



# WILTON MANORS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## ***"Early Structure Inventory--Notes and Map"***

***Shirley Cain & Lois Griffis***

by Ron Ulm (based in part on original 2014 "Historical Notes" article)

September 2023

### MINI-ARCHIVE BACKGROUND NOTES

In 2014 Benjamin Little wrote the original article *SHIRLEY CAIN - OLD HOUSE INVENTORY*. It consisted primarily of his transcript of handwritten notes describing landmark structures that had been annotated, using numbers, on a map of Wilton Manors, attributed to **Shirley Cain**; and his guess as to the then-current location.

The original notes and map had been digitized by WMHS in 2012 from original documents provided by Tracy and Nancy Stafford—from their mother's collection. That same year this writer created a poster image, compiling the map, (which had been scanned in segments due to its size), adding the text of the handwritten descriptions; as well as other captions. Also scanned at that time was another handwritten document attributed to **Lois Griffis**, providing additional details about the structures. Those were not included in the poster image.

It's unclear why Ben did not include these images in his article. He also indicates the original handwritten notes were by Shirley Cain herself. Upon closer review it appears likely that the handwritten notes were actually those of Marcia Stafford -- documenting Shirley Cain's verbal descriptions of what was at each of the numbered locations on the map. Lois Griffis' descriptions are likely the result of the same process. When these documents were created is undocumented. The underlying map is dated 1972. Given other historic initiatives of the time, it can be suggested it was related to the 1976 Bicentennial—so we will consider mid-1970s to be the date of the materials.

Even with recent research, we have found little information about Shirley Cain and Lois Griffis. Cain was born in 1902 and passed in 1986. Griffis was born in 1927 and died in 1992. Despite review of US and Florida Census data and other resources—including newspapers, we are unable to determine when they originally arrived in the Wilton Manors area. From item "6" below, we know that Cain was living here beginning in 1934. We also know both ladies were founding members of the Wilton Manors Woman's Club in 1949.

For the reader's convenience, below is Ben's original transcript and annotations as to the structures numbered on the map. Added, in blue, are the Griffis notes; as well as edits to some of Ben's descriptions. This will be followed by images of the handwritten notes of Cain and Griffis; and finally, the annotated poster image of the map.

(Note that the map is dated 1972 and also includes handwritten notes at the bottom showing changes in some street names from the original Willingham plat map.)

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1. *Site of 2 story 1926 "boom" style home rumored to have once had a bootlegger tenant in prohibition depression days. Later was location of "Camilla Frames."*

*Old I B Wright's house. Built by Mitchell, who dug up ornamental posts from small park across the street to use in construction!*

601 NE 23<sup>rd</sup> St (now apartments)

2. *Site of original Wilton Manors Gates*

Five Points

3. *Site of very nice 2 story "boom" style homes - Spanish stucco, I think. There were 3 of them. Betty and Bill Nixon moved into one and later built a liquor store on the site.*

NE 11<sup>th</sup> Ave on Wilton Drive north side

NE 9<sup>th</sup> Ave on Wilton Drive south side

4. *Site of large Wooden Farm House - 2 story home.*

2206 Dixie Hwy - (Poverello)

5. *Site of large "boom" stucco 2 story house. Once known as "Seminole Inn" Red Lite House - Later nursing home.*

*Allens ran the Seminole Inn, bootleg liquor – brothel. "Oh Mother, the ladies all have paint on their faces and long finger nails. And there is a beautiful red carpet and draperies – why don't we have a house like that?!"*

231 NE 23<sup>rd</sup> St- (now an apartment complex)

6. *Site of small country home of **Harold and Shirley Cain 1934 - 1950**. Lived there 1934- 35- 36 before electricity.*

2733 Andrews Ave

7. *Site of wooden building for years known as Coolie Hatchee or Caloosahatchie Club - bought and used as a residence by attorney Warren Windel - Had huge tree in front. Now Parker Electronics. Huge tree is still there.*

2032 Dixie Hwy (Equality Park) [Original site of **Colohatchee Woman's Club**]

8. *Site of country home of man \_\_\_\_\_. I think he was English. Raised plants and had a beautiful daughter who won a beauty contest. Now a business building. This man always wore a pith helmet.*

2068 Dixie Hwy (Equality Park)

9. *First home of Dave Turner*

433 NE 22<sup>nd</sup> St

10. *Home 2 story used to stand alone in a field. White stucco and red tile roof. Was home for years of Carl Hiaasen, attorney.*

601 NE 21<sup>st</sup> Court [Ed.--likely the first house built in Willingham's WM Unit 1]

11. *White wooden house stood in a grove of mango trees. Shirley Cain said a man named Wiggins owned it and left it to his nephew Charlie Fields. No road to this house - just sand ruts.*

13 - 19 NE 27<sup>th</sup> Drive (apartments)

12. *Home of Mr Slagle. Large property owner.*

*Slagle was a rural mail carrier here.*

2815-2817 NE 6<sup>th</sup> Ave

13. *Two story white colonial home of Clarks. Ask Shirley Cain more about this.*

*Clark's house – N.W. 25<sup>th</sup> St. Mr and Mrs B Y Clark owned – Mrs Clark and a tenant lived in the main house. Mr Clark occupied the guest house!*

116 NW 25<sup>th</sup> Street - (still there)

14. *Richardson Golf Course*

15. *Mahannah Road 1949-50-51 - All property east of this was acreage and farms - Mr. Middleton the Ft Laud jeweler had a farm and McJunkins had farms, I think (ask Eugenia). The Middleton built the large wooden home now owned by Mrs. Crum.*

16. *Approx site of small house belonging to Middleton property.*

NE 24<sup>th</sup> St at NE 7<sup>th</sup> Ave

17. *Small wooden home belonging to family who owned property between NE 24th Court and Mahannah Rd.*

*1225 NE 24<sup>th</sup> St. Guy Smith Call George E. Smith, Sr. Margate 971-1937*

~~1308 NE 24<sup>th</sup> St (approx) - (Across the street from Yawt and next to new town houses)~~

18. *Morgan Byran Home - most lengthy residents*

Next to 519 NE 23<sup>rd</sup> St? (Google house numbers are funny - 519 is an apartment building. House next to it looks old.)

19. *Henderson property- acreage - He raised goats - Ask Shirley Cain*

Between NW 20<sup>th</sup> St and NW 21<sup>st</sup> Ct

20. *Somewhere on this hill Mr. Jung had a chicken farm. Ask Shirley Cain*

Maurer's High Point - NW 22<sup>nd</sup> St to NW 23<sup>rd</sup> St

21. *(?) There was a nice white concrete block home located in the vicinity of Coral Point. No roads leading to it just sand ruts.*

*[Editor's Note: After completion and posting of this compilation, we received additional information from Nancy Stafford. She believes that the block-letter notes and numbers on the map, as well as the Griffis comments, are in her mother's handwriting. She does not believe the cursive notes of Shirley Cain's comments are her mother's handwriting. So the original source(s) and purpose of these documents are back to being uncertain. RAU 09/2023]*

- (1) Site of 2-story <sup>1926</sup> "Boom" style Home ~~Remained~~ rumored to have once had a bootlegger tenant in prohibition depression days. Later was location of "Camilla Frames" -
- (2) Site of original Wilton Manor Gates
- (3) Site of very nice 2-story "Boom" style Homes - Spanish stucco - I think there were 3 of them - Betty and Bill Hixon moved into one and later built a liquor store on the site.
- (4) Site of large Wooden Farm-House 2-story Home.
- (5) Site of Large "Boom" Stucco 2-story House - Once known as "Seminole Inn" Red Site House - Later Nursing Home
- (6) Site of small Country Home of Harold and Shirley Cain 1934-1950 - Lived there 1934-35 & 36 before electricity.

Shirley Cain captions for annotated map of early structures in Wilton Manors.  
Likely transcribed by Marcia Stafford--ca 1970s

- (7) Site of Wooden building for years known as Coolie Hatchee or Caloosahatchee Club - bought and used as a residence by attorney Warren Windle - Had Huge tree in front. - Now Parker Electronics. Huge tree is still there.
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- (9) First Home of Dave Turner
- (10) Home 2-story used to stand alone in a field - White stucco and red tile roof - Was home for years of Carl Haasen, attorney
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(14) Richardson Golf Course

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- (18) Morgan Bryan Home - Most  
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- (19) Henderson property - acreage -  
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- (20) some Where on This Hill Mr  
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# Lois Griffith's

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Mr. Clark occupied  
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Guy Smith

Call George E. Smith, Sr.  
Margate 971-1937

12 Slagle was rural mail  
carrier here.

1 Old I B Wright's house  
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dug up ornamental  
ports from small  
park across the  
street to use in  
construction!

15 Colahatchee Railroad  
Station here.

Lois Griffith's comments re: Shirley Cain annotated map  
of early structures in Wilton Manors.

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