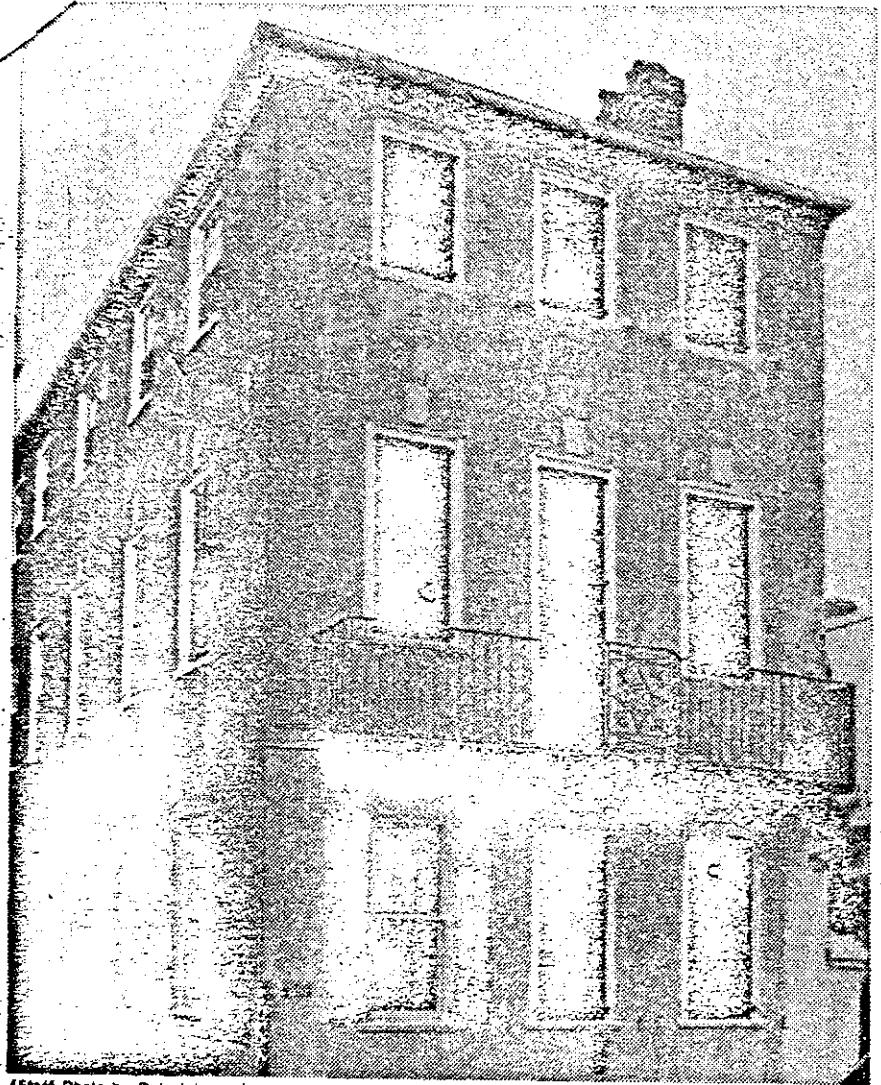


ouse Likely Built About 1740



(Staff Photo by D.J. Johnson)

107 Church St.

Do You Know Your CHARLESTON?

By ROBERT P. STOCKTON

Isaac Holmes' house at 107 Church St. appears to have been built soon after the great fire of 1740.

The site of the house was part of Lot No. 31 in the "Grand Modell of Charles Town," the original plan of the city.

Lot No. 31 was granted in 1682 to John Clapp, who subsequently moved to New York. Clapp's property is next found in the hands of Mary Crosse, who bequeathed it to her son-in-law, William Bayley, in 1698.

Bayley died by 1721, leaving his property to his son, John, who subdivided the lot, conveying a portion to Isaac Holmes, mariner, in 1721.

Another portion to the north of Holmes' lot was purchased by Holmes' brother-in-law, Col. Moses Wilson, who subsequently bought another piece to the north from William and Mary Laughton.

Col. Wilson and his wife, Margaret, in 1735 released to Holmes their portion of Lot No. 31. Wilson subsequently died, naming Holmes an executor of his will.

A 1739 map shows several structures in the vicinity, all of which were lost

Correction

A photograph in SUNDAY was incorrectly identified as being of Walterboro's new county agent Bill Yates. The photograph was of Charles Griffith, a Walterboro farmer.

in the great fire of Nov. 18, 1740, which consumed the area from Broad and Church streets to Granville's Bastion and everything on the west side of Church Street from Broad to Tradd.

A list of sufferers in the fire, prepared by a Provincial Council committee, included: "Holmes, Isaac and Maj. Wilson's Estate," with a claim of 548 pounds Sterling.

The house now at 107 Church St. was probably built by Holmes soon after the fire, as paneling in the primary rooms is similar to that in the George Eveleigh House, c. 1740, at 39 Church St. and the Thomas Rose House, c. 1735, at 59 Church St.

Woodwork and mantels are simple and typical of Charleston's early Georgian period. The staircase, with its substantial cylindrical newels, turned balusters and decorative brackets, is typical also of the mid-18th Century.

The house was certainly standing when Holmes signed his will on Nov. 20, 1754, bequeathing to his son, Joel, that "part of a Lott...in Church street, which Containeth forty six feet of a size on the said Street, with all the Buildings and improvements thereon now occupied by Martha Edwards and Benjamin Smith and John Dobell."

According to the will, Isaac Holmes did not live at present-day 107 Church St., but in a building to the south at what is now Church Street and St. Michael's Alley.

Not much is known about Isaac Holmes except that he was a mariner and planter. He called himself "Isaac Holmes of Church Street" to distinguish himself from others of the same name.

His son, Joel Holmes, retained his legacy until 1771 when he conveyed the

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property to John Boomer, "peruke maker" for 3,200 pounds, current money of the province.

Boomer divided the large property, conveying the house and lot now known as 107 Church St. to Samuel Stent for 850 pounds Sterling, in April, 1792. A few months later Stent bought the adjacent property to the south, now known as 105 Church St., from John and Elizabeth Geyer, who had acquired it from Boomer.

Stent married Mary Colley and died by 1800. Mrs. Stent then married John DuPont, a planter, in 1802, and outlived him. She died in 1816, leaving a will directing the sale of her houses on Church Street.

Hext McCall, attorney, bought the property now known as 107 Church St. from her estate in 1818, for \$6,010. The property at 105 Church St. was sold to Henry Bryce, who conveyed it to McCall the same year.

McCall subsequently died and 107 and 105 Church St.

were purchased from his estate in 1825 by Daniel G. Joye, grocer, for \$6,000. He sold the two properties in 1825 to Richard Fordham, blacksmith and planter.

The two properties were purchased from Fordham's estate in 1859 by Eleanor Campbell. She leased 107 Church St. to Adolph Englebach, a baker, for many years.

Mrs. Campbell died intestate in 1895, leaving her real estate to her son, John R. Campbell, who on March 4, 1919, sold 105 and 107 Church St. to Arthur V. Snell.

Snell, the following October, sold the two properties to E. P. David Touhey, who on Nov. 8, 1919, sold 105 Church St. to Mrs. Glen Bailey.

The property known as 107 Church St. remained in Touhey's family until its recent purchase by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas G. Herbert, who restored the building.

The metric equivalent of a square rod is 25.293 square meters.

*NJC Sept 12
...Holmes' House 177*