

# 372 King Street



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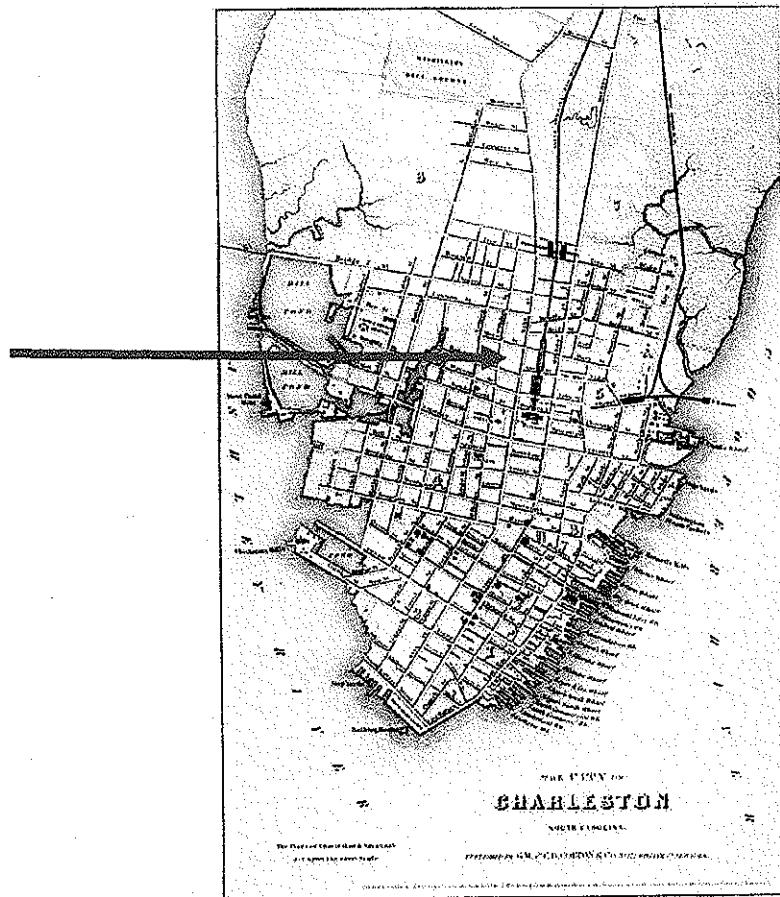
*Oct. 11, 2007*

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## Introduction

Throughout the history of Charleston, King Street has served as a business district full of merchants selling a wide variety of goods and services. The southeast corner of King and Calhoun Streets is what some would call a prime piece of real estate. It sits on the corner of two of the busier streets on the peninsula and thousands of people drive, walk, or ride by the corner each day. Since people started living north of the walled city, it has served as a good space to run retail and specialized stores with the upper floors serving as private residences and tenements. This practice of having a shop and living above it was used at 372 King Street and is still found there today.

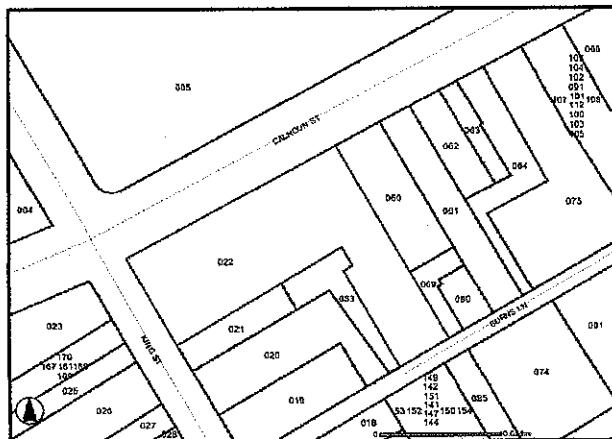


Map of Charleston Streets in 1855 with arrow pointing to southeast corner of King & Calhoun:

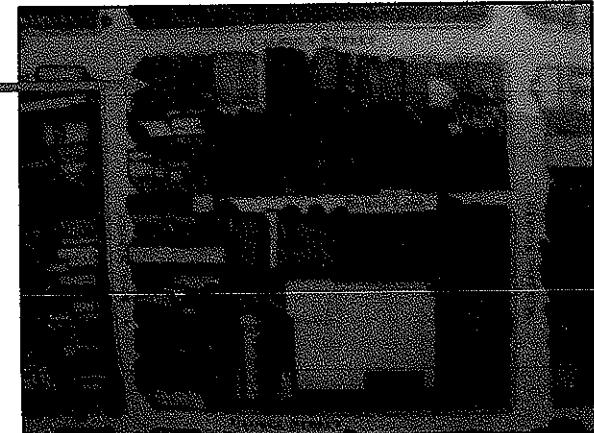
Image courtesy of South Carolina Room,  
Charleston County Public Library

## Current Status

Even though the property is currently one address, it encompasses eight lots, which have all had multiple addresses throughout history. They will all be referred to throughout this report by their current address.

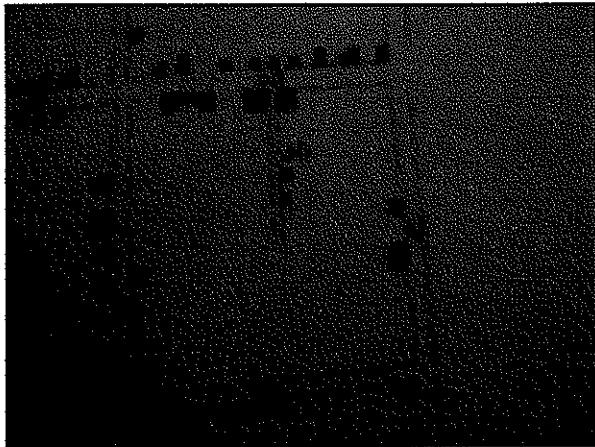


2002 Tax map with 372 King St outlined in red;  
Image courtesy of [www.charlestoncounty.org](http://www.charlestoncounty.org)



2001 Business District Map with arrow pointing to Millennium Music: Image courtesy of South Carolina Room, Charleston County Public Library

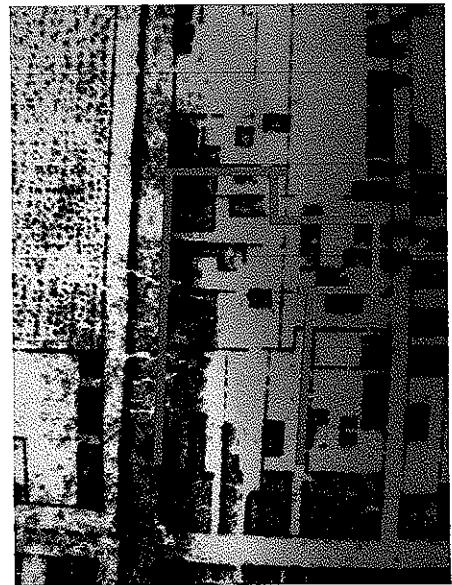
## History of the Property



Detail from Ichnography of Charleston, 1788 showing corner of King (58) and Calhoun (57) with no structures on the property; Image courtesy of South Carolina Room, Charleston County Library

Closeup view of 1852 Bridger's and Allen map showing houses on 372, 374, 376-378 (corner lot) King, 145 and 147 Calhoun and 24 and 26 Burns Lane: Image courtesy of South Carolina Room, Charleston County Library

Red lines surround the property



Beginning in 1788 with the Ichnography of Charleston,<sup>1</sup> one can see that there were no structures located on the southeast corner of King and Calhoun Streets. The next map inclusive of the property, from 1852, shows houses and outbuildings on each of the properties of 372, 374, 376 – 378 King, 145 and 147 Calhoun, and 24 and 26 Burns Lane. 376 – 378 King Street, the corner lot, has two large buildings located on the site, while the rest of the lots are smaller and contain what look like single houses and small outbuildings, most likely kitchens.<sup>2</sup>

As the years went on, these properties changed hands many times, occasionally falling into the possession of some idiosyncratic owners. Evidence suggests that a few noteworthy buildings were built on the sites, while in some cases, not much is known. Because of this disparity, some of the properties have better documented pasts than others.

<sup>1</sup> Edmund Petriel, "Ichnography of Charleston," [ca. 1788], Charleston County Public Library South Carolina Room, Charleston, South Carolina.

<sup>2</sup> "Map of Charleston Streets," [ca. 1852] [University of South Carolina Digital Collections](#), [database online] [cited 28 August 2007].

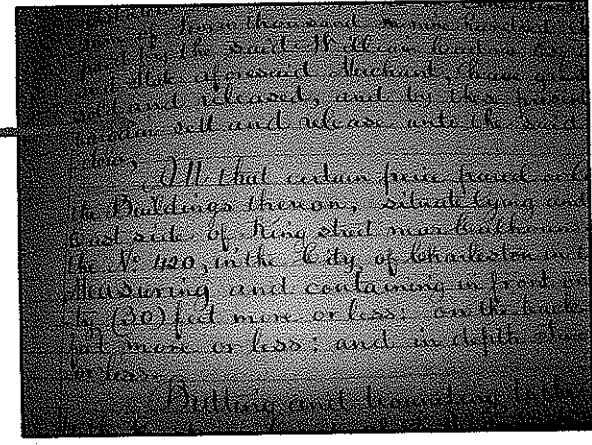
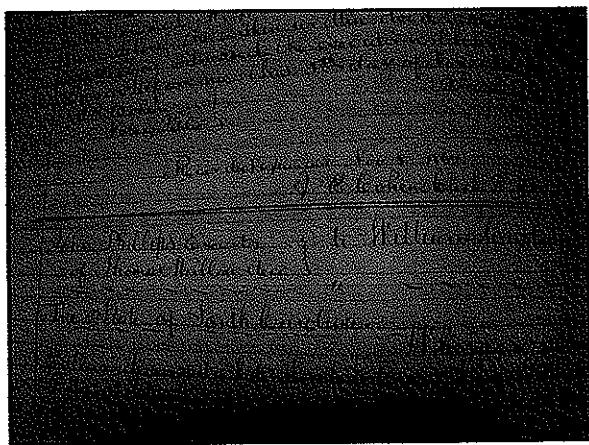
## 372 King

In the early nineteenth century, 372 King Street was owned by Miss Lavinia Benson. She never married and in passing away in 1832, she left no heirs, and the property was then conveyed to her brother, Lawrence Benson.<sup>3</sup> His ownership was short lived, and in 1835, he sold the property to Thomas Wallace, a merchant in the city, who would own the property until December of 1861<sup>4</sup> when he died of apoplexy.<sup>5</sup> William Cadow purchased the property at public auction the following year, using the site as the office of his law practice.<sup>6</sup> Cadow and one of his law partners, Charles Cohrs, were involved in a quarrel and took their case to court, where Cohrs was granted ownership of the property in 1879.<sup>7</sup> Cohr's tenure as proprietor was brief and the following year, he sold it to Mary Ann Wirth.<sup>8</sup> Not much is known about her except that in 1881,<sup>9</sup> she conveyed the property to the family that would come to establish a dominant twentieth century presence on the site.

### Photos of Deed

conveying 372

King from  
Thomas  
Wallace to  
William Cadow,  
arrow points to  
description of  
property: Image  
courtesy of  
Jessica  
Golebiowski,  
document at  
RMC Office,  
Charleston



<sup>3</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book D 10 Page 159, Charleston, South Carolina, 1832.

<sup>4</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book I 10 Page 185, Charleston, South Carolina, 1835.

<sup>5</sup> Charleston City Death Card for Thomas Wallace, 1861, CCPL.

<sup>6</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book P 14 Page 544, Charleston, South Carolina, 1862.

<sup>7</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book C 16 Page 356, Charleston, South Carolina, 1872.

<sup>8</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book N 16 Page 138, Charleston, South Carolina, 1873.

<sup>9</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book Y 18 Page 316, Charleston, South Carolina, 1883.

The grantee, Russian-born Joseph Marks, was a Jewish merchant and the first in a long line of Marks' retailers on the property.<sup>10</sup> A short time after purchasing 372 King, he acquired 374 King.

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<sup>10</sup> 1880 United States Census, Charleston, Charleston County, South Carolina, p. 198, family 146, dwelling 98; June 1, 1880.

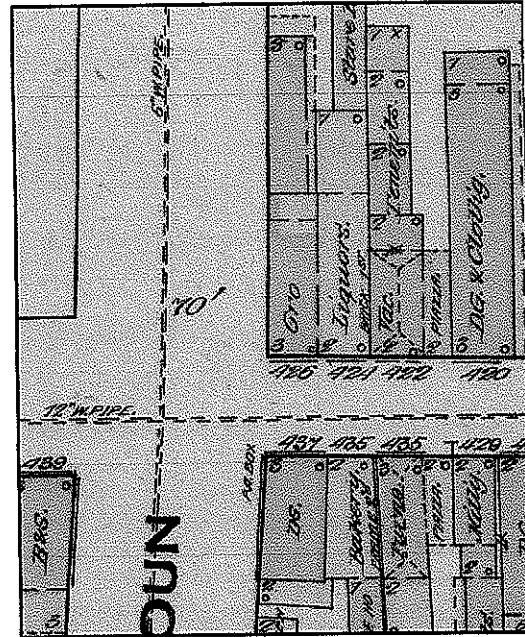
## 374 King

In 1817, the city held a public auction of 374 King at which Eliza Smith was the highest bidder.<sup>11</sup> By 1824, her fortunes had changed and the property was seized in a foreclosure and awarded to Isaac Barrett for the sum of \$2,630.<sup>12</sup> A prominent figure in the early nineteenth century Charleston real estate market, he held the property until 1833, when he conveyed it to Miss Sarah Woolf,<sup>13</sup> who in turn sold it to Charles Washington Seignious three years later.<sup>14</sup> Seignious, a coal dealer native to Alsace, France, rented out the 29x200 lot with a two story brick structure for nearly fifty years until selling it to Joseph Marks in 1883.<sup>15</sup> Marks, now in possession of 372 and 374 King, conveyed both properties to Moses Marks,<sup>16</sup> presumably his son, who in later years would add two more King Street properties at 376 and 378 King.



Left: Photo and calling card of Mattie Elvira Seignious, one of five children of Charles W. Seignious: Image courtesy of South Carolina Historical Society

Right: 1884 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing Marks' Dry Goods and Clothing Store at 372 King and tenements at 374 King



<sup>11</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book Q 9 Page 335, Charleston, South Carolina, 1824.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book F 10 Page 150, Charleston, South Carolina, 1833.

<sup>14</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book N 10 Page 257, Charleston, South Carolina, 1836.

<sup>15</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book Y 18 Page 337, Charleston, South Carolina, 1882.

<sup>16</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book H 19 Page 204, Charleston, South Carolina, 1888.

109145	Wade	Wade	16. M. 44		1	Engaged	-	Russia	Russia	Russia
	Wade		17. 7. 44	Wife	1	Engaged	-	Russia	Russia	Russia
	Joseph		17. M. 23	Son	1	Engaged	-	Ex-Soviet	Russia	Russia
	Grace		17. 7. 19	Son	1	Engaged	-	Ex-Soviet	Russia	Russia
	Grace		17. 6. 06	Son	1	Engaged	-	Ex-Soviet	Russia	Russia
	Maria		17. 7. 14	Son	1	Engaged	-	Ex-Soviet	Russia	Russia
	Elizabeth		17. M. 12	Son	1	Engaged	-	Ex-Soviet	Russia	Russia
	Joseph		17. M. 8	Son	1	Engaged	-	Ex-Soviet	Russia	Russia

1880 Census Information for the Marks Family with Moses, his wife, Gettey, and children – Joseph, Annie, Isaac, Katie, Mordecai, and Leopold: Image courtesy of South Carolina Room, Charleston County Public Library

## 376 – 378 King

The Lovegreen family owned 376 and 378 King throughout the mid-nineteenth century (with the exception of a short stint when Henry Horlbeck, a real estate mogul, seized ownership as a result of foreclosure in 1846).<sup>17</sup> Upon the death of Sarah Lovegreen prior to 1870, executor L.B. Lovegreen conveyed the property to George H. Lindstedt.<sup>18</sup> According to the earthquake report of 1886,<sup>19</sup> George ran a store on the first floor and resided on the second of 378 King. His brother, J.H. Lindstedt, operated a saloon hall on 376 King as depicted by the 1888 Sanborn maps.<sup>20</sup>

120	12	4	372	..	..	Moses Marks, Store and Dwelling	Brick	Tin	125	26	45	Good	Good
122	12	4	374	..	..	..	Brick	Tin	75	20	30	Good	Good
123	12	4	376	..	..	J. H. Lindstedt, Saloon Hall and Dwelling	Frame	Tin	80	18	20-35	Frame good	Frame g
126	12	4	378	..	..	Geo. Lindstedt Store and Dwelling	Brick	Tin	125	25	40	Generally good	Should come to stay

Earthquake damage reports for 372 (420) through 378 (426) King St; Image courtesy of South Carolina Room, Charleston County Public Library

General	OK
General	OK
General	OK
General	OK Held up parapet and south wall third story; under the east wall at second floor supporting the main building.

In 1888, Moses Marks purchased the properties,<sup>21</sup> adding to his King Street holdings. Now in possession of the southeast corner of King and Calhoun Streets, Marks moved to construct a grand department store on the site, which was completed in

<sup>17</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book W 11 Page 523, Charleston, South Carolina, 1869.

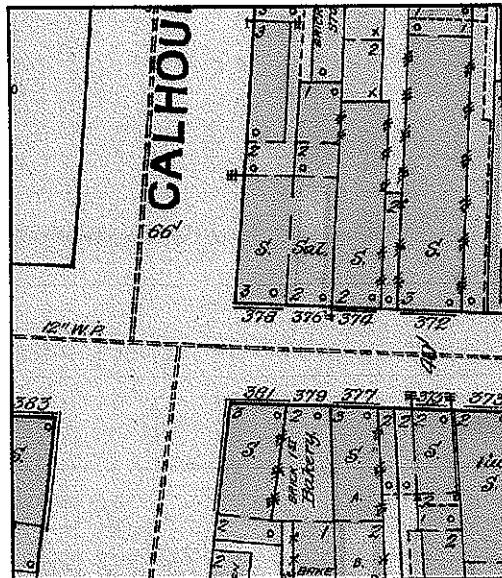
<sup>18</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book U 14 Page 59, Charleston, South Carolina, 1869.

<sup>19</sup> Earthquake Damage Report, Charleston, 1886, CCPL.

<sup>20</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1888, [University of South Carolina Digital Collections](#), [database online] [cited 28 August 2007].

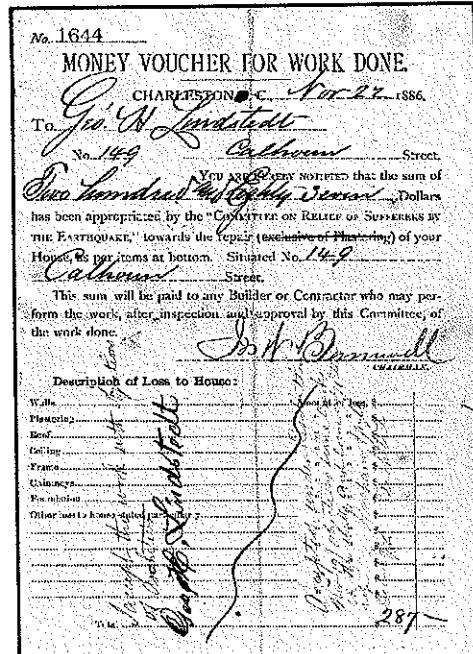
<sup>21</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book H 19 Page 308, Charleston, South Carolina, 1888.

1891.<sup>22</sup> Operated by Moses and his sons, the store became a staple of the King Street commercial district and is further discussed on page 28. When Moses passed away in 1911, at the age of 77 from cirrhosis of the liver,<sup>23</sup> the King Street holdings were divided amongst his children who agreed to sell the property from the estate to two sons, Joseph and Isaac, the clerks of the family's store.<sup>24</sup> The two brothers ran the store in tandem until Joseph's death at which time his share was passed to his wife, Fannie and relative, Therese Marks. With the old generation no longer willing or able to maintain the business, the family decided to voluntarily go out of business and lease the property to Sears & Roebuck Company, beginning in 1940.<sup>25</sup> When Isaac died in 1951, his shares were divided as well, inherited by his daughters Doris Ferst and Madeleine Weil. It was the latter who, in 1946, would incorporate lots on Calhoun Street and Burns Lane into the family holdings.



1888 Sanborn Map: Image  
courtesy of University of South  
Carolina Digital Collections

Earthquake Damage Voucher for George Lindstedt of  
145 – 149 Calhoun: Image courtesy of South Carolina  
Room, Charleston County Public Library



<sup>22</sup> "A Notable House-Warming," Charleston News and Courier, 28 May 1891, CCPL.

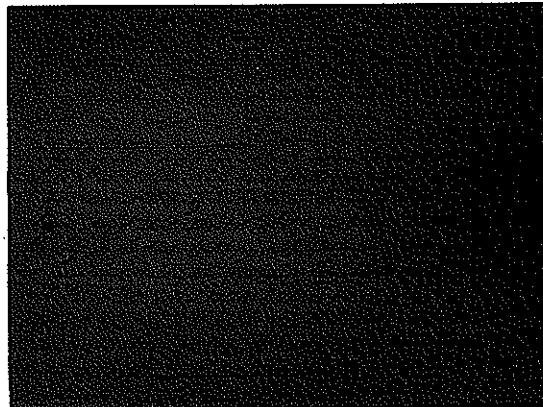
<sup>23</sup> Charleston City Death Card for Moses Marks, 1911, CCPL.

<sup>24</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book U 25 Page 549, Charleston, South Carolina, 1911.

<sup>25</sup> "Marks Building Being Demolished," Charleston News and Courier, 10 May 1955, sec. A. p. 10, CCPL.

## 145 – 147 Calhoun

Records indicate that prior to 1811, Henry Osborn owned 145 and 147 Calhoun and upon his death, the properties were sold at public auction to William Turpin.<sup>26</sup> After owning the lots for 22 years, Turpin conveyed them to a cousin, Lydia Van Wyck, nee Maverick, and her husband, William.<sup>27</sup> Both the Van Wycks and Mavericks were storied families and their histories are explored on page 20.



Deed where William Turpin purchased 145 and 147 Calhoun at public auction:  
Image courtesy of Jessica Golebiowski,  
document at RMC Office, Charleston

Upon Lydia's passing in 1906, her sons, Robert and Augustus, acting as executors of her estate, sold the properties for \$3,000 to Lawrence & Bennett, a realty company, and Julia Purcell.<sup>28</sup> Lawrence & Bennett conducted their business on site until 1917 when Bennett and Purcell (Lawrence having died in 1909) sold their shares to R.H. Wichmann for \$8,000.<sup>29</sup> Just one month later, Wichmann conveyed the properties to Overland Palmetto Company,<sup>30</sup> a conglomerate that would extend their holdings in the purchase of properties on Burns Lane. Little information on the specifics of the operations of this company survives as in 1920, they resold the property back to R.H. Wichmann & Sons, and disappear from record.

<sup>26</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book D 8 Page 228, Charleston, South Carolina, 1811.

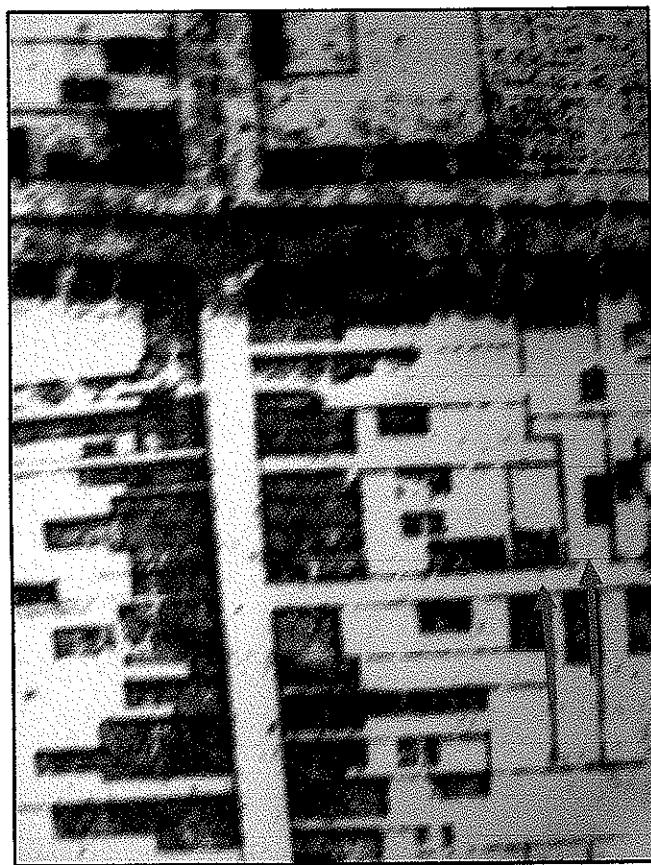
<sup>27</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book W 10 Page 643, Charleston, South Carolina, 1833.

<sup>28</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book O 24 Page 242, Charleston, South Carolina, 1906.

<sup>29</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book T 28 Page 40, Charleston, South Carolina, 1917.

<sup>30</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book T 28 Page 81, Charleston, South Carolina, 1917.

## 26 Burns Lane



Closeup of 1852 Bridger's and Allen map, arrow pointing to Burns Lane properties: Image courtesy of South Carolina Room, Charleston County Public Library

Charlotte M. Joseph owned 26 Burns Lane for an extended period of time in the nineteenth century.<sup>31</sup> The 1852 ward book lists her as the owner of a 2 1/2 story wood structure on a lot 25x110 feet.<sup>32</sup> Francis Ruckh purchased the property from her in 1881 and 27 years later, his widow, Caroline, sold it to Mary A. Culliton.<sup>33</sup> She, in 1919, was the grantor of the now 3 story wooden structure in its acquisition by the Overland

<sup>31</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book V 18 Page 219, Charleston, South Carolina, 1881.

<sup>32</sup> 1852-1856 Charleston City Ward Book, Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Charleston, South Carolina.

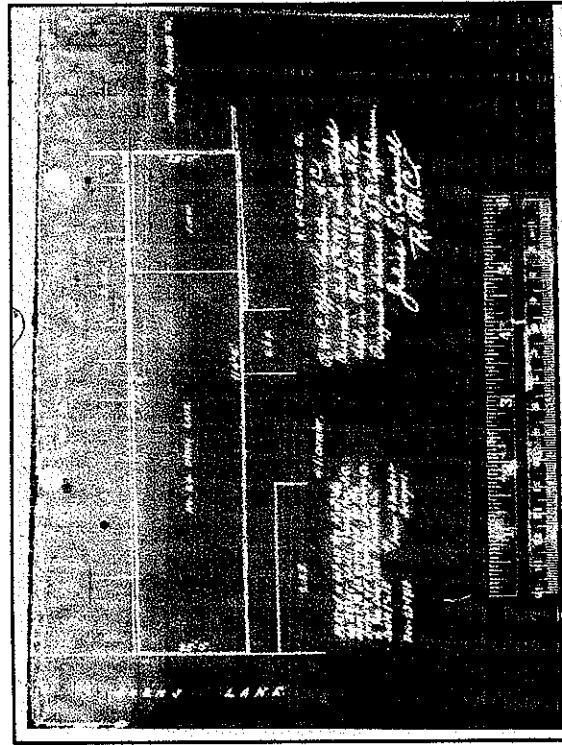
<sup>33</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book W 23 Page 216, Charleston, South Carolina, 1908.

Palmetto Company.<sup>34</sup> Seemingly eager to expand their business in the district, one year later, the company purchased land adjacent to 26 Burns Lane.

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<sup>34</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book Z 26 Page 181, Charleston, South Carolina, 1919.

## 24 Burns Lane



Plat of Burns Lane 1916: Image Courtesy of South Carolina Room, Charleston County Public Library

Jacob Weinges owned 24 Burns Lane, according to the 1852 Ward book, which contained a 2 story wooden structure on a 25x150 lot.<sup>35</sup> He maintained his presence for the better part of the latter half of the nineteenth century, but in 1891, Weinges relinquished control of the property when it was auctioned by Master Charles Richardson Miles to the Charleston Real Estate Investment for \$705.<sup>36</sup> Eight years later, the company conveyed the property to James F. Redding.<sup>37</sup> According to the 1882 city directory, Redding's profession was that of an auctioneer, real estate booker, and insurance agent.<sup>38</sup> By 1906, he had died and his children elected to sell the property to

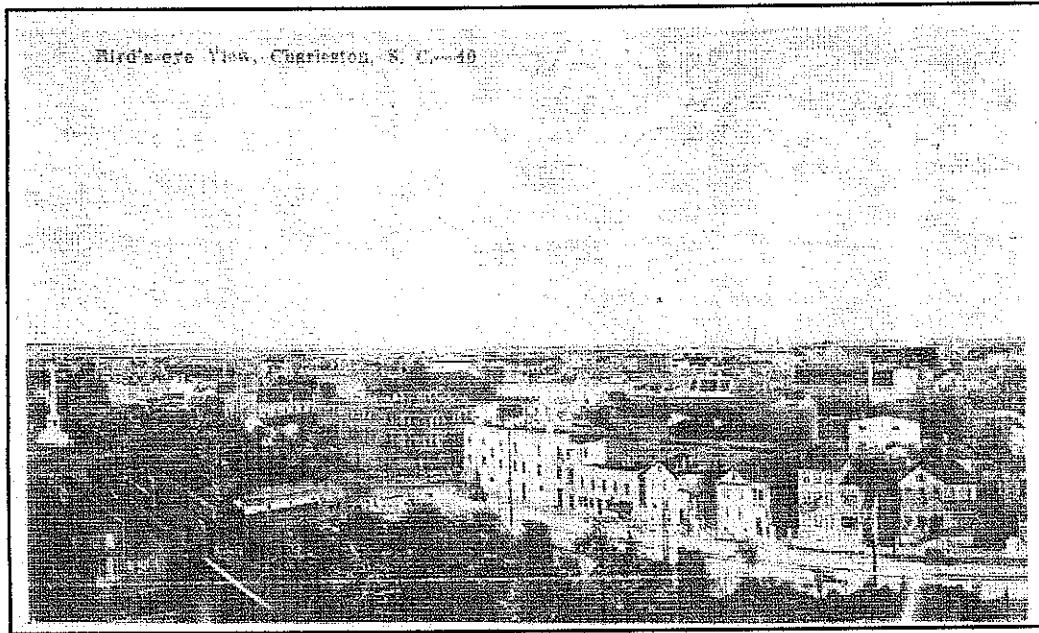
<sup>35</sup> 1852-1856 Charleston City Ward Book, Chas Co. RMC.

<sup>36</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book B 21 Page 105, Charleston, South Carolina, 1891.

<sup>37</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book Y 22 Page 367, Charleston, South Carolina, 1920.

<sup>38</sup> 1882 Charleston City Directory. Charleston County Public Library South Carolina Room, Charleston, South Carolina.

his son Julius Redding for five dollars.<sup>39</sup> The property would not remain in the family for long however, as Julius sold it to Henry Oliver only one year later for \$250.<sup>40</sup> Oliver held the property for twelve years and then conveyed it to the Knights of Columbus, who promptly, resold the property twelve days later to Overland Palmetto Company.<sup>41</sup>



Postcard from a Bird's Eye View from the old Orphan House, arrow points to Marks Department Store: Image courtesy of Harlan Greene, Avery Institute.

At this point, the properties at 145 and 147 Calhoun and 24 and 26 Burns Lane were united under the ownership of Overland Palmetto Company. By 1920, however, their appetite for Charleston real estate holdings had apparently diminished and they sold all of their Charleston properties to R.H. Wichmann, now operating under the name R.H. Wichmann & Sons for \$14,000.<sup>42</sup> Wichmann owned the property throughout the 1930's and 1940's, leasing it to various automotive shops.<sup>43</sup> They would make a substantial profit in 1946 when they sold the four holdings to Madeleine Weil, the daughter of Isaac Marks and co owner of the King Street properties, for \$61,500.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>39</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book O 24 Page 312, Charleston, South Carolina, 1906.

<sup>40</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book V 24 Page 334, Charleston, South Carolina, 1919.

<sup>41</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book R 28 Page 672, Charleston, South Carolina, 1920.

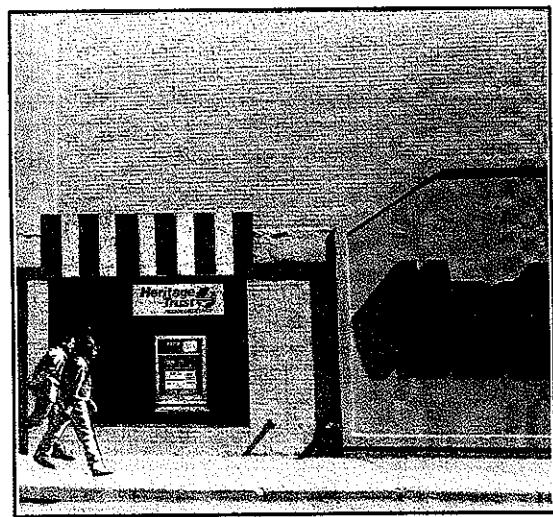
<sup>42</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book G 30 Page 412, Charleston, South Carolina, 1920.

<sup>43</sup> Betty and J. Francis Brenner, The Old Codgers' Charleston Address Book 1900-1999, (Charleston: Jackson's Inc., 2001).

<sup>44</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book Y 46 Page 223, Charleston, South Carolina, 1946.

Four heirs of the Marks family, Madeleine Weil, Doris Ferst, Fannie C. Marks, and Therese R. Marks, now owned all eight properties that encompass the present site. Over the next thirty years, as Sears occupied the old Marks building and W.T. Grant constructed a new building covering the entire lot, the four owners gradually conveyed, willed, and gifted their shares to the next generation of Marks'. These conveyances form a somewhat complex chain, but it suffices to say that by 1978, ownership was shared between Robert W. Marks, son of Joseph, Robert's cousins, and Florence Scharff and Doris Ferst. It was in this year that the trio sold the property to South Carolina politician, Thomas Dewey Wise.<sup>45</sup> A year later, he surrendered the property to Marion Square Associates, a corporation in which he was a partner.<sup>46</sup>

A fast food restaurant, Hardee's, moved into the Shops at Marion Square when Thomas Dewey Wise transformed the old department store into a mini mall: Image courtesy of the Board of Architectural Review.



As is the tendency in the modern business world, for the last thirty years, the property at the corner of King and Calhoun has been a pawn in the inner workings of corporate turnover. It has changed hands numerous times to various conglomerates and is now in the possession of King and Calhoun LLC which purchased it in January of 2006 for \$12,000,000.<sup>47</sup> After housing a mini mall for much of the 1980's and 1990's, the site has been occupied by Millennium Music since 2001.<sup>48</sup>

<sup>45</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book Z 114 Page 141, Charleston, South Carolina, 1978.

<sup>46</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book H 118 Page 42, Charleston, South Carolina, 1979.

<sup>47</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book K 569 Page 215, Charleston, South Carolina, 2006.

<sup>48</sup> Bill Perry, "Millennium Music to anchor renovated Marion Square," Charleston Regional Business Journal, (18 December 2000) [journal online] [cited 28 August 2007].

## **Significance of the Property**

The properties along King and Calhoun Streets and Burns Lane have passed through many hands over the years and have housed influential people and businesses.

Of the many owners, some stood out above the rest, like the Marks, Van Wyck, and Maverick families. Each of these families contributed to the creation of an interesting and storied history at the bustling corner of King and Calhoun. The Marks family,

following in the footsteps of many American retailers, built a grand palace of a department store selling all sorts of fine goods for over forty years and continued to own the property until the late 1970's, owned by the likes of Robert W. Marks, a character both eccentric and inimitable. The Van Wycks and Mavericks made impacts throughout United States history, for better or for worse. Although the property at 372 King Street has had many owners, these are just some of the people who helped to form a long lasting mercantile history at the southeast corner of King and Calhoun.

## Maverick and Van Wyck Families

The story of 372 King has further significance in its role in the unification of two storied and influential American lineages, the Mavericks and Van Wycks. Each family traces its roots to the earliest European-Americans and boasts of the numerous achievements of its ancestors. In the marriage of two of their children, and joint ownership of lots 145 and 147 on Calhoun Street, these two extraordinary families came together in the setting of Charleston.

The Mavericks have had a presence in America since the early seventeenth century, when Samuel Maverick (born 1602) arrived in Weymouth, Massachusetts in 1624. Settling near Mystic River, he is recognized as one of the founding settlers of Boston<sup>49</sup> as well as one of the leaders of the movement to gain English control of New Netherlands. Seven years after his arrival, his family joined him.<sup>50</sup>

His father, Rev. John Maverick (born 1578) brought mother Mary, daughter of Robert Gye and Grace Dowrish and descendant of countless prominent European monarchs, and the rest of the children aboard the *Mary and John* in 1630. One of these children, John (born 1621) would become one of the prominent figures in Charleston history as a member of the first South Carolina parliament. It is either through him or his brother Nathaniel that the next great member of the Maverick pedigree, Samuel Augustus (born 1803) is descended.<sup>51</sup>

His grandfather of the same name (born 1742) married Lydia Turpin and lived in South Carolina.<sup>52</sup> The couple's first son, Samuel Augustus (born 1772) married Elizabeth Anderson, the daughter of Revolutionary War Colonel Robert Anderson.<sup>53</sup> Their son would be the most noteworthy of the all the Samuel Augustuses.

Born in Pendleton and educated at Yale, he moved to Charleston but was forced to flee after a duel with a critic of his father. He first traveled to Alabama where he met his wife, Mary Ann Adams, but it would be in Texas that he would make his name. A signor of the Texas Declaration of Independence, he was stationed at the Alamo prior to the famed battle and was

<sup>49</sup> Kristin Hall, Genealogy of Kristin Carole Hall [cited 4 October 2007], (Includes information on Maverick family lore) [family tree online].

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> "Mayor-Elect a Maverick," New York Times, (14 November 1897) [journal online] [cited 9 October 2007].

eventually imprisoned by his enemies. He survived and the family moved back to Alabama, but his renown has remained in Texas, where locales have been named in his honor.<sup>54</sup>

It was in the person of Samuel's sister Lydia Ann that the Maverick family would interlock with another historic American family, the Van Wycks. Tracing their heritage to Cornelius Barentsen Van Wyck (born 1645) who arrived in New Netherland in 1660,<sup>55</sup> the Van Wycks were one of the Dutch families that Samuel Maverick (1602) and others had worked for the English to drive out of the region. In this case at least, they failed and Van Wycks ascended to prominence in the coming generations, with figures like Richard T. Van Wyck, a Major in the Revolutionary War, and Charles H. Van Wyck, a Nebraska Senator.<sup>56</sup>

Seven generations removed from Cornelius, William Van Wyck (born 1803) married Lydia Ann Maverick—daughter of Samuel Augustus Maverick and Lydia Turpin and sister of the famed Texan. The couple spent time in both Alabama and New York, but settled in Charleston, where they owned a certain property on the south side of Calhoun Street.<sup>57</sup>

Evidence suggests some sort of partnership between William and Samuel Augustus as to the original purchase of the property,<sup>58</sup> but by William's death in 1867, sole possession was in Lydia's hands.<sup>59</sup> Upon her death in 1885, the duty of executing her will fell to two of her very capable sons, Robert and Augustus.<sup>60</sup>

Robert Anderson Van Wyck (born 1849) was raised in Charleston and educated at Columbia. He was a lawyer and judge in New York City, but attained his greatest notoriety for his role in the corrupt workings of Tammany Hall as Mayor of New York from 1898 to 1901. He was regarded as rather cold towards his constituents, but even his biggest critics were surprised when, in 1900, a scandal broke implicating him in an ice trust conspiracy.<sup>61</sup>

<sup>54</sup> J. Marvin Hunter, "Samuel Augustus Maverick, Texas Patriot." Frontier Times (April 1928) [cited 4 October 2007].

<sup>55</sup> "Van Wyck Family," Carman Genealogy (14 January 2007) (Contains Van Wyck family lore) [cited 9 October 2007].

<sup>56</sup> Kristin Hall, Genealogy, [cited 4 October 2007] [family tree online].

<sup>57</sup> "Mayor-Elect," NYT, (14 November 1897) [journal online] [cited 9 October 2007].

<sup>58</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book W 10 Page 643, Charleston, South Carolina, 1833.

<sup>59</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book O 24 Page 242, Charleston, South Carolina, 1906.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>61</sup> "Robert Van Wyck: The Mayor of Greater New York," Elected Mayors of New York City [cited 9 October 2007].

"Robert A. Van Wyck Dies in family Home," New York Times (16 November 1918) [journal online] [cited 9 October 2007].

Augustus (born 1850) received education at the University of North Carolina and also went into law, practicing in Richmond. Eventually, he became a Justice of the New York Supreme Court. He ran for governor there in 1898, but was defeated by none other than Theodore Roosevelt.<sup>62</sup>

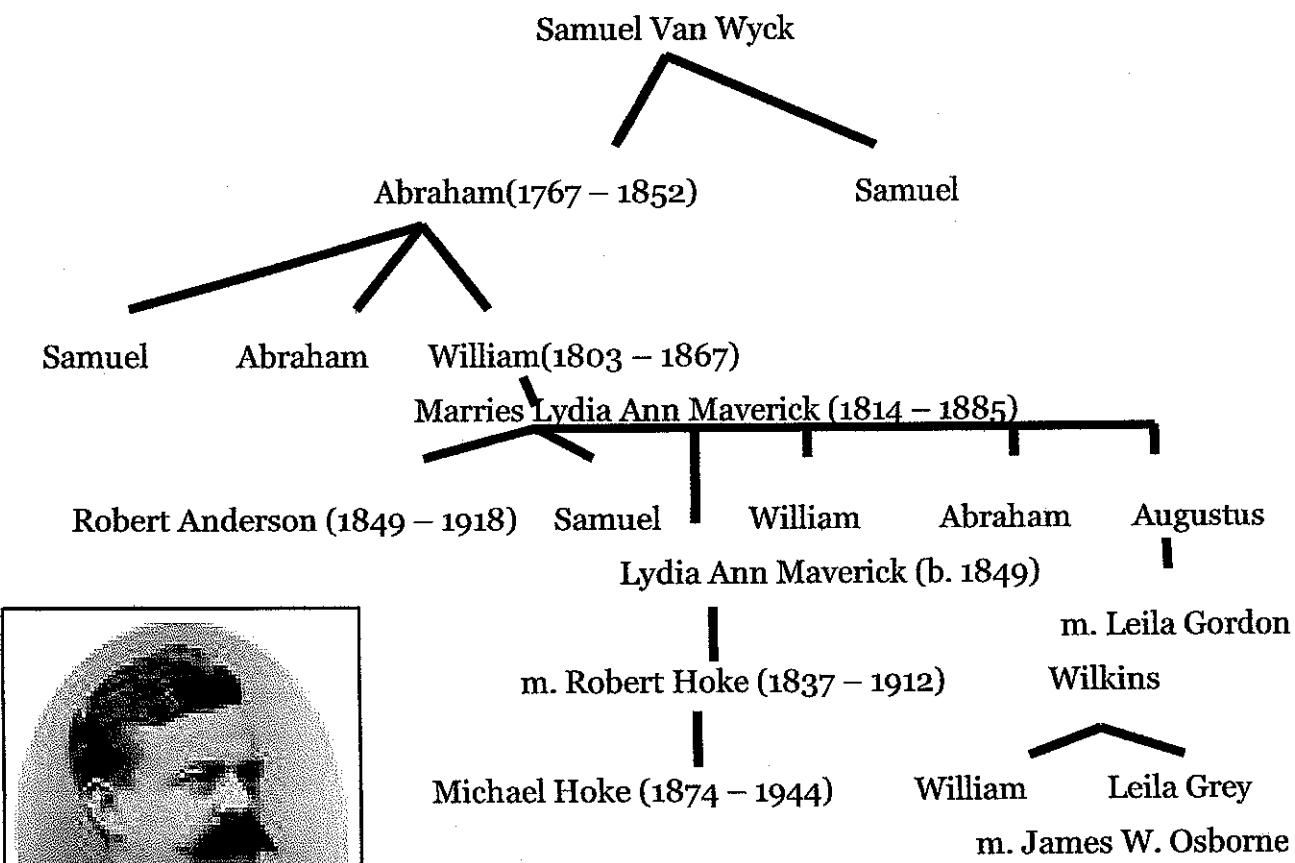
It was these two men, relatively early in their noteworthy careers, that faced the task of selling the 145 and 147 Calhoun. In 1906, they sold it to Lawrence and Bennett,<sup>63</sup> and the Maverick/Van Wyck era of the property came to an end.

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<sup>62</sup> "August Van Wyck, Jurist, Dies at 71," New York Times (9 June 1922) [journal online] [cited 9 October 2007].

<sup>63</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book O 24 Page 242, Charleston, South Carolina, 1906.

Van Wyck Family Tree<sup>64</sup>

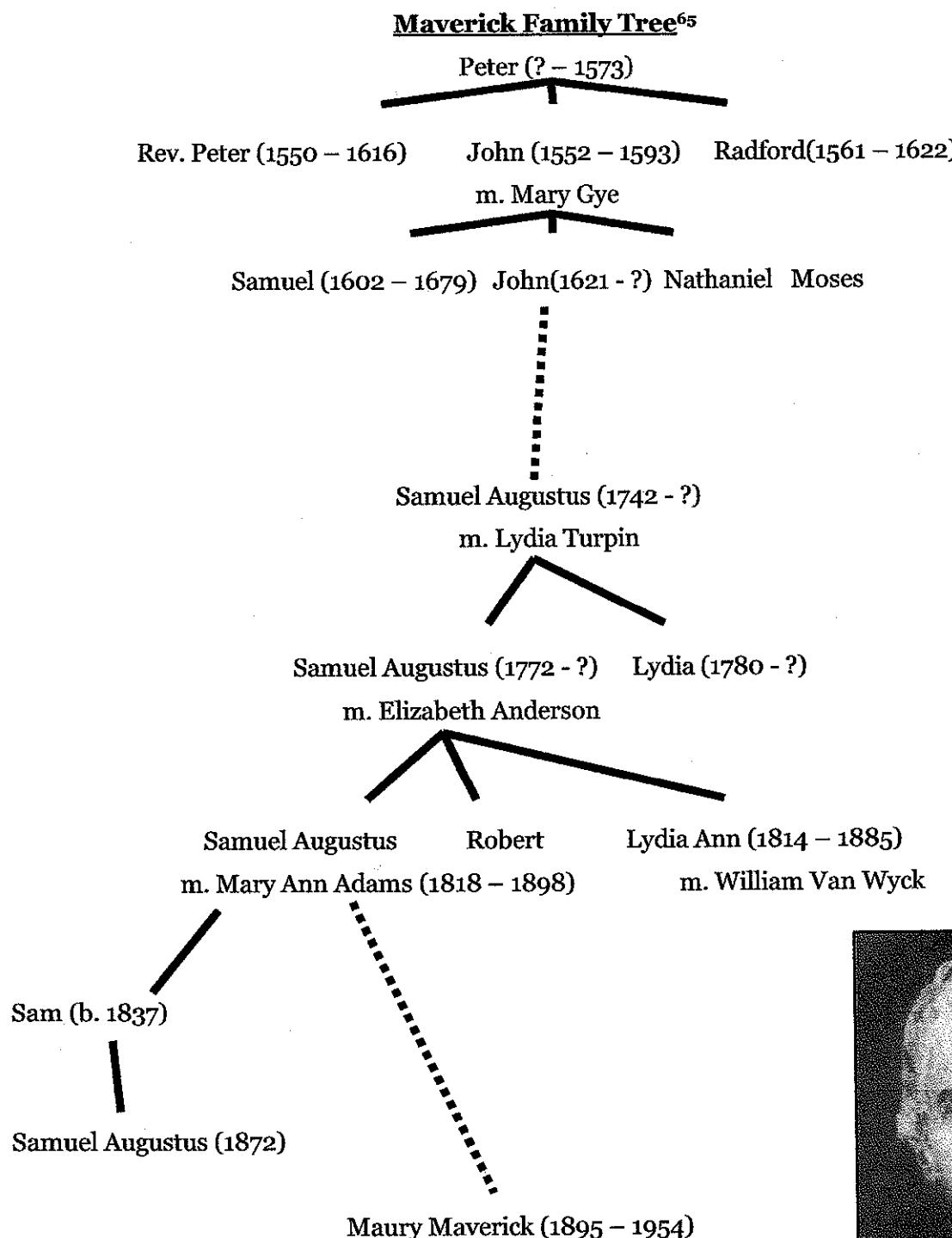


Robert Anderson Van Wyck: Image Courtesy of [www.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.gov).

Howland – Maverick family, young girl on the right is Lydia Van Wyck:  
Image courtesy of [www.pilgrimjohnhowlandsociety.org](http://www.pilgrimjohnhowlandsociety.org)

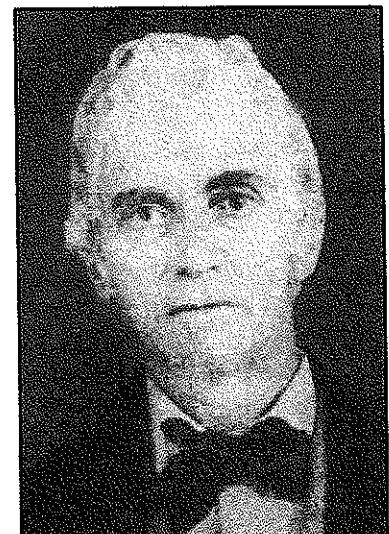


<sup>64</sup> "Van Wyck Family," [Carman Genealogy](http://www.carmangenealogy.com) (14 January 2007) [cited 9 October 2007].



<sup>65</sup> Kristin Hall, Genealogy, [cited 4 October 2007] [family tree online].

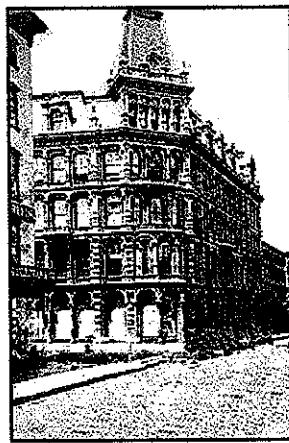
Photo of Samuel Maverick (1803 - 1870): Image courtesy of [talesofthenewworld.blogspot.com](http://talesofthenewworld.blogspot.com)



## Evolution of the Department Store

To understand the significance of the Marks and Sons Dry Goods Store located at the southeast corner of King and Calhoun Streets, it is helpful to know how department stores evolved in America. Before the department store, people bought their goods from many different specialized stores such as retail stores that sold only shoes, clothing, or household goods. The tendency to run a specialized retail store began to disappear starting around the 1860's – 1870's and was replaced by a move towards integration of functions and diversification of merchandise.<sup>66</sup>

The American department store modeled itself after the grand stores of Europe, including the Bon Marche in Paris. As early as 1863, the Bon Marche was doing about \$1,400,000 in business. It catered mostly to women, was organized in different merchandise departments, and even offered many free services to customers. There were also many other stores in Paris, such as Magasins du Printemps, Louvre, Magasins du Coin de Rue, and Pygmalion, all began to spread their businesses past the traditional dry goods lines during the 1860's. On the other hand, in London, retailers were not as innovative as those in Paris. There were only a handful of stores that diversified their goods and this wasn't common until after 1875.<sup>67</sup>



Lord & Taylor Department Store:  
Image courtesy of  
[www.victoriana.com](http://www.victoriana.com)

<sup>66</sup> Ralph M. Hower. History of Macy's of New York (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1943), 141.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid., 143.

In America, the trend away from specialization was first seen at the Hager Store in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, which was established in 1821. Forty years later, in the 1860's, A.T. Stewart and Arnold, Constable & Co. located in New York, began to be organized systematically by department. They were still only selling the traditional dry goods however. It wasn't until after 1875 when they began to diversify their goods. Two other stores located in New York, Lord & Taylor and R.H. Macy & Co. also began to expand their retail stores by the mid to late 1870's. in 1874, Lord & Taylor added a furniture department where they sold products they manufactured and beat Macy's by a year in opening a shoe department. Overall though, Macy's was among the top two of three stores in America and Europe to completely transition to a modern department store from a specialized store.<sup>68</sup>

Just knowing that the department store evolved from specialized retail stores is not enough. It is even more helpful to know why the department store arrived. One reason is because of the after effects of the Industrial Revolution. Cities were rapidly growing due to steam transportation and factory systems. There was steady production of goods from the factory to the household and people who had formerly made their own clothing now bought their goods from retail stores. Also, the speed of urbanization influenced the development of the department store. Populations nationwide of people living in cities grew by 8.5% between 1860 and 1880. In response to larger populations, cities improved upon streets and urban transportation facilities, giving people unprecedented mobility and encouraging the growth of large scale retail operations. The boundaries of how far families could travel to shop were extended and new modes of transportation provided quicker access to other areas of cities.<sup>69</sup>

Newspaper advertising and store delivery systems also aided in helping the department store evolve. Patronage could be attracted from farther distances than had previously been possible. Better public systems like water, sewage, and gas lighting helped to facilitate easier city living. The greater the population grew, the more need

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<sup>68</sup> Ibid., 144-145.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid., 146-147.

there was for improvements, and the better the improvements aided in attracting more people to come to the city.<sup>70</sup>

Perhaps the biggest influence in the evolution of the department store was basic convenience. It was so much more convenient for customers to purchase all of their needs under one roof, much like the way we shop today at malls. It was especially convenient for all of the people living in large cities. Thus, the stores that offered a diverse supply of goods were more likely to gain more sales and more profit. Also, many stores added new technical developments like multiple floors connected by elevators and central heating making the buildings warm in winter.<sup>71</sup>

Savvy businessmen saw in the diversification of goods a way to cut overhead costs by spreading them over a larger volume of business. They eliminated the middle man and could obtain merchandise at lower prices than wholesalers could offer. The retailer now performed all those tasks previously done by the middleman such as selection, transportation, storage, financing, and assumption of risks. Direct buying also allowed the retailer to respond to changes in taste or style faster. They could then instruct the manufacturer to produce the types of merchandise that consumers wanted.<sup>72</sup>

Overall, the department store was a salvation in diversification and integration for men like R.H. Macy. Not every department store owner was successful, but those who were definitely reaped what they sowed. Business nationwide tended away from specialization and department store entrepreneurs followed the trend. Out of the American condition came the American department store.

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<sup>70</sup> Ibid., 147.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid., 148.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid., 153-154.

## Marks & Sons Dry Goods Store



In 1883, Joseph Marks purchased 372 King St and shortly thereafter, he acquired 374 King Street. Finally, in 1888, Moses Marks bought 376 – 378 King Street to add to his father's property.<sup>73</sup> In 1891, the Marks family, headed by Moses, with his sons, Joseph, Isaac, and Mordecai, opened "one of the handsomest and costliest establishments in the South."<sup>74</sup> Their new grand opening on September 28 attracted immense crowds that filled Calhoun and King Streets.<sup>75</sup> The merchandise sold at the store included evening silks, hairpins, blankets, lace curtains, fine dress goods, perfumes, gloves and lace, gent's furnishings, infants' goods, hosiery, Chinaware, pictures, and underwear among "a thousand and one other things."<sup>76</sup> The new store was a three story building 125 feet tall and 35 feet wide. It was built out of polished and rock faced granite and terra cotta.<sup>77</sup> Galvanized iron was bought from John Seaton of

<sup>73</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book H 19 Page 308, Charleston, South Carolina, 1888.

<sup>74</sup> "Do You Know Your Charleston?" Charleston News and Courier, 24 August 1881, sec. B, p. 1, CCPL.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

<sup>76</sup> "A Notable House-Warming," Charleston News and Courier, 28 May 1891, CCPL.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

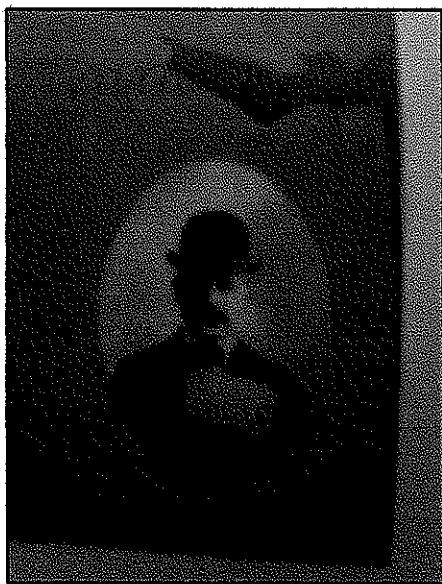
Brooklyn, New York, for \$3,545. Wrought and cast iron were bought from Riverside Bridge and Iron Works of Patterson, New Jersey, for \$3,890. Terra Cotta was purchased from the Terra Cotta Architectural Company of New York for \$5,300. Finally, granite was bought from Robert Logan of New York City for \$2,871. Altogether, the building cost \$39,982 paid in six installments as the foundation, first story, second story, third story, towers, and entire work were completed.<sup>78</sup>

Charleston Sept. 28 1891	
Mr. W. W. Marks	
To John D. Murphy Esq.	
Contract for building store on King & 372	39982.00
Building floor in East Wall	76.00
with Chiarney & Counting Room Wall	40.00
altering Second story frame	52.40
Bathtub & shelves built for best Counter	28.50
Marble border around Show windows	92.00
Building back to Show windows	1150.00
Furnishing material for Cash Counter	14.50
Difference on Counter tops from back to Murphy	200.00
in Kind of stone	199.00
" " Plate Glass	177.00
Building Price in hand	170.00
Exciting additional Report to 3 story frame	16.00
Set pair of Glass Wings & Construction on west	6.00
Repairing back of frame & Windows of 3rd	70.00
Furnishing & labor for Rotating Heater	45.00
of Carpenter fitting flue	10.00
	42530
Credits	
Rec'd on account of Contract	35000.00
Difference on fed down Contract	150130
" Terra Cotta "	320.00
	36886.00
Balance Due	78544
By Allowance for difference	50
in Terra Cotta difference	534

Receipt for  
building of Marks  
& Sons Dry  
Goods Store,  
1891: Image  
Courtesy R.W.  
Marks Papers,  
Addlestone  
Library

<sup>78</sup> Contract for construction of building on 372 King, Robert W. Marks Papers. Addlestone Library, College of Charleston.

Visitors to the store entered a magnificent building where they sometimes could not tell if they were inside a department store or a drawing room of someone's home. Walls were adorned with pictures and paintings and windows were covered in fancy lace curtains. The interior was decorated by Thomas Matthews, a professional decorator, and included a wax statue of a woman playing a harp. The new store also featured many technological advances. A Martin cash carrier system could run money the length of the store in twenty two seconds. There was also an elevator, gas and electric lighting, and steam heating.<sup>79</sup>



The Marks' family ran the department store from 1891 until 1940, when they went out of business. The family did not sell the store, but

IN WITNESS WHEREOF The parties hereto have set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

*Moses Marks*

Left: Photo of Moses Marks at the World Exposition: Image courtesy South Carolina Room, Charleston County Public Library

Above: Moses Marks' signature from the contract for his Dry Goods Store: Image courtesy of R.W. Marks Papers, Addlestone Library

Below: The Marks Department Store as Sears & Roebuck (arrow points to Sears sign): Image courtesy of Historic Charleston Foundation

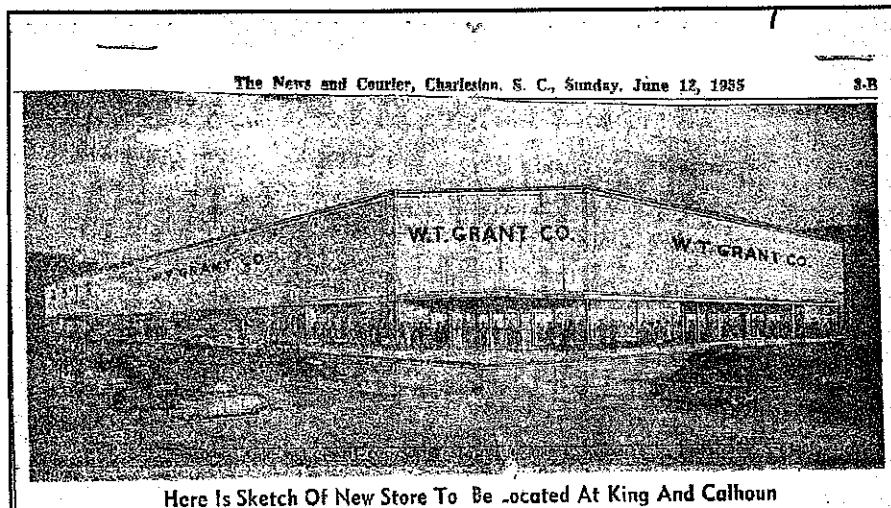
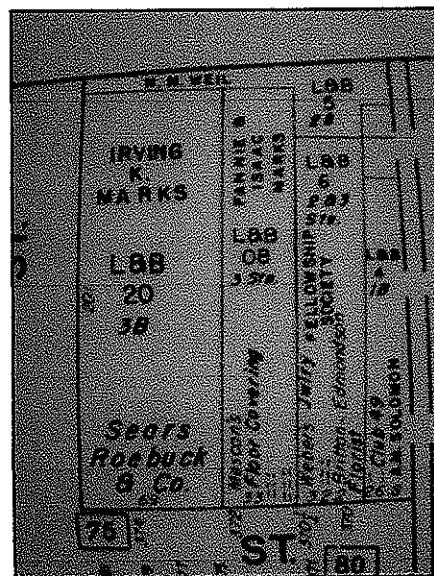


<sup>79</sup> "A Notable House-Warming," Charleston News and Courier, 28 May 1891, CCPL.

rather began leasing it to another retail specialist, Sears & Roebuck.<sup>80</sup> The company did little to change the building and began selling their usual products like tools and other household items. In 1955, Sears revealed plans to build a new store at the site of the old Charleston Orphan House.<sup>81</sup>

Map showing Sears & Roebuck at 372 King St, 1946:  
Image Courtesy South Carolina Room, Charleston County Library

Note: Properties are still owned by Marks' heirs



Rendering of the new W.T. Grant building that replaced the old Marks Department Store, 1955: Image Courtesy News and Courier

The year was 1955 and the heirs of Moses Marks began to talk with W.T Grant and Company about razing the old Marks Building replacing it with a more modern department store. Many newspaper articles appeared discussing plans to raze the

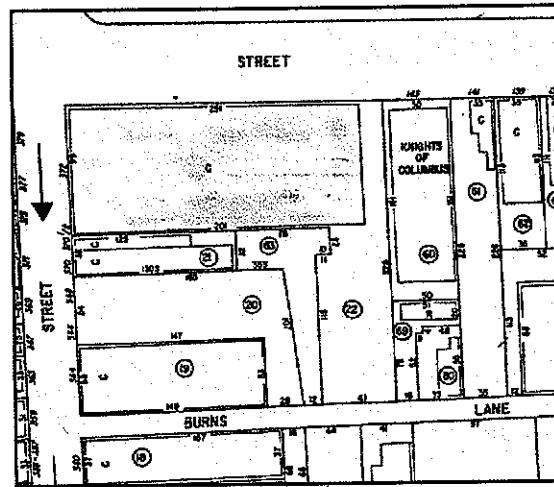
<sup>80</sup> "Demolished," Charleston N&C, 10 May 1955, sec. A. p. 10, CCPL.

<sup>81</sup> Brenner, The Old Codgers' Charleston Address Book 1900-1999 (Charleston: Jackson's Inc., 2001).

former Marks and Sears building. The winning bid to raze the building was attained by Skinner & Ruddock, Charleston contractors, for \$13,000.<sup>82</sup> The new W.T. Grant building was begun in July of 1955 and was designed by Charleston architect Augustus E. Constantine. The plan was a two story building of a more contemporary design. It extended 90 feet on King Street and 200 feet on Calhoun Street with over 29,000 square feet of interior space. The exterior will be pressed face brick and concrete with a pink texture. Also, the newest of fluorescent lighting was used inside to highlight the merchandise.<sup>83</sup>

In 1975, the W.T. Grant Company national corporation declared bankruptcy and one day later, all five of the Charleston stores closed.<sup>84</sup> The store sat vacant for three years until 1978, when former state senator, Thomas Dewey Wise, purchased the Grant building for \$320,000. People saw the purchase of this building as a potential boost for the declining King Street business district.<sup>85</sup> Wise's plans for the site included renting floor space to two food establishments, one a fast food place and the other a sit down restaurant, and retail store.<sup>86</sup>

Map showing the W.T. Grant Building in 1969:  
Image courtesy Board of Architectural Review



<sup>82</sup> "Bids are Opened on Razing Former Sears Building," Charleston News and Courier, 30 January 1955, sec. D, p. 8, CCPL.

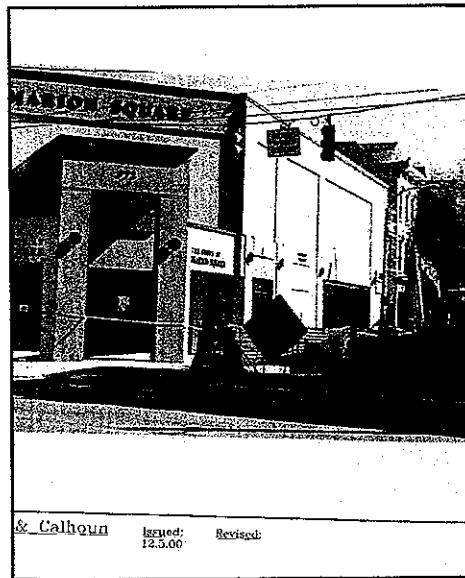
<sup>83</sup> "W.T. Grant Planning Big Store Here," Charleston Evening Post, 9 June 1955, CCPL.

<sup>84</sup> Brenner, Codgers' 1900-1999.

<sup>85</sup> Dave Doubrava, "Grant Building Purchased for \$320,000," Charleston News and Courier, 1 March 1978, sec. b, p. 1, CCPL.

<sup>86</sup> Dave Doubrava, "Former Grant Store Purchase Being Finalized," Charleston News and Courier, 16 February 1978, sec. B, p. 1, CCPL.

Photo of the Shops at Marion Square, 2000:  
Image courtesy Board of Architectural Review



Wise's new property became the Shops at Marion Square and remained in his possession until 1979 when he sold the property to Marion Square Associates.<sup>87</sup> Eventually the property ended up in the hands of Marion Square LLC and in 2001, a new retailer moved in. Millennium Music, a music store, opened at the corner of King and Calhoun.<sup>88</sup> The building was altered some with the addition of a rooftop terrace and sculptural detail. In 2006, the property was once again sold to King and Calhoun LLC. In 2007, it was proposed to put an eight story condominium structure on the property with retail stores on the first level.<sup>89</sup>

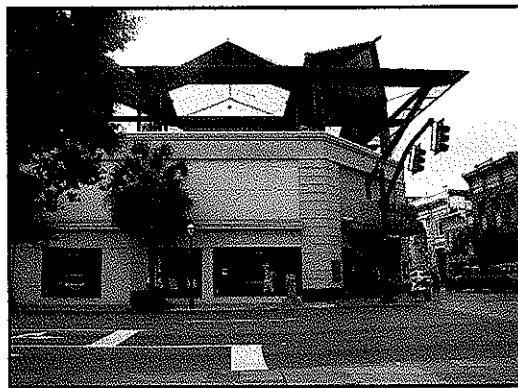


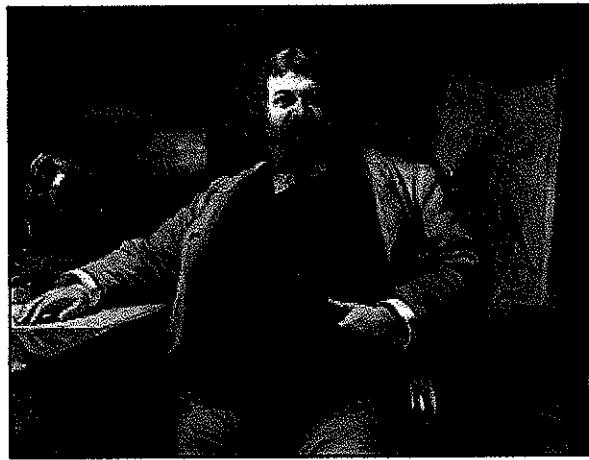
Photo of Millennium Music at 372 King Street: Image courtesy of Jessica Golebiowski

<sup>87</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book H 118 Page 42, Charleston, South Carolina, 1979.

<sup>88</sup> Bill Perry, "Millennium Music," Charleston Regional Business Journal (18 December 2000) [journal online] [cited 28 August 2007].

<sup>89</sup> "A New Vision," Charleston Post and Courier, 10 February 2007, sec. A, p. 1. CCPL.

## Richardsonian Romanesque Architecture



Painting of Henry Hobson Richardson: Image courtesy of [www.essential-architecture.com](http://www.essential-architecture.com)

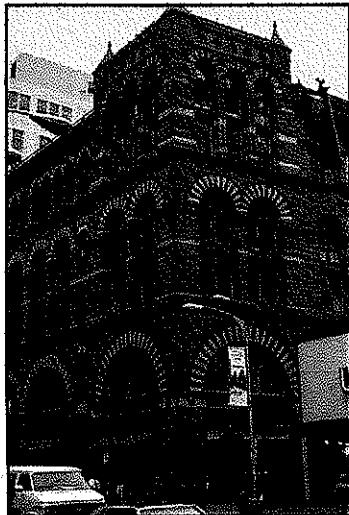
Richardsonian Romanesque architecture, which was prevalent from 1870 – 1895, gets its name from the well known architect Henry Hobson Richardson. H.H. Richardson was born in Louisiana on September 29, 1838. He attended one year at the University of Louisiana and then went to Harvard. Upon graduation from Harvard, Richardson went to Paris to study at the School of Beaux Arts. However, the Civil War prevented his family for sending him funds to pay for school and his studies were cut short. He returned to America in 1865 and settled in New York opening his first practice on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1866.<sup>90</sup>

Architecture at this time was mainly influenced by Victorian Gothic and Second Empire Styles. Many of his earliest buildings reflect these styles and it was not until the late 1870's that he developed his own personal style. Two of his buildings that express his style more vividly are the New York State Hospital in Buffalo, New York, and Trinity Church in Boston, Massachusetts. Richardson's professional maturity was reached beginning in 1878 with buildings in Cambridge, Wyoming, and Quincy, Massachusetts. It was with these buildings that he began to simplify form turning to basic shapes and

<sup>90</sup> Jeffrey Karl Ochsner, H.H. Richardson: Complete Architectural Works, (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1996), 1.

the natural qualities of stone, brick, and shingles. In only four years, H.H. Richardson would be recognized as the leading architect in the nation.<sup>91</sup>

Richardson died at the young age of 47 in 1886 due to a renal disorder, Bright's Disease.<sup>92</sup> Though his career was short lived, he was still very influential in the architecture world with followers including Charles McKim, Stanford White, Louis Sullivan, and John Welborn Root.<sup>93</sup>



Cheney Building, Hartford, Connecticut (tower has been removed) – This building is very similar in design to the Marks & Sons Dry Goods Store: Image courtesy of [www.essential-architecture.com](http://www.essential-architecture.com)

Marks Department Store, 1891: Image courtesy of South Carolina Historical Society



The actual architectural style of Richardson's buildings is based on French and Spanish Romanesque forms of the 11<sup>th</sup> century. He revived these styles with massive stone walls, semicircular arches, and a new makeup of interior space. The style was far reaching and had a large effect on many Chicago architects like Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright as well as Scandinavian architects.<sup>94</sup>

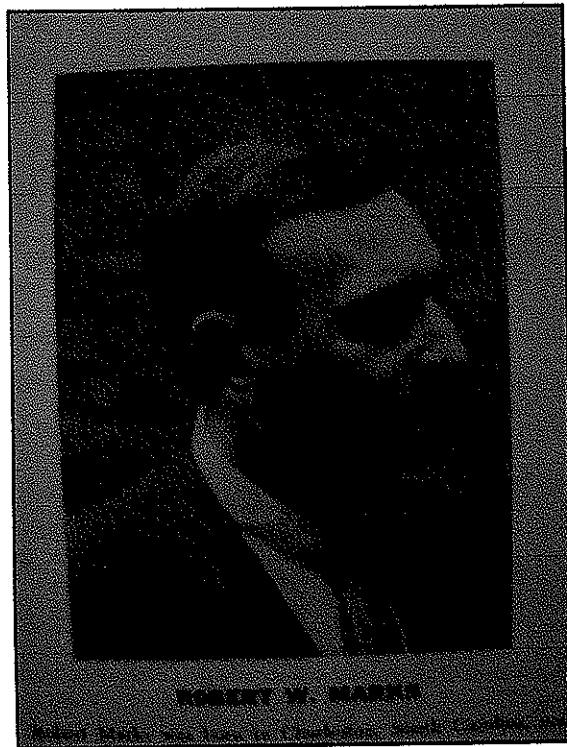
<sup>91</sup> Ibid., 3.

<sup>92</sup> Ibid., 3.

<sup>93</sup> "H.H. Richardson," [A Digital Archive of American Architecture](http://www.digitalarchive.org/aa/aa_index.html), [cited 3 October 2007] (copyrighted by Jeffery Howe).

<sup>94</sup> "Richardson," [A Digital Archive](http://www.digitalarchive.org/aa/aa_index.html), [cited 3 October 2007].

## Robert Walter Marks



Robert W. Marks, back cover of The Horizontal Hour. Image courtesy of South Carolina Room, Charleston County Public Library

In the latter half of the twentieth century, ownership of 372 King shuffled repeatedly with the renewal of the King Street commercial district. From the death of Moses Marks in 1911, the property meandered through a maze of familial conveyances, divisions in interest, and corporate dynamics. Of all the players on this stage of financial affairs, the most intriguing is Robert W. Marks, Moses' grandson. Born and raised in Charleston, Robert's incredible wit and unapologetically unique persona, both troubling and amusing to himself and those around him, gave him stature as one of the identifying characters of the social scene.



ROBERT WALTER MARKS

ΩΣΦ

**Honors:**  
Day Boy '19-'20-'21; Guide-in-Charge Day  
Boys '22-'23; Track Squad '22; Captain  
Swimming Team '22-'23; Debating Team '23;  
Pherolampian Literary Society '21-'22-'23;  
Pi Gamma Dancing Club '22-'23; Polygon  
Staff '22-'23; Grits Staff '22-'23.

There is no disputing the fact that Robert is the most eccentric character ever matriculated in this school,—scientist, Don Juan, and poet—misunderstood and unfathomed; professes misogyny, — authorities claim otherwise. Driving the “Inferno in rule” his daring borders on insanity, and it behoves no demoiselle to accompany him unless well chaperoned. He periodically blows up the laboratory, and has been known to contract tours purposely for the exercise. His illogical arguments and impractical Utopias, together with various and sundry other peculiarities, gain for him the reputation of being, not a great philosopher, but a nut.

The son of Joseph and Fannie, Robert displayed an aptitude for disturbing the status quo at an early age. A yearbook from the Porter Military Academy in 1923 deems him “the most eccentric character ever matriculated in this school,” and alludes to a reputation for misogyny and romanticism, idealistic utopianism, and “border[ing] on insanity.”<sup>95</sup> With this status as a kind of intellectual troublemaker, he began studies at the College of Charleston at age 14. Soon after, apathy towards his academic career and a reluctance to attend classes with any regularity led to an unfortunate tendency towards poor grades and, subsequently, his dismissal from the school.<sup>96</sup> Astoundingly undaunted, he applied to both Columbia and Yale numerous times, receiving numerous rejections.<sup>97</sup> With persistence, he would be accepted into both institutions as well as the

Sorbonne. In each case, he would leave campus without finishing his degree.<sup>98</sup>

Throughout these travails, Robert continued to pursue his many interests. He dabbled in philosophy, the Japanese language, computer science, the history of Chinese musical instruments, recording technology, and automotive and aeronautic sciences.<sup>99</sup> It was in his greatest passion, however, that he would find the setting to weld these varying interests together to create a career—the career in which he would become one of Charleston’s most distinctive and controversial figures. Robert W. Marks, whose

<sup>95</sup> Porter Military Academy Yearbook, Profile of Robert W. Marks, p. 35. RWM Papers, Addlestone, C of C.

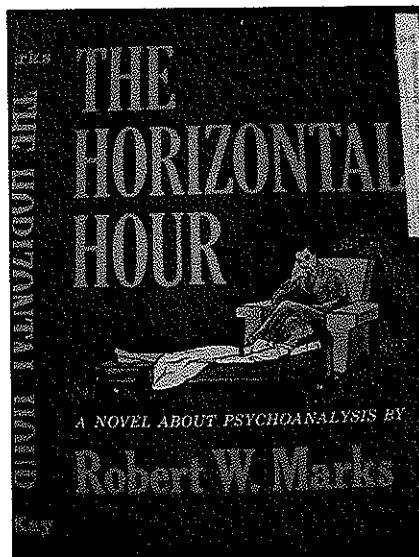
<sup>96</sup> Karen Greene, “Marks Versatile Author,” Charleston News and Courier, 19 October 1975, sec. C, p. 2, CCPL.

<sup>97</sup> Adam Leroy Jones, Letter to Robert W. Marks, 14 July 1934, (Letter of rejection from Columbia University), RWM, Addlestone, C of C.

<sup>98</sup> Marjorie Campbell, “Dr. Marks, Inventor of Money-Making ‘Brainchild’, Author, Visiting Here,” Charleston News and Courier, 10 September 1953, sec. C, CCPL.

<sup>99</sup> RWM Papers, Addlestone, C of C.

father, grandfather, and uncles had built their lives on the business of dry goods and the burgeoning department store movement, would become a writer of erotic novels.



Cover of Robert Marks' novel The Horizontal Hour, a novel about psychoanalysis: Image courtesy of South Carolina Room, Charleston County Library

It was a profession into which he would not evolve until the age of 50, but by then he had already established a successful career as a journalist and non-fiction author. Living in New York, his work was published in numerous periodicals and he finally completed his academic career at the New School for Social Research.<sup>100</sup> He became a resident writer for Esquire magazine and published several non-fiction books throughout the middle of the century.<sup>101</sup>

By the 1950s, he was a well-respected journalist with a reputation for versatility and broad range of expertise. No one, however, could have accurately anticipated his next endeavor. In 1971, he published "The Trembling of a Leaf" under the pseudonym "John Colleton."<sup>102</sup> The novel, staggeringly graphic yet unabashedly so, is set in Charleston, and uses familiar places and well-known figures throughout the plot. Not surprisingly, this created something of a controversy amongst the citizens with more traditional predilections.<sup>103</sup>

<sup>100</sup> Marjorie Campbell, "Dr. Marks, Inventor of Money-Making 'Brainchild', Author, Visiting Here," Charleston News and Courier, 10 September 1953, sec. C, CCPL.

<sup>101</sup> "Charleston author R.W. Marks dies," Charleston Post and Courier, 9 August 1993, CCPL.

<sup>102</sup> "Professor Identified as Author of Book," Charleston News and Courier, 5 May 1971, CCPL.

<sup>103</sup> W.H.J. Thomas, "A Mystery – But What a Book!" Charleston News and Courier, 29 April 1971, sec. B, p. 1, CCPL.

Robert continued his newfound career after returning to Charleston in the early 1970s. He published under various pseudonyms referring to the peninsula, including "John Charleston," "Tradd Cooper," and "Mark Ashley," with each novel more titillating than the last, his immodesty blossoming with age.<sup>104</sup>

Along with his cousins, Doris Ferst and Florence Scharff, he retained his family interest in 372 King throughout its time as the WT Grant store until 1978 when the family sold it to Thomas Dewey Wise, thus initiating an era of corporate ownership and development. One detail of the agreement easily overlooked is Robert's retention of a five percent share in the property, an interest still held by the family as the last remnant of over one hundred years of the Marks family province at the corner of King and Calhoun.<sup>105</sup>

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<sup>104</sup> Karen Greene, "Marks Versatile Author," Charleston News and Courier, 19 October 1975, sec. C, p. 2, CCPL.

<sup>105</sup> Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book Z 114 Page 141, Charleston, South Carolina, 1978.

## The Present – Millennium Music

Today, Millennium Music stands on the corner of King and Calhoun; it is a retail store selling CDs, records, tapes, DVDs, and also houses a small café. After moving in in 2001, the business sought to take advantage of the “underutilized”<sup>106</sup> location at the intersection of two high traffic streets and overlooking an historic Charleston park. The plans called for a restaurant/bar, “large performance stage with ample seating,” space to shelve not only multimedia, but instruments as well, and the corporate offices of the store.<sup>107</sup> Furthermore, planning began on a new modern rooftop as a means to decorate the seemingly drab exterior. After discussion with the Board of Architectural Review, the new roof structure went up in 2003<sup>108</sup> and remains there today as the most prominent feature of the building.



Rendering of Millennium Music at 372 King Street:  
Image courtesy of Board of Architectural Review

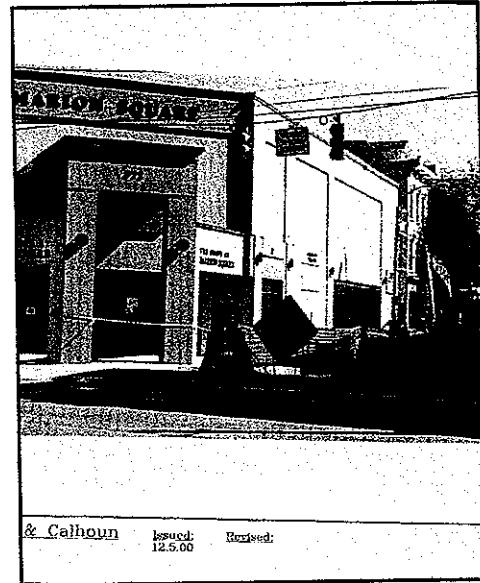
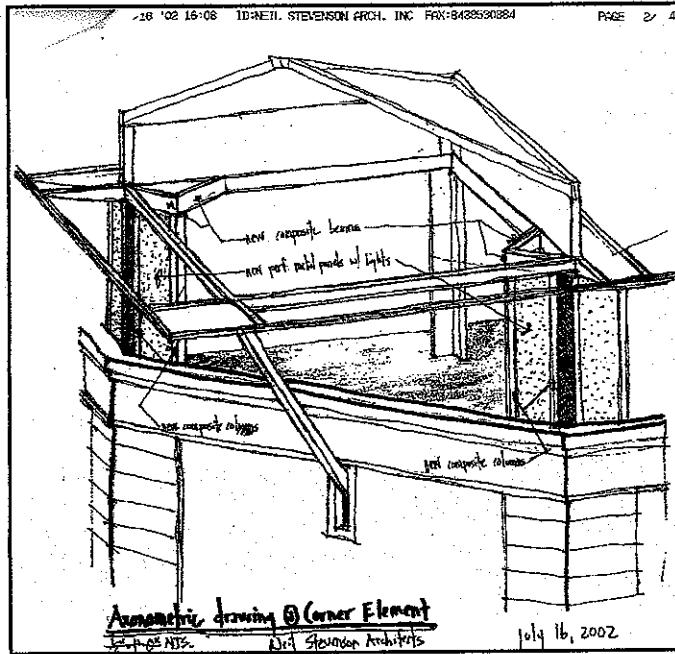


Photo of the Shops at Marion Square before Millennium Music moved in: Image courtesy of Board of Architectural Review

<sup>106</sup> Bill Perry, “Millennium Music to anchor renovated Marion Square,” Charleston Regional Business Journal, (18 December 2000) [journal online] [cited 28 August 2007].

<sup>107</sup> Ibid.

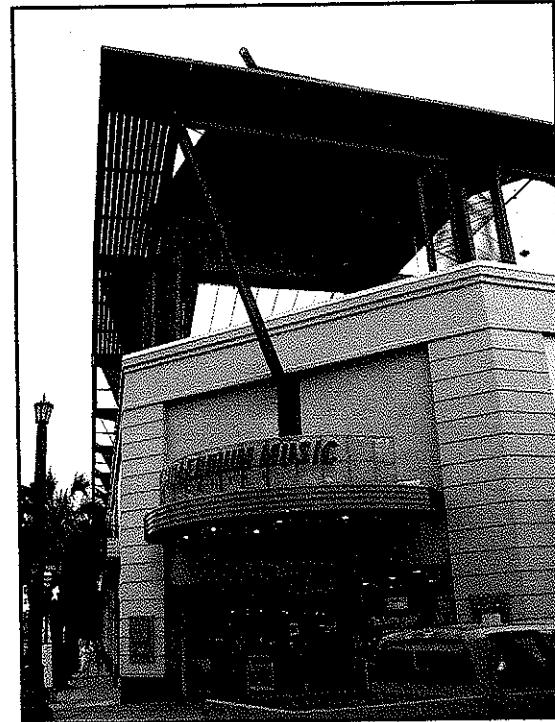
<sup>108</sup> “Axonometric drawing at Corner Element,” (sketch of proposed roof addition by Neil Stevenson Architects), 16 July 2002, BAR, Charleston.



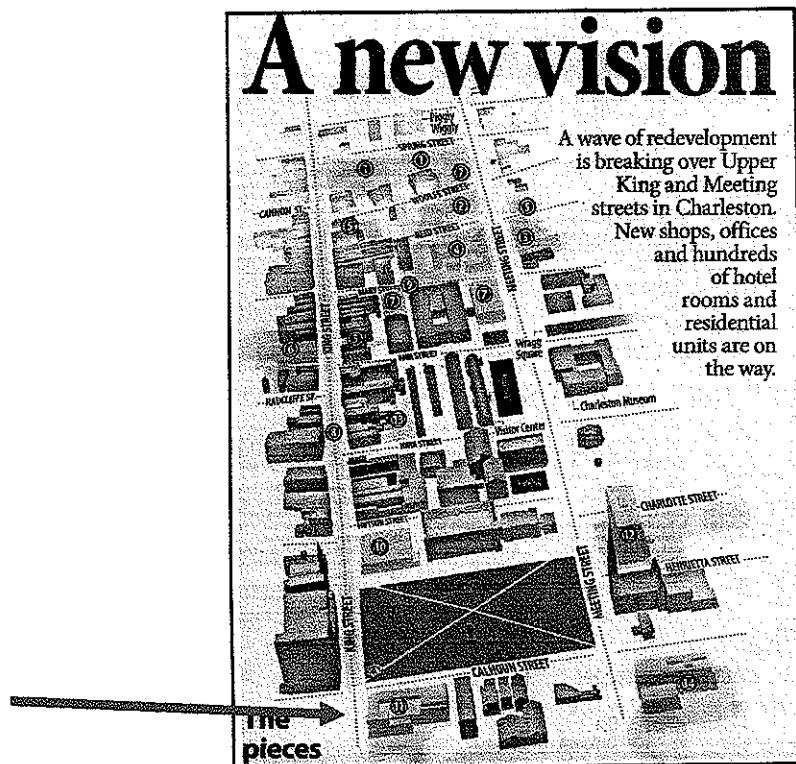
Plans for the rooftop of Millennium Music at 372 King Street: Image courtesy of Board of Architectural Review

Photo of Millennium Music at 372 King Street: Image courtesy of

K. Remington Montgomery



## The Future



Article from the Post & Courier with an arrow pointing to 372 King Street (#11)

In recent years, like much of the Marion Square district, 372 King has grown increasingly attractive to potential developers, each with their own idea as to the most efficient use of the pivotal commercial corner. While many face similar questions throughout the Charleston metropolitan area, the Millennium Music site has become somewhat of a focal point in a much larger debate facing the city—when and how to incorporate new developments in historical settings.

Its emblematic nature aside, there is a very practical aspect to the future of 372 King. As the rejuvenation of King Street continues to extend northward, 372 King moves closer to the center of the downtown commercial district, enhancing both its importance and potential. Within five years time, there will in all likelihood be a new building on the site, and its style and use will go a long way towards establishing the future identity of Charleston.

Thus far, the plans that have come to the forefront involve the construction of an eight-story building for mixed residential, commercial, and office use. In 2005, PrimeSouth Group led

a proposal to begin construction but were delayed by zoning issues<sup>109</sup> and, by February of 2007, were more prominently involved with property further north on King, at the corner of Radcliffe Street.<sup>110</sup> Developers are notoriously undaunted by such impediments, and there is little to suggest that the current structure will outlast the King Street revival.

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<sup>109</sup> Rachel Pleasant, "King and Calhoun corner project faces opposition," Charleston Regional Business Journal, (5 September 2005) [journal online] [cited 28 August 2007].

<sup>110</sup> "A New Vision," Charleston Post and Courier, 10 February 2007, sec. A, p. 1, CCPL.

## **Appendix**

- 1. Bibliography**
- 2. Chain of Title**
- 3. History of Charleston and History of southeast corner  
of King and Calhoun Streets**
- 4. Map Study**
- 5. Newspaper Articles**
- 6. Photographs**
- 7. Miscellaneous Materials**

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## Chain of Title

372 King Street							
Date	Deed Book	Seller	Buyer	Type	Lot Size	Comments	Comments
1/12/2006	k569-215	Marion Square LLC	King and Calhoun LLC	Conveyance		\$12 million	
11/2/1995	u261-178	Liberty National	Marion Square LLC	Conveyance			
3/6/1984	n135-463	Marion Square Assn	Liberty National	Mortgage			
2/12/1979	h118-42	Thomas Dewey Wise	Marion Square Assoc	Conveyance			
2/10/1978	z114-141	R. Marks, D. Ferst, F. Scharff	Thomas Dewey Wise	Conveyance		RVM retains 5%	
5/5/1962	o76-407	Fannie C. Marks	Robert W. Marks	Conveyance		20% share	
		Therese R. Marks	Robert W. Marks	Probate		25% share	File 74-275
		Madeleine Weil	Florence Scharff	Probate		25% share	File 73-700
4/14/1952	d55-240	Fannie C. Marks	Robert W. and Irving Marks	Conveyance		5% share	
		Isaac Marks	Doris Ferst	Probate		25% share	File 849-123
		Isaac Marks	Madeleine Weil	Will		25% share	
		Joseph Marks	Fannie C. Marks	Will		25% share	
		Joseph Marks	Therese R. Marks			25% share	
1/17/1911	u25-549	Moses Marks	Joseph and Isaac Marks	Conveyance	30x200x25	exec: Joseph	
1/10/1888	h19-204	Joseph Marks	Moses Marks	Conveyance	30x200x25	\$17,000.00	
6/7/1883	y18-318	Mary Ann Wirth	Joseph Marks	Conveyance	30x200x25	\$8,000.00	
9/1/1873	n16-138	Charles Cohrs	Mary Ann Wirth	Conveyance	30x200x25	\$4,500.00	
7/2/1872	c16-356	William Cadow	Charles Cohrs	Court settlement	30x200x25		
10/29/1862	p14-544	Thomas Wallace (died)	William Cadow	Conveyance	30x200x25	\$7,900.00	
4/10/1835	i10-185	Lawrence Benson	Thomas Wallace	Conveyance	29.8x200	\$5,000.00	
1/17/1832	d10-159	Lavinia Benson (died)	Lawrence Benson	Conveyance			

374 King							
Date	Deed Book	Grantee	Grantor	Type	Lot Size	Comments	Comments
1/12/2006	k569-215	Marion Square LLC	King and Calhoun LLC	Conveyance		\$12 million	
11/2/1995	u261-178	Liberty National	Marion Square LLC	Conveyance			
3/6/1984	n135-463	Marion Square Assn	Liberty National	Mortgage			
2/12/1979	h118-42	Thomas Dewey Wise	Marion Square Assoc	Conveyance			
2/10/1978	z114-141	R. Marks, D. Ferst, F. Scharff	Thomas Dewey Wise	Conveyance			
5/5/1962	o76-407	Fannie C. Marks	Robert W. Marks	Conveyance		20% share	
		Therese R. Marks	Robert W. Marks	Probate		25% share	File 74-275
		Madeleine Weil	Florence Scharff	Probate		25% share	File 73-700
4/14/1952	d55-240	Fannie C. Marks	Robert W. and Irving Marks	Conveyance		5% share	
		Isaac Marks	Doris Ferst	Probate		25% share	File 849-123
		Isaac Marks	Madeleine Weil	Will		25% share	
		Joseph Marks	Fannie C. Marks	Will		25% share	
		Joseph Marks	Therese R. Marks			25% share	
1/17/1911	u25-549	Moses Marks	Joseph and Isaac Marks	Conveyance		exec: Joseph	
1/10/1888	h19-204	Joseph Marks	Moses Marks	Conveyance		\$17,000	2 brick
1882	y18-337	Charles Seignious	Joseph Marks	Conveyance	30x268	\$8,000	2 brick
5/12/1836	n10-257	Sarah Woolf	Charles Seignious	Conveyance	29x200	\$4,900.00	218 King
3/23/1833	f10-150	Isaac Barrett	Sarah Woolf	Conveyance	29x200	\$3,500.00	
5/4/1824	g9-335	Eliza Smith	Isaac Barrett	Foreclosure	29x200	\$2,630.00	
1817			Eliza Smith	Auction			

376 - 378 King							
Date	Deed Book	Seller	Buyer	Type	Lot Size	Comments	Comments
1/12/2006	k568-215	Marion Square LLC	King and Calhoun LLC	Conveyance		\$12 million	
11/2/1995	u261-178	Liberty National	Marion Square LLC	Conveyance			
3/6/1984	n135-463	Marion Square Asso	Liberty National	Mortgage			
2/12/1979	h118-42	Thomas Dewey Wise	Marion Square Assoc	Conveyance			
2/10/1978	z114-141	R. Marks, D. Ferst, F. Scharff	Thomas Dewey Wise	Conveyance		RWM retains 5%	
5/5/1962	o76-407	Fannie C. Marks	Robert W. Marks	Conveyance		20% share	
		Therese R. Marks	Robert W. Marks	Probate		25% share	File 74-275
		Madeleine Weil	Florence Scharff	Probate		25% share	File 73-700
4/14/1952	d55-240	Fannie C. Marks	Robert W. and Irving Marks	Conveyance		5% share	
		Isaac Marks	Doris Ferst	Probate		25% share	File 849-123
		Isaac Marks	Madeleine Weil	Will		25% share	
		Joseph Marks	Fannie C. Marks	Will		25% share	
		Joseph Marks	Therese R. Marks			25% share	
1/17/1911	u25-549	Moses Marks	Joseph and Isaac Marks	Conveyance		exec: Joseph	
3/28/1888	h18-308	George Lindstedt	Moses Marks	Conveyance		\$30,000	
3/17/1889	u14-59	Sarah Lovegreen	George Lindstedt	Conveyance		exec: LB Lovegreen	
2/25/1850	c12-574	Henry Horbeck	Sarah Lovegreen	Conveyance	201x40	2 brick combined with 378	
11/3/1846	w11-523	Andrew Lovegreen	Henry Horbeck	Foreclosure			\$8,100.00

145 - 147 Calhoun						
Date	Deed Book	Seller	Buyer	Type	Lot Size	Comments
1/12/2006	k588-215	Marion Square LLC	King and Calhoun LLC	Conveyance		\$12 million
11/2/1995	u261-178	Liberty National	Marion Square LLC	Conveyance		
3/6/1984	n135-463	Marion Square Asso	Liberty National	Mortgage		
2/12/1979	h118-42	Thomas Dewey Wise	Marion Square Assoc	Conveyance		
2/10/1978	z114-141	R. Marks, D. Ferst, F. Scharff	Thomas Dewey Wise	Conveyance		
5/5/1962	o76-407	Fannie C. Marks	Robert W. Marks	Conveyance		20% share
		Therese R. Marks	Robert W. Marks	Probate		25% share
5/5/1955	n60-129	Madeleine Weil	Robert W. and Irving Marks	Conveyance		5% share
5/5/1955	n60-129	Madeleine Weil	Doris Ferst	Conveyance		25% share
		Madeleine Weil	Florence Scharff	Probate		25% share
		Madeleine Weil	Fannie C. Marks			20% share
		Madeleine Weil	Therese R. Marks			25% share
9/11/1946	y48-223	R.H. Wichmann & Sons	Madeleine Weil	Conveyance		\$61,500
1/15/1920	g30-412	Overland Palmetto Co	R.H. Wichmann & Sons	Conveyance		\$14,000*
11/20/1917	t28-81	R.H. Wichmann	Overland Palmetto Co	Conveyance		\$8,000.00
10/4/1917	t28-40	S.W. Bennett, Julia Purcell	R.H. Wichmann	Conveyance		\$8,000
1/22/1909	y24-233	E.A. Lawrence	S.W. Bennett	Conveyance		partial interest
6/11/1906	o24-242	Lydia A.M. Van Wyck	E.A. Lawrence, S.W. Bennett, Julia Purcell	Conveyance		\$3,000
	a11-228	Jean B. H. Benoist	Lydia A.M. Van Wyck (formerly Maverick)	Bond		
2/6/1839	w10-643	William and Lydia Van Wyck	Jean B. H. Benoist	Conveyance		
5/14/1833		William Turpin	William and Lydia Van Wyck	Will		
4/2/1811	d8-228	Henry Osbom (died)	William Turpin	Auction		

24 Burns Lane						
Date	Deed Book	Seller	Buyer	Type	Lot Size	Comments
1/12/2008	k589-215	Marion Square LLC	King and Calhoun LLC	Conveyance		\$12 million
11/2/1995	u261-178	Liberty National	Marion Square LLC	Conveyance		
3/6/1984	n135-463	Marion Square Assoc	Liberty National	Mortgage		
2/12/1979	h118-42	Thomas Dewey Wise	Marion Square Assoc	Conveyance		
2/10/1978	z114-141	R. Marks, D. Ferst, F. Scharff	Thomas Dewey Wise	Conveyance		
5/5/1962	o76-407	Fannie C. Marks	Robert W. Marks	Conveyance	20% share	
		Therese R. Marks	Robert W. Marks	Probate	25% share	File 74-275
5/5/1955	n60-129	Madeleine Weil	Robert W. and Irving Marks	Conveyance	5% share	
5/5/1955	n60-129	Madeleine Weil	Doris Ferst	Conveyance	25% share	
		Madeleine Weil	Florence Scharff	Probate	25% share	File 73-700
		Madeleine Weil	Fannie C. Marks		25% share	
		Madeleine Weil	Therese R. Marks		25% share	
9/11/1946	y46-223	R.H. Wichmann & Sons	Madeleine Weil	Conveyance	\$61,500	
1/15/1920	g30-412	Overland Palmetto Co	R. H. Wichmann & Sons	Conveyance	\$14,000	w/other Chas. Prop
1/20/1919	r28-672	Knights of Columbus	Overland Palmetto Co	Conveyance	\$10.00	
11/14/1907	v24-335	Henry Oliver	Knights of Columbus	Conveyance	\$250.00	has plat
11/1/1907	v24-334	Julius Redding	Henry Oliver	Conveyance	\$250.00	
9/12/1898	o24-312	Children of James T. Reddin	Julius Redding	Conveyance	\$5.00	
4/5/1898	y22-367	Charleston Real Estate	James F. Redding	Conveyance		
4/29/1881	b21-105	Jacob W. Weinges	Charleston Real Estate	Auction	\$705	
1852			Jacob W. Weinges		25x150	2 wood

26 Burns Lane						
Date	Deed Book	Seller	Buyer	Type	Lot Size	Comments
1/12/2008	k589-215	Marion Square LLC	King and Calhoun LLC	Conveyance	31,698 ft.	\$12 million
11/2/1995	u261-178	Liberty National	Marion Square LLC	Conveyance		
3/6/1984	n135-463	Marion Square Assoc	Liberty National	Mortgage		
2/12/1979	h118-42	Thomas Dewey Wise	Marion Square Assoc	Conveyance		
2/10/1978	z114-141	R. Marks, D. Ferst, F. Scharff	Thomas Dewey Wise	Conveyance		
5/5/1962	o76-407	Fannie C. Marks	Robert W. Marks	Conveyance	20% share	
		Therese R. Marks	Robert W. Marks	Probate	25% share	File 74-275
5/5/1955	n60-129	Madeleine Weil	Robert W. and Irving Marks	Conveyance	5% share	
5/5/1955	n60-129	Madeleine Weil	Doris Ferst	Conveyance	25% share	
		Madeleine Weil	Florence Scharff	Probate	25% share	File 73-700
		Madeleine Weil	Fannie C. Marks		25% share	
		Madeleine Weil	Therese R. Marks		25% share	
9/11/1946	y46-223	R.H. Wichmann & Sons	Madeleine Weil	Conveyance	\$61,500	
12/22/1919	g30-412	Overland Palmetto Co	R.H. Wichmann & Sons	Conveyance	\$14,000*	
9/13/1919	z28-181	Mary A. Culliton	Overland Palmetto Co	Conveyance	3 wood	
9/15/1908	w23-218	Caroline A. Ruckh (Francis)	Mary A. Culliton	Conveyance		
6/6/1881	v18-219	Charlotte M. Joseph	Francis J. Ruckh	Conveyance		
1852			Charlotte M. Joseph		25x110	2.5 wood

## Charleston and 372 King Street Timeline<sup>111</sup>

1803 – The foreign slave trade reopens in South Carolina for the first time since 1787; more than 40,000 African slaves are imported in the next five years before the practice is brought to an end under the U.S. Constitution in 1808.

1811 – A great “cyclone” strikes the city and damages many buildings.

1813 – Another fierce hurricane comes ashore in the Lowcountry surrounding Charleston.

1822 – The Denmark Vesey slave insurrection plot is uncovered; conspirators are hanged or sent from the state, and stricter slave laws are enacted as a result.

1824 – John C. Calhoun, former secretary of war, is elected vice president of the United States under President John Quincy Adams.

Members of the K.K. Beth Elohim synagogue organize the Reformed Society of Israelites beginning Reform Judaism in America.

**Eliza Smith, former owner of 374 King Street, loses the property through foreclosure to Isaac Barrett. Barrett sells the property to Sarah Woolf three years later who then sells it to Charles W. Seignious. Seignious will own the property for 46 years from 1836-1882.**

1827 – Edgar Allan Poe is stationed at Fort Moultrie on Sullivan’s Island; his short story “The Gold Bug” draws heavily upon this experience.

1828 – A banner economic year for Charleston commences with the shipment of its largest Sea Island cotton crop and its second greatest rice crop.

1832 – The Nullification controversy begins as a response to the tariff of 1832, an enactment unfavorable to the southern states.

1833 – The completion of a railway stretching from Charleston to Hamburg at a distance of 136 miles results in the longest railroad in the world at this time.

**Samuel Maverick and his daughter, Lydia Van Wyck, acquire the properties on Calhoun Street from William Turpin and will hold these properties for another 73 years until Lydia’s death in 1906.**

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<sup>111</sup> Jonathan H. Poston, The Buildings of Charleston, (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1997).

1835 – St. Philip's Episcopal Church is destroyed by fire.

1838 – Fire rages across 145 acres of the city, destroying nearly 1,000 buildings eastward from King Street to Ansonborough.

1839 – With the beginning of an annual appropriation from the city, the College of Charleston becomes the first municipally supported college in the United States.

**1841 – Lawrence Benson dies of palsy at the age of 61 on January 31<sup>st</sup> (owned 372 King until 1835).**

1842 – The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina, is established in Charleston.

1860 – South Carolinians sign the Ordinance of Secession on December 20 at Institute Hall in Charleston. Six days later, U.S. Army Major Robert Anderson moves his troops from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter.

1861 – On April 12, the firing on Federal forces at Fort Sumter initiates the War Between the States; perhaps the worst fire in Charleston's history occurs on December 11, with the path of the blaze extending in a diagonal direction from the Cooper to the Ashley Rivers.

**Thomas Wallace, owner of 372 King from 1835 until his death, passes away from Apoplexy at the age of 54 years old on December 16<sup>th</sup>.**

1863 – The 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts, an African American regiment under the command of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, leads an assault on Battery Wagner off Charleston Harbor on Morris Island; the regiment sustains heavy casualties.

The federal bombardment of Charleston, which will last nearly eighteen months, begins in August; shells as far north as Calhoun Street.

The president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, visits Charleston near the end of the year; he stays in Governor William Aiken's house on Elizabeth Street.

1864 – The Confederate submarine *Hunley* sinks the Union ship *Housatonic* off Sullivan's Island, but it is also lost, with no survivors; the action marks the first successful sinking of a ship during warfare by a submarine.

1865 – Federal troops occupy the city in February, after 587 days of siege.

1867 – Phosphates are discovered on former plantation lands outside the city, precipitating a booming new industry.

1879 – William Ashmead Courtenay is elected mayor and during his eight year administration greatly expands the city's parks and other public services and improvements.

**1883 – Moses Marks purchases the land on the corner of King and Calhoun streets which will house his fine department store.**

1885 – Another great “cyclone” rakes the city.

1886 – A devastating earthquake strikes Charleston in August, destroying and damaging countless properties and killing 92 people.

**King St Properties suffer minimal damage – George Lindstedt at 378/426**

**King suffers enough damage to warrant the rebuilding of parapet and south wall on third story as well as anchoring the east wall at the second floor adjoining the main building.**

**1891 – Marks and Sons Dry Goods Store opens as a new “commercial palace”.**

1893 – Another severe hurricane batters the Charleston area.

1901 – The Navy Yard at Port Royal is relocated to a Cooper River site, a few miles above Charleston's city limits.

1902 – The Interstate and West Indian Exposition, a world's fair, opens at Hampton Park, bringing international attention to the city.

**1907 – Robert W. Marks is born.**

**Henry Oliver buys 24 Burns Lane from Julius Redding. Twenty years earlier, Henry Oliver constructed the Marks Department store, supposedly.**

1911 – A hurricane hits the city and environs in August with recorded wind speeds between 94 and 106 mph and brings to an end the rice industry in South Carolina.

**Moses Marks dies at the age of 77 from cirrhosis of the liver and myocarditis on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Moses leaves the property in control of his sons, Joseph and Isaac Marks.**

1917 – The boll weevil is first detected; the insects destroy the Sea Island cotton industry by 1919.

1920 – The Society for the Preservation of Old Dwellings, now the Preservation Society of Charleston, is founded by Susan Pringle Frost.

**Overland Palmetto Company purchases the Calhoun and Burns Lane properties.**

1929 – The Cooper River Bridge opens, connecting Charleston and Mount Pleasant.

**Sears and Roebuck occupies the former Marks and Sons Department Store at the corner of King and Calhoun Streets.**

1931 – A pioneering zoning ordinance is passed by Charleston City Council, creating the nation's first official historic district and Board of Architectural Review.

1935 – The opera *Porgy and Bess*, based on Charlestonian Dubose Heyward's novel *Porgy* and composed by George Gershwin, opens in NYC.

1938 – Two tornadoes strike the city within fifteen minutes; the second devastates the City Market.

1940 – A hurricane, the worst in nearly thirty years, hammers the city.

1941 – With the beginning of WW II, the Charleston area swells with additional population and the Navy Yard becomes the third largest industry in the state.

1947 – Judge J. Waites Waring rules in Charleston that South Carolina primary elections must be opened to African Americans, thus introducing the city to the civil rights era.

The civic services committee of the Carolina Art Association establishes Historic Charleston Foundation.

**On June 2, 1955, the Marks and Sons Department Store begins to be torn down, beginning from the tower that overlooked the corner of King and Calhoun Streets.**

**“It’s a rule of nature and man alike that the old eventually must give way to the new and Charleston’s business district is no exception to the rule.”**

**The King Street, Calhoun Street, and Burns Lane properties become what they are today, one large lot of land (as of May 5, 1955).**

1959 – The HCF Ansonborough Rehabilitation Project begins, using an innovative method of financing – a revolving fund for restoration.

J. Palmer Gaillard becomes mayor of Charleston and within a year opens the first municipal facility to blacks in South Carolina.

1966 – The city's historic district is expanded to include the neighborhoods of Ansonborough and Harleston, and the preservation zoning ordinance is significantly updated.

1969 – The hospital strike in Charleston becomes one of the nation's leading civil rights struggles.

**1973 – Robert Marks returns to his native Charleston after having spent nearly the last thirty years in New York.**

1975 – Joseph P. Riley, Jr., is first elected mayor of Charleston.

1977 – The arts festival "Spoleto USA" begins.

**1978 – Thomas Dewey Wise finalizes plans to purchase the former W.T Grant store that had been vacant for three years (property was still owned by Robert Marks and two of his cousins, Doris Ferst and Florence Scharff). He eventually pays \$320,000 for the property.**

1989 – Hurricane Hugo causes extensive damage to the Charleston area.

1990 – Charleston's Waterfront Park opens to the public.

**1993 – Robert W. Marks dies on August 8.**

1995 – The Navy Yard and Naval Base close; tourism has become Charleston's largest industry.

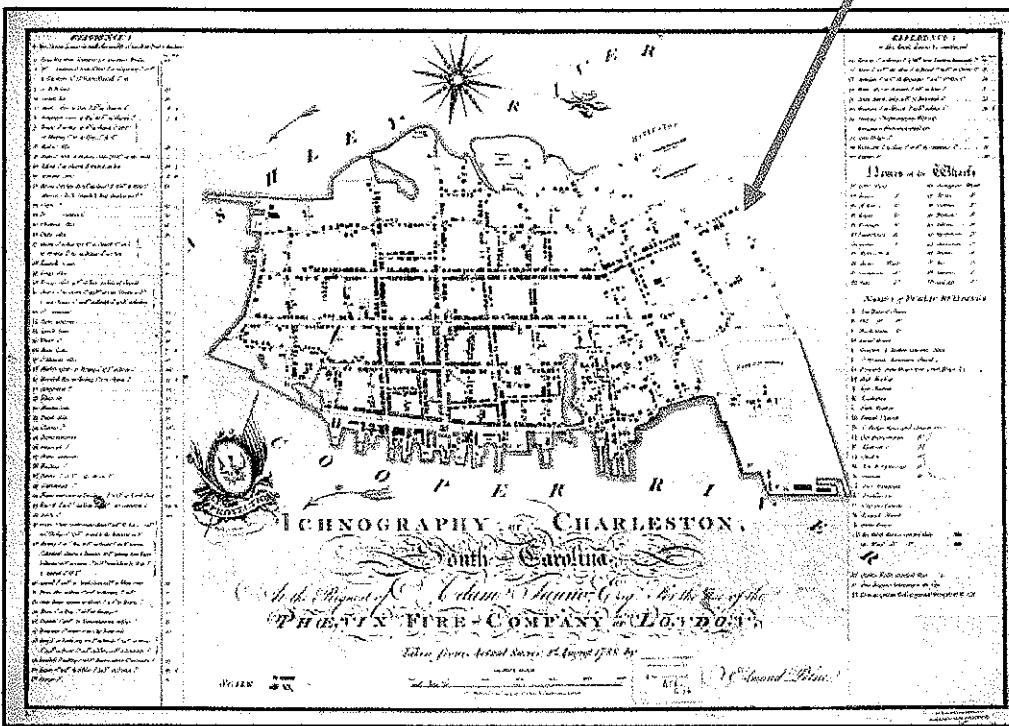
**2006 – Millenium Music is constructed at the corner of King and Calhoun Streets for \$12 million.**

**2007 – Plans are made to construct an eight story building at the site of Millenium Music featuring stores on the ground floor and condos on the other floors.**

## Map Study

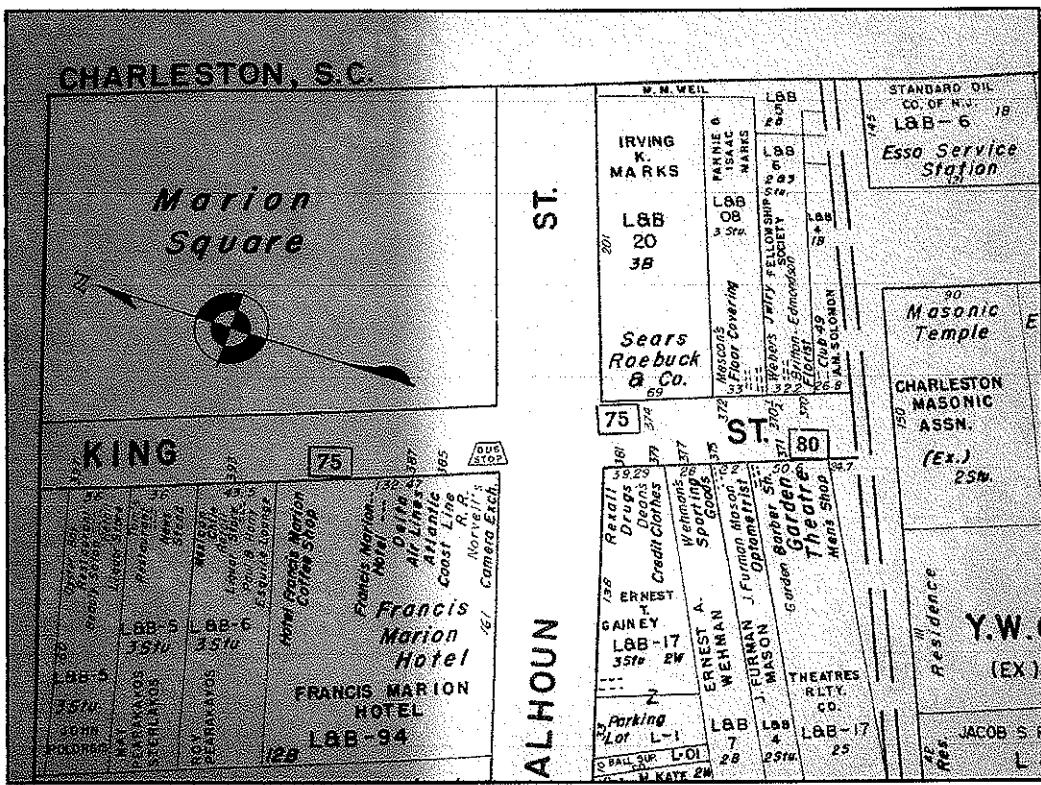
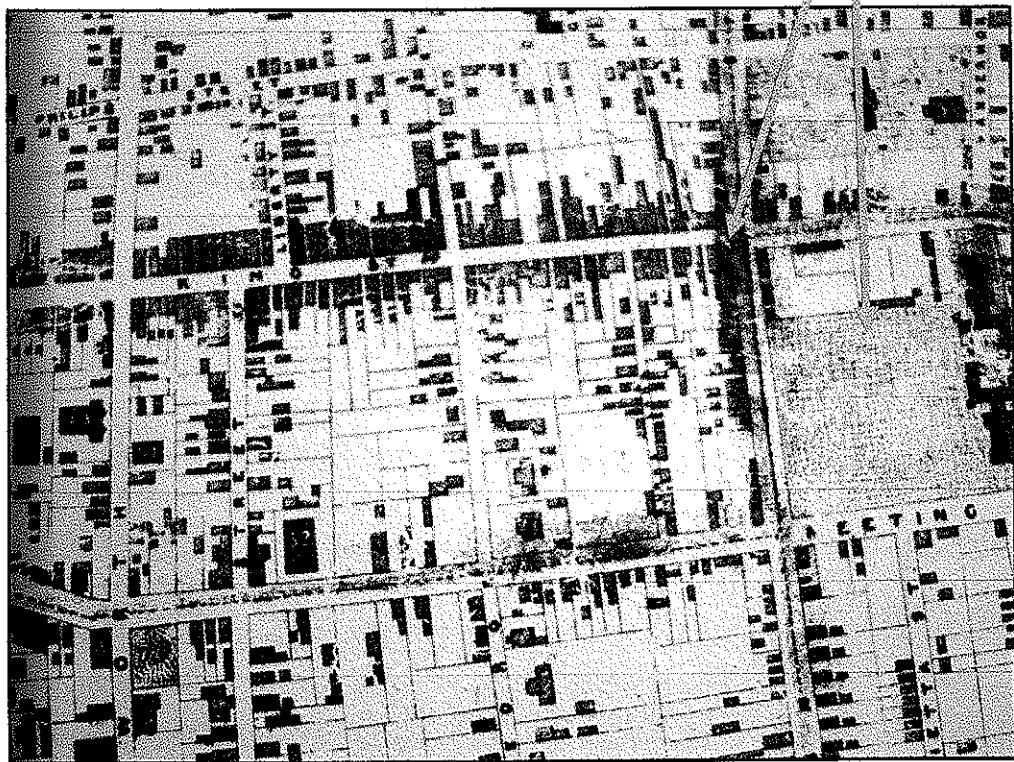


Bird's Eye View of Charleston, 1872, arrow points to southeast corner of King and Calhoun: Image courtesy of University of South Carolina Digital Collections

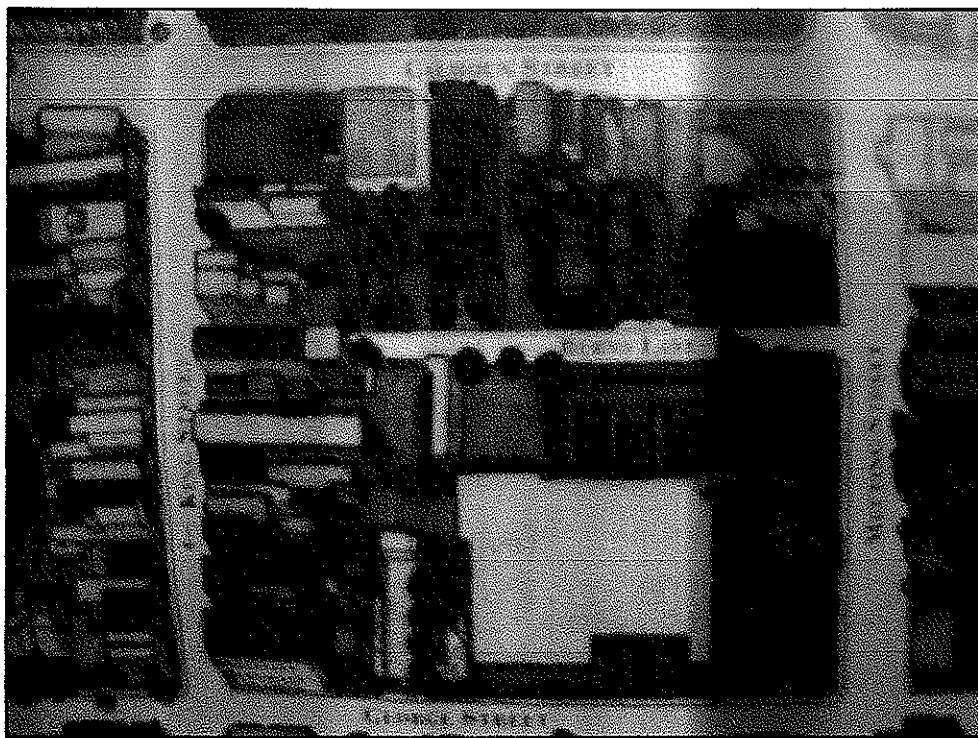


Ichnography of Charleston, 1788, arrow points to southeast corner of King and Calhoun: Image courtesy of South Carolina Room, Charleston County Public Library

Bridger's and Allen 1852  
Map of the City of  
Charleston, arrow points  
to southeast corner of  
King and Calhoun Streets  
and Marion Square:  
Image courtesy of South  
Carolina Room,  
Charleston County Public  
Library

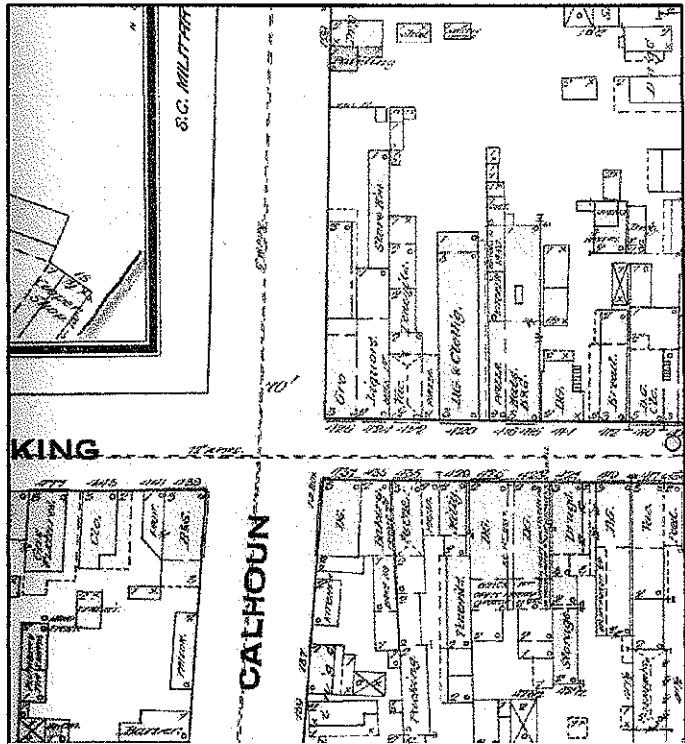


Nirenstein's Business  
District of Charleston,  
1943: Image courtesy of  
South Carolina Room,  
Charleston County  
Library

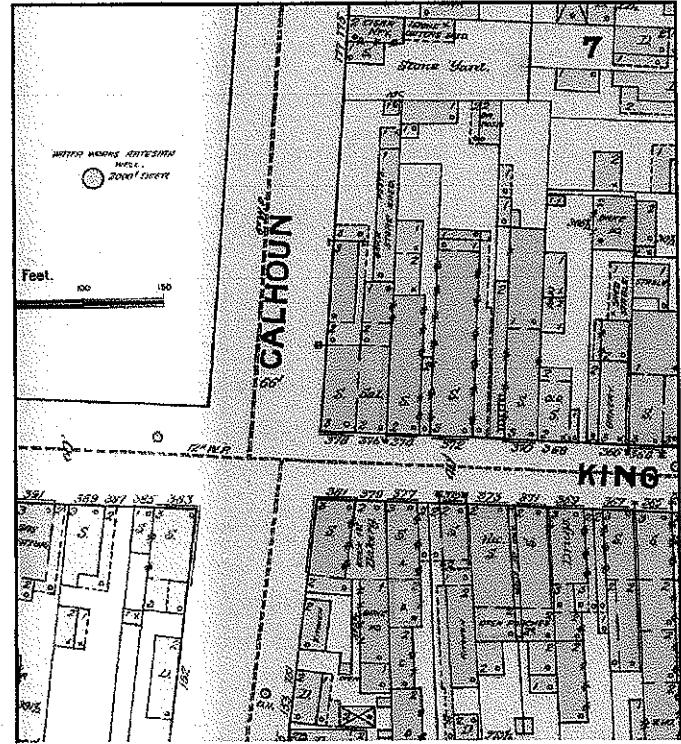


2001 Map of Charleston Historic District with Millennium Music on left corner: Image Courtesy of South Carolina Room, Charleston County Public Library

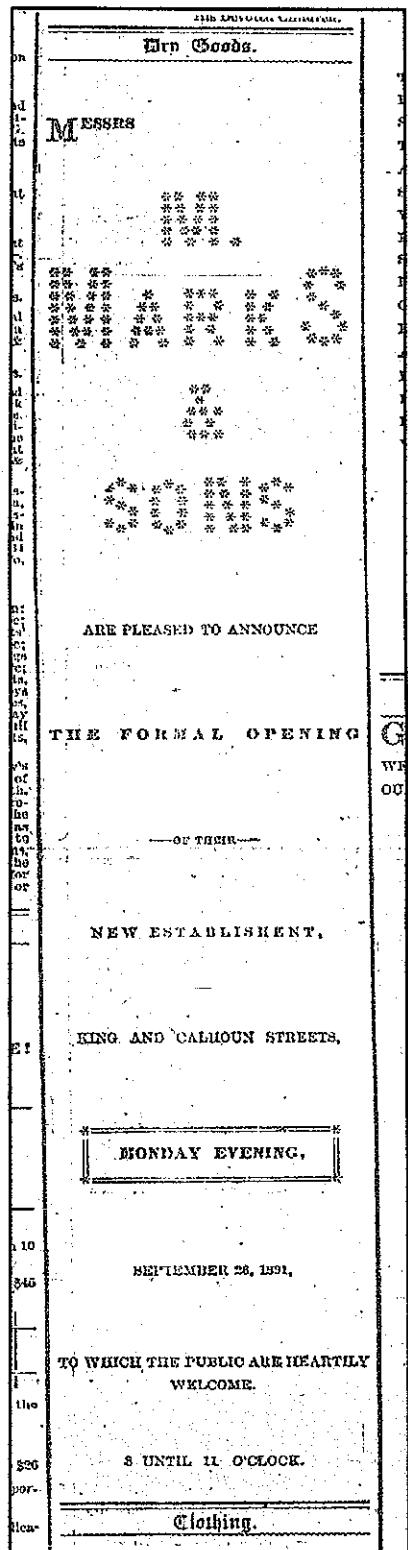
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1888: Image courtesy of University of South Carolina Digital Collections



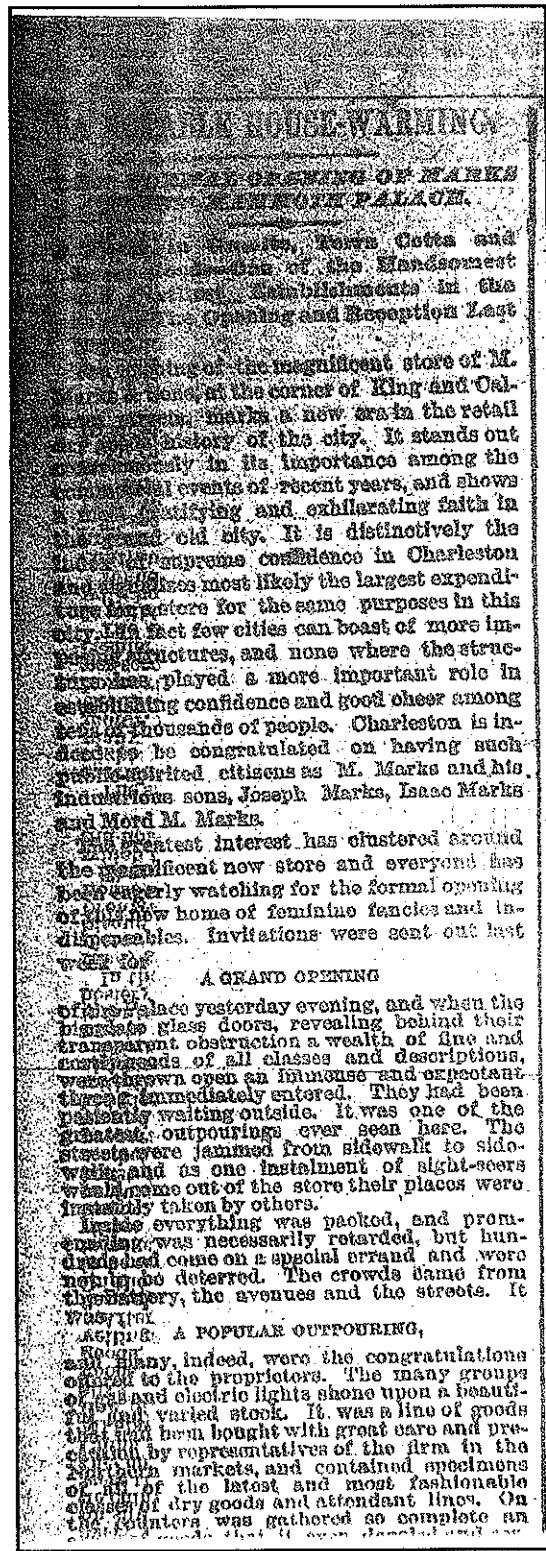
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1884: Image courtesy of University of South Carolina Digital Collections



## Newspaper Articles



News and Courier Advertisement, May 28, 1891:  
Image courtesy of Charleston County Public Library



News and Courier article, Marks' Grand Opening, May 29, 1891: Image courtesy of Charleston County

## SECTION 4. A POPULAR WORKROOM.

Never, indeed, were the congratulations greater to the proprietors. The many groups of gas and electric lights shone upon a beautiful and varied stock. It was a line of goods that had been bought with great care and presented by representatives of the firm in the principal markets, and contained specimens of all of the latest and most fashionable classes of dry goods and attendant lines. On the register was gathered so complete an array of goods that it even dazzled and surprised the visitors, and no thought that such a scene of splendor could greet them.

The store in interior decorations and finish proved to be fully as artistic and elaborate as the exterior. Scattered here and there were the finest of varied lines of goods.

## SECTION 5. A MODERN PALACE.

The interior of the building is quite unlike the ready goods store of ten years ago. All of the wood work is of polished natural pine. The windows on the Calhoun street side and throughout on the south side of the building were all decorated with valuable lace curtains. The columns were all entwined in varicolored plushes, the walls were decorated with artistic pictures and bric-a-brac, and altogether the visitor had to think twice before deciding whether he was in a drawing room or a ready goods store. Everything from the finest evening silks and floucings to boxes of buttons was in the neatest possible order. Notwithstanding the rush to get the immense establishment ready for the opening, everything presented an inviting appearance.

It is almost needless to say anything to Charlestonians about M. Marks & Sons' new store. It has been the subject of very great commendation, and everyone has seen the magnificent structure at the corner of Meeting and Calhoun streets. They may however not know that the three-story building is 125 feet long by 50 feet wide and has an extreme height of 120 feet. It is a well proportioned and elegantly finished piece of work. The style of architecture is the renaissance, and the materials used are polished and rock-faced granite; an abundance of elaborate and artistic terra-cotta ornamentations are also used. Two observation towers top the building.

## SECTION 6. THESE ARE THE BUILDERS.

The architect of the store is Mr P. J. Lauritzen, of 14 East 23rd street, New York. Mr John D. Murphy, the successful contractor, succeeded another laurel to his chaplet for his excellent and quick work. His foreman, Mr Elmer Dohrman, proved himself to be a thoroughly competent and skillful workman. Colleagues entering the store the most uninterested passer-by could not fail to be struck with the brilliancy and magnificence of the window decorations. The work, which is of the most artistic execution, was done by Mr Mathew Mathew, a professional decorator. The south window is as unique as it is handsome. The central figure is a wax woman in a delicate pink dress, fingerling on a harp made of red plush. Surrounding the figure is a garland of varicolored faille and decked around the window are mounds of elegant dress goods, with costly fans and other fineries scattered around. Altogether it makes a beautiful sight. On the Calhoun street window there is a profusion of fancy articles advantageously arranged. They give a fair idea of the fine line merchandise on the inside of the store.

To take up the various departments heratim would be too tedious. A general survey can, however, be given, for that is about all that could be seen last night in the crowd.

However, no given, for that is about all that could be seen last night in the crowd.

## SECTION 7. A GLANCE AT THE GOODS.

Starting from the right-hand aisle one first strikes the dress goods department, which extends about sixty feet. It is as elegant a line of dress goods as can be found in any city. There is a full line of veils, black crepes, pure silk failles, from one of the best makers, and every yard of which is guaranteed. The extensive line of evening silks and pure silk crepes have made a beautiful display. Then there comes the brocaded and plain crepes and all of the novelties in fancy crepes, Japanese and Chinese silks. In fact, it is clearly evident that M. Marks & Sons propose to carry a complete line of the finer grades of dress goods and silks. Then towards the end of the dress goods counters come the popular brands of goods, including Priestly's Henriettes, nuns' veillings and silk worn.

After the dress goods come the linen and embroidered departments and then the domestics. On the opposite side of the aisle coming up are the queen, the blankets, quilts and lace curtains, and further up the beautiful trimmings, ribbons and fans over which the ladies love to indulge. At the head of the main aisle are the embroidery and jewelry departments. Marks's boast is that there can nowhere be found a greater grade of perfume and toilet preparations. But then everything is looked beyond one passes on. Then come the corset, ruff, glove and lace departments, winding up with the embroideries, and at the end of the aisle are the actions of all sorts.

Down the extreme left aisle are the departments of ladies' underwear, handkerchiefs, Orkney goods, gents' furnishings, goods, upholstery, gloves and underwear.

In the rear of the store is the pottery and fancy goods department. It is absolutely complete, and all grades of Worcester, Dresden, bisque and Chinaware, as well as pictures, bronzes and monuments, are in stock. The house is making a specialty of dinner sets. There are a thousand and one other things which the Reporter, like a great many others, did not see.

## SECTION 8. MODERN EQUIPMENTS.

The store is equipped with the Martin cash-barrier system, which worked charmingly last night. It was the wonder and admiration of all. The current is supplied by an electric motor, for which the power is received from the Electric Light and Power Company. The stores run at the rate of eleven and a half feet per second, and from length of the store to the cashier's loft in twenty-two seconds.

The building is equipped with an elevator, which is heated by steam and illuminated with both gas and electricity.

It should be noted that the firm intend to continue the "one price" system and all goods are marked in plain figures.

There were no sales made last night, but there were many who left with the intention of calling again to purchase something which took their fancy.

Charleston wishes luck and prosperity to M. Marks & Sons.

LAST WILL.—The will of the late S. B. Pickens was probated yesterday. It is a very simple document. The entire estate, without any restrictions or qualifications, is willed to his son, Anna G. Pickens. The executors of the will are William H. Biggs and his wife, and Fred Pickens. The witnesses to the will are W. G. Miller, D. C. Allen and E. G. Hartman. The schedule has not yet been made up, and it is not known what will be the value of the estate.

News and Courier article, Marks' Grand Opening, May 29, 1891: Image courtesy of Charleston County Public Library Periodicals

## Isaac Marks, Former King St. Merchant, Dies

Funeral services for Isaac Marks of Atlanta, Ga., will be held at 10:30 o'clock this morning at the graveside in K. K. Beth Elohim Cemetery, Huguenin Ave., with Rabbi Allan Tarshish officiating. St. Marks has announced. He was 87 years old.

Pallbearers are to be Samuel H. Jacob, Mayer Triest, Edgar A. Cohen, Joseph B. Fatman, Willard H. Hirsch, and Julius H. Weil.

Mr. Marks died Friday in Atlanta. He was born in Charleston November 8, 1863.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Alvin M. Ferst of Atlanta, and Mrs. Henry Weil of Montgomery, Ala.; a sister, Mrs. David Harris of New York; two brothers, M. M. Marks and Leopold Marks, both of St. Petersburg, Fla., and four grandchildren.

Mr. Marks was a member of the firm of M. Marks & Sons, who operated a store at King and Calhoun Sts. in the building now occupied by Sears, Roebuck & Co. The company went into voluntary liquidation a little more than 20 years ago and the building has been occupied since by Sears, Roebuck & Co.

New and Courier article, Isaac Marks' Obituary, May 27, 1951: Image courtesy of Charleston County Public Library Periodicals

## Co. Post-June 9, 1955 W. T. Grant Planning Big Store Here

Plans for a new W. T. Grant Co. department store at Calhoun and King Streets were announced today.

Officials of the Grant Co. and the Engle Realty Co. Birmingham, Ala. said arrangements to lease a new building to be built at the site are completed.

Construction of the building is expected to begin at the end of this month when demolition of the old Sears, Roebuck and Co. building is finished. Completion is expected in about 10 months.

Designed by Augustus E. Constantine, Charleston architect, it will be constructed by Skinner and Ruddock for the heirs of M. Marks.

The plans call for a two-story structure of a modified contemporary design. It will contain more than 29,000 square feet of floor space. The ground area of the building will be approximately three-quarters the size of the new Sears Roebuck store at Calhoun and St. Philip Streets.

The Grant store will extend 99 feet along King Street and 230 feet on Calhoun Street. There will be approximately 22,600 square feet of selling area on the first floor and 7,700 square feet on the second floor. The second floor will also contain general office space, restrooms for employees and the public, and stock storage space.

The company said the store will incorporate many devices for quick, convenient and pleasant shopping. Air conditioning will insure year-around comfort. The newest in fluorescent lighting will highlight merchandise displayed on specially designed counters and fixtures.

The main entrance to the building will be set at an angle to the street intersection. The exterior height of the building will be 30 feet. The exterior facades on King and Calhoun Streets will be constructed of pressed face-brick in two tones. The walls below the show windows will be of pink texture and those above the windows will be of light buff face-brick.

The main entrance will be faced

Charleston Evening Post article, June 9, 1955: Image courtesy of South Carolina Room, Charleston County Public Library

# Modern Department Store Will Replace Building Once Last Word In Architecture

It's a rule of nature and man alike that the old eventually must give way to the new and Charleston's business district is no exception to the rule.

A demonstration of the process is in progress at the southeast corner of King and Calhoun Streets where the old Marks Building, once the last word in architectural style, is being demolished to make way for a modern department store.

The new building, featuring low, sweeping lines, was designed by

Augustus E. Constantine, Charleston architect, and is to be built by M. Marks for the W. T. Grant Co., department store operators.

The structure will be of concrete blocks, faced with brick and trimmed with limestone. The first floor will be 230 by 90 feet and the second, 76, by 90 feet. Skinner & Ruddock, local contractors, will erect the new building at a cost of about \$250,000.

The building on the site was built about 1883 by Moses Marks. For almost a half century M. Marks &

Sons operated a department store in the building until it was taken over by Sears, Roebuck & Co., who occupied it until last year.

The Marks building has been said to be one of the finest examples of Richardson Romanesque architecture in Charleston. This school of architecture is attributed to Henry Hobson Richardson, Louisiana-born architect.

Richardson was studying in Europe when the War Between the States broke out. He loaded pas-

sage on a ship for New York to join the Southern cause, but friends in New York induced him to return to Europe and complete his studies. After the war he located in Boston and became one of the nation's noted architects.

Because of the poverty of the South after the war, few examples of this school of architecture were built in this section. Notable remaining example in Charleston is the Circular Congregational Church.

News and Courier article, June 12, 1955: Image courtesy of South Carolina Historical Society

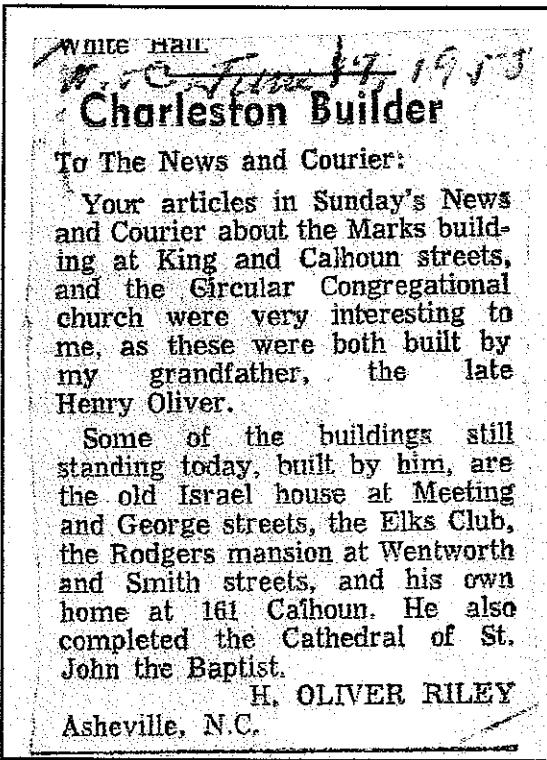
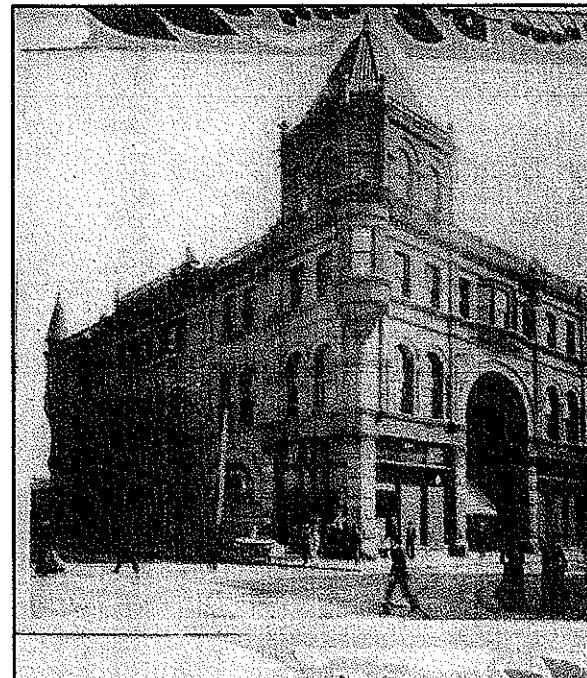


Image of Marks and Sons Dry Goods Store from "Do You Know Your Charleston?", August 24, 1981: Image courtesy of South Carolina Room, Charleston County Public Library



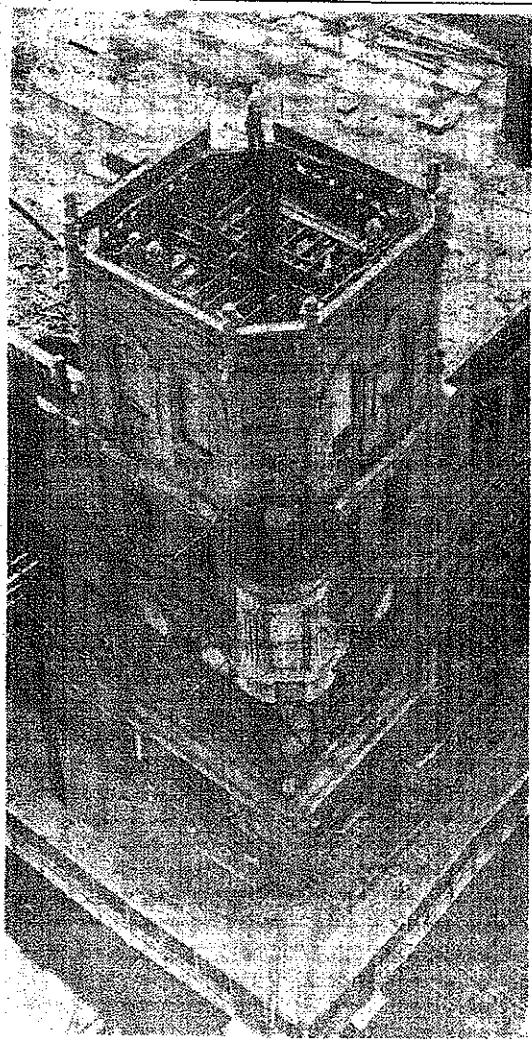
M. Marks & Sons Store

News and Courier, Letter to the Editor, June 7, 1955: Image courtesy of South Carolina Room, Charleston County Public Library

THE CHARLESTON EVENING POST  
Building a Better City

**NEWS**

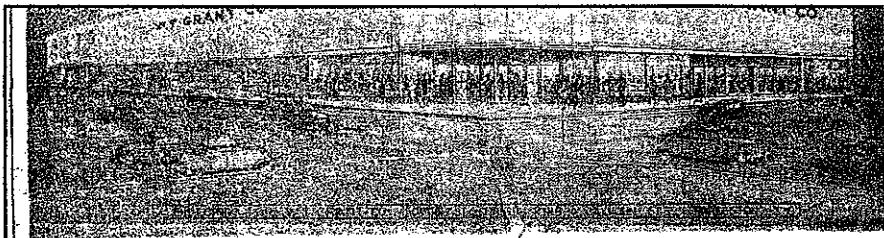
GE 1-B — THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1955



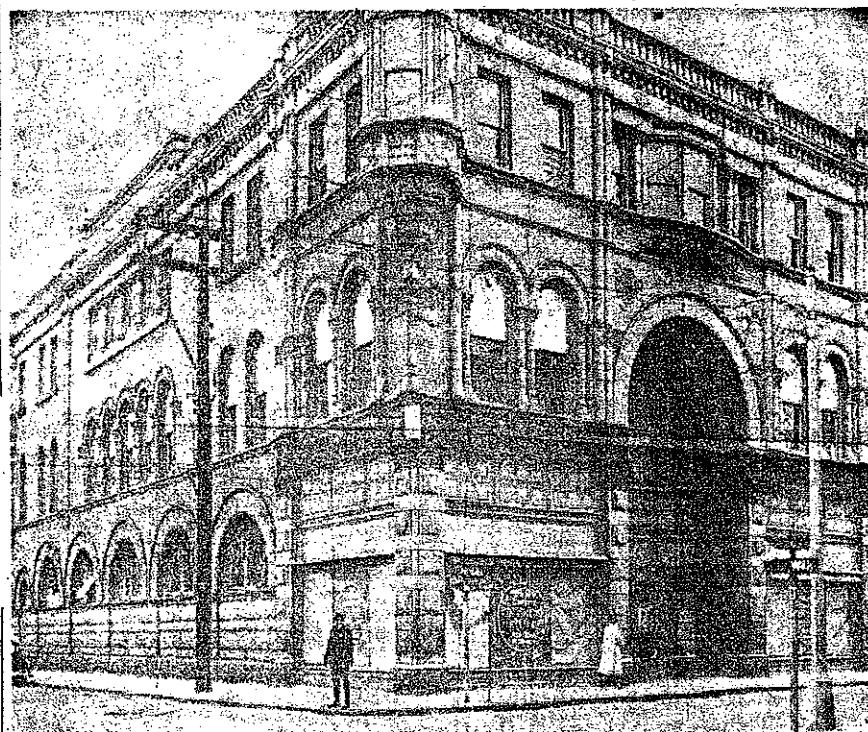
**LANDMARK IS FALLING**—Workmen begin razing the tower of the Marks Building at King and Calhoun Streets. Much of the building, formerly occupied by Sears, Roebuck and Co., already has been demolished in preparation for the erection of a new building on the site. (Staff Photo by Burhage)

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Here Is Sketch Of New Store To Be Located At King And Calhoun



This Is The Old Marks Building, Which Is Now Being Demolished

## Modern Department Store Will Replace Building Once Last Word In Architecture

It's a rule of nature and man alike that the old eventually must give way to the new and Charleston's business district is no exception to the rule.

A demonstration of the process is in progress at the southeast corner of King and Calhoun Streets where the old Marks Building, one the last word in architectural style, is being demolished to make way for a modern department store.

The new building, featuring low, sweeping lines, was designed by

Augustus E. Constantine, Charleston architect, and is to be built by M. Marks for the W. T. Grant Co., department store operators.

The structure will be of concrete blocks, faced with brick and trimmed with limestone. The first floor will be 250 by 90 feet and the ples of Richardson Romanesque

The Marks building has been said to be one of the finest examples of Richardson Romanesque architecture in Charleston. This

school of architecture is attributed to Henry Hobson Richardson, a Louisiana-born architect.

The building on the site was built about 1883 by Moses Marks. For

almost a half century M. Marks & Sons operated a department store

sage on a ship for New York to join the Southern cause, but his return to New York induced him to turn to Europe and complete his studies.

After the war he in Boston and became one of the nation's noted architects.

Because of the poverty in the South after the war, few examples of this school of architecture were built in this section. The remaining example in Charleston is the Circular Congregational Church.

Charleston Evening Post article, June 2, 1955:  
Image courtesy of South Carolina Room, Charleston County Public Library

News and Courier article, June 12, 1955: Image courtesy of South Carolina Historical Society



Here Is Sketch Of New Store To Be Located At King And Calhoun

News and Courier article, June 12, 1955: Image courtesy of South Carolina Historical Society

Bldgs. - 874-8 King St.

Charleston  
Former Grant Store

*✓ (W&G)* WC Feb 16, 78  
PLB

## Purchase Being Finalized

By DAVE DOUBRAVA  
Staff Reporter

State Sen. T. Dewey Wise said Wednesday that negotiations are being finalized for his purchase of the former W.T. Grant store building at King and Calhoun streets.

Wise told The News and Courier that although the sale contract has not been signed, "I

**Correction**

Due to a reporter's error, the name of MUSC professor of odontology Dr. Ronald M. Gerughty was incorrectly spelled in Wednesday's edition. The News and Courier regrets the error.

don't see any problems. We just have to finish checking to see there's a clear title."

He said he expects the closing to be completed early next week. Wise said he is "the only one purchasing it," but would not disclose the purchase price until after the sale is completed.

The Charleston lawyer said the most promising "option" for use of the building is to rent floor space to two food establishments and a retail store. One would be a fast-food outlet, he said, while the other would be a "sit-down meal" restaurant.

Wise said he will meet Saturday with representatives of a fast-food chain to finalize a lease agreement. He noted that he be-

lieves his present plans are compatible with the city's plans for revitalization of King Street.

The building has been vacant since November 1975 when the W.T. Grant Co. chain ceased operations. The building was used briefly last spring to house a flea market.

The structure is owned by Charleston author Robert W. Marks and two of Marks' cousins.

Marks noted that his grandfather built a large store at the location around 1870. That building was removed, Marks said when the present building was constructed and leased to the department store chain in 1955.

News and Courier article, February 16, 1978: Image courtesy of South Carolina Room, Charleston County Public Library

# Grant Building Purchased For \$320,000

By DAVE DOUBRAVA

Staff Reporter

*N.C. 3/11/78 1-B*  
The former W.T. Grant store building on King and Calhoun streets has been bought for \$320,000, according to the purchaser, state Sen. T. Dewey Wise.

Wise said Tuesday he is still negotiating leases with several prospective tenants — a fast-food restaurant, a "sit-down meal" restaurant and a retail outlet — for space in the 27,000-square-foot building.

He said he hopes "extensive interior and exterior renovation" will begin within 30 days.

The building has been vacant since the Grant chain went bankrupt more than two years ago. Backers of the King Street revitalization movement have looked to renovation and use of the structure as a possible shot in the arm for the downtown business district.

The building was purchased from Charleston author Robert W. Marks and two of his cousins.

Wise declined to name the prospective tenants until formal leases are drawn up and signed, but he said he was optimistic that arrangements would be worked out.

"Everything is still on 'go' and there is every reason to believe that things will develop as expected," he said. "There is tremendous interest in the building. We just want to get all the leases squared away before we make any formal announcements."

"As an investor," Wise noted, "this is the biggest thing I've ever done. I'm just keeping my fingers crossed that everything will work out all right. It looks like it will."

The structure was built and leased to the Grant chain in 1955.

## A Correction

Due to a reporter's error it was incorrectly stated in the Feb. 18 Entertainment section that a film entitled "The Gardener's Son" featured a man named Robert McElroy. The name should have been Robert McEvoy.

# Dr. Marks, Inventor Of Money-Making 'Brainchild', Author, Visiting Here

## Yale And College Of Charleston Both 'Fired' Him

By MARJORIE CAMPBELL  
News and Courier Staff Writer

How would you like to have a money-making machine?

Dr. Robert W. Marks of New York City, who is really a Charlestonian, has one. And he invented it himself.

It doesn't make hard cold cash, though. It answers questions on quiz programs. Dr. Marks and his brainchild, the "logic computer," appeared on a television quiz program recently and the machine won a deep freeze, an electric mixer, two cases of dog food and \$160 in cash!

Dr. Marks, who laughingly told this reporter he had the distinction of having been "fired" from both the College of Charleston and Yale University, made up for lost time when he got down to serious study.

He holds a B. A., an M. A. and a doctor of philosophy degree from the New School for Social Research in New York City. Also among his alma maters are Columbia University, where he studied Japanese, and the Sorbonne, where he was enrolled for three weeks.

### NOT EVEN FRENCH

"I might add," Dr. Marks said, "that at the Sorbonne I learned absolutely nothing, including French."

Now teaching at the New School as assistant to Dr. Horace N. Kallen, head of the department of Philosophy in the Graduate Faculty of Social and Political Science, Dr. Marks is anything but the playboy he appeared to be in the days before he decided that a formal education was the thing for him.

Aside from the development of the Sequential Logic Computer, Dr. Marks has to his credit a number of other successful ventures in the field of journalism.

At 14, Robert Marks left Porter and entered the College of Charleston. He attended the College for three years but at the end of his junior year he failed every subject.

"They might not have fired me," he said, "if I'd passed one subject, but I didn't. After the College of Charleston I went to Yale and they fired me there, too."

Thinking school just a bore, he went to New York and began his career as a writer reviewing books for the New York Times and the Saturday Review of Literature. Around the same time he invented an 'instantaneous' recording machine similar to the tape recorders in use today.

### WORKED AT MUSEUM

Shortly after that he returned to Charleston and for two years worked at the Charleston Museum with Miss Laura Bragg. At the



**HOOTCOMING FOR A NATIVE SON**—Dr. Robert W. Marks of New York City, formerly of Charleston, shows Mrs. Marks an interesting home in Chalmers Street on her first visit to "America's Most Historic City." (News and Courier Staff Photo.)

career as a dancer and later became a professional photographer before entering designing. This is her first trip to Charleston and she "doesn't ever want to leave," she's so charmed by its picturesqueness. "It's funny," Dr. Marks com-

mented, "I notice, when I was entertained. After an absence of 15 years, Dr. Marks observes that "in looking at them all the time. Now I appreciate Charleston for what it is and don't worry about what it might be."

## Professor Identified As Author Of Book

5/5/71

From reliable sources, The News and Courier has identified the author of "The Trembling of a Leaf," an erotic story with a Charleston locale, as Robert W. Marks, a former Charlestonian now residing in New York City.

Efforts to reach Marks by telephone in New York to confirm the identification have failed, but The News and Courier is satisfied that he is John Colleton, listed as the author in the Pocket Book edition of the novel about an amorous lady called Aunt Amy.

Marks is a professor of philosophy at the New School for Social Research in Greenwich Village, his alma mater. He has written or edited several other works on such subjects as Marcuse, the philosopher of the New Left; mathematics, music, hypnotism and wine. "The Trembling of a Leaf" apparently is his first book about sex. While it is fictional, some of the background material related to the erotic incidents shows first-hand knowledge of the community.

Marks comes of the family which owned M. Marks & Sons dry goods store, formerly at King and Calhoun Streets. He grew up in downtown Charleston and attended Porter Mill-

itary Academy. He was "fired," according to his own account in an interview for The News and Courier in 1965, from the College of Charleston and Yale University for unsatisfactory grades. For a time he worked at the Charleston Museum.

One of his books is entitled "The Dymanic World of Buckminster Fuller." He was a pioneer in computers, and invented a computer in 1953 while working on his doctorate which used logic symbols instead of numbers. Marks holds the B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the New School for Social Research.

The Charleston News Co., distributor for the book, reports the first 400 copies of "The Trembling of a Leaf" available here have sold out. An additional 1,600 copies have been ordered and the company predicts a total sale of 5,000 to 8,000 in the territory it serves in and around Charleston. This sale compares with 7,500 to date for "Love Story" and almost 8,500 for "The Godfather".

Vert. D. | ~~W~~ County introduced an

amendment, which he later

*There April 29 1971 1-3*

X BIOGRAPHY - MARKS, ROBERT W.

### About the Author

The enthusiasms of Robert Marks have led him into strange byways of research. His first love was music, and while a freshman at Yale he wrote a music column for the college newspaper which drove him to the library to bone up on musical terms and scan scores before a concert. The next year (1930), he invented one of the first instantaneous recording machines and an instrument for making music "tactilely perceptive, to heighten emotional effect."

The machine was good enough to be bought by the Charleston Museum in South Carolina, and Marks was hired along with it to inaugurate the first music department in a museum. Under a special grant from the Julius Rosenwald Fund, he arranged for exhibits with portable phonographs to circulate among rural schools.

His various researches had convinced him that oriental and primitive music was an unexplored field; deciding that he would get a monopoly here, proposed and had accepted a project for collecting the music and musical instruments of Africa and Asia for the American Museum of Natural History in New York. The exclusive monopoly that he successfully built was so exclusive, Marks discovered, that he was the only one even interested in the field, so when the funds gave out, he became a free-lance writer.

With articles on everything from frozen spermatozoa to movie stars which he wrote for such magazines as *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Read Digest* and *Esquire* and newspapers like the *New York Times* and *Her Tribune*, his enthusiasms were given greater diversity. This is indicated by his books, too, which range from *A Guide to Music* (1930) and *Wise* (1935) to this present volume on Hypnotism and a forthcoming one *The Anatomy of Chess*.

Between magazine assignments, research trips and a schedule of omnifarious reading, he manages in his New York apartment to care for two cocker spaniels, grandchildren of the champion, *My Own Brucie*. They arrived on the same day as the contract for this book, so this brother and sister were rather anomalously named Prentice and Hall.

## Mystery — But What A Book!

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The Trembling of a Leaf", published by Pocket Books, is the tale of an adventure-bound young blueblood just out of prep school who is in hot pursuit of his beautiful Aunt Amy. Beautiful Amy, despite her physical glories, is a very hung-up gal who can be released from her good-housewife, pure-minded-ladies-club-leader pose only when brutally forced to do so. Thus the tale.

good high style which results in one of the most literate, well-shaped and pleasingly vile sex thrillers to hit the paperback stands in many a day.

From the butterfly lakes of historic Berkeley Hall plantation to the great mansions of East Battery, from Edisto Island beachhouses to every other part of the Lowcountry goes a band of recognizable types pantingly eager for the next encounter.

The novel is so carefully done that one can't help but be curious as to its authorship. "John Colleton" must certainly be a pen name, as all the Colletons went back to England long ago!

There are a few flaws as to local data which might suggest

the author (or authoress) had only a superficial knowledge of the city—such as the misspelling of the Gibbes Art Gallery, the locating of a certain restaurant on Vendue Range rather than on Exchange Street where it actually is and the slight altering of certain local family names.

All of this might be deliberate, of course, to throw the curious reader off. Perhaps in an attic on St. Michael's Alley or in a carriage house behind a dwelling on Tradd lurks the real and well-informed John Colleton getting

ready to spin out another one for us.

Fervent denials of authorship have come from all parts of the Lowcountry (including Round O and French Cow Crossing). Formal denials have come from the entire News and Courier staff (as well as from all four copy boys—one of whom said he didn't even know any girls named Amy), and from such local literary lights as R. Pinckney Smythe-Smith, Mizzi de Valmont Bonneau and the ever-reddoubtable Zelottia P. Frinkhausen.

What a mystery—but what a book!

SEARCHED  
INDEXED  
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA  
MAY 5/5/71 1B:1  
See also N & C 5/5/71 1B:1

Top Left: News and Courier article, May 5, 1971

Top Right: Back cover of R.W. Marks' novel *The Horizontal Hour*

Bottom: News and Courier article, April 29, 1971

## Marks Versatile Author

By KAREN GREENE  
Staff Reporter

He's a journalist, mathematician, fiction writer, photographer and philosopher all rolled into one.

He goes by the pseudonyms Mark Ashley, Tradd Cooper, John Colleton, and is reported to be John Colleton, author of several spicy novels set in Charleston — but he is known worldwide by his real name, Robert W. Marks.

A born and bred Charlestonian, Marks has written books on subjects as diverse as Chinese music, hypnotism, wines, architecture and inventor Buckminster Fuller.

He studied at Columbia University and Sorbonne and later took a teacher's degree and doctorate at the New School for Social Research in New York.

Basically self-taught, Marks believes traditional classroom instruction is largely irrelevant. "When I went to the College of Charleston there was no program on education or education," he says.

"Going through college is one of the necessary rites of passage. You could call yourself a college graduate whether or not you knew anything,"

Stieglitz, Weegee, Moholy-Nagy and others. Fifty photographs from the Robert Marks collection will be exhibited today through Nov. 15 at the Gibbs Art Gallery.

Marks began his spiraling career as a precocious student at the College of Charleston at the age of 14, flunked out, and went to Yale University only to be kicked out there.

"I was actually fired from the College of Charleston and Yale," says the prolific writer, smiling an amiable grin.

He studied at Columbia University and Sorbonne and later took a teacher's degree and doctorate at the New School for Social Research in New York.

So after his bout with academics and Yale, Marks began his career as a writer reviewing books for The News and Courier, later The New York Times and the Saturday Review of Literature.

Around the same time, he invented an instantaneous recording machine similar to today's tape recorders and used the machine to integrate a music department at the Charleston Museum.

Always the philosopher, Marks reminiscences about his museum experiments, in Charleston and with the Museum of Natural History in New York in the area of musicology.

"In those days," he recalls, "I got a museum was the logical place for myself who wanted to study a spiritual subject. We're going back to the time of the beginnings of modern-day anthropology and physics, a time when these ideas were strange and radical."

So Marks left Charleston after working two years with the museum and returns to New York to become "involved with the new ideas," he recalls.

"Nobody can teach anybody," adds the author of more than 20 "teach-yourself-how" books. "A good teacher can only show a person what has made him jump for joy in hopes that some of his enthusiasm might be contagious."

Perhaps the most notable — "Electrifying the Incubator" — at the age of 16 and sold it to a magazine called Practical Electricity. "I was so proud," he recalls. "All I had to do was sit down, write something, someone would buy it and no problem."

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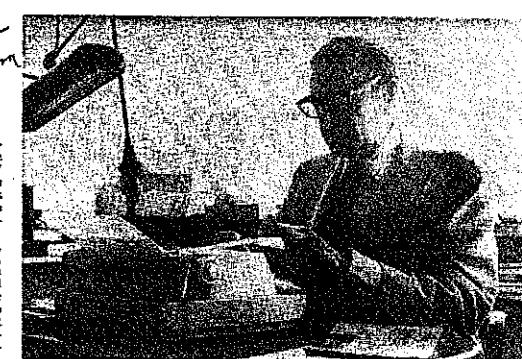
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So Marks left Charleston after working two years with the museum and returns to New York to become "involved with the new ideas," he recalls.

For journalistic purposes, I have gone into another," says the author who returned to Charleston in 1957. "A writer must write, not just sit back and dream. Writing is talking out loud, and to talk, whether you're writing or not, you have to be part of what's going on."

So when nothing was going on "when I had nothing else to do, I would dream up some way-out idea," Marks says. Some of his ideas appeared as fact but later Marks turned to fiction. In 1957, he published his first novel, "The Horizontal Hour."

Fiction has a little more chance than fact," he believes. "We live in fact. There are hours of the day when we are logical and hours when we're more Platonic. Fiction has an advantage over fact because you can live in that world of imagination for the time you're writing about those people and situations."



PROLIFIC WRITER

Robert W. Marks, alias Mark Ashley, Tradd Cooper, John Colleton — and reported to be John Colleton, author of several spicy novels set in Charleston — works on a new fiction novel. (Staff Photo by Karen Greene)

ideas usually eight to 10 years before other people discover them.

"I've always been an outsider fighting for my beliefs," he adds. "As years passed, these ideas were accepted and taken over by the same sources who before didn't believe."

Writing every day, Marks is working on a project for a new fiction novel. "This is the first time in my life I have received enormous advances for stuff unseen," he says about his unnamed work. "It's great but on the other hand, it's a little embarrassing."

Unpretentious, Marks has always been one to take his accomplishments in stride. "Success," he notes, "comes with it's seeds of destruction. If

you get acceptance from anything, you're asked to repeat it and repeat the repetition, and eventually the tension goes out the spring."

"If you divide your attention too much at any given moment, you dilute all of your activities. We have to teach ourselves to make the most effective use of what limited imagination we have. We need to maximize our flow of associations. The question we have to ask ourselves is how can we make the most of what we have to do in the time we have."

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Above: News and Courier article October 19, 1973: Image courtesy of South Carolina Room, Charleston County Public Library

Charleston author R.W. Marks dies

Charleston writer and mathematician Robert W. Marks, best known for his steamy erotic novels written under the pseudonym John Colleton, died Sunday at the age of 85.

The son of the late Joseph and Fannie C. Marks, Marks studied at Port Royal Military Academy, the College of Charleston and Yale University. He started writing book and other reviews for The News and Courier when he was still a teen-ager.

Marks moved to New York City and began his career as a freelance writer, mostly writing about artists and the arts. He became Esquire's automotive and airplane writer and soon branched out into a wide array of fields and topics.

From a magazine writing career, Marks moved to editing, publishing and teaching — he taught philosophy at New York's New School of Social Research — and finally to writing novels.

Best remembered of the successful writing career that spanned nearly six decades are the steamy erotic novels based in Charleston and signed under the name of John Colleton. Among them are "The Trembling of A Leaf," "Barefoot on Jill" and "The Seduction of Mariana."

Marks finally dropped his pseudonyms when he moved back to Charleston in the 1970s.

Surviving are his wife, Alice Barnette Marks of Charleston; a son, John Francis Conroy III of Charleston; a daughter, Elizabeth Conroy Aitchek of Atlanta; and one grand-son.

Charleston Post & Courier 8/9/93

SEBF Biography - Marks, R.W.

Left: Post and Courier article, August 8, 1993: Image courtesy of South Carolina Room, Charleston County Public Library

## Photographs

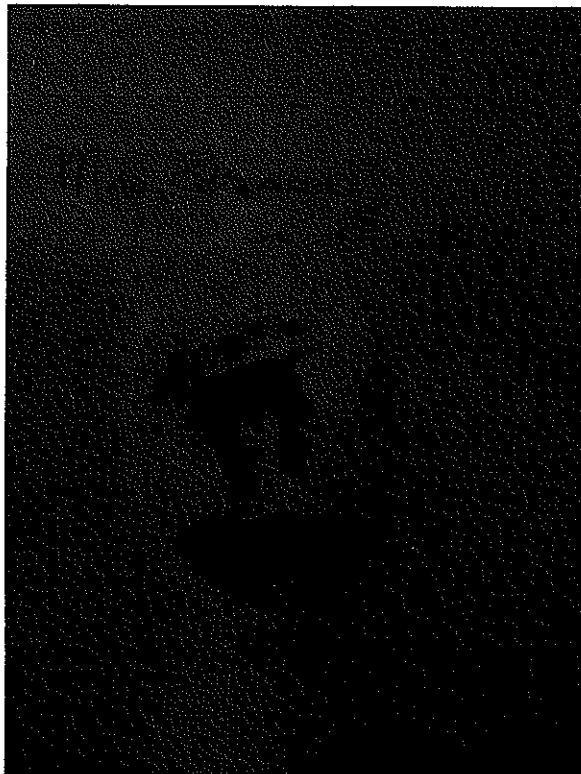


Photo of Mrs. Isaac Marks from World Exposition id: Image courtesy of South Carolina Room, Charleston County Public Library

Photo and calling card of Mattie Elvira Seignious: Image courtesy of South Carolina Historical Society



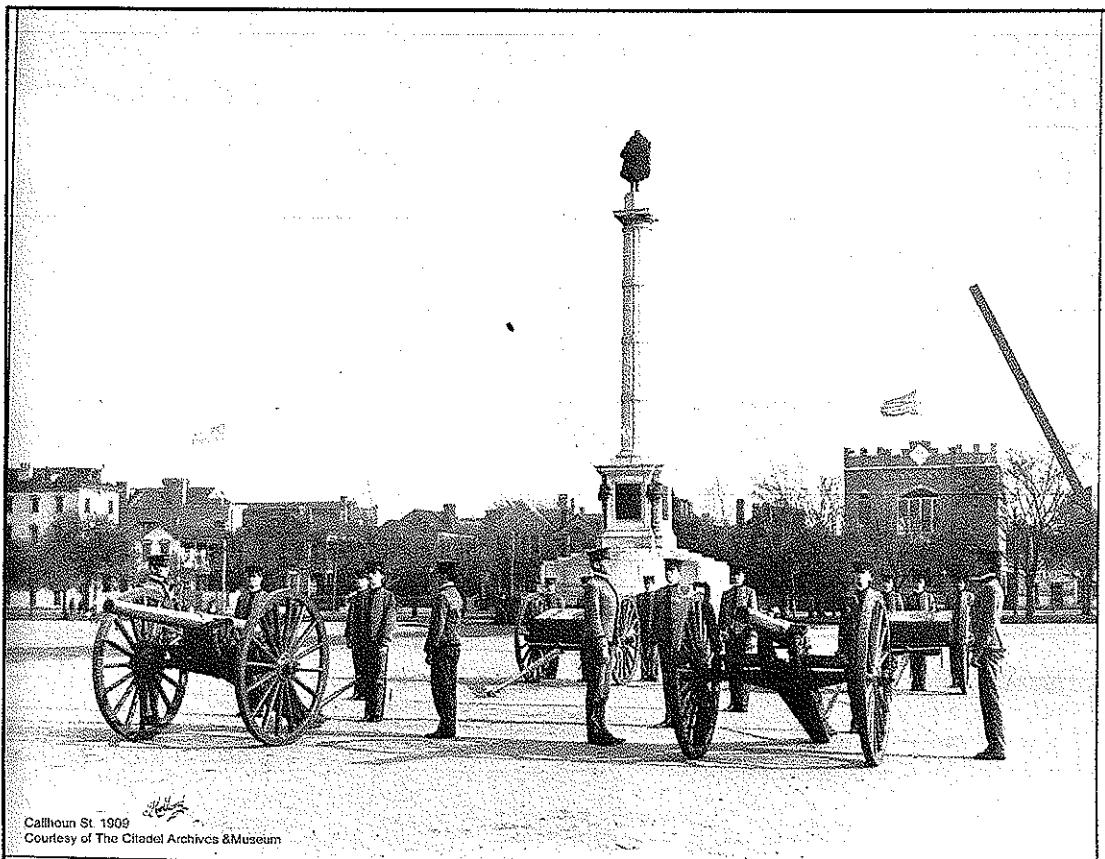


Photo from the Citadel looking towards Calhoun, 145-147 Calhoun (they appear empty) are at the edge of the photo (see arrow): Image courtesy of the Citadel Archives

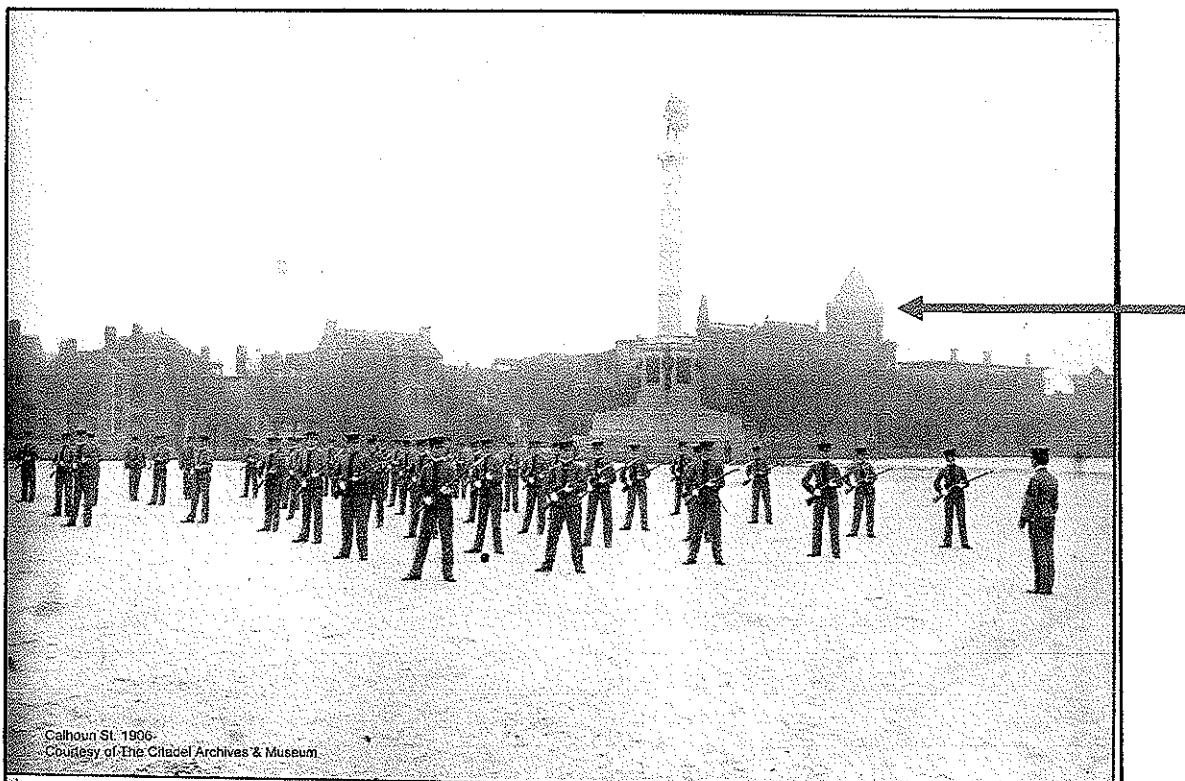
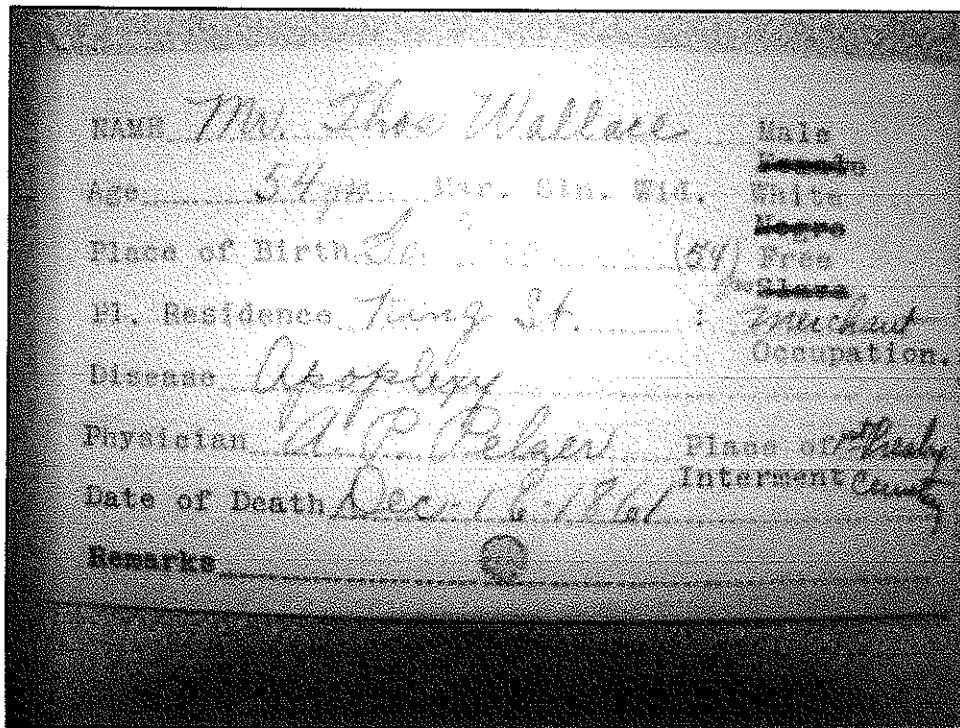
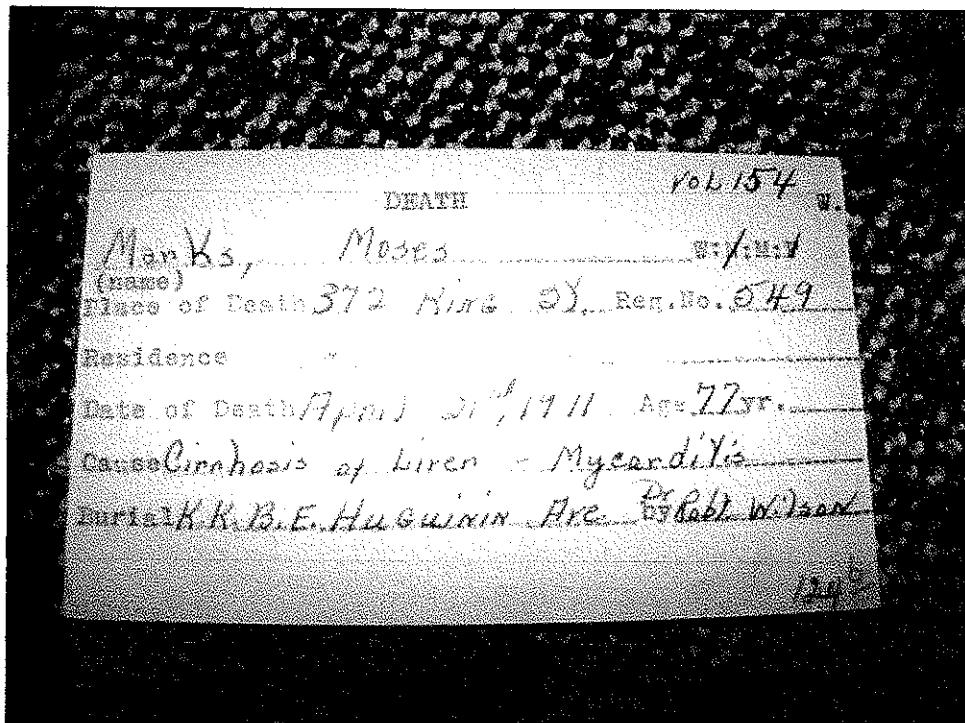


Photo from the Citadel looking towards Calhoun Street, Marks Department Store is visible on the right (see arrow): Image courtesy of the Citadel Archives

## Miscellaneous Materials



Death card of Thomas Wallace: photo courtesy of Jessica Golebiowski, document courtesy of South Carolina Room, Charleston County Public Library



Death card of Moses Marks: photo courtesy of Jessica Golebiowski, document courtesy of South Carolina Room, Charleston County Public Library

Young Men's Hebrew Association  
 Meets monthly at their rooms over  
 257 and 260 King street. T. Moultrie  
 Mondecai, president; J. L. Jacob, vice-  
 president; H. J. Williams, secretary;  
 Isadore Israel, treasurer; directors:  
 Max Furchtgott, I. M. Falk, Dr. H.  
 Winstock, G. M. Pollitzer, J. L. Moses,  
 B. Mantell and Isaac Marks; teacher  
 of Gymnastics, Prof Koepfer.

Blurb from 1895 City Directory listing Isaac Marks as officer of YMHA: Image courtesy of 1895 City Directory

M. Marks & Sons  
 Charleston, S. C.

Account of Joseph Marks & Isaac Marks  
 Esqrs. Sons Marks, the sum of  
 (\$500<sup>00</sup>) Thirty Five Hundred dollars, paid  
 to each of us as our respective shares  
 from the sale of the property 372 May St  
 to Joseph & Isaac Marks for the sum of  
 \$1000<sup>00</sup> One thousand dollars.

Mondecai M. Marks  
 Leopold Marks  
 Isaac Marks

Letter explaining division of property among Marks sons: Image courtesy of R.W. Marks Papers, Addlestone Library

# M. MARKS & SONS

CHARLESTON, / / / / SOUTH CAROLINA

CATALOG NO. 12, FALL AND WINTER 1917-1918



## EVENING DRESS

(Style X) An exquisite evening dress with all the charm that grace and loveliness can impart. Of Black Net over Silver Cloth in a very dainty effect. Edge of Black Satin and Black Ribbon. Stylish to perfection. Sizes 16 to 38.

OUR WHOLESALE PRICE,  
TO YOU .....

**\$16.50**

GOODS OF  
QUALITY

GARMENTS,  
FABRICS,  
UNDERWEAR,  
HOSIERY,  
TOILET  
ARTICLES,  
BEDS AND  
BEDDING,  
FURNITURE,  
NOTIONS,  
HOLIDAY  
GOODS,  
LINENS, ETC.

WHOLESALE  
PRICES  
TO YOU

WE  
PREPAY  
ALL CHARGES  
AND  
GUARANTEE  
ALL GOODS  
WE SELL

## STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

THIS AGREEMENT. Made this 15th day of July 1946  
 between Michel J. Shahid as Agent for Isaac Marks and Fannie G. Marks  
 hereinafter styled the Landlord, and Albert Mescon  
 hereinafter styled the Tenant, WITNESSETH:

THAT the said Landlord does hereby lease unto the said Tenant, and the said Tenant does hereby lease from the said Landlord, without artificial heat, light or water No. 372 King Street (first floor)

to be used as a store for Home Furnishings

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the premises above described for the term of	One Year
said term to commence on the first day of February 1947	
and to end on the thirty-first day of January 1948, at a rental of	
Three Hundred Fifty (\$350.00) Dollars per month.	
said rent to be paid in advance on the first day of each and every month during the life of this	

lease by the Tenant to the duly authorized Agent of the Landlord, MICHEL J. SHAHID 95 Society Street, Charleston, S. C.

AND IT IS AGREED, That unless thirty (30) days notice in writing shall be given previous to the expiration of the period herein specified, by the Landlord to the Tenant, of the Landlord's desire to have possession of the premises, or like notice to be given by the Tenant to the Landlord of the Tenant's intention to vacate the premises after such expiration, then it is hereby agreed that this lease will be considered as extended and binding from the termination of the period herein specified in all its provisions as a tenancy from month to month which may be thereafter terminated on the last day of any calendar month by notice of not less than thirty days given by either party.

AND IT IS AGREED, That neither the said premises or any part thereof shall be assigned, let or underlet; or used or permitted to be used for any purpose other than the above mentioned.

AND IT IS AGREED, That the Tenant shall on demand reimburse the Landlord for all breakage of glass and all other injuries done during the Tenant's tenancy to the said premises, or to any fixture or appurtenances, excepting such as are produced by accidental fire or natural decay; and that the Tenant shall not make any alterations, additions or improvements on said premises without the written consent of the Landlord, and all alterations, additions and improvements made upon the said premises shall be the property of the Landlord; and that the Tenant shall at the Tenant's expense, keep in repair all gas, electric and heating fixtures, and also all plumbing when damage as the result of freezing pipes or fixtures, or any neglect or carelessness of any person or persons on said premises.

AND IT IS AGREED, if default be made in the payment of rent at the time above specified, or if default shall be made in the performance of any of the provisions of agreements herein set forth, or if the Tenant shall become insolvent or vacate the said premises; that then the entire amount of rent that would accrue for the unexpired term shall at once become due and payable to the Landlord; and it shall be lawful for the Landlord to terminate this Lease, and re-enter and forthwith repossess all and singular the said premises without hindrance or prejudice to his right to distrain for all rent that may be due; but the collection by the Landlord of rent for the unexpired term shall entitle the Tenant to all the Tenant's rights under this agreement during the period for which the rent may have been collected.

AND IT IS AGREED, That the Landlord shall have the right at the Landlord's pleasure at reasonable hours, to enter said premises either in person or by the Landlord's Agents, and also that the Tenant will be liable for any damage suffered during the leased term by or to any person or property while on said premises, and also that the destruction of the said premises by fire shall terminate this agreement.

AND IT IS AGREED, that Lessor shall furnish proper lavatory facilities or repair same if found necessary. Any and all other repairs, if desired by lessee, shall be made at his expense.

Lease agreement for 374 King Street as Mescon's Flooring. Image courtesy of R.W. Marks Papers, Addlestone Library

the lots specifically conveyed in the foregoing deed.

In Witness Whereby the said Cherokee Place Inc., has caused these Presents to be signed by its President and its Secretary, and its corporate seal to be hereunto affixed and attested contemporaneously with the execution of the above deed.

signed, sealed and delivered:

In the Presence of

H. L. Wilbur

J. A. G. Hardy

State of South Carolina,

County of Charleston.

Cherokee Place Inc.,

By J. S. Wilbur, as President

By H. L. Wilbur, as Secretary.

Copy  
S. C.

Personally appeared before me H. L. Wilbur who, being duly sworn, says that he saw the above named Cherokee Place, Inc., by J. S. Wilbur as its President and H. L. Wilbur as its Secretary sign, affix the corporate seal, and as the act and deed of the said Cherokee Place, Inc., deliver the within witness release; and that she with J. A. G. Hardy witnessed the execution thereof.

Sworn to and Subscribed before me  
the 16th day of October 1917

H. L. Wilbur.

Thomas A. G. Hardy

Notary Public for South Carolina

Recorded Jan. 31st. 1917. Original delivered to Mrs.  
C. R. Hendrick, being first endorsed as recorded by the County  
Auditor.

Julie E. Cogswell, Clerk, per the rule.

The Knights of Columbus Building  
Company

Overland Palmetto Company

Title to real estate and Plat

Send greeting:

Whereas at a legally called meeting of the stockholders of said corporation held on the 17th day of January 1917, at which more than one third of the capital stock of said corporation was present, and voted, to amend

State of South Carolina  
to all whom these  
Present Shall Come the  
Knights Of Columbus  
Building Company a  
corporation under the  
law of said State

Deed Book R28-672 conveying 24 Burns Lane from Knights of Columbus to Overland Palmetto Company, red lines surround description of property: Image courtesy of RMC Office, Charleston

Whereas, under resolution of said Board of Directors  
adopted at a special meeting of said Board held on the  
day of January 1919, did direct the execution of these premises  
as conveying the said property to the said Overland Pal-  
metto Company;

Now to now all men by these Presents, that said Knights  
of Columbus Building Company, of the City of Charleston in  
the State aforesaid, for valuable consideration and further  
in consideration of the sum of Ten (\$10.00) Dollars to it in  
hand paid at and before the sealing of these presents  
by said Overland Palmetto Company of the City of Charleston  
in the State aforesaid, (the receipt whereof is hereby ack-  
nowledged) have granted bargained, sold and released,  
and by these Presents do grant, bargain, sell and re-  
lease, unto the said Overland Palmetto Company,

All that lot, piece or parcel of land with the building  
thereon, situate, lying and being on the north side of  
Burns Lane, in the City of Charleston, State aforesaid, for  
nearly known by the number 15, and now or lately by the  
number 24 on the said Lane.

Measuring and containing in front on Burns Lane  
sixty-five (25) feet, and in depth one hundred and fourteen  
(14) feet eight inches, if the said dimensions more or less.

Bounding and bordering north on lands formerly of Samuel  
Wenick, now of the said Overland Palmetto Company, to  
be east on lands formerly of Horbeck now of W. D. Cor-  
rie and The Knights of Columbus Building Company,  
the south on Burns Lane, and to the West on land  
formerly of Kensington now of Mary E. Milliton, as will  
more fully appear by plat of Benson & Bartot, Surveyors  
dated Dec 3rd 1918, herein annexed and made a part hereof.  
All lands having been conveyed to the said Knights of Co-  
lumbus Building Company by Henry Oliver by deed dated  
14th day of November 1907 and recorded in the office  
the Register of Deed Conveyance for Charleston County in  
said State in Book V-24, page 315, more fully shown  
in said Benson & Bartot's plat attached made part hereof, Dec 3rd 1918.

Together with all and singular the rights, members, in-  
tenants and appurtenances to the said premises belong-  
ing, or in anywise incident or appertaining.  
To have and to hold all and singular the said  
premises before mentioned unto the said Overland Palmetto

ENGEL, JUDGE & MILLER  
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW  
52 VANDERBILT AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

MEMO

January 28, 1971

W. T. Grant Company  
1441 Broadway  
New York, New York

In re: 143-147 Calhoun Street  
and 24-26 Burns Lane  
Charleston, S. C.

Dear Sirs:

We represent the owners of this property, on which you hold a long term lease dated March 31, 1955.

Our clients have been informed that a portion of the roof is in bad order and will probably require replacement. Mr. Augustus Constantine, the architect who prepared the original plans for the building, is investigating the situation at our request and we are awaiting his report.

In the meantime we have been informed that the condition in question has developed over a long period of years as a result of grass seeds finding lodgement in the roof and extending roots underneath at least the first layer of the roof.

Paragraph 19 of the lease provides, in part, as follows:

**Y** "The Tenant further shall make all repairs and replacements made necessary by its negligence..."

Your failure to notify the landlord that grass was growing on the roof and would cause this damage, we maintain, was negligence on your part and, therefore, responsibility for the repair or replacement of the roof rests on you.

As soon as we receive Mr. Constantine's report we shall be in touch with you further. In the meantime we are writing this letter, first, to put you on notice of our claim and, second, to let you know that our asking Mr. Constantine to look into the situation does not constitute a waiver of that claim.

We are also informed that the parking area and alleyway are not in good condition. We refer you to Paragraph 21 of the lease, which

49 TRADD STREET  
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA  
29401

November 2, 1974

Dear Karen,

This is to restate my objection to the cover of REPLENISHING JENNIFER.

s

The color is a drab monotone, suggesting a French postcard. The girl is unattractive. Her breasts sag prematurely. She is grinning like a high school idiot fresh from a marsh-mellow roast and floundering in odds and ends left over from a Salvation Army rummage sale. Having nothing better to do, she kisses a rose --as girls frequently do on calenders for plumbing supply houses.

As if this were not enough, we have presiding over <sup>and</sup> expendable fat boy reminiscing about his days in a Brooklyn dental school.

The cover is neither an eye-catcher nor an invitation to erotic reverie. All in all, it strikes me as bad business as well as bad taste.

All best,

Cordially,

Robert Marks



County of Charleston

Charleston, South Carolina

County Manager  
County Center Annex  
Marion Square

May 11, 1971

Dear Robert,

Since I usually feel called upon to comment on almost everything, I have a compulsion right now to write to you about your book. (in case you are wondering which one, it's the one with the botanical title) The trouble is, I am darned if I know what to say.

For what it is worth, it has really rocked Charleston - it should keep the cocktail parties going for at least a couple of months. I must admit to you that while I have not been your greatest booster, I have not been a detractor. However, I have to own up to the fact that when the man I work for here at the office asked if I had read the new book about Charleston by "a fellow named Marks", I chickened out and replied "what did you say was the name?"

Oh, just one other little thing, and I want you to know, Robert, that I am not asking for myself - I personally have no curiosity about such matters - where did you learn about all of those things? If you would care to enlighten me, I shall be glad to pass on the information. It should get me lots of invitations around here.

Before I sign off, I want to make myself perfectly clear (with apologies to Mr. Nixon), in spite of all the nasty, wagging tongues around here, I am not the least bit influenced; you can count on me as ever

Yur fren,

*Jena*

P. S. I hope you made lots of money on the damn book and can afford to retire and come down here and live. Until you can get settled I'll even offer you and Hilde hotel accommodations with kitchen privileges. It would be worth it - you might save me from the fate I now seem destined for - slow expiration from ennui.

Columbia University  
in the City of New York

OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS

July 14, 1924

Mr. Robert W. Marks  
Boulevard at Brad. St. 22  
Charleston, South Carolina

Dear Sir:

We are in receipt of your letter with a list of your marks at the College of Charleston. I am sorry to say that in view of your D in Mathematics and of the fact that in only one other subject have you a mark higher than C, we cannot encourage you to have to be admitted to Columbia College. In view of the large number of applicants, only those that have distinctly good records are ordinarily admitted to Columbia College by transfer.

Very truly yours

*Adam Birney Jones*  
Adam Birney Jones  
Director



TO: Members of the Board of Architectural Review

Date: September 22, 1993

Re: Application No. 939-22-5, 372 King Street

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Historic Charleston Foundation opposes the acrylic sign to be installed at 372 King Street at Marion Square. The Foundation's position is that a spot-lit, wooden sign which is hung on the facade of the building is the only appropriate alternative.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan H. Poston  
Director of Preservation Programs

Post Office Box 1420 • Charleston, South Carolina 29402  
11 Fulton Street • Charleston, South Carolina 29401 • (803) 723-1623 • FAX (803) 577-2067

THE  
**PRESERVATION**  
**SOCIETY**  
OF CHARLESTON

ORGANIZED 1920  
INCORPORATED 1928

**POSITION STATEMENT**  
**BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW**  
**SEPTEMBER 13, 1995**

*372 King Street (Marion Square Mall)*

*Application No. 959-13-10*

The Preservation Society of Charleston appreciates the opportunity to speak before the Board of Architectural Review concerning Marion Square Mall at 372 King Street. The Society's Planning and Zoning Committee has reviewed this request for preliminary approval for exterior alterations. The Society represents over 2,300 residents of Charleston who are concerned about the future of Charleston's historic district.

The Society supports the applicant's efforts to improve the Marion Square Mall. We believe the plans as proposed will result in an improvement to the appearance of this highly visible, yet non-contributing building. We believe the proposed treatment of the existing King and Calhoun Street facades, specifically the addition of cornice detailing and pilasters on the Calhoun Street facade will give this long facade a greater sense of scale and rhythm, as present on individual storefront facades along King and Calhoun Street. We are concerned about the proposed metal hooded window canopies along Calhoun Street. We believe a restudy of canvas awnings is appropriate, and would improve the overall appearance of the windows on the Calhoun Street facade.

We would ask the Board to approve the exterior alterations as proposed for Marion Square Mall, with restudy of the metal hooded window canopies as proposed. Thank you for considering our position in this matter.

Contact:  
John W. Meffert, Executive Director

Box 521, Charleston, South Carolina 29402  
(803) 722-4630/723-4381

Letter from the Preservation Society of Charleston concerning exterior alterations, September 13, 1995; Image courtesy of Board of Architectural Review