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GEORGE READ (II) AND HIS HOUSE.

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GEORGE READ (II)  
AND HIS HOUSE

by  
Eliza Wolcott

A thesis submitted to the Faculty of the University  
of Delaware in partial fulfillment of the requirements for  
the degree of Master of Arts in Early American Culture.

June, 1971

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## INTRODUCTION

Today in the small and quiet town of New Castle, Delaware, a large and handsome house overlooks the Delaware River at the north end of The Strand. It is now and always has been greatly admired. Architectural historians, when writing about the Delaware scene, have rarely bypassed this house. From the publishing of John Marshall Hammond's Colonial Mansions of Maryland and Delaware in 1914 and George Fletcher Bennett's early work Early Delaware Architecture to Eberlein and Hubbard's Historic Houses and Buildings in Delaware, there has been nothing but praise for the house as an elaborate example of early Federal architecture. This mansion was built between 1797 and 1803 by my great-great-great-great-grandfather, George Read (II).

The construction of the Read House is well documented in the letters, bills and account books of George Read (II) now part of The Richard S. Rodney Collection of Read Manuscripts, housed in The Historical Society of Delaware. Other manuscripts of interest are in The Read Family Papers at the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C.; these holdings include letters written during the building years by George Read (II) to his brothers, John and William, then residents of Philadelphia, who were instrumental in obtaining materials and workmen for the house. These two collections, as well as a few bills and letters owned by Mrs. Philip D. Laird, the present owner of the house, contain a

wealth of material on the construction. Among the papers, for example, are four sets of plans which were considered as possible layouts by George Read (II), and a bill, unique among documents of its kind, from Robert Wellford, composition ornament maker in Philadelphia, for the plaster decorations on the mantels.

The goal of this thesis is to ascertain all the facts possible about the house and its construction. The desire of George Read (II) to incorporate the finest characteristics of familiar architecture in the construction of this house is evident in both the documents and the buildings. The result, the finest and most sophisticated building of early nineteenth-century New Castle, stands today a tribute to the taste of the man and his Philadelphia advisers.

I am indebted to many people for their assistance in the preparation of this study. I wish to express my gratitude to the staffs of the American Philosophical Society; the Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware; the Library of Congress; and other institutions where I consulted their holdings. To the staff of The Historical Society of Delaware I am particularly appreciative for their unfailing patience with my many requests for material. I am especially grateful to Mrs. Philip D. Laird for her kindness in allowing me to study the house and use the manuscripts in her possession. Finally, I am greatly indebted to my adviser, John A. H. Sweeney, for his patience, advice, and encouragement.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

CHAPTER I	THE MAN	1
CHAPTER II	THE HOUSE	22
CHAPTER III	THE PLANS	36
CHAPTER IV	THE CONSTRUCTION	47
CHAPTER V	CONCLUSION	77
BIBLIOGRAPHY		81
APPENDIX A	CASH ACCOUNTS FOR THE HOUSE CONSTRUCTION, 1797-1799	85
APPENDIX B	BILL FOR EXTERIOR STONEMWORK	92
APPENDIX C	AGREEMENT WITH <u>BRICK</u> LAYER	93
APPENDIX D	BILL FOR COMPOSITION ORNAMENTS ON MANTELS	96
APPENDIX E	INVENTORY OF GEORGE READ (II)'S ESTATE	98

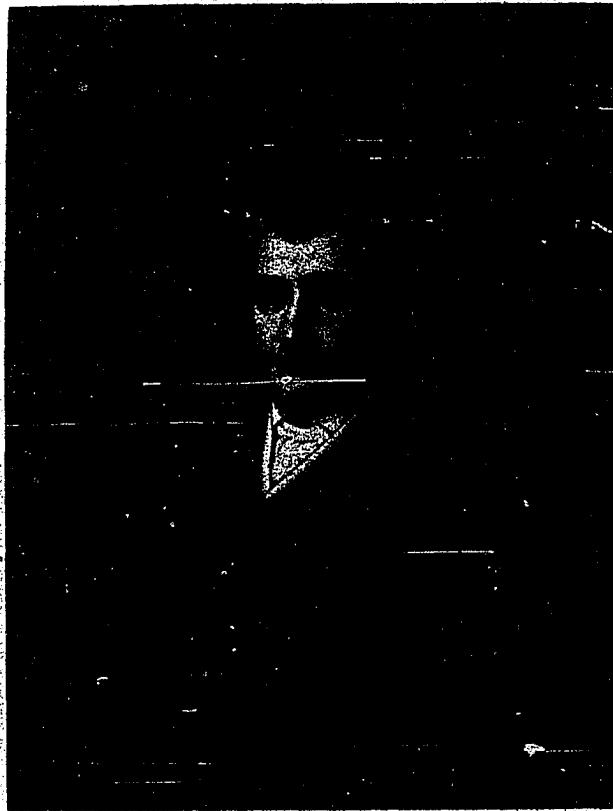


# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

1. Engraving of George Read (II) from original portrait by Adolph Ulrich Wertmuller.	Frontispiece
2. Photograph of front view of the George Read (II) House, New Castle, Delaware.	22
3. Section of Front Street, 1804, Detail of Survey of New Castle, Delaware by Benjamin Henry Latrobe, Delaware State Archives, Dover, Delaware.	23
4. Photograph of front window, The George Read (II) House.	25
5. Photograph of entrance, The George Read (II) House.	25
6. Photograph of doorway detail, The George Read (II) House.	26
7. Photograph of Palladian window and iron railing, second floor front, The George Read (II) House.	27
8. Photograph of interior archway carving, first floor, The George Read (II) House.	28
9. Photograph of ceiling detail, first floor hallway, The George Read (II) House.	28
10. Photograph of interior archway, first floor, The George Read (II) House.	30
11. Photograph of ceiling detail, first floor, back parlor, The George Read (II) House.	30
12. Photograph of French window, first floor, back room, south side, The George Read (II) House.	31
13. Detail of Palladian window woodwork, Second floor hallway, The George Read (II) House.	32

14.	Detail of doorway, second floor hallway, The George Read (II) House.	33
15.	Detail of paneling on stair landing between second and third floors, The George Read (II) House.	33
16.	Preliminary Plan A, The George Read (II) House, drawn by George Read (I), circa July, 1797.	37
17.	Preliminary Plan B, The George Read (II) House, drawn by George Read (I), circa July, 1797.	39
18.	Preliminary Plan C, The George Read (II) House, drawn by Matthew Pearce, early August, 1797.	41
19.	Elevation, The George Read (II) House, drawn by Matthew Pearce, early August, 1797.	42
20.	Preliminary Plan D, The George Read (II) House, undated.	43
21.	Pattern for window head, drawn by Peter Crouding, December 1, 1797.	54
22.	Advertisement, Robert Wellford, April 6, 1801.	61
23.	Advertisement, "Robert Wellford's American Manufactory of Composition Ornaments & 'c.'".	63
24.	Photograph of tablet, "The Triumph of Mars returning from Battle," central ornament on mantel, front room, south side, first floor, The George Read (II) House.	65
25.	Photograph of frieze ornament on mantel, front room, south side, first floor, The George Read (II) House.	66
26.	Photograph of truss ornament on mantel, front room, south side, first floor, The George Read (II) House.	66
27.	Photograph of tablet, "Diana giving Command to her Hounds," central ornament on mantel, back room, south side, first floor, The George Read (II) House.	67

28. Photograph of truss ornament, on mantel 68  
back room, south side, first floor, The  
George Read (II) House.



Engraved by Wertmüller

Engraved by Daniel F. Wolcott

# THE HONORABLE GEORGE READ 2ND.

OF DELAWARE

AN EMINENT JURIST, FOR NEARLY THIRTY YEARS  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

Grandson of Col. John Read (1659-1735) of Maryland & Delaware, by his wife Mary Howell, and son of Hon. George Read (1735-1810) the signer of the Declaration of Independence and Framers of the Constitution of the United States by his wife Gertrude Ross, dau. of the Rev. George Ross and sister of Hon. George Ross also a "Signer". He was born August 20th 1765 in the Read Mansion, New Castle, Del., died there in 1835. Married at 19, Mary, dau. of Gen. Wm. Thompson, distinguished Revolutionary officer at the battle of Red Bank. Mrs. Read's mother Catherine Ross was the sister of Mr. Read's mother. Mr. Read was remarkable for his oratorical and conventional powers, and his architecture was highly developed. He owned large cotton plantations in Mississippi. He was the brother of Wm. Read Esq. (1769-1840) Comptroller General of the Kingdom of Naples, who was the father of George Read Esq. of Philadelphia, who served in Spain, and also brother of Hon. John Read (1770-1814) of Pennsylvania, an eminent lawyer and one of the leaders of the Federal party. Mr. Geo. Read 2nd was the father of Hon. Geo. Read 3rd of Delaware, born New Castle, June 24 1794 and April 16 1810, Louise, Philadelphia, 1811. He was a surgeon in the Revolutionary Navy, afterwards an eminent physician of Philadelphia. Geo. Read 3rd died at the family mansion, New Castle, Nov. 12 1835, on the eve of his nomination to the United States Senate. He was the grandfather of Hon. Geo. Read Esq. born, subsequently owner of the plantation of the great cotton plantation of the South.

Illustration 1. Engraving of George Read (II) from original portrait by Adolph Ulrich Wertmüller. Collection of Mrs. Daniel F. Wolcott.

## CHAPTER I

### THE MAN

On August 29, 1765, George and Gertrude Read of New Castle, Delaware, recorded the birth of their second son, George, Jr.<sup>1</sup> Within five years they produced three other children, William, John, and Mary, with whom George enjoyed lifelong companionship.<sup>2</sup>

Although information about his childhood is scarce, it could not have been uneventful, if only because of the excitement in pre-Revolutionary America over the events protesting Great Britain's coercive government of the Colonies. Many of the boy's early memories, especially those which centered around his father, must have recalled political discussions, events, and public displays of patriotism. Certainly by the time he was ten, his life was inevitably interwoven, as was the life of his whole family, with the patriotic fervor prevalent in the Colonies. In 1775, George Read (I) was a member of the Continental Congress, as he had been for the four preceding ones, and in 1776, he was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.<sup>3</sup> Whatever reactions the young boy had experienced during the years 1775 and 1776, he must certainly have sensed the excitement of the persons around him, and he must have been proud that his father, who was serving in Philadelphia, was one of the men chosen to lead the country. It is a matter of record that George Read (I) was indecisive, as were

many Americans, between the desire for independence and reconciliation with Great Britain. In the first vote of the Continental Congress, completed on July 2, 1776, Read voted against independence while his fellow delegates voted affirmatively, but after the full roll call, he changed his vote to yes, so that the Delaware delegation could present a unanimous decision.

Whatever his first thoughts on rebellion might have been, the elder Read threw himself into the projected war plans. His correspondence with other patriots shows his concern with the American cause. He spent much of his time dealing with the affairs of the Delaware government and, in late 1777, procuring supplies for the armies at Valley Forge.<sup>4</sup> Read's influence and the confidence placed in him is evident in all these letters.

The occupation of the Delaware River by the British during the early years of the war caused many problems for Delawareans. Fortunately, the Reads were connected with relatives who lived in more secluded areas of the surrounding countryside, the Howells in southern New Jersey and the Thomsons in Cecil County, Maryland. One of George Read (II)'s sons repeats a tale of the family in the early fall of 1777, when the British had control of the River. Late in September, while returning from a long visit with Richard Howell, they were stopped by British sailors. In the short amount of time allowed, they removed all marks of identification from the baggage and thus avoided the capture of George Read, one of Delaware's most important patriotic leaders.<sup>5</sup> Almost immediately after their return, the family went to Cecil County to visit the family of William Thomson, the rector of Saint

Stephen's Parish, and to avoid capture.<sup>6</sup> The experience on the river must have made Read realize that neither he nor his family could stay in New Castle.

In Cecil County, young George became a favorite of his aunt and uncle. After paying them another visit at the end of 1780, Thomson was to write to the father that they had

detained George longer than you ordered, He truly gave us so much Pleasure that we could not part with him. Wing'd Time flew so quick that a week elapsed before we could look around us or Afford him any Amusement, We hope the Liberty we have taken with him will meet with your and Mrs Reads approbation as he returns safe & Sound. 7

As soon as the British left the River, the Reads returned to their normal lives. By 1779, the children were continuing their education under the tutelage of Samuel Armor, who was introduced later to the Honorable Christopher Gadsden of Charleston, South Carolina, as a Pennsylvanian of "good morals and exemplary conduct," who had been ordained in the Episcopal Church, and taught at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland. Those are stated as excellent credentials for any teacher.<sup>8</sup> In January of 1780, Armor presented his bill of twenty-one pounds for the schooling of George, William, John, and Mary Read, as well as that of Nicholas VanDyke, the son of another prominent New Castle lawyer.<sup>9</sup> What Mary studied we do not know, but, from a letter Armor wrote to their father, it is evident that George, at least, received a classical education, and apparently had done well, although his achievements in logic, "moral philosophy," and mathematics needed improvement.<sup>10</sup>

In 1780, George was fifteen and old enough to enter college. There was evidently some thought

in his father's mind that George would do well to enter the College of Philadelphia, for a letter from Armor to Read speaks of that institution. Armor, however, felt that he could still teach George many things,

with equal honor and advantage in the solitudes of New Castle as in the pompous and dignified University of Phila. 11

Armor seems to have satisfied whatever misgivings there might have been about George's remaining in New Castle, and it appears that he must have stayed in that school until 1782.<sup>12</sup> Whatever the rest of his education consisted of, evidence of its depth and erudition is seen in his large library which contained volumes covering subjects from history to agriculture. (See Appendix E).

Sometime during the year 1782, when he was seventeen, George told his father that he wished to take up the study of law.<sup>13</sup> At this time, it was common for an aspiring lawyer to read law and learn basic legal techniques in the office of a practising attorney. Accordingly, George Read (I) wrote to James Wilson, a leading attorney of Philadelphia, with whom he had become acquainted in the early years of the Revolution, asking him to accept the young man as his law student.<sup>14</sup> If Wilson were to accept this offer, the plan of education would work in much the same manner as the time-honored apprenticeship system. Wilson replied that he was unable to lodge young Read in his house, since he had already refused a similar request, but that he would be happy to have him in his office, should he come to Philadelphia.<sup>15</sup> Whoever the preceptor was, for there is no further record of George's study, he proved a good teacher. Less than three years later, in May, 1785, George Read, Jr. (II) was admitted to the bar of the State of Delaware.<sup>16</sup>



May 16 must have been an exciting, happy, but expensive day for him. George passed a rigorous oral examination on the fine points of the law, which may have been as difficult as the one Caesar A. Rodney complained of in 1793.<sup>17</sup> Then the new lawyer was required by tradition to present the bar mess with a basket of champagne, to be drunk in celebration of his admission.<sup>18</sup> His father must have been proud of him, for it would be hoped that George would follow in his footsteps as a much esteemed and sought-after lawyer. At some point in George's education, he must have said to him the thoughts that he expressed to William, the second son:

... be constantly on your guard and ever watchful of yourself, avoid every temptation to Err, and thereby you will give a stamp to your character that will be of great use to you through life and afford much satisfaction to your parents ... 19

After his admittance to the bar, George Read (II) began his practice, probably working in close association with his father. How much business he received is a matter of question, since no records are left concerning his first year as an attorney. He may have helped his father educate the law students who came to read in that office, and undoubtedly he occupied his time drawing up wills, deeds, and contracts. The reputation of his father may have helped him in gathering some cases, and it is not improbable that many minor cases of the father would be turned over to the son. There is a record of one case referred to him by Moses Levy, a Pennsylvania attorney, who wrote in 1786 recommending a man for Read's "cause and protection."<sup>20</sup>

His law office was operating by September,

1786, for during that month, he purchased some articles for use in it.<sup>21</sup> Included are an inkstand, quills, paper, and a few sheets of parchment. A further purchase is noted on November 29, a yard of "Green Bays" for his desk.<sup>22</sup> In spite of these preparations, however, the money he made from his practice was not even enough to clothe him.<sup>23</sup>

Whatever his financial resources were, they were not sufficiently meager to prevent him from contemplating marriage. On October 30, 1786, he was married to his first cousin, Mary Thompson, in the First Presbyterian Church of Carlisle, Pennsylvania.<sup>24</sup> George had spent the summer before on a prolonged visit to Carlisle; at the time, rumors of the romance were spreading among the family.<sup>25</sup> George, however, ridiculed his family's ideas, declaiming

the dethroning of Reason, the Usurpation of  
Passion & the Intoxication of the senses. 26

After the marriage, the newlyweds returned to New Castle, and apparently set up housekeeping at the elder Reads' house on the north end of the Strand. Expenses were few, although George's accounts contain a few entries such as that for November 28, 8/4 for "cloathing for self et Ux."<sup>27</sup> Four months later, on March 25, 1787, the younger Reads paid their first rent on a small brick house, "Rosemont Mansion," owned by Zachariah VanLeuvenigh, and located at the northwest corner of what is now Dalby's Alley and Delaware Street.<sup>28</sup> This lease cost twenty-five pounds yearly, payable in two installments.<sup>29</sup> During their two years of residence, numerous repairs were made to the kitchen and cellar. Read also purchased a lock for a first floor room and thirty-two "Cloak Pins" for the upstairs rooms.<sup>30</sup>

Residence at "Rosemont Mansion" continued until 1789 when George, Mary, and their infant son, George (III), returned to his parents.<sup>31</sup> No reason is offered for this move, but the lower rent of twenty pounds per year may have seemed a great benefit. Additional expenses were required for repairs to the house:

to the Office viz. Sealing & lining the room above Stairs with Cedar Boards & laying a New Floor - repairing the pump - papering the common sitting room of [the] House.

These repairs, with an additional one of fixing the garden fence, cost a total of fourteen pounds, fourteen shillings and four and one-half pence.<sup>32</sup> During this period, George Read (I) spent several months in New York City, where he was serving a term as United States Senator; this commitment may have been one of the reasons for his son and daughter-in-law living in his house.

While his father was in New York, George, Jr. (II) received an appointment as United States Attorney for the District of Delaware.<sup>33</sup> Whether he obtained this position through his own reputation as a lawyer or his father's influence is unclear. Certainly the recommendations of possible appointees by members of Congress were given careful consideration by President Washington; numerous letters were written to men in high government positions requesting their aid in obtaining coveted posts. Several such letters, written to George Read (I) during the first half of 1789, are preserved.<sup>34</sup> Intercession of the father on his son's behalf was probably the reason for the nomination on September 17, 1789.<sup>35</sup> An assumption that the position was lucrative is upheld by Read's retention of the job until 1815, when he resigned it in favor of his eldest son.<sup>36</sup>

In addition to his appointment by Washington, Read was soon elected to two other positions of public

merit. In 1789, he became a member of the Trustees of the New Castle Common,<sup>37</sup> a group of New Castle men organized by the Penns to govern a one thousand and sixty-eight acre tract of land granted to the town of New Castle under the government of the Dutch.<sup>38</sup> First organized in 1764, this group was to be composed of "persons able and capable" of appearing and testifying in any court of justice,<sup>39</sup> a clause, which, while not overly-restrictive, would indicate that men of intelligence and good standing in the community would be chosen for the committee. This conclusion is strengthened when one considers the list of the thirteen "surviving" Trustees made in 1791. Of this group, George Read (I), Chancellor Kensey Johns, and Gunning Bedford were three of the six lawyers; two others were doctors, David Finney and Archibald Alexander; and one was a prominent merchant, James Riddle.<sup>40</sup> All were men of wealth, and all owned substantial amounts of real estate in the town. It was indeed a mark of distinction to be included among these men.

In 1790, George Read (II) is listed as a member of the Vestry, the governing body of Immanuel Church, New Castle, a small group of men who were responsible for such things as the hiring of rectors and the handling of the parish finances.<sup>41</sup> Becoming involved in the life of the church was natural for him, for he had been brought up in its shadow. His maternal grandfather, George Ross, had been the first Rector of the Church, sent over by The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in 1703, and his mother may have helped her brother, Aeneas, the Rector, keep the church open for services during the Revolution.<sup>42</sup> His father also felt strong religious sentiment. He wrote

it is dangerous to indulge ourselves in small breaches of that duty we owe to the Divinity. 43 Read was to continue his interest in the Church throughout his life. In 1818 he was elected to the Board of Trustees, another name for the Vestry, a position he had relinquished in 1809.<sup>44</sup> In 1820, he was named Chairman of the board.<sup>45</sup> In addition to his involvement in the church government, Read's contributions included financial assistance. In 1822, for instance, when the spire on the Church was being built, Read pledged four hundred dollars, the largest sum in the parish.<sup>46</sup>

By 1791, Read's income had improved sufficiently to allow him to move his family to a more expensive house. In March, rent money of forty pounds was paid for a house owned by John Wethered on the "Upper [or north] part of Front Street."<sup>47</sup> He considered the appearance of his residence important, spending four pounds, nineteen shillings for paint and the services of a painter.<sup>48</sup>

Other indications of a growing income are found in letters, accounts, and other documents. It seems certain that he must have had at least one servant, although the incomplete census records of 1790 do not confirm this.<sup>49</sup> During 1790, two Negroes, London, the property of Kensey Johns, and Hannah, "belonging to Geo. Read, Jr. [II], "received a wedding license "with consent of their masters."<sup>50</sup>

Read's account books, kept between 1786 and 1791 show increases in his cash expenses. In 1787 he purchased a desk in Philadelphia, costing eleven pounds.<sup>51</sup> Large amounts of furniture were acquired in 1791, a carpet, a pair of andirons and a "lot of furniture" made by Samuel Claphamson for a total price of a little more than thirty-eight pounds.<sup>52</sup> Sparse

cash accounts and no documentary evidence make it impossible to speculate on what his total income might have been. By the end of 1787, however, he had spent nearly two hundred and thirty-nine pounds, including frivolities like "Lost at cards," Spent on a party," and "gave Negro Sam for Fiddling one night in ye Winter."<sup>53</sup>

During the summer of 1792, the Read family moved to a house owned by David Finney, located in the center of New Castle, near Market Square.<sup>54</sup> A growing family could have caused the move, although the proximity of the Finney house to the Courthouse may have been a deciding factor. The Reads lived there until 1798, when the lot and house of Gunning Bedford on the corner of Delaware Street and the Strand was sold to them.<sup>55</sup> It is odd that Read chose to purchase a large house while steady progress was being made at the site of the house he was building farther up the Strand. The lot under construction had been owned by William Aull, an Irish immigrant and innkeeper, who had been forced to sell his property in 1797 because he was an alien.<sup>56</sup> George Read (II) bought it for three hundred pounds, or eight hundred dollars.<sup>57</sup> Aull received only one-quarter of that sum in 1797.<sup>58</sup> Aull's plot was small, but there is evidence that Read possessed an adjoining lot, and was planning to build on the two combined.<sup>59</sup> Although no recorded deeds mention the transfer of the other property, George Read (I), who owned it, probably conveyed to his son by private transaction.

Most of Read's time was concentrated on his law practice. When court was in session, he was unable to attend to even the most pressing of his busi-

ness affairs. At a time when the construction of his house needed his personal supervision, he was unable to spend the necessary time on it.<sup>60</sup> During 1801 and 1802, however, the house required more and more of his time. When he could see that the house was nearing completion, he wrote to his brother,

[I] flatter myself with the hope that during the insuing year ... to comprize my affairs with a small space, that will ... afford me leisure to pursue with an undeviating step professional objects ... 61

Feeling financial distress at that moment, he added that he was certain that hard work was " ... the road to wealth and rational enjoyment."<sup>62</sup>

Money matters were a constant problem for Read. Although he spent considerable amounts of money -- between the sums of four and six thousand dollars yearly -- most of his creditors were given only partial payments on their accounts.<sup>63</sup> In 1802, his finances were hampered by the high costs of the house construction, and he complained late in that year,

I an now as penniless as when I began the practice of the law ..." 64

Whatever his economic situation was, Read seems to have felt that he was underachieving his possibilities. He was now in his late thirties, at an age when he should have been reaching the goals of his ambitions. His son described him as an ambitious man, and it is plausible to assume that he desired to emulate his father, who, in his thirties, had been directly concerned with diverse political activities. George Read (II) had been successful on a local scale. Whether or not this was due to the reputation he had built, he could have felt that he should have been involved more deeply.

Read may have attained his early success through his father's public esteem, but he remained an important citizen of New Castle on his own. In 1807, he was elected one of the first directors of the Farmers Bank in New Castle, a position he was to hold until his death.<sup>65</sup> He had been involved in some banking processes before; in 1796, in company with other prominent citizens of the State, he petitioned the Delaware Legislature to allow the incorporation of the Bank of Delaware.<sup>66</sup> In spite of his business activities, his large family, and his civic duties, however, Read, by 1807, was dissatisfied with his life, and showed signs of wishing to establish himself elsewhere.

His discouragement and discontent were expressed in a letter written to Caesar A. Rodney, a life-long friend and companionable rival, on October 19, 1807:

There are so few and trifling objects to attract attention here that I feel great indifference with respect to the passing scene and I should therefore scarcely feel indifferent in contemplating any project of removal ... 67

Not only was he unhappy in New Castle, but, as he said in the same letter, "I am ... completely tired with the drudgery of the profession." So tired of it was he, that he inquired of Rodney whether there was any chance that he might be able to be appointed to the position of Postmaster-General, and if Rodney would not see what he could do about it.<sup>68</sup> Rodney could do nothing for him apparently, and Read continued his law practice.

In 1809, he wanted to relinquish the office of United States Attorney to his son, George Read (III), although he did not give it up until 1815.<sup>69</sup> For





the next several years, little is known about his life and activities. He continued a strenuous law practice, working for a short time for Stephen Girard, in company with Caesar A. Rodney and Nicholas Van Dyke.<sup>70</sup> At some time during this period, he became interested in a political career, and was active in the Democratic-Republican Party. The men who represented this political group were more liberal in their ideas than the Federalists, who were supported by wealthy landholders. George Read (I) had been a successful Federalist, and it seems strange that his son should have become a member of the opposite party. Caesar A. Rodney, however, had been a successful candidate for Congress on the Democratic-Republican ticket;<sup>71</sup> with his good friend an influential member of the party, Read may have been persuaded to turn from the Federalists.

The Democratic stronghold was in New Castle County. When Read ran for Congress in 1818,<sup>72</sup> this strength was shown in the tallies. Read, and his running mate, Willard Hall, led by five hundred votes in the northern county, but did poorly in Kent, where the results were about one hundred votes apart, and worse in Sussex, where they lost by about six hundred votes.<sup>73</sup> At the time of the election returns, Read wanted to escape, and wrote to his friend, Rodney, complaining.

I am so tired with the sameness of life I lead and should be glad of some appointment abroad which might gratify ambition and give employment. 74

When no response from that quarter was forthcoming, and did not seem to be forthcoming, Read determined to run again. In 1822, he placed his name on the ticket for Congress, but received only one vote

through the entire state, and that one was recorded in New Castle County.<sup>75</sup>

After this resounding defeat, Read did little in the public eye. He was listed as the Senior member of the Delaware Bar in 1822, but no record has been kept of the number of cases he argued.<sup>76</sup> He may not have been very interested in his law practice, for, in spite of his predilection for appointments, Read refused an appointment as Judge on the Supreme Court of the State of Delaware, less than three weeks after he had been notified of it.<sup>77</sup>

During the last years of his life, Read seemed to have been more interested in his sons' activities and life than in his own. He received, for instance, many letters from William T. Read, apprising him of the Washington scene.<sup>78</sup> By August of 1836, he was ill and "wasting away."<sup>79</sup> On September 3, he died.<sup>80</sup> The Delaware Gazette noted his passing:

DIED

At New-Castle on Saturday morning, September 3rd, GEORGE READ, aged 71 years, the eldest son of George Read, one of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. Mr. Read was the eldest member of the New-Castle bar, and has long been one of the most prominent citizens of this county. 81

## FOOTNOTES

## CHAPTER I

<sup>1</sup>Read Family Bible, in possession of Mrs. Edward W. Cooch, jr. (The Reads' eldest son, John, had died during his first year of life, 1764.)

<sup>2</sup>Harmon Pumpelly Read, Rossiana (Albany, N.Y., 1908), pp. 269-270.

<sup>3</sup>Because three succeeding generations of the Read family bore the same name, George, roman numerals, enclosed in parentheses, have been used to designate the correct generation, and to avoid confusion.

<sup>4</sup>A full account of these activities is given in William T. Read, The Life and Correspondence of George Read, A Signer of the Declaration of Independence, With Sketches of Some of His Contemporaries (Philadelphia, 1870), Chapters III, IV, V.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., p. 276.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., p. 278.

<sup>7</sup>Letter, Rev. William Thomson to George Read (I), January 5, 1781, The Richard S. Rodney Collection of Read Manuscripts, Historical Society of Delaware. (Hereafter cited RSR, HSD; this collection of manuscripts is arranged in chronological order, so no box and folder numbers have been supplied.)

<sup>8</sup>Draft of a letter, George Read (I) to Hon. Christopher Gadsden, November 11, 1785, RSR, HSD.

<sup>9</sup>Bill, Samuel Armor to George Read (I), January 22, 1780, RSR, HSD.

<sup>10</sup>Letter, Samuel Armor to George Read (I), September 26, 1780, RSR, HSD.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid.

<sup>12</sup>A search of class lists and tuition records at contemporary institutions in the Middle States has failed to reveal any attendance of George Read (II).

<sup>13</sup>Letter, George Read (I) to James Wilson, 1782, The Read Family Papers, The Library of Congress, Box 1, No. 30. (Hereafter cited RFP, LC).

<sup>14</sup>Ibid.; it was natural for George Read (I) to want to send his son to Philadelphia to read law, since he had done so between 1750 and 1753, W.T. Read, p. 11.

<sup>15</sup>W.T. Read, p. 366.

<sup>16</sup>J. Thomas Scharf, History of Delaware, 1609-1888 (Philadelphia, 1888). Vol. 1, p. 563.

<sup>17</sup>Dudley C. Lunt, Tales of the Delaware Bench and Bar (Newark, Del., 1963), p. 83.

<sup>18</sup>George Gray, "Recollections of Judge George Gray as Told to Ennalls Berl" (Typescript copy, 1907), Historical Society of Delaware, p. 3.

<sup>19</sup>Letter, George Read (I) to William Read, March 19, 1786, RFP, LC, Box 1, No. 47.

<sup>20</sup>Letter, Moses Levy to George Read (II), May 16, 1786, RSR, HSD.

<sup>21</sup>Account Book 1786-1791, George Read (II), Entry for September 10, 1786, RSR, HSD.

<sup>22</sup>Ibid., Entry for November 29, 1786.

<sup>23</sup>W.T. Read, p. 424.

<sup>24</sup>John B. Linn and William H. Egle, (eds.), "Marriage Record of the First Presbyterian Church at Carlisle, 1785-1812," Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series (Harrisburg, Pa., 1878), Vol. VIII, p. 588.

<sup>25</sup>Letter, William Read to John Read, jr., June 30, 1786, RFP, LC, Box 1, no. 52.

<sup>26</sup>Letter, George Read (II) to John Read, jr., July 14, 1786, RFP, LC, Box 1, No. 53.

<sup>27</sup>Account Book 1786-1791, George Read (II), Entry for November 28, 1786, RSR, HSD.

<sup>28</sup>Account of house rents and repairs 1787-1792, George Read (II), Entry for March 25, 1787, RSR, HSD. Because all rents and repairs were carefully noted, it is assumed that George (II) and Mary Read lived with his parents immediately after their marriage.

<sup>29</sup>Ibid.

<sup>30</sup>Ibid., Entries for March 30, April 6, 27, 1787; September 13, October 23, November 3, 26, 1788.

<sup>31</sup>George (III) was born on June 4, 1788. H.P. Read, p. 271; Accounts of house rents and repairs 1787-1792, Entry for March 25, 1790.

<sup>32</sup>Ibid., Entries for March 25, April 6, 30, May 15, 18, August 27, 1789.

<sup>33</sup>Commission, George Washington and United States of America to George Read (II), September 26, 1789, Permanent Commissions, National Archives, Vol. D, p. 105.

<sup>34</sup>W.T. Read, pp. 467, 468, 473, 476-477.

<sup>35</sup>Message, George Washington to United States Senate, September 20, 1789, Records of the United States Senate, National Archives.

<sup>36</sup>Letter, George Read (II) to James Madison, November 25, 1815, Papers of the Department of State, National Archives.

<sup>37</sup>Richard S. Rodney, New Castle Common (Wilmington, Del., 1944), p. 20.

<sup>38</sup>Richard S. Rodney, "The End of the Penns' Claim to Delaware, 1789-1819," The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, LXI (April, 1937), p. 185.

<sup>39</sup>Rodney, New Castle Common, p. 16.

<sup>40</sup>Ibid., p. 50.

<sup>41</sup>Minutes of the Vestry, Immanuel Church, New Castle, Del., July 22, 1710-June 14, 1858, p. 50, Records of Immanuel Church, New Castle, Del.

<sup>42</sup>Thomas Holcomb, Sketch of Early Ecclesiastical Affairs in New Castle, Delaware, and History of Immanuel Church (Wilmington, Del., 1890), p. 177; Ibid., p. 42; Richard S. Rodney, "Immanuel Church, New Castle," Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church, XII (December, 1943), p. 387.

<sup>43</sup>W.T. Read, p. 36.

<sup>44</sup>Minutes of the Vestry, Immanuel Church, p. 82; Ibid., p. 77.

<sup>45</sup>Ibid., p. 86.

<sup>46</sup>Ibid., p. 92.

<sup>47</sup>Accounts of house rents and repairs, 1787-1792, George Read (II), p. 8, RSR, HSD.

<sup>48</sup>Ibid., Entries for March 30 and March 31, 1792.

<sup>49</sup>Leon deValinger, jr., "Reconstructed 1790 Census of Delaware," reprinted from National Genealogical Society Quarterly, X (January, 1954), p. 25. This study lists only heads of households.

<sup>50</sup>Holcomb, p. 235.

<sup>51</sup>Account Book 1786-1791, George Read (II), Entry for May 16, 1787, RSR, HSD.

<sup>52</sup>Ibid., Entries for April 27, July 22, 1791.

<sup>53</sup>Ibid., Entries for February 24, January 30, March 7, 1787.

<sup>54</sup>Accounts of house rents and repairs 1787-1792, George Read (II), p. 13, RSR, HSD.

<sup>55</sup>Account Book 1797-1799, George Read (II), Entry for April 25, 1798, RSR, HSD.

<sup>56</sup>Deed, William and Rachel Aull to George Read (II), March 27, 1797, New Castle County Deed Book, R - 2, pp. 152-157, Delaware State Archives, Dover, Del.

<sup>57</sup>Ibid.

<sup>58</sup>Account Book 1797-1799, George Read (II), Entry for March 27, 1797, RSR, HSD.

<sup>59</sup>Agreement, William Aull, William Armstrong, and George Read (II), March 27, 1797, New Castle County Deed Book, R - 2, pp. 157-161, Delaware State Archives, Dover, Del.

<sup>60</sup>Letter, George Read (II) to James Traquair, May 25, 1799, RSR, HSD.

<sup>61</sup>Letter, George Read (II) to John Read, jr., December 26, 1802, RFP, LC, Box 1, No. 162.

<sup>62</sup>Ibid.

<sup>63</sup>This information is based on a survey taken of Read's cash account books, 1797-1799, 1804-1836, RSR, HSD.

<sup>64</sup>Letter, George Read (II) to a brother, October 25, 1802. Miscellaneous Papers, George Read Jr., 1765-1836, Historical Society of Delaware, Box 37, Folder IV.

<sup>65</sup>Dudley C. Lunt, The Farmers Bank of the State of Delaware, 1807-1957 (Philadelphia, 1957), p. 24.

<sup>66</sup>John A. Munroe, Federalist Delaware, 1775-1815 (New Brunswick, N.J., 1954), p. 146.

<sup>67</sup>Letter, George Read (II) to Caesar A. Rodney, October 19, 1807, Rodney Collection, C.A. Rodney Papers, Historical Society of Delaware, Box 5, Folder 4. (Hereafter cited Rodney Coll., CAR, HSD.).

<sup>68</sup>Ibid.

<sup>69</sup>Letter, George Read (III) to Caesar A. Rodney, October 6, 1809, Rodney Coll., CAR, HSD, Box 5, Folder 4.

<sup>70</sup>A body of manuscripts, containing a few letters written between George Read (II) and Stephen Girard, are in the Letterbooks of Stephen Girard, 1812-1816, at The American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pa.

<sup>71</sup>Munroe, p. 268.

<sup>72</sup>American Watchman (Wilmington, Delaware), September 26, 1818.

<sup>73</sup>Public Archives Commission, Governor's Register, State of Delaware, Volume One: Appointments and Other Transactions by Executives of the State, From 1674 to 1851 (Wilmington, Del., 1926), pp. 157-158.

<sup>74</sup>Letter, George Read (II) to Caesar A. Rodney, October 13, 1818, Rodney Coll., CAR, HSD, Box 5, Folder 15.

<sup>75</sup>Public Archives Commission, p. 190.

<sup>76</sup>Daniel J. Boorstein, Delaware Cases, 1792-1830 (St. Paul, Minn., 1943), Vol. III, p. 3.

<sup>77</sup>Public Archives Commission, pp. 203, 206.

<sup>78</sup>The letters between George Read (II) and his sons are housed in The Richard S. Rodney Collection of Read Manuscript, Historical Society of Delaware.

<sup>79</sup>Letter, George Read (III) to William T. Read, August 21, 1836, RSR, HSD.

<sup>80</sup>H.P. Read, p. 270.



<sup>81</sup>Delaware Gazette and American Watchman (Wilmington, Delaware), September 6, 1836.

## CHAPTER II

### THE HOUSE



Illustration 2. Front view of The George Read (II) House, New Castle, Delaware.

In 1971 the George Read (II) house looks much as it did soon after its completion in the first years of the nineteenth century. (Illustration 2). In 1804, Benjamin Henry Latrobe depicted it in his survey of the town of New Castle. (Illustration 3). At that time it was set between two houses of a smaller scale and of an earlier date, one of which, a brick house with a pent eave, had been owned by George Read (I). Both

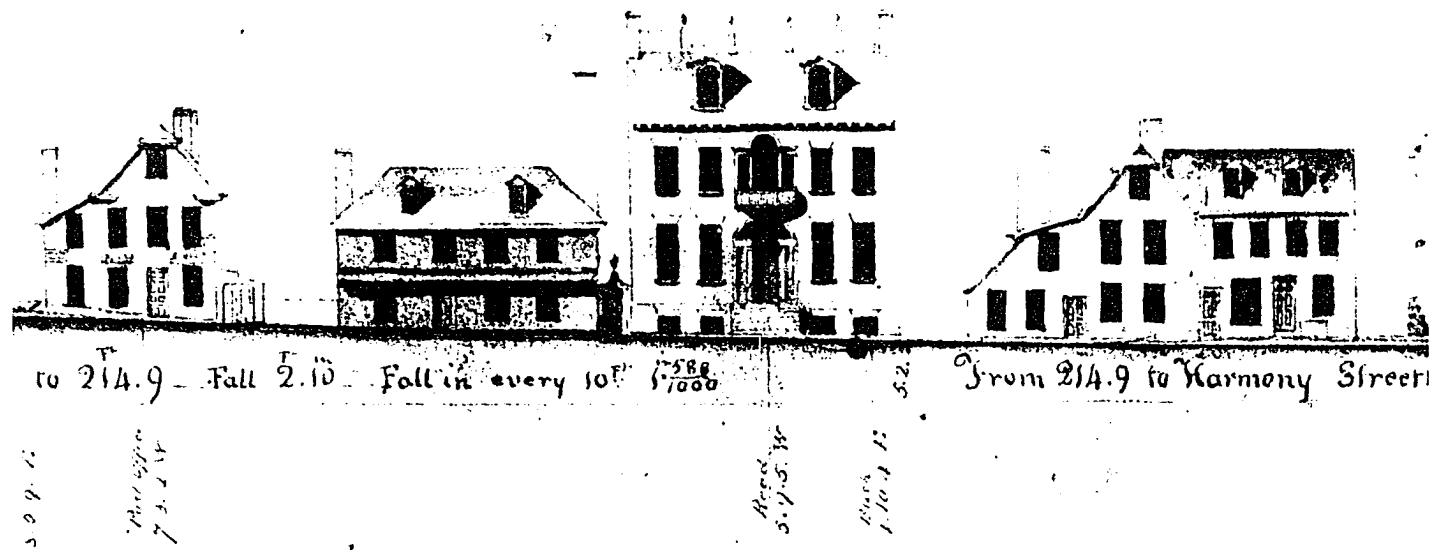


Illustration 3. Section of Front Street, 1804, Detail of Survey of New Castle, Delaware by Benjamin Henry Latrobe, Delaware State Archives, Dover, Delaware.

of the earlier houses were later destroyed. In Latrobe's survey, the house looked, as it does today, across a green meadow towards the Delaware River, and is a rectangular, five-bayed, brick structure, topped by a balustraded "widow's walk" with double square chimneys at the gable ends. Set on a raised cellar built of fieldstone, the main body of the house is of brick laid in Flemish bond.

Designed in the manner of a Philadelphia town house, presenting a squarish appearance to the front, but having an extension at the rear, unseen from the street, the Read House was built on a relatively narrow lot of forty-eight feet. It is reasonable to assume that Read, having spent considerable time in Philadelphia, would want to build a house much like those fashionable in the large city up the River. There is, moreover, ample documentation of other Delawareans modeling their residences after those seen in that place.<sup>1</sup>

The exterior of the house exhibits sophisticated details. The molded marble window frames and keystones of the first two floors, with slightly plainer ones reserved for the cellar, supply an elegance rarely found in New Castle houses. (Illustration 4). The central section of the facade is ornamented by a large arched doorway surmounted by a Palladian window, large enough to reach from floor to ceiling in the second-floor hallway. (Illustration 5). The surfaces of the woodwork if this window and doorway are softened with gouge carving on the arches, although the jambs and lintels are severely simple pilasters and entablature of a modified Doric Order. (Illustration 6). The facade of the house is further lightened by the use of a delicate iron balcony, in front of the central window. (Illustration 7). This railing, long thought to be a later addition, can be seen in Latrobe's drawing of 1804, and is documented



Illustration 4. Photograph of front window, The George Read (II) House.

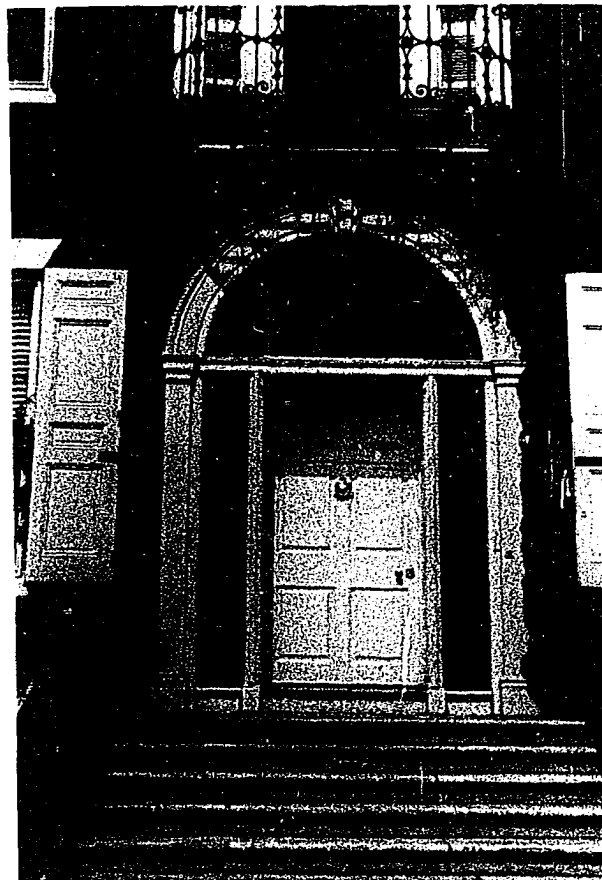


Illustration 5. Photograph of entrance, The George Read (II) House.



Illustration 6. Photograph of doorway detail, The George Read (II) House.

in letters written during the construction. The marble entrance steps, which blend well with the rest of the house, are a twentieth century addition.

On the interior, following the arrangement common to many Philadelphia houses, the George Read (II) House is composed around a central hall, which leads, through a series of arches, to the large garden door. Gouge work carving decorates the arches, as well as the deep entablatures which top the entrances to the two parlors



Illustration 7. Photograph of Palladian window and iron railing, second floor front, The George Read (II) House.

and office. (Illustration 8). The central area of the hall has a plasterwork ceiling, decorated with a central medallion surrounded by widely spaced five-pointed stars. A plain molding at the edge separates a simple border of rosettes from a trailing vine of leaves and berries. The plasterer filled empty spaces between the vine and the stars with sprays of leaves and acorns. (Illustration 9).

The rooms on the first floor consist of a large, plainly decorated room to the right of the front door, and two large rooms to the left, with elaborate architectural woodwork and mantelpieces. The room to the

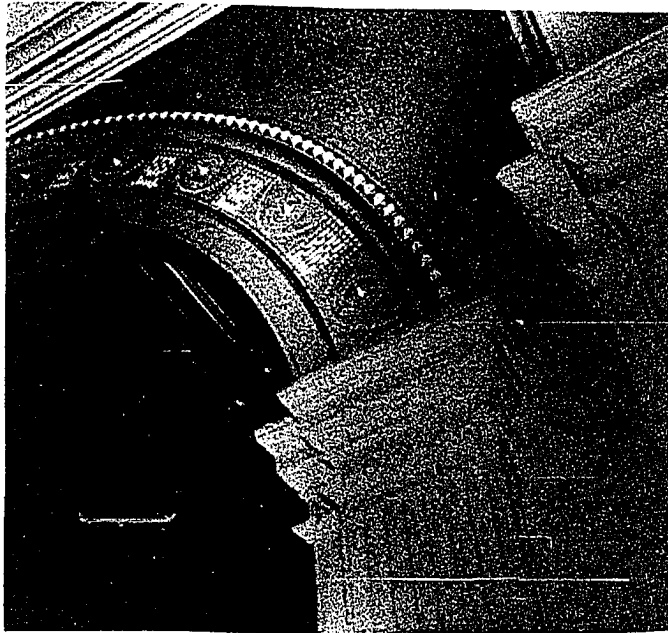


Illustration 8. Photograph of interior archway carving, first floor, The George Read (II) House.



Illustration 9. Photograph of ceiling detail, first floor hallway, The George Read (II) House.



right is today used as a dining room; its walls decorated with modern murals of New Castle scenes. When the house was built, however, this room apparently was intended for use as George Read's law office; it was designated as such on the plans (See Chapter III), and its restrained woodwork, quite unlike that in other principal rooms of the house, supports this theory.

The two parlors on the left side of the hallway, entered from that passage, are connected by a pair of wide mahogany doors, over which rises an interior fan-light, spreading from a small sunburst at the center. (Illustration 10). Papered walls, originally painted white, surround deep plaster cornices of fruit design, a gouge-carved archway, doorway entablatures of the same work, and elaborate applied plasterwork and gouge-carved mantels.<sup>2</sup> (Illustrations 24-28). The ceilings of the room are also decorated with plasterwork. Heavy beading forms a border around the room's perimeter. (Illustration 11). French windows (an innovation of the period) open onto the terrace. (Illustration 12).

Other rooms on the first floor include a small room behind the office, then used as a pantry. To the rear of the house, connected with it and on the same floor level, are the kitchen and laundry or washhouse. Over the kitchen are rooms which were originally the servants' quarters, reached by an enclosed stair, between the kitchen wing and the main part of the house.

The main staircase of the house leads from the center hall, where it is set behind the office, and cannot be seen from the entrance door. It has turned wooden banisters and a molded mahogany handrail, which ends in a scroll at the bottom. The stairs rise in a straight line, but turn to the right at the landing, where a large



Illustration 10. Photograph of interior archway, first floor, The George Read (II) House.



Illustration 11. Photograph of ceiling detail, first floor, back parlor, The George Read (II) House.

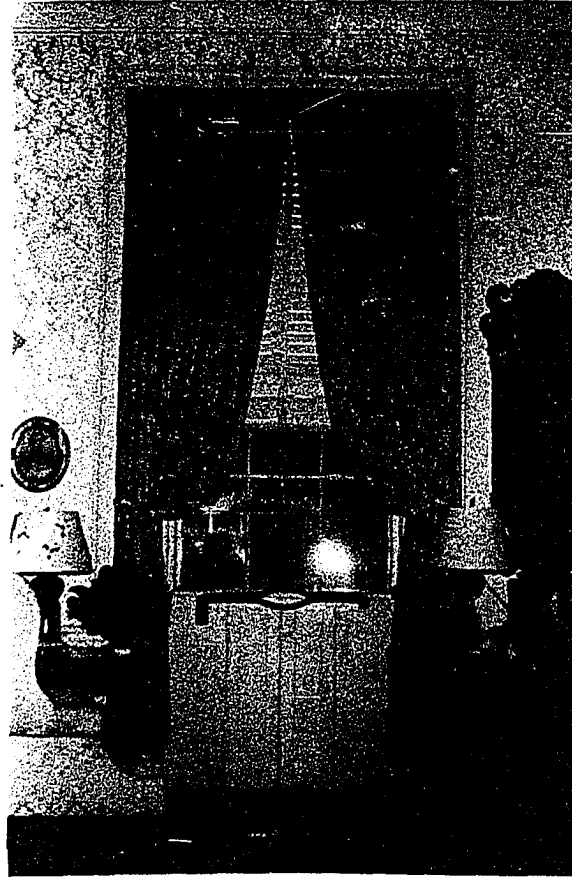


Illustration 12. Photograph of French window, first floor, back parlor, The George Read (II) House.

Palladian window lights not only the stairs, but the halls below and above.

The main part of the second floor contains three bedrooms. Like the parlors below, the two rooms on the south side of the house are connected with a mahogany door. Mahogany doors are, in fact, a feature throughout the house. The woodwork on the second floor, while less elaborate than on the first floor, has sophisticated

detail in the trim around the floor length Palladian window at the east end of the hallway. (Illustration 13). The doorways have less carving than those on the first floor, and the crossetted corner of the frames, while decorated with classical motifs (Illustration 14), are influenced by woodwork in eighteenth century houses.

Two of the bedrooms have mantels carved with gouge work, which today bear no trace of their original ornament of plaster figures. The third bedroom's mantel was removed in the early twentieth century. An elaborate plaster ceiling of floral design gives an elegant appearance to the back bedroom, and indicates that the room may have been originally planned as a second floor sitting room.

Relatively unusual features of the bedrooms are the large full length closets, built into the fireplace walls. These were apparently original.<sup>4</sup> Another

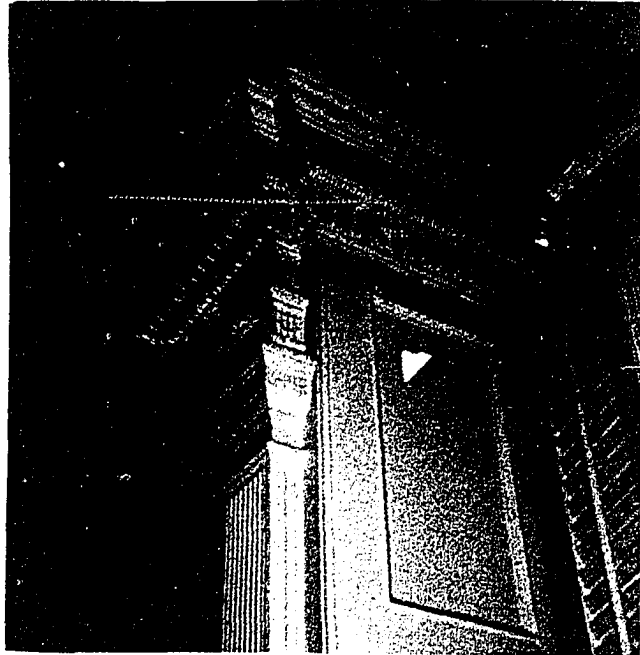


Illustration 13. Detail of Palladian window woodwork, Second floor hallway, The George Read (II) House.



Illustration 14. Detail of doorway, second floor hallway, The George Read (II) House.

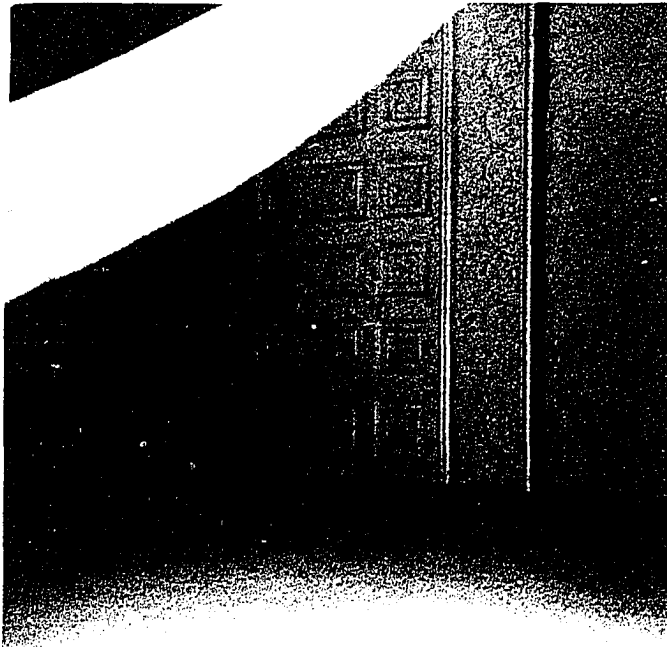


Illustration 15. Detail of paneling on stair landing between second and third floors, The George Read (II) House.

peculiarity are the brass slip locks on two of the bedroom doors, which, when fastened, can be opened by a string carried along the ceiling, to a position beside the bed.

Over the kitchen, but several steps lower than the second floor, is a small room with fielded paneling and an unfinished floor.<sup>5</sup> Behind this room, but not connected with the front of the house were the servants' rooms.

From the second floor, the main staircase continues to a finished third floor. At the landing of the stairs is a tall section of fielded paneling, decorated with a bead, and topped by a strip of running scrollwork. (Illustration 15). The three small rooms under the eaves have simple woodwork, and open onto a large landing at the top of the stairs. A short flight of ladder-like steps reach to a trap door, which opens onto the flat deck at the top of the house, framed on the east and west sides with an urn-supported balustrade, and on the north and south, by double chimneys.

## FOOTNOTES

## CHAPTER II

<sup>1</sup>John A.H. Sweeney, Grandeur on the Appoquini-  
mink (Newark, Del., 1959), p. 39.

<sup>2</sup>Account Book 1814-1818, George Read (II), Entries  
for September 8, 1814, RSR, HSD.

<sup>3</sup>Efforts to locate this mantel on Manhattan Island  
have not been successful.

<sup>4</sup>The inventory of George Read (II), taken on Octo-  
ber 15, 1836, gives no listing of wardrobes or other  
pieces of furniture useful for the storage of clothing.  
See Appendix E.

## CHAPTER III

### THE PLANS

Four sets of plans exist for the house. Three of them can be identified as to the artist, while the fourth is subject to conjecture. The three sets of identifiable plans bear a great resemblance to the house as it now stands. The fourth, a very sophisticated design, is mainly noteworthy in a study of the house because some of its details were used. The plans have been labelled A, B, C, D, to facilitate their study, and have been studied chronologically in the text.

The first plan (Illustration 16) is little more than a quick sketch, showing the dimensions and room partitions on the first floor. It was apparently drawn by George Read (I) for it is in his hand.<sup>1</sup> This drawing was elaborated into plan B (Illustration 17), a copy of which was sent to Matthew Pearce, who had married Mary, the fifth child of George Read (I).<sup>2</sup> In 1797 they were living in Philadelphia where Pearce was associated in a mercantile business with William Read, his brother-in-law.<sup>3</sup> Pearce's acquaintance with architecture and with persons interested in architecture undoubtedly was the inducement for sending the plan to him.<sup>4</sup>

From these two plans (A and B) it is obvious that Read knew what he needed in the way of a house. From the beginning, the house was planned around a center hall, with two principal rooms to the left of the front



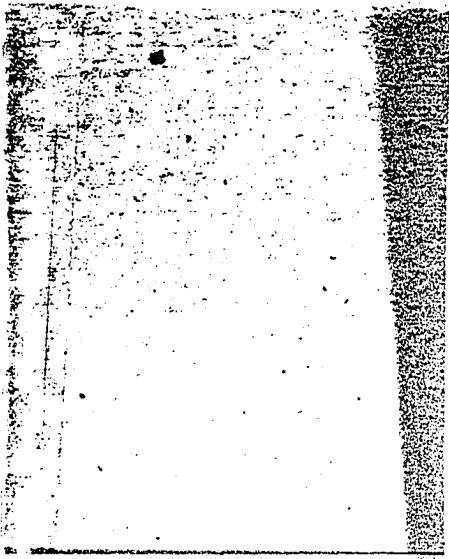
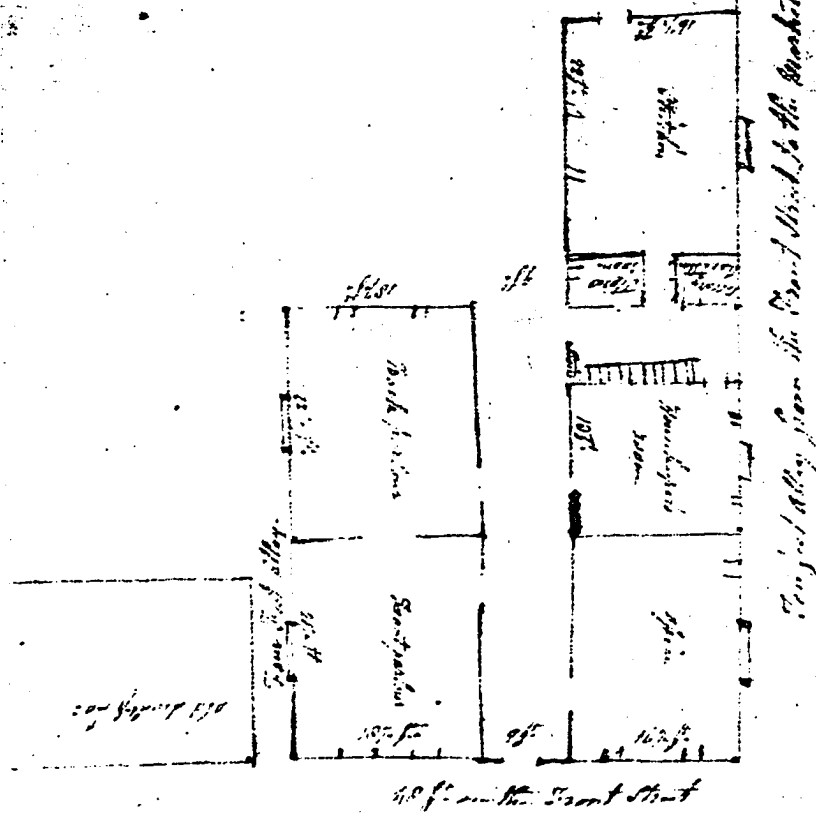


Illustration 16. Preliminary Plan A, The George Read (II) House, drawn by George Read (I), circa July, 1797, The Richard S. Rodney Collection, Historical Society of Delaware.

1847

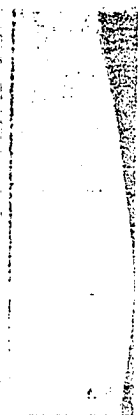


door and two smaller rooms to the right, one of which was to be used as an office. The "housekeeper's room" behind it was to be included in the kitchen wing which extended at the right rear.

It is immediately evident that Read wanted his house built like a Georgian town house of the type that would have been found in Philadelphia. Philadelphia houses of the late eighteenth century were built on narrow lots with a square or slightly rectangular building on the street, containing the area in which the family lived, and a wing which stretched off at the back for the kitchen and servants' quarters. The type of plan adopted by Read was favored by builders if the house was wide enough to allow for a central hall with large rooms on either side.

Plan B (Illustration 17), dated approximately July of 1797, is again in the hand of George Read (I). A copy of this was apparently the one that was sent to Matthew Pearce, for on the right border are questions requiring answers, to many of which Pearce replied. Basically the plan is the same as that of A; the window arrangement, room placement, and most of the terminology have remained the same. One slight difference may be noted where the small room off the kitchen, called the "Storeroom" in the first plan, has been given the more elegant term of "China Closet".

The questions along the side refer almost entirely to problems immediately at hand. First, Read noted that a cellar door on the front of the house would be objectionable, and that, if possible, it could be placed in the side alley. Two of the problems concern the interior of the cellar: how many division walls should there be and where should they be placed in



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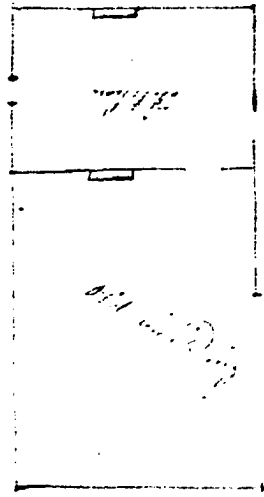
Illustration 17. Preliminary Plan B, The George Read (II) House, drawn by George Read (I), Circa July, 1797, The Richard S. Rodney Collection, The Historical Society of Delaware.

P-64  
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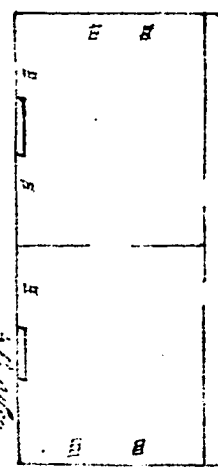
800 ft. line between lot and next lot, 800 ft. side, distance to Market Square 800 ft.

100 ft. line  
between  
lot and  
lot

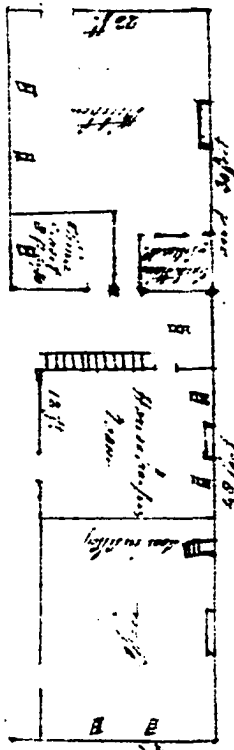
30 ft. of open yard.



100 ft. 2 1/2 ft. by  
100 ft. 2 1/2 ft. by  
100 ft. 2 1/2 ft. by



100 ft. of 100 ft. 2 1/2 ft. by  
100 ft. 2 1/2 ft. by



100 ft. of 100 ft. 2 1/2 ft. by  
100 ft. 2 1/2 ft. by

The Street Front 80 ft. wide.

800 ft. line between lot and next lot, 800 ft. side, distance to Market Square 800 ft.

order to support the first floor, which walls would have to be run to the exterior foundation, how many windows should be allowed for lighting the cellar and where they should be positioned. Because the house was to be built on a slight rise, fairly high elevation at the front of the building would be necessary to provide some sort of a step at the back door; the question then was, would three feet eight inches be enough? Finally, there was a small passage between the two closets leading into the kitchen; how should it be lighted?

After receiving this tentative plan, with its questions, Matthew Pearce sat down to draw up his own ideas, which he sent to George Read (I) on August 10.<sup>5</sup> He was pleased with his results for he says

I have shewed [my plan] to several gentlemen whose Minds seemed turned to [these] Subjects and they say it cannot be better plan'd;

He did not think that he could add anything further at that time, but was sure that many "Conveniences" would be thought of during the construction.<sup>6</sup> Pearce's drawing has been labelled Preliminary Plan C (Illustration 18). This drawing depicts a much more elegant house than the simple drawing that was executed in New Castle. There is a curved staircase, and an arch leading into a short hallway which borders on the Pantry, a change which conveniently settled one of the New Castle questions. On the whole, however, he has simply taken Plan B and embellished it. His knowledge of the rudiments of light and space are sound, and the rear plan of the house is considerably improved by his additions and changes.

Pearce was concerned not only with the design of the first floor, but with the comfort of the inhab-

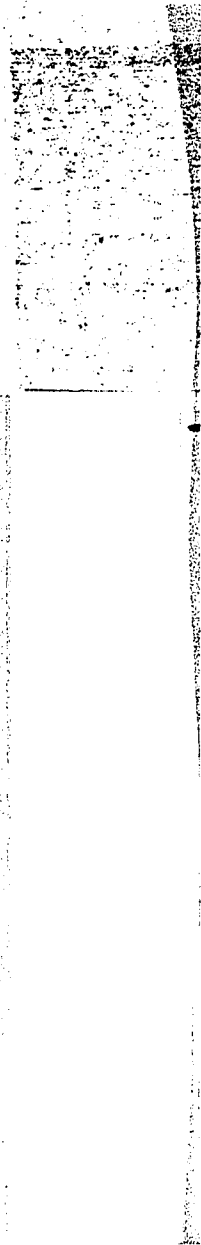
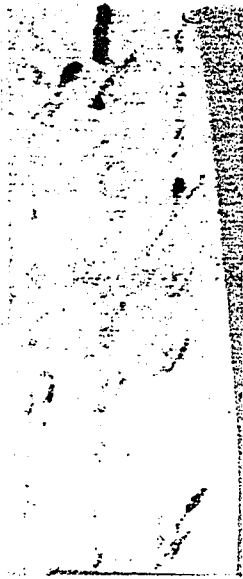


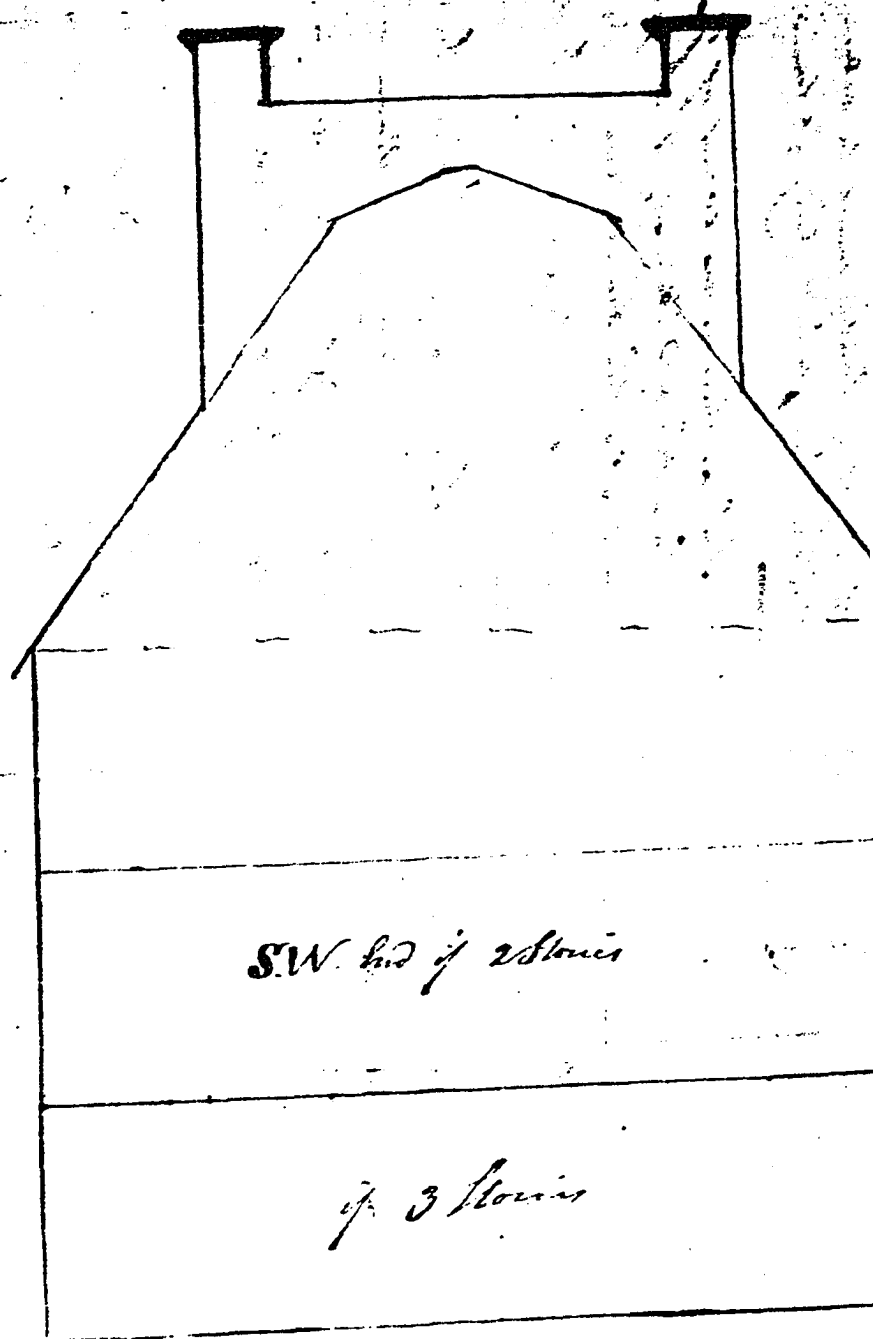
Illustration 18. Preliminary Plan C, The George Read (II) House, drawn by Matthew Pearce, early August, 1797, The Richard S. Rodney Collection, Historical Society of Delaware.



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Illustration 19. Elevation, The George Read (II) House, drawn by Matthew Pearce, early August, 1797, The Richard S. Rodney Collection, Historical Society of Delaware.





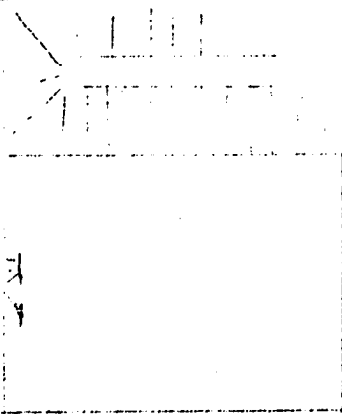


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Illustration 20. Preliminary Plan D, The George Read (II) House, undated, Richard S. Rodney Collection, Historical Society of Delaware.

Designs include  
a door in each room

There is a window down to the floor there  
to the piazza to open as doors  
piazza and rooms on the same level  
a - might be a partition for an entry



P. 62

Alley

itants. He suggests, for instance, that the house be placed five feet farther back than was originally planned, for that would give more of the cool southwesterly wind to the rooms on the side facing the "old house", something wise to consider in terms of New Castle summers. He also suggested the reason for the placement of the fireplace on the Northeast side of the kitchen; Pearce recommends this because

it will give all the advantages of Light on the fireplace, (an important Consideration as it regards clean Cooking) and it will be much less liable to Smoke.

Added to the above was the economic benefit of being able to build a half-roof, instead of a full-gabled one, an idea which Read would find "less expensive and more durable."

His last comment was to remark, that if the house, was to be for him, he would not build more than a two story house, because he felt that there would be a lot of room, "especially if the Garretts are well finished." To illustrate his point, he drew the side of the house on the reverse of Plan C, (Illustration 19), showing the elevation of the house in both two stories and three. In the letter which accompanied his plan, he added that he would suggest that George give his rooms a thirteen foot ceiling on the first two floors, which would be the same as Pearce's own, at 251 Arch Street in Philadelphia.<sup>7</sup>

The fourth plan, D, drawn by an unidentified hand (Illustration 20), has one very sophisticated feature. At the front of the house is a piazza opening into two rooms and an entry. In the rooms were to be

"Front windows down to the floor then to the piazza to open as doors"

This arrangement of piazza and windows was incorporated in the back parlor of the present house.<sup>8</sup>

FOOTNOTES  
CHAPTER III

<sup>1</sup>The handwriting of George Read (I) and George Read (II) is very similar. After careful study of the characteristics of each man's manuscripts, the letters formed by the elder gentleman are seen to be more cramped than those of his son's. For this reason, Plans A and B are attributed to him. An additional argument is provided when Matthew Pearce directs his plan (C) and letter of explanation to the father. Letter, Matthew Pearce to George Read (I), August 10, 1797, RSR, HSD.

<sup>2</sup>H.P. Read, p. 70.

<sup>3</sup>William Read and Matthew Pearce's partnership is never stated directly in a letter, nor is it mentioned in Philadelphia Directories of the period, but is gleaned from a variety of manuscript references. Therefore no direct citation can be given for it.

<sup>4</sup>Letter, Matthew Pearce to George Read (I), August 10, 1797, RSR, HSD.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.; Philadelphia Directory for 1801, this house is no longer standing.

<sup>8</sup>French windows of this type are found at Sweetbriar Mansion, built in Philadelphia in 1797. That there was a terrace behind the house during Read's occupancy is probable for Mary Read (Mrs. George Read [II]) wrote about the lemon trees behind the house, Letter, Mary Read to Gunning Bedford Read, February 10, [1815], RSR, HSD.

CHAPTER IV  
THE CONSTRUCTION

In late December of the year 1802, George Read (II) wrote to his brother, John, in Philadelphia,

I have very nearly finished my new building which considering the magnitude of the undertaking is a very gratifying circumstance. 1

He was a little premature in his anticipation for the house was not actually completed until late the next year. Seven years of planning, coupled with stops and starts in the actual construction, resulted in a Georgian style town house, with Federal details made of the best materials available and finer than those of any other house in the vicinity.

As has been seen in Chapter I, the first indication of Read's intention to build was in an agreement between himself, William Armstrong, and William Aull.<sup>2</sup> Three months were to elapse between the purchase of the land and the beginning of any actual work.

One of the first problems confronting Read was the need of a place for unloading and storing the shipments of materials. Because most of the materials were to be imported in large quantities from outside areas, a wharf would be a good solution, since most deliveries would be made by water. It was a fairly common practice for private wharves meant for such purposes to be built along the New Castle waterfront. The survey of the town of New Castle, taken by Latrobe in 1804, shows several such structures, in addition to larger ones owned by some of the town merchants.<sup>3</sup>

Accordingly, Read built a wharf. Standing today opposite the house out in the River is a wharf which may or may not have been the one constructed for him. Whether it was Read's or not, it must be similar to the one he would have had built, for it is made almost entirely of stone, with timber supports and iron fittings. The foreman on the job was John Sturgis, who was paid for most of his work between July and September of 1797, although the remainder was not paid until 1799.<sup>4</sup> John Vining, a blacksmith, was paid \$36.19 for the ironwork.<sup>5</sup>

The wharf was evidently an immediate necessity since stone for the house foundation had already been subscribed from a Chester, Pennsylvania stone cutter named William Lane. On June 13, Read noted in his accounts that he had spent \$7.00 on a trip to Chester to arrange for the purchase of stone to be used in the foundation.<sup>6</sup> On the same day he had signed an agreement with Lane for one hundred perch of stone to be delivered to New Castle.<sup>7</sup> About the same time he must have contracted "for white building stone" with Kepple Odenheimer, who also probably did business in the vicinity of Chester.<sup>8</sup> Odenheimer was prompt with his delivery and he received a partial payment on July 19, while Lane did not receive his first payment until August 2.<sup>9</sup>

Neither Lane nor Odenheimer were to receive full payment in 1797. Throughout these years of construction, it was common for Read to pay his bills in bits and pieces, probably only as cash came to hand. His account books, kept for cash payments only, nearly always note whether an outlay was "on acco.<sup>t</sup>," "in further part," "Per rec.<sup>t</sup>," or "in full."<sup>10</sup> Evidently his tradesmen did not mind, unless the bill was long overdue or unless



the money was needed badly, in which case they usually asked only for part payment.

The stone was not inexpensive. Odenheimer received full payment of \$190.67 in April, 1799, while Lane got a total of \$140.00, although his account is never marked paid in full.<sup>11</sup> Read's correspondence indicates that he at least considered buying some stone from James Traquair, a Philadelphia stonecutter, from whom he was later to get his window heads.<sup>12</sup> Traquair's estimate of sixty pounds, quoted to Read in a letter from his brother-in-law, was perhaps too high, for none of the foundation stone seems to have come from him.

Before he went to Chester, Read had hired a mason, Richard Grubb, to do the necessary work on the foundation. Grubb went to Chester with him, for the agreement with Lane was made in "the presence of Richard Grubb."<sup>13</sup> Wherever Grubb lived, it was not in New Castle, for he, his son Richard Grubb, jr., and his other masons boarded at the house of William Dunn, to whom Read paid small fees.<sup>14</sup> How long it took to construct the foundations is not known. The only information available from manuscript sources shows that it took nine days for the cellar to be dug. Read paid varying amounts of money, 4/- to 4/3 per day, to twelve laborers from September 4, when rum was first purchased for the workmen, through September 13.<sup>15</sup> Proof of the completion of the cellar on September 14 is Richard Grubb's purchase of "1 Gallon of rum ... on laying corner Stone of G. Read's build."<sup>16</sup>

Aside from purchasing the foundation stone and hiring the masons, the first two months were spent in designing plans for the house, and looking for a master carpenter, who would make arrangements for and oversee

a large amount of the construction. The plans indicate that Read wanted to build a house of considerable size, necessitating the importation of a workman from a larger town like Philadelphia, where skilled carpenters were more apt to reside. Matthew Pearce, who had already been of considerable help in planning the floor plan, and who lived in Philadelphia, was more than willing to lend all the assistance he could. By mid-August he wrote that he had been able to locate

... a man that I think would undertake this building for George and probably he cannot get one more worthy of the trust from what I hear of him. 17

Presumably that carpenter, unnamed in the letter, was Peter Crouding who, by the middle of September had already completed some carpentry work.<sup>18</sup>

Peter Crouding is a man of mystery in the carpentry circles of Philadelphia.<sup>19</sup> He was not a member of the Carpenters Company, yet he was listed as a house carpenter in various City Directories of the period. The first listing of him was 1798, when he lived at 159 Arch Street, where he resided until his death in 1809.<sup>20</sup> From about 1800, he owned and operated a dry goods shop on Cherry Alley, the contents of which were listed in his inventory taken in 1810, along with numerous wood-working tools.<sup>21</sup> Presumably this shop supplemented an insufficient income.<sup>22</sup>

Crouding was not occupied with any other carpentry work when Read hired him, and he was evidently anxious to please. By mid-September, he had made the cellar window sills, talked to people about the bricks for the front of the house, and had been visiting the sawmills in the vicinity to try to find out the costs of lumber.<sup>23</sup>

It was desirable to purchase the lumber at the best possible price, and Crouding was forced to make several trips to saw mills. He reported that in spite of the large amount wanted, the millers around Philadelphia would not lower their price to anything less than twenty dollars per thousand.<sup>24</sup> In spite of the expense, around the first of November, Crouding purchased boards to be used for the window sashes and frames.<sup>25</sup> In December, he needed money to pay for the materials he had gathered, and \$164.00 was forwarded to him through William Read.<sup>26</sup>

Two weeks elapsed between the time when Crouding requested some form of payment and December 11 when he received the money. This evidently did not satisfy his needs, and more money was required. On December 21, Matthew Pearce wrote

Your carpenter has been with us frequently, and wishes us to let him have some money, he says he has advanced upwards of \$100 for you ...<sup>27</sup>

Crouding's voice was added to Pearce's as he pleaded with Read to give him

what money he [Pearce] thinks sufficient to carry on your work as him or Mrs. Pearce can see how the work goes on. 28

At the end of December, Crouding wrote again, giving a fuller explanation of the situation:

the moneys I wrote for his for myself [not for the lumber] I have four hands employed these Eight weeks that I allow five dollars per week Each hand - that sum will be necessary and to continue till your sash frames & shutters is finished ... 29

Crouding's largest expenses were his trips to New Castle to see Read and to the sawmills.<sup>30</sup> The final solution to the problem of finding cheaper lumber of

good quality, was solved when a Sussex County mill owner agreed to furnish the boards at a price of fifteen pounds per each thousand feet of one and one-quarter inch boards and ten pounds for each thousand feet of one-inch boards.<sup>31</sup> After much searching, Crouding had located John Tunnell, the Captain of a shallop, a shallow draft boat commonly used on the Delaware River for freight transportation, who was to purchase the boards and deliver them at New Castle.<sup>32</sup> His supplier was James Clayton, a saw mill owner near Dagsborough, who assured Read sometime during November of 1797,

I will furnish you with such [lumber] as never before came to New Castle nor will ever come in One Vessel after it. 33

Read and Crouding were satisfied with the descriptions of the lumber to be furnished. Read wrote Clayton to that effect, stipulating that the order had to be delivered to his wharf as soon as shipping began on the River in the following Spring, since it was necessary that his building be completed by the fall of 1798.<sup>34</sup>

These dealings between Clayton and Read represent an amiable contract. During the winter or early Spring, however, both parties wrote disagreeable letters expressing each one's dissatisfaction with the other. On May 13, Clayton finally wrote to Read

Have your Warf ready to receive the Boards and likewise your Money to pay for them at the delivery least they should seek another Market at your expense. I donte feal my self at all disposed to trouble you with a security for the delivery of Boards which to accomodate you I have kept in my yard three months longer than agreements. 35

Knowledge of the events leading up to this outburst have been left in the past. By early Spring of 1798, Read purchased a house at the other end of the Strand and

began to realize what a large and costly project he had undertaken. Apparently he wanted to stop the construction for Crouding, after informing his employer of his progress, added, in a tantilizing sentence,

but to relinquish going on with your building will be against you and som others as there is so great, part of the worke prepared for your House ... . 36

No letters from Read are extant to explain the cause or effect of that sentence. Whether or not Read had actually written Clayton about cancelling their agreement as he probably wrote to Crouding, Clayton considered that Read had maligned him, for he wrote,

I cannot help expressing my regret that I have had anything to do with you in this business as for your fathers sake I shall be sorry to find that instead of a Gentleman you are a trifling insignificant Puppy. 37

Read's reply to Clayton was snubbing. He stated that Clayton had been dishonest in his dealings, and added that no matter what action might be taken, he was prepared for his own defense.<sup>38</sup>

Whatever differences there were between the two men, they were apparently forgotten after Read paid Clayton's bill of \$411.67 on June 4.<sup>39</sup> On the same day John Aull received \$3.87 for inspecting the boards to assure that they were of the length, width and quality ordered.<sup>40</sup>

Other purchases of lumber, scantling, to be specific, were made that Spring from Philadelphia suppliers, Robert and Dell Pennell, who were not paid for this delivery until December of 1799.<sup>41</sup> The Pennell's lumber was found imperfect, with much of it being other than white oak, and wrong lengths. Read noted that

he cou<sup>d</sup> not say he wo<sup>d</sup>. take y<sup>e</sup>. scantling not  
being cut accord<sup>g</sup> to his directions. 42

Since payment is recorded, the wood must have been returned to the lumber yard and a new and more satisfactory order supplied.

While negotiations for the lumber were going on, some of the decorative items were being ordered. As early as November of 1797, the design for the window heads on the front of the house was being discussed. Crouding recommended stone (marble) for the material, but some objections, probably concerning the expense, were raised for Crouding sent Read "2 patrens of window heads the one with stone kee and brick arch the other all Stone ...<sup>43</sup> Illustration 21 shows a drawing for a "Brick arch and stone Kee Ether plane or ornamented."<sup>44</sup> This pattern was rejected by Read.

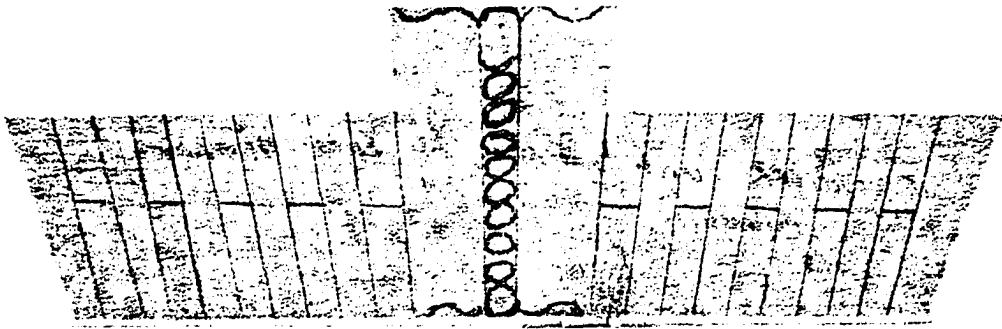


Illustration 21. Pattern for window head, drawn by Peter Crouding, December 1, 1797, The Richard S. Rodney Collection, Historical Society of Delaware.

After receiving the patterns, Read wrote to Matthew Pearce, asking him to inform Crouding that he wanted the same pattern as Pearce had on his house located at 260 Arch Street.<sup>45</sup> Read then returned Crouding's drawing of the chosen pattern, and the order was placed with James Traquair, a Philadelphia stonecutter.<sup>46</sup> (The pattern chosen is shown in Illustration 4.) Crouding reported that Traquair had made excellent progress by the middle of March, and the work was apparently finished early in June, for Traquair's bill was sent to New Castle on June 19, 1798.<sup>47</sup> Surprisingly, however, the finished stonework remained in Philadelphia until June of 1799, when Crouding wrote to Read that he had sent it down on a packet ship.<sup>48</sup> Traquair had been storing it for a year and by this time was so anxious to get rid of the pieces that he was willing to make no charge either for their storage or for moving them.<sup>49</sup> By this time Traquair's patience evidently had been put to the test for he had not received payment for his work, although Read reminded him that his brother William was authorized to pay any outstanding sums for the stonework.<sup>50</sup>

The bill for the stonework (Appendix B) is itemized. Six pounds apiece were the prices for the first floor window frames, and forty-five shillings for each lintel. The plain heads for the cellar windows cost 4/9 per foot of marble. Remaining charges were for window sills and key stones for the two Palladian or "Venetian" windows, one on the front and one on the side, a mantelshelf for the kitchen fireplace, moldings for the cellar door on the north side, and other materials needed for the windows and cellar doors.

At the same time that the stone was being cut

for the cellar windows, a blacksmith was employed to forge the bars which protect the sash from traffic on the street, and also give some measure of protection from petty thieves. Matthew Pearce commissioned that ironwork, for, as he wrote to Read,

I have agreed with a Man here for your iron work which will be much better in its execution and cheaper than you can get it made in New Castle.<sup>51</sup>

During the winter of 1798, Read was completing details for the exterior of the house. Any work to be incorporated outside had to be finished before the brick work was begun. The facade of the house was to be ornamented by an iron railing over the front door. (See Illustration 7). Matthew Pearce wrote on February 10,

I wish you here [in Philadelphia] to determine the Pattern of your Railing over the front door, in this, Taste differs so much that I wish you to execute your own; the Smith is waiting for directions respecting it - it must be done before the brickwork commences as it must be worked in with it. 52

In the same letter, Pearce urges Read to visit Philadelphia so the arrangements could be made with brick-makers. He did not need to hurry, however, for he was assured later that "bricks can be had and in time."<sup>53</sup> In April, Crouding wrote that the price for bricks was \$6.50 per thousand, and that he did not foresee any chance of it being reduced.<sup>54</sup> That letter contains the last mention of bricks or masonry until the Spring of 1800.

Indeed during the latter part of 1798 and 1799, Read apparently did nothing further about building his house. He had bought another large house at the other end of the Strand. This may explain, at least in part, his inability to pay for or his lack of desire to con-



tinue any construction. Whatever happened, it is certain that Read was little concerned with his house during those eighteen months. The materials in Philadelphia, the sash and frames already glazed and primed, the stone which Traquair had cut, and undoubtedly the iron fittings for the windows, as well as the balcony, were stored in that large upriver city in expectation of their being transported to New Castle.<sup>55</sup> By May, 1799, Traquair felt that he could no longer be responsible for the stone, and, in July 1799, the glazier needed the space that Read's sashes were taking up.<sup>56</sup> Crouding was to arrange for their transportation.<sup>57</sup> In addition to the neglect of those things, Read's accounts for 1799 show payments only for materials already received and labor already supplied. (See Appendix A).

Read's indecision seems to have carried over into 1800, for, on March 20, Crouding wrote to him,

I expected you would have known upon a certainty whether you would go on with your building this incuing Season or not Before this date.<sup>58</sup>

Read continued a half-hearted interest in the construction, and made inquiries about the prices of bricks. Crouding's pursuit of this question convinced him that bricks were less expensive than stone, and he advised Read to that effect.<sup>59</sup> He had already assured Read that even though "money was scarce and wood plenty", a brick house would still be cheaper.<sup>60</sup>

All of Crouding's persuasions were to no avail for Read did nothing until 1801, when he contracted with Francis Hopkins to transport from Philadelphia to New Castle 250,000 bricks, already ordered from Jeremiah Hornketh.<sup>61</sup> By this time Read was becoming anxious about his house and importuned Hopkins

not [to] disappoint me in [picking up the bricks] as it is all important to me and I rely on your exertion. . 62

Another contract also for transporting bricks was signed between John Byrnes and Read on May 16, 1801.<sup>63</sup>

In the same year, a bricklayer from Wilmington agreed to build the "Brick dwelling house back buildings & Outhouses" on the partly finished foundations of George Read (II)'s lot in New Castle. (See Appendix C) for five hundred dollars, plus \$2.50 for each thousand bricks laid. The bricks were to be laid "in the best manners according to the mode fashion and Stile of ... the best buildings in the City of Philadelphia." Once this contract was arranged, work on the house began again in earnest.

Decisions had to be made before work could be begun inside the house. Very little is known about the interior carpentry work, except for the visual results. Whether Crouding actually had men carve the cornices, chair rails, and other woodwork, or whether he bought ready-carved strips and cut them to size, is not documented. Since no correspondence exists between Read and Crouding during this period, it seems plausible that the majority of the work was done in New Castle, and not in Philadelphia. Peter Crouding is known to have been at the house site in May of 1801, for he advertised at that time for stolen tools taken from "the new Building of George Read."<sup>64</sup>

By late summer, Crouding must have made progress on the construction for on August 20, John Johnston, a plasterer, advertised himself to Read

in respect of the plaistering ur enny Stucco work that you maye Choose to have Don. 65

No further mention of plastering occurs in the correspondence until 1802, when William Read wrote to his brother that one Meredith had been persuaded to undertake it.<sup>66</sup> The architect Latrobe acquainted with the New Castle Reads was one of Meredith's references; Latrobe stated that the plasterer understood "plain work well."<sup>67</sup> Meredith's name does not reappear in any of the house records, although a man named William Thackera, jr., called a "plaisterer", requested payment from Read in 1803.<sup>68</sup> An interesting sidelight of the plasterwork is that Latrobe offered to furnish patterns for the Cornices.<sup>69</sup> Unfortunately, except for that brief mention, there are no records of his ever having done so.

Mahogany doors were one of the things Read most desired. As early as 1797, Crouding had been looking for a cheap supply of that wood.<sup>70</sup> By 1802, the price of mahogany was quite low, and it was even possible to buy preframed doors in varying dimensions.<sup>71</sup> The locks on the doors were to be plated, and they posed a considerable problem. Imported mortise locks, which had been furnished for the doors, were to have their handles plated by a Philadelphia workman. The man to whom the locks were taken had difficulty and, as John Read wrote,

The locks occasion much trouble ... I had an attempt made to plate the knobs to the imported locks, but being hollow the force required to fix the plating dented them. 72

Three months later, all attempts to plate the locks had continued to fail, and the plater said he could not do that task.<sup>73</sup> Finally the decision was made to order imported locks from England, since the other locks were no longer presentable.<sup>74</sup> English locks, however, would not be ordered for several months. Read wanted hardware for the first floor doors, and asked John to look around

Philadelphia for sufficient locks of the right type and size.<sup>75</sup> While the hardware on the first floor is silver, that used on the second floor is brass. It is probable that, needing locks only for the five interior doors downstairs, that he was able to purchase the ones from Miss Clifford's, which his brother was to inspect.<sup>76</sup>

Around the same time arrangements were made for the mantel decoration. The prevailing fashion in mantels of houses of the early Federal period in Philadelphia was use of delicate figures and floral designs, either carved in wood, or made of plaster and applied to a wood mantel. In 1799, Robert Wellford began manufacturing these plaster ornaments.<sup>77</sup> One of his early advertisements, dated April 6, 1801 (Illustration 22), which Read possessed, presented a short history of "Composition Ornament" making:

A cheap substitute for wood carving has long been desirable ... and various were the attempts to answer the purpose, the last and most successful is usually termed Composition Ornaments. ... This discovery was rudely conducted for some time, owing to Carvers declining every connection with it, till, from its low price, it encroached so much upon their employment, that several embarked in this work - and by their superior talents greatly improved it.

Wellford may have been one of those talented workmen, for he said in the same advertisement that he had been

brought up in the art of Carving and Composition Ornament making in all its branches, and practiced in designing and cutting off reversed Moulds, etc.

This advertisement gives some of the reasons why "liberal minds of refined taste" would want to embellish their buildings with his work. He wrote that

[the] cement of solid and tenacious materials, receives a fine relieve ... and becomes hard



Illustration 22. Advertisement, Robert Wellford,  
April 6, 1801, Richard S. Rodney  
Collection, Historical Society of  
Delaware.

1801 14-99 14-99  
*to the* TO THE PUBLIC. *Publia*

FROM the remotest ages of antiquity, Carving hath been esteemed an essential decoration to the works of magnificence; with civilization and knowledge, dawned this liberal art; As they gradually reached perfection it arose to meridian splendor, which the beautiful vestiges of Temples and Statues, do evince, and will long perpetuate the just celebrity of Greek and Roman artists.

In the modern buildings of this country are specimens of admirable skill which prove the rising merit of American artists.

A cheap substitute for wood carving has long been desirable for some situations, particularly enriched mouldings, &c. and various were the attempts to answer the purpose, the last and most successful is usually termed Composition Ornaments. It is a cement of solid and tenacious materials, which, when properly incorporated and pressed into moulds, receives a fine relieve; in the drying it becomes hard as stone, strong, and durable, so as to answer most effectually the general purpose of Wood Carving, and not so liable to chip.—This discovery was rudely conducted for some time, owing to Carvers declining every connection with it, till, from its low price, it encroached so much upon their employment, that several embarked in this work, and by their superior talents greatly improved it.

The Subscriber being brought up in the art of Carving and Composition Ornament making in all its branches, and practiced in designing and cutting off reversed Moulds, &c. he has been induced to tender his services to the public in this line. His hope of success is founded on the execution of the origin of his Patterns: The great encouragement with which he has already been favoured with, will call forth the utmost of his exertions to improve the art to greater perfection.

And he trusts there will be found little difference in expence, and his

contention will be for superiority of workmanship.

The invention of Composition Ornaments offers a good embellishment at a moderate price, it resembles in some degree the art of printing and engraving; its utility must therefore be obvious to many, and it is hoped will long receive due patronage from such liberal minds of refined taste as can best discern any efforts of improvement, to merit which shall be the assiduous endeavour of,

Their obedient servant,  
 ROBERT WELLFORD.

APRIL 6th, 1801.

N. B. THE aforesaid factory is now carried on in an extensive line, at No. 42, *South 3rd* ~~Chesnut near Second Street~~ Philadelphia, where his friends may be amply supplied *2 door below Chesnut* with ornaments to suit almost any fancy, which he presumes will encourage them to call at the said factory.

ORDERS from any part of the Continent punctually attended to, executed with elegance and dispatch, and a generous allowance made to wholesale purchasers, with printed directions for fixing the composition, gratis.

#### CERTIFICATE.

WE, the Subscribers, house carpenters, hereby certify, That we have, divers times, made use of Composition Ornaments manufactured at this manufactory, and are of opinion they are equal in quality to any imported.

WILLIAM HAMILTON, Kintzing Pritchett, Alexander Steck, George Ebrebaugh, Edward Garrigues, Daniel Knight, Matthew Armour, John Owens, Robert Allison, John Smith, Benjamin Woolgar, Philip Justice, William Krider, William Linnard, Thomas Castairs, Jacob Lybrand, Worrel & Summers, Thomas Smith, Jacob Wodger, Thomas Kingston, Theodoras Hausholder, Clement Garrison, John Mundry, John Alexander, Wm. R. Pritchett, ship-joiner, &c.

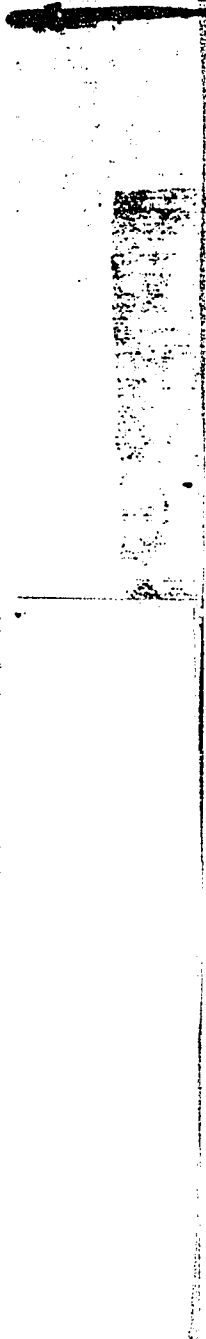
as stone, strong, and durable, so as to answer most effectually the general purpose of Wood Carving, and not so liable to chip.

Furthermore, Wellford's patterns were original and offered "a good embellishment at a moderate price." Wellford certainly did not plan to limit his business to Philadelphia, but aimed at wholesalers in other areas of the country, to whom he would give a discount and free directions for the ornaments' application.

A second advertisement for "Robert Wellford's American Manufactory" (Illustration 23), dating from approximately 1801, shows a mantel, with applied ornaments on its jambs. On this handbill, Wellford elaborated, not on the composition and history of the ornaments, but on the "variety of modern and original Patterns for decorating" interior and exterior architectural woodwork. At the bottom of the sheet, like that of the first handbill, are names of house and ship carpenters, who attest to the excellence of Wellford's output, being of the opinion that they "are equal in quality to any imported."

Whoever sent these two advertisements to Read, he was apparently satisfied, for he had ordered sets of mantle ornaments from Wellford by August of 1803. On August 6, Read's brother wrote that Wellford could not complete the ornaments without exact sizes of the "tablets -- side friezes -- & Truss." Read had already been sent drawings of the ornaments, which his brother had chosen for him, although, if he did not like them, others could be obtained.<sup>78</sup>

No time was lost in putting up the ornaments, for Wellford's bill was sent to Read on August 23. (See Appendix D). The bill listed seven tablets with



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Illustration 23. Advertisement, "Robert Wellford's American Manufactory of Composition Ornaments &'c.", Richard S. Rodney Collection, Historical Society of Delaware.



ROBERT WELLFORD'S  
AMERICAN MANUFACTORY  
OF  
Composition, Ornaments, &c.

NO. 42, South Third Street, 2d below Chesnut Street,  
PHILADELPHIA.

Containing a variety of modern and original Patterns for decorating  
Rooms, Bed, and Window  
Cornices & Pieces,  
Pilasters,  
Shutters,  
Panel Bases,  
Surbase & Cornice,  
Mouldings,  
Staircases,  
Ionic, Corinthian, & Composite Columns,  
Pier & Capitals,  
Keystones,  
Trusts,  
Oval & Round Patterns,  
Stove Patterns,  
Strap leaves, Beads, &c.  
suitable for Guilders.

And many other Ornaments suitable for inside or outside work of  
public or private buildings, answering effectually the  
general intention of wood carving.  
ROBERT WELLFORD—informs his friends, that he has made a  
large addition to his moulds and designs having been brought up in the art  
of Carving and Composition Ornament making, in all its branches, and  
practised in designing and cutting of reversed moulds, &c. He hopes he  
will have it in his power to supply any demands that may be made, in or  
out of the city, of the good quality and heavy finished, and which he is desirous  
to dispose of at reduced prices. Ships Cabins, and old moulds elegantly  
decorated, and ornaments fixed on stove patterns to suit the fancy.  
Orders from any part of the continent punctually attended to, executed  
with elegance and dispatch, and a generous allowance made to wholesale  
purchasers, with printed directions for fixing the composition, gratis.

CERTIFICATE.

ALL the subscribers, house carpenters, hereby certify, That we have, al-  
ways times, made use of Composition Ornaments manufactured at this ma-  
nufactury, and are of opinion that they are equal in quality to any imported.

Wm. Hamilton, Kinzing Pritchett, Alexander Steele, G.  
Forepaugh, Edward Garrigue, Daniel Knight, Mathew Ar-  
mour, John Owens, Robert Allison, John Smith, Ben. Woodston,  
Philip Justice, Wm. Krider, Wm. Linnard, Thos. Casairs,  
Jacob Lybrand, Worrel & Summers, T. Smith, Jacob Wed-  
ges, T. Kingston, Theodoras Householder, Clement Garrison,  
Jn. Manning, Jr. Alexander, W. R. Pritchett, ship joiner, &c.

M. LAUGHLIN, PRINTER.

other ornaments for six mantels. One of the listed tablets was never supplied, and of the six that were installed, only two remain. 79

Using Wellford's terminology, the ornaments on the two remaining mantels can be identified. In the front room downstairs on the south side, the tablet (Illustration 24) represents "The triumph of Mars returning from Battle" and the other ornaments are "bold festoons of flowers with fruit baskets" (Illustration 25) on the friezes and a pair of "Music" (Illustration 26) and "Contemplation" figures on the trusses. The mantel in the adjoining room has a central scene of "Diana giving Command to her hounds" (Illustration 27), and classically draped figures on the trusses (Illustration 28); the "festoons of oak leaves with acorns, etc." which were probably on this mantel originally, no longer exist. It is difficult to determine the arrangement of the ornaments on other mantels, although the "Tablet of an offering of the temple of fame to Study" with the "heads of Milton and Shakespeare on pedestals" would have been a fitting subject in Read's office. The other three sets of ornaments were undoubtedly placed on the mantels in the large second floor rooms, although no trace of them remains.

The total bill came to \$54.87 or £ 20/11/6. Three pounds, ten shillings and four pence were the charges for the labor, and one pound, seventeen shillings and ten pence was the cost of travel between New Castle and Philadelphia. The tablets each cost approximately one pound, while the charges for the friezes and truss ornaments varied. Read, writing to Wellford

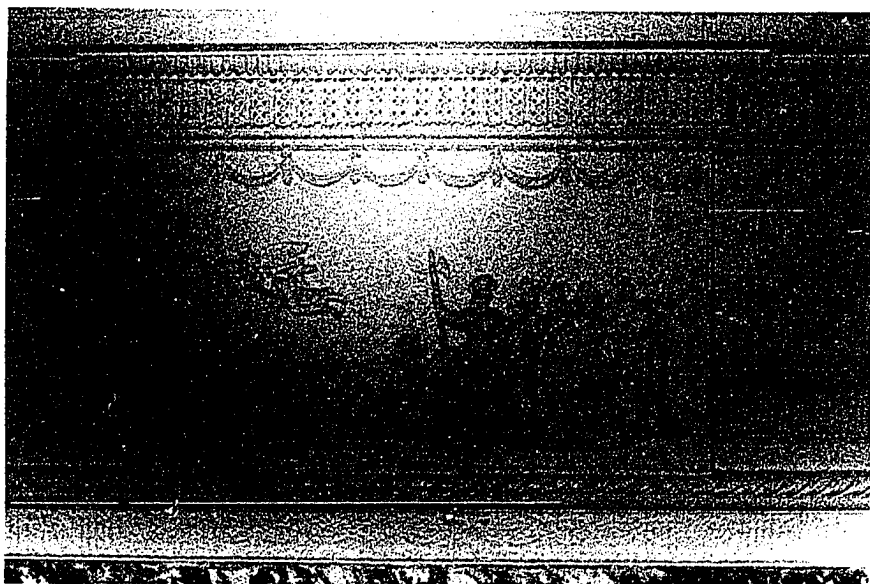


Illustration 24.. Photograph of tablet, "The Triumph of Mars returning from Battle," central ornament on mantel, front room, south side, first floor, The George Read (II) House.

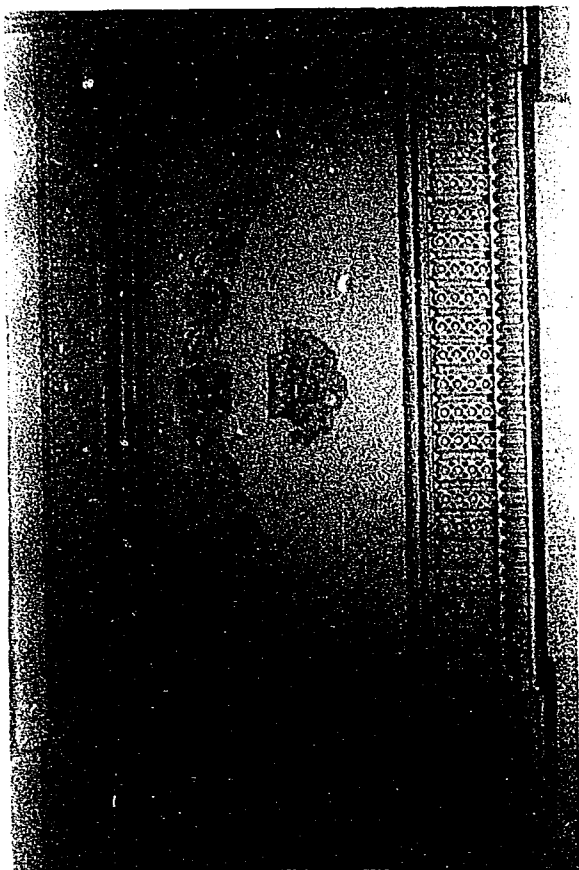


Illustration 25. Photograph of frieze ornament on mantel, front room, south side, first floor, The George Read (II) House.



Illustration 26. Photograph of truss ornament on mantel, front room, south side, first floor, The George Read (II) House.

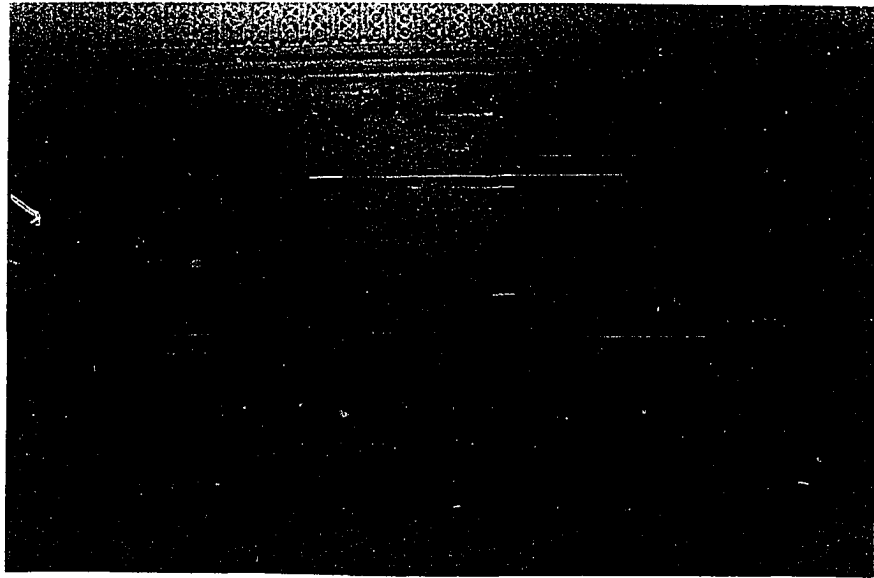


Illustration 27. Photograph of tablet,  
"Diana giving Command to  
her Hounds," central orn-  
ament on mantel, back room,  
south side, first floor,  
The George Read (II) House.

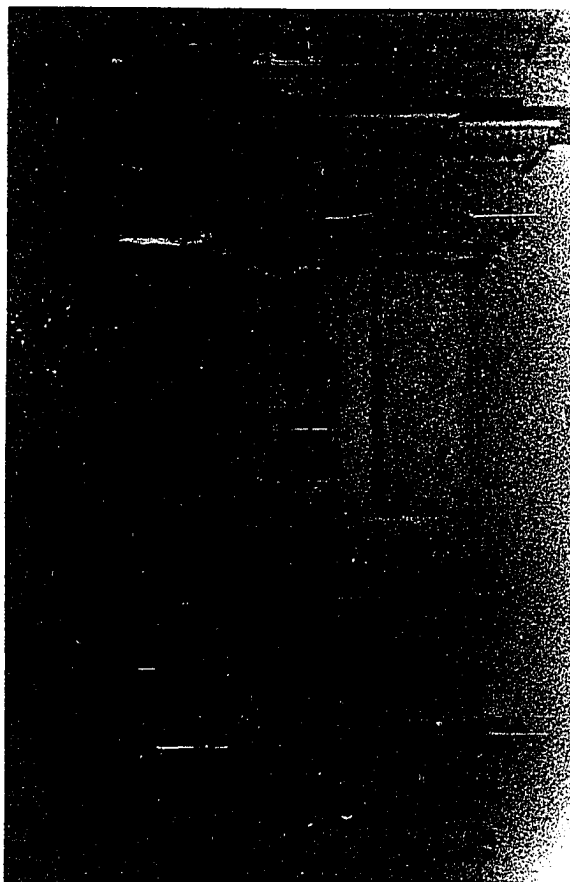


Illustration 28. Photograph of truss ornament,  
on mantel, back room, south  
side, first floor, The George  
Read (II) House.

in December of 1803, was irritated by the size of the bill. He complained,

of all the Bills I have had rendered to me in the course of my building, none have made so strong an impression on my mind of its extravagance ... 80

He asked his brother John if the charges were higher than usual.<sup>81</sup> Apparently the bill was not overpriced, for, on February 15, 1804, Robert Wellford was paid \$50.00, the amount of the original bill, minus the tablet not supplied.<sup>82</sup>

The last chapter of the construction concerns the payment of Peter Crouding. He had had difficulty earlier in obtaining payments from Read, and, at one point, had begun a law suit against him, which was apparently never tried.<sup>83</sup> In 1804, Crouding received at least one installment of five hundred dollars.<sup>84</sup> He had not been fully paid by 1805, when one of his workmen collected money due him for services rendered.<sup>85</sup> Peter Crouding received at least one hundred dollars during the same year. Whether he ever was paid more than that, or how much he received in total payment for his work in New Castle cannot be ascertained.

## FOOTNOTES

## CHAPTER IV

<sup>1</sup>Letter, George Read (II) to John Read, jr., December 26, 1802, RFP, LC, Box 1, No. 162.

<sup>2</sup>Agreement, William Armstrong, William Aull, and George Read (II), March 27, 1797, New Castle County Deed Book, R-2, pp. 157-161, Delaware State Archives, Dover, Del.

<sup>3</sup>Benjamin Henry Latrobe, Survey of the Town of New Castle, 1804, Delaware State Archives, Dover, Del.

<sup>4</sup>Account Book 1797-1799, George Read (II), Entries for July 29, August 2, 5, 17, 18, 26, September 2, 1797, September 3, 1799, RSR, HSD.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., Entries for August 17, November 14, 1797, April 30, 1798.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., Entry for June 13, 1797.

<sup>7</sup>Agreement, William Lane and George Read (II), June 13, 1797, RSR, HSD.

<sup>8</sup>Account Book 1797-1799, George Read (II), Entry for June 16, 1798, RSR, HSD.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid., Entry for July 19, 1797; Ibid., Entry for August 2, 1797.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid., Entries for July 19, September 2, 1797, February 9, 1798, April 30, 1799.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid., Entries for July 19, September 2, October 14, 1797, February 9, June 16, 1798, January 4, April 30, 1799; Ibid., Entries for August 8, 15, September 20, 1797, April 7, June 23, 1798.

<sup>12</sup>Letter, Matthew Pearce to George Read (II), July 1, 1797, RSR, HSD.



<sup>13</sup>Agreement, William Lane and George Read (II), June 13, 1797, RSR, HSD.

<sup>14</sup>Account Book 1797-1799, George Read (II), Entry for October 18, 1797, RSR, HSD.

<sup>15</sup>Ibid., Entries for September 16, 22, 1797; Ibid., Entry for September 4, 1797; Ibid., Entry for September 14, 1797.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid., Entry for September 14, 1797.

<sup>17</sup>Letter, Matthew Pearce to George Read (I), August 10, 1797, RSR, HSD.

<sup>18</sup>Letter, Peter Crouding to George Read (II), September 17, 1797, RSR, HSD.

<sup>19</sup>In all published references to the house, and in all documents written by George Read (II), the carpenter's name has been spelled "Crowding." Crouding, however, always spelled his name with a "u" instead of a "w"; he is listed by that spelling in the Philadelphia Directories. All references to Crouding in this thesis use his spelling instead of that of George Read (II).

<sup>20</sup>Philadelphia Directory for 1798; Philadelphia Directory for 1809.

<sup>21</sup>Philadelphia Directories, 1801-1809; Administration of the estate of Peter Crouding, January 23, 1810, Municipal Archives of the City of Philadelphia.

<sup>22</sup>Crouding's letters to George Read (II) during the years of construction indicate constant financial distress, RSR, HSD.

<sup>23</sup>Letter, Peter Crouding to George Read (II), September 17, 1797, RSR, HSD.

<sup>24</sup>Letter, Peter Crouding to George Read (II), October 16, 1797, RSR, HSD.

<sup>25</sup>Letter, Peter Crouding to George Read (II), November 2, 1797, RSR, HSD.

<sup>26</sup>Letter, William Read to George Read (II), November 25, 1797, RSR, HSD; Account Book 1797-1799, George Read (II), Entry for December 11, 1797, RSR, HSD.

<sup>27</sup>Letter, Matthew Pearce to George Read (II), December 21, 1797, RSR, HSD.

<sup>28</sup>Letter, Peter Crouding to George Read (II), December 21, 1797, RSR, HSD.

<sup>29</sup>Letter, Peter Crouding to George Read (II), December 28, 1797, RSR, HSD.

<sup>30</sup>Bill for years 1797 and 1798, Peter Crouding to George Read (II), undated, RSR, HSD.

<sup>31</sup>Letter, George Read (II) to James Clayton, November 10, 1797, RSR, HSD.

<sup>32</sup>Letter, Peter Crouding to George Read (II), November 2, 1797, RSR, HSD.

<sup>33</sup>Letter, James Clayton to George Read (II), undated, RSR, HSD.

<sup>34</sup>Letter, George Read (II) to James Clayton, November 10, 1797, RSR, HSD.

<sup>35</sup>Letter, James Clayton to George Read (II), May 13, 1798, RSR, HSD.

<sup>36</sup>Letter, Peter Crouding to George Read (II), March 19, 1798, RSR, HSD.

<sup>37</sup>Letter, James Clayton to George Read (II), May 13, 1798, RSR, HSD.

<sup>38</sup>Letter, George Read (II) to James Clayton, May 16, 1798, RSR, HSD.

<sup>39</sup>Account Book 1797-1799, George Read (II), Entry for June 4, 1798, RSR, HSD.

<sup>40</sup>Ibid.

<sup>41</sup>Ibid., Entry for December 3, 1799.

<sup>42</sup>Note attached to letter, Peter Crouding to George Read (II), March 15, 1798, RSR, HSD.

<sup>43</sup>Letter, Peter Crouding to George Read (II), November 2, 1797, RSR, HSD; Letter, Peter Crouding to George Read (II), December 1, 1797, RSR, HSD.

<sup>44</sup>Drawing of window head, Peter Crouding, undated, RSR, HSD. The quotation appears on the reverse of the drawing.

<sup>45</sup>Letter, Peter Crouding to George Read (II), December 21, 1797, RSR, HSD; Philadelphia Directory for 1801.

<sup>46</sup>Letter, Peter Crouding to George Read (II), January 3, 1798, RSR, HSD.

<sup>47</sup>Bill, James Traquair to George Read (II), June 19, 1798, RSR, HSD.

<sup>48</sup>Letter, Peter Crouding to George Read (II), March 19, 1798, RSR, HSD.

<sup>49</sup>Letter, James Traquair to George Read (II), May 15, 1799, RSR, HSD.

<sup>50</sup>Letter, George Read (II) to James Traquair, May 25, 1799, RSR, HSD.

<sup>51</sup>Letter, Matthew Pearce to George Read (II), December 21, 1797, RSR, HSD.

<sup>52</sup>Letter, Matthew Pearce to George Read (II), February 10, 1798, RSR, HSD.

<sup>53</sup>Letter, William Read to George Read (II), February 24, 1798, RSR, HSD.

<sup>54</sup>Letter, Peter Crouding to George Read (II), April 12, 1798, RSR, HSD.

<sup>55</sup>Ibid.

<sup>56</sup>Letter, James Traquair to George Read (II), May 15, 1799, RSR, HSD; Letter, Matthew Pearce to George Read (II), July 18, 1799, RSR, HSD.

<sup>57</sup>Letter, George Read (II) to James Traquair, May 25, 1799, RSR, HSD.

<sup>58</sup>Letter, Peter Crouding to George Read (II), March 20, 1800, RSR, HSD.

<sup>59</sup>Letter, Peter Crouding to George Read (II), [ ] ber 20, 1800, RSR, HSD.

<sup>60</sup>Letter, Peter Crouding to George Read (II), March 20, 1800, RSR, HSD.

<sup>61</sup>Memorandum of an agreement, between Francis Hopkins and George Read (II), April 10, 1801, RSR, HSD.

<sup>62</sup>Letter, George Read (II) to Francis Hopkins, May 11, 1801, RSR, HSD.

<sup>63</sup>Memorandum of an agreement, between John Byrnes and George Read (II), May 16, 1801, RSR, HSD.

<sup>64</sup>Advertisement, signed by Peter Crouding, May 8, 1801, RSR, HSD.

<sup>65</sup>Letter, John Johnston to George Read (II), August 20, 1801, RSR, HSD.

<sup>66</sup>Letter, William Read to George Read (II), May 13, 1802, Collection of Mrs. Philip D. Laird. (Hereafter cited PDL.)

<sup>67</sup>Ibid.

<sup>68</sup>Letter, William Thackera, jr. to George Read (II), October 14, 1803, RSR, HSD.

<sup>69</sup>Letter, William Read to George Read (II), May 13, 1802, PDL.

<sup>70</sup>Letter, Peter Crouding to George Read (II), December 28, 1797, RSR, HSD.

<sup>71</sup>Letter, William Read to George Read (II), June 11, 1802, RSR, HSD.

<sup>72</sup>Letter, John Read, jr. to George Read (II), August 15, 1803, RSR, HSD.

<sup>73</sup>Letter, John Read, jr. to George Read (II), November 1, 1803, RSR, HSD.

<sup>74</sup>Letter, John Read, jr. to George Read (II), November 25, 1803, RSR, HSD.

<sup>75</sup>Letter, George Read (II) to John Read, jr., November 25, 1803, Miscellaneous Papers: George Read Jr., 1765-1836, Historical Society of Delaware, Folder IV, Box 37.

<sup>76</sup>Letter, John Read jr. to George Read (II), November 25, 1803, RSR, HSD.

<sup>77</sup>Philadelphia Directory for 1799.

<sup>78</sup>Letter, John Read, jr. to George Read (II), August 6, 1803, PDL.

<sup>79</sup>Copy of a letter, George Read (II) to Robert Wellford, January 11, 1804, PDL.

<sup>80</sup>Ibid.

<sup>81</sup>Ibid.

<sup>82</sup>Bill, Robert Wellford to George Read (II),  
August 23, 1803, PDL.

<sup>83</sup>Letter, James M. Broom to George Read (II),  
December 9, 1802, RSR, HSD.

<sup>84</sup>Letter, George Read (II) to John Read, jr.,  
February 2, 1804, RFP, LC, Box 1, No. 168.

<sup>85</sup>Letter, George Read (II) to John Read, jr.,  
March 9, 1805, Miscellaneous Papers, George Read, jr.  
(1765-1836), Historical Society of Delaware, Box 37,  
Folder 4.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION

Built in a small town near the large city of Philadelphia, the George Read (II) House characterizes both the sophistication of the urban architectural fashion and the provincial retention of earlier designs. The builder of the house, a successful lawyer who was related to Philadelphians, would have seen first hand the buildings of that city. When, in fact, he decided to construct a residence, he turned to these relatives for advice and assistance.

The layout of the house was first drawn by the New Castle Reads, although the house, as constructed, followed more closely an improvement upon their basic plan by George Read (II)'s brother-in-law, the Philadelphia merchant, Matthew Pearce. Much used in eighteenth-century Philadelphia houses, the Georgian City house plan for a double lot was the one chosen.<sup>1</sup> The rooms, although of large size with higher ceilings and bigger windows than would have been used earlier, show no influence of the intricate spatial arrangements of straight and curved lines, which were becoming popular with both professional architects and dilettantes of the Federal Period.<sup>2</sup>

While the plan is Georgian in its treatment, much of the decoration was extremely fashionable. Philadelphia workmen were employed to supply most of the materials for the house. The woodwork, plasterwork, iron

work and the marble facings of the window heads and lintels are noteworthy examples of Federal architecture. Although there is no documentary evidence of Read instructing his workmen, he is known to have been concerned with many of the minor details of the house, such as the silver hardware on the first-floor door, and probably gave explicit instructions to all his employees.

Some of the architectural details, while closely allied in style to the Federal Period, have been changed to suit the needs of the house and its occupants. The Palladian windows on the front of the house and at the stair landing on the north side, more commonly found on Georgian houses, for example, are of too large a scale. This enlargement undoubtedly stemmed from a desire or need for extra light.<sup>3</sup> The interior fanlight between the two first-floor parlors was not an unusual feature of Philadelphia houses of the Federal Period. A fanlight of this sort, however, was more commonly found over an interior door between the vestibule and the entrance hall.<sup>4</sup> It is probable that these changes were concessions to the functioning of the house.

The George Read (II) House is the finest example of early nineteenth century architecture in New Castle. The influence that this building had in the town is evident in contemporary construction. The woodwork in The Charles Thomas House (Circa 1801) now known as Immanuel Parish House, The Gemmill House (Circa 1801) on Third Street, and The Academy (1798-1811) on The Green is so similar to that of the house of George Read (II) that these buildings have traditional attributions to Read's contractor, Peter Crouding.<sup>5</sup> Because no documentary evidence has been discovered to support these attribu-



tions, the houses may prove to be merely imitations of the work in that house, and thus a compliment to Read, his wealth and his ambitions.

## FOOTNOTES

## CHAPTER V

<sup>1</sup>William John Murtagh, "The Philadelphia Row House," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, XVI, No. 4 (December, 1957), p. 11.

<sup>2</sup>Fiske Kimball, Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of the Early Republic (New York, 1922), pp. 146-167.

<sup>3</sup>Plan of George Read (II) House, drawn by Matthew Pearce, undated, RSR, HSD.

<sup>4</sup>Elizabeth McCall, Old Philadelphia Houses on Society Hill, 1750-1840 (New York, 1966), p. 88. The Meredith House (1818-1823) has a vestibule fanlight.

<sup>5</sup>Jeanette Eckman (ed.), New Castle on the Delaware, Delaware Tercentenary Edition, 1651-1951 (New Castle, Del., 1950), pp. 100, 75, 73.

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Records of Immanuel Church, New Castle, Del.

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## APPENDICES

APPENDIX A  
CASH ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE HOUSE CONSTRUCTION 1797-1799<sup>1</sup>

Anno 1797

March 3	Paid J <sup>no</sup> Wiley for drawing deed	\$ 1 00
D <sup>o</sup> 27	pd Kensey Johns Esquire for acknow- ledgm <sup>t</sup> of Aull's deed & articles of Agreem <sup>t</sup> between Armstrong Aull & myself & also advanced 4/6 for Aull	1 80
D <sup>o</sup> 27	Paid William Aull last payment of con- sideration for lot of Ground purchased from lying on front next adjoining my fathers	200 00
June 13	pd & expended in going to Chester for ye purchase of Stone for building house	7 00
July 19	Paid Kepple Odenheimer on acco <sup>t</sup> of Stone for building	40 00
D <sup>o</sup> 20	Paid Clay Bond & Co.: for 1 q <sup>t</sup> of rum for ye Labourers at unlading Stone per Rec <sup>t</sup> 3/	40
D <sup>o</sup> 29	Paid John Sturgis in part of contract for cutting timber & erecting wharf	5 00
Aug <sup>t</sup> 1	Paid Sam <sup>l</sup> Shephard & James Neil, for perch <sup>g</sup> 2 load of Stone per, their rec <sup>t</sup> of this date	9 00
D <sup>o</sup> 2	Paid Aron Helms for William Lane for Stone delivered per Order & Rec <sup>t</sup>	30 00
D <sup>o</sup> 2	Paid John Sturgis in further of contract for building wharf	10 00
D <sup>o</sup> 5	pd John Sturgis in further part of con- sideration for in contract <sup>g</sup> to build wharf	30 00

<sup>1</sup>Extracted from Account Book of George Read (II),  
1797-1799, The Richard S. Rodney Collection, Historical  
Society of Delaware.

D <sup>o</sup> 15	Paid William Lane by the hand of Aron Helms for Stone for building in further part	50 00
D <sup>o</sup> 17	Paid John Vining Blacksmith on acco <sup>t</sup> of Iron work for my wharff	10 00
D <sup>o</sup> 17	Paid John Sturgis in further part for work at wharff	30 00
D <sup>o</sup> 18	Paid John Sturgis in further part for Wharff	5 00
D <sup>o</sup> 19	Paid William Gould in full for hauling logs for Wharf	61 33
D <sup>o</sup> 26	Paid John Sturgis in further part of his contract for erecting wharf	20 00
D <sup>o</sup> 26	Paid D <sup>o</sup> [Clay & Co.] for 3 Shovels per rec <sup>t</sup>	3 00
D <sup>o</sup> 30	Paid Aron Helms in part of 30 perch of Stone for filling wharf	20 00
D <sup>o</sup> 30	Paid Joseph Cloud for William Cloud for 50 Bushels of Lime delivered	19 44
Sept <sup>t</sup> 1	Paid Tho <sup>s</sup> Reynolds & Co: by ye hands of Rich <sup>d</sup> Grubb for 3 Mattocks & a Pick	9 00
D <sup>o</sup> 2	Paid Kepple Odenheimer for stone delivered in further part	30 00
D <sup>o</sup> 2	Paid John Sturgis in further part for wharf building	10 00
D <sup>o</sup> 2	Paid Aaron Helms in full for purchase & carting stone to fill in wharf & delivery	48 00
D <sup>o</sup> 4	Gave Rich <sup>d</sup> Grubb to procure rum for hands w <sup>ch</sup> he did from James Thompson	25
D <sup>o</sup> 9	pd Sherman Monro- Labourer for digging cellar in part	2 20
D <sup>o</sup> 13	Paid Jesse Cloud in full for work done in clearing away & digging G. Read's cellar for building	7 20
D <sup>o</sup> 13	Paid Joseph McDonough for 8 days work done at my Cellar in New Castle	6 94
D <sup>o</sup> 13	Paid Mons McKenny for 8 days work done at my Cellar in N: Castle	6 94
D <sup>o</sup> 13	Paid Samuel Fisher in part for 9 days work at Cellar digging for G. Read	5 00



D <sup>o</sup>	14	Paid Sherman Monro for 9 days Labour at digging Cellar being the balance due him per rec <sup>t</sup>	6 40
D <sup>o</sup>	14	Paid Jacob in part for 9 days work done at digging my Cellar in New Castle. Note ye last day he worked with Jackson in hauling stone & sand	6 00
D <sup>o</sup>	14	Paid Negro Peter in part for work done at s <sup>d</sup> Cellar	1 00
D <sup>o</sup>	14	Gave Richard Grubb to buy 1 Gallon of rum for hands on laying corner Stone of G. Read's build <sup>g</sup>	1 00
D <sup>o</sup>	15	Paid Robert Vanjoy for 4 days work done at Cellar by himself & Negro Philip Hamilton	3 47
D <sup>o</sup>	16	Paid Richard Grubb for service work at clearing ground and digging Cellar for G. Read	18 67
D <sup>o</sup>	16	Paid Richard Grubb Jun <sup>r</sup> for work & service as at same plan	16 67
D <sup>o</sup>	16	Paid John Nicholas for work at same plan in full	7 80
D <sup>o</sup>	16	Gave Richard Grubb to pay Fred <sup>k</sup> Craig for two spades bot of him hertofore for G. Read	2 00
D <sup>o</sup>	16	Paid Negro Richard on acco <sup>t</sup> of work done at my Cellar	5 00
Note 12 days ye whole time at 4/-			
D <sup>o</sup>	18	Paid Samuel Shephard in full of his acco <sup>t</sup> for work done by him at digging my Cellar in N: Castle being bal <sup>ce</sup> Due	2 80
D <sup>o</sup>	18	Paid William Dunn at whose house Rich <sup>d</sup> Grubb & other masons & workman board on the acco <sup>t</sup>	3 00
D <sup>o</sup>	20	Paid William Lane in further part for building stone delivered	20 00
D <sup>o</sup>	22	Paid Abraham Bond for 30 perch of Stone for filling in Wharf at 5/	20 00
D <sup>o</sup>	22	Paid Bryan McCormick for work done at clearing ground and digging cellar-4 days at 4/3	2 27

D <sup>o</sup>	26	Paid William Dunn by hand of his Whife for masons board per order	2 00
D <sup>o</sup>	29	Paid Jacob Landcaster in further part for work done	1 00
Oct <sup>r</sup>	2	Paid the same in full of bal <sup>ce</sup> for D <sup>o</sup>	2 50
D <sup>o</sup>	2	Paid Richard Grubb Jun <sup>r</sup> in part for Mason work done at G. Read's Cellar	7 00
D <sup>o</sup>	4	Paid Joseph Cloud on acco <sup>t</sup> of lime deliver- ed	20 00
D <sup>o</sup>	11	Paid Peter Crouding for cash p <sup>d</sup> by him for me to Shallop men for transporting from Philadelphia to New Castle 18 heads & Sills for Cellar Windows of my building	3 00
D <sup>o</sup>	14	Paid Kepple Odenheimer in further part on acco <sup>t</sup> of Stone delivered	30 00
Nov <sup>r</sup>	13	Omitted to be entered before in this page "Oct. 28, 1797" Paid by the hand of G. Read Esquire Richard Grubb Senior on acco <sup>t</sup> for Stone Mason work done at the foundation of my house	10 00
D <sup>o</sup>	13	Paid Richard Jun <sup>r</sup> on like account	10 00
D <sup>o</sup>	14	Paid John Vining Blacksmith for Ironwork done for my wharf	20 00
D <sup>o</sup>	15	Paid Samuel Davis Negro in part for 4 day Labour at my foundation of his mancarts & horse at \$2	8 00
D <sup>o</sup>	17	Paid Negro Richard for Work done at founda <sup>t</sup>	40
D <sup>o</sup>	17	Paid Richard Grubb Jun <sup>r</sup> in further part for Mason's work done at foundation	10 00
Note he attended here 16th to assist in surveying the foundation---			
Dec.	26	Omitted to be ent <sup>d</sup> herein before "Dec Paid by ye hands of William Read Peter Crouding my Carpenter for boards scantling etc a. procured for Wind. frames per W. R.'s ( ) of Dec <sup>r</sup> 11.1797 in file	164 00

Anno 1798

Jan 18	Paid by the hand of William Read & C: to Peter Crouding carpenter on acco <sup>t</sup>	100 00
D <sup>o</sup> 22	Paid John Colhoun order in his favor on me drawn by Richard Grubb/, Jun <sup>r</sup> Mason	42 67
D <sup>o</sup> 28	Paid Negro Peter for piling scantling the day before	75
D <sup>o</sup> 28	Paid Peter Crowding by y <sup>e</sup> hands of W <sup>m</sup> Read p <sup>r</sup> his letter of Jan <sup>ry</sup> 24, 1798	50 00
Feb <sup>ry</sup> 9	Paid Kepple Odenheimer p <sup>r</sup> Rec <sup>t</sup>	20 00
March 9	Paid Samuel Davis on acco <sup>t</sup> of hauling stone	5 00
D <sup>o</sup> 24	Paid William Aull in part further for the purchase of a Lot of ground purchased by him theretofore from Jos. Tatlow	300 00
April 7	Paid William Lane in further part for building stone delivered last fall	20 00
D <sup>o</sup> 25	Paid William Cloud in full for bal <sup>ce</sup> due on acco <sup>t</sup> of 200 bushels of lime drawn to me at N: Castle last fall for my build- ing	38 32
D <sup>o</sup> 30	Paid John Vining Blacksmith his acco <sup>t</sup> in full p <sup>r</sup> rec <sup>t</sup>	6 19
May 3	Paid Peter Crowding by y <sup>e</sup> hands of W. Read & Co. by his rec <sup>t</sup> transmitted in a letter of April 12, 1798	200 00
June 4	Paid James Clayton of Daggsborough by ye hands of John Tunnel Skipper of the Schooner for boards & Scantling delivered out of her p <sup>r</sup> his rec <sup>t</sup> & John Aull inspector's bill	411 67
See file of Receipts		
D <sup>o</sup> 4	Paid to John Aull his Bill for inspecting said boards	3 87
D <sup>o</sup> 4	Paid said for a days labour of his man Note I paid John Aull 2/6 over - such he is to carry to my credit -	75
D <sup>o</sup> 15	Omitted to be ent <sup>d</sup> herein before "June 13, 1798" Paid Negro London for 1 day & halfs work at piling boards	1 10

D <sup>o</sup>	16	Paid Kepple Odenheimer on acco <sup>t</sup> of White building Stone delivered last Summer and Fall	20 00
D <sup>o</sup>	23	Paid William Lane in further part on acco <sup>t</sup> for building Stone	20 00
July	17	Paid John January for 122 feet of boards	2 44
Oct <sup>r</sup>	15	Paid John Janvier in full for boards	33 00

Anno 1799

Jan <sup>y</sup>	4	Paid Kepple Odenheimer on acco <sup>t</sup> of Stone delivered me for building in <sup>y</sup> latter end of y <sup>e</sup> Summer and begin <sup>g</sup> of y <sup>e</sup> fall of 1797	20 00
March	26	Paid William Aull in full discharge of the Princ. and Int. due yesterday on my Bond to him for \$ dated March 27, 1797	336 00
April	30	Paid Kepple Odenheimer bal <sup>ce</sup> of his acco <sup>t</sup> in full	30 67
May	4	Paid Richard Grubb Stone Mason on acco <sup>t</sup> of work	3 00
June	4	Paid Richard Grubb a few days preceed <sup>g</sup> in further part for Stone work at foundation of my house by order on Will: Young who hath credit on his acceptance in part for Sheep sold him	20 00
This order paid to R. Grubb said W. Young Sept. 1799			
Sept	3	Paid James Caldwell y <sup>e</sup> amo <sup>t</sup> of his acco <sup>t</sup> ag <sup>t</sup> me to the 31 <sup>d</sup> of Aug <sup>t</sup> last in elusive in which was stated as an Item of charge John Sturgis for bal <sup>ce</sup> of his acco <sup>t</sup> amount <sup>g</sup> to 10\$ in full for his charge of build <sup>g</sup> wharf - Vid: acco <sup>t</sup> order & Rec <sup>t</sup> in file of rec <sup>ts</sup>	11 00
Nov <sup>r</sup>	14	Paid Richard Grubb further on acco <sup>t</sup> of Mason's work done at my new building	13 39
Dec <sup>r</sup>	3	Paid Robert Pennell & Dill Pennell in part for scantling for my new building heretofore delivered	150 00
Note same day gave promissory note for residue			

D <sup>o</sup>	3	Paid John Dixon & other labourers for piling scantling	9 33
D <sup>o</sup>	17	Omitted to be entered herein before - viz. Nov <sup>r</sup> 18, 1799 Pd. Joseph Israel by y <sup>e</sup> hands of Evan Thomas by order of s <sup>d</sup> Israel - so much on acco <sup>t</sup> of a Bill of Scantling delivered at New Castle for G. Read thro y <sup>e</sup> agency of Geo: Pierce Car- penter	45 00

# APPENDIX B

## BILL FOR EXTERIOR STONEWORK<sup>1</sup>

M<sup>r</sup> Ge<sup>o</sup> Read

To James Traquair D<sup>r</sup>

	£	Sh	P
To 4 Moulded Marble Window frames Sill and Ba[ ] holes Included	24	0	0
To 4 plain Siller Window Heads 8 Window Silles & 2 Venitian Silles in all 107 feet 11 In <sup>s</sup> at 4/9	24	15	11
To Jambes Sill and Head for a Siller door A Kitchen Mantill 2 Heads for the venetian and Key 59 feet 3 In <sup>s</sup> at 4/	14	1	5 1/2
To 8 Window heads at 45/	18	1	0
To Three Window Siller &c 58 feet at 3 <sup>d</sup>	0	14	6
To Lead for the Seller door Hookes	0	2	8
	£	81:14:	6 1/2

Philadelphia June 19th 1798

<sup>1</sup>Transcript of original document in The Richard S. Rodney Collection, Historical Society of Delaware.

## APPENDIX C

### AGREEMENT WITH BRICKLAYER<sup>1</sup>

Articles of Agreement made and concluded on this [ ] day of March in the Year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and one Between Thomas Spikeman of the Borough of Wilmington in New Castle County in the State of Delaware Bricklayer of the one Part and George Read of the Town of New Castle in the same County of the other Part Whereas George Read party hereto proposes to erect in the present Year in the Town of New Castle a Brick dwelling house on the North West side of the Front Street and North Eastern side of the house at present occupied by M<sup>rs</sup> G Read on the stone foundation already in part erected and made there and on such other foundations of Stone as may be there erected & made there under the said G. Read's direction and also back buildings and outhouses Therefore it is Witnessed by these presents That the said Thomas Spikeman for and in consideration of the Covenants to pay monies as hereinafter mentioned for himself his Executors & Administrators [illegible] covenants and agrees to and with the said George Read his heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns that he the said Thomas will build and erect a Brick dwelling house back buildings & Outhouses on the foundations already in part built & erected & that shall hereafter be built & erected on the lot and in the Site & plan herein before recited and described in such manner & state of architecture and of such proportions di-

<sup>1</sup> Transcript of original document in The Richard S. Rodney Collection, Historical Society of Delaware.

mensions & extent in every respect as the said George Read shall direct and order at any time or times and so complete and finish the same in the best most substantial and workmanlike manner Stile and fashion with the bricks that shall be furnished by the said George Read and well tempered mortar and begin the Work of the same as soon as part of the materials shall be ready and diligently to work at the same with a competent number of journeymen Hands & Labourers until it shall be completed finished and shall & will introduce and place in the said brick walls of the same while carrying up such stone blocks of Wood and pieces of Timber as and in such place & places as the said George Read or his Carpenter Peter Crowding shall and may from time to time direct and order And especially that the said Thomas Spikeman shall and will lay the bricks in the front of the said building on front Street afs<sup>d</sup> and work and carry up in the whole extent of the said front of the same in the best manners according to the mode fashion and Stile of working & finishing the front Walls of the best Buildings in the City of Philadelphia and the South Western Wall or front of the back buildings in like manner and lay the whole Brick Work of the said Buildings in well tempered Mortar and lay a course of brick across the Walls of the same buildings in their whole width and length for or upon every three courses, at least, of brick laid length wise on the same extent of those Walls in carrying up the same and shall and will select and pick out the best smoothest & least defective of the said bricks to form and make the said fronts of the said buildings of and shall and will attend and work with the Stone masons who may be employed to complete the said foundations so far and when the same may become necessary in forming arches and & in completing, to the junction thereof the Stone work and Brick work of the said Buildings and commence and carry on at such time & times in the course of the present Spring as

...



the s<sup>d</sup> George Read may require the Building and erection of the Brick house back buildings and Outhouses afs<sup>d</sup> and in all respects and every manner receive conform to all and every the instructions and orders of the said George Read touching & concerning the commencement carrying on and completion of the said buildings - And the said George Read for himself his Executors Administrators & Assigns thereupon covenants to and with the said Thomas Spikeman his Executors and Administrators to pay him Two Dollars & fifty Cents for each thousand bricks that shall be laid and placed as afs<sup>d</sup> in the walls of the same Building the quantity of bricks laid the said walls to be ascertained by the deduction of any quantity thereof remaining on hand after the completion of said buildings, from the Brickmaker's account of the quantity delivered for the s<sup>d</sup> buildings and the payment of the monies shall, at and according to the Rate per thousand bricks afs<sup>d</sup> be paid in the following installments and proportions that is to say One hundred fifty dollars on laying the first story Two hundred Dollars more when the second Story of the front and third Story of the back buildings shall be completed and raised - the further sum of One hundred fifty Dollars when the said Brick work shall be completed and finished and residue on the first day of January in Year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and two. In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals the day and Year afs<sup>d</sup>

Tho<sup>s</sup> Spackman

G. Read

Signed Sealed & Delivered

in presence of

Will Aull

# APPENDIX D

## BILL FOR COMPOSITION ORNAMENTS ON MANTELS<sup>1</sup>

Copy	Philad <sup>a</sup> August 23 <sup>rd</sup> 1803
M <sup>r</sup> George Read	Dr
	to Rob <sup>t</sup> Welford No 42. South 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street
For Composition Ornaments for six Mantles fix'd compleat	
	£
For 1 <u>Tablet</u> of the triumph of <u>Mars</u> re- turning from Battle --	1 10 "--"
1 pair of bold festoons of flowers with fruit baskets ----	"--" 15 "--"
1 pair of Music & Contemplation figures fix'd on pedestals	"--" 8 "--"
For Fixing of ditto ornaments -----	"--" 11 3
<u>2 tablets</u> of <u>Diana</u> giving command to her hounds at 26/3 each	2 12 6
2 pair of festoons of Oak leaves with acorns etc. for friezes at 15/	1 10 "--" ---
2 pair of figures fix'd on pedestals, for the Trusses at 8/	"--" 16 "--"
For fixing of ditto Ornaments on these 2 Mantles at 11/3 -----	1 2 6
1 Tablet of a <u>large Country dance</u> & Tree ---	1 6 3
1 pair of Rich flower friezes -----	"--" 15 "--"
1 pair of figures fix'd on Pedestals -----	"--" 8 "--"
for fixing of ditto -----	"--" 11 3

<sup>1</sup>Transcript of original document, in the Collection  
of Mrs. Philip D. Laird, New Castle, Del.

1 Tablet of an offering <u>to Ceres</u> & festoons of Drapery -----	1	2	6
1 pair of Grape festoons for the friezes ---	"-	15	"-
1 pair of Harvest boys for the Trusses -----	"-	6	"-
for fixing of ditto Ornaments -----	"-	11	3
1 <u>Tablet of an offering of the temple of fame</u> to Study	1	2	6
1 pair of bold grape friezes -----	"-	15	"-
1 pair of heads of Milton & Shakespeare on pedestals	"-	6	"-
for fixing of ditto Ornaments -----	"-	11	3
1 fancy tablet of the Goddess of Liberty	"-	18	9
For the Man's expences going to New Castle & back		<u>1</u>	<u>17 6</u>
(True Copy)	\$54.	<u>87</u>	
		<u>100</u>	£ 20 11 6
deduct		<u>4.87</u>	
by agreement		\$50.00	

Philadelphia February 15<sup>th</sup> 1804 receiv'd  
from George Read Esq. of New Castle by the  
hands of his brother John Read Jun: Fifty  
Dollars in full of the above and all ac-  
counts --

\$50

Rob<sup>t</sup> Wellford

APPENDIX E  
INVENTORY OF GEORGE READ (II)'S ESTATE<sup>1</sup>

Inventory and Appraisement of the goods and chattels which were of George Read Esquire late of the town, Hundred and County of New Castle in the State of Delaware deceased appraised by Thomas Stockton and Thomas Janvier, appraisers appointed by the Register of said County.

	\$
<u>Front Parlour</u>	
4 Arm Chairs Mahogany \$12. 8 do Mahogany \$16	28 00
1 Round Mahogany Table \$8. 1 Mahogany Breakfast Table \$3.	11 00
1 Mahogany side board \$10. 2 Globes \$16.	26 00
Engraving of Declaration of Independence & frame	4 00
Map of United States \$5. Declaration of Independence \$4.	9 00
Death of Montgomery \$4. Battle of Bunker Hill \$4.00.	8 00
Commodore Hull/likeness/ \$1. Constitutin & Guirrier \$1.	2 00
General Washington/likeness/.50 Scotch carpet \$8	8 50
Brass shovel and Tongs 1.50. 2 Branch candlesticks, plated \$4.	5 50
2 Flat Candlesticks and snuffers plated	1 00
4 Plated Candlesticks do	1 00
4 Quart Decanters Cut Glass	2 00
2 Water Decanters do	2 00
2 pair Celery Glasses do	3 00
2 finger Glasses cut/ 1. 2 Butter Glasses/ cut/ 1.50	2 50
1 large float cut Glass	5 00
21 Wine Glasses/ cut/ \$2. 5 Towels \$1.	3 00
1 Astral Lamp \$5. 1 Small Waiter .25.	5 25
<u>Back Parlour</u>	
2 Mahogany arm chairs hair seats	6 00

<sup>1</sup>Transcription of original document in the Delaware State Archives, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware.

2 Mahogany do Gilt 10 do Chairs gilt	24 00
1 Sofa Mahogany frame Gilt \$5. 1 Mahogany stand \$1.50	6 50
1 Mahogany Breakfast Table claw feet	8 00
A Gilt dressing Table Marble Top	20 00
Amount carried over	\$191 25
1 Large looking Glass gilt frame \$75. 1 Wooden waiter .12 1/2	\$75 12 1/2
1 Perrys Victory \$2. 2 Lamps \$12. 1 pair shovel & tongs & poker \$2.	16 00
1 Old Carpet \$4. Bishop White \$.	5 00

Entry

1 Entry Stove and pipe	15 00
1 entry Lamp & chains	5 00
2 Rush Bottomed Armed Chairs 16 do do do	6 00
1 Rag Carpet for entry \$5. 1 Mahogany dining table \$5.	10 00
2 Circular end Mahogany	5 00
1 old Clock Mahogany case \$30. 3 Coal scuttles \$2.	32 00
2 Kegs cut Nails 200 lbs. \$12. 3 old Maps \$3 - Rag Carpet old \$1	16 00
2 Silver cans 41 oz 14 dwt	
1 Tankard 34 4	
1 Coffee pot 30	
1 Urn 80	
1 Tumbler 8	
16 Tablespoons 40	
1 Soup Ladle 5	
1 Sugar Tongs 2	
1 doz Teaspoons 14	
5 old spoons) 3	
5 salts )	
4 Salt Cellars 12 = 269 oz - 18	269 90
1 Plated Basket \$1.50 1 Plated Casters \$1.	2 50
3 Plated Candlesticks .75. 1 pair block tin lamps .50	1 25
1 old looking glass 5.00 1 oil painting \$1.00	
5 pictures .50	6 50
1 old mahogany stand \$1. 6 Rush bottom chairs 4.50	5 50
1 Small breakfast table \$2. 1 Small box containing Silver \$1	3 00
1 small fire stand .75 1 pair tongs and poker .50	1 25
1 Desk and book case/Mahogany/	20 00
Old carpet & piece of Rag Carpet \$4. 1 Lot China 41 pieces \$12	16 00

1 Knife case 1 doz large and 1 doz small knives & forks steel and carving knife and fork	10 00
Amount carried up	712 27 1/2
3 Knives and forks & steel	50
8 Oyster Knives	1 00

Store Room

A lot of Crockery and Glass Ware in Closet	6 00
A lot of Tin Ware .50 A Bell metal skillet .50	1 00
A clothes horse and pine table .50 a glass lamp .50	1 00
A Brass lamp .50	50

Kitchen

A Plate tray, and stand \$2. A Walnut Table \$2.00	4 00
Old Mahogany table \$1.00 two old pine tables 1.50	2 50
Old Stove \$3. 3 old chains .75 2 Copper Tea Kettles \$3.	6 75
Copper Wash Kettle/old/1.50 Fish kettle \$2.00	3 50
Lot of Kitchen Ware \$5. 2 feed chests \$3.00 1 old Rag Carpet \$1.00	9 00

Wash House

2 Pine Tables 1.50 3 Grid Irons 2.00 1 Griddle \$1.	4 50
2 Dutch ovens \$2.00 Iron Wash Kettle 1.00	3 00
4 iron pots \$3. 1 Iron Tea Kettle 50/1 Tin Kitchen .50	4 00
Coffee Mill .50 Lot of Tin Ware \$1. Frying pan \$1	2 50
And Irons, shovel and tongs \$2.00 a lot of tubs & buckets \$2.	4 00
A Meal Tub	2 00

Cellar

Oil Can tin \$1. 2 1/2 bbls Vinegar 2.50	3 50
1 Screw Jack 1.25 lot of Hinges 5.00 Cellar closet and Cedar Ware \$1.	7 25
Hominy Block \$1. A lot of Coal 140.	141 00
A lot of Window frames and sash \$30. A lot of boards \$15	45 00

South Front up Stairs

1 Dinner set blue and gilt China	30 00
1 Tea fancy set \$5. Nine China dishes \$5	10 00
1 Large Tureen and 2 Small ones \$3	3 00
Amount carried over	1007 77 1/2
Wash Basin and pitcher \$1.50 7 Window Chairs \$2.00	3 50

1 Walnut Table 1.00	1 pine table small .50	1 50
1 Small oval Walnut Table		50
A Desk and Book case with Glass Doors		20 00
1 Circular Bureau Mahogany		3 00
Mahogany Bedstead \$8.	1 Hair mattress \$10	18 00
1 Feather Bed and bolsters and pillows		15 00

South Back Room up Stairs

6 Mahogany Chairs \$6.00	Carpet & Hearth Rug 10.00	16 00
A Straw Mattress \$4.00	2 beds 2 bolsters & 3 pillows 40	44 00
1 Mahogany bedstead 12.00	1 Mahogany card table \$1.50	13 50
1 Looking Glass \$2.	4 pr linen sheets \$6.	8 00
8 Table Cloths & 4 Towels		24 00
2 Counterpanes, 3 Quilts and 5 Blankets		20 00

East Front up Stairs

A case of Drawes Mahogany		6 00
6 old Walnut Chairs 1.50.	A Bureau Mahogany 10	11 00
A looking Glass \$1.	A mahogany Work stand 3	4 00
A pine Wash stand \$1.50	Bedstead maple, bed & bedding	19 50
Likeness of Jefferson .25		25
2 Corner copies		1 00
1 Mahogany Secretary \$2.	1 Clock Mahogany case \$12.	14 00
A pine Writing Desk \$1.	1 old Sofa & dressing table \$1.	2 00
1 Piano stool .50	Rag Carpet \$3	3 50

In Garrett

1 Meal Chest \$2.	a desk 2.	1 large Andirons Brass \$3.00	7 00
1 Small Andiron Brass			1 00
A lot of Oats 20 bushels \$8.	a lot of damaged corn 4.		12 00
Tool Chest and contents \$2.	a lot of damaged Corn 120.00		122 00
1 Pair Large Andirons Brass \$4.	1 pr small do. .50		4 50
Amount Carried up			1405 02 1/2
1 Chinese Sofa 2.00	1 Iron stove 2.	Old lumber \$1.	5 00

In Nursery

One bathing tub \$10.	3 Maps and a plan of City of Washington \$3.	13 00
A Walnut book case \$3	a pine Book case \$3	6 00

A dressing Table \$2 a desk & 5 old Tables \$1.25	3 25
An old chest .25 a Clock on mantel \$6.	6 25
A pair bellows .50. a cheese box .50	1 00

In Yard

3000 feet of Boards \$45. 1 Iron Pot \$1.50.	46 50
--	-------

In Stable

Brown Hrse \$50. 1 Bay Horse \$20. 1 Cow \$20	90 00
A Two year old Heifer	10 00
Pile of Stone \$5 Pile of Shingles \$60 Pile of Old Bricks \$2	67 00
25 Pieces dressed sand stone	25 00
10 Pieces dressed Granite \$20. 2 Gate Posts \$2.	22 00
A cart & Harness \$15/76 Pieces White Oak scantling \$34.20	49 20
1 Pile of Stone in Market Street	10 00
	<u>1759 22 1/2</u>

Library

No. 1	Vol.	
History of New Jersey	1	25
Bidfields Elements	3	75
Verguson's Lectures & Vol. of Plates	3	1 00
Volneys Views	1	25
Universal History	9	4 50
Volney	1	25
Staunton's Embassy	1	50
Pursuits of Literature	1	50
Murphy's Tacitus	6	1 80
Elements of Rigging	2	2 00
Dialogues of the Dead	1	20
		<u>12 00</u>
Evan's Report of Chases' Trial	1	
Humphrey's Works	1	20
Leland's Discourses (odd Vol.)	1	20
Jones' Lecures	1	15
Millots Elements of Gen. History	5	10
Religious Discourses by a Layman	1	2 00
Maps to the Life of Washington	1	06
Revolution of South Carolina	2	06
Travels in Spain	2	80
Rolands appeal	2	80
Moore's Italy	2	80
Moore's France	2	1 00
Rutherforths Institutes	2	80
Ward's Law of Nations	2	1 20
Reids' Essays	2	1 20
Mirabeaus Speeches	2	1 50
Life of Sir W. Jones	1	1 20



Jeffersons Notes	1	80
Mortimers Lectures	1	80
Radcliffs Journey	1	40
Barclay's Apology	1	40
Existence of the Soul	1	40
Cure for Canting	1	10
Cambray on Eloquence	1	06
Providence (A Poem)	1	10
Lexiphanes	1	10
Goldsmiths Essays	2	10
Sternes Letters	1	20
Hayleys Works	3	10
Mores Female Education	2	60
William Letters odd vols 2 & 3	2	40
Burnetts Life of Hale	1	20
Study of the Bible by Prettyman	<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>
	80	<u>25</u>
		29 18
Secker's Lectures on the Catechism	1	10
Historical Compend	1	20
Present State of the Greek Church in Russia	1	10
Voltaire's Charles 12th	1	10
Josephus' Works	6	1 20
Mirabaud's System of Nature	2	20
Martins Law of Nations	1	10
Life of Johnson	2	2 20
Beauties of Johnson	1	10
Family Receipts	1	20
Watts Psalms & Hymns	1	10
Mills on Cattle	1	10
Letters of Fabius	1	10
Ahiman Rezon	1	06
Varlow's Husbandry	2	20
Evans Poems	1	10
Watts Logic	1	10
Watts on the Improvement of the Mind	1	10
Sternes Works	4	40
Barrow's Sermons	6	60
Conquest of Canaan	1	10
Irvings Elements	1	10
Art of Surveying	1	10
Terrible Tractonation	1	10
Seneca's Morals	1	16
No. 2		
Bancroft's History of the United States	1	75
Seneca's Morals	1	15
Telemaque fine edition with Engravings	2	3

Waldie's Select Library	5	1
American Biography	1	25
Butlers Analogy	1	25
Brewers Turkey	1	30
Brougham's Natural Theology	1	10
Godwin's Lives of Necromancers	<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>
	135	42 00
Mackintosh's Revolution in England	1	1
Goldsmith's Poems and Plays	1	10
Letters of Horace Walpole	1	10
Memors of Videc	1	20
Miscellaneous Tracts	1	10
Orations of I?ous	1	15
Hamilton's Works	3	60
Orrery's Plinys letters	2	2
Turners History of the World	1	15
Confession of Faith	1	10
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Thomas Stockton  
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