

NATHANIEL INGRAHAM'S HOUSE
2 Water Street
Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Burnet R. Maybank

Nathaniel Ingraham appears to have built this house before 1818. Planned to take full advantage of a delightful, but constricted site, it occupies the full face of the waterfront side of the property. The result is one of the handsomest drawing rooms in Charleston, relatively large in a relatively small building. A high basement to keep the living rooms well above the level of occasional hurricane tides necessitated an entrance stair that shortened the western rooms. After the Confederate War the outer appearance of the house was changed radically when a simpler roof gave place to the then fashionable mansard.

The probable builder, as a youngster, served as a volunteer aboard John Paul Jones' Bonhomme Richard. His son, Duncan Nathaniel Ingraham made history as a distinguished officer in the navies of both the United and the Confederate States.

After 1821 this was the home of Dr. William Burgoyne. He improved the property by adding a large yard to the westward. He may also have added to the principal rooms a very handsome pair of marble mantels in the Regency style, that have since been removed. The doctor left Charleston for New York. There, as a banker, he began the accumulation of a fine fortune that he increased later in California.

From 1879 to 1919 the house was the residence of the Wells family. Edward L. Wells, though reared in New York, ran the blockade into Charleston to fight with his southern kinsmen through the last years of the Confederacy. Later he wrote several accounts of the war.

After Mr. Maybank ended his service as Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina, he and Mrs. Maybank made this their home. It is in-

teresting to note that the graceful Adam style mantel in their drawing room is nearly contemporary with the house. It was first placed in an upper room by Dr. Robert S. Cathcart, a former owner, who had obtained it when a fine house in Cannonborough was destroyed. The Maybanks have placed in the room above it another early mantel from Ophir plantation house, taken down in the making of the Santee-Cooper Project.

NOTE: People may ask about the three posts on the sidewalk. These were probably placed there to keep carriages from mounting the curb.

This house was built on the corner of Water Street which was so aptly named, for the creek that ran here and which even now in time of storm is a street of water. For this reason the builder put the first floor above a high basement. Note as you leave the neatly placed foot scraper to remove the mud from your shoes - note too, the charming doorway with its fluted pilasters and crisp details.

NAME: NATHANIEL INGRAHAM HOUSE

LOCATION: 2 WATER STREET (Northeast corner of Water and East Bay St.)

OWNER: Mr. and Mrs. E. Carew Rice, III

USE: Private Residence

PHYSICAL HISTORY

1. DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1818 or before

2. MAJOR ALTERATION: c. 1870's

3. ARCHITECT/BUILDER: unknown

4. ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER:

(Exterior) A three-bay masonry dwelling with stucco finish that rises two-and-one-half stories above a high English basement. The house was designed to accommodate numerous concessions to the Charleston climate and flooding problems. The primary rooms are insulated from the damp earth and flooding by a full-height ground story. The entrance occurs in the middle bay of the second elevation on the Water Street entrance; however, the house is primarily oriented to East Bay Street and the harbor. As originally constructed, the house most closely resembled the late Adam or Federal style of architecture. Two 19th century photographs survive to document the major exterior changes that occurred between 1865 and 1885. The appearance of the house was altered during that time by the change in roof line (from a hipped roof to a mansard roof) and the addition of iron ornamentation at the cornice and at the window heads. These additions served to give the house a more Victorian appearance and tend to accentuate the buildings height and monumental presence.

(Interior) Center hall plan with two rooms occurring on either side of the entrance passage. The Drawing room runs across the full extent of the harbor side facade which allows for the full impact of the prevailing breezes. Details of interior decoration included extensive use of moldings and ornamentation that date from the original date of construction. The late Adam or Federal detail is particularly evident at the window openings and below the chair rail in the drawing room. The Adam style wooden and plaster mantelpiece in the drawing room is characteristic of work occurring in Charleston c. 1800-1810 but is not original to this house. [It was salvaged from a demolished Charleston residence and installed in the early 20th century.] The fireplace opening has been closed in the dining room. Minor Victorian ornamentation occurs in the drawing room at the cornice and on the ceiling in the Dining Room. An ornate plaster medallion is the chief ornamentation in the entrance passage.

5. SETTING AND OUTBUILDINGS:

The building is positioned at the intersection of two early carriage ways that appear to have been in use as early as 1800. Prior to that time Water Street was a tidal creek (named Vanderhorst) that was filled in the first decade of the 19th century. The house and its extensive city garden that occurs to the west of the house were constructed after the creek had been filled and the sea wall was constructed on East Bay Street. No outbuildings or dependencies survive and it seems highly possible that many domestic services could have been located in the ground floor or basement rather than in detached buildings.

(over)

2 Water St.

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5. SETTINGS AND OUTBUILDINGS: (cont.)

6. LANDSCAPING, ENCLOSURES:

The extensive garden that occurs behind and adjacent to the house is believed to have been originally laid out by Dr. William Burgoyne who occupied the house from 1821-. Recent owners have made numerous improvements to the garden and modern features including a swimming pool, have been added throughout the 20th century.

7. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

- ✗ Nathaniel Ingraham (^{dir. 1812 in 58th year - St. Michaels Cemetery}), Naval officer - WPA tombstone N York
- ✗ His son, Duncan Nathaniel Ingraham (1802-1891), Naval officer
- ✗ Dr. William Burgoyne (in 1806, 1826) res.
- ✗ Edward L. Wells (Owned the house from 1879-1919) (1839-1917), Author, Confederate officer

Need Biographical information

HAMPTON + HIS DALVARY IN 64 (by Wells)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Built by a naval officer who served in John Paul Jones' Bon homme Richard during the Revolutionary War, this imposing early 19th century townhouse commands one of the most enviable positions on the Charleston harbor.

1806

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Find William Burgoyne sold house; look up his will
Charleston

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Number 2 Water Street

In 1810, Nathaniel Ingraham, merchant, purchased the property from heirs and estate of William McCloud for the sum of 2,000 pounds current money. (From the description and price, it appears to hold no dwelling; A-8, 277). By 1 December 1818 when George Chisolm sells it (he buys it earlier the same year from the Master, this transfer showing up in the index, but the particular volume has been misplaced within the RMC) to William Burgoyne, for \$6,500.00 it has a two story brick tenement on it (B-9,136). On January 13, 1832, William Burgoyne (who has by this time moved to New York City) and Eliza his wife sell the property to Otis Mills on ~~2 August 1835~~ for \$10,500.00. Mills, on 3 August 1835, sells it to John Ravenel for \$11,750.00. (K-10,349). Ravenel sells it to Mary Raymond on 10 March 1842 for \$13,000.00 (A-12,449). She sells it to Charles Astor Bristed on 1 January 1869 for \$20,000.00 (M-15,25). On 28 May ~~for~~ 1879, for \$5,000.00 Grace A. Bristed sells it to Mrs. Anna M.S. Wells. On 1 December, 1919, she sells it to Dr. Robert S. Cathcart for ~~10-~~ \$10,000.00. (S-29,18).

Summation; it appears obvious that the house was built between 1810 and 1818 by Nathaniel Ingraham.

Number 2 Water Street; biographical information.

Nathaniel Ingraham died in 1818, in the 58th year of his age according to the tombstone in St. Michael's Cemetery; this puts the year of his birth ca. 1760 and that would have made him young in the revolution; the deeds refer to him only as a merchant; and the DAR patriot register lists no Nathaniel Ingraham of these dates as being a veteran of the revolution.

His son, Duncah was born 1802 and died 1891; wpa tombstone register; Magnolia cemetery.

Edward L. Wells, never actually owned the house; his wife Anna, did; he was born 1839; died 1917; his work is Hampton and His Calvary Cavalry in 64. Also living her was his daughter Sabina Elliott Wells, 1876-1943; she was a book designer and a Newcomb potter - her work is in museums.

Otis Mills, 1794-1869, successful businessman and owner of Mills House did not live here; he used it for rental/investment property.

Dr William Burgoyne was married in Charleston in 1806 ; he buried children here, but ultimately moved to New York; more often that not, he is called a druggist

the 1840-1841 City directory shows Daniel Ravenel living here; he was president of a bank - the Planters and Mechanics Bank;

H.H. Raymond, husband of the subsequent owner, was an attorney.

2 Water St. -- Nathaniel Ingraham, a merchant, built this house c. 1810-12. Subsequently, Confederate historian Edward L. Wells (1839-1917) lived here. Mansard c. 1870s. (Greene, unpub. MS; SCHS.)

INFO FOR GUIDES OF HISTORIC CHARLESTON

NATHANIEL INGRAHAM HOUSE

1991

2 Water Street

c. 1818

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Helms

This three bay masonry dwelling rises above a high English basement and is finished with a stucco surface. Nathaniel Ingraham, merchant, built the house sometime between 1810 and 1818. During the Revolutionary war he had served as a naval officer on John Paul Jones' Bon Homme Richard. So it is fitting that his home should command this splendid position on Charleston Harbor.

The design of the house most closely resembles the late Adam or Federal style of architecture. Alterations were made to the exterior sometime between 1865 and 1885. The roof line was changed from a hipped roof to a mansard roof. Iron ornamentation at the cornice and at the window heads was added.

FRONT HALL:

The family living here has recently moved in, leasing it from the owners who reside out of town. The current occupants are also looking after a few of the owner's furnishings which remain.

Chest, Georgian style

Adamesque balusters of stairs are iron, not wood

Ceiling medallion is chief ornamentation

American table on landing just fits under owner's mirror

DRAWING ROOM:

Moldings and ornamentation in this room reflect the date of construction of the house, the Federal period. It is particularly evident in the chair rail and the window openings. The Adam style mantel of wood and plaster is characteristic of the period but was installed in the 20th century when it was removed from a Charleston house being demolished. The ceiling cornice is Victorian.

The owner and the leasing family were astonished to discover that each owned a mid-19th century piano and they are both in this room. One is rosewood and the other mahogany. They sit in front of handsome matching mirrors.

Bowfront chest with inlay, English

American ladderback country chair, (newly replaced seat)

Small Oriental painted chest between chairs

Handsome Japanned secretary bookcase, English, 18th century style, found in Madrid, Spain

Corner cupboard, Cherry wood,

Porcelain, Royal Crown Derby

Note the lovely crystal chandelier and wall sconces

NATHANIEL INGRAHAM HOUSE

2 Water Street

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DINING ROOM:

Fine ornamentation seen in the wood dado and its gougework trim. Note the pressed tin ceiling, a Victorian change which may have been installed after the earthquake of 1886 when many changes were made when repairing damage.

Two dining tables (one pedestal and one drop leaf) have been joined together to allow for banquet size accommodations.

Two sets of chairs around the table
Sideboard with inlay, in the late Georgian style
Sofa, American, mid-19th century
Oriental chest with remarkable brass trim
Card table, round, Hepplewhite style under window
Tilt-top table, American, under window
Family silver on sideboard

SUNROOM:

This attractive and functional sunroom and kitchen make a handsome contemporary addition to an early 19th century dwelling.

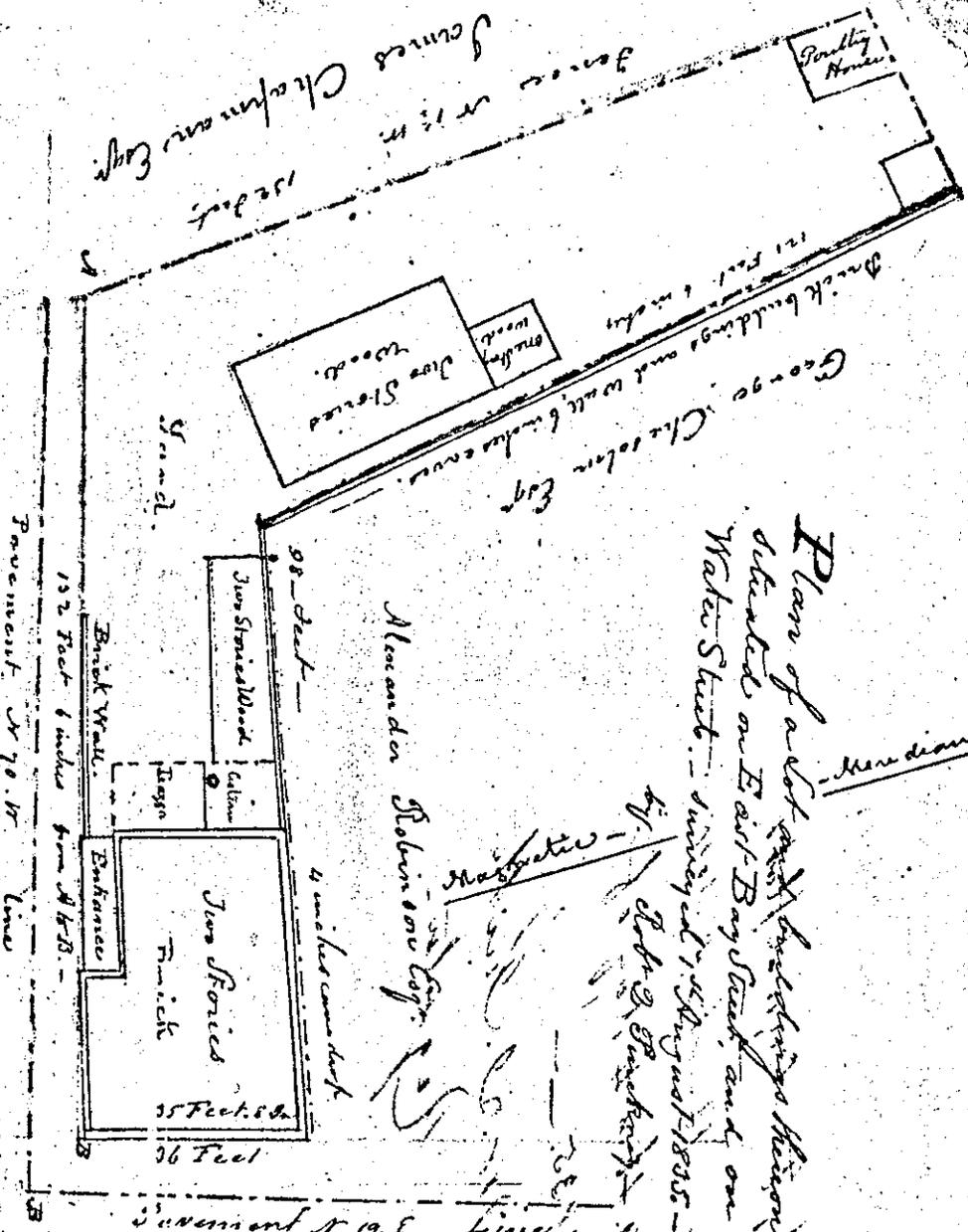
The long trestle table is American. Invite visitors to exit by way of sunroom door. The garden lot was purchased and developed by Dr. William Burgogne who owned the house in 1821. Water Street was a tidal creek before it was filled in during the first decade of the 19th century.

2 Water St

K-10,348

Scale 30 feet to the Inch

Water Street



Plan of a lot situated on East Bay Street and on Water Street. Surveyed by August 1855. Surveyed by John G. Bunker.

East Bay Street

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