

Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society



Founded 1862

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July 20, 1973

Mr. Jerry D. Wagers
Director, New York District
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
National Park Service
26 Wall Street
New York, New York 10005

Dear Jerry:

Enclosed is a revised Furnishings Plan which I feel will meet the requirements of the Park Service.

You are of course an ex-officio member of the Board and should be getting announcements of meetings and minutes. You may send a representative any time.

Can just

I am working on a July 1-June 30 budget which is presenting a few problems which I hope to work out in a few days.

Hope to see you on September 14, 1973, for the anniversary party.

Sincerely,

Walter S. Dunn, Jr.
Director

WSD/lmm
Enc.: Furnishings Plan

THRI-5

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Harpers Ferry Center
Library

FURNISHINGS PLAN

A. DEFINITION OF INTERPRETATIVE OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site is three-fold: first, to relate the importance of the inauguration in the sweep of American history, second, to relate the history of the site and house, and third, to give an insight into the general temper of America at the turn of the century.

The first goal is achieved primarily through the audio-visual presentation, which relates to the visitor the state of the nation before the inauguration of Roosevelt: the preference for limited Presidential authority and even more limited American participation in world affairs. In contrast to this, the attitudes of the new administration under Roosevelt are portrayed as a sharp reversal of American policy toward the world together with a development of the federal government's policies on internal affairs, especially conservation of natural resources and protection of the consumer.

The second objective, to relate the history of the site and the house, is reached in the audio-visual presentation, and in three-dimensional exhibits. Both emphasize that the Wilcox House was a center of social and political leadership in the Buffalo area, which accounts for the close relationship of Theodore Roosevelt, always an active politician, to Ansley Wilcox. To restore the dining room will provide an additional opportunity to bring out this part of the story.

The third objective is achieved in the viewing of the room in which the inauguration took place. It provides a visual presentation of America at the turn of the century. The richness and practical simplicity of the room gives the visitor a greater appreciation of the differing tastes during that period, particularly since so much has been written about the tendency of the Victorians to furnish and decorate excessively.

The dining room will provide the setting for relating the position of the Wilcox House as a center of social leadership. The room was typical, reflecting the luxuriousness of a major residence on one of the most important streets in Buffalo and perhaps at the time, one of the finest residential streets in the United States. As such, it is representative of a colorful style of living from our past. It was used for formal dining as well as informal occupancy by all members of the family and has characteristics that make it an attraction in itself as representative of the Wilcoxes'--and Buffalo's--well-to-do style of living at the turn of the century.

B. OPERATING PLAN

The building is operated by the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation under contract with the National Park Service. The historic portion of the building is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 12 to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Part of the first floor and all of the second floor, which is leased to the Associated Art Organizations, is open to the public from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. In addition, a number of evening events are scheduled in the house. The attendance seems to be averaging about 15,000 annually, including organized school groups. The site is manned by a curator, associate curator, a maintenance man, and part-time students. Tours are conducted by costumed members of the Junior League.

Currently, visitors witness an audio-visual production in the orientation room and view the exhibits in the north parlor and the library, which also has a recorded interpretive message. With the completion of the dining room, visitors would continue east in the hall to view it through the west door. A recorded message, probably to be included in the present library tape, would provide the visitor with relevant information.

The expanded plan would not require additional staff or services.

C. WILCOX ASSOCIATION

Ansley Wilcox was a Buffalo lawyer of nationwide prominence. A recognized leader in movements of reform, progress and improvement, he influence public opinion both locally and across the State. He was continually giving of his wisdom and experience to others. A friend of the poor and unfortunate, his benefactions were as wide as his knowledge of need.

Born in Summerville, now a part of Augusta, Georgia, January 27, 1856, Mr. Wilcox was a son of Daniel Hand and Frances Louisa (Ansley) Wilcox.

After attending the Hopkins Grammar School in New Haven, Ansley Wilcox entered Yale University, graduated with the class of 1874 when but eighteen years of age, and then studied for a year at Oxford University in England. He launched his legal career in Buffalo in 1882, as a member of the firm of Crowley, Movius & Wilcox, which a year later became Movius & Wilcox. In 1892 Mr. Movius withdrew, and the firm became Wilcox & Miner. He continued with a number of partners until 1917.

Among the important cases upon which he was employed were: Briggs v. Spaulding, involving the liability of directors of national banks for neglecting their duties, which established the principle that they are fully liable, and Bleistein v. Donaldson, sustaining the right to copyright ordinary commercial lithographic prints and posters, a reversal of lower court decisions. As counsel, Mr. Wilcox worked for the West Shore Railroad (now a part of the New York Central system) in Buffalo in 1882. In the case of Rogers v. the City of Buffalo he succeeded in establishing the constitutionality of the civil service law of the state. From 1883 until 1885 he was counsel for the commission appointed by Governor Cleveland to acquire land for the New York State reservation at Niagara Falls and was a commissioner of the reservations from 1910 until 1917. After his retirement from the law firm of Wilcox & Van Allen in 1917 he devoted his energies to the service of long-term clients, the handling of estates, and to his civic and philanthropic activities.

Mr. Wilcox advanced the idea of holding city and county elections in the odd-numbered years and the national and state elections in the even-numbered years, "in order to free municipal governments from politics." At the New York State constitutional convention of 1894 he succeeded in having this plan adopted; it has since been copied in many other states. Mr. Wilcox was one of the commissioners who revised the public health laws of the State in 1913 and 1914. In 1900 he was named by Governor Roosevelt to hear the charges brought against District Attorney Asa Bird Gardiner, of New York County, and was a member of the inquiry commission into the Elmira Reformatory scandal.

Keenly interested in movements for city charter reform and civil service reform, Mr. Wilcox helped organize the National Civil Service Reform League, and served as a member of its council; he also assisted in forming the Buffalo Civil Service Reform Association, of which he was president for more than a quarter of a century. He took an important part in drafting the law to create a commissioner of jurors appointed by the judges, thus starting a reform of the jury system which spread statewide and beyond. He was a member of the National Municipal League for better municipal government.

Mr. Wilcox was married in Buffalo on January 17, 1878, to Cornelia C. Rumsey, a daughter of Dexter P. and Mary (Coburn) Rumsey. She died December 22, 1880. On the 20th of November 1883, Mr. Wilcox married Mary Grace Rumsey, a sister of his first wife. Her maternal grandfather, Theodore Coburn, was a prominent contractor of Buffalo and built the First Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Wilcox acquired her early education in Buffalo, afterwards studying in Farmington, Connecticut, and in Paris, France. Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox were the parents of two daughters. The first, Mrs. Nina Bull, later made her home in New York City and was the mother of two children, Henry Adsit Bull and Marion (Bull) Eames of England. Frances Wilcox, the younger daughter, became the wife of Major Thomas F. Cooke, and was interested in many charities in Buffalo, including the College Crêche.

Mr. Wilcox in 1877 was one of the founders of the Buffalo Charity Organization Society, the first of its kind in the United States and the model for all others. He remained a leader in the work of the organization, was elected trustee in 1881, and president in 1906, serving until his death on the 25th of January, 1930. In addition, he was

general chairman of the Buffalo Federation of Charities and Social Service Agencies and a trustee of the Buffalo General Hospital, which he represented as counsel for more than forty years.

An independent Republican in politics, Mr. Wilcox was one of the original "mugwumps" who in 1884 refused to support Blaine and rallied to Grover Cleveland for president. He was an intimate friend of Cleveland, Roosevelt, and Taft.

It was at the Wilcox home in Buffalo that Theodore Roosevelt took his oath of office September 14, 1901, following the death of William McKinley, and there the President held his first cabinet meeting. A report on this event, written by Wilcox and corrected by Roosevelt, is available.

Mr. Wilcox was a member of the Century Association, the City Club, and St. Andrew's Golf Club, all of New York City; the Buffalo, Country, Athletic, Park Wanakah, Saturn, and University Clubs of Buffalo; the Buffalo Chamber of Commerce; the Chamber of Commerce of the United States; the New York State Bar Association, and the American Bar Association.

The executors of the Dexter P. Rumsey estate were Ansley Wilcox, Frank W. Fiske, and Charles Hallam Keep. Fiske was Dexter P. Rumsey's brother-in-law. They could sell the property with the permission of Mrs. Mary Wilcox, but were empowered to do so upon her death. However, on November 9, 1910, Mrs. Mary Wilcox deeded the property back to the estate of Dexter P. Rumsey. Ansley Wilcox and his wife lived in the house until their deaths. Ansley Wilcox died on January 26, 1930, and his wife on October 22, 1933.

In 1938, Oliver M. and Kathryn Lawrence, as tenants of the Rumsey estate, converted the house into a restaurant. The Lawrences spent nine months renovating the house before opening the restaurant as the Kathryn Lawrence Tea Room. In later years it became the Kathryn Lawrence Restaurant. On October 1, 1947, they purchased the house from the Rumsey estate for \$62,000.

The restaurant was closed September 10, 1959. On April 23, 1957, the property was transferred by Oliver H. Lawrence and his wife, to a domestic corporation known as 641 Delaware Avenue, of which Lawrence was the president. In 1959, the Liberty National Bank of Buffalo leased a parcel of the Ansley Wilcox property upon which the bank now stands from this corporation. The bank's Delaware Avenue branch opened on this site on January 6, 1959. Included in the lease was an easement to a strip of land on which to build a drive-in ramp, provide access to a fifteen-car-parking area, and provide ingress and egress to and from the bank.

D. PROPOSED RESTORATION OF DINING ROOM

In addition to the three rooms presently utilized at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site the dining room can be restored to the earlier times of Wilcox occupancy, reflecting the character of the period. Evidence has been developed that establishes the state of the room as to architecture and furnishings at the time of the Inaugural in 1901, thus reducing the operation of restoring it largely to superficial repairs and replacement of furniture.

The papers of the architect, George Cary, include the usual structural plans and specifications as well as full-scale detail drawings of the elaborate Georgian Revival woodwork. The double door main entrance to the room is as it was, and the details of moldings, fireplace, and windows and french doors of the exterior walls have not been altered since the construction in 1896. The decorative plasterwork of the ceiling is not exactly as in the full-scale drawings available, but there is no evidence that it was altered after the time of construction. The Cary Papers are available in the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society.

The furnishings of the room are known largely from a photograph engraved and printed in the Buffalo Times of March 6, 1921, one of a set on the interior details of the mansion. The only serious omission was a serving cabinet that stood at the end of the room from which the picture was made, and this has been described in some detail by people who frequented the room. The long gap between the publication date of the picture and the day of the Inauguration is something of a problem in spite of the reasonable assumption that affluent people like the Wilcoxes could be expected to have purchased good furniture that they were unlikely to have disposed of lightly in what was a short period of 20 years. This assumption is supported by the testimony of a niece, Mrs. Plimpton, who lived in a house closeby (almost adjacent to the rear) and who ate with the Wilcoxes quite regularly for a period of 13 years beginning in 1907. She found the room and its furnishings most impressive--she was ten years old in that year--and is certain that there were no changes during the succeeding 13 years. This closes

the gap in our knowledge to a negligible period. It cannot be believed that the furnishings were not selected in 1896 with great care, or that much change between 1901 and 1907 was likely. Unfortunately, we do not have George Cary's notebook for that time, for in some cases in the later years of his work he did include suggestions and memoranda as to furnishings of residences that he designed. He might well have done so in this case. Finally, it might be observed that the Wilcoxes did have adequate resources to acquire good furniture. It was known that Mr. Rumsey allowed his daughter a considerable stipend, in later years \$2,500 a month.

Interviews that have been helpful are appended. Every effort has been made to determine the reliability of the memories of the people interviewed, and they appear to be clear and consistent. Neither Mrs. Plimpton nor Mrs. Mitchell are of an age to make their recollections automatically suspect.

Appended also are summaries of statements by two of our more learned antiques dealers, Mr. Allain Ramsay and Mr. Thomas Mileham, relating to the quality of the furniture, chiefly the tables and chairs. There are some differences as to whether the Queen Anne style chairs were true antiques, meaning that they were manufactured in the 18th century, or are reproductions of the 1900 period that might well be of equal quality. What was said assures us that satisfactory replacements might well be found and even suggests that for display purposes correct design is what is needed, since it is difficult to determine without close scrutiny what the age of such a piece might be.

It is clear also that the arch top of the china cabinet is of a rare design and that literal reproduction might be difficult. The same may be said of replacement of candelabra and chandelier. But all such items are obtainable in styles consistent with the 1901 date. Many items on the furnishings list that may qualify have been located, and recovery of the actual furnishings of the room is not impossible.

The description of the server is adequate to choose a style with confidence.

From these investigations we conclude that it will be possible to set up the dining room consistent with the period and in keeping with the social position of the Wilcoxes.

E. RESTORATION PROCEDURES

The dining room is located on the south side of the building and is 18' x 21'6", approximately 9'6" high, and contains approximately 400 square feet. There is a set of double doors leading to the south porch with a leaded palladian window over them.

The marble fireplace on the east wall has been closed at the roof, but could easily be opened into a working fireplace. The other set of double doors leads to the middle hallway.

In the center of the ceiling is a plaster medallion from which a crystal chandelier hung. This design has been framed in by a fiberboard ceiling tile, installed during the Lawrence Tea Room era (1939-1959).

The furnishings problem has already been worked on by the Junior League Committee, as noted above. A list of furnishings is attached.

The bulk of the structural restoration has been done, such as heating, plumbing, and electrical work. Removal would include the fiberboard from the ceiling, the existing wireold lights, and

possibly one of the heating units from the west wall. The ceiling will require repairs, the extent of which will be known only when the fiberboard is removed. An electrical circuit to the chandelier will be required.

Wallpapering will be arranged in consultation with the M. H. Birge Company, donors of the wallpaper in the Library and Hall.

SCHEDULE A

Listed below are furnishings that have been collected or are being sought for use in the Wilcox House Dining Room.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. 5 arm crystal gas chandelier | need(several possible leads) |
| 2. arch-top china cabinet | need(equivalent to be used) |
| 3. pedestal table | have |
| 4. oriental rug 9' x 11' | have |
| 5. crystal candelabra-5 branch to match ceiling chandelier | need(available from Mileham) |
| 6. china bowls for mantle | have |
| 7. brass fender | need |
| 8. plant stands | have |
| 9. fire place tools-brass | have |
| 10. portrait of Frances Cooke | have |
| 11. clock on mantle | have |
| 12. Dining Room chairs | have |
| 13. fruit bowl | have |
| 14. small oval dining table | need(equivalent to be used) |
| 15. cloth (lace)for above | need(readily available) |
| 16. drapes (sheer lace) | to be made |
| 17. buffet server (on north wall) | |

Also have donation of china actually used in Dining Room:

2 cups and saucers, white and gold, a. monogram F.R.W.; b. 3 gold and white saucers; c. silver tray engraved D.H.W. (Wilcox's father); d. tea-pot, creamer and sugar (Hammersmith).

Excerpt from Minutes, Wilcox Committee Meeting, Junior League,
June 19, 1973.

Dining Room Furniture

Interview with Tom Mileham

by Louise Eder

Thinks some of furniture typical of Hersee products: well made, expensive, poorly designed.

Pointed out from photograph that a small table stood in front of the French doors. (Probably A. Wilcox's breakfast table.) (This had been thought a doorstep.)

Mileham's shop contained a pair of three-branched candelabra with crystal prisms, priced at \$235., but open to bargaining for Site use.

He recalled also that he had once had dining room furniture purchased at the Wilcox auction of 1935, but it was not that shown in the photograph. It could have been from one of the other estates involved.

Interview with Mr. Ed Hutton of Kittinger's by Iris Skoog

Hutton thought the Queen Anne chairs were genuine antiques, particularly since they did not match the table.

A list of questions was ordered developed to jog the memories of people who knew the house in future interviews.

It was agreed that a genealogy must be completed to facilitate identification of people who might be able to assist the investigation.

The Chairman was authorized to request loans of appropriate pieces of furniture from other museums in the state.

Analysis of Dining Room Furniture

Interview with Allain Ramsay

by Susan Hettrick, 1973

1. Chandelier. Made 1880-90, originally for gas; crystal, probably French and possibly Baccarat. Arms are twisted, and shades are probably frosted glass (or cut glass). It has five arms.
2. China cabinet. Mahogany veneer, maybe built-in; if not it is Chinese Chippendale style (not period) fretwork in front, but with Queen Anne dome top; made 1890-1900.
3. Table. Made about 1900, dark mahogany. Pulls open with leaves, deep ogee apron and probably four heavy legs on stretcher base in American Empire style. Very possibly made by Hersee or by Burkey and Gay (Rochester).
4. Carpet. Does not appear to be Oriental but rather Axminster, rather thick. Design is too regular for Oriental. Axminsters were very popular in that period and with that furniture style.
5. Candelabra. Glass, almost undoubtedly made by Hersee. Four arms, one center section.
6. Bowls. Steuben or St. Clair, aureen (gold glass) in the classic style done by Fred Carter at Steuben 1900-1914.
7. Fender. English brass with lion claw feet and open cutwork in the fender itself.
8. Brass fireplace tools and a fire basket (coal basket) of brass.
9. Planter stand. Square marble or alabaster, carved bowl used as planter, base is plain. Planter at left is glazed pottery by Weller, made 1880-90.
10. Chairs. Reproductions of Queen Anne style, vase splat-back chairs with cabriole legs and a pad foot, mahogany. Probably made by Hersee or Burkey and Gay at the same time as the table, circa 1900.

Two buffets would probably be heavy with ...

to the floor. Stripe on walls possibly a flaw in the photo since it appears to go on to moldings and ceiling.

Interview with Mrs. Mary Wilcox Plimpton by Barbara Brandt May 5, 1973

Mrs. Plimpton was born in 1897. Her father was Ansley's brother, Daniel Hand Wilcox. Her father died at a very early age.

Mrs. Plimpton's recollections begin about 1907.

Mrs. Plimpton spent many hours with her uncle as she was growing up. She recalled that Ansley was a late riser, would have breakfast about 11 or 12 o'clock while she was having lunch in the dining room. He always sat at a small table at the window in front of the doors in the dining room, reading his paper, facing the gardens on the left of the room. She also recalled that he would work until midnight and then go out to the grape arbor, start trimming with the aide of a flashlight. Ansley rode to work daily on a horse. She stated that "Uncle Ansley did not have a sense of humor." Mrs. Plimpton recalled that "someone would tell a simply delightful story and he would sit, listen and then say, I see the point, but I don't think it is funny."

Mrs. Plimpton recalled that the walls and the curtains in the dining room were white. She believed the chairs were antiques. The china cabinet was a beautiful piece of furniture which stood on legs. The portrait of Frances hung over the fireplace in the dining room. She also recalled that there was a sideboard on the wall opposite the windows.

Mrs. Plimpton was unable to view the photograph because of failing eyesight.

Mrs. Plimpton stated that the Wilcoxes never changed the furnishings of the dining room. She recollects many other incidents and situations from that period, particularly children's activities and the larger family gatherings.

The sideboard in the dining room was placed against the wall opposite the windows. It was long and narrow with a cupboard on either end. The dishes in the china cabinet were Lowestoft.

Mrs. Plimpton also recalled that the morning room was paneled in dark wood. The furniture was Italian. She believes that some of it is now with the Cooke family.

WILCOX COMMITTEE MEETING

June 19, 1973 at the Mansion

Present: J. Sanders, Chairman; L. Eder, C. Gallivan, L. Utesch, Dr. W. Glover, J. Skoog, M. J. Goldstein, M. B. Engberg, B. Brandt, J. Hall, S. Hettrick, L. Cadeau, and Dr. W. Dunn, Jr.

Introduction of, and welcome to new docents.

1. Dr. Glover--Picture dated 1921 from Buffalo Times (of dining room); Mrs. Plimpton and others need to say that furniture has not changed since about 1901-1910; it probably didn't--evidently people bought good furniture and kept it for life. We can safely discontinue searching papers for description of dining room--it is apparent that papers of that period did not describe houses.
2. Louise Eder--Tom Mileham looked at photos of Mrs. Louis Tyler's dining room furniture. Only the table worth purchasing for \$100-\$150, depending on condition, which is good. Furniture typical of that made by Hersee, (heavy, well-made, expensive, and poorly designed). He also pointed out a table with a cloth covering, in front of the French doors--(must have been used for Ansley's breakfast). We thought the table leg was a doorstep. Saw a beautiful pair of candelabra, three branch with crystal prisms, at Mileham's for \$234 for the pair, but he might give us a better price.

Mr. Mileham had dining room furniture from mansion bought at an auction. It was not the same as furniture in picture, but was Hersee. It might have belonged to one of the other two estates.

3. I. Skoog - Ed Hutton at Kittinger's thinks the chairs are antique Queen Anne chairs, especially since they don't match table.
4. S. Hettrick - Gave report from Ramsay on furniture description.

3. J. Sanders--Gallivan and L. Cadeau chairmen of opening September

14. Junior League provisionals are working on plans for improving the Wilcox Mansion grounds and have been working on maintenance (weeding, etc.). They are researching information and will tour Sonnenberg Gardens (built 1900) in Canandaigua. Toured D.A.R. House and they have nothing of interest to lend us.

Looked at dining room furniture owned by Mrs. Kreiner, Pt.

Abino which was bought at Wilcox auction by Mrs. Maddigan and sold with her home to Mrs. Kreiner. Not the same as picture but beautiful.

Anthony Scarozza--1330 Lovejoy, 893-9588, gave an Empire style settee to Francasso's four years ago--they wish to donate it to us--accepted, good period for the house, would be good in library: was bought at an auction 15-20 years ago from Mrs. Armstrong, Main Street, Clarence, who received it from her cleaning woman (Sycamore Street-Polish);it needs repairs.

Interviewed Mrs. Schaeffer, on May 22, 1973 - see separate sheet.

6. B. Brandt--Concert group (Master Chorale) from out of town can come on September 14 with music pertaining to Theodore Roosevelt and the period for \$200 and we could profit \$200. Attendance at the house has improved, but we must get it even higher to break even.

7. New Business

1. Contact persons who knew Wilcox house, with specific questions to jog their memories.. (see list).

2. Need to do a genealogy.

3. List of original furniture already in house with donors and history should be made - it is in files scattered.

4. Someone should go to the Historical Society files--on files on house. Miss Mae Allen in Bolivar, cousin of Grover Cleveland (her father was raised as Cleveland's brother) has letters pertaining to Wilcox house when it was a barracks in Fred Turner's (Marge's husband) safe. Dr. Glover will call and see if he can photostat them.

5. Should write letters to local historical societies e.g. Hamburg and Metropolitan Museum--City Museums of New York, to see if they have any appropriate furniture in storage they would lend us--we would pay delivery and insurance.

6. Dr. Dunn would like a report from the committee on what furnishings are available for dining room and what it would cost for restoration. We will soon lose our funding and must be careful not to overspend. Report needed for Mr. Leavers, president of Foundation, and National Park Service. Dr. Glover, J. Sanders, S. Hettrick to do report. C. Gallivan to speak to P. Cutini about chandeliers.

Following the meeting Iris Skoog gave the new docents an initial orientation.

Respectfully submitted,

S. HETTRICK
Secretary

Description by Allain Ramsay

WILCOX DINING ROOM

(numbers according to picture)

1. Chandelier - Made 1880-90, originally made for gas; crystal probably French and possibly Baccarat, arms are twisted and shades are probably frosted glass (or cut glass) it has five arms.
2. China Cabinet - Mahogany veneer, maybe built in; if not it is Chinese Chippendale styled (not period) fretwork in front, but with Queen Anne dome top; made 1890-1900.
3. Table - Made about 1900, dark mahogany, pulls open with leaves, deep ogee apron and probably four heavy legs on stretcher base in American Empire style; probably made by Hersee or Burkey and Gay (Rochester).
4. Carpet - Looks not to be Oriental, looks like Axminster, rather thick; design is too regular for Oriental, Axminster's were very popular in that period and with furniture style of that in dining room.
5. Candelabra - Glass; almost undoubtedly made by Hersee, four arms, one center section.
6. Bowls - Steuben or St. Clair aureen (gold glass) in the classic style done by Fred Carter at Steuben 1900-1914.
There is a porcelain figure in center of mantel.
7. Fender - English brass with lion claw and feet, open cutwork in fender itself.
8. Brass fireplace tools and a fire basket (coal basket) of brass.
9. Planter Stand - Square marble of alabaster, craved bowl used as planter, base is plain. Planter at left - glazed pottery by Weller, made 1880-90.

10. Chairs - Reproductions of Queen Anne style vase, splat back chairs with cabriole legs and a pad foot, mahogany, probably made by Hersee or Burkey and Gay at same time as table circa 1900.

There is possibly a portrait in carving over window next to french doors.

Two buffets would probably be very heavy mahogany with drawers all the way to the floor; Volutes (scrolls) maybe at sides, bun feet or claw feet.

Stripe on walls is flaw in photo - goes on to molding and ceiling.

Speak to Pat Cutini on Genesee Street for chandelier.

Descriptions of furniture furnished by Allain Ramsay from photograph of dining room circa 1930:

S. Hettrick - reporter.

Interview with Mrs. Betty Wilcox Schaeffer (daughter of U. Wilcox)
May 22, 1973

She positively identified large portrait as Frances Wilcox, painted by U. Wilcox. U. Wilcox was director of Fine Arts Academy for 30 years. The painting by Evelyn R. Cary is probably a younger portrait of Frances.

Did not remember other portraits, only vaguely recalled how room looked; remembered mostly people and events. Suggested we write Cooke brothers for their memories - they spent much time at Wilcox house. She will talk to relatives and friends to stir their memories.

She also will call Herbert Nelson, Colonial Lighting Ltd., Pt. Colbourne, concerning reproduction of chandelier.

Phone conversation, May 29th--

Mrs. Schaeffer contacted the following:

1. Mrs. Frederick Gratwick (friend of Frances) 44 Tyman Rd., 91 years old.

2. Mrs. Gilbert and Mrs. Glenny (Hoyt sisters) Mrs. Gilbert has written Mrs. Lavarac who lived across the street from the Wilcoxes.

3. Suggests we see Mrs. Charles W. Pooley, 87 (a neighbor as child) at Episcopal Church Home (son is Monty Pooley).

4. Mr. Nelson could reproduce chandelier, but it will take a long time, also expensive. Thinks he knows of similar fixture in Niagara Falls and will check.

5. Mr. William Sawyer, son of Ansley Sawyer and nephew of Ansley Wilcox, donated a silver tray (1916) to Buffalo and Erie County Historic Society a year ago (belonged to Ansley Wilcox). Would like to know if it is accepted and will be displayed. Dr. Glover will contact him - tray may have to be returned since we cannot guarantee it will be displayed.

An artistic corner in the
Ansley Wilcox home.

