



# PRESERVATION SOCIETY of CHARLESTON

—FOUNDED 1920—

**41 Chapel Street**

**Revised 2012 BVL**

**William Henry Houston Tenement**

**c. 1846**

**Residence of Caroline deVlaming Farrior and Billy Farrior**

**Guides: 1 SHG, 4 HGs (2 upstairs and 2 downstairs)**

## House History

The two nearly identical houses at 41 and 43 Chapel Street were constructed c. 1846 by prosperous contractor William Henry Houston. The two-story frame house at 41 Chapel Street reflects the Greek Revival style popular in Charleston in the 1840s. A wide frieze separates the two-bay body of the front façade from its closed gable roof with a central tripartite window. A one-story piazza marks the west façade of the structure, cut short of its original curve to the rear of the house by a twentieth century enclosure. On the interior, all doors, mantels, decorative trim and exposed beams are original.

William Henry Houston, original owner and builder of 41 Chapel Street, was a major investor in the Mazyck Wraggborough neighborhood in the mid-nineteenth century and bought this property, as well as 43 Chapel Street, on Nov. 17, 1845. In addition to this house and its neighbor to the west, Houston owned seven houses on Charlotte Street and four houses on John Street, most of his holdings, including his Chapel Street properties, serving as rental investments. The house he constructed at 41 Chapel Street was a rectangular frame house with a one-story L-shaped piazza wrapped along the west and rear elevations. In 1861, the house was rented to Solomon Solomons, a business man involved with the South Carolina Railroad and just one of over a dozen renters on this side of Chapel Street.<sup>1</sup> It was during this time that an extension was added to 41 Chapel Street that protruded from the rear of the house and enclosed half of the original piazza.<sup>2</sup> The property was sold from Houston's estate to W.L. Millar in 1890 and remained in this family until 1924. Following a succession of owners who used the property as a rental, it was owned by a single family from 1956 to 2005, who most likely enclosed the rest of the remaining piazza on the rear elevation to what exists today. Despite their ownership, the property had been unoccupied for years, and when previous owners purchased the property in 2006, the house was defined by broken windows, a sagging porch and a

---

<sup>1</sup> "City of Charleston, South Carolina: Chapel Street," United States Census, 1861, Ancestry.com.

<sup>2</sup> Bridgens and Allen Map, 1852. Published by Hayden Brother and Co. 1852. South Carolina Room, Charleston County Public Library; "Charleston, South Carolina." 1888. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. New York: Sanborn Fire Company.

dilapidated interior. The structure required extensive renovations. Completed by SGA Architects, work included renovations to the piazza and the main entrance of the house, which had been previously moved to the west façade atop a set of cement steps. It was restored to its original location on the north/front façade of the house, and the cement steps were removed. In addition, all of the original hardwood floors were restored on the interior of the house.

### **Room Descriptions (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)**

#### **Dining Room**

- Original mantel and floors

#### **Living Room / Kitchen**

- An open floor plan was created in the 2006 renovations
- Exposed beams are original

#### **Master Bedroom**

- Original floors and mantel

**Homeowner will walk through the house with the guides at 1 pm the day of the tour.**