

THE JOHN LEWIS HOUSE
12 Meeting Street
c. 1817

1993

Residence of Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Hanger

This substantial clapboard dwelling was built between 1817 and 1822 by John W. Lewis, a cotton factor. Different from the typical Charleston single house, the principal facade faces the street with a bay projecting from its southern wing. The architectural style reflects Charleston's interpretation of the Federal period.

The interior floor plan consists of a center hall with the main rooms on either side. Early this century (c. 1904) a series of improvements were started and the kitchen house was enlarged and joined to the main house. Also, half-moon porches were added and were subsequently enclosed for additional living space. Now, the improvements are in progress once again. For the past year, the owners have been involved in rebuilding the kitchen and the enclosed porch area. As you will soon see, these c. 1992 renovations mesh most handsomely with this period house.

Notable architectural ornamentation original to the house is retained including finely crafted Adam-style mantelpieces, elaborately carved wooden cornices in the library, drawing room and entrance hall. Note the matching wainscoting and window and door surrounds. Ceiling medallions in the principal rooms are of plaster as is the cornice work in the dining room.

ENTRANCE HALL

French scenic wallpaper panels made by the Zuber Company, a manufacturing company in Alsace, are being hung. This firm has been exporting papers to America for well over a century. They have recently retrieved period patterns from their archives and are producing these scenic panels once again. Entitled El Dorado, these panels are an example of their fine contemporary production. Zuber scenic panels hang in the White House.

Mirror, gilded, period, purchased from the previous owner.

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LIBRARY - DINING ROOM

The Adam style mantel has been stripped down to the natural wood to show the fine detail of the carved ornamentation. Note the gougework and other period design details employed in the cornice, door and window surrounds.

Secretary Bookcase, English, Georgian style, c. 1820, delicate inlay on a small storage door on the desk area
Tole Tray, on stand, period piece

The rest of the furnishings are compatible reproductions.

One Victorian note is the etched glass panels in the pocket doors between the library and dining room. Note the plaster ceiling medallions in both these rooms. The cornice work in the dining room is composed of plaster also.

Walk through dining room to kitchen.

KITCHEN - FAMILY ROOM

These 2 rooms have just been completed. The family, who have moved to Charleston 2 years ago lived in the kitchen house for many months while this work was being accomplished. The space was created from 3 smaller rooms to achieve this state-of-the-art kitchen with its handsome, paneled white cabinets a nice contrast with the green, leafy wallpaper. The counters are polished granite and the painted tiles above the stove were done by Shirley Kratz, a Mt. Pleasant artisan.

VISITORS WATCH THE STEP DOWN ENTERING THE FAMILY ROOM

The family room was formerly an open porch and then enclosed. The interior walls and ceiling were removed uncovering the original coffered porch ceiling which almost matched that of the kitchen - a happy coincidence. Also some of the columns were in place and these have been incorporated into the new room.

Breakfront, broken pediment, manufactured specifically for this location.

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DRAWING ROOM

The woodwork is lightly gilded to accent the handcarved detail of the ceiling cornice moldings, medallion and door and windows surrounds.

Mirror, by Tiffany of New York, gilded, Federal style, 1904

It has been sold separately with the house to each successive owner.

Tallcase clock, Glasgow, Scotland, early 1800's

Crystal Chandelier, 19th century

The remainder of the furnishings are period reproductions.

EXIT by way of family room door. Visitors carefully walk down the outside stairs.