

"THE FRENCH CHURCH HOUSES"

98 King Street

John Vaun's House

c. 1742

Carpet

RMCO
AA, p. 317

Ramsay's History
of South Carolina
Vol. II, p.

In 1701 the Lords Proprietors granted to Henry Le Noble and Peter Buretall, as trustees, the two town lots 92 and 93 for the benefit of the French (Huguenot) Church. As Dr. David Ramsay tells us, they were however then "low" lots, and considered unsuitable for building. In 1741 (Ramsay says 1755, which is a surprising error) the heirs of LeNoble conveyed it to Francis Guichard, pastor of the Church, and Gabriel Manigault, Isaac and Paul Mazyek, Jacob Martin, John Newville, Benjamin d'Harriette and Gideon Faucheraud, as representatives of the congregation, and, Ramsay tells us, due to the improvements made by Le Noble, they were now found suitable for building lots.

Thereupon, on 1 October 1742, these trustees leased them in narrow, deep lots to seven tradesmen, for fifty years, at low annual rentals, on condition that each build thereon a brick house, not less than 15 feet by 27 feet, with two chimneys, and other requirements. Five surviving houses fit the specifications, and the titles have been followed in several cases sufficiently to determine that these are the original buildings: Numbers 98, 96, 94, 92, and 88

NN, p.389 (1749)
P-3, p.182 (1766)
P-10, pp.186-192
(1823, 1837) etc.

*Filed by
Ramsay
1742*

King Street. (Number 100 has been replaced with a later house (but on the same foundation) and Number 90 has disappeared altogether.)

In order, from Number 100 to Number 88, the grantees were:

AA, p.394	David Mongin, watchmaker 100
AA, p.371	John Vaun, Carpenter 99
AA, p.311	James Hilliard, watchmaker 96
AA, p.377	Robert Harvey, carpenter 94
AA, p.400	William Pharrow (or Farrow), mariner 92
AA, p.383	Edward Scull, vintner 90
AA, p.388	Mathew Vanall, carpenter (also a cabinet-maker) 88

Since these leases were recorded in the spring of 1745, it would seem likely that the buildings has all been completed by that time.

After the expiration of the leases, the church appears to have rented the buildings for the support of the church, until, under grave financial pressure following the Confederate War, it was forced to sell them all, in 1871.

WARD BOOK
1871-75

Thereafter, these houses were allowed by their owners to deteriorate steadily, until, in 1933, Mrs. Ferdinanda Legare Backer, since the wife of our Vice-President, Dr. Joseph Iser Waring, purchased Numbers 94, 96, and 98, and restored the first two, making #96 her own home. Number 98 she later sold to Dr. William H. Frampton, father of the present owner, Mr. Wallace Frampton. Dr. Frampton restored it, and

later acquired others of this group.

This property is believed to have been the site of the "Lone Room" of Peter Fayolle, where was founded, on 18 June 1816, La Société Française de Bienfaisance, one of the interesting fraternal benevolent societies which survive here to this day, and it is marked by a bronze plaque.

We are privileged to tour, for the first time, this charmingly quaint house, one of a most interesting and picturesque group indeed.

Louis Green
L. Louis Green, III

21 January 1969

*This is wrong
Y Y Y
The long
room was
at #90 and
behind #88
Y Y Y*