

164 KING STREETCHARLESTON LIBRARY SOCIETY

" Since 1748, the Charleston Libray Society has Survived."(DYKYC 1/23/81)

"From the beginning, the society was beset with problems. Colonial Gov. James Glenn, giving no reason, denied the society a charter when it was applied for in 1751, a decade after the society was founded. The British government in London refused to override Glenn's veto but, shortly thereafter, Glenn reversed himself and the charter was granted.

However, England and France were embroiled in the 7 Yrs. War and the French captured the Charleston-bound ship bearing the charter. A copy of the charter didn't arrive until 1757."(DYKYC 1/23/81)

"The present building at 164 King St. was constructed in 1914."(DYKYC)

## RMC INFO:

5 July 1910	Charleston Library Society	R-25, 267
	Kate R. Siegling, Henry Siegling, John A. Siegling, and Rudoph Siegling who were trustees for the property by the will of Henry Siegling	
AND		
4 Aug. 1910	Charleston Library Society	O-25, 212
	Edward J. Lacassagne and Anais Lacassagne who inherited the property from parents Edward L. and Josephine M. Lacassagne	
AND		
2 Dec. 1910	Charleston Library Society	W-25, 55
	Caroline M. Dadin	

Note: The above three lots were purchased by the Charleston Library Society in 1910. All three faced King Street on the east side between Horlbeck's Alley and Queen Street. The Dadin lot was bounded on the north by the Lacassagne lot and on the south by the Siegling lot.

## Charleston Library Society

The history of the Charleston Library Society begins in 1748 when it was originally organized. The Library Society is recorded to be the third library ever established in the United States. The charter was granted in 1754, yet the document did not arrive to the colonies until 1757.

During the early years of the library books were kept at either the homes or offices of successive librarians. By 1836 the society had gathered enough money to buy a brick building at the northwest corner of Church and Broad streets. The site was maintained as the Library Society until the present building at 164 King Street was constructed in 1914. It is thought that this building was designed by Philadelphia architects McGoodwin and Hawley.

This twentieth-century building has a full basement decorated by raised bands. The basement is then topped by a full story containing five bays, including Palladian windows and a door. Pilasters topped by ionic capitals have been placed between the bays and a dental block cornice has been hung. The building fabric is stuccoed brick.