

## Toby Hall / Turtle Hall

Built: 1812

### Area History:

Turtle Hall has not always been called so. On February 20, 1735, the state granted 640 acres extending from Shandy Hall (Shandy Point) to Deep Inlet (Hewlett's Creek) to John Watson. On February 16, 1737; 640 acres were granted to Thomas Conner- the Shandy Hall property.

During the early to mid 1700's, Dr. John Eustace lived at Shandy Hall, but was not the owner. He was a friend of the British writer, Laurence Sterne, who in the early 1700's wrote the novel, "Tristram Shandy" - the story of Uncle Toby Shandy who lived on an estate next to that of the father of Tristram Shandy. It is presumed that Dr. Eustace started referring to the two Sound estates as Shandy Hall and Toby Hall. These names were soon adopted by everyone in the area.

There is no known account of the estate during the Revolutionary War. The original house burned sometime between 1803 and 1812 and was rebuilt in 1812. There were several owners between 1812 to 1920.

In 1920 , two German fishermen used Toby Hall as a working farm. The German immigrants fished and harvested turtles. The property was referred to as the "Turtle Haul".

In 1930, Daisy Page and her husband renovated the Toby house after a fire. At this time, Daisy changed the name of the house to "Turtle Hall" and improved the house to appear as an "estate". Wings were added to the original Georgian plan. A back porch was also added along with several outdoor buildings - tenant houses, a stable and garages.

The original 640 acres have been subdivided into countless lots since 1735. Many of the buyer's influenced place names on the landscape. John Hewlett (Hewlett Creek) and Richard Bradley (Bradley Creek) were owners of sub lots.

Past excavations have revealed authentic Civil War period dish ware along with other artifacts. Parts of a cannon used in the Civil War have also been found. Most of the antiques that were originally in the house have been removed by previous owners. Even a mantle was taken before the house was sold. However, its historical architecture can still be seen in many areas of the house.

The Toby Hall estate which once was surrounded by 640 acres, now rests on a 1 to 1 1/2 acre lot. Most, if not all, of the outer buildings have been removed. The exception; the stable, has been renovated. Other acres have been subdivided with lots of one acre and 1/2 acre for residential use.

**Timeline:**

**1735- State to John Watson (son of Jonathan Watson)**

**640 acres from Shandy Hall to Deep Inlet; had 3 children.**

**1773- John Watson to Samuel Marshall; 200 acres.**

**John Watson to Jonathan Watson; 200 acres.**

**1775-1783- Revolutionary War. No known account of Toby Hall.**

**1803- William L. Marshall (son of Samuel Marshall), mariner, to James Marshall, cabinet maker; 1/2 plantation (100 acres) including Toby House.**

**1812- Original house had burned sometime between 1803 and 1812 and was rebuilt at this time.**

**1813- James Marshall to Joseph Kellog for \$150.00.**

**1823- Joseph Kellog to Thomas Robinson; and Thomas Robinson to Richard Bradley (Bank of Cape Fear - a mortgage bank). T. Robinson died 1825.**

**1826- Richard Bradley to Catherine Robinson (Mrs. Thomas Robinson).**

**1829- Catherine Robinson to Gershon Lazarus.**

**1831- Gershon Lazarus to Catherine Robinson.**

**1836- Catherine Robinson to Martin Bryant.**

**1861- Start of the Civil War.**

**1863- Duncan Bryant to Potter - 10 acres.**

**1865- End of Civil War**

1920- Two German fishermen use Toby as a working farm. Fished and raised turtles. Toby referred to as "Turtle Haul".

Between 1920 and 1930- John and Carried Tienkens live in the house. The Stern's (not the author, Sterne) then occupy the residence.

1930- Daisy Page and husband renovate Toby Hall to resemble an 'estate'. Rename estate, "Turtle Hall".

1967- John C. Drewry.

1970- Duke University.

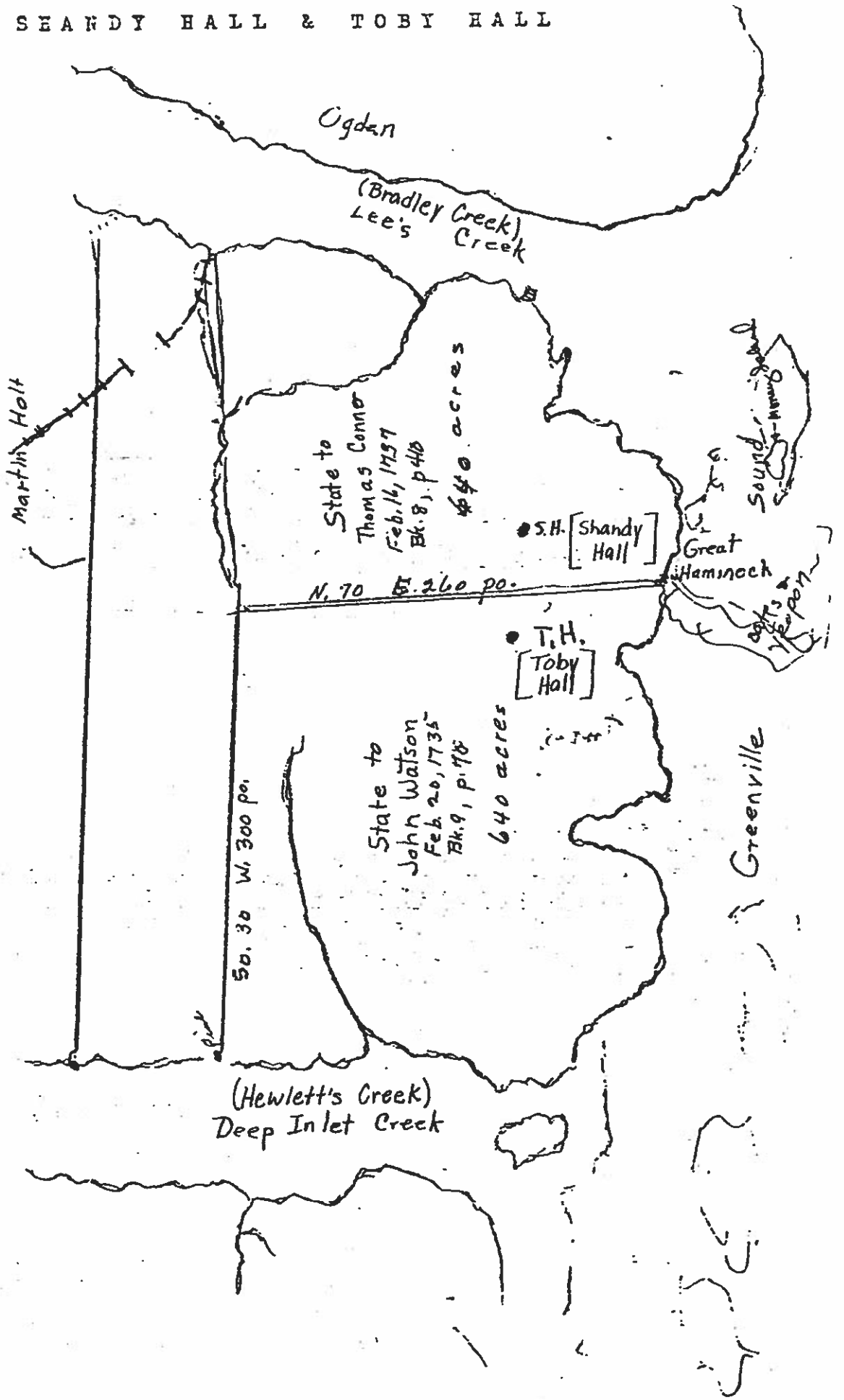
1971- David and Peggy Block

From 1967 until 1977, the house remained vacant. No improvements were made.

1977- David Block to Robert and Regina Doyle.

The Doyle's were owners as of 1981 when this research was performed. Copies of county records are enclosed for further interest.

SEARDY HALL & TOBY HALL



C E R O B Y H A L L

DB F, p. 337, New Hanover County ... 23 July 1773

JOHN WATSON of New Hanover County, executor of the will of JONATHAN WATSON, deceased, deeded to SAMUEL MARSHALL a plantation of 200 acres on the Sound, joining JOSEPH WATSON and THOMAS CUNNINGHAM. Said land was bequeathed to JONATHAN WATSON, deceased, by will of his father, JOHN WATSON, deceased....included land with all buildings and improvements. .. etc... Wit: Cornelius Harnett and Henry Young.

(The will of JOHN WATSON shows that the land he willed his son JONATHAN was a part of his home plantation on the Sound.)

(JONATHAN WATSON was not of age when his father made his will in 1743. He died in 1772 and his legatees were his brother Joseph Watson and his daughters, Hannah, Hester, Elizabeth and Ann Watson, and Ann Marshall and Mary Marshall. <sup>1</sup>

The will of John Watson, the elder, left three sons, John, II, Joseph and Jonathan Watson. JOHN WATSON, II, dated his will December 1773 and it was probated March Court 1774. He named his wife ANN and his daughters Elizabeth Watson, Mary wife of SAMUEL MARSHALL, and SARAH wife of Nixon Chester. <sup>2</sup>

Thus we see that SAMUEL MARSHALL married MARY, daughter of John Watson, II, and granddaughter of John Watson the elder, to whom the above land was granted. He also received the grant to the land on which the town of Wilmington was founded.

New Hanover County Court Minutes, 4 October, 1790 shows that "on motion of Mr. Jones, resolved that the property, real and personal, and also all the rights and credits which Samuel Marshall was possessed of at the time of his departure from this State with the British, by which he forfeited the same to the State; is hereby vested in the children of the said Samuel Marshall, the said children to enjoy the same as fully and amply as if their father the said Samuel, had died in allegiance; as far as the Court is authorized by Laws of this State so to do." <sup>3</sup>

Court Minutes show the following children of Samuel Marshall and Mary Watson Marshall:

1. Samuel Marshall, age about 17 years, son of S. Marshall, chose Thomas Withers and Robert Scott as guardians 5 October, 1786. Bond 1500 lbs.
2. Sarah Marshall ... John Nichols appointed her guardian ~~25 Aug~~ 8 July 1788.
3. William Leidby Marshall ... Edward Russell and Jesse Atkins appointed his guardian 8 July 1788.
4. James Marshall ... Edward Russell and Jesse Atkins appointed his guardian 8 July, 1788.

The July Term of Court, 1791, ordered the division of certain tracts of land late the property of JONATHAN, JOSEPH and JOHN WATSON, deceased. ,.....

Lot No. 1 .. 100 acres in the creek whereon Mr. Nixon Chester now resides, valued at 110 lbs, and assigned to Nixon Chester. (Nixon Chester married Sarah, sister of Mary(Watson) Marshall).

Lot No. 2 .. 200 acres on which Edward Russell now resides at 100 lbs. and assigned to the heirs of SAMUEL MARSHALL. <sup>4</sup>

.....  
1. Will Bk. C, p. 438, New Hanover County .. Will of Jonathan Watson.

~~2. Watson, John .. will of .. Grimes' ABSTRACTS OF N. C. WILLS, p. 394.~~

2. Watson, John .. will of .. Grimes' ABSTRACTS OF N. C. WILLS, p. 394.  
3. Watson, Jonathan, John, Joseph ... Division of Estate .. LD A, pgs. 21 & 122, New Hanover County, North Carolina.

TOBY HALL now TURTEE HALL

DB. F, p. 337, New Hanover County July 23, 1773

JOHN WATSON, Exr. of the will of JONATHAN WATSON, dec'd. to SAMUEL MARSHALL, a plantation of 200 acres on the Sound joining Joseph Watson and THOMAS CUNNINGHAM. Said land bequeathed Jonathan Watson by will of his father, JOHN WATSON, decd. land with all buildings, etc. Begin at a lightwood post on ye N. E. drain of Way's pond running thence up the marsh N 14 East 40 poles to a pine near Dirty Branch to a pine at the head thereof, N 40 W by a marked line to a small pine at ye head of Maloney's Swamp, thence N 70 W to a small pine in ye line between Joseph Watson and Thomas Cunningham, thence N 30 E to a lightwood stump, thence S 70 E to a lightwood post in ye Sound in ye Bigg Hammock thence up ye Sound and Ways Pond to ye station of the first part...200 acres bequeathed to Jonathan Watson by will of his father, John Watson.

DB M, p. 200, New Hanover County 25 May 1803

WILLIAM LEIDBY MARSHALL, mariner, to JAMES MARSHALL, cabinet maker, of Wilmington.. for \$40...a Quit Claim deed to said William's interest and title in ~~xxxxxxx~~ 1/2 of that plantation on the Sound in New Hanover County called Toby House and which formerly belonged to Samuel Marshall, dec'd... The division of the plantation being in the following manner to wit: by a direct line run eastwardly through the center thereof and the 1/2 part next Shandy Hall, being the premises hereby conveyed to JAMES MARSHALL. Said William Leidby Marshall Quit Claims to James Marshall all of his claim to said land.

Wit: R. Harley (Hurley)

William Leidby Marshall

Proved June Court 1803

DB P, p. 238 17 December 1813

JAMES MARSHALL sold the above land, (100 acres Toby House) to GEORGE JENNINGS on 17 December 1813. ....that tract of land situated on the Sound. Begin on the east line of a plantation whereon John Hewlett now lives, 40 poles from a lightwood stump known as the corner of a line running east to the Sound, called Watson's line, which said line is the ~~boundary~~ south boundary line of Hostler's & Walker's plantation, thence running east and parallel with said Watson's line until it intersects with a line to be run on the Sand Ridge on which Major Hostler's overseers house now stands & parallel with said Hostler's east line from said intersection southeastwardly to the Sound to the extreme point of a point of land the growth of oak and ye upon said point being southern extreme point of a hammock owned partly by A. Hostler and said MARSHALL, then south along the course of the Sound to Wymons pond the corner of a plantation owned by Captain Scott, west up said line to Capt. Scott's and the northward line of Atkins plantation to the east line of the above mentioned John Hewlett's plantation, thence north on said line to the first position, containing 100 acres more or less.

On December 27, 1813, George Jennings sold 120 acres to Gilbert Geer.

DB, R, p. 70 30 March 1820

GILBERT GEER to CALEB NICHOLS (mortgage bond, indebted to Nichols as he endorsed a note for him). Tract of land on the Sound, begin on the east side of a plantation whereon JOHN HEWLETT now lives, 40 poles south from a lightwood Stump known as the corner of a line running east to the Sound called Watson's line (wording as above deed). southern extremity of a hammock owned partly by the estate of Alexander Hostler, decd. and a lot lately belonging to JOSEPH KELLOGG, the south along the course of the Sound to Weyman's pond, the plantation owned by Captain Scott...etc...

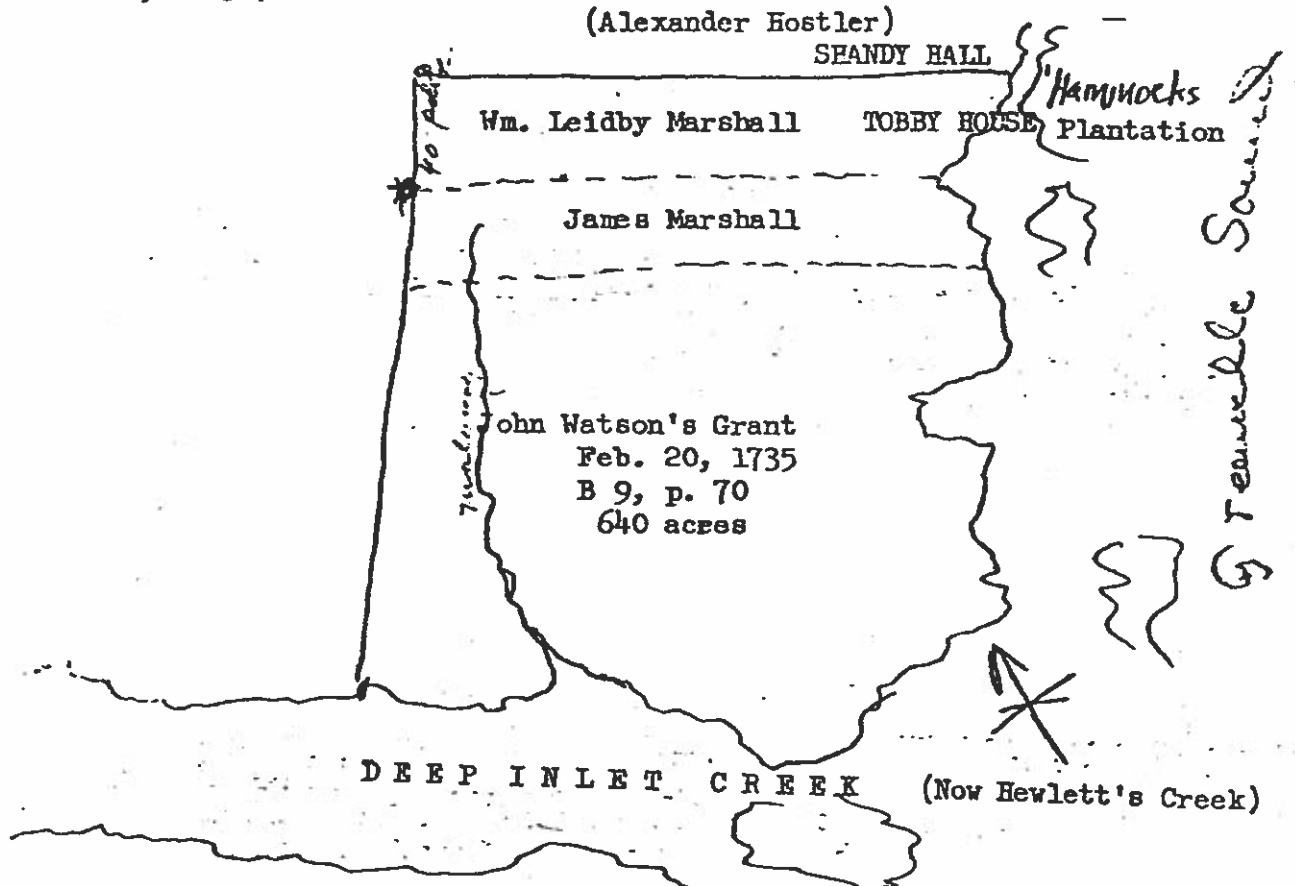
T O B Y   H A L L

DB. K, p. 308, New Hanover County....9 February 1792

EDWARD RUSSELL, planter to GEORGE LOGAN, plantation on the Sound known by name of TREBY HOUSE, or 4/7th as aforesaid, as the property was vested in the heirs of SAMUEL MARSHALL, and he being at that time of the American War with Great Britain inimical to the American cause and his property was confiscated in the Court of New Hanover County, and the cause some time after being releyed (someone has written in pencil RELAYED) by the already mentioned heirs to all their former rights and privileges of the already mentioned Estate....which said plantation as already mentioned was originally a patent to JOHN WATSON, and by JOHN WATSON conveyed by will to his son, Jonathan Watson, and by another conveyance of JOHN WATSON (Jr.), the obly acting executor of the last will and testament of his brother JONATHAN WATSON, conveyed to SAMUEL MARSHALL, and from the heirs of SAMUEL MARSHALL to said EDWARD RUSSELL, who now conveys same to GEORGE LOGAN, the course and bounds as follows...Begin at a lightwood post on S/E drain of Ways Pond, run up the mouth North 14 E 40 poles to a pine at the head of said Branch. Then North 49, West by marked line to small pine at head of Moloney's Swamp, then North 70, West to a small pine in the line between JOSEPH WATSON and THOMAS CUNNINGHAM; then North 30 East to a Lightwood Stump, South 70 East to a lightwood post on the Sound in the Big Hammock; thence up the Sound and Ways Pond to the first Station, which is part of Sound Land containing 220 acres..... With improvements thereon.....



DB M, p. 200, New Hanover County, North Carolina, 25 May, 1803.  
 WILLIAM LUDBY MARSHALL, mariner, to JAMES MARSHALL, Cabinet Maker of  
 Wilmington...for \$40 ...A Quit Claim deed to said William Ludby Marshall's  
 interest and title in one-half of that plantation on the Sound in New Hanover  
 County called TOBBY HOUSE and which formerly belonged to SAMUEL MARSHALL, deceased.  
 The division of the plantation being in the following manner to wit: by a direct  
 line running eastwardly through the center thereof, and the one-half part next  
 to SHANDY HALL being the premises hereby conveyed and Quit Claimed to said James  
 Marshall by William Ludby Marshall, all of his said claim to the land. (Proved  
 June Court, 1803.)



DB P, p. 252, New Hanover County, North Carolina...23 November 1813  
 JAMES MARSHALL to JOSEPH KELLOG ...for \$150 ... a tract of land joining the  
 plantation of ALEXANDER HOSTLER called SHANDY HALL, the lines of said land  
 commencing at a live oak tree on the Sound, running westward 390 poles more or less  
 parallel with Hostler and Walker's South line, thence East and  
 JENNINGS and the House of Mr. Hostler's overseer now stands, thence east to a  
 point of the line, a growth of oaks and Yeopon on the Sound, thence North with  
 the water course of the Sound up the Sound to the beginning station.  
 (This seems to have been the William Leidy Marshall part of the TOBBY HOUSE  
 PLANTATION.)

DB S, p. 602, New Hanover County, North Carolina... 12 December 1826  
 RICHARD BRADLEY to CATHERINE ROBINSON...Whereas, THOMAS ROBINSON, late husband of  
 said Catherine, conveyed to said Bradley by deed dated 12 February, 1823 (a mortgage)  
 all that tract of land on the Sound between the lands of James S. Green and the  
 SALT WORKS erected by Gilbert Geer and now in possession and occupation of said  
 GILBERT GEER, being land purchased by said THOMAS ROBINSON from JOSEPH KELLOG to  
 indemnify and keep harmless to the said Richard Bradley for his liabilities as  
 security of the said Thomas Robinson ~~from James Marshall~~ to the Bank  
 of Cape Fear...the said THOMAS ROBINSON died in the year of 1825, and by his will

T O B Y H A L L

DB. P, p. 252, New Hanover County, N. C.  
23 November 1813

JAMES MARSHALL to JOSEPH KELLOG...\$150 ~~acres~~,,, tract of land joining the plantation of Alexander Hostler called Shandy Hall, the lines of said land commencing at a live oak Tree on the Sound, running westward 390 poles more or less along the South line of said Hostler and Walker's South line to a lightwood stump, thence south 40 poles upon John Hewletts East line, thence east and parallel with Hostler and Walker's line to the ridge whereon the House of George Jennings and the House of Mr. Hostler's overseer now stands, thence east to a point of the line ...the growth of oaks and yeopon on the Sound, thence North with the water course of the Sound up the Sound to the beginning or first station.

Wit: N. Robinson  
.....

DB. S, p. 602, New Hanover County, N. C.  
12 December 1826

RICHARD BRADLEY to CATHERINE ROBINSON  
Thomas Robinson, late husband of said Catherine conveyed to said Bradley by deed dated 12 Feb. 1823 (a mortgage), all that tract of land on the Sound between the lands of JAMES S. GREEN and the Salt Works erected by GILBERT GEER and now in the possession and occupation of said GILBERT GEER, being land purchased by said THOMAS ROBINSON from JOSEPH KELLOG to indemnify and keep harmless to the said Richard Bradley for his liabilities as security of the said THOMAS ROBINSON to the Bank of Cape Fear...the said THOMAS ROBINSON died in the year of 1825...by his last will he devised all his right in the said premises to the said Catherine and she ~~xxx~~ has paid to said Bradley all of the indebtedness.

(This is half of the tract owned by said James Marshall and the TOBY HOUSE stands on the other half.)

Deed  
see p. 6

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DB R, p. 413 New Hanover County, N. C. 31 January 1822  
G. GEER et al to Alexander Peden, above land.

DB R, p. 418, New Hanover County 1 Feb. 1822  
ALEXANDER PEDEN to ~~and~~ CALEB NICHOLS, above land.

DB S, p. 145 New Hanover County 26 February 1823  
CALEB NICHOLS to THOMAS COWAN and JOHN D. JONES....120 acres... tract on the Sound...begin eastern line of a plantation whereon John Hewlett now lives.. 40 poles south from a lightwood stump, known as the corner of the line...run East to the Sound on line called Watson's line and which said line is the southern boundary of Hostler's and Walker's plantation. Then run east and parallel with Watson's line until it intersects at oaks and yeopon...owned partly by the estate of late Alexander Hostler and to a lot lately belonging to Joseph Kellog...buildings, salt works, etc...  
Wit: William Harriss and William Watts Jones.

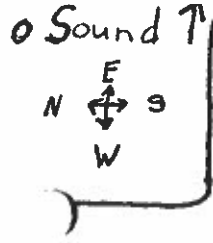
DB. S, p. 694, New Hanover County .... 11 June 1827  
THOMAS COWAN and JOHN D. JONES to LEWIS MARSTELLER....(see NN 157 for wording)... tract of land conveyed by GEORGE JENNINGS to GILBERT GEER 27 December 1813... by Gilbert Geer a mortgage to CALEB NICHOLS, et al and sold under execution to Alexander Peden...including buildings, salt works, etc....

DB Z, p. 183 New Hanover County ... 19 January 1842  
LEWIS H. MARSTELLER to MRS. SARAH GEER...plantation on the Sound...begin at the east line of a plantation where JOHN HEWLETT formerly lived..(See NN,p.157 for wording)... 120 acres being a tract of land conveyed by Thomas Cowan and John D. Jones to Lewis Marsteller (see S 694).

DB NN, p. 157, New Hanover County ... 4 December 1850  
SARAH GEER to MICAJAH T. CANADAY...\$400 ... a tract of land excepting the family burying ground which was lately enclosed by a pailing fence...On the Sound. Begin on the east line of a plantation whereon John Hewlett formerly lived and on which HILLARY BRYANT lately lived...40 poles south from a lightwood Stump known as the corner line, running east to the Sound and called WATSON'S line, which said line is the southern boundary of what was formerly HOSTLER'S and WALKER'S plantations; thence east and parallel with Watson's line until it intersects with a line to be run on the Sand ~~hill~~ Ridge whereon the late Major Hostler's overseer house stood and parallel with said Hostler's ~~line~~ east line from said intersection south to the Sound to the east part of a point of land the growth of oak and Yeopon, the said point being the southern extremity point of a hammock owned partly by the estate of the late Alexander Hostler and a lot belonging to Joseph Kellog, thence north along the course of the Sound to Weyman's pond, the course of a plantation owned by the late Capt. Robert Scott and since by MILES COSTEN and at present by James HOLLAND, thence up said Hollands line west to the north line of the late ADKINS plantation, thence north to 1st station, 120 acres which was conveyed by L. H. Marsteller to SARAH GEER, 19 Jan. 1842 (Z,p.183

This looks like a part of same tract... 6

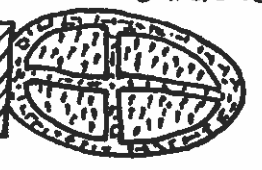
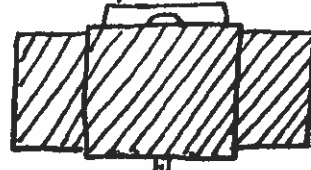
DB WW, p. 454, New Hanover County 27 May 1853  
DUNCAN M. BRYANT to MARIAN POTTER, SALLY F. POTTER and WILLIAM F. POTTER... \$2,000...10 acres on Middle Sound commencing at THOMAS HOWEY's s/w corner, run ea to Low water, thence to within 16 ft. of Wm. B. Neares lot, thence west and paral with Howey's and Burkheimer's lot, north to beginning...there is to be 16 ft above high water mark reserved for passageway..and Samuel Davis is to remove his Salt Works now upon said land, unless other arrangements made with 2nd party of deed.



Grape vines

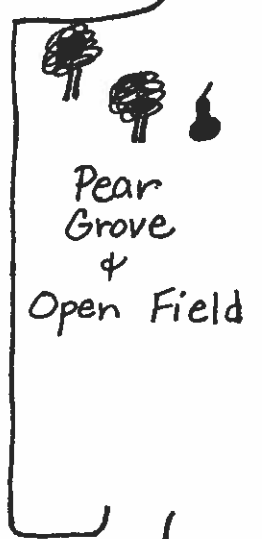
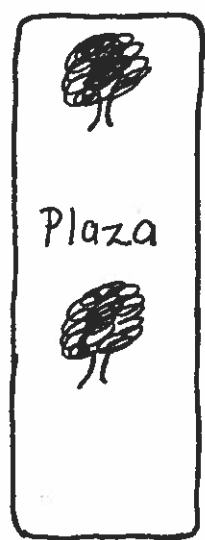
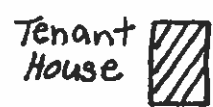
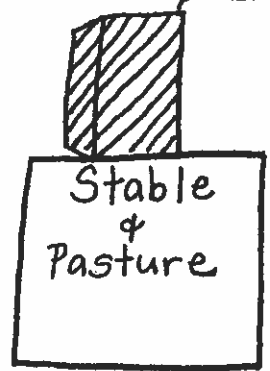
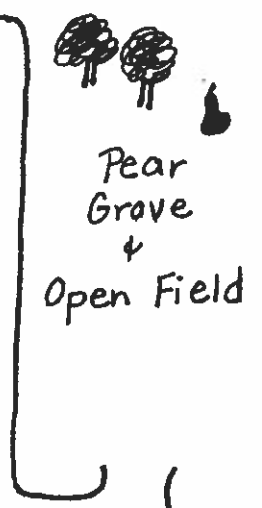
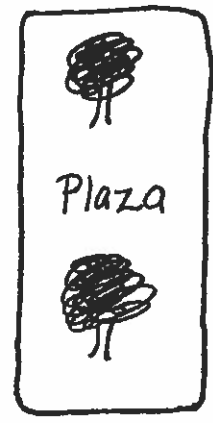
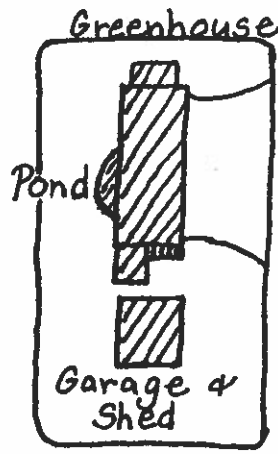
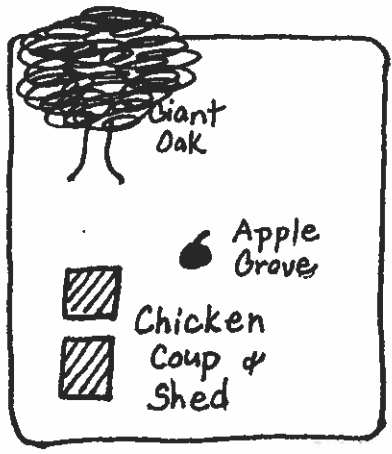


Toby Hall



Flower Gardens

Storage Sheds



Wooded Area



Greenville Loop Road

