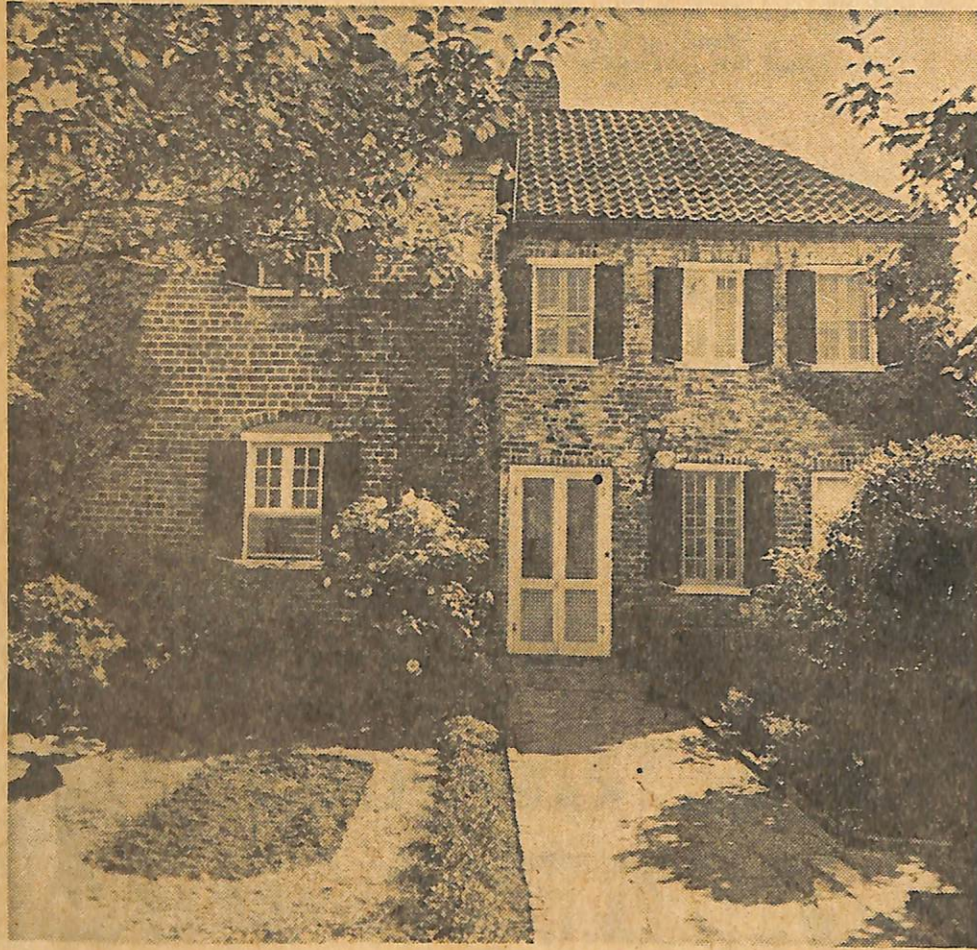


Tour Features Snowden Home



UNUSUAL OLD HOUSE

This home at 55 King St. was constructed in 1762. It is included in the Tri Delta Tours Feb. 23. Mr. and Mrs. James G. Snowden now live in the house (Staff Photo by Jordan)

The unusual old house at 55 King St. was constructed in 1762 and has been in the Snowden family for about 100 years. The residence of Mr. and Mrs. James G. Snowden, the house will be on tour for Tri Delta sorority, Friday afternoon, Feb. 23.

The house is believed to have been built by Frederic Grimke and the land on which the house stands was purchased by Grimke in 1747 from Francis Baker. Charleston artist Charles Fraser once resided in the house and some of the views in the Fraser Sketchbook are views from the upper windows of 55 King St. Fraser's mother was Grimke's daughter.

The house was originally constructed as a double dwelling — probably for rental purposes — and there is architectural evidence that testifies to this fact. The most noticeable is the thick piece of brick wall that projects through the slate roof of the property, dividing the house in two vertically. Where access doors were later cut to make the house one dwelling they had to be made through this internally very thick wall.

Although the house is Georgian in period, its woodwork is comparatively plain and like all old houses it has had a number of altera-

tions. The delicate sunburst mantel of the drawing room, for example, is unquestionably later than the Georgian house. The finely carved cornice of this room is probably later, too, and was perhaps companion to the mantel. The house, however, retains the sturdiness of Georgian construction and the house wall on the north side of the staircase landing is fully two feet thick.

Mr. and Mrs. Snowden have fine old pieces of furniture on both sides of the family and they possess three portraits by Charleston artist Jeremiah Theus. The Theus portraits of Richard Baker and Elizabeth Elliott are on the north and south walls, respectively, of the drawing room. The Theus portrait of Mary Bohun, who married Richard Baker, is over the dining room mantel.

The Windsor chair in the drawing room is believed to be pre-Revolutionary as is the smaller Windsor chair in the sitting room behind the drawing room. The full length gold leaf mirror in the drawing room is circa 1820 and covers the window that was formerly a door. The handsome desk in this room, which is a Snowden piece, is about 1820 to 1830.

The attractive Hepplewhite

type sideboard in the dining room is a piece of furniture from Mrs. Snowden's side of the family. It is admirably — almost baronially — proportioned and has restrained and very delicate inlay. Its oval medallions, with a tracery of leaves, are uncommon and lovely.

The dueling pistols case on the sideboard is used for flat silver. The framed flag over the sideboard was presented to Mrs. Snowden's grandfather by Marion's Men of Winyah, Georgetown, a military unit he had commanded for many years.

The beautiful Hepplewhite type and tables on the street side of the dining room came also from Mrs. Snowden's side of the family and belong with a dropleaf dining table which is being repaired. In the mahogany cupboard by the mantel there are silver salt cellars with the Baker crest that belonged to Richard Baker. The silver sugar and creamer in this cupboard are by Hayden and Gregg and are Snowden pieces. There is a handsome Snowden soup ladle by J. Eyland & Co.

In the china cupboard at the north end of the room there are several very good looking pieces of lustre. The most exceptional is a sugar bowl and cover of silver lustre. The green Haviland plates in the cupboard and on the mantel, all of which have attractive sporting scenes, were a present to Mrs. Snowden's great-grandmother on her golden anniversary.

The house, by the way, is full of work by Mr. Snowden, who is comfortably at home with old furniture and can make furniture as well as repair it. The small table under the gilt mirror in the dining room was made by Mr. Snowden and is appropriate with the mirror because the mirror is a Snowden piece. The very large, handsome blue pitcher on this table is Copeland.

The kitchen in this house is Mr. Snowden's chief work and a very pleasant and attractive kitchen it is. Because the room possessed a large, old fashioned fireplace he decided to peel the plaster and furring from that end of the room and reveal the bricks. This he has done with great success. At the other end of the room he has built in a totally modern kitchen whose appliances look delightful with his friendly old fireplace and give the best of two worlds to the Snowdens and their four children.

Like all old houses 55 King St. has its life written in its face and it has survived two

centuries with a good deal of poise. This is a house where people and children and pets are welcome and where the children and pets of the family are truly allowed to live in the house. The young Snowdens do their homework on the dining room table.

Tour hours will be from 2:30 until 5:30 and tickets may be purchased from any of the houses on tour during the hours of the tour. Houses to be shown include 170 Queen St., 168½ Queen St., 0 Gibbes St. and 15 Tradd St.

Tour guests are requested to wear low heeled shoes and to refrain from smoking within the residences.



Chest-On-Chest