

RETREAT PLANTATION

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Final Beaufort Home Tour Slated Thursday

BEAUFORT (Special)—Retreat Plantation and three town houses will be shown on the fourth and last tour of the 1959 series of tours sponsored by the Woman's Auxiliary of St. Helena' Episcopal Church, which will take place at 2:30 p.m. Thursday.

Retreat Plantation, the second oldest house in the county, was built by a Huguenot, Jean de la Gaye, about 1742. It is of tabby construction, with walls 22 inches thick. De la Gaye was a vintner who came to this spot from the French settlement of Purrysburg on the Savannah River.

After the death of De la Gaye, he having left no heirs, the property passed into Barnwell hands, and through them to their Walker descendants, who sold it in 1938 to Mr. and Mrs. James Sturdivant. They did an extensive restoration, the house having fallen into great disrepair. The slates on the roof were acquired when the roof of St. Michael's in Charleston was damaged in the 1929 hurricane. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Ponvert, who have added a small walled garden at one side, a guest house on the brink of the water (Battery Creek), and have developed the land and established a small herd of cattle.

The three town houses on this tour are all in the 1200 block of Bay Street and look out over the water down the river toward Fort Royal Sound.

Chase House, the home of Mrs. Adam Haskell and her sister,

Mrs. Ethel Williams, presents a contradictory story, one that it once stood near Wise Pond, the other that its original site was where the high school stands today. That it was certainly sawed in half and moved to this spot is quite sure; the evidence has been discovered in redecorating. This move took place about 1810, but the handsome panelling and trim and the carved mantels, Adam in style, show it dates to the late 18th century.

Tabby Manse was built by Thomas Fuller in 1768 for his bride, Elizabeth Middleton. The house is entirely of tabby, with the two drawing rooms on the main floor panelled in yellow pine, and featuring handsome mantels. The graceful stairway divides at the landing to reach the upper hall in two parts. Off this is a beautiful ballroom, with handsome trim and an intricately carved mantel. The house has not been changed architecturally since its building, and is now the home of Misses Greenwood.

The Means house was built by Robert Means about 1800. Typical of many Low country homes is the double stairway leading to the front porch. The house contains much fine panelling, carved mantels and plaster trim. The present owners Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Luther, have made a beautiful garden in the rear, reaching all the way to North Street, and this will be shown also. Tea will be served by Mrs. Luther at the end of the tour.



RETREAT PLANTATION HOME

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