

SIXTEEN BEDON'S ALLEY

2001

c. 1779-1790

Residence of Sandy Mohlmann

This house was probably built after the great fire of 1778 and before 1790. A cooperage factory was next door and this may have been its office. In the early 1800s, this street was a commercial center. Charles Fraser mentions that the earliest single wholesale merchant in Charleston was Whitefield and Brown in Bedon's Alley.

Originally this brick and stucco building had only 2 stories with a center first floor street entrance. Perhaps this is why the front façade windows are not quite in balance with the three on the first floor and two each on the second and third. The third floor was added before the 1886 earthquake.

After the cotton industry led businesses to upper King Street where large wagons could more easily maneuver, this area declined, and from 1892 until 1977 this was a two apartment rental unit.

In 1977, Count Pehr Sparre purchased the building and converted it into a single family home. He commissioned Philip Simmons, Charleston's premier artisan, to execute the wrought iron inserts for the wooden gates. The precise design of a shield bearing a chevron topped by a crown was provided by the Count.

RECEPTION ROOM

Mirror, 24K gilded, 8 X 10, "cold Water", dates to 1810

Original Pen and Ink view of Church Street, by Elizabeth O'Neill Verner, an important Charleston artist, born in 1883. Her museum studio is on the corner of Tradd and Church.

Tea set, Japanese Imari

Table, Baker Furniture, Historic Charleston Reproduction

Rug, Persian

Pembroke table, mahogany, with walnut inlay, late 1800s

Lamp, Italian candelabra, converted to a lamp

Original watercolor, by Marty Whaley Adams, a local artist, of the tea service in Nathaniel Russell House Museum on Meeting Street

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RECEPTION ROOM - Continued

Prayer Rug, Indian, in entrance way, c. 1900
Lithograph, Roy Fairchild, over mantel
Fireplace fender, metal and brass, c. 1890
Secrétaire, burled walnut, c1860, from Louisville Kentucky plantation
Tier table, French, with marble top and brass detail, c. 1940
Collection of antique stools in room and in bookcases

DRAWING ROOM

Chest of drawers, Bow front, Charleston, c. 1850
Rug, Oriental, vegetable dyed
Chair, Gothis Pre Du, with original needlework and straw stuffing, c. 1780,
France
Screen, 4 panel, China, handcarved and painted, c. 1870
Etching, Alfred Hutton
Lithograph, 1/1, by Marty Whaley Adams, "Laundry Street"
Lithograph, 1/1, by Marty Whaley Adams, "First Flowers"

DINING ROOM

This room was added after the earthquake of 1886. Notice the thickness of the outside walls (36") by noting the entrance from the reception room.

The wallpaper dates to the 1940s and is still available from Burnswig and Fils (pronounced Fee).

Table top, Early Regency, mahogany, with Pearwood edging and center sunburst detail. The base is 1940s Duncan Phyfe.
Chairs, Early Regency, with Ormolu Escutheons
Mirror, gilded, French, c. 1860
Pair of Wig Stands, English, Chinoiserie porcelain, used as vases
China, Limoges and Old Paris
Crystal, 1940s, etched Fostoria
Silver, Georg Jensen, Acorn Pattern
Linen, Antique collection

KITCHEN

Blue and white plate collection
Baking dish, crockery covered, Provence, France
Market box, China
Spice chest, early American, Pine

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SUNROOM

This room was added in 1987.

Armoire, pine, Alsace, French, c. 1895

Pilaster, Charleston, fluted, with original paint

Stand, French, antique, wrought iron, used for stacking copper pots and pans

Cabinet door, old French, with original paint

GARDEN

Exit through Walled Garden. The entire garden is planted with white blooming plants and flowers.

The pond and fountain have been restored and have the two lion statues and lion foundation head that were left by Count Sparre's family (symbol of the family coat of arms).

To the right of the pond, notice the old slave grave markers that edge the flowerbeds. The white fluted column is pre-Revolutionary.

Note the False Variegated Holly bushes. Diplodendia - rare and unusual.

Antique iron gate hanging next to the pond is from Natchez, and the iron stars having below are Charleston earthquake bolt covers.

Old sundial

Black wire plant stand, Victorian

Watering can collection, American, English, and French

The feeling is created of an old cozy overgrown garden of South of France spilling over with many varieties of white tumbling, blooming flowers in interesting containers.