

Jr.

**Collection:** Thomas H. Briggs, Papers  
1890, 1896, 1957  
Raleigh, North Carolina

P.C. 210.1

(OS Box)

**Physical Description:** 18 items; specifications, memorandum, newspaper page, plans and elevations, plats, sketches.

**Acquisition:** 1956-1958 Biennial Report--Received from Mike Leavister of Raleigh in a canister container. Canister transferred to Museum of History, 1975.

**Description:** The Briggs house on Edenton Street in Raleigh, called "The Harbor," was built in 1896 for Thomas H. Briggs, the oldest son of Thomas Henry Briggs, who opened Briggs Hardware Store on Fayetteville Street in 1865. When the Briggs family moved into their new home, the household consisted of Thomas H. and Sarah Grandy Briggs; their son Willis Grandy and daughter Elizabeth Norwood (m. Judge T. M. Pittman of Henderson); Mrs. Briggs's father Willis Sawyer Grandy; an adopted daughter Bessie Brown; the principal of Murphey Graded School, Miss Eliza Pool; and two servants. When Willis Briggs died in 1954, the house was left to Bessie Brown who lived there until the house was sold to the Edenton Street Methodist Church in 1956. The next year the house was demolished to pave the way for a parking lot for the church.

The architect for the house was G. T. Barber & Company of Knoxville, Tenn., and the contractor was John A. Bivins of Raleigh. In having the house built, Briggs noted that he indulged in only two extravagances--a lovely carved wood paneling in the foyer and a hard finished pine stairway. These were saved by Briggs descendants when the house was razed.

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Elevations and Plans: Elevations of four sides of the house (4 linen sheets); plans for foundation, first and second floors, and roof (4 linen sheets); side elevation of staircase and detail of window panels and other trim (2 blueprints); sketches of porch columns, cornices, etc. (3 sheets of drawing paper). Undated.

Specifications: "Memoranda for Bidders," 18 pp. n.d., signed by J. A. Bivins, and Mrs. and Mrs. Briggs, measurements for trim on windows, front door, transoms, etc., 8 pp., n.d.

Newspaper: A full page story of "The Harbor" and its "Briggs" by Lucy Daniels, Raleigh Times, April 20, 1957.

Miscellaneous items: Plat of 19.11 acres on Louisburg Road, surveyed by Joseph Blake, February 25, 1890; plat of lots in Oakwood [Historical District] encompassing Person, Polk, Bloodworth, East Streets, n.d.

**Arrangement of Papers:**

Oversized Manuscript Box

**Finding Aids:**

Main Entry Card  
Geographic Card  
Wake County--Raleigh  
Date Card  
1896  
Subject Cards  
ARCHITECTURAL PLANS  
BRIGGS, THOMAS H. HOUSE  
RALEIGH

See Also: P.C. 355 Willis G. Briggs Collection  
Thomas Henry Briggs Account Books

Finding Aid completed 25 September 1975 by Ellen Z. McGrew