

*Do not use any kind of tape
to tape runners to the floor,
to other runners or to
anything else.*

CLELAND KINLOCH HUGER HOUSE

2010

8 Legare Street

c. 1857

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Ziff

The property on which were later built the mansions at 8 and 10 Legare Street originally formed the rear garden of the Miles Brewton House on King Street, built c. 1768.

In 1854, the third generation, in person of William Bull Pringle, decided to sell the western half of the property and accordingly had it divided into three lots by the noted architect and surveyor Edward Brickell White. The plat shows Brewton's garden bathing house flanked by niches for statuary.

However, the proposed decision did not allow sufficient space for the sumptuous dwellings which were built here, and the whole parcel was divided into two by Edward North Thurston and Cleland Kinloch Huger, the 8 Legare half going to the latter.

Huger, apparently considerably aided by a lavish settlement on his wife Mary by her father Chancellor Benjamin F. Dunkin (which included much real estate and 68 slaves, who were converted promptly into cash) commissioned the master builder Patrick O'Donnell to build this splendid house in 1857. It is said that the Hugers were quite displeased when they learned that O'Donnell had made their ceilings slightly lower than his in his own home nearby (2 King St).

This looming structure is a fantastic example of the Italianate style of antebellum Charleston. The plan was somewhat innovative when conceived. On the principal floors, the "rooms of state" can be divided into 3 by sliding doors, or else opened to a single very large room stretching the full length of the house. In addition, the rich cornices are composed of grapes and foliage rather than the usual classical motifs, and the whole is gilded. With broad southern piazzas, these rooms formed in warm weather a space suitable for an elaborate ball.

Cleland Huger lived here until his death in 1889, and the house was sold by his daughter to C.S. Bennett in 1892, later to Mrs. Burnet R. Maybank in 1927 where she lived with her husband, the mayor, Governor and U.S. Senator, then to the Miserindino-Sottiles, and to Dr. James Wilson in 1948, who conveyed it to Eddie and Julian Trouche in 1958. The present owners acquired the home in 1989.

The exterior proportions and scale of the building are notable, but it is the interior moldings which identify this building as an excellent example of Italianate design. Three aspects of 8 Legare were particularly attractive to the owner: 1) The floor plan has remained essentially unchanged since construction. Additions have been made to the rear but the interior partition walls reflect the original plan. 2) 95% of the gilt on the cornice moldings of the interior is original. These Italianate moldings are in excellent condition. 3) The owner's hobby is the lighting. He feels that lighting is an unsung hero! The house has over 100 antique lighting fixtures including many of the original gas chandeliers and sconces dating between 1880 and 1895.

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OUTSIDE ENTRANCE

Entry lights, from Spain, a Barcelona hotel
Doorbell, disguised as part of a phone system
Statue bust, of owner, above entrance

ENTRANCE HALL

The owners have a collection of very dramatic furniture and decorative arts throughout the rooms on tour. Most of the pieces are very heavily carved dark woods to work with the large dramatic spaces. Most of the collection is not just dramatic but also period with the house. No pieces in the house draw such a reaction as the papier mache' Genghis Khan at the foot of the stairs. The caricature is by a New York artist, the son of Patrick Moynihan.

Sofa, Empire, c. 1830
Chandelier, from Madrid Spain
Pier table, Empire, c. 1820
Mirror, gilt, Rococo Revival, c. 1850, on stair landing

FIRST DRAWING ROOM - LIBRARY

Carpet, Tabriz
Bookcases set, Renaissance Revival, c. 1870, from Istanbul
Library table, mahogany, c. 1820
Small arm chair, Turkish, period Ottoman Empire
Coffee table, new
Corner chair, one of a pair, 1850, by Henry Belter
Large arm chair, Rococo Revival, c. 1860
Painting, by Thomas Rousseau, 1892, of French industrial scene
Statues, of Charleston personalities: By Tom Durham, a Charleston sculptor: John C. Calhoun, Statesman; Charles Fraser, artist; Judah P. Benjamin, Secretary of State and War in the Confederate States Cabinet; Angelina Grimke, a leading abolitionist - All on the top of the bookcases

SECOND DRAWING ROOM - SITTING ROOM

Be sure to note that this is the second of three connected spaces creating not a double, which is typical, but a triple drawing room.

Portrait, pastel, over the mantle, 1920's portrait of owner's mother and aunt
Pair of arm chairs, mahogany, Regency, c. 1820
Sofa, mahogany and maple, Empire, c. 1825
Arm chair, Renaissance Revival, 19th century
Two cellarets, Empire, mahogany, c. 1815
Pier table with over mirror, mahogany, elaborate marquetry and gilding, c. 1825, from Barcelona with pair of Bavarian two tiered lusters, c. 1860
Torchiere, stained glass, brass, early 20th century
Carpet, Keshan
Portrait, oil, Caroline Best, wife of Thomas of Chilsom, by Ramsey, 1750, above piano

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THIRD FLOOR DRAWING ROOM- DINING ROOM

Note the four original matching gas sconces in this room. This room is entirely gas lit. The chandelier and all sconces operate and are frequently used.

Pair of tables, mahogany, Renaissance Revival, reproductions, by N. Charleston cabinetmaker,
seats 5 - 23 people

Set of chairs, English, mahogany, c. 1770, 9 antiques, 3 reproductions

Bishop's chair, Gothic Revival, 19th century, from Istanbul

Sideboard, mahogany and veneer, Empire, c. 1820, probably NY

Mahogany and veneer Empire secretary, c. 1820, New York

Secretary, mahogany and veneer, c. 1820, NY

Silver set, Gorham, family piece

Candelabra, Napoleon III

Statue, above china cabinet, of owner's daughter, by Tom Durham

Carpet, Keshan

KITCHEN

All the materials for the kitchen are collected from around the world. Most of the tile and granite are from Portugal.

Butcher block table, pine, with cast iron base

Tiles, handpainted, from Portugal, from owner's design, Aleluia Ceramica, 1990

Collection of copper utensils

Pennsylvania Dutch hutch table, family piece

Set of chairs, slat back, Windsor period, family piece

DOCENT NEEDED HERE TO DIRECT VISITORS OUTSIDE

ELEVATOR

Installed by the owners from a photograph of a similar one in Barcelona. The gates are balconies from Barcelona and the lights are from a New York department store.

GARDEN

This garden is hidden behind the very substantial masonry walls that surround the property. Entrance is through the ironwork lyre gates that open onto a marble-tiled walk. Pots of ivy and other plantings greet the visitor on either side of the door.

Continuing on a curved path into the garden, twelve formally pruned *Ilex* shrubs (hollies) border the right side. Two large *Loropetalum rubra* trees, well trimmed to display their trunks, grow against the stucco and spill their foliage and blooms over the high fencing wall. A *Camellia japonica* grows beneath them. A large birdbath is placed here, and three good-sized Rose bushes grow. Border grass (*Liriope*) begins as an edging around the curve that extends into the major area of the yard. Two large *Ilex* trees, *Camellias*, and an enormous *Sabal Palmetto* tree grow beside the wall. A large deciduous shrub, difficult to identify without foliage (possibly a *Cestrum Parkii*) completes that corner against the driveway.

On the opposite left side of the path grow shrimp plant (*Justicia*), dwarf 'Firepower' *Nandina*, a cinnamon bark crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia*), and the larger *Nandina* called 'Heavenly Bamboo.' Underplantings include a small violet ground cover and an unusual red ginger emerging from the soil. Roses and Confederate jasmine climb the very sturdy square stucco columns of the piazza, with bulb foliage, possibly *Agapanthus*, at the foot of the vines.

On the south side of the large grassed yard, along the long driveway, a high brick wall is given interest by the many arches created within it. Six cinnamon barked crape myrtles line this with an underplanting of giant *Liriope*. The yard itself contains a robust *Viburnum Tinus* and a very old tea olive (*Osmanthus*) in tree form. *Camellia japonicas* are planted against the piazza with a hydrangea at the end of the porch and holly fern (*Cyrtomium*) growing beside the driveway. An interesting map adorns the house above the garage doors.

At the rear of eastern end of the garden, a beautiful old live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) is flanked on either side by large *Ligustrum* shrubs. Behind it cast iron plant (*Aspidistra*) is growing in a large clump and a *Camellia japonica*, as well. A Loquat or Japanese Plum tree closes out the plantings along the arched driveway near the large ironwork gate of the neighboring house, 8 1/2. Legare.

**GARDEN OF THE CLELAND KINLOCH HUGER HOUSE
8 Legare Street
C. 1857
Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Ziff**

2010

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