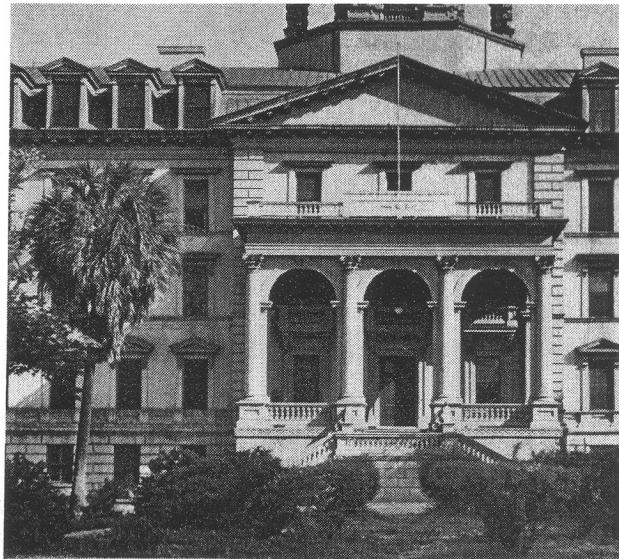


# 150 Wentworth

Yet the voices decrying destruction of valuable buildings have been relatively few, and little support has been given to the premise that efforts by individuals and private organizations are insufficient, and that the preservation of the city's architectural heritage is a proper function of government. Confronted with the suggestion that the municipality should prohibit the razing of venerable buildings, local politicians have skirted the subject, mumbled about legislative obstacles, or rejected the idea off-hand as illegal. Other citizens of influence seem to regard the proposal as nothing less than a horrendous threat to the Constitution, States' Rights and All-that's-dear. Preservationists themselves have pondered the idea with doubt



150 WENTWORTH ST. BUILT c. 1820  
HOME OF GUSTAVE MEMMINGER, SECRETARY OF THE  
TREASURY, CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA  
DEMOLISHED 1958



CHARLESTON ORPHAN HOUSE  
RE-MODELED 1855

DEM

and wistful inaction. The consensus seems to be that legal prohibition of such demolition is not only too much trouble but impractical under our system of jurisprudence.

The truth is, however, that it has been done.

Ordinance No. 11A, a Zoning Plan for the City of St. Augustine, Florida, adopted in 1958, reads in part: "No building, structure or appurtenances thereto shall be torn down, demolished, or moved, except and until a permit for such tearing down, demolition or removal has been approved by the Zoning Commission. Applications for such permits...shall be granted if there is a necessity or reason for such tearing down, demolition or removal.

"Any and all restrictions and regulations set forth in this ordinance as to the construction, restoration, razing, alteration or repair of buildings...shall not apply, however, to this exception, that any building, structure and appurtenances erected prior to the year 1821, may be repaired, erected, re-erected, reconstructed or demolished on the original foundation.