

## 5 Stoll's Alley -- Peter Trezevant House

1682 Capt. James Moore and Maj. Maurice Mathews received the warrant, certificate of survey and grant to two town lots together. They were lots No. 1 and No. 102, formerly known as the Church Yard. Lot No. 1 fronted on East Bay and the adjoining lot No. 102 to the west fronted on Church Street.

1693 Elisha Bennett, a Boston mariner, purchased lot No. 102 from Moore and Mathews.

1699 March. Bennett purchased half of lot No. 1 from Moore and Mathews. He thus owned adjoining lots, with one end fronting East Bay and the other fronting Church Street. In December of 1699 Bennett sold the one-and-a-half lots back to James Moore.

1700 Moore and his wife sold the adjoining lots to Thomas and Mary Smith. There then was probably some development on the two lots. Later maps show a small passageway, which most likely began as a private alley, running from East Bay to Church Street. According to legend numerous harbor pilots lived in the alley and it became known as Pilots' Alley.

1759 April 2. The alley between Church Street and East Bay still existed. In 1759 Justinius Stoll purchased holdings in the alley from Mary Smith. Stoll was a blacksmith. His shop was located on East Bay next to Granville's Bastion of the old walled city. Based on estimate construction dates, Stoll built several (possibly most) of the structures still on his alley. These included the present numbers 5, 7, and 9. By tradition number 7 has been considered his personal residence.

"Just which of the several old dwellings yet remaining he may have occupied is not known with certainty, as some of the original records have disappeared and all street numbers have been changed. He may even have lived in one of the two very ancient houses pulled down between his day and this. But members of his family continued to own other property in the alley and to live there for a long period of time." [Dockstader]

1762 May 31. Stoll conveyed a parcel of his holdings on the alley to John Edwards for \$4,000. The description reads: "... part of lot #102 in Charleston, bounded SW on a creek 35 ft. wide; E on George Sommers, James Hartley, & William Roper; N on

a private alley leading from Church Street, to the Bay; W on William Screven; as by plat certified by William Wilkins & annexed to release dated 2 Apr. 1759 from Mary Smith to Justinus Stoll." [Wiedman, p. 7]

1778 October 17. At the time of Stoll's death the alley was open for public use and bore his name, Stoll's Alley.

1783 June 19. Robert Farquhar (1743-1784) applied for a mortgage for properties on Stoll's Alley and Union Street. Exact locations and / or lots are not specified in document. [Lavelle, 9/8/11 re addresses: Register Mesne Conveyance (RMC), Charleston County, South Carolina, Deed Book M5, p. 86]

1789 September 13. At age sixteen, nine months after her return to America, Elizabeth Willoughby Farquhar, age sixteen, married Peter Trezevant, age twenty-one, in Charleston. They may well have taken up residence at 5 Stoll's Alley. She was the daughter of Robert Farquhar (1743-1784). Elizabeth would have come into his estate when she got married or when she turned eighteen on 20 December 1790. It is possible that her father had bought property on Stoll's Alley just a year before his untimely death. The estate's executor could have allowed the couple to move to 5 Stoll's Alley, which was already owned by the estate or traded with other Alley property owned by Farquhar. Elizabeth may also have inherited 5 Stoll's Alley or traded with other Alley property inherited from the estate of her great-grandmother Elizabeth Didcott. In addition, either estate could have provided Elizabeth the means to purchase the dwelling outright, perhaps done without records surviving. In any case such an inheritance and / or trading would explain the lack of documentation for any conveyance of the property from Justinus Stoll to Peter Trezevant.

1790-1810 The couple had thirteen children between 1790 and 1815: Robert John (1790-1791), John Farquhar Trezevant (1791-1821), Elizabeth Catherine (1793-1795), Daniel Heyward (1796-1873), Martha (1797- ), Ann Timothy (1799-1864), Peter Dunlap (1802-1845), Lewis George (1804-1824), Theodore Mathias (1806-1868), Henry (1808-1809), Octavius Undecimus (1810-1866), Matilda Emmaline (1812- ), and Catherine Elizabeth (1815-1847).

1792 The McCrady Plat No. 1217 indicates the lot of 5 Stoll's Alley as "now belonging to Peter Trezevant." [Wiedman, p. 7]

"Early dwellers in the little street were for the most part humble folk--Justinus was a blacksmith having his shop in East Bay, next [to] Granville's Bastion,

part of the old Charles Town's fortifications. . . . His grandson Justinus was a brickmason. Numerous harbor pilots lived in the alley and before it officially took the name of Stoll it was called Pilots' Alley. But if the occupations of the men who lived awhile there was not distinguished the lineage of one and another among them was excellent. In this category was Peter Trezevant [1768-1854], of Huguenot descent, who in the first year after his arrival [back] in the city from Europe sold ship and pilot bread. Later he became a clerk for the State Bank, though seemingly at a small stipend, as is indicated by certain bits of family lore concerning him. One day a week it was his custom to repair to the market and invest all his funds of the moment in a choice sheepshead, or cavalli [a fish], along with a bottle of wine. Then in a spirit of true Gallic hospitality and lightheartedness he would invite a friend to dine and become, for that brief interval, a gentleman of substance. Was there, after all, a grain of truth in that passage from the old geographies which states: 'The French are a gay people, fond of dancing and light wines'? By every timeworn adage such prodigality as Peter's should have brought him to dire straits in his latter days." [Dockstader]

- 1809 During Peter and Elizabeth's tenure at 5 Stoll's Alley they added a second connected colonial-style frame structure on the property, adjoining the original brick structure of 1759. It could have been used as additional residential space for the large family or as rental property for income.
- 1826 July 6. At age seventy-five John Farquhar, Robert's brother, died in England. Elizabeth Farquhar Trezevant, as a niece, inherited a portion of his very large estate.
- 1826 As a result of that inheritance Peter and Elizabeth Trezevant (ages 58 and 54, respectively) moved to London, England, where they maintained residence for the remainder of their lives. Four of their thirteen children were already dead, one was living in India, and three were married and settled in South Carolina. John Farquhar Trezevant was in Charleston. Daniel Heyward Trezevant and Ann Trezevant Taylor were in Columbia. The other five children accompanied their parents to London.
- 1826-1854 "At the time the news came of his wife's good fortune [1826], Mr. Trezevant, then in his 59th year, was a bank clerk and resided in Stoll's Alley. He is said to have remarked that he had been poor all his life, but that thereafter he expected to live on turbot, and it is also said that friends who afterwards dined with him in England found him living up to his

expectations." [Trezevant, pp. 21-22]

1826-1854 "By every timeworn adage such prodigality as Peter's should have brought him to dire straits in his latter days. But his story is a fine refutation of all such stuffy maxims. Through his wife, Elizabeth Willoughby Farquhar, he [they] fell heir to a goodly share of her English relative [uncle], John Farquhar, who besides lands and houses died [in 1826] possessed of more than half a million pounds sterling. The Trezevants moved to England and divided their time between Fonthill Abbey and a town house in fashionable Chester Terrace. Peter never lost the memory of his lean years in Charleston and often compared them with his later affluence in the gay remark: 'Not much like Stoll's Alley, eh?'" [Dockstader]

1839 The couple's son Daniel Heyward Trezevant (1796-1862), acting as Grantor Trustee for 5 Stoll's Alley, sold the property to James English. [Wiedman, pp. 8, 9]

1861-1865 The American Civil War. "No satisfactory account of the long life of Stoll's Alley would be possible without passing mention of the War Between the States. Following this came change of property ownership, impoverishment and vacated premises. Gradually Negroes took over and the once quiet and charming old houses became noisome tenements, the roadway itself a quagmire." [Dockstader]

1879 The property of 5 Stoll's Alley was bought by Andrew Simonds, founder of the First National Bank of South Carolina, perhaps as an investment property. He apparently never lived in the house, which stayed in the family for over fifty years. Simonds willed it to his son Andrew Simonds Jr. who then willed it to his daughter Margaret Drury. [Wiedman, pp. 9-10]

1927 Margaret Drury sold 5 Stoll's Alley to Mary Marshall.  
"This unhappy state [of tenements] lasted until a day in 1927 when Mrs. George Dana [Alida] Canfield, of Charleston and Peekskill, New York, was looking about for a building 'south of Broad (Charlestoneye for the best part of town) in which to locate an antique shop.' [Dockstader] Alida Canfield began acquiring and restoring as many properties as she could on Stoll's Alley, eventually restoring all except No. 11. [Wiedman, p. 11]

1932 Alida Canfield bought 5 Stoll's Alley from Mary Marshall and began extensive restoration of both the buildings on the property, using the frame structure as her winter home. At some time another structure or addition was built, projecting east over the brick driveway and thus forming a drive-under carport. The area on the second floor provided additional living space. [Wiedman, p. 14]

1965-1966 Alida Canfield conveyed one-third interest in 5 Stoll's Alley to each of her three grandchildren, Frances C. Bonsal, Warwick Bonsal, and Frances M. Bonsal. [Wiedman, pp. 11-12]

SOURCES:

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Trezevant, John Timotee, *The Trezevant Family in the United States* (The State Company, Charleston, S.C., 1914)

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