

The Joseph Verree House

47 Church Street

Historical Notes

By

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Proving a Negative

Research on the history of 47 Church Street proved to be problematic because of the longtime assumption that the house, and its neighbor to the south at 14 Water Street, both had been built by Thomas Young. The traditional assumption was found to be based, first of all, on inadequate research and secondly, on a misinterpretation of that research. The previous work had missed the fact that a third house and lot had been sacrificed for the widening of the intersection of Church and Water streets in 1850. Traditional assumptions die hard in Charleston, however. It became necessary, therefore, not only to correctly document 47 Church Street, but also to correct the inaccuracies in the previous work and to "prove the negative," that Thomas Young did *not* build the house at 47 Church Street.

The documentary research did support the tradition that the handsome wooden house at 14 Water Street was one of several built by Thomas Young, a master bricklayer, planter and Revolutionary War Patriot. It was built sometime after Young acquired the site in March of 1764.

The documentary research established that the somewhat more handsome wooden house at 47 Church Street, which also had been attributed to Thomas Young, but erroneously, actually was built by Joseph Verree, a master carpenter and also a Revolutionary War Patriot, sometime after he acquired its site in November of 1767.

The site of 47 Church Street was part of a large lot of high ground which Joseph Verree purchased from his in-laws, Joseph Ball, sugar baker, and Elizabeth his wife, by deeds of lease and release dated November 9 and 10, 1767. The property was described as the southernmost part of Town Lot No. 77 in the "Modell" of the town. It measured to the east on Church Street, 85 feet, 10 inches; to the south on property of Thomas Young, 150 feet, 6 inches; to the west on property of Thomas Young, 42 feet; and to the north on other land of Joseph Ball, 142 feet. The conveyance, for £3,000 in South Carolina currency, also included a brick house on the southern part of the said lot, which was on the same site and possibly was the same structure as the existing house at present-day 49 Church Street.¹

Town Lot No. 77, cited in the 1767 conveyance, was one of the original lots of the "Grand Modell of Charles Town," the original plan of the city (Figure 1). It contained a half-acre of high land and was granted initially to Robert Gibbs (Gibbes), on March 1, 1681.²

The site of 14 Water Street was part of a large piece of marsh land which Thomas Young bought from Joseph and Elizabeth Ball, by deeds of lease and release dated March 9 and 10, 1764. The irregularly-shaped tract of marsh was described in 1764 as bounded to the north on a lot of high land belonging to Ball, and to the south on a canal. The canal formerly had been Vanderhorst Creek and subsequently would be filled, and its course would become Water Street. The boundaries of the marsh tract were described as measuring 64 feet in front on Church Street, and by a line 154 feet west from Church Street to a part of the said marsh behind the high land of Joseph Ball, and from the west end of the said line northward 33 feet towards the corner of Ball's vault or necessary house, then a line from north to south 76 feet on the back part of the said marsh to an intended 30-foot street, then a line from west to east 130 feet along the said canal or street to Church Street. Young paid £1,600 in South Carolina currency for the property.³

The marsh tract's frontage on Church Street did not extend in a straight line from north to south, but diagonally in a southwest direction, as it followed the line of the bridge crossing Vanderhorst Creek, as depicted on the *Ichnography of Charles Town*, drawn in 1739 (Figure 2).

Joseph Ball had purchased the southernmost portion of Town Lot No. 77, and the adjacent marsh tract, from the estate of John Matthewes, from whom he previously had leased the lot of high land. Property belonging to the Matthewes estate was sold at auction on February 16, 1764. Prior to the sale, Robert Wells, vendue master, advertised in the *South-Carolina Gazette*. The property to be sold included a plantation on John's Island, and the following:

All that parcel of ground, being part of the lot No. 77, situated at the lower end of Church-street in Charles Town aforesaid, with the buildings and improvements thereon, now in the tenure of Mr. Joseph Ball, sugar baker, containing in front on Church-street, about 165 feet of assize, and in depth backwards 130 feet of like measure or thereabouts.

Also a piece or parcel of marsh land, adjoining the southernmost part of the said parcel of ground, containing in front on the continuation of Church Street aforesaid 64 feet or thereabouts, and in depth about 142 feet, having such shape and form, as appears by a plat thereof annexed to the original grant of the same.⁴

Unfortunately, the above-mentioned plat was not found on record, nor have the deeds of conveyance from the estate of Matthewes to Joseph Ball. However, the purchase is recited in the deeds from Joseph and Elizabeth Ball to Verree and Young.

Before pursuing the history of 47 Church Street further, it is instructive to look into the development of Young's property to the south.

Subsequent to his purchase of his property, Young filled the marsh land and built upon it the house at present-day 14 Water Street, adjacent to the south. Young also built another house, described as a three story wooden dwelling house, to the south of present-day 14 Water Street. That house was taken down ca. 1850 and its triangular lot was absorbed into Water Street. Young's two houses at Church and Water streets were depicted on the *Ichnography of Charleston at High Water*, delineated in 1788 (Figure 4).

Thomas Young and his wife, Margaret Autrobus Young, had four daughters: Jane, who married Thomas Smith; Margaret, who married John Stock; Eliza (Elizabeth), who married James Hampden Thomson (Thompson); and Mary, who married Stephen Mazyck.⁵

Young left a long, complicated will, written on December 12, 1789, with subsequent codicil. Young made various bequests to his several daughters, then devised "unto my Wife Margaret Young during her Natural life the Use and Profits of all the rest and residue of my Estate both real and Personal." He further directed the executors of the estate, "as Soon as Convenient after the Death of my said Wife to Sell and dispose of at Publick Vendue the whole of my Estate both real and Personal." Each of the four daughters was to receive a one-fourth part of the monies arising from the sale. The will was probated May 28, 1793.⁶

Thomas Young's will did not mention his property at Church and Water streets. However, the property remained in the hands of his family for many years after his death.

The family conveyed the southernmost portion of the property to Thomas Keenan by a deed of release, dated May 3, 1800, for £400 sterling. Parties to the conveyance were Margaret Young, widow of Thomas Young, Jane Smith, Margaret Stock, Eliza Young Thomson, and Mary Mazyck and her husband Stephen Mazyck. The parcel conveyed was described as being situated at the northwest corner of Church and Water streets. It was described as measuring in front on Church Street, 19 feet, 6 inches; in depth on Water Street, 63 feet, 9 inches; on the back or west line, 9 feet; and on the south [sic] line, 74 feet. It was further described as bounding to the north and west on land of the aforesaid Margaret Young, east on Church Street, and south on Water Street. A condition of the conveyance was that Keenan and his successors to the title must never:

...suffer to be made any Door or Window or other opening whatsoever in any House or other Building or Buildings now standing and being or hereafter to be built on the Premises above mentioned so as that same should overlook or open into the Lot of Land now belonging to the said Margaret Young situate and adjoining the before mentioned premises on the North side thereof.⁷

The 1800 deed previously has been interpreted, erroneously, as conveying the house and lot at present-day 14 Water Street from the Young heirs to Keenan, and the "Lot of Land now belonging to the said Margaret Young," described in the deed as being to the north of Keenan's purchase, as the lot of present-day 47 Church Street.⁸ In actuality, the 1800 deed conveyed to Keenan a lot (19½ feet in front and 74 feet at its greatest depth) considerably smaller than that of present-day 14 Water Street (35 feet in front and 143 feet at its greatest depth). Also the lot conveyed in 1800 to Keenan was situated to the south of present-day 14 Water Street, which remained in the ownership of Thomas Young's descendants until 1867. Moreover, the prohibition against openings, on the north side of any building, was to prevent the occupants of Keenan's house from gawking at the premises at present-day 14 Water Street, not 47 Church Street.

Keenan's small truncated triangle of land subsequently became part of Water Street. It was purchased for that purpose by the City Council of Charleston on January 10, 1850. At that time, the lot was described as having a three story wooden building thereon.⁹

The property at 14 Water Street remained in the Young estate. Margaret Autrobus Young, widow of Thomas Young, died April 6, 1808.¹⁰ She left no will. Thomas Young's will had directed that, after her death, the remaining estate was to be sold and the proceeds thereof were to be divided among the four daughters. No deeds were found to indicate that such a sale took place. The will of one of the four daughters, Eliza Young Thomson, written and probated in 1825, mentioned "the One fourth part of the Real and personal Estate of my deceased Father Thomas Young which I am entitled to under his Will."¹¹

By some means not found recorded, one of the daughters, Mary Young Mazyck, wife of Stephen Mazyck, came into the ownership of present-day 14 Water Street. The lot at present-day 47 Church Street was described in 1825 as belonging to Mary Mazyck,¹² and in 1845 as land of "Mrs. Mazyck, formerly [of] Thomas Young."¹³

Mary Young Mazyck and her family also were in possession of the property at present-day 14 Water Street in 1827, according to a deed signed by Mary Mazyck, her son Alexander Mazyck,

her daughter Mary Jane O'Hara, her daughter Caroline Desel (Dezel) and her son-in-law Charles Desel. On November 21, 1827, they conveyed to City Council a triangular piece of land on the corner, for the widening of Church Street at that point. It was described as being opposite the Mariners' Church and measuring on Church Street 20½ feet; on the west line 17 feet; and on the north line 10 feet.¹⁴ The parcel conveyed was described as being marked "B" on a plat by Charles Parker, city surveyor, dated January, 1827 (Figure 5). Parker's plat indicated that the parcel marked "B" was taken from the lot of present-day 14 Water Street.¹⁵

Parker's plat also depicts another small triangle, adjacent to the one conveyed by Mary Mazyck and family, measuring 22½ feet in front on Church Street, 21½ feet on the west line, and 10 feet on the south line.¹⁶ The second triangle was taken from the lot of present-day 47 Church Street, and acquired by the city at the same time, although no deed was found to record the transfer of title. A deed of 1845, however, recited that the triangle, marked "A" on Parker's plat, had been "conveyed to City Council in the year 1827."¹⁷ It is logical that both triangles of land were conveyed to the city at the same time, as each was necessary for the function of the other, in the street widening project.

Mary Mazyck died sometime before her will was probated in August of 1845.¹⁸ Her estate, which included the house and lot at 14 Water Street, devolved to her only surviving child, Caroline Desel, wife of Charles L. Desel. The Desel heirs conveyed the property, described as the former residence of Mary Mazyck, to Thomas Young, a Charleston attorney, by a deed dated April 22, 1867.¹⁹ Thomas Young failed to satisfy a mortgage on the property, and as a consequence it was conveyed to Charles O. Witte, a Charleston banker, in a sheriff's sale on August 19, 1869.²⁰ Thus the house and lot at 14 Water Street passed from the ownership of the descendants of the builder.

47 Church Street

Joseph Verree, who built the house at present-day 47 Church Street, was married to Mary Ball; a daughter of Joseph Ball.²¹ The site of 47 Church Street was part of a large lot of high ground which Joseph Verree purchased from his father-in-law, Joseph Ball, sugar baker, and Elizabeth his wife, by deeds of lease and release dated November 9 and 10, 1767. The property was described as the southernmost part of Town Lot No. 77 in the "Modell" of the town. It measured to the east on Church Street, 85 feet, 10 inches; to the south on property of Thomas Young, 150 feet, 6 inches; to the west on property of Thomas Young, 42 feet; and to the north on other land of Joseph Ball, 142 feet. The conveyance, for £3,000 in South Carolina currency, also included a brick house on the southern part of the said lot.²²

The brick house, mentioned in the 1767 deed of release, perhaps was situated on the same site as the present structure at 49 Church Street, as indicated on a plat (Figure 3), drawn in 1778. The plat accompanied deeds of lease and release, dated March 7 and 8, 1778, by which Joseph Verree and his wife Mary sold that portion of their property to Elizabeth Blaikie, widow. The property was described as a piece or part of a lot of land in Church Street, measuring in front on the said street, 36 feet. The boundary was described further as running on the south line from the street to the southwest corner of the brick house on the said lot, 79 feet, 6 inches, and from the corner of the said house running on an angle northwest 65 feet deep to the west end of the said lot, and running on the back line, 13 feet. That boundary, as depicted on the plat (Figure 3), was almost the same as the present boundary, except that it left no room for passage between the front and back yards of 49 Church; that defect was corrected later, in 1864 (see below). The odd diagonal line was occasioned undoubtedly by the presence of a two story kitchen building which stood behind the house at present-day 47 Church Street, as depicted on various maps (Figures 3, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12). This documentation strengthens the assumption that Joseph Verree built the present house at 47 Church Street, and its kitchen, after purchasing the site in 1767, and would indicate a construction date before March of 1778. The lot at present-day 49 Church Street was described further as butting and bounding to the north on land of the estate of Joseph Ball, deceased, east on Church Street, west on land of Thomas Young, and south on land of Joseph Verree.²³

Joseph Verree died July 15, 1779, at the age of 43.²⁴ His widow, Mary, afterwards was identified as the executrix (rather than administratrix) of his estate,²⁵ implying that he left a will, but no will was found recorded. His son Samuel subsequently was cited as administrator of his estate, indicating there was no will. His estate devolved to his widow, Mary, and their several sons.²⁶ The property at present-day 47 Church remained in the Verree family until 1825. City directories listed Mary Verree at 13 Church Street in 1790 and 1794, at 14 Church Street in 1801, and at 3 Church Street in 1802, 1803, 1806, 1807 and 1809. Also listed at 3 Church Street were Joseph Verree (1803, 1806, 1807, 1809), George Verree (1803), William Verree (1803), Samuel Verree (1809), and Robert Verree (1809). Joseph, Robert and Samuel Verree were listed in the 1813 city directory as residing in Church Street. Joseph and Samuel Verree were listed in the 1816 directory as living at 19 Church Street and in the 1819 directory at 10 Church Street. Joseph Verree was listed in the 1822 city directory as living at 63 Church Street.²⁷ All of the addresses cited probably applied to the house at present-day 47 Church Street; house numbers changed frequently during that period, and

present-day 47 Church was the only property in Church Street owned by the Verree family. The property was identified as 19 Church Street in an 1822 deed,²⁸ and as 63 Church Street in an 1825 deed.²⁹

Mary Verree died April 12, 1810, in her 68th year.³⁰ In order to settle the Verree estate, Robert Verree, on August 5, 1817, brought suit in the Court of Equity of Charleston District, naming Samuel Verree, as administrator of the estate of Joseph Verree, and Joseph Verree (junior) as defendants, and requesting a division of the estate. The case was heard in February of 1818, and the Court decreed that the house and lot in Church Street, belonging to the estate, be sold at public auction by the master. The public auction, which was not advertised in either the *Charleston Courier* or the *Charleston Mercury*, was held on March 26, 1822. On that date, Benjamin Elliott, Commissioner in Equity, conveyed title to the property to Robert Verree, who had submitted a high bid of \$3,200. The property conveyed was described as a house and lot in Church Street, known as No. 19. The lot measured 49 feet in front on Church Street and 150 feet in depth.³¹

Robert Verree sold the property at present-day 47 Church Street to John Haslett, Jr., on October 10, 1825, for \$1,500. The property was described as a "two Story wooden House" and lot of land, on the west side of Church Street, known as No. 63. The lot was described as measuring 49 feet in front on Church Street and 150 feet in depth. It was described further as butting and bounding to the north on land of William Cuchere; south on land of Mary Mazyck, west on land of the estate of Eliza Y. Thomson, and east on Church Street.³²

John Haslett, Jr., retained the property until 1845. It was he who conveyed the triangle of land, marked "A" in Charles Parker's plat (Figure 5), to the City of Charleston in 1827. No deed for that conveyance was found, but the transaction was cited in an 1845 deed, with which Parker's 1827 plat was found recorded. Parker's plat depicts the triangle, as measuring 22½ feet in front on Church Street, 21½ feet on the west line, and 10 feet on the south line. The plat also depicts the "footprint" of the house, and its piazza, at present-day 47 Church Street, in relation to the triangle.³³

John Haslett, Jr., also purchased the property adjacent to the north, at present-day 49 Church Street, on May 2, 1832. That property was described as measuring 36 feet in front on Church Street and 141 feet in depth. The description of the butts and bounds remained the same as in the 1778 deeds, with the exception that the property to the south (present-day 47 Church Street) was identified as having belonged to the estate of Verree. The purchase price, curiously, was only \$800, and the deed described the property as a lot, without mention of a house, brick or otherwise.³⁴

Haslett sold the two properties together to Jonathan Bryan, Jr., as trustee of the marriage settlement of George S. Bryan and Rebecca L. Bryan, on September 18, 1845, for \$5,500. The combined property was described as two lots with houses, being part of the lot distinguished in the plat of the city [the Grand Modell] by the number 77, formerly owned by Joseph Verree, with the difference only of the triangle marked "A" in Parker's plat (Figure 5), which was conveyed to City Council in the year 1827. The deed stated that the two lots together measured in front on Church Street, 84 feet, 10 inches; 140 feet, 6 inches on the south line; 42 feet on the west line; and 142 feet on the north line. The combined properties were further described as butting and bounding to the east on Church Street, to the west on land of Hugh Vincent, formerly of Thomas Young, to the north on land of Miss Sarah Gibbes, Dr. Alexander Garden and Miss Trickett, formerly of Joseph Ball's estate, and to the south on land of Mrs. Mazyck, formerly of Thomas Young.³⁵

The purchase of the property under the marriage settlement probably indicated that the

purchase was being made with Mrs. Bryan's funds. The marriage settlement of George S. Bryan and Rebecca L. Bryan, née Dwight, had been executed on February 28, 1844, the date of their wedding. Such marriage settlements were legal documents designed to protect the bride by placing in trusteeship whatever property she brought into the marriage. It was usual for the trusteeship to be vested in one or more members of the bride's family. Jonathan Bryan, Jr., perhaps was a relative of the Dwights as well; the Lowcountry planter elite consisted of an extended cousinage which tended to intermarry. Rebecca L. Dwight, at the time of her marriage, owned a number of slaves, numerous bonds, and mortgages on plantation lands in St. John's, Berkeley, Parish. The aforesaid plantation lands had been the inheritance of Rebecca L. Dwight and her sister Harriett M. Dwight, and had been sold previously by their guardian, Isaac M. Dwight.³⁶ Subsequently, Jonathan Bryan, Jr., died and Richard Y. Dwight was appointed as trustee in his place.³⁷

The Bryans occupied the house at 47 Church Street as their residence, and the property remained in their family until 1920.

The property at 49 Church Street, however, was sold, on March 6, 1864, by Richard Y. Dwight, as trustee of the marriage settlement, to Joseph Purcell and J. Legare Yates. The purchase price, \$11,000, would have been in inflated Confederate money, of course. The property was described as being on the west side of Church Street, three doors from Water Street, and next door to the north of the residence of George and Rebecca Bryan. Since the two properties had been tied together twice in their history, and the placement of the buildings caused the boundary between the two lots to be irregular, the purchasers must have wanted to establish exactly what they were getting, and especially that there was access to the back yard. The deed carefully stated, "It being understood that the way between the Brick House on the Premises hereby conveyed and the Fences and Kitchen on the Lot of the said George S. and Rebecca L. Bryan is a portion of the said Premises." An addendum signed by George and Rebecca Bryan also described the "Said Lot having in Front on said Street a Shop (enclosed) and recessed from the Street a Two and a half story Brick House across the Lot, and in the rear of it a double Kitchen, with a way between said House and the Residence and Premises of the Subscribers."³⁸

The property at 47 Church Street remained in the Bryan family until 1920, when it was sold at auction as a result of a decree of the Court of Common Pleas of Charleston County, in the case of *Rebecca M. Bryan v. Isaac M. Bryan, et al.* The Court decreed on January 3, 1920, that Alfred Huger be appointed as trustee of the Bryan property, and authorized him to sell the same at public auction. At the auction, on March 18, 1920, Louisa P. Gadsden submitted a high bid of \$7,500 to purchase the property. The property was described as a lot with buildings thereon, situated on the west side of Church Street, between Water and Tradd streets, and now known as 47 Church Street. The lot, according to a plat by Gedney M. Howe, surveyor, dated April 17, 1920 (Figure 11), measured in front on Church Street, along an irregular line, 47.45 feet; on the south line 142.5 feet and on the west or back line 30 feet. The more complex north boundary was described as an irregular line, beginning at Church Street at the northeast corner of the lot, running in a westward direction 42 feet, six inches; thence north one foot, three inches; thence in a westward direction nine feet, four inches; thence southwest 10 feet, five inches, following the lines of the fence; thence 18 feet, nine inches; thence north about three feet, so as to include the kitchen on the said property; thence west 68 feet, three inches to the western boundary. The lot was further described as butting and bounding to the north on land of Marie B. Horlbeck, east on Church Street, south on land of

Elizabeth S. Chisolm, and west on land of Nellie R. Kinsey and Marie B. Horlbeck. The conveyance included a right of eavesdrop, as shown on the said plat, on the north side of the two story building on the said premises.³⁹

Louisa P. Gadsden conveyed the property at 47 Church Street to Marion R. Mitchell, for \$11,000, by a deed dated June 1, 1925. The property was described in the same terms as in the 1920 deed to Louisa P. Gadsden.⁴⁰

Marion R. Mitchell died intestate on March 7, 1937, leaving as sole heirs her husband Julian Mitchell, Jr., and her two daughters, Marion Mitchell, who afterwards married Burnet R. Maybank, Jr., and Caroline Pinckney Mitchell, who afterwards married Albert Simons, Jr. The two daughters conveyed their two-thirds interest in the property at 47 Church Street to their father and step-mother, Margaret G. Mitchell, for \$14,000, on November 8, 1951. The property was described in the same terms as in the 1920 deed.⁴¹

The property remained in the Mitchell family until 1999, when it was purchased by Thomas Gromme and Richard Dailey.

Joseph Verree

Joseph Verree, who built the fine Georgian house at 47 Church Street sometime after acquiring the property in November of 1767, was a prosperous master carpenter of colonial Charles Town, and an active Patriot and member of the Sons of Liberty during the American Revolution.

He was born about 1736.⁴² No information was found concerning his family background, but he is assumed to have been a relative of James Verree, another local carpenter, who is credited with building the Georgian house at 60 Church Street, with its remarkable mahogany-paneled drawing room.

Joseph Verree was very active in the affairs of the city. He became a member of the South Carolina Society in 1768. In public life, he served as a tax assessor and collector for St. Philip's and St. Michael's parishes, in 1767 and 1777; as a member of grand juries and petit juries, in 1767 and 1778; as a commissioner of the workhouse and of the markets and of the poor, 1771-1772; as a firemaster for St. Philip's Parish, 1778-1779, and a commissioner of the streets for St. Philip's Parish, 1778-1779.⁴³

Joseph Verree took an active part in the American Revolution. He was one of the members of Charles Town's Sons of Liberty. He was one of twenty-six individuals who met at the Liberty Tree on Charles Town Neck, in the fall of 1766, to celebrate the repeal of the Stamp Act by the English Parliament. The 26 Sons of Liberty, although led by the wealthy merchant and planter Christopher Gadsden, consisted mainly of "mechanicks" of the city, including several carpenters, a ship carpenter, painters and glaziers, an upholsterer, two coachmakers, a blacksmith and others of skilled occupations. Verree and other "mechanicks" had opposed the Stamp Act as an illegal imposition of a tax by Parliament, to which they did not elect representatives. This opposition was manifested by the Patriot rallying cry, "No taxation without representation." The "mechanicks" also opposed the Declaratory Act, which Parliament adopted at the same time as the repeal of the Stamp Act, declaring that Parliament had the power to tax Englishmen, wherever they lived. The English attitude was that, although all Englishmen did not vote for members of Parliament (most did not, under the restricted voting rules of Great Britain), all Englishmen had "virtual representation" in Parliament.⁴⁴

He was a member of the General Committee of the Non-Importation Association, the agency formed to coordinate the boycott of British products, in 1769, and a member of the Committee of Correspondence, a group formed to maintain connections with Patriot groups in other colonies, in 1774. He also was an officer of the radical John Wilkes Club, named for the Middlesex newspaper editor and Whig politician who was jailed for his vigorous opposition to British government policies, in his political writings.⁴⁵

In September of 1775, Joseph Verree was employed by the Council of Safety of South Carolina to acquire palmetto logs for use in the construction of fortifications.⁴⁶ He may also have been involved in the gathering of intelligence for the Patriot cause.⁴⁷

Joseph Verree was elected to represent St. Philip's and St. Michael's parishes in the First Provincial Congress of South Carolina, 1775, and the Second Provincial Congress, 1775-1776. After the formation of the South Carolina General Assembly, he represented the city parishes from 1776 until his death in 1779.⁴⁸ As a member of the Provincial Congresses, he served on a committee

to review memorials from inhabitants of the Back Country, a committee to determine the disposition of certain persons then in jail, a committee to consider the expediency and expense of fitting, arming and manning the ship *Prosper*, for the purpose of taking or sinking British men of war in Rebellion Roads, a committee to carry out the transformation of the *Prosper*, and a committee to determine the quantity and prices of salt in the province.⁴⁹ As a representative, he was appointed to a committee to investigate counterfeit certificates, in April, 1776; a committee to report names of persons eligible for pardon or amnesty, in April 1776; a committee to make provision for the poor, September, 1776.⁵⁰

In 1778, Joseph Verree loaned £3,000 to the Patriot government of South Carolina.⁵¹

Joseph Verree married Mary Ball, a daughter of Joseph Ball, sugar baker, of Charles Town.⁵² They were the parents of several children. There was a child, whose name was not recorded, who was buried June 16, 1765, in St. Philip's Churchyard.⁵³ They had a son, James, who died April 26, 1786, in Charleston.⁵⁴

A son, George Verree, was a Charleston merchant. He was married, on February 1, 1803, to Rebecca Jerman, daughter of the late Edward Jerman, Esq., of St. James, Santee, Parish.⁵⁵ They had a son, George, who died August 30, 1812, at Pineville, in St. Stephen's Parish, in the ninth year of his age.⁵⁶ George Verree died in March, 1805, in his thirty-second year.⁵⁷ His will bequeathed "that which I am entitled to from my late Father's estate," to his wife and son, and named his brother Joseph Verree as an executor of his estate.⁵⁸ Rebecca Jerman Verree, born April 12, 1782, died June 7, 1841, and was buried near her son in the churchyard of St. James, Santee.⁵⁹ She bequeathed her estate to her sister Harriet Jerman Palmer and various Palmer and Jerman nephews and nieces.⁶⁰

A son, Samuel Verree, was a silversmith, goldsmith and jeweler, working in Charleston from ca. 1804 to ca. 1816, and became a member of the South Carolina Society in 1804.⁶¹

William Verree, possibly a son, died October 24, 1804, in the River Gambia, in Africa.⁶²

Joseph Verree died July 15, 1779, at the age of 43.⁶³ His widow, Mary, afterwards was identified as the executrix (rather than administratrix) of his estate,⁶⁴ implying that he left a will, but no will was found recorded. His son Samuel subsequently was cited as administrator of his estate, indicating there was no will. His estate devolved to his widow, Mary, and their several sons.⁶⁵

The property at present-day 47 Church remained in the Verree family until 1825. City directories listed Mary Verree at 13 Church Street in 1790 and 1794, at 14 Church Street in 1801, and at 3 Church Street in 1802, 1803, 1806, 1807 and 1809. Also listed at 3 Church Street were Joseph Verree (1803, 1806, 1807, 1809), George Verree (1803), William Verree (1803), Samuel Verree (1809), and Robert Verree (1809). Joseph, Robert and Samuel Verree were listed in the 1813 city directory as residing in Church Street. Joseph and Samuel Verree were listed in the 1816 directory as living at 19 Church Street and in the 1819 directory at 10 Church Street. Joseph Verree was listed in the 1822 city directory as living at 63 Church Street.⁶⁶ All of the addresses cited probably applied to the house at present-day 47 Church Street; house numbers changed frequently during that period, and present-day 47 Church was the only property in Church Street owned by the Verree family. The property was identified as 19 Church Street in an 1822 deed,⁶⁷ and as 63 Church Street in an 1825 deed.⁶⁸

Mary Verree, a native of Liverpool, England, died April 12, 1810, in her 68th year. The cause of death was a paralectic stroke. She had been a member of St. Philip's Church for 61 years.⁶⁹ Her obituary in a Charleston newspaper stated:

As a parent she was truly affectionate, as a friend none more sincere, as a mistress, indulgent and humane. By a numerous acquaintance she was sincerely esteemed for the equanimity of her temper, and the generosity of her disposition, and the integrity of her heart.⁷⁰

Joseph Verree owned other property in addition to the site of 47 Church Street which he acquired from his in-laws, Joseph and Elizabeth Ball, in November of 1767.⁷¹ He owned a lot in the suburb of Hempstead, known as Lot No. 67 in a survey made for Henry Laurens. The large lot extended from Front Street (now part of East Bay Street) to Drake Street. His purchase in May of 1778 included the right of passage via two causeways or wharves which Laurens intended to build on the Cooper River.⁷²

Mary Verree, widow and executrix (*sic*) of the estate of Joseph Verree, purchased a small lot in Friend Street (present-day Logan Street) in October, 1779.⁷³

Endnotes

1. Charleston County, Register of Mesne Conveyance Office, Deeds, H3:205.
2. South Carolina, Records of the Register of the Province and of the Secretary of the Province, (1675-1696, 1703-1709) p. 162.
3. Deeds, C3:244.
4. *South-Carolina Gazette*, February 11, 1764, 3:2.
5. Charleston County, Probate Court, Wills (Works Progress Administration transcripts) 25:27; Deeds, B7:103, V9:196; "Marriage and Death Notices From the City Gazette," compiled by Mabel L. Webber, *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine* (henceforth *SCHGM*), 22:20; "Records Kept by Colonel Isaac Hayne," *SCHGM*, 11:164, 167; A. S. Salley, Jr., "Daniel Trezevant, Huguenot, and Some of His Descendants," *SCHGM*, 3:35; "Inscriptions from Churchyard of St. George's, Dorchester, S.C.," copied by Mrs. S. Lewis Simons, *SCHGM*, 40:112.
6. Wills (WPA transcripts) 25:27.
7. Deeds, B7:103.
8. Jonathan H. Poston for Historic Charleston Foundation, *The Buildings of Charleston; A Guide to the City's Architecture* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1997) p. 152.
9. Deeds, F12:101. The lot was conveyed to City Council by J. Harleston Read. It had been conveyed to William Read by William Hasell Gibbes, Master in Equity, on February 10, 1810 (Deeds, H12:48).
10. "Inscriptions from Churchyard of St. George's Dorchester, S.C.," *SCHGM*, 40:112.
11. Wills (WPA transcripts) 36:1141.
12. Deeds, S9:202.
13. Deeds, T11:11.
14. Deeds, V9:196.
15. Deeds, T11:12; City of Charleston, City Engineer's Plat Book, p. 105.
16. Deeds, T11:12; City of Charleston, City Engineer's Plat Book, p. 105.

17. Deeds, T11:12.
18. Wills (WPA transcripts) 43:907.
19. Deeds, B15:536.
20. Deeds, C15:278, D15:473.
21. Wills (WPA transcripts) 12:630; N. Louise Bailey and Elizabeth Ivy Cooper, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives; Volume III: 1775-1790* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1981) p. 732.
22. Charleston County, Register of Mesne Conveyance Office, Deeds, H3:205.
23. Deeds, I6:428.
24. *South-Carolina and American General Gazette*, July 16, 1779; Bailey and Cooper, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House*, p. 733.
25. Deeds, E5:294.
26. Wills (WPA transcripts) 30:808; *Marriage and Death Notices from The (Charleston) Times, 1800-1821*, comp. Brent H. Holcomb (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1979) p. 57; "Marriage and Death Notices from the *Charleston Morning Post and Daily Advertiser*," comp. Mabel L. Webber, *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine* (henceforward, *SCH&GM*), 20:56; "The Inscriptions on the Tombstones at the Old Parish Church of St. James's Santee, near Echaw Creek," copied by David Doar, *SCH&GM*, 12:158; Bailey and Cooper, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House*, p. 732.
27. Directories cited are on microfilm in the South Carolina Room, Charleston County Library.
28. Deeds, A14#1:615.
29. Deeds, S9:202.
30. *Register of St. Philip's Church, Charleston, South Carolina, 1810 through 1822*, ed. Elise Pinckney (Charleston: The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in The State of South Carolina, 1973), p. 112; "Marriage and Death Notices from the City Gazette and Daily Advertiser," copied by Elizabeth Heyward Jervey, *SCH&GM*, 35:29.
31. Deeds, A14#1-615.
32. Deeds, S9:202.
33. Deeds, T11:11.

34. Deeds, C19:347.
35. Deeds, T11:11.
36. Deeds, O11:80.
37. Deeds, U14#1:148.
38. Deeds, U14#1:148.
39. Deeds, P29:147.
40. Deeds, T32:246.
41. Deeds, P54:49.
42. "Records Kept by Colonel Isaac Hayne," *SCH&GM*, 10:228; N. Louise Bailey and Elizabeth Ivey Cooper, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives, Volume III: 1775-1790* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1981) p. 732.
43. *South-Carolina Gazette*, April 4, 1771, 1:2; Bailey and Cooper, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House*, 3:732-733; Richard Walsh, "The Charleston Mechanicks: A Brief Study, 1760-1776," *SCH&GM*, 60:141.
44. Dr. R. W. Gibbes, *Documentary History of the American Revolution: Consisting of Letters and Papers Relating to the Contest for Liberty, Chiefly in South Carolina, from Original in the Possession of the Editor, and Other Sources* (New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1855, repr. Spartanburg: The Reprint Company, 1972) pp. 10-11; Richard Walsh, *Charleston's Sons of Liberty: A Study of the Artisans, 1763-1789* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1959) p. 31.
45. Bailey and Cooper, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House*, 3:732; Walsh, *Charleston's Sons of Liberty*, pp. 49-50, 59, 64.
46. "Papers of the Second Council of Safety of the Revolutionary Party in South Carolina, November 1775-March 1776," *SCH&GM*, 4:17; Bailey and Cooper, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House*, 3:732-733.
47. Walsh, *Charleston's Sons of Liberty*, p. 73
48. Bailey and Cooper, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House*, 3:733; "Members of the Second Provincial Congress," *SCH&GM*, 7:103; "Death Notices from the *South Carolina and American General Gazette*, and Its Continuation the *Royal Gazette*, May 1766-June 1782," comp. by Mabel L. Webber, *SCH&GM*, 17:154; Walsh, *Charleston's Sons of Liberty*, p. 65.

49. *Extracts from the Journals of the Provincial Congresses of South Carolina, 1775-1776*, ed. William Edward Hemphill (Columbia: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1960) pp. 35, 66, 120-121, 230.
50. *Journals of the General Assembly and House of Representatives, 1776-1780*, ed. William Edward Hemphill, Wylma Anne Wates and R. Nicholas Olsberg (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, for the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1970) pp. 19, 47, 97.
51. South Carolina, Auditor General, Audited Accounts of Revolutionary War Claims, No. 8054, South Carolina Department of Archives and History; Bailey and Cooper, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House*, 3:733.
52. Wills (WPA transcripts) 12:630; Deeds, H3:205; Bailey and Cooper, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House*, 3:732.
53. *Register of St. Philip's Parish, Charles Town, or Charleston, S.C., 1754-1810*, ed. D.E. Huger Smith and A. S. Salley, Jr. (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1971), p. 310; Bailey and Cooper, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House*, 3:732.
54. "Marriage and Death Notices From the *Charleston Morning Post and Daily Advertiser*," comp. by Mabel L. Webber, *SCH&GM*, 20:56; Bailey and Cooper, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House*, 3:732.
55. *Marriage and Death Notices from The (Charleston) Times, 1800-1821*, comp. Brent H. Holcomb (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1979), p. 57.
56. *Ibid.*, p. 266; "Marriage and Death Notices from the *City Gazette*," contrib. Elizabeth H. Jervey, *SCH&GM*, 37:160.
57. *Marriage and Death Notices from The (Charleston) Times*, p. 106.
58. Wills (WPA) 30:808.
59. "The Inscriptions on the Tombstones at the Old Parish Church of St. James's Santee, near Echaw Creek," copied by David Doar, *SCH&GM*, 12:158.
60. Wills (WPA Transcripts) 42:317.
61. E. Milby Burton, *South Carolina Silversmiths, 1690-1860* (Charleston: The Charleston Museum, 1942) p. 189.
62. *Marriage and Death Notices from The (Charleston) Times*, p. 103.
63. "Death Notices from the *South Carolina and American General Gazette*, and Its Continuation the *Royal Gazette*, May 1766-June 1782," comp. by Mabel L. Webber, *SCH&GM*, 17:154; "Records Kept by Colonel Isaac Hayne," *SCH&GM*, 10:228.

64. Deeds, E5:294.
65. Wills (WPA transcripts) 30:808; *Marriage and Death Notices from The (Charleston) Times*, p. 57; "Marriage and Death Notices from the *Charleston Morning Post and Daily Advertiser*," comp. Mabel L. Webber, *SCH&GM*, 20:56; "The Inscriptions on the Tombstones at the Old Parish Church of St. James's Santee, near Echaw Creek," copied by David Doar, *SCH&GM*, 12:158; Bailey and Cooper, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House*, p. 732.
66. Directories cited are on microfilm in the South Carolina Room, Charleston County Library.
67. Deeds, A14#1:615.
68. Deeds, S9:202.
69. *Register of St. Philip's Church, Charleston, South Carolina, 1810 through 1822*, ed. Elise Pinckney (Charleston: The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in The State of South Carolina, 1973), p. 112; "Marriage and Death Notices from the City Gazette and Daily Advertiser," copied by Elizabeth Heyward Jervey, *SCH&GM*, 35:29; *Marriage and Death Notices from The (Charleston) Times*, p. 229.
70. "Marriage and Death Notices from the *City Gazette and Daily Advertiser*," copied by Elizabeth Heyward Jervey, *SCH&GM*, 35:29.
71. Deeds, H3:205.
72. Deeds, Y4:40; Bailey and Cooper, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House*, 3:732.
73. Deeds, E5:294.

Map of Charles Town

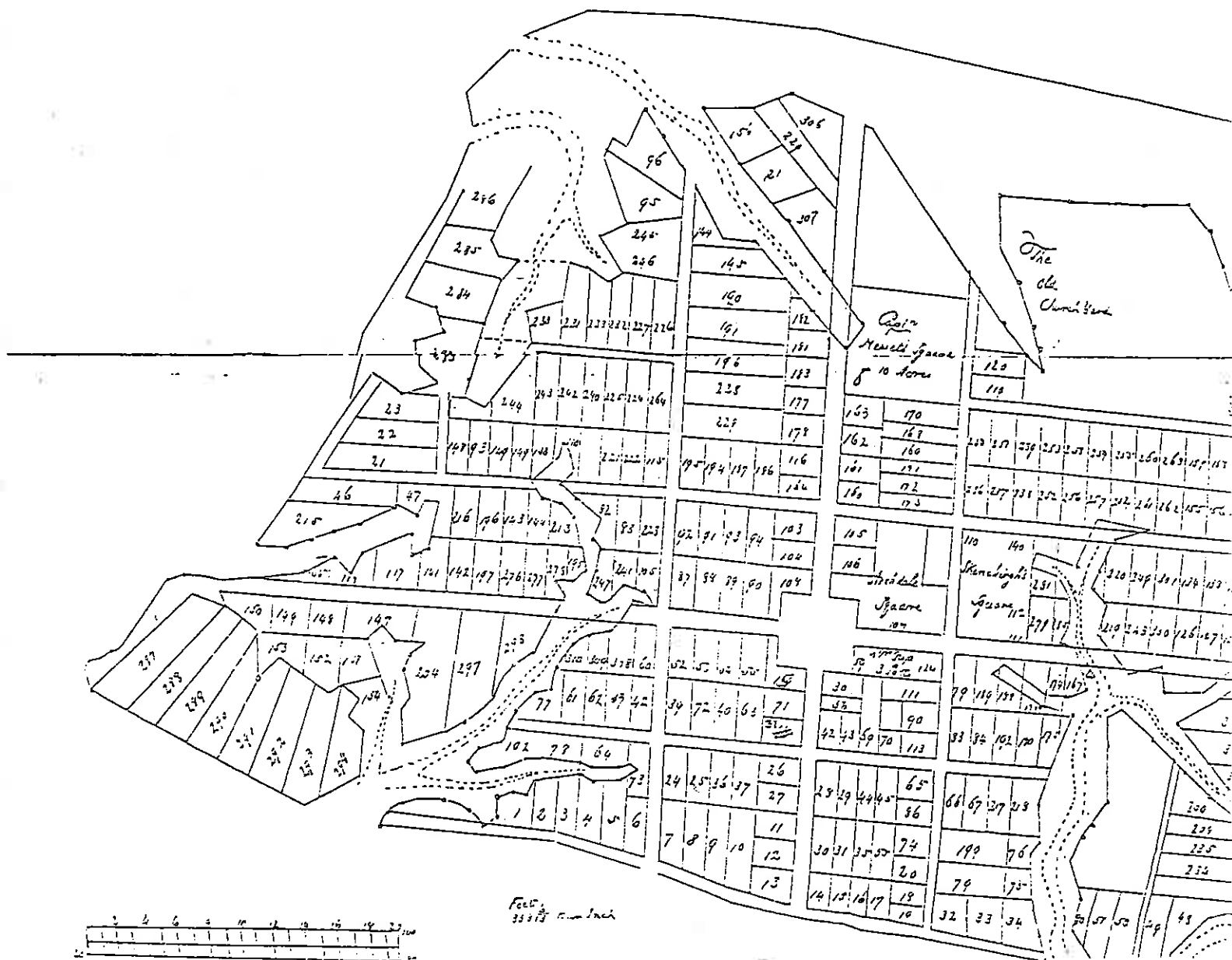


Figure 1

Grand Modell of Charles Town

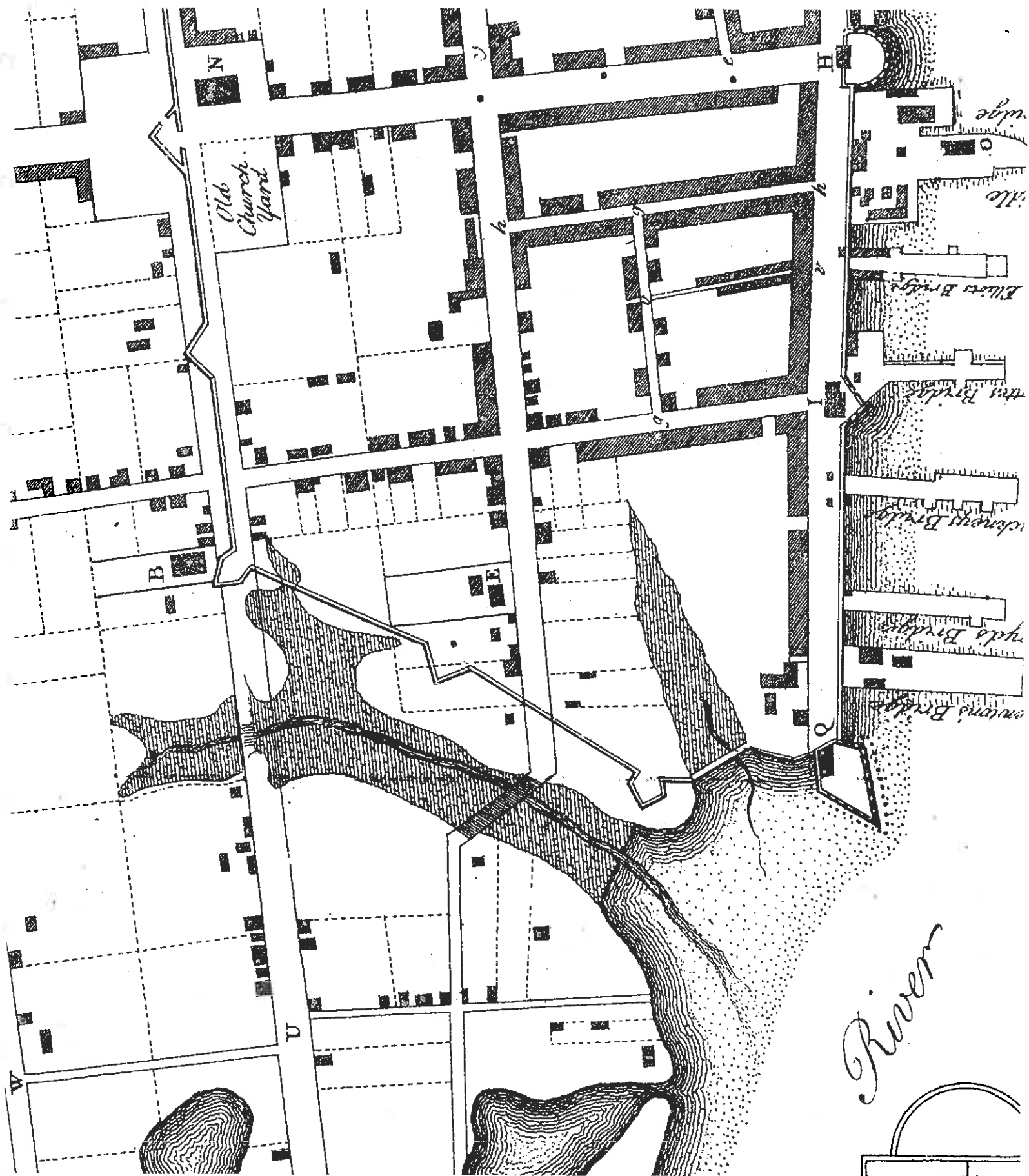


Figure 2

Ichonography of Charles Town, 1739 (detail)

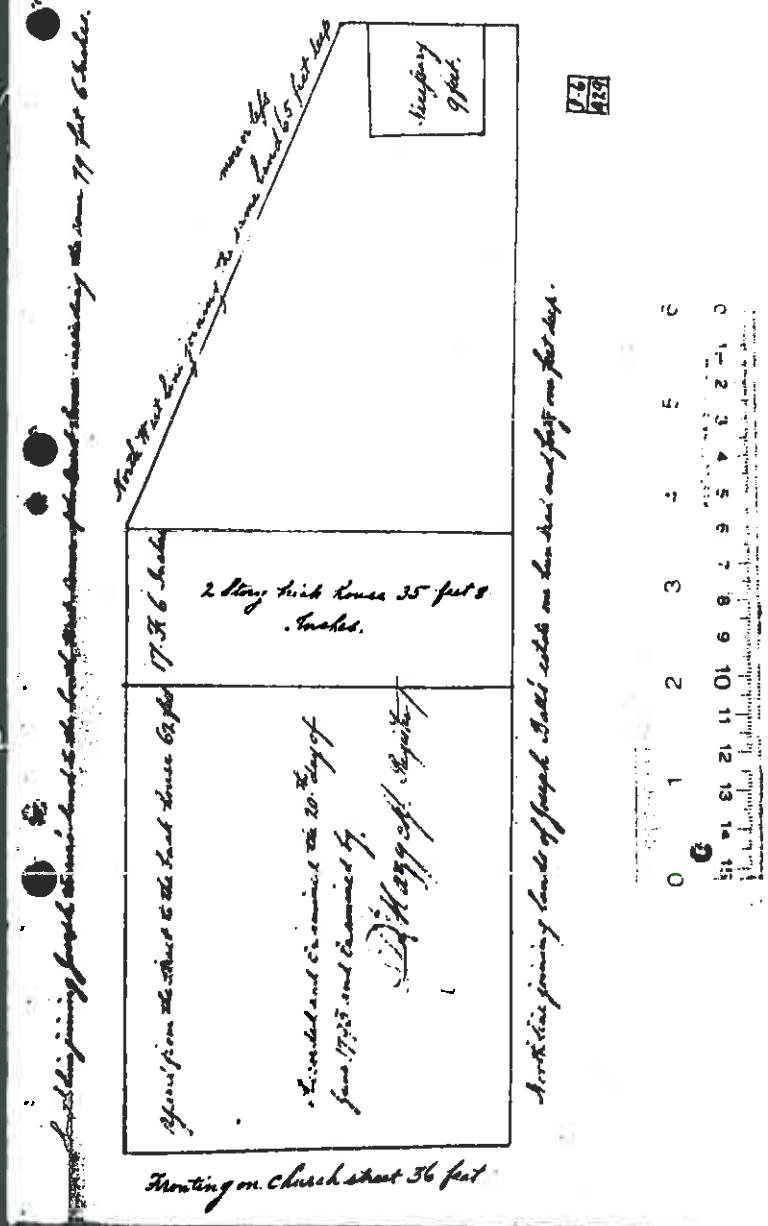


Figure 3

Plat of 49 Church Street, 1778



Figure 4

Ichonography of Charleston, 1788 (detail)

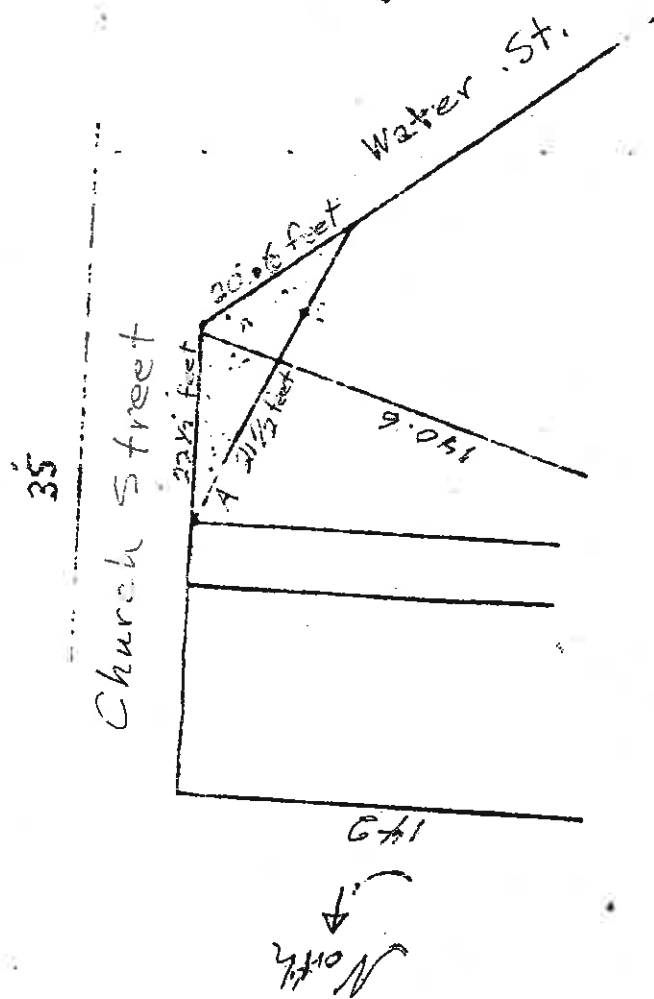


Figure 5

Parker's plat of City taking of corner land, 1827



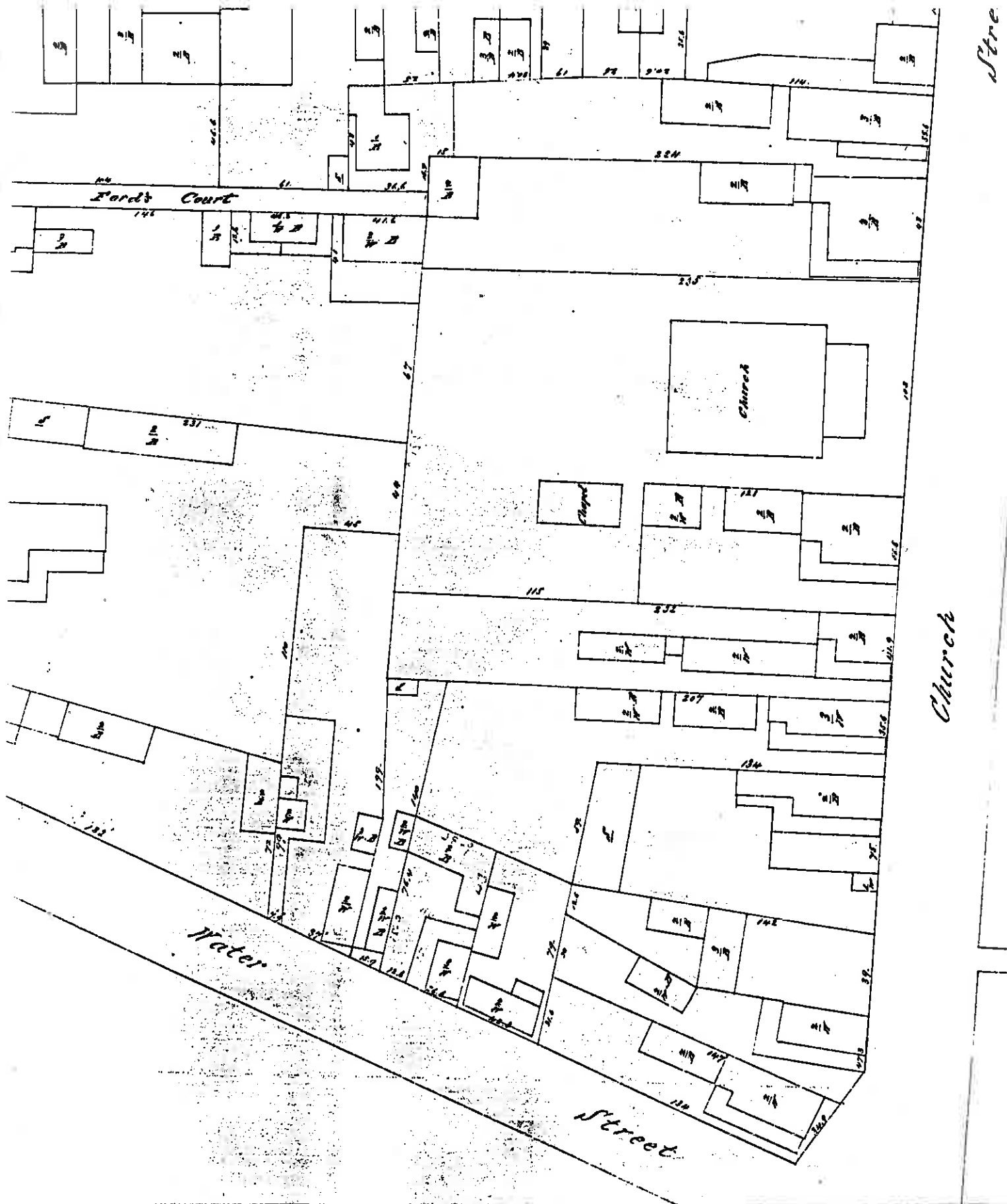


Figure 7

City Engineer's Plat, 1881 (detail)

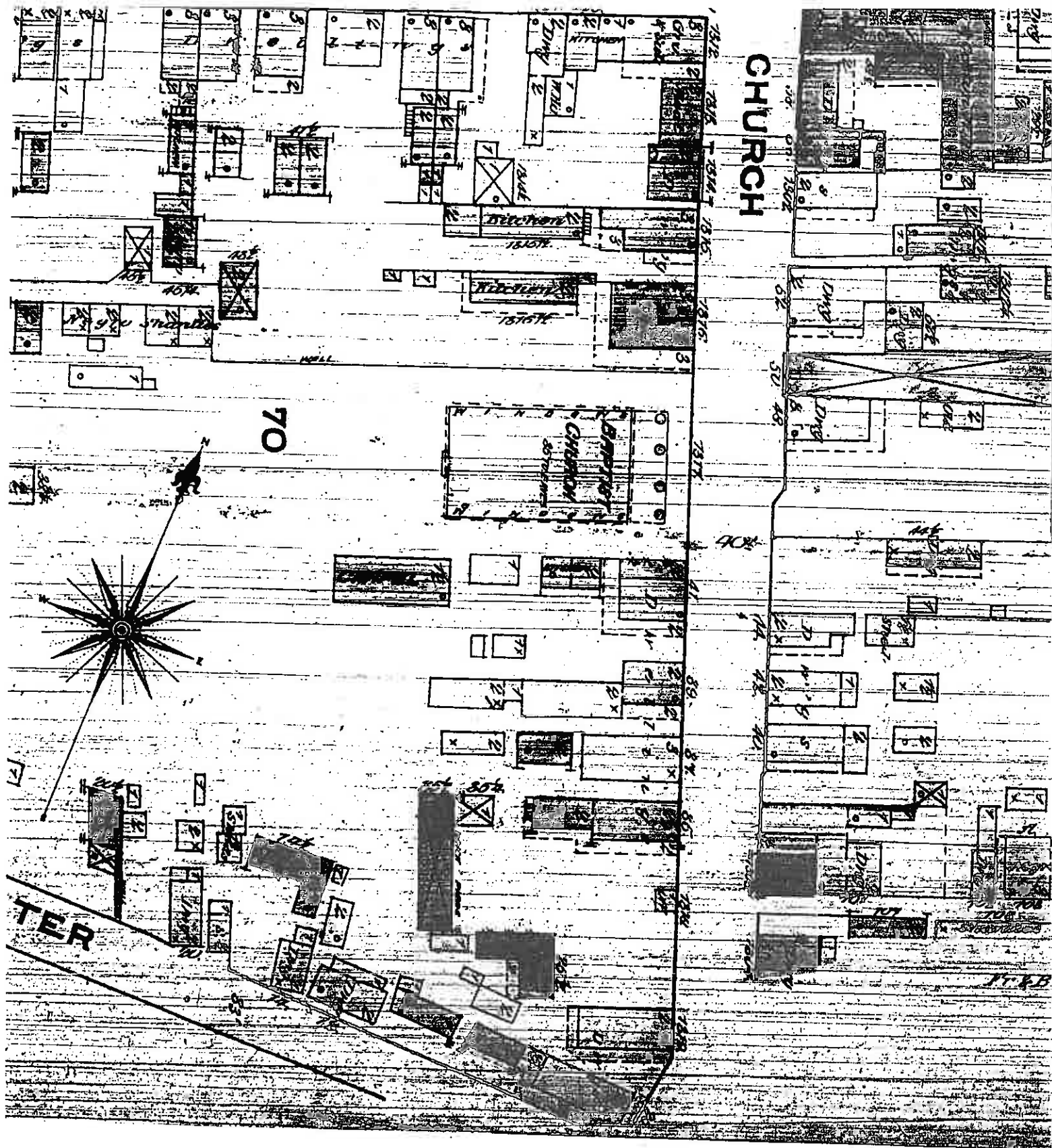


Figure 8

Sanborn Insurance Map, 1884 (detail)

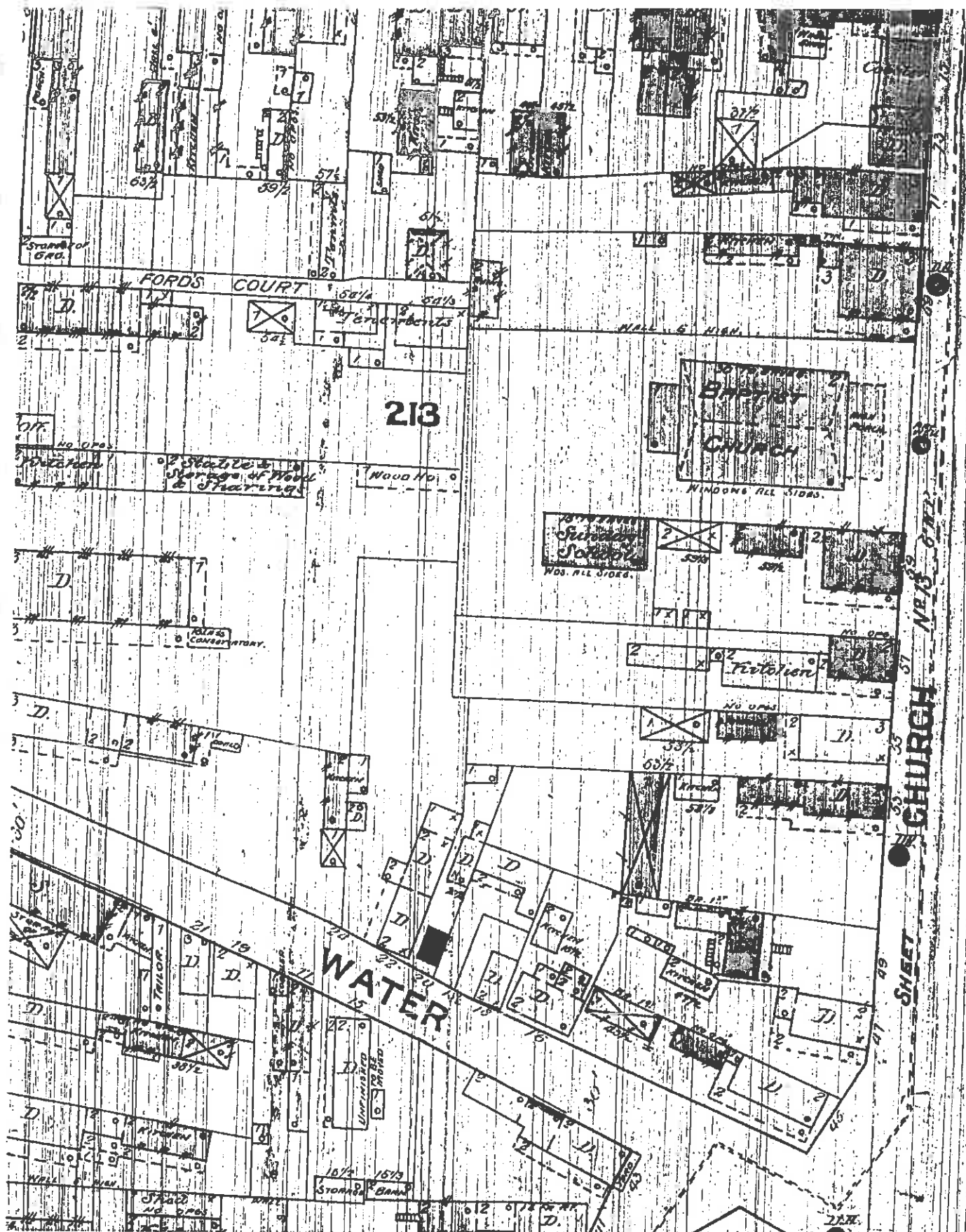


Figure 9

Sanborn Insurance Map, 1888 (detail)

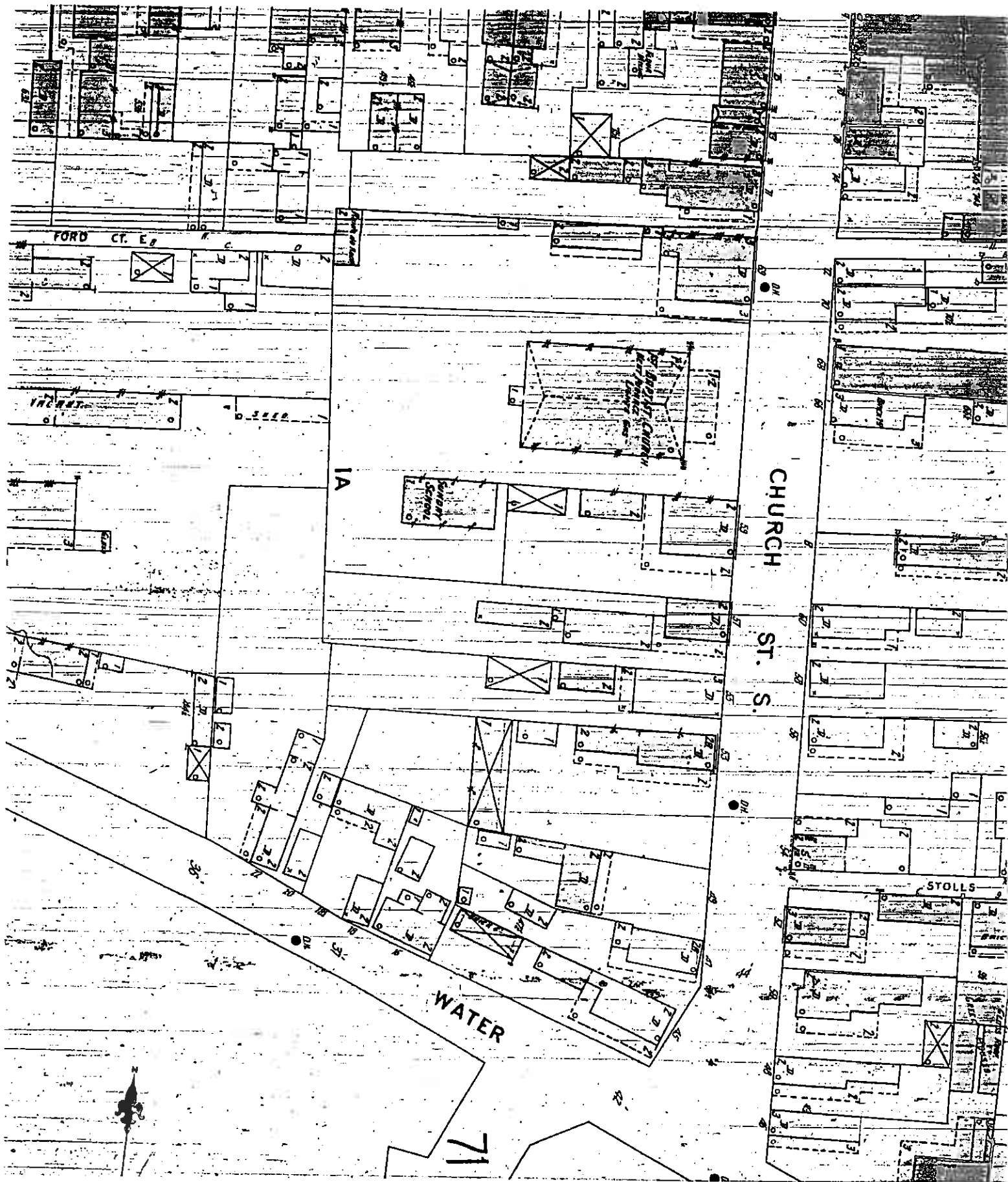


Figure 10

Sanborn Insurance Map, 1902 (detail)

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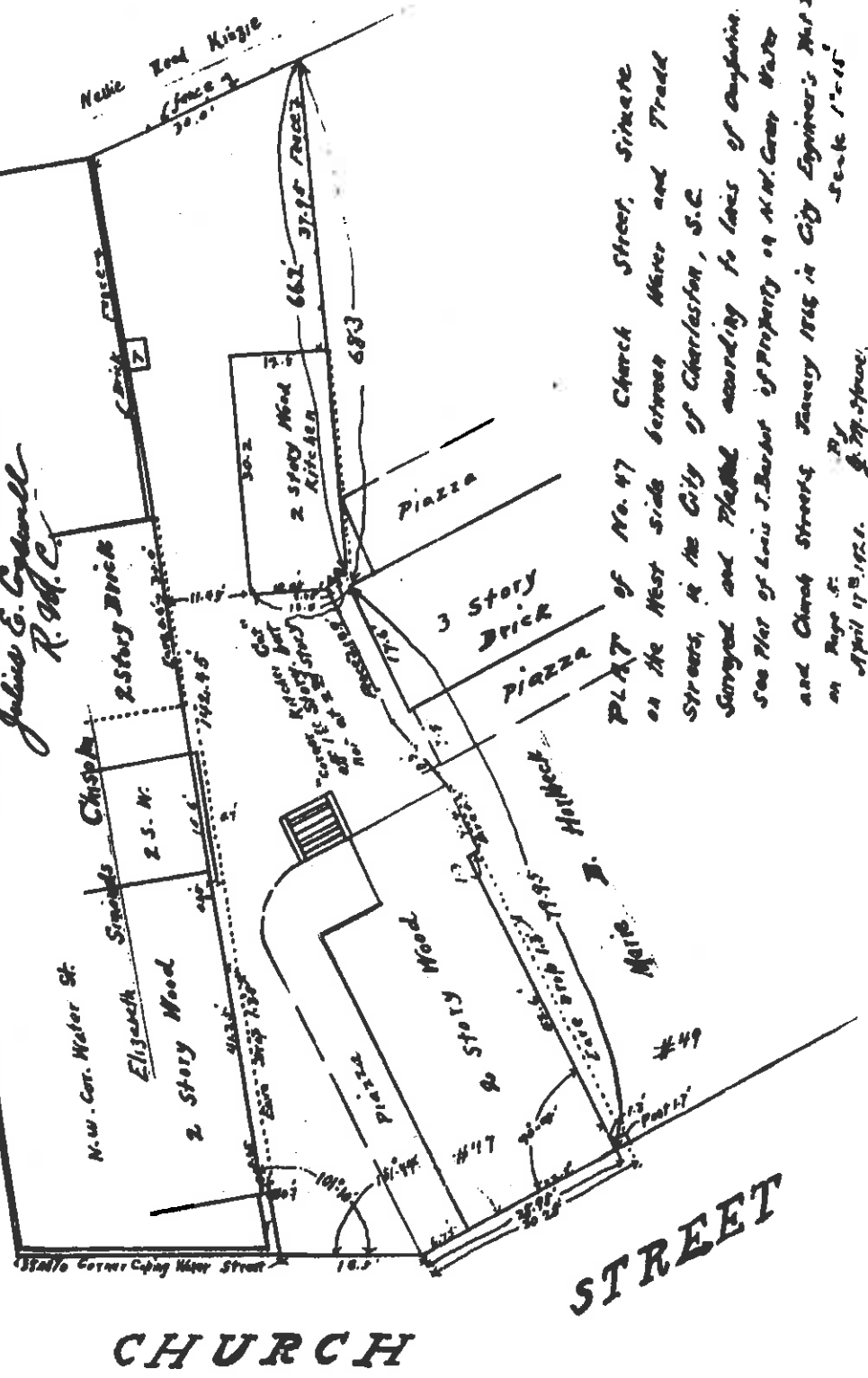
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R.M.C. Office, Charleston S.C.
Recorded April 24th 1920 with study Book of the
in Book P. 29, page 147. Original
delivered to John E. Cypwell
R.M.C.

WATER ST.



PLAT of No. 47 Church Street, Situate
on the West Side between Water and Trade
Streets, in the City of Charleston, S.C.
Surveyed and Platted according to laws of Carolina
See Plat of Louis J. Barber of Property of M.M. Green Water
and Church Streets January 1866 in City Engineer's Map No.
on Page 5.
April 17th 1920.
J. M. Cypwell
Scale 1"=15'

Figure 11

Howe's plat of 47 Church Street, 1920

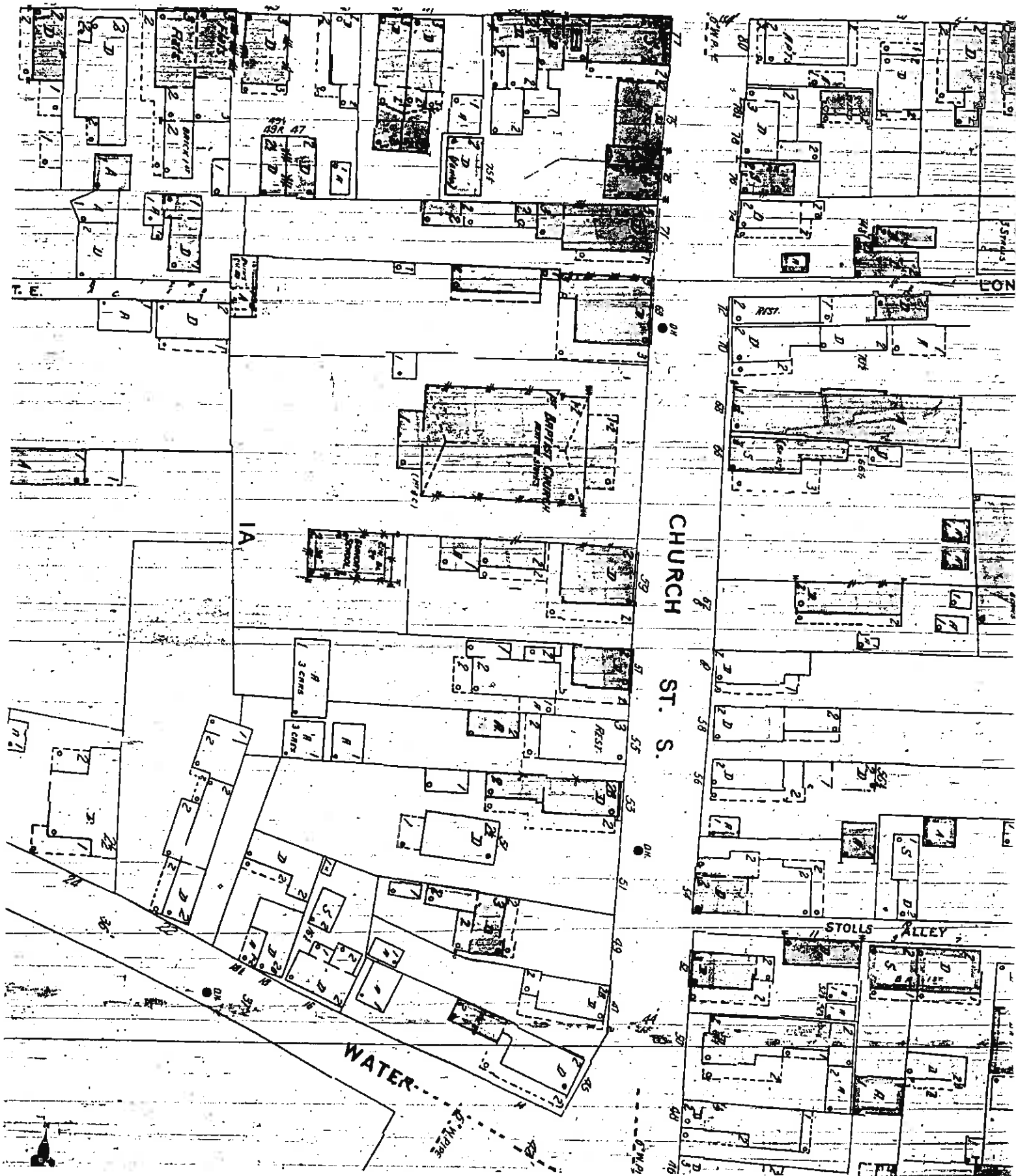


Figure 12

Sanborn Insurance Map, 1944 (detail)