

TEN LEGARE STREET

1995

Home of Mr. and Mrs. Tucker Morse

This four story Greek Revival town house with Italianate details was built c. 1857 for Mr. Edward North Thurston Esq. The land was conveyed to Mr. Thurston prior to March of 1857 by William Bull Pringle and his wife Mary Alston Pringle.

The land at 10 Legare Street was part of the original formal garden of the Miles Brewton House at 27 King Street, the Brewton property running all the way from King Street to Legare Street.

In 1769 the Brewtons built 27 King Street which is considered to be one of the finest Georgian Palladian houses in America. What we know of the western half of the Brewton's garden over which the house at 10 Legare Street now stands documents that it was equally rich in its classical design and symmetry. Unfortunately only six years after the house was completed, Mr. Brewton, his wife and children were lost at sea. His sister, Mrs. Rebecca Brewton Motte, the famed American patriot, resided at 27 King Street during the Revolution, when it was the headquarters for Sir Henry Clinton and Lords Rawdon and Cornwallis. The garden of 10 Legare Street joined the British Headquarters with the British Staff Officer's quarters in the John Fullerton House at 15 Legare Street (from 1780-1782 the Fullerton House was the British staff officers residence). A gate in the Legare Street garden wall less than thirty feet from the entry of 10 Legare Street served as access between the two British strongholds.

In the Brewton Garden near the present entry to 10 Legare Street was a formal statuary niche set with two stone columns. At the coachway gate or the present drive was a classically designed garden temple measuring 18 by 28 feet with a porch of four columns (TETRASTYLED) that faced the center of the Miles Brewton garden.

Capt. William Alston of Francis Marion's Brigade bought the 27 King Street property after his marriage to one of Mrs. Motte's daughters and used the garden for the next fifty years.

The property was then inherited by Alston's daughter Mary, Mrs. William Bull Pringle. She and her husband subdivided the western 200 feet of the garden in 1857 and sold the northern portion known as 10 Legare Street to Edward North Thurston, Esq. The southern half, known as 8 Legare Street, was sold to Cleland Kinloch Huger, Esq. It is said that both of the lots at 8 and 10 Legare Street were divided and sold to settle Mr. Pringle's gambling debts.

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In 1857, Mr. Thurston's property is described as being composed of ...a Lot, #1 and of one half of a Lot #2 in a plan made by by "Edward B White Surveyor" on the fourteenth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty four. As the deed implies the Miles Brewton garden was formally surveyed and was originally planned to be divided as early as 1854, into three lots, each 58 feet wide. The revision of the plan in 1857 into only two lots each 87 feet 6 inches wide by 200 feet gave the room necessary to construct the pair of grand Greek Revival houses now known as 8 and 10 Legare Street.

10 Legare is a four story Greek Revival house with Italianate detail, built and designed by the contractor Patrick O'Donnell for Mr. Edward Thurston. Rather than duplicate the Charleston single house plan, the house was designed on a more generic townhouse design represented in other American townhouse designs from Savannah to New York. The Charleston difference is the inclusion of the southern piazza's as part of the Legare Street facade. The northern entry bay of the facade is slightly recessed behind the main body of the house. This is balanced by the use of the piazza which is slightly recessed as the southern bay of the design. In plan the entry bay contains the formal entrance hall, stair and all circulation. This allowed the main rooms occupying the center bay to flow into each other, en suite. While the overall feel of the design is strictly Greek Revival the stucco quoins accenting the corners of the center bay are Italianate.

Mr. O'Donnell also constructed the equally grand 3 and 1/2 story residence at 8 Legare Street (next door) as well as his own 3 and 1/2 story Italianate or Renaissance Revival townhouse at 21 King Street. It is often quoted that after having built 8 and 10 Legare Street, that it took such a great length of time for him to complete his own residence for his bride, that she married someone else. Hence the nickname for 21 King Street of O'Donnell's Folly.

The original house at 10 Legare Street included the two story carriage house, servants quarters and kitchen building to the rear of the main house. In 1953 the rear outbuilding was sold as a separate residence, known today as 10 1/2 Legare Street.

ENTRY/ STAIR

Indications of the builder's interest in the Greek and Italianate Style is his use of heavy plaster and wood moldings and paneled arches throughout the house. As is typical of Charleston's architecture, however, the classical taste and popular designs of the 18th and early 19th Century Adam, Federal or Regency styles persist. The niches at the entry, the oversized Venetian window and the sweeping elliptical three story stair beyond the arched entry are all elements of an architectural vocabulary that can be identified as an earlier "Charleston Style". The difference in this 1850's house is the grande scale of the elements. The ceilings on the ground floor are over eleven feet. The second or main floor has doors nine feet in height and ceilings that are almost thirteen feet from floor to ceiling. While the carved wooden stringers of the stair have a Federal design, the walnut handrail and octagonal newel post and balusters are of the 1850 era and taste.

The house was heavily damaged by hurricane Hugo. After being divided into apartments for most of its history since the Civil War, the house was restored to a single family residence in 1989-1990. The previous owners removed the original heartpine floors and laid the black and white marble floors in 1990.

Like the house's eclectic mix of styles, the present owners have added a mix of 18th, 19th and 20th century furnishes and paintings that add interest and comfort to their mid 19th century surrounds.

ENTRY AND HALL

Two watercolor paintings, **Henri Lebasque 1865-1937**
Closely associated with Bonnard, Matisse, Rouault and the French Post Impressionist
Bowfront mahogany sideboard, George III
Two side chairs, English, Chippendale, c. 1755
Tilt top breakfast table, Regency, mahogany, c. 1810
Rugs, Persian

Entry carpet is a Karbagh

MAIN HALL-SECOND LEVEL

Pine cupboard, 19th century, in the kitchen foyer
Clarice Cliff Art Deco porcelain, in cupboard
Painting, by **Roland Petersen**, one of the leaders of the 1950s and 1960s school of California Abstract painting, over the cupboard

Secretary Bookcase, mahogany, Regency, c. 1820 and has its original pulls.