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## S. C. - Homes, Historic - York County



Herald - April 11, 1950  
"THE BRICKS" - Historic York home sold to Charlotte investment banker.

### McCaw House Is Purchased By Charlottean, Native Of York

YORK — The McCaw brick house located near the Courthouse on South Congress Street, for which sealed bids were received on April 5, has been sold for \$12,900 to Richard A. Bigger of Charlotte, according to Attorney W. Gist Finley, who represents the McCaw heirs.

This handsome old brick house, reputedly designated by the famous South Carolina architect Robert Mills, who drew plans for the U. S. Treasury and many colonial buildings, is one of the oldest landmarks in York County.

Bigger, a prominent investment broker of Charlotte, is understood to have purchased the property for sentimental as well as investment purposes. It is believed he intends to restore and renovate the house, preserving its historical value and fitting it for professional offices in addition to developing its extensive garden.

It is believed that when Bigger's plans are completed the restoration will make "The Bricks" one of the show places of this section.

The home was built by John McCaw, first clerk of court for York County, reported Finley, on a lot purchased from Col. William Hill, proprietor of Hill's Iron Works on Allison Creek.

One of the witnesses to the deed was Col. James Hawthorne who commanded the York and Chester troops at the battle of Kings Mountain.

This property continued in the hands of the McCaw family who have continuously lived there until the death of Mrs. Belle McCaw Alston last year.

Bigger is also a member of an old York County family, his relatives living in the Allison Creek community within sight of Hill's Iron works and one of the old McCaw places.

### 163 Year Old McCaw Home, York, Bought By Richard H. Bigger

York, S. C., April 11.—Following the passing of 163 years the McCaw House on York's Main street, joining York courthouse, owned by members of that family since John McCaw bought it in 1787, this week became the property of Richard Bigger, native of the Allison Creek section of York county and president of the big bond firm of R. S. Dickson & company, of Charlotte.

According to William Gist Finley, McCaw attorney, the property sold for \$12,900. Report is that Bigger will convert the old brick house into an office building. There is need for such an office building in the county seat of York.

John McCaw, first owner of the property after Yorkville, now York, and originally called

Fergus' Cross Roads was laid out, was the first clerk of court of York district, now county. The last McCaw to occupy the dwelling was Mrs. Belle McCaw Alston, widow of the late Col. Joseph Alston. She died more than a year ago at the age of 85. A surviving niece lives in New Orleans; and among the other heirs are members of the Perrin family in Abbeyville.

The property deeded to John McCaw by Col. William Hill, surveyor and first citizen of York in his day in 1787, was part of 200 acres laid off in lots by Hill who among other interests was proprietor of Hill's Iron works in the Allison Creek section. Hill made cannon for the American forces in the Revolutionary war and among other things was himself a soldier and politician of great renown.

When the British over-ran South Carolina and York county in the late years of the Revolution and some of the leaders got cold feet and urged the Americans or Whigs to take the oath of loyalty to the British crown and hereby save their hides and property old Col. "Billy Hell," as some of the Scotch Presbyterian ministers called him did not do so.

So the British, according to the early historian Dr. Maurice Moore, burned his iron works and took most of his other stuff,

and there is recorded a prayer by one old Presbyterian reverend who sort of chided God for letting the enemy burn "Billy Hell's" cannon factory.

Thus the McCaw family and their ownership of the solid old brick house passes out of the York scene.

The York legislative delegation discussed the matter of buying the house for some time and according to Finley it was offered to the county for \$13,000, the original idea of the delegation being to use it for much needed additional courthouse quarters.

Bigger may sell it to the county for courthouse purposes yet; but that remains to be seen.

THE ROCK HILL POST

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