

Architectural And Historic Survey



Identification

STREET ADDRESS: 618 Dice Street	HISTORIC NAME: Houchens-Diggs Cottage
MAP & PARCEL: 29-209	DATE / PERIOD: c. 1881
CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK:	STYLE: Vernacular
PRESENT ZONING: R-2	HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: one storey
ORIGINAL OWNER: J. W. Houchens	DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 55' x 110' (6050 sq. ft.)
ORIGINAL USE: Rental Property (Residence)	CONDITION: Good
PRESENT USE: Rental Property (Residence)	SURVEYOR: Bibb
PRESENT OWNER: Dogwood Housing Limited Partnership	DATE OF SURVEY: Spring 1985
ADDRESS: 223 West Main Street	SOURCES: City/County Records
Charlottesville, VA 22901	Sanborn Map Co. - 1907, 1920, 1929

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The main block of this cottage is one storey tall, two bays wide, and single pile. It has a steep gable roof covered with composition shingles, with projecting eaves and verges. There is a single massive exterior end chimney. The chimney has been faced with stucco, as have the walls of the entire building. A small entrance porch covers the eastern bay of the facade. It has a steep gable roof with exposed rafter ends, plain piers, and a concrete floor at ground level. There are two narrow, double-sash, 2-over-2 light windows in the western bay. There is one attic vent in the eastern gable end. This section may once have had a habitable upper half-storey. A lower one-storey, one-bay wing projects from the western end of the main block. It has a medium-pitched gable roof covered with composition shingles. Its windows match those in the main block in shape and arrangement, strongly suggesting that this wing is original. There is a smaller one-storey, 2-bay wing beyond the first one. Obviously a later addition, it has a low-pitched hip roof and a single regular-sized 2-over-2 light window in each bay. There is a rear wing behind the main block and part of the first wing. Its roof extends from the ridge of the first wing's roof as low-pitched gable. Windows are regular sized 2-over-2 light. It has a central chimney. The entire structure is set on a low foundation. It presents the appearance of being swathed in several layers of wall and roof coverings. All windows and their surrounds were replaced with aluminum ones in the 1980's rehabilitation.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

In 1889, J. W. Houchens directed in his will that "one or more of the five houses" built on land purchased in 1881 (ACDB 79-210) and 1882 (ACDB 80-493), all south of the Delevan property, be sold (City WB 1-6). Charles C. Taylor bought this house, which is located on the first tract, in 1891 (City DB 2-450) and ten years later deeded it to Sarah J. Diggs who had cared for his parents in their old age (DB 12-8). Stewart C. Jackson bought it from her in 1922 (DB 40-183) and sold it in 1936 to Ralph & Elnora Gofney (DB 89-349). They sold it in 1954 to the Rev. E. D. McCreary (DB 177-436). The house was damaged by fire in 1959. Dogwood Housing Limited Partnership purchased it in 1980 (DB 415-677, 432-50 & 184) and has extensively rehabilitated it.

