

Architectural And Historic Survey



Identification

STREET ADDRESS: 114 E. Main Street	HISTORIC NAME: Jones - Bennett Building
MAP & PARCEL: 28-24	DATE / PERIOD: 1843
CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK: 1-122	STYLE: Vernacular
PRESENT ZONING: B-4	HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 3 storeys
ORIGINAL OWNER: Robert S. Jones	DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 21' x 97' (2,030 sq. ft.)
ORIGINAL USE: Store and Residence	CONDITION: Good
PRESENT USE: Gift Shop	SURVEYOR: Bibb
PRESENT OWNER: Betty B. and John A. Sacco	DATE OF SURVEY: Spring 1979
ADDRESS: P. O. Box 7505	SOURCES: City/County Records
Charlottesville, VA	Mrs. John A. Sacco (Betty Bennett Sacco)
	Alexander, Recollections of Early Charlottesville

Sanborn Map Co. - 1886, 1896, 1907, 1920

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This and 118 E. Main Street constitute the oldest building still standing on the Main Street mall. Basically, this was originally a 3-storey, 4-bay, double-pile gable-roofed duplex building. A 3-storey shed-roofed rear addition, which dates back beyond 1886 at least, and may be original, makes the building triple pile. A common central stair between the storefronts divides the building and gives access to the former living quarters above. There are individual staircases in each section between the second and third storeys. The medium-pitched gable roof was originally covered with wooden shingles. These were replaced with slate after a few years, and the whole roof is now covered with standing-seam metal. Separate and unmatching pressed tin parapet cornices were added to each half of the building around the turn of the century to conceal the gable roof and modernize the facade. Wall construction is of brick laid in Flemish bond on the facade. This half of the building is painted beige. As late as the turn of the century, there was a rear veranda overlooking a private yard that reached to Water Street. A 1978 remodeling gave 114 E. Main a glass storefront with recessed entrance, but rusticated corner piers of pressed brick supporting an entablature with modillions remain from an earlier storefront. Windows at the upper levels are double-sash, 1-over-1 light, with wooden sills. They are slightly shorter at the third level. Though not the original sashes, they are probably original size, shape, and location. Part of the original corbelled cornice of moulded brick with brick dentils can be glimpsed below and behind the decorated pressed tin cornice with cornice stops and frieze decorated with fleur-de-lis. Rear windows are segmental-arched, double-sash, 6-over-6 light. There are three unevenly spaced windows at each level and an additional small window in the center of the building. The lower part of the rear elevation is covered by a one-storey wing.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

Robert S. Jones bought Lot 37 of the original plan of the town in 1844 from his brother Jesse W. Jones, who the year before had purchased it from the estate of David Issacs (ACDB 42-253). According to Alexander, Robert S. Jones had erected this "large 3-storey brick building" in 1843. It is now the oldest building still standing on the Main Street mall. In 1863 Jones sold a half interest in the building to W. G. R. Frayser and agreed to replace the shingle roof with a slate one (ACDB 60-98, 99). Charles H. Sterling purchased Frayser's half in 1866 (ACDB 62-125), and they divided the building, with Jones taking the eastern half and Sterling the western. Then in 1871 they reversed this, and Jones sold the western half to Alfred Carpenter (ACDB 67-178). Carpenter's heirs sold it in 1903 to J. Edwin Wood who operated a hardware store in the other half of the building (City DB 14-316). He only owned it for three years, and it changed hands twice more before being purchased by A. G. Bennett in 1908 (DB 17-282, 19-316, 19-369). The metal cornice was probably added during this period. Bennett added a one-storey rear kitchen wing in 1912 (DB 23-328) and the Charlottesville Candy Kitchen occupied the store room until the late 1920's, when it moved next door. After that the store room housed a series of clothing shops, then Midway Electric Co. from the late 1940's until c. 1960, and Fleming's Men's Shop until 1973. The building is now owned by Bennett's granddaughter who has recently remodeled it and operates a gift shop there. ~~Additional Reference - City DB~~