

## **SHREWSBURY KITCHEN HOUSE**

**42 Laurens Street**

**c. 1809**

This brick building was constructed as the kitchen dependency for Stephen Shrewsbury's imposing masonry house facing East Bay (today 311 East Bay Street) and the Ashley River beyond. Shrewsbury, a carpenter, came from a family of shipwrights and rose to a clerkship in the South Carolina Bank. He acquired this land soon after in 1800. Kitchen houses were generally built as separate structures in Charleston to reduce the risk of a cooking fire spreading and to contain some of the heat of the work within. Kitchen houses (and other outbuildings like carriage houses) were also often used to house enslaved workers.

The property at 311 East Bay Street was part of the Ansonborough Rehabilitation Project, Historic Charleston Foundations' pioneering venture into neighborhood preservation. In the early 1970's the property was subdivided and this small back building became a separate residence.

Standing in the garden looking at the house, the original structure is apparent, a two story brick building with small windows on both floors and a gable roof. On the west is a two-story addition. To the east, the stucco section (called a hyphen) was built in the area between the main house and the kitchen house and today it is part of the East Bay property.

### **LIVING ROOM. / KITCHEN**

Though the house consists of a limited number of square feet, all the needs of today's world have been expertly fitted in. The interior was extensively re-worked by previous owners but the original cooking fireplace was left intact.