



CAZAUX-WILLIAMS-CROW HOUSE (HALCYON HALL)

7413 Masonboro Sound Road
Wilmington, North Carolina 28409

Application for City of Wilmington Local Landmark Designation

Prepared by Samantha Smith, Gate City Preservation, L.L.C.

November 2019



City of Wilmington Planning, Development, and Transportation Department

City of Wilmington Historic Preservation Commission

COMMON AND HISTORICAL PROPERTY NAMES

- “Cazaux-Williams-Crow House (Halcyon Hall)” was used when the building was listed as a contributing building in the Masonboro Sound National Register Historic District, September 1992.¹

LOCATION OF THE PROPERTY

- Address: 7413 Masonboro Sound Road, Wilmington, North Carolina 28409
- Deed Book & Page: 6114, 514-518
- Tax Parcel Identification Number (PIN): R06700005009001

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR CURRENT PROPERTY OWNERS

- Algernon L. Butler, III. and Jenna F. Butler

7413 Masonboro Sound Road
 Wilmington, North Carolina 28409
 (910) 762-1908
 albutleriii@butlerbutler.com

APPRAISED VALUE OF THE PROPERTY:

PARID: R06700-005-009-001

BUTLER ALGERNON L III JENNA F

7413 MASONBORO SOUND RD

Values

Year	2019
Total Land	\$939,200
Total Buildings	\$266,400
Appraised Total	\$1,205,600

MARKET VALUE SHOWN - EXEMPTIONS TO BE REFLECTED IN AUG BILLS

¹ Davyd Foard Hood, Ruth Little, Claudia Brown, John Clauser, Dolores Hall, staff Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section N.C. Division of Archives and History (June 1992). “Masonboro Sound Historic District.” *National Register of Historic Places - Nomination and Inventory*. North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, p. 3.

I. Abstract

Statement of Significance

The Cazaux-Williams-Crow House (Halcyon Hall) is being proposed for designation because of its local significance as a recreational summer house on Masonboro Sound in Wilmington. Halcyon Hall is a fine example of early Tidewater residential architecture. Although the house underwent an extensive, architect-designed remodel in 1937, it still retains its original feeling as a substantial, Tidewater summer house on Masonboro Sound, “an oasis of extraordinary physical beauty in east central New Hanover County that serves as the setting for an important group of nineteenth and early twentieth century resort cottages.”² The house retains many of its well-preserved architectural elements from its original construction and its architect-designed Colonial Revival additions in 1937; its exquisite setting, including hundreds-year-old oak trees draped in Spanish moss and breathtaking views of Masonboro Sound; and two, un-altered outbuildings from the building’s original 1877 construction, a hunting cabin, and servant’s quarters.

A contributing resource in the Masonboro Sound Historic District, Halcyon Hall is one of the oldest extant, “important” summer houses erected on the sound in the last decades of the nineteenth century, representing the development of Masonboro Sound as a desirable location for the construction of custom-built summer cottages.³ Affluent families constructed these homes from the 1870s through the mid-twentieth century for summer recreation and entertainment, including hunting, boating, swimming, oyster roasts, and fishing. The hunting cabin on site, one of the contributing resources in this designation, along with historic photographs of friends and family holding rifles and wearing hunting gear at the property, reenforce the importance of hunting as a recreational activity for the families who spent their summers at Halcyon Hall (Appendix 1-12).

Integrity Statement

- **Location:** Halcyon Hall remains in its original location and is surrounded by other historic buildings and features from its period of significance (1877-1937), including a servant’s quarters and a hunting cottage, a sundial, and dairy spring, all present on an 1877 parchment-paper survey of the property.
- **Design:** The vernacular Tidewater architectural elements of Halcyon Hall exemplify the design trends and styles of late nineteenth and early twentieth century summer cottage architecture in Wilmington, including the low, hipped roof and extended wrap-around porches designed for warm coastal climates.⁴ The “T”-shaped, Tidewater-Cottage (Central-Passage) house was completed by 1877, with a large porch connecting the two blocks via a dog-trot style breezeway (Appendix 4).⁵ The exterior of Halcyon Hall was significantly altered in a 1937 Colonial Revival remodel that enclosed the dog-trot porch, added additional rooms to the south and north of the home by enclosing the side

² Davyd Foard Hood, Ruth Little, Claudia Brown, John Clauser, Dolores Hall, staff Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section N.C. Division of Archives and History (June 1992). “Masonboro Sound Historic District.” *National Register of Historic Places - Nomination and Inventory*. North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Section 7, Page 1.

³ “Masonboro Sound Historic District,” *National Register of Historic Places - Nomination and Inventory*, Section 7, Page 1.

⁴ Virginia McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses: The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America’s Domestic Architecture*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2017, pg. 126.

⁵ Robert Gamble, *Historic Architecture in Alabama: A Guide to Styles and Types, 1810-1930*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press (1990), p. 33–36.

porches on the first and second level, and updated the stick porch posts to Tuscan columns.⁶ Although the alterations modified the porches of the home, the alterations did not change the building footprint and do not detract from the home's original intent and feeling. The 1937 architect-designed alterations have become part of the home's rich architectural significance.

- **Setting:** The house's exquisite setting on Masonboro Sound has been an important feature of the home since its original construction in 1877. The driveway is lined with centuries-old live oak trees draped in spanish moss and, to the east, there are breathtaking views of the sound. Historic photographs of the property show very similar landscape features, revealing that the mature vegetation has remained practically unchanged since its original construction in 1877 (Appendix 13).
- **Workmanship:** Exterior architectural details of Halcyon Hall show a high level of craftsmanship and design, specifically the windows, shutters, porch posts, doors, and corbeled chimneys.
- **Materials:** Many of the materials from Halcyon Hall's original construction are still present, including its weatherboard siding, wooden sash windows, and shutters.
- **Feeling:** Because of its carefully preserved landscape features and exterior details, the feeling of Halcyon Hall, among the setting of its breathtaking landscape features, has been preserved.
- **Association:** Halcyon Hall is associated with the late nineteenth and early twentieth century residential development of Masonboro Sound as a resort of summer sound cottages and idyllic place of leisure. Halcyon Hall remains a single family dwelling, where many of the same recreational activities still take place.

Proposed Boundary Justification

The proposed boundaries for the Local Landmark Application are outlined in the map below. The historic resources included in this designation are: the main house, the servant's quarters, the hunting cabin, the dairy spring, and the sundial. No interior or landscape features will be included in this designation.

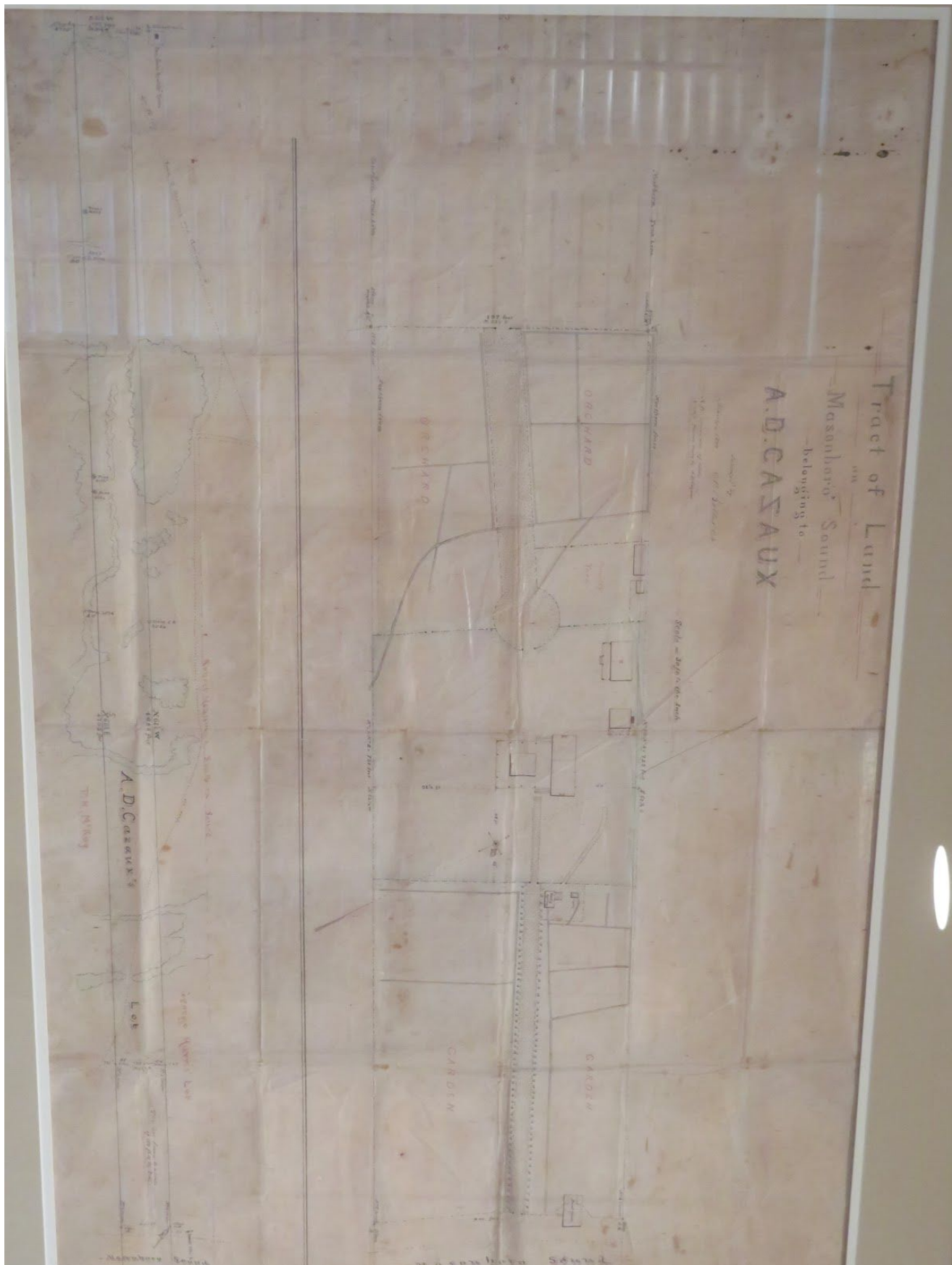
⁶ Floorplans, p. 8-10.

II. Maps and Floor Plans

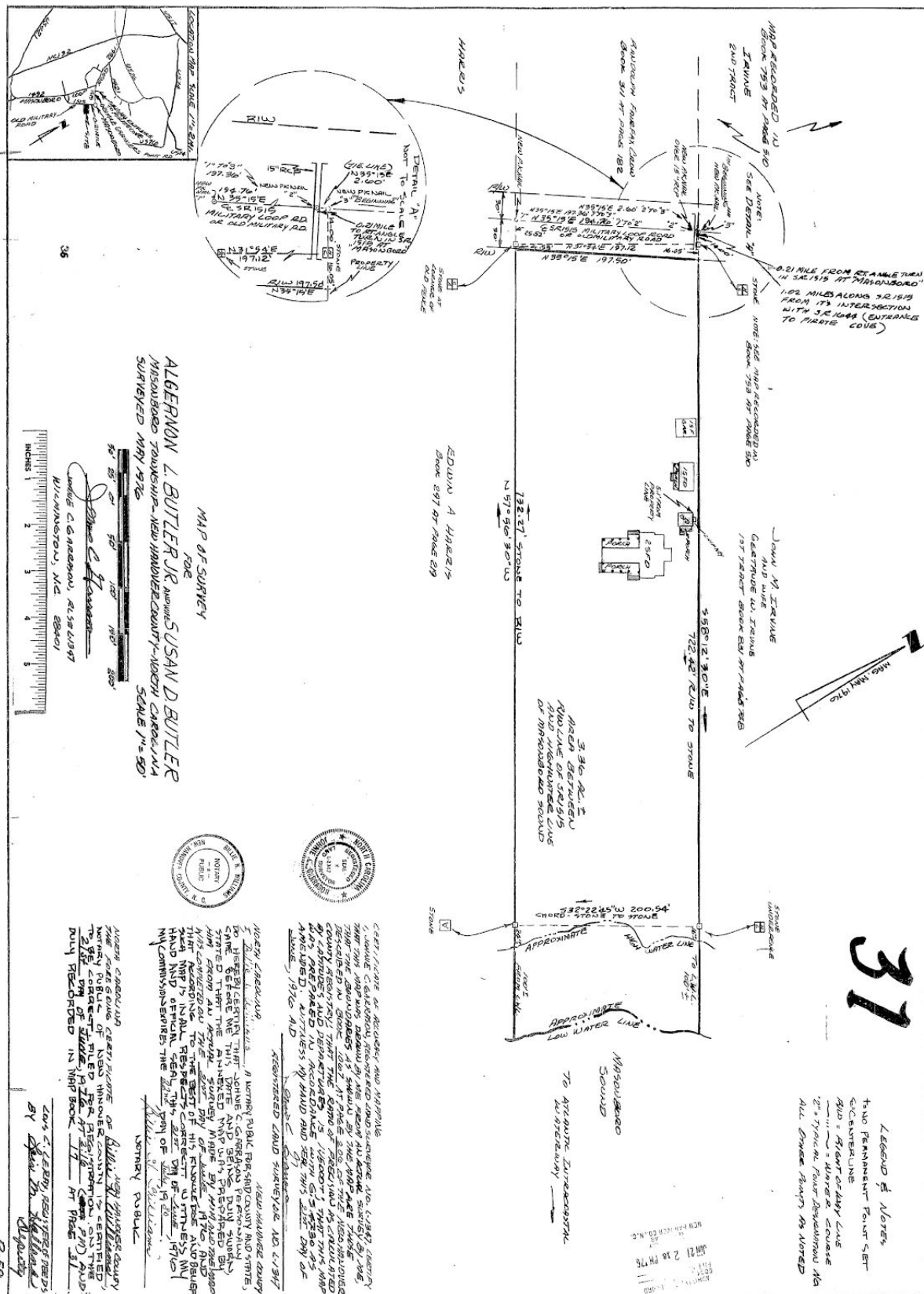
[Aerial Map with Boundary Lines]



[1877 Survey]

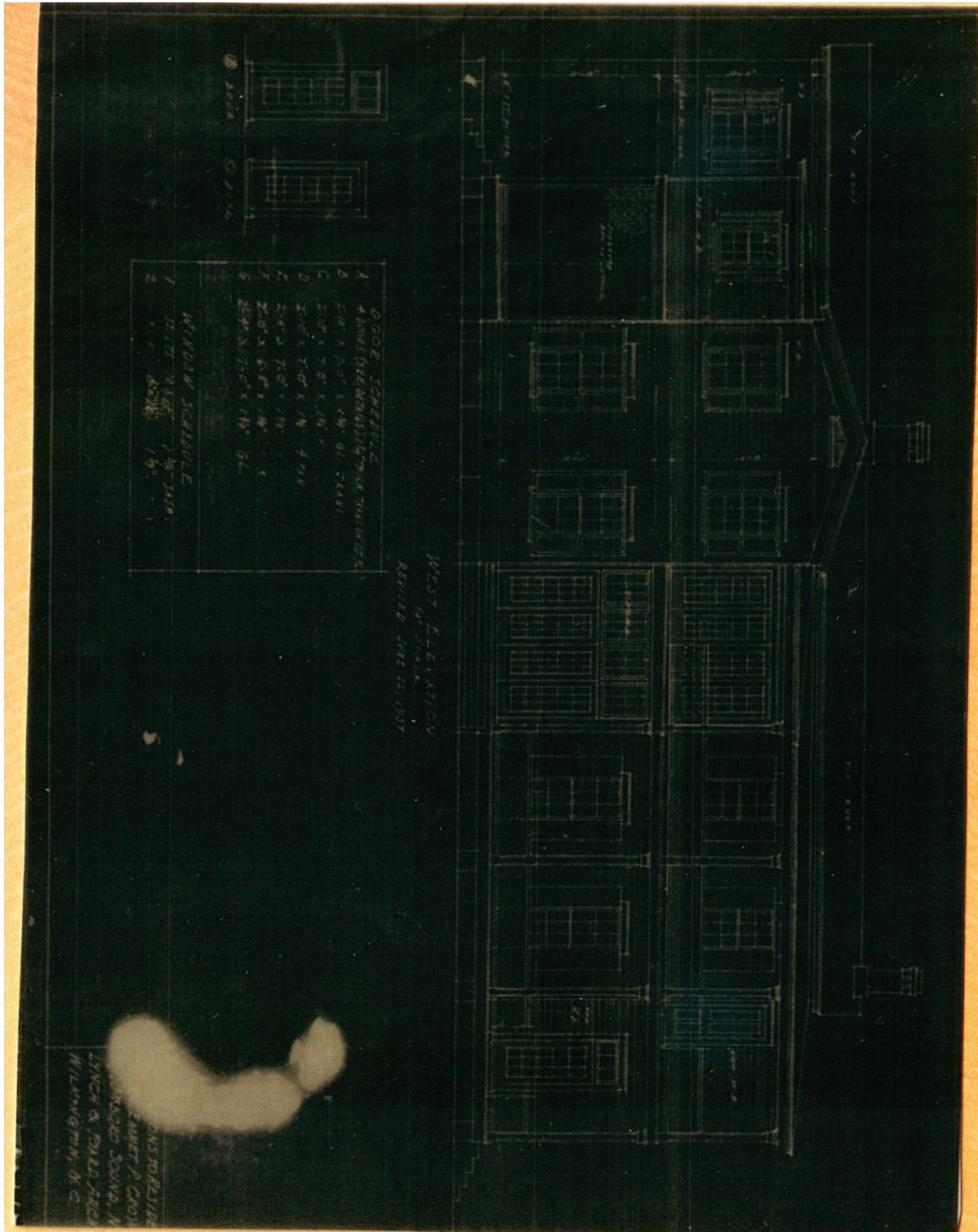


[1976 Survey]

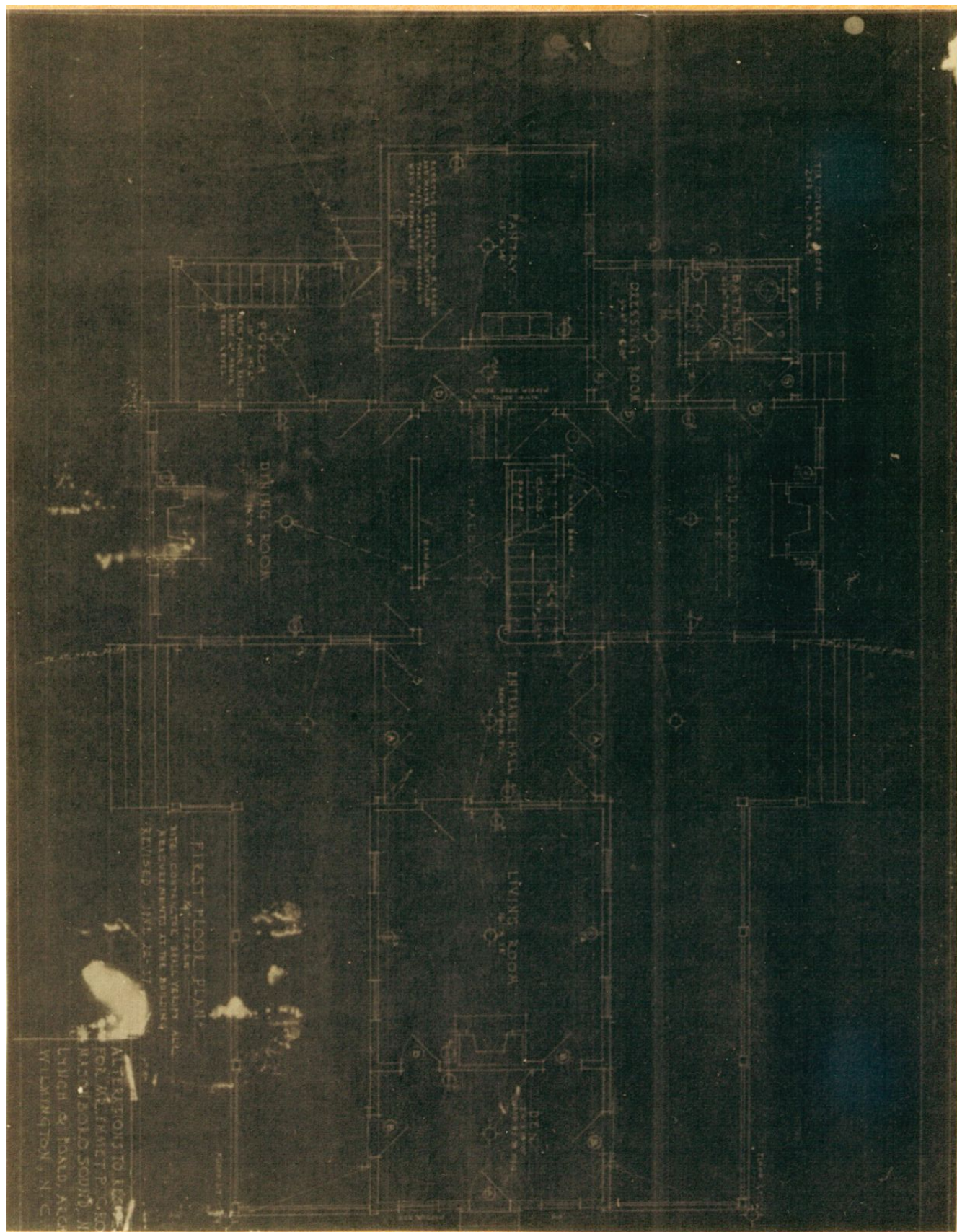


Architectural Drawings

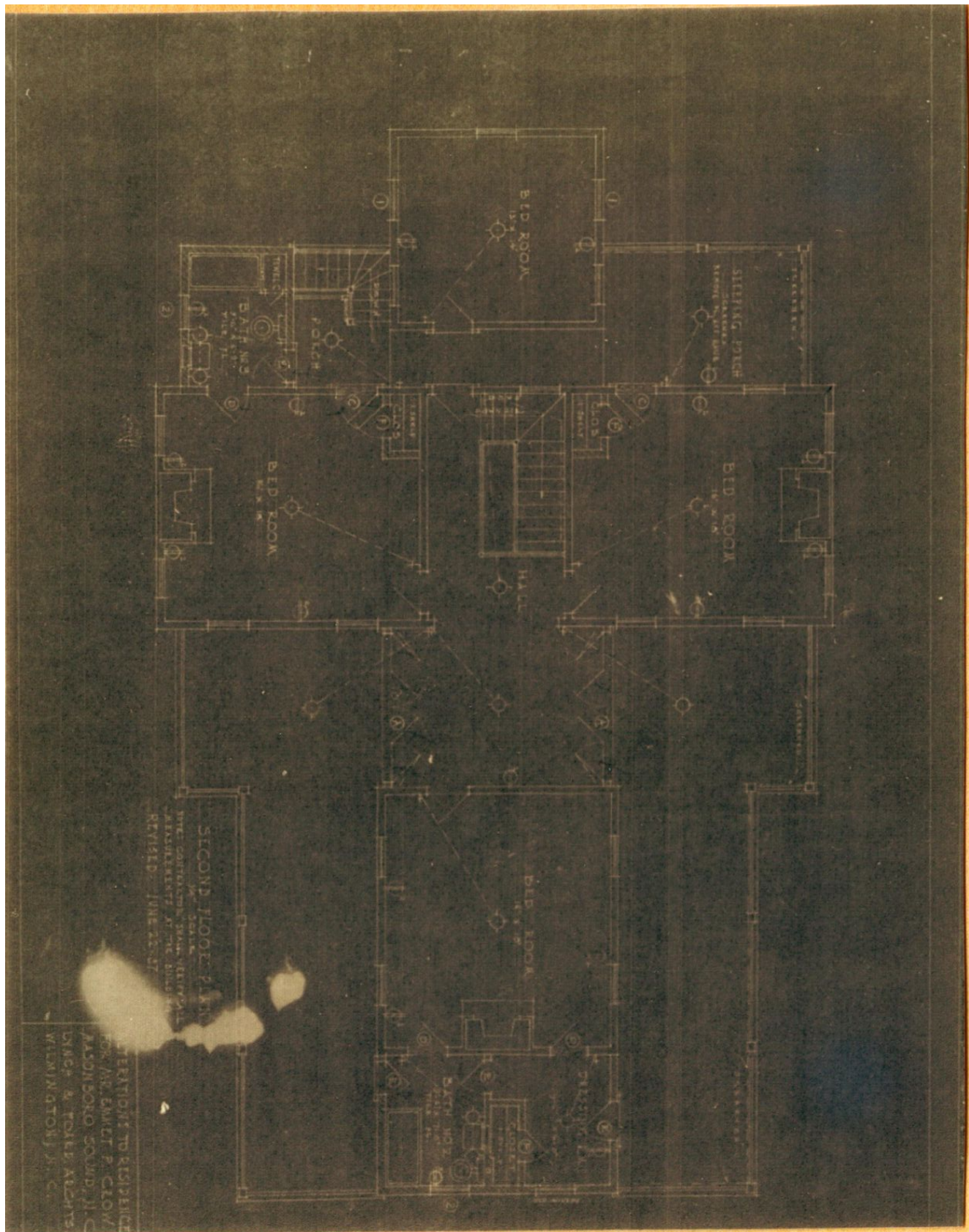
[1937 Alterations to West Elevation]



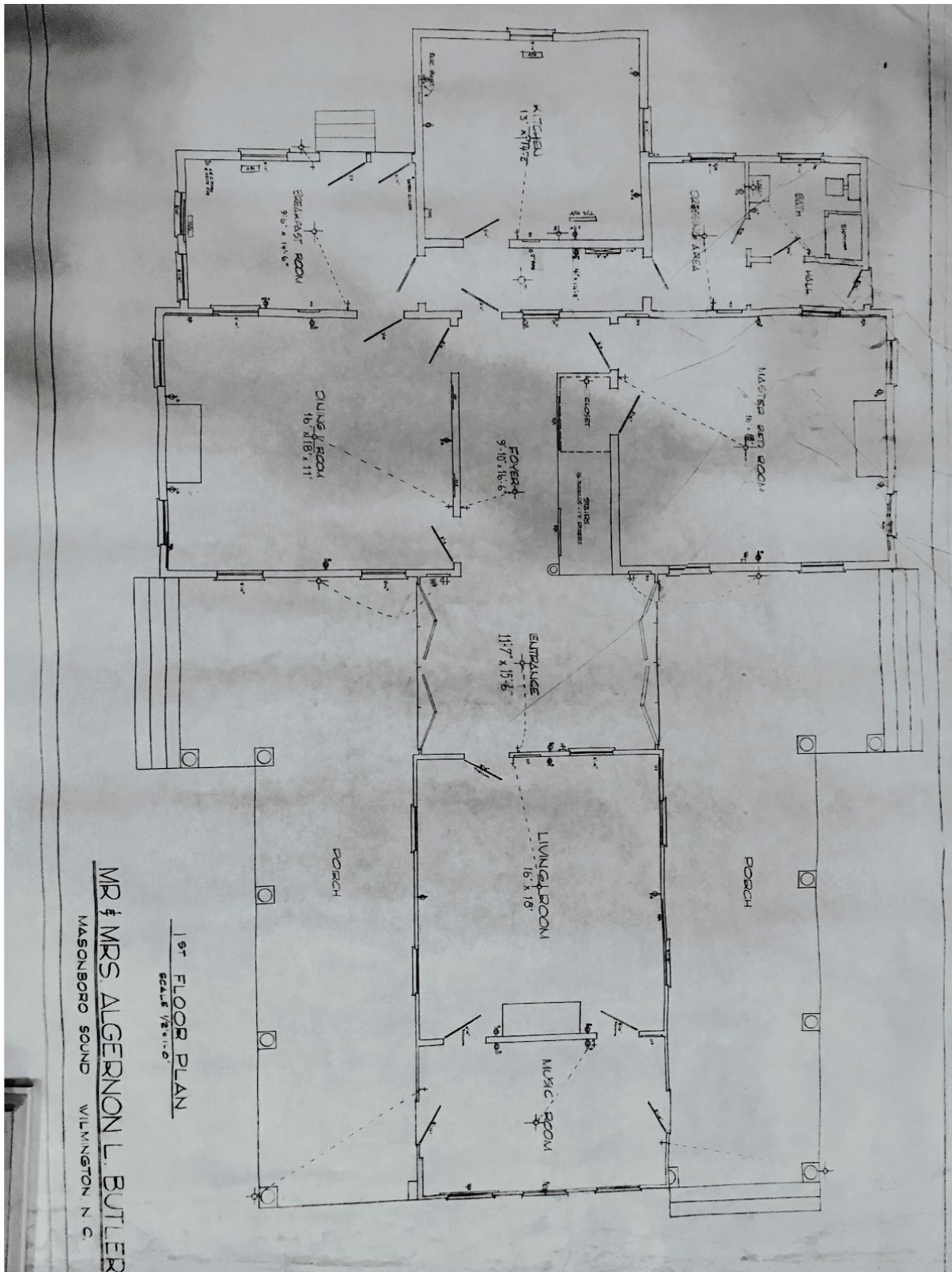
[First Level Plan 1937]



[Second Level Plan 1937]



[First Level Plan 1976 (largely unchanged)]



III. Architectural Assessment

Architectural Importance

The Cazaux-Williams-Crow House (Halcyon Hall) is locally significant because it is a fine example of a Tidewater (Central Passage) summer house on Masonboro Sound, a place where affluent families enjoyed their summers with recreational activities like hunting, fishing, boating, and swimming. The construction of its massive porches, windows, and shutters show a high level of local craftsmanship. Furthermore, the property has retained a high level of integrity, which was altered, but not destroyed, by its 1937 Colonial Revival alterations. Located in its original setting, Halcyon Hall exudes a sense of place through its well-preserved architectural elements and breathtaking landscape features.

There are three distinctive periods of construction of Halcyon Hall. Design elements retained from its original construction in 1877 exemplify the trends and styles of Tidewater (Central Passage) residential architecture in the South at the turn of the twentieth century.⁷ The 1937 remodel, designed by the Wilmington architectural firm of Lynch & Foard, added Colonial Revival architectural elements to the home, but did not diminish from the home's original intent or feeling.⁸ The 1976 remodel updated the electrical and plumbing systems of the home and altered some of the interior features, but had no effect on the exterior elements of the property.⁹ The period of significance of the home starts with its construction date in 1877 and ends in 1937. The house's name, The Cazaux-Williams-Crow House, identifies the families who owned the property during its period of significance (1877-1937).

Architectural Context

Tidewater-Type Cottage (Central-Passage) houses, also known as Center-Hall, Hall-Passage-Parlor, or Williamsburg Cottages, are a vernacular house form made popular in the colonial period.¹⁰ As part of the Midland folk tradition, "these Tidewater forms also persisted into the railroad era and were the dominant folk architecture throughout the rural South until well into the 20th century."¹¹ The form originates from Hall-and-Parlour houses, which were primarily constructed in the 1700s. Tidewater-Type Cottages have a similar plan to Hall-and-Parlour homes, except the hall and the parlour are divided by a central passageway. Like Hall-and-Parlour plans, these Tidewater-Type Cottages typically have gable-end, bookend chimneys and symmetrical facades.¹² Unlike most Tidewater-Type Cottages, which are one-and-a-half story, Halcyon Hall is constructed as a two-level, two-block plan with large porches. Homes like Halcyon Hall, with the central form and stylistic elements of Tidewater-Type Cottage (Central-Passage), but with larger massing, are locally referred to as Tidewater Plantations.¹³

⁷ Virginia McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses: The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2017, pg. 126.

⁸ "Masonboro Sound Historic District," *National Register of Historic Places - Nomination and Inventory*, Section 7, Page 14..

⁹ Mona Smalley, Masonboro Sound Picture Album, photographs and newspaper articles related to Halcyon Hall (appendix).

¹⁰ Gamble, Robert (1990). *Historic architecture in Alabama: a guide to styles and types, 1810-1930*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press. pp. 33–36.

¹¹ Virginia McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses: The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2017, pg. 126.

¹² Gerald L. Foster, *American Houses: A Field Guide to the Architecture of the Home*. Boston, (2004): Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. p. 94–96.

¹³ Essley, Joffe, "The Tidewater House and the Tidewater Plantation." House Design Coffee. Personal blog. <<https://www.house-design-coffee.com/tidewater-cottage-tidewater-houses-tidewater-plantations.html/>>.

Many of the other summer cottages in the Masonboro Sound Historic District are wood frame and covered with weatherboards, however Halcyon Hall has the highest integrity. Halcyon Hall is one of three L- or T-shaped weatherboarded Tidewater houses built between 1877-1885, featuring two-tiered or one-story wraparound porches and restrained detailing.¹⁴ The others are the Willard-Sprunt-Woolvin House (1880) and the Parsley-Love House (1885).

The Willard-Sprunt-Woolvin House “is a large two-story L-shaped weatherboarded frame house with a long, five-bay wide sound elevation fronted by a full-facade two-tiered porch,” supported by Tuscan columns at both levels.¹⁵ Unlike Halcyon Hall, which has no modern exterior alterations after its 1937 remodel, there is a very large, “recent [1990s] one-story cement block addition off the north side of the ell.”¹⁶ There is a late nineteenth century garage with upstairs servant’s quarters northwest of the house, which also has a later addition, which “extended to the south” and was “sheltered by a shallow shed across the front of the building.”¹⁷ The home’s historic parcel has been subdivided to the north and south, losing much of its acreage, and is now surrounded by new development, diminishing the integrity of the home’s setting.

The Parsley-Love House (1885), was moved in 1912 from its original location. During the move, a “wing was separated and moved to the west side of Masonboro Sound Road as a guest house...called Acorn Cottage and has since been torn down.”¹⁸ Since then, the home has undergone several alterations to its porches and, in 1973-1974, a “one-story kitchen wing” was added “to the north side of the house.”¹⁹ The move in 1912 significantly altered the integrity of the home, due to its new location, and resulted in the removal of one of the house’s wings. Therefore, the feeling of the home has been significantly diminished since its original construction.

Unlike the Willard-Sprunt-Woolvin House and the Parsley-Love House, Halcyon Hall has retained a high level of integrity since its 1877 construction.

Architectural Description

Setting

Halcyon Hall is located in New Hanover County, North Carolina on Masonboro Sound in Wilmington. The house is a contributing resource in the Masonboro Sound National Register Historic District.²⁰ Masonboro Sound marks the eastern boundary of the district, where “the vistas are accented by long docks...extending from many of the yards...Although most of the docks are new, their presence in this historic landscape has remained constant since the period of significance.”²¹ Important landscape features, including views of the sound (Fig. 1), marsh, old growth trees (Fig. 3), and long docks are found on Halcyon Hall’s property. Situated on a long, rectangular lot running east of Masonboro Sound Road to the sound, stands the Cauzax-Williams-Crow House and four other contributing resources; a servant’s quarters (Fig. 14-17), a hunting cottage (Fig. 18-21), a sundial (Fig. 24), and a dairy spring (Fig. 23).

¹⁴ “Masonboro Sound Historic District,” *National Register of Historic Places - Nomination and Inventory*, Section 7, Page 13.

¹⁵ *Ibid*, Section 7, Page 13.

¹⁶ *Ibid*, Section 7, Page 13.

¹⁷ *Ibid*, Section 7, Page 13.

¹⁸ *Ibid*, Section 7, Page 16.

¹⁹ *Ibid*, Section 7, Page 16.

²⁰ *Ibid*, Section 7, Page 1.

²¹ *Ibid*, Section 7, Page 1-2.

Landscape

Although no landscape features are included in the designation, the primary landscape features, including centuries-old live oaks, remain virtually unchanged since the period of significance and are eligible to be included in the designation at a later date. The marsh at the edge of the sound “gradually dries out as the land rises to the narrow knoll,” the spine of the historical district on which Halcyon Hall and most of the principal summer homes were built, standing above the water and situated to take advantage of the prevailing ocean breezes.²² The house is designed to take in the best possible view of the sound (Fig. 1). The mowed grass lawns are accented by hundreds-year-old live oaks draped in Spanish moss (Appendix 12).

Sound-Side (East) Elevation

According to the property owners, the traditional “front” of the house is the sound-side (east) elevation; therefore, the exterior architectural description of the main house starts with the sound-side (east) elevation, then moves to the side (south) elevation, then the road-side (west) elevation, and, finally the side (north) elevation. The other contributing resources will be described separately.

The house has two levels and is constructed in a “T” shape, seven bays wide, with giant porches on the first and second levels on both the sound-side (east) and road-side (west) elevations. Before its exterior alterations in 1937, the house was constructed of two blocks, the northern block was a Tidewater-Cottage (Central Passage) plan and the southern was designed as one large room on the first and second level. Both blocks were connected by character-defining, wrap around porches, which formed a dog-trot style breezeway, ideal for hot, muggy summers. The two blocks were combined in 1937, by enclosing and glazing both stories with “multi-pane doors and windows to create interior halls. At the south end...the porch was enclosed on the first story for a den and on the second story for a bath and a dressing room.”²³ This substantial, architect-designed renovation also added a kitchen to the north side of the house and updated all of the porch posts from basic square posts to simple Tuscan columns.

Common features found throughout the house are the six-over-six or six-over-nine sash windows; full-length wooden shutters painted black-green; weatherboard siding painted white; 15-light side doors; 15-light entrance doors with three-light and two-light transom windows and 15 or ten-light side lights; corbeled unpainted brick chimneys; and a brick foundation with natural brick patios and stairs. Since its 1937 remodel, the house features Colonial Revival stylistic details throughout, including symmetrical Tuscan columns and symmetrical, matching windows and doors.

The front, sound-side (east) elevation is seven bays wide (Fig. 4). There are three common bond brick corbeled chimneys, unpainted, on a low-pitched, asphalt shingle roof. The roof is hipped with a cross-gable forming the northern part of the “T” (Fig. 8). On the first level, the large, characteristic porches stretch south from the entrance doors to the south end of the home. On the first level, starting from the south side, the porch covers a 15-light single door with three-light transom, decorated with shutters to add symmetry with the windows on the first level. Next are two identical, floor-to-ceiling, six-over-nine sash windows, followed by the entrance doors. The 15-light entrance doors are flanked by 15-light sidelights, all with three-light transom windows. The windows allow for natural light to pour into the entrance hall and also provides lovely

²² *Ibid*, Section 7, Page 2.

²³ *Ibid*, Section 7, Page 14.

vistas of the sound from inside the house. On the south side of the northern top of the “T” are two identical six-over-nine sash windows with matching, painted, full-length shutters. On the east side of the “T” wing are two identical six-over-six sash windows (they were covered with plywood at the time of this application due to a recent storm). On the northern side of the “T,” in the kitchen addition from 1937, is a 15-light door. The doors and windows are identical in massing and style.

The second level follows the same door and window pattern, but there are no transom windows and they are six-over-six sash rather than six-over-nine. There are no shutters around the 15-light side door on the second level. Above the northern kitchen addition on the sound-side is another porch, historically used as a sleeping porch, much smaller than the porches on the south side of the house, but identical in style.

Side (South) Elevation

The first level of the side (south) elevation has three, identical six-over-six sash windows with four, wooden, painted shutters. The second level has two, six-over-six sash windows with painted shutters. This elevation also includes the south sides of both the sound-side and road-side porches. Before 1937, there were porches on the side (south) elevation, but they were enclosed during the architect-designed remodel to increase the interior spaces of the home.

Road-Side (West) Elevation

The road-side (west) elevation has a long driveway approach from Masonboro Sound Road, currently constructed of pebble dash, which is lined with hundreds-year-old live oak trees draped in Spanish moss (Fig. 2). A roundabout driveway circles around one of the more mature trees on the property (Fig. 3). A round brick patio with a large cast iron urn is outside the porch entrance. The first level, starting with the north side, has two six-over-six sash windows with no shutters, and two six-over-six sash windows with shutters. Then, the large porch extends to the south of the home, covering two six-over-nine windows with shutters. The entrance doors match the entrance doors and window surrounds on the east (sound-side) elevation. Next are two, identical six-over-nine windows with black-green painted, full length shutters and a 15-light side door with three-light transom with matching, full-length shutters.

Side (North) Elevation

The side (north) elevation, moving from east to west on the first level, has a six-over-six light window with shutters, the northern kitchen addition has a six-over-six sash window with no shutters. A 15-light side door with an asphalt shingle, shed-roof overhang with wooden brackets. The second level shows the smaller sleeping porch on the north side of the home, a six-over-six sash window with wooden shutters, followed by two six-over-six sash window with no shutters.

Servant's Quarters with Original Kitchen

The 1877 survey shows the servant's quarters in its current location with its same massing and chimney location. The servant's quarters was constructed of one large room with a cooking stove and a smaller room to the north of the house with a clawfoot tub (which has been removed.) Inside is beadboard siding. The structure is currently being used for storage.

The servant's quarters is small, with a side-gabled, asphalt shingle roof and constructed of weatherboard siding, which matches the main house. The front (east) side of the side-gabled residence has a small front porch with original stick porch posts, covered by a shed-roof overhang (Fig. 14). The porch covers an original, wooden Victorian screen door, and a paneled front door with original, marbled rim lock hardware, and an eight-light window with black-green painted shutters. The front of the quarters faces the north side of the main house, which was where the service wing was located.²⁴

The side (south) elevation faces the road-side approach to the main house (Fig. 15). This elevation includes the side gable and a six-over-six light window with shutters. The front porch is also visible from this elevation. The rear (west) elevation of the house has a small six-over-six light window (where the bathroom was located) and a larger six-over-six light window with shutters in the main room (Fig. 16).

The side (north) elevation of the house is difficult to access, but this is where the large chimney, constructed deep to accommodate a cook-stove, is located on the elevation, which matches the 1877 survey (Fig. 17).

The structure is a contributing resource to the Masonboro Sound National Register Historic District.

Hunting Cottage

The hunting cottage was constructed in a similar style to the main house, with a low pitched, asphalt shingle roof. The side-gabled cottage was constructed with a symmetrical front (south-facing) facade with two separate symmetrical entry doors and two windows on each side of the facade. Unlike the Servant's Quarters, which still has its original stick porch posts, the porch supports were updated in 1937 with Tuscan columns that match the porch supports on the main house. Inside the weatherboard cottage is unpainted heart pine weatherboard walls and ceiling. A chimney, covered in unpainted heart pine weatherboards services a double-sided fireplace in the center of the building which dissects the main room. The all-wood interior enhances the feeling of a hunting lodge. Metal hooks for the hunters to hang their coats were mounted on the interior rear wall. The rim lock hardware on the front doors are original.

The front (south) elevation of the hunting cottage faces the road-approach to Halcyon Hall (Fig. 18). Starting from east to west, a shed-roof porch covers a paneled door, two identical six-over-six light windows with shutters, and a matching paneled door to the west side of the cottage. The side (west) elevation of the house shows the side gable and a six-over-six light window with wooden shutters (Fig. 19). The rear (north) elevation has two, six-over-six sash with no shutters (Fig. 20). The side (east) elevation has a six-over-six light window with shutters, and a small, shed-roof bathroom with a small six-over-six light window (Fig. 21).

The structure is a contributing resource to the Masonboro Sound National Register Historic District.

Sundial

In the yard of the sound-side (east) elevation is a sundial, present since the 1877 survey map was drawn (Fig. 24). The sundial, also found in historic photographs, is in excellent condition. It is constructed of a granite pedestal with marble top. The clock itself is constructed of iron and copper. Along with the clock, the sundial reads, "I count only sunny hours." The humorous message enhances the significance of the home as a place for fun, relaxation, and recreation.

²⁴ As evidenced in the 1937 First Level Floorplan, "Pantry," p. 8.

Dairy Spring

Also present in the 1877 survey map is a dairy spring or springhouse (Fig. 23). The dairy spring was fed by rainwater and a natural, underground spring, which was dug out and reinforced with brick to be used for refrigeration. The spring water maintains a constant, cool temperature throughout the year and was used to keep meat, fruit, dairy products from spoiling. Historically, the structure was covered (Appendix 5).

IV. Historical

An early survey reveals that Halcyon Hall was completed by Anthony D. Cazaux (June 29, 1829-January 21, 1910) and his wife, Sarah Wade Mullins Cazaux (1829 – November 6, 1896) by November of 1877.²⁵ The survey shows a Tidewater-Type Cottage (Central-Passage House), making up the northern “T” of the main house. A large porch with ten porch posts extending to the south of the property connects a separate square building with one chimney on the side (south) elevation. The two blocks are separated by a dog-trot breezeway, covered by the massive porch. Also apparent on the 1877 survey are the other contributing resources included in this designation: the hall-and-parlor style hunting cottage with central chimney, the servant’s quarters with a large rear (north) chimney, deep enough to accommodate a cooking stove, the sundial, and the dairy spring.

Anthony Cazaux was a merchant in the shipping commission business, an agent of the Baltimore & Wilmington Steamship Company and the New York & Wilmington Steamship Company, and during the Civil War, he served as a Captain and Assistant Quartermaster.²⁶ The Cazaux family built the house to be a summer home on Masonboro Sound.²⁷ A local history book about Masonboro Sound, *Between the Creeks*, includes some reminiscences of Walter Parsley, a neighbor of Halcyon Hall who grew up spending his summers on Masonboro Sound in the latter part of the nineteenth century, recorded in 1933. He remembers that ““In those days each family house had a bathhouse, built out in deep water...Masonboro Bay was much deeper than it is now, and every family had a sailboat. On moonlight nights the sound was full of white sails, the boats filled with ladies and men singing and chatting and sometimes a guitar or banjo playing.””²⁸ He recalls recreational fishing and boating, yacht races, and a Canoe Club. He also remembers A. D. Cazaux placing first with his canoe, *Carrie*, in a race on July 24, 1878 (Appendix 6, 10).

Shortly after its construction, Cazaux rented the house to George W. Williams (February 2, 1831 – January 22, 1899), who purchased it in 1880.²⁹ Williams was born in Chatham County and moved to Wilmington in 1866, was vice-president of the Bank of New Hanover and president of the Wilmington Compress Company, and used the house as a summer place until his death.³⁰ He was married in 1854 to Katherine Ann Murchison (1837 - March 7, 1892), and they were the parents of twelve children.³¹ Preceded

²⁵ New Hanover County North Carolina Cemeteries. Oakdale Cemetery Census. Survey submitted by Wayne and Laurel Ham in October 2010, updated October 2011. <<http://cemeterycensus.com/nc/newh/cem003c.htm>>.

²⁶ Croquette W. Hewlett and Mona Smalley, *Between the Creeks, Revised: Masonboro Sound, 1735-1985*. (New Hanover Printing & Publishing Company, 1985).

²⁷ New Hanover County North Carolina Cemeteries. Oakdale Cemetery Census. Survey submitted by Wayne and Laurel Ham in October 2010, updated October 2011. <<http://cemeterycensus.com/nc/newh/cem003c.htm>>.

²⁸ *Between the Creeks*, 63.

²⁹ New Hanover County North Carolina Cemeteries. Oakdale Cemetery Census. Survey submitted by Wayne and Laurel Ham in October 2010, updated October 2011. <<http://cemeterycensus.com/nc/newh/cem003c.htm>>.

³⁰ *Between the Creeks*, 63.

³¹ “Masonboro Sound Historic District,” *National Register of Historic Places - Nomination and Inventory*, Section 7, Page 12.

in death by his wife, Katherine, in 1892, George Williams died in 1899, leaving the house to their children. One of their daughters, Marguerite "Maggie" Murchison Williams (1865 – September 21, 1889), married William Weller Holladay (d. 1940), son of the first president of North Carolina State College. Maggie and William Holladay had two daughters—the elder of the two, Nannie Williams Holladay (1887-1975), was married in 1909 to Emmet Polk Crow (1886-1948), and her younger sister, Marguerite ("Maggie") Murchison Holladay (b. 1889) was married in 1910 to Hal V. Worth (1884-1956).³² For much of the 20th Century the house was associated with these two of George Williams's granddaughters, Nannie Williams Holladay and Marguerite ("Maggie") Murchison Holladay. Ownership of the property by the family was consolidated under the ownership of Nannie Williams Holladay and Emmet Polk Crow in 1936-1937. Emmet Polk Crow, whose family came from Petersburg, Virginia, to Raleigh, and then to Wilmington in 1870, took his family to Texas for thirty years, but came to Masonboro each summer and died here in 1948.

The Crows underwent a massive remodel of the home in 1937, including the construction of a garage (removed in 2019 and rebuilt on the original building footprint). In large part, the exterior appearance of the house owes to the alterations and improvements designed by the Wilmington architectural firm of Lynch & Foard for Nannie and Emmet Crow as part of this 1937 remodel, which is described in this document under *Section III, Assessment*. Although the Crow family moved to Texas, they continued to visit Masonboro Sound each summer for the next thirty years. Later in life, after they were both widowed, Nannie Crow and her sister, Maggie, "on any summer day, and even into the fall...could be seen rocking on the porch at Halcyon Hall."³³ For nearly a century, the house remained in the Williams/Crow Family.

In 1976, the house was sold to Wilmington attorney, Algernon L. Butler, Jr. (b. 1940) and his wife, Susan Deibert Butler, who had extensive renovations done to the electrical and plumbing systems of the home. All systems of the house were renovated, while the general appearance and historical qualities and materials of the house were preserved and restored where necessary. The Butlers installed crown moldings and chair rails and replaced original mantels in three main floor rooms. The house continues to stay in the Butler family and is currently owned by Algernon L. Butler, III and his wife Jenna F. Butler.

Key Deeds in the Chain of Title³⁴

- *BK QQ PG 0297*
 - Recorded on January 20, 1860
 - Grantor: The State of North Carolina
 - Grantee: Edwin A. Anderson
- *BK MMM PG 0490*
 - Recorded on December 26, 1876
 - Grantor: Eliza B. Atkinson and husband John Wilder Atkinson
 - Grantee: Sarah W. Cazaux
- *BK PPP PG 0338*
 - Recorded on February 11, 1880
 - Grantor: Sarah W. Cazaux and husband Anthony D. Cazaux

³² "Masonboro Sound Historic District," *National Register of Historic Places - Nomination and Inventory*, Section 7, Page 12.

³³ *Between the Creeks*, 58.

³⁴ For the full chain of title, see the appendix.

- o Grantee: George W. Williams
- *Book of Wills H, PG 179, Article III*
 - o Date of death January 31, 1899
 - o Williams devises all of his real property to his surviving heirs
 - o Appoints his daughter, Fannie R. Williams as trustee for Nannie Williams Holladay and Maggie W. Holladay, his grandchildren by a deceased child.

Grantors	Grantees
State of North Carolina	Edwin A. Anderson
Edwin A. Anderson	Margaret Lillington
Margaret Lillington Hardin and Thomas H. Hardin	Eliza B. Atkinson
Eliza B. Atkinson and husband John Wilder Atkison	Sarah W. Cazaux
Sarah W. Cazaux and husband Anthony D. Cazaux	George W. Williams
George W. Williams	His surviving children (conveyed by will)
Duncan Williams and Rosalie Williams, Robert Williams, Fannie Williams, J. Horner, John Williams	Fannie R. Williams, Martha R. Williams, D. Reid Williams, Albert S. Williams
D. Reid Williams	Martha R. Williams
A. S. Williams	Martha R. Williams
Fannie R. Williams	Martha R. Williams (conveyed by will)
Martha R. Williams	Nannie W. Crow
Nannie W. Crow and husband Emmett P. Crow	Randolph Fairfax Crow
Randolph Fairfax Crow	Nannie Crow (conveyed by will)
Nannie Crow	Emmet P. Crow, Jr., Fannie Crow Stovall, Nancy Crow Stovall (conveyed by will)
Fannie Crow Stoval and husband Michael C. Stovall, Nancy Crow Stovall and husband Harry W. Stovall, Jr., and Marguerite Crow Reynolds and husband Frank R. Reynolds	Algernon L. Butler, Jr. and wife Susan D. Butler

Algernon L. Butler, Jr. and wife Susan D. Butler	Algernon L. Butler, III and wife Jenna F. Butler
--	--

V. Finding Aid for Photographs

- Fig. 1-3: Setting (landscape features)
 - Fig. 1: View of Masonboro Sound
 - Fig. 2: View of the approach to the property from Masonboro Sound Road
 - Fig. 3: Oak tree on the road-side (west) of the house
- Fig. 4: Sound-Side (East) Elevation
- Fig. 5: Side (South) Elevation
- Fig. 6: Road-Side (West) Elevation
- Fig. 7: Side (North) Elevation
- Fig. 8-12: Exterior Features
 - Fig. 8: Roof
 - Fig. 9: Chimney
 - Fig. 10: Siding
 - Fig. 11: Windows
 - a. First level windows
 - b. Second level windows
 - c. Sound-Side (east) elevation windows under porch
 - d. Road-Side (west) elevation full-height windows under porch
 - Fig. 12: Doors
 - a. Sound-Side (east) door first level
 - b. Side (north) door first level
 - c. Road-Side (west) door first level
 - d. Road-Side (west) doors first level
 - e. Road-Side (west) door second level
 - Fig. 13: Porches
 - a. Sound-side (east) porch first level
 - b. Sound-side (east) porch second level
 - c. Road-Side (west) porch first level
 - d. Road-Side (west) porch second level
 - e. Porch Posts
- Fig. 14-17: Servant's Quarters
 - Fig. 14: Front (East) Elevation
 - Fig. 15: Side (South) Elevation
 - Fig. 16: Rear (West) Elevation
 - Fig. 17: Side (North) Elevation
- Fig. 18-21: Hunting Cabin
 - Fig. 18: Front (South) Elevation
 - Fig. 19: Side (West) Elevation
 - Fig. 20: Rear (North) Elevation
 - Fig. 21: Side (East) Elevation
- Fig. 22: Configuration of outbuildings
- Fig. 23: Dairy Spring

- Fig. 24: Sundial

VI. Bibliography

Deed Books

New Hanover County, North Carolina Deed Book QQ, Page 0297.

New Hanover County, North Carolina Deed Book MMM, Page 0490.

New Hanover County, North Carolina Deed Book PPP, Page 0338.

Public and Vital Records

New Hanover County, North Carolina, Book of Wills, Book H, Page 179, Article III.

Primary Sources

Floorplans, 1937 and 1976.

Smalley, Mona. *Masonboro Sound Picture Album*. Photographs and newspaper articles related to Halcyon Hall (found in appendix).

Surveys, 1877 and 1976.

National Register Nominations

Davyd Foard Hood, Ruth Little, Claudia Brown, John Clauser, Dolores Hall, staff Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section N.C. Division of Archives and History (June 1992). "Masonboro Sound Historic District." *National Register of Historic Places - Nomination and Inventory*. North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, p. 3.

Secondary Sources

Foster, Gerald L. *American Houses: A Field Guide to the Architecture of the Home*. Boston, (2004): Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. p. 94–96.

Gamble, Robert. *Historic Architecture in Alabama: A Guide to Styles and Types, 1810-1930*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press (1990), p. 33–36.

Hewlett, Croquette W. and Mona Smalley, *Between the Creeks, Revised: Masonboro Sound, 1735-1985*. (New Hanover Printing & Publishing Company, 1985).

McAlester, Virginia. *A Field Guide to American Houses: The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2017, pg. 126.

Online Resources

Essley, Joffre, "The Tidewater House and the Tidewater Plantation." House Design Coffee. Personal blog. <<https://www.house-design-coffee.com/tidewater-cottage-tidewater-houses-tidewater-plantations.html>>.

New Hanover County North Carolina Cemeteries. Oakdale Cemetery Census. Survey submitted by Wayne and Laurel Ham in October 2010, updated October 2011.

<<http://cemeterycensus.com/nc/newh/cem003c.htm>>.

VII. Appendix

Historic Photographs and Supporting Documents

1. Halcyon Hall residents and friends posing with hunting rifles. Date unknown, pre-1937 alterations.



2. Posing with hunting rifles.



3. Posing with fish.



4. View of the dog-trot breezeway, pre-1937 alterations.



5. Posing in front of the covered dairy spring.



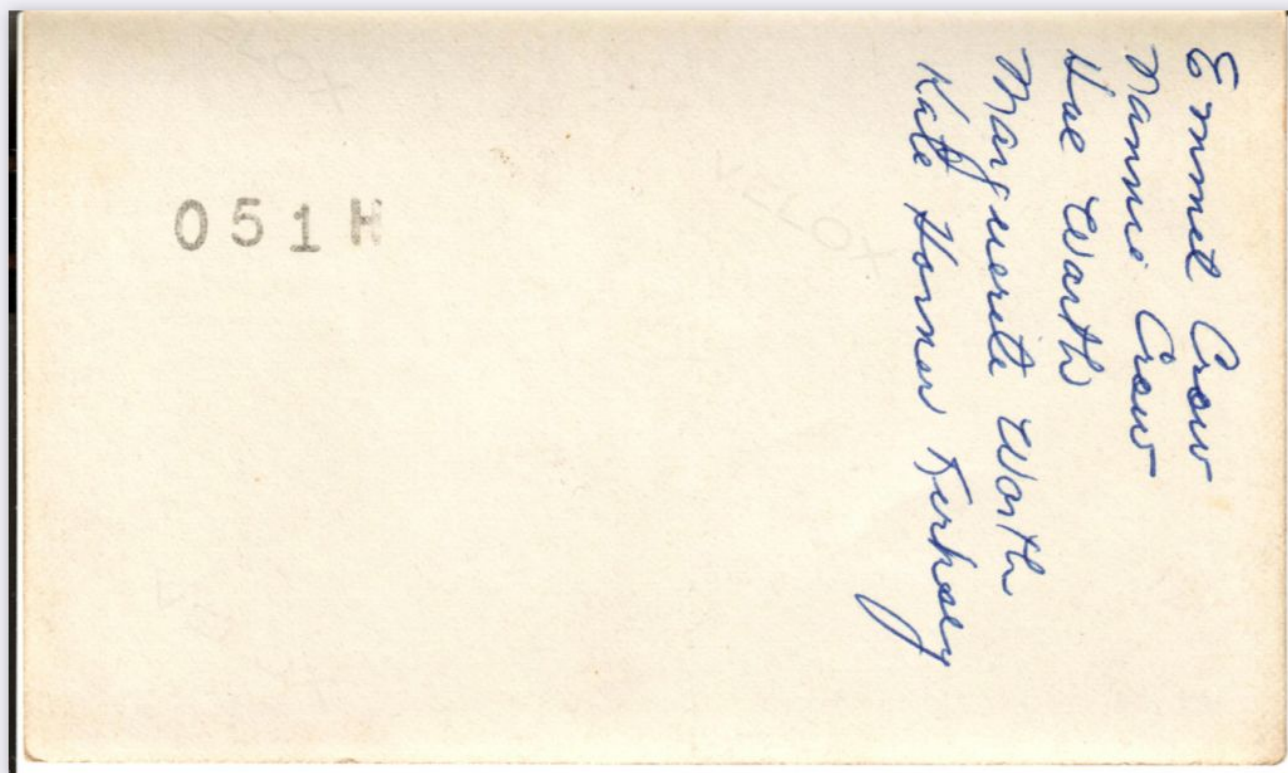
6. Sailing on Masonboro Sound, view of pier in background, date unknown.



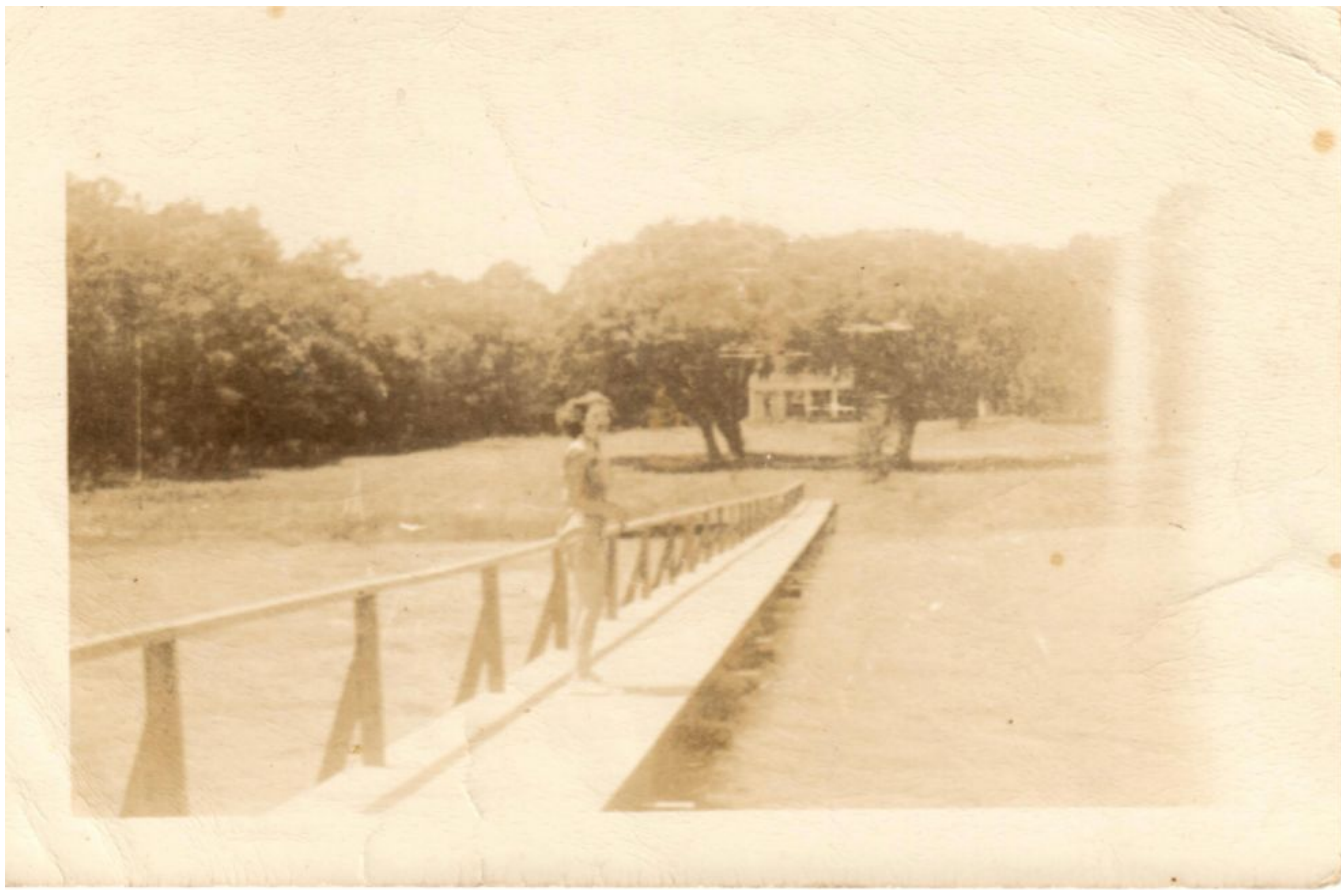
7. Posing on Masonboro Sound dock with hunting rifles, sailboat in the background.



8. The Crow family posing on the porch, before 1937 alterations to the porch.



9. View of sound side of Halcyon Hall.



10. Swimmers posing on dock.



11. Sound side view of Halcyon Hall pre-1937 alterations.



12. Oyster roast, common recreational activity on Masonboro Sound.



13. View of Halcyon Hall from Masonboro Sound.



VIII. Figures

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11a



Fig. 11b



Fig. 11c



Fig. 11d



Fig. 12a



Fig. 12b



Fig. 12c



Fig. 12d



Fig. 13a



Fig. 13b



Fig. 13c



Fig. 13d



Fig. 13e



Fig. 14



Fig. 15



Fig. 16



Fig. 17



Fig. 18



Fig. 19



Fig. 20



Fig. 21



Fig. 22



Fig. 23



Fig. 24



I, THE UNDERSIGNED, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE STATEMENTS ARE TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF; AND SUPPORT LANDMARK DESIGNATION OF THE PROPERTY DEFINED HEREIN.

I also acknowledge that the City of Wilmington Historic Preservation Commission may require additional information.

Signature of Owner

Date

I also acknowledge that the designation includes the interior, interior features and details; exterior, exterior features and details of all structures; and land, unless otherwise noted in the application. Any alterations of the property and/or features designated, requires an approved *Certificate of Appropriateness (COA)* issued by the City of Wilmington Historic Preservation Commission.

Signature of Owner

Date