

## **MARGARETTA HUBE HOUSE**

25 Wentworth Street

Built c.1888

Residence of Janie Miller

By Katherine Pemberton (HCF staff), March 2014

25 Wentworth Street is a 2 story masonry residence located on the south side of Wentworth Street in the historic Ansonborough neighborhood. This townhouse is clad in a distinctive red brick and was built directly adjacent to its neighbor at 27 Wentworth c. 1888. The floorplan is unusual for Charleston as it featured an arched entry and an open passageway that extended the length of the house on the first floor. The outline or “ghost” of the infilled arch is visible around the entry. The passageway has been enclosed for living space but on entering the house, one can easily discern the old windows and door openings off the passageway.

Much of the historic Ansonborough neighborhood was ravaged by fire in 1838 and largely rebuilt in the 1840s. This was the case for the James Jeffords House, located next door to the east at 23 Wentworth. Mr. Jeffords built his house in 1843 then subdivided his large lot in 1871 creating #25 Wentworth. The new lot was acquired by German-born baker B.F. Hube in 1880s and functioned as a “Private Roadway” for several years, likely providing needed access to the rear yards of several Anson Street properties to the south. Hube’s widow Margareta had the property by 1880 and it was during her ownership that the building was constructed as a rental property.

Mrs. Hube and her daughter Sophie were also natives of Hanover Germany and they are listed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Charleston city directories as living and running a store at 42 Anson Street selling groceries and “notions”. Interestingly, the lots of 25 Wentworth and 42 Anson Street backed up to one another for many years. Sophie Hube took over ownership of the house at 25 Wentworth Street in 1910 before selling it to Joanna Dean in 1928. Mrs. Dean and her husband, who worked as a trimmer(carpenter) had rented the house since 1911 and after his death, Mrs. Dean continued to own the house until into the 1940s. The history of 25 Wentworth Street thus seems tied most strongly to female owners and occupants.

### **ENTRYWAY**

Be sure to tell guests to watch their step. Point out that this space is the enclosed passageway that ran the length of the house. Point out the old window and door openings off the passageway.

- 19th Century Swedish Chest
- 2 Hanging lanterns from Shanghai China

Guests will turn left at the first door into the stair hall and then enter the front drawing room.

### **DRAWING ROOM**

The mantles and fireboxes are original to the house as are many of the mouldings.

- Painting over the fireplace is the owner’s maternal grandmother, painted by Willow Anderson, protege of John Singer Sargent.
- 2 Paintings over the sofa are watercolors of Venice, turn of the century

- Interior painting to the right of entry, French, by Paul Thomas 19th century. It was shown at the Paris Expo, 1890's

## **DINING ROOM**

- The extensive collection of 19<sup>th</sup> century Chinese export blue and white ceramics was collected by the owner on her travels to Paris beginning in the 1980s.
- The 18<sup>th</sup> century camphor wood Buddha head is from Shanghai and rests atop a curved 19<sup>th</sup> century wood altar table, also from China.
- The large 19<sup>th</sup> century painting of the cabbages is from Venice, B Cherubini.

Guests exit the dining room back into the old **passageway**. On exiting,

- note the painting by 19<sup>th</sup> century artist J.G. Vibert "Reading Rabelais" which depicts a Cardinal reading a notoriously raunchy book with obvious pleasure.

Guests head past the **kitchen** and into the rear garden.

- Far wall in the Kitchen 19th Century collection of Ceramics Portugal and Italy

## **GARDEN**

If weather permits, guests can walk out into the garden which has recently been re-done and which is modeled after a Paris garden. This new garden features clematis, red sasanqua, confederate jasmine and more. The garden statue is from the owner's grandmother's garden.

Guests exit the house through the same passageway and door that they entered though.

***3 – 4 guides needed – one at front door, one in drawing room, one in dining room and one in garden (if possible)***