

# King Street Facade Program

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## 345 King Street

The two story brick commercial building at 345 King Street, known as Garfield Jewelers, was built in 1883 by Christopher P. Poppenheim, a hardware merchant, as his own place of business.<sup>1</sup> Poppenheim bought the site of the building in 1881 and demolished a two and one-half story frame building to make way for the present building.<sup>2</sup> Poppenheim's hardware store remained in the building until 1891, when he built and occupied the larger structure at 363-365 King Street.<sup>3</sup> The property remained in the Poppenheim family until 1936, when it was purchased by Louis Garfield.<sup>4</sup> Garfield conveyed the property in 1938 to his wife, Gussie O. Garfield, who reconveyed one-half interest to him in 1950.<sup>5</sup> Louis Garfield conveyed his half interest in 1974 to their son, Allen H. Garfield.<sup>6</sup>

After Poppenheim moved his store in 1891, the building at 345 King was vacant for a time, then was occupied by the Home Made Candy Co., the proprietor of which, Thomas Tundas, resided upstairs.<sup>7</sup> In 1903, the candy company was taken over by the Papdakos brothers (James, Theo and Stavros), who resided upstairs and operated the business at the location until 1915.<sup>8</sup> Athanas Tsiropoulou operated the Chrystal Ice Cream Parlor at the location in 1915-16, during which period the second floor ceased to be a residence.<sup>9</sup> From 1917 to 1925, the building was occupied by the Louis D. Rubin Electrical Company (L.D. Rubin, president; W.P. Montague, vice president; E.R. North, secretary-treasurer).<sup>10</sup> Louis Garfield moved his jewelry business to the location in 1925.<sup>11</sup>

The building is two stories of brick, with the body of the building constructed of local "grey" brick, laid in American bond with oyster shell mortar. The north wall retains a weathered painting of a Coca-Cola advertisement, which shows in a photograph from the 1940's. The facade is of press red brick and terra cotta, with thin mortar joints. Originally the store front on the first level had plate glass windows and doors.<sup>12</sup> The first level now has aluminum-framed doors and display windows with false shingled roofs, and a facing of vertical

aluminum panels. Otherwise, the facade appears not to have been altered appreciably.<sup>13</sup> Brick pilasters divide the facade into three bays, with paired windows in the center bay, flanked by single-window bays, in the second level. The pilasters on either side of the facade rise from ground level and terminate in square piers with stepped pyramidal pinnacles; the two inner pilasters rise from corbels on the second level and terminate in piers, between which is set a gable with corbelled brickwork on the face and the date, "1883," in a sunk panel. The gable has a terra cotta cornice of cyma recta molding which follows the rake of the gable, then continues at an angle across the top of the two inner piers; the cornice is repeated along the parapet between the inner and outer piers. The piers are decorated with round "do-nut" shaped sunk panels. Windows on the second level have segmental arches, with radiating voussoirs, the top course of the voussoirs being slightly raised, with a pattern of alternating brick headers and stretchers. The windows have deep reveals with multiple moldings in wood. Windows have one light to a sash and segmental headed transoms with single lights. Below the center paired windows and between the corbels supporting the inner pilasters is a rectangular sunk panel with fan tracery in the corners and a blank field. Sections of belt course, extending between the corbelled bases of the inner pilasters and the outer pilasters, feature a line of bricks cut in triangular shape, with the spaces between the bricks forming triangular recesses. Between the first and second levels is a wide segmental arch (blind) extending across the facade.

The shop interior has been remodeled recently in neo-traditional taste. In storage on the second level is an oversized door surrounded with a dentil cornice and pilasters, all of dark-stained wood, which formerly was part of the shop interior.<sup>14</sup> The second level is a large space without partitions, giving no clue to the former floor plan, when it saw residential use in the late 19th and early 20th century.

- 1 News and Courier, September 15, 1883. City directories, 1883-1892.
- 2 Deeds, V18:210, Register of Mesne Conveyance Office, Charleston County. Wooden building is depicted in Plat Book B:9, RMCO, and Ward Plat, 1882, City of Charleston Archives.
- 3 City directories, 1883-1892.
- 4 Deeds, X38:510. Estate Papers of Christopher P. Poppenheim, 488:14, Probate Court, Charleston County.
- 5 Deeds, C40:707; G52:323.
- 6 Deeds, P104:348.
- 7 City directories, 1892-1903.
- 8 City directories, 1903-1915.
- 9 City directories, 1916-1918.
- 10 City directories, 1918-1927.
- 11 City directories, 1925-1980. Louis Garfield, interview, September 23, 1980.
- 12 News & Courier, September 15, 1883.
- 13 Photos in files of Pastime Amusement Company
- 14 Louis Garfield.