

Today in Columbus History: On June 15, 1873, an article appeared in the *Daily Columbus Enquirer* reporting that a house had been struck by lightning and caught fire the previous day. At the time, the grand house, located at 1217-1219 Broad was the residence of Joseph Hansard, an Irish cotton merchant. The house was built by Judge Eli Shorter in 1834-35, who died in 1836. The Hansards eventually wound up with it. (BTW: Mrs. Hansard was the former Mary Bethune, daughter of James Bethune, the former owner/manager of Blind Tom Wiggins). The building was home to the Muscogee Club from 1900 till the 1940s. Sadly, it was demolished in the early 1960s, and today it is a parking lot (just south of the old Raymond Rowe store at 1125 Broadway). Attached is the final paragraph about the house itself.

Compiled by Callie McGinnis, Muscogee Genealogical Society

*Our snippets of Columbus history are usually based on a few days-worth of searching through the most popular sources for Muscogee County history. Meant to inspire readers to explore more about Columbus history, they are not exhaustive dissertations on the topic and may contain mistakes. If you have corrections or additional information, feel free to share them with the group.*

Clipping from Georgia Historic Newspapers (GALILEO).

<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu>

#### HISTORY OF THE BUILDING.

**This handsome residence, perhaps the finest in the city, was built in 1834-35 for Judge Eli S. Shorter, in whose family its possession remained until some three or four years since, when it was purchased from Dr. Urquhart by the present occupant, who has since vastly improved both the residence and its grounds. The brick work was done by \*Clapp & Chandler, and the wood work by Mr. R. Goetchius. At the time of the fire this house was nearly forty years old, yet in its internal arrangement and outside appearance it would rank with the best residences of our largest cities.**



1219 Broadway. Postcard from the Columbus Museum.