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Guida House Has Victorian Facade

By ROBERT P. STOCKTON

Lewis Dutarque's late 18th century house at 105 East Bay St. is masked by a late 19th century store front, added by the Guida family.

Dutarque, who bought the property on March 6, 1779, was a planter of Huguenot descent.

He paid 10,000 pounds in South Carolina currency, which was then inflated due to multiple wartime issues of paper money. The purchase price indicates nothing had been rebuilt on the property following the great fire of 1778.

When Dutarque sold the property on July 29, 1784, he received 1,550 pounds in postwar money, a price which would indicate the presence of a substantial house.

John Robertson, the purchaser, entered into a memorandum of agreement on Jan. 24, 1792, with John Black (or Blake), owner of the property adjacent to the north.

The agreement allowed Blake to cut joists into the north wall of Robertson's house, which was intruding 8 inches onto Blake's property, in any case.

It was "further agreed ... that in case ... John Robertson should be inclined to erect another or fourth

Story to his house ... nothing in the ... agreement Shall be a Bar or hindrance to his Building or raising the same on the Eight Inches of the Wall given up by him."

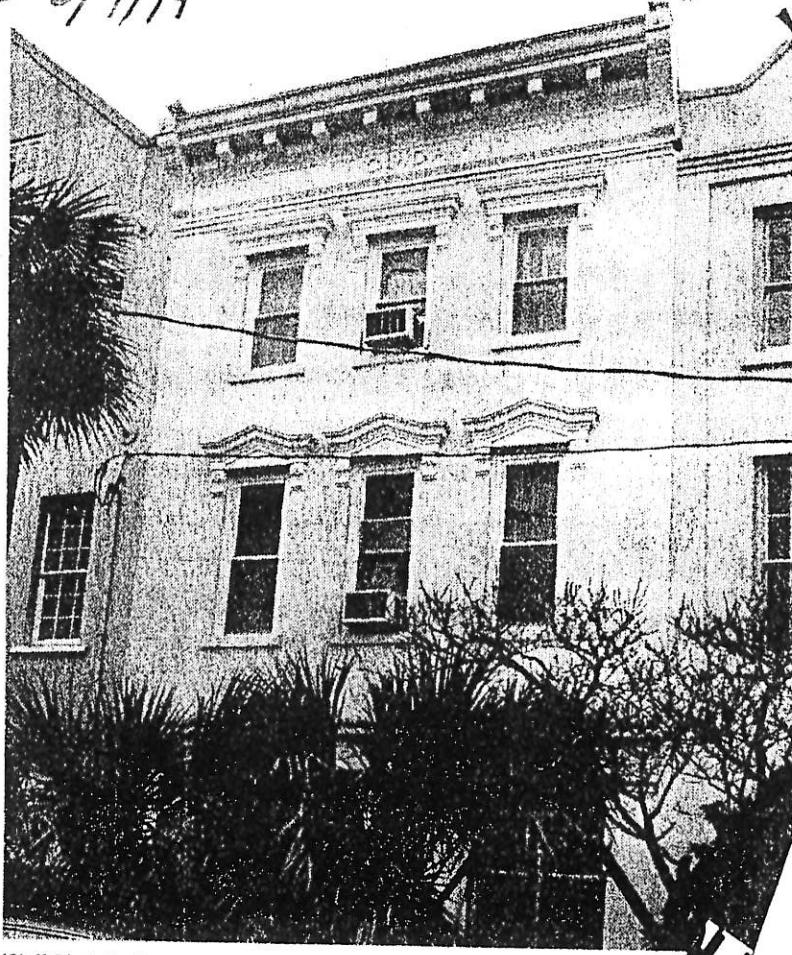
Fortunately for the skyline of the block, Robertson never built the suggested fourth story.

Robertson's heirs sold the property in 1797 to Francis Bremar, who sold it in 1809 to John Bonthron, from whose estate it was sold in 1822 to James Hall.

Hall died in the following year, and the property was devised to his brother, John. John Hall, in 1840, had it rented to John Stalling, who operated the Mechanic's Coffee House at Market and State streets.

John Hall sold the property in 1851 to Alexander W. Black, a notary, who had his office at the location. After Black's death in 1863, the property descended to his son, Alexander Foster Black, who sold it in 1872 to William C. Miller.

Miller was a partner with William Douglas in the firm of Douglas & Miller. They sold paints, oils and related supplies at the location. Lat-



(Staff Photo by Tom Spain)

105 East Bay St.

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er Miller and his son, Franklin J. Miller, operated a ship chandlery there.

The elder Miller sold the property to the Germania Savings Bank in 1889. The bank sold it in 1890 to Giovanni Domenico Guida. It was Guida who put the Victorian Italianate facade on the building, as his name appears in the frieze of the entablature.

Guida operated his fruit and grocery business at the location and lived upstairs until his death in 1929. After his death, the business was continued by his son-in-law, Silvestro Coccoletti, who died in 1950, and his son, Giosue Guida, who died in 1967.

The series of deaths without wills left a tangled estate, with many heirs in the United States and Italy. In order to settle the estate, a suit was brought in the Court of Common Pleas in 1969, as a result of which the property was sold at auction in 1970.

Miss Anna Wells Rutledge, who purchased the property at the auction, renovated the structure, keeping the former store intact as a studio and renting out the residence upstairs.

On the street front, she preserved the Victorian facade, with the storefront at the ground level, windows with bracketed cornices and one light sashes and the elaborate entablature with "Guida" in the frieze and a dentilled cornice with console and finials at either end.

The Victorian additions mask the original 18th century facade, the original fenestration of which is retained at the upper levels. The windows are narrow in proportion to length, and the top ones are smaller than those below, in the 18th century taste.

The residence on the upper level retains original interior architectural details in the Federal style.