

Architectural And Historic Survey



Identification

STREET ADDRESS: 415-417 East Main Street

MAP & PARCEL: 53-61

CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK:

PRESENT ZONING: B-4

ORIGINAL OWNER: C. H. Wingfield and Charles E. Barclay?

ORIGINAL USE: Saloon and Residence Above

PRESENT USE: Restaurant

PRESENT OWNER: The Nook, Inc.

ADDRESS: 606 Gillespie Avenue

Charlottesville, Virginia 22901

HISTORIC NAME: Wingfield-Velle Building

DATE / PERIOD: 1876, 1947

STYLE:

HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 2 storeys

DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 25' x 82' (2050 sq. ft.)

CONDITION: Good

SURVEYOR: Bibb

DATE OF SURVEY: Spring 1985

SOURCES: City/County Records

Mrs. John A. Williams

1877 Gray Map Ch'ville

Ch'ville City Directories

Alexander, Recollections of Early Charlottesville

Holsinger Photographs

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The present facade of this 2-storey building is constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond. The walls of the storefront are sheathed with fluted aluminum below a wide panel of glass brick, interrupted by one 4-light hinged-sash window. There are fluted aluminum piers at the ends of the storefront. The walls curves into a shallow-loggia occupying the eastern half of the storefront. From this loggia, double glass doors give access to the restaurant, and a new Colonial Revival door, to the stair to the second storey. A deep, heavy marques with rounded corners is suspended over the storefront. It is painted black with aluminum trim. Above the marquee, black carcera glass borders a panel of glass brick. At the second storey level, there is a band of three windows with glass brick panels between. The windows are paired 1-light casement with a hinged sash below. A shed roof covered with tar and gravel slopes to the rear behind a plain concrete-capped parapet. The horizontal band of windows, the rounded corners, and the use of aluminum and glass brick are all characteristics of the Art Moderne Style which followed Art Deco. The original facade was four bays wide and matched the adjoining building at 419-421 East Main Street. There was a simple cornice above a storefront with recessed central entrance. The 2-over-2 light windows at the second level had bracketed sills and eyebrow-arched hoods. A simple brick cornice with corbelled brick brackets crowned the parapet. The side and rear walls of the original section are constructed of brick laid in 6-course American bond. A cinderblock addition above and behind the original 1-storey rear wing makes the entire building two-storeys tall. There were no windows on the western elevation and those on the eastern elevation have been filled in. The present rear elevation has a window arrangement at the second level similar to the one on the facade, but with only two windows and wider panels of glass brick.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

This was a vacant lot when James Alexander wrote his description of Main Street in 1874. According to deed and tax records, this building was erected in 1876 by C. H. Wingfield and Charles E. Barclay, who purchased the lot that year, acting as trustees for their wives (ACDB 70-196 & 192). It appears on the 1877 Gray map of Charlottesville. The property changed ownership six times before being purchased by M. F. Eddins in 1893 from Jefferson M. Levy, who had owned it only one year (ACDB 75-151, 80-99, 81-394, 86-165, 87-422; City DB 3-416, 3-496). Eddins deeded it to his sister, Etta C. Eddins in 1901 (DB 18-306). The first occupant of the building was the Gem Saloon, and City Directories indicate that saloons and billard parlors were the principal occupants until Miss Eddins, who had lived in the apartment above, sold the building to Nicholas Velle in 1920 (DB 35-289). Since then, it has housed a succession of restaurants: the Atlantic Lunch Room in the 1920's, the Boston Confectionary in the 1930's, the Club Cafe in the 1940's and 50's, and the Nook since the late 1950's. Tax records indicate that Velle made improvements to the building in 1925 and rebuilt the facade in 1947, the same year that the Valley View Building across the street was rebuilt in a similar style. John A. & Mary K. Williams, operators of The Nook, purchased the building from the Velle family in 1965 (DB 270-178) and sold it to The Nook, Inc., in 1983 (DB 443-382).

Additional References: City DB 197-80



VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

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

SURVEY FORM

Historic name
County/Town/City CHARLOTTESVILLE
Street address or route number 415 E. MAIN STREET (415)
USGS Quad CHARLOTTESVILLE EAST, VA.
Original owner
Original use
Present owner
Present owner address
Present use
Acreage
Common name THE NOOK
Date or period
Architect/builder/craftsmen
Source of name
Source of date
Stories
Foundation and wall const'n
Roof type

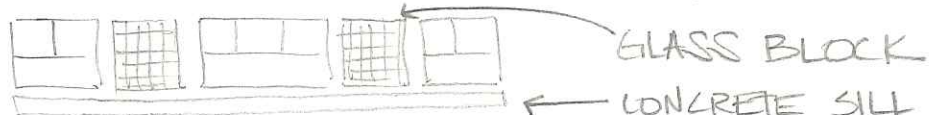
State condition of structure and environs GOOD

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 (FLEMISH BOND); 2 STORIES. FLAT ROOF;
3 BAYS; WATERED-DOWN INTERNATIONAL STYLE
WITH SOME STREAMLINING. C. 1930. SECOND
STORY WINDOWS ALMOST CHICAGO TYPE



FIRST STORY FAÇADE: ALUMINUM AND GLASS
BRICKS WITH A STREAMLINE CURVE IN THE
FRONT WALL PLAN. DOORS HAVE BEEN
ALTERED.

Interior inspected? NO

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

SANBORN MAPS:

1886 GENERAL
MERCHANDISE

1891 GROCERY
AND FISH HOUSE
SAME

53-61 ✓

606 Gillespie Ave The Nook
415 - 417 E. Main

B-4
4527 25x82 (2050)

443-382 The Nook, Ltd 1983
270-178 John A & Mary K Williams 1965 plat 270-181
197-80 Louis N & Melinda M Velle 1957
35-387 Nicholas Velle

2-5, base
conc found, brick walls, built-up flat roof & metal?
built 1912
1978 - reroof
1954 - Club Cafe (Bus Anthos & Louis Velle)

1876 extension?
~~1874-1877~~ 1925, 1947 facade

hardware 1886, 1892, 1893
liquor or saloon 1879, ~~1872-1876~~, 1901, 1886, 1901?
restaurant 1920

see 1877 map

my notes, based on Sanborn, old pictures, etc.:
building 1874-1886
facade after 1929

Sanborn -

1920 - rest., 2nd storey only $\frac{2}{3}$ way back; same later
1896 - liquor, 1st " [?] at rear
1891 - hardware store & cigar factory; also known as 513
1886 = 1896, except "hardware"
1877 - = 1886?

my notes on 419-421 E Main

1934 - 419-21 extended & E property wall built - ~~did~~ ^{did}
this, i.e., extend farther already?

Alexander - still vacant 1874

pictures -

¹⁸⁹⁸
1908 (PH 88)

1929 (Mall brochure)

ht: bottom of 411-413 entabl

sm brick cornice w/ brick brackets

2/2 wind, bracketed sills, - eyebrow arched ^{hoods}

4-bay; matches bldg on E

sm storefront cornice, awning

City Directories

1914-15 Miss Etha Eddins, 515 E Main

1910-11

G Frederick Spitzer, gro, 413 E Main (prob. next door)

The Nook

- 35-289 Miss Etta C. Eddins → Nicholas Velle \$14,250
 4/27/1920 house & lot on N side E Main adj B. D. Bordorfer est on W &
 property occupied by Fiske Bros on E, #415 & 417
 same as 18-306
 leased to James Costan
- 18-306 M F Eddins (an unmarried man) → Miss Etta C. Eddins,
 10/8/1901 his son
 house & lot on N side Main bet B. D. Bordorfer & L W Bunch
 same as 3-496
 incl "bar-room fixtures, iron safe, & cash register"
- 3-496 Jefferson M. Levy → M F Eddins \$4000
 2/28/1893 "house & lot on N side of the main st of the sd city" bet
 B. D. Bordorfer & L W Bunch
 same as 3-416
 25' x 83'
- 3-416 Mary & J B Frizell → Jefferson M Levy \$3500
 12/1/1892 house &
 same as A & D B 87-422, 1887, fr C H Harman
 "now occupied by H P Edwards as a Hardware Store" -1887?
 same also as A & D B 86-165, 1886, John P Harman → C H Harman
 81-394, 1883, C H " → John P"
 75-151, 1877, trustee → C H "
 "known as the 'Gem Saloon'"

- ACDB John P. Harman → C H Harman \$3000
 86-165 "house & lot on N side Main st ... adj B. & Bendorfer on W &
 1/19/1886 L W Bunch on E, & formerly known as the "Gem Saloon"
 same as ^{ACDB} 81-394
- 81-394 C H Harman → John P Harman \$3000
 2/8/1883 "house ... Saloon"
 same as ACDB 75-151
 Tyson sold his share to Harman 1882 (ACDB 80-99)
- 75-151 Samuel Comer (tr), trustee for Martha I. Wingfield & chn;
 9/6/1879 Chas H & Martha I Wingfield; Chas E Barclay, trustee of
 wife Fanny; & Fanny & Barclay → W L Tyson & Chas H
 Harman \$2850
 "house & lot on N side Main st, 25' x 82' to alley"
 "now known as the 'Gem Saloon'"
 same as ^{ACDB} 70-192
- 70-192 Mason Gordon, under 1875 deed of trust from Geo T & Mary E
 4/1/1876 Johnson (ACDB 69-594) → C H Wingfield & Chas E
 Barclay, trustee for Mrs Fanny & Barclay, at auction \$682
 lot 25' on Main x 82', bet Bendorfer & Bunch
 same as Henry Benson → C H Wingfield → Geo T Johnson
~~69-594~~
- 70-196 Geo T & Mary E Johnson → C H Wingfield \$300
 3/21/1876 lot on W side Hill st } + vacant lot on N side
 Main st (25') x 82',
 bet Bendorfer & Bunch

ACDB

69-⁴⁷⁹~~529~~

11/1/1872

Henry & Mary F. Benson → CH Wingfield
lot on N side Main, "being a part of sou. half of sq incl bet

\$800

Main, 1st, & Union

bounded by B. Oberdorfer (occupied by B T Johnsons Timber Shop)
on W, 25' on Main x ~~30~~ 82 to alley

75-151

The Nook

1912, 15 ^{1st}	Miss Etta Eddins	415-417 E Main	$1000 + 2500 = 3500$	
1920, 22	" "	" "	$2500 + " = 5000$	
1922, 24, 25	Nicholas Velle	" "	" " " "	
1926	Nicholas Velle	" "	$3100 + 5000 = 8100$	\$1000 for impts
1930	" "	" "	" + 5200 = 8300	
1931, 32	" "	" "	$4900 + " = 10,100$	
1936, 40	" "	" "	$4600 + 4900 = 9500$	
1946	" "	" "	$5000 + " = 9900$	
1947	" "	" "	$6200 + 7000 = 13,200$	
1948	" "	" "	$6200 + 12,000 = 18,200$	impts added

1876	Wingfield	$240 + 0 = 240$	fr Shakerford Bm
1877	" + Bailey	$240 + 2460 = 2700$	fr Wingfield \$2460 impts
1878	Bailey, Tr	" " "	

The Nook

- 1872, 73, 74 ⁴⁶ Geo T Johnson ~~part~~ L 27 + 700 = 1000 } 76 - dropped by owner
 " " Wingfield nl
- 1888 ⁷⁵ 80 Wingfield nl
 1885 CH Wingfield, Tr part L 17 + 1500 = 2000
- 1882, 84 " " " " + 450 = 650 for G B Marshall
- ~~1878~~
 " 77 Geo B Marshall L 17 & 18 + 3000 = 3400 for Shackelford & Benson
 1880 Bowley, Tr nl
 1880 Geo B Marshall L 17 + 3000 = 3400
- 1874, 76, 78 ⁸² Harman nl
 1875 Char H Harman ~~part~~ L 15 + 100 = 400 for John Johnson Jr
- 1877 Geo T Johnson nl
 " Bow
- 1877 CH Wingfield L 27 + 700 = 1000 for Geo Johnson
 " " & CE Bailey L 17 + 2460 = 2700 for CH Wingfield
 1876 " " — L 17, 18 + 0 = 240 add \$ 2460 ingots for Shackelford & Benson
- 1878 CE Bailey & Son, Tr for Ma W & Son
 L 17 + 2460 = 2700
- ~~1882 Harman nl~~

City Directories

- 1924, 27 Atlantic Lunch
1931, 36 Boston Confectionary (Nicholas Velle) + 1928 photo
1940, 1953, 57 Club Cafe (Eus Anthos + Lewis N. Velle)
" - The Nook (Williams) - 521 1/2 E. Main
1962 - The Nook (John A. Williams)

Mar 1

John A. Williams 296-1084

age -

new facade - ~~prob.~~ by Velle, prob. 40 yr ago
major remodeling?

The Nook - ^{they were} 1 c 27 yr there

(196-83?)

(earlier restaurants

where before, & how long? - where garage in 5 1/2 yr

The Nook

2-5

stretch band

Art Deco storefront:

fluted alum. piers at ends

wall faced w/ fluted alum below wind, & in recess

" curves into shallow loggia occupying E $\frac{1}{2}$
glass bricks w/ one 4-l hinged sash w/ and
double glass doors into rest; new col. Rev door to
upper level at E end

deep, heavy, suspended marquee

black w/ alum. trim; art. Deco. ish lettering

above marquee: black _____ border glass brick panel

2nd level

band 3 windows (or 1-l casement w/ hinged below)
w/ glass bricks panels bet
single conc sill (does not extend across whole
facade)

pl conc-capped parapet; roof slopes to rear

rear: 2-5 6.0 am w/ ext chim E

extended to rear & side walls raised, cinder brick,
int chim new E rear corner

E wind, filled in
(now)

tile-capped parapet

recessed: metal ind. ^{industrial} multi-light ^E on 1st on W

2nd - group 2 like facade w/ wider panel glass brick ^E
narrower 1-l on W

tag