

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: New Castle County	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
New Castle

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
New Castle

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
New Castle

STATE: Delaware      CODE: 10      COUNTY: New Castle County      CODE: 003

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
various private and public: address correspondence to  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Department of State

CITY OR TOWN: Dover      STATE: Delaware      CODE: 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Recorder of Deeds, New Castle County

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1100 King Street

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington      STATE: Delaware      CODE: 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey-see individual buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: various dates       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress/Annex

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Division of Prints and Photographs

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: D.C.      CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Delaware
COUNTY: New Castle
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

New Castle is very fortunate to have a large number of surviving historic houses. Little altered, nearly all of the structures are well preserved and being used for purposes in keeping with their historical character, that is as residences and small shops. The Green, bounded by Delaware, Market, Harmony, and 3rd Streets, with its old public buildings, and the adjoining Market Square between Market and 2nd Streets, where the town hall stands, was originally the Public Square laid out during the Dutch period. Not until the arsenal was built and leased to the Federal government in 1809 was the land considered as two plots and the Courthouse Square divided from the narrow Market Square by the present Market Street. Beyond the dense nucleus of historic buildings bounded by The Strand, Harmony Street, Third Street and Delaware Street, there are a number of buildings typical of the early and mid-19th centuries which continue the historic and residential character of the district.

The colonial State House and Courthouse still dominate the Green and the old town. Built of brick in various stages during two centuries, the building has recently undergone restoration. The large early Georgian colonial central section of Flemish bond brickwork with glazed headers was the original part of the building. In 1845 the small west wing of 1809 was removed and the present larger one of rough textured brick was added. The arcaded octagonal cupola of this building formed the center of the twelve mile circle which determined the arc of the northern boundary of the colony and state.

The George Read House, Number 30 The Strand, erected in 1797-1801, is an outstanding example of late Georgian-early Federal structure. The monumental entrance doorway with its great fanlight above and glazed panels at the sides, the Palladian windows on the side at the second story and the Palladian window above the entrance doorway create an imposing brick edifice of great distinction. A curved balcony of delicate ironwork and the fine carving on much of the exterior woodwork add refinement of detail which gives special elegance to this building.

Several of the other notable buildings include the following. The Old Town Hall, corner of Delaware and Second Streets, built in 1873, is of brick, three stories high with a white square and octagonal cupola. It has an arcade through the center of its first story that originally led to the stalls of the town market at the rear. The Amstel House, made of local brick laid in Flemish bond, with a belt course and water table is a good, well preserved example of a typical early Georgian house. The Old Dutch House, 32 Third Street, constructed between 1698 and 1704 is a fine example of Dutch Colonial with low pent eaves and an overlarge central chimney. The Van Leuvenigh House, southwest corner of The Strand was built in 1765 as a Georgian house, altered about 1840 to include Greek Revival features.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1651, 1664, 1682, 1776

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginol              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | osophy                                  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

New Castle on the Delaware, six miles south of Wilmington, is the oldest town in the Delaware River Valley. Once a fine natural harbor for large vessels, the town was situated in a commanding position with a sweeping view of the Delaware River. Founded in 1651 by Peter Stuyvesant as the seat of the New Netherland government on the Delaware River, it received its present name in 1664 when it was seized by the British. William Penn received the colony in 1682 and it was here that he first arrived in America. New Castle was the colonial capitol until 1776 and very briefly, in 1776-77 the state capitol of Delaware. The many historic buildings illustrate a broad range of architectural history, extending from Colonial through the Federal era. A large number of well-preserved original buildings survive, set in an historic scene that has almost no modern intrusions. The streets and the broad Green preserve unspoiled the work of seventeenth, eighteenth and early nineteenth-century builders, maintaining the intangible atmosphere and character of a mid-eighteenth century town.

HISTORY

The first settlement at New Castle's site was made by the Dutch in 1651, to regain the river trade usurped by the Swedish. Peter Stuyvesant, Governor for the Dutch West India Company, directed the building of Fort Casimir on Sand Hook, a point of land now washed away, that extended beyond the end of what is today Chestnut Street. After a brief interlude of Swedish control in 1654, Fort Casimir became a permanant village under Dutch control. In 1656 it became New Amstel, named for a suburb of Amsterdam and by 1657 was a town of 100 buildings. In 1664 Sir Robert Carr took the town for the Duke of York. This event was followed by a new influx of colonists from England and a final name change to New Castle. In 1682 the Duke of York deeded the property to William Penn. Then in 1704, New Castle became the seat of government of the Lower Counties when a separate assembly was set up for its counties of Delaware from that of Penn's province. When Wilmington was occupied by the British during the Revolution, the state capitol was moved to Dover. This resulted in increased trade for New Castle as did the establishment of the National capitol in Washington, D.C. when travel across the peninsula and up and down the river accelerated with New Castle as a transfer point. Inns and stage routes multiplied and the resulting

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bennett, George Fletcher, Early Architecture of Delaware, Wilmington, Del., 1922.  
Delaware--A Guide to the First State, American Guide Series, New York, 1955, pp. 232-52.  
 Eberlein, Harold D., and Hubbard, Cortlandt V. D., Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware, Wilmington, Del., 1963, pp. 167-99.  
 Morrison, Hugh, Early American Architecture, New York, 1952, pp. 531-32.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	UTM <sup>1</sup> 18.451820.4390510	' "		'	'	"
NE	° 18.452250.4390300	' "		'	'	"
SE	° 18.451670.4389540	' "		'	'	"
SW	° 18.451260.4389920	' "		'	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **95 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Patricia Heintzelman, architectural historian, Landmarks Review Project, original form prepared by Charles Snell, 1967**

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service**      DATE: **8/30/74**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1100 L Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington**      STATE: **D.C.**      CODE: **11**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) Landmark Designated: **Dec. 24, 1967**  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) Boundary Certified: **Carolus Lewis, 6-20-75**  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_ Chief, Div. & Arch. Surveys  
 ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Boundary Affirmed: **Advent... 7/2/75**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Keeper of The National Register, Director, OAHIP  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY New Castle County	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description: (1)

New Castle

There are many fine structures which line The Strand, some of which were once inns at the time when it was a busy waterfront street. The street was lowered in 1803 and the additions of steps and porches can be seen on several of the houses. Opening off The Strand is Packet Alley. From here a wharf once existed which serviced packet boats when New Castle was a link between Washington, D. C. and points north.

Other buildings of interest are numbered on a visitors guide which is included as a sketch map number 1.

Boundaries

In order to include to the fullest extent the historic development of old New Castle, the boundary is drawn as follows; beginning at the point where the old dike, originally built in 1655, empties into the Delaware River, and continuing in a southwesterly direction along the bank of the river to a point directly in line with South Street, north along this line to 3rd Street, then west along 3rd Street to the rear property lines of the properties on the west side of South Street, then north along these rear property lines to Fifth Street, then along the rear property line of buildings on the north side of Fifth Street in an easterly direction, continuing in a straight line across Harmony Street through the open field to the dike, then in a southeasterly direction down the far side of the dike to the point of beginning, approximately 95 acres, as shown on sketch map 2. The docks indicated on the U.S.G.S. map are beyond the boundary.

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(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Delaware	
COUNTY	
New Castle County	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

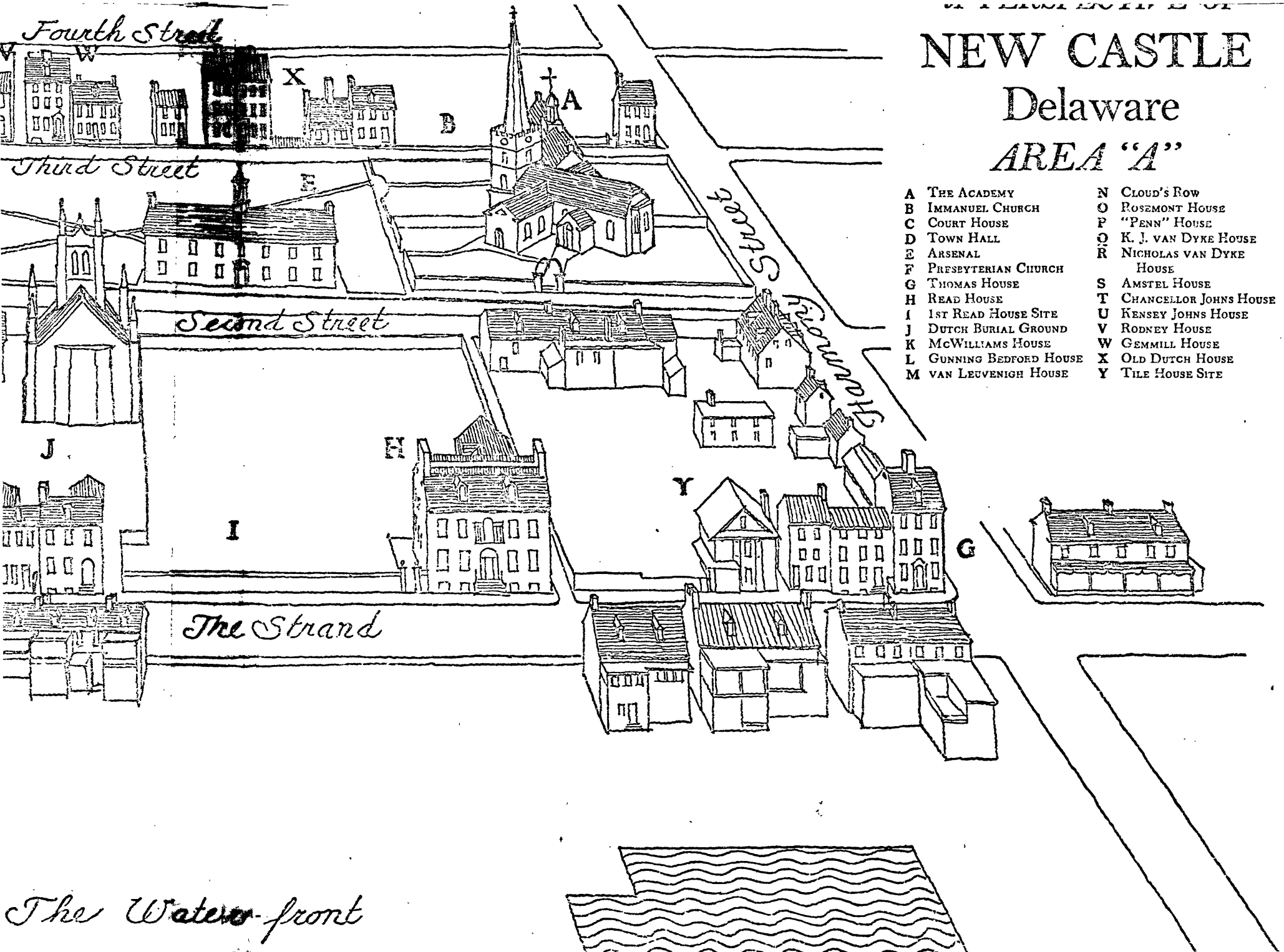
8. Statement of Significance: (1)

New Castle

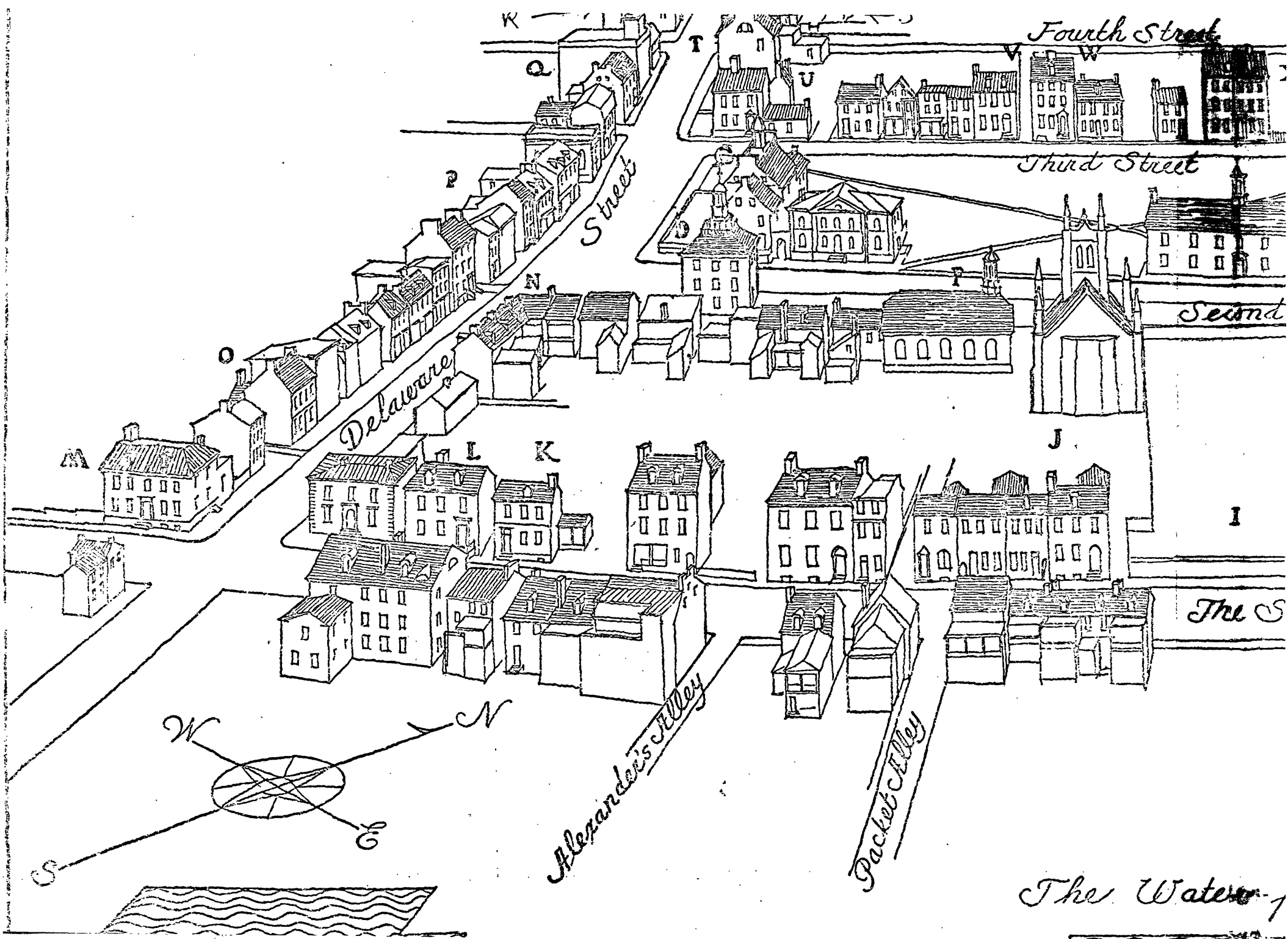
property led to the building of the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad connecting the steam packet service of the Delaware with the steamboats of the Chesapeake Bay.

The slow decline of river traffic and the increasing importance of Wilmington lessened New Castle's commercial importance. When the main railroad line was put through Wilmington, New Castle lost its position as the county seat and became the quiet town it remains today. As a result, most of the old town has remained intact.

# NEW CASTLE Delaware AREA "A"



- |   |                       |   |                         |
|---|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| A | THE ACADEMY           | N | CLOUD'S ROW             |
| B | IMMANUEL CHURCH       | O | ROSEMONT HOUSE          |
| C | COURT HOUSE           | P | "PENN" HOUSE            |
| D | TOWN HALL             | Q | K. J. VAN DYKE HOUSE    |
| E | ARSENAL               | R | NICHOLAS VAN DYKE HOUSE |
| F | PRESEYTERIAN CHURCH   | S | AMSTEL HOUSE            |
| G | THOMAS HOUSE          | T | CHANCELLOR JOHNS HOUSE  |
| H | READ HOUSE            | U | KENSEY JOHNS HOUSE      |
| I | 1ST READ HOUSE SITE   | V | RODNEY HOUSE            |
| J | DUTCH BURIAL GROUND   | W | GEMMILL HOUSE           |
| K | MCWILLIAMS HOUSE      | X | OLD DUTCH HOUSE         |
| L | GUNNING BEDFORD HOUSE | Y | TILE HOUSE SITE         |
| M | VAN LEUVENIGH HOUSE   |   |                         |



Fourth Street

Third Street

Second

The S

The Water

Delaware Street

Street

Alexander's Alley

Packet Alley

