

refugee from Santo Domingo, in whose family it remained until 1835. The upper floors retain rich Adamesque details.

## **202 King Street** **Rugheimer Building**

*Constructed c. 1912; rehabilitated 1980, 1992*

*Walker and Burden, architects*

This three-story building of pressed brick with granite trim on a yellow brick facade was built for John Rugheimer, Sons, merchant tailors. A native of Germany, Rugheimer founded the business in 1864, after an injury incurred while blockade running for the Confederacy barred him from sea duty. The business continued in operation until 1972. After that, it's back and upper floors were rehabilitated as the Fulton Lane Inn. The ground floor continues to serve as retail space.

## **204-206 King Street** **Bluhma Cohen Loeb House**

*Constructed 1887 and 1894*

Bluhma Cohen Loeb, wife of Levi Loeb, constructed this building in two stages. The first floor of brick, originally containing two stores, was built in 1887. The upper floor of wood with a metal clad facade was completed in 1894. The recess on the north end, now filled by a door, was the entrance to Robb's Lot Alley, which led to the rear of Robb's Lot, a large tract fronting on King Street, whose buildings were destroyed in the Great Fire of 1861. After the Civil War, Robb's Lot remained vacant for some time and was frequently used as a circus grounds in summer. It was a place of refuge for homeless people after the 1886 earthquake.

## **208 King Street** **Old YMCA-Women's Exchange**

*Constructed 1889; altered 1950s, 1980; exterior partially restored and interior rehabilitated 1993*

*S. W. Foulk, architect; Henry Oliver, contractor*  
Organized in 1854, Charleston's YMCA was housed at various locations, including the Mills House Hotel, for many years. In 1888, this site was purchased to provide a permanent home for the center. S.W. Foulk of Newcastle, Pa., an architect who specialized in YMCA buildings, designed the three-story brick structure; Henry

Oliver of Charleston was the builder. The facade is of pressed brick with stone and terra cotta trim. The building formerly had a tower on the left with a peaked roof and a gable on the right. The Romanesque style building has been renovated as shops and apartments.

## **211 King Street** **Majestic Square**

*Constructed 1996*

This new building replaced a former 20<sup>th</sup> century bank that had been set back from the street in an incongruous fashion from its historic neighbors along King Street. It was razed in 1995 to make room for Majestic Square, which originally housed a Saks Fifth Avenue store, as well as office space. The new construction was lauded by preservationists in the city, who appreciated its fine building materials and Art Deco design elements that paid homage to the Riviera Theater across the street. It serves as an excellent example of new construction within a historic context.

Saks closed in 2010 and was replaced by another apparel retail outlet.

## **216 King Street** **McBride-Chicco Building**

*Constructed 1839-40; renovated and rehabilitated 1980s*

This three-story brick building was built by Patrick McBride (d. 1866), an Irish-born merchant, and remodeled c. 1908 by Vincent Chicco, who put his name in the parapet.

Chicco was the self-described "king of the blind tigers" or speakeasies, during Prohibition. A "blind tiger" was a lower-class establishment that sold alcoholic beverages illegally. The establishment's operator would charge customers to see an attraction (such as a blind tiger), and then serve a "complimentary" alcoholic beverage, thus circumventing the prohibition laws.

## **220 King Street** **Nathan Hart Building**

*Constructed 1838-40; rehabilitated 1988*

This three-story brick building has a facade of Charleston grey brick, laid in Flemish bond, and