

33 Hanover Street

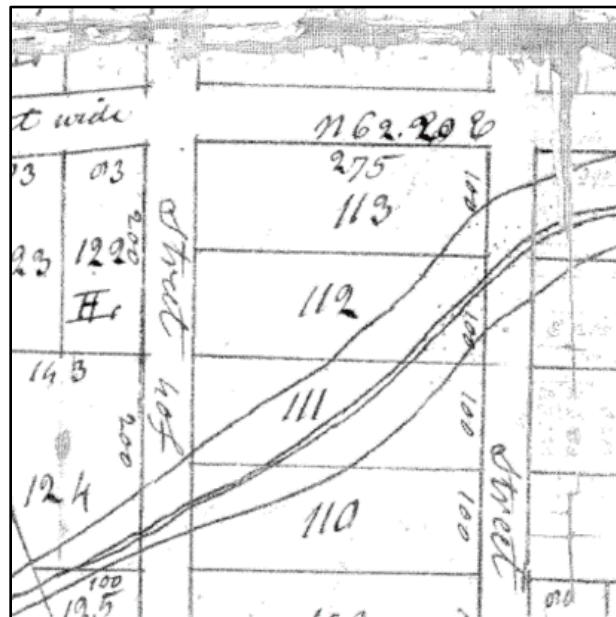
c. 1839-1848

The house at 33 Hanover Street is a simple worker's residence built on a portion of the Baxter Tract. In the original 1787 plat of the Hampstead area, Lot 112 was a 100 foot wide parcel that ran the entire distance between Hanover and Nassau Streets. The half that fronts Hanover Street was sold by **Richard Dereef** to **Edward Baxter**, a free black man, in two transactions. First, on January 27, 1838, Mr. Baxter bought the one-third portion that became 31 Hanover Street for \$1200.¹ Second, on January 30, 1839, Mr. Baxter bought the other two-thirds of Lot 112 (that would become 33 and 35 Hanover Street) for \$2000.²

According to the deed for the northern two-thirds of Lot 112, there was already a building of the property, but it was unlikely the current dwelling. The siting of the extant 33 Hanover Street would not make sense as the single building on the lot. In addition, the unusual similarities between 31 and 33 Hanover Street indicate that they were built at the same time and by the same owner, probably as rental properties. Because Mr. Baxter did not jointly own the property that would become 31 and 33 Hanover Street until 1839 and because Mr. Baxter died sometime by 1848, the dwelling at 33 Hanover St. was likely erected between 1839 and 1848.

LOT No. 2, adjacent to No. 1, measuring in front on Hanover street 29 feet 6 inches, in depth 137 feet, and on the back line 33 feet. Bound'd East by Hanover st.; South by Lot No. 1 aforesaid; West by land of Susan Ann Dereef; being part of 112 in plan of Hampstead; and North by Lot No. 3, of Land of Estate of Edward Baxter; with a two story Wooden Dwelling on the premises.

Hanover Street), and Lot 3 (35 Hanover Street). **Thomas Gadsden** was high bidder on Lot 2 for \$1500 and Lot 3 for \$1470.³ According to a notice that ran the day before the auction, someone had already built a wooden, two-story dwelling on Lot 2, the parcel that would become 33 Hanover Street. Because of the similarities between 33 Hanover St. and its neighbor to the south 31 Hanover St. (which Mr. Gadsden did not buy), one can assume the house mentioned in the ads must be the existing dwelling.



On August 16, 1853, the entire Baker Tract was sold by Mr. Baker's executrix, Susan Baker, but it was marketed as three nearly equally sized lots at a public auction: Lot 1 (31 Hanover Street), Lot 2 (33

¹ Deed book Q10, page 35

² Deed book Z10, page 89

³ Deed book V12, page 606 (lot 2); deed book V12 page 607 (lot 3)

Mr. Gadsden was a very wealthy slave broker who owned extensive investment properties all over town. In one abolitionist piece he was described as “the largest slave auctioneer in the state, under whose hammer, men, women, and children go off by thousands.”⁴ There is no reason to think he ever lived on Hanover Street, and he tried to sell his properties not long after he bought them. In one ad from January 11, 1855, in the *Charleston Courier*, he offered a fuller description of the house: “On the premises are a good two story house, containing 4 rooms, a piazza to the South, &c., a well of good water, and necessary outbuildings.” He was still advertising the house a year later when, on February 20, 1856, a notice of sale appeared in the *Charleston Courier* that added this detail: “The kitchen is attached to the house.” That description matches the original portion of 33 Hanover Street. Eventually, Mr. Gadsden sold **Leonidas W. Spratt** Lot 2 and Lot 3 of the Baxter tract for \$1640 on July 1, 1857.⁵

Mr. Spratt sold Lot 2 (32 by 137 feet) to Irish immigrant **Michael Quinlisk** on July 1, 1867 (recorded of September 13, 1867).⁶ Mr. Quinlisk had already bought the adjacent Lot 3 to the north. The family seems to have lived in the house until 1905. Mr. Quinlisk seems to have had several different job while residing at the house including driver, dairyman, and watchman. When Mr. Quinlisk died on March 1, 1885, the house remained home to his widow, Anna Quinlisk, and to his daughter Margaret Quinlisk Inabinett.

The next two owners were short term occupants. First, Mrs. Quinlisk died in 1903, and the house was sold to a widow, **Geraldine S. Padgett**, on February 14, 1907.⁷ Mrs. Padgett lived in the house with her extended family. Then Mrs. Padgett sold the house and part of the lot (only 82 feet deep) to railroad employee **John A. Cameron** on September 28, 1911, for \$1400,⁸ creating the parcel that remains intact today. Mr. Cameron lived in the house only a short time before selling the house to **Julia Brennan Leslie** of January 26, 1914.⁹

Ms. Leslie had received her father’s business, Leslie’s Fish Market, in 1911 for which she had worked as a bookkeeper. She sold the business and invested the return on investment properties and securities. She was an extremely savvy businesswoman and died on October 17, 1963, leaving an estate of nearly one quarter of a million dollars.¹⁰ Ms. Leslie was the first to use 33 Hanover St. as a rental property in about fifty years, often renting space to multiple families at the same time.

After Ms. Leslie’s death, her executor sold the house for \$4500 to **Calus C. Funderburk**¹¹ and **Elizabeth J. Funderburk** on June 1, 1964.¹² The Funderburks continued using the house as a rental property; they themselves lived nearby at 28 Hanover Street. When Mr. Funderburk died in 1988, Mrs. Funderburk was left as the sole owner.

⁴ Lysander Spooner, *The Unconstitutionality of Slavery* 174 (1856)

⁵ Deed book X13, page 175

⁶ Deed book E15, page 105

⁷ Deed book R24, page 322

⁸ Deed book E26, page 5

⁹ Deed book Y26, page 228

¹⁰ Arthur Clement, Jr., “In Memory of Julia Leslie,” *Charleston Evening Post*, Oct. 18, 1974, at 9

¹¹ (b. July 6, 1908; Jan. 9, 1988)

¹² Deed book L80, page 241

Darren G. and Claire C. Abbott bought it for \$110,000 on June 8, 2005.¹³ The absentee owners continued the pattern of using the house as a rental property.

In 2017, lawyer **Ryan Schwartz** contracted to buy the house with plans to restore the house as an owner-occupied dwelling for the first time in more than a century. The two-story frame dwelling has a one-story piazza on the south side. The house is not actually a traditional Charleston single house (which includes a central hall accessed from the side of the house with one room on each side). Rather, the floor plan is like that of a Charleston cottage (also known as a freedman cottage) with two rooms, immediately adjacent to each other, and separate entrances to each room. Instead of a central stair hall, the staircase is located along the back wall of the second first-floor room.



¹³ Deed book L537 page 180