



PRESERVATION SOCIETY of CHARLESTON

—FOUNDED 1920—

**32 Charlotte Street
Wegman-Holmes House
c. 1820s
Mrs. Lisa Flaggman and Dr. Geoffrey Renk**

Revised 2011 AK

House History

John Casken, a carpenter, constructed the three-story single house at 32 Charlotte Street by 1825. Reflecting a later Adam architectural style, the house has a Flemish-bond brick façade and a two-story wood piazza with a galleried second-story and pedimented door architrave. In the late 1800s, the house underwent Victorian style changes. These alterations included the large rear addition and the piazza enclosure with a substantial bay window.

In 1849, William C. Holmes purchased the house. A partner in the paint manufactory firm of Holmes, Calder, & Co., Holmes applied decorative paint finishes to the interior and exterior of the house that recent paint analysis has revealed. On the exterior, wooden elements were painted a cream-tan with yellow-green finishes applied to the shutters. Descendants of the Holmes family owned the property until 1931.

The main house sustained significant damage as a result of Hurricane Hugo in 1989. The loss of windows allowed a substantial amount of water to enter the structure, and a virtual river was created down the staircase from the upper floors. In addition, the gable end of the Victorian addition collapsed. Previous owners who purchased the house in 1989 performed an extensive renovation to the long-neglected and storm-damaged structure.

Interior Details

Many of the interior decorative features of the house were added when owners expanded the house in the late 1800s. Items of note from this period include the marble mantel in the dining room and the chandeliers in both the dining room and living room. In fact, the living room chandelier was in such bad condition when the previous owners purchased the property in 1989 that they strongly considered removing it. Fortunately, they saw the beauty in the piece and chose to restore it. A hand-painted mural that was most likely added in the late 1800s once decorated the ceiling in the living room; however, its deteriorated condition made it impossible to salvage.

Prior to its renovation in 1989, the house had been neglected for almost seventy years. This lack of attention, however, proved beneficial to the preservation of much of the original interior woodwork, heart pine flooring (excluding the kitchen floor), and other architectural details in the house. The decorative molding in the living room, for example, is original. The mantel was commissioned by a previous owner and is a reproduction piece that reflects the Adamesque style of the house.