LANDMARK



SURVEY

IDENTIFICATION

Street Address:

505 Ridge Street

Map and Parcel:

29-138

Census Track & Block:

4-339

Present Owner:

Address:

Irene Allen

Present Use:

204 Tenth St., City

Original Owner:

Rental property
John H. Bibb

Original Use:

Residence

BASE DATA

Historic Name:

Bibb-Wolfe House

Date/Period:

cir. 1850

Style:

Vernacular

Height to Cornice:

Vernacula

Height in Stories:

_

Present Zoning:

R-3

Land Area (sq.ft.):

57 x 167

Assessed Value (land + imp.): 1440 + 5010 = 6450

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Ridge Street was once one of the finest residential areas in the city, and the Bibb-Wolfe House is one of the oldest houses on the street. It is an extremely simple two story, three bay, central hall plan, brick structure with a flemish bond front, mouse-tooth cornice, and stepped end gables. The windows are detailed with a simple wooden architraves and flat lintels. The entrance door with its rectangular transom and sidelights is extremely fine.

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GRAPHICS

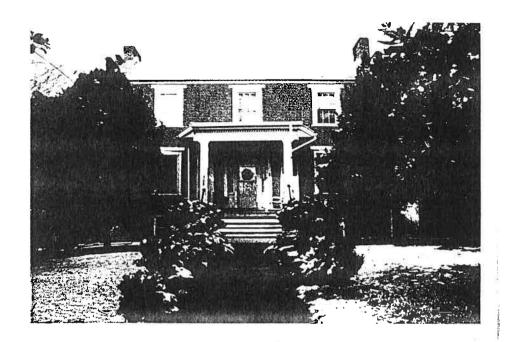
CONDITIONS

Average

SOURCES

City/County Records
Alexander, Recollections, p. 113.

BIBB-WOLFE HOUSE



STREET ADDRESS:
MAP & PARCEL:
VDHR FILE NUMBER:
CITY FILE NUMBER:
PRESENT ZONING:
ORIGINAL OWNER:
ORIGINAL USE:
PRESENT USE:
PRESENT OWNER:
ADDRESS:

HISTORIC NAME:
DATE/PERIOD:
STYLE:
HEIGHT IN STORIES:
DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA:
CONDITION:
SURVEYOR:
DATE OF SURVEY:
SOURCES:

505 Ridge Street 29-138 104-25-17 150 R-3 John H. Bibb Residence Residence (Rental Property) Irene Allen 2516 36th PL SE Washington, DC 20020 Bibb-Wolfe House c. 1845 Federal 57' x 167' (9519 sq. ft.) Fair /Bibb 1974/1987, Revised 1993

City/County Records

RIDGE STREET NATIONAL REGISTER DISTRICT AND PROPOSED LOCAL DISTRICT



Existing National Register District

P

Proposed Local District

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



JANUARY 1994

BIBB-WOLFE HOUSE

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

One of the oldest houses on Ridge Street, the Bibb-Wolfe House is a 2-storey, 3-bay, single-pile, vernacular house set on an English basement. It is constructed of brick set in Flemish bond. Its mousetooth cornice and roof parapet are elements of the Federal style which was common in the earlier decades of the nineteenth century, while its entrance reflects the later Greek Revival style. The medium pitched gable roof is covered with standing-seam metal. There are two interior end chimneys. Windows are double-sash, 6-over-6 light, with lintels and corner blocks. They are about the same height at both levels. Basement windows are short, 3-over-3 light, without lintels. A one-storey, one-bay entrance porch shelters the central bay of the facade. It has a nearly flat shed roof with an entablature with dentil moulding, supported by square pillars with inset panels. Early 1900's photographs show a heavy one-story Colonial Revival verandah covering the facade. The present entrance porch is probably more like the original one. The 6-paneled entrance door with its fluted pilasters and rectangular transom and sidelights is extremely fine.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built at least as early as 1845, the Bibb-Wolfe House was one of the first houses built on Ridge Street. Today, there are three houses remaining from the 1840's. Of them, this house has been the least altered. It presents an interesting combination of the Federal (roof parapet, mousetooth cornice) and Greek Revival (entrance) styles and lends variety to the streetscape.

This house is one of the most important buildings in the Ridge Street Historic District, and it has already been designated individually as a local historic landmark.

VDHR Reconnaissance Survey Form

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES PROPERTY SURVEY FORM RECONNAISSANCE LEVEL

IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

VDHR File # 104-0025-017

Property Name:

Historic

Bibb-Wolfe House

NR Property Category: Building

Wuzit: House

Tax Code: Section Parcel

> 29 138

County/City: Charlottesville (City)

USGS Map:

USGS Quad: Charlottesville East

ADDRESS/LOCATION INFORMATION

Address: 505

Ridge Street

Location:

Vicinity of: Municipality:

ZIP: 22901

PROPERTY CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION

Property Boundaries: Ownership: Private

RESOURCE COUNT -

#	Category	Contributing?		
1	Building	Contributing	TOTAL:	2

Building Non-contributing

Contrib: 1 Non-Contrib: 1 # Wuzit Contributing?

TOTAL: 2

1 House Contributing

1 Outbuilding Non-contributing

Contrib: 1
Non-Contrib: 1

RESOURCE - GENERAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Resource Level:

Estimated Construction Date: 1845 ca

Source of Date: Tax Records Physical Status: Existing

Condition: Fair Threat: None Known

Degree of Historic Integrity:

Association: Design: Feeling:

Location:
Materials:

Setting:

Workmanship:

PRIMARY RESOURCE RECONNAISSANCE DESCRIPTION

Architectural Style/Derivative: Federal

of Stories: 2.0 # of Bays Wide: 3 # of Bays Deep: 0

Arch Config: Geo Config:

Footprint:

Component # Form/Treatment Material Matr'l Treatment

Chimneys Interior End Brick

Foundation Brick

Porch Wood

Roof Gable Mtl Stdg Sm Stepped end walls

Windows double-hung sash Wood 6/6, 3/3

Brief Architectural Description of Primary Resource:

One of the oldest houses on Ridge Street, the Bibb-Wolfe
House is a 2-storey, 3-bay, single-pile vernacular house set
on an English basement. Its mousetooth cornice and stepped
gables are elements of the Federal style which was common in
the earlier decades of the nineteenth century, while its
entrance is Greek Revival. The medium pitched gable roof is
covered with standing-seam metal. There are two interior

end chimneys. Windows are double-sash, 6-over-6 light, with lintels and corner blocks. They are about the same height at both levels. Basement windows are short, 3-over-3 light, without lintels. A one-storey, one-bay entrance porch covers the central bay of the facade. It has a nearly flat shed roof with an entablature with dentil moulding, supported by square pillars with inset panels. Early 1900s photographs show a heavy one-story Colonial Revival verandah covering the facade. The present entrance porch is probably more like the original one. The 6-paneled entrance door with its fluted pilasters and rectangular transom and sidelights is extremely fine.

Brief Architectural Description of Additions and Alterations See Architectural Description and Historical Description.

Brief Architectural Description of Secondary Resources:

Potentially Contributes to Historic District: Ridge Street Historic District Potentially Associated with NR Multiple Property:

Architectural and Historical Summary:

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

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SIGNIFICANCE & RELATION TO EVALUATION CRITERIA Built at least as early as 1845, the Bibb-Wolfe House was one of the first houses built on Ridge Street. Today, there are three houses remaining from the 1840s. Of them, this house has been the least altered. It presents an interesting combination of the Federal (stepped gable, mousetooth cornice) and Greek Revival (entrance) styles and lends variety to the streetscape. This house is one of the most important buildings in the Ridge Street Historic District, and it has already been designated individually as a local historic landmark.

BIBLIOGRAP	HY	
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Type of Record Citation

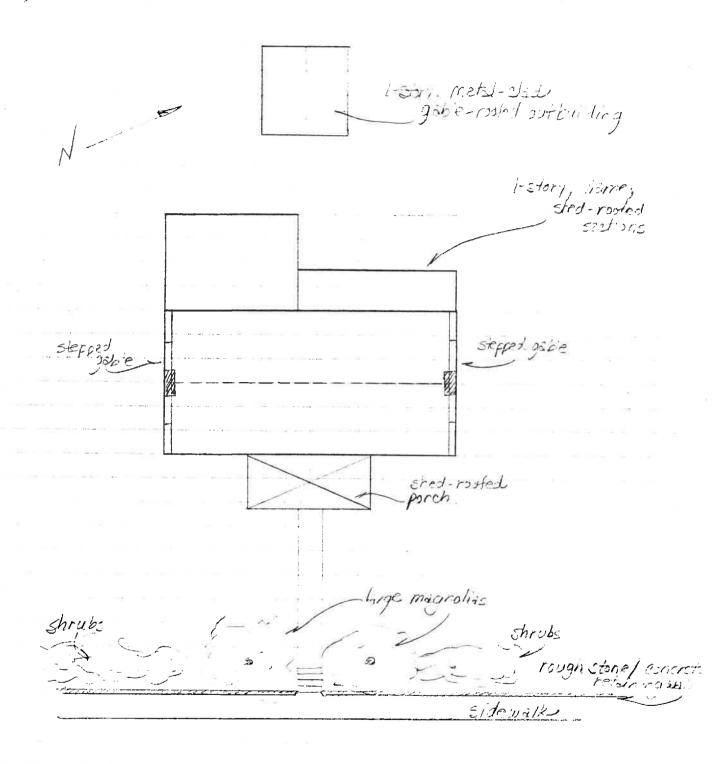
Charlottesville City Deed Book

County Records
Albemarle County Deed Books

Book Alexander, Recollections of Early Charlottesville

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MISSING DATA ELEMENT							
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IPS data entry-PAVA (Smead)



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BIBB-WOLFE HOUSE



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ORIGINAL OWNER:
ORIGINAL USE:
PRESENT USE:
PRESENT OWNER:
ADDRESS:

HISTORIC NAME: DATE/PERIOD: STYLE:

HEIGHT IN STORIES:
DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA:

CONDITION: SURVEYOR:

DATE OF SURVEY:

SOURCES:

505 Ridge Street

29-138 104-25-17

150 R-3

John H. Bibb Residence

Residence (Rental Property)

Irene Allen 2516 36th PL SE Washington, DC 20020 Bibb-Wolfe House

c. 1845 Federal

2

57' x 167' (9519 sq. ft.)

Fair

__/Bibb

1974/1987, Revised 1993 City/County Records

Alexander, Recollections of Early Charlottesville

LANDMARK



SURVEY

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Census Track & Block:

4-339

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Irene Allen

Address: Present Use:

204 Tenth St., City

Original Owner:

Rental property John H. Bibb

Original Use:

Residence

BASE DATA

Historic Name:

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Date/Period:

cir. 1850

Style:

Vernacular

Height to Cornice:

Height in Stories:

Present Zoning:

Land Area (sq.ft.):

57 x 167

Assessed Value (land + imp.): 1440 + 5010 = 6450

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GRAPHICS

CONDITIONS

Average

SOURCES

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Original Owner;

Origin 1 Use:

Historic H mo:

Dato/Puriod:

Style:

Height to Cornice: Meight to Stories: 2

Prusent Coming: R-3

Land Arc (s .20.):5 7% 67

Arsessed V. lus (1 nd+inp)

530+2460 = 25190

Graphores closed - Scriqle ple pele. Almish Bond w/ mouse booth comion To koof - Revival entrance worch - indication of earlier Vorangla w/ baleny good song stancase

Alexander P. 113 Hightonic Teschiption E.M. Wolfe + believed builtfor & once accupied by John H. E

Which of Bornons Intriviend:

STRATAKOS, STARTIS Sell to IRENE ALLEN & RALPH 1958 208-184 972 speeds his way Stradabostrom W.F. Souder 1948 140-181 Souder from mattie G. matthews 1916 28 - 167 (1916) Mrs. J.C. 1909 20-311 \$6,000, where Oak St. Crosses Ridge (1909) Fowler from Artis B. Scribner 1897 - 8,242 (897) 115' frontage Scribner From C.D. Fishburne, Ad. for Egra Walf 1882 (1882) 51-304 Wolf from John H. Bibb sell all property w side links 11/2 acres W. side RidgeSt. 300 1853 ajoing lot of Egram. Wolfe & lot hancy Puley Timber Cales - Canetto 7 where god 1st lang-Morcy Hawkins Poly = NE

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on Ridge St. 1716 occes - octioing Allam w. Hawkins land
being same property consequelled John H. Bibb to w. Johnson June
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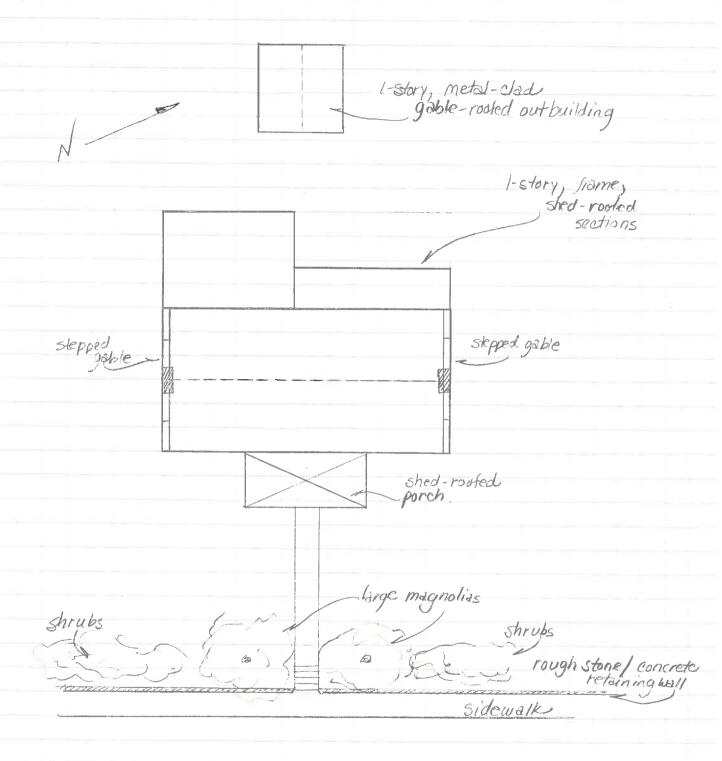
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This house is one of the most important buildings in the Ridge Street Historic District, and it has already been designated individually as a local historic landmark.

IV. Historical Description

The Ridge Street area was originally part of Alexander Garrett's Oak Hill estate, which was located between the Belmont and Oak Lawn estates and south of the town of Charlottesville. Garrett was an associate of Thomas Jefferson and played an important role in the founding of the University of Virginia. His house was located on present Garrett Street, opposite East Second Street. He began selling off lots along "the road to William Henning's old still house" (5th Street SW), on the western edge of his tract, in the late 1820s (Albemarle County Deed Book 28-287, 289). A few years later he began selling lots along Ridge Street, which was then known as "the Ridge Road leading to Meriwether's Mill" (ACDB 40-68). In an 1873-1874 series of articles, James Alexander, editor of *The Jeffersonian Republican*, wrote that there were no houses on the street before 1835. (These articles were reprinted as *Early Charlottesville: Recollections of James Alexander*, 1828-1874, ed. Mary Rawlings, 1942.)

Most of the earliest houses on Ridge Street were in the Federal style, or were vernacular structures with some Federal details. The James B. Hawkins House at 529 Ridge Street (demolished circa 1972) may have been the oldest house on the street. The Dunkum-Spooner-Brown House at 409 Ridge Street was one of the first houses built and is the oldest one still standing. Elijah Dunkum built this side-hall-parlor plan Federal house in 1842 and the next year built the more sophisticated Dunkum-Dice House at 301 Ridge Street (demolished in 1965). The Fitch-Gleason House at 528 Ridge Street was also built around 1842, but was set so far back from the street that Alexander did not mention it in his 1874 description of the neighborhood. In 1844 the Methodist Church built a house on the street for the Presiding Elder of the district, and replaced it with the house now standing at 401 Ridge Street around 1891. The Bibb-Wolfe House at 505 Ridge Street is another Federal-style building from this early period and was built around 1845.

Ridge Street was a racially integrated neighborhood from the very beginning, with several free black families owning homes there in the 1840s and 1850s. Robert Battles, most likely a relative of Revolutionary War soldier Shadrack Battles, owned property on the east side of Ridge Street as early as 1842. Nancy Kinney and her family owned and occupied a house that stood on the site of 705 or 709 Ridge Street for over half a century beginning in 1853. Also in the 1840s, a free black community was developing just east of Ridge Street on Lankford Avenue.

In the mid-1850s, Colonel John Bowie Strange acquired a large tract of land on the eastern side of Ridge Street for his Albemarle Military Institute. His holdings totalled about seven acres and extended from Lankford Avenue northward nearly as far as present Elliott Avenue. Col. Strange was killed in the Civil War, and the Institute did not re-open. The property was sold and subdivided, but one of the major buildings has survived; Col. Strange's vernacular Greek Revival residence at 632 Ridge Street. It and the brick schoolhouse that stood on the site of 702 Ridge Street were built for the Institute by one of Thomas Jefferson's master builders, William B. Phillips, around 1855.

The Strange House and the Hodges-Gleason House at 510 Ridge Street, built in 1857, are the only Greek Revival structures now standing in the District. In the early years of the Civil War, a fine Gothic Revival dwelling, the Bailey-Parrott-Fowler Cottage, was built at the northern end of the District at 204 Ridge Street.

In the 1870s, as Charlottesville began to recover economically from the Civil War, development of Ridge Street accelerated. Alexander noted in 1874 that "the street is becoming quite a prominent drive for belles and beaux, as well as for pedestrian promenade" (*Early Charlottesville*) During this period Ridge Street became the principal residential area of the city's merchants and businessmen, while doctors and lawyers lived on Park and High Streets and professors lived closer to the University. Residents of Ridge Street included the Gleason, Hawkins, Jarman, Yancey, Wheeler, Brown, Hartman and Updike families.

Notable among these merchant families were the Gleasons, a family whose members at one time or another occupied at least eleven houses on the street. John J. Gleason, who had bought and enlarged the Fitch-Gleason House at 528 Ridge Street in the early 1880s, and his son Henry Morris Gleason, who lived at 522 Ridge Street, had opened a general store on Main Street in 1871. They later expanded that into the local Stop & Shop Supermarket chain (sold in the early 1960s) and H. M. Gleason & Co., a feed and farm machinery firm that, after nearly 125 years of operation, is now one of Charlottesville's oldest businesses.

The Gleasons were closely allied with members of the Hawkins family, who were some of the earliest property owners on the street. Hugh R. Hawkins and his brothers Oscar E. and Clarence L. were partners in the dry goods firm of Hawkins Brothers & Co., established in 1896. Oscar and Clarence left the firm in 1941 and opened a rival store, O. E. and C. L. Hawkins. Both stores closed in the 1950s. All three brothers lived on Ridge Street. Hugh and his wife May Gleason lived at 518 Ridge Street, Oscar at 207 Ridge Street (no longer standing), and Clarence and his wife Elizabeth Gleason at 408 Ridge Street. Clarence Gleason built his house in 1915 in conjunction with the similar house of his brother-in-law, J. Emmet Gleason, next door.

It was common in other merchant families as well for many different members to live on Ridge Street. James E. Jarman, founder of the Jarman Book Company, later Jarman's Inc., lived in the house at 621 Ridge Street (demolished in 1973). He was succeeded in the business by his son Zach L. Jarman, who lived at 526 Ridge Street. An uncle and cousin of James lived at 711 and 715 Ridge Street. Jury Y. Brown and his brother Gilbert M. Brown, partners in the Brown Milling Company, lived at 409 and 515 Ridge Street. Eston Updike, one of the partners in the Updike Brickyard, built three houses on Ridge Street for himself and his family.

Other residents of note include G. Wallace Spooner, who lived at 409 Ridge Street and was one of the city's leading builders. He served as contractor for such buildings as Christ Church, Mt. Zion Baptist Church and alterations to the Albemarle County Courthouse. Bookstore owner Alexander C. Brechin built two vernacular Gothic Revival houses at 500 and 506 Ridge Street between about 1872 and 1881. W. T. Martin, founder of Martin Hardware Company, lived at 307 Ridge Street. Henry Balz, who owned a confectionary store, lived at 300 or 302 Ridge Street. The Martin and Balz houses have since been demolished.

The neighborhood continued to be racially mixed after the Civil War. Alexander's 1874 description mentions the home of William Brown at 308 Ridge Street, built the previous year. Henry Spears purchased a large lot in 1877 and lived in a house that stood on the site of 719 Ridge Street. The Mt. Zion Baptist congregation purchased a lot on Ridge Street north of the District in the early 1870s. Alexander spoke of their "large and flourishing church" in his *Early Charlottesville* essays. When a new church building was erected at 105 Ridge Street from 1883 to 1884, the congregation chose one of their white Ridge Street neighbors, G. Wallace Spooner, to design and build it. Many more African-Americans built houses in this period at the southern end of Ridge Street, outside the boundaries of the District. Predominantly black since the 1960s, Ridge Street remains an important residential area in the African-American community.

Ridge Street's growth period reached its zenith in the 1880s and 1890s with the construction of many large Victorian houses, such as the Leathers-Snyder House at 405 Ridge Street and the Brand-Hartman House at 407 Ridge Street. With the advent of the automobile at the turn of the century, however, other outlying areas such as Rugby Road began to gain in popularity.

By the mid-1920s, new construction on Ridge Street had tapered off. Young people who had grown up there chose other areas of town in which to build their own homes. Many of their parents stayed on, but when they died, their houses were sold or converted to rental property. By mid-century, the area was experiencing economic decline, and many of the larger houses had been divided into apartments.

Between the late 1950s and the early 1970s, eight of the ten houses in the 200 and 300 blocks were demolished, including the 1843 Dunkum-Dice House and the 1873 William Brown House. The realignment of Ridge Street and 5th Street in 1973 cut the neighborhood in two and caused the destruction of eleven more houses, among them some of the oldest on the street.

Despite these disturbances, Ridge Street has retained much of its original character. In the last fifteen years only one house in the District has been demolished, while at least seven nineteenth-century houses have been rehabilitated. The streetscape of the 400 block and northern part of the 500 block has remained remarkably unchanged, as has the 700 block and further southward beyond the district boundary. Small houses now stand in some

wide side yards on the eastern side of the street, and street widening has reduced the size of some front yards; but on the whole, the houses and yards and trees still give one a sense of what the neighborhood was like in its prime.

505 Ridge Arch Heavige Ine of the oldest house on Ridge Street, the Bibb - wolfe House is a 2. story, 3-bay, single-pile Sanding vernacular house set on an English basement. The foundation + side + rear wells are constructed of brick laid in 5-course american bond, while the facade in in Flemish band. The home has a strange common in the earlier decades of the minetænth century; while ite entrance in 6 seek Revival. The medium jitched gable most in covered with standing-seam metal. There are interior end chimneys. Windows are double-rash, 6-over-6 light, Babout the same height at both levels. Basement windows are with lintels + corner blocks. They are short, 3-over - 3 light short, 3-over-3 light, without lintels. I one-storey, one bay entrance yorch covers the central bay of the facade. It has a nearly flat shed reaf with an intablature with death moulding, supported by square pillars with inset panels.

The pentrame door with its rectangular transom & sidelights in extremely, fine. flated pilastens There are indications that the house at one time had + stepped gables are elements of the Federal style which was

Hist Descripe alexander believed that this house was built for, & once This how occupied by John H. Bibb who purchased as a three to four acre tract from allan W. Hawkins in 1844 (ARDB 42-77). Flinish bond brishwork, Its Astepped gables, & mousetooth comine would seem to date to several decades earlier, but there is no evidence of that in the records. Tax records store list the building the first year that the tract appears in Bibb's name, but do not show any building of comparable value during Hawkins's ownership. John Bill rold the house + half the arrange to I E gra M. Wolfe bought the house in 1852 (ARDB 50-475, 51-159 + 304) & owned it until 1882 (ACDB 85-398). Before Drene & Ralph allen bought it in 1958 (city DB 208-184), the longest owner was W.F. Sander, who owned & occupied it from 1916 until 1948 (DB 28-167) 140-181). The allens use the house for rental proporty. Additional Reference: ADD 20-311.

57-304 John H & Havriette P Bibb > Eyra M. Wolfe & Namy Riley
12/10/1852 lot W side Ridge &t, C,1'zac, adj Wolfe & Namy Riley
"part of land for allan W Hawkim 7/5/1844 Worthington R & ann R Johnson = E gra M. Wolfe 3150 11/3/1857 house & lot on Ridge It adj allan W Hawking talkon same as for John H Bell 6/22/8-2 50-475 John 144 Havriet P Bibb > Worthington R Johnson "How 6/22/1852" a part of the lot of land on which he now resides together wf the dwelling house & other impte thous" I to were allan W & Elig Hanchine -> John H. Bill 1000 7/5-/1844 parcel of land in alber, & 3-4 acres, 'lying on the hell adjoining Elijah Dunkum's lot on which is orected a beame blog, & bet that lot & lot Marry Reley lately lived on ...

505 Ridge 1848 fadedoak delse 1846,45 allen Hawken +1100 =14 ... +0=10 11 2 377 A Good 11 +1200 =1365 1849 John 45 26 Jack (Bldg) dem 48 +3500 3767 1844 " nl 1844 Allan WHawking 8/2

c 3/2

d 4 + 1100 = 1688 + 300 = 365 + 4300 alded + 1200 = 1280

nd, 505 Ridge Flem facade, 5-2 Rm corner blocks on lintels It green (stained glass redelights)

leaded?? no
Splitted pilastor bet door a didelight ; 6-paneled door

6/6 mind, same ht?; 5 fout not 1/ door shutters flank ent porch 1-5, 1-bay, flat (2) næfed ent porch - ental afdalek sq pellære af inset panele & battered pelæstere (insent)

into inty end chom Englowse, 5-e am short 3/3 wind, 0 hitels O water table, retaining wall along facial a siles 53 m ander frankdoor (no file) basement af saur wing;
brick diff solor 77-c an service enclosible



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Date JAN 1794 File No. 104-25-17

Name BIBB- WOLFE HOUSE, 505 EIDLE ST

Town CHARLOTTESVILLE

County

Photographer ANN C. Huppert

Contents 3 Ext. YIEWS OF House, 1 OF

SHED