

'OLD HOMESTEAD' SOLD TO MAKE ROOM FOR PARK

IS STRUCK OFF AT AUCTION TO
JOHN JOHNSON.

Building Was Erected in the Eighteenth Century and in Front Room is Fine Old Adams Mantle.

The "Old Homestead", next to the oldest house in Matawan, was sold at public auction and is now being razed in order to make way for widening of the new road at that point and the building of a continuous walk from the Matawan station on the west side of the street.

The building was struck off to John Johnson for \$70. The bidding was started at \$50 and was increased twice by \$10 each time. The other building on the back, used as an ice house and later as a garage brought \$35. John H. Crine was the buyer. Conditions under which these buildings were sold were for immediate removal or to be torn down. It was further stipulated that, if moved, they were not to be placed on Main Street, Broad Street or on Matawan Lake.

The "Old Homestead" was built in the Eighteenth Century, probably near 1761. In the front parlor was a fine old Adams mantle piece with chimney recess closets. The mantle is finely carved and beautiful in design. Coat after coat of paint throughout the years has been a wonderful means of protection. The timber is heavy hand wrought and of a type no longer to be found except in an occasional old landmark. It is in splendid condition. The building in general was in bad condition.

The "Old Homestead" was in the eighteenth century the home of Benjamin Ledyard and his wife Catharine Forman whose family lived in the house known as the "Old Hospital". Mary Ledyard, a sister of Benjamin, married Jonathan Forman, their daughter, Mary, married Henry Seymour and was the mother of Horatio Seymour, one of New York famous Governors.

Immediately prior to the Borough parcels the house opposite, owned by Mrs. P. J. Devlin, was offered at auction and sold to William Kennedy for \$85. Jacob R. Lefferts, borough attorney, was auctioneer.

It is the expectation of the borough council, when the property on which the Old Homestead stood is cleared to make a park of the point. The Matawan Woman's club has been asked to assist in beautifying and caring for the grounds.