

SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAD AVERAGE SCORES BELOW THE 20TH PERCENTILE.

## For Ship's Chandler

# 241 East Bay Was Store, Residence

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Special Writer

Sylvester Jancovich, a ship chandler, built the 2½ story structure at 241 East Bay St. as his store and residence in 1870-71.

Jancovich (also spelled Zancovich, Jancovitch, Zancovitch) purchased the site of the building from the estate of Moses D. Hyams on March 1, 1870, for \$1,100. The property was described as "All that vacant Lot of Land" at the northwest corner of East Bay and Guignard streets.

The lot had been part of a larger piece of property owned by Hyams. Buildings on the property had been destroyed by the great fire of 1861.

The Charleston Daily Courier, July 26, 1870, in a report on improvements in progress or projected in the city, mentioned:

"A Ship Chandler's Store is soon to be put up at the corner of Guignard-street and East Bay, and will be occupied by Mr. Zancovich, now located in Market, opposite Street-street."

It was a period in which Charleston was beginning to show signs of recovery from the economic wreckage of the Civil War, and the Courier noted:

"Nothing gives us keener pleasure than to chronicle any improvements that may be in contemplation or furtherance, if our people will maintain stout hearts, and be determined to breast the present difficulties that

## Do You Know Your Charleston?

beset us. We think we shall yet see a golden fruition of our hopes.

"There is a great deal of genuine philosophy in that pluck that yields not to feverish dreams of doubt, but boldly and persistently pursues, with unbroken front, and finally overcomes every adversity."

Jancovich, who had immigrated from Austria 20 years previously, died at the age of 62, on Oct. 11, 1871, of an "ulceration of the stomach" while living at the East Bay address. His funeral was held the following day from his home there, and he was buried in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

His will devised his estate to his wife, Christina, during her lifetime, for the support of his daughters, Catherine and Teresa Jancovich. After her death the property was to go to the daughters.

The appraisal of his estate included: "The House and Lot on the West side of East Bay Street at the Corner of Guignard, valued at \$2,500." Also listed was the stock of goods in his store there.

Jancovich's building at 241 East Bay is constructed of Charleston grey brick and a type of orange-red brick used in the period after the Civil War.

The exterior masonry is stuccoed

and punctuated at various points with washers and bolts of earthquake rods, a reminder of the great earthquake of 1886, in which the building was badly damaged.

According to the damage inspectors' report, the south and east walls were badly cracked, the west gable had to be rebuilt, the chimney tops were knocked down and the building had to be well-anchored from north to south.

The tin roof with standing seams is possibly the original roof. The earthquake damage report states that the building had a tin roof in 1886.

Four dormers on the north slope of the roof have small gable roofs of tin with standing seams, and are faced with tin on the sides. The dormers have wooden pediments and double hung sash windows with six over six lights.

Gable ends of 19th-century Charleston buildings traditionally had a short pilaster on either flank, extending from the cornice to the rake of the gable.

At 241 East Bay the spaces for the pilasters were provided but the brickwork was not raised to form true pilasters. The gable ends have simple cornices of stuccoed brick, which continue along the tops of the (suggested) pilasters.

The East Bay Street facade has a corbelled cornice, with returns, below the gable end; brick cornices of

fillet and ovolo moldings, stuccoed, over the windows; and a stuccoed brick belt course of fillet and fascia moldings between the first and second levels.

The facade has a tripartite window centered in the gable end, three single windows on the second level and a double door, flanked on the left by a window and on the left by a door that was formerly a window. Presumably, the first level of the facade originally had a storefront, rather than the present fenestration.

The north and south sides of the building have corbelled brick cornices, stuccoed, with returns below the (suggested) pilasters of the rear gable end.

A previous owner or owners altered the building extensively, including making several changes in door and window placement, the removal of the chimneys and the total gutting of the interior.

Original materials remaining in the interior include old pine flooring, exposed joists with circular saw marks, and some woodwork on the windows.

Christina Jancovich, widow of the builder, died May 7, 1889. Ten years later the daughters, Theresa Jancovitch and Catherine Jancovitch Chapman, sold the property to John H. Harrigan.

The property subsequently went through various owners until purchased by Street Brothers, the present owners.



Staff Photo by Stephanie Harvin

## Site Bought For \$1,100