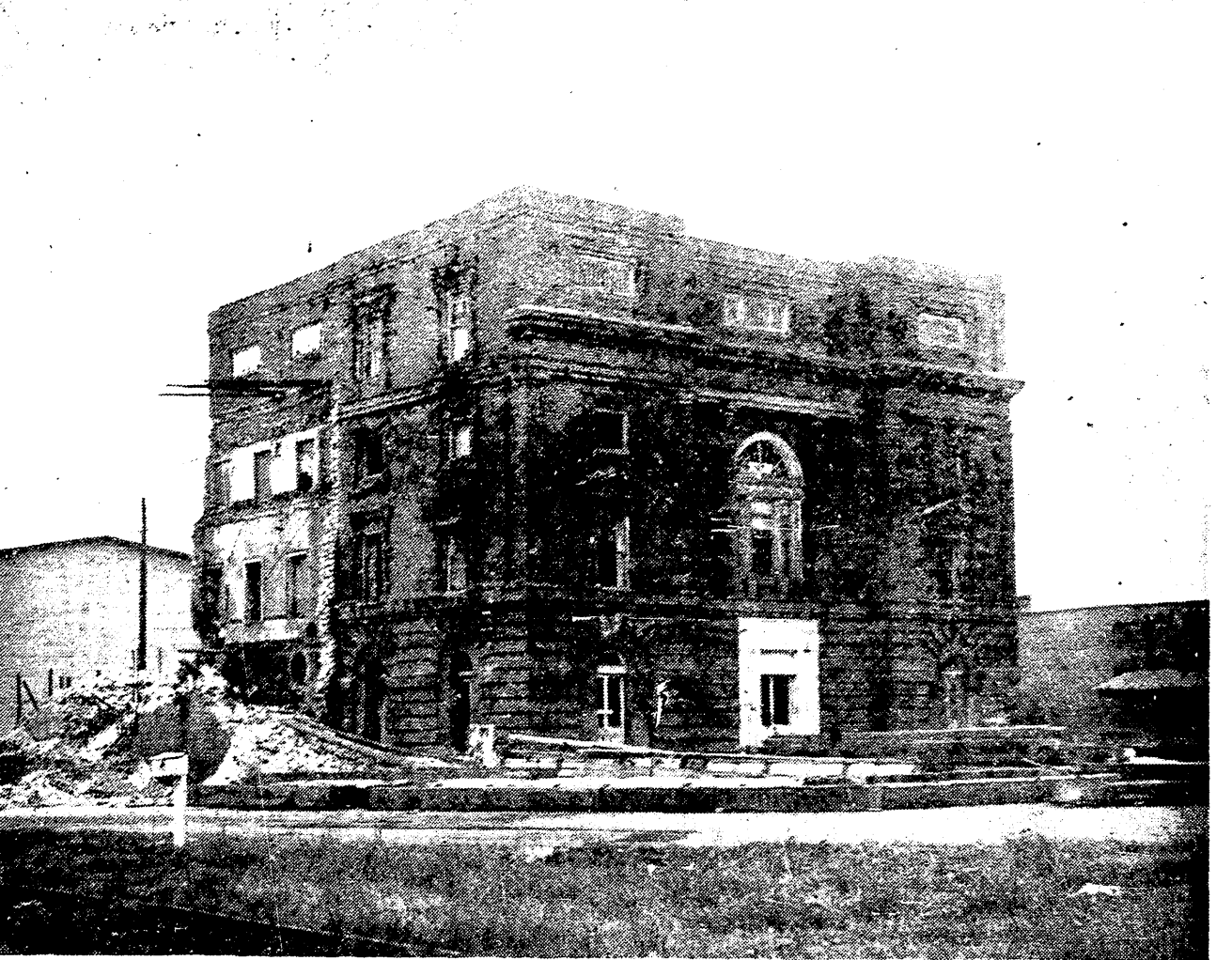




Ruined Front Of Orphan House Chapel, Now Demolished

One of the most vigorous controversies about Charleston landmarks which arose in 1953 concerned the demolition of the beautiful chapel fronting in Vanderhorst Street which once was a part of the Charleston Orphan House. A huge new store for Sears, Roebuck & Co. is now nearing completion on the corner of Calhoun and St. Philip Streets, where the Orphan House formerly stood.



Remaining Portions Of Bennett's Rice Mill Near Waterfront

This is famous old Bennett's Rice Mill as it stands today, already shorn of its north wing. The ancient building was constructed about in 1844; is now the property of the Seaboard Air Line Railway. Its handsome Palladian styling is considered of national importance, as typifying the fine industrial architecture which prevailed in the Lowcountry in the 19th Century.

Historic Charleston Foundation Laments Vanished Landmarks

And Warns That Other Famous Local Structures Seem Doomed

By FRANCES R. EDMUNDS
Tour Director, Historic Charleston Foundation

The annual report of the Historic Charleston Foundation contains many encouraging facts, especially regarding the visitors who come each year in increasing thousands to savor the unique charm of this old and historic city, and its ancient landmarks.

However, it also contains some distressing facts, as regards the destruction or the planned destruction of many of the very architectural museum pieces which give Charleston a flavor which cannot be matched or even imitated elsewhere in the United States.

Through the efforts of the Foundation staff, and especially of its president, Samuel G. Stoney, there has been compiled a list of some of the notable buildings already destroyed, or destined to be destroyed.

The structures discussed do not represent the sum total of destruction — all of it regrettable and much of it unnecessary. In the Foundation's view — which has occurred in Charleston during its long past. The list does, however, present a small cross-section of recent destruction, or planned destruction. As such, it serves as a warning to the community.

UNDOUBTEDLY, the destructive incident in 1953 which caused the most feeling among those who cherish Charleston's past was the

demolition of the beautiful chapel which once was a part of the Charleston Orphan House. The Foundation's epitaph for this vanished place of beauty might well read: "Designed by Gabriel Manigault built in 1802; destroyed by Sears, Roebuck & Co. in 1953." The chapel is gone. It is irreplaceable.

SOMEWHAT better fortune has been encountered in the case of the Bennett Rice Mill, built in 1844 near the Cooper River waterfront. However, the beautiful rice mill has lost its north wing with the destruction of which the main building, already in poor condition, was damaged further.

This handsome Palladian building is of national importance as an outstanding example of the fine industrial architecture in Charleston in the 19th Century. It is the property of the Seaboard Air Line Railway, standing in its marshaling yards on East Bay at Hasell Street. The Foundation and others interested in preserving this remarkable building have made urgent representations to the Seaboard, asking that it be preserved and put in sufficiently good condition to withstand further weathering. It is our hope that this will be done.

LOST FOREVER during 1953 was the building at 100 Broad St., once the home of the celebrated Alexander Garden, M.D., F.R.S., for whom the gardenia was named. Built sometime near 1770, it was torn down last spring and will be replaced by a modern office building with a colonial facade.

This dwelling was an important and integral part of the historic and significant block of Old Charleston between Meeting and King Streets. It has a long and interesting history. After 1806, for example, it was a time the property of Joseph Dulles, Charleston ancestor of John Foster Dulles, the president Secretary of State of the United States.

THERE IS at 11 Tradd St. another example of the deplorable practices of destroying part of a historic block without regard for the inappropriateness of what may be built in its stead.

The dwelling at 11 Tradd was

built in 1781 by John and William Thompson. Condemned by the city, it was razed in 1953. The great significance of this action lies in the fact that such demolition in the heart of a Charleston block affects the appearance of the whole block. This dwelling was a vital part of a most interesting series of other dwellings which dated from the replacements after the fire of 1778 swept this end of Tradd.

The house at No. 11 had an eastern wall built largely on Bermuda stone, brought as saleable ballast from the little Caribbean archipelago, when winter vegetables were shipped to markets here. The so-called "Pirate Houses" opposite St. Philip's Protestant Episcopal Church are also built of this same Aeolian limestone.

THE OLD HOME of Dr. Horlbeck at 69 Wentworth St. (corner Wentworth and Coming) also was destroyed during 1953 — to make way for a parking lot! In 1833 this large lot was leased for Mrs. John Horlbeck from the vestry of St. Philip's. It being lots 19 and 20 of the land given the church by Mrs. Affra Coming, in 1698. After the property passed to Dr. Elias Horlbeck from his mother, he built in the large residence which Gov. Aiken at the same time improved and expensive three story house, where he lived for nearly 40 years.

DURING the last two months of 1953, two representative houses at 55-57 Wentworth St. were torn down to make room for a modern restaurant. Originally parts of "Rhett-bury," the Rhett plantation whose principal house still stands at 54 Hasell St., these lots were sold by a descendant of Col. William Rhett in 1844. Soon after that time, two substantial and typical "single

houses" were built in the classic revival style by Samuel Meeker and Leonard Weissenger. It is these dwellings which have been destroyed.

NOT YET destroyed, but clearly doomed, are four other houses of architectural interest.

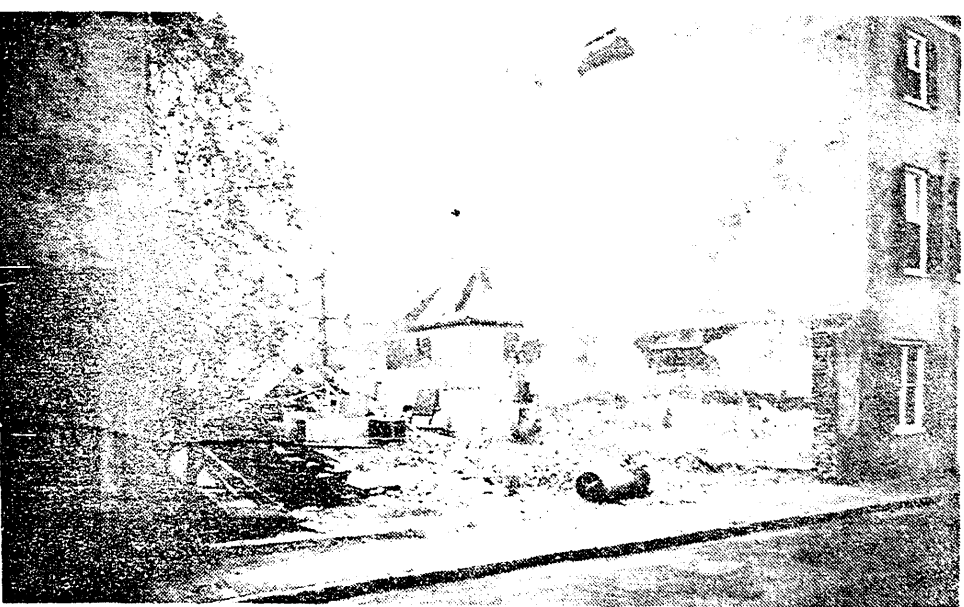
One is the unique dwelling at 392 Meeting St., one of the few houses left in Charleston with a jerkin-head roof and half-timber construction. "Half-timber" is unusual here. It occurs in this building because of a renovation some years ago, in the course of which all timbers with the exception of those at the corners, were covered with stucco. It was built about 1814 by two Frenchmen, from whom it passed to the St. Marks family, which held the property until 1933. It is a truly quaint old landmark which will soon make room for an office and warehouse.

The other doomed houses are on Aiken's Row on the north side of Wragg's Mall. About 1845, Gov. William Aiken built seven substantial residences on this site. They were called the "Seven Days of the Week" and were popularly supposed to help with housekeeping in the large residence which Gov. Aiken at the same time improved and moved to the head of the mall, at Elizabeth and Judith Streets. For more than a century these good little houses have made handsome adjuncts to the beautiful oak grove that covers the mall. They will go now in order to enlarge the playground of Courtney School.

THUS RUNS the story of destruction which the Historic Charleston Foundation seeks to combat and to control.



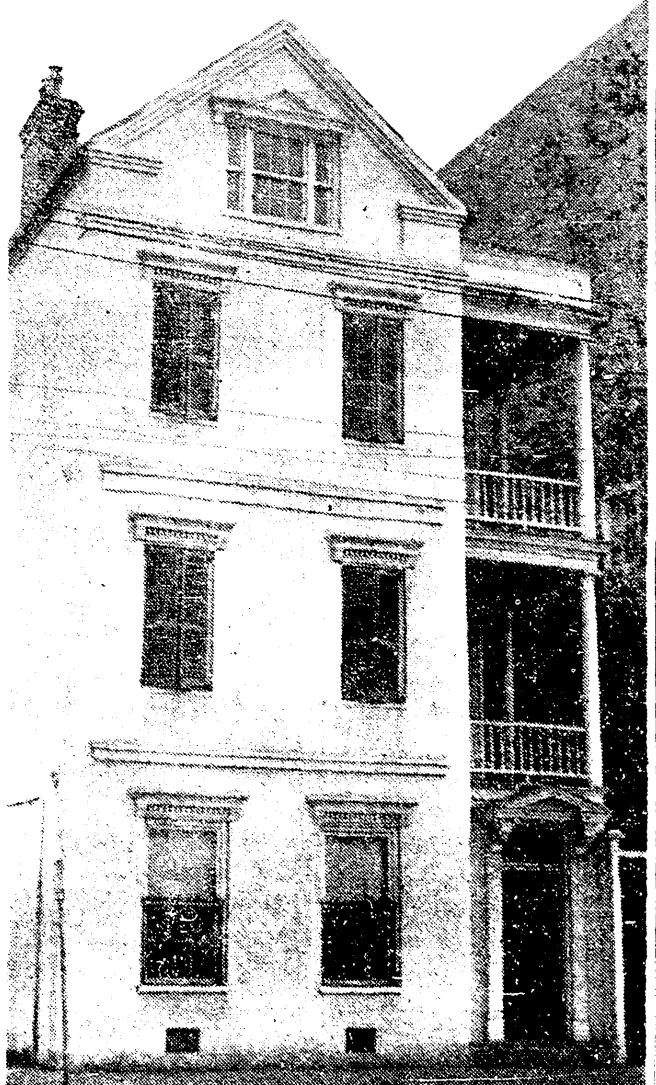
Quaint Landmark At 392 Meeting St.



11 Tradd St. Once Stood In This 'Hole'



Old Aiken Row On Wragg Mall



69 Wentworth St. Was Destroyed



Now Vanished House At 57 Wentworth St.

Home Is A Hearse In Hotchkiss, Colo.

HOTCHKISS, Colo. (AP) — A sports-loving Colorado couple claims one of America's most livable hearses. Dee and Lottie McCabe of Hotchkiss, in western Colorado's rugged mountain country, couldn't afford

a cabin near their favorite fishing spot. McCabe bought a second hand hearse for \$125, painted it in flashy green and yellow and converted it into a camp home on wheels. A bed and an Army stove were installed. The front seats were put on a swivel so they can be turned to face the hearse "living room."

Wine Free, Glass Rented When crowds visited the Western Province Wine Show in Paarl (South Africa) Town Hall they found 2,000 bottles of the country's finest wines on long tables, free for the tasting. A slight investment was involved, however, as glasses had to be rented for 35 cents, the money being refunded when the glass was returned. There were 64 varieties of wine.