



(Staff Photo)

MISUNDERSTANDING SURROUNDS DEMOLITION PERMIT FOR REID STREET HOUSE
Inset (Lower Right) Shows Permit Issued For Demolition

Board Not Consulted

Riley House Razing Plan Halted By City Engineer

BY LOUIS J. ROEMPKE

The wrecker's tools will have to wait a while before ripping down the 147-year-old dwelling at 1 Reid St., the City Engineer's office reported yesterday.

The report followed the discovery that a permit for the house's demolition had been issued without full knowledge of the building's age or its exact location.

A permit, dated July 28, was issued to Ben Parker by the engineer's office for the demolition of the old Riley Iron Foundry building at 601 East Bay St., and for a "dwelling."

The addresses listed in the permit were 601 and 611 East Bay St. A permit for demolition also was tacked on 1 Reid St. — the 147-year-old building adjoining the foundry.

The property was purchased last May from Miss Annie A. Riley by G. S. Carter.

Mr. Carter reported last night that he had recently sold the Reid Street building — less the lot—to Mrs. Marguerite Sinkler Valk. Her plans for the building, he said, were not known to him.

Ordinarily, there would be little hubbub over the demolition of the building, but a city ordinance requires that a request to tear down any building over

100 years old pass first before the Board of Architectural Review.

Not knowing that the building in question was over 100 years old, nor that it was intended for demolition, the City Engineer's office approved the permit.

Said City Engineer H. B. Good:

"We didn't sign a permit for 1 Reid St. and we'll check into the matter first thing in the morning."

In the meantime, he said he would stop whatever demolition

was going on until he could determine all the facts.

A. G. Hollings, chairman of the Board of Review, said, "The board received no application for a review from the City Engineer's office. I will certainly call him in the morning."

He said he was not sure of the building's age, but that he was certain it has sufficient architectural history to warrant postponement of any demolition work underway.

Although omitted from the

popular architectural record of Charleston's valuable dwellings, "This is Charleston," the Reid Street building is considered by authorities on the subject to have historic value for its age and appointments.

John D. Muller Jr., long active in Charleston preservation work, described the Reid Street building as having all the characteristics of an ante-bellum structure.

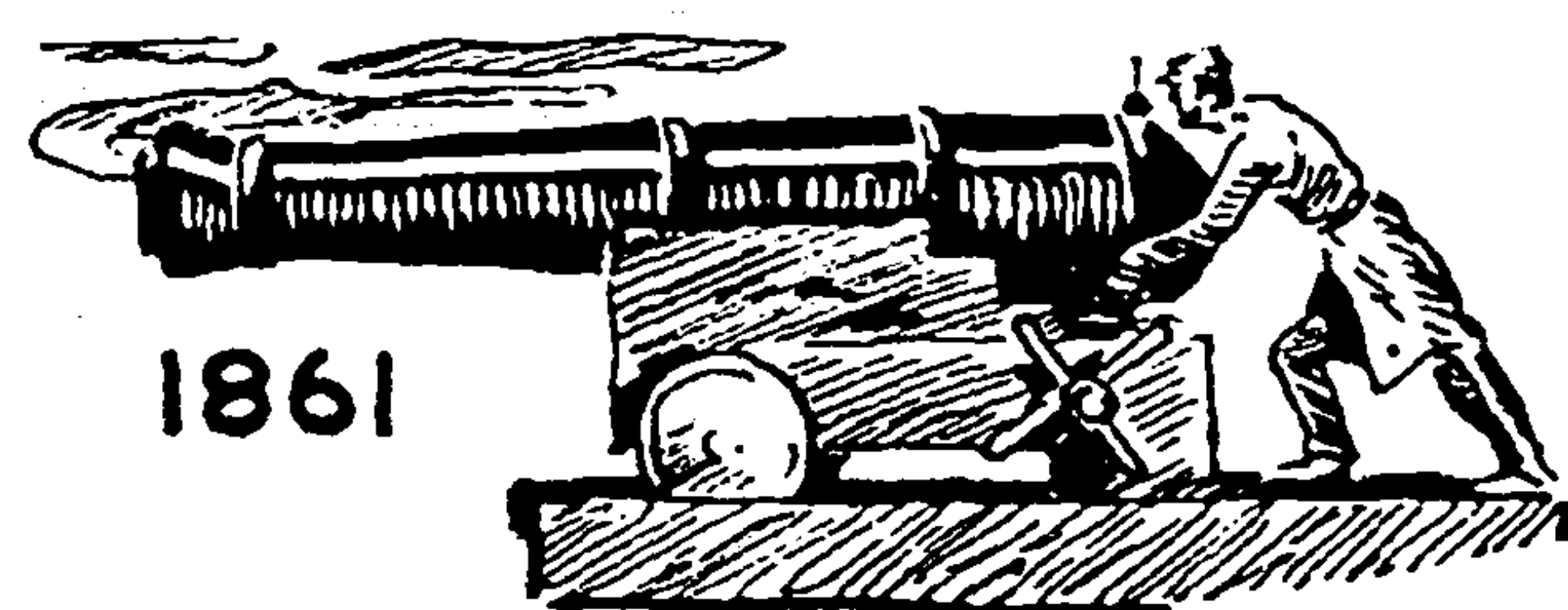
He said the wainscoting, gouge work, stair rail and general plan identify it with the pre-Civil War period.

Mr. Carter said he was not aware of the fact that the building was more than 100 years old and said that Ben Carter, owner of the housewrecking firm, had actually applied for the demolition permit. Mr. Carter was listed on the permit as owner of the property at the time Ben Carter applied for the permit.

Mrs. Valk said yesterday afternoon that her plans for the building were "not for publication."

So far, the only demolition on the Reid Street building itself has been the removal of the iron fence.

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LOCAL NEWS

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Permit Withdrawn**Reid St. Home Demolition Halted By City Engineer**

Demolition of the 147-year-old house at 1 Reid St. was officially halted yesterday by the city engineer's office.

The permit was withdrawn after H. B. Good, city engineer, decided there was some confusion in the issuance. "We didn't sign a permit for 1 Reid St.," he said. Instead the permit was issued for the demolition of the Old Riley Iron Foundry at 601 East Bay St. and a dwelling.

A. G. Hollings, a chairman of the Board of Architectural Review, said yesterday that had the city engineer's office known the "dwelling" was 1 Reid St., it would have automatically sent the request to his group for review.

A city ordinance requires that a request to tear down any building over 100 years old pass first before the Board of Architectural Review.

Mr. Hollings said the engineer's office assumed that the "dwelling" was a small caretaker's home near the foundry.

Ben Parker, owner of a housewrecking firm, was informed orally yesterday by Mr. Good that the permit was withdrawn. The engineer also forwarded a registered letter to Mr. Parker stating the same information.

If another demolition permit is requested for 1 Reid St., also known as the Riley House, it must be sent to the review board. Mr. Hollings said a special meeting could be called within a couple of days to consider the request. The board can delay issuance of such a permit for only 90 days.

There was still no word yesterday on the plans for the house or its contents. Both the old Riley Iron Foundry and the Riley House were formerly owned by Miss Annie A. Riley. They were sold in May to G.S. Carter who subsequently sold the Reid Street house, without the grounds, to Mrs. Marguerite Sinkler Valk.

At present, Mrs. Valk has "nothing to say," on the proposed demolition of the historic ante bellum home.

Razing of the 60-year-old John F. Riley Foundry and Machine

west corner of East Bay and Reid Streets, is going ahead as scheduled.

Castings for a wide variety of uses were made there until earlier this year. The building is the third to house the company which was formed 77 years ago by John F. Riley.

The first two buildings were destroyed by fire.

The foundry has turned out many of the manhole covers that top Charleston's sewers and drains and after the great earthquake of 1886, it manufactured many of the bolts and plates used to hold the shaken

buildings together.

The company's pattern loft contained many wooden patterns for such diverse items as cogwheels, casings, bolts, plates and frames. The Riley castings were sent all over the world.

S. C. Hospital Assn. Honors F. O. Bates 12th Consecutive Year Port Tops Cotton Importers Again

The man who served the South Carolina Hospital Association longest as its president was awarded the first Past President's pin ever given by the association here this week.

F. O. Bates, long time administrator of Roper Hospital in Charleston, is the only person living who was present at the organizational meeting of the association on April 20, 1921.

The presentation was made by Glenn D. Searcy, administrator at the Medical College of South Carolina, incoming president of the association. The Hospital Association established the award this year and James R. Neely, executive director, said similar awards would be made to other presidents.

Mr. Bates was administrator of Roper Hospital from 1912 until 1950, when he retired. He was first elected president of the Hospital Association in 1923. He was elected again in 1925 and served continuously through 1935, giving him a total of 11 terms as president—more than any other person in the history of the association.

Mr. Bates has been nationally prominent in the hospital administration field, having served with such groups as the American College of Hospital Administrators of which he is a charter member. It is believed he served as a regent of the ACHA longer than any other

For the 12th consecutive year, the Port of Charleston is the leading cotton importing port in the United States.

When the quota year opened Tuesday, cotton available for release at Charleston totalled 85 per cent of all top-grade long-staple cotton in U. S. warehouses awaiting quota opening.

Gustav F. Doscher Jr., collector of customs for the South Carolina District, last night said that 76,340,603 pounds of cotton were stored in bonded warehouses of the State Ports Authority awaiting release at quota opening.

Mr. Doscher has been authorized to release 33,943,313 pounds of cotton here.

The quota section of the Bureau

of Customs in Washington authorized him to release amounts here as follows:

Cotton of one and three-eighths inches or more: 33,714,180 pounds. This was 44.1839 per cent of 76,304,220 pounds of this class at authority warehouses and 85 per cent of the global quota of 39,590,778 pounds.

Cotton of one and five-thirty seconds inches or more and under one and three-eighths inches: 226,493 pounds. This was the entire amount in this class here.

Cotton of one and one-eighth inches or more and under one and three-eighths inches: 7,640 pounds. This was 77.2533 per cent of 9,890 pounds stored at Charleston.

Importers and brokers acting for importers were on hand to file withdrawals at the U. S. Customs House here as the 1961-62 quota year opened Tuesday. Each importer or his representative must file a withdrawal for the amount of cotton he wishes to take from bonded warehouses and place on the domestic market.

Either the importer or his agent must present their withdrawals in person at noon, Eastern Standard Time, each Aug. 1 at U. S. Customs.

Throughout the country, the withdrawals are presented at exactly the same moment and the quota is usually filled in the opening moment as it was this

Merchants Outing Planned Tuesday

The annual employer-employee supper and outing of the St. Andrew's Center Merchants Association will be held Tuesday at Coburg Dairy Picnic Grounds.

Paul Hamilton, center president, said various prizes will be given for outstanding and unusual sports ensembles. In addition all merchants will donate several gifts that will be distributed as door prizes. Music for dancing as well as an organized program of games and activities will be provided.