

## KING STREET

**325** 1950 thru 1980 Thom McAn Shoe Store 1940 Hood-Myers Electric Co. 1900 thru 1920 The Great A & P Tea Co. This nationally famous grocery store, *The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co.* was founded as a mail order business for teas and spices. In the 1930s it dominated the supermarket business, maintaining grocery stores at several locations in the Charleston area. Eight O'Clock coffee was one of its most famous in-house brands and customers could choose their own mix and grind it to their preference in the store. With purchase of goods, buyers were given premium tickets to obtain crockery kept in the store. Wages at the time were \$3 a week for clerks.

**326** 1980 thru 1996 Melton & Sons Opticians On King Street for almost half a century, *Melton & Sons Opticians* originally started at 274 King Street, next door to Kerrison's as *Crow Opticians*. The original owner, *Jack Crow* revolutionized the state's optical industry when he created South Carolina's first optical shop. Before that, the only way the nearsighted could seek relief was by ordering eyeglasses through an optometrist or ophthalmologist. The array of eyeglass styles today can be traced in part to what *Jack Crow* wrought. In 1942, C.D. Melton bought *Jack Crow* out. In 1972 Melton dropped the name *Crow* from his business when he opened his new downtown store at 326 King. Four years later he added "& Son" to the name when his son, *Gregory*, joined him in the business. Meanwhile he had added a complete service for hearing aids. 1963 One of the horrors of the construction industry in Charleston took place at this location in July 1963. The building, which dated from the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, completely collapsed while construction was in progress at Max's Men's Store next door. Fortunately only one person was injured, a 14 year old girl suffered a broken leg, although several occupants were in the building at the time. *Davidson's Fashion House*, operated by David Epstein was completely demolished by the collapsing building, but only one or two of the adjacent businesses suffered damages. 1960 Davidson's women's clothing 1950 Gayden Bros Cigar Store 1940 College Cigar Store. billiards / Clarence T. Hamrick, dentist / Edward Eiserhard restaurant 1930 Plenge's Pharmacy (Inc) / J. R. Mahoney 1920 J.R. Mahony 1900 Antonio Carullo pool room / Concordia Club

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## GEORGE STREET INTERSECTS

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**327** 1970 thru 1999 Barton's Candy Card & Gift Shop 1940 thru 1960 Worthmore Inc. men's clothing / William McDowell. dentist / Henry Smathers. dentist / Sims & Myers Scientific Chiropractic office 1930 Moe Rubin jewelry & luggage 1900 thru 1920 Hummel's Pharmacy

**328** 1999 R S V P Shoppe Stationery 1970 thru 1990 Max's Men Store clothing 1960 Fashion Shoes 1930 thru 1950 Western Union Telegraph Co. branch 1940 Carolina Floral Store / Western Union Telegraph branch 1900 thru 1920 C. Muller & Co. grocer