



DWELLING WAS PROBABLY CONSTRUCTED IN EARLY 1820s
Was residence of Holmes family for many years. (Staff Photo by Burbage.)

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32 Charlotte Street Earliest House

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Fourth in a series of articles on the early dwelling houses of Charlotte Street. The fifth article will appear in this column next Monday.)

By W. H. J. THOMAS

The 1820s form a rather special period for building in Charleston. It was not a prosperous period for any part of this region and the number of buildings in the Lowcountry that date from this time of financial depression are few; yet those that were built show a particular care of construction and a finest of detail.

At this time the delicacy and handsome proportions of the Adam or Federal period seemed to be fading, but none of the heaviness of later periods had truly been felt. Use of classical orders and details still held and these were still handled in many cases with a refined lightness of touch that is no doubt one of the reasons for its lingering popularity over a period of several decades. Flamboyance in treatment was unknown with the exception of the city's few examples of Regency that were built at this time.

One of Charleston's most pleasing examples of this graceful, balanced manner of design is the three-story dwelling at 32 Charlotte St. This is probably the earliest surviving

ing house on this broad, shady "up-town" street. It appears little altered since its construction some 150 years ago.

There are some confusions concerning the early deeds to this property, these having been incorrectly filed in the early 19th century, thus making it difficult to date the present house at 32 Charlotte very accurately. Judging from its physical self, however, it could be tagged circa 1820-1825, though it may be a few years earlier than this.

This property was owned by

Alexander Mazyck during the 18th century. On Dec. 9, 1795, he sold it as an unoccupied lot to Thomas Morris and Philip Gadsden. Still as a lot without buildings it was sold to John Blake on April 6, 1807. This John Blake may have been the president of the State Bank in Charleston, as there is no other person of this name listed as a resident of the city at the time of the conveyance.

Street, having measurements of 80 feet on Charlotte, 85 on Chapel, 416 feet on the east line and 402 feet on the west line.

On April 15, 1875, his surviving children and sole heirs — Edmund G. Holmes, Elizabeth R. Venning, William

the house at 32 Charlotte follows practices of the Adam period. The "single" house plan would be altered in several ways, to assure an easy intercommunication of main rooms and service areas, and to create oval rooms and semi-circular projections. This dwelling is an interesting example of such a practice in what at first appears to be a very basic "single" house plan.

The house is of brick in Flemish bond, with a brick dentil cornice, and the division between floors accentuated by belting. Solid shutters were intended for the windows of the first story and slatted blinds for those of the two upper stories. Over the windows are flat arches in brick but the two stair window arches on the east are semi-circular.

The piazzas and pedimented entrance repeat the delicate treatment of the period. The columns on the two-tiered piazza are exaggerated in their slenderness; the wooden balusters have been handsomely turned. On the second piazza level the Doric columns are topped by gentle segmental arches that carry on that fine-lined grace apparent in so many other features.

Repeated in the projecting bays are the delicate brackets that are in evidence in the piazza cornice. As a whole the dwelling is one of the most "composed" houses of this style constructed during this period in the city. Not as elaborate or overly large as other Adam residences, the house at 32 Charlotte is the perfect medium size Adam home.

Do You Know Your Charleston?

E. Holmes, Mary F. Holmes

and Margaret E. Holmes — conveyed it to William E. Holmes, as trustee for

George C. Holmes, for \$7,050.

On Nov. 24, 1831, it was purchased from this family after more than 30 years of ownership, by Gloria E. Gerard, the present owner. The current measurements are 81 feet by 276 feet.

In both detail and planning

THE POINT I'M making is that if King St. were made really attractive, it would have almost every business here.

An aerial photograph of a large industrial complex, possibly a chemical plant or refinery. The facility features a dense network of interconnected pipes, several large storage tanks, and various industrial buildings. A major railway line with several tracks runs through the facility. The surrounding area appears to be a mix of industrial land and some natural vegetation. In the background, a body of water and some distant buildings are visible.

32. CHARLOTTE IS EXAMPLE OF LATER ADAM ARCHITECTURE
The graceful ante bellum dwelling still shows its good qualities despite alterations. (Staff Photo by Burbage.)

Charlotte Street Became Part Of City's First Suburb

By W. H. J. THOMAS
Staff Reporter

The lower portion of the city dwelling at 16 Charlotte and a few years later Joseph Aiken built 20 Charlotte Street, with its high columned portico. The dwelling at 32 Charlotte is of such good quality that a little shabbiness does nothing to reduce its natural grace. The lines of the structure itself and the construction of the piazzas remain unharmed by several additions and alterations, so clearly is the house a work of excellence. Another dwelling which is typical of several other Charlotte Street houses of a more simple design is No. 40, a tall building directed into the street. Not possessing the high quality of the other buildings, it is nevertheless a credit to the city. It is also one of the city's few streets with a lovely vista at either end — to the east one sees the Cooper River quite plainly and, to the west, the eastern wing of the wooden frame aine bellum facing Old Citadel with its handsome Vanbrough facade designed by

most attractive residential streets, placed along a high ridge with creeks on either side, was created. Charlotte Street was the forerunner of this development that

Do You Know Your Charleston?

Wom
southern or the city. Porches span the entire front
g of two stories of the house,
is which spreads over a lot with a
Mrs

each frontage double that of most lots in Charleston. The third floor, chairman in which contains only two rooms, Division

4, is without a porch and has a Demolition headline. In the S of The headline Mrs. P Republic organization. The pronounced Mrs. J. This house and lot have had a headline number of owners since it was sold by Alexander C. Republic organization. The pronounced Mrs. J. Its first sold by Alexander C. Republic organization. The pronounced Mrs. J. Paul D. Mazzyck, Paul D. Mazzyck, Mary Mazzyck and Catherine Mazzyck came to Samuel Ham for 490 guineas and in the early days of the development. For most of the past century it has belonged to various members of the Walker family.

16 April 2. N.Y.C.

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