

33Wentworth St.

Any structure on this site (and according to incomplete research of L.Louis Green, there was a house here) would have burned in the fire of 1828. In 1840, Peter Desverneys sold the lot to William Proctor (Y-10, 233; 24 Oct 1840; \$1200); it was formerly lot 40 in the division of the Ancrum lands. Proctor sold the lot with buildings to Edward I. Black (T-14 no. 4, 3 Oct 1864 for the fantastically inflated amount of \$25,000). In a suit against Aquiline E. Black who must have been an heir of Edward I Black though I have found no will or other item to prove it, the master sold the lot with dwelling house and improvements to Mrs. Rebecca Butts (\$1,855; 21 Dec 1897; F-25,82) who sold no. 33 Wentworth to Otto. R. Pfaehler (24 July, 1903; J-24, 232; \$2150) whose heirs sold to Augusta P. Sahlman (K-42.8; 8 Nov. 1940; \$3300) who sold to Russell Wragg and W.S. Waters (T-80,253; 17 July 1964; \$10,000) The latter sold his share to the former (\$5 plus assumption of \$6,000 mortgage 26 August 1964; B-81,81,111). Waters was Wragg's executor; as such he sold the house to himself (O-113, 203; \$63,000; 16 Sept. 1977); who sold to John Beckroge, Jr. (W-122, 175; 11 July 1980; \$90,000); who sold to Karl H. and Karen Keuster (\$37, 500 plus assumption of \$5,000 mortgage; K-127, 282; 30 Dec. 1981.)

It seems if there was a house here in 1838, it burned in the fire of that year. There was not a house built back, according to the 1840 directory -. But by 1849, William Proctor was listed as living at 25 Wentworth St. (In 1840, he was listed on Cumberland; so he built the house sometimes between 1840 and 1849). He was described variously as an accountant or bookkeeper in the directories into the 1850's. I have found no information at all on the Blacks that then owned it. The 1886 earthquake book lists the owner, as Block, not Black, but that was probably a misspelling. All the walls had been repaired by the time of the earthquake survey. The Rebecca Butts who owned it was wife of an apprentice of the Valk and Murdock Iron works. The Pfaehler (Otto) who owned it was the brewer at the Germania Beer Co; his sons were clerks and book keepers.. Augusta Sahlman was wife of H. Eugene Sahlman who was an unloading clerk at the Clyde Mallorylines - ie the steamship that connected Charleston with other ports.. Russell Wragg was a New Yorker - enjoyed a modest success as a composer - many of his piano pieces and songs were published and played. He was also known for his minor poetry. He taught music lessons here - apparently he retired to Charleston; people remember him as having a salon of sorts in this house.

Periodically, according to the directories, the house was divided into two apartments.