



GARDEN OF THE EDWARD BLAKE HOUSE
1 Legare Street
c. 1760-70
Residence of Mrs. B. Owen Geer

1997

This is a 2 story frame single house which was moved (supposedly rolled on palmetto logs), to its present location in 1873. It was built between 1760 and 1770 by Edmunds Blake, a Commissioner of the South Carolina Navy who was captured by the British after the fall of Charleston.

The house has undergone substantial alterations including the addition of its present 19th century piazza.

The gate to the garden was hand wrought by Charleston's premier master ironworker, Philip Simmons.

Large shrub on the right is a Tea Olive and on the left Sasanqua which is of the Camelia family but blooms in the autumn. Beyond is a large Cherry Laurel.

As you enter the middle portion of the garden notice the small "Printus Stones" walkway. Some still have engravings on the back.

The unusual wall on the left is one of the oldest in the city constructed of large belgian stones and tabby.

The middle and rear gardens have many Camellias and Azaleas and at the rear across the wall on the right a magnificent Magnolia Grandiflora, part of the "borrowed landscape" from the neighbors (upon which many Charleston gardens depend for privacy and background.)

THE GARDEN OF EDWARD BLAKE'S HOUSE
c. 1765
1 Legare Street
Mr. and Mrs. Owen B. Geer, Sr.

No. 1 was built between 1760-1770, by Edward Blake, who came to Charleston from Connecticut prior to 1760. Edward Blake was Commissioner of the South Carolina Navy, prior to the Continental Congress, and was prominent in the Revolution, having been taken from his home by the British in 1780 and sent to jail in Florida. In 1781 he was banished from Charleston.

The wall in the south boundary of the lot is original and made of Bermuda stone.