

From: [Wood, April](#)
To: [Emmons, Karen](#)
Subject: FW: 92 Spring St. A and B - small vernacular commercial buildings
Date: Tuesday, April 09, 2019 8:21:22 AM

From: Jeffrey Roberts [<mailto:jeffroberts11@bellsouth.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2019 12:10 AM
To:
Subject: Re: 92 Spring St. A and B , small vernacular commercial buildings

Dear Stakeholders:

Almost 11 months ago, I sent the below information about our project on these two small, vernacular buildings at 92A and B Spring Street. We are proud to announce that they have been finally completed by our team after unusual, unanticipated, and elongated contractor delay, prior to their replacement. We are exceedingly honored to have been able to restore and preserve them, and also as good Charlestonians, respect with sincerity the legacy of the people that came before us.

Just below are pictures taken recently of both, earlier correspondence of history and site significance sent last May, in addition to a reduced size attached PDF of the site research by Prof. Christina Rae Butler.

We would like to have a showing at the site to celebrate the preservation of these two little vernacular buildings that fight way above their weight class, and one is the oldest and first African American female physicians office in Charleston, Circa 1907.

We invite the string participants and guests to be there at **4:00 PM on Monday of April 29th for a short presentation and viewing, and uncorking of some of Napa Valley's finest grape-based beverages.**

Please let us know if you can attend.

Best,

Jeffrey Roberts, managing member
JJR Development, LLC
42 Broad Street, 2nd Floor
Charleston, SC 29401
843-224-1183

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On Friday, May 4, 2018, 8:30:36 AM EDT, Jeffrey Roberts <jeffroberts11@bellsouth.net> wrote:

Dear stakeholders:

As some of you may be aware, we started several restoration projects on Spring St. and are now close to wrapping up some after unforeseen contractor delays that deferred their completion expected earlier. Julia, Sherry, Patrick and I (along with the rest of the team) are very proud of these little buildings.

Specifically, 92 B and A Spring Street are small, historic commercial vernacular structures that have great significance. Enclosed is the Dropbox link from Prof. Christina Rae Butler, who did detailed research on the parcels. ***As the small embedded snippet briefly summarizes, 92B Spring was the first female African American doctor's office in Charleston, and certainly the only one at the time that was actually "owned" by the practitioner. (Circa 1907-ish).*** Also enclosed in Prof. Butler's research is a chronology of the life and times of Dr. Huldah J. Prioleau, a remarkable person indeed. It is a fascinating read; please examine. We don't believe her legacy has received the recognition she deserves.

Accordingly, everyone in this string keenly appreciates and is highly respectful of the history of what this represents, and the milestones of Dr. Prioleau that clearly show she was a true trailblazer and major contributor to the fabric of our City in the early part of the 1900s.

Given that this area of Spring St. is rapidly losing its historically African American influences and character, we all know it is important to preserve and call out the legacy of the people who came earlier; which is what makes our City great.

Again, these are tiny little buildings that "fight above their weight class" in architectural and historical importance.

Significance statement and conclusion:

The commercial buildings at 92 Spring Street are an increasingly rare example of an affordable architectural form in Charleston that was favored in working class, predominantly African American communities. As the neighborhoods in which they are located experience rising prices, it is all the more important to preserve the buildings, as is being undertaken at 92 Spring Street. Beyond their architectural merits, the 92 Spring Street buildings are significant for their association with Dr. Huldah J. Prioleau, one of the first African American female doctors in Charleston. Prioleau operated her general practice business out of 92 Spring Street for almost thirty years. She was unique for her time as a formally educated black female business and property owner. She was also active in civil rights and social services for the black community of Charleston, serving on the Board of the Red Cross's Negro branch during World War One and advocating to the city leaders to provide recreational amenities to black children. After her death, the buildings at 92 Spring Street continued to serve the community as part of the city's black business district. Today they stand as important reminders of the city's African American history.

At a time of convenience, perhaps all of us meeting at the site for a short while for a tour, and then moving to Cannon Green across the street, we should convene something in the next two/three weeks and discuss perhaps getting a historical marker, and also, advancing together, in our respective areas, the legacy of what these buildings had once stood for, and calling out that legacy in furtherance of preserving it for the future. None of us want these important little buildings forgotten.











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<https://www.dropbox.com/s/7gg36ic455f48af/92%20Spring%20Street%20History.pdf?dl=0>

Best,

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