

Nos. 5-A AND 5-B

The land on which these two small houses stood had first belonged to Aert Teunissen, from Putten, who was murdered at Pavonia by the Indians, in 1643.—*N. Y. Col. Docs.*, I: 328-9. Ten years later, the vacant land was purchased at public auction by Jacob

Steendam, New Amsterdam's earliest poet, who also speculated extensively, for his time, in real estate.

Steendam sold the southerly lot to Harman Smeeman, May 8, 1657 (*Mortgages*, 1654-1660, trans. by O'Callaghan, 59), and Smeeman built the house here shown, and lived in it until February 19, 1659, when he sold it to Dirck Siecken.—*Min. of Orph. Court*, I: 70. This deed was not recorded until October 23, 1671.—*Liber Deeds*, B: 187; cf. *Book of Records of Deeds & Transfers* (etc.), 1665-1672 (translated), 204-5.

The smaller house, to the north, was built by Leandert Aerden, the Boor, who purchased the lot from Steendam, May 27, 1656.—*Liber Deeds*, A: 45. As the owner of a bouwery on the East River, granted to him October 19, 1645 (*Liber GG*: 120, Albany), Aerden had many disputes with Director-General Stuyvesant, his neighbour there, about their roads and meadows. The farm finally became Stuyvesant's; but it still bears its earliest owner's name, three maps of the "Leandert Farm" being filed in the New York County Register's Office—numbers 80, 112, and 134.