



WYNN HOUSE

THE WYNN HOUSE

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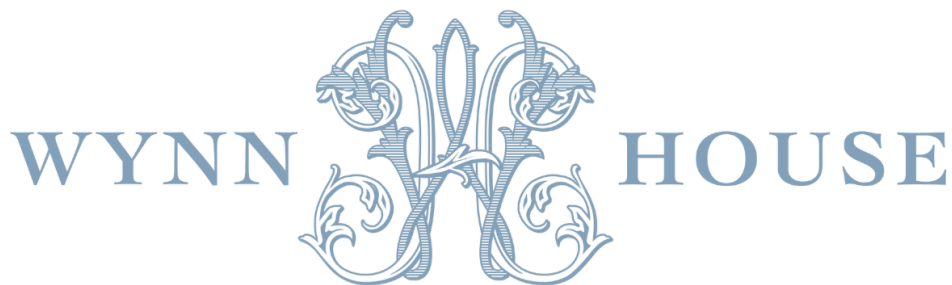
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FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

A Note from our Director: Brooke Neville

As we settle into 2024, I cannot help but express my gratitude for the past three years in this position. Not only have I fallen in love with this home and its history, but it has truly overwhelmed me to experience this community's devotion to our beloved Wynn House. All of the moving and changes here has me sorting through decades of documentation and saved articles. I have found evidence of you so often coming together with the common goal of keeping this home as a prominent, historical presence here in Columbus. I read of many fundraisers and promotions to make ends meet. I am grateful I know many of you personally who not only contributed by volunteering, but generously gave financially as well. This newsletter is unique in that we can highlight an article written by Jack Schley, a native from Columbus and a local attorney. I had the pleasure of meeting him at an event in January and I'd like to give a special thank you to him for contributing a well-researched and thoughtful article. His writing showcases the historical evidence behind the architectural design along with the efforts it took to physically move Wynn House to where it sits today. You will also find some astounding before and after photos of our kitchen inside the house. We are thrilled to be back under one roof cooking and serving you. Lastly, you may have noticed my office is no longer on the first floor. We moved it upstairs to accommodate dry storage since the kitchen almost doubled in size. Please know you don't have to climb up to see me - I am more than happy to join you downstairs to assist and serve you!



A Century-Old Postcard Shows the Wynn House as it Stood on its Original Foundation

By Jack P. Schley



A souvenir postcard mailed in March 1907 bears an image titled "Old Southern Residence, Columbus, Ga." The aged mansion in the photo is the Wynn House as it stood prior to being moved to its current location on Wynnton Road. In addition to the location of the house, the photo also reveals other changes to the house that occurred during the move.

Col. William L. Wynn built his two-story cottage atop the hill that came to bear his name sometime around 1830. Wynn's front door and main staircase remain in-place in the Wynn House today. The Wynn homeplace encompassed one hundred acres of manicured grounds.

Around 1850, Col. Wynn left Columbus and the neighborhood that still bears his name for a new life in Louisiana. He sold his "residence in Wynnton" which included one hundred acres to Henry Hurt for \$6,500. Hurt is credited with enlarging the cottage and "beautifying" the place, and his sale of the same property five years later reflects his efforts. In 1855, Hurt sold "the former residence of William L. Wynn in Wynnton" to Hines Holt for \$14,000. This postcard photo shows the house that became the home of Hines Holt and his family for half a century. From the postcard, it appears the move of the house also included changes to the front roof line, the hanging balconies, and trim around

the house. In the photo, the front roof line matches the roof line down the sides of the house, the balconies are made of wrought iron, and there is no dentil trim above the columns. Today, we recognize the Wynn House for its fan lighted gable over the front roof line, its wooden hanging balcony over the front door, and dentil trim above the columns.

When Col. and Mrs. Holt arrived at their new home in 1855, it was situated "several hundred feet" back from Wynnton Road. They would have passed through a gated entrance in their Rockaway carriage into flowering gardens and a mature grove of trees as they approached the front entrance to the house.

(continued on next page)

An idea of the inside of the Holt home is provided from news coverage of a robbery that took place there in October 1865.

The thieves entered the home at night and took “a gold watch, several parlor curtains, an unfinished silk bed quilt, and various articles of clothing.” These items suggest the thieves entered the private rooms of the house; however, the article indicates the Holt family may not have been home at the time because the thieves “departed undiscovered.” Two weeks later, the family reported the total contents of the house and kitchen to be worth \$3,500. By comparison, an adjoining property of Hines Holt consisting of six acres of land with a dwelling of “three comfortable rooms, and four rooms for servants” was valued at \$2,000 in the same report. One of those “house” items which the thieves would have passed as they pulled down Mrs. Holt’s parlor curtains was her portrait by C. R. Parker, which hangs in the Wynn House today.

The postcard was mailed from Columbus to Mrs. Harry McCabe of North Vernon, Indiana. Postage was one cent. The postmarks indicate it took thirty-one hours for the Post Office to deliver the mail from Columbus to North Vernon, Indiana. Upon receipt, Mrs. McCabe received the image of an “Old Southern Residence” which continues to crown Wynn’s Hill, with only a few notable changes, more than a century later.



Portrait of Mrs. Hines Holt by C. R. Parker, which still hangs in the Wynn House today.

¹ Etta Blanchard Worsley, *Columbus on the Chattahoochee*. Columbus Office Supply Company, 1951, page 217.

² Deed Book “F” page 125, Wm. L. Wynn to Henry Hurt recorded February 14, 1852. Clerk of Superior Court for Muscogee County, Georgia. Deed Records.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Worsley, *Columbus on the Chattahoochee*, page 217.

⁵ Deed Book “H-2” page 25, Henry Hurt to Hines Holt dated November 29, 1855. Clerk of Superior Court for Muscogee County, Georgia. Deed Records; Deed Book “I” page 227 (gardens bordering Holt’s home).

⁶ Worsley, *Columbus on the Chattahoochee*, page 217.

⁷ Ibid at pp. 217-218; Returns Book “P” page 41, Bolling H. Holt Adm. Estate of Hines Holt, deceased, Inventory and Appraisement dated January 3, 1866. Probate Court of Muscogee County, Georgia. Records Vault.

⁸ “Robbed.” *The Daily Sun* (Columbus, Georgia). Newspaper. Friday Morning, October 20, 1865. Online through Galileo.

⁹ Returns Book “P” page 41. Probate Court of Muscogee County, Georgia.

¹⁰ Ibid; “For Rent.” *Columbus Daily Enquirer* (Columbus, Georgia). Newspaper. Wednesday Morning, November 1, 1865. Online through Galileo.

¹¹ The original postcard is in the collection of the author.

THE LOCKWOOD COMMUNITY SHARED KITCHEN : Coming Soon!

The Wynn House staff has moved back into the Wynn House kitchen so that the Wynn House Board of Directors can get ready to open our new shared kitchen in the Lockwood Community Center. A shared kitchen is a single location where multiple food businesses share the space and equipment. Shared kitchen spaces can be configured in multiple ways, and we look forward to defining and introducing ours to Columbus very soon.

Please contact us if you are interested.



BOOK NOW!

CALL US TO BOOK WEDDINGS & UPCOMING EVENTS



HIDDEN GEMS

As the demolition began in our main kitchen, we stumbled upon unexpected findings hidden behind the cabinetry: a discovery that reminds us of our astonishing foundation within the walls of this historical home.

Behind the layers of paint and plaster, hand painted wallpaper was found dating back to the 19th century. These pieces were safely removed by our friends Sambo and "Bossman" from the Demo Kings. They are now safely in the hands of Two Sisters Gallery being framed for display. Along with the old wallpaper, a foldable ironing board was uncovered with everything attached and fully functional. We decided to keep the ironing board so if you want to see it, please ask! We would be happy to show it to you.

These unexpected discoveries add a special importance to the history of the Wynn House and will forever be cherished by our community.



CONTACT US!



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