

**JONATHAN BADGER HOUSE****43 Tradd Street****c. 1746****Residence of Mr. Augustus Oelmler and Ms. Deborah Warren**

In a renovation of this double tenement a brick was discovered in the cornice incised with the date 1772 so this structure can be termed pre-Revolutionary. It shares a common wall with the residence just east. In our city, buildings of this type were not an uncommon investment. A tenement in 1772 was a reference to a rental property and did not have the meaning used today.

Jonathan Badger, a cabinetmaker, is thought to have built this property sometime after he acquired the lot in 1746. This double brick tenement may be one of the best-preserved exposed brick buildings in Charleston from the 1700s.

Note the two different types of bonds used in the exterior brick construction. The street facade is done in Flemish bond (each row of bricks is composed of alternate headers or short side of the brick). This was very stylish. The side of the house, not seen by the public is English bond (one row of headers and the next stretchers). This is also a very strong wall just not as attractive.

There is a full dry cellar under the house. Tradd Street is the highest point above sea level in the lower half of the city. The house underwent an extensive renovation in 2005.

**ENTRANCE HALL**

Originally the family would have occupied the back of the first floor and the upper floors. There servants would have occupied the separate kitchen house. The stairwell dates to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**FRONT PARLOR**

This was originally used as a merchant's store with the street front door for customers. It would have originally been unembellished. The paneling is new and is copied from the 18<sup>th</sup> century paneling upstairs. The front door which was moved to the left window bay has been disguised as a closed window to restore the 18<sup>th</sup> century style symmetry.

**DINING ROOM**

The chair rail and mantle are probably 18<sup>th</sup> century

**DOCENT - Watch the step**

## JONATHAN BADGER HOUSE

### PAGE 2

#### BUTLER'S PANTRY

The "Hyphen area" would have originally been outside separating the main house from the kitchen house.

#### DOCENT - *Watch the step*

#### KITCHEN HOUSE

This has been extensively remodeled over the years. When the hyphen was opened up in 2005, the development of the building could be seen as it has gone from a 1 to a 1½ to a 2 story building.

There would have originally been 2 rooms with 2 fireplaces. There have been so many changes to the doors and windows it is almost impossible to know what came first. The back fireplace is old but appears small for an 18<sup>th</sup> century kitchen. The second was where the modern range is now.

The floors are old, old brick - some are original to the house. The kitchen house was in danger of collapse when the 2005 renovation began. The ceiling is 19<sup>th</sup> century and the walls are original.

#### GARDEN

The brick is very old. It was taken up and cleaned before the new patio was laid out. While the bricks were up, the back yard areas were dug up by local history buffs who found many rum bottles and broken Chinese porcelain bits. This led the owners to conclude that whoever lived here in the 1700s was importing good from the Caribbean.

There used to be a Loutrel Briggs garden here but an earlier owner had it taken out. Perhaps the large Camelias next to the side wall are the lone survivors of this time. Other plants of note include: Sago palms, Papyrus, Fatsia, Aspidistra, Hydrangea, Azaleas, Ficus, and Elephant ears.

43 Tradd Street

House c.1746

Window boxes are a cheerful part of the Charleston streetscape, and these contribute: Ivy, Petunia, Cyclamen, Bacopa, 'Diamond Frost' and Dianthus. Enter through the narrow driveway, bordered with Boxwood, assorted ferns, Mondo Grass, Holly Fern and trellised Camellia sasanqua. The "lemon man" on the far wall catches your attention immediately. Story?????

On the right, just as you pass through the garden gate, is a short brick wall that effectively hides the trash container. A variegated Potato Vine (*Solanum jasminoides* 'Variegata') is planted at its base that will provide a green view from the kitchen. Several pots by the kitchen door contain flowers (Cineraria now)

and greenery to brighten the view. Two Tea Olives (*Osmanthus fragrans*), flank the entrance providing a welcoming fragrance. The sound of the fountain adds to the charm of this garden.

This is a very small garden with foliage color and leaf texture playing important roles. In Jim Cothran's latest book, *Charleston Gardens and the Landscape Legacy of Loutrel Briggs*, he mentions Loutrel Briggs designed a garden here in 1943. Unfortunately there doesn't seem to be a plan extant. Here is a perception of lush tropical depth, making the garden seem like a clearing in the forest. The neighboring trees play an important part in this garden, adding to the feeling of enclosure and often called "Borrowed landscape". From East to West: Sabal palmetto, Camphor Tree, (*C. cinnamomum*), Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*), Oak Tree (*Quercus* sp.). Continuing, dark green foliage tree is a \_\_\_\_\_, and a Crape Myrtle which help screen the neighboring house as well.

Along the left, by the kitchen house, are the following plants: Umbrella Plant (*Cyperus alternifolia*), Aucuba (*Aucuba japonica*), this is the solid green variety, the variegated type is seen more often, Fatsia (*Fatsia japonica*), the white Mrs. G. G. Gerbing (*Azalea indica*), Autumn Fern (*Dryopteris erythrosora*) before a Lady Palm, underplanted with East Indian Holly Fern (*Arachnoides simplicior*).

On the right, just past the water feature is a European Olive (*Olea europaea*), then a Fatsia, Variegated Hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla* 'variegata'), five different Camellia japonicas including Lady Van Sittart and Pink Perfection, and another Fatsia.

Looking into the heart of the garden you will notice a Yew (*Podocarpus macrophyllus*) at the corner. You might mention that in the south we call this evergreen a Yew. The Yew of the north is a *Taxus*. A 'Wheeler's Dwarf' Pittosporum (*Pittosporum tobira*) is at the base of the Confederate Jasmine Vine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*) that is being trained over the french doors. A full size Pittosporum starts the border along the west. Under the neighbor's tropical Sabal palmettos (our state tree) there is Hydrangea, Cast Iron Plant (*Aspidistra elatior*), the common solid green and the variegated, Holly Fern (*Cyrtomium falcatum*) and the border ends with another full size Pittosporum.

Creeping Fig (*Ficus pumila*) covers the garden walls and the garden shed. Note how carefully the fig has been trimmed around the door and the roof. It is an interesting bit of formality in with the lush plants. To the right of the shed, in the brick wall, there is a small section that is a basket weave pattern that lets breezes play through. Air circulation is a very important part of keeping plants healthy. The small tree is a Redbud (*Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy') which leafs out in the spring with deep maroon foliage, becoming more and more green as the season progresses.

The two urns in front of the shed hold an interesting collection of plants: Camellia sasanqua, Fern, Cyclamen, Bacopa (*Sutera cordata*), and Million Bells – (*Calibrachoa* x *hybrid*). The spiky foliage plant is \_\_\_\_\_. Donna and Bob Cox assist with this garden.