

# Architectural And Historic Survey



## Identification

**STREET ADDRESS:** 110-112 E. Main Street

**MAP & PARCEL:** 28-23

**CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK:** 1-122

**PRESENT ZONING:** B-4

**ORIGINAL OWNER:** C. J. Rixey

**ORIGINAL USE:** Bank

**PRESENT USE:** Motion Picture Theatre

**PRESENT OWNER:** Alton F. Martin and Robert W. Stroh

**ADDRESS:** M & S Real Estate

P.O. Box 1294

Charlottesville, VA

**HISTORIC NAME:** Jefferson Bank/Theatre Building

**DATE / PERIOD:** 1901, 1912, 1915, 1920

**STYLE:**

**HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES:** 2, 3, 4, 5 storeys

**DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA:** 38.14' x 229.5'

**CONDITION:** Good

13' x 132.5' (10,578 sq. ft.)

**SURVEYOR:** Bibb

**DATE OF SURVEY:** Winter 1979

**SOURCES:** City Records Russell Dettor

Sanborn Map Co. - 1907, 1920, 1969

Moore, Albemarle: Jefferson's County

The Daily Progress, 1906 special edition

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The rusticated gray brick facade of the old Jefferson National Bank Building was four bays wide and two storeys tall with a full-height Ionic portico and pediment. The Daily Progress described it as "purely Greek in every particular." There were two massive round-arched entrances with revolving doors at the first level and a wrought iron second-storey balcony within the portico. The present facade is three storeys tall and three bays wide and lacks the pedimented portico. Construction is of red brick laid in Flemish bond with random glazed headers. Wide rusticated masonry piers at the first level support a platform from which four engaged Ionic columns from the old facade rise two storeys to support an entablature and roof balustrade. The recessed loggia is two bays wide, and a small shop occupies the western bay. In each bay at the second level there is a pair of 6-over-6 light, double-sash windows above paneled spandrels which conceal a pair of 1-over-1 light windows. There is a half-round fanlight above each pair of windows, and the moulded stone round arches, with cartouche, continue to the floor. There is a stone panel with raised decoration in each bay between the second and third levels. Windows at the third level are 8-over-8 light with stone sills. A massive entablature with dentil moulding and roof balustrade crowns the facade. A two-flight dog-leg stair at the eastern side of the loggia gives access to the basement and the offices and apartments on the upper levels. There is a hall across the front at the mezzanine level in the location of the old portico. An arcade lined with fluted pilasters leads to an oval lobby with round arches and decorated Ionic pilasters. Two enclosed single-flight curved stairs give access to the balcony. (The second balcony was removed c. 1970). The theatre has an entablature with egg-&-dart moulding. Tall fluted pilasters flank a group of three private boxes at each side, and round arches spring from smaller pilasters between the boxes. The three-storey front section and the two-storey section and one-storey arcade behind it have flat roofs covered with tar-&-gravel. The theatre section is built of brick laid in 6-course American bond and unbroken by windows or details of any kind except for shallow buttresses and a corbeled cornice on the side elevations. The tall theatre section and its taller balcony area have gambrell roofs, and the still taller stage area has a shed roof sloping gently to the rear; all are covered with standing-seam metal.

## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

C.J. Rixey purchased this property in 1901 (City DB 11-292), the year that the Jefferson National Bank was chartered. The bank building was erected the same year. The Virginia Safe Deposit and Trust Company, which also had offices in the building, purchased it in 1910 (DB 22-71), and Kendler-Zimmerman Co., Inc. (later Jefferson-Lafayette Theatres, Inc.) bought it at auction in 1912 (DB 23-329). By then, the bank had rebuilt the eastern third of the Leterman Building and moved its offices there. The large theatre section was built, the bank offices were remodeled, and the Jefferson Theatre opened in October 1912. It originally offered both live theatre and motion pictures. The building was damaged by fire in 1915, and in 1920 the older section was again extensively remodeled and the present facade was built. 1928-29 was the last theatrical season, and the theatre became a motion picture house exclusively. Jefferson-Lafayette Theatres, Inc., liquidated its holdings in 1966 and sold this property to H-F Corporation (DB 277-423). The Jefferson Theatre Building Co., Inc., bought it in 1969 (DB 311-485) and sold it to the present owners, two of the partners in that corporation, in 1978 (DB 390-594). Interior alterations were made in 1968 and 1972. The marquee was removed in 1978, and the vertical JEFFERSON sign had been removed some years before.