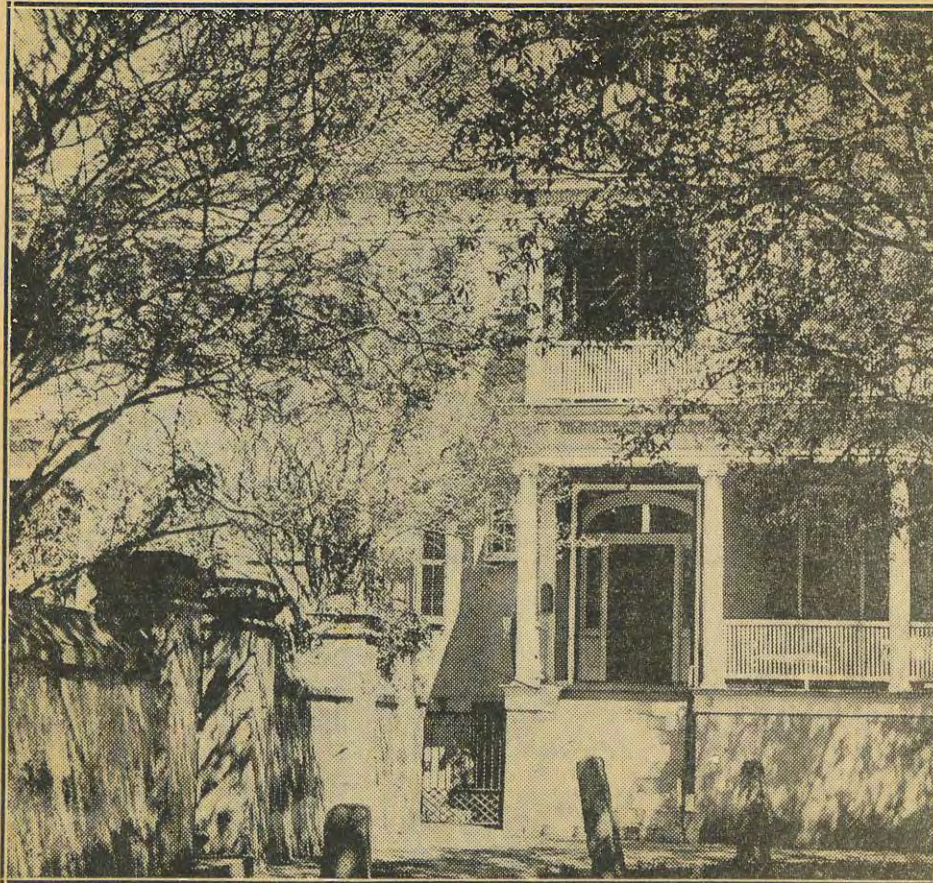


—Photo—

Home of Late A. W. Todd, Architect, Said to Be Finest Example of Stucco Work Here—Tradition of 'Wager'

The late A. W. Todd, when he lived at 50 Church street, used to look across the street at a little brown house on a narrow lot which projected out into the crook of Church street and contemplate what might be done with the lot. After a few years he was able to buy the lot and tear down the old house, building a home of which he had dreamed.

Tradition says he built the house on a wager, it having been contended that a house of the size he contemplated could not be built on a lot of twenty-five feet wide and 150 feet deep. His widow, however, says she never heard of the wager, if any was ever made.

Wager or no wager, Mr. Todd created a home which is unique in many ways in Charleston. At the front of the house is a broad chimney, so broad, in fact, that a wide doorway through its center gives entrance to a basement which gives accommodations to three automobiles, as well as other household paraphernalia.

Since Church street elbows out at this point, the house touches that street on two sides, the front and the south side. The entrance is on the south into a hallway between the living room and the sitting room. To the right of the entrance door is a semicircular porch, with entrance from the living room.

In the center of the hall is a staircase leading upstairs. To the right of the staircase is a closed stairway leading to the cellar. To the left is a doorway leading to a narrow passageway, which extends behind the sitting room and the dining room to the pantry, enabling one to go, as it were, through an "underground passage" from one end of the house to the other without passing through the most important rooms.

The living room extends the whole width of the house, with the fireplace in the doorway chimney

in the center of the east wall. The sitting room and dining room are smaller by the width of the passageway. Through the pantry one enters the kitchen, behind which is a small flower garden.

Narrow porches, arranged in semicircular forms, may be reached from the sitting room and dining room. On the second floor are four bedrooms and two baths with a similar arrangement along a narrow passageway so that entrance may be gained to all rooms without passing through others. Similar porches are upstairs. In the third floor are two bedrooms, with dormer windows.

The house probably is the finest example in the city of the use of stucco, which came into vogue with the opening of the twentieth century, and which received an impetus here with the construction of the buildings of the South Carolina Interstate and West Indian Exposition. Neither the stucco nor the tile roof ever have had to have any major repairs, though severe storms have damaged houses on all sides.

The house was completed by November, 1909. Before beginning construction, Mr. Todd measured the widest coal carts in the city and the tallest automobile in use at that time. He supervised every detail of construction. The floors consist of three plies of floor boards, each running in a different direction.

This was the second stucco house designed and built by Mr. Todd for his own occupancy. His previous residence was at 40 Rutledge avenue, now occupied by Dr. William H. Frampton.

Mr. Todd was nationally known as an architect. He drew a design for the dome of the state capitol at Columbia, which is said by some artists, critics and architects to have been far superior to the dome which was adopted and placed on the roof of the building.

J. V. N., Jr.