

215 Avon Street (DHR #104-0072-0034)



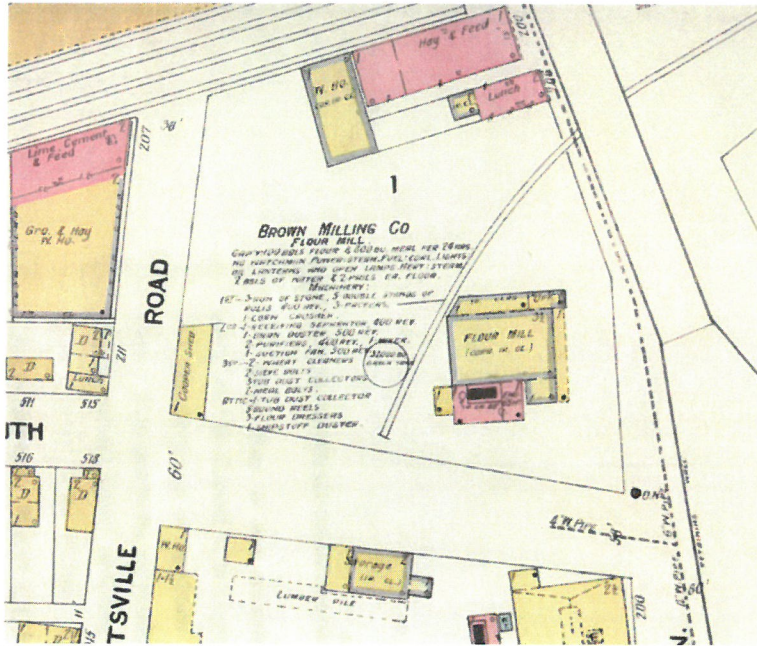
Northeast view



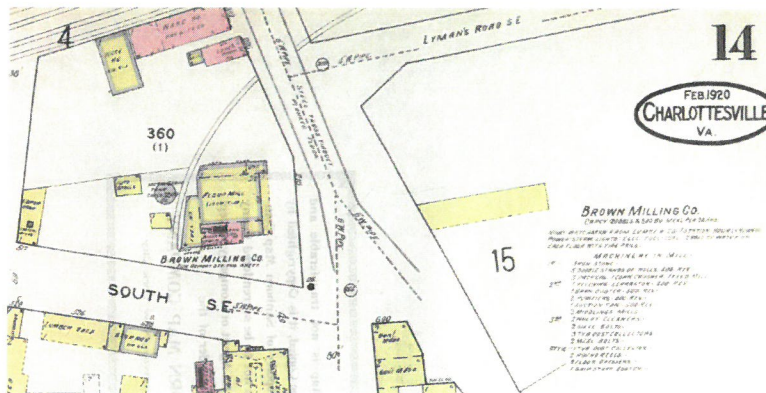
Southwest view

STREET ADDRESS:	215 Avon Street
MAP & PARCEL:	58-2
PRESENT ZONING:	DE
ORIGINAL OWNER:	Gilbert Brown, manager
ORIGINAL USE:	Industrial
PRESENT USE:	Commercial
PRESENT OWNER:	Willco Properties
ADDRESS:	Willco Properties 215 Avon Street Charlottesville VA 22902
DATE/ PERIOD:	1897-1902
STYLE:	Vernacular

HEIGHT IN STORIES: 3.5 Stories
DIMENSIONS/LAND AREA: 22,128 sq.ft./0.434 Acres
SOURCES: Charlottesville City Records and 2005 Architectural Survey
CONTRIBUTING: Yes



1907 Sanborn Map of Charlottesville showing Brown Milling Company



1920 Sanborn Map of Charlottesville showing Brown Milling Company

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

According to Sanborn Maps of Charlottesville, this 3 ½-story mill was constructed between 1897 and 1902. The frame building was originally clad in corrugated iron, a material it retains to the present. The gambrel roof is clad in corrugated metal with skylights added on the south side. Architectural details include: 6/6-sash windows; some triple-sash 6/6/6 windows; gambrel-end returns; an interior brick flue; a 1-story brick shed-roofed “boiler room” on the south side; a 1-story shed-roofed wing on the west side

(labeled as “fuel house” in 1920 Sanborn Map); and 1-story shed roofed wings on the east and north side. The Sanborn Maps indicate that the brick wing and the 1-story wings on the north and east were original to the building and the west wing was enlarged to its current configuration by 1920. The maps also provide information concerning the mill’s manufacturing capacity. In 1907, the flour mill was able to produce 100 bushels of flour and 800 bushels of meal per 24 hours and was steam-powered, fueled by coal. Lighting was provided by oil lanterns and open lamps, the building was heated by steam, and two barrels of water with two fire pails per floor provided fire protection. A 1-story frame coopers shop stood on the southwest corner of the property, presumably supplying the barrels needed for flour storage. The 1920 Sanborn Map also gives similar information and indicates that a night watchman, doing hourly rounds, had been added, in addition to electric lights. Known as Brown Graves and Co. Flour Mill when it was opened, its name was changed to Brown Milling Company by 1907. It was not until 1916/1917 that Brown Milling Company began to advertise in the Charlottesville City Directory. The Brown operation apparently produced a “quality first flour” called “Monticello Pride.” Side bar advertisements on nearly every page extolled the virtues of the Monticello Pride. Its only real competition was Standard Milling Company, which only produced feed supplies not flour. The Brown Milling Company’s primary structure survives in tact and continues to be utilized for industrial purposes. Although the building no longer functions a flour mill, it continues to house manufacturing activities, and is a contributing resource in the District. A significant building in Charlottesville’s industrial history, it may also be individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.