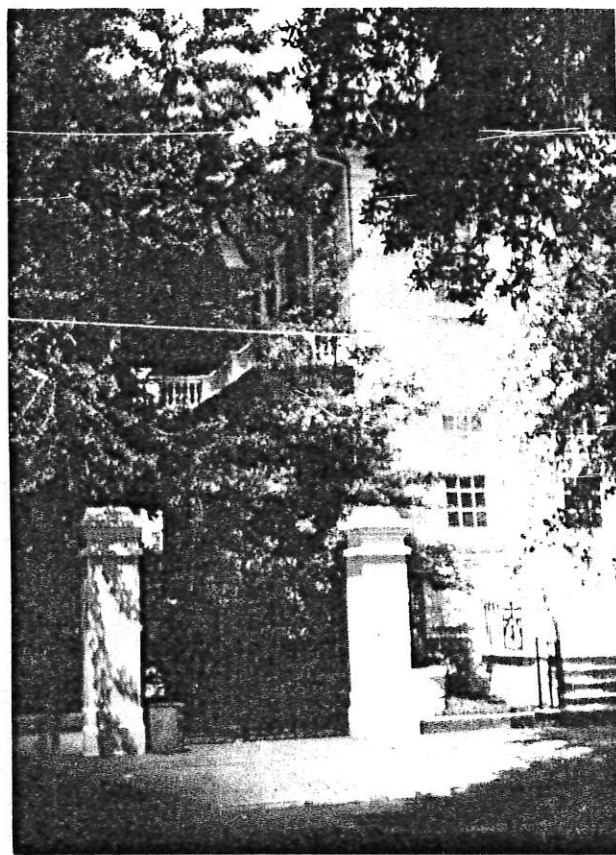
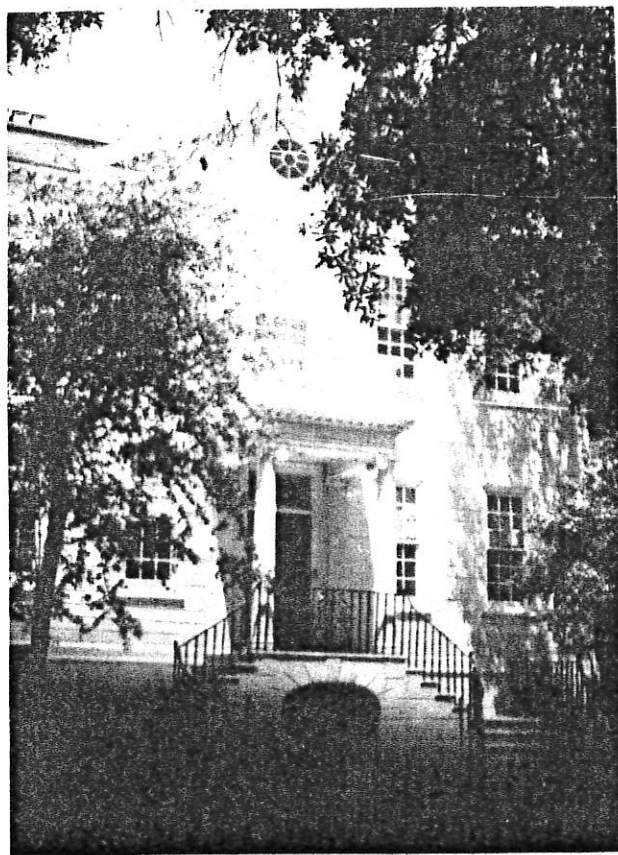


*Beltways  
scrapbook*

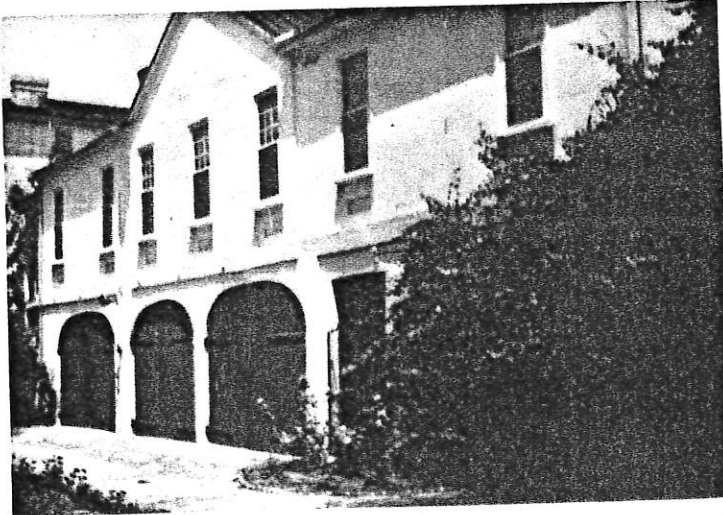
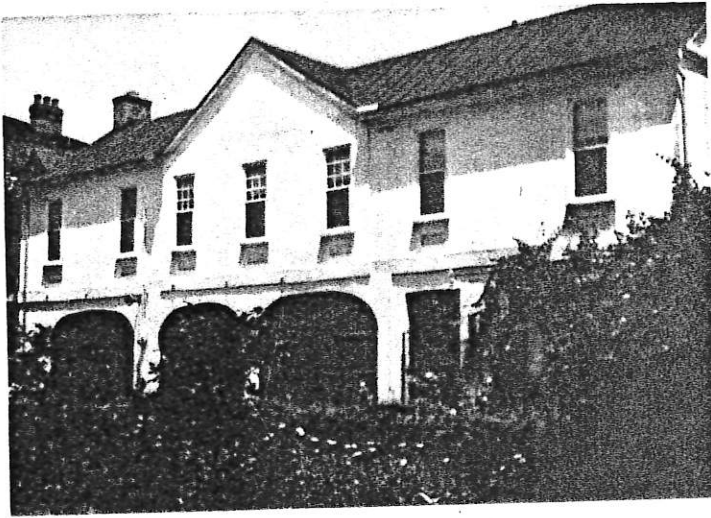
## THE STORY OF 13 MEETING STREET

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA



At 15 Meeting Street in Charleston, South Carolina, is a house known as the John Edwards house. It was started in 1757 and finished in 1770. During the Revolutionary War it was used as a headquarters for British officers and following the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, Admiral de Grasse, of the French Fleet, came to Charleston with his family and lived in this house.

Later the house was purchased by various people, including Mr. Williams and others. In June of 1957 it was owned by Charles Robertson Allen and his wife.



Back of this house at 15 Meeting Street, which is listed as a house important to the city's history, there stands the old carriage house pictured above. This carriage house was purchased on July 18, 1957 by Elizabeth Cross Hobart. Shortly after purchase, work was started on the house to remodel it and turn it into a home.

The upstairs had been developed into an apartment by the Allens for their daughter. The downstairs was still a carriage house, with carriage doors, openings in each stall for the horses and the tack room.

Old Brick:

- A. Large and varied assortment due to the left-overs of 40 years and wrecking and collecting.
- B. Small red brick came from a house on Chalmers Street built out of all small red brick, known as Dutch Brick - not from Holland - but called Dutch because of size.

This is the only brick of this color and size we have ever encountered. All the interior of the house was of cypress unpainted. All walls were 2" cypress ship lapped and beaded. This construction is very old - 1735 to 1753.

- C. The large brown brick are known as English Brick - not from England. Made here in Charleston, but English as to size. Bricks of this size were made from the First Setting of Charleston and date back to the early 1700's. These English Brick were of a more or less standard size. The Church of Jamestown, Virginia, erected at about 1621, used English Brick.

Mr. Fiske Kimball, in his book, states that John Smith had brick makers and bricklayers with him when he landed at Jamestown. Further in his entire studies he has been only able to find one shipload of brick brought into New Sweden of 10,000 bricks.

If one will pause a minute the story of all the brick in this building were brought from England, they would realize the impossibility. English brick weigh 8 to 9 pounds when perfectly dry, 1,000 brick would weigh 4 to 4½ tons, 10 to 20 thousand brick would be a cargo. Fenwick Hall or Drayton Hall would have required 50 to 100 ships crossing the Atlantic with full brick cargo to build each. Think of the hundreds of plantations flourishing by 1750. Later each place made their own brick with slave labor and each carpenter varied the size of the moulds slightly. Some very large - some much smaller - hence the great variety of sizes.

The bricks of which Fort Sumter was built were made at Medway Plantation. Also there were many Spanish tile made and fired there. The black glaze is obtained by applying a heavy solution of salt. This when fired put on high gloss glaze. The East dining room wall is a mixture of the red brick from Chalmers Street house and Medway Plantation size brick. The fireplace had bricks out of the footing of the Bennett's Rice Mill, the hall from living room to bedroom door are slave made bricks, judging from their variance in size. There were a few left-overs from an old building wrecked on Queen Street.

The long leaf pine in kitchen is re-run joist from the Bennett's Rice Mill, also the large living room beam was one of the main beams of the Rice Mill and was 42 feet in length before we cut it and 8" x 17" in width and depth.