

39 KING STREET

RICHARD YEADON'S HOUSE

c. 1847

For the settlers of a newly planted colony, opening new lands in a sometimes hostile country, the gunsmith must have been an artisan of the first importance. It is possibly for this reason that one "John Jones, Gunsmith" was granted this large property in 1694, consisting of Lots 148, 149, and 150, each about half an acre in extent.

SC Hist
& Gen.
Soc.
Magazine
Vol. xi
p. 20

Enclosure:
the Toms
Map 1739
(Detail)
RMCO
B-2,
p. 115

The property granted represents that now occupied by # 27, 31, 37, & 39 King Street, and this lot is still its original depth, 205 feet. There appears on the 1739 map of Charleston a cluster of buildings just about here, and although John Jones died before 1722, I presume they may have been his house and shops, which identifies the street in several deeds, viz., "on a little street that leadeth from Ashley's River to the Broad Path into the country, past the house of John Jones, Gunsmith"

Enclosure:
S.G. Stoney,
MS "The
Robert Wilson
Residence
at 41 King
Street"

Jones and his wife died without issue, and these lots were sold by their heirs; her brother Bartholomew Saltus and his Daughters (of Bermuda, also called "The Somers Island") to Thomas Binford of Charles Town, 15 October 1731.

Ibid.
RMCO
E.P. 569

He sold, the following year, to Miles Brewton I, the northern half of the property, and in 7 November 1763, the remainder, to Miles Brewton II, Brewton's grandson and Binford's god-son. Miles II built thereon at once the splendid house which bears his name.

Ibid.
Copies of
Wills

On 11 August 1743 Miles Brewton I willed the northern part of the property to his daughter Rebecca, wife of Jordan

Will Book
5, p. 496

Roche. He died in 1745.

Ibid.RMCO
RR, p. 337

On 10 March 1746 Jordan and Rebecca Roche sold (apparently the northern) eighty feet on King Street to John Prue, House Carpenter, for £320 currency. Mr. Stoney states this was the equivalent to £85-14s sterling, which would indicate no house of value was any longer on the property.

Stoney,
op. cit.

On 28 August 1772, John Prue made a will leaving a house and lot on King Street to the new College (which is now the College of Charleston).

Ibid.

RMCO

P-9, p. 499

On 9 May 1786, the Rev. Robert Smith, the Hon. Lewis Gervais, and Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, Esq., sold, on behalf of the college, the house at # 41 King Street, to Dr. William Smith Stevens, and in the deed made mention of a house next door, on this lot, then the property of one George Tew. This house probably utilizes part of the structure of that house, built between 1743 and 1786.

Z-11, p. 171
Quoted in
letter of
N.L. Barnwell
to present
owners,
July 7, 1961

and it seems more fitting to assign to it a later date, 1847, in which year Richard Yeadon, Jr, bought the property from the heirs of Tew. The deed was made 2 August 1847. An old photograph, taken prior to 1886, and now in the house, shows a three-story building with side piazza, of Stuccoed brick, the front of which, on the ground floor, has been remodeled into a shop. From the appearance of the house in the photograph, it seems, reasonable to date the house in that year.

Ibid.

On 18 November 1858, recorded in RMCO E-14, p. 448, Richard Yeadon, Jr, gave his interest in the property as a Marriage Gift to Phineas F. Smith, Trustee for his daughter, Yeadon's niece, Louisa Clifford Smith, who was about to marry Henry T. Thompson, Jr.

Ibid.

Smith and the Thompsons sold it on 14 April 1868 (RMCO F-15, p.517) to Joseph E. Aldert, who conveyed it on 1 June 1871 (RMCO, A-16, p.70) to Catherine R. Desebrock.

Ibid.

The heirs of Desebrock sold it on 19 February 1887 to a relative, Henry Henken (RMCO, G-19,p.262). The earthquake of August/September 1886 had just done very extensive damage to the building, and it was rebuilt into a house of two stories (which it probably had been in the 18th century, a possible twin of the house at # 41 King Street).

Richard Yeadon, Jr., was a very prominent and philanthropic citizen of Charleston of the first part of the 19th century. He is listed in the Directory of 1859:

"Yeadon, Richard, (A.S. Willington & Co.)proprietor
Charleston Daily Courier, 111 East Bay,
h. 56 Wentworth"

111 East Bay Street was then a few doors north of Broad, and # 56 Wentworth would have been north side between King & St. Phillip Street, about where the parking lot is today.

He was also one of the founders, in 1855, of the South Carolina Historical Society.

L. Louis Green, III

22 October, 1968

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