

BK6399PG0416

PRESENTED
FOR
REGISTRATION

ORDINANCE NO. 95-524

95 JAN -5 AM 11:25

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING the Gray-Fish-Richardson House at 530 North Blount Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, a Historic Landmark.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina authorized the creation of a countywide Historic Preservation Commission for Wake County and otherwise provided for the preservation of certain historic sites and buildings by the passage of Part 3C, Chapter 160A, Article 19 of the North Carolina General Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Raleigh agreed to participate in the countywide Historic Preservation Commission through an interlocal agreement with Wake County; and

WHEREAS, the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission has made an investigation and recommended the following property be designated a historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources has made an analysis that the following property is eligible to be designated a historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, on the 13th day of December 1994, a public hearing was held in the City Council Chamber of the Municipal Building, Raleigh, by the City Council of the City of Raleigh to determine whether the hereinafter described property should be designated a historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, all requirements of Part 3C, Chapter 160A, Article 19 of the North Carolina General Statutes, preceding the adoption of this ordinance, have been met.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE RALEIGH CITY COUNCIL THAT:

Section 1. The property designated as Gray-Fish-Richardson House, owned by James and Sarah Lofton, in the planning jurisdiction of Raleigh, North Carolina, be and is declared a Raleigh Historic Landmark. Said property being more particularly described as follows:

The Gray-Fish-Richardson House, 530 North Blount Street, Raleigh, (Wake County PIN # 1704.20 81 0664), approximately forty-nine hundredths (.49) acre, including the entire parcel on which the building stands.

Section 2. Those elements that are integral to its historical, architectural, archaeological significance, or any combination thereof are as follows:

Exterior of the two-and-a-half-story Victorian house, built from 1881-1903, including all of the parcel described in Section 1.

Section 3. No building, site, structure, or object that is designated in this ordinance located on the hereinbefore described site may be altered, restored, moved, remodeled, or reconstructed so that a

Continued...

change in design, material, or outer appearance occurs unless and until a certificate of appropriateness is obtained from the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission or its successors.

Section 4. No building, site, structure, or object that is designated in this ordinance located on the hereinbefore described site may be demolished unless and until either approval of demolition is obtained from the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission or a period of three hundred sixty-five (365) days has elapsed following final review by the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission of a request for demolition (or any longer period required by N.C.G.S. 160A-400.14 as it may be amended hereafter).

Section 5. All owners of the property hereinabove described, whose identity and addresses can be ascertained by the exercise of due diligence, shall be sent by certified mail a copy of this ordinance.

Section 6. This ordinance shall be indexed after the property owner's name in the grantor and grantee indexes in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Wake County.

Section 7. and the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission are hereby authorized to have erected an appropriate sign on the site herein described setting forth the fact that said site has been designated a historic landmark by action of the Raleigh City Council and the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission.

Section 8. In the event any building, site, structure, or object is demolished in accordance with the ordinances of City of Raleigh, this ordinance may be repealed.

Section 9. Any violation of this ordinance shall be unlawful as by law provided.

Council Member Reeves made a motion that the above ordinance be adopted. Council Member Meeker seconded the motion, and upon vote, the motion carried this the 13th day of December 1994.

Adopted: December 13, 1994

Effective Date: December 13, 1994

Distribution:

- City Council
- City Manager
- City Planning Department (2)
- City Inspections Department (3)
- Raleigh Historic Districts Commission
- Wake County Registrar of Deeds
- Wake County Geographic Information Services Department
- Wake County Historic Preservation Commission (3)

HPC copies will be distributed to:

- Property Owner
- Wake County Tax Supervisor
- HPC Files

8K6399PG0418



City Of Raleigh
North Carolina

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF WAKE)

CERTIFICATION

I, Gail G. Smith, City Clerk & Treasurer of the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, do hereby certify that the attached is a true and exact copy of Ordinance (1994) 524 adopted by the Raleigh City Council on 12/13/94.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Seal of the City of Raleigh to be affixed this 29th day of December, 1994.



Gail G. Smith

Gail G. Smith
City Clerk & Treasurer



GRAY FISH RICHARDSON HOUSE

CA. 1881

- C. Justification for area to be designated. Describe the appearance and use of the land to be designated.

The boundary for the Gray-Fish-Richardson Property is the .49 acre lot on which the building sits. The lot contains lots acquired by Robert T. Gray in 1879 and 1881. The property, which fronts North Blount Street is enclosed with a wooden fence painted the same color as the house. All shrubs and sod on the Blount Street side are all new additions to the site.

A paved parking area was created at the rear of the the house. This area is enclosed with a fence which screens the parking area from Blount Street.

The current use of 530 North Blount Street is a bed and breakfast.

- D. Architectural description and significance. Describe the property, including exterior architectural features remodeling, and alterations. Also describe significant outbuildings and landscape features. If any interior features are to be designated, describe them in detail and note their locations. Include a statement regarding architectural significance of the property.

The Gray-Fish-Richardson House is a part of the North Blount Street Historic District (report as prepared David Black in 1976) and is in close proximity of the Historic Oakwood District (report prepared by Linda Harris in 1975).

There are two early deeds pertaining to 530 North Blount Street. Caro and Robert Terelius Gray purchased from Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Burwell one parcel (70' X 210') on December 1, 1879 for \$800, (Book 65, p.548) and the house was built shortly thereafter. The Grays purchased a second parcel (14' X 210') from the Burwells for \$245, (Book 79, p.681) on August 20, 1881. The Shaffer Map of Raleigh dated May, 1881 pictures a house and list Robert Gray as the owner.

(see Attachment I)

The Architect was Len H. Royster of Raleigh and the builder was Ellington, Royster and Company, Building Contractors, Sash, Blind and Door Manufacturer. Owners were W.J. Ellington and Len H. Royster.

(see Attachment VI)

The Gray-Fish-Richardson House is a two-and-a-half story frame house with an irregular cross plan. It is an excellent example of middle class dwellings which occurred with great frequency not only in this area but in and around Oakwood during the late 19th century. The Gray-Fish-Richardson House is one of the few houses on Blount Street that retains its original site where most houses have been moved or destroyed. The house reflects the original character of Blount Street.

The Gray-Fish-Richardson House reflects the Eastlake/Neo-GrecoMode. With its very angular, reeded brackets and skeletal siding overlay of flush boards. The Small fans at the intersection of the elements of the overlay are considered unusual, decorative detail for Blount Street and the Oakwood Area. Exterior walls are covered with plain weatherboard siding.

There are two front porches. The larger, south porch contains the main entrance. The north porch is smaller, and set in the angle of two wings. Both porches have bracketed, chamfered post set on pedestals with a balustrade between. There are two bay windows, a semi-hexagonal one on the west elevation and a rectangular one on the south. The roof is splayed at the ends and the gables have triangular inserts with vertical cut-outs.

Additions:

1. c. 1881-1903

During this period, three rooms were added to the first level on the rear (south side) of the house. The ceilings in this addition are 10 foot ceilings while those in the original part of the first floor are 12 foot ceilings. At the foundation level of the south wall of the original room on which the addition was added; there is evidence of a fireplace/chimney foundation.

2. c. 1993

The current owners have built a 15' X 30' wood deck on the rear of the house. This deck is not visible from Blount Street. It serves as an outside dining and sitting area for guests.

Steps have been removed from the small north porch. The opening has been enclosed with a balustrade that matches the existing. This now creates a sitting/smoking area for guests.

Renovations:

The Gray-Fish-Richardson House has a typical center hall plan. The interior of the has been renovated to its current use as a bed and breakfast. However it should be noted that the interior of the house is not included in this designation request.

- E. Historical Significance: Note any significant events, people, and/or families associated with the property. Include all major owners. Please include a bibliography of sources consulted.

The Gray-Fish-Richardson House is a major contributing resource to the North Blount Street Historic District. In fact it is one of a few houses which has survived in both the 400 and 500 blocks of North Blount Street.

The-Gray-Fish-Richardson House had been associated with members of prominent Raleigh families for several generations. These individuals have made important contributions to Raleigh and North Carolina.

Robert Terelius Gray , the original owner was born June 3, 1848. In 1875, he married Caro Lilly. Gray was an attorney, reporter, and editor. The 1875 City Directory list him as an attorney with Bobbitt and Gray and from 1880-1890 he was a partner in the Law Firm of Stamps and Gray. From 1884-1890, he served as Attorney for the City of Raleigh, and as reporter for the North Carolina Supreme Court from 1893-1898.

Gray was editor of the Raleigh Christian Advocate in 1872-1873. In 1875, the Gray and Bobbit Law Firm published this Methodist Paper. The original publication was founded in Raleigh as the North Carolina Christian Advocate. It went through several name changes; Christian Advocate, Episcopal Methodist, and Raleigh Christian Advocate when it moved to Greensboro in 1894.

In the 1890s, Gray assisted Josephus Daniels in the purchase of THE NEWS AND OBSERVER. He served as a director and attorney for the newspaper. Gray was president of the Raleigh company organized to produce electricity for Raleigh. He was trustee of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina (State Normal School) at Greensboro. He and Richard Stanhope Pullen gave ten acres of land for

the school's original campus.

(see Attachment VI)

Robert Terelius and Caro Lily Gray had two children. Their son, Robert Lilly Gray, was also an attorney who practiced with his father. From 1904-1918, he was an editorial writer with the News and Observer.

Frances Gray, daughter of Robert L. Gray, was born March, 1906. At that time her family resided at 530 North Blount Street. Frances Gray, later Frances Gray Patton, has written many short stories most of which were published by THE NEW YORKER and a number of magazines including THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL. She was the author of "The Finer Things of Life", a collection of short stories. She is best known for her novel, "GOOD MORNING MISS DOVE", a Book-of-the-Month Club selection, which was made into a movie in 1995 starring Jennifer Jones and Robert Stack. The Gray-Fish-Richardson House provided the setting for several of Mrs. Patton's short stories. In one, "Representative Ham", the Young Matron's Chapter of St. Luke's Women's Auxiliary met in the front sitting room of 530 North Blount Street to sew clothing for a missionary's family in China.

Robert Terelius and Caro Lilly Gray's Daughter, Lilly Gray married Charles Fish. From 1926 until 1948 she resided at 530 North Blount Street with her mother.

(see Attachment VII)

From 1937 until 1948 the house had a period of vacancy as well as a number of different owners.

In 1948, Margaret E. (Mug) Richardson purchased 530 North Blount Street for her parents, Armid and Ella Liles Gray Richardson. According to her Obituary of June 28, 1994 in the News and Observer, She worked for Arthur Godfrey during his entertainment career and was known as his "Girl Friday". Mug was Miss North Carolina of 1934, one of the first state pageants ~~of~~ to be held.

From 1971 until 1983 the house again had several occupants. In March, 1983, the Mordecai Square Historical Society, Inc. purchased from Margaret E. Richardson 530 North Blount Street. They retained it a short period of time, placed protective covenants on it, and sold the house to Rumsey-Blasdell Partnership. From March, 1983 until June 30, 1993 the house was utilized as office space.

On June 30, 1993, the Loftons purchased 530 North Blount Street. Their purpose was to renovate the house into its current use - a bed and breakfast. ~~and breakfast.~~

received

10-3-94

Wake County Historic Property Designation Application
for the:

Gray-Fish-Richardson House
530 North Blount Street

The following is additional information addressing the issues raised by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History.

- 1) Item 6.E of the Wake County Historic Property Designation Application Form should read:
The Blount Street Historic District has been certified by the National Park Service as substantially meeting the criteria for listing.
- 2) The front doors are double doors with glazed upper panels. The small porch on the north side has a single door. Both doors have transoms.

There are several types of windows some with one over one panes and some with two over two panes. The two over two pane windows make up the majority. There are five double windows with a single board separating the two windows which are one over one. At the attic level in the four gables, there is a small two over two window in each gable.

The windows on the main parts of the house have vertical elements which extend slightly beyond the window sills.

- 3) Lilly Gray resided at 530 North Blount Street with her Mother from 1926 until 1936. From 1937 until 1948, the house had a period of vacancy as well as a number of different owners.
- 4) The correct spelling is Lilly and not Lily.
- 5) At the time of renovation of 530 North Blount Street, considerable ground disturbance was necessary for the purposes of laying sod, surfacing walkways, and establishing a parking area.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. National Register of Historic Places Inventory
Nomination Form for the North Blount Street
Historic District (Prepared by David Black)
2. City Directories
 - 1875-1876
 - 1880-1881
 - 1888-1891
 - 1905-1906
 - 1907-1908
 - 1909-1910
3. Capital Area Preservation, Inc. - Files
4. News and Observer Obituaries, June 25, 1994
5. GOOD MORNING MISS DOVE - Dodd, Mead, & Company
N. C. - Author Frances Gray Patton
6. Wake County Register of Deeds, Book 65, Book 79
7. Alumni History of the University of North
Carolina - Second Eddition, 1924
8. Carolina Power and Light Company 1908-1958,
by Jack Riley
9. Notes from Elizabeth Reid Murray

Attachment I

530 North Blount Street

North Blount Street

Shaffer Map 1881

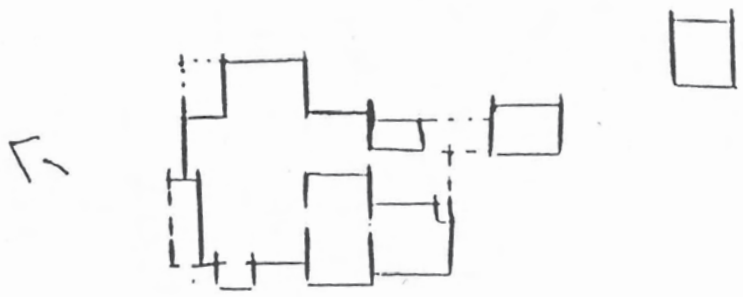
Lots + Owners



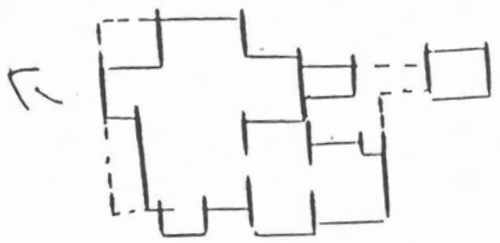
J.B. Billwell	Thomas S. Badger
Robert Gray	T. J. Bishford
W.C. Kerr	James McAllister
	T. H. Briggs + Sons
	Mrs. Lewis

North Blount Street

Sanborn Map July 1903



Sanborn Map Aug. 1909

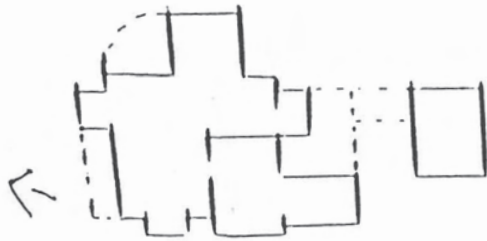


Attachment II

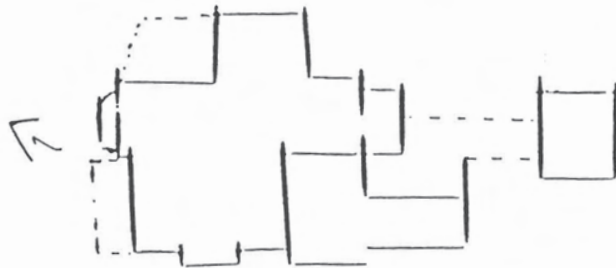
530 North Blount Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 2

530 North Blount Street

Sanborne Map 1914



Sanborne Map 1912



North Blount Street

GRAY-FISH-RICHARDSON HOUSE
530 NORTH BLOUNT STREET
Site Boundary

530 NORTH BLOUNT STREET

CITY OF RALEIGH

WAKE COUNTY

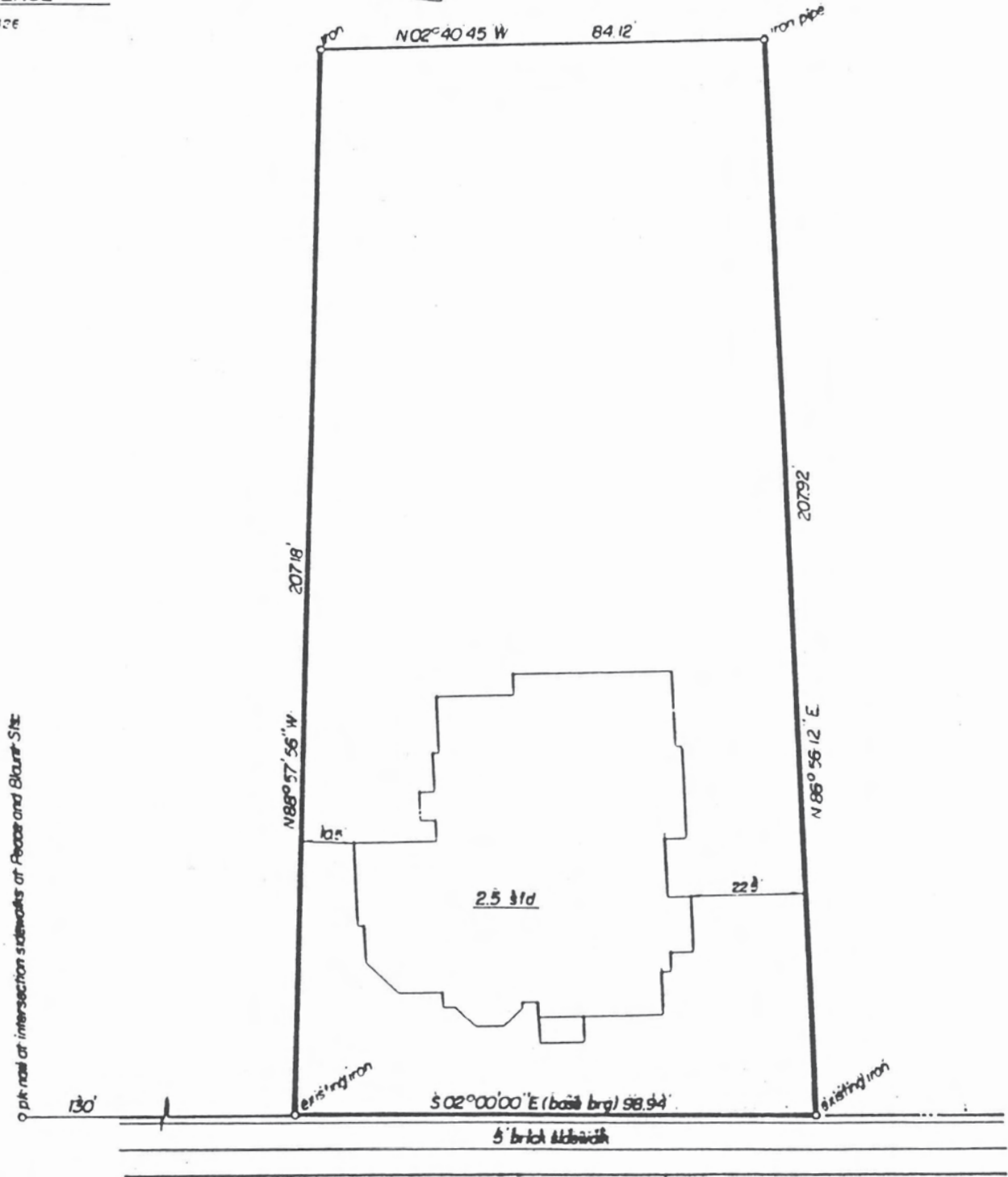
NORTH CAROLINA

SCALE 1" = 30'

FEBRUARY, 1983

REFERENCE

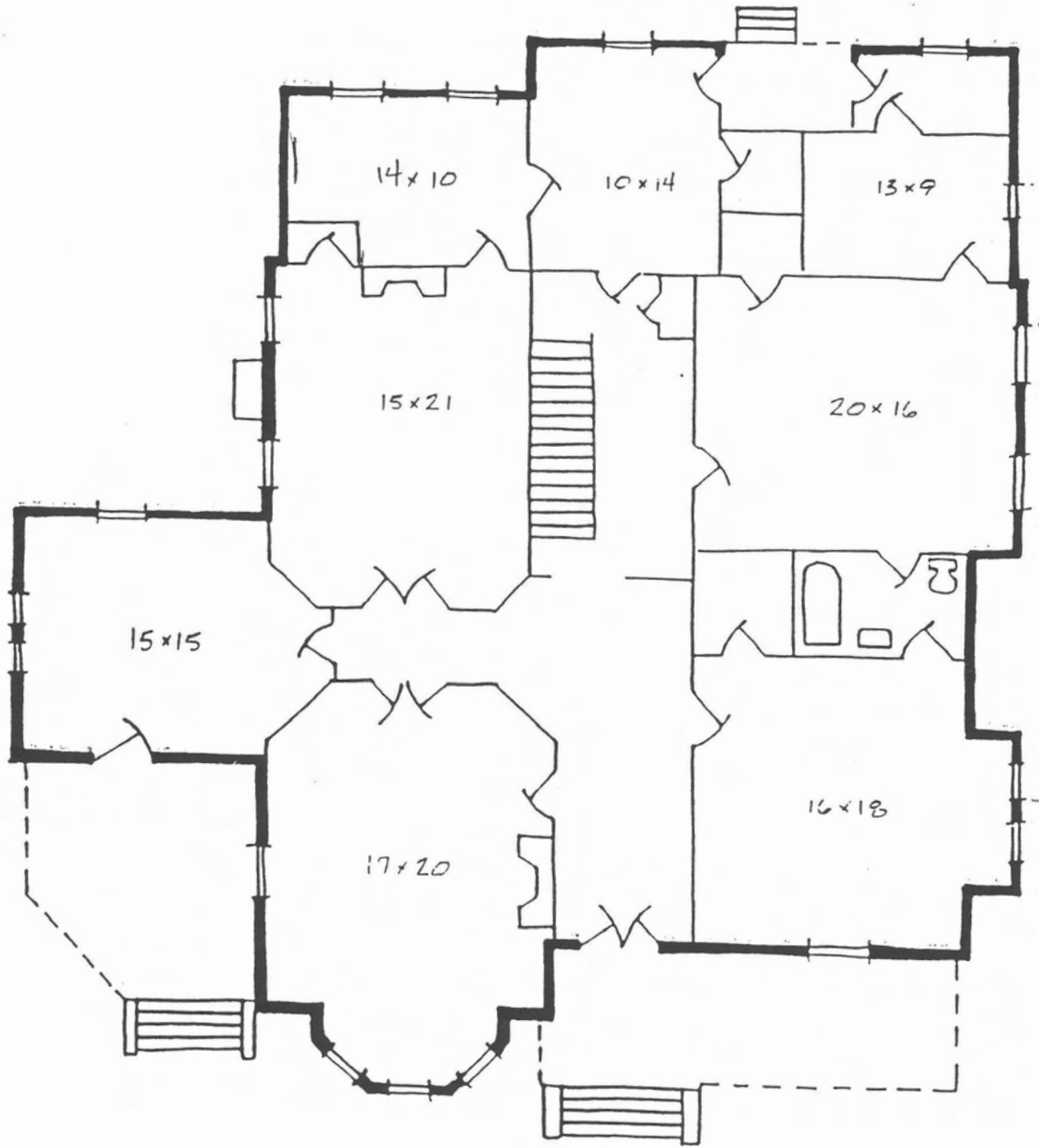
100.526



pick nail at intersection sidewalks of Peace and Blount Sts

NORTH BLOUNT STREET

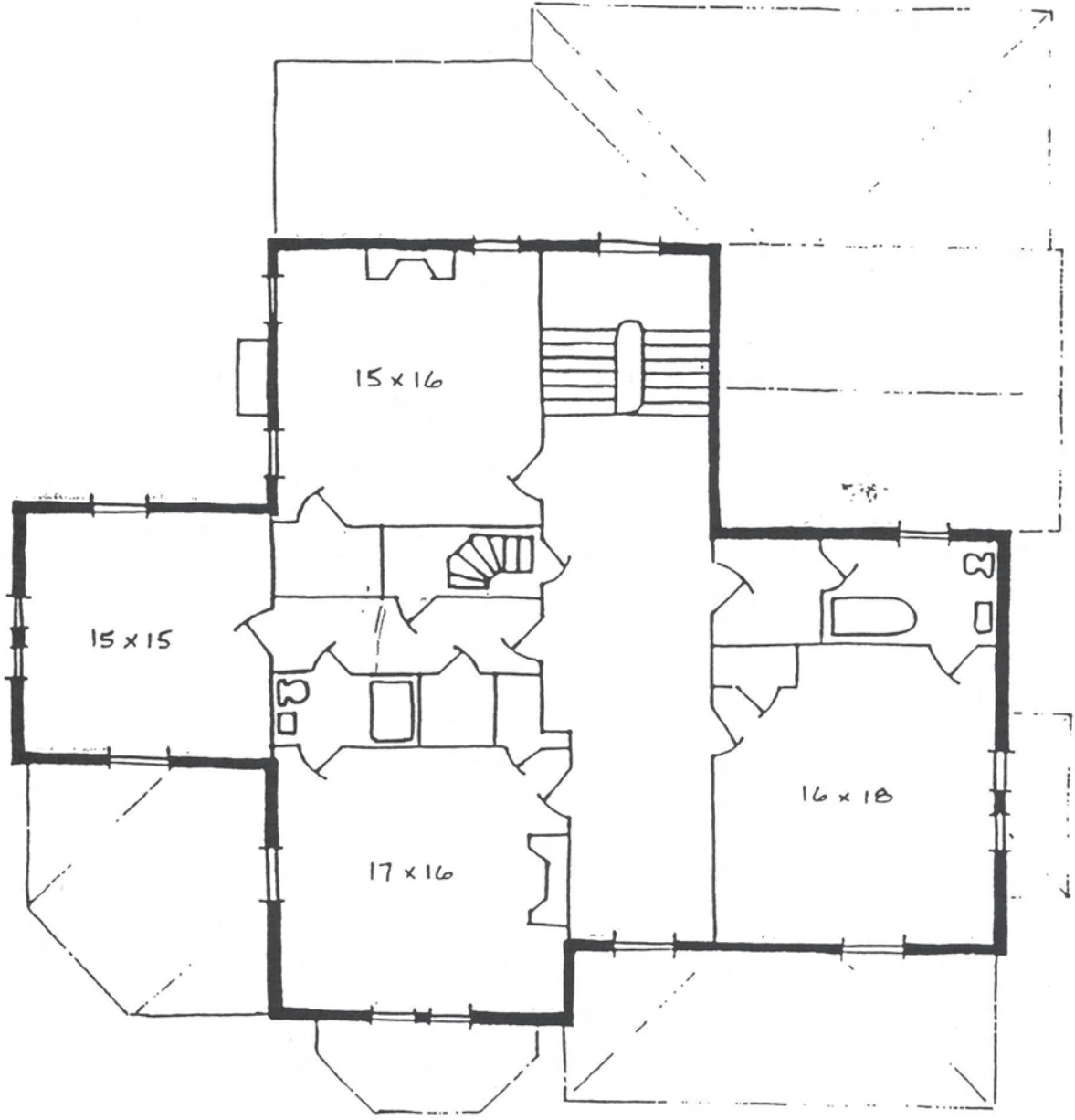
ATTACHMENT IV
Gray Fish Richardson House
530 N. Blount Street



FIRST FLOOR - SCALE 3/32" = 1'

(Current Floor Plan)

Gray Fish Richardson House
530 N. Blount Street



SECOND FLOOR - SCALE 3/32" = 1'
(Current Floor PLAN)