

Life in Mazyck–Wraggborough

The Mazyck-Wraggborough neighborhood serves as Charleston’s historic gateway neighborhood and is filled with history and culture.

This “Garden District” is set between East Bay Street & King Street, and Mary Street & Calhoun Street. Close to the lively nightlife and enticing restaurants of Upper King Street, the neighborhood is comprised of stately original homes and renovated Charleston singles. With Charleston’s grand architectural style evident throughout the borough, Mazyck-Wraggborough radiates a stylish presence in the diverse community.

Within Mazyck-Wraggborough’s diverse community is some of Charleston’s most important buildings, including some listed on the National Register. The district includes: the Charleston Museum, Charleston Music Hall, Joseph Manigault House, Charleston Visitor Center, Gaillard Performing Arts Center, William Aiken House, Aiken-Rhett House, and is near the South Carolina Aquarium.

History

Alexander Mazyck owned a 100-acre farm, “The Mazyck Pasture,” in this neighborhood. He had it surveyed in 1786 and then broken into lots, some later sold to Joseph Wragg.

John Wragg inherited 79 acres and named the area “Wraggborough” to honor his father who died before developing the land. Plans that Joseph created for the house were carried out in 1803 by relatives, which explains why many of the streets such as John, Ann, Elizabeth, Charlotte, Henrietta, Judith, and Mary were named for Wragg-family members.

John’s nephew, Joseph Manigault, inherited the house at 350 Meeting Street and lived there until 1852. The parks Wragg Square and Wragg Mall, located on opposite sides of the Charleston Museum, were given to the citizens of Charleston by his heirs.

The original district went to Meeting Street, but was later expanded to King Street to include businesses, and was renamed Mazyck-Wraggborough in the late 1800s.

Amenities

Historically rich, the borough is home to: the Charleston Museum, also known as “America’s First Museum” founded in 1773; The Second Presbyterian Church (1809); The Aiken-Rhett house (1818), which is famous for its size and fine interior furnishings, is one of the most intact complexes illustrating what antebellum life was like on the peninsula; The Charleston Visitor Center, in the former South Carolina Freight Railroad Depot built in 1856, which offers maps, tours, bus/shuttle schedules, and information about hotels and restaurants; and The New Tabernacle Fourth Baptist Church (1859).

Sitting along the stretch of Charleston’s “Museum Mile,” Mazyck-Wraggborough offers convenience to a number of Charleston’s cultural hotspots mentioned above, as well as the

Children's Museum of the Lowcountry, The old Citadel, Marion Square, and the Charleston County Public Library.

Across from Wragg Mall at Ann & Meeting Streets is the wrought iron gate welcoming visitors that was designed by Charleston Master Blacksmith, Philip Simmons. His ironworks shop was on Alexander Street for 14 years, and several nearby homes feature his gates.

Bordering on Upper King Street, this historic Mazyck-Wraggborough neighborhood is within close walking distance of everything that downtown Charleston has to offer.

Sources include: Cassina Real Estate Group <https://bit.ly/3CJDCm3>
Empire Properties <https://bit.ly/3ATYNak>
Charleston Museum <https://bit.ly/37AfLXM>
Wragg Family Papers <https://bit.ly/3mc4dIR>
Robert James, resident historian