

84 Wentworth Street

(Shortened description)

The cast iron railing displayed in the Market Shop of Historic Charleston Foundation has been salvaged by the Foundation from a two-story brick building that once stood at 84 Wentworth Street. Built by well-known architect Augustus Constantine (1898-1976) around 1953, the structure was originally home to Harold's Cabin, a neighborhood grocery store known for its luncheon balcony and specialty foods, gaining both local and national recognition.

(Extended Description)

Built around 1953 and demolished half a century later, the two-story brick building that once stood at 84 Wentworth Street was the original home of the cast iron railing now displayed in the Market Shop of Historic Charleston Foundation. The structure was built by well-known architect Augustus Constantine (1898-1976) for Albert Sottile and was home to Harold's Cabin, a neighborhood grocery store known for its luncheon balcony and specialty foods, including more than 200 cheeses and one of Charleston's first frozen food selections. Featured on post cards and in national magazines, Harold's Cabin became a principle stop on most historic tours throughout the city and a landmark of local cuisine. The structure was demolished around 2003.

Augustus Constantine

Most recognized for his commercial structures on King Street in downtown Charleston, such as the Chase Building and the American Theater, Augustus Constantine created modern buildings reflective of mid-20th century styles, such as Art Deco, Moderne, or International style, deviating from traditional Charleston architecture.

Researcher: Brittany Lavelle, HCF 2011 summer intern, Clemson/CofC Historic Preservation Program graduate student

The new school includes this yellow brick home, built by James and Albert Sottile, and a large, L-shaped building that abuts the Wentworth facade and frames a new courtyard off St. Philip.

Jaquelin Robertson of Cooper Robertson & Partners designed it with help from Watson Tate Savory of Columbia.

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2007/apr/16/c_es_school_education_building_teaches_big_lesson/

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Harold's Jacobs/Karesh/Pearlstine ancestors first arrived in Charleston in the 1850s and helped found Berith Shalome.

After military service in North Africa and Italy during World War II, Harold married Lillian Breen of Anderson, South Carolina, and they worked together in the family's grocery store, Harold's Cabin, located at Congress and President Streets. Under Harold and Lillian's stewardship, the business grew into a premiere purveyor of gourmet foods and delicatessen items. In new quarters on Wentworth Street between King and St. Philip, the store featured a luncheon balcony on the mezzanine floor, mail order and catering departments, and a large delicatessen offering specialty foods, including more than 200 cheeses and Charleston's first frozen kosher chickens.

Harold Jacobs founded Harold's Cabin, a South Carolina gourmet grocery store. From its inception in 1929 until it merged with Piggly Wiggly in 1964, the store had three Charleston locations and gained national attention for its specialty foods. Jacobs also served as president (1939) of Dan Lodge No. 593 of B'nai B'rith and as president (1980) of Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim.

"Harold standing in front of his new store at 84 Wentworth Street, 1954. Gift of Harold Jacobs, Special Collections, College of Charleston."
Harold Jacobs papers, 1905-1990 (bulk 1920-1980)
Mss 1012 (Call No.)

CofC Acquisition: All of the properties are owned by Pastime Amusement.

In 1953, Harold's Cabin moved into new, larger facilities in downtown Charleston. The mezzanine floor was converted into a luncheon/restaurant where one could dine on the balcony and view customers shopping for gourmet products. The assortment of imported foods from many countries was so interesting that it became a rest stop on a tour of

Historic Charleston. Eventually a mail-order department was set up and the brand name Harold's Cabin became so well established that it was copyrighted.

In 1968, Jacobs sold the name and business to an operator of a huge Piggly Wiggly. The proprietor invited Jacobs and his wife, Lillian Breen, to manage the Harold's Cabin Gourmet Department, where they both remained for 15 years.

Nancy Kruger of the Isle of Palms writes, "Years ago in Charleston when Harold's Cabin was located on Wentworth Street, you could eat lunch upstairs in the deli. They had the most delicious potato salad and/or macaroni salad

Thesis

There are few buildings extant in Charleston that were constructed in the popular styles of the 1940s and 50s: Art Deco, Moderne, or the International style Augustus Edison Constantine was one architect who dared to create designs in the mid- 20th Century that deviated from the lines of traditional Charleston architecture. While other architectural firms such as Simons and Lapham, and Halsey and Cummings were designing buildings in more Classical modes, and restoring older buildings, Constantine was creating more modern buildings reflective of mid-20th century styles These buildings stand out in the streetscape and deserve to be recognized as worthy of preservation.

Constantine is most well known for his commercial structures on King Street in downtown Charleston. However, he was commissioned for many other building types throughout Charleston County, the surrounding counties, and out of state; public works, churches, schools, warehouses, residences, theaters and office and apartment buildings. He also completed additions and alterations to existing structures.

Projects

Chase Furniture Store, 414 King Street
American Theater, 446 King Street, 1942
Quicksilver Store

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