

THE BULL-HUGER HOUSE (generally known as THE DANIEL ELLIOTT HUGER HOUSE)

Constructed c.1760; some alterations c. 1795-1800, c. 1850, c.1900

34 Meeting Street

The lots on which this substantial double-pile house was constructed were subdivided in 1759 from the Eveleigh House property at 39 Meeting Street. The purchaser was Captain John Bull (1693-1767) of Bull's (now Coosaw) Island. Lord William Campbell, son of the Duke of Argyll and last royal governor of South Carolina. The building is one of the few surviving royal governor's houses to survive from the colonial period.

The house is often compared to the Miles Brewton House. An important record is the room-by-inventory taken in April 1777 by Campbell's wife's family and filed later with the British government as a claim. On the first floor is "The Passage, Parlour The Breakfast, Parlour The Dining, Library, and Steward's Room." The Second Floor includes, on the front of the house, the "Dining Room" and "Drawing Room" and, behind these, bedchambers. The third floor included bedchambers for secretary, housekeeper, servants, and the nursery and the loft above all. Outbuildings included the Kitchen with its loft and Coach House and Stables. The latter building does not survive but the rest of the property and the rooms in the main house are essentially intact in form.

The property was sold to Colonel Lewis Morris, IV of New Jersey and Morrisiana, New York in 1795. It was probably during the Morris period that the mantel in the drawing room was removed and the neoclassical example installed under the Georgian overmantel. In the mid-nineteenth century, the doorway between the drawing and dining rooms on the second floor was substantially widened to create a "double-parlor" arrangement. Somewhat damaged in the shelling of the city in 1864 and sacked by Union troops in 1865, the dwelling had a decrepit appearance until the turn of the century when it was repaired and side piazzas added after the acquisition and demolition of the house immediately to the south.

Sources:

Kinloch Bull, Jr., The Oligarchs in Colonial and Revolutionary Charleston (Columbia, 1991).

"Inventory of Lord William Campbell," April 1777, PRO T.1/541.