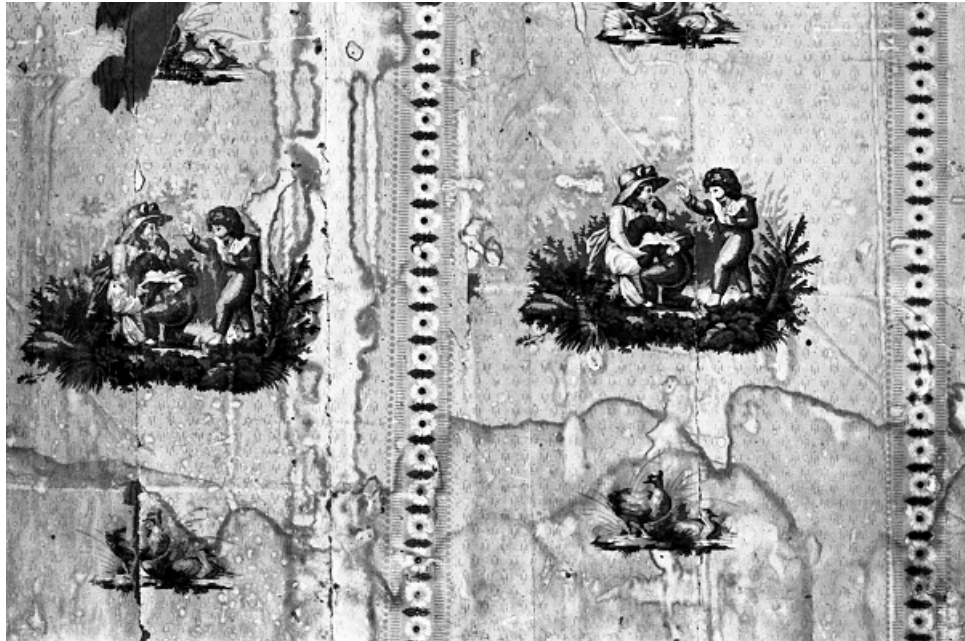


## Wallpaper <sup>[1]</sup>

### Wallpaper

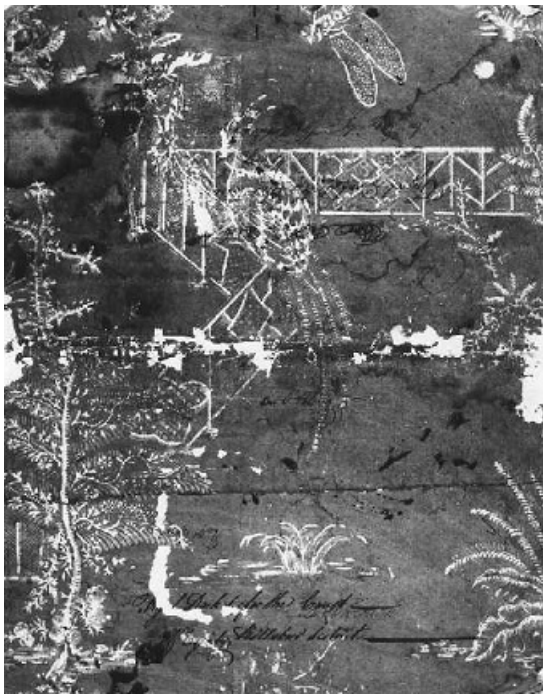


Wallpaper at the Rosedale Plantation in Mecklenburg County depicting children at play.  
by William S. Powell, 2006Image courtesy of the State Archives of North Carolina.

<sup>[2]</sup>

Wallpaper, first known as "wall hanging," appeared in the New England colonies by 1700 and was available in the South by the 1740s. In 1758 plans were made to establish a new capital for North Carolina, to be named George City; the interior of the two-story "Dwelling-House" for the governor <sup>[3]</sup> was to be plastered and "ornamented with Paper." This may be the earliest reference to wallpaper in North Carolina.

Wallpaper was advertised in the *Virginia Gazette* in 1766. The Joseph Hewes House in Edenton <sup>[4]</sup> (ca. 1765) had a soft, gray-blue paper with foliage in deep, natural shades of green with flowers, a temple, and musical instruments in shades of rose, salmon, lavender, and blue. There are other instances of surviving wallpaper in North Carolina. One is found at Rosedale Plantation <sup>[5]</sup>, built by Archibald Frew near Charlotte <sup>[6]</sup> in 1815. The plantation has three rooms with paper of two block-printed designs about 21 by 18 inches. One design is of children at play, while the other depicts what appears to be a gravestone inscribed "A la Fidelite." Oak Lawn, also near Charlotte, dates from 1818, but its wallpaper depicting the voyage of Captain Cook was printed in France between 1804 and 1806.



Piece of English wallpaper circa 1770-1780. This fragment was used as a binder for the "Tryal Docket for the Court of Equity, Hillsborough District," at Hillsborough, N.C. during the 1780s. <sup>[7]</sup>

#### Reference:

Catherine Lynn, *Wallpaper in America from the Seventeenth Century to World War I* <sup>[8]</sup> (1980).

#### Additional Resources:

The Cooper Union Museum. *Wallpaper; a picture-book of examples in the collection of the Cooper Union Museum* New York. 1961. <https://archive.org/stream/wallpaperpicture00coop#page/n5/mode/2up> <sup>[9]</sup>.

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#### Image Credits:

Rosedale Plantation wallpaper. Call no. N 71 9 284. From the State Archives of North Carolina.

"WALLPAPER FRAGMENT, Accession #: [H.1970.2.1](#) <sup>[7]</sup>." circa 1770-1780. The North Carolina Museum of History.

#### Subjects:

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[Popular Culture and Pop Culture](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

#### Authors:

[Powell, William S.](#) <sup>[16]</sup>

#### From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) <sup>[17]</sup>

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