



104 Rutledge Ave  
Charleston, SC

A History



HOUSELORE

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# The Neighborhood

Harleston Village

Harleston Village was originally part of a grant made to John Coming and Henry Hughes in 1671-72. After the death of Coming and his wife, Mrs. Affra Coming, it was inherited by Mrs. Coming's nephew, John Harleston, and his descendants.

Harleston Village was subdivided into lots in 1770 by John Harleston, who named the streets of important men of the time, including Lt. William Bull and statesman John Rutledge.

The stuccoed brick house at 104 Rutledge Ave is built on Harleston tract lot 95 and is situated at the southeast corner of Rutledge and Bull Street.

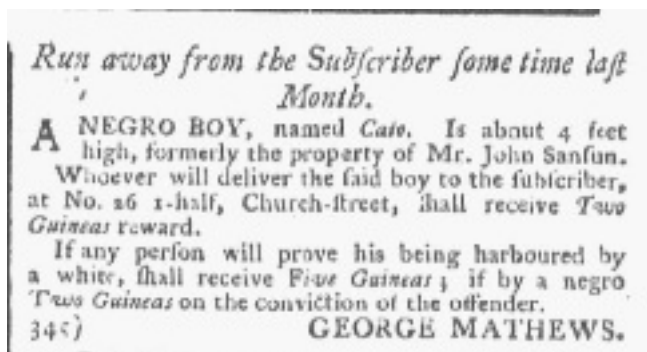
# The Owners

# Ann Ashby

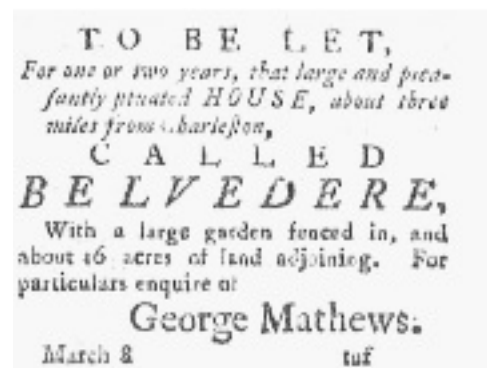
Ann was the widow of Nicholas Harleston, whom she had married in September of 1756 and had four children with. She sold lot 95 to George Mathews for 400 pounds sterling in November of 1800.

## George Mathews Owner, 1800 – 1815

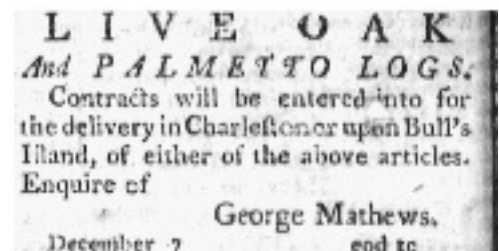
In the Charleston city directory of 1806, George is listed as a vendue master, with his residence being at the southeast corner of Rutledge and Bull St. This means that the original residence dates at least back to 1806, rather than 1816, as was long believed.



South Carolina Gazette, April 1784



City Gazette, March 1791



City Gazette, December 1791

# Thomas B. Seabrook

## Owner, 1815 – 1839

Thomas Bannister Seabrook was a wealthy cotton planter and landowner from Edisto Island who purchased the property in 1815 for the sum of \$14,000. At this period in time, it was known as 18 Rutledge.

He was married to Elizabeth Clark and had three daughters, Sarah, Elizabeth and Caroline. According to his will, this property was his primary residence.

The will itself became a much-noted thing in the late 19th century. Thomas died in the 1839 and left the home to his daughter Elizabeth (it appears he was predeceased by his eldest daughter Sarah). When Elizabeth died without issue, the house became part of a complicated legal battle started by Gilbert Geddes Dupont, son of Caroline Seabrook, that involved a forged will, elite handwriting experts and, finally, the state Supreme Court.

**OFFICE OF INTENDANT,**  
**AUGUST 23d, 1832.**

**W**HILEAS, the City Council, at their session on the 21st inst. (in consequence of an application from the Board of Health, representing the necessity of enlarging the number of Assistant Commissioners of Health,) adopted the following Resolution, to wit:

*Resolved,* That Council assent in the application from the Board of Health; and that the Intendant be authorized to make the appointment of Assistant Commissioners, and to fill any vacancies that may occur.

Now, therefore, in compliance with the said Resolution, I do hereby appoint the following Gentlemen, Assistant Commissioners of Health, in the Wards respectively to which they are attached, viz:

*Ward No. 1.*—(Capt. D. Raper, Dr. James Hallinan, John Kirkpatrick, John Holliday, Thomas Gadsden, Roger Harriot.

*Ward No. 2.*—(Barnd E. Bacy, Dr. Henry Alexander, Charles Menigault, Geo. Wagner, Barnd E. Baker, Rev. W. Raper.

*Ward No. 3.*—Thomas Miliken, Jas. Rose, Thos. G. Capers, Barnd Elliot, H. Grinke, Marice Simmons, James O'Hear.

*Ward No. 4.*—Dr. Thos. G. Friesen, Francis D. Quash, Dant Huger, Chas. E. Rowand, Thomas H. Seabrook, Julius Blackwood, Andrew M'Dowell, Dr. Elias Horiback.

(Left) News and Courier, 1832

James Allen				1					1			1			2			1	2	
Thomas B. Seabrook					1		2	1				1			1	2		2	2	3
Thomas Seabrook	1	1				1	2	1		1			1		2	1			1	2

(Above) Excerpt, Federal Census of 1820


The Federal Census of 1820 shows Thomas Seabrook's household containing 15 people total – 4 freew white persons and 11 slaves.



# Dr. Joseph Glover

Owner, 1839 – 1840


The property came under the ownership of Dr. Joseph Glover in 1839. Dr. Glover was a wealthy man who owned five houses in Charleston and numerous plantations such as Forlorn Hope, Berry Hill, and others. Upon his death in 1840, his properties were willed between his five children. His son, Dr. Francis Y. Glover of Jacksonborough, would inherit this property as well as West Bank Plantation.



**20 DOLLARS REWARD.**  
Run away, my Negro Fellow EDMAN, recently the property of Dr. Glover. He is about 5 feet 7 inches in height, short and stoutly built, and somewhat marked with the small pox. Edman is in the habit of wearing a short brown sarcoat or blue waterloo. He formerly was in Colleton at Mrs. Stanley's farm, and is well known about this city. The above reward will be paid on his being lodged in the work house, or delivery to the subscriber.  
**HENRY ROACH,**  
King-street, next to the residence of Mrs. Aiken.  
Keepers of Ferries are requested not to permit the above fellow to pass, and masters of vessels are cautioned not to take him out of the State.  
March 25

(Left) Charleston Courier, 1831

(Right) Charleston Courier, 1835. Dr. Glover owned the house opposite the property (now known as 104 Rutledge Ave) in 1835.



**TO LET,**  
That commodious and pleasantly situated new **BRICK HOUSE AND LARGE LOT,** opposite to the residence of Dr. Glover, in Rutledge-street. Apply to  
July 18 12½ NORTH, WEBB & CO.

# Dr. Francis Y. Glover

## Owner, 1840 – 1857, 1859 – 1863

Francis inherited the property from his father Joseph. He appears to have lived in it initially before selling it to Mary Ann Petigru in 1857. According to her niece Elizabeth Allston Pringle, who visited often: "She lived in Charleston, in her beautiful home with large yard and garden..and was a rich woman, as riches were counted in those days..."

Unfortunately, it appears that Mary fell on hard times, as the property was seized back by Dr. Francis Glover in 1859.

Glover, Francis, Planter, house Bull St , cor Rutledge St

(Above) Excerpt from City Directory of 1859

# William M. Tunno

## Owner, 1863 – 1866

William Tunno purchased the property in 1863 for the sum of \$27,000. He owned the property throughout the tumultuous period of the Civil War.

# Eugenia Huchet

Owner, 1866 – 1868

Eugenia purchased the property in 1866, just after the close of the Civil War. Property prices were at an all-time low, and the Reconstruction effort was getting underway.

# Charlotte & Anna Alston

Owners, 1868 – late 1800s

Charlotte and Anna purchased the home in 1868, when it was known as 80 Rutledge. Little is known about them and their time in the house, but it is known that they rented out the premises to various tenants for the majority of their ownership. The map below, dating to 1872, shows the home (circled in red) in its original state before Victorian elements were added, with three stories and a two story eastern facing piazza.



'Birds Eye View' map of Charleston, c. 1872 by C. Drie

**WANTED, A CAPABLE WHITE**  
Woman to assist with Children and  
make herself useful. Good wages will be  
paid. Apply at S. E. cor. Rutledge and Bull  
streets.

(Left) News and Courier,  
1884

**WANTED, A COMPETENT COOK.**  
Liberal wages will be paid. Apply at  
southeast corner Rutledge and Bull streets.

(Left) News and Courier,  
November 1884

**TO RENT, THAT COMFORTABLE**  
and convenient House, 80 Rutledge ave-  
nue. Apply for terms next door north.

(Left) News and Courier,  
March 1888

(Right) News and Courier,  
1883. The home appears to be  
for sale, described as a three  
story brick residence with six  
square rooms, pantry, and  
outbuildings.

**Auctioneers' Private Sales.**  
**B. H. H. DeLEON.**  
**VALUABLE DWELLING CORNER RUT-  
LEDGE AND BULL STREETS.**  
That valuable Three Story BRICK DWEL-  
LING at Southeast Corner Rutledge and Bull  
streets, containing six square rooms, pantry,  
&c., and extensive outbuildings. Lot 96 feet  
front by 155 feet deep, more or less.  
For terms, &c., apply as above at 24 Broad  
street.

**JAMES F. REDDING.**

**ELIGIBLY LOCATED, SUBSTANTIALLY  
BUILT, RESIDENCE WITH ALL MODERN  
IMPROVEMENTS, SOUTHEAST CORNER  
RUTLEDGE AND BULL STREETS, SIZE  
OF LOT 53x172. ALSO, DESIRABLE  
VACANT LOT, NEXT SOUTH OF ABOVE—  
45x172.**

Will sell **TUESDAY, April 7, 1895, at 11  
o'clock, at the Postoffice.**

**That LOT OF LAND, with the three-story  
brick Residence, double piazzas, nine square  
rooms, bath room, pantry, large basement,  
kitchen of four rooms, stable, carriage house,  
cistern, Artisan water, gas throughout, two  
stairways thereon. House heated by steam.**

**First floor handsomely frescoed. Carved  
Italian marble mantel in parlor, cost \$1,500.  
Situated on the southeast corner Rutledge and  
Bull streets, known by the number 80 Rutledge  
street, measuring in front 111 feet and in depth  
172 feet.**

**House open for inspection daily from 10 to  
12 M.**

(Left) News and Courier, March 1895.  
The home is listed for sale as a three  
story brick residence with nine square  
rooms, bath room, double piazzas,  
Artisan water, gas throughout, and  
heated by steam. This matches the  
visual on the 1872 map. It also  
mentions the Italian marble fireplace  
mantel in the parlor, which apparently  
cost \$1,500.



# Arthur & Eliza Lynah

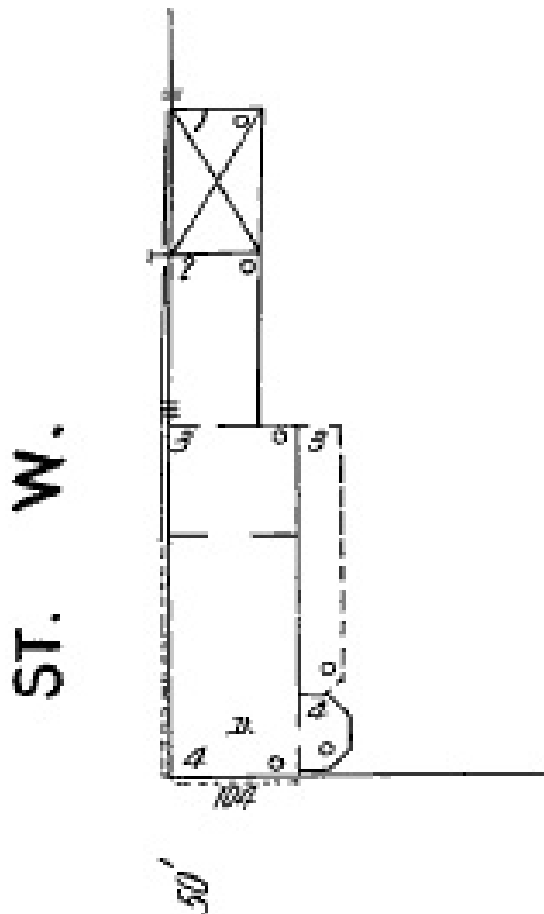
Owners, 1895 - 1917

Arthur and Eliza are accredited with "Victorianizing" the home by adding a three story tower as well as two 'two over two' windows with Queen Anne style window heads and bracketed cornice.

The photo below is believed to have been taken in the early 1900s, during the Lynah's occupation. It is kept in the archives of the Historic Charleston Foundation.



(Right) Evening Post, 1897 showing Arthur Lynah as the Treasurer of the Shepherd Supply Co. He would later be elected President of the company.



(Left) Excerpt from 1902 Sanborn Fire Map of Charleston. The main structure and tower addition are listed as four stories. We also see a three story south facing piazza, and rear portions of the structure degrading in height from three to two stories, with a one story stable at the rear.

# William P. Gelzer

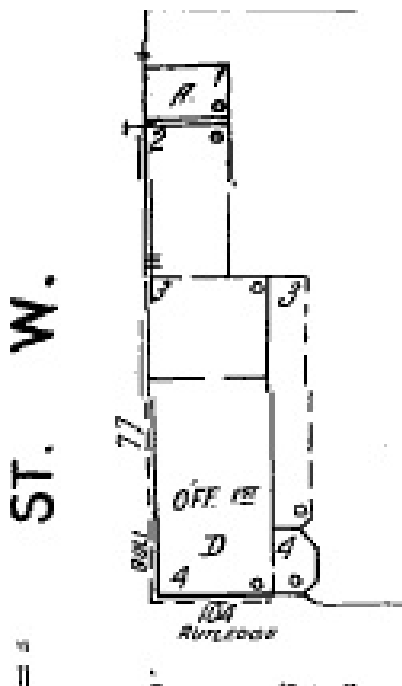
Owner, 1917 – 1918

William purchased the property in 1917 for the sum of \$10,500. He only owned it for a year before selling it on.

# Harriet McLeod Creighton

Owner, 1918 – 1971

Harriet purchased the property in 1918. She was a professional botanist and eventually earned her doctorate. She became a professor of botany at Wellesley College, and was President of the American Botanical Society.



(Left) Sanborn Fire Map of 1951. It shows the structure visible today (2018). The first floor had partitions installed in the 1930s in order to be rented to physicians. It is still an office space in 1951. The rear one story stable has been turned into a garage.



**MISS HARRIET CREIGHTON**

**Botany Expert  
To Speak Friday  
On 'Food for All'**

Miss Harriet B. Creighton, chairman of the botany department of Wellesley college, will speak under the auspices of the Charleston museum and the College of Charleston Friday at 4 p. m. in the museum lecture hall. Her topic will be "Food for All".

(Left) News and Courier, 1947 article depicting an image of Harriet Creighton and advertising her upcoming botany talk.

## **New Tips Given On Poison Ivy**

**By FRANK CAREY**

STORRS, Conn. (AP)—Some new tips on poison ivy hazards were given today by a woman plant scientist.

Dr. Harriet Creighton, professor of botany at Wellesley College, and president of the American Botanical Society, showed up at a scientific meeting here, with ivy poisoning of both arms.

She said she was poisoned while playing golf — by rubbing her arms against a golf bag she had placed on the ground where, she found out later, there were "dried-up, chopped-up ivy leaves that had been mowed from the 'rough' and kicked out into the fairway by a rotary lawnmower."

(Right) Evening Post, 1956 article advertising an talk on poison ivy hazards given by Dr. Harriet Creighton, who had poison ivy on her arms at the time.





(Above) News and Courier, 1935 article detailing the Italian marble mantelpiece within the property.

The above article states that Mr. Creighton wrote to the Smithsonian museum regarding the Italian marble mantelpiece in the parlor of the house. He received a reply, stating: "...the marble mantle in your home belongs with those found in George II houses in England...A dark veined marble mantel of Georgian design at Godmersham Park, Kent, of the period of 1732 is quite similar to your mantel. Both were made by Italian sculptors...The mantel is hand carved and it is estimated it must have taken about fifteen years to carve, although the date of carving, the sculptor and the date when it was brought to America are unknown."

Based upon the research conducted in this 2018 report, we know that the mantel was in the home by 1895. It appears that Thomas Seabrook originally purchased the mantel and had it installed in the home during his residency.



(Above) The Italian marble mantel as it appears in 2018.

# Mr. & Mrs. Norwood Smoak

## Owners, 1971 – 2005

The Smoaks purchased the home in 1971. There was a fire in 1976 on the third floor of the house, during which time a calendar was found in the walls which dated to 1888. During Hurricane Hugo in 1989, the basement of the house was flooded and the roofs of the tower and kitchen house were damaged.

According to an interview in 1998, Mr. Smoak referred to the tower as "the bane of my existence" due to the difficulty in finding contractors qualified to repair it.

In 1996, an infestation of Formosan termites forced the removal of the basement partitions that had been installed in the 1930s. The removal revealed beautiful brickwork, which has since been left exposed.

## Wando 'institution' named Teacher of the Year

By TAMELA K. WATKINS

For 33 years, Norwood Smoak has been making students laugh — and helping them learn.

For his efforts, Smoak has been named Wando High School's Teacher of the Year for 1988 by the faculty.

Smoak, who grew up in Mount Pleasant, is a Wando institution.

He has taught in Mount Pleasant schools since 1960, and the third generation of his students is on its way.

"It's been really rewarding to have taught children of students I've had in the past," said Smoak, who taught at Modlin High School before moving to Wando. "I'm working on a third generation now."

"The kids are the most important thing," he added. "They keep you going, and they keep you in your room."

Now an economics teacher, Smoak has been involved in several different fields, including math, biology, science, U.S. history and even driver's education during his career. He began teaching in August 1960 in Virginia after graduating the College of Charleston.

"I credit my interest in teaching to some very dedicated teachers that I had," Smoak said. "They instilled in me that knowledge is power. I firmly believe that."

He's had his own share of influence on students, including several members of the Wando faculty that he once taught. "It makes you feel good through and through when they come back," Smoak said. "I've taught at least half a dozen pro-

fessors of the reasons the kids love him is because you never know what he's going to do next," Mrs. Kennedy said.

Holly Buggan, a senior at Wando, said she was happy to be in Smoak's class after her older brother advised her that he is a teacher she shouldn't miss. "That was one of the things I had to do before I got out of Wando," Miss Buggan said. "He's such a good teacher."

Brian Barrie, also a senior, said Smoak's unique style makes him a special teacher. "He's unique in the way that he approaches teaching," Barrie said. "He provides insight into the world of economics through personal experience."



Norwood Smoak

Smoak's wife, Marie, and their two daughters, Catherine and Lucia, are the main focus of his life, he said. "Out of all of it, my family comes first," Smoak said. "I just love my children."

One of the proudest times in his life was when one daughter was accepted to law school and one was accepted to medical school," he added.

Besides teaching, Smoak has a variety of interests. He enjoys "jazzing," which he explained is buying, old houses, fixing them up and reselling them.

He also enjoys sailing and reflecting on his life, including our wicker furniture that he can renovate himself.

the Russian ship coming to Cuba. ...We had the Cuban blockade, and at the last minute, that Russian ship turned away."

The 1963 Kennedy assassination also is a vivid memory for Smoak. "The kids cried and cried. I was just too shocked to cry," he said. "The first reports were so sketchy. They let school out early that day."

Smoak also laughs about the changes in styles and customs since his early teaching days. "The way the children dance is so funny," he said. "One of the first things they did was the 'Dish' — like grinding out a cigarette."

As for fashions, "The sack dress was in vogue when I started," he added. "Now it's gone from the mindbenders to the mid-shirts."

"The boys had to have their shirts tucked in and wear socks," Smoak said. "If you like jeans, you were sent home from school. Now, everything's different."

Not only have the styles changed, so have the students and their opportunities in life, Smoak said. "The opportunities that children have with advanced placement and college preparatory classes and large numbers of scholarships and grants are wonderful," he said. "They have the world by the tail. Now, if you really want to go to college, there are ways you can go."

Smoak's "incredible" memory and his comical voice capture the attention of his students, and many say they will never forget him. He doesn't forget them, either.

"He can remember names, what class you were in, where you sat, and who your friends were," said

(Above) News and Courier, 1988 article on Norwood Smoak



# 2018

As of January 2018, the property has once again been subdivided and rented or owned by several tenants. It maintains many original architectural and decorative features and is an excellent example of traditional craftsmanship.

