

# 66 Bull Retains Appearance

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Fourth in a series of articles on the early dwellings of Bull Street. The fifth article will appear in this column next Monday.)

By W. H. J. THOMAS

The two-and-a-half-story dwelling house that occupies the lot now listed as 66 Bull St. has apparently been fortunate in its owners and has suffered few alterations in the more than 130 years since it was built in the early suburban area of Harleston Village.

Standing on a street which has known a certain change in conditions from the start of the 19th century when it was being developed for building lots, it still remains not only its basic appearance but most of the original interior and exterior details as well.

The frame house, now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. Douglas Donehue, was probably built shortly before 1819 by one John Cart, a local businessman who is variously listed as a lumberman or as a "measurer of wood and coal."

We find the property first passing into his hands in 1797 when it is left to him in the

will of Anne Tighe. Mrs. Tighe is listed as Cart's sister but she was apparently not a resident of Charleston at the time of her death. In the document of transfer there is no mention of any house standing on the property.

By 1819, however, we do find Cart living in this dwelling (then known as 22 Bull) and it also served at this time as the local residence for "Vernal Cart, attorney". John Cart remained here through the 1840s, according to city directories of that period.

The home he constructed for himself follows the pattern of many dwellings of the time between 1800 and 1820 — the influence of the Adam style has been felt, but there is a lingering fondness for the paneling of the 18th century, and little use is made of new fashions in elaborate plasterwork.

Cart's residence is an interesting example of letting wood carry the need for interior decoration (perhaps having something to do with his occupation) when many other builders were beginning to use molds or were applying Adam putty to form garlands and figures of a classical nature.

In both main floor rooms we find mantles, cornice and dados in wood that follow a very similar plan. The mantle and cornice of the front sitting room match exactly in dental work, with no attempt made to create that "prettiness" of much of the Adam brothers' works in swags, sunbursts and other expressions of their light, graceful style.

In the first floor dining room we also find the mantle and cornice to follow in each detail. The dados about both of these rooms offer in-

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teresting contrasts as well. As an example, the west wall of the sitting room is seamed by several strips to form the wainscoting but the south wall dado, three feet in height and extending the length of the room, is of a single piece of wood.

The doors on this main level appear to be unaltered. Their six paneled surface (with unusually small top panels) is identical in each room and the large L-shaped hinges give an almost "rustic Colonial" expression. Their hardware

also matches that of the early 19th century, with similar china knobs in evidence.

One of the dining room doors adds a little mystery to the room. It was obviously not intended as a false door, as it would not serve the usual purpose in creating balance. It opens but shows only a boarded surface.

The 19th century was not long on its way when builders abandoned beaded weatherboarding and only a few decades along passed before the use of 18 lights to a double-hung window were reduced to 12 lights. Cart's house is faced in nicely beaded boarding and all windows opening onto the piazzas on the west have 18 panes (the front windows were replaced by four large panes years ago).

Another rather unusual feature may be found in the rear garden in an above-ground cistern that projects directly from the house. Its rough dimensions might come to seven feet in length, four feet in width, and its almost serpentine top is four feet above the ground.

Cart left the property, which then reached back 210 feet to Bennett's Mill Pond on the north, to his daughter,

Mrs. Harriet Glover. On Nov. 21, 1850 she sold it to Granville W. Buzby for \$3,000.

Buzby, a bricklayer, lived there for seven years. He sold the house to Theodore A. Wilbur for \$4,500 on Aug. 21, 1857. It does not appear that Wilbur, a partner in the dry goods and clothing firm of John G. Milnor and Co., ever occupied the house. He began leasing it to a school teacher, William H. Tarrant, in the 1860s and sold it to him in May of 1874 for \$3,000.

Tarrant's use of the house for approximately 20 years may have established the much-mentioned tradition that the dwelling was formerly a boys school. Tarrant moved to Brooklyn, selling the property to Robert Teskey in 1881 for \$3,400. Teskey, a grocer with a home on George Street, also leased it out. For a number of years it was the home of Mrs. E. A. St. Amand, "dancing teacher", and then was rented by Prof. F. W. Ortmann, "music teacher", during the 1890s.

From early in this century until World War I it was occupied by W. W. Stanford, a salesman with Ashepoo Fertilizer Co. In 1934 it passed to Ellen M. Bull, who may have been Teskey's daughter.



BULL STREET HOME BUILT BEFORE 1819

Dwelling was first the residence of Cart family. (Staff Photo by Evans.)

She sold the house on Sept. 11, 1941, to William R. Scharfer.

During the 1930s to the mid-1950s this was the home of members of the Locke family, who were well-known in

musical circles. Walton M. Locke, a classical pianist, worked in Charleston as a music teacher while living here.

Scharfer sold the property to DeWitt W. King Jr. in 1957

with King selling it several months later to Maj. Peter Gething, a retired British Army officer, well-known as a poet and radio broadcaster.

The present owner purchased the house in 1966.



## **A Correction**

In a news article Monday about the dwelling at 66 Bull St., an error of identification appeared concerning Mrs. Eilen M. Bull. Mrs. Bull, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius O'Callaghan, purchased the house in 1934 for \$2,500 and sold it in 1941 for \$5,000.