

Stuyvesant's Great House. Erected somewhat earlier than February, 1658.—*Rec. N. Am.*, II: 329; VII: 171-3. Burned after February 23, 1716 (*M. C. C.*, III: 109), and before the execution of the Burgis View, of 1716-18 (Pl. 25). Site: North-west corner of Whitehall and State Streets, now occupied by the South Ferry Building.

Jan Pietersen, from Amsterdam, had a grant from Director-General Kieft for a parcel of land here, 5 rods wide by 8 rods long, almost at the water's edge. The ground-brief "is not to be found on the Register."—*Rec. N. Am.*, VII: 172. It was earlier than April 12, 1647 (see Kierstede's adjoining grant), and, probably, bore the same date as his grant on Long Island, in the old Williamsburgh section of Brooklyn, that is, March 29, 1647.—*N. Y. Col. Docs.*, XIV: 68.

Unquestionably, this settler built the first house on this site. His attorneys, Harmen Smeeman and Thomas Hall, sold his house and lot to Thomas Baxter (deed recorded March 18, 1653, in *Liber HH: 20*, Albany; *Rec. N. Am.*, VII: 171). Egbert van Borsum lived here as Baxter's tenant in February, 1653, although Baxter had not paid for the house in April, 1653.—*Cal. Hist. MSS., Dutch*, 124-5; *Rec. N. Am.*, I: 81, 83.

Thomas Baxter, who was an Englishman, obtained a privateer's commission from the colony of Rhode Island. His name is not on the list of those commissioned May 18, 1653, but he was no doubt one of the twenty "voluntaries" who received their papers shortly afterward.—*Records of the Colony of Rhode Island* (etc.), I: 266. Governor Nicholas Easton, in a letter dated September 16, 1653, wrote ". . . we are authorized to offend the enemies of the Commonwealth of England . . . against them only are our Commissions granted, and so is Baxter authorized."—*Naval Hist. of R. I.*, in *Hist. Mag.*, January, 1870.

Between April 21 and June 16, 1653, Thomas Baxter was declared an outlaw by the provincial government of New Netherland, and his property was inventoried and confiscated.—*Rec. N. Am.*, I: 82-3; VII: 172; *Powers of Attorney*, trans. by O'Callaghan, 11. Five years later, on February 14, 1658, Petrus Stuyvesant obtained a ground-brief for this property, on which his house was already built.—*Rec. N. Am.*, II: 329; VII: 171: cf. Key to Map of Dutch Grants.

On January 14, 1678, "Judith Stuyvesant, Widdow and Relict of Peter Stuyvesant, late Governor here for the Dutch" conveyed "All that Messuage, Tenement or Dwelling house . . . neere the waterside or common wharfe" to Thomas Delavall and William Darvall, his son-in-law.—*Liber Deeds*, V: 98 (Albany). Stuyvesant's house was probably built of stone, for we know from Du Simitière that in 1768 the *stone* walls were still standing, ten feet above ground (Du Simitière MSS., in Ridgway Branch of Library Co. of Philadelphia), and in the Burgis View the ruins are evidently of stone.

Jacob Milborne and Samuel Swynock, of London, trustees for the creditors of William Darvall, conveyed, on March 11, 1686, "the Sayde large Messuage . . . and the Greate Ware house and Bake house thereto Adjoyning" to Thomas Dongan, Governor-General of the Province. John Delavall had already released his rights as his father's heir.—*Liber Deeds.*, XIII: 250, 258; Riker's *Hist. of Harlem*, 598.

Governor Dongan refitted Stuyvesant's Great House, which had been allowed to fall into bad repair. John Delavall had rented the house to various tenants, who had again sublet. At the time of the sale to Dongan, George Lockhart, "Chirurgion," occupied it.—See recitals in *Liber Deeds*, XIII: 258.

It was Governor Dongan who named the house Whitehall. The earliest mention found of this name is in a mortgage of Dongan to Lancaster Symes, April 22, 1697. "All that Capitall Messuage or large Dwelling house . . . Commonly then Called & known by the Name of Whitehall."—*Ibid.*, XXI: 290.

The property was sold by John C. Dongan to Gozen Ryerss, Esq., May 1, 1791, for nineteen hundred pounds.—*Ibid.*, XLVI: 526.