



THE WALTER WEBB HOUSE

1992

46 King Street

c. 1851

Home of Mr. and Mrs. William McG. Morrison

Walter Webb, a 19th century botanist and landscape designer, purchased this lot "with the wooden building thereon" in 1851 and shortly thereafter began construction of the present brick building for use as his shop and residence. The custom of combining residential and commercial uses in the same building was brought to the colonies by European settlers and remained popular in Charleston throughout the 18th and 19th centuries.

Unlike the more typical single houses that surrounded this site, the builder placed the house directly on the street with its spacious windows overlooking the carriage way. These first floor rooms were possibly used as a shop, and the wide-paned windows would have provided attractive display spaces. At Webb's death in 1885, his daughter Mary Anne, and her husband, John Gary, continued a "floral shoppe" at this site.

The house was rescued from demolition in 1929 by Mrs. Mary B. P. Means. Future owners would continue restoration of the building, but in recent years it has undergone a brilliant architectural transformation that preserved the historic integrity of the site while transforming the contiguous utilitarian spaces into elegantly appointed rooms.

The recent history of the site and its splendid garden are extremely interesting. In 1984, this property was purchased by Mrs. Lee Harwood who transformed this house and garden into its present "old world" splendor, and it is currently owned by Mr. and Mrs. William Morrison.

The renovation of this site was done under the supervision of David Hoffman of Edgewood Builders which is one of the foremost firms in the country specializing in historic restoration. Extensive work was undertaken throughout the entire house, but perhaps the most dramatic transformation took place in the rear wing and courtyard. The wing that had formerly served as a utilitarian and service area was rebuilt as an elegant pavilion and totally refitted, at Mrs. Harwood's request, with 18th crown molding that had been salvaged from a house in town, and the mantel and overmantel have been salvaged from a low country plantation. Mr. Hoffman's master carpenters used 18th century tools to complete

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the panelling installation. This room and the companion Drawing Room and Dining Rooms have that timeless quality that is often associated with the English country house.

These rooms have been furnished with a charming and attractive mixture of French, English, American, and Chinese antiques, both inherited and collected by the present owners.

DRAWING ROOM

Aubusson rug.

Pair of Louis XV fauteuils, or armchairs.

Gilt overmantel mirror, c. 1810.

DINING ROOM

Sideboard, mahogany with ballflower inlay, Baltimore, c. 1790.

Portrait of Morrison's daughter by McClellanville artist,  
Charles D'Antonio.

Portrait of Mrs. Morrison by Grace Du Pre.

American impressionist painting by Cornelia Earle, 20th  
century.

PAVILION

Pickled hardwood floors.

Oriental rugs.

Chinese tables.

Painted folding screen by 20th century artist.

Contemporary furniture.

18th century cornice.