

## 24 George Street- General History

This house was built in 1806 by Thomas Ragscliffe. It was sold by his widow in 1824 by his widow to Judge Mitchell King. Judge King was a Scotsman, having immigrated to this country after a daring escape from Spanish authorities in Malaga. Upon arrival here he established a school, and dint of his skill at poetry and his successful law practice he was able to purchase this house as his residence. It became known for it's grand race week balls. In 1880 it was sold to the city for use as a high school. In 1895 a large addition was made to the rear. This addition cost \$12,000. The house was abandoned by the city as a high school in 1922, and until 1938 it was used as a warehouse. It was destroyed in 27 October 1938 to make way for the College of Charleston gymnasium. The very notable wrought iron and brick fence remained standing until 1982, when the College attempted to covertly destroy it. Unfortunately destruction was no re than fifty percent complete when the public found out, and the work was completed. Considered to be some of the finest masonry work remaining from the early nineteenth century, this fence was used a model for the fence at the Nathaniel Russell House on Meeting Street.

## Architectural Description:

The dwelling was three stories, built of brick which had been covered in stucco. From photos in 1882 and 1922 the windows were two panes over the door. The rear was wipped and appears to have been standing seam metal in 1885. A pair of interior chimneys were on the roof. The front of the house had a projecting stair tower topped by a gabled roof. The pediment formed by this gable faced on George Street and had a fanlight in the center. Quoining was on all corners of the house, and a belt course circled the house between the second and third floor. Above the double doors into the house was a pediment supported by modillions with highly decorated cornice and entablature. The entablature is broken beneath the pediment and is also supported by modillions.

24 George Street continued:

Pilasters of the composite order flank the engaged columns of the composite order which are on either side of the door. Between the pilaster and column on each side are side lights of two panels.

The staircase was double flighted with wrought described in the article in the News and Courier of 15 August 1922 as being contemporary to the construction of the house. The window above the door way was palladian surrounded by very interesting masonry. The Third floor window was tripartate. The keystones and lintels above the windows on the first and second floors appear to have been stone. The 1895 addition in the rear had a balcony on the Meeting Street side and continued the quoining from the earlier structure.