history

DETECTIVES

Uncovering the Past

HISTORIC COLUMBIA

BOUDREAUUX
inspired design
TYPES OF RESOURCES

• Archival Sources - Digital
  • Maps (Sanborn Fire Insurance and others with building footprints; Birdseye views; property maps – always check against Google Earth!)
  • Government records (building permits, plumbing inspection, photographs)
  • Contemporary newspapers
  • City directories (some digital)
  • Oral histories and other first-hand accounts (some digital)

• Archival Sources – Repositories
  • Business records (architects, builders) – South Caroliniana Library, Richland Library
  • Personal papers and manuscripts (some digital or published)
  • Vertical files (some digital) – Historic Columbia, City of Columbia Planning/Preservation
  • Register of Deeds

• Other Sources
  • Snooping around the attic…
  • What does the building say?
Modjeska Simkins Dependency

Constructed between 1895-1897

Simkins, circa 1946.
Courtesy South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina
Modjeska Simkins House
Constructed between 1890-1895

Uncovering the Past
Modjeska Simkins Stories
2010 Dependency Findings:
- No Porch, appears north facing
- Address associated with 1320 Elmwood, not 2025 Marion

1919 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
Courtesy South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina
2020 Findings
Deed transfers
• Oct 1890 $462.50
• Jan 1895 $462.50 (family)
• 1913 $3,500 (w/ improvements)

1919 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
• Footprints are correct but address not.
• Deeds show property depth maintained at 165 feet since at least 1879

Courtesy South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina
Map of Columbia, SC & Its Suburbs, 1895, by Niernsee and Lamotte
Watts, Alice, wid George, res 722 Lincoln.
Watts, Edmund H., clk State Dispy, res 2025 Marion.
Watts, Elizabeth, wid Wm. R., res 2025 Marion.
Watts, Fannie, Miss, res Oak, Shandon.
Watts, Fleming B. (Mrs. Henrietta), carp, res r 731 College.
Watts, James M., wks State Dispy, res 2025 Marion.
WATTS, JOHN GARY, ADJT INSPR GEN, RMS 1221 PLAIN
Watts, S. Caroline, wid John, res 615 Main.
Watts, Wm. R. (W. R. Watts & Co), res 2025 Marion.

McCants, Minnie, Miss, res 1209 Gervais.
McCants, Robert C. (Mrs. Minnie J.), mchst State Dispy, res 2025 Marion.
McCants, Sarah, wid James J., res 1528 Gervais.

Johnson, Ada, c, wks, res 1529 McQuail.
Johnson, Wade (c), wks Tozer Engine Wks, res 1529 McQuail.
Johnson, Wm. (c), painter, res r 2025 Marion.
Johnson, Wm. (c), wks Col Stm Ldrv, res 1404 T
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Place of Birth</th>
<th>Year of Birth</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Modjeska Simkins</td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Proprietor, Retail Liqueur Store</td>
<td>Columbia, SC</td>
<td>1890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elmore Simkins</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Laborer, Construction Co.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Daughter</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Domestic, Private Home</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Boykins Creed (Deana; 1) lab h rear 1240 (2) Barnwell
"Daisy D Indry wkr S C Baptist Hosp r rear 1240 (2) Barnwell
"Willie lab Sou Products Co
Boynton K David (Pearlene) emp Cola Mills h rear 2025 Marion
Brabham Lizzie maid h528 Short Leaf
"York B (Martha) lab h8 Braytons al

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1950 Census for 2025 Marion Street

1943 Columbia City Directory

Courtesy Ancestry.com
Horry-Guignard House & Dependency
Constructed circa 1813

Uncovering the Past
Horry-Guignard Stories
The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine

Vol. XXXVIII  April, 1937  No. 2

Journal of General Peter Horry

Edited by A. S. Salley

Peter Horry, who played a conspicuous part in the history of South Carolina during the Revolution and for over thirty years subsequent thereto, was born in South Carolina about 1747.

Initially compiled and published by A.S. Salley between 1937 and 1947.

Complete set of journals published in 2012

Uncovering the Past
Horry-Guignard Stories
The Guignard-Horry Residence.

A very old house stands on the northwest corner of Senate and Pickens street. It was owned by Surveyor-General John Gabriel Guignard, who moved to Columbia from Stateburg shortly after his appointment in 1789. Just how soon he occupied this house is not known. But we do know that he was living there in 1813, because the Guignard family have an insurance policy on this house bearing that date. Gen. Peter Horry, who married Mr. Guignard’s sister, Frances, also lived there. This house is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Taylor.

Uncovering the Past
Horry-Guignard Stories
Uncovering the Past
Horry Guignard Stories
Taylor House
Constructed circa 1908
“Residences on Senate Street, Columbia, SC,” [1910].

Courtesy Midlands Postcard Collection, Richland Library
“Fine Colonial Residence, Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC” [1911]. – NOT!

Courtesy Midlands Postcard Collection, Richland Library
Uncovering the Past
Taylor House Stories
Uncovering the Past
Taylor House Stories
The house is the property of Mr. Thomas Taylor, as is the lot upon which the house will soon stand. On the lot at the corner of Bull and Senate streets will be erected one of the handsomest dwellings in the city. Mr. Taylor, however, did not wish to tear down this splendidly built old house and accordingly he contracted to have it moved intact and with all of the severe strain to which it has been subjected not a crack has shown in the walls.

The house was erected about 1825 and was originally one story in height, the additions being made later. It was sold in 1839 by James S. Guignard to his daughter, Frances Ann Margaret Rorly Myrant, who in turn sold it to W. M. Burr many years later. Afterwards Dr. R. W. Gibbes purchased it and he sold it to Mr. Taylor. The basements of the house were constructed almost entirely of mud and brick and the heavy timbers supporting it were rough hewn and not dressed. Attempts to saw some of the timber resulted in several saws being ruined and the timbers are as sound today as when they were first placed in position.

House moved was built by James S. Guignard for daughter, later moved next to namesake house of Gibbes Green. Demolished in 1964 for UofSC expansion.
By the special request of a gentleman who takes a deep interest in whatever concerns the welfare of the city the writer will explain why the trees were taken down in front and on the side of Mr. Taylor's new residence. The question of removing them received the most earnest and careful attention on the part of the commission, in fact being held in abeyance for several months, and after viewing the situation from every possible standpoint it was thought best for them to be removed. A few of them were in fairly good condition, but there was no possibility of their ever making fine trees, and this being the case it was deemed best for the future beauty of the street for them to be removed, making it possible thereby to put young trees in their place. In addition to this it was thought necessary to lower the sidewalk, it being very high just on that part of the street and this could not, of course, be done while the trees were standing.

"new residence" implies completion but does not confirm it.
LINKS TO LOCAL RESOURCES

South Caroliniana Digital Library:
https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/university_libraries/browse/digital_collections/index.php
LINKS TO LOCAL RESOURCES

Historic Columbia Foundation Website (other local museums, etc.):
https://www.historiccolumbia.org
Sanborn Fire Maps of South Carolina (also Library of Congress):
https://digital.library.sc.edu/collections/sanborn-fire-insurance-maps-of-south-carolina/
LINKS TO LOCAL RESOURCES

US Geological Historical Maps (1884-2006):
https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/
LINKS TO LOCAL RESOURCES

Richland Library Walker History Center (local library):
https://www.richlandlibrary.com/local-history

Features

Collection Highlights:
- Genealogical and Historical Research Collection
- Columbia City Directories
- Genealogy Databases
- Family Search Affiliate
- Local Newspapers and Magazines

Local History & Obituary Index
Request an Obituary

Digital Collections:
- The State Newspaper Photograph Archive
- Russell Maxey Photograph Collection
- Yearbooks of Columbia Area Schools
- Postcards of the Midlands
- Maps of Columbia and Richland County
- Oral Histories from Richland Library
- Midlands Memoires

View All

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