

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE PHYSICAL HISTORY OF
YORKTOWN, 1691 - 1800

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By: Edward M. Riley, Junior Historical Technician
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
COLONIAL NATIONAL MONUMENT
YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

Colonial National Historical Park

Yorktown, Virginia September 6, 1940

Memorandum for the Director:

There are herewith forwarded two copies of report prepared by Junior Historical Technician Edward M. Riley, Colonial National Historical Park, entitled, "Preliminary Report on the Physical History of Yorktown, 1691-1800." The report is accompanied by map drawn by Associate Landscape Architect R. A. Wilhelm, entitled, "Map of the Development of the Town of York 1691-1800."

The report and map are intended to lay a sound foundation for any further archeological investigation of sites within the limits of Yorktown, as well as for any future zoning or other planning for the town which involves consideration of its physical history. Considerable research along these lines has been done in this Park over a period of years. It is believed, however, that Mr. Riley's report has first brought this accumulated material together in convenient, organized form for ready reference. The report also contains a considerable body of new material drawn from the York County Records and other sources.

Both report and map should be considered as preliminary, as some groups of essential sources still remain to be examined.

(Sgd) Elbert Cox

Elbert Cox,
Superintendent.

Enclosure 1623760

TMP:RY

cc; with enclosure
Regional Director (2)

cc:

Dr. Pitkin

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PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE PHYSICAL
HISTORY OF YORKTOWN, 1691 - 1800.

By

Edward M. Riley,
Junior Historical Technician,
Colonial National Historical Park,
Yorktown, Virginia.

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PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE PHYSICAL
HISTORY OF YORKTOWN, 1691 - 1800.

INTRODUCTION

The history of Yorktown is somewhat unique among the colonial towns of Virginia. Because of its situation on the York river, with an excellent harbor near the Chesapeake Bay, the town was one of the earliest and most important ports in the colony. Its period of prosperity and growth corresponded with the same period in Tidewater Virginia. The depletion of the soil of this region and the subsequent westward sweep of population brought about the decline of the town. Founded in 1691, Yorktown prospered and grew until about the middle of the eighteenth century. A slow decline began at this time was accelerated by the American Revolution. The siege of 1781 was a costly blaze of glory. This blow was too staggering and the raison d'être for a port on the York had ceased. As a result Yorktown never resumed its former flourishing state.

In order to understand the early history of the town it is necessary to comprehend the early land laws, insofar as they pertain to the towns. A persistent effort was made in the colonial period to encourage the founding of towns by legislation. The first such act was the Cohabitation Act of 1680. Another such act was the Act for Ports in 1691. Pursuant to the latter fifty acres of land were purchased from Benjamin Roade. This land was surveyed by Colonel Lawrence Smith, who laid out the town in eighty-five half-acre lots. Feoffees or trustees of the town were appointed and authorized to sell the half acres for a small sum. In order to retain the title to the lot the owner was required to begin a building at least twenty feet square within four months after acquiring the lot. There can be little doubt that the provisions of this act were adhered to by the inhabitants of Yorktown. This is proved by the large number of forfeitures of town lots. This act continued in force until it was suspended by an act of the Assembly in March, 1692/3.

Despite the fact that the act was in suspension, lots continued to be sold in Yorktown. In order to protect the interests of these persons

whose titles to land had been affected by the Act of Suspension and also to promote building, it was provided in 1699 that the Town Trustees should confirm titles to lands bought previous to the Act of Suspension or later. In addition, the time required for erecting a house twenty feet square was lengthened to twelve months. It is impossible to tell how much this Act of Suspension affected the growth of Yorktown, but study has revealed little, if any, harmful effects. There are indications that the Act of 1691 was adhered to despite its suspension.

In October, 1705 the Assembly passed an extensive code which included the provisions of the previous acts. It continued the time required to build on a town lot at twelve months as provided for by the Act of 1699. This code continued in force until it, in turn, was repealed by Proclamation on July 5, 1710. By that time, however, the Town of York was firmly established and was only slightly affected by the repeal.

The sources for this preliminary report have been confined almost exclusively to the primary type. In fact, the term "source book" might be applied to the study. The backbone of the report is taken from the York County Records between 1691 and 1800. The deeds, court orders, wills and inventories give the names of the owners of the town lots and frequently their occupations and stations in life. These same documents also often describe the improvements made on the various lots. In addition to these sources, the County Records contain a volume of damage claims filed by the local inhabitants of the town for reparation for losses suffered at the hands of the British in 1781. These claims give valuable descriptions of buildings and other improvements on the lots. They also indicate the line followed by the British in the construction of their fortifications. This latter study has not been completed. Although much time has been spent in the past in a study of these records, no systematic coverage has been made. It is hoped that it will be possible to complete a methodical study of the county archives which has been begun by the writer.

Another valuable source of information is The Virginia Gazette, which was founded in Williamsburg in 1736 and continued to be published throughout the colonial period. The most valuable source of information for this report found in this newspaper is the advertisements of lots and houses for sale in Yorktown. These advertisements not only clarify the ownership of lots, but they also frequently include descriptions of the buildings standing on the lots. The files of this important source have not yet received the attention they deserve in the research program of the park.

The other principal sources of information for this report are of a pictorial nature. One of the most valuable was a recently discovered map in the Berthier manuscript collection of Princeton University. Captain Berthier was a topographical engineer who served as Assistant-Aide to the Quartermaster-General of the French Army in America. In that capacity he made a map of the Town of York dated November 12, 1781 showing the location of all the principal buildings in the town, or at least those in which French troops were billeted inside the former British lines.

Another pictorial source of information was the fire insurance policies of the Mutual Assurance Society of Richmond, Virginia. Policies have been found insuring the buildings on many of the town lots between 1786 and 1860. These policies are useful in describing the location, type of construction, dimensions, and value of the various buildings on the lot. It is believed that in almost all cases the buildings shown on the plats of the earliest of these policies were probably standing at the time of the siege of 1781. There was no other great destructive force until the fire of 1814, and it is known what buildings were destroyed by it. An excellent check on these records was the Berthier map mentioned above.

The last source which deserves mention is the photographs taken by Matthew Brady of Yorktown following the siege of 1862. Two of these photographs are included in this report. They are valuable in showing the actual appearance of buildings known to be of the colonial period. They will play a most important part in any future reconstruction in the town.

This preliminary report has been confined to a study of the eighty-five original town lots. It should be pointed out that the report cannot be considered in any way a final effort, in either form or material. A study of the so-called Gwyn Roads development will have to be made before any study of the town can be considered complete. Since the main sources of information have not been exhausted, it was considered wise to limit this report as much as possible to the citing of sources, with a few conclusions of the writer included. In other words, this report may be considered a basic source book of information explaining the accompanying map of the colonial town. It is expected to prepare supplementary reports from time to time as new material is discovered until the proper time has arrived for the final, definitive report.

This report's form should also be explained. The various quotations from the sources have been arranged in chronological sequence. Each new

description bears a number. This information has been transferred to the accompanying map. The dates shown on the map refer to specific items in the report which can be found under that date. The references have been embodied in the text of the report rather than placing them in footnotes. This form was decided upon as the best for the purpose of this report. The final, definitive report will be of the narrative type.

It should also be explained that this report will be followed by a similar one on the development of the waterfront during the colonial period being prepared by Junior Historical Technician Charles E. Hatch, Jr. These two reports will form a basis for any proposed development of the town. It must be emphasized, however, that neither of these reports can be considered as final and that they are subject to revision as additional information is discovered.

The writer wishes to express his appreciation of the kindly assistance of Miss Olive Drinkwine, secretary of the historical division of Colonial National Historical Park. She has been of inestimable value as a collaborator and critic.

Edward M. Riley,
Yorktown, Virginia.
August 23, 1940.

LOTS 1 - 6

Since these six lots were grouped together as a unit during almost all of the colonial period, it is considered advisable to treat them in a group. While only one of the lots is specifically mentioned as having buildings, it must not be taken for granted that it was the only lot built upon, for according to the Act for Ports of 1691, it was necessary to build on a lot within four months in order to retain title to it. By deed dated April 20, 1695 and recorded May 24, 1695, Nicholas Sebrell and Sarah, his wife, conveyed Lot 4 "With the buildings thereon" to William Buckner for £5 sterling. [Deeds and Bonds I, 16.]

The six lots were brought together by this same Major William Buckner, who was a prosperous merchant of Yorktown, a justice of York county, a member of the House of Burgesses, and Collector of Customs for the York River District in the latter part of the seventeenth and the early eighteenth centuries. The subsequent transfers with all mentions of buildings follow:

1. Major William Buckner's will, 1716 - "houses and Lands in York Town" to his son, William. [Orders and Wills XIV, 513.]
2. William devised the property to his brother, John, in 1722. [Orders and Wills XIV, 172.]
3. In 1748 John devised the six lots to his nephew, Griffin Stith, who was Clerk of Northampton county, 1743-1762. [Stafford County Records, Will Book M, 537.]
4. In 1751 Stith leased part of the property, including a dwelling house with outhouses and garden, to Seymour Powell, Jr. Part had already been leased to Benjamin Mess. [Deeds V, 479.]
5. In 1767 Stith conveyed the lots "with all houses" to Nathaniel Littleton Savage, a merchant of Yorktown. [Deeds VII, 391.]
6. In 1770 Mr. Savage conveyed the lots to Captain Thomas Lilly, Mariner. This deed is not of record but is mentioned in a mortgage of Lilly to Francis Ocal, a London merchant, which also describes the lots as those "whereon the said Thomas Lilly now lives". [Deeds, No. 8, p. 257.]
7. Following the siege of 1781, Thomas Lilly filed a claim for

reparations for damages done his property by the British. The claim lists the following houses and other features as destroyed:

"A new dwelling House 40 by 22 brick Chimneys
& Cellar flush

A Kitchen 22 by 18 brick chimney

A Stable for 6 horses with a Chair House

A dwelling House 24 x 16 with a Shed & 2 fire
places

damage done the lotte all the enclosure destroyed
and the well fill'd up."

As the lots stood just outside of the British inner lines, the buildings might have been destroyed either by the British or by shell-fire. A deed of 1783 for land adjoining the six lots describes them as these "where the said Lilly's Houses lately stood". [Deed Book No. 6, p. 202.]

8. In 1793 Lilly conveyed the lots to Dr. Corbin Griffin, a prominent physician of Yorktown, with no mention of buildings in the deed. [Deed Book VII, 83.]

OTHER FEATURES

See: Memorandum to Superintendent Flickinger, dated June 29, 1934, by Park Ranger Gale and Museum Curator Hopkins for information on the Heade burial ground in Duckner Street between Lots 5 and 11.

LOT 7

There is very little information concerning the buildings on this lot. It is probable that the lot stood vacant until after 1718, when it was acquired by Philip Lightfoot, a prosperous gentleman merchant and Clerk of York County. He may have built upon the lot as an investment, but as most of the lot remained in the Lightfoot family until after the Revolution, there are no deeds describing the buildings. The only mention of a building on the lot is to be found in the following deed:

1. On June 17, 1734, Richard Pate, planter of James City County, to Jones Irwin, planter, a 40 foot square in the west corner "together with all the houses". The consideration was £8 current money. [Deeds IV, 300.]

The deed does not make it clear whether the square was situated in the northwest or the southwest corner of the lot. The price paid for the part lot indicates that some type of dwelling or shop was included, but the dimensions of the land would necessarily limit the size of the building.

The line of the British fortifications around Yorktown is not exactly known in entirety, but a study of the maps of the siege of 1781 indicates that here the line ran either just outside Lot 7 or directly through it. In either case, some damage must have been done to the lot, but there is no record of a damage claim by the estate of Armistead Lightfoot, the last owner on record in the colonial period.

Lot 8

This lot was forfeited twice before it was taken up by William Lindsay in 1719. Houses are mentioned in the following deeds of the colonial period:

1. By deed dated July 18, 1719, William Lindsay conveyed the lot "together with the houses" to Joseph Walker, a gentleman merchant, for £10 current money. [Deeds and Bonds III, 302.]

2. In 1732, Matthew Walker, the son of Joseph Walker, sold the lot "together with the houses" to Jones Irwin for £25 current money. [Deeds IV, 136.]

This is the last conveyance on record for the colonial period.

The effect of the siege of 1781 cannot be ascertained exactly as no damage claim can be found. It is true that some damage must have been done the property in constructing the British lines. It is probable that any buildings were destroyed during the siege. In 1808 the lot was sold for \$30.00 by John Gibbs to Charles Harris. An affidavit attached to the deed describes the lot as "one unimproved parcel of Ground or lot marked 8 in the location of Yorktown". [Deed Book No. 7, p. 480.] The period of time between the siege and the deed is too great to state definitely that the buildings were destroyed in 1781, but it is a possibility.

Lot 9

This lot was vacant after the forfeiture of Robert Leightonhouse, schoolmaster, in 1691, until it was conveyed by the Town Trustees to Samuel Cooper in 1717. Buildings on the lot are mentioned in the records as follows:

1. By deed dated June 11, 1719 Samuel Cooper and Ann, his wife, conveyed a part lot to John Matteck with the following bounds: "Beginning at the end of the said Lett that points toward York River and to run from thence sixty-one feet eight inches on the Line that binds on the Street towards my now dwelling house...". [Deeds and Bonds III, 291.] The deed does not mention any buildings standing on the part of the lot conveyed. The dwelling house of Samuel Cooper may have stood on the site of the "old foundation" shown in the southeast corner of Lot 9 on the Ladd Map of 1848 in the Colonial National Historical Park library. In fact the deed states: "To have and Hold that part of the aforesaid Lett of Part Land with all the buildings that may hereafter be put upon the sd Land....". It is not known whether John Matteck build on the part lot or not. It is known that he married Samuel Cooper's widow shortly after Samuel's death.

2. Samuel Cooper died early in 1720 and devised his "house and Lett in Yorktown" to his wife, Ann. [Orders and Wills IX, 598.]

3. By deed dated December 5, 1722 John Matteck and Ann his wife, conveyed the entire lot "with all the tenements" to John Gomer for £47/10 current money. [Deeds and Bonds III, 386.]

4. On November 20, 1752 John Gomer and Mary, his wife, of Henrico County, conveyed the "Land Tenement and Premises" to James Mills, tailor, for £30 current money. [Deeds V, 506.] This is the last colonial record of the lot.

There are no damage claims for the period of the siege of 1781, although the lot appears to have been crossed by the British line. The lot suffered greatly in the War Between the States for the Confederates constructed a very large redoubt on it. It is evident that any remains of former buildings would probably have been destroyed by the excavation for this redoubt.

Lots 10, 11, 16 and 17

As these lots were brought under the ownership of Philip Lightfoot by 1732, it is necessary to treat them as a unit after that date. Prior to that time the individual lots were built upon as follows:

LOT 10

1. A building was erected on this lot as early as 1693 as is shown by a history of the property in a deed of 1717: This deed states that the Town Trustees granted the lot to Joseph King, one of the original feeffees of the town, for his "extraordinary care...in the discharge of the duties of his office" by order of the Court of November 25, 1692, and that he built upon the lot as required by law. [Deeds and Bonds III, 225.]

2. This building was probably the one referred to in the deed from Joseph King to Joseph Walker in 1712 for the lot "together with all houses" for £35 "lawful mony of Great Brittain". [Deeds and Bonds II, 409.]

LOT 11

1. This lot was originally conveyed by the town trustees to Ralph Walker, planter, by deed dated November 24, 1691. [Deeds, Orders, Wills I, 361.] By will probated February 24, 1702/3, he devised a life estate to his wife with the remainder to his son, Thomas. [Deeds, Orders, Wills III, 84.]

2. By deed dated July 7, 1703 from Thomas Walker and Elizabeth, his wife, to Samuel Dickenson, Inholder*, the lot was conveyed "together with the buildings". [Deeds and Bonds II, 73.] This may have been the house built by Ralph Walker in 1691 or 1692 as required by the law.

3. In December, 1706 Samuel Dickenson sold the western half of the lot to Joseph Walker for £12/10/00, which part lot bounded on the east "with ye other half of ye Lett whereon ye said Samuel now Liveth". [Deeds

* "INHOLDER...an inn-keeper". The Universal Etymological English Dictionary, Vol. II. By N. Bailey. (London, 1737).

and Bonds II, 195.] There is no mention of a building on the half conveyed, but the price seems rather high for an unimproved half lot.

LOT 16

1. In a deed dated June 17, 1715 from the town trustees to Philip Lightfoot, the early history of the lot is recited. Lot 16 was granted to Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Ballard for his services as one of the original town trustees by order of the York Court dated November 25, 1692 and he built upon the lot "as required by ye law". [Deeds and Bonds III, 63.]

LOT 17

1. It is not clear whether Samuel Dickenson built on the lot after it was granted to him in 1699 by the Town Trustees, but as he was known as an "inholder" in 1703 and owned no other lots, it indicates that he had built an inn on the lot, (see Section 2 under Lot 11).

2. By deed of assignment, dated May 24, 1707, Samuel Dickenson assigned the lot to Joseph Walker for £30 lawful money of England. [Deeds and Bonds II, 241.]

3. By deed dated April 18, 1732 Matthew Walker conveyed the lot "together with all houses" to Philip Lightfoot for £50 current money of Virginia. [Deeds, No. 4, p. 121.] The price indicates improvement on the lot.

THE LIGHTFOOT DEVELOPMENT

1. Philip Lightfoot in his will probated June 20, 1748, devised to his son William "the Lot and appurtenances whereon he now dwells in York Town and these two adjoining (except the Stable and Lotts to his Mother during her natural life)" [Wills and Inventories XX, 103.]

2. In a deed to the lots dated June 26, 1799 the property is described as "a certain Messuage or tenement situate in the Town of York formerly the property of Philip Lightfoot, Esq. the sd Tenement consisting of that Brick house formerly the property of the said Lightfoot and all the Lots thereunto adjoining..." [Deed Book No. 8, p. 290.] It is practically impossible to tell by documentary research when this brick house was built, but from study of Philip Lightfoot's land holdings in Yorktown this seems to be the one to which reference is made in

Philip Lightfoot's will of 1748.

The property does not seem to have been injured to any great extent by the siege of 1781 as there are no damage claims on record for the lots. The Berthier map of 1781 shows one large building standing in the center of the group of lots and a smaller one on the southern boundary. (see Fig. 1).

It is probable that the buildings were destroyed during the great fire of 1814, which burned the houses on Lots 12 and 18 as well as the Church, the Courthouse, and practically everything else in this part of the town.

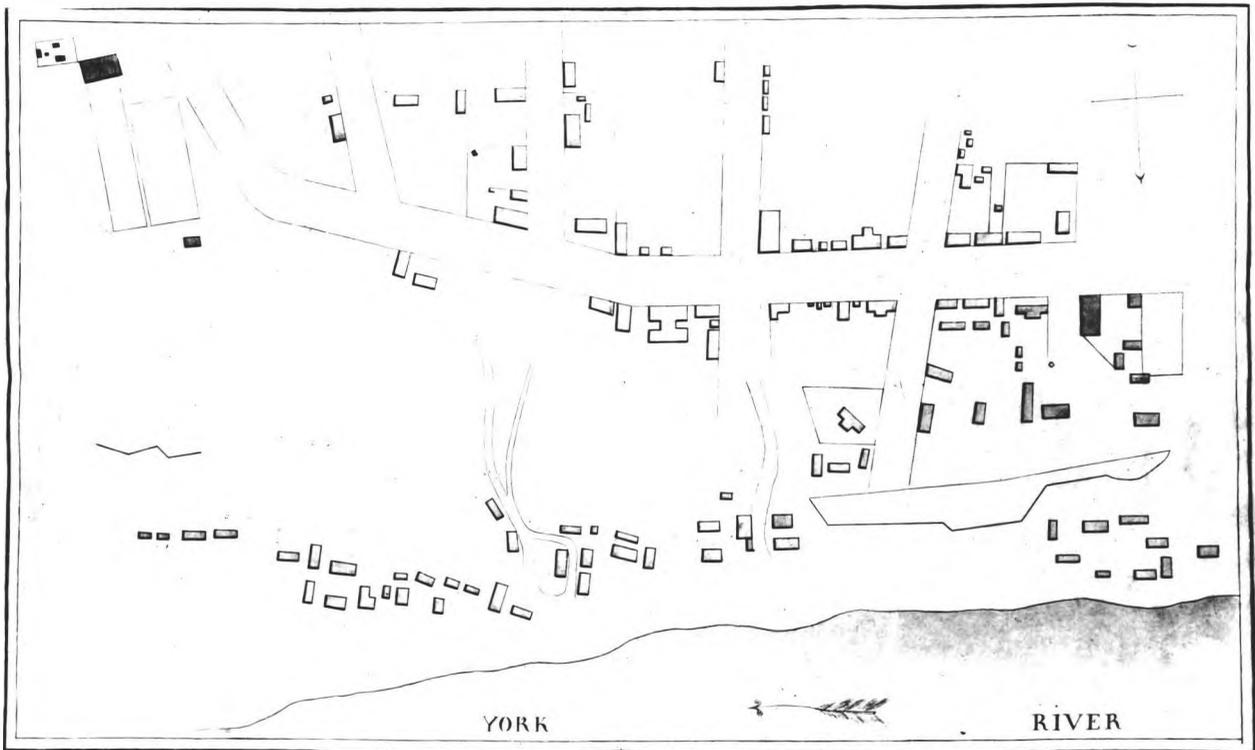


Figure No. 1.

Photocopy of "Plan d'York Town pour Servir a
l'Establissement du Quartier d'hiver du Reg-
iment de Seisennois et des Grenadiers et
Chasseurs de St Onge le 12 9bre 1761", by
Louis Alexandre Berthier

[ONHP #8375]

LOTS 12 and 18

It is impossible to separate these two lots as they were considered as a unit from the earliest history of the town.

1. In 1728 Wilson Gary of Warwick County conveyed the lots "together with all houses" to William Nelson, merchant, for £100 current money.

2. In 1741 William Nelson mortgaged the property for £248/13/8, sterling. It was described as "the dwelling house of said William Nelson the Elder [President Nelson] in the Town of York together with all outhouses, Kitchen, Milkhouse, Storehouse, Stable, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements & Letts of Land...". [Deeds V, 15.]

3. In The Virginia Gazette for October 10, 1755, William Nelson, Jr., placed the following advertisement in an attempt to sell these lots:

"To be sold at Public Sale, on the 24th of this Instant October, before Mr. Doncastle's Door, in Williamsburg, Two very convenient Lots and Houses, in York-Town, whereen Doctor George Riddell lately lived, near the Court-House; There is a large Swelling-House, Store-House, Kitchen, Stable, all convenient Out-Houses, and a very good garden on the same...

N.B. The above Lots and Houses have rented for Thirty-two Pounds for several years past."

4. By deed dated May 29, 1773 the Hon. Robert Burwell, Esq., who had acquired the lots in 1756, conveyed the lots to Corbin Griffin, "Doctor of Physic", for £1,000 current money. [Deeds No. 8, p. 333.] However, in the issue of July 30, 1772 of The Virginia Gazette appeared the following item:

"To be Sold, my Houses and Lots in the Town of York, which formerly belonged to the Honorable Robert Burwell, together with a large and well furnished medicinal shop. The houses are in very good repair, with all convenient outhouses, and in every respect well fitted for a family.

CORBIN GRIFFIN"

It is difficult to explain how Dr. Griffin could put up for sale

some property which he did not buy until over a year later. It is possible that he had never received a deed to the property, and had one drawn up some time after he had bought the lots. This advertisement did not bear fruit for Dr. Griffin retained the lots for the rest of his life.

5. No damage claim was filed for this lot. The Berthier map shows one large building and three smaller ones on Lot 18. Lot 12 appears to have been a garden.

INSURANCE RECORDS

On April 6, 1796 Dr. Corbin Griffin took out fire insurance with the Mutual Assurance Society of Richmond, Virginia, on his "four Buildings on the main Street at York now occupied by myself situated between the house of Wm Lightfoot [Lot 17] and that of the Main Street...". The four buildings were valued at the following prices:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| The Dwelling House..... | 2,600 dollars |
| The Kitchen..... | 200 " |
| Quarters and Meat House..... | 100 |
| Medical shop..... | 100 |

According to the plan accompanying the policy the dwelling house was built of wood covered with wood and was 60 feet long by 27 feet wide. The long side was parallel to Ballard Street. The medical shop was 30 feet southwest of the corner of the dwelling and was constructed of wood covered with wood. This was, perhaps, the storehouse of William Nelson (see Section 3, supra). It was 24 feet long and 20 feet wide with the narrow end facing Main Street. The smokehouse is not described, but stood 15 feet from the kitchen. The quarter of wood covered with wood was 26 feet by 24 feet and stood 15 feet northwest of the smokehouse. The dwelling is represented as having had two chimneys and an elaborate doorway or window. The medical shop, the kitchen, and the quarters had one chimney each.

There can be no doubt that this policy refers to Lots 12 and 18. In the first place, Dr. Corbin Griffin gave his land to his son by deed in 1795, except that "the Houses and Tenements in the Town of York which the said Corbin Griffin purchased of Robert Burwell and on which he now lives reserving a full, free, and uninterrupted use of the said Tenement for his natural life." [Deed Book No. 7, p. 163.] In addition, all the directions and descriptions given on the plan in the policy correspond

with what is known of Lots 12 and 18, (see discussion of the Dr. Corbin Griffin Apothecary Shop under Lot 30 in this report). The Berthier map of 1781 shows a development on Lot 18 which corresponds to the insurance record.

Lawrence Gibbons bought the lots in 1801. [Deed Book No. 7, p. 340.] Five years later he had his fire insurance revalued. This policy mentions only three buildings; the quarters having disappeared. The dwelling house was described as being of two stories and the medical shop and kitchen as one story.

These buildings were destroyed in the great fire of 1814. A newspaper account of the disaster began as follows:

"York. March 4—Yesterday about 3 p.m. Mrs. Gibbon's house in this place took fire, and together with the County Court house, the Church, the spacious dwelling of the late President Nelson, and the whole of the town below the hill, except Charlton's and Grant's houses, were consumed." [Richmond Enquirer, March 9, 1814.]

LOT 13

1. Some type of building must have been erected on the lot early in 1692 by Owen Davis, planter, as his title in the lot was confirmed, but there is no mention of a building in the deed of conveyance of January, 1694/5. [Deeds and Bonds I, 2.]

2. By deed dated May 18, 1698 William Buckner and Katherine, his wife, conveyed the lot to Thomas Bewcher. In this deed the property is described as: "All that his Cottage or Tenement in Yorke Towne known by ye name of Smith Shopp....". [Deeds and Bonds I, 152.]

3. By deed dated December 23, 1701 Thomas Bewcher, merchant of Warwick County, sold the lot to Miles Gary, Gentleman of Warwick County, for an undisclosed sum. "All that his house and Sellar or Tenement in Yorke Towne known by the name of the Smyths Shopp....". [Deeds and Bonds II, 20.]

4. Robert Ballard, carpenter, purchased the lot in 1728 for £40 lawful money of Great Britain. [Deeds and Bonds III, 503.] He died intestate in 1739 and his estate was divided by the County Court in 1741. By this division, Lot 13, or "the Lett whereen he dwelt [was] assigned his widow now the wife of Mr. Matthew Hubbard. - (the rent Valued at £20 P Ann)...£210". [Wills and Inventories No. 19, p. 36.]

5. In 1756 William Powell, planter, and Henrietta, his wife, sold to Nicholas Dickson, merchant, their one-third interest in the lot for £70 current money. The deed states that the lot is "now in the Tenure and Occupation of the said Nicholas Dickson who hath lived on the same for some years...". [Deeds VI, 61.]

6. Sometime during the next eleven years Nicholas Dickson must have acquired the title to the rest of Lot 13 as well as Lot 14. These conveyances are not of record, but are proved by an advertisement in The Virginia Gazette of September 1, 1767, by which it is learned that Nicholas Dickson had resolved to leave the colony and therefore desired to "sell or lease for a term of years the house wherein I now live, situated on the main street in this town, with two lots adjoining, on which are all necessary houses, with a large garden; the whole paied in".

7. The following advertisement appeared in the issue of May 6, 1773 of The Virginia Gazette:

"To be sold to the highest Bidder, on Mon-

day the 17th Instant (May) before the Swan Tavern in York Town, A Dwellinghouse in the said Town, pleasantly situated on the Main Street, where Mrs. Robinson now lives, with convenient Outhouses, and two Lots adjoining.

Beverly Dickson"

This advertisement did not bring about a sale.

8. In 1776 Beverly Dickson of Williamsburg sold Lots 13 and 14 "with all buildings" to Robert Gibbons for £300. [Deed Book No. 6, p. 10.]

9. No great damage could have been done the lot during the siege of 1781 as there is no damage claim on record for Robert Gibbons. In 1801 the lot "and all houses" with Lot 14 was sold to Charles Harris for £78. [Deed Book No. 7, 356.] In a deed to other property in 1806, Lot 13 was described as "the Lot on which the House of Charles Harris now stands". [Deed Book No. 7, p. 504.]

BRADY PHOTOGRAPH

The Confederate line of 1862 ran across the western side of this lot. A photograph by Brady (Fig. 2) shows a most interesting house in the foreground. This house has been identified by one of the old inhabitants of Yorktown as the Harris house.



Figure No. 2

[GNHP #3559]

LOT 14

1. It is probable that a house was erected on this lot as early as 1707 by Miles Cary, Gentleman, of Warwick County, who retained his title to the lot. This is proved by the fact that his son, Wilson Cary, sold the lot to Robert Ballard, carpenter, for £40 lawful money of Great Britain by deed dated July 20, 1728. [Deeds and Bonds III, 508.]

2. In the division of Robert Ballard's estate in 1741, the following statement appears: "By the Lott adjeining to and on the back of that wh is assigned to Mr Hubard [Lot 13] and is part of his Garden, now assigned to Charlotte, the youngest Child of the sd Ballard (the rent valued at 20/ P Ann.....£30". In the same document, it is stated that "Mr. Hubard is to pay her [Charlotte Ballard] the farther Sum of 20/ a Year rent for the Lott now a part of his Garden". [Wills and Inventories No. 19, p. 36.]

3. See Sections 6, 7, 8 and 9 under Lot 13.

LOT 15 and 08

1. Lot 15 was conveyed to John Trotter in 1717. [Deeds and Bonds III, 223.] He acquired Lot 08 from Wynn Heade by deed dated September 16, 1740 and recorded in the General Court of Virginia, (see Deeds V, 477). He must have built a home on the property, for in his will probated May 20, 1745, he devised "to my loving son Thomas Trotter my two Lotts on wch I now live...". [Wills and Inventories No. 19, p. 369.]

2. In 1752 Thomas Trotter, merchant, sold the lots "With all houses" to Matthew Burt, chairmaker, for £100 current money. [Deeds V, 477.]

3. In The Virginia Gazette of October 10, 1756:

"Notice is hereby given, That there will be exposed to Sale, by way of Outcry, at York Court-House, the 20th of October next, Two Lots of Land, whereon Matthew Burt now lives; there is a neat small Dwelling-House on them, in good repair, with two Brick Chimneys to it, a Kitchen with one Chimney, a Work-House, and a Garden vailed in. One half of Purchase money to be paid down, the other half in Six months later, on giving security, as usual, to

James Ornsby"

4. In 1756 the two lots were sold by Matthew Burt to Reverend James Ornsby, clerk, for £150. In 1757 Reverend James Ornsby of Amelia County sold the lots to James Mills, tailor, for £65. [Deeds VI, 77.] In his will probated in 1762 James Mills devised to his wife Hannah the house in which "she now dwells which I bought of the Revd Mr Ornsby and the two Lotts of Ground purchased therewith to her and her Heirs forever". [Wills and Inventories No. 21, 113.]

5. In subsequent colonial transfers, in 1770 [Deeds VIII, 89], and 1773 [Deeds VIII, 314], there is no description of the property other than the phrase "with all houses".

6. No damage claims have been found for these lots, but the ownership is confused around 1781. A study of the maps of the siege of 1781 seems to indicate that the British lines of fortifications ran directly through the lots, although this cannot be taken as proof. Archeology is

the only means of determining the exact line.

7. In 1810 the two lots with "the Tenements and appurtenances Thereunto belonging" were sold by Dr. Corbin Griffin to Joseph Menet, merchant, for £25 current money.

LOT 19

1. After being forfeited once, this lot was conveyed to Miles Cary by the town trustees by deed dated May 24, 1706. [Deeds and Bonds II, 184.] He may have built on the lot by 1707, but there is no definite proof that he did.

2. Wilson, son of Miles Cary, sold the lot, along with Lots 14 and 20, "together with all houses", to Robert Ballard, carpenter, for £100 current money of Virginia on June 21, 1731. [Deeds No. 4, p. 94.]

3. "By the Lett in the tenure of William Harwood now assign'd Mr Wm Dailey who Marry'd Jane, the Eldest daughter of the sd Robert Ballard (now rented at £16 P Ann).....£170." [Division of Estate of Robert Ballard, March 16, 1740/1, Wills and Inventories No. 19, p. 36.]

4. There is no record of any damage done to the lot during the siege of 1781. In fact, there is no additional information concerning the lot except that it was sold to Charles Harris in 1812. [Deed Book No. 8, p. 228.]

LOT 20

1. It is not known whether Miles Cary built on this lot or not after he acquired it in 1706. [Deeds and Bonds II, 181.]

2. Wilson, son of Miles Cary, sold the lot, along with Lots 14 and 19, "together with all houses", to Robert Ballard, carpenter, for £100 current money of Virginia on June 21, 1731. [Deeds No. 4, p. 94.]

3. "By the Lett in the Occupation of Elizabeth Williansen now assign'd to Henrietta Second daughter of the sd Ballard (now rented at 26 F Ann).....£90". [Division of the Estate of Robert Ballard, March 16, 1740/1, Wills and Inventories No. 19, p. 36.]

4. In 1751 the lot was sold to John Richardson, carpenter, by William Powell and Henrietta, his wife, for £170 current money. The deed reads as follows: "One certain Messuage Tenement and Lot...together with all houses...". [Deeds V, 433.]

5. "John C. Ginter No. 40

A Memo. of Jas C. Ginters Losses Sustain'd by the British Troops Augt & Sept. 1781

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 1 Large Dwelling House | £200 |
| 1 Large Kitchen | 60 |
| a Stable £25 Smoak house & Dairy £25 | 50 |
| 1 Cow | 5 |
| 25 Barls. Corn 25 12/ | 15 |
| 1 Horse 15 hands high 7 yrs old | 30 |
| Paleing round the lots & damage done them by throwing up Intrenchments | <u>35</u> |
| | £415" |

At the time of the siege of 1781 John C. Gunther [Ginter, Genter] owned Lots 20, 21 and PP. The only possible means of ascertaining which of these lots was damaged "by throwing up Intrenchments" is by conducting an archeological investigation of the lots. It seems possible that the fortifications ran across either Lot 21 or PP. Archeological research may be able to ascertain the location of the various houses in the damage claim.

5. In 1814 Lots 20, 21 and PP were sold. They are described as "also the Lot called the Stable Lot which has thereon a Cow house and stable, with two Lots thereto adjoining...". [Deed Book No. 8, p. 283.] It is impossible to tell which of the lots was the stable lot and which two were vacant.

LOTS 21 and PP

1. The title to Lot 21 was not confirmed to anyone until Robert Ballard, carpenter, was conveyed the lot in 1717 by the town trustees. [Deeds and Bonds III, 201.] It appears that he erected a building on this lot sometime between 1717 and 1725. In the latter year he sold the lot "together with all houses" to Vincent Pearse, naval captain, for £180 sterling. [Deeds and Bonds III, 448.]

2. By 1735 Vincent Pearse had returned to the sea as commander of His Majesty's ship Winchelsea [sic], and so he sold the property described in the deed as "all that Messuage Tenement and Lott of Ground where the sd Robert Jackson now dwells...with all houses..." to Robert Jackson of the Town of York, "Chirurgien" [Surgeon] for £160 current money. [Deeds IV, 357.]

3. In 1750 Robert Jackson, who had moved to Tower Hill, London, sold Lots 21 and PP "with all houses" to James Mills, tailor, for £190 pounds current money. [Deeds V, 380.]

4. For damage done during the siege of 1781 and the subsequent history of the lots see Sections 4 and 5 under Lot 20.

LOT 22

1. A building must have been erected on this lot early in 1692, for Captain Thomas Chisman retained his title to the lot. The first mention of a building is found in the deed from Chisman to Warren Cary in 1711, which conveyed the lot "together with the buildings...thereon ..." for £15 lawful money of England. [Deeds and Bonds II, 364.]

2. In 1724 Warren Cary sold the lot with "all that messuage or tenement" to Philip Lightfoot for £150 "good and lawfull mony of Great Brittain". [Deeds and Bonds III, 458.]

3. Lots 22 and 28, with the northern one-third of Lot 29, became the home of Philip Lightfoot. In his will, probated June 20, 1748, he devised to his wife Mary during her natural life "my dwelling House with the appurtenances two Lots and one third of Land thereto adjoining purchased from Richard [Warren] Cary [Lot 22], Jehn Buskler [Lot 28] and Herriot Hatchford [1/3 of Lot 29] and the Lots whereon my Stable now stands in the Town of York...". [Wills and Inventories No. 20, p. 103.]

4. A court order dated July 15, 1751 marking out the prison bounds places the home of Philip Lightfoot's widow on Lot 22. It reads as follows: "Beginning at the River side opposite to the Street by the west end of Mrs Mary Lightfoots House [Ballard Street] Thence up that Street to the South bounds of the Town Thence Easterly along the said bounds to the Street [Church Street] by Capt Nisbetts House [Lot 33] Thence along that Street to the River side and Thence along the River side to the place begun at." [Judgments and Orders No. 1, p. 435.]

5. The following advertisement appears in The Virginia Gazette of August 22, 1777:

"YORK town, August 13, 1777

I take this method to inform the publick in general, and the gentlemen who have favoured me with their custom hitherto in particular, that I have removed from the house on the water side to the large brick house behind the court house, the property of Dr. John Griffin, and formerly belonging to Mrs. Lightfoot, where gentlemen who please to favour me with their custom may depend on my best endeavours to entertain them.

Thomas Wyle, jun."

6. The Lightfoot property seems not to have been damaged by the siege of 1781, as there are no damage claims on record. The Berthier map of 1781 shows two large buildings on either Lot 22 or 23 and three buildings on Lots 28 and 29.

INSURANCE RECORDS

In 1832 Thomas Griffin took out fire insurance with the Mutual Assurance Society, Richmond, Virginia, on four buildings "now occupied by myself situated between the Court House lot on the South West, and York River on the North East - and cross streets on the North West and South East...." The four buildings were described as (1) "Dwelling House of Brick covered with wood one story high and 70 by 40 feet"; (2) "Kitchen, office etc. Brick covered with wood - 70 by 20 feet - one story"; (3) "Dairy - Brick covered with wood - 14 by 14 feet;" (4) "Smoke house wood entire 17 by 17". The dwelling house was valued at \$2,500; the kitchen at \$500; the dairy at \$175, and the smokehouse at \$100.

These buildings are perhaps the ones erected by Philip Lightfoot for his home in Yorktown. The Berthier map shows the same general arrangement. The other major destructive force, the fire of 1814, did not burn the house. An article in the "Richmond Enquirer of March 9, 1814 describing the destruction caused by the fire stated in part: "The females are generally under the spacious and hospitable roof of Major Griffin's house, where they find all the comforts which their distressed situation requires". The same newspaper in describing Lafayette's visit to Yorktown in 1824 said that "Major Griffin's romantic house, immediately on the river bank, is the Head Quarters of the invited guests". [Richmond Enquirer, October 20, 1824.]

LOT 23

1. There is very little information concerning this lot in the County Records. After being forfeited once, it was conveyed to William Tunley in 1706. [Deeds and Bonds II, 177.] He must have built on the lot as his title appears to have been confirmed. There is no record of his having sold it, but from the description of another lot in 1734, it seems that Lot 23 was owned by Humphrey Bell. [Deeds No. 4, p. 324.] This is the last reference to the lot until it was sold in 1833 by Thomas Griffin.

2. Although there is no record of the transfer, it appears to be logical that the lot was bought by Philip Lightfoot and added to his estate, (see Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6 under Lot 22).

ARCHAEOLOGY

In the early part of 1934 an archeological investigation was conducted on Lot 23 under Civil Works Administration. There are no records, plans, or notes of this dig. The only information that is to be found consists of a group of rather poor photographs which show the foundation of a very large building. Its general orientation corresponds to that of the Philip Lightfoot house on the insurance plan of Thomas Griffin (see Lot 22), but it is impossible to identify it exactly. The photographs do not allow one to make an estimate of the age of the remains.

LOT 24

There have been four courthouses erected on this lot during the history of the town. The approximate dates of these buildings are: (1) 1697-1730; (2) 1730-1814; (3) 1816-1863; (4) 1875-. This report will be limited to a study of the first two of these buildings, as the other two were not colonial.

FIRST COURTHOUSE, 1697-1730

1. This lot was originally conveyed to Thomas Jefferson by deed dated November 24, 1691. [Deeds, Orders, Wills I, 372.] Apparently he forfeited his title to the lot by not complying with the Port Act of 1691 by building. There is no record of his sale of the lot to the town for the erection of a courthouse.

2. By an act passed by the General Assembly in September, 1696 it was ordered that "the justices or members of the said court [York County] take care that an house suitable and fitt to hold courts in and as bigg in dimension att least as the present court house now is, be erected built and finished att the charge of the county upon some certain place within the said limitts of York Towne between the end of this session of assembly and the said last day of October 1697, upon pain that each respective justice or member of the said court for his default shall forfeit the sume of fifty pounds sterling...." [W.W.Hening, Statutes at Large III, 147.]

3. After the passage of this act the following letter, dated October 26, 1696, was received from Francis Nicholson, Governor of Maryland at that time, by the County Court: "I promise to give five pounds sterl. towards building the Cort house att Yorke Towne...". [Deeds, Orders, Wills I, 340.] Pursuant to the terms of the Act of 1696 and the offer of aid by Francis Nicholson, the justices met on November 24, 1696 to consult "about ye building a new Cort house..." [Deeds, Orders, Wills X, 341.] The courthouse must have been completed between that date and September 24, 1697, when it was ordered "yt ye Cort be Adjourned to Yorke Towne..." [Deeds, Orders, Wills I, 468.] On March 24, 1697/8 the court ordered the Sheriff to remove to Yorktown "ye Standard of this County and all other implements & materialls yt are moveable & belonging to this County from ye Old Cort house, ye prissen stocks & pillory..." [Deeds, Orders, Wills XI, Pt. 1, p. 4.] [The old courthouse must have stood in the early settlement at the mouth of Wormeley Creek, (see Lyon G. Tyler, "History of York County in the Seventeenth Century", Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine, I, 237.)]

4. There are no descriptions of this courthouse on record, but it is probable that it was of wood as all brick buildings seem to have been noted as such. On July 24, 1703 the court ordered "that Lt Cell Thomas Ballard forthwith find materials and impley workmen to Shingle ye Court House...." [Deeds, Orders, Wills XII, 137.] The following account was recorded on January 16, 1710/11: "To major Will. Buckner for tarr & a Labourer to Tarr the Courthouse.....200". [Orders, Wills XIV, 46.]

5. A clerk's office was ordered built on February 12, 1707/8: "Memorandum That Major Wm Buckner hath with this day agreed for the Consideration of 6000 L Tobo to build a good Substantial office of 16 feet Square to be weatherboarded with featheredged Plank or good Oak boards lathed & Plastered to be Sealed with the Same wth good windows well glaised to be Set in such place as by the Court shall be appointed as also good Stocks & Pillory & other necessarys thereto with a Perch to the Court House Doore of Seven foot Square & to joyn to the House wch he doth hereby promise to perform as soon as nails and Other Necessary may be had in order thereto" [Deeds, Orders, Wills, XII, 121.]

SECOND COURTHOUSE, 1730--1814

1. There is no record of this first courthouse being burned, but it is likely that the town outgrew it. On February 15, 1730 Lawrence Smith, Thomas Nelson, and Richard Ambler, Gentlemen, were appointed "to receive Proposals from and agree with proper workmen for erecting a brick Court house forty eight feet long and Twenty four feet wide in the Clear....". [Orders, Wills XVII, 151.] The following March these gentlemen reported a new "draught" for the courthouse and that they had contracted to have it built for £600. There is no description of this new "draught" and it is not known whether they changed the dimensions or not. [Orders, Their report was approved by the court. [Orders, Wills XVII, 158.]]

2. The courthouse must have been built by November 20, 1732, for on that day this entry appears in the records: "By De for the Court house 2/6 Each or 20 lb Tob....34, 820". [Orders, Wills XVII, 335.] The "Do" refers to tithables. On September 17, 1733 the sheriff was ordered to pay Robert Ballard £7/15/0 for twelve chairs and two tables for the courthouse. [Wills and Inventories No. 18, p. 69.] On June 18, 1739 the court ordered Messrs. Thomas and William Nelson, merchants, "to send to England for Stone to lay the floor of the Court house and of the two offices and for one Yard and one Mill according to the Standard of England for the use of this County at the County charge...." [Wills and Inventories No. 18, 503.]

3. The following items were listed in the "Public losses in York County from the invasions of the Enemy in the Year 1781":

"The inside work of the Court House destroyed
the windows broke & other damages -- valued by the
workmen called for the purpose to.....£100"

A note added to the list stated that "the damages done to both the Court House & Church was by Lt. Cornwallis".

4. Following the siege of 1781 the French used the courthouse as a hospital (see) shown in the following excerpt from a letter from William Reynolds to Governor Harrison, dated January 23, 1782: "It was their [the magistrates] opinion that we could not set, to do business in any other House but the Court House, which at present is used by the French as an Hospital. The variety of disorders therein, and the disagreeable smell of the House deter'd the Gentlemen from going in...." [Calendar of Virginia State Papers III, 44.]

5. Repairs were made to the Courthouse and subsidiary buildings and itemised accounts of the repair work are in the York County Records [Loose Papers]. These accounts list the materials used in the repair work.

6. The shape of this building was clearly shown on the Berthier map as well as the other Revolutionary maps as a "T". An insurance record of 1806 for Lots 12 and 18 described the courthouse as "Brick covd with wood Brick gable end".

7. On April 16, 1787 it was "Ordered that William Reynolds, William Gossley and Robert Rhields Gent be impowered by this Court to treat with any Person or Persons to compleat the repairs of the Courthouse and prison and for the erection of a whipping post at the expense of this County..." [Order Book No. 5, p. 445.]

8. According to a newspaper account of the great fire of 1814 the Courthouse was consumed along with the church and many private dwellings. [Richmond Enquirer, March 8, 1814.]

LOT 25

A more complete report of the buildings on this lot may be found in a "Final Historical Reports on Developed Units in the Town of Yorktown", prepared by Charles E. Hatch, Jr., Junior Historical Technician, dated February 21, 1939. The following items may be considered as a supplement to that report.

1. After being forfeited once this lot was conveyed to the Town Trustees to Captain Daniel Tayler by deed dated January 8, 1706/7 [Deeds and Bonds II, 240.] By deed of assignment dated June 25, 1707 Daniel Tayler conveyed his title to the lot to James Selater. [Deeds and Bonds II, 241.] It is probable that no building had been erected on the lot at this time.

2. By deed dated September 14, 1716 James Selater conveyed the lot "together with appurtenances" to Benjamin Clifton. [Deeds and Bonds III, 133.] It is not known whether the property included buildings or not as the term "appurtenances" is too indefinite and the price of the lot was not mentioned.

3. In 1719 Benjamin Clifton sold the lot to Thomas Nelson and Joseph Walker, Gentlemen, who held the property as joint tenants until by deed dated March 18, 1722 they terminated the joint tenancy and vested in each "one moiety of said lot and all buildings thereon in severalty". This same deed recites that since August 14, 1719, "Thomas Nelson and Joseph Walker have built a Tenement commonly called the Swan..." [Deeds and Bonds III, 394.] In a deed to another lot in 1735, Lot 25 was described as "the Lott on which the Swan Tavern now stands belonging to Mr Thomas Nelson and the Exors of Mr Joseph Walker, decd". [Deeds No. 4, p. 361.]

4. It is not known how the portion of the lot owned by the Walker family was acquired by the Nelson family, but by deed dated March 16, 1761 William Nelson, Esq., conveyed Lot 31 and Lot 25 with the buildings "known by the name of the Swan Tavern now in the Occupation of James Mitchell...." [Deeds No. 6, p. 318.]

5. It seems that James Mitchell continued to occupy the Swan Tavern until his death early in 1772. [His will was probated March 16, 1772 in Wills and Inventories No. 22, p. 104.] In The Virginia Gazette of May 21, 1772 Thomas Nelson, Jr., advertised "the well accustomed SWAN TAVERN in York Town" for let". In the next issue of the paper appeared the following item:

"To be sold at public vendue, at the Swan Tavern, in York Town, on Monday the 22d of June. All the personal estate of James Mitchell, deceased.

JANET MITCHELL, executrix."

On July 23, 1772 this same paper carried an advertisement stating that the remainder of the estate of James Mitchell, deceased, would be sold at public auction at his dwelling house. These items indicated that James Mitchell had part of his personal estate in the Swan Tavern and the remainder in his house on Lot 22. Therefore it is logical to assume that the inventory of James Mitchell may apply to the Swan Tavern. In this inventory the following rooms are mentioned in addition to "Rooms upstairs...":

"large Room next the Street below Stairs...";
"Billiard Room...";
"Room next the Billiard Room...";
"Room next the Kitchen...";
"Chamber...";
"Passage...";
and

"Cellar..." [Wills and Inventories No. 22, p. 104.]

This listing of the rooms corresponds in number and description to those listed in the inventory of William Nelson, who owned the Tavern at the time of his death in 1849. These sources indicate that the first floor of the tavern had five rooms and a passage, while the latter document lists four rooms and a passage upstairs. [Wills and Inventories No. 23, p. 639.] The present Swan Tavern, as reconstructed, has four rooms and a passage downstairs, with four rooms, a closet, and a passage upstairs.

6. There are no damage claims for this lot on record. The Berthier map of 1781 shows buildings in the same positions as those now standing on the lot.

INSURANCE RECORDS

Insurance records on this lot are fully discussed in Mr. Hatch's report, mentioned above.

BRADY PHOTOGRAPHS

The Swan Tavern, with its outhouses, was destroyed by the explosion of powder in December, 1863. The powder was stored in the courthouse

across the street by the Union Army. Prior to its destruction, however, Matthew Brady, the great photographer, visited Yorktown and made a photograph of Main Street looking east from Buckner Street. This photograph shows the Harris house which stood on Lot 13, and also the front half of the Swan Tavern, (see Fig. 2). The photograph shows a different treatment of the exterior from that of the present reconstruction.

ARCHAEOLOGY

See "Final Archeological Reports on the Developed Units in the Town of Yorktown", prepared by Virginia S. Harrington, Acting Park Historian, and dated March 21, 1939.

LOT 26

1. After being forfeited once, the lot was conveyed by the town trustees to John Dowling of Warwick County, bricklayer, in 1707 [Deeds and Bonds II, 273].

2. By deed dated July 17, 1727 Humphrey Stafford of Warwick County, planter, and Mildred, his wife, sold the lot "now in the tenure and occupation of Robert Wills" to William Harwood of Warwick County, Gentleman, for £40. [Deeds and Bonds III, 471.] (In this deed it is stated that the lot was given to his wife, Mildred, by her father. As all of the people involved are from Warwick County, it is probable that Mildred was the daughter of John Dowling. It is impossible to verify this as all the records of Warwick County were destroyed during the War Between the States.)

3. In 1735 William Harwood of Warwick County conveyed the lot "with all houses" to his son, Thomas Harwood, mariner. [Deeds No. 4, p. 381.]

4. William Harwood was appointed administrator of Thomas Harwood's estate and appears to have inherited the lot. [Wills and Inventories No. 18, p. 419.] (It is not known whether he was the William mentioned above or a brother of Thomas.) By deed dated March 2, 1762 William Harwood of Warwick County, Gentleman, and Mary, his wife, sold the lot "and buildings" to John Harwood, chairmaker, for £76 current money. [Deeds No. 6, p. 409.] William held a mortgage on the lot to secure payment, [Deeds No. 6, p. 404], and when the sum was not forthcoming he recovered the lot "and all houses" in 1764. [Deeds No. 7, p. 38.]

5. No damage claim exists for this lot, nor was it included on the Berthier map.

6. William Harwood devised the lot to Richard Whitaker who sold it in 1788 "with all houses" to Lawrence Gibbons for £30 current money. [Deed Book No. 6, p. 395.]

LOT 27

1. This lot was originally conveyed by the town trustees to John Dowsing of Mulberry Island, Warwick County, a bricklayer, by deed dated May 19, 1706. [Deeds and Bonds II, 173.] He must have built on the lot in accordance with the law of 1705.

2. By deed dated October 8, 1725 John Dowsing sold the lot "with all houses" to James McKindo, merchant, for £35 current money. [Deeds and Bonds III, 450.]

3. Sometime prior to 1735 James McKindo died and the lot descended to his daughters Mary Weldon and Ann Lark. By deed dated March 16, 1750/1 Benjamin Weldon, planter of James City County, and Mary, his wife, sold their half interest in the lot "with all houses" for £30 current money to James Mitchell, tavern keeper, who was running the Swan Tavern and the York-Gloucester ferry at that time. [Deeds V, 424.]

4. It is probable that James Mitchell also bought the half-interest of Ann Lark although the deed is not of record. In his will probated March 16, 1772 James Mitchell devised "unto my son Stephen Mitchell my Lott in York Town with all the Improvements and Rights and Priviledges thereto belonging to him his Heirs and Assign forever after his Mother's Death..." [Wills and Inventories No. 22, p. 64.] In The Virginia Gazette of July 23, 1772 appeared the following advertisement:

"YORK Town, July 22, 1772

On Thursday the 20th instant will be sold by publick auction, at the late dwellinghouse of James Mitchell, deceased, the remainder of his estate; for which the purchasers will have credit, for all sums above twenty shillings, until December next, upon giving bond and security to

JANET MITCHELL, executrix."

5. No damage seems to have been done the lot during the siege of 1781 as no damage claim was filed by Stephen Mitchell, who owned the lot as late as 1781, as shown by a list of lot owners compiled for the equalization of the land tax in 1782. [York County Records, Loose Papers.]

LOT 22

1. After being forfeited once, this lot was conveyed to John Lewis, a Gentleman of Gloucester County, by the town trustees in 1716. [Deeds and Bonds III, 141.] It is probable that he built upon the lot some time between 1716 and 1722, for in the latter year he conveyed the lot "together with all houses" to John Buckler, a mariner, for £50 current money of Virginia. [Deeds No. 4, p. 143.]

2. By deed dated March 11, 1735, John Buckler mortgaged the lot "together with all houses" for £42 current money to Philip Lightfoot. [Deeds No. 4, p. 398.] This mortgage seems not to have been paid for it is recited in the deed and the property is conveyed to Philip Lightfoot for £30 additional money. [Deeds No. 4, p. 581.]

3. For development under Philip Lightfoot, see Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6 under Lot 22.

LOT 29

1. A building must have been erected on this lot shortly after it was conveyed by the town trustees to Hester Sessions, widow of Thomas Sessions, in 1705. [Deeds and Bonds II, 165.] Shortly after this date she married Christopher Powell, who was granted a "Lycence to keep an Ordinary at his dwelling house in Yorktown" on June 11, 1711. [Deeds, Orders, Wills No. 14, p. 90.] He must have died shortly after this date for his widow, Hester [Sessions] Powell, on October 13, 1711 "preferred A Claim to this Court for Seven Shillings for Entertainmt of Sev] men in the time of their Working on the fortifications in Yorktown". [Deeds, Orders, Wills No. 14, p. 114.] Another license to operate an ordinary was granted Hester Powell on June 16, 1712. [Deeds, Orders, Wills, No. 14, p. 157.]

2. By deed dated July 30, 1715, Hester Powell, widow, conveyed to William Davis, cooper, the southern part of the lot (70 by 120 feet) "with all houses". [Deeds and Bonds III, 83.]

3. In her will probated July 15, 1717, Hester Powell divided her part of the lot and devised it as follows:

"I give and bequeath to Herrit Ratchford My
Vandrys Shop & ground thereto belonging.

"I give & Bequeath to Elis. Davis ye
daughter of W^m Davis my Dwelling house with all
ye appurtenances thereunto belonging".

[Orders, Wills No. 15, p. 145.]

This latter buildings must have been that used as an ordinary. It is known by a subsequent deed that Elizabeth Davis lived in Gloucester County. In the will of John Roberts, ordinary keeper, is found the following item: "I bequeath to my lov: wife the Remaining time of a Lease I have for a house & part of a Lott in York-Town lately the dwelling house of Ester Powell decd". [Orders, Wills No. 15, p. 560.]

4. In 1742 William Davis sold his part lot to Walter Taylor, who then devised it to his son, James Taylor. In 1759 James Taylor, carpenter and joiner of Williamsburg, sold the part lot with "all that messuage or Tenement situate near the Church" to Armistead Lightfoot, Gent., for £130 current money. [Deeds No. 6, p. 199.]

5. By a joint deed in 1734, Elizabeth Davis, spinster, and Herrit Ratchford, mariner, both of Gloucester County, conveyed their two-third

part of the lot, "with the houses thereon", to Walter Taylor, tailor, for £49/10/0 current money. [Deeds No. 4, p. 24.]

5. In 1738, Walter Taylor conveyed the part of the lot formerly belonging to Hatchford to Philip Lightfoot for £35 current money. The bounds were as follows: "Beginning at a Post near the Chimney of that House formerly called Vandrys Shop and running thence South West to the land of Ishmael Moody [Lot 30] Thence North West to the Court House Lett Thence North East parallel to the first mentioned course and thence South East to the beginning post". [Deeds No. 4, p. 547.]

7. Armistead Lightfoot seems to have acquired the part lot from his mother, who was willed one-third by Philip Lightfoot, but the deed is not of record. [Wills and Inventories No. 20, p. 103.] In 1772 at a public sale to satisfy creditors against Armistead Lightfoot, the entire lot was sold to William Stevenson, merchant, for £91/5/0 current money. [Deeds No. 8, p. 280.]

8. In the next year William Stevenson sold the lot "and all houses" to William Reynolds, merchant, for the same price. [Deeds No. 8, p. 304.] This is the last conveyance during the colonial period.

9. Since there is no record of any damage claim of William Reynolds, it appears that no material damage was done the property by the siege of 1781. The Berthier map of 1781 shows two large buildings on Lot 29, which were obviously part of the Lightfoot development.

INSURANCE RECORDS

See Lot 22.

ARCHEOLOGY

During the month of January, 1934 an archeological investigation was made on Lot 29 by A. G. Lambert, G. W. A. foreman. The only record of the excavation is the following report, dated February 2, 1934, for the Superintendent:

Excavations began January 2, 1934, with a group of ten men. Trenches approximately 18" x 2'0" and 6'0" apart, running parallel to Church Street were cut the entire width of the property. These trenches were carefully explored where fills occurred, otherwise trenches were carried down to solid clay. All trenches

have been tested with a sounding rod every 6" to a depth of approximately 4' 0" below present grade. A large area near the southeast corner of property (to be shown on excavating plan) had been filled with debris, mainly brick and oyster shells, to a depth of about 6' 0". Upon further investigation portions of an early foundation were uncovered, a portion of which runs under the Rogers house on the adjoining property (Lot #28) and further investigation of this particular wall could not be made.

A section of this foundation was built of marble, the balance of a very poor quality light colored, yellow brick, and very poorly constructed, with no definite bond used. The brickwork is laid up with oyster shell mortar. Near the western corner of this foundation were bulkhead or basement steps, of brick, typical of early examples where wood nosings were used.

Near the above foundation were uncovered two U shaped 8" brick walls, approximately 3'0" high and about 15'0" apart. A brick floor was found in the one to the north, with indications of the other having been paved. No conclusion on the above walls until all have been plotted and further investigations made.

The property has been 60% explored to present date. All walls have been plotted and elevations noted. Photographs have been made of all walls uncovered.

Careful inspection has been made of all earth and debris removed and considerable material of an early period has been recovered.

A list of the more important items found are as follows:

Stone fragment, with Nelson coat of arms, beautifully carved. No inscription.

Fragment of moulded stone step, may have been used either for deer steps or base to tomb.

Iron spear head or pike, early and of excellent design.

Brass rapier guard, figure 8 design, with ornamentation on both sides.

Several blown bottles, intact.

Several H & L hinges
Small fragment of C.I. fire back.
Small fragment of Dutch tile used for fireplace
facing. Color blue. Set to which the design belonged
not identified at present.
Several marble fragments, one moulded.
Several carpentry & garden implements.
Salt glazed & glass inkwells.
Two early padlocks.
Several strap hinges and other items of early wrought
iron hardware.
Several water table brick & one moulded brick.
Coping brick.
A large variety of building brick
Fragments of paving stone.
A varied collection of earthen ware, salt glazed
pottery, china and glass fragments.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) A. G. Lambert

LOT 20

1. A building must have been erected on this lot early in 1692 in accordance with the law, but the first mention of a house is found in the deed from John Rogers, the original owner, to John Wills, dated September 22, 1710. In this deed the lot "together with the messuage or tenement thereon" is conveyed for £30 lawful money of England. [Deeds and Bonds II, 362.]

2. The lot "together with all houses" was sold by John Wills to John Cook in 1714. [Deeds and Bonds III, 24.] John Cook sold it a few months later to Edward Powers, innkeeper. [Deeds and Bonds III, 49.]

3. By will probated June 15, 1719, Edward Powers devised "the house & Lott in York Town whereon I now live to my loving Wife Elizabeth Powers & her heirs forever, but if my sd wife should Marry then I give the sd house & Lott to Philip Lightfoot Merchant in York Town to be disposed of by him for the use of Elizabeth Moody & Ishmael Moody children of my sd wife...". [Orders, Wills No. 15, p. 452.] Either his widow married again or she died, for the next reference to the lot shows it in the occupation of Ishmael Moody.

4. The inventory of Edward Powers, innkeeper, taken July 4, 1719, indicated that two houses were standing on the lot at that time, or that the home was known as the "New House". The inventory lists furniture and goods "In the new house up Stairs; below Stairs New house". Other items were located "In the Rooms up Stairs Over the Hall; Below Stairs". [Orders, Wills No. 15, p. 454.] That Edward Powers kept an inn on Lot 20 is evident for his inventory lists 15 beds, quantities of liquors, decanters, punch bowls, etc.

5. In a mortgage dated November 22, 1733, Ishmael Moody, Gent., placed "all that Messuage or Tenement of him the said Ishmael Moody Situate in Yorktown on the East side of the County Court house and now in the Tenure and occupation of the sd Ishmael with all houses..." [Deeds No. 4, 337.] This mortgage was paid and the property returned to Mr. Moody. In his will probated August 15, 1748 he devised "my Houses and Land in the Town of York whereon I now live" to his son Edward Moody. [Wills and Inventories No. 20, p. 122.] The inventory of Ishmael Moody's estate describes the houses standing on the lot in 1747. [Wills and Inventories No. 20, pp. 134-8.] The following houses and rooms are mentioned:

- I. "The Back House."
 - a. "The First Room in the back House"

- b. "The Little Room"
- c. "Up Stairs"
- II. "The Ordinary"
 - a. "In the Ordinary first Room"
 - b. "Second Room"
 - c. "One Room up Stairs"
 - d. "Second Room"
 - e. "Third Room"
 - f. "In the Barr Room"
 - g. "In the Billiard Room"
 - h. "In the Billiard Room Left"
 - i. "In the Cellar under the Ordinary"
- III. "In the Meat House"
- IV. "In the New House"
- V. "Lower House"
 - a. "In the Large Room in lower House"
 - b. "First Room up Stairs in the lower House"
 - c. "Second Room up Stairs"
 - d. "In the Lower House Cellar"
- VI. "In the old Dairy"
- VII. "In the New Dairy"
- VIII. "In the Kitchen"
- IX. "In the Wash House"
- X. "In the Meat House"

6. By deed dated December 10, 1767, Edward Moody and Elizabeth, his wife, of Chesterfield County, sold the lot "and all houses" to John Gibbons, Innkeeper, for £500 current money. [Deeds and Bonds No. 7, p. 432.] The following advertisement appeared in The Virginia Gazette of August 20, 1767:

"YORK Town, August 20, 1767

This is to inform my friends and customers,
and all who may please to favor me with their
company, that I have removed from the Fort to
the house where Mrs. Moody lately lived, adjoining
the court-house, where they may depend on the best
entertainments, and civil usage from,

their most humble servant,

JOHN GIBBONS"

The will and inventories of John Gibbons in 1773 do not give any additional information concerning the houses on the lot. His estate was valued at £295/10/0, a large sum for that period. The inventories list 13 slaves, 12 beds, 68 chairs, 21 tables, a billiard table and a backgammon table among numerous other items.

7. Five of the eight heirs of John Gibbons sold to Samuel Eddens in 1788 for £300 5/8ths of the lot, including: "That part or parcel of building known by the name of the New House and formerly occupied by Messrs. Cabarrus and Company as a storehouse, also two old houses on the same lot opposite to the Courthouse with that part of the kitchen occupied at present by Mr. Suenette and 5/8ths of the garden". [Deed Book No. 5, p. 368.]

8. Three years after he acquired it, Samuel Eddens sold the part lot to Francis Moss for the same sum. The deed lists the following houses: "that part of parcel of buildings known by the name new house and formerly occupied by Messrs. Cabarrus & Co., as a store house, also one old house on the same Lot opposite to the Courthouse, with that half of the Kitchen to the same belonging and 5/8 of the garden". [Deed Book No. 6, p. 421.] One of the "old houses" seems to have disappeared in the three years.

9. In 1790 Francis Moss sold to Dr. Corbin Griffin that part of the lot "31 feet from the west end on Main Street 44 3/4 feet back... with the house standing thereon" for £50 current money. [Deed Book No. 6, p. 445.]

There seems to have been no damage done the property during the siege of 1781, as there is no damage claim on file in the County Records. Furthermore, a deed of 1786 for 5/8ths of the property lists four buildings. In addition, the Berthier map drawn on November 21, 1781, immediately after the siege, shows a very extensive development on the lot. This map does not seem to have been drawn according to any scale and so it is impossible to locate the boundary between Lot 30 and Lot 24. As a result, it is impossible to tell whether there were six or seven buildings shown on the lot.

"Dr. Corbin Griffin's Apothecary Shop"

In the latter part of 1933 a building was erected on the southwest corner of Lot 30 by the National Park Service as the apothecary shop of Dr. Corbin Griffin. This shop was erected despite the fact that no actual foundation could be located by archeological methods, (see final archeological report by Virginia J. Harrington, dated March 21, 1939). The specifications for the building were taken from the plan which was attached to an insurance policy taken out by Dr. Corbin Griffin in 1790. It was assumed at that time that the fire insurance policy referred to Lot 30, and that assumption was maintained until the present study was made.

A careful reading of the policy shows beyond any doubt that it cannot refer to Lot 30. Dr. Griffin's description of the property reads as follows: "My four Buildings on the main Street at York now occupied by myself situated between the house of Wm Lightfoot and that of the Main Street...". It must be remembered that Dr. Griffin never owned more of Lot 30 than a strip 31 feet wide and 44 3/4 feet long. The description of the buildings insured by Dr. Griffin include a dwelling 50 feet by 27 feet, a medical shop 24 feet by 20 feet, a kitchen 34 feet by 20 feet, quarters 26 feet by 24 feet; and a smoke-house with no dimensions given. It is obvious that these buildings could not have been placed on the strip of Lot 30 owned by Dr. Griffin. However, Dr. Griffin owned at this same time Lots 12 and 18, and there is undeniable proof that he lived on these lots as late as 1795, (see discussion under Lots 12 and 18 in this report). Furthermore, it has been shown in this report that William Lightfoot lived on Lots, 10, 11, 16 and 17, and it is logical to assume that the lots passed on to his son, William. Additional proof can be found by applying the directions given on the plan to Lots 12 and 18 and then to Lot 30. There can be little doubt that the present reconstructed building standing on Lot 30 and known as the "Dr. Corbin Griffin Apothecary Shop" is a complete error and stands as a monument to the results of reconstruction without adequate research.

LOT 31

1. This lot was conveyed by the town trustees to Michael MacCormack by deed dated May 24, 1706. [Deeds and Bonds II, 169.] He had built a home on the lot by January 7, 1707/8, when he conveyed the western half of the lot to John Brecks, tailor, for £5 sterling. This deed states that the part lot conveyed abutted "on the East upon the now Dwelling house of sd Michael MacCormack..." [Deeds and Bonds II, 266.] By deed dated September 15, 1708, MacCormack sold the remainder of the lot "and also one messuage or tenement thereon" to Brecks. [Deeds and Bonds II, 299.]

2. By deed dated July 6, 1724, John Brecks, mariner, [perhaps the son of John Brecks, tailor] sold the lot "with all houses" to Thomas Nelson, Gent., for £100 sterling. [Deeds and Bonds III, 425.]

3. In 1735, Thomas Nelson conveyed the lot to his son William Nelson [Deeds No. 4, p. 353.], who conveyed it to his son and heir Thomas Nelson in 1761. [Deeds No. 6, p. 318.] In this latter deed the lot is described as being in the occupation of William Stevenson and Alexander Maitland, merchants.

4. In 1773, Thomas Nelson, Jr. sold the lot "and all Houses" to William Reynolds, merchant, for £550 current money. [Deeds No. 8, p. 302.]

5. By deed dated February 15, 1779, William Reynolds sold "All that House and the Ground whereon it stands commonly called and known by the name of William Reynolds brick store house..." to James Hyma and Company for £1,200 current money. [Deed Book No. 6, p. 22.]

6. The siege of 1781 did not appear to have caused any damage to the property for no damage claim was filed in the county court. The map drawn by Berthier shortly after the siege shows two large buildings facing the main street on Lot 31. It is probable that the western one is the Reynolds' brick storehouse and the other the dwelling built by Michael MacCormack. Due to the fact that no scale seems to have been used in the preparation of the map, it is possible that the building on the northeastern corner of the lot is another storehouse, and the L-shaped building in the back may be the MacCormack house on Lot 31.

7. In 1783, James Hyma and Company sold the same building and land to John Moss, merchant, for £222, Specie. [Deed Book No. 6, p. 185.]

8. In the next year Ness sold the building and land to John C. Gunther, merchant, for £222 current money. [Deed Book No. 6, p. 199.] Gunther devised it, in 1796, to his wife, Martha C. Gunther. [Wills and Inventories No. 23, p. 455.] The widow Gunther stated in her will that all her real estate was to be sold. As a result, Robert Sheild, sheriff, conveyed "a certain house in the Town of York adjoining the 'Svan Tavern'" and other property to Willoughby Jorden in 1814. [Deed Book No. 8, p. 283.]

9. The Reynolds storehouse was next sold to James Belvin in 1829. [Deed Book No. 11, p. 140.]

10. There are no other descriptions of the buildings standing on the eastern part of the lot, which contained the MacGormack house, during the colonial period.

INSURANCE RECORDS

On August 10, 1846, James Belvin took out fire insurance on a "Dwelling of Brick Covered with Weed - one and a half stories high -", valued at \$800. The building was "situated between William Nelson's lot on the North west [Lot 25], Robert Anderson's lots on the South East and South West [rest of Lot 31 and Lot 32], and Main Street on the North East". Subsequent policies taken out in 1853 and 1860 described the building as a "Dwelling and Store House".

BRADY PHOTOGRAPH

A Brady photograph (Fig. 2) shows the front part of the building east of the Swan Tavern. This house may have been the Reynolds house.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

A thorough report of the archeological investigation on Lot 31 was prepared by Virginia S. Harrington of the historical division of Colonial National Historical Park, dated March 21, 1939, already referred to elsewhere in this report. It should be pointed out, however, that the information or records on this work are very incomplete, and, in addition, the lot has been only partially excavated. Nothing conclusive can be ascertained until the entire lot is thoroughly excavated and studied.

LOT 32

1. This lot must have been built upon by John Northern, who was conveyed the lot by the town trustees in 1706. [Deeds and Bonds II, 208.] He devised the property to his son, John Northern of "Cerratuck Precinct in ye Province of North Carolina", who sold the lot "together with all houses and gardens" to Benjamin Clifton in 1717 for £30 current money. [Deeds and Bonds III, 196.]
2. By deed dated January 10, 1732/3, Benjamin Clifton of Charles Parish in York County, and son of Benjamin Clifton, sold the lot "together with all houses" to Abraham Archer, shipwright, of Yorktown, for £40 current money. [Deeds No. 4, p. 152.]
3. By will probated May 18, 1752, Abraham Archer devised to his daughter, Sarah Archer [married later to Benjamin Lester], "one Lot which I bought of Clifton". [Wills and Inventories No. 20, p. 256.]
4. The damage claim filed by Sarah Lester seems to apply to her property in the Gwyne Road development south of the town, as the British line of fortifications did not run as close to the town as Lot 32. The Berthier map of 1781 shows three small buildings on this lot.
5. In her will probated November 17, 1783, Sarah Lester devised "my Houses and Lots whereon I now dwell...to be equally divided" between her three children. [Wills and Inventories No. 23, p. 34.]

The information available on the building on this lot indicates that the home was rather simple. The low prices for which the property sold throughout the colonial period indicate its value. The appraisal of the estate of Sarah Lester valued all her goods at £57/10/9 1/2. [Wills and Inventories No. 22, p. 56.]

LOT 83

1. This lot was conveyed to John Dowsing, a bricklayer of Warwick County, by the town trustees in 1707, and he must have built on the lot for he retained his title to it. [Deeds and Bonds II, 248.]

2. By deed dated July 17, 1721, John Dowsing sold half of the lot "together with all houses" to Robert Dowsing, also a bricklayer, for £14 current money. In this deed he states that the other half of the lot had been given Robert Dowsing on March 20, 1720/1. [Deeds and Bonds III, 367.]

3. By deed dated September 18, 1726 Robert Dowsing and Mary, his wife, conveyed the lot "with all houses" to Joseph Nisbett, sea captain, for £75 current money. [Deeds and Bonds III, 461.]

4. A court order dated July 15, 1781 defining the prison bounds of the town mentions that "Capt Nisbetts House" stood on this lot. [Judgments and Orders No. 1, p. 436, (see Section 4 under Lot 220.)]

5. By will probated June 21, 1782, Joseph Nisbett devised to his "daughter Ann Nisbett my Houses and Lott I now Live on..." [Wills and Inventories No. 21, p. 104.]

6. There are no indications that any damage was done the property during the siege of 1781, as there are no damage claims of Ann Nisbett on record. It is known that she retained ownership of the lot, for in October 1782 a survey of land ownership was made for the purpose of equalising the land tax and Ann Nisbett is listed as owning one lot valued at £15/00/00 and on which she had to pay a tax of 4s, 6d. This lot appeared to be one of the least valuable in the town. [York County Records, Loose Papers.] It is evident that Ann Nisbett died sometime prior to 1795, for a court order dated July 20, 1795 reads as follows: "Damaris Gibbs together with Robert Gibbons and John Campbell her Securies obtained a Letter of Administration on the Estate of Anne Nisbett deceased". [Order Book No. 7, pp. 1-2.]

The descriptions that can be located on this property indicate that it belonged to the poorer classes as did all the lots in this part of the town. It is impossible to tell whether a frame or a brick house was erected on the lot. The fact that it was probably built by a bricklayer would seem to indicate that it was a small brick dwelling, but the low

value placed on the property points toward a frame building. The only method of ascertaining which is correct is that of archeology. A study of the maps and documentary records indicates that the British line of fortifications did not run across this lot, but again it is necessary to wait for archeological investigation. This lot is one of the few now owned by the National Park Service in the town, and would make an excellent point of beginning for use of the new methods of research at Yorktown.

LOT 34

1. This lot was conveyed to Joshua Broadbent of Gloucester, Cent., by the town trustees in 1699, after it had been forfeited by Captain Francis Page. [Deeds and Bonds II, 190.]
2. A house was erected on the lot between 1699 and 1729, for on the latter date Wm Mackwilliams of Gloucester County, planter, and Anne, his wife, daughter of Joshua Broadbent, sold the lot "with all houses" to Richard Ambler for £45 "lawful money of Great Britain". [Deeds No. 4, p. 1.]
3. By will probated in 1766, Richard Ambler devised to his son, Jacquelin, "my Lott of Land and the Houses erected hereon situated between the Fort Hill and Church Yard now in the tenure of John Gibbons". [Wills and Inventories No. 21, p. 278.] In The Virginia Gazette for August 20, 1767, John Gibbons advertised that he had "removed from the Fort" to Lot 30.
4. By deed dated May 16, 1767, Jacquelin Ambler, merchant and Rebecca, his wife, conveyed the lot "together with all houses" to his brother, Edward Ambler, for £500 current money. [Deeds VII, 279.] This represents a great growth in value between 1729 (£45) and 1767 (£550), and perhaps signifies great improvements on the lot. There is no record of Edward Ambler's disposition of the lot.
5. Despite the fact that a water battery was constructed on the water side of the lot, there appears to have been no great damage done the property in 1781, as no damage claim is of record. Furthermore, the maps of the siege (see Fig. 1) show at least two large buildings standing on the lot. The history of the lot shows that one of these buildings was large enough to be used as an inn. It is possible that the other was a large stable or a storehouse.

LOT 36

The Grace Episcopal Church in Yorktown is the second York church. The first was erected at the settlement on Wormley Creek about 1642. There is no exact date of construction for the second church, but the year 1697 is generally accepted because of the following item in the York County Records, dated October 26, 1696:

1. "I promise to give five pounds sterl: towards building the Cort house att Yorke Town. And twenty pounds sterl: if within two years they build a brick Church att y^e same Town. As witnessse my hand y^e day and year above written.

FFRA: NICHOLSON"

[Deeds, Orders, Wills X, 340.] The church was not constructed of brick, but of native marl. From a study of the Revolutionary maps and the remains of the old walls, it appears that the original church was built in the shape of a "T", with its top lying due east and west to form the main body of the church and the stem lying north and south as a wing projecting from the north side of the building. Both the main church and the wing were twenty-eight feet wide, outside; the main church was fifty-five feet long overall. The north wing projected a distance of twenty-nine feet from the church wall. [George Carrington Masen, "The Colonial Churches of York County, Virginia", William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine, Vol. 19, Second Series, No. 2, p. 165.]

Berthier's map of 1781 disagrees with this orientation of the church, but present information seems to indicate that Berthier was wrong. The colonial church had a steeple as shown by an original water color sketch of Yorktown found among the papers of General Simcoe and now in the possession of the Williamsburg Restoration. The old church bell bears the inscription "County of York, Virginia, 1725".

It is very evident that the church yard was surrounded by a wall. In a deed to Lot 36, dated October 1, 1783, it was stated that it was "bounded on the north east by the Church Walls". [Deed Book No. 6, p. 181.] When the Churchwardens acquired Lot 41 early in 1713, the church was noted as having a wall which must have extended around part of this lot. A description of Lot 42 in 1784 stated that Lot 41 belonged to Hugh Nelson and that "prt of the church wall" stood on it. [Deed Book No. 6, p. 223.] The Berthier map shows a line running around Lot 36 and diagonally across Lot 41. This line must represent the church yard walls, which ran along the top of the bluff on Lot 41. Perhaps Hugh Nelson owned the low land on the lot and the church used the high land as a cemetery.

2. A damage claim entitled "Public losses in York County from the invasions of the Enemy in the year 1781" includes the following: "The pews & windows of the Church all broke & destroyed & the Church used as a magazine the damages valued to.....£150".

3. The church was destroyed in the great fire of 1814 [Richmond Enquirer, March 9, 1814]. The building lay in ruins until after 1848, when the main body of the building was restored without the wing. (see. Henry Howe, Historical Collections of Virginia, p. 520).

LOT 36

1. This lot was forfeited twice before it was finally conveyed to Elizabeth Semerwell, "widow and Relict of Mungo Semerwell late of York Parish and County". This deed, dated May 21, 1707, recites that Robert Leightenhouse, Inholder, first husband of the said Elizabeth, was conveyed the lot in 1699, but forfeited his right by not building within twelve months, but that Mungo Semerwell, second husband of Elizabeth, had erected several buildings on the lot. Therefore the title to the lot was conveyed to Elizabeth Semerwell. [Deeds and Bonds II, 213.]

2. Elizabeth Semerwell later married Edward Powers, Innkeeper. Upon her death the lot descended to Joseph Mountfort as heir at law. By deed dated June 28, 1716, Joseph Mountfort sold the lot "with all and singular ye Houses...now in tenure and occupation of Mary Smith" to Philip Lightfoot for £80 sterling. [Deeds and Bonds III, 130.]

3. By will probated June 20, 1748, Philip Lightfoot devised to his son William the "Lett bought of Joseph Mountfort" and other property. [Wills and Inventories No. 20, p. 103.]

4. By deed dated October 1, 1783, Philip Lightfoot, Esq., and Mary Walner, his wife, sold the lot "and all Houses" to John Moss for £300 current money. [Deed Book No. 6, p. 181.] This transfer proves that the lot remained in the Lightfoot family until after the siege of 1781. Since there are no damage claims for the Lightfoot family on record, it is assumed that the property was not damaged during the siege. The Revolutionary maps show an extensive development on Lot 36 along Main Street. The Berthier map shows the present Lightfoot house, with a small building to the east (probably a shop) and next a large building (probably a storehouse).

5. In a deed to another lot, dated March 27, 1784, Lot 36 was described as "a Lot belonging to Cap John Moss being the Lot on which the old brick Store house and the two Shops stand one of which Shops is now occupied by John Moss a Tailor and the other by James Tyree and all houses..." [Deed Book No. 6, p. 223.]

6. A deed dated March 12, 1794, described Lot 36 as "a Lott belonging to Capt John Moss being the Lott on which the Brick Store House and two Shops stand..." [Deed Book No. 7, p. 121.]

7. By deed dated January 21, 1798 John Moss and Sarah, his wife, of the City of Richmond, sold "a certain Store house with the Ground

(only) it stands on lying in the Town of York and called and known by the Name of Moss's store..." to John Moss of York County. [Deed Book No. 7, p. 273.]

8. By deed dated July 26, 1804, John Moss of Richmond and Sarah, his wife, sold the lot and houses "excepting one Store house with the ground whereon it stands formerly sold by said John Moss to a John Moss now deceased with a small passage between the said Store house as far as it extends and no further and the said Lot late of Dudley Diggs and afterwards George Goochley..." to Payton Southall for \$400.00 [Deed Book No. 7, p. 470.]

INSURANCE RECORDS

On April 22, 1817, Robert Anderson and Helen, his wife, widow lately of Payton Southall, took out fire insurance with the Mutual Assurance Society, Richmond, Virginia, on his buildings "on the main street in York Town now occupied by Matthew Wills situate between the lot of John Southgate SE - the church NE - a cross Street NW - and the main Street SW". On the lot stood a "Dwelling of Brick covered with wood - one story. 39. x 42. feet", valued at \$1,200.00; a "Store - wood covered with wood one story - 25. by 44 feet", valued at \$600.00; a "Kitchen, wood covered with wood one story 18 x 24", valued at \$150.; a "Stable, wood covered with wood one story 18 x 16", valued at \$100. Two other small buildings are shown on the plat, viz., a dairy and a smokehouse.

LOT 37

1. A building must have been erected on this lot early in 1692 as Thomas Mumford [Mountfort 1] retained his title to the lot after being granted it by the town trustees in 1691. [Deeds, Orders, Wills I, 357.]

2. By deed dated June 17, 1711, Thomas Mountfort, son and heir at law of Thomas Mountfort, conveyed Lots 37 and 40, as well as 200 acres of land, to Micajah and Richard Perry, merchants of London, in satisfaction of a judgment of £2000. [Deeds and Bonds II, 371.]

3. By deed dated July 14, 1712, William Buckner, attorney in fact for Micajah and Richard Perry, conveyed the lot (no buildings mentioned) to Edward Powers, innkeeper, for £15 lawful money of England. [Deeds and Bonds II, 395.]

4. By deed dated February 13, 1718/9, Edward Powers conveyed the lot "together with the buildings" to Philip Lightfoot for £110. [Deeds and Bonds III, 273.] The great increase in price suggests that great improvements were made on the lot as the fluctuations in the value of money in that brief period of time would not explain the change. Perhaps the lot was vacant in 1712 and was built upon by Edward Powers.

5. The will of Philip Lightfoot, probated on June 20, 1748, does not describe the lot specifically. [Wills and Inventories No. 20, p. 103.] It is suggested that it may qualify with Lot 38 as "the Lots whereon my Sable now stands", which he willed to his wife, Mary, or it might have been one of the "other Lots and Houses in town not disposed of", which he willed to his son Armistead. As the chain of title becomes confused at this point, there is no further information on the lot.

6. It is doubtful that the siege of 1781 caused any appreciable damage to the property as it stood about in the center of the town. The Berthier map of 1781 shows three buildings on the lot along Main Street. One of these buildings is a large T-shaped structure, the other two are smaller, rectangular buildings.

LOT 38

1. There is practically nothing known about this lot during the colonial period. It was first granted to John Wills in 1708, but he forfeited his title to the lot. [Deeds and Bonds II, 272.]

2. The lot was next conveyed to Philip Lightfoot by the town trustees by deed dated November 10, 1709. [Deeds and Bonds II, 334.] It is not known whether he built on the lot or not. After his acquisition of the lot, the chain of title becomes confused and cannot be followed with the present information.

3. Descriptions of Lot 37 indicate that Lot 38 was in the possession of Richard Trotter in 1711 and 1712. [Deeds and Bonds II, 371 and 395.]

4. The map drawn by Berthier does not show any buildings on the lot, nor is there a damage claim on record.

ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

This is one of the few lots owned by the National Park Service in the town. Between January 2 and January 11, 1933, there was excavated, in erecting a firehouse, a small section of Lot 38 under the supervision of H. Reese Smith. The records of the excavation are extremely meager, consisting of a few sketchy plans.

LOT 39

1. This lot was originally conveyed to John Martin in 1707 by the town trustees. [Deeds and Bonds II, 247.]

2. Between 1707 and 1717 a building was erected on the lot by John Martin, who sold the lot "together with all houses" to Arthur Bickordike in the latter year for £20 lawful money of England. [Deeds and Bonds III, 193.]

3. There is no record of the disposition of the lot by Arthur Bickordike and the chain of title is lost.

LOT 40

1. This lot was granted in 1691 to Richard Starke, a surgeon, by the town trustees. [Deeds, Orders, Wills I, 406.] In the next year he transferred his title to the lot to Francis Nicholson, Lieutenant-Governor of Virginia. [Deeds, Orders, Wills I, 407.] No mention is made of a building in this transfer. It is not understood how Richard Starke could keep his title to the lot if he did not build.

2. On March 2, 1695 the County Clerk recorded the following letter from Francis Nicholson, Governor of Maryland at the time: "Except my three halfe acres of land [Lots 40, 84 and 85] & houses thereon which I have in Yorke pert in ye County of Yorke in Virginia which I hereby give to ye Cort of Yorke County aforesaid And their successors for ever to be disposed of to ye use and advantage of Mr. Robert Leightenhouse ye present Schoelmaster And afterwards to the use & advantage of such person as shall teach Schoole by the approbacion and allowance of ye Cort aforesaid in ye aforesaid pert for ever.

fFrancis Nicholson"

[Deeds, Orders, Wills No. 10, p. 259.] It does not seem that this gift was accepted by the County Court, for Governor Nicholson retained the title to his lots.

3. An undated and unsigned "Memorandum For his Excellency" probably written in the year 1705, reads as follows: "Majr Philip Lightfoot told me that the Genrll [Nicholson] had two lotts & a half in York Town & that if any one was Comisnd to dispeose of them he would give £40 for the two lotts I believe that to be the worth of them they are without any manner of Improvement on them and York as other pts of Virginia is in no manner of Likelihood of much Increasing either in building or Trade". [MSS. in the records of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in London, reprinted in William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine, Vol. 10, Second Series, p. 247.] It is not known what happened to half of one of the lots. It is possible that it was used as a school in accordance with the gift cited above, but there is no proof for this supposition. Three full lots were sold in 1731, (see Section 4, below). It is also impossible to tell which two of the three lots were vacant in 1705. It may be that Lot 40 was used as a school and Lots 84 and 85 were vacant.

4. By the terms of the will of Francis Nicholson, dated March 4, 1727, and recorded in the General Court of Virginia, all his lots and lands in America were devised to Kingsmill Byre with directions to sell same, pay his debts and give the balance to the Society for Propagating

the Gospel in Foreign Parts. Pursuant to these terms Kingsmill Hyre of Westminster in the Kingdom of Great Britain represented by James Blair of the City of Williamsburg, sold, in 1731, Lots 40, 24 and 25 "with all houses" to Thomas Nelson, merchant, for £100 lawful money of Great Britain. [Deeds No. 4, p. 101.]

5. There are no other descriptions of the property during the colonial period. There is no damage claim on record for the lot although a part of the British lines appears to have crossed the lower part of it. The Berthier map of 1781 shows one large building standing on the lot.

LOT 41

1. This lot was conveyed to David Condon by the Town Trustees in 1691. [Deeds, Orders, Wills I, 360.] According to the law he had to erect a building on the lot in order to retain his title. As he did not forfeit, he must have built.

2. By deed dated January 17, 1712/13, David Condon conveyed the lot "together with all houses" to the Churchwardens of Yorkhampton Parish for £5/10 current money. [Deeds and Bonds II, 408.]

3. In some way Hugh Nelson seems to have acquired the lot. The next reference to the lot in the County Records is found in a deed, dated March 27, 1784, to Lot 42, which describes Lot 41 as "belonging to Hugh Nelson Esquire on which Part of the Church Wall stands". [Deed Book No. 6, p. 223.] Lot 41 faces on Read Street which was one of the main streets to the busy waterfront area. Hugh Nelson owned the lot at the head of this street, Lot 47, and may have acquired Lot 41 to erect warehouses on. The lot is divided in half by a precipitous bank which would lower the value of the property. The church needed additional land for a cemetery, and it is possible that Hugh Nelson gave the church the high land and he took the low land. The map by Berthier shows a line running along the top of the bank which might represent the church wall around the cemetery.

LOT 42

1. After being forfeited once, this lot seems to have been conveyed to Thomas Pate, but the deed is not of record.

2. By deed dated April 4, 1703, Thomas Pate and Elizabeth, his wife, conveyed "my house & Lott in York Town" to Joane Lawson, wife of John Lawson in "Restitution & Satisfaction of Seven Years Service & also for her diligent care and trouble in Looking after me in this my Sickness..." [Deeds and Bonds II, 100.]

3. By deed dated September 17, 1706, Joan Lawson conveyed her interest in the "Lott and appurtenances" to John Martin, merchant, for £20 sterling. [Deeds and Bonds II, 138.]

4. By deed dated January 14, 1713/14, John Martin conveyed the lot to Cole Digges, merchant. [Deeds and Bonds II, 12.] The lot stayed in the Digges family until 1784, descending from Cole to Edward Digges to Dudley Digges. As there are no damage claims on record for the Digges family it must be true that the property was not badly damaged by the siege of 1781. The Berthier map shows one large building and three small buildings, probably shops.

INSURANCE RECORDS

1. On January 16, 1838 Thomas Newman took out fire insurance with the Mutual Assurance Society of Richmond, Virginia, on his buildings on Lot 42. Although five buildings are shown on the plat, only one was considered to be of sufficient value for insurance. This building was listed as a "Dwelling and Store", valued at \$1,400. The buildings are described as follows:

- "A. Dwelling and Store of Brick covered with wood - one story - 47 by 32 and 17 by 22 the ends". [It is shown as an L-shaped building.]
- B. Small wood building
- C. and D. Small wood buildings
- E. Stable"

"The building marked A is within thirty feet of those marked B, C. and D. which are of but little value and not within thirty feet of any other building."

EXISTING BUILDINGS

Lot 42 is today occupied by two buildings, viz., the Digges house and the dwelling and store of Mr. John DeNeufville. The former building is the "dwelling and store" of the insurance records. It is stated locally that it was built in 1706, but there is no proof of the veracity of the statement. It is possible that it was the house erected by Thomas Pate prior to 1703, as the brickwork suggests an early eighteenth century structure. It is privately owned and has been restored. The restoration changed a few features of the original building, such as moving the chimney of the east side of the house, but the walls are largely original.

LOT 43

The writer has been unable to find any documentary proof that the building now standing on the lot was ever used as the Customhouse of the York River District. The only references in the records refer to it as a store house. It is also impossible to place a date on the building, although local tradition states that it was built in 1706 by Richard Ambler. This statement cannot be true, as Richard Ambler did not acquire the lot until 1720/21.

1. After being forfeited once this lot was conveyed by the town trustees to George Burton by deed dated June 24, 1706. [Deeds and Bonds II, 176.] He must have built on the lot in accordance with the act of 1705 for he retained his title.

2. Although the deed is not of record, the lot descended to Christopher Haynes of Mulberry Island, Warwick County, prior to 1719. [Deeds and Bonds III, 307.] By deed dated January 11, 1720/21, he sold the lot "together with all & Singular houses" to Richard Ambler, merchant, for £30 current money. [Deeds and Bonds III, 34D.]

3. A deed of 1750 between Richard Ambler and Patrick Matthews has been thought by previous workers to involve Lot 43, but there is specific proof that it did not. (see discussion under Lot 45).

4. By will probated in July, 1766 Richard Ambler devised to his son Edward "my Dwelling House wherein I now live together with the Lots of Land whereon that and my Outhouses and Stable stand also the Garden Ground adjoining..." [Wills and Inventories No. 21, p. 278.]

5. By deed dated May 18, 1767 Edward Ambler, merchant, and Mary, his wife, sold Lots 43, 44 and part of 45, "together with all houses" to Jacquelin Ambler, his brother, for £1,400 current money. [Deeds VII, 275.]

6. In The Virginia Gazette of December 2, 1773 the following advertisement appeared: "For Sale, The Houses and Lots in the Town of York, where the Subscriber now lives. The Dwelling-House is a very commodious one, with four rooms above and four below, a very large Brick Storehouse, a large and well cultivated garden, Stables, Kitchen, Wash House &c. in good repair. For terms inquire of Jacquelin Ambler." This advertisement did not bring a sale.

7. The Berthier map of 1781 shows three buildings on the lot

along Main Street. There is a very large building on the corner of Main and Road, with a smaller building next to it. A much smaller building is east of this latter house. These buildings are probably the storehouse on the corner [still standing], with the dwelling house next and an outhouse such as a kitchen or stable next.

8. By deed dated January 20, 1797 Jacquelin Ambler, who had moved to Richmond, sold Lots 43, 44 and part of 45 "with all Houses" to Alexander Macaulay for £500. [Deed Book No. 7, p. 305.]

INSURANCE RECORDS

On January 3, 1818 Elisabeth Macaulay took out fire insurance on her buildings standing on Lot 43. Six buildings are shown as being on the lot. The building called a "Dwelling & Store" was really two buildings joined by a passage-way and valued at \$3,000. The other buildings are valued at \$100. each. The various houses on the lot were described as follows:

- "A. Brick Store - covered with wood two stories
45 x 24
- A. Shed & passage
- A. Dwelling - wood covered with wood two stories
high 45 x 45
- B. wood Kitchen one story 16 x 20
- C.D. Brick Kitchen covered with wood. one story 20 x 22
- D. Stable wood entire 28 x 22
Smokehouse"

ARCHAEOLOGY ON LOT 43

The old storehouse, together with the lot, was acquired by the Comte de Grasse Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the building restored to its colonial appearance, and a brick wall erected around the lot in 1929. There are no records of the excavations, if any, around the building. In November, 1939 a water main was run into the old storehouse, and in the process of excavating a ditch an old wall was discovered. Assistant Research Technician Berresen wrote the following in a report of the find:

"It is 8 feet 3 1/2 inches from the Custom House

garden wall to the outside of the newly discovered wall and 53 feet from the west corner of the former to the latter. The wall runs east and west, or parallel with the Custom House wall. It was first noticed 1 foot 7 1/2 inches below grade of the wall encircling the Custom House garden, or the present level of the road.

"When we arrived the contractor had made a cut in the wall 15 1/2 inches deep by 25 inches wide. Several of the loose bricks were measured. There were two sizes, one, 2 1/2 inches by 3 3/4 inches by 8 inches, the other, 2 1/2 inches by 4 inches by 8 7/8ths inches. There were several of each type. The bricks had a hard, solid content, with a deep red color, were warped, and not perfect in shape. The mortar, though hard, contained many particles of oyster shells.

"The inside of the wall was laid in common bond; the outside could not be examined due to the water main...."

This wall is undoubtedly the foundation of the dwelling house described in the foregoing discussion.

BRADY PHOTOGRAPH

This building must have been destroyed during or shortly after the siege of 1892, for a photograph (see Fig. 3) taken by Matthew Brady of the headquarters of General Magruder shows the ruins of this dwelling next to the old storehouse. The marks of the covered passage between the two buildings, shown in the insurance records, may be clearly seen on the walls of the storehouse.

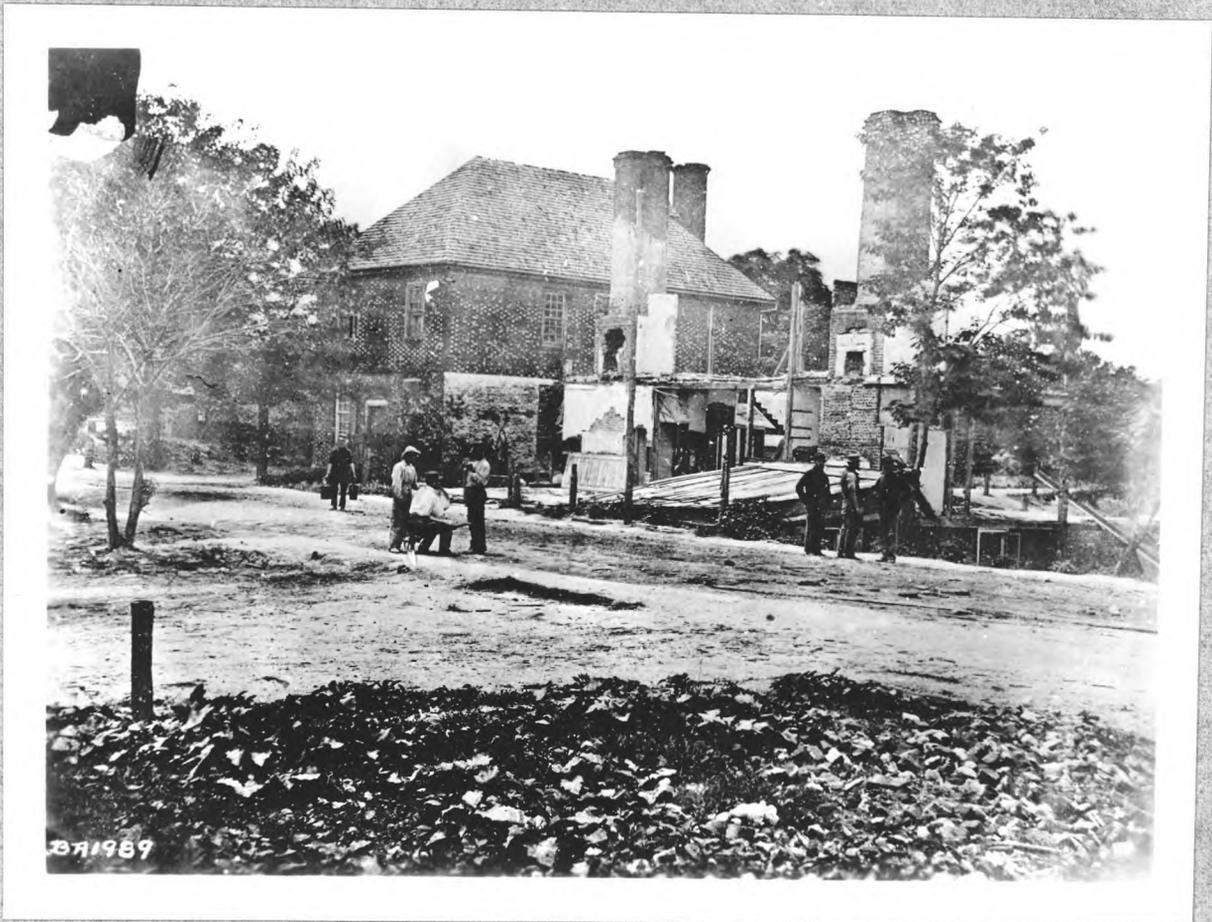


Figure No. 3

[ENR #3571]

LOT 44

1. After being forfeited twice, this lot was conveyed to James Calthorpe, Gentleman, by the town trustees by deed dated August 20, 1711. [Deeds and Bonds II, 375.] As there was no law requiring that he build, it is possible that the lot remained vacant. However, his widow, Elizabeth Calthorpe, sold the lot to Edge Booth by deed dated August 20, 1711/12 for £360 of tobacco. [Deeds and Bonds II, 380-381.] For some reason Booth appears to have forfeited his title.
2. By deed dated September 15, 1712 the town trustees conveyed the lot to John Andrews for £190 of tobacco. [Deeds and Bonds II, 408.] The low price and the fact that no buildings are mentioned in the deed indicate that the lot was vacant.
3. By will prebated August 17, 1719, John Andrews devised to William Heron "one years rent free of the house he now lives in with thirty foot of Land wide running the width of the Lott from the Street that part Joyning to Humphrey Moodys [Lot 45] known by number (44)". [Orders, Wills No. 15, p. 474.] The remainder of the lot was devised to his brother William Andrews.
4. By deed dated September 19, 1719, William Andrews, clerk, sold the lot "together with the houses" to Richard Baker for £21 current money. [Deeds and Bonds III, 307.] By deed dated November 14, 1719, William Heron sold his part of the lot "together with all houses" to Richard Baker for £4 current money. [Deeds and Bonds III, 311.]
5. By deed dated May 14, 1726, Richard Baker and Ann, his wife, sold that part of Lot 44 which adjoins Lot 43 (132 feet wide and 40 feet deep) "together with all houses" to Richard Ambler for £20 current money. [Deeds and Bonds III, 453.]
6. By will prebated on May 17, 1728, Richard Baker devised to his wife "my Houses and Lott in York Town on which I now live..." [Wills and Inventories No. 18, p. 289.]
7. By deed dated September 17, 1750 Patrick Matthews, butcher, and Ann, his wife [the widow of Richard Baker] traded their part of Lot 44 "with all houses" to Richard Ambler for a part of Lot 45.
8. See Sections 4, 5, 6 and 8 under Lot 43 for subsequent history.
9. There appears to have been no damage done the lots by the siege of 1781, as no damage claim was filed for this lot.

LOT 45

1. After being forfeited once this lot was conveyed by the town trustees to Humphrey Moody by deed dated February 5, 1706. [Deeds and Bonds II, 228.] There is no actual proof that he built on the lot with the exception of the fact that he retained his title to the property.

2. By will probated February 24, 1707, Humphrey Moody devised the lot to his wife, Elizabeth. [Deeds, Orders, Wills No. 13, p. 122.] His widow later married Edward Powers and by deed dated August 21, 1726 she sold the lot "together with all houses" to Richard Ambler, Gentleman, for £40 current money. [Deeds and Bonds III, 462.]

3. By deed dated September 17, 1750, Patrick Matthews traded 3/4ths of Lot 44 to Richard Ambler for 3/4ths of Lot 45, or that part "which lies between the Row of Pales running from the South West corner of the Shed of his Stable across the said Lot including the Houses wherein Doctor John Payras lately lived, with all Houses..." [Deeds V, 421.] The chain of title to this part of the lot becomes confused here, and will require additional study.

4. The northern 1/4th part of the lot remained in the Ambler family (see Lots 43 and 44), until it was sold by Jacquelin Ambler to Alexander Macaulay (together with Lots 43 and 44) for £500 in 1797. [Deed Book No. 7, p. 305.]

5. Due to the fact that the chain of title is so confused, there is no damage claim which can be definitely identified as belonging to this lot. Berthier's map shows four small buildings in a row along Road Street. It is impossible to tell whether they stood on Lot 45 alone or on Lots 44 and 45.

LOTS 46, 47, 84 and 85

As these lots formed a block in the extensive town holdings of the Nelson family, it is considered wise to treat them as a group. The development on the various lots prior to their acquisition by the Nelsons was as follows:

LOT 46

1. There appears to have been no development on this lot prior to its conveyance to Thomas Nelson by the town trustees in 1707. [Deeds and Bonds II, 271.]

LOT 47

1. After being forfeited once, this lot was conveyed by the town trustees to Charles Cox, planter, by deed dated May 24, 1706. [Deeds and Bonds II, 179.]

2. By deed dated March 15, 1729, Charles Cox and Mary, his wife, sold the lot "with all houses" to Thomas Nelson, merchant, for £110 current money. [Deeds No. 4, p. 33.] This was a rather large sum to pay for property in the town at that time and indicates an extensive development on the lot.

LOTS 84 and 85

1. These lots were originally conveyed by the town trustees to Governor Francis Nicholson by deed dated October 24, 1691. [Deeds, Orders and Wills I, 400.]

2. See Sections No. 2, 3 and 4 under Lot 40 in this report for subsequent transfers until acquired by Thomas Nelson in 1731. [Deeds No. 4, p. 101.]

NELSON DEVELOPMENT

1. When Thomas Nelson acquired Lot 47 in 1729, the lot is described as "next adjoining to the Storehouse of said Thomas Nelson". Lot 46 was the only other lot owned at that time by Thomas Nelson adjoining Lot 47.

2. Upon the death of Thomas Nelson, presumably intestate, in 1745,

these lots descended to William Nelson as his heir. By will probated December 21, 1772, William Nelson devised a life estate in the lots to his wife, and after her death to his son, Hugh, "the House I now live in, the lots and Gardens thereto belonging together with the store garden, but not the storehouses, also my stable and the Lott on which it stands...to my sons Thomas and Hugh...as tenants in common and not as joint Tenants, my Store Houses in York Town and at the Water Side..." [Wills and Inventories No. 22, p. 132.] It is certain that this statement dealt with these lots, for in a deed dated April 17, 1826, in which Nathaniel C. Crenshaw, attorney of Judith Nelson, Executrix of Col. Hugh Nelson, sold Lots 45, 47, 84 and 85 to Filmer M. Hubbard, the following description appears: "It is understood between the parties to this Indenture that there are reservations of one half of the foundations of an old brick store house and an old Granary which are not conveyed by this deed the property of the estate of the late Colo Wm Nelson". [Deed Book No. 10, p. 103.]

3. The Berthier map of Yorktown drawn shortly after the siege of 1781 shows at least four buildings on Lot 47. At the corner of Main and Read streets is shown a building with two buildings behind it down Read street. Standing on Main street close beside this first building is a very large H-shaped building. Lot 45 is shown with two buildings. No buildings are shown on Lots 84 and 85. As no damage claims are on record for these lots it is probable that they were not damaged by the Siege of 1781.

4. The Revolutionary War must have depleted the fortunes of Hugh Nelson, as well as those of his brother Thomas, for in The Virginia Gazette of February 29, 1792, appeared the following advertisement:

"The subscriber proposes to open a school very near his dwelling-house in the Town of York. The price for board, fuel, washing and tuition, will be eight pounds per year in advance. To be opened in Midsummer next.

Hugh Nelson
York-Town, February 6, 1792."

5. In The Virginia Gazette for June 18, 1799 appeared another advertisement of Hugh Nelson:

"The subscriber having a spacious house, ladies and gentlemen disposed to spend any time in York Town, may be accommodated with private lodgings.

HUGH NELSON."

INSURANCE RECORDS ON LOT 47

On March 2, 1796, Hugh Nelson took out fire insurance with the Mutual Assurance Society of Richmond, Virginia, on his "Building on the Main Street at York Town now occupied by my own Family situated between the house of Dr. Nicholson [Lot 77] and that of George Gossley [Lot 42]". In the policy the dwelling was valued at \$5,000. and it was stated that it would take \$5,000. to rebuild it. On the plat is shown the following:

a. A brick building covered with wood of one story on the corner of Main and Read streets and 15 feet distant from the dwelling.

b. A very large H-shaped house marked "A" and consisting of a "Dwelling 51 by 30" fronting on Main Street, a "House 51 by 24", and a connecting building. The structure is described as "The whole two Story of Brick covered with Wood".

c. Ten feet east of the dwelling was a small building described as being of "one Story all wood & brick floor & underpinning". Immediately behind this building was situated a "constant Well".

It seems very evident that this large H-shaped building was the home of President William Nelson, the son of "Scotch Tom" Nelson. In his letter book, William Nelson stated in a letter to his cousin, William Cookson of England, dated Virginia, September 12, 1766, that he was building onto his house. [William Nelson Letter Book, p. 12. MSS. in Virginia State Archives.] This certainly explained the H-shape of the building and the fact that the two parts are described as two houses. It is impossible to determine exactly the date of the erection of the building. It is known, however, that the home was destroyed in the disastrous fire of 1814. The last insurance record was taken out in 1810. An article describing the fire said: "Yesterday about 3 p.m. Mrs. Gibbon's house in this place took fire, and together with the county Court-house, the Church, the spacious dwelling of the late President Nelson...were consumed..." [Richmond Enquirer, March 9, 1814.]

LOTS 48, 49, 50 and 52

As these lots were considered a group in the town holdings of the Nelson family, it is impossible to separate them. For this reason they will be considered as a unit in this report. References to buildings standing on the lots prior to their acquisition by Thomas Nelson are as follows:

LOT 48

1. After being forfeited by William Cary, a gentleman of Warwick County, this lot was conveyed by the Town Trustees to Thomas Nelson, merchant, in 1709. [Deeds and Bonds II, 326.]

LOT 49

1. This lot was conveyed to James Bowman, blacksmith, by the town trustees in 1706. [Deeds and Bonds II, 175.] He must have built on the lot in accordance with the Act of 1705, for by deed dated November-25, 1707 he sold the lot to Thomas Mountfort, Gentleman, for £16 lawful money of England. [Deeds and Bonds II, 253.]

2. Thomas Mountfort died intestate between 1707 and 1711 and the lot descended to his heir, Joseph Mountfort. The latter sold this lot, together with Lot 37 and 200 acres, to Micaiah and Richard Perry of London, merchants, in satisfaction of a judgment of £2,000. The deed described Lot 49 as that lot "late in the tenure of John Bowman, with all houses..." [Deeds and Bonds II, 371.]

3. By deed dated September 15, 1712, William Buckner, attorney in fact for Micaiah Perry and Richard Perry of London, sold the lot to Thomas Nelson for £7/10/1 lawful money of England. [Deeds and Bonds II, 407.] This is a small sum which indicates that the lot had been only slightly improved if at all.

LOT 50

1. After being forfeited once this lot was conveyed by the town trustees to Edward Powers, innkeeper, in 1709. [Deeds and Bonds II, 26.] He must have built on the lot in accordance with the Act of 1705.

2. By deed dated June 10, 1715 Edward Powers sold the lot "together with all houses" to Thomas Nelson for £10 current money. [Deeds

and Bonds III, 75.]

LOT 52

1. After being forfeited once this lot was conveyed by the town trustees to Thomas Nelson in 1706. [Deeds and Bonds II, 171.] As this was the first lot in the town bought by Thomas Nelson, it is logical to suppose that he built upon the lot, although there is no documentary evidence to prove this supposition.

THE NELSON DEVELOPMENT

It is not known where Thomas Nelson built his home in the town. Furthermore, he died, presumably intestate, in 1745 and as a result there is no will to turn to for information. William Nelson's will of 1772 does not have a description of these lots as they were included in "All the rest and residue of my Estate". [Wills and Inventories No. 22, p. 133.] In a letter to his cousin, William Cookson, dated Virginia, September 12, 1766, William Nelson in writing of his eldest son, Thomas, stated: "He by the Death of My Mother in Law this Summer at the Age of near 64 Years, goes into my Fathers House..." [William Nelson Letterbook, p. 12.] In another letter to his friend John Tacker, dated Virginia, Nov. 24, 1767, William Nelson wrote: "My Family is in general pretty well: My Son is the Father of four Boys, the eldest not yet in Breaches: so that the old House over the Way will probably be soon full..." [William Nelson Letterbook, p. 50.] From these letters it would seem that "Scotch Tom" Nelson had built a house on Lot 52. [A supposition is that the building known as a kitchen was the first home of "Scotch Tom".] The will of Thomas Nelson, Jr., the eldest son of William, probated on February 16, 1789, devised to his wife "My Houses and Lots in York Town...". [Wills and Inventories No. 23, p. 171.]

INSURANCE RECORDS

William Nelson with the Mutual Assurance Society, no date [probably 1796.] The plat accompanying this policy shows a total of nine buildings standing on Lots 46 and 52. The buildings are shown as follows:

- A. Brick Dwelling House 2 Stor^{ys} high Covered with Wood Sixty by forty feet.
 - B. Wooden kitchen and wash-house, one story, 20 by 40 feet.
 - C. Servants quarters of brick covered with wood 24 by 24 feet.
- Poultry House behind the quarters.

Three buildings in a row - a smoke house, a spinning house and a dairy.

A well is shown in the northwest corner of Lot 48.

The general description of the property reads: "No House intervenes between the Front of the Dwelling House and the edge of the River Bank which is distant at least four hundred feet.

The Dwelling House Brick, covered with Wood.

The House called the Servants Quarters Brick, covered with wood. All other Houses wood, covered with wood; of which the House designated the Kitchen and Wash-House alone has a Chimney".

RESTORATION

This property was acquired in 1914 by Mr. and Mrs. George Blow, and extensive alterations of the buildings were made. In the main building dormer windows were cut into the roof and a slate roof added. The old boards of the first floor were taken up and used as flooring for the third floor. The interior was also altered by installation of electric lights and the conversion of powder rooms into baths. An entrance was built onto the back of the house. The old chimney of the kitchen was torn down and the bricks used in the wall around the property. The well which stood in the northwest corner of Lot 48 was filled in as it stood in a corner of the garden. Buildings were erected to serve as guest cottages, garages, and storage houses.

N.B. The Berthier map shows the present Nelson house and another building [undoubtedly the kitchen] on Lot 52. Two small buildings are shown on Lot 48 and another building on Lot 50.

LOTS 51 and 55

1. These lots were originally conveyed by the town trustees to William Rogers, brewer, by deed dated May 19, 1771. [Deeds and Bonds II, 365.] In his will probated December 17, 1789, William Rogers devised "unto my Son William Rogers when he shall attain to the age of Twenty one Years all my Lotts in York Town where I now dwell with all the houses therunto belonging...but in case he should dye without heir then I give the said Lands Lotts & houses to be divided between my three daughters Susanna Reynolds Sarah Rogers and Hannah Rogers..." [Wills and Inventories No. 18, p. 537.]

2. A deed dated August 7, 1780 between Susanna Reynolds with Sarah Montgomery and James Pride recites that William Rogers, the son, died seized of "two Lotts or half acres of Land together with the Buildings thereon" in Yorktown. By his death and the death of Hannah Rogers, the property descended to the granters. The lots "and all buildings" and a warehouse on the river bank were sold to James Pride for £384 current money. [Deeds No. 6, p. 267.]

3. By deed dated April 10, 1770, James Pride, Gentleman, sold the lots to George Chaplain of Williamsburg, butcher, for £380. In the deed the property was described as "one messuage or parcel of land containing two lots or half acres lying in the town of York commonly known by the name of the Pothouse lots together with all houses..." [Deeds No. 8, p. 42.] On August 19, 1770, George Chaplain mortgaged "the Pothouse lots" to James Anderson of Williamsburg, blacksmith, for £350. [Deeds No. 8, p. 69.]

4. The chain of title is lost after this until the middle of the nineteenth century. For this reason there are no descriptions of the damage, if any, done then by the Siege of 1781. It is possible that Lot 55 was sold to William Cary for his heirs sold the lot to Ann Durt in 1812, (see Section 9 under Lot 54).

LOT 53

1. This lot was conveyed by the town trustees to Lawrence Smith, Gentleman, by deed dated February 10, 1706/7 after it had been deserted by William Simson in 1699. [Deeds and Bonds II, 227.]
2. By deed dated January 17, 1734/35, Lawrence Smith conveyed the lot "and all houses" to his son and heir Edmund Smith. [Deeds No. 4, p. 332.]
3. Edmund Smith in his will probated March 18, 1750/51, devised unto his daughter Mildred Smith "my Lot of Land in York Town whereon I am now building it is my Will and desire that the House should be finished out of my Estate". [Wills and Inventories No. 20, p. 212.] This is undoubtedly the brick house now standing on the lot, which serves as a guest cottage for York Hall. There is no record of the destruction of the older house on the lot. It is possible that it was used as an outhouse or torn down to make room for the brick structure.
4. Mildred Smith married David Jameson, merchant of Yorktown, who sold the property to James Tarpley, merchant of Williamsburg, by deed dated September 17, 1753. The lot was returned to Jameson by a deed dated the next day. The property was described as "the same Lot whereon the said David Jameson now dwelleth, and all houses..." [Deeds V, 560.] The property remained in the hands of David Jameson until after the Revolution.
5. In the damage claim of David Jameson for losses due to the British occupation of Yorktown in 1781 can be found the following items which might pertain to Lot 53: "An Iron Conductor & point break & lost and other damage done the Mansion House....L20".
6. The Berthier map of 1781 shows a large house with two smaller buildings standing on the lot. These are undoubtedly the "Edmund Smith" house and two outbuildings.
7. In The Virginia Gazette of August 21, 1793, is an advertisement by the administrators of the estate of David Jameson, which read in part: "For Sale, on Thursday, the 24th day of October next, at the late dwelling-house of David Jameson, deceased, in York Town to the highest bidder. The lot and Houses where the decedent dwelt, and sundry other lots in the said Town, some of which are improved and some others unimproved;...".

INSURANCE RECORD

A fire insurance policy was taken out by the owner of the lot in 1819, Thomas Griffin, with the Mutual Assurance Society of Richmond, Virginia, on his "buildings occupied by no person". The policy covered three buildings, vis., a dwelling of brick covered with wood, one story high, 40 by 28 feet and valued at \$3,050; a laundry "of wood entire", one story high, 16 by 18 feet and valued at \$350; and a kitchen "of wood entire", one story high, 16 by 20 feet and valued at \$350. Two other small buildings, a dairy and a smokehouse of little value are also shown on the plat.

LOT 54

1. This lot was originally conveyed by the town trustees to Edward Fuller by deed dated July 13, 1702. [Deeds and Bonds II, 55.] By deed dated July 24, 1708, Edward Fuller traded Lot 54 to Use and Peter Gibson, blacksmiths, for Lot 58. [Deeds and Bonds II, 290.] Use Gibson died seized of the lot and it escheated to the colony. By patent dated May 6, 1727 the lot was granted to John Ballard. [Patents No. 13, pp. 43-44.]

2. By will probated November 18, 1745, John Ballard devised to his wife, Elizabeth, a life estate with the remainder to his son, Thomas, in "the Lott or half Acre of Land whereon I now live described in the Plan of the Town by the Figure 54 together with all the Houses..." [Wills and Inventories No. 20, p. 4.] Therefore a building was erected on the lot sometime between 1727 and 1745. As it was the home of John Ballard it may be assumed that it was built around 1727. A deed to another lot in 1786 described Lot 54 as "a messuage now in the Tenure and Occupation of Mrs. Elizabeth Ballard..." [Deeds No. 6, p. 52.]

3. By deed dated May 28, 1761, Robert Ballard, merchant, and Anne, his wife, sold Lot 54 together with Lots M and N to John Thompson, merchant, for £800 current money. [Deeds No. 6, p. 350.] Lot 54 was described as the "half acre of Ground whereon the said Robert Ballard now lives..."

4. In The Virginia Gazette of August 26, 1768 appeared the following advertisement:

"YORK Town, August 16, 1768

As I find myself very infirm, and not able to carry on business, I intend to move as soon as I can settle my affairs, and have for sale the following articles: One lot with a very good dwelling house, kitchen, and all convenient out-houses, in York town, adjoining Mr. David Jameson's; two lots with a large stable and chair house on them...Any person or persons inclinable to purchase may know the terms by applying to the subscriber in York town.

JOHN THOMPSON."

A similar advertisement appeared in the same paper on October 20, 1768.

5. On April 14, 1769, John Thompson, gentleman, mortgaged the lot

"and all houses" to Hon. William Nelson, Esquire, for £250/11/11. [Deeds VII, 462.]

5. By deed dated October 10, 1773, John Thompson, merchant, sold Lot 54 "with all houses" and Lot M "with a Stable thereon" to Thomas Powell, Surgeon of Yorktown, for £325 current money. [Deeds No. 8, p. 406.]

7. By deed dated December 15, 1777 Thomas Powell "of the Town Fredericksburgh in Spotsylvania County Surgeon and Elizabeth his wife" sold the two lots to William Cary for £500 current money. [Deed Book No. 6, p. 1.]

8. Damage Claim No. 25 was filed as "William Carys Losses sustain'd by the Brittish Army the year 1781", and includes the following:

| | |
|---|------|
| "A Stable 32 feet by 16 double Sheded, 10 feet each, serving for Stable, Chair House, Grainery, a Room for Harness Saddles & Bridles & a Loft for Hay | £100 |
| a Kitchen 24 by 20 with Brick Chimney & even, the floor laid with Brick & Tile Bash windows lathed & plastered, Dressers & lodging rooms upstairs | 80 |
| a Store House 24 by 16 Poplar frame | 30 |
| a Smoke House £15 a Dairy £15 | 30 |
| a Larder 8 feet square brick floor all new | 6 |
| a Garden abot 70 Panels, Posts, Pales, & Rails | 21 |
| Damage done the Lotts by throwing up intrenchments & Breastworks | 15 |
| Damage done the Dweling House by Shot & Shells & breaking all the Glass in the Windows" | 25 |

A large building is shown on the lot on the Berthier map.

9. By deed dated April 20, 1812, the heirs of William Cary sold Lot 55 "with all the houses or buildings thereon" to Ann Burt for £100 Virginia currency. [Deed Book No. 8, p. 115.] It is possible that this number is an error and the deed refers to Lot 54. On the other hand, Lot 54 might have been bought earlier by Burt and the deed not recorded.

INSURANCE RECORDS

On April 6, 1796 William Cary took out fire insurance on his "three Buildings on a Back and Cross street now occupied by myself situated between the Lot of Col: John Jameson and that of a cross street..."

This description seems to indicate that William Cary owned Lot 55 as well as Lot 54 in 1796. There is no record of his acquisition of the lot. Mr. Cary's buildings were described as follows: (a). A dwelling house two stories high sixty by twenty feet, built of wood covered with wood valued at \$800. (b). A wooden kitchen, thirty by sixteen feet valued at \$100. (c). A dairy ten feet square. A fourth building is shown on the plat, but was struck out of the policy. It was a smokehouse ten feet square.

PRESENT DAY BUILDINGS

The house now on Lot 54, a long, narrow frame building, 1 1/2 stories high, is part of the Blow Estate. It is known as Pearl Hall and reputed to have been built in 1706.

LOT 56

1. This lot was originally conveyed by the town trustees to Thomas Sessions, carpenter, by deed dated March 22, 1691/2. [Deeds, Orders, Wills I, 402.] He must have complied with the provisions of the Act for Ports of 1691 and erected a house, for he retained his title to the lot. In a deed to another lot dated August 5, 1699, Lot 56 was described as "ye Lott he now dwelleth upon..." [Deeds and Bonds I, 220.]
2. By deed dated January 21, 1701/2, Thomas Sessions and Hester, his wife, sold Lots 56 and 57 "together with all houses" to Robert Smead, Gentleman. [Deeds and Bonds II, 15.]
3. By deed dated October 26, 1703, Robert Smead sold the lots "together with the houses" to John Penton, merchant. [Deeds and Bonds II, 81.] Penton sold the lots and houses a month later to John Martin, merchant. [Deeds and Bonds II, 94.] By deed dated June 8, 1706, John Martin re-sold the lots "together with the buildings" to John Penton. [Deeds and Bonds II, 124.]
4. By deed dated January 24, 1708/9, John Penton conveyed two warehouses on the river bank and Lot 56 "with the messuage or tenement thereon" to Nicholas Phillips for £64. [Deeds and Bonds II, 310.] Nicholas Phillips devised to his son, William, "my Lott or half acre of Land & Warehouse under ye bank...lately in ye tenure & occupation of John Penton & his under tenants...". [Orders and Wills No. 14, p. 485.]
5. By deed dated March 7, 1745, Thomas Phillips of York County, planter, another son of Nicholas Phillips, sold the lot "together with all buildings" to John Norton of King William County, merchant, for £140 current money. [Deeds V, 166.] In a deed to another lot in 1763 Lot 56 was described as "the Store Lott of Mr. John Norton". [Deeds No. 6, p. 512.]
6. By deed dated August 20, 1764, John Norton sold the southern half of the lot "together with all buildings" to George Wilson, merchant, for £120 current money. [Deeds VII, 55.] The price and description of the property indicate an extensive development on this part of the lot. Perhaps the store stood on this part. There is no record of Wilson's disposition of the part lot.
7. According to Mrs. Catherine Sheild of Yorktown, the present owner, ~~one-half~~ the lot was sold by John Norton to Dr. Matthew Pope in

1766, but this deed is not of record. The subsequent history of the lot points to this as being true.

8. There is no record of any damage done the property during the siege of 1781. The Berthier map of 1781 shows four buildings on the lot -- three large buildings and a small outhouse.

INSURANCE RECORDS

On October 18, 1838 Frederick B. Power, owner of Lots 56 and 60 at that time, took out fire insurance with the Mutual Assurance Society of Richmond on "my building on my own land now occupied by William S. Malacot situated between the lots of Nathaniel Taylor and William Nelson and others on the Southwest and streets otherwise in York Town..." This building was a dwelling of brick covered with wood, one and a half stories, and 46 by 26 feet. It was valued at \$1,700. Three other buildings are shown on the plat, viz., a wooden school house, a smokehouse, and a wooden kitchen.

EXISTING BUILDINGS

On the northwestern corner of Lot 55 stands the Sheild House, reputed to have been built in 1699. The building bears the name of the present owner. The source of the date can be found in Section 1, above. If this house was built by Thomas Sessions, he must have built it in 1692 to comply with the Act of 1691. A modern wing has been added to the rear of the building.

LOT 57

1. This lot was originally conveyed by the town trustees to Thomas Sessions, carpenter, by deed dated August 5, 1699. [Deeds and Bonds I, 220.] As the lot was sold with Lot 55, there are no descriptions of actual buildings standing on the lot until Nathaniel Huggins, weaver, sold the lot "together with the houses" for 315 lawful money of Virginia to Thomas Nelson, Gentleman, by deed dated July 2, 1716. [Deeds and Bonds III, 178.] [Huggins was conveyed the lot by the town trustees by deed dated September 24, 1708 after it had been forfeited by John Penton.]

2. In a deed to another lot in 1745, Lot 57 was described as "the stable yard of Thomas Nelson, deceased". [Deeds V, 166.] In 1753 the lot was described as "Mrs. Frances Nelson's Stable Lot", [Deeds VII, 55] and in the next year as "a Stable Lott of the Hon. William Nelson". [Deeds No. 6, p. 509.] In his will of 1772, William Nelson devised to his wife "my Stable and the Lott whereon it stands". [Wills and Inventories No. 22, p. 132.]

3. There are no damage claims on record for this lot. The Berthier map shows a large building on this lot - undoubtedly the Nelson stable

LOT 58

1. This lot was originally conveyed by the town trustees to Robert Harrison, carpenter, by deed dated August 5, 1699. [Deeds and Bonds I, 211.] It is possible that he built on the lot. By deed dated July 28, 1702 his widow sold Lots 58 and 62 "with appurtenances" to Use Gibson, carpenter, for £20 lawful money of England. [Deeds and Bonds II, 288.]

2. By deed dated July 24, 1708, Use Gibson traded the lot "with all buildings thereon" to Edward Fuller for Lot 54. [Deeds and Bonds II, 290.] In his will probated September 24, 1709, Edward Fuller devised to his son Stephen "my Lott and house in York Towne". [Deeds, Orders, Wills No. 13, p. 255.]

3. By deed dated February 20, 1720, Stephen Fuller, planter of New Kent County, conveyed the lot "together with the houses" to John Gibbons, planter for £15 current money. [Deeds and Bonds III, 346.] Although this deed states that Lot 54 is that transferred, it is clear from the description of the bounds and all the information on the lot that Lot 58 was conveyed rather than Lot 54. In his will of 1727, John Gibbons devised to his son, Thomas, "my Lot in York Town wch I bought of Stephen Fuller, facing the lot [54] which I have given to my son John Ballard..." [Orders and Wills No. 16, Part 2, p. 458.]

4. By deed dated March 15, 1756, John Gibbons and Mary, his wife, conveyed the lot "together with all houses" to his brother, Thomas Gibbons. [Deeds No. 6, p. 52.] By will probated August 17, 1772, Lots 58 and 62 were devised by Thomas Gibbons to his son, John. [Wills and Inventories No. 22, p. 576.]

5. The 1781 damage claim of John Gibbons lists the following items:

| | |
|---|-----|
| "A Dwelling House Destroyed with two rooms below & 2 Above stairs two brick chimneys a Dutch Roof & Passage through the middle..... | 350 |
| A Kitchen & washhouse adjoining with a Loft to each.... | 80 |
| A workmans Shop almost new with a brick chimney & convenient Lodging room thereto..... | 50 |
| A Large Stable for Eight Horses one Shed room & cow-house adjoining with a lott..... | 80 |
| A Smokehouse, a Large Oven & house shingled with a | |

| | |
|--|----|
| a chimney thereto..... | 25 |
| A Dairy & sifting House with lefts..... | 20 |
| An Inclosure of Pailing around the lots - say 100 nails. at 6/..... | 30 |

The damage claim pertains also to Lots 62 and 67. It is possible that the first two items deal with Lot 58 and that the other items are Lot 62, as the latter was called "the Shop Lot".

LOT 59

1. This lot was conveyed by the town trustees to Richard Cheshire, merchant, by deed dated January 20, 1717/18, after it had been forfeited by William Kemp. [Deeds and Bonds III, 224.] He must have built on the lot, for by deed dated June 3, 1725 Richard Cheshire, who had moved to Princess Anne County, sold the lot "with all houses" to Robert Dowsing, bricklayer, for £47/10/0 current money. [Deeds and Bonds III, 444.]

2. By will probated February 21, 1736-37, Robert Dowsing devised to his son, William, "all that Lott of Land situate in the said Town of York...by the Figures (59) which I lately purchased from Mr. Richard Cheshire..." [Wills and Inventories No. 18, p. 347.]

3. By deed dated April 23, 1760, William Dowsing of King William County, planter, and Elisabeth, his wife, sold the lot "with all houses" to James Pride, Esq., for £36 current money. [Deeds No. 6, p. 242.]

4. By deed dated December 14, 1771, James Pride sold the lot "and all the estate" to David Jameson, merchant of Yorktown, for £40 current money. [Deeds No. 8, p. 235.] This may have been the property advertised for sale in The Virginia Gazette of April 5, 1770:

"To be sold A Valuable and well situated Lot of Land, in the Town of York, opposite the subscriber's late dwelling-house, and adjoining Mr. David Jameson's lower garden [probably Lot L in Gwyn Leads development]. For terms apply to Mr. Seymour Powell, merchant in York Town, or to myself on Hillfields, in James City County.
JAMES PRIDE".

5. The damage claim of David Jameson lists the following items which probably pertained to Lot 59:

"In York Town

A dwelling House 5 rooms & passage below stairs & 3 rooms and a passage above, with a brick cellar half-way the length of the House.....200
A Stable 24 by 18 with a ten feet shed on each side, fitted with 7 stalls, Racks &c. a corn room & carriage House, and cow shelter.....100
A sneak House 10 feet square, double studded & underpin'd 4 feet deep with Brick..... 20
74 pannels of paling round the Stable Garden put up with cedar posts saved oak pales & Rails, 3 rails to a

panel at 9/..... 33.6
24 pannels paling belonging to the upper garden
and Yard at the Dwelling House..... 10.16

It is possible that the stable stood on another lot, but this
cannot be ascertained without archeological investigation.

LOTS 60 and 61

1. These lots were conveyed by the town trustees to Alexander Young, Inholder, in 1699. [Deeds and Bonds I, 191-192.] By will dated September 5, 1701, Alexander Young devised to his son Andrew Young "all my Houses [Lots 60 and 61] and other appurtenances thereto belonging in York Town...Item. It is my will and Desire that my Houses in York Town bee Rented out until such Tyme that my son Andrew comes of age..." [Deeds, Orders, Wills No. 11, p. 521.] In default of heirs of Andrew the lots were to go to son John.

2. Although there is no record of the transfer, it appears in a subsequent deed that the lots came into the possession of John Martin, who appears to have acquired the lots by marrying Jane, the daughter of John Young, who inherited the lots. [See will of John Young probated February 15, 1719/20 and recorded in Orders and Wills No. 15, p. 558.] Martin sold them in 1735 to Thomas Frayser. [This latter deed was recorded in the General Court of Virginia and was destroyed in the Richmond fire of 1865; see Deeds No. 6, p. 509.] Thomas Frayser died intestate and the lots descended to his daughters, Mary Frayser (Tener) and Rebecca Frayser (Presson). [Deeds No. 6, p. 510.] By deed of partition dated April 15, 1763, the two daughters were given an entire lot each instead of a half interest in the two lots. [Deeds No. 6, p. 512.]

3. By deed dated May 16, 1763 Thomas Tener and Mary, his wife, sold Lot 60 "together with all houses" to John Norton, merchant, for £100 current money. [Deeds No. 6, p. 509.] There is no record of his disposition of the lot, but it appears that it was acquired by Dr. Matthew Pope sometime prior to 1785. [Deed Book No. 6, p. 260.]

4. By deed of lease dated August 18, 1766 Daniel Presson rented Lot 61 with "all that Messuage or Tenement standing" to Matthew Pope, physician and surgeon, and later the first mayor of Yorktown, for a term of 14 years at a rent of £1/10/0 per year. [Deeds VII, 234.]

5. By will probated January 20, 1783 Daniel Presson devised to his daughter Frances Hay "my Lot in York Town [Lot 61]". [Wills and Inventories No. 22, p. 572.]

6. By deed dated February 17, 1785 John Hay, planter, and Frances, his wife, sold Lot 61 "with all Houses" to Dr. Matthew Pope for £50 current money. The property was described as "now in the Occupation and Tenure of Matthew Pope". [Deed Book No. 6, p. 260.]

7. By will probated June 18, 1792, Matthew Pope devised to his wife a life estate with the remainder to Mary Nelson, second daughter of General Thomas Nelson, of his "dwelling House, out Houses, and all the Lots of Land also my Household and Kitchen furniture except the furniture of the bed chamber below stairs...". [Wills and Inventories No. 23, p. 263.]

8. The siege of 1781 seems not to have damaged the lots to any great extent. The Berthier map of 1781 shows no buildings on Lot 60 and two large buildings on Lot 61.

LOT 62

1. This lot was originally conveyed by the town trustees to Robert Harrison, carpenter, by deed dated August 11, 1899. [Deeds and Bonds I, 209.] It is apparent that he built on the lot as he retained his title to the property, but there is no absolute proof.

2. By deed dated July 2, 1902, Sarah Harrison, widow of Robert, sold Lots 58 and 62 to Peter and Use Gibson for £20 lawful money of England. [Deeds and Bonds II, 268.] For some unknown reason the Gibsons forfeited their title to the lot.

3. The lot was conveyed by the town trustees to Thomas Haynes, Jr., Gentleman, by deed dated January 21, 1716 after it had been forfeited again. [Deeds and Bonds III, 152.] The lot was devised by Thomas Haynes to his son William. This will is not of record in York county, but appears in a subsequent deed, [see Deeds V, 342.]

4. By deed dated May 21, 1753, the lot "and all houses" were sold by William Haynes of Southampton county and Julia, his wife, to Thomas Gibbons for £44 current money. [Deeds V, 542.] In a deed to another lot in 1763 the lot is described as "now in Possession of Mr. Thomas Gibbons..." [Deeds No. 6, p. 512.]

5. By will probated August 17, 1772 Thomas Gibbons devised to his son John "as soon as he arrives at the age of twenty one years or is married my Lot and House thereon called the Shop Lott which I purchased of _____ Haynes..." [Wills and Testaments No. 22, p. 118.]

6. See Section 5, under Lot 58 in this report for the damage claim of John Gibbons pertaining to this lot. Berthier's map does not include the lot.

LOT 63

1. This lot was originally conveyed by the town trustees to Richard Cheshire, merchant, by deed dated January 20, 1717/18. [Deeds and Bonds III, 223.] There is no record of his disposition of the lot, but it next appears in the possession of John Cheshire, merchant of Norfolk County, who was probably the son or heir of Richard.
2. By deed dated April 22, 1746, John Cheshire sold the lot "together with all houses" to John Thruston of Gloucester County, merchant, for £26 current money. [Deeds V, 169.]
3. By deed dated March 31, 1761, John Thruston sold the lot to John Norton, merchant, "together with all houses" for £26 current money. [Deeds No. 6, p. 342.] There is no record of Norton's disposition of the lot. The lot was acquired by Nathaniel Littleton Savage, who sold it to Robert Nelson prior to 1777 as appears in a subsequent deed conveying the lot "and all appurtenances" to Thomas Nelson, Jr., in 1786. [Deed Book No. 6, p. 324.]
4. There are no damage claims on record pertaining to the lot and the Berthier map does not include it.

LOTS 64 and 65

These two lots are grouped as they were owned together throughout the colonial period.

1. Lot 64 was conveyed to John Andrews, brasier, by the town trustees in 1705. [Deeds and Bonds II, 172.] Lot 65 was conveyed to him by the town trustees in the following year. [Deeds and Bonds II, 221.] By will probated in 1719 John Andrews desired that "all my houses Lots" to be sold by his executor William Andrews, clergyman of Nansemond County. [Orders and Wills No. 15, 474.] Accordingly, by deed dated September 19, 1719 William Andrews sold the lots to John Gibbons, planter, for £72 current money. [Deeds and Bonds III, 300.]
2. By will probated May 15, 1727, John Gibbons devised to his son, John "my two lots in Yorktown which I bought of Parson Andrews Numbered (64 & 65)..." [Orders and Wills No. 16, Part 2, p. 458.]
3. By deed dated January 9, 1771, John Gibbons and Mary, his wife, sold the lots "and all houses" to Richard Brown, merchant, for £350 current money. [Deeds No. 8, p. 137.]
4. By will probated April 20, 1795 Richard Brown devised to his son, James Pride Brown "my Houses and Lotts in the Town of Yerk...". [Wills and Inventories No. 23, p. 435.] The devisee must have died without heirs for by deed dated January 20, 1800, Bennett Brown, brother of James Pride Brown, sold two-thirds of the lots to Doctor Augustine Smith for £100 current money. [Deed Book No. 7, p. 311.] Rachel Brown, widow of Richard Brown, sold her dower interest in the lots "with the houses and improvements thereon" for £25 [Deed Book No. 7, p. 314.]
5. There is no record of any damage done the lots during the siege of 1781. Berthier's map shows one large building and one small building on the lots. It is possible that they are on Lot 65, but the exact boundary cannot be determined.

LOT 66

1. This lot was originally conveyed by the town trustees to William Harwood of Warwick County by deed dated February 22, 1706/7. [Deeds and Bonds II, 226.] It can be assumed that he built in accordance with the Act of 1705, as the lot appears to have been passed from father to son. As they lived in Warwick County, their wills have been destroyed.

2. By deed dated July 28, 1772, William Harwood, Sr., of Warwick County, and Mary, his wife, sold the lot "and all houses" to William Reynolds, gentleman merchant, for £40 current money. [Deeds No. 8, p. 300.]

3. By deed dated January 18, 1779, William Reynolds and Mary, his wife, sold the lot to William Goosley for £40 current money. [Deed Book No. 6, p. 24.]

4. By deed dated February 12, 1788, William Goosley and Ludwell, his wife, sold the lot to Damaris Smith for £20 current money. [Hustings Court Records, p. 19.] This depreciation in the price of the property when the value of currency was low indicates that some damage must have been done the lot by the siege of 1781. There is, however, no mention of damage done this lot in the damage claim of William Goosley.

5. By deed dated February 28, 1792, Damaris Smith sold the northern half of the lot to Thomas Buckler for £10 current money. [Hustings Court Records, p. 31.] By deed dated February 13, 1794 the other half of the lot was sold to Elizabeth Smith for £30 current money. [Hustings Court Records, p. 42.]

LOT 67

1. After being forfeited once this lot was conveyed by the town trustees to John Gibbons by deed dated January 20, 1717/18. [Deeds and Bonds III, 221.]

2. By will probated May 15, 1727, John Gibbons devised to his daughter, Sarah Gibbons, "my Lot in York Town Joining to the Ordinary lot [71] known by the Number (67)...". [Orders and Wills No. 16, Part 2, p. 458.]

3. A deed to another lot dated February 12, 1788 described Lot 67 as the "Lot of Sarah and John Gibbons". [Hustings Court Records, p. 19.]

4. It is practically impossible to differentiate between the lots in damage claims for individuals owning more than one lot. In this case the damage claim of John Gibbons discussed under Lot 58 in this report, may pertain to this lot, as it must have been damaged by the English lines. The final determination will have to wait for archeological investigation.

LOT 68

The chain of title to this lot was lost, until the writer's study, by an error in transcribing notes from the County Records. In seventeenth and early eighteenth century script, the numerals "5" and "8" are very similar. The colonial chain of title had been considered a duplication of the chain to Lot 65 until the writer discovered the error.

1. This lot was originally conveyed by the town trustees to Edward Moss, Gentleman, by deed dated November 24, 1691. [Deeds, Orders, Wills I, 385.] There is no record of his disposition of the lot, but the next record shows it owned by his son, John.
2. By deed dated January 12, 1721/22, John Moss and Elizabeth, his wife, and Elizabeth, his mother, sold "all that Lott of Land lying in York Town known by ye number 68 together with the tenements" to John Trotter. No sum is mentioned in the deed. [Deeds and Bonds III, 374.]
3. By will probated May 20, 1745 John Trotter devised to his daughter, Elizabeth Trotter (Langhorne) "my Lott adjoining to the Lotts of Mr. John Gibbons and Mr. Wm Allin..." [Wills and Inventories No. 19, p. 349.] John Gibbons owned lots 64 and 65 and William Allin owned Lot 69 at that time. This proves that the lot in the deed was Lot 68.
4. By deed dated November ---, 1759, Maurice Langhorne of Warwick County, Gentleman, and Elizabeth, his wife, sold "one Certain Messuage Tenement and Lott or half Acre of Ground..." to Thomas Trotter, merchant, for £21/10/0 current money. [Deeds No. 6, p. 238.] This is the last record during the colonial period. It appears to have passed into the Archer family, but the conveyance is not of record. [Deeds Book No. 7, pp. 294 and 385.]
5. There is no record of any damage done the lot by the siege of 1781. The Berthier map shows no buildings on the lot.

LOT 69

1. This lot was conveyed by the town trustees to William Allin, planter, by deed dated June 24, 1708. [Deeds and Bonds II, 292.] It is supposed that he built on the lot in accordance with the provisions of the Act of 1705, as he retained his title to the lot.

2. By will probated September 21, 1713, William Allin devised to his son, William, "one Sea port Lott in York Town". [Orders, Wills, No. 14, p. 279.]

3. By deed dated September 21, 1790, William Allin, probably the son of the second William, sold the lot to Abraham Archer for £15. [Deed Book No. 6, p. 449.] There is no mention of a building on the lot.

4. There is no record of any damage done the lot during the siege of 1781, and the fact that the Berthier map shows no building on the lot indicates that it might have been vacant.

LOT 70

1. After being forfeited once this lot was conveyed by the town trustees to Nathaniel Hook, carpenter, by deed dated February 12, 1714/15. [Deeds and Bonds III, 62.]

2. By will probated in 1722, Nathaniel Hook left his lot in Yorktown to his wife for life and at her death to Thomas Watkins and John Nixon, his God sons, share and share alike, but should John Nixon die without lawful issue, his share was to go to William Watkins. The will described the lot as "that I now live on...". [Orders, Wills No. 16, p. 161.]

3. By deed dated October 22, 1742, William Watkins of the parish of St. Pauls in Hanover County, sold half the lot to Abraham Archer, shipwright, for £15 current money. [Deeds V, 27.] There is no mention of buildings in this deed. It seems probable that John Nixon had died as William Watkins owned a half interest.

4. While it is not of record, it appears that Abraham Archer bought the other half of the lot from Watkins. In his will probated May 18, 1752, he left his property to his wife during her widowhood, with the remainder to his children. To his son, Thomas, he left "all my Housing under the Hill one Lett which I bought of Watkins...". [Wills and Inventories No. 20, pp. 256-257.]

5. By deed of gift dated November 22, 1775, Thomas Archer conveyed the lot "with its appurtenances" to his son and heir Abraham Archer. [Deeds No. 8, p. 500.]

6. The siege of 1781 did damage to the extent of £325/5/0 to the property of Abraham Archer. It is possible that some of the items from the damage claim pertain to Lot 70, but it is difficult to determine this exactly:

"1 Lot Ground on the Hill about 1/3 of it
very much Out there being a Battery erected on it...12/10
Saw'd Posts, pales & rails of a Garden abt
35 panels at 9/.....15/15

The Berthier map does not include the lot.

LOT 71

1. After being forfeited once this lot was conveyed by the town trustees to John Gibbons by deed dated January 20, 1717/18. [Deeds and Bonds III, 221.]

2. By will probated May 15, 1727, John Gibbons devised to his son, Lawrence, "my Lot in Yorktown Number (71) where my ordinary new stands". [Orders and Wills No. 16, Part 2, p. 458.]

3. By deed dated December 15, 1742, John Gibbons and Mary, his wife, and Lawrence Gibbons and Ann, his wife, sold the lot "with all houses" to Robert Sheild, Jr., merchant, for £35/5/0 current money. [Deeds V, 32.]

4. By deed dated November 18, 1781, Robert Sheild, Jr., and Rebecca, his wife, sold the lot "together with all houses" to John Norton, merchant, for £100 current money. [Deeds No. 6, p. 379.]

5. A portion of the "Articles of Agreement" between Hon. Thomas Nelson, Secretary of the Colony, and John Norton, merchant, dated August 20, 1764, stated: "The said Norton agrees that the said Thomas Nelson, Esqr shall have possession and fully enjoy a new Stable lately built on a Lot or half Acre of Land lying in York Town which the said Norton purchased of Mr Robert Sheild known by the number seventy one, also a part of the said lot containing one hundred and thirty two feet in breadth and forty feet in length for a Stable Yard..." The stable yard was to be in the southern part of the lot. [Deeds VII, pp. 57-58.] The chain of title is broken at this point, but the lot was a part of the estate of William Nelson at his death in 1852. [Deed Book No. 15, p. 242.]

6. There is no record of any damage done the lots during the siege of 1781, although the English lines of fortifications must have crossed the lot. The Berthier map does not include this lot. This may have been the time of the destruction of the houses on the lot, for in 1852, the lot was described as vacant. [Deed Book 15, p. 242.]

LOT 72

1. This lot was originally conveyed by the town trustees to Colonel Lawrence Smith, the surveyor of the Town of York, but no deed was recorded. Therefore by deed dated November 24, 1708, the town trustees granted to his son, Lawrence Smith, Gentleman, the title to Lot 72. The deed recited that the lot had been built upon by Col. Lawrence Smith as required by law. [Deeds and Bonds II, 309.]

2. By will probated March 19, 1738, Lawrence Smith devised to Lawrence, his son, "one Lott or half acre of Land lying in York Town joining upon Mr Robert Reads's Lotts upon the South side of the Main Street". [Wills and Inventories No. 18, p. 478.]

3. By deed dated June 15, 1772, Lawrence Smith, merchant, and Damaris, his wife, sold Lots 72 and 73 "and all houses" to John Hatley Norton, merchant, for £100 current money. [Deeds No. 8, p. 247.]

4. By deed dated June 19, 1775, John Hatley Norton and Sarah, his wife, sold Lots 72, 73 and 74 with "all houses" to Nathaniel Littleton Savage, merchant, for £,000 current money. [Deeds No. 8, p. 483.]

5. By deed dated November 29, 1777, Nathaniel Littleton Savage and Anne, his wife, sold the same lots to Robert Nelson of King William County, esq., for £1,000 current money. [Deed Book No. 6, p. 3.]

6. Robert Nelson and Susanna, his wife, conveyed the lots to Thomas Nelson, Jr., by deed dated September 27, 1786. [Deed Book No. 6, p. 324.] In his will probated in 1789, Thomas Nelson, Jr., devised to his son, William, "my Lotts in the town of York...adjoining the Street which runs by Mr Abraham Archer & the late Secretary Nelsons..." [Wills and Inventories, No. 23, p. 171.]

7. There is no record of any damage done the lots in 1781, nor are buildings shown on the lot on the Berthier map. The lots were described as vacant in 1852. [Wynne vs. Saunders, 1852, Lease Papers.]

LOT 73

1. This lot was originally conveyed by the town trustees to Robert Reade by deed dated December 2, 1706. [Deeds and Bonds II, 194.] He must have built on the lot in accordance with the Act of 1706, as he retained his title to it.

2. By will probated March 16, 1712/13, Robert Reade bequeathed "unto my Son Thomas Reade & his heyres for Ever my Three half Acres or Lots of Land [73, 74, and 83] lying & being in York Town with all houses & Prefitts thereto belonging...And in Case my sd Son Thomas doth decease in his minority or without isshew lawfully begotten, then my will is that my daughter Mildred Reade & her heyres for Ever..." [Orders and Wills No. 14, p. 241.] Thomas must have died without heirs for the property descended to Mildred Reade, who married Lawrence Smith.

3. By will probated January 21, 1754, Mildred Smith (nee Reade) devised to her son, Lawrence Smith "one Lot of Land in York Town adjoining to the Lot left him by his father to him and his Heirs forever". [Wills and Inventories No. 20, p. 309.] From here the chain of title and descriptions are in Sections 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, under Lot 72.

LOT 74

1. This lot was originally conveyed by the town trustees to Robert Reade by deed dated December 2, 1706. [Deeds and Bonds II, 198.] The lot descended to Mildred Reade (Smith) as did Lot 73, (see Section 2, under Lot 73).

2. By will probated January 21, 1754, Mildred Smith (nee Reade) devised to her son, Robert Smith, "my Lot of Land in York Town adjoining to Capt. Thomas Reynolds..." [Wills and Inventories No. 20, p. 309.]

3. By deed dated August 18, 1766, Robert Smith and Mary, his wife, sold the lot "together with all houses" to Edward Cary for £100 current money. [Deeds No. 7, p. 197.] Sometime prior to 1772, the lot was sold by Edward Cary to John Hatley Norton, but this deed is not of record, (see Deeds No. 8, p. 221). The remainder of the chain of title and descriptions can be found under Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7 of Lot 72.

4. In The Virginia Gazette for October 13, 1768 appeared the following advertisement:

" YORK, October 5, 1768

TO BE SOLD,

"A LOT pleasantly situated in this town whereon is a dwelling-house, fifty-two feet long, and 24 feet wide, with 3 rooms below, and 6 above, a fine dry cellar, with two brick partitions, a good store-house, kitchen, stable, dairy, smook-house, &c. all entirely new, and finished in the best manner. Any person inclinable to purchase, may know the terms by applying to Mr. John H. Norton, or the subscriber.

EDWARD CARY"

5. There are no damage claims on record for this lot. The Barthier map of 1761 indicates a very extensive development on the lot, which might correspond to the information in the above advertisement. The buildings were destroyed before 1852, as the lot was described as vacant at that time. [Wynne vs. Saunders, 1852, Loose Papers.]

LOT 75

1. This lot was originally conveyed by the town trustees to Samuel Cooper by deed dated November 18, 1716. [Deeds and Bonds III, 140.]

2. By deed dated February 16, 1716/17, Samuel Cooper conveyed the lot "with ye tenement, buildings" to Lewis and Sarah St. Leger until Abraham St. Leger should become 21 years of age at which time he should have one-half of the lot and have the remainder upon the death of both of the life tenants. The deed also stated that "if none of ye aforesaid heirs should survive, then ye said Lott & Tenement shall be for a Public School for ye use & benefit of ye Town of York for Ever". [Deeds and Bonds III, 151.]

3. Sometime prior to 1738, Abraham St. Leger sold the lot to Benjamin Moss, but the transfer is not of record, (see Deeds No. 4, p. 514). By will probated December 15, 1738, Benjamin Moss devised to his son, Francis, "all that Lott of Land in the Town of York which I purchased of Abraham St. Leger...I will and desire that my loving son Francis Moss may have full power privilege to procure or get as much timber, as framing, boards and plank off any part of my Land as shall be thought sufficient to build him a dwelling house, Shop and to make him Garden (and no More) on the Lott of Land before given him..." [Wills and Inventories No. 18, p. 250.]

4. Francis Moss seems not to have taken advantage of the offer of timber for he sold the lot "together with all houses" to William Rogers, merchant, by deed dated September 14, 1738 for £15 current money. [Deeds No. 4, p. 514.]

5. By will probated December 17, 1739, William Rogers stated "that in Lieu of my Daughter Susanna Reynolds's part of the said remainder of my personal Estate I give and Bequeath unto her the Lott that I bought of Mr. Francis Moss known by the Number (75) together with the Brickhouse and all other improvements upon it...". [Wills and Inventories No. 18, p. 537.]

6. By will probated April 18, 1768 Susanna Rogers Reynolds bequeathed to her son, William, "the House and Lott where I now live..." [Wills and Inventories No. 21, p. 407.] In a supplement to The Virginia Gazette of April 14, 1768, appeared this advertisement:

"To be sold to the highest bidder, on Wednesday

the 20th of this month at the dwelling-house of
the late Capt. Thomas Reynolds, in York,

All the household and kitchen furniture, and
10 valuable slaves, among which are a good cook
wench, and 3 men used to go by water...

THE EXECUTORS

N.B. The death of Mrs. Reynolds makes it
necessary to call on those who borrowed money
of Capt. Reynolds's estate immediately to dis-
charge their bonds."

In a letter to Mrs. Courtney Norton, dated Virginia, August 21,
1771, William Reynolds wrote: "That Lady was my Tennant & has used
me excessive ill in suffering the pails of my Garden to be down & the
hogs tearing it up, it hurt me much, to think the pains my poor Mother
had been at shou'd be so abused..." [Letterbook of William Reynolds of
Yorktown, 1771-1783: typescript in Colonial National Historical Park
Library, p. 6.]

7. By deed dated May 12, 1772, William Reynolds, merchant, sold
the lot "with all the Houses" to Thomas Archer for £700 current money.
[Deeds No. 8, p. 221.]

8. By will probated January 20, 1783, Thomas Archer devised to
his son, Thomas, "the Houses and Lotte in York Town where I now live
which I purchased of William Reynolds..." [Wills and Inventories
No. 22, p. 576.]

9. It seems that no damage was done the property during the siege
of 1781, as there is no damage claim for Thomas Archer on record. The
Berthier map does not seem to include this lot.

LOT 76

1. This lot was originally conveyed by the town trustees to William Cole of "Belthorpe", Warwick County, Secretary of the Colony, by deed dated November 24, 1691. [Deeds, Orders, Wills I, 378.] There is no record of his disposition of the lot, but as it was not granted again by the town trustees, it is assumed that he built on the lot and retained his title.

2. The next record is a deed dated April 3, 1787 in which Dudley Digges conveyed the lot together with Lots 77 and 79 to his daughter, Elizabeth Nicholson, the wife of Dr. Robert Nicholson. [Deed Book No. 6, p. 353.] The lots were described as those "whereon the said Dudley formerly resided". There are several possibilities as to chains of title to the lot in this gap. In the first place, the lot may have had a chain similar to Lots 77 and 79, but it is unlikely as it was omitted in all deeds to those lots. Another possibility is that it descended in the family. Colonel William Cole's second wife was Ann, the daughter of Edward Digges. Furthermore, Colonel Dudley Digges, son of Edward Digges, married Susannah, daughter of Colonel William Cole by his first wife. This peculiar connection would assure the lot passing into the Digges family. As all records of Warwick County were destroyed during the War Between the States, it is impossible to ascertain the correctness of this assumption.

3. There is no record of any damage done the lot during the siege of 1781, and the Berthier map shows the lot as vacant.

LOT 77

1. After being forfeited once this lot was conveyed by the town trustees to Miles and Imannell Wills, Gentlemen, by deed dated November 24, 1691. [Deeds, Orders, Wills I, 368.] It is assumed that they built on the lot within a year, in accordance with the Act of 1706, because they retained their title to the lot.

2. By deed dated July 10, 1721 Miles and Imannell Wills sold the lot "together with the buildings" to William Stark, merchant, for £30 lawful money of England. [Deeds and Bonds III, 368.]

3. By deed dated January 15, 1730, William Stark and Mary, his wife sold the lot "Together with all houses" to Cole Digges, merchant; [Deeds No. 4, p. 66.] There is no record of Cole Digges' disposition of the lot, but it next appears in the ownership of his third son, Dudley.

4. By deed dated April 3, 1787 Dudley Digges conveyed the lot to his daughter, Elisabeth Nicholson.

5. There is no record of any damage done the property by the siege of 1781, although the house standing on the property still bears the marks of cannon fire. The Berthier map shows a building which corresponds to the West House. It cannot be determined whether the other building shown is on Lot 77 or 79, but the latter seems more likely.

INSURANCE RECORDS

Robert Nicholson took out fire insurance on April 6, 1796 on his "two Buildings on the main Street at York now occupied by myself situated between the Lot of Hugh Nelson and that of Abm Archer..." The two buildings were a dwelling house, 50 feet by 30 feet, built of wood, one story high, valued at \$1,500.00, and a wooden kitchen, one story high, 16 feet by 22 feet. Other buildings shown on the plat are a wooden smokehouse, a wooden granary, and a stable of wood, 16 feet by 18 feet, with a shed at each end. The buildings occupied Lots 77 and 78 .

EXISTING BUILDINGS

There is standing today on this lot a frame dwelling which is called the West House after John R. Vest, who owned the house after 1821. It is stated that this building was erected in 1706. If this is true, then

it is the building erected by Miles and Imannell Wills. The building has been dated at about that period by architects. Its dimensions correspond to those of the dwelling in the Insurance Records.

LOT 78

1. After being forfeited once this lot was conveyed by the town trustees to William Gordon by deed dated June 24, 1706. [Deeds and Bonds II, 206.] This deed was not recorded until January 8, 1706/7.

2. By deed dated November 24, 1707, William Gordon transferred his title to the lot to James Wallace for £180 of tobacco. [Deeds and Bonds II, 252.] As this price is the same as the original purchase price of a lot from the town trustees, it indicates that William Gordon did not build on the lot. James Wallace must have built within a year, for he retained his title to the lot.

3. By deed dated August 14, 1726 James Wallace sold the lot "with all houses" to Robert Dowsing, Bricklayer, for £20 current money. [Deeds and Bonds III, 459.]

4. By will probated February 21, 1736-7, Robert Dowsing devised unto William, his son, "all that Lot of Land situate in York Town and commonly known in the Plot of the said Town by the Figure (78) which I lately purchased from Mr. James Wallace..." [Wills and Inventories No. 18, p. 347.]

5. By deed dated February 22, 1758, William Dowsing of Brunswick County, planter, conveyed the lot with "all that Messuage Tenement" to Richard Coventon, dancing master, for £70 current money. [Deeds No. 6, p. 150.] William Dowsing took back a mortgage for £31/5/9 current money. [Deeds No. 6, p. 136-137.] This mortgage was never paid and by deed dated October 15, 1759, William Dowsing sold the mortgage to William Moss with his title to the "Lott of Land and premises". [Deeds No. 6, p. 269.] William Moss sued Richard Coventon in ejection in 1760 and recovered the property. [Deeds No. 7, p. 269.] In The Virginia Gazette of October 10, 1766 appeared the following:

"To be sold for ready money in York Town, the
11th of this instant (October) The Lots and Houses
where Mr. Richard Coventon now lives,
William Moss"

6. By deed dated March 7, 1767, William Moss sold the lot "with its appurteances" to Thomas Trotter and Thomas Temer, merchants, for £100 current money. [Deeds No. 7, p. 269.] On the same day Thomas Trotter and

Thomas Toner sold the lot with "all that Messuage Tenement" to Thomas Archer, merchant, for the same price. [Deeds No. 7, p. 263.]

7. By deed dated September 8, 1773, Thomas Archer sold the lot and "all that Messuage Tenement" to James Dunsley for £250 current money. [Deeds No. 8, p. 352.]

8. It appears that James Dunsley before his death, circa 1785, conveyed the property to Robert Hayes. At a meeting of the County Court on March 21, 1785, three men were appointed to allot to Elizabeth Dunsley, widow, her dower rights in the property. [Order Book No. 5, p. 138.] The following record appears under the date March 31, 1785:

"Pursuant to an order of the York County Court, bearing date of the 21st day of March, 1785, we the subscribers, have viewed the Premises and allotted to Elizabeth Dunsley, widow of Capt. James Dunsley, deceased, for her Dower, One room below stairs, called the Chamber, with two closets within the said Chamber, with a free use of the front door to and from said house. We also allow her a third part of the garden ground and the use of all out houses that is or may be placed on the said Lett, or half acre of ground..."

[Deed Book No. 6, p. 267.]

9. There is no damage claim on record for Captain James Dunsley.

LOT 79

1. After being forfeited once this lot was conveyed to William Gordon by the town trustees by deed dated June 24, 1706. [Deeds and Bonds II, 207.] He must have followed the provisions of the Act of 1705, by building for he retained his title to the lot.

2. In a partnership deed entered into by William Gordon, John Andrews, Charles Cox, and Nicholas Phillips and dated July 2, 1714 was "for digging and stoning a Well to be placed in ye Lott of William Gordon on ye South side of said Lott adjoining to Main Street..." [Deeds and Bonds III, 78.] In a deed to another lot in 1719, Lot 79 was described as the location of the "now dwelling house of Wm Gordon..." [Deeds and Bonds III, p. 309.]

3. By will probated December 21, 1730 William Gordon devised his "Town Lott and Houses and Storehouses at the Riverside..." to his wife, Margaret Gordon, for life with remainder to Mary Dowsing, his daughter. [Orders, Wills No. 17, p. 130.]

4. By deed dated December 10, 1749 Mordecai Booth of Gloucester County, merchant, and Joyce, his wife, sold "all that Lot or half acre of Land with a Well thereon Dug which formerly belonged to one Dowsing and was purchased by the said Mordecai of one John Dayley. Also a warehouse a Dwelling House adjoining thereto and a Pump Pumhouse and Shop at the River side..." to James Pride, Esq. for £300 current money. [Deeds V, 314.] It is not clear whether the dwelling and warehouse were on the lot or at the riverside.

5. By deed dated April 21, 1755 James Pride, Esq. sold the lot "with a Well thereon Dug...with allhouses" to Dudley Digges, Jr. for £80 current money. [Deeds No. 6, p. 17.]

6. By deed dated April 3, 1787, Dudley Digges conveyed the lot to his daughter, Elisabeth Nicholson. [Deed Book No. 6, p. 353.]

7. There are no damage claims on file for Dudley Digges so it must be assumed that little or no damage was done the property in 1781. The Berthier map of 1781 shows a large building standing in the south-western corner of the lot.

LOTS 80 and 82

1. These lots were originally conveyed by the town trustees to Nathaniel Bacon, Sr., President of the Council of Virginia, by deed dated November 24, 1691. [Deeds, Orders, Wills I, 384.] He or his heirs must have built on the lots as he retained his title to them.

2. By will probated March 24, 1691/2, Nathaniel Bacon devised the lots to his niece "Abigail" Burwell, the wife of Lewis Burwell of Gloucester County. [Deeds, Orders, Wills No. 9, p. 116.] There is no record of her disposition of the lots, but they must have been passed down in the family for they next appear in the possession of Nathaniel Burwell.

3. By deed dated January 15, 1779, Nathaniel Burwell, of James City County, and Susanna, his wife, sold the lots "with all profits" to William Coesley for £150 current money. [Deed Book No. 6, p. 35.] There is no record of William Coesley's disposition of the lots.

4. There are no damage claims on record for 1781, and the Berthier map shows these lots as vacant.

LOT 81

1. After being forfeited once this lot was conveyed by the town trustees to William Tunley by deed dated May 24, 1707. [Deeds and Bonds II, 235.] By deed of assignment dated March 31, 1708, William Tunley conveyed the lot to Charles Cox, Inholder, for £10 sterling. [Deeds and Bonds II, 252.] There is no record of his disposition of the lot, and the chain of title is broken until after the Revolution.

2. By deed of trust dated July 1, 1789, Abraham Archer conveyed to William Cary for £71 current money "all that messuage tenement and buildings together with all the ground, gardens and lots thereto belonging and all houses and improvements thereon situate in the Town of York being the same whereon the said Abraham Archer now lives..." [Deed Book No. 7, p. 294.]

3. The Berthier map of 1781 shows a building standing on Lot 81. Archer's damage claim of 1781 cannot be reconciled with Lot 81.

LOT 83

1. This lot was originally conveyed by the town trustees to Robert Reade by deed dated November 24, 1691. [Deeds, Orders, Wills I. 375.]

2. By will probated March 16, 1712/13, Robert Reade devised unto his son, Thomas Reade, "my Three half Acres or or [sic] Lots of Land lying and being in York Town [Lots 73, 74 and 83] with all houses and Profitts thereto belonging...And in Case my sd Son Thomas doth decease in his Minority or without isshew lawfully begotten, then my will is that my daughter Mildred Reade & her heires for Ever have & enjoy all the aforesd Lands & premises..." [Orders, Wills. No. 14, p. 241.]

3. By will probated January 21, 1754, Mildred (Reade) Smith devised to her daughter Lucy Smith Moore "one Lot of Land in York Town lying on the Main Street at the lower end (East) of the said Street..." [Wills and Inventories No. 20, p. 309.]

4. By deed dated July 18, 1763, Augustine Moore and Lucy, his wife, sold the lot "and all houses" to Lawrence Smith for £68 current money. [Deeds No. 6, p. 535.]

5. By deed dated May 30, 1784, Lawrence Smith and Elizabeth, his wife, sold the lot "and houses" to Abraham Archer for £100 current money. [Deed Book No. 6, p. 256.]

6. It is practically impossible to ascertain whether any items of the damage claim of Lawrence Smith pertain to Lot 83 or not. It appears that the British did not build a fortification on the lot, so that it is unlikely that any great damage was done it. The Berthier map of 1781 shows the lot as vacant.

Edward M. Riley
Edward M. Riley,

Junior Historical Technician.

EMR/OLD
August 29, 1940.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

900 N. Lombardy St.

P. O. Box 5031

Richmond 20, Virginia

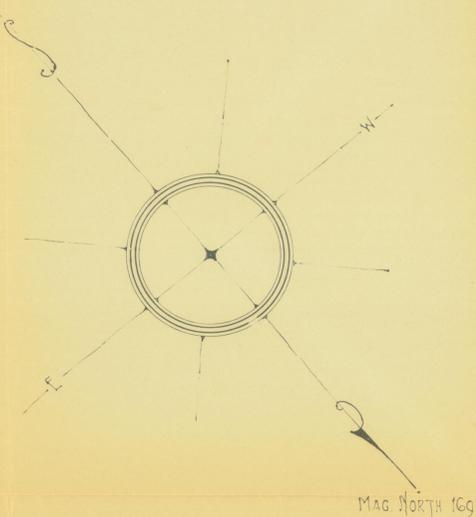
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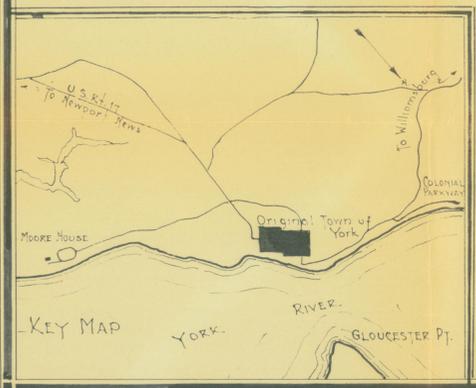
NOTES:
 Courses and Dimensions of boundary taken from Original Survey of the Town of York. Assumed error & correction, width of streets and layout within boundary developed by Act Park Engineer Farthing & Res. Landscape Architect Wilhelm. Lots 132 x 105' equal theoretical Half Acre Lot. Streets 1st Poles. 28% (assumed from mathematical deduction). Main Street 33' Wide. Modern survey adaptation of town lots may not verify assumptions.



NOTES:
 1. Dates shown in lots refer to York County Records unless otherwise noted.
 2. Existing buildings shown in actual location and to scale.
 3. Diagrammatic buildings not shown in location unless assumed from Berthier Map.
 4. Coordinates shown are part system prepared for Historical Base Map.

KEY
 Da - Dairy
 Dw - Dwelling
 Kit - Kitchen
 La - Laundry
 M.H - Meat House
 Off - Office
 Ord - Ordinary
 S.H - Smoke House
 Sh - Shop
 St.H - Store House
 Sp - Spinning House
 Sta - Stable
 W.H - Work House
 Wa.H - Wash House
 A, B, C, etc - Structure Designation within lot.
 STRUCTURAL KEY
 Br - Brick
 Fr - Frame

LEGEND
 Buildings from Documentary Evidence (Diagrammatic Only)
 Existing Historic Buildings
 Brick Walls
 Boundary of Original Town



MAP OF THE STRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWN OF YORK 1691-1800

FROM DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE ON LOTS 1 TO 85 (THE ORIGINAL TOWN) AS COLLECTED TO AUGUST 1940.

COLONIAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Prepared by the Branch of Plans and Design in coordination with the Branch of Historic Sites & Buildings, Yorktown Office, September, 1940. NHP Col. Z160.

Basic Data - York County Record 1691-1800; Berthier Map; Virginia Gazette-1736-1780; Insurance Records-1796-1860