

Charleston State House caught fire and burned in 1788, just prior to South Carolina's Convention for ratification of the U.S. Constitution. The building then became the new home of the Charleston County Courthouse after the interior was rebuilt within the old walls and a third floor was added.

Over the next two centuries, the building changed in many ways, eventually suffering heavy damage in Hurricane Hugo in 1989. After much public discussion and more than a decade of work, the building reopened as the Charleston County Courthouse in 2001, having been painstakingly restored to its 1792 grandeur. Today it serves as the centerpiece of the county's new judicial complex. The Friends of the Charleston County Courthouse, working with Historic Charleston Foundation, raised more than \$1 million to fill the building with historically appropriate furnishings, light fixtures and artwork.

The Old Charleston County Courthouse remains a functioning courthouse. It houses Probate Court on the third floor and a formal courtroom and a law library on the second floor. The entrance facing Meeting Street can be accessed by the public to see the reconstructed grand stair and artwork that fills the space.

### **85-87 Broad Street** **Josiah Smith Tenement**

*Constructed 1795; gutted in a fire and restored 1977*

Josiah Smith, a wealthy merchant, built this double building after purchasing the site in 1795. Two years later he conveyed 85 Broad St. to his son William Stevens Smith, an attorney, and 87 Broad St. to his son Samuel Smith, a factor. Because 85-87 Broad St. was built as residences for his sons, rather than tenements, Smith finished the building inside and out with considerable taste and attention to detail. The three-and-a-half story building is of Charleston grey brick laid in Flemish bond and has proportions of the Adam. The arched entrance formerly was a passageway extending through the building.

In 1863, George Alfred Trenholm, Confederate Secretary of the Treasury and a partner in the blockade running firm, John Fraser & Co., purchased 85 Broad St. from the heirs of William Stevens Smith. Dr. William H. Huger purchased 87 Broad St. from the Smith family in 1859, maintaining his medical practice there until 1878.

The two halves of the property were united in 1878-79 by Simon Fogartie, a grocer and liquor dealer, whose family retained the property until 1919. The first floor was restored to its former appearance, based on old photographs, in the 1970s.

The property was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 and became part of the Federal Courthouse Annex in the 1980s.

### **88 Broad Street** **Hebrew Orphanage**

*Constructed c. 1810*

William Trescott built this substantial three-story brick building and leased it to the Charleston branch of the Bank of the State of South Carolina, which moved to present-day 19 Broad St. in 1817.

The property was purchased in 1833 by the Hebrew Orphan Society, which established its meeting hall and school here. Founded in 1801, the society housed orphans with selected families rather than at this facility, except for a brief period in the 1860s. Jewish historian Barnett A. Elzas noted: "In this way, in addition to the pecuniary assistance given, the misfortune of orphanage was softened and the little ones were permitted to live in a healthful family atmosphere."

Following the fire of 1838, which destroyed the synagogue on Hasell Street, the congregation of Beth Elohim worshiped here until the present synagogue was completed in 1840. A plaque between the windows of the second and third stories commemorates the site's benevolent, Jewish heritage. (See essay on the Hebrew Orphan Society in the "Cultural Influences" section.)