

# *On a Whim...*

An Architectural and Social History of 10 Weims Court



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Historical Research Methods

## Introduction

Located south of Tradd Street, Weims Court is above Ladson Street and flanked by King and Meeting Street. 10 Weims Court is the eastern most lot on the north side of Weims Court. Currently it fronts "on Weims Court 31 ft. [and] in depth 92 ft. 5 in".<sup>1</sup> This is a two story, five bay brick building. The front entry door is centered on the south façade facing the street and is recessed with a single pane transom window. On either side of the door are matching gas lamps. Exterior decoration is minimal with stucco over the masonry. The windows are 2/2 sash with exterior shutters. A cornice runs across the south façade and ends abruptly about two feet past the east and west corners of the building. At the top, there is a parapet wall that masks the flat roof. Two exterior chimneys reside on the east and west side. On the north half of the building is an additional third story with a matching flat roof.

The north side of the house has several additions. A two story hyphen is flush with the north east corner. Two other additions border the hyphen on its west side which are a one story enclosed porch with full length glass walls and a one story room. Furthermore a one story kitchen house is located at the north end of the hyphen. All additions have a flat roof except the kitchen house which features a gable roof.

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the founding and evolution of the property of 10 Weims Court and the neighboring lots on the court. This fascinating property presents a unique opportunity to study the urban development of a court established very early in historic downtown Charleston. It was the first and only court south of Broad Street in the eighteenth century. It raises the question of why did this develop as a court? Courts are restricted in their

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<sup>1</sup> Charleston County, Records of the Register Mesne Conveyance (RMC), Charleston, S.C., Deed Book G417, p.733.

circulation because they are accessed from one main entry. Alleys were more common in the urban landscape of Charleston at the time and easier for traffic. The exact reasons for the founding of the court are unknown but they evoke an interesting discussion about the court's development. Initially known as "Whim Court", it went through several spelling changes such as "Whims Court", "Wheims Court", "Weems Court", and finally the current spelling "Weims Court".

Historically architectural studies have overlooked the significance of courts and alleys. It's only been within recent years that the study of ordinary people and buildings have become a significant field of study for architectural historians. Courts and alleys were used as major service and transit byways and can reveal a narrative social history.

Even though there was extensive research on this property and its surrounding neighbors on Weims Court, there was a significant lack of information about the founding and the occupants who resided here throughout its history. Even though Weims Court was part of the original 1931 historic zoning district, it didn't receive the same attention to its history or preservation efforts as the other prominent houses on the main streets. This is unfortunate because courts and alleys can shed light on ordinary people and buildings. Analysis of the building materials and landscape may reveal further details as to its age and evolution.

## History of Charleston

The territory known as Carolana, later renamed Carolina, was granted to eight loyal supporters, known as the Lords Proprietors by King Charles II of England in 1663. Charleston, originally Charles Towne, was established by English colonists on the west banks of the Ashley River in 1670.<sup>2</sup> Lord Anthony Ashley Cooper, the Earl of Shaftsbury, issued the Fundamental Constitutions with the help of his secretary, John Locke, which provided a framework for the founding government and mandated religious toleration.<sup>3</sup> Later the town was moved to its current site in 1680 where it was laid out according to the “Grand Model” plan, an urban layout with gridded streets and a central square.<sup>4</sup> As the main commercial center for rice and indigo trade, Charleston grew from a colonial seaport to a wealthy city by the mid-eighteenth century.<sup>5</sup> The population at this time was diverse and society constraints were fluid and open. During this period more than 40 percent of all slaves imported into mainland North America came through the port of Charles Town.<sup>6</sup> The Revolutionary War and the years of British occupation took a toll on the city but after they were freed from British trade restrictions. Charleston prospered from its rice, cotton, and indigo cultivation, serving as a major port of the United States until the War of 1812.<sup>7</sup> A number of late eighteenth and nineteenth century fires destroyed a significant number of buildings and influenced the shift from predominately wood construction to masonry.<sup>8</sup>

In April 1861, shots fired at Fort Sumter in the Charleston Harbor signaled the beginning of the Civil War. The recovery from the damages occurred during the war was slow and as a

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<sup>2</sup> Jon Poston, *The Building of Charleston*, (Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1977), 16-17.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, 17, 23.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, 23.

<sup>5</sup> “Charleston | South Carolina, United States | Britannica.com,” Accessed November 26, 2015, <http://www.britannica.com/place/Charleston-South-Carolina>.

<sup>6</sup> Jonathan Poston, *The Buildings of Charleston*, 25.

<sup>7</sup> “Charleston | South Carolina, United States | Britannica.com.”

<sup>8</sup> Jonathan Poston, *The Buildings of Charleston*, 25.

result the city was not able to construct new buildings, but resorted to repairing and stabilizing the remaining buildings. Natural disasters such as the cyclone in 1885 and the earthquake in the following year contributed to the already damaged city and impacted repairs. The slow pace of recovery and the lack of funds created the foundation for the preservation of the city's historical buildings that range in time periods and styles.<sup>9</sup> After the Civil War, dependability on agriculture lessened as the economy switched to trade and industry. The construction of the Navy Yard in 1904, pushed Charleston into the twentieth century.<sup>10</sup>

During the early decades, urban development and the loss of historic structures triggered a cultural resistance of historic preservation that lead to the development of the nation's first historic zoning district and the first Board of Architectural Review in 1931.<sup>11</sup> Since then Charleston has continued to grow economically in numerous industries especially benefiting from its large tourism trade built around the city's range of historic buildings. However, growth has also raised concerns about density, suburban sprawl and overdevelopment on the surrounding coastal lands.<sup>12</sup> Historic buildings and landscapes have become a significant issue in local government in terms of documenting what exists and preserving Charleston's historic landscape. The repercussions of Hurricane Hugo in 1989 have only fueled the city's concerns in promoting conservation plans and policies.

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<sup>9</sup> "Charleston, SC - Official Website - History of City," Accessed November 26, 2015, <http://www.charleston-sc.gov/index.aspx?nid=110>.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Jonathan Poston, *The Buildings of Charleston*, 29.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, 30.



## History of Weims Court

Before Weims Court was established, the land was part of Lot No. 144 of the “Grand Modell of Charles Town” which was laid out in 1680. The land was bounding on the marshland surrounding Vanderhorst Creek which later became the current Water Street.<sup>13</sup> The land was granted to Captain Richard Norramore in 1694.<sup>14</sup> The only information found on Captain Richard Norramore “is that he and William Baker, ‘Mariners’, conveyed a ketch, formerly called

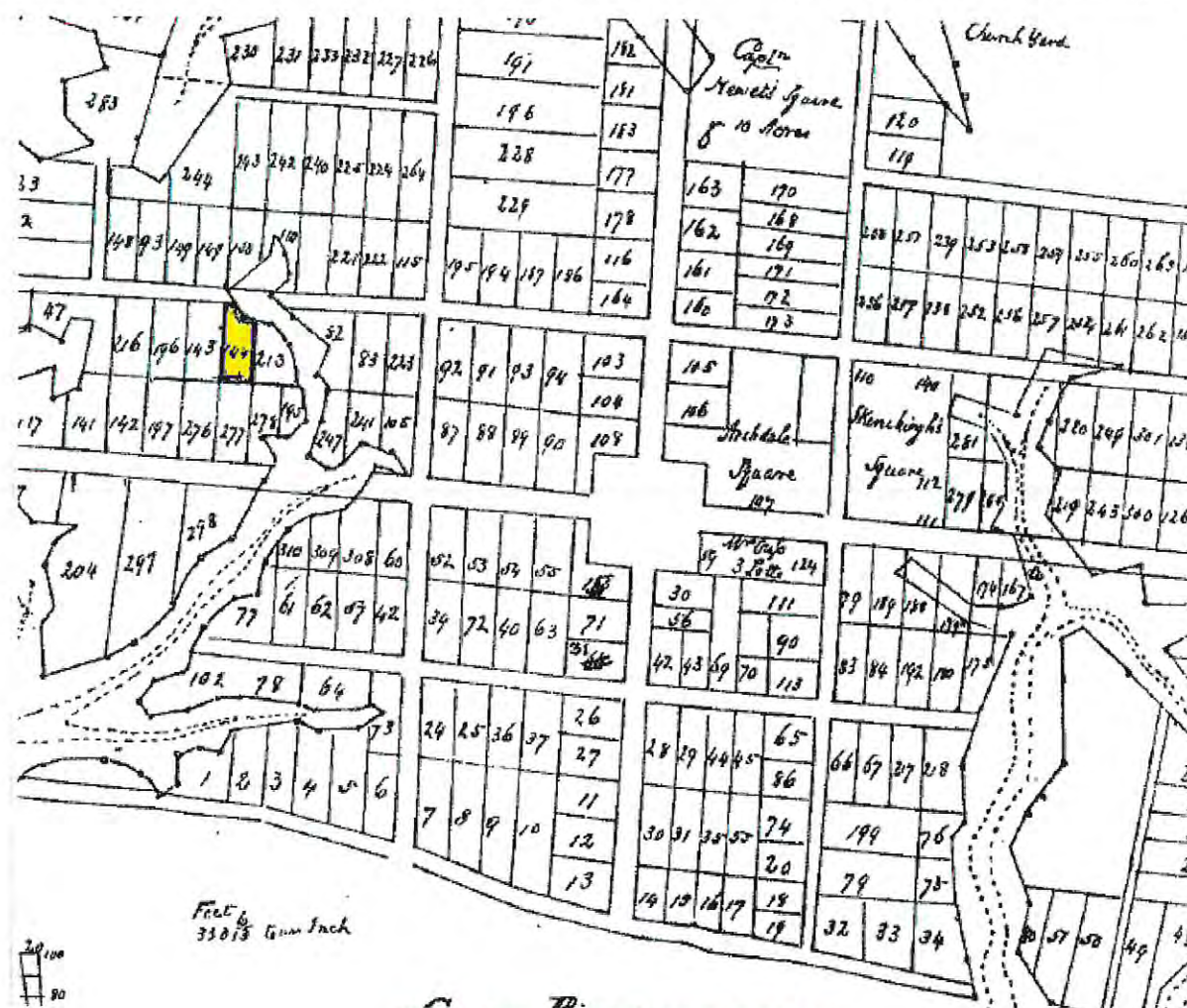


Figure 1: Grand Modell of Charles Towne 1680

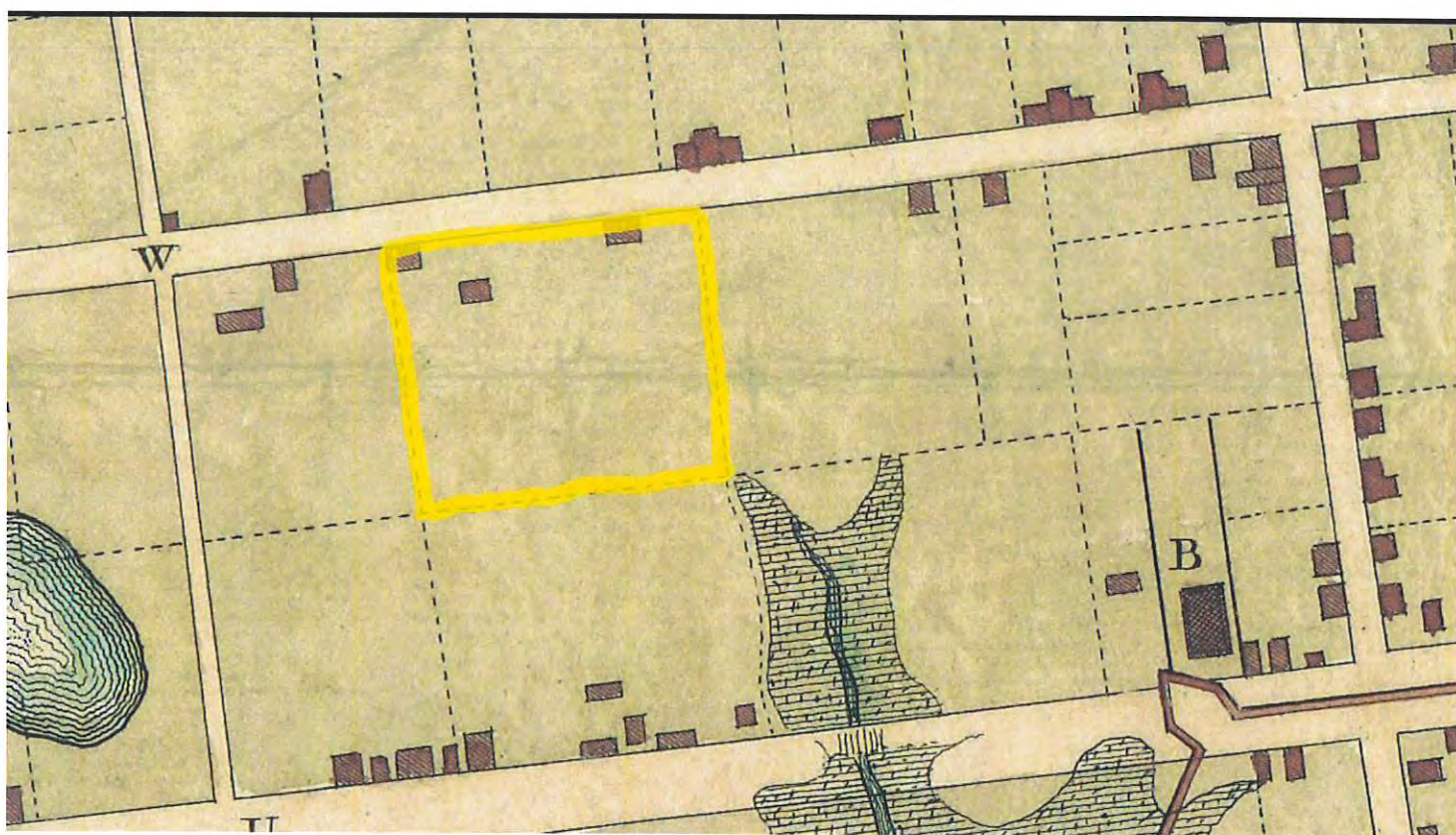
<sup>13</sup> Ibid, 149.

<sup>14</sup> Ruth Cupp, “One Weims Court,” October 16, 1978, From Street Files located at City of Charleston Records Management. Charleston, S.C, 1.



Elizebeth to its master, Richard Abram, in 1793".<sup>15</sup> The exact dimensions of the lot are unknown, but it encompassed a large area around where Weims Court would be created.

The Ichnography Map of 1739 shows the increased development beyond the Walled City. Lot No. 44 and the surrounding area are seen with several sparse structures along King Street but there is no indication of an interior development of a court.<sup>16</sup> Additionally there is no further information of Captain Richard Norramore or what he did on his land, likewise there is no indication of any conveyance of property throughout the early to late eighteenth century.



*Figure 2: Ichnography of Charles-Town at High Water 1739*

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> "The Ichnography of Charles-Town at High Water - JCB Map Collection," John Carter Brown Collection. Accessed November 28, 2015,



While the precise cause or reason for the establishment of Weims Court, the range of founding is between 1739 and 1786. The first indication for Weims Court comes from an advertisement in the *Columbian Herald* on November 1, 1786.<sup>17</sup>

The ad states there are “two convenient Lots in Whim Court...being part of the lot formerly Fisher’s.”<sup>18</sup> The grantor is identified as Job Colcock. He was a vendue master, or auctioneer, and a longtime member of the firm

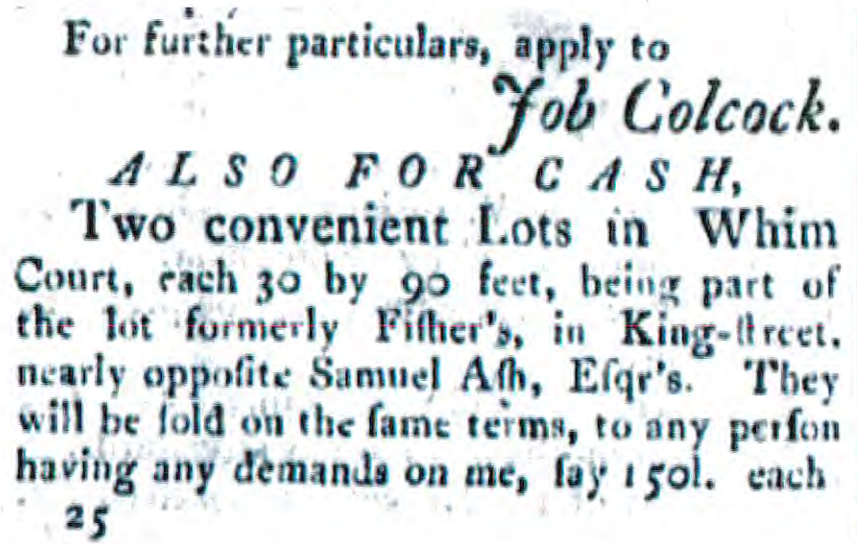


Figure 3: Advertisement from *The Columbian Herald*, dated November 1, 1786

Colcock and Gillion.<sup>19</sup> Further research on the name Fisher and Job Colcock revealed no information on the conveyance of the property.

A little over a week later, another advertisement for Whim Court states that there are several parcels of land for lease. These include three unnumbered lots, 6, 7, and 8, all of which front the Court. Additionally it reveals some information about the nature of the occupants. The first lot that corners Whim Court and King is leased to Mr. Stewart Lamboll, “a free black”. Other tenants are Mr. Peter Matthews, “a free black” and Mr. Cuffy McGillivry, who was also “a free black”.<sup>20</sup> Further research on these names revealed that Mr. Stewart Lamboll owned slaves; this is evident from an advertisement published one year later that offers a two dollar reward for

<sup>17</sup> *The Columbian Herald*, “Advertisement,” City ed., Advertisement Sec., November 1, 1786, Retrieved from America’s Historical Newspapers at Charleston County Public Library, Charleston, S.C.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ruth Cupp, “One Weims Court,” 2.

<sup>20</sup> *The Columbian Herald*, “Advertisement,” City ed., Advertisement Sec., November 9, 1786, Retrieved from America’s Historical Newspapers at Charleston County Public Library, Charleston, S.C.



“a tall, awkward West-India negro, named Caesar, late the property of Stewart Lamboll, a free black”.<sup>21</sup> While the original occupants of the court are unknown, this shows that at this time there were multiple ‘free blacks’ living on the court. Additionally white people were not the only ones owning slaves, but freed Africans could and did at this time in Charleston.

The first appearance of Whims Court on a map is in 1788 on the “Ichnography of Charleston, South Carolina”.<sup>22</sup> Here it shows a court that extends into the interior of the block with several wooden structures on the north and south side. It is assumed that number 10 is the structure on the east end, north side of the court. Additionally the map gives the width of the marked streets, alleys, and courts. Whim Court is reported as 19 ft. wide which is the same width as Bedon’s Alley at this time as well. What’s more Whim Court was wider than its northward neighbor, Price’s Alley, reported at 12 ft. and its southwardly neighbor Smith’s Lane at 15 ft. wide.<sup>23</sup> At this time, this was a very wide court in relation to its surrounding streets and to other alleys in Charleston, most of the alleys were regularly 10-12 feet wide. In comparison to the only other court on the map, Kinloch Court, only registered at 12 ft. wide. This raises the question of why was this established as a court instead of an alley and why was it so wide in relation to other alleys? Did this court require this width for functionality or was it for an aesthetic value? Because of the lack of information surrounding this court, the answer to this

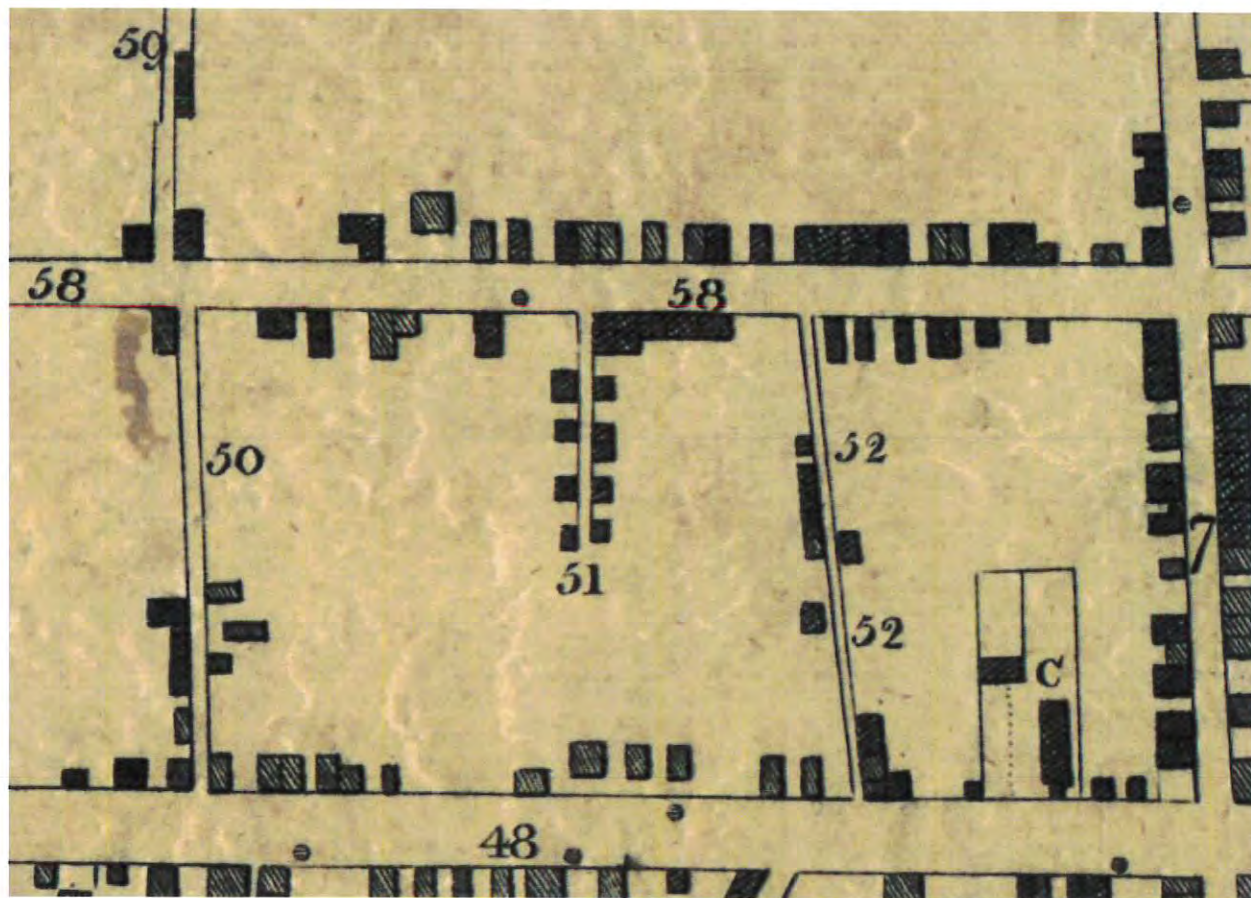
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<sup>21</sup> *The Charleston Morning Post and Daily Advertiser*, “Advertisement,” City ed., Advertisement Sec., May 5, 1787, Retrieved from America’s Historical Newspapers at Charleston County Public Library, Charleston, S.C.

<sup>22</sup> “Ichnography of Charleston, South-Carolina : At the Request of Adam Tunno, Esq., for the Use of the Phoenix Fire-Company of London, Taken from Actual Survey, 2d August 1788 ,” Map, Retrieved from the Library of Congress.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

question is elusive and hard to determine but it is an important fact to consider in the evolution of the court.



*Figure 4: The Ichnography of Charleston, South Carolina 1788*

In the same year, Job Colcock conveyed the parcels of land in Whim Court to Samuel Brailsford who was an attorney.<sup>24</sup> The deeds states that he gave “all that and those six several lots...or parcels of land...situate and being in a place now called Whim Court on the east side of King Street in Charleston aforesaid known by the number (1) one (2) two (3) three (4) four (5) and (8) eight in the said Court, containing in front southwardly by 30’ each.”<sup>25</sup> In addition it indicates that this ‘common passage way’ was for the convenience of the land between Job

<sup>24</sup> Ruth Cupp, “One Weims Court,” 2.

<sup>25</sup> RMC, Charleston, S.C. Deed Book Z5, p. 499.

Colcock and his neighbor Duncan Littlejohn. Taking this into consideration, this means that Job Colcock acquired the land through unknown means and the court was perhaps established as an access court between him and his southward neighbor Duncan Littlejohn. It seems likely, there were some kind of structures or activities on the interior of the lot which necessitated an access court. An additional fact concerning this court was that Duncan Littlejohn conveyed his property on the south side of Whim Court in 1793 and referred to the court as "an alley leading to Whim or St. James Court".<sup>26</sup> Further research into this name revealed no other reference to St. James Court, however it indicates that this court might have been called by different names.

10 Whim Court is not mentioned in the deed, however this is because the numbers of the lots changed throughout its history. Originally 8 Whim Court, it changed to 10 Weims Court later on in the twentieth century. This change can be seen in the Sanborn maps of 1888 and 1944. The Sanborn of 1888 shows that both 8 and 10 Weims Court register for the same two story brick structure on the north side, eastern most lot.<sup>27</sup> After this the numbering changes so that in the Sanborn map of 1944, no. 8 and 10 have become separated into two neighboring lots.<sup>28</sup>

Samuel Brailsford leased the properties until his death in 1800.<sup>29</sup> His will stipulated that all of his property went to his widow, Elizabeth Brailsford, who would continue to lease the properties throughout the early nineteenth century.<sup>30</sup> She never used Whim Court as a place of

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<sup>26</sup> Ibid, Book I6, p. 363.

<sup>27</sup> "Sanborn Map of 1888," Map, Retrieved from the Digital Sanborn Maps Collection at the Charleston County Public Library, Charleston, S.C.

<sup>28</sup> "Sanborn Map of 1888 & 1944," Map, Retrieved from the Digital Sanborn Maps Collection at the Charleston County Public Library, Charleston, S.C.

<sup>29</sup> *South Carolina State Gazette*, "Mortuary Notice," City ed., July 1, 1800, Retrieved from America's Historical Newspapers at Charleston County Public Library, Charleston, S.C.

<sup>30</sup> Ruth Cupp, "One Weims Court," 3.



residence as she lived on South Bay St.<sup>31</sup> Various City Directories indicate that “Whims Court” is first listed in 1794 with one name for James Fife who was a ‘cooper’ or barrel maker.<sup>32</sup> The next mention of Whims court is in 1802 where it lists several residents and their occupation. First there was Catherine Cattle who is a ‘mantua maker’, or seamstress. Next is Frances Robinson who was also a ‘mantua maker’, and D.W. Turner who was a deputy sheriff.<sup>33</sup> The directory for 1825 indicates that seamstresses and a brick layer held residence in the court.<sup>34</sup> This shows that people of the working class occupied these structures which indicates that this court was an affordable housing location in Charleston at the time.

By the mid nineteenth century, the properties had passed from the hands of the widow Elizabeth Brailsford to her daughter, Camilla Brailsford.<sup>35</sup> Camilla had already married Dr. James McGilveray Troup but had moved to Darien, Georgia and continued to lease the properties.<sup>36</sup> Around the same time, the 1840 City Directory lists carpenters, a shoemaker, printer, and a painter residing in the court.<sup>37</sup> One can see that 10 Whim Court continued to be used as a rental unit, not the principal residence of the owner.

The demographics of Whim Court at this time appear to be mixed, as can be seen from an article in the *Southern Patriot* published on May 21, 1846. It indicates that a ‘black’ family lived on Whims Court so it continues to have both races living on the court.<sup>38</sup> Camilla Troup and her

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<sup>31</sup> Ancestry.com, “U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995,” Charleston, S.C., [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

<sup>32</sup> *Charleston City Directory, 1794*, Special Collections & South Carolina Historical Society Archives, Marlene & Nathan Addlestone Library, College of Charleston, Charleston, S.C.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid, 1802.

<sup>34</sup> Ancestry.com, “U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995,” Charleston, S.C., [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

<sup>35</sup> Ruth Cupp, “One Weims Court,” 4.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid, 5.

<sup>38</sup> *The Southern Patriot*, “Mortuary Notice,” City ed., May 21, 1846. Retrieved from America’s Historical Newspapers at Charleston County Public Library, Charleston, S.C.

husband sold 10 Whims Court to James English on February 12, 1844. The parcel contained “all that lot of land situated by and being in Whims Court. Measuring and Containing in front on Whims Court aforesaid 31 ft. and in depth 107 ft. more or less”.<sup>39</sup> Additionally, James English also acquired lots on the north side of Whims Court to a total of 182 feet in depth.<sup>40</sup>

Soon after acquiring the property, the Ward Tax Assessment Books of 1852 indicate that James English built several brick structures on the north side of Whims Court, one of which was a brick tenement. At 10 Whims Court, he built a two story brick structure.<sup>41</sup> Since there already was a previously erected wooden structure on the site, as seen on from the Ichnography Map of 1788, that structure was either gone or destroyed at this time to make way for the new brick house. The new structure appears on the 1852 Bridgens and Allens Map, where a clearly marked building appears at 10 Whims court as well as the new brick structures on the north side of the court.<sup>42</sup>

Further research on James English revealed that he was a prominent gentlemen at the time. Like the previous owners James English did not reside in Whims Court, his primary residence was at 49 South Battery, which bears a plaque from the Preservation Society stating he built the residence and that it would remain in his family through several generations.<sup>43</sup> So the

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<sup>39</sup> RMC, Charleston, S.C. Deed Book O11, p. 79.

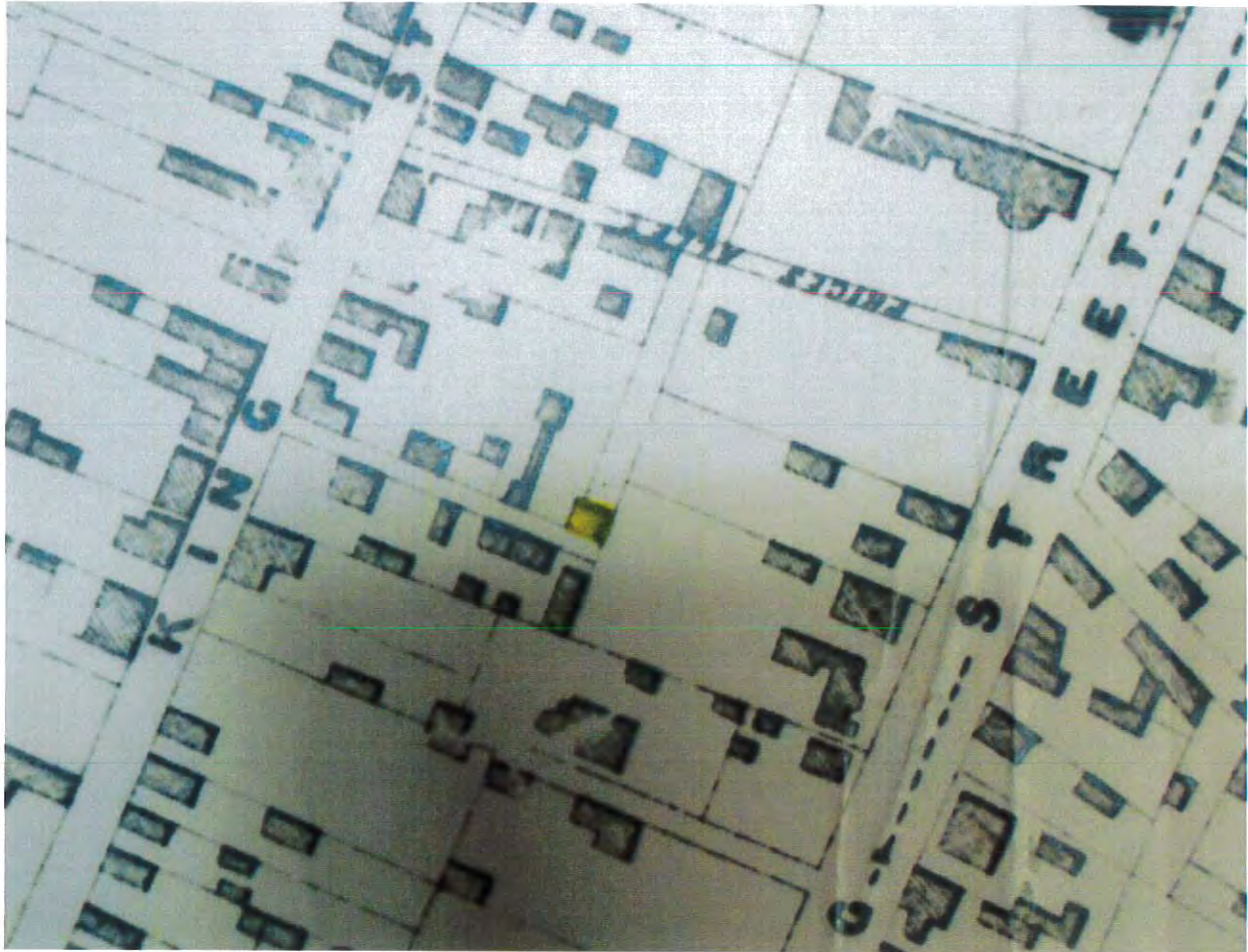
<sup>40</sup> *Buist & Buist Records*, Special Collections & South Carolina Historical Society Archives, Marlene & Nathan Addlestone Library, College of Charleston, Charleston, S.C., 2.

<sup>41</sup> City of Charleston. City Tax Assessment Ward Books, Charleston, S.C., Ward 2, 1852, South Carolina Room, Charleston County Public Library.

<sup>42</sup> Bridgens and Allen, “An Original Map of the City of Charleston.” Charleston, SC: Hayden Brother & Co., 1852, Special Collections & South Carolina Historical Society Archives, College of Charleston, Charleston, S.C.

<sup>43</sup> “The Colonel James English House,” From Historic Marker placed on 49 South Battery house by the Preservation Society of Charleston, S.C., 2006.

properties on Whims Court continued as rental units. The occupants recorded at 10 Weims in 1859 City Directory was the Beasley family, who were white and owned slaves.<sup>44</sup>



*Figure 5: Bridgens & Allen Map 1852*

Soon after this, James English died in 1856, leaving a will that stated that he would divide his property between four people, his wife Harriet and his three daughters, Laura, Adeline and Caroline. Adeline English received the “East end of whom Court [and]  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Slave property”.<sup>45</sup> Several years later in 1861, the City Census indicates the demographics of ‘Weim’s

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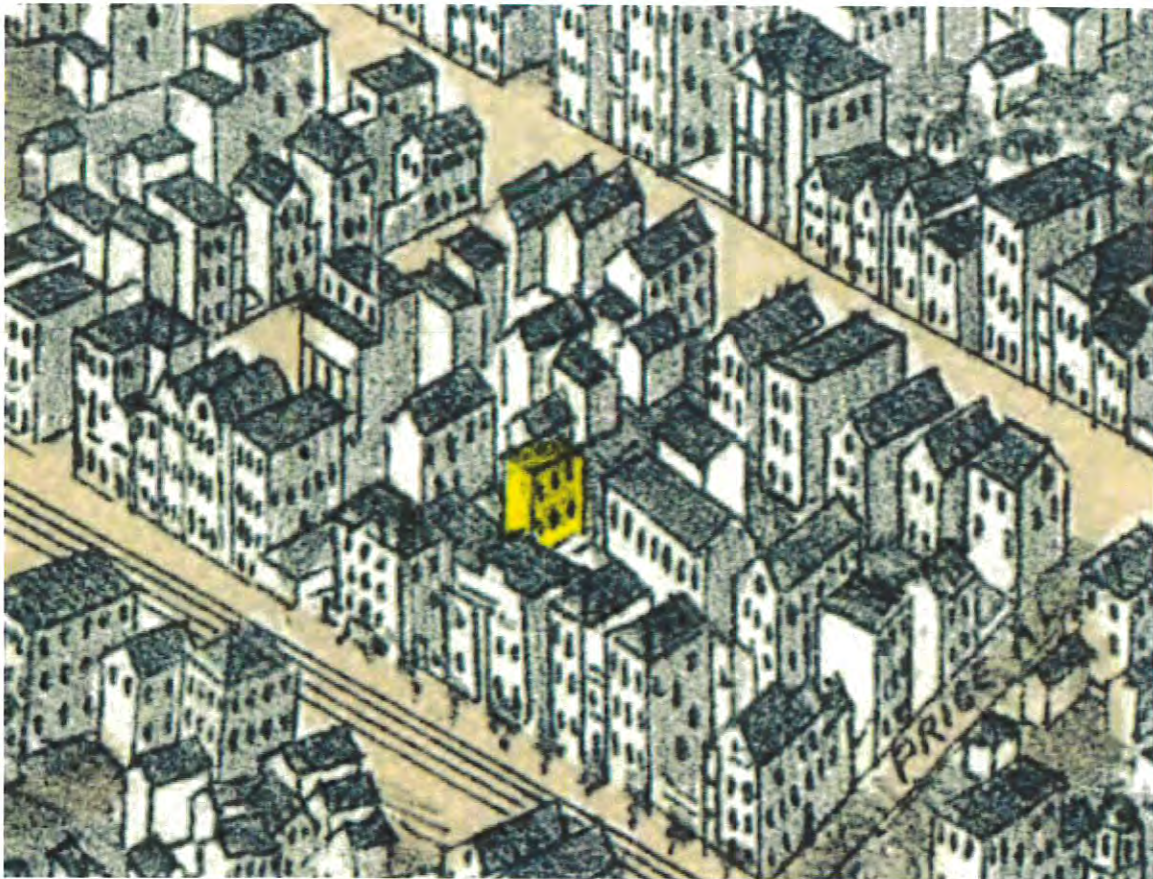
<sup>44</sup> Ancestry.com, “*Charleston City Census, 1860*,” [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011

<sup>45</sup> “Will of James English,” Wills of Charleston County, [microfilm], Box 103, p. 841. South Carolina Room, Charleston County Library.



Court' with a total of 73 people on the court.<sup>46</sup> These included: '40 whites, 23 slaves, 10 free colored'.<sup>47</sup> In regards to 10 Weims Court, it registers the owner as James Addison, the husband of the married Adeline English Addison, and the occupant as Mrs. S. Jennings.<sup>48</sup> This shows that Weims Court continued to be a place of mixed races and different social classes.

The Bird's Eye View of the city of Charleston in 1872 shows a detailed look of buildings on Weims Court where one can see a two story structure on the north end of the court.<sup>49</sup> It appears to be in the middle of a densely packed block with smaller surrounding structures on the Court.



*Figure 6: The Bird's Eye View of Charleston 1872*

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<sup>46</sup> "Charleston (S.C.). City Council. Census of the City of Charleston, South Carolina, for the Year 1861. Illustrated by Statistical Tables." Accessed November 28, 2015, The University of North Carolina.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> "Bird's Eye View of the City of Charleston, South Carolina 1872," Map, The Library of Congress.

Adeline Elizabeth English Addison died intestate in 1875, leaving behind this small personal estate. Her daughters, Jane W. Addison Larsen, Virginia Addison, and Florence Butler acquired the property by descent.<sup>50</sup> Following the tradition of their mother and grandfather, they would continue to lease the property or leave it vacant through the remaining nineteenth century.

The earthquake of 1886 impacted several buildings on the court. In the City's Record of Earthquake Damages, several of the structures on the Court had badly cracked walls, including 10 Weims which reported that the north and south walls were badly cracked in addition to bad chimneys. It was recommended that the north and south walls be torn down and the chimneys rebuilt.<sup>51</sup> When the work voucher for the property was turned in, the Addisons only had the cracks in the walls filled up.<sup>52</sup> The property was vacant at the time as the Addisons lived at the family residence on 49 South Battery.

Soon after this, the 1888 Sanborn map illustrates a detailed plat of the land, registering a two story brick structure at 10 Weims Court with an adjoining one story wood shed directly west of the house.<sup>53</sup> It's interesting to note the contrast between the north and south side of Weims Court. The north is composed of mostly brick buildings while the south side are all wood frames that predate the brick structures. The house was newly occupied in 1891 by William Jackson

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<sup>50</sup> RMC, Charleston, S.C. Deed Book O25, p. 110.

<sup>51</sup> *Record of Earthquake Damages of 1886*. Charleston, S.C.: City of Charleston Division of Records Management, South Carolina Room, Charleston County Public Library, Charleston S.C, 478.

<sup>52</sup> *The City of Charleston's Executive Relief Committee for the Earthquake of 1886: Money Vouchers for Work Done, September 1886 through June 1887*. South Carolina Room, Charleston County Library, Charleston, S.C., 1.

<sup>53</sup> "Sanborn Map of 1888," Map, Retrieved from the Digital Sanborn Maps Collection at the Charleston County Public Library, Charleston, S.C.



who was 'black'. In addition, the majority of the future occupants who leased 10 Weims until the mid-twentieth century would be registered as 'black'.<sup>54</sup>

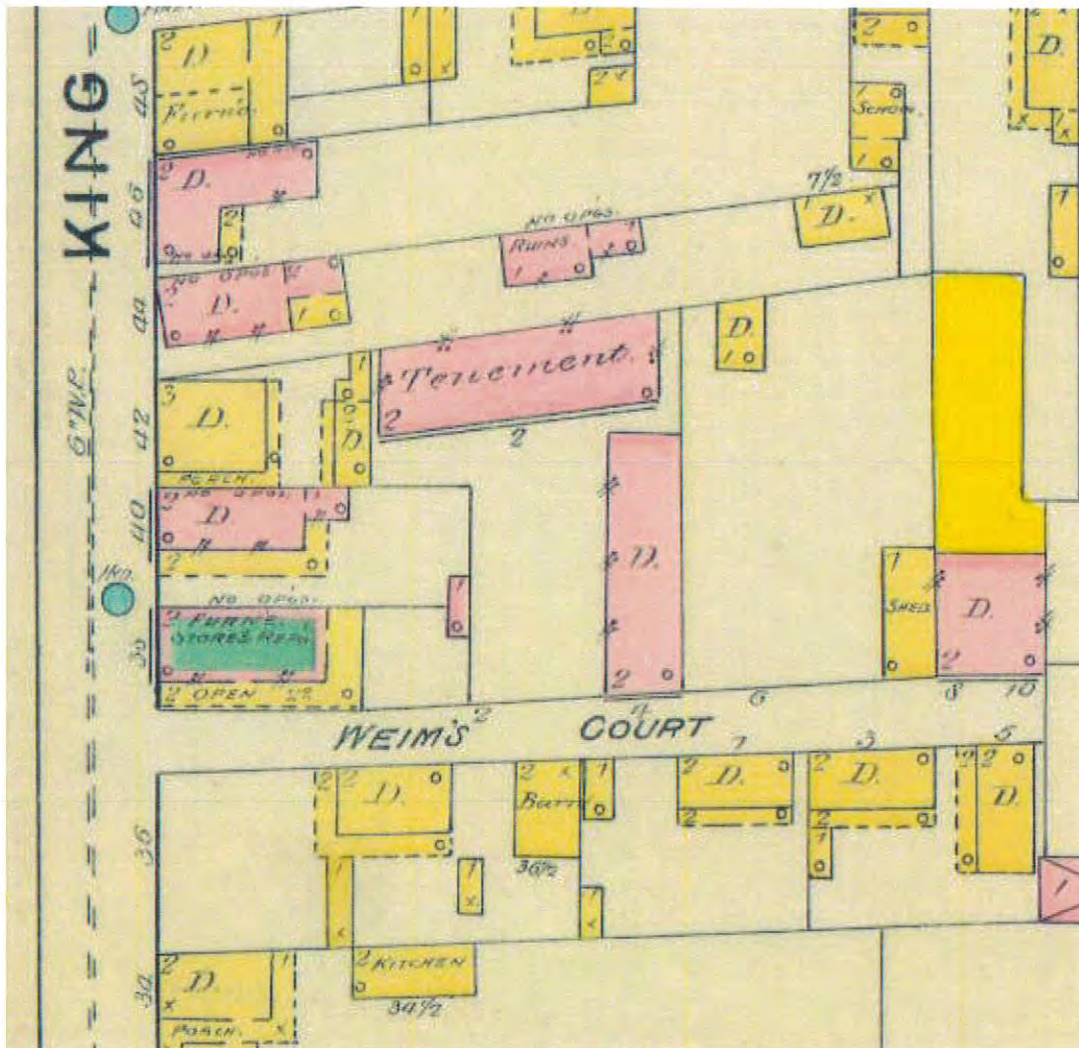


Figure 7: Sanborn Map 1888

In late January of 1910, the Addison sisters: Jane, Virginia, and Florence Butler, conveyed the property to their other sister Susie F. Addison.<sup>55</sup> It should be noted at this time that the name Whim Court, as it was called in the late eighteenth century newspapers and deeds was undergoing a different spelling change. This is evidenced within the deed between the sisters in

<sup>54</sup> Polliard, A. "10 Weims Court," Retrieved from file at Board of Architectural Review, Charleston, S.C.

<sup>55</sup> RMC, Charleston, S.C. Deed Book O25, p. 110.



1910 which refers to the court as “Whim’s Court (sometimes known as Wheim’s Court)”.<sup>56</sup> This name would undergo another spelling change further on in the twentieth century.

The Charleston City Directories show that in 1914, Susie F. Addison and her sister Virginia Addison continued to live at 49 South Battery Street.<sup>57</sup> At the same time the property at 10 Weims Court has been leased to Janie Simms who was ‘black’.<sup>58</sup> This shows that the property continued as a rental unit for affordable housing in the area. Weims Court functioned as an ideal place for affordable housing that was tucked out of the way of the public eye. Because it was not on the public thoroughfares of the city, it was not deemed as important as the surrounding houses that front major streets such as Meeting and King and thereby costing less than other houses.

Susie F. Addison died intestate on September 14, 1922 and the property of 10 Weims Court was again possessed by her surviving sisters Florence, Jane and Virginia.<sup>59</sup> The three sisters continued to manage the rental property until 1923 when two of the sisters, Florence and Jane, conveyed a life estate in the property to the third sister, Virginia.<sup>60</sup> At the same time, the property was leased to Lena St. John who was recorded as ‘black’ and a laborer.<sup>61</sup>

In 1931, a deed of indenture was entered between the three sisters and while the cause of the deed is not entirely clear, it adequately divests the interests of Florence Butler in the property and vests the ownership between the two sisters, Jane and Virginia. They also note that the

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<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> Ancestry.com. *U.S. City Directories, 1822-1989* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

<sup>58</sup> Polliard, A. “10 Weims Court,” Retrieved from file at Board of Architectural Review, Charleston, S.C.

<sup>59</sup> *Buist & Buist Records*, Special Collections & South Carolina Historical Society Archives, Marlene & Nathan Addlestone Library, College of Charleston, Charleston, S.C., 14.

<sup>60</sup> RMC, Charleston, S.C. Deed Book P31, p. 659.

<sup>61</sup> *Charleston, South Carolina, City Directory, 1923*, Ancestry.com. *U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

intention is to vest three-fourths in Jane and one fourth in Virginia. The same deed notes that the buildings on the premises had become dilapidated and that Jane expended money in the way of repairs stating that Florence and Virginia owed her equal shares of the sum that she expended.<sup>62</sup>

The 1944 Sanborn map shows several big changes in Weims Court. Several of the preexisting wooden structures on the south side were torn down and two new structures built. The north side of the court also experienced growth evidenced with several new structures, especially to the west of number 10 with the demolition of the preexisting wooden shed and the construction of a two story house in its stead. 10 Weims has also had changed with the addition of two, one story additions to its north façade.<sup>63</sup> So this shows that this was a period of economic growth on the court with the construction of new houses and additions to the existing structures.

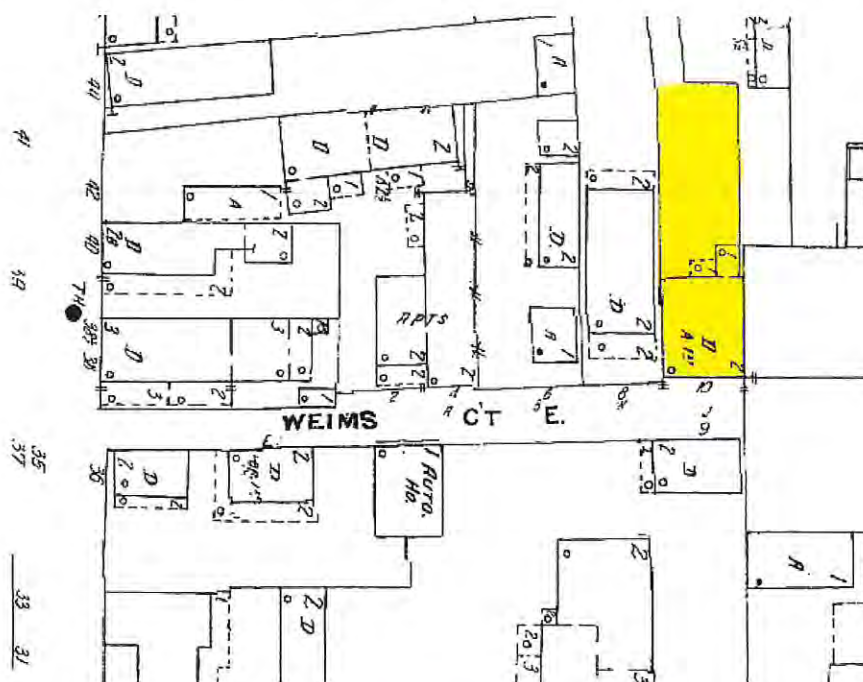


Figure 8: Sanborn Map 1944

<sup>62</sup> *Buist & Buist Records*, Special Collections & South Carolina Historical Society Archives, Marlene & Nathan Addlestone Library, College of Charleston, Charleston, S.C., 5, 14.

<sup>63</sup> "Sanborn Map of 1944," Map, Retrieved from the Digital Sanborn Maps Collection at the Charleston County Public Library, Charleston, S.C.

In the same year as the Sanborn map, a civil suit between the two sisters, Jane Larsen Lucas and Virginia Addison Lucas, regarding their real estate at 10 Weims Court resulted in a Master sale by the judge Wm. McG. Morrison who sold the property to Thomas B. Allen.<sup>64</sup> Apparently by the time he acquired the property the building was in need of repair because he applied for a building permit for repairs in the same year.<sup>65</sup> In 1945, he would also apply to construct a cinder block building for an oil burner on the north side of the house.<sup>66</sup> This marks a turning point at 10 Weims Court because this is the first time that the owner would live at the house. Following this, the trend is for all of the future owners of 10 Weims Court to live at the property. This turning point for this property was a result of the cultural renaissance in Charleston throughout the early twentieth century where Charleston's history was sanitized and white washed in a way so that historic places such as courts and alleys which were previously overlooked, were seen to be a 'quaint' and romantic way to live in the historic district.

In 1957, Thomas B. Allen sold the property to Harry V. Salmons, who split the property, giving the northern portion to his brother Richard W. Salmons and creating the current lot size of "31 ft. [and] in depth 92 ft. 5 in".<sup>67</sup> Harry Salmons had the property a little over a month, splitting the lot, before selling it to George E. Grimball Jr.<sup>68</sup>

Beyond this point, the property doesn't remain in any owners hands too long as it is sold roughly every decade if not more throughout the rest of the twentieth century. Hurricane Hugo in 1989, added to the existing damage to the building. The Damage Assessment Form found that

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<sup>64</sup> RMC, Charleston, S.C. Deed Book R41, p. 363.

<sup>65</sup> *The Charleston Evening Post*, City ed., December 19, 1944, Retrieved from America's Historical Newspapers at Charleston County Public Library, Charleston, S.C.

<sup>66</sup> "Application for Building Permit," Dated July 14, 1945. #10 (11047), Retrieved from City of Charleston Records Management Index of Building Permits. Charleston, S.C.

<sup>67</sup> RMC, Charleston, S.C. Deed Book Z62, p. 270.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid, N64, p. 469.



the interior had been flooded with major damage to the walls, furniture, and appliances. In the south wall there was a huge crack from the cornice to the sidewalk.<sup>69</sup> This crack is most likely a pre-existing problem from the 1886 earthquake where the owners at the time, the Addisons, only filled the cracks in the south wall instead of rebuilding as was recommended. The current owner, Witham A. Calhoun Jr. acquired the property in 2002, since then he has done numerous alterations to the building with changes to the additions on the north side as well as adding a third story to the original building.

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<sup>69</sup> *Historic Charleston Foundation*, "Hurricane Hugo Damage Assessment Form," Retrieved from Historic Charleston Foundation Archives, Charleston S.C.

## Architectural history

Historically there was a wooden structure on this site as is seen in the 1788 Ichnography Map.<sup>70</sup> The Ward Books show that James English constructed the original brick building circa 1850.<sup>71</sup> The structure remained unchanged throughout the remaining nineteenth century, although it did experience significance damage in the 1886 earthquake which the Addisons, owners, only filled the cracks in the masonry walls. In 1931, a deed between the owners indicated that the building had become dilapidated and that funds were expended for that repair, however the exact repairs are unknown. Following this in 1944, the new owner, Thomas B. Allen, added to the structure with two, one story additions to the north side of the house as well as additional repairs. A plat of the property from 1983 shows another change to the building with the addition of a furnace room.<sup>72</sup> The previous additions from the 1944 Sanborn map are identified as a porch and one story frame kitchen house.

In 2011, technical drawings from the B.A.R. files shows that the house at 10 Weims Court has become more complex then it was a century previously. There has been several alterations to the main house and the additions on the north side of the house all of which are invisible to the public eye.<sup>73</sup> The porch has become enclosed with glass walls, a second story hyphen, and the furnace room has been converted into a shed. On the main house, a third story has been added to the north half with a matching flat roof to the front facing half.<sup>74</sup> The reason

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<sup>70</sup> "Ichnography of 1788," Library of Congress.

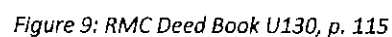
<sup>71</sup> City of Charleston. City Tax Assessment Ward Books. 1852.

<sup>72</sup> RMC, Charleston, S.C. Deed Book U130, p. 115.

<sup>73</sup> Technical Drawing of West Elevation of 10 Weims Court, c. 2011. From file at the Board of Architectural Review, Charleston S.C.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid.

end of the house but it was denied by the Bar.<sup>75</sup>



Franco 22

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, 10 Weims Court and the neighboring properties are an excellent example of the development of a mixed use court, being the first one laid out south of Broad Street in Charleston. It appears that it was established early on as a court either for residences or for access to out-buildings, although the original reasons for its development are unknown. The occupants of the house throughout most of its history were tenants rather than the actual owners. None of the residents stayed at 10 Weims Court for long, and generally it reflects that 10 Weims as well as other properties on the court were a transient and working class people. No shocking events or major crime happened in this quiet court and it seems likely that it was considered to be an affordable housing option for those that needed close access to the downtown area. The owners did not reside at 10 Weims until the middle of the twentieth century which shows that this property was not deemed a sociable or desirable place to live if the owners could choose to live elsewhere.

The 'attractiveness' of this court as a desirable place to live came about in the mid twentieth century, most likely riding the wave from the golden haze of a cultural renaissance and historic preservation movement which characterize courts and alleys ways as quaint, romantic places. Today Weims Court appears to be a simple cul-de-sac in affluent neighborhood south of Broad. It's fascinating to compare the demographics of both past and current occupants, where the former occupants Weims Court likely originated as an area of low income affordable housing composed of tenants of mixed races, and over time shifted to the current affluent all white owner residences.



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## **Appendix**

Annotated Chain of Title, Maps, Newspapers, and other material on 10  
Weims Court

Annotated Chain of Title: 10 Weims Court

1788

Grantor: Job Colcock

Grantee: Samuel Brailsford

Type: Conveyance

Book & Page: Z5-499

Lot: "those 6 several lots or pieces, pats or parcels of land...being in a place now called Whim Court...known by the number 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 8 in the said Court, containing in front southwardly by 30' each, on a common passage way running...between the said Job Colcok and one Duncan Littlejohn for the convenience of their lands in the said Court"

February 12, 1844

Grantor: James & Camilla "Brailsford" Troup

Grantee: James English

Type: Conveyance

Book & Page: O11-79

Lot: "all that lot of land situated by and being in Whims Court. Measuring and Containing in front on Whims Court aforesaid 31 ft. and in depth 107 ft. more or less..."

July 28, 1856

Grantor: James English

Grantee: Adeline Elizabeth English Addison

Type: Will

Book & Page: O25-110

Lot: "all that lot of land...being in the East end of Whim's Court (Sometimes known as Wheim's Court)... Measuring and containing in front on Whim's Court aforesaid thirty one (31) feet, and in depth one hundred and seven (107) feet more or less..."

1875

Grantor: Adeline Elizabeth English Addison

Grantee: Jane W. Addison Larsen, Virginia Addison, Florence Addison Butler, Susie F. Addison

Type: Conveyance

Book & Page: O25-110

Lot: "thirty one (31) feet, and in depth one hundred and seven (107) feet more or less"

January 28, 1910

Grantor: Jane W. Larsen, Virginia Addison, & Florence Butler

Grantee: Susie F. Addison

Type: Conveyance

Book & Page: O25-110

Lot: "thirty one (31), and in depth one hundred and seven (107) feet more or less"

January 4, 1923

Grantor: Florence Butler, Jane Addison Larsen

Grantee: Virginia Addison

Type: Life Estate in Property

Book & Page: K95-56

Lot: "in front on Weims Court 31ft on the back line 19ft. 10 inches on a brick wall, center of wall is dividing line, in depth 92ft. 5in."

August 4, 1975

Grantor: Susan G. Batten

Grantee: W.E. Gordon E. & Nancy S. Williams

Type: Conveyance

Book & Page: H107-368

Lot: "in front on Weims Court 31ft on the back line 19ft. 10 inches on a brick wall, center of wall is dividing line, in depth 92ft. 5in."

February 25, 1983

Grantor: W. E. Gordon E. & Nancy S. Williams

Grantee: Yvonne W. Lynch

Type: Conveyance

Book & Page: U130-151

Lot: "in front on Weims Court 31ft on the back line 19ft. 10 inches on a brick wall, center of wall is dividing line, in depth 92ft. 5in."

August 30, 1991

Grantor: Norm W. Stevenson, representative of the estate of Yvonne W. Lynch

Grantee: Virginia W. Deerin

Type: Conveyance

Book & Page: Y205-475

Lot: "in front on Weims Court 31ft on the back line 19ft. 10 inches on a brick wall, center of wall is dividing line, in depth 92ft. 5in."

September 3, 1996

Grantor: Virginia W. Deerin

Grantee: Douglas W. & Sandra B. Cress

Type: Conveyance

Book & Page: X273-844

Lot: "in front on Weims Court 31ft on the back line 19ft. 10 inches on a brick wall, center of wall is dividing line, in depth 92ft. 5in."

September 3, 2002

Grantor: Douglas W. & Sandra B. Cress

Grantee: A. Calhoun Witham Jr.

Type: Conveyance

Book & Page: G417-733

Lot: "in front on Weims Court 31ft on the back line 19ft. 10 inches on a brick wall, center of wall is dividing line, in depth 92ft. 5in."



# Chain-of-Title Record

Property Address: 10 Weims Court  
Date: 10/1/15

Date	Book & Page	Grantor	Grantee	Type	Lot Size	Plat	Comments
9/3/2002	G 417 P. 733	Cress, W. & Sandra B.	W. Mark, Jr. A. Calhoun Jr.		31' x 92.5' x 25.10'	AW-119	
9/3/1996	X273 P. 844	Deerin, Virginia W.	Cress, Douglas W. & Sandra B.		"		
8/30/1991	Y205 P. 475	Norm W. Stevenson	Deerin, Virginia W.		"		Norm Stevenson is representative of Yvonne's estate after her death
2/25/1983	U130 P. 151	W. E. Gordon & Nancy S. Williams	Lynch, Yvonne W.		"		
8/4/1975	H107 P. 368	Batten, Susan G.	W. E. Gordon & Nancy S. Williams		"		
10/28/1970	K95 P. 56	Tisdale, Courtney M.D.	Batten, Susan G.		"		
10/2/1967	V88 P. 197	Grimball, George E. Jr.	Tisdale, Courtney M.D.		"		
7/31/1957	N64 P. 469	Salmons, Harry V.	Grimball, George E. Jr.		"		The lot has split, #10 combines as Southern portion
6/21/1957	Y62 P. 503	Allen, Thomas B.	Salmons, Harry V.		31' x 107'		
12/2/1944	P41 P. 363	Wm. McE Morrison	Allen, Thomas B.				"Master" Morrison sold real estate from Court case to Allen
7/6/1931	Z36 P. 6	Burter, Florence	Addison, Jane & Virginia				Florence gives up any investment to property

# Chain-of-Title Record

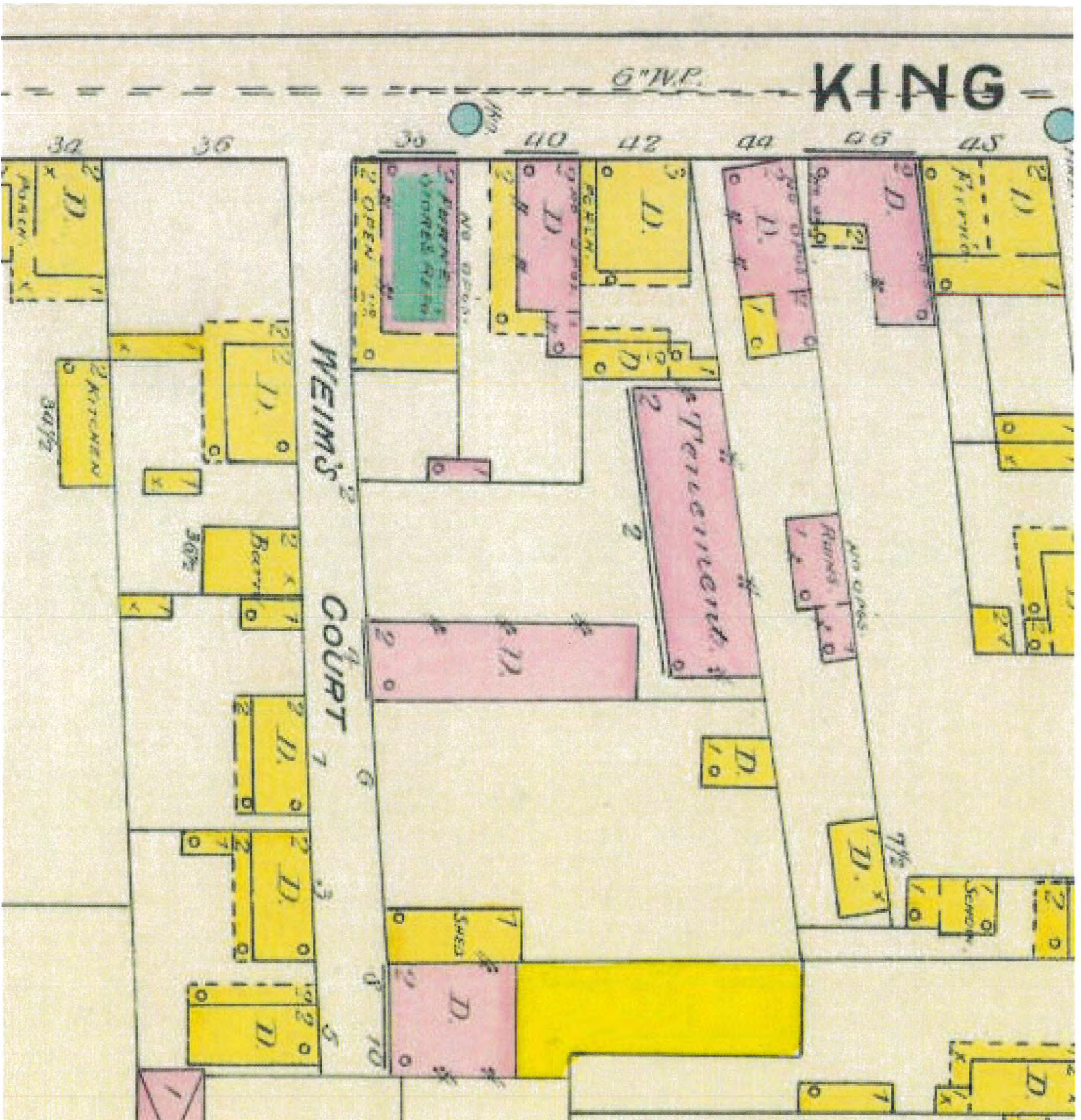
Property Address: 10 Weims Court  
Date: 10/1/15

Date	Book & Page	Grantor	Grantee	Type	Lot Size	Plat	Comments
1/4/1923	P. 31 P. 659	Butler, Florence Larsen, Jane Addison	Addison, Virginia		31' x 107'		They give Virginia a life estate in property Susie has died in 1922
1/28/1910	025 P. 110	Larsen, Jane W. Addison, Virginia Butler, Florence	Addison, Susie F.		"		
1875	025 P. 110	Addison, Adeline Elizabeth English	Larsen, Jane W. Addison, Virginia, Butler, Florence		"		Adeline <del>was</del> died intestate, possessed by daughters
7/28/1856	025 P. 110	English, James	Addison, Adeline Elizabeth English		"		James left property in his will to daughter Adeline
2/12/1844	011 P. 79	Trone Carmilla & James	English, James		"		Carmilla's maiden name is "Brailsford" daughter to Samuel Brailsford
1788	25 P. 449	Colcock, Job	Brailsford, Samuel				

1852 City Tax Assessment Ward 2  
 Charleston County Public Library

Ward 2 South side from Ohio Street			
No	House	Streets	Currents
			1852 1853 1854 1855 1856
1	Office	James English house	300 300 1250 1300 1300 1300
1	Residence	1045 1045 1045 1045 1045 1045	640 640 650 650 650 650
2	Residence	815 815 815 815 815 815	400 400 400 400 400 400
2	Residence	1000 1000 1000 1000 1000 1000	1000 1000 1000 1000 1000 1000

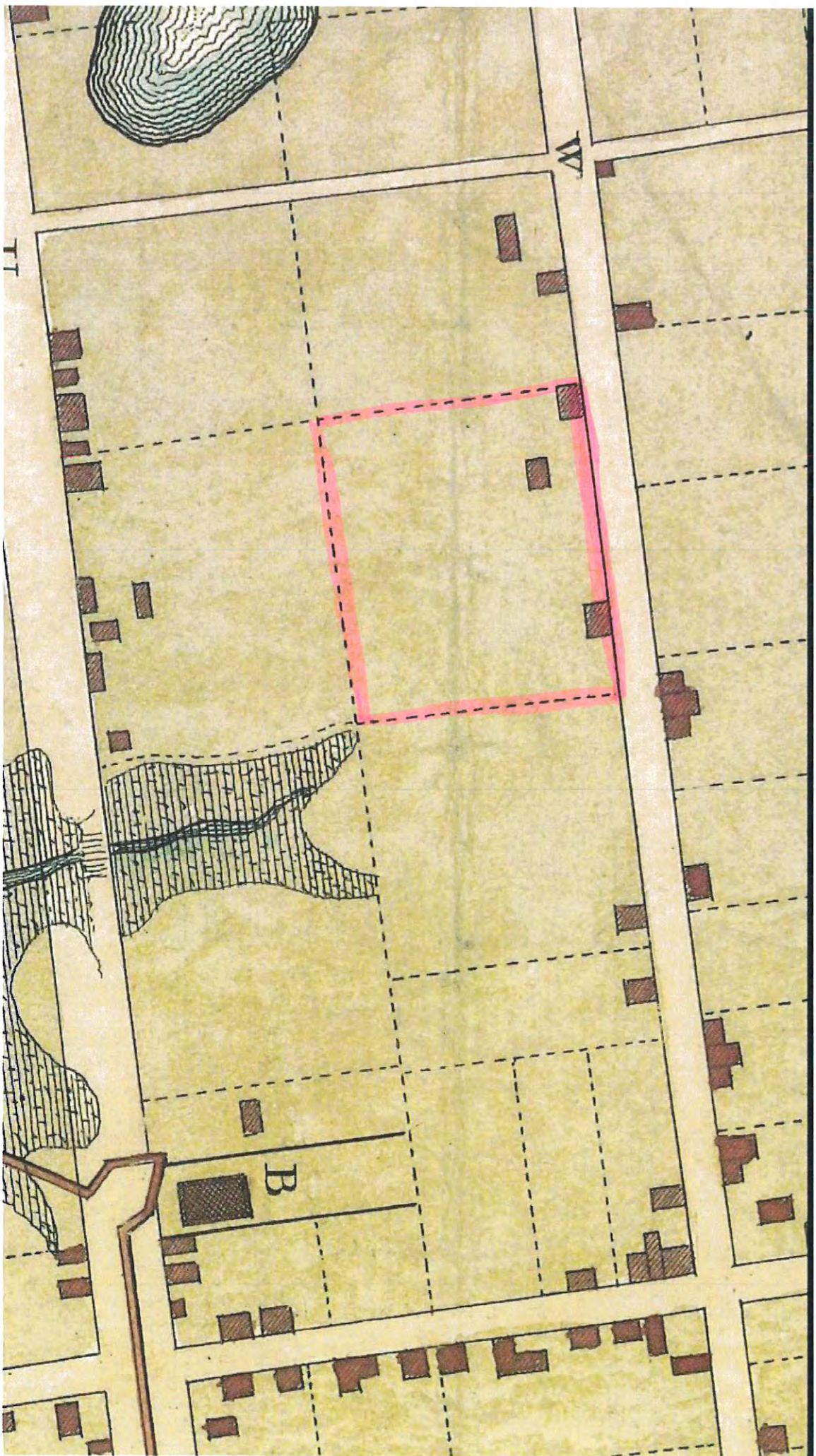




1888  
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 at  
 Charleston  
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 Public  
 Library



1739 - The Innegraphy of Charles - Town at High Water  
From JCB Map Collection  
call number: Cabinet ce739/1





Ichnography of Charleston, South-Carolina : at the request of Adam Tunno, Esq.,  
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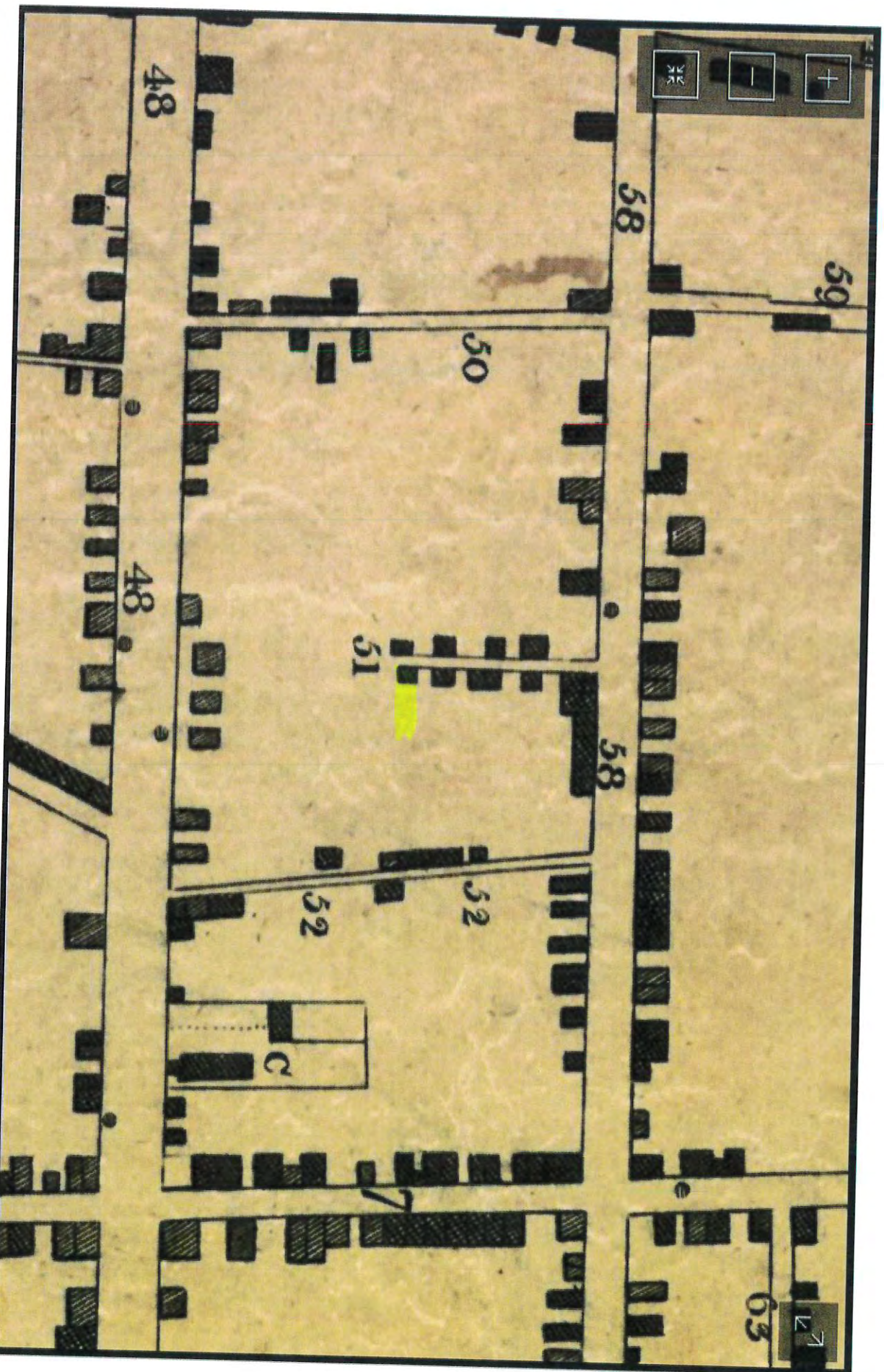
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Go







LEGARE STREET

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C. Heyward

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Meeting Lane

1852. Bridgens & Allen  
Map  
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T. Pepper



# Bird's eye view of the city of Charleston, South Carolina 1872.

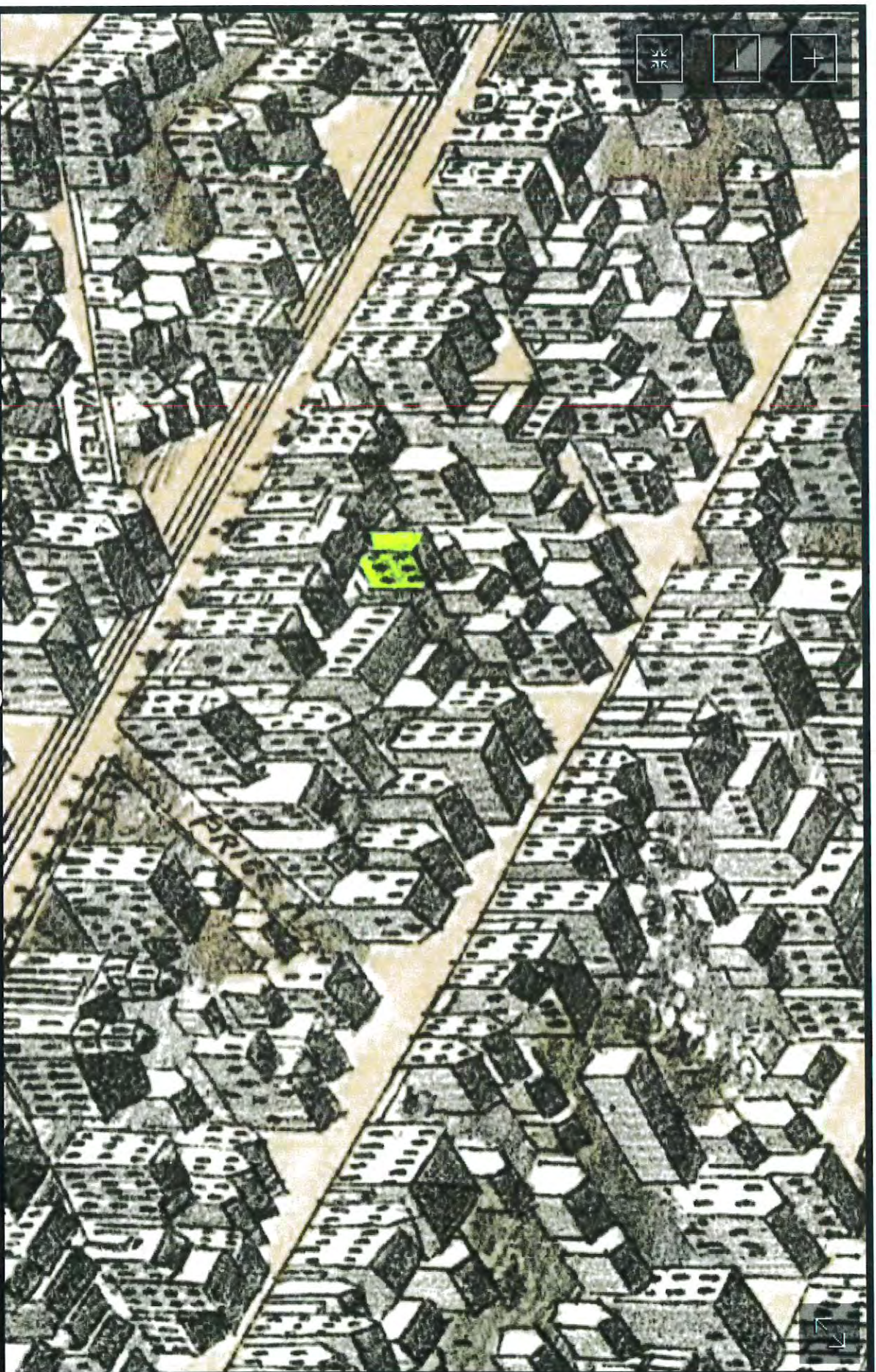
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Go





1944 Sanborn Map  
from Sanborn Digital Collection  
Charleston County Public Library

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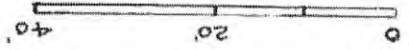
33  
31

I, W. L. GAILLARD, a registered surveyor of the State of South Carolina, do hereby certify that I have surveyed the property shown hereon, that this plat shows the true dimensions of the property, that all necessary markers have been located, and the precision is one:10,000 *W.L. Gaillard* 2-15-83

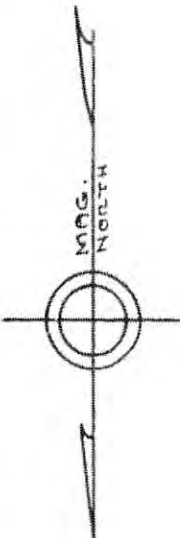
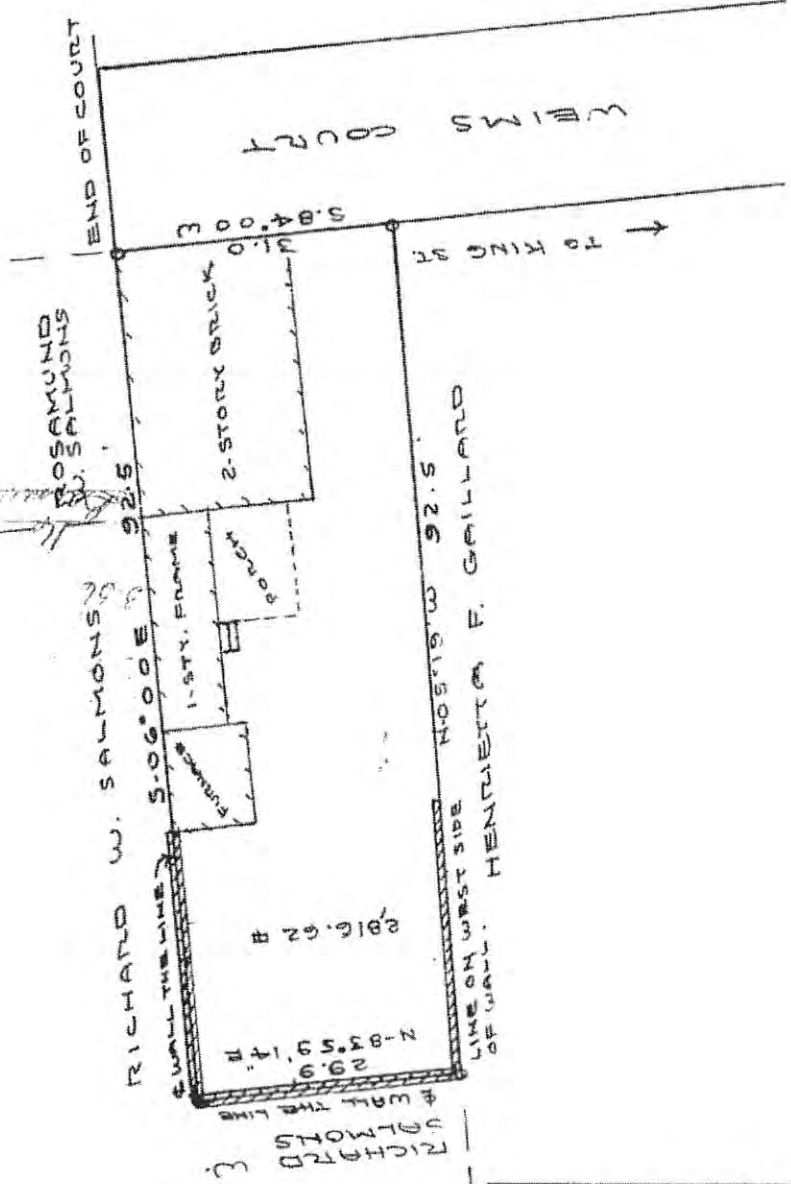
CITY OF *Charleston*  
COUNTY OF *CHARLESTON*  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
W. L. GAILLARD, REG. SUR. NO. 453  
SCALE - 1 INCH = 20 FEET

*No. 10 Weims Court*  
*about to be conveyed to Guyonne M. Lynch*

PLAT OF



APPROVED  
*J. M. Henricks*  
2-16-83





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Columbian Herald, published as The Columbian Herald or the Patriotic Courier of North America (Charleston, South Carolina) • 11-01-1786 • Page [3]

HIGHLIGHTS: ☒ When Court

1786-Advertisement  
for Whim Court  
America's Historic Newspapers  
Charleston Library Public Library

The three lat are nearly in the center of  
the town.

ON No. 11, is a very good house, and  
dry good store, which rents for 80l.  
per annum. They will be disposed of toge-  
ther or separate, and cash, produce, negroes,  
dry goods, or real property in this state,  
taken in payment.

For further particulars, apply to

Job Colcock.

ALSO FOR CASH,

Two convenient Lots in Whim  
Court, each 30 by 90 feet, being part of  
the lot formerly Fisher's, in King-Street,  
nearly opposite Samuel Aft, Esqr's. They  
will be sold on the same terms, to any person  
having any demands on me, say 150l. each

25



1786-Advertisement for Whim Court  
From: America's Historic Newspapers  
Charleston County Public Library

ating, at my expense.

A lot adjoining Mr. Redmond's up the path, and opposite Watson's flower garden, 40 feet front on King-street, by 140 feet deep.

A lot 90 feet front on King-street, by 60 feet deep, opposite Samuel Ahe's, being part of a lot formerly Fisher's, and now in the occupation of Mr. Stewart Lamboll, a free black, to whom it is leased for twelve years, at the rate of fifty pounds sterling per annum, payable daily out of the market in provisions at cash price.

A lot of the same dimensions fronting 60 feet on [Whim Court](#) and adjoining the above, now in the occupation of Mr. Peter Mathews, a free black, leased on the same conditions—for thirty pounds per ann.

A lot 30 feet on [Whim Court](#) by ninety feet deep, now leased to Mr. Coffy McGillevy, a free black, leased for the same term—Payments to be made in carpenter's work at the current cash prices—fay fifteen pounds per ann.

Lots No. 6 and 7, of the same dimensions adjoining.

Lot No. 8, now in possession of Miss Ann McDonald, and leased for the above term, at fifteen pounds per ann. payable quarterly.

About 3000 acres of land, the choice of several lapsed tracts, mostly small, and on Saluda river.

A very airy pew in the fourth gallery of St. Michael's church, formerly Hopkin Price's, Fla. No. 103.



1787-The Charleston Morning Post & Daily Advertiser  
From America's Historic Newspapers, Charleston County Public Library

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The Charleston Morning Post and Daily

Advertiser

May 07, 1787

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Charleston Morning Post, published as The Charleston Morning Post and Daily Advertiser (Charleston, South Carolina) • 05-07-1787 • Page [3]

HIGHLIGHTS: ☒ "Stewart Lamboll"

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00000000  
2004

## Two Dollars Reward.

**R**UN away from the Subscriber, a tall, awkward West-India negro, named CLESTAR, late the property of **Stewart Lamboll**, a free black, from whom I purchased him, on Monday, the 30th April. He is well known in the Lower Market, where he used to attend his late master.—All Captains of vessels are forewarned from carrying him off the State, as 'tis not unlikely he may pass for a free man. He had on when he went away, a suit of blue negro cloth, much



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## HIGHLIGHTS:

find

his many amiable qualities, and a constant practice of every moral and religious duty.

Died, on Thursday last, in the 76th year of his age, *Samuel Brailford, Esq.* after a lingering illness, which he bore with all that christian fortitude and equanimity of temper that so evidently characterized him throughout every procedure of life. In him is lost an affectionate husband, a tender parent, a humane master, and a truly virtuous and benevolent christian. Possessed of a mind incapable of disguise, and susceptible of the most tender impressions, he was unfeignedly sincere to all, and ever solicitous of alleviating the distresses of his fellow creatures. His friends and relations are left to lament the departure of such exalted worth, for on him, he who thinks must mourn.

1800-Samuel Brailsford death  
Americas historic Newspapers  
Charleston County Public Library



Charleston  
City  
1859 Directory  
Ancestry.com

On the Eve of the Civil War: the Charleston, SC Directories for the Years 1859 and 1860

The 1859 Directory

St, cor Montague St  
Baynard, William J, Planter, house Lynch St, cor Montague St  
Baze, V, Mrs, house South St, near Hanover St  
Beach & King (W H Beach & J Gadsden King), Wholesale Fancy Goods, 19 Hayne St  
Beach, E M, of O Mills & Co, South Atlantic Wharf, also of Mills, Beach & Co, 8 East Bay St, house 23 Meeting St  
Beach, W H, of Beach & King, Fancy Goods, 19 Hayne St, house at New York  
Beadings, L, Mrs, f p c, house rear Chapel St, above Alexander St  
Beals, Joseph A, Painter, house Coming St, near Shepherd St  
Bease, Henry, Confectioner, 113 Meeting St, house same  
Beasley, Edward, Printer, house 3 Weims Court  
Beasley, James J, Bartkeeper, house State St, cor Queen St  
Beasley, John, Jr, Carpenter, house Weims Court  
Beasley, John, Tailor, house Weims Court  
Beary, J J, Butcher, house Cannon St, near Coming St  
Beaudrot, J L M, Gunsmith, house Line St, near King St  
Beaufort, Charles F, Machinist, house Line St, near Meeting St

Church St  
Beecher, Eliza, Widow of Frederick, house 84 Wentworth St  
Been, Jane, Miss, f p c, house 14 Pitt St  
Behr, Caroline, Widow of Nicholas, house Laurel St, near Bogard St  
Behr, John, Clerk, house Meeting St, cor Calhoun St  
Behre, C H, Watches & Clocks, King St, op Ann St, house same  
Behre, Frederick W, Tailor, house 22 Archdale St  
Behrens, Henry, Clerk, house Market St, cor Anson St  
Behrens, Lewis, Grocer, East Bay St, cor Wentworth St, house same  
Belford, Alexander, Carpenter, house 94 Wentworth St  
Belin, Allard H, Planter, house Broad St, cor Orange St  
Bellemann, John, Engineer, house Rutledge St, near Bogard St  
Bell, Benjamin, f p c, Carpenter, house Rutledge St, near Nunan St  
Bell, David, Accountant, house Chapel St, near Elizabeth St  
Bell, Edwin Q, of McLeod & Bell, Commission Merchant, 12 Exchange St, house Chapel St, near Elizabeth St  
Bell, John L, Cooper, East Bay St, rear of Post Office, house 7 Society St

On the Eve of the Civil War:  
the Charleston, SC  
Directories for the Years  
1859 and 1860

DETAIL RELATED SOURCE



**News Article**[Hide Details](#)Evening Post (Published as THE CHARLESTON EVENING POST) - December 19, 1944 [Browse Issues](#)

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1944. Thomas B. Allen Repair  
America's Historic Newspapers  
Charleston County Public Library

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HIGHLIGHTS: ☒ "10 Weims"[find](#)**MARRIAGE LICENSES**

The following marriage licenses have been issued by Clarence F. Lunn, judge of probate for Charleston county: Donald F. Kubisiak and Ardith Louise Beadle, both of Wisconsin Rapids, Wisc.

Myron James Whitman and Helen June Remmus, both of Charleston.

William H. Boyter, of Moore, S. C., and Rose Wiener, of New York city, and Julian C. Vaughan, of Orangeburg, and Edna Aletha Clary, of Jessup, Ga. Johnny Dean Siepp, of Cleveland, Tenn., and Audrey Mae Davis, of Mullins.

William Baxter White and Jewell Merlene Dixon, both of Charleston, Heyward N. Byrd, of Branchville, and Sarah Lee Rikard, of Newberry. Armstead T. Doggett, Jr., and Ruth Alma Pyatt, both of Charleston.

**BUILDING PERMITS**

The following building permits have been issued by Henry H. Williams, city superintendent of public buildings:

Mrs. Brown, to enclose porch at 262 Coming street, \$100.  
Thomas B. Allen, to repair dwelling at **10 Weims** court, \$700.  
S. Gott, to add to, dwelling at 104 Romney street, \$100.



The News & Courier  
Oct 13, 1980  
America's Historic Newspapers  
Charleston County Public Library

least part of the building can be braced and remain standing. Shoolbred said a one-story section fell at the rear of

pipe columns were installed "because of obvious objectionable deflection at the timber beam. If this supposition is correct, such a deflection could have damaged the

the building's collapse. Rosen also contends that any attempt to brace the building may be sufficient to cause its collapse.

# House An Example Of Historic Tenement

By ROBERT P. STOCKTON  
Special Writer

It has been said that Charleston is one of the few places in the world in which it is fashionable to live in an alley.

Weims Court is one of a myriad of alleys, courts and places tucked behind houses which face the major streets, in which former tenements are now considered fashionable addresses.

The house at 1 Weims Court is an example of an historic tenement dwelling which has been remodeled several times to suit the taste of the times.

Attorney Ruth Williams Cupp, who lives at 1 Weims Court with her husband, Dr. C.M. Cupp, has done extensive research on Weims Court and on her house in particular.

According to her research, Weims Court was historically part of original Lot No. 144 of the "Grand Model of Charles Town," which lot was granted to Capt. Richard Norramore in 1694.

The earliest reference to the court is in 1788, when "Whims Court" appears on the Petrie fire insurance map, and in a deed of the same year, in which Job Calcock, verbatim master, conveyed six lots on "Whim Court" to Samuel Brailsford, attorney.

**The News and Courier**  
**Do You Know Your Charleston?**

According to the 1788 deed, the court or "common passage" ran "between the said Job Calcock and one Duncan Littlejohn for the convenience of their lands in the said Court."

The 1788 fire insurance map shows several structures on the north side of "Whims Court" leading to speculation that some of the walls (22 inches thick) of the older portion of 1 Weims Court may date from that time.

Brailsford's heirs sold the "Whims Court" lots to James English in 1845. English, according to the 1852 ward book (tax list), built a number of brick tenements in the court.

One Weims Court has a different floor plan from English's other brick tenements, again leading to speculation that he used some existing brick walls.

English, who lived at present-day 49 South Battery, died in 1858. The brick tenements on Weims Court remained in his estate until 1862 when

they were purchased by a real estate speculator, James F. Redding, whose heirs sold them in 1910 to Henry F. Welch, president of William M. Bird & Co.

Welch remodeled 1 Weims Court in 1910 for his son and daughter-in-law, expanding the small brick dwelling by the addition of a large wooden portion containing a dining room on the first level and a large bedroom on the second, and a two-tiered porch in the southwest corner.

The frame portion was shingled on the exterior, with alternating bands of rectangular and fish-scale shingles, and window sashes with elongated diamond shaped panes were installed.

Subsequently, the younger Welch- es enclosed the upper tier of the porch, and in 1890 had a Federal style mantel made for the living room by Thomas Pinckney, a well-known black craftsman.

The property at 1 Weims Court remained in the Welch family until 1971, when it was purchased by Lee Knight.

Knight remodeled the house, enclosing the lower tier of the porch, converting it into a brick-paved foyer, and rebuilding the staircase, in addition to other changes.

The Cupps purchased the property in 1974.

Since West Side have proposed the Yvonne Fort Planning and Development Dept. officials now sit reaction.

Vacant building and storage facilities Division

Consultant several months ago a new building after a new garage upper King

Tentative 9,000 square call for various children's senior citizens as well as meeting room

Officials haven't decided yet, but it under joint of the city agencies Cost estimate project \$200,000.



1 Weims Court

Photo by Tom Smith



List of Occupants  
From File at the Board of Architectural Review

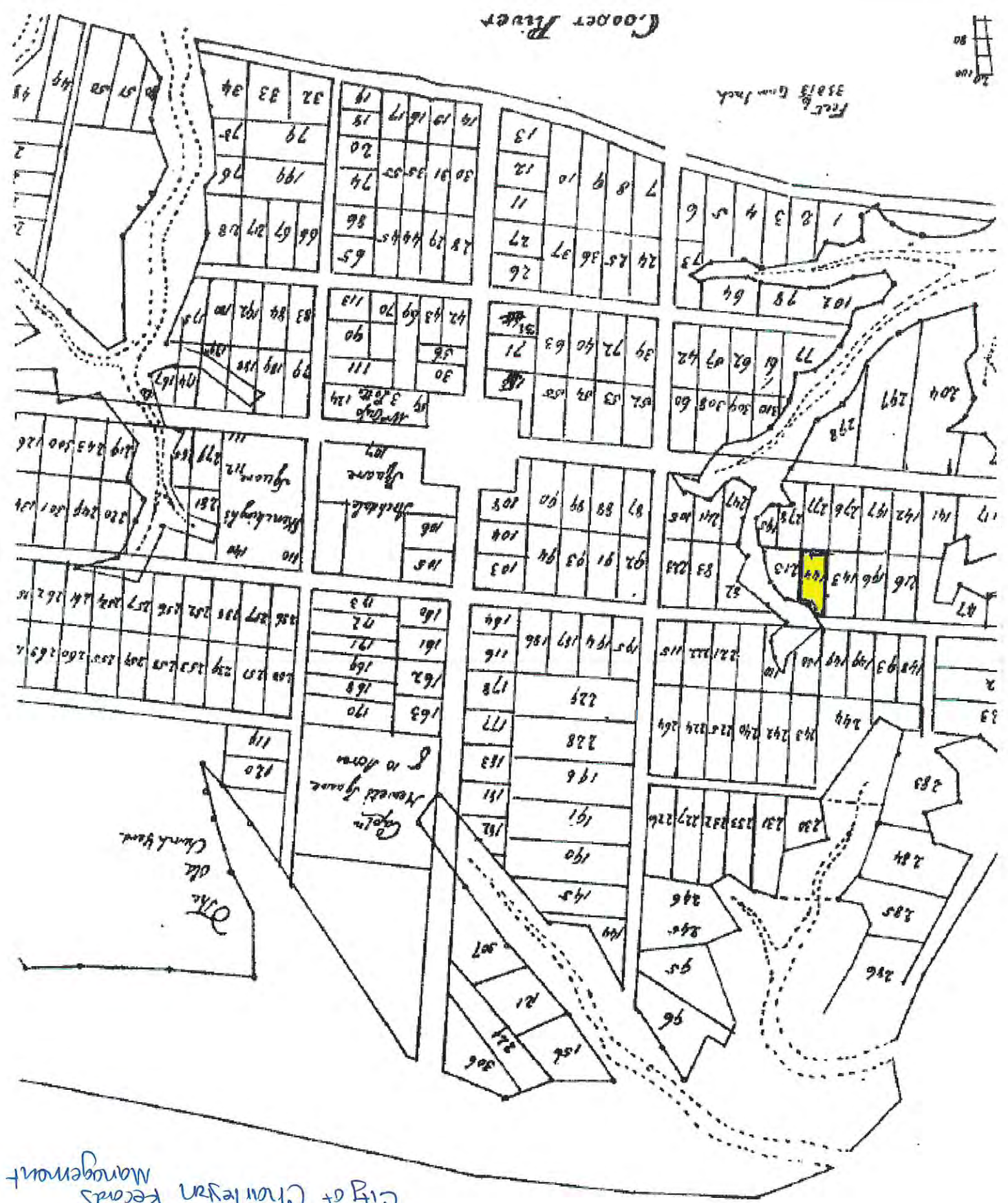
10 Weims Court  
(457-16-02-071)

10 Weims Court has been occupied as a residence throughout history. The building was constructed between 1884 and 1888, making it approximately 115 years old. The structure remained unchanged until the 1940's, as the 1944 Sandborn depicts two small one-story rear additions which appear on the building today.

1884	Does not appear on the Sanborn Map
1888	Appears on the Sanborn Map as a 2-story square building without the rear additions that appear on the existing building.
1891	Occupied by William Jackson, Charleston City Directory.
1898	Occupied by Caroline Milligan and James Bryan, Charleston City Directory.
1901	Occupied by Dennis Fraser, laborer.
1902	Occupied by Philip Gibbes, laborer, Charleston City Directory; Appears on the Sanborn Map as a 2-story square building without the rear additions that appear on the existing building.
1903-1904	Still Occupied by Philip Gibbes, Charleston City Directory.
1913	Occupied by Louisa Chaplin, laundress, Charleston City Directory.
1914	Occupied by Janie Simms, Charleston City Directory.
1915-1921	Occupied by Ellis Brown, laborer, Charleston City Directory.
1922	Occupied by Silas Ficken, Charleston City Directory.
1923	Occupied by St. John Lena, Charleston City Directory.
1924	Occupied by Cyrus Ficklen, laborer, Charleston City Directory.
1925	Occupied by Charles Watson, laborer, Charleston City Directory.
1927-30	Occupied by Mrs. M. M. Haskell, Charleston City Directory.
1932	Occupied by Edward Wulbum, Charleston City Directory.
1933	Occupied by JR Roberts, mdse broker @ 180 East Bay Street and VP of Pub Life Ins Co., Charleston City Directory.
1938	Vacant
1942	Occupied by William Huggins, Charleston City Directory.
1944	Appears on the Sanborn Map in the same footprint as previous maps except for two small one-story additions at rear.
1948-51	Occupied by Thomas Allen, Charleston City Directory.
1955	Appears on the Sanborn Map in the same footprint as previous map.
1958	Occupied by George Grimball, Charleston City Directory.



Grand Model at Charles - Towne  
From Street Files at  
City of Charleston Records  
Management



Feet  
35813 Gun Jack



# General Work Vouchers

## From Earthquake of 1886

pg 1

Charleston County Public Library

	074 1/2	1012	\$170	NOV. 06, 1886	Chimney to house badly put up. Addison resided at 19 Amherst.
Addison, Joseph, trustee	Line St., 080	1058	\$55	Oct. 29, 1886	Ceiling, \$5; Chimney, \$30; Foundation, \$20
Addison, Mary Caroline	Meeting St., 477	0124	\$115	Oct. 05, 1886	Addison resided at 46 Mazyck St.
Addison, Sarah J.	Meeting St., 473 and 475	1152	\$140	Nov. 01, 1886	Addison received \$110 for 473 Meeting St., and \$30 for 475 Meeting St. She resided at 40 Line St.
Addison, Susan F. and Virginia	South Bay St., 049	1569	\$520	Dec. 17, 1886	Accepted under Resolution 19 Nov. 1886; objections: some of the cracks in the walls only filled with cement.
Addison, Susan F. and Virginia E.	Weims Ct., 010	1570	\$360	Dec. 17, 1886	Accepted under Resolution 19 Nov. 1886; objections: cracks in the walls only filled up. Addisons resided at 49 South Bay St.
Ahrens, John	New St., 001	1427	\$95	Nov. 13, 1886	Roof, \$60; Chimneys, \$35. Accepted under Resolution 19 Nov. 1886; objections: cracks in chimneys. Ahrens resided at 11 Council St.
Aiken, Elizabeth	Marsh St., 022	1014	\$50	Oct. 27, 1886	
		0689	\$425	Oct. 16, 1886	Walls, \$250; Roof, \$60; Chimneys, \$90; Iron rods, \$25

HISTORIC CHARLESTON FOUNDATION  
HURRICANE HUGO DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FORM

Date of Survey: 11/29/89  
Survey Team: \_\_\_\_\_  
Members: SJB  
Video: Reel/Frama  
Camera: \_\_\_\_\_  
Slides: [ ]  
B. & W.: [ ]

Name of Property: (if any)

Street Address: 18 Wesim Ct

Tax Map Number: 457-16-2-71

Current Owner:

DESCRIPTION

Principal Building ☒ Dependency ☐ Other ☐

No. of Stories: Basement ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☒ 3 ☐ 4 ☐  
Attic or Half Story ☐

Material:

Structural: Brick ☒ Wood Frame ☐ Stone ☐ Metal ☐  
Other ☐:

Surface Covering: Stucco ☒ Wood Siding ☐ Other ☐:

Roof Covering: Slate ☐ Metal ☐ Tile ☐ Asphalt ☐  
Other ☐: Flat

Piazza: Foundation: Brick ☐ Stone ☐ Wood ☐  
Other ☐:

NA Main Piazza: Brick ☐ Wood ☐ Other ☐

Roof Covering (if different from main building):

Chimneys: Brick ☐ Brick & Stucco ☒ Stone ☐ Other ☐

Comments:

Interior finished - major  
damage to walls, furniture and  
appliances. Huge crack from  
cornice to subwall on south side.

Address:

Tax Map No.:

Page 2

Damage Assessment

None

Minor

Major

## Exterior Features

Walls: Foundation/Basement	[ ]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[ ] <i>ND</i>
1st Floor	[ ]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[ ] <i>ND</i>
2nd Floor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[ ] <i>ND</i>
3rd Floor	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
4th Floor	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Attic	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Doors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[ ]	[ ]
Windows	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[ ]	[ ]
Shutters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[ ]	[ ]
Piazza/Portico	<i>NA</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[ ]	[ ]
Downspouts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[ ]	[ ]
Gutters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[ ]	[ ]
Cornice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[ ]	[ ]
Parapet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[ ]	[ ]
Roof Covering	[ ]	[ ]	<i>ND</i>
Dormers (Number: 0)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[ ]	[ ]
Chimneys (Number: 2)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[ ]	[ ]

## Other Visible Damage

Garden Walls/Fences	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[ ]	[ ]
Gates	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[ ]	[ ]
Walkways/Paving	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Sidewalks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[ ]	[ ]
Trees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[ ]	[ ]
Mechanical	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[ ]	[ ]



CITY OF CHARLESTON, S. C.

# APPLICATION FOR BUILDING PERMIT

Date July 14, 1945

Application No. 11047

To the Zoning Administrative Officer:

Application is hereby made for the approval of plans, in duplicate, herewith submitted for the erection of the building herein described. All provisions of the Laws and Ordinances pertaining thereto shall be complied with in the erection of said buildings, whether specified herein or not. **To construct a Cinder Block Building for an Oil Burner. Size 8'x 10'**  
Cannot be seen from the street.

Owner's Name Thomas Allen Address 10 Weiss Court

Location of Lot 10 Weiss Court

Zone District's Use "A" Residence  
Old & Historic Chas.

Height and Area 6th

## LOT

Feet Front

Rear

Depth

## BUILDING

Feet Front

Rear

Depth

Side Yard Depth, Right

Front Yard Depth

Rear Yard Depth

Side Yard Depth, Left

Fast in height from sidewalk or surface of ground to highest point of roof

## DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING

Kind of Foundation

Thickness

Kind of Outer Walls

Thickness

1st

2nd

3rd

Kind of Roofing

Type of Roof

Floors—Basement

First

Second

Third

Interior Finish

First

Second

Third

Built in Features

Heating

Lighting

Plumbing

Name of Contractor Thomas P. Dandridge

Address

Windsor, S.C.

Name of Architect

Address

TOTAL COST IMPROVEMENT. \$ 500.00

State of South Carolina, /  
County of Charleston

Thomas P. Dandridge

~~being~~ (or agent) of the building above referred to and that the facts set forth in the foregoing application are true and correct, as he verily believes.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 14th July 1945

John D. Stehman  
Notary Public

104

Applicant

Examined and approved by me, this 14 day of July 1945

D.M. Thomas  
Administrative Officer

1945-  
Thomas B. Allen  
Building Permit

Charleston City  
at Records Management  
[on microfilm]



Owner & Occupant	Material		Dimensions			Condition of Walls				Condition of Chimneys or Flues	Damages by Earthquake (\$)
	Building	Roof	Ft. Long	Ft. Wide	Ft. High	North	South	East	West		
"Est. English" - vacant	Brick	Tin	30	30	25	Bad	Badly cracked	Good	Good	Bad	600

What should be done to make it safe	Remarks
North & south walls must come down; chimneys rebuilt	

Cite as: *Record of Earthquake Damages, 1886*. On microfiche, Historic Charleston Foundation Archives.

10 Weims Court

1886 Earthquake  
Damages