



49 Tradd Street  
Charleston, SC

A History



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# The Neighborhood

Tradd Street

Tradd Street, which runs from the Ashley to the Cooper rivers, is one of the original streets laid on in the 1680 'Grand Modell' of Charles Towne. Its two easternmost blocks were in the original walled city.

It is believed that Tradd Street was named for Robert Tradd, who supposedly was the first child of European descent born in the province. It is more likely that it was named after his father, Richard Tradd, who was living at the northeast corner of present day Tradd and East Bay by 1679. Early deeds refer to "the little street that runs from Cooper River past Mr. Tradd's house."

Today, the neighborhood contains a magnificent collection of early 18th century houses, many of which were once home to seafaring merchants, royal office holders, and gentry.

# The Owners

# Col. George Chicken & Descendants Owners, 1731 – 1793

Col. Chicken purchased lot #41 of the “Grand Modell” in the early 1700s. It is believed that he first built a wood frame house on the site, which has since been replaced by the current structure in the later 1700s.

Col. Chicken was a plantation owner, a member of the S.C. Commons House, and a militia officer. From 1712 to 1727 Chicken was involved in forming the province's policies concerning the neighboring Native Americans, and he also took an active part in fighting Native Americans as captain of the Goose Creek militia company during the Tuscarora War (1711–1713) and the Yemassee War (1715).

In 1715-1716 Chicken helped to establish a treaty with the Cherokee tribe, thwarting French hopes for a Creek-Cherokee alliance against the English. He was also part of a 300-man military force which went into Cherokee territory to solicit their help against the Creek Indians.

After Col. Chicken's death, the house passed to his 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.

It is believed that Serre passed the house on to his son-in-law Daniel Horry. Horry was a Revolutionary War patriot who served under Francis Marion.


WILLIAM INGLESBY,  
*Merchant Taylor,*  
 Having taken his son into partnership,  
 they, under the firm of  
*William and Henry Inglesby,*  
 MOST respectfully assure their friends  
 and the public, that their united  
 efforts shall, to their utmost be exerted  
 to give every satisfaction in the line of  
 their profession, and mean always to keep  
 by them a large and fashionable assort-  
 ment of mens mercery for the accommo-  
 dation of their punctual customers, to  
 whom W. I. begs leave to return his  
 most grateful acknowledgements for their  
 generous support; and as he is going to  
 embark for England the latter end of  
 March, to select their full goods and fa-  
 shions, he informs those who have been  
 backward in their payments, that, unless  
 their accounts are settled by that time,  
 they will be without distinction sold for.  
 It is a measure he is extremely loth to  
 adopt, but will be under the necessity of  
 doing it, in order to fulfil his own en-  
 gagements.  
 February 18. 10

(Left) Excerpt from the State  
 Gazette of South Carolina, 1793

TWO LARGE ROOMS TO RENT.  
 Apply at No. 41 TRADD STREET, South side, be-  
 tween Meeting and Church-streets. October 21

(Above) Excerpt from the Charleston  
 Courier, 1869

Four Dollars Reward.



RAN-AWAY from the Sub-  
 scriber, a few days since, a  
 NEGRO WENCH, named LUCY,  
 about 18 years of age, thick lip-  
 ped and artful, near five feet five  
 inches high; having carried off a  
 number of her clothes, her present dress cannot  
 well be described. All Masters of Vessels are  
 forbid carrying her off the State, and every other  
 Person from harboring her.  
 HENRY B. INGLESBY,  
 TRADD-STREET.  
 February 9 10

(Above) Excerpt from the City Gazette, 1797



# The Inglesby Family

## Owners, 1793 – 1869

The Inglesby family purchased the property in 1793, and held it until 1869 through various family members. It is believed that the present Adamesque woodwork was added by the family after they purchased the house. The property went through several number changes throughout this time, being known as number 41 Tradd Street at the time the family sold it on.

**FIRE.**—The alarm of fire yesterday morning, at half-past four o'clock, proceeded from No. 41 Tradd-street, south side, between Meeting and Church. The house, a three story brick one, is owned by Dr. INGLESBY, of Mount Pleasant, but was rented to Mr. J. PALMA, who, with his family, are temporary residents of Mount Pleasant. The house was therefore unoccupied, and the origin of the fire was, beyond doubt, incendiary. The gentlemen who first reached the premises, and broke open the door to get in, took several bundles of paper and other combustible matter from under the stairs; but the second and third stories were also found to be on fire. The principal portion of Mr. PALMA's furniture was at Mount Pleasant, but the balance, including a most valuable Spanish Library of some 3,000 volumes, was entirely destroyed. A negro, suspected of having fired the premises, was arrested, and will be up before the Mayor this morning.

(Left) Excerpt from the Charleston Mercury, 1861. It details a fire that was intentionally set on the property, supposedly by a former slave, which resulted in damage to the upper floors and the destruction of a 3,000 volume Spanish library.

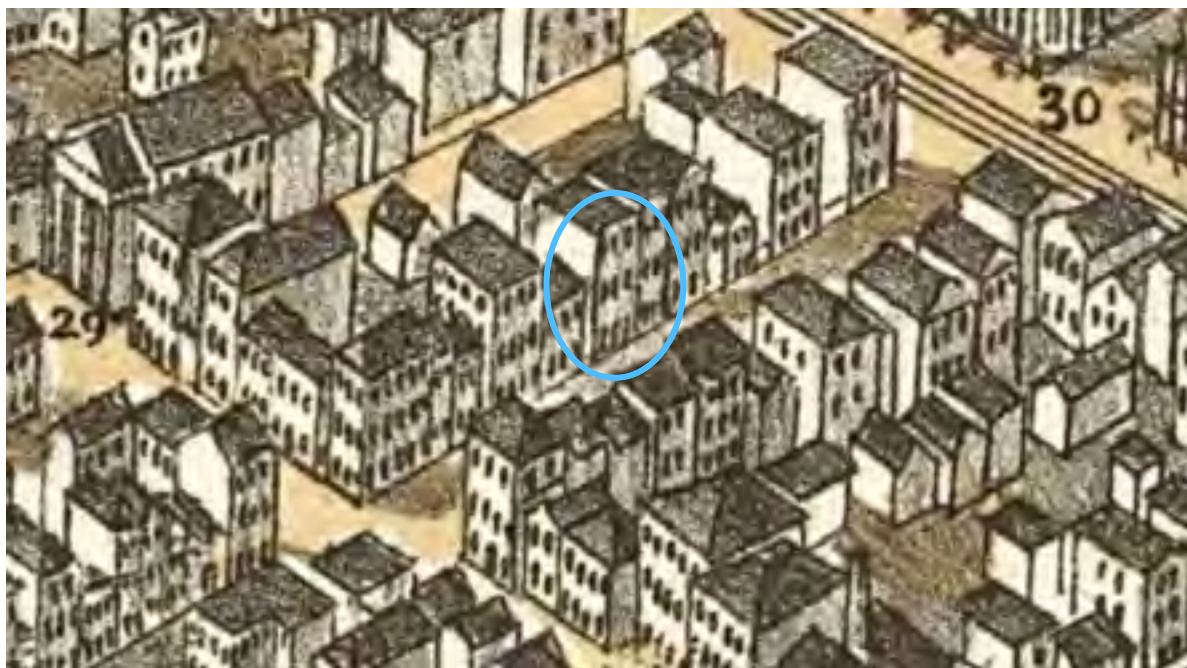
# Ella Riker

## Owner, 1869 – 1900

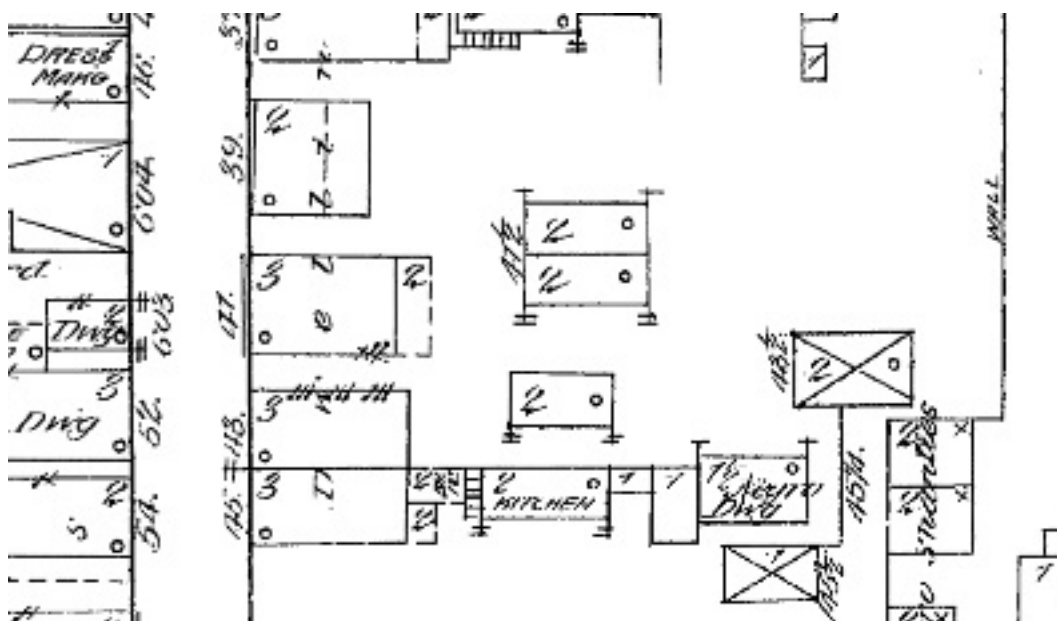
Ella Riker was a rather mysterious figure in Charleston, having lived as a recluse for much of her life. She died leaving property in the value of \$250,000 (a great deal more in today's currency) and she left no will. Ella's father was of unsound mind, and rather than commit him to an asylum, it was said that she locked him in the top floor of her residence. He died around 1886, and Ella's mother died in 1900. They left their considerable wealth to Ella.



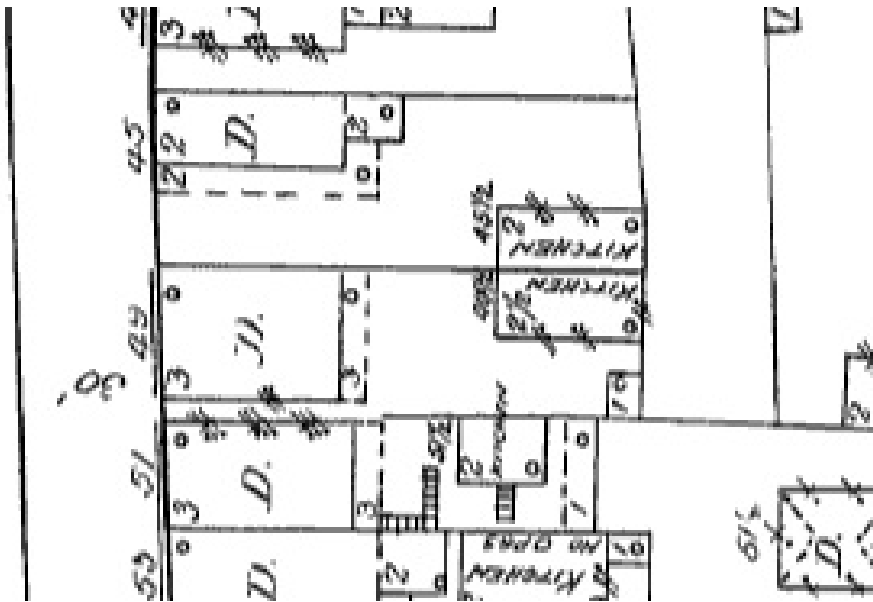
(Above) Excerpt from the Evening Post,, 1906



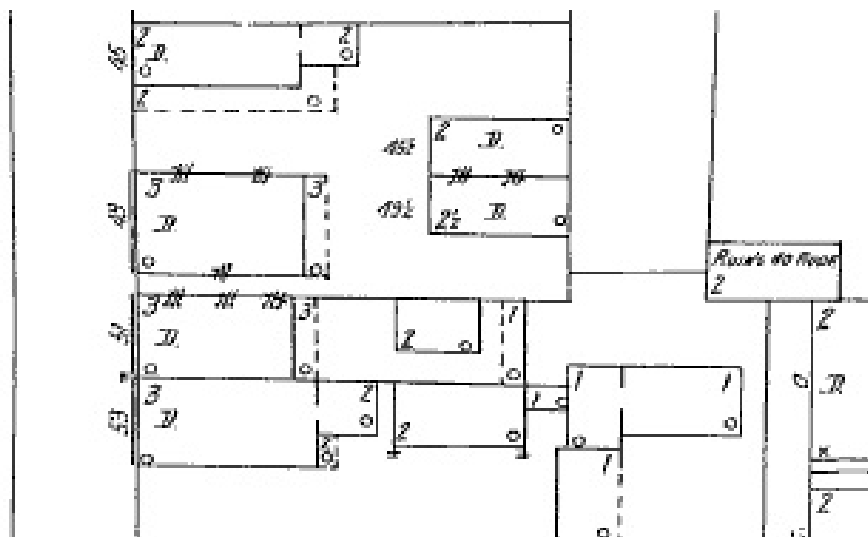
(Above) Excerpt from 1872 'Birds Eye View' Map of Charleston. 49 Tradd St is highlighted in blue.



(Above) Excerpt from 1884 Sanborn Fire Map of Charleston. At this time, the property was known as 41 Tradd St.



(Above) Excerpt from 1888 Sanborn Fire Map of Charleston. The property has been renumbered and is now known as 49 Tradd St.



(Above) Excerpt from 1902 Sanborn Fire Map of Charleston

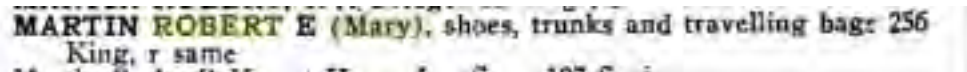
# Robert E. Martin & Family

## Owners, 1900 – 1914

Robert Martin purchased the property in 1900 for the sum of \$1,800. He was a tradesman working with shoes, bags, and luggage. It is believed that they rented out the property for the duration of their ownership, as the City Directories indicate that their residence and business was located at 256 King Street. Robert died in 1911 and his wife Mary inherited the property.



(Above) Excerpt from the Charleston News  
and Courier, 1909



(Above) Excerpt from City Directory of Charleston, 1911

# Susan Pringle Frost

## Owner, 1914 – 1929

Susan Pringle Frost purchased the property in 1914 for the sum of \$10 (love and affection). Frost was born in Charleston on January 21, 1873, the daughter of Dr. Francis LeJau Frost and Rebecca Brewton Pringle. With ties to several distinguished Charleston families dating back to the eighteenth century, Frost seemed destined to be a lady of leisure following a privileged childhood and two years (1889–1891) at the prominent Saint Mary's Episcopal boarding school in Raleigh, North Carolina.

However, with the decline of the Frost and Pringle rice plantations on the Santee River and the failure of her father's fertilizer business, Frost learned basic stenographic skills and entered the workplace: initially as secretary to the architect Bradford Lee Gilbert, designer of the South Carolina Inter-State and West Indian Exposition of 1901–1902; then for sixteen years, until 1918, as court stenographer for the U.S. District Court.

However, Frost's passion lay in historic preservation and the saving of Charleston's old houses from demolition and out-of-state purchasers, a cause that constitutes her greatest legacy. In 1909, she quietly entered Charleston's real estate market, borrowing money to purchase two small properties on Tradd Street, the city's oldest thoroughfare. 49 Tradd St was one of them.

To save another endangered landmark, the Joseph Manigault House, Frost founded what became the Preservation Society of Charleston in 1920, one of the nation's oldest such groups. She was an early advocate of zoning to preserve old iron- and woodwork, and she championed Charleston's zoning ordinance of 1931, which created the nation's first historic district.

Her historic preservation initiatives contributed substantially to the movement that transformed the streets of Charleston and made it a national tourist destination. Frost died in the same house she was born in (the Miles Brewton House) on October 6, 1960, and was buried in Magnolia Cemetery.



**SUSAN PRINGLE FROST,**  
**REAL ESTATE.**  
9 Broad St. - - - Charleston, S. C.  
This space belongs to the above en-  
titled, and certifies to all whom it may  
concern that the above named party  
will conduct a general estate business  
at above address. Desirable houses for  
rent or sale for reasonable prices in  
best residence sections.

(Above) Excerpt from Charleston News and Courier, 1918

Restoring Old Homes A Specialty  
**SUSAN PRINGLE FROST**  
— REAL ESTATE —  
Agent for High Class City and Country  
Property  
57 BROAD ST.

(Above) Excerpt from the Evening Post, 1924





# Nellie S. Childs

## Owner, 1929 – 1940

Nellie Childs purchased the property in 1929 for the sum of \$9,500. Little is known about her, but it is believed that she rented out the property during her ownership.

# Helen McIntosh

## Owner, 1940– 1945

Helen purchased the property in 1940 for the sum of \$7,250. She had a plat drawn up of the property in 1945, which can be found opposite.



# Samuel Corbin

Owner, 1945 – 1947

Samuel purchased the property in 1945 for the sum of \$9,500. Little is known about her, but it is believed that she rented out the property during her ownership.

# Lelia Friend Turner

Owner, 1947 – 1977

Lelia purchased the property in 1947 for the sum of \$14,500.

# Robert and Alicia Marks

Owners, 1977 – 1995

# Sandra Dennis

Owner, 1995 – 2016