

LANDMARK



SURVEY

IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 616 Park Street
 Map and Parcel: 52-184
 Census Track & Block: 3-405
 Present Owner: Miss Helen Duke
 Address: 616 Park Street
 Present Use: Residence
 Original Owner: Judge R. T. W. Duke
 Original Use: Residence

BASE DATA

Historic Name: Duke House
 Date/Period: 1884
 Style: Victorian
 Height to Cornice:
 Height in Stories: 2 1/2
 Present Zoning: R-3
 Land Area (sq.ft.): 184 x 316
 Assessed Value (land + imp.): 10,470 + 10,290 = 20,760

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This white frame Victorian house is one of the most sophisticated examples of the style in wood the city of Charlottesville. Nestled among large shade trees and a rolling lawn, the finely detailed, picturesque house designed by the New York City architectural firm of S. B. Reed was built by John Waters. The house is characterized by asymmetrical massing with a projecting side pavilion and pedimented gables on the projecting pavilion, the balcony, which has been enclosed to accommodate a bath, the tripartite dormer window, and on the veranda. The handsome veranda with its segmental frieze, turned Victorian columns, and gazebo at the southern corner graces the front of the house and enhances its fanciful appearance. The interior arrangement is varied with several octagonal ended rooms and stained oak woodwork.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

In 1884 R. T. W. Duke, Jr. purchased about three and a quarter acres of land on the east side of Park Street from John C. Patterson (ACDB 83-475). Three years later he added two and two thirds acres to the south of his holdings (ACDB 89-174). Judge Duke had S. R. Reed of New York City draw the plans for his house which was built in 1884. After Judge Duke's death the house passed to his children. His daughter Helen (WB 11-394) continues to reside in the handsome Queen Anne structure. Judge R. T. W. Duke, Jr. was the son of R. T. W. Duke of SunnySide and became the first judge of the newly incorporated city of Charlottesville in 1888. About 1899, the Judge was the first to employ a female stenographer which raised some eyebrows among his peers on Court Square. A prolific chronicler, the Judge's recollections of nineteenth century Charlottesville are valuable not only for the information they contain but also an extremely well written example of gentlemen's journals.

GRAPHICS

CONDITIONS

Good

SOURCES

Miss Helen Duke
 City/County Records

