

NEEDS INTERIOR

NUMBER TWELVE LAMBOLL STREET
c. 1776

DATE

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mitchell

This delightful residence was constructed to serve as the carriage house for the Thomas Lamboll house on King Street. Since that time the property has gone through a number of radical changes. The most recent one was completed recently by the young couple who now live here. This house is a classic example of how an 18th century building can be restored, recycled and repaired to provide a charming, comfortable and up-to-date facility for 21st century.

The brick walled courtyard provides a quiet oasis which is further enhanced with a softly bubbling fountain. The cedar tree was thought to have been the tallest tree still standing below Broad Street after Hurricane Hugo in 1989.

(Please note the many different levels of the courtyard. While they add to the charm, they can cause a misstep so please point this out to the visitors.)

To enter house, use glass door with the iron grillwork.

LIVING ROOM

This house is a classic example of how an 18th century building can be restored, recycled and repaired to provide a charming, comfortable and up-to-date facility for 21st century living.

Sometime in the late 19th century this "L"-shaped space was added to the original rectangular building when it was converted from a carriage house to a freestanding residence. The gougework ceiling trim with a row of dentils above, along with the wainscot were probably added at that time. The matching fireplace mantels are also both recreations of the period. Earlier photos of this room are show the fireplace as a simple, brick one.

DINING ROOM/KITCHEN

When repairing the outside south wall in this area, the original brick was exposed, and the original arched opening of the carriageway became apparent.

The kitchen has been completely reworked into this mellow, hi-tech space. It was created from a rabbit warren of small rooms and closets.

Exit by way of doorway to the courtyard.

GARDEN - 2008

Attention Docents: There are many level changes in this garden. Identify them all and put down marking tape, even the little semi-circles towards the garage.

Part of the delight of walking in the City of Charleston is to discover small, charming places. Walking along Lamboll Street takes you through the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. An occasional residence is created out of a prior dependency. Adaptive use! That's what Charleston is all about. A very precisely pruned Creeping Fig (*Ficus pumila*) covers the outside walls but leaves the top clear. This type of garden wall is typically Charleston. It has a flat top brick, a slant brick and then another flat brick under it. Some walls have an additional course of brick dentils. Note the multi-colored rose peaking over the top.

This building has parapet walls to the south and to the west. What appears to be the front door with its segmented arch filled in with fanlight, sidelights and glass door is in reality a "window" to their garden. The front door is all the way to the end of the paving, around the Juniper. It is solid wood, with a doorbell to the left. The paving patterns are most attractive here. Plain brick for the entry, letting the eye take in the garden spaces. Then, a combination of brick and bluestone, a direct interpretation of the look of some of our Charleston buildings...stucco, having fallen off, reveals the brick underneath.

Immediately to your right as you enter is a small, restful area that mimics grass....Dwarf Mondo Grass (*Ophiopogon japonicus*) terminated with a shaped, tall Podocarpus (*Podocarpus macrophylla*). The trunks of the neighbor's Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) are visible over the top of the garden wall. At that corner a Lady Banksia Rose (*Rosa banksiae*) is being trained up to the small, wrought iron balcony. Notice louvered shutters on second floor, solid panel shutters on the ground floor.

Look up! A very old Juniper (*Juniperus virginiana*) which provides great summer shade dominates the garden. There is also a discreetly mounted light to illuminate the sitting area at night. Notice the Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) being grown around the door lantern.

The sound of water draws your eye to the fountain and pool with its Umbrella Plant (*Cyperus alternifolius*), also known as a Sedge and in the same family as Papyrus. Behind the pool is a creeping fig (*Ficus pumila*) covered garage as a backdrop. Notice the two doors, which present a nicely balanced view. The left door is to the garage, the right door is to a storage area; a grill hides near the house.

Turn your eyes back towards the sidewalk and notice the various plants along the garage wall. Confederate Jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*) starts the list, then Butterfly Rose (*Rosa chinensis* 'Mutabilis'), Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) and another 'Mutabilis', this trained across the iron grill work up to the small balcony. This Rose is also located in several other areas of the garden. It flowers almost year around. Buds open a soft buff yellow and then start changing to pink, continuing to crimson, all on display together. It's fun to watch as they progress through the color range. In small spaces a raised edge, such as the pool, provides extra seating with needing more chairs.

A sense of humor shows with the inclusion of whimsical garden accessories. A pair of dancing dogs of Colima (Mexico) cavort among the Camellia sasanqua (*Camellia sasanqua*), Azalea (*Rhododendron* spp.) and variegated Lacecap Hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Variegata'). In the latter, the center flowers are small and fertile; the larger outer petals are sterile, merely serving as an attraction to pollinating insects. Beside interesting flowers, another purpose of this shrub is to lighten and brighten a garden area.

Take a moment to look up and outside the garden. The views in all directions are spectacular. How better to enjoy your time in the garden.

The garden beds are nicely bordered by a small leaf Boxwood (*Buxus microphylla* 'Kingsville') which is very much in scale with the size of the garden. Within each bed is a larger leaved variety for contrast and continuity.

As you leave, note the garden bed by front wall. It is anchored by a large Crape Myrtle, with a Lacecap Hydrangea providing a sparkle in its shade. An Azalea will soon be blooming. A creeping Succulent spreads across the surface. (There may be additional plants installed before the tour.) Carolina Jessamine on your left imparts a fragrant farewell.