

LANDMARK



SURVEY

IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 920 West Main Street
Map and Parcel: 10-72
Census Tract & Block: 2-301
Present Owner: E.A. Mahanes
Address: 517 Moseley Drive
Present Use: Antique Shop
Original Owner: Robert L. Wilkins
Original Use: Residence

BASE DATA

Historic Name: Wilkins-English House
Date/Period: 1889
Style: Victorian
Height to Cornice:
Height in Stories: 2
Present Zoning: B-3
Land Area (sq.ft.): 7000 (40' x 175')
Assessed Value (land + imp.): 46,200 + 2500 = 48,700

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This two story clapboard Victorian house with its tower and spire is a landmark on West Main Street. It is two-bay, double-pile, with a rear addition of nearly equal size. Two interior end chimneys on the east side serve fireplaces in the four original rooms. The tin gable roof is in the shape of a cross, with a wooden-shingled gable on each of the four sides above the box cornice. The rear wing is lower, and its roof is a simplified repetition of the original section. The square wooden-shingled entrance tower is topped with a tall bellcast spire of patterned tin and a wooden finial. There are indications that it once contained a bell. The windows are double sash, two-over-two, with architrave trim, shorter in the addition. The two-story bay window on the front has raised panels and a steep hip roof. The nearly-flat-roofed veranda has retained its bracketed Eastlake posts and one section of its Eastlake balustrade. When the City Code forced their removal, the original narrow double doors with moulded rails and round-arched panels were mounted on either side of the entrance like shutters. The interior follows the side hall plan throughout both sections. On the main level, the hall becomes an open porch in the rear wing, with sawn balustrade. The Eastlake detail is continued in the elaborate parlor mantel with spool frieze and mirror overmantel, and in the balusters and newel posts of the single-flight staircase.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

Robert L. Wilkins purchased an unimproved lot from John West in 1889 and built this house immediately. The basement and first story of the rear addition may have been built at the same time or very soon after; the second storey was added later. Wilkins sold the house in 1908 to DeWitt Landes who owned it until 1931 when it was bought by the People's Exchange Co., and later the People's Exchange Bank, of Charleston, West Virginia. Annie M. English purchased the building in 1940, and it housed her antique shop for thirty years. E.A. Mahanes bought it in 1970 and also ran an antique shop for a few years. The building had deteriorated badly, and the owners are now completing a major renovation, preserving as much of the original fabric as possible, for future restoration.

Deed References: City DB 1-288, 19-216, 63-464, 73-57, 79-166, 104-160, 319-544.

GRAPHICS

CONDITIONS

Average

SOURCES

City Records
Mr. & Mrs. E.A. Mahanes
Sanborne Insurance Maps, 1907



VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no. 104-71
Negative no(s). 5077-8

SURVEY FORM

Historic name	Wilkins-English House	Common name	University Florist
County/Town/City	Charlottesville		
Street address or route number	920 W Main St.		
USGS Quad	C'ville, east, Va.	Date or period	1889
Original owner		Architect/builder/craftsmen	
Original use	Residence	Source of name	
Present owner		Source of date	Landmark Survey, Charlottesville
Present owner address		Stories	
Present use	Florist	Foundation and wall const'n	
Acreage			

State condition of structure and environs fair

State potential threats to structure NONE
Note any archaeological interest

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes ___ no x

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.)

920: weatherboard siding; 2 stories; intersecting gable roof (standing seam metal) w/ pressed metal roof on entrance tower; 2 bays; 1 story 2 bay porch w/ low-pitched metal roof and Eastlake bracketed posts, most of the Eastlake balustrade is missing; Victorian; 1889; louvered blinds on 1st floor windows, original double frontdoors w/ moulded rails and round-arched panels mounted on both sides of replacement door like shutters, entrance tower (square) projects through box cornice w/ portion above covered w/ wooden shingles laid w/ staggered butts, a bell-cast pyramidal spire extends upward sheathed w/ pressed metal panels and ending w/ a wooden finial, the front gable contains a metal hipped roof of the 2nd story bay window and a sawn wooden attic vent, the other parts covered w/ wooden shingles in an imbricated pattern; entrance is in the western bay beneath the tower; windows on both stories are contained in a 3-sided bay window and are 1/1 double-hung; 2 interior end chimneys on the east side; a large rear addition has been built in two stages; the house has been altered from a residence to a business w/ minor changes inside and out.

Interior inspected? yes

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

The house was built in 1889 by Robert L. Wilkins and the rear addition built soon thereafter. It retained its residence status until 1940, having been sold several times previously, when it housed an antique shop of Annie M. English. Ms English stayed 30 years until the building was bought by E. A. Mahanes in 1970. Mahanes still owns the building using it as a florist shop.

Deed References: City DB 1-288, 19-216, 63-464, 73-57, 79-166, 104-160, 319-544.

Sources: Landmark Survey, Charlottesville, Va.

W. Kille

Sources and bibliography
Published sources (Books, articles, etc., with bibliographic data.)

Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.)

Names and addresses of persons interviewed

Plan (Indicate locations of rooms, doorways, windows, alterations, etc.)



Describe and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)

Name, address and title of recorder

Date

University Florist & Gifts

OPEN HOUSE

March 1-4—8 a.m.-6 p.m. —
Wednesday through Saturday



• cash & carry specials
• antiques
• silk arrangements
• fresh cut flowers

920 WEST MAIN
Opening Special:
African Violets
\$2⁰⁰ regular \$5.00

• ample parking
• complete bridal services
• all major credit cards accepted
• full service florist

And:

Chip Mahanes, floral designer and skilled greenplanter expert.

Spring

Men's, Women's & Children's
Spring Fashions are arriving.

Best Quality Brand Name
Merchandise

30% to 60% Off

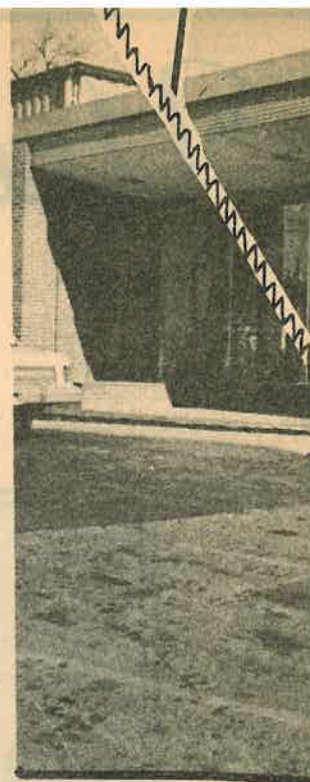
at suggested retail prices
found in other stores

Clearance in progress



Imperial Reading
Factory Outlet
Clothing Store

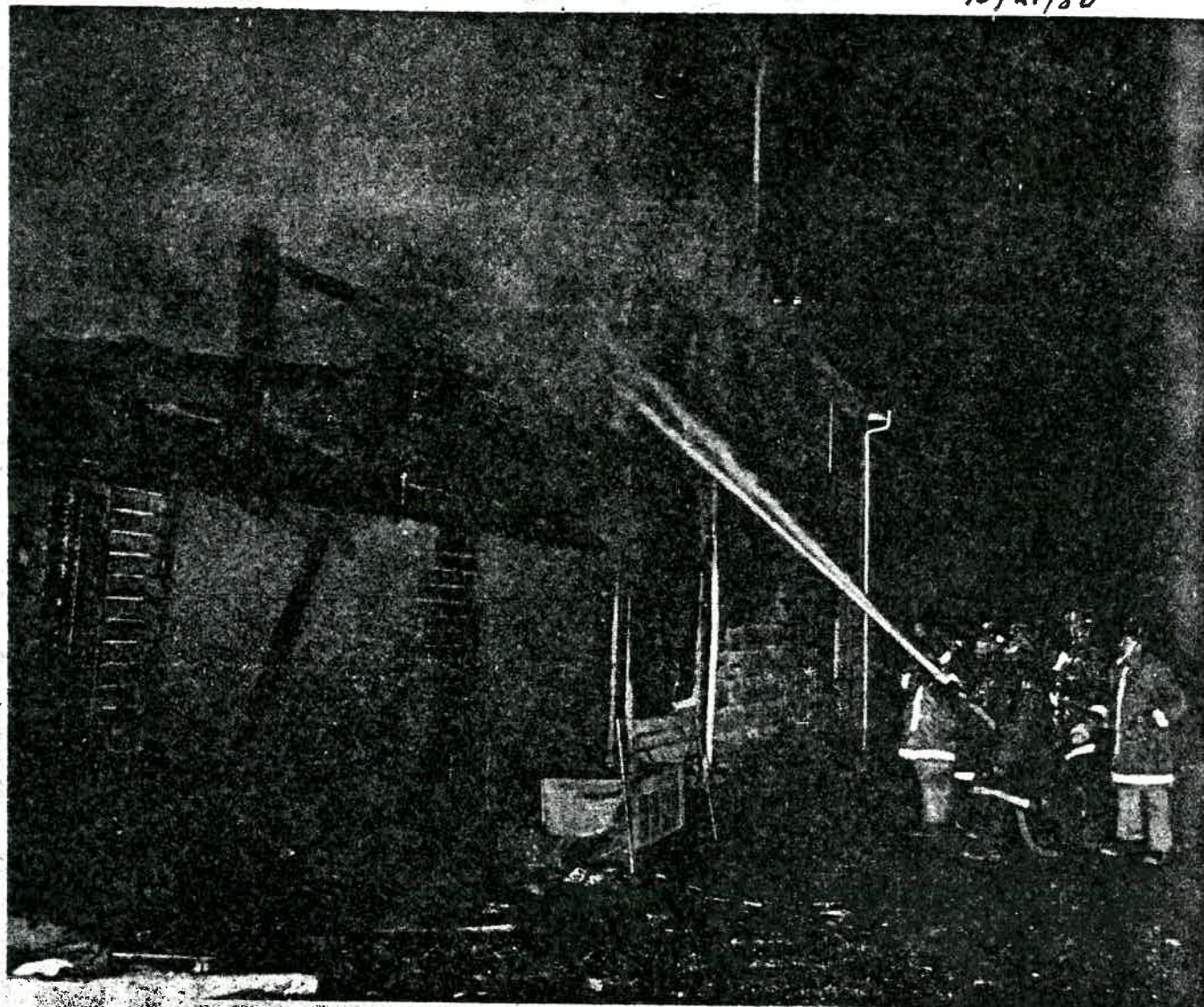
Mon.-Sat. 9-5
South St. Ph. 296-1783
(located in the Old Charlottes-
Plumbing & Heating
Building)



MAR
HARDY

941 Presto

BANKAMERICAR



Progress Photo by Jim Carpenter

FIREFIGHTERS SPRAY REMAINING FLAMES IN A MONDAY NIGHT FIRE AT UNIVERSITY FLORIST
 Officials Are Investigating the Possibility of Arson in the Fire, Which Caused An Estimated \$30,000 to \$100,000 Damage

Arson Suspected in Florist Blaze

By OVERTON McGEHEE
 of The Progress Staff

Officials suspect arson as the cause of a blaze that gutted University Florist on West Main Street Monday night. Damage estimates range between \$30,000 and \$100,000 for the two-story frame structure.

The building is owned by Ronnie Mahanes Florist LTD.

A state arson investigator is working with police and fire department personnel to determine the cause of the fire. No motive has been determined nor any suspects identified at this time.

Lt. Rittenhouse said, "The result of the preliminary inves-

tigation makes it look suspicious."

Originally a dwelling, the one-time antique shop was damaged by fire several years ago. Lt. J.W. Rittenhouse of the city police department said that arson had been suspected in that fire. No one was charged in that incident.

Assistant City Fire Chief Fulton Deane said that the building had extensive fire, smoke, and water damage. The back portion of the building was damaged most severely. The west wall of the shop's rear section, near a porch, was destroyed. The porch was the origin of the earlier fire.

The Charlottesville Fire De-

partment was called at 11:40 p.m. Six companies responded to the fire or manned the city stations to cover for the city companies.

Firefighters first entered the front of the building and were able to quickly knock down flames in the main portion of the building. Fire continued in the attic for an hour or more as firefighters struggled to reach it.

This morning, observers said the front of the building may have escaped major structural damage.

~~12155~~

City Tax Records

920 W. Main

319-544 EA + Va R Mahanes 9/22/70 \$55,000 plat 319-546

104-160 Annie M. English
People's Exchange Bank, Charleston, W Va

2-story

8 rooms, 1 bath

built

brick found, frame, metal roof
sftwood + plaster

25' x 60'

plat file

fire loss 7/2/76, unoccupied, no change, repairs

res + bus, B-3

Mahanes, 517 Moseley Dr

46,200 + 2500 = 48,700

920 W Main

10 ft 5 in

2
D

2

all from
all date
or ten roof

1896 also
Sabin
1907

10-72

920 W. Main

2-story frame
no base ebg

2-story bay window

simple windows, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in bay, $2\frac{1}{2}$ elsewhere
standing seam tin roof;
2 int brick chim on east (left)

1-story porch, whole front

roof nearly flat, prob has cross shape of into tower corner
gable roof w/ ridge centered over left bay, gable over front
bay window; ~~low shed roof over right half~~
6 in b found gable w/ shing west behind tower,
shed over hall

cornice all around

raised panels under bay window

rear wing;

2 story w/ ground level basement

windows same but not as tall, ceilings not as tall as whole shorter
5-8 in bond found, 5 + 6 in rear
shallow gable, ext over hall in shed roof

porch - ~~no~~ 4 bracketed Eastlake posts + rail 1 side
center 6-8" fire brick

ent tower - sq shing, 2nd cornice, bellcast spine of imbrication
fired (rocker) projects 1 front

side hall plan

920 W. Main ques:

- ✓ roof: centering of gables center on side
shingles in all? ✓
- ✓ porch roof & frieze - v.l. hips, no frieze
- door panels 2, recessed, moulded
- cornice - wing too? X - style }
- window trim & door trim arch 120g
- both bay windows - high hip, top no trim
- ✓ spine O or □ ✓

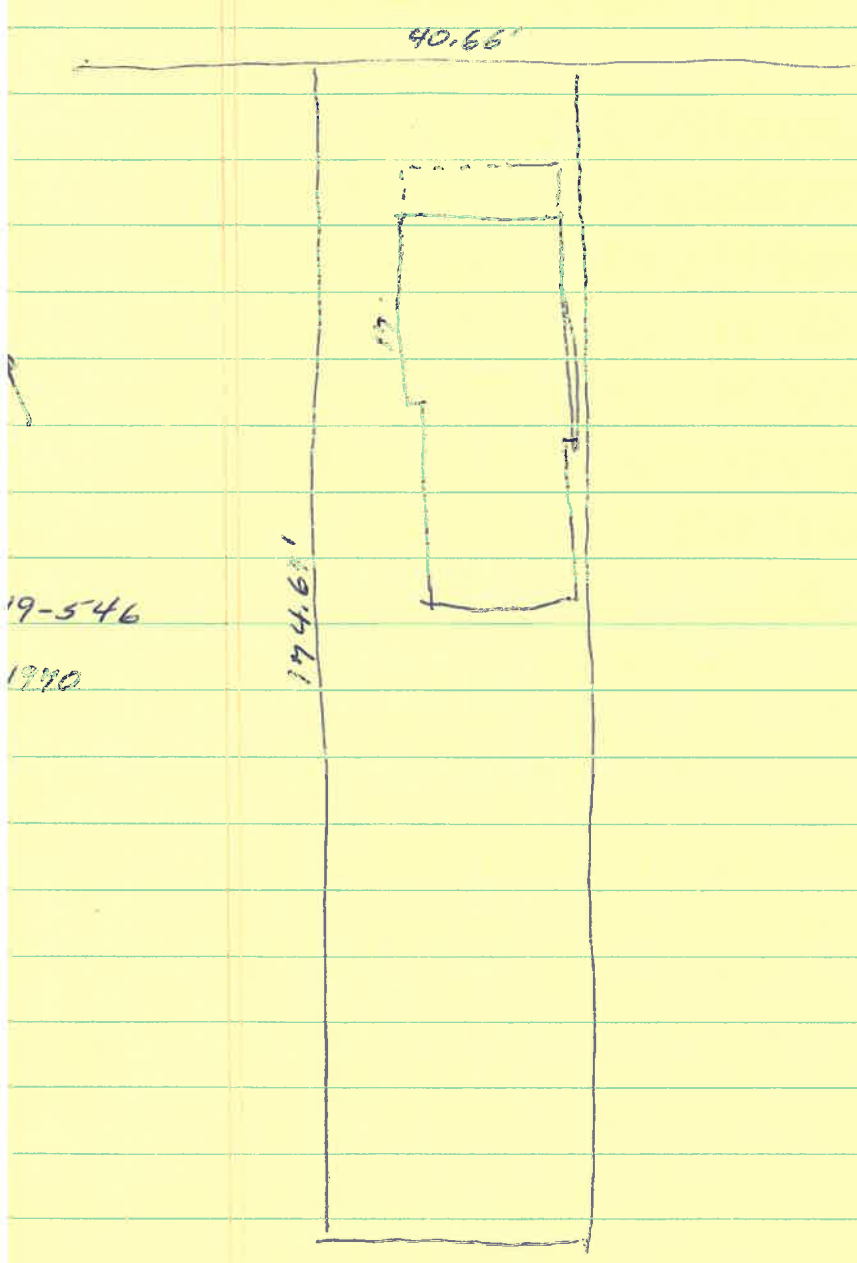
\$3,400

4-160 FO Lamb, receiver of Peoples Exchange Bank, Inc → Annie M. English
127/40 lot of maps on W Main
same as 73-57 David Wood, Trustee → PEB
79-166

9-166 Pro Exchange Co of Charleston → PEB ofl
18/33 same as 73-57

3-57 David J. Wood, under 1938 (63-464) deed of trust for Duwitt Lander,
1/30/51 → PEB \$6000
same as 63-464

3-464 deed of trust
2/26/38 same as 19-216



19-546
1970

7-216 RL & SA Wilkins → Dr Will Lander # 2580
1/1/1908 lot w/ imp on so side main (40 1/2')
same as 1-288

1-288 John West & wife → Robt Lee Wilkins # 550
1/2/1889 western part of alb DB 85-46 fr Wm B Strang 1885
"The lot hereby conveyed has no bldg on it"
40 1/2' Main Ave, 175' back

1890 4th ward - R.L. Wilkins - Sea Side Main 300 + 1200 = 1500 fr John West
1891 " " " " " " " "

1889 " John West " 400 + 1100 = 1500

1890 " " (col) " 200 + 1000 = 1200

1895 same as 1890

1900 " "

1905 400 + 1100 = 1500

1910 DeWitt Landes 920 N Main 500 + 1000 = 1500

~~1905~~ same: 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915 ~~400 + 1100~~

1920 600 + 1200 = 1800

1925 700 + 1400 = 2100

summary

sold 1889, no bldg

1890 - 1900 R.L. Wilkins

$$300 + 1200 = 1500$$

1905

$$400 + 1100 = 1500$$

1910 - 1915

$$500 + 1000 = 1500$$

1920

$$600 + 1200 = 1800$$

1925

$$700 + 1400 = 2100$$

1940-41

$$1700 + 1800 = 3500$$

1943-45

$$" + 1600 = 3300$$

3-5884

Mrs Andrews

2 Italia

Etelie

753 yrs ago

didn't know it had an addition

Mrs English

rented from Mrs Landes

1944

-753

\$1924

6-9680

Mr. Holsinger

addition

built raised Wetland St

Mrs Camp lived there ^{until} 1913, fa contractor, she child,
went to WVa & went broke

6-3435

Mrs. Camp

(never talked to her)

did her fa build part of it? (She's old enough to remem 1908)

3-5884

Mrs Andrews

L. Italia

Etelie

753 yrs ago

didn't know it had an addition

Miss English

rented from Mrs Landes

1944
-753
\$1924

6-9680

Mr. Holsinger

addition

b. raised Wetland St

Mrs Camp lived there ^{until} 1913, fa contractor, she child,
went to W Va & went broke

6-3435

Mrs. Camp

(never talked to her)

did her fa build part of it? (She's old enough to remem 1908)

→ bell

5-7701

Mahanes questions

920 W Main

→ architect

→ when addition put on back
what sort business now

- how long has it been business instead of residential
- alterations since they've owned it, & before

→ did it ever have a name?

occupied now? can I go in?
~~occupied?~~

going to sell it | there tomorrow bet. 8 & 4

1912 ed

Holsinger says ask builder's son ^{Steven} Mrs Iida Andrews
204 Rd
well built, heart pine

beautiful wood in tower, signs of bell, ladder
put windows in dark hall; carpet (pine floor bad shape)

took doors down & put 1 wall

sliding doors downstairs ~~needed~~ ^{double} moulded rail
shutters are orig doors w/ arched panels

~~2~~ fireplaces each floor

very simple mantels up & dr

2 1/2 & 1 1/2 windows ~~set~~ all open

Eastlake banister & mantel of spools, mirror, gauges

~~1912~~ sawn work banister, open side porch (has porch ceiling)
work
tiny back stairs behind porch

~~10th~~

Colly 10th + W Main

1940	4th	Pro Ex Bank	55. W. Main	1700 + 1800 = 3500
1945	"	Annie M. English	920 "	" + 1600 = 3300
1943			same as 1945	
1941			" " 1940	reassessment 1942



WILKINS - ENGLISH HOUSE

(FIRE DAMAGED)

DEMOLISHED 1/81

920 West Main St

WILKINS - ENGLISH HOUSE

(FIRE DAMAGED)

DEMOLISHED 1/81

920 West Main St