



RAMSAY HOUSE

2006

173 Broad Street

c. 1873

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. David M. Hay

Built by a member of the Prioleau family, the property was acquired by C. Richardson Miles in the 1880's. He was a South Carolina attorney general and president of the College of Charleston Trustees. As a member of Charleston's "old guard" he was eulogized at his death as "bending his best efforts towards preserving the essentials of good breeding and polite intercourse in the midst of change."

The architecture of the house incorporates a mix of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival style detailing. Bowed bay windows project from the front façade; a balcony curves to the west and joins a double tiered Ionic-columned piazza.

The house is built on land reclaimed from the Chisholm Rice Mill Pond. A disastrous fire in 1861 decimated a large area of the peninsula that included this western portion of Broad Street. Many houses, including this one, were built after that time.

ENTRANCE HALL

All chandeliers and mirrors are matching and are original to the house which is 133 years old. The current family is the fourth generation to live here. There are 23 rooms in the house with a fireplace is almost every one. This a Charleston side-hall plan, a single house footprint with a street entrance, vestibule and stairhall added to one side.

Cabinet, neoclassical style, with hand painted and gilt ornamentation
Chairs, pair, painted, the arm chair is from the Historic Charleston Reproduction Program whose royalties further its preservation efforts.

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FRONT PARLOR

The ornamentation of the formal rooms is restrained with pleasant moldings and fireplace surrounds compatible to the 1873 construction. The furnishings are a collection of pieces acquired by many generations of the family.

Sofa, c. 1810, Empire style with clawfeet and wings
Armchair, wood frame, French with needlepoint upholstery
Server, demi-lune shape, mahogany with inlay, style of George III
Highboy, mahogany, English, Queen Anne, c. 1780 with original brasses
Chest, mahogany, Georgian used as a coffee table
Cabinet used to hold sheet music, period style
Watch collections, pair, framed, assembled by Mrs. Hayes grandfather
Paintings, found during the family's travels abroad

SECOND PARLOR

Corner cabinet, American, mahogany, believed to be made in Philadelphia c. 1790
Breakfront, mahogany, English c. 1810 holds a porcelain tea set from Paris
Marble top server used as a bar, Victorian era
Curio case, Queen Anne with inlay
Cabinet, small in size on the bookcase, English, c. 1870, rosewood with holly wood inlay
Wing chair, c. 1770, George III with claw and ball feet.
Group of children's chairs in period design

DINING ROOM

Dining table, in the style of Sheraton with 3 pedestals and will seat 24 guests (with leaves added)
Cabinet with glass doors is Empire style c. 1810 with carved side columns and paw feet which contains family silver.
Punch bowl, on top, Tiffany
Sideboards, three, mahogany: Hepplewhite with back rail
Hunt board in Hepplewhite style
Server, English

Exit by way of piazza door in parlor.

Need docent outdoors to remind visitors to watch the stairs.

Point out graceful curved design of the piazza.