

## The Brick House Circa 1810

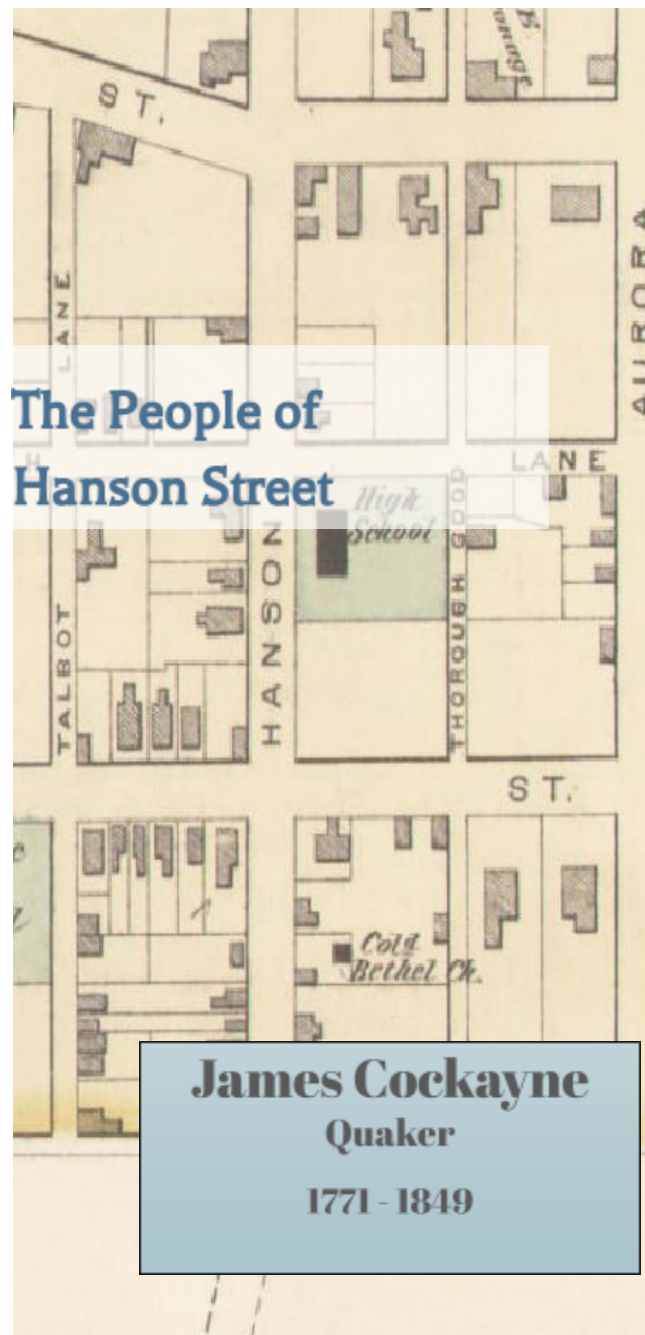
The Cockayne house

The Poney Residence

A late-Federal, two-and-one-half-story, three bay structure; the Cockayne House is laid in Flemish bond on the street façade and in common bond on the other elevations. There is a two-story, two-bay mid-nineteenth century frame addition that extends to the west; a one story, kitchen shed is located behind this two-story, two-bay frame addition.

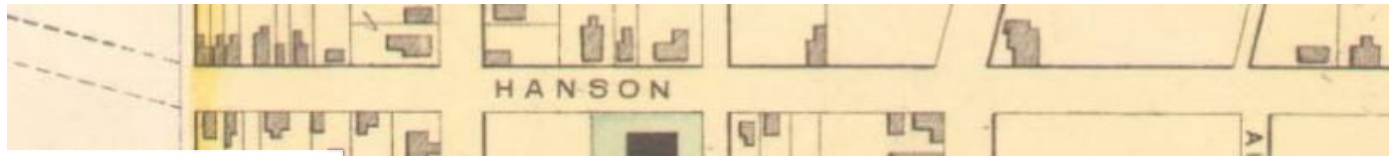
The main entrance is articulated with a gable-roofed porch and is located in the south bay of the primary façade; the windows at the first floor are two-over-two sashes and on the second floor are six-over-six sashes on this façade and have brick jack arches and wood paneled shutters. Two gable dormers with twelve light casement windows; project above the façade and a brick chimney rises above the north gable end. An additional porch entrance is located on the south side of the two-story, two-bay frame addition.

The interior detail is intact, including chair rails, window trim, and a second floor mantel with paneled pilasters. The interior plan is a single pile on each floor. A door leads from the main room on the first floor to the frame addition; it would have led to an earlier rear wing. The main section of the house has a dog-leg stair with windows in the southwest corner. The stair is quite simple with plain balusters and square newel and intermediates, the closed string course has molded decoration. The original random pine floors survive on the interior.



**James Cockayne**  
Quaker  
1771 - 1849

**The Hill Community  
Project  
Easton, Maryland**



## James Cockayne

James Cockayne was born on August 23<sup>rd</sup> 1771 to parents Thomas and Sarah Kemp Cockayne. The Cockayne family was a member of the Third Haven Meeting of Easton.

James married Sarah Mullikin in 1797 and was removed from the meeting, having “married out”. His second marriage was to Elizabeth “Betsy” Troth in 1805.

It was James and Elizabeth who would make their home on Hanson Street opposite the Bethel A.M.E. Church site where they built the brick house that stands today.

In 1826 James and Elizabeth made the decision to move to Wayne County, Indiana. James’ death is recorded there in the records of the White Water Meeting of Indiana, as September 4<sup>th</sup> 1849 at the age of 78 years.

*Republican Star March 1827*

## Landowner

---

Lot No. 32 was originally leased by Charles Pickering Jr. and Charles Pickering Sr. in 1785. It would change hands many times until it was purchased by James Cockayne in 1802 from Joshua Taggart. In 1806 James sold part of the southern half of the lot to William Fleming, and in 1807 the remaining part to William Austin.

Lot No. 32 would remain as such until 1884. The records indicate James Cockayne built the brick house between 1805 and 1815.

By the time the 1817 Tax Assessment was taken the brick house was built and the homestead is described as having a 2 story brick house with a brick addition, a separate kitchen, meat house, a necessary, and a stable and carriage house under one roof.

*The contemporary lots with the dates they were created from the two halves of Lot No. 32.*

## Legacy

---

This prominent residential structure that was built in the heart of what would later become an area occupied by free Blacks, differs from the nearby residential structures which are primarily small wood frame homes erected in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Henry Corkran purchased the house in 1866, a Quaker of the community who made it possible for the Bethel A.M.E. Church to acquire the property across the street, where the church stands today.

In 1922 Theodore Poney attended a public auction held on the courthouse steps in Easton. Being the highest bidder on the brick house property, he and his wife Gertrude could call it home, and so they did until their deaths.

Gertrude Poney was a well-known and respected citizen of Easton who ran a catering service for many years. The Poneys were members of the Asbury U.M. Church.

At Gertrude’s death in 1966 she devised the house to her nephew Joshua O. Turner.

Poney family members called the brick house home from 1922 to 1987.