

## HAVING A HAND IN THE PHARMACY REHAB

(Donors, vendors and workers. Certainly there are names we have let off, please let us know who we have forgotten.)  
Davenport House Endowment Directors – funds  
Anonymous donor – purchaser of the property  
Dale Critz  
Jim Abraham, project manager  
Davenport House Committee – recommending and support  
Davenport House Staff  
84 SCAD Students/in Jim’s classes  
David Bloomquist – donor of floors and pantry; put in the balcony  
Thom Hoffman – volunteer engineer  
1772 Foundation – grant  
Mark McDonald – HSF Ex. Director  
Melissa Jest  
HSF Accounting  
Downtown Neighborhood Association (donation for balcony)  
Alexandro Santana (balcony drawing early on)  
Coward Coleman Group – permit drawings  
2007 Pharmacy Task Force (Jim Emery, Denis Blackburn, Paul Pressly, Jim Abraham, Mark McDonald, Dale Critz, Susie Clinard)  
Joe Hubbard Plumbing, Co.  
WPC Engineering Environmental & Construction Services  
Smith Air Conditioning  
Security Services of Savannah  
SCAD’s technology folks  
Rhodes Tile and Marble, Inc.  
City of Savannah  
Coastal Insurance Partners  
Jack Ricks Glass Company  
Energy Electric  
Smith & VandenBulck Engineering  
Cumberland Woodcraft Co. (brackets)  
The Hardware Man (light fixture)  
Armstrong Painting (exterior painting)  
Oscar Rodriguez (drywall)  
Savannah Hardscapes (brick repointing and patio masonry)  
Jonathan Hall (carpenter)  
Thomas Zehie (plasterer)  
Katie McCutcheon (labor)  
Livingood Inc.  
Selpro LLC (cabinetry for apartment)  
Victoria Gray (labor)  
Irving Bond (carpentry)  
Kenneth Lockridge, Jr. (labor)  
Soap on a Rope  
Estate Millworks, Inc. (shutters)  
Chatham Surveying Services, Inc.  
Stage Front Presentation Systems  
Wormsloe (pickets)  
Daniel Carey—HSF President and CEO  
Pharmacy Focus Group (Charlie Brazil, Cullen Chambers, Carey Ferrara, Cynthia Jenkins, Karen Kelly, Linda Orr King, Bridget Lidy)

## FROM A CONVERSATION

### WITH JIM ABRAHAM:

### *How Kennedy Pharmacy Project Came to Be*

In late 2007 Dale Critz of Critz GMC, a benefactor of many projects and Davenport House Committee president at the time, asked Jim lead the project. Abraham and Critz had worked together – as patron and project manager -- on the Flannery O’Connor House and the Lucas Theatre (which was Abraham’s first project in Savannah).

Jim is a Historic Preservation professor at SCAD. He thought it would be a terrific opportunity for his students to be involved with a project from start to finish. The building’s owner, the Davenport House Endowment Directors recommended that the upstairs to be totally renovated and rented with funds from that to be used for operations of the entire facility. The original budget for the rehabilitation was \$235,000. As the project evolved additional funds were allocated for the construction behind the building.

Abraham used two planning classes for his student to flesh out what would come to pass. For the 1<sup>st</sup> floor what was needed was a meeting space which met code including ADA standing (rest room and water fountain) and galley-prep space in what was then the rest room. During the winter quarter of 2008 three classes did hands-on work for the project. Drawings & blueprints – were developed and the preliminary work begun. By the winter of 2009, 85 students in Jim’s classes, and not including all the other classes at SCAD who provided input, lent a hand to the project doing work on the building.

Several historic exterior photos are extant, but there were no photographs of the inside of the building. So he used photos of other similar buildings as well as preservation science to make decisions for the interior spaces.

**Interior vision:** Originally Abraham’s classes thought the interior should be contemporary but soon decided the design should reflect the woodwork of the past with the Griffon Tea Room being one of the inspirations for the space. Sidewalls represent a typical pharmacy. Abraham designed the display cases with finial decoration. The hard woodwork is highly varnished.

**Exhibit area in the display cases:** There was a question about what should be along the side walls in the display cases. Abraham determined that installing a display area, in the manner of other SCAD exhibit spaces, would allow flexibly. Behind the display wall is the SCAD system of plywood over 1 ½” steel studs over steel-screw –with plywood pin board for mounting exhibit using pins, nails and screws and covered with burlap which can be changed or replaced.

**Interior in corner where plaster is missing** (E wall up high): The walls were original composed of wood lathe with several coats of plaster applied. The original wood lathe remains behind the walls. A piece of plaster fell off the East wall at one point during the rehabilitation leaving the lathe exposed. Students felt leaving the area exposed would be a nice exhibit on the construction of the building.

**Floors:** The marble, which had been underneath tile secured with glue and carpenters nail, was restored. The floors are not original but are 150 year old heart pine boards which were salvaged from another project by David Bloomquist and donated to the Kennedy Pharmacy.

**Paint colors:** Paint research went into determining what would be put on the walls. Abraham wanted to match what was on the plaster first. The paint color on the ceiling is also original. The colors chosen for the exterior are also typical of the period of construction.

**Boxes under the display windows at the front (North end) of the building:** Originally the windows were used to display products and during rehabilitation the ghost marks of the display boxes were revealed. A student designed the new cases then constructed, stained and varnished them

**As a pharmacy:** When the building was a pharmacy, clerks stood behind the counters on either side of the building to assist customers. There was a soda fountain as a patron remembers, *"We came in here to get an ice cream soda."* Abraham was also that the pharmacy sold *"the best orange milk shakes in the city."* One of the exterior display signs reads *"Ice Cream."* The pharmacist's counter was located at the rear center of the building. It was separated from the public space. The original floor is in that area and is worn from use which is evidence of the pharmacist having

worked there. The double doors on the West side of the building were for deliveries. Original goods were brought to the building by carriage. There would have been a large storage room behind the pharmaceutical area.

**Lighting:** When the building was constructed in 1890 electricity was not reliable in Savannah. Between 1890 and 1910, people had both gas and electricity in their homes and businesses. The use of gas lighting, which used piped in natural gas for illumination, was common through the early 1910s. There are studs in the pharmacy walls from gas pipes. Historic lighting inspired the choices for the three types on interior lights now in the pharmacy. Originally Jim looked at catalogs for the right type but could not find commercial examples that were appropriate. He knew a fellow who reproduced old fixtures in Mt. Dora, FL and acquired what is in the pharmacy from him. There are two pendant fixtures in the front windows, three chandeliers down the center and wall sconces on either side of the interior. For the sconces in the past the gas "jet" would be on the top and electricity on the bottom. What we have in the Kennedy Pharmacy indicates the march of technology in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. As the 20<sup>th</sup> century progressed gas began to go out of fashion, gas pipes were disconnected around 1915, and by the 1920s gas was gone as an option for household and commercial illumination. In addition to the period lighting, Abraham also obtained 30 track lights which can be used to spotlight what is on the display boards. This was used to success when SCAD's Metals and Jewelry Department used the building for its trunk show in March.

**Technology:** While the building looks period accurate it has the capacity for 21<sup>st</sup> century media to be used. Conduit was run which can handle cables for new means of communication and there are ample electrical outlets throughout the space.

The butler's pantry, donated by David Bloomquist, is envisioned as being a media center with computer and DVD capabilities. The south wall of the space has a retractable movie screen.

**Utilities:** In general all of the utilities are new (electric, plumbing, HVAC – The 1<sup>st</sup> floor and the apartment have separate utilities). On the first floor areas for plumbing and the HVAC ducted work were boxed around the ceiling.

**107 Habersham/Apartment:** The second floor apartment was totally restored with all new wiring, HVAC and plumbing. A small bathroom was outfitted above the stairs and a larger one with a shower/tub was installed. The space has 3 closed-in fireplaces and mantles which were restored.

**Commercial sign/East Side Exterior:** When work began the entire building was painted white. There was no evidence of a commercial sign though students thought it might be "neat" if there was a Coke sign under the paint. To remove the white paint a chemical and power washer (hot water) were used. One day as Jim was inspecting the project he saw the letter "A" begin to unveil itself in the paint removal process. He immediately stopped the workmen. He did not want to strip away any of the historical evidence of the commercial sign. To uncover the sign, which must have been painted with lead-based paint, the paint stripper was deluted and the power on the washer was turned down. What eventually was revealed are the words *"Antimigrane Cures Headaches"* of the original 1890 business of the Antimigrane Pharmacy. The round disks shown simulate pills. Also revealed was *"Red Cross Pharmacy"* which was what the name of the pharmacy was at some point during its history. And, if you look closely to the south end of the sign you might see a lady looking toward you in profile.

Debate ensued about what to do with the sign. The choices were:

1. Document the sign, measure it and make it go away
2. Restore it so everyone could clearly read it
3. Touch up it up and brighten it
4. Leave it as it the way it was found

The choice was to leave it as it was found. It has been photodocumented thoroughly.

**Repointing:** The bricks were repointed and rose colored mortar was restored.

**Display Windows:** The two front windows - “*Prescriptions*” and “*Drugs*” - are original. The center window over the front door had said “*LaRoche*” for the name of the pharmacy at one time. The glass was broken in 2006. No determination has been made about what if anything to put in that space. The side windows read “*Ice Cream*” and “*Magazines.*” Due an auto-accident in 2007 when the corner post of the building was taken out, the glass display windows were compromised. The originals were taken down copies were made. Jim did most of the restoration work of silver leaf paint on glass with a red and orange stripe.

**Balcony:** Enthusiastic about the possibility of rehabilitating the building early in the decade the Downtown

Neighborhood Association donated \$5000 toward the restoration of the pharmacy balcony. There are historic photos of the building showing the balcony. A replica of the original was purchased. In determining whether a balcony could be replaced the Historic District Review Board recommended that the new balcony be taller than the original and that it be secured though reinforced beam-work into the interior of the building and bolting on the exterior. Bloomquist Construction did this work which totaled \$22,000.

**Patio, Storage Unit, Fence:** Behind the building the new construction of a patio and storage unit is not historic but has an historical precedent. Through historic photographs and Sanborne maps outbuilding- a privy and a shed - were evident early on. The plans for the construction were reviewed and recommended by the Historic District Review Board. The area complements the DH and the garden wall and indicates their functioning as a unit with the courtyard linking the buildings. The storage space was badly needed as there is very little in the pharmacy itself. In working with the city, the rise for the rear entrance meets ADA standard for appropriate rise of a door. To finish the fence, Wormloe gave the DH a gift of 180 pickets which will be welded to create the finished fence and wall. As a community spirited gesture, Savannah Hardscapes donated lilac stones for the patio at the same price that brick was quoted. Soon the fence and gating will be completed and the construction/ rehabilitation of the Kennedy Pharmacy will come to an end.

### 323 East Broughton Street

(Prior to and including 1896, the commercial portion of the store was designated 49 Broughton Street; after re-numbering in 1896, the store was designated 323 East Broughton Street)

- 1891: The AntiMigraine Co., Wm. M. Cleveland, manager and druggist  
1892: R.V. Nottingham & Co. (listed under drugs and medicines”)  
1893: R. V. Nottingham & Co.  
1894: (directory missing)  
1895: Vacant  
1896: Vacant  
1897-1900: E. Hopp Laundry  
1901-1902: Robert & Tong Laundry (one of the owners is listed as T. Kee, also listed in 1902 as residing at 324 East State Street)  
1903: Powers & Co.  
1904-05: Red Cross Pharmacy  
1916-1948: Norwood Pharmacy  
1949: (directory missing)  
1950-1960: LaRoche Pharmacy  
1962-64: Vacant  
1965-1999: Jackson Bowie Tax Office

### Chain of Occupancy

### 107 Habersham Street

(#107 is the residential apartment on the second floor of 323 East Broughton St.)

- 1897: Mrs. A.A. Bell  
1898: J.F. Waters  
1899-1922: John A. Reidemann  
Emil Weimann  
1923-1930: John A. Reidemann  
1931: no directory printed  
1932: Amil Winmann  
Mrs. Louise Reidmann  
1934: Aneil Wiman  
1935: no directory printed  
1936: Amil Wiman  
1937: Larry G. Stack  
1938: Larry G. Stack  
1939: Wm. H. Keating  
1940: T. F. Haviland  
1941: Theodore F. Haviland  
1943 -  
1946, 1947 - directories missing  
1958: Vincent San Juan  
1960 -  
1966: Vacant