

1993
74 Church Street
The Doctor Quirk House
Ms. C. S. Henning

Originally, two buildings stood on this property - this house and one on the corner of Church and Longitude Lane. The builder is unknown but it is certain they both were constructed after the fire in 1778 (much of this area was victim to it) and before 1788. Due to scant documentation, difficulties arise in determining the early history of this house as well as when the other building on this property was demolished.

The first known inhabitant, though not necessarily the owner, was a Doctor Quirk. Firm evidence of ownership emerges in the records of 1853 when the house was sold by joint owners, Reverends Paul Trapier and William Dehon, their wives, and Dr. Theodore Dehon on August 23rd to Mr. Henry Bischoff. Interestingly, the house must have been used for rental as the Reverends and wives are listed in The Charleston Directory (1852) as residing at 37 Meeting Street. Sixteen owners since Mr. Bischoff are listed, fourteen of them in the 20th century, prior to the current owner, who acquired the house on January 1, 1991.

A plat drawn in 1852 by Edward Brickell White shows that the other house is gone and that two dependency buildings stood on the property. These have since been removed and replaced with a kitchen addition. The plat also shows that an exterior staircase existed to the rear; there is therefore a possibility that the substructure of the rear staircase in the house is original. The plat also reveals that the original south facade of this house had a piazza with columns that wrapped around it, about 34 feet in length. The current front door on the south facade is typical for a door leading onto a piazza. The four light transom is the best detailed example. Comparison to the existing building shows that the original facade would have been 5 bays long, not 6. The 6th bay stands where the piazza would have wrapped behind the house. Evidence of the 18th and early 19th century is seen in the architectural details of the windows and shutters (from the front of the house) as well as in the floors inside. It should be noted that a courtyard exists to the rear of the house at present.

Enter house.

Living Room

The Chinese carved rosewood table dates to the late 19th century. The papier mache lacquer and inlaid table is English, c. 1830. Displayed in the secretary is a collection of pre-Columbian pottery. The lamp is a Tiffany reproduction, crafted from mother-of-pearl. Frank Gallo, a Chicago artist, created the modern sculpture in this room. The very simple dentil mantle in this

room could be original, but no real evidence supports this possibility.

When progressing to the Dining Room, notice the central stair rail, newel post and ballusters - these all show evidence in their architectural details dating to the 18th or early 19th century.

Dining Room

The mahogany dining table with hairy paw feet dates to c. 1850. Also from that same time period, the marble-topped mahogany pier table. The curio cabinet is lacquered with black and gold. Also of interest in this room is the mantle. Its "pierced" detailing is of Adamesque origin dating to the beginning of the 19th century. Most likely this mantle is a replacement, but it has historic value none the less.

The artwork collection in this room exemplifies modern, humorous sculpture - notice "Diane", the perfect house guest (also well loved as debutante, jet setter, and best friend). Stephen Hanser, artist, created the papier mache dog sculpture. Notice the use of indian rugs as window curtains which compliment the room's furnishings.

Kitchen

This room is an addition to the house. Two chairs are placed at the steel and wood slat breakfast table. The sturdy butcher block table is an antique. An oriental rug decorates the room. Keeping with the home's sculpture display, we find a papier mache work of a "chef."

House History for 74 Church St.

by Louis Nelson

A. Historical Analysis

B. Architectural Analysis

C. List of Owners

A. Historic Analysis

18th century documents providing a wealth of information on the house and property at 74 Church St. are few and far between. However, the construction date of the house is certainly after 1778, for in that year a major fire engulfed the whole neighborhood, including this property. The first document which sheds any light on the property is "The Ichnography of Charleston," (figure 1) a map of the city of Charleston in 1788, only ten years after the mentioned fire. The "Ichnography" shows two buildings on the property. The first is on the north corner of Church St. and Longitude Lane and the second sits where the structure known today as 74 Church St. rests. ★ Architectural evidence points toward this decade (1778-1788) as a realistic construction period for the house, but that is a later topic.

The builder of the house is as yet unidentified. No information on who lived in the house surfaces until 1829, when The Charleston Directory states that S. Bowman, a grocer, lived on the north corner of Longitude Lane and Church St. Even this information can be misleading for we are unsure if both buildings from "The Ichnography" are still standing. If they were, S. Bowman most likely lived in the building no longer standing. If it was demolished by that point, he lived in the present building. The Directory does not state, however, whether the building was strictly residential or mixed use.

A cross-reference directory in 1840 provides some information about the property and its surroundings. The directory tells us that at 68 Church St. lived a doctor, William Quirk and that 70 Church St. was a boarding house. There is no listing for 66 Church St. and 64 Church St. is on the south side of Longitude Lane. This could mean that the 1st building on "The Ichnography" had been demolished, but the property was still considered a separate lot, accounting for the lost 66 Church St. If this is the case, Dr. Quirk lived in the building now standing. If the 1st building was not removed by 1840, Dr.

either S. Bowman or Dr. William Quirk exist, so they both may have rented their property from a still unidentified owner.

* Firm evidence for the use of 74 Church St. as rental property surfaces by 1853 when Reverend Paul Trapier, his wife Anne, Reverend William Dehon, his wife, and Doctor Theodore Dehon, all listed as joint owners of the property on Church St. sell it on August 23, 1853 to Mr. Henry Bischoff. The Directory for 1852 list Reverend Trapier and Reverend Dehon and their wives as residing at 37 Meeting St. This is the first written documentation which states the owners of the property, even if they did not live there. A futile attempt was made to determine the parish(es) with which Reverend Trapier and Reverend Dehon were affiliated.

Mr. Bischoff, of unknown occupation, sold the property on July 2, 1855 to Mr. Christopher Nelson. Mr. Nelson held the property until his death in 1895. His will divided the property between his widow Olivia and The 1st Baptist Church. Showing an aggressive interest in the property, 1st Baptist Church immediately sold its portion to Mrs. Olivia Nelson for \$1.

In 1899, the property was sold by Mrs. Nelson and through the 20th century has had 14 owners prior to Carol Sue Henning who purchased the house on January 1, 1991. A list of all known owners and respective deed numbers and dates is attached.

B. Architectural Analysis

A look at the house from an architectural viewpoint provides further information on its history. The only detail which can be firmly dated to the 18th century is the Georgian mantle in the front bedroom of the 2nd floor. The "sunburst" details on this mantle are typical of the Georgian period and support the hypothesis that the house is 18th century. * The very simple dentil mantle on the first floor front room could be original, but gives no real evidence to support the possibility. Its design could range anywhere from the 18th century

dining room

to the present. The mantle in the rear room of the first floor is also of interest. Its "pierced" detailing is of Adamesque origin dating to the beginning of the 19th century. Most likely this mantle is a replacement, but it has historic value none the less. The last mantle, sporting the free standing columns, is also of interest but certainly not original. The Greek Revival flavor of this mantle was not really in vogue until the movement of the 2nd quarter of the 19th century.

When discussing mantles, one thing to keep in mind is that they are easily moved around or replaced. The Georgian mantle does seem appropriately placed if the 2nd floor front room was used as a reception room or "drawing room" in a formal context. This more elaborate mantle would have been in the public room.

The most informative document is a plat of the property drawn for Rev. Trapier, Rev. Dehon and Dr. Dehon in 1852 by Edward Brickell White, (figure 2) popularly known as E.B.White. The plat shows that the 1st house from "The Ichnography" had been removed from the site. The Building had a piazza with 6 columns along the south facade which wrapped behind the house along the east facade.

Visual evidence coincides with the document. The current front door on the south facade is typical of the design for a door which would have led onto a piazza. The four light transom is the best detailed example. E.B. White was also quite informative in his measurements and shows the south facade as about 34 feet in length. Comparison to the existing building shows that the original south facade would have been 5 bays long (i.e. 2 windows, 1 door, 2 windows), not 6. The 6th bay stands where the piazza would have wrapped around the house. The floor plan of both floors would have been room, hall, room with an entry hall on the first floor and a hall to the piazza on the second floor with a door leading out where the modern bathroom stands today. The plat also gives evidence of an exterior staircase to the rear of the house. The substructure of the rear staircase currently in the house may then be original.

The plat shows two dependency buildings on the property. They have since

been removed and a kitchen addition placed on the rear of the building in the 20th century past the earlier, probably 19th century, encapsulation of the rear staircase.

★ Other architectural details including the floors, the central stair rail, newel post, and ballusters, windows and shutters (from the front portion of the house) all show evidence of the 18th or early 19th century.

It seems necessary to state the importance of the plat drawn by E.B. White. It is odd that an architect so prominent would agree to provide a surveying service less than ten years after he had completed such projects as the French Huguenot Church and the steeple of St. Philips Episcopal Church.

C. List of Owners

1. Carol Sue Henning, 1/7/91, M199-183
2. W. Kent Van Allen, 10/17/88, W178-764
3. Roger Parke Hanahan, Jr., 5/10/88, S174-359
4. Virginia W. Dawson, 7/12/61, G74-30
5. Jeanne F.W. Igleheart, 4/5/53, X64-388
6. Alfred H. Webb, 4/13/31, J30-237
7. Robert Clark, 4/11/22, T30-237
8. Susan B. Marshall, 5/11/18, S28-151
9. Enterprise Real Estate, 2/4/10, O25-115
10. J.C. Moroso, 1/3/14, N26-325
11. W.B. Wilbur, 5/6/07, T24-305
12. Rosalie W. Baynard, 3/9/05, V24-192
13. James P. Allen, 10/20/02, J24-158
14. Olivia M. Nelson, 2/23/1899, C23-337
- 14a. First Baptist Church, 1895
15. Christopher Nelson, 7/2/1855, I13-339
16. Henry Bischoff, 8/23/1853, B13-453

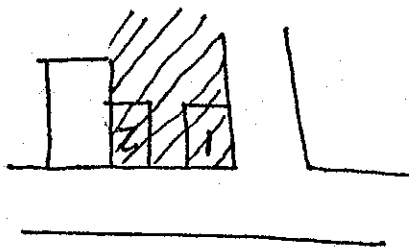


FIG. 1

