

**53 and 55 The Strand:
A Study of a Double House in New Castle, Delaware**

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This paper will analyze a double house at 53 and 55 The Strand built in 1802/1803 by John Aull for William Aull in New Castle, Delaware. The buildings will be used to determine evidence of past and present meaning and behavior. In order to understand this behavior, the buildings cannot be disassociated from their context. Therefore, a brief historic context will be presented. This will be followed by a description of the houses, their changes and furnishings, and an interpretation of their use and meaning.¹

New Castle, Delaware, located on the western shore of the Delaware River approximately 35 miles south of Philadelphia and 60 miles north of Baltimore, was an important and thriving town in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. (Figure 1) Its cosmopolitan atmosphere commenced in 1704 when the Delaware representatives withdrew their membership in the Pennsylvania assembly to form their own in New Castle. The separate legislative assembly of New Castle, Kent, and Sussex counties met regularly until 1777 when the state capital was moved to Dover for safety reasons. This political activity stimulated economic growth for innkeepers and merchants as well as create jobs, many associated with the legislative assembly². It attracted people to New Castle and created a vibrant atmosphere.

Another factor that influenced New Castle's growth was its position on the eastern seaboard. Located between the national capital at Philadelphia and states to the south, between 1783 and

1800 New Castle was a common stopping place for travelers. Even when the capital switched to Washington, New Castle continued to be a stopping point. A ferry system brought people from Philadelphia to New Castle and from there they would go by road to Frenchtown and then by boat to Baltimore.³ This system was in use until 1837 when a railroad was built from Philadelphia to Baltimore which bypassed New Castle.⁴ The position on the Delaware also provided a lively trade with ships to and from Philadelphia. In 1807 a gazetter reported "All vessels bound from Philadelphia to foreign ports stop here and supply with live stock... Vast quantities of merchandise are sent west. It is at present one of the greatest thorough fares in the United States."⁵ There were many merchant ship owners engaged in trade which added to the economy.⁶

New Castle's increasing growth as a port town in the latter part of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries lead to the construction of a great number of houses between 1790 and 1805.⁷ Competition for local power amongst all groups at this time increased. The commercial classes pitted themselves against the landed upper class. In southern New Castle county, to visually distinguish themselves from the landowners, the commercial class constructed passage plan houses that were visually distinct from those of the landowners.⁸ The houses at 53 and 55 The Strand can be seen as a tangible result of this economic growth and visual distinction used by the commercial class.

William Aull was a merchant who along with his brother John Aull came from Newtown, Lunmarvady (Londonderry?) Ireland to Philadelphia in about 1784.⁹ He was 22 years old when he came to America.¹⁰ William lived in Cecil County, Maryland, St. George's Hundred, Delaware, and Philadelphia before moving to New Castle around 1794.¹¹ He was married to Rachel Aull who was the daughter of Joseph and Mary Janvier Tatlow, a prominent Delaware family.¹² Rachel and William did not have any children.¹³ William was elected a Trustee of the Common in 1795, a prestigious town position, the year before he became a citizen. He served four terms as town commissioner and as a Trustee until his death in 1803 at the age of 41.¹⁴ Possibly in reference to his occupation and its shipping connections he was referred to in the minutes of the town commissioners for 1797 as "Captain William Aull."

William's brother John Aull was a carpenter who in 1795 was paid "one pound ten for halving, hughing, and dressing a tree for whipping post and three pounds for workmanship and putting it up."¹⁵ John is documented as the carpenter who built William Aull's three properties in Rachel Aull's accounts of William Aull's debts. On Sept. 24 she was billed for \$62.30 by "Silas Englis, Jeremiah Bowman, John Crow for measuring, calculating, the carpenters work of John Aull of six houses belonging to the estate of William Aull by Amicable Action prict."¹⁶ John, like his brother served four terms as town commissioner.¹⁷

William and John were business partners, William purchasing the property and John constructing the houses. Three sets of houses were constructed. They were, in 1800 a frame double house at 49 and 51 The Strand, in 1802 a frame triple house at 47, 49, and 51 Second Street, and a brick double house at 53 and 55 The Strand in 1802/1803.¹⁸ Although John was not ever described as a bricklayer, he probably supervised and was involved in the construction of the brick houses.

The ownership history of the brick houses is directly tied to the specific manner in which property on The Strand was transferred. A short history of The Strand will place the street in context. The Strand is the closest parallel street to the Delaware River in New Castle. It was, along with Beaver Street (now Fourth Street), the first parallel row of lots for houses and gardens south of Fort Casimir.¹⁹ The earliest recorded settlement on The Strand was in 1657 when a long row of houses and gardens were recorded on the northwest side of the street from present day Chestnut Street to the Battery.²⁰ No houses were located on the river (southeast) side of the Strand until after 1701.²¹ Beginning in 1701, William Penn allowed each lot owner on the northwest side of the street to apply for and receive a "bank lot" equal in breadth to his home lot and extending back 600 feet into the Delaware River. This was given on the condition the owner would construct a good wharf and improve the land on his plot. The Strand itself was specified to be fifty feet between the "home lot"

and the "bank lot."²²

The property William Aull purchased from William Armstrong in 1802 was the bank lot associated with the Tile House across the street. Table 1 documents the ownership of the Tile House site property from 1802 back to its original owner.²³ The first reference to a bank lot can be seen in 1703 or 1704 when Boyer died and left the Tile house and bank lot opposite to his two daughters. The transferral of the two properties together can be seen until 1802 when William Armstrong sold a "lot of ground" 63 feet wide and 600 feet long into the Delaware River to William Aull.

Therefore, the double house at 53 and 55 The Strand was not constructed until after the property was purchased in 1802.²⁴ Although the houses have a single party wall, in all property exchanges they were treated as separate properties. Tables 2 and 3 list the property owners, their dates of ownership, and the deed the information came from.²⁵ The properties themselves were referred to as a "brick messuage and lot", and were not documented for any other use than a dwelling house.

When William died in 1803 his property was divided between his wife Rachel, who received half of all his property, and his siblings. His brothers John Aull and James Aull (of Ireland), and his sisters Jane Blair (widow), Mary Aull (both of Philadelphia), and Martha McDonald each received equal fifths of the rest of the property. In the division of property 53 (listed as # 2) was given

Table 1
Chain of Property Ownership for 54 The Strand
Formerly the Tile House

<u>Date</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Property</u>
1656	William Maurtis	House
1678	Moses D' Gonne	House
1678	John Boyer	Tile House (TH)
1703/4	John Boyer's daughters	TH, bank lot
1705	Joseph Wood	TH, bank lot
1716	Dr. Patrick Reilly	TH, bank lot
1735	Reilly's widow and Gideon Giffith to Dr. John Finney, repurchased by Gideon Griffith	TH, bank lot
1754	Anthony Whitely	TH, bank lot
1758	Anthony Whitely to his widow	TH, bank lot
1782	Israel Israel	TH, bank lot
1796	William Armstrong	TH, bank lot
1802	William Aull	Bank lot

to Rachel, and 55 (listed as # 5) was divided amongst his brothers and sisters.

Although we know the owners of the property, it is not known who actually lived in the houses. Rachel Aull did live in 53 after her husband died, but it is not known who lived in 55, or who lived in 53 after Rachel died. There are documents indicating that both 53 and 55 were rented in the nineteenth century. Benjamin Latrobe rented "the new brick house [55] in Water Street [The Strand]" as early as May 7, 1803.²⁶ He moved to Wilmington in Oct. 1804 and had either lent or sublet the house to a Mrs. Hall until March of 1805 when he stopped renting the property.²⁷ Additionally, in 1826 and 1827 the deeds selling 53 mention that George Reed Jr, Esquire, was renting 55.²⁸ Lastly, in the 1868 Beers Atlas Map the person listed in 53 was J. Cannon who probably was renting the property because at that time the property was in the ownership of the Babcock and Crowell family. Currently, 53 is rented and it is possible the many of the twentieth century owners of both 53 and 55 rented one of the houses.

The documentary evidence presents us with many facts about who the owners were, but the house itself is an important document of the Aull family and is evidence of their relationship to New Castle and the world. Herman has discussed how a house is not only a symbol of the owner's economic power, but it projects their image of self and the community.²⁹ Seen in the community in which they

were located, 53 and 55 reflect beliefs similar to other houses concerning symmetry and order in architecture. (Figure 2) For instance, 53 and 55 could have been constructed with different facades, but they weren't. Each half is a mirror of the other. In this way the house is similar to center passage double pile plan buildings such as the George Read House, and the Nicholas Van Dyke House.

Both 53 and 55 were built as connected side passage houses of two full stories with a dormer lit third story. The houses share a common gable-ended roof, with an unornamented cornice and chimney piles at opposite sides. (Figure 3) The building is brick, laid in flemish bond for the primary elevation (front) and common bond for the secondary elevations (sides) and is resting on a coarse rubble foundation. (Figure 4) The first floor of each of these two units consists of a three bay facade of two nine over nine windows and a paneled entry. The second floor is pierced by six six over nine windows, and the third floor has two pilaster flanked arched dormer windows. The area between the first and second floors of both structures are visually delineated by a continuous belt course. The windows of the first and second floors have decorative keystones set into the brick and have wooden shutters. The elegant paneled entries are the most arresting feature of the facade. Approached up three stairs and a small

Table 2
Chain of Property Ownership for 53 The Strand
Beginning in 1802

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Deed Number</u>
3/10/1802- 9/31/1803	William Aull	Rec. X, Vol. 2, 188-189
9/31/1803- 12/18/1826	Rachel Aull, then to John and Margaret Aull, Martha McDonnel (Aull), John Aull	New Castle County Orphans Court, Record I, 326-327, 368, 390-391, 423-424, 456
12/18/1826- 6/15/1827	Jeremiah and Susan Bowman Samuel and Jane Battersby	Rec. E, Vol. 4, 484
6/15/1827- 10/19/1874	Major Samuel Babcock, then to Elizabeth Babcock, Maria Louisa Babcock, and Maria L. Crowell, then to Elisha and Maria L. Crowell	Rec. G., Vol. 4, 515
10/19/1874- 4/20/1881	George Gray	Rec. H, Vol. 10, 473
4/20/1881- 2/23/1887	Charles and Clara Spence	Rec. X, Vol. 11, 370
2/23/1887	Giles Lambson, Sheriff of New Castle County	
2/23/1887- 11/30/1887	George and Margaret Gray	Rec. X, Vol. 13, 175
11/30/1887- 1/26/1904	Henry and Lillian Dennison	Rec. L, Vol. 18, 336
1/26/1904- 11/8/1933	Elizabeth M. Dennison	Rec. S, Vol. 19, 491-493
11/8/1933- 5/9/1934	Irenee and Irene du Pont	Rec. W, Vol. 38, 267
5/9/1934- 6/20/1944	Philip and Lydia Laird	Rec. A, Vol. 39, 598-599
6/20/1944- Present	Ann Hallowell Klutey (Aquadro) Life tenancy given to Sarah Chichester Galloway	Rec. I, Vol. 44, 450 Rec. I, Vol. 44, 448

Table 3
Chain of Property Ownership for 55 The Strand
Beginning in 1802

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Deed Number</u>
3/10/1802- 9/31/1803	William Aull	Rec. X, Vol. 2, 188-189
9/31/1803- 4/7/1821	John Aull, James Aull, Jane Blair, Mary Aull, Martha McDonnel (Aull)	New Castle County Orphans Court, Record I, 326-327, 368, 390-391, 423-424, 456
4/7/1821- 6/8/1827	John Lisle, Silas Weir, Samuel Smith	Rec. Y, Vol. 3, 1-4
6/8/1827- 5/17/1845	James Gardner, then to Robert and Mary Ann Gardner, George and Louisa Gardner, James and Mary Ann Gardner, William Gardner, and John and Rebecca Gardner	Rec. E, Vol. 4, 469-471
5/17/1845	Samuel Floyd	Rec. O, Vol. 5, 813-817
5/17/1845- 7/6/1847	Robert W. Gardner	Rec. O, Vol. 5, 513, 517
7/6/1847- 10/4/1894	Ferdinand Lechler	Rec. W, Vol. 5, 6
10/4/1894- 2/29/1928	Mary A. Zahner	Rec. WRO, Vol. 4, 319
2/29/1928- 5/10/1934	Irene du Pont	Rec. D, Vol. 35, 494
5/10/1934- 12/26/1947	Philip and Lydia Laird	Rec. A, Vol. 39, 599
12/26/1947- 8/29/1973	Lydia C. Laird	Folio #27769
8/29/1973- 4/14/1977	Walter L. Douglas	Rec. E, Vol. 88, 93
4/14/1977- 1/1/1979	Robert and Susan Poskitt	Rec. R, Vol. 96, 227
1/1/1979- Present	Henry and Madelyn Herndon Jr.	Rec. O, Vol. 104, 141

porch, they are flanked by pilasters and topped by a decorative fanlight window and pediment. (Figure 5)

Like the exterior, the major structural elements of the interiors mirror each other. (Figure 6) The plan of New Castle in 1804 shows this house as a simple rectangle with a porch addition, so it is assumed that the substantial additions to the rear were later and not in place when the house was constructed. (Figures 7, 8) Originally, each house was a side-passage double-pile structure. The door opens into a side-passage off which lie two rooms with fireplaces on the exterior wall. The hall in 55 has a decorative arch that is not present in 53; an open stair in both leads up to the upper stories. (Figures 9, 10) The rear of 55 now contains an 18 by 25 foot kitchen addition added in 1987, replacing a 6 by 25 foot addition constructed prior to 1979.³⁰ The rear of 53 now contains a 10 by 25 foot addition split into a kitchen and a back porch.

The basement in both structures contains what appears to be a bricked up kitchen hearth beneath the back room. This evidence is seen clearest in 55 where a large fireplace was clearly bricked up at an earlier date. Changes to what appeared to be a similar arrangement in 53 made a hearth difficult to identify. The adjacent exterior (rear) wall of each house has a large double hung four over four window that would have made the kitchen a more functional place with the addition of natural light and fresh air.

The original portion of the second floor of each house contains three rooms and a hall. Two of these rooms have fireplaces and the third would have been unheated when built. The rear of 55 has an additional room across the back of the house above the kitchen, and the rear of 53 has a porch across the back and above the kitchen and porch. The third floor of each house again consists of three rooms and a hall. In each house the rear room has a fireplace and the front room either had a fireplace that has been removed or never had one. The smallest room would have been unheated.

The interior ornament within both houses displays hierarchical distinctions. These differences have been identified as indicators of social meaning.³¹ These hierarchical distinctions are present between floors as well as rooms on the same floor. The differences generally translate into a decreased level of expense as one moves from the most to least public spaces in a house. Variation can be seen in finishing details such as moldings and plasterings and are the owners response to perceived categories of social importance.³² Therefore, more elaborate detail can be seen as an indicator of more public, socially important spaces (parlors, dining rooms) and less detail of more private spaces (chambers, kitchens).

Both 53 and 55 exhibit similar levels of architectural finish between rooms. Overall however, 53 exhibits more elaboration and will be described first. Both the front room and the back room on

the first floor have federal style wooden moldings and mantles. (Figures 11, 12) The mantels appear to be original and if so were in the most current Federal style when installed." The fireplace in the front room is flanked by built-in chimney cupboards. The fireplace in the back room is the same size and has a large built-in cupboard on either side. Evidence in both rooms suggest that a chair rail was once present on all walls." The baseboard and door moldings in the hallway and in the rooms are all the same. The same baseboard moldings continue in the hall up to the landing between the second and third floors.

The hall is ornamented with six half round pendants ending in a decorative acorn, and the stairway has fluted balusters. (Figure 13) The moldings around the exterior of the doors on the second floor are the same as on the first floor, while the interior moldings are similar but more restrained. (Figure 14) The mantles on the second floor more restrained than on the first floor. The major decorative element consists of applied molding similar to that around the exterior of the doors. (Figure 15) The third floor moldings both around the doors and inside the rooms are more simplified than the second floor. The mantle here is the most restrained and consists basically of a finished board nailed into the wall with minimal paneling. (Figure 16)

The finish on 55 is similar but slightly less elaborate. The differences mainly exist in the hall and the built-in cupboards.

The hall has an arch elaborated with fielded paneling before an open stair. This arch is following in the tradition seen in earlier New Castle houses such as the Senator Nicholas Van Dyke House, constructed in 1799, and the George Reed House, constructed in 1797-1801.³⁵ The hallway does not have any decorative pendants and the balusters on the stairs do not have the fluting seen in 53. (Figure 17) The chimneys on the first floor have mantles similar to those in 53. There are two chimney cupboards in the front room and one in the back room and a chair rail extends around the interior of both rooms. The mantles from the second floor have been removed, however, they were simple in design.³⁶ The moldings around the doors and at the floors are different and less complex than on the first floor. (Figure 14) The mantle on the third floor was similar in its relative simplicity to that found in 53 and both probably are original to the house. (Figure 16) The baseboards and door moldings on this floor were the simplest in the house. (Figure 18)

The architectural finish in both houses suggests that the first floor rooms were more public in use and the second and third floors more private. The cupboards on the first floor of both houses give an indication of the relative importance of the two rooms. Built-in cupboards are a permanent investment in the house and reflect a switch to more permanent housing that has been seen at other New Castle houses.³⁷ The investment in 53 of a larger built-in cupboard in the back room conveys the importance of that

space. Alternatively, in 55, both rooms have only chimney cupboards, two in the front room, and one in the back. This difference may indicate that in 55, the front room was the more public and important space.

The hierarchy of finish between floors and rooms can be looked at in conjunction with William Aull's probate inventory. When William died a year after building the property his estate was inventoried." This inventory lists the objects he owned, most of which were in his home. The majority of the inventory appears to list objects room by room, although no exact separations were made by the subscribers. It can then be determined how the house was set up in the first years after its construction. Like the choices William made for the construction and elaboration of his houses, the furnishings with which he chose to furnish his house reflect a distinct idea about domestic spacial order."

Although no direct evidence is present, it was determined that William Aull and his wife Rachel inhabited 53 and that the inventory therefore reflected furnishings from that house. This assumption was based on the more elaborate built-in cupboards on the first floor, the interior finish in the hallway and second floors, and that Rachel received 53 to live in as part of her half of the estate. It is also based on the fact that soon after construction 55 was used as a rental property.

The transcription of the inventory can be found in Appendix 1. The objects listed were found to fall into constellations, or groups of objects, that correspond to similar furnishings found in other side passage buildings.⁴⁰ Through a comparison of this inventory with other inventories from lower New Castle County, it appears that the configuration of space in William Aull's house was similar to the organization of space in other side passage double-pile houses.

A breakdown of the objects in the inventory is supported by the architectural evidence. The first floor which contained the most elaborate decorative detailing, also was the most public space in the house. Both rooms appear to have been used for both dining and entertaining. The front room contained the most furniture and items totaling the most in expense (approximately \$237.50). The furnishings included a mahogany writing desk, five mahogany tables for special purposes, two mahogany utensil cases, silver plated candlesticks, large gilded looking glasses, gilded pictures, fourteen windsor chairs, and a carpet. The passage contained a carpet, eight day clock, and thermometer and barometer. The back room contained less furnishings and objects totaling less in value (approximately \$197.98). Furnishings included an easy chair, settee and cushions, lemon colored curtains, a carpet, mahogany framed looking glasses, six pictures, and a lamp. Additionally, the two built-in cupboards contained all the silver, glass, china ware, and queens ware.

The kitchen contained objects specifically associated with kitchen related activities such as cooking and storage. The chambers on the second floor although well appointed appear to have been more private spaces. Each room was appointed as a bedroom containing a least a bed and a chamber glass. The use of second floor rooms as bedrooms was common by this time in passage plan buildings.⁴¹

Many changes were made to the buildings over time. Exterior changes can be seen in the fabric of the houses as well as in documentary sources. On the exteriors, the main changes were made to the rear of the buildings. Both buildings currently have kitchen and porch additions that continue up to the second floor. The basements of the buildings have brick stairways and supports that are related to earlier additions. In 1804 when Latrobe did his survey of New Castle, the houses are portrayed as a single rectangle with a rear porch addition, indicated by a dashed line. (Figures 7, 8) Unfortunately, when he did a profile view of the Strand he only drew the northwest side of The Strand (identified on the map as Front Street), so a view of the front of the structures from 1804 is not available. By 1868 when Beers did a survey of New Castle the houses both had no back additions noted.⁴² (Figure 19) In 1947, back additions are recorded that appear similar in size to those noted by Latrobe. (Figure 20) Therefore, at least until 1947, the rear additions on both houses may have been the same and changed little from their 1804 construction. As

recently as 1985 the perspective view of 55 exhibits a different back addition. (Figure 21) This earlier addition was removed when a larger one was added in 1987. The dates of the current addition to 53 could not be determined.

Interior changes were also made in both 53 and 55. The small unheated chambers on the second and third floors were converted into bathrooms and closets were added in the hallways. The kitchens were moved up from the basement to the rear addition. In 53 a large french door was added to open the back room up to the porch. (Figure 22) This door possibly replaced a window similar to that on the back wall of 55. In addition, a window was added above the door on the original back wall and a sliding door was added between the front and back rooms. (Figure 23) In 55 transoms had been placed above the doors but were removed, and a large built-in cupboard was installed by the present owners opposite the fireplace in the back room. (Figure 24)

The houses at 53 and 55 The Strand that William had his brother John build for him in 1802/1803 have enough left of their original elements to draw conclusions about their meaning in the early nineteenth century. The combination of the architectural detail and the furnishing inventory the houses give a picture of William's wealth and place in the community. Owners of stair passage houses in lower New Castle County were part of the landed upper class." In an urban setting, a stair passage house can be

seen as a symbol of the rising commercial class. The recognizable style of early Federal architecture that pervaded the homes built in New Castle reflects the wealth of the burgeoning commercial class in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries in Delaware. William, a merchant, and John, a carpenter, were part of this commercial class. The household and property possessions documented at William's death correspond with his occupation. The house was set up typical manner for the time period and was fashionably appointed.

In choosing the plan type seen in 53 and 55 William was continuing in a tradition of symmetry that characterized other New Castle houses. For example although smaller, its size and symmetry refers in character to the George Reed House, and the Senator Nicholas Van Dyke house. (Figures 25, 26) The choice of a side passage plan reflects both William and John's knowledge modern urban forms, community values and an international architectural vocabulary. The ownership of a slave (Lewis), as well as a basement kitchen are urban features." However, although the house was generally urban in character, the position of the bedrooms tell us William had not fully assimilated all urban characteristics. Side-passage buildings in Wilmington and Philadelphia have been documented to use the second floor rooms as a parlor and dining room."

Although to date little documentary data has been found on

William, these houses especially 53, tell us what perhaps documents couldn't indicate. In the architectural style and the furnishings he chose, as well as his use of space, he exhibited he was aware of current trends and what was seen as appropriate in his community. The buildings appear to have been influenced by and fit very well into the rest of the architectural community. 53 and 55 The Strand are following in the footsteps of earlier center- and side-passage structures built in New Castle and are making a statement about how well proportioned a double house can be.

Appendix 1

Inventory of goods and chattels of William Aull of the town of New Castle deceased - Appraised by the subscribers on the thirtieth day of Sept. 1803.

Wearing appearl	\$20.
Mahogany Escritoir	30.
Mahogany dining table	10.
Mahogany breakfast table	5.
Mahogany card table	6.
Mahogany pair circular table	16.
Pair large gilded looking glasses	60.
Two mahogany cases, with knives, forks, and spoons	30.
Large tea waiter	4.
Large pair brass andirons	6.
Brass topt shovel and tongs	2.50
Pair large plated candlesticks	10.
Pair small plated candlesticks	6.
Two gilded pictures. (Washington and Jefferson)	12.
14 Windsor chairs	14.
One ingrain carpet	16.
Two lemon coul. window hang.	10.
Pair small plated candlesticks	4.
Mahogany framd looking glass	8.
Six pictures, black and gilded frames	4.
Pair brass andirons	3.
Shovel and tongs (brass topt)	1.50
Chamber lamp	1.
Snuffers (polishd steel)	.50
Square waiter	1.
Spy glass	4.
Easy chair	10.
Small carpet	3.
Passage carpet	1.
Sixty two oz plate at \$1.50 pr oz	93.
Tea urn	8.
	<u>399.50</u>
Amount brought forward	\$399.50
Plated ware	40.
Three large tin canisters 75 cents each	2.25
A lot of glass ware	2.
A lot of china ware	3.
A lot of queens ware	6.
Japan coffee pot	.33
Tea cady and canister	.40
Settee and cushions	3.
Thermometer and berometer	8.
Eight day clock (Mahogany case)	40.
Sundry tinn ware	3.
Grid iron	.80

Bake iron	1.
Large brass kettle	3.
Garnis tub	1.50
Three ceder tubs	1.
Sundry old casks	1.
Two ceder buckets, pail, piggin, and churn	2.
Bread tray	.30
Three iron pots	2.
Saus pan and coffee mill	1.30
Kitchen andirons and tongs	2.30
A lot of earthenware	1.50
Set of casters	1.
Two pr. sadirons	1.50
Blue chest	1.50
Mahogany desk	16.
Dressing glass	1.50
Ten green windsor chairs	5.
Pine dressing table	1.
Field bedstead and sacking	8.
Feather bed, bolster, & pillows wt 47 lb. at 50 cts pr lb	23.50
Seven blankets	10.
Seven pair sheets	<u>21.</u>
	\$615.18
Amount brought forward	\$615.18
Five pr pillow cases	2.50
Two table cloths, and four napkins	4.
Small hair trunk	1.50
White cotton counterpin	4.
Three bed quilts	6.
Bed and window curtains (old)	6.
Small chamber class	.75
Field bedstead and sacken	3.
Old fether bed wt 52 lb. at 20 cents pr lb	10.40
Hair Mattras	16.
Two bed carpets	1.50
Chamber glass (best chamber)	3.
Dressing table and trimmins	2.
Pair iron andirons	1.50
Shovel and tongs	1.50
High post bedstead and sacken	6.
Fether bed wt 53 lb at 33 cents pr lb	17.49
Bed and beding (Negro)	2.
Red and white cow	20.
Brown and white cow	20.
Yearling heifer	8.
Stack first crop hay	20.
Stack second crop N 1	6.
Stack second crop N 2	8.
Stack second crop N 3	4.
One half they potatoes and turnips in the ground	15.
White barrow	6.

Red barrow	4.
Black barrow	2.
22 ceder posts, 10 cents each	2.20
Lot ceder rails	2.
Lot of lime	<u>2.</u>
	\$823.52

Amount brought forward	\$823.52
Brass topt warming pan	1.50
Lot of books	3.50
Three painted Ah [?] (iron bound) \$1.50 each	4.50
Four painted barrels (iron bound) 75 each	3.
Scails and waits	4.
Glass case	3.50
Small case	2.50
Bed and window hangings	25.
Carving knife and fork, steel and desert steel	1.25
Lewis a black boy	100.
Open stove	8.
Beam and seales	<u>1.</u>
	\$981.27

Jas Riddle apprs.
Caleb P. Bennett

New Castle County [J ?]s.
I do certify that the above named James Riddle and Caleb P. Bennett
were duly qualified to the above appraisement according to law.
before Evan Thomas

Endnotes

1. For a discussion of vernacular architecture and its approaches see Dell Upton, "The Power of Things," Material Culture a Research Guide, Thomas J. Schlereth, ed., (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1985), 57-78.
2. Anthony Higgins, ed., New Castle on the Delaware, (New Castle: New Castle Historical Society, 1973), 33. John Monroe, Federalist Delaware 1775-1815, (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1954), 93.
3. Higgins, 40. Monroe, 23.
4. Higgins, 46.
5. John Monroe, "New Castle Tercentenary," Old New Castle and Modern Delaware, (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1951), 9.
6. Monroe, Federalist Delaware, 23.
7. Lucille P. Toro, The Latrobe Survey of New Castle, Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Delaware, 1971, 10.
8. Beth-ann Twiss-Garrity, Getting the Comfortable Fit: House Forms and Furnishings in Rural Delaware, 1780-1820, Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Delaware, 1983, 54.
9. This information comes from the 1804 indenture of power of attorney to John Aull following William Aull's death located by Jeannette Eckman, "New Castle Restoration Notes," Unpublished Research Notes accompanying Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn Architectural Survey of New Castle, 1953, Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington, Delaware, Index 53:4.
10. William's age was obtained from his gravestone in the Immanuel Episcopal Church which says "In memory of William Aull who departed this life Sept. 13, 1803 aged 41 years." Lucy Hazen Barnes and Martha Whitcraft, Cemetery Immanuel Episcopal Church on the Green, New Castle, Delaware Tombstone Survey, Unpublished Manuscript of the Delaware Genealogical Society, on file at the Historical Society of Delaware, 1986, Plot 67.
11. Constance Jean Cooper, A Town Among Cities: New Castle, Delaware, 1780-1840, Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation, University of Delaware, 1983, 67.
12. Rachel was born May 22, 1766 and died April 4, 1815. Information on birth dates and family ties found in Rachel Aull and

Rachel Tatlow cards in the Genealogical Surname File, Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington, Delaware.

13. Neither Rachel's will or the court proceedings dividing William's property division mentioned any children. New Castle County Probate Records Reel #4, Armstrong, Edward 1827 to Bailey, Amor. New Castle County Orphans Court Records, Record I, 326-327.

14. Cooper, 67.

15. Eckman, Index 57:1.

16. New Castle County Probate Records, Reel #4, "The Account of Rachel Aull, Administrator of William Aull, Deceased," 10.

17. Cooper, 67.

18. The construction dates of the Second Street houses and 49 and 51 The Strand are from Higgins, 75, 110. The construction date for 53 and 55 is determined from New Castle County Deeds see Tables 1, 2, and 3.

19. Eckman, Index 4:2.

20. Ibid., Index 6:1.

21. Ibid, Index 6:2.

22. Ibid, Index 6:3.

23. This information was obtained from Eckman, Index 54.

24. Jeannette Eckman suggests (Index 54:3) that William Aull may have had the bank lot from William Armstrong several years before the deed was recorded in 1802, however no evidence for this was located by this author.

25. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Herndon, current owners of 55 The Strand, provided deed information from the present back to 1845. Mr. William Prickett, currently residing in 53 The Strand, generously provided the deed information for that house.

26. New Castle County Probate Records, Reel #4, The Account of Rachel Aull, Administrator of William Aull Deceased, 10.

27. Toro, 32.

28. New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, Rec. G, Book 4, 515; Rec. E, Book 4, 484.

29. Bernard L. Herman, Architecture and Rural Life in Central Delaware, 1700-1900, (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1987), 2. Bernard L. Herman, "Ordinary Mansions," After Ratification: Material Life in Delaware 1789-1820, (Newark: University of Delaware, 1988), 49.

30. Lynn Herndon, personal communication 1989.

31. Bernard L. Herman, "Multiple Materials, Multiple Meanings," Winterthur Portfolio 19 (Spring 1984), 70. Edward Chappel, "Looking at Buildings," Fresh Advices (1984).

32. Chappel.

33. Bernard Herman, personal communication 1989.

34. A slight bulge in the plaster circles the rooms at the same height as the chair rail in the same rooms in 55.

35. Higgins, 90-92, 110-117.

36. Lynn Herndon, personal communication 1989.

37. Herman, Architecture, 55. Chimney cupboards have been documented in the John Wiley House located Third Street built in 1801 by Peter Crowding.

38. New Castle County Probate Records, Reel #4, Inventory of goods and chattels of William Aull of the Town of New Castle deceased - Appraised by the subscribers on the thirtieth day of Sept. 1803.

39. See Twiss-Garrity for additional information concerning furnishing.

40. Twiss-Garrity, 60.

41. Twiss-Garrity, 56.

42. However, additions appear not to be noted at all on the map. Therefore, additions may have been present but not noted in this survey.

43. Twiss-Garrity, 55.

44. Bernard Herman, personal communication 1989.

45. Herman, "Multiple Materials", 70-71.

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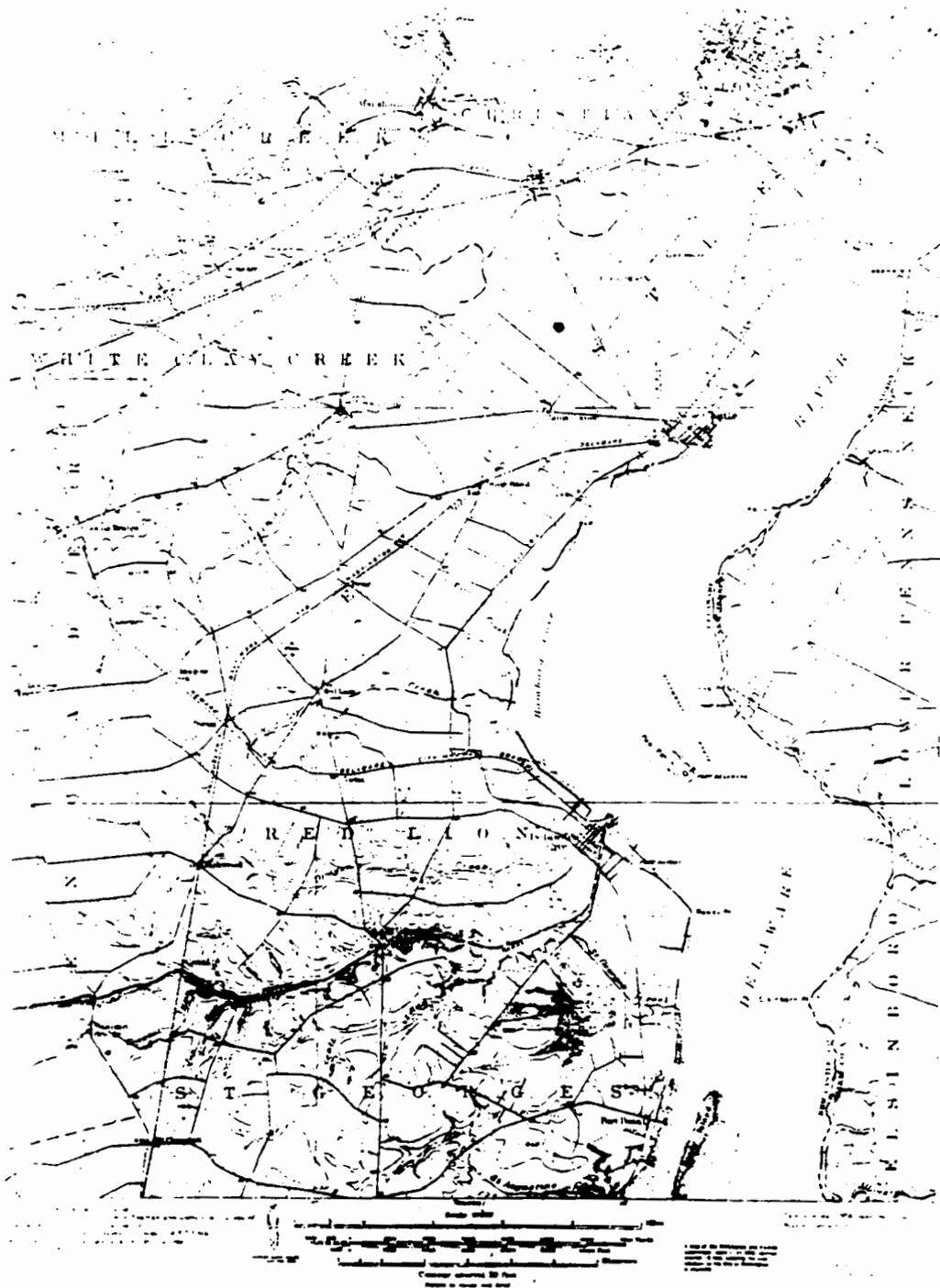


Figure 1

Wilmington and Vicinity

(Wilmington and Vicinity Quadrangle, United States Department of the Interior, 1944)



A.



B.

Figure 2
A. 55 and 53 The Strand
(Higgins, 109)

B. Overall front view 55 and 53



A.



B.

Figure 3 C.

A. Back view

B. Side view 53

C. Side view 55



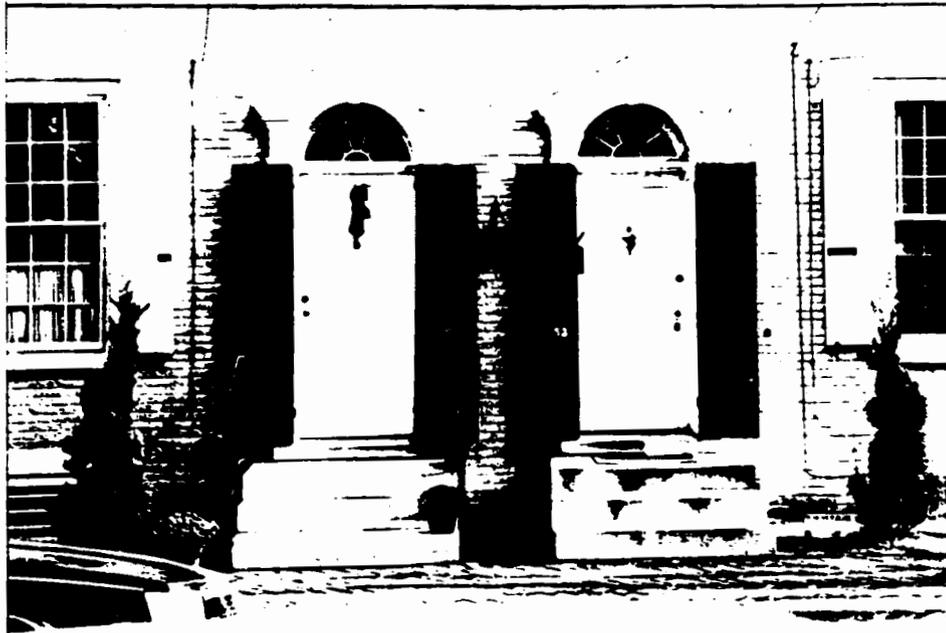
A.



B.

Figure 4

A. Front elevation, Flemish bond B. Side elevation, common bond, rubble foundation



A.



B.

Figure 5

A. Paneled entries

B. Some paneled entries, note different stair

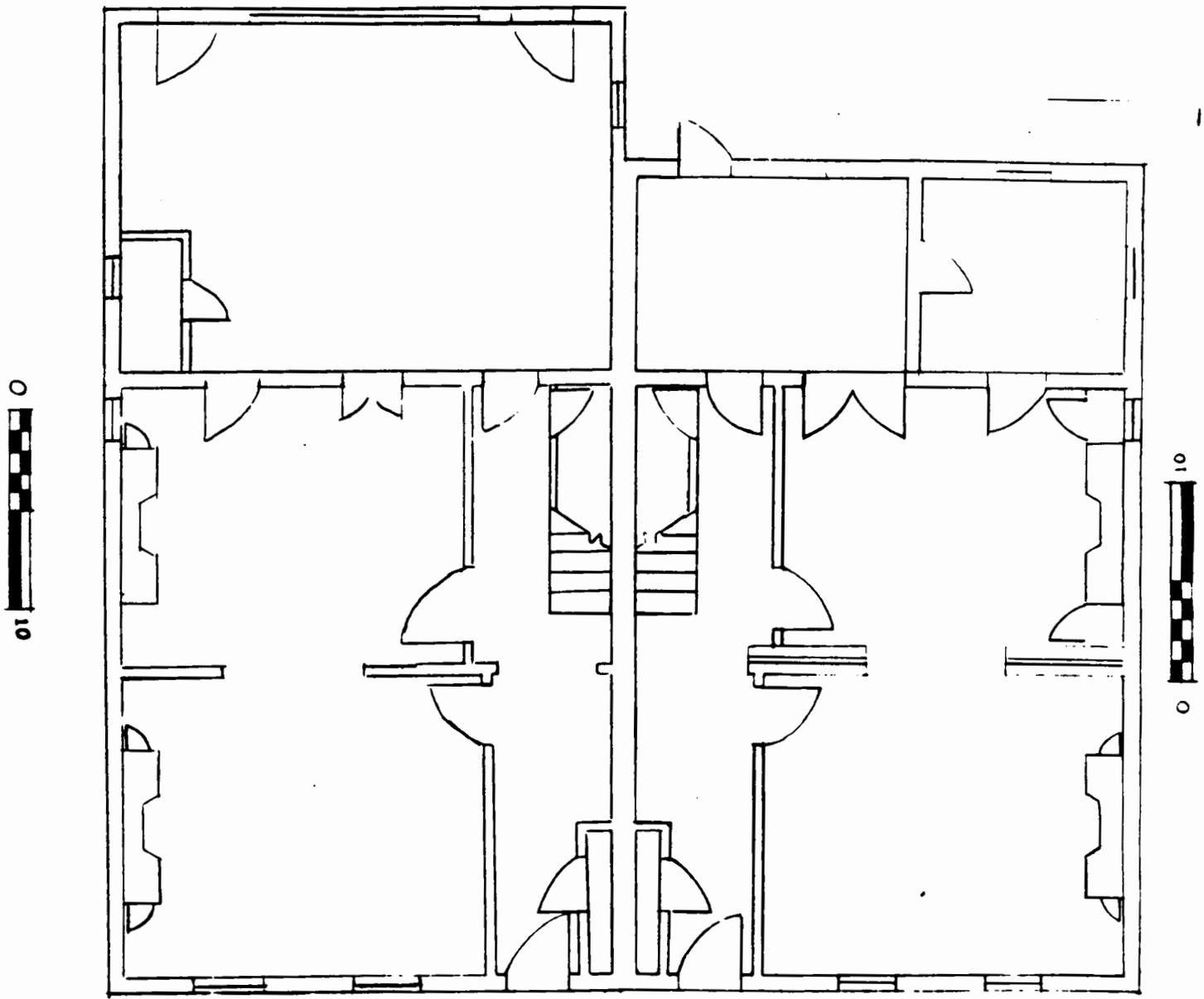
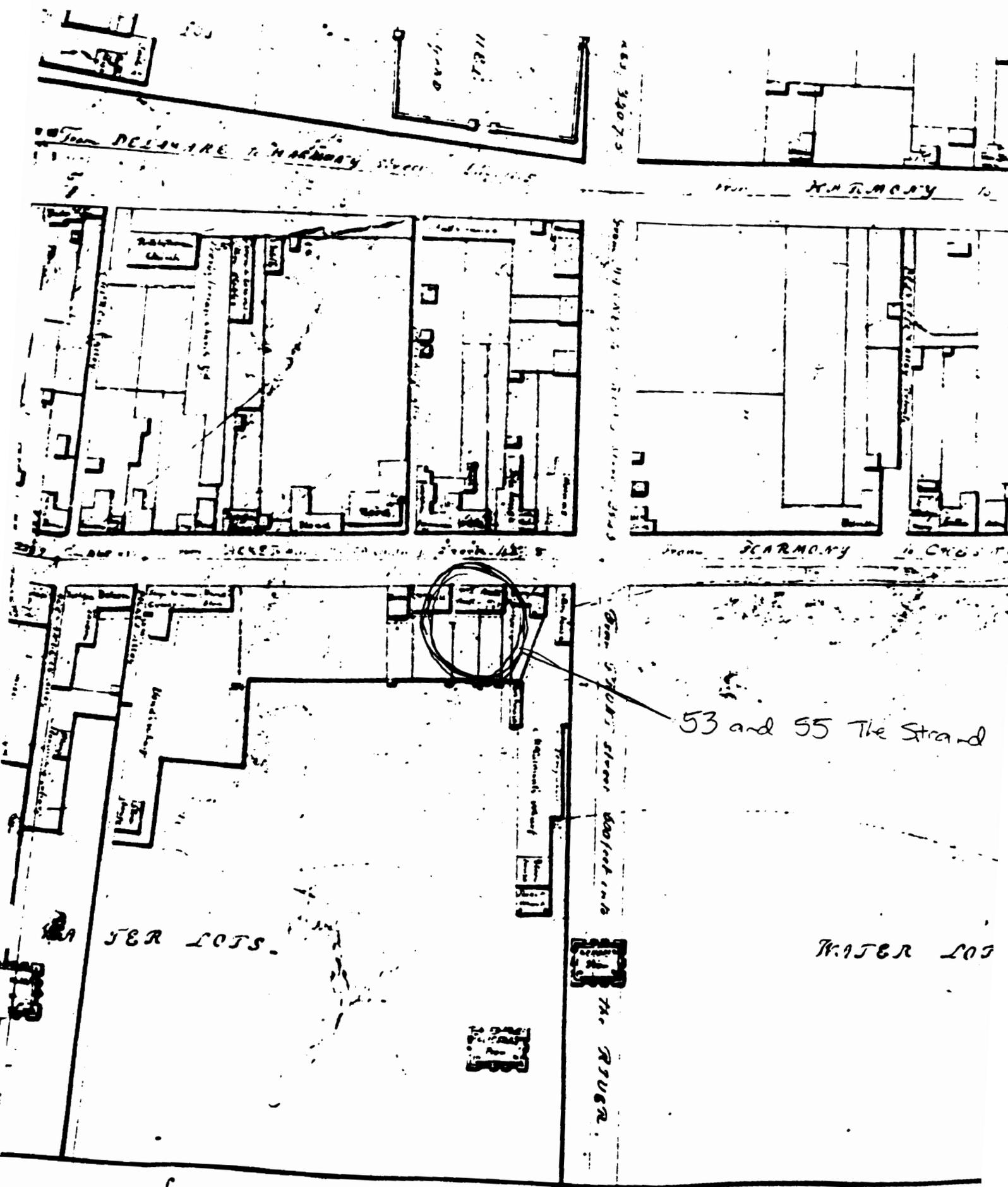


Figure 6

First floor plan, 55 on left 53 on right.



Figure 7
Lotwise Survey of New Castle 1804



of

Figure 8

six hundred

Closeup of Latrobe Survey of New Castle.
 Note dashed line off back.

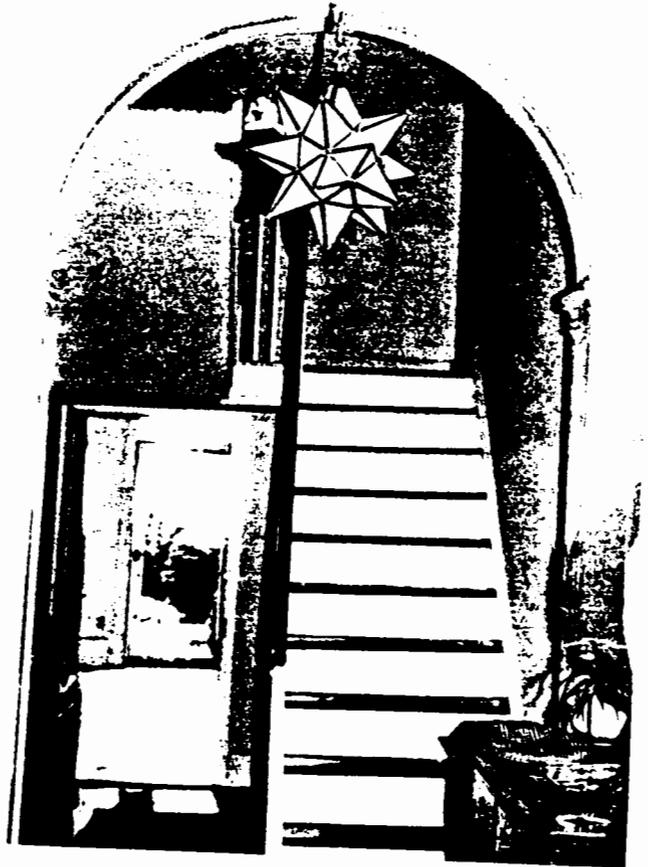


Figure 2

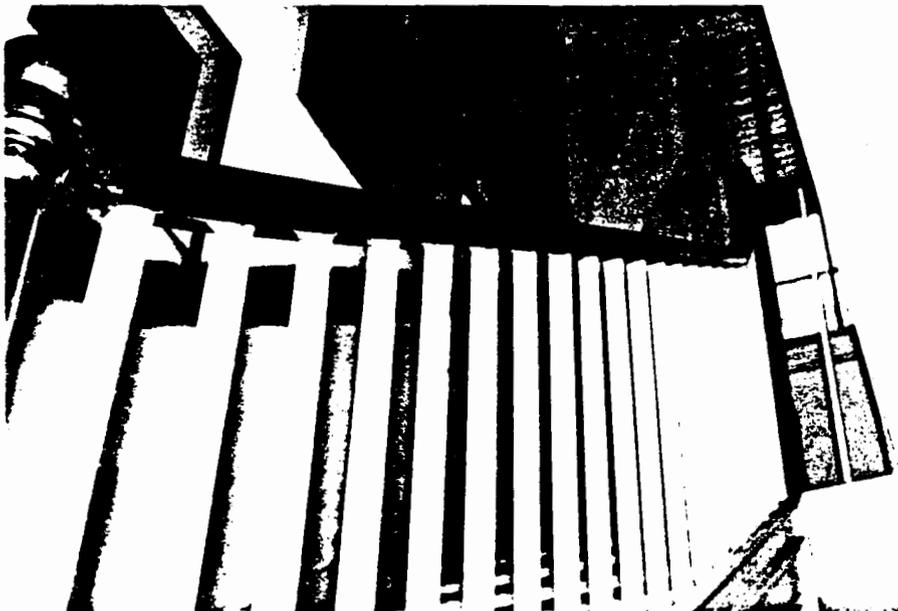
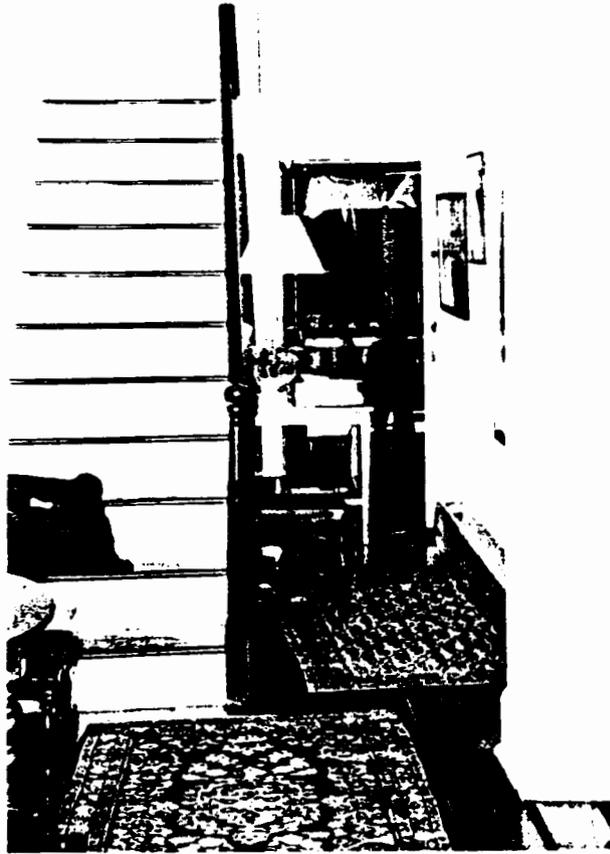


Figure 10
88 Entrance Area

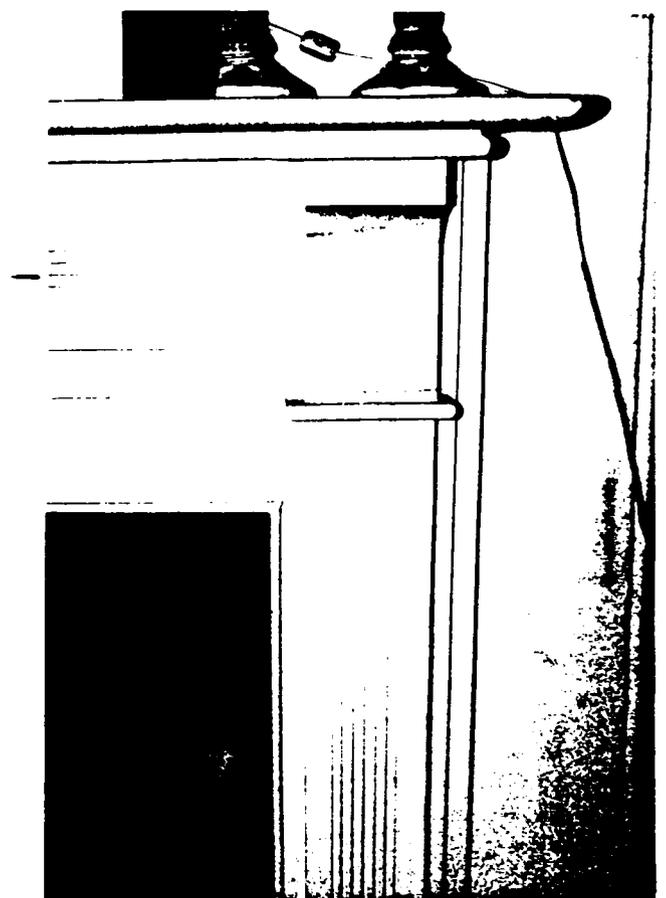
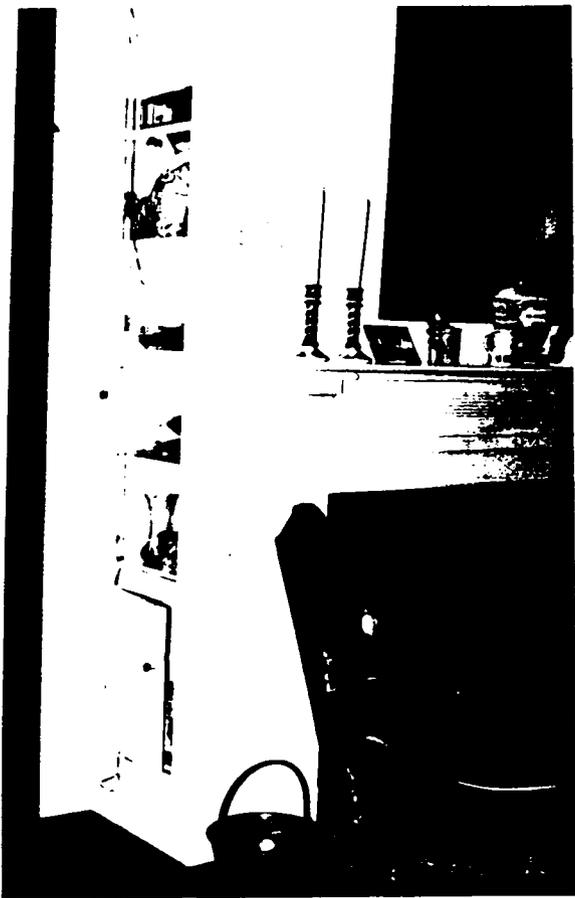


Figure 11

53 Front room, chimney cupboard and mantel



Figure 12
53 Back room, built-in cupboards and mantle

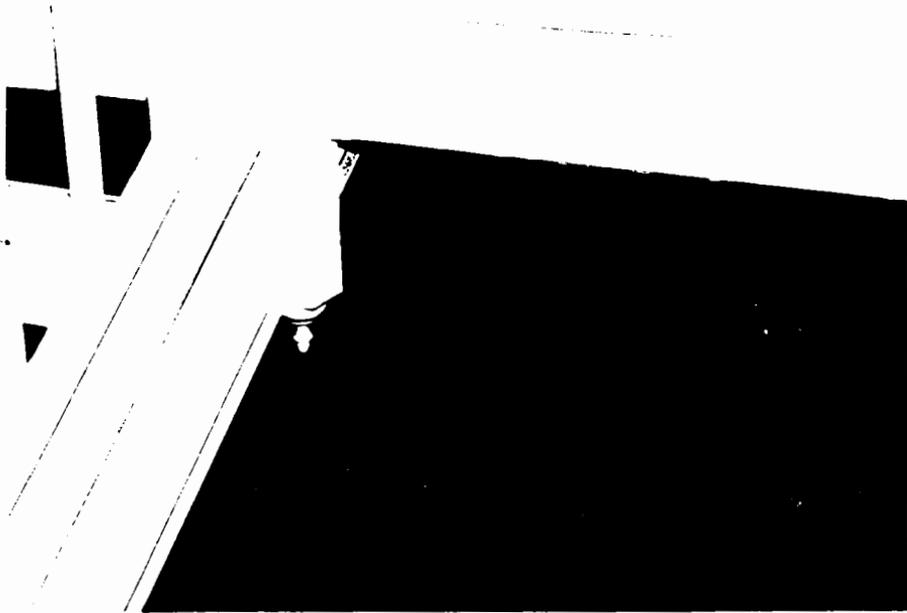
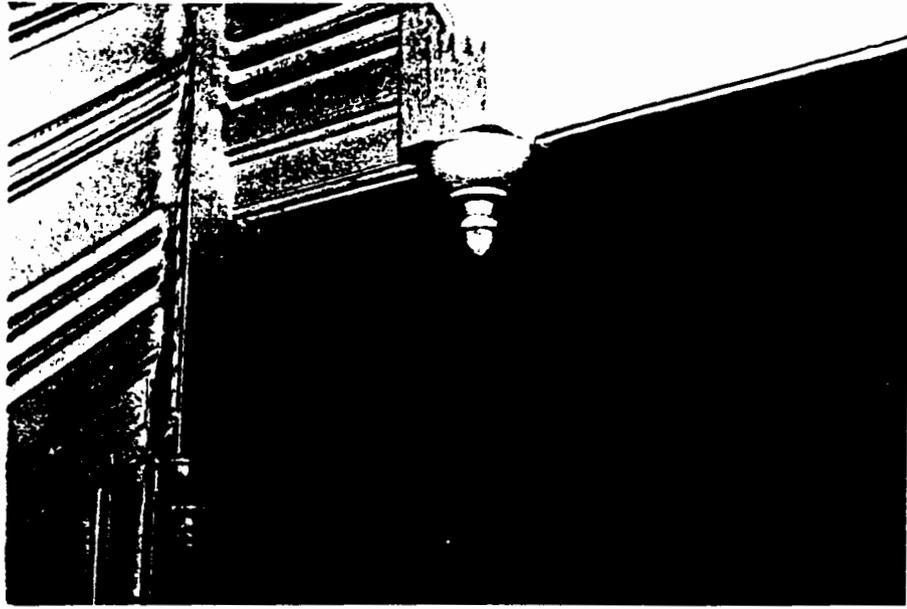


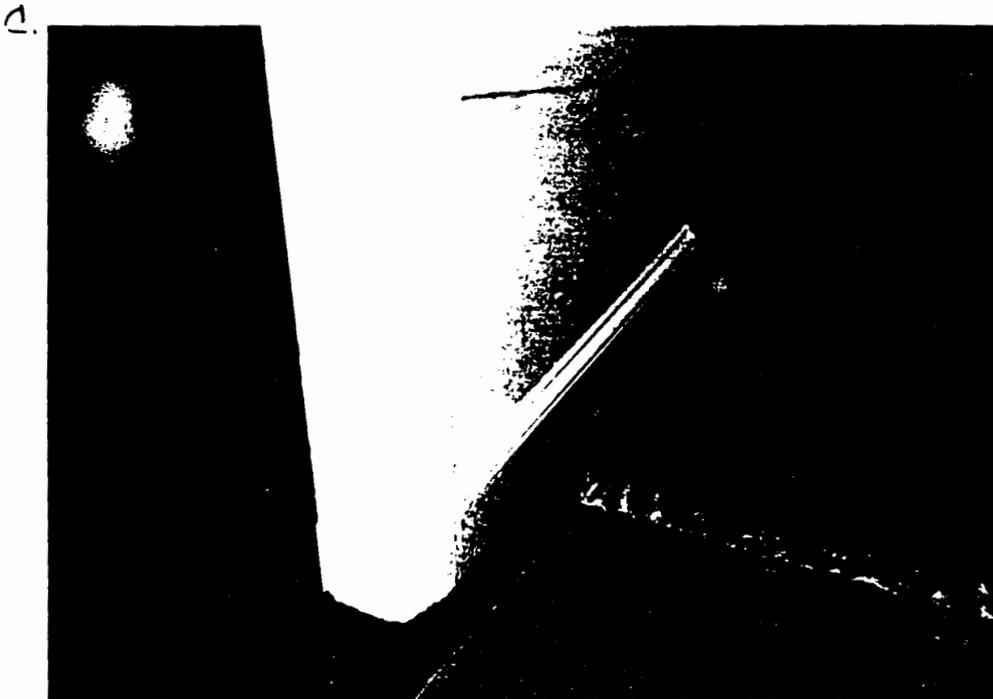
Figure 13
53 Hallway pendants

Figure 14

A. Second floor moldings 53

B, C. Second floor moldings 55

A.



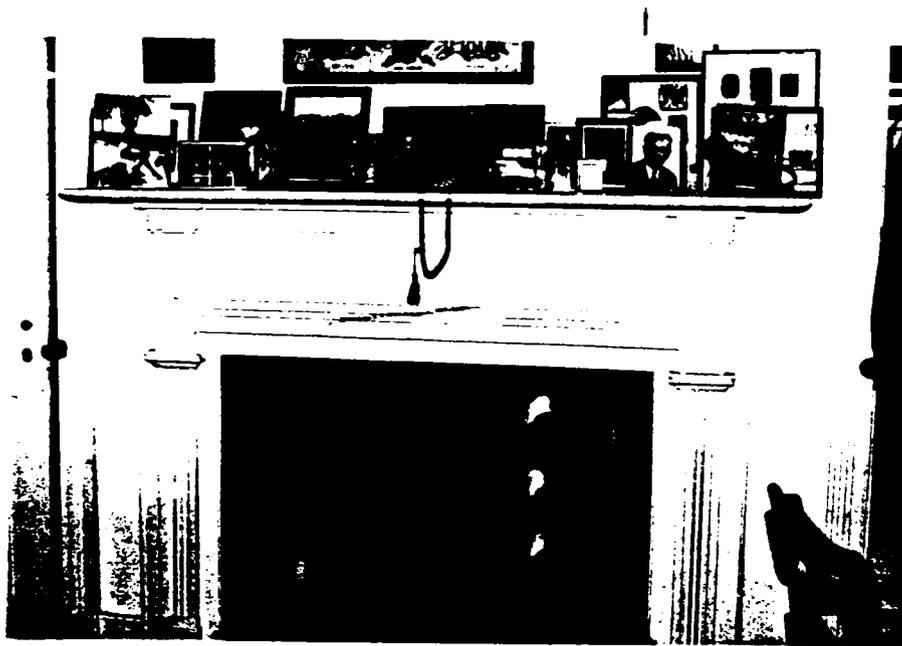


Figure 15
55 Second floor back room mantle