



BEFORE AND AFTER PICTURES SHOW POSSIBILITIES
This Was Servants' Quarters Before Restoration Began

NO. 43 QUEEN ST. NOW IS HANDSOME
Imagination And Work Paid Off Here

Do You Know Your Charleston?

Brick Servants' Quarters Aided Queen St. Cleanup

(Editor's note: With a petition before the Zoning Commission to have the area classed as an A residential district, instead of the B residential district which it now is, the part of town about Chalmers, Queen and State Streets is much in the news. Two houses on Chalmers St. and one on Queen are the pivotal point of a controversy over parking lots within this old and historic Charleston district.

By ISABELLA G. LELAND

Two condemned frame houses and an old brick servants' quarters in dilapidated condition sparked the cleanup of Queen Street between Church and Meeting.

Until the automobile superseded the horse and buggy this section of Queen was for some time the center of a lively horse and mule trade. One establishment accommodated 200 horses and mules. Others had not only animals, but carriages, wagons and buggies for hire. With the passing of this era the former stable sites as well as many of the original fine houses had deteriorated into slums.

About 1950 the frame house formerly occupying No. 45 was torn down and the one next door repaired and made into two apartments, both having been condemned by the city. At the same time the brick servants' quarters

to the rear of No. 45 were converted into a comfortable home. Built approximately 1750, the quarters are of unusually charming appearance, with a unique and practical ventilator at the peak, and none of their beauty has been lost in the conversion.

QUEEN'S ROW

With the block from State Street being completely restored within recent years, and the north side turned into a queen's row of colorful homes, renovation has within the year taken a spurt in this section.

It is an excellent area for it. The Huguenot Church and Dock Street Theatre are at the corner, St. Philip's and the "pirate" house north, and cobbled Chalmers Street and the Wightman house to the south. Its residents are justly proud of being part of the "old and historic Charleston district." They are not so pleased with being classified a "B residence district." Like those of State Street to the east the owners of this block of Queen, seeing many of the fine houses restored, do not look forward to a lowering of these improved property values by intrusion of business interests.

From the beginning of Queen Street through this block almost every house is listed in "This Is Charleston," architectural guide to the city. Their classifications range from "valuable to the city"

through "worthy of mention." In this particular block No. 38 and its neighboring frame, two-story are both worthy of mention. No. 44 is notable and adjoining 46, valuable to the city. The two were built by Abraham Sasportas in the 1790's as a tenement for investment purposes. Sasportas was agent for French privateers operating out of Charleston, and it was he who built "Ryan's Jail," the large brick tenement now replaced by a parking lot at 19 Queen.

BEING RESTORED

Both 38 and 46 are in process of restoration. The unsightly portico of the former has been replaced by an iron balcony, matching guards on the street windows, and house painted a dusty rose. No. 46 and its three unusual accessory buildings are being carefully restored and converted for modern comfort by their owner.

No. 50 and 52 are both listed as worthy of mention, and 54, a small frame with two attractive chimneys is quite similar to the house at the northwest corner of Church and Queen, and shows its age by the beading on the edge of the weatherboarding.

On the opposite side of the street the Dock Street Theatre runs from the corner to No. 45. There is then a large parking lot between No. 42 and 54.

IN FINE CONDITION

No. 53 is a three-story brick house of good construction and appears in fine condition, with a handsome large drawing room, a full size enclosed basement and several attached buildings to the rear. This is one of three houses which will be torn down should a controversial parking lot be permitted here. The residents of the street feel that this is an invaluable section of town. They think that with No. 53 in as good condition as it is and an attractive example of the architecture of 1800, it would be a shame to allow its destruction for a parking lot, and

News & Courier Monday March 25, 1957