



JOSEPH THOMPSON HOUSE

2003

134 Tradd Street

c. 1883-84

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Nipper

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 house underwent a complete renovation in 1997 by a previous owner. However, the stairway is original and the design of the robust newel post is typical of the period. The ceiling chandelier and its medallion are also thought to be original with the house. Another original feature are the floors which at one time had another layer of wood on top. That may account for the many nail marks on the boards.

Wall sconces, giltwood with a pair of porcelain birds
Paintings, 2 small John Doyle "still life" oils above the side table. He is a
Charleston artist of fine reputation and artistry.

JOSEPH THOMPSON HOUSE

PAGE 2

FRONT ROOM

(Request visitors to stay on hard floor.)

The ornamentation in these rooms and the hall indicate the fine quality of the house and dates from its 1883 construction. The moulded ceiling cornice with its elaborate design, the fireplace surround, the generous height of the rooms and the woodwork emphasize this.

The mantel is original. Notice how the wall painting simulates ashlar masonry (stone blocks), a very popular wall finish in the 19th century.. The triple hung windows open onto the piazza and can serve as doors.

The furnishings are a handsome collection of 18th and early 19th century designs, primarily English in origin.

The owner collects Old Paris porcelain and pieces are on the mantel and one on the chest in the bay.

Secretary bookcase, English, mahogany

Stool, mid Georgian design, ball and claw feet well defined

Paintings:

View of Florence, Italy, above sofa

4 Italian scenes, 2 on each side wall.

Portrait of this house, John Doyle

DINING ROOM

This room served as a secondary sitting room for families earlier in the 20th century. But in today's world it's the formal dining room. The wood pieces are fine 18th century design.

Brass fireplace grates in both rooms are English in style, the design associated with Robert Adam

Brass fenders, also English

Pair of candlesticks on dining table, made by Matthew Boulton, English manufacturer of Sheffield plate, a process of fusing silver to copper.

Giltwood mirrors above mantels in both rooms also.

Old Paris porcelain garniture on the mantel

Paintings:

"Lily Pads," John Doyle

"Monet's Garden at Giverny," John Doyle

Texas artist, Richard Weir, painted two still lifes with unusual hand work

Still life purchased in Sante Fe by a California artist

JOSEPH THOMPSON HOUSE

PAGE 3

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 and Crafts style which was emerging at the end of the 19th century.

Gentlemen's clothing press is a newly built entertainment center, designed to hold a large television set, fronted with period wood panels.

Painting, above kitchen counter opening, from Santa Fe done by a Pacific Rim artist.

KITCHEN

The connecting area was completely reworked during the renovation from three small rooms. The walls were removed and the space redesigned, resulting in this hi-tech, workable and welcoming kitchen with a family breakfast room attached.

Colorful Italian pottery pieces are a nice contrast to the white cabinets. The pair of mahgony side tables in the family dining room hold two popular Doulton figures, the balloon man and the balloon lady.

The basket of appealing ceramic apples never ripen too much--the choice centerpiece!

Exit by way of breakfast room door to deck.

Note: slight change of floor elevation where dark green paint ends. POINT OUT TO VISITORS. Return to street along driveway

134 TRADD STREET

NOTE TO SENIOR DOCENT

Note: slight change of floor elevation where dark green paint ends. POINT OUT TO VISITORS.

Mrs. Nipper has had some "situations" with previous tours so I thought I had better alert you.

1. Do not allow any visitors to use the restroom !!!!
Check with homeowner to see which restroom the docents can use
- 2.. Do not allow visitors or docents to sit on furniture
3. Do not allow visitors to handled the curtains or the walls

RUNNERS

three rug runners,

One about 14 ft. for the dining room
One about 8-10 ft. for the family room
One about 8 ft. for the breakfast room