

HABS
S.C.
10-CHAR
68-

OLD JEWISH ORPHANAGE
88 Broad Street
Charleston, Charleston County
South Carolina

Owner: J.D.Long.

Date of Erection: 1801 (card); before (1801(text).

Architect and Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Three, and basement.

Materials of Construction: Brick and stucco.

Other Existing Records: See text.

Additional Data: See following pages.

DATA NOT COMPILED AND NOT GUARANTEED
BY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

OLD JEWISH ORPHANAGE
88 BROAD STREET
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

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SURVEY NO. 13-15

No. 88 Broad Street, with its first and second floors now used as an office building for small law offices and real estate firms, and having a ratskeller in the recently excavated basement and bachelor quarters on the third floor, is generally known as the Old Jewish Orphanage building. It bears this name owing to a tablet on its south exterior wall bearing the name of the Hebrew Orphan Society in English and Hebrew characters, and the date 1801.

Owing to this inscription, many people think the date 1801 refers to the erection of the building, but in reality this structure antedates the tablet by many years, since the latter was not erected until the building was acquired by the Hebrew Orphan Society in 1834. The date 1801 is the date of incorporation of the Hebrew Orphan Society.

As to the actual age of the building, only the following facts can be produced, and a deduction made from them.

The site was early occupied by a building, as shown on early maps of the city, dated 1739 and 1788.

A deed dated February 8th, 1804, from Henry Laurens and his wife to Edward Trescott, conveyed the building and the land on which it stood, and included the words "and now occupied by the directors of the Bank of the United States of America".

The branch Bank of the United States was opened in Charleston prior to 1792, and in 1794 had offices at the

corner of Church and Elliott Streets. It moved at an undetermined time to No. 88 Broad Street, and then in 1801 built its own building (now the City Hall) at the northeast corner of Meeting and Broad Streets. The deed of Henry Laurens indicates that even after the completion of the present City Hall the directors of the bank continued to hold their meetings at 88 Broad Street, rather than in the new banking house itself.

The date therefore is indeterminate and may lie as far back as just after or even just before the Revolution, as the building was evidently erected as a residence and used as such before the Bank took it over.

The character of the paneling however, being limited to wainscoting only, and the type of mantels, would indicate the period from about 1785 to 1800, but only research among the deeds in the mesne records office by one trained to trace and ferret out these old records, could reveal this as positive.

The interior trim of the entrance hall is of an entirely different type from the stair hall, the former being large, coarse, and more in character with the time that the building was purchased by the Hebrew Orphan Society, 1834, and may have well been added at that time.

The ornamental flat elliptical arch of the second floor with its two supporting columns, is another interesting feature; peculiarly and poorly spaced with regard to the fenestration of this room, it is a question if it was not placed at the time the building passed into the hands

of the Bank of the United States, when the second floor may have well been used as the main banking room. No matter what its use at the time this arch was installed, the hidden construction speaks well of engineering skill and splendid timber, as the span of the floor above without supports from below is either twenty-two or twenty-six feet, depending upon the direction of the joists, and is accomplished within a total floor thickness of fourteen inches, including both plaster and finished floor.

This building therefore represents today a fragmentary view of the Charleston city residence of presumably the last quarter of the 18th century, the quarters of one of the first banking institutions of the first quarter of the 19th century, and the headquarters of a charitable institution of the second quarter of that century. Like an ancient distorted mirror, the existing building reflects all these phases to the trained eye, but no one can safely define which is which.

This building is now owned by Mr. J. C. Long, of Charleston, who acquired it within the last few years.

**DATA NOT COMPILED AND NOT GUARANTEED
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Sources of Material: "The Jews of South Carolina", B. A. Elzas, Appendix E, Lippincott, 1905

"History of the Banking Institutions of South Carolina prior to 1860", W.A. Clark (Published by The State Company, Columbia, for the Historical Commission of South Carolina, 1902)

"Reminiscences of Charleston", Charles Fraser, 1854.

Compiled from above by District Officer.

Date by Dist Officer

Approved:

Samuel H. Hagan
District Officer #13

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Reviewed 1936 by H.C.F.

Notes on #88 Broad Street,
Charleston, S. C.

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- 1683 This lot, part of the grant of land taken up by John Archdale for his son, Thomas Archdale, the grant later known as Archdale's Square. [Not a public square, but given the name of the owner.] Warrants for Lands in South Carolina 1680-1692, Ed. by A. S. Salley, Jr., Columbia, 1911, p. 91; The Original Plan and the Earliest Settlers by Henry A. M. Smith in South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine (hereafter cited as S.C.H.G.M.), Vol. IX, p. 12;
- 1694/5 Proof of ownership by John Archdale found in his order to William Sadler to take up a Towne Lott...out of that land which was formerly "Run out for" him at Charles Town. Commissions and Instructions From the Lords Proprietors of Carolina To Public Officials of South Carolina 1685-1715. Ed. A. S. Salley, Jr., Columbia, 1916, p. 73.
- 1696 This lot,* numbered 315 granted to Jacob Allen. Henry A. M. Smith in S.C.H.G.M., Vol. IX, p. 24; Proprietors Grants, Vol. 38, No. 1 p. 321. In Office of Secretary of State, Columbia, S. C.
- 1706 Jacob Allen died intestate, and Mary Allen his "Widdow" applied for papers of Administration of his estate. Office of Probate Judge, Miscellaneous Records, 1687-1710, p. 112. [There is no record of transfer of this property, now lot at #88 Broad Street, from either Jacob Allen or Mary Allen to Obadiah Allen, but the number (315) and description of the lot, next recorded as sold by Obadiah Allen, tallies with the number and description of it in other records, and it is presumed in the absence of evidence to the contrary, that Obadiah Allen obtained the property by inheritance or otherwise from Jacob Allen, his estate or from Mary Allen his Widdow.]
- 1731 Obadiah Allen and Bridget his Wife, sold to John Laurens Lot No. 315. Office of Register of Mesne Conveyance (hereafter cited as R.M.C.O.) in Charleston County, Book I, p. 331.
- 1739 Echnography of Charles Town, Published by B. Roberts and W. H. Toms, from Survey by George Hunter, shows a building at the site Broad Street and Court House Square (then known as the Market Square or Place, or simply "public land")
- 1741 John Laurens sold 9th March, 1741 to Peter Laurens all that part or piece of a town lott on Broad Street, known by the Number 315, which said Town Lott hath Built on it a Large House Commonly Known by the name of White Hall...R.M.C.O. Book CC, p. 170
- 1746 Peter Laurens on 9th January 1746 sold back to John Laurens the same piece of property on Broad Street, with the "Messuage or Tenement thereon built commonly known by the name WHITE HALL". R.M.C.O. Book CC, p. 377

* apparently wheated and regranted.

- 1747 John Laurens devised this lot with other real estate to his son Henry Laurens. Will proved 19th June 1747. Probate Court, Will Book 1740-1747, p. 390; Typed copy Wills, p. 665.

How long this house remained is unknown. The next records found refer only to the "Lot of land" - no house is noted.

- 1793 Henry Laurens left this "Lot of Land at the Corner of Broad Street, opposite to the west Front of the State House...(Which said Lot of Land in Broad Street, I have estimated at one thousand pounds)...to this dear ~~Daughter~~ Martha Laurens Ramsay. Will proved January 7, 1793. Office of Probate Judge. Will Book "B" 1786-1793, p. 712. Typed copy of Wills: 1786-1793, Vol. 24, p. 1152.

- 1794 Martha Laurens Ramsay and husband David Ramsay sold this "lot of land" to Doctor John Ramsay, 20th February 1794. R.M.C.O. Book K-6, p. 339.

Doctor John Ramsay sold this "lot of land" to Henry Laurens, Jr. 20th February 1794. Ibid. p. 342.

- 1804 Henry Laurens and Eliza his wife sold to Edward Trescott all that lot of land situate on the North side of Broad Street...and now occupied by the Directors of the Branch Bank of the United States of America...9th March, 1804. R.M.C.O. Book L-7, p. 147.

Compiled by:

Mary A. Sparkman, Secretary
Historical Commission of
Charleston, South Carolina

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Old Jewish Orphanage
Charleston, South Carolina

HABS No. 13-15
HABS
SC
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Historic American Buildings Survey
M. B. Paine, Photographer, April, 1934

SOUTH(FRONT) ELEVATION

Old Jewish Orphanage
Charleston, South Carolina

HABS No. 13-15
HABS
SC
10-CHAR
68-1



Historic American Buildings Survey
M. B. Paine, Photographer, April, 1934

SOUTH(FRONT) ELEVATION

Old Jewish orphanage
Charleston, South Carolina

HABS No. 13-15

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10-CHAR,
68-2



Historic American Buildings Survey
M. B. Paine, Photographer, April, 1934

EAST AND NORTH ELEVATIONS (LOOKING SOUTHWEST)

Old Jewish Orphanage
Charleston, South Carolina

HABS No. 13-15
HABS
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10-CHAR,
68-3



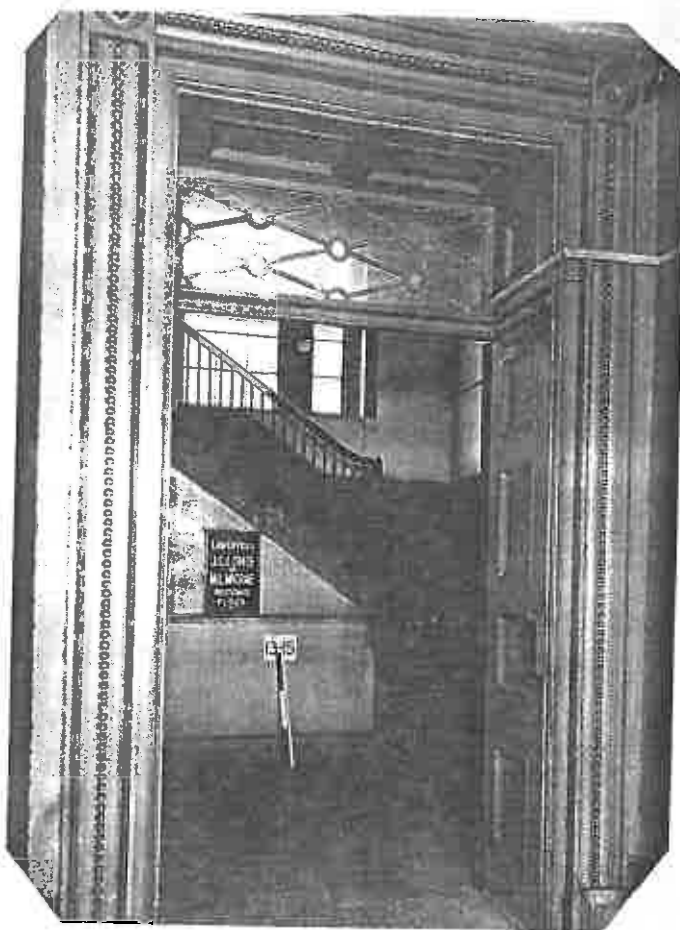
Historic American Buildings Survey
M. B. Paine, Photographer, April, 1934

ENTRANCE DOORWAY, SOUTH ELEVATION.

Old Jewish Orphanage
Charleston, South Carolina

HABS No. 13015

HABS
SC
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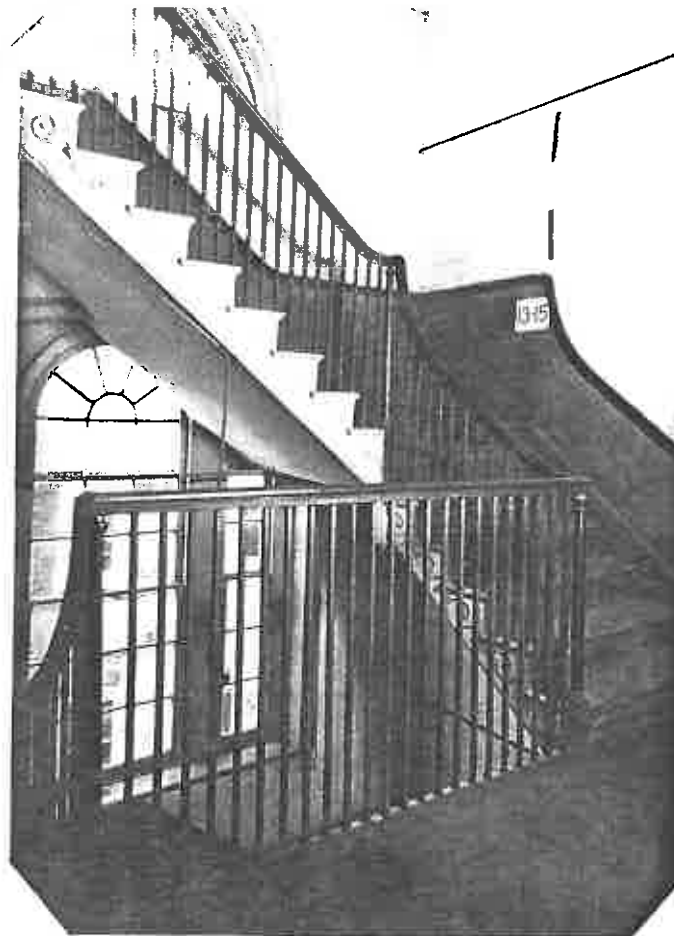


Historic American Buildings Survey
M. B. Paine, Photographer, April, 1934

Detail doorway between south entrance hall and
stair hall (looking north)

Old Jewish Orphanage
Charleston, South Carolina

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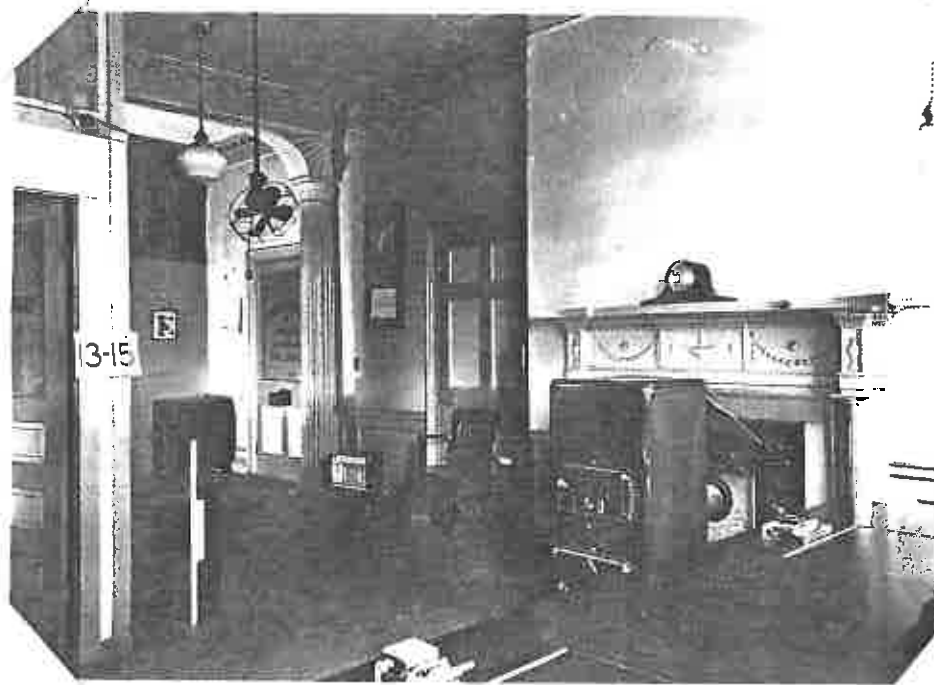


Historic American Buildings Survey
M. B. Paine, Photographer, April, 1934

DETAIL SECOND FLOOR STAIR HALL LANDING,
LOOKING NORTH

Old Jewish Orphanage
Charleston, South Carolina

HABS No. 13-15
HABS
S.C.
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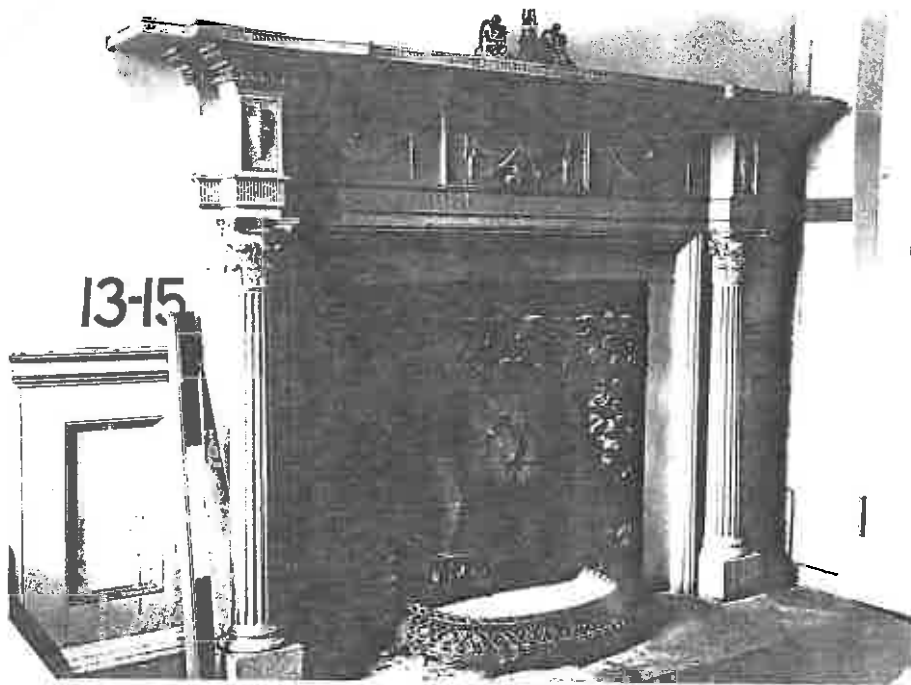


Historic American Buildings Survey
M. B. Paine, Photographer, April, 1934

MAIN ROOM SECOND FLOOR, LOOKING NORTHWEST

Charleston, South Carolina

HABS No. 10-16
HABS
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Historic American Buildings Survey
M. B. Paine, Photographer, April, 1934

FIREPLACE DETAIL

ADDENDUM
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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Addendum to:

Old Jewish Orphanage
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Photos SC-13-15-1 thru SC-13-15-7 were previously transmitted to the Library of Congress. The photo below was taken for the 1977-79 South Carolina project made possible by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. Charles N. Bayless, AIA, was the photographer.

SC-13-15-8 MAIN ENTRY, SOUTH SIDE

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

HABS No. SC-13-15-8

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