

67 Alexander St. -- Richard Edward Dereef (1798-1876), a free black wood factor and real estate investor, built this small two story frame single house sometime after he purchased the site in April 1838. The site was part of a large lot, extending to Calhoun Street, on which Dereef erected several buildings, of which only this house remains. Dereef, a native Charlestonian, was one of the wealthiest men of the free black community. He and his son, Richard, Jr., had a wood factorage business on Dereef's Wharf at the foot of Chapel Street, and lived nearby on Washington Street. By 1867 Dereef had conveyed this property, apparently built for rental purposes, to Margaret Walker, a black woman. (Stockton, unpub. MS.)

80 Alexander St. -- Liberty Tree Marker and WCSC Broadcast Museum. Marker placed by the Sons of the American Revolution commemorates the live oak tree, known as the Liberty Tree, where colonial independence was first advocated by Christopher Gadsden in 1766, and where 10 years later the Declaration of Independence was first heard and applauded by South Carolinians. Gadsden and his fellow revolutionaries, who led public meetings here to protest the British Stamp Act and later the Tea Tax, called themselves the "Sons of Liberty." Seeking to prevent the tree from becoming a Patriot shrine, the British cut it down and burned the stump, during their occupation of the city in 1780-82. The root was later retrieved by Judge William Johnson, who had it made into caneheads, one of which was given to Thomas Jefferson.

Also on the premises is the WCSC, Inc., Broadcast Museum, a collection of communications paraphernalia encompassing everything from the tom-tom to Telstar.

(Rosen, 77. Leland, Charleston, Crossroads of History, 21-22, 129. Walsh, Sons of Liberty, 31-32, 40, 46, 48, 50, 87, 98, 116. Johnson, Traditions, 35. McCrady, 2:589-591, 604, 652-653, 664-671, 679-680.)