

accommodate the many merchants and professionals who wanted to reside near the commercial center of the city. This need was well addressed by attached row houses that could massed on relatively small lots. This particular row is distinguished by its fine interior woodwork. The houses retain their original second-story fenestration with three bays each and a continuous belt course that runs between the second and third stories. A continuous gable roof provides each tenement with two front dormers and two rear dormers.

## 23-25 Queen Street

### Benchman Casey Tenements

*Constructed c. 1806, 23 Queen rebuilt after 1865; both restored and renovated c. 1935*

This notable double tenement, three stories of stuccoed brick, was damaged during the Union bombardment of the city. The façade of 23 Queen had to be rebuilt. Both were renovated in the 1930s.

## 32 Queen Street

This property is the tea garden of St. Philip's Church.

## 44-46 Queen Street

### Abraham Sasportas Tenements

*Constructed c. 1800; altered mid 19<sup>th</sup> century*

This double tenement was built by Abraham Sasportas, a French-born Jewish merchant who immigrated to the city in 1778. Sasportas returned to France 30 years later in 1818, leaving his wife behind.

The two halves of the building share common chimneys. The balcony on 44 Queen St. was added after 1819 by John Schirer, who had his Latinized initials, "I.S.," added to the central baluster. The accessory buildings are also notable.

## 54 Queen Street

### Thomas Elfe House

*Constructed c. 1760-70; moved to back of lot and restored mid twentieth century*

Master cabinetmaker Thomas Elfe, considered one of the finest furniture craftsmen of the 18th century, built this diminutive Georgian single

house with fine Georgian woodwork. Elfe, a Tory sympathizer, died in 1775 just before the Revolutionary War. He left behind an eight-year Accounts Book that lists more than 1,500 pieces of furniture sold to many of Charleston's wealthy merchants and planters.

The house remains largely in its original state, containing finely paneled rooms with authentic furnishings. In the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the house was shifted to make room for an additional retail space. Because of its perfect proportions and pre-Revolutionary date, the house has been included in the reports of the Historical American Buildings Survey of the U.S. Department of Interior. It also has been featured on House and Garden TV and in *Early American Life* magazine.

Bill Ward bought and restored the Elfe House in 1994, filling it with antiques from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Ward opens the house to the public Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. until noon. Afternoon and weekend visits may be available by appointment.

## 57 Queen Street

### Citizens & Southern National Bank Counting House

*Constructed c. 1840; renovated c. 1958*

This two-and-a-half story, masonry building was used as the offices of a 19<sup>th</sup> century veterinarian named Dr. Benjamin McInnes. Continuing in the McInnes Family, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century it became the office of another Benjamin McInnes, a heart surgeon.

The building was renovated in 1956 during its conversion to a branch location for Citizens & Southern National Bank. Alterations included adding the tile roof, outside stair, and the cypress paneling inside. The bank was on the first level and a meeting room was above. The building contained artifacts relating to rice and cotton culture and other facets of local and state history. The landscaping of the office and parking area won a National Industrial Landscaping Award in 1958.



of 1796, which devastated the neighborhood.

(Thomas, N&C, Dec. 1, 1971. Stoney, This is Charleston, 85.)

20 Queen St. -- This two story brick warehouse, which is believed to be antebellum, houses the Footlight Players Workshop.

(Stoney, This is Charleston, 86.)

22-28 Queen St. -- This notable row of three and one-half story, stuccoed brick tenements was built in the 1790s by the family of William Johnson, Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

(Stockton, DYKYC, Aug. 9, 1976.) Stoney, This is Charleston, 86.)

23-25 Queen St. -- This notable double tenement, three stories of stuccoed brick, is believed to date from c. 1806. The east facade has been altered.

(Stoney, This is Charleston, 86.)

32 Queen St. -- This property is the tea garden of St. Philip's Church.

\* 44-46 Queen St. -- This double tenement was apparently built between 1796 and 1802 by Abraham Sasportas, a French-born Jewish merchant. The two halves of the building share common chimneys. The balcony on 44 Queen St. was added after 1819 by John Schirer, who put his Latinized initials, "I.S.," in the central baluster. The accessory buildings are notable.

(Stockton, unpub. MS. \_\_\_\_\_, DYKYC, Oct. 27, 1980. Stoney, This is Charleston, 87. Deas, Early Iron-work, 34-35.

45 Queen St. -- This large brick building was formerly a double outbuilding to a double tenement which has been demolished. It was converted into a single residence.

(Isabella Leland, DYKYC, March 25, 1957. Stoney, This is Charleston, 87.)