



IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 611 Preston Place
 Map and Parcel: 5-112
 Census Track & Block:
 Present Owner: Bernard M. Caperton
 Address: 611 Preston Place
 Present Use: Residential
 Original Owner:
 Original Use: Residential

BASE DATA

Historic Name: Wyndhurst
 Date/Period: Circa 1812-20
 Style: Vernacular
 Height to Cornice:
 Height in Stories: 1 1/2
 Present Zoning: R-3
 Land Area (sq. ft.): 7,240 sq. ft.
 Assessed Value (land + imp.): 2820 + 8340 = 11,160

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Wyndhurst takes its name from the adjoining property that belonged to the Preston family. This building probably served as a servants dwelling or for similar purposes for the Preston house. Nonetheless, it probably predates that building and may have been a tenant farmer's dwelling in the early 1800's. It is one of the few old board and batten buildings remaining in Charlottesville. Its main one and a half story section with a steep gable metal roof and two front dormers is quite simple. There is a large central chimney block, serving four fireplaces, that originally divided the interior in half, each side having a single room per floor. The front wall has no windows, but a board door on each side. A wooden exterior stairway parallel to the wall between these led to the upper floor. Doors to the upper rooms opened off a small recessed entry the width of the chimney. Originally, there were no interior connections between the 2 sides. Along the front runs an attached porch whose shed roof is continuous with that of the house and is supported by naturally shaped wooden posts resting on the ground level stone floor. Much of the original structure remains, but the house has had numerous changes and additions in its long history. Before Agnes Symmers acquired the property an addition was built on the back, probably by the Fletchers, with a kitchen and a room on the 1st floor and bathrooms above. An interior stairway was built in one corner and the 2 halves opened to one another. Russell Dexter renovated the building (1962-3) and installed new windows. The present owner has made several additions, enlarging the rear addition and adding a new kitchen wing.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

It is possible that this building was designed as a double occupancy tenant farmer's dwelling before 1814 (some sources claim 18th century origins for the dwelling). In 1814 it was located on a 500 acre farm amassed by John Nicholas. It previously served James Brook and John Carr as a 125 acre farm before 1800 (ACDB 13-319). The Nicholas farm passed through several owners, notably John Kelly (ACDB 19-145, 20-426) as well as Opie Norris, his son-in-law and nephew (ACDB 133-4). After the Norris family it was briefly owned 1854-7 by William McCarty (ACDB 52-228) who sold it to Sally McCoy. By this time the large tract was broken up and the farm included 102 1/2 acres. It was this property that Thos. L. Preston and his wife Anna acquired from Sally McCoy in 1863 (ACDB 61-156). Preston Hgts. & Preston Pl. derive their name from this family. In 1890 86 acres were sold to A.D. Payne and F.A. Massie (ACDB 93-139) and in Sept. 1919 Lots 23 and 26 on Wyndhurst Cl. (DB 34-478) were conveyed by the Anna M. Preston heirs and (primarily Anna Lockwood) to the Preston Pl. Corp. In 1920 they were sold to A.S. Bolling who bought Lots 24 and 25 in 1919. In 1928 Lots 23 & 24 were acquired by Jane Hildreth from whom in 1933 Sarah and Marshall Fletcher acquired the remaining part of these lots. They sold it with the house to Agnes Symmers in 1935, who lived there until 1962. The property was acquired in 1967 by the present owner. Dumas Malone lived here for a short time while at U.Va.

SIGNIFICANCE

This house is an interesting very early 19th century vernacular building, pre-dating the Wyndhurst manor house next door. It was originally built to house slaves. John Kelly was one of its earliest owners. It is said that the time Thomas Jefferson was assembling land for construction of the University of Virginia, John Kelly refused to sell him any of his 500 acre farm located immediately to the north of the present University grounds. Jefferson is reported to have replied that Kelly "is a fool, but if we can't get the best site for the University, we must be content with the best we can get."

CONDITIONS

Good

SOURCES

Mr. Bernard M. Caperton
 City Records
 County Records



LANDMARK

SURVEY

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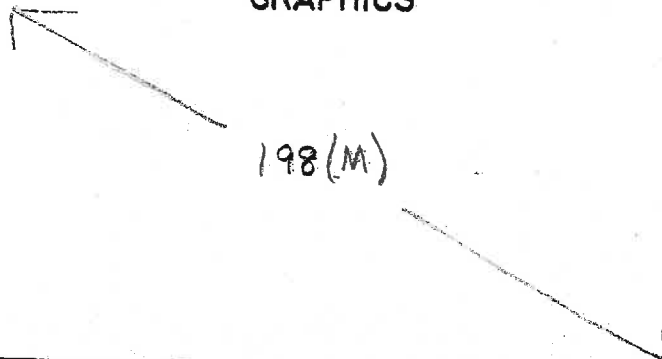
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GRAPHICS



CONDITIONS

Good

SOURCES

Mr. Bernard M. Caperton
 City Records
 County Records

A Cranky Pioneer Built It

By DAN FRIEDMAN
of The Progress Staff

Located in the Rugby Road vicinity, the home of Bernard and Mary Hill Caperton is so striking because at first it seems out of place.

At the heart of a "tony" neighborhood made up of grand brick structures imitating Jefferson's architectural style - a style which long since has been beaten to death - the rough and almost primitive feeling about the Caperton house makes it the neighborhood architectural anomaly.

It also makes it the most refreshing house in the area, like an old familiar piece of Americana set in a room decorated entirely with gothic-revival.

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It all started in 1817, when John Kelly, a local merchant living above his store on Main Street, bought 500 acres which today would extend from Rugby Road to the railroad station. The Caperton house was built around that time to house Kelly's slaves, and that accounts for the apparent disregard for "refinement" in the building.

At one time the newly-wed home of Jefferson scholar Dumas Malone when he was a graduate student at the University of Virginia, the property under Kelly's ownership had an interesting history.

Kelly, according to Caperton, was not on the

best of terms with Jefferson, so when an assistant to Jefferson was helping him buy land for the future construction of UVa, Kelly said that he would see Jefferson "at the devil before he should have my property at any price."

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Today, the old slave quarters never looked so good, and if the house looks rickety, that's only because appearances are deceiving.

The exterior is particularly deceiving because at first glance it looks like the house hasn't been painted in years. "We regularly paint the roof and trim," Mrs. Caperton said, "but we kind of like the effect of the whitewash which has worn away so beautifully." "I prefer to think of it as benign neglect," Caperton added.

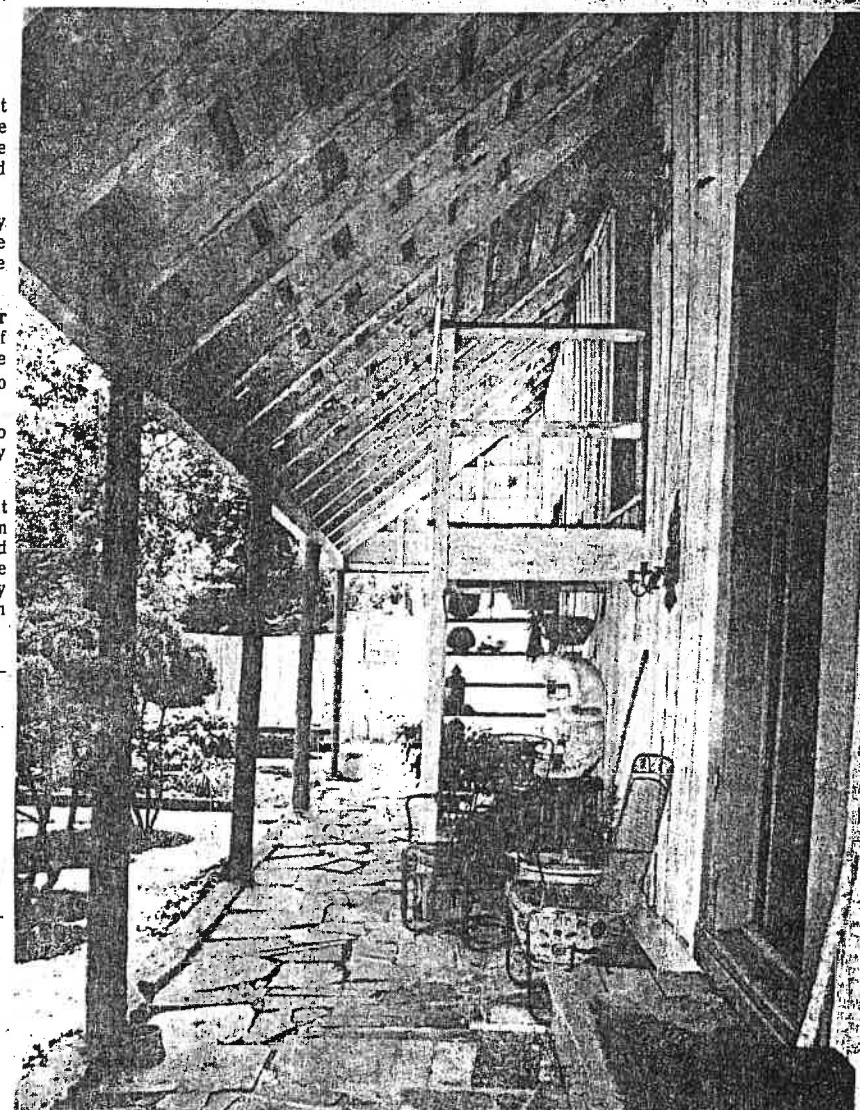
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Consequently, there is a harmonious mixture of very old antiques with a large number of contemporary furnishings, often made by local artists and craftsmen.

The marvelous interior effect is the result of the wide variety of colors and fabrics in the house - particularly the contrast between the huge fireplaces and ceiling beams which are whitewashed, with the mellow tone of the original old doors and floors.

A massive chimney - which today runs four fireplaces - is at the center of the original portion of the house, and around it are a living room, dining room and two bedrooms upstairs. A wing, added to the back 60 years ago, made room for a study, bedroom and bath on the ground floor, and two more bedrooms with bath upstairs. In 1968,



Progress Photo by Dan Friedman

UNDERNEATH THE CAPERTON'S FRONT PORCH
Here and Throughout the House, the Rough and the Cultured Combine

In the dining room is an early American "gate-leg" table surrounded by a rare set of Windsor chairs made in Kentucky around 1820. Next to the fireplace is an unusual English hutch chair, and stacked along one wall are two 18th century Chinese lacquer cabinets from the Shansee province.

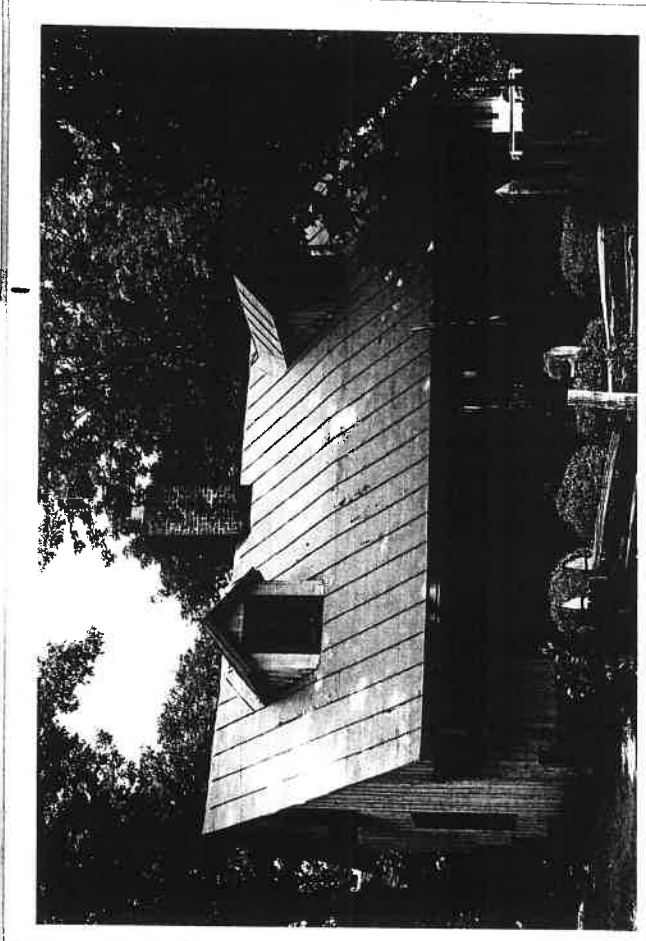
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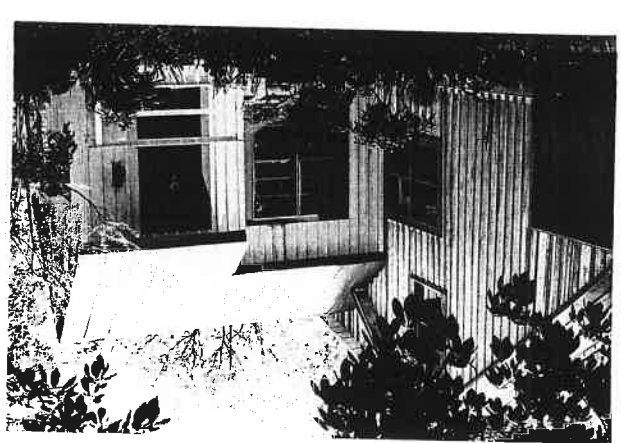
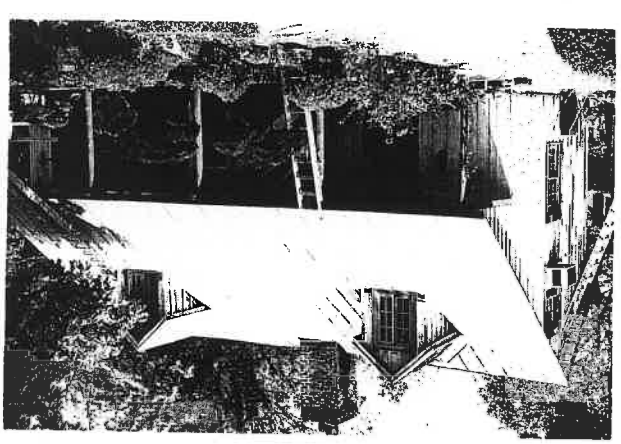
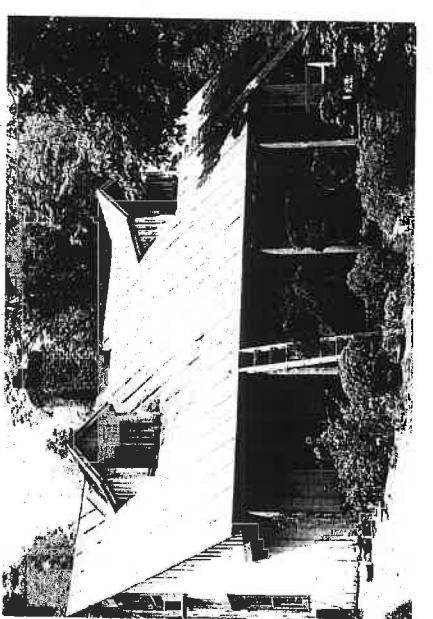
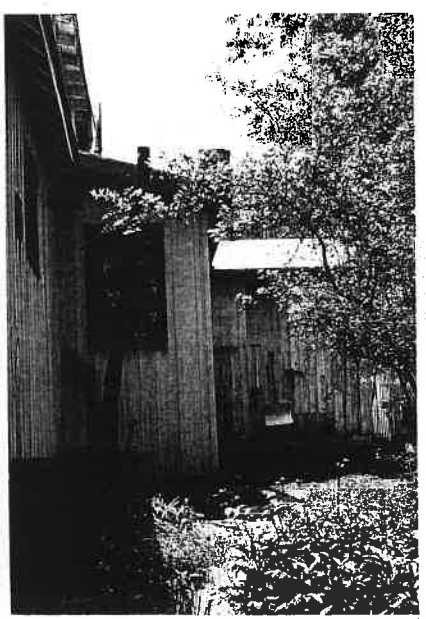
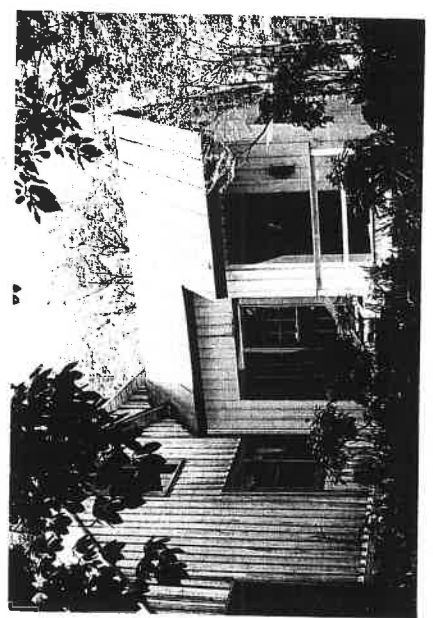
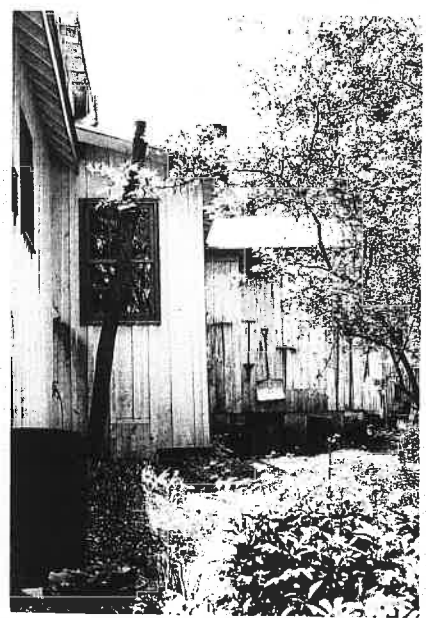
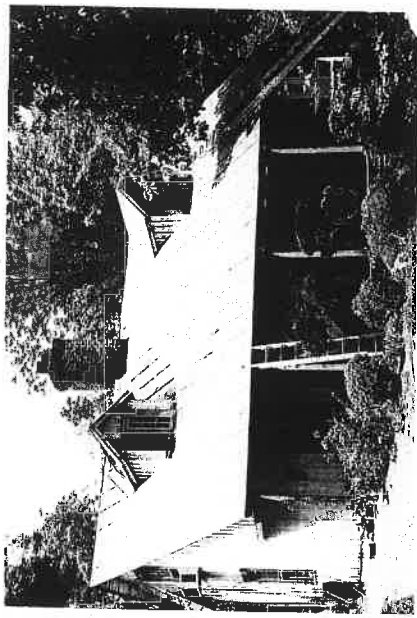
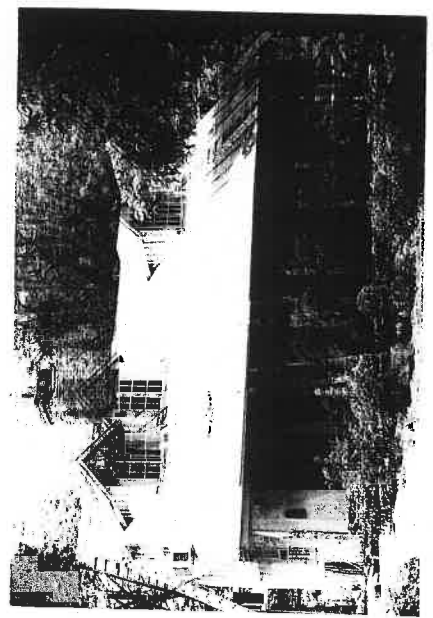
Caperton's interest in oriental art extends beyond the house and into the garden, because for many years he has worked on his collection of "bonzai" the Japanese art of miniature trees.



Wynndhurst Qtrs

289-277	Bernard Caperton	1967	plat 86-87
278-318	Dwight E. Gerard	1966	
244-368	Nancy Eves Branker	1963	
236-44	Russell DeLoe	1962	
233-305	Mary Tice Flowers	"	
86-87	Agnes L. Symmes Fletcher	1935	







VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File No. 104-130

Negative no(s). 7218

HISTORIC DISTRICT SURVEY FORM

Page 1 of 2 (see also attached sheet)

Street address 611 Preston Place
Town/City Charlottesville

Historic name Wyndhurst Servants Quarters Common name _____

- Material
- wood frame (siding: weatherboard, shingle, aluminum, bricktex, _____)
 - brick (bond: Flemish, stretcher, _____-course American, _____)
 - stone (random rubble, random ashlar, coursed ashlar, _____)
 - log (siding: weatherboard, shingle, aluminum, bricktex, _____)
 - stucco
 - concrete block
 - enameled steel
 - other: board-and-batten siding
- cast iron
 - terra cotta
 - glass and metal

Number of Stories	Roof Type	Roof Material
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2½ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1½ <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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> standing seam metal <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Dormers	Number of bays — Main facade
<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> shed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> pedimented <input type="checkbox"/> hipped <input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 <i>main block - 2</i> <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 <i>now</i> <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> _____

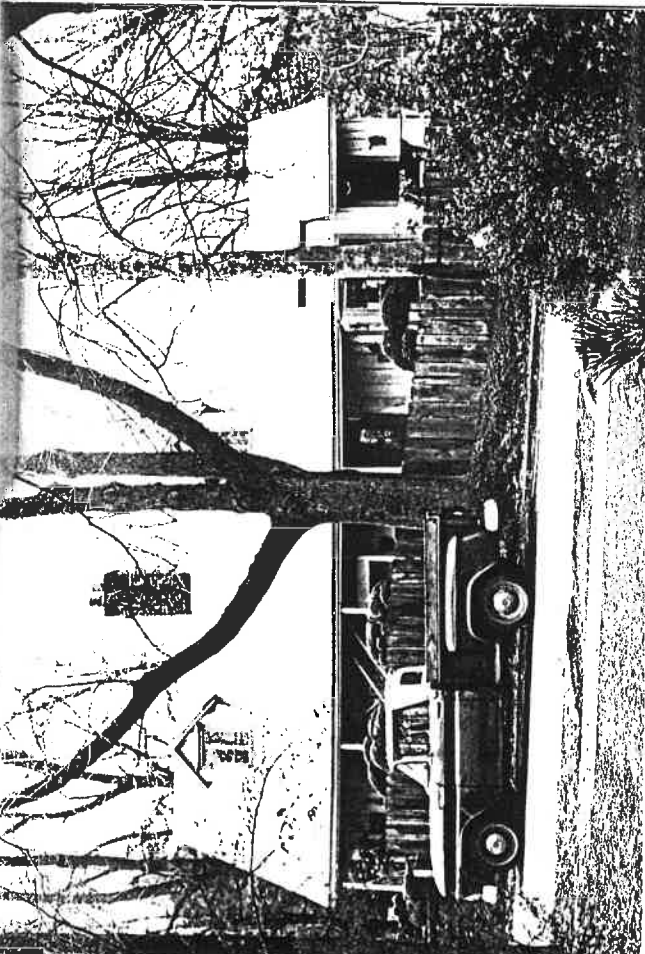
Porch	Stories	Bays	General description
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 (center) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 (side) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4	Shed-roofed front veranda.

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"/> <u>servants quarters (orig</u>

Style/period Vernacular Date Mid-19C or before (possibly c. 1812-20) Architect/builder _____

Location and description of entrance Twin front doors.



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

This house, originally a servants' quarters, is associated with no. 605 next door. Some sources indicate this structure may be older than the c. 1857 dwelling next door, but more likely this building is contemporary with the house.

It is of standard plan, having twin front doors board-and-batten siding, and central chimney. The dormers and possibly the porch were added in this century. The rear shed and N wing are modern. Windows have been enlarged recently.

Note the exterior stair on the front porch.

Historical information

Built as servants' quarters for nearby Wyndham. The house was recently renovated by local antiques dealer Bernard Caperton, the present occupant.

Eugenia Bibb;
Source _____



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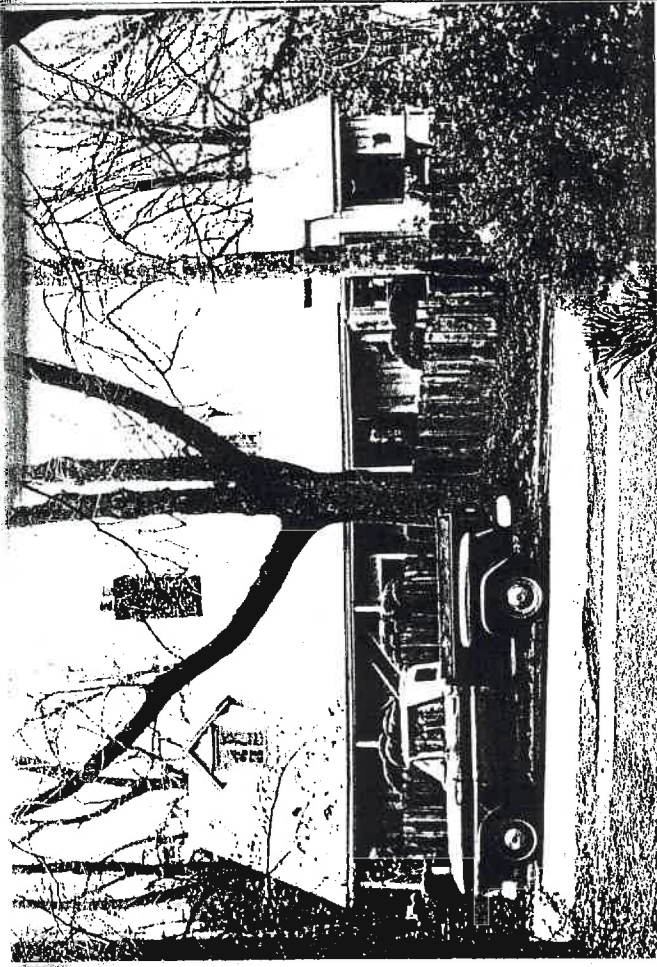
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 (center) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 (side) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Shed-roofed front veranda.

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<input type="checkbox"/> double house	<input type="checkbox"/> gas station	<input type="checkbox"/> railroad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> servants quarters (original)

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Surveyed by **Jeff O'Dell, VHLC** Date **4-83; 9-83**

THE DAILY PROGRESS, Charlottesville, Virginia, Sunday, August 14, 1977

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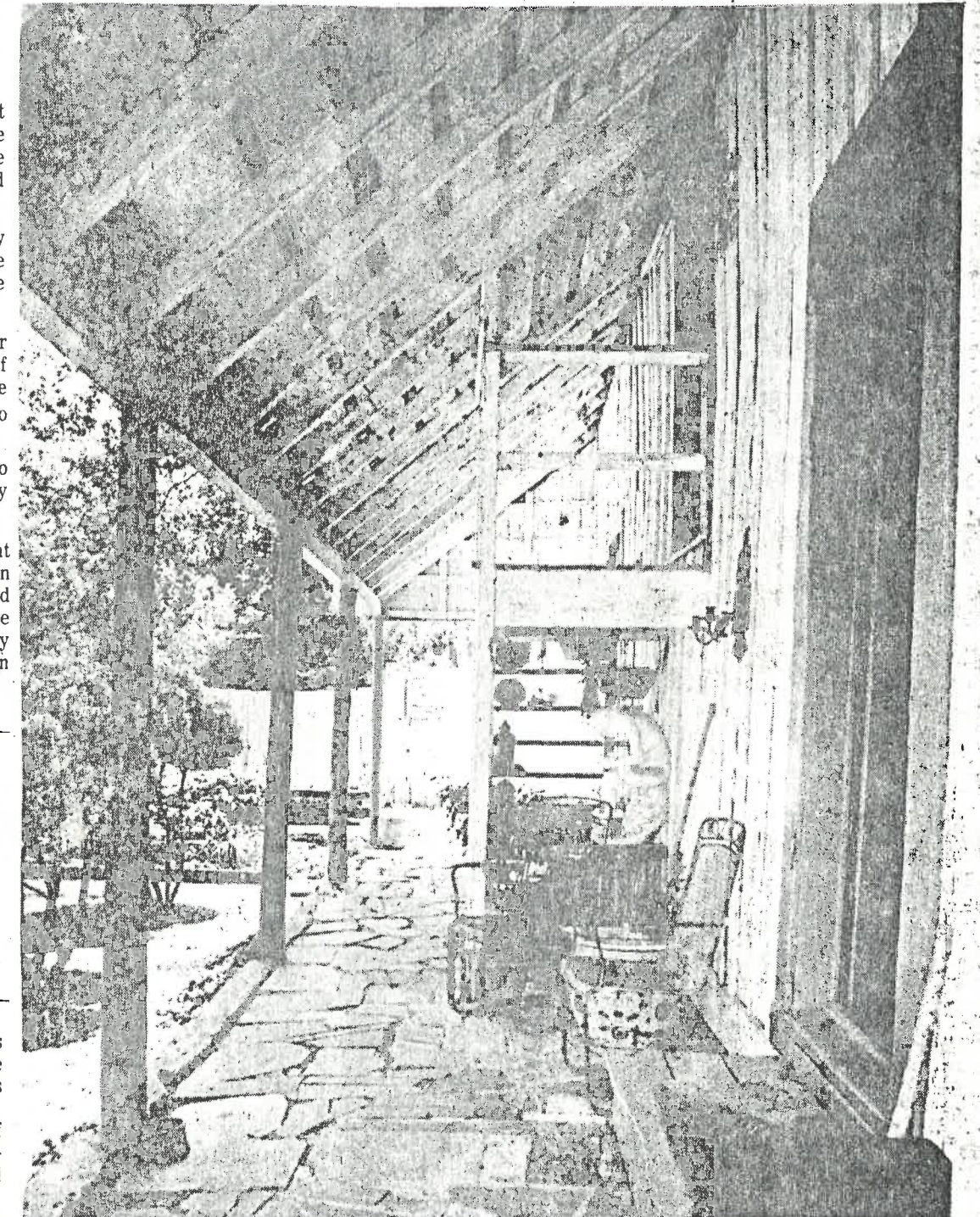
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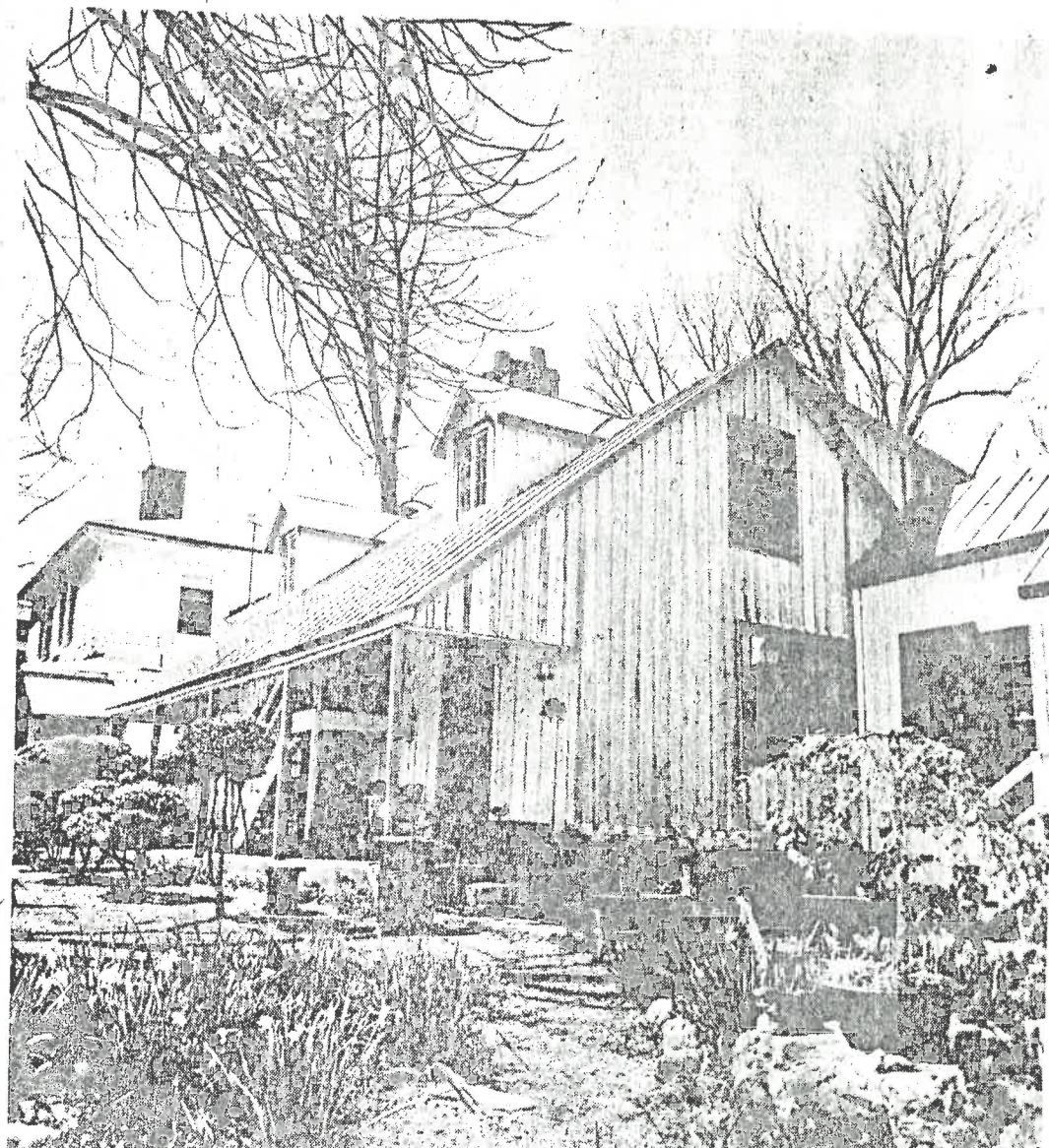
Progress Photo by Dan Friedman

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Wyndhurst Q tree

259-277	Bernard Capton	1967	plat 86-87
278-378	Jurive E. Gerard	1966	
244-368	Nancy Eva Scanlon	1963	
236-44	Russell DeLoe	1962	
233-305	Murray Tice Flowers	"	
86-87	Agnes L. Symmons Fletcher	1955	

