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Architect Devereux Directed Remodeling Of 24 S. Battery

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Special Writer

John Henry Devereux was the architect for remodeling the house at 24 South Battery in 1870.

Devereux's client was George S. Cook, the noted photographer. Cook, who had built his own home at 28 South Battery in 1860-61, apparently remodeled the house as an investment. Cook purchased the property on Feb. 10, 1870, for \$3,010 from Peter Gowan.

There was on the site at the time a 2½-story wooden house, the remaining half of an 18th century double tenement with a passageway through the middle of the first floor. The double tenement, with a high hipped roof, appears on the "Bird's Eye View" of the city, c. 1850.

Nathaniel Russell Middleton had in 1857 demolished the east half of the double tenement, retaining the original chimneys and his half of the passage, incorporating those features in his new Italianate town house.

The west half of the double tenement, which Cook purchased, was apparently in poor condition in 1870.

According to the Courier of Aug. 5, 1870, Cook planned to demolish the

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old house and replace it with a "cottage" designed by Devereux.

Either the Courier report was in error or Cook changed his mind, because the old house was obviously retained and remodeled.

That Devereux planned the remodeling is a certainty. Details of the house, such as the window and piazza treatment, are almost identical with such features on the house at 152 Broad St., which Devereux designed for William M. Bird in 1885.

Devereux worked on Cook's house at the same time he was remodeling Col. Richard Lathers' house at 20 South Battery, and both houses acquired fashionable mansard roofs in the French Second Empire style.

The house was extended forward by the addition of a room with a bay window on the right side of the front on each floor. The remaining portion of the front piazzas acquired slender, clustered columns and a railing with

a diamond-and-stick pattern in wood.

The piazza roof and the main roof acquired balustrades with urn-shaped balusters, in the Italianate style. Italianate design is also apparent in the bracketed window cornices of the bays and in the round heads of the windows.

The original flat headed windows, some of which retain nine-light sashes with heavy Georgian muntins, were also given an Italianate treatment with new surrounds, having "ears" at the corners, a popular motif of the 1870s.

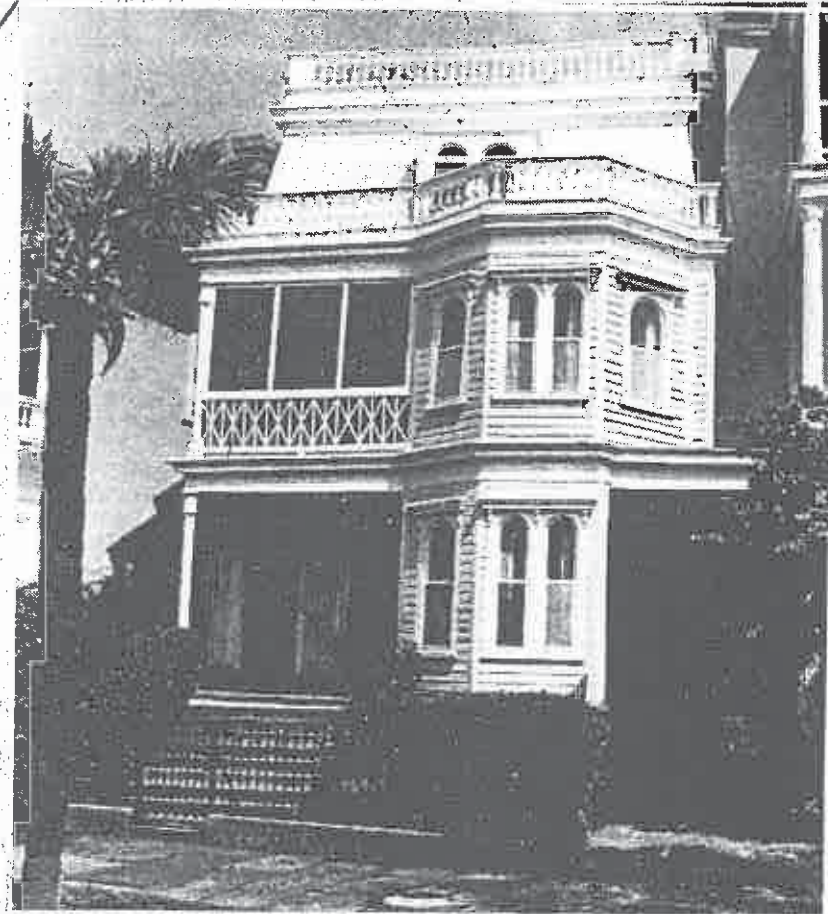
Novelty siding was applied to the front of the house, but very wide beaded clapboards remain on the sides.

The floor plan, originally that of the traditional single house, was altered to run a narrow hall on the west side, leading from the front entrance to the stairhall.

The stairhall retains the original late 18th century dogleg staircase, with slender column newels, mahogany rail with handgrip and square-section balusters.

Also remaining are several Georgian-style paneled doors, some with

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Staff Photo by Bill Jordan

24 South Battery

24 So. Battery

...Architect

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six and some with four panels, mounted on wrought iron "HL" hinges.

Mantels in two rooms are of the Regency period, c. 1815-30, and the drawing room has a mantel, transitional between Georgian and Federal in style, typical of Charleston's pre-Adamesque, post-Revolutionary period.

Two rooms have built-in cabinets with ornate Gothic style tracery of indeterminate period in the glass doors.

Several single doorways in the house retain original simple surrounds with architrave molding. Double doorways dating from the 1870 remodeling have wider surrounds and large paneled doors. Large openings connect the front bayed rooms with the rooms behind them and connect the stairhall with the primary rooms.

To the rear of the house and connected with it by a later addition, is an outbuilding with very large kitchen and wash kitchen fireplaces. The outbuilding has frame walls set on low brick walls and shows extensive later remodeling.

Cook sold the property to Mary H. Campbell for \$3,500 on Oct. 10, 1874.

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22-24 South Battery

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Buildings-22-4 S. Battery



—Staff Photo.

Agreement to Keep Passage Open Has Been in Force Over a Century — DuBose Heyward Now Owner of House on West

An agreement to maintain "forever" an open passageway between 22 and 24 South Battery has been in force for more than a century, and there is no indication that it will fail to be observed indefinitely.

In a deed to 24 South Battery, now the winter residence of DuBose Heyward, (pictured on the left above) is the stipulation, "the passageway to remain open for the use of the two tenements forever." This deed was executed in 1831.

Little clue to the history of the buildings themselves is contained in deeds going back a century or more, but apparently both houses are quite old. Mr. Heyward found evidence of a tabby floor in an outbuilding in his residence.

The house next door, No. 22 South Battery, at present is unoccupied. It belongs to Ernest H. Pringle, who bought it in 1920 from the heirs of Nathaniel Russell Middleton. The house had been in the Middleton family since 1857, when it was purchased from J. Berkeley Grimball. The lot has a frontage of thirty-two feet and its depth varies from 210 to 196 feet.

This house, on the east, is a three-story structure, built of brick. The house on the west, now owned by Mr. Heyward, stands on a lot twenty-five feet wide and 133 feet deep. It formerly was the home of the late Dr. Charles W. Kollock.

Peter Gowan bought this house in 1831 from Philip Moser. George S. Cook acquired it in 1870 and sold it four years later to Mary H. Campbell. She sold it in 1887 to Marie W. Chisolm. The house was acquired by George M. Trenholm in 1889, and was remodeled at that time. George G. Greenough bought it from the Trenholm estate in 1909 and sold it to Dr. Kollock in 1914.

Both houses command an excellent view of White Point gardens and benefit by breezes from the Ashley river. The wall between the two houses, joins them above the first story, but a bricked arch forms the passageway referred to in the deed of 1831, giving access to the deep and shady yard, both houses.

—T. R.