

**JAMES MACBETH KITCHEN HOUSE**  
**48 1/2 South Battery**  
**Home of Ms. Nancy Young**

**1992**

This dependency which dates from 1790 is much older than the main house. In the early part of the 19th century, warehouses, wharves and assorted outbuildings were located here, making good use of this site on the mud flats and marshes of the Ashley River. James MacBeth built the handsome Greek Revival House in 1846, fifty-six years after the dependency was constructed. Murray Boulevard which now fronts on the Ashley River was not constructed until 1910.

This dependency was the first home of the Charleston Day School (1937 to 1939). Later the school building was moved to Elliott Street.

When the property was purchased in 1983 the owner was able to obtain separate ownership from the front house. The building had been uninhabited for quite some time and needed total renovation. The interior was gutted, retaining original features where feasible. Exterior alterations included a new entrance doorway with the balcony above. The first floor windows were balanced to match those on the second floor. A new kitchen/family wing was constructed.

Two years later in 1986 this patio area was finished. The pierced brick wall defines the property line. The well-designed arrangement of outdoor space for family relaxation and storage makes maximum use of the property. Note the cupboard at the end of the patio which holds firewood. The blue and white porcelain is a hint of things to come!

**LIVING ROOM/DINING ROOM**

The remaining interior walls of these two rooms and the stairway were removed to create this generous space. Ms. Young delights in collecting blue and white china. Her pieces include many period ones inherited from her namesake Grandmother and she has augmented them with examples of contemporary reproductions. (Historic Charleston Reproductions at 105 Broad Street has handsome blue and white cantonware.)

The hurricane surge brought in six feet of water so these rooms have just been restored for the second time and the furnishings refinished, replaced and redone! The fireplaces are original and one probably served the kitchen and the other, the washroom. The flooring and the china cabinets are new.

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**DINING ROOM**  
(continued)

Again Ms. Young has been fortunate in inheriting many lovely pieces from her family. The plantation desk, sofa, chest of drawers, side chairs, etc. are in this category. They are 19th century and American. (The bow front bureau is English.)

Sidechairs with swan splats, others with profile busts on splats.  
Owner's grandmother called them Buffalo Bill chairs. Probably a neo-Jacobean design with bust of Charles II.  
Chest, American - Empire style  
Buffet, American

Audubon - Havell engraving of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was one of 30 discovered during a remodeling of her father's law office some years ago. Neither the history of the volume nor the mystery of its hiding place has been uncovered. However the owner's great grandfather owned the building during the Civil War. The volume appeared to be one of the original printings done in London some time between 1827 and 1838. This engraving was recently cleaned by personnel associated with the Metropolitan Museum in New York and reframed.

The most recent piece of art work is the contemporary sculpture purchased in Paris last summer, the work of a Spanish artist. (Owner will try to get more information on this piece.)

The new addition begins when you leave this room and enter the stair hall to the kitchen-family room. Enjoy the charm of this contemporary room which makes good use of light and space. The owner continues to use her blue and white collection to advantage here.

**EXIT** by way of the French doors through the little rear garden with fountain. On return to driveway, note the old "necessary house" which has been converted into a darkroom so the owner and her daughter can pursue their favorite hobby.

The long, narrow construction on the eastern edge of the garden holds, behind its sliding black doors, all the necessary equipment for gardening and home maintenance. Again this displays a most inventive use of limited yard space.