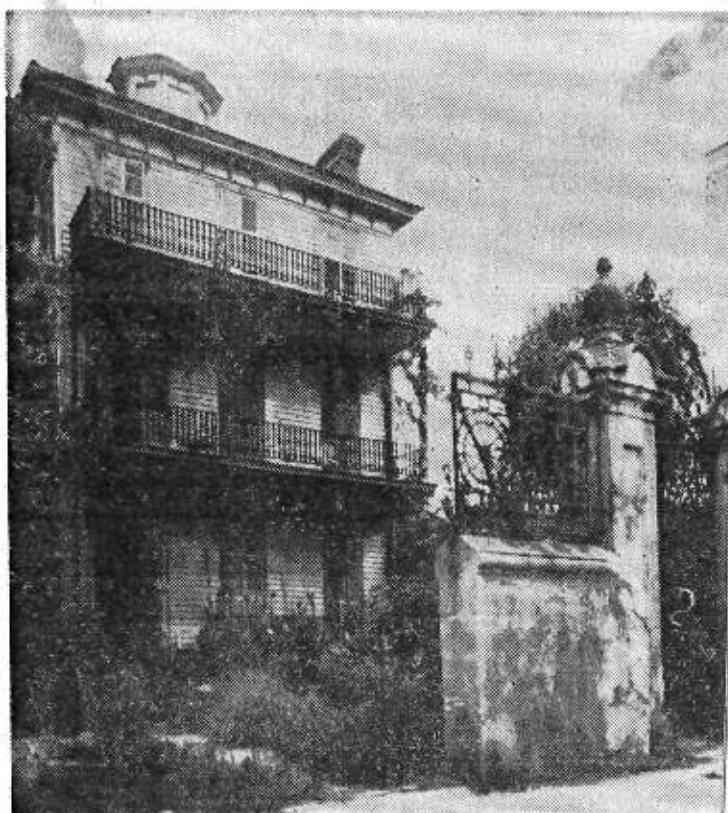


Star-S. Eve. Post - Tues., Aug. 2, 1961



Ante bellum 14 Green St. rated "notable" in "The

New Owners Plan To 136-Year-Old House

A home that was built 136 years ago will soon undergo restoration treatment here.

The new owners of 14 Green St. vow that the four-story house with Creole-looking cast iron grill work will look as original as the day in 1825 it was built.

"Nothing will be added, we'll take away every addition and open up the third floor porch once closed to make more apartments," say enthusiastic Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Tice.

They bought the home recently from Miss Floride Lesesne, whose family had owned it since 1918. Their lawyer traced the home's history to 1822, when it was sold to Samuel Wilson. He owned the Charleston Teapot, at King and Society.

Trimmed in cast iron, the house characterizes the vogue in New Orleans design in the early 1800's. But it was rare here, where builders were decorating with wrought iron.

THE TICES plan to put a blackstone carriage step back on its original spot on Green Street.

They'll restore a four story tower.

"The tower has a glass floor two inches thick," says Mr. Tice proudly. "It served as a wonderful lookout tower and let light down to an attic which had no windows."

The picturesque tower was wired for lighting, but was never used. The Tices will put it to work. "We've had some compliments on it already," Mr. Tice, who works

in the display department of a local department store, said.

The front doorbell — wired to a bell at the back of the house — will ring again for the Tices. "We even plan to wire the servants' bells again. Not because we can afford servants, but because we want this place original," the new owner added.

MOST OF the original fire grates and fenders turned up in the attics and will be placed in

front of the six fireplaces, which will be opened again.

The four-room servants' house will be restored too.

"The fireplace there is five feet high, big enough to walk in," Mr. Tice said. "The beamed ceiling will be exposed."

The six room main house has no kitchen, and the Tices have plans to change a bathroom—once a pantry—back to its culinary original.

"We are especially proud of the floor to ceiling windows," he said, "even if we will have a hard time finding drapes to fit."

The lower windows slide up, and a person can walk through the openings.

The Tices have relocated some gas lights that originally perched on top of two cast iron columns near the front steps. Some of the Lesesne family had them in storage.

"NOW I'M LOOKING for a cast iron fountain," Mr. Tice added. The original fountain that stood in a front yard pool has been destroyed, but the new tenants are determined to dig out a two foot deep pool in the front yard and install a duplicate.

Right now the Tices are at work removing black paint applied to "Victorianize" the floors and woodwork.

"Fortunately there is only one coat, and it will be easy to remove," he said. A stairwell is rosewood, all the floors are red cypress and the underpinning are black cypress. The weatherboards are long leaf pine.

"It may take us 10 years, but we'll have it looking the way it did in 1825," according to Mr. Tice, who says he has been interested in restoration "since moving to Charleston 10 years ago from Jersey."

He and his wife already have a collection of antique furniture to go in their restoration project.

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able individuals for their valuable donations of specimens in natural history, and for which, their names have been honorable mentioned....

"...the society may be said to be in a flourishing condition. It consists of 138 members, many of whom are of the first standing in society, and of acknowledged literary and scientific talents. Its Museum is rich in an extensive collection of minerals, fossils and shells. The departments of Zoology, particularly those of Ornithology, Entomology (sic), Ichthyology and Entomology, are extensively filled. It is also rich in coins, medals and castings. The specimens of art are also very considerable; and the whole are arranged in the most appropriate order by their late superintendent."

The price paid for the L'Herminier collection is a matter of speculation. Museum records state that a private letter of the period evaluated it at \$10,000. However, the important point to be considered is the interest manifested by the society, the citizens, the city council and the state legislature.

The one specimen in the museum known to be a part of this collection is of particular interest --parts of the skull and a few fragments of the long bones of the famous skeleton of the fossil man of Guadalupe, the rest of which is in the British Museum. The specimen there has an unusual history. It was found on board a French ship captured by a British admiral and was by him presented to the British Museum. This skeleton lacks the skull and certain fragments of the long bones. The specimens in the Charleston Museum supply the missing parts of the skeleton in the British Museum, as stated by Mantell in his *Wonders of Geology*.

(To be Concluded - Next Issue)

THE COLLEGE of CHARLESTON Saves the Lesesne House

By J. G. LELAND

No. 14 Green Street is one of Charleston's most beautiful examples of the use of cast iron porch and balcony railings and supports. It is being saved from the bulldozer by the College of Charleston.

This house with its three-tiered iron porch trim and gates and fence of the same design, will be restored. The College has purchased the house along with the Sottile House (13 College Street) next door, from Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Long for \$50,000. Mr. and Mrs. Long have agreed to donate \$2,500. toward the restoration of the Lesesne House. The Sottile House, one of the last remaining examples of the Eastlake school of Victorian architecture,

is in first class condition. It probably used as a women's residence hall by the C

No. 14 Green Street is a "single" house with rather lavish use of porches that make it much larger than it is. The cast iron work on the street end of the house gives it an air of lightness. This is heightened by the octagonal cupola atop the slate roof. Wings extend the full length of the house laterally across the back. Seen from the Co (western) side, the house resembles somewhat "Steamboat" type of architecture that found its way west.



14 Green Street

Mr. Samuel G. Stoney was kind enough to conduct research on the property. It was part of the original campus of the College of Charleston. The campus was subdivided into four blocks in the early 1800s and some of the lots were sold at that time. Later (1817) all of the property except the main campus block was sold to satisfy debts. The property was then owned by the College to the heirs of Robert Smith, first president of the College. Bishop had helped to finance the institution with his own funds.

The No. 14 Green Street lot was bought in 1817 by Walter Knox for \$500.

The low price would indicate that there was a house on the property at that time. The houses in that area is further corroborated by the reminiscence of students who attended the College and wrote of playing games in the area. Painter and artist, Charles Fraser, wrote that the official gallows stood on the creekside (Calhoun Street) north of the College, "an old man on one occasion, I remember seeing one of the gentler sex step gracefully from the scaffold into the air."