

Rear Of 98 Broad May Be Original

By ROBERT P. STOCKTON

The front portion of 98 Broad St. appears to date from the mid-19th century, but the rear portion appears older and perhaps was an out-building to Dr. Alexander Garden's house.

Dr. Garden, the prominent naturalist for whom the gardenia was named, had a house on the large lot that now is separated into two properties known as 98 and 100 Broad St.

Since he was a Tory, Garden was forced to abandon his property in South Carolina when the Patriots succeeded in ousting the British in 1782.

Garden's "memorial" to the Great Britain Loyalist Commission, dated March 12, 1786, states that he sustained losses of real estate valued at 1,400 pounds Sterling, due to confiscation of his property by South Carolina authorities.

Included in the list was "the House No. 77 on Broad Street in which I lived," and which he had settled on Mrs. Garden in 1778. Mrs. Garden, at the time of the evacuation of the British, had rented the property to a Mrs. Wright for 130:10 pounds Sterling or 120 guineas per year.

"A few days before the Evacuation took place," Garden claimed, "Gov. Mathews sent an order to Mrs. Wright forbidding her to go into the house, informing her that ... it was confiscated property, he should go into it on his coming to town, and when it was sold that he should be the purchaser."

Subsequently, Maj. Alexander

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Garden, son of Dr. Garden, applied to the General Assembly in his own behalf. Since Maj. Garden was a Patriot, his claim to the property was recognized.

An act of the General Assembly, in 1784, restores part of Dr. Garden's estate, including the rent of 77 Broad St., totaling 1,449 pounds.

The rear portion of the present structure at 98 Broad St. has a large chimney, indicating it was a kitchen or wash kitchen, and has a hip roof characteristic of the 18th and early 19th centuries.

It is possible the rear portion is of pre-Revolutionary construction. If it is that old, it is the only remains of Dr. Garden's Broad Street home.

Garden's house was replaced by a large structure (pictured in "This is Charleston") at 100 Broad St., which was demolished some time ago.

That structure was built either by Dr. Samuel Wilson, who bought the property in 1822, or by Dr. Henry Frost, who bought it from Dr. Wilson in 1935.

The front portion of present-day 98 Broad St. was apparently built by Dr. Frost, who used it as his office. The style of the front portion, with rather Greek Revival lines and large

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(Staff Photo by Bill Jordan)

98 Broad St.

...Rear

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fanlight, is compatible with a construction date of 1835 or later.

After Dr. Frost's death, the property was divided into the present two lots.

The builder of the rear portion of 98 Broad St. has not been determined.

Title to the land can be traced back to 1694 when William Bradley was granted Lot No. 106 of the "Grand Modell of Charles Town."

From Bradley, it passed to Elias Clifford, who had married Bradley's daughter, Ann.

Clifford, in 1716, gave half of Lot No. 106 to Eleanor and Mary Ferguson.

The property is subsequently found in the possession of Dr. John Martini and his wife, Mary. Dr. Martini, in March 1751, returned to London, appointing James Michie as power of attorney. Before that time, it was apparently rented to Dr. Thomas Hall.

When and how Dr. Garden acquired the property has not been determined. It is possible he acquired it from Michie by a deed which was subsequently lost.

Ninety-eight Broad St. is currently owned by Dr. J. Hertz Warren, who has his office there, continuing the property's more than 200-year-old tradition of occupancy by physicians.