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Charleston's iconic Sword Gate house, once owned by Abraham Lincoln descendant, lists for \$35M

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The house at 32 Legare St. hit the market Oct. 19, 2026, for \$35 million in Charleston.

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CHARLESTON — One of the city's most iconic homes hit the market Oct. 19 for \$35 million, a price that would shatter the local single-family sales record if it sells for asking.

The Sword Gate House at **32 Legare St.** was built in the 1800s and gets its name from the sword and spear design on the wrought-iron gate that has guarded the entrance since the late 1840s.

Constructed in Federal-style architecture, the three-story main house features eight bedrooms, nine full bathrooms and two powder rooms, plus a two-bedroom carriage house on a nearly 1-acre lot. In total, the property comprises 17,142 square feet of living space.



One of the 11 bedrooms at 32 Legare St. in Charleston.

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The furnishings are also negotiable, listing agent Leslie Turner with Maison Real Estate said.

Throughout generations of ownership, the house has been expanded and upkept, including the latest renovation by the current owners — The SOB Trust out of Nashville, which paid \$10 million for the property in 2020, according to Charleston County land records.

One of the most important updates, Turner said, was adding another kitchen to the main living space. Previously, there was only one informal kitchen on the ground floor, which made the house hard to sell, she said.



A stairwell at 32 Legare St. in Charleston.

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The current owners added a new kitchen and informal dining area on the main level with custom cabinetry and built-ins, a fireplace and direct piazza access. Overall, the house now has three kitchens with the appointed family space, a chef's and catering kitchen and a small staff kitchen. The carriage house offers another private cooking space for guests.

The master bedroom spans the entire southern side of the second floor with a seating area, office and boutique-style dressing room, as well as access to a private second-floor piazza that overlooks the garden and swimming pool.



The backyard at 32 Legare St. in Charleston.

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Prior to its 2020 closing, the house had been on and off the market for more than a decade. Bear Lake Realty previously bought the property in 1999 for \$4.3 million, reuniting what had been two subdivided parcels.

The entity first listed the property in April 2009 for \$23 million. The asking price was later reduced to \$19.5 million and then again to \$13.99 million.

In the 1930s, Jesse Randolph, a granddaughter of President Abraham Lincoln, bought the home as a vacation residence. Subsequent owners split up the corner lot, and a brick wing was operated as a bed-and-breakfast in the 1980s.



The dining room at 32 Legare St. in Charleston.

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The property is so popular, carriage tours regularly stop in front of it, Turner said.

“You can’t see the house from the street. It has an allure and mysterious nature to it because ... it’s so private,” she said. “But the gates are very iconic.”

The gates were crafted by renowned Charleston ironworker Christopher Werner.

While downtown has had a string of record-breaking sales in the last few years — including U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent’s former house that **sold for \$18.25 million** in February 2025 — Turner said the renovations earn the price tag for 32 Legare St.



A living space at 32 Legare St. in Charleston, which is on the market for \$35 million.

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“We’ve had some big sales downtown over the last few years, but all of those have required multi-year huge renovations,” Turner said. “The important thing is this house is move-in ready. Someone else has done all the work.”

The current [record for a downtown Charleston house](#) is \$21 million for the property at 51 East Bay St., one of the largest residential sites in the area. It sold Oct. 31, 2025, per county real estate records, and included a [chandelier](#) from the set of the 1939 movie “Gone With the Wind.”

The historic Drayton House at 25 East Battery was previously [listed for \\$28 million](#), but has since been taken off the market.

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Teri Errico Griffis is the Trending Editor at The Post and Courier, focusing on breaking news, real estate and retail. An award-winning journalist, she previously worked as a Southeast commerce reporter for the Journal of Commerce and a reporter for the Charleston Regional Business Journal where she covered all facets of business in the Charleston region. Raised in Connecticut and New York, she has called South Carolina home since 2012.