

# LANDMARK



# SURVEY

## IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: University Grounds  
 Map and Parcel: 15-1  
 Census Tract & Block:  
 Present Owner: University of Virginia  
 Address:  
 Present Use: Offices  
 Original Owner: University of Virginia  
 Original Use: Dormitory

## BASE DATA

Historic Name: "Dawson's Row"  
 Date/Period: 1859  
 Style: Italianate  
 Height to Cornice:  
 Height in Stories: 2  
 Present Zoning:  
 Land Area (sq.ft.):  
 Assessed Value (land + imp.):

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This simple building is faced with brick laid in common bond. Changes in brickwork indicate the presence of several alterations and additions, especially on the south and east sides. Ornament is confined to simple wooden brackets at the eaves and a wooden porch with octagonal columns and simpler brackets. The doorway has rectilinear sidelights and a transom. There is evidence of a porch which once extended across the back (south side) of the building. In plan, the building appears to have been double-pile with a central hall. Little original interior work remains.

## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

In 1859, using funds gained from the sale of a gift of land by Martin Dawson, the University erected six buildings to serve as student dormitories. The buildings, called House A, House B, etc., stretched in an arc from New Cabell Hall to Monroe Hill. This building is the only one of the six still standing, the others having been demolished to make way for new academic structures. After serving for many years as a faculty residence, the building was recently converted for use as offices.

## GRAPHICS

171 (r)

171 (r)

## CONDITIONS

Average

## SOURCES

Patton & Doswell, The University of Virginia (1900)

Arch Description

The Parsonage is a 2-storey, 3-bay, single-gable Virginia I-house with a large 2-storey addition at its eastern end & a small rear addition.

It is set on a low foundation. Walls are constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond. The house has a medium-pitched hipped roof, covered with standing-seam metal, with the deeply projecting eaves and ~~bracketed~~ cornice brackets of the Italianate style. There are two interior end chimneys.

Windows are double-sash, 6-over-6 light, with architrave trim & louvered shutters. Those at the second storey level are somewhat shorter.

A one-storey entrance porch covers the central bay of the facade. It has a low-pitched shed roof covered with standing-seam metal, with projecting eaves, ~~and cornice with~~ ~~with brackets~~ an entablature with cornice brackets, & 4 octagonal columns. There is no balustrade. The 4-paneled entrance door has fluted pilasters, decoratively glazed sidelights, transom, & corner lights.

The interior follows the central hall plan. A dog-leg stair rises from the hall.

The 2-storey, 2-bay eastern addition is slightly shorter than the main block. It matches the original section in most details, ~~except that~~ the roof is lower pitched & the windows have plain surrounds.

including the cornice brackets, but

A one-storey piazza covers the eastern end of the addition & projects beyond the facade. It has matching cornice brackets, square posts, & a simple balustrade. Access is by two doors

~~Recent brickwork using mixed brick patterns~~  
~~at the rear of the~~ on the rear elevation of the addition & the rear half of its eastern elevation mark the location of a 2-storey rear addition & the point at which the house was attached to a one-storey dependency, all of which have been demolished.

A newer small, 2-storey addition covers the central bay of the rear elevation of the original section of the house.

Hot Dumps

The house that now ~~has~~ uses the address of #4 Dawson's Row is not actually one of the original Dawson's Row houses.

~~There~~ <sup>There</sup> ~~were~~ six 2-storey brick houses, numbered <sup>A through F,</sup> which stood in a wide arc extending from this building ~~toward~~ to the Monroe Hill colonnade. They were built in 1859 with ~~the~~ a gift from Martin Dawson and were originally used as student dormitories. In later years they were used for office space and all were demolished in the early 1950's.

~~The buildings were~~

The Dawson's Row houses were not identical, at least in their later years, <sup>and</sup> several of them may have been enlarged. One-storey entrance porticoes were later additions to all six.

The house now known as #4 Dawson's Row is one of a cluster of houses that stood at the eastern end of Dawson's Row and most of which are still standing.

This particular house was the Parsonage, built in 1854, according to Miss Anna Barringer, as the residence of the University Chaplain, a position which was established in 1833 & discontinued in 1896. ~~The~~ The Parsonage was then used as a faculty residence until the 1960's & now houses the Office of Afro-American Affairs.

From the Sanborn maps, it appears that the 2-storey eastern addition was built between 1896 & 1920, connecting ~~the house~~ a one-storey dependency ~~to the house~~ ~~the summer kitchen or another building~~ to the main house, & that ~~that smaller~~ <sup>the dependency</sup> building was demolished in the 1920's.

~~A newer small, 2-storey addition was the central bay of the rear elevation of the original section of the house.~~

