

Canby House
1401 Market Street, Wilmington
New Castle County, Delaware.

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Delaware

Historic American Buildings Survey
Weston H. Blake, District Officer
909 West Street, Wilmington, Del.

SAMUEL CANBY HOUSE

Wilmington, New Castle County, Delaware.

Owner: Owned jointly by Dr. Samuel C. Rumford, 1103 Franklin Street, Wilmington, and Lewis Rumford, 901 Nottingham Road, Wilmington.

Date of Erection: 1791

Builder: Samuel Canby

Present Condition: Good, but with several alterations and additions of various styles and dates.

Number of Stories: Two and one half.

Materials of Construction: Brick with stone foundation, wood shingle roof, wood joists, rafters and studs. Play room on second floor built latter part of last century is stucco on frame construction. Bay window extension in Bed Room E is frame construction. Addition at rear of stair hall, stucco on masonry construction. Entrance porch and fan light doorway added about 1915-16. Garden porches fairly recent additions. Wide doorway between Parlours B and C not original. Dormers in Bed Room J and Third Floor Bath not original. Bay window in Dining Room added about 1870. Pantry extension added about 1915.

Other Existing Records: Scharf's History of Delaware, page 634; Some Historic Points in Delaware, compiled by The National Society of Colonial Dames; Article in Wilmington Every Evening Jan. 27, 1934, by J. Barton Cheney.

All available records indicate that the main portion of the house was built in the year 1791, but it is believed that the rear wing immediately adjacent to the

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main house, and which contains the Kitchen and Rear Stairs on the First Floor and Bed Room E and Bath Room on the Second Floor, was built prior to this date. There are however, no records to substantiate this belief which is based solely on the character of the architectural details. It can be definitely established that the Laundry portion of the Service Wing is a later addition, as there is a straight vertical joint in the brick work on each side of the building, extending from the grade line to the eaves. This was probably added about the same time as the main part of the house, or in the early part of the Nineteenth century. The one story wing containing the wood storage and coal storage sheds is believed to be a still later addition, which judging from its architectural characteristics, probably dates about 1820-30.

Additional Data: With the death of Mrs. Charles G. Rumford in 1934, the house came into possession of the present owners, her sons and heirs, and by them will be disposed of to settle her estate. Her death marked the end of the continuous occupation of the house by descendants of the original builder and owner for approximately a century and a half and covering seven generations of the same family.

Mrs. Rumford was, before her marriage, a Canby, and the last of the family to occupy the house. In the latter years of her life, she became interested in painting as a pastime and the scene on the tile outer hearth in Bed Room C was painted by her before the tiles were glazed. It is effectively done in a monochrome of terra cotta red on a light cream background.

The house is situated on a plot of ground of about two acres area, which also contains the stable building in which is located Mrs. Rumford's studio, and an early Twentieth century house which was built and occupied until about three years ago by Dr. Samuel C. Rumford, one of the present owners of the property. The gardens have been well cared for and the property has been a spot of beauty very near to the business center of the city.



District Officer for Delaware

October 9, 1936.

Rev. Oct. 19 '36 T.W.