

CUNNINGHAM-GORDON HOUSE
29 Charlotte Street
(begun 1815, completed after 1828)
Home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Hagood S. Morrison

1991

Charlotte Street, a broad and shaded thoroughfare was first laid out on paper in 1786 when its owner, Alexander Mazyck, had a survey made of his property for development. But it was not until the beginning of the 19th century that this area north of Calhoun Street saw the beginnings of construction.

29 Charlotte Street is among the earliest of the surviving houses in Mazyckborough. Based on information gathered from a deed description it has been surmised that the structure was begun by Richard Cunningham sometime after 1815 and sold in 1828 in its incomplete condition to John Gordon, who finished the dwelling.

The house stands three and a half stories tall, composed of Charleston grey brick which was generally made locally. The bond used is Flemish which was considered the finest because of its decorative value as well as its strength. Flemish bond consists of rows of brick laid alternately header (short end) and stretcher (long side). The plan is of the typical Charleston single house with two bays across the front.

The young couple who live here have only owned the house a few years. They have been well occupied in making all the repairs and renovations necessary for comfort and to meet today's building codes. Cosmetic changes have been concentrated in altering the Victorian embellishments. Both the street entrance and the piazza balusters have been changed to those which more closely reflect the Federal style of the house.

HALL:

Dropleaf table, American, purchased at sale from house which is now the Edmondston-Alston House Museum.

Clock with painted case, on table with reproduction mirror in the Federal style hanging above.

FRONT ROOM:

The woodwork (base molding, window surrounds, ceiling cornice) is simple but fitting for the proportions of this room which is 18 feet by 18 feet with ceilings of 12 feet. The handsome fireplace mantel is thought to be original. Note pleasant chrysanthemum ornamentation.

Secretary bookcase, c. 1790, contains a collection of period books which is an interest of the owners. This is a married piece. The top is much older than the bottom.

KITCHEN BUILDING OF THE CUNNINGHAM-GORDON HOUSE
29 1/2 Charlotte Street
(begun c. 1815, completed after 1828)
Home of Mr. Robin G. Berglund

1992

The kitchen building is thought to be even older than the main residence at 29 Charlotte Street. The brick are the rust brown known as Charleston "grays", laid in Flemish bond, binded by shell and clay mortar with narrow joints capped and beaded in a strong lime and oyster shell mortar.

The huge fireplace dominates the main room. There was an area under the floor which was used as a wine cellar and for storage of meat and cheeses. A second fireplace on the other side of the stairs was replaced by the commercial stove. The wooden members incorporated in the chimney apparently allowed for expansion and contraction as it heated and cooled.

It is interesting to note the ceiling beams and their pegged and dove tailed construction. Windows were enlarged to permit more light, and before the hurricane (!) a view of the deep back lot, where 20 trees were lost. The next project is to be a brick driveway and fence and landscaping.

Couples like the Morrisons (in the main house) who enjoy returning old houses (this is their fourth) to their former glory have made it possible for neighborhoods like Mazyck-Wraggborough to flourish.