

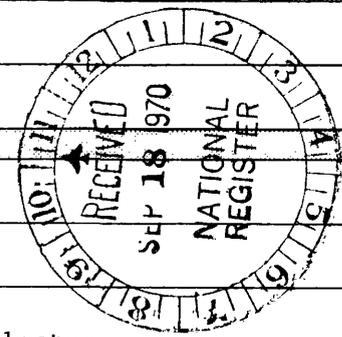
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Charleston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.12.45.0045	DATE 12/18/70



1. NAME

COMMON:
The Sword Gates Houses

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
32 Legare Street, 111 Tradd Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Charleston

STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45 COUNTY: Charleston CODE: 019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. William Griffen (frame), Dr. and Mrs. E.J. Dennis (brick)

STREET AND NUMBER:
32 Legare Street 111 Tradd Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Charleston

STATE: South Carolina CODE: 39 / 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Register of Mesne Conveyance

STREET AND NUMBER:
Charleston County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Charleston

STATE: South Carolina CODE: 39 / 45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey, Charleston and S. C. Low Country

DATE OF SURVEY: 1965 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
National Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER:
143 South Third Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Philadelphia

STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 39 / 45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

(Check One)

CONDITION

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Erected in two stages, this brick and frame house is now subdivided into two separate residences. Frame section has original address of 32 Legare Street, retains name of Sword Gates. Redecorated 1849, same year Sword Gates were installed in high brick wall in front of frame portion of house. The tall wrought iron gates are decorated with elaborate scrolls and leafage. Each half has a central cross ^{for iron} by points of two vertical spears meeting in center of horizontally placed broadsword. Manufactured by Christopher Werner of Charleston.

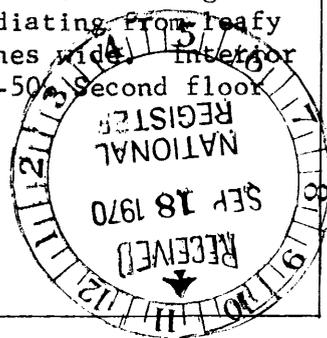
In the 1960s the brick and frame house, with detached two-story brick kitchen, walled garden, and gates, was subdivided into four lots under separate ownership, with three different houses. The garden was destroyed. The frame portion, now a rambling three-story structure, underwent many late 19th century additions and alterations, losing its early-period architectural integrity.

The brick wing has retained its architectural integrity. Two and a half stories over high basement, slate-covered hip roof. House is 28 feet (two bays) wide and 64 feet (six bays) long. There are three pedimented dormers along the north (Tradd Street) and one on the west (Legare Street). The brick walls are covered with stucco; cornice is also stucco. Double hung windows, nine over nine light sash. First floor windows have exterior paneled shutters and second story shutters are louvered. Basement story modernized for motel rooms.

High stoop approached by 13 sandstone steps supported on brick and stucco quadrant arch leads to first floor entrance. Door is sheltered by pedimented wooden hood with brackets, probably dating from about 1850.

Door leads into one-bay-wide north-south hall across west end of brick wing that once led into frame portion. Door in east wall, near south side, opens into library, also two bays long. West of these two rooms is large drawing room, three bays long, occupying entire west portion of brick wing. This room, 25 by 32 feet, has 13 foot ceiling. Its west wall contains two symmetrically-balanced doors, leading to stairhall and library. Both doors are single and eight-paneled but are designed to simulate double leaves. In center of east wall, a projecting fireplace with light-gray marble mantel is flanked by pair of windows. Reveals of window openings extend to floor and are wood paneled. Architrave trim is of wood, reeded, and ornamented with original gold leaf. Walls have wooden wainscoting to the chair rail. Ornamental plaster cornice retains what appears to be original coloring--light blue-gray picked out with gold leaf. Ceiling has large plaster centerpiece of 12 large acanthus leaves radiating from leafy central pendant. Floor is of pine boards about five inches wide. Interior of this room, virtually unaltered, dates from about 1849-50. Second floor has two large rooms; three bedrooms on third floor.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1803-1818

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Noted property located in the Historic Charleston District, famed for distinctive Sword Gates of same design as grilles once used in Greek Doric guardhouse at Charleston's historic Broad and Meeting Streets. Also classified as valuable for fine garden and house. Although the property was considered by the National Historic Landmark Committee in recent Colonial Architecture selections, it actually belongs to the early 19th century period. (According to the NHL study, "estimated construction dates have ranged wildly in the past.")

The frame section, which retains the original Legare Street address and the Sword Gates, is now believed to have been built around 1803, possibly by French Huguenots James LaRoche and J. Lardent.

The brick wing was probably added about 1818, acquired by Madame Talvaude, and used as girls school.

British consul George A. Hopley bought and redecorated the house in 1849 and installed the Sword gates.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Deas, Alston, The Early Ironworks of Charleston. Columbia, 1941.

Stoney, Samuel G., This is Charleston: a Survey of the Architectural Heritage of a Unique American City. Charleston, 1944.

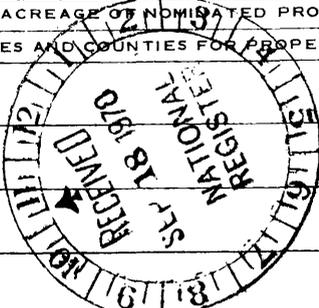
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		32 01 32.5	79 57 06.5	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1/2 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. James W. Fant, Historic Resources

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives & History DATE: August 29, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street PO Box 11,188 Capitol Station 29211

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 75

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Charles E. Lee

Title: Director S.C. Dept. of Archives and History

Date: August 29, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connelly
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DEC 18 1970

Date: _____

ATTEST:

William J. Mumford
Keeper of The National Register

DEC 1 1970

Date: _____