

# Historical Study Of Lower King St. Planned

A study will be made of Victorian era buildings along King Street from Calhoun Street south to Broad Street. The City Planning and Zoning Commission at its meeting

Thursday night had under consideration the possibility of placing the lower portion of King Street under the Old and Historic provisions of the city zoning ordinance.

The Charleston County Planning Board had prepared a map for presentation at the meeting. It showed the areas on the peninsula which are now under the Old and

Historic provisions, long are showing not only antebellum houses and structures but also those buildings along King Street, which are in the area proposed to come under the provisions, and which were built in the Victorian period.

Thomas Radcliffe on Rutledge Street, Ashley Ashley of Doug

lawyers, engineers, stock brokers, banks, real estate sales, and of drugs only and medical laboratories.

The recommendation specifically prohibited food stores,

night clubs, liquor stores, "sweet shops", wholesale or retail operations or motels.

The commission will discuss this proposal when the new map is prepared.

# Some Houses Undergoing 'Second' Restoration



72 ANSON BUILT BY NEUFVILLE FAMILY  
Restoration only recently completed. (Staff Photo by Murton)

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Seventh in a series of articles on recent restorations in Ansonborough. The eighth will appear in this column next Monday.)

By W. H. J. THOMAS

Since Historic Charleston Foundation became involved in the rehabilitation of the Ansonborough area more than a decade ago, some 40 buildings in that mid-town neighborhood have been restored. Now we find a number of these homes are in their "second" restoration.

Initial owners of properties, after purchase by the Foundation, have been replaced by an additional rank of owners who have often continued the restorations extensively.

This is the case with the large brick dwelling house at 72 Anson St., now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Rodney W. Williams, who moved into their new home only last week. The dwelling was first purchased from the Foundation in 1962, restored and then sold to the Williamses in July of 1969. The contracting firm of H. A. DeCosta Co. only recently completed about 18 months of work on the house and grounds. Sidney W. Stubbs was the architect.

The four-story dwelling was built about 1846 by Benjamin Neufville. Before the fire of 1838, the property had been owned as two separate lots by a John Hauck and a commission merchant named George B. Locke. It was then conveyed to Philip M. Neyle, a local factor, who held it for

C. E. Miller, C. G. Miller and Mrs. Eliza Kohne.

On June 1, 1846, Mrs. Kohne paid \$2,000 for full ownership of the large property and then conveyed it to the Neufville family.

It appears that Mrs. Kohne was the Miss Eliza Neufville we find listed in the City Gazette and Daily Advertiser in 1807 as marrying one "Frederick Kohn". Benjamin Simons Neufville, the apparent builder, would probably have been Mrs. Kohne's nephew.

The Neufvilles (also found in early records spelled as Nieuville and Nieuville) were early Huguenot settlers here who became prominent merchants. (We find Robert Pringle buying three gallons of Madeira from the Neufville Company here in 1746 and John Laurens writing letters in care of the Neufville office in Bristol, England, in 1776).

In Edward McCrady's history of colonial South Carolina they are described as "a prominent Whig family", and in 1782 we find John Neufville ("who gave his fortune to the Revolutionary cause") being ordered to leave Charleston because of his revolutionary activities.

The first actual mention of the house in a deed comes in December, 1859, when the builder's son, Benjamin Kohne Neufville, transfers his one third interest in the house to his widowed mother, Harriet E. Neufville for \$5. It is men-

tioned again in 1868 when Henry Simons Neufville (apparently another son) transfers his interest to Harriet Neufville for \$1,000.

It is fairly obvious that the house was built just after the 1846 conveyance, as the family is listed in this part of Anson Street in the city directory of 1849, the first to appear after they came by the property.

Benjamin Neufville is listed

## Do You Know Your Charleston?

on Anson as early as 1840 (then at "86 Anson") but a check of the "Cross and Index for Fay's Charleston Directory, 1840 and 1841" shows his residence at that date to be 23 numbers north of John Phillip Chazal (his house stands next door, at 66 Anson, to Neufville's today) and 16 numbers north of Laurens Street (72 Anson is now two numbers south of Laurens).

Miss Julia Yancey Neufville, a sister of Benjamin and Henry, lived on in the house until her death in 1900. It then passed to her two nieces, Anna Clarkson Neufville and Isabel Yancey Neufville, the latter having by this date married Louis O. Van Doren of New York.

On May 4, 1904, the two nieces sold the property to Charles C. Leslie who was a

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The second story rooms are now in double drawing rooms with an adjoining library. These have been restored to their original appearance, with a robust plaster cornice retained, as well as the window and door architraves (featuring an unusual acanthus design in the corner blocks of the framing—the leaf appears to be of cast lead) and the period mantles.

Mrs. Williams is from London and is still working on her plan for a large English garden. Portions of this have been paved in Tennessee crab orchard stone, with beds and paths in geometric designs.

wholesale fish and oyster merchant. With his death in 1911, it passed to Julia B. Leslie; it was retained in the Leslie family until 1959 when it became one of the first Ansonborough properties to be purchased by the Foundation.

On Jan. 2, 1962, it was sold to Amalie Stone Walker. Quite extensive work had to be done at this time because of a fire which had damaged much of the ground floor and the principal staircase. The Williamses bought the dwelling from Mrs. Walker in the early summer of 1969.

The house at 72 Anson follows a plan to each floor (except the full-height attic) of a hall and staircase on the north side, two large adjoining rooms opening onto the piazza on the south and an ell extension of one room to the east rear.

The entrance level rooms are somewhat lower in height than those of the second floor and were apparently badly damaged by fire in the 1950s; these have now been restored by the Williamses with period dados, mantles and framings to openings.

Much of the main staircase is original and retains intricate wave mouldings and an unusual reverse S newel in mahogany. Mr. and Mrs. Williams returned the curve to the mahogany railing at the landing, the original having been replaced with a right angle break and many steel braces.

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St., for \$2.50. Examining the new issue  
Simons-Edward House, 14 Legare, which i  
Galleries (left to right) Miss Helen McCorma  
Charleston architect Albert Sir  
Charleston Museum, each saving contrib  
by Swain.)