

THE PINK HOUSE
c. 1715
17 Chalmers Street
No. 4

The early origin of "The Pink House" is evident in a number of its characteristics. It is quite small in size. Early settlers here, as well as in other colonies, lacked the resources to construct spacious dwellings. It is built of a conglomeration of different masonry materials, bricks of different sizes and blocks of Bermuda stone suggesting that it was put together with random pieces of ballast from the hold of one or more ships coming from overseas. The interior was starkly plain with no carpentry work such as mantels, wainscots or cornices, which became so prevalent as the town prospered.

The present gambrel roof is a later development for on the inner faces of the gable walls there are traces of straight rafters which extended from the ridge to the eaves giving the roof the same appearance as that of the small building to the west. It is likely that these two buildings are coeval for when the gambrel roof rose to a higher ridge and its chimney top was added to, the neighboring chimney also received an addendum.

The pan tile roof covering is of a type common in England and the Low Countries but is not necessarily of distant provenance as pan tile such as these were also made at plantations which operated brick kilns, notably at Medway on Back River where shards of such tile may still be found.

In 1930 Mr. and Mrs. Victor Morawetz acquired this property. The changes to the property, besides repairs, were to add a small one story service wing at the south east corner, plant a garden at the rear inclosing it by an arcaded wall and lining the room on the first floor with vertical cypress boards of random widths as was done in early dwellings when timber was abundant and plasterers few.

A.S.