

Architectural And Historic Survey



Identification

STREET ADDRESS: 212 E. Main St.	HISTORIC NAME: Dickerson-Williams Building
MAP & PARCEL: 28-35	DATE / PERIOD: 1903, 1929, 1955, 1982
CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK:	STYLE: Victorian
PRESENT ZONING: B-4	HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 2 storeys
ORIGINAL OWNER: B. F. Dickerson	DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 27.5' x 230.9' (6165 sq. ft.)
ORIGINAL USE: Dry Goods Store	CONDITION: Good
PRESENT USE: Department Store	SURVEYOR: Bibb
PRESENT OWNER: H. A. & E. Smith	DATE OF SURVEY: Summer 1982
ADDRESS: 609 S. Washington St. Alexandria, Virginia 22314	SOURCES: City Records The Daily Progress, 1905 special edition The Daily Progress, Ch'ville Bicentennial

edition, 4/13/1962
Sanborn Map Co. - 1896, 1907

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Dickerson-Williams Building is two storeys tall and three bays wide. Wall construction is of pressed brick laid in stretcher bond on the facade. It has recently been painted cream. The first level storefront has always had a central entrance loggia. The present one has curved multi-light display windows and a Palladian arched entrance. At the top of the storefront, there is a stuccoed panel and a hip-roofed hood covered with green standing-seam metal, with a wooden cornice. Each bay at the second level is recessed between rusticated brick piers. Windows are round-arched with rock-faced stone hyphens and sills extending the width of the bay. Windows were originally double-sash, 1-over-1 light, with half round transoms. The present windows are circular-headed, multi-light, fixed sash. There is a recessed band of mousetothing above each window. Corbelled brackets in each bay mark the top of the recession. There is a simple white wooden entablature on the parapet. The original entablature had cornice stops and ball finials and was probably made of pressed tin. Behind it a nearly flat shed roof covered with tar and gravel slopes to the rear. The rear extension nearly doubled the size of the building. Wall construction is of brick laid in 6-course American bond. It also has a nearly flat shed roof covered with tar and gravel which slopes toward the original building. The Water Street facade is three bays wide. The large windows were replaced with much smaller ones in 1955. There is a storefront with recessed central entrance at the basement level.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

The dry goods firm of Dickerson and Richardson began business in 1892 in a mid-nineteenth century 2-storey brick building on this site. B. F. Dickerson became the sole owner after Richardson's death in 1901. He purchased the building in 1903 (City DB 15-90) and, according to tax records, replaced it with the present building the same year, probably using portions of the side walls of the old building. He extended it to Water Street in 1929 (see DB 64-468 284). Dickerson died in 1932, and the firm was sold to the N. W. Pugh Company. C. H. Williams, who had been manager of the store for a year, purchased the firm in 1936. In 1955 the entrance loggia was enlarged, the second storey windows were bricked up, the cornice was removed, and the facade was faced with Italian marble under the direction of the architectural firm of Stainback and Scribner. H. A. and E. Smith (USA), Ltd, purchased both the building and the business in 1982 (DB 427-325) and removed the marble from the facade.



VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no. 104-12B
Negative no(s). 5063: 9: 10

SURVEY FORM

Historic name PUGH CO. ? WILLIAMS Common name WILLIAMS COLONNADE
County/Town/City ALBEMARLE / CHARLOTTESVILLE
Street address or route number 212 E. MAIN ST.

USGS Quad CHARLOTTESVILLE EAST, VA. Date or period c. 1900
Original owner Architect/builder/craftsmen
Original use
Present owner Source of name
Present owner address Source of date
Stories
Present use Foundation and wall const'n
Acreage Roof type SHED

State condition of structure and environs

State potential threats to structure
Note any archaeological interest

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes ___ no

Architectural description (Note significant features of plan, structural system and interior and exterior decoration, taking care to point out aspects not visible or clear from photographs. Explain nature and period of all alterations and additions. List any outbuildings and their approximate ages, cemeteries, etc.)

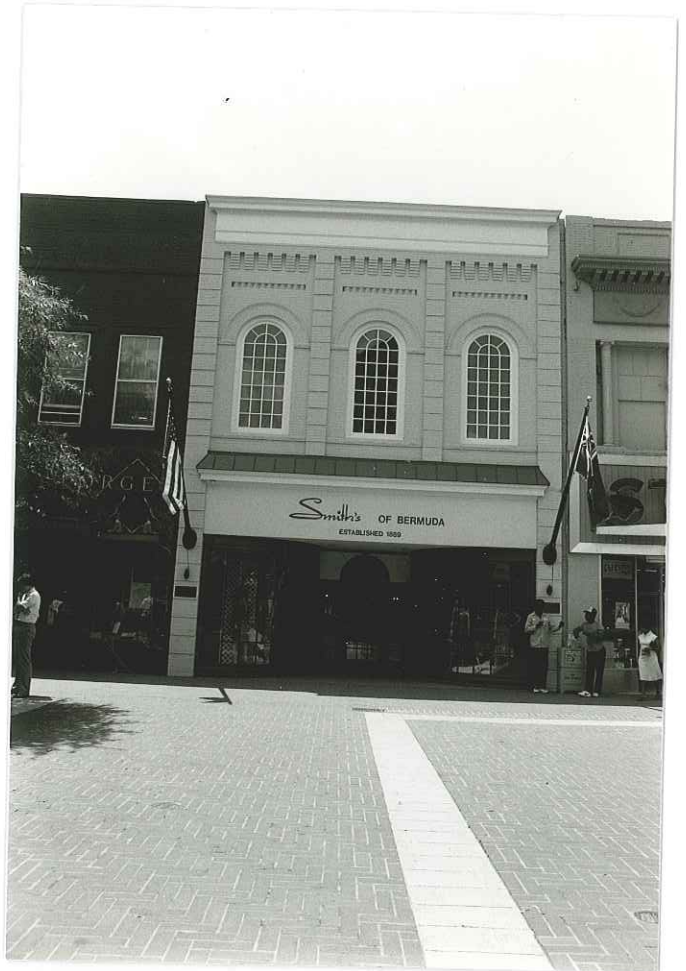
BRICK W/ MARBLE SQUARE PANEL VENEER; 2 STORIES; 3 BAYS;
COMMERCIAL VERNACULAR. RECESSED CENTER ENTRANCE W/ CANVAS
AWNING; PLATE GLASS DISPLAY; ALTERATIONS-CONTEMPORARY FAÇADE.
WEST FAÇADE- 6 COURSE AMERICAN BOND. Extensively altered.

INTERIOR: SUCTION TUBE SYSTEM: ORIGINALLY HAD PRESSED TIN
CEILINGS ? DROPPED GLOBES.

Interior inspected? YES

Historical significance (Chain of title; individuals, families, events, etc., associated with the property.)

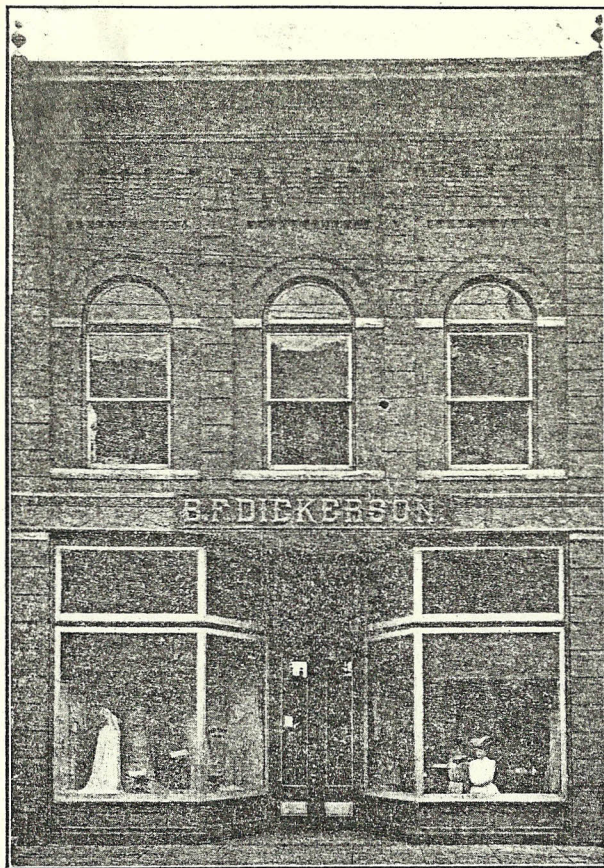
SANBORN MAPS:
1886 HARDWARE
STORE AND
DENTIST



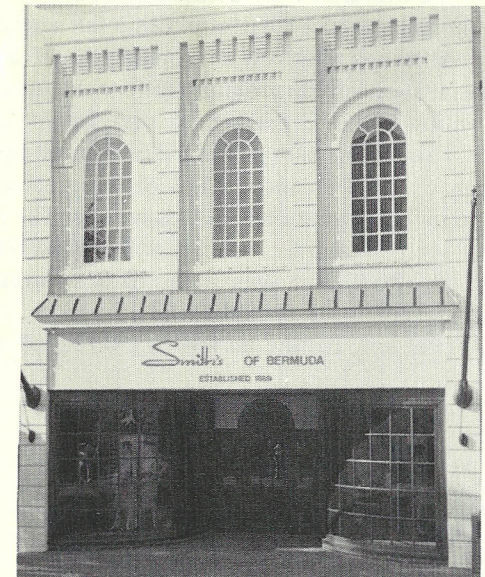
212 E. Main St.

Name Dikerson-Williams Bldg. County/City _____

VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISS



Dry Goods Emporium of B. F. Dickerson.



Smith's of Bermuda Formally Opens New Downtown Store

Sir Henry Vesey C. B. E., Chairman of the Board Smith's of Bermuda, was present when Mayor Francis Buck cut the ribbon to officially open the new Smith's of Bermuda store on the Downtown Mall.

The opening ceremonies included a presentation by Mr. N. H. P. Vesey, Jr., President of Smith's of Bermuda, of an heraldic shield from the city of Hamilton, Bermuda to Mayor Buck - a token of the new link between the two cities.

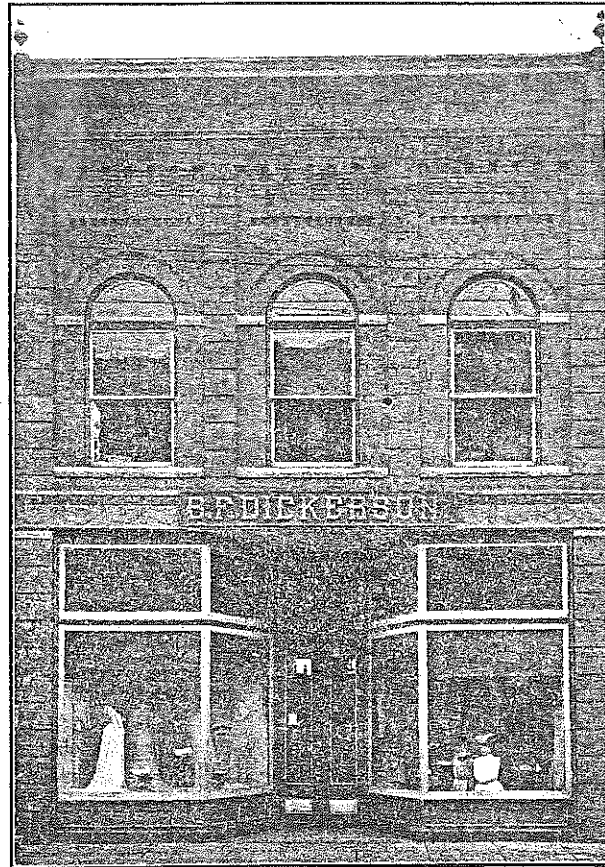
The Directors of Smith's of Bermuda expressed their appreciation of the warm welcome shown to them and the hope that the Downtown Mall continues its growth and prosperity.

212 E. Main St.

Name Dikerson-Williams Bldg. County/City _____



KS COMMISS



Dry Goods Emporium of B. F. Dickerson.

28.35 ✓

27.5 x 230.9 (6165)
B-4

212 E. Main - Williams

609 S Washington St
Alexandria 22314

- 427-325 H.A. & E. Smith (USA) Ltd 1982 plat 64-48 & 287
- 301-313 C. Harmon Williams Jr & W.B. Downey 1968 " 1/2 plat
- 239-563 Hawey L. Williams & C. Harmon Williams 1963
- C.O. Book 23-350 NB & Tr & Tr
- WB 8-99
- WB 4-18 E. F. Dickerson
- 64-46 & 284 E. F. Dickerson
- 15-90 Martin

2 Storages

CB found, brick walls, glass & marble front, built-up roof
built 1905-25

1979 alterations upstairs

1973 complete renovation

1955-56 new facade of imported Italian marble

designed by Steinback & Scribner

1948 2nd floor remodeled

1955 new stairs

B.F. Dickerson Bldg

Dickerson-Williams Bldg

	bldg	from
Dickerson	1905-1963 = 58	1892-1932 = 40 yr
Williams	1963-1982 = 19	1935-1982 = 47 yr

Sanborn

1886, '91, '96 another 2-story bldg, ~ size to others on block
1907, ~~1920~~ 1920 this bldg, 2-story, > 1/2 block deep
1907 says "Rest., D. G."
1969 single bldg, common roof, all the way to Water St

Alexander
pp 77-80

House built by Tucker Isaacs, son of Nancy West & David Isaacs.
In 1844, Lobban & Sinclair's hdw store in store room, Lobban
lived upstairs.

Williams

- 239-563 NB, exec of Susie H. Dickerson est. → Harvey L. Williams &
4/16/1963 C. Harmon Williams Jr
212-214 E. Main, 27'6" on main, back to Water St
"Practically all of sd property was conveyed to B.F. Dickerson
by deed of W.T. Martin & wife dated 10/7/1903... DB 15-90.
Two small strips were conveyed to Dickerson under 2 deeds:
fr. Hollis Rinchart... 2/2/29... DB 64-46
fr. H. A. George et al... 1/22/29... DB 64-284"
B. F. Dickerson dec 1932 & left property to wife Susie
(WB 4-18)
Susie H. Dickerson dec 1957 (WB 8-99)
see DB 15-90, 64-46 & 284 for wall & bldg rights
- 64-46 Hollis & Lena Rinchart → B. F. & Susie H. Dickerson
2/2/1929 " B.F. Dickerson is at this time engaged in extending the
bldg fr the rear of the present bldg thru to Water St.
Brick ^{store} bldg extending back 131.2' has been on lot for many years.
(Plat shows addn 2 100' long)
- 15-90 W.T. & Cornelia J. Martin → B. F. Dickerson #5000
10/7/1903 lot w/ 2-storey brick bldg at 212-214 E. Main St
party wall on east
same as 11-98
- 11-98 John W & Artie B Svibner → W T Martin #4,500
5/20/1901 lot on south side Main St
same as ACDB 85-359, 5/10/1885,
w/ 2-storey brick house
party wall on east

Tax

1888	John W. Scribner	L 35, east side Main	2500 + 2500 = 3500	
1894, 96, 98, 1900	" "	" south "	+ 2000 = 2500	for James D. Allen east
1901	" "	" " # 212	1000 + 1800 = 2800	
1902, 03	WT Martin	" " " "	" " "	for W. Scribner
1904	" "	" " " "	+ 5500 = 6500	B.F. Dickerson's pay, bld added
1905, ^{06, 07} 3rd	B.F. Dickerson	# 212-214 Main	1000 + 5500 = 6500	for WT Martin
1908, 10	"	" "	2000 + 4500 = "	

Williams

2-5, 3-bay

recessed brick (now cream), stretch
rusticated ^{corner} piers, (or, rather, 2nd level recessed)

curved multi-light display windows

cent ent loggia

Palladian arched ent

stuccoed panel

storefront ^{veranda} green 55m hip-roofed hood

circular-headed, multi-light, fixed sash windows of arch. trim

^{rusticated} stone sills width of bay

proj round arches spring fr hypocaust(?) of same stone

above each window, a band of ~~rusticated~~ recessed masonry

not as wide as bay

corbelled brackets at top of inset bays

plan

plain white wooden entab

side walls - I

II 6-c dm

roof - I 1/2 g → rear

II " → front

rear elevation - 3-5, 3-bay

Daily Progress ^{Ch'ville} Bicentennial Edition 4/15/62
Bus. & Ind. section, p. 3

- 1892 B. F. Dickerson in dry goods store established
under name of "Dickerson & Richardson"
- 1901 Dickerson became sole owner
- 19-- sold, became N. W. Pugh Company
- (1921 C. H. Williams joined Pugh Co. in Knoxville)
- 1935 " " sent to manage Pugh store
in Ch'ville
- 1935 or 36 C. H. Williams bought store
- 1956 incorporated