

Architectural And Historic Survey



452

Identification

STREET ADDRESS: Ivy Road	HISTORIC NAME: Greenway Rise
MAP & PARCEL: 7-1.10	DATE / PERIOD: 1927, 1939
CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK:	STYLE:
PRESENT ZONING: R-1	HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 2½ storeys
ORIGINAL OWNER: Elizabeth B. Wetmore	DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 21 acres
ORIGINAL USE: Residence	CONDITION: Good
PRESENT USE: Administration Building & Dormitory	SURVEYOR: Bibb
PRESENT OWNER: St. Anne's-Belfield, Inc.	DATE OF SURVEY: Summer 1982
ADDRESS: Charlottesville, VA	SOURCES: City/County Records WPA, <u>Jefferson's Albemarle</u>

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This ornately detailed house is 2½ storeys tall, three bays wide at the first level and five at the second, and single pile with a two rear wing. It is set on a high foundation. Wall construction is said to be of tile, and walls and foundation are covered with stucco, painted white with dark green trim. The medium-pitched hip roof is covered with green and black tile and has projecting eaves and a moulded stucco cornice. There are two elaborate stuccoed exterior end chimneys. The base flares out into a moulded cornice at the level of the second storey windowsills. Giant consoles set upon this base buttress the stack which has a twisted rope design at each corner and terminates in a moulded cornice-like cap. Windows are double-sash, 1-over-1 light, with narrow architrave trim. All windows at the first level are set behind a moulded ogee arch which covers the upper corners of the sash. There is a group of three windows in each side bay at the first level of the facade. Each window has a separate arch. The arches spring from slender twisted columns set between the windows, but not at the sides. At each side of the group, the moulding extends down to a louvered sill, on which the columns also rest. There is a pair of windows in the center bay at the second level of the facade with a single ogee arch set higher above the pair. There is a twisted column between the windows. There are two very short, hinged-sash, diamond-paned attic windows on each elevation. A slate-floored portico at ground level (probably originally a porte cochere) covers the central bay of the facade. It has a matching hip roof supported by stuccoed piers with the twisted rope design set into the front corners and a semi-elliptical-arched stuccoed frieze supported by twisted columns set on a stuccoed balustrade. The entrance is in the shape of an ogee-Palladian arch supported by two twisted columns. The door, sidelights, and ogee-arched transom have leaded diamond-shaped lights and wooden surrounds with the same twisted rope motif. There is a small marble-floored entrance vestibule three steps lower than the central hall. Interior woodwork has plain trim. Some openings are semi-elliptical-arched. The 2-flight open-well stair has a Chinese Chippendale balustrade and closed string with Chinese Chippendale applied decoration. An original 2-storey wing covers most of the eastern bay of the rear elevation. It matches the main block in all details, including the small attic windows. Pairs of narrow 1-light French doors with 1-light transoms give access from this wing and the main block to a raised slate terrace at the eastern end of the house. It has a stuccoed balustrade with a pointed arch motif. Only the bases remain of columns that once flanked the steps to the garden, where more twisted concrete columns support rose and wisteria arbors. A larger 2-storey wing, possibly also original, covers the rest of the rear elevation of the main block and extends beyond the other wing. It also matches in all details, except the first level windows; they are shorter than those at the second level and appear to be replacements. An exterior end chimney at the rear of this wing is plain except for a matching cornice-like cap. A short square cupola is centered over these rear wings. It has a low-pitched hip roof covered with sheet tin, with exposed rafter ends. Its walls are covered with unpainted stucco. A window the same shape as the attic windows has been boarded up.

HISTORIC DESCRIPTION

Greenway Rise was to be the retirement home of Elizabeth Bisland Wetmore, who achieved fame as a young journalist in 1882 when her newspaper, The New York Herald, sponsored her in a race around the world against Nellie Bly of The New York World. She finished in 74 days, two days after Nellie Bly, but six days less than Jules Verne's Around the World in Eighty Days. Reportedly having tired of Italy, Japan, and Washington, D.C., Mrs. Wetmore purchased this tract of land in 1926 (ACDB 195-36) and engaged Eugene Bradbury to design the house. Tax records show that it was completed in 1927, Mrs. Wetmore died the next year, & J. S. Staub bought the house from her estate in 1931 (ACDB 215-107). The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia bought Greenway Rise in 1939 (ACDB 242-245) to house St. Anne's School. Founded in 1910 as successor to the Rawlings Institute, St. Anne's had occupied the 3-storey white stuccoed building at East Jefferson and Tenth Streets. That building was later divided into apartments and allowed to deteriorate badly until it was finally demolished in the early 1970's. Greenway Rise was adapted for use as a combination administration building and dormitory and named Lee Hall, in honor of the school's founder, the Rev. Henry Bedinger Lee. It was connected by a hypen to a new building designed by the firm of Baker, Heywood, Y Llorens. Title was transferred to St. Anne's-Belfield, Inc., in 1975 upon the merger of the two schools (City DB 368-197).

7-1.10

#452

21.02 ac
R-1

Greenway Rise

~~50~~

368-197 St. Anne's - Belfield, Dno 1975-

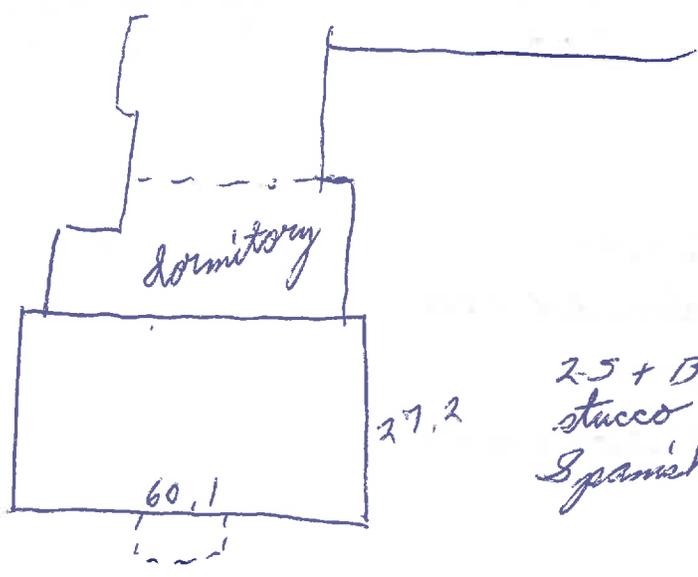
AEDB The Ch Sch in the Diocese of Va, St A's Epis Sch
242-245 1939

215-107 Gertrude Scott & Geo H. Strand
233-134

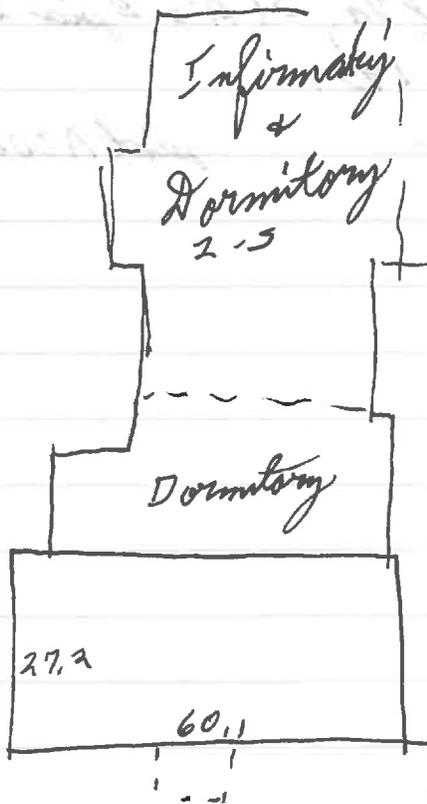
plot AEDB 233-133

~~215-107 233-134~~

~~10~~



2-5 + B
stucco on tile
Spanish tile hip roof



2 1/2 5 CB + stucco

2-5 + B
 stucco on tile
 Spanish tile hip roof

Biren issue Program 4/13/62
 St Annis founded 1910
 moved 1937
 Jefferson St since 1850's

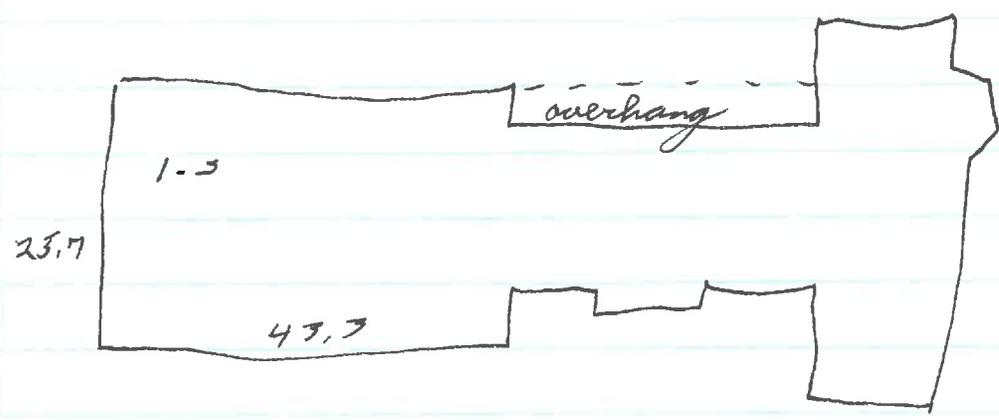
7-1,10 ✓

768-197 St Anne's - Belfield, 2m 1975

(in file)
 plat ACDB 233-133
 " " 195-215 1926
 " " 117-394 1900

Head ^{mistake} ~~mistake~~ Residence

1-3, 7-rooms
 slate gable roof
 2 fireplaces
 wood shingles on frame
 built 1940, add 1932



11/1966 article: to present 23 acres 1939

Greenway Rise

~~242-245~~

233-134 Hearing exec → Bertrude Scott Straub
1936 6 acres of Lewis mtn property, SE of Straub

215-107 Trustee under will of Eliz. Bissland Westmore →
11/13/1931 Bertrude Scott Straub

\$45,000

~~ACWB~~ ACWB 34-234

w/ approval of her sisters, as required
tract 1 mi west of U Va

all of 22.72 ac

10/21/26, ACDB 195-36, for Russell Bradford
except 7.17 ac → Shepherd 1926

242-245 Geo F & Bertrude Scott Straub → The Church Sch in the
2/19/38 Diocese of Va

\$40,000

25.107

1927	Ely, Wetmore	15.2 ac	+ 2950 = 4250	for Russell Bradford for 7.7 -> no Shepherd (0 bldg) (house for Bradford)
1928	" "	"	10,770 = 15,000	\$10,770 for bldg

75-36 R. Bradford -> Elizabeth B. Wetmore 22.72 ac
1926

195-214 E. B. Wetmore -> J. E. Shepherd 7.6 ac
1926

215-107 ~~1027~~ E. B. Wetmore trustee -> J. S. Stamb 15.02 ac
1931

Greenway Rise

2½-storey, 3-bay at 1st level & 5 at 2nd, ^{single pile w/ large rear wing} double ~~pile~~ high found. stuccoed

smooth stucco, white on facade, buff on ~~it~~; dk green trim

med, hips roof, ^{black} green tile, proj eaves, moulded stucco cornice

windows: } ^(arch in above these windows) under 2-window arch; column bet windows

group 3 in side bays facade 1st level

pair over ent; 2nd bay 2nd level facade narrower

2nd level: 1/1, ^{narrow arch above} surrounds, ~~wood~~ stuccoed (corn?) sill,

lowered shutters over lower sash, stationary over upper

3rd level (2nd & 4th bays facade); ^{& 2 each end} ¼ ht, hinged sash,

diamond-paned

1st level; ^{incl. next elevation} 1/1 w/ narrow ^{architrave} surrounds, set behind, ^{moulded} arch

w/ ~~ped~~ finial springing fr ~~capitol~~ ^{capital} atop slender twisted columns bet windows (not at sides); ~~at~~ at sides

of groups, moulding cont down to ^{lowered} floor level sill on which column bases rest; area bet window & sill sl recessed;

lowered shutters over lower sash only

arch covers upper corners of sashes

~~no~~ moulding gone fr west windows

— collectors on downspouts

entrance portico (porte cochere?) - 1-bay, 1-storey

matching hips roof

rope twist set into front corners of pl stuccoed piers

semi-elliptical arched, ^{stuccoed frieze} on all 3 sides, springing fr twisted columns set on stuccoed balustrade

exposed rafters inside porch

^{above} 3 steps fr front to portico, 1-2 to ent door; slate floor

ent. in shape of _____ Palladian arch w/ 2

^{twisted rope columns}
leaded diamond-paned door, sidelights, & arched
transom

twisted wooden surrounds

2 est end chimneys

2 stages: bot ~~at~~ level - chamfered corners; flares out & cornice
at 2nd storey window sill level

stack w/ twisted rope at all 4 corners, buttressed
by giant consoles, flared cap & cornice

East end: narrow 1-l Fr doors w/ 1-l transom in ^{front} bay

lead to slate terrace (above ground at that end) ^{on stone}

^{found}
w/ pointed-arched stuccoed bal.; bases only remain of
columns that once flanked steps to garden, but no
indication this was ever a covered porch

^{son} marble-floored vestibule, 3 steps up to cent hall
2-fl open ^{with} stair w/ chin chips bal, closed ^{string} ~~with~~
w/ chin chips applied dec
plain trim
some openings semi-elys-arched

same conc columns, w/ same ^{work} bases & capitals, but all
unpainted, are used to support arbors (winteria, rose)
in garden east of home

Lee Hall, in honor of the Rev. Henry Bedinger Lee who
founded St Ann's Sch in 1910

II

East rear

orig 2-storey wing covers ^{most of bay} E rear elevation
 another ^{row} of Fr doors onto terrace
 & another attic window E
 apparently cent hall did not go back that far
 matches main block exactly in all details

III

West rear

2-storey wing covers rest of rear elevation & ^{extends beyond 1st wing} all ~~to~~ ^{wing}
 roof & cornice match orig
 windows plain 1/1; those at 2nd level match,
 those at 1st are shorter & lack sills
 also one matching attic window on W
 ext end chim near W end of rear, plain except for
 matching flared cap
 theories: 1) Windows moved from rear el of orig
 2) 2nd & 3rd storeys orig over open porch

→

are int. walls bet this & I or II thicker ~ ext walls?
 Chimney would have crossed an open porch at 1st level
 Only those 1st level windows diff - why?

short sq eysola on ridge of roof; low sheet tin hys roof w/ exposed
 rafters ends; unpainted stucco; boarded up rear window & attic
 windows

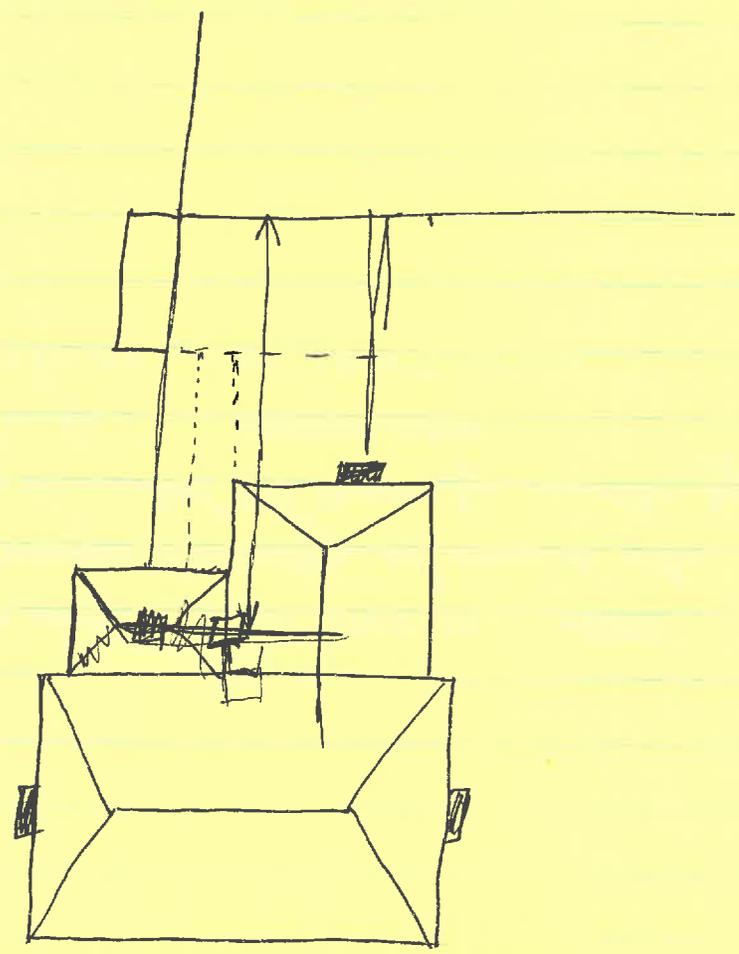
IV

lower 2-3 hyphen connects ^{rear of both wings to 2 1/2-5} ~~to~~ dorm in rear
higher pitched slate roof

boxed cornice

wooden floors at 2nd level, as in all front sections

Rear portion of hyphen is a 1-step-lower, conc-floored,
garage-like room w/ ~~some~~ 8/8 windows on W;
windows ^{on West} 1st level West rear wing, dorm surrounds on E & S
" on East metal sash & dorm behind



I - 1927

II - "

III - all or part 1927? 1927-39? ~~1939?~~

IV - orig garage? possibly w/ servants' qtrs above?
possibly connected to house by smaller hyphen, maybe at
1st level only? ~~xxxxxxx~~

1927 or 1927-39, & 1939?

Miss Ann Walker on 2nd St
Miss E. L. Kelly not well
Miss Marg. Jefferson

dorm wing by Baker, Hayward, & Lorenz
"Built by Mrs. Wetmore who raced Nellie Bly around world."
Eugene Bradbury

On US 250 the tour parallels tracks of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway, which, as the Virginia Central Railroad, passed this way just after 1850 to reach Staunton—a destination achieved about five years later.

From Courthouse Square, 0.0 m., Tour 4 runs westward, past the University of Virginia (see TOUR 1) and a junction with US 29 (see below), 2.1 m., and leaves Charlottesville on US 250.

Just at the city limits and in the shadow of Lewis Mountain, at 2.5 m. from Courthouse Square, is the entrance (L) between carved stone posts to ST. ANNE'S SCHOOL, which was lodged until 1939 in old brick buildings in the heart of downtown Charlottesville. The school now occupies stone and stuccoed buildings of modern design. In the old buildings was started in 1857 the Albemarle Female Institute, operated at first by John Hart and A. E. Dickinson, and after 1875 by Richard H. Rawlings and W. P. Dickinson. Under the name of Rawlings Institute, which it acquired in 1897, the school was operated by a board of trustees. It was closed in 1909, but it was purchased in 1910 and reopened under the auspices of the Episcopal Church. In 1920 it was incorporated in the system of church schools of the Diocese of Virginia. In 1939 St. Anne's was moved to Greenway Rise, a 23-acre estate beyond the city limits. The dormitories have a capacity of 50 boarders; while the classrooms, modern gymnasium, and chapel are planned to accommodate 200 pupils.

Among the new school buildings is a large square house with a green tile roof. This used to be GREENWAY RISE, briefly the home of Elizabeth Bisland Wetmore, who died here in 1929. Though Mrs. Wetmore was born in Louisiana in 1861, she had a career that would be called adventurous even by the girl of today. At 17 she was writing for the New Orleans *Times-Democrat* and at 18 held a salaried newspaper position in New York. She was only 21 when her paper, the *New York Herald* pitted her in a globe-girdling race against Nellie Bly of the *New York World*. Nellie Bly beat the time limit set by Jules Verne's imaginary *Around the World in 80 Days*, completing her tour in 72 days, 6 hours, and 11 minutes; while Elizabeth Bisland ended her circuit of the world two days later. Naturally enough the young woman never overcame the taste for globetrotting. She was married to Charles W. Wetmore in 1891. Her first book, *A Flying Trip Around the World*, published in 1892, was followed by many others. Perhaps her best known work is the *Life and Letters of Lafcadio Hearn*, which she published in 1906. Mrs.

Wetmore had known this romantic orientalist in New Orleans and influenced him to adopt Japan as his home and inspiration.

Mrs. Wetmore was rather charmingly eccentric. After her husband died she settled down to end her days in Italy. Within the next few years she moved for the same purpose successively to Japan and Washington, and finally to Albemarle, where she did end her days, little more than a year after completing Greenway rise in 1927. In so short a time she drew a little circle of intellectuals about her here, as she had usually done wherever she lived. Conversation never lagged under her expert direction. Gowned by Worth of Paris in flowing garments of no familiar period, mitted in the most Victorian manner, and capped with creamy lace over her ivory curls, she had the air of a very old grande dame. A cigarette habitually in one corner of her mouth contrasted abruptly with an old-fashionedness that included quantities of elaborate jewelry.

At 2.9 m. is a road (L) that winds up Lewis Mountain to the MOUNT KEARNY CATHOLIC INSTITUTION on the summit. Here, in new buildings and in a conspicuous mansion built 1909-11 by General John Watts Kearny, the institution, known also as the Lewis Mountain Mission, was established in 1938. It is owned and conducted by the Fathers of the Precious Blood. From this base 12 active missionaries work among the people of the surrounding country and conduct a school that trains young men for the priesthood.

Within sight of several estates marked by conspicuous modern mansions is the tree-lined entrance drive (L), 3.8 m., to BIRDWOOD, a red brick house behind a tall portico in a grove of trees. A cupola and the top of an ivy-covered tower in the yard are visible, even in summer, above the leafy branches. The estate is part of land patented in 1734 by David Lewis. The patentee lived on the "hinder" part of the present Birdwood farm, where he died in 1779 at the age of 94. James Kerr purchased the place in 1773 from the trustees of John Dabney and lived here for 27 years thereafter. He migrated from Scotland to Albemarle about 1762 and bought as his first tract a bit of land at the head of Ivy Creek. In 1783 he served as a magistrate and 10 years later was appointed sheriff. The building now standing, however, was erected in 1818 by William Garth, purchaser of the land from his brother Jesse Garth. William and Jesse were the third generation of Garths in Albemarle, for their grandfather once owned a vast tract in the county.



