

THE TOURS HEADQUARTERS

94 Church Street

c. 1759

The Historic Charleston Foundation is fortunate in having for its headquarters a room in one of the city's historic houses, the residence at one time of the beautiful and unfortunate Theodosia Burr. The room occupied was, off and on for a hundred and eighty years, used as an office by lawyers and statesmen of Old Charleston.

In 1759, this lot was purchased by Mary, wife of John Cooper, and a "free sole trader", doing business independent of her husband. The rich woodwork of the stairhall and the proportions of the exterior show that the house was one of the finest of its high-Georgian times in the town. In proof of this, John Izard, wealthy member of a wealthy family, paid the handsome sum of £9,999 current money for it in 1765.



Another notable owner of the house was Joseph Alston, later Governor of South Carolina, and his lovely wife, Theodosia, daughter of the remarkable Aaron Burr. Her loss in a storm off Hatteras has been the simple cause of much elaborate romancing.

About the middle of the nineteenth century a devastating remodeling of the interiors left little but the stairway to show how rich had been the decoration the house had been given a hundred years before. A fire-insurance marker on the street front is one of the few of its kind left in Charleston.

In 1884 this fine old residence was purchased by the late George Paul, whose family ever since have made it their home.