

# Do You Know Your Charleston?—Filling Station Sites 189-191 Meeting St.

## Five Local Buildings to Make Way for Gasoline Stations in Charleston Soon

Five Charleston landmarks will pass as a result of the granting last week by the board of appeals under the zoning ordinance of permits for the erection of five filling stations.

None of the buildings is historic, though all are fairly well known. The Texas company is to wreck the Heins & Lesemann wholesale produce building, oldest of the five, at the southeast corner of Meeting and Market streets. The other four, including the Enterprise Bank building at the northwest corner of Meeting and Market streets, are to be wrecked by the Sinclair Refining company. The other buildings are corner stores in various sections of the city.

The building at the southeast corner of Meeting and Market streets is erected on a portion of an original grant made in 1681 to Sir Peter Colleton by the Lords Proprietors. It was purchased subsequently by Chief Justice Charles Pinckney, father of General Charles C. Pinckney and General Thomas Pinckney, in 1748.

In 1758, at the time of Chief Justice Pinckney's death, the law of primogeniture being still in effect, it went to the eldest son, General Charles C. Pinckney.

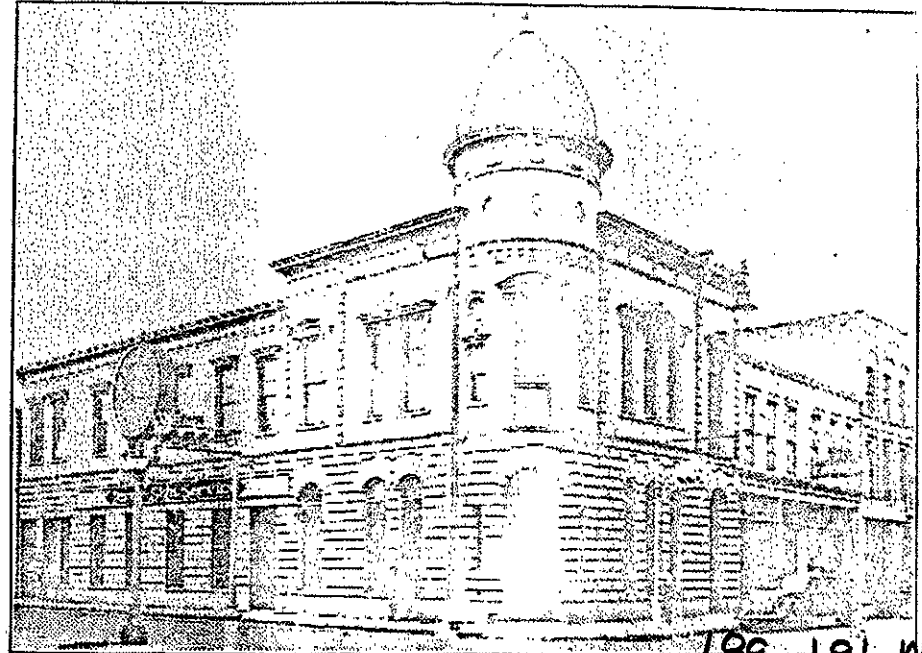
The property then was divided between General Pinckney's two daughters, Harriott Pinckney and Eliza Lucas Pinckney, who had married Ralph Izard. Both of the daughters at their death left complicated wills.

### Settled in Court

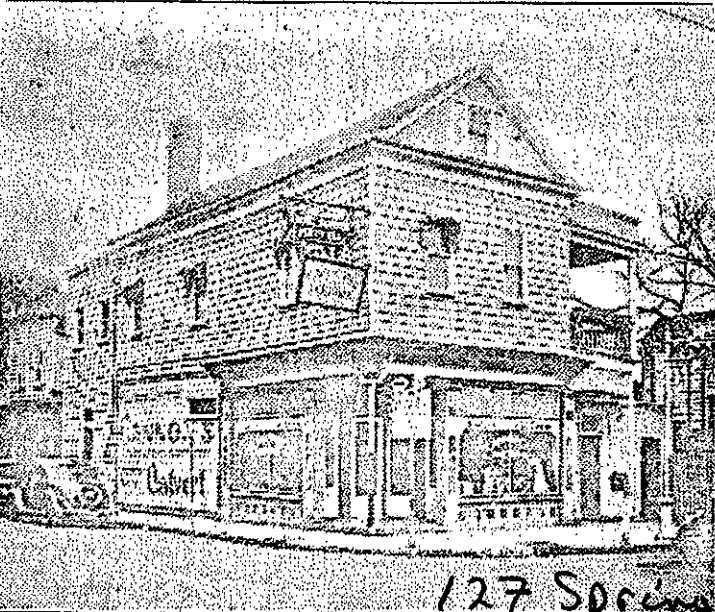
In 1867, a lawsuit was instituted by the executors of the estate of Miss Harriott Pinckney against the executors of the estate of Mrs. Izard, and others, to have the wills



74-79 Market



189-191 Meeting



127 Spring

modern glass case stores, in the old corner grocery there was a lack of haste which made pleasant business relations. The proprietor knew his customer, his wife and his children. He knew how the children did in school; which children swiped apples and which were apt to shoot at his bald spot with a rubber band.

Sitting on the edge of a grits or

rice barrel customers sat and whittled. On Sundays, when unexpected guests came, a rap on the window pane at the rear of the store insured the steady customer of getting in to buy an extra loaf of bread, a ham or some cakes.

The store stayed open until all hope of any customers was abandoned. The sale of chinaware and lamp shades was a profitable ad-

junct of the business. In the days before silk stockings, an unexpected engagement for a customer often meant a sale of a pair of the best hile stockings.

Needles and thread and penny candy were other articles in stock. The one food which was not sold, with the exception of cabbages, was fresh vegetables.

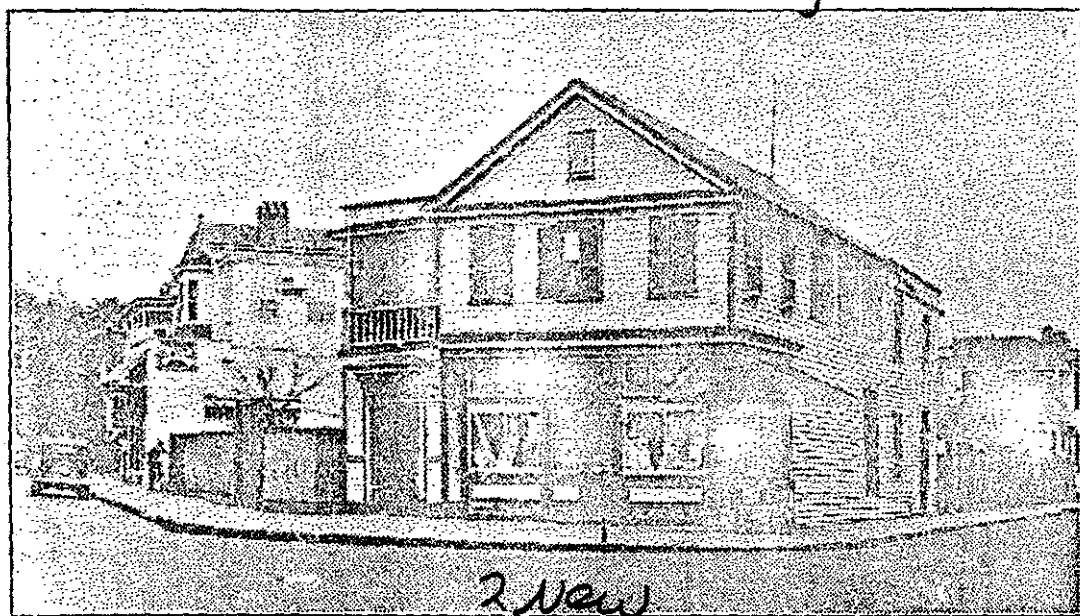
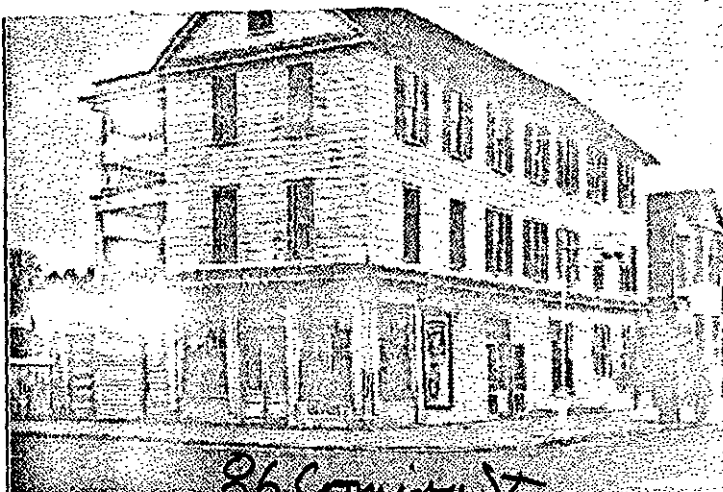
J. V. N., Jr.

74-79 Market

church and meeting streets. The lot at the southwest corner of Meeting and Market streets went to the grandchildren of Mrs. Izard. They sold it in 1883 to Henry Steitz, who left it to his daughter, Mrs. Helen R. Lesemann, who sold it to the Texas company.

During the bombardment of Charleston in the War Between the States, the building was used as a hotel. A man who was sitting by a fireplace in the hotel was killed by a ball. The building was damaged badly by the earthquake of 1886, and is in such poor condition at present that it is virtually impossible to do any remodeling, making it almost imperative to wreck it. The price to be paid is about \$15,000.

One of the most noted tenants of the building was Peter Conway's Cosmopolitan club, famous for good food. It was a blind tiger



—Photos by Jacobs  
**A**BOVE AT LEFT—Helms & Lesemann building, southeast corner of Market and Meeting streets; right, Enterprise bank building, northwest corner of Market and Meeting. Below, southeast corner of Spring street and Ashley avenue; northeast corner of Coming and Calhoun, and northeast corner of New and Trade.

in the days when liquor was illegal in South Carolina, and a favorite resort. At various times, upper floors were operated as a hotel.

The Enterprise bank building property was purchased in 1897 by the Enterprise Bank from Leah J. Magruder, of Paris, for \$12,000. In 1929, in the liquidation of the affairs of this bank, the property was purchased by Hyman Karesch, who now is selling it to the Sinclair company. The property adjoining to the north was sold by Leah J. Magruder to Dr. H. Baer, a wholesale druggist, at the same time. This property has now been sold to the Sinclair company by M. Hornik.

**\$113,000 in Confederate Money**  
 Prior to the Magruder sale, in 1863, the two properties, then one, were sold for \$113,000, though this probably was Confederate money, by Robert S. Millar to Ernest Lewis Hart. The first record obtainable on the property shows it was sold November 1, 1819, by James Crawford to Campbell Douglas for \$5,000. In 1863, the undivided properties were sold by Leah Jackson Hart to Eugene J. Jackson for \$50,000.

The two properties are being sold to the Sinclair company for about \$25,000.

Wrecking of the other three

buildings, the purchase of which aggregates about \$20,000, will mean the passing of the stores of three of the few remaining old "corner groceries" in Charleston.

The building at the northeast corner of Coming and Calhoun streets has been occupied for about twenty-five years by W. A. T. Schumacher as a grocery. Mr. Schumacher, who is retiring from business, has been in the grocery business for sixty years, having been located at Washington and Inspection streets before removing to the present location.

Henry F. Lutge has occupied the

store at the northeast corner of Trade and New streets for three months less than twenty years. For fifteen years before that a grocery was conducted there by Henry Klaren. Mr. Lutge plans to give up business also.

The store at the southeast corner of Ashley avenue and Spring street now is occupied by a liquor store, but up to a few months ago was used as a grocery store. For more than a quarter of a century the Drews family conducted a grocery store in this building.

**Was Community Center**

The corner grocery used to be a community center. In the atmosphere redolent of kerosene oil, dried mackerel and cheese, the neighborhood gossip was exchanged. The proprietor was the friend of all the children in the neighborhood, knew everyone's servant and was the confidant of most of his customers.

Negro customers, with the frequent purchase of "one cent oil and two-cent grits", were as welcome as white customers buying a week's supply of groceries, though the two races seldom interfered with each other.

Though sanitary conditions may not have been the same as the