

11 Fulton Street

Once the pulse of a thriving red-light district, this structure now houses several branches of the Historic Charleston Foundation. The building, as we see it today, still maintains the scored stuccoed brick fabric which was original to the brothel. Four large chimneys with pointed-arch hoods and a simple corbelled brick cornice also seem to be nineteenth-century. Plain window architraves and two wooden Greek Revival mantels, with sunk panels in the pilasters, are all that remain of the original interior. The nineteenth-century plan seems to have been hall and parlor.

Grace Peixotto, an early entrepreneur, purchased the lot measuring 62 feet along Beresford Street (now Fulton Street) and 82 feet in depth for \$2,200 in 1851. Within a year, tax records show an increase to \$12,000 and the construction of a three-story brick building. Peixotto died between 1879 and 1880 and the property passed to Jacob S. Myers. Although Myers, known as a mariner and dealer in cigars and tobacco, is listed as the owner, various Madams are listed as the residents until the World War II era. The property at this time contained, in addition to the three story main building, a two story brick building and a three story brick building arranged around a courtyard and linked by piazzas.

Business as usual presumably continued at 11 Fulton Street until the end of World War II. At this time the United States military commissioned several studies of various military installations. One such study showed that venereal disease among Charleston area militia was far above the average. Deciding the bordellos were the main sources of such infection, the military ordered the closing of all such enterprises.

After the building was vacated it was subdivided and rented to Navy petty officers and their families. These tenants petitioned the changing of the street name to Fulton to put an end to any suspicions tied to the former address. Subsequently, the building served as a furniture warehouse, a storage facility for the Corps of Engineers, and a local bar.

G. M. H. [Gina Haney?]