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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is patterned as a parallelogram, its right-angled severity broken effectively by a stairwell bow on the north wall, a bowed piazza to the west, and offset wide porches on the south where the formal garden affords a pleasant view toward the domed gate house.

The house is extremely well-constructed. The wooden columns of the portico are mounted on stone plinths to prevent rot and between the subflooring and the heart-pine flooring is a layer of lime to discourage insects. Behind each baseboard exists an additional layer of bricks to prevent the space from being used as a concourse for rodents. Heavy pine rafters support the slate roof.

The intricate ceiling over the front stairway was restored in 1930 by Mrs. Francis B. Crowninshield of Boston.

Adjoining the library is a small room in which musical instruments were kept. In the dining room is a door adjacent to the service stairs, leading down to a rear door at ground level and from there to the kitchen building; adjoining the master bedroom is a dressing room, at that time an innovation. The rooms are no longer the square boxes of earlier Charleston houses, but tend toward rectangles and, in the case of the hall, terminate in an apse enclosing the winding stairway. This apse, on the exterior, is expressed as a rounded tower.

The east end of the dining room terminates in a segmental concave curve giving free foot space for the butler in serving. This curvature is echoed at the west end of the building by a two-story piazza which is also segmental in design and which balances the composition without being rigidly symetrical. These instances of enclosing space within arcs of a circle are taken directly from Robert Adam's Italian influenced designs.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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门 Pre-Columbian	16th Ceritury	🔀 18th Ceritury	20th Ceritury
15th Century	17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applical	ble and Known) 1790		
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	iate)	
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One of the finest examples of the Adam style in America, the Joseph Manigault house reflects the architect's taste for the classic style. Particularly of note is the small and refined scale of the detail in mantels, door and window mouldings, and cornices at wall and ceiling angles. Robert Adam was the first architect using this classic vocabulary to make a distinction between the scale of temples and the smaller scale appropriate to domestic architecture. Gabriel Manigault was aware of this distinction and exemplified it in this, his first neoclassic building.

The house was designed, as above mentioned, by Gabriel Manigault for his brother, Joseph, and built in 1790; the designer Manigault had studied in Geneva and London before the Revolution and had begun to form his ideas concerning architecture there. He came back to Charleston shortly before the war and designed several buildings in the city after the war.

Although Manigault designed only a few buildings in Charleston (five), the qualities of refinement, elegance, and varied spatial forms are so distinctive in the house that he contrived for his brother that his reputation will always rest secure. It is highly significant that in the city it was the first house to be planned <u>de nouveau</u> to suit the requirements of the owner instead of following the often repeated plans of either the single house or the double house then so popular. (Albert Simons, FAIA)

In the architectural survey of Charleston, a jury composed of Dr. William Murtagh, Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, Professor Bernard Lemann, Tulane University School of Architecture, Mr. Carl Feiss and Mr. Russell Wright, consultants to the city, noted this structure as exceptional. This notation indicates that the building is of the highest architectural design quality, well-proportioned, and architecturally sophisticated. Windows, classical orders of other period designs, chimneys, verandahs, massing, materials, textures, refined detail, and craftsmanship are all elegant and innovative. The structure is to be preserved and protected in situ at all costs.

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