

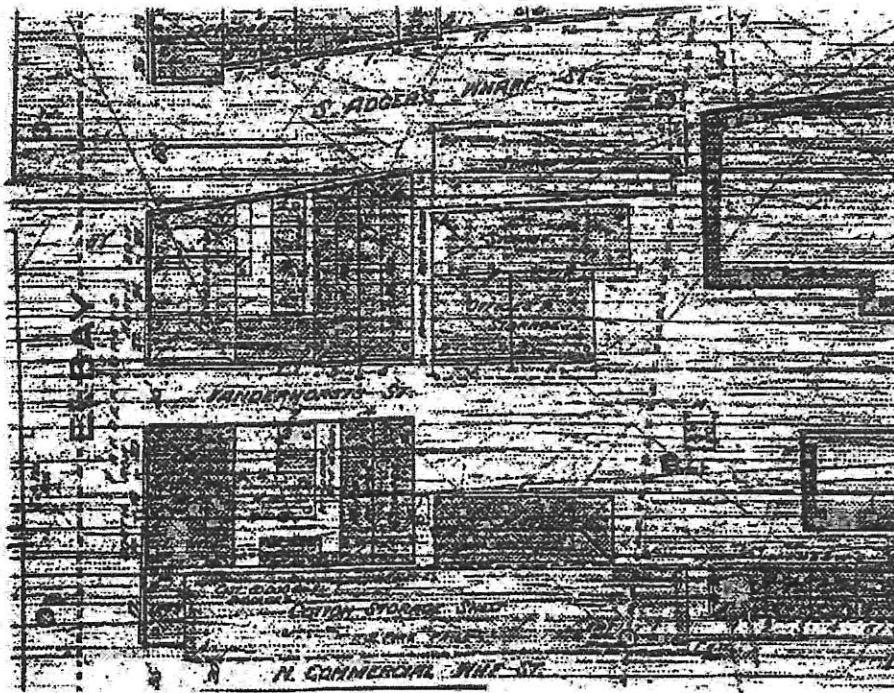
## VANDERHORST ROW

*Constructed 1800  
76-78 East Bay Street*

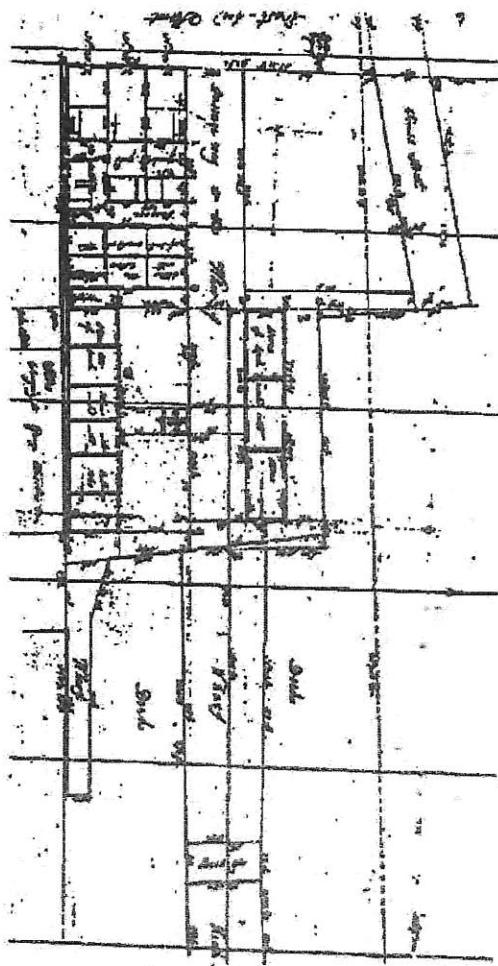
Built in 1800 by Arnoldus Vanderhorst, this triple tenement served as the southern-most of two similar rental complexes. Each row was divided into three units of three stories each. Although only the primary buildings of the southern units survive, both rows originally included a complex series of service structures behind each unit. Throughout the nineteenth century these units were used as commercial offices with warehouse facilities and cellar storage beneath. Vanderhorst's Wharf ran between the northern tenement, which was built ten years later, and the southern; Vanderhorst's house stood nearby on the southwest corner of Longitude Lane and East Bay Street. His plantation house on Kiawah Island survives and is now undergoing rehabilitation.

The facade of Vanderhorst Row is an excellent example of neoclassical design and exhibits a typical combination of exposed brick laid in Flemish bond and marble details. It bears strong resemblance to London's "terrace" architecture during the same period. Although the floorplan has not been altered, the advanced delapidation of the interior led to significant rebuilding, particularly in the end unit in the 1930s. Vanderhorst was a descendant of a family that immigrated to Carolina from Holland in the seventeenth century. He was the intendant (mayor) of Charleston, South Carolina's Governor between 1792 and 1794, and a general in the War of 1812.

This entry authored by Louis P. Nelson

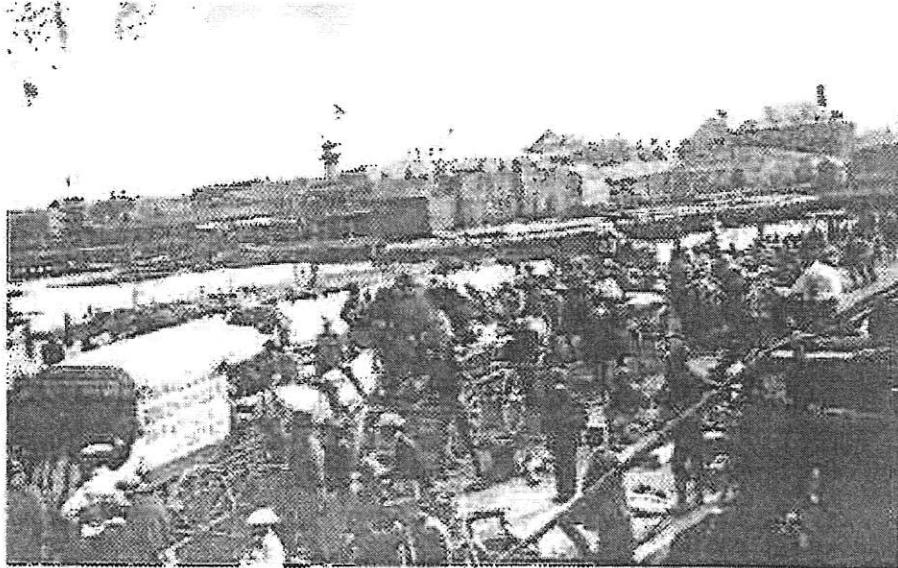


*Insurance Map of 1884, depicting the south row of Vanderhorst's tenements and the now-demolished north row of tenements with outbuildings, Sanborn Maps of Charleston, SCHS*



Plat dated November 1806 showing the dwellings in the remaining portion of Vanderhorst's Row with the stores and outbuilding stretching out to the wharf behind, McCrady Plat Collection, Charleston RMC

*Wharf, Vanderhorst's Row, at the time of the Spanish-American War,*  
Library of Congress



VANDERHORST ROW  
c. 1800  
76, 78 and 80 East Bay Street

This complex of three separate dwellings under one roof and contained within a unified and sedate architectural composition is one of several buildings of similar character that were erected in Charleston in the early years of the nineteenth century. These among others are the Blacklock House, 18 Bull Street (1800) and the Nathaniel Russell House, 51 Meeting Street (1809). Their common characteristics are the use of red brick for flat arches and relieving arches over openings and white marble keystones and impost strips contrasting pleasantly with brown brick walls and all wood-work small in scale and crisply detailed. All of this seems to recall much English work of about the same period such as "the Paragon" on Blackheath near Greenwich.

In fact, a plan quite similar to that of Vanderhorst Row may be seen on Plate 29, John Crunden's Convenient and Ornamental Architecture consisting of original Designs for Plans, etc., London, 1767, 1770, 1791, 1797 and 1815. The exterior illustrated shows a much more ornate building of stone belonging to an earlier period.

For many years Vanderhorst Row stood abandoned, neglected and apparently doomed to disappear. Fortunately, the late Josiah Smith, M.D., bought the property and engaged the services of the late Stephen Thomas, A.I.A., to restore it as three delightfully habitable dwellings.

A.S.

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# THE ARNOLDUS VANDERHORST TENEMENT, C. 1780-1800

76 East Bay Street



Built before 1800 by Gov. Arnoldus Vanderhorst, this triple tenement was the southernmost of two similar rental complexes, each divided into three three-story town house dwellings. Vanderhorst, a descendant of a Dutch family who immigrated to Carolina in the 17th century, lived in a house across the street that was demolished. He served successively as intendant (mayor), South Carolina governor, and a general in the War of 1812. The Vanderhorst Plantation comprised most of Kiawah Island, and his house there has been restored.

The structure is a fine example of Adamesque architecture. The fine Neoclassical facade of the building is constructed with Flemish-bonded brickwork and marble detailing and features a central pedimented pavilion. Keystones, stone lintels and plaques decorate the front of the building, which presents a splendid Paladian window reminiscent of Woodlawn House in Virginia. It is unknown if the similarity is coincidental or due to the possibility that both builders copied the same imported pattern book. Originally kitchen houses stood behind each unit.

Each of Vanderhorst's three daughters received a house in his will. Between 1800 and 1835 the three dwellings were used for commerce on the first floor and residences on the top two floors. The townhouses remained in the Vanderhorst family until they were sold to the Ravenel Cotton Company in 1835. Ravenel maintained his cotton and shipping company on the first floor of the north unit, but the upper floors were still used as residences until the late 1800s. The central unit and the area behind the buildings were converted to a cotton warehouse.

The northern group was demolished some time between 1884 and 1894, and a parking lot occupies the site. Both rows originally included a complex series of service structures behind each unit and accessed various storehouses and wharves. All of this has disappeared, but several plats and early photographs portray the thriving maritime activity that once characterized this relatively quiet commercial area. The entire southern building was abandoned in the early 1900s.

Following the first restoration of Rainbow Row in 1932, the three units were purchased by Dr. Josiah Smith in 1936 and restored. Kitchens and second floor piazzas were added. The rear cotton warehouse was removed and the area where the kitchen houses had once stood became the walled gardens and the three-bay garage.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY SPENCER BROOME

*The southernmost section of Vanderhorst Row, 76 East Bay.*

**BY SPENCER  
BROOME**

The mind easily wanders as one meanders the streets of downtown Charleston from one picturesque vantage to the next, all squeezed tightly together yet somehow stand-

ing beautifully apart. Thoughts of the words each property might verbalize in telling the tales of the time passed fill the consciousness of visitors and residents alike. But if houses could speak, then the structure standing at 76 East Bay would surely sing. And her song would encompass the qualities that

make the 4,900-square-foot, four-bedroom splendor — shown and adored by Debbie Fisher of Handsome Properties — a supreme standard of the Holy City's inspiring historical landscape.

The land on which it is situated serenades Arnoldus Vanderhorst (VAN-dross) — the namesake for Vanderhorst Row, a structure comprised of three sections once called tenements, of which 76 East Bay is the most southern portion. Vanderhorst, a successful merchant and planter, held land in Christ Church Parish and on Kiawah Island, where his restored plantation house still stands today. The former Charleston mayor, governor of South Carolina and general in the War of 1812 retired from politics in 1799, a year prior to the erection of Vanderhorst Row in 1800. Correlations may be drawn to several other Charleston properties with similar character — three separate dwellings within one unified composition — including the Blacklock House and the Nathaniel Russell House. It has been mentioned that Vanderhorst Row, with 76 East Bay, is among America's oldest apartment homes, which include New Orleans's Pontalba Apartments.

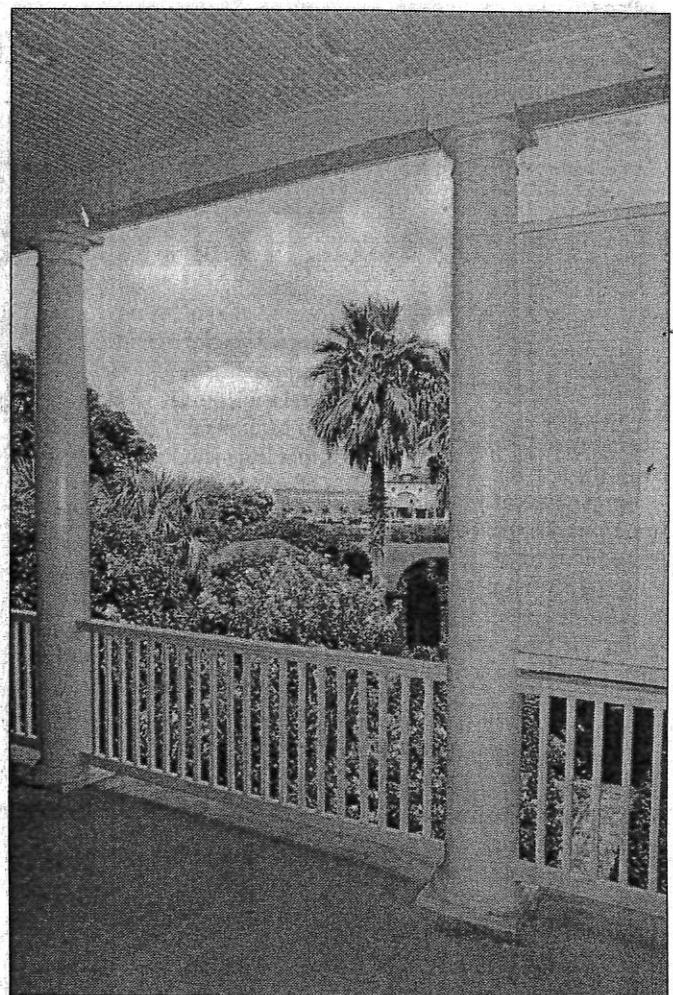
Placed along the Cooper River, the residence at one time sat adjacent to the harbor side of Charleston's old Curtain Line, a brick defense wall constructed just above the high water mark. In between the Curtain Line and 76 East Bay were wharves and warehouses, some of which endured many years. The remnants of the foundation of one warehouse in particular forms a wall

around the garden plots of Vanderhorst Row.

Brick laid in Flemish bond and the marble details, seen at each façade in Neoclassical fashion, hum a memorable tune given the decoration of the front of the building, reminding some of English work of the same period. One may see similar architectural notes at Paragon in Blackheath, London, near Greenwich or even Woodlawn, a historical estate in Virginia that was originally part of George Washington's Mount Vernon.

The woodwork and stairwells, the latter of which are considered early components, lift up a soulful voice to the years of neglect 76 East Bay withstood. From 1800 to 1835, the dwelling was used for commerce on the first floor and a residence above; however, following the War Between the States, the property was neglected and nearly left to disappear under a variety of businesses, some less than desirable, until the late Josiah Smith, M.D., bought the property and restored it in 1936. Retaining its early plan, with a single large front room, a smaller rear parlor and side stairwell, 76 East Bay came back with a resounding roar.

With sun shining through windows and the second floor piazza, the spacious master bedroom and luxurious master bath, belts a hymn that harmonizes majestically over the fantastic views of the Cooper River, with a glimpse of all that Charleston Harbor has to offer — including Fort Sumter off in the distance. Below is the tantalizingly green courtyard, rich with life now after decades of care and restora-



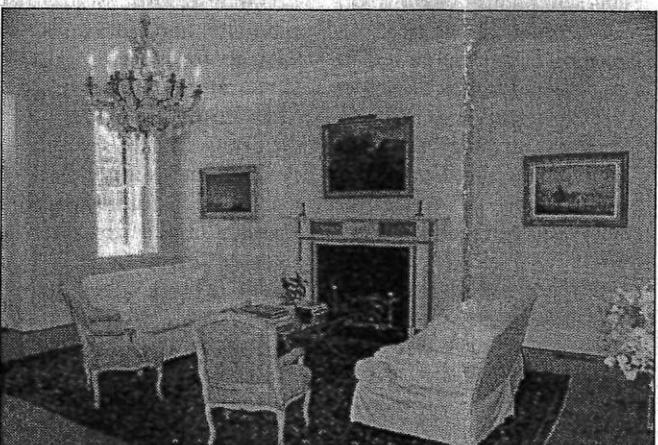
*A view from the second floor piazza that will make you stop in your tracks.*

tion following 76 East Bay's period of disregard.

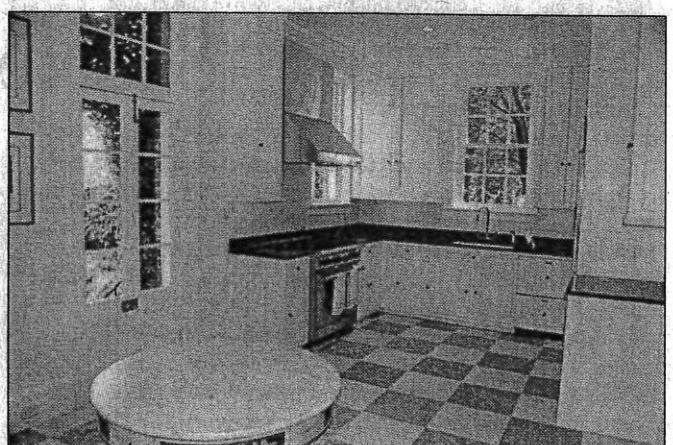
Continuing the home's melody of vitality are two floors — not counting the wine cellar that lies below the first floor — that include a pair of bedrooms with fireplaces and a bonus room stripped down to expose both brick and beams — both with the same overwhelming

harbor lookouts.

The Charleston peninsula inspires one's imagination to run free, thinking of each historical piece of property as a choir, pitches ranging and reaching over the city to form one auditory delight. Given its place amid this collection, 76 East Bay's voice carries well.



*A spacious living area occupies the front of the property.*



*Natural light is all that is needed in the kitchen of 76 East Bay.*

## Closing Notes

# 76 East Bay