# LANDMARK



# SURVEY

### IDENTIFICATION

Street Address:

506 Ridge Street

Map and Parcel:

29-277

Census Track & Block: 4-341

Present Owner:

Catherine Tyler Brown estate

Address: c/o Mary L. Page, P.O. Box 821

Present Use: Original Owner: Rental Property (3 apartments) Alexander C. Brechin

Original Use:

Residence

#### BASE DATA

Historic Name: Brech<mark>in House</mark>

Date/Period:

c. 1872 and c. 1930?

Style:

Victorian Vernacular

Height to Cornice: Height in Stories: 2

Present Zoning: R-3

Land Area (sq.ft.): 70' x 210' Assessed Value (land + imp.):

#### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This house was built as a Gothic cottage and later enlarged to full two-storey height and given a typical vernacular roof and a broad veranda. The windows and the distinct line in the brickwork show that the house originally had a steeply-pitched gable roof with tall, gabled wall dormers, the central one much taller than those on either side. In its present form, it is a nearly square three-bay, single-pile, two-stoney house on an English basement. The medium pitched bellcast gable roof, with an additional central gable on the facade, is covered with standing seam tin and has a boxed cornice with brackets and a wide cornice board. The brick is laid in five-course American-with Flemish bond (five stretcher courses and one header-stretcher course) in the original part and in seven-course American-with-Flemish bond in the upper part of the second storey. The joints are occasionally staggered. A onebay, two-storey addition built of used brick and a series of enclosed wooden porches, all under the same shed roof, covered the rear of the building. The double-sash windows are four-over-four light with wooden sills and flat surrounds beyond the architrares. Those on the second level are topped by triangular transoms. These transoms were removed from the windows on the first level of the facade when the veranda was built. All the windows on the first level are very tall and narrow; those on the second level are much shorter except for the central bay of the facade. Basement windows are plain six-over-six light with architrave trim. The single-storey semi-octagonal bay window on the north end of the house has an exagerated bellcast hip roof, boxed cornice with dentil moulding, and one

## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

four-over-four and two very narrow one-over-one windows with a sort of pilaster-effect between. The wide veranda has a flat tin roof with boxed cornice, supported on concrete columns set on square concrete-block pedestals, and a Colonial Revival balustrade. The entrance door has four panels with moulded rails. The mark of a steep triangular pediment is clearly visible above the three-light rectangular transom. The original kitchen and dining roof were in the basement. There are two interior chimneys, one on each side of the central hall, and each room has a fireplace. The hall with its two-flight open-well staircase has not been partitioned.

In 1871 Alexander C. Brechin, who had a bookstore on Main Street, purchased a half-acre lot from H.A. Darrow who lived at 510 Ridge Street (ACDB 66-420). According to tax records, he immediately built his home which James Alexander described in 1874 as "a tasteful and neat brick residence" (Early Charlottesville, p. 107). This was

#### **GRAPHICS**

probably 506 Ridge Street, at that time a Gothic cottage. Brechin built a second house next door in 1881. In the early 1900's he occupied that house himself, and his son Andrew M. Brechin occupied the first house. He deeded both to his son in 1924 (City DB 46-142). At some point, the house at 506 Ridge Street was enlarged and remodeled. Tax records seem to indicate that this may have occured circa 1930, though stylistically it would appear to have been earlier. The Pilot Life Insurance Company, purchased 506 Ridge Street at auction in 1938 and sold it to B. Lee Hawkins, in trust for his children, the same year (DB 94-270, 96-448). It was used as rental property for several years and then occupied by Hawkins' son Russell B. Hawkins who purchased it in 1953 and sold it the following year (DB 171-486, 175-271). Catherine Tyler Brown bought it in 1959 and lived there until her death in 1971 (DB216-337). It is still owned by her estate and is used as rental property. Additional deed references: DB 206-404; WB 15-36.

#### CONDITIONS

Fair

#### SOURCES

City/County Records James Alexander, Recollections of Early Charlottesville 1877 Charlottesville Map

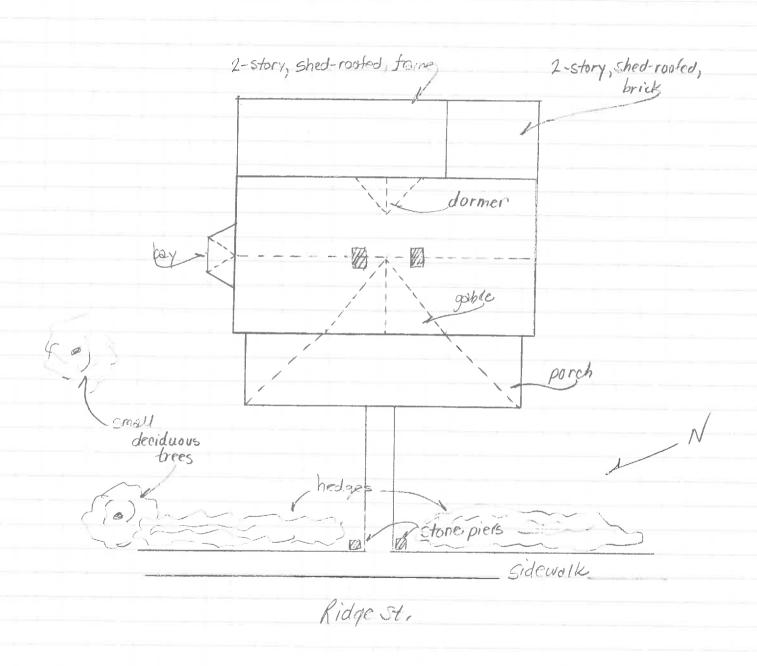
# **BRECHIN HOUSE**



STREET ADDRESS:
MAP & PARCEL:
VDHR FILE NUMBER:
CITY FILE NUMBER:
PRESENT ZONING:
ORIGINAL OWNER:
ORIGINAL USE:
PRESENT OWNER:
ADDRESS:

HISTORIC NAME:
DATE/PERIOD:
STYLE:
HEIGHT IN STORIES:
DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA:
CONDITION:
SURVEYOR:
DATE OF SURVEY:
SOURCES:

506 Ridge Street 29-277 104-25-18 214 R-3 Alexander C. Brechin Residence James Caravati; BF & WD Pilkey 122 Blueberry Road Charlottesville, VA 22901 Brechin House c. 1872-1881 Vernacular 2 70' x 210' Good Bibb 1978, Revised 1993 City/County Records James Alexander, Recollections of Early Charlottesville 1877 Charlottesville Map



SUSAN E. SMEAD PRESERVATION ASSOCIATES OF VIRGINIA

JANUARY 1994

#### **BRECHIN HOUSE**

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This house was built as a Gothic Revival cottage and later enlarged to full two-storey height and given a typical vernacular roof and a broad verandah. The windows and the distinct line in the brickwork show that the house originally had a steeply-pitched gabled roof with tall, gabled wall dormers, the central one much taller than those on either side. In its present from, it is a nearly square, three-bay, single-pile, two-storey house on an English basement. The medium-pitched bellcast-gabled roof, with an additional central gable on the facade, is covered with standing seam metal and has a boxed cornice with brackets and a wide cornice board. The brick is laid in five-course American-with Flemish bond (five stretcher courses and one header-stretcher course) in the original part and in seven-course American-with-Flemish bond in the upper part of the second storey. The joints are occasionally staggered. A one-bay, two-storey addition built of used brick, and a series of enclosed wooden porches, all under the same shed roof, sheltered the rear of the building. The double-sash windows are four-over-four light with wooden sills and flat surrounds extending beyond the architraves. Those on the second level are topped by triangular transoms. These transoms were removed from the windows on the first level of the facade when the verandah was built. The first-level windows are tall and narrow; those on the second level are much shorter except for the central bay of the facade. Basement windows are plain six-over-six light with architrave trim. The single-storey semi-octagonal bay window on the north end of the house has an exaggerated bellcast hip roof, boxed cornice with dentil moulding and one four-over-four and two very narrow one-over-one windows with a sort of pilaster-effect between. The wide verandah has a flat metal roof with boxed cornice, supported on concrete columns set on square concrete-block pedestals, and a Colonial Revival balustrade. The entrance door has four panels with moulded rails. The mark of a steep triangular pediment is clearly visible above the three-light rectangular transom. Originally the kitchen and dining room were in the basement. There are two interior chimneys, one on each side of the central hall, and each room has a fireplace. The hall with its two-flight open-well staircase has not been partitioned.

#### HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

In 1871 Alexander C. Brechin, who had a bookstore on Main Street, purchased a half-acre lot from H.A. Darrow who lived at 510 Ridge Street (ACDB 66-420). According to tax records, he immediately built his home which James Alexander described in 1874 as "a tasteful and neat brick residence" (Early Charlottesville, p. 107). Brechin built a second house next door in 1881. In the early 1900's he occupied 500 Ridge Street himself, and his son Andrew M. Brechin occupied this house. He deeded both to his son in 1924 (City DB 46-142). At some point, the house at 506 Ridge Street was enlarged and remodeled. Existing records give no indication of which house was built first or when number 506 was enlarged. The Pilot Life Insurance Company, purchased 506 Ridge Street at auction in 1938 and sold it to B. Lee Hawkins in trust for his children, the same year (DB 94-270, 96-488). It was used as a rental property for several years, and then occupied by Hawkins' son Russell B. Hawkins, who purchased it in 1953, and the following year (DB 171-486, 175-271). Catherine Tyler Brown bought it in 1959 and lived there until her death in 1971 (DB 216-337). Her estate continued to own it and use it as rental property to 1983 when it was sold to Donald R. Gourley and W. Gregory Bull (DB 435-286). James Caravati and BF & WD Pilkey purchased the house in 1989 (DB 536-557).

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Gothic Revival cottage origins of this intriguing house can be seen in the tall and narrow windows, the triangular transoms, and the profile of the steep gables still visible in the brick walls. The enlargement of the house to a full two storeys apparently was done at an early date.

The Brechin House has been individually designated as a local historic landmark and it is an important building in the Ridge Street Historic District.

P. 1. Hox 821 Charlottesville, Va.

eur dra. Pago:

The Charlottesville Historic Landmarks Commission is studying the old houses on Hidge Street. I understand that your family has owned the old Brechin house at 506 Hidge Street since 1959. It is a charming house and apparently one of the oldest ones left on the street. I would like to know anything you could tell me about its history.

The house looks as if the second-storey windows were originally dorsers, and the roof was later raised to make it a full two-storey house. Do you know when that was done? It would have been some time before your family bought it, I imagine.

Do you know which is older, this house or the one next to it at 500 - Ridge Street (on the corner)? The Brechins built both houses.

Do you know of enyone who might know more about the history of the house? To any of the Brechin family still live around here?

hould you please call the Department of Community Development (295-4177) and leave a number where I can reach you? (I'm not in the office book, but I can return your call.)

I'll be looking forward to talking with you.

Yours truly,

Rugenia Bibb

VDHR Reconnaissance Survey Form

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES PROPERTY SURVEY FORM RECONNAISSANCE LEVEL

IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

VDHR File # 104-0025-018

Property Name:

Historic

Brechin House

NR Property Category: Building

Wuzit: House

Tax Code: Section Parcel 

29 277

County/City: Charlottesville (City)

USGS Map:

USGS Quad: Charlottesville East

ADDRESS/LOCATION INFORMATION

Address: 506

Ridge Street

Location:

Vicinity of: Municipality:

ZIP: 22901

PROPERTY CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION

Property Boundaries: Ownership: Private

RESOURCE COUNT -

# Category Contributing?

1 Building

Contributing

TOTAL: 1

Contrib: Contrib: 1 Non-Contrib: 0

WUZIT COUNT -

# Wuzit Contributing?

TOTAL: 1 1 House Contributing

> Contrib: 1

Non-Contrib:

# RESOURCE - GENERAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Resource Level:

Estimated Construction Date: 1872 -81

Source of Date: Tax Records Physical Status: Existing

Condition: Fair Threat: None Known

Degree of Historic Integrity:

Association:

Design:
Feeling:
Location:
Materials:
Setting:
Workmanship:

# PRIMARY RESOURCE RECONNAISSANCE DESCRIPTION

Architectural Style/Derivative: Victoran Vernacular

-17-7, - 512 two 21 of the Collain Volling Cultai

# of Stories: 2.0 # of Bays Wide: 3 # of Bays Deep: 3
Arch Config: Geo Config:

Footprint:

Component	#	Form/Treatment	tment Material Matr'l Treatme	
Chimneys		Interior	Brick	
Foundation		English basement	Brick	
Porch		Front	Wood/Concret	1-story, 3-bay
Roof		Bellcast gable	Tin	Standing seam
Windows		double-hung sash	Wood	1/1, 4/4, 6/6

Brief Architectural Description of Primary Resource: This house was built as a Gothic cottage and later enlarged to full two-storey height and given a typical vernacular roof and a broad verandah. The windows and the distinct line in the brickwork show that the house originally had a steeply-pitched gable roof with tall, gabled wall dormers, the central one much taller than those on either side. its present form, it is a nearly square three-bay, single-pile, two-storey house on an English basement. medium pitched bellcast gable roof, with an additional central gable on the facade, is covered with standing seam tin and has a boxed cornice with brackets and a wide cornice The brick is laid in five-course American-with-Flemish bond (five stretcher courses and one header-stretcher course) in the original part and in seven-course American-with-Flemish bond in the upper part of the second storey. The joints are occasionally staggered. √A one-bay, two-storey addition built of used brick and a series of enclosed wooden porches, all under the same shed roof, covered the rear of the building. The double-sash indows are four-over-four light with wooden sills and flat

surrounds beyond the architraves. Those on the second level are topped by triangular transoms. These transoms were removed from the windows on the first level of the facade when the verandah was built. All the windows on the first level are very tall and narrow; those on the second level are much shorter except for the central bay of the facade. Basement windows are plain six-over-six light with architrave trim. The single-storey semi-octagonal bay window on the north end of the house has an exaggerated bellcast hip roof, boxed cornice with dentil moulding and one four-over-four and two very narrow one-over-one windows with a sort of pilaster-effect between. The wide verandah has a flat tin roof with boxed cornice, supported on concrete columns set on square concrete-block pedestals, and a Colonial Revival balustrade. The entrance door has four panels with moulded rails. The mark of a steep triangular pediment is clearly visible above the three-light rectangular transom. The original kitchen and dining room were in the basement. There are two interior chimneys, one on each side of the central hall, and each room has a fireplace. The hall with its two-flight open-well staircase has not been partitioned.

Brief Architectural Description of Additions and Alterations See Architectural Description.

Brief Architectural Description of Secondary Resources:

Potentially Contributes to Historic District:
Ridge Street Historic District
Potentially Associated with NR Multiple Property:

Architectural and Historical Summary:

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

In 1871 Alexander C. Brechin, who had a bookstore on Main Street, purchased a half-acre lot from H. A. Darrow who lived at 510 Ridge Street (ACDB 66-420). According to tax records, he immediately built his home which James Alexander described in 1874 as "a tasteful and neat brick residence" (Early Charlottesville, p. 107). Brechin built a second house next door in 1881. In the early 1900s he occupied 500 Ridge Street himself, and his son Andrew M. Brechin occupied this house. He deeded both to his son in 1924 (city DB 46-142). At some point, the house at 506 Ridge Street was enlarged and remodeled. Existing records give no indication of which house was built first or when this house was enlarged. The Pilot Life Insurance Company, purchased 506 Ridge Street at auction in 1938 and sold it the following year (DB 171-486, 175-271). Catherine Tyler Brown bought it in 1959 and lived there until her death in 1971 (DB 216-337). It is still owned by her estate and is used as rental property. 1993: The estate of Catherine Brown sold it in 1983 to Donald R. Gourley and W. Gregory Bull (DB 435-286). James Caravati and B. F. & W. D. Pilkey purchased the house in 1989 (DB 536-557). Additional deed reference: DB 206-404; WB 15-36.

SIGNIFICANCE & RELATION TO EVALUATION CRITERIA
The Gothic cottage origins of this intriguing house can be seen
in the tall and narrow windows, the triangular transoms, and
the profile of the steep gables still visible in the brick

walls. The enlargement of the house to a full two storeys apparently was done at an early date. The Brechin House has been individually designated as a local historic landmark and it is an important building in the Ridge Street Historic District.

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Type of Record

Citation

City Records Charlottesville City Deed Book

County Records Albemarle County Deed Books

Book

Alexander, Recollections of Early Charlottesville

Map 1877 Charlottesville Map

PHOTOGRAPHIC/DRAWINGS DOCUMENTATION

MISSING DATA ELEMENT

Media VDHR Neg # Frames Date

B&W 35mm photos 13471 8 - 10 1/ /1994

CRM MANAGEMENT EVENTS

MISSING DATA ELEMENT

CRM Event

Agency/Organization

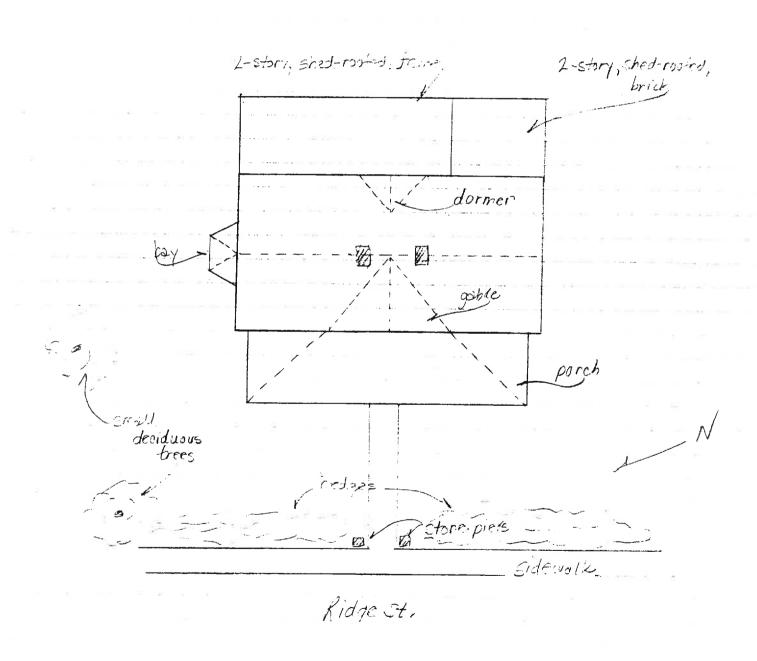
Date

Survey

PAVA/Smead and City/Bibb

/ /1978

IPS data entry-PAVA (Smead)



SUCATIE. SMEAD PRESERVATION ASSOCIATES OF VIRGINIA

JANUARY 1995

130000 Frechin house 506 Ridge St WB 15-36 Catherine Tyler Brown est 216-337 " " " 2/2/71 11/12/57 413,000 206-404 Chast Jexttatte Pettaney 12,000 7/3/58 175-271 Robb B Bailey 8,100 2/16/54 171-486 Russell B. Hawkins 6/16/53 6,000 96-448 B. Lee, " 1938 4,500 \$ 93-315 WB 1-219 ave embe 14 room, 3 baths, full basered 3 apt - none rented as a unit Buck tin gable eftwood + plaster

1962 - enclose near porch . + 200 - \* 645-7 softward + plaster " - awnings on front porch see diagram in file 2 stony form 2-stoney 2-stoney 1-stony inc porch inc porch me board brick with back with 2-storey w/ basement 24.8 34.8 converte parch 25.7 Brechin 11872 - 1938 = 6 Byears Hawkins 1938 - 1954 = 16 gr " Brown 1959 - 21978 : 219 ye

Russell B. Better (mongr. P.O.) & Mary F. Hawkins - 506 Ridge Roosevell & lath. T. Brown (maid UVa) - 506 Ridge Cath. T. Brown (wid Roosevelt) rold ... 

1:39-2:05 3-15-31-10 506 Rudge 93-315 1934 dood of trust Robert 8 + Bessie 7 Hawkins > Ke Moore Johns Battle
10/19/1937 80-432 defaulted

John 8. Battle, Frante -> Home Promes Loan Corporation 145-0
716 Forest St 96-448 Filot Life Im lo -> B. Lee Hawking 11/1/1938 70' × 210', Redge same as 94-270 to hold in trust for his cho, subject to limitations in will of James B. Hawbins (WB1-219, 1906) that property, go to next of him if he should die without him 171-486 James L + Va & Hawkins + Lillian H + Charles T. Lyston -> Remall By May E Hawkins WBI-219, 1906 James B Hawkins left 604 w Main &

B, Lee Hawkins in the for them. He sold 1926 & re-invested
in 602 w. Main; sold that 1938 & reinvested in Ridge Storge,

Jehnaf B. Lee Hawkins = James L, Lellian, & Russell B 94-270 4 1937 deed of bank (92-498) AM Brechin -> HW walsh x 2/7/1938 Julius & Smith; defaulted Hw walsh, buster -> Pilot Life Ins lo, at austron 44200 RER 92-495-92-495 andrew m. Brechin, wid, Touling & Smith & HW Walsh, busters 7/26/1937 deed of bust buck on east side Ridge St, beg 92' south of Dak St same as all 66-420 & 69-151, except for Ch'o 88-246 see 46-142; Andrew also son & sole heix of Martha E. Brachen AC Brechin, wid ->, Andrew M. Brachin, for B hove & affection on east side Ridge fredak St 162', same as.
same as ACDB 66-420 + 69-101 46-142 1/7/1924

88-246 23 Andrew M & Eleanor G. Breechin -> J. Emmell Bleason
1/31/1936 (i) lot wf improvemente at SE evener Ridge & Dah,
92' on Ridge, 210' back

(2) lot at NE corner Ridge & Dah, adj bleason's property, (88-177) Al Brechin dec intestate 9/22/1927 see DB 67-107 for hein WB 1-217 James B. Hawkins's will

brown James W: "frame cluelling, howe & Pol, wherein & now ruside,"

#529 Ridge St ACDB 69-187 HA & Serah M. Darrow - A & Brechen
10/14/1874 for Darrow - Brechin Le on Ridge, E 194', S 13'2', W 193 to start 66-420 HA Darrow JA & Brechin #500
1/27/1874 postof land uponwhich Darrow's residence in located

NW part of Darrow tract (purchased by John T Barbalale)
begin at alley to cemetry, 162' on Ridge, 210' back

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                                                  506 Ridge
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                 + 2000 : 3000
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1930
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  31
                            11
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36
              11 + 1800 = 2800
                                          1000 + 11
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              11 + 2000 = 3000
1946
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Mrs. Mary L. Poro P. O. Box 621 Charlottesville, Va. 21902

Dear Mrs. Page:

The Charlottesville Historic bandmarks Commission is studying the old houses on Ridge Street. I understand that your family has owned the old Brechin house at 506 Fiege Street since 1959. It is a charming house and apparently one of the oldest ones left on the street. I would like to know enything you could tell me about its history.

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Would you please call the Densrtment of Community Development (295-4177) and leave a number where I can reach you? (I'm not in the office much, but I can call you back.)

I'll be looking forward to talking with you.

Yours truly,

Digante Blob

Mrs Curtes Smith Mr Brechin built 500 for son

306 was old Brechin an home, "w/long growh across front"

Harry left, goinger one married

500 n one near Woolen Mills st Markwoods ( might know, lived on Ridge grown dec recently) (She probably manipum of AM Brechin)

404 Dice JZZ 4158 506 Ridge as of en perches across bach

2 stones + basement above ground in rear; high found, find filled

3 bay, single pile 3 brishwork; front - 5-course Am of-Flenish; oring; printed

above 200/200

the August of the falls april

side 3-5 course am of The 17 above; stribber from

monowalex tieble holeast mounter tuble

mode tin gable mof we central gable

box comice of brackets & cornice board

2 cent chim, I each side of hall int; I spanel Be Rew ent door up recessed grands & moulded rails 3-light recessed barren auch bein; baces of A pediment above
2-fl T Earthabe open stairs - 2 floof landing 4 fireplaces
windows; for boarde

windows; tall + naver 4/4 of arch + working

traces a periment above; not on sides

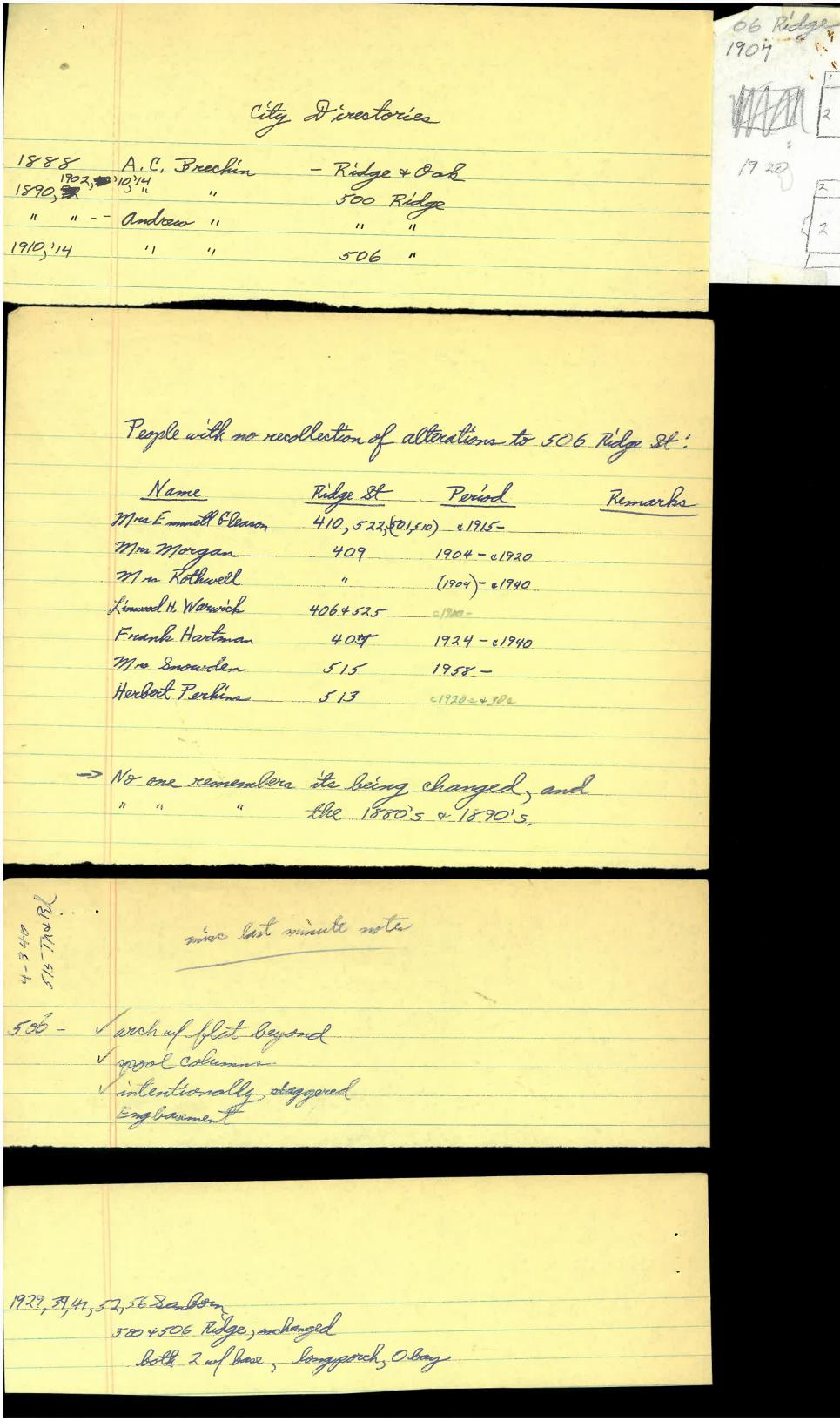
1. 0'lo m verenda of A pane above; were use a dormous front up i cent like on veranda of A pare above, brichs on side over & Board outside was upstrides & side front; smaller 4/4, tim mothe basement; 6/6, and enclosed 2-bay porch

nice 4-panel basementdoor

bay window - 1-storey, semi-act

found:, 1 4/4, 2 vory narrow 1/1

r polaston bet pl friege box comice uf dentile belleast hip mof, tim I uf rollatione veranda - concrete floor godestals to railing ht (motoling got park) then round" pellow inf 3 rings week platetin wof









Date Jan 1994 File No. 104-25-18
Name BRECHIM HOUSE, 506 RIDGE ST
Town CHARLOTTESVILLE
County
Photographer ANN C. HWPPEET
Contents 3 EXT. VIEWS