

It was built for Elizabeth Robinson, who purchased the site in 1796. From c. 1801 it was the home of Peter Freneau, a prominent journalist, merchant and shipowner, and Jeffersonian politician. A New Jersey native of Huguenot descent, he was a brother of Philip Freneau, the "Poet of the Revolution." He came to Charleston in 1782 and became co-editor of the City Gazette and Daily Advertiser. He was Secretary of State of South Carolina and a state legislator, and in 1800 managed Jefferson's Presidential campaign in the state. Elizabeth Robinson died in 1812, bequeathing the property to Freneau, with the condition that he pay her niece the value of the real estate. He was unable to pay and the property was sold at auction. He continued to live here until his death, near bankruptcy, in 1813.

(Stockton, unpub. notes.)

36 George St. -- This three story red brick house was built sometime before 1834 by Edward Darrell or his heirs, Amelia Lois Lequeux and Sarah H. Lequeux. The facade has a rusticated first level with an Ionic columned entrance, and giant order pilasters at the corners, supporting a heavy molded cornice. (Allen, DYKYC, Nov. 29, 1982. Stoney, This is Charleston, 52.)

* 58 George St. -- This Adamesque period house, with two and one half stories of wood on a brick basement, was built c. 1803 by Barnard Elliott, a wealthy planter. It has a Regency front doorway and interior woodwork from the George Walker House, which stood at 26 George until 1912. The property is now part of the College of Charleston campus.

(Stockton, DYKYC, Nov. 14, 1977.)

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36 George Street

Lequeux-Williams House

Constructed c. 1834

This three-story red brick house was built by Edward Darrell or his heirs, Amelia Lois Lequeux and Sarah H. Lequeux. The facade has a rusticated first level with Ionic columned entrance and giant order pilasters at the corners, supporting a heavy molded cornice.

44 George Street

The Sottile Theater

(See 327-329 King Street)

58 George Street

Barnard Elliot House

Constructed c. 1802; restored 1971

This Adamesque house, with two and a half stories of wood on a brick basement, was built by planter Barnard Elliott. It has a Regency front doorway and interior woodwork from the George Walker House, which stood at 26 George until 1912. The property is now part of the College of Charleston campus as the Rivers Communication Museum.

66 George Street

College of Charleston Main Campus: Harrison-Randolph Hall

Constructed 1828

William Strickland, E.B. White (portico and wings), architects

Porter's Lodge

Constructed c. 1850s

Edward B. White, architect

Towell Library

Constructed 1856

George Walker, architect

The historic campus of the College of Charleston includes Harrison Randolph Hall, the Towell Library, and the Porter's Lodge. Harrison Randolph Hall, the old main building, was designed by architect William Strickland of

Philadelphia and was built in 1828. Strickland (c.1787-1854) studied under Benjamin Henry Latrobe (one of the architects of the U.S. Capitol) and designed several Philadelphia buildings and the Tennessee capitol. The portico and wings were added in 1850 by architect Edward Brickell White, who also designed the Porter's Lodge and the cast iron fence, which was executed by Christopher Werner.

The 1886 earthquake damaged the wings which were rebuilt following the designs of E.R. Rutledge, modified by Dr. Gabriel Manigault. The architectural firm, Simons & Lapham, designed an extension of the west wing built in 1930. A new portico was added in 1975 on the north side of the building, facing the College Mall.

In front of White's Ionic portico is the Cistern, used for May commencements and arts performances.

The Towell Library, on the west side of the green, was completed in 1856 and is an Italianate building designed by architect George E. Walker. The plan of the main floor was influenced by Mills' South Carolina College Library and Latrobe's Library of Congress. The main room is two stories high with encircling galleries at the second level.

The Porter's Lodge is patterned after a Roman triumphal arch.

72 George Street

John King House

Constructed c. 1837; moved and rehabilitated 1972

This Greek Revival single house was turned 90 degrees to make room for the College of Charleston science center. It serves as offices for the college.

74 George Street

Constructed c. 1837

This Greek Revival single house, three and a half stories of brick, was also moved to make room for

*Architectural Guide to
Charleston*

THE BERNARD ELLIOT HOUSE

c. 1802

58 George Street

From the general resemblance of the exterior of this house to those of the Josiah Smith House, 7 Meeting Street (1788) and of the William Blake House, 321 East Bay (1789) it is indicated that it belongs to that small number of houses built not long after the British occupation forces evacuated the city. The interiors of this house have a unique resemblance to another house of this period, that is, the Joseph Winthrop House, 129 Tradd Street (1796). Both these houses are built of timber framing above brick basements and the exterior walls are built of a double row of studs with an empty space between. The sole purpose of this structural redundancy apparently was to provide the opportunity for installing inside paneled shutters in the deep window jambs as was commonly done in houses with thick walls of brick. Perhaps recent memories of street disorders during military occupation prompted this defensive precaution.

Not so many years ago, this house was drastically remodeled into a multiple apartment and the interior woodwork from a later house in the neighborhood being wrecked at that time was transplanted by main force. Like so many feats of modern surgery in transplanting human organs the "host" did not benefit by the operation.

However; better days are now in store for this venerable mansion. The College of Charleston in its carefully considered program of expansion into its surrounding neighborhood has adopted a policy of preserving and repairing as many of the old buildings as can be saved and utilized. However, accepting the ultimate wisdom of the parable about the "tares and the wheat", no attempt is being made to cast out the intruding woodwork and at least it will always serve as an ever ready topic of conversation and all irrelevant partitioning has been removed; the integrity of the rooms restored.

A.S.

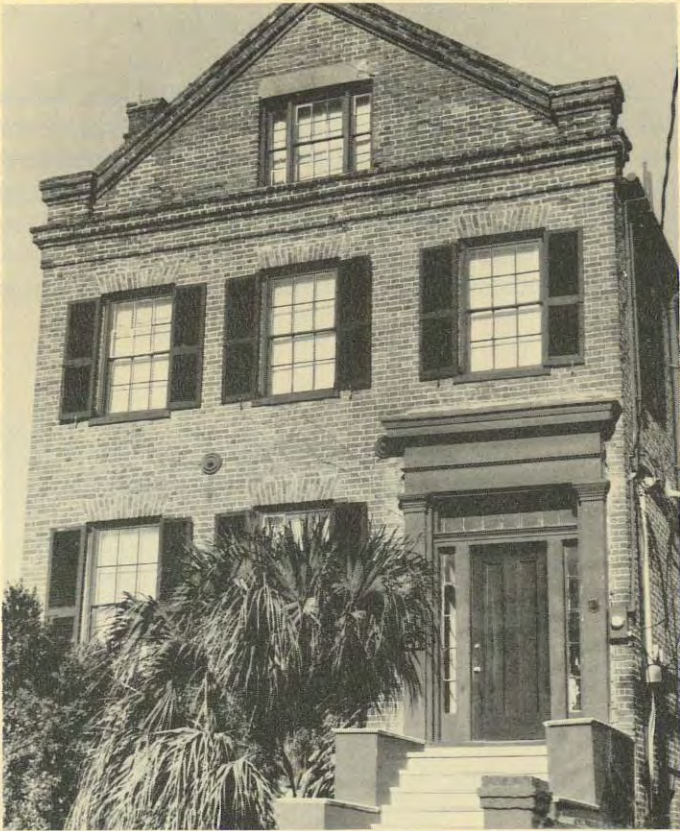
Excerpt from *Gems in a Crown: A Pictorial of Preservation at the College of Charleston* (Charleston, SC: College of Charleston Foundation, 1976)

The Morrison-Arms House
28 George Street
circa 1780 and 1833

A connoisseur of Charleston houses might glimpse this dwelling at 28 George Street and pronounce it as dating from the antebellum period—a correct assessment. Yet to the rear of and incorporated into the three-story brick house stands a two-story wooden structure which dates from the 1780's. This was, for approximately twenty-five years, the home of Captain John Morrison, mariner and merchant. In 1809 the Captain sold the house for \$3,465 and moved to his new residence at 125 Tradd Street.

The George Street dwelling changed hands several times, and in 1833 Mrs. Elizabeth Arms bought the property. Soon after, Mrs. Sarah Arms (their relationship is uncertain) for work "done in a workmanlike manner for the Sum of Four Thousand Dollars" had the three-story brick portion constructed. The house was "to be built of Grey Brick on the outside & Brown Brick inside walls" with a full story basement containing "a cistern not less than five feet deep to hold six thousand gallons of water." The plans also called for "the Piazza on the South end of old house" to be removed.

In the five years since the College's acquisition the house has had various uses and is now a girls' dormitory. The house is listed as "notable" in the architectural survey *This Is Charleston*.



Behind the antebellum brick house, shown here, is the wooden portion built in the 1780's by Captain Morrison.

The Barnard Elliott House
58 George Street
circa 1803

Restoring a 170-year old house to its original period flavor can present the owner with the confounding necessity of untangling various alterations. Such was the situation facing the College of Charleston after 58 George Street was acquired in 1970. Barnard Elliott, a planter, built the Georgian dwelling with its simple, classic lines in 1803. The house was "Victorianized" in 1870: piazzas, tin windowheads, a doorway, and a bay window were among the additions. 1911 brought further changes; much of the elaborate woodwork from 26 George, then being razed, was incorporated in to 58 George. In 1952 Elliott's house underwent modern changes when its basement was modified into a store front, and the two stories and attic were converted into six apartments.

College restoration of 58 George Street proceeded cautiously. Most Victorian additions were removed, while the woodwork from 26 George was retained. Charleston's senior architect Albert Simons drew a new entrance plan with period designs to replace the Victorian doorway. Mr. Simons also chose paint colors to complement the lighting and style of the building. Elliott's town house is today used for offices by the College of Charleston.



The fanlight and sidelights were designed by Mr. Albert Simons and enhance the classic beauty of this Georgian house.



The St. Philip Street side of the Barnard Elliott House before the restoration process began.



The Elliott House has resumed its simple Georgian exterior.



58 George as seen before restoration and the removal of the Victorian additions and the piazzas.



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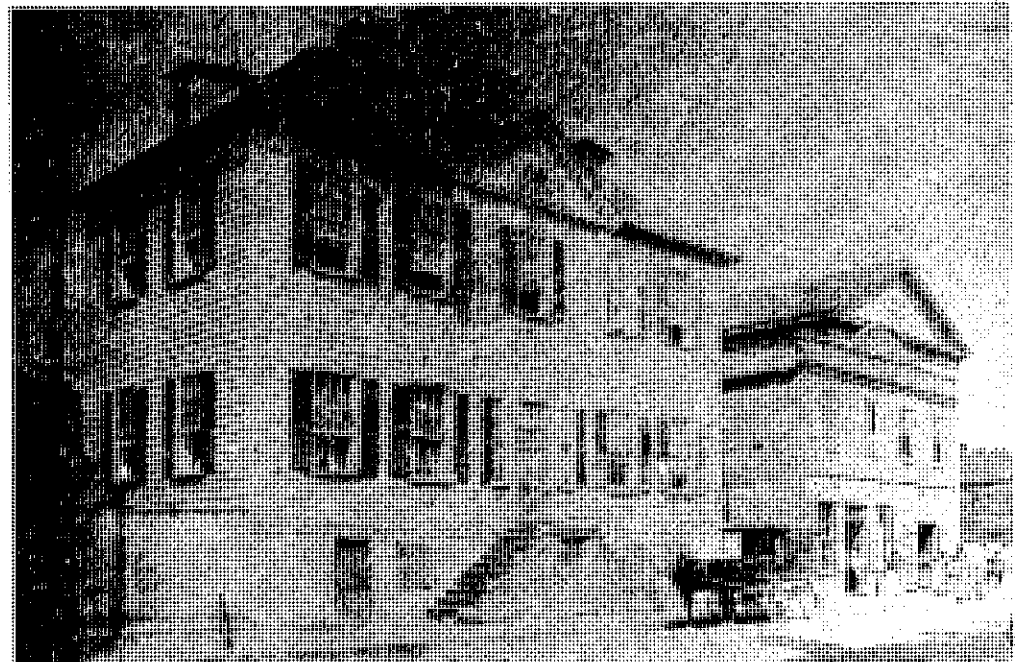
oved to Charles-
downtown, their
Lockwood. The
grew up in
extended family
ten beyond.



Taking Care ▲

Photographed in her wicker carriage in the back yard of the family's home at 56 Society St. is little Mary Sinkler de Saussure, born in 1899. The woman to the left is Mary's nurse; she more than likely lived near by. In those days the family retained one nurse for each child, and these women were either former slaves or related to slaves formerly owned by the family. During the post-Civil War era, almost all real estate was in a state of "preservation by neglect," which meant the families, often struggling, patched things up as best they could and made do. The house still exists; today it is known as the Dr. Joseph Johnson House in Ansonborough.

Submitted by Mary L. McQueen and Henry de S. Copeland



William Rieppe Hay, Grain, Grist and Mill Feed Store ▲

This photo, taken sometime around 1870, shows the Frederick William Rieppe home, 58 George St., and the Feed Store located next door at 56 George St. (right). The original structure was built in 1803 by Barnard Elliott. It featured Victorian elements, porches ("piazzas"), a bay above the front doorway, metal window caps and interior woodwork, which were added around 1870. The building, on the corner of George and St. Philip streets, is owned by the College of Charleston now.

Submitted by W. Rieppe Mehrrens



Mary (Mason) Priester, circa 1800s. ◀

Mary grew up on a farm in Hampton, S.C. and moved to Charleston when her daughter, Emma Rebecca, married. The family lived in Garco Village where Mary served as the Village midwife.

Submitted by Donna Hill