

Merchant and Drovers Tavern
Corner St. George and Westfield Avenues
Rahway, Union County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Merchant and Drivers Tavern
Corner St. George and Westfield Avenues
Rahway, Union County, New Jersey

Owner: Mrs. Harold M. Searles, Rahway

Date of Erection: Before 1800

Architect for Restoration: Seymour Williams

Builder:

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Three and one-half stories, plus
a story and a half wing

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - frame construction, clapboards except on the east elevation which is shingles

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - gambrel with dormers on main, wing pitch

Historical Data:

On April 11, 1822 John Y. Von Tuhl and his wife Catherine sold to David S. Craig for \$1819.90 thirteen and one-half acres of land with a dwelling house called a "Tavern House". Dr. Craig left it to his son Washington Craig who lost it; William C. Squire a son-in-law of Dr.

Craig bought it at sheriff's sale in 1877. According to Mrs. Searles, who is a granddaughter of Squires, at the time of the conveyance in 1822 there was a building to the rear of the present one identical to the present one with a court between. This may explain why it is known as Merchant and Drovers Tavern. In all probability one building was used for higher class patrons, and the other for the not so wealthy.

During the nineteenth century it was customary for wealthy New Yorkers traveling to Philadelphia to send horses ahead from New York to Rahway and stop at Rahway to exchange them. The house at present is occupied by the Girl Scouts.

Bibliography:

Material obtained from Mrs. Searles, and a search of Essex County records made by Frank P. Caufield, Essex County Office

Wm. Platt
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

W. Williams, Nov. 22, 1957