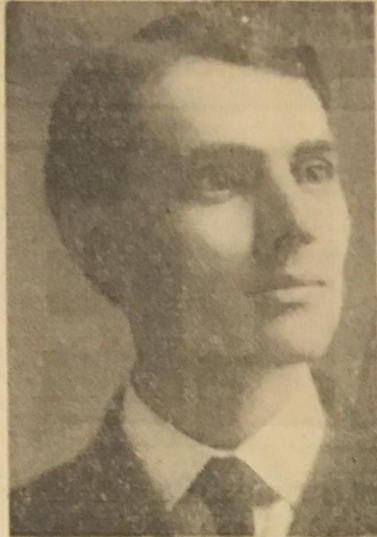


C. obs. 9/25/77 p. 5B



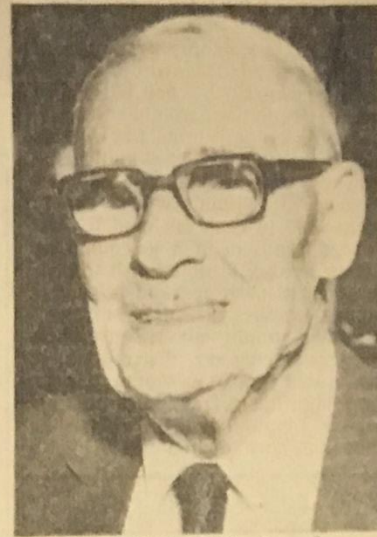
Business Beat

Roy Covington



In 1902, Age 25

Happy Birthday, Bill Edwards



In 1977, 100 Coming

... And May There Be Many More

I am 48 and balding. To my teenagers I am incredibly old. A fossil. But W.J. Edwards called me "Sonny" the other day. It was flattering to be considered young again.

Williams James Edwards can do that for you. On Monday, he will be 100, almost half as old as the nation, a man who has lived through an incredible stretch of time.

With the exception of weeks spent fishing in Florida, he's lived it all here in Charlotte, the last 65 years in a comfortable white-frame house at 1928 E. 9th St.

It is a house from another era — a more relaxed and gracious one — with a broad, rambling porch, high ceilings, fireplaces framed in formal mantles and polished broad-planked flooring. But today it will be jumping as five sons and their wives, 14 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren gather for Sunday dinner with Pops.

Three of the sons — Charles, Ned and John W. — live in Charlotte. Wilbur, former president of Encyclopaedia Britannica, is from Barrington, Ill., and Ralph, an insurance executive, lives in Greensboro.

(Amy Edwards will be there, too, making sure everything goes just as it should. They have been married for 68 years, and she spent the past week baking 200 rolls and 180 cinnamon buns and bushels of cookies, but she threatened me with bodily harm if her name appeared in this story, so we will not write about that.)

Pops will not be able to see them very well, and he will have trouble hearing all that is said. But anyone who tries to match wits with him will do so at his own peril. Age may have slowed his step, but it has not stooped his shoulders nor dulled his mind.

was studying drugs and chemistry and Watson Boyce was preparing for the ministry.

"All of them turned out good. I don't remember about the one who went to Princeton, but Jim Walker was a rear admiral in the Navy, Zeb Moore was a valuable man to John M. Scott & Co. (a drug wholesaler), and Watson Boyce, well, he turned out to be a pretty fair ARP (Associate Reform Presbyterian) preacher."

After finishing at Baird's School, Edwards worked for a wholesale grocery firm until, in 1910, "I had an opportunity to take over the food brokerage business of old N.J. Sherrill. I was a broker at 31."

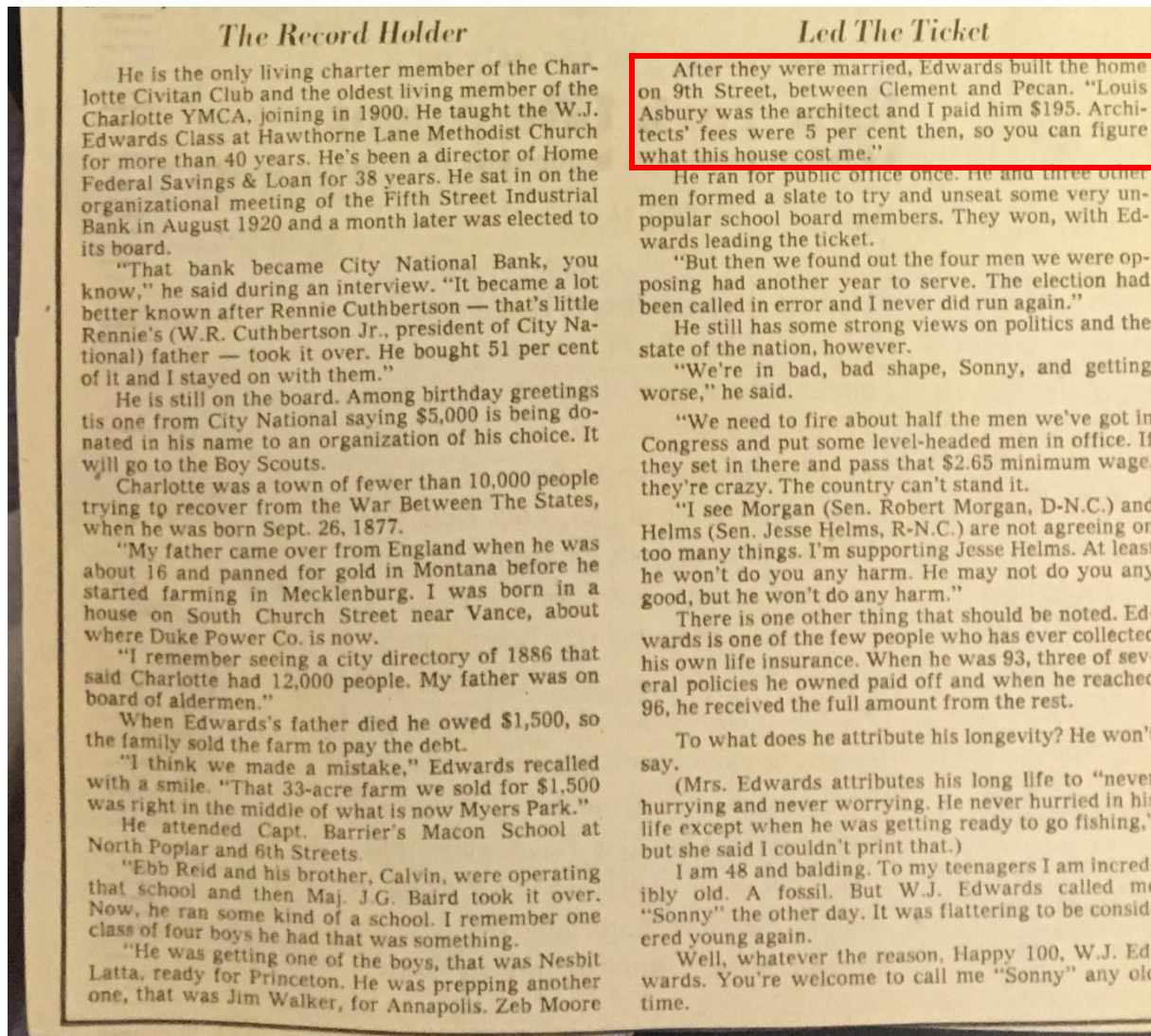
That was the beginning of W.J. Edwards & Sons, a firm now operated by two of his sons, Charles and Ned Edwards, and their sons.

He traveled the territory by horse and buggy, going as far west as Rutherfordton, writing orders that would be shipped by rail a few days later.

"I had some good accounts — Arbuckle Bros.'s Arioso brand coffee, O&W sticky fly paper, Quaker Oats and Best & Co. Nobody knows about sticky fly paper anymore, but we used to ship a carload every year," he said.

Edwards' office was on South College Street. Across the street were the offices of cotton broker O.P. Heath, where Amy Shields, "just a little country girl from up near Hopewell," worked.

(There was a drug store at the corner of South College and East Trade run by Edwards's brother, and Mrs. Edwards recalled that almost every time she went in there W.J. Edwards would soon show up. "I was told, but don't you dare print this, that he had told his brother to call him every time I came in.")



Louis Asbury – Architect (See red box above...05 fee for architectural plans)

As He Turns 100, Others On Mind

By EMERY WISTER
News Staff Writer

William James "Pops" Edwards will be 100 years old Monday but you'd never know it if he didn't tell you.

His voice is clear and steady as he tells you he doesn't like "what's going on in the world today."

His vision is weak and he walks with a stoop but he moves surprisingly fast with the help of a guiding hand. He's up at 8 every morning, eats three meals each day and retires about 10 p.m.

Edwards' Sunday school class at Hawthorne Lane Methodist Church, a class named in his honor, didn't wait until Monday to celebrate the native Charlottean's birthday. Class members decided to give him a party at the church last Sunday morning and he was among the first there.

"I'm not feeling very well this morning," he said shortly after his arrival. "I guess I can't feel very well now. I walk just fair and my knees are bad."

But his son John said his father is

doing amazingly well.

"He just suffers from low blood pressure," he said. "He's never been in a hospital and never has a pain or a headache. He seems almost immune to pain."

"He gave up his driving license when he was 90. He can hardly see and he has a hearing problem but if you speak clearly and loudly to him he can hear you and talk with you."

And this was the W. J. Edwards who came to his party at his church Sunday morning:

"I haven't been coming here regularly for some time," he said, referring to the fact he taught the class for years. "I let down on everything when I was 94."

Edwards is a retired food broker and the firm he founded in 1911, W. J. Edwards & Son, is still operated by his sons Charles and Ned Edwards and their sons.

And he wouldn't mind the world going back to life as it was in those early days of the firm's founding. "I'd like to knock what we got plumb into the past. Things are going from bad to worse but then



"Pops" Edwards

nothing is going to suit me," he said.

"I'm very much concerned with people. Instead of loving each other we hate each other but maybe I see it that way because I'm an old man."

His class, hanging on to every word he said, presented him with a scrapbook with the lettering on the cover done in needlepoint.

Edwards, who lives with his wife Amy at 1928 E. Ninth St., still has a good appetite. "I eat anything my wife sets before me," he said. "She cooked a big sweet potato for me the other day and I ate it. I eat anything and I drink anything."

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C. News - 9/21/77 p. 5B

Edwards, W. J. (Pops)

William J. Edwards, Ex-Food Broker, Dies At Age 104

By HARRY LLOYD
Observer Staff Writer

William James Edwards lived long enough to celebrate 104 birthdays, but those milestone days never meant as much to him as the ordinary ones in between.

Mr. Edwards, of 1928 E. 9th St., died Saturday. Services will be at 11 a.m. today at Hawthorne Lane United Methodist Church, where he had been a member for 55 years.



Edwards

From the age of 12, when his father was killed while building the Belk building, until he was 96, Mr. Edwards was in the food brokerage business in Charlotte. In 1910, the year after he married at 31, he bought the N.J. Sherrill Co. That business still exists as W.J. Edwards & Sons Co. at 500 E. Morehead St. Two of his five surviving sons, Edward "Ned" and Charles, and three grandsons are officers of the company.

His wife, Amy, also survives. They lived for 71 years in the Elizabeth neighborhood home where he died.

"His family meant more to him than anything else," Ned Edwards said Sunday. "Then came the business and a lot of other interests. I don't think longevity mattered much to him at all.

"He had a very alert mind all of his life. He was amazing, a very mild-mannered person with wide

See WILLIAM EDWARDS Page 2C, Col. 2

Food Broker, Dies

...ow Myers
...a mistake,"
...the board of City National Bank for 61 years. He was also a director of Home Federal Savings and Loan for 38 years.

Mr. Edwards's favorite pastimes were bass fishing and gardening. His son, Ned, said he fished until he was 90, and had a vegetable garden last summer. "But after he turned 100, he mostly supervised," he said.

"He had a dedication and a will to work, but he never pushed others. His body finally gave out, but his spirit never got old. He was just a grand person."

Edwards, whose city alderman board and led it was discovering incumbents their terms. The and Mr. Edwards again.

was a member of

C.O.
12/21/81 pp.

William J. Edwards: Deed of Trust – June 11, 1911

State of North Carolina
 Madison County

THIS DEED, Made this 11th day of May, A. D. 1911, by and between
 D. W. Humphrey, George and D. W. Humphrey, Attorneys
 for D. S. and G. H. Hilton
 of the County of _____ and State of _____ part of the first part, and
 W. J. Edwards
 of the County of _____ and State of _____ part of the second part,
 WITNESSETH, That the said part of the first part, in consideration of the sum of Five hundred and
 fifty dollars (\$550.00)
 Dollars,
 has sold and conveyed unto the said _____ the realty of which is hereby acknowledged, sold,
 bargained and sold, and by these presents do _____ grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said _____
 and his heirs, all _____ that tract

of land situate, lying and being _____ in _____ Township, _____ County,
 State of _____

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the aforesaid _____ land and all privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging,
 unto the said _____ heirs and assigns, to _____ and his heirs forever.

And the said _____ heirs, executors and administrators, covenant with the said part of the second part, _____
 heirs and assigns that _____ subject of said premises in fee, and has _____ right to convey the same in fee simple; that the same
 are free and clear from all incumbrances, and that _____ will warrant and defend the said title to the same against the lawful
 claims of all persons whatsoever.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, The said part of the first part of these presents hath _____ hereunto set _____
 hand _____ and seal _____ the day and year above written.
 Signed, sealed and delivered _____
 In presence of _____

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA }
 County of _____ }
 I, _____ Clerk of Superior Court
 for the County and State, do hereby certify that _____

 the signature of the foregoing (or last) _____

WITNESS my hand and seal _____ the day of _____ A. D. 1911

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA }
 County of _____ }
 The _____
 This _____ day of _____ A. D. 1911.
 _____ Clerk
 Superior Court.

Filed at _____ o'clock _____ of _____ 1911
 Registered at _____ o'clock _____ of _____ 1911.
 _____ Register of Deeds.

June 7, 1911
 William J. Edwards purchased land from
 Durant G. Hilton DB 276 p 246



NORTH CAROLINA Architects & Builders

A BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY

[HOME](#)

[SEARCH](#)

[BROWSE](#)

[BUILDING INDEX](#)

[ABOUT](#)

Asbury, Louis H. (1877-1975)

Variant Name(s):	Louis Humbert Asbury
Birthplace:	Charlotte, North Carolina, USA
Residences:	Charlotte, North Carolina
Trades:	Architect
NC Work Locations:	Morganton, Burke County Concord, Cabarrus County Mount Pleasant, Cabarrus County Shelby, Cleveland County Gastonia, Gaston County Show All
Building Types:	Commercial; Educational; Health Care; Public; Religious; Residential
Styles & Forms:	Beaux-Arts; Classical Revival; Colonial Revival; Craftsman; Modernist; Neoclassical Revival; Tudor Revival

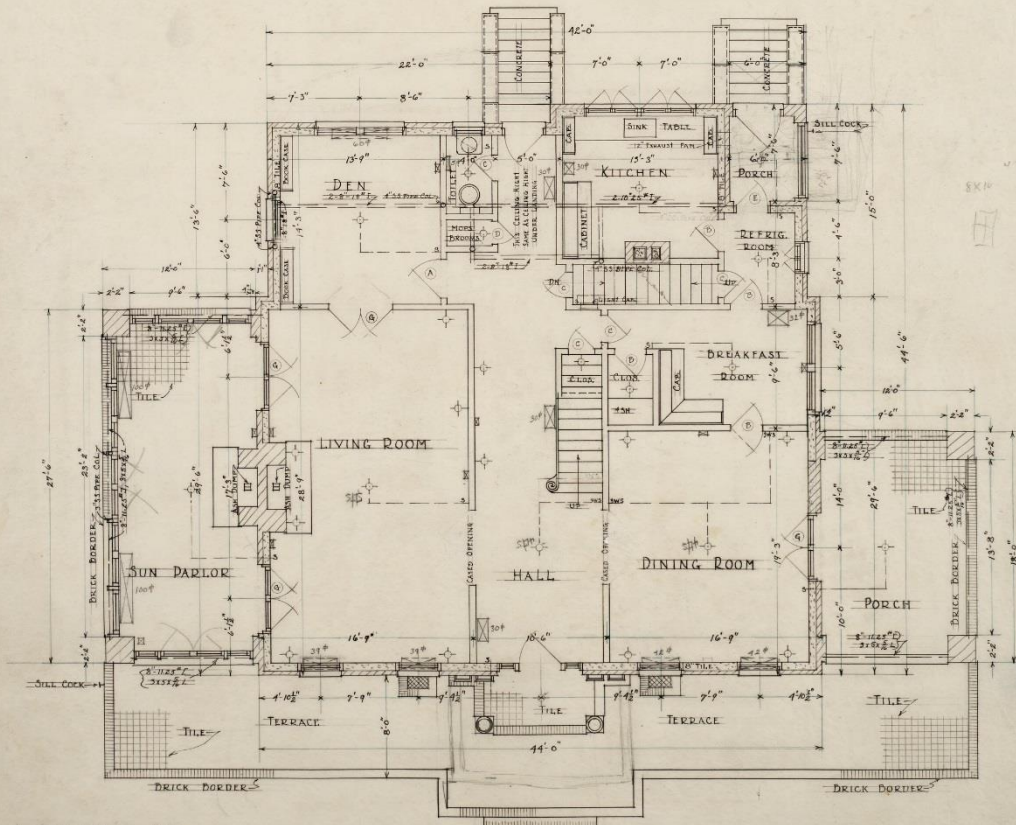


[Mecklenburg County Courthouse \[Charlotte\]](#)
[View larger image and credits](#)

[Biography](#) | [Building List](#) | [NC Work Locations Map](#) | [Bibliography](#)

Louis H. (Humbert) Asbury, Sr. (October 15, 1877-March 19, 1975), a leading Charlotte architect, was the first professionally trained, fulltime architect in North Carolina who was born and practiced in the state. (See also [Gaston Alonzo Edwards](#).) Asbury established a long-lived and prolific practice in Charlotte, with projects across much of the state, especially the Piedmont. His work encompassed most of his era's popular styles but he was especially known for his quietly elegant works in the Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, and Neoclassical Revival modes. Late in his career he worked in association with his son, Louis, Jr., and the firm produced several modernist designs.

The son of Charlotte building contractor S. J. Asbury and Martha Moody Asbury, as a youth Louis helped his father in his building business. He was graduated from Trinity College (later Duke University) in 1900 and then completed a special two-year course in architecture at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1903. He began work as a draftsman for the firm of Rossiter and Wright in New York City and then worked for Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson, of Boston, where he remained until 1908 (see [Ralph Adams Cram](#)). During 1906 young Asbury and a friend bicycled across Europe to study architecture, including the Gothic churches of England, France, and Italy. In 1908 Asbury returned to Charlotte where he began his own architectural firm, one of numerous architects and builders ready to design and build for the fast growing New South city.

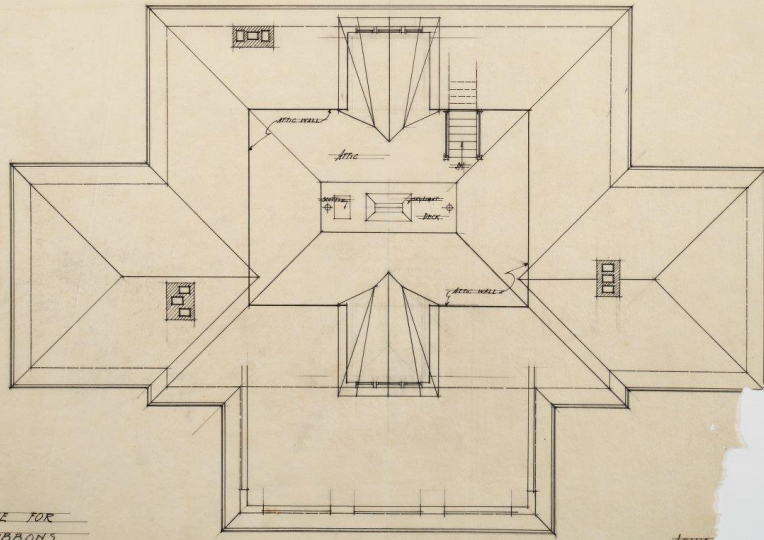


A RESIDENCE FOR
 MR. M. M. MURPHY - CHARLOTTE - N. C.

LOUIS H. ASBURY ARCHITECT
 CHARLOTTE - N. C.

FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

SHEET 2
 JOB 645
 4-14-26



RESIDENCE FOR
MR. J. P. GIBBONS.
HANLET, N.C.

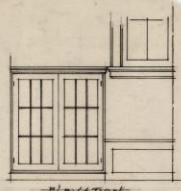
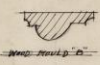
ATTIC AND ROOF PLAN
SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"

Louis

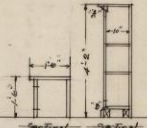
1897



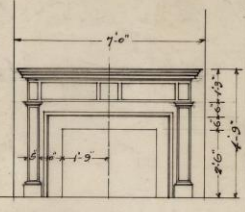
LOOKING TOWARD HALL - "TYPICAL"
 HALLS IN DINING ROOM
 HALLS IN LIVING ROOM, LIBRARY,
 HALL 1ST FLOOR - SAME AS ABOVE
 PANELS ABOVE CHIMNEY SHALL BE IDENTICAL
 EXCEPT IN FINISHING MATTER



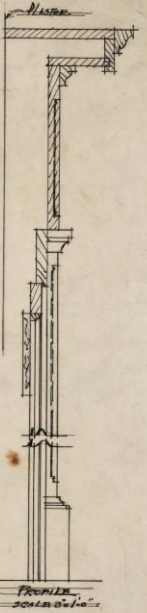
ELEVATION
 OF HALL LOOKING TOWARD BOOKCASES
 SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



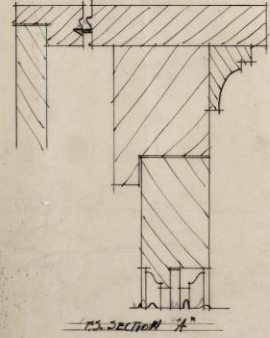
SECTION - SECTION
 SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



MANTREL IN LIVING ROOM
 SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



PROFILE
 SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



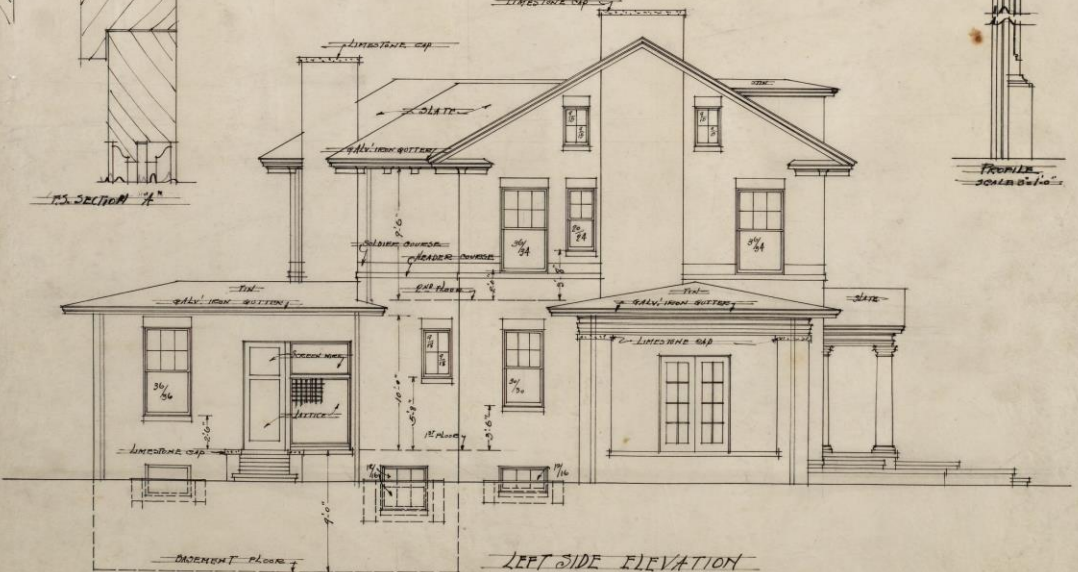
P.S. SECTION "A"



P.S. SECTION "B"



TOP OF DOOR
 SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



LEFT SIDE ELEVATION
 SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

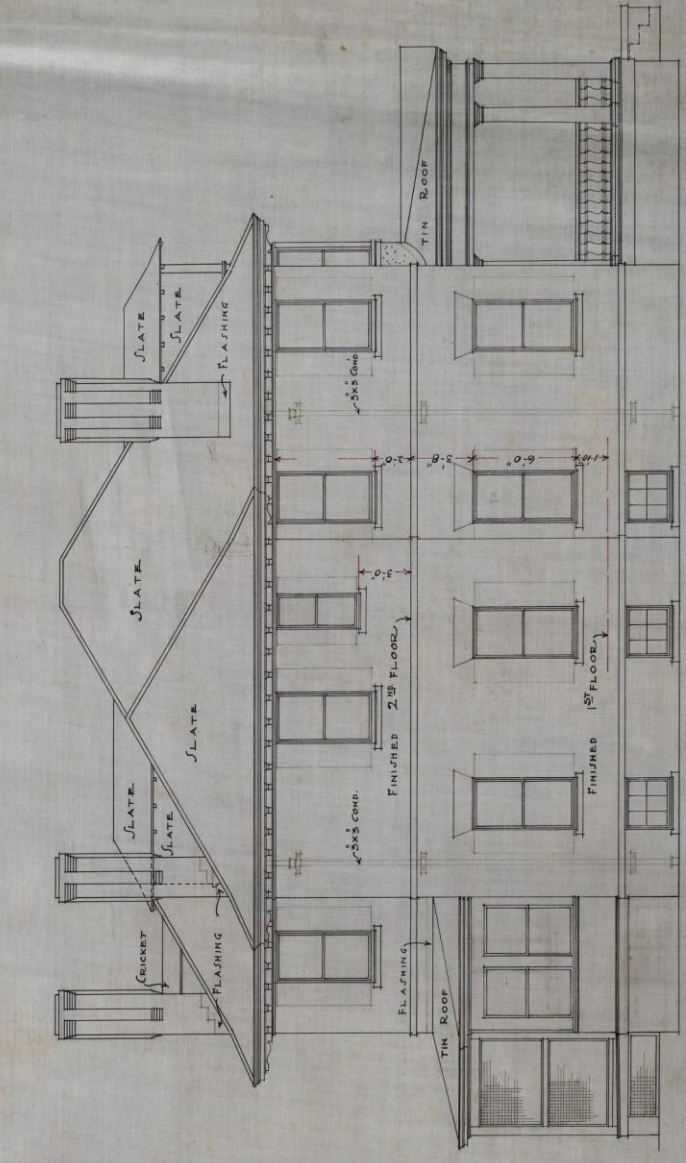
RESIDENCE FOR
 MR. FRANK T. JONES, CHARLOTTE, N.C.

Louis H. ASBURY, ARCHITECT
 CHARLOTTE, N.C.

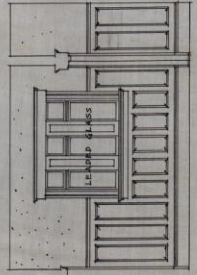


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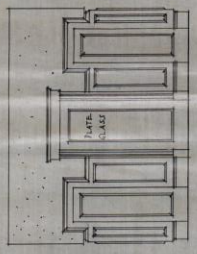
RESIDENCE FOR J. J. COTHRAN ESQ.
CHARLOTTE, N.C.
LOUIS H. ABBUDY ARCHITECT
LAW BLDG. CHARLOTTE, N.C.



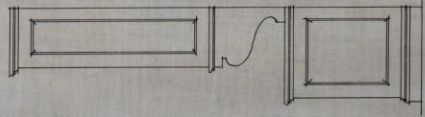
SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



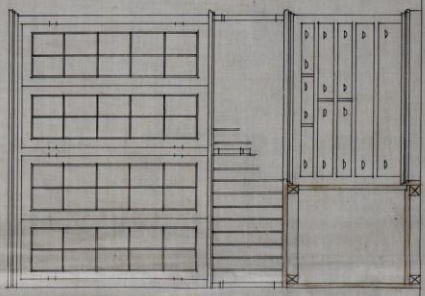
WEST WALLS IN HALL
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



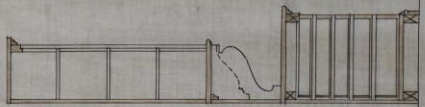
EAST WALLS IN HALL
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



END



FRONT
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

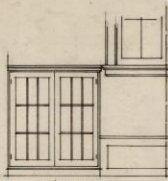


SECTION
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

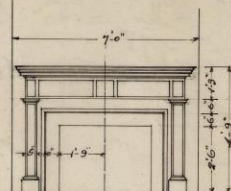
CUPBOARD IN PANTRY
CUPBOARD IN KITCHEN SIMILAR
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



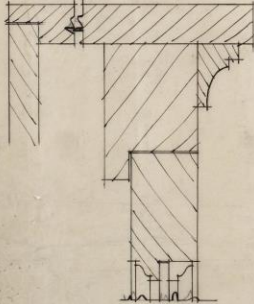
LOOKING TOWARD HALL - TYPICAL
 HALLS IN DINING ROOM
 HALLS IN LIVING ROOM, LIBRARY,
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 PANELS ABOVE CHAIRS SHALL BE IDENTICAL
 EXCEPT IN FINISHING MATERIALS



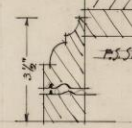
ELEVATION
 1/2 OF HALL LOOKING TOWARD BOOKCASES
 SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



PORTAL IN LIVING ROOM
 SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



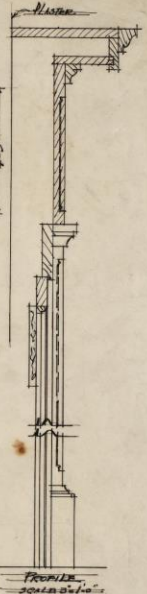
RS SECTION "A"



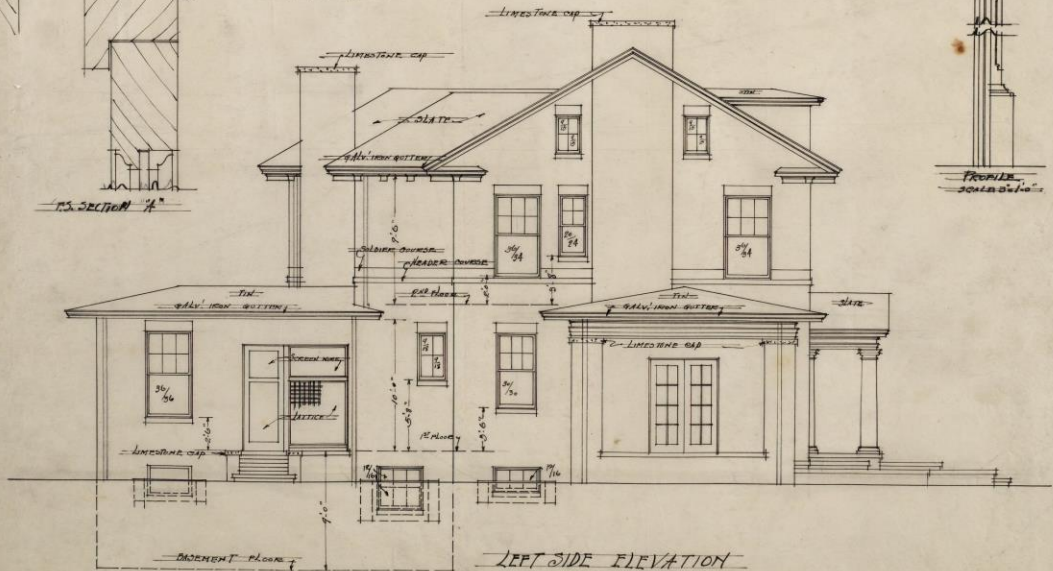
RS SECTION "B"



Chair Seat
 SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



Profile
 SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



LEFT SIDE ELEVATION
 SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

RESIDENCE FOR
 MR. FRANK F. JONES, CHARLOTTE, N.C.

Louis H. ASBURY, ARCHITECT
 CHARLOTTE, N.C.

