



*The Courtyard Corner*

ing a second-floor balcony. Doors opening on the balcony permitted communication among the larger rooms on the second floor. Each entrance on the main floor had a stoop leading to the court.

By December 1759 an addition to the north wing had been completed to accommodate the officers, who were still quartered with the townspeople. This two-story Colonial building of the same material as the barracks proper is variously referred to as the Officers Quarters, Colonial House or Colonial Mansion.

Throughout the remainder of the war troops were continuously quartered in the building. Red-coated British regulars and Jersey Blues became a common sight in the town. On one occasion a regiment of Highlanders in their bright plaid uniforms stopped a while at the barracks.

For two years following the war the barracks stood empty. Then in 1765 the Colonial Legislature, anxious to get some return from the large building, passed a bill to sell "the perishable articles" and to rent the barracks to private families. The State reserved the right to use the building for its original purpose should the need arise again.

Until the outbreak of the Revolution the occupants of the barracks were not disturbed. Then, on November 7, 1776, just before the retreat across New Jersey from Fort Lee, General George Washington wrote to Governor William Livingston informing him that the Continental Army expected to use the Trenton Barracks as headquarters. Of course, in the flight that followed, establishing headquarters anywhere in New Jersey was impossible. But the pursuing British, hindered by their many wagons of plunder taken from towns and farms along the way, did stop here on December 8, 1776. Fifty Hessian jagers stationed in the barracks made use of the fine mahogany furniture stolen from the parsonage of Newark's First Presbyterian Church. Meanwhile, Tories driven from other New Jersey communities were lodged in the building under the protection of the British troops.

£40; local stone was brought to the site; and masons and carpenters worked feverishly, urged on by the townspeople, who were anxious to be relieved of their house guests. In December 1758, seven months after the work had begun, enough of the building was completed to accommodate 150 men; by the following March the barracks was finished.

Two stories high, with a main section 130 feet long, the building of sturdy, undressed stone with white lime mortar formed three sides of an open rectangle. The two wings were 58 feet long, and the width throughout was 18½ feet. Around the interior court were square columns, built to the overhanging roof and support-