

# LANDMARK



# SURVEY

## IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 201 East High Street  
 Map and Parcel: 33-77  
 Census Track & Block: 3-503  
 Present Owner: Stedman House Inc.  
 Address: Roanoke, Virginia  
 Present Use: Interior Design Display  
 Original Owner: Martha Minor  
 Original Use: Residence

## BASE DATA

Historic Name: Minor-Nelson House  
 Date/Period: cir. 1840  
 Style: Neo-Classical  
 Height to Cornice: 20  
 Height in Stories: 2  
 Present Zoning: B-1  
 Land Area (sq.ft.): 55 x 123.75  
 Assessed Value (land + imp.): 8250 + 13,500 = 21,750

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Probably built between 1830 and 1840, the Minor-Nelson House reflects the survival of Georgian forms well into the nineteenth century including one of only three exterior chimneys in the district. The original section of the house is five bays wide, two stories high with the front laid in Flemish bond and five course common bond on the side and rear elevations. In the second half of the nineteenth century a central gable and overhanging eaves were added to the house as was a stair hall at the rear of the original single pile section. The western wing and verandas were added by Dr. Hugh T. Nelson about 1895. The present entrance with its pilasters and architrave is not original. The interior still has three of its early Jeffersonian mantles and most of its original woodwork.

## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

The two lots (#75 and #76) between Second and Third Streets, N. E., were purchased by Professor John A. G. Davis from Charles Brown in 1825 (ACDB 25-102). Davis is believed to have lived in a house on the eastern half of lot #75 while his permanent home, "The Farm", was being built. In 1827 Davis sold lots to his sister-in-law, Martha Minor (ACDB 26-260). W. S. White bought lot #76 (the western of the two lots) "with all buildings thereon" from Martha Minor for \$2750 in 1840 (ACDB 38-280). The high price would indicate that the house was standing by the time of the sale in 1840. The property changed hands seven more times in the nineteenth century, the last being to Dr. Hugh T. Nelson in 1894 who added the wing and verandas to the west and used the house as his sanitarium. The present owners purchased the property in 1971 and removed much of the fine Victorian trim. Dr. J. H. Browning, first president of the Martha Jefferson Hospital, resided in this house.

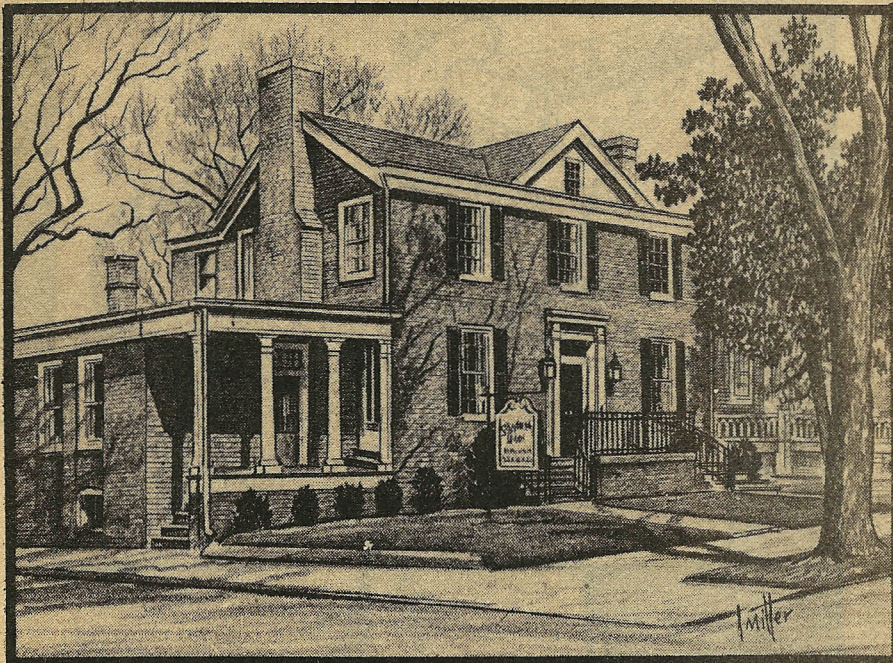
## GRAPHICS

## CONDITIONS

Very Good

## SOURCES

Alexander, Recollections. p. 62.  
 Mr. Thomas Nelson  
 City/County Records



# Stedman House INC.

Interior Design  
Antiques  
Reproductions  
Unusual Gifts

201 E. High Street  
Parking in rear

M-F 9-5



**EARLY PRIVATE SCHOOL—HERE**—The residence of Dr. Montie L. Rea at 201 East High Street housed a private school just before the Civil War. Dr. Rea said that when he acquired the building about 1913 he was told a Miss McPherson had conducted a school in the older portion of the dwelling. The offices were added in 1897, he said. —Progress photo by Loving.

## City Had Many Private Schools

By BOYCE LOVING

In a recent article the writer listed a number of earlier private schools in Charlottesville, principally in the 1820-1830 decade. In this and succeeding stories other local private schools will be discussed.

In 1833 a Mrs. Kelly opened a school for young ladies, the purpose of which, according to the founder, was to "prepare young ladies to act well their parts in life; to be useful and happy mothers of society." In 1835, the school was conducted by Miss A. Moore formerly of the Female Seminary, Ipswich, Mass. No indication of the location of Mrs. Kelly's School is available. The school is thought to have gone out of existence in 1837.

Also in 1833, William L. Harris had a school in Charlottesville. Zebulon M. P. Powers was his mathematics teacher. Harris had been a tutor at Hampton-Sydney College before opening his school here.

George W. Trueheart had a boarding school for boys, 1836-37, "at the large and commodious building midway between Charlottesville and the University of Virginia." At the same time, 1836-37, James H. Davis opened a school at The Farm, former home of Col. Nicholas Lewis near Charlottesville. (The Farm is on East Jefferson Street at 12th Street N.E.)

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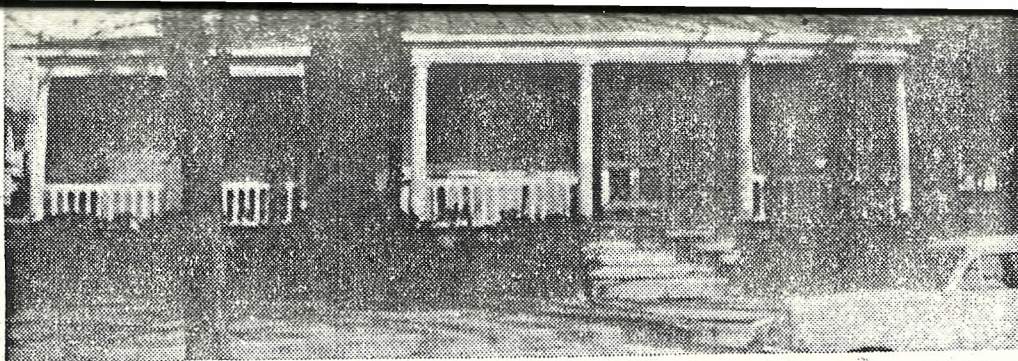
him in the Academy until the latter took up the study of law at the University. Dr. A. R. M'Kee assisted Duke with the school until it was discontinued in 1843. A Mr. Williamson had a school here in 1850-51.

Mrs. Mary C. Woodson opened a school for young ladies and girls about a quarter of a mile from the University on Jan. 15, 1838. Joseph Bigelow taught piano at the school, which closed in 1839.

The Charlottesville Female Academy, probably a revival of an earlier school of the same name, (1820-30), was incorporated in 1839 and closed in 1853, an unusually long life for these earlier schools. In 1841 the Rev. William S. White was principal, assisted by "three ladies of the highest intellectual and moral endowments." In 1848 the Rev. Albert L. Holladay succeeded the Rev. Mr. White as principal. The latter was assisted by James M. Deems and Miss A. E. Poore. The former taught music here and at the University of Virginia and the latter taught English.

Miss Pocahontas Bolling Scott's school existed from 1843 to 1850. The Rev. Stephen H. Mirrick's school for young ladies lasted only two years, 1846-48. The Rev. Mr. Mirrick's school was held on the second floor of a three-story brick building near Second and East Main Street and at 710 E. Market St.

which Col. R. W. Wyatt was proprietor, was opened in 1854, in the Mudwall building with Miss Malona Stephens as principal and Miss M. F. Wiggins and J. Dabney Meredith and C. T. Frey as assistants. The school ran only one year.



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Alexander Duke and Pike Powers opened a high school in 1837, perhaps the most ambitious of the early Charlottesville educational institutions. It was located in "the handsome and appropriate building known as the Midway Hotel." (It was opened as a hotel by Louis A. Xaupi—sometimes spelled "Xanpi." It was built by Albert Chewning for Alexander Garrett.)

Powers had been professor of mathematics at Hampden-Sydney College and Duke had taught in Richmond.

In 1842 the name of the school was changed to Midway Academy. After Powers left, Duke had

him in the Academy until the latter took up the study of law at the University. Dr. A. R. M'Kee assisted Duke with the school until it was discontinued in 1843. A Mr. Williamson had a school here in 1850-51.

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Dr. Charles H. Minor announced in 1848 that he would open a school for young ladies the following year. Miss M. A. McPherson was principal and Miss S. Richardson was her assistant. The school was conducted in the Delavan, or "Mudwall" building, and closed in 1851. H. A. Garland, William B. Napton and Dr. James L. Cabell at different times also operated schools in this building. The structure was erected by Dr. John H. Coker as a classical school for boys, according to one source of information, and as a hotel according to another.

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