

Monday
Jan. 27, 1975

6 Historic Structures Moved From Garage Site

By ROBERT P. STOCKTON
Staff Reporter

Henry F. Cauthen hopes he has moved his last house at least for a while.

Cauthen, executive director of the Preservation Society of Charleston, has coordinated the moving of six historic structures from the proposed city parking garage site at St. Philip and George streets.

The Preservation Society's task now is to raise \$100,000 to pay for moving the historic neighborhood.

Though both moves were accomplished without major problems, Cauthen said he hopes it will not be necessary to move houses again.

"Moving is a last resort in saving historic structures, and it's not the most desirable way," he said.

"It's best to preserve houses on their original sites so that you maintain the appearance of the city as it was," he said.

When a house is moved, he said, the original foundations and chimneys are lost, as well as the artifacts in the ground which supply information about the house's occupants over the centuries.

The Preservation Society will rebuild the foundations and chimneys of the houses it has moved, then sell the structures to individuals who will restore them.

Cauthen estimated that the society's houses (four of the six structures moved) will sell for from \$19,000 to \$28,000, depending on the cost of moving them and replacing masonry.

The houses moved included 28 St. Philip St., a circa 1902 house which Dr. Anna M. Wagner, the owner, moved to a vacant lot at Rutledge Avenue and Trumbo Street, across from Colonial lake.

She will restore the building for use as her office.

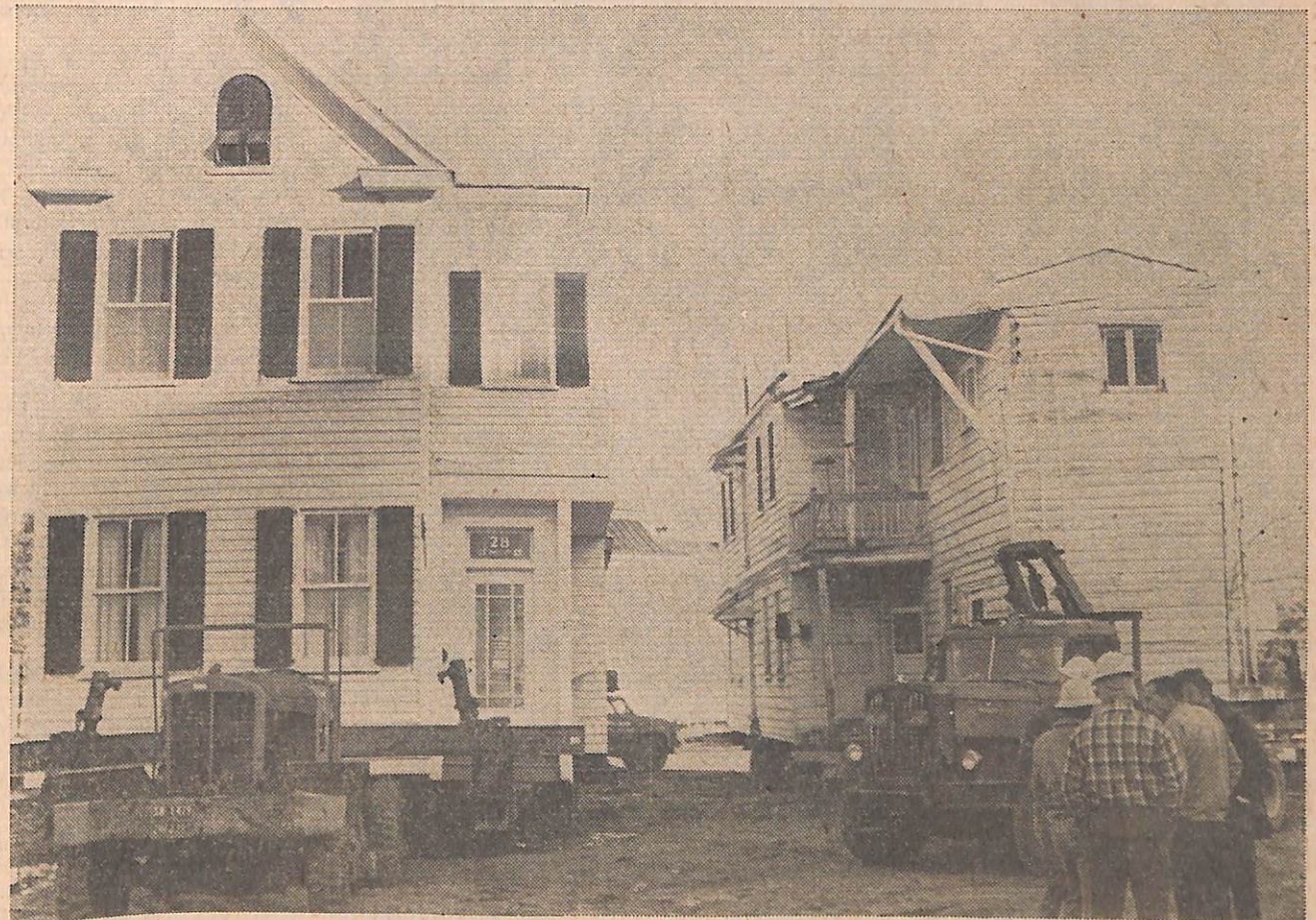
Also moved were 30 and 32 St. Philip St., which the society owns and which will be placed side by side, townhouse style, with a masonry fire wall between them.

Thirty and 32 St. Philip have been relocated to a vacant lot on Beaufain St., adjacent to the 18th Century kitchen building which was moved from 34 St. Philip St.

The kitchen building was bought from the society by Mrs. G. Theodore Wichmann, who is restoring it.

Also moved were the circa 1780 house from 34 St. Philip St. and the circa 1815 house from 53 George St. They have been relocated on lots at Pitt and Beaufain streets.

Thirty St. Philip St. dates from the 1790s. The house 34 St. Philip was formed by combining three small structures which may date from the 1790s.



(Staff Photo by Spain)

Historic Houses On The Move

Uniqueness Of King Street 'Saleable'

By R.L. SCHREADLEY
Staff Reporter

Saul Krawcheck, of Jack Krawcheck stores, thinks that the King Street shopping district could and should be imbued with "the essence of merchandising excitement."

His method of doing this would emphasize Charleston's "uniqueness," which, he says, is "incredibly saleable."

Krawcheck would like to see King Street from Calhoun to Hasell converted to a modified mall. East-west traffic would still be allowed, but north-south traffic would be

forbidden. The street would be bricked over, trees and shrubbery would be planted, and a number of touches would be employed to accentuate Charleston's colonial character.

A town crier, suitably costumed, would mingle with pedestrian shoppers, filling the air with "Hear ye! Hear ye!" Old fashioned street peddlars would hawk their wares. Musical entertainments and street shows would attract shoppers, and a police foot patrol would protect them from would-be muggers.

The area on either side of King Street would be utilized for "paved,

beautified, properly lighted and protected parking areas that are competitive or superior to parking areas provided in any other shopping area in the community." Access streets, "as vital to the shopping district as veins and arteries are to the body," would be provided to move traffic into and out of the downtown business area.

Krawcheck would accomplish his plan in a series of careful steps. A King Street Revitalization Commission composed of a representative group of city fathers, bankers, property owners, merchants, realtors, preservationists and, he said,

"of course the city planner," would be created and given extensive powers and responsibilities. These would include the review and approval of all King Street refurbishments and rebuilding, the selection of desirable and most wanted tenants for empty buildings, the replacement of inappropriate businesses, the securing of low-interest development loans and tax relief.

He said King Street had to attract a variety of shoppers and to do that it had to offer superior and progressive stores, "including one or

more lively department stores and theaters that show first-run and first-rate films."

He said strong leadership from city government was vital if the King Street area's slide was ever going to be halted. "Our tax base throughout the city is shrinking. If something isn't done, someday it may cost so much to live here that no one will be able to afford it."

Krawcheck could not estimate what the costs of his mall concept might be.

"What will it cost if it isn't done?" he asked.



Saul Krawcheck

Three-Story Mansion

12 Bee St. Is To Be Sold By Church

By **ROBERT P. STOCKTON**
Staff Reporter

The three-story Greek Revival mansion at 12 Bee St., which has housed the Episcopal Church Home for Women since 1929, is to be sold by the Church. Money from sale of the property is needed to help pay for the old City Police Department property at St. Philip and Vanderhorst streets, where a

new church home is to be built. The brick double house at 12 Bee St., built in 1858 by a prosperous Charleston rice miller, has served as a maternity hospital as well as a ladies' home. The builder was William Robb, partner in the East Point Mills which stood at the foot of Laurens Street on Cooper River. Robb, who is listed as living at the location in the 1859 Charleston city directory,

bought the property on which the house stands on March 30, 1858 for \$5,200. The site was then part of 11 building lots, fronting on Rutledge, Bee and Ashley, which Thomas D. Condry offered for sale. An advertisement of the sale, in the Charleston Courier of March 30, 1858, states, "The above land has been remarkable for its healthiness for the last

sixty years, and has been entirely free from all epidemics." In fact, the land was one of the few natural high points, an island, in the low, marshy tract of land which Daniel Cannon acquired in the 1760s. It was the site of two large lumber mills owned by Cannon, who also built the house at 185 Rutledge, corner of Bee, in 1798 for his kinswoman, Miss Sarah Peronneau Webb.

Cannon conveyed the property, then bound by Pinckney Street (now Rutledge Avenue), Thomas Street (now Ashley Avenue), Elliott Street (now Cannon Street) and what was to become Bee Street, to Miss Webb's trustee, Thomas Doughty, on May 2, 1798.

Doughty acquired the property in his own right from Cannon on April 3, 1789. He willed the property to his wife, Mary Legare Doughty, in 1815.

She in turn willed the property to her daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Hall Condry, in 1818. Mrs. Condry, wife of the prosperous merchant, Jeremiah Condry, conveyed it to her son, Thomas D. Condry, the same year.

Thomas D. Condry divided the property into lots and sold them at auction in 1858.

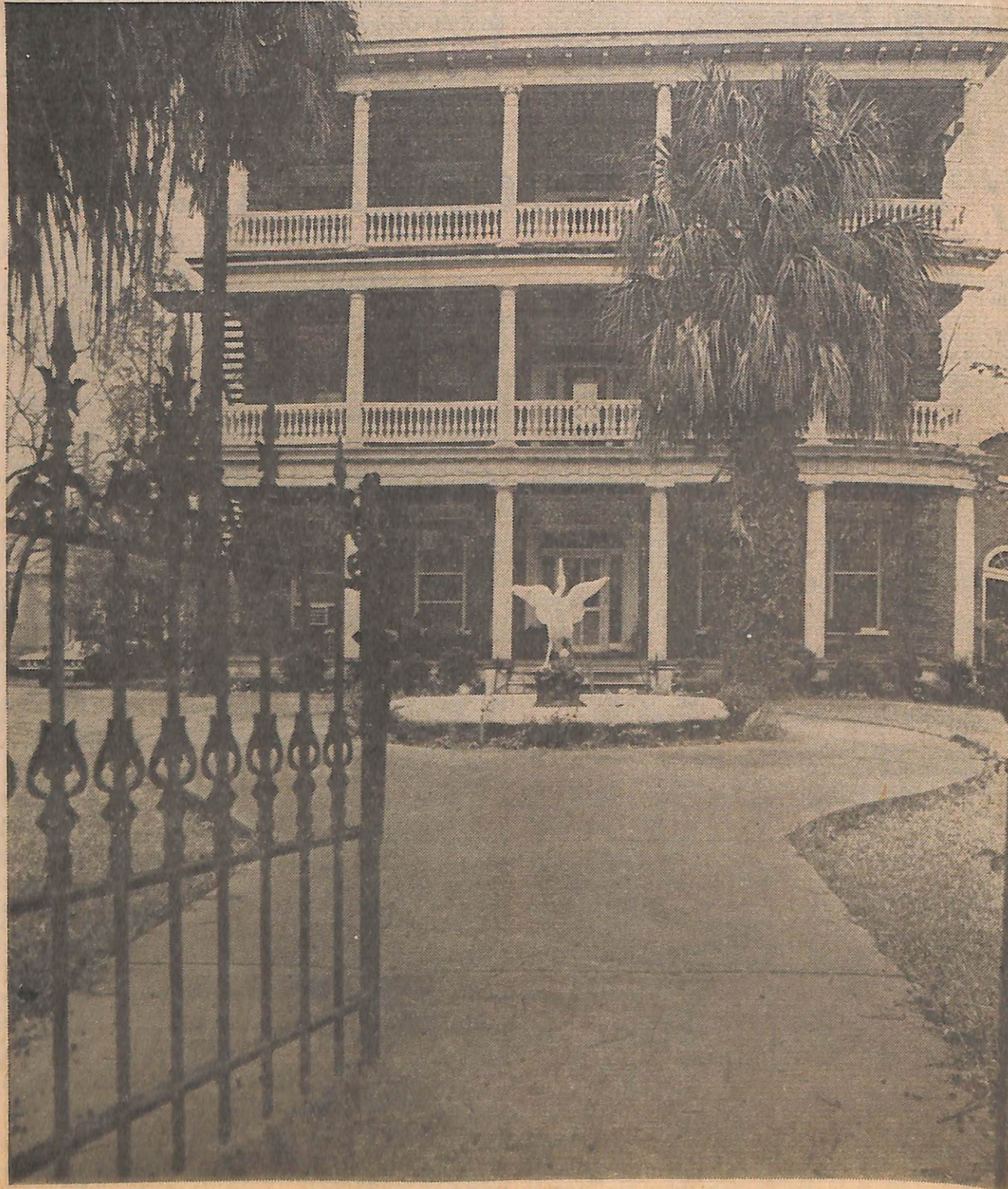
William Robb bought two lots and part of a third at the corner of Bee and Ashley streets and built his fine home. His partner and kinsman, James Robb, bought two lots and part of a third, to the east of William Robb's lots.

William Robb conveyed his property, on June 9, 1874, to Samuel Lord Jr., in trust for Mary Augusta Gilchrist, wife of Robert C. Gilchrist, attorney, for \$8,500.

James Robb, on Dec. 18, 1875, sold his property to Wilmot G. DeSaussure, the former Confederate general, in trust for Mary Riker.

A Correction

In yesterday's Ashley Cooper column, it was stated that Gov. West made an important last-minute appointment with Gov. Edwards' approval. This was a typographical error. Gov. West made the appointment without Gov. Edwards' approval.



12 Bee St.

On Feb. 9, 1878, Mrs. Gilchrist bought from Gen. DeSaussure the narrow strip of land, to the east of the house, on which the church home's chapel now stands.

The News and Courier

Do You Know Your Charleston?

Mrs. Gilchrist's heirs sold the property on Aug. 21, 1912, for \$9,500 to George S. Legare. It was acquired in the division of his estate, in 1918, by Frances Izlar Logan, for \$12,000.

She, on April 30, 1920, sold the house to Mercy Maternity Hospital, for "\$10 and other considerations."

Mercy Maternity Hospital, the first of its kind in Charleston, represented a very modern

medical concept at the time and was considered "the place" for any expectant mother (who could afford it) to have her baby.

The hospital board sold the property, on Aug. 17, 1926, to William King McDowell, for \$30,000. McDowell, who was at the time president of the hospital board, was also president of the Coca Cola Bottling Co. in Charleston and several other local businesses.

McDowell, on Dec. 5, 1927, "actuated by motive of charity," according to the deed, gave the property to the Church Home and Orphanage.

That corporation then operated the Episcopal Church Home for Children in York and the Episcopal Church Home for Women at the southwest corner of Ashley Avenue and Spring Street in Charleston.

Morning Coffee

By Dave Doubrava

Rain is nature's cruellest trick.

Sitting here gazing out the window at all that wet stuff coming down, the miserable grey sky, the cold damp, makes me feel like heading for the palace and a long nap. In fact, right now Charleston looks a lot like Ohio, which is known for its nasty, rainy winters. The only real consolation is my people up there have four months of this stuff to look forward to while down here it will probably be relatively pleasant and mild shortly.

Granted, rain is great if you're a tree, bush or front lawn. But for the life of me I can't think of one immediately useful purpose it serves for humans. It's just a very large pain.

Sunshine, on the other hand, is terrific. You can lie in it and get a tan. It keeps you warm. There are hundreds of outdoor things you can do in it. And it's great for the spirits, while rain is generally depressing.

Snow, which is really just frozen sunshine, is great too when it comes down in huge bunches and doesn't immediately melt into slush. Trudging through a foot of clean snow and hearing it crunch under your feet is a truly exhilarating experience. Strapping on a pair of skis and throwing yourself down a mountain ranks very high on my list of earthly delights. Ice skating, tobogganing and hitting a friend with a snowball also rate high.

But what can you do in, under or on top of rain? Not much unless your idea of sport is getting a good dose of flu. Sliding down a muddy mountain is messy, skating on a puddle is tiresome and bad for the blades and making a well-packed rainball is nearly impossible. About all you can do in rain is be depressed and wish you were somewhere else.

I find, also, that things don't go well for me when it rains. In fact, I've developed a series of little barometers which tell me more accurately than any three weathermen combined when it's going to rain. It's a sure sign that rain is on the way when my VW wiper blades wear out and start smearing the windshield. I also get an uncontrollable urge to buy a cheap umbrella.

For a more specific day-by-day forecast I have other indications. If I get up in the morning and find a hole has suddenly appeared in the sole of my left shoe there's about a 50 per cent chance of rain that day. If I have to spend any amount of time outside that day, it jumps to about 65 per cent. And if I can't find my cheap umbrella, Jack, you better know it's going to rain all day!

Today, I lost my umbrella, had to spend time outdoors and have a hole in my left sole. Today it's raining and I'm depressed. See, it works.