

Magazine Street, Old City Thoroughfare, Losing Identity

By ROBERT P. STOCKTON

Preservationists are worried that Magazine Street, one of the city's oldest thoroughfares, may soon lose its historical integrity.

A photograph taken about 1900 shows the first block of the street, between Archdale and Logan streets, with much-photographed St. John's Lutheran Church terminating the view.

Today, the small frame, hip-roofed

house in the left side of the photo is gone. It was torn down many years ago, despite its interesting architecture and historical background.

That small house is believed to have been Gen. William Moultrie's quarters when he was "jailbound" for debt in 1794. The site is now an asphalt parking lot enclosed by a chain link fence.

Several other small houses were torn down in the 1930s, on the north side of Magazine between Logan and Franklin

streets, when the Robert Mills Manor public housing project was built.

Despite these changes, the block of Magazine Street from Logan to Archdale has persisted as a stable and quiet black residential neighborhood, although economically depressed.

The recent restoration of 12 Magazine St. by attorney Bernard Fielding was welcomed by preservationists who expressed hope that it would set an example for renovation of other houses on the street.



Magazine Street, Circa 1900

The News and Courier

Do You Know Your Charleston?

Twelve Magazine, a small two-story frame single house, was built by Benjamin Mazyck sometime between 1788 and 1800. Fielding is using it as a law office.

Preservationists reacted with alarm, however, when College Preparatory School announced plans to demolish the two-story frame single house across the street at 11 Magazine St.

Eleven Magazine, the flat-roofed structure shown in the right side of the 1900 photograph, has an exterior appearance typical of about 1850, but is actually much older, as its interior details reveal.

It appears to have been built about 1821 by Mary Porter Fowler, a free black woman.

Permission to tear down the structure was denied by the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) in January, but after the school reapplied, a subcommittee of the BAR imposed a 180-day delay on demolition, giving preservationists that amount of time to save the building.

A leading preservationist questioned the propriety of the BAR action in rehearing the demolition request, and the matter has been referred to a city attorney for an opinion.

Preservationists say they are not concerned merely with the possible loss of 11 Magazine St., the clearance of which would provide the school with eight parking spaces.

The primary concern of the preservationists is their conviction that the school plans to acquire and demolish several other houses along the south side of Magazine Street, adjacent to the school property which fronts on Archdale Street. A school official denies this is true.

The south side of Magazine Street, between Logan and Archdale, is lined with small frame houses, all of which appear to have been built before the Civil War. Some may be 18th Century structures.

Magazine Street is named for a powder magazine which was constructed at its

western end, on the approximate site of the Old Jail, in the early part of the 18th Century.

The street was cut through the so-called Mazyck Lands which were granted to James Moore in 1698 and conveyed by the trustees of his will in 1712 to Isaac Mazyck.

In 1742, this large tract, bounded generally by Archdale, Beaufain and Queen streets and the Ashley River, was divided among Isaac Mazyck's sons and grandchildren.

A plat of 1742 which accompanied the deed of partition is the first map on which Magazine Street appears.

The Phoenix Fire Company insurance map of 1788, drawn by Edmund Petrie, shows structures on both sides of Magazine Street by that date.

Many small houses on Magazine Street were within the "jail bounds," an area extending some distance in all directions from the walls of the Charleston Jail, used to house people serving time for debt.

Morning Coffee

By Dave Doubrava

Thanks to Morning Coffee's many and varied contacts at the highest echelons of the television industry, we were able to secure a copy of the new network programs lined up for the fall season.

As might be expected, several popular themes which struck paydirt last year are being expanded this season. Those TV programmers may not be too inventive but they sure know a good thing when they see it. Some of the shows which should go over big include:

POLICE STATE — Starsky, Hutch, Kojak and Joe Forrester go power-mad and seize the reins of government. The first episode features Kojak punching out an elderly lady for no apparent reason.

THE BIONIC DOG — After backing into a fan while fetching sticks, a beagle is fitted with a mechanical leg which makes him so fast and powerful, he can chase cars...and catch them.

MARCUS WELBY, D.J. — The good doctor has an adverse reaction to an overdose of Nyquil, gets amnesia and wanders off, finding work at a Marietta, Ohio, radio station playing C.B. records to all-night truck drivers.

POLICE KID — An hour-long drama about an 11-year-old hall guard and his crime-stopping activities. In the first show he busts up a conspiracy of third-graders plotting to skip gym class. Stars Mickey Rooney.

THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR CUB SCOUT — Little Chuckie is fitted with mechanical components after a terrible spill from his bicycle. With his incredible new speed, he is able to get his new clothes dirty faster than anybody on the block. Stars Mickey Rooney.

PARDON ME, PLEASE — E. Howard Hunt, Gordon Liddy and Donald Segretti co-star as hilarious bumbling burglars. In the first episode, Hunt gives Liddy a stack of checks to launder and Liddy puts them in his Maytag.

POLICE DOG — After a long period of criminal activity, Killer goes straight and works as an undercover agent for the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). Disguised as a cat, a fire plug and a shrub, Killer rids the neighborhood of marauding canines who tip over garbage cans and do-do on the lawn.

THE BIONIC COMPUTER — After a freak flash fire destroys several of the LAPD's computer terminals, it's fitted with an arm and a leg. Now it can walk across the room and turn itself off.

THE TONIGHT SHOW — Johnny's back for a once-a-week appearance. Guest hosts include Marcel Marceau and Harpo Marx. Also, Dr. Joyce Brothers will conduct a one-week, in-depth look at personal hygiene.

Well, if that line-up doesn't force you to renew your library card, nothing will.