

House Was German Society's Kitchen

By ROBERT P. STOCKTON

The little two-story brick building at 27 Archdale St. is a researcher's dream: a building whose construction date can be documented exactly. Details of its construction and early use are recorded in the Journal of the German Friendly Society, which built it as an auxiliary building to the society's hall which stood on the front of the lot.

The society's hall had hardly been dedicated, on Dec. 16, 1801, when dissatisfaction was expressed at the difficulties of serving the dedication banquet with food prepared elsewhere and brought some distance to the hall. A kitchen on the premises was needed.

With Germanic practicality, it was decided that the kitchen should be incorporated into a dwelling house which could be rented to help offset the cost of construction.

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Consequently, on Dec. 30, 1801, the society entered into a contract with John Horlbeck Jr. and Henry Horlbeck, who had also built the society's hall. The Horlbecks agreed, for 500 pounds sterling, to build the combination kitchen and tenement, a necessary house (privy) and vault and a brick wall with three gates, in front of the property. Specifications for the kitchen-dwelling house were:

"Kitchen or Outbuildings to be 36 feet long and 16 feet wide. Two Stories high, each Story to be Eight feet in the clear, to have gable ends and the Roof to be covered with glazed tiles, the Ceiling of the Second Story to be Lathed and plastered, the walls of both Stories to be rendered and the outside to be roughcast."

"The first Story to be divided, into two apartments or Kitchens, each to have a fire place and an Oven, the floor to be paved and each Kitchen to have a dresser and Shelves. A flight of Stairs to be carried up near the Center of the Building, with a partition on each side of the same."

"The Second Story to be divided in

Three Apartments, the floor to be grooved and tongued, to have two fire places, with plain Mantelpieces, two Closets and base and Surbase boards. "Three Doors and five Windows to the first Story and Six Windows to the Second Story, the doors and windows to have batten shutters, the windows to have twelve light Sashes, for Eight by Ten Glass."

"A rough floor to be laid under the roof, a shingled shed of three feet wide, to be fixed over the doors and Windows of the first Story, and the building to be glazed and painted inside and outside."

"The above building for which all materials, for brick layers, painters and Carpenters work, also locks, hinges, nails, etc., are to be found by Jno. Junr. and H. Horlbeck, and which is to be finished in a plain but compleat manner, is estimated by them to cost 387 (pounds)."

On Sept. 29, 1802, the new structure was inspected by the building committee which "found the same fully completed agreeably to the Contracts..." The house was advertised for rent, but a desirable tenant not forthcoming, it was proposed that the building house the master of the German Friendly Society School, which was then being organized.

On Oct. 6, 1802, the school committee reported that a room in the society's

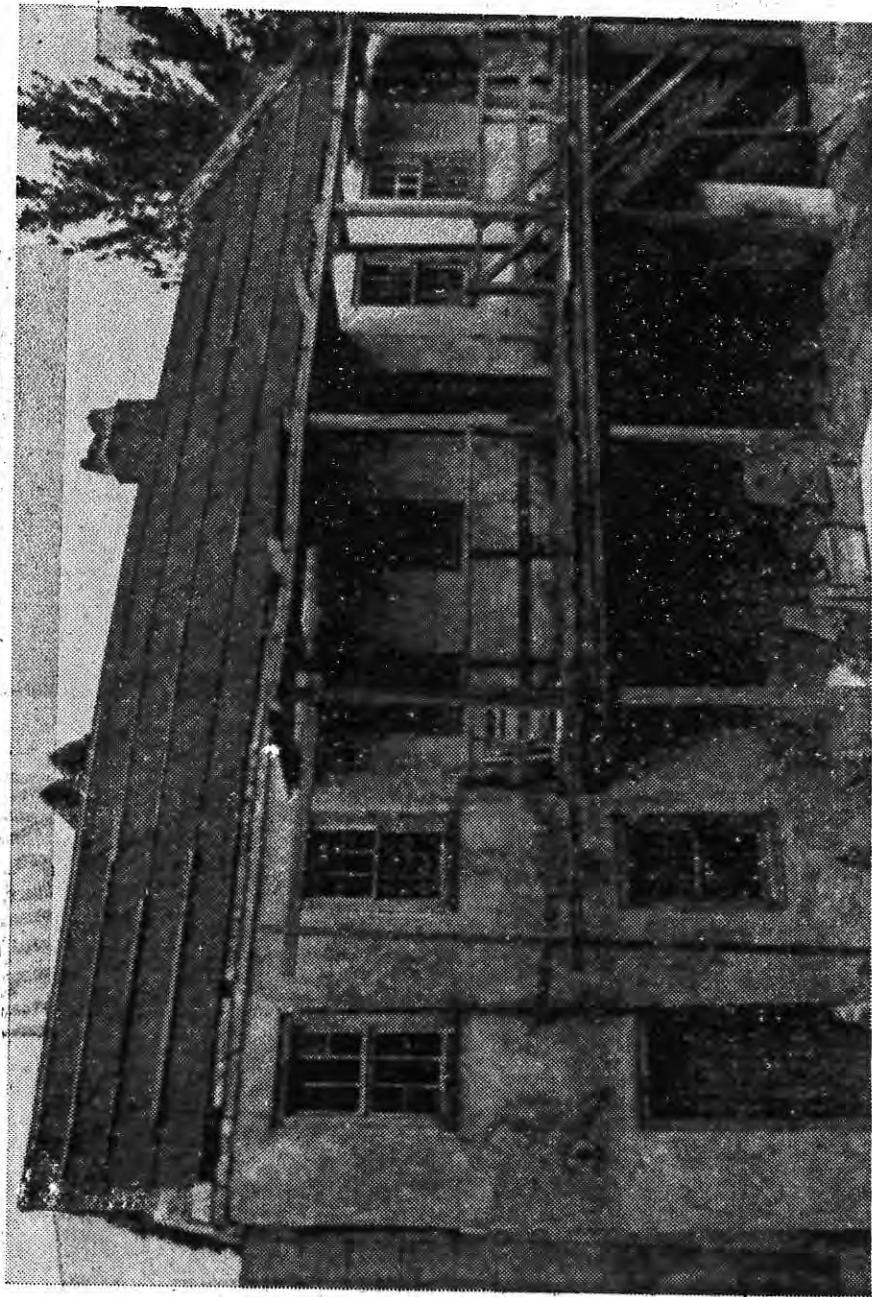
hall would be the schoolroom. In addition, the schoolmaster or his assistant, if he had any, would "reside at the detached Dwelling house on the Society's Lot, and be entitled to occupy the same, excepting three easternmost Apartments in the first Story which is reserved as a Kitchen for the Society."

The society's hall burned, along with several other buildings in the neighborhood, on Sept. 17, 1864, in a fire perhaps ignited by a Federal shell. But the kitchen-schoolmaster's house remains. It corresponds closely to the original specifications, although its staircase was lost when baths were installed, the tile roof was replaced with tin, the shed roof or "run", over the first floor openings was removed, and additions were built on the west side.

The building is in the process of being restored by the present owner, John D. Muller Jr.

The structure is important as a surviving example of the work of the Horlbeck family of architect-builders. The builders were sons of John Adam Horlbeck and the nephews of Peter Horlbeck. The elder Horlbecks built the Exchange Building.

The younger Horlbecks contracted for the brickwork of St. John's Lutheran Church in 1815. Henry Horlbeck and another relative, E. Horlbeck, built St. Stephen's Church on Anson Street in 1835-36.



(Staff Photo by D.J. Johnson)

27 Archdale St. Is Being Restored

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Do You Know Your Charleston?

Building Housed German Society

By ROBERT P. STOCKTON

The little two-story brick building at 27 Archdale St. is a researcher's dream: a building whose construction date can be documented exactly.

Details of its construction and early use are recorded in the Journal of the German Friendly Society, which built it as an auxiliary building to the society's hall, which stood on the front of the lot. The hall burned in 1864 and was not rebuilt.

The society's hall had hardly been dedicated, on Dec. 16, 1801, when at the next meeting, on Dec. 23, dissatisfaction was expressed at the difficulties of serving the dedication banquet with food that was prepared elsewhere and brought some distance to the hall.

The need was expressed for a kitchen on the premises.

With Germanic practicality, it was decided that the kitchen should be incorporated into a dwelling house that could be rented to help offset the cost of construction.

So on Dec. 30, 1801, the society entered into a contract with John Horbeck Jr. and Henry Horbeck, the architect-builders of the society's hall.

The Horbeck brothers agreed, for 500 pounds Sterling, to build the combination kitchen and tenement, a necessary house and vault and a brick wall in front of the property, with three gates.

Specifications for the kitchen-dwelling house were:

"Kitchen or Outbuilding to be 36 feet Long and 16 feet wide, Two Stories high, each Story to be Eight feet in the clear, to have gable ends and the Roof to be covered with glazed tiles, the Ceiling of the Second Story to be Lathed and plastered, the walls of both Stories to be rendered and the outside to be rough-cast."

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(Staff Photo by Bill Murton)

27 Archdale St.

man Friendly Society School which was then being organized.

On Oct. 6, 1802, the committee appointed to organize the school reported that a room in the society hall was to be the schoolroom.

In addition, the schoolmaster or his assistant, if he had any, would "reside at the detached Dwelling house on the Society's Lot, and be entitled to occupy the same, excepting the easternmost Apartment the first Story which is reserved as a Kitchen for the Society."

The society's hall burned, along with several other structures in the neighborhood, on Sept. 17, 1864, in a fire perhaps ignited by a shell fired during the Federal bombardment of the city.

The kitchen-schoolmaster's house escaped the flames, however.

It corresponds closely to the original specifications, although its

staircase was lost when bathrooms were installed, the tile roof was replaced with tin, the shed roof or "run" over the first-floor openings was removed, a window on the second floor was converted to a door and additions were built on the west side.

The building now is owned by John D. Muller Jr., who plans to restore it.

The structure is important to the city as a surviving example of the work of the elder Horbeck and the nephews of Peter Horbeck. The elder Horbecks built the Exchange Building.

The younger Horbecks contracted for the brickwork of St. John's Lutheran Church, on Archdale Street, in 1815. Henry Horbeck and another relative, E. Horbeck, built St. Stephen's Church on Anson Street in 1835-36.

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