

The Joseph Thompson House

1997

134 Tradd Street

c. 1883-84

Residence of Nancy C.G. Snowden

This two and a half story frame house was built by John Kenny, a leading builder and contractor who was probably responsible for the trio of similar side-hall plan houses that you see grouped here on Tradd Street. Joseph Thompson is listed in the 1885 city directory at this address, moving here from Savage Street just around the corner. He was associated with the William Johnson Coal Company on Wentworth Street, and coal was the choice fuel for heating at that time. The Thomlinson family acquired the house in 1902 and ownership was retained by inheritance until shortly after the Hurricane Hugo in 1989.

The house is rich in Queen Anne detailing including two-story bay windows and an Italianate style entry. It sits on a high basement with full piazzas on both floors. Note the black and white marble tiled walkways and vestibule floor. The marble stairs are a recent addition.

ENTRANCE HALL AND FRONT PARLOR

The stairway is original and the robust newel post and its design are typical of the period. The walls are 12-1/2 feet tall.

The ornamentation in these rooms is also original and indicates the quality of the house. The molded ceiling cornice with its elaborate design, the fireplace surround, the generous height of the rooms and the woodwork emphasize this.

The current owner has recently completed a total renovation of the house. She did not change the space contained but did rearrange walls, etc. to better accommodate modern living. The mantel is original. Notice how the wallpaper simulates marble blocks. The triple hung windows open onto the piazza and can serve as doors.

Mirror, above mantel, beveled glass and serpentine trim, same style as the house
Oriental porcelains in tall cabinet

Wood pieces are period reproduction, in 18th and early 19th century styles.

Pastel painting, Elizabeth O'Neill Vernor's Flower Ladies. She is one of
Charleston's most renown 20th century artists.

The Joseph Thompson House
Page 2

DINING ROOM

The front room's ornamentation is repeated here. This room served as a sitting room for previous owners. You will note many handsome wood pieces, in period style (reproduction), filled with the owner's splendid collection of porcelain dinnerware and silver. She enjoys cooking and entertaining and has designed this room for that purpose.

Dining room table and ten side chairs, Chippendale style

FAMILY DEN

The old dining room now serves as the family room. The oak paneling was installed when the house was built and hints at the Arts & Craft style that was emerging at the end of the 19th century. However the connecting space has been completely reworked. A open counter connects it with the kitchen.

Armoire, Georgian style is the entertainment center.

The adjoining kitchen originally was three small rooms. The walls were removed and the space redesigned, resulting in this hi-tech, workable and welcoming kitchen.

Exit by way of family room door onto rear deck. Request them to *watch their footing*.

The deck is a new addition . The walled and landscaped garden has been recently completed. Return to the street along the driveway. Ground floor contains a wine cellar and a game room.