

**Building At 216 King Street
Erected After 1838 Blaze**

By ROBERT P. STOCKTON
Special Writer

Built in 1839-40 by Patrick McBride, an Irish-born merchant and auctioneer, the building at 216 King St. was remodeled about 1908 by Vincent Chicco, who put his name in a panel on the parapet.

McBride purchased the site of 216 King from the estate of Samuel Jones in December 1838 for \$3,450. The lot was then vacant, having been in the path of the great fire of April 27-28 of that year.

In May 1849, McBride mortgaged the property to the Bank of the State of South Carolina. The mortgage was to secure payment of a loan of \$2,750 made by the bank under the "Act for rebuilding the City of Charleston," adopted by the S.C. General Assembly after the fire. The act provided loans for property owners in the area burned by the 1838 fire, requiring that the funds "should, within one year from its receipt, be expended in the erection of brick, or stone buildings."

McBride had erected the present building at 216 King by March 1840, when he mortgaged the "Lot of Land with the buildings thereon," for \$6,050.

McBride retained the property until February 1846, when he sold it to Michael Lynas for \$8,300. The property was then described as a lot "with a three Story Brick Dwelling house thereon, and outbuildings."

McBride arrived in Charleston about 1826. He was operating a dry goods store on upper King Street in 1837 and from about 1840 on he was an auctioneer and commission mer-

establishments which circumvented the liquor laws.

Chicco was a popular figure in Charleston, where much of public opinion was against liquor control, and he seldom had opposition at election time.

He died in 1928 at the age of 78. According to his obituary, "pos- sessed of a forceful personality and being a raconteur of ability, Mr. Chicco was one of the most colorful and best known figures in Charleston up to the time of his death."

Chicco remodeled 216 King, adding a new facade with his name in the parapet. After the remodeling, the building was occupied by the Academy of Music nearby, which advertised food "fit for a king."

Chico sold the property in 1914 to the West Shore Investment Co. It subsequently went through several owners until 1967, when it was purchased by Harold A. Jones and Clyde V. Madren. The property is now owned by Jones' widow, Mrs. Marion E. Jones, and Madren.

The building is three stories of brick with a stuccoed facade three bays wide. The brickwork is in American common bond.

The south wall has, on the second level, a bricked-up archway which contained the original main entrance to the residential portion of the building, a doorway with an elliptical fanlight and probably sidelights.

At some point, when the upper floors were converted from a single-family residence to apartments, the

216 King Street

Staff Photo by Stephanie Marvin

The News and Courier

Do You Know Your Charleston?

chant in Vendue Range. During or following the Civil War he returned to upper King Street as a commission merchant. He died in December 1866 and is buried in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Michael Lynas (also spelled Lynass), purchaser of the property in 1846, operated a dry goods store at the location.

He died in 1849, leaving the property to his sister, Mary, wife of Patrick J. Coogan. The property remained in the Coogan family until 1907, when it was sold to John F. O'Rourke, who sold it in January 1908 to Vincent Chicco.

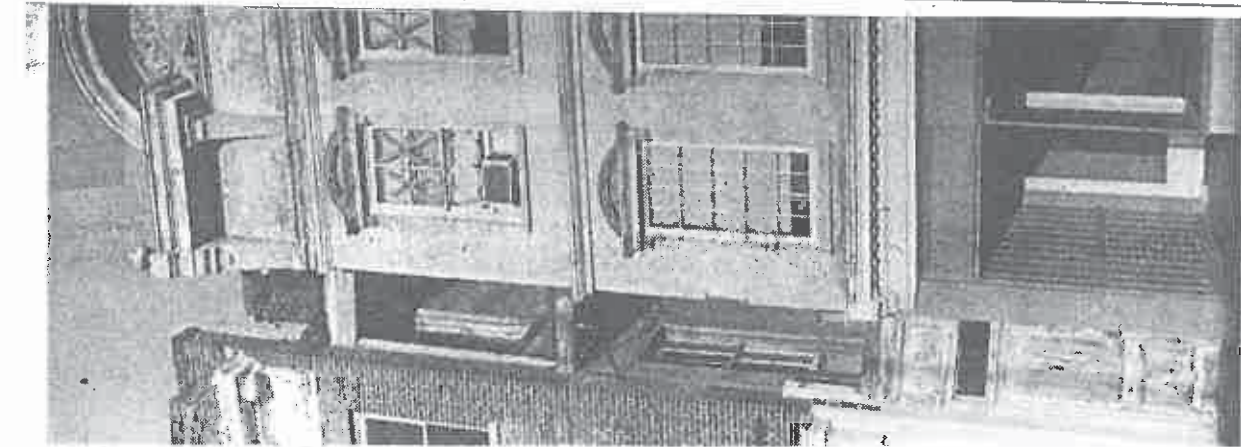
Chicco was one of Charleston's most colorful turn-of-the-century characters. Born in Italy in 1850, he arrived in Charleston about 1868, having at age 18 already been a sailor for several years.

In Charleston, he was at one time a railroad employee and a city policeman, then opened Chicco's Cafe on Market Street, which became his headquarters.

Chicco went into politics, serving five terms as alderman for Ward 3. His fight against open defiance of prohibition laws earned him the sobriquet of "the king of the blind tigers," the term, "blind tiger," being used at the time to designate

(See Page 2-B, Column 1)

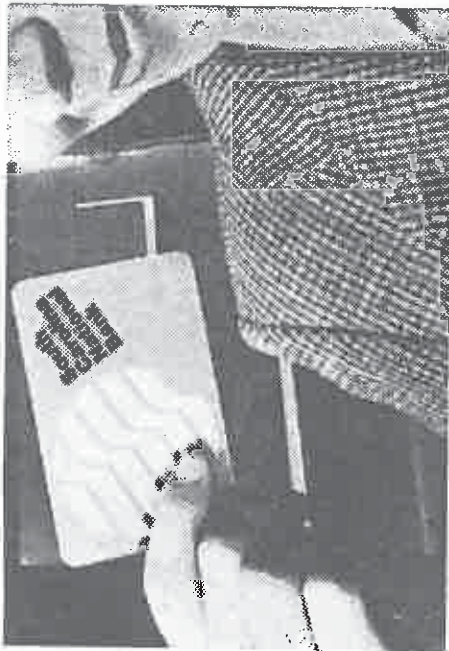
1980-1981 Campaign



Staff Photo by Stephanie Marvin

216 King

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just made it even simpler
it lets you do things for you
we used to have to do for
Usually in less than

WITHDRAWALS

Just by touching a few
you can make cash with
from any of your SCN accounts
to \$600 a day, in multiple

DEPOSITS

You can make deposits
SCN checking and saving

Available in Charleston at: Ashley Plaza, Berkeley
(Opening Soon: Savannah Highway)

...216 King

Continued From Page 1-B
main entrance was closed and new
doorways opened.

In the interior, door and window
surrounds on the second and third
floors are of the 1839-40 period, but
mantels, flooring and other details
date from about 1908.

The earthquake damage report of
1886 refers to the building having
"gables" meaning a gable roof. The
present roof, concealed by Chicco's
high parapet, is flat.

Chicco's facade is richly orna-
mented. The parapet, the upper por-
tion of which projects about three
feet from the building face, is sup-
ported on large brackets decorated
with elongated acanthus leaves and
half spheres, and has a cornice with
bulby urn-shaped finials.

The upper windows have cornices
on small consoles decorated with
flori, segmental pediments decorat-
ed with egg-and-dart motifs and with
swags in the tympani between the
cornices and pediments.

A plain stuccoed brick cornice
runs below the parapet. A belt
course of stuccoed brick with ovolo
molding runs between the second
and third levels and a wooden cor-
nice, decorated with modillions and
dentils and with scrolled brackets at
either end, runs over the first floor
openings.

The first floor has plate glass win-
dows with marble panels below
them. The entrance, off-center in the
facade, is in a small porch, paneled
on one side and glazed on the other,
with a paneled ceiling and a tile floor
with the name, "Miller" in colored
tiles. The name is that of Max Miller,
who had Miller Furniture Co. in the
building from 1927 to the 1940s.

To the right of the facade are
narrow piazzas, with a door on the
street end and stairways to the upper
floors. The stairway to the third floor
has a mid-19th Century newel, rail
and balusters, probably moved from
the interior when the building was
remodeled.

Young and A. Young and A.

1910-1911