

*Do not use any kind of tape  
to tape runners to the floor,  
to other runners or to  
anything else.*

## **NUMBER SEVENTEEN MEETING STREET**

2005

**17 Meeting Street**

**c. 1760**

**Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dobson**

This three story, masonry house has a stucco exterior. Piazzas line all three floors and though many alternations have been made to the house over the years it retains its basic Charleston single house plan. The well defined eyebrows above the street façade windows were probably added mid 19<sup>th</sup> century when the Italianate style was popular.

In searching the title history, the owner discovered the property was owned by another Dobson family, Naomi and Oliver, sometime mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, it's not thought to be an ancestor.

### **ENTRANCE HALL**

The stairs and risers are composed of wood pieces together in a geometrical pattern called parquetry which is rarely seen in stairs. Etched glass in landing window. The family collected nautical artifacts while living in Nags Head, NC. They are placed about the rooms.

Large brass cleat, on small front hall table

Brass bell, on floor near stair well

Two freestanding brass instruments, used in marine navigation

Whimsical sculpture, "Fred Astaire frog"

Painting, oil by John Silver, a Nags Head artist

### **FRONT ROOM**

Mid-19<sup>th</sup> century alterations in ornamentation are seen in this room. The bold crown molding, window surrounds and ceiling medallion are all associated with the Greek Revival period. The fireplace was probably changed at the same time. Black marble mantels with coal grate inserts date from that period. The brass chandelier was converted from gas to electric. Gas lighting came to Charleston around 1849. The furnishings are a mix of family pieces and comfortable seat furniture

Table, drop leaf, mahogany, in the corner

Side chairs, pair, mid 19<sup>th</sup> c

Bow front chest, with pull-out shelf, in the style of early 19<sup>th</sup> century

Oil, above mantel, View of Harbortown, Bahamas by James Kerr

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#### DINING ROOM

The glass bottles and blue and white bowl on the small side table were uncovered with privy digging. The bowl was carefully assembled from many pieces. The shelves on the left of the fireplace also contain more items from the privy dig. A black marble style fireplace was also installed in this room.

Dining chairs, style of Queen Anne  
Dining table, double pedestal, Federal style reproduction  
Painting, trumpet players by John Silver  
Pair of egrets, done by a cousin of the owner

#### KITCHEN

This area has recently been completely rebuilt. It's composed of two kitchens, one from the main house and an adjoining one which served a former apartment. The floor is tumble marble. The counters are granite and the cabinets of carpentry quality.

Pair of marine oils, by a couple, the Billis"  
Painting, over the doorway, "Fisherman's catch," by James Kerr  
Note the charming wood dolphins which support the front end of the island counter

#### FAMILY ROOM

Formerly the kitchen house, later a rental unit and now a comfortable family room. Leather seat furniture and an oversize trunk/coffee table complete the furnishings

Painting, koi, colorful carp cultivated for garden ponds, especially in Japan, by a cousin  
Painting, of crab fisherman, James Kerr, Nags Head, NC artist

*Exit to garden*

#### GARDEN

The garden contains a collection of Lowcountry plantings. A large tea olive tree is next to the piazza. And a long row of stately palm trees along the southern perimeter interspersed with azaleas. Note the two crape myrtle trees in the planted beds. Sheila Wertimer helped with the garden design and Beau Clowney, architect for the poolhouse.

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**POOL HOUSE**

Facing the swimming pool is the new pool house which has recently been completed. The building includes the rear of the old garage but the front portion is entirely new. This is a wonderful getaway for the two teen age boys in the family.

Flying bronze turtle, by the same artist who did Fred Astaire in the entrance hall

Sculpture, of three dolphins, by John Wyland.

Painting, pair of motor fishing boats by John Silver

Small wooden model of an open oar boat

*Exit by way of first floor piazza*