



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

HISTORIC CHARLESTON FOUNDATION

SAMUEL CHADWICK HOUSE

17 Meeting Street

c. 1840s

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Schneider

2015

The site of 17 Meeting Street was formerly part of the grounds of a Georgian mansion, built in the 1770s at 15 Meeting Street. The old hand-made, oversized brick in the foundation of the outbuilding, behind the main house at 17 Meeting Street, indicates that its construction dates from the Colonial period.

There was a two story brick house on the lot when Samuel Chadwick purchased the property from the heirs of John Gadsden in 1831. Chadwick was a prosperous merchant in the maritime trade. He replaced the older house with the present three story masonry house sometime before 1849, when he sold the property to Benjamin Dart Roper, Jr.

The construction (American bond brickwork and joists with circular saw marks) and decorative details (woodwork and plaster work and slate mantels in the Italianate mode) indicate that Chadwick built the house shortly before the sale. It was a comfortable home for Chadwick, his wife the former Eliza Champney, and their daughters.

Roper, an attorney and the son of a fourth generation Johns Island planter, died in 1875. William M. Bird immediately bought the property from his estate. Bird was the proprietor of a large establishment in East Bay Street, selling paints and oils, containers and other useful products.

Bird placed his own imprint on the house by adding the Victorian Italianate window surrounds, and the bracketed cornice that continues around the roofline. Bird possibly did this work after the 1886 earthquake, which cracked the masonry on the front of the building. Parquetry on the stairs and floor of the upper stair hall, and etched glass in the stair window and piazza door, probably also date from Bird's time.

In 2002 the main house was connected to the kitchen house, local jargon calls this connection the hyphen. Previously they were two separate buildings.

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KITCHEN

The kitchen area was completely rebuilt in 2002. It is composed of two kitchens, one from the main house and the other from the former apartment in the kitchen house. The floor is tumbled marble.

FAMILY ROOM - *May be ribboned off*

Formerly part of the kitchen house, now a comfortable, cozy family room overlooking the rear yard.

Side Table, a portion of a tree trunk

Exit to garden

GARDEN

The garden is planted with Lowcountry perennials and annuals. A large tea olive tree is next to the piazza. A row of stately palm trees along the southern perimeter interspersed with azaleas. Two crape myrtle trees in planted beds.

Sheila Wertimer helped with the garden design and Beau Clowney, architect for the pool house.

The pool house was completed a few years ago. The building includes the rear of the old garage with a new front portion. Visitors may enjoy looking in the windows.

Visitors exit from the rear gate to Ladson Street.