

AUG 06 1993

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Wyche, C. Granville, House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 2900 Augusta Road not for publication _____
city or town Greenville vicinity _____
state South Carolina code SC county Greenville code 045
zip code 29605

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally.
(____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds _____ 7/30/93
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary Watson Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register _____
- removed from the National Register _____
- other (explain): _____

Melone Byers _____ 9/2/93
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
		objects
		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>animal facility</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>animal facility</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)
Late 19th and 20th Century
Revivals: Italian Renaissance

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation BRICK
roof TERRA COTTA
walls BRICK

other WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Significant Dates

1931

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Period of Significance

1930-ca. 1935

Architect/Builder

Trowbridge, Silas D.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 5.2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>17</u>	<u>373400</u>	<u>3852960</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	<u>See continuation sheet.</u>					

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Judith Bainbridge

organization Furman University

date 1 March 1993

street & number 3300 Poinsett Highway

telephone (803) 294-2222

city or town Greenville

state SC zip code 29613

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Kaspar Fulghum, Jr.

street & number 2900 Augusta Road

telephone (803) 299-1900

city or town Greenville

state SC zip code 29605

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

Wyche, C. Granville, House
name of property
Greenville, South Carolina
county and State

DESCRIPTION

The C. Granville Wyche house is an architect-designed eclectic Italian Renaissance residence. Its symmetrical blond brick front facade has a two-story, five bay central block and one-story balconied projections at the side elevations. The front facade has four full-length first-story windows with arched and decorated window heads, a monumental portico with grouped Corinthian columns, and recessed balconied entry. All windows are one-over-one, but second floor windows are flush against the facia. The low-pitched red tile roof has wide eaves supported by cantilevered brackets. The flat roofs of the flanking wings and the portico are balustraded. The house is set on extensive grounds well back from Augusta Road (Highway 25) in a well-to-do suburban neighborhood five miles from the center of Greenville.

The house and foundation are cream-colored pressed brick veneer laid in common bond with matching mortar. The foundation has a sailor course to mark the water table and iron vents. All woodwork and trim are painted white. The door surround features paneled insets.

A terra cotta-tiled porch platform edged with smooth limestone extends across the central block and the right wing; at either side of the concrete steps three two-story Corinthian columns support the flat tin-roofed portico. Two-story Corinthian pilasters are placed directly behind the columns, between the first and second and fourth and fifth bays. All columns have fluted shafts, square plinth blocks, and intricately-carved three-dimensional volutes. The flat-roofed portico has a frieze band with rosettes above each column and a dentilated cornice, and is topped with a balustrade with paired square corner posts, decorated with spherical finials, and turned balusters. A low-pitched dormer window provides access to the roof.

Central block first-story windows are one-over-one double hung with round brick arches and smooth limestone keystones, spring blocks, and sills. Elaborate window heads are stucco with stylized rosette garlands above a foliated tendril motif and centered rosette.

The recessed doorway is surrounded by one-story Scamozzi columns and pilasters. These capitals, like those on the northwest porch, have unusual tasseled pendants suspended from the inner base of each volute. The door has an elliptical fanlight and sidelights, both with tracery. The six-panel wood door has original decorative brass hardware. On the impost block above the Ionic columns are stylized oval rosettes. A small balcony is set below second-story paired double hung windows directly above the door; it has turned balusters and urn finials on both free-standing and engaged corner posts. On either side of the pilasters are original oval lighting fixtures with cast iron brackets.

On all three sides of the southeast wing there are three grouped, paired, leaded casement windows surmounted by transoms. At the corners of the right wing, now a screened porch, are paired Ionic columns. Front and side screens have geometrically-stylized woodwork. The porch on the northwest elevation was originally an unscreened veranda; the columns are original. The porch screening and woodwork are the only alterations.

On the northwest elevation of the house, to the rear of the screened porch, is a Palladian window with the same elaborate window head as on the front windows. At the back of the house, a large rectangular window, with a transom repeating the geometric motifs of the screened porch, provides light for a small rear entry. Originally the entry was screened. On the rear second

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

Wyche, C. Granville, House
name of property
Greenville, South Carolina
county and State

floor is a sleeping porch with large windows on all three sides. A blond brick chimney with concrete cap is placed on the left side of the central block.

Accessory features (all original) are of extraordinary quality. All surface-mounted gutters and down spouts are copper with decorative copper spear-point attachment brackets. Eave vents are decorative iron. Window screens on the lower sash of double-hung windows have black metal frames and blackened screens.

The house is approached by a circular drive, edged with small rough stones and brick gutters. The entrance stair has four concrete steps with wrought iron rails; porch extensions on either side are topped with large concrete urns containing symmetrical evergreen plantings. Plans for an elaborate formal garden, leading from the left wing, were originally drawn by the architect but were never carried out by the Wyches. A small grotto, original to the landscape design, with deep pool and edged by large boulders and cement mortar inscribed with the names of the Wyche children, is placed at the rear of the formal garden space, contributes to the property. Mr. Fulghum has planted and landscaped the garden area using the original plans as a general guide. An unpainted barn dating from the mid 1930s, which still houses farm animals as it did for the Wyches, also contributes to the property.

Original interior details include six tiled fireplaces surrounded with carved wooden mantels; carved cornices above entries to formal first floor rooms; beveled-glass French doors, and Waterford chandeliers in central hall and dining room. Six bathrooms, five with original fixtures, have individually patterned colored tile on walls and floors.

The house and grounds are being rehabilitated by new owners. They have recently constructed a sympathetically designed, but non-contributing, three-car garage at the rear of the dwelling. Its access to the main dwelling is by a narrow breezeway not physically connected to the dwelling. The garage is not visible from the street.

(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 3

Wyche, C. Granville, House
name of property
Greenville, South Carolina
county and State

SIGNIFICANCE

The C. Granville Wyche house, built in 1931, is primarily significant as an excellent example of depression-era Italian Renaissance architecture. It also has importance because of the distinguished legal career of its owner, C. Granville Wyche, who lived in the house from 1931 to 1988. Designed by Atlanta architect Silas D. Trowbridge, the ornate facade is Italian Renaissance with some Beaux Arts influences. As a "country estate" for a successful attorney with a large family, the Wyche house was one of the most expensive and elaborate residences constructed in Greenville during the 1930s. The house is eligible under Criterion C as an impressive example of revival architecture.

Although Greenville, South Carolina, like most Southern textile centers, felt the effects of agricultural and industrial depression before the rest of the country, in the 1920s prestigious new residential neighborhoods were developed as "automobile suburbs" on Earle Street, North Main, and new streets leading north and south from Augusta Street between Mills and McDaniel Avenues, about a mile and a half from downtown.¹ Trolley service was extended to Byrd Boulevard after the 192 development of the Greenville Country Club, but Augusta Street beyond the Byrd turn-around was still unpaved by 1930 and was considered "out in the country."² By the late 1920s, home building became increasingly sporadic, and after the stock market crash in 1929 nearly stopped. Prices and land values fell dramatically at the end of the decade, and by 1930 the average cost of a new Greenville residence was about \$4,000. In the 1930s, when banks and savings and loans failed or merged and textile mills reduced production and employees, only a handful of residences were built. With construction costs and wages at a low point, wealthy families, like the Wyches, could have architect-designed large homes, with elaborate facades, intricate detailing, and careful workmanship. The few who had money preferred revival styles, especially the popular Colonial Revival style.

Granville Wyche's choice of Italian Renaissance design for his estate was unusual. The popularity of Italian Renaissance design was fading nationally, and few other examples of the design existed in Greenville, although the Edwin Parker House (1904), now the Poinsett Club, is an early example of neo-classical revival.³ Whether it was Wyche's choice, based on his personal taste an observation of high style architecture elsewhere, or whether it was Trowbridge's suggestion as the ideal design for a country house, is unknown. Yet the choice of an Atlanta architect who was known in Greenville for his detailed and elaborate facades would not seem to be accidental. Silas Trowbridge (1879-1940 c.) already had a local reputation, not only because he was a native of the area, reared in Piedmont and educated at Furman University, but because he had established a local reputation for his previous buildings. After graduating from Furman University in 1902, Trowbridge had taken a "special course" in architecture at Columbia University,⁴ a center of Beaux Arts style, and, according to family tradition, studied abroad.⁵ He began an Atlanta practice in 1909. Among his major Greenville buildings at the time he was engaged by Wyche were the Beaux Arts First National Bank (1917), the eclectic Georgian Revival Speights house (c. 1920) on Pettigru Street, and the Virginia Apartments (c. 1924) on Manly Street.⁶ (The latter two buildings are listed as contributing structures in the National Register Pettigru Street Historic District.) Both the Speights house and the apartments have tiled roofs and decorative detail. His 1938 art deco First National Bank (which replaced the Beaux Arts 1917 building) is individually listed on the National Register. Trowbridge practiced architecture until at least 1940.⁷

(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 4

Wyche, C. Granville, House
name of property
Greenville, South Carolina
county and State

His design for the Wyche house was primarily Italian Renaissance: the symmetrical form, low-pitched tile roof, wide eaves with brackets, full-length, first floor windows and recessed door are all typical of the style. Beaux Arts influences may be seen in the massive portico, balustrades, grouped classical columns and pilasters, window crowns, and keystones.⁸ While the two neo-classical revival styles were no longer fashionable in much of the country, they combined to create a high-style residence for a leading Greenville attorney.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Cyril Granville Wyche (1890-1988) was born in Prosperity, South Carolina, the son of a physician who was also a member of the General Assembly. He graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1911 and in 1912 went to Washington as assistant secretary to Senator Benjamin Tillman. There he earned a law degree from Georgetown University and returned to Greenville in 1916 as assistant U. S. Attorney for the Western District of South Carolina. After Prohibition passed, he became briefly famous for prosecuting bootleggers, but in 1921, when he became junior partner in the law firm of Dean, Cothran and Wyche, he prospered financially by defending the manufacturers of illegal whiskey. The firm became Dean and Wyche in 1925, and was the predecessor to Wyche, Burgess, Freeman and Parham, P.A. (1964), today one of the most prestigious law firms in the state. During World War II he joined the Navy as a lieutenant commander and served as Chief Justice of American Samoa. After the war, he returned to Greenville and his legal practice. As a practicing attorney he served as Circuit Judge of both the Court of Common Pleas and the Court of General Sessions. On one occasion he was Special Associate Chief Justice of the state Supreme Court and, once, Special Chief Justice. He was an active Democrat throughout his life and served as a delegate to the 1928, 1932, and 1940 National Democratic Conventions. In 1928 he headed Al Smith's presidential campaign in South Carolina. He was the keynote speaker at the state Democratic Convention in 1940, and in the 1950s Governor Jimmy Byrnes appointed him a member of the State Reorganization Commission. He built the house for his five children and his wife, Mary, who died suddenly in 1939. In 1946, after he had returned from the war, he remarried and raised a second family in the house.⁹

He purchased two acres on Augusta Street in 1926 from R. A. Ellison of Greenwood, part of a thirty-three acre tract that had been the G. L. Walker homeplace from 1893 to the First World War.¹⁰ This site was located at one of the highest points in Greenville, just inside city limits. At the eastern corner of his property is the five mile marker (from the Courthouse to the city's boundary) set up in the 1890s. The area was still primarily rural, and Wyche planned a small farm on the property, which expanded to about four acres with an additional land purchase two or three years later. He and his wife planted a large vegetable garden and established grape arbors; they had a cow, chickens, and two horses.¹¹

Building began in 1930 and was finished by early 1932. The 4100 square foot house was built by Potter-Shackleford Construction Company; detailed original elevations and 24 pages of specifications are extant and are being used by current owners in their restoration. Total cost was \$25,000.¹²

The Wyche house has integrity of form, materials, and details to its original plan. The screened porch (c. 1946), windowed-rear doorway (1992), and slight alteration in the attic dormer window are

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 5

Wyche, C. Granville, House
name of property
Greenville, South Carolina
county and State

the only facade changes since 1931. Granville Wyche lived in the house until 1988, but in the last twenty years of his occupancy nothing but essential maintenance was done on the dwelling. When Kasper Fulghum purchased the house from Wyche heirs in 1989 he agreed to a facade easement (to the Naturalands Trust) to protect the appearance of 2900 Augusta Road in perpetuity.¹³

FOOTNOTES

1. Building Conservation Technology, Historic Resources of Greenville County, pp. 42-51, p. 71.
2. Telephone interview. Caro Wyche Wofford. 15 Sept. 1991.
3. Building Conservation Technology, Historic Resources of Greenville County, pp. 61-69
4. Thomas Henry Morgan, Who's Who in the South, 1927, p. 730. (Excerpt in possession.)
5. Telephone interview, Barbara Hughes. 20 Oct. 1989. (Ms. Hughes is a great niece of Silas Trowbridge)
6. Letter from John Wells (Historic Preservation Consultant, Commonwealth of Virginia) to Barbara Hughes, 31 Oct. 1989. (In possession)
7. Letter from Barbara Hughes, 31 Oct. 1989. (In possession)
8. Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, pp. 279-285; 396-407.
9. Judson W. Chapman, "Biographical Sketch of Cyril Granville Wyche," James Wyche Family History, pp. 62-67. (In possession)
10. Plat Books 107/375 and 45/165, Register of Mesne Conveyance, Greenville County Courthouse.
11. Interview. Caro Wyche Wofford. 15 Sept. 1991.
12. Manufacturers Record, March 1931, p. 60.
13. Interview, C. Thomas Wyche, 11 Feb. 1993.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 6

Wyche, C. Granville, House
name of property
Greenville, South Carolina
county and State

Major Bibliographical Sources

- Ashmore, Nancy Vance. Greenville: Woven From the Past. Northridge, California: Windsor Press, 1986.
- Blumenson, John J-G. Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945. Rev. ed. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1981.
- Chapman, Judson W. "Biographical Sketch of Cyril Granville Wyche," James Wyche Family History. n.d. (Typewritten MSS in possession).
- Building Conservation Technology. Historic Resources of Greenville, South Carolina. Nashville, Tenn: Building Conservation Technology, Inc., 1981.
- Hughes, Barbara. Telephone Interview. 20 Oct. 1989.
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York. Alfred Knopf, 1991.
- Morgan, Thomas Henry. Who's Who in the South, 1927. (Excerpt in possession)
- Thomas, Kenneth H., Jr., to Barbara Hughes, 19 Oct. 1989.
- Trowbridge Genealogy, (excerpt) n.p., n.d. (In possession).
- Wells, John E. to Barbara Hughes, 31 Oct. 1989.
- Wofford, Caro Wyche. Interview. 15 Sept. 1991.
- Wyche, C. Thomas. "The Genealogy of Wyche, Burgess, Freeman & Parham." n.d. (Typewritten MSS in possession).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 7

Wyche, C. Granville, House
name of property
Greenville, South Carolina
county and State

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 2,3,4,5, and portions of lots 17, 18, 19, and 20 of G. L. Walker Plat, recorded in Plat Book H, p. 18. It is the same property, entitled "Property of Kaspar Fulghum, Jr., recorded in the Greenville RMC office in Plat Book 17-S on page 2.

Boundary Justification: City lots 2-5 are original Wyche Purchase (1926); additional lots, now comprising the property of Mr. Fulghum, were added by the Wyche's to create their "farm."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 11 Page 8

Wyche, C. Granville, House
name of property
Greenville, South Carolina
county and State

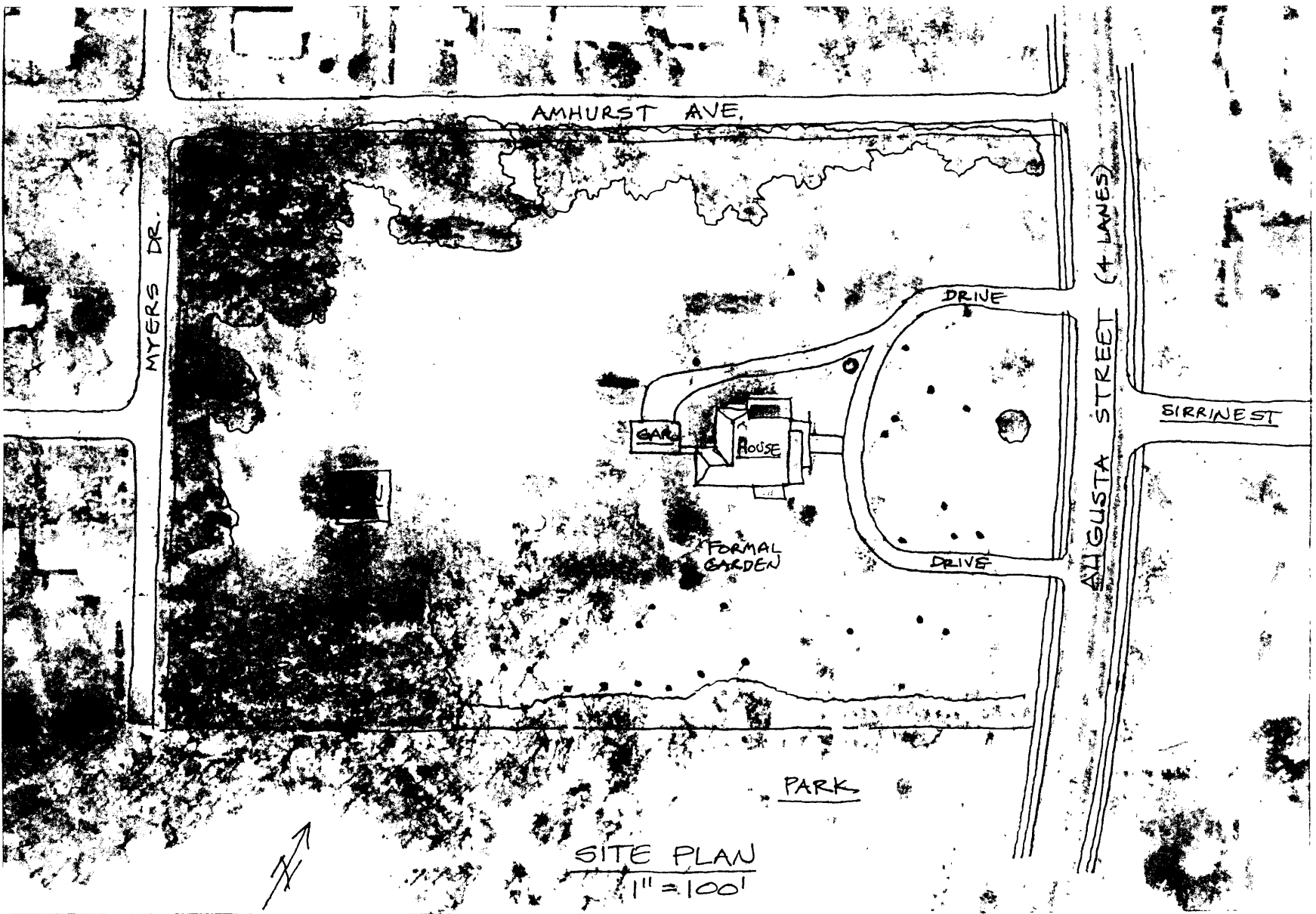
PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is the same for all photographs except the 1931 historic view:

Name of property: Wyche, C. Granville, House
Location of Property: 2900 Augusta Road
Greenville County
South Carolina

Photographer: Kaspar Fulghum, Jr.
Date: May, June 1993

Photo #	View	Description
1	NE	Facade elevation
2	N	Elevation
3	S	Elevation
4	NE	Entrance, detail
5	NE	Entrance, detail column
6	NE	Column, detail
7	NE	Window, pilaster detail
8	NE	Windowhead, detail
9	Interior	Stairhall
10	Interior	Doorheads
11	Interior	Mantel
12	NE	Historic view (1931)



Wyche, C. Granville, House
Greenville County, South Carolina