

**The Mazyck-Smith House, 12 Magazine Street.
A Historic Single House in Harleston Village, Charleston, South Carolina**



**By Christina R. Butler/Butler Preservation for
Charleston Empire Properties**

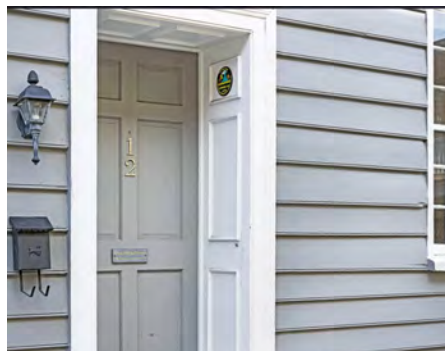
26 January 2021

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Introduction:

Located in Harleston Village in historic Charleston, 12 Magazine Street is a wood frame Charleston single house of modest proportion but immense architectural character and historic significance. The land was subdivided by the Mazyck family in the colonial era. The timber framed house at 12 Magazine was constructed circa 1804 by John Smith, an upholsterer and a clerk at St. Philip's Church who resided in the house for most of his life, who purchased the parcel from Stephen Mazyck Jr. The house then passed to his daughter Elizabeth and then to the Mays and Kenny family, who rented the house to working class residents. In 1890, the Bowen/Epps', a working class African American family, purchased the house and members of the family lived there into the 1940s. 12 Magazine later became the law office of Bernard Fielding, an important African American lawyer and civil rights activist whose legacy will not soon be forgotten.



Setting and Context: Harleston and the Mazyck Lands

One of Charleston's largest neighborhoods, Harleston dates to the colonial era. Its boundaries have changed over time and have grown as residents filled the creeks and marshes of the Ashley River, which act as the western boundary of the neighborhood, along with Lockwood Boulevard. The area lay just west of the original Grand Model of Charleston, which divided the peninsula into roughly 300 large lots that were granted to English settlers by the Lords Proprietors, who owned the nascent English South Carolina colony.




The Grand Model of Charleston. Harleston lies to the upper right (northwest) of the early town.

John Coming and Henry Hughes received grants for over 319 acres of the land in 1671, and it later passed to the Harleston family through marriage (Affra Harleston married John Coming, and she donated a parcel of land to the Anglican Church to generate rental income — the origin of Glebe Street). The area was rural pasture lands and marshes owned by the Coming and Harleston families in the colonial era and was outside of town; in 1750, Elizabeth Harleston advertised part of the land for rent as a “a convenient pasture (for either a butcher or inn-keeper),” and apparently, she did not have a house in the still undeveloped area.

After Elizabeth's death, her sons John, Nicholas, and Edward inherited the property and petitioned the colonial government in 1767 to extend existing roads towards their tract so they might develop it. Harleston was created in earnest in 1770 as a suburban speculative development. The brothers created 162 large lots along several principal streets adjacent to the earlier settled area of Charleston. At that time, Beaufain Street was the

neighborhood's southern boundary, and Coming's Creek cut inward several blocks from the Ashley River. Most of the lots have since been divided into smaller parcels, and the neighborhood has grown and expanded westward.

To be S O L D,
*On WEDNESDAY the 23^d Instant, to the highest Bidders, on the
 Spot, at 10 o'Clock in the Forenoon:*



SUNDRY large and valuable
LOTS OF LAND, on the North-West
 Part of Charles-Town (known by the Name
 of COMING'S POINT) pleasantly situated be-
 tween the Glebe Land of St. Philip's Parish,
 and Ashley-River, on which it has an exten-
 sive Front, and commands an agreeable Pros-
 pect of the adjacent Plantations. The Land is high and airy,
 and has the Advantage of two good Landings; one of which,
 Coming's Creek, runs bluff to the high Land, will admit a loa-
 ded Schooner of 100 Barrels Burthen; the Use of which (with-
 out Charge) will be free for Purchasers, for *twelve* Months.
 These Lots contain above Half an Acre, being upwards of 120
 Feet front on Streets of 50 Feet wide, and from 212 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 226
 Feet in Depth.—The Purchasers may have *three* Months
 Credit, *free from Interest*, giving good Security. The Plats
 may be seen in the Hands of EDWARD HARLESTON, THOMAS
 CORBETT, ISAAC HARLESTON, and
SAMUEL PRIOLEAU, Jun. & Comp.

A sale ad for Harleston properties, *South Carolina Gazette*, 3 May 1770.

Historian Nic Butler notes that many of the streets in Harleston (originally called Coming's Point) were named for important South Carolinians, early patriots, and supporters of the American cause in the Revolutionary War. For example, Bull Street is named for Lt. Governor William Bull Jr. (1710-1791); Beaufain Street is named for Collector of Customs for the Port of Charleston, Hector Berringer de Beaufain (1697-1766); Montagu Street was named for South Carolina Governor Charles Greville Montagu (1741-1784); Pitt Street was named for William Pitt "the elder" (1708-1778), a British politician known for his support of the Americans during the Stamp Act Crisis; and Rutledge Avenue was named for John Rutledge, a member of the Stamp Act Congress in New York, and later, a governor of South Carolina. Butler also notes that Harleston was never a separate village, but acquired the name "Harleston Village" around 1970 when the area became a National Register.



An original survey of Harleston by Rigby Naylor, 1770. The black line shows the future location of Mazyck Street and the arrow points to the approximate location of 12 Magazine Street. South Carolina Department of Archives.

Harleston boasts nearly every architectural style popular in the past 250 years, from the Georgian character of the Philip Porcher house (built in 1773), to Federal style brick Charleston single houses, to Greek Revival side hall houses, to a beautiful array of Victorian houses of various sizes and materials.

Allegedly, the first game of golf played in America took place on Harleston Green, on a pasture near Pitt and Bull Streets, in the 1740s. Harleston Village boasts one of the most popular parks in the city, Colonial Lake, which was first set aside as a public common in 1768 but then became an industrial area of mill ponds and lumber yards along the marshes. The largest pond was transformed into Colonial Lake in 1881, replete with strolling paths and plantings on each side.



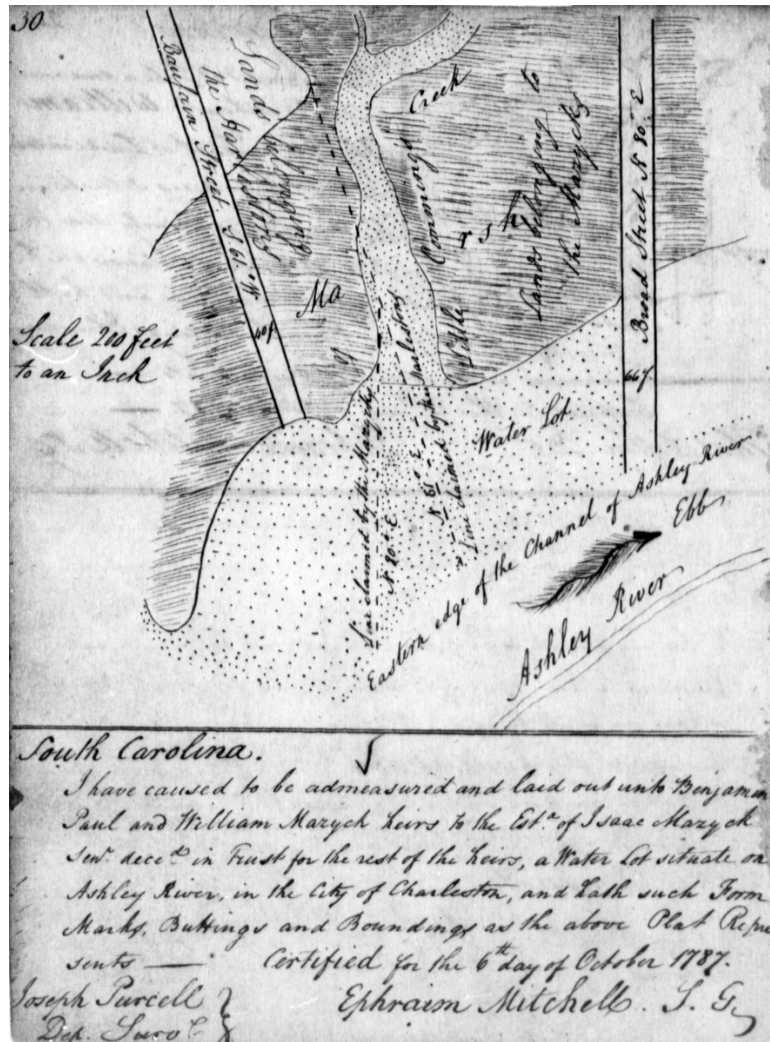
A view of Victorian era Colonial Lake.

Neighborhood landmarks include the College of Charleston campus, a National Register district with its historic walled courtyard, Randolph Hall (originally classrooms and faculty offices), Towell Library, and a porter's lodge. College of Charleston is the oldest municipal college in the nation (conceptualized in 1770) and is today a state institution attracting students from across U.S.



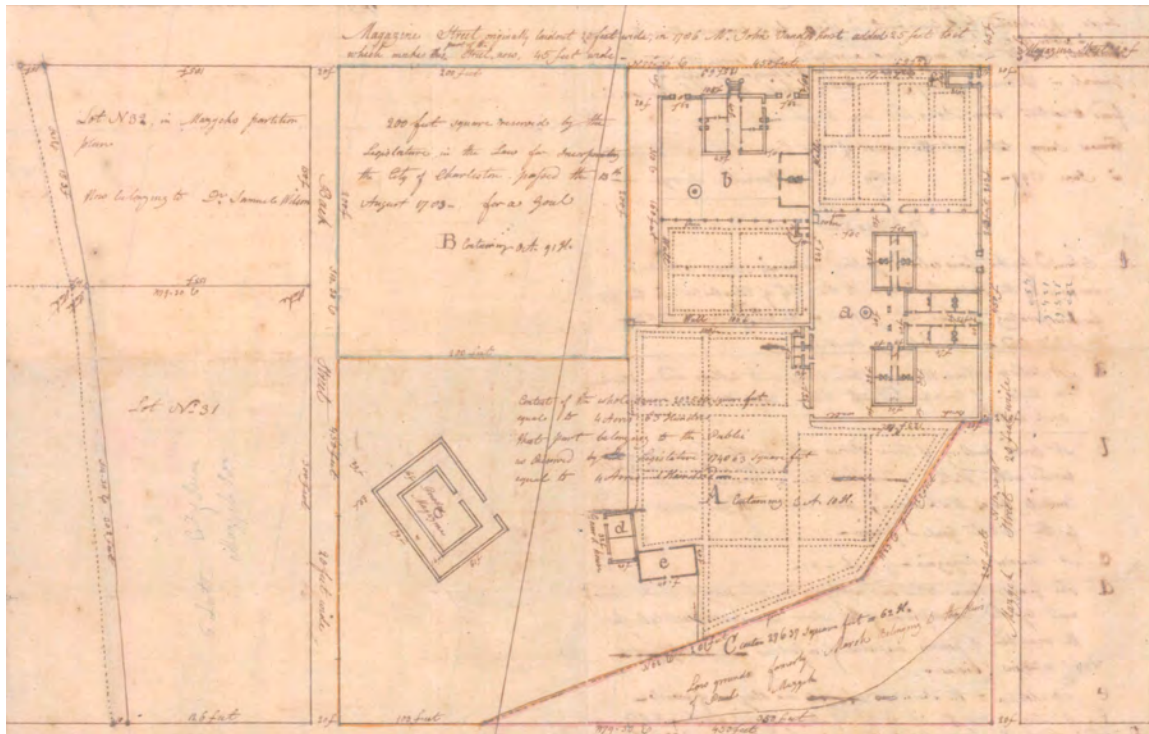
Randolph Hall at the College of Charleston.

Harleston grew over time to include Wragg's pasture (bounded by Calhoun, King, and St. Philips streets) and the Mazyck lands (in the vicinity of Logan Street, in which 12 Magazine Street is located). The Ashley River marshes originally fed inland as far as Franklin and Smith Streets, but today they are several blocks further to the west.

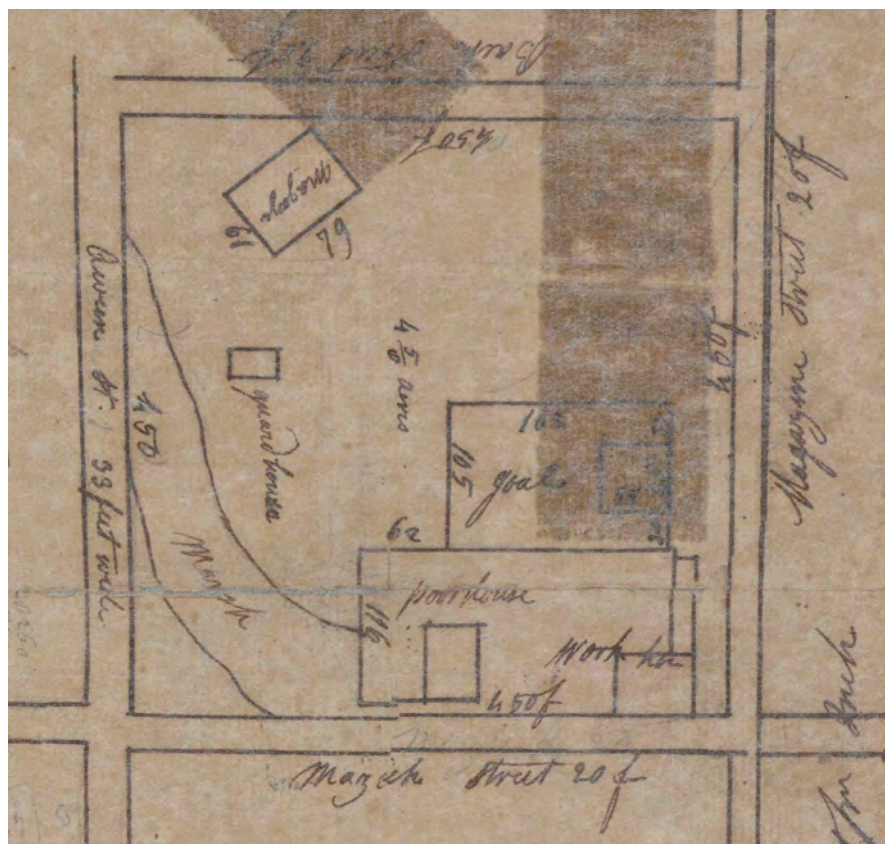


A 1787 plat of the Mazyck family's property. South Carolina Department of Archives.

Nic Butler notes, “the land immediately south of Beaufain Street, stretching between Logan Street on the east and Smith Street to the west, continuing southward to Broad Street, was part of a thirty-four-acre grant to James Moore in 1698. This land later became vested in the Mazyck family, who subdivided it in the mid-eighteenth century. That compact neighborhood, once bounded by the Ashley River at high tide, was used extensively as a burial ground by the British Army in the early 1780s, and afterwards by the City of Charleston. As a result of that long practice, the Mazyck lands later became the home to a less affluent class of residents.”



McCrady plat 173, showing the powder magazine and residences of the Mazycks, with gardens, on the future site of the jail and work house.



McCrady plat 155, showing the "public square" and jail.

Archdale, Clifford, and Queen Streets just to the east and south of 12 Magazine Street were historically known as Dutch Town, because it was home to German and immigrants in the colonial era. Historian Nic Butler notes, “‘Dutch Town’ was a short-lived phenomenon that may have been Charleston’s first ethnic neighborhood. It emerged in the late 1750s and its growth was fueled by the arrival of large numbers of German immigrants in the years leading up to the American Revolution. Unlike many other ethnic neighborhoods, the clustering of these German immigrants into an urban enclave was not motivated by issues of prejudice or segregation. Rather, the birth of Dutch Town in mid-eighteenth-century Charleston was an interesting response to a specific set of circumstances and real estate opportunities that existed at that moment. As those circumstances changed, however, and its German denizens moved on to greener pastures, Dutch Town’s identity faded into obscurity more than two centuries ago.”



The focal point of former Dutch Town, which is visible from 12 Magazine Street looking east, is St. John’s German Lutheran Church. The venerable masonry church on the site today was constructed in 1818 and was designed by Frederick Wesner, to replace an early gambrel roofed wooden church. The Horlbeck Brothers built the brick and stucco building, with its high Baroque inspired tower and large Tuscan order portico facing Magazine Street. Jacob S. Ro executed the exquisite wrought iron gates in 1822, which were designed by Wesner’s brother-in-law Abraham Reeves, with intricate scrollwork patterns.

The Old District Jail on Magazine Street, which lies on the port of John Moore’s 34-acre tract he received in 1698 where the pauper’s cemetery and powder magazine once were, is (allegedly) the most haunted building in the city. It constructed in 1802 in a foreboding Romanesque style and institutional Gothic style additions from the early and mid-nineteenth century. The large brick building is now used for ghost tours and awaits full

renovation and adaptive use. This city-owned block also featured a formidable workhouse, a marine hospital (still standing), and hospital were built next to one another. 12 Magazine Street stands just east of the jail complex, off of Logan Street.



Magazine, Queen, Mazyck/Logan, Archdale, and West Streets were integrated in the antebellum era, and home to the city's tradesmen and working class. In 1861, Magazine Street listed 137 white persons, 116 slaves, and 37 free people of color. In the early twentieth century, the area became predominantly African American, and this trend is reflected in the occupancy of 12 Magazine Street, discussed below.



Magazine Street, 1880s. Photographed by John Cook. The wood fence to the left is the rear gate to 12 Magazine Street. Charleston Museum.

Hand-drawn map of a cemetery section. The map shows various burial plots, some color-coded (pink for 'UNDERTAKER (COLORED)' and yellow for 'COLORED CHAPEL'). Dimensions and other markings are present, such as 'BR WALL 3\'', '6" W.P.D.', and 'MAG.'.

Left Strip (Vertical):

- Plots labeled D¹, D, D, D, D, D.
- Dimensions: 103 (vertical), 48 (horizontal).
- Markings: 1/2, 1/2, 1/2, 1/2, 1/2, 1/2.

Main Area (Right):

- Plots labeled 106, 108, 110, 116, 122.
- Plots 106, 108, 116, 122 are yellow.
- Plots 110, 116 are pink.
- Plot 122 is pink and labeled 'UNDERTAKER (COLORED)'.
- Plot 110 is pink and labeled 'COLORED CHAPEL'.
- Plot 106 is yellow and labeled 'COLORED CHAPEL'.
- Plot 108 is yellow and labeled 'COLORED CHAPEL'.
- Plot 116 is pink and labeled 'COLORED CHAPEL'.
- Plot 122 is pink and labeled 'COLORED CHAPEL'.
- Plot 110 is pink and labeled 'COLORED CHAPEL'.
- Plot 106 is yellow and labeled 'COLORED CHAPEL'.
- Plot 108 is yellow and labeled 'COLORED CHAPEL'.
- Plot 116 is pink and labeled 'COLORED CHAPEL'.
- Plot 122 is pink and labeled 'COLORED CHAPEL'.

Other Markings:

- 'BR WALL 3\'' (Brown Wall 3 feet).
- '6" W.P.D.' (6 inch W.P.D.).
- 'MAG.' (MAG).
- '12' (12).
- '20' (20).
- '8' (8).
- '6' (6).

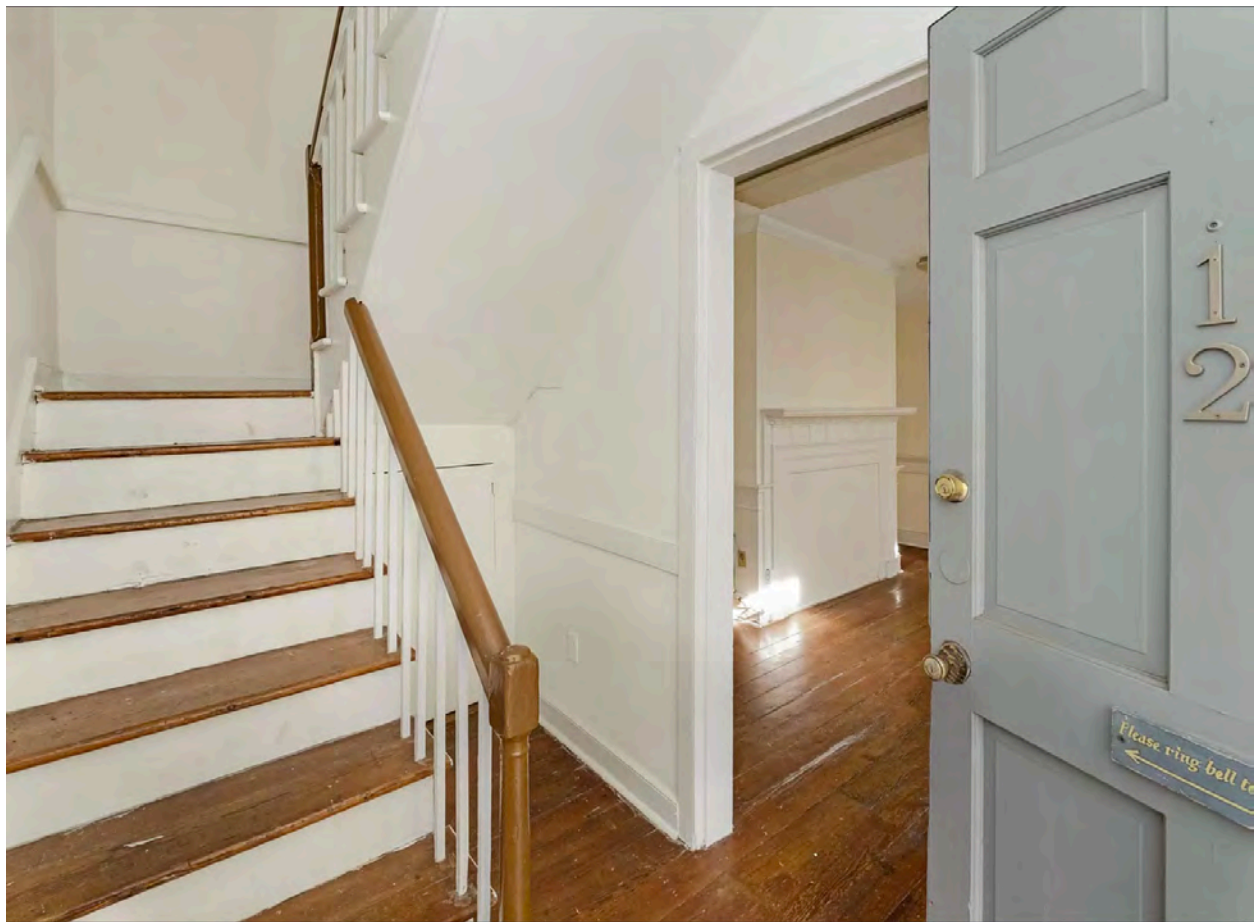
1944 *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map* showing 106 Logan (12 Magazine) and the new housing across the street.

Architectural Description:

12 Magazine Street is an early example of a Charleston single house, a vernacular residential form unique to the city that is typified by its narrow appearance. They were the most prevalent house type in Charleston from the eighteenth into the early twentieth century because they fit well on narrow town lots, and due to the fact that they ventilate well. They are one room wide facing the street and have a central hall plan, and many have piazzas or porches running the length of the house. The front door into the house itself is found halfway down the long elevation of the house and opens into a central stair hall. The floor plan is usually replicated on each story. Single houses might be a diminutive two-story wood frame building, or three stories over a formal raised basement, or any size in between. They can be ornamented in any architectural style, such as Greek Revival, Italianate, Victorian, or folk variations.

12 Magazine Street is a Federal style house, with symmetrical proportions, nine over nine pane traditional wood windows, and beaded beveled wood siding, which were all popular at the turn of the nineteenth century.

The interior features original wide plank heart pine floors and original slender newel posts and balustrades for the stairs, which are also typical of Federal era architectural preferences. The mantelpieces are also of a simple but elegant Federal style.





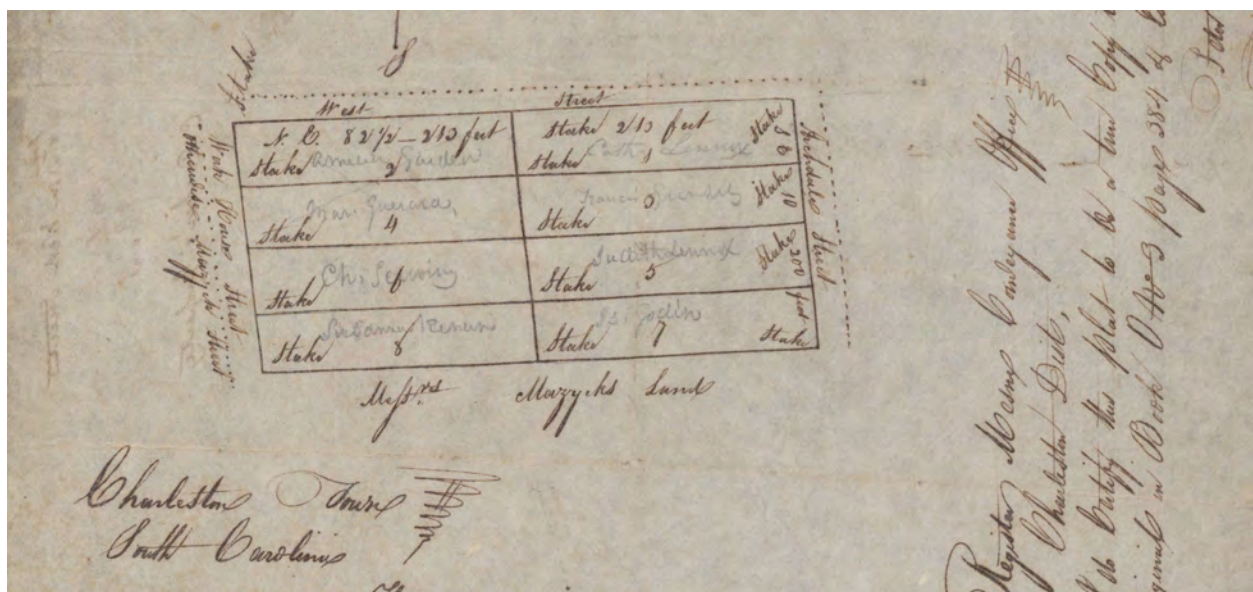
One of the first floor parlors at 12 Magazine Street, featuring original heart pine floors, historic chair rail trim, and an elegant Federal style mantelpiece.

History, Owners, and Occupants of 12 Magazine:

12 Magazine Street's numbering system remained fairly consistent, but because it is a corner lot fronting on Logan Street, it is sometimes listed as 2 Mazyck, 38 Logan, or 106 Logan, in addition to its true Magazine Street address. The Mazyck family owned the large area bounded by Archdale, Queen, Beaufain Streets, and the Ashley River where 12 Magazine Street is located by the early eighteenth century. Isaac Mazyck, a French Huguenot of Flemish origin, left the property to his sons upon his death in 1742, and they subdivided into lots and had Mazyck Street created. Mazyck Street, names for the family, was later renamed Logan Street.



McCrady plat 90, surveyed in 1742, showing the Mazyck family subdivision. The arrow points to lot 24, at the corner of Magazine Street. Note the Magazine and Burying Ground across the street.



McCrady plat 231, 1760s, showing "messrs Mazycks lands" between Archdale and Mazyck Streets.

Benjamin Mazyck owned the property in the late 18th century and has been credited by some as the builder of the house, but a dwelling is not mentioned on the lot a recorded deed in 1804. After Benjamin died in 1801, his executors Capt. Daniel Mazyck and Stephen Mazyck Jr. transferred to planter and Secretary of State Daniel James Ravenel, esquire, in 1804, who sold it back to Stephen Mazyck that same year. Stephen sold the property to John Smith in September 1804. At that time the lot was 35 feet on Mazyck Street by 105 feet in depth on Magazine Street.



Phoenix Fire Insurance Map, 1788. The small rectangle shows the location of 12 Magazine Street. Note the “Gaol” [jail] and Poor House across the street.

John Smith, a successful upholsterer, bought the site in 1804 and was responsible building 12 Magazine Street, and for subdividing the lot at the northeast corner of Magazine and Mazyck (later Logan) Street into two parcels that were roughly 17 feet each. He also partitioned part of the rear of the lot off as well. Smith built and lived in the house at 12 Magazine Street and is listed consistently at the address from the early nineteenth century to the 1830s. Smith was also a clerk or sexton for St. Philips Episcopal Church. He married widow Elizabeth Norris in 1799, and following her death, remarried to widow Elizabeth Reynolds in February of 1802. They had several children: William Smith (1806), Mary Smith (1804), and Caroline Smith (1803), and Elizabeth Smith.

Smith split the Magazine/Mazyck Street lot and sold the northern part to carpenter John Stent in 1804, which included both a roughly 17 foot wide parcel and a strip of land measuring 2 feet wide. In the deed, Stent agreed that “he shall not stop of the staircase window of the Smith house on this

[neighboring] property”, indicating that John had finished and was definitely living in his 12 Magazine Street house by this time. The Logan Street lot adjoining 12 Magazine passed from Stent to Joseph Gallenchat (1820) to Robert Coleman (1822) to his wife Elizabeth Coleman, John’s daughter (1822). William Booth, a captain, lived at the house in 1841.

BY LANCE & BERNEY.
THIS DAY, the 4th March, will be sold, at the North
of the Exchange, at 11 o'clock,
'The very neat **HOUSE** and **LOT**, in **Magazine-st.**
between Mazyck and Archdale-sts. adjoining the resi-
dence of Mr. **John Smith.**
Conditions cash; purchaser to pay for papers.
March 4

A sale ad for the property just behind 12 Magazine, *Charleston Courier*, 4 March 1834.



1852 Bridges and Allen Map of Charleston.

John Smith died in 1859, at the age of 84. His headstone at St. Philips Church offers fascinating clues to his early life:

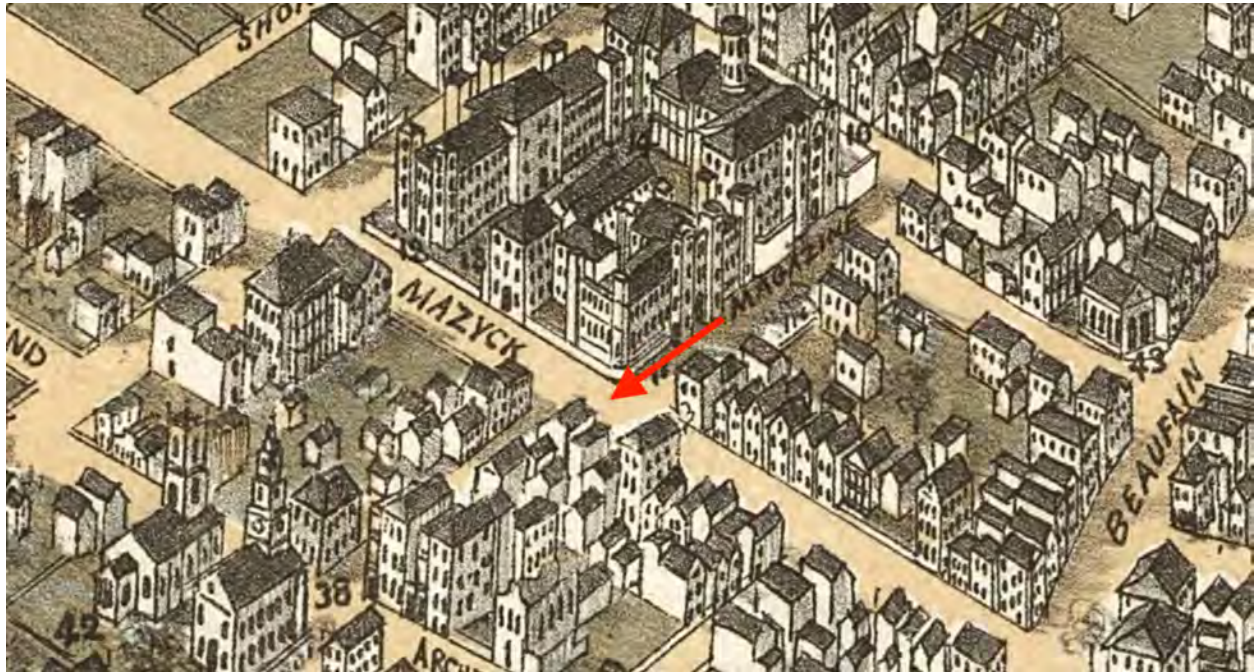
“Bereaved of his parents in the year 1781 by an explosion of gun powder through the carelessness of the guard soon, after the Occupation of Charleston by the British, he was fostered and reared by this parish. During his long life he was connected with St. Philips Church, first as one of the Choir of boys under the then rector Revd. Robert Smith afterwards first Bishop of the Diocese and subsequently as clerk and sexton for sixty years.”



This means that Smith lived for most of his life at his Magazine Street house, facing the site of the powder magazine, where his family was killed in his infancy, and in the shadow of the jail building. Smith sold the house and the neighboring property to his daughter, Elizabeth Coleman. She was eventually widowed and remarried to James Mays. The couple do not seem to have lived in the house, as they do not appear in the *City Directories* at the address. In the 1861 *Charleston Census*, Elizabeth is listed as the owner and the occupants are noted simply as “Slaves.” These enslaved people were likely “working and living out”, meaning they were living independently of their owner in rented lodging while working on a contract basis for someone else. James Mays sold 12 Magazine Street to John Kenny in 1864. John was a store keeper who was born in Ireland, as was his wife Mary Kenny. The family lived at nearby Queen Street and rented 12 Magazine. Mary Kenny next conveyed it to the Bowen and Epps family in 1890.

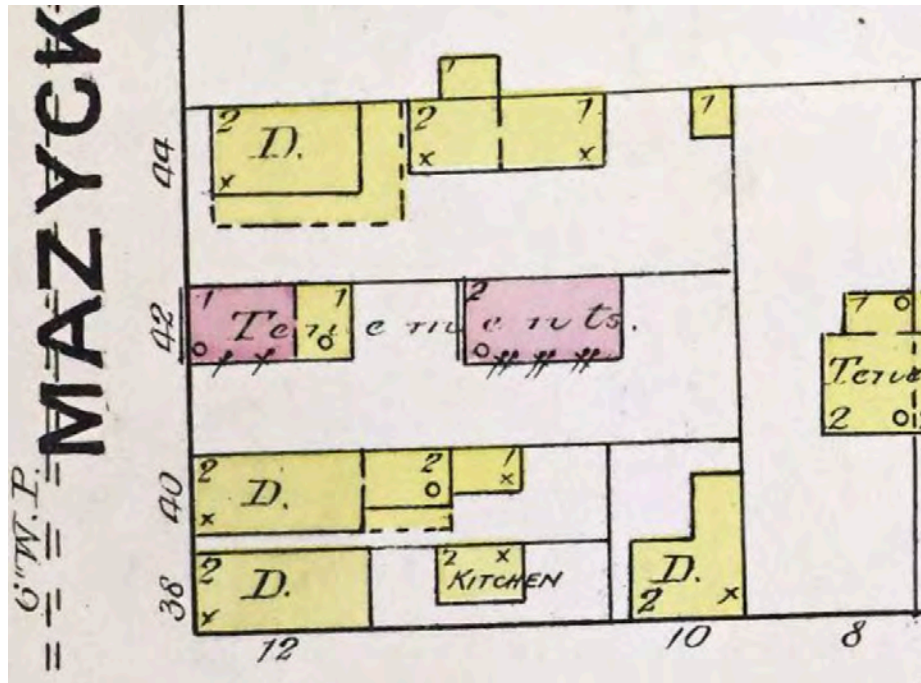
NORTH SIDE.			
2	1	Thomas W. Malone.	Stephen H. Hare, f. p. c.
4			Mrs. Walkenthaw.
6	1		Emma Crimmell, f. p. c.
8	1	Mrs. Mary R. McMaken.	Marg. Ann Crimmell, f.p.c.
10	1	Elizabeth Coleman.	Slaves.
12	1	John H. Bulwinkel.	Slaves.
14	1	S. Watson and wife.	Unoccupied.
16	1	James H. White.	Mrs. Rebecca Stevens.

City of Charleston Census, 1861, showing Elizabeth Coleman as owner of the Magazine Street house (misnumbered here.)



Bird's Eye View of Charleston, 1872.

There were a series of short-term renters in the house at the turn of the century, including with Adeline Carsten, a black coachman named Hampton Washington, and a black porter named James Walker (1880s); and domestic Mary Singleton (1920s). The newspapers include mentions of the house as well: a “colored girl” named Virginia Lance who had been brought to Charleston from Georgetown to live with her aunt at 12 Magazine Street was missing, strayed from home in 1899. The house was listed for sale as a “6 room dwelling with cistern” in 1905. The Magazine/Logan Street section of Harleston, and with it 12 Magazine, experienced a downturn and spate of crime in the early twentieth century. For example, Norman Jones “threatened to carve up colored cook CH Jervey of 38 Logan Street” in 1909; Mary Heyward of 38 Logan was arrested for stabbing Elnora Lawson in 1939; William Mack of 38 Logan was beaten unconscious near Logan and Beaufain in 1943; the *News and Courier* reported that he was resting comfortably at the hospital after the incident. 38 Logan was 12 Magazine in the early numbering system of the street.



Sanborn Fire insurance Map, 1888, showing 12 Magazine (38 Logan) with its detached kitchen house.

The Bowen and Epps families owned and lived at 12 Magazine from at least 1890 into the 1940s. Rosa and Josephine Bowen bought the house and lot at 2 Mazyck in 1890; based on renumbering clarifications in a 1976s deed, this is in fact 12 Magazine Street. George Bowen died at 12 Magazine in 1890. Rachel and Martha Brown, nurse and laundress respectively, lived there in the early 1900s; Rachel died at 12 Magazine in 1906). Rachel Pawley Bowen and Scipio Bowen had a daughter, Rosa Epps, who lived at the house for most of her life, apparently leasing a room or rear building to the other occupants. In 1900, Rosa lived in the house with her husband, plumber William Epps, and their young daughter Willemena. Rosa worked as a laundress. A JAW Epps was associated with 12 Magazine by 1906. Rosa Epps is listed in the *City Directories* from 1914 until at least 1934. Rosa and daughter Ada were the only occupants of 12 Magazine in 1930; Ada was listed as a public-school teacher and Rosa was retired.

Rosa Epps died in August 1939 at age 60 and was buried at Old Bethel Churchyard. Her daughter Ada married Paul Fabrel in 1936, and after her death, the property passed to him; there was no conveyance between husband and wife, but he was listed as having a life estate for the property, which conveyed to the Fielding Family.

92A

Standard Certificate of Death
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
Bureau of Vital Statistics
State Board of Health

File No.—For State Registrar Only
10938

1. PLACE OF DEATH
County of Char. S.C.
Township of _____
or _____
City of _____
Registration District No. 9a
Home Address 12 Magazine St. Magazine
Residence In City 12 Magazine St. Magazine No. _____ Days _____

2. FULL NAME Rosa Epps
Registered No. 390818
(For use of Local Registrar)
(If death occurred in a Hospital or Institution give its NAME and number.)

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3. SEX Female 4. COLOR OR RACE Negro 5. Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (write the word) Widowed
5a. If married, widowed, or divorced, HUSBAND of (or) WIFE of William Epps

6. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, day, and year) Feb. 1, 1879

7. AGE Years 60 Months 6 Days 16 If less than 1 day, _____ hrs. _____ min.

OCCUPATION 8. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, sawyer, bookkeeper, etc. Domestic
9. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, saw mill, bank, etc. at home
10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year) Aug. 1939 11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation 44 yrs

12. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or Country) Charleston S.C.

MOTHER FATHER 13. NAME Scipio Bowen
14. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or Country) Georgetown S.C.
15. MAIDEN NAME Rachel Pawley
16. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or Country) Georgetown S.C.

17. INFORMANT (Address) Adas Reid St. C. S.C.
18. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL Place Old Bethel Date Aug. 20, 1939
19. UNDERTAKER (Address) Fielding Home
20. FILED 8/18 1939 LEON RANOV, M.D. REGISTRAR

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

21. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) August 17, 1939
22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from August 9, 1939, to August 17, 1939.
I last saw him alive on August 17, 1939. death is said to have occurred on the date stated above, at 5:00 P. m.
The principal cause of death and related causes of importance in order of onset were as follows:
Corbie Insufficiency Date of onset ?
90
Was this death due to pregnancy or to childbirth? If so, state which No 92-a
Contributory causes of importance not related to principal cause:
Congestive heart failure
+ Ex. hypertension
Name of operation None Date of X
What test confirmed diagnosis Autopsy Was there an autopsy? No
23. If death was due to external causes (violence) fill in also the following:
Accident, suicide, or homicide? _____ Date of injury _____, 19____
Where did injury occur? _____ (Specify city or town, and state)
Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place.
Manner of injury _____
Nature of injury _____
24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased? No
If so, specify Yes
(Signed) Wm. M. Thorne M.D.
(Address) 854 Morris St. Charleston, S.C.

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

N. B.—WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

William Kinard Mattison lived in the house in the 1950s. The native of Honea Path, SC moved to Charleston and married Mildred Mattison. He worked as an embalmer for Fielding funeral Home for 27 years, and died suddenly while attending a ball game in July 1959. John and Ida Brooks moved into the house in the 1960s, and lived there with their son, John Jr.

Logan Street was rezoned in 1975, much to the dismay of the preservation groups in the city, to convert the blocks between Magazine and West Street into commercial or business. However, once it was determined that the historic dwellings on the block, including 12 Magazine, would be saved, the neighborhood association dropped most of their concerns. The rezoning made it possible for the small historic house to begin a new chapter in its life as an adaptively used small business building, while retaining its residential character inside and out.

Prominent black attorney Bernard Fielding purchased 12 Magazine Street from Fielding Home for Funerals (located next door on Logan Street) and renovated the house as his law office in 1976.

Herbert A. DeCosta, a well-known African American contractor who was the go-to carpenter for the Preservation Society and Historic Charleston Foundation in the mid twentieth century, was hired to complete the restoration work.



12 Magazine St.

A Federal period house, built c. 1800 and retaining most of its original features, 12 Magazine is listed in the Historic Architecture Inventory in

Category 4: Contributory. The building is the law office of Bernard R. Fielding. (Staff Photos by Bill Jordan)

A 1979 photograph from the *News and Courier*, showing newly renovated 12 Magazine.

BERNARD R. FIELDING

Attorney and Counsellor at Law
Announces the association of

FORREST W. COMPTON

Attorney and Counsellor at Law
In the private practice of law
with emphasis on personal injury, wrongful death,
probate and real estate matters.

12 Magazine Street (corner Logan)
Charleston, South Carolina 29401
Telephone 577-4760

22C174890

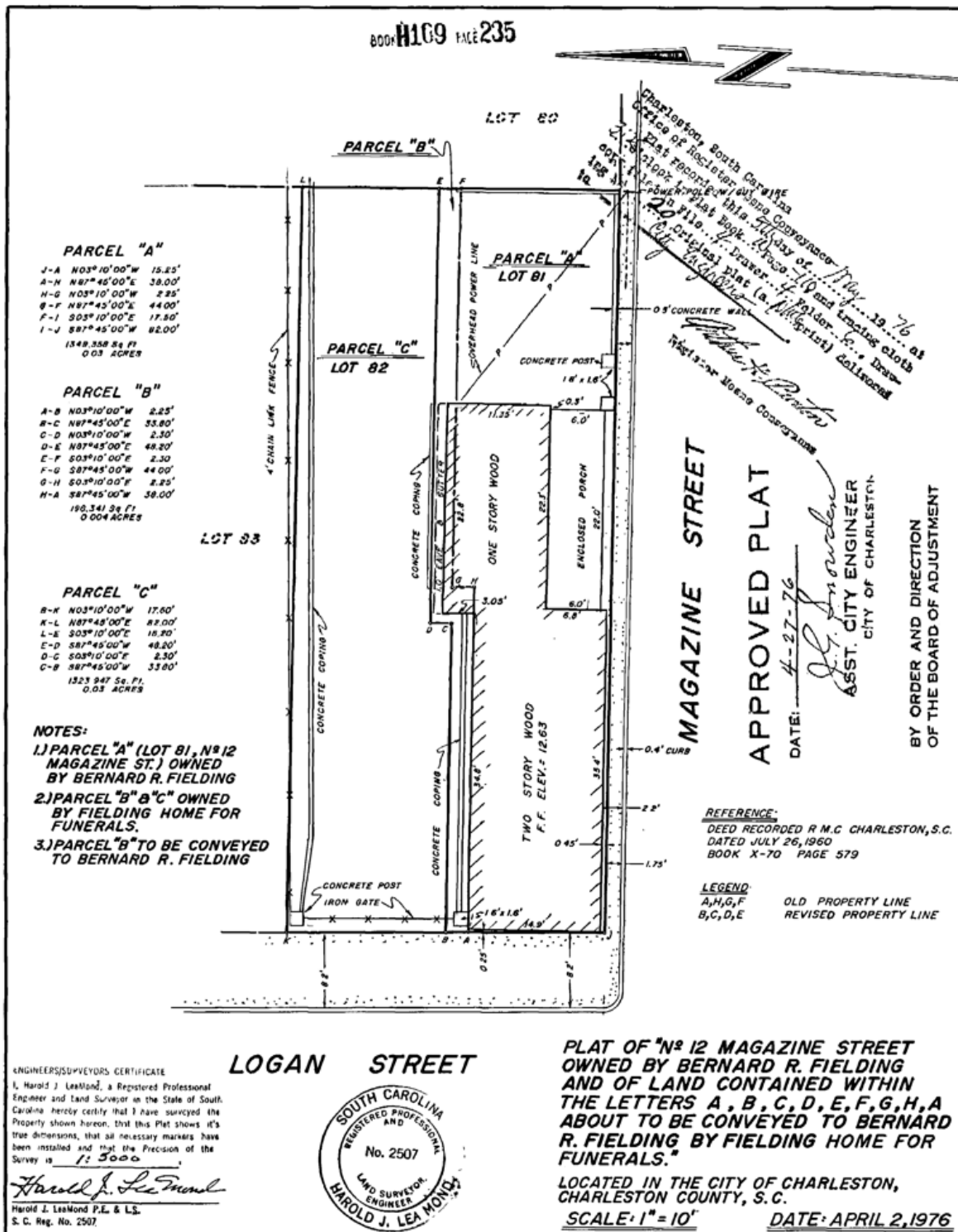
A law firm ad from the *Charleston News and Courier*.

Bernard Rodolph Fielding Jr. (1932-2020) was born in Charleston. His father operated Fielding Home for Funerals, which is one of the city's oldest black owned businesses and which is located at 122 Logan Street. Bernard studied at Avery Normal School in Charleston, then attended Hampton University and pursued a law degree at Boston University. He moved back to Charleston to practice law and help with the family business, and he provided legal aid for young civil Rights protesters. Fielding was outspoken in his advocacy in his fight against segregation. He was eulogized in the *Post and Courier* as "Fielding was a monumental figure in the civil rights movement in South Carolina and a trailblazer in the state's legal field. He was appointed associate probate judge in Charleston County in 1976, becoming the first African American to hold that position in the state. In 1990, Fielding became the first African American elected Charleston County probate judge. In addition to being a well-accomplished legal professional, Fielding's family remembers him as a kind, generous man who gave 100 percent to every task at hand. "He was always willing to help somebody," said Fielding's widow, Conchita L. Fielding. He will be remembered for his commitment to economic empowerment and social justice, providing a model for other legal professionals to follow."



Mr. Fielding standing on Logan Street, with Fielding Home for Funerals in the background.

The renovation work undertaken by Mr. DaCosta for Fielding at 12 Magazine Street garnered a prestigious Carolopolis Award from the Preservation Society, given for superior preservation projects in the city. Bernard Fielding also owned the neighboring lot, 108 Logan, which he purchased in 1960 from Thomas Jones. Bernard transferred 12 Magazine Street to his wife, Conchita Lawson Fielding in the 1990. Following the death of Bernard, she recently listed it for sale, in 2020.



Plat book W-110, showing the parcels at Magazine and Logan Streets.

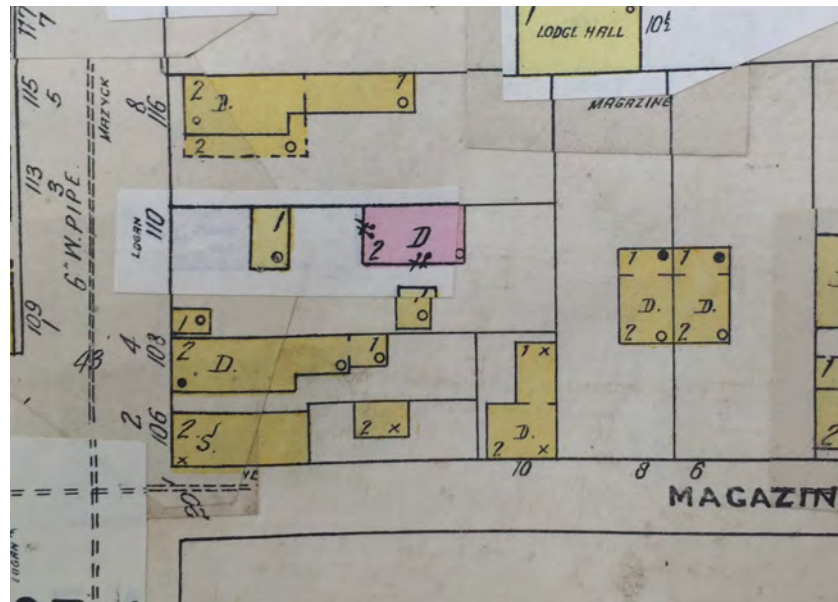
Alterations:

Like any house that has survived for over 200 years, 12 Magazine has been altered and has rear additions. The rear of the lot is now a parking area. The original footprint of the house stopped with the gable roofline visible from the back parking lot; attached to the former back wall is a two story, shed roof addition. This addition was built by a Mr. H.L. Lyall in June 1852, who received permission from City Council “to improve his building at 2 Mazyck [12 Magazine] by adding a story, not going above the ridge, with a flat roof, and covering the same with tin.”

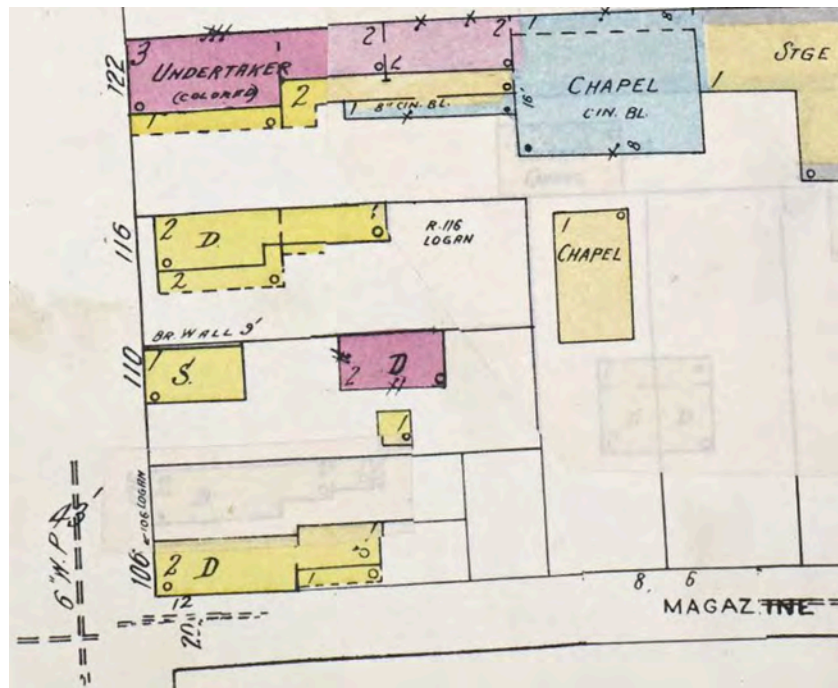
In August 1886, a major earthquake shook the city, in an event that later experts estimated to be around a 7 magnitude on the Richter scale. City engineers conducted an assessment of every building in the city to evaluate the damage. 38 Mazyck (12 Magazine) was then owned by John Kenny. The frame building had a shingle roof and measured 15 feet wide by 22 feet high by 40 feet long. Each side was described as “old frame” (or historic wooden house, in this case timber framed). The chimney had already been repaired and the condition of the whole building was listed as “ok”, indicating no repairs were needed.

City Nos.	Name of Street.	Owner and Occupancy.	MATERIAL.		DIMENSIONS.			CONDITION OF WALLS.				Condition of Chimney or Flue.	Damage by Earthquake.
			Building.	Roof.	Ft. Long.	Ft. Wide.	Ft. High.	North.	South.	East.	West.		
16	East Side Mazyck	P. O'Sullivan, Dwelling	Frame	Tin	36	18	25	Frame good	Frame good	Frame good	Frame good		
34-36	" "	H. H. Harvey, Junk Store and Tenement	Frame	Shingle	30	30	25	Old	Old	Old	Old	Good	
38	" "	John Kenny, Dwelling	Frame	Shingle	40	15	22	Old frame	Old frame	Old frame	Old frame	Repaired—now good	
42	" "	McGuffey, Tenement	Brick	Tile	24	15	18	Battly cracked	Battly cracked	Battly cracked	Battly cracked	Rebuilt chimney	175
40	" "	H. H. Harvey.	Frame	Shingle	35	18	22	Very old frame	Very old frame	Very old frame	Very old frame	Tops down	50
44	" "	H. M. Walker.	Frame	Shingle	25	15	25	Frame good	Frame good	Frame good	Frame good	Rebuilt—now good	
46	" "	McCarthy, Dwelling	Brick	Tile	65	20	45	Good	Good	Battly cracked	Battly cracked	Tops down	800
48	" "	Wm. White.	Brick	Tile	25	16	22	Good	Good	Good	Good	Tops off	20
50	" "	O. Robinson.	Frame	Shingle	24	14	22	Old	Old	Old	Old	Rebuilt	

City Engineer Earthquake Assessment.



1929 Sanborn Map. The “S” indicates part of the house was briefly a shop or store.



1951 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing the house and its small rear addition.

Stepping down from that is another one story shed roofed addition that faces Magazine Street and featured louvered shutter panels where the walls were once open as part of a porch or piazza. Attached to this bay is a small one story addition with a low pitched gable roof and a back door that accesses the parking area. These additions were added over time to accommodate more tenants, and modern conveniences like bathrooms and indoor kitchens.



A small fire occurred in 1951, when a defective flue caught fire and burned a well inside 12 Magazine. The damage was described as nominal.

Conclusion:

Now nearly 220 years old, 12 Magazine has had a rich history of important owners and occupants. Its use and resident patterns changed with surrounding Harleston Village, from a single family residence for a hard working tradesman, to a rental house, to the residence of a working class African American family, to the renovated law office of Bernard Fielding, a prominent black lawyer and civil rights advocate. Fielding's wife Conchita recently sold the home, which now begins its next phase with a new owner, Jerri Bell, who will doubtless enjoy its Federal era original woodwork and its deep history.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Selected *City Directory* Listings:

1813	Smith, John	2 Mazyck Street
1816- 1829	Smith, John, upholsterer	12 Magazine cnr Logan
1835	Smith John, clerk St Philip	12 Magazine cnr Logan
1841	William Booth, captain	12 Magazine cnr Logan
1882-1884	Adeline Carsten, widow. Boarder	
1886	Isaac Chester, <i>colored</i> . Works for Michael Croghan	38 Mazyck
1887	Hampton Washington, coachman. <i>Colored</i>	12 Magazine
1888	WC Calker, painter, <i>colored</i>	
1890	William Campbell, blacksmith	
1889-92	James Walker, porter Bird and Co. <i>colored</i>	
1894	Rachel Bowen, <i>colored</i> . Laundress,	38 Mazyck.
1896	William Epps, <i>colored</i> . Tinner,	38 Mazyck.
1905	Rachel Brown, monthly nurse	
1910	Martha Brown, laundress	
1914-1934	Rosa Epps	
1922-1924	Clarence and Eloise Epps. Laborer	
1924	Marie Brown	
1928	Ada Epps, teacher Simonton Public	
1927	Mary Singleton, domestic 12 Magazine	

Appendix 2: Select Ward Book Tax Assessments

1852-1856 (updated through 1870)

- 8 Magazine. 2 story wood. 17.5' by 82'. John Smith and Children. "now Elizabeth Coleman, now Elizabeth Mays, now John Kenny."

1894-1902

- 12 Magazine. 2 story wood. Josephine Bowen and Rosa Epps

6' W 2 Small	2.50	25.30	800	800	800	1000	1000	1000
8 W 2		17.52	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200
Mazyck Street								
10 W 2		12.79	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200

Appendix 3: Chain of Title

K333-357

Fielding Estate to Conchita Lawson Fielding

“All those two lots, A and B in ward 4 at northeast corner of Logan and Magazine Streets, plat W110. Being the same conveyed to Bernard Fielding by Fielding Home for Funerals, C109-14.”

C109-14

Fielding Home for Funerals to Bernard Fielding

April 1976

Lot with buildings thereon measuring 17’2” by 33’ by 2.3’ by 48.2’ by 18.3’ by 82’

W33-255

Rosa Epps et al. to Ada Epps

February 1932

- Rosa was executrix for her mother, Josephine Bowen (probated in 1921 and recorded here)
- Described as northeast corner of Mazyck and Magazine Street, fronting 82 feet on Magazine and 17.5 feet on Mazyck Street
-

E21-216

Mary Kenny to Josephine Bowen and Rosa Epps

May 1890

- Mentions right of way established in P7-122.

T14 (book 3)- 107

James Mays estate to John Kenny

February 1864

- Lot dimensions are 105 feet on Magazine Street by 17.6 feet on Mazyck Street
- Property transferred from John Smith to Elizabeth Coleman, who married James Mays.
- ** this lot of land was devised by John Smith to his daughter Elizabeth Coleman

N7-301

Capt. Daniel Mazyck, Stephen Mazyck Jr., executors of Benjamin Mazyck deceased to Daniel Ravenel

July 1804

Magazine Street

Same description as N7-277

**Smith splits this into two lots that measure roughly 17 feet in width on Mazyck Street.

N7-277

Daniel Ravenel Esqr to Stephen Mazyck

July 1804

Release in fee

Lot of land on the corner of Magazine and Mazyck Streets, containing 105 feet more or less on the said street, south on Magazine, north on Frederick Wolf, east on William Turpin, and west on Mazyck Street

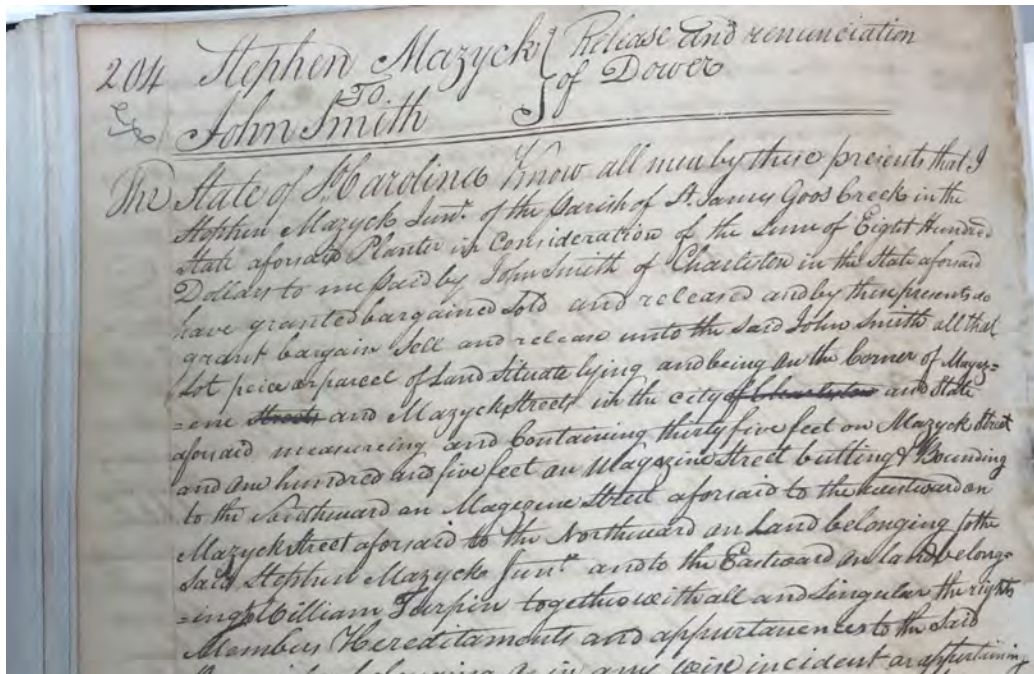
N7-204

Stephen Mazyck to John Smith, release and renunciation of dower

September 1804

Corner lot containing 35 feet on Mazyck by 105 feet on Magazine Street

*no building mentioned



B3-468

Isaac, Paul, Benjamin, and Stephen Mazyck, deed of partition for Mazyck Lands

1712

Thirty five acre plantation in Charleston

Partial chain for neighboring lot, originally part of the 12 Magazine Street parcel

A94-82

Bernard Fielding to Fielding Home for Funerals

1970

- 108 Logan south on a strip of land herein conveyed, north on land of Stephen Mazyck, east on land of Smith now Fielding Home for Funerals, west on Logan

X70-579

Thomas Jones to Bernard Fielding

July 1960

108 Logan

S49-245

October 1948

Thomas Furman to Thomas Jones

17'2" by 82', east side of Logan Street formerly Mazyck Street. And 2' by 38' parcel

T28-173

April 1918

Mattie Ortmann to Furman

X27-200

Sarah Jane Harvey estate to Mattie Ortmann

June 1917

W20-28

Edward Harvey to Sarah Jane Harvey

July 1888

K18-21

Percy Witherington estate/ Mary Addison to Edward H. Harvey

May 1880

Same description as A94.

Derivation that Coleman sold the property in 1852.

N12-588

January 1852

Elizabeth Coleman and John Smith to Percy Witherington

- That Robert Coleman conveyed the land to John Smith

Robert Coleman conveyed to John Smith all that lot piece parcel with dwelling house thereon fronting 17 feet on Mazyck Street, corner of Magazine and Mazyck Street.

Robert died and left property to Elizabeth Coleman

- Bounding on 2 foot strip of land fronting on Mazyck and Magazine Street
- Elizabeth is the wife of Robert Coleman

M9-238

Robert Coleman to Elizabeth Coleman per trustee

December 1822

Robert Coleman to John Smith

- Same description as above.
- Lot was originally 90 feet but now reduced to 82 feet adjoining that corner lot on Magazine and Mazyck now owned by John Smith.

H9-465

Joseph Gallenchat to Robert Coleman

July 1822

*neighboring

- Lot was originally 90 feet but now reduced to 82 feet adjoining that corner lot on Magazine and Mazyck now owned by John Smith.
- Dwelling house; This includes 17' and the 2' strip but bounds to the south on corner lot of John Smith

H9-5

John Stent to Joseph Gallenchat

December 1820

*neighboring?

- Lot was originally 90 feet but now reduced to 82 feet adjoining that corner lot on Magazine and Mazyck now owned by John Smith.
- Dwelling house; This includes 17' and the 2' strip but bounds to the south on corner lot of John Smith?

P7-122

John Smith, upholsterer to John Stent

September 1804

Release and renunciation of dower

Lot 17 feet and a half on Mazyck by 90 feet adjoining corner lot at Magazine and Mazyck owned by John Smith

Appendix 4: Select Newspaper references:

CEP 25 June 1975, Marvin Bradley, late son of Henrietta Ward. Late residence 12 Magazine Street.

CEP 20 December 1974, Ida Ward Brooks, mother of John Brooks Jr. residence 12 Magazine Street

CEP 5 March 1962, John Brooks died, 12 Magazine Street

CEP 7 July 1959, William Kinard Mattison dies, was embalmer here. At Fielding Home for Funerals for 27 years, collapsed while attending a baseball game last night and was dead on arrival at a local hospital. Born in Honea Path, went to Morris College in Sumter. Widow Mildred Mattison

NC 10 November 1951, Defective flue causes blaze inside wall at 12 Magazine. Nominal damage

NC 22 August 1939, Rosa Epps, 60. 12 Magazine. Daughter of Scipio Bowen and Rachel Bowen. Old Bethel

CEP 6 December 1911. Josephine Bowen and Rosa Epps, purchased house and lot 2 Mazyck

NC 1 June 1906, JAW Epps, resides 12 Magazine

CEP 1 March 1906. Death- Rachel Brown, 72 Calvary Cemetery

NC 28 May 1905, 6 room dwelling with cistern. Kennerty and Brothers

NC 17 March 1905. GHG Behlmer

CEP 4 January 1899. "A colored child strays from home for second time in a month. Virginia Lance, colored, 10, is missing from her home, 12 Magazine. The girl's home is in Georgetown. She was sent here some time ago to by her mother to be with her aunt."

NC 29 July 1890, George W Bowen funeral. Resided 12 Magazine.

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