

time were his guests there. Down the street lived Gen. Winfield Scott.

Probably the chief feature of the old Weed house was the octagonal stairwell with the stained-glass skylight at the top. The stairwell in the other house is oval, but it has the same glowing dome skylight. In both dwellings you find rich stucco molding, handsome fireplaces, magnificent woods.

Just outside the old Weed study there stood, in his lifetime, a handsome willow brought from St. Helena near the grave of Napoleon. It was uprooted long ago to make play space in the churchyard for the children of the church school. Incidentally, after the old mansions come down, a new church school will rise on the spot. The Davis mansions are now a firetrap.

The most famous dweller in No. 14 was John Rogers, a nineteenth-century sculptor, a kind of Edgar Guest who worked in stone. His studio was on the second floor. It looks today pretty much as it did when he worked in it from 1888 to 1895, turning out such groups as "Checkers Up at the Farm," "Fetching the Doctor." A pair of his works are in the church office. Each has the Twelfth Street house address worked into it.

Though church folk dislike the idea of having the old mansions torn down, and architects in town frown on the notion, too, they know they must go. The space is sorely needed for the children. So, one by one, the master works of the great architects vanish from the city—Davis did preliminary sketches for the old Tombs, worked on the old Custom House, on many hospitals and colleges. All that will remain of his dreaming on paper, when the Twelfth Street mansions go down in rubble, will be a few villas up in Hudson River Valley.

Here again you have the mass of facts, the enormous accumulation of details, the feeling that Mr. Berger's column is just the top of the iceberg that's visible. He probably had in his notes *all* the inhabitants of No. 12 and No. 14 ever since 1849, and the names of the hospitals and colleges built by Davis, and the number of the house on Twelfth Street where General Winfield Scott lived, and the names of half a dozen more of Rogers' sculptures, and more details about the interiors of both houses. Notice that even within the brief space of his column, he *does* give you the most prominent inhabitants of both houses, the exact dates of their stay there,

