

From: [Kevin R. Eberle](#)
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Subject: Pics
Date: Saturday, August 24, 2019 6:52:16 PM
Attachments: [Gibbes Shaffer - 278 Meeting.jpg](#)
[Gibbes Shaffer - perhaps 287 King.jpg](#)

Someone is selling these two photos on eBay.

I don't think they are worth bidding on at the \$20-30 starting bid he has.

One of them is marked as showing the family of [Gibbes Shaffer](#) at their house on Meeting Street. The family lived for a long time at 278 Meeting Street, which is still there but hidden largely behind a modern building. The photo doesn't show anything worthwhile in my opinion.

The other photo doesn't have any markings to show an address. But, it is very clearly showing him in a hardware store with tons of tools hanging on the walls. He was an officer with his family's hardware business, Shaffer Hardware Co., starting in 1916 until he died at only 39 years old in 1921. I did a little research, and the family hardware business was located at 287 King Street in 1916-1917-1918. Then, it moved to 248 King Street in 1919-1920-1921.

It is possible that the photo was taken in the first store at 287 King Street. That store is still there and certainly seems like the sort of Victorian building that would have had such decorated interiors as seen in the picture. There seems to have been a window on the right hand side of the store from the rounded detail along the ceiling, but it is impossible to tell for sure since the angle of the photo is too straight-on. I looked at the old Sanborn maps and there used to be a gap between the 287 King and the adjacent building. So, it is possible that a window might have been present in 287 even though today there is a building attached on the north side.

The building at 248 King was demoed and is where the Charleston Place Hotel is now. But HCF has an old shot of it. It seems too wide to have been the store from the old photo. And, it does not look like the sort of building that would have had such fancy Victorian interiors.

My conjecture is that the mystery photo was taken when the hardware store opened in 1915/1916 at 287 King Street. But, that is just an educated guess based on the appearance of the clothing and the circumstantial evidence about the store's locations.

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