



FIELDING SITE
Logan and Magazine Streets
Charleston, SC

BRIEF HISTORIC OVERVIEW

No. 122 Logan Street, known today as the Fielding Home for Funerals, was erected in the early 1790s as a typical Charleston single house with a two-story brick kitchen house/enslaved quarters. Built as the primary residence of German butcher Matthias Wolfe (d. 1805), the dwelling was one of many structures in this section of the city occupied by German immigrants in the colonial and post-Revolutionary period.¹ At its completion, the two-story kitchen/enslaved quarters was erected to house at least ten of Wolfe's enslaved workers.²

The property continued to serve as a residence for several European merchants throughout the early nineteenth century. By the 1820s, it was occupied by Scottish merchant Roger Heriot (1769-1849). His wife Catharine (1781-1863) also operated a boarding and day school for girls within the dwelling's upper stories.³ During the antebellum period, it served as a rental property owned by the Confederate Army's Commissary General Lucius Bellinger Northrop (1811-1894), who briefly resided in the structure during the Civil War.⁴ After the war, a two-story brick hyphen was added between the main dwelling and outbuilding to increase living space.

From 1899 to 1928, No. 122 Logan Street served as both a boarding house and infamous blind tiger.⁵ Between 1899 and 1902, owner Madame Martha Stevenson (1871-1919) (also known as Mattie Sherman) erected a one-story wooden dance hall directly south of where the chapel sits today for this purpose. New mantels were also added to the first and second floor of the main dwelling and original windows were replaced with two-over-two wooden sash along the main (west) elevation.

In 1926, the Fielding family purchased No. 122 Logan Street as a residence and place of business for the Fielding Home for Funerals.⁶ At this time, the dance hall was converted into a chapel and the main dwelling was used as offices and upper-story living quarters for members of the Fielding family, including President Emily Felicia Fielding (1918-1975) from 1939 through the late 1960s.⁷ The outbuilding and hyphen were used as a morgue, "slumber room" for wakes and storage while a large frame garage was erected in the rear to accommodate the business' vehicles.

1 The German Friendly Society, for example, erected a meetinghouse on Archdale Street as early as 1801 due to the concentration of German residents in the area. St. John's Lutheran Church at No. 10 Archdale Street was erected in c. 1817 to serve a mostly German congregation and was designed and erected by craftsmen of German descent.

2 1800 U.S. Federal Census.

3 "Boarding and Day School," 1826 January 9, *City Gazette*, Charleston, SC.

4 1861 City of Charleston Census, Charleston County Public Library, Charleston, SC.

5 Charleston County Register of Deeds, Deed Book E22, page 253. Charleston County, SC; Charleston County Register of Deeds, Deed Book E29, page 277. Charleston County, SC.

6 1861 City of Charleston Census, Charleston County Public Library, Charleston, SC.

7 City of Charleston Directory, 1928-1971, Charleston County Public Library, Charleston, SC.

Throughout the 1940s, the Fielding Home for Funerals bought property along Magazine Street and demolished existing structures to allow for more parking and additional garages.⁸ In 1948, the outbuilding was renovated to include additional “slumber rooms,” bathrooms and a casket display. A new chapel and garages were also erected. In the 1960s, No. 108 and No. 116 Logan Streets were purchased by the Fielding family to provide additional entrances, and new brick piers with iron gates were installed along the property’s frontage on Logan Street.⁹ During the mid to late twentieth century, well-known Black contractor Herbert A. DeCosta (1923-2008) conducted several renovation campaigns but the general floor plan and exterior did not change. Work included the restoration of the front office’s interior finishes, such as mantels and trim, and the in-kind replacement of windows in the 1990s. Minimal alterations have occurred since the late twentieth century.

No. 122 Logan Street is the best surviving complex associated with the Fielding Home for Funerals. It is the longest-operated property in the business’ history and contains significant historic integrity, retaining both 1790s architectural fabric and the early-to-mid twentieth century changes made by the Fielding family. Other properties associated with the Fielding Home for Funerals are No. 80 Queen Street from the business’ founding in 1912 through 1916 and No. 61 Logan Street/No. 4 Short Street from 1916 to 1928. The Logan/Short Street complex does retain the historic single house as well as the chapel and outbuildings erected by the Fielding family, although all have been altered with new exterior finishes and changes to the roof lines.

ARCHITECTURAL EVOLUTION

1790-

1794: The three-story brick single house was erected by German butcher Matthias Wolfe (d. 1805).¹⁰ The dwelling contained a one-story, L-shaped piazza along the south and east elevations and featured a hipped clay-tile roof and six interior rooms (Figure 1). When completed, it was one of the largest dwellings on Logan Street (then known as Mazyck Street) north of Broad Street. Today, original character-defining details that survive include the single house floor plan, roof material and slope, modillioned exterior cornice, exterior water table at the main (west) elevation, interior stair with scrolled brackets (with the exception of the newel post), mantelpieces within the third story, chair rail and cornice work within the upper stories and nine-over-nine wooden-sash windows throughout the second and third stories. The original hardwood floors remain exposed at the third story and may also be intact beneath carpet and laminated flooring at the first and second stories.

Georgian-era details were added in the 1980s and 1990s by well-known Black contractor Herbert A. DeCosta (1923-2008) to reflect the original construction. This included the addition of the Georgian-style mantel at the first-floor west (front) room, as well as the chair rail and cornice. Many windows within the main dwelling, especially at the first story, have also been replaced in kind throughout the mid to late twentieth century.

The property was originally 50’ along Logan (Mazyck) Street and 203’ deep, which is the approximate measurements of tax parcel #45709802085/No. 122 Logan Street today.¹¹ Also on the property was a detached two-story, one-by-four-bay brick kitchen house/enslaved quarters capped with a gable roof. Today, the building is occupied by a first-story morgue and second-story casket display room. Although subsumed within a pre-World War II full-width addition to the structure’s main (south) elevation, the footprint remains intact through the survival of original exterior walls and the roof line (Figure 2-10).

⁸ “Building Permits,” 1942 July 17, *News & Courier*, Charleston, SC; “Realty Transfers,” 1947 November 1, *News & Courier*, Charleston, SC; “Building Permits,” 1948 September 22, *News & Courier*, Charleston, SC; “Fielding’s Build Memorial Chapel,” 1948 October 3, *News & Courier*, Charleston, SC.

⁹ Charleston County Register of Deeds, Deed Book X70, page 579, Charleston County, SC; “Board of Adjustment Zoning Ordinance,” 1969 February 27, *News & Courier*, Charleston, SC.

¹⁰ Poston, Jonathan. *Buildings of Charleston*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1997. 390; City of Charleston Directory, 1794, Charleston County Public Library, Charleston, SC.

¹¹ Charleston County Register of Deeds, Deed Book K6, page 313. Charleston County, SC.

1820: The dwelling was described as a house of six rooms on a large lot with a formal garden, outbuildings and a well.¹²

1850: An advertisement confirms that the property maintained a two-story kitchen house and a large yard with a formal garden.¹³

1852: The “Bridgens and Allen Map” depicts the main dwelling and detached kitchen house/enslaved quarters (Figure 11).

1872: The “Bird’s Eye View of the City of Charleston” confirms that No. 122 Logan Street stood as one of the largest dwellings on the street. The outbuilding remained detached from the main dwelling (Figure 12).

1870s: A two-story, three-bay-deep brick hyphen was erected to connect the main dwelling and outbuilding. Although subsumed within a pre-World War II addition to the structure’s main (south) elevation, the original walls, openings and roof line survive (see Figures 2-10).

1881: The property contained a three-story brick dwelling with a one-story, L-shaped piazza along the south and east elevations as well as a two-story brick outbuilding and two-story brick hyphen (Figure 13).

1886: After an earthquake, the east and west elevations of the main dwelling were repaired and the chimneys were rebuilt. Anchors were added to the north and south elevations of the main dwelling and are still visible today.¹⁴ The brick buildings were likely stuccoed at this time.

1888: The property contained a three-story brick dwelling with a one-story, L-shaped piazza along the south and east elevations, as well as a two-story brick outbuilding and two-story brick hyphen (Figure 14).

In addition to the windows along the south elevation, the first story of the former kitchen house/enslaved quarters featured two windows at the north elevation with shutters and two doors along the east elevation. A one-story privy was located along the south property line directly across from the hyphen.

The current location of entrance gates along Logan Street and Magazine Street were occupied by wooden tenements and dwellings at this time.

1902: A two-story porch was added along the main (south) elevation of the hyphen and outbuilding by this time, likely by Stevenson after she purchased the property from Northrop’s heirs in 1899 and converted it into a female boarding complex (Figure 15).¹⁵ This porch was enclosed and subsumed beneath an extension to the hyphen and outbuilding’s facade a few decades later (see Figures 2-10).

A one-story wooden dance hall was also added to the property as well as a series of outbuildings along the northern rear property line.

At the interior, Victorian-era mantels were installed, two of which still survive on the second floor. The original late-eighteenth-century mantels at the third floor, however, remained.

1905: A photograph of Magazine Street depicts the wooden dwelling that historically occupied the southeast

¹² “To Let,” 1820 June 17, *City Gazette*, Charleston, SC.

¹³ “To rent,” 1850 January 26, *Charleston Courier*, Charleston, SC.

¹⁴ “L.B. Northrop, Logan Street,” 1886. *Record of Earthquake Damages*. Historic Charleston Foundation, Charleston, SC.

¹⁵ Charleston County Register of Deeds, Deed Book E22, page 253. Charleston County, SC.

corner of today's property (Figure 16).

1915: The south and east elevations of the main dwelling and outbuildings were depicted in an aerial of the city and documents the two-story piazza along the outbuilding and hyphen (Figure 17).

1920s: The property was captured in an aerial of the city (Figure 18).

1926: Undertaker Julius Parks Levy Fielding (1896-1932) purchased No. 122 Logan Street (50'x203') and opened Fielding Home for Funerals.¹⁶

1927: Fielding erected an extensive wooden garage clad in metal at the rear of the property behind the outbuildings. The rear portion of this garage survives at the northeast corner of the property and was historically used as both an automobile garage and storage for embalming materials and coffins (Figure 19).

1929: The property contained a three-story brick dwelling with a one-story piazza, a two-story brick outbuilding, two-story brick hyphen, metal-clad garage and a one-story "lodge hall" (Figure 20).

Fielding likely converted the lodge hall into a chapel by this time and established a morgue within the outbuilding's first story, while the hyphen and upper stories were used as for slumber rooms, a kitchen and additional bedrooms.¹⁷ To convert the outbuilding into a morgue, all mantels were removed and all windows were likely infilled.

Fielding and his wife Sadie (1891-1938), who served as the business accountant, resided on the second and third floors of the main dwelling with their four young children: Emily (1918-1975), Julius R., Jr. (1929-1933), Herbert U. (1923-2015) and Timothy W. (1928-1982). A fifth son, Bernard (1933-2020), was born within the dwelling a few years later.¹⁸

Sadie's mother Felicia Goodwin (1967-1937), also a founder of the funerary business, resided with the family, as did the embalmer James Cureton (b. 1906), who likely lived in a room within the outbuilding.¹⁹

1930s: The main (west) elevation of No. 122 Logan Street was photographed with the Fielding family, capturing the original one-story piazza (Figure 21). Victorian-era fretwork and brackets along the piazza screen suggest that the feature was altered during the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. There is also evidence of a door that once occupied the first (western) bay at the first story within the piazza, which likely led to a reception office.

Fielding, Sadie Fielding and Felicia Goodwin died between 1937 and 1938, leaving 18-year-old Emily Fielding in charge of the business.²⁰

1939: The "Fielding Undertakers" requested to add an extension to an "auto shed" at the rear of the property.²¹ This likely included the frame and metal garage that currently extends from the south elevation of the 1920s rear garage (see Figure 19).

1941: A photograph suggests that the outbuilding's piazza had been enclosed by this time and six-over-six wooden sash windows were installed on the outbuilding's new facade (Figure 22). Victoria-era fretwork along the

16 Charleston County Register of Deeds, Deed Book Z31, page 181. Charleston County, SC.

17 Interview with Frederick "Fritz" Fielding, in-person interview by BVL HPR, 2032 June 23; Interview with Julius P.L. Fielding, III, in-person interview by BVL HPR, 2032 June 23.

18 1930, 1940 U.S. Federal Census.

19 1930 U.S. Federal Census.

20 "Fielding's Build Memorial Chapel," 1948 October 3, *News & Courier*, Charleston, SC.

21 "Application No. 5286," 122 Logan Street, Charleston Records Management, Charleston, SC.

piazza, which was capped with a standing-seam metal roof, and the door within the first bay of the south elevation can also be seen.

1942: The Fielding Home for Funerals purchased and demolished the two-story wooden tenement at No. 4 Magazine Street despite opposition from Charleston's preservation community (Figure 23).²²

1944: No changes were documented to the main dwelling, outbuildings and chapel on a fire insurance map. Two frame garages were erected along the rear (east) property line at No. 4 Magazine Street (Figure 24).

1947: The Fielding Home for Funerals purchased No. 6-8 Magazine Street, which contained a two-story double tenement.²³

1948: A one-story, cinder-block chapel was erected behind the property's outbuilding by siblings Emily and Herbert Fielding (Figure 25).²⁴ The new 37' x 48' structure was constructed for \$7,000 and contained an entrance "colonial in style" with flanking pilasters and a stained glass window facing Logan Street.²⁵ Although the stained glass window survives, the colonial-inspired entry has been replaced with a 1950s copper-clad door hood supported by metal columns.

The contractor was George Wheeler (b. 1920), a relative of Herbert Fielding's wife Thelma Stent.²⁶ The plan called for pews, an organ and an exhaust fan centered on the ceiling. Metal casement windows spanned the chapel's south elevation. With no air conditioning, small transom windows were installed along the north elevation to both ventilate the chapel and hide the hallway and coffin ramp that paralleled the chapel's north elevation. The ramp was designed by Herbert Fielding and local blacksmith James Kidd (1893-1982) and is a unique feature as most funeral homes used lifts.²⁷

The outbuildings were renovated at the interior to include restrooms, a lounge, an updated morgue and three "slumber rooms" for wakes on the first floor. To enlarge the hallway and public lounge area for wakes and the transporting of coffins, the family added a cinder-block extension to the facade at the first floor (see Figures 2-10, 19). The second floor was converted into office space, a conference room and storage. Metal casement windows were also installed along the south elevation of the outbuilding and hyphen. The autopsy tables currently in the morgue came from Stark Army General Hospital in North Charleston, which was decommissioned after World War II.²⁸

A seven-car, cinder-block garage was also erected along the rear (east) property line (see Figure 19).²⁹

No. 6-8 Magazine Street was demolished. The former chapel was turned ninety degrees and renovated as a meeting hall.

1951: The property's chapel, facade additions to the outbuilding and new garages were depicted on a fire insurance map for the first time (Figure 26).

22 "Building Permits," 1942 July 17, *News & Courier*, Charleston, SC.

23 "Realty Transfers," 1947 November 1, *News & Courier*, Charleston, SC.

24 "Public Notice," 1949 September 17, *Evening Post*, Charleston, SC.

25 "Building Permits," 1948 September 22, *News & Courier*, Charleston, SC; "Fielding's Build Memorial Chapel," 1948 October 3, *News & Courier*, Charleston, SC.

26 Interview with Julius P.L. Fielding, III, in-person interview by BVL HPR, 2032 June 23.

27 Ibid.

28 Ibid.

29 "Fielding's Build Memorial Chapel," 1948 October 3, *News & Courier*, Charleston, SC.

1953: According to a plaque on the property, the chapel was remodeled, but it is unclear as to the exact changes.

1954: Well-known Black contractor Herbert A. DeCosta (1923-2008) removed the one-story piazza along the main dwelling and installed a copper hood supported by wrought iron decorative columns atop the main entry. He also erected a small stoop with an iron railing. A similar entry was added to the chapel's main entrance. Asbestos siding was installed to clad the outbuilding and similar copper hoods with iron detailing were added to the side entries (Figure 27).

1955: The project is depicted in a fire insurance map of the area, but the changes to the main dwelling's piazza are not shown (Figure 28).

1957: An aerial photograph confirms that formal gardens were installed along the east elevation of the chapel and at the southeast corner of the property along Magazine Street (Figure 29). The wooden storage building at the northeast corner likely maintained a carport at this time, as the roof line appears flush with the rear of the chapel.

1960: The Fielding family purchased the empty parcel at No. 108 Logan Street to use as an additional entrance.³⁰

1962: Two plats and an etching confirm that the former chapel had been demolished by this time (Figure 30-32).

The Fielding Home for Funerals also purchased No. 124 Logan Street and planned to connect the rear of the two dwellings to expand their business (Figure 33). This was never completed.

A second funeral home was opened at No. 2704 Meeting Street Road.³¹ This building is still extant.

1967: Pews and a balustraded altar from St. Peter's Church, located at No. 31 Wentworth Street, were installed in the chapel.³² St. Peter's was established in 1866 as the first Catholic church exclusively for Charleston's Black citizens and closed in 1967.

1968: The Fielding Home for Funerals purchased No. 116 Logan Street to use as an additional entrance and parking.³³

1969: Brick piers and iron gates were added to the entrances at No. 116-122 Logan Street and No. 108 Logan Street (see Figure 19).³⁴

A concrete-block wall with brick coping was erected at the property's southeast corner along Magazine Street (see Figure 19).³⁵

1971: A photograph of No. 122 Logan Street confirms that a transom window had been installed in the bathroom beneath the outbuilding's stair hall by this time (Figure 34). The photograph also confirms that the main dwelling contained two-over-two sash at the main (west) elevation, likely added during the Victorian era.

A photograph taken of Magazine Street also confirms the presence of the brick piers along Logan Street and concrete-block wall along Magazine Street (Figure 35).

30 Charleston County Register of Deeds, Deed Book X70, page 579, Charleston County, SC.

31 "Fielding Home For Funerals," 1962 March 24, *News & Courier*, Charleston, SC.

32 Interview with Julius P.L. Fielding, III, in-person interview by BVL HPR, 2032 June 23.

33 "Board of Adjustment Zoning Ordinance," 1969 February 27, *News & Courier*, Charleston, SC.

34 "Permit No. 3807," No. 122 Logan Street, Charleston Records Management Division, Charleston, SC.

35 "Permit No. 4081," No. 122 Logan Street, Charleston Records Management Division, Charleston, SC.

1973: The chapel was renovated by DeCosta. During the renovation, acoustic ceiling tile was replaced with sheetrock and the asbestos tile flooring was covered with carpet (Figure 36-37). A door was cut into the wall that separated the chapel restrooms with the slumber rooms at the first story to allow for further access into the chapel (see Figure 7).³⁶ Prior to this, the chapel was accessed through the morgue or exterior doors.

An aerial photograph captured the property (Figure 38).

1983: DeCosta renovated the interior offices of the main dwelling. Work included the installation of new sheetrock walls, wooden trim at the first floor and carpeting.³⁷

Air conditioning was added to the property and a drop ceiling was installed in the chapel to accommodate the air ducts.³⁸

1990s: DeCosta renovated the main dwelling. Work included the restoration of the front (west) reception office by installing a Georgian-style mantel, chair rail and cornice. New nine-over-nine wooden sash windows were also installed throughout the main dwelling as well as a new newel post within the main stair hall.

New ceilings were installed in the outbuilding and a new tin exterior was installed on the rear storage buildings at the property's northeast corner.³⁹

1993: Standing lamps and signs were added at the third entrance along Logan Street (Figure 39).

36 Interview with Julius P.L. Fielding, III, in-person interview by BVL HPR, 2032 June 23.

37 Letter to Herbert U. Fielding from H.A. DeCosta Company, 1983 December 5. H.A. DeCosta Papers. Avery Research Center, Charleston, SC.

38 Interview with Julius P.L. Fielding, III, in-person interview by BVL HPR, 2032 June 23.

39 Letter to Judge Bernard R. Fielding from H.A. DeCosta Company, 1990 December 7. H.A. DeCosta Papers. Avery Research Center, Charleston, SC.



Figure 1: Main (west) elevation of No. 122 Logan Street, showing original water table, cornice and surviving eighteenth-century windows at the third story.



Figure 2: South elevation (looking northeast) of No. 122 Logan Street, showing original outbuilding and hyphen.



Figure 3: South elevation (looking northwest) of No. 122 Logan Street, showing original outbuilding and hyphen.



Figure 4: Roof of outbuilding and hyphen (looking east); original outbuilding delineated by surviving gable ends



Figure 5: Looking east from within the hyphen's former porch towards the outbuilding; the soffit delineates the footprint of the former porch from the 1948 facade extension.



Figure 6: Looking west from within the outbuilding's former porch towards the hyphen and main dwelling.



Figure 7: Looking east from within the outbuilding's former porch towards the c. 1948 chapel; the morgue is behind the wall on the left.



Figure 8: Directly upstairs from Figure 7, looking east; the original outbuilding's footprint is delineated by the columns and trim



Figure 9: Looking west from within the hyphen's former porch towards the main dwelling; the hyphen's original wythe can be seen in the foreground as well as an original window opening (centered on the wall)



Figure 10: Looking east from within the hyphen's former porch towards the outbuilding



Figure 11: 1852 "Bridgens and Allen Map" (Charleston County Public Library)

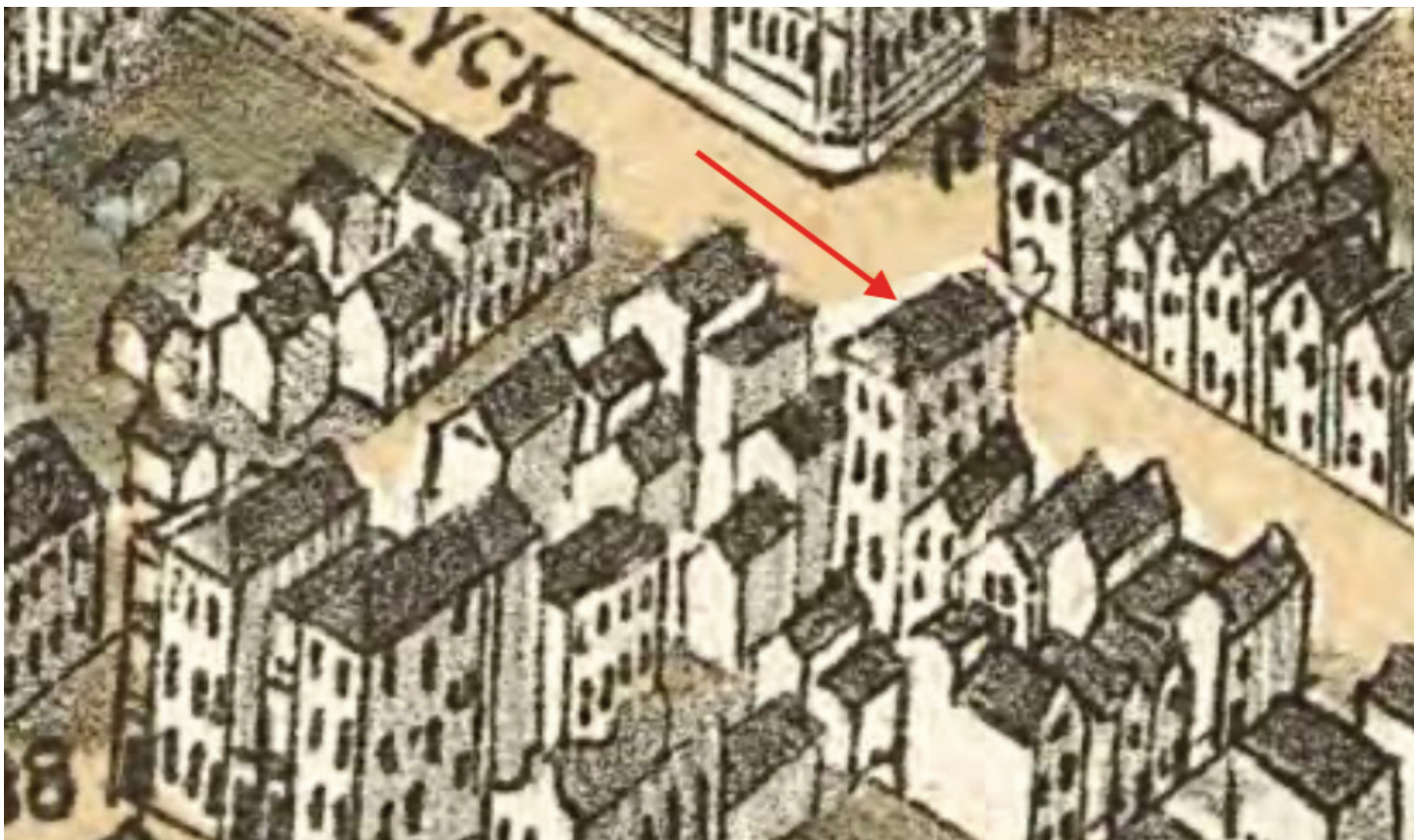


Figure 12: 1872 "Birds Eye View of the City of Charleston" (Charleston County Public Library)

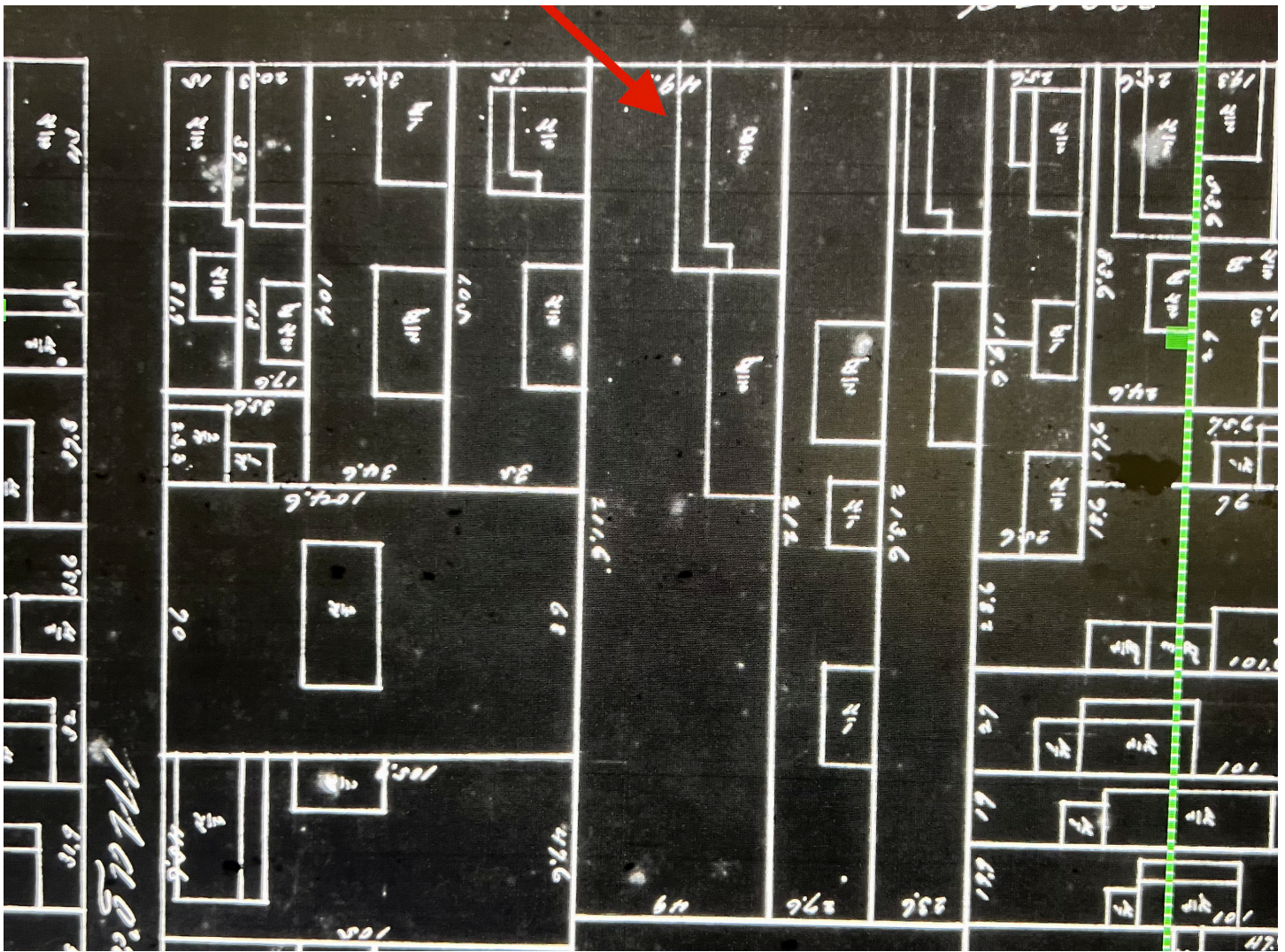


Figure 13: 1881 plat of today's No. 122 Logan Street (Charleston County Public Library)

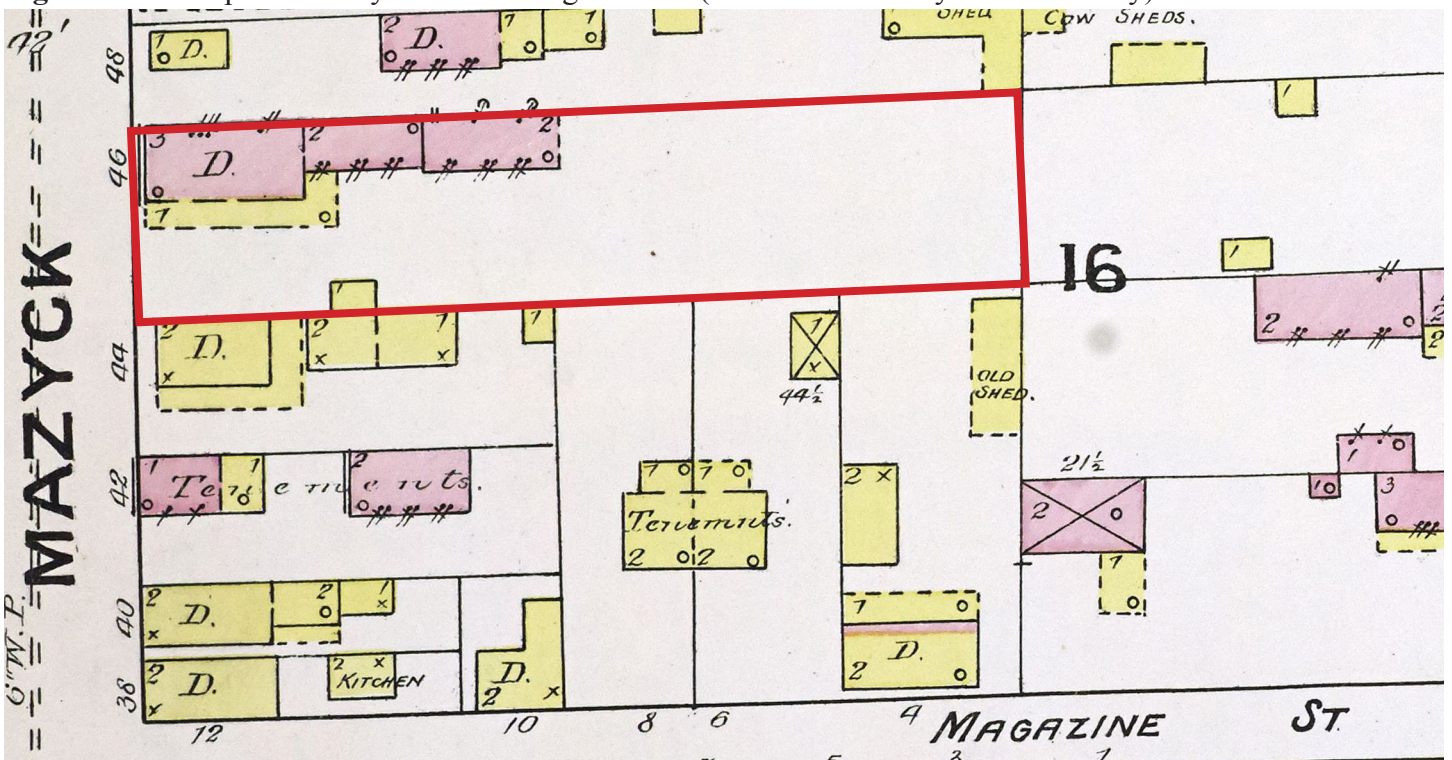


Figure 14: 1888 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Charleston County Public Library)

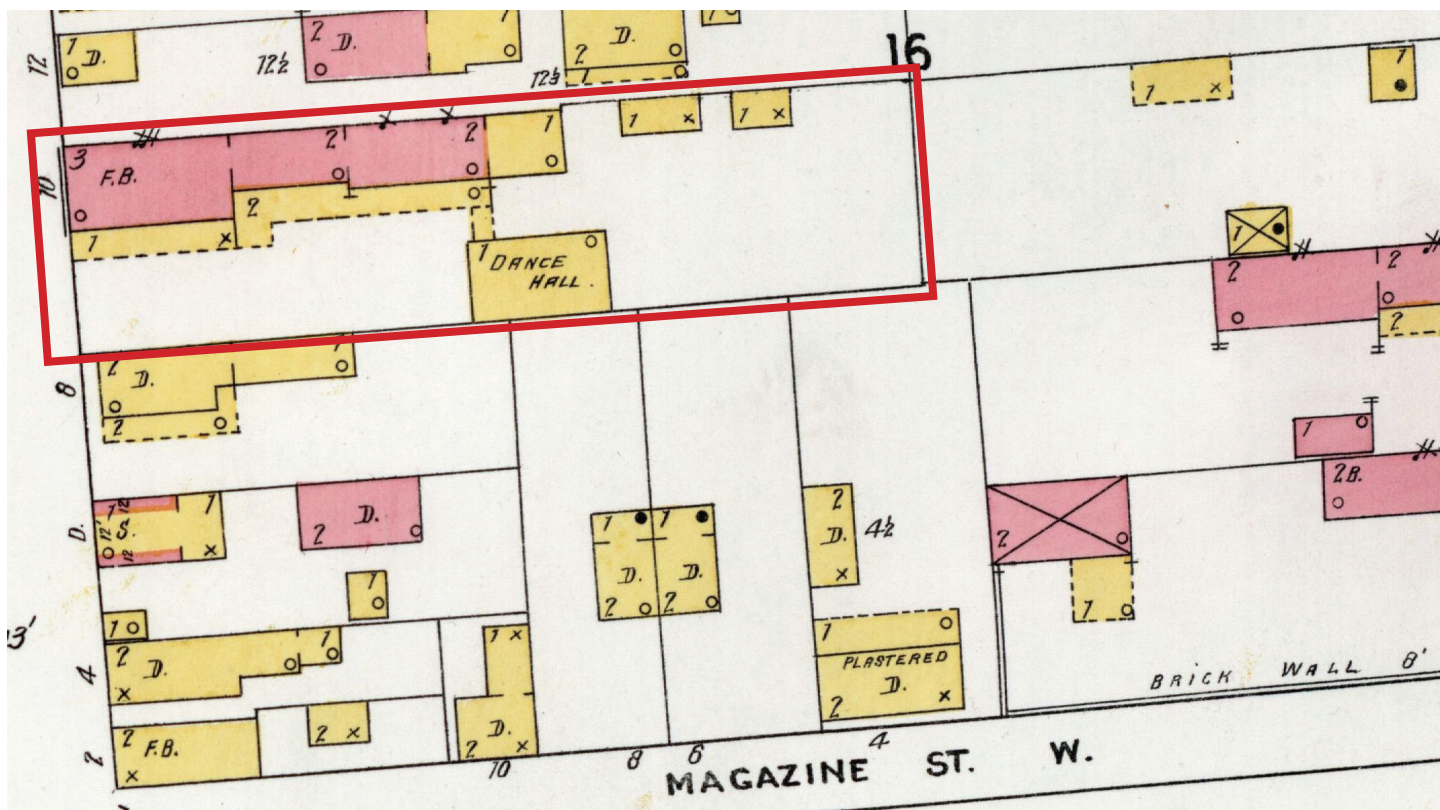


Figure 15: 1902 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Charleston County Public Library)



Figure 16: 1905 photograph of Magazine Street looking east; No. 4 Magazine Street (left) was demolished in the early 1940s for a secondary entrance for the Fielding Home for Funerals (Gibbes Museum of Art)



Figure 17: 1915 aerial photograph showing the rear of No. 122 Logan Street (Library of Congress)



Figure 18: 1920s aerial photograph showing the front of No. 122 Logan Street (U.S. National Archives)

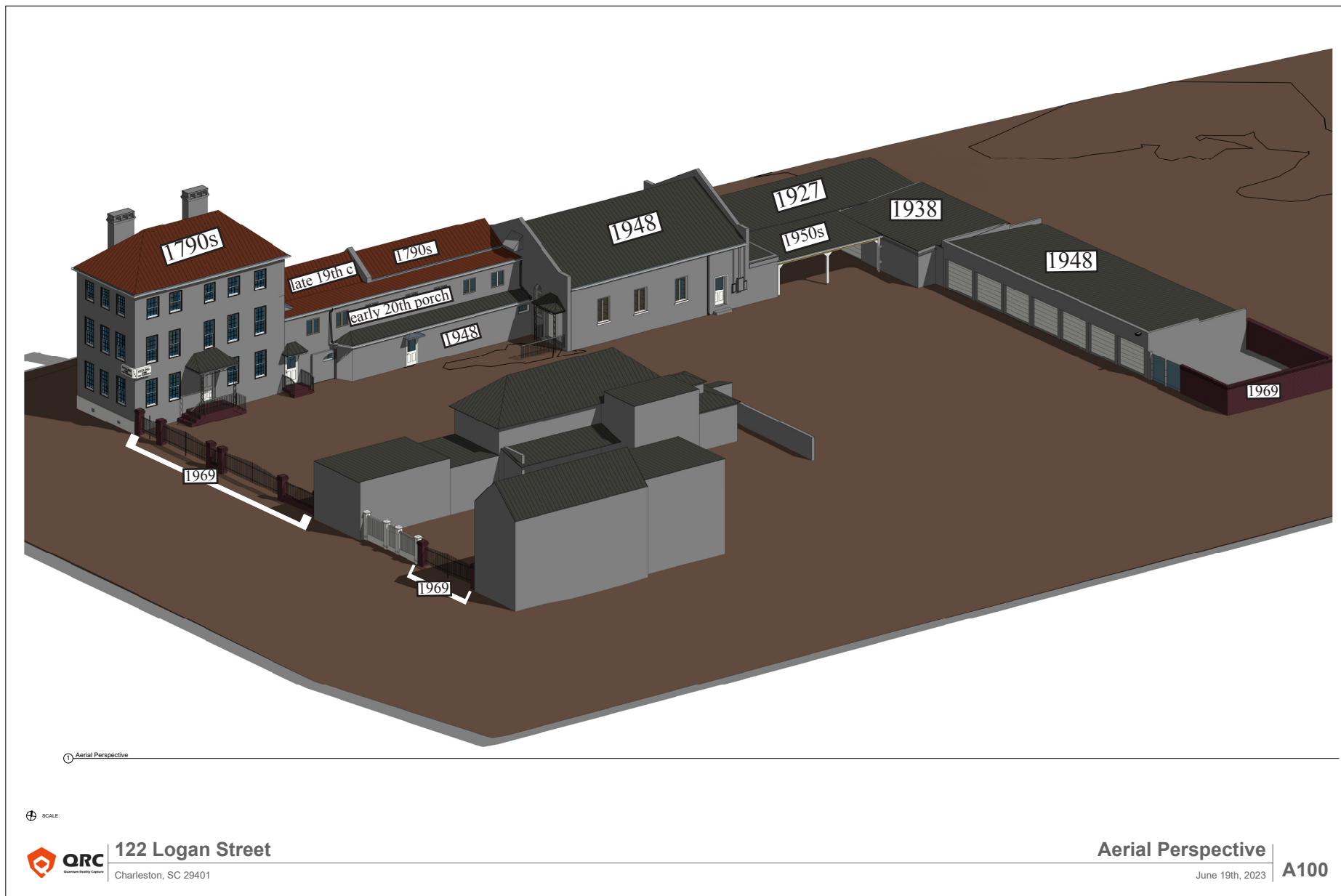


Figure 19: estimated construction dates added to 2023 aerial graphic by QRC

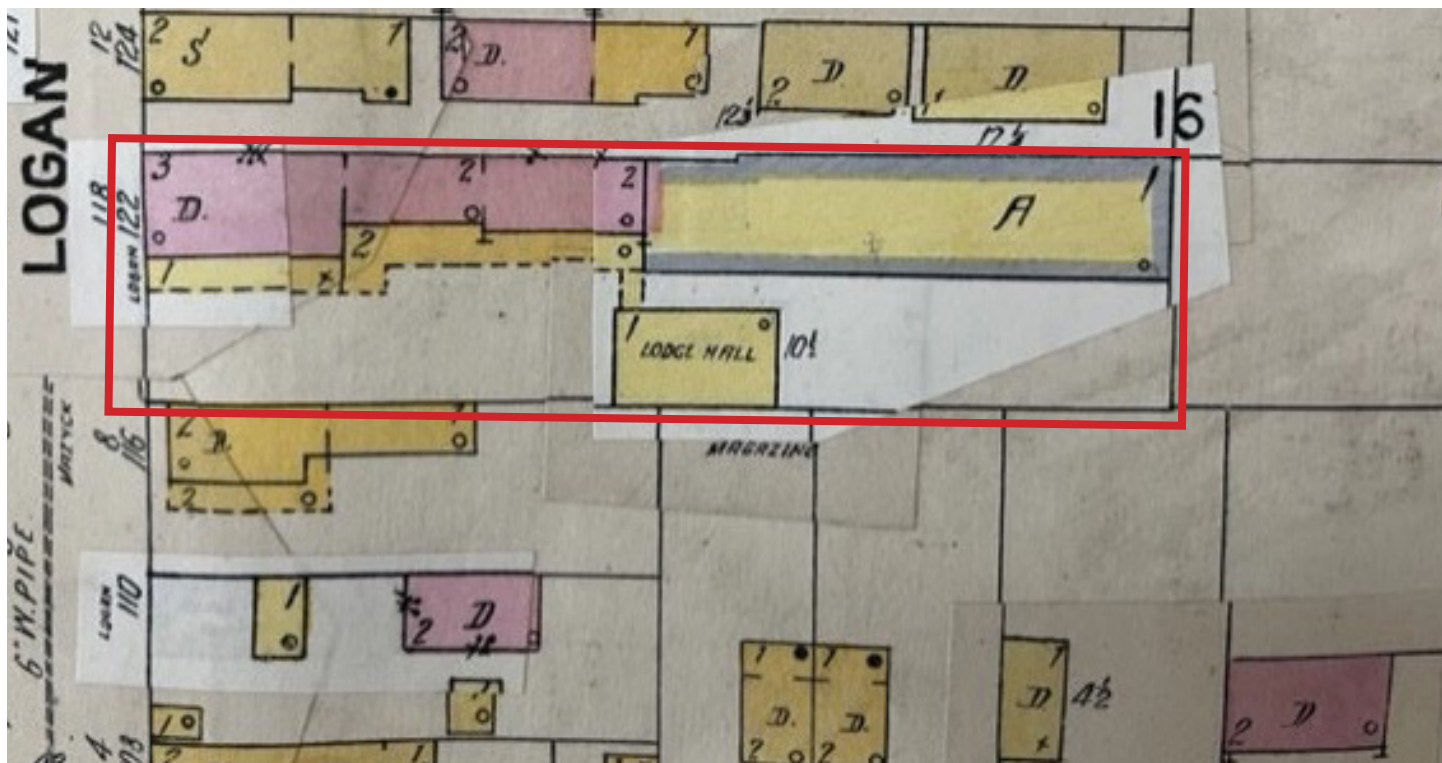


Figure 20: 1929 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Charleston County Public Library)



Figure 21: 1930s photograph of No. 122 Logan Street (Fielding Family Private Collection)

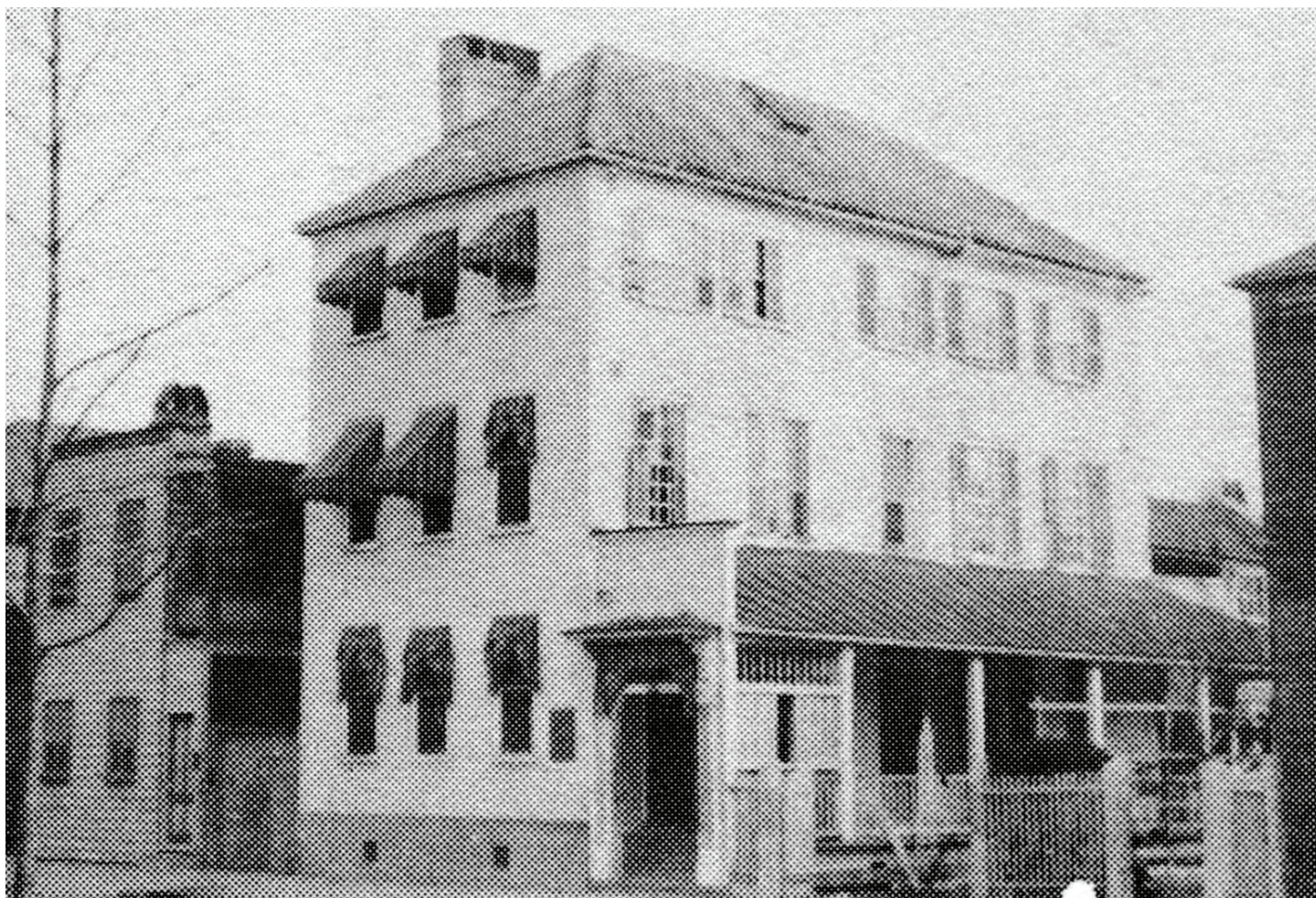


Figure 22: 1941 photograph of No. 122 Logan Street (*This is Charleston*)



Figure 23: 1938 photograph of No. 4 Magazine Street (March 28, 1938, *News & Courier*, Charleston, SC)

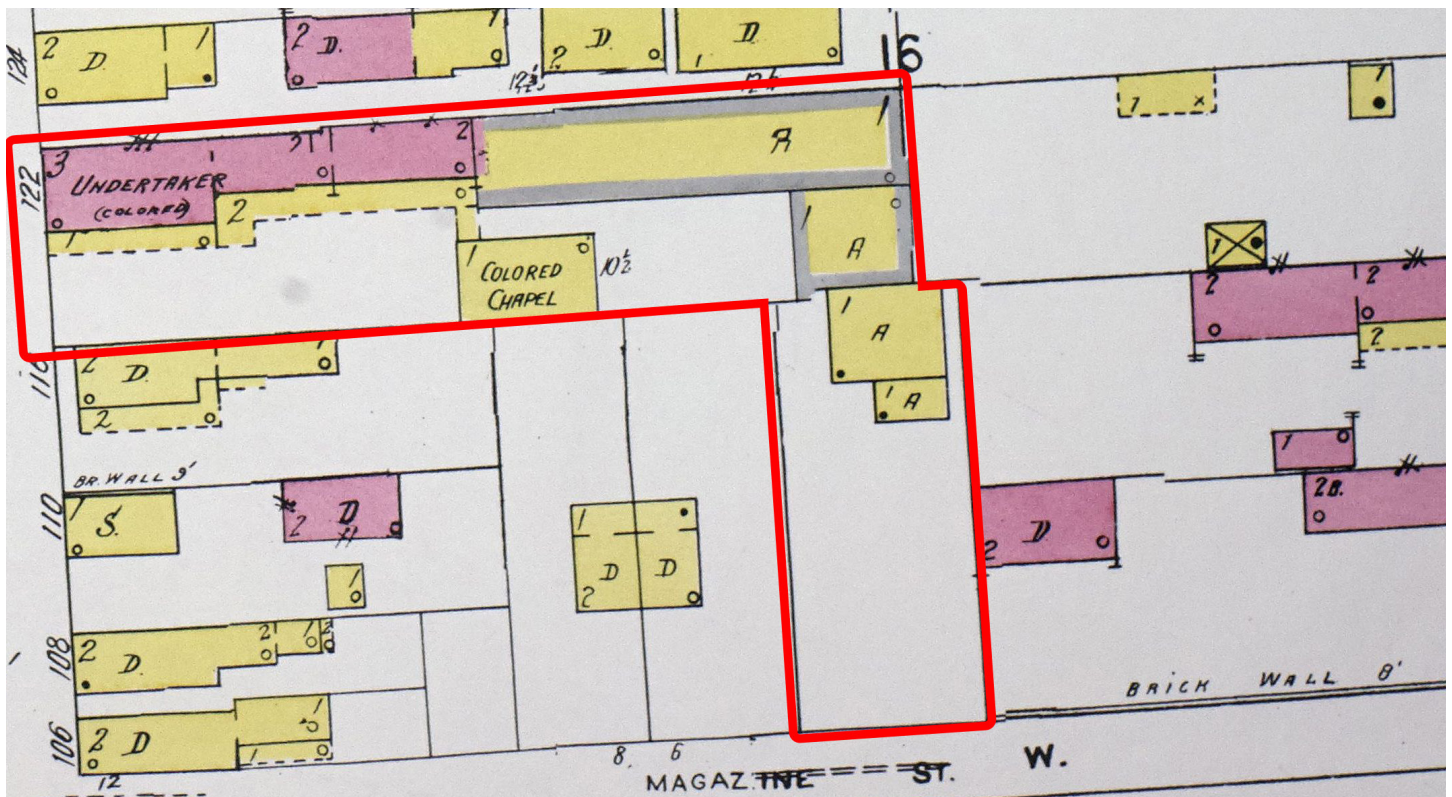


Figure 24: 1944 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Charleston County Public Library)

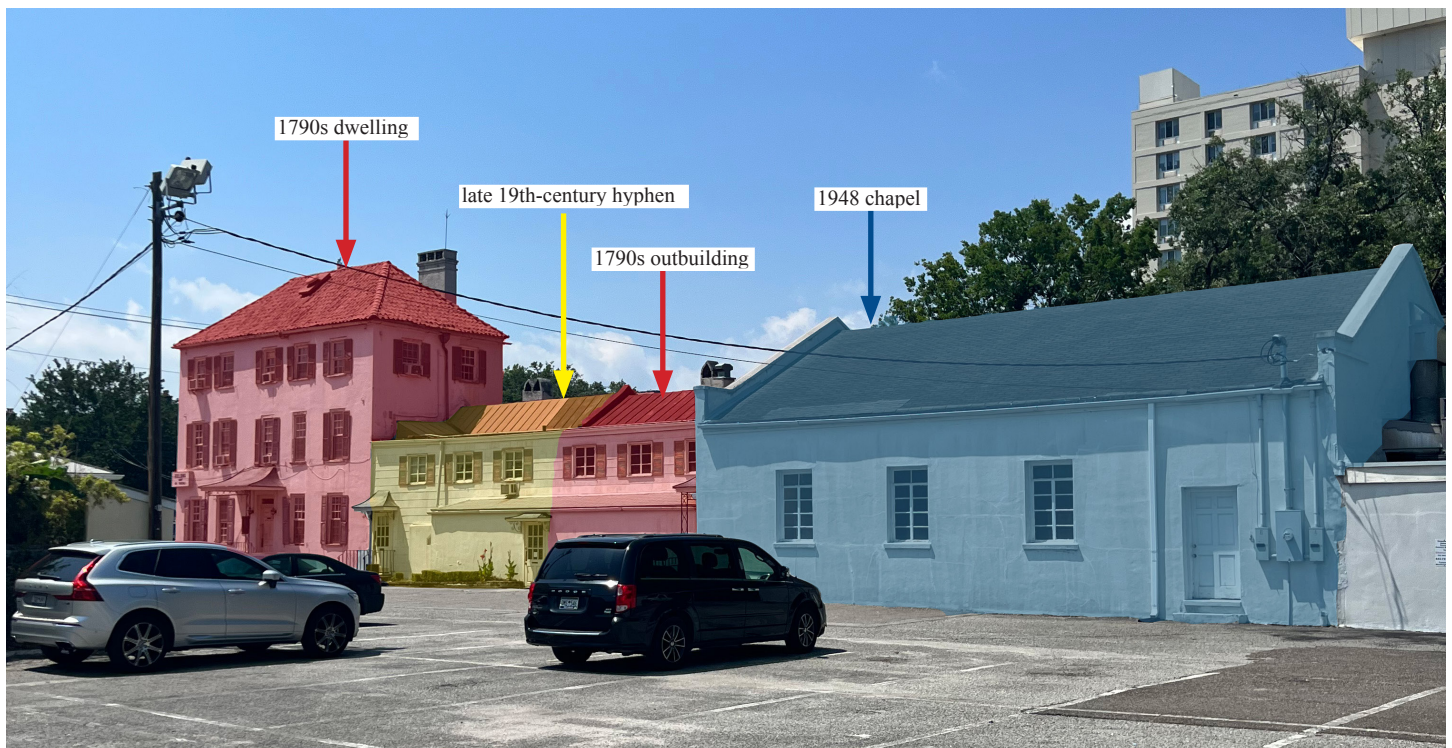


Figure 25: Evolution of the main structures on the property.

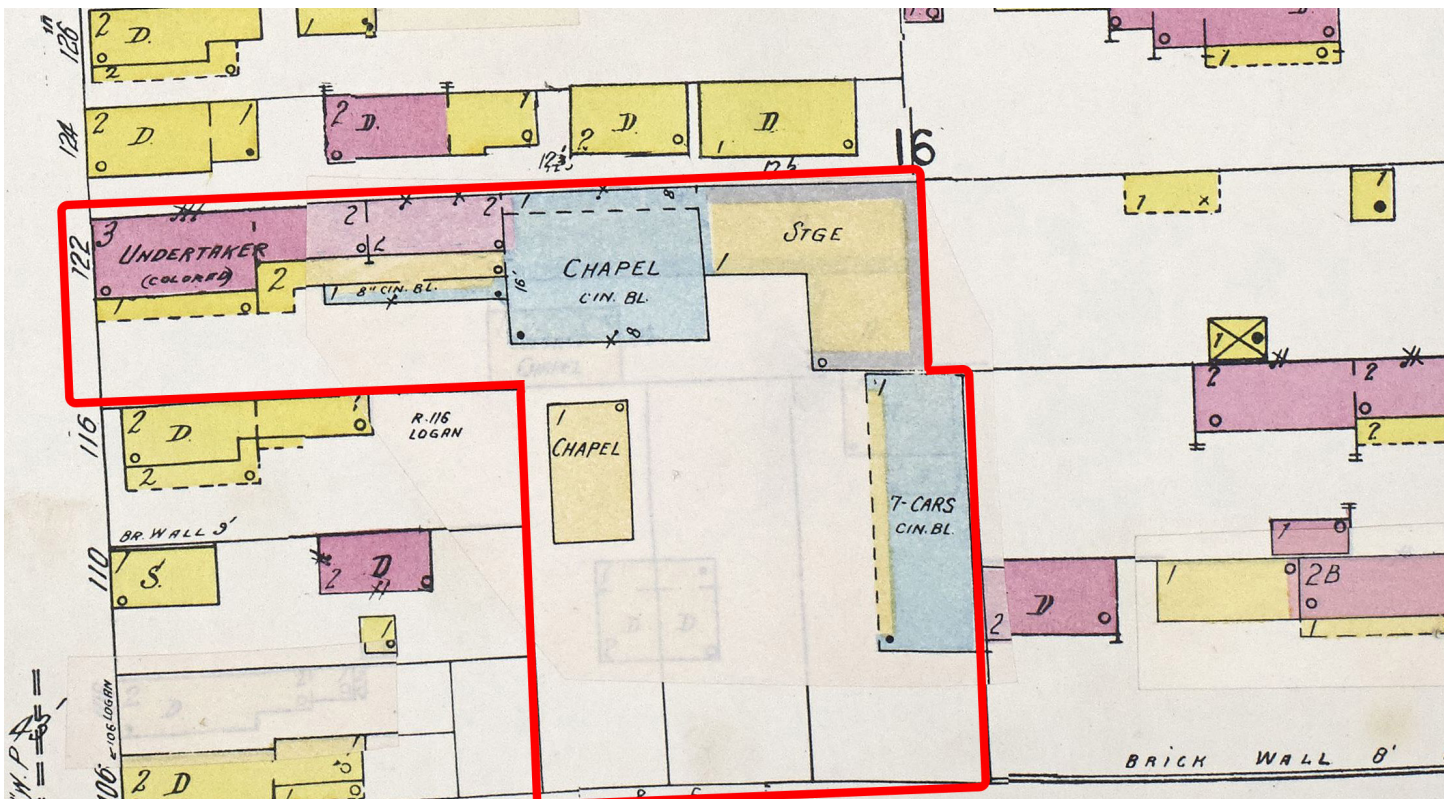


Figure 26: 1951 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Charleston County Public Library)

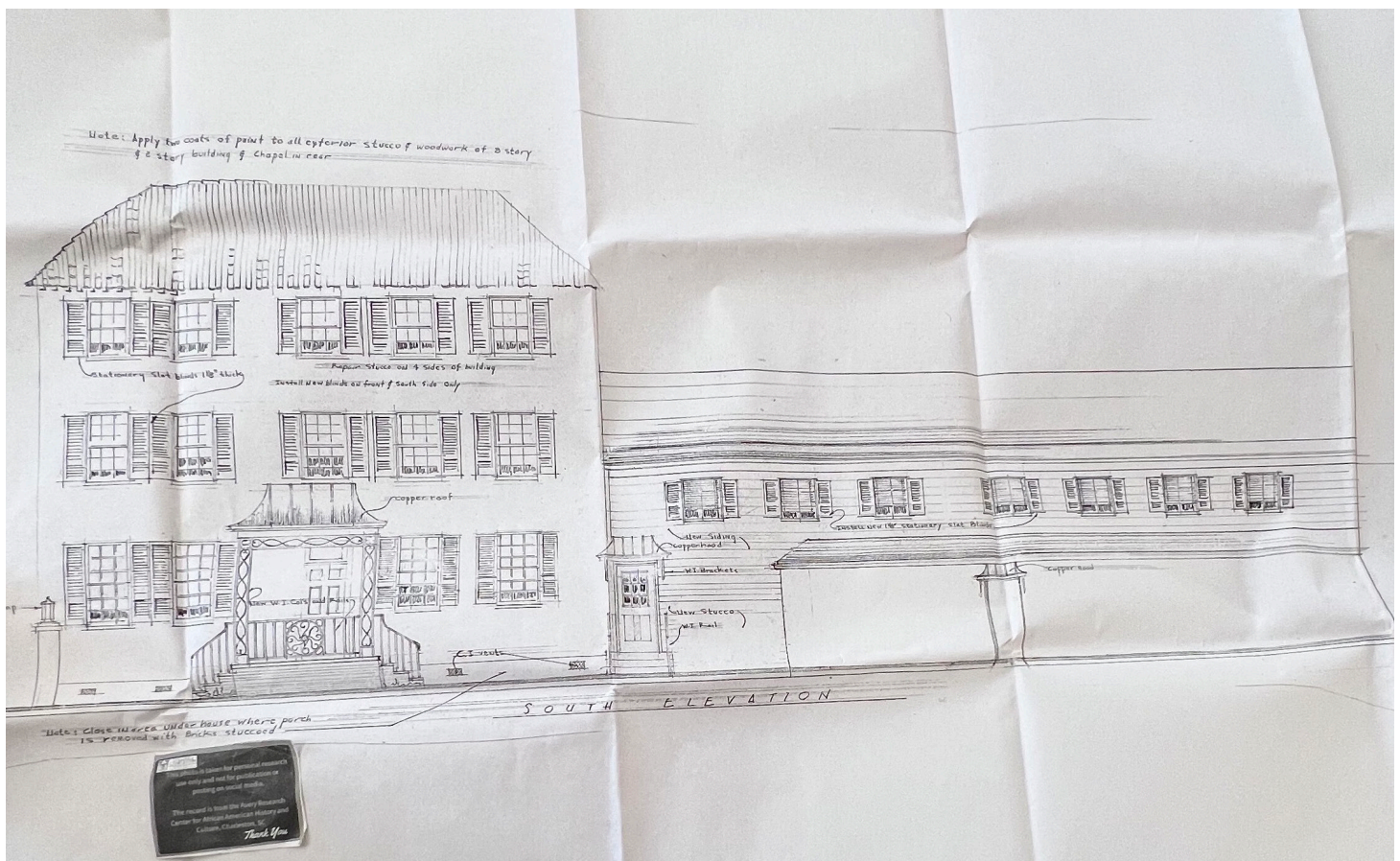


Figure 27: 1953 renovation plans for No. 122 Logan Street by DeCosta (Avery Research Center)

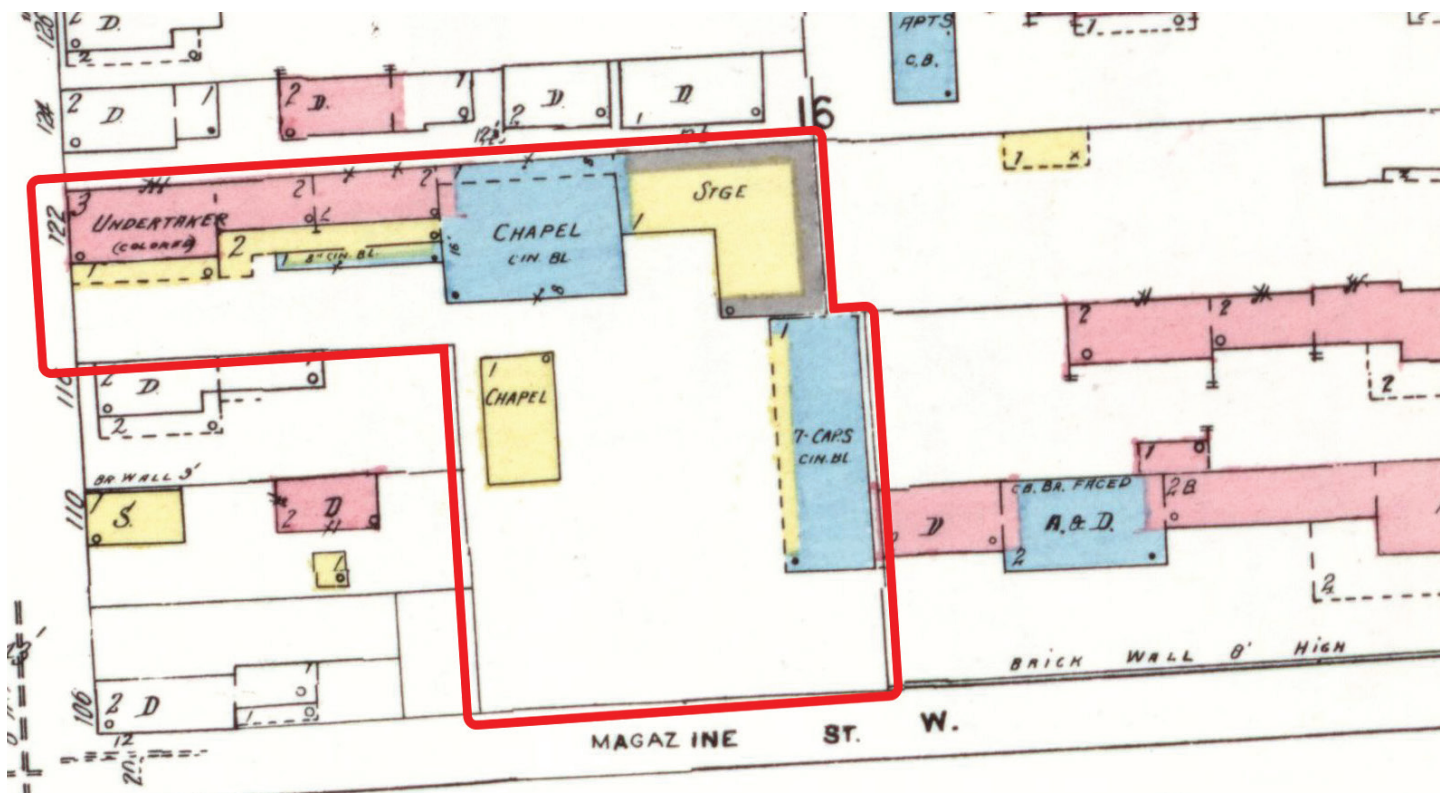


Figure 28: 1955 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Charleston County Public Library)



Figure 29: 1957 aerial of No. 122 Logan Street (Nationwide Environmental Title Research, LLC)



Figure 30: 1960s parking lot plans for No. 122 Logan Street by DeCosta (Avery Research Center)

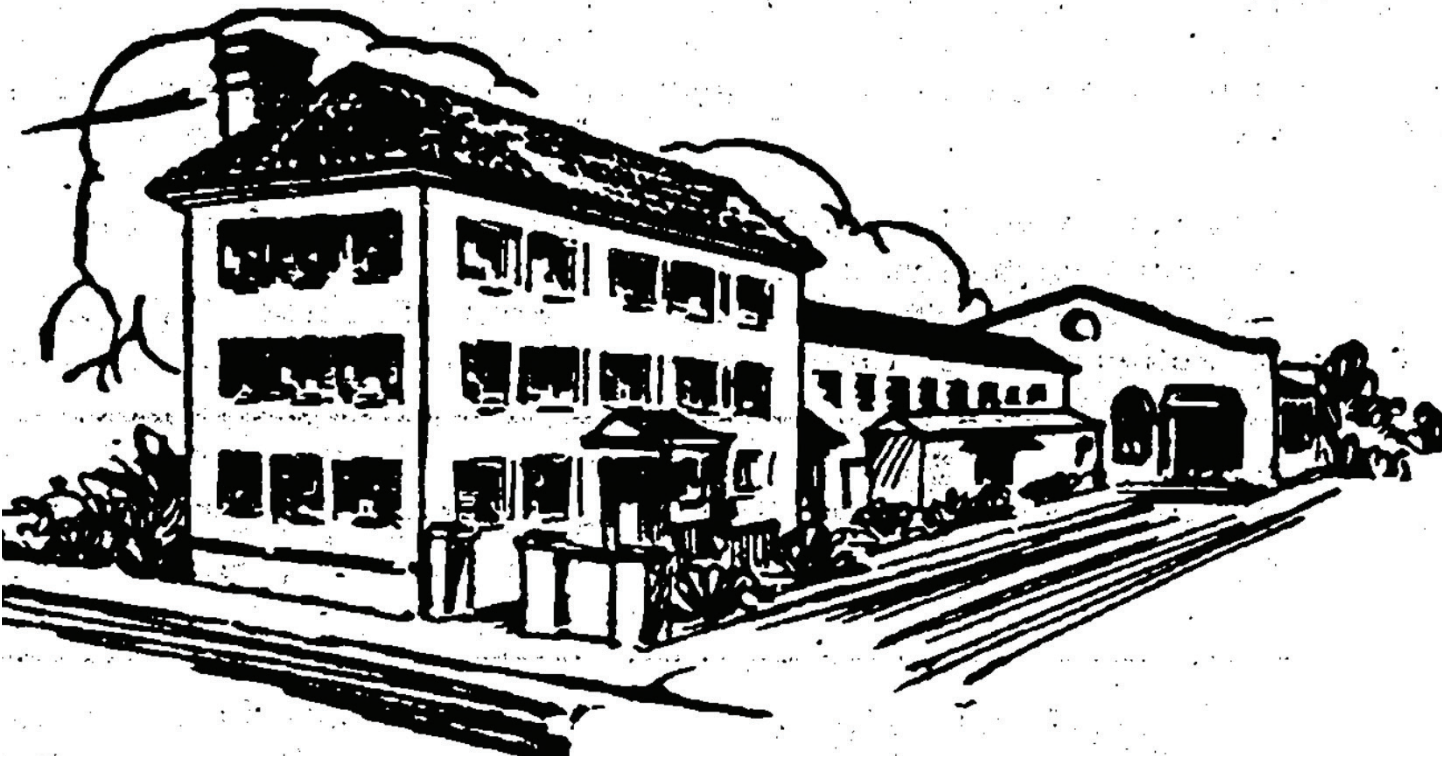


Figure 31: 1962 etching of No. 122 Logan Street (March 24, 1962, *News & Courier*, Charleston, SC)

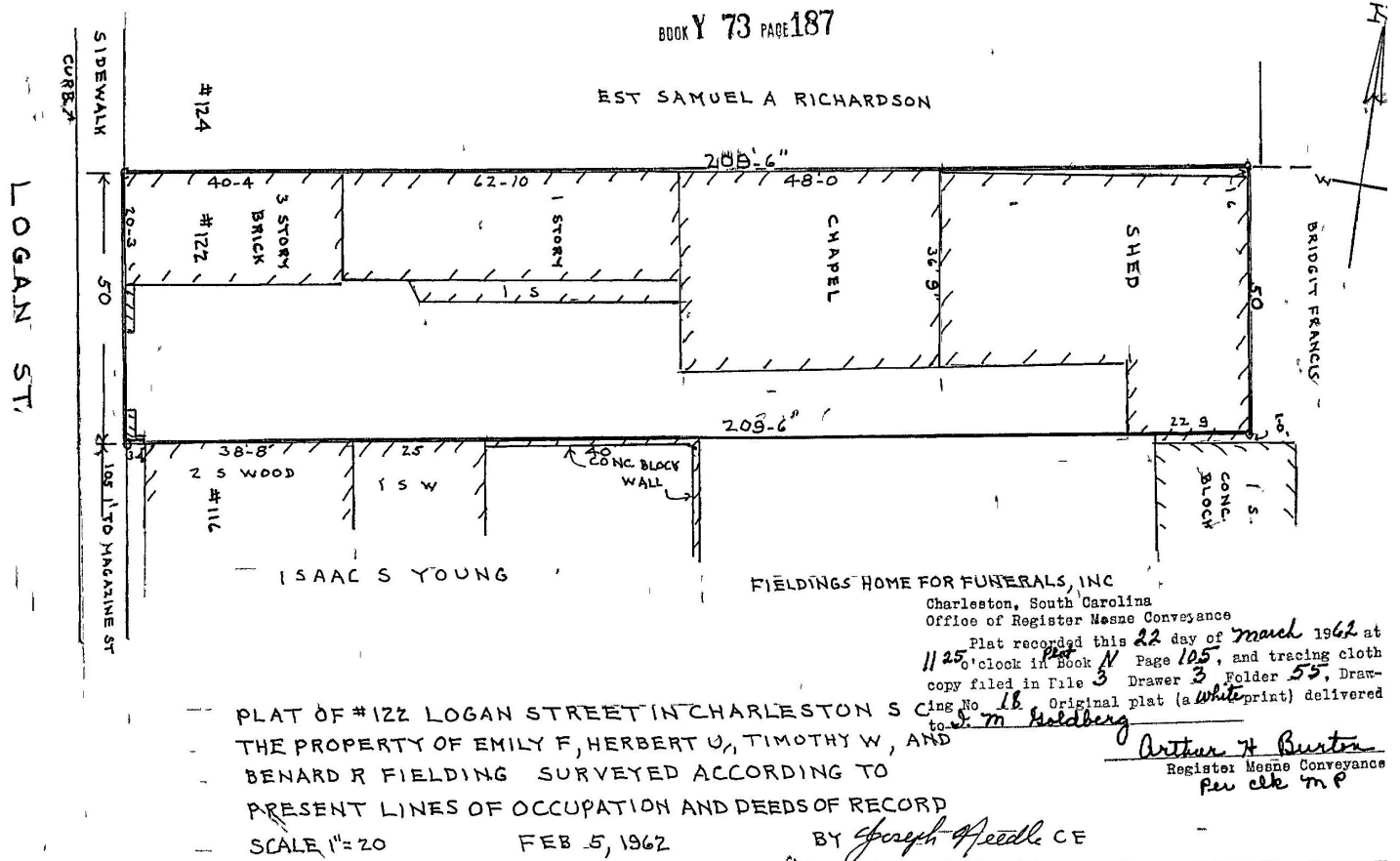


Figure 32: 1962 plat for No. 122 Logan Street (Charleston County Register of Deeds)

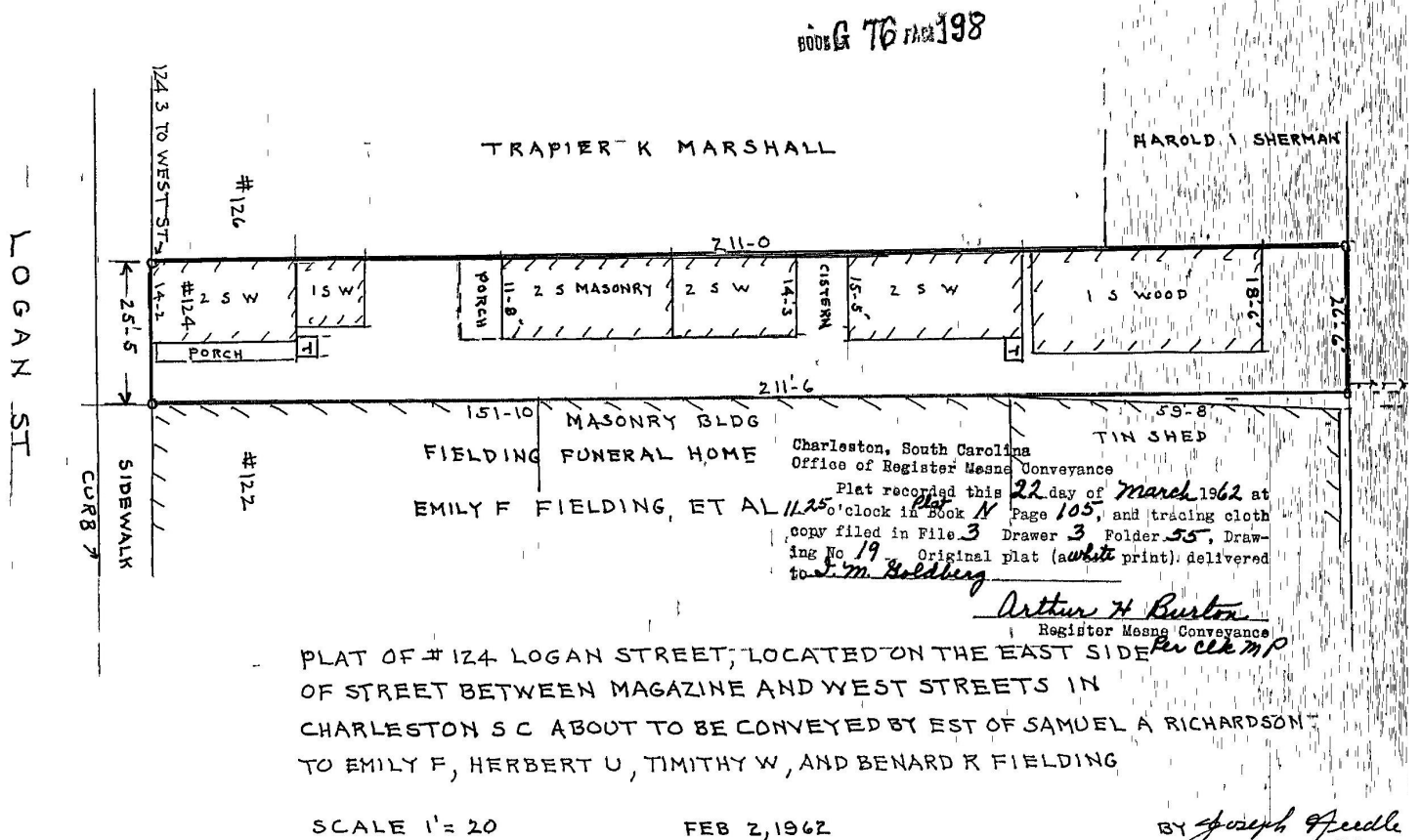


Figure 33: 1962 plat for No. 124 Logan Street (Charleston County Register of Deeds)



Figure 34: 1971 photograph of No. 122 Logan Street (South Carolina Department of Archives and History)



Figure 35: 1971 photograph of Magazine Street (South Carolina Department of Archives and History)



Figure 36: 1971 photographs of the existing conditions before DeCosta's renovation (Avery Research Center)

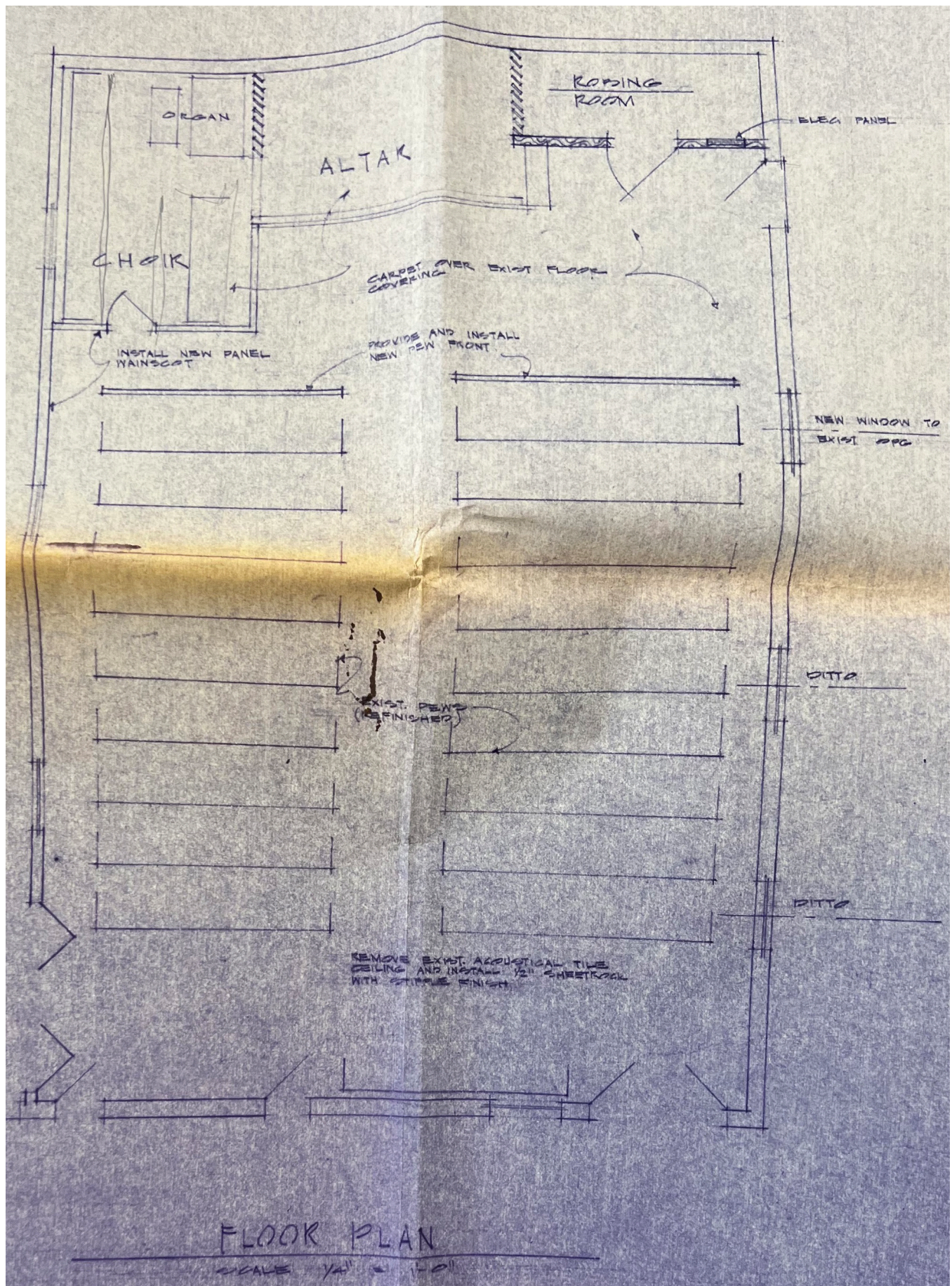


Figure 37: 1973 proposed plans by DeCosta for the chapel renovation (Avery Research Center)



Figure 38: 1973 aerial of No. 122 Logan Street (Nationwide Environmental Title Research, LLC)

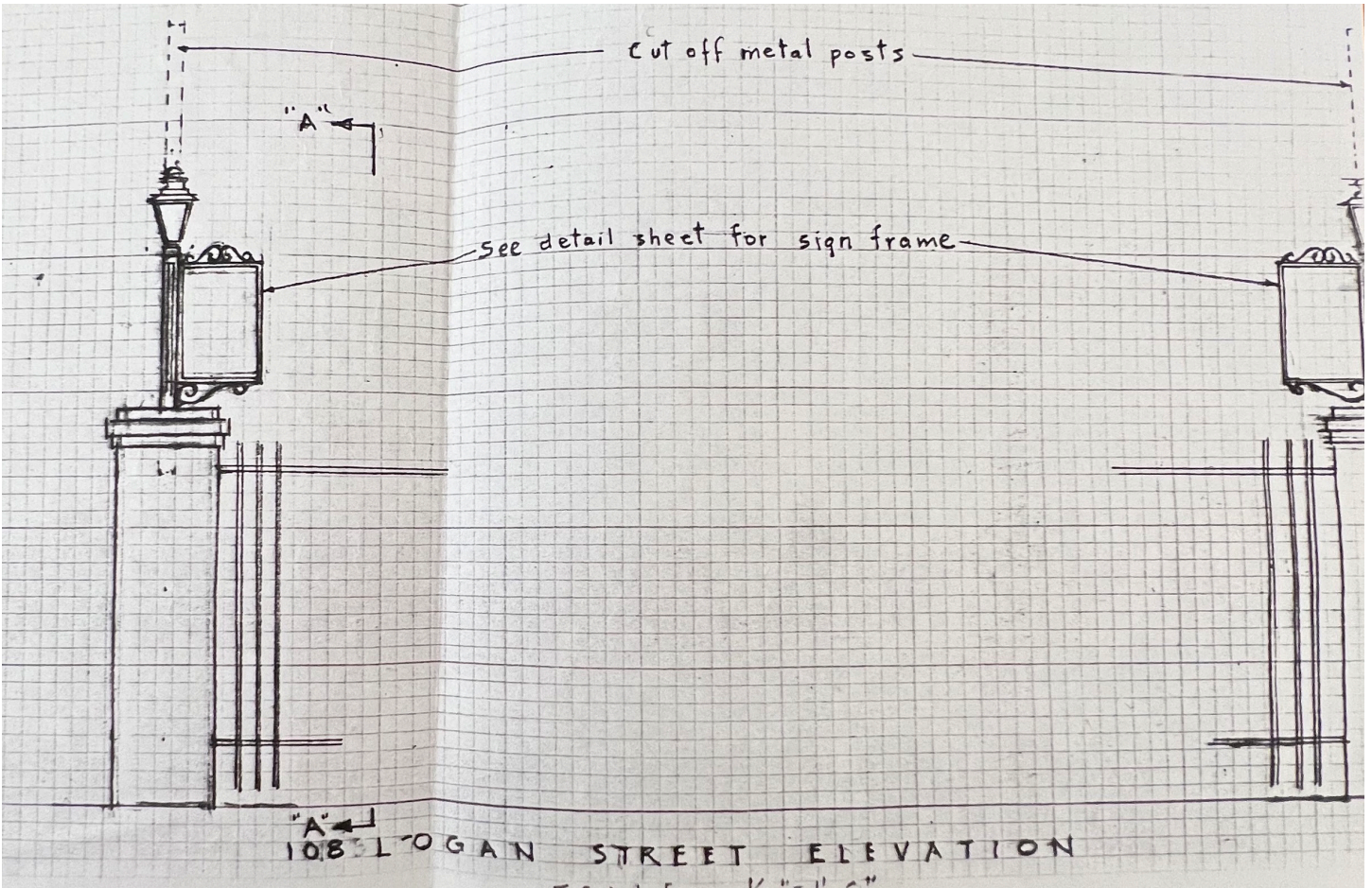


Figure 39: 1993 plans for sign and lamp installation at No. 108 Logan Street (Board of Architectural Review)

Additional undated drawings of No. 122 Logan Street from the H.A. DeCosta collection in the Avery Research Center (Charleston, SC)

