

69 CHURCH STREET

RMC INFO:

Jessica C. Cecil
30 Apr. 1970 M-94, 49
William Mason Smith and Carrie S. Carre

(William Mason Smith, Carrie S. Carre, and Eleanor Mason Gaud inherited the property from their father William Mason Smith. Eleanor Mason Gaud sold her share to William Mason Smith in deed dated 20 June 1967 and located at RMC in book B-88, 393.)

William Mason Smith, attorney now of Staten Island, N.Y.
18 Mar. 1919 S-28, 340
D.E. Huger Smith and Robert T. Smith as execs. and trustees
by will of Eliza M. Smith probated 18 Feb. 1919

"This large double house has been attributed to Richard Capers, but it may have been built by Jordan Roche or Jacob Motte. Richard Capers, a planter in Christ Church Parish, inherited the lot from his father Capt. William Capers, who owned it in 1715 and is thought to have died c. 1718. There is no documentary evidence of what Richard Capers did with this property, but it has been speculated he built this house c. 1745, as a wedding gift for his third wife, Mary Ann Maybank. The first recorded evidence of the house is a 1761 deed, in which Rebecca Roche, widow of Jordan Roche, relinquished her dower in the property to her husband's nephew, Francis Roche, including the 'Brick House Messaue or Tenement and out Houses thereon Erected.' At that time, the property was leased by Jacob Motte, the Public Treasurer, who continued to live there until his death in 1770. Motte was for 27 years the Public Treasurer, which office was second in importance to the Governor. The Treasurer, who was appointed and regulated by the Assembly, kept the provincial government's funds in his personal possession, subject to a great bond. He served as the local banker, as Charleston had no banks until the 1790s. Motte and other treasurers grew rich on legal commissions. Motte was the ancestor of many prominent South Carolinians. He fathered 19 children and was the father-in-law of Thomas Lynch and Gen. William Moultrie. Motte never owned the house, but rented it from the Jordan Roche family. In 1778, the house became the home of James Parsons, a member of the Provincial Congress and of the Secret Committee of 1775. Parsons died in 1779, while vice president of South Carolina."(Tour Book Info)

" The house was severely damaged during the Federal bombardment and purchased in a ruinous state by Mrs. William Mason Smith, who restored it after the Civil War. Her descendant the late Alice R. Huger Smith, nationally known watercolorist and writer, lived here."(Tour Book Info)

"For many years, the entrance was in the northernmost opening in the street facade. In 1971, the entrance was returned to its original position, in the center of the facade, during an extensive renovation of the house."(Tour Book Info)

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SCHC File:

house circa 1735

house built for Richard Capers. 2nd owner was Jacob Motte.

Construction attributed to Richard Capers (1712-1774) about 1745, but evidence also exists to attribute the building of the house to Jordan Roche.

James Parsons purchased the house in 1770 or 1771 from Roche's widow.

1800 O'Brien Smith acquired the house.

1869 Mrs. William Mason Smith acquired the house.

1753 - Jacob Motte manumises slaves Clot + her daughter Sue
from Misc. Records V. 80-A, 1751-1754 p. 583

the present owners undertook restoration in 1971. This is the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Cecil.

Property owned in 1715 by Capt. William Capers, 1718 land passed from Capt. Capers to his son Richard Capers.

1811 O'brien Smith sold the house to John Pyne for \$200,000 (This price included other properties)

1821 the property went to Pyne's widow. It was held by the heirs until 1866.

1869 House sold to Mrs. William Mason Smith (owned the house for 100 yrs.) (DYKYC 3/8/71)

1970 Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Cecil bought the house.