

Lawndes

Grave

A History

By

ROBERT P. STOCKTON

Note: Some documentation was removed because of redundancy to identical items already in file (eg. newspaper articles, etc.)

INTRODUCTION

Charleston is the county seat of Charleston County and is located on a peninsula bounded by the Cooper and Ashley Rivers which converge to form the harbor. The city population is 69,510, while the neighboring city of North Charleston's population is 65,630. The 1980 census placed the total population of Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester Counties at 430,301. The urban area, with the old peninsula city at the center, lies to the north up the peninsula to Goose Creek and Summerville, west across the Ashley River to St. Andrews and James Island, and east across the Cooper River to Mt. Pleasant and the beaches. The County of Charleston has a coast line of 91 miles with altitude from sea level to 25 feet. Average year round temperature is 66 degrees Fahrenheit and percent of possible sunshine is 65.2%. Annual average rainfall is 48.41 inches.

Charleston was originally settled by English Colonists and named Charles Town in honor of King Charles II of England in 1670. The original site is now a huge exposition center called Charles Towne Landing. Shortly thereafter the city moved across the Ashley River to its present center, and was renamed Charleston at the time of incorporation in 1783. Here the first independent government in America was set up - the seat of government being located in the Old Exchange Building which still stands today at the foot of Broad Street (see next page). Charleston is famous for its outstanding examples of colonial architecture in its many beautiful old mansions and historic public buildings. Equally famous are the many historic old churches in the old city, and the world famous gardens.

THE GIBBS HOUSE ON CHARLESTON NECK

A Colonial place commonly known as the Gibbs House on Charleston Neck is the house still standing on the Bank of the Ashley River.

According to Judge H.A.M. Smith, on March 2nd 1701, a grant was made to Patrick Scott for one hundred and ninety acres on Charleston Neck, the boundaries showing that it included all of the Joseph Dalton grant lying to the west of the part held by Joseph Blake.

Scott must have therefore acquired from transferees of Jane Lawson all this remainder and taken out a new grant himself. In addition to other legal matters connected with this and other adjoining lands in a deed from Patrick Scott to Richard Cartwright dated October 31, 1710., it is recited that this one hundred and ninety acres was a parcel of a greater quantity of land formally granted to Joseph Dalton.

Sometime later under the will of Richard Cartwright who had acquired a great deal of that land, much of the property passed to his three Sons, Daniel, Richard and Hugh. A greater part of the one hundred and ninety acres, with additional land to the north fell to the portion given to Daniel Cartwright, who conveyed it in 1738 to John Braithwaite. It then passed to John Gibbes, but from whom John Gibbes acquired it has not been ascertained. It was certainly in his possession in 1769 when he obtained a grant of the marsh land fronting on the river.

Gibbes' property has been generally known as the "Grove Farm or Plantation" and embraces the area between Congress street and the Creek North of the Farm lately owned by Captain F.W. Wagener, and which was long known as "Lowndes Grove" and Rose Farm.

Lowndes Grove was famous as a field of honor and many famous duels took place there, the most noted being the duel between General Christopher Gadsden and General Howe. (this having taken place August 13th, 1778.)

Some of the most noted duels in the 19th Century were between Wilson and Simons, Hunt and Ramsey, Craft and Boy, Reynolds and Brawley, Robertson and Waring, Cohen and Moise, and other encounters of a later date well known to the older inhabitants of the community.

The last duel in the State occurred in 1880, but did not take place in Charleston.

The present Hampton Park which included the Race Course, is on the "Grove Plantation".

Legend inevitably attaches its tenacious, if invisible, vines to a structure such as Lowndes' Grove, the very physical appearance and environment of which seem to beget romance. Consequently, much that has been said and written about the mansion and its oak-shaded surroundings is fascinating and entertaining, but unfortunately is untrue. This history is an attempt to "set the record straight," and to present the history of the house and its grounds, the truth of which is fascinating and romantic enough to make any legendizing seem like unnecessary nonsense.

Even the roots of the property's history have been misrepresented. It has been written previously, in the newspapers, that the property was originally part of a large tract granted to Patrick Scott in 1701. However, a closer examination shows that the grant to Scott was part of a larger tract granted previously to Joseph Dalton, and that the northern boundary of Joseph Dalton's grant was an east-west line running along present-day Huger Street.

The earliest known owner of the property north of Dalton's grant was one Richard Cartwright, who left the property to his three sons, Daniel, Hugh and Richard, along with the greater part of the former Patrick Scott lands to the south. Patrick Scott had sold the lands to the south to Dove Williamson in 1710, and Williamson had sold them to Richard Cartwright in 1712. Exactly when Richard Cartwright acquired the lands north of the Dalton-Scott lands is unclear. However, the "Carte Particuliere de la Caroline," in the S. C. Historical Society collection, shows Cartwright among landowners on Charlestown Neck. The "Carte Particuliere" is a French map of circa 1696, which was copied from an English map of circa 1695, and gives the names and locations of approximately 200 landowners between the Edisto and South Santee rivers.

Richard Cartwright's will is not extant, but it is cited in a deed of May 9, 1738, by which his son, Daniel Cartwright, planter, and Sarah his wife, conveyed to John Braithwaite, Esquire, for 6,000 pounds current money of the province, the bulk of his father's lands, totalling 227 acres and two roods. The property is described as bordering east on lands of Othniel Beale, merchant and "the Broad road Leading from Charlestown (present-day King Street)"; west on the Ashley River and the marshes thereof; north on lands of the estate of Robert Hume, lands of Hugh Cartwright and the marshes of a small creek running into Ashley River, and south on lands formerly of John Walker, Dove Williams and Patrick Scott.

Following that conveyance, there is a gap in the record and the property is next found in the possession of John Gibbes. When and from whom Gibbes acquired the property is not known; however, he held it in 1769 when he obtained a grant for the marsh land fronting on the river. The grant refers to the plantation as "Orange Grove," but later the property is usually called the Grove plantation or the Grove farm. It included some 232 acres according to a plat of John Gibbes' property in 1770 and included the area between present-day Congress Street and the creek north of the present property. (This plat is cited by historian Henry A. M. Smith in his history, "Charleston and Charleston Neck," South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine, Vol. 19, pp. 12-15, but this writer was unable to locate the plat.)

It has been written previously in newspaper accounts that a famous duel between the Patriot generals, Christopher Gadsden of South Carolina and Robert Howe of North Carolina took place at the Grove. However, Dr. Joseph Johnson's "Traditions and Reminiscences Chiefly of the American Revolution in the South," and a contemporary account in the South Carolina Gazette of Sept. 3, 1778, state otherwise. According to both accounts, the duel took place "behind Mr. Percy's House." This was the property of William Percy, in the vicinity of Rutledge Avenue and Bogard Street, very much to the south of Gibbes' property.

Alexander Garden, who married a niece of John Gibbes, discusses the Grove farm in his "Anecdotes of the Revolutionary War in America." Garden states that the time of the invasion of South Carolina by British troops under Maj. Gen. Augustine Prevost, "a considerable British force occupied the house and plantation of Mr. Robert Gibbes, on the Stono River. At the period of their arrival there, Mr. John Gibbes, a respectable gentleman, worn down by age and infirmity, was on a visit to his brother. His usual residence was on a farm called the Grove, where the Race Ground is now established, comprehending several of the neighbouring gentlemen's seats, and at the period improved not only with taste in the disposition of the grounds, but by the introduction of numberless exotics of the highest beauty. He had in addition, a green-house and pinery, in the best condition. A Major Sheridan, arriving from the army on the Neck, at Mr. Gibbes, was asked by an officer, in the presence of the brothers, — 'What news? shall we gain possession of the city?' 'I fear not,' replied Sheridan, 'but we have made glorious havoc of the property in the vicinity. I yesterday witnessed the destruction of an elegant establishment belonging to an

arch Rebel, who luckily for himself was absent. You would have been delighted to see how quickly the pine apples were shared among our men, and how rapidly his trees and ornamental shrubs were levelled with the dust.' Mr. John Gibbes, who was a man of strong passions, could hear no more, and regardless of consequences, with indignation, exclaimed, 'I hope that the Almighty will cause the arm of the scoundrel who struck the first blow to wither to his shoulder.' 'How is this, Sir,' said Sheridan. 'Dare you, Sir, use such language to me.' 'Yes,' said Mr. Gibbes, 'and would repeat it at the Altar.' 'The provocation,' said the commanding officer present, 'sufficiently justifies the anger of Mr. Gibbes; for your own credit, Sheridan, let the matter drop.' The catastrophe was dreadful. To banish thought, Mr. Gibbes, unhappily driven to the indulgence of an interperence before unknown, retired to his bed -- and rose no more".

A very dramatic story, but Garden has his facts mixed and perhaps his truth is embroidered.

Prevost, in pursuit of Patriot forces under Gen. William Moultrie, crossed Ashley Ferry and advanced down Dorchester Road to Charlestown Neck in May of 1779, and retreated soon afterward. However, Gibbes' house and gardens were apparently still intact when British and Hessian troops invaded the neck again on March 29, 1780, under command of Sir Henry Clinton. Diaries of Hessian officers, published recently under the title, "The Siege of Charleston," speak of the house and gardens as being intact.

Capt. Johann Ewald, on March 30, 1780, wrote in his diary, "The jagers are posted at Gibbes' house where I did picket duty in one of the most beautiful pleasure gardens in the world. The right wing of our detachment rested upon Gibbes' Creek and was in a line with the light infantry. Half a mile from the house there is a ferry on the Ashley River from which, making use of several creeks, one can get by boat to within a quarter a mile of this plantation." This no doubt refers to Gibbes' landing, where supportive troops and supplies were landed on March 30, after the main army had crossed the river and come down the Broad Road or "great path." The landing is marked on Sir Henry Clinton's map of the "Operations before Charlestown," and indicated as "Landing Place of the Artillery, Stores and Provisions, on Charlestown Neck from Linning's Creek, the 30th March, the Army having crossed Ashley River at Draytons (15 miles above town) the Day preceding." The map also shows a plantation house with outbuildings and gardens which fit the description of Gibbes' farm, with the various encampments in the vicinity.

The farm was also the scene of the first skirmish of the siege. This event is described in Dr. John McGrady's "History of South Carolina in the Revolution, 1775-1780," in which he relates that on March 29, 1780, Col. John Laurens, in command of about 200 men, was sent up the great path to meet the enemy's advance parties.

"On the following day, the 30th," relates McGrady, "Sir Henry Clinton ordered the light infantry and yagers, supported by the grenadiers and the other corps and regiments, to gain the road and to move toward the town. This they did, and met with no opposition for ten miles of their march; but as they approached Gibbes's farm, about two miles from the town, their advance, about ten or twelve o'clock, met Colonel Laurens, who skirmished with them the rest of the day, being reinforced in the evening by Major (Philip) Lowe, with ninety men and two field-pieces. This skirmish took place in view of both armies and of many ladies of Charlestown, who came out to the works, and who continued to do so even after the firing from the town had begun, and would, with all the composure imaginable, watch the cannonading of the enemy. In this first encounter of the siege Captain Bowman (Major Joseph Bowman, First North Carolina Continental Regiment) of Hogan's North Carolina brigade, was killed, and Major Hyrne and seven privates were wounded. On the British side the Earl of Caithness, aide-de-camp to the Commander-in-Chief, was wounded, with several men. About dark Colonel Laurens and his party fell back to the lines." This story is also told in the memoirs of Gen. Moultrie and of Banastre Tarleton, but not as well as McGrady tells it. Tarleton added that after the skirmish, "The royal army, without farther molestation, took a position across the neck, about a mile and a half from Charlestown, and effectually invested it, between the rivers Ashley and Cooper." There they would remain until the city surrendered the following May.

Getting back to the Hessians and their discussion of the Grove, Capt. Johann Hinrichs recorded in his diary on March 31 that "the two gunboats anchored behind Gibbes' plantation, so as to cover our communication across the Ashley. Our line of communication with the boats was as follows: from a landing place behind Gibbes' house, situated in line with our camp, to the New York Volunteers on the other side of the river and from there by way of Fenwick's Point to Wappoo Creek, on both sides of which were stationed North and South Carolina militia, and then along the far side of the Wappoo, through the cut, to Huyn's brigade on the Stono near the magazines. A wonderful disposition! From this day on hurdles, entrenching tools, and provisions were brought over, as well as disjointed mantelets fourteen feet

long and ten feet high that had been built in New York and were being put together at Gibbes', where the engineers and artillery were taking post."

Hinrichs' fellow officer, Capt. Ewald, tells a different story about these mantelets. "Major Moncrieff of the Engineers had all the wooden houses in the neighborhood torn down today. From the boards and beams of these he had his men make mantelets to be used in building the inner side of the batteries and redoubts and also the cheeks of the embrasures. These mantelets are six feet high and fourteen long and have three legs. It takes eighteen men to carry one of them. They are a great saving and straw ropes and fascines. Just as soon as the engineers set them down the form of the battery or redoubt is finished and the workmen need only throw the earth from the trenches against it."

A letter from Sir A.S. Hamond to Captain Elphinstone, March 26, 1780 (five days before Hinrichs' entry), is cited by the editor of "The Siege of Charleston" as mentioning: "The (ship) Fame with the Engineers' timber is on her way."

The accounts of both Capt. Ewald and Capt. Hinrichs, however, are both so vivid and seemingly factual that it is probable that both are correct. In order to build fortifications across the peninsula, it might have been necessary to supplement the pre-fabricated New York mantelets with expedient types made from wrecked houses.

The important question, however, is whether Gibbes' house met this fate. Apparently it did not, because Ewald continues to speak of Gibbes' house as if it is still there. It is not known whether the house was construction of wood or brick, but perhaps it was too useful at the time to destroy. Ewald wrote, on April 1, that, "Yesterday as well as today we have been engaged in bringing heavy pieces, munitions, entrenching tools, gabions, fascines, and provisions from Linning's Creek (now Charles Towne Landing) over the Ashley River to Gibbes' Ferry. The country around Gibbes' house has been made a part and depot for the siege, and the greenhouse a laboratory." On April 2, he notes, "The 'place d'armes' for the guard and the working parties was to be on the highway from Dorchester to Charlestown, where the road to Gibbes' house intersects it." On the same date, he states, "Toward evening the jager picket was withdrawn to Gibbes' house." On April 5, he writes, "In the evening the jager detachment changed camps. We moved into the woods close to the left bank of the Ashley River, so that we had Gibbes' house two hundred paces behind us." After that, the house is no longer mentioned, although Hessian, British and Tory troops continued to

encamp on the plantation. Perhaps they set fire to it, or perhaps it was destroyed by artillery fire from the city's defences.

In any event, it is certain that the house was destroyed either during or soon after the Revolution, as it is shown on a plat of the 1790s in a ruined condition.

John Gibbes was born December 29, 1733, a son of John Gibbes and Mary Woodward, his first wife. The younger John Gibbes married on May 2, 1754, Margaret Ann Stevens. They had no children and she apparently predeceased him, so that when John Gibbes died (the date of his death is not known), his estate fell to his brother Robert Gibbes, owner of the Stono River plantation at which Garden claims that John Gibbes drank himself to death. Robert Gibbes was born on July 13, 1732, and was named for his ancestor, Robert Gibbes (1644-1715), who was Proprietors' Deputy, and Governor and Chief Justice of South Carolina. Robert Gibbes married, first, Ann Stanyarne, on May 17, 1753, and second, on March 31, 1764, Sarah Reeve, the daughter of his father's third wife, Ann Barnwell, by her second husband, Ambrose Reeve.

Robert Gibbes and Sarah his wife divided up the Grove plantation, selling off large portions, in the 1780s and 1790s. The area now occupied by Hampton Park was acquired by the South Carolina Jockey Club which developed there the Washington Race Course. This course became one of the most important race tracks in the state, with horse breeders and horse lovers from as far away as Virginia, Kentucky and Mississippi, converging there for "Race Week" each February. Race Week was also an important social season for Charleston, with balls, banquets and other festivities held.

In one of the several transactions which broke up the original Grove plantation, Robert Gibbes and Sarah his wife conveyed to Robert ^{William} Williams, on October 3, 1790, for 920 pounds sterling, 80 acres of high land. A plat dated September 20, 1793, and included here, shows the land conveyed bounded north on "a street lately made," which is recognizable as Grove Street. It also shows, just south of this road and west of an intersecting road, the ruins of a house and some ponds which are undoubtedly the remains of John Gibbes' house and gardens. The plat identifies the land above the "street lately made" as the property of George Abbott Hall.

This tract above Grove Street was conveyed to Hall by Robert Gibbes and his wife Sarah on August 23, 1786. The deed of this conveyance is not on record, but it is cited in a later deed of conveyance (from John Mathews

and Mary his wife to John Beaufain Irving). According to the later deed, the property was described as "three several lots being part of a tract of land called the grove near Charleston." The lots were numbered 18, 19 and 20 on a plat annexed to the 1786 conveyance (and therefore also not on record). Together, the three lots apparently totalled about 28 and one-half acres of high ground, and included the present site of Lowndes' Grove.

George Abbott Hall, a planter, was married to a niece of John and Robert Gibbes — Lois Mathews, daughter of their sister, Sarah Gibbes, and John Mathews Sr. He died in 1791, and his will devised property on Tradd Street to his two sons, George Hall and John Ladson Hall and ordered that his other lands, in South Carolina and Georgia, be "sold to the best advantage" and the proceeds divided among his seven daughters for their education and support until they reached age 21 or married.

Hall's Grove property is subsequently found in the hands of his brother-in-law, the Honorable John Mathews. Mathews had been a delegate to Congress during the Revolution and was governor of South Carolina after the Revolution. He was also one of the first judges of the Court of Equity. He died in October, 1802, at age 58.

Mathews and his wife, the former Mary Wragg, conveyed Hall's Grove property on March 27, 1793, to John Beaufain Irving, Esquire, for 1,500 sterling. John Beaufain Irving (not to be confused with his son by the same name, author of "Day on Cooper River") was a planter who divided his time between Charleston and Ironshore, Jamaica. He died in Charleston, April 6, 1813, leaving his wife, Susanna, with the son, then three years old.

John Beaufain Irving, on May 10, 1796, appointed Jacob AEmilius Irving as his attorney, with authorization to sell his farm, "containing by estimation with the gardens and grounds thereto belonging twenty eight acres one half of an acre or thereabouts — together with the Capital messuage tenement or dwelling house and all the houses thereon standing and being erected and built formerly called the Grove but at present known by the name of Wedderburn Lodge."

Jacob AEmilius, also a planter at Ironshore, Jamaica and married to Hannah Margaret Corbett of Charleston, sold the property on July 8, 1796 to Mary Clodner, "commonly called Mary Vesey a free East Indian now residing in the city of Charleston." The purchase price was 1,200 pounds sterling. The property is described as composing lots numbered 18, 19 and 20 in the 1786 plat, "which said three lots of land now forming one tract

the property of the said John Beaufain Irving are at present known by the name of Wedderburn Lodge, together with the use of a road leading thereto and of a street to the southward of the said three lots sixty feet in width." The street, "sixty feet in width," to the south is, of course, Grove Street.

Mary Clodner Vesey died leaving no will to dispose of her property. John Vesey, one of her heirs, petitioned the Court of Common Pleas for a writ of partition. The justices granted the writ of partition to five commissioners, Robert B. Histop, John R. Cleary, Samuel H. Pratt, Nicholas Highland and Patriok McLaur. On January 31, 1804, the commissioners certified that they had examined the premises and were of the opinion that a fair and equal partition of the property among the heirs could not be made. The justices then ordered the sheriff to sell the property at auction, with the proceeds to be divided among the heirs.

Consequently, Jacinto Laval, sheriff of Charleston District, auctioned the property on March 5, 1804 and the property was conveyed to William Lowndes, Esquire, the highest bidder, for 3,000 guineas. The property is described as "the aforesaid Farm on Charleston Neck commonly called the Grove containing thirty five acres."

William Lowndes was born February 11, 1782, at Horseshoe Plantation in St. Bartholomew's Parish, the youngest and only surviving son of the Honorable Rawlins Lowndes (who had been President of South Carolina during the Revolution and later Intendent (mayor) of Charleston), and his third wife, Sarah, a daughter of Col. Charles Lowndes of Georgia. At age 7, he went to England with his mother for three years of study. After returning to Charleston, he studied under the eminent scholar, Dr. Simon Felix Gallagher, a Roman Catholic priest. According to Dr. Gallagher, his mind drank up knowledge as the dry earth did the rain from heaven." Subsequently, he studied law with Chancellor DeSaussure and was admitted to the Bar on January 9, 1804. He was married on September 16, 1802, to Elizabeth Brewton Pinckney, daughter of the Revolutionary general, Thomas Pinckney. After a brief partnership with John S. Cogdell, Esquire, he retired from law practice to devote time to reclaiming his plantation, The Horseshoe, which had been severely damaged by a storm in 1804.

Lowndes began his political career in 1806 when he was elected to the S.C. House of Representatives, a post to which he was re-elected in 1808. In 1807, when the British ship, Leopard, had an incident with the American ship, Chesapeake, war fever ran high and the Washington Light Infantry was among new military units formed. Lowndes was chosen as its first captain.

In October, 1810, Lowndes was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, to which he was successively re-elected until 1822. According to his biographer, John Belton O'Neill, Lowndes "had a character there (in Congress) for wisdom and purity of purpose, which has seldom, if ever, been attained by any other member of Congress. He seldom participated in the debates, but when he did, all were anxious to hear every word he uttered; for his speeches were truly as 'apples of gold in net-work of silver.'" Nominated by the S.C. General Assembly in 1821 as a Presidential candidate, he replied, "It is an office neither to be sought nor declined." He had visited England in 1819 and after resigning from Congress in 1822 because of ill health, again embarked for England. He died in passage, at age 41. "This was a sad event for our country. If he had lived, he probably would have been elected President of the United States, and his wisdom, moderation and purity might have saved us from the national divisions to which we have been subjected," Judge O'Neill wrote.

Mrs. St. Julien Ravenel's biography, "The Life and Times of William Lowndes of South Carolina," contains many references to the Grove Plantation.

After his marriage to Elizabeth Pinckney in 1802, says Mrs. Ravenel, the "young couple established themselves at the Horseshoe Plantation, which Mr. Lowndes had inherited from his father, and instead of a house in town, they had for a summer residence "The Grove," a pretty place just outside of Charleston, opposite the race-course. This place had during the Revolution belonged to an old Mr. Gibbes, and had been adorned with many rare shrubs and exotics...

"In Mr. Lowndes's time these exotics had been replaced by oaks and orange trees. A double row of the latter edged the river bank from the gate to the house, and fine oaks dotted the lawn.

"The road leading to this pretty home was beautiful with oaks, jessamines, and the Cherokee rose, and was for years the favorite drive in the environs of Charleston. The trees are almost all gone now (1901) from the road, and the place has long since passed from the family, yet they are still generally known as 'Lowndes' Grove' and the 'Grove Lane'. It must be confessed that the place was not as healthy as beautiful — in the late summer months it was liable to fevers; and much ill health in Mr. Lowndes and his family might have been traced to their residence there."

Mrs. Ravenel's account is partly correct. Lowndes did have a house in town, as he is listed at 89 Broad Street in city directories through 1807.

In the next extant city directory, that of 1809, he is listed: "Lowndes, William, planter, Ashley River, back of race-ground." The next sequential directory, that of 1813, lists: "Lowndes, William, planter, on Ashley River, 2 miles from town."

On March 23, 1812, Lowndes wrote to his wife from Washington, where Congress was in session, "It is doubtful as ever when we shall adjourn. It will certainly be late enough to make me expect to find you at the Grove."

The following year, on June 7, 1813, he wrote from Washington, "As yet, my dear wife, our weather is very pleasant, and I hope your journey to the Grove will have been less painful than I thought you had reason to expect."

Two years later, on the adjournment of Congress on March 3, 1815, "Mr. Lowndes wrote joyously for his horses to meet him at Fayetteville, North Carolina. The Cheves family were to follow shortly after, and he hoped for a long visit from them at the Grove." This was the family of his fellow Congressman, Langdon Cheves of South Carolina.

Lowndes went to England in 1819, returning in October, bringing with him what he described as "the prettiest toy in England, a perfect little steam-engine to play with next summer at the Grove. It shall saw wood, grind corn, raise water, turn a lathe, etc. Although I have got for fifty guineas what would have cost be 250 if I had ordered it, I am afraid that I have made rather a foolish purchase. I do not believe, however, that the largest machine in England is more perfect in all its parts."

In a letter of November 30, 1820, he considered making the Grove a "grass farm."

Lowndes account book for the period 1811-1827, kept for him, and after his death for his widow, by the factors, Kershaw and Lewis, is now in the collection of the S.C. Historical Society. It contains numerous entries of funds paid for nails, salt, rice, rice flour, fruit trees, corn, peas, lime, shoes and plain white and blue cloth for the Grove. An intriguing entry is that of August 20, 1821, in which \$93.60 was "paid for 10,400 Bricks for the Grove." Possibly the brick were for additional slave quarters, as up to that time there are autumnal entries for six pair of shoes for "the people at the Grove." Other entires of interest include one of December 11, 1820, for \$47.89, "paid General Tax 1819 for the Grove"; one of May 25, 1822, for \$68.50, "paid your General Tax for 1821 for the Grove"; and one of July 23, 1827, for \$13.55, "paid Road Tax — X Road (crossroad) Tax & poor Tax 1827 on House & Farm on the neck."

A gruesome sidelight of the period is focused on the property in the

City Gazette and Daily Advertiser of Wednesday, August 15, 1810, which states: "An inquest was held on Monday, on the body of a white man, found dead in an old field adjoining the farm of Wm. Lowndes, esq. opposite the Race Course. The deceased appeared to have been killed some time; he had received a ball under his right breast; he was, as well as could be judged, about forty years of age, five feet seven inches high, and had lost three of his upper teeth; the body had on Russian duck pantaloons, long quartered shoes tied with black ribbon, a black hat with blue lining but neither coat nor waistcoat. The body much mangled by buzzards. The jury brought in a verdict of 'wilful murder against some person or persons unknown.'"

This is followed by an item in the newspaper on Thursday, August 16, which reads: "We are informed that the man found dead in an old field near the race course, and on whom an inquest was held Monday last, was a Frenchman; that he was killed in a duel on the preceding Friday; that two men said to be the seconds, are taken up and committed to prison, and that the officers of justice are in pursuit of the principal — We could not learn their names."

Following Lowndes' death, his widow apparently did not use the house at the Grove as frequently, as she is listed in 1824 at 1 Orange Street, in 1829 at 15 Legare Street and finally in 1831 at 188 Tradd Street, corner of Logan, the pre-Revolutionary residence of Humphrey Sommers, which she bought from the Sommers heirs. She died in 1857.

Lowndes and his wife had two sons, Rawlins Lowndes, and invalid, who married Emma R. Hornby and died young, without issue, and Thomas Pinokney Lowndes, who married Margaret Washington, granddaughter of Col. William Washington of the Revolution. He also died early, leaving three children.

Before their deaths, however, the brothers conveyed the Grove to James E. Boisseau on February 2, 1831, for \$5,100. The property is described then as the "Plantation or Tract of Land called the Grove lately the property of the late Honorable William Lowndes deceased situate...on Ashley River...containing Thirty Three acres (33) of high Land." Boisseau, on March 10, 1831, conveyed the property for \$5,100 to Anna M. Rose, Margaret L. Rose, Amelia Roase and Arthur Gordon Rose. On April 16, 1857, the four Roses received a grant from the State of South Carolina for 48.6 acres of "high shoal and marshlands," including the Grove farm and adjacent marshes. The appearance of the property at that time is shown on the accompanying plat.

Arthur Gordon Rose, who worked his way from clerk to president of the

Bank of Charleston, lived with his three sisters in a house they owned jointly at Rutledge Avenue and Mill Street. He married Elizabeth Wigg Barnwell, daughter of Capt. Edward Barnwell and widow of her cousin Nathaniel Barnwell. She died in 1830 and he subsequently married Elizabeth Gardner. The sisters remained unmarried. Anna Maria Rose died on August 11, 1858, at the age of 67 years, and her will devised her share in the Grove and the Rutledge Avenue property to her sisters Amelia Rose and Margaret Louisa Rose, and after their deaths to her brother, Arthur Gordon Rose, and after his death to his children. Amelia Rose died May 8, 1863, aged 85 years, leaving her share in the two properties to her surviving sister, Margaret Louisa Rose, after whose death it was to go to her brother, Arthur Gordon Rose. Margaret Louisa Rose died August 11, 1865 at Greenville, aged 83 years. Her will devised her share in the Grove and the Rutledge Avenue property to her brother, Arthur Gordon Rose, and after his death, to her nephew, Arthur B. Rose, son of Arthur Gordon Rose. Arthur B. Rose died August 5, 1880 in London, aged 83 years.

Arthur Gordon Rose, in his will probated January 27, 1881, stated: "I give and bequeath to my said son Arthur B. Rose,...all my right and title to my one fourth part Interest in the farm on Charleston Neck, known as the "Grove," the remaining three fourths thereof which belonged to my three sisters, now deceased, being already bequeathed to him, at my death, by their wills respectively."

The son, Arthur B. Rose, received a classical education and attended medical school and completed his education with a tour of Europe. On his return home, he did not practice medicine but became a planter at Fort Royal, having inherited an estate from his mother. He married a Miss Guerard. Following the Confederate War, he continued truck farming at the Grove, where he "was untiring in his efforts to formulate and put in practice new methods and crops adapted to the changed condition of things," according to his obituary in the News and Courier of June 27, 1892. He was elected president of the Agricultural Society of South Carolina. Rose was also one of the earliest investors in the phosphate industry and founded the Rose Mining Co. on the Ashley River, near Bee's Ferry. He was also founded of Enoree Factory (apparently a cotton mill), near Spartanburg. Asked to run for mayor of Charleston, he declined, but later was elected alderman in Courtenay's administration and was chairman of the street committee. He was also president of the Phosphate Exchange, director of the Imperial Fertilizer Co., vice president of the Board of Trustees for the William Enston

Home, an "earnest Unitarian" and vestryman at the Unitarian Church. He was described as "a man of commanding presence" who was "extremely generous." On the night of June 25, 1892, he retired about his usual time, and his family noticed nothing unusual in his behavior. At dawn the following morning, he was found on a bench at Colonial Lake, having apparently shot himself through the head with a Smith and Wesson pistol. No motive was disclosed at the time, but probate records state he died insolvent and indebted to his father's estate in the amount of \$80,512.

On January 29, 1881, soon after his father's death, Dr. Arthur B. Rose sold to Frederick W. Wagener, for \$12,000, the "Tract known as Rose's Farm, on the North side of Grove Street in the City of Charleston," containing 48.6 acres, including 33.2 acres of high land and 14.44 acres of marsh.

Wagener, born October 29, 1832, near Bremerhaven, Germany, came to Charleston at age 16 by way of New York, joining his brother, John, in business here. After some time as a clerk, he opened his own business, which prospered until the Confederate War. He entered the war as a lieutenant with Company A of the German Artillery when that unit was ordered to take Fort Moultrie on December 27, 1860, and was commanding officer of the company when it surrendered in North Carolina in the spring of 1865. In the fall of 1865, the firm of Wagener, Heath and Monsees opened its doors on the northeast corner of East Bay and Queen streets. In 1873, the firm became F.W. Wagener and Co. and in 1880 it moved to the southwest corner of East Bay and Queen. It grew into one of the leading wholesale grocery establishments in the southeast. He was also proprietor of the Pine Forest Inn, a popular resort at Summerville. During the Spanish-American War, he was instrumental in having troops stationed at Summerville and supplied them with water from the artesian well on his hotel property.

Capt. Wagener never offered for political office, although several times he was asked to run for mayor. (His brother, Gen. John A. Wagener, was elected mayor in 1871.) His personal hobby was horses, and he built the track known as the Wagener Track at the Grove. He died at age 89 on November 25, 1921.

During Capt. Wagener's ownership, the Grove had a brief period of public use as part of the South Carolina Interstate and West Indian Exposition, which opened December 1, 1901 and closed May 31, 1902. At the organizational meeting of March 29, 1900, at Thompson Auditorium, Capt. Wagener was made chairman of the board of the exposition company.

The Special Committee on Site, headed by Samuel H. Wilson, secured options on available places and it was determined that the old Washington Race Course and what was known as the Rhett Farm would be a fine site for the exposition. However, tenants at the Rhett Farm refused to vacate on acceptable terms and the committee chose "the beautiful farm of Captain Wagener, which he generously placed at the disposal of the Directors for a term of three years, absolutely without one dollar for rent, or any restrictions whatever as to the manner of its treatment by the architect and landscape artists," according to the "Short History" of the exposition in the Charleston Year Book of 1902. The exposition eventually took in part of Rhett Farm, the Dunneman tract and a strip of Devereaux land, as well, totaling some 250 acres.

"The Washington Race Course was artificial, and the Wagener Farm natural in the plans of the architect, and were treated in this spirit by him. Art was lavished on the one, and Nature was preserved on the other; so that while the bands were playing in the grand Court of Palaces, the birds were singing in the trees on the Farm," the "Short History" notes.

The "Ivory City" was built on what later became Hampton Park. "On the Wagener Farm, or 'Natural Section,' as it was designated by the Architect, stood the Maryland State Building, the New York Building, the Philadelphia Building, the Race Course and Grand Stand, Venice in America, the Palace of Art, the Illinois Building, the Cincinnati Building, the Guatemala Building, the Alaska Building, the Woman's Building, the Louisiana Purchase Building, and the Negro Building.

"Lake Juanita, which was one of the most effective features of the Natural Section, was made by the construction of a dam across a tidal stream, and upon this dam was placed the United States Fisheries Building, and on the northern side of the Lake, on the property of John H. Devereaux, stood the Machinery and Transportation Buildings. The style of architecture employed in the Natural Section was varied. The Woman's Building was pure Colonial, as were also the Maryland and Illinois Buildings, and the Art Palace. The New York State Building was of Spanish type. The Negro Building and the Machinery and Transportation Buildings were of the Mission type, and the Philadelphia Building was of composite, but very beautiful and pleasing construction," the "Short History" noted.

The Woman's Building, of course, was the Grove plantation house. The Exposition architect, Bradford Lee Gilbert of New York, glassed in the lower piazza or loggia. According to the News and Courier of December 1, 1902, a "Colonial tea parlor" was installed in the "western half of the glass

enclosed lower piazza, where a fine view is had of the rippling blue Ashley and its wooded shores and great live oaks and magnolias that dot the landscape." The tea parlor was filled with potted palms, evergreens and tea plants, with rugs on the marble pavement and was described as "a perfect picture of the inside of an Oriental tea house." The tea parlor was sponsored by the ladies of Dorchester County and tea grown in that county was served.

Gilbert also added a large two-story frame annex to the rear of the house, to provide space for a large assembly room with a stage at one end. This room was also used for art exhibits. A restaurant was also installed, and operated under the direction of Mrs. James M. Eason. Another feature was a library of books by women, copies of which were loaned by publishers and authors from throughout the United States and Europe. Rooms of the house itself were apparently used for historical tableaux, as the "Short History" speaks of "the gentle little old ladies and periwigged gentlemen who slipped down out of their frames to consult the time-stained documents in the glass cases in the Colonial Rooms."

According to an account of the time by Mrs. E.H. Pringle, chairman of Colonial Exhibits at the Woman's Building, "Three rooms and a large hall have been devoted to the colonial exhibit. These rooms remain as originally built, with wainscoting and the old high mantels. A colonial dining room and bedroom will be represented, with the fine old furniture of that date."

According to Mrs. Leiding's "Historic Houses of South Carolina, portraits of George Washington and his kinsman, Col. William Washington, and of Col. Joseph Habersham, first postmaster general, hung over the mantels. Also exhibited were an engraving of the famous painting of Gen. Francis Marion inviting British officers to share his dinner of sweet potatoes and another of Marion and his troops crossing the Pee Dee. A copy of the General Proclamation of Peace and an engraving showing Washington being blessed by his mother before departing for battle, were also exhibited.

(Mrs. Leiding repeats the error of calling the house "colonial" on the assumption that it was built by John Gibbes. She also repeats the erraneous story of the duel between Gadsden and Howe having taken place on the property.)

Mrs. Sarah Calhoun Simonds, wife of the wealthy banker, Andrew Simonds, was president of the Woman's Department of the Exposition. According to the editor of "The Exposition," Mrs. Arthur Gordon Rose (daughter-in-law of Dr. Arthur B. Rose), "Every one who could do anything, from speaking a foreign tongue to making caramels, put her talent at the disposal of the cause."

A bewildering number of activities were organized by the Woman's Department, including, "prize drills, song recitals, Salmagundi parties, bazaars, teas, flower balls, concerts, egg-hunts, rummage sales, floral fairs, Japanese teas, balls, lectures, Shakespearean recitals, Greek drills, May-pole dances, tableaux vivants, Terpsichorean carnivals, cake walks, strawberry festivals, lawn parties, spectacular performances, harbor and river exourwions, and other ingenious forms of merry-making -- and money-making."

Ceremonies were held at the Woman's Building on the return to Philadelphia of the Liberty Bell, after six months on display at the Exposition, on June 1, 1902. During President Theodore Roosevelt's visit on April 9, 1902, he attended an "elaborate luncheon" at the Woman's Building and also a tea party at which he was served by local debutantes. That night, he was the guest of Capt. Wagener at the Pine Forest Inn.

A souvenir booklet, "Charleston and the South Carolina Inter-State and West Indian Exposition," published in 1902, shows a photograph of the Woman's Building, with the outline: "In this building has been brought together one of the finest and most interesting collections of antique and modern specimens of handiwork of women ever exhibited in this country."

The photograph also shows, on the newly landscaped front lawn, the sculpture, "Mother and Child," by Miss Elise Ward of Missouri. She also executed other sculptures for the Exposition, including a monumental one called "The Huguenots." The fate of these sculptures after the Exposition was disbanded is unknown.

Despite the fact that the Exposition brought millions of dollars into Charleston's economy, and despite heavy spending of Capt. Wagener's own funds on the enterprise, and despite the appropriation of \$160,000 by the U.S. Congress, the Exposition failed to pay for itself and went into receivership.

The Grove, however, survived, and with the end of the Exposition, the "Natural Section" buildings were removed and the place reverted to its original function of being a farm. The Wagener Track, which had been used for races by the Exposition, now reverted to Capt. Wagener's private use. The site of the "Ivory City" became Hampton Park and the riverfront to the west of the park became, in the 1920s, the new site of The Citadel.

The years after the Exposition saw expansion of residential areas up the Neck, and on April 26, 1913 and September 4, 1914, we find Capt. Wagener entering into agreements with the West Shore Corp. to fix the boundary lines between his property and that of the developer. The old Rose plat of the property was used to redraw the boundaries, taking into account the

fact that the creek on the northern boundary of the Grove had changed course since 1856, when the Rose plat was made. The new boundary is marked X, Y, Z, B, on the plat.

Subsequently, Capt. Wagener sold the Grove itself to a developer, James Sottile, for \$60,000 on March 6, 1919. The property is described in the deed as the tract, formerly known as "Roses Farm," on the north side of Grove Street, measuring and containing 48.6 acres, including 33.2 acres of high land and 15.4 acres of marshland. The deed refers to the Rose plat of 1856 to define the property's boundaries, with the new lines, "except that the line of the Creek shown on said plat has been changed since the date of said plat; it being distinctly understood that the western boundary of said property hereby conveyed is the Ashley River as defined by law." The conveyance was also subject to the right of the present tenant in occupation of the premises; all rents due to be paid to Wagener, together with the right of Wagener "to harvest and remove the spring crops now planted or to be planted by him."

Subsequently, Sottile subdivided the farm into blocks and lots as shown on the accompanying plat of "Wagener Terrace" subdivision. The plat shows the plantation house with the Exposition annex still attached. The large building to the northeast is identified as a barn. Sottile retained the plantation house, with its large lot, for himself. According to his biography in Herbert Ravenel Sass's "The Story of the South Carolina Low-country," Sottile restored the house. Mrs. Leiding gives his wife credit for the restoration.

Sottile was born in Palermo, Sicily, on June 1, 1887, the youngest son of seven children of Salvatore Sottile, a mechanical engineer, and Rocina (Albergams) Sottile. At the age of 12, he came to Charleston, where his brother, Giovanni, was Italian consul for the Carolinas. He was educated in Charleston's parochial and public schools and entered business. He was naturalized as an American citizen in 1913. Initially, he was engaged in the development of motion picture theatres in the Charleston area. Then he purchased the Charleston Hotel, which he managed until 1929. He was instrumental in development of the Isle of Palms and operated the ferry and electric car line between the mainland and the islands. His dream, a bridge across the Cooper River, was taken up and fulfilled by others. He was among the early developers of the lands about Hampton Park and lands in North Charleston near the U.S. Navy Yard. He and his family lived at the Grove until the mid-twenties when they moved to Florida. Sottile, taking

advantage of the crash of the Florida land boom, bought 20,000 acres for \$30,000 near Miami, which he developed into South Dade Farms Inc. He also had a ranch in Brevard County, Florida, covering some 50 square miles. During World War II, he founded a construction firm and the South Dade Farmer's Bank. In later years, his worth was estimated at \$100 million. He gave to the public a bayfront park on Biscayne Bay in 1950. He was married on June 16, 1909, to Louise Lillian Mohlmann, daughter of William and Rachel Mohlmann of Charleston.

James Sottile, on January 5, 1920, conveyed to Evelyn Realty Co., the Grove house and grounds, plus adjacent land to the south, now the right of way of First Avenue. The Evelyn Realty Co., on June 20, 1924, conveyed the property to the Charleston Heights Co., on September 19, 1924, conveyed the property to Santo Sottile. (One gathers these transactions were actually "in house" type of conveyances, the kind of deed shuffling developers go through for tax purposes and other reasons).

Thus Santo Sottile became owner of the property, which was subject to a \$15,000 mortgage given on December 18, 1919, to Belle Blank on November 15, 1922, to Mrs. Henrietta D. Koster. Mrs. Koster was the widow of Julius D. Koster, Capt. Wagener's nephew and business partner.

Santo Sottile subsequently died, leaving a will dated June 26, 1930, in which he named the South Carolina National Bank, Santo Sottile and Albert Sottile as executors of his estate. Mrs. Koster, on July 21, 1932, filed her complaint in the Court of Common Pleas, against these executors, contending that they had failed to pay off the mortgage on the Grove property. The case was heard on November 15, 1932, and the court decreed that the property be sold at auction. The auction was held on December 8, 1932, and Mrs. Koster was the high bidder at \$15,000. According to the court decree, this bid was to stand unless a higher bid was submitted within 30 days of the auction. On January 7, 1933, a bid of \$20,000 was submitted in the name of C. Deas Gadsden. However, this bid was not complied with within the 15 days required by the decree. Consequently, the Master of Equity advertised the sale again and sold the property again at public outcry on February 23, 1933. Mrs. Koster was again the highest bidder, at \$17,500.

The property conveyed is described in the deed as a lot with buildings, extending from Fifth Avenue to Sixth Avenue on the East and West lines and from First Avenue to Third Avenue on the South and North lines, and measuring 508 feet, six inches on Fifth Avenue; 231 feet on Third Avenue; 480 feet on Sixth Avenue; and 399 feet on First Avenue; and containing approximately 3.47 acres.

Mrs. Koster apparently never lived at the Grove, maintaining her residence on Rutledge Avenue. On May 21, 1937, she sold the Grove property to Albert Gallatin Simms and Mrs. Ruth Hanna Simms, for \$17,000.

Albert Gallatin Simms (named for Albert Gallatin, who was a contemporary of William Lowndes and served as U.S. Secretary of the Treasury), was a prominent lawyer and banker of Albuquerque, N.M. He had served in the New Mexico House of Representatives in 1925-27, and in the U.S. Congress in 1929-31, and had been a member of the Republican National Committee since 1932. Mrs. Simms had also been a member of Congress (from Illinois) in 1929-31. She was a daughter of Marcus (Mark) A. Hanna, Republican "President-maker" of the turn of the century and the widow of Medill McCormick, the Chicago newspaper publisher. She was Republican national committeewoman from Illinois in 1924-28 and in 1930 was a Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate. She was publisher of two newspapers at Rookford, Ill., and had "won national recognition for her interest in child labor, civic improvement and women's organization," according to a News and Courier story of May 22, 1937.

The Simms' told the News and Courier at the time that: "They plan to use the residence seasonably and to make extensive changes in the property, particularly in the grounds." The Charleston firm of Simons and Lapham was retained to restore the house. According to a story in the Charleston Evening Post, on April 23, 1968, the Simms, in 1937, found on the property an 80-year-old former slave, Henry Brown, who had been born on the plantation in 1857, and who served as gardener there until he died. Whether this is true or not is not known, but the same story repeats many other errors and untrue statements concerning the house.

The Simms, on July 12, 1937, bought from the City Council of Charleston, for \$2,000, a tract of marshland to the west of the house, between Fifth Avenue and the Ashley River, containing approximately 10.8 acres. City Council also granted to them the right to "use, occupy, landscape and improve," that portion of Fifth Avenue between the house lot and the marsh, by a resolution adopted by council on August 10, 1937.

The tract of marshland had been the property of the Charleston Heights Co. and on September 6, 1932, Sheriff Joseph M. Poulnot had seized it for taxes. The tract had been valued at \$300 in 1931, with a tax of \$13.91. Poulnot, on June 6, 1934, conveyed the tract to City Council for \$156. This transaction was confirmed by a subsequent deed on July 10, 1937.

The Simms, on May 26, 1941, conveyed the house and lot, the marsh tract and the right to use the portion of Fifth Avenue, for \$27,000 to Walter Kent

Prause. The Simms then bought the residence of Mrs. Edwin Parsons at 51 East Battery.

Prause, new owner of the Grove, was born August 4, 1895, a son of William C.D. Prause and Mrs. Helena Prause of Charleston, and by the age of 40 was one of the leading heating and plumbing contractors in Charleston. The Plumbing and Heating Trade Journal of July 19, 1935, describes him as six feet, three inches tall, weighing 230 pounds, with "blue eyes that look straight at you." According to the journal, his formula for success was: "Stick to quality work and stay out of out-throat competition. That's how I made my success." Prause, at age 13, started work as an apprentice ship's plumber at the Charleston Navy Yard. He advanced through the grades as plumber and mechanic and opened his own business in 1922. His business was very prosperous and at one time employed as many as 60 persons. He married Marie A. Hollings. He was president of the S.C. Master Plumbers' Assn. and of the Charleston Rifle Club. He died on September 4, 1973, at age 78 and is buried in Bethany Cemetery. In January, 1975 a flagpole dedicated to his memory was erected at the Country Club of Charleston, a gift of Milton Pearlstine.

To Prause can be attributed the extraordinary number of plumbing facilities found in the house when the present owners acquired it.

The property was conveyed by his widow, Mrs. Marie A. Prause, to the present owner on July 25, 1974.

Judging the age of a house is no easy task, especially when the house has gone through as many changes in ownership and changes in taste as has the house at Lowndes' Grove.

However, there are certain standards to which architectural historians adhere in the "dating" of buildings. One rule is that architectural and decorative details found on upper floors are usually original, as remodelings usually take place in the principal rooms of a house, those most likely to be seen by visitors. Thus, it can be assumed that the two Georgian style mantels, complete with crossettes or "ears," which are found in two of the attic rooms are original to the house. On this basis, it can be assumed that the main body of the house pre-dates the Adam period and therefore pre-dates William Lowndes' ownership.

The house cannot be "colonial" in period, for as we have seen, John Gibbes' house was destroyed during or soon after the Revolution, and also

stood somewhat to the southeast of the present house, below Grove Street.

However, Georgian architecture continued to be employed in the years immediately after the Revolution and prior to the introduction of the Adam style of architecture. Therefore, we can look for a builder in the early post-Revolutionary period.

The earliest specific mention of a house is in the conveyance of John Beaufain Irving's attorney, Jacob AEmilius Irving, to Mary Clodner Vesey, on July 9, 1796. The deed recites the agreement by which John Beaufain Irving appointed Jacob AEmilius Irving his attorney, with authorization to sell his farm, "together with the Capital mefsauge tenement or dwelling house." The plantation is then called Wedderburn Lodge, a name which would also confirm the existence of a house.

Another rule used in dating houses is that, generally, when the price of a property increases sharply between the time that one owner purchases it and the time that the same owner sells it, one can assume that substantial improvement has been made on the property, such as the construction of a house.

John Beaufain Irving sold the property for 1,200 pounds sterling in 1796, having bought it for 1,500 pounds sterling in 1793. This would indicate that he probably did not improve the property during this period and perhaps had let it run down, since he spent so much of his time in Jamaica.

It may be assumed then, that either the Honorable John Mathews, who sold the property to Irving in 1793, built the house, or that Mathews' brother-in-law, George Abbott Hall, who acquired the property in 1786, built the house. The documents by which first Hall, and then Mathews, acquired the property have been lost, so our comparison of purchase prices breaks down here.

However, the census of 1790 comes to our rescue. The census was taken by streets, and George A. Hall is found toward the end of the list for the Parish of St. Philip and St. Michael, near Nicholas Cobia and John Surtliff (Sutcliffe), and other residents of Charleston Neck. Thus, Hall had his residence on the Neck at the time of the census, which lists in his household two free white males, three free white females and seven slaves.

It can be assumed then, that George Abbott Hall built a house sometime between the time he purchased three adjoining lots in the initial breakup of Gibbs' property on August 23, 1786, and the taking of the census in 1790.

That the house survived may be ascertained in the following comparable purchase prices, in which there is no substantial drop: Mathews to Irving,

1793, 1,500 sterling; Irving to Vesey, 1798, 1,200 pounds sterling; Vesey to Lowndes, 1804, 3,000 guineas (the mortgage accompanying this last transaction is conditioned on payment of 1,071 pounds, 19 shillings, fourpence, with legal interest.)

Samuel Gaillard Stoney, who apparently was the first attribute the building of the Grove house to Lowndes, compounds the error, in his "Plantations of the Carolina Lowcountry," with the statement that Lowndes built the house in 1803. This is an absurdity, as Lowndes acquired the property in 1804.

It was probably William Lowndes, however, who remodeled the principal rooms with Adam-style decorations.

A later style, which derived from the Adam style and is known as Regency, is apparent in the dining room and the room above it. This style became popular in Charleston in the late 1820s and early 1830s. As Lowndes' widow did not use the house during this period, it is unlikely that she was responsible for these changes. The credit would go to the large and expanding Rose family, who probably lengthened the rear rooms of the house soon after they bought the property in 1831. The presense of beaded weatherboarding on the exterior of this rear addition would also point to the addition's being added about this time, as beading on weatherboarding went out of style soon after this time. The rear addition is plainly marked on the plat of 1856. The rear addition "trapped" inside the house the semi-circular stairwell, which originally was a projecting bay on the rear of the house, with a window between the first and second floor landings.

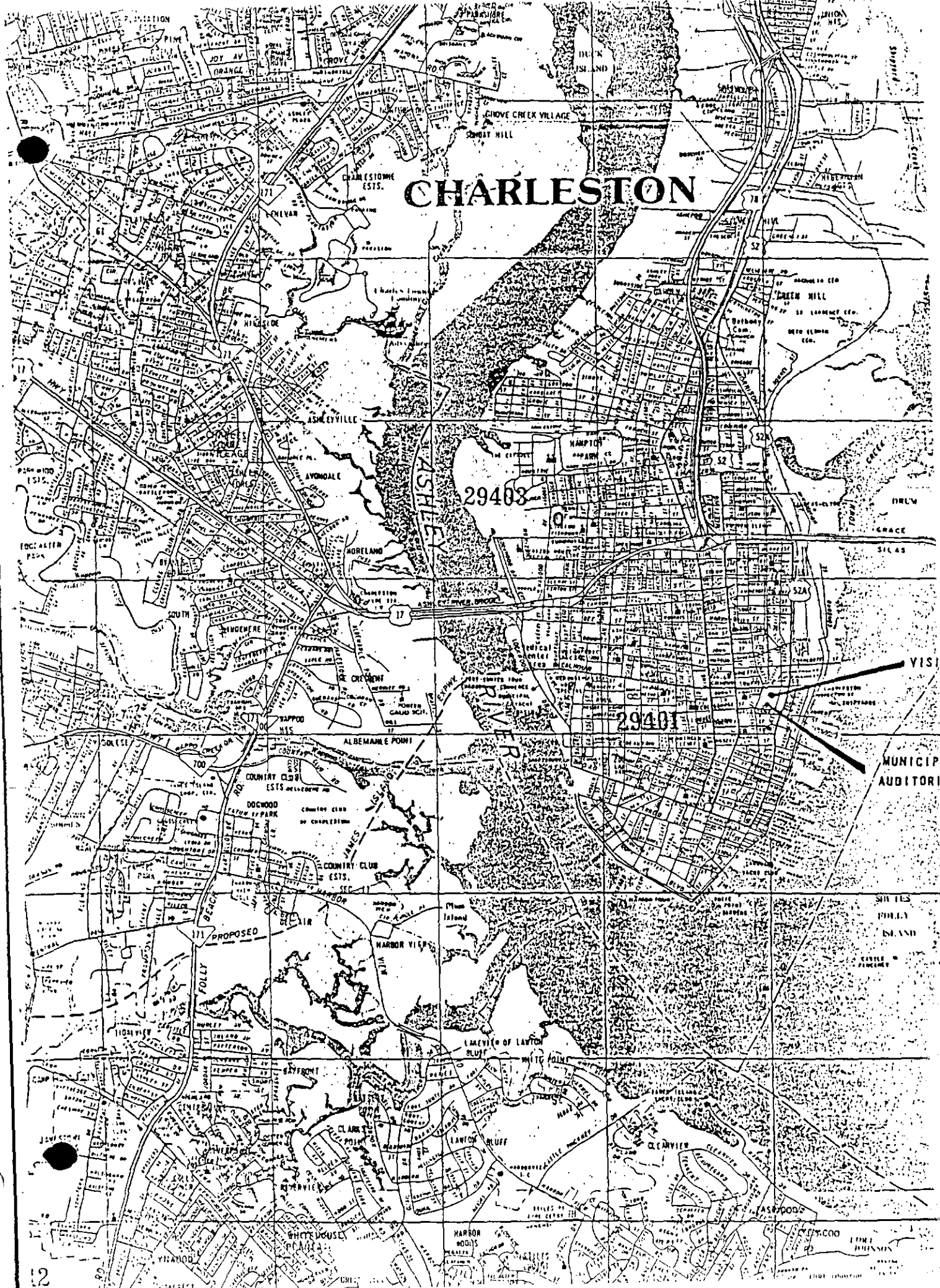
The present columned piazzas are plainly shown on the plat of 1856. It is probable they were added by the Roses also, as the Gothic-style pointed arches on the lower piazza or loggia were becoming popular about the time of their purchase of the property, the Gothic style having been successfully revived by architect Robert Mills.

Subsequent owners also added their imprint to the house. The round ceiling medallion in the second floor hallway, for instance, is distinctly Victorian. The medallion is shown in a photograph of the hallway published in "The Exposition" magazine in 1900. The same photograph shows plain walls and plain wainscotting in the hallway; consequently it is evident the present paneling was added after that date.

Photographs of the house taken before and during the Exposition show the house with a slate roof. The tile roof appears in a photograph of the house which appeared in the News and Courier about the time the Simms acquired it. It is probable then, that the tile roof was added when the

Sottiles restored the house after 1919. The present outbuildings, which also have tiled roofs, were probably added about the same time, as they do not appear on the 1919 plat.

The glass of the loggia, of oourse, was added for the Exposition. All such additions have been skillfully and pleasing blended with original details, so that they compliment the original and provide an overall atmosphere of grace and beauty equal to that of any comparable Charleston mansion.



CHARLESTON

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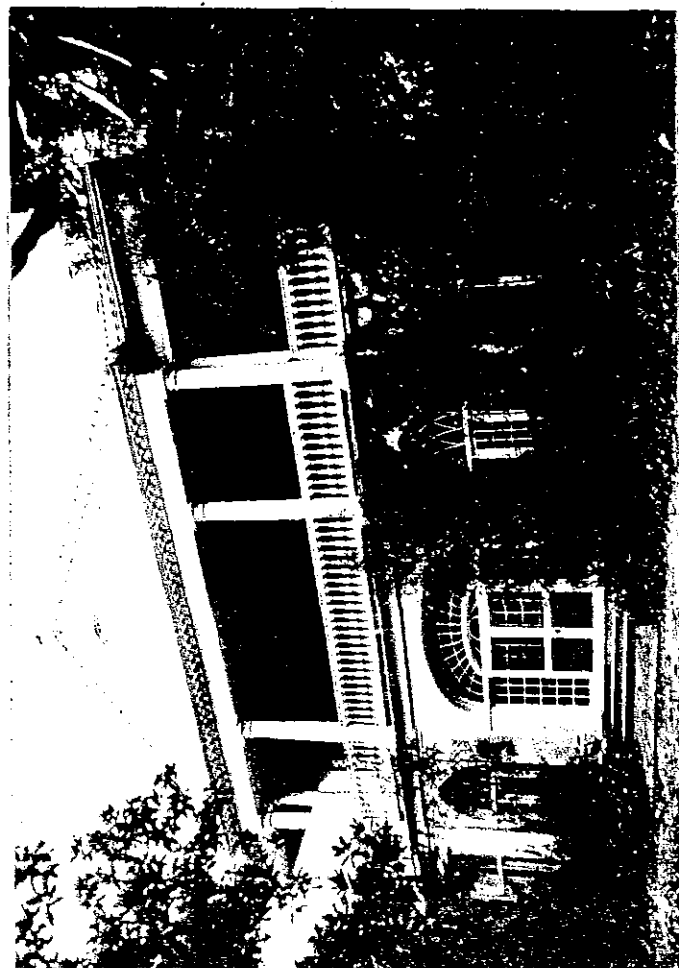
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MUNICIPAL
AUDITORIUM

FOLLY
ISLAND

JAMES
ISLAND

LOWE
JOHNSON



FRONT VIEW OF MANSION



REAR VIEW OF MANSION



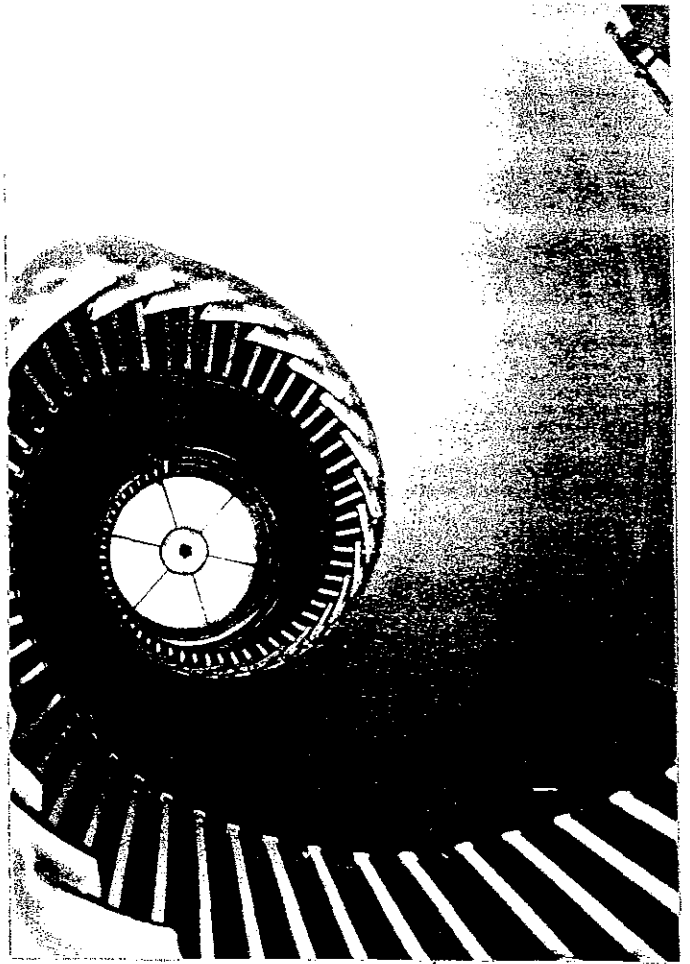
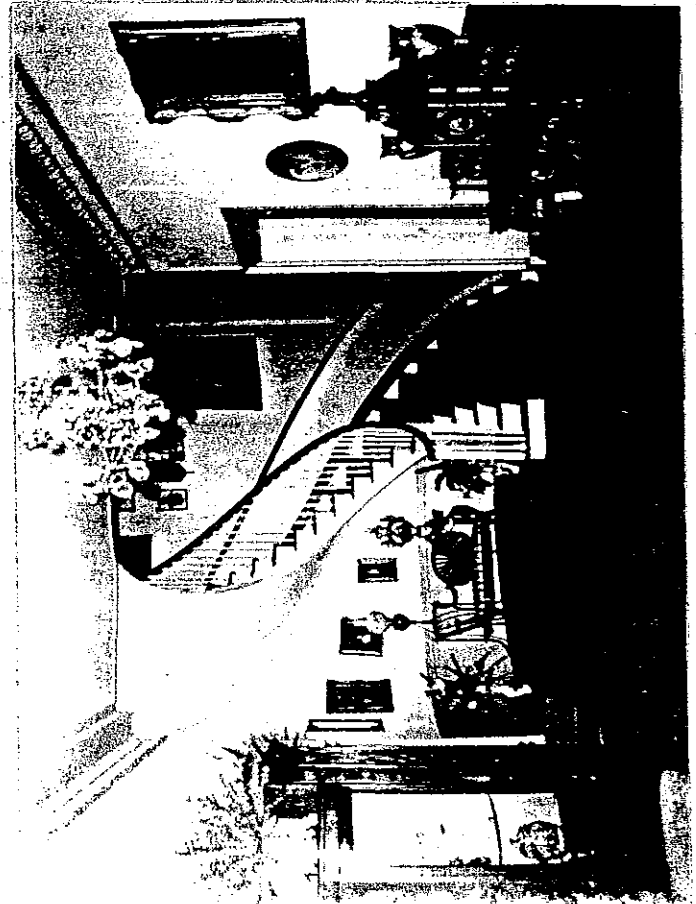
SIDE VIEW OF GROUNDS BORDERING ASHLEY RIVER

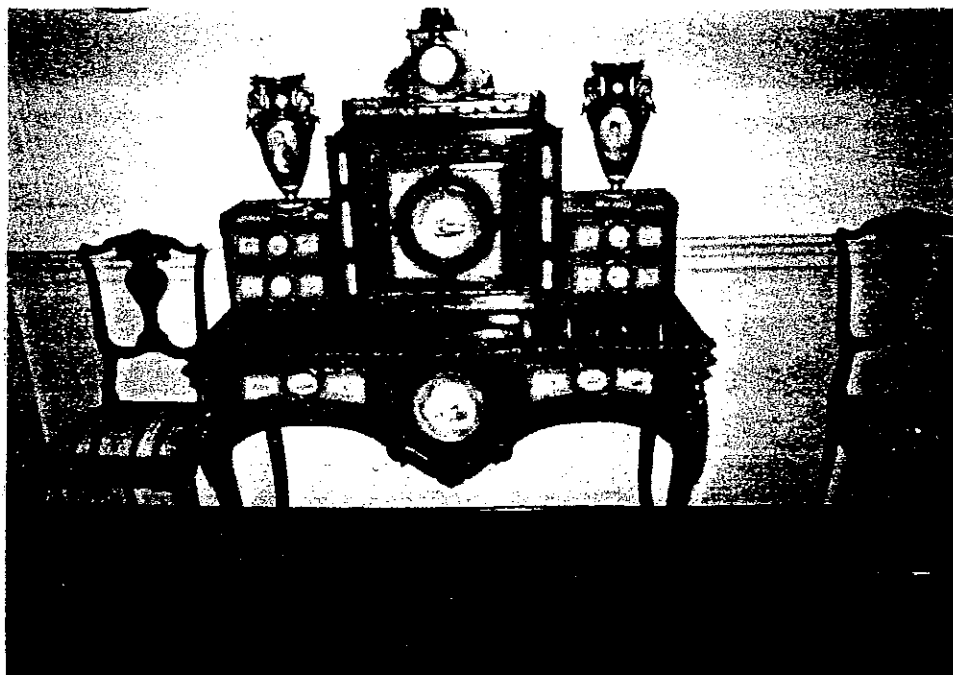


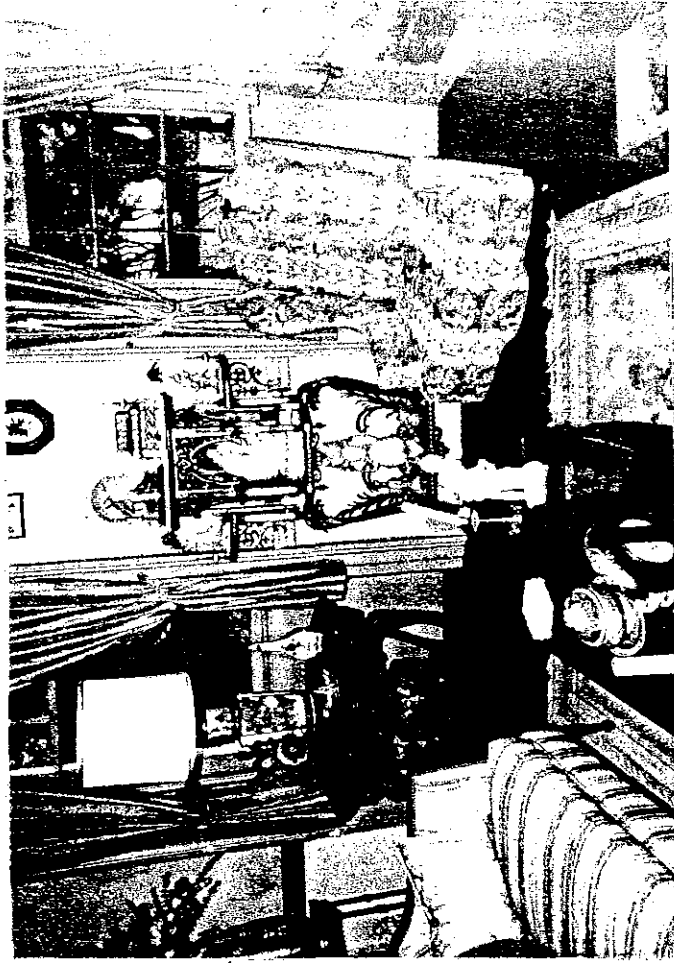
FLORIDA ROOM AT ENTRANCE OF MANSION



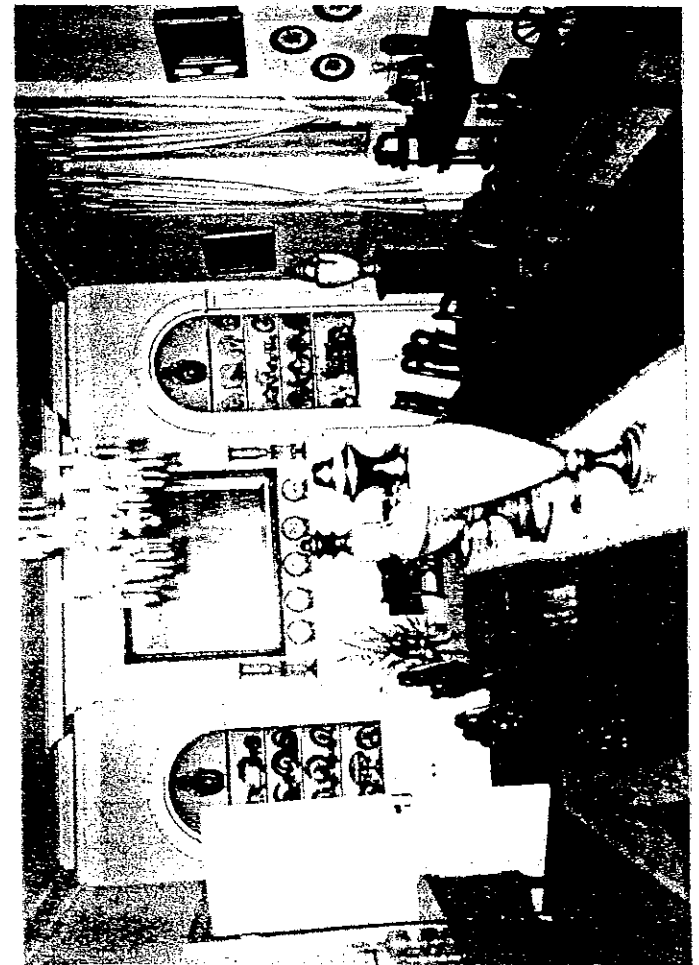
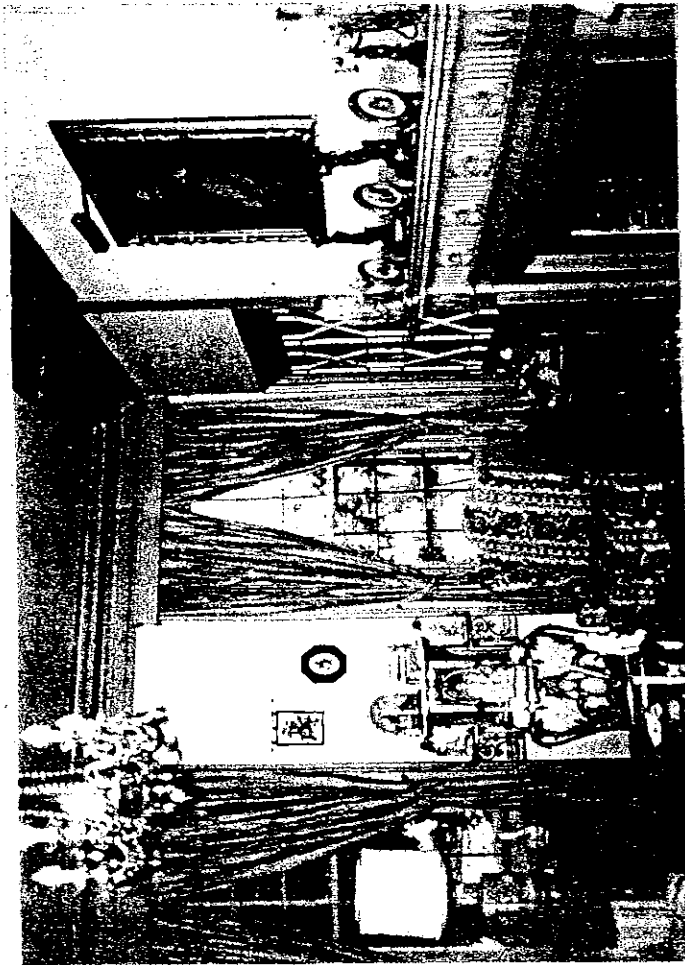
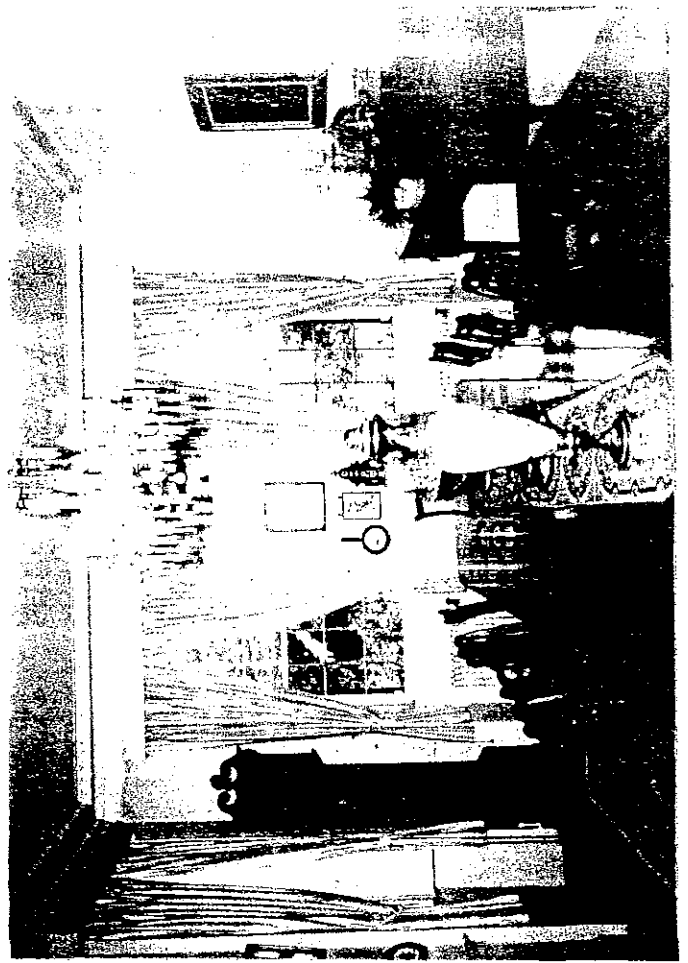
ENTRANCE HALL VIEWS







SITTING ROOM



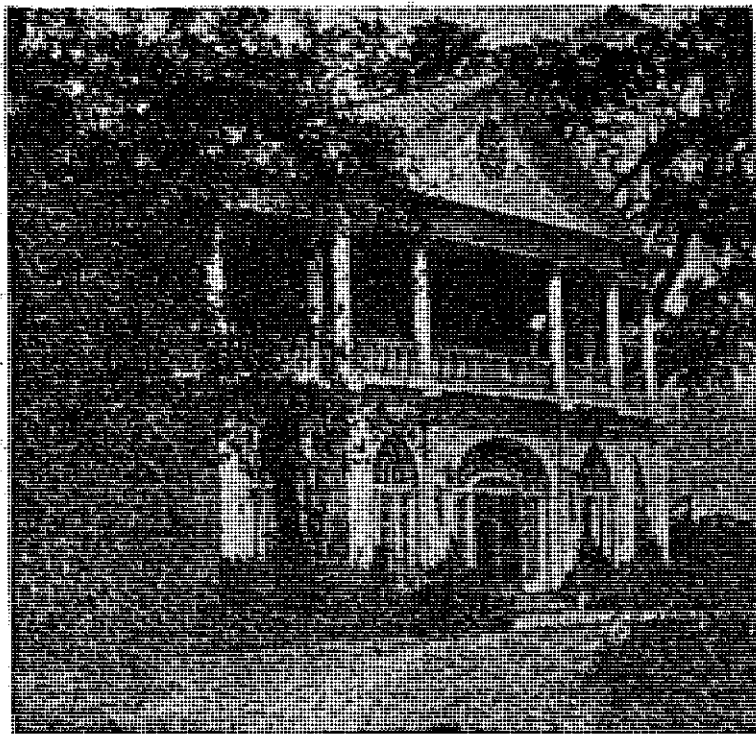
SITTING ROOM

The house itself is built entirely of black cypress and cedar put together with old fashioned hand made nails.

The paneling in all the rooms is very beautiful, and the house itself is built on the square Colonial style, having and inclosed Loggia in the brick basement which forms the first story of the house. It also contains a lovely Circular Stairway, and big fire places with finely carved mantles are found throughout the house.

The house is now in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Walter K. Prause.

Grove St. House Sold



A FRONT VIEW OF THE Grove street house owned by Mr. and Mrs. Albert G. Simon, which is being purchased by Walter K. Prause, is pictured above. It has fine grounds with large old trees and a magnificent view of the Ashley river.

The map facing is a detail from Sir Henry Clinton's "Sketch of the Operations Before Charlestown," in 1780. It shows Charlestown Neck above the city, with the Broad Road or Great Path as its "spinal cord." John Gibbes' house and garden are shown to the east of "Gibbs Landing." The following is the map's key:

A. Landing Place of the Artillery, Stores & Provisions, on Charlestown Neck from Linnings Creek, the 30th March.

The General Officers Quarters

B. Sir Henry Clinton's Head Quarters

C. Lord Cornwallis's " "

D. Maj. Gen. Leslie " "

E. Maj. Gen. Kosborths " "

Encampments —

F. 1st & 2nd Battns British Grenadiers

G. 1st & 2nd, 3rd & 4th Battns Hessian Grenrs

H. 1st & 2nd Battn 71st Regt.

I. 33rd Regiment

K. 7th Regiment

L. 1st & 2nd Battns Light Infantry

M. 1st & 2nd Battns 42nd Regt

N. Hessian Jagers

O. Artillery & Park

P. Commissary's Tents

4, 5, and 6 — Redouts begun 1st April for establishing the First Parallel.



Gibbs Landing

Lanning's Creek

DESCRIPTION OF BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS

Approximate Living Space of 3-Story Mansion: 6,968.8 sq. ft.

First Floor: Approximately 3,095.6 sq. ft. consisting of:

Entrance Florida Room measuring 13'5" by 50'.

Entrance Hall with Spiral Stairway. 12' x 29'

Two Sitting Rooms, each with fireplaces. 15'8" x 18'9" & 13'8" x 15'12"

Large Dining Room with Fireplace. 15'8" x 24'

Study with Fireplace.

Large modern kitchen with cabinets from floor to 12' ceiling.

Breakfast Nook.

Half Bath.

Second Floor: Approximately 2,420.6 sq. ft. consisting of:

Large connecting Hall. 12' x 29'

* Four large Bedrooms, each with fireplaces.

Three and one-half baths.

Large Porch (675 sq. ft.)

Third Floor: Approximately 1,452.6 sq. ft. consisting of:

Two large Bedrooms.

One small Sitting Room or Bedroom.

One Bath.

* 16'6" x 25', 17' x 20', 14' x 15' & 14' x 15'

Approximate Living Space of Carriage House: 2,800 sq. ft.

First Floor: Approximately 1,600 sq. ft. consisting of:

Very large Den with Bar and Alcove Sitting Area.

Billiard Room.

Second Floor: Approximately 1,200 sq. ft. consisting of:

Two large Bedrooms with dormer windows.

Full Bath.

Small Kitchen.

Approximate Living Space of Guest House: 753 sq. ft.

One Floor:

Living Room

Bedroom

Bath

Spacious Kitchen.

Approximate Space of Repair Shop: 164.2 sq. ft.

TOTAL APPROXIMATE SQUARE FOOTAGE OF THE THREE HOMES: 10,521.8

FURNISHINGS NOT INCLUDED IN SALES PRICE.

RIVER

60' AVE.

FOURTH

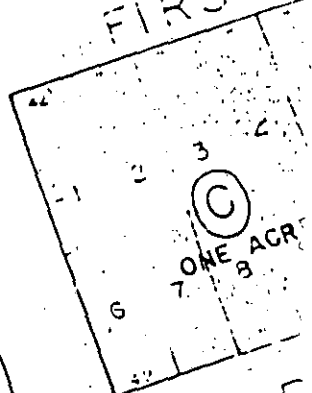
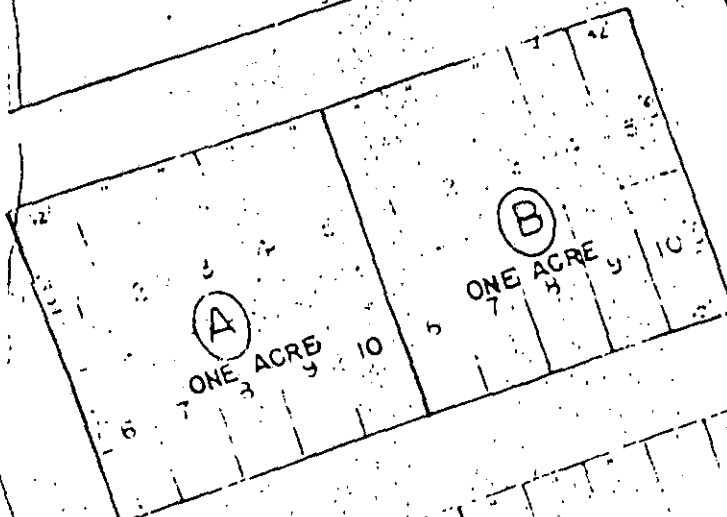
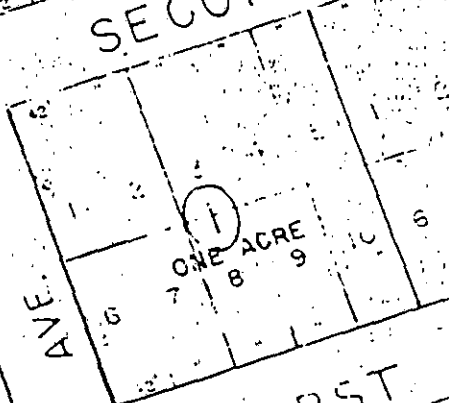
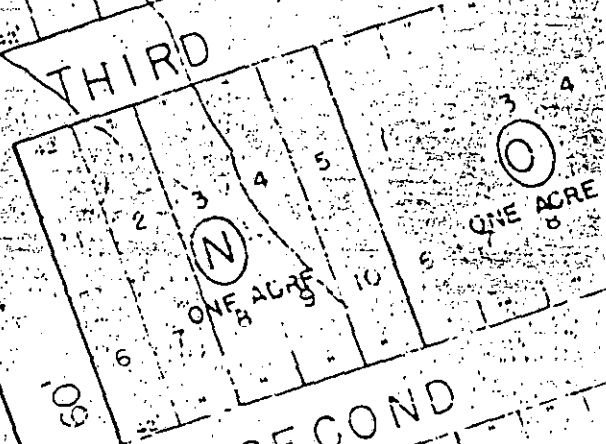
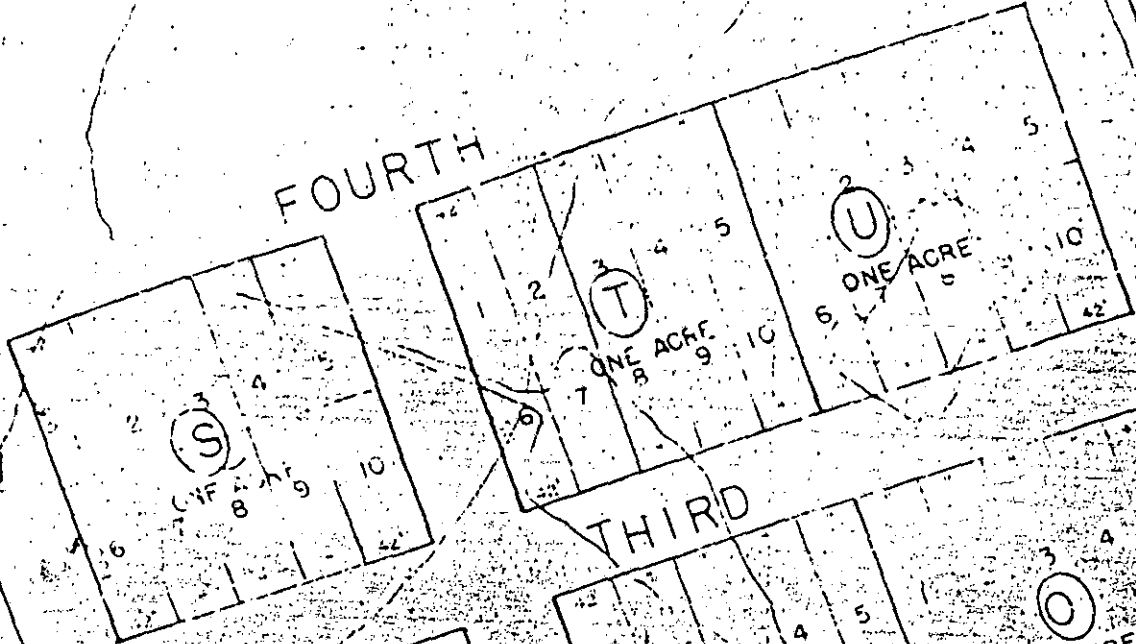
THIRD

SECOND

FIRST

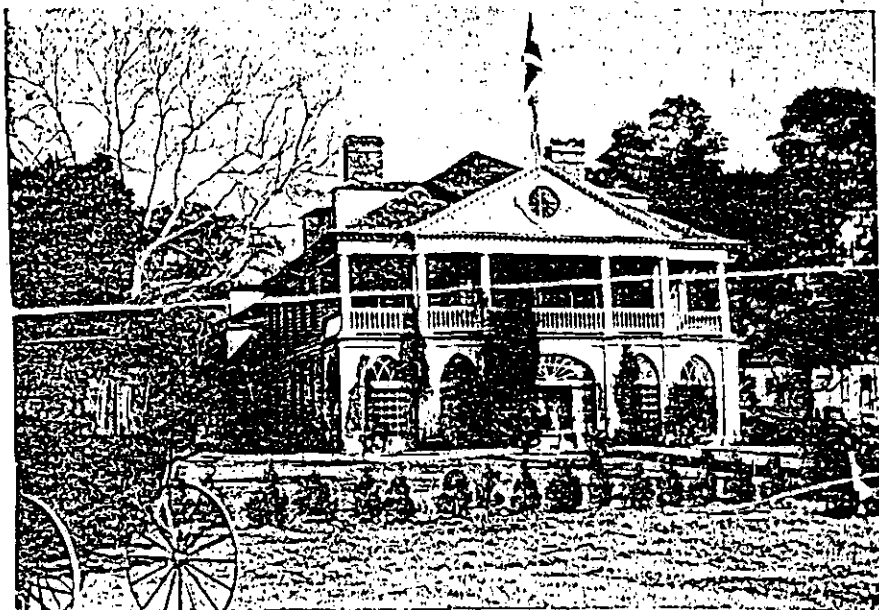
AV

STREET



GF

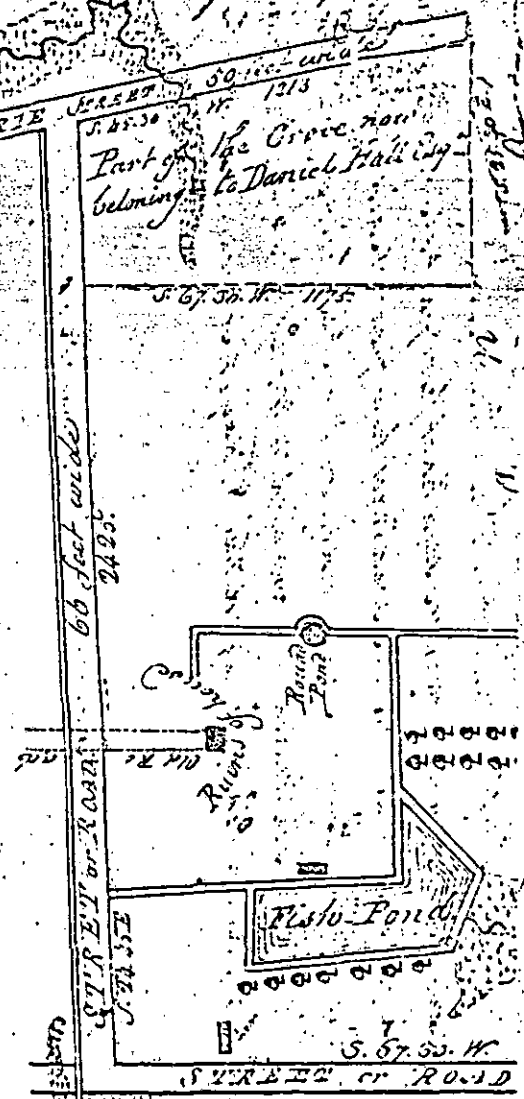
The plat facing shows the property conveyed to Christopher Williman by Robert Gibbes and his wife in 1790. It shows the ruins of John Gibbes' house and the remnants of his gardens. The tract is bounded on the north by a new street 60 feet wide which is now called Grove Street. Above the street is the property conveyed by Robert Gibbes and his wife to George Abbott Hall in 1786.



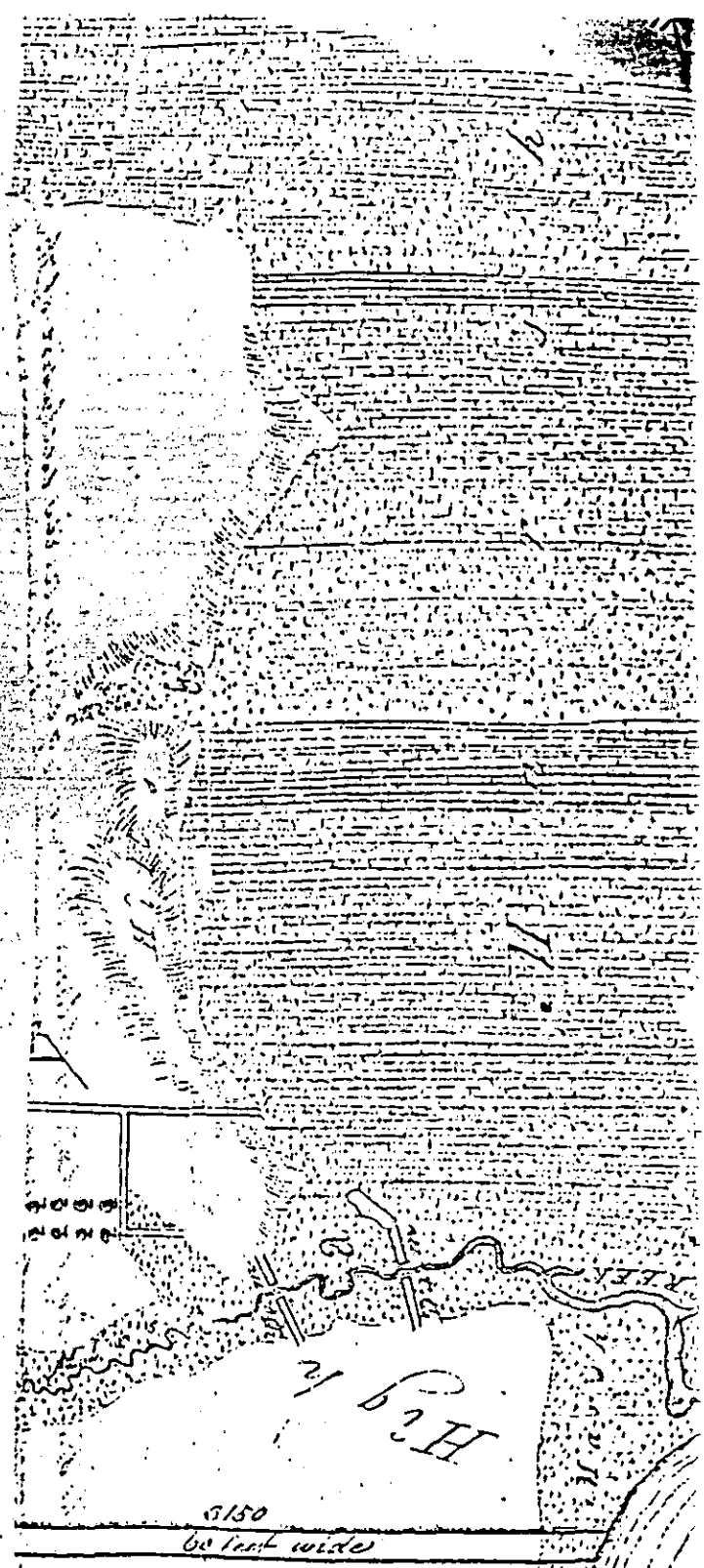
The plat facing shows part of Wagener Terrace subdivision as created by James Sottile in 1919. The plat shows the Grove house with the rear addition left over from the Exposition. The large building to the northeast is identified as a barn.

Part of WASHING
 belonging to Daniel L.

Part of the Grove belonging to
 Robert Gibbs Esquire



Part of the Grove
 now belonging to
 George Hall Esquire



Part of the Grove
 now belonging to
 George Hall Esquire





CHARLESTON—THE FIRE AREAS, DRAWN IN 1925

The plat facing shows the appearance of the Grove plantation at the time of the state grant to the Roses in ¹⁸⁵⁷1856. The drawing of the dwelling shows the rear addition and the present piazzas, which were probably added by the Roses soon after they bought the plantation from the Lowndes in 1831.

The plat also shows later markings, such as the line, from X to Y to Z to B, which fixed the northern boundary in agreements between Capt. F. W. Wagener and the West Shore Corporation in 1913 and 1914. These changes were made necessary because the creek on the north side of the boundary had changed its course.

