

Walking Tour of Delanco's Riverfront Historic District

Notes provided by Peter Fritz, Chair, Delanco Preservation Advisory Board

It is well-established that the area at the confluence of the Rancocas Creek and the Delaware was home to paleo Indians 10,000 years ago. Many sites have been documented. The Lenni Lenape of the Woodland period were active in this area until the coming of the Europeans in the early 1600s. Waves of Dutch, Belgian and Swedish explorers established outposts here, but were eventually pushed out by English Quakers in the later 1670s. Several of these Quaker families were especially influential in the settlement of our area.

Fenimore Family: The family descends from **Richard Fenimore**, one of the original party of English Quakers, who immigrated to America aboard the Kent, landing in Burlington City in 1677. Richard settled in Willingboro township and amassed a great deal of property. Richard established a large farm in the Beverly-Delanco area below the first Jacob Perkins farm. It remained in the family for many years and was described as 350 acres in a will dated 1756, much of which became the town of Delanco.

In 1788, a later **Richard Fenimore** was considered the second richest man in Willingboro Township, based on declarations on local tax rolls. Richard had three daughters, but no sons: **Elizabeth** who married **William Cooper**, and **Rachel** who married **John Heaton**. These marriages occurred within a week of each other. His youngest daughter, **Rebecca** married **Paul Wilmerton**. Fenimore gave considerable acreage to each of his daughters on the occasion of their marriages. **William and Elizabeth Cooper** were gifted land on the Great Road and established an inn and the hamlet of Cooper Town at that location. The Heaton and Wilmerton farms constituted much of what would become the village of Delanco.

Perkins Family: In 1748 **Abraham Perkins** acquired property and built a farmhouse on the bank of the Delaware River just north of the point where the Rancocas joins. The property remained in the Perkins family for several generations until 1848 when it was sold to **James Wilson Wallace**, a principal in the Delaware Land Company.

Fletcher Family: Thomas S. Fletcher was born in New Hampshire in 1787; elder brother of Charles Fletcher. Thomas moved to Boston in 1806 and apprenticed to a shopkeeper. His name first appears in a Boston directory in 1809 as a jeweler working for silversmith Sidney Gardiner with his younger brother Charles. Gardiner took Thomas and Charles to Philadelphia in 1811 where they continued the trade for some years. About 1825 Fletcher married Melina deGrasse Vernon of Massachusetts. They had eight children. Thomas Fletcher's business partner, Charles Gardiner died in 1827 while abroad. Fletcher then worked in partnership with Calvin W. Bennett until the business failed and went to auction about 1842. The Fletchers also operated a boarding house in Philadelphia. In 1848 the Fletcher family purchased 30 acres from Richard Wilmerton in Delanco to establish a vineyard. In 1850, they sold the Philadelphia boarding house and moved the family to Delanco to concentrate on the winery, which operated for over fifty years. Thomas spent the remainder of his life in Delanco where he died in 1866. Most of this acreage remained as farmland until after 1920.

The village of Delaranco was an invention of **Richard Wilmerton**, who laid out a community and secured a charter in 1848. Richard sold 30 acres to the Fletchers in 1848 for a vineyard and winery. Wilmerton's village lay along the Rancocas Creek and was largely populated by fishermen and factory workers. The Delaware Riverfront was acquired from the Perkins family by the Delaware Land Company – A group of wealthy industrialists from Philadelphia. These larger lots were developed into summer homes for wealthy Philadelphia society. Eventually the two communities merged to become Delanco as we know it today. It was independently incorporated in 1926. It is this Delaware waterfront that we will tour today.

Delanco Riverview Park – 330 Delaware Ave

This newest addition to Delanco’s waterfront was formerly part of the Zurbrugg estate which was purchased by the township in 2006. It was retained when the rest of the property was sold in 2008.

330 Delaware Avenue between Union Ave and Willow.



View from foot of Union Avenue



For over 130 years a Victorian gazebo sat on the riverbank. It was originally built about 1870 to match the architectural style of the Woods Mansion. Support posts and eave details matched the porch detail on the Woods Mansion. When the Zurbruggs moved the Woods mansion, they left the gazebo at the riverfront site.

Original Woods gazebo. Note steamer at wharf beyond



Similar view of the wharf during visit by the Columbia



The gazebo platform and roof had been rebuilt at least once and the original 24” wooden railings were later replaced by inappropriate wrought iron fencing. The structure became underwashed and was finally demolished in 2007.

We hope that Delanco will eventually replace the structure, which was a popular feature on the waterfront for 140 years.

The replacement gazebo most folks remember



401 Delaware S Delaware Ave at Cedar 1748
Abraham Perkins farm/Diehl Wilson House
“Windswept”



Backyard view with garden house



Frequently named as the oldest residence in Delanco, the original structure was a 2-story farmhouse built by Delanco pioneer Abraham Perkins in 1748. The property remained in the Perkins family until 1838 when it was purchased by James Wilson Wallace, Esq., a partner in the Delaware Land Co.

In 1848 Mr. Wallace constructed a major 2-story addition to the western end of the original farmhouse. The house appears on the Wilmerton Delaranco Map of 1852.

In 1856 the property was acquired by John H. & Elizabeth S. Diehl. It remained in the hands of the Diehl family for the next 140 years. The shoreline feature became known as Diehl's Point on maps. The owners in 1883 were listed as John H. Diehl

(probably the son of John listed above). In 1925 John Diehl claimed that the original farmhouse was over 200 years old. When Susan Diehl lived in the house it was known as *Windswept*. She was listed in residence as Susan M. Diehl (wid. Miller) in the 1929 Delanco Directory.

The Diehls constructed a second addition, including a 2-car garage, to the east side of the original farmhouse.

William and Geraldine Diehl-Wilson



William & Geraldine Diehl-Wilson were listed in residence in 1976 and 1984. Mr. & Mrs. Philip Brackett were listed as owners in 2003 and reside there currently.

415? Delaware S C. 1855?
B. Laguerenne House (site)

On the 1859 Delanco map, the name B. Laguerenne appears next to the Diehl-Wilson property. The Laguerennes were Philadelphia industrialists with large mills located on the Schuylkill River. This was perhaps a summer home or vacation retreat for the family. On 1849 maps the Laguerenne family name appears at the east end of Delanco, just south of Burlington Pike near Perkins Lane. This may be the home of the parent. The matriarch of the family claims to have descended from a well-to-do French family of Haiti. The family appears to have later moved to Guerrero Mexico.

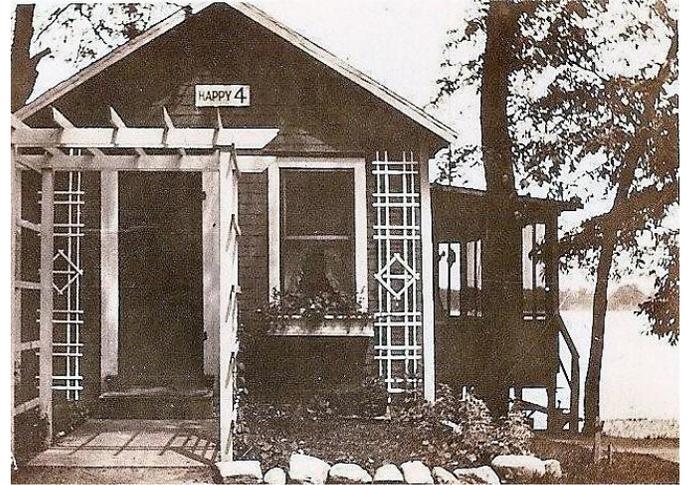
426 Delaware N

C. 1916

Kathryn & Tommy Fitzpatrick
Houseboat Cottage (site)

This is the site of the former houseboat cottage of Thomas C. “Tommy” and Kathryn Fitzpatrick, grandparents of township committee member Kate Fitzpatrick. Tommy was a master carver whose award-winning duck decoys now frequently come to auction valued at over \$10,000. Tommy constructed the houseboat to be seaworthy, but he set it on a stone foundation on the bank of the river. They tied it to the phone pole for safety. The Fitzpatrick family was listed at there in the 1929 Delanco Directory. After Tommy’s death the structure was sold, launched, and towed away to a new location.

430 Delaware Avenue



Tale of Four Mansions

Note the brick pillars - Part of the Zurbrugg estate and listed on the national historic registry – They are considered the gateway to Delanco’s Riverfront Historic District.



500 block Delaware N?

1795

Fenimore-Cooper Manor House (site)

A little-known chapter of Delanco history is that, for a brief period, the family of noted author James Fenimore Cooper had a grand riverfront mansion on the Delaware. The exact location is suspected, but not yet confirmed.



Tommy Fitzpatrick – Delanco Waterman



According to the Burlington County Historical Society, William Cooper of Byberry, Pennsylvania married Elizabeth Fenimore, the daughter of Rancocas Quaker landowner Richard Fenimore in 1789. In the early 1780s the couple established a tavern and a small community on the Great Road (Route 130) in Wellingborough that came to be known as Cooper’s Town.

The Cooper’s moved to Burlington City, where James Cooper was born in 1789. He legally added the name Fenimore in later years.

Eighteen months later William Cooper moved his family to Otsego County in upstate New York where he had purchased 29,350 acres and established a second community called Coopertown.

Appointed a Judge, William Cooper, a Federalist, was elected to the fourth and sixth US Congress, which met at Philadelphia. He served from 1795-1797 and 1799-1801.

To be near the city, William built a “grand riverfront mansion as befits a congressman” here in 1795, probably on land acquired from his brother-in-law Richard Heaton.

Young James Cooper would have frequently visited here, spending formative years on the banks of the Delaware in our town. The family sold the mansion about 1801 and all trace of it has since been lost. Research continues on this important site.

Judge William Cooper



Interesting find: 1794 Liberty Large Cap Cent found by Ron Manka in the river mud off the foot of Willow St.



The Cooper's son James grew to become the great American Author, James Fenimore Cooper.

James Fenimore Cooper (1789 – 1851)



505 Delaware Ave at Willow Street
Woods Mansion originally built 1870
Moved to 229 Willow St in 1910

This is the approximate address of the 3-story Mansard Victorian Woods Mansion. The original property may have been owned by Caleb Clothier, a partner in the Delanco Land Co. Mr. & Mrs. George Wood were owners in 1886. David Van Cleaf, President of the Delaware Steamboat Company is also reported to have lived there. The first photo is a colorized postcard showing the mansion in this original location.

In 1908 the property was purchased by Theophilus and Lizette Mueller Zurbrugg, who had the mansion moved to its current location. The purpose was two-fold: The Zurbruggs needed the additional property to construct their grand mansion and they planned

to preserve the Woods Mansion as a guest house. The move was performed by Hartschorn & Co. of Moorestown using wooden rollers and teams of horses.

Theophilus Zurbrugg suffered a second stroke and died in 1912. The Woods property was sold and the mansion was occupied by a succession of residents, including Fred & Elizabeth Bohnberger, who added a rear addition and were operating it as a boarding house in 1913. Subsequent owners included Fred & Elizabeth Hunt, who operated Hunt's Super Service; and Dr. Alan M. Schaeffer who operated a medical clinic on the ground floor and lived upstairs for many years.

This photo shows the Woods Mansion at its original location on the Delaware waterfront



229 Willow Street at Third – Dr. Shaffer's Res and Clinic



A large addition was built on the rear of the property.



537 Delaware S at Union* C. 1850
Carruthers-Johnson Mansion (site)

The corner of Delaware and Union Avenue is the site of the former Carruthers-Johnson Mansion. It may have been constructed by Captain Henry Gregg about 1850. The structure appears on the maps as early as 1856. The 2-story stucco Italianate mansion was noted for the 3-story observation tower centered above the front entrance.

It was owned by Mr. & Mrs. James A. Carruthers in 1859. It was owned by the Charles Lathrop family in the 1860s, and then sold to W.H. Johnson, who owned it in 1876. It was acquired by Carl McIntyre as part of the *Bible Presbyterian Home* in 1949. It received special recognition as part of Delanco's Bicentennial in 1976. The property was acquired as part of *the Columns* in 1992. It was temporarily reopened and used as a boutique in 1995 as part of the Zurbrugg-Rancocas Hospital Designer Show House project. The building was maintained, but not used by the Columns. The structure stood empty and was frequently vandalized over the years until it was demolished about 1998. The site is now occupied by the first of the Riverwalk townhouses.

The Gregg-Carruthers-Lathrop Mansion



Rev. Charles C. Lathrop: Charles Coan Lathrop was an anti-slavery legislator who served in the Louisiana legislature prior to the Civil War and in the NJ legislature during the Civil War. He was born in Shelburne VT in 1818. He married Harriet Elizabeth Nichols of Middlebury VT. Charles and Elizabeth moved to Jackson, Louisiana where four of their children were born.

Charles was active in politics and became a leading and influential member of the Louisiana Legislature.

Charles had a firm conviction that slavery was a moral wrong and a political evil, and that it must cease, sooner or later. He educated his own slaves, as far as he was able (their education being contrary to the laws of Louisiana), and adopted a system by which they could work out their freedom. He even purchased slaves to give them this opportunity, and thus aided them in gaining their liberty.

To avoid the influence of slavery in his own family, he moved north to Philadelphia in 1856. Two additional children were born in Philadelphia.

They moved on to Delanco NJ about 1861. They lived in the former Carruthers Mansion on Delaware Avenue at the foot of Union Avenue. Their youngest child, Edmund Dorrance Lathrop was born April 23, 1864 in Delanco. Elizabeth Lathrop died in 1865 and Charles returned her to Vermont for burial. Charles served on Delanco Township Committee from 1864

through 1867. He was elected to the N.J. Legislature and served from 1865-1866.

President Lincoln offered him an appointment as Collector of the Port of New Orleans, which he declined. Charles gave material aid to the Government during the war and was offered an appointment as an Aide on Governor Butler's staff, which he also declined.

The Lathrop family remained in Delanco until at least 1868 when they moved to Newark NJ.

Charles was President of Insurance and Trust Companies; of the State Sunday School Association; YMCA of Newark and other public associations. He later served as the executive officer of the New York Real Estate and Trade Exchange in New York City, and was active as a lay preacher of ability. Rev. Charles Lathrop died February 23, 1897 and was buried in Papakating Cemetery in Sussex Co NJ.

Theophilus Zurbrugg



Theophilus and Lizette Mueller Zurbrugg:

Theophilus Zurbrugg was born in Berne Switzerland in 1861. He immigrated to America and settled in Mount Holly in 1876 at age 15. His father, a Swiss

watchmaker, also emigrated and established a jewelry shop there.

In 1877, Theo moved to Philadelphia and apprenticed with one of the three watch case manufacturers in the city. In 1883, he founded T. Zurbrugg & Co. as a competing watch case manufacturer. He purchased the H. Muhr & Son watch case plant, then the Keystone Watch Case Co. of Philadelphia. He then purchased Bates & Co. of Providence Rhode Island, then New York Standard Watch Case Company.

In 1892, he purchased the Civil War-era Pavilion Hotel in Riverside and moved his manufacturing operation there.

He married Lizette Mueller, a former Red Cross Nurse of Riverside, and constructed a spacious three-story home at Franklin and Taylor Streets behind the watchcase factory in Riverside. In 1897, he founded Riverside Metal Works to provide a dependable supply of special metals for his products. When Zurbrugg merged his firm with the Keystone Watch Case Co. in 1898, he assumed its name for his company. He added six-story office wings to the hotel in 1903 and clock tower in 1907, creating the imposing Watch Case Building.

His impact on the area was monumental. The demand created by his industrial enterprises peaked at about 1,000 employees, operating six days a week, producing 30,000 watch cases a year. His work force tripled the population of Delanco.

Theophilus suffered a debilitating stroke in the early 1900s. He was seriously ill in the last year of his life, and had to retire from business.

About this time the government brought suit to dissolve the so-called "Watch Case Trust." Shortly after moving into his new Delanco home, Zurbrugg suffered a second stroke and died on November 21, 1912 at age 51. He was buried in Mount Holly Cemetery.

He left over a million dollars in his will. In it, Zurbrugg donated his original Riverside home to establish a new community hospital for the residents of Riverside with an endowment to equip

and operate it. The hospital opened in 1915 as Zurbrugg Memorial Hospital. He also left funds for Memorial Hospital in Mount Holly and German Hospital in Philadelphia.

Theophilus' wife Lizette was active in the administration of the hospital and remained in the Delaware Avenue home until her death in 1923.

Lizette Mueller Zurbrugg



Zurbrugg Coat of Arms – Zurbrugg Memorial Hospital



Philadelphia-Keystone Watch Case Co – Riverside NJ



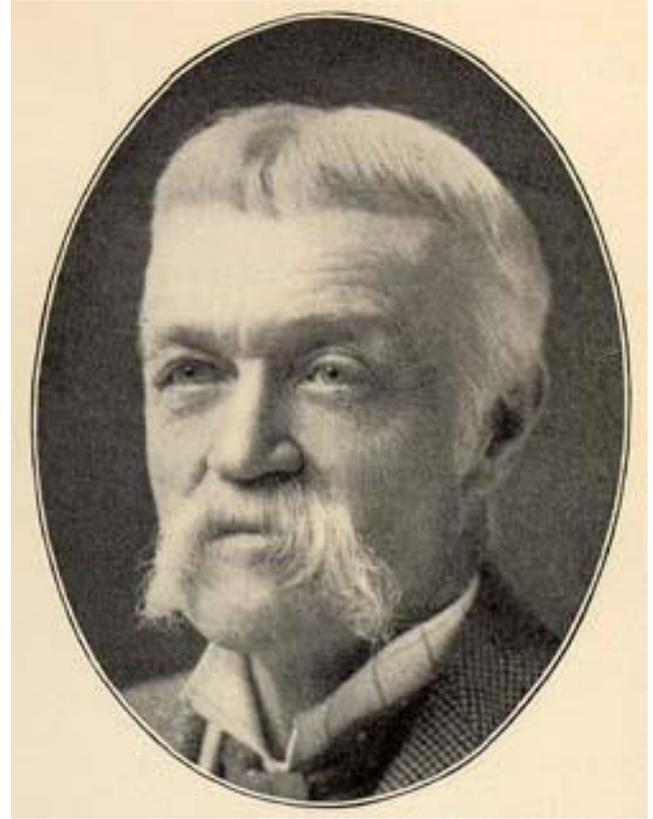
Recent photo of the Watch Case Factory tower in Riverside



Zurbrugg's first mansion in Riverside NJ



Frank Furness (1839 – 1912)



**531 Delaware* S 1910
Zurbrugg-Schwinn Mansion
Riverbank/Evening Rest/Columns**

Between 1908 and 1910, Zurbrugg acquired 10 adjoining building lots between Union and Willow Streets and from Second Street to the river, about a 2 ½ acre tract, with the intent of building a cottage retreat. He changed his mind, determined to build an imposing mansion on the site instead.

Design for this Georgian revival mansion was commissioned in 1910 by Theophilus Zurbrugg. The mansion was the final residential commission of noted Philadelphia architect Frank Furness of Furness, Evans & Co., and built by Hugh B. Miller Co. of Edgewater Park.

It utilized imported stone columns from Italy and roofing tiles from the Netherlands. He landscaped the property with mature trees which were brought in on railroad cars. The mansion and matching carriage house were completed in 1911. The Zurbrugg family called the estate *Riverbank*.

Theophilus died in 1912 as a result of a second stroke. His wife, Lizette Mueller Zurbrugg lived in the mansion until her death in 1923. The mansion

was offered for sale. A copy of the listing from May 1923 is in the Delanco archive.

5123 Country Life



**Suburban Residence on Bank
of the Delaware River**
"Riverbank" at Delanco, N. J.
about 13 miles from Philadelphia

Well kept grounds 400 x 325 feet overlooking the beautiful river. The house, a thoroughly modern three story brick colonial, is of a size to be easily converted into an exclusive apartment property should the purchaser so desire.

On the first floor are a music room, library, large square hall, dining room, breakfast room, pantries, conservatory and five open fireplaces. Second floor, porch overlooking the river, 5 bedrooms, two of which have open fireplaces and individual baths; large closets, sitting room, two extra bath rooms. Third floor: 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, billiard room, 3 store rooms, cedar storage closet. Basement contains 2 hot water furnaces, kitchen, etc., electric vacuum cleaning system and washing machine, laundry. Elevator from basement to third floor.

On the grounds are also a two story two-family plaster over stone dwelling and a 3-car colonial garage with quarters for chauffeur's family. For details address.

**Real Estate Department
GIRARD TRUST COMPANY, PHILADELPHIA
Broad and Chestnut Streets**

The estate was purchased by E. George & Emma Schwinn, relatives of the Schwinns of bicycle fame. They called their estate *Evening Rest*. The Schwinns lived there until 1942.



In 1949, Rev. Carl McIntyre purchased the mansion and built a two-story addition on the rear of the building. He reopened it as the *Bible Presbyterian Home*. The home could not keep up with new fire code regulations. To continue operations, upper floors were partitioned off. This seriously reduced capacity and they were forced to close in 1976.

Rev Carl McIntyre at a demonstration in Washington



Rev Carl McIntyre in the 1950s

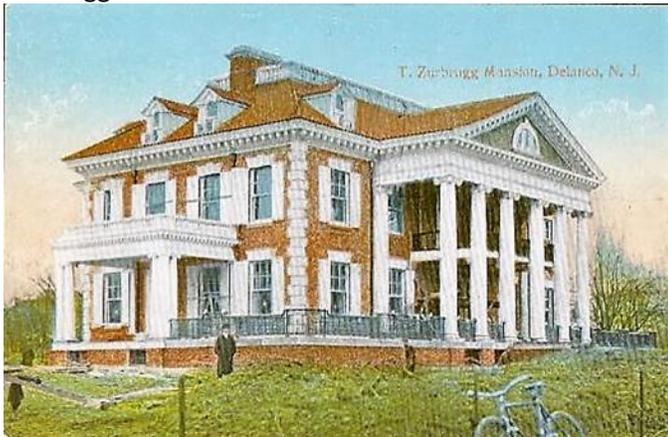


In 1992 it was bought by J2 Associates, extensively renovated and renamed *The Columns*, a senior residential facility. Just prior to opening, it was featured as the Zurbrugg-Rancocas Hospital Design Show House. A copy of the project program is in the Delanco archive.

The mansion once again became a showcase and major employer for a number of years. It closed about 2005 and came close to going to sheriff's sale. Delanco Township purchased *The Columns* in 2006 in order to preserve and control future use of the facility. The township has held many events there, including fashion shows, lawn concerts, and the annual Christmas carriage rides.

The township sold the property in 2008 to the Zurbrugg Partners to develop 27 low-cost senior housing units and townhouses at the site. The mansion and its carriage house are on the National and State Registries of Historic Places. The riverfront lawn was retained by the township for use as a public park.

531 Delaware Avenue – Zurbrugg-Schwinn-McIntire
Zurbrugg Mansion from about 1911



Zurbrugg Mansion from about 1915



Another early photo with awnings, west porch enclosed



Carriage House – Also on the Notional Registry



1949 McIntire addition – photo from the 1980s



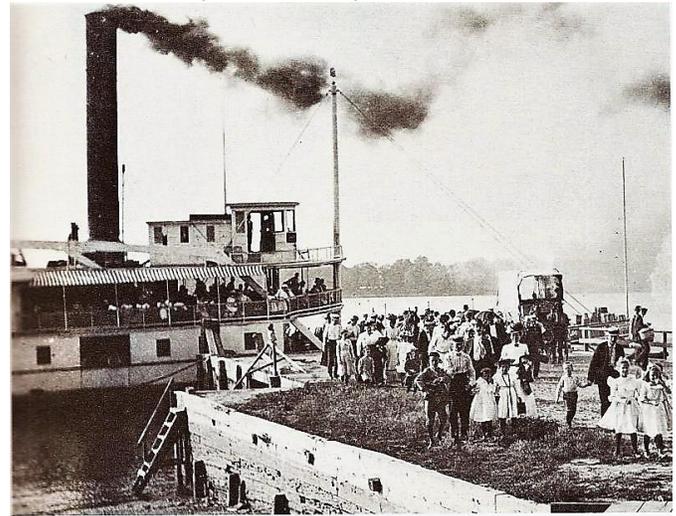
Entry hall with one of 5 first floor fire places



Interesting detail from the 1990s



Parson's Wharf (1850 – 1969) – Foot of Union Ave



AN EXCURSION BOAT docks at the Delanco wharf and unloads a group of passengers. During the week, many Philadelphia businessmen with summer homes in

Delanco took the boats to Philadelphia and the places of business. On weekends, the boats plied the river with crowds of pleasure-seekers.

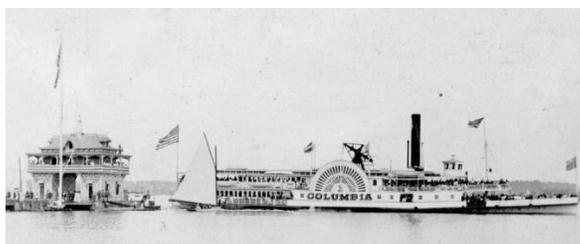
Union at Delaware 1850

Parson's Union Avenue Steamboat Wharf (site)

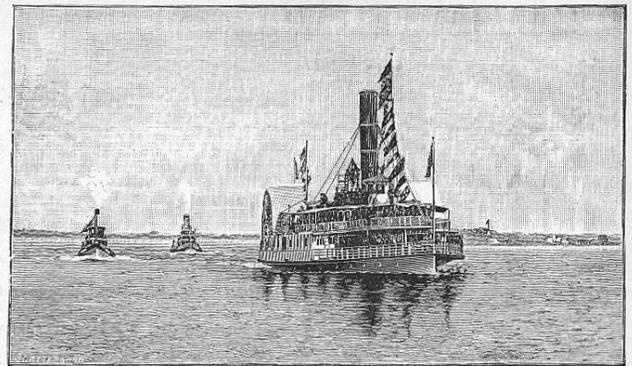
Steamboat commerce actually began with John Fitch about 1788. He operated one of his later steamboats hauling passengers and freight on a daily schedule between Philadelphia and Trenton for approximately six months, predating Clinton's steamboat service on the Hudson River by 18 years. Fitch's venture proved unprofitable, however, and service ceased.

Regular steamboat service on the Rancocas Creek began in 1923 with the Philadelphia, Rancocas and Mt. Holly Transportation Co. Other river traffic continued up the Delaware as far as Trenton.

By 1850, Delanco determined to capitalize on steamboat commerce on the Delaware River by constructing a crib and rubble wharf at the foot of Union Avenue. It was apparently called Parson's Wharf for a time as it was adjacent to Dr. Parson's boardinghouse. Steamboat service continued until about 1950 and the remains of the wharf were removed about 1969. The outline of the wharf is still visible in the form of giant logs embedded in the gravel riverbank exposed at low tide.



UPPER DELAWARE RIVER TRANSPORTATION CO.



Steamers COLUMBIA, JOHN A. WARNER, TWILIGHT and TRENTON

Leave Chestnut Street Wharf, PHILADELPHIA, daily for Bristol, stopping at Bridesburg, Tacony, Riverton, Torresdale, Beverly and Burlington, connecting at Bristol with the new steel steamer "TRENTON" for Trenton, N. J.; a most delightful excursion to the head of navigation and return. Summer schedule in effect June 1st to September 15th. See times of leaving in Philadelphia papers. A full orchestra accompanies the steamer "COLUMBIA" daily on her 2 p. m. trip. Excursion to Bristol, 40 cts.; Trenton, 50 cts.

Delaware River Navigation Co. schedule from 1901

Delaware River Navigation Company
 Steamers Twilight and Pokanoket between Philadelphia and Trenton, touching at Burlington, Bristol and Florence.
 Steamers Columbia and John Sylvester between Philadelphia, Bristol and Way Landings.
SCHEDULE IN EFFECT JUNE 22, 1901.

WEEK DAYS																											
	A.	M.	A.	M.	P.	M.	P.	M.	P.	M.		A.	M.	A.	M.	P.	M.	P.	M.	P.	M.						
Lv. TRENTON.....	7	45			1	00				5	00	Lv. PHILADA.....	7	30	8	00	1	30	2	00	3	30	5	00	6	30	
" Florence.....	8	25			1	20				5	20	" (Chestnut St.)	8	00						2	35	3	45	4	10	6	35
" Bristol.....	7	00	8	55	10	00	2	10	4	00	6	00	8	15						3	40	4	25	7	10		
" Burlington Isl.					10	30				4	05	6	05														
" Burlington.....	7	10	9	05	10	15	2	15	4	10	6	15	8	30													
" Beverly.....	7	25			10	30				4	25	6	30														
" Delanco.....	7	25			10	30				4	25	6	30														
" Torresdale.....	7	45			10	45				4	40																
" Riverton.....	8	00			11	30				5	00	7	05														
" Tacony.....	8	10			11	30				5	10	7	15														
Arrive Phila. (Chestnut St.)	9	00	10	30	12	00	3	30	5	45	7	50	7	35													

SUNDAYS																										
	A.	M.	A.	M.	P.	M.	P.	M.	P.	M.		A.	M.	A.	M.	P.	M.	P.	M.	P.	M.					
Lv. Trenton.....	8	30			1	00				5	00	Leave (Chestnut St.)	8	00	8	30	1	30	2	00	3	30	5	00	6	30
" Florence.....	9	20			1	20				5	20	Phila. (Otis St.)	8	10						2	10	3	40			
" Bristol.....	8	00	9	40	10	00	2	10	4	00	6	00	8	10												
" Burlington Isl.					10	30				4	05	6	05													
" Burlington.....	8	10	9	50	10	15	2	15	4	10	6	15	8	30												
" Beverly.....	8	25			10	25				4	25	6	25													
" Delanco.....	8	25			10	25				4	25	6	25													
" Torresdale.....	8	45			10	45				4	40															
" Riverton.....	9	00			10	55				4	55	6	05													
" Tacony.....	9	10			11	00				5	05	7	05													
Arrive										5	15	7	15													
Phila. (Otis St.)	9	45	11	15	11	45	3	30	5	50	7	50	7	35												

Steamers Diamond State and John A. Warner between Philadelphia and Wilmington, touching at Chester.

DAILY																					
	A.	M.	A.	M.	P.	M.	P.	M.	P.	M.		A.	M.	A.	M.	P.	M.	P.	M.	P.	M.
Leave Philadelphia.....	7	30	10	30	1	30	4	15	9	30	Leave Wilmington.....	7	15	10	50	1	15	4	30	7	00
Leave Chester.....	8	30	11	30	2	30	5	15	10	30	Leave Chester.....	8	25	11	50	2	25	5	30	8	00
Arrive Wilmington.....	9	30	12	30	3	30	6	15	11	30	Arrive Philadelphia.....	9	25	12	30	3	25	6	30	9	00

120 Union E at Delaware 1850?

Perkins Farmhouse-Parsons Boarding House

(site)

Abraham Perkins built a large 2-story farmhouse at this location at an early date that has yet to be determined. The property was later owned by James Wilson Wallace, Esq., one of the partners of Delanco Land Company.

Dr. Stephen Parsons, a retired dentist, and his wife Sally operated a popular boarding house at this location in the 1850s. The building appears on old maps of the period. The building is significant in that it was one of several buildings in Delanco where the original Delanco Methodist-Episcopal Sunday school met prior to the establishment of Delanco ME Church on Union Avenue in 1859.

Delanco maps of 1876 indicate the property was owned by Beb. DeHart in that year. The boarding house was demolished and the salvageable lumber was reported to have been used to build three Victorian Queen Anne homes: one at 617 Delaware Avenue (see below) and one at 100 Union, both owned by Mrs. Elwell of Philadelphia. (See below).

617 Delaware S C. 1900

Queen Anne style, half-timbered gable

This quaint Victorian Queen-Anne style, half-timbered gable home was built about 1900. It is believed it was constructed using timbers reclaimed from the Parson Boarding House (see above) which was demolished about that time. The original owner reported to be Mrs. Elwell of Philadelphia. Later owners include Mr. & Mrs. John Eaton (owners in 1976) and Mr. & Mrs. Jack Black. According to owners, it operated as an inn or boarding house. A sign for *Locust Lodge* was found in the garage by later owners.

617 Delaware – Locust Lodge



621 Delaware S 1905?

Gunn-Templeton-Barrett House

This 1 ½ story riverfront “Tidewater” or raised cottage with Federal detailing was constructed about 1905. The western gazebo was added to the porch sometime later.

621 Delaware Ave – Tidewater design



Property owners included Caleb Clothier, a partner in the Delanco Land Company, Philadelphia attorney Levi Taylor Dickson (1864-1903), and the Ridge family. Later owners were reported to be Leonard H. & Ethel Dougan in 1929; Dr. Lewis G. & Inez Gunn, who had a dental practice in Cinnaminson; Mr. & Mrs. William Preston, who were remodeling in 1976; and former Mayor and Mrs. John J. McKelvie.

Current owners, Mike Templeton and Maureen Barrett report that the estate formerly had a riverfront gazebo.

600 Block Delaware? 1890s

Monte Cristo Canoe Club (site)

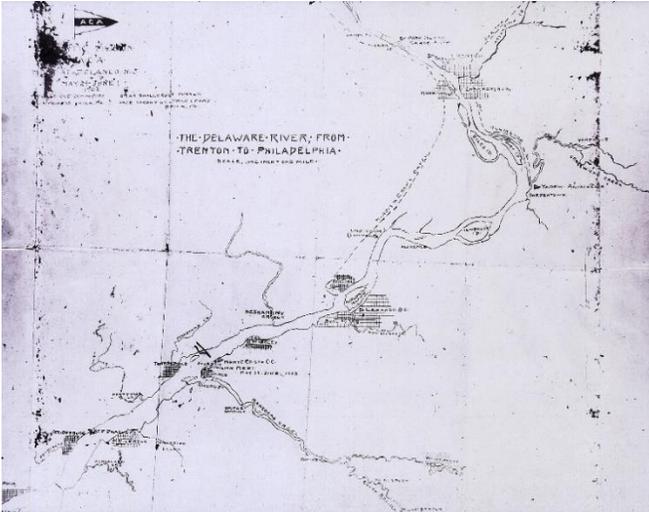
There has long been a rumor that this was the site of a rod & gun club similar to the Schuylkill Fishing Company that is now located on the opposite shore of the Delaware. It probably also served as the site of the Monte Cristo Canoe Club that existed at or near this site about 1902.

The actual location of the club has not yet been established, however it was probably located on the 600 block of Delaware Avenue.

We have tangible evidence that an ACA (American Canoe Association) sailing club was located on the Delanco riverfront at the turn of the century. Sailing regattas were held here in early 1900s.

Mr. Omar Shallcross of Philadelphia is known to have served as Purser of the Monte Cristo Canoe Club in 1902.

This is an invitation to a regatta at the Monte Carlo Canoe Club from 1902. The pointer indicates the club's location in Delanco



These trophies, acquired by Jay Cohen were presented at the regatta referenced above.



625 Delaware S at Walnut 1885
Phillips-Stadtler-Baiada-Cohen House



This property was believed to be owned by Capt. Henry Gunn. The 2 ½ story house was built about 1885 in the Federal Revival style with broad porches and a semi-circular portico. The estate originally included the large carriage house on Second Street, which has since been sold off.

Later owners included the Phillips and Stadtler families. About 1950 the Larry & Ann Baiada family acquired the property. The Baiada's built a 2-story addition to the rear. For a time, Larry Baiada operated his insurance business out of a home office with an entrance off Walnut Street.

At one time, there was a riverfront gazebo on the seawall. Only a portion of the gazebo's stone foundation remains.

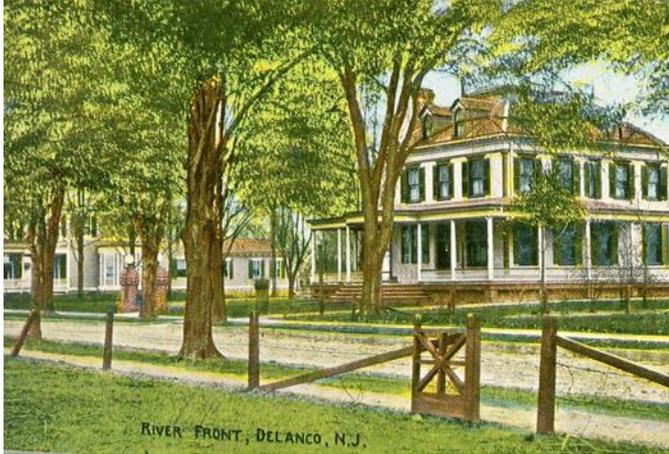
Riverbank gazebo at 625 Delaware Ave



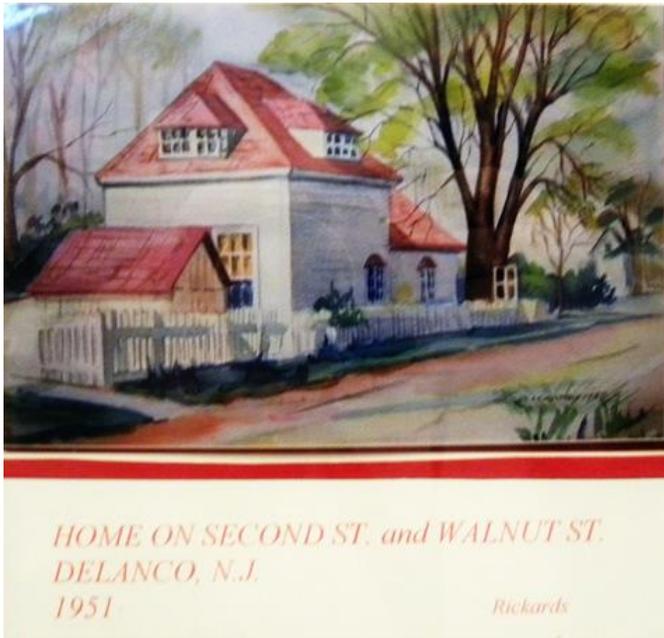
The Baiadas also built an open in-ground structure with a track and winch system for launching and retrieving boats.

One of the Baiada sons, J. Mark Baiada founded Bayada Nursing in 1975. Entrepreneur, Mel Baiada is a partner in Grapevine Development which recently acquired and renovated the Zurbrugg Mansion. Current residents are Dr. Jay Cohen and his wife Joan. Jay serves as a member of HPAB.

Early colorized postcard of the property



Once the carriage house on second street at Walnut behind 625 Delaware Avenue



701 Delaware S at Walnut E **Date?**
Walsh House

This riverfront home is described as 2 ½ story Shingle-Style Victorian with a cross-gable roof. It has a broad porch on the front and a large 2-story addition to the rear. This includes an attached garage and second floor apartments off of Walnut Street.

The property runs from Delaware Avenue through to Second Street. The front yard is enclosed by a white picket fence. Ed & Margaret Walsh raised a large family there. Walsh family members were well-known sailors. Ed Walsh captured several national titles in the competitive Thistle Class. A track system ran across the seawall to the water to help them launch and recover their sailboat.



View from the rear showing many additions



719 Delaware S of Walnut* Date?

Clothier-Longstreth House *Point of View*

This is another property associated with the Caleb Clothier name. It may also have been a part of Captain Henry Gregg's estate at one time. The house is a 2 1/2 story Victorian Carpenter Gothic cross-gable with a comfortable glass-enclosed front porch. The structure appeared on the 1860 Delanco map.

The estate runs through from Delaware Avenue to Second Street with an entry drive from Second Street. The estate includes a carriage house with an upstairs guest apartment. The property was called Longstreth House at one time. Mr. & Mrs. John Turcich were the owners in 1976. Later owners, Mr. & Mrs. R. Schweder renamed the estate *Point of View*.

719 Delaware Ave - Turcich



This beautifully restored 3-story clapboard Victorian was reportedly constructed for Mr. & Mrs. Caleb Clothier, one of the partners of the Delanco Land Company in 1859. There is other information that links ownership to Captain Henry Gregg (who also owned the property at 719 Delaware Avenue) and the Hagstoz family in 1922.



It later became the home of the Frank Storey family, then the Albert & Edna Carr family. The estate runs from the river, across Delaware Avenue and across Second Street where you see a lovely restored 2-story carriage house. The Carrs operated an antique business there during their residency.



721 Delaware S 1859

Gregg-Clothier-Carr House *Darwood*



One of the Carr daughters built a guest house in the garden where she lived with her family for several years.

The Carrs sold the estate when Albert died about 1977. Later owners were the Trowbridge Family. The mansion was recently purchased and lovingly renovated by Philadelphia architect Michael Singer and his wife, Ruthi Zaphrir, an Israeli sculptor who prefers to do much of her work al fresco. Strollers

on the Delanco promenade often stop to watch her work on her stone creations, which are displayed throughout the grounds.



Note the addition to the rear of the original house and the new covered walkway connecting the house to the garage on Second Street. There is also a picturesque stone ice or pump house on the rear corner of the property on Second Street.

Ice house or Pump house? A picturesque vestige of the 19th Century.



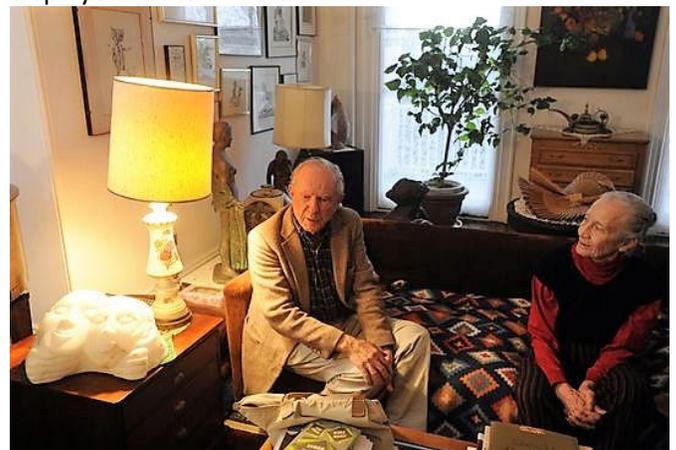
One of the last remaining riverfront gazebos



“Mother & Children”



Michael Singer and Ruthi Zaphir photographed at home for a magazine article. Many of her smaller works are displayed in their home.



“Hands & Feet”



Sinex Tract Beginning 1911

The area of town that lies along the river west of Hazel Avenue was laid out by the Delanco Land Co. about 1848. In those days, Delaware Avenue terminated at the “Gregg Line”, just short of where Hazel Avenue lies today. North of this point the riverbank was farmland, part of the Fenimore-Heaton estate.

In 1912 John Sinex established a new housing development known as the Sinex Tract. Hazel Avenue was the first street constructed, and the first house was built at 201 Hazel Avenue for Philip R. Dennis.

The riverfront blocks from Delaware Avenue to Second and between Hazel and Center Street were set aside for two grand mansions built by industrialist William Taubel for his two children. (see below)

725 Delaware S 1922? Col. Cross-Mader-Suter House



Though not the oldest home in the Sinex Tract, this

is the first property we come to that was built on Delaware Avenue in the Sinex Tract, north of the “Gregg Line”. This 1 ½ story rustic contemporary arts & crafts bungalow was mainly constructed of smooth river stone.

We don't know when or who built the house at 725 Delaware Avenue, but we know that it was built sometime between the opening of the Sinex Annex in 1911 and 1926, when Lloyd Cross appears in the Delanco Directory living on Delaware Avenue.

Warren C. Pine, a druggist from Riverside, acquired the property, but there is no indication that he ever built or lived there. He was still living in Riverside in 1920, and his wife, Ida died in Riverside in 1921.

Lloyd Augustus Cross purchased the property on August 14, 1922, as a single man. Considering Col. Cross' background, our guess is that he built the house in 1922-1923.

Lloyd Cross was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, receiving a B.S. in Civil Engineering in 1914. He then went to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as a structural engineer with the steel firm of McClintic & Marshall.

He was commissioned in the Officers Reserve Corps in 1917, and was called into active service as a 1st Lieutenant Engineers on September 2, 1917. He was promoted to Captain in 1917. He shipped out from the Port of Hoboken in 1918 with his unit, Company F. - 24th Engineers.

In Europe, he faced action at St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, and the defensive sector Verdun. He was honorably discharged at Washington, D. C. in 1919.

We don't know when he attained Colonel status - probably in the Reserves after World War I. He was back living and working in Philadelphia in 1920.

Lloyd Cross married Frances T. Kirk in 1923, at Woodlawn Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. They lived in the house until their deaths in 1972 and 1970 respectively - nearly 50 years.

Of interest locally, Cross conceived, obtained the special legislation, and eventually acquired the financing for the Burlington-Bristol Bridge. It was

originally designed as a four-lane bridge, but had to be cut back because of financing problems.

Later owners of the property included Mr. & Mrs. Len Candy and Mr. & Mrs. Wegenknight. It is currently owned by Terry Mader and David Suter. The house sits on a slight point in the riverbank and commands excellent views both up and down river.

101 Hazel W **C. 1911**
Dr. Winkelspecht House

This 2 1/2 story stone Colonial Revival was built about 1911. It was later owned by Dr. & Mrs. Charles Winkelspecht, a dentist with offices in Beverly. It was later purchased by the daughter of Realtor Shirley Rossi and has been recently extensively renovated. The renovation includes an attached garage and garage apartment. The home has a large enclosed sun porch that overlooks the Delaware riverbank.

Delaware Riverbank **1860?**
Becket Cabin (site)

In 1860, a humble cabin was located on the riverbank in this vicinity. The exact location is not yet exactly known.

The 1860 Census indicates the resident family consisted of a 42-year-old former slave by the name of Raymond Becket and his 37-year-old wife Elizabeth. Raymond was born in Virginia and listed himself as a day laborer. Elizabeth was born in Pennsylvania and listed her occupation as a washer woman. In addition, the household included 7-year-old George Becket, 17-year-old Louisa Williams, and 100-year-old Sarah A. Brown.

Sarah was born in North Carolina about 1760, and may have been Elizabeth's grandmother and a former slave. The family reappears in the 1870 census (without Sarah).

The cabin did not disappear. It was purchased, moved using rollers about three blocks to a new site at 215 Holly Street, and was incorporated into a larger residence where it can still be seen as a rear addition Today.

815 Delaware S at Hazel **C. 1915**
Taubel-Ziegler-Colsey House

Damaged photo from about 1921



This 2 1/2 story stone mansion was one of the magnificent "Twins" built between 1912 and 1915 by industrialist William Taubel for his daughter Elizabeth and her husband Walter R. Ziegler. They were listed at this address in both the 1926 and 1929 Delanco Directories.

It was later owned by Mr. & Mrs. Roy Riker. Mr. Riker was president of Riker Automotive, later Auerbach Chevrolet. The Rikers purchased the Burke farm on Route 130 and developed it as Holiday Lake amusement park. They developed an industrial park in Burlington, Ocean Acres near Manahawkin NJ and other sites. They moved to Miami Beach area in the 1960s. The estate became known as the Colsey House in 1976.



The couchere entrance



915 Delaware S at Edgewood
Taubel-Willis-Pelligrini House

C. 1915



This 2 1/2 story stone mansion was one of the magnificent “Twins” built between 1912 and 1915 by industrialist William Taubel. This one was built for William’s son Clarence H. Taubel and his wife Julia. Clarence worked for Taubel Mill in Riverside and was listed at this address in the 1929 Delanco Directory.

About 1922 the Taubel home became the training site for pugilist Lew Tandler as he prepared for his bout with Leonard in Jersey City. Outdoor exhibition boxing matches were held in an empty lot at Second and Edgewood to benefit the Delanco Athletic and Welfare Associations in 1922.

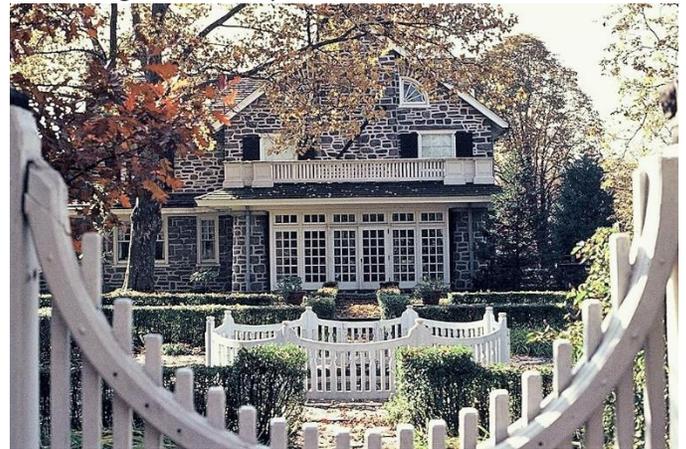
Gen. and Mrs. Clifford Powell lived here in the late 1920s. Clifford Ross Powell (born 1893) served with distinction in WWI. He was an attorney and co-founder of the legal firm of Parker-McCay. Powell served in the NJ Assembly (1922-1927), as Speaker of the Assembly in 1925, NJ Senate (1928-1939) and Senate President in 1939. He served as Acting New Jersey Governor in 1935. His run for governor in 1937 was unsuccessful. In 1941 he was given the rank of Major General in the NJ National Guard. From 1947-1948 he served as chief of staff of the State Department of Defense. He also served as Chairman of the Burlington County Republican Party. He died in 1973.

In 1976 the mansion was known as the Willis House. Mr. Willis was President of Willis Volkswagen/Honda. It is currently the home of Matthew & Patricia Pellegrino, owners of Pellegrino Chevrolet in Collingswood.

View from the 1970s



East end gate and koi pond



Koi Pond enclosure – Photo from 1998



Sundial – Photo from 1998



12/4/1998

Carriage house on Second Street behind 915 Delaware



1001 Delaware S at Center **Date?**
Taubel “Honeymoon” Cottage



A 1 ½ story fieldstone ranch style house of modern construction facing the river. An attached garage opens onto Center Street. It is believed that the Taubel family used this home as a honeymoon cottage before moving into one of the “Twins”.

1117 Delaware S **Date?**
Rosengarten-Bennett House



This 2 ½ story colonial revival center-hall riverfront mansion is side-gabled with three dormers facing the river.

According to the 1876 map, the home was owned by Samuel G. Rosengarten. The Rosengarten family apparently still owned the property in 1909. It was approached by a long lane from Burlington Avenue before Delaware Avenue was extended to Lilac in the 1920s. It now has a circular driveway.

The property appears to have a guest house with access off Second Street. In 1929 the Delanco Directory listed the residents as George C. & Minnie Krusen and Carrie Robeno (widow of Henry Robeno). Later owners included Mr. & Mrs. Janek, Mr. & Mrs. Tad Drummond, and Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bennett.



200 Peachtree at Second Street **Date?**
Hinkle House



This 1 ½ story brick Cotswold Cottage is unique in Delanco. Note the rustic brick pattern and roof detail at the dormers. the home has been owned by the Robert & Joan Hinkle Family since 1964.

Joan has a long history of community service, heading the Delanco Community Chest and other agencies. She has been a long-time member of Delanco Township Committee

1408 Second* N **Date?**

Jones-McCay House (site)

This property was originally considered part of the Frank P. Jones estate. The property included a tenant farmhouse which has since been demolished. The Second Empire home that was later built here originally had a third story with a Mansard roof. The third story was removed and the roof reconfigured.

The home was occupied at one time by Albert & Grace McCay. Albert McCay was an attorney; very active in municipal, county and state politics.

McCay served as a State Assemblyman (1945-1948) and State Senator (1952-1960). He was elected Majority leader in 1956 and President of the Senate in 1957. He also served briefly as Acting Governor. The Albert McCay Republican Club was named in his honor. Albert was co-founder of the law firm of Parker-McCay with Clifford Powell. Grace McCay occupied the home in 1976. The current resident is P.J. Carolan.

101 Delview at Second **1789**

Maj. Perkins House **Magnolia/Barnitz Grove**

Although impossible to see from the road, this is one of the most important of Delanco's riverfront estates.

The original 2 ½ story brick riverfront farmhouse was built in 1789 by Major Jacob & Elizabeth Heulings Perkins when Jacob returned after serving in the Revolutionary War. This date is marked in brick on the gable. The Perkins family named the estate *Magnolia*.



Access to the home was originally from Burlington Avenue via Osage Lane, a road that no longer exists.

Major Perkins' family occupied the home until 1853 when it sold to Charles C. Dunn.

The Dunn family constructed a major frame addition in the 1860s. Mr. & Mrs. S.S. Barnitz purchased the home in 1875 and owned the home until 1943. During this period, the estate was known as *Barnitz Grove* and the access road was renamed Barnitz Grove Road.



The property is reported to have had two Chinese pagodas on the lawn from the 1876 Centennial in Philadelphia.

Later owners were Mr. & Mrs. Huckster and John & Carlotta Wilson in 1943. Charles A. & Marilyn Frush took ownership of the house in 1967 and renovated it after several years of vandalism. They were reported as owners in the Delanco Story (1976).

About 1984, Washington Fire Company purchased the land for a new firehouse and Osage Lane was closed. The riverfront property was divided and sold by the fire company. New access to the home was then provided from Delview Lane at Second Street.

The next owners are Mr. & Mrs. Charles Lord. The home is currently owned by Dr. John Pagliei and Marilyn Entenmann. Marilyn is a direct descendent of Charles C. Dunn. Both are members of Delanco's Historic Preservation Advisory Board.

This overhead view shows the spacious lawn leading to a landing and the river. Reports of tunnels from the riverbank to the river are not yet substantiated.



Statue of Liberty at Shangri-La

As we bid fond farewell to our tour of Delanco's historic riverfront, we acknowledge one of Delanco's quirky icons: A replica of the statue of liberty which stands on the seawall on the estate named Shangri-la. Impossible to see except from a

boat on the river or a muddy slog on the beach at low tide.



Sources:

The Delanco Story: Its Past and Present (1977)
Burlington County Inventory & Survey of Architectural & Cultural Resources (1977)
Sermon in Glass, Alice Smith

All photos are from the Delanco Photo Archive. Many were contributed by the J. Lester Daniels family and Delanco Camera Club. Some were donated to Delanco by current and former residents. Many recent photos taken by Peter Fritz during his 30-year residence in Delanco. Several water color images were painted in the 1950s and donated to Delanco by Rick Rickarts.