

W. W. COLONNA SR. - RESIDENCE

NORFOLK COUNTY, VIRGINIA
1920 - 1925

This beautiful house was designed and built in 1920 by Captain Will Colonna, Sr., the president of Colonna Shipyard in Berkley - Norfolk, Virginia, on a 20 acre point of land in the Oaklette section of then Norfolk County, Virginia overlooking Indian River, a part of the eastern branch of the Elizabeth River about three (3) miles east of downtown Norfolk.

Construction took one year and cost \$126,000.00, with \$78,000.00 worth of furniture. The house burned 2 times - 1st time in 1922 it burned partially but badly and was rebuilt. The 2nd time on a cold winter night in 1925 as the family was attending a silent movie in downtown Norfolk. The fire department was hampered due to the river being frozen and a low tide. In those days the fire department had to put their suction hoses in the river for water and could not, due to the above conditions.

There was hardly any insurance on the house. In those days, most people carried little or no insurance.

The house had a total of 48 rooms of which 16 were large rooms, three bathrooms on the 2nd floor alone, eight fireplaces, basement, 1st floor, 2nd floor, finished attic, sun deck on the roof and ships knees under the eaves.