

53 Church Street

If (and please note capital letters) one believes the recapitualt recapitulation present in Deed E-17, 191 - then the property now called number 53 Church was owned by R^t Joseph Ball when he made his will in 1768; there are several problems - there is no record of Ball getting the property by conveyance or will; perhaps it came through his wife, whose maiden name is not easily known; his son (†) Joseph bought a property in original lot 61, which is nearby; or the same; his daughter (Mary Verree lived across the street). In his 1768 will, he mentioned his dwelling house on the west side church and it passed to his wife Elizabeth; there are no other deeds referring to the house until 1877; one was made, but the original was lost and it was never recorded - so there is no information to state whether the extant structure is the same as the pre 1768 dwelling. According to E-17, 191, the house was left by Elizabeth to her two daughters, Margaret Toussiger and Elizabeth Gibbes; all of the shares from Margaret Toussiger's children were finally vested in Elizabeth B Gibbes' daughters, Mary Gadsden and Susan Gibbes who in 1877 conveyed it to Julius Lilyestron Lee for \$1,000. (E-17, 191). In a sherrifs sale, on 5 Nov. 1885, the lot with two and half brick story dwelling was sold to John H. Klenke, grocer for \$4,000 (W-18, 206), whose old heirs sold it to Julian E. Whingo for \$7,000 (T-25, 471, 10 April 1912) who sold it for \$10 and other valuable considerations to John Marshall (29 Sept. 1919, S-29.2); he went bankrupt and it was sold to Elizabeth J. Adger for \$17,000. (20 December 1921, X-30, 131); it went to her nieces-- nieces (T-43, 565) by will and deed; they sold it to Margaret and Philip Hammond for \$15,000. (C-47, 89; June 24, 1946); the survivor sold it to James G. Gibbes (\$35,000; 15 July 1939; C-68, 503); who sold it to Marreit Hodges (27 June 1970, T-93, 113) who sold it to the current owner, the First Baptist Church (W-94, 327) July 1970.

Note; house to the south of this one is now built on land that was historically part of this property.

From the directories, it is seen that the Ball family were the principal occupants; although Elizabeth Ball's daughter Margaret Teussiger inherited part of the house, she lived on Water Street; the Gibbes daughter and her relations lived here:

1790 - Elizabeth Ball, widow 10 Church

1795 - Elizabeth Ball, widow, 15 Church (a widow Baker is listed at 10-either a mistake or a shift in numbering.

1801 - Ball, Elizabeth widow 16 Church Street

1802 she is listed at 5 Church

ditto 1803, 1806, 1807

1816 Ann Ball, widow 21 Church

1819 - Ann Ball and E. Gibbes at 21 Church; they are seamstresses

1822 - they are both listed at 67 Church; seamstress;

1829 - Ball, the misses; Church opposite Stoll's Alley

1831 - Ball, Mrs. Ann, 89 Church

Gibbes, Elizabeth, widow, 67 Church

The Julius Lee, they sold the house to was a stevedore; the house was vacant soon after the earthquake; the assessment of earthquake damages makes it appear that the house did not ~~us~~ ~~sue~~ suffer that much; all needed repairs were done soon after; though the brickwork on the north side, just back from the street makes it look like a ~~whole~~ ~~new~~ the whole facade was reworked - which it was over the windows, etc... Kleinke, who owned it then, did not dwell here - rental property perhaps

