



*Nathaniel Heyward House*



This handsome house at the corner of East Bay Street and Society Street in Ansonborough was built by Nathaniel Heyward circa 1788. Heyward was one of the most prosperous rice planters in Antebellum South Carolina. He studied dike systems in Europe extensively and successfully applied those techniques to the development of his own rice fields.

In 1838, a fire broke out in a small fruit store on King Street and quickly spread east to the waterfront with disastrous results. The fire department, which consisted of five companies of white volunteers and 16 city ward departments manned by slaves

(in all totaling 700 men) was unable to control the fire. After a long night of alarms and explosions as houses were deliberately destroyed to prevent the fire from advancing, the blaze finally burned itself out. The fire damaged some 700 acres in the city. A total of 560 buildings and 600 outbuildings, most of them in Ansonborough, were consumed. Miraculously, the Nathaniel Heyward house survived.

Like many Charleston houses, the Nathaniel Heyward finally succumbed to neglect. The house was demolished in 1920.