

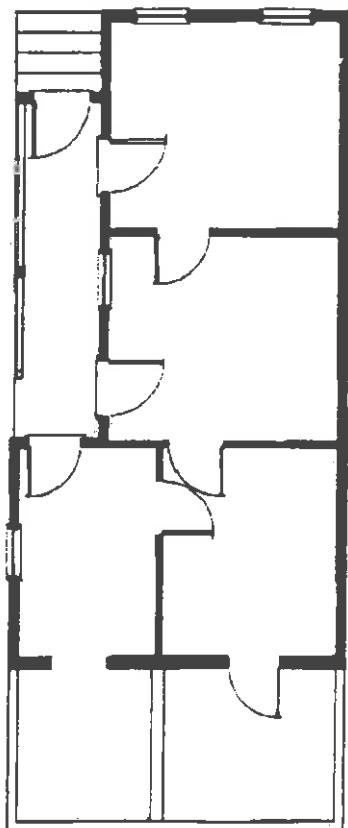
19 1/2 LINE STREET

Constructed c. 1872-1879

Early African-American housing in Charleston remains a quickly disappearing architectural form embodying many of the characteristics of the grand Charleston single houses lying in the southern end of the city. The dwelling on 19 1/2 Line Street is a fine example of such a structure.

Buildings along Line Street housed freed African American men and women, slaves, indentured whites as well as local businesses before the Civil War. Close proximity to the Charleston lines of the War of 1812 fortifications was a factor in coining the street name. The main fortifications, stretching from Meeting Street to Line Street, were erected in 1814 and later leveled in 1823.

Henry Duc, a local manufacturer of tin wares, was responsible for the construction of the house c. 1872-1879. Duc acquired several lots of land on Line Street and may have been responsible for nineteenth-century expansion on the East Side. The building has a west facing piazza which may be accessed either by the side or the front of the house. The floor plan consists of three chambers lined back to back and paralleling the piazza. These rooms are sheathed with beaded tongue-in-groove boards which are original to the structure. Two smaller shed-like chambers, presently housing the kitchen/dining area and the bathroom, seem to be later additions to the original body of the house. A flat false mantle is still hung in the front north room.



19 1/2 Line Street, first floor plan. Measured by Gina Haney; drawn by Steven Bauer