

Architectural And Historic Survey



Identification

STREET ADDRESS: 1600 Gordon Avenue (formerly 404 Ackley Lane)	HISTORIC NAME: Ackley
MAP & PARCEL: 9-16	DATE / PERIOD: 1920-21, 1956, 1974
CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK: 2-411	STYLE: Colonial Revival
PRESENT ZONING: R-2 and R-3	HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 2½ storeys
ORIGINAL OWNER: Betty K. Wheat	DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 2.25 acres
ORIGINAL USE: Residence	CONDITION: Good
PRESENT USE: Retirement Home	SURVEYOR: Bibb
PRESENT OWNER: Martha Jefferson Sanitorium	DATE OF SURVEY: Spring 1981
ADDRESS: 1600 Gordon Avenue Charlottesville, VA	SOURCES: City Records Mrs. Parker Blake

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Ackley is a 2½-storey, 5-bay, double-pile house with an original 2-storey, 3-bay west wing and a smaller 2-storey east wing. It is set on a low foundation with a full basement. Walls are veneered in brick laid in Flemish bond throughout the building, and there is a concrete stringcourse between the first and second storey. The steep gable roof is covered with slate and has a boxed cornice with modillions and cornice returns and a plain frieze. Its rear slope continues across the west wing which covers all but the front bay of that end of that building. There is one exterior end chimney with a small cap at the east end of the central block and an interior chimney near the back of the wing. Windows are double-sash, 6-over-6 light, with concrete sills, architrave trim, and louvered shutters. They are the same height at both levels. Fenestration on the rear elevation is irregular. Three gable-roofed, slate-walled dormers are centered on the front and rear elevations of the central block. Fluted pilasters support the cornice returns. Windows are nearly full-sized 6-over-6 light. There is a large half-round group of multi-light attic windows in the gable end of the west wing. There is a frontispiece entrance in the center bay of the facade. Fluted Corinthian pilasters support an entablature with cushion frieze and modillions and a swan's neck pediment with a pineapple. The 8-paneled entrance door is flanked by narrow leaded sidelights with Gothic tracery. Beyond a shallow entrance vestibule, there is a 12-light door with wider leaded sidelights and a semi-elliptical paneled transom. The rear door is also 8-paneled and is flanked by narrow 2-over-2 light windows. Interior doors are 8-paneled with architrave trim. The two-flight open-well stair in the broad entrance hall has a curved landing. The parlor mantel with coupled Tuscan columnette was carved by Hessian prisoners of war for a house in Staunton, and the mantel in the master bedroom was salvaged from a farmhouse in Augusta County. The scenic wallpaper above the paneled wainscot in the dining room is also from a house in Staunton. A one-storey porch (now glass-enclosed) covers two bays of the facade of the west wing and projects slightly beyond the facade of the central block. Four Tuscan columns support a simple entablature and flat roof with Chinese Chippendale balustrade. The two-storey east wing originally had an arcaded open porch at the first level, the arches on the front and rear elevations, being in the shape of a Palladian window. Access was by paired 5-light French doors flanking the parlor fireplace. The rear third remains an open porch, but the center third had been enclosed with brick and the front third converted into a windowed hallway leading to one of the new buildings. A 1974 addition covers the end of the west wing.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

In 1918 J. Allen Wheat of Staunton purchased a 2.3-acre section of Preston Heights and immediately had title transferred to his wife Betty K. Wheat (City DB 32-24, 25). Tax records show that this house was built in 1920-21. Mr. Wheat's brother Leonidas Pope Wheat, a Washington architect, designed the house from a sketch by Mrs. Wheat. Mr. Wheat died in 1927, and in 1956 Mrs. Wheat sold the house to the Perry Foundation for use as a retirement home (DB 190-172, 196-111). The Charlottesville architect Milton Grigg adapted the house to that use and designed several additional buildings for the complex. Additional References: City DB 50-299.

with Palladian



VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File No. 104-130
Negative no(s). 7215

HISTORIC DISTRICT SURVEY FORM

Page 1 of 2 (see also attached sheet)

Street address 1600 Gordon Ave. (at end of Ackley Ln.)

Town/City Charlottesville

Historic name Ackley

Common name Martha Jefferson House

Main block:

Material

<input type="checkbox"/> wood frame (siding: <input type="checkbox"/> weatherboard, <input type="checkbox"/> shingle, <input type="checkbox"/> aluminum, <input type="checkbox"/> bricktex, <input type="checkbox"/> _____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> brick (bond: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flemish, <input type="checkbox"/> stretcher, <input type="checkbox"/> _____-course American, <input type="checkbox"/> <u>probably brick sheathing over</u>) <input type="checkbox"/> stone (<input type="checkbox"/> random rubble, <input type="checkbox"/> random ashlar, <input type="checkbox"/> coursed ashlar, <input type="checkbox"/> <u>cinder block.</u>) <input type="checkbox"/> log (siding: <input type="checkbox"/> weatherboard, <input type="checkbox"/> shingle, <input type="checkbox"/> aluminum, <input type="checkbox"/> bricktex, <input type="checkbox"/> _____) <input type="checkbox"/> stucco <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> concrete block <input type="checkbox"/> enameled steel <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> cast iron <input type="checkbox"/> terra cotta <input type="checkbox"/> glass and metal
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Number of Stories	Roof Type	Roof Material
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 1/2 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 1/2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> ____	<input type="checkbox"/> shed <input type="checkbox"/> mansard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gable <input type="checkbox"/> gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> pediment <input type="checkbox"/> parapet <input type="checkbox"/> hipped <input type="checkbox"/> flat <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> slate <input type="checkbox"/> tile <input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle <input type="checkbox"/> pressed tin <input type="checkbox"/> composition <input type="checkbox"/> not visible <input type="checkbox"/> standing seam metal <input type="checkbox"/> other _____

Dormers	Number of bays — Main facade
<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 front <input type="checkbox"/> shed <input type="checkbox"/> hipped <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> gable <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> ____ <input type="checkbox"/> pedimented	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9 incl. wings

Porch	Stories	Bays	General description
<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> ____	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 (center) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 (side) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> ____	

Building type

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> detached house	<input type="checkbox"/> garage	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
<input type="checkbox"/> detached town house	<input type="checkbox"/> farmhouse	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial (office)	<input type="checkbox"/> school
<input type="checkbox"/> row house	<input type="checkbox"/> apartment building	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial (store)	<input type="checkbox"/> church
<input type="checkbox"/> double house	<input type="checkbox"/> gas station	<input type="checkbox"/> railroad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> nursing home

Style/period Neo Virginia Colonial/Georgian Date 1920-21; 1956 Architect/builder Leonidas Pope Wheat (of DC)

Location and description of entrance Elaborate ^{wooden} ~~Georgian~~ ^{-style} door surround with broken swan's-neck pediment with pineapple finial.



Miscellaneous descriptive information (plan, exterior and interior decoration, cornice/eave type, window type and trim, chimneys, additions, alterations)

The main block of this building, which was built as a dwelling c. 1920 is reminiscent of Berkeley, Westover, and other well-known Virginia colonial mansions. The brickwork and detailing is of high quality, and the building blends well with the neighborhood. Unfortunately, the east wing has a parapet flat roof which does not blend harmoniously with the main block.

The house was remodeled in 1956, and much of the exterior detailing probably dates to that time.

Historical information

This house was built in 1920-21 for J. Allen Wheat of Staunton and his wife Betty K. Wheat (who held title to it). Wheat's brother Lennidas Pope Wheat, a Washington architect, designed the house from a sketch by Mrs. Wheat.

In 1956 Mrs. Wheat sold the house to the Perry Foundation for use as a retirement home.

Source See attached Ch'ville Landmarks report.

Surveyed by Jeff O'Dell Date 4-83; 8-83

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9-16w

Ackley
(Wheat House)
1921, 1956, 1974

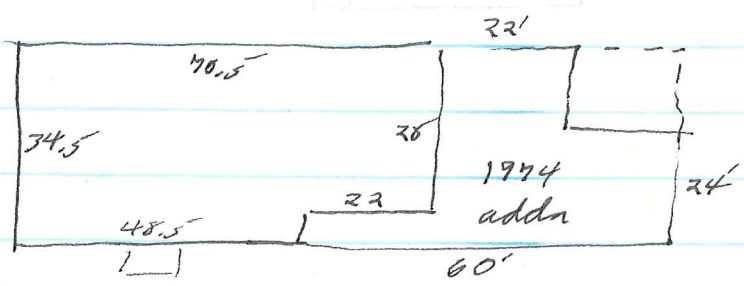
"Ackley"
1600 Gordon Ave (MS House)

R-2 & R-3
213.6 x 125
225 x 167.5
177 x 130
40 x 176

196-111	Martha Jefferson Sanitarium	1956	gift	
190-172	Poorey Found., Inc.	"	76,800	plat 190-173
50-297	Betty K. Wheat			plat
32-25	" "			city DB 32-24 1/2 plat ACDB 97-346

addn by Brigg (1956)
 removed fr tax roll 1957
 built 1920, good, ^{expensive} const
 2-storey, 12 rooms, 4 1/2 -> 7 baths, ^{1/2} basement
 CB found, brick, slate gable roof

1971 - new addn - \$144,788
 1974 102,218
 1977 12c Bldgs 2, 3, 4
 1979 - addn



Bldg 1

1922, retirement home 1957

~~3-64-79~~

3-64-79

Mary Scott Blake (Mrs Parker Blake) *

E. wing - porch? ~~steps~~ encl? 2nd? ~~✓~~? master bedroom

land 1919 ≈ 3 ac? div sm lots, stucco on it built,
Wheat dev so out business & sold to Wheat

Mrs Wheat sketched, Leonardas Pope Wheat of DC, bro-in-law, wife
built 1920-1921

2 mantels: Hessian, Staunton // farmhouse, dug
husb dec 1927

W wing -
E " -

dr paper for Staunton;

far W " - 1975, was garage, by
Milton Brigg did later
son = Erskine Wheat

Sanborn c 1957



~~32-25~~ Ackley

32-25

J. Allen Wheat → Betty K. Wheat

8/5/1918

Lots 1-9 in Block 3, Lots 5-7 & 16 in Block 2 of Preston Hgts plat ACDB 97-346 & alley

same as 32-24

32-24

J. B. & Dora L. Carter & Eleanor A. Kent (wid. Char W.) → J. Allen Wheat

7/10/1918

same

same as ^{ACDB} 155-342, 4/4/14, R. L. Carter → Char W. Kent

" 158-457, 2/9/15, Char & Eleanor Kent → J. B. Carter, $\frac{1}{2}$ undiv. int
plat calls this block of lots "Forest Grove"

plat 190-193 calls it "Ackley"

Tax

1920 1919	Dist 2	Betty Kuchert	Late..... PA	$2000 + 0 = 2000$
1921	"	"		$5000 + 0 = 5000$
1922	"	"		" + 20,000 = 25,000 Bldg added

Ackley

central block

2½-story, 5-bay, ~~single~~ ^{double} gable, but parlor whole E side
low found, ~~full~~ full basement, 3-l hinged-arch windows rear,
Flem. bond w/ ~~stone~~ ^{corn} stringcourse, all around ^{no water table}


steep gable roof, slate, boxed cornice w/ modillions, pl frize,
cornice returns

1st end chim (E) w/ small cap

3 gable-roofed, slate-walled dormers on facade & rear
6/6 wind, fluted pilasters support cornice returns

windows 6/6 w/ ~~stone~~ ^{corn} sills, ^{arch} surrounds, lowered shutters
same ht both levels, dormers sl smaller
irreg fenestration rear

frontispire ent;

fluted cor pilasters support entab w/ cushion frize & mod.
& broken  ped w/ pineapple

8-paneled ent door w/ narrow leaded sidelights (no panels)

8-panel door flanked by narrow 2/2 wind at rear
E visible, then 12-l door w/ sl wider sidelights, ^{semi-ellip} ^{all} paneled transom
sidelights have ~~pan~~ Gothic motif

arch trim, 8-paneled doors

parlor fireplace has coupled Tuscan columnettes

w/ front room has paneled wainscot, scenic wallpaper, sm cornice

2-floored stair in cent hall, simple ^{cont} bal, spiral ~~bal~~ ^{newel, curved}
landing

office in ~~sm~~ paneled lib

flanking wings

2-storey w/ matching brickwork, stringcourse, roof, cornice
~~cornice returns of 3-4 side bays~~
~~cover entire of 3-4 side bays~~

West - orig, covers all but 1st bay roof & brick cont on rear el
int chin rear

large tri-partite half-round window in gable: present
flanked by fixed-sash

3-bay

windows match

1-5 porch on front covers 2 E bays; 4 Tuscan columns support simple
entab, flat roof, Chinese chip bal, none glass-entab,
proj'd beyond facade; 12-l Fr door into central block

East - newer; covers cent. 2 of 3-4 side bays

1-bay, windows match

open loggia at rear w/ round-arched openings on end &
Palladian at rear

half-round window in gable

Palladian motif repeated at 1st level facade w/ 16-l fixed-sash
wind w/ thermal transom. ^{flanked by} 5-l fixed sash

all 1st level was orig open porch w/ 2 pr 5-l Fr doors
still leading into parlor; now lib/office; room; porch



#406

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE

Department of Community Development

City Hall

Charlottesville, Virginia 22902

Ackley