



# LOWER CAPE FEAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc. BULLETIN

VOLUME X, NUMBER I

WILMINGTON, N. C.

OCTOBER, 1966

## THE TANYARD HOUSE

By Ida Brooks Kellam

THE HOUSE in the "Tan Yard" stands at the north east corner of Ann and Second Streets. Sauthier's map of 1769 shows a stream of water running from its head about Third Street and down the hill between Orange and Ann Streets to the Cape Fear River. Nature made this a natural place for tanning leather. On the east side of Second Street, between Orange and Ann, a wall of stones was built along the side of the stream for tanning purposes. In 1826 Isaac Northrop became owner of three full lots, including the "Tan Yard lot,"<sup>1</sup> He sold this part of his property to John Hewett in 1843 and the deed recites:

"... with full control . . . of a stream of water on the premises . . . used and enjoyed for the purpose of tanning." Mr. Hewett was "to have control of the stream, used and enjoyed or at any time heretofore hath been used" for tanning, along with houses and improvements.<sup>2</sup>

Continuous references are made in sales of lots on Ann Street in this block as "bounded North by a drain or run of water built up with stones," and many deeds refer to the "Tan Yard" and house.

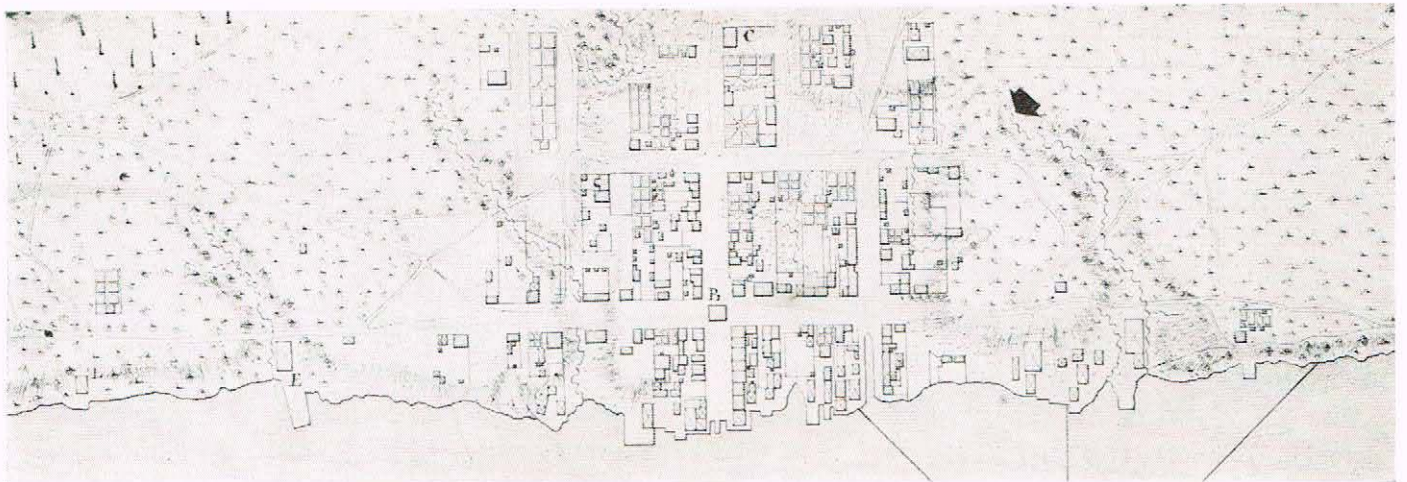
In 1855 Christopher C. Morse purchased this property for \$5,000.<sup>3</sup> That was a high price for those days and we know it was a thriving business to bring that amount. He owned it many years and seems to have been the last person to operate the tanning business here.

It is still remembered as the "old Tan House," where ludicrous events happened to children who repeat them today. We are glad the tanyard aroma has passed away. It is good that the old house stands to remind us of the ingenuity of our forefathers in providing shoes for their families and other needed leather materials.

<sup>1</sup> New Hanover County, DB WW, p. 754.

<sup>2</sup> New Hanover County, DB Z, p. 687 and MM, p. 311.

<sup>3</sup> New Hanover County, DB MM, p. 561.



Sauthier's map shows stream in 1769 indicated by arrow.

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*Latimer House (Contents and Arrangements)* ..... Mrs. Paul Jennewein  
*Bulletin* ..... Kelly W. Jewell  
*Membership* ..... (To be Appointed)

IN MEMORIAM  
HERBERT R. LATIMER  
1885 - 1966

NEW MEMBERS  
CONTRIBUTING

Barden, Dr. Ralph B., 2728 Churchill Drive

REGULAR

Cooper, Mrs. W. F., 218 South Third Street  
Efirid, Mrs. Claud L., 1116 Hawthorne Road  
Fisher, Dr. Jesse C., Jr., 210 George St., Whiteville, N. C.  
Fonvielle, Mrs. Alex, Jr., 2808 Wayne Drive  
Haley, Mr. Alvin T., Route 4, Box 718, Greensboro, N. C.  
Haley, Mrs. Alvin T., Route 4, Box 718, Greensboro, N. C.  
Moore, Mrs. Manley C., 12 Woodlawn Avenue  
Morton, James W. III, 240 Brighton Road, N.E., Atlanta 9, Ga.  
Murchison, Dr. David, 315 South Third Street  
Murchison, Mrs. David, 315 South Third Street  
Powell, Miss Elizabeth, 412 Nun Street  
Stickney, Mrs. Virginia D., Box 440, RFD 4  
Sutton, Mr. William H., 1140 Magnolia Place  
Sutton, Mrs. Ivey J., Jr., 908 Live Oak Parkway  
White, Miss Louise B., 203 Brookwood Avenue

MEETING

*Time:* Nov. 21, 1966, 8:00 p.m.

*Place:* St. Andrew's-Covenant Presbyterian Church.

*Speaker:* Mr. Lee Adler II.

*Subject:* Historic Savannah.



The Lower Cape Fear Historical Society is privileged to have Lee Adler II, president of the Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc., as guest speaker. This is Mr. Adler's second visit to Wilmington for the purpose of addressing the society. He spoke here in October of 1964 on the Historic Restoration Program in Savannah, and received enthusiastic response. On this occasion, Mr. Adler will explain progress which has been accomplished in Savannah in the past two years.

An authority on the subject of restoration, Mr. Adler is greatly in demand as a consultant and advisor to cities interested in preserving historical buildings. Mr. Adler, who is vice-president and director of Varnedoe, Chisholm & Co., Inc., investment bankers, has also been president of the Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc., since 1961. An energetic leader, Mr. Adler is also on the executive committee of the Downtown Revitalization Committee, active in the Chamber of Commerce Tourist and Convention Bureau, as well as being a member of numerous other civic organizations.

Mr. Adler will illustrate his talk with colored slides showing interior and exteriors of homes recently preserved in Savannah.

It is felt that because of the widespread interest in preservation, Mr. Adler's address will be of great value to local citizens.



The office building on the southwest corner of Sixth and Market Streets is the first new construction in the Historic District whose architecture lends itself to the surrounding area, and at the same time, is functional.

## A letter from the PRESIDENT

It is exciting to tell the members of our society of the many activities of the Board of Directors in the past four months: Historic Wilmington, Incorporated, has become a reality. Our society has voted \$3,500 for the use of the new foundation and the foundation will actually start buying some of our historic houses and restoring them.

A sign in keeping with the Historic Area will be placed in front of the Latimer House to show interested citizens that this is the Headquarters of The Lower Cape Fear Historical Society.

It has been decided that the Latimer House will be opened permanently February 1, 1967 and a committee is working toward that end. I believe that many of us have looked forward to this occasion.

Plans are being made to renovate one basement room at the Latimer House so that Mrs. Kellam may move some of her valuable records out of her home. This move will bring some life to our Headquarters.

Funds have been voted to make permanent repairs to the servants' quarters with the idea of using this building effectively. The board has also voted to purchase the house facing Orange Street and in the rear of Latimer House. This will protect our present holding and will help to improve the area between us and the St. John's Art Gallery area. Mr. Latimer offered us this property at a low price.

The activities I have mentioned are moving very slowly but this appears to be normal. It is hoped that our members will feel the necessity of everything we are doing and that each member will give his whole-hearted support.

KELLY JEWELL, *President*

## NEW USES FOR OLD HOMES IN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT



Miss Catherine von Glahn is shown with Mayor O. O. Allsbrook at the signing of the document relinquishing her rights to the house on October 10, and formally transferring it to the City of Wilmington. Mr. Allsbrook will have an office there, as will his successors.



The von Glahn House at 19 North Fifth Avenue is being refurbished to house some of the City's administrative offices. Restoration of the house, built over a hundred years ago, is a good example of the work being carried on in the Historic District.



The house at 510 Orange Street, formerly the Episcopal See House, contains now the new offices and studios of radio station WMFD. The exterior retains its classic charm, and the interior has undergone a few minor adjustments for its new function.



LOWER CAPE FEAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

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