

The William Hinckley House

1998

10 Atlantic Street

c. 1769

Residence of Dr. and Mrs. Peter Vandorsten

This house was built by William Hinckley as a birthday gift for his daughter, Ann. She married William McGillivray in 1776, and for a century and a half the house was the residence of the McGillivray family.

During the occupation of Charleston by the British in the Revolutionary War, British officers were billeted in the house, according to family tradition. The family was forced to move into the attic.

During the Civil War a cannon ball passed through the house during the shelling of Charleston. The men of the McGillivray family were in the service of the Confederacy while the women and children took refuge in Laurensville.

After the 1914 death of Mary Elizabeth McGillivray, the property came into the ownership of the John C. Simonds family who enlarged it and made some improvements. In 1938 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Waring bought the house (He was one of the most prestigious editors of the News and Courier and the Charleston Evening Post newspapers) The current owners are the fourth family in 238 years.

FRONT HALL

This began as a simple Charleston single house, two rooms on each floor with a stair hall separating them and a kitchen house in the rear yard. Reminders of its 18th century age can be noted in the simple newel post and turned balusters of the stairway. The low ceilings in the rooms are another indication of its age.

LIVING ROOM

The 18th century fireplace was opened to its original size by the current owners who reused the brick found there. The original size of this room can be determined because symmetry was such an important characteristic of the Georgian period. The mantel was generally centered on the wall. The full paneling of the other walls was a later addition.

Most of the needlework pieces were done by the talented owner
Drop front desk, North Carolina, cherry and walnut. This was a family piece
handed down to the first grandchild of the current generation.

Trays, painted, owner's collection

Watercolor, by Rhett Thurman Lowcountry artist with a growing reputation,
over mantel

Another of her early watercolors, showing a Mt. Pleasant street scene, location of
the owner's former home

DINING ROOM

This spacious, sunny room was also enlarged over the years. Again, note location of fireplace to suggest original room size. The cupboards on either side are used for display of the owner's fine collection of blue and white Cantonware. The one on the right belies its hidden storage area.

Pair of etched glass beakers, christening cups, Dutch, family pieces

Shards, surfaced when the rear garden was developed, on the shelves

Framed mason's apron, belonged to owner's great, great grandfather

Blanket chest - bureau, with false drawers, southern origin

Wooden settee, American, and holds additional pieces of the owner's collection
of needlework

Steinway piano, from owner's childhood home

Tall case clock, English

KITCHEN-FAMILY ROOM

This area has been totally rebuilt since 1992 when the owners acquired the property. What they found was a small kitchen separated from the attached building by a solid wall. The rear room had a dirt floor, sagging second story floor boards and a collapsed fire chimney.

This is a fine example of how an 18th century house can be "recycled" for the 21st century, requiring, however, great patience, skill and talent on the part of the owners.

Marble top island table, belonged to the owner's grandmother. Unfortunately the base was stolen (fortunately, the marble top was too heavy) and the

present heart pine base was constructed by the owner who enjoys
woodworking.

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WATCH the stairs

FAMILY ROOM

A comfortable, cozy gathering room for the family.

Schoolmaster's desk and chair

Plantation desk

Pewter collection, on the plantation desk

EXIT by way of family room to garden.

GARDEN

The columned portico and additions to the patio area using the same brick and slate pattern are recent constructions. The enclosing arched brick walls and garden beds were designed and developed by the owner. Unfortunately, many trees on the property were lost during the most recent hurricane.

The fountain, added by the previous owner, has been salvaged and saved including the jasmine arch and water papyrus. The brick wall, however, with luxurious growth of ivy, is new.

Return to street via side walkway.