

- LOW · HOUSE -

HABS NO . GA-210

- SAVANNAH · GEORGIA -

HABS.

GA.

26 - SAV

14-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Georgia

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Harold Bush-Brown, District Officer  
Georgia School of Technology, Atlanta, Ga.

## THE LOW HOUSE

Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia  
LaFayette Square

Owner: The Georgia Society of the Colonial Dames of America.

Date of Erection: 1847.

Builder: Andrew Low.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Two and high basement, Faces East.

Materials of Construction: Foundation brick wood floors, exterior walls brick stuccoed, roof slate.

Other Existing Records: Garden History of Georgia, 1733- 1933.

Additional Data: A bronze tablet at front: "Built by Andrew Low 1848. Home of Juliette Low 1866 to 1927". She was founder of Girl Scouts in U.S. and organized Savannah Girl Scouts March, 1912. Is now Colonial Dames House. Occupies one of the trust lots on LaFayette Square. Thackeray was a guest in 1853 and 1856. Wrought iron of entrance, balconies, and fence good.

*Harold Bush-Brown*  
HAROLD BUSH-BROWN Dec 1, 1936  
DISTRICT OFFICER-HABS

Rec. Dec. 7, 36 TFW

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This handsome Victorian house was built about 1848 by Andrew Low, Anglo-American cotton merchant of Liverpool and Savannah.

← John Norris  
bldr. (1994 info)

It is built of stuccoed brick with wrought iron railings enclosing the front and side balconies. Jalousied porches reflecting the West Indian plantation influence overlook the brickwalled garden in the rear. The beautifully proportioned rooms with elaborately decorated ceilings and carved woodwork are enhanced by crystal chandeliers. The front garden is the original hour-glass design.

William Makepeace Thackeray was twice a guest in the house when on lecture tours in 1853 and 1856. The desk on which he wrote while here may be seen in one of the bedrooms. In April 1870 when General Robert E. Lee visited Savannah, he was a guest of Mr. Low and a reception in his honor was held in the drawing rooms.

The mansion was owned by the Low family until the death in 1927 of Juliette Gordon Low, widow of William Mackay Low, son of the builder of the house. It was here in 1912 that Mrs. Low organized the first Girl Scout troop in America. The carriage house was given by her to the Girl Scouts of Savannah as their headquarters.

In 1928 the home was bought by the Georgia Colonial Dames as their headquarters. Most of its furnishings, in keeping with the style of the house, have been given by members and friends of the Society.