

Nathaniel Russell House

51 Meeting Street, Charleston

This three-story brick residence, built ca. 1809 by a wealthy Charleston merchant, is one of the finest examples of the Federal style in the country. Its rooms employ various shapes, typical of the Federal fondness for spaces other than squares and rectangles, and the elliptical stairway is unmatched in its delicacy. Adamesque motifs are found throughout the interior. Russell was justifiably proud of his mansion, which cost \$80,000 in early-19th-century dollars, and had his monogram wrought into the iron balcony above the entrance. After use as a dwelling and as a school for young ladies, the Russell House is now owned and maintained as a house museum by the Historic Charleston Foundation.