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Historic Furnishings Report

Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park
Oakwood, Ohio

Hawthorn Hill

A Furnishings History and
Recommended Plan



APPROVED:

Nicholas Georgeff

Acting Superintendent, Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park

June 24, 2010

Historic Furnishings Report

Hawthorn Hill
Dayton Aviation Heritage
National Historical Park
Oakwood, Ohio

Sarah H. Heald
Staff Curator

Mid-West Region
Harpers Ferry Center
National Park Service
September 2010

Cover: On the porch at Hawthorn Hill, Left to right: Pliny Williamson, Katharine, Orville (standing), and Bishop Milton Wright, Earl N. Findley (standing), John R. McMahon, and Horace Wright. 1915. Wright State University.

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Acknowledgments

Many people are due thanks for their assistance with this historic furnishings report. At Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park I would like to thank former superintendent Larry Blake for launching the project and current superintendent Dean Alexander for seeing it through to completion. Ann Honious, chief of education and resources management until September 2009, and Edward Roach, historian, oriented me to the house and potential resource materials and lined up funding to make the project possible. Roach helped with the on-site inventory work for the historic furnishings study, which laid the foundation for this historic furnishings report. Additionally, he undertook a variety of related research in support of the report, including finding census materials, obituaries, and newspaper articles. At Wright State University he surveyed Orville Wright's checkbooks.

Wright family members have proven invaluable. Amanda Wright Lane, Steve Wright, Marianne Miller Hudec, and numerous other Wright family members helped with my research questions and shared their family information and house so graciously.

I am also indebted to Harry Haskell, grandson of Henry J. Haskell, for his generous help with all aspects of my research involving Katharine Wright Haskell. The use of his personal index to his Katharine Wright research directed me to many references that might otherwise have been missed. He alerted me

to the existence of Orville Wright's checkbooks at Wright State University and to the correspondence with Vilhjalmur Stefansson at Dartmouth College.

At Wright State University archivist Dawne Dewey revisited the collections and found pertinent furnishings information in Orville Wright's checkbooks and new historic photographs of Hawthorn Hill. Also in Dayton, Mary Oliver and Steve Lucht, of Dayton History, provided access to and knowledge of their collections.

Assistance at other repositories was provided by Ken Rossi, Oberlin College Archives; Alex Forist, associate curator of collections, Grand Rapids Public Museum; Josh Lascell at Dartmouth College's Rauner Library; Jim Roan, National Museum of American History (Smithsonian Institution); and Leonard Bruno, manuscript historian, Library of Congress.

Barbara Yocum, architectural conservator, Northeast Region Historic Architecture Program, National Park Service (NPS), led me to Richard Maurer, whose children's book on Katharine Wright demonstrates that work done for children is of interest and value to all.

Thanks are also due to Sylvia Frye, Autumn Cook, George Franchois, and Jeanette Knight, all of the NPS, for their aid in getting interlibrary loan books for this project. An

NPS-Frederick Community College partnership office, the Catoctin Center for Regional Studies, generously shared access to its research databases, including city directories.

Numerous staff in my NPS office at Harpers Ferry Center provided aid on this project as well. Thanks are due to Janice Wheeler, Carol Maass, Sherry Sturman, John Brucksch, Neil MacKay, Michael Paskowsky, and Phil Musselwhite. Mary Grassick's initial work on other Dayton historic properties gave me a leg up on local repositories. As always, the collective knowledge and discerning eyes of all of the Harpers Ferry Center historic furnishings curators enabled me to find even more in historic images, material culture, manuscripts, and photographs than might otherwise have been recognized.

The Wright Family Foundation, the Iddings Foundation, and the National Park Service Challenge Cost Share Program provided funds for this project. It has also been funded in part by a grant from the Charles Evans Hughes Foundation of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. I am grateful to all of these organizations for their support of the report.

Sarah H. Heald
National Park Service, Harpers Ferry Center
September 2010

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Management Summary

Hawthorn Hill, built between 1912 and 1914 in Oakwood, Ohio, served as the residence of airplane inventor Orville Wright for the last 34 years of his life. The colonial revival mansion also served as the home of his sister, Katharine Wright Haskell, from 1914 until her 1926 marriage; of their father, Bishop Milton Wright,¹ from 1914 until his death in 1917; and of Charles and Carrie Kayler Grumbach, hired servants to the Wright family for decades and residents of the house from 1926 until 1948.

The 34-room colonial revival house has identical symmetrical facades on both the front and back sides, although the interior is not symmetrical in layout (figures 4 and 5). The main entrance is at the center of the house on its south side, with porches at both ends of the house. An entrance to the kitchen is on the west side from the rear side porch. Two servants bedrooms are on the back side of the house above the kitchen, pantry, and servants' dining areas. Katharine Wright's bedroom, with its Palladian window, is centered over the front entry. Four other bedrooms round out the second floor. The house has a full attic and basement as well as a balustraded rooftop widow's walk.

Upon Orville Wright's death in 1948, Dayton's National Cash Register Company (NCR)

purchased Hawthorn Hill and many of its furnishings from Wright's estate for \$75,000. From 1948 to 2006, NCR used Hawthorn Hill as a guesthouse for visiting corporate executives and dignitaries. For much of the period during which NCR housed guests at Hawthorn Hill, it employed live-in caretakers to manage guest services. These caretakers lived in the servants' quarters in the northwest corner of the house.

NCR commissioned a series of photographs of most of Hawthorn Hill's first- and second-floor rooms in February 1948, two weeks after Orville Wright's death.² Although NCR kept some Wright-era artifacts in use in Hawthorn Hill, they left the first-floor library generally undisturbed, retaining it as a tribute to Orville Wright. Upon taking ownership the company engaged W. & J. Sloane of New York and Dayton interior designer Keith Wilson to redecorate and refurnish most of the home as a guesthouse and moved most of the remaining Wright furnishings to Hawthorn Hill's attic. In addition to the 1949 NCR redecoration, during its ownership NCR commissioned three other redecorations, the last of which was in 1989. During the 58 years NCR used Hawthorn Hill as a guesthouse for visiting company officials and dignitaries, they opened the house for public visitation on rare

1 Orville and Katharine Wright's father, Milton Wright, was a bishop in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ. He was typically called the Bishop or Bishop Wright.

2 Earlier photographs of the first-floor interior, from ca. 1914–1924/6, are in the Ivonette Wright Miller Papers at Wright State University in Dayton. See figures 3–16.

occasions. The February 1948 photographs comprise the best interior documentation of Hawthorn Hill during Orville Wright's life and are the starting point for discussions on its future interior appearance.

During the 1970s, NCR loaned several dozen Hawthorn Hill furnishings and pieces of artwork to the Kettering-Moraine Museum in Kettering, Ohio. These selected furnishings remained at the Kettering-Moraine Museum until its closure in 2008. The NPS designated Hawthorn Hill a national historic landmark in 1991. NCR retained other furnishings in its corporate archive, which passed to Montgomery County Historical Society management in 1999. The Montgomery County Historical Society merged with Carillon Historical Park to form Dayton History in 2005; Dayton History presently manages the NCR Archive, including its Hawthorn Hill artifacts. The NPS and Dayton History each own a few other Wright-era Hawthorn Hill artifacts, while other pieces remain in family ownership.

In 2006, NCR donated the house, property, and non-Wright-era furnishings to the Wright Family Foundation. The Wright Family Foundation, with hopes of having Hawthorn Hill incorporated into Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park (NHP), began working with the NPS and Dayton History in 2007 to study the 1948 appearance of the house's interior and the location of extant Wright-era furnishings. The various partners also funded a study of

Hawthorn Hill's interior wall coverings. In 2009, Congress expanded the boundary of Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP to include Hawthorn Hill. Presently, NCR retains ownership of its Wright-era Hawthorn Hill artifacts, which remain in Dayton even as NCR relocates its corporate headquarters to Georgia, and the Wright Family Foundation owns the house, its grounds, and the NCR-era furnishings within the house.

With this historic furnishings report, Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP and the Wright Family Foundation have begun the process of fully documenting and assessing the history of the home and its use. Reassessing extant furnishings, family traditions, and prior scholarship, and looking at both new and old sources of information with a fresh perspective allows historic site managers to reframe and update their knowledge and interpretation of a property and its residents. With an individual as significant and creative as Orville Wright, assumptions and stories can develop and be passed on without solid documentation. New research and a second look at old materials have led to a better understanding of how Orville, Wilbur, Katharine, and Milton Wright viewed Hawthorn Hill, how they ultimately used it, and how that use changed over time. It is hoped that with this report the NPS and the Wright Family Foundation are better positioned to make management decisions about historic furnishings and interpretation based on clearer and more accurate knowledge of Hawthorn Hill.

Administrative Information

by Edward Roach, Historian, Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP

Interpretive Objectives

To date, no NPS interpretive objectives have been established for Hawthorn Hill. The property is not addressed in either Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP's 1997 General Management Plan and Interpretive Plan or the 2006 General Management Plan Amendment. Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP identified a need for a new general management plan in 2009 after the incorporation of Hawthorn Hill and the Wright Company factory buildings within the NPS boundary and has requested funding to begin the planning process.

Dayton History has several informal interpretive objectives for the tours it leads through the estate. It works to provide insight into the history of the Wright family; to create a more complete understanding of Orville Wright's life and especially of his last 30 years; to discuss with visitors the architectural history and residential setting of Hawthorn Hill; and to interpret the history of Hawthorn Hill as an NCR guesthouse (its present appearance), with the associated furnishings and building modifications.

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Operating Plan

Throughout the year, Dayton History operates four public tours of Hawthorn Hill each week—two on Wednesdays and two on Saturdays—with each tour limited to a maximum of 15 visitors. Tour groups assemble at Carillon Historical Park, from which Dayton History drives the group to

Hawthorn Hill in a 15-passenger vehicle. All tours of the site are guided; no self-guiding tours of Hawthorn Hill are presently offered by Dayton History staff, the Wright Family Foundation, or the NPS. The NPS is not presently involved in the site's daily operations.

Prior Planning Documents

Heald, Sarah. *Hawthorn Hill – Historic Furnishings Study – Phase I*. Harpers Ferry, West Virginia: National Park Service, Harpers Ferry Center, 2008.

Yocum, Barbara. *Hawthorn Hill, Oakwood, Ohio: Wallcoverings Investigation*. Lowell, Massachusetts: National Park Service, Northeast Region Historic Architecture Program, 2008.

Historical Information

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Summary of Sources with Suggestions for Future Research

Numerous repositories and sources were consulted for this study of Hawthorn Hill, and many contained significant furnishings information. For example, evidence was gleaned from such sources as Katharine's correspondence, Orville's checkbook stubs, and Milton Wright's diary. Original Hawthorn Hill furniture also revealed new information about how Orville and Katharine furnished their home, and the amalgamation of seemingly minor tidbits of evidence merged to give a better understanding and interpretation of the Wrights' lives at Hawthorn Hill.

Time did not permit a full review of the Wilbur and Orville Wright Papers at the Library of Congress. Of the items online from this collection as of March 2009, all of the Wrights' correspondence between 1912 and 1948 was viewed, as were the diaries, notebooks, and scrapbooks. For some individuals known to have visited Hawthorn Hill, online general correspondence was also viewed: Griffith Brewer (through 1923), Fred C. Kelly, Charles A. Lindbergh, and Alec Ogilvie. A small portion of the Wright materials were viewed in the Manuscript Reading Room; these included oversized scrapbooks and the general correspondence of Henry Ford, Edwin H. Sines, "We the People,"³ and Greenfield Village.

At Wright State University the Ivonette Wright Miller Papers, Katharine Wright's correspondence with Agnes Beck, and the Wright Family Papers were reviewed.⁴ The checkbook stubs of Orville Wright proved an invaluable resource. Two items at Wright State should be examined in the future: the papers of Adrian Kinnane, a historian who drafted an unpublished manuscript, "The Crucible of Flight," and the unpublished memoir of Katharine's friend, Agnes Beck Rehling.

The Katharine Wright Haskell Papers, containing Katharine's correspondence with her future husband, Henry J. Haskell, are in the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the University of Missouri. Available on microfilm, this extensive collection was reviewed in its entirety and proved a tremendous resource. The letters provide glimpses into daily life at Hawthorn Hill, containing information about hiring and training household help, mention of cooking and meals, passing references to household furnishings, and poignant insight into Katharine's decision to marry at age 52 and leave her life in Dayton behind. Research in this collection was aided by a personal research index compiled by Harry Haskell, grandson of Henry J. Haskell.

3 This was a 1930s radio program often broadcast on-site with the prominent figure being interviewed.

4 I am grateful for the help of Wright State University archivist Dawne Dewey and Dayton Aviation National Historical Park historian Edward Roach, who reviewed these materials for me and arranged for me to have photocopies or scans of pertinent items.

The Oberlin College Archives contain files documenting Katharine Wright Haskell's substantial Board of Trustee and alumni activities, as well as numerous newspaper articles about her. Both the diary and the journal of her classmate, Kate B. Leonard, contain descriptions of Hawthorn Hill and record Leonard's activities when she visited in fall 1914. Papers of Vilhjalmur Stefansson, arctic explorer and friend of Orville and Katharine, in the Rauner Special Collections Library, Dartmouth College, provided a slightly different view of Hawthorn Hill. Stefansson visited Oakwood on numerous occasions in the early 1920s. His letters from Katharine Wright offer some detail of how the Wrights were able to entertain out-of-town guests in a manner that would not have been possible had they remained in their small house on Hawthorn Street.

Internet and phone inquiry at the Henry Ford Museum indicate there is no obvious cache of materials there. However, like so many museums in the 1930s, its record keeping was idiosyncratic and it may be worth a trip to Michigan to probe the records in person. It is possible that when Henry Ford acquired Orville Wright's Hawthorn Street home, there were references to furnishings at Wright's current home, Hawthorn Hill.

Hawthorn Hill contains furniture that illuminates aspects of the colonial revival. Further research into the Century Furniture Company of Grand Rapids, and Edward Somes, who arranged for much of that company's reproduction furniture—examples of which are at Hawthorn Hill—may prove fruitful. Likewise, furniture labels on Hawthorn Hill pieces point to a link between E. R. Lemon, who owned the Wayside Inn in Sudbury, Massachusetts—a colonial revival mecca of sorts—and the Connecticut Historical Society. These threads will be of interest not only to Dayton area residents and those interested in the Wright story, but they may also provide new insight within the general field of American decorative arts and the colonial revival movement.

Period trade catalogs—for furniture, plumbing, and cleaning systems—rounded out the sources used to better understand Hawthorn Hill.

Finally, more may also be learned about W. J. Sloane Co., which helped furnish the house for NCR in 1949. The resources of New York Historical Society or the Cooper-Hewitt Museum may be helpful to better understand this later refurnishing. Sloane's is said to have acquired some Metropolitan Museum of Art (MET) reproductions when refurnishing Hawthorn Hill. If archives of the MET's reproduction program in the 1940s exist, they might prove useful in identifying furnishings NCR placed in its guesthouse in Oakwood.

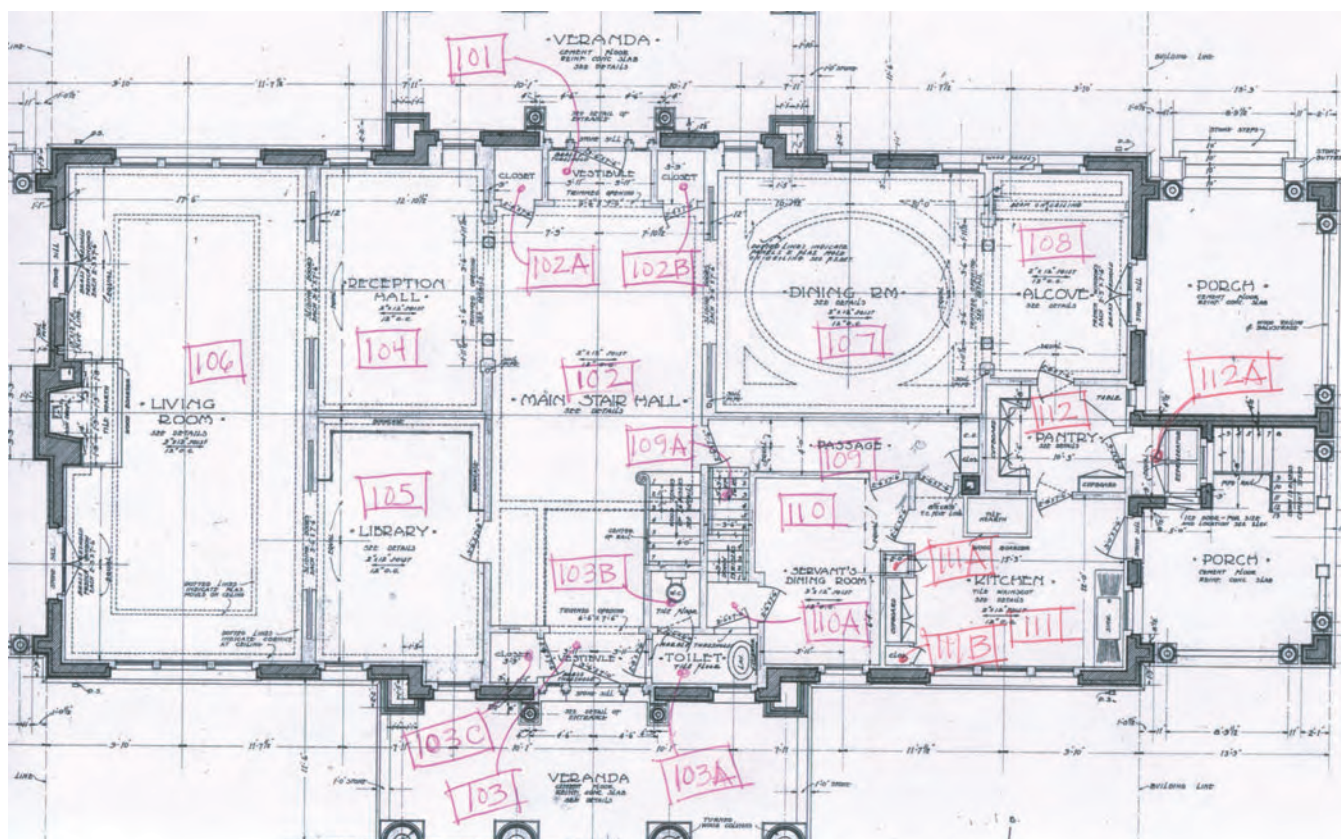


Figure 1. First-floor plan—2010 numbering.

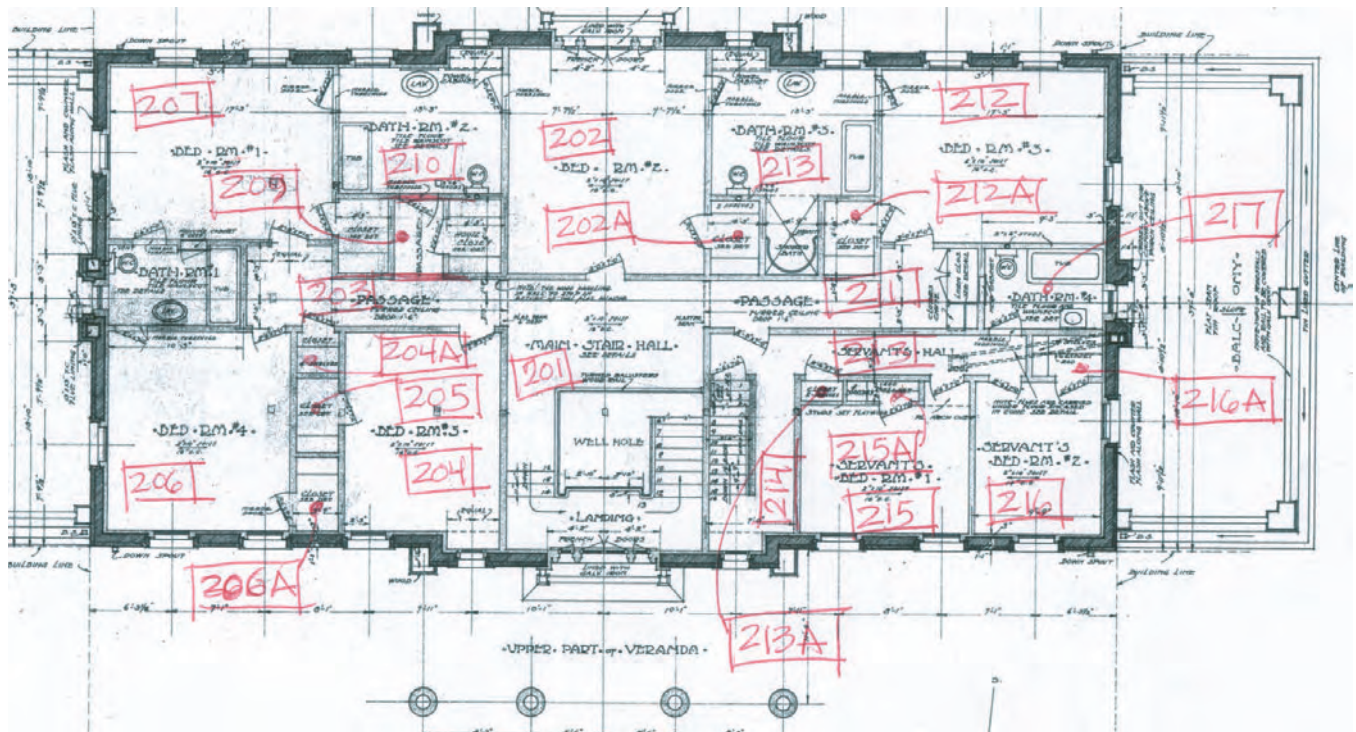


Figure 2. Second floor Plan—2010 numbering.

Analysis of Historical Occupancy

... Orville has built him a fine residence, and Katharine runs it.

-Bishop Milton Wright⁵

19

A New Home: Acquisition of Property, Design and Construction of Hawthorn Hill, and Preparations for Moving⁶

In March 1910 the Wrights acquired land in Dayton View, an area northwest of downtown Dayton, on the corner of Salem Avenue and Harvard Boulevard for their new home, but for a number of reasons, including lot size, they soon shifted their plans to the new Oakwood development, south of the city, purchasing land on the corner of Harman and Park Avenues.⁷ Katharine advocated for this new location, and her brothers apparently did not take much convincing.⁸ “The boys have come to my way of thinking, as they always do if I just have patience enough to rely on the sun instead of the wind to produce the desired state of mind.”⁹ This site offered a wooded lot and a high hill on which to place their colonial revival mansion. Excited about the new property, the family often picnicked there, and, once the house was built but not yet habitable, enjoyed the July 4th, 1913 fireworks with a picnic on the roof.¹⁰

Katharine Wright had voiced the desire for a new, larger home, suitable to the new wealth, fame, and social circles in which they found themselves.¹¹ Although their Hawthorn Street birth home had been on a deep, narrow lot, their new home in Oakwood was on three acres.¹² The Wrights intended to enjoy their new home with groups small and large, family and famous.

5 Milton Wright to Mrs. Mary A. Wyatt, September 6, 1914; Wright Papers, 1881–1973, Milton Wright, Wilbur and Orville Wright Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

6 See Appendix C for notes on house planning.

7 In addition to concern about the lot being too small, Orville was concerned that the neighborhood might have more Jewish residents than he would have liked. OW to WW, May 7, and June 11, 1911; Wright Papers, Library of Congress online; and KW to Griffith Brewer, November 8, 1911, as cited in Riddle and Sinnott, eds., *Letters of the Wright Brothers: Letters of Wilbur, Orville, and Katharine Wright in the Royal Aeronautical Society Library*. Charleston, South Carolina: Tempus Publishing, 2003.

8 Orville told Wilbur, “Kate is now in favor of moving to Oakwood!” And about a week later Katharine wrote their family friend Griffith Brewer, “I think Will and Orv are very glad we did not go ahead on the original lot.” OW to WW, June 4, 1911, Wright Papers, Library of Congress, online; and KW to Griffith Brewer, November 8, 1911, Riddle and Sinnott, *Letters of the Wright Brothers*.

9 KW to Alec Ogilvie, December 27, 1911, Riddle and Sinnott, *Letters of the Wright Brothers*.

10 Milton Wright, *Diaries: 1857–1917*. Dayton, Ohio: Wright State University, 1999, July 4, 1913. See Appendix C for other times they enjoyed the rooftop view.

11 It appears that since the Hawthorn Street house did not have room for houseguests, Orville paid for visiting friends to stay at a hotel. OW checkbook, Wright State University, October 1913, payment of \$73.68 to “Bennett McFall” for “Hotel a/c Ogilvie and Brewer.”

12 In 1912 the Wrights purchased lot #93. Harry G. Ebeling, “Isaac Haas – the man who bought Oakwood,” *Centennial Reflections: Essays from the Oakwood Historical Society* (online)]. The 7 Hawthorn Street lot was 0.09 acres/0.036 ha. The original Oakwood lot was 17 acres, but the Wrights quickly sold all but 3 acres of the purchase.

“Residence for Miss Katharine Wright” was the label on the preliminary house sketches. “Orv says, ‘It’s no use. We can’t fool anybody. Everyone knows who will own the house,’” Katharine recounted to Alec Ogilvie, a British friend who flew some of the early Wright planes.¹³ The three siblings worked together to steer the house to the style and configuration they desired. They were not always entirely in agreement, and Wilbur lost his opportunity to have greater input because he was in France during much of the time the new home was being planned.

The Dayton architectural firm Schenck & Williams designed the house (figures 1 and 2).¹⁴ Harry Schenck and Harry Williams had been classmates at Cornell University, where they studied architecture. Schenck, a Dayton native, was also an early property owner in Oakwood, and was soon a neighbor of the Wrights, living at 1125 Harmon Avenue.¹⁵ Williams appears to have done the actual drawings.¹⁶

The Wright brothers had been tinkerers, experimenters, inventors, designers since childhood. A new house offered an opportunity to apply their ideas to yet another form. Their oldest brother, Reuchlin Wright, did not approve of how involved they became and shared his concerns with their father:

I think the boys are mistaken as to the architects’ mission. The builder determines the general plan of the building he wants to build and the architect harmonizes the arrangement. The architects experience enables him to avoid many inconveniences the inexperienced would not see. Let the boys determine the general plan they want and give it to an architect to work out the detail.¹⁷

The “boys” and their sister may never have learned of their brother’s disapproval, and it is not known what their father thought. The three youngest Wrights easily agreed on a commanding colonial revival style; they had all been taken with similar architecture when in Fort Myer, Virginia. Katharine expressed her joy: “The new house seems to be well on the way finally. We have quite unexpectedly agreed perfectly on our style of exterior. The interior is ‘up to me.’”¹⁸ Large rooms for entertaining, indoor bathrooms—including a high-end, state-of-the-art needle shower to ease Orville’s persistent back pain—closets, and comfortable guest quarters were Katharine’s top priorities. Negotiations with the architect reveal how the Wrights, Orville at the fore, kept the development of the house on track. Wilbur felt the rooms needed

13 KW to Alec Ogilvie, April 23, 1911, Riddle and Sinnott, *Letters of the Wright Brothers*. It is not entirely clear what Katharine meant. She probably was joking about her name being on the plans, which might have been done to try to protect the privacy of the famous Wright brothers.

14 The Dayton firm Schenck & Williams opened in 1906. Harry I. Schenck and Harry J. Williams graduated from Cornell in 1903 with B.A.s in architecture. Prior to starting their own company they worked at Dayton’s Andrews Architecture firm. They went on to design other locally significant buildings, such as the Engineers Club of Dayton. By the 1930s Schenck was one of the “most prominent and successful architects” in the region and Schenck & Williams, the largest architectural firm in Ohio. Hawthorn Hill was noted in Schenck’s obituary as an outstanding example of his residential architecture. Schenck also served as the founding secretary of the Oakwood Planning Commission, an office he held until about 1932. February 4, 1958 obituary, “Harry Schenck Services Scheduled for Monday,” *Journal Herald*; Conover, Dayton and Montgomery County Resources and People, pp. 98-99. For additional information about Schenck, also see November 11, 1948 *Dayton Daily News*; and *Citizens Historical Association Biographies*, “Harry J. Williams, Architect,” Indianapolis, IN, January 31, 1942.

15 1930 census; November 11, 1948, *Dayton Daily News*.

16 OW to WW, May 15, 1911, Wright Papers, Library of Congress online, refers to “Williams’ drawing.”

17 Reuchlin Wright to Milton Wright, February 2, 1911, Wright Papers, Library of Congress.

18 KW to Alec Ogilvie, February 7, 1911, Riddle and Sinnott, *Letters of the Wright Brothers*.

to be large (no smaller than 11 feet square); Orville and Katharine urged for a symmetrical floor plan but had to hold firm with Williams when his adjustments eliminated a first-floor bathroom.¹⁹ Orville worked the ground-floor lavatory back in by sacrificing space in the servants' dining room. Ever frugal, Orville trimmed the overall size by six feet, taking space from both the house and porches.²⁰

No doubt frustrated with being far from home while such major decisions were made, Wilbur wrote with displeasure that costs were escalating, the halls were getting far too large, and the rooms were shrinking.²¹ Above all, he wanted his own bathroom.

In looking over the proposed plan for the new house I see that most of the rooms are smaller than the original plans, and only the price has been enlarged. You are wasting entirely too much space on halls [etc.]. Don't put sliding doors in the den.

*I see plainly that I am going to be put into one of the two south bed rooms so I propose a new plan for these rooms. In any event I am going to have a bath room of my own, so please make me one.*²²

Further, Wilbur voiced concern about how they would run such a large home. "I think it would be wise to make a calculation of the amount of help needed to keep up the new house. I fear the place is getting too big to be managed by our servant and that you will need a smaller house, or, larger servants' quarters. One servant will be needed to keep the halls clean."²³ Perhaps Wilbur's concerns about maintenance led to the Wrights' installation of another high-end, state-of-the-art interior amenity—the central vacuuming system.

Wilbur succumbed to typhoid, dying in May 1912. Construction of Hawthorn Hill took more than a year and a half, beginning in August 1912 and ending in spring 1914. During this time Orville, Katharine, and Milton, still mourning Wilbur's sudden death, oversaw construction, tied up loose ends at 7 Hawthorn Street, and readied the new home for their arrival. Their weeks were filled with trips up to the new house—Milton meticulously recorded the progress of construction in his diary—and the old routines through which Katharine ran the household on her \$250 per month allowance from Orville, with help from Carrie Grumbach, their housekeeper of long-standing.²⁴

One Monday in July 1913 Milton Wright noted a house call at 7 Hawthorn Street from the local furnishings store, Harman's: "Agt. called to see Katharine about furnishing the house in

19 WW to KW, April 23, 1911, Wright Papers, Library of Congress online.

20 OW to WW, May 7, 1911, Family Papers, Library of Congress online; OW to WW, May 15, 1911, Family Papers, Library of Congress online.

21 "We all planned this house together. Orv and I made some changes on the second floor—because Will was gone when we actually began to build." KW to HH WHMC, June 22, 1925.

22 WW to OW, May 26, [1911], Family Papers, Library of Congress online: Correspondence – WW, March–June 1911; No "new plan" for the bedrooms is known to exist.

23 WW to OW, May 26, [1911], Family Papers, Library of Congress online.

24 Carrie Kayler Grumbach worked for the Wrights for nearly 50 years. She appears to have been from the neighborhood, having worked at the Hale Grocery, a few blocks from their 7 Hawthorn Street home. The Wrights hired her as a cook and housekeeper in 1900 at age 14. *Wright Reminiscences*, Ivonette Miller's Reminiscences, p. 2; MW Diary, September 14, 1916; Carrie's husband, Charley, also worked at the Hale store.

Oakwood.”²⁵ Exactly when Katharine began to acquire items for Hawthorn Hill is not clear. There is no note of payments to Harman’s until the week before they moved, although Orville Wright’s checkbook stubs reveal a payment of \$100.00 to a Mrs. Hannah S. Frank “for Decorating living room etc” in November 1913.²⁶ It is not known how much of the Wrights’ Hawthorn Street furnishings had been damaged in the 1913 Dayton flood. It is also not clear which pieces went to Hawthorn Hill with them the next year, nor where they were used in the new house. In the 1930s a few unspecified pieces were taken from Hawthorn Hill to help refurnish the birth home when it was moved to Michigan’s Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village.²⁷

Katharine’s first documented substantial shopping for the new home came in the new year. In January 1914, Katharine and Orville Wright cashed a check at the corner Hale Grocery store²⁸ and caught the train to Grand Rapids, Michigan, to buy furniture at its biannual furniture market.²⁹ Well-established as “the” source for high-end, mass-produced furniture, Grand Rapids had been the American “furniture capital” since the late Victorian era.³⁰ Wealthy Americans saw Grand Rapids companies like Berkey & Gay featured in popular luxury magazines like *House Beautiful*,³¹ not to mention in the homes of their neighbors or others whose tastes they shared or to which they aspired.

In the Berkey & Gay showrooms alone, the siblings could have seen about 4,000 pieces of furniture, steeping them in a marketing approach that sold a variety of distinct lines of historical revival furniture rather than individual pieces of a more generic “antique” style.³² Like other furniture manufacturers of the time, Berkey & Gay encouraged shoppers to acquire full room sets of coordinated furniture. Katharine and Orville, with just a few days to shop, followed this pattern. At Berkey & Gay they purchased their dining room, reception hall, bedroom, some library, and perhaps some living room furniture.³³ Katharine thought the Berkey & Gay Chippendale-style mahogany dining room pieces they purchased the best and prettiest furniture at Hawthorn Hill.³⁴

25 MW Diary, July 7, 1913; *Williams’ Dayton Directory for 1899-1900*, Cincinnati, OH: Williams and Co., Publishers, listed “P. M. Harman & Co., 30 and 32 N. Main, Dealers in Carpets, Oil Cloths, Mattings, Linoleum, Wall Papers, Lace Curtains, Window Shades and Upholsterings.”

26 OW checkbook: \$100 in 1914 would have been approximately \$2,200 in 2009; see <http://www.measuringworth.com/ppowerus/>.

27 Allan Fletcher, *The Wright Brothers’ Home and Cycle Shop in Greenfield Village*, 6/30/72, thesis from the University of Michigan’s Program in Museum Practice, pp. 54–55.

28 OW checkbook; NPS Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center is now in this building on the corner of West Third and South Williams Streets.

29 MW Diary, Sunday, January 4, 1914, “Orville & Katharine, at 8:00 evening, took traction cars to Eaton, for locomotive on the Grand Rapids and Indiana, to Grand Rapids, Michigan. They go to select and buy furniture for their new house, in Oakwood.”

30 See Christian G. Carron, *Grand Rapids Furniture: The Story of America’s Furniture City*, Traverse City: Village Press, Inc., 1998, especially Kenneth L. Ames, “Good Timing and a Flair for Leadership,” pp. 7–19.

31 *House Beautiful* 28:5, October 1910, p. 140, as cited in Pamela J. Licht, *Selling Old Europe: Historical Revival Furniture by Berkey & Gay of Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1900–1919*. M.A. Thesis, Cooper-Hewitt, 2004, p. 121, figure 19.

32 Licht, *Selling Old Europe*, p. 18ff. Licht’s thesis analyzes the Berkey & Gay trade catalogs and their marketing approach.

33 The library desk is the only known Berkey & Gay purchase for the library and the living room at this point. Both rooms had other Grand Rapids pieces, and it is also likely that some of the furniture no longer extant or presently in Wright family collections is Berkey & Gay as well.

34 KW to HH, WHMC, nd#15 [fall 1926]: “If you have a Berkey and Gay shop (where they sell B+G furniture I mean) in Kansas City, we can get what we want there. They have the nice dining room and bedroom stuff. . . . About

For their bedrooms, the Wrights purchased sets of furniture as well. Orville's taste ran to the slightly more conservative, or perhaps Katharine chose for him and felt he would like a more traditional style. Orville's bedroom furniture came from Berkey & Gay's "William and Mary" line (figure 71), while Katharine chose the "Adam" style pieces for her bedroom and the other bedrooms at Hawthorn Hill (figure 72).³⁵ As with all revival furniture, these were not exact reproductions of any piece or style, but more adaptations, inspired by a historical style. Usually these adaptations freely reinterpreted a less comfortable or out-of-date aesthetic; the name of each line was as much a marketing technique as a design choice.

The Wright siblings did not buy exclusively at Berkey & Gay while in Grand Rapids. The Hawthorn Hill main stair hall, the first room into which visitors would enter when coming to the new home, would feature four pieces of Century Furniture Company furniture. In a style similar to some of Berkey & Gay's "English Chairs" revival line (figure 73), Katharine and Orville chose to decorate their entrance with a historical revival style of furnishings that featured Spanish feet, caned seats and backs, and turned or Jacobean-style deeply carved stretchers.

The Century Furniture Company, although not as well known as Berkey & Gay, had an interesting niche in the colonial revival furniture industry. Through its vice president, Mr. E. R. Somes, Century Furniture had developed a relationship with Massachusetts's famed Wayside Inn and was selling reproductions of Wayside Inn pieces. As with the architectural style of their home, Katharine and Orville were clearly drawn to the colonial revival furniture styles of their day. A Century Furniture Company write-up touted its colonial revival connection:

*Among other fine reproductions shown on the display floor are some pieces that are absolutely correct copies of the furniture in the old Wayside Inn in Sudbury, Mass. Immortalized by Longfellow. The Century company was enabled to secure the opportunity of this remarkable reproduction through the courtesy of E.R. Lemon, the present owner of the priceless collection.*³⁶

A Jacobean-style armchair in the main stair hall (KM 2007.004) has the Century Furniture Company label and also retains a label explaining that it is a "reproduction" of a 1600s piece

the dining room. . . . It is such an important room, dear. Our dining room stuff is the best in the whole house—and the prettiest."

While the Hawthorn Hill dining room furniture is clearly in the Chippendale style and Berkey & Gay featured Chippendale furniture in their line, the images of Berkey & Gay Chippendale furniture found to date are not the same as the ones the Wrights purchased. Licht, *Selling Old Europe*, describes pieces with extensive fretwork and Marlborough legs, neither of which are in the Hawthorn Hill dining room furniture. See Licht, p. 27, which refers to Chippendale in both the 1910 and 1916 Berkey & Gay materials she draws upon.

35 It is not certain what pieces were used in Milton Wright's bedroom or the servants' quarters, although it is likely Berkey & Gay was used in Milton Wright's room because there is one otherwise unaccounted for Berkey & Gay bed in the NCR collection today.

36 "Inside the Furniture Factories: Century Furniture Company," *Grand Rapids Herald*, August 9, 1911, p. 6 column 5/6. The article goes on to highlight the significance and appeal of any piece from the Wayside Inn: "It is doubtful if there is another place in the country that has created more historical interest or inspired more artistic sentiment than the old Wayside Inn. . . . About twelve years ago E. R. Lemon connoisseur and collector of antiques, through sentiment, purchased and restored the grand old place. Since Longfellow wrote his famous tales the place has been known only as the "Wayside Inn." The furnishings and furniture of the old inn have been preserved intact through the many generations that have passed and it has been the happy privilege of the Century company, through the influence of Mr. Somes who is a personal friend of Mr. Lemon, to secure the right of reproducing many of the ancient pieces." The full article is reproduced in Appendix B.

in the collection of the Connecticut Historical Society.³⁷ This chair indicates that Century Furniture based its reproductions on other New England furniture in addition to that at the Wayside Inn. Another notable piece from the Century Furniture Company is Orville's desk chair (HH1999.096). It retains an E. R. Lemon label (figure 89) but no Century Furniture Company label. Because it is documented that Some of Century Furniture was reproducing E. R. Lemon's Wayside Inn furniture, it can be concluded that this chair too is a Century Furniture item.³⁸

Years later, Katharine referred to the entire streak of change and fortune her brothers' invention had brought the family as a "fairy tale."³⁹ Quite likely, the Wrights' shopping trip to Michigan felt a bit out of character. Spending thousands of dollars, Katharine and Orville had not only acquired the lion's share of furniture needed to fill their new mansion, they had purchased a quality of furniture entirely new to their lives but appropriate to the stature of their new home. One is tempted to wonder what Bishop Wright thought, as he methodically recorded in his diary upon his children's return: "Thursday, January 8. Orville and Katharine came home on 8:00 morning train. They purchased at Grand Rapids several thousand dollars of furniture, to be delivered in the middle of March."⁴⁰

As the house neared completion, the family spent increasing amounts of time at Hawthorn Hill, preparing it for daily life and also establishing what would become a routine of having their brother Lorin's son, Horace (Bus), age 13, come spend Sundays with them. On at least two days in late February 1914 Orville, assisted by Carrie's husband, Charley Grumbach, spent time at the house "working on the finish of the doors," and "all day at the house staining the doors."⁴¹ Other work preparing for the move to Oakwood consisted of landscaping: Milton's diary is punctuated with references to shrubs, bulbs, and other plantings for the new property.

The Bishop's diary provides a basic outline of activities leading up to their move:

Thursday April 23 [1914] Orville and Katharine go to Tippecanoe to buy shrubbery. Horace went along. . . . They bought about \$300.00 worth.

Friday April 24 Orville and Katharine went to the house, and the agent from Tippecanoe did not come till nearly dark. So they staid [sic] till half past seven.

Sunday April 26 Orville, Katharine and Carrie Grumbach went out to the new house.

Monday April 27 Katharine packed some books for moving.

37 The caned armchair, KM2007.004, in the main stair hall (figure 88) is a "reproduction" of a side chair that had belonged to Hartford resident Richard Lord (d. 1712). In the 1970s Kettering-Moraine Museum director Melba Hunt tried to learn more about this chair, but no one at the Connecticut Historical Society had additional information. Time has not permitted revisiting this question, although the link with the Century Furniture Company as maker and the other reproduction furniture they were making provides a somewhat better understanding of the history.

38 "Inside the Furniture Factories," *Grand Rapids Herald*, August 9, 1911. See Appendix B.

39 Writing to her friend about her new husband's good fortune in receiving a substantial, unexpected raise, Katharine revealed her feelings about how her brothers' invention had changed the Wright family's life: "Really, Agnes, it is another fairy tale—something like what our family went through once before." KWH to Agnes Beck, September 23, 1927. WSU Archives SC-97 Katharine Wright's Correspondence with Agnes Beck.

40 MW Diary, January 8, 1914.

41 MW Diary, February 23 and 24, 1914.

The Wrights Move In

Orville was out of town the day of the move: “we moved while he was gone to save him the fuss and mess.”⁴² Katharine and her father took a taxi to their new home. Gradually, electricity and heat were connected, furnishings arranged, new neighbors came to call, and although not instantly settled, the Wrights shifted their routines to Oakwood and began to develop new patterns fitting their new lifestyle.

Tuesday April 28 We moved from 7 Hawthorn Street, Dayton, Ohio, to Hawthorn Hill, Harmon Ave., Oakwood, Ohio. . . . We arrived in an auto-taxicab at 3:45 afternoon.

Wednesday April 29 Red bud trees are in full bloom. Mrs. McCormick called to see us. A telegram from Orville says he will be at home to-morrow. We got connection with electric works today. We fitted up my room, the kitchen and dining rooms.

25

Thursday April 30 We got fire in the furnace in the afternoon. Lorin and Netta came in the evening and brought Ivonette and Leontine & Horace. We got the rug down in the upstairs hall. It is very pretty.

Friday May 1 Mabel Creiger called with some eggs and flowers. . . . We set up furniture in the hall and put down the beautiful rug.”

Monday May 4 In the afternoon another load of goods was hauled from the other house. They were largely of books.

Tuesday May 5 I was busy much of the day putting my books in the bookcase.

Thursday May 14 The cement on the garage was finished. Carrie and I speculate on the strength of the cement floor over the cellar.

Friday May 15 The men finished setting out the shrubbery.

*Thursday May 28 It is a month after the day we moved to this house—not yet settled.*⁴³

As the Wrights settled in and unpacked, new neighbors came to call. Anne McCormick, who with her husband, Frank, became good friends, visited;⁴⁴ Katharine’s friend Agnes Beck, and her daughters, visited in July; Griffith Brewer, their friend who was the first British citizen to fly, came in August; Kate Leonard, Katharine’s Oberlin College friend, and others visited in

42 KW to HH, WHMC, April 27, 1926.

43 MW Diary, April 28–May 28, 1914.

44 Anne O’Hare and Frank (Francis) McCormick’s names are mentioned in Katharine’s letters over the years. He was a Dayton native who was an executive in the plumbing supply industry; she traveled with her husband and wrote about their trips. In the early 1920s she wrote a few articles for the *NYT Sunday Magazine*, and by late 1935 she was asked to be on the editorial board of the paper. When Frank retired in 1936 they moved to New York City and Anne “became the first and only woman member of the editorial board of the New York Times.” Anne O’Hare McCormick obituary, 5/30/1954. *New York Times* see: <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthis-day/bday/0516.html?scp=1&sq=ann%20o%27hare%20mccormick&st=cse> and NYT 10/30/1954, p8/7 V. CIV No. 35,343 Francis J. McCormick obituary.

the fall. Their days were spent hiking in the wooded property, dining both at Hawthorn Hill and in town, attending cultural and political functions, and staying up late talking.⁴⁵

Carrie and Charley Grumbach continued to play important roles in the Wright household, Carrie cooking and her husband helping with a range of jobs throughout the house and property. Katharine hosted parties for her civic groups, the Women's League, various Oberlin College-related gatherings and/or visitors, and plenty of family meals and visits. Just weeks before his 86th birthday, Milton joined Katharine and Orville and over 1,000 others to march in support of Ohio women's suffrage.⁴⁶ Milton and Lorin celebrated their birthdays, one day apart, on Milton's birthday with a large family meal.⁴⁷ A few weeks later Bus picnicked in the woods with his aunt and uncle.⁴⁸ The Wrights clearly were enjoying their new home and continuing the patterns of their life on Hawthorn Street, just in a different setting and on a grander scale.

As usual, Christmas Eve was spent together with a good meal, presents, and young children to enjoy.⁴⁹ Smoking was never allowed in the house, so the front porch was often a gathering spot for visitors who wanted to smoke but found no ashtrays available inside.⁵⁰

With the new year, 1915, family visits continued to punctuate the weeks: "Horace came in the afternoon and staid [*sic*] till bed-time. His rat-trap caught a gray squirrel." But Orville's back problems recurred as well: "All well but Orville whose nerves are broken down."⁵¹ Orville was plagued by sciatica throughout most of the year, and by 1916 the Wrights decided to try to spend some time away from the stresses of life and found a spot in Canada to visit in the hot summer months.

Katharine completed setting up their new home amid the routines of Orville's commute to his Dayton laboratory—with lunch at home with the family—periodic house guests, and both Orville's and her own trips out of town. Orville gave her a monthly allowance for running

45 K. B. Leonard Journal, October 16–23, 1914, Archives of Oberlin College, Kate B. Leonard Papers 30/224, Diaries and Journals, folder: 1913–'17, box: 2. See Appendix E for a complete transcription of Leonard's journal and diary entries.

46 Katharine had helped organize the march; Women's suffrage failed in Ohio on November 3, 1914. MW Diary, "Friday October 23 Katharine dines down town where she is busy aiding in planning for the Women's Suffrage march.; Saturday October 24 At 3:30, we were in the 1300 march in town. There was Mrs. Bolton and other aged women, perhaps no older men than I in the march. There were 44 College women, in the procession. Orville marched by my side. The sidewalks were lined by many thousand respectful spectators; Wednesday November 4. . . Home Rule prevails in Ohio, and Female Suffrage goes down with prohibition."

47 MW Diary, Tuesday, November 17, I am 86 years old to-day. A set of carnation pinks were sent to me as a table bouquet by Louise Mayer and her sister Justina Stevens. . . . Lorin's family supped with us. There were eighty-six candles burning. Also I add 2, for seven dozen add 2, Lorin's birthday is tomorrow; so it was a joint-supper.

48 MW Diary, Thursday November 26, 1914, Horace came in the evening and the children [Orville and Katharine] had a weaner [*sic*] roast by the creek, in the woods.

49 MW Diary, Thursday, December 24, Lorin and Netta and their four children supped with us. Many Christmas presents. Among mine was "The greatest thing in the world," by Prof. Drummond.

50 *Wright Reminiscences*, Marianne Miller Hudec, p. 112.

51 MW Diary, Sunday, January 10 Horace came in the afternoon and staid [*sic*] till bed-time. His rat-trap caught a gray squirrel.

Monday, January 18 Orville doesn't come to the table nor leave the house.

Friday, April 9 At 10:00 at night, the lightning struck our fuse, followed by quite an explosion, and we were without electricity until the forenoon.

Thursday, September 9 All well but Orville whose nerves are broken down.

Sunday, October 10 Dr. Hoppy, a specialist from Cincinnati, was here with Dr. L. Spitler. He pronounces Orville's ailment to be simply neuralgia.

their house; by 1914 it was \$250 each month (equal to about \$5,400 in 2010). With these funds she paid for all household expenses, including Carrie's salary of \$20 per month; Orville paid for utilities and laundry directly.⁵²

Many details of how Katharine furnished and set up the house are not known, but between references in letters, Kate Leonard's journal entries from her 1914 visit, and Orville Wright's checkbook stubs, some sense of the interior appearance and house management routines can be gleaned. In the first year and a half the Wrights spent more than \$4,000 at Harman's, a Dayton furnishings store.⁵³ Although they eventually bought wallpapers, carpets, lamps, and drapes there in the 1920s-'40s, it is not known exactly what they acquired in 1914-15. The expense indicates it was likely some combination of large items such as wall coverings, drapes, and perhaps rugs.

27

Katharine, who wrote about the Hawthorn Hill rugs some 12 years after they had been purchased, seemed to indicate they bought all of their rugs early on, the last in 1917 for Milton Wright's room, likely after his death.⁵⁴ Kate Leonard noted in 1914 that the color scheme in the reception hall was green (including the rug), and that in the living room the rug and curtains were brown.

Concern about their elderly father led Katharine to acquire rugs to fill as much of the downstairs floor as possible to minimize tripping hazards. Much as she would have preferred Orientals, this concern also seems to have led her to look for other rugs. The relative thinness of Orientals made them more susceptible to people falling.⁵⁵ Regardless of type, she was able to have all the first-floor rugs similar, an appearance that pleased her immensely: "I like having the same rugs all over the down stairs. It makes a house seem roomier and it is always quiet and nice."⁵⁶ The Wrights' rugs were made by Alexander Morton & Sons Company of Killybegs, County Donegal, Ireland⁵⁷ (see figure 79 for maker's label). The Irish rugs pleased the

52 OW checkbook.

53 OW checkbook: Mitchell Vance at P. M. Harman, 4/22/14. Other Harman payments were recorded on 9/10/15 and 10/19/15; KW to HH, WHMC, December 13, 1925 [2nd letter of this date], "I was thinking Mr. Connelly (from whom we got all our furnishings [likely at Harman's]) would give us a letter to some wholesale houses and we could have a great choice of rugs, at some entirely reliable place."; and "I went to Harman's to see if I could get the name of the maker [of her bedroom wallpaper] and the number. . . . But Mr. Davis said he doubted if there would be any more. This was put on five years ago and looks as fresh as new! . . . Haeffelfinger [wallpaper company] is in Pennsylvania." KW to HH, WHMC, nd#19 [ca. summer 1926].

54 KW to HH, WHMC, February 14, 1926.

55 KW to HH, WHMC, December 13, 1925 [2nd letter of this date], "We first thought of having some Orientals but we decided against them for several reasons. One important one was their thinness. We were always afraid Father might slip and hurt himself. We had the smaller rugs at doorways larger than we liked for looks to make it safe for him. And he never did fall as so many old people do. Once he slipped on the stairs a little but caught himself." KW to HH, WHMC [February] 10, 1926 I like having the same rugs all over the down stairs. It makes a house seem roomier and it is always quiet and nice.; KW to HH, WHMC, February 14, 1926, I do think an Oriental rug is a pretty safe thing to buy. . . . Yes, rugs do cost a lot, and so much more than when we furnished this house almost 2-1/2 or 3 times as much actually. The last rug we bought-for Father's room in 1917- cost a good 2-1/2 times as much per square yard as those we got of exactly the same quality in 1913-1914. They were made in Donegal and there was an enormous duty on them. I think the duty is a little less now but the price in general is higher, I am afraid. I think but am not sure that all of our rugs cost about \$3000.00 and all the downstairs rugs and one upstairs are hand-tufted Donegals. They were the same price as a very good quality of Oriental rugs. We thought some of ordering Orientals made to size but decided against them chiefly because they so often slip and roll up, being thin, and we were afraid Father might slip and fall. It took us six months to get ours from Ireland. We couldn't *touch* such rugs now. They would cost eight or ten thousand dollars.

56 KW to HH, WHMC, February 10, 1926.

57 E-mail, Michael P. McDaid, managing director, Donegal Carpets, to Sarah Heald, 4/27/10. DAAV files for Historic

Wrights, although they apparently had to return the living room rug to be properly sized to accommodate the hearth.

In addition to fine furnishings, Hawthorn Hill included some state-of-the-art domestic features of note. The house boasted a central vacuum system. The vacuum and dust collection buckets for the system are extant in the Hawthorn Hill basement, and all rooms in the house retain their round receptacle for inserting the vacuum hose. A product of the American Radiator Company, Hawthorn Hill's Arco Wand vacuum cleaner is original to the house⁵⁸ (figures 75–77).

28

Family tradition maintains that housekeeper Carrie Grumbach did not like or use the central vacuum, but there is at least one reference to their housecleaner, Harry Edwards, using it.⁵⁹ Its regular use in fact seems likely because as late as 1943 and 1945 there are notations in Orville's checkbooks for payments to the American Vacuum Company for work done on different elements of the central system.

Similarly, the needle shower bath in Orville's bathroom was a domestic luxury of the early 20th century.⁶⁰ A historic structure report has not yet been undertaken for Hawthorn Hill,

Furnishings Report. See also <http://www.donegalcarpets.eu/history.php>.

- 58 A maker's plate on the Hawthorn Hill vacuum indicates it was sold by American Radiator and made by Houston Manufacturing Company of Rockford, Illinois. A 1911 trade catalog for Arco vacuum cleaners shows that the American Radiator Company aimed to sell these not just for institutional installations but for the domestic market. The trade catalog is full of images of a cleaning woman working in a variety of house room settings. "Arco Vacuum Cleaners," American Radiator Company, 1911. National Museum of American History Library, Smithsonian Institution, trade catalog 022036.

The only other extant central vacuum system known to the author is in the Heurich Mansion, former home of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., built in 1892–'94 by Washington brewer and real estate investor Christian Heurich. I am indebted to Washington D.C. Historical Society and Smithsonian Institution volunteer Richard F. Evans, who did extensive research on the system in the Heurich house and published most of his findings in "The 19th-Century High-Tech Systems of Christian Heurich's Mansion," *Washington History*, Volume 8, No. 1, spring/summer 1996, pp. 38–53 and 92–94, and in *19th Century*, the magazine of the Victorian Society of America, Vol. 20, No. 1, spring 2000. The Heurich vacuum system, installed in 1908, was made by the Milwaukee-based American Air Cleaning Co.

Both the Hawthorn Hill and the Heurich Mansion's central systems appear to have used the patented Kenney vacuum head. The label on the Hawthorn Hill vacuum has a 1907 patent number (847947). According to Evans, David T. Kenney's first patent was in January 1905 (781532). A cursory Google Books search found the Arco Wand vacuum advertised into at least the early 1920s. http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&safe=active&rls=com.microsoft%3Aen-us%3AIE-SearchBox&tbs=bks%3A1&q=arco+wand+1921&aq=f&aqi=&aql=&oq=&gs_rfai=

See also Siegfried Gideon, *Mechanization Takes Command, a Contribution to Anonymous History*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1969, and Ruth Schwartz Cowan, *More Work for Mother: The Ironies of Household Technology from the Open Hearth to the Microwave*, Basic Books, 1983, for context on mechanization in the home and the implications for domestic and women's work. Cowan in part attributes the failure of the domestic central vacuum to the successful sales techniques of Hoover and Apex portable vacuum door-to-door and store-demonstration salesmen.

- 59 KW to HH, WHMC, March 14, 1924.

- 60 The two household "improvements" discussed here—the central vacuum system and Orville's bathroom needle shower—were off-the-shelf purchases the newly wealthy Wrights had installed in their home to take advantage of the latest, high-end, domestic technologies. Over the years inaccuracies have evolved about these Hawthorn Hill features and at times the written record, or interpretation of it, indicates that Orville invented both the central vacuum system and the multiple-piped needle shower.

Other than documentation introduced by this report, the earliest written mention of these domestic appliances appears to have been a 1948 newspaper article by Betty Dietz. Dietz spoke with some family members for her article, but it is not always clear what the exact source of her information was. For both the central vacuum system and the needle shower it seems that by the mid-20th-century people were not aware that these luxuries had been available for domestic use. Dietz did not specifically say that Wright invented the needle bath, but Gra-

but it seems that the plumbing was entirely redone when NCR took possession of the house in the mid-20th century.⁶¹ At least part of the original shower bath appears to remain intact, although close examination was not undertaken for this report. The shower head has been updated and it is likely that two of the lower rings, from which water sprayed out at the bath-er, may have been removed. All piping at Hawthorn Hill today was made by the Standard Sanitary Company (figure 90). At least two NPS historic properties retain similar needle showers. At Hot Springs National Park in Arkansas, needle showers were installed from 1915 through the 1920s. And at the poet Henry W. Longfellow's house in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Longfellow National Historic Site, a needle bath installed by the poet's daughter, Alice Longfellow, is extant.⁶² Trade catalogs of another manufacturer of needle showers at this time, J. L. Mott Iron Works of New York City, provide good illustrations of how such needle showers were sold and installed in the early 20th century (figure 74).⁶³

Routines Are Established

In fall 1915 Orville sold the Wright Company and his wealth grew yet again. Now settled in their new mansion, house guests continued to come—these included Griff Brewer, Alec Ogilvie, Vilhjalmur Steffanson—dinners and luncheons were hosted, outside interests pursued. Katharine had her civic activities; Orville had built a laboratory in Dayton where he worked daily, usually coming home for lunch with the family. He also joined the Engineers Club and ate there occasionally as well. Milton maintained his diary and corresponded with family and old friends.

Household conversation focused on family comings and goings, politics and their community involvements, as well as specifically on patent disputes, World War I and the role of air power, and the argument with the Smithsonian Institution concerning its claim of the first airplane capable of carrying a person in flight. Katharine and other supporters thought that the best way to establish the Wright brothers as the inventors of the airplane would be for Orville to write and publish their story, but he did not want to do this.⁶⁴ Despite back problems, Orville still managed to enjoy Oberlin football games and taking friends and family on drives in the country. Orville was infamous for his “rapid driving.”⁶⁵ In the evenings, when not out at a Dayton function or entertaining at home, the family congregated in the library, writing or typing letters, reading books, magazines, or the newspaper, and perhaps listening to the radio or records.

ham Justus, writing for NCR in the 1960s, appears to have drawn this conclusion from the Dietz article. See Betty A. Dietz, “Hawthorn Hill—‘The Home of a Lonely Man,’” *Dayton Daily News*, Nov. 14, 1948, and Graham Justus, “Hawthorn Hill Has a Special Place in World History,” *NCR Factory News*, June 1965, 2–6.

61 “When the National Cash Register Company purchased Hawthorn Hill . . . its first move was to install a rational plumbing and heating system.” Tom Crouch, *The Bishop's Boys: A Life of Wilbur and Orville Wright*, New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1989, p. 477.

62 The Longfellow shower appears to be identical to that shown in a 1901 Dalton-Ingersoll Company trade catalog. Trade catalog information about the Longfellow shower was provided by the Longfellow NHS archivist, based on a 1978 internal report in their archives.

63 A 1908 Mott catalog in the Cornell University library may be viewed at <http://www.archive.org/details/cu31924003632936>. A partial reprint of the 1914 Mott catalog is included in Gail Caskey Winkler and Charles E. Fisher III, *The Well-Appointed Bath: Authentic Plans and Fixtures from the Early 1900s*, The Preservation Press, 1989.

64 MW Diary and KW letters contain passing references to these topics coming up at Hawthorn Hill. A thorough treatment of each of the issues is found in Crouch, *The Bishop's Boys*, 1989, and Ann Honious, *What Dreams We Have: The Wright Brothers and Their Hometown of Dayton, Ohio*. Fort Washington, Pa.: Eastern National, 2003.

65 MW Diary, June 29, 1913; *Wright Reminiscences*, “Reminiscences of Bertha Ellywn Wright Steeper,” p. 154; *Wright Reminiscences*, “Impressions of Orville Wright,” Susan B. Wright, p. 160.

The Wrights had purchased a Steinway piano in November 1915. Later that fall and winter they also bought a “Victrola” record player, as well as what appears to be another high-end record player and records.⁶⁶ The Wright family celebration that Christmas Eve included musical fun as well. “Jay R. Petree came about dark. Lorin’s all came. They had quite a time in music. Orville took them home in auto.”⁶⁷ Katharine’s letters do not contain any references to listening to recorded music, but Milton Wright wrote of “many ‘Victor’” songs at a family gathering.⁶⁸ References to piano and singing at other family gatherings are plentiful (see living room references).

The Wrights’ life in Dayton became interspersed with summers in Ontario, Canada, starting in 1916. They hoped that time away from business would help Orville’s sciatica. Their first summer they rented a house but also purchased Lambert Island, to which Orville returned every summer until World War II. Some combination of friends, family, and servants went with him each year.⁶⁹

Milton Wright died in April 1917, and although this must have had a substantial impact on Orville and Katharine, no documentation other than a passing reference to a new rug in his bedroom survives to shed light on the changes. The Wrights acquired a St. Bernard, Scipio, a month prior to the bishop’s death, and Orville’s attachment to the dog was such that, although the dog lived just four years, his photograph was in Orville’s wallet when he died in 1948. Katharine’s letters during the time Scipio was alive contain frequent reference to him and his prominent place in the Wrights’ family life (figures 18–20).

Servants at Hawthorn Hill⁷⁰

Although relatively voiceless in the written record, the vital role of the household help at Hawthorn Hill should not be overlooked. Milton Wright’s diary entries contain references to various servants, Orville Wright’s checkbooks record payments for some household work, and for the years for which there is significant extant personal correspondence, especially 1923–26, Katharine Wright’s letters detail the time, joys, and frustrations of managing household staff. Wilbur’s prediction about the size of Hawthorn Hill and the number of servants needed appears to have held true. Although Carrie Grumbach had been their cook and housekeeper for years on Hawthorn Street in West Dayton, at Hawthorn Hill one person alone could not manage all the housekeeping and cooking. For most of the years Orville lived at Hawthorn Hill, Lottie Jones, who at first only did their laundry, soon helped Carrie one day a week, most likely with the cleaning and more menial tasks that black servants in this era usually did.⁷¹

66 OW checkbooks, A payment of over \$1,000 was made on November 30, 1915, to Steinway and Sons. In December they paid the Rudolph Wurlitzer Company for a “Victrola,” and in January 1916 paid Wurlitzer more than \$800 for “Welli [?] Player + Records.”

67 MW Diary, Sunday, December 24, Jay R. Petree was Orville and Katharine’s first cousin, once removed; his maternal grandmother, Sarah Wright, was Bishop Milton Wright’s sister.

68 MW Diary, October 22, 1916, Other checkbook listings of record purchases date to 1927 and 1944. It should be noted that Orville was working on a record changer (*Wright Reminiscences*), so it is unclear if he acquired records only to listen to or simply to use when trying to perfect his changer.

69 Crouch, *The Bishop’s Boys*, 1989, pp. 478–79 and Ann Honious, *What Dreams We Have*, 2003, p. 185.

70 In addition to this section on servants, more can be found in the later sections on Katharine and Orville. Also see Appendix D for notes on servants at Hawthorn Hill.

71 “Lottie, our laundress, who helped one day a week besides laundry day.” KW to HH, WHMC nd#42 [1926?].

Carrie appears to have been their Oakwood housekeeper and lead cook from the outset. She did not live at the house but likely came to work by streetcar; she had Sunday afternoons off. “Katharine and Leontine do up the dishes, and let Carrie go see her people. They did this nearly every Sunday of the Year.”⁷² Carrie also had extended absences when members of her family were ill; she had most of the summer off in 1921 when her grandmother died and her mother was ill.⁷³ She missed work in 1926, when her father was sick and finally passed away. There are plenty of references in Katharine’s letters indicating that they had a succession of assistants for Carrie, mainly as cooks, first documented sometime prior to 1923. Sometimes the cook also cleaned in the house. Carrie, or in her absence, Katharine, typically trained the new staff. Although not clear if this was deliberate, or typical of the time period, the women who filled this role were white and the men were black. In spring 1923 a cook named Margaret worked at the house; she was preceded by her friend, Mary.

In 1924 Katharine employed Harry Edwards as cook and housecleaner. He had been a cook on a British steamship, and he stayed with the Wrights for at least three-quarters of a year, which appears to be the longest period of employment of any of their cooks. He was sufficiently close to the family that they gave him a camera as a birthday present; he went to Canada with them in the summer.⁷⁴ Katharine’s writing about Edwards after he left indicated mixed feelings about him, but it is not clear if her opinion changed over time, if it simply reflects the ups and downs of having to work and live closely with someone who is not family, or if it just highlights the racial attitudes of the era. “I am acting as Carrie’s chief assistant now that Edwards is gone. I am ashamed (almost) to tell how happy Carrie and I are to have the

After 1926 Lottie appears to have worked at the house every day. Lottie had laundered clothes for the Wrights since 1893. KW to VS, July 6, 1920, RG 401, Collection #30, Box 36, NARA, College Park. For historic context on race, ethnicity, and domestic workers, see Phyllis Palmer, *Domesticity and Dirt: Housewives and Domestic Servants in the United States, 1920–1945*, Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1989. “By 1920, 46 percent of black women workers were domestics and launderers, compared to 22 percent of employed foreign-born white women and eight percent of employed native-born white women, including Hispanics.” p. xiii. Palmer also cites, p. 69, Elizabeth R. Haynes, “Negroes in Domestic Service in the United States,” *Journal of Negro History* 8:4 (October 1923): “Day workers mainly cleaned and laundered. . . . Black day workers more often laundered, in addition to cleaning.”

72 MW Diary, Sunday, January 9, 1916.

73 KW to VS, June 1 and 28, 1920, RG 401, NARA; and KW to VS, June 20, and September 13, 1921, RG 401, NARA. Additionally, the June 28, 1920, letter confirms that Carrie did not live at Hawthorn Hill: “she will not live here but will come in for the day.”

74 “Today is Edwards’ birthday and we gave him a very good Kodac [sic]. He has turned out to be very, very unusual. At first he was so messy in his work that we thought we couldn’t put up with it but whenever he and I got to the point of firing him, I reflected how we labored and labored with him and now we have our reward. He was always so nice and polite and easy to get along with. I think I told you how unusual he is in his interests. This spring he has been studying birds. He didn’t know one from another but he has been reading and watching them and trying to do all sorts of things for them. For instance, this morning he told me he wished we could have a Christmas tree for the birds next winter. He had read about taking an evergreen and pouring I don’t remember what all over it so the birds could come and have a feast. He certainly shall have that Christmas tree if he wants it! He is going north with us and in talking about it to Carrie said he was going to try to dispose of something he had so he could buy a camera and field glasses. That is the wherefore of the gift today. He is a very nice cook and has more pride in having the household appear well than I have!” KW to HH, WHMC, May 28, 1924; “Edwards has been as good as gold and I think he likes the life up here [Canada]. He is just the kind to adapt himself to whatever comes along—a happy trait. Any body who could be a cook on a British tramp steamer, I think, could make himself contented anywhere. . . . I don’t like to work *with* other people in a kitchen – except Carrie and Orv and a very few others. Certainly I don’t like to try to do things in the kitchen with Edwards so I’ve cut entirely and am letting him run.” KW to HH, WHMC, July 22, 1924; “I told Orv that when he and Edwards were walking together in the station at Toronto they looked like the Minister from Liberia and his valet!” KW to HH, WHMC, September 18, 1924.

‘dark’ out of the house. I don’t mean that he was disagreeable personally, for he was not, but we have our own ideas of cleanliness which were not quite the ideas prevailing on the British tramp steamer where he seems to have gotten most of his experience.”⁷⁵

With Edwards’ departure, Katharine launched into a pattern that recurred frequently over the years—when Carrie’s assistant moved on, Katharine picked up work at Hawthorn Hill, at least in the kitchen: “At this point I had to run down to the kitchen to ‘tend’ the chicken and other stuff we had for dinner. Since Edwards is gone, I put on dinner every night. Carrie gets it all going and has the dessert and salad (both, one, or none!) all ready for me. Dinner being over and the dishes neatly stacked in the kitchen, I now resume [letter writing].”⁷⁶ While filling in as Carrie’s “assistant” in the kitchen, Katharine also looked for a new hire: “About fifty telephone calls from men who saw my advertisement for a houseman. . . . Carrie has been sick and I have had to keep the house going which tires me very much. . . . I am hoping Carrie will be back before long.”⁷⁷ Once someone new was on board they had to be trained, which frequently proved frustrating, but Katharine usually felt relieved to not have to do so much of the actual work: “we have a new man in the house this morning and my career as cook and dishwasher is over, temporarily.”⁷⁸

The “servant problem” is well documented in late-1800s and early-1900s American life.⁷⁹ As the term indicates, in its time it was viewed from the employer’s perspective. Wealthy, and, by the 1900s, middle-class Americans frequently struggled to find and retain domestic help they considered satisfactory. Women’s magazines of the period were full of articles on the topic, and new household appliances were marketed as an antidote to the “problem.” Katharine Wright’s frustrations appear to have fallen right in line with the pattern. Unfortunately, other than Carrie Grumbach, virtually nothing is known from the point of view of the Hawthorn Hill domestics themselves. And with both Carrie and Lottie Jones, no writing of their own remains to document their thoughts. Carrie had greater contact with Wright family members and played a larger role later in Orville’s life, so she is typically remembered as a loyal and long-standing employee. Both Carrie and Lottie received money in Orville Wright’s will.

The Hawthorn Hill “servant problem” continued on, at times dominating Katharine’s letters to her future husband, Henry Haskell. It is not known when the new cook and dishwasher hired in January 1925 to replace Harry Edwards left, but in October Katharine noted a new woman, Mrs. Murray, who had “never worked out [outside of her own home] before but her husband died and she had nothing but the house—no income. It is an experiment—I hope she’ll do and that she will be a nice person for Carrie to associate with. The white girls that work out are a doubtful lot. . . . We had suspicions of the Mary we had before Margaret (they were friends) and I don’t want any more of that kind. I’d rather worry with this woman who probably won’t know how to do *anything* to suit us and is most likely too old to learn. I’m not over optimistic over the prospect but we’ll see how it comes out. I feel sure she is a nice

75 KW to HH, WHMC, November 19, 1924.

76 KW to HH, WHMC, November 25, 1924.

77 KW to HH, WHMC, December 31, 1924.

78 KW to HH, WHMC, January 5, 1925.

79 There is a large body of literature on the “servant problem.” For example, see Jennifer Pustz, *Voices from the Back Stairs: Interpreting Servants’ Lives at Historic House Museums*, DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2010, and David M. Katzman, *Seven Days A Week: Women and Domestic Service in Industrializing America*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1978.

woman.”⁸⁰ Mrs. Murray must not have been a success, and by the new year Katharine was advertising for a cook again. But whoever she hired lasted less than a month:

*We really are having a terrible time with our new cook. She is no good at all but doesn't know it. Nothing is good and everything is indigestible. One wouldn't mind the indigestion so much if the eating had been pleasurable—or one could stand rather indifferent food if it didn't do any damage. But this combination is too much for us! I can do ten times as well myself and I know I can't cook much. I am often amused at the self assurance of people. It is partly bluff. We'll have to let this woman go and I am sorry for she is very nice. But I couldn't possibly let her put a meal on the table if any one was visiting us. We can't get along with it ourselves.*⁸¹

The next cook, Elizabeth, in February 1926, likely did not last long either: “Our Elizabeth is here as a cook. But she can't cook and she doesn't keep things clean enough to suit me. I have delivered my ultimatum to Carrie who has charge of Elizabeth. Either Elizabeth must cook better or keep things cleaner or depart. I could get along if she would do anything well.”⁸² Although Elizabeth was still there in March, Katharine also mentioned Carrie being helped by a William when cleaning Katharine's bedroom.⁸³ (William Lewis is better documented and appears to have become a more regular employee later that year.)

Through all the hirings and departures of other household help, Carrie remained the Wrights' lead housekeeper and cook. At first she commuted to work there, but she and her husband, Charley, who also worked some for the family, may have lived there for a while around 1920 because they are listed in that year's census as residing at Hawthorn Hill.⁸⁴ One Wright descendant recalled that she quit working for them for a short while, probably finding the streetcar ride too much, but when Orville purchased a car for her, it made the commute manageable.⁸⁵ In 1926 the Grumbachs did not live in Oakwood; Katharine wrote about Carrie and Charley staying at Hawthorn Hill while Orville was out of town.⁸⁶

Carrie's father was ill in late 1925 and died in 1926, and Katharine's letters during this time document how the family paid her regardless of whether she worked for them daily or not. They also reveal how Katharine was at times frustrated by Carrie's family and felt they took advantage of her.

Carrie's father died night before last. She will be away about a week, as usual. She always takes her afternoon and that added to the being away for the funeral and Sunday makes nearly a week. I am sorry to be so impatient but her family always see to it that she can never be here. If it isn't one thing it is another. It is so hard for Carrie to have the funeral put off until Saturday but the other members of the family decided that. . . . I shall not let her be away so much on my time any more. Her father and mother are both gone now. She has been away

80 KW to HH, WHMC October 20, 1925.

81 KW to HH, WHMC January 28, 1926.

82 KW to HH, WHMC March 15, 1926.

83 KW to HH, WHMC March 19, 1926.

84 Fourteenth Census, Montgomery County, Ohio, Van Buren Township, Oakwood Village, sheet 5B, 1920.

85 Marianne Miller Hudec to Karen Rosga, DAAV, email 12/10/2008.

86 “Carrie and Charley are staying with me tonight, dear. Charley was out and just came in. I staid [sic] down and talked to Carrie until he came. She is such a dear little thing. She simply won't let me stay alone, though I am not a bit afraid. She is always unselfish—never thinks of what she'd rather do: just does whatever is kind.” Orville was on a business trip to Washington, D.C. KW to HH, WHMC, March 18, 1926.

*two months at a time taking care of her mother and I have always paid her. She has no more real obligations and if she stays away now I shall not pay her.*⁸⁷

Katharine's writing sang praises for Carrie's cooking—her canned corn and fresh blueberry pies especially—and she was known for her generosity with recipes.⁸⁸ Virtually family, Katharine noted, "I don't like to work *with* other people in a kitchen – except Carrie and Orv and a very few others."⁸⁹ "I understand how touchy most cooks are. Carrie isn't a bit. She is always ready to pick up any thing new and is grateful for suggestions from any body."⁹⁰ Her pleasant outlook was enjoyed outside the kitchen as well: "Carrie and I came up to Piqua—thirty miles—today—this afternoon to get some blankets. We get them at the Mills for half the price in the stores. . . . Carrie is a trump. She is never afraid to go anywhere with me—even if I am timid about it myself."⁹¹ And she was a favorite with the younger generations as well; one grandniece recalled, "I found the grownup conversation terribly dull. [When not playing with toys in the alcove] it was . . . in the kitchen with Carrie that I passed most of my time."⁹²

Other staff employed at Hawthorn Hill included groundsmen and a laundry woman. Over the years, although less frequently mentioned, Katharine noted similar frustrations with keeping good outdoor help. "Our old 'Bill' is back working in the yard for us a few days at least. He is the hardest worker I have ever seen. I wish we could keep him around but, of course, we haven't enough work for that. The yard has been so untidy this Spring and Summer. But in one day, Bill makes a big place as neat as a pin."⁹³

Their laundry, on the other hand, appears to have not posed such difficulties, in all likelihood because it primarily was done by Lottie Jones, with whom the Wrights had ties from their original neighborhood.⁹⁴ Lottie Jones worked as the Wrights' laundrywoman beginning in the 1890s. Although she initially seemed to have had a problem with Katharine, it was quickly resolved and Lottie worked for them for decades to come.⁹⁵ Milton Wright gave his children's birth home, 7 Hawthorn Street, to Katharine around 1901,⁹⁶ and Lottie had rented the house from her after the Wrights moved to Hawthorn Hill.⁹⁷ Katharine in turn sold the house to Lottie in 1924.⁹⁸ Again reflecting circumstances and racial attitudes of the period, Katharine

87 KW to HH, WHMC, January 10, 1926 [*sic*—February 10, 1926].

88 KW to HH, WHMC, March 10, 1926; *Wright Reminiscences*, Jay R. Petree, "Memories of My Cousin Orville Wright," p. 137, noted that his wife had Carrie's recipes written in her own hand. It is not known if those are still extant in the family.

89 KW to HH, WHMC, July 22, 1924.

90 KW to HH, WHMC, December 21, 1925.

91 KW to HH, WHMC, March 1, 1926.

92 *Wright Reminiscences*, Marianne Miller Hudec, p. 111.

93 KW to HH, WHMC, July 7, 1926.

94 Orville Wright's checkbooks list numerous payments to the Troy-Pearl Laundry prior to and for a few years after they moved to Oakwood. It is possible that the Wrights had their family laundry sent out for a while, or that this was laundry somehow related to Orville's office work. OW checkbooks 1912–1916.

95 Exact dates for Lottie's employment are unclear but she appears to have started work for them in the 1890s; she died in 1943. Honious, *What Dreams We Have*, 2003, p. 176; Bauer, Charles J., "A Washerwoman's Recollections," *Dayton Daily News*, November 22, 1936; *Dayton Journal*, August 6, 1943; OW checkbooks, 1921–'43.

96 KW to HH, WHMC, September 22, 1925, "I have the house on Hawthorn Street (which father gave me about 1901 or 1902)."

97 Lottie may not have rented the home right away. In 1920 a Clara Acton, a white NCR clerk, her two daughters, a granddaughter, and a male "roomer" (boarder) lived at 7 Hawthorn Street. Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920 Census, Ohio, Montgomery County, Dayton Township, Dayton City, Ward 7, Sheet 4B.

98 In 1930 Lottie and her husband, Luther, who was a foundry moulder, lived at 7 Hawthorn Street with their son Edward, his wife, and six children. Later in the 1930s Orville facilitated Lottie's sale of his birth home to Henry

explained her decision to sell because the neighborhood no longer had many white residents: “I am selling our house, on Hawthorn Street, to Lottie, our laundress. The whole neighborhood is ‘dark’ and it was no satisfaction to keep the house, though Orv was born there.”⁹⁹

Payment to Lottie first appeared in Orville’s checkbook in June 1921, listed as “Cleaning Oakwood,” and in 1926 payments began for her doing laundry there. These payments lasted until mid-1939 and at least once noted the pay also covered the cost of her getting to work, “car-fare.” Individual postings indicate that she was paid about \$3 per day for housecleaning, but the task of doing laundry, with no washing machine or dryer, merited more than \$6 per day. This difference in pay and the fact that a black woman did their laundry is consistent with domestic work patterns of the era. In trying to retain household help to do cooking and the less labor-intensive general cleaning, housewives usually separated cooking and cleaning in the house from laundry work, advertising their work as not including laundry because it would deter many applicants.

35

By late 1942 Lottie Jones had developed health problems that precluded her from working; Orville began paying her a monthly pension of \$25.¹⁰⁰ She died in August 1943.¹⁰¹

Interior Redecorations and Upkeep

Katharine ran the household on her monthly allowance, and as a result most detail of house operation and appearance remain unknown other than what survives in her letters. Groceries were delivered to the home. Her monthly allowance of \$250 was increased to \$400 in 1922. It is not entirely clear where she and Orville drew the line between her household expenses and his; Orville’s checkbook noted payments for household work during these years as well.

*I have only \$400.00 a month and pay for nearly everything—coal, gas, electric light, telephone, all the servants, (sometimes \$44.00 a week!) grocery bill—almost everything—and buy some new things every year. . . . Of course some of mine [money] goes in for the house. I don’t keep separate accounts.*¹⁰²

Details about Hawthorn Hill furnishings, when known, are noted in the individual room histories of this report. More significant information regarding furnishings, or those without location specified, will be mentioned here. The historic photographs (ca. 1914, ca. 1914–24, and 1948) show changes or additions in the rugs on the ground floor of Hawthorn Hill (reception hall, main stair hall, and stairway), but it is not clear exactly when this happened. The only written reference to a new rug was for Bishop Wright’s bedroom after his death in 1917. Apparently they thought about a larger table for the library at that time also, but decided not to acquire one.

Ford for \$4,100. Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930 Census, Ohio, Montgomery County, Dayton City, Ward 7, Sheet 9A. See also, Crouch, *The Bishop’s Boys*, 1989, pp. 507–09; Crouch cites Fletcher, *The Wright Brothers’ Home and Cycle Shop in Greenfield Village*, 1972.

99 KW to HH, WHMC, December 22, 1924, “Lottie is paying me four thousand for the Hawthorn St. house.” KW to HH, WHMC, October 16, 1925. See Honious, *What Dreams We Have*, pp. 175–76 for a description of the west Dayton neighborhood and how its racial makeup changed over time.

100 OW checkbooks.

101 *Dayton Journal*, August 6, 1943.

102 KW to HH, WHMC, November 5, 1925.

Katharine wrote with great enthusiasm about the wallpapers and rugs at Hawthorn Hill. Her rugs lasted for years, but for wallpaper she noted the need for regular replacement—every 5–7 years—due to dirt and age. “Paper doesn’t usually last much over five years, even with the best of care. . . . In the country, as it was when we first came out here, the paper and shades staid [*sic*] clean for seven years. Because then it is a fight.”¹⁰³ Katharine mentioned a new yellow wallpaper made by a Pennsylvania company, Haeffelfinger, in her bedroom in 1921.¹⁰⁴ “I actually spent \$450 in getting the house cleaned this spring. That included new paper in my room and one of the maids’ rooms. Otherwise it merely paid for cleaning the walls and freshening ceilings downstairs and a few other items such as dry cleaning portieres and such.”¹⁰⁵ A few years later in 1924, other bedrooms were repapered.¹⁰⁶ The only room in the house known to have had a thorough refurbishing, the reception hall, was redecorated sometime prior to 1924. The wall treatment was changed, and probably at the same time, rugs, window treatments, and upholstery were redone as well.¹⁰⁷

Orville and Wall-Covering Removal and Cleaning

As happens not infrequently with historic houses, over the years stories are passed on that originate in fact but become less accurate over time. At Hawthorn Hill it has long been said that Orville Wright removed and cleaned the first-floor fabric wall coverings every year. The only extant fabric wall covering at Hawthorn Hill is in the Library (figure 91). If wall fabric were removed, cleaned, and replaced annually, there would be physical evidence of frequently used tack holes along the seams. Yet at Hawthorn Hill, behind the gimp in the creases of the walls where the library damask wall covering is tacked to the tacking strip (which in turn is nailed into the plaster walls), there is no indication of anything but a single series of tacks with no tears, damage, or other evidence of wear. Still, the existence of Orville Wright’s homemade tools for removing wall coverings indicates some sort of activity along these lines (figure 92).

Close examination of early historic photographs found when researching this report, and the rethinking of a few sentences in a 1997 article by Kettering-Moraine Museum director Melba Hunt lead to a more plausible explanation for Orville’s tools and the wall coverings at Hawthorn Hill. Hunt wrote: “Orville went so far as to construct brocaded panels for all the downstairs rooms. These were put up during the winter months.”¹⁰⁸ The term “brocaded pan-

103 KW to HH, WHMC, nd#24, [October 6 (per Richard Maurer)1926].

104 KW to HH, WHMC, nd#19 [November 1926]; it is not clear if the wallpaper was done in 1921 or 1922.

105 KW to Griffith Brewer, WHMC, May 18, 1922, Riddle and Sinnot, *Letters of the Wright Brothers*, pp. 192–93.

In this letter Katharine also expressed frustration with male workers who were “loafers” and compared them to Carrie and her aunt who worked harder and longer yet, because they were female, were paid far less. She lauded Orville for his support in such “woman” issues: “Meanwhile, Carrie and her aunt (WOMEN, you observe) were working eight good hours a day and more for three dollars per [men got \$10 per]. I am getting more rabid on the WOMAN question every day. Better come over and help me get it out of my system. Orv is a great comfort; he goes me one better on all my ideas of that sort.”

106 Orville’s checkbook recorded a payment to Harman’s in October for \$51.03 for “Papers at Oakwood, July 25.” KW to HH, WHMC, July 15, 1924 “I’m having an awful time getting any thing I want in that rose room [210]. We think we’ve got a pretty paper for Orv’s room but I can’t find any thing that seems quite ‘lively and yet dignified’ for the guest room [206]. I want it a little gayer than it was.”

107 KW to HH, WHMC, April 16, 1924.

108 Melba Hunt, *Hayloft Chatter* Vol. XV, No. 1 January/February 1997, pp. 1 and 3. Her article went on to say: “Our set of photographs of the house and rooms was taken February 16, 1948, when NCR purchased the home. Because it was wintertime, the brocade panels were still in place on the walls. Incidentally, ingenious Orville made his own tool set that he used to install or remove the panels each fall and spring.” However, no brocade panels are in evidence in any 1948 photographs.

els” is important. Figures 12 and 15 show the reception hall, prior to February 1924, with raised panels—conceivably featuring a brocade fabric¹⁰⁹—on the wall between the windows and the wall backing up to the main stair hall closet. The rooms in the foreground and background (living room and main stair hall) do not feature any such special wall treatment. Two images of the library, likely taken at this same time, show no panels on the library walls either. Thus, the reception hall was the only room that had the panels for which Orville made his tools, and he never needed them for the library. Hence there is no evidence of the library damask wall covering having ever been removed; it was probably simply cleaned in place.

Recognizing the significance Katharine and Orville placed on the Hawthorn Hill reception hall—they referred to it as the trophy room—helps to understand it as a special room, meriting the Orville Wright–labor intensive, seasonal, wall treatment. The first Schenck & Williams house plans had “The Muse of Aviation” in the main stair hall, the first room into which visitors would enter (figure 3), but in the final Hawthorn Hill plan the Muse was featured in a special niche in its own room, the reception hall. In 1914 the room featured two “trophies”—Muse and a statue, possibly of Mercury.¹¹⁰ It was for this unique setting that Orville Wright appears to have devised a system, seasonally rotated, to feature raised brocade fabric panels on the walls.¹¹¹ (See also reception hall evidence of room use below.)

Katharine’s Plans Change

By the mid-1920s, no doubt drawn closer together after their father’s death, Orville and Katharine had settled into a routine and established life in Oakwood. They continued to try to gain acceptance for the brothers as the inventors of flight, though Orville chafed at the idea of writing his memoir, which family, friends, and supporters thought would once and for all document and affirm their role. They summered at their island in Canada, and Katharine remained active in many civic groups, including her college alumni organization. Among the many friends Katharine kept in touch with were Isabel and Henry J. (Harry) Haskell, friends from their college days. Isabel endured a lengthy struggle with cancer and died in 1923. Katharine

109 Confusion over the difference between damask and brocade has complicated the understanding of Hawthorn Hill’s wall coverings. Both fabrics are high-end materials sometimes used as wall coverings; damask is typically a two-color woven material that is reversible. Damask is most commonly used for table clothes and has both lustrous and matte surfaces that contrast subtly to make a rich two-toned fabric with a positive-negative pattern. Brocade is also a woven fabric, but it incorporates more colors and sometimes a metallic thread as well; it does not read as a flat pattern but features designs that are often quite opulent and is usually not reversible.

110 October 16–23, 1914 “Notes from Dayton Visit” in Kate B. Leonard Journal, Archives of Oberlin College, Kate B. Leonard Papers 30/224, Diaries and Journals, folder: 1910–22, box 2, p. 28, “Reception room or trophy room. . . [the Muse]. . . . The other trophy—a bronze figure perhaps Mercury, presented to Orville by [am ?] Aeronautical Society.”

Katharine had a third name for the room, the “cold storage” room: KW to HH, WHMC, March 7, 1924.

“I expected the picture back yesterday but it is not finished, it seems. I think I am going to hang it in the ‘cold storage’ room where the other etchings are. I think it will be glorious in the long narrow panel between the windows. I got a dark brown frame, (sepia really) with a mat of deep cream. I hope it will be right.” And, KW to HH, WHMC microfilm April 16, 1924, “Have I ever told you that we have the Rouen cathedral etching in the little ‘cold storage’ room and it is lovely. Since we changed the walls I like that room. The picture hangs between the two windows above the settee, just opposite the “Muse of Aviation.” I am indebted to Harry Haskell for telling me about his grandfather’s two prints purchased in France in 1923, one of which he gave to Katharine Wright, and these references to the print in their correspondence. The letters not only tell of one more Hawthorn Hill furnishing, the no longer extant print of Katharine’s, but help date the historic photograph that shows the brocade panels but no print of Rouen, and thus also reveal timing for the final removal of Orville’s brocade panels.

111 Even seasonal removal of these panels seems unlikely due to the framing or holes that would be left on the walls during the warm weather months, yet the tools themselves show evidence of considerable use. The tools are in the collection of Dayton History and may be seen at Carillon Historical Park in Dayton.

rine and Harry had corresponded more regularly during Isabel's last year of life. Katharine offered much-needed support to the Haskells in Kansas City, Missouri.

As managing editor of the editorial page of the *Kansas City Star*, Henry traveled a great deal, including many trips to Washington, D.C., which brought him through Ohio. In the years after Isabel's death, Katharine and Harry grew close, and in June 1925 Henry told Katharine of his love for her and desire to marry. Only Katharine's side of their correspondence survives, but it shows the feelings were reciprocal. The volume of letters alone documents their love but also the mixed feelings caused by their situation.¹¹² Katharine's letters to Henry not only shed light on furnishings and room use at Hawthorn Hill, they movingly document her feelings and circumstances and give insight into an early 20th century romantic relationship prior to marriage.

Katharine was thoroughly torn, as she and Orville lived lives as partners of a sort, entirely reliant on one another with no thought of ever marrying. She wrote to Henry:

*For the last few days I have been looking at everything around the house with the thought I might have to leave it. You don't know how dear this home is to me and how it nearly kills me to think of breaking it up. . . . [Orv and I] have lived together all of [our] lives, enjoyed everything together, endured every thing together. I am sure almost no one on earth would understand our relation. And Harry, it isn't just Orv! I don't know how I'd ever be satisfied away from him. . . . Orv never goes anywhere without me, except to some affair for the men. He never considered any thing without asking what I think about it—just as any good husband would do. Always everything that interested them [Will and Orv] interested me and they took up all my interests in just the same way. . . . I think it is more like separating a husband and wife than a brother and sister. You see, don't you dear, how it has been with me. Will and Orv have made my life – most of my interest since my Oberlin days and before. There was a reason why none of us ever married. . . . I am sure Will and Orv thought as much of me as themselves when they made any plans. We all planned this house together. . . . And Orv loves his home too. You know how he never wants to stay away. I always laugh at him because he never will stay away long enough to really take care of business properly—partly because he likes the comfort of his own things and partly because I am here. . . . Orv will go through whatever has to be gone through. But he must have everything else favorable and nothing to worry about at home. And I have been thinking that I'll have to see the book through. I am sure no one else can help him on that as I can.*¹¹³

Katharine's letters for the next year and a half reveal ongoing struggle and frustration. By the next winter Katharine was writing Henry two and three times a day. "I managed to slip down to the letter-box, dear, while Orv was working on his old Franklin."¹¹⁴ Life went on seemingly as usual: she and Orville traveled to New York City to attend an air show and shopped at Tiffany's, and they spent their summer in Canada.¹¹⁵ Katharine retained the focus she expressed

112 Ian Mackersey, *The Wright Brothers: The Remarkable Story of the Aviation Pioneers who Changed the World* (UK: Little Brown, 2004) draws heavily upon the Wright-Haskell letters and tells many details of their courtship, much of which took place at Hawthorn Hill.

113 KW to HH, WHMC, June 22, 1925.

114 KW to HH, WHMC, February 21, 1926. "After I finished writing I lay down and had a nap. When I woke up, I saw some letters [from Harry] that Carrie had slipped under my door." KW to HH, WHMC, July 1, 1925.

115 KW to HH, WHMC, October 7 and 16, 1925.

in June 1925: she wanted to help Orville finish his book so as to claim the Wright brothers' rightful place in history, and she was intent on finding someone to live at Hawthorn Hill with him so that he would not have to worry about things at home. Katharine ultimately had to abandon helping Orville with the book; the last six months of her time at Hawthorn Hill were consumed with relentless efforts to find a live-in domestic, and secret wedding plans, which had to be altered when Orville declined to have his name placed on the invitations to a ceremony at Hawthorn Hill.

After a year, in May 1926, Henry told Orville of their desire to marry. Orville was devastated and grew withdrawn.¹¹⁶ Katharine, understanding his feelings and sharing most of them herself, waited patiently, hoping her brother would come around. Carrie knew all about the situation and gave Katharine tremendous support. "She takes care of me when I can't take care of myself";¹¹⁷ "she has done everything to help me when I get near the breaking point."¹¹⁸

Katharine agonized over the implications of their love and what she might take with her if she moved to Missouri. Her thinking evolved from being heartbroken to deciding what would be appropriate to take. "For the last few days I have been looking at everything around the house with the thought I might have to leave it. You don't know how dear this home is to me and how it nearly kills me to think of breaking it up."¹¹⁹

*You know I have a good many things that are mine if I want to claim them but I won't. But a few things I'll take. Orv always said that the things in my room were absolutely mine but I'd rather leave them here. . . . About so many things I have the feeling that they were given to me on account of Will and Orv and I want to leave them—most of them—with Orv, if he likes to have them around.*¹²⁰

*I have all the silver in the house, you know. Will and Orv started that for me the Christmas after they made the first flight, just a week after, or eight days. So I love that and I'll want to take that with me. It isn't anything especially fine but it is nice and I love it. But I don't want to take things people have given me but meant for us both.*¹²¹

Once she had decided to move to Missouri, Katharine and Carrie determined to find someone who would live at Hawthorn Hill with Orville. Two of their former domestics came to mind—Harry Edwards and William Lewis, who had both been good workers and loyal to the family. Their preference was for Edwards because he was older and more likely would be content to be at home in the evenings. "I am stumped to get a man to stay in the house. It is

116 KW to HH, WHMC, May 14, 1926. "I feel just as if some one in the family had died. . . . I don't want you to stop on your way back [from Washington] unless Orv gets through the awful depression he is in. I couldn't carry it through, dear, I couldn't. And I feel that it is too much to ask of him. He has all he can stand now. . . . Oh my little brother! He has always been so dear and he has always been my special care. . . . I don't know what to do dear. Orv won't stay in the house a minute. He went away before half past six this morning. I *can't* stand it." "Orv and I haven't been like the usual brother and sister. But I won't desert you either dear. Surely there must be some way to make it right. . . . he didn't "sleep a wink" for two nights and was taking aspirin and he left the house yesterday morning before Carrie came. . . . I had to comfort him last night. He said last night he couldn't say a word he was so sick." KW to HH, WHMC, May 16, 1926.

117 KW to HH, WHMC, July 6, 1925.

118 KW to HH, WHMC, nd#44, [October 30?, 1926].

119 KW to HH, WHMC, June 22, 1925.

120 KW to HH, WHMC, September 29, 1925.

121 KW to HH, WHMC, October 16, 1925.

easy enough to get people for day work but times have changed and every one wants to live at home, naturally. But we must have someone in the house.”¹²² Carrie wrote Edwards, and after weeks of waiting they heard back that he was not available.¹²³

Carrie had already promised Katharine that she would fill in if they could not get Edwards to live with Orville, so Katharine continued with her plans to get married and move to Missouri.¹²⁴ When she mustered the courage to tell her brother Lorin, she learned Orville had already spoken with him about it in the spring.¹²⁵ Katharine was pleasantly surprised that, unlike Orville, the rest of her family, “were all very sympathetic with me. Netta said they were going to do everything to help Orv and to give me a pretty wedding. I am so happy about it. . . . It will be such a help to have the family back of me.”¹²⁶

With family support and encouragement Katharine planned the wedding to take place in the living room at the house the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend 1926, when her niece Leon-tine could be home. Katharine had the piano tuned in anticipation of her sister-in-law Lulu Wright playing and her niece Ivonette singing. But when Lorin asked Orville about putting his name on the wedding invitations, he balked.¹²⁷ Katharine changed plans again, and she and her family and friends went to great lengths to not let Orville’s disapproval become a public problem.¹²⁸ Katharine and Harry married in Oberlin, Ohio, on November 20, 1926, a week earlier than originally planned.

Katharine moved to Kansas City and remained in touch with all of her Dayton friends and family, except Orville, who did not answer her letters.¹²⁹ In a letter to Agnes Beck, Katharine revealed how very much she missed friends and “home,” but was not actually homesick. “Lorin thinks I ought to come to see them but I can’t do it yet. . . . In my imagination I walk through that house, looking for Little Brother, and at all the dear familiar things that made

122 KW to HH, WHMC, nd#42, [1926?].

123 “We hope to hear from Edwards by next Sunday. It has been three weeks today since Carrie wrote to him. It will simplify our problem greatly if he comes for we know him and can trust him. He is very devoted to Orv, too, and is nice around the house. We will be in hot water if he doesn’t come for we have no other prospect just now. The young William would have been an excellent worker but he would have been out every night. But he hasn’t come back to Dayton so there is no use talking about that. Edwards is settled and doesn’t care to go out much. He will be satisfied if we can get him. He is the kind too, who wouldn’t walk off and leave us in the lurch. He was trying, with his dauby [*sic*] hands, always leaving marks on everything but we can stand for that for his good qualities. He is cheerful and good-natured, which is just what we want for Orv.” KW to HH, WHMC, nd#46, [fall, 1926]. See also KW to HH, WHMC, nd#6, [Oct? 1926], KW to HH, WHMC, nd#42, [1926], KW to HH, WHMC, nd#54, [microfilm annotation “10/16/1926?”], and KW to HH, WHMC, nd#56, [fall 1926].

124 KW to HH, WHMC, nd#8, [1926].

125 KW to HH, WHMC, nd#49, [1926].

126 KW to HH, WHMC, nd#6, [Oct? 1926].

127 KW to HH, WHMC, nd#26[*sic*, #36], and nd#36 [11/13/1926]. For other details about her wedding plans and those who helped her see: KW to HH, WHMC, nd#5, [1926]; KW to HH, WHMC, nd#17, [fall 1926], KW to HH, WHMC, nd#19, [fall, 1926] and KW to HH, WHMC, nd#9, [fall 1926].

128 “We are trying to arrange so no one will know that Orv is not there. We can put it on the ground of wanting to have President King and so have the wedding in Oberlin. The Lords will keep it to themselves as to who was there. “The family” will answer. . . . Mrs. Deeds thinks this way will stop all talk in Dayton. . . . Mrs. Deeds proposes to have notices announcing the wedding in the New York Times and we might have it in the Washington paper—and in Cleveland—as well as Dayton + KC. That will look as if we just didn’t try to send announcements. There would need to be a good many if we started. It is too bad to have to scheme around in this undignified way but I can’t help it.” KW to HH, WHMC, nd#26[*sic*, #36] and nd#36, [11/13/1926].

129 Harry Haskell’s personal research index notes that Katharine mentioned to many that Orville did not reply to her letters. One letter he actually returned unopened. KWH to GB, WHMC, 11/23/27.

my home. But I never find Little Brother and I have lost my home forever, I fear.”¹³⁰ Carrie visited her in Missouri at least once, for two weeks in summer 1927.¹³¹ Katharine did not regret her decision to marry but “what I did . . . is a great shadow over my happiness all the time. If he would only let me come and stay with him all I can. I could be there often and stay for weeks—as I intended to do. I never thought of anything but that. Sometimes I wonder if I won’t wake up from a bad dream and find him as he always was.”¹³²

In winter 1928–29 Henry Haskell was seriously ill, and Katharine and he went to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota seeking medical help. While there Katharine caught a cold, which upon their return to Missouri developed into pneumonia. At Lorin Wright’s urging, Orville traveled to Kansas City and was with Katharine, Henry, and Lorin when she died March 3, 1929.¹³³ Her funeral was held three days later in the living room at Hawthorn Hill; “the large living room of the Wright home was almost filled with floral tributes.”¹³⁴

Orville Carries On

As with Wilbur’s death, Katharine’s marriage and move to Kansas City left Orville entirely at a loss. William Lewis was paid for household labor in fall and winter 1926–27, but he seems not to have actually lived at Hawthorn Hill. Not having found a man to live with Orville, Carrie and her husband Charley stayed in the servants’ quarters. They owned a house in Dayton, so it was their hope to be in Oakwood only temporarily, but it appears they ended up living there until Orville died some 22 years later. Carrie kept Katharine informed of Orville’s mood and activities: “Carrie writes to me often and I am sure she is taking good care of O.W. She says she has suggested several times that he ask some friends in to dinner but he ‘just smiles,’ she says. He has had the family and is always ready to have them. They are doing all they can for him. Dear little Brother!”¹³⁵

As the shyest of the three youngest Wrights, Orville now found his desire to tinker as strong as ever, his joy of family as important as ever, and his aversion to publicity as keen as ever. Reuch and Lulu’s daughter, Bertha Ellwyn Wright Steeper, who had first been to Hawthorn Hill in 1917, when her uncle and aunt cared for her in the flu epidemic, recalled visiting her uncle in the mid-1930s. Her mother came with her, and Orville and his sister-in-law talked endlessly. “Some of the issues I remember were his strong feelings about the harmful effects of advertising because he thought it raised the price of things. . . . Sir Hubert Wilkins the arctic explorer was a guest for lunch while we were there. The men retired to the living room to talk.”¹³⁶ One of the few detailed post-1926 references to people and conversation in the house, it indicates that, at least when visitors came, entertaining, conversation, and routines were fairly unchanged at Hawthorn Hill. Orville bought new records for his Victrola and kept up his usual interests, but no doubt became more of a recluse. Still ensconced in the fight with the Smith-

130 KWH to Agnes Beck, March 11, 1927, WSU Archives SC-97, Katharine Wright’s Correspondence with Agnes Beck. Although Katharine refers to Orville as “Little Brother,” he was three years older than she. He was the youngest of all the Wright brothers, so must have been called little brother by all, and she used the term even though she was the youngest Wright child.

131 KWH to VS, August 1, 1927, Dartmouth Stef MSS: 196 (17): 1927—Ha-He.

132 KWH to VS, February 18, 1928 Dartmouth Stef MSS: 196 (19): 1928 Ha.

133 Crouch, *The Bishop’s Boys*, 1989, p. 483.

134 *Dayton Daily News*, March 6, 1929.

135 KWH to Agnes Beck, March 11, 1927, WSU Archives SC-97, Katharine Wright’s Correspondence with Agnes Beck.

136 *Wright Reminiscences*, “Reminiscences of Bertha Ellywn Wright Steeper,” p. 151, 1978.

sonian and haunted by the desire to set the record of history straight, Orville eventually managed to have his biography published in 1943.¹³⁷

Orville's checkbooks provide a rough outline documenting life at Hawthorn Hill for the last decades of his life. They record payments and purchases—he bought silverware in 1927,¹³⁸ likely replacing that which Katharine took with her—and there are numerous notations for regular house upkeep and new furnishings. In fact because he no longer shared household expenses with Katharine, his checkbooks for these years actually contain more household entries than when his sister ran the house: painting, housecleaning, individual servant's salaries, grocery, and flower bills are enumerated.¹³⁹ In 1926 and 1927 groceries came from H. J. Harshbarger; from 1929 through 1942 from E. C. Blocher; and in the mid-1940s from a William Mar[ket?]. During her tenure Katharine wrote often about flowers in the house; Orville continued to decorate with fresh flowers at all times of the year but regularly for Thanksgiving and Christmas, buying his flowers from W. W. Horlacher.

Curtain cleaning, mending, or replacing of drapes was noted, as was recaning of chairs. He purchased new lamps and light bulbs, most frequently from P. M. Harman, one of the main companies Katharine had patronized from the start. Bed, bath, and table linens were purchased at Dayton department store Rike-Kumler Co.¹⁴⁰ In 1927 one room was repapered,¹⁴¹ and then Harman's supplied new wallpapers in 1934 and 1941; it is not known where any of these new papers went or what they looked like. In 1941 the bill was substantial—\$322.71—but because it also included curtains, typically a very expensive furnishing, it is likely the wallpaper portion of the job was fairly small, probably just a single room.

In early 1931 P. M. Harman was paid \$3500.00. Because it had been six years since his previous payment to the interior decorating company, it is likely this payment—noted for “on acct”—was simply a payment for the balance on a running account of work and purchases for the time since October 1924.¹⁴²

Orville bought a series of air conditioners, in 1939, 1942, and 1947. It is not known if each replaced the previous one or if they were for different locations (by at least 1943 he had air conditioning at his office as well). The 1948 photographs of the house show only one air conditioning unit at Hawthorn Hill, in the window of his bedroom. In the mid-1940s Orville paid for minor repairs or replacement parts for his central vacuum system.¹⁴³

In honor of her 40th wedding anniversary in 1944, Orville gave Carrie a gift of \$100. Two years

137 Fred C. Kelly, *The Wright Brothers: A Biography Authorized by Orville Wright*. Harcourt Brace, 1943.

138 OW checkbook. Orville paid A. Newsald Jewelry House \$231.00 for silverware on January 3, 1927.

139 It is likely that Orville's secretary, Mabel Beck, did the actual bookkeeping for the house as well as his business.

140 Many of the extant framed pieces at Hawthorn Hill retain Rike-Kumler labels although it is not clear if these were purchased there or just framed at the department store. Orville did not buy his linens exclusively at Rike-Kumler; Columbus Lace Cleaning, H&S Pogue Company, and Johnston-Shelton Company for curtain hardware are also listed in his checkbooks for linen purchases.

141 OW checkbook 6/30/27. The only wallpaper noted as coming from a store other than Harman's, H. E. Skiles Painting.

142 OW checkbook, February 27, 1931.

143 OW checkbooks. All payments for air conditioners, their servicing, and repairs were to the Refrigeration Equipment Company. His payments for the vacuum system were to the American Vacuum Company in Chicago.

later, in the spring of 1946, he gave Carrie, Mabel Beck [Orville's secretary], and many of his nieces and nephews \$2,500 each. He raised Carrie's salary at the same time, from \$20 to \$40 per month.¹⁴⁴ Lottie Jones did laundry and housekeeping with Carrie, and her name appears in Orville's checkbooks fairly consistently from 1926 through 1939. The pattern for her payments is less clear—at times it was listed as \$6.25 for what appears to be a laundry day, at other times it is noted as for a certain number of weeks, which sometimes amounted to about \$6 per day also.¹⁴⁵ From fall 1942 until her death in spring 1943 Orville paid Lottie a monthly pension of \$25. William Lewis's name appeared again in the accounts for some day labor, at \$4 per day, in 1930 and 1933. Nurses who cared for Orville at Hawthorn Hill in October 1947 after his first heart attack were also listed in the checkbooks.

Orville, accompanied by Carrie and other family members, continued to spend summers at Lambert Island until World War II, when travel restrictions and Carrie's health problems made the trip too difficult. In fall 1947 Orville suffered a heart attack while going to an appointment at NCR. A few months later, on January 27, 1948, he had another heart attack at his office. He went to the hospital and never recovered to come home to Oakwood.

Orville's will, which distributed an estate worth more than a half million dollars, was generous all around. He specified Hawthorn Hill be sold and the proceeds folded into the rest of the estate. The lawyer who worked with Orville to write the will stated, "He didn't want to keep it as a museum. Mr. Wright, you know, never wanted the limelight."¹⁴⁶ His prized possessions and accolades, featured in the Hawthorn Hill "trophy" room (reception hall, room 104), were given to the Dayton Art Institute. All the furnishings at his home were given to nieces and nephews: Bertha Ellwyn Wright Steeper received the silver, china, and glassware, and Lorin's children were given all remaining household items. Orville left generous amounts of money to family and loyal employees alike. Carrie Grumbach received \$2,000 a year for the remainder of her life; if Lottie Jones had been alive, she would have received \$200 per year.¹⁴⁷ His largest single gift was to Katharine's alma mater, \$300,000 to Oberlin College.

National Cash Register's Guesthouse

Despite Orville Wright's clearly expressed wishes, most in Dayton did not want the Wright brothers to go unrecognized. A few weeks after his death, Ohio Representative Raymond H. Burke, at the suggestion of James Herrman of the Dayton Cooperative Club, introduced legislation in the House of Representatives for Hawthorn Hill to become "a national memorial museum to commemorate the memory of the Wright brothers."¹⁴⁸ The climate on Capitol Hill was not good for a bill of this sort because 12 other possible memorials were up for consideration of federal funding. The bill never made it out of committee.¹⁴⁹ Similarly, the City of Oakwood wanted to try to buy the house to preserve it as a memorial, but the timing was not thought good for a bond issue to raise the funds for purchase.¹⁵⁰

144 OW checkbook, September 28, 1944, April 29, 1946, and April 30, 1946.

145 As noted previously, time did not permit a thorough look at Orville Wright's checkbooks, so any final conclusions about some of his expenses should remain open for further research.

146 2/3/1948, *Dayton Journal* "\$300,000 Given to Oberlin; Estate Tops Half Million"

147 1948, "Last Will and Testament," Orville Wright, WSU Archives: SC-15 Wrights: Copies of Wills; Folder 1. Mabel Beck received \$3,000 annually.

148 H.R. 5395, 80th Congress, 2nd Session, February 16, 1948; 2/6 and 2/11/48, *Dayton Daily News*.

149 2/10/48 *Dayton Daily News*, and Dietz, Home of a Lonely Man, *Dayton Daily News*, November 14, 1948.

150 2/17/48, *Dayton Daily News* and *Dayton Herald*.

Finally, in fall 1948 National Cash Register purchased the Wright home for \$75,000 and swiftly moved to update the décor for visiting guests. NCR had thoroughly photographed the house in February of that year. Those photographs provide the primary visual evidence for the 1948 period refurnishing of Hawthorn Hill in this report. A handful of original Wright-era furnishings were retained in the 1949 redecoration. Although many Wright-era furnishings in disrepair and/or of lesser value were put out in the trash, NCR placed many of the furnishings not claimed by the family in the Hawthorn Hill attic.¹⁵¹ This early “preservation” step was a great boon to the house as the NPS and the Wright Family Foundation, along with other funders, are now reassembling many of the major pieces of furniture from 1948.

In 1949 the National Cash Register Company thoroughly redecorated Hawthorn Hill. NCR employed Dayton decorator Keith Wilson and the nationally known New York firm W. & J. Sloane to undertake the task.¹⁵² In selecting Sloane, NCR chose a firm of great status. Their company history noted that clients remarked: “Out where I live I like my neighbors to see a Sloane truck pull up at my door.”¹⁵³

NCR decided to retain the library as a sort of shrine to Orville Wright, and the room saw little change during the NCR years. (See library (105) room history: two important library chairs went to Wright family members, as did some of the framed political cartoons and some other small items.) In essence Sloane’s and Wilson removed all wall coverings in the house (other than the library) and generally brightened up the appearance with new rugs, paint, and wall-papers.¹⁵⁴ Sloane’s introduced Metropolitan Museum of Art reproduction furniture to the Oakwood house.¹⁵⁵ Though not consciously, this use of museum reproductions resonated with the furniture Katharine and Orville had favored when they furnished their home in the 1910s and acquired reproductions of historic American furniture from the Century Furniture Company. NCR refinished some Wright furniture at this point also, and the original finish of at least the dining room pieces changed from the “ox-blood” mahogany Katharine adored to a tone more suited to mid-20th-century taste—“a soft brown shade that reveals the grain and beauty of the wood.”¹⁵⁶ The 1949 photographs of their redecorated guesthouse show that NCR used some Wright furnishings when redecorating elsewhere in the house too. In the servants’ spaces—dining room (110) and bedroom (215)—Wright-era beds and chairs were in use (figures 60 and 67).

151 In 1973 the furnishings in the attic were moved to the Kettering Moraine Museum. In 2008 these items were returned to Hawthorn Hill and are now in storage in the basement.

152 Originally from Pennsylvania, Keith Wilson came to Dayton to work for Schackne Studios. From 1932 to 1974 he had his own firm, Keith Wilson Interiors. 8/27/1987 *Dayton Daily News/Journal Herald*, p. 36, obituary, and Helen Warren, “Hawthorn Hill, Despite New Décor, Still Shrine,” *Dayton Daily News*, January 8, 1950.

153 Originally a New York city rug company founded in 1843, Sloane’s had broadened its field into interior work later in the 19th century. The promotional history boasted: “Sloane’s . . . has spent more than a century in cultivating and maintaining . . . a reputation for suburb quality. . . . Sloane’s has set the standard of national decorative taste.” The work at HH was a feather in Sloane’s cap as well; in the 1950 publication the company listed the house as one of its projects: “recently it was chosen to restore the Orville Wright home at Dayton, Ohio.” *The Story of Sloane’s*, New York: W. & J. Sloane, 1950, pp. 7 and 30.

154 See Barbara Yocum, “Hawthorn Hill, Oakwood, Ohio: Wallcoverings Investigation.” Lowell, Mass.: Historic Architecture Program, NPS Northeast Region, 2008, p. 3ff, for more detail on NCR wall redecorating. An appendix of Yocum’s report includes a series of 1989 photographs of the house interior.

155 Warren, “Hawthorn Hill Still Shrine,” *Dayton Daily News*, January 8, 1950. It is not known how much of the new furnishings were acquired via the MET; a survey of the extant NCR furnishings may help answer this question.

156 Warren, “Hawthorn Hill Still Shrine,” *Dayton Daily News*, January 8, 1950.

The 1949 redecoration appears to have held until the early 1960s, when fresh wallpaper was hung in two of the upstairs bedrooms. A third decorating foray seems to have taken place in the 1970s, and then a final one in 1989 by Dungan Design of Dayton. Throughout these redecoration the library continued to be left virtually unchanged¹⁵⁷ (figure 69).

By the 1960s NCR had assigned room names based on their color scheme, and just Orville's bedroom retained its identity as his room. By the early 2000s NCR had placed name plates on all the bedroom doors as a tribute to various Wright family members, although two of them were never historically associated with the rooms' occupant.¹⁵⁸ Orville Wright's bedroom persisted as the room the most prominent visitors slept in, allowing them the honor to have slept in the bedroom, but not the bed, of the co-inventor of flight.

45

The Wright Family Foundation and the NPS

As NCR's business declined in the late 20th century, Hawthorn Hill saw less frequent use. In 1991 the house was designated a national historic landmark, and in 2006 NCR gave Hawthorn Hill to the Wright Family Foundation. The following year the foundation and Dayton History began conducting public tours of the house. In 2007 Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP in conjunction with the Wright Family Foundation and the National Aviation Heritage Alliance initiated a historic furnishings study, phase I. Completed in September 2008, that study provided preliminary documentation for the appearance of the interior of the house in 1948; it also identified, located, and organized in a single document information about many original furnishings for Hawthorn Hill. Further, it assessed the degree of accuracy to which the various rooms at Hawthorn Hill could be recreated for the year 1948 (Appendix A).

Initiated in 2009, this historic furnishings report looks at the social and furnishings history of Hawthorn Hill. It can be used to implement the refurnishing of the home with a solid degree of accuracy. Drawing upon sources not previously used for this purpose, it also provides a strong foundation for the interpretation of the Wrights' lives at Hawthorn Hill.

157 Yocum, *Wallcoverings Investigation*, 2008.

158 "Wilbur's Room" had been the bedroom intended for the older brother, but since he died prior to completion of the house it was never actually his room, and "Ivonne's Room," if used at all by Ivonne Wright Miller, would have been only a handful of times because she lived in Dayton herself and did not have reason to stay the night at Hawthorn Hill. "Hawthorn Hill." Dayton, Ohio: National Cash Register Co., ca. 1960.

Evidence of Room Use and Furnishings

This portion of the historic furnishings report presents evidence of room use and furnishings room by room for most of the first- and second-floor rooms at Hawthorn Hill. Where documentation permits, this includes a summary of each room's history, physical changes, and major furnishings and furnishings changes. Information found about the basement was not sufficient to merit a narrative; likewise, there are no summary histories for most of the bathrooms and closets.

For historic floor plans for the first and second floors of Hawthorn Hill, including room numbers used for this report, see figures 1 and 2.

First Floor

Main Stair Hall (102)

Room History and Physical Evidence

As the primary entrance to Hawthorn Hill throughout Orville Wright's life, the main stair hall served as both a casual gathering spot and a grand entry area for the Wright's house. Countless events "began" here, from family celebrations to social gatherings for many of the world's well-known figures. Orville clearly favored the events with friends, and especially family, but the public—essentially mandatory—dealings were a mainstay of life at Hawthorn Hill as well. Katharine smoothed the way for the more obligatory ones—

We are glad that the twentieth anniversary of the first flight can come only once in a lifetime. It was pretty "fierce" but so well meant. . . . We had them all here for luncheon. . . . The [National] Cash Register was in its glory. The publicity department was in charge. You can imagine the rest. I had to take my little brother aside and tell him to play the game for he couldn't stand the idea of letting the press agent gang come around our house. He didn't make any fuss at the [train] station but he hates to have our house used in such a way. It was pretty bad but we stood that.¹⁵⁹

Not all of the events that took place in the hall were as overwhelming as the 20th anniversary of flight. Two family weddings took place in the house, with the main stair hall as a featured space. At Ivonette Wright and Harold Miller's June 25, 1919, wedding "the bridesmaids descended the stairs. . . . Baskets of blue delphinium and ropes of maiden hair fern lined the stairs and dining room."¹⁶⁰

159 KW to HH, WHMC, December 26, 1923.

160 *Wright Reminiscences*, Ivonette Wright Miller, pp. 20–21.

Family history records many stories that provide a rich understanding of the Wrights' family life—and Orville's mischievous sense of humor. When their nephew Horace (Bus) Wright married Susan Blair in 1928, the hall was key to a dramatic exit that flowed into an unplanned gathering so the bride and groom could get away.

Orville was to help us escape the young scalawags [at the wedding reception at her parents' house. . . . He went and got his] big Franklin car. We followed shortly after with my cousin Lenore Swanson trailing our heels, Bus pushed her off from the running board and we were off. Orville spurted on ahead and drove down a dead end street. This made no difference, he deftly drove over a bare field and on to the next street with me wondering if we would ever make it. We finished our wild ride at Hawthorn Hill where we ran through the hall to the other entrance and down the hill to a street car where we embarked for a short ride to where our car was parked. Orville graciously lit all the lights and proceeded to invite the crowd in so we could escape.¹⁶¹

The closets off of the main stair hall are of note: the north closet (103c), just through the door from the library and across from the toilet, was the phone closet. Family history has it that the closet by the dining room was where Orville had a record player and where he worked on inventing an automated record changer.¹⁶²

Furnishings

The main stair hall was among the first rooms in the house to be “completed,” Milton Wright noted: A friend came by with essentials and a housewarming gift, and “we set up furniture in the hall and put down the beautiful rug.”¹⁶³

Although early plans for the house featured the Muse of Aviation, a bronze sculpture presented to Wilbur and Orville Wright by the Aero Club of Sarthe (France) in 1908, in the main stair hall (figure 3), it was ultimately given a room of its own in the adjoining reception hall. Katharine and Orville purchased their key pieces of furniture, Jacobean Revival style, for the hall from the Century Furniture Company on their trip to Grand Rapids in January 1914, and these appear to have remained in their same location until after Orville's death in 1948. The impressive dentil molding and a large Donegal rug with coordinating small rugs at doorways lent to the grand feel of the room. Mindful of her aged father, Katharine had the small rugs larger than she would have liked to eliminate the danger of tripping at transition points in the rug's surface. Katharine and Orville did not furnish with Oriental rugs for a similar reason—the thickness of the Irish rug helped hold it in place.¹⁶⁴ Perhaps for the same reason, the stairs were not originally carpeted.

Although no major furniture changes appear to have taken place in the hall, the wall coverings

161 *Wright Reminiscences*, “Impressions of Orville Wright,” Susan B. Wright, p. 160ff.

162 *Wright Reminiscences*, Alfred S. Andrews, “Three of the Wright Brothers, Two Stokes Sisters and the Andrews Family,” p. 89.

163 MW Diary, Friday, May 1, 1914: “Mabel Creiger called with some eggs and flowers.”

164 KW to HH, WHMC, December 13, 1925 [2nd letter of this date], “We first thought of having some Orientals but we decided against them for several reasons. One important one was their thinness. We were always afraid Father might slip and hurt himself. We had the smaller rugs at doorways larger than we liked for looks to make it safe for him. And he never did fall as so many old people do. Once he slipped on the stairs a little but caught himself.”

and portieres were changed and carpet added to the stairway. It is quite possible these changes were undertaken at the same time, coordinating the new wall covering with new portieres. By 1948 the main stair hall and the reception hall had the same flocked stylized floral design wallpaper, but it is not known when that paper was hung. The earlier historic photographs of the hall (figures 6–8 and figure 11) show an abstract foliate wallpaper, while the 1948 images document the flocked stylized floral pattern (figures 24 and 25). The Yocum wallcoverings investigation found fragments of both papers: the original paper “displays a cream horizontal pinstripe on a mustard yellow ground,” while the later paper is a “light/straw-color flocking applied to a plain ground mottled with black and orange/red pigments.”¹⁶⁵ The original portieres appear to be of a solid, perhaps plush, fabric with a 1–2 inch border on the outer edges; they hung by the door to the dining room and at the vestibules. The 1948 portieres are extant and featured a brown and red grape pattern facing the hall, while a blue foliate design faced the dining room. The change in door hangings may have happened around 1924, by which time wall changes had taken place in the reception hall; but the changes in both rooms could also have been as early as 1917, after Milton Wright’s death.

National Cash Register’s redecoration of Hawthorn Hill was complete by October 1949. As was the case throughout the house, furnishings for the main stair hall were entirely redone. Wall-to-wall carpet, new wallpaper and curtains, and Federal-style furniture were all introduced to the room, updating the house for out-of-town visitors and NCR functions.

Documentation and References

*1914 MW Diary, Friday, May 1 Mabel Creiger called with some eggs and flowers. . . . We set up furniture in the hall and put down the beautiful rug.”

*September 13, 1914 KW to GB (*Letters of the Wright Brothers*, Riddle and Sinnott)

When Carrie was putting your room in order, she found two packages in your closet which looked interesting enough to investigate. So when Orv and I came in at noon on the 19th of August we found the books and the camera in the middle of the hall table. You can perhaps imagine my joy over the books. I want *nothing* so much now since the flood. The only trouble is that these four lovely volumes may lead me into extravagance for I *must* have the rest in that very edition. I am saving these four for the long winter evenings when I can settle down and enjoy them.

I think Orv felt a little like Buster [Bus/Horace] about the camera, at first sight, but when he read in your note that you had ‘plenty more guns at home’, he was reassured and decided to be very glad that you had! He has been experimenting but has nothing developed so far. I think he feels a little dubious of success.

*1919 *Wright Reminiscences* Ivonette Miller’s Reminiscences – p. 20ff

p. 20 June 25, 1919, Ivonette and Scribze married at Hawthorn Hill—60 guests—bridesmaids descended stairs

p. 21 house decorated with southern smilax and white summer flowers, formal box trees

¹⁶⁵ Yocum, Wallcoverings Investigation, p. 10.

and tall standards of white wicker filled with Lingard phlox which formed the setting in the living room. Baskets of blue delphinium and ropes of maiden hair fern lined the stairs and dining room. After the ceremony food was served in the dining room. The help that was engaged for this service did not show up, so Carrie, Uncle Orv, Aunt Katharine and the McCormicks served the buffet supper.

*1923 KW to VS July 23, 1923, Dartmouth Steffanson MSS:196(98) Wright, Katharine, 1920–25

. . . On June 2nd, when we had our wedding [Leontine and John Jameson], it was blistering hot. Orv got a dish pan full of ice and blew over it with the big electric fan to keep the rooms cool.

*1923 KW to HH Western Historical Manuscript Collection (hereafter WHMC) December 26, 1923

It feels awfully funny to get hold of this typewriter again. I haven't touched it for a week. Orv has evidently been doing some adjusting for it doesn't feel a bit natural.

I survived Christmas and the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the first flight. . . . We are glad that the twentieth anniversary of the first flight can come only once in a lifetime. It was pretty "fierce" but so well meant. . . . The truth was murdered enough that day to make you weep. [Gov. Cox didn't have facts right, exaggerated, etc.]

The guests arrived in the morning from the East. They were General Patrick, Admiral Moffett, a Frenchman, Englishman and Italian, the latter Calderara [sp?] our dear friend from 1909. Stef and Mr. Akeley were on the same train. Howard Coffin came later in the day. Glenn Martin came down from Cleveland and Grover Loening came from Chicago. . . . We had them all here for luncheon and asked Frederick Patterson, Mr. Deeds, Governor Cox and the chairman of the local committee to join us. The Cash Register was in its glory. The publicity department was in charge. You can imagine the rest. I had to take my little brother aside and tell him to play the game for he couldn't stand the idea of letting the press agent gang come around our house. He didn't make any fuss at the station but he hates to have our house used in such a way. It was pretty bad but we stood that. . . . One of every plane at McCook and Wilbur Wright Fields to fly over our house in the afternoon. We all jumped up and left our luncheon for about ten minutes. It was a pretty sight. After we had finished eating, Mr. Deeds innocently asked me to tell about the "mental practice", a joke on Will. He knew I would see the point. I just introduced the story and then asked Orv to tell what happened because I wasn't there. Orv got started to talking and they sat for over an hour listening. I never knew Orv to talk better. Most of them had never heard him talk at all. Mr. Deeds is always setting the stage for that sort of thing. It is lovely to see his expression when he gets Orv started. He just "beams". There is a very lovely side to Mr. Deeds and he always shows it to Orv.

*1924 KW to HH WHMC December 31, 1924

About fifty telephone calls from men who saw my advertisement for a houseman.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC December 13, 1925 [2nd letter of this date]

We first thought of having some Orientals but we decided against them for several reasons. One important one was their thinness. We were always afraid Father might slip and hurt himself. We had the smaller rugs at doorways larger than we liked for looks to make it safe for him. And he never did fall as so many old people do. Once he slipped on the stairs a little but caught himself. . . .

*1926 KW to HH WHMC January 26, 1926

All my time is taken answering the telephone. I advertised for a cook. Nuff said.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC February 10, 1926

I like having the same rugs all over the down stairs. It makes a house seem roomier and it is always quiet and nice.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC February 14, 1926

Yes, rugs do cost a lot, and so much more than when we furnished this house almost 2-1/2 or 3 times as much actually. The last rug we bought-for Father's room in 1917- cost a good 2-1/2 times as much per square yard as those we got of exactly the same quality in 1913-1914. They were made in Donegal and there was an enormous duty on them. I think the duty is a little less now but the price in general is higher, I am afraid. I think but am not sure that all of our rugs cost about \$3000.00 and all the downstairs rugs and one upstairs are hand-tufted Donegals. They were the same price as a very good quality of Oriental rugs. We thought some of ordering Orientals made to size but decided against them chiefly because they so often slip and roll up, being thin, and we were afraid Father might slip and fall. It took us six months to get ours from Ireland. We couldn't *touch* such rugs now. They would cost eight or ten thousand dollars.

**Wright Reminiscences*, Alfred S. Andrews, "Three of the Wright Brothers, Two Stokes Sisters and the Andrews Family" p. 86 ff

p. 89 [post 1914—in the 1910s—OW] "trying to invent an automatic record changer. The whole family was having fun teasing him about the records he was breaking in attempting to perfect the apparatus." [This may have been in one of the closets of the main stair hall (103c)—not the phone closet.]

*ca 1925 Wright Reminiscences, "Impressions of Orville Wright" Susan B. Wright, p. 160ff

160 [1925—their wedding (Susan and Bus Wright)—the "getaway" from wedding reception at her parents' house] "Orville was to help us escape the young scalawags. . . . [he went and got his] big Franklin car. We followed shortly after with my cousin Lenore Swanson trailing our heels, Bus pushed her off from the running board and we were off. Orville spurted on ahead and drove down a dead end street. This made no difference, he deftly drove over a bare field and on to the next street with me wondering if we would ever make it. We finished our wild ride at Hawthorn Hill where we ran through the hall to the other entrance and down the

hill to a street car where we embarked for a short ride to where our car was parked. Orville graciously lit all the lights and proceeded to invite the crowd in so we could escape.”

Wright Reminiscences, Marianne Miller Hudec, p. 111ff

112 Since uncle Orv did not like smoking, he provided no ashtrays for his guests. As a result, there was a steady parade to the front porch for a smoke during the latter part of the evening. As I was usually cavorting around the front hall with my cousins, who thought of things to occupy me, the baby of the family, this parade was also a part of the Christmas eve scene.

*1981 Benjamin Kline, “NCR Keeps Hawthorn Hill Welcoming,” *Dayton Daily News*, June 7, 1981 p. 1E

Joseph and Stella Walbe, NCR live-in caretakers (“resident managers”) at Hawthorn Hill ca. 1978–1981, notes that Ivonette W. Miller set them right on “legend” that a Jacobean hall chair was not a gift from King Alfonso of Spain. The label says Century Furniture Co.

Dining Room (107)

Room History and Physical Evidence

Although Orville and Katharine at times ate in the kitchen, the dining room at Hawthorn Hill saw regular meals for groups of varying size. Orville came home for lunch most days, Carrie announced meals ready with a ring of the gong on the linen press, and Sunday dinners and Christmas eve parties were staples of the Wright family. The youngest Wright grandniece fondly recalled, “those marvelous Christmas eve parties, which for a child, were almost a fantasy world. The candles, food, elegant table, all the family gathering, often from afar, always made it a festive occasion. Each member of the family received a money envelope at his or her place at the table.”¹⁶⁶

Horace Wright recalled a prank his uncle played on him when he was young. “One Sunday Uncle Orv remarked ‘It seems funny how Bus’s plate always makes for the mashed potatoes’ and with that my plate started to move towards the mashed potatoes he was serving. It turned out he had pasted a thread to the bottom of the plate which he pulled toward him.”¹⁶⁷

With more formal groups, Orville displayed his characteristic reluctance to say much, but at times Katharine and friends conspired to draw him out in spite of himself. At the overwhelming 20th anniversary of flight lunch:

After we had finished eating, Mr. Deeds innocently asked me to tell about the “mental practice,” a joke on Will. He knew I would see the point. I just introduced the story and then asked Orv to tell what happened because I wasn’t there. Orv got started to talking and they sat for over an hour listening. I never knew Orv to talk better. Most of them had never heard him talk at all. Mr. Deeds is always setting the stage for that sort of thing. It is lovely to see his expression when he gets Orv started. He just ‘beams.’¹⁶⁸

166 *Wright Reminiscences*, Marianne Miller Hudec, p. 111.

167 *Wright Reminiscences*, “Recollections,” Horace (Bus) Wright, p.158.

168 KW to HH, WHMC, December 26, 1923.

Furnishings

As Milton Wright recorded, the dining room was among the first to be set up in the new home. An essential room for daily living, no doubt Katharine's eagerness to have her favorite furniture all arranged was a factor as well. "Our dining room stuff is the most expensive and the loveliest too. I just love it. I enjoy it all the time."¹⁶⁹

All the furniture in the room was purchased at Berkey & Gay in Grand Rapids, and it appears to have remained exactly as placed on May 1, 1914, including during the tenure of National Cash Register. Fresh flowers were a mainstay of the room; Katharine mentions, "that is one of my extravagances! I love flowers on the table."¹⁷⁰ Milton Wright always received some for his birthday, and Orville's checkbooks note purchasing flowers—"house bouquet," "flowers for Hawthorn Hill," "house flowers"—several times throughout the year, and always at Christmas.¹⁷¹

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The rug and fabric wall covering appear in both the early and 1948 historic photographs. The portieres appear to be the only significant furnishing that was changed during Orville's life (see main stair hall for greater detail). It is notable that the furniture was refinished by NCR in the late 1940s, so these pieces no longer appear quite as Katharine and Orville had known them; the color now is lighter and less rich in tone.¹⁷²

As with many large homes of the early 1900s, Hawthorn Hill had a call system for signaling the need for a servant. Typically, such a system had a button in the floor of the dining room that could be discreetly activated by foot without disturbing conversation. At Hawthorn Hill this system was adapted, in all likelihood by Orville, who served the meals at the table, and who is shown sitting at the end of the table in the only existing photograph (figure 11) of people eating in the house. A 1948 photograph of the room shows the button had been moved up to the end of the table, and wiring for this button is extant under the side of the table today.

In 1949 NCR retained the dining room table, sideboard, and linen presses, but introduced new chairs, wall paper, wall-to-wall carpet, chandelier, and wall sconces when they redecorated.

Documentation and References

**Wright Reminiscences*, Marianne Miller Hudec, p. 111ff

And then there were those marvelous Christmas eve parties, which for a child, were almost a fantasy world. The candles, food, elegant table, all the family gathering, often from afar, always made it a festive occasion. Each member of the family received a money envelope at his or her place at the table.

169 KW to HH, WHMC, February 14, 1926.

170 KW to HH, WHMC, February 24, 1926.

171 OW checkbook, W.W. Horlacher.

172 Warren, "Hawthorn Hill Still Shrine," *Dayton Daily News*, January 8, 1950. "color has been changed from ox-blood mahogany to a soft brown shade that reveals the grain and beauty of the wood."

*1914 MW Diary, Wednesday, April 29

Red bud trees are in full bloom. Mrs. McCormick called to see us. A telegram from Orville says he will be at home to-morrow. We got connection with electric works today. We fitted up my room, the kitchen and dining rooms.

*1914 MW Diary, Tuesday, November 17

I am 86 years old to-day. A set of carnation pinks were sent to me as a table bouquet by Louise Mayer and her sister Justina Stevens. . . . Lorin's family supped with us. There were eighty-six candles burning. Also I add 2, for seven dozen add 2, Lorin's birthday is tomorrow; so it was a joint-supper.

*1916 MW Diary, Wednesday, July 5 Lorin took our silverware away. [going to Canada for the summer]

**Wright Reminiscences*, "Recollections," Horace (Bus) Wright, p. 156ff

158 [Sunday dinner—always had mashed potatoes because he loved them] "One Sunday Uncle Orv remarked 'It seems funny how Bus's plate always makes for the mashed potatoes' and with that my plate started to move towards the mashed potatoes he was serving. It turned out he had pasted a thread to the bottom of the plate which he pulled toward him."

*1918 KW to OW July 19, LC online

After you were gone, I thought of several things I wanted to say to you and felt a bit lonesome, so I thought "I'll get Scipio to come on the porch with me!" But the pen was empty and 'little one' was gone! [OW appears to have taken dog with him to Lambert Island] So then I began thinking of the women who had invited me to their houses at various times and had never been here. I decided to lump a lot of them and have invited seven for today. Mrs. Dexter, Mrs. Henry, Miss Elizabeth and Miss Sarah Peirce, Mrs. Elliot Peirce, Miss Dissinger, and Mrs. Mathiot.

*1918 December 13 KW to GB (*Letters of the Wright Brothers*, Riddle and Sinnott)

Next Tuesday is the fifteenth anniversary of the first flight and I am going to celebrate by having a little dinner for my 'Little Brother' with the Deeds's, Ketterings, Rikes and one or two other friends.

*1919 *Wright Reminiscences*, Ivonette Miller's reminiscences

p. 20 June 25, 1919, Ivonette and Scribze married at Hawthorn Hill. Baskets of blue delphinium and ropes of maiden hair fern lined the stairs and dining room. After the ceremony food was served in the dining room. The help that was engaged for this service did not show up, so Carrie, Uncle Orv, Aunt Katharine and the McCormicks served the buffet supper.

*1921 December 14 KW to VS (telegram) Dartmouth Steffanson MSS:196(11) 1923 W

We both wish you could be with us to celebrate Twentieth anniversary of first flight Monday seventeenth luncheon our house

*1925 September 22 KW to HH WHMC

It was heavenly to hear the Chinese gong calling us to the white shining table when Carrie served a delicious dinner – one which I had *nothing* to do with.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC October 16

I think we [KW and HH] could blow ourselves to a few lovely plates from Tiffany's. They have such a wonderful selection to choose from, all prices. I don't believe their prices are any higher than the same things elsewhere. Orv thinks it is a good place for dishes. I have all the silver in the house, you know. Will and Orv started that for me the Christmas after they made the first flight, just a week after, or eight days. So I love that and I'll want to take that with me. It isn't anything especially fine but it is nice and I love it.¹⁷³ But I don't want to take things people have given me but meant for us both. . . . Lottie is paying me four thousand for the Hawthorn St. house.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC October 24

Our new dinner plates are lovely, Minton, gold band. They cost a hundred and seventy dollars, as I remember. . . . I don't care for such expensive stuff as ours.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC December 21

Will tell Mella we want her and Mr. King to give us a carving set or two for our wedding present. We have nice ones, several sizes, that they have given us. . . . The Sheffield platters are not so expensive. We have one, and two round plates – large chop plates, I suppose. We use them for molded salads and desserts.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC February 10

I'd love to have some mahogany of quaint Colonial design in the dining room sometime. They make such lovely reproductions you know. You just ought to see the lovely stuff at Grand Rapids.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC February 14

Our dining room stuff is the most expensive and the loveliest too. I just love it. I enjoy it all the time.

173 OW checkbook 1/3/27. There is no definitive evidence that Katharine took her silver to Missouri, but Orville's January 1927 purchase of \$231.00 (\$2,850 in 2009) worth of silverware from "A. Newsald Jewelry House" could indicate it was to replace a set of silver flatware.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC February 24

That is one of my extravagances! I love flowers on the table.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC nd#15 [fall]

If you have a Berkey and Gay shop (where they sell B+G furniture I mean) in Kansas City, we can get what we want there. They have the nice dining room and bedroom stuff. . . . About the dining room. . . . It is such an important room, dear. Our dining room stuff is the best in the whole house—and the prettiest.

56

*1926 KW to HH WHMC nd#58 [1926]

The flowers are lovely dear, —one glorious orchid, dahlias and gladiolas. Mr. Horlacher [Dayton florist]¹⁷⁴ can always be depended upon for taste and for good fresh flowers.

*1950 Helen Warren, “Hawthorn Hill, Despite New Décor, Still Shrine,” *Dayton Daily News*, Jan. 8

Finish in dining room on table, sideboard, and 2 commodes—“color has been changed from ox-blood mahogany to a soft brown shade that reveals the grain and beauty of the wood.”

Alcove (108)

Room History, Physical Evidence, and Furnishings

Because the alcove is essentially an extension of the dining room, little specific information has been found about it. It was likely used for the spillover of the fully extended dining room table when the Wright’s hosted their largest parties, but otherwise was simply left empty, other than a few side chairs. Its glass cabinets displayed the finest of Katharine and Orville’s glass and china, and at least one of the drawers below contained a cache of toys for children visiting the house. Marianne Miller Hudec (MMH) (daughter of Ivonette Wright Miller) recalled, “I then lost myself in his large house, since I found the grownup conversation terribly dull. In the back of the dining room he kept a drawer full of toys that no doubt had been played with by a whole generation of my cousins, all of whom were much older than I.”¹⁷⁵

When NCR redid the Hawthorn Hill interior in 1949, they placed a Federal-style dining table and chairs in the room. It was presumably used as a small dining area.

Documentation and References

Wright Reminiscences, Marianne Hudec, p. iiii

iii “I then lost myself in his large house, since I found the grownup conversation terribly dull. In the back of the dining room he kept a drawer full of toys that no doubt had been

174 OW checkbooks contain entries from 1935–’48 for flowers purchased from W. W. Horlacher.

175 *Wright Reminiscences*, Marianne Miller Hudec, p. 111ff. “Toys were kept in the bottom left drawer of the built-in cabinets.” Marianne Miller Hudec to Sarah Heald, email 5/11/2010.

played with by a whole generation of my cousins, all of whom were much older than I. It was here [breakfast nook] and in the kitchen with Carrie that I passed most of my time.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC October 7

[in NYC] This morning Orv and I sallied forth to Tiffany's and bought some gold band Minton plates, gold band bread and butter, also gold band Minton and the most exquisite dessert plates [figures 81 and 82]. They are works of art. They are blue and gold but you'll have to see them to know how lovely they are. The dessert plates are Royal Doulton. I used to be very much interested in china but haven't thought much about it lately. I don't like to worry over the breakage, for one thing.

57

*1925 KW to HH WHMC October 16

I think we [KW and HH] could blow ourselves to a few lovely plates from Tiffany's. They have such a wonderful selection to choose from, all prices. I don't believe their prices are any higher than the same things elsewhere. Orv thinks it is a good place for dishes. I have all the silver in the house, you know. Will and Orv started that for me the Christmas after they made the first flight, just a week after, or eight days. So I love that and I'll want to take that with me. It isn't anything especially fine but it is nice and I love it. But I don't want to take things people have given me but meant for us both. . . . Lottie is paying me four thousand for the Hawthorn St. house.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC October 24

Our new dinner plates are lovely, Minton, gold band. They cost a hundred and seventy dollars, as I remember. . . . I don't care for such expensive stuff as ours. It is all right for Orv to buy them but cheaper ones are very very lovely. If you get them at a place like Tiffany's no one else is apt to have exactly the same thing.

? *1925 KW to HH WHMC November 24

I think I'll take the silver candlesticks and the bowl that the McCormicks gave me. Unless you have some. Orv won't care for them, I'm sure. Of course, he can but whatever he wants. There are lots of things I could take with me, but I don't want to upset the house at all, if Orv keeps it. I'm so afraid he'll want to leave it. Maybe not. The after-dinner coffees are mine and Orv won't mind my having them, I'm sure. I would never want to buy anything so expensive. Mr. Ogilvie gave them to me and I want them for that reason.

Pantry (112)

Room History, Physical Evidence, and Furnishings

There are few specific references to the use of the Hawthorn Hill pantry, although it was no doubt used on a regular basis. Katharine wrote that they were not happy with the design of the pantry and kitchen, although she did not detail why. Although the original house plans feature a "refrigerator" at the west end of the pantry, it appears that the Wrights used an ice box the entire time they lived in the house. Although enamored with many new technologies,

Orville did not like refrigerators. “Whenever anyone mentioned an electric refrigerator, Orville used to ask, ‘Does it have real ice?’”¹⁷⁶

Documentation and References

*1925 KW to HH WHMC September 25

All the linen at home is marked K. W.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC September 28

I hope it’s handier than ours in the pantry and kitchen arrangements! I must say we didn’t do so very well on that.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC October 20

[Carrie] has not been here at all today. We lived out of the ice-box. There was all kinds of stuff left over from Carrie’s getting things for Griff.

*1940 Orville Wright checkbook

paid to Ralph G. Gustin 15.30 for painting kitchen pantry

*1948 Betty A. Dietz, “Hawthorn Hill—‘The Home of a Lonely Man,’” *Dayton Daily News*, Nov. 14

“Whenever anyone mentioned an electric refrigerator, Orville used to ask, ‘Does it have real ice?’”

Kitchen (111)

Room History, Physical Evidence, and Furnishings

Set up the day after the Wrights moved in to the house, the kitchen saw daily use by both the Wright family and their household help. Although most meals, even casual lunches, appear to have been served in the dining room, plenty of meals seem to have been taken in the kitchen as well, usually when Carrie or the cook was not there—a quick, early, breakfast before catching a train out of town, a small supper after a large midday meal with guests. In later years, Carrie kept fruit available for Orville, who would at times come out to the kitchen for a snack.

The ongoing frustrations of finding and retaining good, reliable help are well documented in Katharine’s letters to Henry Haskell. At times, her life appears to have been a roller coaster ride of advertising or asking around for new servants, hiring and helping Carrie train new staff, assessing new employees and trying to decide if they were worth keeping, losing or firing staff, and a return to the beginning of the cycle. During the times she was without a cook, Katharine spent substantial time in the kitchen, either preparing a meal from scratch, if Carrie was away or off, putting a meal together from leftovers in the ice box, or putting the final

176 Dietz, Home of a Lonely Man, *Dayton Daily News*, November 14, 1948.

touches on a meal Carrie had started but did not stay to complete because her workday was done. Orville enjoyed cooking when they were at their summer place in Canada, but there is no indication he spent much time making meals at Hawthorn Hill. He is known to have liked cooking sweets and candy, especially with his nieces and nephews, but there are no specific references to that at Hawthorn Hill, so it may have just been earlier in life when they lived at 7 Hawthorn Street in Dayton.

Documentation shows a wide range of foods being enjoyed in the house: roast beef, duck, mashed potatoes, chicken, salads (including molded salads in a rabbit-shaped form), mushrooms, fruit, and foods Carrie canned from their garden, such as tomatoes, lima beans, corn, and beet and cucumber pickles. According to Steve Wright, the kitchen stove went to Carrie Grumbach as part of the settlement of Orville's estate.¹⁷⁷

NCR's changes to the kitchen consisted of replacing the Reliable gas stove with an electric Frigidaire model, putting in a new sink with metal cupboard unit, introducing a dark linoleum floor covering, and painting all of the woodwork white. They retained the Wright table but put new chairs around it.

Documentation and References

*1914 MW Diary, Wednesday, April 29

We got connection with electric works today. We fitted up my room, the kitchen and dining rooms.

*1916 MW Diary, Sunday, January 9

Leontine and Horace dined with us. . . . [Orville still sick] Katharine and Leontine do up the dishes, and let Carrie go see her people. They did this nearly every Sunday of the Year.

*1918 KW to OW August 2 LC online

It makes our mouths water to hear of the black bass and blueberry pie. Carrie says three cups of flour to one cup of lard and a little water.

*1918 KW to OW August 9, LC online

Carrie + Charley are leaving tomorrow night for Muskegon . . . Charley will be back the 27th or 28th. I told Carrie she could stay two weeks longer if she cared to do so.

Carrie has put up 44 quarts of tomatoes, sixteen of beans (but two spoiled I think), two quarts of cucumber pickles, two or three quarts of beet pickles. The lima beans are coming in now. *Dandy!* The asters are fine too.

177 "My dad [George W. Wright] took me back to her [Carrie's] kitchen to show me the stove from Hawthorn Hill which she got from the estate." Steve Wright to Karen Rosga, DAAV, email 8/28/08.

*1921 October 27 KW to GB (*Letters of the Wright Brothers*, Riddle and Sinnott)

Carrie is here and I have a good cook. All serene.

Wright Reminiscences, Marianne Hudec, p. 111ff

111 [13 when OW died] re visits to Hawthorne Hill: "I then lost myself in his large house, since I found the grownup conversation terribly dull. . . . It was here [alcove] and in the kitchen with Carrie that I passed most of my time.

*ca. 1910s, *Wright Reminiscences*, "Memories of My Cousin Orville Wright," Jay R. Petree, p. 122ff

p. 129 [pre-WWI] "Orville and Wilbur had brought back from France and Italy their Chef's arts and recipes which they taught Carrie.

p. 137 "Helen [Jay's wife] has Carrie's recipes in Carrie's own handwriting"

*1924 KW to HH WHMC May 28

Today is Edwards' birthday and we gave him a very good Kodac [*sic*]. He has turned out to be very, very unusual. As first he was so messy in his work that we thought we couldn't put up with it but whenever he I got to the point of firing him, I reflected how we labored and labored with him and now we have our reward. . . . He is a very nice cook and has more pride in having the household appear well than I have!

*1924 KW to HH WHMC July 22

I don't like to work *with* other people in a kitchen—except Carrie and Orv and a very few others. Certainly I don't like to try to do things in the kitchen with Edwards so I've cut entirely and am letting him run.

*1924 KW to HH WHMC October 29

Old Mr. Lahm is like the French in his tastes. He has lived there so long that it is natural for him to be like them. . . . It pleases me so much because he likes our house. He likes everything at our house! I think he is sort of hypnotized. Our bacon is better than any other, our orange marmalade is the only marmalade he has had in America that isn't too sweet and so on.

*1924 KW to HH WHMC November 1

I am acting as Carrie's chief assistant now that Edwards is gone. I am ashamed (almost) to tell how happy Carrie and I are to have the "dark" out of the house. I don't mean that he was disagreeable personally, for he was not, but we have our own ideas of cleanliness which were not quite the ideas prevailing on the British tramp steamer where he seems to have gotten most of his experience. He has his ticket for a boat sailing November twenty-ninth. I think he expects to go to France.

*1924 KW to HH WHMC November 25

At this point I had to run down to the kitchen to “tend” the chicken and other stuff we had for dinner. Since Edwards is gone, I put on dinner every night. Carrie gets it all going and has the dessert and salad (both, one, or none!) all ready for me. Dinner being over and the dishes neatly stacked in the kitchen, I now resume.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC January 5

We have a new man in the house this morning and my career as cook and dishwasher is over, temporarily. Carrie is back too. She was home sick all last week. I don’t mind the actual work around the house but I dislike the things that go with it. You never can be clean and “dressed up” and you never can get through. Some way the house looks different this morning since Carrie has put it in order.

61

*1925 KW to VS March 13, Dartmouth Steffanson MSS:196(98) Wright, Katharine,
1920-25

We hunted mushrooms in our place and we had them cooked for supper.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC September 28

I hope it’s handier than ours in the pantry and kitchen arrangements! I must say we didn’t do so very well on that.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC October 20

[Carrie] has not been here at all today. We lived out of the ice-box. There was all kinds of stuff left over from Carrie’s getting things for Griff. Orv eats so little (when he isn’t at the Bay) and we had a nice lunch and a good dinner with almost no work. She said she’d be here tomorrow.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC [second letter of this date] October 24

I’ll have my dinner now. Mrs. Murray is ready for me. It wasn’t much of a dinner, but I get along all right. If I could get out in the kitchen myself I could get some simple things that are good.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC November 17

I had to go and get dinner and wash the dishes and get the table set in the kitchen for breakfast. We want to start early and Carrie may not be here. [KW and OW going out of town] . . .

*1925 KW to HH WHMC December 21

Will tell Mella we want her and Mr. King to give us a carving set or two for our wedding present. We have nice ones, several sizes, that they have given us. . . . I don’t want to take any of those things with me. They were really given to me but were intended for the house and I

want to leave them here. There are so many things the same way. The Sheffield platters are not so expensive. We have one, and two round plates—large chop plates, I suppose. We use them for molded salads and desserts. . . . But I understand how touchy most cooks are. Carrie isn't a bit. She is always ready to pick up any thing new and is grateful for suggestions from any body.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC January 16

I was getting ours [dinner, last night]. We had nothing but chicken and corn and celery and cake, spice cake—which I think is better than most fruit cake. Carrie is so tired and worn out. Her father grows more and more helpless and the work of taking care of him grows harder and harder. Carrie stayed up all night last night.

62

*1926 KW to HH WHMC January 28

We really are having a terrible time with our new cook. She is no good at all but doesn't know it. Nothing is good and everything is indigestible. One wouldn't mind the indigestion so much if the eating had been pleasurable—or one could stand rather indifferent food if it didn't do any damage. But this combination is too much for us! I can do ten times as well myself and I know I can't cook much. I am often amused at the self assurance of people. It is partly bluff. We'll have to let this woman go and I am sorry for she is very nice. But I couldn't possibly let her put a meal on the table if any one was visiting us. *We* can't get along with it ourselves. It was just a week ago tonight that Lu[sp?] Warner was here. Carrie had a lovely little dinner—except the ice cream. Orv has rigged up the freezer with a motor and we haven't quite learned its tricks. It freezes too fast if you put in any salt to amount to anything. But it saves a lot of hard work turning the crank and Carrie has made some dandy cream with it.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC February 2

I haven't anybody yet to help Carrie. I got a good dinner tonight myself. . . . Very simple but good—and digestible. Carrie has been teaching me to roast beef and chicken. Tonight I had roast beef, burned potatoes (done with the roast), lettuce, with French dressing and ice-cream that Carrie made. It was an unusually nice roast and I got it just right. I'd ten times rather get the dinner than have this awful cooking that most people put up with. There are few good cooks. I'm no cook at all except for just a very few simple things. We need a good cook *very* much.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC February 4

I have engaged another cook for next Monday morning. This one comes well recommended. We'll see. I haven't any hope of getting a good person. They are so scarce nowadays. But we ought to have someone and we'll give her a good chance.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC February 23

I'm bossing the dinner this evening, dear. I'm no cook and I know it but I certainly can do better than these girls nowadays. But Elizabeth is improving. The kitchen begins to look like itself again. Poor Elizabeth! She has had two of us after her. Usually I don't interfere much out

there but Carrie wasn't here much of the time and I thought I'd better take hold myself. Some way Elizabeth can't roast beef right. So I am keeping an eye on it.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC March 10

We'll have to get Ollie [cook in Kansas City] in a mood to let Carrie tell her how to can corn. I think I can learn and then teach Ollie. We had some corn today at our little luncheon and several spoke about it. They thought it couldn't be fresh sweet corn but it didn't taste quite like canned corn. Carrie is the only cook I have ever seen who was willing to give her choice recipes to any one who wants them.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC March 15

I ought to think about that instead of that horrid kitchen and pantry!

I'm awful cross today. . . . Our Elizabeth is here as a cook. But she can't cook and she doesn't keep things clean enough to suit me. I have delivered my ultimatum to Carrie who has charge of Elizabeth. Either Elizabeth must cook better or keep things cleaner or depart. I could get along if she would do anything well. She is too good natured.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC April 4 [Easter, servants are off]

We had our supper in the kitchen after everybody had gone. Then Nan [Katharine's friend] and I sat out in the kitchen talking about Mary and her children.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC nd#28

Orv and I took a lovely drive for nearly two hours and had supper in the kitchen when we got back.

*1931 June 20 OW Checkbooks

To Weiffenbach Marble + Tile Co., \$146.10 for Repair tile in Kitchen + east bath room

*1948 Betty A. Dietz, "Hawthorn Hill—"The Home of a Lonely Man," *Dayton Daily News*, Nov. 14

"Whenever anyone mentioned an electric refrigerator, Orville used to ask, 'Does it have real ice?' Mr. Wright used to come out into the kitchen once in a while in the evenings when he was tired of reading," Housekeeper Carrie Grumbach told me, "He never ate much between meals, just some fruit occasionally."

Marianne Hudec to Sarah Heald, email May 11, 2010

The clock that sat on the counter belonged to Carrie. It was an early digital model. The numbers flopped down one after the other. I was fascinated [with] it and after Uncle Orv died, asked if I could have it. But it did not belong to him, so the answer was no.

Servants' Dining Room (110)

Room History, Physical Evidence, and Furnishings

No documentation was found for the servants' dining room prior to 1949, and extrapolation from all other information about the house leaves it unclear as to whether or not this room was actually used as a dining room. It may have been a simple "break" room or basic personal space for the household help. The servants would have had time to sit down, and time to eat, but because there are no surviving papers or images, it remains unknown just how this room would have been used.

Like all of the rooms in the house NCR redecorated this room as well, and it seems that they viewed this as a space for hired household help in keeping with the original use of the room. There is just one 1949 photograph of the servants' dining room and it shows a sitting area with a large radio but no table for taking a meal (figure 6o). A few furnishings had been used by the Wrights—the table lamp, which had been in the reception hall, and the armchair, which appears to have been moved from the blue bedroom. The carpet dates from the Wright time period, perhaps dating to ca. 1923, when likely they carpeted the main stairway, because it is identical to what the Wrights' had in their main hallways and as a carpet runner. The other pieces appear to be new to the house and room.

No Documentation or References

Library (105)

Room History

Although by the end of his life this would have been Orville's library, the room was considered the library for the entire house and all its occupants prior to 1926. Guests and family members relaxed and browsed in the room; nephew Horace Wright recalled referring to bird books in the library and keeping lists of the birds he and his aunt and uncle sighted while taking hikes together in the woods.¹⁷⁸ Katharine and Orville appear to have spent most evenings there after dinner—reading, clipping news articles from the paper, writing letters, and perhaps listening to the radio; "Nan and Orv and I have been spending the evening in the library and I have just come upstairs. I found the enclosed clippings in the evening paper."¹⁷⁹

When she lived at Hawthorn Hill, Katharine may have used the room more than Orville because she did not go to an office for work every day; she wrote once of having to leave the library so it could be cleaned: "Now Edwards is wanting me to leave so he can use the vacuum cleaner in the library."¹⁸⁰

Orville's close-kept sense of humor had play here as well. An antic Orville clearly hoped would not be made public allows a more complete sense of life at Hawthorn Hill and Orville's

178 After Orville's death, Horace Wright recalled, "upon looking over some of the books from their library to find these lists still in the book '*Bird Neighbors*' by Heltze Blanchan. There was one list from 1912 and the rest were up to 1917." *Wright Reminiscences*, "Recollections," Horace (Bus) Wright, p. 156ff.

179 KW to HH, WHMC, April 9, 1926.

180 KW to HH, WHMC, March 14, 1924, This letter was typewritten, indicating that the typewriter was somewhere in the library.

private persona. Fred Kelly, Orville's biographer, wrote an article touting a range of character traits of Wilbur and Orville; he wrote to Orville Wright in 1943, enclosing the draft and asking permission to have it printed. He noted his concern that his biography had given the misimpression that the Wright brothers did not have any sense of humor. Orville would not allow Kelly to publish the story, but Kelly's papers are included in the collection at the Library of Congress and they pass on a colorful tale.

Some time ago, Griffith Brewer, president of the Royal Aeronautical Society of Great Britain, was a guest at the Wright home, the talk turned to how simple and easy an invention often looks, after it has been made, so much so that almost anyone might think he could have done it himself. Then Brewer quoted a line of poetry "—so easy it seemed, once found, which, yet un-found, most would have thought impossible."

"You know," said Brewer, "I have been trying to think for years to find out who wrote that line and have never succeeded."

He and Orville began to ransack books of quotations, but couldn't find what they sought. [OW coincidentally and unbeknownst to GB learned it came from Milton's Paradise Lost and developed this prank.] . . . "It had put into his head an idea for a practical joke. [Orville moved his copy of Paradise Lost out a half inch on the bookshelf to mark it and] suggested they'd never figure this out via "ordinary research" . . . "so maybe we ought to try psychic means." Brewer looked at him, somewhat shocked that so eminent a scientist should speak such nonsense. "Yes," said Orville, "I think I'll blindfold myself and see if I can't be guided by psychic means to whatever book it . . . [page missing] . . . he tied a handkerchief over his eyes and began to grope along the rows of books on the shelves. . . . [Brewer was amazed and Orville never told him it was a hoax]."¹⁸¹

After Katharine married in 1926, Orville's time spent in the library would have been solitary. His checkbooks show a number of purchases of records, and there was a radio in the room in 1948, but there is no other evidence to help know just where and how often Orville listened to music and the radio. The Library of Congress has numerous scrapbooks of Orville's, and although it is not clear if he clipped articles for them here or elsewhere, it is possible that this activity took place in the library also. Katharine had done this in the room in the 1920s.¹⁸² Mainly it seems that when he did not have guests or family visiting, Orville Wright read here after dinner and, at least later in life, played solitaire here as well.¹⁸³

When NCR operated the house, they left the library virtually unchanged as a sort of shrine to Orville. It should be noted that two key pieces—Milton Wright's chair and Katharine Wright's chair—were removed; these chairs, whose names and their positioning in a triangle with Orville's, point to the original use of the room, are extant in the Wright family.

181 Fred C. Kelly to OW, October 7, 1943, Library of Congress online, general correspondence: Kelly, Fred C. 1943. <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/wrighthtml/wrighthome.html>

182 Orville may also have used a clipping service for the articles in his scrapbooks.

183 WSU Wright Brothers Collection contains "Book List: Private Library of the Wright Family." It is unclear which of these books were at Hawthorn Hill, and where they were located in the house, and which would have been at Orville's office.

Physical Evidence and Furnishings

The library is the only room in the house to retain its original wall covering (figure 91). Physical evidence indicates the damask fabric has never been removed from the walls but instead has been cleaned in place.

Photographs document two furnishings “phases” in the library and show a few changes to the room. The original Irish carpet and the damask walls remained the same, as did the pieces of furniture. Although Katharine and Orville considered a new and larger table in 1917, the purchase did not take place because it seemed an undue and extravagant expense. The considerable use the furniture in the library saw meant that reupholstering was needed. The earliest photos show a large, dark, diamond-patterned fabric on all the major pieces in the room, while the 1948 images show a smaller and lighter colored upholstery fabric. Like the portieres throughout the first floor, the library ones were originally a solid, probably velvet, fabric with a plain trim and were later replaced with the brown-gold rep ones that matched the curtains in both the library and the adjoining living room.

Close examination of the historic photographs (figures 16 and 17, 34–39) also shows that some of the small items remained in the room since the earliest years: the two cartoons on the west wall by the sofa are identical in both eras, as are the bust and one framed photograph of a person on top of the bookshelf by the door to the main stair hall.

The library armchair and stool show the characteristic adjustments and fine-tuning of Orville’s hand. He rigged an adjustable book holder (figure 39) in the arms of the upholstered chair, and he raised one end of his footstool to tailor it to his back’s needs. It is not known when these upholstery changes took place, but the reading chair was recovered at least once in 1936.¹⁸⁴

In addition to replacing two of the three chairs with ones from the main stair hall, so family members could have the Bishop Milton Wright and Katharine Wright chairs,¹⁸⁵ over the years NCR made minor changes in the library. For a time the desk faced the living room, and some shifting and changing of items on top of the bookshelves took place. In the mid-1970s some of the framed cartoons that had been on top of the bookcases were hung on the wall. At some point, perhaps at this same time, the original cartoons were distributed among Wright family members and reproduction cartoons were placed in the library.

Documentation and References

*1910s *Wright Reminiscences*, “Recollections,” Horace (Bus) Wright, p. 156ff

157–58: [weekends at Hawthorn Hill 1914 through 1917 – took walks in woods – OW or KW would list birds seen when they got back; at some point post 1948]: . . . “upon looking over some of the books from their library to find these lists still in the book ‘Bird Neighbors’ by Heltze Blanchan. There was one list from 1912 and the rest were up to 1917.”

184 OW checkbook, December 29, 1936. Adam Thebald reupholstered the chair for \$11.00.

185 Unpublished appendix to the Historic Furnishings Study, Part 1. Park curatorial files.

*1914 October 16-23, K. B. Leonard Journal, Archives of Oberlin College, Kate B. Leonard Papers 30/224, Diaries and Journals, folder: 1913-17, box: 2

October 21 Wednesday. K.W. was down town most of morning. H. + I had walk and [hovered?] in library. Met Agnes Osborne + sister for lunch. Girls napped and I looked at picture books.

*1915 MW Diary, Saturday, June 12

I read a good-deal in the Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol. I&II.

*ca. 1920s *Wright Reminiscences*, "Memories of My Cousin Orville Wright," Jay R. Petree, p. 122ff

After dinner it was Orville's habit to go to his study, a small library where he had contrived a chair

*1921 December 14, 1921 KW to GB (*Letters of the Wright Brothers*, Riddle and Sinnott) [probably the library]

Here goes for a letter on the typewriter, I am practicing on an old Underwood but Santa Claus is going to surprise me with a new machine for Christmas! The new one will be a Hammond, I think. I am trying to go for 'looks'. It would be sad if that doesn't pan out and I find that I have only succeeded in getting a fancy machine which is not any too convenient. . . .

I think that on the whole I have not made any improvement by using the typewriter but I can learn. I haven't put my paper in right, Orv says. That accounts for my atrocious spacing.

*1923 KW to HH WHMC December 26

It feels awfully funny to get hold of this typewriter again. I haven't touched it for a week. Orv has evidently been doing some adjusting for it doesn't feel a bit natural.

*1924 KW to HH WHMC March 14

Now Edwards is wanting me to leave so he can use the vacuum cleaner in the library.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC May 11

Orv deserted me long ago, just as I finished the first page. [typewritten letter – indicates the typewriter is in library] He is very tired.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC January 31

I took down Ponkapog Papers, Marjorie Daw and Lotus Eating when I sat down to read to-night. . . . I made Orv listen to a few. He hates to be read to and he had something of his own to read anyway. . . . And isn't Marjorie Daw just *rich*?

*1926 KW to HH WHMC February 14

We found when we thought of getting a big table for the library—something like the one in the living room—that the price in 1917 was twice what it was in 1913-1914 when we got all our first stuff. . . . I love fine things when you can have them easily and comfortably but I certainly don't need them to be happy. Since prices have been so high I have lost interest in buying things. . . . I have no interest in trying to keep up with the neighbors. My father and mother set an example on that that I shall never forget nor cease to admire.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC April 9

Nan and Orv and I have been spending the evening in the library and I have just come upstairs. I found the enclosed clippings in the evening paper.

*1927 KWH to VS August 1, Dartmouth Steffanson MSS:196(17) 1927 – Ha-He

I would like to see the memorial number of the Museum Magazine. We never took it in Dayton but we had a number on the library table for a time.

*1936 OW checkbooks WSU

\$11.00 to Adam Thebald for reupholster OW's reading chair, December 29, 1936

*1943 October 7 Fred C. Kelly to OW - LC online General Correspondence: Kelly, Fred C., 1943

"Some time ago, Griffith Brewer, president of the Royal Aeronautical Society of Great Britain, was a guest at the Wright home, the talk turned to how simple and easy an invention often looks, after it has once been made, so much so that almost anyone might think he could have done it himself. Then Brewer quoted a line of poetry "—so easy it seemed, once found, which, yet unfound, most would have thought impossible."

"You know," said Brewer, "I have been trying to think for years to find out who wrote that line and have never succeeded."

He and Orville began to ransack books of quotations, but couldn't find what they sought. [OW coincidentally and unbeknownst to GB learned it came from Milton's *Paradise Lost* and developed this prank.] . . . "it had put into his head an idea for a practical joke. [moved his copy of *Paradise Lost* out a half inch on the bookshelf to mark it and suggested they'd never figure this out via "ordinary research" . . . "so maybe we ought to try psychic means." Brewer looked at him, somewhat shocked that so eminent a scientist should speak such nonsense. "Yes," said Orville, "I think I'll blindfold myself and see if I can't be guided by psychic means to whatever book it . . . [page missing] . . . he tied a handkerchief over his eyes and began to grope along the rows of books on the shelves. . . . [Brewer was amazed and OW never told him it was a prank]

*1948 Betty A. Dietz, “Hawthorn Hill—‘The Home of a Lonely Man,’” *Dayton Daily News*, Nov. 14

a man who read at night until his eyes grew tired and then played solitaire for relief. There was about it an air of formality, an empty, unlived-in quality.

[in library] “Photographs of Monsieur and Madame de Lambert”—he had been one of Wilbur’s French pupils—stood on top of the book shelves, beside framed drawings and cartoons. . . . In a prominent position was a photograph of Orville’s beloved St. Bernard, Skippy.

*1950 Helen Warren, “Hawthorn Hill, Despite New Décor, Still Shrine,” *Dayton Daily News*, Jan. 8

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“We are told that Mr. Wright had the walls [throughout the house] washed with soap and water.”

*1969 Betty Lacey, “Guesthouse Has Wright Touch,” *Journal Herald: Modern Living*, Dayton, June 11, p. 17

under the aegis of the firm of W. and J. Sloan of NYC, it was decided that the library should remain exactly as at the time of Orville Wright’s death. It was chosen as the room most reflective of the personality of the inventor.

*n.d. [post-1948] Lester Reingold article, p. 38—worn carpet under desk is from Orville Wright’s habit of rubbing the heel of his left shoe, prompted by pain in leg from accident.

Living Room (106)

Room History

Much as Katharine had anticipated, the living room, the largest room at Hawthorn Hill, hosted major family events—wedding and funerals—more formal and/or larger gatherings, and also family gatherings. Much of the documented early use of the living room revolved around music. Orville and Katharine acquired a Steinway and Sons piano for the living room in November 1915, and in the next few weeks they purchased a Victrola and what appears to be another record player as well. Milton Wright made note of several musical events, one on Christmas Eve, another a recital in which Ivonette Wright performed, and an October 1916 family gathering where, “Ivonette sang and Lulu played for her. We had many ‘Victor’ songs.”¹⁸⁶

There are occasional references to living room use when more formally entertaining out-of-town visitors, or family members enjoying a fire in the fireplace. An early photograph shows Katharine in a chair in the southwest corner of the room near the windows, in all likelihood taking advantage of the light to read or do needlework (figure 12). Orville and Henry Ford posed for a photograph by the mantle when Ford visited for the 35th anniversary of flight celebration (figure 22).

186 MW Diary, October 22, 1916. It is not entirely clear what the “‘Victor’ songs” meant, but it no doubt was a reference to the Victrola and its records.

Wright nieces Ivonette W. Miller and Leontine W. Jameson married here in 1919 and 1923, respectively. Katharine had hoped to marry Henry J. Haskell here in 1926, and although she had the support of all of her other siblings and family, Orville refused to host the wedding.¹⁸⁷ Family funerals were held here also: Milton Wright in 1917, Katharine in 1929, and finally Orville's in 1948, when the extended Wright family gathered for a series of photographs in the living room (figure 23).

Physical Evidence and Furnishings

The largest of the Irish rugs Katharine and Orville bought for the house covered the floor of the living room; it had to be sent back to Donegal to have it custom fitted to the fireplace hearth. The room held a mix of upholstered pieces and richly carved Chippendale-style items like those Katharine had selected for her dining room. Extensive examination and research of these pieces could not be undertaken for this report but could shed more light on the Wrights purchases. At least two of the living room pieces appear to have been acquired at Grand Rapids. The pedestal table in the southeast corner retains two labels from the C. S. Paine Company of Grand Rapids, and one of the Chippendale-style armchairs (HH1999.070) has an interpretive label similar to that on the desk chair in the library. The desk chair (HH1999.096) label (figure 89) indicates it is a copy of an antique at the Wayside Inn in Massachusetts, and it is known that Grand Rapids' Century Furniture Company reproduced pieces of furniture from the Wayside Inn collection (see *Analysis of Historical Occupancy: A New Home*).

Like the other downstairs rooms, historic images showing the living room reveal at least two different decorating periods but with only subtle change over the years. All the major elements of the living room furnishings – wall covering, rug, furniture, light fixtures – other than portieres, window treatments, piano, and lamps, remained unaltered in Orville's lifetime. The original portieres appear to have been a solid plush fabric, while those in place by 1948 were of a brown-gold rep material. The earlier window treatments featured an elaborate valence and seem to have employed the same plush fabric used in the portieres and at the porch doors (see figures 14–18). Comparison of the earliest images, including Orville's photographs of their beloved St. Bernard, Scipio, suggest that they experimented with some different arrangements of furniture, particularly moving the large sofa, which at times is at a right angle to the fireplace and other times along the west wall, and the Chippendale-style table, which appears both along the west wall and in the middle of the room.

Although the Wrights appear to have never had a cluttered house, photographs of the living room especially show how much more stark and less lived-in it appeared by the time Orville died in 1948. In part this is a result of a certain amount of tidying up the family and NCR likely did after Orville's death and prior to photographing the house. The contrast in the early photographs and the 1948 ones may also be due to better lighting and less heavy window treatments. If the table at the south end of the room is an indicator, the early image shows more signs of day-to-day use with a set of binoculars and a row of books along with photographs and other small items, whereas the 1948 photograph has just two photographs and a small box on the table (figures 14 and 42).

187 See *Analysis of Historic Occupancy: Katharine's Plans Change* for more on this and for select transcriptions of Katharine's letters from this time period.

Like the rest of the house NCR completely updated the furnishings of the living room to make it suitable for mid-20th-century visitors and entertaining. Although the 1949 photographs (figure 63) show only the fire screen of the original Wright furnishings in the room, a few original Wright furnishings are there today—the pedestal table, the fire screen,¹⁸⁸ and a footstool with needlepoint upholstery.

Documentation and References

*1910s *Wright Reminiscences*, “Recollections,” Horace (Bus) Wright, p. 156ff

157 [planning for Hawthorn Hill] “Although they had an architect, Uncle Orv figured and planned many features of the house. The chimney in the living room was designed on the principle of a Pitot-Tube.”

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*1965 Justus, Graham, “Hawthorn Hill Has a Special Place in World History,” *NCR Factory News*, June 1965, 2–6.

p. 4 [quotes Ivonette W. Miller] “When the carpeting first arrived the design around the border wasn’t exactly in line with the fireplace in the living room. Orville drew a detailed sketch of how the carpet design should fit around the fireplace and sent it off to the rug makers in Ireland. He got it changed to suit him.”¹⁸⁹ . . . “Special wiring system hooked up to the furnace to regulate it. He could regulate the furnace by pulling on a wire which came through the floor in the living room.”¹⁹⁰

*1914 MW Diary, Tuesday, June 16

Charles Grumbach made a nice fire in the east room.

*1914 October 16–23, 1914 “Notes from Dayton Visit” in K. B. Leonard Journal, Archives of Oberlin College, Kate B. Leonard Papers 30/224, Diaries and Journals, folder: 1910–22, box 2.

p. 28 *Wright’s house*

Total length from E. end of living room to W end of breakfast room is 72 ft—with side porches 90 feet.

Dimensions of living room 35 x 17 old gold figured tapestry on walls, brown rugs and hangings Chippendale furniture.

188 OW checkbook recorded a fire screen purchased from A. B. Closson Jr. Company of Cincinnati in 1931.

189 This drawing is not extant. It is likely the Wrights had not anticipated the need for the carpet to conform to the shape of the hearth and Orville provided measured drawings to ensure it be cut down and finished to fit exactly as they wanted.

190 This article also states that Orville Wright did all electrical and plumbing repairs in house. Wilkinson Wright’s 1996 interview with Ann Deines, pp. 25–26, noted “I know he had in his living room right by his fireplace there was a rod that came up through the floor and it had a little knob on the end of it. And he’d be sitting in there in the evening and he’d go over and he’d push that down or he’d go over and he’d pull it up. It was something he had going through to the basement connected to his furnace and he would work it out.” cursory investigation showed no hole in floor for wire to run through. NCR may have stripped it out, but there is no evidence of repair either. Further investigation should be undertaken to help get to the accuracy of this.

*OW checkbook WSU

To Steinway and Sons \$1150.00, November 30, 1915

To the Rudolph Wurlitzer Co. for Victrola \$200.00, December 4, 1915

To the Rudolph Wurlitzer Co. for Welli[?] Player + Records \$861.35 January 25, 1916

*1916 MW Diary, Saturday, May 6

We had a *Musical* at our house about 4:00. Miss Eileen Mills and Ivonette Wright, pupils of Miss Clara Banford and Miss Bertha Elston pupil of Prof. Clem A. Fowner, Oxford, acting. About 30 invited guests were present. The six girls and Leontine and Lorine, Netta and Horace, and Winifred Ryder, took supper with us.

*1916 MW Diary, Sunday, October 22

Lorin's family including Ivonette, dined with us. Reuchlin's also. They staid through the afternoon. John Wright came. Ivonette sung and Lulu played for her. We had many "Victor" songs.

*1916 MW Diary Sunday, December 24

Jay R. Petree came about dark. Lorin's all came. They had quite a time in music. Orville took them home in auto.

*pre-WWI, *Wright Reminiscences*, Jay R. Petree, "Memories of My Cousin Orville Wright," p. 129

[pre-WWI] "even to a young man from a rural Missouri town, this breath-taking home gave no feeling of pretentiousness, but rather a feeling of quiet peacefulness. A quiet little woman with a low, sweet voice showed me to my room. This was Carrie, who is one of the warmest of my memories of Hawthorn Hill. . . . After [unpacking] I came down and joined Orville in the living room, and soon Carrie announced "dinner."

*1917 *Wright Reminiscences*, 1978, "Reminiscences of Bertha Ellywn Wright Steeper," p. 147ff

First visited summer 1917 – "These were war days and Uncle Orv had many military and aviator visitors and guests. While Uncle Orv and Aunt Katharine talked to them, I sat . . . knitting. While there, I was one of the early victims of the World War I flu epidemic. Uncle Orv and Aunt Katharine were wonderful nurses, sitting by the hour putting cooling cloths on my head and bathing my wrists and hands. I was pretty sick for several weeks so they finally turned it over to a trained nurse. During my visit they encouraged me to enroll at Oberlin." [I visited them several times during the year.]

*1919 *Wright Reminiscences*, Ivonette Miller's reminiscences

pp. 20–21 June 25, 1919 Ivonette and Scribze married at HH—60 guests—bridesmaids descended stairs—house decorated with southern smilax and white summer flowers, formal

box trees and tall standards of white wicker filled with Lingard phlox which formed the setting in the living room.

*1920 KW to VS February 10, 1920 (RG 401, Collection #30, Box 36, NARA)

The bronze has just come and is now reposing on the Victrola—not the right place at all as even I can see. It is too high and not the right color for a pedestal but that will all be corrected when I can do a little experimenting with the assistance of my Little Brother who really loves *les objects d'art*.” ... The bronze of itself has already given me much pleasure and I never knew a good thing that didn’t grow on one. It is very interesting to me, besides, because of what you told me of Mr. Akeley and of the story back of his idea of “The Wounded Comrade.” . . . But, of course, it goes without saying that the keenest enjoyment of the gift comes from your own part in it—the kindness of the thought and the friendliness that makes you want to give me—and *us*—pleasure.

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“I wish you could have seen Orv’s pleasure and interest in the bronze when he came home this evening ... We have spent an hour looking at it and sizing up possible placings for it. Orv may have to design and have made the base for it. As he says ‘It must be substantial.’”

*April 20, 1920 KW to GB (*Letters of the Wright Brothers*, Riddle and Sinnott)

The clock is here at last and it reminds us of you every time it rings—almost literally it does that very thing—and you don’t seem so far away. . . . Perhaps Orville has told you that the case was cracked in the coming but we have it without the case, on our living room mantel. Orville is intending to make a little base to let it rest on and then it will be just right as it is. Now it wants to roll a little (quite in keeping with its nautical nature!) because of the circular shape.

*July 23, 1923 KW to VS Dartmouth Steffanson MSS:196(98) Wright, Katharine, 1920–25

On June 2nd, when we had our wedding [Leontine and John Jameson], it was blistering hot. Orv got a dish pan full of ice and blew over it with the big electric fan to keep the rooms cool.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC February 14

Yes, rugs do cost a lot, and so much more than when we furnished this house almost 2-1/2 or 3 times as much actually. . . . They were made in Donegal and there was an enormous duty on them. . . . I think but am not sure that all of our rugs cost about \$3000.00 and all the downstairs rugs and one upstairs are hand-tufted Donegals. They were the same price as a very good quality of Oriental rugs. We thought some of ordering Orientals made to size but decided against them chiefly because they so often slip and roll up, being thin, and we were afraid Father might slip and fall. It took us six months to get ours from Ireland. . . . We have nice furniture, too—which we couldn’t afford to buy now. . . . We found when we thought of getting a big table for the library—something like the one in the living room – that the price in 1917 was twice what it was in 1913–1914 when we got all our first stuff.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC February 21

Orv and I wish he [Herbert, Reuch's son] had our Steinway piano. He is the one who should have it. He would appreciate it and enjoy it.¹⁹¹

*1926 KW to HH WHMC April 7

I bought two pieces of tapestry today—little pieces of French tapestry.¹⁹²

*1926 KW to HH WHMC [nd#11]

Lou is playing downstairs. She is a real musician—has been always. I had the piano tuned yesterday for her she plays such fine music always and makes no virtue of it, at all!

*1926 KW to HH WHMC [nd#9] [fall]

I want Lou to play [piano at our wedding] and Ivonette to sing, because we have them in the family. I wouldn't want anyone to come from the outside.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC [nd#28]

I do love paintings and so does Orv. Anne [McCormick] has a Peter de Hooch . . . and a Ver Meer which she has just had framed and now has. . . . We have one of each, two, in our living room and that started us off on Dutch and Flemish painters. . . .

Orv and I took a lovely drive for nearly two hours and had supper in the kitchen when we got back. We had a fire in the living room and had a nice time talking. . . . Orv is cheerful because he thinks I won't leave him when it comes right down to it. I have *always* stuck to him—against everyone else—even against Will—on very minor matters. But maybe he has got used to the idea a little. I can't stir it up just now. I just can't.

*1929 *Dayton Daily News*, March 6, 1929.

The simple and impressive funeral service of the Episcopal church was conducted at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday for Mrs. Katharine Wright Haskell, the ceremony being performed at the Orville Wright home in Oakwood by Rev. Phil Porter, rector of Christ Episcopal church. There was no departing from the ritual and no personal reference to the deceased was made by the pastor. . . . The large living room of the Wright home was almost filled with floral tributes.

*1934 *Wright Reminiscences*, "Reminiscences of Bertha Ellywn Wright Steeper," p. 147ff

[Visited when married, with family ca. 1934—her mother came and she and OW talked lots]
Some of the issues I remember were his strong feelings about the harmful effects of advertis-

191 The piano was given to Herbert Wright, a grandson of the oldest Wright brother, Reuchlin Wright. Marianne Miller Hudec to Sarah Heald, email 5/11/10.

192 The 1938 and 1948 photographs show a tapestry-like panel over the mantle. Although it is not known when it was placed there, Katharine's comment in the letter speaks to her interest in tapestry and helps explain the over-mantle decoration.

ing because he thought it raised the price of things. . . . Sir Hubert Wilkins the arctic explorer was a guest for lunch while we were there. The men retired to the living room to talk.

*1948 Betty A. Dietz, “Hawthorn Hill—‘The Home of a Lonely Man,’” *Dayton Daily News*, Nov. 14

[rug] “a simple beige . . . blended with the dull gold damask on the walls”

Mrs. John Jameson [Leontine Wright Jameson], one of the nieces, who has been living in the house for several months brought out a box of tools which Orville had made to facilitate removing and replacing the damask wall covering. There were punches to press in the tacks and a spatula-like piece to hold the fabric in place. . . .

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*[ca.1972] Melba Hunt “The Wright Collection of Furnishings from Hawthorn Hill”

the small tapestry upholstered stool [in library] matched a large sofa and chair used in the living room.

Reception Hall (104)

Room History, Physical Evidence, and Furnishings

The reception hall features the bronze Muse of Aviation, given to Wilbur and Orville Wright by the Aero Club of Sarthe in 1908. Shown on the final floor plan for Hawthorn Hill as the “reception hall”—and variously referred to by family and friends as the “trophy” room and the “cold storage” room—this room was not in the first round of plans for the house. Originally the living room was to be directly off of the main stair hall and the Muse of Aviation notably displayed at the far end of the hall, opposite the front door (figure 3).

The reason for adding this room to the house is not documented, but it seems likely it was to make the entire house symmetrical in plan while also reserving a featured space to display the Muse of Aviation.¹⁹³ Regardless of exact reason, the Muse received a prominent location in the house with this room—framed on the hall side by a pair of Ionic columns and pilasters—fully conceived to honor the Wright brothers’ accomplishments. As such, the reception hall not only contained the Muse in its raised niche, its furnishings set it apart in a number of ways, all no doubt designed to give the room a feel as distinguished as the accomplishments of the brothers. With a green color scheme—manifested in the rug, upholstery, and wall color¹⁹⁴—the room was a departure from the golds and blues throughout the downstairs; its delicate Federal-style furniture was distinct from the Chippendale style used in the other first-floor rooms.

It was in the reception hall that the special wall treatment for which Orville made tools to remove brocade panels was featured¹⁹⁵ (figure 92). The earliest photographs of the reception

193 OW to WW, May 7, 1911, Wright Papers, 1881–1973, Library of Congress online. “Their improvements consisted mainly in making everything in the building symmetrical.”

194 For the rug and upholstery as green, see October 16–23, 1914 “Notes from Dayton Visit,” in K. B. Leonard Journal, Archives of Oberlin College, Kate B. Leonard Papers 30/224, Diaries and Journals, folder: 1910–22, box 2, p. 28; and Yocum, *Wallcoverings Investigation*, 2008, p. 16, “the wall color was light green.”

195 The first written documentation for Orville’s use of wallpaper tools at Hawthorn Hill dates to a November 1948 newspaper article in which Betty Dietz spoke with Leontine Wright Jameson, who lived in the house at the time.

hall (figures 12 and 15) show raised wall panels on at least three of its four sides. These panels displayed a vertically stripped foliate design, in all likelihood in a brocade fabric. In the 1970s Melba Hunt wrote about Orville's tools in the Kettering-Moraine Museum's newsletter; the facts appear to be only partially correct. The physical evidence of the damask wall covering in the library does not support her entire statement.

Orville went so far as to construct brocaded panels for all the downstairs rooms. These were put up during the winter months. We do not know what kind of wallpaper was used downstairs. Our set of photographs of the house and rooms were [sic] taken February 16, 1948 when NCR purchased the house. Because it was wintertime, the brocade panels were still in place [sic – No panels are evident in the 1948 images, Hunt appears to have confused the damask fabric covering the walls in 1948 in the library, living room, and dining room with the brocade panels she had heard about] on the walls. Incidentally, ingenious Orville made his own tool set that he used to install or remove the panels each fall and spring.¹⁹⁶

The extant, well-used tools Orville made and the essence of Hunt's statement, however, help us to better understand how the Wrights furnished and maintained this room in their first decade in the home. It would appear that the removal—or perhaps rotation, because the panels must have left nail holes in the green walls—of the panels took place on some kind of seasonal basis. Fine brocade fabrics would have coordinated well with the overall refined appearance of this room. Katharine also noted that she and Orville featured their etchings in this room.¹⁹⁷

Katharine, and perhaps Orville too, was not satisfied with the room however. “Have I ever told you that we have the Rouen cathedral etching in the little “cold storage” room and it is lovely. Since we changed the walls I like that room.”¹⁹⁸ Katharine mentions only changing the walls, sometime prior to early 1924, so it is not known when the other changes in the room took place, but by 1948 the room had a different rug, different upholstery, different wall covering, and window treatments.

The chairs, table, and settee (only the round table is extant) were Berkey & Gay pieces purchased on the Wrights' trip to Grand Rapids in January 1914. The early rug and the later rug both appear to have been Donegal carpets. The only other documented changes in the reception hall are the change in lamp from the 1920s to 1948 and the addition of the print of Rouen, which Henry Haskell had bought for Katharine in France in 1924, which she had matted, framed, and hung here by April 1924.¹⁹⁹

The National Cash Register redecoration of the reception hall retained the Muse, but otherwise Sloane's and Keith Wilson appear to have thoroughly refurbished the room. Barbara Yocum's *Wallcoverings Investigation* lays out a clear chronology of the wallpapers used in

Dietz and Jameson appear to have been in the living room when Orville's niece showed the newspaperwoman “a box of tools which Orville had made to facilitate removing and replacing the damask wall covering.” The living room had a damask wallcovering from its earliest time up to 1949. It appears to have been a mistake to associate Orville Wright's tools with the damask wallcovering. Dietz, Home of a Lonely Man, *Dayton Daily News*, November 14, 1948.

196 Hunt, *Hayloft Chatter*, 1997.

197 KW to HH, WHMC, March 7, 1924.

198 KW to HH, WHMC, April 16, 1924

199 KW to HH, WHMC, March 7, 1924 and April 16, 1924.

the room—a geometric tile pattern in 1949, a grasscloth paper ca. 1964, and finally the blue diamond-patterned paper on the walls today.

Research for this report determined that Dungan Design purchased the pendulum wall clock that hangs at the south end of the east wall in 1989 as part of their overall redecoration of Hawthorn Hill for NCR: “the clock along with numerous other antique and new accessories were purchased for the decorative qualities only.”²⁰⁰

Documentation and References

*1914 October 16–23, “Notes from Dayton Visit” in K. B. Leonard Journal, Archives of Oberlin College, Kate B. Leonard Papers 30/224, Diaries and Journals, folder: 1910-22, box 2.

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p. 28 Reception room or trophy room—green rug and upholstery on the Adam furniture

Bronze group representing the two brothers, in shelter of eagles wing presented by the province of Sarthe in which is located Pau where Wilbur’s flights were made in 1908.

The other trophy—a bronze figure perhaps Mercury, presented to Orville by [?] Aeronautical Society.

*1997, Jan/Feb, Melba Hunt, *Hayloft Chatter*, “Original Wallpaper Pieces from Hawthorn Hill”

Orville went so far as to construct brocaded panels for all the downstairs rooms. These were put up during the winter months. We do not know what kind of wallpaper was used downstairs. Our set of photographs of the house and rooms was taken February 16, 1948 when NCR purchased the house. Because it was wintertime, the brocade panels were still in place [*sic—she meant damask wallpaper in library and living room, etc.*] on the walls. Incidentally, ingenious Orville made his own tool set that he used to install or remove the panels each fall and spring.

*1924 KW to HH WHMC March 7, 1924

I expected the picture back yesterday but it is not finished, it seems. I think I am going to hang it in the “cold storage” room where the other etchings are. I think it will be glorious in the long narrow panel between the windows. I got a dark brown frame, (sepia really) with a mat of deep cream. I hope it will be right. The McCormicks brought me a piece of Turkish embroidery which I love.

*1924 KW to HH WHMC April 16

Have I ever told you that we have the Rouen cathedral etching in the little “cold storage” room and it is lovely. Since we changed the walls I like that room. The picture hangs between the two windows above the settee, just opposite the “Muse of Aviation.”

200 Kate Dungan to Sarah Heald, email, 7/12/10.

*1965 Justus, Graham, “Hawthorn Hill Has a Special Place,” 2–6.

p. 4 The task of removing and replacing the damask [*sic—brocade panels*] on the walls was a big job each spring. So, according to Mrs. Miller, Orville made a complete set of tools which made the job easier.

*1978 *Wright Reminiscences*, Jay R. Petree, “Memories of My Cousin Orville Wright” p. 122ff

p. 133 “he explained was Damask. [*sic – brocade*] . . . He explained that it was taken from the wall with special tools, then cleaned and replaced. I recently learned that he had made special tools for this, not being satisfied with the crude tools being used.” [more on Hawthorn Hill as “a complex evolved from his inventive genius as well as his demand for perfection”]

*1948 Betty A. Dietz, “Hawthorn Hill—‘The Home of a Lonely Man,’” *Dayton Daily News*, Nov. 14

Mrs. John Jameson [Leontine Wright Jameson], one of the nieces, who has been living in the house for several months brought out a box of tools which Orville had made to facilitate removing and replacing the damask [*sic—brocade*] wall covering. There were punches to press in the tacks and a spatula-like piece to hold the fabric in place.

Second Floor

Katharine Wright’s Bedroom, #2 (202)

*how I love to get back to my own room. The quiet of it and the peacefulness and the entire privacy of it. At the Bay I really love my room but I can never be quite alone there. . . . I do love . . . my room—the soft, fine towels for one thing.*²⁰¹

Room History, Physical Evidence, and Furnishings

Katharine Wright was given the nicest bedroom at Hawthorn Hill, at the top of the grand stairway and featuring a Palladian window overlooking the front entrance. She furnished it primarily with the Adam-style Berkey & Gay furniture they purchased in Grand Rapids in early 1914. This same style of Berkey & Gay furniture was used in the guest bedrooms (206 and 207) as well; the bed, bedside table, desk, and desk chair are identical to those in the blue room (207). Because Katharine acquired many of the furnishings for the house, and because some of her personal correspondence survives, a bit more is known about Katharine’s bedroom and how she used it than the other bedrooms in the house.

Katharine wrote letters frequently at her desk, increasing in volume in the year or so before she married; she often wrote here late into the night. Her correspondence also reveals how she enjoyed reading in bed before going to sleep. By the mid-1920s Katharine and Orville had developed some concern about nighttime safety in the house and used their bed and bathroom door locks at night to create a safe suite between their bedrooms with Orville’s bath-

201 KW to HH, WHMC, September 22, 1925.

room in between.²⁰² Burglars struck Hawthorn Hill at least twice in the early 1920s; one night in February 1921, Scipio awoke Katharine and Orville to an intruder's presence. The next morning, they "found a piece of one of the doors to the East porch laying on the stone step." Katharine wrote that "we are having an epidemic of robberies."²⁰³ Writing to the Canadian Arctic explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson, a friend of the Wrights, in 1926 from the Wright summer camp on Lambert Island in Ontario's Georgian Bay, Katharine noted that Lorin Wright and Carrie Grumbach reported "that our house has been gone through by some one—everything gone over but not much taken, Carrie thinks. Even my desk was thoroughly gone over." With Hawthorn Hill effectively vacated for the summer, Katharine noted that the burglar came "in the daytime evidently and . . . had all the time he wanted. I have expected burglars every summer but have always been disappointed heretofore!"²⁰⁴ Earlier that winter, Katharine wrote Henry Haskell that someone left bottles of whiskey in their mailbox.²⁰⁵

Katharine seems to have not taken for granted the fine furnishings she was able to surround herself with, deriving great satisfaction especially from her wallpaper and her rug. Her favorite color appears to have been yellow.²⁰⁶ In her years at Hawthorn Hill it seems she had her wallpaper redone just once in 1922. As with much of their household furnishings, she purchased the new Haeffelfinger wallpaper through Harman's, a Dayton furnishings store, and seems to have worked with a Mr. Davis when acquiring new items.²⁰⁷

When NCR refurnished the house in 1949, Katharine's room received a thorough redecoration. It featured a canopy bed, a wing chair, and other colonial revival-style pieces (figure 64).

*Documentation and References*²⁰⁸

*Melba Hunt (Kettering-Moraine Museum), no date

Exhibit list describes "framed picture of dancers . . . was brought by Katharine to Hawthorn Hill from the old house on Hawthorn Street.

202 KW to HH, WHMC, September 28, 1925.

203 KW to VS, February 10, 1921, RG 401, NARA, College Park.

204 KW to VS, September 4, 1926, RG 401, NARA, College Park.

205 KW to HH, WHMC, January 19, 1926, "I found a package in a newspaper wrapper in our mail box this morning when I stopped for the mail on my way home from town. It had an empty bottle and one nearly full in it—both bottles marked "Whiskey"! I was uneasy about it. I am alone today. Carrie is gone again. . . . I brought the bottles up to the house. Maybe it is only a joke. I really think it is a very serious thing."

206 KW to HH, WHMC, January 19, 1926 attachment; KW to HH, WHMC, February 13, 1926.

207 "When I came home and looked at my room, it was so lovely. The yellow is prettier than the paper we got for our room [in Missouri] and would make the room look larger. I went to Harman's to see if I could get the name of the maker and the number, thinking I could telegraph you. But Mr. Davis said he doubted if there would be any more. This was put on five years ago [*sic—Katharine was not clear on the exact year*] and looks as fresh as new! It is so exquisite. You might see, dear, what Mrs. Pat[oni] thinks of the possibility of getting it. Haeffelfinger is in Pennsylvania. If she thinks we could get it, I would love it. Otherwise go ahead with what we selected. But it will be pretty bright. We can tone it down with draperies and "accessories"! mine is just right, very soft, too." KW to HH, WHMC, [nd#19] [November 1926]. P. M. Harman & Co. appears in the 1899–1900 *Williams' Dayton Directory* at 30 and 32 N. Main and sold "Carpets, Oil Cloths, Mattings, Linoleum, Wall Papers, Lace Curtains, Window Shades and Upholsterings." A cursory internet search did not reveal more information about the Pennsylvania wallpaper manufacturer Haeffelfinger.

208 The following references include those not only for Katharine Wright's bedroom but also the handful of references for her bathroom and her upstairs hall closet, which was likely across the hall from her father's bedroom.

*1916 Berkey & Gay, *A Portfolio of Furniture Plates*, 1916. Public Museum of Grand Rapids. Plate no. 615, "Adam" (figure 72)

Berkey & Gay furniture in KW bedroom in 1948 is illustrated in this 1916 trade catalog. Some of these pieces were identical to those in the blue room (207) and some in the guest room (206).

Desk	AC2007.001 or KM2007.001
Bed	AC2007.009a+b or .010a+b
Bedside table	HH1991.101 or not ext ant
Desk chair	AC2007.005 or KM2007.005

Rocking chair AC2007.006
Chest with mirror HH1999.090

*1921 KW to VS April 11, Dartmouth Steffanson MSS:196(98) Wright, Katharine, 1920–25

I am enclosing copies of the telegrams, which happen to be here on my desk.

*1922 KW to GB May 18, (*Letters of the Wright Brothers*, Riddle and Sinnott), pp. 192–93

I actually spent \$450 in getting the house cleaned this spring. That included new paper in my room and one of the maids' rooms. Otherwise it merely paid for cleaning the walls and freshening ceilings downstairs and a few other items such as dry cleaning portieres and such.

*1923 KW to HH WHMC May 24

You may remember that you gave me [Robert Louis Stevenson's] "Vailima Letters" when I graduated. . . . I lost the books in the flood but replace them, in another binding, alas! I could not get them in the original binding, though I tried to do it. . . . I skimmed round among RLS's Letters last night and made up my mind to take them on next for my reading after I go to bed, which I look forward to as a special treat. [also read Ibsen: *The Master Builder*, *Hedda Gabbler*, *Pyr Gynt* – "for bedtime reading"]

*1925 KW to HH WHMC May 18

I guess I am alone in the house for I don't believe William has come in. It has been his afternoon out. It is ten o'clock and time for me to go upstairs. I once staid in the house absolutely alone for a week but the family did not know it until afterward and it was in 1916, before the days of "saying it with a gun". I sent Carrie and Charley off for their vacation when they wanted it and did not join Orv at the Bay for some days.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC June 10

[about Harry Haskell's photograph] it's going to be in sight somewhere wither in the library or in my room.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC July 1

After I finished writing I lay down and had a nap. When I woke up, I saw some letters that Carrie had slipped under my door.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC July 6

Carrie has been trying to do a little sewing for me but she has had to do so much cooking that the sewing hasn't come on much. But now I will *not* ask another person for a meal no matter who comes or what happens.

I am under so much obligation to Orv. He has *always* made his plans to include me.

Carrie is here in my room, "nagging" me about my things for the Bay. If it wasn't for Carrie's "nagging", I'd certainly have a hard time of it. She takes care of me when I can't take care of myself.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC September 29

You know I have a good many things that are mine if I want to claim them but I won't. But a few things I'll take. Orv always said that the things in my room were absolutely mine but I'd rather leave them here and have the feeling that you spoke about with Henry's room.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC September 28

I make Orv lock his door now and I lock my doors, in my room and my bath room. We can go back and forth through his bath room if we should want to.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC January 13

This afternoon I washed my hair. I always do it at home where we can use soft water and I never put any soap on my hair. It dries out the scalp so. I use egg. It's a messy mess but it leaves my hair so soft and nice. Carrie helps me.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC January 19, attachment

There are lovely blues and golds and mulberries in Oriental rugs. I find my rug very durable and very cheerful. It is gold with a lovely English border of oak leaves in a lighter yellow—not conspicuous, just decorative.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC February 13

Would you like a plain rug with a border in our room? I could order that from here. . . . Old gold maybe. I have liked mine so much.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC March 19

Carrie and William have been cleaning my room and bath room. They cleaned the paper and it is lovely.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC April 9

Nan and Orv and I have been spending the evening in the library and I have just come upstairs. I found the enclosed clippings in the evening paper.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC [nd#28]

with my Austrian [grounds worker] doing everything I don't want done, the minute I come in the house and with Carrie tackling me every three minutes as to what I want done with things in my hall closet. I use that for my papers and such.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC, nd#19 [November]

When I came home and looked at my room, it was so lovely. The yellow is prettier than the paper we got for our room and would make the room look larger. I went to Harman's²⁰⁹ to see if I could get the name of the maker and the number, thinking I could telegraph you. But Mr. Davis said he doubted if there would be any more. This was put on five years ago and looks as fresh as new! It is so exquisite. You might see, dear, what Mrs. Pat[oni] thinks of the possibility of getting it. Haeffelfinger is in Pennsylvania. If she thinks we could get it, I would love it. Otherwise go ahead with what we selected. But it will be pretty bright. We can tone it down with draperies and "accessories"! mine is just right, very soft, too.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC [nd#33]

I'm writing at a disadvantage—with William washing my balcony—right by my desk!

*ca. 1950 Hawthorn Hill brochure – "Canopy room"

*[ca. 1972] Melba Hunt "The Wright Collection of Furnishings from Hawthorn Hill"

"framed picture of dancers" [Dance of Apollo and Nine Muses] . . . this picture was brought by Katharine to Hawthorn Hill from the old house on Hawthorn St.

Orville Wright's Bathroom (213)

Room History, Physical Evidence, and Furnishings

Like so many of Orville Wright's personal spaces and objects of everyday use, his bathroom bore the mark of his habitual tinkering and inventive spirit. Although it has long been said that

209 *Williams' Dayton Directory*, P.M. Harman & Co. 30 and 32 N. Main "Dealers in Carpets, Oil Cloths, Mattings, Linoleum, Wall Papers, Lace Curtains, Window Shades and Upholsterings."

Orville devised the elaborately piped shower in this bathroom, this is not the case.²¹⁰ The basis for this idea springs from a solid understanding of the man but seems to have been based on extrapolation from actual “inventions” Orville employed at Hawthorn Hill. Research on Orville’s bathroom documents a few small customizations undertaken to accommodate his personal needs and interests. He had outfitted his built-in cabinets with a rack on which he hung liquid toiletries such as shaving and hand lotion, and on a dressing table he had a row of cold cream jars in which he kept small items like cuff links.²¹¹

Reference to the back belt Orville got at the Mayo Clinic²¹² and its use when shaving reminds us of Orville’s ever-present concern with his back. “While bending over the washbowl in my bath room Monday morning . . . something seemed to give way in my back. I had not yet put on my belt. . . . I will hereafter be cautious about washing my face without my belt on.”²¹³

Orville’s back problems in fact provide a partial explanation of why he had the needle shower installed in his new home. Suffering from chronic sciatic pain after his accident at Fort Myer, Virginia, the latest, luxury bathroom feature—a needle bath—no doubt captured Orville’s interest.²¹⁴ With his finances secure, he had a needle shower-bath installed in his bathroom. Called needle baths because of the surrounding jets of water that emanated from the ring of pipes in needlelike sprays, showers of this sort had been on the market since the 1890s and were in vogue into the 1910s when the Wrights built their new home²¹⁵ (figures 74 and 90). Although it is not clear why they did not persist in popularity, it is likely due to some sort of difficulty in function, probably related to the problem of maintaining a sufficiently high water pressure at the pipes in order to shoot out the needles of water (see Analysis of Historical Occupancy: The Wrights Move In).

One final element of Orville’s bathroom that bears mention is his shower curtain. While the outer curtain was turquoise colored, the inner curtain was reported to be a part of the old tarp used to cover a Wright airplane. “Behind [the turquoise curtain], as a protection from water splashes, the inventor had hung a weather-beaten old tarpaulin—a part of the tarpaulin which had covered the original plane.”²¹⁶

Documentation and References

*1923 November 13 OW to GB (*Letters of the Wright Brothers*, Riddle and Sinnott)

While bending over the washbowl in my bath room the Monday morning you were arriving in

210 Justus, Special Place in World History, *NCR Factory News*, June 1965, 2–6. This article is the first instance where this assertion was found in print; he referred to, “the Gargantuan shower, lined with pipes and fixtures of Orville’s design.”

211 The shaving lotion was a home-made recipe of bay rum, rose water and a few other ingredients. Dietz, Home of a Lonely Man, *Dayton Daily News*, November 14, 1948, and Justus, Special Place in World History, *NCR Factory News*, June 1965, 2–6.

212 KW to GB, November 22, 1920, *Letters of the Wright Brothers*, Riddle and Sinnott.

213 OW to GB, November 13, 1923, *Letters of the Wright Brothers*, Riddle and Sinnott.

214 Orville Wright had chronic sciatic back pain all his life following the 1908 crash during trials of the Wright airplane at Fort Myer. His passenger, Lieutenant Thomas Selfridge, died in the accident.

215 J. L. Mott Iron Works, *Modern Plumbing*, No. 6, New York: J. L. Mott Iron Works, 1908. Other NPS sites that retain historic needle baths include Hot Springs National Park in Arkansas and Longfellow National Historic Site in Massachusetts, where the poet’s daughter Alice Longfellow installed a needle shower in the house.

216 Dietz, Home of a Lonely Man, *Dayton Daily News*, November 14, 1948.

Washington something seemed to give way in my back. I had not yet put on my belt. . . . I will hereafter be cautious about washing my face without my belt on.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC September 28

I make Orv lock his door now and I lock my doors, in my room and my bath room. We can go back and forth through his bath room if we should want to.

*1948 Betty A. Dietz, "Hawthorn Hill—"The Home of a Lonely Man,"" *Dayton Daily News*, Nov. 14

had some built-in cabinets into which the inventor had put a wooden rack from which he suspended bottles of shaving and hand lotion and mouth wash. The shaving lotion was a special concoction of his own . . . made of bay rum, rose water, and a few other ingredients. On his dressing table in the bath were rows of small white cold cream jars which he saved to hold his cuff links and extra buttons. [shower] . . . hidden from view by an attractive turquoise shower curtain. But behind it, as a protection from water splashes, the inventor had hung a weather-beaten old tarpaulin—a part of the tarpaulin which had covered the original plane.

*1965 Justus, Graham, "Hawthorn Hill Has a Special Place," 2–6.

built-in cabinets in to which the inventor had put a wooden rack from which he suspended bottles of shaving and hand lotion and mouth wash. The shaving lotion was a special concoction of his own, made of bay rum and rose water and a few other ingredients. The Gargantuan shower, lined with pipes and fixtures of Orville's design [sic], had two shower curtains. One was an attractive turquoise blue, but behind it was a weather-beaten tarpaulin which had covered the original plane.

*1969 Betty Lacey, "Guesthouse Has Wright Touch," *Journal Herald: Modern Living*, Dayton, June 11, p. 17

"a huge shower lined with pipes and fixtures of Orville's design [sic]. . . . Orville's shower curtain was a weatherbeaten tarpaulin that once covered a plane"

Orville Wright's Bedroom, #3 (212)

Room History, Physical Evidence, and Furnishings

Documented use of Orville's room suggests it was simply a place to sleep. Orville also spent considerable time in bed when suffering from back problems. On at least one occasion Carrie stayed in the room when Orville was out of town; this was at the time that Katharine had also written about their concern of safety in the house at night so that may be why Carrie stayed the night at all. Although a Berkey & Gay desk was among the original furnishings in the room, Orville appears to have not used it much, and then only toward the end of his life when he could not move downstairs to the library as easily.

Orville's bedroom furniture was purchased new for the room on his trip to Grand Rapids with Katharine in 1914. His furniture was of a design which might have been viewed as more

masculine, or perhaps just less fancy, than the pieces they bought for the other bedrooms at Hawthorn Hill. At least three of the framed items on the walls of his room were photographs relating to trips he had taken—two are of Italy, the Appian Way and the Coliseum, and a third is of a costumed reunion party at the Dayton Engineers Club. The reunion was from the summer of 1919 driving trip to the west coast with Col. Edward Deeds and a number of others. The wallpaper in the room was changed at least once during Katharine's years in the house, probably in 1924.²¹⁷

After Orville's death and National Cash Register's redecoration of the house, dignitaries from out of town stayed at Hawthorn Hill. For male visitors it was a great privilege to be able to sleep in Orville's bedroom and many spoke fondly of the experience. The room had twin beds and featured Hepplewhite-style furniture.

Documentation and References

*1915 MW Diary, Saturday, December 11

Orville has great pain in his back, is unable to drive home. Katharine calls Charles Groombach [*sic*] to come and run his auto. He comes home about dark in the ambulance. Lies easy on his bed. Dr. Conklin comes.

*1916 Lorin Wright²¹⁸ to GB, January 1, Wright Brothers Papers, LC online

Orville has been bedfast since December 11. The problem seems to be neuritis or sciatic rheumatism. . . . he expects to go to Florida, Bermuda, or some warm climate as soon as he is able to travel.

*1916 KW to William F. Bohn, Oberlin College archives, student file: Katharine Wright Haskell, Alumni Records, 28/2, February 29

My brother was in bed almost ten weeks, much of which he suffered very intense pain—neuralgia of the sciatic nerve.

*1916 OW to GB September 18

I have been in such poor health for the past couple of years, especially last winter, when I was confined to my bed for nearly three months.

*1920 KW to VS January 5 Dartmouth Steffanson MSS:196(5) Wright, Katharine

The reunion which I thought was on the schedule for Thanksgiving Eve [VS had been there] is coming off on the 17th which is the Saturday after your lecture here.

The reunion "bunch" will consist of Col. Deeds, and his son Charles, Col. Waldon, Lieut. Emmons (Navy) and Col. George all of Detroit, Col. Davis of New York, Gordon Reutschler of

²¹⁷ KW to HH, WHMC, July 15, 1924.

²¹⁸ Lorin stayed with Orville and Milton in December when Katharine went to Oberlin for meetings.

Hamilton, Ohio and Orville, who made the actual party in the Western Automobile Tour last summer. Besides, Col. Deeds is asking Henry Ford, who was to have been in the party but had to stay home on account of his lawsuit with the Chicago Tribune and several other people—among who is yourself.

The dinner is to be in the basement of the Engineers Club where some ranch that was visited last summer is to be reproduced and everyone is going to wear old clothes, such as they wore on the tour. I *know* it will be a genuinely interesting affair.

*1924 KW to HH WHMC July 15

We think we've got a pretty paper for Orv's room but I can't find any thing that seems quite "lively and yet dignified" for the guest room.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC September 28

I make Orv lock his door now and I lock my doors, in my room and my bath room. We can go back and forth through his bath room if we should want to.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC February 4

Orv went to Washington this afternoon . . . and Carrie is staying with me tonight. I've just got her settled in Orv's room so we are locked in but can go to each other's room if we should want to, which we won't, of course.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC April 27

Orv is packing or rather just getting a few things ready. He always keeps a suit case with most necessary things ready to go away with on short notice.

*1948 Betty A. Dietz, "Hawthorn Hill—"The Home of a Lonely Man,"" *Dayton Daily News*, Nov. 14

Austere, rather than simply decorated. He refused to permit a doily under the clock even though it was beginning to scratch the surface. Until he became ill, there wasn't even a blotter on his desk.

Grumbachs' Living Room and Bedroom (Servants' Bedroom #1, #2) (215, 216) *Room History, Physical Evidence, and Furnishings*

It is not clear if or how these rooms in the servants' quarters at Hawthorn Hill were used prior to 1926. Carrie and Charley Grumbach moved into Hawthorn Hill in fall 1926 when Katharine Wright married Henry Haskell and moved to Missouri. The Grumbachs used "Bedroom #1" as their living room and "Bedroom #2" as their bedroom.²¹⁹ A Wright family member presently has a turned rope double bed, which belonged to Carrie Grumbach, so it may have once been a furnishing in this room (figure 94).

219 Marianne Miller Hudec to Sarah H. Heald, email 5/11/10.

A 1949 photograph (figure 67) reveals how NCR refurnished this room, using a number of the original Wright furnishings from other bedrooms. A pair of twin beds and matching bedside tables, as well as the Wedgewood-style lamp from the living room and a Donegal rug, are all shown in this photograph. The beds and tables were originally in Katharine's bedroom (202) and the blue room (207).

Documentation and References

*1922 KW to GB (*Letters of the Wright Brothers*, Riddle and Sinnott), pp. 192–93, May 18

I actually spent \$450 in getting the house cleaned this spring. That included new paper in my room and one of the maids' rooms.

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*1926–1948 Marianne Miller Hudec to Sarah H. Heald, email 7/9/10.

“simple folks. . . I doubt if either went very far in school. She sewed . . . she would have mended things around the house. . . I think she read the newspaper. . . I only went into their area once or twice. I can just remember dark furniture.

*1937 Orville Wright checkbook 12.9.37

\$186.16 stair carpet and rooms carpets for servants quarters

Main Stair Hall and Landing (201)

Room History, Physical Evidence, and Furnishings

Other than a 1914 reference to the rug being put down in the hall and the fact that the wallpaper would have matched that of the hall below (100) there are no documented furnishings for the second-floor main stair hall.

Documentation and References

*1914 MW Diary, Thursday, April 30

We got the rug down in the upstairs hall. It is very pretty.

*1921 KW to GB (*Letters of the Wright Brothers*, Riddle and Sinnott), February 13

You would never believe it if you could see Orv now; runs up and down stairs, weight 173lbs, works from morning to night and isn't bothered by any pain at all. [after his doctor appointment at the Mayo Clinic]

1925 KW to HH WHMC December 13 [2nd letter of this date]

We were always afraid Father might slip and hurt himself. We had the smaller rugs at doorways larger than we liked for looks to make it safe for him. And he never did fall as so many old people do. Once he slipped on the stairs a little but caught himself. . . .

Milton Wright's Bedroom, #5 (204)

Room History, Physical Evidence, and Furnishings

Along with the kitchen and dining room, Milton Wright's bedroom was considered vital to set up first. As the bishop noted, it was "fitted up" the day after they moved in. The ceiling light was not adequate for his eyesight and he read here in the evenings, so Orville arranged for a bright light of some sort in the room. By December 1914 Milton Wright must have given up trying to adjust to his new bed as he noted in his diary, "I have a return to my old kind of bed springs. The new were uneasy."²²⁰

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Milton Wright died in his sleep in this room. A family member found him at breakfast time the morning of April 3, 1917. After his death the room probably became a guest room, but likely only when there were many house guests, as it is the only family bedroom without a bathroom immediately adjoining it.

A handful of small furnishings items are documented for this bedroom, but the main pieces can be reasonably assumed based on other furnishings on the second floor at Hawthorn Hill. It is possible that Milton Wright's new furniture was also purchased at Berkey & Gay, perhaps in the same style as that bought for Orville's room. It is not known to what degree the room was altered after Bishop Wright's death, although there is documentation for a new rug purchased at that time.²²¹

Two photographs document the NCR redecoration and show the room with wall-to-wall carpet and entirely new furniture. NCR also converted the closet in this room to a small bathroom.

Documentation and References

*1914 MW Diary, Wednesday, April 29

We fitted up my room, the kitchen and dining rooms.

*1916 MW Diary, Friday, September 15

Orville got me a bright light for my room, in the evening, to read by. My central light is too high and the others too dim and to one side.

*1916 MW Diary, Tuesday, December 5

I have a return to my old kind of bed springs. The new were uneasy.

*1917 4/4/1917 p. 8 *Dayton Journal* "Bishop Wright dies suddenly at Son's Home"

He was found dead in bed by members of his family at 9 o'clock yesterday morning.

220 MW Diary, Tuesday, December 5, 1916

221 KW to HH, WHMC, February 14, 1926.

*1917 “Bishop Milton Wright, Father of Aeroplane Inventors, Dies,” *Dayton Daily News*, April 3

Found dead in bed by a family member Tuesday morning – age 88; he had had a severe cold.

*1978 *Wright Reminiscences*, Jay R. Petree, “Memories of My Cousin Orville Wright”

p. 130 His mood seemed almost reverent, but there was that little twinkle in his eyes as he showed me his father’s own “Geographic Filing System.” A round table had on it a large, but orderly mound of letters from his host of friends and relatives with whom he corresponded. Orville told me that his father could reach for and withdraw any letter, no matter which State the person lived in.

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*1923 KW to Dr. Hutchinson, Archives of Oberlin College, Group: Presidential Assistants, William Bohn, Series: 4. Fund Raising, folder: Wright, Katharine, box 4, April 20.

We have three guest rooms that will take care of all of you and my brother will be as glad as I to have you come.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC February 14

Yes, rugs do cost a lot, and so much more than when we furnished this house almost 2-1/2 or 3 times as much actually. The last rug we bought—for Father’s room in 1917—cost a good 2-1/2 times as much per square yard as those we got of exactly the same quality in 1913-1914.

*ca. 1972 Melba Hunt “The Wright Collection of Furnishings from Hawthorn Hill”

Radiola 28,²²² W-010, Melba Hunt exhibit notes it as having come from “a bedroom” [Possibly for Milton Wright’s room, for which there are no 1948 photographs; but no other bedrooms show radios in the 1948 photographs.]

Guest Bedroom/Rose Room, #4 (206)

Room History, Physical Evidence, and Furnishings

This room, called the rose room by Katharine,²²³ was the guest room of first choice in the house; it had a double bed, a bathroom and, unless there was another guest, no one in any connecting rooms or bathrooms. This is likely the room Katharine referred to as Griffith Brewer’s and of others when writing to them about visiting Hawthorn Hill; it is also the room where Henry Haskell slept when he visited the Wrights.

The Wrights furnished the room with some Berkey & Gay furniture—the bed, desk, desk chair, and small bench—in the same style but not identical to that in Katharine’s and the blue bedroom. It was also in this room that Katharine put two pieces of furniture she had purchased with her own money when they lived on Hawthorn Street. “The rose room, where you always sleep, has two pieces in it that I bought with money I earned when I was teaching—the

222 OW checkbooks record that over \$1,000 was paid in 1927 for a Radiola 28.

223 KW to HH, WHMC, September 29, 1925.

chiffonier [chest of drawers] and the dressing table.”²²⁴ The chest and dressing table, with mirror attached, are documented in the room in 1948 (figure 53) and stand out as pieces of a style distinct and earlier than the Berkey & Gay ones used throughout the second-floor bedrooms.²²⁵

A likely change of wallpaper is the only documented refurnishing made in the room, done in 1924 at the same time they selected a new paper for Orville’s bedroom. “I’m having an awful time getting any thing I want in that rose room. . . . I can’t find any thing that seems quite ‘lively and yet dignified’ for the guest room. I want it a little gayer than it was.”²²⁶

NCR did a complete redecoration of the room after Orville’s death, including reorienting furnishings by placing the new bed on a different wall in the room. In these years, or at least by the 1960s, the room was referred to as the “Blue” room, likely because of the blue wallpaper and window treatments used. It should not be confused with the room Katharine called the blue room (207), the room that was originally to have been Wilbur Wright’s bedroom. The rose room presently bears a door plaque, “Ivonne’s Room,” placed there by NCR to commemorate key Wright figures associated with Hawthorn Hill. Ivonne Wright Miller lived in Dayton and would rarely, if ever, have spent the night at Hawthorn Hill.²²⁷

Documentation and References

*1914 MW Diary, Monday, June 15

At night, Mr. [Griff—visiting] Brewer built up a nice fire and retired to his room.

*1914 MW Diary, Saturday, June 27

Some colored man brought a new bedstead for Mr. Brewer’s room.

*1914 Berkey & Gay, *A Portfolio of Furniture Plates*, 1916. Public Museum of Grand Rapids. Plate no. 615, “Adam” (figure 72)

Berkey & Gay furniture in the Guest bedroom in 1948 is illustrated in this 1916 trade catalog. Some of these pieces were identical to those in the blue room (207) and some in Katharine’s bedroom (202).

Bench	KM2007.002 or not extant
Bed	HH1999.008
Desk	AC2007.004
Desk chair	AC2007.007

224 KW to HH, WHMC, September 29, 1925.

225 The chest is AC 2007.012 and the dressing table with mirror is AC 2007.003a and b.

226 KW to HH, WHMC, July 15, 1924.

227 Phone conversation with Ivonne’s daughter, Marianne Miller Hudec, December 2008; Mrs. Hudec also recalls that her mother, father, and brother did stay at Hawthorn Hill when Mme. Bollee came to visit ca. 1926–1930s because Orville needed a hostess during the visit. Marianne Miller Hudec to Sarah Heald email 5/11/10.

*1917 *Wright Reminiscences*, “Reminiscences of Bertha Ellywn Wright Steeper” p. 147ff

First visited summer 1917—These were war days and Uncle Orv had many military and aviator visitors and guests. While Uncle Orv and Aunt Katharine talked to them, I sat . . . knitting. While there, I was one of the early victims of the World War I flu epidemic. Uncle Orv and Aunt Katharine were wonderful nurses, sitting by the hour putting cooling cloths on my head and bathing my wrists and hands. [likely in the rose room—the best guest bedroom] I was pretty sick for several weeks so they finally turned it over to a trained nurse. During my visit they encouraged me to enroll at Oberlin. . . . [I visited them several times during the year]

*1922 KW to GB, March 11 (*Letters of the Wright Brothers*, Riddle and Sinnott)

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Isn't it about time for another visit? This is an awfully big house for two people and we really need an occupant for your room.

*1923 KW to Dr. Hutchinson, Archives of Oberlin College, Group: Presidential Assistants, William Bohn, Series: 4. Fund Raising, folder: Wright, Katharine, box 4, April 20

We have three guest rooms that will take care of all of you and my brother will be as glad as I to have you come.

*1924 KW to HH WHMC July 15

I'm having an awful time getting any thing I want in that rose room. . . . I can't find any thing that seems quite “lively and yet dignified” for the guest room. I want it a little gayer than it was.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC September 29

You know I have a good many things that are mine if I want to claim them but I won't. But a few things I'll take. Orv always said that the things in my room were absolutely mine but I'd rather leave them here and have the feeling that you spoke about with Henry's room. The rose room, where you always sleep, has two pieces in it that I bought with money I earned when I was teaching—the chiffonier and the dressing table.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC February 15

If we had my two mahogany pieces, the chiffonier and dressing table. . .

Blue Bedroom, #1 (207)

Room History, Physical Evidence, and Furnishings

Originally conceived as Wilbur Wright's bedroom, this room was considered a second guest room by the time the house was built because Wilbur died in 1912. Katharine called it the blue room, likely because of a blue color scheme. Some visitors stayed here rather than in the rose room (206), although it is not clear how this was determined. Katharine's friend Nan is known to have stayed in this room rather than the main guest room.²²⁸ It was in this room that

228 KW to HH, WHMC, April 4, 1926 [KW misdated letter as 1925] and April 20, 1926.

Katharine and Henry Haskell met a few times at night when he was visiting Hawthorn Hill—encounters Katharine fondly recalled to him, writing “if we could be together in that blue room.”²²⁹

Furnished with Berkey & Gay Adam-style pieces, the blue room’s bed, bedside table, desk, and desk chair were identical to those in Katharine’s bedroom. The blue room’s other Berkey & Gay pieces were the vanity, a chest of drawers, and a small bench, identical to that in the rose room. No documentation was found for furnishing changes in this room during the Wright years. However, it is likely the wallpaper and perhaps window treatments were changed at some point, as seems to have been the pattern throughout the house.

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Photographs taken during the NCR years reveal an entirely redecorated room. In the early 1960s it was called the “French Room.”²³⁰ The wallpaper applied in 1949 was still on the walls in the late 1950s, but by the 1970s this paper had been changed. Like with most of the bedrooms, NCR included a radio in the bedroom’s furnishings in 1949, and by the 1970s there were televisions in the rooms as well.

Documentation and References

*1914 Berkey & Gay, *A Portfolio of Furniture Plates*, 1916. Public Museum of Grand Rapids, Plate no. 615, “Adam” (figure 72)

Berkey & Gay furniture in the blue bedroom in 1948 is illustrated in this 1916 trade catalog. Some of these pieces were identical to those in Katharine’s bedroom (202) and some in the rose room (206).

Desk	AC2007.001 or KM2007.001
Bed	AC2007.009a+b or .010a+b
Bedside table	HH1991.101 or not extant
Desk chair	AC2007.005 or KM2007.005
Vanity	KM2007.021
Bench	KM2007.002 or not extant
Chest without mirror	HH1999.091

*1923 KW to Dr. Hutchinson, Archives of Oberlin College, Group: Presidential Assistants, William Bohn, Series: 4. Fund Raising, folder: Wright, Katharine, box 4, April 20

We have three guest rooms that will take care of all of you and my brother will be as glad as I to have you come.

229 KW to HH, WHMC, April 12, 1926; see also April 4, 1926. For the most extensive published treatment of Katharine and Harry’s relationship, see Mackersey, *The Wright Brothers*, 2004.

230 “Hawthorn Hill.” National Cash Register Co., ca. 1960.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC April 4 [KW misdated letter as 1925]

It wouldn't be such a very good time for you to come, either, dear, for Nan has that blue room. And you know we really need the blue room, dear, when you come for a visit. It was such a sweet place to love you, with the lovely moonlight for our only light.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC April 12

But it would be enough tonight if we could be together in that blue room and you would hold me up close to you.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC April 20

Orv has gone to Washington. Nan and I took him to the train. . . Nan asked me if I wouldn't come in her room a while and I went. She is in the blue room. It is three weeks tonight since she came.

*1931 OW checkbooks, June 20

To Weiffenbach Marble + Tile Co., \$146.10 for Repair tile in Kitchen + east bath room

Basement

Because so few references were found for the basement, there is no narrative for it. The limited references are included so that they might inform any future findings.

*1914 MW Diary, Thursday, April 30

We got fire in the furnace in the afternoon.

*1918 KW to OW Hawthorn Hill July 27, LC online

Lorin came out and he and Charley stopped the leak in the basement. The steel disks, or whatever they are, in that contraption had crystallized. They replaced them and it seems to be all right now.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC nd#30

We got in some coal. With the awkward arrangement we have for that, it is the biggest nuisance. We have to get a lot of things ready and then we have to watch the men when they come to keep them from ruining every thing in sight. The coal has to be put in right at the front of the house. . . . Well it's in and not much damage done. This ought to [?] us through now—nearly three tons. This makes almost 25 tons. A lot of people are putting in oil burners but we are afraid of them yet.

*1948 Betty A. Dietz, "Hawthorn Hill—"The Home of a Lonely Man,"" *Dayton Daily News*, Nov. 14

a tremendous furnace, which did not escape the inventor's experiments. He had added a gadget which made it possible, by pressing a button upstairs, to close two of the burners.

*1950 Helen Warren, "Hawthorn Hill, Despite New Décor, Still Shrine," *Dayton Daily News*, Jan. 8

all but the Wright brothers' grandfather's workbox has been removed from the basement workroom.

Furnishings Plan

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List of Recommended Furnishings

National Cash Register’s thorough redecoration of Hawthorn Hill in 1949 means that, with the exception of the library, which saw only minor changes, and the dining room, which retains most of its original furniture, all of the rooms in the house will be substantially altered when the following lists of recommended furnishings are implemented.

A 1948 period of interpretation has been selected because a comprehensive photo documentation was done by NCR after Orville Wright’s death. Although a handful of early interior photographs show the house when Katharine Wright still lived there, the 1948 images serve as the basis of this furnishings plan. For the rooms where there are no 1948 pictures to document the interior appearance, comparative evidence has been relied upon to complete the furnishings list for the room. The use of such comparative evidence in this plan is greatest for the servants’ rooms, hallways other than the main stair hall, the pantry, and Milton Wright’s bedroom. The implementation notes in the “Recommendations” column are based on the “Evidence” column of these charts. Refer to the Hawthorn Hill floor plans with current room numbers (figures 1 and 2) at the beginning of this report.

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First Floor

Main Stair Hall (102)

Finishes

Walls and ceiling: paint analysis needed—determine colors that coordinate with 1948 wallpaper

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
102.1	Ceiling fixtures , 2	Fig. 24 Fig. 25 Fig. 26	Acquire reproduction, derive from extant reception hall fixture of similar design
102.2	Rug , maroon, pink and yellow, with border and diamond pattern in field	Fig. 24 Fig. 25 Fig. 26 Fig. 78	Acquire reproduction based on colors and design of AC 2008.006 (identical)
102.3	Walls, flocked paper , straw-colored flocking; floral pattern	Fig. 24 Fig. 25 Fig. 26 Yocum, p. 11	Wallpaper fragment located—further investigation needed. ²³¹ If full repeat or substantial part of full pattern found, then acquire custom reproduction wallpaper. If no more evidence found, acquire stock reproduction paper of similar colors, texture, and pattern.
North wall			
102.4	Chandelier hanging above landing	Fig. 52	Use DAAV 801 (original; repairs needed)

231 Same paper as in reception hall and upstairs main stair hall. Yocum, *Wallcoverings Investigation*, 2008, located a small portion of this paper: “light/straw-color flocking is applied to a plain ground mottled with black and orange/red pigments.”

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
102.5	Rug , small, in north vestibule, maroon, pink and yellow, with border and diamond pattern in field	Fig. 24	Acquire reproduction based on colors and design of AC 2008.006 (identical)
102.6	Sheer curtains , shirred on vestibule windows	Fig. 21 Fig. 24	Acquire
102.7	Portieres , between north vestibule and main stair hall, brown and gold with red grapes	Fig. 24	Acquire custom reproductions based on KM 2007.041a+b (originals)
102.8	Sconce , 2-light, on wall east of vestibule	Fig. 24	Acquire
102.9	Armchair , upholstered green velvet	Fig. 24	Use HH 1999.093 (original)
102.10	Chair in closet/phone booth on east side of north vestibule (opposite bathroom)	"Division of Furniture" list, DAAV	Acquire—possibly in private collection
102.11	Hand towels , linen, in bathroom, "KW" monogram		Acquire from private collection or acquire reproduction based on original in private collection
East wall			
102.12	Framed item , hanging on wall north of entrance to Orville's library	Fig. 24	Acquire
102.13	Rug , small, between main stair hall and library	Fig. 37	Acquire custom reproduction based on KM 2007.027 (original)
102.14	Sofa , fully upholstered, along wall between entrance to library and reception hall	Fig. 24 Fig. 25	Use KM 2007.030 (original)
102.15	"The Dream of Ages," framed photograph by Edward R. Hewitt, hanging on wall above sofa	Fig. 24 Fig. 25	Use KM 2007.035 (original), remat with acid-free
102.16	Rug , small, between main stair hall and reception hall	Fig. 25 Fig. 78	Acquire custom reproduction based on AC 2008.006 (original)
South wall			
102.17	Rug , small, in south vestibule, maroon, pink and yellow, with border and diamond pattern in field	Fig. 25	Acquire reproduction based on colors and design of AC 2008.006 (identical)
102.18	Portieres , between south vestibule and main stair hall, brown and gold with red grapes	Fig. 25	Acquire custom reproductions based on KM 2008.014 (originals)
102.19	Sheer curtains , shirred on south vestibule windows	Fig. 25	Acquire

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
102.20	Record changer	"The famous record changer that he was working on at the time of his death was located in the front hall closet on the dining room side of the front door. I heard something about it recently. I think someone in Dayton knows." MMH to SHH email, 1/24/08.	Use original at NCR-Headquarters
West wall			
102.21	Portieres , blue facing dining room, and brown facing main stair hall, between dining room and main stair hall	Fig. 25 Fig. 26 Fig. 80	Acquire custom reproductions based on KM 2007.028a+b (originals)
102.22	Rug , small, between main stair hall and dining room	Fig. 24 Fig. 25 Fig. 26	Acquire reproduction based on colors and design of AC 2008.006 (identical)
102.23	Table along wall between doors to dining room and servants' passage	Fig. 24 Fig. 25	Use KM 2007.011 (original)
102.24	Table runner on table	Fig. 24	Acquire
102.25	Box with decorative corners, on table	Fig. 24	Acquire from private collection, or acquire reproduction based on original in private collection
102.26	Round box , on table	Fig. 24	Acquire
102.27	Mirror , carved, gilded, above table	Fig. 24 Fig. 25	Use KM 2007.033 (original)
102.28	Rug , small, between main stair hall and door to servants' passage	Fig. 24	Acquire reproduction based on colors and design of AC 2008.006 (identical)
102.29	Carpet runner , on stairs	Fig. 24	Acquire custom reproduction based on AC 2008.001 or .005 (original)
102.30	Armchair , Jacobean-style, south of radiator, along side of stairway	Fig. 24 Fig. 25	Use KM 2007.004 (original)

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Dining Room (107)

Finishes

Walls and ceiling: paint analysis needed—determine 1948 colors

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
107.1	Chandelier , 6-light	Fig. 25 Fig. 27 Fig. 28 Fig. 30	Use DAAV 802 (original); acquire reproduction chain

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
107.2	Rug , center of room	Fig. 25 Fig. 27 Fig. 28 Fig. 30	Acquire custom reproduction based on original alcove rugs, AC 2008.011 and KM 2007.031
107.3	Walls, wall covering , ²³² foliate, diamond pattern	Fig. 27 Fig. 28 Fig. 29 Fig. 30	Investigate for 1948 wall covering; if none found, acquire wall covering of a similar pattern; note that curtains and portieres in room were blue
North wall			
107.4	Sconces , 2, 3-light	Fig. 27 Fig. 28	Acquire
107.5	Side chairs , 2, at west end of wall	Fig. 27 Fig. 28	Acquire custom reproductions based on HH1999.004 (original); historic photographs show a total of 8 side chairs
107.6	Sideboard , in center of wall	Fig. 27 Fig. 28 Fig. 29	Use HH1999.043 (original)
107.7	Candlesticks , silver, 4, two on each side of sideboard	Fig. 27	Acquire
107.8	Round doily in center of sideboard	Fig. 27 Fig. 28 Fig. 29	Acquire
107.9	Tea service, tray , 3-pieces, on doily	Fig. 27	Acquire tea service from private collection, or acquire reproductions based on original in private collection; acquire doily
107.10	Basket or bowl on west end of sideboard	Fig. 27 Fig. 28 Fig. 29	Acquire
107.11	Bowl , green and gold, Venetian glass, on east end of sideboard	Fig. 27	Acquire
107.12	Framed landscape , centered on wall above sideboard	Fig. 27	Acquire
107.13	Side chairs , 2, at east end of wall	Fig. 27	Use HH1999.004 (original)
East wall			
107.14	Framed item , on wall north of door to main stair hall	Fig. 27	Acquire
107.15	Armchair , south of entry to main stair hall	Fig. 30	Use HH 1999.003a (original)
107.16	Framed item , ²³³ south of door to main stair hall	Fig. 30	Acquire

232 The pattern of this wallcovering is similar to the pattern on the damask used on the library and living room walls, but it is not clear from the historic photographs if the dining room and alcove walls were covered with fabric or paper.

233 If this is Dutch interior it may be the "Dutch Interior" recorded in OW's checkbook, purchased in NYC from Franz Haufstaengl (545 Fifth Avenue) for \$30. Payment was dated February 28, 1917. It has a Rike-Kumler label on the back, likely for framing.

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION	
South wall				
107.17	Sconces , 2, 3-light	Fig. 28 Fig. 30	Acquire	
107.18	Curtains , blue, wood cornices and sheers on three windows	Fig. 28 Fig. 29 Fig. 30 Fig. 80	Acquire custom reproduction curtains based on KM 2008.006, .008, .010 (original); acquire cornices and sheers	
107.19	Radiator	Fig. 30	Acquire	
107.20	Linen press , along wall toward east end of room	Fig. 30	Use HH1999.042a (original)	101
107.21	Doily on east linen press	Fig. 30	Acquire	
107.22	Gong , Chinese, with mallet on east linen press	Fig. 30	Acquire from private collection, or acquire reproduction based on original in private collection	
107.23	Linen press , along wall toward west end of room	Fig. 28 Fig. 30	Use HH1999.042b (original)	
107.24	Doily on west linen press	Fig. 28 Fig. 29 Fig. 30	Acquire	
107.25	Jar , ginger, blue, with lid, dragon motifs, on west linen press	Fig. 28 Fig. 29 Fig. 30	Acquire from private collection, or acquire reproduction based on original in private collection	
107.26	Radiator	Fig. 28 Fig. 29 Fig. 30	Acquire	
West wall				
107.27	Menu card, framed , 1908 Thanksgiving dinner, signed and illustrated by Daniel Ridgway Knight, south of entry to alcove	Fig. 28 Fig. 29	Acquire from private collection, or acquire reproduction based on original in private collection	
107.28	Armchair , south of entry to alcove	Fig. 28 Fig. 29 Fig. 30	Use HH 1999.003b (original)	
107.29	Rug , between dining room and alcove	Fig. 28 Fig. 29	Acquire custom reproduction based on KM 2007.031 (original)	
107.30	Framed item , north of entry to alcove	Fig. 28 Fig. 29	Acquire	
107.31	Armchair , north of entry to alcove	Fig. 29 (not there in Fig. 28)	Use HH 1999.003a (original)	

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Center			
107.32	Table , dining room, no leaves, in center of room	Fig. 27 Fig. 28 Fig. 29 Fig. 30	Use HH1999.046 ²³⁴ (original)
107.33	Side chairs , 4, one on each side of table	Fig. 27 Fig. 28 Fig. 29 Fig. 30	Use HH1999.004a,b, e and f (originals)
107.34	Potted plant on doily in center of table	Fig. 27 Fig. 28 Fig. 29 Fig. 30	Acquire doily and artificial potted plant

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Alcove (108)

Finishes

Walls and ceiling: paint analysis needed—determine 1948 colors

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
108.1	Rug , centered in room	Fig. 29 Fig. 31	Acquire custom reproduction based on AC 2008.011 (original)
108.2	Walls, wall covering , foliate, diamond pattern	Fig. 31	Investigate for 1948 wall covering; if none found, acquire wall covering of a similar pattern; note that curtains and portieres in room were blue ²³⁵

North wall

108.3	Hanging item on wall west of door to pantry	Fig. 28	Acquire
108.4	Hanging item on wall east of door to pantry	Likely furnishing based on other 1948 photos of the house	Acquire

East wall

108.5	Sconce , on square column between alcove and dining room	Fig. 29 Fig. 31	Acquire
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South wall

108.6	Curtains, sheers and roller shade on window	Fig. 29 Fig. 31	Acquire custom reproduction curtains based on KM 2007.042 (originals); acquire sheers and roller shade
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²³⁴ In figure 27 the servant call button is visible attached to the west end of the dining room table.

²³⁵ The pattern of this wallcovering is similar to the pattern on the damask used on the library and living room walls, but it is not clear from the historic photographs if the dining room and alcove walls were covered with fabric or paper.

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
108.7	Plates and cups , demitasse, blue and gold, Minton; tea set , aqua with floral pattern; set of plates with early airplane scenes; plates , everyday, floral pattern, Royal Dalton; goblets , crystal; in leaded glass cupboards	Fig. 29 Fig. 31 Figs. 81–83 See notes in DAAV Historic Furnishings Report research files from conversations in 2007 with Wright family members. See Appendix to Historic Furnishings Study, part 1, pp. 68–71.	Acquire from private collection, or acquire reproductions, or equivalents, based on originals in private collection
108.8	Vase , green and gold, Venetian, ²³⁶ on built-in shelving east of window	Fig. 31	Acquire from private collection, or acquire reproduction based on original in private collection
108.9	Radiator with tea kettle on top, covered by wood grate	Fig. 31	Acquire tea pot
108.10	Vase , possibly cut glass, on built-in shelving west of window	Fig. 29 Fig. 31	Acquire
West wall			
108.11	Sconce , on wall south of porch doors	Fig. 29 Fig. 31	Acquire
108.12	Side chair , south of porch door	Fig. 29 Fig. 31	Use HH1999.004c (original)
108.13	Sheers , Shirred, and curtains , blue, with wood valance, flanking porch doors	Fig. 29 Fig. 31	Acquire custom reproduction curtains based on KM 2008.009 (originals); acquire sheers and valance
108.14	Side chair , north of porch door	Fig. 29	HH1999.004d
108.15	Hanging item on wall north of porch doors	Fig. 28	Acquire

Pantry (112)

Finishes

Walls and ceiling: paint analysis needed—determine 1948 colors

Cupboards: determine if painted or stained wood in 1948—refinish to 1948 appearance

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
112.1	Light fixture		Extant or acquire
112.2	Tiled floor	Fig. 32 Fig. 33	Determine if original is extant beneath current flooring. Restore or retile depending on condition.
North wall			
112.3	Milk bottle , on counter	Likely furnishing for room use	Acquire reproduction milk bottle, partially filled with milk

²³⁶ Orville and Wilbur gave Katharine this vase as a Christmas gift in 1899. See notes in DAAV Historic Furnishings report research files from December 2007 phone conversation with Wright family member.

East wall

112.4	Linens , stacked, as if to put away	Likely furnishing for room use	Acquire
112.5	Tray, plates, glasses, napkins , for 3, as if about to be taken out to set the table for lunch	Likely furnishing for room use	Acquire

West wall

112.6	Ice box in refrigerator nook	Fig. 4 Dietz, "Home of a Lonely Man"	Acquire
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Kitchen (111)*Finishes*

Walls and ceiling: paint analysis needed—determine 1948 colors

Cupboards: remove paint and refinish to 1948 appearance

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
111.1	Tiled floor	Fig. 32 Fig. 33	Determine if original is extant beneath current flooring. Restore or retile depending on condition.

North wall

111.2	Wall sconce, towel hook, and dish towel , north of windows	Fig. 32	Acquire
111.3	Shades , roller, white, with ring pulls, 3, on windows	Fig. 32	Acquire
111.4	Potted plant , on window sill	Fig. 32	Acquire artificial plant and pot
111.5	Stool , round, in front of windows	Fig. 32	Acquire
111.6	Chairs , side, 2, in front of window	Fig. 32	Acquire

East wall

111.7	Bread box and toast slicing guide on built-in counter	Fig. 33	Use toast slicing guide (original at Carillon), acquire bread box
111.8	Mason jars, 24 quarts , ready to receive corn once cooked	Canning corn	Acquire
111.9	Clock , on counter	Standard kitchen appliance	Acquire

South wall

111.10	Stove , Reliable brand, and stovepipe	Fig. 33	Acquire
111.11	Pot and lid, spoon , on stove	Cooking corn to can	Acquire

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
111.12	Stove board , beneath stove	Fig. 33	Acquire
West wall			
111.13	Shades , roller, white, with ring pulls, 2, on door and window above sink	Fig. 32	Acquire
111.14	Key on hook on door frame	Fig. 32	Use one of HH2008.014 a, b, c, or d (originals) and secure in place
111.15	Bell with 4 stations, on wall north of door	Fig. 32	Acquire
111.16	Sink	Fig. 32	Acquire
111.17	Bowl , with fruit , on south side of sink	Orville Wright snacked on fruit	Acquire
111.18	Dish with bar of soap at north end of sink		
111.19	Towel hanging rod and dish towel at north end of wall	Fig. 32	Acquire
Center			
111.20	Table , kitchen, painted white with stainless steel top	Fig. 32 Fig. 33	Use uncataloged original currently in basement
111.21	Knife, bowl of corn, ears of corn , on table	In process of canning corn	Acquire
111.22	Potted plant on table	Fig. 32 Fig. 33	Acquire artificial plant and pot

Servants' Dining Room (110)

Servants' spaces such as this dining room provided domestic workers an area in which they could rest and have some measure of privacy during their workday. Because there is no documentation for how this room appeared when the Wrights lived in the house, the furnishings recommendation here are based on comparative evidence from the time period.²³⁷

Finishes

Walls and ceiling: paint analysis needed—determine 1948 colors

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
110.1	Walls, papered	Likely furnishing for room use	Investigate for 1948 paper; if none found, acquire wallpaper; mid-range priced 1930s paper such as would have been used in a servants' space

²³⁷ Inventories and interviews from early 20th-century homes such as Theodore Roosevelt's Sagamore Hill and Thomas Edison's Glenmont provide comparative evidence from which to extrapolate the Hawthorn Hill servants' spaces. Wallace, *Historic Furnishings Report, Sagamore Hill*, 1989, and Herron, *Historic Furnishings Report, The House at Glenmont*, 1998.

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
110.2	Rug , Donegal style, filling room out to baseboards	Fig. 60; Standard furnishing	Acquire based on originals in collection
North wall			
110.3	Straight-backed armchair , east of window	MMH 5.11.10	Acquire
110.4	Table , side, east of armchair	Likely furnishing for room use	Acquire
110.5	Sewing tin and linen for mending on table	MMH 5.11.10	Acquire
East wall			
110.6	Calendar , 1940s, on wall above radio	MMH 5.11.10	Acquire
110.7	Servants' call buzzer panel , high on wall by door to back hall	MMH 5.11.10 Fig. 32	Acquire
South wall			
110.8	Armchair , upholstered in southeast corner	MMH 5.11.10	Acquire
110.9	Table , oak	Likely furnishing for room use	Acquire
110.10	Table runner and <i>Dayton Daily News</i> on table	Likely furnishing for room use	Acquire
West wall			
110.11	Table , square, oak, centered along west wall	MMH 5.11.10	Acquire
110.12	Table cloth on table	Likely furnishing for room use	Acquire
110.13	Chairs , side, oak, 2, at table	Likely furnishing for room use	Acquire

Library 105

Finishes

Molding and ceiling: paint analysis needed—determine 1948 colors

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
105.1	Chandelier , alabaster, in center of ceiling	Fig. 35 Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Use HH 2008.002 (original); needs cleaning
105.2	Wall covering , damask, with gimp trim	Fig. 34 Fig. 35 Fig. 36 Fig. 37 Fig. 38	Use original (extant in room)

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
105.3	Rug , centered in room	Fig. 34 Fig. 35 Fig. 36 Fig. 37 Fig. 38	Acquire custom reproduction based on HH 2008.005 (original)
North wall			
105.4	Curtains , brown-gold rep, on windows, 2, pair at each window, sheer curtains , 2, shades , 2	Fig. 34 Fig. 35 Fig. 38 shade hardware extant	Acquire custom reproduction curtains based on HH 2008.004 a-d (originals); acquire sheers and valance
105.5	Radiator cover , north west cover	Fig. 35	Acquire
105.6	Political cartoon , by C. R. Macauley, Wright flyer and ladder, "For him who ascended fame's ladder. . .," framed, between windows	Fig. 34 Fig. 35	Use HH1999.117 (reproduction)
105.7	Bookcase , centered between windows	Fig. 34 Fig. 35 Fig. 38	Acquire, possibly at Wright State University (WSU)
105.8	Encyclopedia Britannica , 11th edition, 29 vols., in bookshelf	Fig. 34 Fig. 35 Fig. 38	Acquire, possibly at WSU
105.9	Radio , RCA, ²³⁸ on bookshelf between windows	Fig. 34 Fig. 35 Fig. 38	Acquire
105.10	Table with shelf, drawers and reeded legs, north of armchair and in front of west window	Fig. 34 Fig. 35 Fig. 38 Fig. 39	Acquire
105.11	Lamp on table	Fig. 34 Fig. 35 Fig. 38 Fig. 39	Use HH 1999.100 (originals, on loan to Hawthorn Hill from private collection)
105.12	Eyeglasses on table	Fig. 34 Fig. 35 Fig. 38 Fig. 39	Use HH 1999.099 (original); needs conservation
105.13	Magnifying glass on table	Fig. 34 Fig. 35 Fig. 38 Fig. 39	Acquire
105.14	Scissors on table	Fig. 34 Fig. 35 Fig. 38 Fig. 39	Acquire
105.15	Pencil and letter opener on table	Fig. 34 Fig. 35 Fig. 38 Fig. 39	Acquire

238 Appears to be RCA model 66X11 (1947) in brown Bakelite.

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
105.16	Portfolio or scrapbook , embossed "Orville Wright," and papers ("National Log")	Fig. 54 Fig. 35 Fig. 38 Fig. 39	Acquire, possibly at WSU
East wall			
105.17	Political cartoon , by C. R. Macaulay, Wright flyer being pulled by "Science," framed, between window and door to living room	Fig. 34 Fig. 38	Use HH1999.116 (reproduction)
105.18	Thermostat and wire , on wall just north of entrance to living room	Fig. 34 Fig. 38	Acquire
105.19	Rug , between library and living room	Fig. 34 Fig. 41	Acquire custom reproduction based on AC 2008.004 ²³⁹ (original)
105.20	Armchair , with book holder, north of door to living room	Fig. 34 Fig. 35 Fig. 38	Use HH 1999.097a (chair) and c (book holder) (originals, on loan to Hawthorn Hill from private collection)
105.21	"Realm of Flight" on book holder	Fig. 34 Fig. 35 Fig. 38	Acquire
105.22	Stool , floral upholstery, in front of armchair	Fig. 34 Fig. 35 Fig. 38	Use HH 1999.097b (original, on loan to Hawthorn Hill from private collection)
105.23	Antimacassar , on back of armchair	Fig. 34 Fig. 35 Fig. 38	Use HH 2008. 010 (original)
105.24	Pillow , needlepoint, on armchair	Fig. 34 Fig. 35 Fig. 38	Use HH1999.098 (original)
105.25	Portieres , brown-gold rep, between library and living room	Fig. 40 Fig. 41	Acquire custom reproduction curtains based on HH 2008.004 a-d (original matching curtains)
105.26	Framed photograph , vertical orientation, with inscription in upper left corner, on bookshelf, south of door to living room	Fig. 36	Acquire
105.27	Framed photograph of a man looking to the left, vertical orientation, with inscription in upper left corner on bookshelf, south of door to living room	Fig. 36	Acquire
105.28	Vase , art pottery, on bookshelf, south of door to living room	Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Acquire, possibly Rookwood
105.29	Bust , ceramic, on bookshelf, south of door to living room	Fig. 36	Acquire

239 This rug retains its original label: "The DONEGAL Hand tufted carpet; corporate logo (AMS AND Co.)" This logo is for Alexander Morton and Son, who founded Donegal Carpets in 1898 in Killybegs County, Donegal, Ireland. See <http://www.donegalcarpets.eu/history.php>, accessed 4/27/10.

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
105.30	Vase , art pottery, on bookshelf, south of door to living room	Fig. 36	Acquire
105.31	Framed item , possibly of two people standing next to each other, in southeast corner on bookshelf	Fig. 36	Acquire
South wall			
105.32	Cartoon, framed , "The Triumph of Wilbur Wright," by John T. McCutcheon, on bookshelf at east end, leaning against wall	Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Use HH1999.111 (reproduction)
105.33	Photograph , Wilbur Wright, framed, on bookshelf, leaning against wall	Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Acquire from private collection, or acquire reproduction based on original in private collection
105.34	Vase , art pottery, on bookshelf	Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Acquire
105.35	Photograph of Jack Miller by Jane Reece in swinging easel frame, on bookshelf	Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Acquire photograph (WSU (MS-151)) and frame
105.36	Ledger and <i>The Times' Gazetteer of the World</i> , on floor, leaning against bookshelf	Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Use HH 1999.386 (original <i>Gazetteer</i>) and acquire ledger
105.37	Cartoon , framed, "Water, Land, Air," on bookshelf, leaning against wall	Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Use HH1999.112 (reproduction)
105.38	Statue , "Lone Scout," centered on top of bookshelf	Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Use HH 1999.124 (original)
105.39	Photograph , St. Bernard, Scipio, on back porch, on bookshelf, leaning against wall	Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Use HH 1999.119 (original frame), acquire
105.40	Photograph , Ivonette Wright Miller and Jack, on bookshelf, leaning against wall	Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Acquire from private collection, or acquire reproduction based on original in private collection
105.41	Cartoon , 3 horizontal bands, on bookshelf, west end, possibly by John T. McCutcheon	Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Use HH1999.115 (reproduction)
105.42	Bust , possibly Cicero, on southwest corner on bookshelf	Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Acquire
105.43	Armchair , on southeast portion of rug	Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Acquire from private collection, or acquire reproduction based on original in private collection; reupholster
105.44	Armchair , on southwest portion of rug	Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Acquire from private collection, or acquire reproduction based on original in private collection; reupholster

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
West wall			
105.45	Photograph , portrait of Ellwyn Wright Steeper	Fig. 37	Acquire
105.46	Clock , mantle/shelf on bookshelf	Fig. 37	Use HH 1999.123 (original)
105.47	Photograph , young girl, vertical orientation	Fig. 16 Fig. 37	Acquire ²⁴⁰
105.48	Globe , on bookshelf	Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Use HH 1999.122 (original)
110 105.49	Box on north end of bookshelf	Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Acquire
105.50	Sofa	Fig. 35	Use HH 1999.102 (original)
105.51	Afghan on south arm of sofa	Fig. 35	Acquire
105.52	Cartoon , "Fort Myer," by C. R. Macauley, framed, above sofa	Fig. 17 Fig. 35	Use HH1999.118 (reproduction)
105.53	Cartoon , "Kout!", by C. D. Bolles, 1912, framed, on wall by window	Fig. 17 Fig. 35	Use HH1999.125 (reproduction)
Center			
105.54	Table , writing, Berkey & Gay, center of room	Fig. 35 Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Use HH 1999.095 (original)
105.55	Scarf , linen, on table	Fig. 35 Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Acquire
105.56	Lamp , dual light with green shades and cord up to chandelier above, on table	Fig. 35 Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Use HH 2008.003 (original)
105.57	"Sperryscope" journal and "Elements of American Air Power" journal , on table	Fig. 35 Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Acquire
105.58	Pen and pen stand , triangular base, on table	Fig. 35 Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Acquire
105.59	Pencil, letter opener and scissors , on table	Fig. 35 Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Acquire letter opener from private collection, or acquire similar one based on original in private collection; acquire pencil and scissors
105.60	Papers ("WIN[TORY]" and small sheet of possibly writing paper) on table	Fig. 35 Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Acquire
105.61	Chair , side, at table on north side	Fig. 35 Fig. 36 Fig. 37	Use HH 1999.096 (original)

240 This may be one of the pair of portraits mentioned in Dietz, Home of a Lonely Man, *Dayton Daily News*, November 14, 1948. "Photographs of Monsieur and Madame de Lambert—he had been one of Wilbur's French pupils—stood on top of the book shelves, beside framed drawings and cartoons."

Living Room (106)

Finishes

Molding and ceiling: paint analysis needed—determine 1948 colors

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
106.1	Rug , centered in room, fitted around hearth tiles	Fig. 40 Fig. 41 Fig. 42	Acquire reproduction based on colors and design of AC 2008.004 (identical)
106.2	Chandeliers , 2, alabaster	Fig. 40 Fig. 41	Acquire ²⁴¹ (similar to HH 2008.002)
106.3	Walls, damask fabric , with gimp trim	Fig. 40 Fig. 41 Fig. 42	Acquire custom reproduction wall covering and trim based on extant in library
North wall			
106.4	Sconces , 2-light, with shades, flanking windows	Fig. 40 Fig. 41	Acquire
106.5	Curtains , sheer, on windows	Fig. 40 Fig. 41	Acquire
106.6	Shades , 3, on windows	Fig. 40 Fig. 41	Acquire
106.7	Valence , wood molding, above windows	Fig. 40 Fig. 41	Acquire
106.8	Curtains , brown-gold rep, flanking windows	Fig. 40 Fig. 41	Acquire custom reproductions based on KM 2008.012 and HH 2008.004a-d
106.9	Radiator cover	Fig. 40	Acquire
106.10	Victrola/radio in northwest corner	Fig. 40 Fig. 41	KM 2007.012
106.11	Lamp , “Amelia Earhart,” on victrola/radio in northwest corner	Fig. 40 Fig. 41	Acquire from private collection, or acquire reproduction based on original in private collection
106.12	Table in northeast corner	Fig. 40 Fig. 41	Acquire
106.13	Lamp , blue Wedgewood base, on table in northeast corner	Fig. 40 Fig. 41	KM 2007.016 (original)
106.14	Framed photo in upright easel frame on table in northeast corner	Fig. 40	Acquire (frame appears identical to HH 1999.106)
106.15	Sofa , large, with floral upholstery	Fig. 40 Fig. 41 Melba Hunt ca. 1972: fabric on library stool matched fabric on living room sofa and chair	Acquire; fabric should match that on armchair and may be a custom reproduction if fabric is extant under surface fabric on library stool
106.16	Pillows , 4, (2 pairs) on sofa	Fig. 40 Fig. 41	Acquire (taffeta pillows currently in library may be originals)

²⁴¹ Hawthorn Hill curatorial files, DAAV.

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
106.17	Armchair , upholstered, southwest side of sofa	Fig. 40 Fig. 41	Use KM 2007.009 (original)
106.18	Armchair , upholstered, southeast of sofa	Fig. 40 Fig. 41	Use KM 2007.008 (original)
East wall			
106.19	Sconces , 2-light, with shades, flanking fireplace	Fig. 40 Fig. 42	Acquire
106.20	Painting , oil, "Wright flyer," gilded frame, on wall at north end of room, above table in corner	Fig. 40	Use HH1999.121 (original)
106.21	Sheer curtains , shirred, on both sets of doors to porch	Fig. 40 Fig. 42	Acquire
106.22	Valence , wood molding, above doorways to porch	Fig. 40 Fig. 42	Acquire
106.23	Curtains , brown-gold rep, flanking doors to porch	Fig. 40 Fig. 42	KM 2008.012 (single panel)
106.24	Armchair , north of fireplace, between porch door and fireplace	Fig. 40 Fig. 41 Fig. 42	Acquire
106.25	Footstool , small, needlepoint top, in front of chair	Fig. 40 Fig. 41 Fig. 42	Acquire from private collection, or acquire reproduction based on original in private collection
106.26	Tapestry , set into woodwork above mantel	Fig. 40 Fig. 41 Fig. 42	Acquire
106.27	Candlesticks , pair, at either side of mantel, candles	Fig. 40 Fig. 41 Fig. 42	Use DAAV 800a, b (originals)
106.28	Framed items , vertical orientation, 2, leaning on mantel	Fig. 40 Fig. 41 Fig. 42	Acquire
106.29	Cloisonné vase , elephant, and small urn , on mantel	Fig. 40 Fig. 41 Fig. 42	Acquire vase from private collection, or acquire reproduction based on original in private collection; acquire urn
106.30	Fire screen , in front of fireplace	Fig. 40 Fig. 41 Fig. 42	Use HH2008.009 (original)
106.31	Andirons	Fig. 42	Use HH2008.011 a+b (originals)
106.32	Armchair , fully upholstered, floral, south of fireplace	Fig. 40 Fig. 41 Fig. 42 Melba Hunt ca. 1972: fabric on library stool matched fabric on living room sofa and chair	Acquire; fabric should match that on sofa and may be a custom reproduction if fabric is extant under surface fabric on library stool

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
106.33	Antimacassar , on armchair south of fireplace	Fig. 40 Fig. 41 Fig. 42	Use uncataloged original currently in library
106.34	Footstool , along wall south of fireplace, between fireplace and porch doors	Fig. 42	Use KM 2007.010 (original)
106.35	Side or armchair , Chippendale style, along wall south of fireplace, south of porch doors	Fig. 42	Acquire
106.36	Framed copy of painting of Dutch children at hearth , on wall at south end of room	Fig. 42	Use KM 2007.034 ²⁴² (original)
106.37	Pedestal table , in southeast corner	Fig. 42	Use HH 1999.023 ²⁴³ (original)
106.38	Figure (bronze) on pedestal table in corner	Fig. 42	Use HH 1999.021 (original, location not known in 2010) or acquire
South wall			
106.39	Sconces , 2-light, with shades , flanking window	Fig. 42	Acquire
106.40	Radiator cover	Fig. 42	Acquire
106.41	Sheers , on picture window	Fig. 42	Acquire
106.42	Shades , 3, on windows	Fig. 42	Acquire
106.43	Valence , wood molding, above picture window	Fig. 42	Acquire
106.44	Curtains , rep, pair, flanking windows	Fig. 42	Acquire custom reproduction curtains based on KM 2008.012 and HH 2008.004 a-d (originals)
106.45	Table , library, with arches, in front of window	Fig. 40 Fig. 42	Acquire from private collection, or acquire reproduction based on original in private collection
106.46	Table runner , blue velvet, on library table	Fig. 40 Fig. 42	Use KM 2007.029 (original)
106.47	Framed photo in upright, swinging, easel frame on library table	Fig. 42	Use HH 1999.106 (original)
106.48	Lamp , appears dark, urn-based, on library table	Fig. 42	Acquire
106.49	Framed photo , of a man or boy, in easel frame on library table	Fig. 42	Acquire
106.50	Box , Spanish, carved stone or ceramic, on library table	Fig. 40 Fig. 42	Use KM 2008.016 (original)

242 This may be the "Dutch Interior" recorded in OW's checkbook, purchased in NYC from Franz Haufstaengl (545 Fifth Avenue) for \$30. Payment was dated February 28, 1917. It has a Rike-Kumler label on the back, likely for framing.

243 Retains two C. S. Paine, Co. Ltd. (Grand Rapids) labels.

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
106.51	Armchair , arm, upholstered, in southwest corner	Fig. 42	Use HH 1999.094 (original)
106.52	Table , side, carved, oriental style, in southwest corner	Fig. 42	Acquire from private collection, or acquire reproduction based on original in private collection
West wall			
106.53	Painting , at south end of room	Fig. 42	Acquire
106.54	Sconces , 3-light, with shades, on interior wall	Fig. 40 Fig. 41 Fig. 42	Acquire
106.55	Rug , between reception hall and living room	Fig. 42	Acquire custom reproduction based on AC 2008.004 (original in library of similar design and colors)
106.56	Portieres , rep, between reception hall and living room	Fig. 26 Fig. 42	Acquire custom reproductions based on KM 2008.012 and HH 2008.004 a-d (original curtains of same fabric)
106.57	Armchair , Chippendale style, with upholstered back, ²⁴⁴ in front of armchair against wall	Fig. 40 Fig. 41 Fig. 42	Acquire from private collection, or acquire reproduction based on original in private collection
106.58	Armchair , Chippendale style, south of table along wall	Fig. 40 Fig. 41 Fig. 42	Use HH 1999.071 (original); 1948 fabric matched that currently on HH 1999.070
106.59	Table , centered on wall between doorways to reception hall and library	Fig. 40 Fig. 42	Use HH 1999.072 (original)
106.60	Table runner , on table between doorways	Fig. 40 Fig. 42	Use KM 2007.041 (possibly original)
106.61	Lamp , ceramic vase base, cream with black decoration, on table between doorways	Fig. 40 Fig. 41 Fig. 42	Use KM 2007.018 (original lamp); acquire shade
106.62	Elephants , bronze, pair, sculpture on table between doorways	Fig. 40 Fig. 41 Fig. 42	Acquire from private collection, or acquire reproduction based on original in private collection
106.63	Photograph in easel frame on table between doorways	Fig. 41	Acquire
106.64	Reproduction of "Reading Woman," by Pieter Janssens Elinga, hanging above table between doorways	Fig. 40 Fig. 41	Acquire ²⁴⁵

244 Current upholstery is needlepoint done by Ivonette Wright Miller.

245 Original currently in the Alte Pinakothek, Munich, Germany.

106.65	Armchair , Chippendale style, north of table along wall	Fig. 40 Fig. 41	Use HH 1999.070 ²⁴⁶ (original); reupholster with fabric identical to that on HH 1999.071
106.66	Painting or print with mat , at north end of room	Fig. 40 Fig. 41	Acquire

Reception Hall (104)

Finishes

Walls and ceiling: paint analysis needed—determine 1948 colors

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
104.1	Ceiling fixture	Fig. 26 Fig. 43 Fig. 44	Use extant (original, uncataloged) in room
104.2	Rug , center of room	Fig. 26 Fig. 43 Fig. 44	Acquire custom reproduction based on AC 2008.004 (original in library of same design and colors)
104.3	Walls, flocked paper , straw-colored flocking; floral pattern	Fig. 43 Fig. 44 Fig. 45 (close-up view)	Wallpaper fragment located—further investigation needed. ²⁴⁷ If full repeat, or substantial part of full pattern found, then acquire custom reproduction wallpaper. If no more evidence found, acquire stock reproduction paper of similar colors, texture, and pattern.

North wall

104.4	Sofa , on angle in NW corner	Fig. 26 Fig. 43	Acquire
104.5	Pillow on sofa, possibly velvet with round inset of floral upholstery fabric that matches upholstery on chairs in room	Fig. 43	Acquire
104.6	Stool , carved, east of sofa	Fig. 43	Acquire from private collection, or acquire reproduction based on original in private collection
104.7	"Muse of Flight," bronze sculpture in niche	Fig. 43 Fig. 45	Original on loan from Dayton Art Institute
104.8	Table , round, in northeast corner	Fig. 43	Acquire ²⁴⁸
104.9	Table scarf , on round table	Fig. 43	Acquire

²⁴⁶ Refinished in 1989 by Swigart Refinishing Company. Retains 20th-century label:

"No. G72-1/4

COMPOSITION

CHIPPENDALE

THE DETAIL, DIMENSION AND PROPORTIONS OF THIS CHAIR ARE DISTINCTIVELY CHIPPENDALE. EXPENSIVE CHAIRS OF THIS CHARACTER WERE USED ENTIRELY BY THE NOBILITY ABOUT THE YEAR 1760."

²⁴⁷ Same paper as in reception hall and upstairs main stair hall. Yocum, *Wallcoverings Investigation*, 2008, located a small portion of this paper: "light/straw-color flocking is applied to a plain ground mottled with black and orange/red pigments."

²⁴⁸ This table was extant in the Hawthorn Hill attic in 1976; it was photo W-008 in the George Reid appraisal and inventory.

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
104.10	Lamp , glass column with shade with Greek key gimp, on round table	Fig. 43	Use KM 2007.017a+b (original); needs repair work
104.11	Magazine or portfolio , on round table	Fig. 43	Acquire
East wall			
104.12	Small framed item , on wall at north end of room; appears to be of a small building perhaps on a dock	Fig. 43	Acquire
104.13	Sconce , 2-candle, with shades, north of door to living room	Fig. 43	Acquire
104.14	Sconce , 2-candle, south of door to living room	likely due to symmetry with Fig. 43	Acquire
104.15	Armchair , upholstered, south of doorway to living room on east wall	Fig. 26 Fig. 44	Acquire
South wall			
104.16	Window treatments, 2, on south wall; wood valences ; folding shutters ; curtains , rep	Fig. 44	Acquire custom reproduction curtains based on KM 2008.012 and HH 2008.004 a-d (original curtains of same fabric); acquire valences and shutters
104.17	Armchair , upholstered, between windows	Fig. 44	Acquire
104.18	Framed print , scene in Rouen, between windows	Fig. 44 KW to HH, March 7, 1924 describes the mat and frame	Acquire
104.19	Radiator , covered by wood grate, below west window	Fig. 44	Acquire
West wall			
104.20	Framed portrait , ²⁴⁹ oval, at south end of wall	Fig. 26 Fig. 44	Acquire
104.21	Chair , side along wall south of door to main stair hall	Fig. 26 Fig. 44	Acquire
104.22	Etching , "Wilbur Wright monument, LeMans" signed and framed, on west wall, north end	Fig. 26 Label "Reception hall"	Use KM 2007.044 ²⁵⁰ (original)

249 Marianne Miller Hudec recalls having been told this was a portrait of an early family member. Marianne Miller Hudec to Sarah Heald, 5/11/10 email. This would be consistent with hanging it in the reception hall, since it appears to be an early (late 18th to early 19th century) portrait that the family would have been proud to display with their other fine art and furnishings in the room.

250 Inscribed: "to Katharine Wright from Caroline Armington."

Katharine Wright's Bedroom, #2 (202)

Finishes

Walls and ceiling: paint analysis needed—determine 1948 colors

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
202.1	Ceiling fixture	see Fig. 48 (Orville's bedroom)	Acquire
202.2	Rug	Fig. 46 Fig. 47	Acquire
202.3	Walls, wallpaper , yellow, floral with narrow geometric border	Fig. 47 KW to HH WHMC, nd#19 [November 1926]	Further wallpaper investigation needed. If full repeat, or substantial part of full patterns found, then acquire custom reproduction wallpaper and/or border. If no more evidence found, acquire stock reproduction paper and trim of similar colors and pattern.
North wall			
202.4	Framed photo of Washington monument , west side of door	Fig. 47	Use KM 2007.020 (original)
202.5	Chest or hassock , upholstered, along wall west of door	Fig. 47	Acquire
East wall			
202.6	Chair , side, rocking, caned, in northeast corner	Fig. 47 (reflected in mirror)	Use AC 2007.006 (original); needs recaning
202.7	Framed photograph of Wright brothers at foot of stairway in garden at LeMans factory of Leon Bollee, on wall north of bed	Oral tradition from Carrie Grumbach per MMH	Acquire from private collection, or acquire reproduction based on original in private collection ²⁵¹
202.8	Call button , just north of bed	Fig. 46	Acquire white button
202.9	Bed , twin, B&G centered along east wall	Fig. 46 Fig. 47	Use AC2007.009a and b or AC 2007.010 a and b (original beds; identical in blue bedroom (207))
202.10	White coverlet on bed	Fig. 46 Fig. 47	Acquire
202.11	Pillow and white pillowcase on bed	Fig. 46	Acquire

251 The original is inscribed "to Mlle. Wright January 9, 1909."

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
202.12	Bedside table with one drawer, south of bed	Fig. 46	Use HH 1999.101
202.13	Lamp , oriental lacquer base, on table	Fig. 46	KM 2007.023
202.14	Table scarf	Fig. 46	Acquire
202.15	Framed reproduction of "Dance of Apollo with the Nine Muses," by Baldassare Peruzzi above table	Fig. 46	Acquire
118 202.16	Wicker chair with floral cushions, in southeast corner	Fig. 46 Fig. 47	Acquire
South wall			
202.17	Framed photograph of men pulling up catapult , Pau, France, east side of windows	Fig. 46	Acquire from private collection, or acquire reproduction based on original in private collection ²⁵²
202.18	Window treatments- sheers , shirred on Palladian window	Fig. 46	Acquire
202.19	Desk , just north and off-center of windows	Fig. 46 Fig. 47	Use AC 2007.001 (need to replace later pulls) or KM 2007.001 (original, identical to that in blue bedroom (213))
202.20	Side chair at desk	Fig. 46 Fig. 47	Use AC 2007.005 or KM 2007.005 (original, identical to that in blue bedroom (207))
202.21	Buddha , jade, on doily on east drawer of desk	Fig. 46 Fig. 47	Acquire from private collection, or acquire reproduction based on original in private collection
202.22	Doily , on east drawer of desk	Fig. 46 Fig. 47	Acquire
202.23	Blotter on desk	Fig. 46 Fig. 47	Acquire
202.24	Stationery and stack of envelopes on blotter	Fig. 46 Fig. 47	Acquire
202.25	Inkwell , pen and desk tray on desk	Fig. 47 Fig. 46	Acquire
202.26	Photograph or post card of First Church, Oberlin, OH , on desk, leaning against caning	Fig. 46 Fig. 47	Acquire
202.27	2 other cards on desk, leaning against caning; one vertical, possibly a photograph of Lorin Wright and his children, the other possibly a printed verse	Fig. 46 Fig. 47	Acquire
202.28	Doily , on west drawer of desk	Fig. 46 Fig. 47	Acquire

²⁵² The original is inscribed "to my dear friend, 27 October 1917."

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
202.29	Cylindrical vase , "deep blue with gold trim," on west drawer of desk	Fig. 47 Phone conversation MMH and SHH, December 2007	Acquire
202.30	Radiator , west end of wall	Fig. 47	Extant (remove cover)
202.31	Framed print , above radiator	Label on back: "BR2"	Use KM 2007.049 (original to room 202)
West wall			
202.32	Sconces , pair, with white shades	Fig. 47	Acquire
202.33	Wastebasket , wicker	Fig. 47	Acquire
202.34	Chest of drawers with attached mirror , between doors	Fig. 47	HH 1999.090
202.35	Dresser scarf on chest	Fig. 47	Acquire
202.36	Replica, medieval carved Bible cover , leaning against mirror at south end	Fig. 47	Acquire from private collection, or acquire reproduction based on original in private collection
202.37	Candy dish , glass, round with lid, on dresser	Fig. 47	Acquire
202.38	Box on dresser near center	Fig. 47	Acquire
202.39	Photo of Orville Wright in easel frame at north end of dresser	Fig. 47	Acquire
202.40	Framed portrait , Wilbur Wright?, on wall north of chest, under and to south of scone	Fig. 47	Acquire ²⁵³

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Orville Wright's Bathroom (213)

Finishes

Walls and ceiling: paint analysis needed—determine 1948 colors

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
North wall			
213.1	Shower curtain , turquoise, at step to needle-bath shower	Dietz article; Justus brochure	Acquire
South wall			
213.2	Roller shades , 2, white, and window treatments , 2 pair	Standard furnishings for bathroom	Acquire
213.3	Back belt , on window sill, east of sink	November 13, 1923, OW to GB, <i>Letters of the Wright Brothers</i>	Acquire
213.4	Cold cream jars , on window sill, west of sink	Dietz article; Justus brochure	Acquire

253 This photograph was in the Hawthorn Hill attic in 1976 and is shown in photograph W-036 in the George Reid inventory.

213.5	Soap, tumbler, toothbrush , at sink	Standard furnishings for bathroom	Acquire
213.6	Hand towel , at sink	Standard furnishing for bathroom	Acquire
213.7	Rug , at sink	Fig. 65 Fig. 74	Acquire

Orville Wright's Bedroom, #3 (212)

Finishes

Walls and ceiling: paint analysis needed—determine 1948 colors

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HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
212.1	Ceiling fixture , 3-4 exposed bulbs	Fig. 48 Fig. 51	Acquire
212.2	Rug , border with open field	Fig. 48 Fig. 49 Fig. 50 Fig. 51	Use KM 2007.032 (original); visitors should not walk on rug
212.3	Walls, wallpaper , floral stripes, vertical drop pattern	Fig. 48 Fig. 49 Fig. 50 Fig. 51	Further wallpaper investigation needed. If full repeat or substantial part of full pattern is found, then acquire custom reproduction wallpaper. If no more evidence found, acquire stock reproduction paper of similar pattern.
North wall			
212.4	Table , between door and bed	Fig. 49 Fig. 50 Fig. 51	Acquire
212.5	Table runner on bedside table	Fig. 49 Fig. 50 Fig. 51	Acquire
212.6	Lamp with metal shade	Fig. 49 Fig. 50 Fig. 51	Acquire
212.7	Framed photo of "Coliseum" on wall on east side of bed	Fig. 49 Fig. 50 Fig. 51 "BR3" label	Use KM 2007.047 ²⁵⁴ (original) rehouse in acid-free environment
212.8	Bed , double, headboard against north wall	Fig. 48 Fig. 50 Fig. 51	Use KM 2007.015 (original); treatment needed for mold on footboard
212.9	White coverlet on bed	Fig. 48 Fig. 50 Fig. 51	Acquire
212.10	Pillows , 2, with white pillow cases , on bed	Fig. 50 Fig. 51	Acquire
212.11	Call button to east of bed	Fig. 49 Fig. 50 Fig. 51	Acquire white button

254 Kettering Moraine tag notes: "gift to KM from Ivonette Wright Miller—Orville brought this home from Rome."

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
212.12	Framed photo, "Appian Way," on north wall, west of bed	Fig. 49 Fig. 50 "BR3" label	Use KM 2007.046 (original); rehouse in acid-free environment
East wall			
212.13	Sconce , south of closet door	Fig. 50 Fig. 51	Acquire
212.14	Chest of drawers with mirror	Fig. 51	Use KM 2007.013 (originals); rear left leg needs to be reat- tached—in top drawer in 2007
South wall			
212.15	Window treatments: sheers , 2, shirred at top, with white or off- white roller shades	Fig. 48	Acquire
212.16	Desk , between windows	Fig. 48	Acquire
212.17	Table runner or light-colored blotter on desk	Fig. 48	Acquire
212.18	Small book (address book?) on desk	Fig. 48	Acquire
212.19	Framed print of tree-lined street , on desk in center	Fig. 48 "BR3" label	Use AC 2007.020 (original); rehouse in acid-free environment
212.20	Metal oil lamps , ornamental, on both drawers of desk	Fig. 48	Acquire
212.21	Chair , at desk	Fig. 48	Use KM 2008.001 (original)
212.22	Wastebasket , west of desk	Fig. 48	Acquire
212.23	Painting , oil, "First Flight," between windows	Fig. 48 "BR3" label	Use HH 2007.010 (original)
212.24	Small, framed item on wall at west side	Fig. 48	Acquire
212.25	Armchair , fully upholstered with wide stripes, in southwest corner	Fig. 48	Acquire
West wall			
212.26	Framed photo of auto trip reunion at Engineer's Club , ²⁵⁵ south of window	Fig. 48 KW to VS, January 5, 1920	Use AC 2007.018 (original); rehouse in acid-free environment

255 KW to VS, January 5, 1920, Dartmouth Stef MSS:196(5): 1920—Wright, Katharine. The context for this photograph is documented in Katharine Wright's letters. "The reunion which I thought was on the schedule for Thanksgiving Eve [Steffanson had been in Dayton at Thanksgiving time] is coming off on the 17th which is the Saturday after your lecture here.

The reunion 'bunch' will consist of Col. Deeds, and his son Charles, Col. Walden, Lieut. Emmons (Navy) and Col. George all of Detroit, Col. Davis of New York, Gordon Reutschler of Hamilton, Ohio and Orville, who made the actual party in the Western Automobile Tour last summer. Besides, Col. Deeds is asking Henry Ford, who was to have been in the party but had to stay home on account of his lawsuit with the Chicago Tribune and several other people—among who is yourself.

The dinner is to be in the basement of the Engineers Club where some ranch that was visited last summer is to be reproduced and everyone is going to wear old clothes, such as they wore on the tour. I *know* it will be a genuinely interesting affair."

KWH to VS, July 16, 1919, Dartmouth Stef MSS:196(4):1919—Wright, Katharine. While Orville was on the trip that summer Katharine had written: "Orville is probably on the Pacific coast tonight. He is on a motor tour with Mr. Deeds + nine or ten other men. He has been gone eleven days so far."

212.27	Window treatment— sheers , shirred at top, with white or off-white roller shade	Fig. 48 Fig. 49	Acquire
212.28	Air conditioner , General Electric, in window above radiator	Fig. 48 Fig. 49 OW checkbooks 1939–47, a GE air unit is noted in 1942 but is not the most recent one purchased	Acquire
212.29	Framed photo of St. Bernard , “Scipio,” with dark mat	Fig. 49	Acquire

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Grumbachs’ Living Room (Servants’ Bedroom #1) (215)

Grandniece Marianne M. Hudec recalls that the Grumbachs used the room closest to the entrance door of the servants’ quarters as their living room and the smaller, back room as their bedroom.²⁵⁶

While servant’s living spaces were typically furnished far more basically than the rooms of their employers,²⁵⁷ in the case of Carrie and Charley Grumbach, it is presumed they had slightly nicer furnishings provided for them. They owned their own home in Dayton and appear to have been living at Hawthorn Hill as something of a favor to Orville, who they called Mr. Orville,²⁵⁸ and the Wright family. Orville had provided for them substantially in many ways throughout Carrie’s tenure with the family, so it is reasonable to assume he did the same when they moved in with him at Hawthorn Hill in 1926.

Marianne Hudec recalls the Grumbachs as “simple folks. . . . I doubt if either went very far in school. She sewed . . . she would have mended things around the house. . . . I think she read the newspaper. . . . I only went into their area once or twice. I can just remember dark furniture.”²⁵⁹

The furnishings recommended here and in the bedroom thus reflect more comfortable spaces than might have been found in neighboring Oakwood servants’ quarters. They also include some pieces that were in the attic after 1949, including a dark oak, Mission-style chest of drawers with mirror. These furnishings do not appear in any of the 1948 photographs of the interior, so they may well have been in use in the servants’ spaces at that time.

The wall configuration in the room today is different than that in the 1912 plans for Hawthorn Hill. There are no closets or a south wall to the room.

Finishes

Walls and ceiling: paint analysis needed—determine 1948 colors

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
215.1	Rug , Donegal style, filling room out to baseboards	Fig. 67; Standard furnishing	Acquire based on originals in collection

²⁵⁶ Marianne Hudec to Sarah Heald, email May 11, 2010.

²⁵⁷ Edison National Historic Site, U.S. Department of the Interior, NPS, 1998.

²⁵⁸ Marianne Hudec to Sarah Heald, email July 9, 2010.

²⁵⁹ Ibid.

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
215.2	Walls, wallpapered	All other rooms had wallpaper in 1948	Further wallpaper investigation needed. If full repeat or substantial part of full pattern is found, then acquire custom reproduction wallpaper. If no additional evidence found, acquire stock reproduction 1930s paper
North wall			
215.3	Sheer curtains , white roller shades , curtains , 2 windows	Standard furnishings	Acquire
215.4	Armchair , upholstered, in front of window in northwest corner of room	Standard furnishing	Acquire
215.5	Table , between windows	Standard furnishing	Acquire
215.6	Radio , on table between windows	Standard furnishing	Acquire
215.7	Framed print , on wall above radio	Standard furnishing	Use one of the framed items from Figures 85–87 or acquire
215.8	Armchair , rocking, straight-backed, Mission style, in front of window in southeast corner of room	MMH to SHH email 7/9/10, refers to “dark furniture” and “straight-backed chair”	Acquire
East wall			
215.9	Table , between armchair and couch	Standard furnishing	Acquire
215.10	Lamp , sewing tin , folded clothing item for mending, on table	Standard furnishings	Acquire
215.11	Upholstered couch , Mission style, centered along east wall	Standard furnishing	Acquire
215.12	Framed “The Dream of Ages,” above couch	Standard furnishing	Use W-054 (original to house)
215.13	Lamp , standing, south of couch	Standard furnishing	Acquire
215.14	Table , rectangular, Mission style, at south end of wall	Standard furnishing	Acquire
215.15	Table runner , easel frames with family photographs, 3, on table	Standard furnishing	Acquire
West wall			
215.16	Chest of drawers , Mission style, with mirror	Grumbachs’ bedroom was too small for two chests of drawers	Use W-003 (original house furnishing from attic)
215.17	Dresser scarf , on chest of drawers	Standard furnishing for bedroom	Acquire
215.18	Hair brush , comb , box , on chest of drawers	Standard furnishings for bedroom	Acquire

215.19	Easel frames with family photographs , 2, on chest of drawers	Standard furnishings for bedroom	Acquire
215.20	Wastebasket , north of chest	Standard furnishing	Acquire
215.21	End table , Mission style, next to armchair in corner	Standard furnishing	Acquire
215.22	Dayton Daily News and lamp , on end table	Standard furnishing for bedroom	Acquire

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Grumbachs' Bedroom (Servants' Bedroom #2) (216)

See Grumbachs' living room (215) for context for this room's recommended furnishings.

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
216.1	Rug , Donegal style, filling room out to baseboards	Fig. 67; Standard furnishing	Acquire based on originals in collection
216.2	Walls, wallpapered	All other bedrooms had wallpaper in 1948	Further wallpaper investigation needed. If full repeat or substantial part of full pattern is found, then acquire custom reproduction wallpaper. If no evidence found, acquire stock reproduction 1930s paper.
North wall			
216.3	Sheer curtains , white roller shade , curtains, on window	Standard furnishings for bedroom	Acquire
East wall			
216.4	Armchair , upholstered, in northeast corner	Standard furnishing for bedroom	Acquire
216.5	Floor lamp , between armchair and bed	Standard furnishing for bedroom	Acquire
216.6	Bed , double, 4-poster, rope, centered along wall	Fig. 94	Acquire from private collection or acquire custom reproduction based on original in private collection
216.7	Pillows, sheets, pillow cases, quilt , on bed	Standard furnishings for bedroom	Acquire
216.8	Print, framed , centered above bed	Standard furnishing for bedroom	Use one of the framed items from figures 85–87, or acquire
216.9	Bedside table , south of bed	Standard furnishing for bedroom	Acquire
216.10	Table cover, lamp , on bedside table	Standard furnishings for bedroom	Acquire
South wall			
216.11	Armchair , Mission style, between doors		Acquire

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
West wall			
216.12	Sheer curtains , white roller shade , curtains, on window	Standard furnishings for bedroom	Acquire
216.13	Wastebasket , north of window	Standard furnishing for bedroom	Acquire
216.14	Chest of drawers , Mission style, north of wastebasket	Standard furnishing for bedroom	Acquire
216.15	Dresser scarf , on chest of drawers	Standard furnishing for bedroom	Acquire
216.16	Hair brush , hand mirror , comb , powder jar , on chest of drawers	Standard furnishings for bedroom	Acquire
216.17	Mirror , centered above chest of drawers	Standard furnishing for bedroom	Acquire
216.18	Easel frames with family photographs , 2, on chest of drawers	Standard furnishings for bedroom	Acquire

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Main Stair Hall (201)

Finishes

Walls and ceiling: paint analysis needed—determine colors that coordinate with 1948 wallpaper

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
201.1	Ceiling fixture in stairway	Fig. 52	Use DAAV 801 (original)
201.2	Runner , on landing	Fig. 52	Acquire custom reproduction runner based on AC 2008.003 (original)
201.3	Runner , on east walkway going south to main portion of room	Fig. 52	Acquire custom reproduction runner based on AC 2008.001 or .005 (originals)
201.4	Rug , centrally located on landing floor, abutting runners	Fig. 52	Acquire custom reproduction runner based on AC 2008.001 or .005 (originals)
201.5	Walls, flocked paper , straw-colored flocking; floral, leaf and vine pattern	Fig. 52	Wallpaper fragment located—further investigation needed. ²⁶⁰ If full repeat or substantial part of full pattern found, then acquire custom reproduction wallpaper. If no more evidence found, acquire stock reproduction paper of similar colors, texture, and pattern.

²⁶⁰ Same paper as in reception hall and main stair hall. Yocum, *Wallcoverings Investigation*, 2008, located a small portion of this paper: “light/straw-color flocking is applied to a plain ground mottled with black and orange/red pigments.”

North wall			
201.6	Sheers , Shirred on Palladian window on landing	Fig. 52	Acquire

Bishop Milton Wright's Bedroom, #5 (204)

No photographs are extant for this room for the years the Wrights' lived at Hawthorn Hill. The recommended furnishings for the bedroom are based upon a combination of passing written references to the room and extant original furnishings in the Hawthorn Hill collection.

- 126 Although Milton Wright had died in 1917, other than a reference to a new rug, there is no documentation for other changes made to his room. In the absence of firm evidence for any redecorating, the room is presented as it most likely appeared during Milton Wright's lifetime.

Finishes

Walls and ceiling: paint analysis needed—determine 1948 colors

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
204.1	Ceiling fixture	See Fig. 48 MW Diary, September 15, 1916	Acquire
204.2	Rug	KW to HH WHMC February 14, 1926	Acquire rug like the others in the bedrooms
204.3	Walls, wallpapered	All other bedrooms had wallpaper in 1948	Further wallpaper investigation needed. If full repeat or substantial part of full pattern is found, then acquire custom reproduction wallpaper. If no evidence found, acquire stock reproduction 1930s paper.
204.4	Sheer curtains and white roller shade, floral curtains, brown and yellow	See other bedrooms	Acquire custom reproduction curtains based on KM 2007.043a + b (original) and acquire curtains and roller shades
North wall			
204.5	Table , round, in northwest corner	Filing system on round table— <i>Wright Reminiscences</i> , Jay R. Petree, "Memories of My Cousin Orville Wright" p. 130	Acquire
204.6	Chair , side, at table	Standard furnishing for bedroom	Acquire
204.7	Framed watercolor or print of man rowing , on wall between windows	"BR#5" label	Use KM 2007.038 (original); rehouse in acid-free environment

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
East wall			
204.8	Chest of drawers with mirror	Standard furnishing for bedroom	Acquire
204.9	Dresser scarf , on chest	Standard furnishing for bedroom	Acquire
204.10	Candlesticks , pair, on chest	Standard furnishing for bedroom	Acquire
204.11	Tray , on chest	Standard furnishing for bedroom	Acquire
204.12	Framed copy of painting , on wall south of closet door	BR#5 label	Use KM 2008.005 (original); rehouse in acid-free environment
South wall			
204.13	Table , east of bed	Standard furnishing for bedroom	Acquire
204.14	Bed	Only extant bed without documented 1948 room location; placement of call bells determined bed placement in all other 2nd floor rooms	Use AC 2007.013a +b (probable original)
204.15	Call button	Extant	Acquire white button
204.16	Bed spread	Standard furnishing for bedroom	Acquire
204.17	Pillow and case	Standard furnishings for bedroom	Acquire
West wall			
204.18	Framed item , on wall towards south end of room	Standard furnishing for bedroom	Use W-028 (painting of an elk; needs reproduction frame) or W-053 (framed pastel, "Ruins of Mayan Arch at Labna [Lagna?]"—original house furnishings from attic; rehouse in acid-free environment
204.19	Photographs of unidentified cathedral, Notre Dame, and classical temple , triple matted, on wall near table	"BR#5" label	Use KM 2008.004 (original); rehouse in acid-free environment
204.20	Wastebasket , along wall next to table	Standard furnishing for bedroom	Acquire

Guest Bedroom/Rose Room, #4 (206)

Finishes

Walls and ceiling: paint analysis needed—determine 1948 colors

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
206.1	Ceiling fixture	Fig. 53; see also Fig. 48 (Orville's bedroom)	Acquire

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
206.2	Rug	Fig. 53	Acquire
206.3	Walls, wallpaper , vine pattern, and picture molding	Fig. 53	Further wallpaper investigation needed. If full repeat or substantial part of full pattern is found, then acquire custom reproduction wallpaper. If no more evidence found, acquire stock reproduction paper of similar pattern. Acquire picture molding.

North wall

206.4	Window treatments, 2, sheer curtains, drapes, valences, and white roller shades	Fig. 53 and Fig. 54	Acquire sheers, drapes, valences, and shades
206.5	Table , writing, between windows	Fig. 53	Use AC 2007.004 (original)
206.6	Chair , side, at desk, caned	Fig. 53	Use AC 2007.007 (original)
206.7	Blotter on desk	Fig. 53	Acquire
206.8	Papers and envelopes on desk	Fig. 53	Acquire
206.9	Pen and ink set , on desk	Fig. 53	Acquire
206.10	Wastebasket , woven, under desk	Fig. 53	Acquire
206.11	Framed art , Oriental scene, over table	Fig. 53 "BR4" label	Acquire based on KM 2007.036 (original, virtually destroyed due to termite damage)
206.12	Radiator , under window	Fig. 53	Remove radiator cover
206.13	Framed art , sailboats, east end of wall	Fig. 53 "BR4" label	Use KM 2007.045 ²⁶¹ (original); rehouse in acid-free environment

East wall

206.14	Chest of drawers , at north end of wall	Fig. 53	Use AC 2007.012 (original)
206.15	Dresser scarf on chest	Fig. 53	Acquire
206.16	Candlesticks , pair, on chest	Fig. 53	Acquire
206.17	Oval or round tray on chest	Fig. 53	Acquire
206.18	Mirror , oval, above chest	Fig. 53	Acquire
206.19	Window treatment, sheer curtains, drapes, valence, and white roller shade	Fig. 53 Fig. 54	Acquire
206.20	Armchair , upholstered (striped), in front of window	Fig. 53 Fig. 54	Acquire
206.21	Table , oriental, lacquer, between window and door to bathroom	Fig. 54	Use HH-1999.041a or b (originals)

²⁶¹ By J. Stuart Bl[?]an.

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
206.22	Framed and matted artwork , above table	Fig. 54	Acquire
206.23	Framed reproduction of "La Belle Ferronnière," by Leonardo da Vinci, at south end of wall	Fig. 54	Acquire; original in the Louvre
South wall			
206.24	Bed , double, on south wall	Fig. 53 Fig. 54	Use HH1999.088 (original)
206.25	Two pillows on bed	Fig. 54	Acquire
206.26	Bedspread and comforter , folded at foot of bed	Fig. 53 Fig. 54	Acquire
206.27	Bench , at foot of bed	Fig. 54	Acquire
206.28	Tables , nesting, west of bed	Fig. 54	Use HH1999.030a+b (original)
206.29	Lamp on table with pink shade	Fig. 54	Use KM 2007.019 (original)
206.30	Call bell , mounted in wall, west of bed	Fig. 54	Acquire white button
West wall			
206.31	Sconces , pair, flanking dressing table	Fig. 53	Acquire
206.32	Table , dressing, with oval mirror	Fig. 53	Use AC 2007.003 a+b (originals)
206.33	Scarf on table	Fig. 53	Acquire
206.34	Plates , china, 2 on table	Fig. 53	Acquire
206.35	Framed item on dresser	Fig. 53	Acquire
206.36	Framed item , small, north of mirror on wall	Fig. 53 "BR#4" label	Use AC2007.022 (original); rehouse in acid-free environment
206.37	Print, framed , on wall south of dressing table	Standard furnishing for bedroom	Use one of the framed items from W-036, -052, or -058, or acquire

Blue Bedroom, #1 (207)

Finishes

Walls and ceiling: paint analysis needed—determine 1948 colors

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
207.1	Ceiling fixture	see Fig. 48 (Orville's bedroom)	Acquire
207.2	Rug , border with open field	Fig. 55 Fig. 56	Acquire

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
207.3	Walls, papered , floral sprig pattern, drop repeat	Fig. 55 Fig. 56	Further wallpaper investigation needed. If full repeat or substantial part of full pattern is found, then acquire custom reproduction wallpaper. If no more evidence found, acquire stock reproduction paper of similar pattern.
North wall			
207.4	Call button , east of door	Fig. 56 ²⁶²	Acquire white button
207.5	Bed , twin, along north wall	Fig. 55 Fig. 56	Use AC2007.009a and b or AC 2007.010a and b (original beds; identical in Katharine's bedroom (202))
207.6	Coverlet , white, on bed	Fig. 55 Fig. 56	Acquire
207.7	Pillow with white pillow case and sheets , on bed	Fig. 56	Acquire
207.8	Bench , at foot of bed	Fig. 56	Use KM2007.002 (original)
207.9	Bedside table with shelf, east of bed	Fig. 56	Acquire
207.10	Lamp on bedside table	Fig. 56	Acquire
207.11	Table scarf on bedside table	Fig. 56	Acquire
207.12	Book on lower shelf of bedside table	Fig. 56	Acquire
East wall			
207.13	Armchair , upholstered, in northeast corner out from door and wall	Fig. 55	Acquire
207.14	Framed and matted item (photograph with figure at far right), at north end of east wall	Fig. 55	Acquire
207.15	Window treatments: sheers , white roller shade , floral, faille curtains with valence	Fig. 55 "BR#1" label on curtains	Acquire reproduction curtains based on KM 2008.013a+b (originals—light blue, pink, and tan); acquire sheers, roller shade, and valence
207.16	Radiator under window	Fig. 55	Remove cover
207.17	"Daybreak, St. Ives' Fishing Fleet in Mount's Bay" by Claude[te] Nowbotham, at south end of wall	Fig. 55	Use AC2007.017 (original); rehouse in acid-free environment
207.18	Desk , on diagonal in southeast corner	Fig. 55	Use AC 2007.001 (need to replace later pulls) or KM 2007.001 (original, identical to that in Katharine's bedroom (202))

262 Rewiring may have been in progress at the time of this photograph.

HFR #	OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
207.19	Side chair at desk	Fig. 55	Use AC 2007.005 or KM 2007.005 (original, identical to that in Katharine's bedroom (202))
207.20	Blotter and stationery on desk	Fig. 55	Acquire
207.21	Inkwell , square base, on desk at left side	Fig. 55	Acquire
207.22	Pen tray , on desk in center	Fig. 55	Acquire
207.23	Doilies , 2, one on each drawer	Fig. 55	Acquire
207.24	Hexagonal box with lid on left drawer	Fig. 55	Acquire
207.25	Ceramic vase , small, on right drawer	Fig. 55	Acquire
South wall			
207.26	Wastebasket , under east window	Fig. 55	Acquire
207.27	Window treatments, 2, sheers , white roller shades , and floral, faille curtains with valence	Fig. 55 "BR#1" label on curtains	Acquire reproduction curtains based on KM 2008.013a+b (originals—light blue, pink, and tan); acquire sheers, roller shade, and valence
207.28	Chest of drawers , between windows	Fig. 55	Use HH 1999.091 (original)
207.29	Dresser scarf and 2 ceramic items on chest	Fig. 55	Acquire
207.30	Mirror , above chest of drawers, between windows	Fig. 55	Use KM 2007.025 (original)
West wall			
207.31	Dressing table with mirror	Fig. 56	Use KM 2007.021 (original)
207.32	Dresser scarf	Fig. 56	Acquire
207.33	Framed reproduction of "The Blue Boy," by Thomas Gainsborough, leaning against mirror on south side of dresser	Fig. 56	Acquire; original in the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA
207.34	Framed copy of watercolor of Venetian canal by J. Stewart Blacktop, 1913, leaning against mirror on north side of dresser	Fig. 56 "BR#1" label	Use KM 2007.039 (original); rehouse in acid-free environment
207.35	Pillow , in center of dresser	Fig. 56	Acquire
207.36	Bowl on dresser	Fig. 56	Acquire
207.37	Wall sconce , north of dressing table	Fig. 56	Acquire

Illustrations

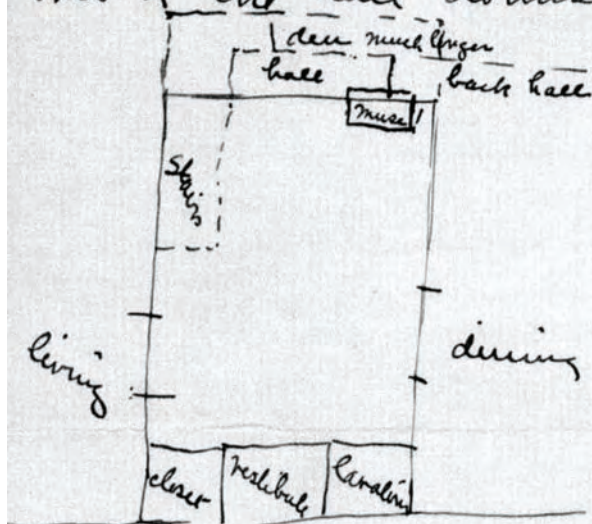
133

See pages 17 and 18 for Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 3. Katharine Wright to Wilbur Wright, April 29, 1911. Letter with floor plan for new house. Wilbur and Orville Wright Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.

them. The principal change is in the hall downstairs and upstairs.

This is the hall downstairs.



Maybe we can get an extra copy and send you if you are going to stay a while longer. We are trying to get Mr. Lorey to put a restriction of 70 ft. from Salem on the lot north of

Figure 4. First-Floor Plan, 1912, Schenck & Williams. DAAV Collection.

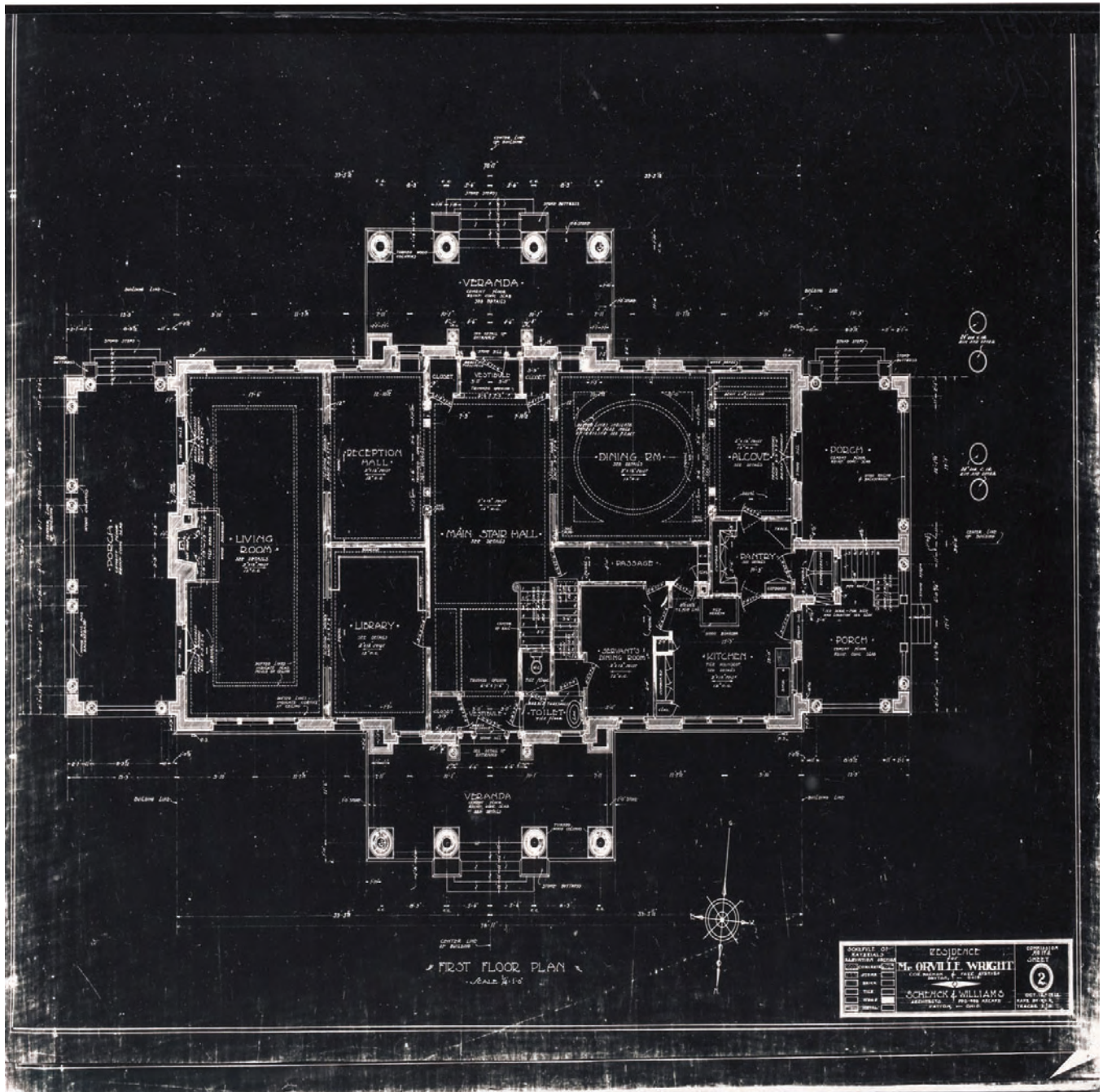


Figure 5. Second Floor Plan, 1912, Schenck & Williams. DAAV Collection.

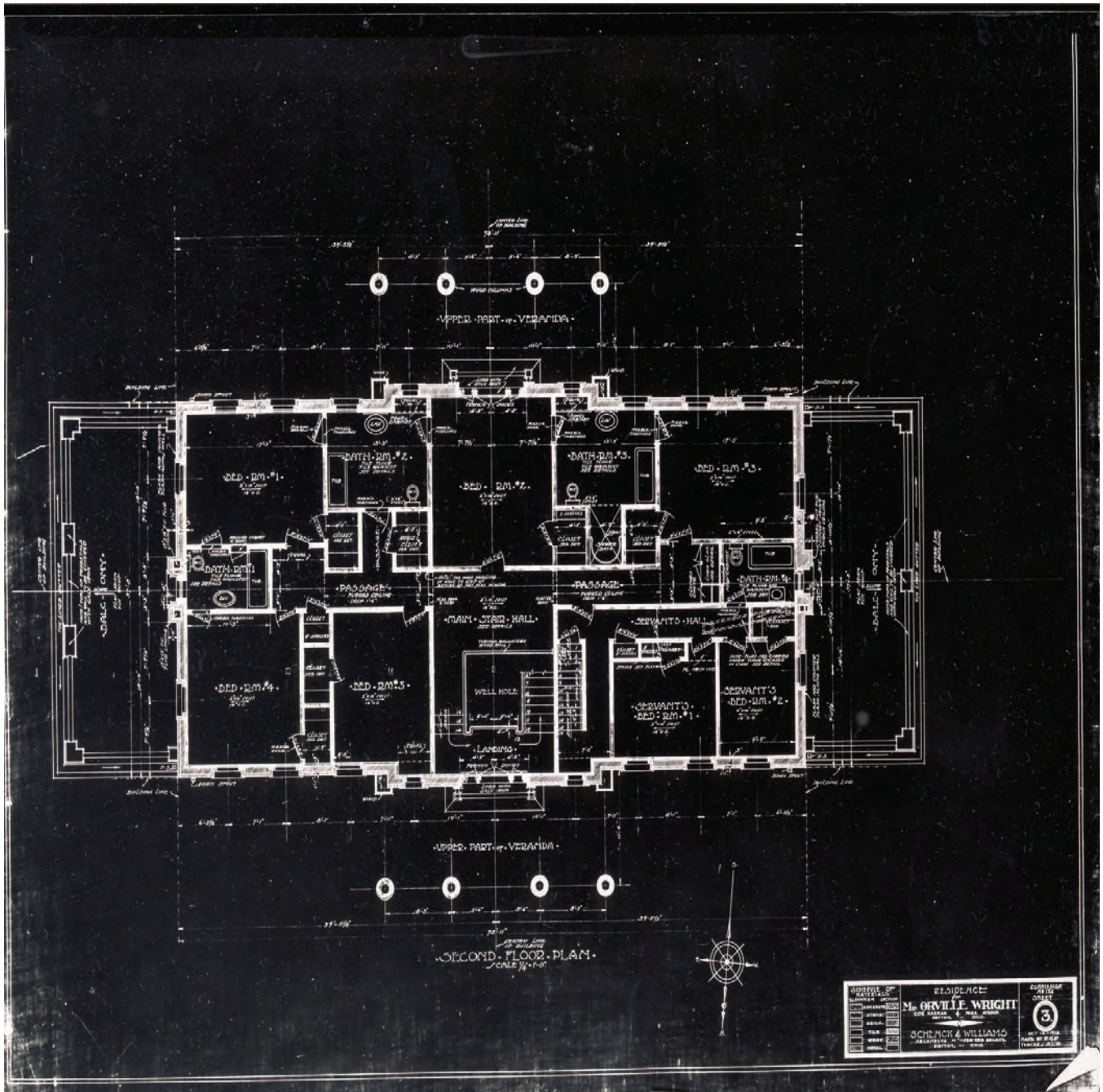


Figure 6. Main stair hall, ca. 1914.²⁶³ WSU Archives, MS-216, Ivonette Wright Miller Papers Series IV, Box 7, Folder 13.

263 I date the photographs, figures 6–10, to ca. 1914, before the first-floor portieres and porch curtains had been hung. In August 1914 Griffith Brewer gave Orville Wright a camera (see main stair hall room references); a camera was stolen from their porch in November. MW Diary, November 25, 1914.



Figure 7. View from main stair hall to dining room and alcove, ca. 1914. WSU Archives, MS-216, Ivonette Wright Miller Papers Series IV, Box 7, Folder 13.



Figure 8. Main stair hall from reception hall, ca. 1914. WSU Archives, MS-216, Ivonette Wright Miller Papers Series IV, Box 7, Folder 13.

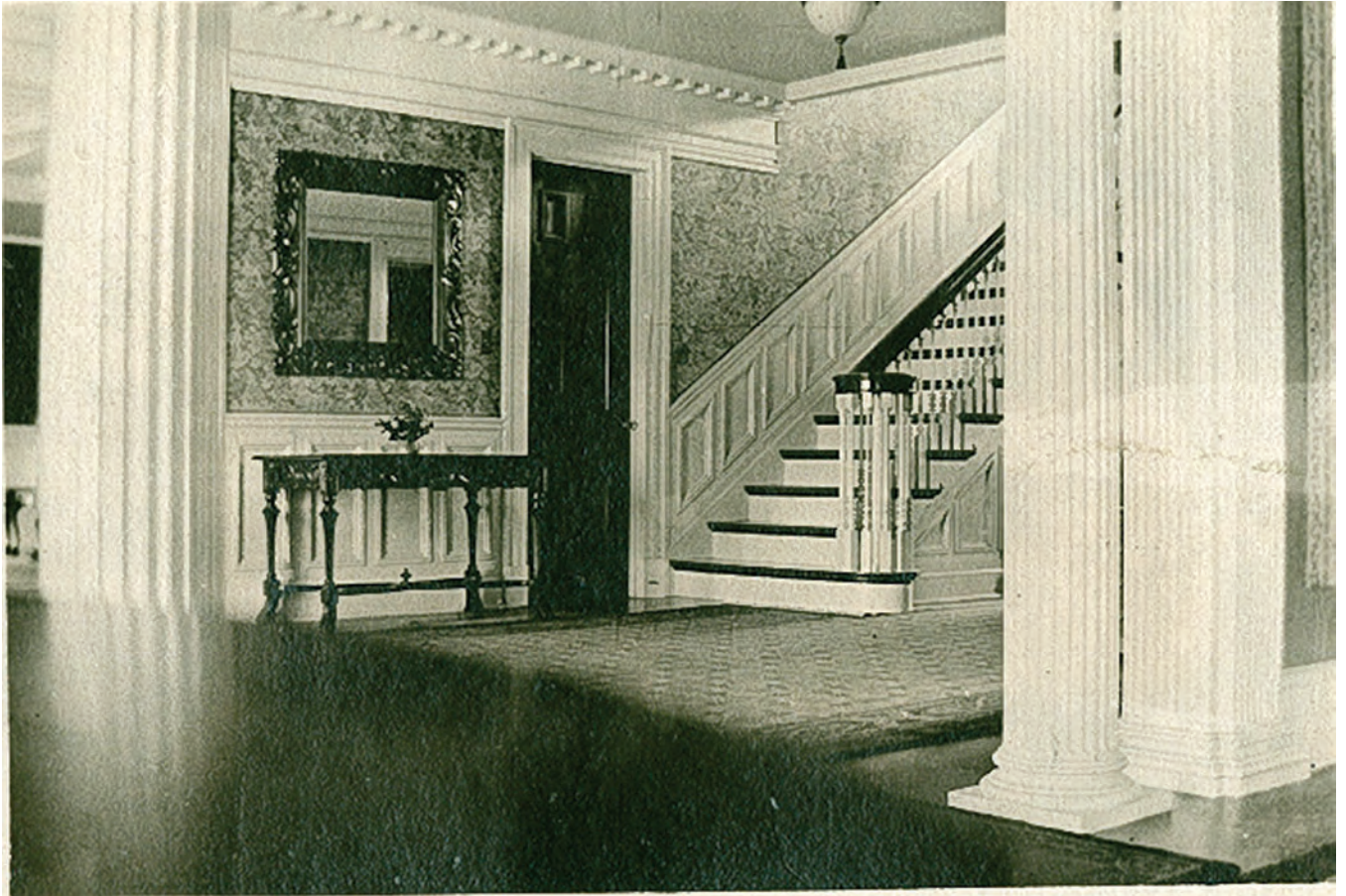


Figure. 9. View east from dining room through south rooms in house, ca. 1914. WSU Archives, MS-216, Ivonette Wright Miller Papers Series IV, Box 7, Folder 13.



Figure 10. View of dining room and alcove, ca. 1914. WSU Archives, MS-216, Ivonette Wright Miller Papers Series IV, Box 7, Folder 13.



Figure 11. View west from reception hall through southern rooms in house, includes Katharine, Orville, and two guests at table, ca. 1915–24.²⁶⁴ WSU Archives, MS-216, Ivonette Wright Miller Papers Series IV, Box 7, Folder 13.

264 The photographs, figures 11–17, date ca. 1915–1924 and have the piano (purchased in November 1915) and also show that the first-floor portieres and porch curtains were now in place; the raised wall panels are in the reception hall (these were removed prior to the spring of 1924—see reception hall room history).



Figure 12. View from living room to reception hall with Katharine Wright seated in corner of living room, ca. 1915–24. WSU Archives, MS-216, Ivonette Wright Miller Papers Series IV, Box 7, Folder 13.



Figure 13. View of piano in living room, ca. 1915–24. WSU Archives, MS-216, Ivonette Wright Miller Papers Series IV, Box 7, Folder 13.



Figure 14. View of living room looking south, ca. 1915–24. WSU Archives, MS-216, Ivonette Wright Miller Papers Series IV, Box 7, Folder 13.



Figure 15. View from living room to reception hall and main stair hall, ca. 1915–24. WSU Archives, MS-216, Ivonette Wright Miller Papers Series IV, Box 7, Folder 13.



Figure 16 . View directly west from living room to library, and through to main stair hall, ca. 1915–24. WSU Archives, MS-216, Ivonette Wright Miller Papers Series IV, Box 7, Folder 13.

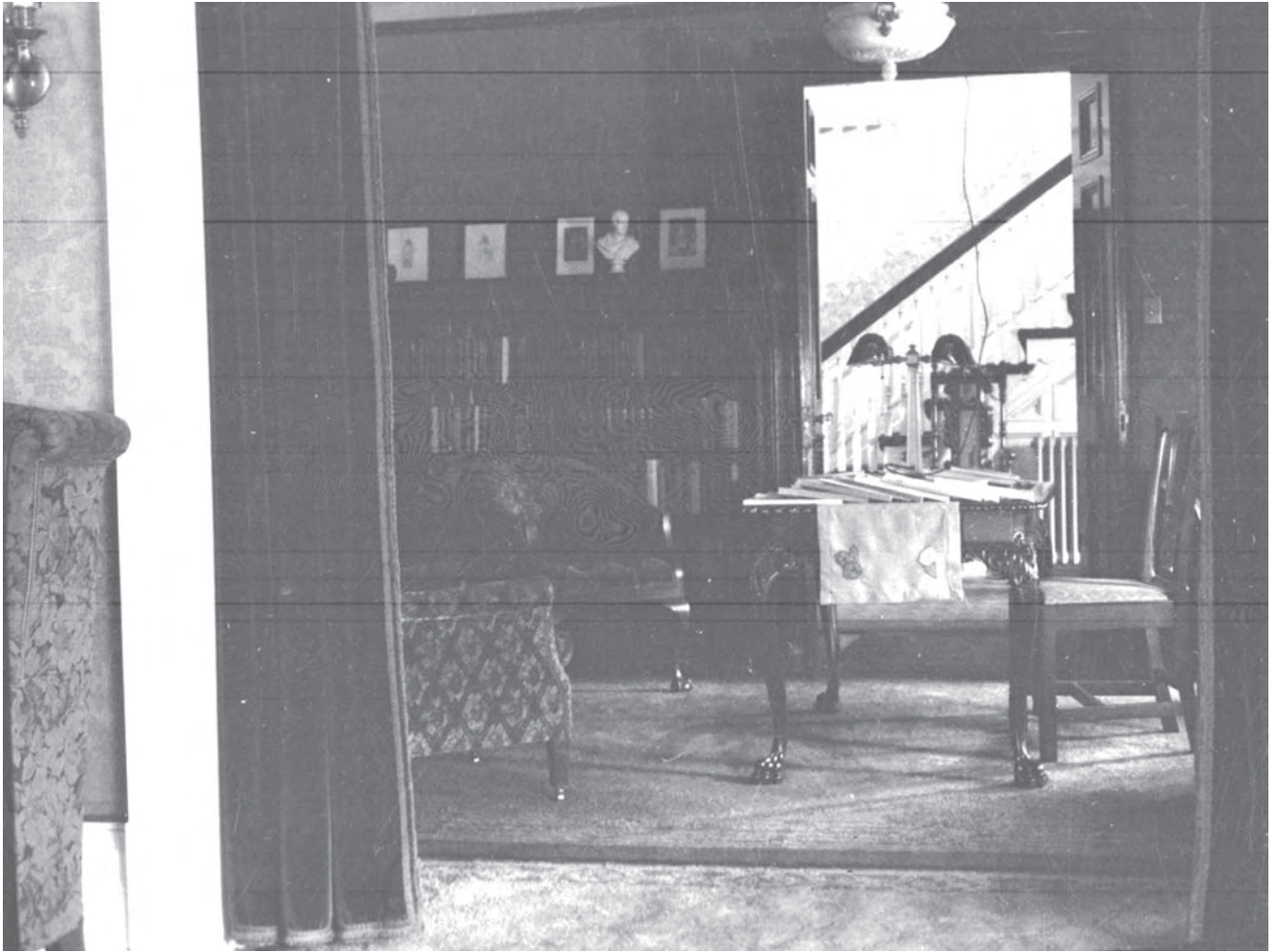


Figure 17. View northwest from living room to library, and through to main stair hall, ca. 1915–24. WSU Archives, MS-216, Ivonette Wright Miller Papers Series IV, Box 7, Folder 13.



Figure 18. Scipio in living room, standing with table and piano in background. WSU Archives, MS-216, Ivonette Wright Miller Papers Series – March 1917–February 1922.



Figure 19. Scipio sitting on couch along living room west wall. WSU Archives, MS-216, Ivonette Wright Miller Papers Series – March 1917–February 1922.



Figure 20. Scipio lying in front of table in living room, view looking northwest towards library. WSU Archives, MS-216, Ivonette Wright Miller Papers Series – March 1917–February 1922.

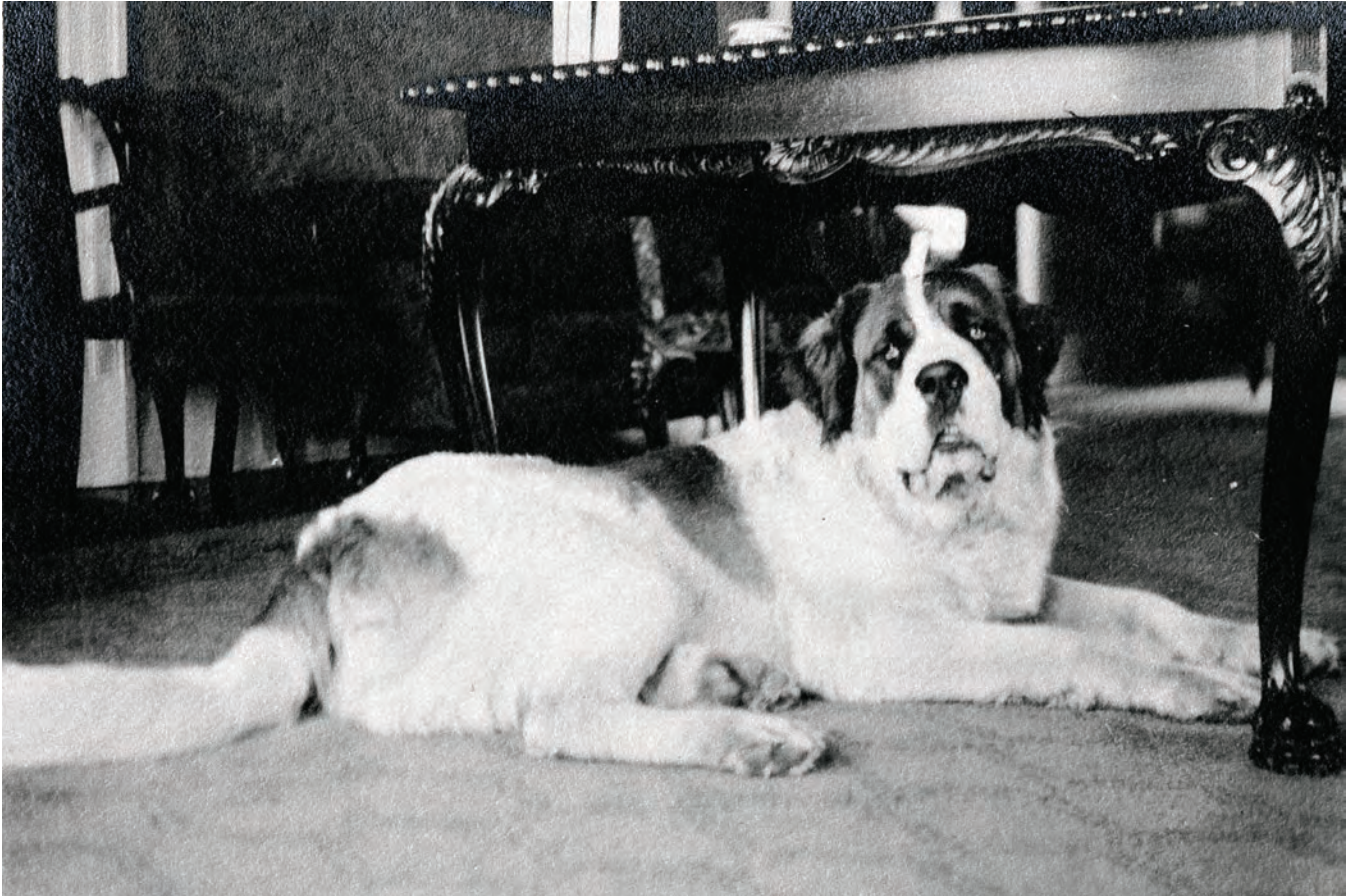


Figure 21. Orville Wright and Henry Ford on porch, October 27, 1936. WSU, Wright Brothers Collection.



Figure 22. Orville Wright and Henry Ford at living room mantle, December 17, 1938. WSU, Wright Brothers Collection.



Figure 23. Wright family in living room at time of Orville Wright's funeral, 1948. Private collection.



Figure 24. Main stair hall looking north, February 16, 1948. National Cash Register (NCR) Archives, Dayton History Archive Center.



Figure 25. Main stair hall looking south, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 26. Downstairs view looking west from the living room, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 27. Dining room, north wall, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 28. Dining room, looking west to alcove, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 29. Dining room, looking southwest to alcove, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 30. Dining room, looking southeast, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 31. Alcove, south wall with built-in cabinets, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 32. Kitchen looking southeast, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 33. Kitchen looking northwest, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 34. Library, corner with Orville Wright's chair, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 35. Library, looking northwest, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 36. Library looking south to bookshelves, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 37. Library, looking southwest toward Milton Wright's chair, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 38. Library, Orville's reading chair, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 39. Library, close-up of reading shelf on Orville Wright's chair and side table in background, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 40. Living room looking to northeast, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 41. Living room looking to northwest, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 42. Living room looking to southeast, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.

Figure 43. Reception hall, through to living room, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 44. Reception hall, through to main stair hall, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 45. Reception hall, close-up of Muse of Aviation, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 46. Katharine's bedroom, looking southeast, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 47. Katharine's bedroom, looking west, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 48. Orville's bedroom looking southwest, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 49. Orville's bedroom looking northwest, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 50. Orville's bedroom looking north, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.

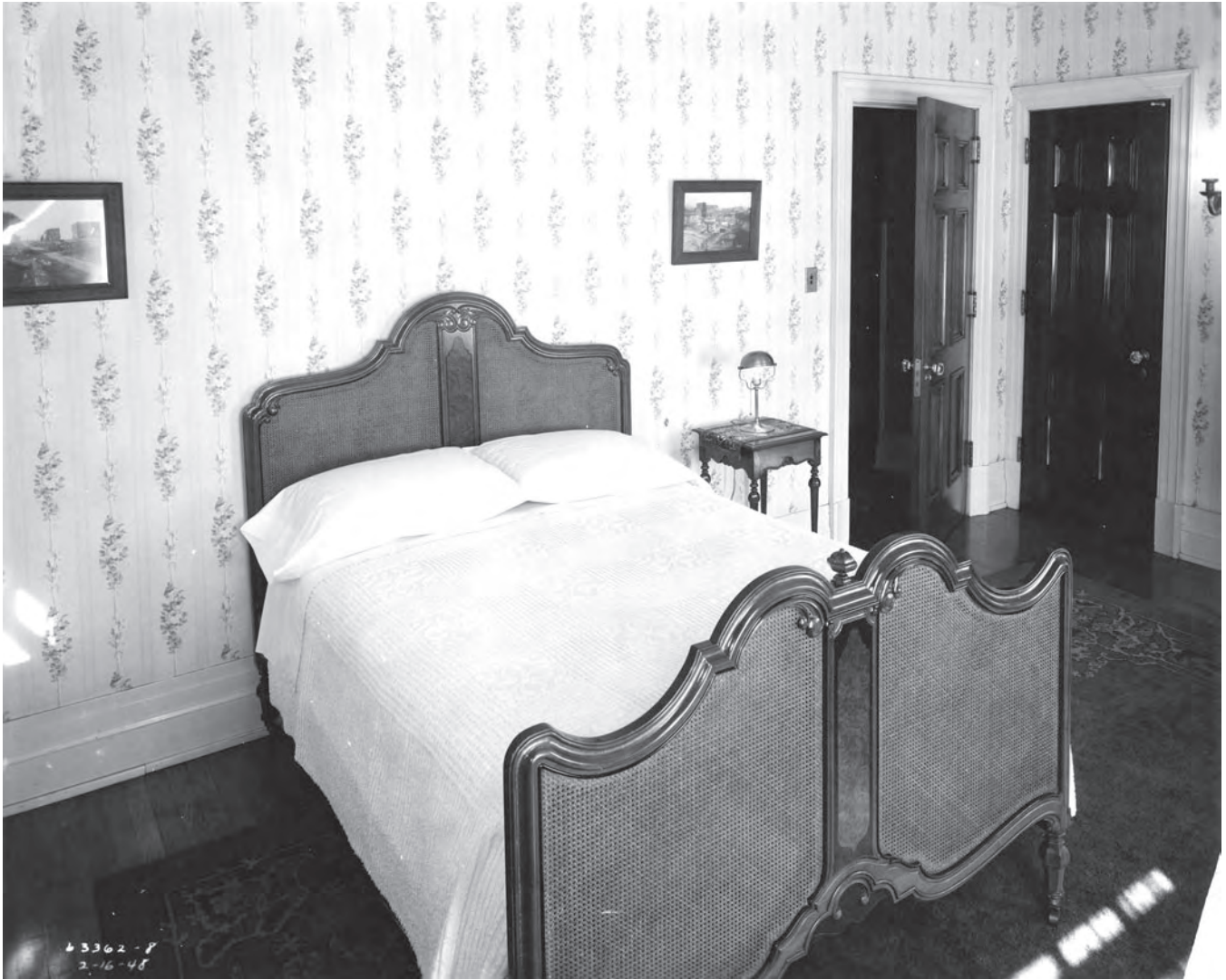


Figure 51. Orville's bedroom looking northeast, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 52. Main stair hall, second floor and landing, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 53. Guest bedroom (rose bedroom) (210) looking north, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 54. Guest bedroom (rose bedroom) (210) looking southeast, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 55. Blue bedroom (213) looking southeast, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 56. Blue bedroom (213) looking northwest, February 16, 1948. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 57. Dining room and alcove, after NCR redecorated, October 10, 1949. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



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70-70-49

Figure 58. Kitchen looking northwest, after NCR redecorated, October 10, 1949. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 59. Kitchen looking southeast, after NCR redecorated, October 10, 1949. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 60. Servants' dining room looking east, after NCR redecorated, October 10, 1949.
NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 61. Library, looking southwest, after NCR redecorated, October 10, 1949. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 62. Library, looking south, after NCR redecorated, October 10, 1949. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 63. Living room after NCR redecorated, October 10, 1949. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 64. Katharine's bedroom after NCR redecorated, October 10, 1949. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 65. Orville's bathroom after NCR redecorated, October 10, 1949. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 66. Orville's bedroom (212) after NCR redecorated, October 10, 1949. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 67. Servant's bedroom #1 (215) after NCR redecorated, October 10, 1949. NCR Archive at Dayton History.



Figure 68. Main stair hall, ca. 1960. “Hawthorn Hill” brochure, NCR.



Figure 69. Library, ca. 1960. Note that the text states in error that it is “exactly the way Orville Wright left it.” “Hawthorn Hill” brochure, NCR.

This room of historic Hawthorn Hill was the study of Orville Wright



It is today exactly the way Orville Wright left it
when he passed away on January 30, 1948

Figure 70. Charles II settee, similar to the sofa in the Hawthorn Hill main stair hall. Century Furniture Company, 1926, *Furniture: As Interpreted by the Century Furniture Company*.



Charles II settee with shaped and divided backs and carved walnut under framing. These were known as "courting" chairs.

Figure 71. 1916 Berkey & Gay, *A Portfolio of Furniture Plates*, Plate no. 354, “William and Mary.” Collections of the Public Museum, Grand Rapids, Michigan.



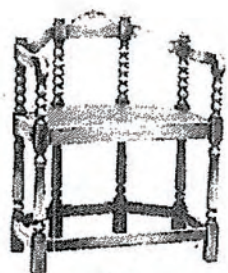
For full description of the pieces, see reverse of plate.

Figure 72. 1916 Berkey & Gay, *A Portfolio of Furniture Plates*, Plate no. 615, “Adam.”
Collections of the Public Museum, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

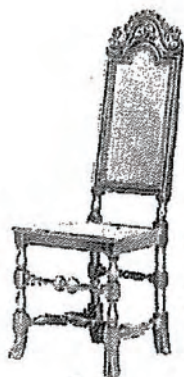


For full description of the pieces, see reverse of plate.

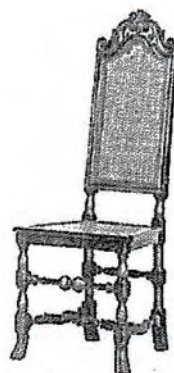
Figure 73. 1916 Berkey & Gay, *Portfolio of Furniture Plates*, “English Chairs.” Collections of the Public Museum, Grand Rapids, Michigan.



VI



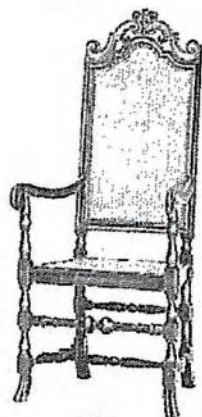
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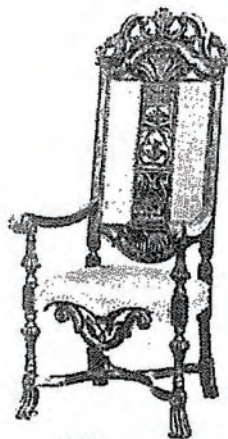
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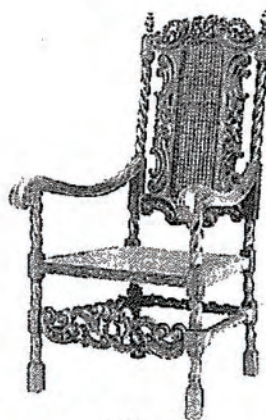
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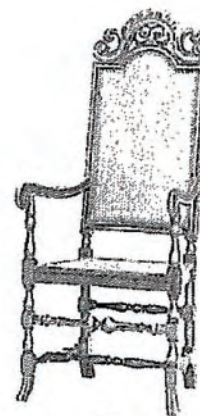
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VIII



V



II



or full description of the
cases, see reverse of plate.

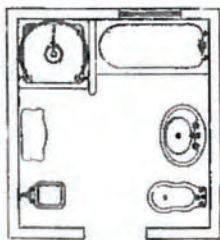
Figure 74. Bathroom with needle shower, 1908. *Modern Plumbing*, J. L. Mott Iron Works.



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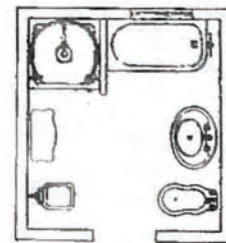
Plate 1004-A, Bathroom "Italian"

TO the architect this interior is most interesting and suggestive—it solves the problem, by the tile partition, of obtaining a recess bath in conjunction with a most desirable arrangement of the needle bath. The tile partition forms one side of the recess and, likewise, one side of the enclosure for the needle bath. The "La Salle" bath may be substituted for the "Regent"—see plan below.



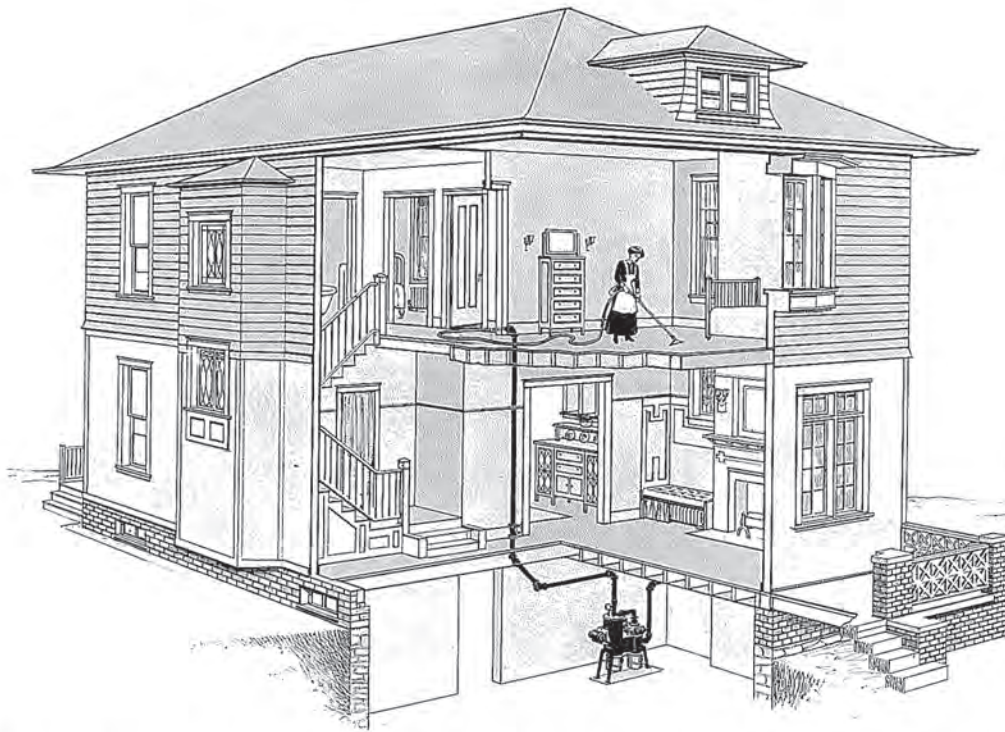
MINIMUM SIZE, 8' x 9'
Plate 1005-A

Tiling—The design is pure Italian renaissance, delicately tinted in four colors, with $\frac{1}{4}$ " border lines in gold; or, if preferred, it may be white and gold, or plain white throughout. The medicine cabinet is set in the tile.



MINIMUM SIZE, 8' x 9' 3"
Plate 1006-A

Figure 75. Cross section of a house with a central vacuum system, “Arco Vacuum Cleaners,” American Radiator Company, 1911. National Museum of American History Library, Smithsonian Institution, trade catalog 022036.



The vacuum machine is in the basement. A pipe leads to the various floors. Inlet couplings are located at convenient places. One end of the hose is attached to the inlet coupling, the other end to the cleaning tool. A strong suction draws all foreign matter through the cleaning tool, hose, and pipe into a sealed dust bucket attached to the machine in the basement. The air, after removal of dust, is exhausted outdoors.

Figure 76. Labels on Hawthorn Hill vacuum: Arco Wand Vacuum Cleaner, American Radiator Company; and Kenney wand patent, March 9, 1907.



Figure 77. Vacuum hose from Hawthorn Hill, AC2007.017.



Figure 78. Hall rug (AC 2008.06) made by the Alexander Morton & Sons Company, Donegal, Ireland.



Figure 79. Rug label, Donegal, hand-tufted carpet, Alexander Morton & Sons Company.



Figure 80. Portieres, from between dining room and main stair hall, KM 2007.028a+b.



Figure 81. Blue and gold Minton demitasse cup and saucer from Hawthorn Hill. Private collection.



Figure 82. Blue and gold Minton demitasse cup and saucer from Hawthorn Hill, makers mark and Tiffany stamp. Private collection.



Figure 83. Punch cups from Hawthorn Hill. Private collection.



Figure 84. Chest with mirror from Hawthorn Hill attic, W-003. Reid Appraisal, 1976, NCR.

Hawthorn Hill Item # 003

Dresser - Insurance Value \$400.00



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Figure 85. Miscellaneous framed items from Hawthorn Hill attic, W-036. Reid Appraisal, 1976, NCR.

Hawthorn Hill Item # 036

Collection - Insure \$ 30.00 each



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Figure 86. Miscellaneous framed items from Hawthorn Hill attic, W-052. Reid Appraisal, 1976, NCR.

Hawthorn Hill Items # 052
Pictures - Ins. \$ 75.00 each

301



Figure 87. Miscellaneous framed items from Hawthorn Hill attic, W-058. Reid Appraisal, 1976, NCR.



Hawthorn Hill Items # 058
Misc. & Pictures - Ins. \$30.00ea.

Figure 88. Caned, Jacobean-style armchair, main stair hall, 1914-‘48, KM2007.004. Century Furniture Company “reproduction” of Lord chair at Connecticut Historical Society.



Figure 89. Label, ER Lemon, Wayside Inn, reproduction chair, on HH1999.096, library desk chair, made by the Century Furniture Company.

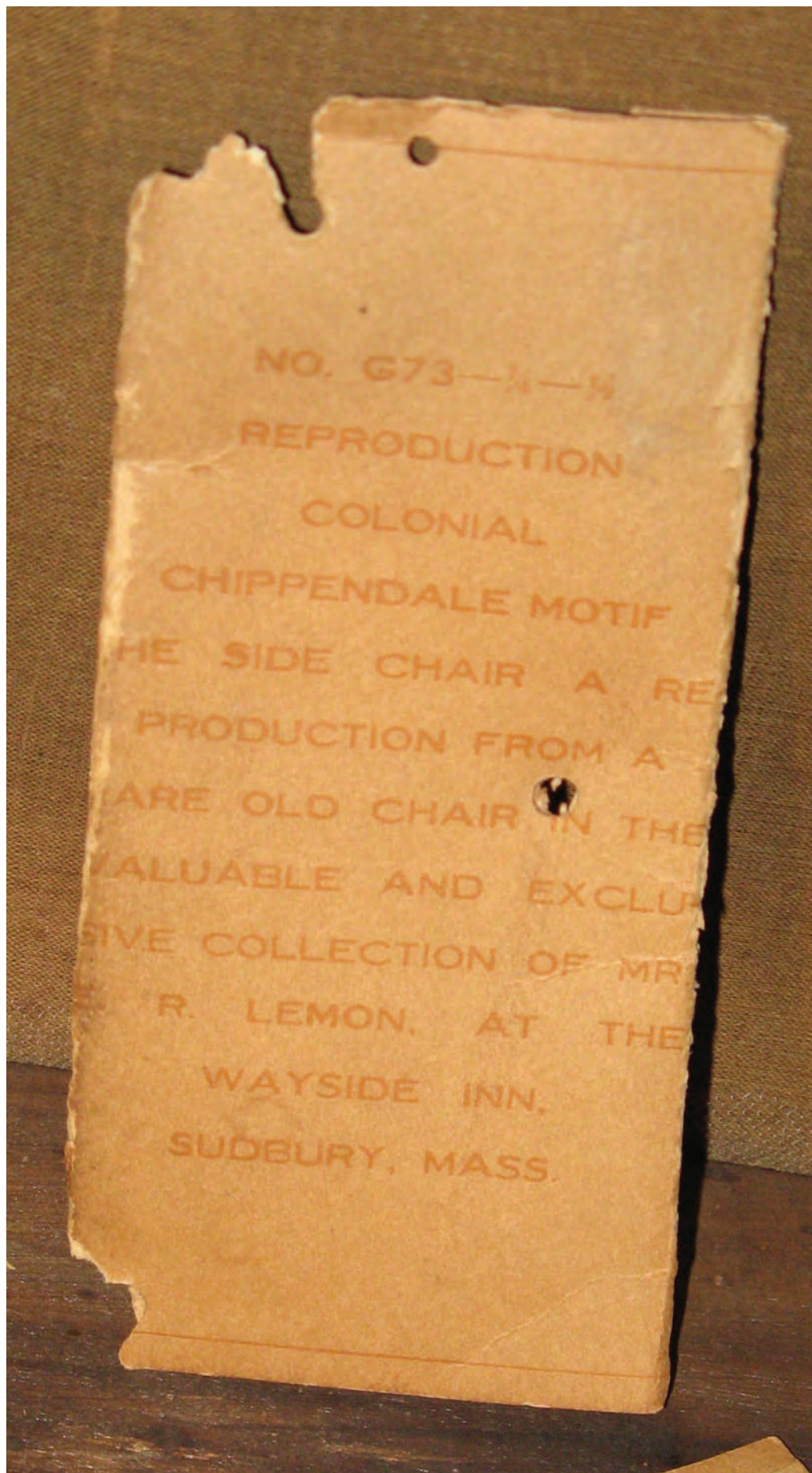


Figure 90. Needle shower in Orville Wright's bathroom, 2007.



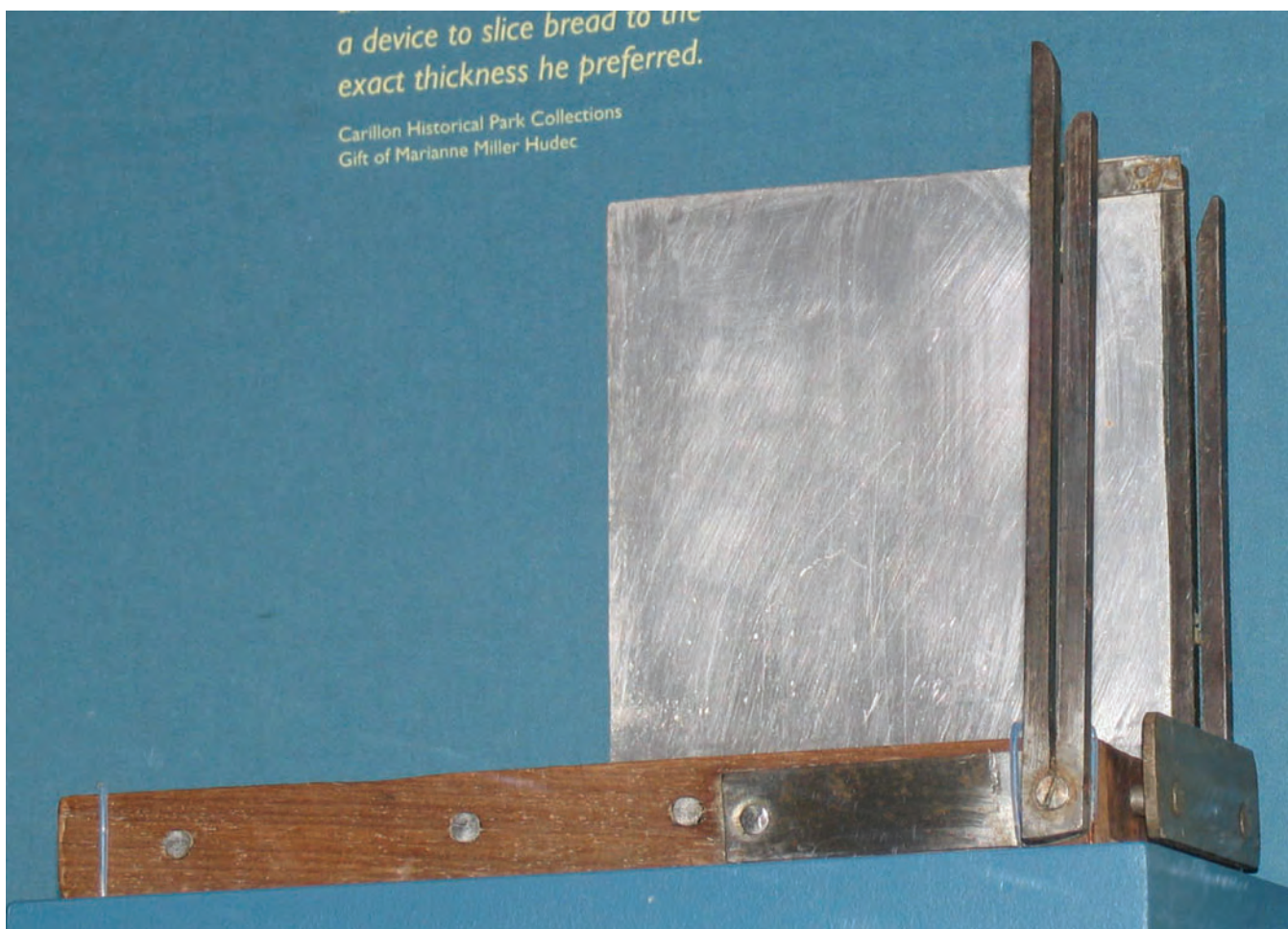
Figure 91. Gimp trim and Damask wall covering around light switch (switch plate removed), library, 2007.



Figure 92. Orville Wright's tools for removing brocade wallpaper panels, Carillon Historical Park, Dayton History.



Figure 93. Toast slicer, made by Orville Wright, Carillon Historical Park, Dayton History.



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Figure 94. Rope bed that belonged to Carrie Grumbach. Private collection.



Appendixes

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Appendix A

Summary Estimates of Evidence and Original Furnishings from Historic Furnishings Study, part 1, 2008.

This chart was part of the 2008 Historic Furnishings Study, Part I. It is included in this Historic Furnishings Report because it summarizes the amount of conjecture involved in refurnishing the rooms at Hawthorn Hill.

How to use this chart

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The first three columns of this chart provide information specified in the Project Agreement for this Historic Furnishings Study – Phase I. When using the chart, bear in mind that working with percentages and numbers of extant and/or documented historic furnishings can be misleading because not all objects are of equal importance in reproducing a historically furnished space. For example, not having documentation for original wallpaper or floor coverings makes a tremendous difference to the integrity and credibility of the room, whereas not knowing the exact painting hanging in a corner of a room does not as significantly affect the overall accuracy.

Numbers can distort meaning when considering reproduction furnishings. For example, lacking original shades and sheers for windows is less of a problem than missing original, elaborate drapery; the former is easy to reproduce with a high degree of certainty and accuracy because of its relative simplicity, while the latter is more speculative, due to determinations that must try to take into account style, taste, and other variables that may not even be known to us.

While not part of the Project Agreement, the last column is the most important from an interpretive point of view. It provides a summary assessment of the ability to recreate 1948 interiors at Hawthorn Hill. Minimal conjecture is always the goal and an acceptable amount of conjecture should be a determining factor in implementing any historic furnishings research. The conclusions offered in the 4th column, “Ability to recreate with acceptable conjecture,” draw upon the first three columns, yet also take into account many variables:

- Types of objects not extant:
 - o Wall treatments
 - o Floor coverings
 - o Window treatments
 - o Major furniture and upholstery fabric
 - o Major wall hangings
 - o Smalls (small, more portable, items, such as desk or dresser-top accessories and other objects of everyday use that are set on surfaces)
- Some “not extant” photos/items may still be identified by family or park.
- How densely furnished was the room in 1948?

	Room	Percentage of room not documented by 1948 photographs. Furnishings would be based on comparative evidence/conjecture.	Extant, documented, 1948 original furnishings	Reproductions and/or period equivalents needed for which there is 1948 evidence	Ability to recreate with acceptable amount of conjecture (note – a full Historic Furnishings Report and findings from the wallpaper investigation may improve these ratings)
	1st floor				
322	Living Room	10%	30 out of 70	40 out of 70	Good/Very good Most significant furnishings are either extant or well documented; only a few pieces of furniture are missing.
	Reception Hall	20%	6 out of 25	19 out of 25	Good/fair Wallpaper not known and all major pieces of furniture not extant.
	Orville's Library	15%	31 out of 63	32 out of 63	Excellent All key elements are extant and/or well-documented; missing objects are mainly smalls.
	Entry Hall	15%	19 out of 30	11 out of 30	Very good/excellent Wallpaper not known and only a few major pieces of furniture missing.
	Vestibules	40%	Count included in Entry Hall	Count included in Entry hall	Very good/excellent Wallpaper not known but have portieres and not much/any more needed
	Dining Room	5%	19 out of 36	17 out of 36	Very good/good Wallpaper not known and only a few smalls missing
	Passage	100%			Good Unlikely to have had significant furnishings; HH 2008.001 is likely the runner.
	Servants' Dining Room	100%			Comparative research needed to determine
	Breakfast Nook	50%	10 out of 14	4 out of 14	Very good Wallpaper not known but have most other key elements.
	Pantry	100%			Good Utility spaces tend to have fairly basic and relatively easy to find furnishings.
	Kitchen	20%	2 out of 16	14 out of 16	Good Missing items are fairly basic and relatively easy to find
	2nd floor				
	Wilbur's bedroom (#1)	20%	14 out of 37	23 out of 37	Good/very good Wallpaper, rug and curtains not known but only a few significant pieces of furniture missing otherwise.

Room	Percentage of room not documented by 1948 photographs. Furnishings would be based on comparative evidence/conjecture.	Extant, documented, 1948 original furnishings	Reproductions and/or period equivalents needed for which there is 1948 evidence	Ability to recreate with acceptable amount of conjecture (note – a full Historic Furnishings Report and findings from the wallpaper investigation may improve these ratings)
Bathroom #1	100%			Good Utility spaces tend to have fairly basic and relatively easy to find furnishings.
Ivonne's bedroom (#4)	15%	13 out of 37	24 out of 37	Good Wallpaper, rug and curtains not known but only a few significant pieces of furniture and smalls missing otherwise.
Bathroom #2	100%			Good Utility spaces tend to have fairly basic and relatively easy to find furnishings.
Passage, east	100%			Good Documented public hallways at Hawthorn Hill appear to have been sparsely furnished, so it is reasonable to furnish other, less public, halls in a similar fashion.
Milton's bedroom (#5)	100%	5 items extant		Fair No 1948 photographs but a few furnishings, including bed, and good comparative evidence from other bedrooms in house.
Katharine's bedroom (#2)	20%	17 out of 40	23 out of 40	Good Wallpaper and rug not known but only smalls missing otherwise.
Upstairs hall	65%	4 out of 6	2 out of 6	Very good/good Likely to have been sparsely furnished, wallpaper not known
Bathroom #3	100%			Good Utility spaces tend to have fairly basic and relatively easy to find furnishings.
Passage, west	100%			Good Documented public hallways at Hawthorn Hill appear to have been sparsely furnished, so it is reasonable to furnish other, less public, halls in a similar fashion.
Orville's bedroom (#3)	10%	10 out of 29	19 out of 29	Good Wallpaper and a few major furniture pieces missing.
Bathroom #4	100%			Good Utility spaces tend to have fairly basic and relatively easy to find furnishings.

Room	Percentage of room not documented by 1948 photographs. Furnishings would be based on comparative evidence/conjecture.	Extant, documented, 1948 original furnishings	Reproductions and/or period equivalents needed for which there is 1948 evidence	Ability to recreate with acceptable amount of conjecture (note – a full Historic Furnishings Report and findings from the wallpaper investigation may improve these ratings)
Servant's hall	100%			Good Documented public hallways at Hawthorn Hill appear to have been sparsely furnished, so it is reasonable to furnish other, less public, halls in a similar fashion.
Servant's bedroom #1	100%	Bed Rug (possibly)		Fair-poor No household-specific documentation to guide furnishings decisions for a personal space.
Servant's bedroom #2	100%			Fair-poor No household-specific documentation to guide furnishings decisions for a personal space.
Basement				
Orville's work room (Vegetable room)	100%	Workbench ²⁶⁵ Cupboard Washing machine		Poor No household-specific documentation to guide furnishings decisions for a personal space.
Furnace room	100%	Furnace		Poor Insufficient evidence about how such spaces were used and furnished.
Vault	100%			Poor Insufficient evidence about how such spaces were used and furnished.
Laundry	100%			Poor Insufficient evidence about how such spaces were used and furnished.
Preserves	100%			Poor Insufficient evidence about how such spaces were used and furnished.
Coal room	100%			Poor Insufficient evidence about how such spaces were used and furnished.
Storage room	100%			Poor Insufficient evidence about how such spaces were used and furnished.
Hall	100%	Vacuum machine (ARCO WAND; American Radiator Company)		Poor Insufficient evidence about how such spaces were used and furnished.

265 The workbench is HH 2008.012.

Appendix B

“Inside the Furniture Factories: Century Furniture Co.” *Grand Rapids Herald*, August 9, 1911, p. 6, col.5/6, courtesy of Grand Rapids Public Museum. (see following page)

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About twelve years ago E. R. Lemon, connoisseur and collector of antique through sentiment, purchased and re-

The Century company is getting there in spite of obstacles that may confront it and the prospects for its business are very bright. This was one of the largest orders ever turned in by a road salesman was received at the office and as Mr. Brown says "Everything is looking good."

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HISTORIC FURNISHINGS REPORT

Appendix C

Research Notes on House Planning.

*1911 February 2 Reuchlin Wright to Milton Wright, LC online

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I think the boys are mistaken as to the architects' mission. The builder determines the general plan of the building he wants to build and the architect harmonizes the arrangement. The architects' experience enables him to avoid many inconveniences the inexperienced would not see. Let the boys determine the general plan they want and give it to an architect to work out the detail.

*1911 February 7 KW to Alec Ogilvie (*Letters of the Wright Brothers*, Riddle and Sinnott)

The new house seems to be well on the way finally. We have quite unexpectedly agreed perfectly on our style of exterior. The interior is 'up to me'. We won't be in by when you come . . . next summer, but if you will stay long enough, you may initiate the guest chamber, which is going to be pretty and comfortable as I know how to make it.

*1911 April 23 WW to KW, LC online

I think it would be a mistake to make the rooms on the first floor of the new house less than 11-1/2, or 11 ft at the least. Also I like "festoons" on the cornice like Chas Wilbert has on one of his buildings on Third St.

*1911 April 23 KW to Alec Ogilvie (*Letters of the Wright Brothers*, Riddle and Sinnott)

The preliminary sketch of the house has just come from the architect. On the outside it says 'Residence for Miss Katharine Wright.' Orv says, "It's no use. We can't fool anybody. Everyone knows who will own the house." I really think we are going to have a pretty house and I am getting impatient now to have it materialize. Your room is all provided for!

*1911 May 7 OW to WW, LC online

[writing about restrictions in area of the Salem lot on which they planned to build a house]
"My plan for the house was given to Williams & Schenk a few days after you left. They submitted a sketch a few weeks ago which contained a lot of improvements, but which lacked a few details which we considered essential and which seemed a little hard to work in without destroying the improvements which they had made. They are at work on it again. Their

improvements consisted mainly in making everything in the building symmetrical. This required increasing the size of the hall downstairs a good deal, and dropping out the lavatory! Kalbfus has an advertisement in the Journal this morning, offering his property for sale. We are afraid it will be sold to some friend of our conspicuous Hebrew neighbors.”

*1911 May 15 OW to WW, LC online

I am sending the latest designs for the house. The principal changes from the revised design from Williams are in placing the toilet room on the first floor at the rear of the house instead of at the side of the front vestibule. In order to make one of the closets at the side of the vestibule large enough, he had to widen the hall two feet. I have also narrowed the width of the kitchen by making it longer. Altogether I have cut six feet off of the total length of the house and porches. I have slightly changed all of the rooms upstairs, which I think much better than in his design. The bath room was cut off the side of the back room. I have made room for the bath by cutting down the size of the servants room. I have widened the front porch. We thought it looked too high and narrow in Williams’ drawing.

I have secured a book of designs of Georgia Colonials, containing designs of several hundred houses besides the colonials. The commonest styles of houses seem to cost \$10,000 to \$15,000. I think our house will cost about \$30,000, judging from the estimates given in this book.

*1911 May 26 WW to OW, LC online Family Papers: Correspondence – Wilbur Wright, March–June 1911

In looking over the proposed plan for the new house I see that most of the rooms are smaller than the original plans, and only the price has been enlarged. You are wasting entirely too much space on halls +c Don’t put sliding doors in the den.

I see plainly that I am going to be put into one of the two south bed rooms so I propose a new plan for these rooms. In any event I am going to have a bath room of my own, so please make me one. . .

I think it would be wise to make a calculation of the amount of help needed to keep up the new house. I fear the place is getting too big to be managed by our servant and that you will need a smaller house, or, larger servants’ quarters. One servant will be needed to keep the halls clean.

*1911 May 28 OW to WW, LC online

We have heard nothing from the architect about the house. Joe Boyd is still in the Broadway property. He is “talking” about getting out but I am afraid it will be too late to undertake building there this year. I am inclined to think that the cost of building will come down rather than rise in the coming year. A number of people are now out of work. Several of the big shops are running only half time. The fact that so much building is now going on makes prices high. The Post office building, the WCA building and the Rike-Kumler building [S&W] are all just starting.

*1911 June 4 OW to WW, LC online

Nothing further has been done about the building of the house. Kate is now in favor of moving to Oakwood! She has Lorenze good and scared. He offered me the 140 ft lot next north of ours for \$3,500, if we will build. He also offered to buy the Kalbfus lot and house, which are for sale, but I can't see that that would help matters much.

*1911 June 11 OW to WW, LC online

Kate and I have just been up to inspect the neighborhood of our lot. Lorenze has offered us the adjoining lot for \$3,500. I think we had better take it. I will try to get it a couple hundred less. The entire block is 650 feet long. Our present lot measures 2000 ft, and the next lot 140 ft, leaving one lot of 100 ft and another of 210 ft on which Lorenze intends to build. We are going to have Williams go ahead with the plans as they were in the sketch sent to you.

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*1911 November 8 KW to Griffith Brewer (*Letters of the Wright Brothers*, Riddle and Sinnott)

[By your next trip] we'll have our building site selected! I think Will and Orv are very glad we did not go ahead on the original lot. Many things are making that neighborhood rather undesirable.

*1911 December 27 KW to Alec Ogilvie (*Letters of the Wright Brothers*, Riddle and Sinnott)

I must not forget about the house. The boys have come to my way of thinking, as they always do if I just have patience enough to rely on the sun instead of the wind to produce the desired state of mind. But it's not the place of which we spoke when you were here, but just across the road on the high hill. There are 17-1/2 acres to be had there and we can have a lovely place if one or two others can be arranged—a village water tower is one of the drawbacks.

**1911 MW Diaries: 1857-1917

Saturday August 12 Wilbur and Katharine walked to their lot on Salem Avenue.

Tuesday August 15 Wilbur and Katharine went to Oakwood, to see about the location.

Wednesday August 16 W. and K. again visited Oakwood nearly night.

Friday November 24 Katharine is busy with embossing a cushion slip costing much work.

Tuesday November 28 Katharine brought my black eleven slippers.

Friday December 22 Katharine sends off an embroidered cushion to Mrs. F.H. Russell, Boston.

Sunday December 24 I got the Imperial Atlas, lamp-electric, Year Diary, pulse-warmers – Calendar Cheer, calendar.

*1912 October 17 OW to GB (*Letters of the Wright Brothers*, Riddle and Sinnott)

we are just beginning the building of new home in Oakwood, a suburb of Dayton. The next time you and Mrs. Brewer come we will be able to make it more pleasant for you.

*1912 October 17 KW to Alec Ogilvie (*Letters of the Wright Brothers*, Riddle and Sinnott)

the house is coming on slowly. The weather has been the *limit*. It is raining this minute.

*1912 MW Diaries: 1857–1917

Sunday March 31 The children went out to see their lot in Oakwood.

Monday August 5 The men begin to level off Orville's lot for a new building in Oakwood.

Sunday August 11 hot water bottle

Friday September 6 The Gov. thermometer reached

Saturday September 7 The brick work of Orville's "Boyd" house is nearly completed.

Wednesday October 2 At home [7 Hawthorn] except to look at Orville's Business House, in the afternoon

Saturday November 9 reading in Gerit [*sic*] Smith's Life.

Tuesday December 10 In the afternoon and evening I wrote upon the type-writer the Koerner Family.

*1912 November 8 MW to Rev. J. Howe [Huntington, IN] Huntington University Library/archives – www.huntington.edu/ubhc/exhibits/wright/writings/howe19121108_2.pdf

Orville has let the building of his residence, and we are to be in it in about nine months.

The children seem to count fully on my moving with them. I was born in a log cabin.

*1913 MW Diaries: 1857–1917

Monday January 6 I got a blue typewriter ribbon. I got a lot of typewriter paper.

Friday January 17 bought type-writer paper, collars & neck-ties.

Monday February 17 I visited Orville's new business house.

Saturday March 15 [O and K in Europe] I went to see the new house in Oakwood. The brickwork of the first story is done, and the east end partly on second story.

Monday March 17 I had an explosion of the Dining room stove in starting it.

Wednesday April 16 I go to New House at Oakwood. The brick-layers are at work.

Monday April 21 I went with Orville to the new house in Oakwood. The brick-work is about up to the third floor. A large attic space is intended below the roof.

Wednesday May 7 Katharine is elected president of the [Young Woman's] League.

Friday May 16 I spent the day in looking over old letters, destroying some.

Friday May 30 Orville and Katharine and Ivonette go to Oakwood and take supper outdoors there.

Saturday May 31 Orville goes out to Oakwood and have [*sic*] an out-door supper there.

Sunday June 29 Orville was threatened for arrest by a cop for rapid driving.

Friday July 4 In the afternoon, Orville took me to his lot in Oakwood Where Lorin and his family, Ben and Peka & William Andrews and wife, Willie Jenkins, and Wm. Shank's daughter, were where we ate supper, and went to the top of Orville's new house, and saw the fireworks at the fair grounds till 9 o'clock. Ella Leitch brought some cake.

Monday July 7 Harmon's [*sic*-Harman's] Agt. called to see Katharine about furnishing the house in Oakwood.

Thursday July 17 Orville takes me to his lot, and puts up hammock to red-bud bushes, where spend the afternoon.

Monday July 21 I read Mrs. Trollope's accounts of her visit to America.

Tuesday July 29 We went to Orville's dooryard-supped there-and spent the evening on Orville's roof. It is 42 feet above the ground. He had a nice breeze there.

Wednesday July 30 At 4 o'clock we went to Orville's lot and ate supper on the roof of his house. Mr. Loeoning was with us. It was cool up there. We stayed till nearly 9:00. This is said to have been the hottest day of the very hot summer

Saturday August 16 In the evening Orville takes me out to his house, which is mostly plastered, the columns set up, and the cornice on.

Tuesday September 30 Lena Bolen left. She was one of the best girls we ever had.

Saturday October 4 Carrie got my supper for me

Saturday October 11 Orville keeps the fire going in his new house.

Sunday October 19 The children make fire at the new house. Ben, Pekah, & Horace come. They stay most of the afternoon.

Thursday December 25 Carrie Grumbach was excused. We ate dinner alone.

****1914** *Diaries: 1857-1917*

Sunday January 4, 1914 Orville & Katharine, at 8:00 evening, took traction cars to Eaton, for locomotive on the Grand Rapids and Indiana, to Grand Rapids, Michigan. They go to select and buy furniture for their new house, in Oakwood.

Thursday, January 8 Orville and Katharine came home on 8:00 morning train. They purchased at Grand Rapids several thousand dollars of furniture, to be delivered in the middle of March.

Sunday January 11 As usual, Orville and Katharine took Horace to the new house, and he staid [*sic*] in the afternoon. [next 2 Sundays as well]

Tuesday February 3 Katharine went to the Suffragette's supper. [also 9/24/14]

Monday February 23 Orville and Mr. Grumbach went and worked on the finish of the doors on the new house.

Tuesday February 24 Orville and Charley spend all day at the new house staining the doors.

[Many references to going to visit the new house.]

Thursday april 23 Orville and Katharine go to Tippecanoe to buy shrubbery. Horace went along and is presented with an English Hawthorn bush. They bought about \$300.00 worth.

Friday april 23 Orville and Katharine went to the house, and the agent from Tippecanoe did not come till nearly dark. So they staid [*sic*] till half past seven.

Sunday april 26 Orville, Katharine and Carrie Grumbach went out to the new house.

Monday april 27 Katharine packed some books for moving.

Tuesday ap 28 we moved from 7 Hawthorn Street, Dayton, Ohio, to Hawthorn Hill, Harmon Ave., Oakwood, Ohio

Appendix D

Research Notes on Servants.

*1914, MW Diary

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Saturday July 11 Charles and Carrie go to Detroit to see Charlie's sister.

Sunday July 12 It is a hot day... Mrs. Lulu Williams gets dinner and supper for us [Carrie in Det.] ... Today the therm. run up to 103 degrees. We sat in the evening on the flat of the roof.

Tuesday July 14 Charles and Carrie came back this morning.

Monday July 27 I give Carrie a check for \$30.00, two weeks' pay.

Wednesday August 12 Mrs. Fross & Miss Stiffen visited Carrie.

*1916, MW Diary

Sunday January 9 Leontine and Horace dined with us. . . . [Orville still sick] Katharine and Leontine do up the dishes, and let Carrie go see her people. They did this nearly every Sunday of the Year.

*1918 KW to OW Hawthorn Hill August 9, LC online

Carrie + Charlie are leaving tomorrow night for Muskegon - . . . Charlie will be back the 27th or 28th. I told Carrie she could stay two weeks longer if she cared to do so.

Carrie has put up 44 quarts of tomatoes, sixteen of beans (but two spoiled I think), two quarts of cucumber pickles, two or three quarts of beet pickles. The lima beans are coming in now. *Dandy!* The asters are fine too.

*ca. 1910s *Wright Reminiscences*, Jay R. Petree, "Memories of My Cousin Orville Wright," p. 122ff

p. 129 [re Hawthorn Hill, pre-WWI] even to a young man from a rural Missouri town, this breath-taking home gave no feeling of pretentiousness, but rather a feeling of quiet peacefulness. A quiet little woman with a low, sweet voice showed me to my room. This was Carrie, who is one of the warmest of my memories of Hawthorn Hill. . . . After [unpacking] I came down and joined Orville in the living room, and soon Carrie announced "dinner." . . . Orville and Wilbur had brought back from France and Italy their Chef's arts and recipes which they taught Carrie.

p. 137 Helen [Jay's wife] has Carrie's recipes in Carrie's own handwriting.

*1921 October 27 KW to GB (*Letters of the Wright Brothers*, Riddle and Sinnott)

Carrie is here and I have a good cook. All serene.

*1924 KW to HH WHMC May 28, 1924

334 Today is Edwards' birthday and we gave him a very good Kodac [*sic*]. He has turned out to be very, very unusual. As first he was so messy in his work that we thought we couldn't put up with it but whenever he and I got to the point of firing him, I reflected how we labored and labored with him and now we have our reward. He was always so nice and polite and easy to get along with. I think I told you how unusual he is in his interests. This spring he has been studying birds. He didn't know one from another but he has been reading and watching them and trying to do all sorts of things for them. For instance, this morning he told me he wished we could have a Christmas tree for the birds next winter. He had read about taking an evergreen and pouring I don't remember what all over it so the birds could come and have a feast. He certainly shall have that Christmas tree if he wants it! He is going north with us and in talking about it to Carrie said he was going to try to dispose of something he had so he could buy a camera and field glasses. That is the wherefore of the gift today. He is a very nice cook and has more pride in having the household appear well than I have!

*1924 KW to HH WHMC July 22

Edwards has been as good as gold and I think he likes the life up here [in Canada]. He is just the kind to adapt himself to whatever comes along—a happy trait. Any body who could be a cook on a British tramp steamer, I think, could make himself contented anywhere. . . . I don't like to work *with* other people in a kitchen – except Carrie and Orv and a very few others. Certainly I don't like to try to do things in the kitchen with Edwards so I've cut entirely and am letting him run.

*1924 KW to HH WHMC September 18

I told Orv that when he and Edwards were walking together in the station at Toronto they looked like the Minister from Liberia and his valet!

*ca. 1924 *Wright Reminiscences*, Robert Hader, "My Summers with Orville Wright," p. 97 ff

[re William Lewis] a colored boy who worked for OW off and on around the house and yard there in Oakwood and who had been going with OW each summer to Canada, had gotten married suddenly and was not available. [Hader went instead.]

*1924 KW to HH WHMC November 19

I am acting as Carrie's chief assistant now that Edwards is gone. I am ashamed (almost) to tell how happy Carrie and I are to have the "dark" out of the house. I don't mean that he was disagreeable personally, for he was not, but we have our own ideas of cleanliness which were not quite the ideas prevailing on the British tramp steamer where he seems to have gotten most of his experience. He has his ticket for a boat sailing November twenty-ninth. I think he expects to go to France.

*1924 KW to HH WHMC November 25

"[At this point I had to run down to the kitchen to 'tend' the chicken and other stuff we had for dinner. Since

Edwards is gone, I put on dinner every night. Carrie gets it all going and has the dessert and salad (both, one, or none!) all ready for me. Dinner being over and the dishes neatly stacked in the kitchen, I now resume.]”

*1924 KW to HH WHMC December 31

about fifty telephone calls from men who saw my advertisement for a houseman. . . Carrie has been sick and I have had to keep the house going which tires me very much. . . I am hoping Carrie will be back before long. She has intestinal grippe.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC January 5

We have a new man in the house this morning and my career as cook and dishwasher is over, temporarily. Carrie is back too. She was home sick all last week. I don’t mind the actual work around the house but I dislike the things that go with it. You never can be clean and “dressed up” and you never can get through. Some way the house looks different this morning since Carrie has put it in order.

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*1925 KW to HH WHMC October 20

[Carrie] has not been here at all today. We lived out of the ice-box. There was all kinds of stuff left over from Carrie’s getting things for Griff. Orv eats so little (when he isn’t at the Bay) and we had a nice lunch and a good dinner with almost no work. She said she’d be here tomorrow. We have engaged a new woman who is to come tomorrow. She is a “middle-aged widow” (horrors: she’ll be after Orv!) - . . . She is from Sidney – never worked out before but her husband died and she had nothing but the house – no income. It is an experiment – I hope she’ll do and that she will be a nice person for Carrie to associate with. The white girls that work out are a doubtful lot. The last one we had, Margaret, died here at our house, two years ago last Spring. I had suspicions that she took something to put her to sleep. It was very queer. And, of course, there was a man in the case. Margaret was nearly fifty too. She had told Carrie about her affairs and later a man called up and was terribly shocked to hear she was dead. It seems he’d been putting her off . . . [more details] . . . Well we had suspicions of the Mary we had before Margaret (they were friends) and I don’t want any more of that kind. I’d rather worry with this woman who probably won’t know how to do *anything* to suit us and is most likely too old to learn. I’m not over optimistic over the prospect but we’ll see how it comes out. I feel sure she is a nice woman.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC October 24, 1925

Carrie hasn’t been here all week. The new woman is rather promising but of course is more trouble than help at first. I’m afraid Carrie may be away a long time. She is away a good deal for such things. I think if I didn’t always pay her right along it would be better. I want her to have the money but the family knows she always gets paid and so makes such unfair demands upon her.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC [2nd letter of this date] October 24

I’ll have my dinner now. Mrs. Murray is ready for me. It wasn’t much of a dinner, but I get along all right. If I could get out in the kitchen myself I could get some simple things that are good.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC November 17

I had to go and get dinner and wash the dishes and get the table set in the kitchen for breakfast. We want to start early and Carrie may not be here.

*1925 KW to HH WHMC December 21

But I understand how touchy most cooks are. Carrie isn't a bit. She is always ready to pick up any thing new and is grateful for suggestions from any body.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC January 12

Lottie will be paying in a good deal every month on the house and I can use that money if I want it.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC, January 16

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Carrie is so tired and worn out. Her father grows more and more helpless and the work of taking care of him grows harder and harder. Carrie stayed up all night last night.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC January 19

I am alone today. Carrie is gone again. She *thinks* they will take her father to the hospital. It is a long story. But I shall insist pretty soon on Carrie's being here more.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC January 26

All my time is taken answering the telephone. I advertised for a cook. Nuff said.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC January 28

We really are having a terrible time with our new cook. She is no good at all but doesn't know it. Nothing is good and everything is indigestible. One wouldn't mind the indigestion so much if the eating had been pleasurable—or one could stand rather indifferent food if it didn't do any damage. But this combination is too much for us! I can do ten times as well myself and I know I can't cook much. I am often amused at the self assurance of people. It is partly bluff. We'll have to let this woman go and I am sorry for she is very nice. But I couldn't possible let her put a meal on the table if any one was visiting us. *We* can't get along with it ourselves. It was just a week ago tonight that Lu[sp?] Warner was here. Carrie had a lovely little dinner—except the ice cream. Orv has rigged up the freezer with a motor and we haven't quite learned its tricks. It freezes too fast if you put in any salt to amount to anything. But it saves a lot of hard work turning the crank and Carrie has made some dandy cream with it.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC, February 9

I have been used to Carrie for so long. I taught her everything originally and then forgot it all!

*1926 KW to HH WHMC, February 10

Carrie's father died night before last. She will be away about a week, *as usual*. She always takes her afternoon and that added to the being away for the funeral and Sunday makes nearly a week. I am sorry to be so impatient but her family always see to it that she can never be here. If it isn't one thing it is another. It is so hard for Carrie to have the funeral put off until Saturday but the other members of the family decided *that*. . . . I shall not let her be away so much on my time any more. Her father and mother are both gone now. She has been away two months at a time taking care of her mother and I have always paid her. She has no more real obliga-

tions and if she stays away now I shall not pay her. You see I have a brand new woman in the house and, as usual, she can't do anything. If I had known Carrie would stay away so long I would not have let the woman come. There really isn't much to fuss about now but I have got awfully tired of a series of things over a good many years. I believe the new woman will do pretty well after she has been taught. She is nice but can't do any nice cooking at all. And she isn't *extra* clean!

*1926 KW to HH WHMC February 15

Did I ever tell you about the stylish "butler"! we had once who protested when I asked him to take care of the flowers from the table. He said that the people *he* had worked for never used their flowers but once. They didn't try to make them last day after day. "Then," I said, "you haven't worked for people who had much, for such people take care of their things." He was the one who used to stand around and give Orv advice on how to repair things but never lifted a finger to help. So when I told him we wouldn't need him anymore I said that Orv said what we wanted was someone to do some work; that Orv didn't need any advice about motors and so on, that he understood a little about such things himself! The "butler" was dumbsquizzled. He said "Did Mr. Wright say that"? he couldn't believe that his services were not entirely satisfactory. He thought it must be his wife, who was with us too, was the trouble. There is some fun if you can just see it – in dealing with these ignorant darkies.

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*1926 KW to HH WHMC February 23

I'm bossing the dinner this evening, dear. I'm no cook and I know it but I certainly can do better than these girls nowadays. But Elizabeth is improving. The kitchen begins to look like itself again. Poor Elizabeth! She has had two of us after her. Usually I don't interfere much out there but Carrie wasn't here much of the time and I thought I'd better take hold myself. Some way Elizabeth can't roast beef right. So I am keeping an eye on it.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC March 1

Carrie and I came up to Piqua—thirty miles—today—this afternoon to get some blankets. We get them at the Mills for half the price in the stores. I got two *lovely* blankets—lamb's wool—full size \$16.85—single bed size \$12.85. [T]he blanket sold for \$35 in the stores. Of course, I never paid \$35.00 for a pair of blankets but I never had any so nice before. Carrie is a trump. She is never afraid to go anywhere with me—even if I am timid about it myself.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC March 10

We'll have to get Ollie [cook in KC] in a mood to let Carrie tell her how to can corn. I think I can learn and then teach Ollie. We had some corn today at our little luncheon and several spoke about it. They thought it couldn't be fresh sweet corn but it didn't taste quite like canned corn. Carrie is the only cook I have ever seen who was willing to give her choice recipes to any one who wants them.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC March 15

I'm awful cross today. . . . Our Elizabeth is here as a cook. But she can't cook and she doesn't keep things clean enough to suit me. I have delivered my ultimatum to Carrie who has charge of Elizabeth. Either Elizabeth must cook better or keep things cleaner or depart. I could get along if she would do anything well. She is too good natured.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC March 18

Carrie and Charlie are staying with me tonight, dear. Charlie was out and just came in. I staid [*sic*] down and talked to Carrie until he came. She is such a dear little thing. She simply won't let me stay alone, though I am not a bit afraid. She is always unselfish—never thinks of what she'd rather do: just does whatever is kind. [Orv in DC]

*1926 KW to HH WHMC March 19

Carrie and William have been cleaning my room and bath room. They cleaned the paper and it is lovely.

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*1926 KW to HH WHMC May 16

He [Orv] didn't "sleep a wink" for two nights and was taking aspirin and he left the house yesterday morning before Carrie came.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC July 7

our old "Bill" is back working in the yard for us a few days at least. He is the hardest worker I have ever seen. I wish we could keep him around but, of course, we haven't enough work for that. The yard has been so untidy this Spring and Summer. But in one day, Bill makes a big place as neat as a pin.

Orv is going tomorrow. . . . Carrie and Charles will stay in the house with me.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC [nd#44] [October 30?]

I am letting Carrie go before lunch today so she can get ready comfortably for her little Halloween party which she is having this afternoon for her little nieces and nephews—about sixteen or twenty of them! She has done everything to help me when I get near the breaking point.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC nd#17 [fall]

Lou is lovely to me and so is Carrie. When I look washed out, Carrie says very little but stays and puts dinner on the table. That's her way of showing sympathy. All she says is "It's all I can do for Miss Katharine".

*1926 KW to HH WHMC nd#6 [Oct?]

I have been around with Orv in the yard all afternoon. He is directing a lot of work for the drive and some other grading. . . . Lou told me this evening that Lorin's wife (Netta) asked her the first thing how she would like my living in Kansas City! It seems that Orv talked to Lorin about it last spring. I didn't know any thing about it at all. Of course, they have been waiting for me to say something. Lou said that they were all very sympathetic with me. Netta said they were going to do everything to help Orv and to give me a pretty wedding. I am so happy about it. Netta said to Lou that I helped her more than anyone else when her children were little and she had not forgotten it. . . . Lou has been lovely to me all the time. She thinks I ought to go ahead and I think I can before long. It will be such a help to have the family back of me. Now as soon as I can get some one in the house, dear. Carrie has written again to Edwards. She says she told him that since she taught him everything he knew so he could get his job in France, she thought he ought to come back here and teach her what he had learned there. He will come some of these days, I feel pretty sure.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC nd#56

We have written to Edwards (Harry Edwards) the colored man who used to be with us to see if he wants to come back. He is the one who was a magician's assistant and is in France now but he wrote to Carrie as if he would be glad to be back "home." So Carrie and I, after talking it over, decided that he was our best prospect. He is a man of good character, devoted to Orv, nice to everyone and he doesn't run about at night. He is between thirty-five and forty. He was nice up at the Bay so that would take care of Orv up there. He wasn't such a very good worker, but a fair cook and always nice. He was always very considerate of us all. So if he will come back, I would feel comfortable about Orv. He would be in the house most evenings. We ought to hear from him in two weeks more. Our William didn't turn up. He was as nice as could be—an excellent worker but young and flighty. Edwards will be better for us, considering everything.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC nd#42

I am stumped to get a man to stay in the house. It is easy enough to get people for day's work but times have changed and every one wants to live at home, naturally. But we must have someone in the house. If only Edwards would come back. He could just for [fit in here?] in [?]. we could put up with rather ordinary work for other things. I just happened to hear about him from a cousin of a neighbor who visited the very place this summer where Edwards is working. She says he gets very little money—as we suspected. But Edwards' story of his place was very glowing. Carries says she has always wanted to hear what Edwards tells them over there about *our* place! . . . I am in trouble with the whole family or will be when they find out what I am planning to do, I fear. . . . It would have been not too hard if everyone had helped me but I fear *no* one will. . . . I must go help with the work. There is so much to do. William is back but only for day's work. The house got out of order with no one but Carrie and Lottie, our laundress, who helped one day a week besides laundry week. William is a fine worker.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC nd#8

Carrie will stand by until she gets some one in the house, if Edwards doesn't come.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC nd#11

The most serious thing now is to get a good man in the house. I do hope Edwards will come back before very long. I almost think he will. We are trying every where to get hold of some one—no success yet.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC nd#46

Sunday is my busy day, dear. Carrie doesn't come on Sunday at all. She gets everything ready for me and I don't mind doing what I do. . . . We hope to hear from Edwards by next Sunday. It has been three weeks today since Carrie wrote to him. It will simplify our problem greatly if he comes for we know him and can trust him. He is very devoted to Orv, too, and is nice around the house. We will be in hot water if he doesn't come for we have no other prospect just now. The young William would have been an excellent worker but he would have been out every night. But he hasn't come back to Dayton so there is no use talking about that. Edwards is settled and doesn't care to go out much. He will be satisfied if we can get him. He is the kind too, who wouldn't walk off and leave us in the lurch. He was trying, with his dauby [*sic*] hands, always leaving marks on everything but we can stand for that for his good qualities. He is cheerful and good-natured, which is just what we want for Orv.

*1926 KW to HH WHMC nd#54 [microfilm annotation “10/16/1926?”]

[W]e have just heard from Edwards that he is not coming. That is a great disappointment because we know him and could trust him. We will begin now in earnest to find someone here. Of course, we have been doing some scouting but nothing looks favorable so far. It is a relief almost, to have something else to worry about besides Orv!

*1926 KW to HH WHMC nd#31

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I have a German working for me in the yard. He has been in this country only six weeks and knows only a very little English. I know less than a very little German and you laugh to see us trying to converse. He is a good worker—not spoiled yet. No, he is an Austrian—from the Tyrol—not a German. [see nd#28 re Austrian]

*1926 KW to HH WHMC nd#28

... with my Austrian doing everything I don't want done, the minute I come in the house and with Carrie tackling me every three minutes as to what I want done with things in my hall closet. I use that for my papers and such.

*1927 KWH to VS August 1 Dartmouth Stef MSS – 196(17): 1927 – Ha-He

Carrie is visiting us for a fortnight. She is in the kitchen making orange marmalade—always doing something for me—though I haven't let her do much since she has been here [in KC visiting them].

*ca. 1941 *Wright Reminiscences*, Marianne Hudec, p. iiii

I then lost myself in his large house, since I found the grownup conversation terribly dull. . . . It was here [alcove] and in the kitchen with Carrie that I passed most of my time.

*1948 *Wright Reminiscences*, Ivonette Miller's Reminiscences – pp. 2–50

p. 40 ref to William Lewis, “a well loved house servant, appeared at HH and offered his help, said he would stay as long as he was needed.” [at Orville's death time]

* 1948 “Last Will and Testament” Orville Wright WSU Archives: SC-15 Wrights: Copies of Wills; Folder 1

Mabel Beck. . . secretary \$3000/yr

...

Carrie Kaylor Grumbach . . . faithful housekeeper \$2000/yr

Charlotte Jones. . . laundress \$400/yr

*11/28/66 *Dayton Journal* “Former Housekeeper for Wright Dies”

Carrie Kayler Grumbach . . . was employed at age 14 by the Wright brothers' sister, Katharine, in 1900 as a helper in the family home at 7 Hawthorne Street. She eventually became bachelor Orville Wright's housekeeper and served him until his death Jan. 30, 1948. . . . In 1953, she appeared in a movie commemorating the 50th anniversary of powered flight.

Appendix E

Transcript of Kate Leonard's diary and journal entries, 1914, Oberlin College Archives.

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*1914 October 16–23, 1914 “Notes from Dayton Visit” in KBLEonard Journal, Archives of Oberlin College, Kate B. Leonard Papers 30/224, Diaries and Journals, folder: 1910–22, box 2

p. 27 \$75,000 received from British gov't for infringement of partial rights suits which Wrights have carried [in? on?] have cost them \$100,000—Does it pay?

p. 28 *Wright's house*

Total length from E. end of living room to W end of breakfast room is 72 ft—with side porches 90 feet.

Dimensions of living room 35x17 old gold figured tapestry on walls, brown rugs and hangings Chippendale furniture. Reception room or trophy room – green rug and upholstery on the Adam furniture

Bronze group representing the two brothers, in shelter of eagles wing presented by the province of Sarthe in which is located Pau where Wilbur's flights were made in 1908.

The other trophy – a bronze figure perhaps Mercury, presented to Orville by am ? Aeronautical Society.

*1914 October 16–23, 1914 KBLEonard Journal, Archives of Oberlin College, Kate B. Leonard Papers 30/224, Diaries and Journals, folder: 1913-17, box:2

October 16 took train [from Wellington] for Dayton. Katharine and Harriet Robbins met me.

October 17 Saturday. Rainy but beautiful outdoors everyway we looked. Mrs. Seibert and Miss Ryder came out for lunch. Walk and jolly evening visit.

October 18 Sunday. As every day we got up when we wanted to. Saw the whole house. Lieutenant Maxfield there for dinner. Four of us took a walk; then to Bro.[?] + Miss R[yder].

October 19 Visited until late after return from Miss Ryder's last night. Lunch down town and 2 hr. auto ride with Wagner's to H. street, factory + field. Evening visit.

October 20 Tuesday – morning walk thro “hills and dales” glorious views. Girls napped in p.m. + I visited with [g.p.? Milton Wright?] Read. Supper at “league” and heard Garfield speak [?].

October 21 Wednesday. K.W. was down town most of morning. H. + I had walk and [hovered?] in library. Met Agnes Osborne + sister for lunch. Girls napped and I looked at picture books.

October 22 Before supper last night Orville took me for a ride through “hills and dales” In evening heard Mrs. Upton and Mrs. Catt and visited until late.

October 23 on Thursday 22nd we all saw [kidlet?] off [ment?] home for lunch and K. and brother took me down for 1:16 train.

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January 2011