

Do You Know Your Charleston?

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110 Broad St. Dates To 1728

By ROBERT P. STOCKTON

The three-story masonry house at 110 Broad St. is believed to have been built by William Harvey around 1728.

Harvey, a butcher, purchased the site of the house, a lot then measuring 239 feet in front on Broad Street and 94 feet in depth, on Nov. 26, 1715, for 110 pounds.

The lot had on it at the time a "messuage or Tenement" which is believed to have been the present house at 106 Broad St., known commonly as the Lining House.

On March 4, 1728, Harvey and his wife, Sarah, sold to Charles Hill, merchant, and Elizabeth, his wife, the eastern portion of this property, including the property now known as 106 Broad St., or the Lining House.

The portion sold to the Hills is described as "Containing in breadth from East to West (Which bounds Westerly on a brick Chimney & an Oven) Ninety two feet & An half and in depth from the South End of the said Harveys house to Mrs. Draytons fence northward Ninety five feet & An half."

From that description, it is evident that a building then stood on or near the site of present-day 110 Broad St. However, that building had at least one exterior chimney, whereas both chimneys of the present house at 110 Broad are interior.

Also, the portion sold to the Hills is described as having a "Large dwelling house thereon Erected & (See Page 5-B, Column 1)



110 Broad St.

(Staff Photo by Bill Murtton)

...110 Broad

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Now in the possession of the said William Harvey."

From that evidence, it may be concluded that Harvey lived in the "Large dwelling house" now known as the Lining House until the sale of that property to the Hills.

The mystery is whether the "brick chimney" mentioned as abutting the property line belonged to a house which stood previous to the present one at 110 Broad St. or whether it belonged to an outbuilding to the rear of the present house.

Therefore it is unclear whether Harvey built the house at 110 Broad St. before or after his sale of the Lining House property.

The house was certainly standing in 1756, when by deeds of lease and release, dated March 5 and 6, respectively, Benjamin Harvey of Stono, planter, sold the property to Gabriel Manigault and Sarah Rutledge, widow, for 5,700 pounds, "current money of the Province."

The deeds recite that Benjamin Harvey, by the will of William Harvey, late of Charlestown, "gentleman, dated Sept. 21, 1739, had inherited the "Brick Messuage or Tenement with the Ground...thereto belonging."

William Harvey's progression from "butcher" to "gentleman" illustrates the fluidity of Charleston society in the early 18th century.

Manigault and Mrs. Rutledge evidently bought the property as an investment, as within the month they sold it at a profit to Ralph Izard.

A descendant, Ralph Stead Izard, conveyed the property in 1837 to his uncle, Joel R. Poinsett, and aunt, Mary Poinsett (the former Mrs.

John Julius Pringle). Poinsett, a noted statesman and ambassador to Mexico, had named for him the poinsettia which he brought to this country from Mexico.

The Poinsetts conveyed the property in the 1850s to Judge Mitchell King, in whose family it remained until recently.

The Izards at some point acquired the Lining House property and sold it in 1796, after appropriating the western half of that property for a garden for 110 Broad St.

That portion of the lot at 110 Broad contains in the rear a large outbuilding in the Gothic Revival style.

William Harvey's house, rising three full stories, is one of the most substantial of Charleston's earlier houses. Like most of its contemporaries, it has an irregular floor plan and its facade is asymmetrical, with the front door placed off-center.

Windows on each floor are the same relative size, an unusual feature for the 18th century when third-floor windows were usually smaller than those below.

Belt courses run between floors on the front and sides and corners are embellished with quoins. A simple cornice of brick dentils runs under the eaves.

Massive chimneys with corbelled tops rise from the hip roof which has the typical "bell-cast" slope designed to throw rainwater away from the walls.

The front doorway is a later addition, as it has the attenuated proportions and delicate decoration of the Adamesque period. The wrought-iron balcony is also rather Adamesque in its delicate motifs and its sinuous flow.

The off-center entrance gives access to a square entrance hall, to the

right of which is a large rectangular dining room. To the rear are two smaller rooms, with a stairhall between them. The floor plan is repeated on the upper floors.

Original features retained in the interior include paneling, wainscoting, paneled doors and other woodwork in the early Georgian style, in the primary rooms, and wainscoting of wide horizontal boards in secondary rooms.

Some original mantels in simple Georgian style remain in rooms on the third floor and in the first-floor office. The office also retains its original window sashes with wide mullions.

The original staircase with large turned newels, scrolled spandrels and squared balusters remains, although newels in the upper portion seem to have been replaced in the Adamesque period.

Of note are two white marble mantels in the Regency style, which tradition says the Poinsetts brought home from Europe. They are in the two drawing rooms on the second floor.