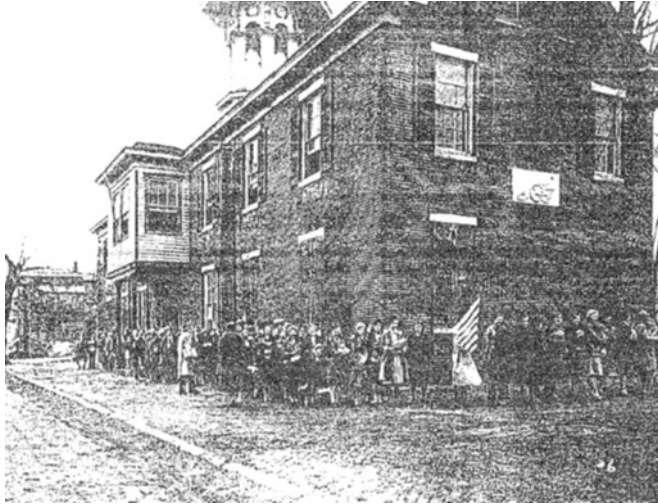
“The threatening aspect of the war and our exposure on the sea, the Atlantic Coast to its ravages, has induced Mrs. Read to come to a determination of our removing her residence in March next into the interior of the country & she has given the preference to Carlisle. I feel anxious to have provided for her genteel and agreeable lodgings. Isabella, Mary & a servant boy will be the persons whom she will have with her. May I presume to solicit you to enquire if such lodgings could be procured in March next and at what rate; a mineral spring in the neighborhood of Carlisle is with Mrs. Read a considerable inducement to fixing on that place.”

The Arsenal – under U.S. Control (1809-1850)



- 1809 Deed written but not executed conveying land for an arsenal
- 1811 One and a half story building erected, Caleb Bennet appointed Military Store Keeper
- 1813 U. S. Arsenal on Schuylkill sent: 2-24pdr Cannon, 200 -24pdr: Round Shot, 502 Lbs Grape Shot, 600 Lb Cannon Powder
- 1813 Four Cannon: Lawrence, Washington (20 lbs), Wasp, Hornet (6 lbs)
- 1843 U.S. requested title; town agreed "provided that the said Arsenal shall never in any case be used for the storage of gunpowder or the quartering of troops without the express assent of the inhabitants of the town".
- 1851 Acquired by the Trustees of New Castle Common.

The Arsenal/New Castle Institute (1852-1930)

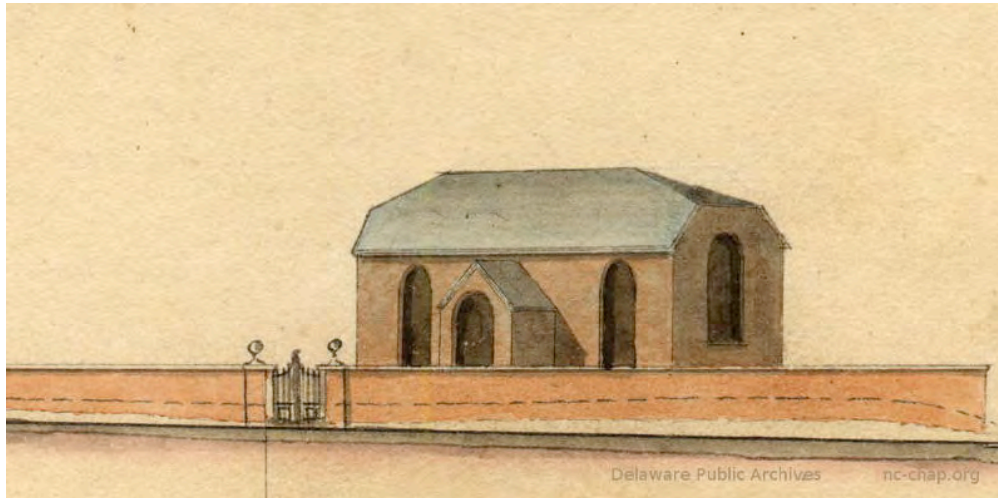


Students prepare to move from the New Castle Institute to the new William Penn School, Jan. 5, 1930

Del. Hist. Soc.

- The building was taken over by Trustees of New Castle Common in 1852, and a second floor added. The school taught both boys and girls.
- The Trustees provided sole support until 1874 when it needed funds for the Water Company
- Subjects included: Greek, Latin, English, etymology, algebra, arithmetic, history, physiology and constitutional history

Immanuel Church on the Green (1708, 1820)



Benjamin Latrobe, 1805



- George Ross was rector from 1705 to 1754. Sent to America and supported by Society for the Preservation of the Gospel.
- Renovation in 1820 by prominent Greek Revival architect William Strickland
- Roof fire in 1980 burned it to a shell. Archaeology during reconstruction revealed traces of the 1600's fort.
- Graves include the Alexanders, Birds, Blacks, Booths, Hewletts, Jacquett, Johns, McCulloughs, McWilliams, Reads, Rogers, Thomas, Van Leuvenighs, Van Dykes,

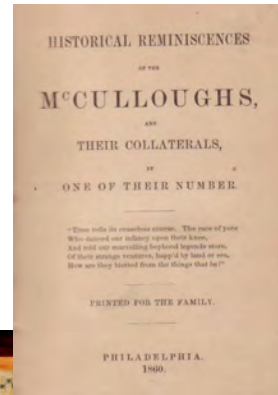
Reminiscences of a woman who was a 12 year old girl in New Castle during the fire

p 36

It was on Monday, April 26, 1824. We were in school, and at three o'clock was heard the (to us) unusual cry of fire. Without waiting for leave, all simultaneously rushed out, down Read's alley... when it was discovered that Mr. Bowman's board yard was on fire, and that it originated in an old shanty ... through two little boys, John Roberts and Dick Riddle making a fire to warm some pups.

... we hoped to preserve the western side on which our own home was, as well as a large store ... a hotel and two storehouses on the river side.

... though [her father's] property "had taken wings" his credit stood firm till the day of his death.



Sarah McCullough's work done in DHMs Semmay in the 12th year of her age New Castle March 2nd 1824

Market & Town Hall



Latrobe, 1805



John Krimmel, 1811 "Pepper Pot"



Robert Montgomery Bird c1822, 1826



Sheriff's House, Jail, Arsenal—
Market, Town Hall (photo c1878)



PHL, South St. New Market & Head Hall



Mike Dixon

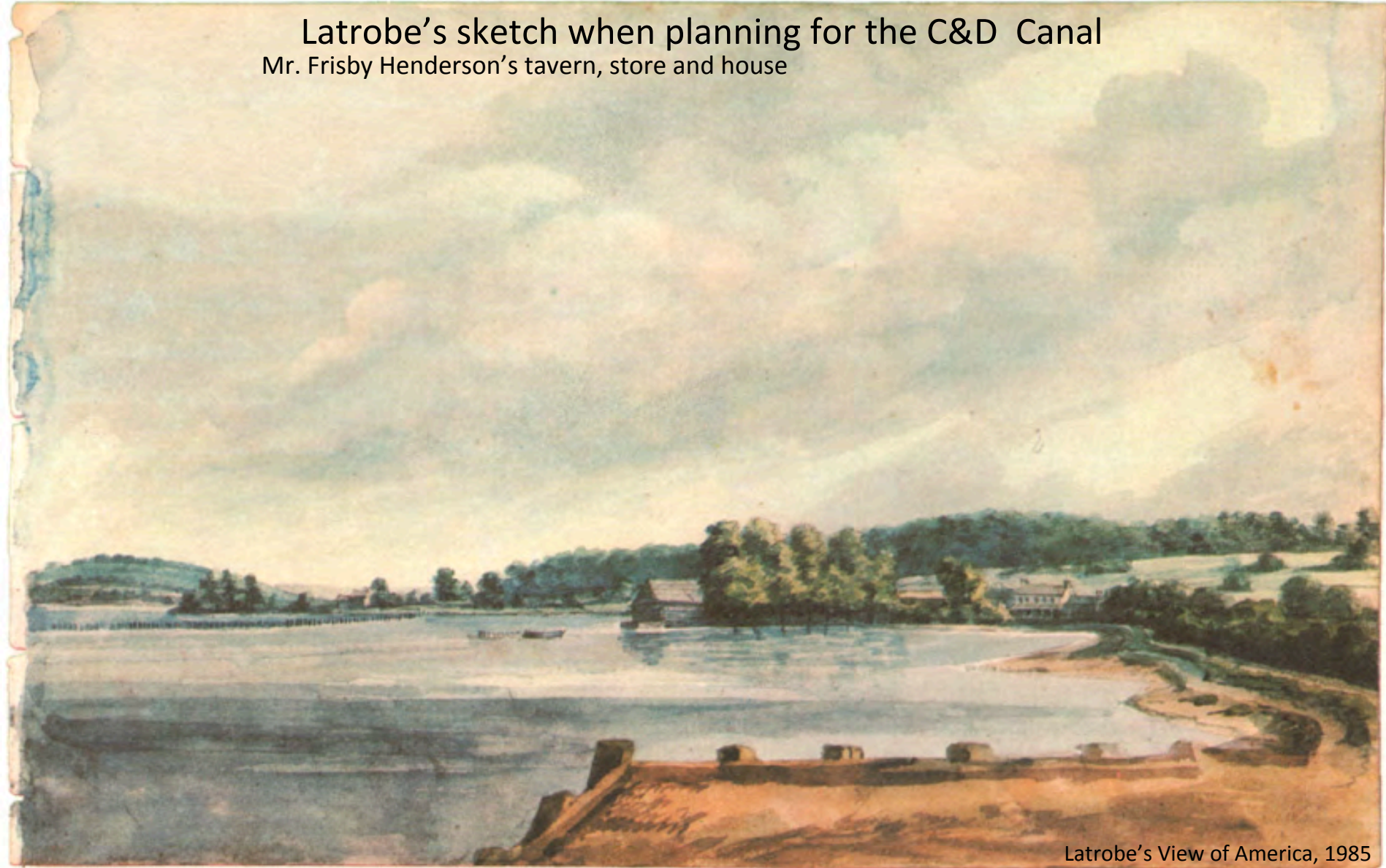
Opening of New Castle & Frenchtown Railroad (September 10, 1832)



Hugh Ryan, 1985

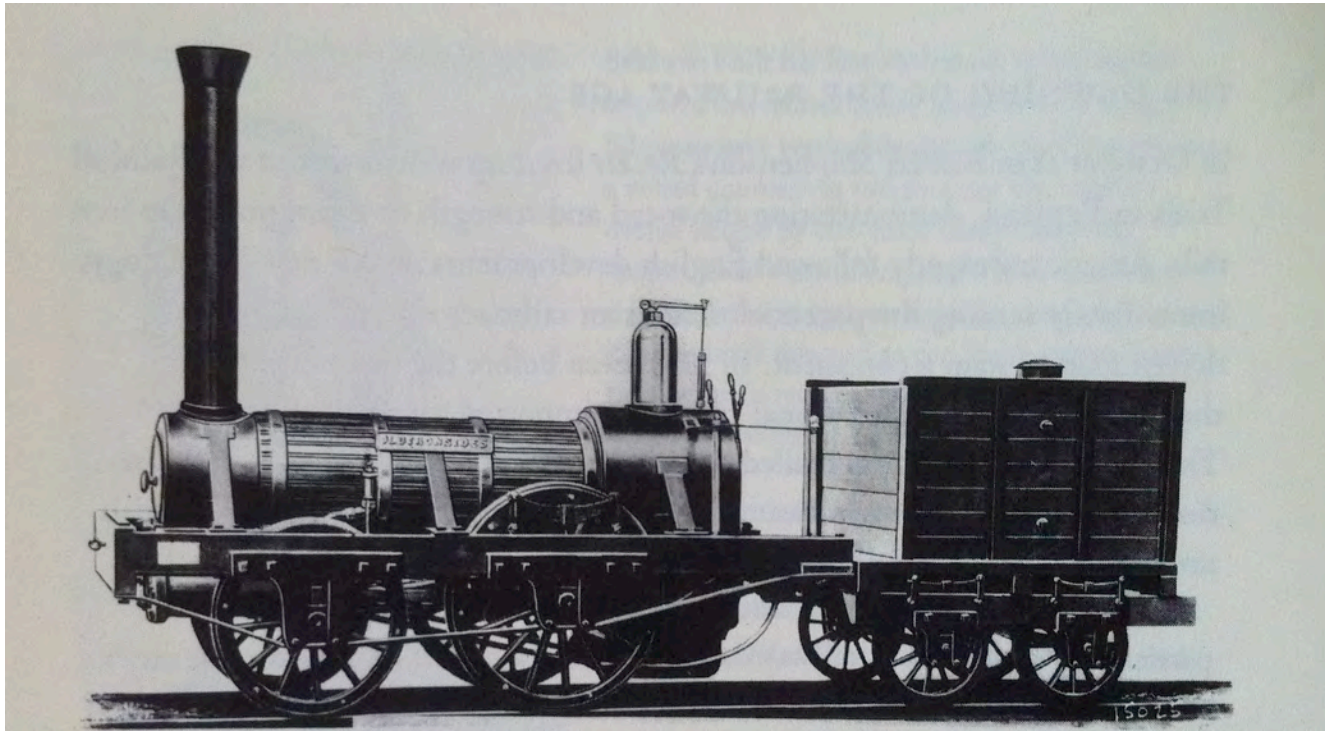
What was Frenchtown?

Latrobe's sketch when planning for the C&D Canal
Mr. Frisby Henderson's tavern, store and house



Latrobe's View of America, 1985

Baldwin Locomotive's first engine based on NC&FT RR

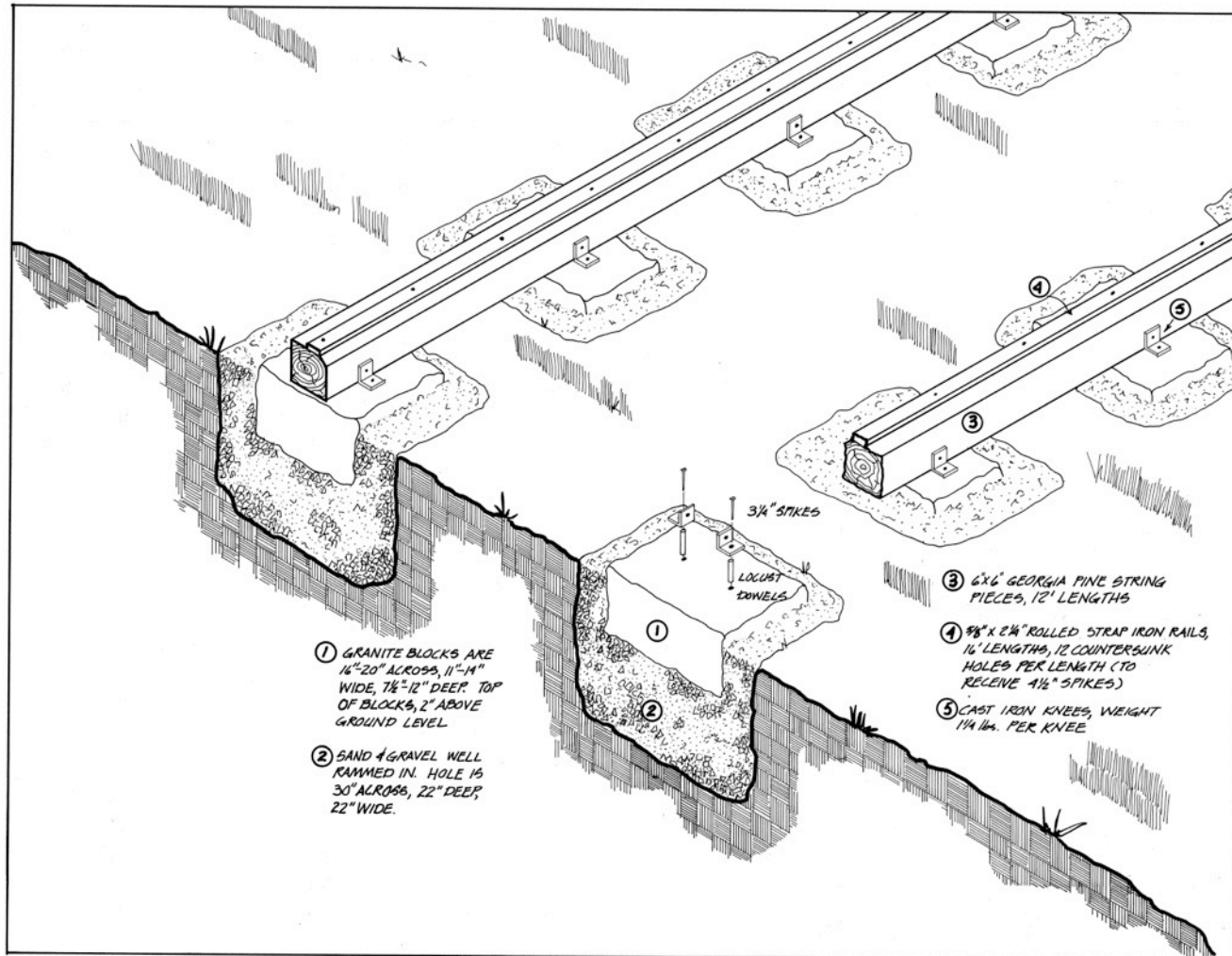


Matthias Baldwin's first locomotive, *Old Ironsides*, closely followed an English "Planet"-class design by Robert Stephenson and Company, which was imported to America by the Newcastle and Frenchtown Railroad in 1831. Baldwin helped assemble that import, the *Delaware*, learning a great deal about this novel technology. Although he soon improved his products, *Old Ironsides* proved a fine design, remaining in active service for over twenty years.

RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA (PMHC)

New Castle & Frenchtown Railroad Tracks

Original version



“Stone Sleepers”

60,000 quarried at I95 & Susquehanna at \$0.25/ea



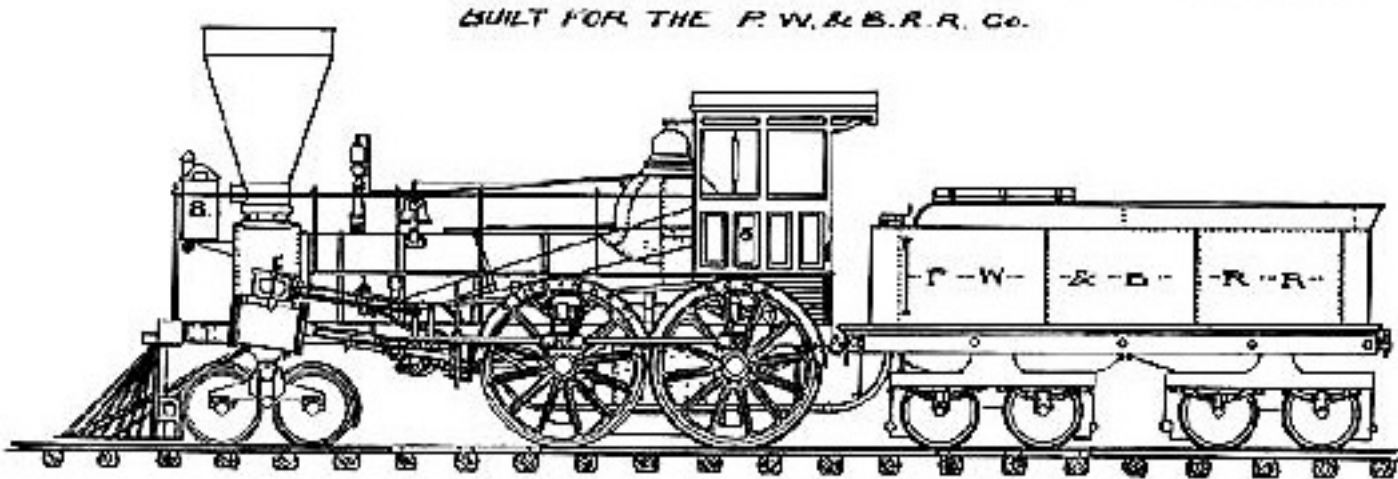
Shaw's c1895 Painting of New Castle c1835



I [A B Cooper in 1905] have recently seen an excellent engraving, of Woodside's, which represents a fine panel picture, taken from the [c1835] steamboat "New Castle." It shows the whole river front of the town, and the buildings erected on it. **About where the remains of the old "Coal Wharf," now are [flagpole], appears a large sandy beach, and in the water along the beach are four of the old semi-oval coaches, with four horses attached to each. At this point the drivers used to water the horses, and soak the wheels of the coaches.**

Just beyond them, a little further up the river, a packet boat is anchored, with a pennant floating from her mast head, upon which plainly appears the word, "Union." Some distance further up the steamboat, "New Castle" is seen approaching the wharf. The original panel picture is now owned and in possession of — —Forsyth, of St. Louis, Mo., who married Miss — —Janvier, of the New Castle Janvier family.

New Castle Manufacturing Co.



Passenger engine & tender built 1853 for the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore RR by W. H. Dobb, Master Machinist

Early vs Mid Georgian

Two buildings built in stages in different eras show changes in styles

212 Delaware, Booth House
1795, <1719, 1860s



No arches

Arches

No String course
String course

Courthouse
(1845), 1732, 1756, 1802



"Symmetry" (vertical alignment of windows) in both sides

Advances, Setbacks in New Castle History

- + 1655 Rule by Amsterdam, not Dutch West India Company
- + 1664 Govt. center for three lower counties
- 1682 Loses status as chief city to Philadelphia
- <1770 Loses shipping dominance to Philadelphia
- 1777 Loses state capital to Dover
- + 1797 Finally, self governed
- + 1800s North/South Transportation hub
- 1824 Fire destroys many buildings
- + 1832 NC&FT RR opens
- 1838 NC&FT RR Bypassed
- + 1840 on Gains industry: railroad engines, iron, steel
- 1880 Loses county seat to Wilmington
- 1900-1960 Industries close
- + 1920s Colonial revival awareness increases appreciation

Next week

What I didn't get to this week. 😊

Who was the New Castle resident called America's first Architect?

The Latrobe Survey

PBS documentary on Latrobe

Early/Late Federal ~1780-1812/1824-1840



18 E 3rd, c1800



- Fanlights with tracery
- No string course or water table
- “Symmetrical”
- Flemish bond, not glazed header
- Medium mortar joints, not pressed brick
- 6-8 panel door

27-29 The Strand, c1826



Greek Revival (I)

Temple Style Public Buildings & High Style Residences

Latrobe, First Bank of Pennsylvania, 1801



Strickland, Second Bank of United States, 1824



T. U. Walter, Girard College, 1847



Winterthur, c1840



Chelsea, Delaware City, 1848



“Bank House”, Milford, 1850



Greek Revival II

(c1825-c1855)

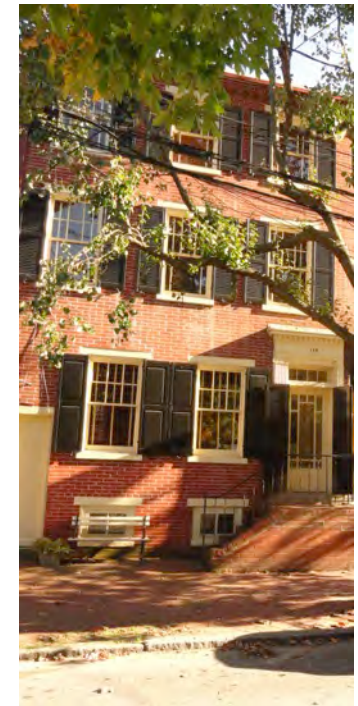
Urban houses in New Castle



32 W 4th, c1850



10-16 E4th, c1840



119 E 3rd

Flat or shallow pitch roof, short 3rd story, no or rectangular transom, may not be symmetrical, running bond (all stretchers, no headers), smooth brick, narrow mortar joint

Shaw's c1895 Painting of New Castle c1835



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Edward Moran, 1857
New Castle on the Delaware
Butler Institute of American Art
Youngstown, Ohio