

Architectural And Historic Survey



Identification

STREET ADDRESS: 402 Fourth Street S. W.
 MAP & PARCEL: 29-49
 CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK: 4-337
 PRESENT ZONING: M-1
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Allan W. Hawkins
 ORIGINAL USE: Rental Property?
 PRESENT USE: Vacant
 PRESENT OWNER: Roy C. McClanahan
 ADDRESS: Cove Lawn Farm
 Covesville, VA 22931

HISTORIC NAME: Hawkins-Harmon House
 DATE / PERIOD: c. 1843
 STYLE: Vernacular
 HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: one storey
 DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 80' x 100' (8000 sq. ft.)
 CONDITION: Derelict
 SURVEYOR: Bibb
 DATE OF SURVEY: Fall 1979
 SOURCES: City/County Records Mrs. R. H. Pace
 1877 Charlottesville map
 Sanborn Map Co. - 1891, 1896

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This is a very simple one-storey vernacular structure with an English basement which is above ground on the southern side. It is single pile and was originally three bays wide. Construction is of brick laid in Flemish bond on the north and east elevations and in 7-course American bond on the south and west elevations. It is now painted white. The house has a medium-pitched gable roof with close eaves and verges and the mousetooth cornice popular in the first half of the nineteenth century. Its original wooden shingles have been replaced with composition roofing. An interior end chimney, with fallen cap, at the east end serves a fireplace at each level. Windows have wooden sills and plain surrounds. Those sashes that remain at the main level are 6-over-6 light, double-sash. Basement windows on the north side are half-sized 3-over-3 light. Those on the south are regular height, but narrow, and all sashes are missing. There is a basement door in the center bay. The entrance to the main level is now in the eastern gable end. It has plain trim and a 3-light rectangular transom. Marks on the brick show that a single-flight stair once rose from the south to a small entrance porch. When the house was first built, this site was the SW corner of the section of Fourth Street and a planned western extension of Garrett Street to the Delevan Hotel. The original entrance was on the north side of the house, in the eastern bay. The interior apparently followed the side hall plan with a two-flight stair with winders in the NE corner. Later, after the railroad was built on the Garrett Street right-of-way, a new entrance was cut on the east end facing Fourth Street. The original entrance was replaced with a window, and the entrance porch was removed. Apparently the interior partition was moved to divide the main level into two rooms of equal size, with no hall, necessitating the removal of the central window on the northern side. The basement is unpartitioned. A small wooden detached kitchen once stood north of this building.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

In 1843 Allan W. Hawkins purchased a 3½-acre tract for \$677 (ACDB 42-275). Tax records show that he built the first house there the same year, or possibly in 1842 before receiving a deed to the land. In 1845 he sold a ½-acre lot with a brick building to Louisa Goens for \$500 (ACDB 42-217). Septimia Barnett bought the house in 1851, after Mrs. Goens's death (ACDB 49-230), and sold it in 1862 to George Moose and Peter Harmon (ACDB 60-127). Harmon bought Moose's share the same year (ACDB 60-61) and used the house as rental property. He left it to his granddaughter Lillian Funkhauser Dabney (ACWB 29-407 and 506; 1885) who built two other houses on the lot, all three connected by hyphens. It was sold by her estate in 1956 to George S. Gordon (City DB 191-438). The present owners purchased it from his wife Georgiana Coxie Gordon in 1966 (DB 291-446, 295-191). The house probably has always been used as rental property. It has now been unoccupied for several years and is in extremely poor condition.

SIGNIFICANCE

This house is one of the few surviving examples of the more modest vernacular dwellings, with some Federal details, in which the majority of the population lived in the first half of the 19th century.

