

WILLIAM BLACKLOCK HOUSE

*Built 1800
18 Bull Street*

Completed in 1800 for one of Charleston's wealthy British merchants, the William Blacklock House represents a suburban retreat from the bustle of Charleston's mercantile district. Previously, Blacklock had been partners with Scots merchant Adam Tunno in one of the largest import-export businesses on East Bay.

In plan, the house resembles Charleston's Georgian period double-pile houses such as the Miles Brewton House (1769) and the William Gibbes House (1772), but the exterior and interior details are strictly neoclassical. Blacklock's backbuildings were designed in the Gothic taste.

Blacklock's estate inventory taken on May 14, 1816, provides one of the most thorough descriptions of a neoclassical period town house, its room usage, and early contents. The first floor consisted of the dining room, the parlor, a back bed chamber, and a servants' room in the northeast corner located closest to the backbuildings. The second floor contained the drawing room, two additional bed chambers, and a nursery.

Sources:

Charleston County Probate Court, Inventory Book E, 332-335.



Gothic outbuilding, William Blacklock House, HCF



18 Bull Street front elevation, William Blacklock House, c. 1800, HCF

Written by Robert A. Leach