

DRB 05/02/2022 – Public Meeting Portal (Public Comment)

Request to	First Name	Last Name	Address	Phone Number	Zoom Profile Name	Submitted Comment	Item Type	Item Description	Applicant or Public	Support or Opposed	Date/Time Submitted
comment	Carlton	Swift	1631 Pinckney Park Dr. Charleston, SC 29407	null	null	I am writing to discuss the demolition of Doscher’s grocery store at 1133 Savannah Highway and the subsequent construction of new retail buildings. While Doscher’s opened at this location in 1974, the building was originally constructed in 1963 as The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, more commonly known as A&P. At the time, A&P was an iconic name in the grocery business. A&P was founded in 1859. Their earliest presence in Charleston was a location at the corner of King and George streets which opened in 1892. The company had many locations throughout the Charleston area until 1975. Their final location was at 74 Folly Rd, which is the current home of Earth Fare. (Notably, the external architecture of that store, while not unique to the A&P chain, has stayed mostly intact.) In 1959, The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company celebrated their 100th anniversary by developing a new store design. These stores are commonly referred to as “Centennials,” although A&P’s advertising at the time referred to them as their “Early American Design.” This design was modeled after architectural elements from Colonial Williamsburg. The facades of these	1&2	1133 Savannah Hwy.	null	null	Apr 26 2022 8:20PM

					<p>stores were primarily red brick with a white trim. They featured:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A centered pediment used for signage.• A white cupola with a wind vane centered on the roof directly above the pediment.• A small white horizontal “fence” structure extending on either side of the cupola. <p>Hundreds of these prototypes were built as far west as Oregon, and as far north as Canada. However, this was the only Centennial design store that was ever built in the Charleston area. A&P closed this location in January 1974. Doscher’s opened one month later. Doscher’s kept the design intact until they expanded the store in the early 2000s. The brick was replaced with gray stucco, and the cupola was removed, but they did keep the pediment. West Ashley has lost some iconic landmarks over the years: The International House of Pancakes with their large A-Frame and the first McDonald’s in West Ashley are two examples. We are poised to lose the former Krispy Kreme building on Savannah Highway soon. But we have preserved some of these buildings, such as the former Hardee’s (now East Bay Deli) on Savannah Highway. While I concede that it’s not possible to preserve every single building, I do feel it’s important to acknowledge the history of our community. Ideally, I’d like to see the building preserved and restored. However, I concede that may not be a viable solution. If demolition is approved, I would ask the future development on that site</p>					
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					<p>incorporate some of the architectural elements from the A&P Centennial prototype. Thank you for your time. --Carlton Swift I've sent an email to David Meeks, Eric Pohlman, and Donna Jacobs with the same text. However, I have included some photographs of an A&P Centennial prototype, as well as a screenshot of the article announcing the Grand Opening of the A&P on Savannah Highway from the January 31, 1963 edition of the News & Courier.</p>					
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