

Beaufort file

Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

March 14, 1956

Mr. Charles Montgomery
The Henry Francis DuPont Winterthur Museum
Winterthur, Delaware

Dear Charlie:

I am the one who is ashamed for bothering you in the first place with the Beaufort wallpaper. Over and over I told Danner to use the advice of the people at the Metropolitan and Brooklyn and then as long as the paper was appropriate, select what he liked best. He still pressed me to ask your advice. Please forgive me and forget the whole thing. Albert Simons of Charleston supervised the restoration and did a fine job. He was too near to be considered an expert.

We received some \$230,000 for a new wing for the Museum to house the Lloyd W. Smith Collection. Am looking forward to showing you some of our treasures. Why not pay us a visit as soon as we have some pleasant weather?

Sorry I did not get to hear you the other day at the Pennsylvania Historical Society.

Sincerely,

Francis S. Ronalds

FSR/c

THE HENRY FRANCIS DU PONT WINTERTHUR MUSEUM
WINTERTHUR • DELAWARE

CHARLES F. MONTGOMERY • DIRECTOR

9 March 1956

Beaufort file

Mr. Francis S. Ronalds, Superintendent
Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

Dear Francis:

I am ashamed not to have answered your letter of January 23. Frankly, I don't see how Mr. Danner can avoid doing some research and study to learn what kind of wallpapers were being used down there at that time--if they were being used? Since I am not familiar with the house, it is hard to give advice from here.

I passed through Carolina a few weeks ago and this Spring, in early April, I hope to go to Charleston and look about to gather some first-hand impressions. It all sounds like a most important undertaking and I hope it can be carried out. Has he tried scraping to find out the color of the paint that was already there? That oftentimes, yields the most help of all.

Sincerely yours,

Charlie

Charles F. Montgomery

CFM/ccf

Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

January 23, 1956

Beaufort file

Mr. Charles Montgomery
The Henry Francis Du Pont Winterthur Museum
Winterthur, Delaware

Dear Charlie:

Howard E. Danner of Beaufort, South Carolina is still worrying about what to paint the woodwork in the Lafayette Building and what would be proper wallpaper for the downstairs front hall and the ballroom.

I wonder if any of your students are knowledgeable about paint and paper for such a house built between 1790 and 1795. The architect was John Mark Verdier.

Attached are the dimensions of the two rooms. The hall is very dark while the ballroom is quite light as it enjoys five windows.

Do wish you would get up this way for a visit.

Sincerely,

Francois S. Ronalds
Superintendent

Enclos.
FSRonalds/c

Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

Beaufort file

January 23, 1956

Mr. Howard E. Danner
Wallace & Danner
Beaufort, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Danner:

I have again appealed to Winterthur for advice on your paint and paper problem. Have sent the dimensions of the hall and ballroom to Charlie Montgomery, and will let you know what he says about it. However, as I have said right along, as long as it is appropriate for the period, why not let your own tastes decide?

Ann and Oswald Knauth have left for India, so are not currently available.

Please remember me to Mrs. Danner.

Sincerely,

Francis S. Ronalds
Superintendent

FSR/c

WALLACE & DANNER

dry goods, shoes, clothing

READY-TO-WEAR

BEAUFORT, S.C.

January 14 1956

HOWARD E. DANNER

Dr. Francis S. Ronalds,
Morristown National Historical Park,
Morristown, N. J.

Dear Dr. Ronalds:-

Thanks for your kind letter of the 10th. I regret that you did not get my letter of Nov 2nd as we would be that much further along by now.

However, the gist of that letter was to the effect that we seem to be definitely at the end of our relationship with Mr. Simons as we have heard nothing from him since his return. We are therefore in a pickle to decide on the color with which to paint the woodwork in the Lafayette Building and to select proper wall paper for the downstairs front hall and the ball room.

I was wondering if you could and would help us to this end.

I have contacted Miss Lydia Powell of the Metropolitan who seems (at the instigation of Oswald Knauth) to be willing to help us. The lady at the Jumel Mansion gave me the name of Katzenbach and Warren at 575 Madison as the best source for period wall paper and my thought was that it would be well to get some one to explain the situation to them and ask them to submit samples for our committee to select from. It might be possible that Miss Powell would help us on this as well as in advising the proper color for our woodwork. Her "putty" shade in the Metropolitan appealed to Mrs Danner and myself.

In case you feel that you could help us in this matter I am inclosing dimensions of the two rooms involved. The hall is very dark as you know, while the ball room is quite airy with five windows.

Mr. Knauth is now in New York and would, I am sure, give us any assistance possible.

Thanking you in advance, I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

Howard E. Danner
Howard E. Danner



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

Beaufort, S.C. file

January 10, 1955

Mr. Howard E. Danner
Wallace and Danner
Beaufort, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Danner:

I have just received your letter of January 4, but know nothing of a letter of November 2 from you.

Early last month we had dinner with Miss Josephine Pinckney at the Knauths and Eric had a dinner for Mr. Simons.

We have been in Chicago for almost three weeks on account of a death in my wife's family and accordingly had a very Unmerry Christmas.

Trust all is well with you and yours.

Sincerely yours,

Francis S. Ronalds
Superintendent

FSRonalds/c

WALLACE & DANNER

dry goods, shoes, clothing

READY-TO-WEAR

BEAUFORT, S.C.

HOWARD E. DANNER

January 4 1956



Dr. Francis S. Ronalds,
Morristown Historical Park,
Morristown, N. J.

Dear Dr. Ronalds:-

I am wondering if you ever got my letter of November 2nd. Not having had a reply we have just been letting the Lafayette Building rook along and it is now time for us to be getting it finished up as far as we can now go.

I am trying to get over to Charleston next week and while we apparently are at th end of the row as far as Simmons is concerned I will try to interest Sam Stoney, and Mrs Chisolm who should have some ideas as to our needs in the matter of woodwork color and wallpaper.

Trust you and your family had the best of holiday seasons and with our best wishes for the New Year, I am,

Yours very truly,

Howard E. Danner

Howard E. Danner.

*Dear Eric: This goes to all members of the S.C. delegation
in Washington. I hope it may have some influence
as "a voice crying in the wilderness" yours Albert*

COMMITTEE ON PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS
17 Broad Street, Charleston, South Carolina

November 28, 1955

*Beautiful S.C.
file*

Hon. L. Mendel Rivers, M.C.
House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

RE: Preservation of Old Patent Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mendel:

Recently I have had the opportunity of reading the record of the hearing held on July 8th, 1955 on H.R. 4841 in which appeared Congressman John L. McMillan's energetic and forceful defense for the preservation of the Old Patent Office. Certainly Congressman McMillan spoke well in behalf of the best interests of the people of our country generally and of South Carolinians in particular.

As you may recall, Burnet Maybank when he was alive defended the life of this building with all the fervor of his ardent nature. Burnet felt very strongly that this building was an integral part of South Carolina's contribution to the treasures of our national capital. At the time this building came into being three South Carolinians were among the leaders of their day in Washington - President Andrew Jackson, Secretary of War, Joel Poinsett and the architect of this building, Robert Mills.

As we all know, to our regret, the authors of the most widely accepted histories of our country have not hailed from south of the Mason-Dixon line and there has been a natural but biased tendency for historians to overlook the contributions made by Southern men in the formative days of our republic. How can we expect this lack of recognition ever to be set right if we stand by and allow a great achievement of a South Carolinian to be destroyed so that commercial establishments in Washington may profit by a spacious parking lot.

But this is not a matter of concern to South Carolinians only, but to an increasing number of influential persons throughout the nation. The opposition to the destruction of this architectural masterpiece is on record from spokesmen of the American Institute of Architects, the Fine Arts Commission, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Society of Architectural Historians.

May I strongly urge that you use your considerable prestige and influence to combat aggressively this ill considered proposal to destroy a valued treasure in our American heritage.

Respectfully yours,

Albert Simons
Fellow of the American Institute of Architects

C O P Y

House of Representatives, U.S.
Committee on the District of Columbia
Washington, D.C.

Florence, South Carolina

November 21, 1955

Mr. Albert Simons
Simons, Lapham & Mitchell, Architects
Second Floor, 17 Broad Street
Charleston 3, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Simons:

I received your letter of the 15th and was delighted to learn that your organization is opposed to the proposal made by the General Services Administration to destroy the Old Patent Office now used by the Civil Service Commission.

I have gone through this building on numerous occasions and it is in my opinion one of the finest architectural structures we have in the city of Washington. I feel that some of the owners of one or two large department stores in Washington, who are interested in having this location for a parking lot, are responsible for having the General Services Administration call on Congress to grant them permission to destroy this fine building. You can rest assured that it was a pleasure for me to appear before the House Public Works Committee in opposition to the General Services Administration's request.

With kindest regards and trusting that you will contact all the South Carolina delegation relative to this matter, I am,

Sincerely,

John L. McMillan, M.C.

JLM/lm

file

WALLACE & DANNER

dry goods, shoes, clothing

READY-TO-WEAR

S.C.
BEAUFORT, S.C.

November 2 1955

HOWARD E. DANNER

Dr. Francis S. Ronalds,
Morristown National Historical Park,
Morristown, N. J.,

Dear Dr. Ronalds:-

My failure to answer your letter of Sept. 27th does not at all indicate that I did not appreciate it. There have been a number of things which had to be settled before I could do so intelligently.

Among other difficulties, we ran into a bad situation in the appertenant properties to the Lafayette Building which produce most of the revenue to pay for our work, and we simply had to go in and practically rebuild the thing. Until we got through with it there was no way to figure where we would be financially and the outcome is, as you can well imagine, a rather sad one. Just about all of the money we had borrowed to put in our grand marble steps and hand wrought balustrade has gone into cement floors and things like that. The ~~next~~ result is that we are having to postpone most of our ambitions for the building itself. We do, however, have sufficient money to complete the interior of the two rooms (or rather the hallways and the ball room) which we have started on. There may be some overage when we complete our present project.

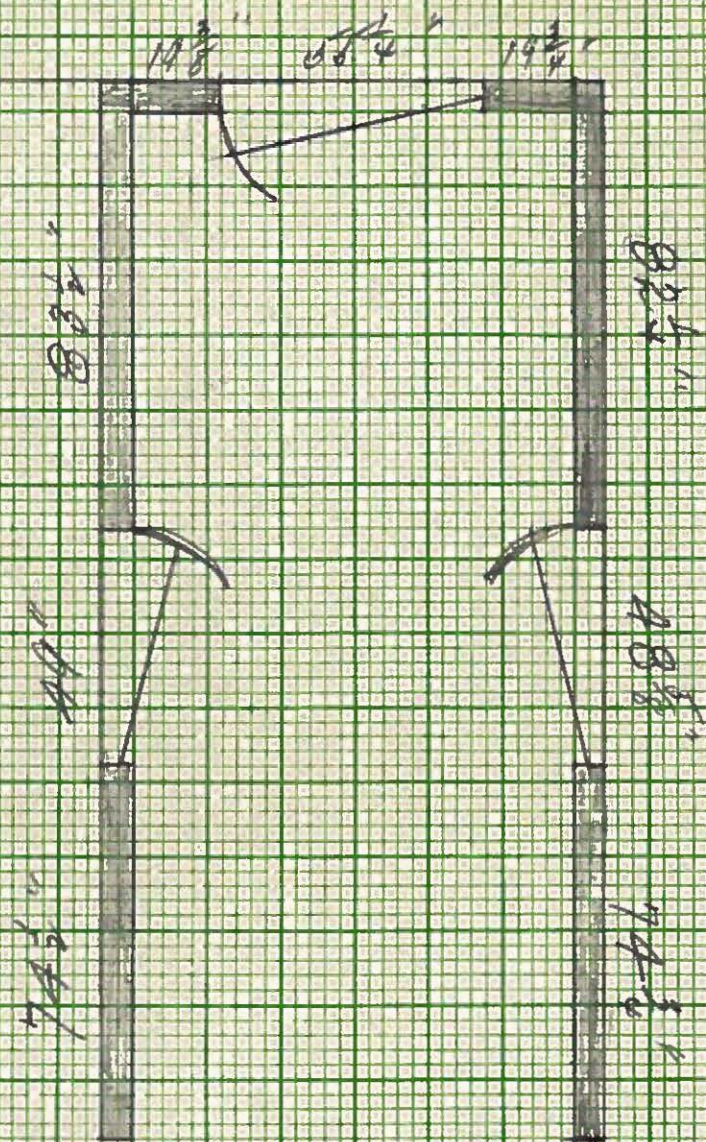
Our immediate problem is to select a paint color for the woodwork and to get the wall-paper for these two rooms. And this is where I wonder if you could give us a little help, both personally and through your contacts. We are particularly anxious to get some guidance as it appears that we will not be able to afford the services of Mr. Simons.

We had considered the paint color along the lines of the putty shade which Miss Powell used in the American Wing. Do you suppose it would be possible to get her to send us a color sample of this shade so that it might be submitted to our committee. We would also like very much to have samples of period patterns in wall paper for these two rooms, together with the approximate cost of sufficient paper to cover the walls. As you doubtless recall the ball room is a very bright room with five windows and no obstructions. The down stairs front hall is rather dark being lighted only through the paladian window in the upstairs stair hall.

Could you, and would you, help us in this matter? For your guidance I am enclosing dimensions of the two rooms in question.

Yours very truly,

Howard E. Danner
Howard E. Danner.



FRONT HALL
 CHAIR RAIL TO CORNICE $7'3"$
 TOP OF FRONT DOOR TO CORNICE $9"$
 TOP OF SIDE DOORS TO CORNICE $18"$

Base Board To Cornice $9\frac{1}{4}"$
Top of Doors To Cornice 15"
Windows Extend From Floor
To Cornice

Base-Board To Cornice $9' 2\frac{1}{4}"$

Top of Doors To Cornice 15"

WINDOWS EXTEND FROM FLOOR
TO CORNICE

C
O
P
Y

Beaufort file

October 31, 1955

Dear Eric:

It was, I believe, Lord Palmerston who said that he "liked the Order of the Garter because there was no damn nonsense about merit concerning this honor." I feel much the same way about your dinner party. Certainly no man ever deserved this honor less nor enjoyed it more. When I think of the rare discrimination you employed in planning the menu and selecting your guests mere words are entirely inadequate to express my appreciation and my gratitude, but the most gratifying thing is that an extremely busy and highly intelligent man would go to all this trouble for me; it almost restores my faith in the human race.

It was most thoughtful of you to send me the list of my fellow guests. All men of very real distinction who wear their honors casually like old but well fitted clothes to which they have been long accustomed. I have never been in company I enjoyed more and with which I felt a more sympathetic understanding.

As a very inadequate expression of my admiration and friendship I am sending to you a copy of "The Plantations of the Carolina Low Country." If by chance you ~~have~~ already have a copy please pass this one on to one of your associates, who may care to have it.

Hoping that you and Mrs. Gugler will be coming this way soon and with much that is still left unsaid, I am,

Cordially yours,

/s/ Albert

Eric Gugler Esq.
101 Park Ave.
New York, N. Y.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

*Beaufort, S.C.
Trip*

September 27, 1955

Mr. Howard E. Danner
Beaufort, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Danner:

Just before sailing for Europe, Albert Simons telephoned me from New York and asked if I would help him out by determining the age of the wallpaper found in the Lafayette house.

I next received in the mail, samples found attached to the rough horizontal boards in the front hall and ball room of the building.

My understanding was that Simons wished to be sure that these samples did not represent an original paper that could have been in the house at the turn-of-the century, or even when Lafayette visited Beaufort.

My friend, Charlie Montgomery, Director of the Winterthur Museum near Wilmington, Delaware, was kind enough to have the samples carefully examined and reports that the paper is after 1850, so should not be reproduced for the house.

I was waiting to hear from Simons on his return to let him know that the samples were definitely not "turn-of-the-century" wallpaper.

My understanding was that this was to be done before looking for period wallpaper which offers no problem. You could not do better than follow Miss Lydia Powell's advice.

I am afraid that Eric doesn't understand about a Park Service architect advising on the woodwork. On my return from Beaufort last May, I found that there was no longer an antiquarian architect available, and I was assured that Simons' advice would be the best available on this problem. This I believe I wrote you at the time.

To reiterate about the wallpaper. So long as the samples could not have been original with the House, why not select a period pattern that appeals to your taste?

I am very sorry that I wasn't here at the time of your visit to New York. I have only just returned from a conference in the Great Smoky National Park, and haven't seen Eric since before he went to Italy.

Please remember me to Mrs. Danner.

Sincerely,

Francis S. Ronalds

FSRonalds/bjcarroll

WALLACE & DANNER

dry goods, shoes, clothing

READY-TO-WEAR

BEAUFORT, S.C.

HOWARD E. DANNER

September 22 1955

Dr. Francis S. Ronalds,
Morristown, N. J.,

Dear Dr. Ronalds:-

I have just gotten in from New York and want to write you immediately as I was unsuccessful in getting hold of you over the telephone while I was there.

I finally got Mr. Gugler on the phone to ask his advise as to one of our problems on the Lafayette restoration having to do with wall paper. He backed right away from the matter, stating that in your last conversation with Simons you had thought that you had exactly the right man for that problem and the other of color for the woodwork and that upon Simons' return from Europe you could probably send him down to help us.

While waiting for Mr. Gugler to get back I had termitted around a little on my own and got some sources of advise in the matter. Saw Miss Jane Ashley of the House of Time, talked to Mrs Chase at the Jumel mansion and almost got down to Cooper Union to see their collection but finding Mr. Hotchkiss away I postponed the visit as I also did with Miss Lydie Powell of the Metropolitan. Unfortunately I was called home hurriedly and did not get to see any of these folks. We are therefore exactly where we were before I started.

This is certainly just as well if we can follow Mr. Gugler's advise and do nothing but get in touch with you as to some expert advise in the matter.

We are unfortunately in a little hassle with Simons over his bill and whether or not he will continue to help us on this project I do not know. While we want to be reasonable about the thing we simply cannot afford to use his consultation unless it is at a moderate price.

If I should send you samples of the paper we have taken from the walls would you be able to get us some assistance in selecting replacements?

With best personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

Howard E. Danner



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

*Beaufort
S.C. Trip*

Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

September 2, 1955

Mr. Charles Montgomery
The Henry Francis Du Pont Winterthur Museum
Winterthur, Delaware

Dear Charles:

Thank you very much for your bother with the Beaufort
wallpaper.

It is my belief that Simons did not want to use any
of this paper, but was afraid that it might have been "turn
of century" wallpaper. As long as it can't be that early
he can get something else that would be appropriate.

All of the best,

Francis S. Ronalds
Superintendent

FSRonalds/bjcarroll

THE HENRY FRANCIS DU PONT WINTERTHUR MUSEUM
WINTERTHUR • DELAWARE

CHARLES F. MONTGOMERY • DIRECTOR

August 24, 1955

Mr. Francis S. Ronalds, Superintendent
Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

Dear Fran:

The wallpaper has arrived; and I must say that I am a little confused by it. Although my knowledge of wallpaper used in this country in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries is sketchy, this does not seem to correspond with it.

I asked Miss Martha Lou Gandy, curatorial assistant here, to find out what she could about early papers so that we could be a little more specific; and she notes, "By 1840 the printing machine had established its reign: 1867 marked the end of any notable production of hand-blocked papers. After 1850, they often had designs of large 'cabbage' flowers. Many damask patterns were printed by machine. "

I believe that those that you have sent really fall into this category and in all likelihood they are after 1850. Why don't you inquire further of Nancy McClelland or some other person who is more expert than I.

Sincerely yours,

Charles F. Montgomery

Charles F. Montgomery

CFM:mls
Enclosure

Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

Beaufort
S. Carolina
file

August 18, 1955

Mr. Charles F. Montgomery
Winterthur Museum
Winterthur, Delaware

Dear Charlie:

Here are the samples of wallpaper from the Lafayette house in Beaufort, South Carolina. It is certainly nice of you to take a look at them.

Mr. Dodge did not tell me he had seen you. Where were you on your vacation? Grace and I are going to Manoloking, New Jersey for a week, come next Tuesday. I am afraid this will be my vacation for this year.

Do hope to see you soon and thanks a lot for helping out Eric and Albert Simons.

Sincerely,

Francis S. Ronalds
Superintendent

Enclosure- samples of wallpaper

fsr/c

THE HENRY FRANCIS DU PONT WINTERTHUR MUSEUM
WINTERTHUR · DELAWARE

CHARLES F. MONTGOMERY · DIRECTOR

Beaufort 1-8-55
August 17, 1955

Mr. Francis S. Ronalds, Superintendent
Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

Dear Fran:

Thanks very much for your note--it is good to hear
from you.

While on my vacation I heard about your great collection of Smith's manuscripts, etc., from Mr. Marcy Dodge. I look forward to coming one of these days and seeing all you are doing.

If you can send the samples of wallpaper, I will be glad to tell you what I can about them.

Sincerely yours,

Charlie

Charles F. Montgomery

CFM:mls

Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

*Beaufort
S.C.
file*

August 9, 1955

Mr. Charles Montgomery
Winterthur
Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Charles:

Last May, Eric Gugler and I advised a group in Beaufort, South Carolina on restoration plans for an interesting house, locally known as the LaFayette House, because the General visited there in 1825, but built between 1790 and 1795 by John Mark Verdier.

Eric recommended that the Beaufort group employ as architect, Albert Simons of Charleston. Just before leaving for Europe Mr. Simons sent me wallpaper samples that he had found attached to the rough horizontal boards in the front hall and ball room of the house.

Mr. Simons thinks that more appropriate wallpaper probably should be recommended, but if these samples are actually of the turn of the century they should be reproduced.

Are you learned on wallpapers or do you have someone who is? If you are willing to take a look I would like to send the samples to you (they are fairly small bits) for your advice.

We are in the process of taking over the late Lloyd W. Smith's great collection of books and manuscripts and Congress gave us over \$200,000 with which to add a wing to the Museum for the proper housing of the collection. Please don't drive North without stopping to see us.

All of the best,

Francis S. Ronalds
Superintendent

GUGLER, KIMBALL AND HUSTED, ARCHITECTS

101 PARK AVENUE ... NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

ERIC GUGLER
RICHARD A. KIMBALL
ELERY HUSTED
FERDINAND RISEMAN

BERNARD BECK
DUANE R. EVERSON
ALBERT E. FLANAGAN
W. S. J. PHILLIPS

*Beaufort, SC
file*

August 1, 1955

Dr. Francis S. Ronalds
Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

Dear Fran:

In the front hall and ballroom of the Lafayette house in Beaufort the samples which are being sent along to you were found attached to the rough horizontal boards.

Mr. Albert Simons thinks that more appropriate wall paper probably should be recommended.

The house was built shortly after the revolution.

If you would be good enough to get this subject into the hands of a wise counsellor, it would be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,



Eric Gugler

EG/elh

*Dear Mr Ronalds:— If you would help up
with this problem we would be
deeply grateful. Hope to see you
in Charleston this winter*

Sincerely



National Trust for Historic Preservation

712 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

*Beaufort,
S.C. I.e.*

Telephone: National 8-2215

June 13, 1955

Mr. Francis S. Ronalds
Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

Dear Fran:

You and Woodrow Wilson have a lot in common beyond your New Jersey sojourn. He felt that way about long and short speeches. Try it at 300 words, though, and send it in by August 5th. The pictures are good documentaries, but even the "after" shot shows a very lovely house indeed in a bleak setting. It would hardly flatter the place to use it!

The Nashville meeting will be October 21-22, and I suspect it is going to be one of our best. We'll have to eat our lunch breakfast together at Belle Meade.

Sincerely

Helen

Mrs. Helen Duprey Bullock
Historian

Dr. Fro

The Rev. I pastor of the hyterian Chui congregation that the chur a congregatic service next consider his received a c Presbyterian beginning Se

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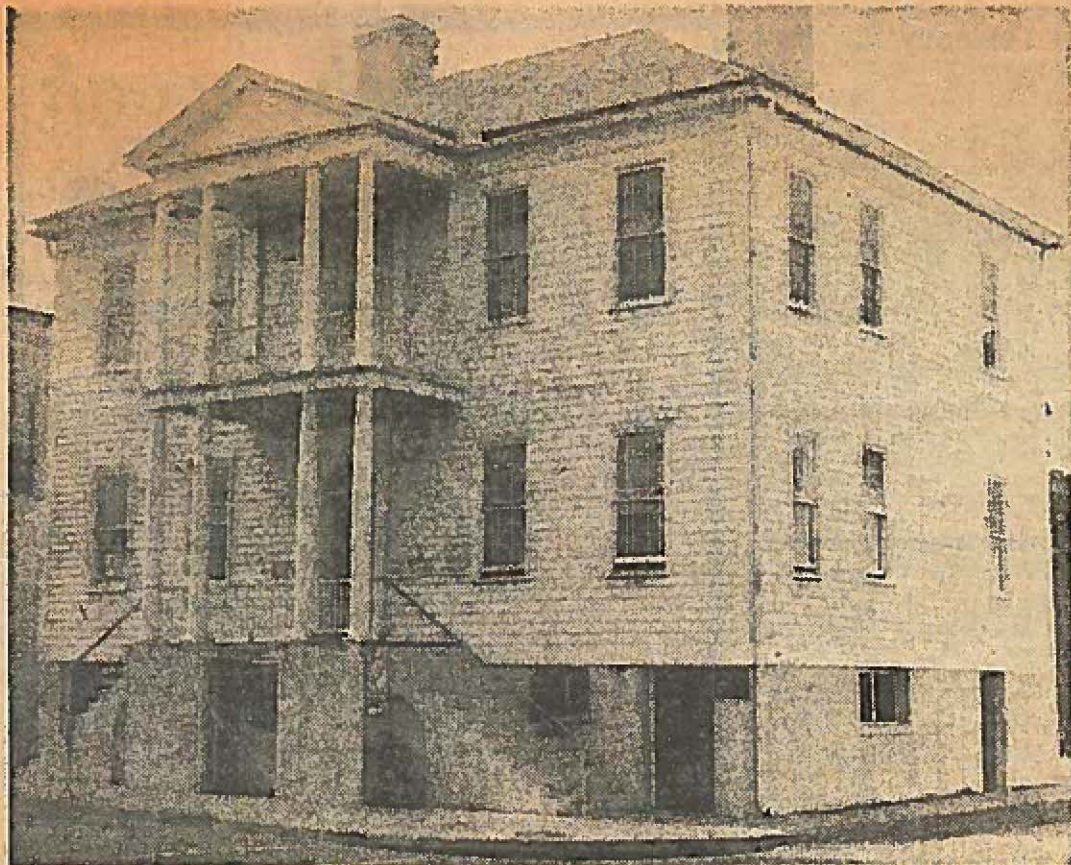
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(Photo By J. W. Busch.)

The John Mark Verdier, Or LaFayette, House In Beaufort
Built In 1800, House Saved From Destruction By Citizens

Do You Know Your South Carolina?

Historic House In Beaufort Saved By Action Of Citizens

BEAUFORT.

The John Mark Verdier House, built between 1790 and 1795, is being preserved as a historic and architectural monument.

Also known as the Lafayette House, because that distinguished Frenchman was entertained there on his visit to Beaufort in 1825, the house contains some fine Adam mantels and doorways.

The house was purchased by public subscription. Additional money was borrowed to put it in condition for renting to obtain a fund for its maintenance.

Heading the purchasing organization were representatives of the old Beaufort College, the Museum and the Historical Society.

The group which holds the building in trust is composed of John F. Morrall, chairman, and Howard E. Danner, representing the old Beaufort College board; Mrs. Chloilde R. Martin, secretary, and Mrs. F. W. Scheper Jr. of the Historical Society; W. Brantley Harvey and J. E. McTeer of the Museum, Mrs. Gus Frank, Mrs. Rivers Varn and Meyer Schein, members-at-large.

John Mark Verdier, builder of the house, was a son of Andrew Verdier, who had gone first to the West Indies and then to the Swiss settlement at Pureysburg, S.C. From Pureysburg he went to

Beaufort, where he taught school from 1762 to 1764.

He married one of his pupils, Rebecca Howard, John, one of their two sons, owned plantations on Hilton Head Island and sailing vessels which ran from Beaufort to England. It was on these ships that some of the materials and furnishings used in the house were brought to Beaufort from Europe.

The house was constructed by two mechanics, Converse and Fish who, it is believed, came from Boston. The panelling, stairway, mahogany doors and mantels are described by architects as outstanding.

It was on March 18, 1825, that Gen. LaFayette visited Beaufort. The ship that brought him from Charleston was late and it was far into the night when he arrived.

He was escorted by military companies to the Verdier House and addressed the assembled citizenry from the front steps. A tablet on the side of the building commemorates the visit.

The Marquis was scheduled to arrive at noon. A grand ball was to be given him at the Barnwell Mansion and a banquet was to be served in the Verdier House.

The great crowd which had gathered on Bay Street had dis-

persed and midnight was approaching when the little side-wheel steamer approached.

The street was soon aglow with torches and lanterns. The Beaufort Guards flanked the Marquis' way from the pier to the Verdier House.

Guarding the steps were Joseph Hazel, seven feet in his stocking feet, and William Fickling, six feet, six inches.

The only recorded words spoken by LaFayette on his visit here were spoken of them. As he mounted the steps he turned and, with a genial smile, remarked: "And, so, you have grenadiers in your country, too."

There was no ball. The Marquis re-boarded his little steamer that same night and proceeded to Savannah on his 4,000-mile tour of South and West.

The Beaufort Historical Society now meets in the old ballroom. A restaurant, a real estate office, a lawyer's office, travel, insurance and credit bureaus occupy other portions of the building, furnishing the funds for its preservation.

An interesting part of the house's history is that it remained in the possession of its original owner's family until it became a public historic shrine.

Mr. Beckwith Will

WALLACE & DANNER

dry goods, shoes, clothing

READY-TO-WEAR

BEAUFORT, S.C.

HOWARD E. DANNER

June 15 1955

Dear Dr. Ronalds,

I am sorry about the delay in answering your recent letter in regard to the Lafayette Building. There are inclosed a couple more photographs of the detail of the woodwork which were brought in to me recently.

We have begun our work on this building and McTeer is going right ahead with the more elementary things in the lower hall. We are fortunate in having a skilled workman who is really interested in the job and seems to be doing an excellent thing on the doors. Simons has been over the premises and is to give us detailed drawings on his suggestions for the exterior and the ~~apart~~ appurtenant buildings.

As to the story behind this enterprise - it is rather ~~long~~ a long one as our efforts go back over a number of years.

We have here in Beaufort, you know, an ancient and honorable institution known as the College of Beaufort which was incorporated by the State assembly in 1795. Samuel Hopkins Adams entitled an article about it in the Saturday Evening Post "The College Without Walls" because through the years all of its facilities and enterprises have disappeared except for a few thousand dollars and a Board of Trustees.

The early stirring which resulted in this institution must have arisen from the Revolution as the rich rice planters and plantation owners of this community were accustomed to sending their sons to Oxford and Cambridge, with an occasional matriculation at Harvard or one of the earlier Northern colleges. After the Revolution a number of Library or Literary Societies sprang up in the Carolina Low Country. We have on record at least two in this community and it was from these that there arose an increasing interest in education and things cultural. So, in order that they might keep their sons at home with educational facilities equal or better than those of the old country or the North there was created The College of Beaufort. It was indeed a College of Fine Arts and its curricula are a thing to wonder at. Along ~~about~~ about 1804-05 its building was opened for admissions with a faculty to do credit to any institution. I think Dr Mackey was later the first president of the South Carolina College, now the University of South Carolina, my own alma mater.

The college was built on glebe lands deeded from St Helena's and some of its support came from the acquisition of all forfeited lots in the Town of Beaufort. But it was built just outside the town limits and when in 1817 this place was visited by the dread yellow fever and a large percentage of its entire population was wiped out it was found that the country air was particularly unhealthful and as the college had been forced to close its doors it was removed from the "country" and brought into "town". Only its library, which was one of the very finest in the land, survived, and it would appear that the College did not really ~~amount~~ amount to very much until the 1850's when, in a period of high prosperity, it branched forth into one of the very early Female Seminaries.

Now, this old institution has accomplished a good deal, we think. It has made available to the people of this community the only public beach we have.

It has been instrumental in the preservation of Fort Frederick and English fort built in 1731 and it has used the income from its funds for many an other good cause. But I personally think one of its best achievements is the Lafayette Building - and here is where it becomes germane to your inquiry.

I find in the minutes of this organization dated March 5 1945 the following: "Motion made and carried that there be appointed a committee of two which shall advise The Beaufort County Historical Society and the Beaufort Museum that this Board would be interested in collaborating with them in a effort directed toward securing the property on the corner of Bay and Scott streets, better known as The Lafayette Building, for the purpose of preserving the same".

This motion began the movement which resulted in the appointment of The Committee for the Preservation of The Lafayette Building which consisted of two members from the College Board, two from the Historical Society and Two from the Museum. This original six in turn elected three members at large from the community which made a total of nine.

The committee then set out to secure funds, A rather unique scheme was worked out whereby donors were asked to contribute U. S. Savings Bonds, a very patriotic thing to do at that time. The College in turn agreed to take the bonds at cost and carry them to maturity, which simply meant that a three hundred dollar contribution only cost the donor two hundred and twenty five dollars. And the committee was wise enough not to go at the thing on a pickayunish basis. We asked for real contributions where they could be expected but took the small ones where they constituted the widows mite. The response was amazing and the friends of Beaufort from near and far chipped in with alacrity.

We ran into considerable trouble with the titles to the property but had the very finest of cooperation from the owners, who happened to be descendants of John Mark Verdier the original builder, to whom the restoration appealed strongly. During the campaign the enterprise (to my mind unfortunately) became mixed up with a "memorial" business to the "boys". It was just that sort of a time, you know.

At any rate, after a good many snags we found that at face value we had enough bonds to buy the property and have five thousand dollars left over with which to restore it. We did secure the property in its terribly run down condition, over the opposition of some of the more progressive elements in town and some of us were naive enough to have high hopes of preserving a fine old house.

I think we were naive because once the papers were signed it seemed that the committee folded up. We secured some estimates on the cost of restoration. They ran from thirty to forty thousand dollars. Nothing was done. For month after month the project remained stagnant. People began to wonder. It looked pretty hopeless.

One of the committee (I think it must have been myself) secured an architect and got a design to transpose the woodwork from the building to one of our public places (the city hall), called a meeting of the committee, and proposed a resolution that the building be sold and the woodwork removed.

This seemed to be what it took. Mr. Morrall and Mr. McTeer at the instigation of Senator Hawley began the actual work of repairing the place. Our effort was to arrest its deterioration and bring it into a proper rental condition. The main building was separated, at Mr. Morralls's suggestion, from the appurtenant properties and thus given

an entity of its own. The whole thing ~~was~~ jacked up and straightened as far as possible without taking the roof off, the exterior was painted, a new roof was put on and the ~~whole thing~~ ^{property} brought into a state of current repair.

This was not, of course done for nothing. We came out of this period of repair with a debt of eleven thousand five hundred dollars, having long since exceeded our puny five thousand dollars of nest egg. But we did have a piece of property in a good location and readily rentable on a commercial basis.

The basement ~~we~~ rented to a restaurant for a hundred dollars a month. The first floor we divided into two office spaces and rented for thirty five dollars a month. The appurtenant property we rented to a fellow for a barber shop at a thousand dollars a year. And we signed them all up on a five year lease. This was the basis upon which we borrowed ten thousand dollars to handle the capital loan and we got rid of the other by using rental income to retire it. The loan was at first negotiated with an insurance company but more advantageous terms were secured and we finally settled for a ten year proposition to be retired at one thousand dollars per year.

We put the property in the hands of an agent (which is very strongly recommended from my point of view) and within five years we had paid off all the loans and were in the clear. In the meantime we had bought the property, spent about eighteen thousand dollars in its repair and were then ready to go ahead with actually restoring the beauty of its interior and the excellence of its outside.

That is where we were when you and Gugler came down. We are therefore now going into the actual accomplishment of what we originally set out to do. How far we can go we do not know. All we do know is that we are making a start.

Of course there are many side lights which I must necessarily omit. The part that ~~xxxx~~ Mr. Hamlin of the Avery Library had; - the long effort to get in touch with Gugler which did not materialize until recently; the ~~xxxx~~ effort Morrall and McTarr put out on the repair, the thousands of times the toilets seemed to get out of fix - and all the rest. But it has been a rewarding experience and we all feel now that it has been worth while. Thanks to all of you who have helped us we really believe that Beaufort will have a worthy reminder of its fine old past. It is well worth doing.

I am sorry this has developed into such a long letter - particularly with my typeing. I am like my wife I try to talk faster than my tongue can take it. However, with best regards I am,

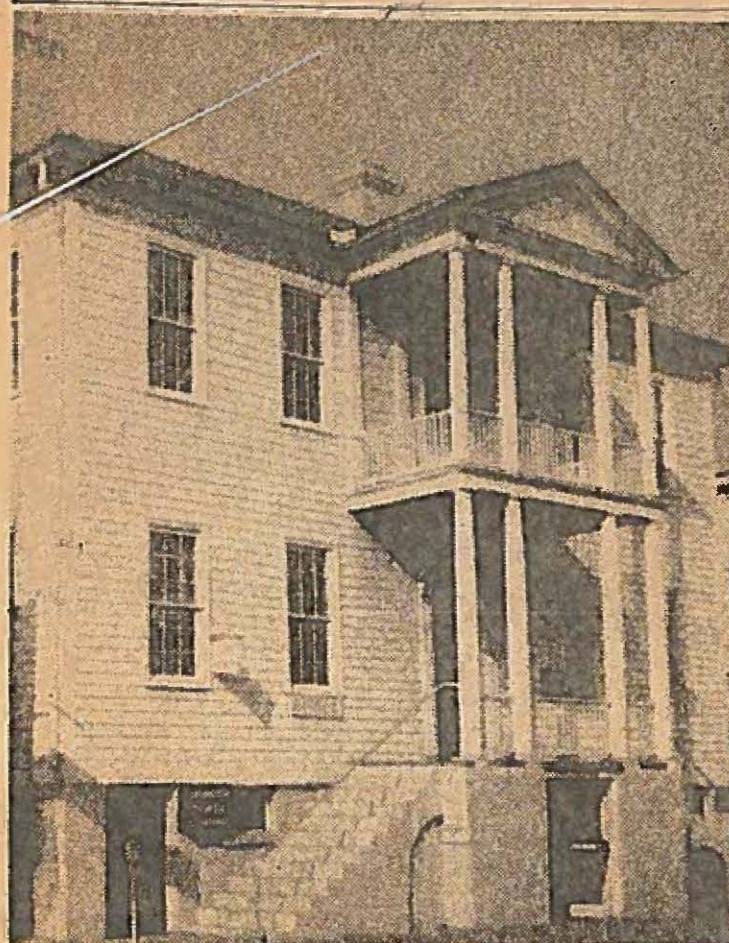
Yours very truly

Howard E. Daine
Howard E. Daine

*The typing is actually
worse than I
have*

Marguerite Piazza's Basin Stre

R i I E C E



UNCHANGED—The Lafayette Building in Beaufort, which has remained relatively unchanged for 155 years. Architects say it is a fine example of the Adam period of architecture.

Architects Impressed By Historic Beaufort Building

By FRANK RAMSEY

Morning News Correspondent

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J. E. McTeer, members at large—Mrs. Gus Frank, Mrs. Rivers Varn, Meyer Schein.

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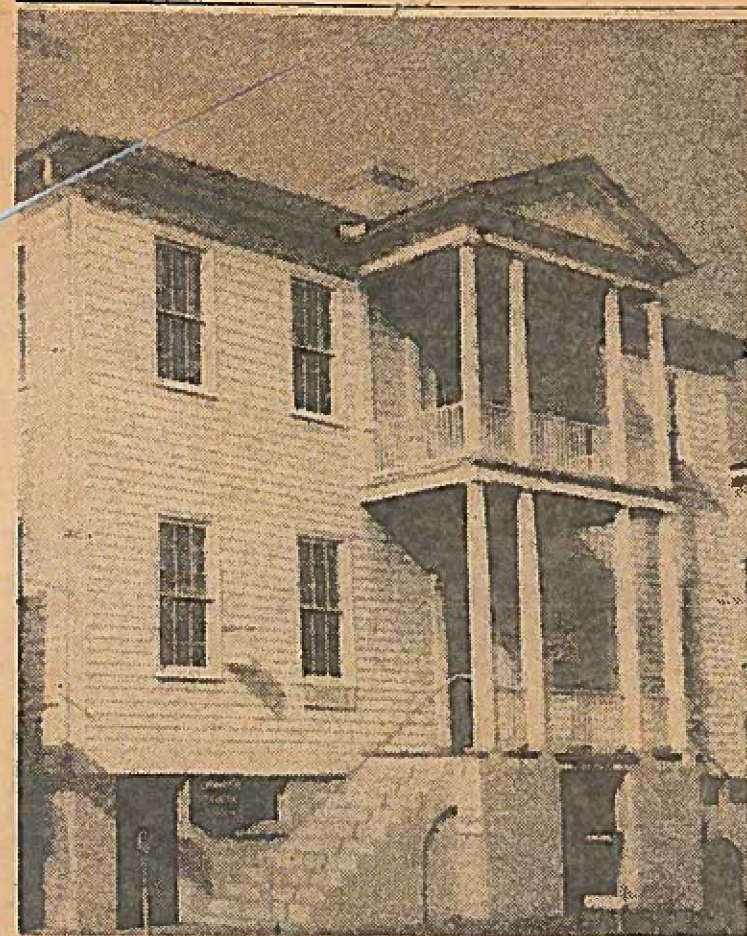
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They were guests of Oswald Knauth, who invited them to Beaufort on behalf of the Lafayette Building Committee. Their verdict was that the Lafayette is so fine an example of the Adam period that it should be preserved. They also expressed their gratification on what had been accomplished in Beaufort by its own citizens with their own means.

This building, once faced with destruction or adaption to purely commercial purposes, was saved by a group of local citizens representing the old Beaufort College, the Museum and the Historical Society. They raised the money to purchase the property by public subscriptions. Thereafter almost \$3,000 was spent to improve and restore the building without materially changing it, so that it could be used to produce rental revenue and be self supporting. Now it has become self supporting and is debt free, which is one of the reasons for calling upon men of experience to advise what should be done next.

The visiting consultants suggested that changes and improvements be made slowly, one at a time, rather than to embark upon a wholesale alteration program. Parts of the building which can be made into Museum Rooms should be given priority attention, the visitors thought. And if the local committee for the

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Eric Gugler, one of the guests was architect of the White House Executive Office building and of many prominent college and educational buildings. Dr. Ronalds administers the historic sites under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. Sam Stoney is one of Charleston's most prominent antiquarians. Ronald Lee, secretary of the National Trust for Historic Restoration was due to have been here, but was detained by his official business in Washington.

Sylvania WSCS Will Install

SYLVANIA, Ga., May 7.—Installation of the new officers of the W.S.C.S. of the Sylvania Methodist Church will take place Sunday evening at special services at the church. Mrs. Jack Robinson is the new president of the society and will succeed Mrs. Loyett Bazemore.

Other officers elected on Monday afternoon at the business meeting are Mrs. Sidney Waters, vice president; Mrs. Robert Bell, treasurer; Mrs. Tom Tebeau, recording secretary; Mrs. George Sinderson, promotion secretary; secretaries: missionary education and service, Mrs. G. W. Waters; spiritual life, Mrs. George M. Hill, Sr.; Christian social relations and local church activities, Mrs. Wilbur Matthew and Mrs. Archie Bazemore; youth work, Mrs. Fred Houser; children's work, Mrs. Ed Deyo; status of women, Mrs. Loyett Bazemore; student's work, Mrs. Bo Parker; supply work, Mrs. Roy Field; literature and publications,

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This building, once faced with destruction or adaption to purely commercial purposes, was saved by a group of local citizens representing the old Beaufort College, the Museum and the Historical Society. They raised the money to purchase the property by public subscription. Thereafter almost \$20,000 was spent to improve and restore the building without materially changing it, so that it could be used to produce rental revenue and be self supporting. Now it has become self supporting and is debt free, which is one of the reasons for calling upon men of experience to advise what should be done next.

The visiting consultants suggested that changes and improvements be made slowly, one at a time, rather than to embark upon a wholesale alteration program. Parts of the building which can be made into Museum Rooms should be given priority attention, the visitors thought. And if the local committee for the Preservation of the Lafayette Building adopts the suggestions offered, it means that oncoming generations of Beaufortians and visitors to Beaufort will be able to gaze upon an old unaltered landmark maintained in a manner to preserve its fine lines.

The letterhead of the Lafayette Building Committee shows as representing Beaufort College—John F. Morrall, chairman; Howard E. Danner, treasurer; the Historical Society—Mrs. Ghislilde Martin, secretary; Mrs. F. W. Scheper Jr.; the Museum—W. Brantley Harvey,

J. E. McTeer; members at large—Mrs. Gus Frank, Mrs. Rivers Varn, Meyer Schein.

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Study leaders, for afternoon, Mrs. Doyle Cannady, Mrs. Jackson Howard and Mrs. Melbourne Lovett; night, Mrs. Jim Stubbs and Mrs. D. A. Freeman.

The nominating committee included Mrs. C. W. Parker, chairman; Mrs. Ed Dey and Mrs. James Freeman.

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NEW SHIPMENT JUST

Beaufort, South Carolina

February 21, 1955

MEMORANDUM:

From: Jno. F. Morrall, Pres. The Committee for the Preservation of the LaFayette Building.

To: Contributors to this Project.

Subject: Report.

At a meeting of this Committee held February 18th it was decided to make a complete report to those of you who contributed to this project.

A financial statement by the Treasurer, from the very beginning through Dec. 31st last, is inclosed. As you will see, it is divided into three phases: the acquisition of the property, the repair of the property, and the liquidation of indebtedness.

As you doubtless know, the work on the LaFayette Building has not yet progressed beyond the stage of repair. So much has, however, been accomplished; the property is now in good condition and is sufficiently self-sustaining to warrant undertaking the final stage, which is its restoration.

At the last meeting of this Committee action was taken looking toward an over-all study, with the advise of competent architectural consultants, of the requirements of this restoration. As soon as the study is completed, plans will be laid to proceed as expeditiously as possible to the accomplishment of the purposes for which this property was secured.

It is hoped that the building may become more and more of an asset to Beaufort and an attraction to our visitors as the work progresses and the financial necessity to lease space decreases.

FIRST PHASE

Nov. 1945 - Jan. 1947

***** ACQUISITION *****

RECEIPTS:

*Individual Contributions	6357.12
Trustees College of Beaufort to bring U. S. Savings Bonds to face value.	1767.88
Trustees College of Beaufort to cover Expense Items.	<u>239.20</u>
Total Receipts:	8364.20

EXPENDITURES:

Expense

Attorneys Fees	50.00
Stenographer	24.00
Stationery & Postage	11.50
Recording Papers & Doc. Stamps	32.50
Interest	<u>121.20</u>
Total Expenditures:	239.20

Purchase of Property	3125.00
	<u>3364.20</u>
Balance on Hand	<u>5000.00</u>

8364.20

*List of Contributors Will Be Furnished Upon Request.

N.C. The end of this phase leaves this project with \$5000.00 on hand for the repair and restoration of the property.

SECOND PHASE

Jan. 1947 - Dec. 1949

REPAIR

BALANCE ON HAND:

5000.00

RECEIPTS:

Rent	4342.75	
Sale of Used Scaffolding	60.00	
Additional Contributions		
Trus. of College of Beaufort	400.00	
City of Beaufort	500.00	
	<u>900.00</u>	
	5302.75	
*Borrowed Money	11525.00	
	<u>16827.75</u>	
		21827.75

EXPENDITURES:

I Operational Expense:

Insurance (Fire & Windstorm)	1602.27	
Water	5.93	
Bank Charges of Exchange	9.02	
Superintendents Commissions	313.36	
Interest	603.01	
Stationery & Supplies	3.95	
Flat of Property	11.50	
Curtain	1.98	
Attorney Fees	100.00	
Maintenance Repairs	43.35	
	<u>2694.37</u>	

II Repairs & Restoration

(a) Labor & Payrolls 5939.75

(b) Supplies & Services

Kinghorn Bldg. Supply Co.	187.47	
L. Schoenberg & Son	83.60	
Lightsey Bros.	248.14	
Beaufort Hardware Co.	358.52	
Western Auto	32.49	
Young Lumber Co.	500.00	
Fordham Hardware Co.	40.36	
Beaufort Supply Co.	382.76	
Coastal Cabinet Works	509.67	
Boyer Construction Co.	40.01	
Beaufort Machine Co.	9.32	
Morrall Furniture Co.	441.12	
Beaufort Development Co.	99.00	
MacDonald Wilkins Co.	30.82	
Beaufort Cabinet Works	125.12	
Martins Sport Shop	4.05	3092.84

(c) Sub Contracts

Boyer Const. Co.-barber shop	8275.00	
Joe Anderson-Electric	910.00	
A.H. Fisher Co-Electric	1008.10	
J.E. Smith-Sanding Floors	75.00	
Kinghorn Bldg. Supply -Roof	2058.97	
Paul Plumbing-Flumbing	572.98	
J.A. Ihly-Gutters	254.20	8254.25

(d) Misc. Expense

Liability & Workmens Ins.	317.35	
Building Permit	5.00	322.35

17609.13

III Repayment of Borrowed Money

1500.00

Total Expenditures:

21803.56

Balance on Hand

24.19

21827.75

*Cash Book Shows a loan of \$10,000.00 transferred from The Peoples Bank to Jasper Woods.

N.B. The end of the Second Phase(Dec.1949)leaves this project with a very small cash balance but with no accounts payable except current items and a capital indebtedness of \$10,025.00.

THIRD PHASE

Jan. 1, 1950 - Dec. 31, 1954

***** LIQUIDATION OF INDEBTEDNESS *****

BALANCE ON HAND: 24.19

RECEIPTS:

Rent	17441.80	
Sale of Gas	2022.18	
Rebate on Insurance	40.56	
Collected on Water	3.00	
Error	.01	
	<u>19507.55</u>	19531.74

EXPENDITURES:

I Expense.

Supt. Commissions	1209.48
Insurance	2088.03
Janitor	317.67
Bank Charges	11.00
Interest	1411.43
Water	93.15
Cleaning	24.50
Stationery & Supplies	10.59
	<u>5165.85</u>

II Maintenance & Improvements

Repairs	
Plumbing	68.46
Doors & Locks	44.02
Roof (Beaufort Supply Co.)	451.00
Paint & Painting	238.89
Misc. Materials, Etc.	184.41
	<u>986.78</u>

Additions & Improvements

Venetian Blinds	64.38
Bannisters	65.00
Tile	144.31
Gas Tank	294.19
Sidewalks	24.75
Alterations & Store Room	314.22
	<u>906.85</u>

III Miscellaneous

Purchase of Gas	1868.31
Rent Checks Returned	20.00
Refund of Rent	20.00
Contribution to Beaufort Museum	200.00
	<u>2108.31</u>

IV Payment on Loan

	<u>10025.00</u>	
Total Expenditures		19192.79
Bal. on Hand 12/31/54		<u>338.95</u>
		19531.74

N.B. The end of the third phase leaves this project with no outstanding indebtedness except current items with a balance on hand of \$338.95 and accounts receivable (Gas for the month of December) of \$164.17. Accounts Payable are:

Beaufort Butane Gas Co.	151.68
Water Bill	2.30
	<u>153.98</u>

*S. Carolina
Drip*

Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

June 1st, 1955

Mrs. Helen Duprey Bullock
National Trust for Historic Preservation
712 Jackson Place, North West
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Helen:

Thanks ever so much for your letter concerning Lafayette
Hall in Beaufort, South Carolina.

Attached are prints we had made "showing before and after"
views of the building. Will these be satisfactory, and when do
you have to have the 250 or 300 words? It is easier for me to
write a booklet than cover any subject in 250 words. I envy your
editorial ability.

What are the dates for the Nashville Meeting. I certainly hope
to attend.

Regards to Fred and tell him I am not looking forward to June
11th this year with the enthusiasm of 1954.

All of the best to you,

Francis S. Ronalds
Superintendent

Enclosure
FSRonalds/bjcarroll

*S. Carolina
Trip*

Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

June 1, 1955

Mr. Howard E. Danner
c/o Wallace & Danner
Beaufort, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Danner:

Enclosed are Sheriff McTeer's photographs, of which we have taken prints for use in the National Trust Bulletin. At any rate now that we have prints, the before Restoration picture doesn't have to be kept in a safe or handled so gingerly.

The Director of the Trust has agreed to run the pictures and wants me to write some 250 or 300 words to explain what you are doing. Please let me have as soon as possible what you would like to have in the Bulletin. Despite your letter of January 28, 1949, to Mr. Beck, I don't know just who or what owns the building. Then I particularly want you to tell me what names besides your own should be used as the principal movers in the saving and restoring of the hall. The fact that you were able to save the building by borrowed funds, repaid from income derived from rent is the fact to be stressed.

In other words, please let me have your own resume describing the self-help nature of the project and the agencies and people cooperating to restore the building.

It is precisely your adaptive use that I would like to stress as preferable to the "velvet rope treatment" in saving houses. What you have done and are doing should help save other houses.

My regards to Mrs. Danner.

Sincerely,

Francis S. Ronalds

FSR/jc

*S. Carolina
Inc*

Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, N.J.

June 1st, 1955

Mr. Eric Gugler
101 Park Avenue
New York City

Dear Eric:

What shall I say in 300 words about Lafayette Hall?
Please give me something good to say about the Beaufort
people.

I returned the photographs to Danner, and have sent
prints to Helen Bullock.

Cheerio!

Francis S. Ronalds
Superintendent

FSRonalds/bjc

National Trust for Historic Preservation

712 JACKSON PLACE, N.W. • WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

Telephone: National 8-2215

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

May 19, 1955

Mr. Ronald F. Lee
U.S. Department of Interior
National Park Service
Room 3118 - Interior Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Ronnie:

Thank you for having the quarterly in mind. This spring issue is ponderously moving forward toward publication with my left hand as I juggle several dozen other things with the right, so it is too late to remake it. The illustrations have been promised and extra copies ordered by the organizations supplying them. Will try for the summer.

What we would particularly like, also, is some before-and-after color slides (or black and white) 35mm. We seem always to have one or more shows on the road and are in increasing demand as lecturers. Thanks to the device set up at a recent executive board meeting, it is not only good missionary work and good publicity, but lucrative for the Trust.

I am going to ask Fran to send me about 250 or 300 words, and text for captions for the pictures. As you know our seven pages are a small, but potent medium. I think the Beaufort people will probably want to get extra copies of the issue, and when I use the pictures, we will make them an offer. To reproduce in offset I need fairly sharp 8 x 10 (or smaller) glossy prints. Horizontal compositions are a must for two pictures, either horizontal or vertical for one.

Sincerely

Mrs. Helen Bayray Bullock
Historian

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
712 JACKSON PLACE, N.W. WASHINGTON 6, D.C.

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Thank you for having the quarterly in mind. This spring issue is ponderously moving forward toward publication with my left hand as I juggle several dozen other things with the right, so it is too late to remake it. The illustrations have been promised and extra copies ordered by the organizations supplying them. Will try for the summer.

What we would particularly like, also, is some before-and-after color slides (or black and white) 35 mm. We seem always to have one or more shows on the road and are in increasing demand as lecturers. Thanks to the device set up at a recent executive board meeting, it is not only good missionary work and good publicity, but lucrative for the Trust.

I am going to ask Fran to send me about 250 or 300 words, and text for captions for the pictures. As you know our seven pages are a small, but potent medium. I think the Beaufort people will probably want to get extra copies of the issue, and when I use the pictures, we will make them an offer. To reproduce in offset I need fairly sharp 8 x 10 (or smaller) glossy prints. Horizontal compositions are a must for two pictures, either horizontal or vertical for one.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Helen Duprey Bullock
Historian

*South
Carolina
Trip*

National Trust for Historic Preservation

712 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

Telephone: National 8-2315

RECEIVED
MAY 20 1955
MORRISTOWN NATIONAL
HISTORICAL PARK

May 19, 1955

Mr. Francis S. Ronalds, Superintendent
Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

Dear Fran:

Will be delighted to have some glossy prints, and what's more would like 35mm slides as well, as you can see by the enclosed to Dr. Lee. Will you send me not more than 250 to 300 words on the Lafayette Building describing the self-help nature of the project, and the very special agencies and people cooperating to restore it to be signed by you. We also advocate adaptive use, as preferable to the "velvet rope" treatment, and really believe old buildings have a greater chance of survival when used in some practical way than when left to the mercies of the silver offering at the door.

When do you come this way? To the A.M.A. meeting perhaps? We'll look forward to seeing you at least at the Nashville meeting - which promises to be a wonderful one.

Sincerely

Helen

Mrs. Helen Duprey Bullock
Historian

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
212 Jackson Place, North West
Washington 6, D. C.

*South
Carolina
trip*

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Sincerely,

S/ Helen
Mrs. Helen Duprey Bullock
Historian

South Carolina Trip

Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

May 13, 1955

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region One
From: Superintendent, Morristown National Historical Park
Subject: Sign to prevent vandalism

Sheldon Church is a very impressive ruin near Beaufort, South Carolina. Both the ruins and the old grave yard are well cared for by the parish of St. Helena's Episcopal Church, Beaufort.

I was particularly struck by a dignified hanging sign at the entrance to the Churchyard. After reading the sign it would take a pretty hard cased vandal to leave litter or scratch his name on the tombs. I later met the rector of St. Helens and was glad to have the opportunity to congratulate him on the sign which reads as follows:

"Friends who have come into our church Yard Please Treat these sacred ruins, the graves and grounds that surround them with the respectful reverence they deserve. Let us leave feeling old Sheldon is not worse but better for our presence."

Francis S. Ronalds
Superintendent

Copy to: Mr. Ronald F. Lee

FSRonalds/bjturner

Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

*S. Carleton
Inip*

May 12, 1955

Mr. Samuel M. Bemiss
Richmond, Virginia

Dear Mr. Bemiss:

Thank you ever so much for your gift of the Virginia Cavalcade.
The first issue, Spring, 1955 has just arrived and I am charmed
by its format. Looking forward to reading it tonight.

It was a great pleasure meeting you and I do hope that the
next time you come to New York you will pay us a visit.

Sincerely yours,

Francis S. Ronalds
Superintendent

FSRonalds/bjc

Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

S. Carolina Trip

May 12, 1955

Mr. Samuel Hopkins Adams
Beaufort, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Adams:

It was a great pleasure meeting you in Beaufort a week ago Sunday and thanks a lot for saving my life that evening.

I do hope that the next time you get to New York you will call Eric Gugler or me for a get-together at the Century.

On the chance that you haven't seen the May 14 issue of the Saturday Review I am sending Bennett Cerf's remarks about you.

Sincerely yours,

Francis S. Ronalds

Enclosure
FSRonalds/bjcarroll

Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

*South
Carolina
trip
Francis S. Ronalds*

May 12, 1955

Mr. Gualdo Ford
Battle Road
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Ford:

While in Charleston, South Carolina my hostess, Miss Josephine Pinckney introduced me to Mrs. John Frost, who owns the Ford Family Bible, we had heard so much about.

I examined the bible and found that it has nothing to do with the Jacob Fords of Morristown, only the Charleston descendants and the bible itself is dated 1813.

Mrs. Frost is a very delightful person and a good friend of Dr. Frank Pinckney, who visits them when he goes to Charleston.

All of the best to Mrs. Ford and your good self.

Sincerely,

Francis S. Ronalds
Superintendent

FSRonalds/jcarroll

South Carolina Trip

Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

May 11, 1955

Mr. Howard E. Danner
c/o Wallace & Danner
Beaufort, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Danner:

Congratulations on your clear and accurate summation of how we all felt about your plans for Lafayette Hall.

I have sent copies of your report, together with copies of your letter to Mr. Beck, which you gave me in Beaufort, to Ronald F. Lee in Washington.

Eric kept the photographs to show to Albert Simons and as yet has not returned them to me. I would like to keep Mr. McTear's photograph of the building before restoration until I can have prints made from it. It is this photograph, together with the present appearance of the Hall that I wish to have to illustrate an article on your efforts in the Bulletin of the National Trust.

By this time you know that Albert Simons agreed to furnish the plans and specifications to carry out the exterior plans. You will be glad to know that in Williamsburg, Virginia, on my way north, Ed Kendrew was enthusiastic about Mr. Simons' abilities along restoration lines. Ed is Vice President and Chief Architect of Williamsburg, Inc.

It is my belief that Mr. Simons would be quite competent to advise on the paint and wall paper and should be a better adviser than a Park Service man as he could follow through on this. Please ask him about this when you see him.

I do not know how to thank you, and if I may be permitted to use the word, my other good Beaufort friends for a wonderful two days in your lovely town. It was a great privilege to see so many interesting and beautiful houses, not the least of them being the Danner house.

Eric and I are counting on seeing you and Mrs. Danner on your next visit to New York.

With all of the best to you and your lovely lady,

Sincerely,

Francis S. Ronalds
Francis S. Ronalds J.C.

Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

P. S. Did you know that Samuel Hopkins Adams' next book has been
taped by The Book-of-the-Month Club?

Do you have any copies of "The Beauport County" pamphlet and
the leaflet with Mr. Adams' account of Beauport? I would greatly
appreciate receiving copies of these.

F. S. R. *jc*

Committee for the Preservation of the Lafayette Building

*South
Carolina Trip*

REPRESENTING THE COLLEGE OF BEAUFORT:

John F. Morrall, Chairman
Howard E. Danner, Treasurer

REPRESENTING THE BEAUFORT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

Mrs. Chlotilde R. Martin, Sec'ty.
Mrs. ~~Alfred~~ F. W. Schepr, J



REPRESENTING THE BEAUFORT MUSEUM:

W. Brantley Harvey
J. E. McTeer

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Mrs. Gus Frank
Mrs. Rivers Varn
Meyer Schein

BEAUFORT, S. C.

May 10, 1955

Dr. Francis S. Ronalds
National Park Service
Morristown, N.J.

My dear Dr. Ronalds:

This Committee wishes to express to you its sincere appreciation for your kindness in coming to Beaufort to give us so generously of your time and services. We feel that your suggestions for the restoration of this old building will be of great value to us and we cannot thank you enough.

We hope it will be possible for you to come back when we have finished the job and see the "after" of our work.

Yours sincerely,

Chlotilde R. Martin

(Mrs.) Chlotilde R. Martin,
Secretary.

South Carolina Trip

Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

May 10, 1955

Mr. Ronald F. Lee
U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Ronnie:

Attached are copies of Howard Danner's summation of our findings on the restoration of Lafayette Hall together with a copy of his letter to Lawrence Beck, outlining the early history of the original struggle to save the building. The two together will give you a good picture of the situation. Incidentally, Lafayette Hall is very worth saving.

Eric said he sent you a pamphlet on Beaufort County. On Page 17 is pictured Danner's own home which is an absolutely fascinating place. Sam Stonay said it always made him think of the Fall of the House of Usher.

We were entertained at Marshlands, pictured on page 14, without the bar on the front piazza. This is the house of Francis Griswald's, Sea Island Lady and was General Sherman's Headquarters on his way north from Savannah. We were taken into all the best houses in Beaufort. They were well worth seeing.

Clarification There are two places where Danner has mentioned me that need clarification. I think it would be a wonderful help to Beaufort's morale to have Freddie Rath print a "before and after" restoration picture of Lafayette Hall in the National Trust Bulletin. The pictures are most graphic and Freddie could extract a story about what they are doing from the enclosed material. Eric kept the photographs to show Albert Simons in Charleston and did not return them to me, but I will send them on as soon as I get them. I do hope that the Trust can do this much for them. Incidentally, Danner, who is president of the Beaufort County Historical Society said that the Society would be happy to join the Trust.

The second mention deals with what looks like presumption on my part, namely an offer to send a National Park Service architect to advise on original colors. Actually, this was Eric's suggestion in which he used both our names. I asked Elbert if there was any possibility of a Regional Architect stopping at Beaufort on his way between Sumter and Pulaski. Elbert said since the move to Philadelphia he doesn't have anyone qualified to tell them how to uncover original paint and wall-paper.

However, I see no reason why Albert Simons can't do this himself and have so stated in writing to Danner.

Josephine Pinckney asked the Simons and the Waring (publisher of the Charleston News and Courier) to have dinner with us in Charleston Monday night. After dinner Simons agreed to take on the restoration work as outlined by Danner. Ed Kendrew told me that Simons would be a fine man to carry out this work. It was also Eric's suggestion that they employ Simons.

I think the above will bring you up to date on Lafayette Hall but I do hope that you won't go to Charleston without seeing the place for yourself.

All of the best,

Francois S. Ronalds
Superintendent

FSRonalds/bjcarroll

Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

*South Carolina
Trip*

May 9, 1955

Mr. Ronald F. Lee
U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Ronnie:

Eric gave me the enclosed correspondence from Albert Simons of Charleston, regarding the preservation of the "Old Patent Office" in Washington. I was surprised to learn that the building once housed the Interior Department. Eric hopes that you will have some ideas on the subject for him to pass on to Simons.

A real report on our trip to South Carolina will have to wait until we can all cross our legs for a good talk. However, I will be sending you the dope on Lafayette Hall within a few days. Eric made a really swell speech before some forty leading citizens at the Sunday night affair and I told them how terrific they were in saving the building. I meant it. They have done just what we have always had in mind to do.

Eric persuaded them to turn the actual supervision over to Albert Simons, who we later met in Charleston, where we later were the guests of Josephine Pinckney, who is now added to my list of very special people.

Last Wednesday, Elbert and I drove to Williamsburg with Sam Bemiss, who insisted that I attend the Commission meetings. It was good to see Connie, but we were sorry that you couldn't have been there. I got Ed Alexander to agree to speak here next Washington's Birthday. This morning's mail brought a card from Sam Bemiss, saying that he was sending me a year's subscription to Virginia Cavalcade.

Wednesday, Sandy Hamilton is having a luncheon meeting at the Brook Club to discuss membership plans for the American Scenic. Eric and I do hope you can be there as we are afraid the other members don't feel the way we do about the "drive" for new members.

Freeman Tilden writes that he would like to see me next week at the Players.

Am sure that Irma has sent you the newspapers on the Secretary's visit to Federal Hall. Gardner can certainly obtain newspaper coverage.

-2-

Connie wrote a wonderful letter to Congressman Aspinall and I am keeping all fingers, including thumbs, constantly crossed.

Oliver Jensen came out yesterday to discuss the Howe Orderly Book, and I am to go over the layout at the American Heritage Wednesday morning.

Ed Murrow asked me about Echo Dam. He had received a copy of Knopf's book.

All of the best,

Francis S. Ronalds
Superintendent

P. S. Did your ears burn on May 1st? Eric told all Beaufort, what it had missed by your inability to be there.

F. S. R.

FSRonalds/ejcarroll

S. Carroll
Insp

Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

May 9, 1955

Mr. T. Pitkin
Federal Hall Memorial
Wall and Nassau Streets
New York City, New York

Dear Tommy:

Last week in Charleston, Josephine Pinckney gave me a copy of her Thre O'Clock Dinner, which I read over the weekend. It contains a very interesting conversation on the difference between emigrants and immigrants, which I don't believe you will wish to adopt for the Museum.

"I rather like passing by the graves of the old people every day on my way to the office; it makes for continuity, which is the only way man, to my idea, with the stingy span of life allotted to him, can achieve anything. Now, those old people- the emigrants, as we call them here, to avoid the invidious i---"

"Now that's just the difference between us," said O'Dell, playing along easily in Wick's vein. "My grandparents were just immigrants/ They came from Ireland after the potato famine."

"Eh? Well, they'll become emigrants in a generation or so," said Wick courteously. "I advise you to inaugurate the status right away. Ancestors are just like children, you can't begin training them too soon. Anyway, your children will make the change - it develops naturally."

"Maybe so, but be dam if I don't remember the old folks too well."

"Hum. I have the advantage of you there. I'm free to imagine mine as fine-feathered as I like."

Francis S. Ronalds
Superintendent

FSRonalds/bjcarroll

WALLACE & DANNER

dry goods, shoes, clothing

READY-TO-WEAR

BEAUFORT, S.C.

May 5 1955

HOWARD E. DANNER
JOHN S. HRYHARROW

Dr. Francis S. Ronalds
National Park Service,
Morristown, N. J.

Dear Dr. Ronalds:-

May I take this opportunity to thank you personally for coming to Beaufort and helping us in our efforts for the Lafayette Building. I feel that our conference was exactly what we needed and that we can now go ahead in the right direction.

In order that we might have a sort of blue print upon which to proceed I tried to reduce our conclusions to a written report which we made last night to the full committee. As I have written Mr. Gugler, you and he and Stoney were participants in this proceeding so if you find any glaring inaccuracies in the inclosed report please correct me.

A young fellow brought me the inclosed photograph of the doorway and I thought you might perhaps be interested in it as an example of the kind of Adam decoration to be found in the building. Incidentally the post card you have of the building at the time we took over seems to be about the only one we can find, so if you could return it to me when you are through with it I would appreciate being able to give it back to Ed McTeer.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

Howard E. Danner
Howard E. Danner.

*PS. The typing on
inclosed report won't
be up to your standards
but I had to do it
with haste.*

WALLACE & DANNER

dry goods, shoes, clothing

READY-TO-WEAR

BEAUFORT, S.C.

May 5 1955

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JOHN S. HRYHARROW

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Howard E. Danner.

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but I had to do it
HED*

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED FEB. 16th

"to make a complete study, with the assistance of competent consultants, of the steps necessary to implement the purposes of this committee as to the restoration of the property, the earmarking of the same as a memorial according to the original purpose and the disposition of the same on a permanent basis"

The committee as appointed consists of Mr. Morrall, Mr. McTeer and Mr. Danner.

Through the kind offices of Mr. Oswald Kinnuth this sub-committee was fortunate in conferring with Mr. Eric Gugler of New York, and Dr. Francis Ronalds of Morristown N. J. and the National Park Service, both of whom are trustees of The American Society for Scenic and Historic Preservation Society and Mr. Samuel Gaillard Stoney of Charleston. Dr. Ronald F. Lee, Secretary of The National Trust for Historic Restoration was to have been present at the conference but was detained in Washington by official business.

After a complete, though superficial, examination of the building on Sunday May 1st both as to its exterior and interior the three visiting consultants and this sub-committee gathered around the ball-room table for a detailed discussion of the problems involved.

The visiting consultants were:

- (A) Highly commendatory of the intrinsic worth of the building, particular attention being called to the stair hall. There was no doubt as to the opinion that it is well worth the cost and effort entailed in its preservation.
- (B) Quite ~~congratulatory~~ congratulatory on the self-help way in which the preservation of the building has progressed so far.

Dr. Ronalds indicated that there is a probability that an article on this project may be run in the National Trust Magazine. He also stated that he would in all probability be able to furnish a National Park Service antiquarian when the services and assistance of such an expert would be needed.

The detailed procedure to be suggested, as arrived at after much back-and-forth discussion on almost every point can be approximately summarized as follows:

The approach to the property would naturally fall into three categories or plans which could be followed gradually but concurrently:

- Plan A. Having to do with the interior.
- Plan B. Having to do with the exterior front
- Plan C. Having to do with the exterior rear.

PLAN A. THE INTERIOR.

Do the halls and the ball-room, then the card (or retiring) room.

These would constitute the "public area" during the next phase of restoration. The remainder of the building would be rented as at present and the income used to retire the necessary loan.

Caution: The approach to restoration shall in every sense be a practical and not a "perfectionist" one, bearing in mind the necessity to maintain the best obtainable income without sacrificing essentials. It will be very easy to "over-do" it. While ~~the~~ important minutiae should be replaced no effort to restore every detail is now necessary. No straightening of angles - leave original screw holes as is.

In other words, the idea now should be to spend the available money on ~~the~~ major items and defer non-essentials to a later date.

DETAILED PLANS (not in the order of precedence)

1. DOWNSTAIRS HALL

- a. Replace floor boards where absolutely necessary
- b. Remove wall board
- c. Finish (natural) two front hall doors.
- d. Install flush plywood panel doors on toilets and paint so as to resemble panelling. Nothing to show except knobs and locks.
- e. Install hanging "counter balance" lamp under arch.
- f. Remove wiring.
- g. Strengthen bannisters on stairway by installing iron rods in place of spokes about one every fourth spoke
- h. Install standing office markers (brass or wood) (with or without electric light) and remove all other signs.
- i. For finish of walls and colors of painting wait for advise from expert from H. P. S.

STAIR HALL AND UPSTAIRS HALL

- a. For bannisters see above.
- b. Repair paladian window where needed and train vines to shield.
- c. Refinish the three upstairs doors in natural wood
- d. Install handsome rimlocks and glass door knobs on same.
- e. Hang crystal chandeliers.

2. BALL ROOM

- a. Remove all electric outlets except baseboard plug-ins.
- b. Use floor and table lamps only.
- c. Defer repairs to floor
- d. Defer unimportant minutiae in missing details of woodwork
- e. Defer doors on closets. Do not straighten door-ways.
- f. Repair fireplace
- g. Repair fireboard and mantel - except for details in plaster decoration which ~~should~~ should be deferred for the present. Mr Stony suggested that complete picture of scene might be secured by advertisement.
- h. For finish on walls and colors of painting wait to get expert advice from M.P.S. man.
- i. Upon sufficient completion this room should be designated as a "memorial room" - pending the time when the entire building may be so designated.

3. CARD ROOM (OR RETIREING ROOM)

- a. Remove wall board.
- b. Investigate presence of original wall paper and if found uncover ~~small~~ small frame.
- c. Repair fireplace.
- d. For electric repair see ball room.
- e. Defer repairs to mantel.
- f. Defer repairs to woodwork.
- g. Do not replace mis-matched door.

PLAN B. EXTERIOR FRONT.

The suggestion was made that the services of Albert Simons, Architect of Charleston S. C. Be secured at a set fee to furnish specific plans and specification to effect the following suggestions, which are subject to revision in his better judgment.

- a. The entire south side of the masonry wall, up to the bottom of board-line to be thickly covered with a leafy vine - fig nine or similar. The effect would be ~~that~~ that the entrance to the restaurant would be a "hole in the vines".
- b. The treads of concrete steps to be covered by white marble slabs with proper protruding nosing and to extend slightly over the ends of the steps themselves.
- c. The mail box to be removed.
- d. The John Mark Verdier marker to be removed.
- e. All signs (except the one hanging on a station) to be removed.
- f. Floor to downstairs piazza to be made waterproof.
- g. Piazza ceiling to be ceiled as is the upper one.
- h. Wrought iron bannisters to be installed as suggested by the architect.
- i. Front doorway to be repaired.

PLAN C. EXTERIOR REAR.

- a. Build an "end" gate as an entrance via the present concrete walkway. Design

~~text furnished by architect~~

- to be furnished by architect.
- b. Cover present concrete walkway with vine covered arbor and train vines up to screen paladian window. Entrance to old flower shop to be via this arbor.
 - c. Plant a "box-wood" garden in open area. If permission can be secured to cover bus-station walls with vines - O. K. if not screen with back-ground shrubbery.
 - d. Screen east wall of old flower shop with shrubbery or convert into attractive shop front (bow window etc).

GENERAL.

Defer installation of blinds.
Remove gerial from chimney
Relocate gas pipe line on west wall.
Repair upper porch floor
Paint exterior.
What to do about gutters was not discussed.

The recommendations of this sub-committee are:

1. That the sum of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) dollars be borrowed, to be repaid from the income from rents as rapidly as possible and that this sum be made available to the following two committees:
 - (a) A committee of three which shall have supervision over all construction and shall be authorized to make such agreements and contracts as it shall deem necessary thereto.
 - (b) A committee of three which shall have supervision over all plantings and gardening and shall be authorized to make such agreements and contracts as it shall deem necessary thereto.

From The News and Courier, Charleston, S. C. Tuesday, May 3, 1955

TWO CONSULTANTS AT BEAUFORT SEE LAFAYETTE HOUSE

*file
Southern
Colonial
Inp*

BEAUFORT, May 2- (Special) Two Specialists in preservation of historic sites counseled here this weekend on future care of the Lafayette house in Bay Street. They are Eric Gugler, New York architect, and Francis S. Ronalds of Morristown, New Jersey, associated with the National Park Service.

Both are directors of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, which was formed to preserve Niagara Falls. They also are among the founding members of the National Trust.

Mr. and Mrs. Gugler and Mr. Ronalds are house guests of Oswald W. Knauth at Broome Farm. Yesterday they inspected the Lafayette house, which was built about 1800 in the Adam style of architecture. Several years ago a local committee bought and restored the property. It was falling into ruins. Today it houses a cafe and offices.

Both visitors praised efforts of Beaufort citizens to preserve the landmark. They expressed approval of fitting an old building for modern use rather than turning it into a museum. They made recommendations on restoring some of the interior, and will advise further on other matters.

Several Beaufort citizens met with them yesterday afternoon at Mr. Knauth's house. Among those taking part in the discussions were Howard Danner, Sheriff J. E. McTeer and W. Brantley Harvey of Beaufort and Samuel Gaillard Stoney of Charleston, architect and antiquarian.

The Guglers and Mr. Ronalds left today on their way home by way of Charleston.

...

January 28, 1938

49

file

Mr. Lawrence T. Beck
Lawrence T. Beck Associates
250 Park Avenue
New York City

South Carolina

Dear Mr. Beck:

After your visit to the so-called Lafayette Building the other day you asked that I give you a little summary of this project. I am pleased to give you the story as I know it, which is quite intimately, as I have been connected with the matter from its inception.

This project was born in the imagination of the Trustees of the College of Beaufort, an ancient institution, by our standards, which was incorporated by the Assembly in 1795 and therefore about contemporary with the building in question. The minutes of this Board dated Mar. 15, 1945 recite a motion to the effect "that there be appointed a committee of two which shall advise the Beaufort County Historical Society and The Beaufort Museum that this Board would be interested in collaborating with them in an effort directed toward securing the property at the corner of Bay and Scott Streets, better known as the Lafayette building, for the purpose of preserving the same."

This committee was duly appointed and the two organizations approached did likewise. These representatives formed what was called The Committee For The Preservation of The Lafayette Building, to which were added three members at large. Of course our first job was to determine whether or not the building was actually worth preserving. We felt that our appraisal might be influenced by wishful thinking. We therefore looked into its historic significance and got the best possible architectural advice.

From an historic point of view it was found to be relatively unimportant in a locality like this, which, as you know, has probably the greatest unadvertised historic background in America. The house is part and parcel of Beaufort's fine tradition, but aside from a visit by the Marquis de Lafayette in 1825, at which time he was entertained in this house and spoke to the assembled populace from its balcony, there appear to be no incidents of historic importance attached to it.

It seems that, while Beaufort was at all times prior to the late unpleasantness a community of exceptional wealth and culture, there were two particular periods of prosperity. One of these was during the last years of the eighteenth century, at which time many of our fine houses were built. The other was in the years bracketing 1850, and at this time other good houses were erected. Among these was our own house which you have been nice enough to say you like.

It was, however, in the first of these periods, between 1790 and 1795, to our best knowledge that the Lafayette house was built by John Mark Verdier, a relative of "the chancellor" DeSaussure, the first Secretary of the Treasury. It is said to have been beautifully appointed and was certainly constructed in the finest fashion, in the best of the late Adam design of interior and exterior decoration. It has, of course, gone through considerable punishment over the years, but the mahogany doors, the exquisite mantels and the fine woodwork are almost intact, though slightly battered. The framework and underpinning have been found to be in an almost unbelievably excellent condition.

At any rate, we had the building appraised by a number of prominent architects, among whom were Albert Simons, and Samuel Gaillard Stoney of Charleston. Simons, as you know, did the Dock Street Theatre and the Hayward Washington house and others, and Stoney had devoted many years to the historic aspect of Charleston's architecture and written extensively on the subject. Mr. Talbot Hamlin of the Avery Library who is an authority on Greek Revival also gave us his estimate of its worth. These and others all told us that the building was a gem, well worth any effort it might take to preserve it.

This was the green light for the committee. This house, located at a strategic position in the town and the last possible opportunity to secure one of our good houses for the public seemed an opportunity to preserve one link with our past, one little bit of the atmosphere which is really Beaufort and distinguishes it from the run of the mill town.

The Committee set to work. It enlisted the assistance of the Trustees of the College, who stretched their financial aid to the limit and really enabled us to work out a rather unique system of soliciting donations. We asked only for United States Savings Bonds. But the College had agreed to take these bonds at face value and carry them to maturity.

We had been informed that the building could be repaired for five thousand dollars, which sum later turned out to be woefully inadequate. With the fortuitous interest of the Verdier family which owned the building and were captivated by the possibility of its being preserved, it was found that we could steal the property for three thousand dollars. A goal of eight thousand dollars was therefore set, and in a vigorous campaign it was reached.

The property was bought and the title vested in The Beaufort Museum which is a corporation chartered by the State. The College made the money available and the work of repair and restoration was begun.

Immediately we ran into the cold hard facts of life. The money in hand turned out to be but a drop in the bucket when estimates on the work ran to thirty five and forty thousand dollars. We might have quit, and in fact some of us, of whom I was one wanted to quit as the thing seemed out of our reach, and but for the tenacity of some of our members the whole project might well have gone up in smoke. Members

of the committee offered to supervise the work themselves and at least to make exterior repairs which would stop the deterioration of the structure, postponing till a later date the restoration of the interior. Ten thousand dollars was borrowed to supplement the funds on hand which loan is to be repaid over a period of years from income derived from renting portions of the building and with this we set to work on what we call the "first phase" of the project.

The results you have recently seen and you will have to agree that the boys did it did a swell job. It seems a shame to desecrate this fine old building by renting it for offices. But there seems no other way and unless "God moves a miracle" in the meantime we will have to be content to look down the years to the time when it will be completely renovated and restored to its original excellence.

Yours very truly

Howard E. Garner

January 28 1949

Mr. Lawrence T. Beck,
Lawrence T. Beck Associates,
250 Park Ave.,
New York, City

Dear Mr. Beck:-

After your visit to the so-called Lafayette Building the other day you asked that I give you a little summary of this project. I am pleased to give you the story as I know it, which is quite intimately, as I have been connected with the matter from its inception.

This project was born in the imagination of the Trustees of the College of Beaufort, an ancient institution, by our standards, which was incorporated by the Assembly in 1795 and therefore about contemporary with the building in question. The minutes of this Board dated Mar. 15, 1945 recite a motion to the effect "that there be appointed a committee of two which shall advise the Beaufort County Historical Society and The Beaufort Museum that this Board would be interested in collaborating with them in an effort directed toward securing the property at the corner of Bay and Scott Streets, better known as the Lafayette building, for the purpose of preserving the same".

This committee was duly appointed and the two organizations approached did likewise. These representatives formed what was called The Committee For The Preservation of The Lafayette Building, to which were added three members at large. Of course our first job was to determine whether or not the building was actually worth preserving. We felt that our appraisal might be influenced by wishful thinking. We therefore looked into its historic significance and got the best possible architectural advice.

From an historic point of view it was found to be relatively unimportant in a locality like this, which, as you know, has probably the greatest unadvertised historic background in America. The house is part and parcel of Beaufort's fine tradition, but aside from a visit by the Marquis

de Lafayette in 1825, at which time he was entertained in this house and spoke to the assembled populace from its balcony, there appear to be no incidents of historic importance attached to it.

It seems that, while Beaufort was at all times prior to the late unpleasantness a community of exceptional wealth and culture, there were two particular periods of prosperity. One of these was during the last years of the eighteenth century, at which time many of our fine houses were built. The other was in the years bracketing 1850, and at this time other good houses were erected. Among these was our own house which you have nice enough to say you like.

It was, however, in the first of these periods, between 1790 and 1795, to our best knowledge that the Lafayette house was built by John Mark Verdier, a relative of "the chancellor" Desaussure, the first Secretary of the Treasury. It is said to have been beautifully appointed and was certainly constructed in the finest fashion, in the best of the late Adam design of interior and exterior decoration. It has, of course, gone through considerable punishment over the years, but the mahogany doors, the exquisite mantels and the fine woodwork are almost intact, though slightly battered. The framework and underpinning have been found to be in an almost unbelievably excellent condition.

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This was the green light for the committee. This house, located at a strategic position in the town and the last possible opportunity to secure one of our good houses for the public seemed an opportunity to preserve one link with our past, one little bit of the atmosphere which is really Beaufort and distinguishes it from the run of the mill town.

The committee set to work. It enlisted the assistance of the Trustees of the College, who stretched their financial aid to the limit and really enabled us to work out a rather unique system of soliciting donations. We asked only for United States savings bonds. But the College had agreed to take these bonds at face value and carry them to maturity.

We had been informed that the building could be repaired for five thousand dollars, which sum later turned out to be woefully inadequate. With the fortuitous interest of the Verdier family which owned the building and were captivated by the possibility of its being preserved, it was found that we could steal the property for three thousand dollars. A goal of eight thousand dollars was therefore set, and in a vigorous campaign it was reached.

The property was bought and the title vested in The Beaufort Museum

which is a corporation chartered by the State. The College made the money available and the work of repair and restoration was begun.

Immediately we ran into the cold hard facts of life. The money in hand turned out to be but a drop in the bucket when estimates on the work ran to thirty five and forty thousand dollars. We might have quit, and in fact some of us, of whom I was one wanted to quit as the thing seemed out of our reach, and but for the tenacity of some of our members the whole project might well have gone up in smoke. Members of the committee offered to supervise the work themselves and at least to make exterior repairs which would stop the deterioration of the structure, postponing till a later date the restoration of the interior. Ten thousand dollars was borrowed to supplement the funds on hand which loan is to be repaid over a period of years from income derived from renting portions of the building and with this we set to work on what we call the "first phase" of the project.

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Yours very truly

Howard E. Danner

ERIC GUGLER
101 PARK AVE
NEW YORK

*trip to
D. Cavendish
new file*

April 1, 1955

Dr. Francis S. Ronalds
National Park Service
Morristown, N. J.

Dear Fran:

I am contemplating sending a note like the attached
to Oswald.

The train that gets in at 9 o'clock in the morning
leaves New York at 2:30 which would be a little
difficult under the circumstances, wouldn't it?
Don't you think it's alright to assume that we can
catch the 3:05 from Penn Station. I should imagine
that that would be O.K. Let me know.

Sincerely,

Eric

EG/ek

DRAFT

Dear Oswald:

We are planning to take the train on Friday April 29th, The Yenessee on the Atlantic Coast Line which arrives at Yenessee around 5 in the morning. This train leaves New York at 3:05.

Ronald F. Lee, Secretary of the National Trust and Dr. Francis S. Ronalds of the National Park Service, Morristown, N. J. have agreed to come along. For this I am infinitely grateful. No wiser counselors could possibly be had in this country. So four of us will land in your lap the bright and pretty morning of April 30th.

Esleach

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

*Beaufort, S.C.
file*

Beaufort
**Two Consultants
At Beaufort See
Lafayette House**

BEAUFORT, May 2 (Special)—Two specialists in preservation of historic sites counseled here this weekend on future care of the Lafayette house in Bay Street. They are Eric Gugler, New York architect, and Francis S. Ronalds of Morrison, N.J., associated with the National Park Service.

Both are directors of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, which was formed to preserve Niagara Falls. They also are among the founding members of the National Trust.

Mr. and Mrs. Gugler and Mr. Ronalds are house guests of Oswald W. Knauth at Broome Farm. Yesterday they inspected the Lafayette house, which was built about 1800 in the Adam style of architecture. Several years ago a local committee bought and restored the property. It was falling into ruins. Today it houses a cafe and offices.

Both visitors praised efforts of Beaufort citizens to preserve the landmark. They expressed approval of fitting an old building for modern use rather than turning it into a museum. They made recommendations on restoring some of the interior, and will advise further on other matters.

Several Beaufort citizens met with them yesterday afternoon at Mr. Knauth's house. Among those taking part in the discussions were Edward Danner, Sheriff J. E. McTeer and W. Brantley Harvey of Beaufort and Samuel Gaillard Stoney of Charleston, architect and antiquarian.

The Guglers and Mr. Ronalds left today on their way home by way of Charleston.

Lafayette Hotel (circa 1780-1795)

~~Wadsworth~~
1-2-3-4
2:45-3:15
No 4

Trustees of the College of Beaufort
Beaufort County Historical Society
Beaufort Museum.

Appointed Committee for the Preservation of the
Lafayette Building.

"The house is fast and formal of
Beaufort's fine tradition, but aside from a
visit by the Marquis de Lafayette in 1825,
at which time he was entertained in the
house and spoke to the assembled populace
from its balcony, there appears to be no incidents
of historic importance attached to it.

Built by John Mark Venable.

Late design of exterior and interior
decoration, fine woodwork and expensive
mouldings.

Albert Simons and Samuel Stony of Charleston.
Erie Gaylor of New York.
and Robert Hamilton

Borrowed the funds - the
loan repaid by income derived
from renting portion of the building for
law and detective office.