

Harvey-Lining House and Pharmacy
Broad Street at King Street
Charleston
Charleston County
South Carolina

HABS No. SC-106

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An Addendum to
Dr. Turnbull's Apothecary Shop
125 King Street
Charleston, South Carolina
in HABS Catalog (1941)

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

DR. ANDREW TURNBULL APOTHECARY SHOP
111 King Street, Charleston
Charleston County, South Carolina

Owner: Minnie J. Poulnot
117 Rutledge Avenue

Date of erection: c. 1715

Builder: Charles Hill

Present condition: Good

Description:

Frame; two stories; slate roof; rectangular plan.

Additional data:

Original owner, Charles Hill, gave to his son-in-law, Dr. Linning. Shop interior in Museum dates from De la Motte's time (1815); chair rail and cornice from Turnbull's time.

Other existing records:

Historical Commission; Charleston Museum

Prepared by Junior Architect James L. Burnett, Jr.

Approved: TW 4/10/41

HARVEY-LINING HOUSE AND PHARMACY

An Addendum to
Dr. Turnbull's Apothecary Shop
125 King Street
Charleston, South Carolina
in HABS Catalog (1941)

Location: Broad Street at King Street, Charleston,
Charleston County, South Carolina

Present Owner: The Preservation Society of Charleston, Inc.

Present Occupant: Not now occupied

Present Use: Not in use pending completion of restoration

Statement of
Significance: An early eighteenth-century house with important
historical associations, one of the earliest
remaining drug store sites.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Built for William Harvey. Later owned by Charles Hill, who died in 1751, leaving the property to his daughter Sarah, Mrs. John Lining. The Linings sold the property in 1756. In 1781 it was purchased by Dr. Andrew Turnbull, who owned it until about 1790. Ann Timothy occupied the premises for several years, until 1794 or later, and then the Levy family had a mercantile business there. Solomon Levy from about 1806 to 1829; Dr. Jacob De la Motta to 1845, Dr. William Trott to 1870; Dr. Christian F. Schwettmann to 1894; Dr. Frederick W. Schwettmann to 1915; Dr. John F. Huchting to 1921; Dr. Frederick Schwettmann Poulnot to 1960 [Dr. J. Hampton Hoch, in an article in the News and Courier, Charleston, South Carolina, August 31, 1960].

Purchased from Poulnot in August 1962 by Alwyn and Henry Berlin [News and Courier, August 27, 1960].

Acquired in 1961 by the Preservation Society of Charleston [Interview with Captain William T. Hart, President of the Preservation Society, on June 11, 1962].

2. Date of erection: Between 1715 and 1728 [Elise Pinckney, in The Lining House (Charleston: The Preservation Society of Charleston, 1961), a pamphlet].

3. Original plans: Central hall with two rooms on each side, both stories [Physical evidence visible during progress of restoration].

4. Notes on alterations and additions: At an undetermined date the eastern portion of the first story was altered--probably several times--to accommodate a pharmacy. The southwest room on the second story appears to have been altered as to interior finish, perhaps in the early nineteenth century [Ibid.].

The building is at present undergoing a careful and thorough restoration, under the direction of architect Read Barnes, Charleston, South Carolina.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Dr. John Lining, who made systematic weather observations which he reported to the Royal Society in London between 1738 and 1742 [Marguerite Steedman, in an article in the News and Courier, Charleston, South Carolina, March 18, 1962], lived here for several years in the 1750's.

In 1781 Dr. Andrew Turnbull opened a pharmacy in this building; from the early nineteenth century until 1960 a continuous chain of pharacists carried on their business at this site--Dr. Jacob De la Motta, Dr. William Trott, Dr. Christian F. Schwettmann, Dr. Frederick W. Schwettmann, Dr. John F. Huchting, and Dr. Frederick Schwettmann Poulnot [J. H. Hoch, op. cit.].

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A simple house of the early eighteenth century with paneling of unusually wide cypress boards, and other interesting details.

2. Condition of fabric: This building has had all deteriorated structural parts replaced and repaired. At present the hall and stairway have been restored completely, and the remainder of the interior is awaiting restoration of its interior finish. The exterior has been completed and is all in excellent condition.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: About 36' x 48' (3 bays x 5 bays); 2-1/2 stories; faces south.

2. Foundations: Very low. These are new, of brick.

3. Wall construction: Heavy timber frame with timbers averaging 9" x 9", studding 4" x 4", about 18" on centers. Clapboards are beaded at the lower edge and are exposed 8". Lower sills have been replaced, as well as first-floor walls at the southeast corner; the remainder of the frame is mostly original.

4. Chimneys: Originally there were two chimney stacks but one was removed a long time ago. The remaining one is of brick, located between the rooms at the western part of the house.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The main doorway is slightly left of center, on the south facade. It is a frontispiece with engaged Doric columns and entablature; the architrave is decorated with gouge work, the frieze is plain, and the cornice has a group of narrow bed mouldings surmounted by curved modillions and a shelf-like corona. The door has two leaves, each with three panels; it is a restoration.

The rear door, on the north facade, is considered original, although the top panels have been glazed at some undetermined date. It has two leaves, each with three panels. The transom, now closed with wood, was probably glazed. There is an architrave trim around this entrance.

b. Windows and shutters: Windows have architrave trim, and are double hung with nine lights over nine lights; some of the sash appear quite old. First-floor shutters are paneled and those on the second floor and in the gables are louvered.

6. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Gable roof, 12/12 pitch. The original covering was wood shingles; in the restoration slate was used to comply with the city code. The roof flares slightly at the cornice.

b. Framing: Principal rafters are located over the heavy timber posts of the walls; they are 7" x 8", with 6" x 6" collars. Purlins are 4" x 6-1/2", laid flat; rafters are 3" x 4", laid flat, with variable spacing averaging approximately 20" on centers, and 1-1/2" x 5-1/2" collars. Sheathing boards are 1" x 5-1/2", yellow pine.

c. Cornice: A wooden house cornice, including a frieze, extends around the four sides, and a cove cornice extends along the rake of the gables. The house cornice is delicate in scale with a prominent soffit; it contains flat modillions and two carved rope mouldings.

A modern sheet-metal gutter now hangs beyond the cornice, connecting to round sheet-metal conductors.

d. Dormers: There are three hipped dormers on the south front, and three on the north front; sash have six lights over six lights.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor plans:

a. First floor: There is a hall, slightly west of center, divided into an entrance and a stair hall, in the rear half, which is slightly wider. On each side of the hall originally there were two rooms, those at the front being larger than those at the rear. At some undetermined date the division between rooms at the east end was removed; restoration plans for this portion are not definite at present.

b. Second floor: The second floor is similar in plan except that the hall is limited to the rear portion; the area gained makes the southwest room larger than the others.

c. Attic: There is a central hall with two rooms on the west side and one room on the east side (which may have been divided originally).

2. Stairways: The stairway from the first to the second floor has been restored. It has a long flight to a landing, a few steps to a second landing, and a short flight at the top, with an open well. There are 19 risers. The moulded handrail has ramping curves, and terminates at the bottom at a simple turned newel. There is an open string, with S-shaped brackets below the projecting treads, and three turned balusters to each tread. A paneled wood wainscot follows the rise of the stairway, with a top member corresponding to the handrail. The lines of the hall are not the same on both stories, leaving a small pocket alongside the upper flight.

An enclosed stair with winders leads to the attic; it is not determined whether this is original or not.

3. Flooring: This is single, of longleaf yellow pine, pieces of varying width, between 7-1/2" and 11". The condition is variable. Joists are 3" x 8-1/2", about 18" on centers.

4. Interior finish and trim:

a. General: The first-floor hall and stairway have been restored but the remainder of the interiors have had their wall and ceiling finish removed, exposing the framing, in most places.

b. Entrance hall, on first floor: An elliptical arch in wood divides this from the stair hall; this has an archivolt, "keystone" and impost. It rests on paneled pilasters of considerable projection. The spandrels are paneled; above them is a three-piece entablature in wood, with simple architrave, pulvinated frieze, and cornice. The entablature breaks out around the "keystone." Only the cornice carries around the hall. There is a wooden paneled wainscot.

Walls and ceiling are of plaster, painted; in the ceiling is a beam (plastered over) extending from the front wall to the top flight of the stair in a diagonal direction. No explanation for this irregular beam has been found.

c. Southwest room on first floor: Some restoration work has begun. Doorways have simple architrave trim, and there is a wooden cornice. A simple wooden mantel, of a type common in Greek Revival houses, remains. The brick arch of the hearth above can be seen.

d. Northwest room on first floor: This has a wooden cornice, architrave trim on the western window, a wooden wainscot, and a simple mantel with an imitation keystone.

e. Southwest room on second floor: This has a ceiling height of 9'-1 1/4". This room appears to have been elaborated, perhaps in the early nineteenth century. All wall surfaces are paneled with wide cypress boards laid vertically; panel mouldings are applied to the surface. Corner posts are cased and treated with Doric pilaster capitals. Wainscoting is plain. A small cornice extends around the room. Doorways have architrave trim, varying somewhat on different doors. The fireplace is on the north wall, left of center; it has a simple architrave around the opening, a frieze with ornament in relief--urns and swags--and a cornice with dentils. The door at the northwest corner has four panels and the original one at the northeast corner has six panels.

The floor boards are matched, with widths ranging up to 12". Marks on the ceiling joists indicate that the ceiling was once lathed and plastered.

f. Southeast room on second floor: This has a small wooden cornice, planted onto the girts, and a plain wainscot of horizontal boards. Marks on the floor show where a chimney has been removed. Doors are 1 1/8" thick, three-panel, with box locks and two HL hinges.

g. Northeast room on second floor: This has a wood cornice and wainscot. Diagonal corner bracing can be seen in the outer walls.

h. Northwest room on second floor: Some plaster remains on the south wall. The mantel is very simple, of a type commonly found in Greek Revival houses. Two doors have four panels; one to the closet adjoining the chimney has three panels.

i. Attic: The partitions between the hall and the spaces on each side are made of vertical boards whose edges are both grooved, joined so that alternate boards project (or recede); their widths vary from 9" to 14". Doors are board and batten on one side,

two panel on the other side. The stair opening has a rail with turned balusters. The rooms at the west have simple fireplaces. Marks on studding and rafter collars indicate that they were once covered with lath and plaster.

5. Hardware: A number of locks, hinges, nails, and miscellaneous pieces of iron hardware were removed from the building for study and ultimate reinstallation; these will serve as the models for needed replacements. The wrought-iron HL hinges on the rear door appear original. The shutter hardware on the exterior, consisting of strap hinges, pintles, bolts and hold-backs, has been restored.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: This site is at the northwest corner of the intersection of two streets which are today busy thoroughfares largely used for commercial purposes. The house is at the sidewalk lines, with about 5' of space at the west and 15' at the north; a wooden picket fence has been built at the sidewalk along these spaces.

Prepared by Harley J. McKee, Architect
National Park Service
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