

PHILIP JOHNSTON PORCHER HOUSE (aka MAYBANK-HAGOOD HOUSE)

46 South Battery

c. 1836

This house was built c.1835 by physician and planter Philip Johnston Porcher and his wife Louisa Petigru, sister of the famous jurist James Louis Petigru. (James L. Petigru was incredibly well-respected by his peers despite his vehement opposition to both nullification and secession. After South Carolina seceded in 1860, he was quoted as saying, "South Carolina is too small for a republic and too large for an insane asylum"). After their wedding, Philip Johnston Porcher and Louisa Petigru Porcher first resided at Keithfield Plantation in St. John's Berkeley Parish. The social isolation of plantation life for her coupled with disaffection with planting for him resulted in their moving back to Charleston in 1836.¹

The Porcher family owned 46 South Battery until 1873. In 1914, the house was purchase by Benjamin Adger Hagood and it remained in the Hagood family for much of the next century.

The Charleston double house was constructed of black cypress with double piazzas facing south. These piazzas originally overlooked the marsh and the Ashley River. The house is original wooden picket fence on masonry piers.

ENTRANCE HALL

The arch separating the stair hall from the entrance vestibule is decorated with handsome columns and carved capitals.

The floors on the 1st floor were replaced early in the 20th century with narrow boards and Greek key perimeter design. Historian John Laurens says that only the hardwood on the first floor was altered and that this was done in the late 19th century by placing oak strips over the original pine flooring. Laurens says that the original wide heart pine flooring is intact on the second and third floors.

LIVING ROOM

The mantle, wall and ceiling ornamental design reflect the neo-classical influence. The fireplace was adapted at some time in the past to coal heat.

The doors on either side of the fireplace led to a rear porch before additions and changes were made to the property.

¹ Jane H. Pease and William H. Pease, *A Family of Women: The Carolina Petigrus in Peace and War* (The Univerity of North Carolina press, 1999) 17.

LIBRARY

Note the mantel in this room is more elaborately decorated with swags, urns and egg and dart molding. Handsome double doorways open this room and the living room into the hall. The bookcases were added by succeeding generations

DINING ROOM

During a repair to the molding in one corner of the ceiling it became apparent the rope molding motif is indeed, roping. The rope was attached to the ceiling and painted over, a practical 19th c. adaptation of a popular design.

BUTLER'S PANTRY / BAR

This portion of the house has been greatly changed over the years. It first served as a warming room when the kitchen was a separate structure in the rear yard. Then it served as the kitchen when the kitchen house was turned into an apartment. Now it serves as a storage/butler's pantry and a bar. Note original brick wall exposed.

The tiles around the fireplace and the backsplash in the kitchen proper were undoubtedly made locally. They are hand painted and decorated with scenes of Charleston buildings. A former owner's mother bought them in a St. Philips Church auction sale in 1960.

The kitchen won an award by the American Institute of Architects for historically sensitive renovation.