

# LANDMARK



# SURVEY

## IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 705 Park Street  
 Map and Parcel: 52-58  
 Census Tract & Block: 3-519  
 Present Owner: T. M. Randolph Mayo  
 Address: c/o Harry Michael, Jr.  
 414 Park Street, City  
 Present Use: Residence  
 Original Owner: Judge William J. Robertson  
 Original Use: Residence

## BASE DATA

Historic Name: Judge Robertson House  
 Date/Period: cir. 1850  
 Style: Italianate  
 Height to Cornice:  
 Height in Stories: 2  
 Present Zoning: R-3  
 Land Area (sq.ft.): 140 x 268  
 Assessed Value (land + imp.): 7140 + 9300 = 16,440

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Judge Robertson House is a superb example of the picturesque Italianate villa style popularized by A. J. Downing in the two decades prior to the Civil War. Probably built around 1850, the house is all the more remarkable given the insular, conservative nature of Charlottesville's architecture. It is the most architecturally significant ante-bellum house in the downtown area. The inspiration for the house came either from one of Downing's very popular books, or an architect or craftsman who was familiar with his books. Two gabled pavilions flank a recessed entrance bay with a handsome balcony supported by tremendous scroll brackets. The two slender windows on each pavilion have tilted sills, chamfered architraves, and scalloped hoods of cypress. Each gable is detailed with three brackets on the ends and at the peak. The bracketed cornice and overhanging eaves are characteristic of the Italianate style. The house has been stuccoed and scored in the imitation of ashler masonry. The interior arrangement is basically that of a double pile plan with octagonal bays off three of the rooms. The woodwork is robust and characteristic of the '50's. All the downstairs mantles were richly veined marble. The house, set within a bucolic landscape, is the finest example of the Romantic school of architecture within the district.

## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

Judge William J. Robertson purchased 37 acres of land on the west side of the road leading to Cochran's Mill and adjoining the property of John B. Minor from Lucien Minor, trustee in 1844 (ACDB 42-50). A distinguished jurist, Robertson was elected to the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia in 1859, and was an attorney in the famous suit affecting the Arlington property of the Lee family that was confiscated during the Civil War and eventually became Arlington National Cemetery. He was also the first president of the Virginia Bar Association. After Judge Robertson's death in 1898, the house remained the home of his children. In 1920, Edward Robertson, acting as executor for William Robertson, sold the house and 37 acres to Gordon Nelson. In 1928, J. M. Herr bought the house and three lots from Nelson (DB 63-131). Laura Mayo bought the property in 1950 (DB 149-218).



## CONDITIONS

Average

## SOURCES

Mr. T. M. R. Mayo  
 Alexander, Recollections, p. 25.  
 City/County Records

Downing

Street Address: 705 Park Street  
Map & Parcel: 52-58  
Census Tract & Block:  
Present Owner: Thomas Mayo % Harry Michael  
Address: 414 Park Street  
Present Use:  
Original Owner:  
Original Use:

Historic Name: Robertson House  
Date/Period:  
Style: Italianate  
Height to Cornice:  
Height to Stories:  
Present Zoning: R-1  
Land Area (sq. ft.): 140 x 268  
Assessed Value (land+imp):  
6010 + 4680 = 9690

Historic Description

Very Downing -  
2 hooded windows in a line  
slightly projecting pavilion on side recessed entr  
w/ balcony - 2nd fl. Casement door - giant brackets -  
huge chimneys - arcade balustrade  
giant bracket peak gables &  
cut at end verge board -  
Interior - robust newel  
arch in stair - 19 doors w/ 50's moulding -  
basement - have carriage house - entrance frame  
oct. end on dining room - 5 rec -  
staircase curves to 2nd floor -  
oct. end -  
Eliz.

Renny Magan -

Historic Description

Judge Robertson -

P. 24N for biography

Letty Buck -  
July 6, 1891

large panel doors -  
5 brackets cont.  
along side

Bill Hale - help renovate  
black marble -

apros sill & architraves

solarium added onto southern bay  
Expressed found. J

Thomas Mayo 1973 WB 17-108  
 his mother  
 Laura Mayo 1950 149-218  
 J. M. HERR 1928 63-131

Heir from Gordon G. Nelson \$13,850

\$35,000 - Gordon <sup>Dr?</sup> Nelson from Edward Robertson } 1920 35-143 - Lots 1,2,3  
 part of 37 acres } ex of William G. Robertson, judge

Judge held 37 acres long.

~~18-373~~ ~~5-1157~~  
~~45-8~~

58-534  
 59-155  
 60-54  
 64-262  
 77-58  
 215

\* 79-440 \* ~~57-377~~  
 \* 54-356  
 409  
 410

- Got to be before

Look up a Mrs. Dueshant,  
 Tucson Minn. trustee

Judge Robertson

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Recorded \_\_\_\_\_

Deed Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_

Consideration \_\_\_\_\_

Internal Revenue Stamps Affixed \_\_\_\_\_

Appropriate Fees & Taxes \_\_\_\_\_

Warranty \_\_\_\_\_

Covenants \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledge \_\_\_\_\_

Date Acknowledged \_\_\_\_\_

**Description:**

42-50 1844 ~~\$50.12~~

37 acres adjoining land J. B. Minor  
from Lucien Minor trustee

standing in 1874 - Alexander -

Circa 1850

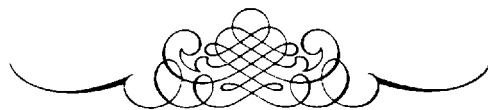


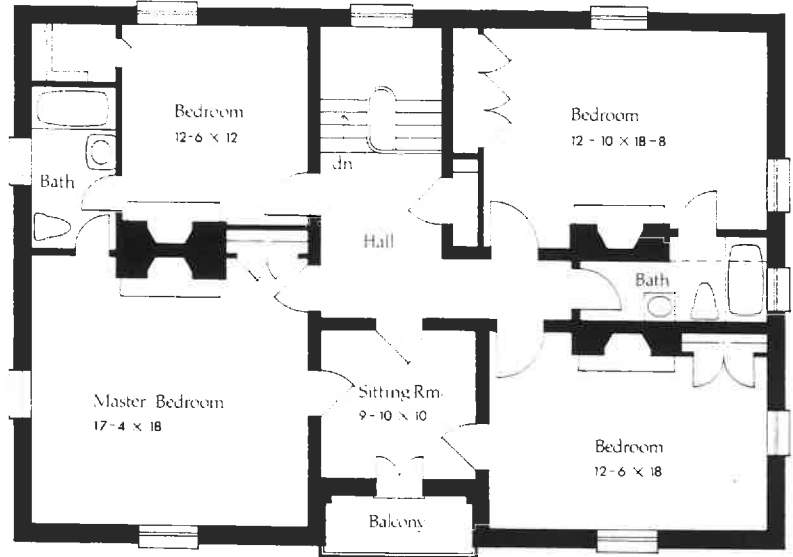
## 705 PARK STREET *Charlottesville, Virginia*

This handsome stuccoed home is a superb example of the picturesque Italianate Villa style popularized in the two decades prior to the Civil War. The residence was built about 1850 for Judge William J. Robertson, the first president of the Virginia Bar Association. It has the distinction of being the most architecturally significant ante-bellum house in the downtown area. Two gabled pavilions flank a recessed entrance bay with a handsome balcony supported by tremendous scroll brackets. The bracketed cornice and overhanging eaves are characteristic of the Italianate style.

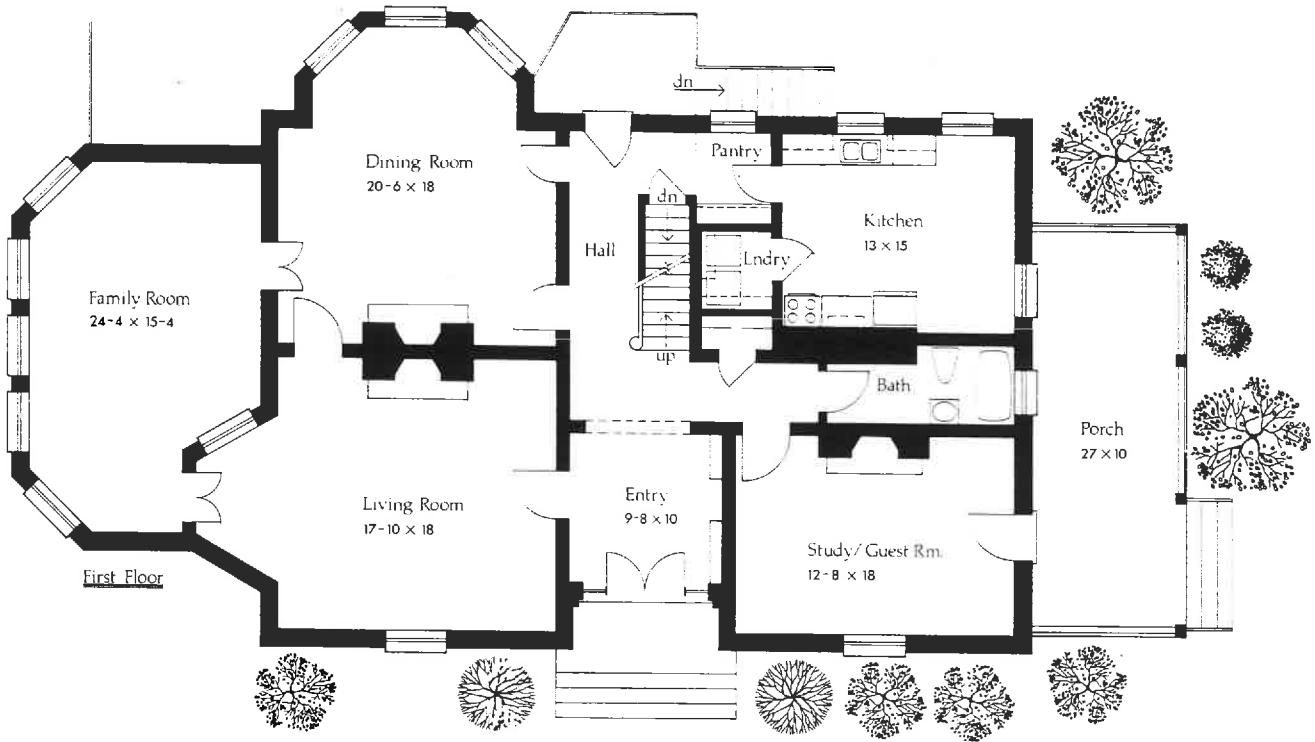
In the entryway is a stunning mural suggestive of an Italian courtyard. The interior is decorated to enhance the grand proportions, elegant open staircase, handsome pine floors, rich moldings, period chandeliers and fine mantels. The high ceilings measure 11 feet downstairs and 10 feet upstairs.

The house rests on a large raised lower level, offering many possibilities. There is also a two car garage with storage bay. Situated on over an acre of pastoral grounds, this elegant historic property is a rare find.





Second Floor



First Floor

Judy S. Campbell  
Listing Agent

Price: \$475,000  
MLS#: 094027

  
**MCLEAN FAULCONER INC.**  
 FARM, ESTATE AND RESIDENTIAL BROKERS  
 503 FAULCONER DRIVE  
 CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903  
 PHONE (804) 295-1131 FAX (804) 293-7377

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS  
 VIRGINIA CHAPTER NATIONAL FARM & LAND INSTITUTE  
 AMERICAN CHAPTER INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE FEDERATION

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*Circa 1850*



## **705 PARK STREET** *Charlottesville, Virginia*

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