Alexandria Archaeology

500 Block King Street AX1 Courthouse Site

Lot histories

Lot 1	532 King Street	Feature GGG
Lot 3	522-524 King Street	Features 6, 14, 16, II
Lot 4	518-520 King Street	Features 4, 5, 9, 11, HH, II, HHH
Lot 5	514-516 King Street	Features 12, 13, JJJ
Lot 6	508-512 King Street	Features KK, FF, FFF, AAA
Lot 7	500-506 King Street	Feature KKK
Lot 8	109-111 Pitt Street	Feature AA
Lot 10	115-117 Pitt Street	Feature MM
Lot 12	121 Pitt Street	Feature 17
Lot 19	513-515 Prince Street	Feature MM
Lot 23	112-114 South St. Asaph Street	Features VV, CCC
Lot 24	108-110 South St. Asaph Street	Features BB, CC, DD, LL, PP, SS, EEE
Lot 25	106 South St. Asaph Street	Feature QQ
Lot 26	104 South St. Asaph Street	Feature 7

Lot 1 History: 532 King Street

(Feature GGG)

Date	Occupation/ Ownership	White/Black occupants	Tax Decile	Comments
1774	Adam Lynn purchased the entire NW Quadrant, including Lot 1			
1785	After Lynn's death, the lot was passed on to his son, Adam Lynn Jr. However, there is no indication that his son was occupying the lot at this time			(See also Lot 4 history)
1799	In this year the census reports the lot as unoccupied.			Though unoccupied, the lot was improved at this time.
1810	Ibid			
1816-1818	Adam Lynn Jr. temporarily lived on Lot 1, until he moved back to Lot 4			
1830	An auctioneer named George White was renting the lot at this time, and using it for commercial purposes only.		3	
1850	John McCormick was renting the lot for his grocer's business only.		1-2	Born in Virginia
1870	Frederick Recker was renting the lot, also as a grocer.			
1888	G.W. Ramsey, another grocer, also rented this lot for commercial purposes only			
1896	In 1896 the land was still being used for commercial purposes only and by 1967 it had become a shoe store.			

Lot 3 History: 522-524 King Street

(Features 6, 14, 16, II)

Date	Ownership/ Occupation	White/ Black	Tax Decile	Comments
1774	The entire NW Quadrant is bought by Adam Lynn, a baker.			
1779	The NW and SW quadrants are officially annexed to the town.			The entire eastern half had been annexed in 1763
1785	Adam Lynn died and Lot 3 passed to his daughter Catherine Lynn.			
1799 Census	Josiah Coryton, Catherine Lynn's husband and a watchmaker, was listed as head of household.	4/1	5 (in 1801 records)	
1801	Josiah Coryton put the property in trust to Adam Lynn Jr.			Coryton died in ?. His wife Catherine remained in Alexandria but moved out of the house.
1807-1808				
1810-1811 Census	A seaman named John Nelson was renting the lot.	4/1		
1830 Census	A new renter named Isaac Cannell, a merchant and magistrate, occupied the lot.	7/2	3	It seems that at this time the lot was also being used for commercial purposes, though it is unclear who was operating the shop and what its nature was.
1835-1843	By this time, Lewis McKenzie occupied the second and third floors of this lot.			McKenzie was the Mayor of Alexandria during the Civil War and an ardent supporter of the Union cause. See Terrie.
1850 Census	Michael German, a confectioner and baker was listed as a renter. Source indicate he rented the lot from 1849-1853. In 1854 he bought Lot 2e and moved there.	8/0	5	Michael German was an immigrant born in Germany. The lot was being used for both commercial and residential purposes.
1870 Census	David Bendheim, a dry goods merchant, was renting the lot.	6/1	2	Emma Carty, a 50 year-old black domestic servant, lived with his family. Bendheim was an immigrant born in Baaden.
1883	Isaac Schwarz bought the store and the residence on this lot.			By 1887, Isaac Shwarz also owned Lots 4, 26, and 27.
1888	J.G. Cockey, a baker and		3	

Ī	Census	confectioner, was renting the lot.		
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Lot 4 History: 518-520 King Street

(Features 4, 5, 9, 11, HH, II, HHH)

Date	Occupation/ Ownership	White/ Black	Tax Decile	Comments
1774	The entire NW Quadrant is bought by Adam Lynn, a baker.			
1779	The NW and SW quadrants are officially annexed to the town.			The entire eastern half had been annexed in 1763
1785	By this time, Lynn and his family are living in a frame house and operating a bakery on Lot 4.			Adam Lynn in 1786. Lot ownership was passed on to his wife, Catherine Lynn.
1799	Adam Lynn Jr. is living on the lot with his mother Catherine and other family members.	4/1	1	Lynn Jr. was a merchant and in 1795 began a career as a gold and silversmith. Until his financial demise, Adam Lynn Jr. was to become the most prominent man on the 500 block.
1801	Adam Lynn Jr. purchases the lot.		3	
1810	Adam Lynn is still living here.	4/1	1	Catherine Lynn dies in 1808.
1811	At this time the frame house is razed and replaced with an elegant four-bay, three story "Federal style" brick house.			
1813	Adam Lynn moves into his new home.			
1816-1818	It seems that during this time the lot was unoccupied and that Lynn was living in his house on Lot 1.			By 1815, Adam Lynn Jr. owned lots 1, 4, 5, 25, and 26.
1818-1836	Lynn moves back into the house and stays there until his death in 1836.			Sometime in the 1820's, Lynn had to sell much of his property due to financial troubles. It seems he sold Lot 4 to a family member. However, he continued to live on lot 4 as a renter until his death.
1830	By this time, the street level is occupied by the Thompsons. (Lynn is living on the second and third floors of the house). It seems they were operating a	3/1	5	The exact date for this change in occupancy is not known.

	dry goods store.			
1834	Robert Bell, who lived at 104 S. St Asaph St (Lot 26), was operating a retail store on the ground floor of Lynn's house.			
1850	Aquilla Lockwood, a retired merchant is renting the lot.	4/2	1	The exact date for this change in occupancy is not known.
1855	By this time, Henry Schwarz, a Jewish German immigrant is selling dry goods on the lot.			
1860	Isaac joins his brother Henry.			
1870	Isaac Schwarz is listed as head of household. It seems Henry moved to Philadelphia in the 1860s.	7/0	2	By 1865, the family dry goods store appears in the newspapers under Isaac Schwarz' name. During all the time he maintained his home and business, his home was occupied by many fellow immigrants.
1884	Isaac Schwarz buys the lot from a Lynn family member.			
1888	Isaac Schwarz		1	By 1887, Isaac Schwarz owned lots 3, 4, 26, and 27. By 1888, he was among the wealthiest 2% of the town's taxpayers.
1900	By this time, Samuel Schwarz, Isaac's son, is living on the lot.*			

Lot 5 History: 514-516 King Street

(**Features 12, 13, JJJ**)

Date	Ownership/ Occupancy	White/ Black	Tax Decile	Comments
1763	The eastern half of the 500 block was officially annexed to the City of Alexandria. John Alexander Jr., who owned this land, conveyed it to the trustees of the town for auction and then repurchased it for 40 pounds.			
1792	William Halley, a millstone maker, purchased lots 5 and 6.			William Halley was Street Comissioner in 1800 and manumitted six slaves between 1797 and 1800.
1799 Census	A grocer named William Billington was renting the lot from Willian Halley.	3/1		
1810 Census	James Hamilton, a merchant, was renting the lot at this time.	3/1		According to records, the lot was being used for residential purposes only.
1815	Records indicated that by this time Adam Lynn Jr. owned this lot, though he was not living in it.			
1830 Census	James Van Sant, a sadler, was listed as the owner of the lot.	9/1	1	Van Sant was the richest man on the block at this time. He not only lived but also worked his trade on the lot.
1850 Census	John Muir occupied the lot as a renter. It seems he both lived on the lot and operated a hardware store.	7/0	2	John Muir was listed as being born in Virginia.
1870 Census	J.H. Devaughn, a white domestic servant in the furniture business, was listed as the owner of the lot.	5/0	2	He was Virginia born. Records indicate that the lot was being used for both commercial and residential purposes, but it is unclear as to whether the business in question was operated by the owner of the lot.
1888 Census	J.H. Devaughn was still listed as the owner of the lot.		1	The combination of residential and commercial use continued.
20 th century	At one time Shuman's Bakery occupied the street section of the			

lot.		

Lot 6 History: 508-512 King Street

(Features KK, FF, FFF, AAA)

Date	Ownership/ Occupancy	White/ Black	Tax Decile	Comments
1763	The eastern half of the 500 block was officially annexed to the City of Alexandria. John Alexander Jr., who owned this land, conveyed it to the trustees of the town for auction and then repurchased it for 40 pounds.			
1792	William Halley, a millstone maker, purchased lots 5 and 6.			William Halley was Street Comissioner in 1800 and manumitted six slaves between 1797 and 1800.
1799 Census	William Halley was living on Lot 6.	3/4	1 (according to 1801 records)	William Halley died in 1808.
1810 Census	Frederick Koones, a baker, was living on the lot.	3/4		Whether he rented or owned was not indicated, but it is likely he rented since Terrie states that the estate of William Halley owned a lot in the NE quadrant until 1832 (*though this could be Lot 5).
1830 Census	Three renters were listed on this lot: William Morgan (an Irish shoemaker), a Mr. Green and a Mr. Hepburn (a confectioner and a grocer)	12/3	2	At this time the lot was used for both commercial and residential use. A shoe store was located here since 1822.
1850 Census	At this time William Morgan owned the lot. He sold the shoe store to Peyton Ballinger this same year.	3/0	2	
1850-1896	Peyton Ballinger worked and owned the shoe store on Lot 6.			
1870 Census	The residential quarters of lot 6 were being rented by a jeweler named R.C. Acton	4/0	1-2	Acton was born in Maryland and his wife in Scotland.
1888 Census	Commercial: Peyton Ballinger still owned the shoe store on King Street. Street occupancy also listed a bookseller named S.F. Dyson as a renter.			

	Residential: a James Javins seems to have run a boarding house on Lot 6.		
1896	Philip Bradshaw took over Peyton Ballinger's shoe store. It remained on the block until 1966 and still has several branches in Northern Virginia today.		

Lot 7 History: 500-506 King Street

(Feature KKK)

Date	Ownership/ Occupancy	White/ Black	Tax Decile	Comments
1763	The eastern half of the 500 block was officially annexed to the City of Alexandria. John Alexander Jr., who owned this land, conveyed it to the trustees of the town for auction and then repurchased it for 40 pounds.			
1799 Census	By this time a dry goods merchant named Jesse Taylor owned this lot.	6/8	1 (in 1801)	In addition to living on the lot with his family, Taylor also operated a store on the street front. *see p.36
1810 Census	A merchant named Thos Patlen was renting the lot.	8/3		According to records, the lot was still being used for both commercial and residential purposes.
1830 Census	John Corse, who worked (operated???**) at a lottery office rented and lived in this lot with his family.	14/3	4	Ibid.
1850 Census	The census recorded a shoemaker named W.M.B. King and miscellaneous shops on this lot. All were renters.			Ibid
1870 Census	Again, the census recorded one name (Joseph Kaufman) and miscellaneous shops. All were renters.			Ibid
1874	John Lannon purchased the lot and erected a large two-story brick building on the corner of King and Pitt streets. It contained shops on the King Street frontage, a billiard parlor and restaurant on the Pitt Street side, and an opera house on the second floor. The building remained in use until 1969. In 1884, it passed under the supervision of Louis Brill.			According to Terrie, the lot was purchased from the estate of Robert H. Miller. When the lot was purchased by Miller is not indicated.
1873-1900?	Thomas Dulaney, the first black man to engage in commerce on the block, operated a barber shop at 504 King Street.			Dulaney presumably rented from John Lannon.

Lot 8 History: 109-111 Pitt Street

(Feature AA)

Date	Ownership/ Occupancy	White/ Black	Tax Decile	Comments
1763	The eastern half of the 500 block was officially annexed to the City of Alexandria at this time. John Alexander Jr., who owned this land, conveyed it to the trustees of the town for auction and then repurchased the NE quadrant for 40 pounds.			
1799 Census	A blacksmith by the name of William Frazer was listed as owning the lot at this time.	10/0	4 (in 1801)	The lot does not seem to have been used for commercial purposes.
1810 Census	Robert I. Taylor, a lawyer, was renting the lot.	1/0	1	Ibid
1830 Census	A man named James McKenzie rented the lot for residential use.	7/1		Ibid
1850 Census	John Pascoe, of unknown occupation, owned the lot at this time		2	Ibid
1870 Census	Laura Tatsapaugh was listed as "keeping house" on the census records. She was a renter.	4/0	3	Ibid. She was Virginia born.
1884	In partnership with Simon Waterman, Louis Brill (who was operating the commercial building on Lot 7) purchased the house on Lot 8 and used it both as a residence and as an extension of his restaurant on Lot 7.			
1888 Census	Louis Brill was still listed as the owner.		3	
1898	The house was sold to the Robert Portner Brewing Company.			Louis Brill was still living in the house until 1900.

Lot 10 History: 115-117 Pitt Street

(Feature MM)

Date	Ownership/ Occupancy	White/ Black	Tax Decile	Comments
1763	After the eastern half of the 500 block was officially annexed to the City of Alexandria in this year, George Washington purchased the entire SE Quadrant for 30 pounds.			John Alexander Jr. had owned the land prior to its annexation.
1799 Census	The lot was listed as vacant.			
1810 Census	A wheelwright named George Gordon was renting the lot at this time.	6/1		Gordon also rented lots 11 and 12. His shop was located on one of these three lots, though it is unsure exactly where.
1827	A blacksmith was operating a smithy with stable and shed on the lot.			At this time the lot was still owned by the estate of George Washington.
1830 Census	A blacksmith named William Smith was operating a smithy on the lot. Presumably, he is the same man as above.	Not a residenc e.	2	There is a gap in the title records here; it is thus unsure who owned the property at this time.
1840	By this time, this business was owned by John Summers.			
1850 Census	At this time, Summers owned lots 10, 11, and 12, where he manufactured carriages and eventually railroad cars.	Factory only	1-2	John Summers was Virginia born and lived nearby on Prince Street. The Summers carriage factory was the only local manufacturing enterprise on the 500 block.
1870 Census	John Summers still owned and operated his factory on the three lots.	Factory only.		* discrepancy between land use figure and profile
1888 Census	John Summers still owned and operated the same factory,	Factory only		At this point his sons built houses on lots 11 and 12, so that only lot 10 was used for industrial purposes.

Lot 12 History: 121 Pitt Street

(Feature 17)

Date	Ownership/ Occupancy	White/ Black	Tax Decile	Comments
1763	After the eastern half of the 500 block was officially annexed to the City of Alexandria in this year, George Washington purchased the entire SE Quadrant for 30 pounds.			John Alexander Jr. had owned the land prior to its annexation.
1799 Census	The lot was listed as vacant.			
1810 Census	A wheelwright named George Gordon rented the lot at this time.	6/1		Gordon also owned lots 10 and 11. His shop was located on one of these three lots, though it is unsure exactly where.
1830 Census	A painter named Alex Johnson may have been renting this property as a residence.		7	There is some confusion here and it seems unsure whether Johnson lived on lot 12 or 13.
1850 Census	At this time, a carriage maker named John Summers owned lots 10, 11, and 12, where he manufactured carriages and eventually railroad cars.	Factory only	1-2	John Summers was Virginia born and lived nearby on Prince Street. The Summers carriage factory was the only local manufacturing enterprise on the 500 block. NB: At this time, lots 10 and 11 were not separated
1870 Census	John Summers still owned and operated his factory on the three lots.	Coach factory only		* discrepancy between land use figure and profile
1888 Census	Ownership of the lot passed to J.W. Summers, the son of John Summers, who built a new house on the site.			Lots 11 and 12 were separated at this time. Lot 11 passed into the hands of Summers' other son, William J. Summers, who also built a new house at that location. At this point only Lot 10 was being used for industrial purposes.

Lot 19 History: 513-515 Prince Street

(Feature BBB)

Date	Ownership/ Occupancy	White/ Black	Tax Decile	Comments
1763	Though the SW quadrant was still not officially part of the city, it was already being leased at this time. The owner was John Alexander.			
1779	The entire western half of the 500 block was officially annexed to the city of Alexandria.			
1799 Census	The lot was listed as vacant.			In 1800, its use was listed as residential.
1810 Census	The lot (along with lot 19, immediately south of 18) was being rented by a merchant named David Smedley.	8/1		It seems the lot was being used for residential purposes only.
1830 Census	James Cloud was listed as the owner of the lot. His occupation is unknown.		2	Cloud also owned Lot 18.
1850 Census	John C. Graham, a tugboat captain, owned the lot at this time.	3/6	2	Graham was born in Prussia and also owned Lot 18.
1870 Census	John C. Graham was still listed as the owner.			
1888 Census	Unclear*			

Lot 23 History: 112-114 South St. Asaph Street

(Features VV, CCC)

Date	Occupation/ Ownership	W/B	Tax Decile	Comments
1763	John Alexander Jr. owned the land on which the entire western section of the block, including Lot 23, would later be built.			The entire eastern half was also in his possession until it was handed over to the town in 1763 to be officially annexed. He was able to repurchase the NE quadrant at auction that same year.
1779	The entire western quadrant, including what would later be Lot 23, was officially annexed to the city.			
1799	At this time, the census records show that Lot 23 was owned and occupied by a carpenter named John Woodrow.	7/0		The lot was used for residential purposes only. John Woodrow purchased the property in 1796.
1801	John Woodrow was still living on the lot.		5	
1810-1825	A blacksmith named Edward Martin is listed as renting the lot in the 1810 Census. By 1821, Edward was deceased and his widow Jane was living in the house.	3/0	?	
1830	Joseph Atwell, a tailor, was renting the house on the lot.	5/0	8	
1836	A black man named Eli Thompson was renting the lot.			
1839-1846	A black woman named Maria McDella (or McDelley - the name was variously spelled) and her family lived on the lot. The 1840 Census indicated that the house was occupied by 6 free blacks and 4 slaves, Maria being head of household (See Terrie for details).			This family was one of three black families living on the block at this time (and in lots not also occupied by whites; the two others lived on Lots 14 and 15). The assessment of all these lots was quite low, suggesting the quality of the houses was not as high as those occupied by whites.
1850	A slave named Harriet Williams was listed as head of household in this year's census. Records indicate she was renting the house. According to records, we know that she was still living there in 1855, but by the tax records of 1862, she is no longer	0/6	8-10	The tax records provide the name of her owner, Samuel Lindsay who lived on Lot 26.

	listed as an occupant.			
1862-1864	A black laborer named Robert Duvall was occupying the lot.			
1870-1880	M. Pohlman, a shoemaker born in Germany, was renting the lot.	4/0	6-10	The lot was still being used for residential purposes only.
1878	Jacob and Christiana Bohraus purchased the lot from C.W. Watters and S. Ferguson Beal			
1880	The lot was sold to John and Ellen Zimmerman.			
1906	The lot was sold to the First National Bank of Alexandria.			

Lot 24 History: 108-110 South St. Asaph Street

(Features BB, CC, DD, LL, PP, SS, EEE)

Date	Occupation/ Ownership	White/ Black	Tax Decile	Comments
1774	Adam Lynn purchases the entire NW Quadrant, including Lot 24.			
1779	The NW and SW quadrants are officially annexed to the town.			The entire eastern half had been annexed in 1763
1785	Adam Lynn dies and leaves 108 St Asaph to his daughter Mary Lynn and 110 St. Asaph to his son Adam Lynn Jr.			
1799 Census	Edward Martin, a blacksmith, appears as the owner of lot 24 south (110 St Asaph) in this year's census.	11/0	3 (in 1801)	
1801 1805	Mordecai Miller, a merchant, bought the north half of lot 24 in 1801, and the south half in 1805.			
1805-1818	It is likely he built a house on the combined halves in 1805. He lived there until he moved to a new house on Washington Street in 1818.	12/3 (1810 Census)	1 (1810 Census)	
1820	Dr. Richard C. Mason began renting the lot.			Dr. Mason was active in Alexandria's efforts to improve her connections with the west and eventually became Chairman of a Committee of C&O Canal stockholders.
1821-1832	William Miller, Mordecai's son and also a merchant, moved into the house and stayed until 1832.	6/3 (1830 Census)	3 (1830 Census)	
1833-1852	The property passed from Mordecai Miller to Robert H. Miller, another son, who moved in immediately and lived there until 1852.	15/0 (1850 Census)	1 (1850 Census)	The house had a frame construction and two stories. Robert Miller built the cistern designated as Feature LL.
1870 Census	H.K. Bradshaw, a clerk from New York, was renting the lot	3/0	3-4	

	at the time of the census.		
1874	Elisha and Francis Miller sold the lot to Joseph Janney, who then passed it on to his son, Samuel Janney, in 1878.		Elisha and Francis were the daughter and son of Robert H. Miller.
1880-1903	The property was sold to John. R. Zimmerman, a wood and coal dealer.	1 (1888 Census)	
1903-1906	The First National Bank of Alexandria owned the property.		
1906-1931	Benedict Weil was owner.		
1931-1958	Sidney Weil was owner		
1958-1968	Ownership was passed to the City of Alexandria. The lot was razed to make space for a parking lot.		

Lot 25 History: 106 South St. Asaph Street

(Feature QQ)

Date	Ownership/ Occupation	White/ Black	Tax Decile	Comments
1774	The entire NW Quadrant is bought by Adam Lynn, a baker.			
1779	The NW and SW quadrants were officially annexed to the town.			The entire eastern half had been annexed in 1763
1785	Adam Lynn died and the lot passed to his daughter Anne Lynn.			
1799 Census	The lot was apparently vacant at this time			
1810 Census	The lot was still vacant			See detailed records; a little confusing but it looks like Ann Buckland and Adam Lynn Jr. lived on the lot for a few years.
1830 Census	George Wise Jr. was renting the lot for residential purposes.		6	His occupation is unknown
1835-1887	Benjamin Barton, a silversmith and watchmaker owned the property during this time.			
1850 Census	George Duffey, a silversmith and watchmaker, was renting the lot as a residence.	5/0		
1870 Census	A plumber named James F. Walsh was renting the lot as a residence.	4/0	5	
1888 Census	A teacher named Mary Walsh was listed as the renter.			

Lot 26 History: 104 South St. Asaph Street

(Feature 7)

Date	Occupation/ Ownership	White/ Black	Tax Decile	Comments
1774	The entire NW quadrant, of which Lot 26 is a part, is bought by Adam Lynn.			
1779	The NW and SW quadrants are officially annexed to the town.			The entire eastern half had been annexed in 1763
1785	Lynn briefly lived on the property but died the same year. The property was passed on to his daughter, Catherine Lynn Coryton.			Josiah Coryton, Catherine's husband, was a watchmaker, and silver and goldsmith.
1799 Census	Vacant			
1801	Catherine Coryton sold the lot to her sister, Ann Buckland			
1805	Ann Buckland sold the property to her brother, Adam Lynn Jr.			
1805-1819	Ann Buckland built a house on the property and moved in as a renter with her family.	6/0 (1810 Census)	5 (1810 Census)	The house was made of bricks and had two stories. In 1814 and 1815, Adam Lynn Jr. and John Roberts are listed as occupants.
1819	Adam Lynn Jr. sold the house back to Ann Buckland			
1820-1821	The house was rented out to Francis Adams	5/2		One male and one female slave lived in the house.
1822	George Brent, a merchant, was renting the house.			
1823	Vacant			
1824-1834	Ann Buckland and her family moved into the house.	6/2 (1830 Census)	2 (1830 Census)	Family members included her daughter Mary and Mary's husband Thomas Whittle. Whittle was listed as co-head of household in the 1830 census. Mary and Thomas operated a grocery store at the same address.
1834	Ann Buckland died and the property passed to her daughter			Mary and Thomas Whittle owned the lot until 1849.

	Mary and her husband Thomas Whittle.			
1834-1838	A retailer named Robert Bell rented the lot.			
1839-1842	Various renters			
1843	Samuel Lindsay rented the lot.	4/0 (1850 Census)	3 (1850 Census)	Lindsay was an insurance agent who was retired by 1850. In 1849, lot ownership passed to Thomas Childs until 1853, when it was deeded to Ann Coryton Childs until 1877.
1857-1864	Samuel Lindsay died in 1857 but his wife Jane continued to reside on the lot with one of her daughters.			
1867	A clerk named Augustine Hudson was renting the property.	5/0 (1870 Census)	3 (1870 Census)	
1876	Julia McGraw (millinarist) and Charles Biggs (sewing machine agent) were renting.			In 1878 Biggs (if not McGraw) was still residing on the lot. 1877-1887: owner was Mary Anderson
1880	William Duckrell (jeweler) and his family.			
1887	Isaac Schwarz bought the lot. Owner until 1897.			
1887	William E. Atwell, a tailor, was renting the lot.		3 (1888 Census)	
1896	R.L. Harding, an oyster dealer, was renting the lot.			
1897	The lot passed to Samuel Schwarz until 1902, in trust for Clara Fischer Fannie Rothschild and Edith Schwarz.			
1898	James Moriarty occupied the lot.			
1908-1919	The property was sold by Edith Schwarz Bendheim to George E. Markell.			A printing business was being operated by Markell and Co. on the lot.