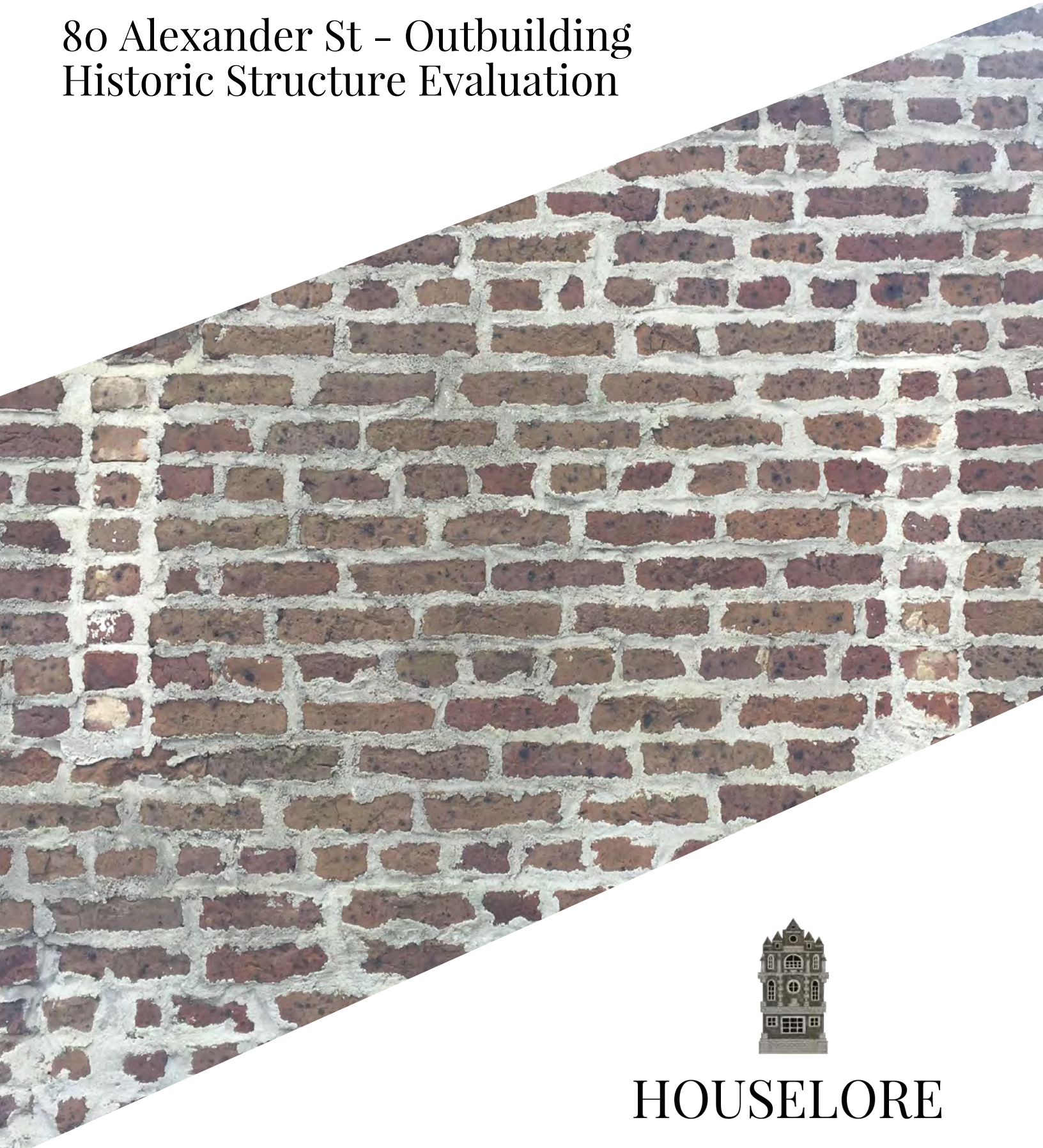


80 Alexander St - Outbuilding Historic Structure Evaluation



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Introduction

Houselore has been asked to evaluate the historical value of the outbuilding to the rear of 80 Alexander St. The main house was built in 1803 by Alexander Mazyck. The main house and outbuilding are located in the vicinity of the original site of Charleston's Liberty Tree.

Historical Research Chronology

The first mention found of the property comes from the Columbian Herald in 1786. It is an advertisement for leases on several lots in the vicinity of 80 Alexander Street. It makes mention of the Liberty Tree being formerly in the vicinity.

The Liberty Tree was a rallying point for the supports of American independence in Charleston, specifically Christopher Gadsden and the Sons of Liberty. In 1776, the Declaration of Independence was first read to the people of Charleston underneath this tree. The area around the tree was originally a cow pasture owned by Alexander Mazyck.

When the British occupied Charleston between 1780-1782, they chopped down the Liberty Tree and burned the stump that was left. After the Revolution, the roots of the Liberty Tree were salvaged and made into cane heads. One of these canes was gifted to Thomas Jefferson.

Today, the exact location of the original Liberty Tree is unknown, but the owners plan to commemorate the tree and its history within the vicinity.

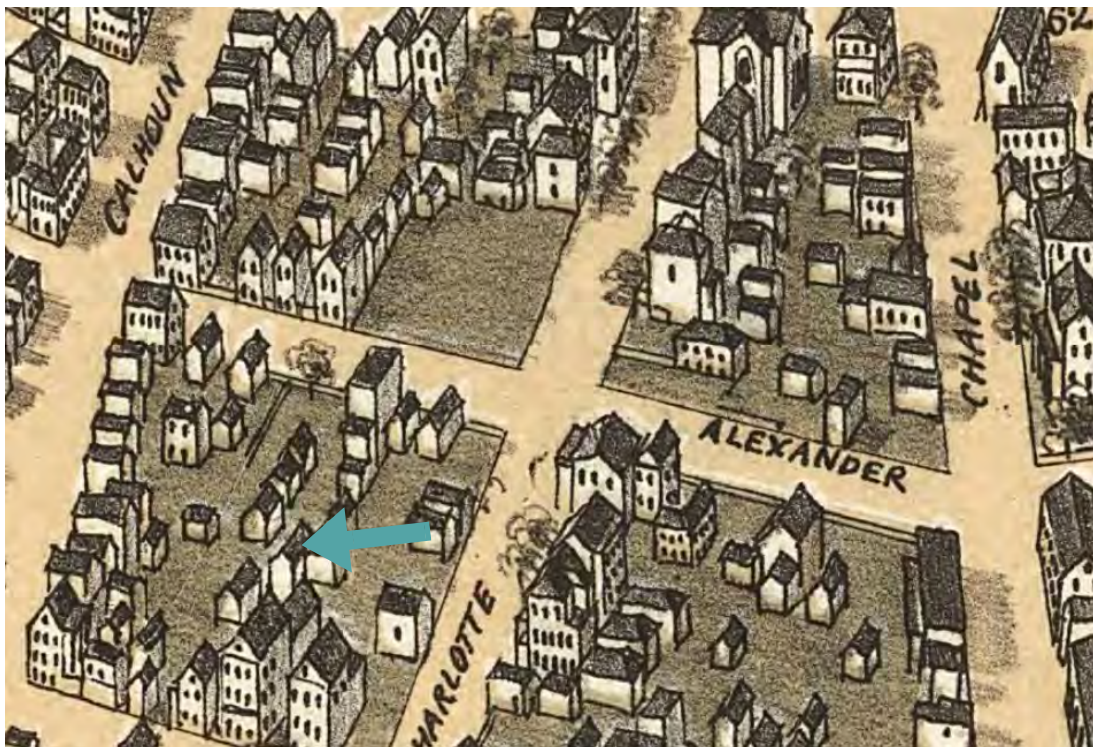


(Above) Current historical marker for the Liberty Tree

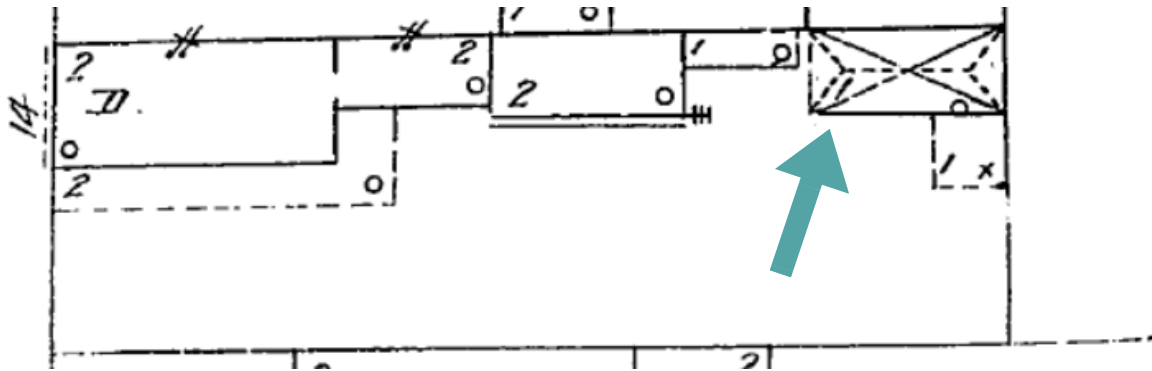
On Wednesday, May 17,
 Will be sold on the spot, to the highest bidder,
The sale to begin precisely at 11 o'clock,
In the forenoon,
 Ten years lease of between thirty and forty
L O T S,
 In Mazyck's-Borough,
SITUATED and laid out on streets sixty-
 six feet wide, where the Liberty tree
 formerly stood, and adjoining Boundary-
 street. These lots are delightfully situated
 on a high and healthy spot, commanding an
 extensive view of Cooper river, Charlelton
 bar, &c. and may be rendered as profitable
 by gardening as any lots near this city. In
 addition to the above description, they have
 the advantage of two navigable creeks leading
 to the spot, which affords a ready and cheap
 conveyance for lumber, fire-wood, &c. from
 Charleston. m66 5
 A plan of the above may be seen by apply-
 ing to
Gibbs & Graham.

(Above) Article from the Columbian Herald, April 10th 1786

The earliest topographical representation of the property can be found in the 1872 'Birds Eye View' map by C.N. Drie. The arrow indicates the outbuilding under evaluation.

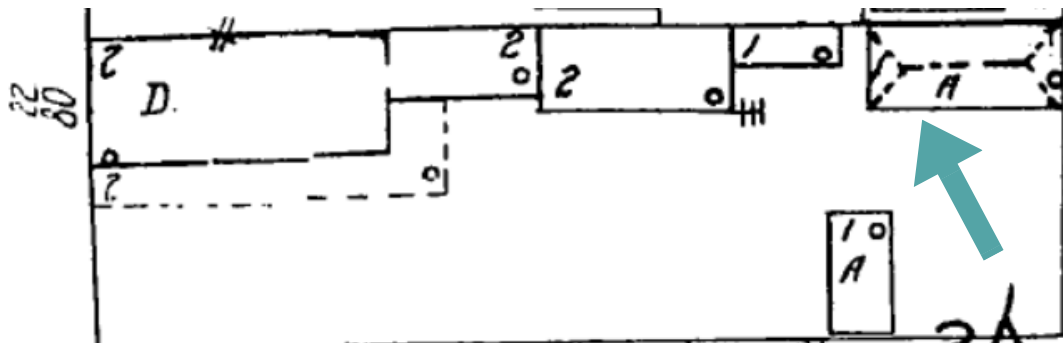


The earliest representation of the property in the Sanborn Fire Maps is found in 1902. At this time, the property is known as 14 Alexander St. Here, the outbuilding is depicted as a one story carriage house with a pitched shingle roof.



(Above) Excerpt from 1902 Sanborn Fire Map

The next representation of the property in the Sanborn Fire Maps is found in 1951. This map shows that the property number briefly changed to 20 before becoming known as 80 Alexander St. Here, we see that the outbuilding is being used as a garage. It is still one story, with a pitched shingle roof.



(Above) Excerpt from 1951 Sanborn Fire Map

Today, several buildings depicted in the Sanborn Fire Maps between the main house and the outbuilding are no longer standing. The current location of the outbuilding is marked.



Visual Evaluation

The outbuilding has undergone extensive repairs and renovations over time. Today, the front and rear facade are no longer standing. The front facade is a modern rebuild, and the rear facade has been removed and leads into a modern building, although remnants of this rear facade remain inside.



(Above) Front facade of the outbuilding, (Below) Remains of the rear facade on the interior, 2018



Portion of original rear wall, 15" deep

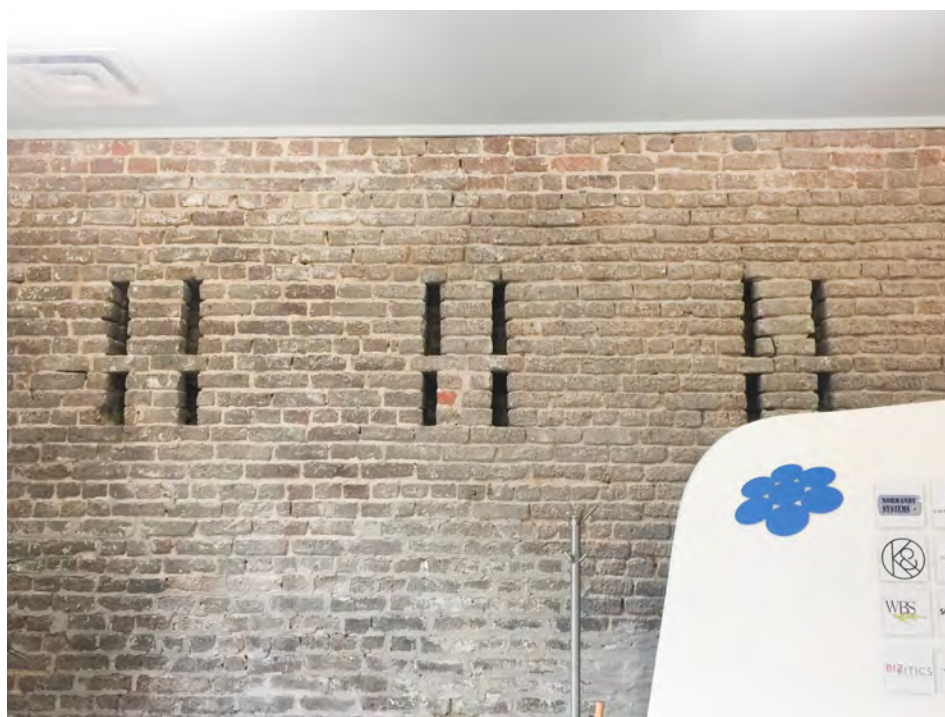
Portion of original rear wall

Upon inspection, it appears that the roof and its supporting structure is also modern. Modern stretcher bond brickwork is seen at the rear of the building.



(Above) Interior of the attic/roof structure, 2018

The northern wall does contain the original vertical decorative vents within the brickwork on the interior, but they have been covered over on the exterior.



(Above) Interior vertical decorative vents on northern wall, 2018



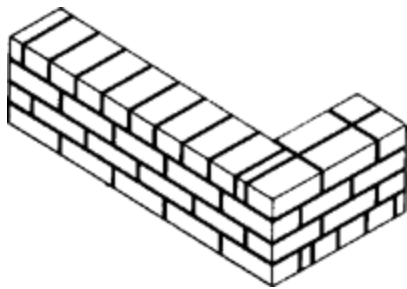
(Above) Exterior of northern wall, 23' long and 11' tall, 2018

The southern wall appears to have undergone extensive repair, and a large portion of the middle section is modern brickwork. A modern window has also been installed.



(Above) Exterior of southern wall, 23' long and 11' tall, 2018

The original brickwork of the outbuilding, much of which remains in the northern and southern walls, is an English Garden Wall bond. This is unusual, as English Garden Wall bond is rarely found on buildings outside the northern states, although it is particularly prevalent on the east coast. This bond pattern was used from the late 18th century onward. It is characterized by one row of headers to three rows of stretchers. The bricks in both walls are handmade and some of the original lime/sand/shell mortar remains.



(Above) English Garden Wall bond cross section



(Above) Northern wall showing English Garden Wall bond and filled in decorative vents

Summary

The outbuilding at 80 Alexander Street was likely constructed in the early 19th century and was originally utilized as a carriage house. The original portions of the vestige walls likely date to this time. While the northern and southern walls are original and feature unusual English Garden Wall brick bond, the eastern and western walls are no longer standing. The roof and supporting roof materials are not original, and were likely renovated in the last 20-30 years. The floor is modern poured concrete. Due to their age and unique brickwork bond, the vestige walls of this outbuilding are architecturally and historically significant.