

DELAWARE HISTORY MUSEUM

MARKET STREET ELEVATION

NOTES:

1. EXPOSE ORIGINAL SIGN BACKGROUND. CLEAN & PAINT TO MATCH TRADITIONAL WOODWORTH CO. RED. RESTORE CORNED & GROOVED SIGN BORDER TO ORIGINAL CONDITION. PROVIDE & INSTALL RAISED LETTERING AS SHOWN IN TRADITIONAL WOODWORTH CO. STYLE. LETTERS TO BE PRESSED ALUMINUM WITH GOLD FINISH.
2. EXPOSE ORIGINAL GROOVED STAINLESS STEEL DECORATIVE COVER. RESTORE ORIGINAL APPEARANCE.

# BLUEPRINT FOR PRESERVATION

PARTIAL KING ST ELEVATION

LOWER MEETING ROOM

NOTE:  
REPAIR EXISTING WOOD STAIRS BY REINFORCING WITH STEEL @ 4" SPACING AND SUPPLEMENTAL STEEL WHERE REQUIRED. ALL REINFORCING IS TO BE INSTALLED IN THE JOINTS TO PRODUCE A CONTINUOUS WALL. WALL TO BE STRENGTHENED, REINFORCED BY INSTALLING ON A GRID MEASUREMENT BASIS WHEN IN CLASH TO BE REINFORCED FOR TOWER.



# What happens to old buildings that are no longer useful or are not wanted anymore?

In cities and towns across the United States, old houses and buildings stand in the way of bulldozers ready to clear a path for more modern houses and buildings. New, modern high-rise apartment buildings, office buildings, stores, banks, or parking lots are needed and wanted. Old homes that need extensive repairs or old public buildings, such as city halls, churches, and schools, are demolished as people and society outgrow the buildings or the buildings are no longer suited to their original use.

**When these buildings are torn down, a part of our history is lost.**

**historic**  
his•tor•ic | \ hi-'stôr-ik \

- famous or important in history
- having great and lasting importance
- dating from or preserved from a past time or culture

**preservation**  
pres•er•va•tion | \ pre-zər-'vā-shən \

- the act, process, or result of preserving something
- the activity or process of keeping something valued alive, intact, or free from damage or decay - *preservation* of state parks/monuments; *preservation* of an old tradition

**Historic preservation** is the act of preserving, conserving, and protecting buildings, landscapes or other artifacts and objects of historical significance.



# How do we preserve history?

Why do we preserve things? Is everything worth saving? How do we decide if something is worth saving?

Can you think of one object that you use every day that is worth preserving and passing down to future generations?

What makes this object important?

What would that object tell future people about life and society today?

Can you think of a building in your town or community that should be saved and preserved?



# Restore, Renovate, or Reuse?

Everyone understands the importance of recycling. To reduce the loss of historic sites, how might we recycle and reuse old buildings?

**Restoration:** Return the building to as close as possible to its original form, creating a building of museum quality.

**Renovation:** Return the building to its original use but upgraded to a modern building.

**Reuse:** Find a new and economical use for a building when keeping its original use is not possible or wanted. For example, turning a former bank into a library or hotel.

How would “recycled” buildings affect a city or town? Can you name examples of buildings in your community that were restored? Can you name any buildings that have been adapted for a new use?

# Historians and Historical Societies Preserve History

**Historical societies** are organizations that collect, preserve, interpret, and share historical information utilizing objects, documents, images, and more. Historical societies are created to help future generations understand their history and heritage. Most cities and large towns in the United States have a historical society. **Historians** help do the work of historical societies. Often, historical societies have a museum or research library that houses the items they preserve. Historians study events and people of the past utilizing **primary sources** found at museums and libraries. The Delaware Historical Society has both! Historians and historical societies often work together to preserve the past.

## primary source

pri•ma•ry source| \ prī-,mer-ē \ sòrs \

- a firsthand account or contemporary document or artifact that provides information about an event or time period

What kinds of things do historical societies and museums try to preserve? Think about what you have already seen in the Delaware History Museum and Mitchell Center for African American Heritage. Look at the list below and place an X next to items that you saw in the museum

Photographs

Letters

Books

Food

Art works

Animals

Clothing

Documents

Buildings

Can you name any type of item you saw that is not on this list?

Draw one of your favorite items from the museum.

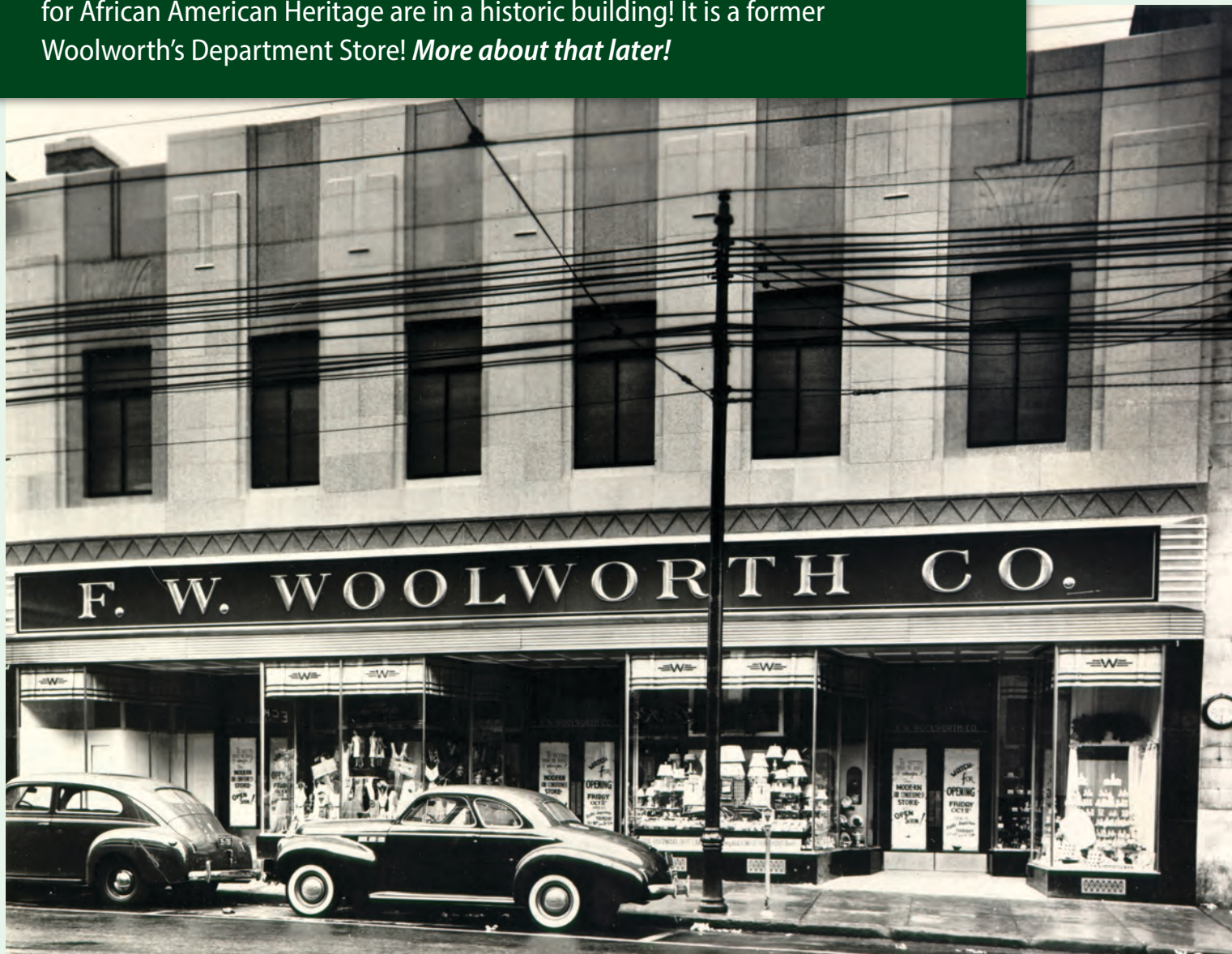
Why is this item your favorite?

Why is it important that this item is preserved?





Did you check buildings? Have you ever visited a historic building? What do you picture when you think of a historic building? Can you name any historic buildings? **Guess what?!** The Delaware History Museum and Mitchell Center for African American Heritage are in a historic building! It is a former Woolworth's Department Store! *More about that later!*



Historians and historical societies work with other people to preserve buildings as well. The building where the Delaware History Museum and the Mitchell Center for African American Heritage are located is one of nine historic buildings owned and used by the Delaware Historical Society (DHS). Eight of the buildings are right here in Wilmington and one is in historic New Castle.

**Have you ever wondered what Wilmington looked like 300 years ago?  
100 years ago? 50 years ago?**

Cities and towns change as the needs of the people living and working there change, but if you look closely, you can still see remnants of the past.

Look closely at the two pictures below. Do the pictures show the same buildings? In the space below, list how the buildings are the same and how they are different. How do you think the buildings were used in the past? How are they being used now? What else do these images tell us about Wilmington's past?



Every city, town, and rural community has a history and heritage. Longtime residents of those areas have memories, good and bad, about spending time in their city or town - their home, schools, theaters, and more. Evidence of Wilmington's past can be found up and down Market Street.

**Head outside  
to learn more!**



# The Historic Buildings of the Delaware Historical Society

Stand in front of the Delaware History Museum and look around.



What types of buildings do you see? Are they old? New?  
How are the buildings being used?



This block of Market Street (the 500 block) has changed a lot over time! One example of change over time on Market Street is **The Queen**. Look around for the building you see in the first picture on the left. Now look at the second picture of The Queen when it was the **Clayton House Hotel**. How has this building changed over time?

The Clayton House was Wilmington's first large hotel. Built in 1873, the hotel boasted steam heat and a wash stand in every room and, in 1878, Wilmington's first elevator. Clayton House remained Wilmington's premier hotel until eclipsed by the Hotel DuPont in the early 20th century. It was sold in 1915 and extensively remodeled as a vaudeville and movie venue, the Queen Theatre. By the 1950s suburbanization and the popularization of television for home entertainment robbed the Queen of its audiences; the Queen closed in 1959. In 2011, it reopened as an entertainment venue.

In the early 1800s, there were only seven buildings on this block that were used for both business and residential purposes. The Town Hall (now Old Town Hall) was the largest. By the mid-1800s, the block was brimming with many small, 2 and 3 story, mixed- use buildings that had, for example, a jewelry or dry goods store on the first floor with the owners living above.

In the late 1800s, the 500 block of Market Street became the business center of Wilmington with three hotels, most of Wilmington's banks (three on one block!), and its city hall (Old Town Hall).

Today we can see evidence of restoration, renovation, and adaptive reuse, all on this same block.

From the Museum's front doors, walk to your right and stop in front of the building right next door.

# Old Town Hall

This is **Old Town Hall**, a two-story, five-bay, brick, **late Georgian/early Federal style** municipal building. Construction of the Town Hall began in 1798. Once finished the Town Hall functioned as the political and social center of Wilmington, housing meeting rooms, offices, a subscription library, the town fire department, and a jail. It also served as the headquarters and gathering place of civic organizations. The building hosted receptions and dinners for important people such as the Marquis de Lafayette and President Andrew Jackson. The death of George Washington was observed in Old Town Hall in 1799 and Henry Clay's body laid in state there in 1852.

By 1916 the city government outgrew Town Hall and began construction of a new City-County building on French Street. That same year, Town Hall was sold to the Historical Society of Delaware (now the Delaware Historical Society).



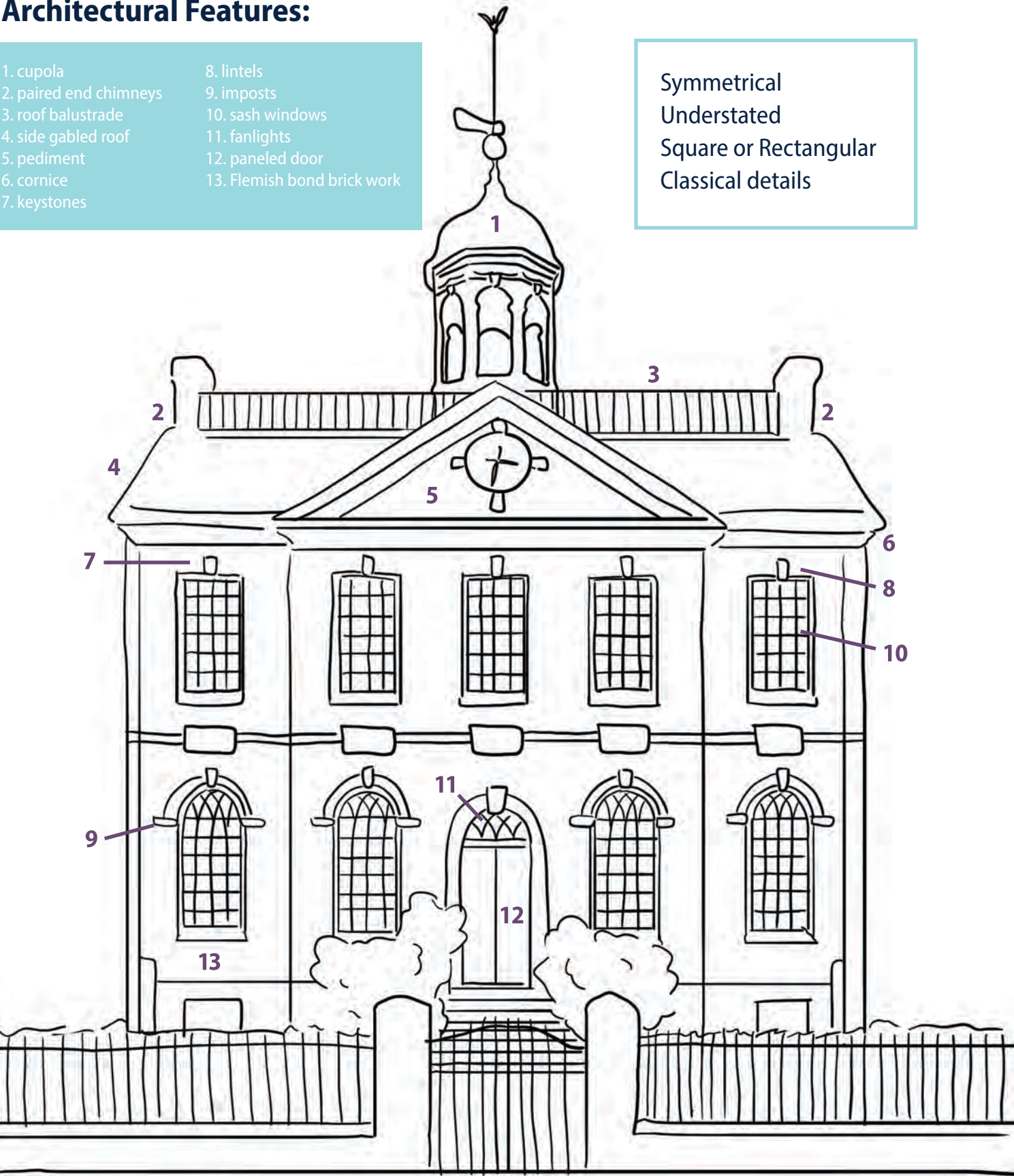
- Georgian** (1700-1780)  
Geor•gian | \ jör-jən \
- based on the classical architecture of Greece and Rome, as revived in Renaissance architecture
  - noted style features include symmetry and proportion
- Federal** (1780-1820)  
fed•er•al | \ fe-d(ə-)rəl \
- being or belonging to a style of architecture and decoration current in the U.S. following the American Revolution



Architectural Features:

1. cupola
2. paired end chimneys
3. roof balustrade
4. side gabled roof
5. pediment
6. cornice
7. keystones
8. lintels
9. imposts
10. sash windows
11. fanlights
12. paneled door
13. Flemish bond brick work

Symmetrical  
Understated  
Square or Rectangular  
Classical details



Is Old Town Hall an example of restoration, renovation, or adaptive reuse?

Examine the pictures of Old Town Hall. What changes do you see in the images?  
How has Old Town Hall changed over time? Some questions to consider as you examine the images:

- ?
- What is the same? What is different?
  - What do the similarities and differences tell us?
  - How are they explained by historical events / trends?
- List some of the changes here:

Now, number the pictures from oldest (1) to newest (4).



When you are finished, look across the street and to your left.



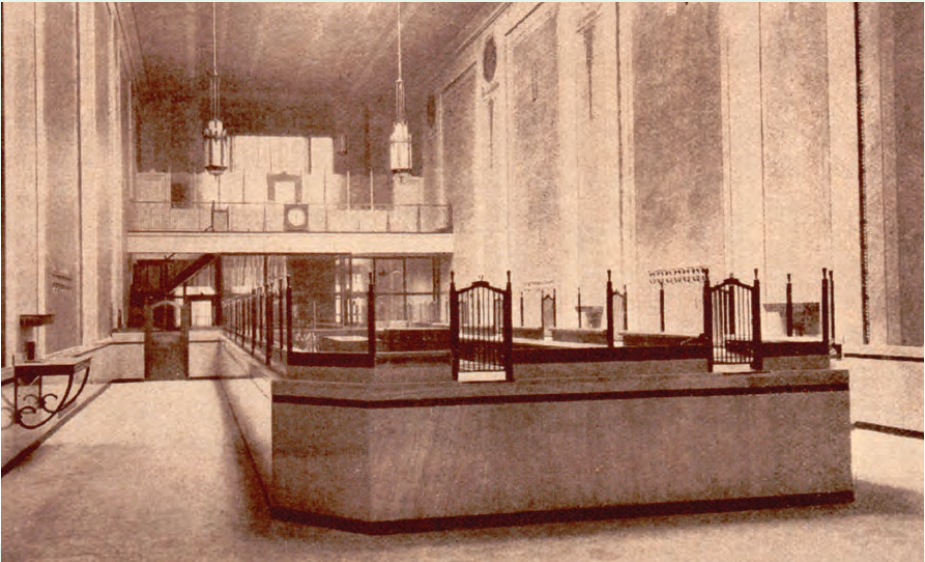
# Do you see a building that looks like this?

This is the home of the Delaware Historical Society's **Research Library and Archives**. In 1971, the Delaware Historical Society purchased the Artisans Savings Bank building to serve as the Research Library and home for its extensive collection of archival documents. In this 1930s **Art Deco**-style building, many of the original features remain intact, including the facade, the interior light fixtures, radiator covers, doors, and the bank vault, which now safeguards precious historical documents.



**Art Deco**  
art de-co | \ ärt-'de-,kō \

- a popular design style of the 1920s and 1930s characterized especially by bold outlines, geometric and zigzag forms, and the use of new materials



Is the Research Library an example of restoration, renovation, or adaptive reuse?



Can you find the Porter House in these images?



**To the left** of the Research Library is the **Robert Porter House**. The Robert Porter House is the flat-roofed, three-story, single-bay, brick, **Federal** style building sandwiched between the Research Library and Levy's Loan Co. (formerly the Central National Bank and, later, Harris Jewelers), on the corner of Market and 5th Streets. Robert Porter, a printer who published one of Wilmington's early newspapers, the *Delaware Journal*, bought the lot and built the house in 1816; he lived there until 1823. The Artisan's Savings Bank purchased the lot along with the adjacent lot in 1926. They sold half of it to the Central National Bank and demolished their half for a new building. The remaining 14-foot-wide building is a testament to early preservation efforts that continue to this day. Recently, the facade of the Porter House was fully restored. When the building was divided in half, the new structural system began to fail over time. Adhering to stringent preservation guidelines, the facade was completely rehabilitated, and the weakened structural system rebuilt by the Delaware Historical Society. The Robert Porter House is the only remaining example of a residential building built in the district before its evolution into the city's financial center in the late 19th century.

Is the Porter House an example of restoration, renovation, or adaptive reuse?



## Cross the street

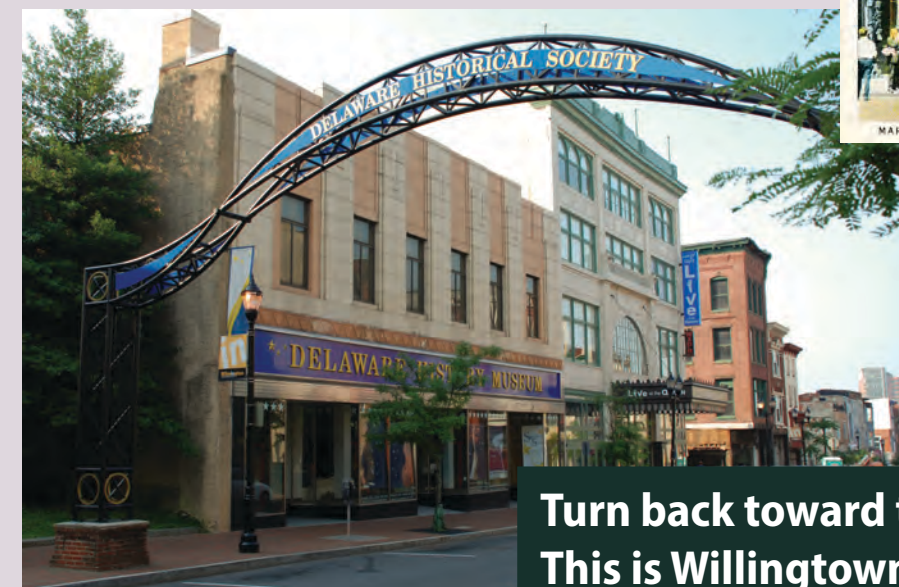
and stand in front of the fenced courtyard, turning to face the Delaware History Museum and Mitchell Center for African American Heritage.



**The Delaware History Museum and Mitchell Center for African American Heritage** are housed in a two-story, six-bay, **Art Deco** commercial building with an orange and peach colored terra-cotta facade. The building was originally built as the home of Woolworth's Department Store. Purchased by the Delaware Historical Society in the 1990s, the new Delaware History Museum officially opened in 1995. In 2014, the Delaware History Museum underwent an extensive renovation and reopened in 2016 as the Delaware History Museum and the Jane and Littleton Mitchell Center for African American Heritage, the only African American History Museum in the state of Delaware.



Is the Delaware History Museum and Mitchell Center for African American Heritage an example of restoration, renovation, or adaptive reuse?



Turn back toward the fenced courtyard.  
This is Willingtown Square.





# Willingtown Square

## History is Here! What is Willingtown Square?

Willingtown Square is a collection of four preserved historic houses constructed between 1748 and 1801. The houses, fine examples of 18th century domestic architecture, did not originally sit on Market Street. They were moved in 1976 during an interest in urban renewal, after the passage of the American Housing Act in 1949, and a patriotic fervor for all things colonial in the lead up to the nation's bicentennial celebrations. Urban renewal emphasized tearing down rather than preserving decaying buildings.

The square is named after Thomas Willing, who originally set out the plans for Wilmington in 1731. In 1949, the passage of the American Housing Act ushered in the era of urban renewal across the United States. This act provided federal funding to clear impoverished areas in cities. In 1964, plans were developed to demolish dozens of houses on Wilmington's East Side, a predominantly Black neighborhood, to make way for a new civic center. As a result, all the houses that are now situated in Willingtown Square were in danger of demolition. Preservationists in the state joined the historical society in their efforts to save these six homes, examples of urban working-class and middle-class homes representative of the time period in which they were built. The original plan for a historic enclave around the Customs House at 6th and King Streets was later abandoned. The area around Old Swedes Church was considered, but there was concern about moving predominantly Quaker built and owned houses to an area best associated with the early days of the colony established by the Swedes. Ultimately, it was decided to demolish buildings adjacent to the historical society's

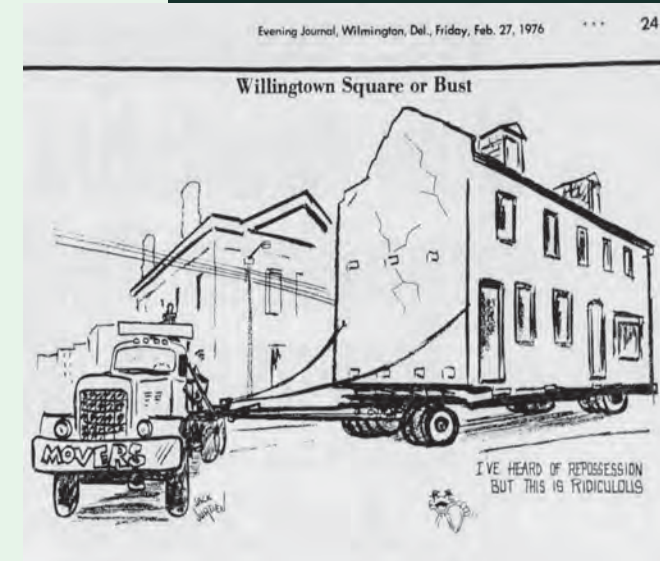
research library to create a historic and ethnic enclave, in the care of the Historical Society of Delaware (Delaware Historical Society). Demolition began in 1975 and Willingtown Square was completed in 1976, just in time for Wilmington's months-long celebration of the nation's bicentennial. Today, Willingtown Square is a contemporary interpretation of an 18th century village green and provides a visual backdrop for learning how ordinary Wilmingtonians lived in the early 1800s.

All the houses in Willingtown Square are examples of Vernacular architecture.

### Vernacular

ver·nac·u·lar | \vər-'na-kyə-lər\

- of or relating to the common style of a particular time, place, or group
- architecture concerned with domestic and functional rather than public or monumental buildings



## Why were these houses preserved?

When Willingtown Square was created, few homes survived from the time when Wilmington was first established and the mercantile, milling, and shipping industries emerged in the Borough of Wilmington. Willingtown Square's 4 buildings are examples of Wilmington's 18th century domestic architecture.

Standing at the gates to Willingtown Square, look to your left at the Cook-Simms-Valko House.



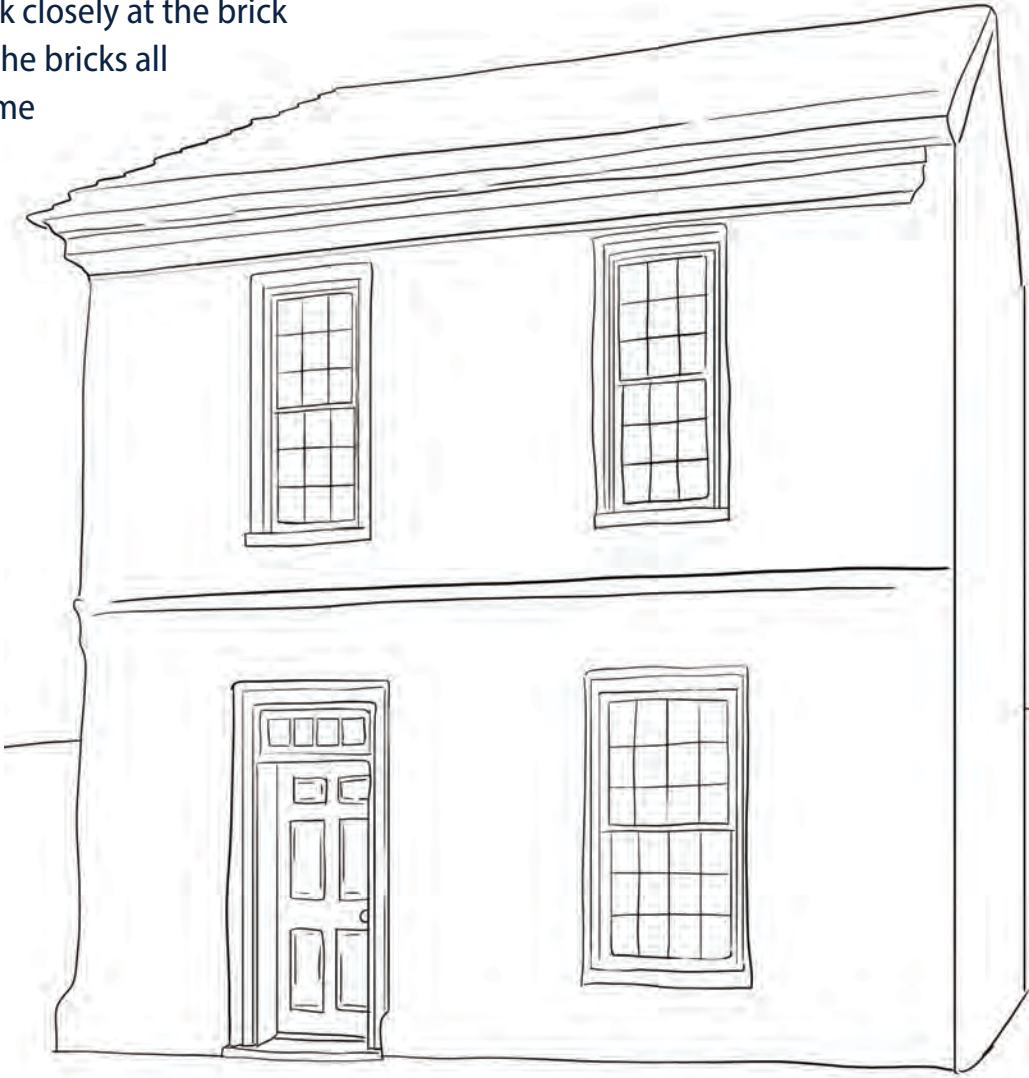
# Cook-Simms-Valko House

## Architectural Analysis

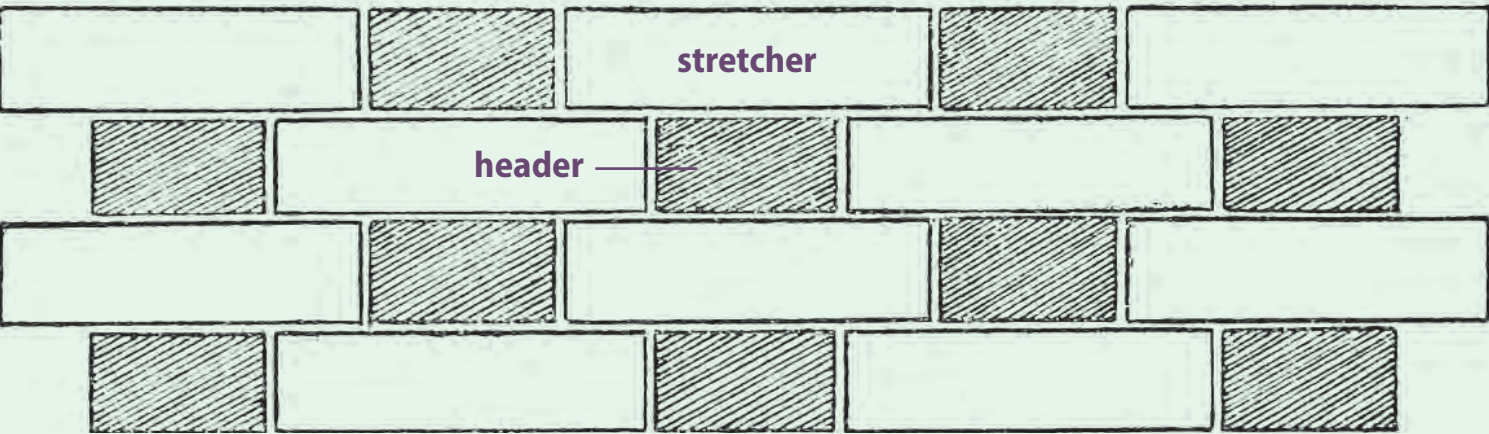
The Cook-Simms-Valko House is a two-story house laid in **Flemish bond**. **Glazed headers** and two **belt courses** decorate the **gable** end facing Market Street. **WAIT! WHAT?!** If you are an architecture newbie, you might be a little confused right now. Let's step back and learn a little bit about architecture, using the Cook-Simms-Valko House as an example.

Look closely at the Cook-Simms-Valko House from all angles.  
What materials were used to build the Cook-Simms-Valko House?

That's right! The Cook-Simms-Valko House is made of brick. Stand on Market Street and look closely at the brick work. What do you notice? Do the bricks all look the same? Are they the same size? What is the pattern? Draw the pattern of the brickwork onto the building here.

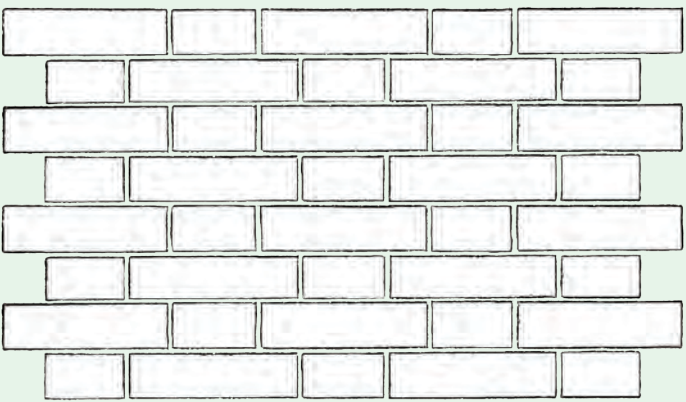


Does your drawing have alternating long bricks with smaller bricks? The long brick is called a **stretcher** and the short brick is called a **header** (the short end of the brick faces out).

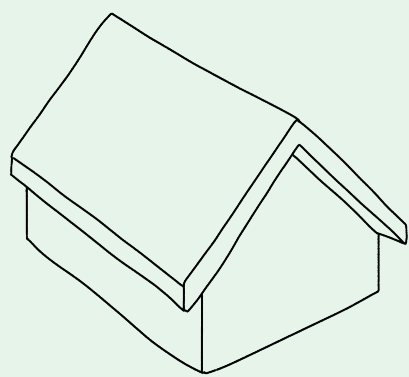


Notice how the stretcher brick is next to the header brick in each row. The center of each header is over the center of the stretcher brick below. This pattern is called **Flemish Bond**.

Let's take a closer look. Do you see black bricks on the wall? Using a pencil, fill in the pattern on the image where you see black bricks on the wall. The black bricks are called **glazed headers** and they were used for decoration. Glazed headers were commonly found on houses built in the late 1600s and early 1700s.



Now look up at the roof line from Market Street. It looks like this:



This is a gable roof. A gable roof has two sections that meet at the top, like two sides of a triangle. Where the two sides meet is called the ridge.

Under the attic window you will see two rows of bricks built out from the wall. These are called belt courses. Belt courses were used for decoration.

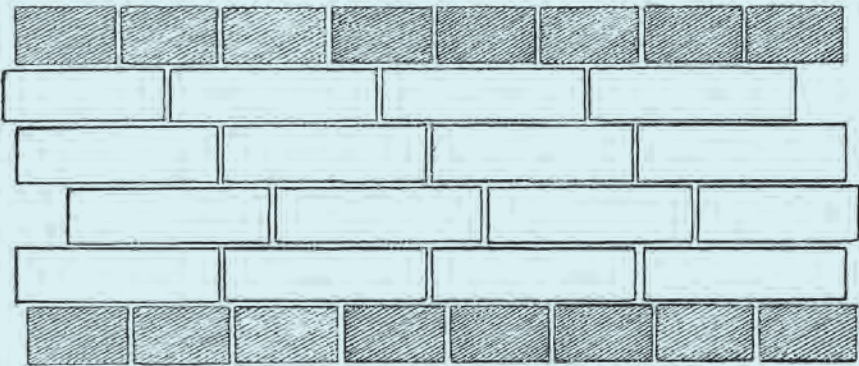
Using your pencil, draw the belt courses below the window on the picture to the left. Do you see any more belt courses? You should be able to find two. Draw them in the picture.



If you look closely at the Cook-Simms-Valko house from all sides, you might notice that one side is different...

Did you find it? **Yes!** It's the side facing Willingtown Square. Draw the brickwork on that side below.

This is called common bond.  
This pattern can be recognized  
by multiple rows of stretchers  
between rows of headers.  
It looks like this:



How many rows of stretchers do you see between  
the headers on the Cook-Simms-Valko House? \_\_\_\_

History is Here!

The Cook-Simms-Valko House was built in 1778 by William Cook, a Presbyterian Minister, at 101 East 4th Street, on the corner of 4th and King Streets. The building operated as the Rose Tree Inn and Tavern for almost a century. From 1838 to 1841, the building housed a grocery store run by Ellis Sanders. In 1841, Cook’s granddaughter inherited the house and leased it to “eclectic physician” John Simms. Simms used the building as a medicinal/pharmaceutical store, selling herbal remedies for whatever ailed the citizens of Wilmington. Simms died in 1863, but his son, John Henry, continued the business, eventually moving to bustling Market Street in 1892. The next residents of the home, David Pogue and his son Harry, turned the apothecary’s shop into a cigar emporium. Finally, sometime during the Roaring 20s, the house passed to a family of Greek immigrants, William and Hazel Valko, who turned the space into a restaurant called “The Sanitary Lunch”, home of “the original Hot Texas Wiener.” The Valko family operated their restaurant until 1969.

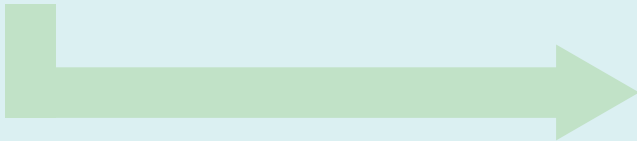
Move on to the  
Dingee Houses,  
to the right of  
the Cook-Simms-  
Valko House.

Dingee Houses

Architectural Analysis

The Dingee Houses are a pair of two-story brick houses with an adjoining alleyway, now filled in. The floor plan originally called for two rooms on each floor with a fireplace in each room.

What is the shape of the adjoining alleyway?  
Draw a picture here!



You have drawn an **arch**, a curved structure that may or may not support part of the building above.

The brickwork on the Dingee Houses is \_\_\_\_\_. It is the same pattern on the Cook-Simms-Valko House wall that faces Market Street.

One house has glazed headers. Can you spot the glazed headers? The house on the \_\_\_\_\_ has glazed headers.

Each of the Dingee houses has a **dormer window**. These windows increase light and air flow in the top floor of a building. The dormer windows were probably added at a later date to create a more comfortable livable space on the top floors. These dormer windows have a \_\_\_\_\_ roof.



Notice that the two houses look like one big house.  
This is because two design features span both houses.

One of these is the **cornice**, a decorative element at the top of a wall that projects out.

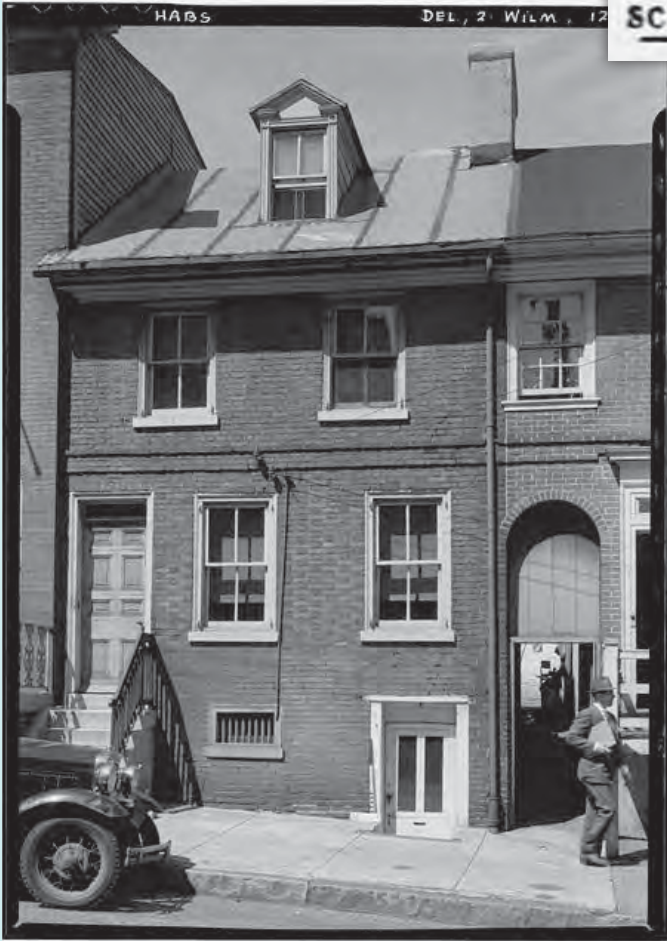
The other design feature is below the upstairs windows.  
It is a \_\_\_\_\_.

(Hint - you saw this on the Cook-Simms-Valko house!)



History is Here!

**RICH FURNITURE REPAIR SHOP—**  
105 E. 7th St. Polish. refinish. re-  
move cigarette burns. plate marks.  
scratches in your home. 5-0294—4-2847.



Located at 105 and 107 East 7th Street, originally believed to have been built by Quaker brothers, Jacob and Obadiah Dingee in 1771 and 1773, archaeological evidence collected in the backyard of the houses prior to removal to Willingtown Square suggests that they were built sometime between 1800 and 1812. The Dingee brothers were house carpenters, joiners, and cabinet makers. It is unclear whether they ever lived in the houses or used them as investment properties. Over the years, the house was occupied by many different people, including Jeremiah Woolston, Quaker bricklayer & iron monger and Elisha Huxley, contractor, builder, city councilman, and Director of Wilmington Whaling Company and Farmers' Bank. Before their relocation in 1976, the houses were occupied by Levitatz Jewelers and Sanitary Barber. The Dingee Houses are typical examples of 18th century urban residences, continuously occupied by working class families of Wilmington.

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in Town**  
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Jeweler  
105 E. 7TH ST.  
PH. 4-2847

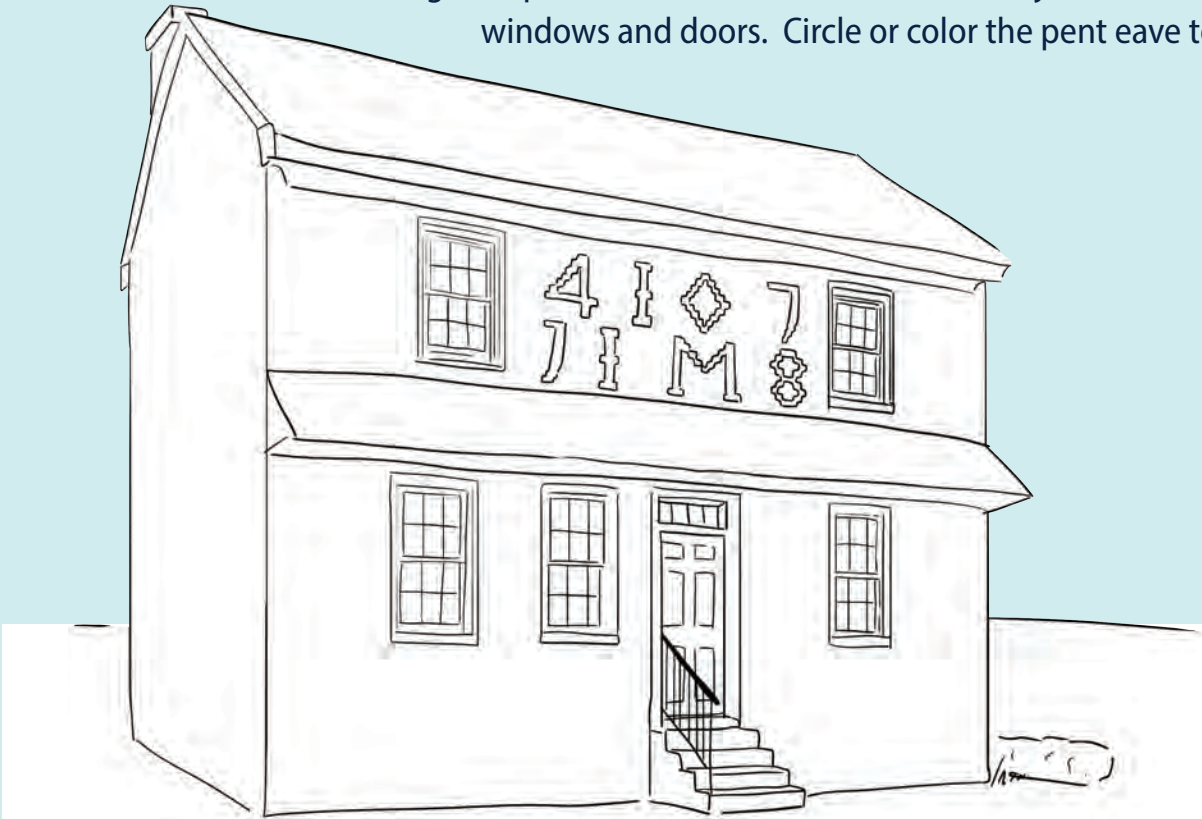
**Our First Grade Milk**  
Can't be duplicated  
for the price, quart... **15c**  
Also a grade at..... 10c Qt.  
**J. M. GRAY**  
105 E. 7th ST. Phone 4799-J

**To the right  
of the Dingee  
Houses is the  
Jacobs-Ferris  
House.**

Jacobs - Ferris House

Architectural Analysis

The Jacobs-Ferris House is a two-story brick house with **pent eaves**, a small single-sloped roof that is attached to a house just above the first floor windows and doors. Circle or color the pent eave to the picture below:



Now look at the bricks under the first floor windows. They look different, don't they? Notice how the lower bricks are built out further than the Flemish bond bricks. *Can you guess why?* The cellar walls are thicker than the ones above because they support the walls of the house. This rounded row of bricks is called a **molded water table**. Water tables support the structure of a building and redirect water running down the face of a building away from the foundation. *Why is this important?*

Using what you learned from examining the Cook-Simms-Valko House and the Dingee Houses, fill in or circle the answer to the following questions:

The brickwork on the Jacobs-Ferris House is \_\_\_\_\_.

True or False      The Jacobs-Ferris house has glazed headers.

True or False      The Jacobs-Ferris House has a gable roof.

True or False      There is a belt course on the Jacob-Ferris House.

True or False      There is no cornice on the Jacob-Ferris House.



History Is Here!

The Jacobs-Ferris house is believed to be the oldest remaining house in Wilmington. Built between 1718 and 1748 by Griffith Minshall, and bought by Quakers Job and Mary Jacobs in 1745, it originally stood at 414 West Second Street. The Jacobs-Ferris House is considered an excellent example of an early farmhouse continuously occupied by professional and working-class people of Wilmington. The house was purchased by Quaker Zachariah Ferris in 1768. Ferris was a tanner and co-owned, with his two brothers, a large tan yard at Second and Tatnall Streets, near his home. For a brief time after Ferris’ death the house was owned, although not lived in, by Louis McLane, a member of Congress, Minister to England, Secretary of the Treasury and Secretary of State, Outerbridge Horsey, United States Senator from 1810 to 1821, and David Wilson, commander of the Third Company of Wilmington Artillery during the War of 1812, a director of a fire insurance company and of the Whaling Company in 1833. Later occupants included a car builder, cabinet maker, butcher, and carpenter.

An architectural mystery?

Sometimes we think we know something, but the more we read and study we may learn that what we thought was wrong. This is the case with the brickwork design on the second floor facade of the Jacobs-Ferris House. What do you notice about the bricks between the second story windows? The bricks have been placed in a way to look like numbers and letters. A secret code! *But what does it mean?*



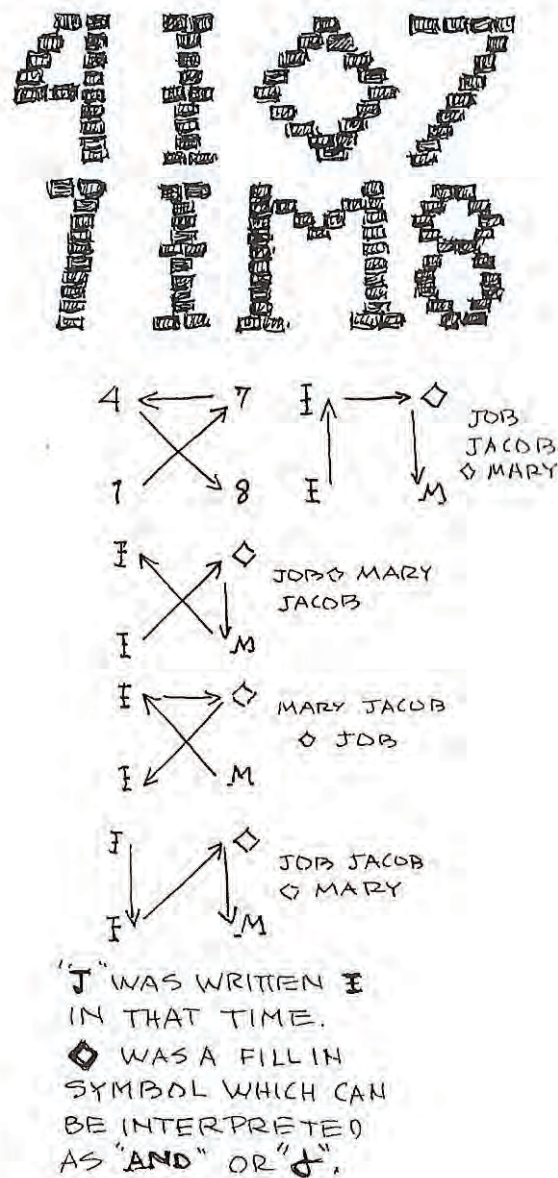
What do you think the secret code means?

The house was built on land owned by John Andrew Stalcop, a Swede, in 1671, and sold to Samuel Peterson in 1675. There is some confusion in later deed records, as the original tract was sold off in smaller acreages; however, the house has Swedish design elements - the floor plan and placement of corner chimneys. There is a man with the initials O. M. in the records of Trinity (Old Swedes) Church during the right time-period, Olaf Mansson. It is possible the secret code indicates the date 1718, with the Initials OM. *What do you think?*

Later, as historians learned more about the house, a new theory emerged about the meaning of the secret code. In the 1740s, Quaker Job Jacobs bought the house and lived there with his wife Mary. Let’s look at that code again, keeping this new information in mind.

Try to figure out the possible code using the key to the right.

Now, what do you think the secret code means?



Unfortunately, we can’t be 100% sure about what the code means, but we can make a guess based on the historical evidence.



Turn around & look for the Coxe Houses, behind you.



# Coxe House

## Architectural Analysis

Use your new found Architecture Investigation skills to answer the following questions about the Coxe Houses:

Do the Coxe Houses have Flemish bond brickwork?

Do the Coxe Houses have glazed headers?

Do the Coxe Houses have a connecting cornice and belt course?

Is there a molded water table?

How many belt courses decorate the front of the houses?

Was there an alley between the Coxe Houses?

Do the Coxe Houses have a pent eave roof?

Do the Coxe Houses have dormer windows?

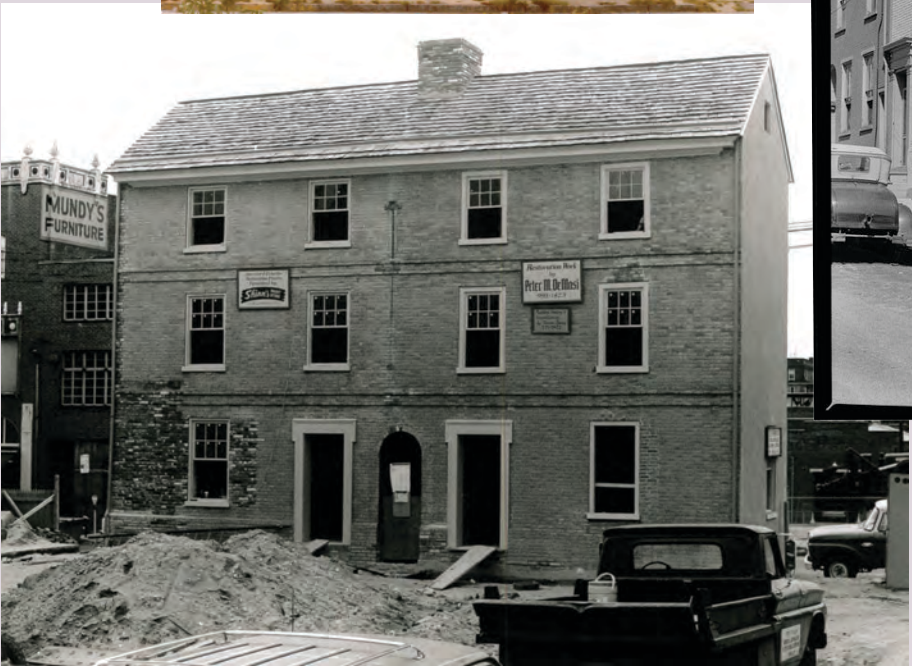
## History is Here!

Originally located at 107 and 109 East Sixth Street, Thomas Coxe built these adjoining houses in 1801 for his daughters, Catherine Rumford and Margaret Coxe Rumford. The houses were occupied by descendants of Thomas Coxe until 1957. At the time of the houses’ move to Willingtown Square, much of the interior was unaltered, with many of the original cupboards, doors, partitions, trim and mantel still intact. Thomas Coxe was an immigrant from England, his property was granted to him by the Duke of York. The first major brick maker in Wilmington, Coxe and his wife lived across the street from his daughters.

In 1898, Adas Kodesch bought the Zion Lutheran Church at Sixth and French Streets. This building, directly across the street from the Coxe daughters’ houses, became the first synagogue in Delaware.

Ernest Reiver, a Jewish WWII veteran, was the last owner of the Coxe house before it was moved.

The Coxe House is now the home of the **Jewish Historical Society of Delaware’s Center for Jewish History.**





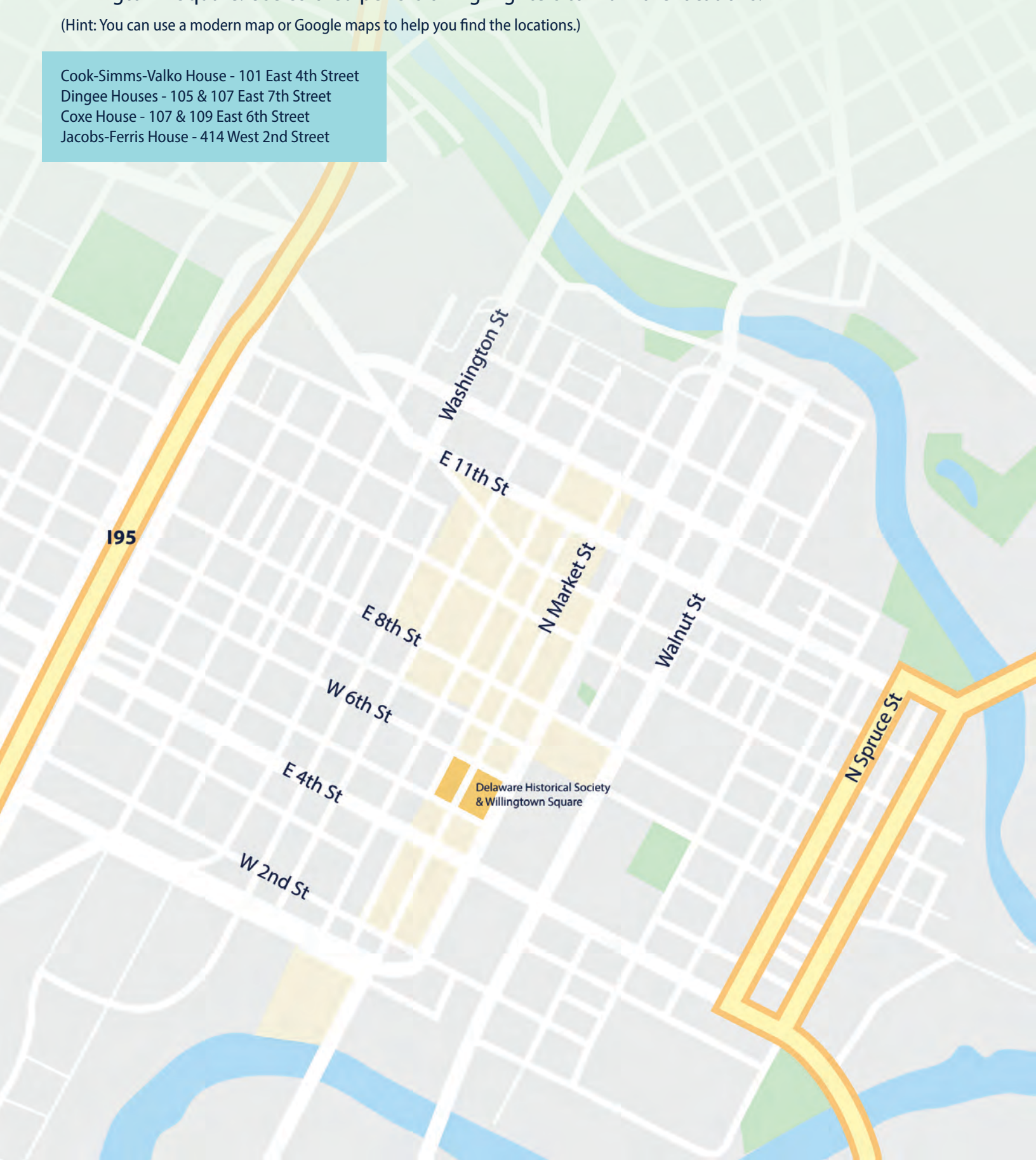
# Mapping Willingtown Square Houses



Use the map below to discover the original locations of the buildings in Willingtown Square. Use colored pencils or highlighters to mark the locations.

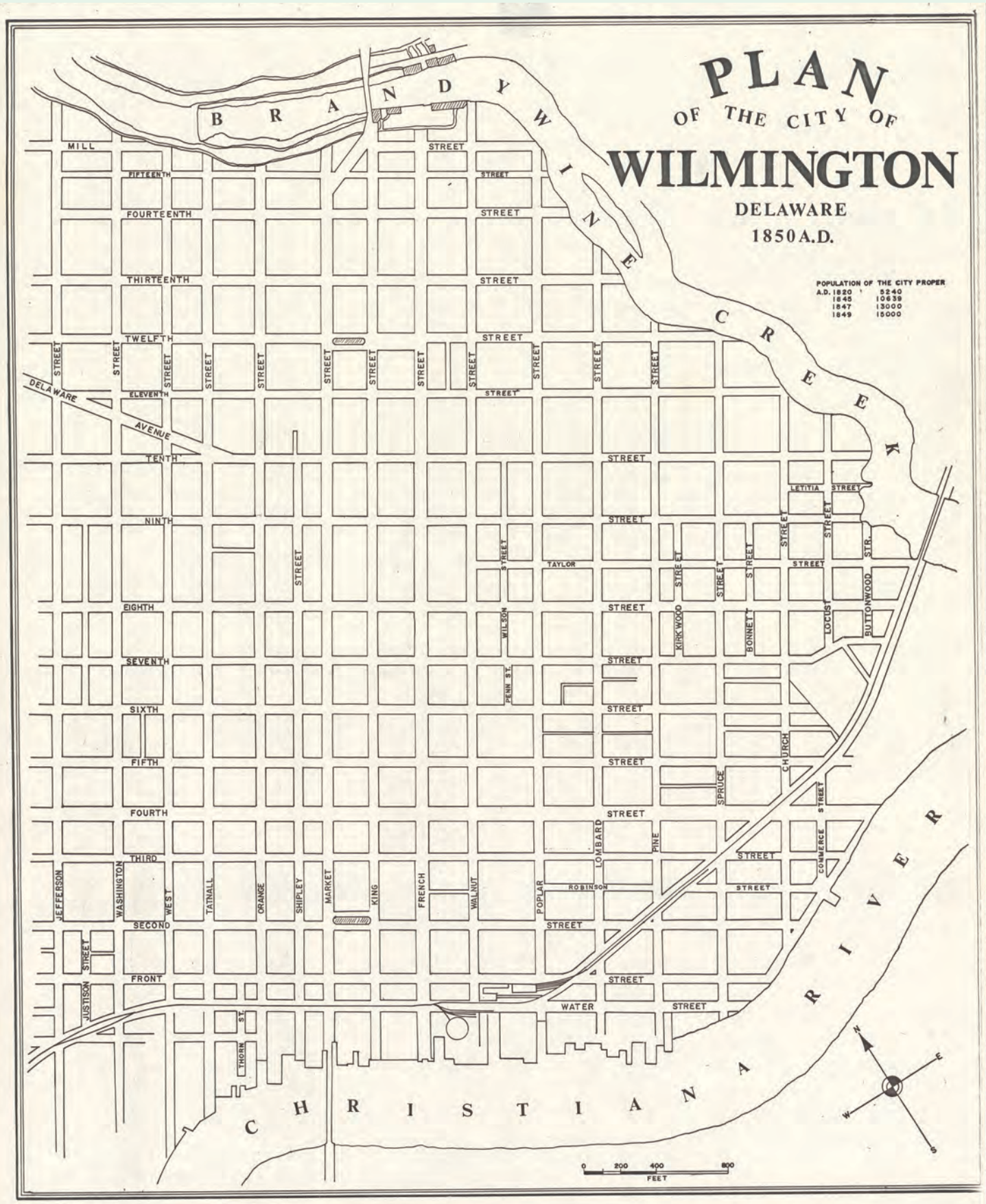
(Hint: You can use a modern map or Google maps to help you find the locations.)

- Cook-Simms-Valko House - 101 East 4th Street
- Dingee Houses - 105 & 107 East 7th Street
- Coxe House - 107 & 109 East 6th Street
- Jacobs-Ferris House - 414 West 2nd Street



### Try it on a historic map!

Scan here to download the Plan of the City of Wilmington map from 1850. (or use the one below)





# How do historians research historic houses & buildings?

## Save a Historic House!

for educational and entertainment purposes only

Now that you are an expert in Architectural and Historical Investigation, the Delaware Historical Society needs your help!

The Coxe Houses and the Cook-Simms-Valko House are not listed on the National Register of Historic Places like the Dingee Houses and the Jacobs-Ferris House. Use your new architectural and historical knowledge and skills to conduct an architectural and historical investigation of the Cook-Simms-Valko House and the Coxe Houses to determine if they are important enough to be on the National Register of Historic Places.

Use the [Delaware Historical Society Department of Historic Investigation](#) worksheet (on the following pages) to submit your investigation results to the Delaware Historical Society. Once you are finished, you can use the worksheet to investigate other buildings and houses in your community.

Start your investigation by visiting the Delaware Historical Society’s Research Library, where you can find books about the history of Wilmington, architecture, city directories, and family histories. You can also find historic documents, photographs, maps, diaries, historic newspapers, and more. The Research Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



## Delaware Historical Society Department of Historic Investigation

# Investigation of Historic Places Form

Name of Building:

Location of Building:

Building Drawings:

Front

Side (if applicable)

Brief Description:

Architectural Features: (check all that apply)

☐ Flemish Bond

☐ Gable Roof

☐ Common Bond

☐ Pent Eave

☐ Glazed Headers

☐ Water Table

☐ Belt Course - How many? \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Arch

☐ Special Brick Design

☐ Do you know any other architectural features not mentioned? If so list them here:

☐ Cornice



How has this building been used throughout its history? (house, office, store, etc.?)

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Why is this building historically significant?

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Is this building worth saving? Why or why not? (Think about the building's history and architecture.)

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Sources: (Where can you find historical information about buildings?)

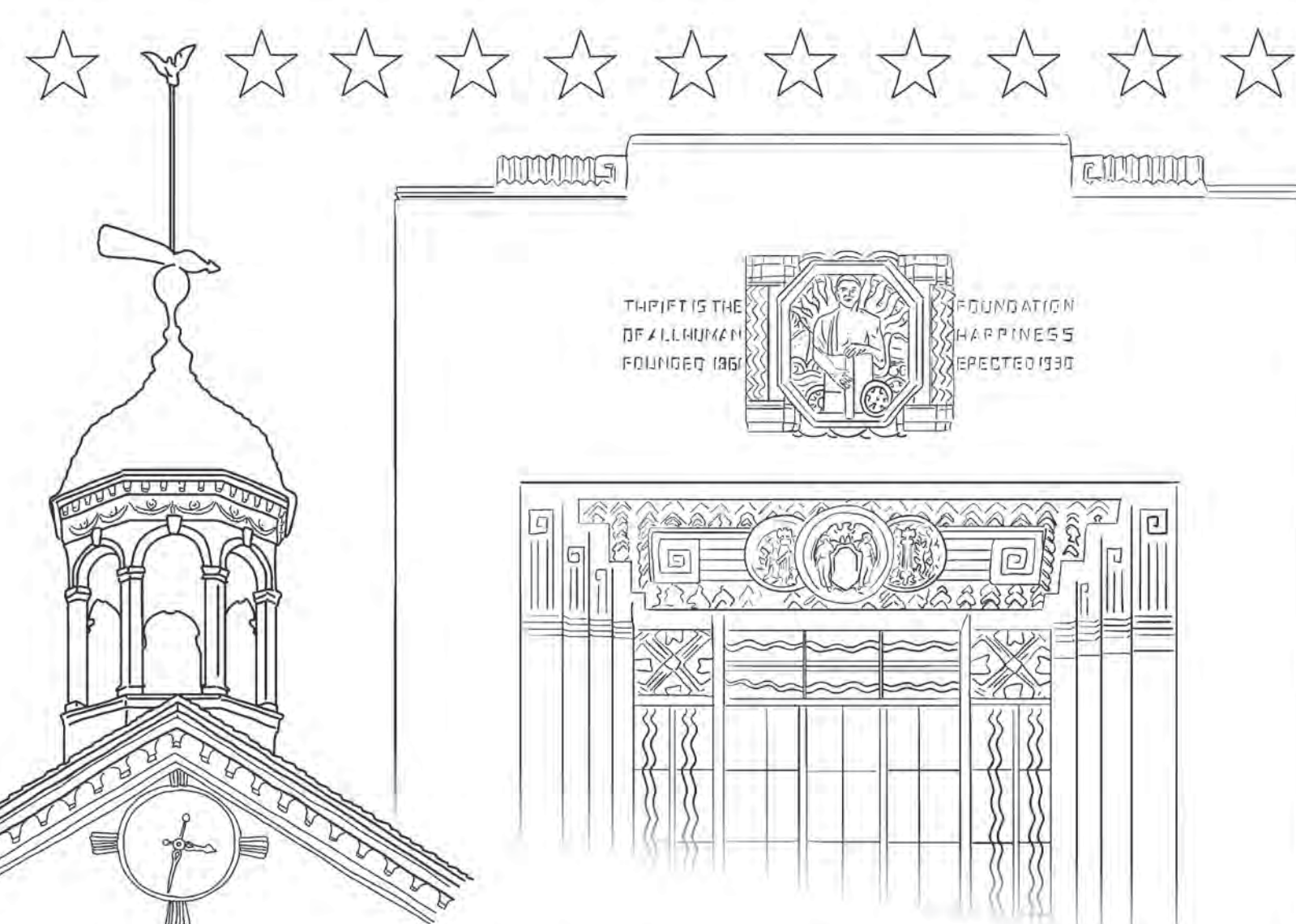
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- ☐ Historic Documents
- ☐ Church Records
- ☐ Newspapers
- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Oral Histories
- ☐ Online sources (Name your online sources)
- ☐ Historic Photos
- ☐ Other (list)
- ☐ History Books

**Map:**  
Draw a map of the building showing where it is located and any other important buildings or landmarks near it.







# BUILDINGS OF THE DELAWARE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Scan here to download our DHS Buildings Coloring Book!



