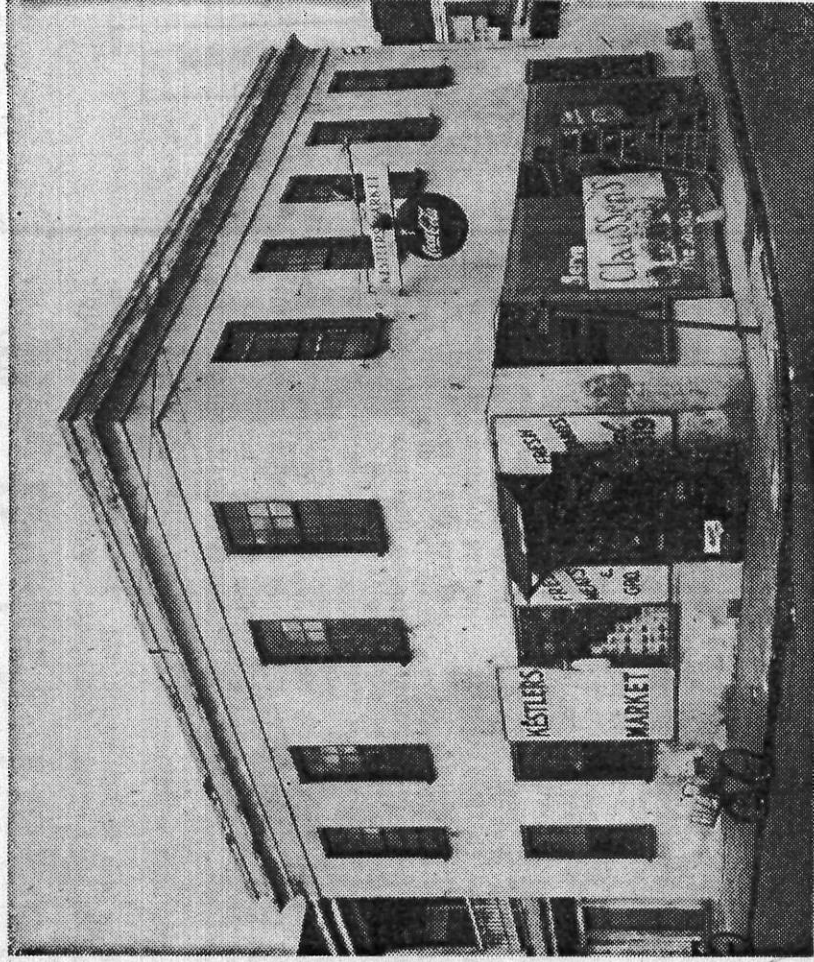
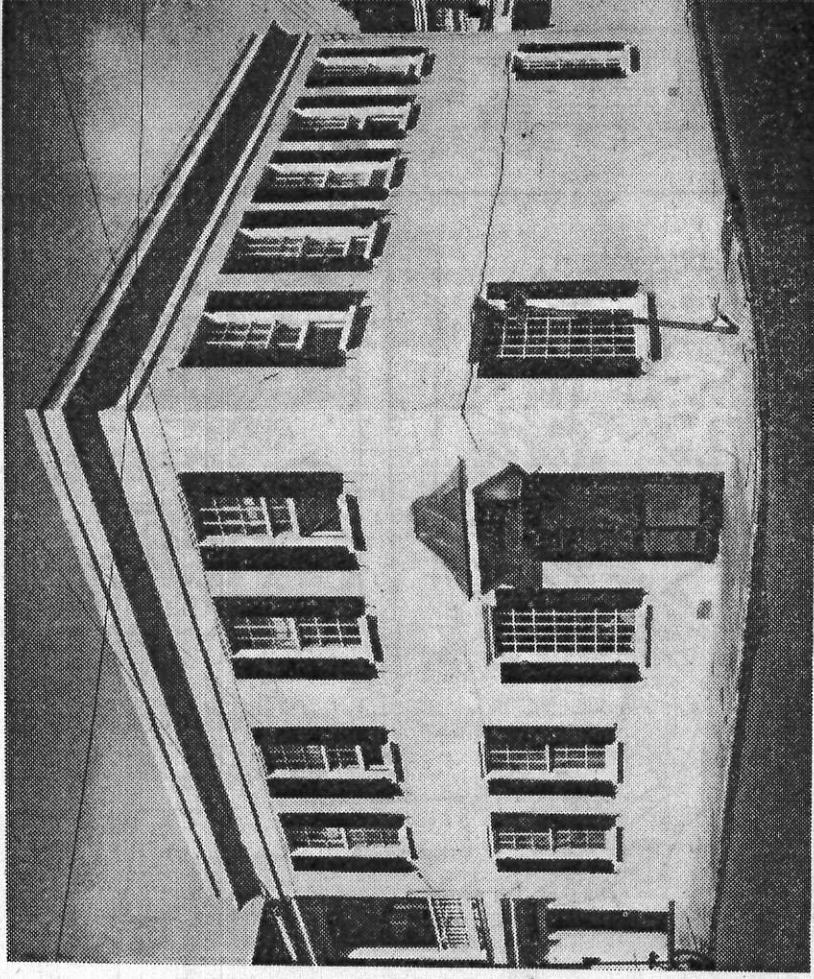


Chen Swee Post 4-21-64 -



THE OLD—This is how Kestler's Market in Ansonborough looked earlier this year. Located at 48 Society Street, the two-story, stucco structure housed the George Olhson Bakery in 1886. Since 1940 St. Julian Kestler has operated a market in the structure, located in the area of Charleston that is being restored to early 19th Century grandeur.



THE RESTORED—Here's what the market looked like this week following exterior renovation. A small sign near the entry will announce the market's name. Blinds now protect windows on both floors. The stuccoed exterior walls have been repainted. Mr. Kestler drew plans for the restoration with help from the Historic Charleston Foundation. (Staff Photos by Burbage)

Charleston Evening Post, 9/28/1966

Another Corner Grocery To Close Its Doors Friday

By CHARLES W. WARING JR.
Evening Post Staff Writer

The old corner grocers, becoming as scarce as the buggy whip, will be minus one more after Saturday.

Kestler's Market, corner of Society and Anson streets, will cease doing business after it closes that day.

"It's a sign of the times, I guess," said St. Julian Kestler, but "I've no regrets about the time I've spent here.

I've enjoyed all the years and I'm grateful to all my customers for their business.

"Young people don't seem to want any part of a small business anymore."

The store was founded a couple of blocks away, at Anson and Laurens in 1930 by St. Julian Kestler.

HIS SON and namesake,

joined his father in 1936 at the old site.

The elder Kestler died in 1938 and the present owner continued at the site until 1940, when he moved to Anson and Society.

He leased the building, formerly Von Ohsen's Bakery until 1942, when he purchased it.

Kestler will become manager of the frozen food and dairy department of the Meeting Street Piggly Wiggly.

"I'd like to rent the old store and equipment, but so far haven't found any takers," he said.

THE TWO-STORY brick building is in the heart of Historic Charleston Foundation's Ansonborough Rehabilitation Project.

Built in 1839, Kestler restored the exterior in 1964, to conform

with restoration in the neighborhood.

Kestler has two sons, one in the Air Force and another who works for McGraw-Hill Publishing Co. in New York. He also has two daughters, one a senior in college and the youngest child, a second year student in St. Andrew's Junior High School.

The store's specialty throughout the years has been its choice meat, butchered by Kestler himself. His customers come not only from the Ansonborough area, but from throughout the downtown sector of the city.

ASKED IF he had any sentiment about leaving the spot, he said, "Well it was a tough decision to make but, right or wrong, sometimes you have to do what you think's best for yourself.

"The most touching thing that's happened was that two ladies, who are old customers, brought me a silver bowl the other day and wished me well."

Mrs. Kestler, who works part time in the store said she also would miss the store, but added, "... I've still got a full time job at home with my 14-year-old daughter ..."



(Staff Photo by Swain)

St. Julian Kestler in familiar pose behind meat scales.

Sam Shulsky

Investor's Guide



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brick basement. Gardner made his will in November of 1821 and must have died shortly afterwards, as the will was proved on March 29, 1822. His property passed to his wife, Mrs. Margaret Gardner. A good many years later, she married Capt. William Booth, a mariner, and together "for their joint maintenance and benefit" they conveyed in trust for \$5 on Oct. 7, 1835, "seven Negro slaves — Fortune, Cynda, Binah, Dick, Patty, Charlotte and Jenny — together with the future Issue and Increase of the females, also a Two

destroyed by fire". The price was \$2,300. Street then built himself a two-story brick dwelling on the basement of the earlier house. According to a reference in a later transaction, the dwelling built in 1840 was only a single room deep, but about 1845, Street doubled the size of the house by adding two rooms to the rear on each level and extending the hallway through. After this expansion, Street's residence possessed double parlors at the east side, joined by broad double doors. On the West side was a dining

Your Charleston?

unusual Easter lily and acanthus leaf design, and the retiring room possesses terra cotta panels hung as a frieze showing urns, garlands and small portrait busts.

Street sold the dwelling to Robert W. Hare on June 9, 1853, for \$9,000. Hare died in 1854 and the house passed to his widow (Susan Margaret Hare), two daughters and one son. It was apparently in the post-Civil War period that the house was extensively

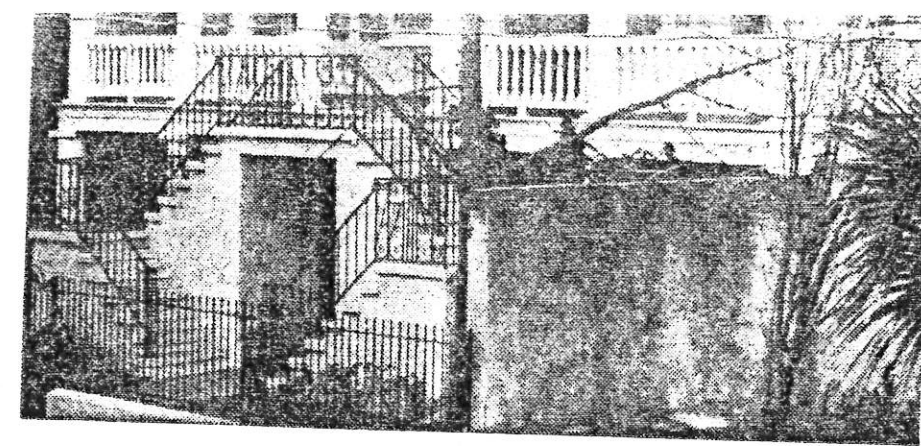
restored. She sold the house on Dec. 8, 1947, to Bessie Jankey for \$8,500. It was next purchased by Eugene A. Gruber on May 2, 1958.

In 1968, it was purchased by its present owners, Joseph R. Trott Jr. and Robert L. Arms. It is being restored as a house museum, with the Cobblestone Shop in the English basement area. It is the residence of Mr. Arms.

Since purchasing the Henry Street dwelling, the present owners have done extensive work on the exterior of the building, including the removal of several late additions in the form of outside

porch, and using Doric pilasters after the design of the piazza columns and tinning it with an entablature which repeats the denticulated cornice and the cyma reversa molding of the two piazza levels. The handsome double doors and the sanded-glass transoms were brought from 16 Logan, a dwelling demolished last year.

Plans for the interior require the removal of many of the Victorian features such as flat piece chair rails, the paper dados and unnecessary partitions to achieve once again the appearance the dwelling had in the 1840s.



36 SOCIETY CONSTRUCTED ABOUT 1840
Dwelling built for well-to-do commission merchant. (Staff Photo by Swa)

Tenement Building Was First Restored In 1964

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Thirteenth in a series of articles on recent restorations in Ansonborough. The fourteenth will appear next Monday.)

By W. H. J. THOMAS
Staff Reporter

The two-story residential-commercial building now occupying the northwest corner of Society and Anson streets was apparently constructed not long after the fire of 1838 as part of a complex of buildings owned by Mrs. Susan Robinson.

The tenement building was first restored in 1964 while used as a grocery store, and its second floor will now be restored as a new apartment unit to complete a renovation project pursued by two separate owners over a period of nearly a decade.

Long before Mrs. Robinson became involved with the property, this lot was owned by one Francis Depau and his wife and was occupied by two dwelling houses and several out buildings. A plat dated 1804 shows the tenement dwellings joined by a common wall with piazzas to both east and west but with the building line being somewhat more to the west than where the present building now stands.

In June of 1804, Depau and his wife (Mrs. Silvie Alexandrien Marien Depau) sold the double lot with its "Tenement dwelling house of Brick Rough Cast situate and being at the corner of Society and Anson Streets with a Tenement brick kitchen and a Tenement brick stable" to Joseph Sanford Barker for

\$4,400.

Barker had purchased several pieces of property in and near Ansonborough and taken out a substantial mortgage on these with the Planters' and Mechanics' Bank here. By 1817, the mortgage came to \$52,800. Barker had paid off half of this by 1820, but then signed a release to the bank (to cover for the \$26,400 still unpaid) on the double house at Society and Anson, a three-story brick store on East Bay and a double frame house on Society.

Barker kept the right to regain this property if he paid the \$26,400 but apparently never did so, as on July 15, 1829, the Planters' and Mechanics' Bank conveyed the brick tenement and its corner lot to William C. Dukes and William Robinson for \$3,000. The property as conveyed in trust "to and for the sole and separate use of Susan Robinson, wife of John Robinson, during her natural life". The property would remain in her name for 40 years.

It appears that the houses, kitchen buildings and stables burned in the fire which cut along Society Street in the late 1830s, as none of the buildings remaining today appear to match up with those on the plat of 1804, these being described in detail with each conveyance up through the purchase for Mrs. Robinson.

When the lot was then sold on April 5, 1870, by Sheriff E. W. M. Mackey to J. H. Kiep, following a complaint filed by Stephen T. Robinson,

executor of Mrs. Robinson's estate, for settlement, we find a somewhat different description of the brick building then on the lot. This description of the two-story building matches the present structure, suggesting that Mrs. Robinson had it built.

On March 24, 1874, Meta Katherine Kiep and John P. Kiep sold the building to Clementine Bernard for \$4,500. Mrs. Bernard, a woman with many real estate holdings, must have died within the year of this purchase, because on May 31,

Do You Know Your Charleston?

1875, Louis D. DeSaussure and Augustine T. Smythe, acting as her executors, sold the property to George Von Ohlsen for \$3,500.

Von Ohlsen operated a bakery here from this time into the 20th century. After his death, it was sold (Nov. 29, 1927) at public auction for \$5,500 to Julius E. Schroeder as agent for the Atlantic Savings Bank of Charleston. Some ten years later—on Oct. 12, 1937—it was sold to Lillian Ruth Claussen for \$3,000.

John L. McFadyen next purchased the building in 1940 and leased it as a grocery store to St. Julian Kestler, who in turn purchased the building on July 20, 1943.

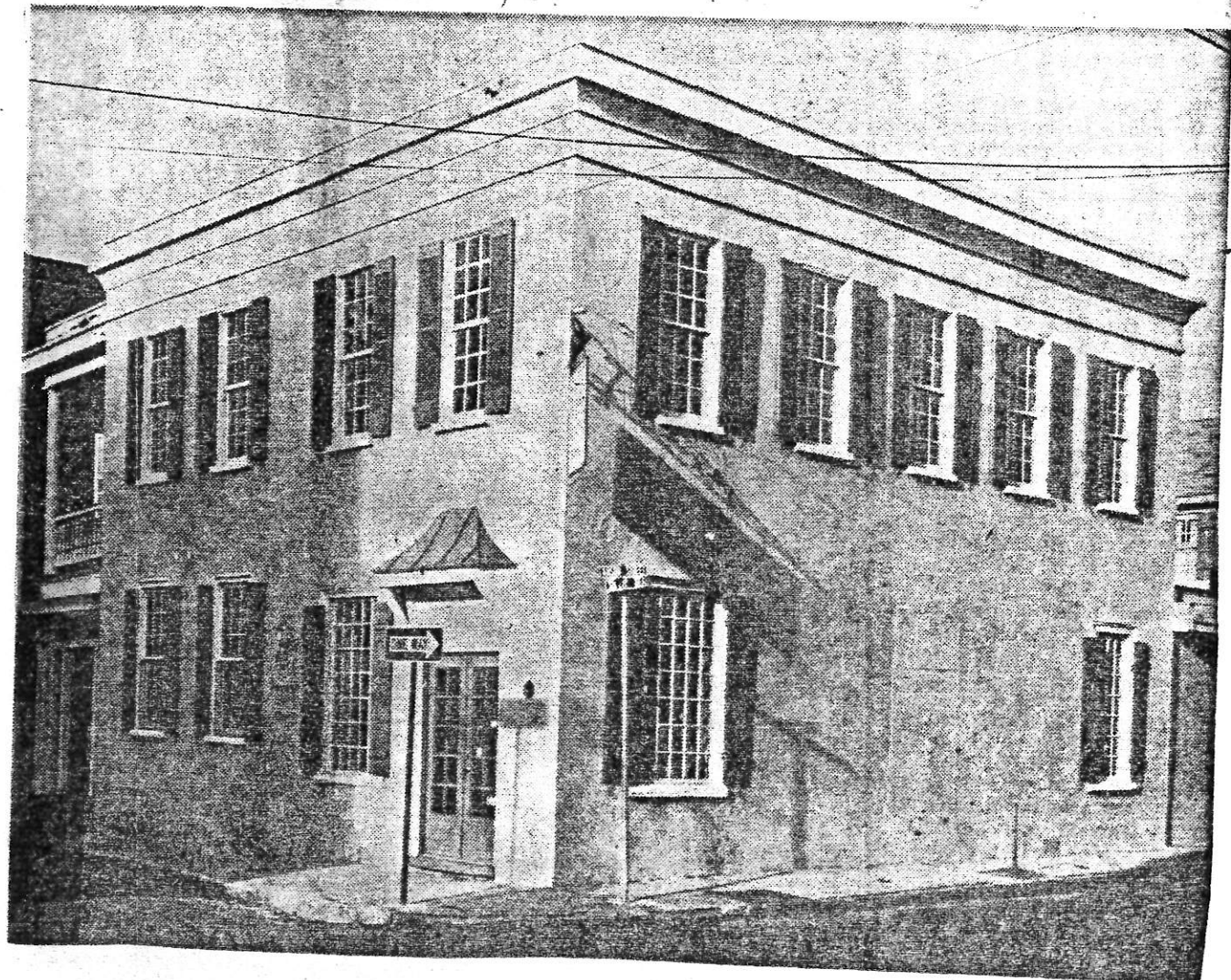
With the restoration efforts in Ansonborough, Kestler set about restoring his store building with its upstairs

apartment. At that time, the store had an entrance on both Anson and Society, a number of produce signs painted on the exterior walls and several plate glass windows to display goods.

Drawing his own plans with assistance by the Historic Charleston Foundation, Kestler made a quite complete renovation. All of the exterior was repaired and repainted, the Anson Street door was filled in, shutters were added to all the windows to add to the period appeal. The two display windows were replaced by 35-light and 42-light windows in scale with the nine-light double-hung sashes of the original windows and a small-scale hood was placed above the entrance door.

Kestler maintained his store in the building until September of 1966 when he retired as an independent merchant after 26 years on the same corner. The building was leased as a florist, and then on Sept. 2, 1969, it was purchased from Kestler by William McIntosh Jr.

The former store portion of the building is now used by the McIntosh Travel Agency. The west side of the double house on the entrance level has been renovated, leaving the original squared-off frame mantles, and the hallway and four large rooms of the second story have been stripped down to framing timbers and brick chimneys. Plans call for the restoration of this upper story as a single apartment.

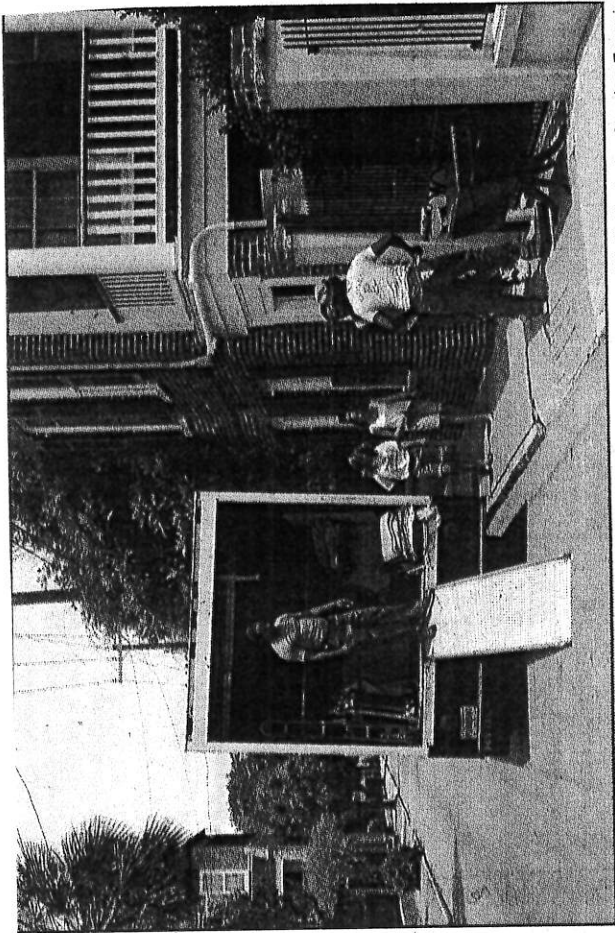


48 SOCIETY WAS BUILT SOON AFTER 1838
Building now home of travel agency. (Staff Photo by Swain)

48 Society

Street scenes

Kathleen Grant (above, left) and Margaret Milner use colored chalk as they sketch out their view of Ansonborough and the surrounding areas on the sidewalk on Wall Street's dead end. Meanwhile around the corner, employees from Devine's Moving and Storage Co. help the McIntosh family at 66 Anson St. move some furniture west of the Ashley as Karan Estee and Hayden McIntosh walk up.



Staff Photo by Charles Francis

Ansonborough marks anniversaries

By CHARLES FRANCIS 9/29/81
Post-Courier Reporter

There are three celebrations under way in Ansonborough:

Residents have scheduled events to observe the birthday of the founder of the neighborhood, Lord George Anson, who was born in May 1698.

They are also comparing and contrasting the neighborhood as it is and as it was in 1959 when the Historic Charleston Foundation began the Ansonborough Rehabilitation Project to restore the houses.

And the Ansonborough Neighborhood Association was founded 20 years ago.

Lord Anson was a British naval officer for whom the six-block neighborhood is named. It is said that Anson won the land in a card game in 1725.

Each year members of the neighborhood association meet in June to celebrate his birthday, which coincides with their last meeting of the summer.

Ansonborough was one of the finest

residential areas in antebellum Charleston. It later became a slum.

In 1959, the Historic Charleston Foundation began its Ansonborough Rehabilitation Project, which saw the renovation of more than 100 pre-Civil War houses.

The area was chosen by the foundation as its first project, primarily because it contains one of Charleston's richest concentrations of early architecture, said Lawrence Walker, executive director of Historic Charleston Foundation, former president of the Ansonborough Neighborhood Association and a resident of Laurens Street.

Houses in the area include the William Rhett House at 54 Hasell St., which is the oldest dwelling in the city; the James Jervey House at 55 Laurens St.; the Robert Primerose House at 332 East Bay St. and the Gadsden House at 329 East Bay St.

The foundation purchased homes in the neighborhood while others were donated to the organization. Many of the

homes were renovated by the foundation and sold and some were sold by the foundation for renovation.

The project was financed with money from individuals and other foundations.

Walker said the project was done without any tax rehabilitation credits to the homeowners.

The foundation didn't have any problems finding buyers for the homes that sold for \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Suzanne McIntosh, president of the Ansonborough Neighborhood Association 1979-80, who lives at 66 Anson St., said the whole neighborhood was in bad shape, but the size and price of the building was too good to pass up.

Mrs. McIntosh said the house she bought had holes in the plaster, and a tombstone in the living room. All the shutters were closed.

Anson Street also had the highest crime rate in the city, but the house was

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ANSON

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what she and her husband wanted. "Some of our friends thought we were crazy for buying the house, but my husband's dream was to restore a house and live in it," she said. "However, we didn't envision the neighborhood the way it is today."

She thinks similar rehabilitation projects could be done, but it would depend on the neighborhood and the size of the homes, Mrs. McIntosh said.

Walker said, "The high cost of real estate would make the project more difficult to do today, even with tax credits. I don't know if the foundation would undertake such a project today."

The foundation is doing similar projects on a smaller scale on the city's west and east sides, but it's for low-income housing, he said.

"Homes we renovate on the city's east and west sides are sold to people who live there and people who grew up there and want to move back to the area," Walker said.

The Ansonborough project brought the neighborhood back to life, but it displaced tenants who lived in the homes before they were sold and renovated, Walker said.

The Historic Charleston Foundation is being careful not to displace residents in the city's west and east sides, he said.

Mrs. William Prewitt, president of the association 1984-85, who lives at 33 Hasell St., said preserving the residential integrity of the area has always been the association's primary goal.

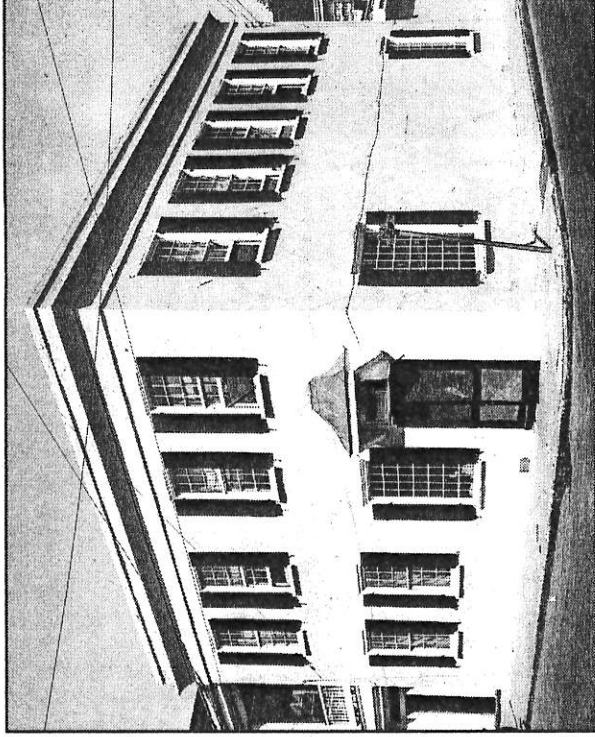
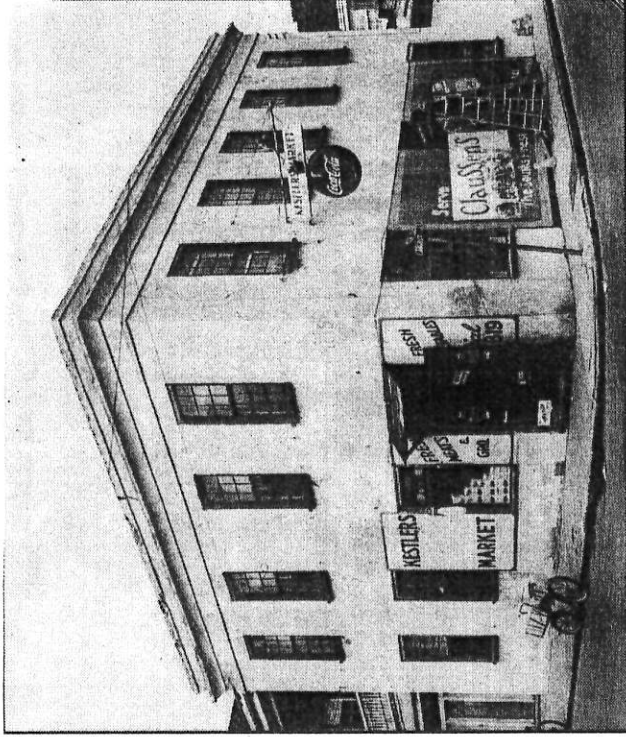
"We were the first organization to recognize what developers were doing to the peninsula and we complained about it loudly," Mrs. Prewitt said. "We fought to get businesses compatible with our neighborhood and it has worked."

Jerry Nuss, president of the association 1975-76, who lives at 58 Anson St., said Ansonborough is squeezed between business areas on East Bay and Meeting streets.

The association is constantly aware of development on the neighborhood's boundary, Nuss said.

Eliabeth Inabinet, president of the association, who lives at 74 Anson St., said, "We're not trying to put a wall around us, but we're trying to maintain our quality of life."

Mrs. Inabinet said the association



File Photos

Then and now: 48 Society St.

48 Society St. in Ansonborough, the former Kestler's Market, as it looked before and after renovations that were made in 1964.

has worked with the city in many endeavors, which include creating residential parking districts.

The city started Inabinet said. Ms. Inabinet said stand why tourists planting trees in the neighborhood and organizing clean-up days before handle only a limi