

KING STREET

559 1999 Charleston Church Supply 1990 Vacant 1980 The Stitching Post *tailor shop* 1970 Honest John's Record Shop 1960 Carolina Instrument Service 1940 thru 1950 Altman's Furniture Co. 1930 Max Goldstein *clothing* / C.B. Heidt 1920 J. H.. Hahn / F. E. Fennelly 1910 The E. F. Bierfischer Furniture Co. *Established around 1900, The E. F. Bierfischer Furniture Co. was one of the leading furniture businesses in the area. Along with the latest styles in furniture for every room, the company also carried blankets, curtains, window shades, and various kitchen and household appliances. The proprietor, E. F. Bierfischer, a German native and an active member of many German social organizations, started his business career as a grocer.* 1900 H.R. Rabens *restaurant and residence*

560 1996 vacant 1990 Rush Institute 1980 (a) Vacant 1070 Peter Furniture Co. 1960 Park Furniture Co. Inc. 1940 Indian River Fruit Store *restaurant* 1920 thru 1930 Ellison's Dry Goods Store 1920 Edward Melgood

561 1950 thru 1999 Peggy's of Charleston *dress shop* 1940 King Cut Rate Pharmacy / Melvin Wilson ½ Shirley's Hat Shop 1930 Kerr's Shoe Store ½ Vacant 1920 F. B. Kerr / J.H. Duc 1910 F. B. Kerr 1900 W.S. Dart © *barber*

562 1996 Nehemiah Ministries Inc. *thrift shop* 1990 Vacant 1980 The Charleston Medical Clinic 1960 thru 1970 Park Furniture *overflow* 1940 Gold Mine Loan Office *pawn brokers* / Joseph Sabel 1930 Gold Mine Loan Office / Palmetto Auto Wrecking Co. / Joseph Sabel 1920 C.L. Schmanske & Sons / Gold Mine Loan Office 1900 thru 1910 C.L. Schmancke *hay, grain, etc. and residence* Mr. C. L. Schmancke *was a widely respected grocer carrying only the finest domestic and fancy groceries, grains, grist, meals, and hay. He was known for his prompt and courteous customer service as well as the manner in which he filled orders from all over the state.*

563 1980 thru 1996 Goodwill Thrift Store *offices* 1950 thru 1970 J. Sokol Furniture House Co. *Real estate* 1940 Basket Shoe Store / Max Goldstein 1930 A.E. Moorer *druggist* / Max Goldstein 1920 Louis Horowitz 1900 thru 1910 J.K. Salvo *dry goods and residence*

564 1940 Palace Sweet Shop *confectioners* 1930 Vacant 1910 Dr. J.W. Burn

565 1970 thru 1999 Taylor Loan Co. and Pawn Shop 1960 Appel Furniture Co. 1950 Food & Tobacco Workers Union Local No. 15 1940 Shoe Box 1930 S.C. National Bank Branch / E.C. Steinmeyer 1920 S.C. Loan & Trust Co. / J.G. O'Brien 1910 S.C. Loan & Trust Co. / J. Kaminisky 1900 Columbian Banking & Trust Co. *The Columbian Banking & Trust Co. opened for business in 1893 and provided its customers with various individual and business services. However, many customers were perhaps won by the bank's claim that its safety deposit boxes were both fire and burglar proof.*

566 1960 Vacant 1940 thru 1950 Palace Theater *Opening in 1931 The Palace Theater functioned mainly as a movie house, but, on occasion, was visited by popular entertainers such as Ernest Tubb and Tex Ritter. It was known for its annual "Kiddies' Christmas Party" where admission was free, gifts and candy were free, and children from area orphanages were treated like special guests.* 1930 Charleston Theater Building / B. B. Ruddock 1920 George Grooms 1910 Mrs. M. E. Welch

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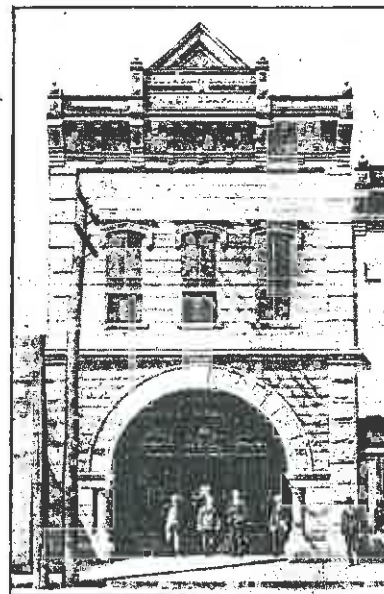
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Pawn shop owner says King Street will thrive again

By J. DOUGLAS DONEHUE
Of The Post-Courier staff

Uptown King Street will once again throb with mercantile life the way it did before business began to slip away to the West Ashley, East Cooper and North Charleston suburbs.

At least that's the opinion of a man who's been in business on King Street for 50 years.

Howard C. Taylor's optimism isn't just so much talk. He recently completed the renovation of his pawn shop at 565 King St.

The renovation required a substantial investment by Taylor in a building that originally housed the Columbia Bank.

The building was constructed in 1895. Its stone face makes it unique among uptown King Street structures.

During his 50 years on King Street, Taylor has witnessed some remarkable transitions.

He came to Charleston from Mississippi and worked for a time as a shipfitter at the Charleston Naval Shipyard. Later, he went to work for the late Milton Banov at Uncle Sam's Pawn Shop at King and Spring streets.

"In those days, uptown King Street was humming with business," says Taylor.

The nation was at war in the early 1940s and people were pouring into Charleston by the thousands to work at the shipyard and other defense industries.

There were shortages of just about everything, and a merchant who could get his hands on things to sell had it made.

Uncle Sam's Pawn Shop was a place where people could buy things — clothes, shoes, knives, cooking utensils, radios, watches, etc. Taylor learned the business well.

He learned it so well that he was able to open his own pawn shop at 609 King St. in 1957.

He rented the building from the Worth Agency.

Ten years later he bought the old Columbia Bank building at 565 King St. from the Appel estate and opened a second shop there.

Shortly after he bought the 565 King St. building, he remodeled the inside in air conditioning and



'By the end of the '90s, Uptown King Street is going to be a focal point of retail business in the tri-county area.'

Howard C. Taylor
Taylor's Pawn Shop

put on a new roof.

A long-time member of the Uptown Merchants Association and a member of Citadel Square Baptist Church, Taylor has watched the ebb and flow of the tide of business on Uptown King Street long enough to feel confident that there is a definite resurgence of business in the area.

It has been under way since Hurricane Hugo, he says.

"By the end of the '90s, Uptown King Street is going to be a focal point of retail business in the tri-county area."

He points to the way revitalization already has come, and is still moving across the face of the upper part of the Charleston peninsula.

He talks about the facilities that have decided to locate uptown, citing the Charleston Museum, the Charleston Trident Chamber of Commerce and the Visitors Center, as well as the Hampton Inn (formerly Chicco Apartments) and Bluestein's Men's Wear, Dixie Furniture and George's Loan Shop.

"All kinds of businesses are thriving on uptown King Street," says Taylor.

"We still have a good bit of progress to make. There are some junky places that'll have to be torn down and remodeled, but it's going to happen. It's bound to."

Taylor closed his pawn shop at 609 King St. in 1987 and moved all of its inventory to the shop at 565 King St.

He is now serving a third generation of customers, a fact he points to with pride.

Taylor and his wife, Sybil, have been married for 51 years.

Mrs. Taylor worked for the Southern Bell Telephone Co.

A member of the South Carolina Pawnbrokers Association, Taylor has many friends who are also his customers.

On any day of the week they come to his shop just to chat, or to share a cup of coffee with him.

"It's a very rewarding business, because it is the kind of business that has enabled me to make so many friends and a pretty good living at the same time."