

Hext House
207 Hancock Street
Beaufort
Beaufort County
South Carolina

HABS No. SC-289

HABS
SC
7-BEAUF
11-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

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7- BEAUF.

HEXT HOUSE

Location: 207 Handcock Street, Beaufort, Beaufort County,
South Carolina.

Present Owner
and Occupant: Mrs. Irma H. Morris, 207 Handcock Street, Beaufort,
South Carolina.

Present Use: Residential and commercial (antiques shop).

Brief Statement
of Significance: An early 18th century house, thought to be the
oldest remaining in Beaufort, with notable archi-
tectural features.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Original and Subsequent Owners: The Hext family; now Mrs. Morris.
- B. Date of Erection: About 1700-10.
- C. Notes on original plan and construction of building: Apparently a central hall with one room either side, possibly a central rear ell containing stair. End chimneys.
- D. Notes on known alterations and additions: Rear rooms (on first floor) appear to have been added at an early date. In modern times the walls had been covered with composition board; recently this has been removed, revealing the original paneling. The piazza may be an early 19th century addition.
- E. Sources of Information: Information supplied by Mrs. Irma H. Morris and by Mr. and Mrs. Howard E. Danner, Beaufort, South Carolina.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement
 1. Architectural character: A very early house with well-preserved interior paneling and trim of an unpretentious style.
 2. Condition of fabric: Good; in recent years it has been cleaned and refinished. Well maintained at present.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Number of stories, bays, over-all dimensions, shape:
Two stories over high basement; 5 by 3 bays; 28' front by 36', plus 11' deep piazza; rectangular.
2. Foundations: High; stucco on tabby.
3. Wall construction: Frame, covered by clapboards exposed 7 1/2", some being beaded, painted white.
4. Porches: Double-tiered five-bay front piazza over high basement. Solid wood modified Doric columns, with half-columns at ends on wall. Flooring and ceilings of narrow boards. Single flight of wood steps on axis. Small screened rear porch, apparently a later addition.
5. Chimneys: Two end chimneys, stucco on brick, project from walls; the top portion is free-standing, with an air space between it and the gable. This detail is characteristic of the older Beaufort houses.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: A simple entrance from the piazza, on axis, comprises a six-panel door with a rectangular glazed transom. The second-story door to the piazza is a replacement, apparently late 19th century.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Double-hung sash, six-over-nine lights. Joints fastened with wooden pegs. A number of sash contain original panes. Plain trim. Louvered blinds.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with composition shingles.
 - b. Eaves: simple.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: First floor: central hall, one front room each side; in rear, a wider stair hall, one room each side. 8'-3" ceiling height.
Second floor: In the front portion, a central hall with one room each side. 7'-6" ceiling height. A central rear room and bathroom are additions of unknown date.

2. Stairways: The stair appears to be original or at least very old. It extends mostly in a straight flight with some windars at the top; 13 risers in all. Open string, small square newel, round handrail, rectangular balusters 5/8" x 1" in section. A half-rail is supported on the wall. All of longleaf yellow pine, natural.
3. Flooring: First-growth longleaf yellow pine heartwood, boards from 5 1/2" to 9" wide.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: That of the front portion is of greatest interest. The hall partitions are of adzed vertical boards of varying widths, up to 15". Other walls are plastered above the wainscot; plastering on walls of southeast parlor said to be original. Walls above fireplaces are paneled full height. Ceilings are plastered. Door and window trim is typically of the architrave type. Simple bolection moldings frame fireplaces on first and second floors, with simple paneling above. Parlors have paneled wainscots; second-floor rooms, plain wainscots.
The first-floor hall boards are beaded, with a molded base, dado rail and cornice. Rooms have cornices, those of the parlors having a frieze below.
Rear rooms are plastered, with wooden base and chair rail. Trim of openings is rounded back band.
5. Doors: First-floor doors are 2'-9 1/2" x 6'-6" x 1 1/4", six molded panels with one face raised. Architrave trim. Second-floor doors are board-and-batten with plain trim.
6. Hardware: Wrought-iron HL hinges, joined in a helix around the pin so that the door is raised slightly as it is opened.
7. Heating: Fireplaces in major rooms.

D. Site

1. Orientation and general setting: A large lot extends to tidal marshes and water at the north; on the south is Hancock Street, with Pinckney Street at the west. The house faces south. The neighborhood is known locally as "the Point."
2. Enclosures: Enclosures are recant--a fence at the street and a low brick garden wall at the front line of the house.

Prepared by Harley J. McKee, Architect
National Park Service
August 1963

APPENDIX
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