

Site Undergoing Transformations

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Demolition last week of a stretch of the brick and ironwork wall along George and Meeting streets was yet another step in a series of transformations to the corner site over the past two centuries.

The property is being developed by the College of Charleston into a \$5.5 million, 85,000-square-foot athletic facility scheduled for completion by mid-August. College officials said sections of the old wall were torn down to widen the street and increase the turning radius at the heavily trafficked street corner. The College is moving ahead with the cooperation of the City of Charleston's Department of Traffic and Transportation.

In the pre-1910 photograph, the property at 24 George St., on the northwest corner of Meeting and

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Staff Photo by Bill



Charleston Museum File

College of Charleston gymnasium (top), and old King Mansion.

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over

...Construction Continues

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George streets, was occupied by the Adam-style King Mansion. To the west (here, to the left of the King Mansion) at 26 George St., stood the John Walker House, with its wooden piazzas.

Thomas Radcliffe bought the property at 24 George St. in 1800, and built a house there in 1803. He died in 1806, leaving the house to his widow who lived there until 1821. The house was purchased in 1824 by Mitchell King, a recorder and judge at city court, from whom it got its common name, the King Mansion.

In 1880, it was sold by the executors of the judge's estate and was to be converted into a school. It was the High School of Charleston until 1922, when the school relocated on Rutledge Avenue. From 1922 to 1926 the building was vacant, but the annex at the rear was used as Charleston Post No. 10 of the American Legion.

In 1938, the College of Charleston razed the old school and replaced it with a student activities building designed by architect Albert Simons. The college was careful to preserve the gates and wall, which were considered some of the best work of masonry.

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sons from the period around 1800. As part of a Works Progress Administration project, woodwork from the building was saved and incorporated into the Dock Street Theatre. While the George Street wall with its brick base and ironwork remained intact until demolition last Wednesday, the brick Meeting Street wall that had surrounded the house was rebuilt in the late 1930s with iron and brickwork.

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