



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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Executive Assistant to the Chairman

22 July, 1964

Miss Dorothy Hoyle
219 South Jessup Street
Philadelphia, Penn 19107

Dear Miss Hoyle:

Thank you very much for letting me see your charming house last night. I have checked with both the modern and the 1860 maps of the area and find in the latter that it is clearly marked as having a masonry wall precisely as it is to-day, thus substantiating your presumption that it may have been two dwellings. The same holds true for 221 S. Jessup and for several other small houses on that and on Quince Street.

Finix Stretcher, house carpenter, who bought the 15 x 34 foot lot "to a 10 foot wide court" in 1813, (for 40 Spanish silver milled dollars ground rent) sold the new house a year later to the Reverend Absalom Jones, first Negro Episcopal priest, who had been ordained by Bishop White soon after his heroic work among yellow fever victims of the 1793 epidemic. He did not live there but held the property in trust for Francis and Frances Bundy. I think the tenants and owners of 219 were colored for a very long time.

Since the present three foot alley was once ten feet wide, your guess that it was once a dwelling for two families makes sense for me too. The alley was narrowed before 1860, but that is all the maps can tell us. Your's is really a very interesting house.

With very kind regards,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Charles J. Maurer
Executive Assistant to
the Chairman