

Evidence during the restoration also revealed that the front and rear porches were originally cantilevered second floor balconies. Examples of this kind of balcony can be seen on the 1739 Bishop Roberts View.

#### **41 Church Street**

##### **Albert W. Todd House**

*Constructed 1909*

Architect A.W. Todd built this house as his residence. According to tradition, he designed the house as a result of a wager challenging him to put a substantial house on the narrow (25 feet by 150 feet) lot. One of the more interesting features is the garage entry through the chimney.

#### **50 Church Street**

##### **E. J. F. Fischer House** (Site of the Mariners' Church)

*Constructed c. 1888-89*

As a result of a religious controversy, the congregation of the First Baptist Church split and a second meeting house was erected here in the early 18th century. A corner of the church building was carried away during the hurricane of 1752 by a vessel driven up Vanderhorst Creek (now Water Street) and across Meeting Street, where it was grounded. Afterwards the church was used as the Mariners' Church, a place of worship for seamen. The house was built later in the Queen Anne style.

#### **56, 58, and 60 Church Street** **James Veree Houses**

*Constructed 1754-90; restored 1930s-40s*

These three frame houses were built by James Veree, a French Huguenot carpenter. 58 Church was briefly owned as rental property by Thomas Heyward, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. This house is also acclaimed for its rear garden, designed in the early 1940s by Mrs. Benjamin (Emily) Whaley with landscape architect Loutrel Briggs. Visitors from around the world still come to visit the garden made famous in her 1997 book, *Mrs. Whaley and Her Charleston Garden* during Charleston's spring and fall house tours. Though Mrs. Whaley passed away in 1998, the house has remained in the family her daughter, noted Charleston artist

Marty Whaley Adams, continues to maintain the garden.

60 Church St. has the only room in Charleston completely paneled in mahogany. It was probably crafted by Martin Pfeninger, a German cabinetmaker.

#### **59 Church Street**

##### **Thomas Rose House**

*Constructed c. 1735; restored 1929, 1939*

Thomas Rose, an Ashley River planter, is said to have built this two-and-a-half story stuccoed brick house soon after his marriage to Beuler Elliott in 1733. Thomas Elliott devised the site to his daughter, Beuler, in his will. The house has an asymmetrical plan typical of early Charleston houses and early Georgian interiors with robust and simple paneling, staircase and other woodwork. The piazza is a later addition.

The house is said to be haunted by the ghost of Dr. Joseph Brown Ladd. In 1786, he was carried into the house after being mortally wounded in a duel. He was defending the honor of an actress named Mrs. Robertson, nicknamed Perdita.

The house was restored in the late 1920s and overseen by local architect Albert Simons. It was later owned by architectural historian Henry Staats and his family. Both Mr. Staats and his wife Juliette Wiles Staats were leaders in the preservation movement in Charleston. According to the Staats family's wishes, when the current generation of the family moves out of the house, it will convert to Historic Charleston Foundation.

#### **61 Church Street**

##### **First Baptist Church**

*Constructed 1819-22; restored 1990*

*Robert Mills, architect*

The oldest Baptist church in the South, First Baptist is often called the "Mother Church of Southern Baptists." It was organized in Kittery, Maine, by the Rev. William Screven in 1682. He was driven by persecution to South Carolina in 1683. The Baptists first settled at Somerton, on the Cooper River near Charles Town. They later moved their church into the city. Meetings were