

LANDMARK



SURVEY

Bibb/Spring 1979

IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 213 W. Main Street
Map and Parcel: 33-269
Census Tract & Block:
Present Owner: George and Evelyn Theodose
Address: 404 Altamont Circle
Present Use: Restaurant
Original Owner: Alfred Carpenter
Original Use: Grocery Store?

BASE DATA

Historic Name: Carpenter-Theodose Building
Date/Period: c. 1875
Style: Victorian
Height to Cornice:
Height in Stories: 2
Present Zoning: B-4
Land Area (sq.ft.): 21.2' x 125.7' (2665 sq. ft.)
Assessed Value (land + imp.):

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This interesting little building is one of the oldest still standing on Main Street. It is two stories tall and three bays wide. Construction is of brick laid in 8-course American-with-Flemish bond on the facade and 5-course American bond on the rear elevation. The storefront has been altered, probably to give the apartment above an outside entrance: A 1917 photograph shows a single recessed central entrance, while there are now two entrance doors in a wide entry recess at the western side of the facade. There is a cornice with modillions and plain frieze above the storefront. Each bay is recessed between brick piers at the second story level, with a row of corbels between the piers supporting the parapet. Windows are segmental-headed, a double-sash, 6-over-6 light, with wooden sills and elaborate flat surrounds culminating in gabled cornices with finials and pendants. There is a double tier of brick dentils on the parapet. Behind it, a shed roof covered with standing-seam tin slopes to the rear.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

Alfred Carpenter purchased a large portion of this block in 1864 (ACDB 61-95, 96). Tax records indicate much building activity in 1874-75, and this building was probably erected at that time, possibly to house the grocery business which, according to Alexander, J. W. B. McAllister had been conducting from a mid-nineteenth century building on or near this site. It is interesting to note that the unusual window surrounds are nearly identical to one on the house built c. 1875 at 515 Ridge Street, next to McAllister's home and on land owned by him. A. G. Carter bought part of this property from Carpenter's estate in 1920 (City DB 37-319, 323) and sold this building to Rachel Michtom the following year (DB 38-106). Whether or not that was its original use, this building occupied by grocers at least from the 1890's until the early 1940's; J. B. Andrews from the 1890's until c. 1910, then William T. Elliott through the 1920's, and D. Pender in the 1930's. The present owners purchased the building from Mrs. Michtom in 1943 for the Virginia Lunch which, under different management, still occupies the building (DB 115-60).

GRAPHICS

CONDITIONS

Good

SOURCES

City/County Records
George Theodose
Alexander, Recollections of Early Charlottesville
Holsinger's Charlottesville
Sanborn Map Co. - 1896, 1907, 1920