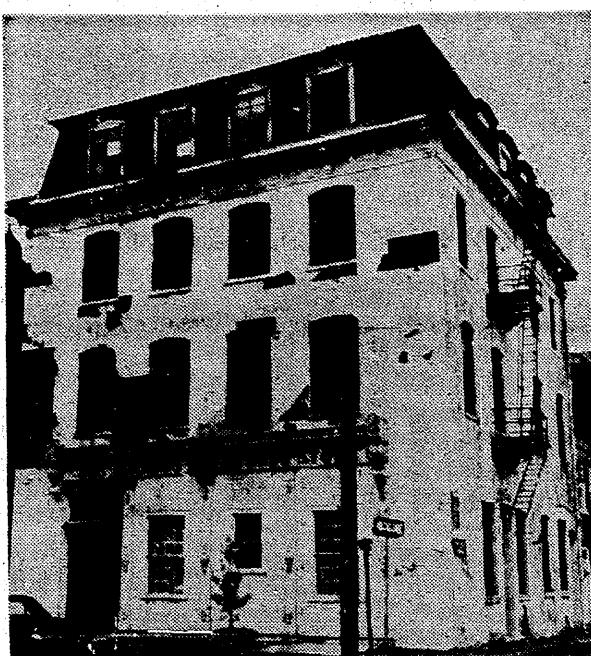


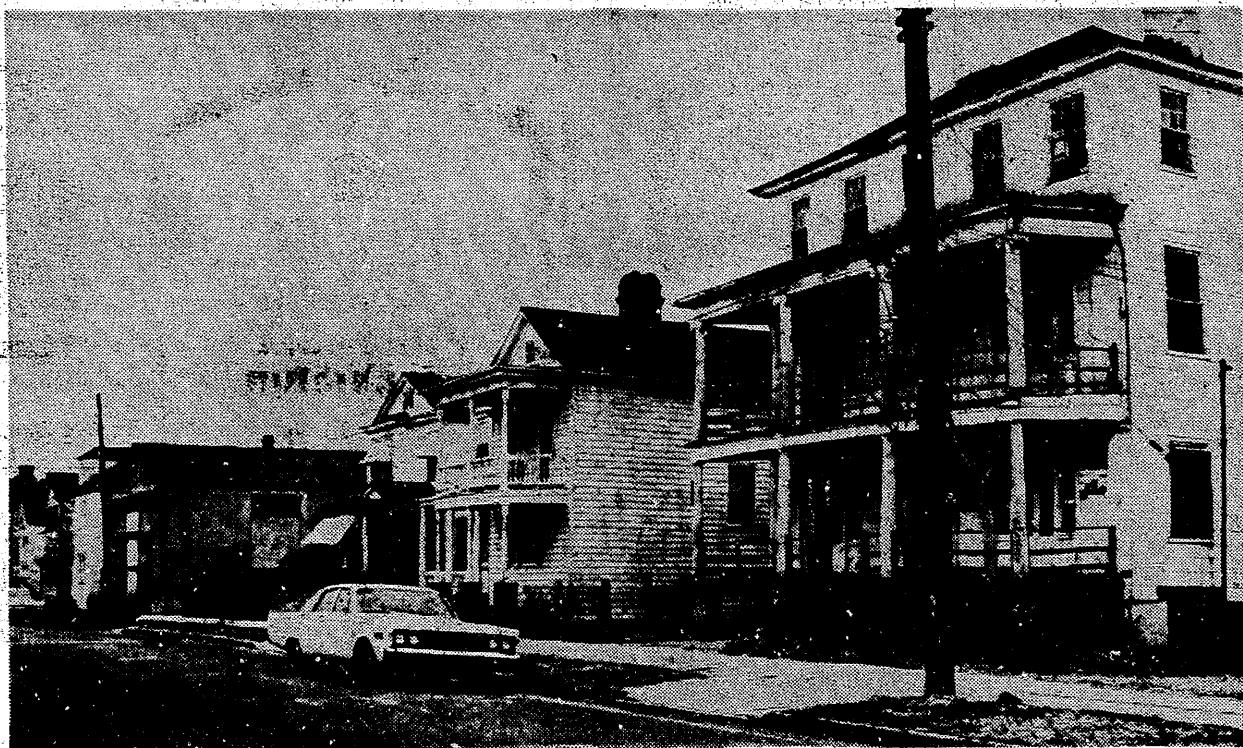
'HINDU GOTHIC'

Probably unique in America, expert believes.



BUILT AROUND 1904

Victorian-style office building housed pharmacy.



SITE OF PLANNED SUPERMARKET

Antebellum building at right termed notable in 'This Is Charleston.' (Staff Photos by Burbage)

Demolition Asked For 11 Buildings; Market Is Planned

By BARBARA S. WILLIAMS
Staff Reporter

A proposal to demolish nine structures and relocate two in the John and Meeting street area to make way for a new Rodenberg supermarket is before the city's Board of Architectural Review this week.

The board also will consider the proposed demolition of two East Bay Street buildings, one of which is listed as "valuable" in "This is Charleston," the survey of the city's architecture.

The only building proposed for demolition in the John Street area listed in "This is Charleston" is No. 14, which is termed "antebellum, notable."

Adolph Rodenberg said his firm is planning an 18,000 square foot building in the area with parking for 150 automobiles. The parking lot would face Meeting Street and the supermarket would be set back on John Street.

Rodenberg said the entire site involves about 75,000 square feet.

The proposal before the board is to demolish buildings at 14, 16, 18½, 24, 26 and 28 John St. as well as 354, 356-358 Meeting Street. Rodenberg's also proposed to relocate buildings at 18 and 22 John St. to lots at 6 and 12 John St.

Rodenberg said the proposed relocation is a result of the wishes of the owners. He said they had reached a land-swap agreement with the owners of those structures that also

involves moving the buildings.

He estimated the investment in the proposed new supermarket would be about \$500,000. Rodenberg said his firm feels there is a need for the additional shopping facility in the downtown area. He also said there possibly would be room for another tenant in the proposed new building.

The board also will hear a request on Thursday at 5 p.m. to raze the two-story masonry building that once housed the Old Farmers and Exchange Bank at 141 East Bay Street.

"This is Charleston" dates that building between the years of 1853-59, terms it "valuable" and describes it as "Moorish electricism."

During a tour here in 1965, one of Europe's top experts on Georgian architecture singled out 141 East Bay as one of the buildings in the city for special comment.

Desmond Guinness, a charter member of the Irish Georgian Society, gave this description of the building:

"That's true Hindu Gothic. It's facade looks like that of a Turkish bath and reminds one of the Brighton pavilion built in 1811 for George the Fourth. It's probably the only example in America of that rare style of architecture."

The application for demolition was made for Jules Deas, the prospective purchaser and indicates its immediate use would be a parking lot and

eventually a new building would be placed on the site.

Deas said last night that plans are not complete.

Another proposed demolition would remove the building formerly occupied as temporary quarters for Marcus Drugs at 130 East Bay St. The application by M. B. Barkley, indicates the building was constructed around 1904.

That application also cites the necessity for complete rewiring and renovation that the owner states would be too expensive for a reasonable return from tenants.

Barkley said yesterday that the interim use for the site also probably would be parking while a decision is made on the possibility of a smaller office building.

The board also will be asked to consider certain changes including removal of a canopy and columns on the front of the building at 321 East Bay Street, also known as the William Blake house.

The board meets in the office of Sinkler, Gibbs and Simons at 2 Prieoleau Street. Dana Sinkler is chairman of the architectural review board.

Out Of Court Session Rules On Statement

By GARY C. DICKEY
Staff Reporter

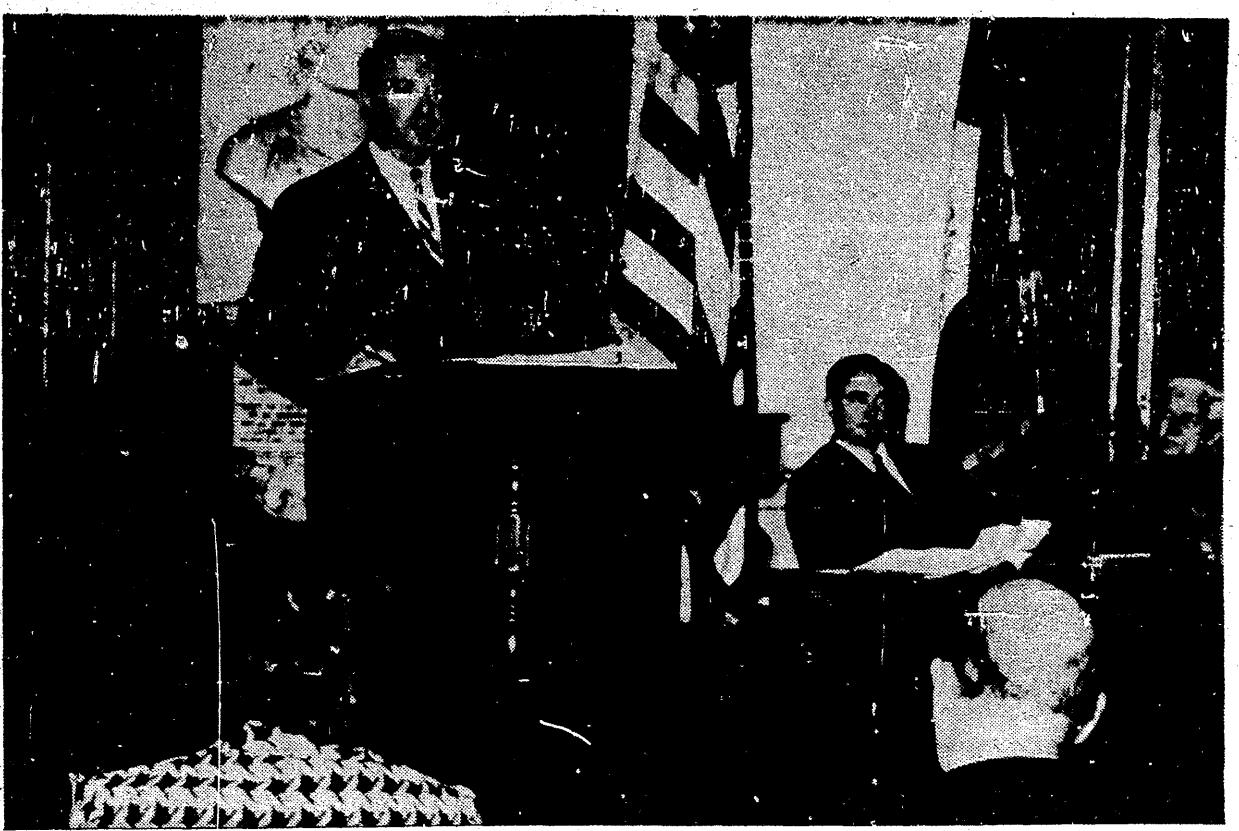
Special agents for the naval investigative service testified yesterday that their interrogations of Jimmie D. Hise had been successful in eliciting a statement that might link him to the death of Kerry D. Metcalf.

The testimony came during an out-of-court session of the court martial of Hise who is charged with murder and sodomy in connection with the death of Metcalf. Metcalf's body was found July 21 in a wooded area near the Mine Warfare School barracks at Charleston Naval Base.

N. L. Ammons, an 18-year veteran of the naval investigative service related how he and a fellow agent had interrogated Hise for more than three hours before the statement was given in "a state of high emotion and tears."

QUESTIONING STARTS

Ammons told how he and the other agent went aboard the USS Dash and took Hise to their office for questioning. While on the pier, Ammons said Hise asked "What's this all about?" Ammons said the other agent told Hise they would prefer to wait until they got to the office to discuss it.



FATE OF OLD BUILDINGS DISCUSSED

G. Daria Sinkler, chairman of the city Board Of Architectural Review, discusses proposals for demolition as board members and audience listen. (Staff Photo by Smoak)

News & Courier, 1/31/1969

Action Held Up On Request To Raze East Bay Building

By BARBARA S. WILLIAMS
Staff Reporter

Action was deferred last night on a proposal to demolish a unique East Bay Street building described as "Hindu Gothic" while an opinion is being sought on its structural stability.

The city's Board of Architectural Review agreed to ask the city engineer to inspect the building at 141 East Bay Street, which, according to its prospective purchaser is "about to fall down."

In a two-hour meeting last night the board also agreed:

—To postpone demolition for 90 days on a building at 130 East Bay Street which local preservationists claim dates back to at least 1865.

—To allow demolition of nine structures and the relocation of two dwellings in the John and Meeting Street area to make way for a new Rodenberg supermarket.

—To express its "deep concern" over the removal of a cast iron trellis from a building being renovated at 21 East Bay Street, a project of the Historic Charleston Foundation, prior to the submission of an application for permission or denial to the board.

The most adamant protests during the meeting, which drew more than 20 persons to the City Council Chambers, were directed toward the proposed razing of 141 East Bay Street.

Jules Deas, the prospective purchaser, said he was under contract to buy both that structure and 10 State Street as a "package" for \$50,000.

Estimates, he said, are that

\$80,000 to renovate the East Bay Street building and he contended it wasn't feasible to put that kind of money into the building.

Deas said his immediate plans were to put a parking lot on the East Bay Street site.

However, City Clerk C. Hubert Peale told the board he got a renovation estimate of \$50,000 on the building while he was in the real estate business.

Arlie Johnson, a contractor called as a witness for Deas, said the front sandstone on the building had deteriorated and described cracks up the side of the building. The front, he said, "is moving out into the street."

Asked if the building had been condemned, Deas replied it had not.

Mrs. Joseph Young, president of the Charleston Preservation Society, observed that when someone is sick "you have more than one person examine the patient." She reminded them of opinions that the Old Citadel was falling down. But, she said, when they removed a wing it was found "just as sturdy as it could be."

Mrs. S. Henry Edmunds,

director of the Historic Charleston Foundation, said the building is particularly valuable because it undoubtedly is the only one of its kind in the city and there are very few in the United States.

Charleston, she said, is known as a reference library of architectural forms. As a result, she said the building is significant because of its rarity. "It's a thing unto itself and very important," she said.

The building, which dates between 1853-59, once housed the Old Farmers and Exchange Bank and is termed "valuable" in "This is Charleston."

The board also was advised there are prospects for the building.

The members agreed to defer action in order to do additional research on the building and have an inspection by the city engineer.

At its next meeting, the board could flatly deny the request for demolition, impose a delay on any razing or approve the request.

There also were protests last night against the leveling of the structure at 130 East Bay Street.

M. B. Barkley, the owner, said the building was purchased in order to "square off" his firm's property in the area. After the purchase, he said he was informed the wiring was not adequate to get electricity without re-wiring the building.

Barkley also contended that the amount of work required for renovation makes it unfeasible as a rental unit. His immediate plans are a parking lot.

There was some discussion about his estimate that the building was constructed around 1904 and the Preservation Society detailed information that indicated it was completed before 1865.

A photograph dated by the Library of Congress as 1865 depicts the building without the same roof, according to the preservationists.

The Historic Charleston Foundation asked for a 90-day delay through its president Thomas C. Stevenson and Barkley said he was agreeable. "I can leave it vacant or tear it down," he said.

Asked if he would be willing to sell the building if someone

(See BUILDINGS, Page 7-B)

Vice Squad Visits Taking Toll

Several favorite watering holes in the County are finding the going a bit rough these days.

County Police's vice squad has instituted a practice at trouble spots and vice-prone locations of stationing uniformed men in the establishments.

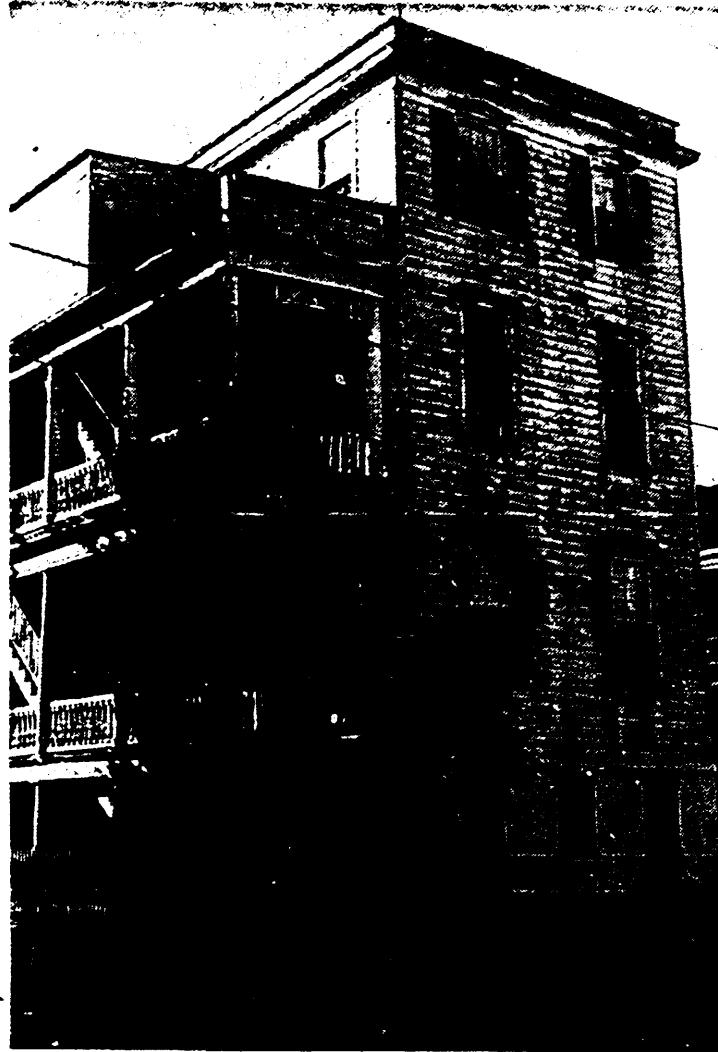
Business has fallen off, in some cases to the extent of closing the businesses.

Blank doors and no lights signaled the establishments that were closed last night. In some others, uniformed men were sipping coffee and

watching the action, of which there was very little.

The procedure is aimed especially at places where soliciting for prostitution has been a problem.

The sight of the uniform and badge has had a deleterious effect on some of the practitioners of the art.



ANTEBELLUM BUILDINGS: ONE COMING DOWN, THE OTHER UNCERTAIN

The four-story frame dwelling at 139 St. Philip St. (left), probably constructed during the early 1840s, was the object of a request for demolition submitted to Charleston's Board of Architectural Review recently. Action on the request was deferred for study of the planned use of the property. Demolition work has begun on the four-story building at 130 East Bay St. Faced in brownstone and with a mansard roof that was probably added at

the turn of the century, it was constructed prior to 1865 (a photograph of the Exchange Building dated that year shows 130 East Bay as well) and caused some controversy when an application was submitted for its demolition in January of 1969. A 90-day delay on demolition was placed on the building at that time.

(Staff Photos by Swain)