

[undated, unattributed]

87-89 Wentworth Street

This brick double tenement was most likely built sometime after 1770, when the 17 acre Glebe tract of which this lot was a part was subdivided in 1770, and before 1788, when the house is depicted on the "Ichnography," the Phoenix fire insurance map, of that year. 87 Wentworth has survived significant 19th century alterations when it was raised to a full three stories and its Georgian details removed or plastered over. In contrast, 89 Wentworth is far more intact and retains its jerkin head gambrel roof, molded brick cornice, quoins and more of its interior woodwork than its neighbor with which it shares a party wall and central chimney stack. St. Michael's Church held this property until 1953.

In 1866, the congregation merged with Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church, to form the Wentworth Street Lutheran Church, chartered the same year under the leadership of the Rev. William S. Bowman. Zion's Church had begun as a mission of St. John's Lutheran Church in 1851 in a building on Morris Street, between St. Philip and King streets, in 1852. The Morris Street building had become too small for Zion's congregation, which had no money to build a new structure. The Wentworth Street congregation, whose building had been damaged by Federal shells during the siege of Charleston, also was having financial difficulty. Consequently, the congregations merged to form an Evangelical Lutheran congregation, and the sale of the Morris Street property paid for repairs to this building. The name, St. Andrew's, was adopted in 1898. The interior was remodeled extensively in 1908, and renovated again in 1926, but the original galleries were retained. It remained the home of St. Andrews for 150 years.

In December 2006, St. Andrews merged with Holy Comforter Lutheran Church to become Holy Spirit Lutheran Church and relocated to Bees Ferry Road in West Ashley. Shortly thereafter Redeemer Presbyterian Church, founded in 1999 as the Island Community Church, began meeting in the church building, rent free, thanks to St. Andrews' generosity. St. Andrews put the church on the market in 2008.

46 Wentworth Street George Pratt Tenement

Constructed c. 1850

This narrowness of this small Greek Revival building has prompted interest for years. The building is actually all that remains of a much larger structure built as a triple tenement by George Pratt. The larger portion was demolished in the 1950s.



60 Wentworth Street Centenary Methodist Church

Constructed 1841-42; renovated 1911, 1953

Edward Brickell White, architect

This Doric temple was designed by architect Edward Brickell White, who quarreled with the

building committee about the placement of the small doors on either side of the main entrance. He lost and the doors were installed "in violation of architectural propriety and good taste," according to White, who said doors should be placed between columns, not behind them.

Built as the Second or Wentworth Street Baptist Church, the structure was sold in 1866 to the Methodist Episcopal Church for use by a black congregation. This congregation has included some of Charleston's most noted civil rights leaders including Septima Poinsett Clark.

87-89 Wentworth Street St. Philip's Parish Glebe Tenements

Constructed c. 1750-75; 87 Wentworth altered 19th and 20th centuries

This double tenement was built before 1788, when it appeared on the "Ichnography" (fire insurance map) of that year. The builder has not been documented. As its appearance is very urban, it was probably built after the subdivision of the Glebe Lands in 1770. In another division of the Glebe Lands in 1797, the lot on which the double building stands was conveyed to St. Michael's Church, which retained title until 1953.

87 Wentworth St. was remodeled in the late 19th century, with the half story being raised to a full story, but 89 Wentworth St. retains its original 18th century appearance. Unusual features include the jerkin-head roof and rusticated arched entrance to the one-level piazza at 89 Wentworth. The structures share a common wall and common chimneys and are partly built of Bermuda stone.

88-90 Wentworth Street Riggs Tenements

Constructed c. 1859

John S. Riggs built these two brick houses, along with 15, 17 and 19 St. Philip St., as tenements. The Italianate style buildings retain mantles as well as woodwork and plasterwork in the florid style of the period. Riggs founded Charleston's first street car system in 1866. He lived for many years in the Joseph Manigault House.

Consequently the congregations merged to form an Evangelical Lutheran congregation, and the sale of the the Morris Street property paid for repairs to this building. The name, St. Andrew's, was adopted in 1898. The interior was remodeled extensively in 1908, and renovated again in 1926, but the original galleries were retained.

(Legerton, Historic Churches, 34-35. History of the Lutheran Church, 677-680, 315. Centennial of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 8-14. Stoney, This is Charleston, 110. Stockton, DYKYC, Dec. 7, 1981)

46 Wentworth St. -- This notable small Greek Revival building is presumed to be antebellum.

(Stoney, This is Charleston, 110.)

60 Wentworth St. -- Centenary Methodist Church. Built c. 1842, this Doric temple was designed by architect Edward Brickell White, who quarrelled with the building committee about the placement of the small doors on either side of the main entrance. He lost, and the doors were installed "in violation of architectural propriety and good taste," according to White, who said doors should be placed between columns, not behind them. Built as the Second or Wentworth Street Baptist Church, the structure was sold in 1866 to the Methodist Episcopal Church, for use by a black congregation. Nine of the first 12 pastors of Centenary were white.

(Ravenel, Architects, 189, 194. Legerton, Historic Churches, 44-45. Stoney, This is Charleston, 110.)

87-89 Wentworth St. -- This double tenement was built sometime before 1788, when it was depicted on the "Ichno-graphy" (Phoenix fire insurance map) of that year. As its appearance is very urban, it was built probably after the subdivision of the Glebe Lands in 1770. The builder has not been documented. In the division of

the Glebe Lands in 1797, the lot on which the double building stands was conveyed to St. Michael's Church, which retained title until 1953. Eighty-seven Wentworth was remodeled in the late 19th century, with the half story being raised to a full story, but 89 Wentworth retains its original 18th century appearance. Unusual features include the jerkin-head roof and the rusticated arched entrance to the one-level piazza at 89 Wentworth. The structures share a common wall and common chimneys, & are partly built of Bermuda stone. (Stockton, DYKYC, Aug. 16, 1976. Stoney, This is Charleston, 111.)

88-90 Wentworth St. -- John S. Riggs built these two brick houses, along with 15, 17 and 19 St. Philip St., in 1859-60 as tenements. The Italianate style buildings retain mantles, woodwork and plasterwork in the florid style of the period. Riggs subsequently, in 1866, founded Charleston's first street car system. He lived for many years in the Joseph Manigault House. (Stockton, DYKYC, Jan. 1, 1973, Dec. 30, 1974.)

89½ Wentworth St. -- St. Michael's Church built this tiny one-story frame structure in 1900 for lease to Dr. Charles M. Rees, physician, as his office. The building replaced a one story brick building of about the same size, which had been occupied by James B. DaCosta, a black cobbler, as his shop. The building is a type of vernacular structure which was once common in Charleston and is gradually becoming rarer. (Stockton, DYKYC, May 5, 1980)

92 Wentworth St. -- This frame house was built c. 1850 on land leased from St. Philip's Church. It formerly was turned lengthways, with the piazza facing the street. Jacob Knobloch, a flour dealer who bought the property in

The News and Courier

Section
B

Monday
August 16, 1976

Stone Traces House

The News and Courier
Do You Know
Your Charleston?

By ROBERT P. STOCKTON

The discovery that the doubled dwelling at 87-89 Wentworth St. is partly built of Bermuda stone lends spice to long-held theories about its antiquity.

Bermuda stone was uncovered recently when it was necessary to remove deteriorated wood framing from the main doorway of 87 Wentworth, the easternmost of the two houses.

The owner of the building, Dr. Joe Sam Palmer, recalled also that the same kind of stone had been uncovered when he built a rear addition onto the house in the 1950s.

Bermuda stone, a coral limestone, was imported to South Carolina from the island of Bermuda in large quantities in the 18th century. The stone, pinkish in its natural state, turns grey with exposure to weather.

Other houses in Charleston known to be partly built of Bermuda stone are the Pink House at 17 Chalmers St., dated 1712 and the houses at 141 and 143-145 Church St., built about 1746 by Alexander Perre-neau.

Bermuda stone continued to be imported into Charlestown at least until 1770, research has shown.

Bermuda stone construction does not help to date the double residence at 87-89 Wentworth St., but it adds interest to speculation about its origins and age.

Dating the property through the usual means of written documentation (deeds, etc.) has failed because of the difficulty of tracing Glebe Land leases.

The property now known as 87-89 Wentworth St. is historically part of Lot 28 of a 17-acre tract known as the Glebe Lands, which Mrs. Affra Coming bequeathed to the minister of the Church of England in 1698.

The property at 87-89 Wentworth St. continued to be held by first, St. Philip's Church, then by St. Michael's Church, until 1953, when St. Michael's sold it to Dr. Palmer. Before the 1953 sale, the

churches leased the property to various tenants.

The earliest known tenants were Isaiah Moses, in the 1790s, Catherine Cleary in 1833 and John Ward in 1864.

Number 89 has finely carved overmantles and fully paneled chimney walls, beveled door and window frames with "ear" mouldings, with convex egg and floral enrichments in the carving.

Number 87 retains very plain woodwork and mantels in the Georgian style. Mantels on the third floor are identical to a mantel on the third floor of the Robert Brewton House, 71 Church St., which was built about 1720.

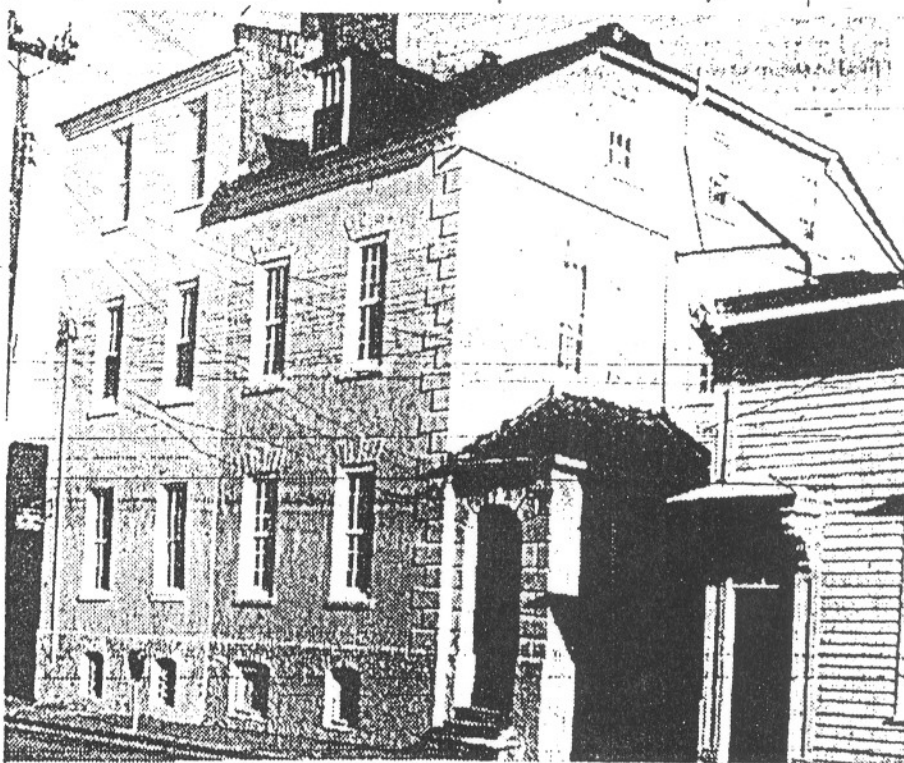
On the exterior, 87 Wentworth was altered in the 19th century, when the roof was raised to permit a full third floor and

Georgian exterior details were removed or plastered over.

Number 89, however, retains a very ancient appearance, with a jerkin-head roof, moulded brick cornice again reminiscent of the Robert Brewton House, radiating voussoirs over the front windows, quoined corners, nine light window sashes and a very early piazza.

The piazza, with plain posts, stick balusters and arched masonry entrance and hip roof, appears to be one of the oldest in Charleston.

Two large chimneys shared by the two units also appear very old, being constructed of Charleston grey brick laid in Flemish bond, with the white decorative motif known as the Charleston band added for accent.



(Staff Photo)

87-89 Wentworth St.

Morning Coffee

By Dave Doubrava

Pollutant

From: An Architectural Guide to Charleston, SC, 1700-1900
by Albert Simons & Thomas W.H. Johnson
(Historic Charleston Fdn, 1971?)

89 Wentworth Street

On the south side of the street is 89 Wentworth standing cheek by jowl against a taller building on the east. No. 89 has a jerkin head gable similar to that at Mulberry Castle 1714. Under the eaves is a moulded brick cornice, and the rusticated quoins are in low relief, features similar to those on the Robert Brewton House at 71 Church Street, 1730. Because Wentworth Street was not laid out until 1770, it has been assumed that this house could not be earlier than the street. This does not necessarily follow.

In 1724 land which was eventually to become the property of the College was sold by Thomas Pinckney to the Commissioners of the Free School, and at that time was described as follows: "Land behind the Parsonage butting and bounding to the north east on land formerly belonging to Mr. Humphrey Rouse deceased, to the north west on Marsh, to the south west on the land of Captain John Harleston and to the south east on a path leading from the Broad Path by the parsonage to Capt. Harleston Land" Quotation from A History of the College of Charleston by J. H. Easterby. This "path" leading from ("the Broad Path", now King Street) would be located on what is now George Street and the dwelling which is now designated as 89 Wentworth may well have been reached by a "Country Road" across the fields of the Parsonage.

A.S. [Albert Simons]