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12-Year Dispute Ends

Department of Justice's Acceptance of \$1,450,000 for P. O. Site Clears Way for New Building

Twelve years of legal controversy and civic protests over replacing the old post office excavation at Broad street and Raymond boulevard with a store and office building appears to be nearing an end. The former post office building was razed, a fence was erected around the excavation and then construction of a new building was stopped.

Acceptance yesterday by the Department of Justice of an unconditional offer of \$1,450,000 by ABR Corp. for the site apparently will clear the way for erection of the building. The original sale price in 1940 was \$2,000,000.

In announcing acceptance of the offer, Assistant U. S. Attorney Corcoran said a Federal Court suit by the government to cancel a previous contract to sell the property will be dismissed after the money is paid.

ABR Corp. has agreed to pay in 120 days.

The suit was brought against Samuel Bratter, former Newark real estate operator, and ABR Corp. Bratter entered into the contract to buy the site and erect a building on it in 1940. Later, he assigned the contract to ABR Corp., which he organized, and then sold ABR Corp. to the late Samuel Strausberg of New York. Strausberg's heirs are the present owners.

ABR Corp. extended its offer September 20 for 10 days at the government's request, and the City Commission granted the corporation a similar extension to complete the purchase of the property. The commission agreed to waive \$248,838 in back taxes against ABR Corp. on its equity in the property contingent on the corporation's buying the site and proceeding soon with the erection of the building.

Corcoran said ABR Corp. in a letter dated September 8, agreed to make the purchase without any strings. Previously, he said, offers were contingent on whether the back taxes would be cancelled and whether the National Production Authority would extend a building material priority which expires December 31.

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