

Architectural And Historic Survey



Identification

STREET ADDRESS: 320 E. Main Street
 MAP & PARCEL: 28-43
 CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK: 1-124
 PRESENT ZONING: B-4
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Jane Ellen Lyman
 ORIGINAL USE: Furniture Store
 PRESENT USE: Furniture Store
 PRESENT OWNER: VHM Corporation
 ADDRESS: c/o Dr. Virgil Marshall
 306 E. Jefferson Street
 Charlottesville, Virginia

HISTORIC NAME: Gilmore Furniture Company
 DATE / PERIOD: 1909-1910
 STYLE: No Identifiable Style
 HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 3, 2 storeys
 DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 23' x 232.8' (7753 sq. ft.)
 CONDITION: Good
 SURVEYOR: Bibb
 DATE OF SURVEY: Spring 1979
 SOURCES: City Records
 Sanborn Map Co. - 1896, 1907, 1920
 Holsinger's Charlottesville
 Miss Ruby Hamm

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This building reaches from Main to Water Street, and the rear half extends eastward to Fourth Street, S. E., making it twice the width of the front. Except for a small three-storey section at the front, the building is two storeys with a basement. Ceilings are very high. Construction is of brick laid in 7-course American bond. The storefront, with a deeply recessed off-center entrance, is probably original. The walls are faced with soapstone below copper-framed display windows which extend to the very edge of the facade. The second and third storeys project slightly. Three very large, multi-light, fixed-sash windows (20-light in the center and 15-light at each side) extend across the width of the facade, the same height at each level. There are fluted Doric pilasters between the windows and half width pilasters at the ends. There is a cornice above and below each group of windows and paneled spandrels between the second and third levels, all painted white. Photographs as late as 1929 show a different fenestration: two large windows with transoms at each level. The parapet has a central gable and is topped by a cornice with dentil moulding. The original store name, "GILMORE FURNITURE CO., INC. - 1909," is written in raised letters on a semi-circular panel outlined with moulding under the central gable. There is an inset panel at each side. The small three-storey section at the front has a flat roof. Above the long two-storey section, a shed roof slopes gently to the rear, so that the height decreases from three to two storeys. The rear elevation is four bays wide with segmental-arched, double-sash, 1-over-1 light windows with rock-faced stone sills. Those at the first level are somewhat taller and have transoms. There are three warehouse doors at the basement level. The present name, "Gilmore-Hamm & Snyder, Inc., Furniture," is painted on the wall between the basement and first storey. The old name, "Gilmore Furniture Company," painted between the first and second storeys, is still legible. The Fourth Street elevation is nine bays long. Windows match those on the rear elevation, but lack transoms.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

The Gilmore Furniture Company was founded in 1902 and occupied a four-storey building on the Main Street end of this site which had been built c. 1895 by Henry Strauss. Jane Ellen Lyman purchased it and the adjacent lot at the corner of Fourth and Water in 1907 (City DB 18-100, 214). On February 5, 1909, a fire which started in the Walker (Charlottesville Hardware) Building next door "almost totally destroyed the building, although some of the brick walls were left standing" (See DB 21-221). This building was erected immediately after the fire. VHM purchased it from Mrs. Lyman's estate in 1960 (DB 222-434). The Gilmore Furniture Company became Gilmore-Hamm & Snyder, Inc., in 1926 and still occupies the building.



VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no. 104-72B
Negative no(s). 50632324

SURVEY FORM

Historic name _____ Common name GILMORE, HAMM & SNYDER
 County/Town/City CHARLOTTESVILLE
 Street address or route number 320 E. MAIN STREET

USGS Quad CHARLOTTESVILLE EAST, VA. Date or period _____
 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 _____

State condition of structure and environs GOOD

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 (FRAME & SHEET METAL FAÇADE); 3
 STORIES; 3 BAYS; FLAT ROOF - CENTRAL
 PEDIMENT WITH DENTIL CORNICE TERMINATES
 ROOF. ~~NEO~~CLASSICAL REVIVAL. 1909 (GILMORE
 FURNITURE CO. PLAQUE IN ROOF PEDIMENT).
 ENTRANCE OFF-CENTER TO THE EAST - DEEPLY
 RECESSED. FIRST STORY WINDOWS - PLATE
 GLASS. SECOND STORY 15/20/15 FIXED LIGHTS
 THIRD STORY.

Interior inspected? _____

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

SANBORN MAPS:
 1886 CLOTHING
 1891 SAME

28-43

Bilmore Foun. Co. (320 E) ^{1084 Virgil Marshall}
306 E Jeff. St.

✓
222-434 VHM Corp. 1960 \$90,000 plat 222-437

WB 4-218 Jane Ellen Lyman 6-170

21-221

18-214

18-100

2+3 story
brick found + walls, built-up T+B flat roof
built 1910

lot 23' x 232.8', water 45.31' (4753)
1974 - alterations -5354.4

2398.6

107.5

orig bldg c 1895-96, new bldg 1910

Miss Ruby Hamm (at the store)
1st bldg

this bldg } doesn't know -
 } thinks facade says 1907, so force 1926

firm founded 1906.

name changed 1926

remodeled, windows changed - didn't know about it

Bilmore - Hamm & Snyder

- 31-221 CH + Roberta Walker → Jane Ellen + H L Lyman
3/15/10 Mrs Lyman bought lot for Henry Strauss, 1/1/1907, 18-100
Fire early Feb 1909 "almost totally destroyed" this +
Walker Bldg, "tho some of the brick walls were left standing"
Party wall (west) has been rebuilt
This deed concerns party wall
Strauss bought for Moses + Phil Leterman 8/22/1895, 6-242
- 18-214 Per N B of Ch'rs → Jane Ellen Lyman #2000
3/1/1907 lot behind bank (Timberlake's)
- 18-100 Henry + Fannie H. Strauss → Jane Ellen Lyman (Montgomery L) #15,000
1/1/1907 store house & lot, 23' on main, back to water, #320 main
same as 6-242, ~~which~~
Leterman → Walker deed ^{granted} right "to build to eastern wall of
the store room which Walker will erect"
(∴ this ^{orig} bldg newer than Ch'rs Hdw orig bldg)
also " " Timberlake's?
- 6-242 Leterman → Strauss #2000
8/22/1895 lot, no mention of bldg, see plat 6-169
- (6-169 Leterman → bank #5000
6/15/1895 Bank to build party wall on line,

Tax - 320 E

~~1909, Lyman al~~

1909	Mrs. Jane E. Lyman	#320 E	2500 + 10,500 = 13,000
1910	" "	" "	" + 9100 = 11,600
1911	" "	" "	3500 + 14,000 = 17,500

~~4650 5710~~

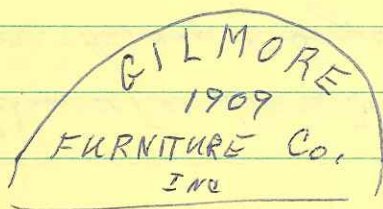
Gilmore

tall 3-storey, 3-bay,

storefront; ^{deeply} recessed out off center
faced w/ ^{rough stone} ~~rough stone~~ below ^{upper framed} display window which extend to very
edge of bldg

simple cornice supports projecting upper storey windows
15 - 20 - 15 light stationary window, same height 2nd & 3rd
fluted (Tuscan) pilasters bet $\frac{1}{2}$ at ends
simple cornice above & below across whole facade
paneled spandrels bet 2nd & 3rd

heavy projecting cornice w/ dentils & central gable
semi-circular panel outlined w/ moulding



recessed panel each side

white, ^{smooth} stucco on brick?

roof-

3rd storey only at very front

cont around back of Timberlakes, 25 w/ basement
seg arched 1/1 wind, moulded surrounds, rust stone sills
near section 9 bay long

7-c am

very gently sloping ^(terrace) roof, tin?

near elevation: continuous, built same time

4 wide bays

3 storey (2 w/ basement)

3 warehouse doors, 1 seg arched

windows 1/1, seg arched, 1st ~~level~~ ^{storey} taller & w/ basement
rusticated stone sills, 0 surrounds

old "Belmore Furniture Co" painted bet 1st & 2nd still shows
"Belmore - Hamm & Snyder, Inc, Furniture" painted bet 1st & 2