

The Kohne-Leslie House was built around 1846 by Eliza Neufville Kohne of Charleston and Philadelphia. The current three-and-a-half story, Greek Revival brick house of the side-hall, double-parlor plan replaced an earlier two-story wooden single house, which burned in the fire of 1838. The original kitchen outbuilding remains at the rear of the house as a freestanding structure and is believed to pre-date the fire of 1838.

The Ansonborough neighborhood, one of the earliest extensions beyond the original walled city of Charles Town, was established on land that first belonged to Thomas Gadsden. Local legend has it that he lost the land, approximately sixty-four acres, to Lord George Anson in a card game. Anson, who was known for his anti-piracy control in the early eighteenth century, in turn developed the area into parcels divided by streets he named for himself and his ships. Adjacent to this area was land known as “Rattray’s Green,” named after its owner, John Rattray, which was purchased in 1755 by Henry Laurens and renamed “Laurens Square.” In 1764, Laurens built his brick mansion overlooking the marshes and Cooper River on this land.

After the death of Henry Laurens in 1792, his son, Henry Laurens the Younger, began to develop the property into building lots, including lots 14 and 15 (the location of the present house and dependency) and lots 16 and 17 (the location of the present garden and driveway). On May 4, 1804, Laurens sold lots 14 and 15 to Jacint Laval, Esq., for \$1817.69 and \$2,656, respectively. On April 8, 1805, Laval sold both lots to John Hauck, a local shopkeeper, for \$4,474.29. On August 23, 1819, John Hauck sold one of the lots to William Miller for \$7,100, who held it in trust for his wife, Mary. Mary, in turn, left the land, and the house upon it, to her son, Charles, in 1835. In 1837, Charles would buy not only lot 15, but also lots 16 and 17.

On the same day that Henry Laurens, Jr. sold lots 14 and 15 to Laval, he sold lots 16 and 17 to Joseph Sanford Barker and Francis Depau for \$4381.06; on September 2, 1807, Depau and his wife conveyed to Barker their share for \$2190.53. The chain of title for these properties is less clear than for the others; by 1820 the land was held by the Planters and Mechanics Bank, who sold it to Elizabeth Conover, who sold it to Francis Labordes in 1822. At some point, it belonged to Cassimer Patrick, who sold it to Isabella Locke, who left it to George B. Locke, who sold it to Charles Miller.

Unfortunately, the original wooden house on the property was destroyed in the fire of 1838, although one or more the outbuildings may have survived. After Charles' death in 1848, his trustee, Philip Neyle, sold the land and the remaining buildings to Eliza Neufville Kohne, late of Philadelphia but a member of the notable Neufville family in Charleston. The Neufvilles were of French Huguenot descent and were prominent merchants in colonial Charleston. They were also known for their strong Whig background and service to the American cause during the American Revolution. Eliza built the present three-and-a-half story brick house and left it to her nephew, Benjamin Simons Neufville, upon her death in 1860. Benjamin then left it to his wife, Harriet, and to his children, Benjamin Kohne Neufville and Julia Yancy Neufville. Julia lived in the house until 1900, when it then passed to her nieces, Anna Clarkson Neufville and Isabel Yancey Neufville, who was living in New York with her husband. On May 4, 1904, they sold the property to Charles S. Leslie, a successful wholesale fish and oyster merchant, who was a prominent member of the black community of Charleston. Upon his death in 1911, it went to his daughter, Julia B. Leslie, until it was bought in 1959 by the Historic Charleston Foundation as part of the Ansonborough Rehabilitation Project.

In rehabilitating 72 Anson, the Historic Charleston Foundation had to do extensive interior as well as exterior work. A fire had severely damaged most of the first floor, and the grand staircase in particular needed almost complete reconstruction. The Foundation also demolished numerous buildings dating from more modern periods. After the renovations were complete, the Historic Charleston Foundation sold the property to Amalie Walker, and though it has passed to numerous owners, it has been a single-family home since. The Historic Charleston Foundation maintains both interior and exterior façade easements on the property.

It was during the Hauck-Miller period that the current outbuildings may have been built, as John Hauck built a wooden two-and-a-half story building on the property before he sold it to William Miller. It is also possible that William Miller built it shortly after buying the property, as it appears in a plat created in 1819. The buildings, which were identified in the 1819 plat, included a kitchen, stables, and a privy. Throughout this period, and into the Kohne period as well, it is highly likely that enslaved people would have lived and worked in these buildings.

The names of any enslaved people owned by John Hauck, or their residency at 72 Anson, are unknown. We do, however, know from her will that Mary Miller owned numerous enslaved people, several of whom might have lived at 72 Anson. She left to her daughter Jane Miller two women named Juliet and Hannah, “together with their future issue and increase,” to her son Charles E. Miller two men named Frank and Thomas, and to her granddaughter Sarah Ann a woman named Nancy “together with her future issue and increase.” As Charles inherited the land and house, it is possible that Frank and Thomas continued to live on the property. It is unknown if Charles had any other enslaved people or if he moved them to the new property. Elizabeth Neufville Kohne, according to the 1840 census, owned seven slaves: one man, aged 24-25, three females, aged 10-23, and three females, aged 24-35, before she moved to 72 Anson and built the

existing house in 1848. In the 1850 census, Eliza is listed as the homeowner, with five other people: Henry Nunnemaker, a coachman, Jacob Falbo, Emma Falbo, Ellen Falbo, and Martha Falbo. Mr. and Mrs. Falbo and their daughters are all listed as “mulatto.” It is unclear whether they were enslaved or free, or, if the former, whether they were among the seven slaves listed in the 1840 census. Additionally, Eliza’s will in 1860, wherein she leaves two thousand dollars in trust “for the benefit of my faithful servants Susan Inglis and Edward James of Philadelphia” as well as \$60 for Susan and her heirs and \$500 should James marry. She also gave her servant Phillis Gordon all of her furniture in two rooms of her Philadelphia house, and all the linen, common china, and glassware to Susan and James. Furthermore, in the original will, Eliza left an annuity to her freed slave, Emma Harbeaux, which was highly contested by her relatives. The noted Charleston attorney, James L. Petigru, argued her case in vain before the Supreme Court, and Emma was never able to return to South Carolina to claim the annuity. Petigru, in addition to being her lawyer and an executor of her will, was also given all of her carriages and horses in Philadelphia as well as half of her stock of wine in Philadelphia. These actions of Eliza Neufville Kohne add extra complexity to her role as a slaveholder and the lives of her enslaved, and formerly enslaved, people and their lives at 72 Anson.