

# LANDMARK



# SURVEY

## IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 350 Park Street  
 Map and Parcel: 53-109  
 Census Tract & Block: 1-103  
 Present Owner: Town Hall-Levy Opera House Found.,  
 Address: Inc.  
 Present Use:  
 Original Owner: Charlottesville Town Hall Co.  
 Original Use: Town Hall

## BASE DATA

Historic Name: The Levy Opera House  
 Date/Period: 1851-2  
 Style: Greek Revival  
 Height to Cornice: 48  
 Height in Stories: 3  
 Present Zoning: B-1  
 Land Area (sq.ft.): 56 x 112  
 Assessed Value (land + imp.): 12,300 + 13,890 = 26,190

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Levy Opera House was the first building in Charlottesville to be designed with pilasters as the dominant architectural feature of the facade. The influence of this device was great. The Hughes House (c. 1853), Lyons Court (1858) and the Abell-Gleason House (1859) are a few examples of the "Pilastered Style" fashioned after the Levy Opera House. The pilasters of the Opera House are stuccoed and painted to make them outstanding and to create a portico effect. The four pilasters support a Tuscan entablature and a hipped roof which replaced the original Classical pediment. The Flemish bond brickwork is among the latest examples in the city. As a town hall, the town hall had a level floor, a stage with two curtains (one with advertising), fly decks, and benches for seats.

## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

On July 9, 1851, the Trustees of the Charlottesville Town Hall Company, headed by Valentine W. Southall, purchased the lot from Samuel Leitch for \$750 "for the purpose of building a town hall". In December, 1852, a notice was placed in the local paper by H. Benson that the newly completed town hall would be available to rent for lectures, concerts, and thespian productions. The building was sold in 1887 and opened in March, 1888, as an opera house. One year later Jefferson Monroe Levy of Monticello gained title to the property. He sold it in 1914 to E. G. Haden who turned the building into apartments. Deed references: ACDB 50-143, City DB 2-32, 27-46, 34-302, 37-218, 73-158, 116-341, 337-5, 337-574.



## CONDITIONS

Poor

## SOURCES

City/County Records  
 Alexander, *Recollections*, p.37.  
 Margaret F. Clark



