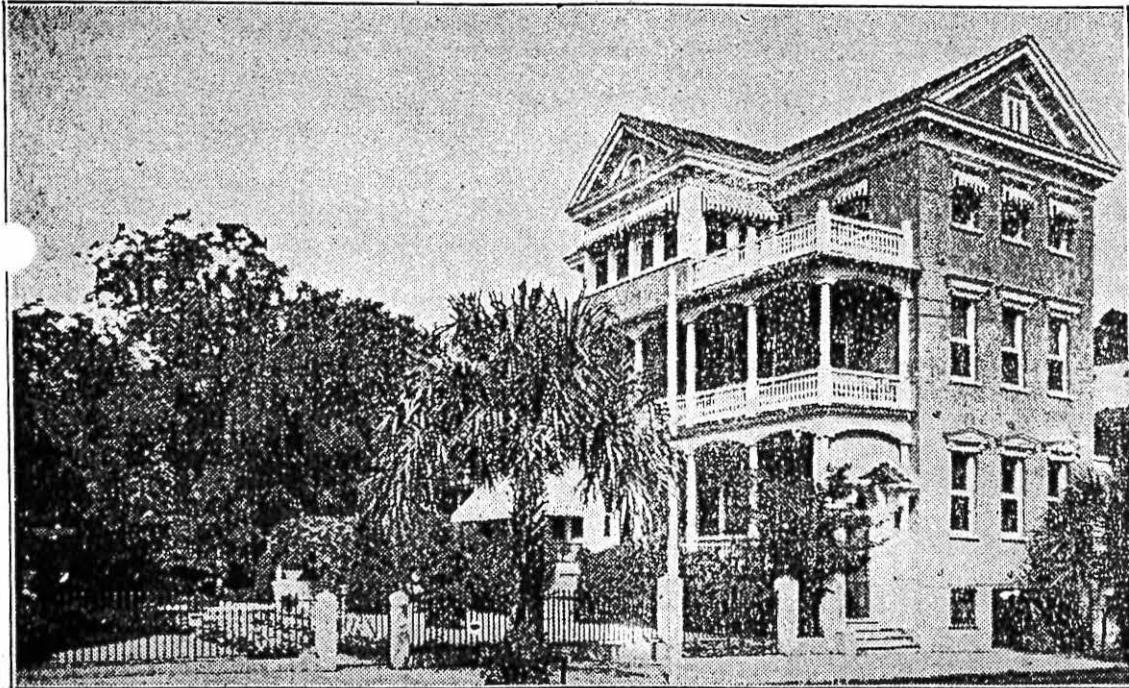


Nov. 1936

DO YOU KNOW YOUR CHARLESTON?

313 Meeting Street



—Photo by Jacobs

House, Built in 1796, Has All-mahogany Stairs, Hand-carved Woodwork—First to Have Furnace and Tiled Bath

The handsome early American home at 313 Meeting street, owned and occupied by A. Chambliss Connelley, was built about 1796 by John Horlbeck, who with his brother, Peter Horlbeck, completed the Exchange at the east end of Broad street in 1771 and later constructed the building at 54 Broad street.

The home is on a part of Lot H in old Ansonboro, which was the property of Peter Porcher. Porcher owned all the land on the west side of Meeting street from Boundary (now Calhoun) street for about 280 feet south. He willed it in 1782 to his three children, Peter, Thomas and Elizabeth Porcher. Elizabeth married Peter Galliard, and in 1790 the entire tract was divided among the three children, the lot on which the house stands being allotted to Thomas Porcher.

In 1796, Thomas Porcher sold his portion, 311 and 313 Meeting street, which contained the original house, to John Horlbeck. In 1831, this property came by will to John and Henry Horlbeck, sons of John Horlbeck. The second John Horlbeck in 1837 deeded his half to his brother, Henry, upon whose death, in December, 1837, the property descended to his eleven children.

The second John Horlbeck died in 1846. By deed, purchase and will the property eventually came into the sole ownership of Louisa M. Horlbeck in 1877.

Bought by J. M. Connelley. At her death in 1879, the property was left to her brothers and sisters. In October, 1892, the late Connelley purchased 311

and 313 Meeting street, with its buildings, from John S. Horlbeck, executor of the estate of Louisa M. Horlbeck. At his death in 1913, this property was willed to his wife, Anna Elizabeth Connelley, at her death to go to their son, Alexander Chambliss Connelley, who has been owner of it since his mother's death in 1928.

The house is constructed of hand made brick, of varying sizes. The masonry, as revealed in the cellar walls, is exceptionally good. The walls are unusually thick. All the timbers are hand hewn and the original plastering was made of oyster shell lime. The cornices are hand carved.

The hand-carved mantels and wainscoting are among the finest examples of this kind of work in this section. The staircase which goes from the first to the fourth floor is of solid mahogany, even the treads.

The house contains what is said to be the first furnace ever installed in a Charleston home, as well as what is thought to be the first tile bath room. Other modern conveniences have been added to the house, both by the present owner and his father, without sacrificing any of the valuable and beautiful old finishing.

Paint Protected Carving

Much of the carving in the mantels and wainscoting had been obscured by successive coats of paint, being brought to light a few years ago when Mr. Connelley had the old paint removed and the woodwork repainted. Though it entailed much labor in removing the old paint, the fact that the crevices

were filled probably saved the fine carving during a period when other examples of such work were destroyed.

The handrails on the staircase are especially gracefully carved as they wind up the four flights of stairs. The risers and the spokes of the bannisters have been painted white. It might be thought regrettable that such beautiful wood should be covered with paint, but the white serves only to reveal the beauty of the rails more effectively. And, as Mr. Connelley says, the white paint may be removed at any time, but in his opinion the staircase in its entirety of mahogany is too dark.

The bathroom tiles are of a size and design which is not obtainable today. The border tiles, especially, are of a lotus design which is strikingly handsome. The bathtub for the master bedroom is seven feet in length, as the late Jesse M. Connelley was an unusually tall man.

19 Rooms in Dwelling

With the annex in the rear, the house contains nineteen rooms. Each bedroom now has a bath. The annex, constructed by the late Mr. Connelley, is built of wood, which was used more than brick at the time it was built. Mr. Connelley tore down old servants' quarters built of handmade brick which would have been re-used today to erect the frame house.

The street entrance is through a wide doorway into a spacious porch. About midway down the porch is another wide doorway, handsomely carved, giving access to the entrance hall, from which the staircase leads to the upper floors.

The porch is on the south side of the house and gives access by graceful steps to a broad lawn, which utilizes the area of the lot at 311 Meeting street. The lawn is landscaped, having as the central feature of the background an elaborate aquarium. J. V. N., Jr.

* At her death in 1897, the property was left to her brothers and sisters. In October 1892, the late Jesse M. Connelley ...