

Executive Headquarters House

37 Meeting Street

This early example of a pre-Revolutionary brick-built house was possibly built by James Simmons, who mentioned the house in his will of 1775, and construction is thought to date from 1750–1760. The property was seized during the British Occupation from its next owner, Gov. Robert Gibbs, and ransacked.

Ownership passed to William Bristane in 1782 and later to Otis Mills in 1846, who completely changed the character of this property. Additions included the unusually large bay fronts with tall beveled glass windows, decorative gables, and ironwork, and a magnificent entrance with heavy double doors under a New Orleans style balcony. The two-foot thick walls were covered with stucco.

Gen. Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard made this his Executive Headquarters House. From here he commanded his Confederate forces and organized the defense of Charleston. In 1863 a Federal bombardment drove the General back to a safer stronghold further north.



Black and white marble flooring and silver, hand-painted wallpaper welcome visitors in the entrance hall. Impressive arched doorways lead to every room.



Close detail of plaster work in miniature Corinth columns and pilasters dividing the drawing room.



The double drawing room is delicately furnished in European style. Matching rugs are custom made in the Aubusson design.



One of a pair of late nineteenth century French curio cabinets with decorative gold leaf.

37 Meeting Street.
c. 1766. Gate is combination of
"S" and "C" scrolls and flat
lattice panel wrought iron.
Gate added later.



Old Charleston refers to the
unusual architecture of the
"Double-Breasted House"
because of its twin bays. Design
is a departure from the usual
Charleston architecture.

