

Architectural Guide to
Charleston

JOHN EDWARDS HOUSE
c. 1770
15 Meeting Street
No. 26

This wooden house is unique in having the shiplapped flush siding scored horizontally and vertically to simulate rectangular stone ashlar, with flat arches over the windows and key stones in higher relief and taller than the adjoining voussoirs. The ashlar treatment is applied to the low stuccoed basement and to the perron exterior. These double steps rise to a landing turn at right angles and meet at a platform before the front door. This is sheltered by a balustraded roof supported by an entablature over two columns and two pilasters each with the familiar Scamozzi type of capital which became standard ever since Henry Burnett carved it so emphatically on the cedar columns supporting the gallery in St. Michael's Church.

The inner iron railing has a panel of ornamental scroll work in the center of the upper platform, while the outer railings have similar panels in the middle of the lower landings.

On the south side of the house is a semicircular piazza added at the beginning of the century.

Originally the front entrance opened into a large room. Sometime later a paneled partition divided off the inner end of this room extending the central hall to the front door. The slight variation in the workmanship of this partition from the other sides of the room betray its later origin.

The craftsmanship of the interior woodwork and carving is especially fine in design and in execution. The central decorative motif in the frieze of the drawing room mantel repeats that in the frieze over the door in the reception room of the Miles Brewton House.

A.S.

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