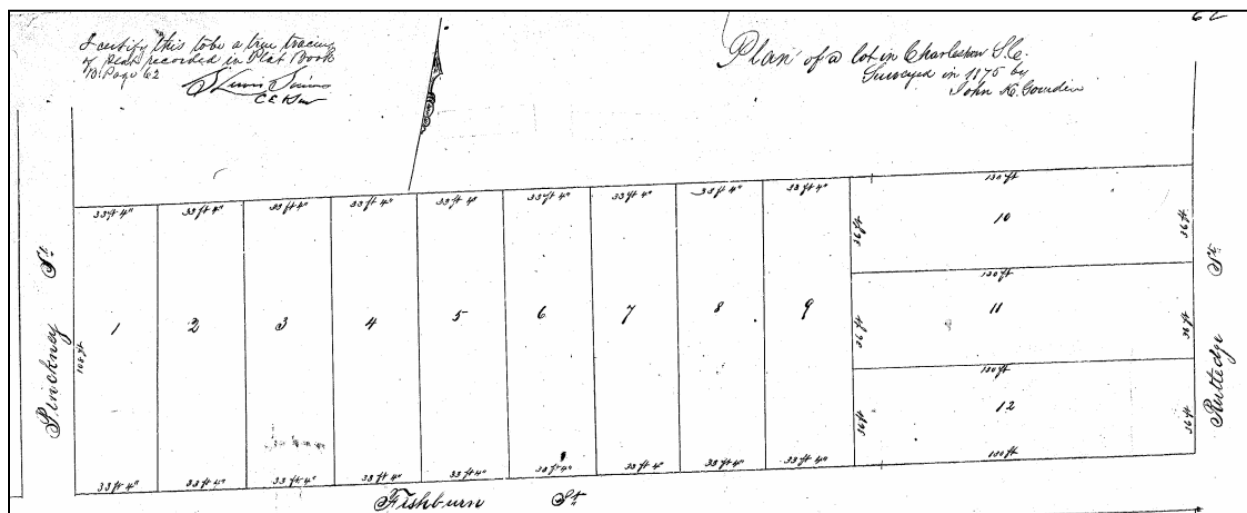


Park Pharmacy Building

533 Rutledge Ave.

c. 1915



The building at 533 Rutledge Ave. was built on Lot 12 of the Bernard Tract at the northwest corner of Fishburne Street and Rutledge Ave.

Clementine H. Bernard died in January 1875, and her estate sold Lot 12¹ to **John Harken** on April 27, 1875, for \$250.² The empty lot passed through a series of owners during the next 40 years. The series of owners included **Ernst Metz** (1896-1903),³ **Mary A. Storfer** (1903-09),⁴ **Elliott Henerey** (1909),⁵ and **Diedrich Hencken** (1909).⁶



¹ Plat B-62

² Deed book R16, page 321

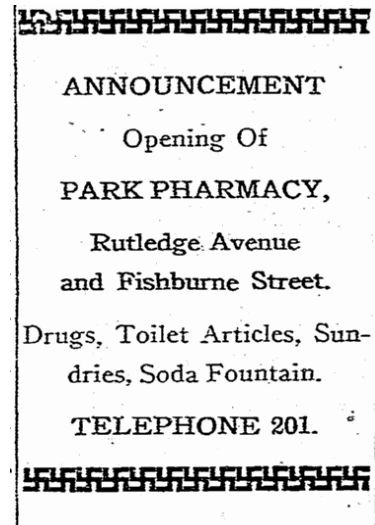
³ Deed book B21, page 337

⁴ Deed book C24, page 234

⁵ Deed book N25, page 242

⁶ Deed book S25, page 43

Eventually, Mr. Hencken conveyed the unimproved lot to **Julia Albers Hesse** (shown with her husband, Ernest Hesse, Sr.) on April 16, 1915.⁷ Two days after recording the sale, Ms. Hesse pulled a building permit to construct a \$2500 store and dwelling at the corner.⁸ The construction must have moved along very quickly because on October 2, 1915, an advertisement appeared in the *Evening Post*, announcing the opening of the new Park Pharmacy at the location. The pharmacy business, which had been formed by Mrs. Hesse's son (Ernest C. Hesse, Jr.) and C.D. Miller in 1915, enjoyed a spectacular run and was still in business in 1975. Mr. Hesse and Mr. Miller ran the Park Pharmacy as partners for 43 years until Mr. Miller retired on December 31, 1958.⁹ The two men, both of whom were known around the neighborhood as "Doc," bought the formula for a heat rash powder which they manufactured at their store.



It would seem that Julia A. Hesse died, leaving the property to her son, Ernest Christopher Hesse, Jr. The younger Mr. Hesse¹⁰ died on March 15, 1961, leaving his widow (Opal Kelly Hesse¹¹) and three children (Ernest C. Hesse, III; Eugene Farmer Hesse; and Catherine Hesse White). On May 21, 1961, the family leased their building to Reva Slotchiver Kalinsky and granted her an option to buy the premises for \$13,000. Ms. Kalinsky exercised her option, and on November 14, 1963, the heirs sold the property to **Reva Slotchiver Kalinsky**¹² for \$13,000.¹³ Nevertheless, the pharmacy continued in business even after the sale.

⁷ Deed book E28, page 24

⁸ Charleston News & Courier, April 18, 1915, at 13

⁹ "E.C. Hesse, Jr., Local Druggist, Dies in Hospital," Charleston Evening Post, Mar. 16, 1961, at 2

¹⁰ (b. June 26, 1893)

¹¹ (b. Jan. 13, 1901; d. Sept. 4, 1969)

¹² (b. Oct. 26, 1920; d. May 13, 2010)

¹³ Deed book X77, page 339

The final reference found to the Park Pharmacy was in the 1975 newspaper advertisement, and Ms. Kalinsky conveyed the building to **Lucille S. Randolph** in a deed referring to love and affection on April 23, 1976.¹⁴ Ms. Randolph had been operating a residential facility in the house next door at 535 Rutledge Ave. known as “Randolph’s,” and in February 1976, permission was granted to operate the first floor of 533 Rutledge Ave. as a house for the aged with an apartment above.¹⁵ In May 1976, an application was made to enclose the rear porches on the first and second floors.

Mrs. Randolph’s children, **Kellerceal R. Brown and Joseph Randolph, Jr.**, inherited 533 Rutledge Ave. on December 17, 1991, after Mrs. Randolph died on September 19, 1991.¹⁶ Mrs. Brown immediately conveyed her interest to her brother, Joseph Randolph, Jr., on the same day she received it herself.¹⁷ Mr. Randolph reconveyed it for \$118,710 to Mrs. Brown on June 16, 1999.¹⁸



For nearly twenty years, the property bounced between creditors who bought the property following foreclosures and several real estate investment businesses: **Robert Simpo** (2004-05);¹⁹ **George W. Fishette** (2005);²⁰ **George Metcalfe** (2005-06);²¹ **Johnathan C. Stanley** (2006-08);²² **SDI Funding, LLC** (2008);²³ **Ludwig Properties, LLC** (2008-2010);²⁴ **SCBT, N.A.** (2010-11);²⁵ and **RICA Properties, LLC** (2011-).²⁶

RICA Properties, LLC sold the building to its current owner, **533 Rutledge, LLC**, on February 3, 2016.²⁷

¹⁴ Deed book F109, page 306

¹⁵ “6 Zoning Variances Approved,” Charleston Evening Post, Feb. 4, 1976, at 11

¹⁶ Deed book W208, page 600

¹⁷ Deed book W208, page 526

¹⁸ Deed book O328, page 384

¹⁹ Deed book A484, page 105 (\$8500)

²⁰ Deed book F537, page 313 (\$375,000)

²¹ Deed book R551, page 563 (\$435,000)

²² Deed book C606, page 844 (\$500,000)

²³ Deed book G663, page 234

²⁴ Deed book 0002, page 603 (\$930,500)

²⁵ Deed book 0140, page 709

²⁶ Deed book 0225, page 395 (\$475,000)

²⁷ Deed book 0532, page 829