

HARMONY AND SECOND STREETS  
NORTH OF READ'S ALLEY

#53 East Second Street

(See Photo #101)

This site was sold as a part of the Tile house lot until 1802 when William Armstrong, the owner of the Tile house, sold a lot fronting 17' on Second Street by 30' deep on the north and 30' deep on the south to James M. Broom. This sale was not recorded until 1816 and the indenture describes the property as a two story frame house and lot. The 1804 survey shows no house of any type here and a vacant lot shows both in plan and perspective.

Since the deed citing the sale as of 1802 was not recorded until 1816, the house may not have been built until nearer the later date, or the lot may not have been fully paid for until 1816.

Janes M. Broom owned the property from 1802 until 1847 when he sold it to Ferdinand Leckler, who sold it in that same year to Eliza Herbert. William Herbert owned it from 1852 until 1869, when he sold it to Charles B. Weggenman. It stayed in this family until 1914 when George M. Kern bought it together with a strip of ground along the north side only 4' wide on Second Street.

In 1918 George M. Kern sold to Andrew M. Girison who in 1922 sold to Thomas Rees. In 1924 Lillie H. Rees, heir of Thomas, sold to John Foster whose property was seized and sold by the sheriff to its present owners, the Citizens Building and Loan Association in 1931.

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(#53 E. 2nd St., continued)

Among the owners, James M. Broom, son of Jacob Broom, the signer of the United States Constitution of 1787, was a distinguished attorney who was admitted to the bar in 1801 and elected to Congress in 1804.

#53, although not very much later in date than Hull's Row, comprised of three frame houses directly adjoining it to the south, shows today a very mediocre front to the street, and has nothing to recommend it from the standpoint of design. Unless further research can prove its worth, this report would recommend its removal in any program to better the appearance of Second Street.