



104 Rutledge Ave
Charleston, SC

A History



HOUSELORE

www.houselore.com

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 Villagw 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 bult 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.

Run away from the Subscriber some time last Month.

A NEGRO BOY, named *Cato*. Is about 4 feet high, formerly the property of Mr. John Sansum. Whoever will deliver the said boy to the subscriber, at No. 26 1-half, Church-street, shall receive Two Guineas reward.

If any person will prove his being harboured by a white, shall receive Five Guineas; if by a negro, Two Guineas on the conviction of the offender.

345) **GEORGE MATHEWS.**

South Carolina Gazette, April 1784

T O B E T, E T,
For one or two years, that large and prettily situated HOUSE, about three miles from Charleston,

C A L L E D
B E L V E D E R E,
With a large garden fenced in, and about 46 acres of land adjoining. For particulars enquire at

George Mathews.
March 8 tuf

City Gazette, March 1791

L I V E O A K
And PALMETTO LOGS.

Contracts will be entered into for the delivery in Charleston or upon Bull's Island, of either of the above articles.

Enquire of

George Mathews,
December 7 end to

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 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, 1
August 23d, 1832.

WHEREAS, 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 accept in the application from the Board of Health, and that the Intendant be authorized to make the appointment of Assistant Commissioners, and in all my vacancies that may occur.

Note, 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.—Benj. D. Cooper, Dr. James Hallinan, John Kirkpatrick, John Hollister, Thomas Gadsden, Roger Harriet.

Ward No. 2.—Bernard E. Dey Dr. Henry Alexander, Charles Mongault, Gen. Wagner, Bernard E. Baker, Rev. W. Baker.

Ward No. 3.—Thomas Milliken, Jas. Rose, Thos. G. Capron, Bernard Elliott, H. Grinke, Maurice Simons, James O'Neal.

Ward No. 4.—Dr. Thos. G. Prichard, Francis D. Quack, Dant Hager, Chas. E. Rowand, ~~Thomas H. Seabrook~~, John Blackwood, Andrew M'Dowell, Dr. Elias Harbeck.

(Left) News and Courier, 1832

First line				1			1			1			1	2	
Second line					1	2	1		1			1	2	3	
Third line	1	1				1	2	1		1		1	2	2	

(Above) Excerpt, Federal Census of 1820

The Federal Census of 1820 shows Thomas Seabrook's household containing 15 people total - 4 free 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.



Itan 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. Edmund is in the habit of wearing a short brown surtout 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.

Bo-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 23

†

(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 12th 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, TEAT 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 DWELLING at Southeast Corner Rutledge and Bull streets, containing six square rooms, pantry, &c., and extensive outbuildings. Lot 90 feet front by 165 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—
42x172.

Will sell TUESDAY, April 2, 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. Artisian water, gas throughout, two
stairways theron. 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 13 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,
Artisian 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.

EUGENE L. TESSIER, JR., Pres.
ARTHUR A. LYNAH, Treas.
R. NORRIS LYNAH, Sec.

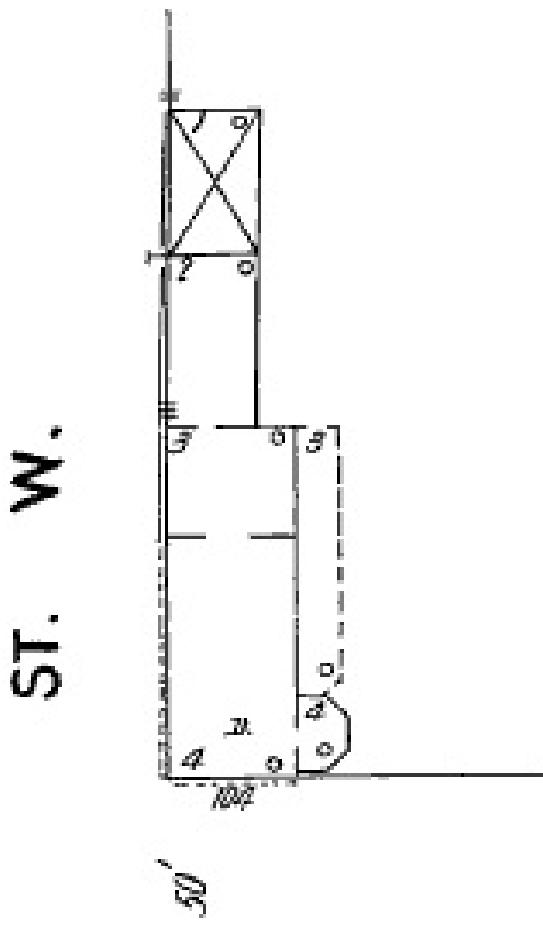
SHEPHERD SUPPLY CO.,
232 Meeting Street.
HEADQUARTERS FOR

GARLAND STOVES AND RANGES
The World's Best

Cooking Outfits.

Everything for the KITCHEN, from Refrigerators and Stoves to Spoons and Skimmers.

MICHIGAN STOVES AND RANGES



(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

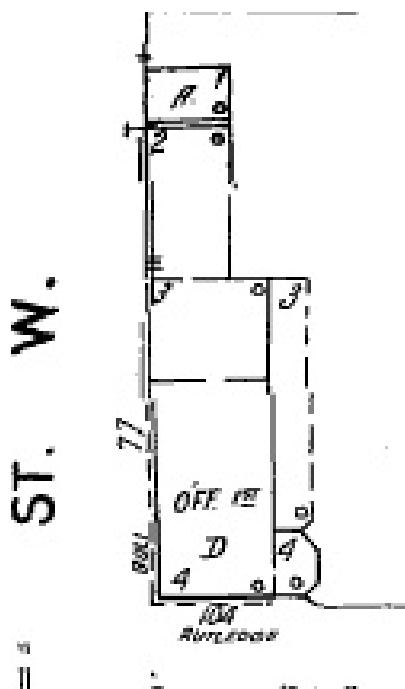
Owner, 1917 - 1918

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.

Marble Mantelpiece in Late Planter's Home Probably Took 15 Years for an Italian Sculptor to Carve

The beautiful Italian marble mantel shown above is in the house of Mr. and Mrs. W. McLeod Creighton, at 104 Rutledge avenue. Many visitors have viewed the mantel and marveled. Mrs. Creighton said recently that she had been asked on more occasions than one why she didn't open the house for public inspection.

In answer to a letter written by Mr. Creighton to the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, in which a photograph of the mantel was included, the following letter describing the type of mantel the piece belongs to has been received: "I am pleased to inform you that the marble mantel in your home belongs with those found in George II houses in England. These mantels have a frieze and sculptured ornaments—including flowered rosettes, cornucopias, female figures garbed after the ancient fashion and other sculptured details. 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 substitution of stone (marble) and stone for wood joinery is characteristic of early Georgian interiors."

The mantel is hand carved and it is estimated that 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.

The home in which the mantel is located was built in 1816 by Thomas Bannister Seabrook, a prosperous planter of Edisto Island and Charleston. The home was inherited by his daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Milne. It has changed hands several times before finally being purchased by the present owners.

All of the figures on the mantel are carved on the back as well as on the front. The flowers pictured on either side are of different types. On one side there are a rose and three lilies, on the other a rose and three daisies. The women supporting the mantel, called caryatides, are similar. Close scrutiny fails to reveal the slightest difference between them. The nails on the toes and fingers are delicately and naturally carved, the curls around the face are altogether human looking and even the tassels of the lond on the women's heads look as if they are about ready to swing with the breeze.

J. G. R.

(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 TAMALA K. WATKINS

For 38 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 1950, 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 Mount Pleasant 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 toes."

Now an economics teacher, Smoak has been involved in several different fields, including math, biology, science, U.S. history and even drivers education during his career. He began teaching in August this year at 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. "You taught at least half a dozen pro-

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

Holly Buggas, 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 mind. "That was one of the things I had to do before I got out of Wando," Max Hagan said. "He's such a good teacher."

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

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

"One of the proudest times in my 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 "joking," which he explained is helping old houses, fixing them up and reviving them.

He also enjoys sailing and refurbishing furniture, including old wicker furniture that he can restore himself.

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

The 1988 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 left school 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 'Twist' — like grinding out a cigarette."

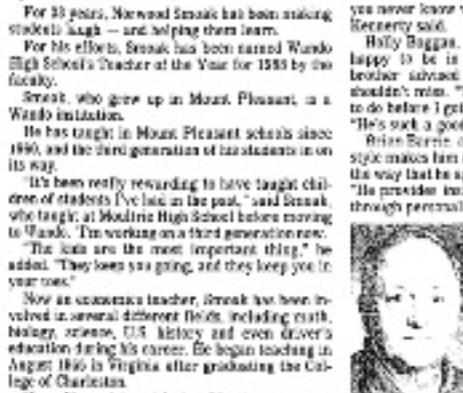
As far as hobbies, "The sack drum was in vogue when I started," he added. "Now it's gone from the minstrels to the rock stars."

"The boys had to have their shirts tails tied to and wear sashes," Smoak said. "If you did jeans, you were sent home from school. Now, everything's different."

Not only have the styles changed, so have the stations and their expectations 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 cerebral wit 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.

