

"Mellowed by time" 1936 by Elizabeth Verner

DEFINING THE BARACoon OF RYAN'S SLAVE  
MART

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- Introduction

The property along Queen street known as number 17 and 19 is now a parking lot for the city of Charleston. From 1856 to 1863 the property served as one of the most iconic of the Domestic Slave Trade in Charleston. This property became part of the complex of buildings associated with Thomas Ryan's Slave Mart that fronted on 6 Chalmers street. Among these buildings was the jail, or Barracoon, where people waiting to be sold at auction were contained. This paper focuses on this structure, mainly asking the question if the structure was built prior to the use as a jail and if so how was it adapted for these purposes?



*Figure 1: Slave sale in Virginia, History.com*

When people were brought to the market to be sold, locations such as this became a part of their existence and history. These traumatic times shaped their lives, families, history, and experiences. Ryan's Mart Auction complex contained the alley way where the majority of the selling occurred. The stories of those enslaved begin prior to their arrival at the auction block. As the mart was active during the Domestic Slave Trade, the Atlantic Slave Trade having been theoretically banned in 1808, many of these enslaved African Americans would have arrived to

the mart from other states and plantations.<sup>1</sup> Once arriving to these marts they would have been assessed for health and overall well-being. The weak and sickly would be separated to the morgue or dead house and those ready for the auction block confined to the barracoon. This property also serves as a social history of the city outside the focus on trade. Out of town visiting planters would stay in the Planter's Hotel located along Church Street. While they were residing in comfort and partaking in the joys of the city their "servants" were "housed" within Ryan's Jail not quite a block away. These enslaved workers were confined in the



Figure 2: Virginia Slave pen, Library of Congress

jail alongside those waiting for the auction block.<sup>2</sup> This structure, from the beginning of its documented history to its destruction, was used as offices for merchants and where they sold their goods, to individual dwelling spaces. From its time as a jail and following the Civil War the



Figure 3: Logan's Jail in Columbia SC, University of South Carolina

building was always referred to as Ryan's Jail. When the structure came down in 1951, locals had no qualms about using the materials from Ryan's Jail to rebuild or construct their own homes.

<sup>1</sup> See Steven Deyle, *Carry Me Back: The Domestic Slave Trade in American Life*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005); Frederic Bancroft, *Slave Trading in the Old South*, (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1996), 19-44.

<sup>2</sup> Stephanie Yuhl, *Hidden in Plain Sight: Centering the Domestic Slave Trade in American Public History*, *Journal of Southern History*, Volume LXXIX, No. 3 (2013): 593-624.

The property first appears in public records in 1791 when John Abercrombie sells the property to John Marshall.<sup>3</sup> At this time there are several structures already on the property. In the conveyance it states that the “houses, outhouses, buildings, and appurtenances” within the property are the sole right of John Marshall. The property is listed as being approximately 62’ along the Queen street side and 174’ in length. These dimensions stay true throughout the future conveyances with only small discrepancies of no more than a foot. John Marshall does not have the property for very long according to the next conveyance. It is not known how he uses the property under his ownership. At this time, John Marshall at this time was a well-known Cabinet maker but is listed at 219 Meeting Street in multiple newspaper advertisements. In 1792 the Marshall’s convey the property to Abraham Sasportas. Abraham Sasportas was a French immigrant that was a well-known merchant in the city of Charleston. In 1793 he places an advertisement within the Charleston City Gazette announcing his move to Queen Street. It is in this advertisement that the property is mentioned by number first time. At this time, it is Number 18 noted to be across from Kinloch Court (later to be known as Philadelphia Alley). It is under his ownership that the first plat of the property surfaces, the original being conducted in 1796 and improved in 1802.<sup>4</sup> From this plat a footprint of the property is well laid out. It shows the buildings along Queen street as being a double house divided by a 14 inch wall that runs the length of the property. The wall separates the property into two parcels with either side of the double house containing separate outbuildings and structures. Sasportas owns the property until his conveyance to John Marsh in 1853. Abraham Sasportas used the property for his business until he left the country to return to his home in France.<sup>5</sup> The property during his absence was still operated as a

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<sup>3</sup> Charleston County. Records of the Mesne Conveyance (RMC), Charleston, S.C. Book G6, 327

<sup>4</sup> See Appendix

<sup>5</sup> City Gazette (Charleston, South Carolina) (Published as City Gazette And Daily Advertiser.) July 12, 1803

merchant's office by his son-in-law with whom he entered business with in 1797. In an advertisement in 1825 the property is listed for sale and describes it as two 4 story brick houses being number 13 and 15. It further describes the property as being known as the Sasportas buildings currently being used by John Castelle for boarding houses.<sup>6</sup> This advertisement is the first written description of the building confirming it is a four story brick double house with a large kitchen, warehouse, and other "necessary" outbuildings. The property is not sold at this time or no record of it ever leaving the Sasportas family is documented. When James Marsh purchases the property in 1856 the conveyance is from Abraham Sasportas or his estate. The records for Abraham Sasportas' death are not very specific but it appears that he died around 1824 and is probably why the property appears for sale in 1825. Why it did not sell at this time is unknown but it obviously remained within the estate or at least within the company that he and his son-in-law operated. The property, up until 1856, had been used consistently with merchant offices, sales, and as a boarding house. James Marsh had recently entered into business with Thomas Ryan. Thomas Ryan was a city council man and a slave broker within the city of Charleston. After a city ordinance had passed requiring that all slave sells be removed from the public streets, Ryan purchases a small parcel of land fronting Chalmers Street that was located between the German Fire Station to its west and that of a private residence to its east.<sup>7</sup> Ryan and Marsh's properties created one of the largest slave sale operations within the city of Charleston during this time. The first floor of the

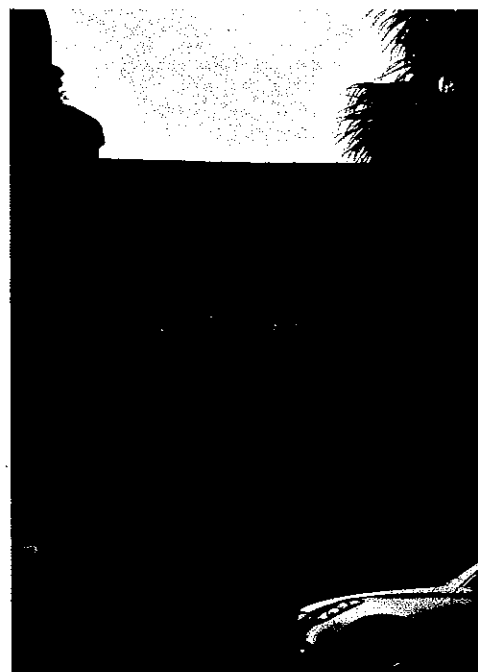


Figure 4: 6 Chalmers as seen today

<sup>6</sup> City Gazette (Charleston, South Carolina) (Published as City Gazette And Daily Advertiser.) May 28, 1925

<sup>7</sup> Bancroft, *Slave Trading in the Old South*, 170

large 4 story brick double house located along the Queen street side operated as the offices for the slave brokers and the upper floors were used as confinement for slaves waiting to be sold. The kitchen and the warehouse also had their uses. The warehouse on the property became what was known as the dead house or morgue. This building served as a hospital of sorts but its acquired name speaks volumes to its unfortunate outcomes. James Marsh appears to be the money behind the organization and never appears on the announcements for the slave sales. Marsh was on the board of directors for the Farmers Exchange bank in Charleston. Thomas Ryan was a well-known slave broker prior to his operations that fronted on 6 Chalmers street. Of all the slaves that went through the market or worked there, Elijah Green is the only narrative taken during the WPA collection of 1936-1938 that recalls Ryan's Mart. He mentions Ryan's jail in relation to the Planter's Hotel located around the corner on Church street. More specifically he depicts Thomas Ryan as a cruel man who would beat those enslaved in his care. Marsh and Ryan never legally bound the properties together so when Z. B. Oakes purchases the slave complex in 1859 he buys each parcel separately from the respective owners. Another well-established slave broker, Oakes maintains the establishment on this location until the union bombardment encroaches in 1863. He moves the remainder of his business further up the Charleston Peninsula and signs over a lease of the Queen street property to George Trenholm.<sup>8</sup> It is unclear in what capacity Trenholm is operating the property as during the war. Charles Coffin, a war correspondent who visits the city at the end of the war, describes the jail as being completely abandoned and that the operations seemed to have left in a rush as Z. B. Oakes business papers were scattered on the floor of the office. Coffin took several souvenirs of the slave mart including business documents and the

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<sup>8</sup> Charleston County. Records of the Mesne Conveyance (RMC), Charleston, S.C. T14 #4, 15 and A 14# 5, 360

“stairs” or auction block.<sup>9</sup> By the end of the war Trenholm is no longer leasing the property but is sole owner. Trenholm uses the jail as both tenement houses and as commercial spaces. The demographics of the residence, as evidence of newspaper advertisements and city directories as largely black. The jobs listed by their names vary from every degree of house servant positions to tailors, carpenters, etc. The property largely remains in this function throughout the remainder of its history. Dennis O’Neill acquires the property in 1875. When the earthquake of 1886 struck the 4 story brick building took a lot of damage. The earthquake records describe 1937 damages to the property including the loss of the chimney and three walls being significantly cracked.<sup>10</sup> No money was awarded to O’Neill so it is unsure what repairs, if any, he made to the structure. It is after this point that the property becomes known solely as Number 17 and 19. The last reference of it being referred to as 13 and 15 are in the lease from Oakes to Trenholm.<sup>11</sup> The property passes through several hands before becoming part of the McAlister Realty Company property. They are the last to operate the building as a tenement structure. In 1948 the McAlister Realty Co. purchases the adjoining lots known as no. 13 and 15. The buildings on these lots were the first to be demolished. The buildings on these parcels were condemned by the city in 1950 and little effort was given to restore or preserve the structures once associated with Ryan’s Mart Complex. When the buildings on 17 and 19 were demolished local residence bought materials to be used in their own homes. Just across the street from 17 Queen, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson of 16 Queen bought 12” wooden

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<sup>9</sup> Charles C. Coffin *Four Years of Fighting: A volume of Personal Observations with the Army and Navy, From the First Battle of Bull Run to the Fall of Richmond*, (Boston: 1866), 473-475.

<sup>10</sup> Charleston County Library, South Carolina Room, Earthquake records

<sup>11</sup> It should be noted that the first mention of the Queen street property being numbered was with Abraham Sasportas advertisement in 1793. He mentions the property as being 18 across from Kinlock Alley. Why this is numbered so is unclear. There is a structure at No. 18 owned by a Daniel Cruckshank who was a tanner. This house would have been located beside the alley and not across from it. There are other discrepancies in the numbering of the houses along 13-19 Queen street. In the advertisement to sell Abraham Sasportas property in 1825 the property is listed as 13 and 15 as with the Deeds until after 1875. Other advertisements and deeds note that No. 15 was a Two story wooden structure. Following the properties actual history was difficult based on these discrepancies but based on descriptions and dimensions of the property over time the given history is as accurate as possible.

floorboards to replace the historic ones in their own home. They also bought bricks to build an additional terrace.<sup>12</sup> As mentioned by Mrs. Rivers in her book *Mendel and Me*, the encroaching Korean war made the possibility of material scarcity quite high. She and her husband Senator L. Mendel Rivers purchased enough bricks and material from the old jail to help construct their new home in West Ashley.<sup>13</sup> While these structures are no longer extant the materials exist elsewhere and their history remains.

- Architectural depiction

The building that was used as Ryan's Jail was built prior to 1791. It was contained within the dimensions of the property of 62' by 174'. It was a large double house made of brick. It was 4 stories and divided by a 14" brick wall that ran the length of the building. Each side is approximately 21' for a total of 42' along the Queen Street side. The depth of the structure is 42' making the structure a true square. The floor plan of either side is laid out with a front entrance along the street side and entries at the rear of the structure. A central door hallway, roughly 4' by 8' divides the houses in two rooms. The room to the front of the house is the largest at roughly 24' 6" and the back room is roughly 18'. Along the partition wall that separates the two house are centrally located fireplaces in both the front and back rooms. The upper floors are thought to mimic this floor plan. During the use as jail these upper floors would have contained the confinement areas or individual pens. As the original 1802 plat shows two rooms on the bottom floor it is assumed that the upper floors mimic this. In a newspaper article from when the jail catches fire the rooms on the upper floors are mentioned to be partitioned into 4 floors on each floor.<sup>14</sup> The windows were still barred until the 1930's.<sup>15</sup> Based on the 1885 Sanborn there is a wooden awning

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<sup>12</sup> Evening Post (Published as THE CHARLESTON EVENING POST) - April 26, 1954

<sup>13</sup> Margaret Middleton Rivers, *Mendel and Me: Life with Congressman L. Mendel Rivers*, (Charleston: The History Press, 2007) 110-111.

<sup>14</sup> The News and Courier October 6, 1950.

<sup>15</sup> The News and Courier March 15, 1937



that covers the rear portion of the jail. On the updated 1802 plat a wall following the one separating the house reaches the extent of the property. Thus dividing it in half. There is no discussion of this

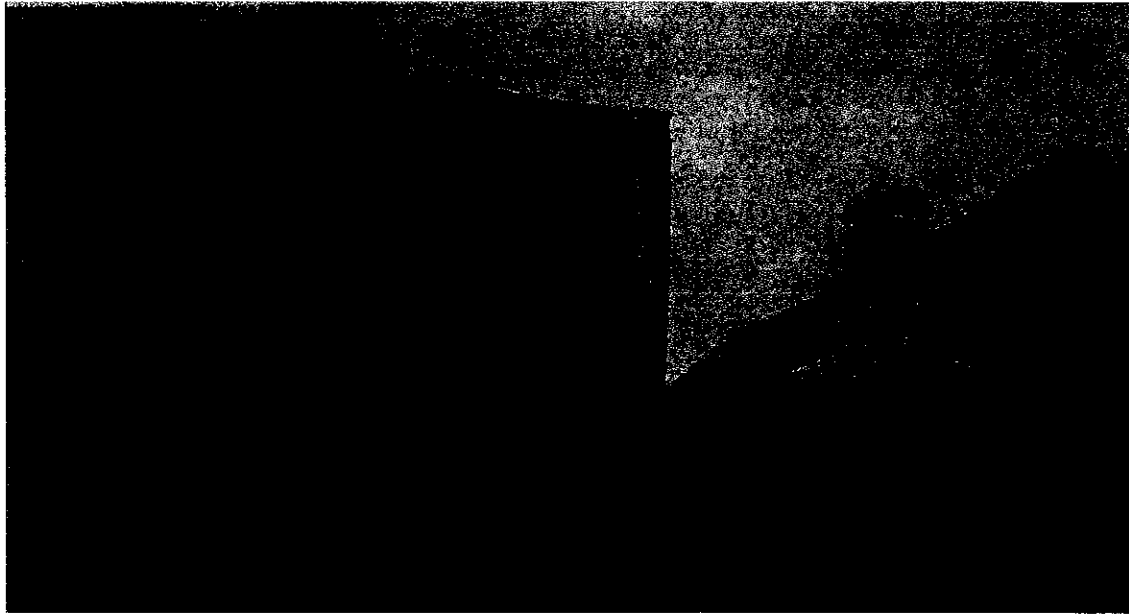


Figure 5: Bancroft's photo of the jail and Kitchen 1922

wall during its time as the slave mart and not depicted in the 1885 Sanborn. The 1802 plat shows that both houses had outbuildings but they are not specifically described. The buildings that Frederic Bancroft depicts in his book *Slave Trading in the Old South* are those that represent the 4 story jail, the kitchen and the dead house.<sup>16</sup> The remaining outbuildings of the yard area were determined based upon what Bancroft witnessed in 1902 and 1922 in comparison to the 1802 plat. Based on the deeds both sides had kitchens. Kitchens were identified as plural and not singular as was the double house being referred to as houses. Number 14 labeled on the plat shows a large rectangular structure that is approximately 19' wide and crudely 87' long. The first room is roughly 10' with a centrally located hearth that is shared with a room opposite. This room is smaller in dimension. These two rooms are not connected by any doors or openings. No other room along this structure contains fire places and therefore may have been used as the kitchen and/or residence.

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<sup>16</sup> Frederic Bancroft, *Slave Trading in the Old South*, 171.

There is a small, roughly 4', room between this and the room opposite that may contain stairs to the second floor. The Kitchen is not clearly depicted as a two story structure on the 1802 plat though it is depicted as a two story building in the 1885 Sanborn and the Bancroft description. Following this room is a large 47' space with two doors off-set. The final room is a small 13' room with only one entry. On the opposite side of the wall contains the same layout of structures though appear to be depicted smaller but dimensionally close in size. Based on Charles Coffin's depiction of the yard between the show room and the jail, the dividing wall along the length of the property was no longer there.<sup>17</sup> Both Coffin and Bancroft depict only three structures located in the yard meaning that several of the outbuildings had to be removed at some point. Bancroft's location of the kitchen corresponds to that of the building located on the east portion of the lot and associated with Number 14 on the 1802 plat. This most likely means that most of the outbuildings associated with Number 15 are the ones removed. Bancroft also describes the dead house as being in the southwest corner of the house. He depicts the structure as having been standing during his visit to the site in 1902 but in 1922 it was no longer extant.<sup>18</sup> This building was probably made up of the two most southern buildings located on the 1802 plat. The rooms are both roughly 15' by 10'. The 1885, 1881, and 1902 Sanborn maps confirm the locations of these structures. By 1885 all three structures are listed as tenements. In 1888 the dead house is listed as a store and in 1902 it is not labeled. The Sanborn following 1902 and updated in 1941 confirms that the dead house building was no longer there. The 1948 plat created for the conveyance of 13 and 15 queen street into one lot with 17 and 19 has no standing structures. On the 1948 plat it also gives the dimensions of the jail which vary slightly from the 1802 plat. The measurements are depicted as 43.6' by 50'. The

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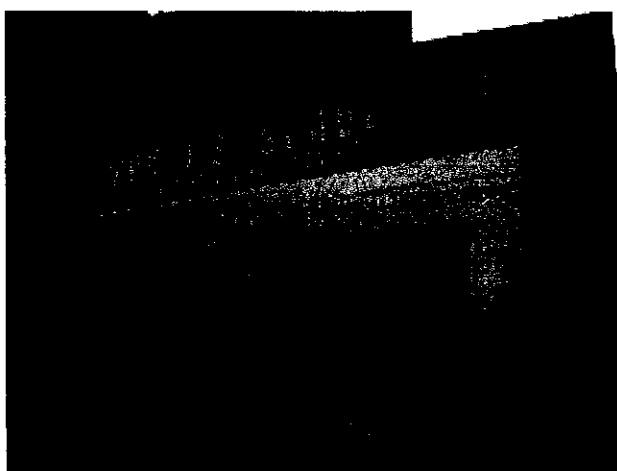
<sup>17</sup> Charles C. Coffin, *Four Years of Fighting: A volume of Personal Observations with the Army and Navy, From the First Battle of Bull Run to the Fall of Richmond*. (Boston), 473.

<sup>18</sup> Bancroft, *Slave Trading in the Old South*, 171

kitchen also differs but this is not unusual since it is obvious much of the building was removed by the 1885 Sanborn map. The dimensions of the kitchen at this time is 20.2' by 32'. By 1951 all structures were gone and the property turned into a parking lot.

#### Archaeological Potential

The parking lot that now covers 13-17 Queen street is a time capsule full of Archaeological possibilities. This research has confirmed the locations of the structures as described by the eye witness accounts of Bancroft and Coffin. With the 1802 plat and several newspaper reports, a description of the buildings floor plans were determined. With this information the landscape of the complex is better understood. Excavations at Lumpkin's Jail in Richmond exposed the location and dimensions of the structures that were contained on this site. As with Lumpkin's jail, excavations at Ryan's jail would help establish the site layout. Documentary evidence of the structures does exist but excavations would lead to a more in depth study to the structures that could remain



*Figure 6: James River Institute Archaeology Site*

beneath the asphalt. This would give proper and accurate dimensions as well as show a scattering of artifacts associated with building contexts. What can be obtained from any archaeological investigations would be in assessing the use of the property through its material culture recovered. At Lumpkin's Jail around 16,160 artifacts were discovered in the excavation. There were a wide range of artifacts including ceramics, glass, personal items, nails, etc. These artifacts span the use of the property covering its time before and after use as a jail. Much like Ryan's jail, Lumpkin's

jail was also used as tenements housing.<sup>19</sup> Artifact typology can help determine use across the site. Archaeology at Ryan's jail could lead to information to that time before the use as a jail and after. As the history of the site spans over 150 years and multiple uses, artifacts should be abundant at



Figure 7: Lumpkin's Slave Jail, Smithsonian Magazine

the site. Since documentation of the construction of the jail is unknown, excavations could pinpoint the date of construction. Retrieved materials could determine the early uses of the property prior to it being used as a merchant's business and a boarding house. If a defined stratigraphic layer of the slave mart era exist much could be learned about daily use.

- Conclusions

When the Ryan's Jail was dismantled in 1951 the city of Charleston lost a valuable historic site. The building that stood on the property expressed the changes not only to its function and design but to the history of Charleston. It served as a merchant's office and boarding house, as a slave jail, and finally as a tenement house. The human story of Ryan's jail is limited to the documentation at hand. Little information will be known about the conditions people suffered within the confinement of the jail. No known record of this depiction so far has been discovered

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<sup>19</sup> Matthew R. Laird, *Archaeological Data Recovery Investigation of the Lumpkin's Slave Jail Site (44HE1053) Volume I: Research Report*. James River Institute for Archaeology, Inc. Richmond, Virginia. 2010

specifically for Ryan's Jail. Other depictions describe the deplorable conditions of such a market place. The yard space around the structures would be used to "exercise" those waiting to be sold, so to not appear unhealthy. The small containing rooms would be only 8 square feet at most. The property changed to suit the dynamic of the slave mart. The original dividing wall of the property and other outbuildings were used to make the yard space that slaves would have been ushered through from the jail into the show room. They would have spent their days in the yard space "exercising" and their nights confined and chained within the jail. While the slave mart only operated for 7 years at the location stretching from Chalmers to Queen street, the history reaches on. It reaches out to us from glimpses in time forcing us to remember all that took place in Charleston. From Elizabeth Verner's sketch of St. Philips steeple which tried to capture a sleepier but enduring Charleston, there is glimpse of a much darker longer history. Ryan's jail appears just barely in the corner of her sketch. This simple expression shows how invisible these sites of slavery can be. They are there ready to tell their stories.

## CHAIN OF TITLE

July 13, 1791

Grantor: John Abercrombie

Grantee: John Marshall

Book and Page: G6, 327

Type: Conveyance

Lot: Plat of Land on Queen Street

After leasing the property for a year, John Marshall purchases the property on Queen Street from John Abercrombie. The property at this time already contains "houses, outbuildings, and buildings" listed on the property. Property dimensions are "62' in width and 175' in depth or thereabouts."

October 10, 1792

Grantor: John Marshall

Grantee: Abraham Sasportas

Book and Page: B7, 20

Type: Conveyance

Lot: Plat of Land on Queen Street

Conveyance of property to Abraham Sasportas. Property has not changed in description since conveyance to Marshall.

May 09, 1853

Grantor: Abraham Sasportas

Grantee: James Marsh

Book and Page: Y12, 558

Type: Conveyance

Lot: Plat of Land on Queen Street

Conveyance of land to James Marsh. Becomes part of property owned by Marsh and Ryan for the purpose of the slave mart.

February 01, 1859

Grantor: James Marsh

Grantee: Z.B. Oakes

Book and Page: T13, 297

Type: Conveyance

Lot: Plat of Land on Queen Street

Conveyance to Z.B. Oakes by James Marsh. Same property description and dimensions indicating that the property was never legally joined to that land facing Chalmers street which also made up the remainder of the Salve Mart.

1863

Grantor: Z. B. Oakes

Grantee: George Trenholm

Book and Page: T14 #4, 15 and A 14# 5, 360

Type: Lease

Lot: Plat of Land on Queen Street

George Trenholm leases property on Queen Street. Lease is for one year. Very little detail is given of property. Fulfillment of lease and conveyance to Trenholm by Oakes takes place one year later.

February 1, 1866

Grantor: George Trenholm

Grantee: John Fraser and Company

Book and Page: A 14 #7, 3

Type: Release of property

Lot: Plat of Land on Queen Street

Release of property to John Fraser and Company by George Trenholm as an agreement to the disbursement of Trenholms Real estate. He purchased the property with funds from a partnership with Fraser and others. This required that the titles of all property purchased with such funds should be relinquished to the partners.

March, 11 1875

Grantor: Samuel Lord, Jr.

Grantee: Dennis O'Neill

Book and Page: S16, 102

Type: Settlement

Lot: Plat of Land on Queen Street

Dennis O'Neill takes a case against John Fraser and Co., for the rights to the property on Queen street. He purchases the property from them through the settlement in the case initiated by Samuel Lord, Jr.

June 06, 1898

Grantor: Dennis O'Neill

Grantee: Ella O'Neill

Book and Page: F23, 186

Type: Conveyance

Lot: Plat of Land on Queen Street

Ella O'Neill purchases the property from Dennis in settlement against an estate inheritance. Property listed at this time as 17 and 19 Queen Street.

January 01, 1900

Grantor: Ella O'Neill

Grantee: Mary O'Neill

Book and Page: R23, 94

Type: Conveyance

Lot: Plat of Land on Queen Street

Ella sells a half interest share in the property to Mary.

October 11, 1905

Grantor: Ella and Mary O'Neill

Grantee: Joseph Dothage

Book and Page: T24, 90

Type: Conveyance

Lot: Plat of Land on Queen Street

The O'Neill's sell the property to Joseph Dothage. The property dimensions change slightly at this time measuring 63' in width along Queen street and 174' in depth.

October 17, 1905

Grantor: Joseph Dothage

Grantee: Mary Price

Book and Page: T24, 101

Type: Conveyance

Lot: Plat of Land on Queen Street

Mary buys the property from Joseph Dothage within the same month as his original purchase from the O'Neill's.

October 20, 1917

Grantor: Mary Price



Grantee: T. J. Price

Book and Page: R28, 316

Type: Conveyance by Will

Lot: Plat of Land on Queen Street

Mary dies in 1917 and leaves all her property including the Queen street lots and buildings to her Husband, T. J. and her children.

October 16, 1941

Grantor: Edward Price

Grantee: Loretta Price

Book and Page: T42, 555

Type: Conveyance

Lot: Plat of Land on Queen Street

Edward is the son of T. J. and Mary Price. He becomes the sole owner of the property when his father dies and leaves the property to him in a 1936 Will.

August 19, 1942

Grantor: Loretta Price

Grantee: McAllister Real.

Book and Page: O43, 437

Type: Conveyance

Lot: Plat of Land on Queen Street

Loretta sells the property to McAlister Realty with all the buildings extant.

October 03, 1963

Grantor: McAllister Real.

Grantee: First National Bank

Book and Page: S77, 81

Type: Conveyance

Lot: Plat of Land on Queen Street

Conveyance of property. Buildings are no longer extant at this time. By this time the property also includes 13 and 15 Queen Street properties and is used as a parking lot.

January 01, 1968

Grantor: First National Bank

Grantee: Commercial Land

Book and Page: W90, 80

Type: Conveyance

Lot: Plat of Land on Queen Street

Conveyance of property.

Property Changes hands 5 times among different LLC's until current owner. The land now includes property to the east making the lot 119.95' in width along Queen Street. The property is known an L shaped parcel being used as an asphalt parking lot.

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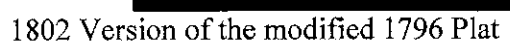
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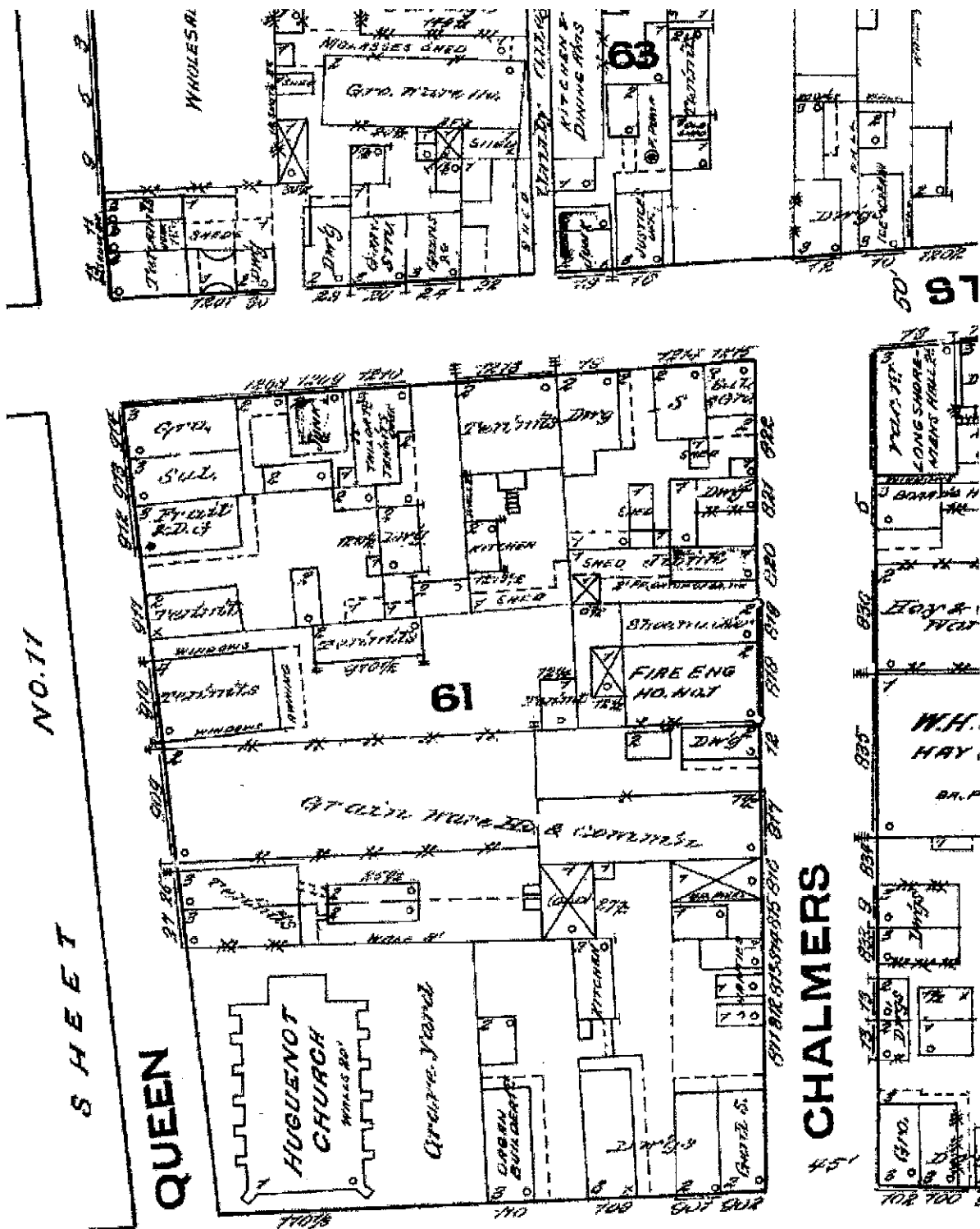
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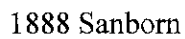
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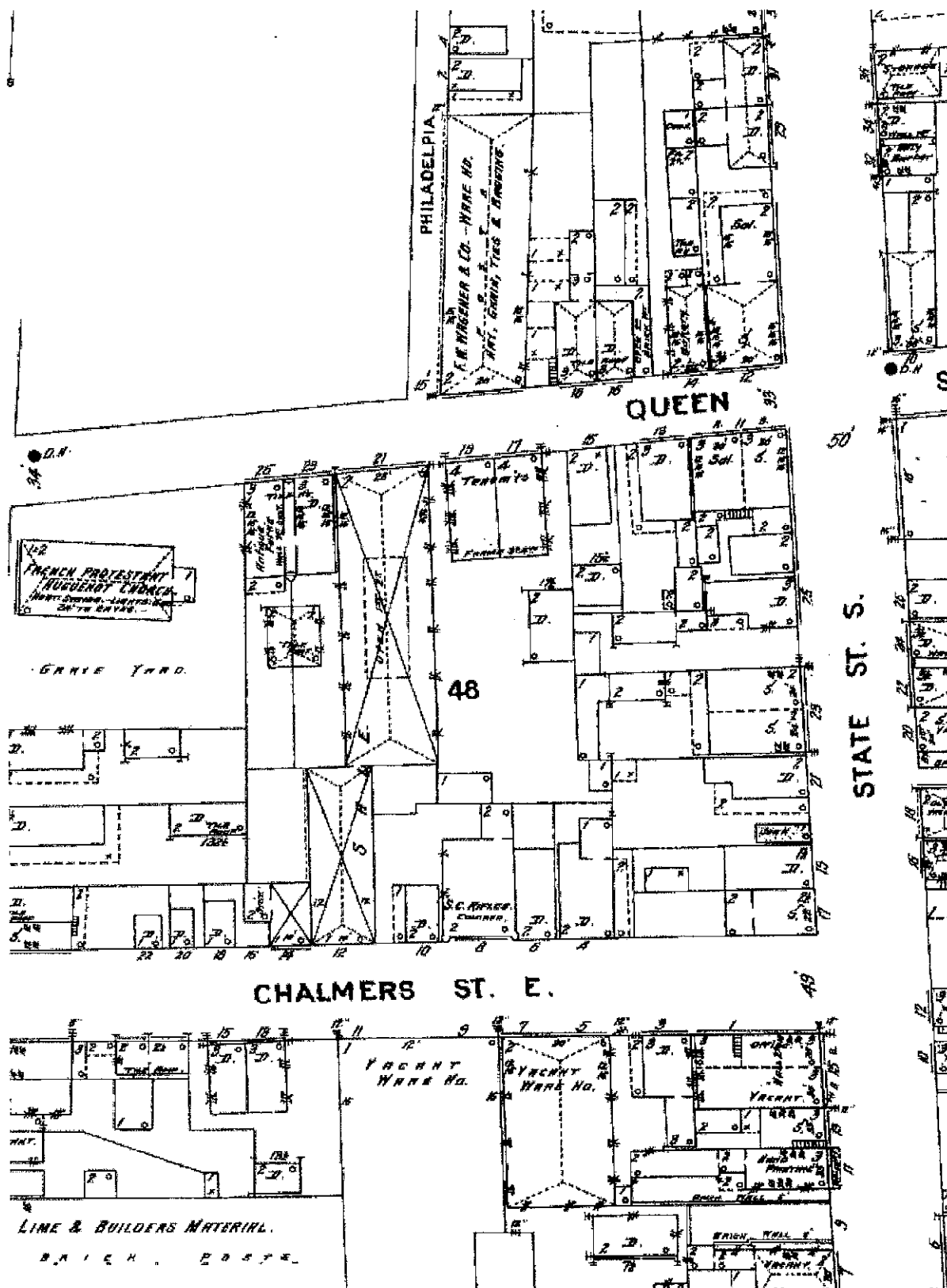
## APPENDIX

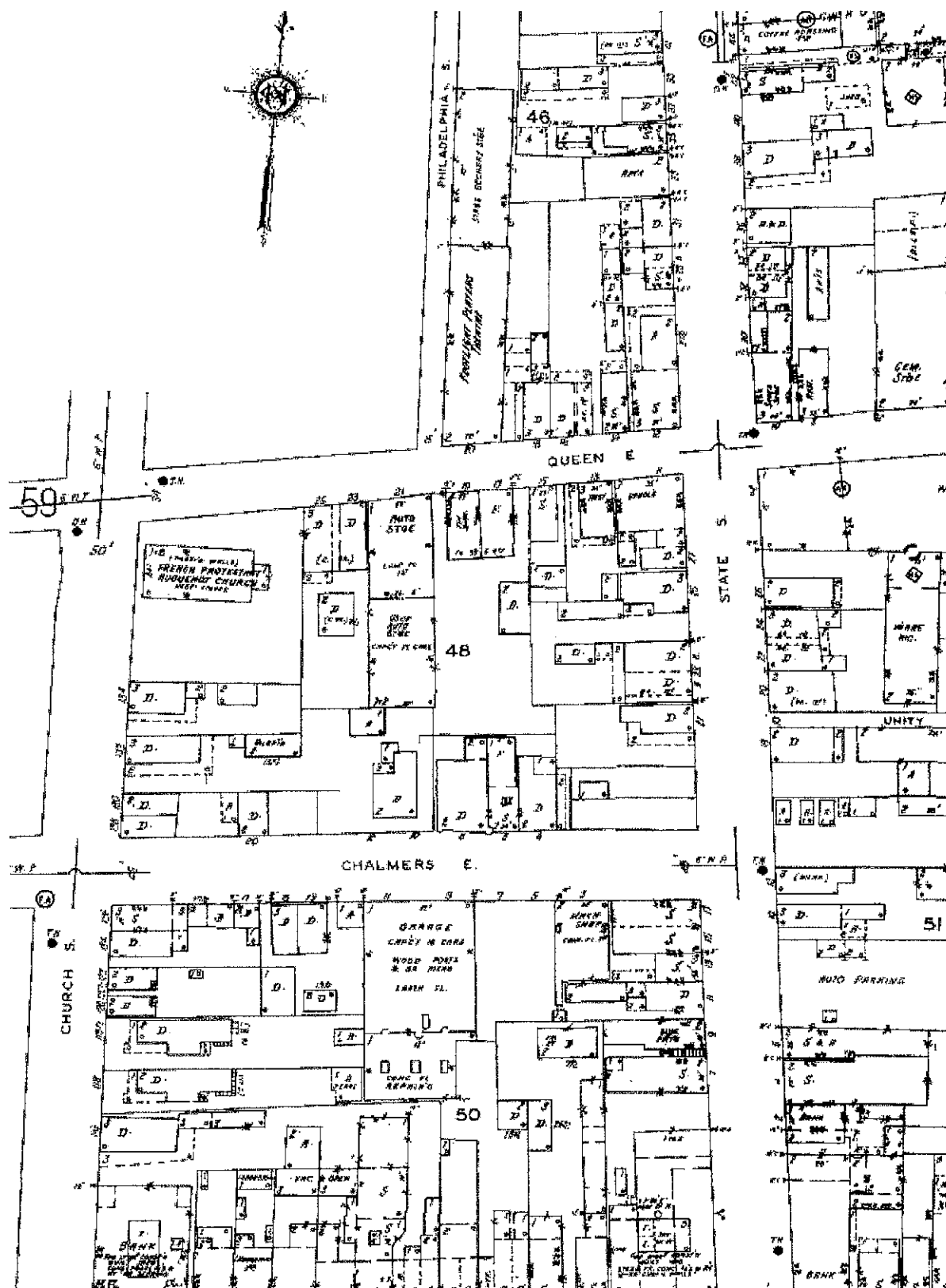




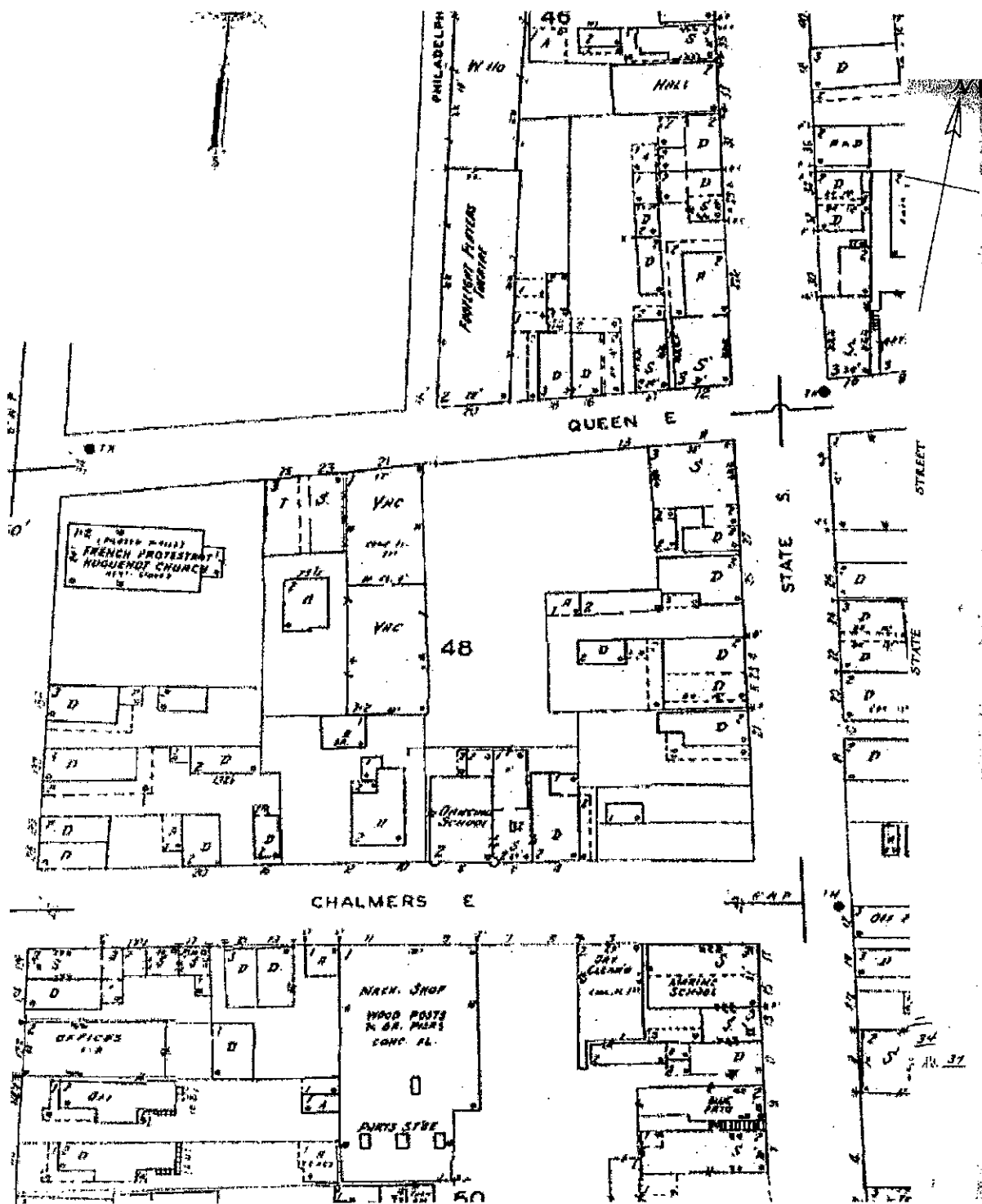






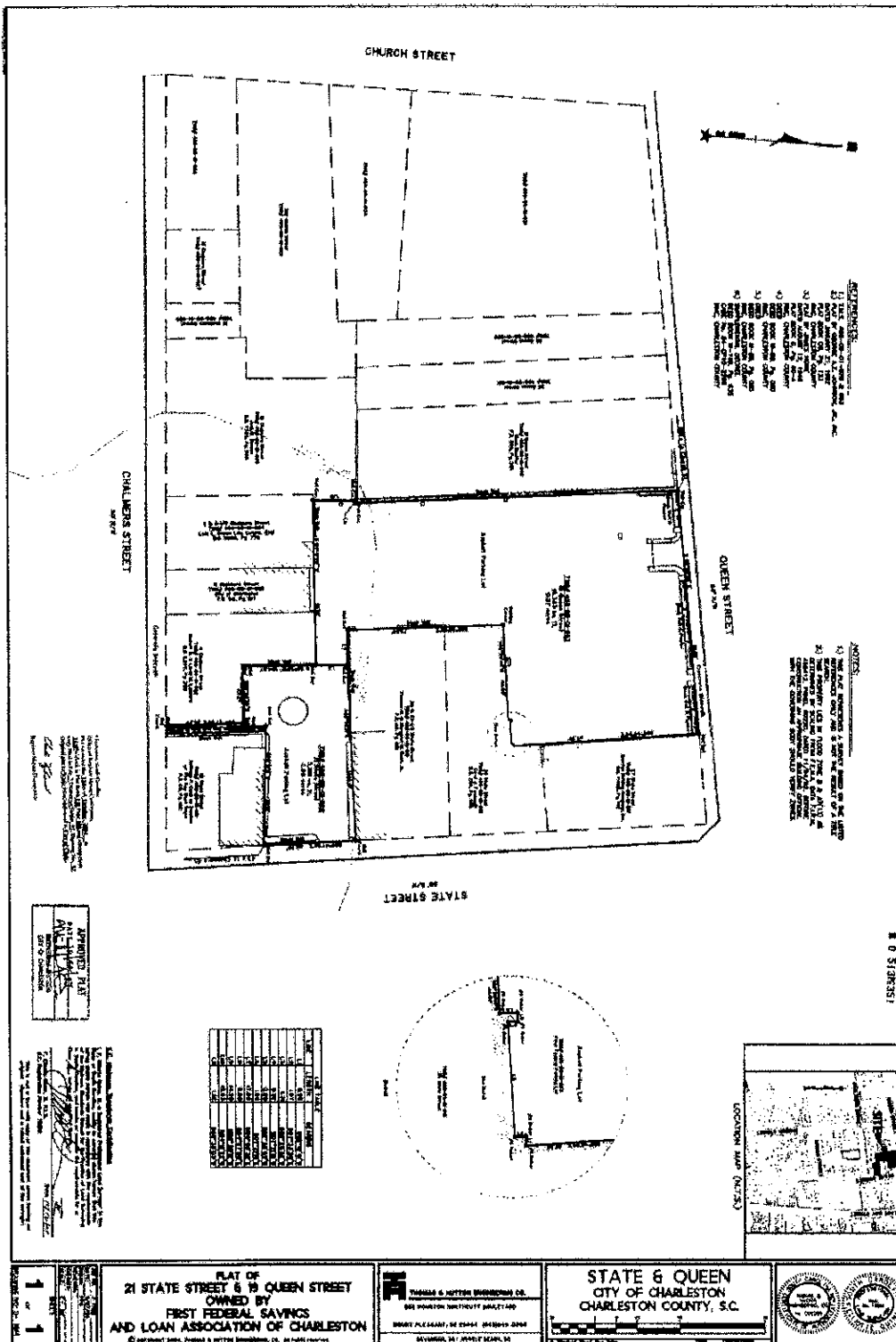


1941 Sanborn



1955 Sanborn



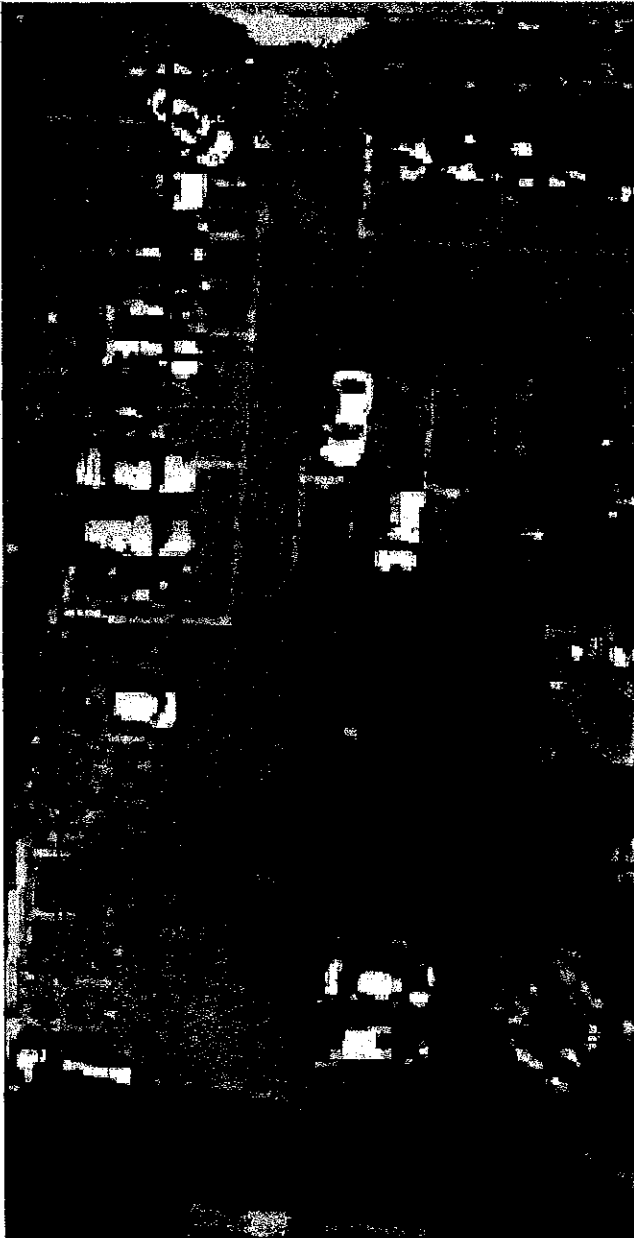


2004 Plat

NAMES	Assessed value of property	Taxable homestead	Exemptions dependent on application for support	Amount paid for property tax	Amount received for tax
O'Neill, L. Arthur	\$ 4,150	\$ 4,000	2	\$ 485	\$ 485
O'Neill, Dennis	5,045	none	7	310	none
O'Neill, Margaret A.	10,500	1,225	none	400	400
O'Neill, Mary	1,025	none	1	145	145
O'Neill, Patrick	5,705	4,000	3	155	155
O'Neill, Rose	4,050	600	3	500	220
O'Neill, Wm. P.	4,500	1,000	2	1,035	1,000
Oppenheim, Catherine	24,100	none	1	2,875	1250
Oppenheim, Hannah G.	2,600	1,600	6	275	120
O'Rourke, Mary E.	1,050	Yes	8	355	100
Ottman, Christian L.	2,350	1,000	3	660	400
Osterholtz, Fritz	700	none	5	225	225
Osterholtz, H. F. G.	4,000	4,500	2	100	75
O'Sullivan, Bridget	500	none	1	325	30
Orgen, Augusta	1,500	"	1	50	50
Ous, A. P.	5,500	6,500	7	1,180	330
Owens, Susan E.	1,000	500	none	185	65
Oxlade, Elvira L.	4,550	none	1	215	215
Oxlade, Ann Amaha	900	"	none	135	140
Palmer, Isaac	200	100	"	190	90
Palowski, Catherine	4,100	none	3	200	130
Pansin, O. M.	1,350	"	3	120	120
Parker, Joseph	2,510	900	4	265	180
Parker, Theo. V.	625	none	5	36	35

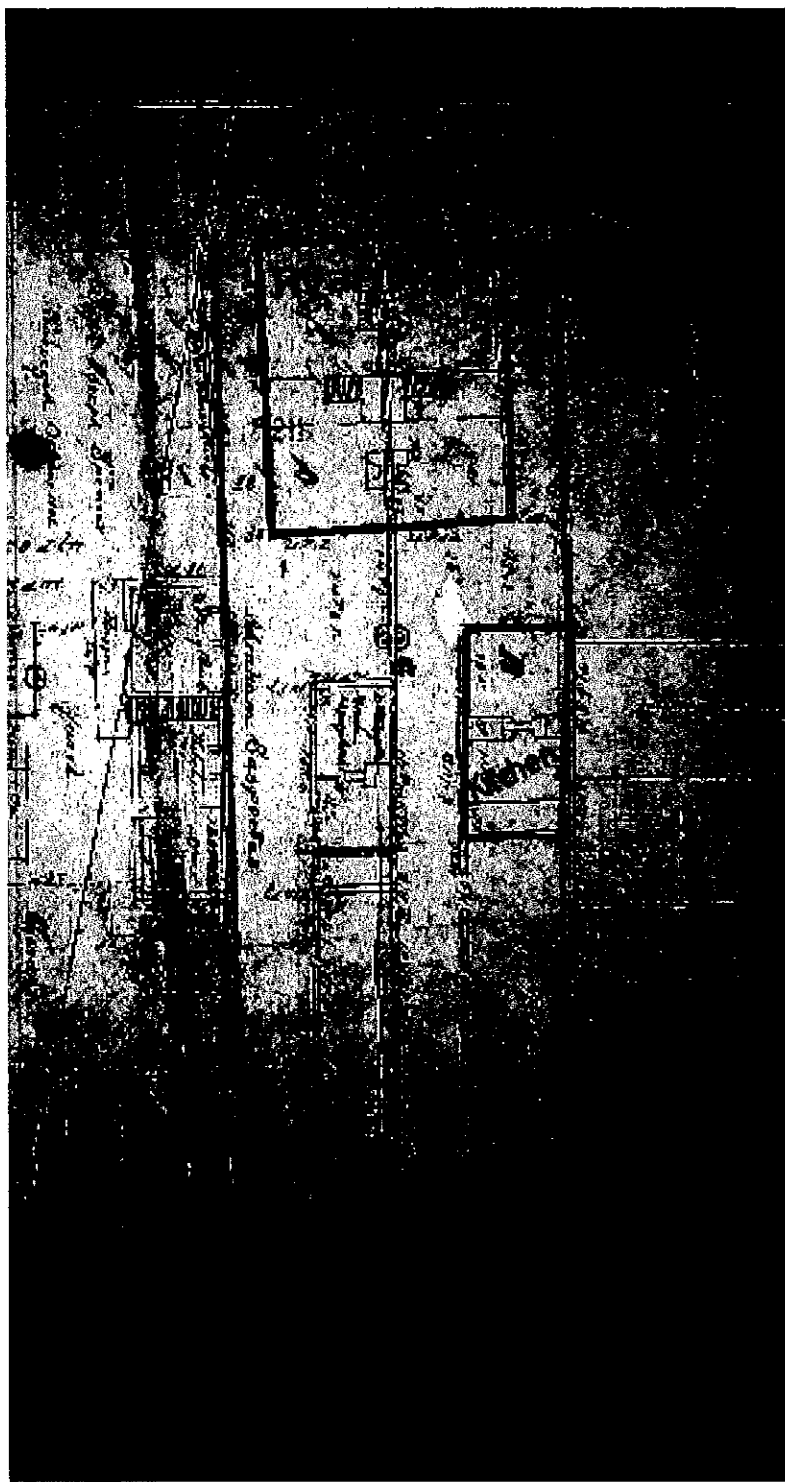
Earth Quake Records





**1948 Plat Over Aerial Image  
Showing Remaining Original Buildings**





used as part of the Ryan's Mart outlined.

1802 Plat with the buildings

## Ryan's Jail Gets Reprieve As Firemen Subdue Flames

Ryan's jail, destined for oblivion, won a reprieve yesterday from a premature attempt to destroy it. An efficient Charleston fire department robbed the flames of their historic prize.

The four-story brick structure bore prominently along its Queen street side a health department notice that the building had been condemned.

A companion building at 13 Queen street has already been razed and work is scheduled to start immediately on razing the "jail" at 17-19 Queen street.

A few families still occupied some of the upper floors when fire was discovered on the third floor about 2:55 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Engine company No. 1 rolled on a telephoned alarm a few seconds before an alarm box was pulled. Engine companies 3 and 4 and the truck company responded and assisted.

Chief Norman G. Olsen directed the firefighters. Assistant Chief F.

C. Shokes also responded to the alarm.

The fire, of undetermined origin, started in a room on the third floor in the northwest corner of the building. The building is divided by a partition from front to back and side to side providing four rooms on each floor of almost equal size. The flames were limited to the room in which it started. Some small damage was done in a small hall in the middle of the building.

Most of the furniture and clothing in the room were destroyed.

The building is also known as Ryan's hotel. It was used for many years in the early and middle 19th century as a hostelry for slaves. Some of the slaves were negroes brought to Charleston to be put on the auction block in Chalmers street. Other "guests" were servants of persons passing through the city and who stopped at the fashionable Planters hotel. Windows in the building were barred until a few years ago.

## 'RYAN'S JAIL' IS RAIDED

Police Detectives Seize Quantity of Whiskey

In a raid on premises at 19 Queen street, known as "Ryan's jail" and "Ryan's hotel," police detectives yesterday afternoon seized forty-seven half pints of whiskey, one half-gallon of whiskey and two empty five-gallon kegs, besides destroying a quantity of empty bottles.

The officers proceeded to the fourth story of the old house and found the liquor cached between the ceiling and the roof. The premises have been frequently raided over a period of years by police. Although the house is occupied on lower floors, no one was in the upper story and the owner of the liquor could not be found.

The house, according to tradition, got its names from the fact that planters, when they registered at the Planters' hotel in pre-Confederate war times, placed their body servants in Ryan's hotel. The jail part of the name was probably given it because the servants were kept under guard, being slaves.

The raid was made by J. J. Healy, chief of detectives, and Police Detectives Frank T. McNeill and Edward Wyndham.

## Unlucky 13 Gamblers Taken In Raid on Old Slave Hotel

Hovering around a table in a room which many years ago may have housed some of their shackled ancestors, thirteen negro men yesterday afternoon were busy placing their bets in a dice game in the old Ryan's hotel at 19 Queen street, when three police detectives walked in. All were arrested on charges of gambling and at 4:40 p. m. were lodged at the police station.

Ryan's hotel, also known as Ryan's jail, for many years in the early and middle Nineteenth century was a hostelry for slaves. Some of the slaves were negroes brought to Charleston to be put on an auction block near the Queen street address. Others were servants of people passing through the city and stopping at the then fashionable Planters hotel. Windows in the building still are barred.

About 4:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon, Chief of Detectives John J. Healy and Detectives Herman R. Berkman and J. R. Attaberry strolled into Ryan's hotel.

Standing around a large table were the unlucky thirteen. Rolling out on the table was a pair of dancing ivory cubes. Being tossed into the pot were a few nickels and dimes. Raking in much of the cash was an amateur croupier who employed a walking cane for a rake.

One of the gamblers saw the law officers. His mouth fell open and his eyes bulged. His brothers took up the call. They all stared but did not move. There wasn't much room for moving anyway be-

cause the detectives were in the doorway.

In a few minutes a patrol wagon rolled down Queen street and stopped in front of the hotel. The thirteen guests marched out into the street and took places in the wagon. They then were given one of those \$1 rides to the station. (The police department charges prisoners \$1 fare for transportation in the wagon.)

At the station the men lined up in single file to pass by the orderly sergeant's desk, give their names and address and be searched before being herded to a cell by the turnkey.

Besides thirteen prisoners, the detectives brought in \$12.75 in cash, two pairs of dice, a large table and a stool, all of which was seized in the raid.

Among those present for yesterday's game and their assets at the time were James Russell, of Logan street; Moses Mitchell, of 29 Elliott street; William Smalls, of 7 Elliott street, who had a dime in his pocket; William Green, of 24 Elliott street; Richard Brown, of 53 Drake street, who had 86; Ben Gaillard, of 4 Kennedy court, owner of \$15.69; William Carter, of 80 State street; John Singleton, of 146 Logan street; James Sparks, of 93 East Bay street; Ben Washington, of 3 Short street, who had twenty-five cents; Rufus Brown, of 12 Short street; George Washington, of 2 Short street, and Miller Gibson, of 16 Readon's alley.

None got away, Chief Healy said.