

HISTORIC CHARLESTON FOUNDATION

51 MEETING STREET CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29401

THE CHICKEN-SERRE HOUSE, c. 1731
49 Tradd Street
Home of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Marks

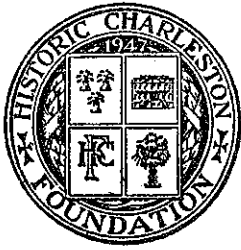
This handsome early Georgian townhouse was built in the early 1730's and is one of the earliest dwellings to survive in the old and historic district. It stands on a lot that was part of lot #41 of the Grand Modell, and at the time it was built, it was within the original walled city. Charleston is one of only three cities in North America that was totally fortified by walls and bastions.

The three storied brick dwelling with stucco finish is built in the Georgian style of architecture which was the dominant style of the English colonies from 1700 to about 1870. The Georgian style is among the most long-lived styles of American buildings and is characterized by the symmetry of the architectural details.

The property was originally owned by Col. George Chicken, who, from 1712 until his death in 1727, was an important public figure and a prime shaper of the colonial Indian policy. He served in both the Tuscarora and Yemassee Wars and as the Royal Commissioner of Indian Trade.

The property passed to Col. Chicken's son-in-law, Noah Serre. He was a justice of the peace for Berkeley County, a tax collector for St. James Santee and a member of several Commons House of Assemblies. The house then passed to Serre's son-in-law, Daniel Horry, a Revolutionary war patriot who served under Frances Marion.

This room was probably originally used as a "Counting House" or office which was an 18th century custom brought to the colonies by European settlers. The colonists often combined their offices and dwellings in the same building and it is appropriate that the current owners use this room as his office.



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THE CHICKEN SERRE HOUSE

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(Note) guests will proceed through the living room and dining room and into the back entrance passage. The docents in these rooms are stationed primarily for traffic flow.

ENTRANCE HALL (If Asked)

Audubon, long-billed curlew with view of Charleston harbor.

Sculpture by Hilda Marks

Lithograph by Leo Manske, Charleston artist

LIVING ROOM (If Asked)

Painting, Haitian primitive of a medicine man

Triptych, entitled "Isadore Duncan" by Walkowitz, 1917 (ink & Wash)

Painting by William Halsey, Collage (Over mantel)

Watercolor by Duke Hagerty, Charleston physician and artist

DRAWING ROOM

This early colonial dwelling is owned today by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Marks. Dr. Marks is a prominent scientist and writer with more than 8 million volumes in print at this date. He and his wife, Hilda, visited Charleston in the 1960's and fell in love with the city. After moving here in 1973, they restored this building which had deteriorated over the years. Mrs. Marks, a sculpturess continued her works until her death in 1984. Many of her works can ben seen throughout ~~the~~ house.



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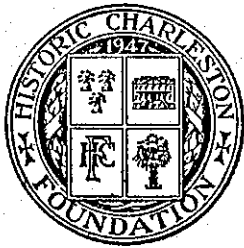
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THE CHICKEN-SERRE HOUSE
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Dr. Marks maintains a strict daily working schedule and often writes in this sunny room surrounded by the many treasures that he has collected throughout his travels. His deep affection for Charleston is reflected in his art works that include many Charleston low country artists.



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CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29401

THE CHICKEN-SERRE HOUSE, c. 1731

49 Tradd Street

Home of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Marks

This house, through its varied associations, affords an interesting cross section of Charleston history. Originally part of lot 41, the property was soon owned by George Chicken, who, from 1712 until his death in 1727, was a prime shaper of the colony's Indian policy, serving in both the Tuscarora and Yemassee Wars and as the Commissioner of Indian Trade. He also held positions in several early assemblies. The present dwelling, dating perhaps from 1731, most likely replaced an earlier, possible wooden, structure. The property passed to Chicken's son-in-law, Noah Serre who maintained a house in Charles Town; he was a justice of the peace for Berkeley County, tax collector for St. James Santee, and a member of several Commons House of Assemblies. Contemporary evidence indicates the possibility that the house passed, at least temporarily, to Serre's son-in-law, Daniel Horry, a Revolutionary War patriot who served under Frances Marion. By 1793, however, the house was owned by the Inglesby family; and the present Adam woodwork dates from that approximate time period. William H. Inglesby, an attorney, amassed a sizeable legal and religious library. After his death in 1867, the house went through a succession of ownerships, including that of Charleston's premier preservationist, Miss Susan Frost, who installed a mantel that had been saved from the demolished Henry Laurens house.

(Room listings will be distributed at the practic tour of this site)