

were fired. The earthwork was augmented by the Middle Bastion, built just south of present-day Atlantic Street.

In 1757, the Middle Bastion was renamed for Gov. William Lyttelton. The military engineer in charge of the fortification line was William Gerard de Brahm, who had served as a military engineer for Charles VI, Holy Roman Emperor. He came to America in 1751 and was employed for several years in building fortifications in the southern colonies and in mapping the Atlantic coastline. The fortifications were completed in 10 months with the labor of 300 men, including Acadian exiles, German immigrants, and slaves. After 1757, there appears to have been a pedestrian passage along the fortifications.

In 1767, it was reported that the wall was broken down in parts by the sea and Bermuda stone was purchased to repair the breeches. The Assembly had to pass a law the next year to keep the owners of schooners from stealing the stones for ballast.

The fortifications were upgraded again during the Revolution when Lyttelton's Bastion was renamed Fort Darrell. In 1787, the General Assembly passed an act for "making and completing East Bay continued." The act authorized the continuation of East Bay as a 30-foot wide thoroughfare from Granville's Bastion to the Ashley River. This allowed the filling of Vanderhorst Creek (now Water Street) and of low spots along the waterfront. Several amending acts were passed through 1797, including an act of 1795 to dispose of lands on the site of Lyttelton's Bastion, which had been renamed again as Fort Mechanick in 1793-95.

Hurricanes in 1800 and 1804 virtually destroyed the seawall, which was rebuilt with rock and ship ballast. Cannon deployed along the line during the War of 1812 are said to have given East Battery its name. The first documentary mention of the new street is found in 1827. High Battery's seawall was developed to its present height and solidity after the hurricane of 1854, which breached it in several places. The granite seawall was again raised, repaired and

strengthened after the hurricanes of 1885 and 1893.

High Battery has been a popular promenade since the early part of the 19th century. Because of the marshy nature of the land, however, it was not possible to build continuously along East Battery until the period between 1820 and 1850 when most of the mansions along the thoroughfare were constructed.



1 East Battery

Louis DeSaussure House

Constructed 1858-60; altered c. 1898; rehabilitated 1970s

Louis DeSaussure was an auctioneer who sold everything from ships to slaves. He built his three-story stuccoed brick mansion as an elongated version of the twin parlor arrangement with a side hall typical mid-19th century town house plans. The house was damaged in February 1865 during the Confederate evacuation of the city when a large gun at the corner of East Battery and South Battery was blown up. A fragment of the gun lodged in the upper part of the house where it was found when the house was repaired.

It was heavily damaged in the earthquake of 1886, and two years later DeSaussure sold it to Bernard O'Neill, who added the iron balconies, new window and door frames, an elaborate cornice, and a roof balustrade which has since been removed. O'Neill was a prosperous wholesale grocer who emigrated from Ireland about 1840. He was the grandfather of local artist Elizabeth O'Neill Verner. The O'Neill family retained the house until 1926 when it was sold to Mrs. Robert E. Lee III, wife of the grandson of the Confederate general.



5 East Battery

John Ravenel House

Constructed c. 1848

Huguenot planter John Ravenel built this grand house in the Italianate style after he sold his patrimonial acres to become a merchant, eventually building up one of the city's leading shipping houses. He was also president of the

South Carolina Rail Road and was instrumental in developing the Northeastern Rail Road.

His son, Dr. St. Julien Ravenel, who inherited the house, was a noted scientist who designed and built the Civil War semi-submersible torpedo boat, *Little David*, and was a leader in the development of phosphate fertilizer after the Civil War. Dr. Ravenel's wife was Harriott Horry Rutledge who, using the name Mrs. St. Julien Ravenel, wrote *Charleston: The Place and the People* and other works on local history.

In 1886, the property was purchased by John Ravenel's son-in-law Elias Horry Frost, president of E.H. Frost & Co., one of the city's leading cotton brokerage houses. He was also head of the Stono Phosphate Company and president of the South Carolina Loan and Trust Company. Frost was a noted art collector and owned one of the best libraries in the South. After suffering severe damage in the 1886 earthquake, the house was extensively rebuilt by Frost who kept the original plan and mass, including the prominent bay on the front, and added features in the Victorian Italianate style fashionable in the 1880s. The property remained in the hands of John Ravenel's descendants until 1953 when it was sold.

The Palmer family purchased the house shortly thereafter and has lived here for three generations. Dr. Joe Sam Palmer, a dentist, was known as a man of great hospitality, often inviting guests in to see his beautiful home and sharing stories of Charleston's history. He loved parties and as far back as the 1950s, he would host annual New Year's Eve parties at the house for as many as 400 people. One of his three daughters opened the Palmer Home Bed & Breakfast here in 1977, the first year of the Spoleto Festival USA. Often referred to as Charleston's "Pink Palace," it is furnished and decorated with antiques. Dr. Palmer died in 1996 at the age of 80.

9 East Battery

Robert William Roper House

Constructed 1838-39; addition late 19th century; restored 1982-83; Architect Charles Reichardt (attributed)

In the aftermath of the financial panic of 1837, wealthy cotton planter William Robert Roper acquired two lots and a parcel from the city of Charleston in 1938 for \$9,639 and soon began construction of a house whose design has long been attributed to Charles Reichardt, architect of the Charleston Hotel, and alternately to Edward B. White. The city used the money from its sale to finance development of White Point Garden. The house features a side-hall, double-parlor floor plan.

This outstanding three-story brick example of Greek Revival architecture has five giant order Ionic columns on an arcaded base. Before modern navigational systems, ships used these large columns as sights coming into Charleston Harbor from miles away. The house has very fine Greek Revival interior features and molding fashioned to resemble a rope around the front door. Roper died of malaria in 1845.

During the evacuation of Charleston by Confederate forces in 1865, a large gun located at the corner of East Battery and South battery was intentionally blown up lest it fall into Union hands. A 500-pound fragment of the gun landed in the attic of 9 East Battery, where it remains. The house was also damaged during the Great Earthquake of 1886, as is evidenced by the visible earthquake bolts, and a large west wing was added by subsequent owners in the late 19th century.

The initials in the front door are those of Rudolph Siegling, publisher of the *News and Courier*, who bought the house in 1877. His heirs retained the property until 1929, when it was sold to New Yorker Solomon Guggenheim. Guggenheim sold the property to Drayton Hastie, owner of Magnolia Plantation, in 1952 and his family lived here for two decades.