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Built 1789, the Barnwell-Gough House is a noteworthy example of Adam style architecture adapted to local building materials, in this case, tabby, a cement mixture using oyster shells.

Exterior: This large two story house with hipped roof rests on a raised basement. Exterior walls are made of tabby covered with stucco. Facade features a double tiered, pedimented portico mounted on arcaded base. A flight of seven stone steps flanked with curved stone abutments leads to first level of portico. Four slender Doric columns support portico which is enclosed with balustrade. Portico shelters central entrance which is surmounted with transom and features decorative Adam work surround with fluted pilasters. There are two windows on either side of the main door, one is within the portico while the other is not. The second level portico and facade are identical to the first level except that Doric columns are slightly smaller. Pediment is unadorned. Wings extend from east and west sides of building.

Interior: First floor has four perfectly proportioned rooms with high ceilings and random width pine floors. A central hall, extending from front to rear entrance, is lighted by a handsome Palladian window at north end. Two of the four original first floor mantels remain intact. Early newel posts and balustrades of stairway were replaced by more ornate ones in the late 19th Century. Much of the first floor decoration including mantels and cornices has been replaced. On the second floor, most of the original woodwork is intact, especially in the ballroom.



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The Barnwell-Gough House, located in the heart of Beaufort's historic district, is an outstanding example of 18th-Century tabby construction. Its owners were prominent Beaufort citizens who took an active interest in political and military affairs.

Architectural Significance: The Barnwell-Gough House received an "outstanding" architectural rating from Historic Preservation Planners Carl Feiss and Russell Wright in the 1968-69 inventory of Beaufort's historic buildings. The structure represents the ingenuity of local builders in adapting the Adam style to available building materials such as tabby. A valuable component of the Beaufort Historic District, there are plans for rehabilitating the house for use as a library for the Beaufort Regional Campus of the University of South Carolina. At present, HUD funds are being applied for to use in adapting the building for library use.

Political and Military Significance: This house was built in 1789 for Elizabeth Barnwell Gough whose grandfather, Colonel John Barnwell, built Fort King George on the Altamaha River (now in Southeast Georgia) in 1721 to protect the colony of South Carolina from Spanish encroachment to the south.

Richard Gough, Elizabeth's husband, served as a representative in the South Carolina General Assembly.

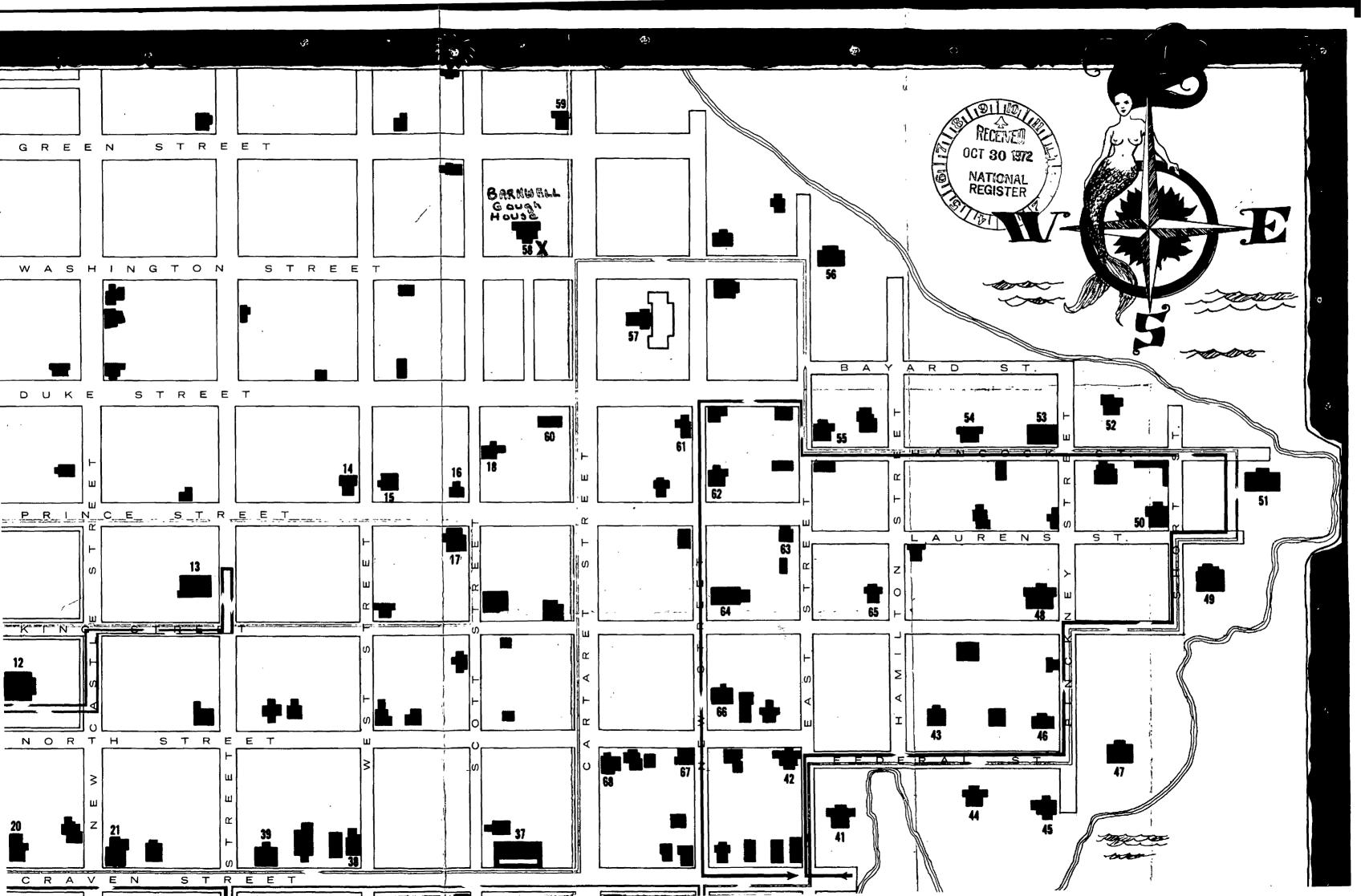
Their only daughter, Mariana, married James Smith. Of their ten children, six of the boys changed their name from Smith to Rhett, sir name of their pirate-fighting great-great-grandfather, Colonel William Rhett. One of these sons, Robert Barnwell Rhett, was one of South Carolina's strongest advocates of Calhoun's Nullification doctrine in the 1830s and the secessionist movement in the years just prior to the Civil War.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL F	

The Beaufort Historic Foundation. A Guide to Historic Beaufort. 1970.

Wallace, David D. <u>A Short History of South Carolina</u>. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 1951.

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