



# WILTON MANORS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## HISTORICAL NOTES

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### WILTON MANORS HIDDEN MYSTERIES

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If you accidentally sit on your television remote, you will discover that cable television has answers to all sorts of mysteries. Ancient Aliens built the Pyramids in Egypt. Kim Kardashian has a following. Cats have taken over the Internet.

The Wilton Manors Historical Society also has unsolved mysteries. Your help in solving them probably will not get you a spot on cable television, but will help us document and better understand our past.

A recently unveiled mystery is “What happened to the mosaic reproduction of the City Seal, made from more than 4,100 pieces of ceramic tile by Richard Geisler, Jr. and Lorraine Schreiber, and presented to the City Council on October 24, 1967?” The City Manager is confident that if it had been in the old City Hall when we moved to the new one, it would have been uncovered. What happened to it?

The ongoing mystery for the Historical Society is “What was actually built as part of ‘Ned’ Willingham’s Wilton Manors?” The Willingham Carriage House at Richardson Park and the Hiaasen House on NE 21<sup>st</sup> Court date from 1925 and were certainly part of Willingham’s legacy. There were others, described as “boom houses,” which are no longer here. Willingham Senior’s 1925 plat divided Wilton Manors into individual lots. In 1928, Willingham’s son re-platted Wilton Manors, removing the individual house lots, making it easier for other developers to buy and build on entire blocks in the undeveloped area.

**But, there were important exceptions to this “replating!”** There were 12 individual house lots on the north side of NE 23<sup>rd</sup> Street between NE 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues (across the street from Bill’s Filling Station parking lot). Presumably, these had been sold by June 1928, but what had been built on them? There are several homes still there which look to be late 1920’, early 1930’s.

Nancy and Tracy Stafford provided the Historical Society with an inventory of “old houses” from their mother Marcia. It was compiled by Shirley Cain, and it is undated. Mrs. Cain was friends with Lou Leaver, and Nancy Swallis and was active in the Woman’s Club. She lived on Andrews Ave just south of NW



Corner of NE 23<sup>rd</sup> St and NE 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. - Photo by the WMPD 1962, to support a complaint about visibility at the intersection. Courtesy of Patricia Staples.

29<sup>th</sup> Street in the 1940's and 1950's. She included some notes about some of these houses. If you have any information on these houses - pictures, stories, or whatever, the Historical Society would love to hear from you.

1. There were "boom" houses. These would have been two story, probably stucco at least, and "upscale." They would have been built between 1925 and when the housing market finally crashed in 1926 or 1927 or 1928.
  - One was located at 601 NE 23<sup>rd</sup> St (West of Bill's Filling Station parking lot).
  - Three were located at NE 11<sup>th</sup> Ave (about IberiaBank) and Wilton Drive and north of NE 9<sup>th</sup> Ave, (about the Texaco Gas Station).
2. There were several houses on Dixie Highway, where Equality Park is now.
3. A white wooden house stood in a grove of mango trees, owned by a man named Wiggins who left it to his nephew Charlie Fields. (13 - 19 NE 27<sup>th</sup> Drive?)
4. M.C. Slagle's home at 2815-2817 NE 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. There are now five new homes on the site. Slagle donated 25 feet of his property to make NE 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue wide enough to be a major north/south thoroughfare.
5. A small house belonging to the Middleton property at NE 24<sup>th</sup> St at NE 7<sup>th</sup> Ave -
6. Small wooden home at 1308 NE 24<sup>th</sup> St (approx).
7. Morgan Byran Home at about 519 NE 23<sup>rd</sup> St?

If you have any information on these mystery houses - "My mother grew up with..." "I have pictures of..." "I remember..." "I have a box of 'old stuff' in the back of a closet," please contact the Historical Society at [WMHS@WiltonManorsHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:WMHS@WiltonManorsHistoricalSociety.org), or call 954-617-5889.

The Wilton Manors Historical Society is dedicated to preserving Wilton Manors' past and documenting the history of this extraordinary city for the future. For more on this history, or to become a member of the Society, please visit us at [www.WiltonManorsHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.WiltonManorsHistoricalSociety.org).

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