

Architectural And Historic Survey



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Identification

STREET ADDRESS: Barracks Road	HISTORIC NAME: Sunnyside
MAP & PARCEL: 1-1.6	DATE / PERIOD: c. 1800, 1858, c. 1894, 1958
CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK:	STYLE:
PRESENT ZONING:	HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 1½, 2 storeys
ORIGINAL OWNER: John Alphin or Polly & Blake Harris	DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: c. 115 acres
ORIGINAL USE: Residence	CONDITION: Good
PRESENT USE: Residence	SURVEYOR: Bibb
PRESENT OWNER: University of Virginia	DATE OF SURVEY: Summer 1981
ADDRESS: Charlottesville, VA	SOURCES: City/County Records Miss Helen Duke Frederick D. Nichols R. T. W. Duke, Jr's Journal Rawlings, Ante-Bellum Albemarle

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The original log section of this rambling farmhouse was weatherboarded and extensively remodeled in the Gothic Revival style in 1858 at the time of the first of several major additions. All sections of the house are now covered with yellow weatherboarding and have gable roofs covered with red standing-seam metal. The original 1½-storey cottage has two rooms on each level without a central hall. There is a single-flight enclosed stair in one room. It is set on a low fieldstone foundation. Its steep gable roof has a boxed cornice and deeply scalloped bargeboard and eaves trim. Windows are double-sash, 6-over-6 light, with plain trim and louvered shutters. Those on the facade, and the entrance door in the center bay, were replaced with pointed-arched ones in the Gothic Revival remodeling. There are two tiny 4-light casement windows in the gable. Two gable-roofed dormers with 6-over-6 light windows were added to the front and rear elevations c. 1860's-1880's. Their walls are faced with flush wooden siding, and those on the facade have matching bargeboards and eaves trim. There are two fieldstone exterior end chimneys with brick stacks. The south one has been rebuilt, but the north one has one set of stepped weatherings and a corbelled cap with two octagonal chimney pots, another Gothic touch. A veranda covers the facade of this original section. Its hip roof with pedimented projecting bay has a boxed cornice with oversize dentils in the pediment, no frieze, wide rectangular pillars with lattice insets, and a simple balustrade. A 1½-storey Gothic Revival addition on a low fieldstone foundation was made at the south end of the house in 1858. The ridge of its steep gable roof is perpendicular to the older one. The roof now has close verges and a simple boxed cornice, but it originally had a parapet gable with heavy cornice stops and finial. Both fireplaces are served by the south chimney in the original section. Windows are tall, 6-over-6 light, with plain narrow trim, pointed arched in the gable. A 2-storey section built c. 1895 beyond the 1858 section connected the main house to the old kitchen and slave quarters (razed 1958). It has a medium-pitched gable roof with projecting eaves and verges and a boxed cornice with returns. The gables were originally faced with patterned metal. The tall double-sash windows have plain trim and louvered shutters. The original sashes were replaced with 6-over-6 light ones in 1958, and a veranda covering the facade was removed and the entrance in the north bay altered. The older part of the kitchen and slave quarters were log-bodied and was probably one of the original dependencies. The 1½-storey quarters had an exterior end chimney which remains as an interior end chimney in the 1894 section. The one-storey 2-room wing beyond it, which housed the kitchen, had a central chimney. The kitchen was connected to the back porch by a covered walkway which later became a long hallway in a one-storey shed-roofed addition along the back of this long, mostly single-pile house. It was built in several stages, beginning with a small room at the north end which was enlarged c. 1860's-1880's and has a fieldstone foundation and a brick exterior end chimney. An octagonal library was built over the ice house just NW of the house.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

John Alphin purchased 1340 acres in this area between 1778 and 1788 (ACDB 7-340 & 459, 9-55 & 510). In 1806 he sold the County 75 3/4 acres which became the nucleus of the Poor House Lands (ACDB 15-252). Alphin died in 1818, leaving his estate to his four daughters (ACWB 6-271). In 1835 his daughter Polly and her husband Blake Harris sold a 25-acre tract upon which they were living and which adjoined the 1806 Poor House tract (ACDB 32-497). There is no deed to them, and so it appears likely that they built the house on land belonging to Alphin, but did not receive title to it until the division of his estate. The oldest section of Sunnyside shows architectural evidence of having been built c. 1800. There were four owners between 1835 and 1858 (ACDB 44-504, 50-119, 52-536), when William Carroll purchased it. Tax records note that he made improvements that year more than doubling the value of the buildings. This apparently included the Gothic Revival remodeling because, when he received his deed in 1859, it stated that the house was known as "Sunnyside" (ACDB 58-516). Tradition says that he used Washington Irving's home "Sunnyside" as a model. Col. R. T. W. Duke, Sr., bought Sunnyside in 1863 (ACDB 60-468) and increased his acreage by purchasing the Poor House Lands in 1870 (ACDB 65-91). The Duke family made several additions to the house. These are not reflected in the tax records, but family members remember that the first changes were the addition of dormers in the original section and the enlargement of the NW back room, and that the 2-storey section between the house and the old kitchen was built at the time of William R. Duke's marriage in 1894. Tax records indicate further improvements c. 1920. The house was renovated in 1958 under the direction of Floyd Johnson. The old kitchen and servant's quarters at the extreme south end of the house was removed, shortening it by 40%. U. Va. purchased Sunnyside from the estate of

Cammann C. Duke in 1963 (City DB 244-185 & 191). It is now used as faculty housing.

HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION - DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Additional References: ACDB 103-341, 193-295, 289-377.

