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Subject:	Mystery House
Date:	Thursday, October 15, 2020 10:14:22 PM
Attachments:	image001.png

Last week, I came across these two photos of a mystery house while looking through a collection of "unidentified building" pictures at the SC Historical Society. The folder said that they were of Charleston buildings, and almost all of them were very clearly Charleston. Despite the label, most were actually identifiable to anyone familiar with downtown. There was only one of the photos that was very definitely NOT in Charleston —the photo of a skyscraper.

The individual photos had NO info about when they were taken or by whom. Most of the photos seemed like they were early 20th century photos.

This house is in the Charleston single house form which is a good sign it is a local house. But where?

The photos are so closely cropped that there are no good clues to where they were.

Style-wise and quality-wise, I think it represents a costly house (but not a princely sum). There is a carriage stone out front which I think of (perhaps without reason) as from an earlier era even though we didn't get cars until the early 20th century. Of course, the loading stone might be a holdover from an earlier house.

I can't make out what is going on with the fence, but it seems like the property is narrow, not much wider than the house itself.

Sarah noted that there might be a view of a trolley track in the angled view. If so, that limits the streets to Rutledge, King, Meeting, Broad, Wentworth, Charlotte, Calhoun, Spring, and Columbus.

The orientation of the house would indicate a spot on the east side of a street or the south side of a street.

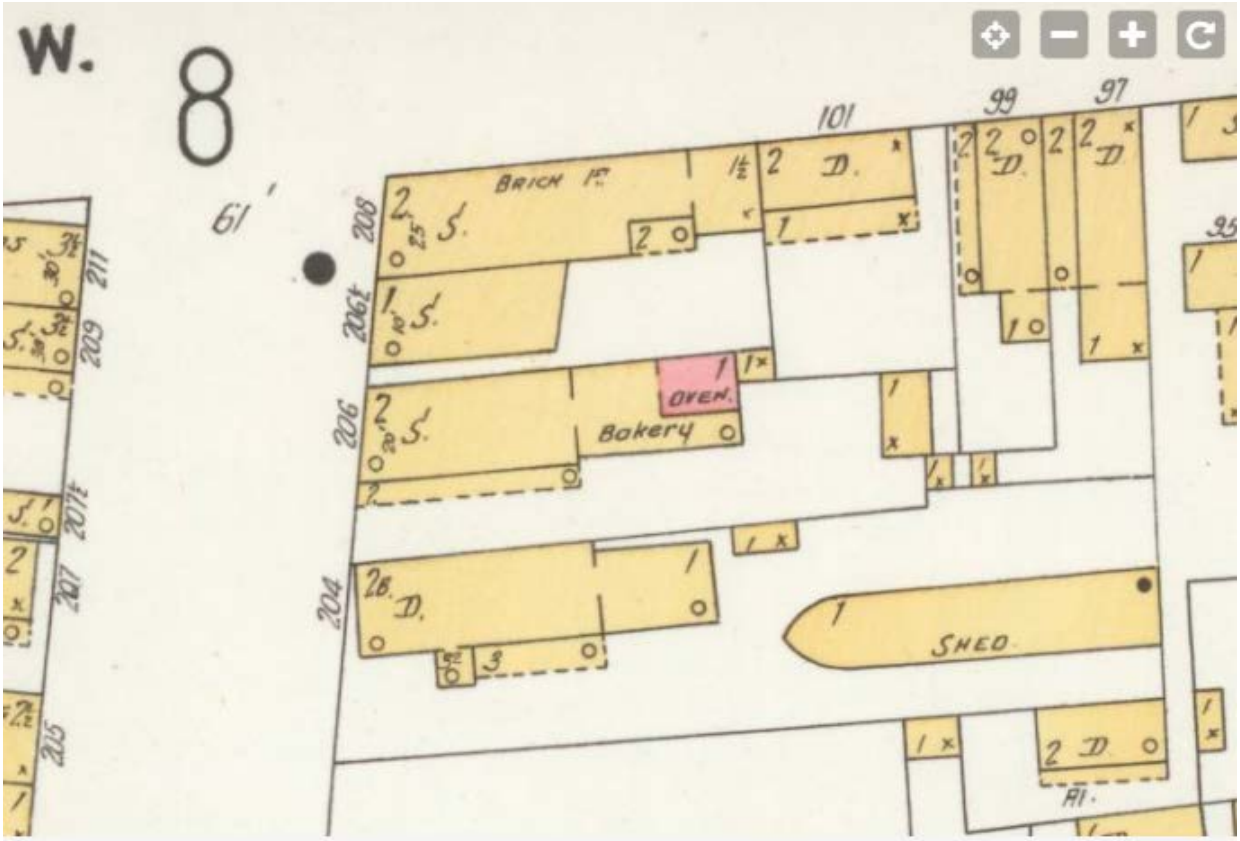
This is a clip of the 1902 Sanborns of 204 Rutledge (a parking lot now). 204 Rutledge matches the oddball mystery house. It has a double piazza on the back half of the house only. It has a third-floor turret out over the front door. That is such a unique form, I really, really want the mystery house to be 204 Rutledge.

BUT, the Sanborn maps always show the house as a wooden house, not brick veneered. I also checked the ward books of the 1880s and the Earthquake damage report, and both listed the house as wood.

I am not sure when the house was built. IF it is 204 Rutledge, then it was there in 1902. In 1888, the Sanborn sliced off the front of the houses on that block and missed including them by just a tiny bit. But the rear of the house seems to represent a different house. So, the house that was there in 1902 was perhaps added as a replacement house in 1888-1902.

So, I am stuck.

Thoughts?



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