

ORDINANCE NO. 2019 - 33

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE **VALLIE LEWIS AND ARCHIE HENDERSON HOUSE** IN THE PLANNING JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, A HISTORIC LANDMARK

**WHEREAS**, the property located at 530 Oakwood Avenue, Raleigh, NC, is owned by Donald Ray Stephens and George R Michael, III; 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 Natural and Cultural Resources has made an analysis and recommendation that the following property be designated a historic landmark; and

**WHEREAS**, on the 6th day of November 2019, 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 Vallie Lewis and Archie Henderson 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:

The property located at 530 Oakwood Avenue, Raleigh, NC, owned by Donald Ray Stephens and George R Michael, III, that property described in deed book 15031, page 598 recorded in Wake County Registry, comprising approximately .17 acres. This includes the any portion of the house that extends beyond the parcel boundary.

**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:

The Vallie Lewis and Archie Henderson House, located at 530 Oakwood Avenue, was built around 1900 and expanded and remodeled to its current appearance around 1920. Today the house reads as a modestly detailed Colonial Revival dwelling with a high degree of integrity from the 1920s expansion and minor 1950s changes made by Archie and Vallie Henderson in the mid-1950s. While not an elaborate house, it is a good example of its type and style, is substantially intact, and is

architecturally significant for its contribution to the historic setting of the Oakwood Historic District and the streetscape of Oakwood Avenue.

The life of Vallie Lewis Henderson is a testament to the power of volunteerism at the local level. Her work with the OGC, SPHO and HANDS resulted in tangible improvements to Oakwood's historic fabric, which helped to stabilize the neighborhood during the vulnerable period in the decades after World War II. In the early 1970s, she leveraged the social and political connections forged in the 1950s and 1960s to ensure Oakwood's survival when the neighborhood was threatened by the construction of a major highway. Vallie was one Raleigh's vanguard preservationists, though she may have not labeled herself as such. During the last decades of her life, she was honored with both local and national awards and recognitions. These accolades attest to the value the community placed on her volunteerism and accomplishments.

The property's primary area of significance is in social history for its association with Vallie Lewis Henderson. Vallie resided in the house for over 65 years. During this period, she led community efforts that contributed to the preservation and protection of the Oakwood neighborhood. Her leadership of the Oakwood Garden Club and her involvement in the early Society for the Preservation of Historic Oakwood had a direct impact on the appearance of downtown Raleigh.

Vallie's interest in gardening propelled her other interests in community betterment and preservation, and her home and garden remain intact to represent her commitment to these ideals. The exterior of the house is substantially the same as when Vallie moved into it 1933. Vallie and her husband Archie Henderson added the rear sunporch, the front entry, the front brick wall, the circa 1955 garage, and the garden, which Vallie affectionately called "Hell's Half-Acre."

All the exterior features of the house are considered significant as they pre-date Vallie's residency or were added by her. These features include the massing, chimneys, porch, porch posts, windows, front entry, weatherboard siding, and wood trim. The garage also contributes to the property's historic setting and its massing and exterior details and materials are historically significant.

Vallie's garden illustrates her long-term work with the Oakwood Garden Club. The garden's hardscape features add special significance to the property. These features are the low stone wall that partially encloses the garden, the rock stair leading from Elm Street, and the 4-foot rock wall on the west property line. The surviving flowering plants and shrubs that date from Vallie and Archie's residency are both native and non-native species familiar to most Southern gardeners: nandinas, spirea, ligustrum, privet, hollies, boxwoods, camellias and azaleas.

A detailed architectural description and history is found in the 2019 Raleigh Historic Landmark 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: December 3, 2019**

**Effective: December 3, 2019**

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

Raleigh Department of City Planning  
One Exchange Plaza  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Raleigh, NC 27602  
919-516-2626

www.raleighnc.gov/planning

Fee	_____
Amt Paid	_____
Check #	_____
Rec'd Date:	_____
Rec'd By:	_____
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: 530 Oakwood Avenue  
Current Name: Vallie Lewis and Archie Henderson House

2. Location:

Street 530 Okawood Avenue  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
NC PIN No.: 1704905569  
(Can be obtained from <http://imaps.co.wake.nc.us/imaps/>)

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

Name: Donald Ray Stephens and George Michael, III  
Address: 530 Oakwood Avenue  
City: Raleigh State: NC Zip: 27601  
Telephone No: ( ) ( ) - ( ) Fax No. ( ) ( ) - ( )  
E-Mail: rayraynral@gmail.com

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

Name: Ellen Turco, Richard Grubb & Associates  
Address: 106 North Avenue  
City: Wake Forest State: NC Zip: 27587  
Telephone No: (919) (219) - (1489) Fax No. ( ) ( ) - ( )  
E-Mail: eturco@rgaincorporated.com

5. General Data/Site Information:

Date of Construction and major additions/alterations: circa 1900; circa 1920; circa 1952

Number, type, and date of construction of outbuildings: garage, circa 1955; garden, circa 1953

Approximate lot size or acreage: .17

Architect, builder, carpenter, and/or mason: unknown

Original Use: private home

Present Use: private home

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	2	
Structures	1	
Objects		

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

E. National Register of Historic Places Status:

Check One:

Entered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Date: 1974	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.C. below.	

7. Reason for Request: Application is being submitted at the request of the current owner who is seeking recognition of Ms. Henderson's contributions to the preservation of Oakwood.

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):  
**Supporting documentation is included in the attached report.**

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.

# RALEIGH HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION APPLICATION



## VALLIE LEWIS AND ARCHIE HENDERSON HOUSE

530 Oakwood Avenue  
Raleigh, North Carolina

### PREPARED FOR:

Ray Stephens  
530 Oakwood Avenue  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

May 2019; Revised July 2019



RICHARD  
GRUBB &  
ASSOCIATES

# RALEIGH HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION APPLICATION

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**ARCHIE AND VALLIE LEWIS HENDERSON HOUSE**  
530 Oakwood Avenue  
Raleigh, North Carolina

**Principal Investigator:**  
Ellen Turco, MA

**Prepared by:**  
Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc.  
259 Prospect Plains Road, Building D  
Cranbury, New Jersey 08512

**Prepared for:**  
Ray Stephens  
530 Oakwood Avenue  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

**Date:**  
May 7, 2019; Revised July 30, 2019

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**1.0 FORM**

**SECTION 1.0**

## 2.0 ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

### Setting

The circa 1900 Archie and Vallie Lewis Henderson House, located at 530 Oakwood Avenue, is a two-story dwelling at the southwest corner of the intersection of Oakwood Avenue and Elm Street in the City of Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina (Figures 1 and 2). The house is in the Oakwood residential section of Raleigh a few blocks northeast of the state capitol. Number 530 Oakwood Avenue is a contributing resource in the Oakwood National Register Historic District, which was listed in the National Register in 1974, and is within the Oakwood historic zoning overlay district. The rectangular parcel measures approximately 50 feet by 150 feet and contains 0.17 acres. The house is situated at the north end of the lot and faces north to Oakwood Avenue. The circa 1955 garage is south of the house, positioned in the approximate center of the parcel. The southern third of the lot contains the garden. A low wall of embossed bricks delineates the yard on the north and east sides.

### House

Number 530 Oakwood Avenue was built around 1900 as a one-story, roughly L-form dwelling. The earliest depiction of the house is the 1914 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map which shows the outline of a one-story frame house with a partial width or partially infilled front porch and a wing with a side porch off the west end of the rear elevation (Figure 3; Sanborn Map Company 1914). The stylistic appearance of the original dwelling is not known. Around 1920, the original house was extensively overbuilt. The dormered second floor and full-façade front porch were added under the ownership of E.O. Edgerton (Wake County Deed Book [WCDB] 301, p. 267; Ray Stephens, Personal Communication, November 10, 2018; Matthew Brown, Personal Communication, April 22, 2019). Edgerton's expansion resulted in a house very similar to the neighboring house at 504 Oakwood Avenue. Number 504 Oakwood Avenue was also built as a one-story dwelling around 1900 and was expanded around 1920. Today, the shed dormers and porches of 530 and 504 Oakwood are virtually identical suggesting that the same architect or contractor was responsible for both projects (Matthew Brown, Personal Communication). A construction date for the east rear wing of 530 Oakwood Avenue has not been established. It may have been built as part of the circa 1920 renovation, or perhaps around 1938 when the property changed hands from Edgerton's estate to Eugene B. Howle (WCDB 678, p. 356; WCBD 792, p. 93). Vallie Lewis and Archibald F. Henderson acquired title to the house in 1952, although Vallie had been living there since 1933 (WCDB 1100, p. 258). The rear sun porch does not appear on the 1950 Sanborn map, but Vallie and Archie are believed to have added it shortly after 1952 (Figure 4; Sanborn Map Company 1914-1950). By the mid-1950s, the house had evolved to its current massing and appearance.

Documentary evidence and local recollections suggest that the house achieved its present form and Colonial Revival appearance by the mid-1950s (Plates 1 - 21). The massing is that of a two-story, side-gable main block with two rear wings on the south side. Between the two wings, a narrow flat roof connector is located at approximately the same location as the side porch on the 1914 Sanborn map (see Plate 6 and Figure 3). A full-façade shed dormer projects from the front roof slope. A full-façade, hipped roof, Colonial Revival-style front porch spans the front elevation. The porch roof is supported by four Tuscan columns. The façade is symmetrical, with the central entry flanked by triple windows configured in a grouping of one 8/1 and two 6/1 sashes. The west elevation of the main block has two sets of paired 8/1 windows on the first level and two single 8/1 windows on the upper level. The west wall of the wing is set back slightly from the main block and contains one set of paired 6/1 windows, which are smaller in overall dimension than those of the main block. An asymmetrical, single-shouldered exterior chimney is centered on the east side of the main block. There are four 8/1 windows on this side, two on the first level and two on the upper level. A set of paired 8/1 windows is set in the east wall of the east rear addition. Unlike the west side, the east walls of the addition and main block are flush with each other. The exterior is sheathed in plain weatherboards (in contrast to the German siding found on the garage). The north-south slope of the lot allows for a full basement under the rear wings. The brick piers of the foundation have been infilled with both brick and concrete block. The roof surfaces are covered with composite shingles.



Figure 1: Aerial map showing recommended landmark boundary for Archie and Vallie Lewis Henderson House, 530 Oakwood Avenue, Raleigh.

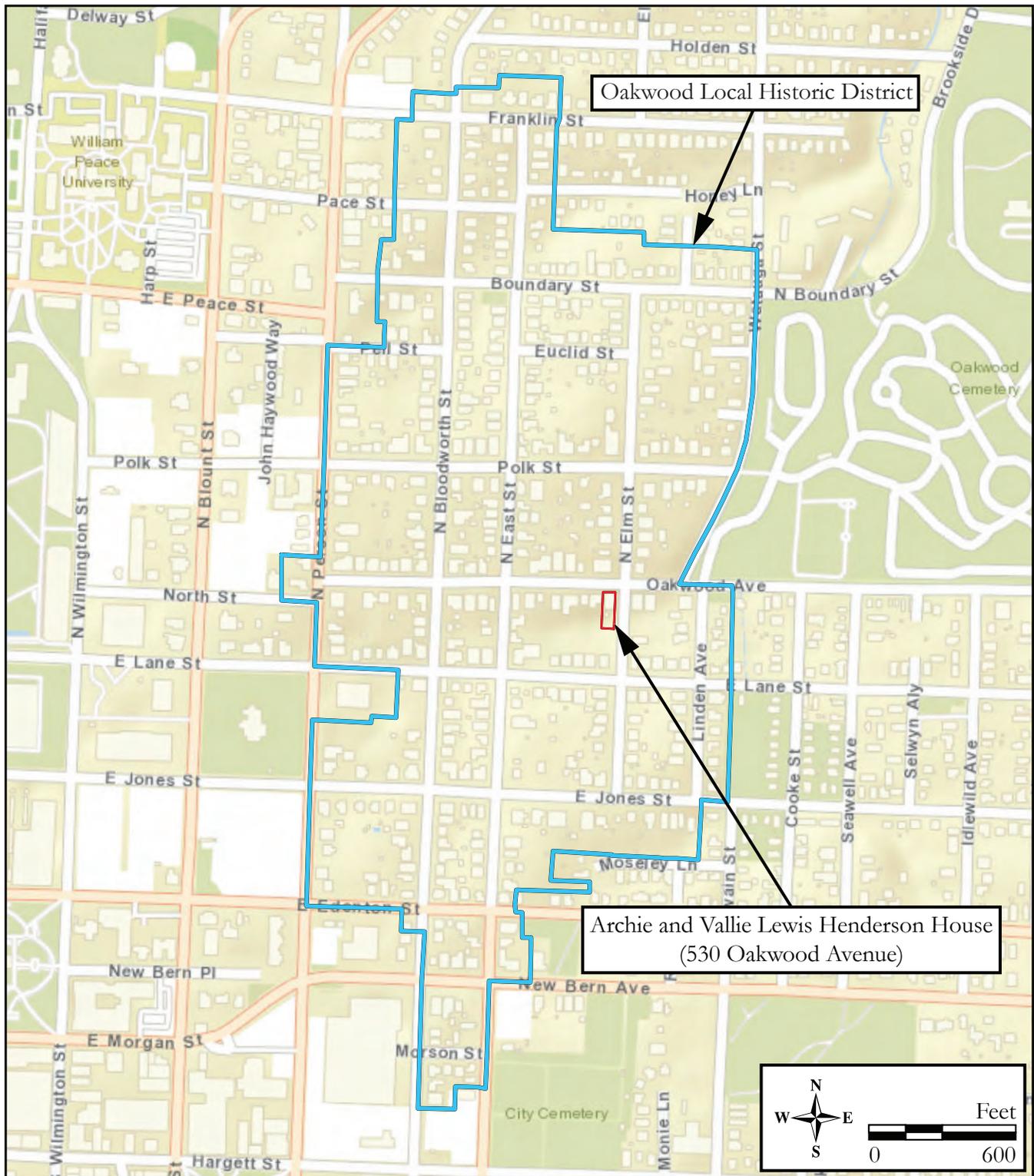


Figure 2: Location map for the Archie and Vallie Lewis Henderson House, 530 Oakwood Avenue, Raleigh, showing Oakwood Local Historic District boundary.

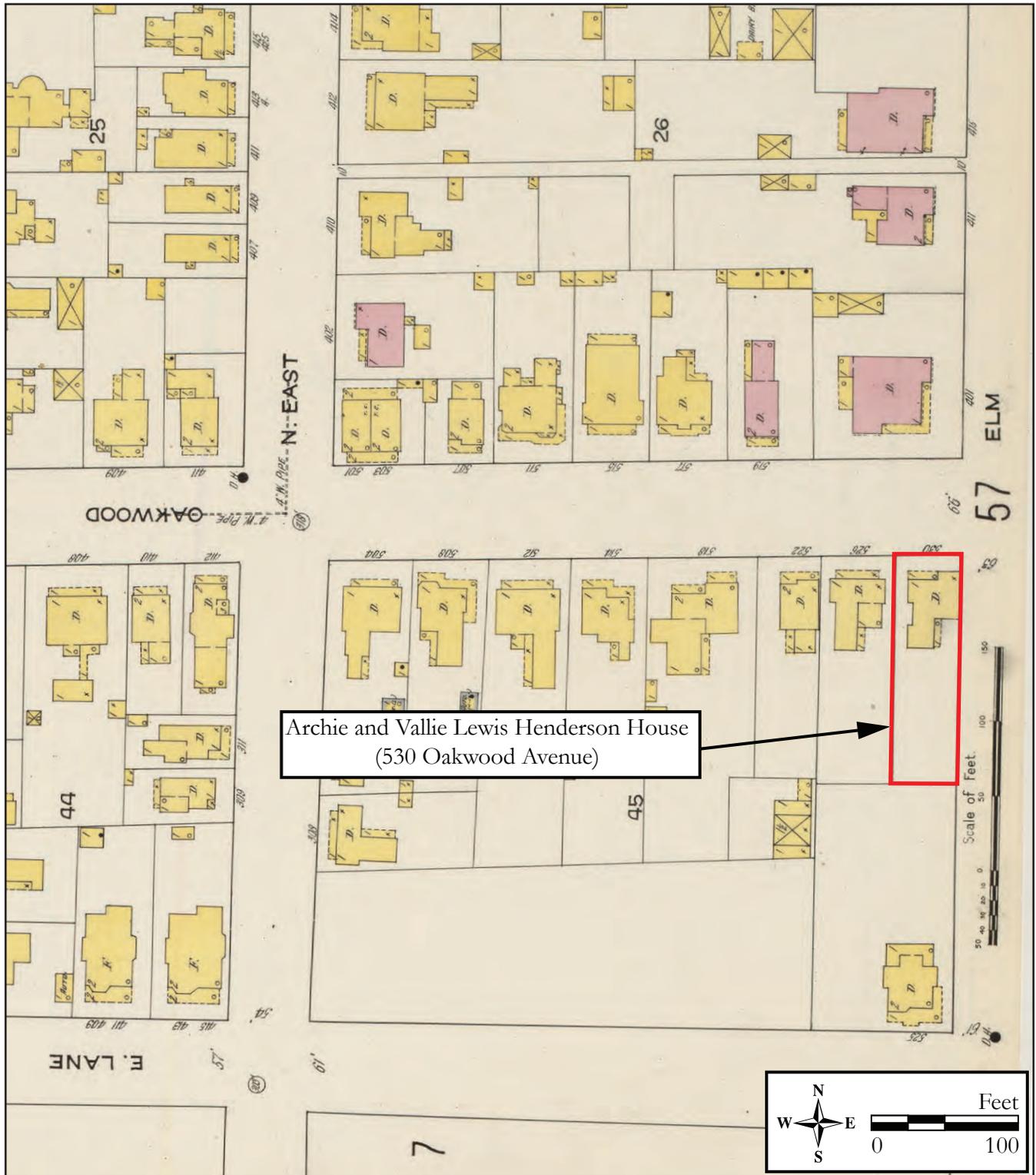


Figure 3: 1914 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Raleigh, North Carolina, Sheet 56.

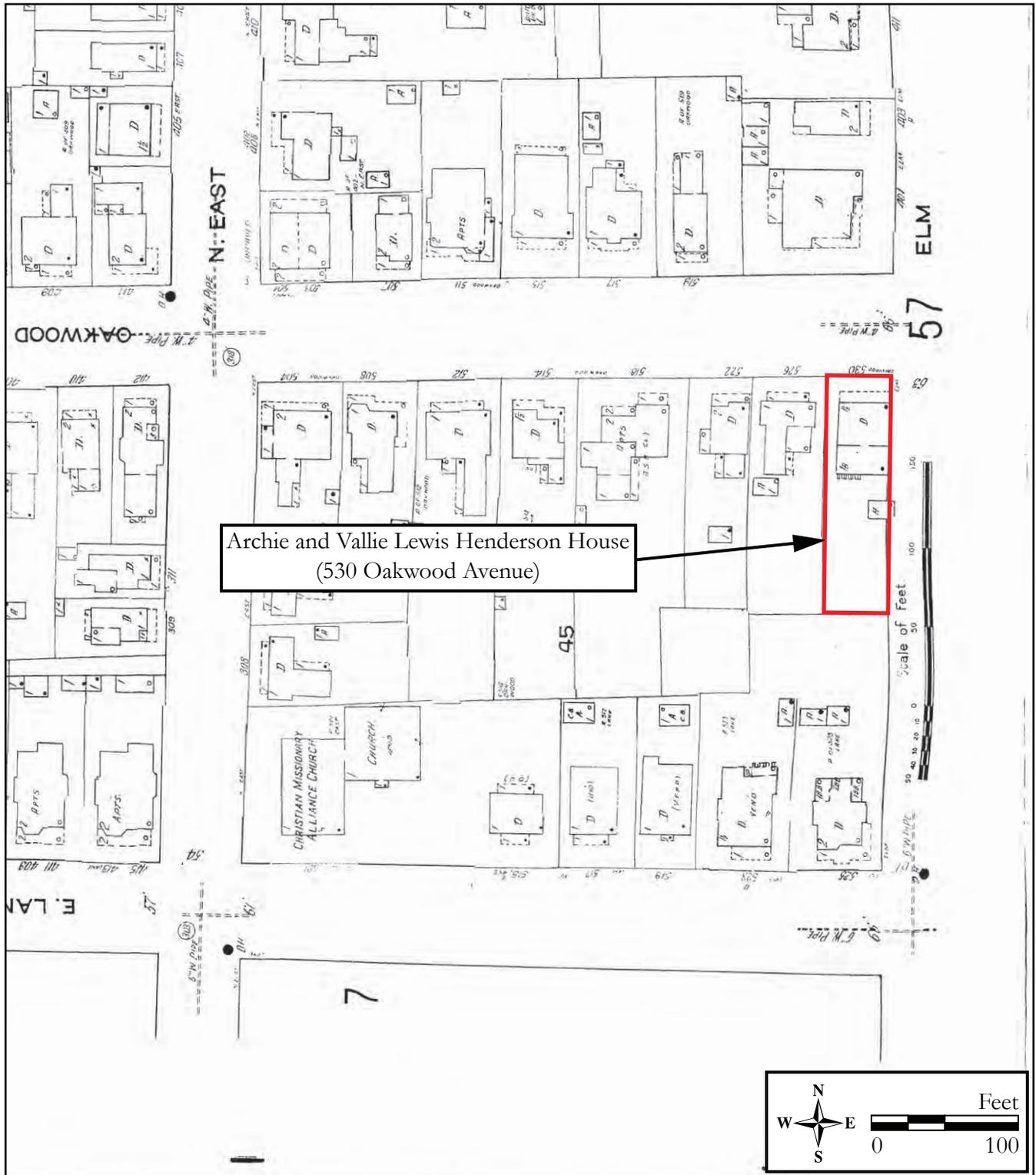


Figure 4: 1914-1950 (Revised) Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Sheet 56.



Plate 1: View from Oakwood Avenue.

Photo view: Southeast

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 2: View from Oakwood Avenue and Elm Street.

Photo view: Southwest

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 3: View from Oakwood Avenue.

Photo view: Southeast

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 4: View from Oakwood Avenue.

Photo view: Southeast

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 5: View from garden with the garage.

Photo view: North

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 6: View from Elm Street.

Photo view: Northeast

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 7: View from Elm Street with the garage.

Photo view: Northeast

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 8: View from the west side yard.

Photo view: Southeast

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 9: View from the west side yard.

Photo view: East

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 10: View from Elm Street.

Photo view: West

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 11: View from the backyard showing the basement entry.

Photo view: North

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 12: View from the backyard showing the sunroom.

Photo view: North

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018

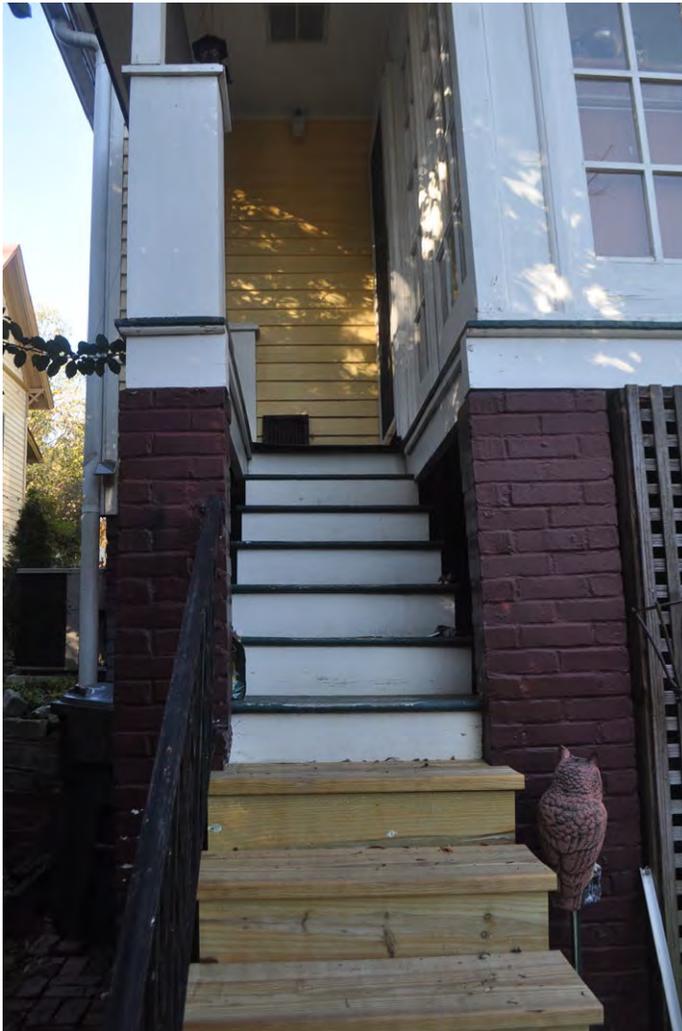


Plate 13: View from the backyard showing the stair to the kitchen.

Photo view: North

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 14: View from west side yard showing the porch.

Photo view: East

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 15: View showing the porch floor detail.

Photo view: South

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 16: View showing the porch roof and column detail.

Photo view: Northwest

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 17: View showing the porch.

Photo view: East

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018

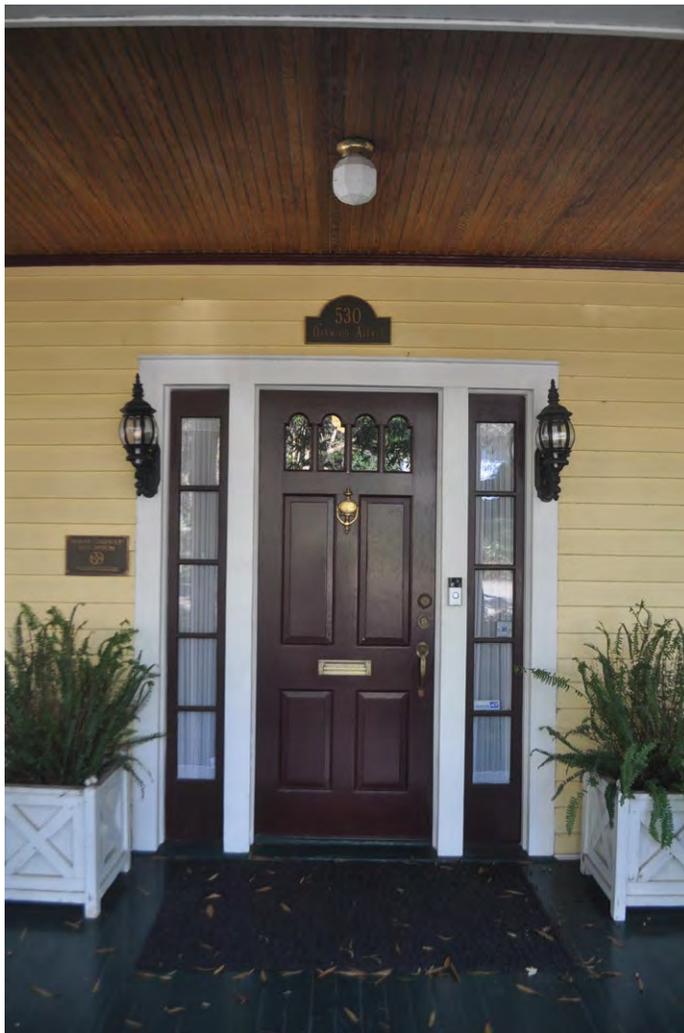


Plate 18: View showing the front entry.

Photo view: South

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 19: View of a typical window

Photo view: East

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 20: View of the gable and eave detail of the main block.

Photo view: West

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 21: View of the gable and eave detail of the east rear wing.

Photo view: North

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018

The rear, or south, elevation is dominated by the twin peaks of the rear wings, which are linked by a narrow flat-roofed connector. Rectangular louvered vents are set in each gable. A hipped-roof dormer with a pair of 8/1 windows sits on the south roof slope of the main block and is positioned between the two rear wing gables. A set of paired 8/1 windows is centered on the south wall of the east rear wing. An 8/1 sash and a basement entrance with a wood door with jalousie windows are set into the brick of the south basement wall. A metal awning is mounted above the door. The hipped-roof sunroom was built off the west rear wing around 1952. Its exterior walls consist of fixed French doors. A narrow open porch bay at the southwest corner shelters the kitchen door. A set of wood steps leads from the porch to the backyard.

The house is modest in style and finish compared to some of its flashier Oakwood neighbors; however, it displays restrained Colonial Revival style elements and the quality of its exterior trim work contributes to its overall neat and tidy appearance. The Colonial Revival style was popular for residences around 1920 when the house was modified from its original form, so it is not surprising that the owner or designer would have incorporated elements of this particular style, perhaps stripping away original Victorian details that, by the 1920s, were decidedly out of favor. The symmetrical façade and the columned front porch are characteristic of the Colonial Revival style. Other Colonial Revival details are the sidelights that flank the paneled front entry door. Archie and Vallie are thought to have added this entry around 1955 (Matthew Brown Personal Communication). The 8/1 and 6/1 windows were a common sash configuration used in Colonial Revival houses. The subject windows are set in plain surrounds with a drip cap. Plain vertical boards emphasize each corner. The roof overhangs are trimmed with plain frieze boards with a bed molding. The main block and the east rear wing have gable end returns. The yellow, white, and red paint scheme chosen by the current owners distinguishes the trim work from the plain siding.

The interior of the house is not proposed for landmark designation; however, the first floor plan is briefly described herein (Plates 22 - 24). The central entry hall contains a front-to-back staircase, which was added when the second floor was built around 1920. The center hall's east wall was shifted east at that time. A large living room, which occupies the east half of the main block, has a Georgian Revival fireplace mantel as the focal point of the east wall. On the west side of the center hall are two similar sized rooms, a sitting room nearest the front porch and a bedroom behind it. The dining room and modern kitchen occupy the east and west rear wings respectively. The sunroom is accessed from the kitchen.

### Garage

The garage does not appear on the 1950 Sanborn map but is present on a 1958 Farm Service Agency aerial photograph. While the exact year of the garage's construction is unknown, it postdates 1953, the year that Vallie and Archie purchased the lot adjacent to the south side of their parcel. For purposes of this report the estimated date of construction is 1955. The front-gable garage faces Elm Street (Plates 25 - 27). The driveway from Elm Street has grown over with grass. The interior is accessed by a set of overlapping sliding doors. The exterior walls are covered with German siding (in contrast to the plain weatherboard siding on the main house). The garage is underpinned by a continuous brick foundation. The composite shingle-covered roof has exposed rafter ends.

### Garden

The garden, situated south of the garage, is a portion of what Vallie Henderson jokingly called "Hell's Half Acre" (Figure 5) (Plates 28 - 35). In 1953, Vallie and Archie purchased a parcel that fronted Elm Street from J.N. and Pauline Stronach (WCDB 1091; p. 526). The parcel abutted the Henderson's south property line. The joining of the two parcels created an overall L-shaped tract. The Hendersons said they bought the parcel "for protection from being totally surrounded by homes," but no doubt her affection for gardening played a role in the purchase as Vallie had founded the Oakwood Garden Club just a few years earlier in 1950 (Tate 1986). Vallie cultivated a garden that spanned the back third of the 530 Oakwood Avenue parcel and the Stronach's parcel. In 1997, Vallie, now a widow, sold the Stronach parcel to Gerald and Patricia McCrain (WCDB 7572, p. 294). The Stronach lot remains undeveloped. It is not part of the 530 Oakwood Avenue parcel and therefore is not included in the recommended landmark boundary.



Plate 22: View of the center hall.

Photo view: South

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 23: View of the living room toward the front entry.

Photo view: North

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018

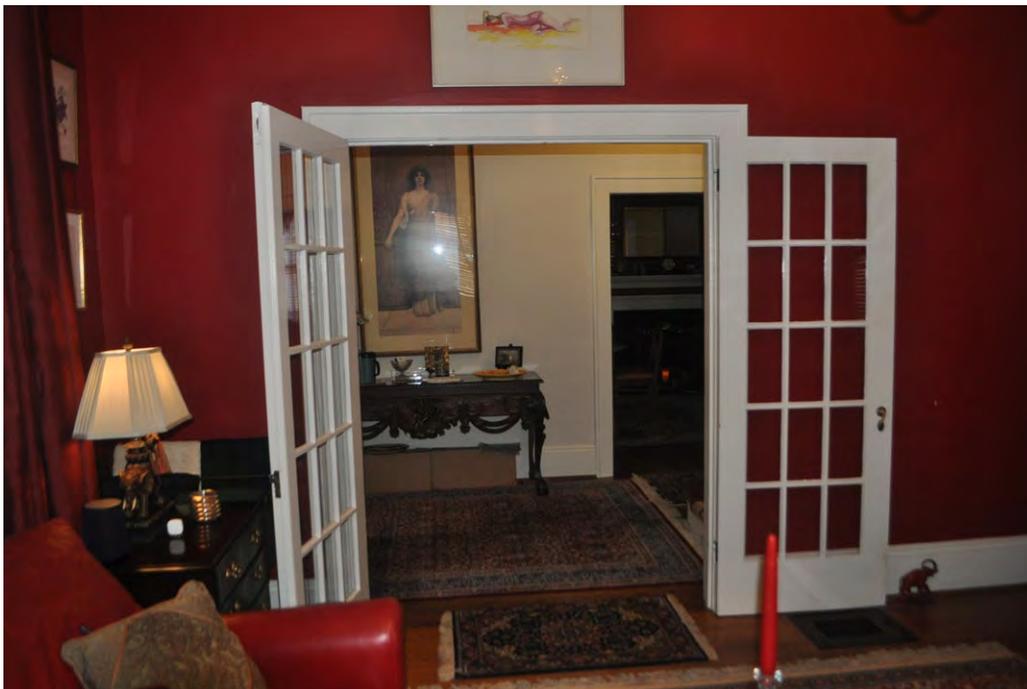


Plate 24: View of the sitting room toward the center hall.

Photo view: East

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 25: View of the garage from the garden.

Photo view: North

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 26: View of the garage from Elm Street.

Photo view: West

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018

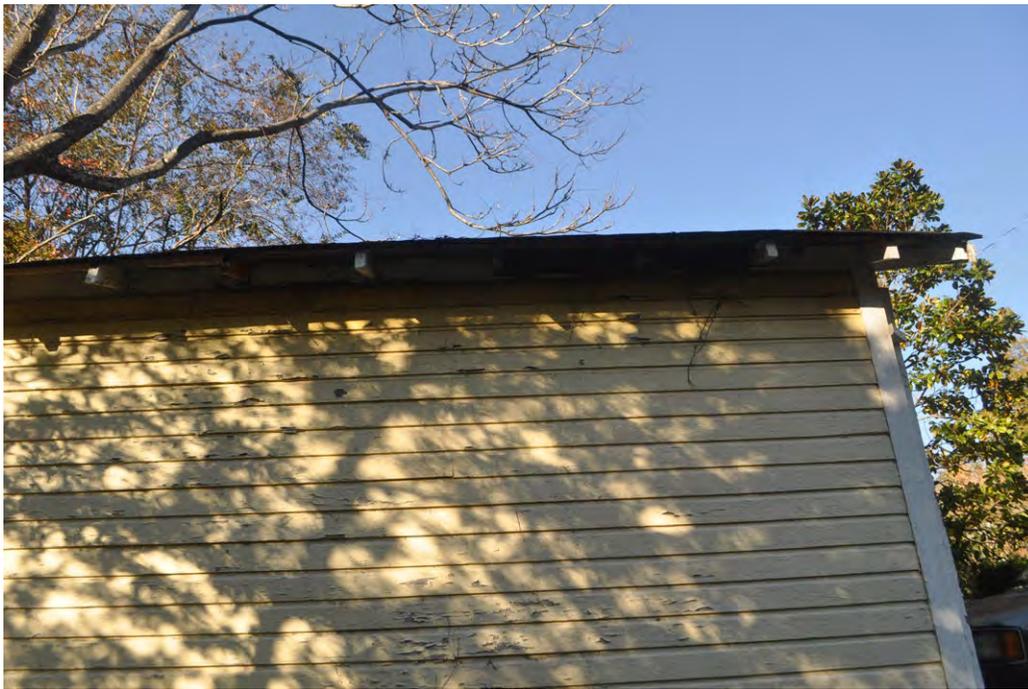


Plate 27: View of the garage's eave detail.

Photo view: North

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018

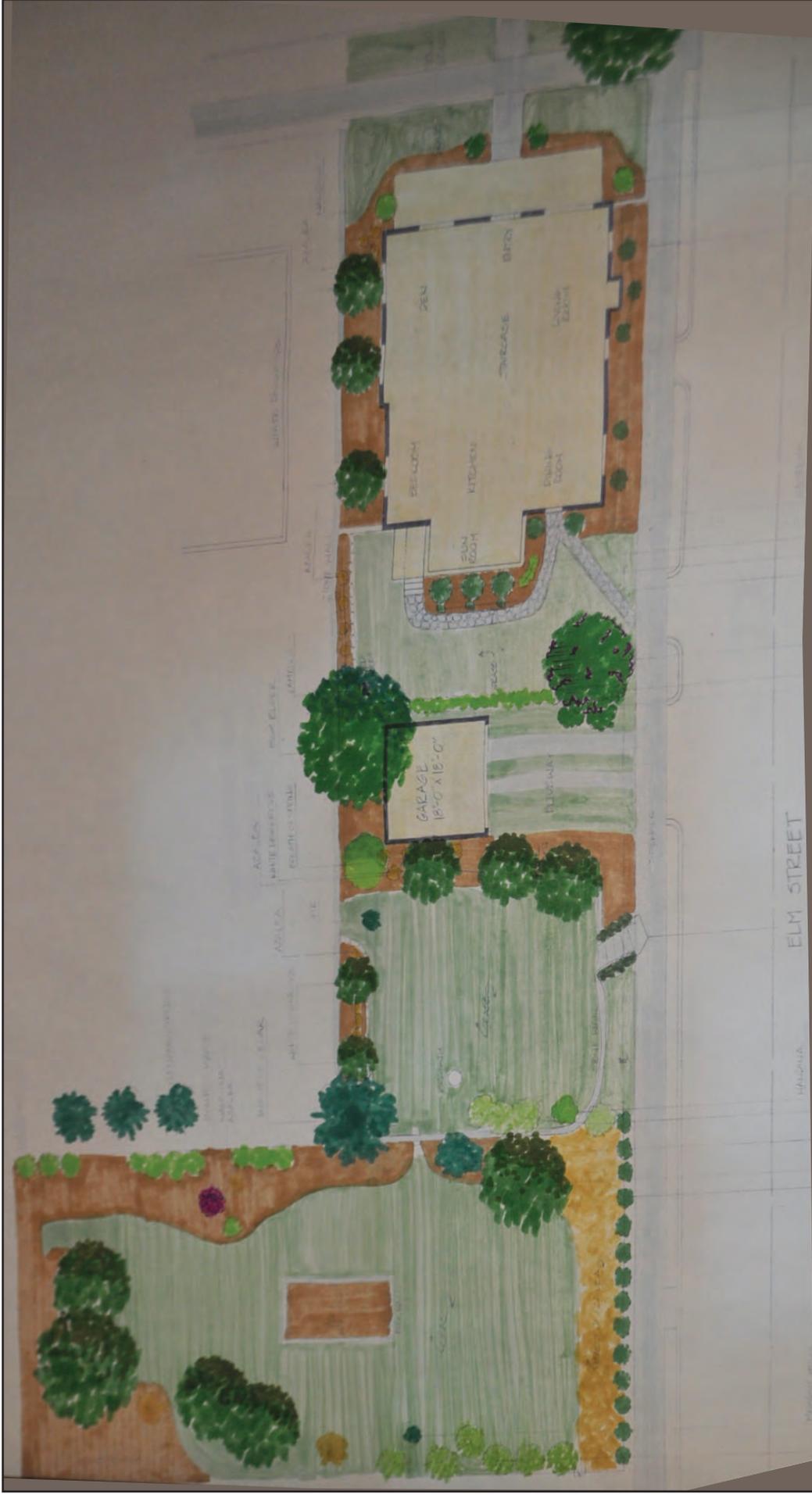


Figure 5: 1986 site plan drawn by Tony M. Tate.



Plate 28: View of the garden.

Photo view: Southwest

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 29: View of the garden showing the stair from Elm Street.

Photo view: Southeast

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 30: View of the garden showing the stair from Elm Street.

Photo view: East

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 31: View of the garden showing a four-foot-tall mortared rock wall along the west perimeter.

Photo view: South

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 32: View of the garden showing a low rock wall.

Photo view: South

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 33: View of the garden showing Vallie's quartz "rock garden."

Photo view: East

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 34: View of the quartz in rock garden.

Photo view: East

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 35: View of the garden's nandina and hydrangea.

Photo view: South

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 36: View of the front brick wall.

Photo view: Northwest

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018

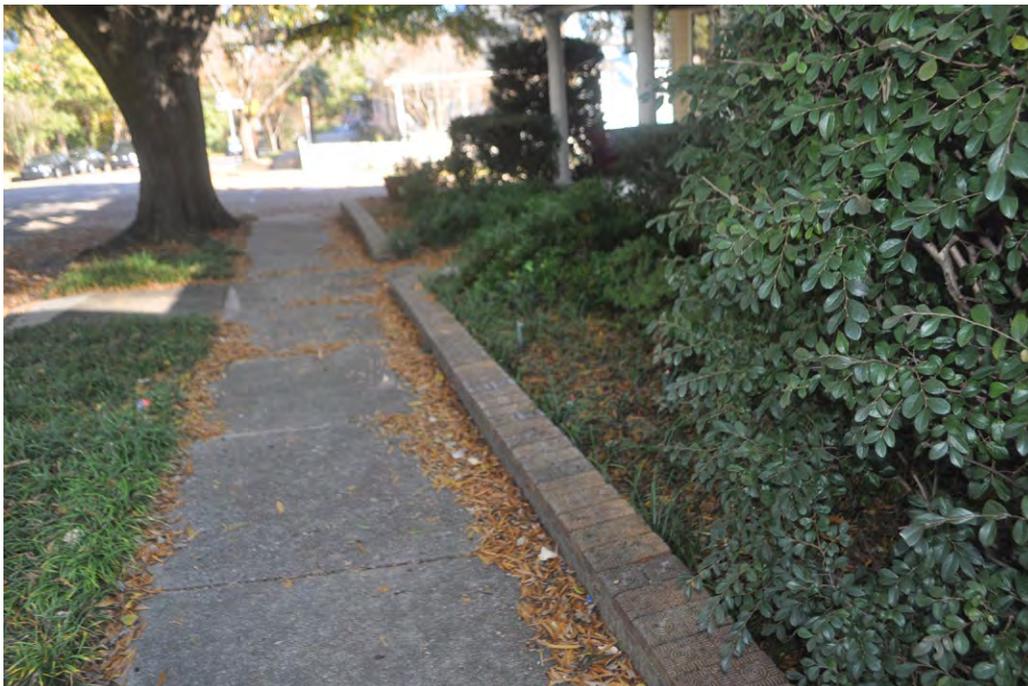


Plate 37: View of the sidewalk on Oakwood Avenue.

Photo view: East

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018



Plate 38: View of an Oaktree  
at corner of Oakwood  
Avenue and Elm Street.

Photo view: North

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: November 15, 2018

The garden is a depressed grassy area south of the garage ringed by a low stone wall. A rock stair leads from Elm Street down to the garden (Plates 36-38). A higher, approximately 4-foot, rock wall with raised mortar joints runs along the west property line from the south end of the garden, behind the garage, to its terminus at the southwest corner of the house. South of the garage is Vallie's "rock garden" where she piled quartz rocks she collected. The garden was planted with popular flowering plants and shrubs familiar to most Southern gardeners: nandinas, spirea, ligustrum, privet, hollies, boxwoods, camellias and azaleas (Tate 1986). Many of these plants and shrubs remain in place, cared for by the current homeowners.

#### Statement of Architectural Significance

The Archie and Vallie Lewis Henderson House, located at 530 Oakwood Avenue, was built around 1900 and expanded and remodeled to its current appearance around 1920. Today the house reads as a modestly detailed Colonial Revival dwelling with a high degree of integrity from the 1920s expansion and minor 1950s changes made by Archie and Vallie Henderson in the mid-1950s. While not an elaborate house, it is a good example of its type and style, is substantially intact, and is architecturally significant for its contribution to the historic setting of the Oakwood Historic District and the streetscape of Oakwood Avenue.

### 3.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT FOR THE LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE OF VALLIE LEWIS HENDERSON

Vallie Lewis Henderson's childhood home was approximately six blocks south of 530 Oakwood Avenue, the Oakwood neighborhood house that was her home for 65 years. Vallie's husband, Archibald F. Henderson, resided in the house with her between 1938 and 1989. Vallie never left the city of her birth, and she spent much of her life endeavoring to make Raleigh better, cleaner, safer, and more beautiful. She was a driving force and a public face of the rejuvenation of the Oakwood neighborhood in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. She was a charter member of the Oakwood Garden Club and she served multiple terms as the Chair of the Raleigh HANDS (Home and Neighborhood Development Sponsors), a national community improvement organization founded by the Sears-Roebuck Foundation. Her leadership roles of the 1950s and 1960s positioned her to establish, along with other local activists, the Society for the Preservation of Historic Oakwood in 1972 (SPHO). Vallie was among the SPHO leaders who ran a successful neighborhood-based campaign against the North-South Expressway, a proposed road that would have bifurcated Oakwood with a high speed, limited access road. Vallie was committed to Oakwood, and the vitality of the neighborhood today is in large part due to her efforts.

#### Early Years

Vallie Louise Lewis was born into a working class Raleigh family around 1905 (North Carolina Center for Health Statistics 2007).<sup>1</sup> Vallie lived with her parents, Edward F. and Laura, and younger sister Enda, at 215 S. Haywood Street (Bureau of the Census 2010). She resided there until her first marriage in 1933. Vallie's father worked as a janitor at the state library (Hills 1918-1919). By 1923, the city directory listed Vallie as "Miss Vallie Lewis." Although still residing with her family, the title "Miss" suggests that she was a working woman. Indeed, by 1927, she was employed as a secretary for Eugene B. Howle. Howle, a local dentist, was a significant figure in Vallie's life. She would work with Howle as a dental assistant and secretary of the North Carolina Dental Society until Howle's death.

Vallie married William C. Edmundson in November of 1933. She left the Haywood Street house and the new couple lived as tenants, along with Vallie's father, at 530 Oakwood Avenue, which was owned by E.O. Edgerton, proprietor of the local Martin Street pharmacy (WCDB 301, p. 267). Vallie's father was living with her on Oakwood Avenue when he died in 1935 (North Carolina Center for Health Statistics 2007).

Vallie's marriage to William Edmundson was brief. On January 22, 1938, she married Archibald Forbes Henderson, Jr., a native of Phoenix, Arizona (Selective Service System 1940; North Carolina County Registers of Deeds 1938) (Figures 6-8). Archie, as he was known, and Vallie remained together until his death in 1989 (North Carolina Center for Health Statistics 2007). Another important event in Vallie's life occurred in 1938 when Eugene B. Howle purchased 530 Oakwood Avenue (WCBD 792, p. 93). The circumstances surrounding Howle's purchase are unknown; however, given the 10-year relationship between Vallie and Howle, perhaps he wanted to ensure that she and her new husband would always have a proper home. The large house could accommodate the couple with room to spare, and by 1940 Howle, then a widower, had moved in (US Census Bureau, 1940). Howle died there two years later in 1942 and left the house to Vallie and Archie in his will (North Carolina Center for Health Statistics 2007) (Wake County Book of Wills P, p.45). Vallie and Archie were deeded the house by Howle's estate 10 years later in 1952 (WCDB 1100, p. 258).

<sup>1</sup> Henderson's exact birth year could not be determined. Births in North Carolina were not officially registered until 1913. Official and unofficial documents list Henderson's birth year between 1903 and 1907. Her grave marker in Oakwood Cemetery gives her birth year as 1907. The 1905 date is used in this report because it is the median year between 1903 and 1907 and the year of birth given on the official registration of her death (North Carolina Center for Health Statistics 2007).



Figure 6: 1938 wedding photo of Vallie Lewis Henderson and Archibald F. Henderson.  
Source: Collection of Ray Stephens.



Figure 7: Vallie Lewis Henderson and Archibald F. Henderson in the side yard of 530 Oakwood Avenue, undated photograph.  
Source: Collection of Ray Stephens.



Figure 8: Vallie Lewis Henderson outside the basement of 530 Oakwood Avenue, undated photograph.  
Source: Collection of Ray Stephens.

### Community Involvement

Throughout the 1940s and 1950s Vallie and Archie worked locally; she with the North Carolina Dental Society and as a dental assistant for Dr. Elliott Swindle, and Archie as a salesman at Land's, a Fayetteville Street jeweler (Hill Directory Company, Inc. 1948; Hill Directory Company, Inc. 1959). In 1940, Vallie's income was \$900, a notable amount for a woman when the median annual salary for a man was \$946 (Weeks 2012). In addition to her work life, Vallie had many interests focused around plants, gardening, and beautification. These interests evolved into broader concerns about the Oakwood neighborhood's future after a period of changing demographics and physical decline after World War II. Vallie's activism began with her involvement with the Oakwood Garden Club.

### Oakwood Garden Club

The Oakwood Garden Club (OGC) was established in 1950 as a daughter club of the Raleigh Garden Club, which had been organized in 1925 (Society for the Preservation of Historic Oakwood 2019; Raleigh Garden Club 2018; Adams 1973). The club's founding marked the first time the name "Oakwood" was used to identify the neighborhood (The Society for the Preservation of Historic Oakwood 2019). The garden club movement spread across the United States in the early twentieth century. The clubs were an offshoot of the broader woman's club movement in which groups of white, upper- and middle-class women formed organizations for the broader purposes of social and aesthetic "community betterment" (Brook 9-13). Garden clubs focused on aesthetic improvements, not only in the private gardens of their members, but in their larger neighborhoods and public spaces such as parks, schools, hospital grounds, historic sites, and along streets and highways. While the clubs promoted beautification through the planting of flowering trees and shrubs, they also campaigned against litter, billboards and blight.<sup>2</sup> Sometimes their efforts would extend beyond issues of aesthetics and beauty to social issues. At a time when women's opportunities to participate in political life were limited, the OGC gave Vallie a socially acceptable platform to advocate for issues that were important to her. Vallie was one of the 15 charter members of the OGC and its first president. She would remain a member of the garden club throughout her life. She was awarded lifetime membership and the 0.01-acre Vallie Henderson Park, 314 Linden Avenue, was established in her honor around 1976 (Matthew Brown, Personal Communication).

During the early years under Vallie's leadership, the club promoted general yard maintenance and the pruning and planting of private gardens and public spaces such as in rights-of-way and on vacant lots. However, the club's concerns extended beyond vegetation. They also persuaded homeowners and renters to screen garbage cans and oil drums, clean out garages, and to regularly paint dwellings, outbuildings, and fences (Henderson 1958b). They worked with city leaders to get sidewalks installed and streets paved. As part of this effort, the embossed brick sidewalks along Blount Street were installed and Vallie and Archie used the excess bricks to build a low wall around their property (Figure 9). Club members were dedicated to their cause and even aided those who were unable to undertake the work themselves. "Unsanitary or unsightly conditions" were to be reported to Vallie, who, through the force of her personality and tenaciousness, had identified elected officials and city employees with the legal authority to rectify these conditions (Henderson 1958b).

Vallie served as president of the OGC continuously from 1950 through 1955. She also served as Projects Chair, newsletter editor, and club historian. The volumes of meticulously collected and organized notebooks of OGC records on file at the Olivia Raney Local History Library are a testament to the seriousness with which Vallie took the latter task. The OGC newsletters of the early 1950s, authored by Vallie, discuss domestic concerns such as flower arranging, gardening, and community and club events. In 1957, Vallie became OGC's liaison to the HANDS project, a national program of

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<sup>2</sup> It is important to note that in the 1950s and 1960s, blight referred not only to neighborhoods that were experiencing physical decline. The term often referred to poor and minority-occupied neighborhoods. A 1960 national HANDS report perpetuated this belief by claiming, "Twenty percent of the residential areas in the country are at present nothing more than slum or substandard housing. This relatively small segment of our area houses one-third of the nation's population, yields 50 percent of the disease, 50 percent of the arrests and 45 percent of the major crimes. These neighborhoods are a perfect place for communism" (Home and Neighborhood Development Sponsors n.d.).



Figure 9: Vallie Lewis Henderson sitting on the wall in front of 530 Oakwood Avenue, undated photograph.  
Source: Collection of Ray Stephens.

the Sears-Roebuck Foundation. The first HANDS project in the country was piloted in Raleigh, which gave Vallie ground-level access to a community improvement program that would spread across the United States.

## HANDS

HANDS was a cooperative program between the Sears-Roebuck Foundation and the affiliation of Southern Garden Clubs. The Home and Neighborhood Development Sponsors program, called HANDS, was “a program for progress” designed to “stimulate and assist garden clubs in taking the lead in community improvement, environmental improvement, and beautification” (Home and Neighborhood Development Sponsors n.d.) (Figure 10). The program objectives were: 1) to encourage, promote and conduct significant programs in environmental affairs; 2) to promote the conservation and maintenance of good neighborhoods and communities; 3) to work toward the rehabilitation of substandard neighborhoods; and 4) to promote community beautification, cleanliness, health and safety. The foundation identified garden clubs as logical partners because “women just see so much more than men do when it comes to spotting ugliness and blight” (Sears-Roebuck Foundation n.d.,3). In the HANDS model, the foundation would sponsor local beautification contests, which were planned and executed by the labor of the garden clubs. Sears’ objectives for HANDS were both charitable and financial, as the materials needed to undertake the projects could be purchased at the local Sears stores.

In 1956, the Raleigh Garden Club (RGC) was contacted by Clyde Greenway, the program director of the Sears-Roebuck Foundation’s Southern territory. Greenway was seeking a pilot partner for HANDS’ “Neighborhood Improvement Contest.” The competition would encourage local community organizations to develop “blight-fight efforts.” The organizations would compete for cash, provided by the foundation. The RGC collaborated with Raleigh’s Director of City Planning to develop the scope and rules for the contest and work tirelessly to publicize the contest in the local media and at informational meetings. The inaugural competition ran from October to April of 1957. A dozen groups competed for the cash prize. One of these groups was the OGC lead by Vallie Lewis Henderson. The OGC won the competition both the first and second years. The club’s efforts focused on “conservation and rehabilitation.” The club mapped “neighborhood trouble spots” and compelled the city to enforce the recently adopted Minimum Standards Housing Code. Club members led by example in their own yards and maintained a notebook of attractive properties to inspire residents (Sears-Roebuck Foundation n.d.; 4-6; Henderson 1958a). They also distributed a neighborhood monthly newsletter, *The Oak Leaf*, edited by Vallie, with copies of local ordinances so residents would understand the minimum standards. The OGC’s annual report of 1957-58, which Vallie prepared, stated the result of the OGC’s effort was that 50 properties were improved through enforcement, with many others improved simply at the club’s “direct or subtle appeals to pride” (Sears-Roebuck Foundation n.d.; Henderson 1958a; McMillan 1969). The club’s own annual report stated that three houses were demolished (Henderson 1958a). Raleigh City Manager William H. Carper expressed his approval of the club’s efforts stating:

“Through their determination to help themselves, the Oakwood Club actually saved their neighborhood. Slipping areas usually sit around and cry and expect the city to come and help them. What the Oakwood Club accomplished is the most inspiring thing I have seen (Sears-Roebuck Foundation n.d.).”

Research could not confirm 50 code enforcement actions in Oakwood in 1957-58; however, regardless of the exact number, it is clear from period newspaper accounts and HANDS publications that Vallie’s OGC had leveraged the legal remedies at their discretion in a new way. The enforcement actions, coupled with the good old-fashioned legwork and community engagement of the club members, had a significant impact on Oakwood’s overall appearance in a very short time. One result of Vallie’s effort was that Oakwood was sufficiently stabilized until the real estate renaissance of the 1970s took hold.

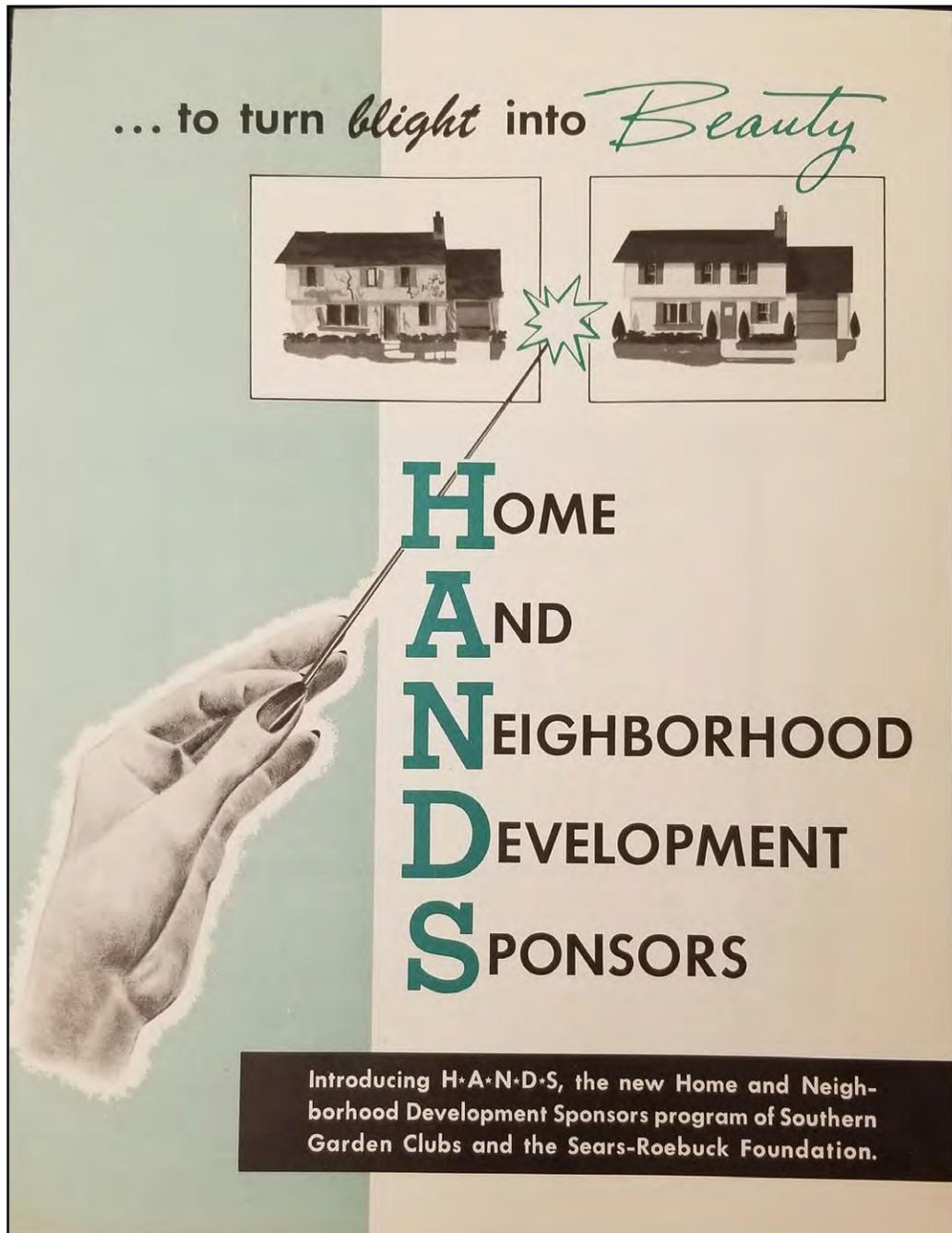


Figure 10: Cover of *Hands of Southern Garden Club Women*, a 1960 report of the HANDs program.  
Source: Olivia Raney Local History Library, Records of the Oakwood Garden Club.

After a successful launch in Raleigh in 1957, the Sears-Roebuck Foundation expanded the HANDS program to 34 southern cities within two years; by 1963 there were 43 clubs participating in the Raleigh program, and thousands of community clubs and organizations were participating locally across the south (Adler 1965). Vallie remained active as Raleigh's HANDS chairperson and she took on a leadership role in the national organization as member of the program's advisory board (Greenway 1970). The HANDS Annual Meeting of 1962 was held in Memphis with Vallie leading the steering committee to plan the logistics and programming for the two-day event (Sears, Roebuck and Co. 1962). In 1963, she represented Raleigh's HANDS as a delegate to a White House conference on beautification where Lady Bird Johnson made the welcoming address (Adler 1965). In 1967, the 10th annual HANDS Workshop was held in Raleigh and Vallie was deeply involved in that conference (Adler 1965) (Figure 11). A 1969 newspaper article reported on her influence, "Governors, mayors and city managers all over the country all recognized and applauded the remarkable contributions of Raleigh's Vallie Lewis Henderson. Many communities are following the program she has outlined for them" (McMillan 1969). After 13 years of involvement, Vallie retired from the national HANDS advisory board in 1970; however, her correspondence shows that she remained the local HANDS chairperson until at least 1973 (Greenway 1970) (Figure 12).

### The Society for the Preservation of Historic Oakwood

In 1965, the State Capital Planning Commission issued *The North Carolina State Capital Plan*. The document was essentially a 30-year master plan for the future growth of state agencies and public facilities in downtown Raleigh. The Commission's report targeted a 157-acre area bounded by Morgan, Peace, McDowell and Blount Streets that would be "cleared and landscaped" with the exception of landmark buildings, such as the Capitol and the recently completed Legislative Building, which would anchor the plan (State Capital Planning Commission 1965:V). The report addressed office space requirements, parking, traffic circulation, landscaping, and costs and funding for the project. Oakwood was described as an aging residential area northeast of the capitol buildings (State Capital Planning Commission 1965:14). When the report was published, Vallie had resided in Oakwood for 32 years. She had been a leader in the efforts to improve the neighborhood through education, beautification and a dose of tough love to property owners who did not share her vision. By the early 1970s, a number of urban pioneers had joined Vallie in Oakwood by moving there to restore the neighborhood's handsome Victorian homes. The neighborhood was being revitalized, or gentrified, and the transportation component of the State Capital Plan threatened the community.

The City of Raleigh and the State Highway Commission had been studying the need for north-south and east-west expressways across the city, but the adoption of the Plan intensified these efforts. The proposed north-south expressway was to cut through the Oakwood neighborhood between North Person Street and North Bloodworth Street, demolishing many houses and eliminating crosstown access along the east west streets (Figure 13).

The plan for the North-South Expressway percolated for the next few years. Oakwood residents remained concerned about the road's impact on their community. With the plan still on the books and getting closer to fruition, a group of residents, including Vallie, met at Emmanuel Pentecostal Holiness Church on Polk Street on October 19, 1972 to discuss organized opposition to the road. This was the first meeting of the group that would incorporate weeks later as the Society for the Preservation of Historic Oakwood (SPHO) with the purpose of engaging in "a program of planning and action designed for the development and preservation of Oakwood in the City of Raleigh" and taking "all possible action to halt the expressway immediately." Vallie was elected to lead a group of four leaders who were to incorporate the SPHO as a non-profit organization with the Secretary of State and to develop the new organization's bylaws. It is not surprising that Vallie was chosen by her peers for this important task; a survey of residents conducted as part of 1972-1973 Meredith College study of the social structure of Oakwood identified Vallie as the neighborhood's most influential person (Meredith College 1972-1973). The nascent group clearly recognized the value of her past efforts, her knowledge of the community, and the relationships she had built with city leaders through

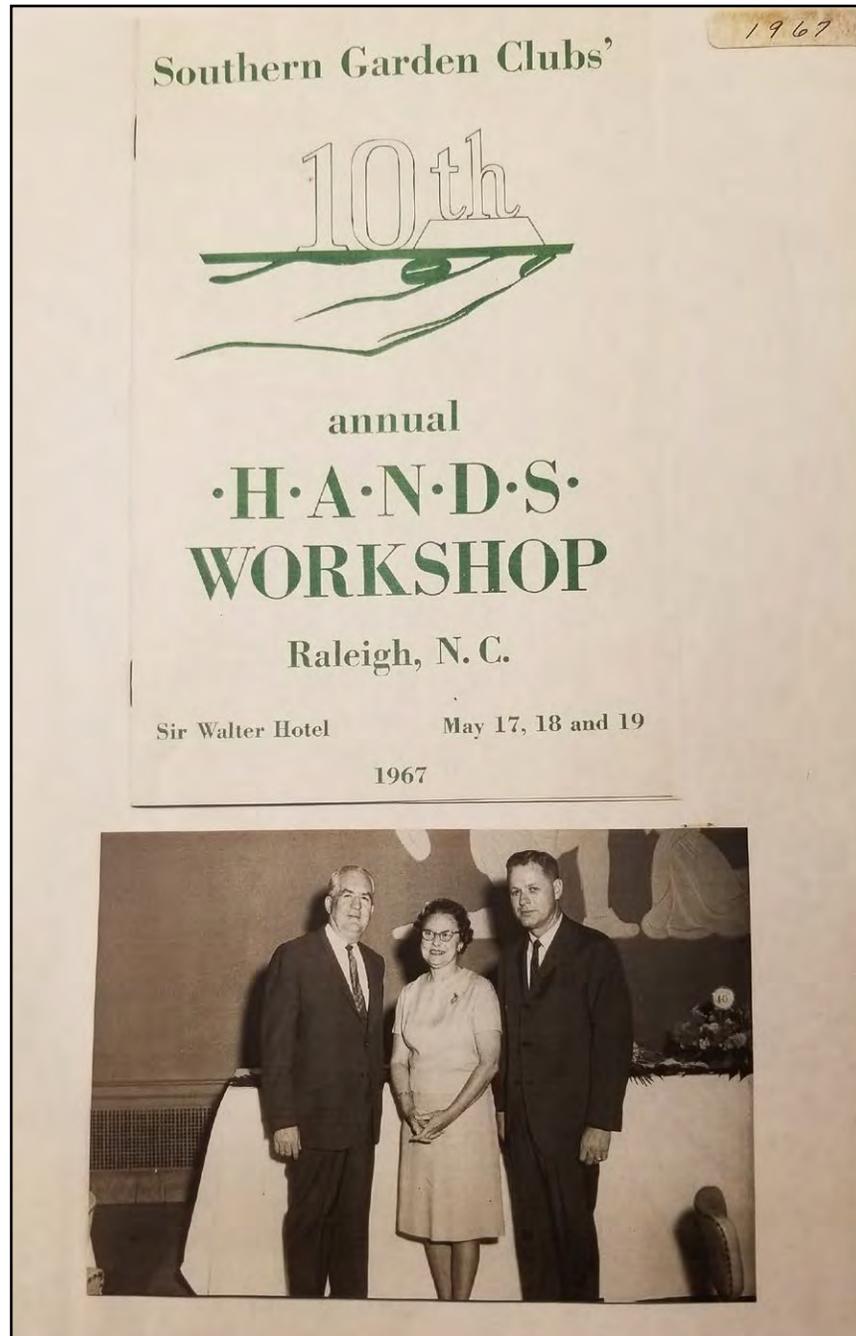


Figure 11: 1967 program for Annual HANDS Workshop.  
Left-to-right: Clyde Greenway, southern program director of the Sears-Roebuck Foundation; Vallie Lewis Henderson; unidentified man. Source: Olivia Raney Local History Library, Records of the Oakwood Garden Club.

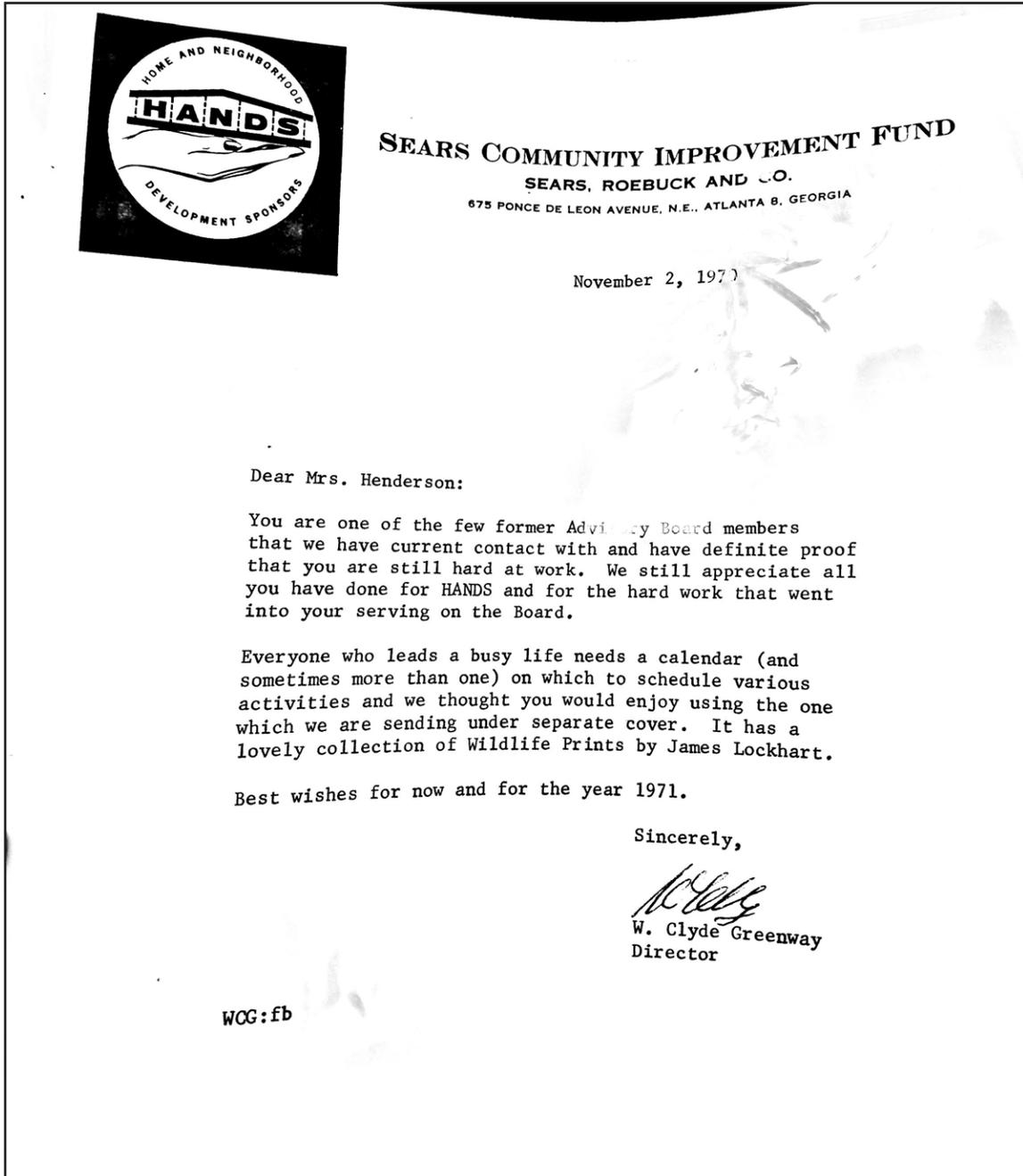


Figure 12: Letter from Clyde Greenway to Vallie Lewis Henderson upon her retirement from HANDS.  
Source: Olivia Raney Local History Library, Records of the Oakwood Garden Club.



Figure 13: Proposed location of the North-South Expressway.

the HANDS program. After the SPHO was incorporated, the following members were elected to the SPHO's board of directors: Chairman, Robert Hoadley; Vice Chair, Eric Ennis; Secretary-Treasurer, Nancy Poe; Historian, Vallie Henderson (Society for the Preservation of Historic Oakwood 1972).

The SPHO led the fight against the expressway by attending public meetings, talking with elected officials, and engaging the press. In June of 1974, the Raleigh City Council withdrew support for the expressway the same month the Oakwood Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. One year later in June of 1975, the Raleigh City Council designated Oakwood as its first locally zoned historic district. These honors marked the first time that Oakwood could shift away from its defensive position of 1940s, 50s, and 60s look to the future with tools to address new challenges resulting from its popularity. An article in the News and Observer summed up Oakwood's new status stating, "a decaying neighborhood that was scheduled for obliteration by a freeway is now so popular that real estate agents have a backlog of clients who want to buy there" (Wood 1975).

#### Later Work, Contributions, and Honors

Vallie continued her community involvement in her later years. She continued to promote Oakwood through her participation in OCG and SPHO activities. She served on the OGC's Presentation and Special Events Committee, which organized the Oakwood Candlelight Tour each Christmas season, the organization's primary fund-raising event. She volunteered for a number of organizations in Raleigh including the YMCA and the Rex Hospital Guild. She was the co-chair of Raleigh's City Beautiful Committee and served on Wake County's Complete Count Committee for the 1980 federal census. She also developed an interest in the Raleigh City Cemetery and led an effort to recognize its historical importance and to clean it up.

The North Carolina State Archives houses a collection of photographic images (prints and negatives) created by Archie and Vallie Henderson between 1940 and 1997. The Archie and Vallie Henderson Collection (PhC.145) contains images of homes and yards in Oakwood in the 1960s and 1970s, images related to Vallie's work with the OGC, Keep America Beautiful, and HANDS, and miscellaneous scenes, buildings, and places around Raleigh. This broad collection of over 2,500 images was donated to the archive posthumously in 2009.

For her contributions to Oakwood and the City of Raleigh, Vallie was bestowed many honors in the 1980s and 90s. Major awards and honors that could be confirmed are listed below. There may be others and this list is not comprehensive.

- Vallie Lewis Henderson Garden at Oakwood Avenue and Linden Street, circa 1976
- Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Community Appearance, City of Raleigh, 1984
- Tarheel of the Week, News and Observer, year undetermined
- Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson Keep America Beautiful Award, the highest honor of Keep America Beautiful, Inc., 1989
- Anthemion Award for Lifetime Achievement, Capital Area Preservation, 1996
- Inductee, Raleigh Hall of Fame, Raleigh Hall of Fame, Inc. 2006

Archie Henderson died in 1989 and Vallie remained at 530 Oakwood Avenue for a few years before moving to Mayview Convalescent Center. Vallie died on December 21, 1998. She is buried in Oakwood Cemetery next to Archie.

## 4.0 SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The life of Vallie Lewis Henderson is a testament to the power of volunteerism at the local level. Her work with the OGC, SPHO and HANDS resulted in tangible improvements to Oakwood's historic fabric, which helped to stabilize the neighborhood during the vulnerable period in the decades after World War II. In the early 1970s, she leveraged the social and political connections forged in the 1950s and 1960s to ensure Oakwood's survival when the neighborhood was threatened by the construction of a major highway. Vallie was one Raleigh's vanguard preservationists, though she may have not labeled herself as such. During the last decades of her life, she was honored with both local and national awards and recognitions. These accolades attest to the value the community placed on her volunteerism and accomplishments.

Number 530 Oakwood Avenue's primary area of significance is in social history for its association with Vallie Lewis Henderson. Vallie resided in the house for over 65 years. During this period, she led community efforts that contributed to the preservation and protection of the Oakwood neighborhood. Her leadership of the Oakwood Garden Club and her involvement in the early Society for the Preservation of Historic Oakwood had a direct impact on the appearance of downtown Raleigh.

Vallie's interest in gardening propelled her other interests in community betterment and preservation, and her home and garden remain intact to represent her commitment to these ideals. The exterior of the house is substantially the same as when Vallie moved into it 1933. Vallie and her husband Archie Henderson added the rear sunporch, the front entry, the front brick wall, the circa 1955 garage, and the garden, which Vallie affectionately called "Hell's Half-Acre." All the exterior features of the house are considered significant as they pre-date Vallie's residency or were added by her. These features include the massing, chimneys, porch, porch posts, windows, front entry, weatherboard siding, and wood trim. The garage also contributes to the property's historic setting and its massing and exterior details and materials are historically significant. Vallie's garden illustrates her long-term work with the Oakwood Garden Club. The garden's hardscape features add special significance to the property. These features are the low stone wall that partially encloses the garden, the rock stair leading from Elm Street, and the 4-foot rock wall on the west property line. The surviving flowering plants and shrubs that date from Vallie and Archie's residency are both native and non-native species familiar to most Southern gardeners: nandinas, spirea, ligustrum, privet, hollies, boxwoods, camellias and azaleas.

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