



The Free African American Community of New Castle, Delaware

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Introduction



Figure 1. Benjamin Latrobe Survey, 1805 [1].

HISTORY

New Castle, originally named Fort Casimir, was founded by Peter Struyvesant, the Dutch Director-General of New Netherland, in 1651. The Swedes, Dutch, and English all vied for ownership of the settlement because of its strategic location.

In 1682, William Penn arrived in New Castle to take possession of Delaware's three lower counties. Displeased with his rule, Penn granted the Delaware counties a private legislature of which New Castle became the colonial capital, and later briefly served as the first state capital.

New Castle was a thriving community throughout the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Located six miles south of Wilmington and situated along the Delaware River, New Castle's location served as an optimal transfer point for travelers along the coast. It was also home to signers of the Declaration of Independence; George Read I, Thomas McKean, and George Ross.

The historic core is the oldest continuously occupied town in the Delaware Valley and is second only to Williamsburg, Virginia in the number and authenticity of its historic structures which include Colonial, Federal, and Victorian-era architecture. Because New Castle is a National Historic Landmark, all renovations and alterations must be approved by the Historic Area Commission [2].

1. http://nc-chap.org/latrobe/frontstreet_color3.jpg
2. History-City of New Castle- New Castle County Delaware (2018, August 08). Retrieved from <https://newcastlecity.delaware.gov/history/>
3. http://nc-chap.org/saturday_evening_post_cover.php23

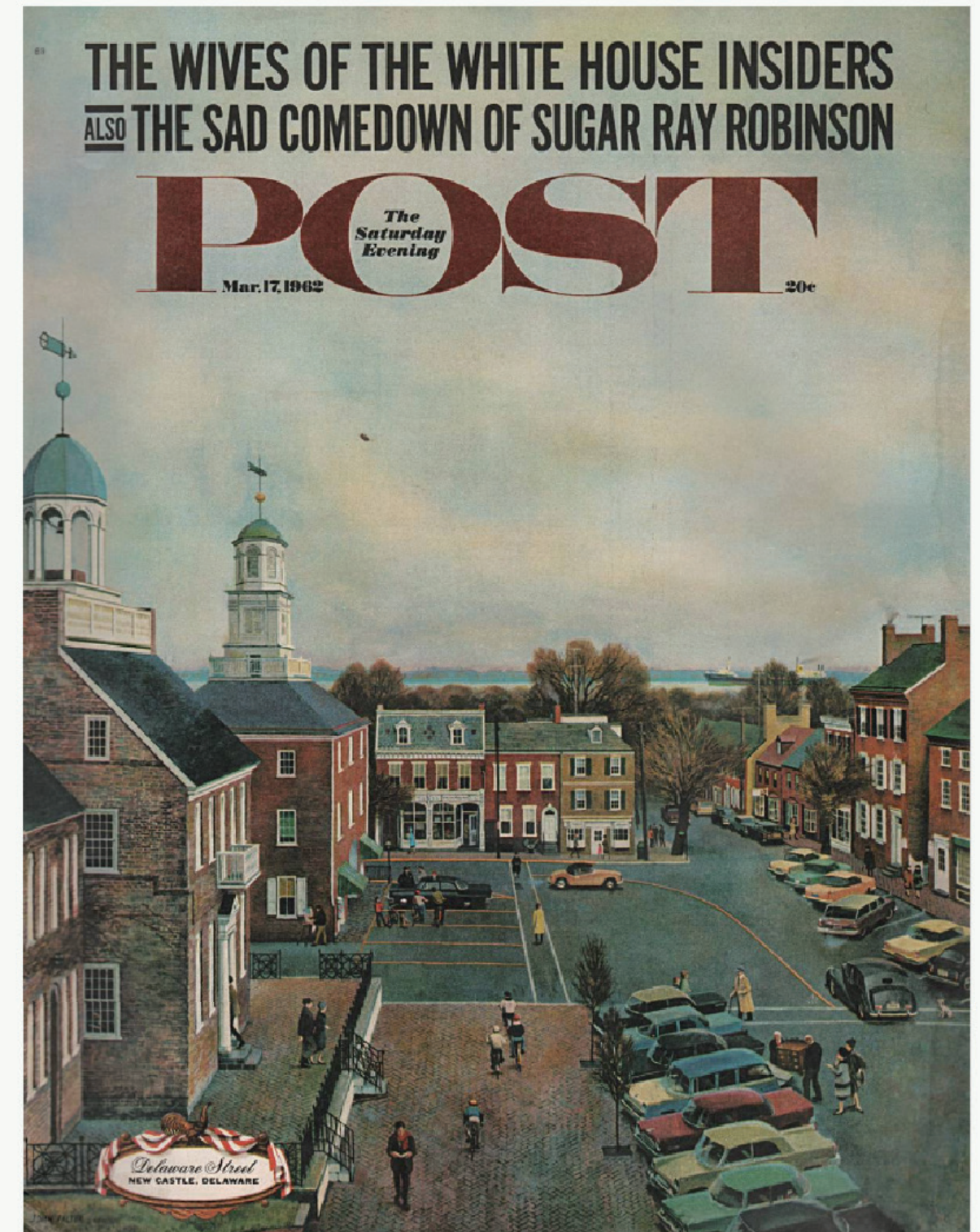


Figure 2. New Castle on the cover of the Saturday Evening Post, March 17, 1962 [3].

Introduction

New Castle prospered during the late eighteenth through the first half of the nineteenth century because of its connection from the Delaware River to the Chesapeake Bay. However, by the mid-nineteenth century the town was in decline as a more direct rail line transported goods directly from Philadelphia to Baltimore, by passing New Castle's port completely.

Because of the town's economic decline after the mid-nineteenth century, few people built Victorian structures or had the financial means to alter extant buildings. Thus, many of New Castle's structures retained their original architectural features.

In 1920, Philip and Lydia Laird purchased 42 The Strand, the former home of George Read II. By 1941 the Lairds had purchased and restored 12 properties on The Strand. Philip wanted to preserve the architectural characteristics of the properties while also updating them for modern living.

At the same time, Colonel Daniel Moore Bates was leading a preservation charge in New Castle. A graduate of MIT, Bates became friends with Andrew Hepburn at school who went on to become a famous architect at the firm of Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn- the Boston firm that carried out the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg.

Bates and Laird developed similar ideas about the restoration of New Castle to preserve it and make it accessible for future generations. The model for historic preservation at the time was Colonial Williamsburg in Williamsburg, Virginia. The work done on Colonial Williamsburg became a paradigm for how to preserve a community, and while New Castle never became the museum town that Colonial Williamsburg did, like Williamsburg, New Castle played an influential role in the preservation movement of the 1930s. The movement was born from the Colonial Revival movement which was not always equitable in its interpretation of history [4].

4. Laham Wildes, K. (2003). The Preservation Of Historic New Castle: A Study In Perceptions (dissertation). Retrieved from http://nc-chap.org/resources/kristen_wildes.pdf



Figure 3. The George Read II House, present day. Photo by Author.



Figure 4. Portrait of Philip Laird (top right). Image courtesy of Delaware Historical Society.



Figure 5. Portrait of Lydia Laird (bottom right). Image courtesy of Delaware Historical Society.

Colonial Revival: 1880-1955

Philadelphia Centennial of 1876

The Colonial Revival era is largely attributed to the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876, which sparked the interest in the colonial American architectural heritage and the early English and Dutch houses of the Atlantic seaboard.

1915-1935

The most researched and accurate examples of colonial revival architecture were constructed during this time.

History Idealized

Generally, Colonial Revival participants focused more on preserving the spirit of the past rather than adhering to historical accuracy.

Tour of McKim, Mead & White

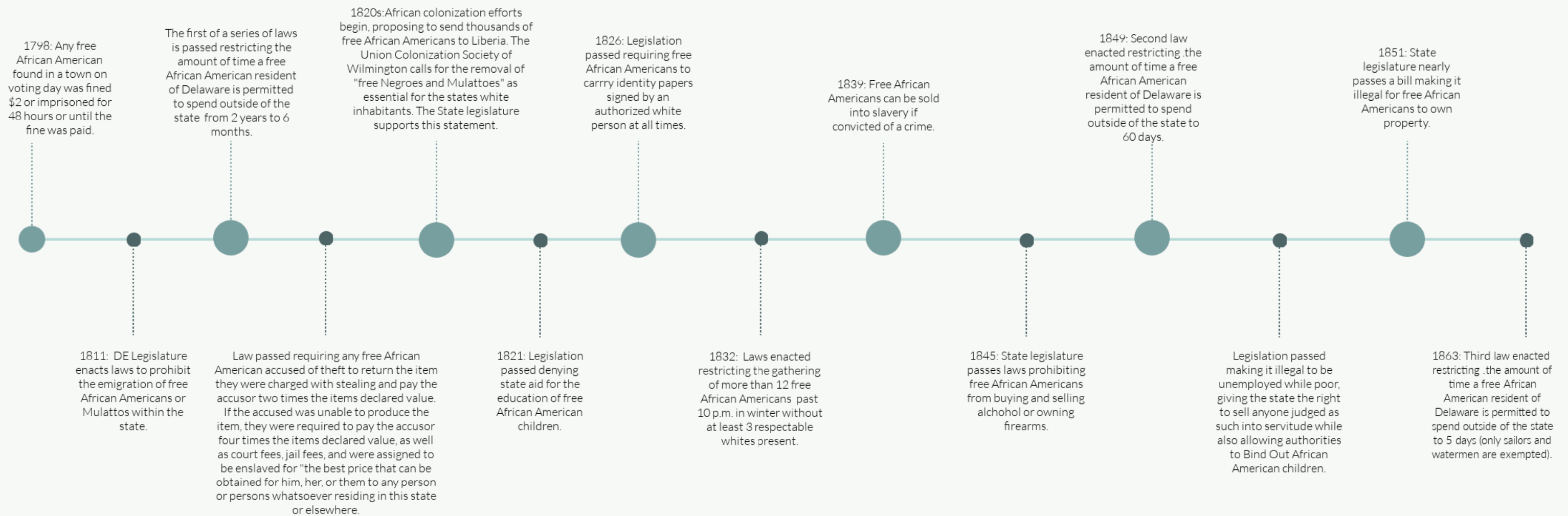
1877

A group of architects went on a highly publicized tour of New England to study examples of Georgian and Federal houses.

Great Depression/WWII

The economic depression of the 1930s followed by WWII resulted in a simplification of colonial revival styles.

Legislation Restricting the Rights of Free African Americans in Delaware



6. Dalleo, P. T. (1997, June 27). The Growth of Delaware's Antebellum Free African American community. Retrieved from <https://www1.udel.edu/BlackHistory/antebellum.html>

7. DelawareHistory (Director). (2021, April 22). A mere Mock Freedom: Free and enslaved black life in DELAWARE 1790-1840 [Video file]. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvpjoyAYfps>

Introduction

By 1850, there were about 250 African Americans living in New Castle, none of whom were enslaved. Most men worked as laborers and women worked as house servants, however, there were several African American businesses, including a hotel, oyster saloons, and barbershops. Many of the town's Black residents lived in the white households where they were employed, but others owned homes.

Individuals with the fewest resources generally lived farthest away from the town's center. Areas of Third and Fourth streets closest to Chestnut Street and the marshier areas were predominantly inhabited by African Americans and Irish immigrants. By the time of the Civil War, African Americans were living on both the East and West sides of New Castle, with a large concentration of African Americans living in the area of West Fourth and Williams Street [8].

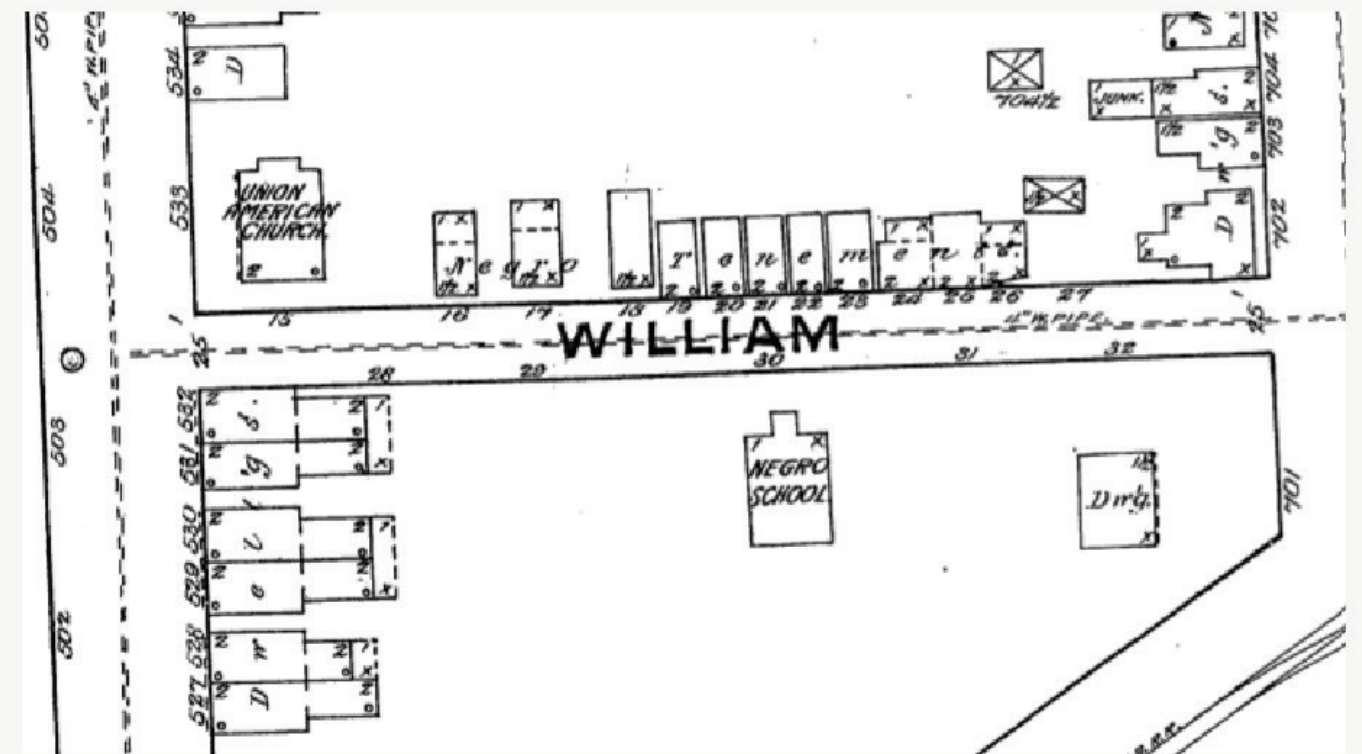


Figure 5. 1885 Sanborn Fire Map showing Negro Tenements, Union American Church, and Negro School on William St [9].

8. Benson, B. E., & Hoffecker, C. E. (2011). New Castle, Delaware: A walk through time (1st ed.). New Castle, DE: Oak Knoll Press.

9. <http://nc-chap.org/chap/sanborn.php>

Precedent Study: The Witness Stones Project

BACKGROUND

The Witness Stones Project was founded in 2017 by Dennis Culliton and Doug Nygren. Inspired by the Stolperstein Project in Germany, the group works to restore the memory of enslaved individuals in Guilford, Connecticut by placing memorial stones in the sidewalk near a site of significance to the individual.



Figure 6. Witness Stone Honoring a man named Pompey in Guilford, CT [10]

MATERIALS

- Cement Base
- Bronze plaque engraved with the name, occupation, and date of emancipation or death of the enslaved individual.

HISTORY

- Located in New Haven County in Southeastern Connecticut on the Long Island Sound.
- Originally called Nunkateuck.
- Sold to Puritans led by Henry Whitfield by the Quinnipiac, settled in 1639.
- Admitted into the New Haven Colony in 1643 [11]

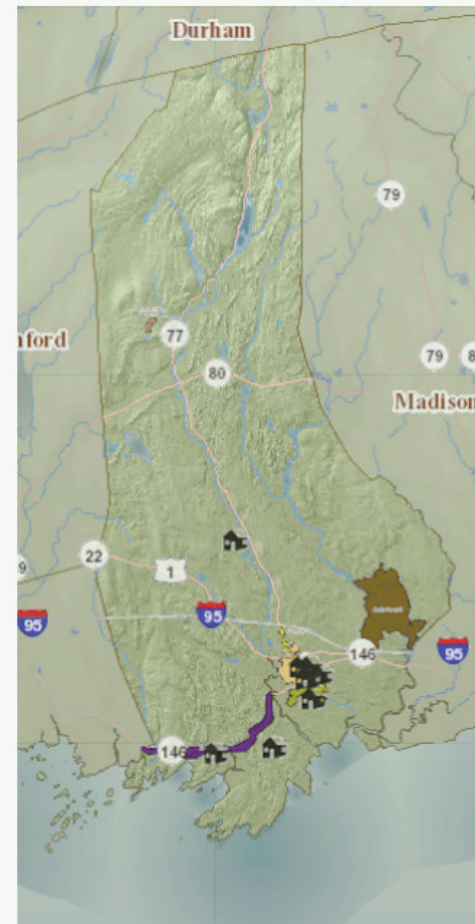


Figure 7. Map of Guilford, CT. [12]

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- Native American pit houses, dating back 9,000 years.
- 17th century Saltbox houses.
- City Beautiful Movement era Parks.
- Modernist/Post-Modernist skyscrapers.

SLAVERY IN CONNECTICUT

- Mid-1600s: Enslaved Africans are brought to the colony.
- Beginning of American Revolution: There are more than 6,400 enslaved people in Connecticut.
- 1774: Act for Prohibiting the Indian, Negro or Mulatto Slaves.
- 1784: Gradual Abolition Act.
- 1848: End of slavery in Connecticut [13].

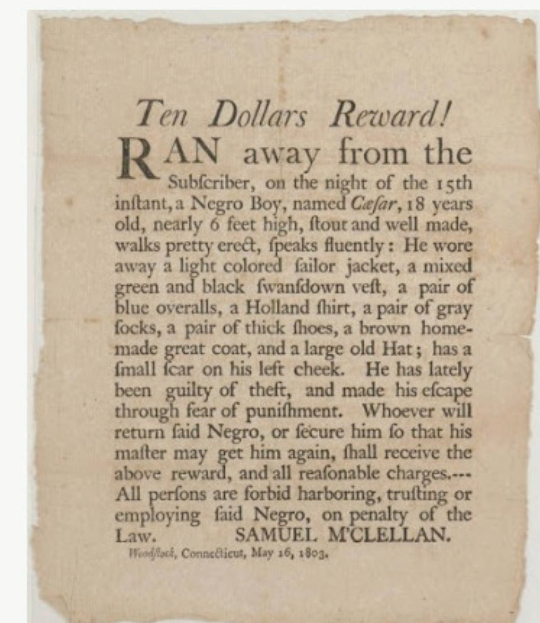


Figure 8. Advertisement announcing reward for runaway slave, in Woodstock, CT, 1803. [14]

[10] Witness stones project - restore history, educate, and honor humanity. (2020, February 15). Retrieved from <https://witnessstonesproject.org/>
[11] Guilford: Connecticut history: A CT Humanities Project. (2011, September 13). Retrieved from <https://connecticuthistory.org/towns-page/guilford/#:~:text=Originally%20called%20Menunkatuck%2C%20the%20Quinnipiac,New%20Haven%20Colony%20in%201643>
[12] https://guilford.mapxpress.net/ags_map/
[13] Slavery and abolition: Connecticut history: A CT Humanities Project. (2012, May 03). Retrieved from <https://connecticuthistory.org/topics-page/slavery-and-abolition/>
[14] McClellan, S. (n.d.). Ten dollars reward! Ran away from the subscriber, on the night of the 15th instant, a Negro boy named Caesar, 18 years old [Digital image]. Retrieved from <https://digitalcatalog.chs.org/islandora/object/40002%3A20101>

Precedent Study: The Witness Stones Project



Figure 9. Guilford Savings Bank where Montros and Phillis were enslaved [15].

ONE FAMILY'S STORY

Montros and Phillis were brought from Barbados to Connecticut in 1710. They were enslaved by the Naughty family at their home, which is now the Guilford Savings Bank. Though Montros and Phillis were emancipated in 1772, only one of their eight children, their youngest daughter Candace, was emancipated. Their seven other children died in bondage.



Figure 10. Stones honoring Montros and Phillis placed in front of the Guilford Savings Bank [16].



Figure 11. Stone honoring Candace, daughter of Montros and Phillis placed in front of the Hyland House Museum [17]



Figure 12. Stone honoring Moses, son of Montros and Phillis, placed in front of Guilford Town Hall [18]



Figure 13. A local eighth-grader and state Rep. Patricia Wilson Pheanious at a Witness Stone laying ceremony [19].

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Local students learn to conduct research using primary documents to learn about the enslaved individuals in Guilford.
- So far, 18 stones have been placed in Guilford, Madison, and West Hartford, Connecticut.
- Through Witness Stones research, former state Rep Patricia Wilson Pheanious learned she was a direct descendent of Phillis and Montros.
- Stone laying ceremonies bring community members together to honor and remember the memory of the lives of those enslaved in Guilford.

15. Retrieved from <http://www.ck-architects.com/gsb-guilford>
16. Lambert S. (Jan. 05, 2021). [Digital image]. Retrieved from <https://www.zip06.com/news/20210105/witness-stones-will-expand-to-new-schools-add-new-collaborations>
17. Retrieved from <https://shorelineunitarian.org/2020/10/01/faith-formation-news-10-1-2020/>
18. Sureck, S. & Christmann, I. (2019). [Digital image]. Retrieved from <https://www.learningforjustice.org/magazine/spring-2019/bearing-witness-to-the-hard-history-of-guilford>
19. Stannard, E. (2018, November 05). Guilford project Researching Slavery finds descendant living in Connecticut. Retrieved from <https://www.nhregister.com/news/article/Guilford-project-researching-slavery-finds-13361223.php>

Site Conditions: The Strand



Figure 14. Granite sleeper stones and cobblestones at the entry of Alexander Alley.



Figure 15. A view of the Delaware River from The Strand.



Figure 16. Brick sidewalks are well maintained and contain a variety of patterns, like this herringbone pattern.

Site Conditions: 4th Street

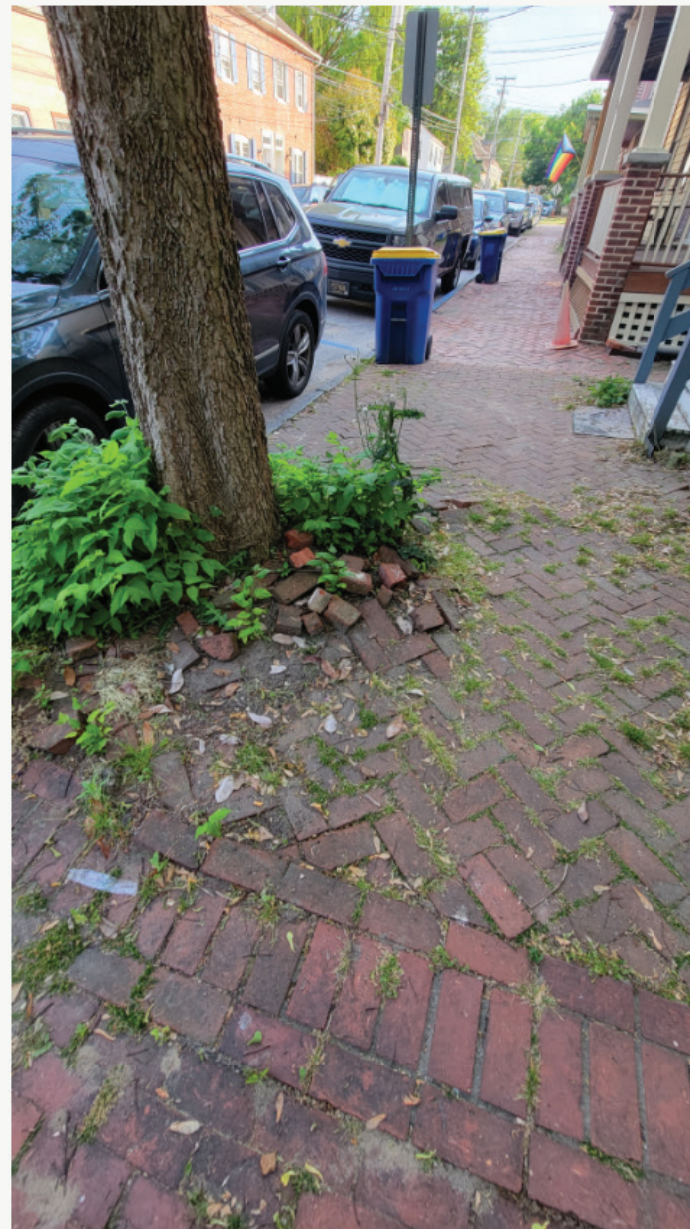


Figure 17. & 18. Stone sidewalk in front of Mt. Salem United Methodist Church and sidewalk on East 4th Street.

Figure 19 & 20. Street view of West 4th Street and the intersection of West 4th and South Streets.

Historic African American Community Site Inventory



1. Delaware Street Wharf Oyster Saloon: John Vine/John Peterson
2. 122 The Strand: Augustus Jamot
3. 313 Harmony St: Perry Cisco
4. 315 Harmony St: Perry Cisco
5. 317 Harmony St: Perry Cisco
6. 411 Harmony St: Perry Cisco
7. 413 Harmony St: Perry Cisco
8. 110 E 4th St: James Painter
9. 112 E 4th St: Aaron & Sarah Fields
10. 130 E 4th St: Steward & Emeline Ward
11. 132 E 4th St: Richard Glasgow
12. 134 E 4th St: Henry Lilly
13. 138 E 4th St: Mt. Salem UME Church
14. Corner of W 4th St and South St Area: Home of Samuel Waters
15. 419 Williams St: Bethany UAME Church

Delaware Street Wharf Oyster Saloon



Figure 21. New Castle GIS Map Zoomed in on The Delaware Street Wharf

According to the records of Alexander B Cooper, an oyster saloon was kept by a "large, powerful and strapping colored man" by the name of John Viney in 1866 [20]. A Mulatto man by the name of John Peterson is listed as an Oyster Saloon Keeper in the 1860 Federal Census. It's possible this could be the same person [21].

20.. Cooper, A. B., Esq. (2020). The History of New Castle, Delaware (1st ed., p. 342).

New Castle Historical Society

21. <http://nc-chap.org/census/nc1860.html>



Figure 22. View of Delaware Street Wharf. Present Day. Image provided by Author.



Figure 23. Late 19th century photograph of the Delaware Street Wharf. Image courtesy of the New Castle Historical Society.

Augustus Jamot: The Strand



Figure 24. GIS Map of New Castle zoomed in on The Strand.



Figure 25. Approximate site of the Jamot house..

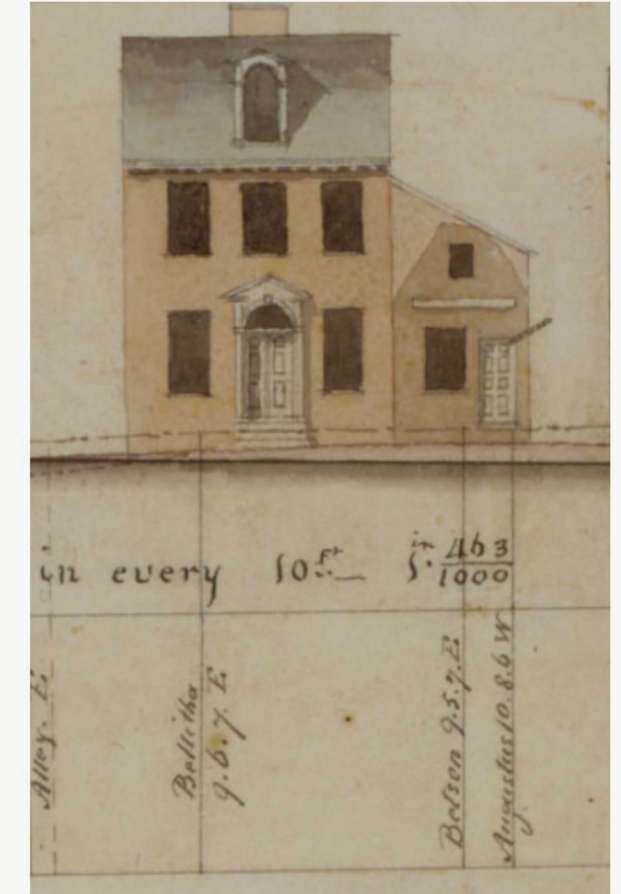


Figure 26 Jamot house (right) on the 1805 Latrobe survey. Note the structure is labeled "Augustus."

Augustus Jamot had a hairdressing shop on The Strand in the early 19th century. It was likely the only Black owned business in town at that time [22]

22. g. Cooper, C. J. (1983). A Town Among Cities: New Castle, Delaware 1780-1840 (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). University of Delaware. doi:http://nc-chap.org/resources/cooper_town_among_cities.pdf
23 Advertisement. (1804, April 25). Mirror Of the Times, & General Advertiser, 5 (459), p. [1]. Available from Readex: America's Historical Newspapers: <https://infoweb-newsbank-com.udel.idm.oclc.org/apps/readex/doc?p=EANX&docref=image/v2%3A11B0154EE97066FF%40EANX-11B9702DAC513318%402380072-11B9702DCDA11708%400-11B9702E14378980%40Advertisement>.

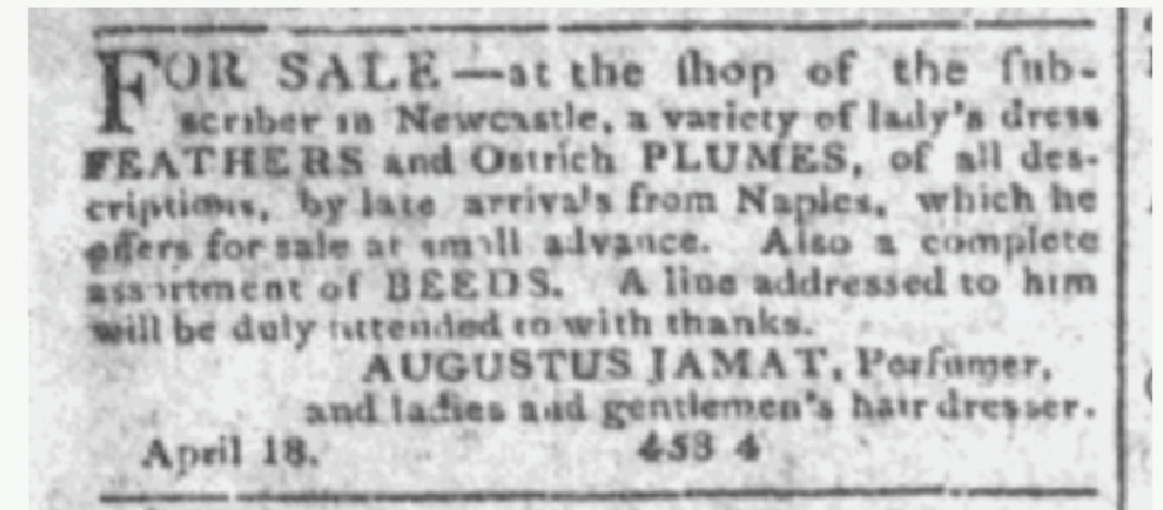


Figure 27. An advertisement in The Mirror of the Times and General Advisor (Wilmington, Del) April 25, 1804 [23].

Perry Cisco

Perry Cisco was an African American man who owned six properties on Harmony Street. He is listed in the 1860 Federal Census as having been born in Maryland around 1838, and living and working on the farm of John Harrison as a farm laborer [24]. The 1870 Federal Census lists him as a farm worker and married to a woman named Ann. Cisco is listed as owning real estate valued at \$1,000 [25]. By the 1880s, he was listed as a Milk Vendor living on Harmony Street [26].

At the time of his death in 1902 [27], he was living at 315 Harmony Street. After his death, he left the house at 315 Harmony St to his nurse, Mary Bowman, to live in for the remainder of her life. After which, the house, as well as his properties at 311, 313, 317, 411, 413 Harmony Street were to be loaned to The Sarah White House for Aged Colored People, for as long as the organization was operational. After which, the properties were to be given to his niece, Isabella Green and her heirs, forever [28].

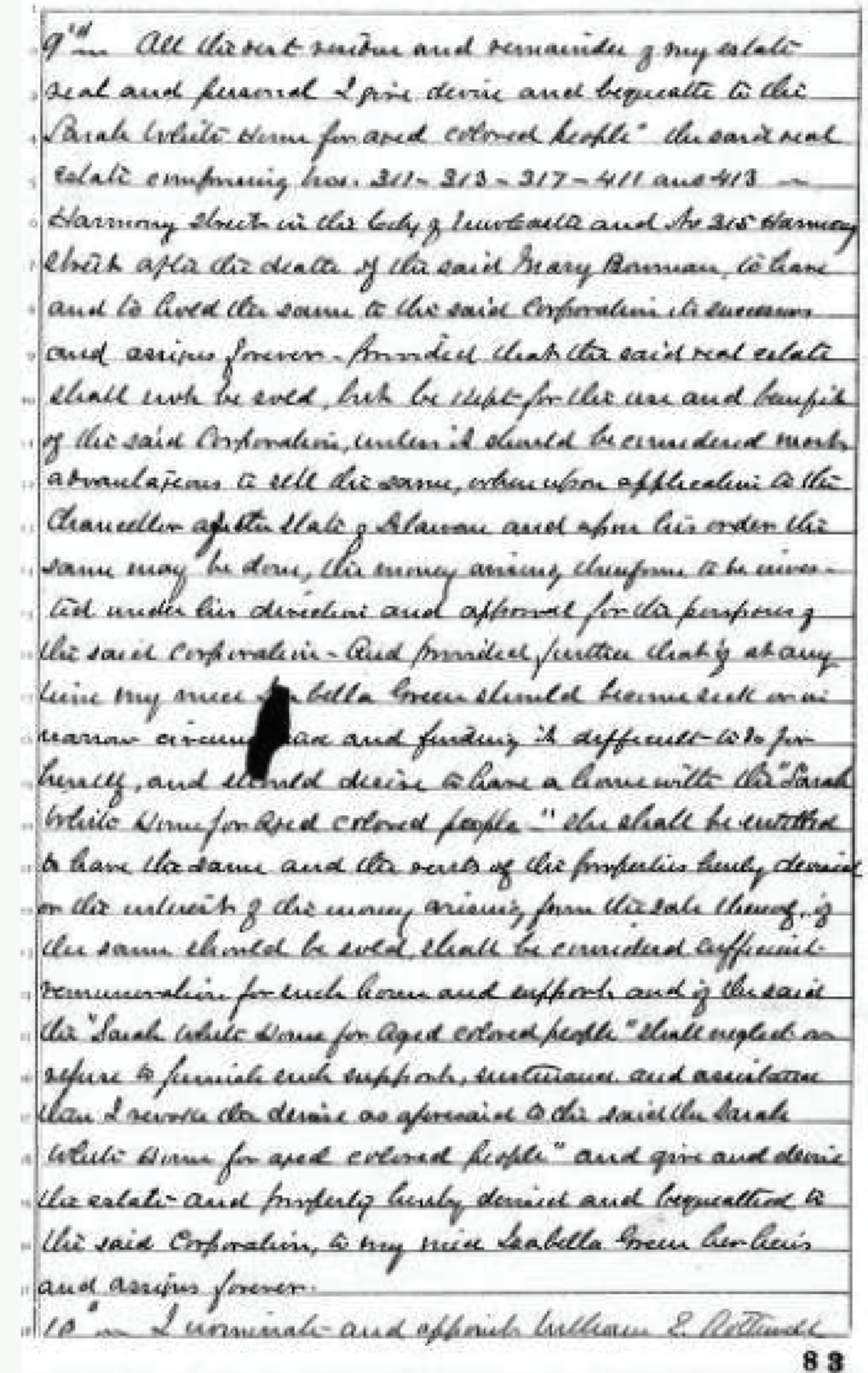
24. Year: 1860; Census Place: New Castle Hundred, New Castle, Delaware; Page: 154

25. Year: 1870; Census Place: New Castle, New Castle, Delaware; Roll: M593_120; Page: 610B

26. Year: 1880; Census Place: New Castle, New Castle, Delaware; Roll: 119; Page: 185A; Enumeration District: 024

27. Delaware Public Archives; Dover, Delaware; Delaware Vital Records, 1800-1933; Series Number: Death Records - 88

28. New Castle County probate records, ca 1682-1925; Author: New Castle County (Delaware). Register of Wills; Probate Place: New Castle, Delaware



9th All the rest residue and remainder of my estate
real and personal I give devise and bequeath to the
"Sarah White House for aged colored people" the said real
estate comprising nos. 311-313-317-411 and 413 on
Harmony Street in the City of Newcastle and to 315 Harmony
Street after the death of the said Mary Bowman, to have
and to hold the same to the said Corporation its successors
and assigns forever. Provided that the said real estate
shall not be sold, but be kept for the use and benefit
of the said Corporation, unless it should be considered more
advantageous to sell the same, when upon application to the
Chancellor of the State of Delaware and upon his order the
same may be done, the money arising therefrom to be in-
vested under his direction and approval for the purposes of
the said Corporation. And provided further that if at any
time my niece Isabella Green should become sick or in
any manner disabled and finding it difficult to pro-
vide for herself, and should desire to have a home with the "Sarah
White House for aged colored people" she shall be entitled
to have the same and the rents of the properties hereby devised
on the interest of the money arising from the sale thereof, if
the same should be sold, shall be considered sufficient
remuneration for such home and support and if the said
the "Sarah White House for aged colored people" shall neglect or
refuse to furnish such support, maintenance and assistance
then I reserve the devise as aforesaid to the said the Sarah
White House for aged colored people" and give and devise
the estate and property hereby devised and bequeathed to
the said Corporation, to my niece Isabella Green her heirs
and assigns forever.

10th I nominate and appoint William E. Pettit

83

Figure 28. A Page from the Delaware, U.S., Wills and Probate Records listing the properties of Perry Cisco.

Perry Cisco



Figure 29. GIS Map of New Castle zoomed in on Harmony St.

29. <https://www3.newcastlede.gov/parcel/details/default.aspx?ParcelID=2101510143>



Figure 30. 413 Harmony St. The house that exists on the site today was built in 1964 [29].



Figure 31. 315/317 Harmony St.

James Painter

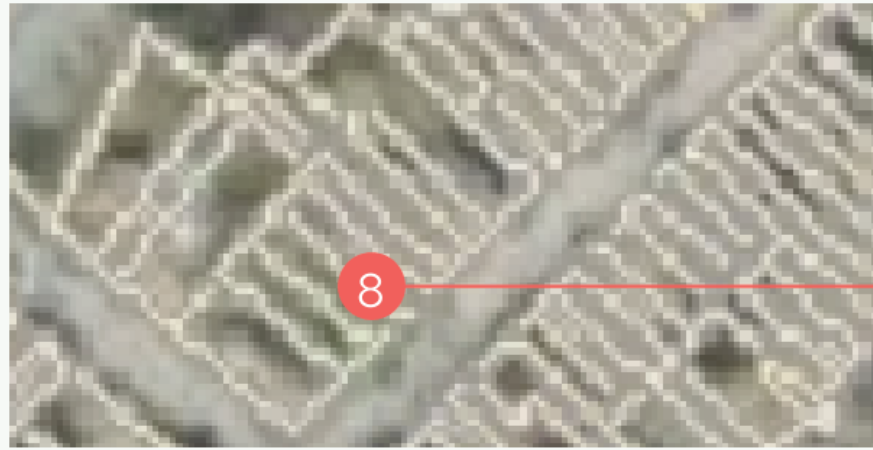


Figure 32. GIS Map of New Castle zoomed in on E 4th Street.

On August 15, 1857, an African American man from Wilmington, Delaware named James Painter purchased a plot of land on Vine St (now E 4th Street) from Samuel Waters [30]. The 1810 Federal Census lists Painter as "A free black" and residing with three other individuals [31].



Figure 33. Site of 108 E 4th Street today. Photo by author.

30. Delaware Public Archives; Delaware Land Records; Roll Number: 68

31. Year: 1810; Census Place: Mill Creek Hundred, New Castle, Delaware; Roll: 4; Page: 227; Image: 00123; Family History Library Film: 0224381

Aaron Fields



Figure 34. GIS Map of New Castle, zoomed in on E 4th Street

Aaron Fields purchased a lot of land from Samuel Waters on Vine St (now E 4th Street) for \$65 on July 11, 1863 [32]. The 1850 Federal Census lists Fields as a "laborer" and married to Sarah [33]. In 1860, Fields' occupation remained unchanged, however, he owned real estate with a value of \$500 [34]. In 1870, his occupation was listed as a "gardener" and owned real estate with a value of \$1000 [35]. The Fields property was located at the approximate site of 112 E 4th St. The house that exists at the site today was build in 1996 [36].



Figure 35. 112 E Fourth St. Photo by Author.

- 32. Delaware Public Archives; Delaware Land Records; Roll Number: 63
- 33. Year: 1850; Census Place: New Castle, New Castle, Delaware; Roll: 54; Page: 277a
- 34. Year: 1860; Census Place: New Castle, New Castle, Delaware; Page: 221
- 35. Year: 1870; Census Place: New Castle, New Castle, Delaware; Roll: M593_120; Page: 611A
- 36. <https://www3.newcastlede.gov/parcel/details/default.aspx?ParcelID=2101510137>

Steward Ward

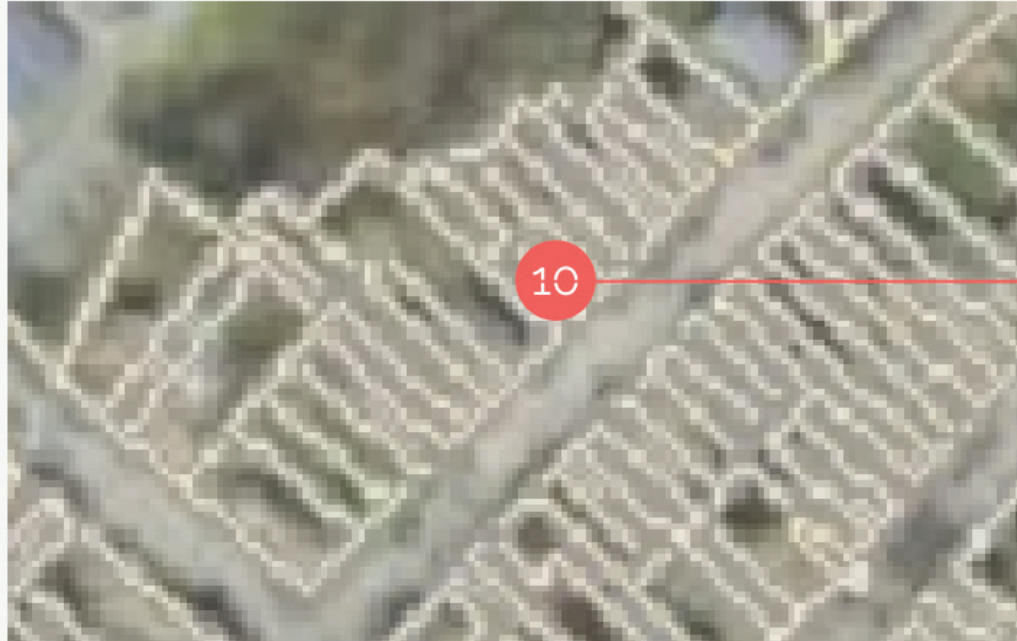


Figure 36. New Castle GIS Map, zoomed in on E 4th St.

Steward Ward purchased a lot of land on Vine St (now E 4th Street) on October 5, 1850 for \$45 [36]. In the 1850 Federal Census, Ward is listed as a "laborer" and married to Emeline. His real estate value is listed as \$600 [37]. In 1870, his occupation was unchanged and his real estate value decreased to \$400 [38]. By 1880, Emeline was listed as living in the home with her grandson Henry Downs [39]. The Ward property was located at he approximate site of 130 E 4th Street. The house that exists on the site today was built in 1977 [40].



Figure 37. 130 E 4th St. Photo by Author.

- 36. Delaware Public Archives; Delaware Land Records; Roll Number: 60
- 37. Year: 1850; Census Place: New Castle, New Castle, Delaware; Roll: 54; Page: 284b
- 38. Year: 1870; Census Place: New Castle, New Castle, Delaware; Roll: M593_120; Page: 611B
- 39. Year: 1880; Census Place: New Castle, New Castle, Delaware; Roll: 119; Page: 186C; Enumeration District: 024
- 40. <https://www3.newcastlede.gov/parcel/details/default.aspx?ParcelID=2101520081>

Richard Glasgow

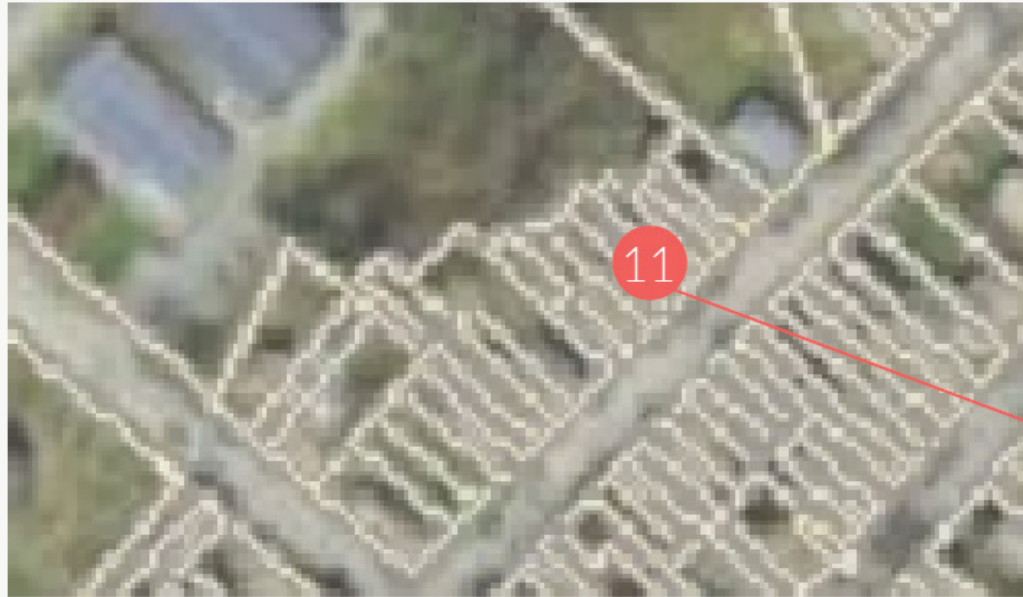


Figure 34. GIS Map of New Castle, zoomed in on E 4th Street

Richard Glasgow bought a plot of land from Samuel Waters for \$45 in 1851 [41]. Glasgow was listed as living with the Couper family at 42 The Strand in the 1850 Federal Census [42]. The Glasgow property is located at the approximate site of 132 E 4th St. The building that exists on the site today was built in 1977 [43].



Figure 35. 132 E Fourth St. Photo by Author.

41. Delaware Public Archives; Delaware Land Records; Roll Number: 61

42. Year: 1850; Census Place: New Castle, New Castle, Delaware; Roll: 54; Page: 289b

43. <https://www3.newcastlede.gov/parcel/details/default.aspx?ParcelID=2101520080>

Henry Lilly



Figure 35. GIS Map of New Castle, zoomed in on E 4th Street

Henry Lilly was born around 1815 and was listed in the 1850 census as a “laborer” living in the home of Thomas Janvier [44]. In 1857, Lilly purchased a plot of land for \$110 on E 4th Street next to the Mount Salem United Methodist Episcopal Church [45]. In 1860, Lilly was listed as an “Oyster House Keeper” and was married to Emeline Lilly [46]. By 1870, he was working as a “Trader” [47]. The approximate site of the plot purchased by Lilly is 134 East 4th St. The structure on the side dates to the mid 19th century [48].



Figure 36. 134 E Fourth St. Photo by Author.

44. Year: 1850; Census Place: New Castle, New Castle, Delaware; Roll: 54; Page: 288a

45. Delaware Public Archives; Delaware Land Records; Roll Number: 115

46. Year: 1860; Census: New Castle, New Castle, Delaware; Page: 220

47. Year: 1870; Census Place: New Castle, New Castle, Delaware; Roll: M593_120; Page: 613A

48. <https://www3.newcastlede.gov/parcel/details/default.aspx?ParcelID=2101520079>

Mount Salem United Methodist Episcopal Church

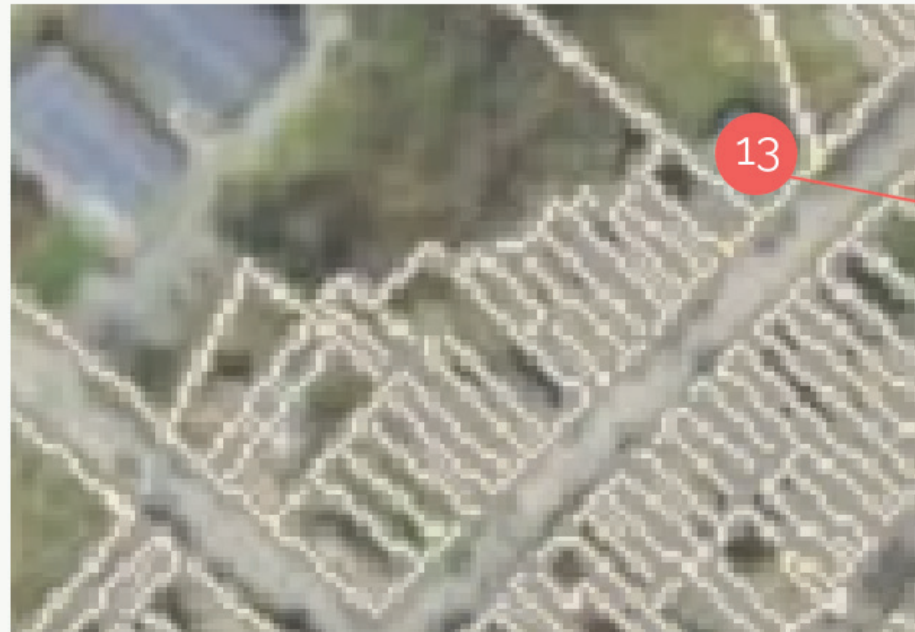


Figure 37. GIS Map of New Castle zoomed in n E 4th Street

Mount Salem United Methodist Episcopal Church was established by a group of 30 African Americans who left the New Castle Methodist Episcopal Church to form their own congregation[49]. Henry Lilly, the church's first pastor, was deeded a parcel of land in 1854 by Henry John Williamson on which the church's first structure, a white frame building, was constructed [50]. In 1878, The existing brick frame structure was erected on the same property with bricks from the brickyard at a gasworks located on Pearl Street (present day West Third St) [51]. Places of worship were central to social and spiritual life within the African American community. It offered its congregants refuge at a time of racial discrimination and violence as well as positions of leadership that weren't available to them anywhere else.



Figure 38. Mount Salem UME Church .

49. <https://www.localprayers.com/US/New-Castle/1476558082655904/Friends-of-Mount-Salem>

50. Delaware Public Archives; Delaware Land Records; Roll Number: 69

51. https://www.nc-chap.org/resources/woolard_MtSalemMethCh.pdf

Samuel Waters



Figure 39. GIS Map of New Castle zoomed in on West 4th and South Streets

Samuel Waters was born in Delaware around 1815. He and his wife, Mary Ann, and their two children resided in the area of West Fourth Street near South Street. The home is no longer extant. On April 15, 1846, Waters purchased a tract of land on Vine Street (now E 4th St) from William Pierce for \$500 [52]. He subdivided this land and sold it to mostly other African American individuals. He is listed as a "Hack Driver" in the 1860 Federal census [53] and as a "laborer" in 1870 [54].

52. Delaware Public Archives; Delaware Land Records; Roll Number: 60

53. Year: 1860; Census Place: New Castle, New Castle, Delaware; Page: 206

54. Year: 1870; Census Place: New Castle, New Castle, Delaware; Roll: M593_120; Page: 609A

55. <http://nc-chap.org/chap/images/beerNewCastle3k.jpg>



Figure 40. West 4th and South Streets today. Photo by Author.



Figure 41. Parcel of land purchased by Samuel Waters on E 4th Street from the Pomeroy & Beer Map of 1868 [55].

Bethany Union American Methodist Episcopal Church of New Castle



Figure 42. GIS Map of New Castle zoomed in on Williams St.

The first religious institution formed by African Americans in New Castle was incorporated on October 27 1817, and was called "The African Union Church." Part of the site of the present church was purchased on March 28, 1818 from Alexander Duncan on which a frame and timber church was built. On March 10, 1859, the congregation acquired more land on which a brick church was built in 1863 and rebuilt to add more seating capacity in 1869. A further expansion was made in 1888 to accommodate the growth in congregation [56]. On September 16, 1888, the name of the church was changed to "The Union American Church of New Castle" and "all papers and property" were formally transferred to the new trustees. The document was signed by J. Ayers, Norris Maxwell, Samuel Waters, N. Brinkckley, and Perry Cisco [57].



Figure 43. Bethany UAME Church at 419 Williams Street. Photo from Google Maps.

56. Cooper, A. B., Esq. (2020). *The History of New Castle, Delaware* (1st ed., p. 262). New Castle Historical Society.

57. Delaware Public Archives; Delaware Land Records; Roll Number: 84

Colonial Revival Materials

The automobile and Colonial Revival and historic preservation movements are the two greatest forces that shaped New Castle during the 20th century. By the 1920s the town was connected to the state's emerging highway system and, in 1925, an automobile ferry opened to shuttle people across the river to and from New Castle and Pennsville, New Jersey.

The country was in the earliest phase of auto tourism and many people were captivated by the charm of this little colonial town on the Delaware River. With the increasing number of tourists coming into New Castle by way of the automobile, the Colonial Revival movement, with its emphasis on colonial and Revolutionary America in its preservation efforts, was in full force. New Castle, with its abundance of Federal-era and earlier brick buildings complete with a colonial courthouse, embodied the spirit of the revivalist movement [58]. There are several objects/materials around town that exemplify the movement that are concentrated more within the historic core and Delaware street. These objects tend to not be seen in areas such as East and West 4th Street where there would have been a larger concentration of African Americans or immigrants. These objects tend to not be seen in areas such as East and West 4th Street where there would have been a larger concentration of African Americans or immigrants. Some of these items include sleeper stones, busybodies, hitching posts, fire markers, and boot scrapers.

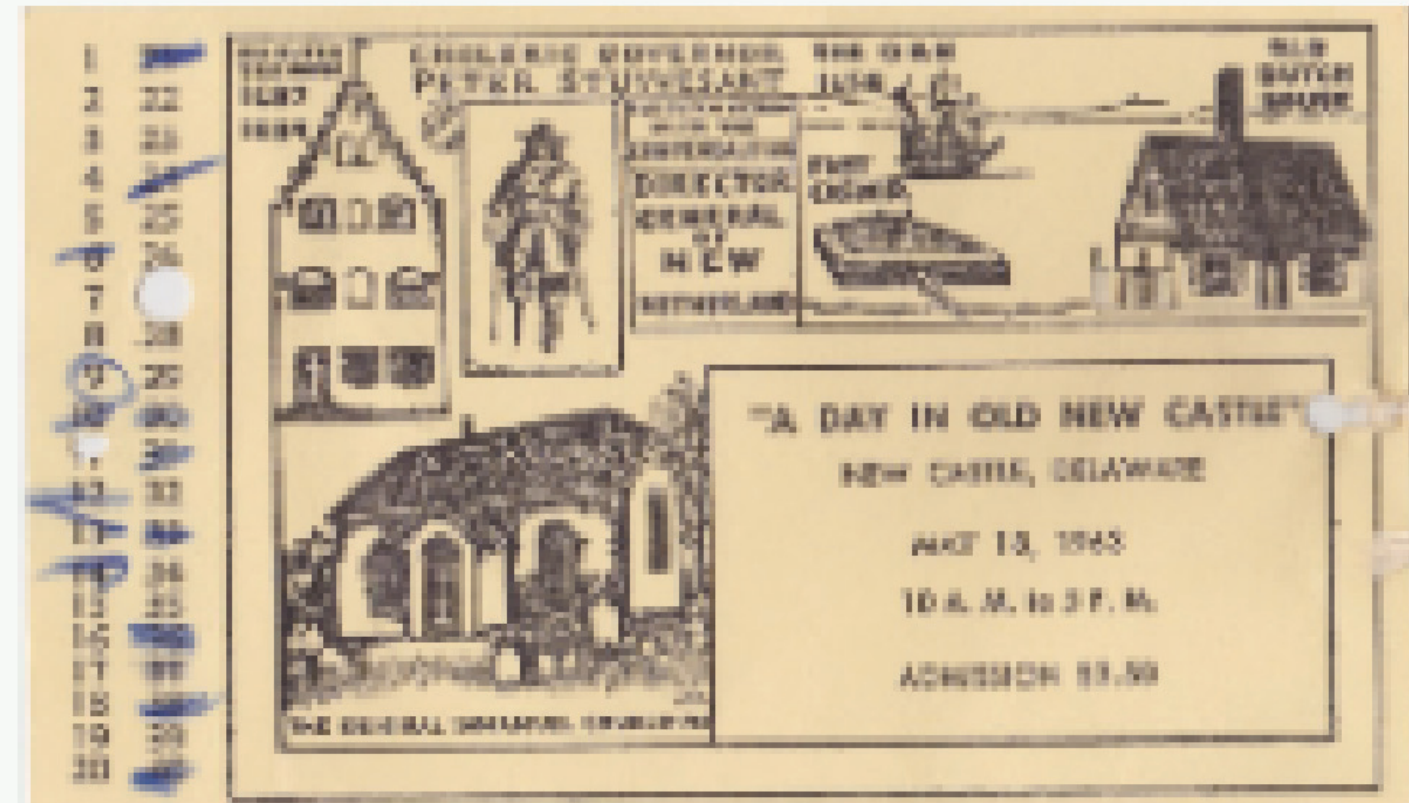


Figure 44. Ticket Stub from "A Day In Old New Castle" from May 18, 1963.

58. Benson, B. E., & Hoffercker, C. E. (2011). *New Castle, Delaware: A walk through time* (1st ed.). New Castle, DE: Oak Knoll Press.

Sleeper Stones

Although the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad is no longer extant, there are several reminders of its existence. The pyramid shaped monument constructed of sleeper stones that were once used as sleepers, or ties, along the railroad track, behind town hall on 2nd street, erected in 1915.

Additional sleepers, with their trademark drilled holes, can be seen amid the brick pacers in alleys on The Strand and Delaware street. The use of stone to hold the railroad tracks presented problems because of their rigidity. When they were replaced by wooden railroad ties, the sleepers found other uses [59].



Figure 47. Sleeper Stone material inventory.

Figure 45. Sleeper stone on The Strand. Photo by Author. (right).

Figure 46. Sleeper stone mnument on 2nd Street (left).



59. Benson, B. E., & Hoffeecker, C. E. (2011). New Castle, Delaware: A walk through time (1st ed.). New Castle, DE: Oak Knoll Press.

Hitcing Post

Posts like these were used for tethering a horse to prevent it from straying.



Figure 48. Hitching Post on Harmony Street close to the Strand.



Figure 49. Hitching Post material inventory.

Boot Scraper



Figure 50. Wrought iron bootscraper with marble base located outside of 42 The Strand.

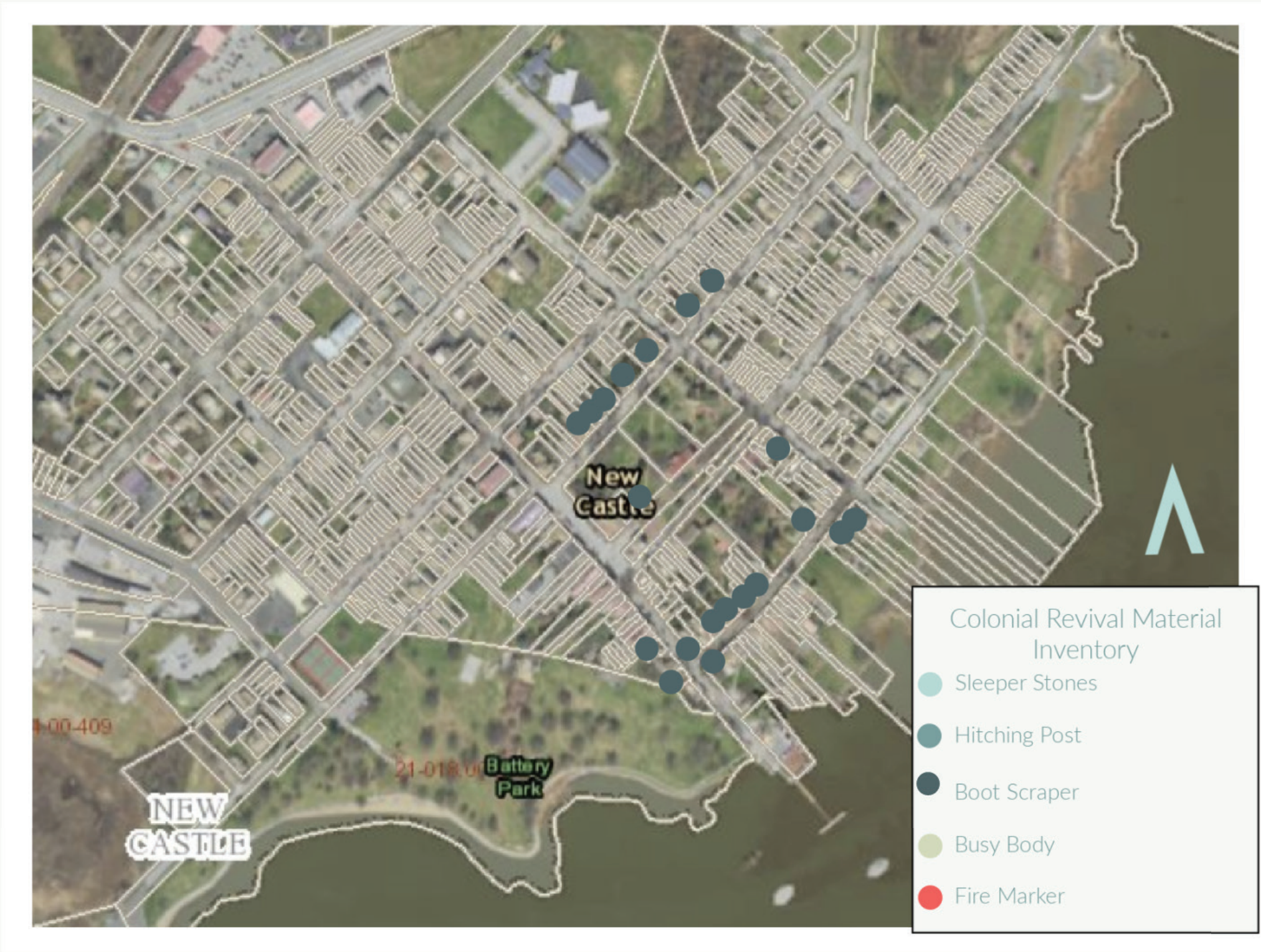


Figure 51. Boot Scraper material inventory.

Busy Body

The busybody is a collection of three mirrors hung from a window with a metal rod. It's purpose is so that an individual can see who is at their door without being seen themselves. Benjamin Franklin has been attributed as the inventor of the device [60].



Figure 52. Busy Body on E 3rd Street



Figure 53. Busy Body material inventory.

60. <https://unchartedlancaster.com/2020/07/02/the-busybody-benjamin-franklins-greatest-invention/>

Fire Marker

The fire marker, which indicated a home was covered by fire insurance, was another idea attributed to Benjamin Franklin after seeing them in London, where fire insurance had become popular after the great London fire of 1666 [61].



Figure 54. Fire marker above the door at 56 The Strand.



Figure 55. Fire Marker material inventory.

60. <https://unchartedlancaster.com/2019/02/23/what-are-those-mysterious-shields-adorning-historic-lancaster-buildings-the-search-for-the-red-rose-citys-ancient-fire-marks-begins-now/>

Design

The proposed design for an area of reflection is centered around the historically African American Churches in New Castle, which includes Mt. Salem UAME and Bethany UAME churches. The buildings were centers of social and spiritual life for the African American community. They would have been one of the few places where Black citizens could have leadership positions and were free from discrimination and violence in antebellum and post-antebellum America.

The design includes resetting the brick and stone walkway in front of the church as well as placing a bench in front of the church for quiet reflection. The proposed bench is a backless bench in a cast stone material.



Figure 56. Sketch of proposed design at Mt. Salem UAME Church at 138 E 4th Street.

Historic African American Community Site Inventory



1. Delaware Street Wharf Oyster Saloon: John Vine/John Peterson
2. 122 The Strand: Augustus Jamot
3. 313 Harmony St: Perry Cisco
4. 315 Harmony St: Perry Cisco
5. 317 Harmony St: Perry Cisco
6. 411 Harmony St: Perry Cisco
7. 413 Harmony St: Perry Cisco
8. 110 E 4th St: James Painter
9. 112 E 4th St: Aaron & Sarah Fields
10. 130 E 4th St: Steward & Emeline Ward
11. 132 E 4th St: Richard Glasgow
12. 134 E 4th St: Henry Lilly
13. 138 E 4th St: Mt. Salem UME Church
14. Corner of W 4th St and South St Area: Home of Samuel Waters
15. 419 Williams St: Bethany UAME Church