

Architectural And Historic Survey



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Identification

STREET ADDRESS: 2512 Jefferson Park Avenue	HISTORIC NAME: Fry's Spring Club House
MAP & PARCEL: 19-34	DATE / PERIOD: 1890/1906, 1913, c. 1928
CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK:	STYLE: No identifiable Style
PRESENT ZONING: R-2	HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 1½, 1 storey
ORIGINAL OWNER: Jefferson Park Hotel & Land Improvement Co.	DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 9.66 acres
ORIGINAL USE: Club House	CONDITION: Good
PRESENT USE: Club House	SURVEYOR: Bibb
PRESENT OWNER: Fry's Spring, Inc.	DATE OF SURVEY: Summer 1982
ADDRESS: 845 Emerson Drive Ch'ville, VA 22901	SOURCES: City/County Records Sanborn Map Co. - 1920, 1929 Mrs. E. A. Talley Holsinger's Charlottesville Kean, "Early Street Railways & the Development of

Charlottesville", MACH, vol. 33 \$ 35

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The club house and pavilion at Fry's Spring has evolved through so many stages of construction and remodeling that the sequence is nearly impossible to trace. The original 1½-storey clubhouse is surrounded on three sides by later additions, and its north end is covered by the tall 1-storey pavillion. A series of verandas covering the rear elevation of both sections has been enclosed. The slope of the land is such that, while the foundation is low at the front of the building, the basement is above ground in the rear. Foundation and walls are now covered with rough stucco with black half-timbering in the gable ends, on the enclosed verandas, and around windows and doors in the pavilion. The clubhouse was originally weatherboarded and a bir remains northern gable. The club house section has a medium-pitched cross-shaped gable roof, covered with composition shingles, with close eaves and verges. A small, capped, brick central chimney, which may have originally been an interior end chimney, serves a large fieldstone fire place. There are two steep gable-roof dormers on the facade, and one on the north side and two on the south side of the projecting entrance bay at the south end of the facade. Each has a weatherboarded facade, but stuccoed sides, and contains a pair of 3-light casement windows. There are shed-roofed dormers on the south and east sides of the rear extension, each with a pair of 6-light casement windows. Their walls are covered with composition shingles. A 1913 photograph shows double-sash, 2-over-2 light windows at the first level of the clubhouse. They were later replaced with paired casement windows, probably at the time of the stuccoing and half-timbering. The enclosed verandas on the rear elevation and the south end now have one-light fixed sash windows and the windows on the facade have been filled with glass of bricks, but some casement windows remain in the gable ends and within the building. The pavilion is set against the north end of the club house. The 1913 photograph show the rear slope of its gable roof abutting that of the club house, while the front slope was much less steeply pitched to cover the larger building. Both slopes of the present gable roof are of the same pitch, and it is covered with composition shingles and has close eaves and verges. The pavilion was originally open, then enclosed at floor level. Casement windows were probably installed when the walls were stuccoed, but window openings on the facade have now been filled in with glass brick. The facade is five bays wide with an entrance in the center bay. The enclosed veranda across the north end of the rear elevation has paired 8-light casement windows with 4-light sidelights. The south end of the rear elevation of the pavillion projects flush with the rear extension of the clubhouse and the roof has a medium-pitched gable. The enclosed verandas covering the rear elevation of the entire building have low-pitched hip and shed roofs. A projection at the north end of the pavillion houses the stage.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

Fry's Spring, named for a 19th century owner of the tract, is a mineral spring reputed to have healing powers. Summer resorts at such springs were very popular at the turn of the century. The Jefferson Park Hotel and Land Improvement Company was organized in 1890 to develop the area as a resort and to build and operate streetcar lines connecting it with the University to downtown. The spring (ACDB 93-274) and several adjacent tracts were purchased for development. The club house and a spring home were completed the first year, according to publicity and tax records. (The spring is located down the hill to the south of the club house). The Jefferson Park Hotel (or Hotel Albemarle) was completed a year or two later and improved in 1900-01. A large and picturesque 3-storey Victorian building, it stood on the site now occupied by the Jefferson Park Baptist Church. Beginning in 1905 and continuing until 1925, motion pictures were shown outdoors in front of the club house. A roller skating rink was built in 1906, but was replaced in a few months with a dance floor. The hotel was badly damaged in a 1910 fire and was demolished three years later. Materials from it were used to improve the club house and dance pavillion, as well as to build several homes. The pavillion was doubled in size and enclosed with windows from the hotel. The upper level of the hotel's towers were used as gazebos in the park around the spring. Unfortunately more has survived. J. Russell Dettor bought the land behind the club house and build a swimming pool in 1921 (ACDB 176-131). He leased the club house and pavillion for several years before purchasing that 13-acre tract in 1927 from the Ch'ville & Albemarle Railway Co. (ACDB 199-357). Dettor remodeled the entire building, covered the walls with stucco, and added a stage to accommodate big bands in the dance pavillion. He operated the Fry's Spring Beach Club for nearly half a century before selling it to Fry's Spring, Inc., in 1970 (City DB 316-473). Additional References (City-DB 227-185).

