

Identification

STREET ADDRESS: #25 University Circle

MAP & PARCEL: 6-77

~~**CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK:**~~ File No.

PRESENT ZONING: R-1

ORIGINAL OWNER: W. E. Bray

ORIGINAL USE: Residence

PRESENT USE: Residence

PRESENT OWNER: Fernando Opere and Carrie Bess

ADDRESS: #25 University Circle^{Douglass}
Charlottesville, VA 22903

HISTORIC NAME: Bray House

DATE / PERIOD: 1922

STYLE: Colonial revival

HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 2 stories

DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 66' x 141.1' ave.

CONDITION: Good (12,045 sq.ft.)

SURVEYOR: Bibb

DATE OF SURVEY: Winter 1998

SOURCES: City Records
Fernando Opere

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This two-story, three-bay, double-pile Colonial Revival House is set on a brick foundation. The basement is above ground at the rear, but the front yard has been filled in to the level of the water table. Walls are constructed of brick laid in Flemish Bond. There is a rudimentary, applied wooden cornice. The medium-pitched hipped roof is covered with composition shingles and has deeply projecting eaves with exposed rafter ends. There are two exterior end chimneys with caps and stringcourses. There is a single hipped-roofed dormer on each side. The walls appear to be covered with asbestos shingles painted brick red. Each dormer contains a double-sash window sheltered by a metal awning. Windows throughout the house are double-sash, six-over-one light with wooden sills and segmental arches with keystones. Those on the façade have louvered shutters. A shallow one-story entrance porch set on ground level, covers the central bay of the façade. It has a flat roof, covered with standing-seam metal, with deeply projecting eaves, a boxed cornice, a plain deep frieze, and fluted Doric columns. The entrance door has two plain, flat panels. It is flanked by narrow, multi-light sidelights over panels, and there is a multi-light transom over all. There is a one-story screened porch at the southern end of the house and a porte cochere at the northern end. Each has a nearly flat roof, covered with standing-seam metal, with projecting eaves, a boxed cornice, a plain frieze, and fluted Doric columns. The porch has a concrete floor, and access from the house is by a multi-light door in the front bay. Access to the porte cochere from the house is by a multi-light door onto a concrete stoop high above grade level. An original two-story back porch covers the northern two bays of the rear elevation. The cornice of its roof is continuous with that of the main roof. There is a sleeping porch at the second story level. At the first story level, there is an open porch with square wooden piers, a simple balustrade, and a wooden floor. A single-flight exterior stair gives access to the backyard. At the basement level, the porch is enclosed with lattice above a brick balustrade. Beside the

back porch, what appears to be a three-story elevator tower covers the central bay of the rear elevation and extends to the attic dormer. Its walls are covered with asbestos shingles. There is one basement level door. A possibly original balcony, supported on wooden brackets, covers the southern bay of the rear elevation at the first story level. Access is by a multi-light door beside a window in the southern bay. The balcony forms a shelter for a basement apartment entrance below it.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

Dr. W. E. Bray, a professor in the Medical School and director of the Clinical Laboratory, purchased this lot in 1922 (City DB 40-72) and built the house the same year, according to tax records. Dr. Bray died in 1959 and Mrs. Bray in 1967 (WB 8-294, 11-469), and the house was sold (DB 291-364). Sterling N. and Grizel C. Vines owned it from 1972 until 1993, when it was purchased by Fernando Opere and Carrie Bess Douglas (DB 337-436; WB 32-492; DB 595-861, 596-730).



VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

HISTORIC DISTRICT SURVEY FORM

File No. 104-130
Negative no(s). 7231; 7299

Page 1 of 2

Street address 25 University Circle
Town/City Charlottesville

Historic name Bray House 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 cast iron
 - enameled steel terra cotta
 - other: _____ glass and metal

Number of Stories	Roof Type	Roof Material
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2½ <input type="checkbox"/> 1½ <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> ____	<input type="checkbox"/> shed <input type="checkbox"/> mansard <input type="checkbox"/> gable <input type="checkbox"/> gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> pediment <input type="checkbox"/> parapet <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> shed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> hipped <input checked="" 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"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 (center) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 (side) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> ____	Entry shelter with Doric posts.

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 type="checkbox"/> _____

Style/period Georgian Revival/Eclectic Date Ca. 1922 Architect/builder

Location and description of entrance Central entrance with geometric-glazed top- and side-lights.



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

This handsome but austere house features fine Flemish bond brickwork (unusual in the District at this period) and a cast-stone belt line. The broadly-projecting eaves add side porches add interest and balance to the house.

Historical information

This house was probably built for Dr. Wm. E. Bray, Professor of Medicine at UVa. He and his family lived here for nearly 40 years, until the mid-1960s.

Source City directories; Eugenia Bibb;
Real estate records; University directories;
Surveyed by Jeff O'Dell, VHLC Date 9-83

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before the ~~war~~ ~~was~~ ~~ended~~.

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~~Its roof is continuous with the~~

The cornice of its roof is continuous with that of the main roof.

There is a sleeping porch at the second story level. At the first story level, there is an open porch with square wooden piers, a simple balustrade, and a wooden floor. A single-flight exterior stair gives access to the backyard. At the basement level, the porch is enclosed with lattice above a brick balustrade.

Beside the back porch, ~~at the second~~ ^{what appears to be a three-story} elevator tower covers the central bay of the rear elevation and extends to the attic dormer. There is ~~an~~ one basement level door. Its walls are covered with asbestos shingles.

~~An apparently or~~

A possibly original balcony, ~~is~~ supported on wooden brackets, covers the southern bay of the rear elevation at the first story level.

Access is by a multi-light door beside a window in the southern bay. The balcony forms a shelter for a basement apartment entrance below it.

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