

The News and Courier

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(Staff Photo by Dewey Swain)

12 Magazine St.

Single House Restored

By ROBERT P. STOCKTON

A recent restoration project which has excited much favorable conversation among Charleston preservationists is that of 12 Magazine St.

Attorney Bernard Fielding, owner of the property, has had the small Federal style single house restored as his office.

H.A. DeCosta Co. which has restored numerous historic structures in peninsular Charleston, completed the restoration.

Preservationists have cited the project as a contribution to the improvement of the Magazine and Logan streets area.

The house was built by Benjamin Mazyck who acquired the lot at Magazine and Logan streets in 1742, in the division of the estate of Isaac Mazyck.

Mazyck, a Huguenot immigrant of Flemish origin, owned most of the area now bounded by Archdale, Queen and Beaufain streets and the Ashley River.

His lengthy will, written in French, left detailed instructions for the division of this area among his children and grandchildren.

His sons had the property surveyed and laid out in streets and lots. Logan Street was originally named Mazyck Street, after the family. Magazine Street took its name from the powder magazine which stood where the Old Jail is today.

Benjamin Mazyck, son of Issac Mazyck the immigrant, apparently built the two-story frame single house at 12 Magazine St. sometime between 1788 and 1800.

The house does not appear on the Phoenix Fire Company map of 1788, but it does appear on the "Plan of the City of Charleston," drawn about 1800.

Its interior decoration would indicate a construction date closer to the latter.

Mantels are Federal in style. The staircase retains the slender newel post and balusters of that period.

The house is a typical single house in plan, with a central stairhall and a single room on each side, on each floor. The gable roof with two dormer windows provides an adequate garret.

During the restoration, the entrance was recessed slightly into the hallway so the front steps could be removed from the sidewalk and placed within the shelter of the building.

After Benjamin Mazyck died in 1801, the property was acquired by Daniel James Ravenel, a wealthy planter and later secretary of state of South Carolina.

He sold it in 1804 to Stephen Mazyck Jr.

The house stood within the "jail bounds" of the Charleston Jail, an area extending some distance in all directions from the walls of the jail. Small houses in the area were used to house persons who were "jail bound" for debt.

It is possible that 12 Magazine was used for that purpose.

After 1804 it became the home for many years of John Smith, an upholsterer who was also clerk and sexton of St. Philip's Church.