

EAST BATTERY

17 1980 thru 1999 R.E. Mevers Jr. (H) 1930 thru 1990 Mrs Iona McAlister Willis (H). 1970 thru 1990 ½ Katherine R. McAlister 1960 Charles T. Mauro Jr. 1950 Ely Brooks / Roy E. Mevers, Jr. 1930 John McAlister / Mrs M.I. Willis A founder of John A. McAlister, Inc. funeral directors, **John A McAlister** came to this country in the early part of the century and founded the business with his brother James (see 150 Wentworth Street). His wife Mary Louise was a McAllister from New York—a two 'L' McAllister, becoming Mary Louise McAllister McAlister when she wed. The couple had two sons, John A. McAlister II (see 18 Gibbes Street), **James McAlister II** and three daughters, Mary Iona, Margaret and Katherine. **Mary Iona** married **Archibald Willis** who was district manager for Standard Oil here. She had a delightful, twinkling Irish personality and remained in this house until her death. Her son **Archie Willis Jr.** grew up here attending Porter Military Academy, Bishop England High School and graduating in 1944 from Belmont Abbey. He was a mainstay of the family business for many years, bringing his son **Archibald Willis III** into the firm in 90s. Archie Jr. is remembered for his fun-loving, easy-going personality and for a great fish stew that he concocted for a party he gave in this house. When asked for the recipe he said "just keep throwing whatever you have in it." His sister was **Mary Bennett**. **Margaret McAlister** married **Roy Mevers** who also worked for Standard Oil. He was a civil engineer and his duties took him all over the world. Their son **Roy Mevers Jr.**, was born in Argentina (see 79 Anson). Daughter **Katherine McAlister** married **Ed Kracke** who was with William Bird. She worked in the family funeral home business most of her life and was very active in civic affairs, particularly the Pilot Club. For information on this family enterprise (see 163 Meeting Street and 150 Wentworth Street) 1920 W.H. Schaefer 1910 Vacant 1900 W.G. Chisolm

19 1990 thru 1999 J Lewis Smith Jr. (H) 1950 thru 1980 (a) J. Furman Mason (H) 1970 (b) Vacant ½ Eva H. Barkerding 1940 Vacant 1930 J.M. Visanska In the early 1900s **Julius Visanska** purchased an 18th century home at this address owned by the Holmes family. The clothing store, Bentshner & Visanska (see 252 King Street) catered to the wealthy people of the down town area and was one of the most outstanding men's stores in the city. Visanska had the old Holmes house, which had been badly damaged in the hurricane of 1911 torn down, and a prominent architect, Albert Simons, was hired to design a more modern structure- The result was this yellow brick building referred to by Charlestonians as "The Yellow Peril". It was considered a definite "eyesore" by all who saw it. Incensed residents in the area ceased doing business with the Visanska store and very soon the store went out of business. 1900 thru 1910 C.R. Holmes

In 1900, the American flag had 45 stars. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii and Alaska had not been admitted to the Union yet.