

EDWARD NORTH THURSTON'S CARRIAGE HOUSE, 1857
10 1/2 Legare Street
Home of Dr. and Mrs. Robert F. Hagerty

1976

"The carriage House" is actually composed of the whole generous string of dependencies pertaining to a great Ante Bellum town house. Rising above a series of sheltering walls, it looks outward upon its own private terrace and inward on treasures which speak of Yankee Clippers and China trade and windward passages plying the seas from New England to India and home again.

Here the owners have evolved a functionally beautiful home with imagination and artistry and furnished it gracefully and fondly with collector's pieces.

Painstaking re-modelling re-uses Heartpine partitions salvaged from the slaves' quarters upstairs as paneling in both study and kitchen, and cherishes the summer shade cast by six-foot cantilevered overhang which runs the length of the facade: an original architectural feature.

It was in prosperous times, just before the Civil War, that Edward North Thurston, a wealthy Yankee merchant, built on this land, which until the 19th century had been the western end of the garden belonging to the Miles Brewton mansion on King Street.

The wall along Legare Street then offered a postern gate - a stile - and during the Revolution such members of General Henry Clinton's staff as were quartered across the way at No. 15 Legare (1780), used stile and garden as a thoroughfare to Headquarters in the Miles Brewton House.

HOUSE

The tall imposing mansion on Legare Street - with its compliment of kitchen, wash house (laundry) and coach house were topped off with quarters for the slaves. The adjoining stable had a high loft where straw and hay were stored. The 88 foot facade had this cantilevered, six foot overhang - giving shelter to an outdoor work area, a device making the building reminiscent of California architecture of the same period. It protected (and still does) its occupants from heavy rains and offers shade from summer sun. An outstanding architectural feature.

The brick walls of this building are 1 1/2 feet thick, tied with native Heartpine timbers. Windows and door frames are joined and pegged. Only one window was altered in the remodelling.

The empty interior, cleared of partitions, then represented a two-story barracks-like interior, 88 x 16 feet, with all windows and doors facing south. Ideal for modern air-conditioning in the winter and summer! The swinging doors are at the carriage entrance. Today, a necessary corridor runs along the north wall on the second floor where there are five bedrooms, one with a fireplace, two large bathrooms, a sewing storage room and lots of closet space.

The master bedroom, with terrace, replace the hayloft.

LIVING-DINING ROOM

This living room is 40 x 14 feet. The panelling over the sideboard hides a pass-through to the kitchen. Marble effect tiled floor and wrought iron stairway - along with the old carriage entrance as a window - level an indoor-outdoor feeling.

The large Chinese painting signed by Sun Qua, c. 1853, of Canton. (Similar one in Metropolitan Museum.) Called 'Hoong'-warehouses with flags of of countries.

Priceless chest.

Watercolor of Hong Kong.

Collection of ship prints by Currier & Ives, some originals.

Pair of Sheraton card tables 1795-1810. Made in Portland, Maine.

Irish glass candelabra - Waterford.

Sideboard, Boston (or vicinity), c. 1790.

Claw and ball table from the Pitman collection, Cohasset, Mass.

Empire chairs from Maine.

Italian Directoire arrow back bench - c. 1800.

Desk attributed to John Seymour - Boston. Ivory inlays.

Pagoda - Ming Dynasty, on secretary, 1368 B.C. to 1600

Willard Banjo clock

Broadwood piano - American, 1810. "Children love to bang it - can't be tuned or hurt."

Signal Cannon - English.

Unusual Wood garden figure. " A Yankee misunderstanding combining ample measurements of a Victorian nymph with the vine-draped middle of the bronze Bacchus in Pompeii which inspired its carver. Bought in Massachusetts."

Sheffield candlestick - lamp; 4 Sheffield candlesticks, c. 1790.

Chem Lung coromandel screen, c. 1770. Depicts childrens' games.

Head of a Buddah, T'ang (TONG) Dynasty, 618-907 A.D.--(in window in study)

Quan Yin, Goddess of Mercy, in alabaster. Both pieces are from the Salada Tea Collection.

Goddess of Mercy; Expert opinions regard her as centuries old, but admit that alabaster stalactites are still found in Chinese caves and copies are made of ancient objects.

KITCHEN

Kitchen panelling and cupboards same pine as that used in Study.
Once a stable for four horses - now center of entertaining.

STUDY

The Study was formerly the laundry - with its big fireplace.
Heartpine (better than Modern day) - century old and from the upstairs
slave quarters - stripped and waxed. Notice alternate lines of pine's
winter and summer growths in panels.

Collection of marine items related to American shipping:

Working half models of clippers; New York barometer; Cats Head,
Linnacle Compass, made to rock with the boat.

A Chinese painting of a Yankee Clipper.

Small English oak table.

Realistic painting by Zingoni; fowl and gun on a peeling door. Bought
by owner's father on his honeymoon in Florence in 1910.

American mahogany knee-hole desk.

Portugese Chippendale side chairs. Owner has three side chairs and
two slipper chairs. Especially intriguing since it is known that
Chippendale himself spent time in Portugal!

Delft jars on mantle.

Mask from Africa made from one piece of wood.

Okinawan ceremonial mask, made from papier mache and lacquered.

Crystal Ball, made by hand in Japan.

GUEST ROOM

This room supplants the old kitchen and enjoys the old fireplace.
A bathroom and closet separate the room from the study.

Walls covered in muslin in a Chinese print.

Blanc de Chine Madonna - on mantle.

Chest of drawers from "Gore House", Waltham, Mass.

Portugese Chippendale slipper chairs. Compare its proportions with those of the side chairs in Study. Supposed to be low.

French Tole Lamp- printed on tin.

Students' lamp used whale oil.

American mirror.

Ormolu French lamp, Louis XV, gilt on bronze.

Beds made up to look like Chinese couches. To get this effect, the beds are "made up" for the night, and unmade in the morning.

TERRACE

Swinging doors of carriage entrance a screen against the sun by day, for privacy at night.

School benches from Rockland, Maine.

Stable arching bricked up to pass-through with old Charleston brick from Bennett Rice Mill. Original Board.

