

68 KING STREET**Gesine Lilienthal House****c. 1908**

This two story wooden house was built c.1908 as a rental property by a single woman named Gesine Lillienthal. Miss Lilienthal's parents immigrated to the US from Germany and she was born in Charleston in 1866. The Lilienthals were part of a large wave of German immigrants who arrived in Charleston in the mid-19th century. Some scholars estimate that about one-third of Charleston's antebellum middle class population was made up of these immigrants who worked largely as grocers, artisans, tavern keepers, and merchants.

Historically, Lower King Street (south of Broad Street) housed dwellings as well as commercial structures. The 1880s Sanborn Fire Insurance maps of this lot note that the front of this lot held a one story cobbler's shop with a small dwelling in the rear. The long brick structure at 70 King Street (next door) functioned for many years as a bakery.

Miss Lilienthal purchased the lot at 68 King Street in 1908 for \$300 and the next year she spent \$750 on building and improvements (*News and Courier* Feb. 3, 1909) She rented the house at 68 King Street until the early 1950s but she actually resided diagonally across the street at 59 King Street with her sister and her many nieces and nephews.

This two story frame dwelling was built in a style reminiscent of a Charleston single house with its narrow end to the street, although it was designed without a piazza and has a one bay front entry. The house sits slightly back from the street and is currently located adjacent to the First Scots Church parking lot. Its neighbor to the south, the Patla House, was originally on King Street as well but was pushed back to accommodate the needs of the church and its school.