

#12 Tradd Street
Edward Lightwood's House
c. 1750

RMCO
00-p.151

Lot #7 was conveyed to Richard Trade (sic- Tradd) by the Lords Proprietors, etc., on 24 August 1688.

Richard Tradd died c. 1700 leaving the balance of lot #7 (the part east of #14 Tradd) to his son Robert.

Ibid
P-6
p. 379

Robert Tradd conveyed this part of the lot, on which stands #12, to William Baker, on 27 February 1702/3. Upon his death it descended to Richard Baker, his son.

Ibid
FF p. 46

Richard Baker conveyed it to Edward Lightwood on 13 March 1748 for £1400 currency.

Ibid
P-6, p. 378;
also-Wills
Book 12, p.

Edward Lightwood, by will dated 1 May 1761 with codicil of 24 May 1764, proved 20 October 1769, devised it to Peter Manigault, "barister-at-law", as executor or trustee, and directed that all his property was to be sold, for the benefit of his two illegitimate sons, Edward and John Lightwood.

Ibid
P-6, p. 378

Peter Manigault then sold it to John Lightwood for £7000 currency on 11 July 1770.

P-6, p. 380

Copies of
Wills
Book 22,
pp. 353
Enclosure:
Will of Hum-
phrey Sommers

John Lightwood sold it to Humphrey Sommers, on 1 June 1784, for £1848-15, sterling. Humphrey Sommers, by will of 18 December, proved 30 December 1788, directed his executors "to build good and substantial brick buildings" on this lot, the rent of which should

should be divided between his three daughters, Ann Olney Sommers, Susanna Sommers, and Mary Sommers.

Ibid
P-6, p.384

Nicholas Harleston and Ann Olney his wife; Susan Sommers; and Mary Sommers sold the property on 3 May 1796 to Thomas Barksdale for £1455 sterling.

Ibid
U-7, p.428

George Edwards, as executor of the will of Thomas Barksdale apparently conveyed the property to W. Hammond.

Conclusions

This property, standing in one of the prime business blocks throughout the 18th century, presents a curious puzzle for estimating the age of the present building:

- A. The transaction in 1748, for £1400 currency, shows by its price that a house existed then, but probably a smaller one.
- B. The transaction of 1770, for £7000 currency, certainly was for a fairly large house, something probably about the size of the existing one.
- C. The fire of 1778 did extensive damage in this area.
- D. The transaction of 1784, after the fire, bore the high price of £1848-15 sterling (about seven times the value of the local currency); certainly a house as valuable as the existing one must have been included.

But

E. Humphrey Sommers directed his executors to "build good and substantial brick buildings" on this lot, the one he had bought from John Lightwood, and this is the exact same lot.

However

F. The Petrie map, from a survey six months before Sommers' death, shows a brick house already on this lot.

G. In the writer's opinion, much of the building looks earlier than 1789-96, during which period Sommers' executors would have built it.

Therefore

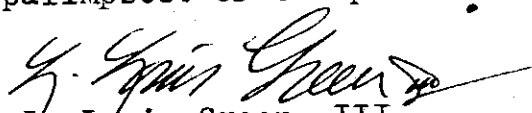
It is my opinion that Sommers bought in 1784, a house damaged by the fire of 1778, which he repaired, but which house he wanted his executors to raze and replace with at least two new buildings (plural, in the will).

I feel the physical evidence strongly indicates that his wishes were not followed, and that the existing building survived the fire of 1778.

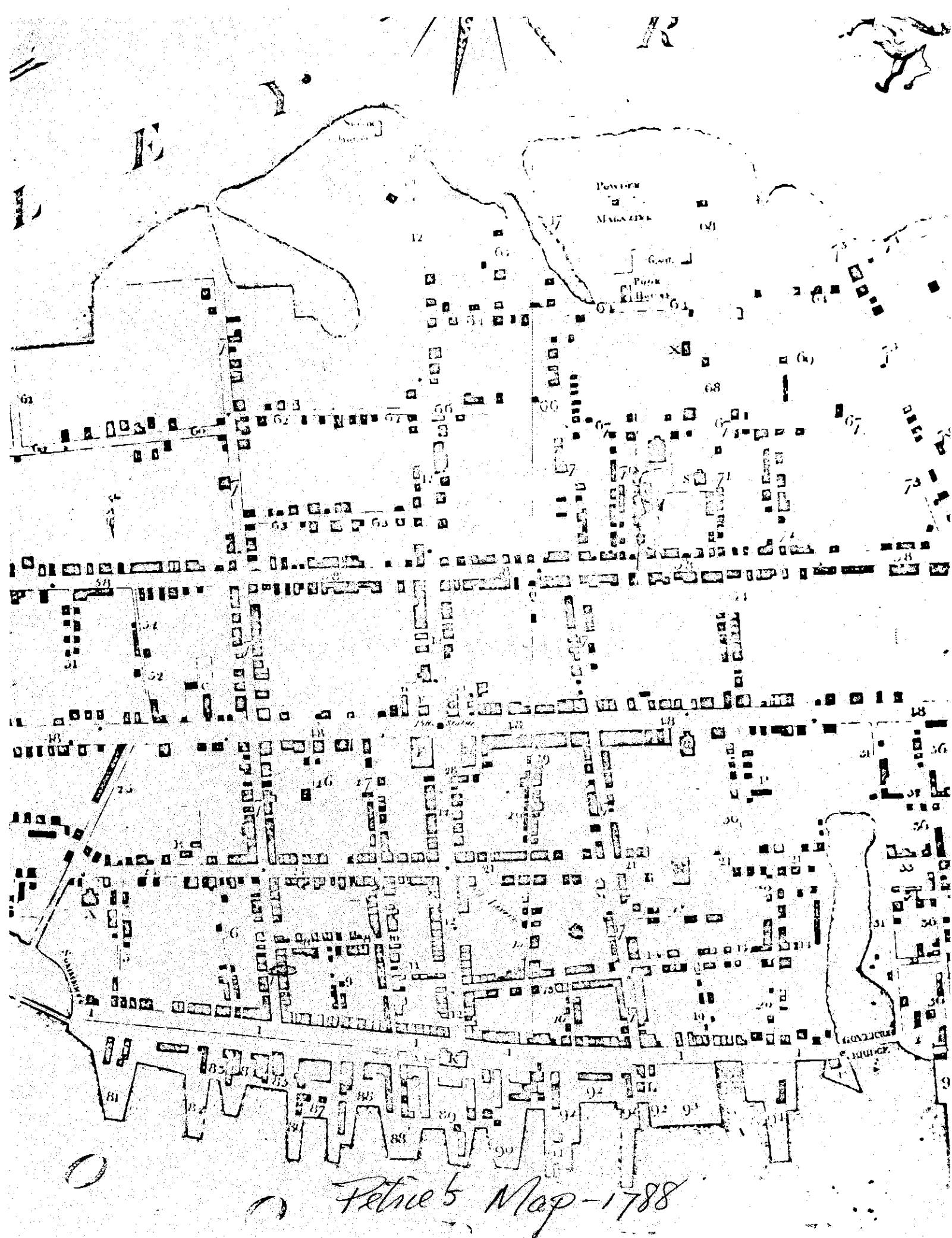
I think this house was replaced by the present one, probably fairly soon after his purchase in 1748, by Edward Lightwood.

I think it is probable that an earlier house stood here, probably built in the first quarter of the 18th century, but that this house is not the existing one.

Incidentally, the northwest corner of an earlier house, apparently, is embedded in the line of division between this house and #14 Tradd Street. In many areas, Charleston is indeed a palimpsest of occupation!


L. Louis Green, III

16 January 1969



S.C. Historical Magazine

Page 209

1964

Listed #73

*in Negro
Trade*

Edward Lightwood Jr. (Merchant or Factor)
who received cargoes of Negroes in Charlestown
and paid the duty upon them.
7 years in Trade 1762-74 9 Cargoes

Page 31

1965

Foot-note #67 Edwin Lightwood (d 1797) a Charleston merchant, married
Elizabeth Peronneau, whose brother Henry was another leader
in the radical forces.

Pg 221

1967

"Gabriel Manigault was established as a merchant before his father
Pierre died in 1729,-----

Significant information about his commercial activities begins with
his purchase of the sloop "Neptune" toward the end of 1732.

The master and co-owner Edward Lightwood brought the Neptune into
Charleston harbor from Rhode Island in November 1732 -----etc.

Manigault and Lightwood advertised the Neptune for sale in the autumn
of 1736 and sold her sometime between Dec. 1736 and May 1737.
There is an unfortunate break in the shipping returns from June 1735
to Dec. 1738. After the latter date there is no mention of the Nancy
Vessels are not named in the duty journals, but Manigault imported
goods on some vessel commanded by Lightwood as late as 1744.

Book 22 353

WILL OF
HUMPHRY SOMMERS

D: 1788

South Carolina

In the Name of God Amen. I Humphry Sommers of Charleston in the State of South Carolina aforesaid Gentleman, being (God be Blessed) of sound and disposing Mind and Memory, do make, publish and declare this my last Will and Testament in Manner and Form following, that is to say. After all and singular my just Debts and funeral Expences are fully paid and satisfied, I will and ordain that every Part and Parcel of my worldly Estate and all such Lands, Tenements, Reversions Goods, Chattels and Monies shall go and be disposed of as herein after is respectively mentioned and directed. Imprimis I give, devise and bequeath unto my Daughter Ann Otney Sommers when she shall attain the Age of sixteen Years all and singular my Lands in Saint Paul's Parish at Stone being three Tracts containing in the whole about fifteen hundred Acres To have and to hold the same to her and the Heirs of her Body lawfully begotten for ever. Item I give devise and bequeath unto my Daughters Susanna Sommers and Mary Sommers and to the Heirs of their respective Bodies lawfully begotten for ever, all my Lands in Saint George's Parish at the Cypress containing about fifteen hundred Acres to be equally divided betwixt them by my Executors herein after named, when and as soon as my said Daughter Susanna shall shall attain to the Age of sixteen Years. Item I give devise and bequeath unto my Daughter Ann Otney Sommers and to the Heirs of her Body lawfully begotten for ever, that Part of my Lot of Land in Charleston aforesaid which fronts on Tradd Street and Bedon's Alley together with the Buildings, Corner Tenement thereon and Appurtenances thereunto belonging now in the Occupation of James Gregorie on Condition that the Passage Way at the back Part of the Store which is now left open be continued open and free for the Use of the other two Tenements adjoining thereto. Item I give, devise and bequeath unto my Daughter Susanna Sommers and to the Heirs of her Body lawfully begotten for ever, at her Arrival to the Age of sixteen

NE Bedon's Alley

14/16
T. 1000

*Ann gets NE corner Bedm
Susanna gets 14, 16 Tradd
Mary gets 128 Tradd
They split No. 12 Tradd, where a new*

Years, the remaining Part of the aforesaid Lot of Land the two *buildings*
Tenements thereon adjoining the aforesaid Corner Tenement togeth- *are to*
er with the Buildings thereon and Appurtenances thereunto belong- *be built*
ing, one of which said Tenements now is in the Occupation of
Pett Shaw, the other of which said Tenements now is in the Occu-
pation of Martin. Item I give, devise and be-
queath unto my Daughter Mary Sommers when she shall attain to
the Age of sixteen Years and to the Heirs her Body lawfully
begetten for ever, All my Lot of Land and Buildings thereon with
the Appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate, lying and being
at the upper End or West End of Tradd Street in Charleston
aforesaid. Item I give, devise and and bequeath unto my three
said Daughters Ann Otney Sommers, Susanna Sommers and Mary
Sommers my Lot of Land I bought of John Lightwood situate and
fronting on Tradd Street adjoining to the aforesaid two Tenements
bequeathed to my aforesaid Daughter Susanna Sommers. Item my
Will is that my Executors herein after named do cause, order and
direct to be built good and substantial Brick Buildings on the
last mentioned Lot the Expenses of which are to be defrayed out
of the Profits and Income of my Estate the Profits and Income
arising from the said Buildings and Lot to be equally divided
between my said three Daughters Share and Share alike, that is
the yearly Rent and Income^s which said Lot of Land with the
Buildings thereon, it is my Will shall descend to my last sur-
viving Daughter and her Heirs for ever. Item My Will is that
my Negroes be kept and employed on my said Plantations at the
Discretion of my Executors herein after named or the Survivors
or Survivor of them for the sole Benefit, Use and Advantage of
my said three Daughters Ann Otney Sommers, Susanna Sommers and
Mary Sommers, until they shall arrive to the Age of sixteen
Years : when it is my Will and I do hereby direct my said Ne-
groes be divided by my said Executors and three equal Parts or
Shares, Respect being had to the true Value thereof, the Use
of one third Part or Share of which said Negroes I give and be-
queath unto my said Daughter Ann Otney Sommers during her natural
Life, and Heirs lawfully begetten for ever: and the other re-

Will of Humphry Sommers PAGE 3

maining two third Parts or Shares of my said Negroes to be kept together and employed to the best Advantage by my said Executors for the sole Use and Benefit of my other two Daughters Susanna Sommers and Mary Sommers until my said Daughter Susanna shall attain the Age of sixteen Years, when it is my Will that the said remaining two third Parts or Shares of my said Negroes be equally divided betwixt my said two Daughters Susanna and Mary Share and Share alike: But in Case it shall so happen that either of my said three Daughters Ann Otney Sommers, Susanna Sommers or Mary Sommers shall die or depart this Life without leaving Issue lawfully begotten, that then and in such Case it is my Will and I do hereby give, devise and bequeath that Part or Share of my Estate real and personal herein before given, devised and bequeathed to such of my Daughter Or Daughters so dying unto the Survivors or Survivor of them and to the respective Heirs lawfully begotten for ever. Item My Will is that all my Stock of Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Hogs and their Increase, Plantation Tools, Carts, Waggon and Implements of Husbandry be equally divided between my said three Daughters Ann Otney, Susanna and Mary or the Survivors or Survivor of them. Lastly I do hereby nominate, constitute and appoint my trusty and loving Friends Edmund Petrie as Guardian to my Children and said Edmund Petrie with Edward Rutledge and Thomas Waring Senior my Executors and the Survivors and Survivor of them, Executors of this my last Will and Testament, until my said three Children shall respectively arrive to the Age of sixteen Years; hereby revoking and annulling all former Wills and Testaments as well as Codicils thereto by me heretofore made or declared either by word or writing. In Witnes I the said Humphrey Sommers have hereunto set my Hand and Seal the Eighteenth day of Dec. 1788.

Humphry Sommers (LS)

Signed, Sealed, Published, Pronounced and Declared by the Testator Humphry Sommers Esquire as and for his last Will and Testament in the Presence of us, who in his Presence, in the

Will of Humphry Sommers Page 4

Presence of each other, and at his Request have subscribed our Names as Witnesses hereto.

William Logan - Isaac Huger Junior - Alexander Fraser Jun^r

Proved before Charles Lining Esquire O.C.T.D. December 30.th

1788. At same Time qualified Edmund Petrie and Thomas Waring Senior Executors.

Examined
12⁶¹ Co. Sh. } C.L.

Recorded in original Will book "B" 1786-93 Page 241

TRADD STREET—Continued

WARD No. 2

No.	Block.	Ward.	OWNERS.	OCCUPANTS.
75	1		Capt. F. W. Benson.	Diedrick Schmitt.
77	1		Estate Robert Limehouse.	Samuel Samsen.
79	1		John Carnighan.	John Carnighan.
81	1		Dr. Elias Horbeck.	Patrick Sheehan.
83	1		Do.	William Paine, f. p. c.
85	1		Mrs. Julia Watson.	Mrs. Julia Watson.
87	1		Estate Mrs. C. S. Thayer.	Henry Missroon.
89	1		Mrs. Schwing.	James Maxwell, f. p. c.
91	1		Do.	Alfred Thomas.
93	1		Do.	Mrs. Schwing.
95	1		Miss Mary Jane Fraser.	Miss Mary Jane Fraser.
97	1		Mrs. Mary Peronneau.	Mrs. Mary Peronneau.
99	1		Dr. H. Winthrop & sisters.	Dr. H. Winthrop & sisters.
101	1		Daniel Lesesne.	Daniel Lesesne.
103	1		William C. Bee.	Joseph A. Winthrop.
105	1		Estate Mrs. H. Rutledge.	Dr. J. E. Holbrook.
107	1		Solomon Legaré.	Solomon Legaré.
109	1		Eliza B. White.	Mrs. White.
111	1		Wm. P. Holmes & others.	Wm. Parker Holmes and Misses Deas.
113	1		C. Garety.	Thomas Magnola.
115	1		J. and Benjamin Lucas.	Henry L. Pinckney.
117	1		William Izard Bull.	William Izard Bull.

NORTH SIDE.

2	1	H. Bulwinkle.	James Jenkinson.
4	1	Estate J. D. Habernicht.	Charles Robit.
6	1	Estate Wm. C. Gatewood.	Frederick Fischer.
8	1	Trust Estate Liza Levy.	Capt. C. R. Grantham.
10	1	Do.	John Wilson.
12	1	Geo. B. Edwards, Miss F. Hammond.	Michael Quinn.
14	1	B. Garety.	John L. Smith & others.
16	1	Do.	Price Williams, f. p. c.
18	1	Mrs. Catherine Otten.	Mrs. Catherine Otten.
20	1	Est. Benjamin Smith.	Wm. Maguire and others.
22	1	Do.	P. O'Brien and others.
24	1	Do.	Patrick Boland.
26	1	John W. Lewis.	James Faran.
28	1	Estate Wm. C. Gatewood.	John Scanlan and others.
30	1	George E. Hosegood.	George E. Hosegood.

*Numbers are
the same*