

by Harlan Greene (?)
date not indicated

#6 Water St.

Thomas Rivers, Sr. owned much of the land between Stolls Alley and Water Street - which stopped being water and was made into a street ca. 1790. In B-9, 2 March 1818, Rivers' executors convey the property to the son, also named Thomas. It is 92 feet along Water Street and it extends back to Stolls Alley and along that Alley for 190 feet. By A-9, 1 and P-8, 313, Thomas's brothers signed over their interests in that parcel. On 8 March 1818, this Thomas, described as formerly of Providence RI now of Charleston, gentleman, sold a piece of the lot 92' along Water Street, 77¹/₂" along the back line (not stretching as far back as Stolls Alley) to Francis Saltus (Y-8,86; \$6,000). Saltus put this in the hand of trustees for his daughter Susan Ann Lubbock (C-9,408; 24 July 1819). There was no provision in that instrument allowing the trustess to sell - so it took an act of the Master, plus Saltus to sell it to William Burgoyne. (K-9,66; 27 Nov. 1821; \$6,000); Burgoyne had also purchased the property to the east (now no. 2 Water Street). He sold both properties to Otis Mills (12, 13 Jan. 1832; C-10, 87; \$10,590). The property was described as the lot of land at the corner of East Bay and Water with the two stoney brick house on it - plus the lot immediately to the west; mention is made of the two lots and one house. All in all, Mills bought 177¹/₂" along Water Street (85¹/₂ feet of it being the corner lot; the other 92¹/₂" being the lot traced so far.) Otis Mills sold off the western most 44¹/₂ of the lot (that being the property's current dimension) - the remaining 133 feet comprises the present no. 2 Water. When Mills sold this to James Chapman, the accompanying plat showed a house on the lot (D-10,399; \$2,000; 13 June 1832). Another smaller plot (showed on same plat) was later conveyed by Mills to Chapman too (E-10, 52; 21 Nov. 1832: the description in the deed says Vanderhorst St - an obvious error - it was Vanderhousrt property which butted it). In a suit against the Chapman heirs, the Master sold the property (land buildings and improvements) to Resalie Raymond White (W-18, 351; 9 July 1888; \$4,000) White sold off a small piece along the back line to Elizabeth Huiet giving the property its present shape (D-22, 292; 7 Nov. 1906; \$400).

By ^Will dated 15 Feb. 1933 and probated 15 March 1933 (720-14), White left the house to her son Taveau Raymond, with following restrictions: Apartment no. 1 was for use or support of her daughter Rose Raymond Good Goodbred; Apartment 6 was for Mrs. White's friend -that's what he is called - ~~Reese~~ Arthur Murray Benson. The building was known as the Raymond Apartments. When the other heirs died, Goodbred sold to John E. Wulbern and ~~Helen~~ O. Wulbern (brother and sister) (T-87, 239; 3 May 1967; \$24,500). When John died, by will (71-305) his half interest went one half to his sister (who then owned three fourths) and the other half of his half interest to his nephews, who sold to their aunt (U-101:254; 6 June 1972; \$1); she died 29 April 1981 (81-456) and her executor sold to Alanson B. Houghton and his wife Billie F., the current 1985 owners (T-127; 269; \$309,000; 25 Jan. 1982).

FRANCIS SALTUS HOUSE
6 Water Street
Before 1818
Home of the Reverend and Mrs. Alanson B. Houghton

1991

The general architectural appearance of this house and the scale of the building suggest an early 19th century date, but the recorded deeds and conveyances place the date anywhere from 1818 to 1840. It would have been impossible to build on this site before the first decade of the 1800's when Water Street was still a tidal stream and the constant flooding prevented any development of residential properties. Circumstantial evidence suggests that the builder was Francis Saltus, who purchased the land from the Rivers family in 1818 and put it in trust for his married daughter Susan Ann Lubbock. Saltus sold the property in 1821 to William Burgoine who owned the adjacent property at the corner of Water Street and East Battery, now #2 Water Street. This entire property was then sold in 1832 to Otis Mills, a wealthy entrepreneur and financier who developed the original Mills house, one of the grand hotels of pre-Civil War Charleston. Mills maintained his residence on Meeting Street, so it is assumed that he held this property for investment and rental income. During the later decades of the 19th century, the house was converted to a tenement and by the early part of this century it had been carved into 10 apartments. It was purchased in the 1960's by the Wulbern family who began the first renovation of the site. In recent years it has become the home of the Reverend and Mrs. Alanson Houghton who have completed the restoration of the site.

Federal details to point out on the piazza: the delicate door surround and shallow arches between the slender columns.

The child's rocker (blue wooden boat) is from Gloucester, Mass. The Houghton's have collected many animals you will enjoy from the bristled hedgehog here, to the piglets at the exit.

HALL: For your information, or if asked

In the hall on the pine bench are wonderful soft sculpture dolls. Over the bench are 19th century Chinese temple carvings. On the table is a cross section boat model.

DRAWING ROOM: When this house was first renovated and returned to a single family dwelling, the owners found that much of the interior detail had been removed and discarded. They chose to replace the missing woodwork with period ornamentation that reflected the approximate date of the house and matched the scale of the rooms. The mantel in this room was found in Scotland and is characteristic of the high style ornamentation of the early 1800's. The shell and rice motifs are certainly appropriate. The furnishings here and throughout the house are inherited family pieces, and selections that the owners have collected from several distinct periods of English and American decorative arts.

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DRAWING ROOM:

The painting over the mantel is by Mississippi artist Theora Hamblett, a folk painter whose work is admired for its sincerity and bold use of color.

Over the 17th century English table to the right is a portrait of Mrs. Houghton's mother by Dudley Fulton.

The Oushak carpet has the same soft colors as the curtains.

There is a massive pair of George II style armchairs, one on each side of the sofa. Burled walnut?

The carvings over the sofa are 19th century Chinese.

On the left is a very unusual child's desk, c. 1770, English, with fitted drawer and compartments.

Between the windows on the street side, and over the English lowboy, c. 1760, is a pastel beach scene by local artist Johnson Hagood.

Tucked in the corner to the left are small works by Victor Hugo and Utrillo.

To the right is a Rodin drawing.

Interesting silver presentation pieces were given to Mr. Houghton's grandfather, Ambassador to the Court of St. James and also to Germany. (Get Mrs. Houghton to show you which is which. She may decide to show a Charleston made silver cup, or may have put it away.)

Also, be sure to notice the Regency architect's chair, with work surface that pops up and swivels around.

And to the right of the mantel, a handsome mahogany cabinet on chest, English, George III, c. 1770.

Visitors will be interested in the Steuben glass. In this room point out the frog prince, and the lion on the table in front of the sofa.

DINING ROOM:

Hanging on the left is a painted leather screen with scenes from Aesop's Fables.

Over another wonderful Scottish mantel is a watercolor by Rhett Thurmond.

The portrait of Mrs. Houghton with her daughter, Elaine, is by Mississippi artist Marshall Bouldin.

On either side of the mantel are continental armchairs, Louis XV, with original needlepoint upholstery, c. 1750.

The Hepplewhite sideboard, American, c. 1790, was a gift to the Houghtons from his parishioners at the Church of the Heavenly Rest in New York City.

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DINING ROOM:

The view from this room was enhanced by the unfortunate loss of trees between here and the harbor during the storm.

Under the window, the clay sculpture of this house is by South Carolina artist Claire Scurry. There are other contemporary clay fantasy pieces in the drawing room and in the family room.

KITCHEN / FAMILY ROOM:

The player piano is a favorite of Mr. Houghton's. Around the room are many photographs of family and friends, more contemporary art, and memorabilia including the "A. B. Houghton for senator," placard which refers to Mr. Houghton's grandfather, for whom he was named.

Visitors should walk through the kitchen and continue CAREFULLY down the back stairs. You may peek into Mrs. Houghton's office in the dependency to the rear. In the garden docents will point out the fragile looking maidenhair fern (which thrives in spite of the salt water from hurricane Hugo) and the sharp spined, yellow blooming barberry and pyracantha at the foot of the front steps.