

43 Meeting

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This property was once owned by Neponson Price, who owned most of the property along this part of the street up to Price's Alley; from early deeds we know that it was subdivided and sold off (after his death it seems) and this piece was lot 2 of the whole. On 31 August 1785, Mary Taggart, widow of William (who died in 1784) sold it to William Smith, attorney for \$ 3,510 pounds (P-5,5491); the amount of money suggests a house on the site; and there is one plotted in the approximate location in a 1788 map of Charleston; but when Smith sold it to Francis Motte on 14 October 1795, the price was only 300 pounds, a dramatic drop that might indicate destruction of the dwelling. (O-6,496); it sold for the same amount sterling on 18 Jan. 1798 to James Mitchell, Gentleman (U-6,275); mention was made of messuage and lot of land with buildings when he sold it on 20 Jan 1818 to Henry Alexander DeSaussure- DeSaussure for \$10,000. (X-8,235) This suggests that perhaps Mitchell built the present structure soon after acquiring the land in 1798; from the outside the house was a certain transitional-unease about it) DeSaussure added an 8 foot strip to the property in 1838 (U-10, 507). His heirs sold it to W.F. Petit and R.S. Miller, trustee for Teh- Theodora Miller and her husband (12 Dec. 1870, \$7,000; X-15,194) who sold it to William Bee (21 Dec. 1874, \$5,500; P-16,285); his daughter Valerie Chisolm was forced to sell (see Court of Common Pleas Records, Metallic Case 120#15); it went to Henry W. Connor, Jr. (\$6,400; 23 June 1902; F-23,347); it went to his heirs Julia and Caroline Connor (L-43,88; 22 July 1941 \$12,500.) and from then it passed within the family to that of the present owner (G-105, 379; 17 Sept 1974).

The house was numbered 18 in 1803 through 1819;

it was number 35 in 1822

and 33 by 1861.

Mitchell, the builder(?) was a copper, which, according to the OED means he was either a bottler of wines or a keg and small vessel maker;

Henry Alexander DeSaussure (1788-1865) owned the house; but his much more famous father lived (and died) here; (see city directory) His father, Henry William DeSaussure (1763-1831) was born in Pecotahige; was imprisoned in the revolution, became a lawyer, a member of the SC General Assembly, was one of the founders of the Univ. South Carolina College in Columbia (eventually USC); upon a visit north for health, he was named by Washington as Director of the Mint; he held the position in 1795; won Washington's admiration and oversaw the first coinage of gold money; missing home, he resigned; moved back to Charleston; he was intendant (mayor) of Charleston (1797-98). DAB

William C. Bee alone briefly owned the house; His span dates were 1809-1881; he was president of the Importing and Exporting Co. - better known as the Bee Co. which was a fleet of blockade runners - bringing in supplies for the "Confederacy"; after the war, he was one of the first to see the power and money to made from phosphates - president to the Etiwan phosphate company. (cf. *ubit*; *News and Courier* 16 Feb 1881).

The house's appearance of course is much altered by its gone piazzas; and the first ed of this is Charleston (perhaps later ones, too) show it without the gates

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D.W. Ohlandt and Sons went out of business in 1856, and in 1959 the building was remodeled as a residence.

(CEP, Dec. 31, 1955. Otis Perkins, DYKYC, June 15, 1959. Elizabeth T. Peck, N&C, Jan. 8, 1956.)

43 Meeting St. -- James Mitchell, a cooper (maker of kegs, etc.), built this three story stuccoed brick house on a high basement, sometime after purchasing the site in 1798. He sold it in 1818 to Henry Alexander DeSaussure. The gates are a 20th century addition. (Greene, unpub. MS; SCHS. Stoney, This is Charleston, 73.)

47 Meeting St. -- This two and one-half story antebellum house was for many years the home of Edward Barnwell, who is said to have added to the rear portion several times to accommodate his 17 children. Barnwell, a factor, planter and gardener, developed the lot to the south with fruits and vegetables and won several silver cups for his efforts there.

(Stoney, This is Charleston, 73. , N&C, April 6, 1958.)

48 Meeting St. -- This large masonry house was built in the 1840s by Otis Mills, builder of the Mills House. In the 1850s it was the home of James Adger, merchant and steamship line developer, reputed to have been the richest man in antebellum South Carolina. It now houses First Baptist Church School.

(Stockton, unpub. notes.)

51 Meeting St. -- The Nathaniel Russell House was built in 1808-11 by a Rhode Islander who made a large fortune as a merchant in Charleston. His house is one of the most outstanding Adamesque houses in America. The rectangular three story brick mansion with an octagonal wing on the south side is built of brick with white stone and wood trim. It has a transomed entrance with an

THE JAMES MITCHELL HOUSE
43 Meeting Street
c. 1798
Home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Young

This house is believed to have been built in the last decade of the 18th century. The owner and builder was James Mitchell who is identified in early records as a "cooper"; this term was used to describe bottlers of wines as well as makers of small vessels.

It was purchased by the DeSaussure family in 1818 and remained in this family until after the Civil War (1870) when it was sold to William Bee.

Henry William DeSaussure was a patriot in the Revolution and an important public figure. After the Revolution, he became a lawyer and was a member of the South Carolina General Assembly and one of the founders of the University of S.C. in Columbia. He was named by President Washington as Director of the U.S. Mint in 1795, and as Director oversaw the first coinage of gold money. DeSaussure returned to Charleston and as intendant (major) from 1797-98.

The house was purchased by Henry W. Conner, Jr. in 1902 and has remained in that family throughout the 20th century. Mr. Young inherited the house from his aunt, Miss Caroline Conner, in 1974. He remembers a narrow piazza on the south removed in the 1930's. The present addition to the dependency was designed by local architect W.G. Clark.

ENTRANCE TO DEPENDENCY

It was customary for Charleston builders of the 18th and early 19th century to place service buildings (the kitchen, laundry, smoke houses and carriage houses) in separate buildings behind the main house. The kitchen almost always occupied a separate building situated a short distance from the main house. This was meant to protect the household from fires, cooking odors and heat in the summer.

Archae

**DEPENDENCY OF THE JAMES MITCHELL HOUSE
43 1/2 Meeting Street
c. 1798
Maxwell Residence**

1999

The main house was probably built in the late 1700s. James Mitchell, the owner and builder, is identified in early records as a "cooper"; this term was used to describe bottlers of wines as well as makers of small vessels.

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The present addition to the dependency was designed by local architect W.G. Clark. This dwelling can serve as a good example of remodelling old properties. It was totally renovated in 1980 and shows an excellent example of adaptive use of an old building.

The extensive use of glass provides a maximum exposure to natural light.

The waiting bench is an old church pew salvaged from a Walterboro church.

Oriental objects, Japan
Platter, Imari, on east wall shelves
Buddhist art, 12th century, Bodhisattva of Compassion, Heian period
Woodblocks, Japan
Mounted figures, composition substance, on lighted stands,
5th century
Teaset, coin silver
Bag collection