

Nos. 8, 9, AND 10

Richard Smith's grant of July 4, 1645, covered all the land on which houses numbered 8, 9, 10 and 11 stand, as well as the little street or lane. Smith's own house was built prior to August 16, 1651, when he either mortgaged or sold his property, "according to the ground-brief" to Gillis Pietersen.—*N. Y. Col. MSS.*, III: 90; [1] *cf. Cal. Hist. MSS., Dutch*, 54. This instrument does not mention the lane, but as this was a private road, over his own land, it was probably in existence at the time the house was built. It was closed by November 2, 1662. On that day, Thomas Willett, as Smith's attorney, sold the house and lot of Ritzert (Richard) Smith, "North of *the Waal*, bounded on the West by the house and lot of the Honble. Burgomaster Olof Stevensen, North by the Hoogh Straat, East by the superstructure and lot of Jan Hend. Stelman and South by the aforesaid *Wall*," to Tomas Wandel.—*Liber Deeds*, A: 286. Within a few months, Wandel sold the little house on the Hoogh Straet, with the shallow lot shown on the Plan, to Arien Huybersen. This

deed included also part of the lane. It was 45 feet, 6 inches, wide on the street, and only 22 feet deep.—*Ibid.*, B: 12; cf. *Deeds and Conveyances* (etc.), 1659–1664, trans. by O'Callaghan, 308–9.

Thomas Willett sold the remainder of Smith's holdings here to Jan Hendricksen Steelman. The lot immediately adjoining Smith's house was sold "with a certain superstructure upon it" (No. 10); the adjoining lot to the east, as "an improved lot."

The superstructure is clearly shown on the Plan. It looks as if Smith had built it for a storehouse. The improvements on the next lot probably refer to the fencing and grading. These deeds were made on July 15, 1661, and October 30, 1662, respectively.—*Liber Deeds*, A: 232, 285.

Evert Duycking, who lived in house No. 11, had been authorised a year earlier to sell Smith's vacant land. He declared, March 28, 1659, that "M^r Smitt himself has valued it at fl. 500 in Beavers; he expects him here shortly."—*Rec. N. Am.*, VII: 218.

Richard Smith is not found in New Amsterdam earlier than July, 1645, the date of his ground-brief. He never became a permanent resident, his Manhattan holdings being generally managed through his attorneys, and, in 1662, he permanently disposed of all his New Amsterdam property (*supra*).—See Innes's *New Amsterdam and its People*, 218–22.

Smith's home was on the site of the building Nos. 87–9 Pearl Street. The lots sold to Jan Hendricksen Steelman covered Nos. 91, 93, and 95 Pearl Street.

The lot where the superstructure stands was never improved by Steelman. In September, 1674, Jacob Kip and Asser Levy, curators of the estate of the late Jan Hendriksz Steelman, *alias* Coopall, gave a deed of it, still vacant, to the widow and heirs of the late Burger Joris.—*Original Book of N. Y. Deeds*, in *N. Y. Hist. Soc. Collections*, 1913, p. 47. At the same time, they conveyed to Guilaine Verplanck a "certain brick dwelling," which Steelman had built on the south part of his easterly lot.—*Ibid.*, 48. This building stood on the site of No. 95 Pearl Street.

Jan Hendricksen died in 1670. His neighbours knew him as Coopall ("Buy-all," or "Grab-all"), from his inveterate habit of seizing every opportunity to secure land or more portable things of value, usually without much thought as to whether he could pay for them or not. It would be difficult to determine, after the lapse of two centuries and a half, whether he was merely unfortunate, or as unscrupulous as he was lacking in the capital necessary to forward his enterprises. After making purchases of land or merchandise, he was perpetually in court, being sued for the purchase-money. Too many entries for citation in this brief sketch are found in the early land records and in the records of the burgomasters court, representing him as defendant in such litigations, brought by the director-general himself, and by Christopher Hooghlant, Oloff Stevensen van Cortlandt, Jacobus Backer, Bartholdus Maan, and many other of the most substantial burghers. It is not to be wondered at that, at his death, his estate was found to be wretchedly, even pitifully, insolvent.

On the 2nd of December, 1670, occurs this pathetic passage:

Upon the Petition of the Widdow of Jan Hendrix Steelman *alias* Coopall, the Worship^l Mayor, with the Advice of the Ald^rmen . . . this day ordered that the s^d Widdow should be allowed out of hur Late husbands Estate to support hur this Winter the Vallue of tenne beavers.—*Rec. N. Am.*, VI: 274.