

WAKE COUNTY, NC 21
LAURA M RIDDICK
REGISTER OF DEEDS
PRESENTED & RECORDED ON
06/07/2016 10:00:14

BOOK:016412 PAGE:00787 - 00791

ORDINANCE NO. (2016) 581

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE HORTON-BECKHAM-BRETSCH HOUSE, IN THE PLANNING JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, A HISTORIC LANDMARK

WHEREAS, the property located at 11 S. Blount Street, Raleigh, NC, is owned by Bretsch LLC; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina authorized the creation of the Raleigh Historic Development Commission for the City of Raleigh 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 Raleigh Historic Development 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 and recommendation that the following property be designated a historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, on the 5th day of April, 2016, a joint public hearing was held in the Council Chamber of the Avery C. Upchurch Municipal Complex, Raleigh, before the City Council of the City of Raleigh and the Raleigh Historic Development Commission 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 complied with.

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

Section 1. The property designated as Horton-Beckham-Bretsch House, in the planning jurisdiction of the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, be and is declared a Raleigh Historic Landmark. Said property being more particularly described as follows:

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The property located at 11 S. Blount Street, Raleigh, NC, owned by Bretsch LLC, that property described in deed book 016180, page 00035 recorded in Wake County Registry, comprising approximately .35 acres.

A detailed architectural description and history is found in the 2015 Raleigh Historic Designation application and report and is hereby referenced.

Section 2. Those elements of the property that are integral to its historical, prehistorical, architectural, archaeological and/or cultural significance or any combination thereof are as follows:

Built ca. 1895 and relocated to the current site in 1982, the Bretsch House possesses special significance architecturally as a bold example of the Eastlake cottage style in Raleigh and as one of a handful of residential buildings in the Capitol Square Historic Overlay District. The crowning feature of the Bretsch House is its hipped-roof Eastlake-style porch that extends the width of the façade, with a projecting central porch bay. It is also significant historically for its association with the sisters Sallie Beckham Bretsch and Mary Partin, and later Sallie and Emma Smethurst, who boarded with Sallie from 1927 to her death in 1979. The women lived there longer than any of the men, and, as often single women, maintained a household not only by holding down jobs but also through the rent provided by boarders.

A detailed architectural description and history is found in the 2015 Raleigh Historic Designation application and report and is hereby referenced.

Section 3. No portion of the exterior features of any building, site, structure, or object (including windows, doors, walls, fences, light fixtures, signs, steps, pavement, paths, or any other appurtenant features), trees, nor above ground utility structure located on the hereinbefore described property that is designated in this ordinance may be altered, restored, moved, remodeled, or reconstructed so that a change in design, material or outer appearance occurs unless and until a certificate of appropriateness is obtained from the Raleigh Historic Development Commission or its successors; provided however that the Raleigh Planning Director or designee may approve certificates of appropriateness for minor works as listed in the Bylaws and Rules of Procedure of the Raleigh Historic Development Commission.

Section 4. No building, site, structure, or object (including windows, doors, walls, fences, light fixtures, steps, pavement, paths, signs, or any other appurtenant features), trees, nor above ground utility structure located on the hereinbefore described property that is designated in this ordinance may be demolished unless and until either approval of demolition is obtained from the Raleigh Historic Development Commission or a period of three hundred sixty-five (365) days has elapsed following final review by the Commission of a request for demolition (or any longer period of time required by N.C.G.S. 160A-400.14 as it maybe amended hereafter); provided however, that demolition may be denied by the Raleigh Historic Development Commission in the event that the State Historic Preservation Officer determines that the building, site, or structure has statewide significance as provided by N.C.G.S. 160A-400.14.

Section 5. The Raleigh Historic Development Commission shall have no jurisdiction over the interior features of the property.

Section 6. All owners and occupants 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 7. 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 8. City administration and the Raleigh Historic Development Commission are hereby authorized and directed to have erected an appropriate sign on the site hereinabove described setting forth the fact that said site has been designated a historic landmark by action of the Raleigh Historic Development Commission and the City Council of the City of Raleigh provided, should the owners of the hereinabove described property not consent to the erection of said sign on the described premises, City administration and the Raleigh Historic Development Commission are hereby authorized and directed to have said sign located on the public right-of-way adjacent to said property.

Section 9. In the event any building, site, structure, or object designated by this ordinance is demolished in accordance with the ordinances of the City of Raleigh, this ordinance shall automatically be null and void.

Section 10. Any violation of this ordinance shall be unlawful as by law provided.

Section 11. This ordinance has been provided to the North Carolina Capital Commission as required by law.

Adopted: May 3, 2016

Effective: May 3, 2016

Distribution: Department of City Planning
Inspections Department
Raleigh Historic Development Commission
Wake County Tax Assessor
Property Owner and Occupant (if not the owner)
Registrar of Deeds



City Of Raleigh
NORTH CAROLINA

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF WAKE)

CERTIFICATION

I, Ralph L. Puccini, Assistant Deputy Clerk of the City of Raleigh, North Carolina,
do hereby certify that the attached is a true and exact copy of City of Raleigh
Ordinance No. (2016) 581 adopted May 3, 2016.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have unto set my hand and have caused the Seal of
the City of Raleigh to be affixed this 24th day of May, 2016.



Ralph L. Puccini
Assistant Deputy Clerk

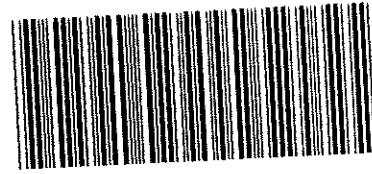
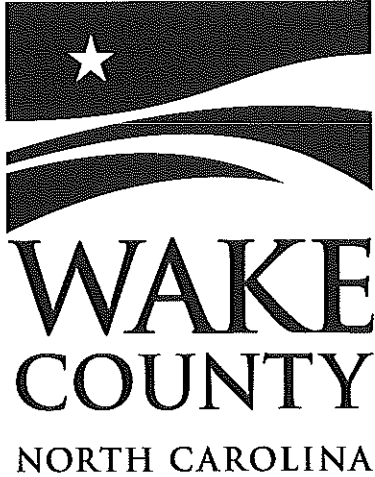
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It is part of the recorded document and must be submitted with the original for re-recording.

**Laura M. Riddick
Register of Deeds**

Wake County Justice Center
300 South Salisbury Street, Suite 1700
Raleigh, NC 27601

New Time Stamp

\$25 Non-Standard Fee

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Raleigh Department of City Planning
One Exchange Plaza
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Fee	_____
Amt Paid	\$ 294
Check #	1006
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Rec'd By:	TGT
Completion Date:	_____

(Processing Fee: \$266.00 - valid until June 30, 2011 - Checks payable to the City of Raleigh.)

RALEIGH HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION APPLICATION

This application initiates consideration of a property for designation as a Raleigh Historic Landmark by the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission (RHDC) and the Raleigh City Council. It enables evaluation of the resource to determine if it qualifies for designation. The evaluation is made by the Research Committee of the RHDC, which makes its recommendation to the full commission which in turn makes its recommendation to the City Council. Procedures for administration by the RHDC are outlined in the Raleigh City Code, Section 10-1053.

Please type if possible. Use 8-1/2" x 11" paper for supporting documentation and if additional space is needed. All materials submitted become the property of the RHDC and cannot be returned. Return completed application to the RHDC office at One Exchange Plaza, Suite 300, Raleigh or mail to:

Raleigh Historic Districts Commission
PO Box 829 Century Station
Raleigh, NC 27602

1. Name of Property (if historic name is unknown, give current name or street address):

Historic Name: Horton-Beckham-Bretsch House
Current Name: Bretsch House / Capitol District Law Offices

2. Location:

Street
Address: 11 S. Blount St.
NC PIN No.: 1703789953
(Can be obtained from <http://imaps.co.wake.nc.us/imaps/>)

3. Legal Owner of Property (If more than one, list primary contact):

Name: Bretsch, LLC (Evin Capps, contact)
Address: 214 New Bern Place
City: Raleigh State: NC Zip: 27601
Telephone No: (919) (838)-(0101) x5 Fax No. (919) (838)-(0102)
E-Mail: ecapps@collegiatecapital.com

4. Applicant/Contact Person (If other than owner):

Name: Ruth Little, Longleaf Historic Resources
Address: 2312 Bedford Ave.
City: Raleigh State: NC Zip: 27607
Telephone No: (919) (412)-(7804) Fax No. () ()-()
E-Mail: mruthlittle@gmail.com

5. General Data/Site Information:

Date of Construction and major additions/alterations:

ca. 1895, 1982

Number, type, and date of construction of outbuildings:

N/A

Approximate lot size or acreage:

.35

Architect, builder, carpenter, and/or mason:

unknown

Original Use:

house

Present Use:

law offices

6. Classification:

A. Category (check all that apply):

Building(s) Structure Object Site

B. Ownership

Private
 Public Local State Federal

C. Number of contributing and non-contributing resources on the property:

	Contributing	Noncontributing
Buildings	1	0
Structures	0	0
Objects	0	0

D. Previous field documentation (when and by whom):

Ardath Weaver, 1986 addendum to Capital Area Historic District (NR 1977)

E. National Register of Historic Places Status:

Check One:

Entered <input type="checkbox"/> Date:	Nominated <input type="checkbox"/>
Determined Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Date:	Determined Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Date:
Nomination Not Requested <input type="checkbox"/>	Removed <input type="checkbox"/> Date:
Significant changes in integrity since listing should be noted in section 10.B. below.	

7. Reason for Request:

There has been a recent change in ownership and both old and new owners agree that its historical significance is deserving of landmark status.

8. Is the property income producing? Yes No 9. Are any interior spaces being included for designation? Yes No 10. Supporting Documentation (Attach to application on separate sheets. Please type or print):

A. Photographs/Slides:

At least *two sets of current exterior archival-grade photographic prints* (minimum print size 5"x7") of all facades of the building and at least one photo of all other contributing and non-contributing resources. If interior spaces of the property are being considered for designation, please include two sets of photos for these features. Prints may be created by using archival-grade black and white film photography and processing or digital photography. The minimum standard for a digital print is 5x7 at a resolution of 300 pixels per inch (ppi). This translates into a pixel dimension of 1950 x 1350. Digital images must be printed with an acceptable ink and paper combination as determined by the National Park Service Go to: <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/publications/bulletins/photopolicy/index.htm>. All photographs must be labeled with the name of the structure, address and date the photograph was taken with pencil or archival-approved photo pen. In addition to prints, all digital images should be submitted on a CD-R in TIF format. Any additional exterior or interior views and views of other structures on the property (color, black and white, or slides) will be helpful.

B. Boundary Map:

Please include a map showing the location of the property. A sketch map is acceptable, but please note street names and number. Any other structures on the property should also be shown. Please include a "North" arrow. Map should be no larger than 11" x 17". A tax map with boundaries marked is preferred, which can be found at: <http://imaps.co.wake.nc.us/imaps/>.

C. Architectural Significance:

Describe the property, including exterior architectural features, additions, remodelings, and alterations. Also describe significant outbuildings and landscape features. If the owner is including interior features in the nomination for the purpose of design review protection; describe them in detail and note their locations. Include a statement regarding the architectural significance of the property.

D. Historic Significance:

Note any significant events, people, and/or families associated with the property. Include all major owners. Note if the property has ever been recorded during a historic building survey by the City of Raleigh or by the NC State Historic Preservation Office. If so, who and when? (See application item 6.D.) Please include a bibliography of sources. Information regarding prior designations can be found by contacting the Survey and Planning Branch of the NC State Historic Preservation Office (NCSHPO) at 919-807-6570, 919-807-6573 or at: <http://www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us/spbranch.htm>.

E. Special Significance Summary:

Include a one to two paragraph summary of those elements of the property that are integral to its historical, prehistorical, architectural, archaeological, and/or cultural importance.

Horton-Beckham-Bretsches House Raleigh Historic Landmark Report
11 South Blount Street, Raleigh, NC
ca. 1895

M. Ruth Little
Longleaf Historic Resources
October 2, 2015

Architectural Description

The ca. 1895 Bretsch House is sited at 11 South Blount Street, the northeast corner of the intersection with Morgan Street, just north of Raleigh's commercial district. The .35-acre lot is roughly triangular, with the 1,776 square-foot house occupying the southwest corner. North of the house is a seven car paved parking lot, and another paved fourteen-car lot extends to the rear, occupying the remainder of the parcel. Across the north lot boundary is a brick retaining wall with a set of steps. Brick retaining walls outline the front yard and south side yard.

The one-story frame Victorian cottage, described as an Eastlake cottage and as a "decorated cottage," is remarkably intact. The side-gabled main block and two rear original gabled wings have weatherboard siding and two-over-two vertical window sashes; the façade windows are floor-length. Windows have crossetted surrounds with a flat outer molding and heavy wood sills. The façade windows retain original floor-length louvered shutters; other windows have louvered shutters installed in 1982. The front double door, set within a flat-paneled reveal, has two leaves, each with a lower raised panel, a raised decorative boss separated by a concave molding, and a glazed upper panel. The metal door bell appears original. The single-pane

transom contains the number "11" painted in black and white. A double wood and glass storm door has been added.

The house rests on a brick foundation constructed in 1982. The weatherboard is finished with beaded corner boards. The wide, boxed eaves feature returns at the gables and a built-in gutter system. The wide frieze board has an applied sawnwork ornament in each bay. The side gables and the center decorative front cross gable have louvered ventilators in the shape of a vernacular trefoil. The two rear gables have ventilators with a pointed arched top. The cheerful color scheme of white siding, red window sash, dark green shutters, and salmon trim dates to 1982: the house was painted white with green shutters prior to the move.

The crowning feature of the Bretsch House is its hipped-roof Eastlake-style porch that extends the width of the façade, with a projecting central porch bay. Italianate chamfered posts set on paneled bases with ornate brackets with a star motif and pendants support the frieze. The railing consists of thick turned balusters with incised detailing and a molded handrail. The same railing flanks the front steps and terminates with tall decorative newel posts of cast iron or a plaster material that resists weathering.

The interior contains a wide center hall flanked by two rooms, the two rear rooms slightly smaller than the two front rooms. Rooms have narrow oak floorboards, twelve foot plastered walls, and tall molded baseboards. The hall and right parlor

have a heavy crown molding. The other rooms have a simple ceiling molding. All doors have four raised panels, wide molded architraves, and most have single pane transoms. Doors facing the front rooms have glass doorknobs, while those facing the rear rooms have white porcelain doorknobs. A French door with an eight-pane transom divides the hall into a front hall and a back hall. The transom retains its hardware and can still be opened. The rear hall back door has upper glazed panels with etched glass. Each room retains its original Eastlake-style mantel surrounding a brick firebox and brick hearth that were rebuilt during the 1982 restoration.

The right parlor has the most ornate finish. All woodwork is painted. The mantel has fluted pilasters, end blocks with incised floral ornament, a frieze with two flat panels with sunbursts flanking a center boss with incised spirals and sunbursts, and a heavy chamfered shelf. A tall oval mirror with an ornate gilded frame hangs over the mantel. The ceiling has an ornate plaster medallion. The side window has a flat paneled apron. There is no door to the rear room.

The left front parlor has identical woodwork but it is stained rather than painted. The mantel is somewhat simpler, with flat pilasters with incised floral ornament, a very similar frieze and end blocks, chamfered shelf, and a brass firebox cover. There is a simple crown molding and the chandelier has no medallion. The door to the rear room has a transom. A tall rectangular pier mirror with a gilded frame hangs over the mantel.

The left rear room, used as a dining room during the house's residential era, has painted woodwork and a painted mantel of even simpler design, with plain chamfered pilasters, simple incised end blocks, a plain frieze with a simpler central boss, and a chamfered shelf. The window has a flat paneled apron with beadboard sheathing. Beside the chimney is a closet. The rear door opening has been infilled with a bookshelf.

The right rear room, used as a bedroom during the residential era, has stained woodwork, a mantel with pilasters with curious horizontal "weatherboard" patterns, incised end blocks, a plain frieze with a simple center boss, and a chamfered shelf. Both windows have flat panel aprons sheathed with beadboard. Beside the chimney is a closet.

The left rear ell, containing a kitchen, two bedrooms, a bathroom, and an attached porch, was demolished when the house was moved.¹ In its place is a small shed-roof addition divided into a center hall, with a bathroom and small kitchen on the right side and two storage rooms on the left.

By deed covenant, four ca. 1900 glass chandeliers from Emina Bretsch's family that were installed in the house during World War II, as well as two Victorian gessoed and gilt mirrors, vintage c. 1860-1890, are included with the house. The chandeliers were designed and made in Bohemia, Germany for the Middle Eastern market,

¹ The description of the rear ell is in Ellis, "My Memories of '105' N. McDowell Street."

having Turkish characteristics on Western European forms.² The mirrors may have hung in the house since the late 1800s. The chandeliers hang in the front hall, the flanking parlors, and the right rear bedroom. The right parlor's green glass chandelier has eight clear glass arms that extend from the tall central shaft, each with glass prisms hanging below the light bulb at the end. Prisms also decorate the top, middle, and bottom of the shaft. The left parlor's blue glass chandelier has eight clear glass arms, with prisms hanging from each arm and from the central base. Gold ornament is painted on the central glass shaft. The front hall chandelier is clear glass, with a similar ornamental design to the parlor chandeliers. The right rear bedroom chandelier is copper-colored glass with a similar design to the others.

Architectural Context

The Eastlake style, named for Charles Eastlake, flourished from ca. 1870 to ca. 1890. Its characteristic decorative features, produced on a mechanical lathe, included massive and robust porch posts, railings, balusters and pendants that exaggerated the three-dimensional quality.³ Raleigh likely had its fair share of this Victorian style, primarily expressed in porches. A dwindling number of Eastlake porches have survived the redevelopment of the inner city during the twentieth century. The brick Executive Mansion at 200 North Blount Street, designed in 1883 by Samuel Sloan and A. G. Bauer, is Queen Anne in form with an Eastlake wraparound porch that is the preeminent exemplar of the style in Raleigh. The brick Dodd-Hinsdale

² Ardath Weaver, 1986 addendum to the Capital Area Historic District (1977), copy in file.

³ John J.-G. Blumenson, *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945*, 58-59.

House, 330 Hillsborough Street, built in 1879, has an ornate Eastlake-style porch. Another extravagant Eastlake-style porch wraps around the façade of the brick Hawkins-Hartness House, 310 North Blount Street, built about 1882.

Two rare one-story cottage examples of the Eastlake style, constructed in wood, are the Horton-Beckham-Bretsches House and the Horton-Walters House, 321 East Lane Street, in the Oakwood neighborhood. Merchant and small developer Robert Lee Horton built the Horton-Walters House about 1895: he rented it for about a year and then sold it to Dr. Julius Faison.⁴ The house is virtually identical to the Horton-Bretsches House: its front porch features the same chamfered posts with elaborate pendent brackets, a turned balustrade, a double glazed entrance with transom, and full height porch windows with louvered shutters.

Although the Horton-Walters House remains in its original location, the Horton-Beckham-Bretsches House compares favorably in architectural integrity. The Bretsches House was moved in 1982 from 111 N. McDowell Street, in the northwest corner of the Capitol Square Historic Overlay District, to its current site at 11 S. Blount Street in the southeast corner of the district, and thus has lost its integrity of location. However the house retains all other aspects of its original architectural character, including integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Its setting, close to the street, mimics that of its original setting on North McDowell Street. It is a contributing building in the historic district.

⁴ Matthew Brown research notes on 321 East Lane Street, email to Ruth Little, September 24, 2015, copy in file.

Statement of Architectural and Historic Significance

The Horton-Beckham-Bretsches House, a bold example of the Eastlake cottage style, was constructed at 105 North McDowell Street about 1895, apparently for Henry Horton. It provided a home for the family of Horton's sister's son Cornelius Beckham, as well as boarders, for most of the twentieth century. Daughter Sallie Beckham Bretsch, who grew up here, was the only continuous resident until her death about 1979. She married Albert Bretsch in 1912 and their only son, Cornelius Bretsch, born in 1913, grew up here and married Princess Emina Toussoun of Egypt in 1948. They made a life in Washington D.C.; both died in 1982, the year that the house was saved from demolition by Preservation North Carolina and moved to 11 South Blount Street. It functioned as the nonprofit statewide historic preservation organization's office. Since 1986 the house has held the law offices of Edmisten and Weaver, now Capitol District Law Offices. The house has multiple layers of historic significance for its association with the Horton-Beckham family and with the Bretsch family, whose Fayetteville Street bakery was an institution from the late 1800s into the 1900s. The intact Eastlake-style frame cottage has strong architectural significance as one of the rare surviving Eastlake-style cottages in Raleigh. Its collection of four ca. 1900 Bohemian glass chandeliers, designed about 1900 for the Turkish market, have hung in the house since World War II and are included by deed covenant with the house.

Special Significance Summary

The Horton-Beckham-Bretsches House possesses special significance for three areas: architecturally as a bold example of the Eastlake cottage style in Raleigh; architecturally as one of a handful of residential buildings in the Capitol Square Historic Overlay District; and historically for its association with the sisters Sallie Beckham Bretsch and Mary Partin, and later Sallie and Emma Smethurst, who boarded with Sallie from 1927 to her death in 1979. The women lived there longer than any of the men, and, as often single women, maintained a household not only by holding down jobs but also through the rent provided by boarders. Although the house's interiors are also significant, they are not included for historic landmark designation.

Historical Background

Although the house is known as the Bretsch House, the Bretsch family did not become associated with it until 1913 when Sallie Beckham married Albert Bretsch. The Horton-Beckham-Bretsches House was constructed about 1895 at 105 N. McDowell Street, near the corner of Edenton Street.⁵ According to a step-granddaughter, Sally Heath Ellis, the house was built for Henry Horton, who left the house to his nieces Sallie Mary and Beckham.⁶ Mrs. Ellis was partially correct: Henry

⁵ No. 111 on 1896 Sanborn Map; no. 105 on 1909 Sanborn Map.

⁶ Sally Heath Ellis, "My Memories of '105 N. McDowell Street,'" ca. 2000(?). Copy in file. Sally was the step-daughter of Elise Partin Heath, who was the daughter of Mary Beckham Partin Heath.

Horton (ca. 1849-1900), was actually Sallie and Mary Beckham's great-uncle. He was a blacksmith for the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, whose company shop was located on North Dawson Street near Peace Street. Henry's sister Mary married John H. Beckham, a railroad engineer. Their son Cornelius Beckham had two children: Sallie and Mary.

Henry apparently never married. In 1880 he was single and lived with his mother Sarah, his sister Mary E., her husband John H. Beckham (1836-1908), a railroad engineer, and their son Cornelius, age 14. [1880 Census] Their address in the late 1880s city directories was North Dawson Street (239 in 1887, 439 in 1888). Henry lived at 239 North Dawson Street in 1896. At his death in 1900, he likely left the house to his sister Mary and her son Cornelius, but no deed has been located.⁷

The earliest record of the house is the 1896 Sanborn Map, which shows the house as 111 North McDowell Street. The earlier Sanborn Map of 1891 does not include the area where the house was located. The 1909 Sanborn Map shows the same house renumbered as 105 North McDowell Street.

Cornelius H. Beckham (1866-1912) and his first wife, Eddie Alice, had two children, Sallie (1891-1978) and Mary Beckham (1893-1941). In 1900 he was widowed and lived with his parents and daughters Sallie and Mary at 217 North Salisbury Street.

⁷ Henry Horton Deeded his sister M.E. Beckham a share of the 6-acre estate (apparently his father Jephtha Horton's homestead) near West Street adjacent to the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad shop. DB 154, 773 and DB 158, 249.

He worked as a Seaboard Airline Railroad locomotive engineer. The 1901 and 1906 city directories list Cornelius at 103 North McDowell Street with his second wife Jennie and the children. Both directories list Lewis T. Brown, manager of the Yarborough House, and his household at 105 North McDowell Street. However the 1908, 1910, and 1912 directories show the Beckhams at 105 North McDowell Street. The earlier directory numbers for the Beckhams and the Browns were probably accidentally transposed.⁸

The 1910 census populates the Beckham household at 105 North McDowell Street: his wife Jennie, his daughter Sallie, age 18, who worked at the “news office,” his mother Mary, age 62, two boarders (a locomotive engineer and a railroad conductor), and a 40-year-old black servant. His younger daughter Mary Beckham had married a Mr. Partin and no longer lived at home. Their daughter, Elise Partin, was born in 1910.

The house held great joy and great sorrow in the year 1912. Miss Sallie Beckham married Albert Bretsch (1886-1963) in the house on June 12. Sallie’s friends from the office of the *Progressive Farmer* magazine gave her a shower shortly before the wedding. Father Griffin of the Church of the Sacred Heart married the couple at noon in a candlelit ceremony in the parlor. The bride wore a traveling suit of dark blue. The newlyweds left on the 12:30 train for Wilmington, where Albert had recently moved to work as a druggist. The couple planned to spend the summer in

⁸ U.S. Census, Raleigh, 1900; *Maloney’s 1901 Raleigh City Director; Raleigh City Directory 1905-06.*

Europe.⁹ Albert's father, Charles, operated Bretsch's Bakery at 103 Fayetteville Street, open for business since at least 1885. The bakery has been demolished.¹⁰ No other house associated with the Bretschs is known to survive.

On November 19, 2012, newspapers in Raleigh, Wilmington, Charlotte and Asheville reported the train tragedy that took the life of Cornelius and five other trainmen, with coverage continuing for three consecutive days. Around 2 a.m., The Seaboard Air Line southbound train driven by Cornelius collided head-on with the Seaboard northbound train near Granite, N.C., about sixty miles north of Raleigh. Cornelius, his fireman, and the engineer and fireman of the other train were killed instantly, along with 2 express messengers and two porters. A number of trainmen were injured, but no passengers were injured or killed. Newspapers noted that "For a quarter of a century Mr. Faison and Mr. Beckham had followed their calling.the railway officials felt that no engineers were more capable and careful....[both] had lived nearly half a century in Raleigh and were held in the highest esteem by all ." ¹¹ According to the accounts, engineer Beckham had misread his orders. Cornelius was one of fifteen locomotive engineers who lost their lives in the line of duty honored at

⁹ "Miss Beckham Entertained," *The Raleigh Times*, June 1, 1912; "Bretsch-Beckham," *The Raleigh Times*, June 8, 1912; "A Pretty Home Wedding Celebrated at Noon," *The Raleigh Times*, June 12, 1912.

¹⁰ Raleigh city directory, 1885: Chas. Bretsch Bakery, 103 ½ Fayetteville cor. Morgan; *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory*, 1896: Charles Bretsch. "French Bakery," 103 Fayetteville Street; March 13, 1902 advertisement in the *Morning Post*: Bretsch's Bakery at 103 Fayetteville Street. "Ask for Bretsch's Mother Bread." In 1900, when the Nazareth Orphanage, a Catholic institution, opened its doors, Charles Bretsch offered to receive contributions that donors might drop off at his bakery. Elizabeth Reid Murray, *Wake: Capital County*, Vol. 2, 106.

¹¹ "The Norlina Wreck," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, November 24, 1912.

a memorial service held by the Raleigh division of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers at the First Presbyterian Church on December 4, 1912.¹²

Cornelius's death must have changed Albert and Sallie's life plans. Cornelius's will, dated January 29, 1912, gave his wife Jennie all of his real and personal property except his interest in the Horton estate, which was to be equally divided between Jennie and his daughters Sallie Fletcher Beckham and Mary Beckham Partin. (Wake County Will Book G, 570). The Horton estate consisted of property adjoining the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad Shop. The house at 105 must have been inherited by Jennie outright. Jennie later married E. L. Fleming and moved out of the house. At her death in 1922 she deeded her interest in the house to Sallie and Mary (Wake County Deed Book 386, 566). By 1913 Albert and Sallie had moved from Wilmington back into Sallie's homeplace, and Albert took over the management of his father's bakery.

From the 1910s to the 1930s, as husbands came and went and children grew up, the house was a refuge for Sallie and Mary. Mary married her second husband Charles Brown, who worked at the Western Union Telegraph Company, about 1918. By 1920 Mary, her daughter Elise, and Charles had moved into 105 with Albert and

¹² Reporter F. A. Olds reported in the December 4, 1912 *Raleigh Times*, in Eliz. R. Murray, *Wake: Capital County*, Vol. 2, 208n. Other newspaper articles included "Six are Killed in Seaboard Wreck," *The Evening Chronicle*, Charlotte, N.C., November 19, 1912; "Fast Seaboard Trains in Crash and Six Dead," *The Wilmington Dispatch*, November 19, 1912; "Freight Men Knew Wreck Was Coming," *News and Observer*, Raleigh, N.C., November 20, 1912; "Aftermath of the Seaboard Wreck," *News and Observer*, Raleigh, N.C., November 21, 1912.

Sallie and their son Cornelius. Albert continued to manage Bretsch's Bakery and live at 105 until about 1921, when he moved in with his widowed mother Annie. He apparently never returned to 105. Charles lived at 105 until about 1921, but was dead by 1925. By 1925 Albert had taken a pharmacy job in Raleigh and still lived in his mother's house.¹³

With both husbands gone, the sisters and their children took in a roomer, T. C. Galt, in 1925. He left, and in 1927 two new roomers, William S. "Buck" Smethurst (1883-1953), an architect, and his wife Emma, moved into the house and remained for many years. About 1930 Cornelius left for college at UNC Chapel Hill, graduating in 1934. By 1937 he lived in Washington D.C. Elise married Forest G. Heath in 1937 and moved away, although she returned with her husband and step-daughters (from her husband's first marriage), for holidays and treated both Sallie and Emma as grandmothers. Sallie shared the house with Mary and the Smethursts until Mary's death in 1941.

During World War II, Cornelius served in Egypt as a Navy intelligence attaché to the American commanding general in the Middle East. In 1943, in Cairo, he met Princess Emina Toussoun, a cousin of King Farouk. The Bohemian chandeliers in the house are said to have been sent by Emina's family for safekeeping during the war to Sallie

¹³ When Albert died in 1963, he resided in Southern Pines. www.ancestry.com. Albert Bretsch death certificate.

Bretsch, who installed them in the house.¹⁴ Emina moved to the U.S. in 1946 and they wed in 1948 in Washington D.C., where Cornelius worked as an analyst with the Federal Housing Administration. The couple was active in D.C. social and philanthropic circles in the 1950s.

Sallie continued to share 105 with her boarders, the Smethursts, until Buck's death in 1953. After that Sallie and Emma lived there alone. Sallie worked as a bookkeeper at the Edwards & Broughton Publishing Company; Emma was a saleslady at Boylan-Pearce Department Store. In 1970s directories Sallie is listed as Albert's widow, so perhaps she and Albert never divorced although they had lived apart since about 1921. Emma remained as Sallie's faithful companion until Sallie's death about 1979, when she moved into a rest home. The year 1979 is the last year the two ladies are listed in the city directory. The 1980 directory street listing shows 105 as "no return."¹⁵

Sallie's heirs sold the house to the Edenton Street United Methodist Church, which was planning to demolish it to enlarge its parking lot. In 1981, Banks Talley, chairman of the board of directors of Preservation North Carolina (PNC), asked executive director Myrick Howard if he was willing to accept the donation of the house chandeliers. Myrick asked him to see if the church would donate the whole

¹⁴ *Gastonia Gazette*, January 5, 1948, "Egyptian Princess Giving up Title to Marry North Carolinian,"; Ellis, "My Memories of '105' N McDowell Street."

¹⁵ Most of the information comes from "My Memories of '105 N. McDowell Street," by Sally Heath Ellis, step-daughter of Elise Partin Heath, written ca. 2000. Copy in file.

house, and the rest was history. PNC was looking for a new headquarters, and the Bretsch House needed a new site.¹⁶

A mid-twentieth-century realignment of Morgan Street cut New Bern Avenue into a cul-de-sac. In 1982 the city of Raleigh turned the 100-200 block of the street into New Bern Place and moved the historic White-Holman House and Montgomery House from Morgan Street one block south to New Bern Place. At the same time, PNC acquired the lot at the corner of Morgan and Blount streets, where a Texaco gas station sat adjacent to the original site of the White-Holman House. The station was demolished and the Bretsch House moved onto the site the same day as the Montgomery House move. In 1982 when the house was moved, Emma related stories about the house to a reporter in her retirement home.¹⁷ Both Cornelius and Emina, still in D.C., died during 1982: Cornelius in May and Emina in July.

The newly-relocated Horton-Beckham-Bretsch House anchored the corner and provided a transition from the commercial district of Moore Square to the residential streetscape of Blount Street. PNC restored the Bretsch House and used it as their statewide headquarters until 1986, when it was purchased by Reagan and Ardath Weaver and Rufus and Linda Edmisten for use as the law offices of Edmisten and Weaver, more recently known as Capitol District Law Offices. The old house,

¹⁶ Email correspondence from Myrick Howard to Ruth Little, September 2015, copy in file.

¹⁷Dudley Price, "Group hopes to save old home," *Raleigh Times*, date unknown. Copy in file.

which has been beautifully maintained by the attorneys and their wives, stands as an important landmark in the Capital Area Historic District.

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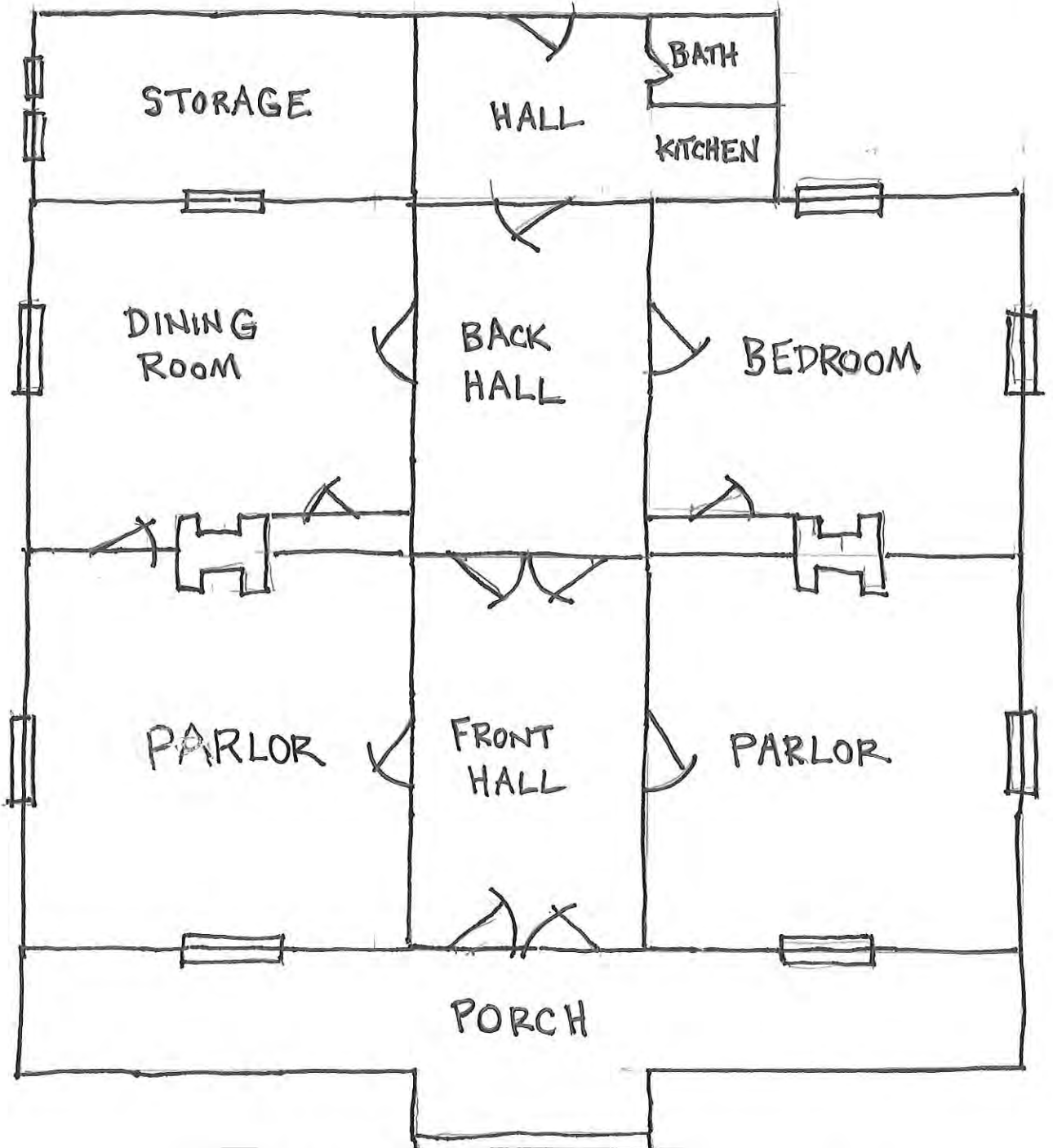
Wake County Tax Map, 11 South Blount Street, Raleigh 27601, Pin 1703789953.

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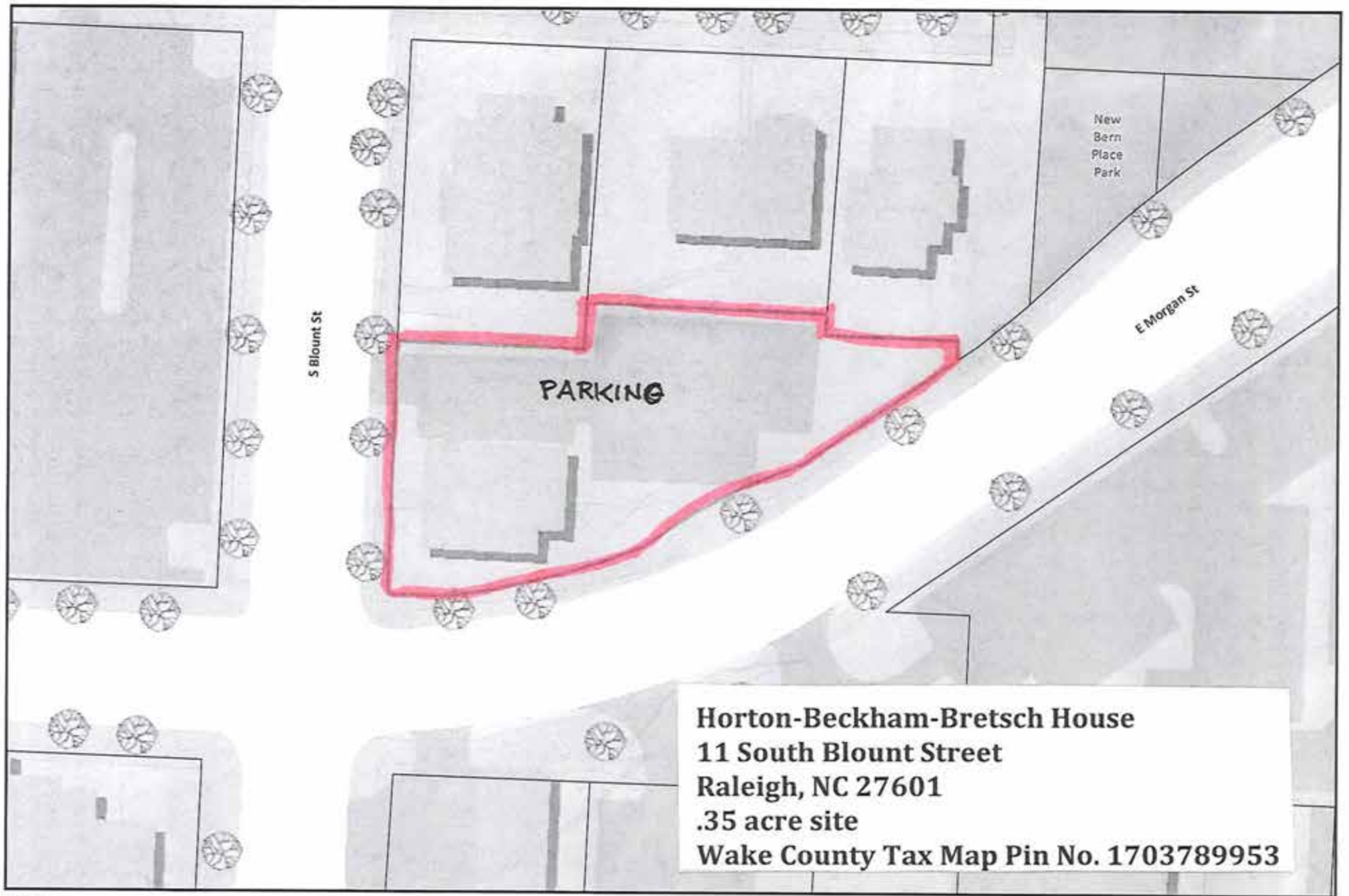
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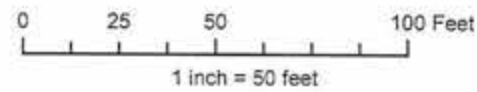


Horton-Beckham-Bretsch House
 11 South Blount Street
 Floor plan—not to scale
 Ruth Little, Longleaf Historic Resources, Sept. 30, 2015



Horton-Beckham-Bretsch House
11 South Blount Street
Raleigh, NC 27601
.35 acre site
Wake County Tax Map Pin No. 1703789953

Title



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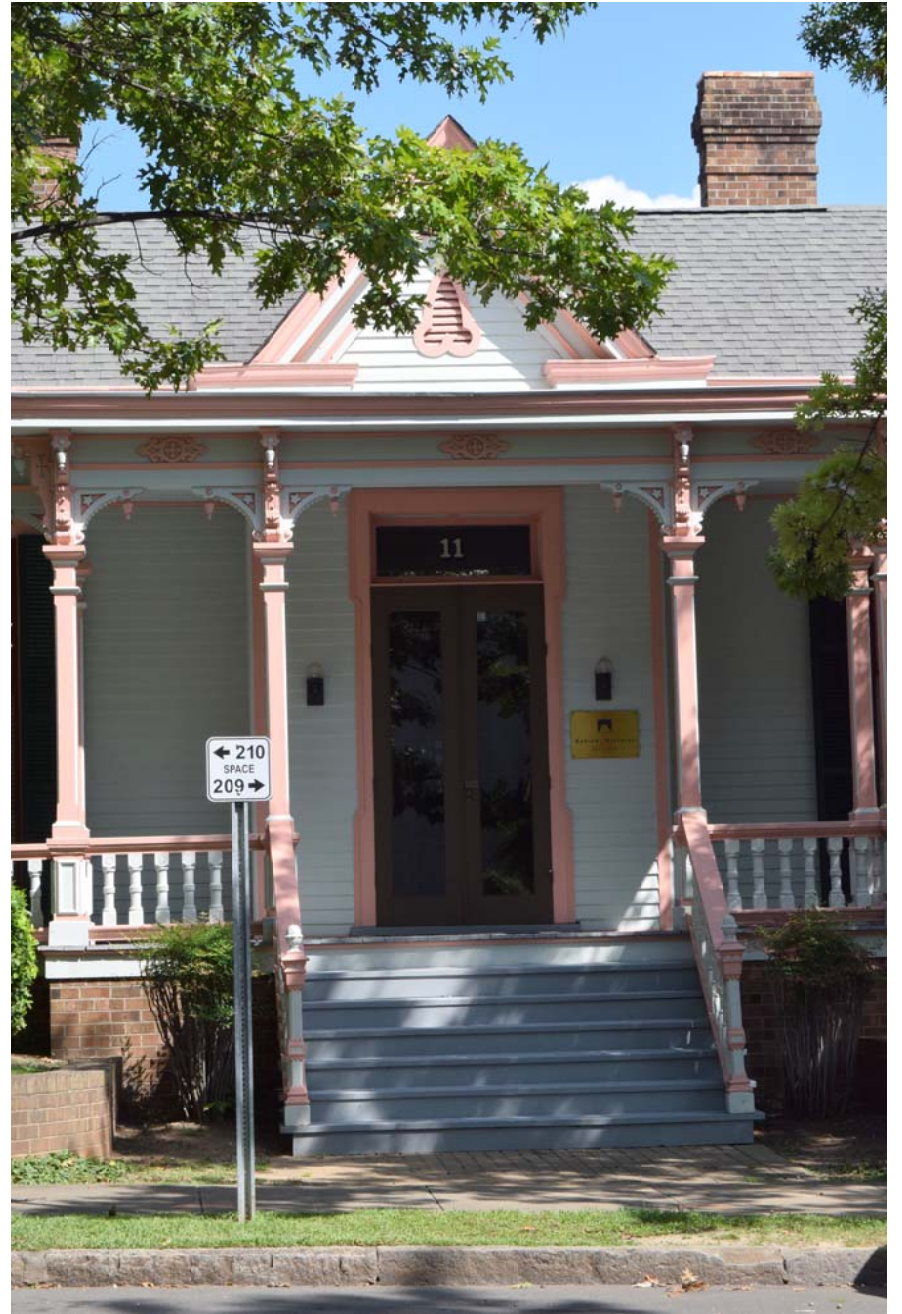
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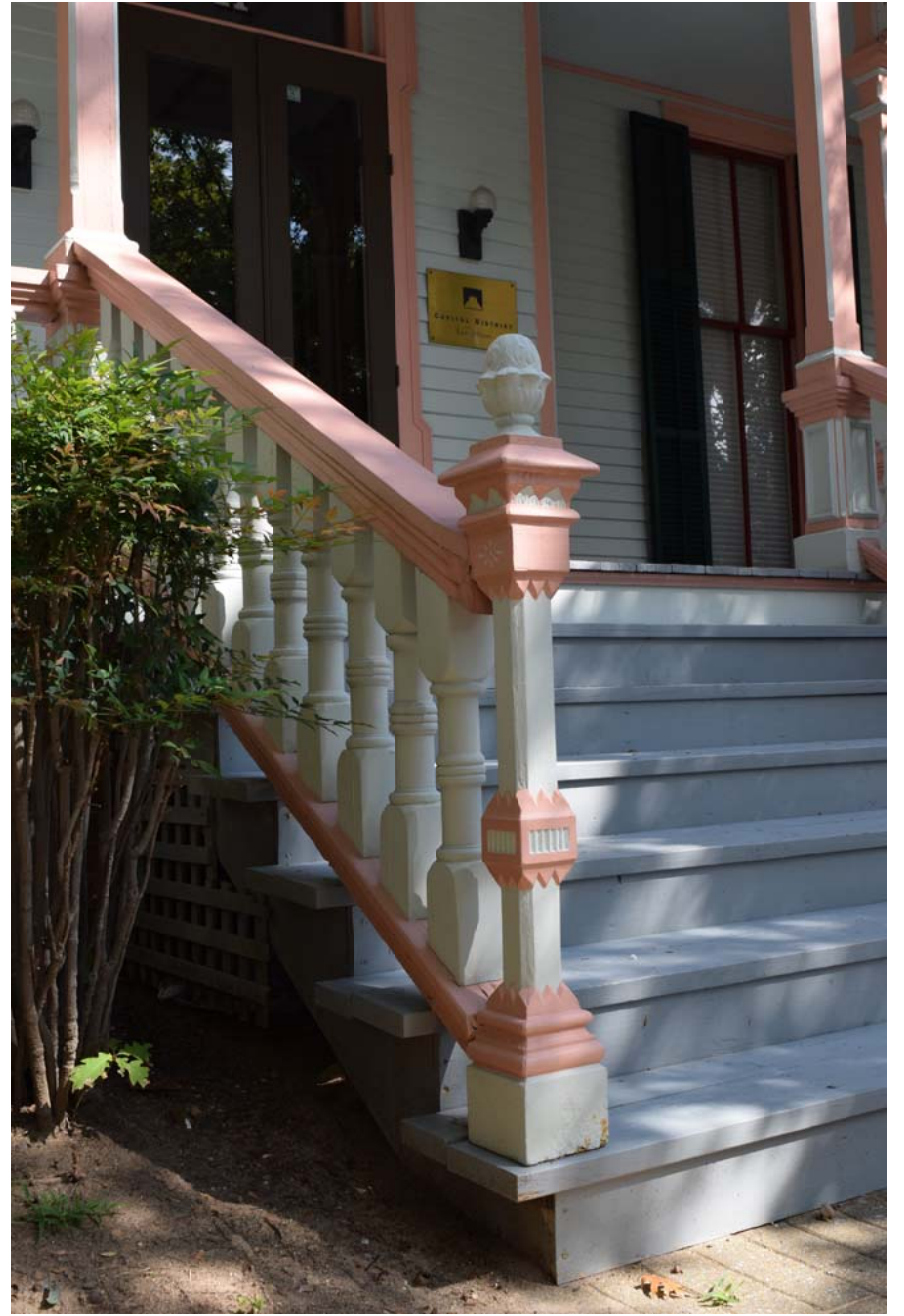
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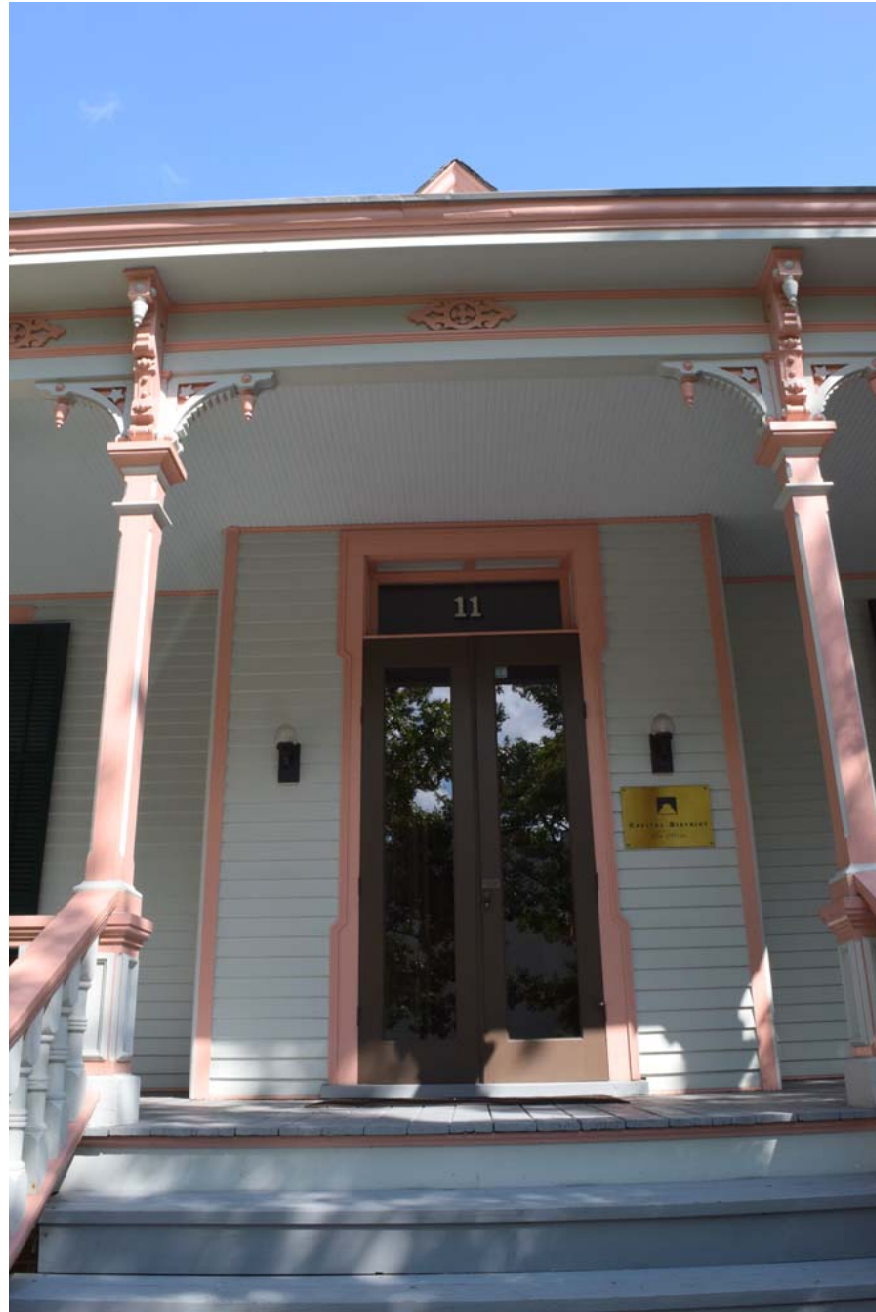
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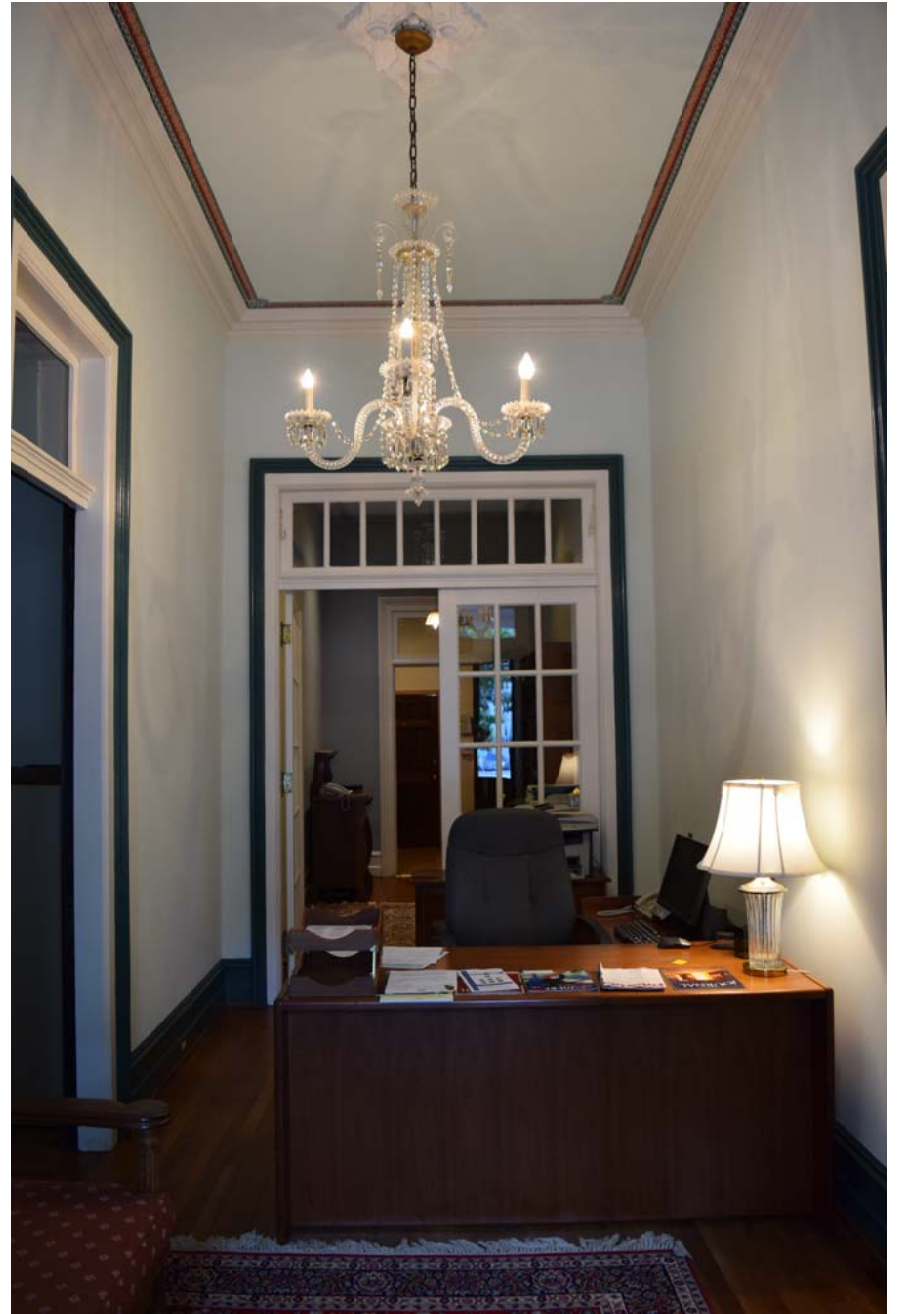
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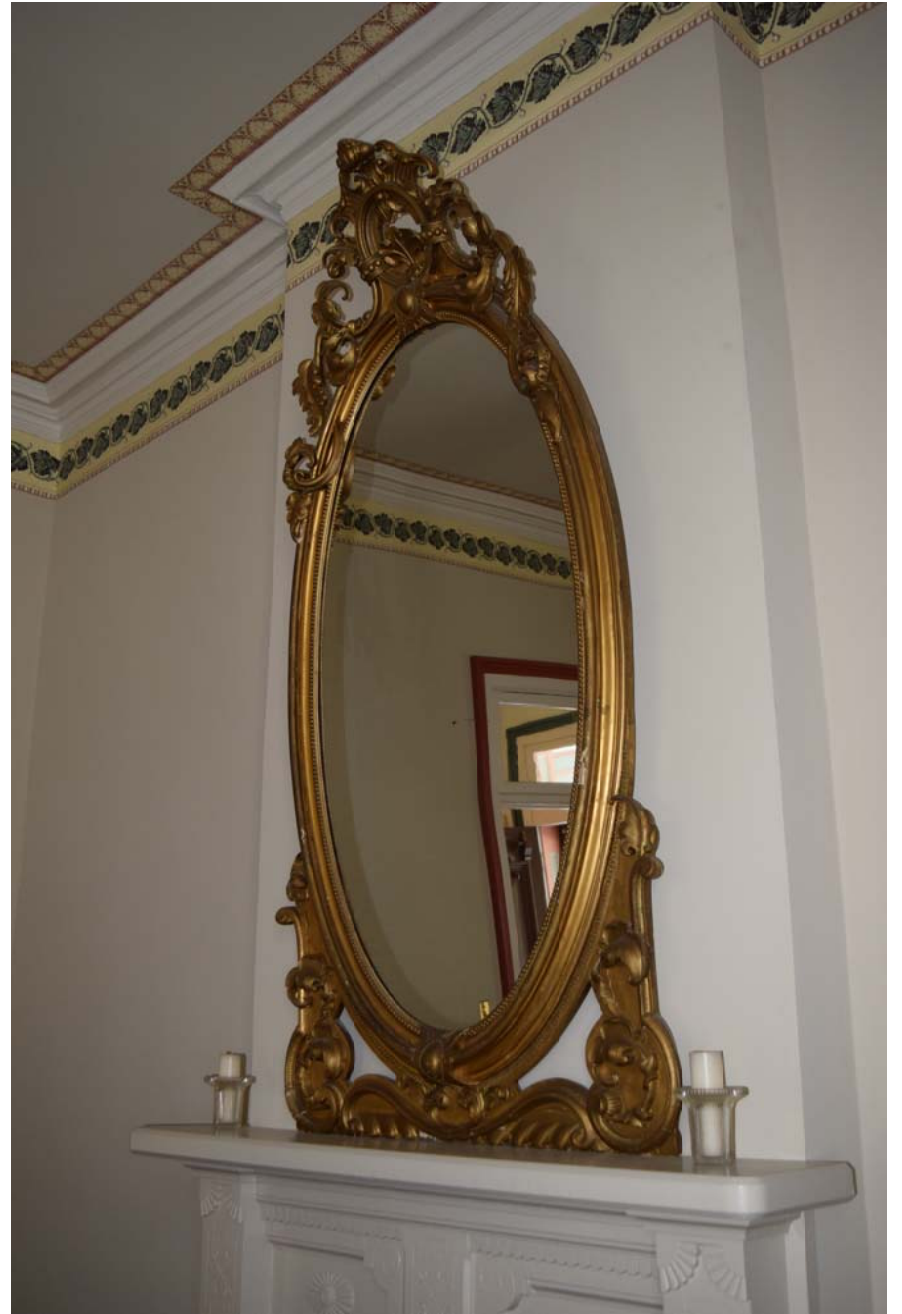
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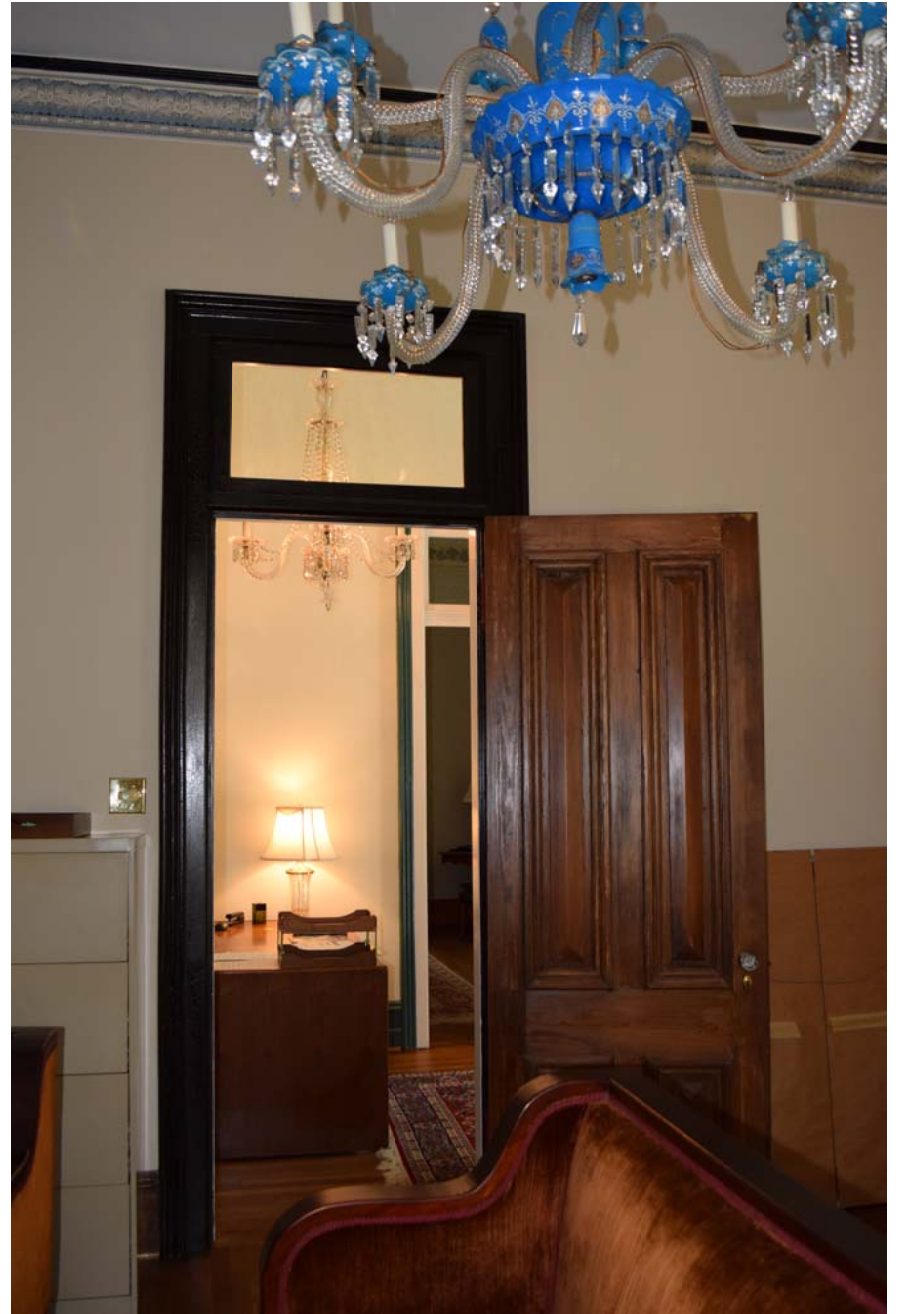
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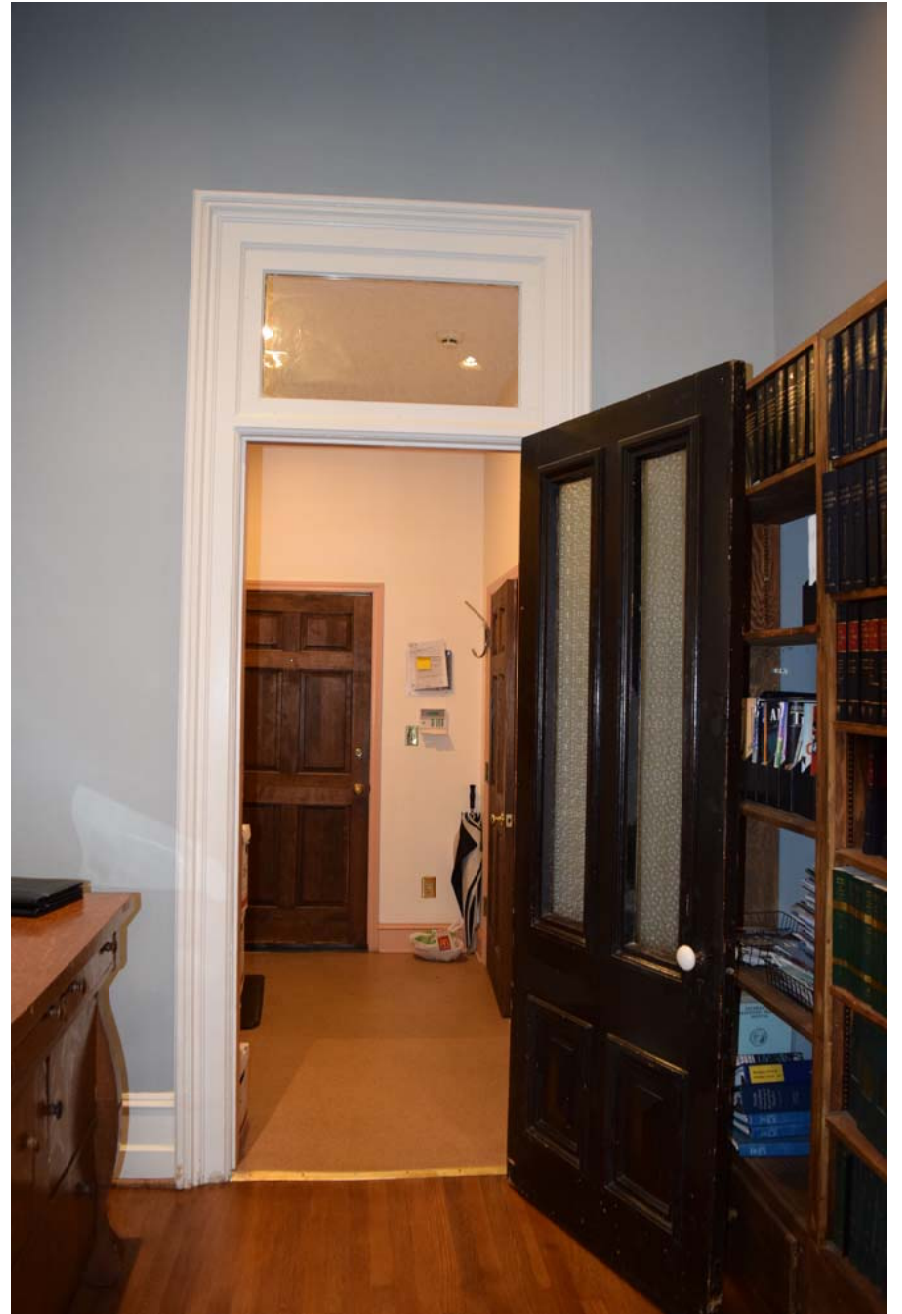
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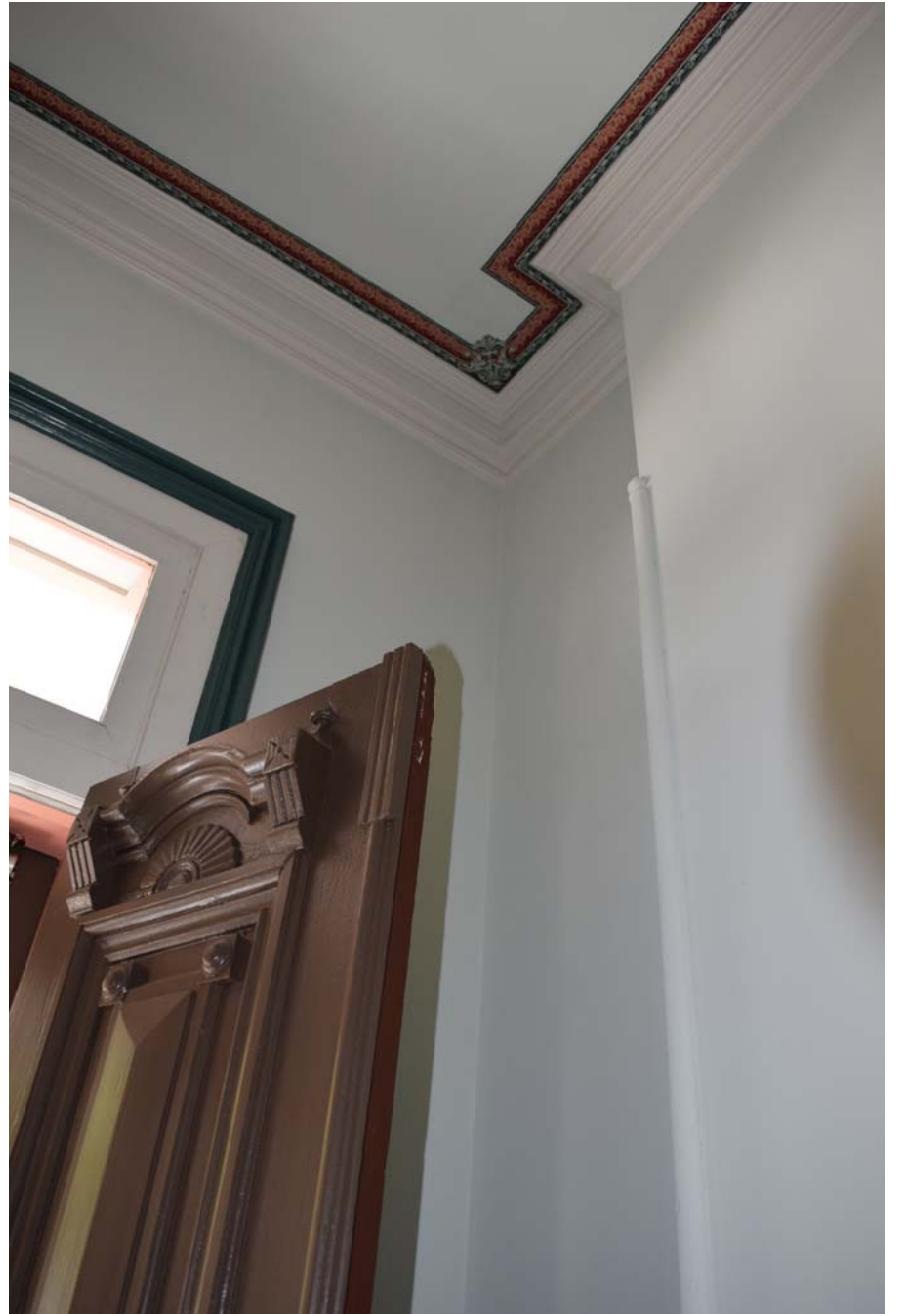
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