

JOHN BLAKE HOUSE

Constructed before 1801
58 South Battery

In most aspects, the house at 58 South Battery is a typical Charleston single house with a piazza entrance and a central staircase which separates two larger rooms. It diverges from the single house plan at the inclusion of an ell to the rear of the house. John Blake, a captain in the Continental Army, built the house at 58 South Battery prior to 1801, when he is first listed on the property. Blake's house would have originally commanded a view of the Ashley River. All of the land to the south and much of the land to the west is landfill of the early twentieth century. An inventory for Blake taken in 1810 proves that Blake's room usage was not unlike most of his contemporaries. The front room of the second floor was furnished with draperies, carpets, a piano, and a card table and chairs and more suggestive use as a drawing room. The first floor front room was a library, while the central room was a sitting room and the room in the ell was a dining room. The rear rooms follow suit as bed chambers.

Also notable about 58 South Battery is the restoration of the early formal parterred garden. The pattern is similar to those found on many eighteenth and early nineteenth century plats.

