

Identification

STREET ADDRESS: 311 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ Street SW

MAP & PARCEL: 29-207

~~CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK~~: File No. 665

PRESENT ZONING: R-1A

ORIGINAL OWNER: John W. Houchens

ORIGINAL USE: Rental Property (Residence)

PRESENT USE: Rental Property (Residence)

PRESENT OWNER: Otis L. Lee

ADDRESS: 1876 Woodberry Road
Charlottesville, VA

HISTORIC NAME: Houchens-Cousins-Mosby House

DATE / PERIOD: c. 1883-88

STYLE: Vernacular

HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 2 stories

DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 58' x 110' (5510 sq. ft.)

CONDITION: Fair

SURVEYOR: Bibb

DATE OF SURVEY: Summer 1993

SOURCES: City/County Records
Sanborn Map Co. - 1907, 1913, 1920, 1929
Ch'ville City Directories

311 6 1/2 St SW

Arch Descriptions

In its present form, this vernacular house is 2 stories tall, 2 bays wide, & single pile, with a 1-story rear wing. ~~The original form~~ The form from which it evolved was a very common one for workers' cottages in late 19th century Ch'ville: a one-over-one room block with a 1-room side wing. This configuration is shown in the fenestration of the present facade: The northern half ^(the original 2-story portion) has a window & a door at the first story level & a single window centered at the 2nd story level, while the southern half ^(originally a 1-story wing) has a single window at each level.

The house is set on a low foundation without a basement. The walls are stuccoed.

The steep gabled roof is covered with standing-seam metal & has projecting eaves & verges & exposed rafter ends. There is a central chimney. Windows are double-sash, 6-over-6 light, with plain ^{wide} trim.

~~An asymmetrical~~ ^{one-story} asymmetrical porch covers most of the facade. It has a hipped roof covered with standing-seam metal, a boxed cornice, stuccoed frieze ^{of} bracketed ^{piers} ~~square posts~~, cinderblock balustrade, & concrete floor.

The walls of the one-story rear wing are covered with aluminum siding, & its shed roof is covered with composition shingles.

Hist.
C. J. D. scripps

John W. Houshens purchased a ^{large} lot at the corner
of 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ + Dive Streets in 1881 (ACDB 79-210) &
2 more lots south of it in 1882 (ACDB 80-493).

→ His will, written shortly before his death in 1889,
stated that there were 5 houses on the 3 lots
(City WB 1-6).

Tax records show that he immediately began
construction ^{on} of a row of workers' cottages
to use as rental property.

Walter L. Garrison bought this house at auction in 1870, but sold it to James F. Haslan before receiving a deed in 1893 (City DB 4-198). Haslan used it as rental property.

Phoebe Cousins bought the house in 1899 (DB 10-181) & lived there for 36 years. The shingled roof was replaced with ~~the~~ a metal one during this period. Neither tax records nor the Sanborn maps show when the house was enlarged & stuccoed, but

Robert E. Mosby bought the house from Mrs. Cousins in 1935 (DB 87-376); & his family lived there for 45 years.

After his death, his widow rented the house for several years before selling it to Otis Lee in 1989 (DB 522-202).

~~the~~ Tax records show that the rear wing was added in 1940.

~~It has now been enlarged & stuccoed.~~
Additional Reference: City DB 230-119