

ethos

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INTRODUCTION

The Streetcar Cottage at 11 Waite Drive in Savannah, GA, was a very unique structure. Two historic retired Briney Safety Streetcars, repurposed as additions, flanked a wood framed structure located on Isle of Hope. Built prior to 1957, Wilkie and Evelyn Browne were likely the first residents in the Streetcar Cottage. After sitting vacant for a number of years, in 2022 the current owner engaged Re:Purpose Savannah to deconstruct the wood frame structure while preserving the streetcars. The owner then donated both streetcars to the Isle of Hope Historical Society for future restoration.

The wooden structure was clad in clapboard siding that extended past the two streetcars on the front elevation. One streetcar had access from the exterior through a small wooden gable extension with a doorway that was added to the original steel streetcar body. The roof was a compilation of separately built roof structures with an overarching gabled roof built on top spanning the wooden structure and both streetcars. One-over-one double hung wooden sash windows with awning screens were present on the wooden structure. Original one-over-one double hung wooden sashes of different variations exist on the streetcars, although some were later replaced with one-over-one aluminum windows. The front of each streetcar also contains two single lite fixed wooden sashes of different sizes and a one-over-one fixed wooden sash. The interior of the wooden structure displayed beadboard over the walls and ceiling and the interior of the streetcars still contain the original wooden paneling on the ceiling.

Information on the house has been found under multiple addresses:

"11 Waite Dr."

"Grimble Point, Isle of Hope"

"11a Waite Dr."

*A ranch house was built on the property circa 1965. Prior, the Streetcar Cottage was addressed "11 Waite Drive." It is unknown whether City Directory listings had associated "11 Waite Drive" with the Streetcar Cottage or the ranch house.

Areas of opportunity for further research:

If more research is warranted, Ethos Preservation would recommend looking into archives related to the Savannah Electric Company and any sales that might have taken place when the streetcars were retired. This path might yield a more exact build date.



CHAIN OF TITLE

*Land was known as the Wilkes Farm Tract. Between 1910 and 1900, the Wilkes (Wilks) family owned farm land addressed "Grimball Point."

Unknown - 1956 The McIntyre Family

The McIntyre Family started to subdivide their land and eventually sold a parcel of land to the Browne Family in 1956. This parcel later became 11 Waite Drive.

1956 - 2022 The Browne Family

1958

Wilkie C. & Evelyn H. Browne; George Edwin Browne, Son. Shown living at "Grimble Point, Isle of Hope."

Wilkie C. Browne was previously married to Anna Lawton Barnes Browne and had two children, Elizabeth Ann and Wilkie C. Browne III (died at 14.) In **1952**, Wilkie C. Browne was recently divorced and working for Atlantic insurance and Investment Co., (also known as Atlantic Mutual Fire Insurance Co.) as the Vice President Secretary. Wilkie married Evelyn O. Huggins that year. Evelyn had recently been widowed and moved from Florence, South Carolina to Savannah.. She worked as a bookkeeper for a radio station during this time.



Ad from August 17, 1967 in the Southern Cross



CHAIN OF TITLE

1986

First appearance of "11 Waite Drive" in the City Directories.

C.A. Porter

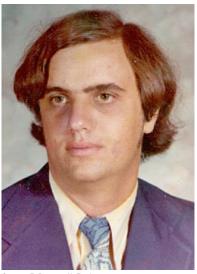
1993 - 1997

"11a" Daniel W. Shook

"11a" O.J. Wooten

1998 - 2022

George E. (Passed in 2012) & Terry Z. Browne II



George E. Browne II, Findagrave.com

2009 - 2022
Elizabeth Ann Browne
2012
Deeded to George Edwin Browne II
2013
Deeded to Terry Z. Browne
2017 - 2020
Rachel E. Outman (Backus)

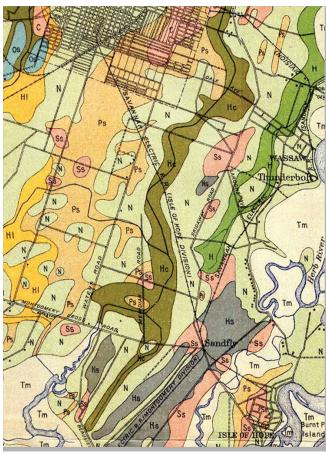
2022 Ann Daiss - Present

Re:Purpose Savannah was hired to deconstruct the Streetcar Cottage and the Streetcars were donated to the Isle of Hope Historical Society for future restoration. Additionally, the ranch house was demolished.

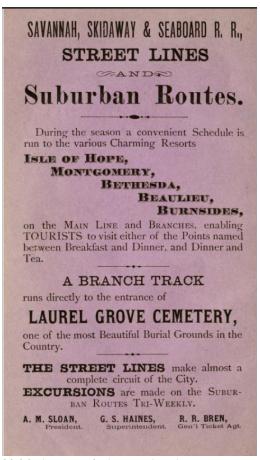


ISLE OF HOPE STREETCAR LINE

On December 20, 1866, the Savannah City Railway Company (renamed Savannah-Skidaway and Seaboard Railroad Company, SS & S in 1869) was granted a twenty-year charter by the Georgia State Legislature to build a railroad that would allow direct travel by streetcar for residents to and from downtown Savannah, Isle of Hope, Skidaway Island, Thunderbolt, Montgomery Cross Road, and White Bluff. The Isle of Hope streetcar line was completed and opened for use in March of 1870. The streetcars first used were steam powered, which were soon replaced by horse drawn streetcars to decrease costs. By 1890, electric streetcars began to replace the use of horse drawn ones. The Savannah Electric Company was eventually formed in 1901 from the merging of the City and Suburban Railway Company, the Savannah, Thunderbolt, and Isle of Hope Railway Company, and the Edison Electric Illuminating Company of Savannah; and in 1921 the Savannah Electric and Power Company was formed from the merging of the Savannah Electric Company and the Savannah Power Company. Ultimately, gasoline powered automobiles caused the demise of the electric streetcar and on August 26, 1946, the last running electric streetcar made its last trip from Savannah to Thunderbolt.



Soil Survey Map showing Isle of Hope Streetcar Line, 1911, Historic Streetcar Systems in Georgia



S.S. & S. advertisement, Catchacat.com, date unknown

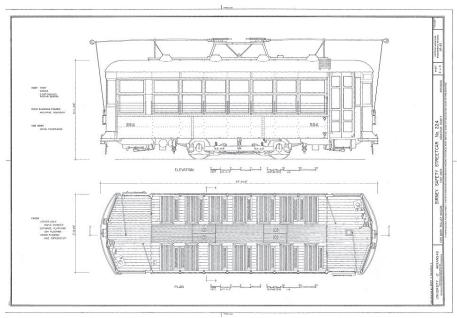


BIRNEY SAFETY STREETCAR

The Birney Safety Streetcar was a popular brand of streetcars that gained prominence in the 1920s. Charles O. Birney and Joseph M. Bosenbury created the design of the Birney Safety Streetcar and patented it in 1915. Owned by J.G. Brill Company, the American Car Company was the official builder for the brand, though additional companies started to produce Birney Safety Streetcars shortly thereafter. Birney Safety Streetcars were popular among interurban street lines due to the increased capacity, single car setup, and dual motors. In the same year as the merge, the Savannah Electric and Power Company purchased 30 Safety Birney Streetcars.



Birney Safety Streetcar, Broughton Street, date unknown



Elevation and Plan - Birney Safety Streetcar No. 224, Fort Smith Trolley Museum, Fort Smith, Sebastian County, AR



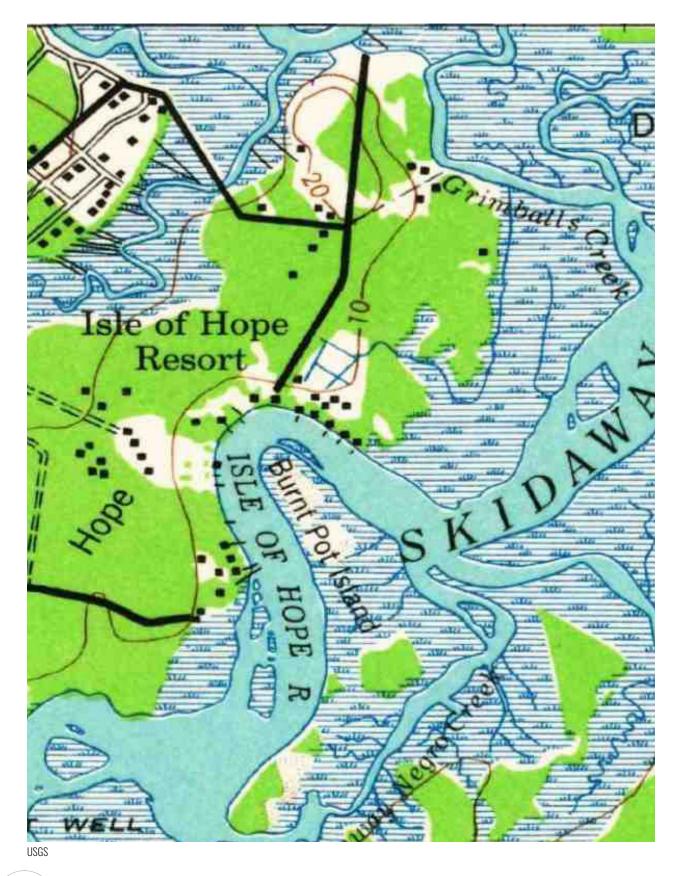
BIRNEY SAFETY STREETCAR



Birney Safety Streetcar advertisement, date unknown

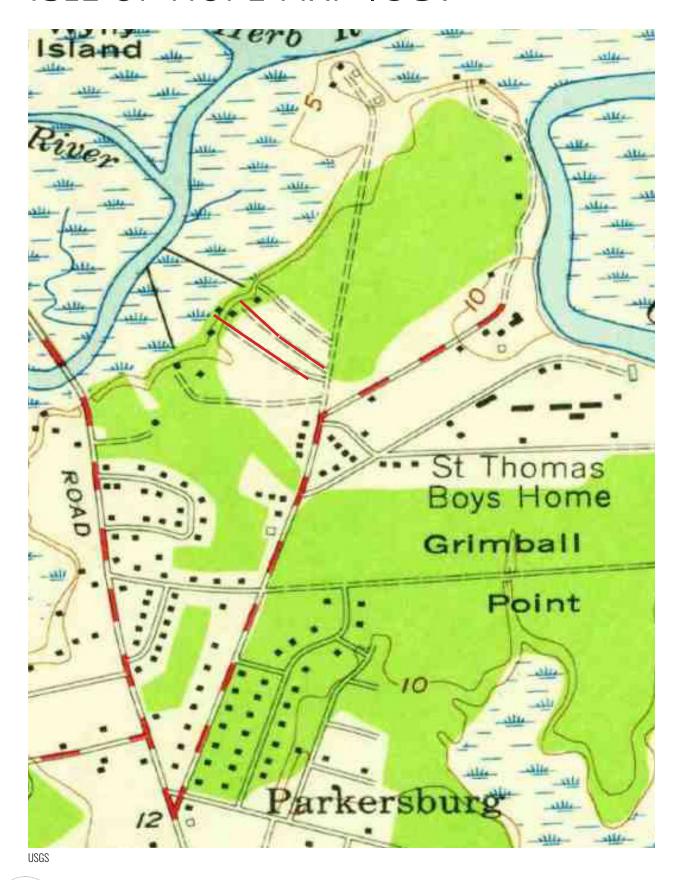


Ossabaw Island Map 1944





ISLE OF HOPE MAP 1957





ISLE OF HOPE MAP 1979





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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Assent of Executor to Devise Page I

After Recording Return To:

Kran Riddle Callaway, Braun, Riddle & Hughes PO Box 9150 Savannah, GA 31412

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF CHATHAM

Clock#: 1418468 FILED FOR RECORD 5/24/2012 04:11pm PAID: 12.00 Daniel W. Massey, Clerk Superior Court of Chatham County Chatham County, Georgia

ASSENT OF EXECUTOR TO DEVISE

WHEREAS, Evelyn H. Browne a/k/a Evelyn Huggins Browne, died a resident of Chatham County, Georgia, leaving a Will dated October 2, 1986, which has been probated in solemn form in the Probate Court of Chatham County, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, under the terms of Item Five (a) of said Will the said decedent devised to her son, George Edwin Browne, her residence at Grimball Point on Isle of Hope and all lands adjoining thereto; and

WHEREAS, at the time of her death the decedent resided in and owned fee simple title to the following described property:

ALL that tract or parcel of land, lying and being at Grimball's Point, on the Isle of Hope, in the County of Chatham, State of Georgia, comprising three and eight hundred forty-five onehundredths (3.845) acres of high land and the marsh land adjacent thereto which lies between said tract of high land and Cut Off Creek (nd being a part of the middle portion of the Wilkes Farm, as subdivided; said tract of high land and said adjacent marsh, hereby conveyed, as a whole, being bounded as follows: On the Northeast, by land nor or formerly of Sarah B. Lines; on the East, by a private road (now known as Waite Drive); on the South and Southwest, by lands now or formerly of H. B. Hinely and/or Sadie I. Hinely; and on the West, by Cut Off Creek; said tract of high land and marsh hereby conveyed being the same tract of land comprising Four (4) acres of high land and the adjacent marsh shown as "J. L. McIntyre" upon that certain plat of portion of the Wilkes Farm Tract at Isle of Hope which was prepared by Percy Sugden, C.E., as surveyed July 21, 1926, and which plat is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia, in Map Book 2, Folio 56, but excepting therefrom, that certain 0.2812 acre of land triangular in shape and marked (1) upon that certain plat of part of the Wilkes Farm Tract surveyed and prepared by Robert D. Gignilliat, C. E., C. C. S., April 27, 1939, and which plat is of record in the office of the Clerk of the Chatham County Superior Court in Plat Record Book A, Folio 232, but adding thereto and including therein that certain 0.1262 acre of high land triangular in shape and shown as figure (2) and also the adjacent tract of marsh land which fronts 49.5 feet on it Southeasterly end along said fractional acre of high land and Forty (40) feet on Cut Off Creek, as said tract of marshland is shown within the

Clerk of Superior Court Chatham County, 2012



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ASSENT OF EXECUTOR TO DEVISE PAGE 2

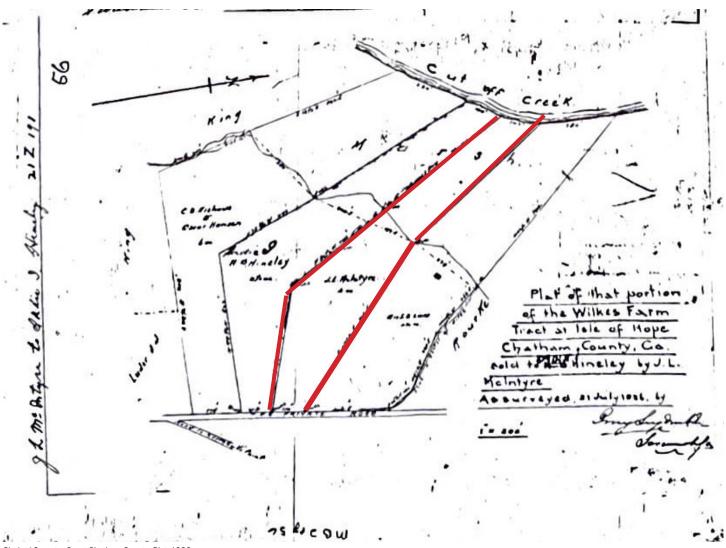
line of said marsh land as such lines are extended upon said plat, which said fractional acre of high land and adjacent part of marsh lands were surveyed by Robert D. Gignilliat, C. E., C. C. S., April 27, 1939, and according to the plat thereof of record in the office of the Clerk of the Chatham in Plat Record A, Folio 232; being all of the property which was conveyed to Wilkie C. Browne by Mrs. Minnie E. McIntyre by warranty deed dated April 19, 1956, and recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia in Book of Deeds 64 K's, Folio 589; said Deed and all of the Plats referenced above are incorporated herein by reference and for more particular description of the lands conveyed herein for the purpose of better determining the metes and bounds, areas and dimensions of said property. WHEREAS, the undersigned is the duly qualified Executor of the Estate of Evelyn Huggins Browne and is now administering the Estate under the terms of said Will and it has been determined that all debts and claims against the Estate have been fully paid. NOW, THEREFORE, the undersigned, as Executor under the Will of the said Evelyn Huggins Browne hereby assents to the devise of the aforedescribed property under the terms of said Will, so as to evidence that the decedents interest in the property is vested in fee simple in George Edwin Browne. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has hereunto set his hand and seal this the 23 day of May , 2012. George Edwin Browne, Executor of the Estate of **Evelyn Huggins Browne** Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of: SEXU,

Clerk of Superior Court Chatham County, 2012

KRANNERT RIDDLE blic, Chatham County, GA sion Expires May 5, 2018



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