

129 Rutledge Demolition Approved

By W.H.J. THOMAS
Staff Reporter

Charleston's Board of Architectural Review yesterday approved "with extreme regret" the demolition of the Post-Revolutionary dwelling at the northwest corner of Rutledge and Calhoun as requested by St. Francis Xavier Hospital.

The three-story brick house at 129 Rutledge, built soon after 1818 by John S. Richardson, has long been a mid-town landmark and presently stands immediately to the south of the new St. Francis Hospital extension.

The Board of Review members accepted the application but with the regret that this building was not recognized for its architectural and historical importance to the city and that an attractive and functional use had not been found for the structure by St. Francis Hospital.

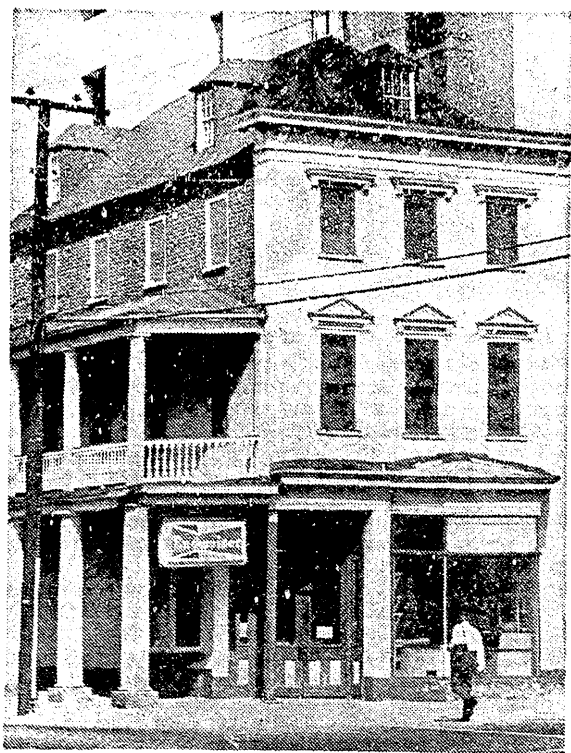
Though partially remade into a store unit at its first story level about 1900 and refaced with Victorian features, the interior of the dwelling on its two upper stories and attic have remained little changed in its neo-classical details during the last 150 years since it was erected.

It has long been cited for its unique architectural example of piazzas extending over its sidewalk area. Until recently being purchased by the hospital, it was the property of the Creticos family.

Strong disapproval of the demolition request was voiced by officers of the Preservation Society of Charleston. Representatives of the hospital said at the Board of Review meeting that eight rooms on the south of the new hospital extension could not properly be utilized with 129 Rutledge standing so close to its south side.

In other action, the Board of Review deferred a request to demolish four structures at 6, 6½, 8-10 and 12 George St. following a protest by residents of the Ansonborough area, officers of Historic Ansonborough Neighborhood Assn. and Historic Charleston Foundation.

Submitted by Harold Simmons for Borough Realty Co., the request specified clearing the site on the north side of George to allow for the construction of 16 townhouse units. The Board of Review deferred action to allow proponents of the realty venture to meet with Ansonborough representatives who protested that the development would be at cross purposes to the recent rehabilitation of Ansonborough.



POST-REVOLUTIONARY HOME

128 Rutledge was built shortly after 1818. (Staff Photo by Swain.)

at Sears
...the fashion stop

