

Architectural And Historic Survey



395

Identification

STREET ADDRESS: 108 Clarke Court
MAP & PARCEL: 17-91
CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK:
PRESENT ZONING: R-3
ORIGINAL OWNER: T. O. Troy
ORIGINAL USE: Residence
PRESENT USE: Rental Property (5 apartments)
PRESENT OWNER: Linda K. Bunker, Mary C. Huey, & Diane
ADDRESS: 102-B Sunset Avenue K. Wakat
 Charlottesville, VA

HISTORIC NAME: Troy-Rixey House
DATE / PERIOD: 1895, 1942
STYLE: No Identifiable Style
HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 2½ Storeys
DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA:
CONDITION: Good
SURVEYOR: Bibb
DATE OF SURVEY: Spring, 1981
SOURCES: City/County Records Richard Thrift
 Mrs. Collett M. Thach (Edith Compton Thach)
 Mrs. Robert N. Flood (Josephine Peyton Flood)

Sanborn Map Co. - February, 1920

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This house has been so extensively altered that it is difficult to determine its original appearance. It appears that the northern half is the older and that it was a 2½-storey, double-pile, side-hall plan house without a basement. It faced east toward Jefferson Park Avenue and may have had a full height portico on the facade. The house was probably extended beyond the hall soon after it was built. After the property was subdivided in 1919, an attempt was made to re-orient the house toward Maury Avenue on the south. The portico, if there was one, covering the original (north) part of the east facade, may have been removed at that time. A one-storey Victorian veranda covered the rest of the east facade and wrapped all the way around the south side to the porte cochere on the west side. It was removed when the house was converted into apartments in the 1930's or 1940's. The front entrance was completely removed, and the house was re-oriented toward the west. Finally, the weatherboarding was covered with stucco to conceal these alterations. In its present form, this central-hall plan house is 2½ storeys tall and double pile. Fenestration is irregular, but it appears to have been three bays wide. It is set on a low brick foundation and has a partial basement. The steep roof has clipped gables and an entablature with dentiled frieze. It is covered with standing-seam metal, with patterned metal below the Philadelphia gutters. There are two interior chimneys. The gable ends are also faced with patterned metal; a Palladian window in the south one has been altered. There are two semi-octagonal dormers with steep patterned metal hip roofs asymmetrically placed on the east side and one on the west. Each has a small 1-over-1 light window in the center plan and half-sized fixed-sash windows (originally frosted multi-light) at the sides. At the west end of the north side of the house, there is a projecting pavillion with its clipped gable roof covered entirely with patterned metal. A two-storey pavillion, perhaps the kitchen or servants' quarters, was once connected to the main block at this point by a one-storey hyphen. A two-storey wing with a nearly flat shed roof, added c. 1942, now covers most of the north elevation. There are several types of windows in the house. Those that appear to be original are double-sash, 1-over-1 light, with very narrow architrave trim. The first storey room in the southwest corner of the house has groups of four 12-light casement windows. There is a semi-octagonal oriel window near the center of the western elevation. The original entrance on the eastern facade has been completely removed, and a wooden fire escape now occupies its approximate location. One-storey Tuscan columned entrance porches now cover the center bay of the western elevation, in the approximate location of the old porte cochere, and the eastern bay of the south end of the house. Interior trim is symmetrically moulded with corner blocks. Several of the eight fireplaces have columnettes, decorative tiles, and mirror overmantels. Reeded engaged columns flank the arches from the entrance hall into the stair hall and the rooms on either side (though all are now closed) and also the opening from the stair hall into the vestibule at the western entrance. Here a pair of 10-light French doors that formerly gave access to the porte cochere now serves as the main entrance. A two-flight open-well stair rises to the attic level. It has square newels, turned balusters, and decorated brackets.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

T. O. Troy purchased an 8.63-acre tract from the Jefferson Park Hotel & Land Improvement Co. in 1894 (ACDB 102-435, 111-345) and built a house there the next year, according to tax records and a deed of trust (ACDB 103-267). There is architectural evidence that the house was built in two stages, but that is not reflected in the tax records. In 1902, Troy sold the C. H. Walker and D. Harmon (ACDB 125-163) who sold to C. J. Rixey the next year (ACDB 126-31). Mrs. Ellie B. Rixey, a widow, bought it in 1908 (ACDB 137-78). She lived there for several years and later apparently used it as rental property. The Jefferson School for Boys is said to have occupied the house at one time. In 1919 Mrs. Rixey sold the house and two acres to Mary G. Peyton (Mrs. William H. Peyton) (City DB 33-202), but kept the large front yard and subdivided it into small lots along Jefferson Park Avenue (plat DB 38-349). Mrs. Peyton sold the house in 1928 to H. Gary Clarke (DB 60-446, 79-185). He remodeled it extensively c. 1942 and divided it into five apartments. What remained of the yard was further subdivided in 1953 and 1961 (plat DB 228-431). Linda K. Bunker, Mary C. Huey, and Diane K. Wakat bought the house from the Clarke family in 1977 (WB 15-102; DB 383-554).

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MAP & PARCEL: 17-91

CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK:

PRESENT ZONING: R-3

ORIGINAL OWNER: T. O. Troy

ORIGINAL USE: Residence

PRESENT USE: Rental Property (5 apartments)

PRESENT OWNER: Linda K. Bunker, Mary C. Huey, & Diane

ADDRESS: 102-B Sunset Avenue K. Wakat
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

HISTORIC NAME: Gowanlea (Troy-Rixey House)

DATE / PERIOD: 1895, 1899, 1942

STYLE: No Identifiable Style

HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 2 Storeys

DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA:

CONDITION: Good

SURVEYOR: Bibb

DATE OF SURVEY: 1981, 1985

SOURCES: City/County Records

Richard Thrift

Mrs. Collett M. Thach (Edith Compton Thach)

Mrs. Robert N. Flood (Josephine Peyton Flood)

Kean, "Early Street Railways & the Dev. of Ch'ville"

Sanborn Map Co. - Feb. 1920 MACH, vol. 33 & 37

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This house has been so extensively altered that it is difficult to determine its original appearance. It appears that the northern half is the older and that it was a 2½-storey, double-pile, side-hall-plan house which faced east toward Jefferson Park Avenue. Differences at the roofline suggest that the older section might have had some sort of 2-storey porch or portico, but no record has been found. The house was enlarged soon after it was built. If there was a portico, it was probably removed as part of an attempt to re-orient the house toward Maury Avenue on the south after the property was subdivided in 1919. In the 1920's, the small entrance on the south facade was used as the main entrance, with an arcaded hallway leading past the library to the central hall. A one-storey Victorian veranda covered the newer (southern) section of the east facade and wrapped all the way around the south side to terminate in a porte cochere at the center of the west facade. It was removed when the house was divided into apartments in the 1930's or 1940's. The eastern entrance was completely removed, and the house was re-oriented toward the west. Finally, the weatherboarding was covered with stucco to cancel the alterations.

In its present form, this central-hall-plan house is 2½ storeys tall and double pile. It is set on a low brick foundation. The steep roof has clipped gables and an entablature with dentiled frieze. It is covered with standing seam metal, with patterned metal, which probably once covered the entire roof, below the built-in gutters. There are two interior chimneys. The gable ends are also faced with patterned metal. A Palladian window in the southern gable has been altered. There are two semi-octagonal dormers, with steep hip roofs covered with patterned metal, asymmetrically placed on the east facade and one on the west. Each has a small 1-over-1 light window in the center and half-sized, frosted, multi-light, fixed-sash windows at the sides. There are several types of windows in the house, and they are irregularly arranged. Those that appear to be older are double-sash, 1-over-1 light, with very narrow architrave trim. The first storey room in the SW corner of the house has groups of four 12-light casement windows. Some other windows are said to have been multi-light in the 1920's. Some also contained stained glass. There is a semi-octagonal oriel window near the center of the western elevation. At the western end of the north side of the house, there is a projecting pavilion with its clipped gable roof covered entirely with patterned metal. A 2-storey pavilion containing kitchen and servants' quarters was once connected to the main block at this point by a one-storey hyphen. A later 2-storey wing with nearly flat shed roof now covers most of the north elevation. A wooden fire escape now occupies the approximate location of the original entrance on the east facade. One-storey Tuscan columned entrance porches now cover the central bay of the west elevation and the eastern bay of the south end of the house. Interior trim is symmetrically moulded with corner blocis. Several of the eight fireplaces have columnettes, decorative tiles, and mirror overmantels. Reeded engaged columns flank the arches from the entrance hall into the stair hall and the rooms on either side (though all are now closed) and also the opening from the stair hall into the vestibule at the western entrance. Here a pair of 10-light French doors that formerly gave access to the porte cochere now serves as the main entrance. A two-flight open-well stair rises to the attic level.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

T. O. Troy, President of the Charlottesville City & Suburban Railway Co., purchased an 8.63 acre tract in 1894 and built a house there the next year (ACDB 102-435, 111, 345, 103-267). Although tax records do not reflect it, an 1899 newspaper article mentions the enlargement and remodeling of the house, and there is much architectural evidence that the house was built in two stages. C. H. Walker and D. Harmon bought the property in 1902 and sold in 1903 to C. J. Rixey (ACDB 125-163, 126-31). The Jefferson School for Boys is said to have occupied the house in this period. Mrs. Ellie B. Rixey bought the house in 1908 (ACDB 137-78). She lived there for several years and later apparently used it as rental property. In 1919, Mrs. Rixey sold the house and two acres to Mary G. Peyton (Mrs. Wm. H. Peyton) (City DB 33-202), but kept the large yard and subdivided it into small lots along Jefferson Park Avenue (Plat DB 38-349). Mrs. Peyton sold the house in 1928 to H. Gary Clarke (DB 60-446, 79-185). He remodeled it extensively c. 1942 and divided it into five apartments. The kitchen was detached and moved to a lot at 127 Observatory Avenue. Linda K. Bunker, Mary C. Huey and Diane K. Wakat bought the house from the Clarke family in 1977 (WB 15-102; DB 383-554).

HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION - DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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PRESENT USE: Rental Property (5 apartments)	SURVEYOR: Bibb
PRESENT OWNER: Linka K. Bunker, Mary C. Huey, & Diane K. Wakat	DATE OF SURVEY: 1981, 1985
ADDRESS: 102-B Sunset Avenue Charlottesville, VA 22903	SOURCES: City/County Records Mrs. Collett M. Thach (Edith Compton Thach) Mrs. Robert N. Flood (Josephine Peyton Flood)

Sanborn Map Co. - February, 1920
Kean, "Early Street Railway & the Development of Charlottesville", MACH, Vol. 33 & 37

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HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION - DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT





