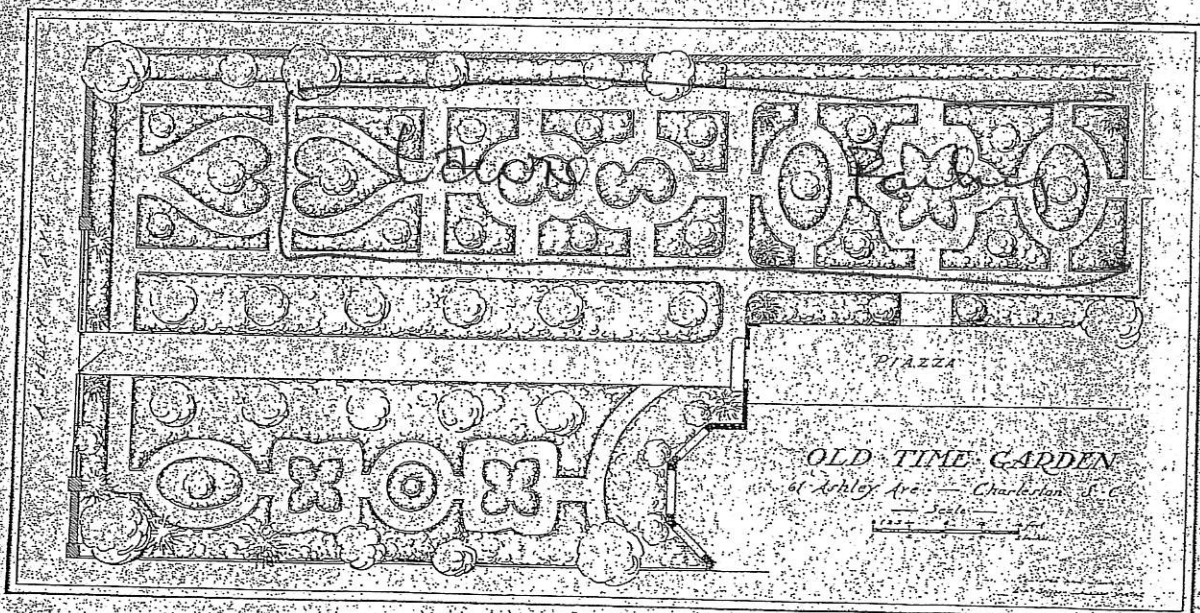




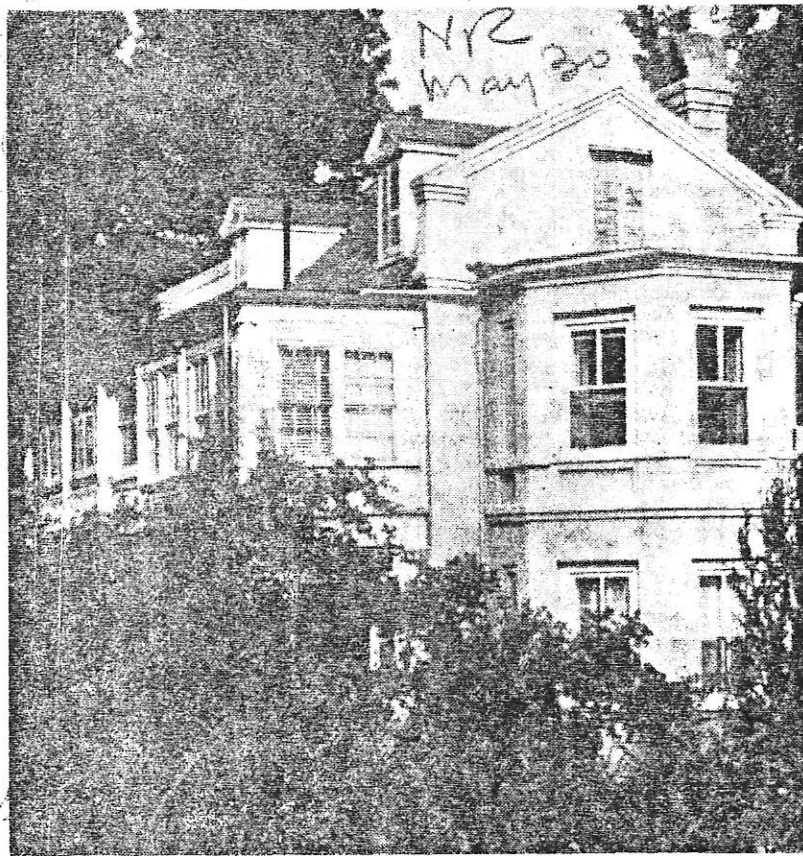
GARDEN AT 61 ASHLEY AVENUE



Between the gate and the house at 61 Ashley Avenue is a most complicated arrangement of flower beds, as varied in their outlines as the author has ever seen. The heart-shaped beds certainly suggest the sentimental Victorian era, to which they may well belong. The garden was undoubtedly designed after 1800, for an early map places the property in the fortification lines of 1780. A later map dated 1849, however, shows that it was by that time in a residential area and the south boundary line, along Beaufain Street, faced a bay that extended from the river into the city as far as Franklin Street. Two great magnolia trees, which were probably part of the plan of the grounds, have remained to shade the sunny exposure of house and garden.

On Ashley Avenue at Number 192 is a home which once was a Confederate Army headquarters. Built about 1840, it is reputed to have been originally surrounded by extensive grounds, with orchards at the rear of the house. Today it occupies little more than a good-sized city lot, but there still remains at least a portion of what appears to be quite an old garden.

Later Additions Altered Appearance Of Early House



BEAUFAIN-AND-ASHLEY DWELLING BUILT BEFORE 1807

Front and rear bays probably added in late 19th century. (Staff Photo by Burbage)

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Twenty-sixth in a series of articles on the early dwellings along Beaufain and Wentworth streets. The twenty-seventh will appear on Monday.)

By W.H.J. THOMAS

The small, two-and-a-half story brick dwelling with the distinctive front bay that occupies the property at the northwest corner of Beaufain and Ashley was apparently constructed before 1807 by Richard H. Peyton.

Although a number of changes to the dwelling give it an appearance of being built somewhat later, evidence suggests that Peyton had completed his home by this early date.

The property is part of Lot 53 on the plan of Harleston's Village, and it early passed into the possession of Thomas Corbett, a Harleston connection. On Nov. 1, 1803, Corbett gave a release on this lot (then measuring 212 feet on north and south lines and 120 feet up Ashley Avenue) to Peyton, a gentleman whose business location is always simply listed as being in the Custom House.

The lot was without building at this time, and Corbett gave Peyton a mortgage of 1,342 pounds sterling. The first indication of Peyton's having

completed his home is the city directory listing for 1807 that locates him as living on this spot on "Lynches Lane" (an early name for Ashley Avenue).

By the next year, however, it appears that Peyton was in financial difficulty, because Corbett brought suit to recover the mortgage. On July 5, 1808, Charles John Steedman, sheriff at that time, sold the property with its "houses and outbuildings" to Peter Wyatt, a lumber merchant, for \$3,500 to benefit Thomas Corbett.

In the line of owners of this dwelling (now listed as 61 Ashley Ave.) the story has been passed down that the house was actually intended as the secondary portion of a main residence that would be built flush to the street. Financial problems never permitted the construction of the principal portion.

This seems a likely enough theory as the scale of 61 Ashley is quite small when considering the size of the original lot, and it does sit quite far back from its street line. Also, the rather imposing double gates with brick piers topped in ball finials on the Beaufain Street side and the space allotted for the inner court and two-story carriage house suggest that

they were built to accommodate a larger residence.

The original house with its one-story brick kitchen house (now topped by a frame second story added in the late 19th century) is clearly identifiable as an early Adam dwelling from examining its interior. Although a number

Do You Know Your Charleston?

of mid-century changes were made (such as the addition of an arched early Victorian white marble mantle in the sitting room) and certain changes are obvious from the additions of both a front and rear semi-octagonal bay, most of the interior treatment is pure Charleston Adam-style circa 1810.

The front sitting room on the first floor has paneled dados, and its cornice, in a flat reeded band accented by star flower squares, is also typical of the period. There is evidence all about the 1850ish sort of mantle that a much taller mantle has been removed. The ceiling medallion in roses and cockleshells was also probably added at mid-century. The typical early 19th century porcelain hardware is still in place.

The paneled wainscoting continues through the rest of the residence in both halls and the upper rooms. The dining room and both upstairs chambers retain the tall Adams mantles with dentil trim and a marble inset.

The unusually fine two-story stable and carriage house at the southwest corner of the lot would appear to be of the 1830s and 1840s because of its American bond brickwork, its wide gables with barge boards and its general lines. There is an unusual panel treatment to the brickwork so that each opening is set back and surrounded by a broad recessed surface area. The exact date for this dependency will probably remain something of a mystery.

Peter Wyatt held on to this property for a good many years, perhaps because it was so conveniently located to his business — a lumber mill on the water side to the west.

The property passed to George L. Wyatt and Ann Violetta Wyatt (the latter listed as a resident of Manchester, N.J.), and on Nov. 21, 1838, it was sold for \$1,875 to Robert Martin, a wealthy merchant and property owner who built the handsome brick residence known as 16 Charlotte St.

After Martin's death, the house passed to his wife, Mulberry Serena Martin. The

property was sold for her by W. E. Martin to Richard G. Stone, a merchant, on Feb. 2, 1854, for \$4,900. Six years later Stone sold the house to George C. Goodrich, a wholesale druggist, for \$6,500.

Goodrich conveyed this property to Conrad D. Brahe, a leather goods merchant, for \$5,500 on July 6, 1868. It was next purchased by Alfred B. Mulligan, a cotton factor and commission merchant, for \$4,000 on May 2, 1872. Mulligan was adjudged a bankrupt in 1878, and the property was sold for him by Simeon Hyde Jr. to Sarah G. Wilkins for \$3,625.

It was next bought by William D. Porter, acting as trustee for Mary Florence Bruns and her children under the will of Anna E. Gray. This was on Nov. 13, 1879, and the price was \$3,980. It was probably during the ownership of the Brunses that the two-story front bay, with the full pane Victorian windows, and the rear bay were added to the dwelling.

Anna Bell Bruns sold the house to Elizabeth S. Quinn on July 25, 1950. It was then purchased in 1951 by Mr. and Mrs. James Clark Gary.

The formal garden of the dwelling at 61 Ashley has beds in heart shapes and stars, and was featured in "Charleston Gardens" by Loutrel W. Briggs.