



HISTORIC CHARLESTON FOUNDATION

51 MEETING STREET :: CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29401

THOMAS BALL HOUSE, before 1820
 13 Church Street
 Home of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Butler

This handsome townhouse stands on land patented in the 18th century by Landgrave Thomas Smith, one of the colonist's leading public figures and royal office holders. Although originally outside the early walled city, development of this high land along Church Street began in the mid-eighteenth century and continued until the early 1800's. The exact date of construction of this house is unknown but it has been determined that it was in place as early as early as the first decades of the 1800's and it descended in the Thomas Ball family. Other prominent early owners have included the Robert Chisholm family, owners of extensive plantations and rice mills, and the Gadsden family, who were leading public figures of the Revolutionary War period.

The house follows the famous Charleston "Single house" plan, with the gable end facing the street and large piazzas rising on the southern facade. The house has an unusual roof line that possibly dates from original construction but may have been a later adaptation to provide more living space on the upper levels.

DRAWING ROOM

The woodwork found here and throughout the house dates from the early 1800's and is crafted in the Adamerque style. The neo-classical mantel includes swags and acanthus leaves over the reeded columns. The acanthus leaf was often copied as an architectural ornament in the 18th and 19th centuries. The portrait of Mrs. Butler (over the mantel) is by Charleston artist, Alicia Rhett. Other art works include prints by Elizabeth O'Neill Verner, a famous Charleston artist whose prints are in the permanent collection of many American museums. The pair of cabinets were saved from an old Charleston school. The ducks were carved by Jim Palmer, a wildlife carver.

HALL

The stairs are original to the house. The sporting prints of a Partridge shoot date from 1835. Other art works include the Anne Worsham Richardson's "Screech Owlets."

DINING ROOM

The many treasures found throughout the home reflect the Butler's interest in the Carolina Low Country and their specific interest in nature conservation and wildlife management. Mr. Butler is the founder of conservation programs that concentrate on the Santee wetlands near Georgetown, South Carolina. The portraits of the Butler's three sons are by the Charleston artist, Alicia Rhett, who has painted two generations of the family.