

STAFF REPORT

Historic Landmark Designation, Tom Olive House

December 17, 2019 Town Council Meeting



The purpose of the public hearing is to consider the facts, recommendation, and receive public comment in order to formulate a decision on the proposed application for Historic Landmark status.

A public hearing notice has been posted in accordance with applicable requirements.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Location: 2708 Olive Chapel Road

Applicant/Property Owner: Michael A. Ingram

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Acreage: .66 Acres

PIN: 0721392386

EXISTING CONDITIONS:

The proposed landmark site includes the original Tom Olive house, likely built around 1905 based on its architectural style and resemblance to other dwellings in the area.

BACKGROUND:

In 2019, Mike Ingram purchased the Tom Olive House from Lennar Carolinas. Mr. Ingram has undertaken a full restoration of the house using the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and plans by historic preservation architects Maurer Architecture as guides. Capital Area Preservation holds a historic preservation easement on the house. The easement will protect its historic character in perpetuity.

HISTORY:

Built ca. 1905, the Tom Olive House is locally significant for its Queen Anne architecture. The house is historically associated with the Olive family, a multi-generation family of successful farmers and community leaders in western Wake County. The key Queen Anne features of the Tom Olive house are its fishtail shingles in the front gables, the sawn brackets and pendants that top the cut-way bays, and a front porch of turned posts, balusters, and arched spandrels. The dwelling retains excellent overall physical integrity and has experienced very limited changes to the exterior. The interior retains its original floor plan and much of the interior finish materials have survived.

REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting the Tom Olive House at 2708 Olive Chapel Road be declared an Apex Historic Landmark. The designated landmark boundary includes approximately .66 acres. Landmark designation means the community recognizes the house as an important historic resource worthy of preservation. Any substantial exterior design changes to a designated landmark are subject to the design review procedures of the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission.



Tom Olive House

Smith Farm

Sunflower Rd

Milkthistle Aly

Hayride Aly

Barn Door Dr

Livestock Aly

Farmhouse Dr

Kythira Dr

Olive Chapel Rd

ALSEY THOMAS OLIVE HOUSE LANDMARK REPORT



2708 OLIVE CHAPEL ROAD
Apex, Wake County, North Carolina

PREPARED FOR:

Capital Area Preservation
1101 Haynes Street, Suite 001
Raleigh, North Carolina 27604

December 2019



CULTURAL
RESOURCE
CONSULTANTS

ALSEY THOMAS OLIVE HOUSE LANDMARK REPORT

2708 OLIVE CHAPEL ROAD Apex, Wake County, North Carolina

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Date:

December 6, 2019

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APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Preparing Your Application:

Please use black ink or type and use paper no larger than 11" x 17" for the required supporting information. Capital Area Preservation (CAP) staff is available to advise in the preparation of applications.

Filing Your Application:

When completed, the attached application will initiate consideration of a property for designation as a local historic landmark. The application will enable the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission (WCHPC) to determine whether the property qualifies for designation.

Mail the application to Capital Area Preservation, PO Box 28072, Raleigh, NC, 27611. Submitted materials become the property of the Wake County Government and will not be returned. Incomplete applications may be returned to the applicant for revision. CAP staff will contact applicants after receiving an application to discuss the next steps of the designation process (see *Landmark Designation Q & A* for more information). Please feel free to contact CAP with any questions at 919.833.6404, or e-mail at info@cappresinc.org. CAP can be found on the web at www.cappresinc.org.

Thank you very much for your interest in protecting Wake County's historic resources!

**The guidelines developed for this application are based on the evaluation process used by the National Register of Historic Places. National Register evaluation principles regarding criteria, category classifications, and integrity have been adapted for local applications.*

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Alsey Thomas Olive House

Current Name: Alsey Thomas Olive House

Location

Please include the full street address of the property, including its local planning jurisdiction. Wake County Property Identification (PIN) and Real Estate Identification (REID) Numbers can be found at the Wake County property information website at <http://imaps.co.wake.nc.us/imaps/mainpage.htm>, or by contacting the Wake County Planning Department.

Street Address: 2708 Olive Chapel Road, Apex, Wake County, North Carolina 27502

Planning Jurisdiction: AP PIN Number: 0721392386 REID: 0458130

Deed Book and Page Number: Book 017413 Page: 00435

Current Tax Value of Property: \$194,352

2. Owner Information (If more than one, list primary contact)

Name: Michael Ingram

Address: 2735 NC Highway 751, Apex, North Carolina 27523

Phone: 919-422-5690 Email: _____

Ownership (check one): Private Public

3. Applicant/Contact Person (If other than owner)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

4. Signatures

I have read the general information on landmark designation provided by the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission and affirm that I support landmark designation of the property defined herein.

Owner: _____ **Date:** _____

Owner: _____ **Date:** _____

Owner: _____ **Date:** _____

Owner: _____ **Date:** _____

Applicant: _____ **Date:** _____

(If different from owner)

OFFICE USE ONLY: Received by:	Date:
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5. General Data/Site Information

Date of Construction and major alterations and additions: Circa 1905

Number, type, and date of construction of outbuildings: None

A. Approximate lot size or acreage: 0.66 acres

B. Architect, builder, carpenter, and/or mason: Unknown

C. Original Use: Dwelling

D. Present Use: Dwelling

6. Classification

A. Category (select type from below): Building

- **Building** – created principally to shelter any form of human activity (i.e. house, barn/stable, hotel, church, school, theater, etc.)
- **Structure** - constructed usually for purposes other than creating human shelter (i.e. tunnel, bridge, highway, silo, etc.)
- **Object** - constructions that are primarily artistic in nature. Although movable by nature or design, an object is typically associated with a specific setting or environment (i.e. monument, fountain, etc.)
- **Site** - the location of a historic event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or vanished, where the location itself possesses historic, cultural, or archeological value, regardless of the value of any existing structure (i.e. battlefields, cemeteries, designed landscape, etc.)

B. Number of Contributing and non-contributing resources on the property:

A contributing building, site, structure, or object adds to the historic associations, historic architectural qualities, or archeological values for which a property is significant because it was present during the period of significance, relates to the documented significance of the property, and possesses historic integrity or is capable of yielding important information about the period.

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Non-contributing</u>
Buildings	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
Structures	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Objects	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Sites	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Previous field documentation (when and by whom): Wake County Historic Architecture

Survey, Kelly Lally, 1990-1991; Wake Municipalities Phase III Survey, Heather Wagner Slane, 2017

Please contact the Survey Coordinator at the State Historic Preservation Office to determine if the property is included in the Wake County survey (919.807.6573).

National Register Status and date (listed, eligible, study list): N/A

Please contact the National Register Coordinator at the State Historic Preservation Office to determine National Register Status (919.807.6587).

7. Supporting Documentation (Please type or print and attach to application on separate sheets. Please check box when item complete.)

A. Physical Description Narrative of All Resources on the Site

For primary resource, describe overall form, number of stories, construction materials, roof shape, porches, windows, doors, chimney, important decorative elements, and significant interior features whether or not the interior is being proposed for designation. Provide number, type and location of outbuildings, with an entry on each that includes construction date and brief description. Provide description of landscape and setting of all buildings, structures, etc. on the property.

B. Historical Background Narrative

Chronology of the property and its owners, including any historical events or historic persons associated with the property, presented in paragraph form.

C. Significance Statement

In a clear, concise statement tell why the property meets the criteria for local designation. Please refer to pages 47-48 in *The Handbook for Historic Preservation Commissions in North Carolina* when preparing statement of significance. A link to the Handbook can be found on the SHPO website site at <http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/commhome.htm>. Specifically refer to the Criteria for Significance and Aspects of Integrity. Also state if the property rises to the level of significance needed for designation when compared with all others of its style, type and period in the county, town or city. For example, a building or structure might be a community's only surviving examples of Greek Revival architecture or it may be a unique local interpretation of the Arts and Crafts movement.

D. Landmark Boundary

Describe the land area to be designated, address any prominent landscape features. Clearly explain the significance of the land area proposed for designation and its historical relationship to the building(s), structure(s) or object(s) located within the property boundary or, in the case of sites, the historical event or events that make the land area significant. For buildings and structures, the designated land area may represent part of or the entire original parcel boundaries, or may encompass vegetative buffers or important outbuildings. For objects, the designated land area may continue to provide the object's historic context (i.e., a statue's historic park setting). For sites, the designated area may encompass a landscape that retains its historic integrity (i.e. a battlefield encompassing undisturbed historic view sheds).

E. Bibliography

Bibliography of sources consulted.

8. Photographs

All photographs are required to be **digital, in JPEG (.jpg) format, and submitted on a CD or DVD**. Please note the following requirements:

- **Minimum Standard:** 6.5" x 4.5" at a resolution of 300ppi (a pixel dimension of 1950 x 1350)
- **File Size:** There is no maximum or minimum for the file size of an image; however, smaller file sizes may be necessary when emailing images.
- **Proof Sheet:** Proof sheets are required to show what is on a CD or DVD without having to load the disk. Proofs may be printed in either color or black and white as long as the images are crisp and legible. There should be a minimum of four and a maximum of six proofs per 8.5" x 11" sheet, with no image smaller than 3.25" on its longest side. Proofs should be labeled as they appear on the disk.
- **Naming Images:** Please label image files for the Local Designation Application as follows:

LM_PropertyName Description.jpg
Example: LM__Smith House_front façade.jpg

For buildings and structures, include exterior photos of all elevations of the primary resource and any other contributing and non-contributing resources; photos of details of significant exterior features, such as notable trim; photos of the main building or structure within its setting; photos of each significant landscape feature; and photos of notable interior spaces, significant trim and other features. For objects, include a view of the object within its setting, as well as a variety of representative views. For sites, include overall views and any significant details.

9. Floor Plan (for buildings and structures)

Please include a floor plan showing the original layout, approximate dimensions of all rooms, and any additions (with dates) to the building or structure. Drawings do not have to be professionally produced nor do they need to be to exact scale, but should accurately depict the layout of the property. (Building sketches from the Wake County property information website are not acceptable.)

10. Maps

Include two (2) maps: one (1) clearly indicating the location of the property in relation to nearby streets and other buildings, and one (1) showing the proposed landmark boundary of the property and all significant resources. Tax maps with the boundaries of the property are preferred, but survey or sketch maps are acceptable. Please show street names and numbers and all structures on the property.

7A. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION NARRATIVE

Alsey Thomas Olive House, ca. 1905

The Alsey Thomas Olive House (WA1043) is located at 2708 Olive Chapel Road in Apex, Wake County, North Carolina, approximately four miles from historic downtown Apex. The house faces south and is positioned roughly in the center of an irregularly shaped 0.66-acre lot on the north side of the road. In 2018, the parcel was subdivided from the Smith Farm residential subdivision, which is currently being developed on the land surrounding the parcel.

The lot is level and bounded by Olive Chapel Road on south side, Farmhouse Drive on the north side, Livestock Alley and a reserved open space lot for the Smith Farm subdivision on the east side. A gravel driveway at the western edge of the parcel accesses the property via Olive Chapel Road. The driveway bends to curve around the house and terminates at the parcel's east edge¹. Two mature magnolia trees, which are visible on a 1938 aerial photograph, are situated in the front yard between the house and Olive Chapel Road. Other than these trees, there are no significant landscape features or outbuildings associated with the history of the dwelling as an anchor of a southwestern Wake County family farm.

Exterior

The Alsey Thomas Olive House was built circa 1905 and expanded in 2019. The 1905 section is a roughly H-shaped, two-story wood frame building with a one-story front porch (Plates 7.a.1 – 7.a.6). This core section consists of parallel east and west wings joined by a central connector containing the interior stair hall. In 2019, a second story was added on top of the formerly one-story east wing. The east wing was extended to the rear to equal the length of the west wing. The east wing addition mirrors the original west wing with its cornice returns and beadboard soffits. A 2019 one-story shed roof addition projects from the rear (north) elevation. Corbelled interior chimneys rises from the roof ridge of both the east and west wings.

The dwelling's restrained Queen Anne detailing is concentrated on its symmetrical façade, which is dominated by the front gables of the east and west wings. The wings have cut-away corners which create two projecting, three-sided bays on either side of the recessed central connector wing. The cut-away corners are decorated with gracefully curved brackets and pendants. The gable ends are embellished with returns, a wide plain frieze board, and fish scale shingles. Set under the peak of each front gable is a pair of arched louvered vents.

A one-story porch with a deck-on-hip roof extends across the front elevation. The porch is notable for its original vernacular Queen Anne decorative elements. The elements include six support posts with curved spandrels. The three-part posts have a turned central section with rectangular top and bottom sections. This treatment is repeated in a truncated manner on the porch balustrades, which consist of closely spaced balusters set between a plain handrail and bottom rail between the porch posts. The porch retains its original beadboard ceiling. In 2019, the porch floor was replaced with non-historic pressure treated lumber. The front door is tucked beneath the porch and centered in the recessed area between the two wings. The current, non-historic single-leaf door is scheduled to be replaced with a double-leaf door similar to the original ones that were removed at an unknown date. Double-light side lights flank the door which is surmounted by a double-light transom.

The main block of the house, the front porch, and two-story addition rest on a raised brick foundation of brick piers infilled with a later brick curtain wall. The foundation of the east ell and the shed roof rear addition is supported by concrete block that has been parged over. All the roof planes are covered with a metal roof installed in 2019. The main block of the house retains its original two-over-two double-hung wood sash windows. The four windows on the angled walls of the front bays are one-over-one.

¹ The semicircular drive shown on the aerial photograph in Figure 10.2 does not reflect present conditions.

Original plain weatherboard siding covers the house. The east ell is covered with newly milled boards that match the original ones. The soffits are finished with beadboard. Plain corner boards are found throughout the house. All window and door openings exhibit plain wood surrounds with drip caps. The majority of the two-over-two double-hung wood sash windows remain in their original openings. New windows will be installed on the shed roof rear addition.

Interior

The Alsey Thomas Olive House has four rooms on the first floor and three original rooms on the second floor (Figures 9.1 and 9.2) (Plates 7.a.7 – 7.a.9). A 2019 addition expanded the first floor kitchen and added a breakfast nook and bathroom, and increased the second floor from three bedrooms to four (See Figures 9.1 and 9.2.) The rooms are oriented on either side of a central stair hall on both floors. The first floor has a dining room and kitchen on the east side of the hall and a living room and bedroom on the west side. A bathroom was added at the end of the central hall in 2019. The house retains much of its original materials including vertical waist-high beadboard wainscot, tongue-and-groove wood flooring, beadboard ceilings, and five-panel doors. The walls of the center hall are covered with diagonal beadboard wainscot.

Mantels are an important stylistic component of the house. Each of the four main rooms on the first story has a fireplace. The mantels of the dining room and living room are similar and feature a paneled lintel with a central raised medallion and plasters stacked with roundels, modillions, incised geometric designs and foliate carvings. In comparison, the first-floor bedroom mantel is plain with chamfered posts supporting a plain lintel. There are three fireplaces on the second floor. Each mantel is identical and features a lintel with a raised rectangular panel flanked by sawn pilasters.

7B. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND NARRATIVE AND ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The Olives first settled in western Wake County, North Carolina during the early 1800s (Irene Kittinger 2019). By 1900, the large, extended family spread out in the area west of Apex to Chatham County, and from US 64 south to US 1 (Figure 7.b.1). The survey records located in the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office list 13 historic properties that are affiliated with the Olive family. One of these properties is the circa 1905 Alsey Thomas Olive House (SHPO Survey Site No. WA 1043) located at 2708 Olive Chapel Road, which is the subject of this local landmark designation report. This report outlines the lives of two couples, Cader and Louisa Hunter Olive and their son and daughter-in-law Thomas Alsey “Tom” Olive and Caldenna “Enna” Markham Olive. Cader and Louisa assembled a farm of over 200 acres in western Wake County where Tom and Enna would build their Queen Anne-style home.

Like most Wake County residents of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Olives were engaged in agricultural work. They were also leaders in the educational and religious life of their immediate community. Cader and Louisa founded a community church, which became Olive Chapel Baptist Church, a cemetery, and a school in the 1850s. Their strong beliefs in the value of education were passed down through the generations as all of Tom and Enna’s children were college educated, which was a notable accomplishment for a farm family in the early twentieth century. Tom and Enna’s children attended North Carolina Women’s College, Meredith College, Wake Forest College, and North Carolina State College.

The land associated with the Alsey Thomas Olive House came into the family in 1846 when Cader Olive (1813-1904) purchased 264 acres on “both sides of Big Beaver Creek” from his father’s sister, Sidy Richardson, and her husband for \$152 (Wake County Deed Book [WCDB] 88; page150). Cader and Louisa Hunter Olive (1817-1898) built a log dwelling on the tract on the south side of Olive Chapel Road. The Olives’ log homestead stood until about 1976 and is not included in the 13 historic structures associated with the Olives (Belvin and Riggs 1983:371). The couple had 11 children and supported the family through farming and sawmilling. Cader and Louisa played a role in the development and growth of the local community, which became known as “Olive Chapel.” The couple donated materials for the construction of the Olive Chapel Baptist Church located approximately 1.5 miles west of their home in 1850. What began as a family burial ground near the church grew into a large community cemetery containing hundreds of graves. They also established a school for local white children near the church. The church was the social and religious nexus of the Olive Chapel community which maintains an active congregation today.

In 1850, Cader owned at least two enslaved persons, a 22-year-old black woman and a 2-year-old old female child described as mulatto (US Federal Census Slave Schedule, 1850). The Cader and Louisa’s assets and social status in their community placed them in the “large farm owner” socioeconomic group as defined by historian Kelly A. Lally. They were grouped with other farmers who owned several hundred acres but fewer than 20 slaves. This group was just below the planter class which included people who owned large, productive tracts in the more fertile northern and eastern parts of the county and held over 20 enslaved persons. The enslaved, slave-less yeoman farmers with fewer than 200 acres, and landless tenant farmers and laborers made up the bottom of the half of Wake County’s antebellum socioeconomic ladder (Lally 1994:15–17). The Olives were well-off but were not among Wake County’s economic elite.

Tom (1853-1926) and Enna (1860-1918) Olive were married in 1884. The young couple lived with the elder Olives in the log house. They benefitted from Cader and Louisa’s status and, based on the long-term nature of their shared living arrangements, it can be assumed that the older and younger Olives remained close throughout their lives. Tom and Enna had two

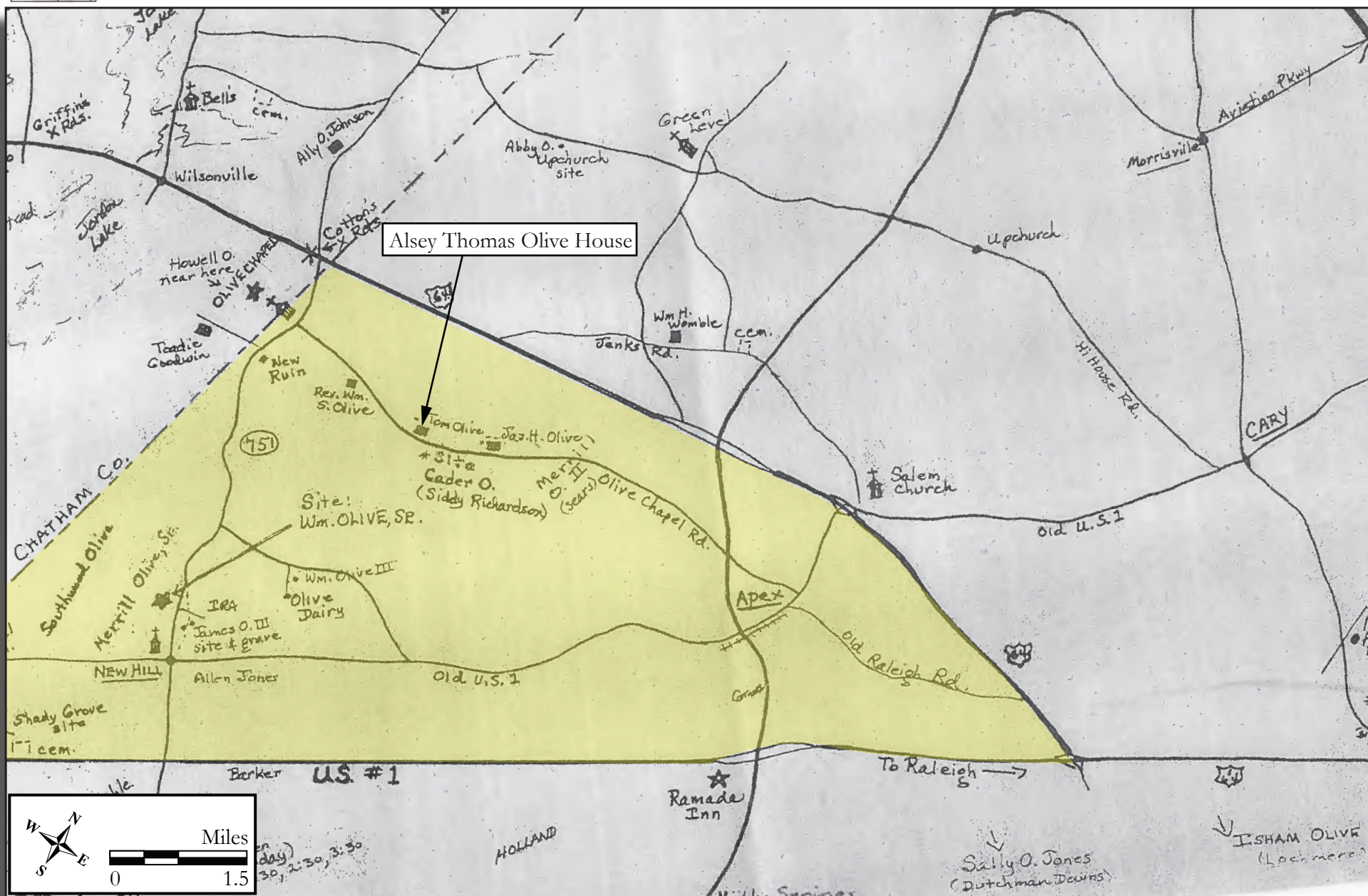


Figure 7.b.1: Sketch map of Olive Family sites in western Wake County showing the Alsey Thomas Olive House and sites related to the extended Olive family. Map drawn by Irene Kittinger, circa 1988 (Source: Elizabeth Reid Murray Collection, Box 344, Olivia Raney Local History Library).

children while living in Cader and Louisa's log house. Their first child was born in 1885 and did not survive his infancy. A second son, Thomas Homer (1886-1954), was born soon after. Around 1887, Tom embarked on a short-lived career in the lumber industry which took the young family away from Wake County. They first relocated to Manly, near Southern Pines, to help Enna's brothers operate a sawmill. It was in Manly that children Loula Bryan (1888-?), Luscious Bunyan "Bun" (1890-?), and Walter Wendell (c. 1893-1969) were born. The Olives moved again around 1891, this time to South Georgia, to work in the turpentine industry.

In 1894, Cader and Louisa sold two tracts of land "on the Waters of Big Beaver Creek in White Oak Township" to Tom and Enna for \$1,000 (WCDB 190; page 347). The first parcel was identified as the "home tract" which corresponds with the 264 acres purchased by Cader and Louisa in 1846. The second tract is 2.5 acres on the south side of Beaver Creek that Cader had purchased from William Branch in 1860 (WCDB 38; page151).

The younger Olives' 1894 purchase of the family homeplace likely coincided with their return to North Carolina. They moved back to the log house with Cader and Louisa, expanded it, and had three more children: James Gordon (1897-1969), Nellie Irene (1900-1993), and Rachel Royster (1904-1990). Once back home, Tom and Enna took over farming from Cader and Louisa (1900 US Federal Census). The Olive farm produced a variety of crops such as tobacco, cotton, corn, wheat, and oats. Black Angus beef cattle, colts, sheep, chickens and hogs were raised. Louisa Olive died in 1898. Cader survived until 1904 (Belvin and Riggs 1983:371-372).

Around 1905 Tom and Enna completed construction of a new house on the north side of Olive Chapel Road across the road from the log house the extended family had shared since the mid-1880s. This is the dwelling that became known as the Alsey Thomas Olive House (WA 1043). Its precise construction date is unknown. Stylistic clues and family oral traditions date it to around 1905 (Figure 7.b.2). This would place the house's construction to near the time of Cader's death, so it is not known if he was involved in the design of the new house, or if he survived long enough to see it completed. In 1905, Tom and Enna's seven surviving children were between the ages of 2 and 19. The large house would have comfortably accommodated the family. Family oral history states that in 1908, Tom had a tennis court built for the family in an Oak Grove near the house; however, the court is not visible on historic aerial photographs (Belvin and Riggs 1983:371). Aerial photographs from 1938 and 1951 show a cluster of farm buildings on the south side of Olive Chapel Road directly across from the Alsey Thomas Olive House (Figures 7.b.3 and 7.b.4). It is possible that these buildings were constructed proximate to the family's original log house and that around 1905, when the family moved to the "modern" house on the north side of the road, the log house was converted for agricultural purposes. Outbuildings around the circa 1905 house on the north side of the Olive Chapel Road are notably absent on the 1938 and 1951 aerial photographs, suggesting that domestic and work areas were intentionally separated from one another.

Tom and Enna chose the Queen Anne style of architecture for their new home. The style was popular nationally, was a tasteful statement of the family's local status, and was well suited for its prominent location on Olive Chapel Road. The Olives were doing what many across the county were doing in the early years of the twentieth century, replacing dated, and in some cases primitive, antebellum houses with modern houses that referenced the latest style of architecture. The size and style of the Alsey Thomas Olive House suggests that the family was doing well financially at this time.

Nationally, the Queen Anne style replaced the Greek Revival, Italianate and picturesque styles of the Victorian period that were popular, at least in vernacular form, across North Carolina in the late 1800s. Queen Anne houses are characterized by their irregular and often asymmetrical massing and the exuberant use of complex decorative components. The advent of light "balloon" framing, which facilitated the style's complex massing and efficient methods for the mass production and rail distribution of decorative building elements, enabled the spread of the style from about 1890 to its gradual replacement with the Colonial Revival style beginning around 1910. Decorative exterior trim



Figure 7.b.2: Archival photograph of the Alsey Thomas Olive House, undated
(Source: Capital Area Preservation).



Figure 7.b.3: 1938 aerial photograph of Wake County (Source: USDA Historical Aerial Photos, UNC Libraries).

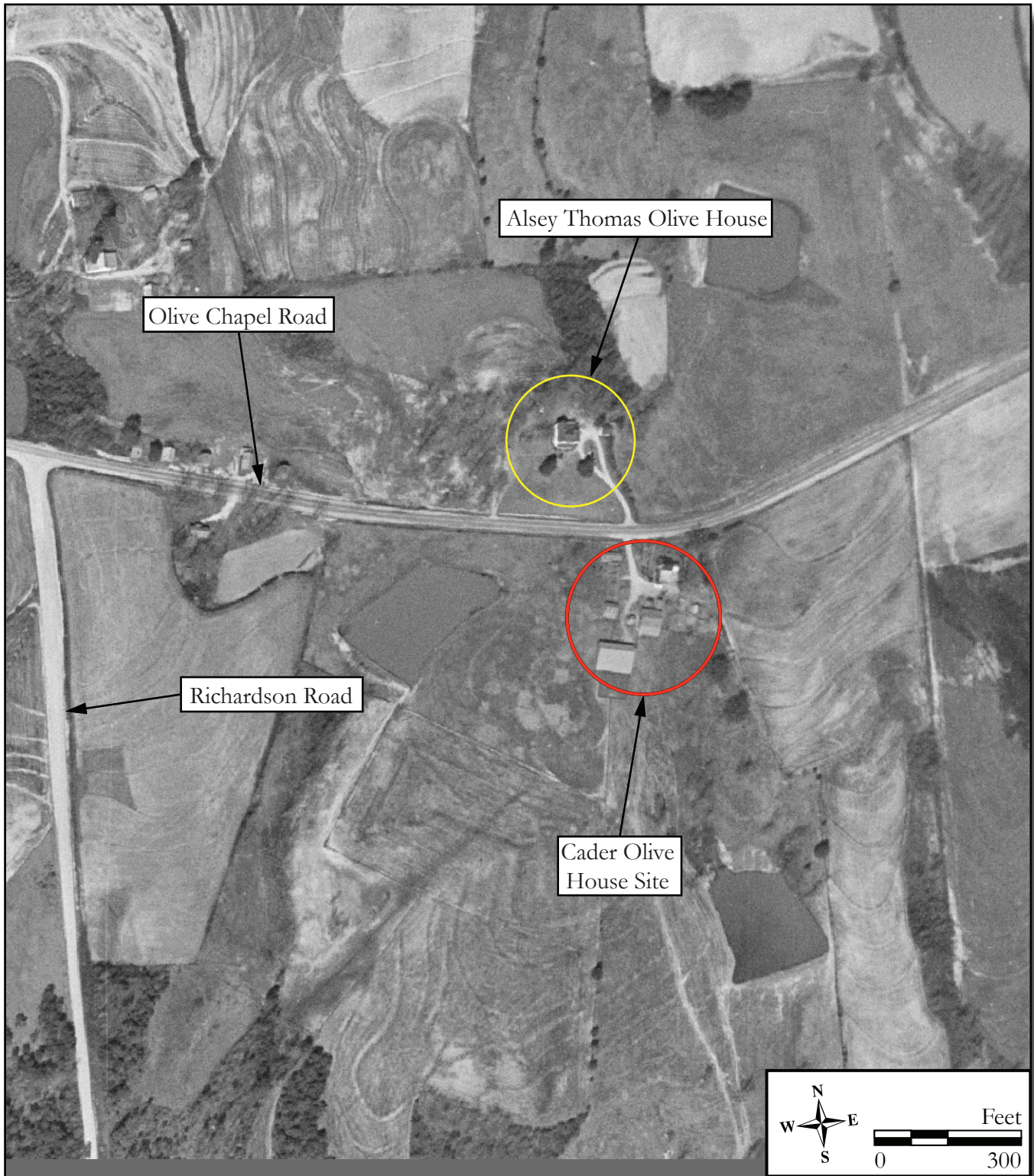


Figure 7.b.4: 1959 aerial photograph of Wake County
(Source: USDA Historical Aerial Photos, UNC Libraries).

such as finials, vergeboards, sawn cornice brackets, pendants, and patterned shingles and faux half timbering, were common. An elaborately decorated one-story porch with turned posts and balustrades was often the focal point of the facade. The porch could also feature a punched or spindled frieze, or on more modest houses, sawn brackets or spandrels. Double-leaf entry doors were common, often with frosted or stained-glass windows over raised panels. Window and vent openings were often arched (McAlester and McAlester 2000:263–268).

In Wake County's towns during the early twentieth century, the Queen Anne style was popular as a statement of the taste and affluence of their most prominent residents. However, the style was interpreted vernacularly in rural areas, often as simple, traditional boxy house forms, such as one- and two-story "Triple-A" houses, embellished with mass-produced decorative trims. In Apex, five miles from the Alsey Thomas Olive House, the circa 1889 Baucom-Olive House, a one-story L-plan cottage, has been designated an Apex Historic Landmark as one of the town's "most distinctive" examples of the Queen Anne style" (Capital Area Preservation 2013a)(Figure 7.b.5). Another Apex Historic Landmark is the circa 1909 J.M. Williams House at 4525 Green Level Church Road (Figure 7.b.6). This ornately detailed and turreted house is significant as a "unique high-style late Queen Anne farm house" (Capital Area Preservation 2013b). A third landmark property, the circa 1905 Williams-Upchurch House located at 7312 Roberts Road in Apex, is one of the most similar houses to the Alsey Thomas Olive House (Figure 7.b.7). Built around the same time, both houses possess similar distinctive massing: a transverse main block with twin projecting front gables. The Alsey Thomas Olive House and these three historic landmark properties represent the evolution of the Queen Anne style in western Wake County from its first appearance in the 1880s to its gradual replacement by the Colonial Revival style beginning around 1910. In fact, the Alsey Thomas Olive House is a purer representation of the late vernacular Queen Anne type since its turned porch posts are more Queen Anne in style than that of the Colonial Revival porch columns on the Upchurch-Williams House. As Wake County is currently nearing the end of its transition from an agrarian to a suburban landscape, surviving historic buildings such as the Alsey Thomas Olive House hold even more value for the understanding of life during a particular time and place.

Enna Olive died in 1919. The 1920 census listed Alsey T. Olive as a widowed head of household with four children between the ages of 16 and 26 and his mother-in-law also residing in the home (1920 US Federal Census). Tom supported the family through "general farming" and owned the home and farm outright. Tom married Mattie Overton (1875-1948) sometime after 1920 and died of "myocarditis" at the age of 73 on October 28, 1926 (North Carolina Bureau of Vital Statistics 1926). He was buried in the original Olive family cemetery across from the Olive Chapel Baptist Church. Tom willed one-third of his "real and personal property" to Mattie "for her life or widowhood" (Wake County Will Book J; page 189). Mattie was also to receive one-third of the rents from the farm along with the residence and furniture. Two-thirds of Tom's property was to be divided among his seven surviving children. Mattie's one-third share was to be divided equally among them when she died or remarried.

It is not known if Mattie Olive stayed in the house after Tom's death. She died in 1948 in Richmond, Virginia. In 1928, she and several of Tom's heirs (L.B. Olive [assumed to be Tom's son Lucious Bunyan] and wife Nell, Nellie Goodwin and husband Carl, and Rachel Olive, unmarried) sold 292 acres to Tom's sons Walter and James Gordon Olive for \$1,500 (WCDB 541; page 539). Walter and James had been operating a dairy farm near Southern Pines since 1921 but James returned to run the family farm and occupy the house (Belvin and Riggs 1983:371). Walter relinquished his ownership to James via a quit claim proceeding in 1944 (WCDB 913; page 639).

James Gordon Olive and his wife Pauline A. Olive resided in the Alsey Thomas Olive House from about 1930 to the 1980s. The 1940 US Census lists the couple living on the farm with daughters Betty, seven years old, and Sherley (sic) four years old (1940 US Federal Census). Sometime after 1940, a third daughter named Mary was born. The census valued the dwelling at \$1,700 and James Olive's farm income from the previous year was \$3,000. In addition to farming, James worked for the state



Figure 7.b.5: Baucomb-Olive House, 206 S. Salem Street, Apex
(Courtesy: Capital Area Preservation).



Figure 7.b.6: J.M. Williams House, 4225 Green Level Wert Road, Apex
(Courtesy: Capital Area Preservation).



Figure 7.b.7: Williams-Upchurch House, 7213 Roberts Road, Apex
(Courtesy: Capital Area Preservation).

Soil Conservation Service promoting the construction of farm ponds throughout Wake and Lee counties (Belvin and Riggs 1983:371). The numerous manmade ponds on the north and south sides of Olive Chapel Road are vestiges of his efforts.

James Gordon Olive died in 1969. Beginning around 1980, Pauline began deeding fractional shares of the 186-acre farm to her daughter Shirley Olive Eakes Carraway. Shirley and her second husband Harry F. Carraway eventually occupied the house and about 10 acres. The remainder of the farm acreage was divided among her sons (Smith 2019). In 2017, the developer and homebuilder Lennar Carolinas assembled 225 acres from Shirley Carraway and the Smith family in order to build the 500-home Smith Farms residential subdivision (Hoyle 2017).

In 2019, Mike Ingram purchased the 0.66-acre parcel containing the Alsey Thomas Olive House from Lennar Carolinas. Mr. Ingram has undertaken a full restoration of the house using the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and plans by historic preservation architects Maurer Architecture as guides. As part of the project, an addition was added to the north side and the vinyl siding was removed to expose the original weather boards of the exterior. Capital Area Preservation holds a historic preservation easement on the house. The easement will protect its historic character in perpetuity.

7C. SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

The circa 1905 Alsey Thomas Olive House, located at 2708 Olive Chapel Road in Apex, Wake County, North Carolina, is locally significant for its Queen Anne architecture. The house is historically associated with the Olive family, a multi-generational family of successful farmers and community leaders in western Wake County. The house possesses architectural significance as one of a dwindling number of surviving and intact rural Queen Anne-style houses in western Wake County. Locally, Queen Anne houses borrowed decorative elements from their high-style, urban counterparts and paired down these elements and applied them to more modest house forms. Key Queen Anne-influenced features of the Alsey Thomas Olive House are its fishtail shingles in the front gables, the sawn brackets and pendants that top the cut-way bays, and a showpiece front porch of turned posts and balusters and arched spandrels. While the house's historic agricultural setting has been compromised by suburban development, it remains on its original site on land that was owned by the Olive family for 171 years, from 1846 to 2017. The dwelling retains excellent overall physical integrity and its exterior largely reflects how the house appeared in circa 1905. The 2019 addition was built on the rear elevation and did alter the facade or obscure any of the house's character defining architectural features. The interior retains its original floor plan and much of the interior finish materials have survived. Its preserved state informs us about popular tastes, vernacular adaptations, and locally available and prevalent building materials and techniques that upper middle-class families used in early twentieth-century western Wake County.

7D. LANDMARK BOUNDARY

The Alsey Thomas Olive House is situated on a 0.66-acre parcel at 2708 Olive Chapel Road in Apex, Wake County, North Carolina. The house, built circa 1905, is the only structure on the parcel and is the key contributing resource to the landmark. The two mature magnolia trees in front of the house on the south side were planted around the time of the house's construction and are categorized as contributing resources to the historic landmark. The landmark boundary is the same as the legal parcel (PIN 0721392386) and encompasses the land around the house, which is all that remains of the Olives' farm, that at one time was over 200 acres.

The landmark designation applies to the above-mentioned parcel and the house's exterior envelope. Interior features are not proposed for landmark designation.

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8. PHOTOGRAPHS



Plate 7.a.1: South elevation, front of the house.

Photo view: North

Photographer: Olivia Heckendorf

Date: October 30, 2019



Plate 7.a.2: East elevation.

Photo view: West

Photographer: Olivia Heckendorf

Date: October 30, 2019



Plate 7.a.3: South elevation.

Photo view: North

Photographer: Olivia Heckendorf

Date: October 30, 2019



Plate 7.a.4: West elevation.

Photo view: East

Photographer: Olivia Heckendorf

Date: October 30, 2019



Plate 7.a.5: Porch detail.

Photo view: North

Photographer: Olivia Heckendorf

Date: October 30, 2019



Plate 7.a.6: Trim detail.

Photo view: North

Photographer: Olivia Heckendorf

Date: October 30, 2019



Plate 7.a.7: Dining room fireplace.

Photo view: North

Photographer: Olivia Heckendorf

Date: October 30, 2019



Plate 7.a.8: First floor bedroom fireplace.

Photo view: South

Photographer: Olivia Heckendorf

Date: October 30, 2019



Plate 7.a.9: Second floor bedroom showing mantel, typical 5-panel door and beadboard wainscot.

Photo view: Northwest

Photographer: Olivia Heckendorf

Date: October 30, 2019

9. FLOOR PLANS

SECTION 9

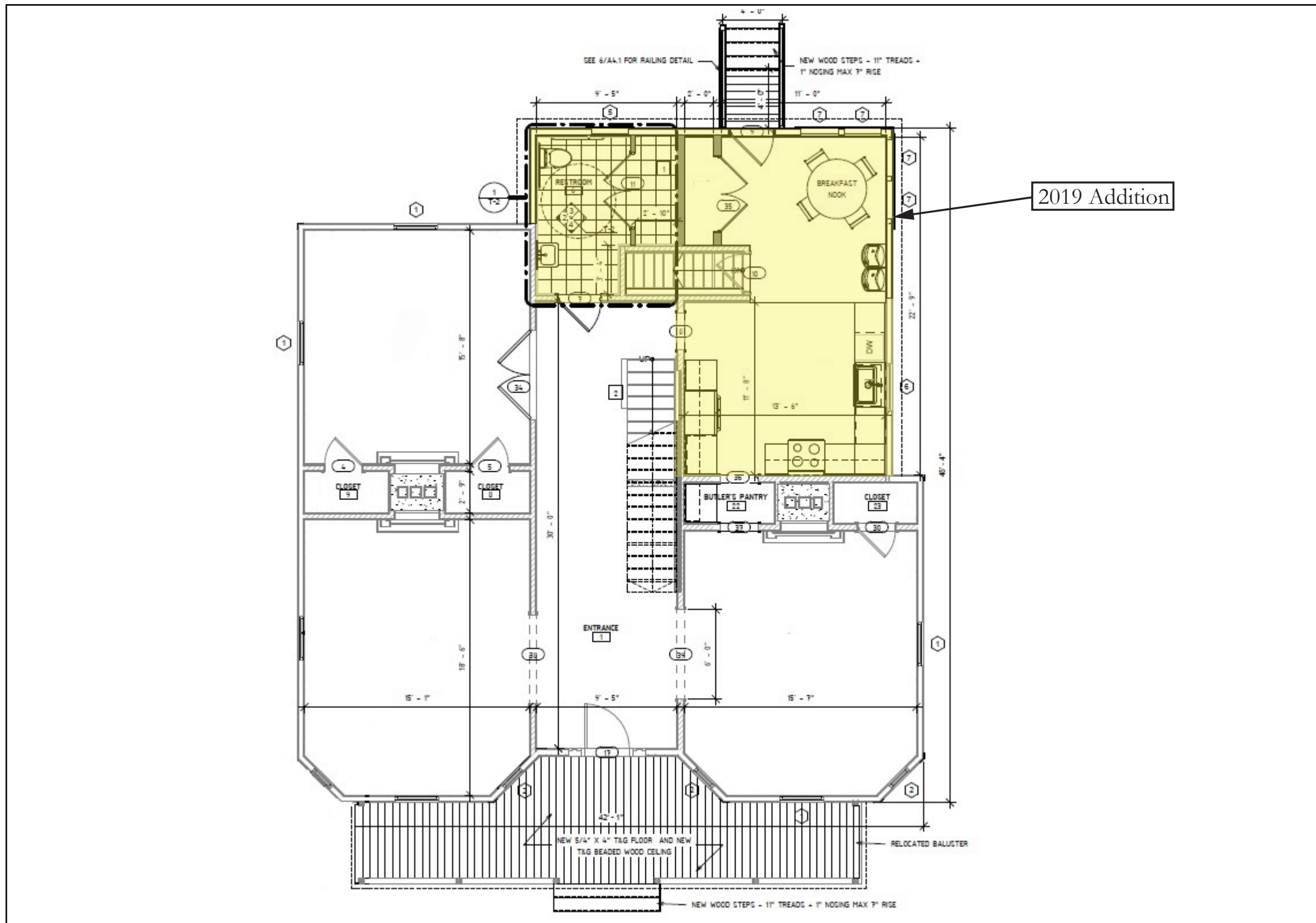


Figure 9.1: First floor plan by Maurer Architecture.

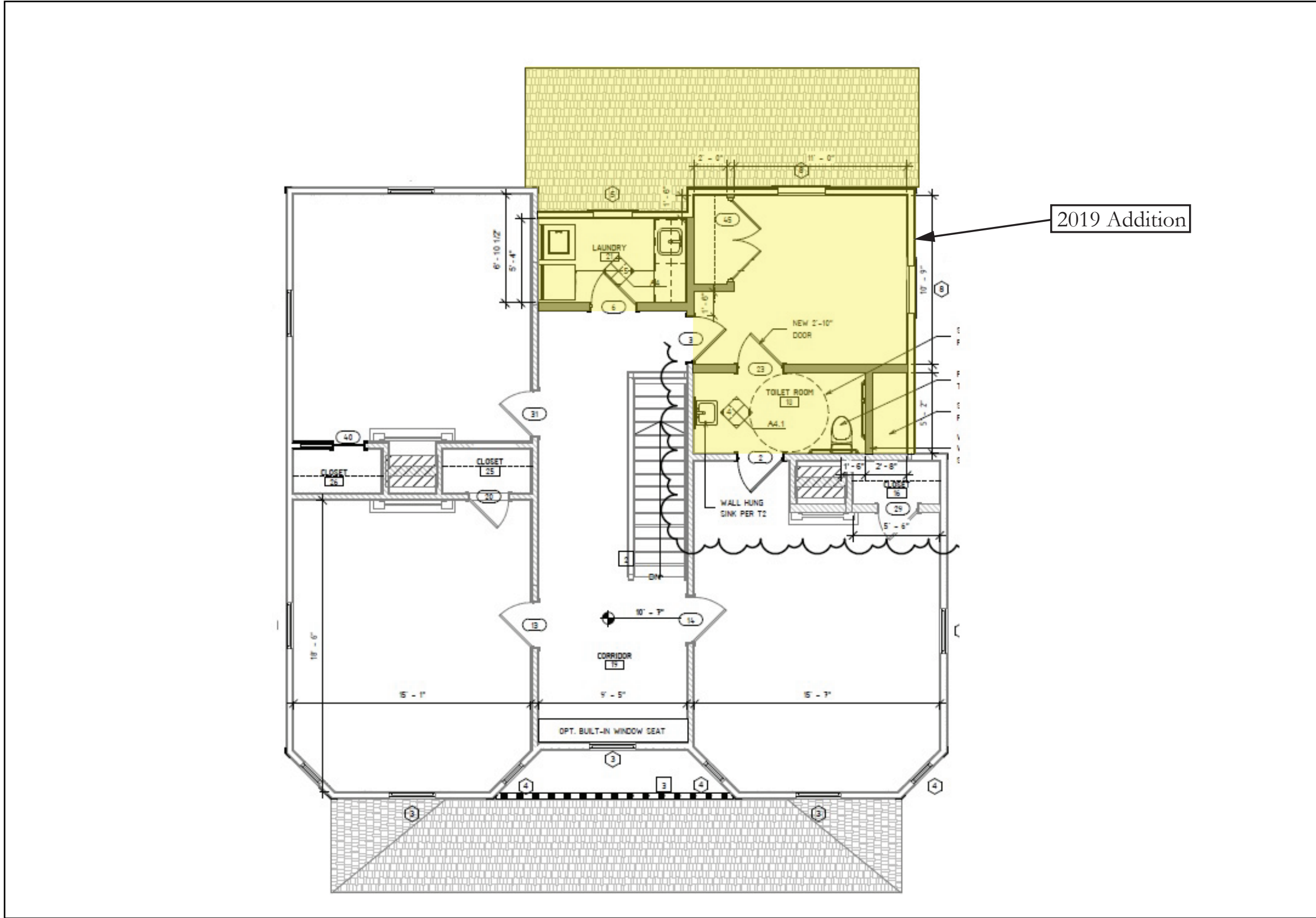


Figure 9.2: Second floor plan by Maurer Architecture.

10. MAPS

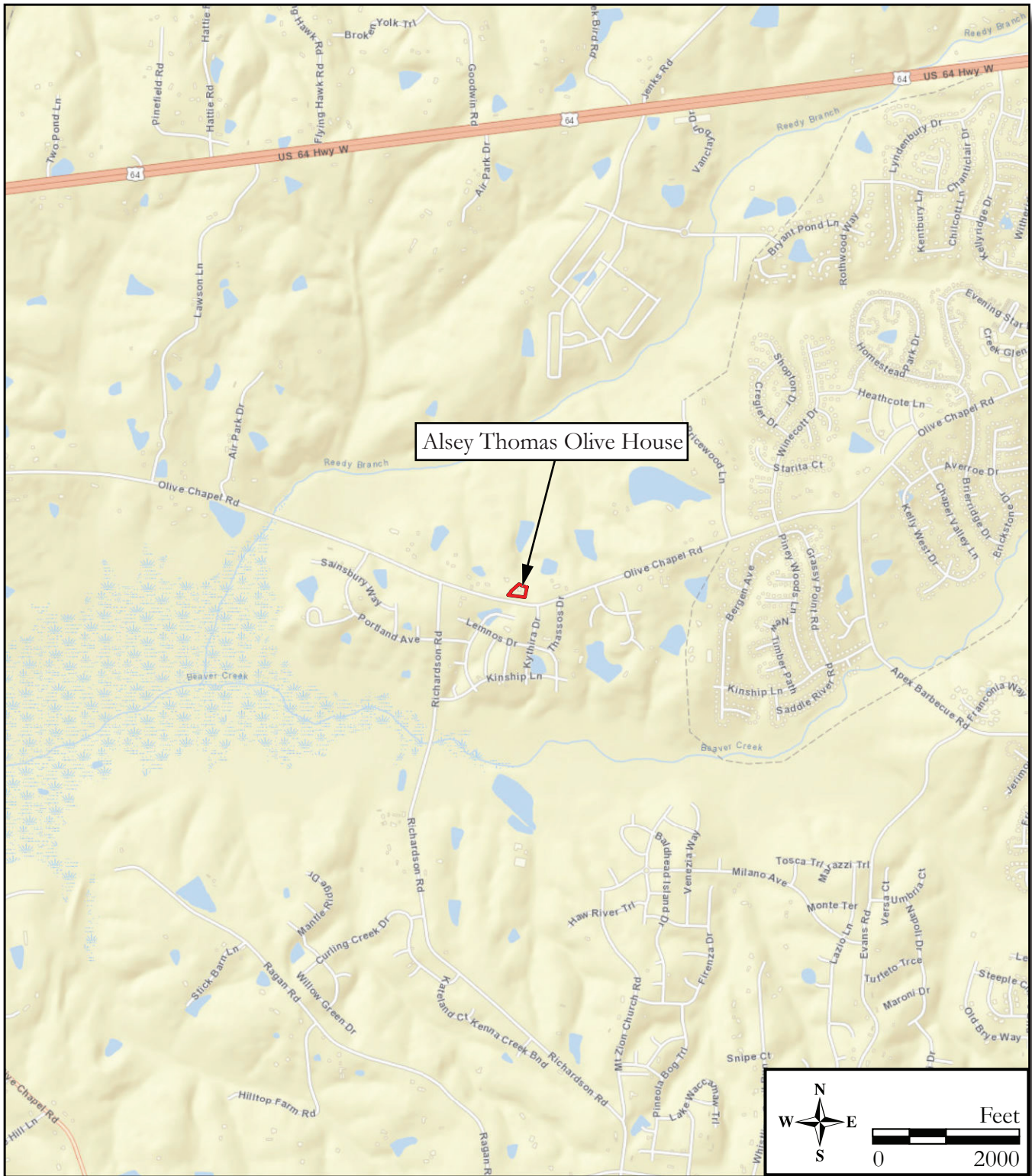


Figure 10.1: Aley Thomas Olive House location map (World Street Map, ESRI 2016).

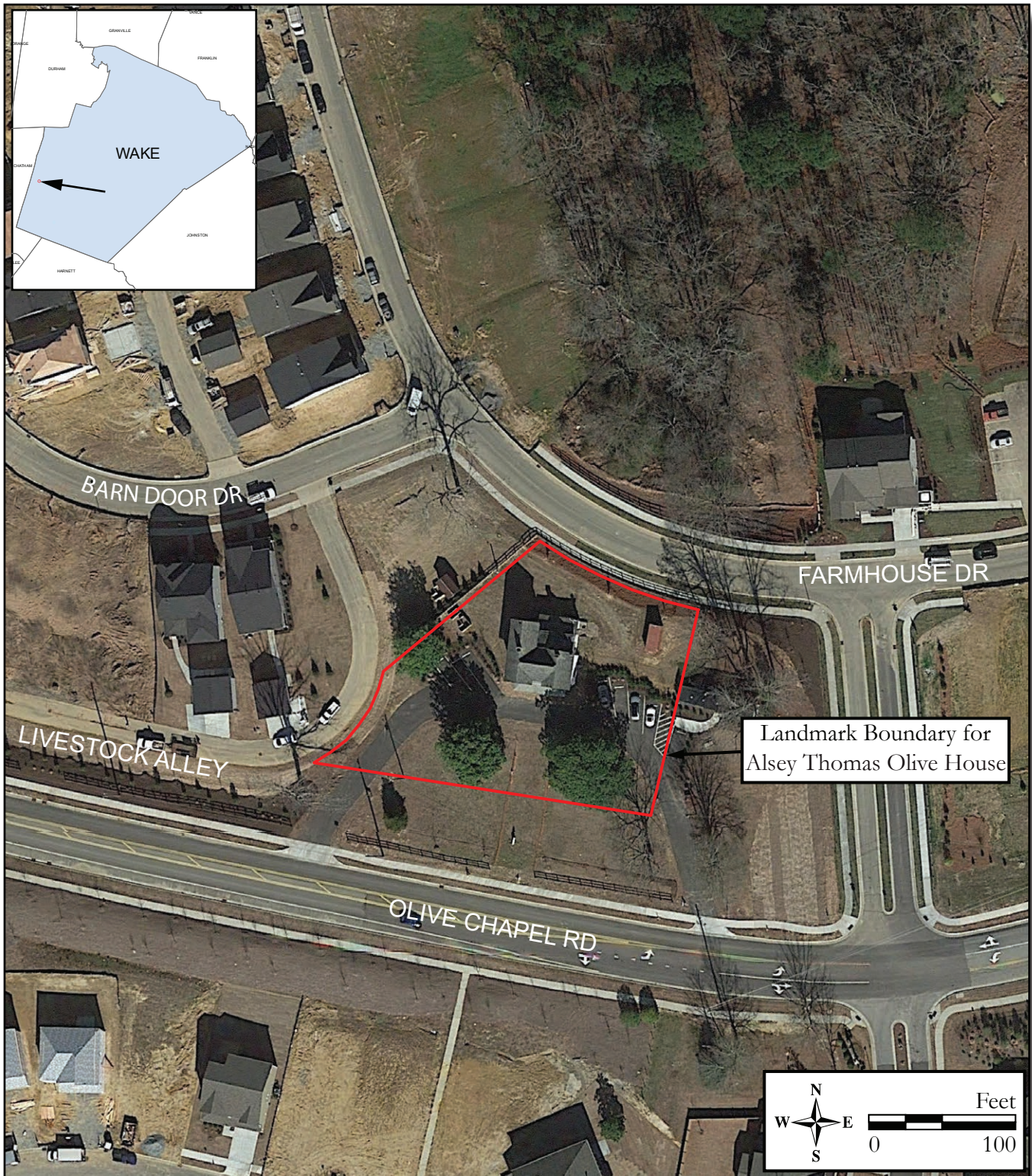


Figure 10.2: Aerial map showing Landmark boundary for Aley Thomas Olive House (from Google Earth, Imagery date 2/4/2019).



TOWN OF APEX

POST OFFICE BOX 250
APEX, NORTH CAROLINA 27502
PHONE 919-249-3426

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Historic Landmark Designation Tom Olive House

Pursuant to the provisions of North Carolina Statutes Section § 160A-400.1. through § 160A-400.15. and to the Town of Apex Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Section 2.2.11, notice is hereby given of public hearings before the Town Council of the Town of Apex. The purpose of these hearings is to consider the following:

Applicant/Property Owner: Michael A. Ingram

Property Address: 2708 Olive Chapel Road

Acreage: ± .66

Property Identification Number (PIN): 0721392386

2045 Land Use Map Designation: Low Density Residential

Zoning of Property: Planned Unit Development-Conditional Zoning (PUD-CZ #15CZ32)

Public Hearing Location: Apex Town Hall
73 Hunter Street, Apex, North Carolina
Council Chambers, 2nd Floor

Town Council Public Hearing Date and Time: December 17, 2019 7:00 P.M.

Vicinity Map:



All interested parties may appear at the public hearing and be heard with respect to the application. Maps showing the location for the above site(s) to be considered in addition to a copy of the [2045 Land Use Map](#) can be inspected at the Apex Town Hall or call 919-249-3426, Department of Planning and Community Development, for further information. To view the petition and related documents on-line: <https://www.apexnc.org/DocumentCenter/View/30055/>.

Dianne F. Khin, AICP
Planning Director



TOWN OF APEX
POST OFFICE BOX 230
APEX, NORTH CAROLINA 27502
PHONE 919-249-3426

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

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Applicant/Property Owner: Michael A. Ingram
Property Address: 2708 Olive Chapel Road
Acres: ± .66
Property Identification Number (PIN): 0721392386
2045 Land Use Map Designation: Low Density Residential
Zoning of Property: Planned Unit Development-Conditional Zoning (PUD-CZ #15C232)

Public Hearing Location: Apex Town Hall
73 Hunter Street, Apex, North Carolina
Council Chambers, 2nd Floor

Town Council Public Hearing Date and Time: December 17, 2019 7:00 P.M.

Vicinity Map:



All interested parties may appear at the public hearing and be heard with respect to the application. Maps showing the location for the above site(s) to be considered in addition to a copy of the [2045 Land Use Map](#) can be inspected at the Apex Town Hall or call 919-249-3426, Department of Planning and Community Development, for further information. To view the petition and related documents on-line: <https://www.apexnc.org/DocumentCenter/View/30055/>.

Dianne F. Khin, AICP
Planning Director

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