

THE THOMAS ROSE HOUSE  
c. 1735  
59 Church Street  
No. 10

The front door of this house was originally at the north end of the east facade giving access to an entrance hall with the stair hall behind, as in the Eveleigh House. In recent times this street entrance has been converted into a window and a new entrance devised from the piazza on the south into a spacious reception room. The drawing room on the second floor extends the width of the house and like the other principal rooms is completely paneled. The paneling in the stairway is of walnut but for many years has been painted over. The interior woodwork in this house is of a simple robust sort with no ornamental wood carving of leaf forms. However, some house holder, early in the nineteenth century, longing for a bit of fashionable Adam exhuberance, placed a small mantel of that period in the drawing room where it holds its place without embarrassment.

In 1929 the jig-saw decorated piazzas were replaced, not in conformity with the period of the house, which had been built without such an appendage, but in the manner of the early nineteenth century when piazzas began to proliferate in this neighborhood.

The window frames are set almost flush with the face of the stucco. The stucco cornice under the eaves consists of a crown mould, a fascia and then a deep cove terminating at the wall with a small astragal and cove moulding. The gateway, the street wall and the garden are later developments of a harmonious ensemble.

A.S.

*Architectural Guide to Charleston*

## THE THOMAS ROSE HOUSE

Constructed c. 1735; some alterations c. 1790; restored 1929  
59 Church Street

Built about 1735, the floorplan of the Rose House reflects the asymmetrical plan used for larger dwellings in Charleston in the second quarter of the eighteenth century, although turned on its side. The principal door originally opened from the street into the larger of two front rooms. The smaller room was unheated. Beyond an arched opening was another heated room and a staircase. Bernard Herman points to the plan of the Rose House as indicative of the "merchant house" plan in American and English port cities. The front room and four others in the house are fully panelled in cypress, while the stair balusters, brackets, and rail are of walnut, the preferred material for better Charleston joinery prior to 1740. Of particular interest are the "bowfats" or cupboards with arched openings in both the front downstairs and upstairs rooms. The cupboards in the back dining room were installed in 1929.

On December 8, 1734, Thomas Rose wrote from Charleston to his brother, Richard Rose, at Abingdon in Berkshire, requesting that he "In quier after four workmen that cant live in London on . . . Brick laid" and to send over four such men willing to "sell them selves" for four years. This may link the construction date long accepted for the house which Rose built on Lot sixty-one of the Grand Modell, recently devised to his wife Beuler by the will of her father, Thomas Elliott. Rose's father, owner of the property across the street, was an Ashley River planter who had supervised the construction of St. Andrew's Parish Church on the Ashley.

Soon after construction the property was sold to Benjamin Savage in whose family it remained until 1833. Savage died in 1750, as did his nephew and heir. His widow, Martha, retained a life interest in the house and died in 1760 leaving an extensive inventory of furnishings including five paintings in gilt frames, apparently hanging in the upstairs drawing room. Extensive lists of kitchen furnishings and garden equipment present an excellent view of the outbuildings. The inventory also lists the names and health condition of twelve slaves living on the property, each of whose status is carefully delineated in Martha Savage's will: most were given to relatives or directed to be sold, the elderly to receive small bequests and be maintained by a family member.

The second floor drawing room (probably the "dining parlor") extends across the entire second floor front, the earliest surviving example of this plan in the city. Marks on the panelling indicate the subdivision of the room in the nineteenth century, but it was restored along with the rest of the house in 1929 by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Whitman, northerners wintering in Charleston, with the guidance of local architect, Albert Simons. At this time, the mid-nineteenth-century door which opened from the street into the smaller unheated front room was converted into a window. As with so many houses in the city, the piazzas were added in the nineteenth century and by the 1920s appear in photographs with turned Victorian columns. The present piazza is a reproduction of a late eighteenth century type with the addition of a Georgian Revival door screen.

In 1942, the Whitmans sold the house to Henry P. Staats, a Connecticut architectural historian, and his wife. The Staats were among the founders of Historic Charleston Foundation and restored a number of buildings on Church Street. The property today is still occupied by Staats descendants but owned by the Church Street Historic Foundation which the Staats established.

The original kitchen and laundry outbuilding survives, incorporated into the present house via an addition with an arched opening in the Charleston manner of the early twentieth century. The present garden was first laid out by Loutrel Briggs in the 1940s and augmented later.

### Sources:

Belfast Public Reference Office (Reference provided by Dr. David Shields, the Citadel.)  
Benjamin Savage, Inventory, Charleston County.  
Church Street Historic Foundation, "Data Concerning the house at 59 Church Street."  
Martha Savage, Inventory, Charleston County, 85 (1758-1761).  
Martha Savage, Will, Charleston County Wills 9 (1760-1767).

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The floorplan of the Rose House reflects the asymmetrical plan used for larger dwellings in Charleston in the second quarter of the eighteenth century, although turned on its side. The door originally opened from the street to the larger of two front rooms, even though photographs show that a front door on the end served the smaller room in the nineteenth century as well. The chambered rear staircase lies to the north. Bernard Herman points to the plan of the Rose House as indicative of the "merchant house" plan in American and English port cities. The front room and four others in the house are fully panelled in cypress, while the stair balusters, brackets, and rail are of walnut, the preferred material for better Charleston joinery prior to 1740. Of particular interest are the "bowfats" or cupboards with arched openings in both the front room downstairs and upstairs.

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JHP

## Of Early Charleston Houses

# Thomas Rose House One

By ROBERT P. STOCKTON

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is another in a series of stories about Charleston structures in the new "Historic Architecture Inventory.")

The Thomas Rose House at 59 Church St. is one of the most unspoiled of early Charleston houses.

It is of the compact, squarish and rather north European type of construction which characterized Charleston houses before 1760.

Built of brick with walls approximately three feet thick and stuccoed, it is constructed close to the ground over a four and one-half foot deep basement, having been built on "high ground."

The house is today entered through that quirk of Charleston architecture, a piazza with a "false" front door on the street.

Though in the traditional style of Charleston piazzas and built

with Adam-influenced grace, the piazzas and their door were actually added about 1929, when the house was restored.

When built, the street facade of the house was as asymmetrical as its floor plan.

The central window, lighting the present reception room on the ground floor, is wider than the others and possibly was originally a door.

The News and Courier

Do You Know  
Your Charleston?

However, when the floor plan is compared with similar plans of other early houses, the more probable possibility arises that the front door originally opened into the smaller room on the northeast corner of the house.

But that does not explain why the one window on the ground floor and the central window of

the drawing room on the second floor are wider than the others.

Possibly, in a break from the rule, both were originally doorways, the upper one opening onto a balcony.

The floor plan features the one large and one small rooms on the street front. Behind them are the dining room on the southwest corner and the stair hall and pantry on the northwest corner.

The drawing room encompasses the entire front of the second floor. This room and the other principal rooms and stair hall are paneled in cypress, while the stair rail, balusters and wall rail are of walnut, probably brought from England.

The paneling and mouldings are simple and sturdy, in the early fashion, and the larger ground floor room retains the original fireplace with plain bolection moulding and shelf.

Arched openings of china cabinets in the principal rooms and an arched doorway to the drawing room lend variety to the interior.

The Adam-style mantel of the drawing room and the Federal-style, identical mantels of the dining room and the master bedroom were added about 1800, replacing original mantels which had larger openings and blue and white Dutch tiles.

A curious bow evident in the drawing room floor is caused by the house timbers which were framed the length of the house, rather than the width of the house. These supporting beams are of heart yellow pine and nearly petrified with age.

The interior paneling is laid directly on the brick. Unpaneled walls are of oyster-shell plaster, laid on willow twig lathing.

The house has been named for Thomas Rose, an Ashley River

planter, who it soon after Beuler Elliot

If this is replaced a which Capt. lives," which Beuler Elliot will in 1731.

A structure present one, in the Charles-Town a map drawn

This build narrowly mis the great fi



(Staff Photo by Burbag)

## Session Shows Signs Of Life

COLUMBIA (AP) — Traditionally, the South Carolina General Assembly has started out at a slow walk, got into a trot about the middle of April, then into a gallop in late May, and finished its annual session sometime in early summer.

Things have changed in 1975.

The Senate, going full blast during the opening weeks, has passed two ethics bills, a measure to up state aid to public schools; reported out of committee a couple of bills affecting the Dairy Commission; passed a new drunken driving bill; passed a rule change calling for public hearings before the General Assembly elects any judges or members of the Public Service Commission; and gave the nod to several

constitutional amendments approved by the voters in the November election.

The House, stalled during the first week by debate over rule changes, has finally moved into high gear, getting through an ethics bill and several other major matters.

In years past, such progress would have been noted sometime in the spring and long, long after the ground hog had looked for his shadow.

In years past, the first few weeks were highlighted by meetings that lasted no longer than 30 minutes a day.

This time around, both chambers, especially the Senate, have gone on for three, four, sometimes five hours a day.

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planter, who is said to have built it soon after his marriage to Beuler Elliott in 1733.

If this is true, the house replaced a previous house "in which Capt. John Hext now lives," which was devised to Beuler Elliott by her father's will in 1731.

A structure, presumably the present one, is shown on the site in the "Ichnography of Charles-Town at High Water," a map drawn in 1739.

This building would have narrowly missed destruction in the great fire of 1740 which

consumed everything on the opposite side of the street.

The house stands on part of Lot No. 61 of the Grand Modell of Charlestown, original plan of the city. Its site was just within the town walls.

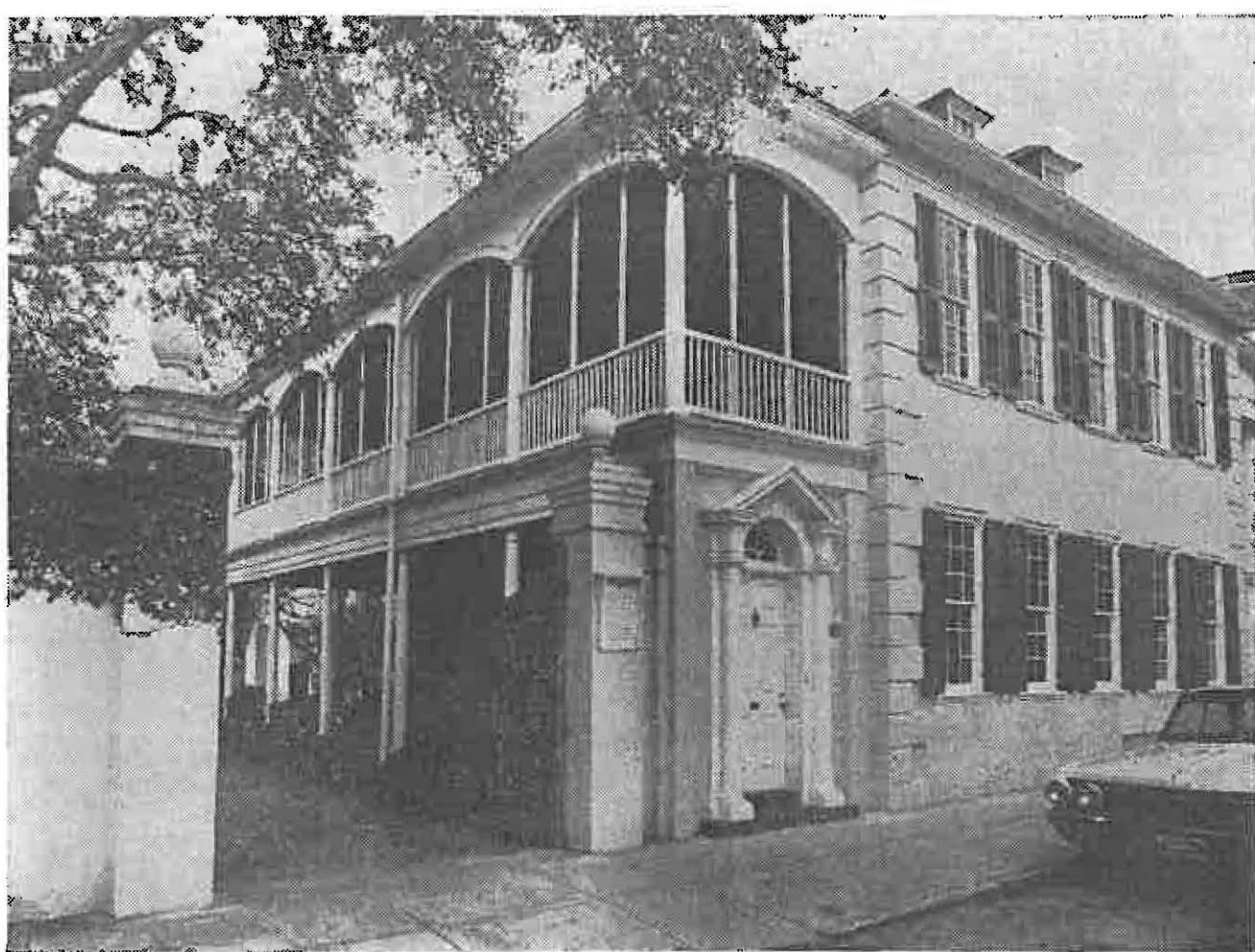
Lot No. 61 was originally granted to Elizabeth Willis on March 15, 1680, and later acquired by Thomas Elliott, father of Beuler.

Rose sold the property in 1741 to Benjamin Savage, in whose family it remained until 1833, when it was bought by the First Baptist Church.

The church sold it in 1847 to Jonathan Lucas, grandson of the Jonathan Lucas who built the first steam-powered rice mill in South Carolina.

The house was bought and restored in 1929 by Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Whitman, who sold it in 1942 to architect Henry P. Staats. It is now the home of Mrs. Staats.

The house is said to be visited by the ghost of Dr. Joseph Ladd Brown, a young physician who died there following a pistol duel over an actress nicknamed "Perdita."



(Staff Photo by Burbage)

Thomas Rose House In Early Style.

## 59 Church Street

# Center Of Romantic Duel

53rd In A Series

By JACK LELAND  
Evening Post Staff Writer

Rue should grow in the old fashioned garden of the house at 59 Church Street where a 22-year-old man died for love nearly 200 years ago.

He was Dr. Joseph Ladd Brown, late of Rhode Island, medical doctor by vocation, poet by avocation and loser in a duel over an actress.

His ghost is still said to haunt the lovely old house that was built by Thomas Rose about 1732. It is a charming building in the early Georgian manner and much more commodious than its street facade would indicate.

Thomas Rose apparently built the house shortly after he married Beuler Elliott who inherited the land from her father. The Elliotts were a very well-to-do and also a very pious family, going somewhat against the grain of the Cavalier types that constituted the majority of Charleston's citizenry in the early 18th century.

One of her brothers, for instance, donated the land immediately to the north to a group of Maine Baptists who fled that rock bound coast and its puritanical religious leaders because of a theological difference of opinion concerning infant baptism. With their pastor they sought haven in Charleston and received it. So numerous did they become in the southern stretch of Church Street that it obtained the epithet of "Baptist Town."

Mrs. Rose's relatives subsequently helped establish a瓦 Baptist Church a few doors south on the opposite side of Church Street. The building — a wooden one — stood until well after 1900 when it was demolished. The older Baptist Church, "other church" of Southern Baptists, is still standing.

The Rose family sold the house to the Savage family in 1941. This clan was to occupy it for 95 years, to witness

its safe passage through the Revolution. When built, the house had a central door from the street directly into the very large downstairs parlor. In its early days this room probably was a business office of sorts. Today five windows penetrate the wide facade, giving light to the room and balance to the building.

The upstairs drawing room also had a central door. It opened onto a balcony over the sidewalk. The house was built during the second decade of Royal rule of Carolina, an era that brought great prosperity to the Colonials, something they had not experienced under the quarrelsome rule of the Lords Proprietors.

Church Street was well within the walls of old Charles Town and its fairly high elevation above tidewater gave it some protection against hurricanes. One memorable storm sent a schooner of 9-foot draft up Church Street very near to the front door of No. 59. The stoutly built house stood against that onslaught of nature as in future years it was to withstand the earthquake of 1886 and the always present destructive hand of man.

A silver disc, caged in the newell post of the stairway, indicates that the architect was satisfied with his work and with his payment for it.

The house passed from the Savage family in the 1830s and subsequently had a number of owners. It was restored in 1929 by the Frank E. Whitmans who added the piazzas and gateway at that time. Its present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Henry P. Staats, bought it in 1941. Later they purchased a house to the south, razed it and created the lovely garden that so delights visitors today.

The house, with its background of piety and prosperous tranquility, became the center of one of Charleston's more romantic duels.

The year was 1786 and young Dr. Brown was prac-

ticing medicine in Charleston and writing poetry as a hobby. Like most young bachelors of the day, he attended the theater and had become fast friends with another young man, Ralph Isaacs.

Then a Miss Barrett came to town, acting in the production of Shakespeare's Richard III. Brown lost his heart. Isaacs thought the actress — nicknamed "Perdita" because of a fancied likeness to the English actress of that name — was only so-so.

They argued. The debate finally reached the stage where they were writing letters to the newspapers criticizing each other's opinions and ultimately to a duel.

Dr. Brown apparently fired into the air but Isaacs, hoping to give his opponent a flesh

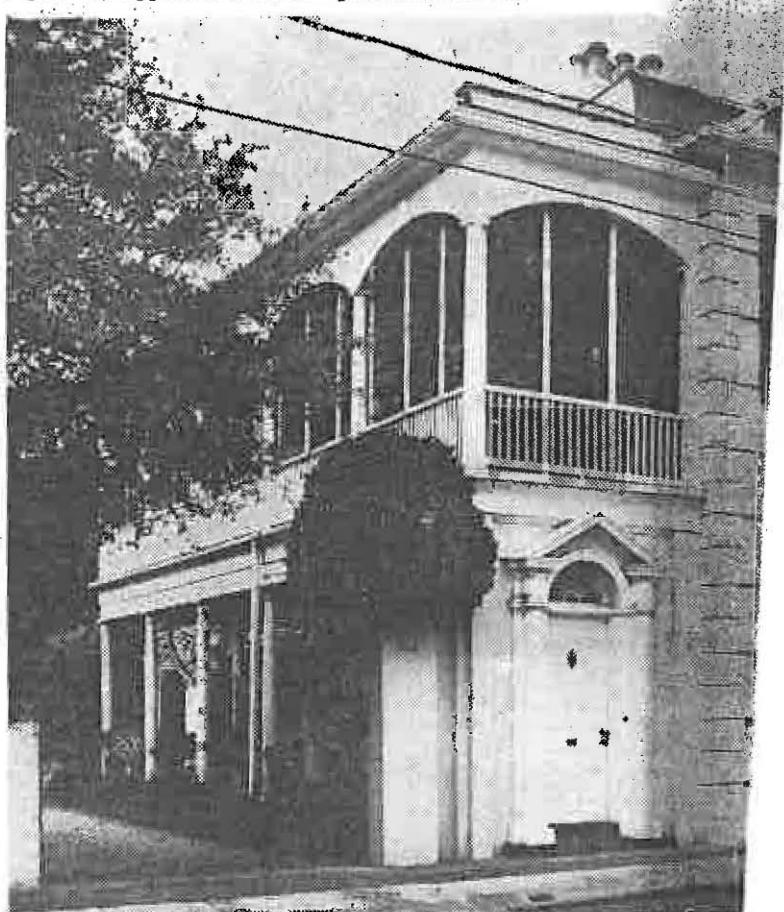
wound, aimed for the legs. His aim was not good and Dr. Brown received a serious wound. He was taken to 59 Church where he died three weeks later. Perdita and the theatrical cast had left town and the young lover died without a parting farewell from the object of his affections.

Perhaps he remembered the words from Richard III.

"Was ever woman in this humor woo'd  
Was ever woman in this humor won?"

History does not say, however.

The old house stands today, the churchyard to the north filled with long dead and pious Baptists, while in its upper rooms the ghost of a cavalier poet is also silent.



House was built in 1735 in section

# Of Romantic Duel

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House was built in 1735 in section known as 'Baptist Town'

(Staff Photo by J.

DATA CONCERNING THE HOUSE AT 59 CHURCH STREET

To one Elizabeth Willis there was granted one lot..61...shown on the Grand Model of the Town of Charlestown.

Also to one Joshua Willis was granted lot #62 on the Grand Model of the Town. (Is Joshua husband of Elizabeth or brother?)

The grants were made by the Lord proprietors on March 15, 1680 and is one of the few such grants ever made out to a woman. Also "70 acres of land contiguous to the Blessing" was granted to Elizabeth Willis on April 6, 1681. The land was situated on a bluff by French Quarter Creek off the Cooper River.

SOURCE...Vol. 18 page 24...Baronies of South Carolina...Quinby and East Branch of the Cooper River by H. A. M. SMITH.

On April 15, 1707 John Harleston, a recent immigrant to the Colony married Elizabeth Willis (daughter of grantee??) and by her had 7 children... see Vol. 3 pages 154-156.

SOURCES.....INDEX of WILLS at the Charleston Free Library.

Master Index to the Historical Magazine at the LIBRARY of the College of Charleston.

Records of MESNE CONVEYENCE.

RECORDS of the HISTORICAL SOCIETY...see their Year Books.

"Two Centuries of the First Baptist Church of South Carolina, 1683 - 1883".

Edited by H. A. Tupper, R. H. Woodward & Co., 1889.

Page 82

"In 1699 by the gift of one of the members, Wm. Elliott, the Church obtained the lot in Church Street, No. 62 in the plan of the town, the same on which the First Baptist Church now stands."

Footnote, page 82.

"the lot originally belonged to Joseph Willis, mariner, and was bought from his only daughter and heiress, Elizabeth Willis, for £20. The deed bears date July 18, 1699. . . The lot was 100" wide by 250' deep and was designed for a parsonage as well as a church."

Joseph Brown Ladd, b. 1764 in Rhode Island. Studied medicine and came to Charleston shortly after 1783. Boarded with a Mr. Roberts on Church Street. (Directory 1785 - Thomas Roberts, bookseller, 84 Church St.) Street numbers changed after 1819. Killed in a duel in late October 1786 - patella was smashed and gangrene set in. Died Nov. 10, 1786. By Ralph Isaacs.

At Harmony Hall, a theatre, Ladd, Isaacs and others in a box, after having had a few in a tavern nearby. Isaacs made loud and uncomplimentary remarks about Perdita Robinson or Robertson, Ladd took exception and called him to task, finally hit him in face with cane. Died on Church St. Buried in St. Michael's Cemetery - no stone.

News & Courier, March 23, 1942 and June 7, 1942.

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#### HCF notes on 59 Church Street

Benj. & Jeremiah Savage both died in 1750 and property passed to Thomas Savage, thro will of Benjamin, brother of Jeremiah. Feb. 14, 1849 - Record of deed for year 1849 - page 31, 205, 211. Lucas to Dewar.

It is assumed that present house at 59 Church St. was built by Thomas Bouler Rose. People of cultivated backgrounds and wealth. House of description of present one is shown on a plat of the town as being one of the surviving buildings after fire of 1740. Architectural and structural details point to having been built between 1735 and 1740.

Look up G-7, page 383 (Baptists and petition.)

Who was Thomas Rice (Adelle Pours.)

Notes on Thomas Savage:

Chas. Free Library, Misc. Records, Vol. 86-A, page 508

Thomas Middleton was commissioned colonel of a Regiment of Fett to be composed of 3 provincial companies called the Buffs, 1,000 men and officers. Appointed by Hon. Wm. Bull, Lieut. Gov. of Province of S. C. Commission from his Honor the Lt. Govr. to Thomas Savage to be a Lieut. in Company in the said Regiment supra dated the 20th September 1760.

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"Major Thomas Savage of Boston & His Descendants" by Lawrence Park, Press of David Clapp & Son, 1914 (Boston).

Thomas Savage: b. Bermuda 9/18/1738. Came early in life to Charleston where brother John had already settled. Became merchant and prominent citizen. In 1767 one of Commissioners of S. C. and Member of Charleston Company of Light Infantry. Delegate in 1775 to Colonial Congress at Chas. Active in Revolution & carried by British to St. Augustine and kept there on parole for nearly a year. Later allowed to join his family in Phila. After British evacuation, they returned to Chas. Fortune impaired but wife's inheritance helped pay off debts. Married April 21, 1767, Mary Elliott Butler at Savannah, Ga., daughter of William & Elizabeth Butler of Savannah, called richest heiress in South Carolina. D. Charleston 5/29/1786. Buried in St. Michael's Cemetery.

Benjamin Savage b. 6 July 1722.

A merchant of Chas., in partnership with his brother John. A Loyalist who went to England during Rev. Son of Thomas Savage of Boston & Elizabeth Fowle of Boston.

Jeremiah, brother of above Thomas. b. 4/25/1734. M. Sarah Elliott of Chas. Living in Chas in 1780. Was an addresser of Sir Henry Clinton, and was banished and his estates confiscated. Probably went to England.

Thomas Savage (son of Bermuda Thomas) b. Chas. 8/23/1776. Lived in Ga. Died 10/10/1812.

RECORD OF OWNERSHIP OF THE HOUSE AT 59 CHURCH STREET

From the WILL of Thomas Elliott made Feb. 11, 1731; Codicil June 9, 1731;  
Recorded January, 1732.

Thomas Elliott left to his daughter Beuler, the house and lot in Charlestown shown on the Grand Model of the Town as lot #61, in which Capt. John Hext now lives.

Beuler Elliott was born in 1719, the 9th child of Thomas Elliott, Senior, and his second wife Hepzibah. She was married on January 12, 1733 to Thomas Rose. . .see St. Philips registry.....They had two daughters.

Thomas Rose was born about 1710.....the Roses were people of some property and were granted lots on Church Street opposite from 59 Church Street as shown on the Grand Model. From the Records of the office of Mesne Conveyance, Book V, page 255 it is shown that on April 3, 1741, Thomas Rose and wife Beuler Elliott Rose (devisee of Thomas Elliott, Sr.) sold the lot and house on New Church Street, known on Grand Model as lot #61...50 feet south on Church Street. 232 feet East and West. On the North by the Baptist Church. Southerly on the moite or other half of said lot..(Thomas Elliott of Berkley County.) Sold to Benjamin Savage.

RECORD OF OWNERSHIP OF THE HOUSE AT 59 CHURCH STREET

FROM THE RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF MESNE CONVEYENCE.....

Book V Page 284.....

In 1741 William Elliott and wife Frances, to Benjamin Savage, merchant of Charlestown in the Province of Carolina....a parcel of lot #61 of Grant Model....North and South 25 feet. North on other part of lot #61 belonging to Benjamin Savage. Bounded on the South by property of one Judith Miller. Bounded on the West by lot of Issac Caillaibeuf. This was to have an annual payment on the property of 10 shillings and 1 peppercorn. This property of Benjamin Savage was willed to his brother Jeremiah Savage and his heirs in 1750. Jeremiah failing of heirs to his brother Thomas Savage and his heirs, Benjamin and Jeremiah Savage both died in the same year, 1750, and the property passed to Thomas Savage. Thomas and his descendants take the property and sell it thru the MASTER in EQUITY in 1836.....See Book M, page 380 in Records of Office of MESNE CONVEYENCE.....The Commissioner in Equity conveyed to the Baptist Church of Charleston on March 16, 1836, the property.....76 feet, 6 inches on Church Street. 232 feet deep. North bounded by the Baptist Burial ground. South the property bounded by lands of A. P. Trouche. West on property of Miss Ward and partly on lands of Miss Toussiger.

From the Records of the Office of MESNE CONVEYENCE...Vol. Z, 11-page 57.....also see page 138.

The Baptist Church sold the property to Jonathan Lucas on Mch. 25, 1847...The property bounded by Church Street. South by property of A. P. Trouche. North by the Baptist burial ground.....This deed was conveyed by Ker Boyce, President of the Congregation.

In the Record of Deeds for the year 1849, page 31.....also page 205.....

Jonathan Lucas sold the property on Church Street to W. S. Dewar on

Record of the Ownership of the House at 59 Church Street  
Record of Sale of Property to Baptist Church in 1836  
Page 2

February 14, 1849.....

On page 204 of the same volume is recorded the transfer of property on February 14, 1849 to James L. Bours by Jonathan Lucas...Also see page 211 of the same volume. This must have been the date at which the property was divided into two lots as the property at 57 Church Street is now the property of W. Dewar Gordon who is now (1947) 80 years old and who told me he had been born in the present house. (No. 57 Church was purchased in 1954 by Juliette W. Staats, from W. Dewar Gordon, the house demolished and the property restored to #59 being made into a garden.)

RECORD OF THE OWNERSHIP OF THE HOUSE AT 59 CHURCH STREET

It is assumed that the present house at 59 Church Street was built by Thomas and Beuler Elliott Rose. They were people of the most cultivated backgrounds and came from great wealth.....There are buildings shown on a map of the town made in 1739 for Thomas C. Pinckney but these do not seem to be of sufficient size on the map to scale for the present house.....however a house of the description of the present one is spoken of and is shown on the plat of the town as being one of the surviving buildings after the fire of 1740.....the architectural and structural details would seem to place this house as having been built under the ownership of the Roses between 1735 and 1740.....NB.....the map dated 1739 was some time in the process of making and is considered that a new house could have been built at 59 Church Street while the map was in process of being made and printed.....

In 1976 the house and property at 57-59 Church Street (Thomas Rose House) was listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the U. S. Department of the Interior.

Notes from Architects of Charleston - by  
"Ravenel -  
Not until 1700 can one hazard a possible  
~~cross~~ connection between any building and  
the name of an architect.  
Thomas Rose mentioned in old inventory  
books as "making bricks" owned books.  
Rose owned men and with John Fitch  
built old St. Andrews Church -"

RECORD OF OWNERSHIP OF THE HOUSE AT 59 CHURCH STREET

FROM THE RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF MESNE CONVEYENCE....

Book V, page 284....

In 1741 William Elliott and wife Frances, to Benjamin Savage,  
merchant of Charlestown in the Province of Carolina....

a parcel of Lot #61 of Grand Model....

North and South 25 feet

West and East 232 feet

North on other part of lot #61 belonging to Benjamin Savage

Bounded on the South by property of one Judith Miller

Bounded on the West by lot of Issac Caillaibeuf

This was to have an annual payment on the property of 10 shillings  
and 1 peppercorn.

This property of Benjamin Savage was willed to his brother  
Jeremiah Savage and his heirs in 1750. Jeremiah failing of heirs  
to his brother Thomas Savage and his heirs.

Benjamin and Jeremiah Savage both died in the same year, 1750  
and the property passed to Thomas Savage.

Thomas and his descendants take the property and sell it thru the  
MASTER IN EQUITY in 1836....

See Book M, page 380 in Records of Office of MESNE CONVEYENCE....  
the Commissioner in Equity conveyed to the Baptist Church of  
Charleston on March 16, 1836, the property....

76 feet, 6 inches on Church Street

232 feet deep

North bounded by the Baptist Burial ground

RECORD OF OWNERSHIP OF THE HOUSE AT 59 CHURCH STREET

From the WILL of Thomas Elliott made Feb. 11, 1731

Codicil June 9, 1731

Recorded January, 1732

Thomas Elliott left to his daughter Beuler, the house and lot in Charlestown shown on the Grand Model of the Town as lot #61, in which Capt. John Hext now lives.

Beuler Elliott was born in 1719, the 9th child of Thomas Elliott, senior, and his second wife Hepzibah.

She was married on January 12, 1735 to Thomas Rose....see St. Philips registry....

They had two daughters.

Thomas Rose was born about 1710....the Roses were people of some property and were granted lots on Church Street opposite from 59 Church Street as shown on the Grand Model.

From the Records of the office of Mesne Conveyence, Book V, page 255 it is shown that on April 3, 1741, Thomas Rose and wife Beuler Elliott Rose (devisee of Thomas Elliott, sr.) sold the lot and house on New Church Street, known on Grand Model as lot #61....

50 feet south on Church St.

232 feet East and West

On the North by the Baptist Church

Southerly on the moite or other half of said lot..(Thomas Elliott of Berkley County.)

Sold to Benjamin Savage.

RECORD OF THE OWNERSHIP OF THE HOUSE AT 59 CHURCH STREET

Continued....record of sale of property to Baptist Church in 1836

South the property bounded by lands of A. P. Trouche

West on property of Miss Ward and partly on lands of Miss Toussiger.

From the Records of the Office of Mesne Conveyance....

Vol. Z, 11-page 57.... also see page 138

the Baptist Church sold the property to Jonathan Lucas on Mch.25, 1847..

The property bounded by Church Street

South by property of A. P. Trouche

North by the Baptist burial ground....

This deed was conveyed by Ker Boyce, President of the Congregation.

In the Record of deeds for the year 1849

page 31....also page 205....

Jonathan Lucas sold the property on Church Street to W. S. Dewar on February 14, 1849....

On page 204 of the same volume is recorded the transfer of property on February 14, 1849 to James L. Bours by Jonathan Lucas....

Also see page 211 of the same volume.

This must have been the date at which the property was divided into two lots as the property at 57 Church Street is now the property of W. Dewar Gordon who is now (1947) 80 years old and who told me he had been born in the present house.

(No. 57 Church Street was purchased in 1954 by Juliette W. Staats from W. Dewar Gordon, the house demolished and the property restored to No. 59, being made into a garden.)

## Theme (3): Development of the English Colonies, 1700-1775

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

The (Thomas) Rose House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

57-59 Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Charleston

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

39

COUNTY:

Charleston

CODE

019

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY  
(Check One)

## OWNERSHIP

## STATUS

ACCESSIBLE  
TO THE PUBLIC

<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted

1

No

## PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Church Street Historic Foundation, Inc. (Mr. & Mrs. H.P. Staats--life  
tenants)

STREET AND NUMBER:

57-59 Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Charleston

STATE:

South Carolina

CODE

39

STATE:

COUNTRY:

ENTRY NUMBER  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Register of Mesne Conveyance

STREET AND NUMBER:

Charleston County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:

Charleston

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

39

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

This is Charleston: an Architectural Survey of a Unique American City

DATE OF SURVEY: 1944  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Gibbes Art Gallery

STREET AND NUMBER:

135 Meeting Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Charleston

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

39

70-1045-0033  
10/15/70

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

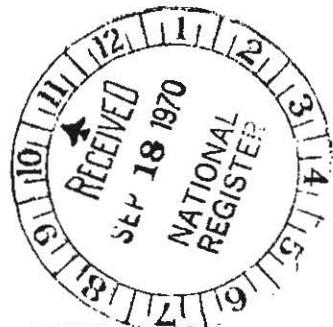
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Square, two-and-a-half -story brick house with stucco-covered walls, hipped roof with dormers. Five bays wide, four bays deep. Corners marked by large quoins; first floor windows have exterior paneled shutters; second-story shutters are louvered. Large two-story porch added about 1830 along south side; fanlighted street-entrance door flanked by engaged half-round Tuscan columns and topped by triangular pediment. Present main entrance, also dating from about 1830, is in second bay of south side. Original (1735-40) entrance was in center of five-bay-wide east (street) facade. In second story above entranceway was second center door and small iron balcony. In 1828-30 these features were eliminated from street facade and entrance shifted to south side, opening into reception hall.

Typical Charleston "double house" plan: in original entrance plan, center street door opened into reception hall that occupies three bays of front. To right of former center entrance is smaller front office two bays wide. In west wall of reception hall, opposite former entrance, door opens into hall extending through house to rear door. To left of hall is dining room and to right a small lateral stair hall and room now used as kitchen. First floor plan is repeated on second floor except that large drawing room occupies entire five-bay width of front. Originally one of two bedrooms in rear portion, room in northwest corner of house was subdivided in 1929 to make extra room. Third floor has three bedrooms and storage room.

First floor reception room and dining room, and second floor drawing room are paneled in cypress from ceiling to floor. Original mantel in reception room; arched cupboard to right of fireplace. 18th century mantels in dining room and second floor southwest bedroom were taken from old Charleston houses and installed in 1929. Fireplace wall of southwest bedroom has original paneling. Adam style mantel in second floor drawing room is c. 1800 replacement; fireplace flanked by pair of unsymmetrically-placed arched doors. Stairway, lighted by large window in north wall, is finished with light panels and molding, carved black walnut balusters and rail.

Historical architect Albert Simons, FAIA, restored and modernized the residence in 1929. Bath and kitchen added, missing mantels replaced, one bedroom subdivided; original detached kitchen connected to main house.

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## SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE															
<b>PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)</b> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century</td> <td colspan="2" style="width: 25%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> </table>						<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century		<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century		
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<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century													
<b>SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)</b> <u>1735-1740</u>															
<b>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)</b> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; vertical-align: top;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal  <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric  <input type="checkbox"/> Historic  <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture  <input type="checkbox"/> Art  <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce  <input type="checkbox"/> Communications  <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation         </td> <td style="width: 25%; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Education  <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  <input type="checkbox"/> Industry  <input type="checkbox"/> Invention  <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape  <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  <input type="checkbox"/> Military  <input type="checkbox"/> Music         </td> <td style="width: 25%; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Political  <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  <input type="checkbox"/> Science  <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture  <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  <input type="checkbox"/> Theater  <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation         </td> <td colspan="2" style="width: 25%; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)  <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> </td> </tr> </table>						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> Historic <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Art <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Invention <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> Literature <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> Science <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> Theater <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>						
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<b>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE</b> <p>1740 Although it has been considerably altered since its erection in 1735-  <del>25</del>, the Thomas Rose House is one of Charleston's best specimens of  colonial architecture. It is a two-and-a-half-story Georgian brick  townhouse which retains most of its fine original early-Georgian paneling.</p> <p>The house was considered as a National Historic Landmark and is in  excellent condition. Used as a residence, it is open to special tours  10-15 days a year.</p>															



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## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Stoney, Samuel G., This is Charleston; a Survey of the Architectural Heritage of a Unique American City. Charleston, 1944.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"

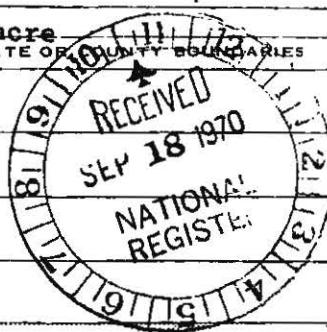
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES								
O	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		R			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
	32	°	46	'23.06"	79	°	55	'45.58"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

1/4 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Mrs. James W. Fent, Historic Resources Division

ORGANIZATION

South Carolina Dept. of Archives and History

DATE

August 29, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:

1430 Senate Street POBox 11,188

Capitol Station 29211

CITY OR TOWN:

Columbia

STATE

CODE

South Carolina

/

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local Name Charles LeeTitle Director, S.C. Dept. of Archives and HistoryDate August 29, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest Allen Cannally  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date OCT 10 1970

ATTEST:

William J. Hanchett  
Keeper of The National Register

Date OCT 12 1970