

Architectural And Historic Survey



Identification

STREET ADDRESS: 1328 Riverdale Drive
 MAP & PARCEL: 50-5
 CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK: 3.02 - 103
 PRESENT ZONING: R-2
 ORIGINAL OWNER:
 ORIGINAL USE: Residence
 PRESENT USE: Residence
 PRESENT OWNER: John S. and Alice S. Funk
 ADDRESS: 1328 Riverdale Drive
 Charlottesville, Virginia

HISTORIC NAME: Riverdale
 DATE / PERIOD: mid-1800's; 1912
 STYLE: Colonial Revival
 HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 2, 1½ storeys
 DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 200' x 145' } (38,300 sq.ft.)
 60' x 95' }
 CONDITION: Good
 SURVEYOR: Bibb
 DATE OF SURVEY: Spring 1981
 SOURCES: City/County Records Forrest L. Ward
 Mr. & Mrs. John S. Funk
 Mary Rawlings, Albemarle of Other Days

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This is a composite of two separate houses, an early 20th century two-storey Colonial Revival house with a mid-19th century 1½-storey vernacular house forming a rear wing. The latter is almost completely surrounded by small one-storey additions. The 2-storey section is three bays wide and single pile and faces southeast toward the Free Bridge. It is set on a high foundation of rock-faced concrete blocks. Wall construction is of brick laid in 6-course American bond with rock-faced concrete block quoins and two courses of concrete block below the cornice. The house is painted white. The low-pitched hip roof is covered with standing-seam metal and has projecting eaves and a boxed cornice. There is one small interior capped chimney north of the central hall. The south rooms are served by the end chimney of the older section. A 2-storey pedimented portico covers the central bay of the facade. Four stuccoed columns without bases or capitals, set on pedestals of rock-faced concrete block, support a frieze and pediment covered with German siding. There is a hanging balcony within the portico. Its balustrade is constructed of vertical wooden siding, and access is by a door in the central bay at the second level. The entrance consists of a pair of wide doors with one light over a panel, 3-light sidelights over panels, and a 5-light rectangular transom over the whole. Windows are double-sash, 1-over-1 light, on the side and rear elevations, and wider 2-over-2 light on the facade, with wooden sills and moulded surrounds. Those at the first level have rock-faced concrete block flat arches with keystones. Those at the second level are much shorter and lack the arches. The older 1½-storey house (now the rear wing) faces southwest, toward the center of town. It is two bays wide and double pile. The walls are now covered with stucco scored in imitation of ashlar masonry, but they may be of log construction. The house has a steep gable roof which continues as a lower pitched shed roof over the veranda that covers its facade and the enclosed back porch that covers the rear elevation. It is covered with standing-seam metal and has a boxed cornice. There are no dormers. The only window remaining at the first level is double-sash, 1-over-1 light, with architrave trim. There is one capped exterior end chimney, now located between this house and the newer section. Its location suggests that there was probably originally a second chimney on the same side of the house. A series of one-storey, stuccoed, hip-roofed additions covers the northwest side of the old house.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

In 1837 Elizabeth L. Wells sold to William W. Dawson 54 acres with improvements which she had inherited from her father Thomas W. Lewis of Locust Grove (ACDB 35-168). Dawson lived there for seven years and then sold 18 acres with improvements to Calvin B. Craddock in 1844 (ACDB 41-513). James and William Minor of Brookhill bought the tract from Craddock in 1854 (ACDB 53-107). William died and left his share to James (ACWB 27-145), and in 1863 he sold the property to their sister Ann Minor Holladay (ACDB 64-211). She and her children had probably been living there since the death of her husband, the Rev. Albert Lewis Holladay, in 1856. The family had spent ten years as missionaries in Persia, and Mary Rawlings wrote that "their foreign-born and clad children at first created much comment." Deeds mention a house on the tract as early as 1837, but the old section of the present house has been altered so extensively that it is difficult to determine its age. Mrs. Holladay died in 1871 (ACWB 29-283), and in 1911 her heirs sold the property, then known as Riverdale, to E. G. Haden (ACDB 147-86 & 92). Minnie M. Barnes (Mrs. John L. Barnes) bought it in 1912 (ACDB 150-47) and built the 2-storey Colonial Revival section of the house that year, according to tax records. She subdivided the tract and sold the house and 8 acres to A. W. Ward in 1917 (ACDB 165-233). He added more acreage and further subdivided it. John S. and Alice S. Funk bought the house from Ward's son Forrest L. Ward in 1948 (City DB 141-122). The Ward family lived at Riverdale for 31 years, and the Funks have lived there for 33 years. Additional References: ACDB 160-421; City DB 104-328, 136-332; City WB 4-389.