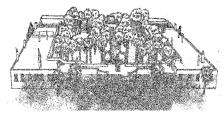
Atalaya the Huntington's



Archer Huntington, son of transportation magnate Collis P. Huntington, and Anna Hyatt Huntington, noted sculptress, purchased Brookgreen and three adjoining plantations in January of 1930 as a site for a winter home and as a setting for Mrs. Huntington's sculpture. Construction of the house began the following winter. The home was named "Atalaya", a Spanish term for watchtower. Archer Huntington, a noted authority on Spanish history, designed the house after the Moorish architecture of the Spanish Mediterranean Coast.

Construction of *Atalava* began in 1931, apparently without detailed written plans. Work on the building was not continuous, but divided between it and Brookgreen Gardens over a 2-1/2 - 3 year period. Mr. Huntington, wanting to provide work opportunities for community residents during the Great Depression, insisted that local labor be utilized in its construction.

The outer walls of the building form a square, 200 feet on each side, with the back facing the ocean. Within the walled structure there is a large, open inner court with a small entry court at the rear. The living quarters consist of 30 rooms around three sides of the perimeter. The large, one-story building is dominated by a square tower that rises nearly 40 feet from a covered walkway that bisects the inner court. It is functional in design, having contained a 3,000 gallon water tank made of cypress. Water drawn from an artesian well was pumped into a 10,000 gallon concrete cistern where the sand settled out. From there, it was pumped into the tower tank. The height of this tank gave the water enough pressure to flow through the house.

The covered walkway of open brickwork is lined with archways and planters on both sides. Living facilities including the dining room, sunroom, library and bedrooms, occupied the ocean side of the house. The southern wing housed Mr. Huntington's spacious study, his secretary's office and Mrs. Huntington's studio. The studio, with a 25-foot skylight, opened onto a small enclosed courtyard where she worked on her sculptures. Mrs. Huntington enjoyed sculpting live animals, therefore, facilities such as horse stables, a dog kennel and a bear pen were included in the construction.

Heating was done entirely by coal room heaters and wood fireplaces. Ramps, instead of stairs, lead from the courtyards up to each entry door, and wood was hauled in by small carts. Grillwork designed by Anna and shutters were installed on each window to protect against hurricane winds.

The Huntington's returned to *Atalaya* after the war for their usual stay in 1946 and 1947. These were the last years they used their home.

After Mr. Huntington's death in 1955, most of the furnishings from the house were sent to the Huntington home in New York City. The equipment from Mrs. Huntington's studio was transferred to the new studio at Brookgreen Gardens. The 2,500-acre tract including *Atalaya* was leased to the state by the Brookgreen Trustees in 1960. Mrs. Huntington died at her Connecticut home in 1973.

Atalaya Map Beach Side 23 24 26 26 29 29 29 29 30 30 27 28 28 28 2 28 35 50 45 42

- Outdoor Studio
- Indoor Studio
- Studio bathroom
- Studio storage
- Office storage
- Secretary's office
- Mr. Huntington's study
- Valuables storage
- Mr. Huntington's bath
- 10. Master bedroom
- 11. Mrs. Huntington's bath
- 12. Clothes storage
- 13. Miss Perkins' bath
- 14. Secretary's room & bath

- I5. Library
- 16. Foyer
- 17. Sun room
- 18. Breakfast room
- 19. Dining room
- 20. Food service room
- 21. Servants' living room
- 22. Food preparation room
- 23. Kitchen
- 24. Pantry & equipment storage
- 25. Pantry
- 26. Walk-in ice box
- 27. Cook's quarters
- 28. Servants' quarters
- 29. Storage
- 30. Servants' bath

- 31. Laundry room
- 32. Housekeeper's room
- 33. Housekeeper's bath
- 34. Laundry drying yard
- 35. Laundryman's quarters
- 36. Wood/Coal storage
- 37. Garage
- 38. Generator room
- 39. Incinerator
- 40. Wood shed
- 41. Oyster shucking room
- 42. Paved courtyard
- 43. Bear pens
- 44. Dog kennels
- 45. Horse stables
- 46 Tack room