

Ann Goodrich House

58 Cannon Street

bef. 1797

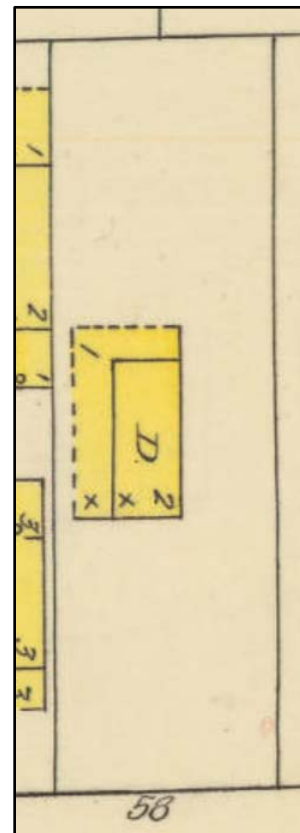
The house at 58 Cannon Street was a two-and-one-half story wooden building on a high foundation. A one-story piazza wrapped along the west side and across the rear.

As the result of a lawsuit, the owner of the property, clergyman Thomas Mills, was ordered to pay on a debt he owed to John Gennerick of 88 pounds, 8 shillings, and 11 pence. **John Splatt Cripps**¹ was a wealthy Meeting Street planter who bought the property at a public auction held on July 3, 1797.² Mr. Cripps bid 407 guineas (equal to 442 pounds, 12 shillings, and 3 pence) for the 100 by 300 lot with a "wooden tenement" thereon.³ (The deed specifically described the building as three-story, but the house's very high foundation might easily have been counted as a third story.)

The paucity of detailed records from the period and the use of the house as a rental property almost invariably means that specific information about its occupants cannot be reconstructed. However, the Cripps family likely continued its use as a tenement (i.e., rental property) instead of living there. Mr. Cripps died in 1811 with 11 children and no wife, and his estate maintained the house until selling it at an auction held on April 9, 1817, at which a trustee for **Sarah De St. Julien (Mazyck) Wilkie**⁴ bid \$3000 for the property.⁵

Mrs. Wilkie's brother-in-law, accountant William Ball Wilkie, was a later trustee and felt that selling the property would be in the best interest of Mrs. Wilkie's only child (viz., his seven-year old niece, Eleanor Ball Wilkie). Therefore, a trustee for **Ann Goodrich and her children (William T. Goodrich and Nathaniel Edward Goodrich)** bought the property on June 13, 1827, for \$1800. According to an advertisement for the sale, the "healthy and pleasantly situated" property had a "very neat, convenient, and comfortable" house.⁶

The Goodrich family occupied the house.⁷ In 1835, Ann Goodrich was listed in the city directory as living on Cannon Street, but on the south side. It is hard to know if that was a mistake since, in the 1837-38 edition, she was listed as a widow living in Butchertown (Cannon Street's earlier name) without further specification. There were definitely buildings on the property by 1838, but if the Goodrich family



¹ (b. Mar. 1754; d. Oct. 4, 1811)

² Deed book L7, page 544 (recorded Aug. 3, 1804)

³ City Gazette, July 3, 1797, at 2

⁴ (m. accountant James Wilkie, Dec. 5, 1816) A replacement trustee, William Ball Wilkie, recited that his niece was about seven years old when deciding to sell the house later.

⁵ Deed book W8, page 42

⁶ Southern Patriot, Apr. 24, 1827, at 3

⁷ Deed book U9, page 153

resided on the property, their dwelling was likely located at the southeast corner in the location of today's 58 Cannon Street address.

When Mrs. Goodrich died in December 1837, the trustee sought permission to sell the Cannon Street house since it was in "bad order" and could be better used to earn money for the children. Following an auction held on February 15, 1838, **John Dixon** bid \$2200 for the original 100 by 300 foot lot⁸ with the house.⁹ An advertisement in the Charleston Courier referred to "BUILDINGS thereon."¹⁰ Dixon had bid \$2200 for the 100 by 300 lot, and the sale was recorded on March 22, 1838. An individual named John Dixon worked as a Chandler on King Street in 1837-1840. Meanwhile, someone named Thomas Dixon, at least a possible relative, was listed as living at an unspecified address on Cannon Street in 1840 in a directory.

On August 21, 1848, John Dixon sold the large property for \$2650 to engineer **Robert H. Riker**.¹¹ Riker sold off the large tract in smaller pieces, including two that fronted on Cannon Street. First, on June 2, 1850, Riker sold a 45 by 200 feet parcel at the southeast corner of the larger tract (the current lot) to Prof. **Felix Gauthier** for \$2200.¹² Second, the larger part of the property (55 by 200) at the southwest corner was sold to George S. Hacker on May 8, 1852, for \$1200. The subdivision of the property resulted in an odd arrangement. The house was immediately adjacent to the western property line while set several feet back from the eastern property line, leaving a 19th century "driveway" along the back of the single house to the rear of the lot.

Prof. Gauthier¹³ taught French and drawing at the Citadel, and he dabbled in politics, running for City Council in 1852. Prof. Gauthier sold the house to **John S. Riggs** for \$2500 on May 6, 1859.¹⁴

Mr. Riggs devised the house to **Sidney S. Riggs and Robert L. Riggs** who then sold it to **Joseph A. Storfer** in January 18, 1917.¹⁵ The house was at risk of demolition when the City planned to extend Felix Street through to Spring Street.¹⁶ The City was to buy 58 Cannon Street from Mr. Storfer in return for assuming \$2000 mortgage and the conveyance of a new Boulevard lot (Lot 41) (the area south of Colonial Lake) worth \$1750.¹⁷ Oddly, Mr. Storfer was to pay \$250 toward the project himself. After the alderman representing the neighborhood opposed the plans, the City called off the plan.¹⁸ The neighborhood alderman objected to breaking up the large block by extending the too-narrow Felix Street and suggested that Smith Street would be better.¹⁹ Squabbles broke out with suggestions being made that one of the project's backer on City Council perhaps had a financial benefit at stake; alderman supported extending Felix Street (described as an "immoral street"), extending Smith Street, and even

⁸ The current properties would include 79, 81, and 83 Spring Street and 58 (vacant lot) and 60 Cannon Street.

⁹ Deed book T10, page 395 (recorded Mar. 22, 1838)

¹⁰ Charleston Courier, Feb. 15, 1838, at 2

¹¹ Deed book A12, page 406

¹² Deed book G12, page 256

¹³ Prof. Gauthier was born about 1791 in France and lived with Emily Gauthier (b. abt. 1800) in the 1850 census.

¹⁴ Deed book F14, page 292

¹⁵ Deed book E28, page 287

¹⁶ "Felix Street Plan Endorsed," Evening Post, July 16, 1917, at 9

¹⁷ "Paving Work Is Duly Authorized," Evening Post, July 10, 1917, at 7; "Asphalt Roadways for Three Streets," New and Courier, July 11, 1917, at 8

¹⁸ "Water Purchase Bill Is Passed," Evening Post, Aug. 14, 1917, at 6

¹⁹ "City Council," News and Courier, July 13, 1917, at 6

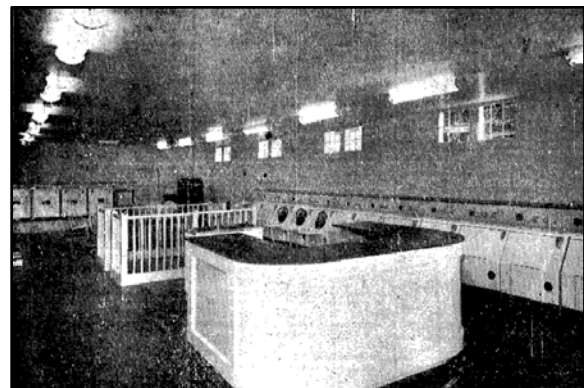
extending both.²⁰ The claws came out during a City Council meeting on July 16, 1917 at which Alderman Miller argued that the City was being taken by the purchase of the “dilapidated” house for so much more than Mr. Storfer had recently bought it for; he intimated that the sale was cooked up by Alderman Pinckney and Mr. Storfer, real estate business partners.²¹ He believed that the extra length would just be used “as the rest of Felix Street has been used for years past.”

Mr. Storfer sold the house to **Oscar E. Schneider** for \$3500 on January 24, 1919.²² When Mr. Schneider died, he left the house to his wife (Isabelle E. Schneider) for life and then to their children (Oscar Edward S. Schneider, Jr.; Carl Velarous Schneider; and Elsie Elizabeth Schneider Adams). Mrs. Schneider exercised her right to sell the house and hold the proceeds for the benefit of her children by selling it to **Dr. Henry Deas** for \$8000 on June 10, 1947.²³

Sadly, the house lost what would have been a very gracious front garden to business development in the 1940s. In 1947, Dr. Deas got a permit to add a laundromat to the property for \$7300,²⁴ and the city’s first automatic laundromat opened on September 29, 1947.²⁵ The business, outfitted with Westinghouse equipment, had separate accommodations for black and white patrons.

Adele Bowman Deas to **Suzanne H. Deas; William B. Deas; Geraldine P. Deas; Jules Deas; Nell P. Deas; and Henry Deas, Jr.** on December 18, 1962.²⁶ Suzanne, Geraldine, and Nell to William B. Deas; Jules Deas; and Henry Deas, Jr. got it on February 12, 1963.²⁷ Henry Deas, Jr. died August 5, 1968. The estate and the other two owners all joined in selling it to **Oscar L. Pinckney** for \$14,000 on November 13, 1969.²⁸

Citizens & Southern National Bank of South Carolina sued Oscar’s estate. Auction on October 31, 1973. \$100 high bid by executor of Jr. and other two former owners.²⁹



²⁰ “For Extension of Felix Street,” News and Courier, July 17, 1917, at 8

²¹ “City Council,” News and Courier, July 19, 1917, at 8

²² Deed book U28, page 274

²³ Deed book G47, page 277

²⁴ News and Courier, July 8, 1947, at 13

²⁵ Evening Post, Sep. 27, 1947, at 11 (ad); Evening Post, Sep. 29, 1947, at 9B (interior photo)

²⁶ Deed book K78, page 37

²⁷ Deed book R78, page 146

²⁸ Deed book O93, page 385

²⁹ Deed book K103, page 179 (recorded on Dec. 11, 1973)

The house survived the indignity of having a laundromat appended to its front, but the house seemed doomed in the 1970s. A request was made to demolish the house at BAR meeting of February 25, 1976, and the BAR approved the request.³⁰ The house was not destroyed at that point, however, and both the house and laundromat were still intact when the house was photographed in 1985.



Dorothy M. Singleton bought the property for \$10,000 on December 29, 1976.³¹ From 1981 to 1991, the property was the home of Dorothy's Chapel for Funerals, an arm of Dorothy's Funeral Parlor just down Cannon Street. Whether the chapel was located in the commercial annex or in the house is unknown. **Dorothy's Home for Funerals** bought the property from Dorothy Richardson (nee Singleton) for \$10,000 on May 6, 1985.³²



Hurricane Hugo finally destroyed the historic house in 1989. Today, the only trace of the property's historic house and 20th century commercial use are the ruins of the front facade of the laundromat immediately along the sidewalk. The stepped roofline has crumbled. Behind the blank masonry wall, the litter-strewn lot is full of

trees.

³⁰ David E. Doubrava, "BAR Approves Requests to Demolish Structures," Apr. 1, 1976, at 4B

³¹ Deed book F111, page 21

³² Deed book B145, page 898