Isaiah Davenport, a young carpenter from New England, achieved success as a builder in his adopted city. Davenport's fine home was a tangible demonstration of his skill as a builder as well as a residence for his growing family and the enslaved people who worked in the home and in his business. Furnished as it would have been in the 1820s, the Museum received a Preserve America Presidential Award for the authentic period restoration.

While the story of the original owner's time is compelling, the twentieth century history of the house offers a chronicle of dilapidation, rescue, and restoration. Passing out of Davenport family hands in the mid-19th century, the building became a tenement in what had become an unsavory part of Savannah in the mid-20th century. Its survival is a testament to the tenacity of seven Savannah women who came together in 1955 to save the structure from demolition. This action prompted the founding of the Historic Savannah Foundation which has brought about an architectural renaissance through historic preservation in this coastal Georgia city.

Today, as an historic house museum, the Isaiah Davenport House provides a look at domestic life and aesthetics from an earlier time as it welcomes visitors from across the United States and around the world.

Penelope Hobhouse of Dorset, England refined the plan with the assistance of Frances Parker of Beaufort, South Carolina. Savannah landscape designers including John McEllen and Jan Vandenberg-Bulk have also fostered the garden.

Exhibiting typically Georgia plantings that offer fragrance, color, texture and harmony, the Davenport House Garden is a twentieth century complement to an 1820s house. The principal colors are white and green with features including beds, a parterre, an arbor, benches, Italian pots and a pond. Trees include ornamental crabapple, tea olive and crepe myrtle; shrubs include camellia and azalea and vines include confederate jasmine and red honeysuckle.

Behind the wall, the Davenport House courtyard and garden offer an exclusive setting for weddings and special events. Consult the Museum’s website or speak with a staff member for additional information about garden rentals.