

*Do not use any kind of tape
to tape runners to the floor,
to other runners or to
anything else.*

ROBERT Q. GRANT HOUSE

2008

29 Tradd Street

c. 1900

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Edward M. Payne III

This block of Tradd Street has been an area of commercial activity since the beginnings of Charlestown in the late 17th century. During the 19th century a cotton warehouse occupied the site. The cotton grading building was just a few blocks away on East Bay Street making this a convenient location. With the demise of the cotton industry at the end of the 19th century, the building was torn down.

In the early 1900's this two-story frame house was constructed. In the 1908 city directory Robert Q. Grant was listed at this address. He was a weather forecaster who worked for the US weather Bureau at the Custom House.

The property has been completely rebuilt. Hard surface with brick paving created offstreet parking and an entrance walkway and stairs. Planting beds were aligned accordingly. A canopy was added over the doorway.

DOCENT *Please point out step in brick path to front door.*

HALL

The only remaining features of the original house are the stairway, floors and fireplaces. The walls were taken back to the basic framework of the building and reconstructed. All ceiling cornices, window surrounds, and doorway transoms have been newly created using modified Greek Revival ornamentation.

LIVING ROOM

This elegant room was a kitchen when the house was purchased five years ago. Window openings remain the same but all other elements are new. The furnishings are a collection of 18th and 19th century pieces.

Long-case clock, Chinoiserie in decoration, English, c. 1780

Pair of arm chairs, wood frame, Regency

Upholstered sofa, in the style of Sheraton

Secretary, Chippendale in design

Work table, burl wood veneer with ivory drawer knobs

Tea caddy on stand

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LIVING ROOM - *Continued*

Coffee table, mahongay
Pair of ceramic vases on mantel, Italy
Pair of Staffordshire porcelain dogs, on secretary
Ironstone platter, on secretary
Pastel, a study for a fresco by Ben Long, a contemporary North Carolina Artist
Monotype, Otto Neumann
Watercolor, early work of West Fraser, SC artist of international recognition

DINING ROOM

The decor of the room has been enhanced with insets of antique glass.
Table and chairs, period design in mahogany, chairs in the style of Chippendale
Sideboard, Federal style
Cardtable with cellaret underneath, both period design, late 18th or early 19th c.
Mirror, silvergilt, carved frame
West Frawer (Camden Harbor) over sideboard

HALL

This hallway serves as a home office and storage area, all hidden behind cypress doors. The light fixture is modeled on a brass dragon fly on a globe of crystals. It is vintage Cuban.

KITCHEN / FAMILY ROOM

The threshold into the kitchen/family room indicates the rear of the house that has been completely rebuilt within the original footprint. Sometime after the original construction an addition was put on. Its foundations were crumbling so the owners had to rebuild this portion. All the cabinets are made of cypress with old glass panes which were designed for this room. They hide a number of high-tech kitchen appliances. The countertops are honed granite.

Painting, West Fraser
Map, 1780, map of "Environs of Charlestown in South Carolina "

GARDEN

This little garden jewel was designed by noted landscape architect Robert Chestnut. The pool and bricked area are surrounded with plantings of annuals and perennials indigenous to the Lowcountry. The walls of the courtyard are covered with ficus. The fountain is from Italy.

DOCENTS – Remind visitors as the return to Tradd Street by way of brick walkway to watch for the step down. Perhaps yellow tape and also a docent nearby to assist.

The first thing a visitor notices when approaching the house are window boxes overflowing with annuals and stair steps adorned with a colorful array of containers equally bright. Depending on the season, the flowers bid welcome; delphinium, osteospermum, foxglove and other blooms shine forth.

A confederate jasmine vine (*Trachelospermum Jasminoides*) climbs a small trellis at the entry at this springtime. Vine covered walls manicured with *Ficus pumila* enclose this small parking area which is paved in old brick with intermittent sections of bluestone to add interest. A well-limbed *Ligustrum* underplanted with Snapdragons (*Antirrhinum majus*) stands in a bed surrounded by highly pruned Japanese Boxwood (*Buxus microphylla*).

A bench rests on a raised bluestone landing to allow owners or guests a bit of respite. The Boxwood border, pruned so low that its leaves are continually tiny, continues around the area, enclosing a flower bed against the house where espaliered *Sasanqua* camellias provide more color. To the right, the neighbors' tall Japanese Yew (*Podocarpus macrophyllus*) and *Nandina* (*Nandina domestica*) lend additional verdancy as well as a vertical accent.

Entering the back garden through an iron work gate also decorated with a flower box of variegated Ivy and annual flowers, a long walkway beckons the visitor to the rear of the house. Walls are covered with Fig Vine and Maidenhair Fern and part way through, the visitor catches a glimpse of the small garden next door. It's a delightful surprise for it includes a mirror where birds flock to admire themselves or challenge their reflections.

The walls in the rear garden were "shaved" of old vines when this new owner had the garden redesigned. As a result, the walls with their rotting mortar started collapsing since the ancient vines had held the structure together throughout many years. Immediate repointing saved the old walls, and they are once again beautifully covered with vines. Four large *Sabal* Palmettos interspersed with Holly Fern (*Cyrtomium falcatum*) provide a rich backdrop for the rectangular pool; *Dianella* and Call Lilies grow at their feet. Japanese Yew, *Loropetalum* and *Hydrangeas* add interest and varying color, and symmetrically placed Little Gem *Magnolias* impart a feeling of formality. A slatted mirror at the west end of the yard provides a sense of spaciousness and reflects the large urn opposite it. *Azaleas* frame the entrance of the pool stairway, and *Lamium* and annuals surround it with Snapdragons filling in.

The back entrance, almost all glass to enjoy the charming view of the pool, has a bluestone landing outlined in brick, reached by a wide stairway whose risers are covered in Fig Vine. Pruned Boxwood shrubs are found on either side. The doorway is flanked by two large containers holding Orange Tree (*Citrus microcarpa*) underplanted with *Bacopa*, *Geraniums* and borders provide continuity with annuals within. A *Gardenia* grows in the east corner and small pots containing bright plants give more color.

Charming garden furniture and personal touches such as wall plaques make this a place of relaxation and tranquility. An additional benefit is the neighbor's landscape of an old Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*), a huge Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) an enormous old Chinese Tallow tree (*Sapium sebiferum*) and our state tree, the *Sabal* Palmetto. The garden is a perfect example of "good things