

22/24 State Street

Joseph Johnson

c. 1815

RWCO

Q12, p.536 On 10 October 1852, for \$6,000.00, Thomas Bennett sold this handsome double house, or tenement, to Benjamin P. Bicaise, a gunsmith, whose family was to retain it many years.

Ibid. Bennett had acquired it on 5 April, 1843, from Hon. Joel Roberts Poinsett (he stated, but the deed was not recorded).

F-11, 197 Poinsett was indebted to Bennett in the large sum of \$50,000.00, and it was probably in partial settlement of his claim that the transaction was made. Bennett also held a power of attorney from Poinsett, who seems to have been in financial difficulties for years. He was, of course, the distinguished diplomat, who brought the flowering plant which is named for him, from Mexico.

F-11, 197 Poinsett had acquired it as three separate lots, and so sold it to Bennett, who pointed out in his deed to Bicaise that it was really one property. Poinsett had obtained, in 1841, from Joseph Johnson, who had assembled the property from three narrow lots, after a disastrous fire. Poinsett states that Johnson had bought the lots respectively from (1) Martin Cline, 1811, (2) the heirs of Peter Suder (1812 & 1815) and (3) Thomas Doughty (no date).

Although the claim of title, carrying the property as three separate lots until 1843, would suggest that the double house was built after that date, I think the appearance of the building is older, and the style of the building, if built in 1843, would have been a "flat top". Therefore, I believe it was built by

Joseph Johnson, father (I think) of the noted historian, soon after 1815, date of his latest acquisition.

L. Louis Green III

14 October 1971