

1971- written by owner

used 1974

Only copy

RUN OF B 5

JOHN Mc KEE'S HOUSE  
Built before 1796  
44 King Street  
Mr. & Mrs. G. Simms McDowell, Jnr.

John McKee is listed in the City Directory of 1796 as a bricklayer.

ENTRANCE HALL

It is right here that you sense the solidity and age of this house. The walls are vertical siding of long leaf heart pine more often painted, but here you can see what a lovely color and texture it has.

The floors throughout are the original random width long leaf pine - are not stained - natural finish - only wax has been used.

The door is a perfect one of this type of batten door.

Up the stairs on the landing is a copper jar from India.

Confederate bill was signed by Mr. McDowell's paternal grandmother, a secretary of the Confederacy during the War Between the States.



---

## HISTORIC CHARLESTON FOUNDATION

### GARDEN OF THE JOHN MCKEE HOUSE

44 King Street

Before 1794

Residence of Mrs. Robert Bavier Jr

2009

This garden incorporates the fairly recent design of Sheila Wertimer, garden landscaper, with the enduring beauty of older trees from an earlier garden. The wrought iron entrance gate in lyre design is balanced to open and close in traditional style with a heavy weight as is the entrance gate to the inner garden. (This circular design is similar to others found throughout the city, often copied from the communion rail at St. Michael's. Point out to visitors how gates and fencing in Charleston gardens contribute to the overall beauty of the site.) There is a separate driveway area also entered through a wrought iron gate.

The walls of the house are beautifully sculpted with Creeping Fig (*Pumila ficus*) and there are walls of Azaleas around the healthy looking lawn of St. Augustine Grass. In front of these large Azaleas, immediately behind the brick coping, are small, early-blooming Azaleas, giving a nice balance of bloomtimes as well as symmetry. There are pots of flowers including a tightly pruned boxwood.

To the right there are some magnificent Camellias with have been underplanted with Azaleas. There is a tall Camphor Tree, note the black berries. And a Tea Olive immediately before the entrance to the inner yard with a golden Aucuba plant underneath.

In the inner garden, on the left is a dogwood tree underplanted with Azaleas and on the right one finds a Holly Fern with a small Asiatic Box bordering it. A toothed Aucuba is on the left with Ferns underneath. Again we see a profusion of Azaleas and Camellias, and in a pot a Confederate Jasmine climbs up a Vine tower. A ground covering of Japanese Variegated Ardisia is underplanted here.

The foundation and pool, flanked by Yew and a light Lavender Iris. A Creeping Rosemary (light blue flowers) and a small Variegated Ivy are in pots here. The small trees on either side of the pool are White Redbud.

An interesting large old jar is on the terrace. At the far end of the garden is a large Photinia and in the shaded area we see a Cast Iron Plant, Fatsia Japonica, Holly Fern, Variegated Pittosporum, Camellias and Ferns.

Turning down the left side of the garden, there is a profusion of different plants which include Camellias, Azaleas, Cleyera, Yews, Hydrangeas, Tea Olive, Climbing Rose, and Cassia.

The small room is a small elevator. And a colorful pot of Blue Pansies sits near the steps which have been lined with Creeping Fig.