

# LANDMARK



# SURVEY

## IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 214 Stribling Avenue  
 Map and Parcel: 18A-33  
 Census Tract & Block: 5-221  
 Present Owner: Biro Realty Corporation  
 Address: c/o Dorsey Bias  
 Reservoir Road, Charlottesville  
 Present Use: Apartments  
 Original Owner: S. Price Maury  
 Original Use: Residence

## BASE DATA

Historic Name: White Cross - Huntley Hall  
 Date/Period: 1891  
 Style: Victorian Vernacular  
 Height to Cornice:  
 Height in Stories: 2  
 Present Zoning: R-2  
 Land Area (sq.ft.): 2.02 acres (272.85' x 369')  
 Assessed Value (land + imp.): 16,200 + 36,200 = 52,400

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This is a Shingle Style house, despite the lack of shingled walls except in porch posts and railings, several of which have now been enclosed with shingled walls. Its horizontal lines, stone walls, irregular massing, broad expanses of roof, circular tower, and small-paned windows are all typical of the Shingle Style popular in the 1880's and 1890's. The two-story house is built of random fieldstone with a combination of moderately pitched gable and hip rooves, probably originally of wooden shingles, with projecting eaves and verges and exposed rafters. Wings project from three sides of the central block, and its facade is covered by a low porte cochere with a small balcony above it and a touch of stickwork in the broad front gable. The entrance door is broad and fortress-like with multi-pane glazing and iron strap hinges. The three-story circular stone tower is set into the corner beside the entrance. Its third level, reached by a very steep winding stairway, is a gazebo with shingled railing, stick style posts and braces, and pyramidal roof. The windows represent a variety of styles, shapes, and sizes. Many are small-paned, either the entire window or just the upper half or the outside edge. Although it has been divided into apartments, the original plan is still discernable, and much original fabric remains. There are five fireplaces, some very ornate with columns or pilasters and decorated frieze, each one different. The large sunken living room has Ionic columns above the steps at each end, and French doors originally led onto a shingled porch with a bowed end.

## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

In 1890 Stephen Price Maury was given a tract of 104 acres by his father, Jesse Lewis Maury of Piedmont. He built this house the same year and named it "White Cross". There is a cross of white stones in the side of the tower. In 1898 the Maury family moved to nearby Carrsgrove and sold White Cross with 23½ acres to John Lovell. The Lovell family changed the name to "Huntley Hall" and owned it for 47 years, except for 1932 - 34 when it was owned by Robert S. Osburn. Osburn established the Charlottesville School for Boys which occupied the building for over a decade. The two-story rear wing appears to have been 1½ stories originally; if so, it may have been enlarged at that time. The house stood vacant for a while after the school closed, and then was sold in 1946 to Mrs. Marion Wise Richardson who converted it into six apartments. The present owners purchased the house and two acres in 1966.

Deed References: ACDB 94-157, 110-230, 217-430, 226-6; City DB 120-290, 125-77, 274-407.

## GRAPHICS

## CONDITIONS

Average

## SOURCES

City/County Records  
 Martin J. Romanac  
 Mrs. Fred Tice  
 Mrs. John Clark  
 Mrs. George Maverick  
 Gordon Granger, IV  
 Wilson Cropp

## WHITECROSS HUNTLEY HALL



<b>STREET ADDRESS:</b>	214 Stribling Avenue
<b>MAP &amp; PARCEL:</b>	18A-33
<b>VDHR FILE NUMBER:</b>	104-236
<b>CITY FILE NUMBER:</b>	200
<b>PRESENT ZONING:</b>	R-2
<b>ORIGINAL OWNER:</b>	S. Price Maury
<b>ORIGINAL USE:</b>	Residence
<b>PRESENT USE:</b>	Rental Property (6 apartments)
<b>PRESENT OWNER:</b>	Biro Realty Corporation
<b>ADDRESS:</b>	203 Old Lynchburg Rd. Charlottesville, VA 22903
<b>HISTORIC NAME:</b>	White Cross - Huntley Hall
<b>DATE/PERIOD:</b>	1891, 1900
<b>STYLE:</b>	Victorian Vernacular
<b>HEIGHT IN STORIES:</b>	2 storeys
<b>DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA:</b>	272.85' x 369' (2.02 acres)
<b>CONDITION:</b>	Good
<b>SURVEYOR:</b>	Bibb
<b>DATE OF SURVEY:</b>	Fall 1977
<b>SOURCES:</b>	City/County Records Ormond Deane Martin J. Romanac of Biro Realty Mrs. John Clark Mrs. Fred Tice (Judith Maury Tice) Gordon Granger, IV Mrs. George Maverick S. P. Maury, <u>The Tale of a Black Sheep</u>

# WHITECROSS HUNTLEY HALL

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This is a Shingle-style house, despite the lack of shingled walls except in porch posts and railings, several of which have now been enclosed with shingled walls. Its horizontal lines, stone walls, Queen Anne massing, broad expanses of roof, circular tower, and small-paned windows are all typical of the Shingle style popular in the 1880's and 1890's. The two-storey house is built of random fieldstone with a combination of moderately pitched gabled and hipped roofs, probably originally covered with wooden shingles, with projecting eaves and verges and exposed rafter ends. Wings project from the three sides of the central block, and its facade is covered by a low porte cochere with a small balcony above it and a touch of stickwork in the broad front gable. The entrance door is broad and fortress-like with multi-pane glazing and iron strap hinges. A three-storey circular stone tower is set into the corner beside the entrance. Its third level, reached by a very steep winding stairway, is a gazebo with shingled railing, Stick-style posts and braces, and pyramidal roof. The windows represent a variety of styles, shapes and sizes. Many are small-paned, either the entire window or just the upper sash or the outside edge. Although it has been divided into apartments, the original plan is still discernible, and much original fabric remains. There are five fireplaces, some very ornate with columns or pilasters and decorated frieze, each one different. The large sunken living room in the later west wing has Ionic columns above the steps at each end, and French doors lead onto a shingled porch with a bowed end (now enclosed). The kitchen appears to have been 1 1/2 storeys tall originally, and it was separated from the rest of the house by an open porch.

## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

In 1890, Stephen Price Maury was deeded a tract of 104 acres by his father, Jesse Lewis Maury of Piedmont (ACDB 94-157). He built this house the same year and named it "White Cross". There is a cross of white stones in the side of the tower. Maury built another house nearby and in 1898 sold White Cross with 23 1/2 acres to John Lovell (ACDB 110-230). The two-storey west wing was extended, under Maury's direction, in 1900, according to tax records. The Lovell family changed the name to "Huntley Hall" and owned it for 47 years, except for 1932-1934 when it was owned by Robert S. Osburn (ACDB 217-430, 226-6). Osburn founded the Charlottesville School for Boys which occupied the house for over a decade. It stood vacant for a while after the school closed, and then was sold in 1946 to Mrs. Marion Wise Richardson who converted it into six apartments (City DB 125-77). It was probably at this time that the kitchen was enlarged to a full two storeys and connected to the main house. Biro Realty purchased the house and two acres in 1966 (DB 274-407).

Additional References: ACDB 250-218; City DB 120-290, 181-432, 183-325.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

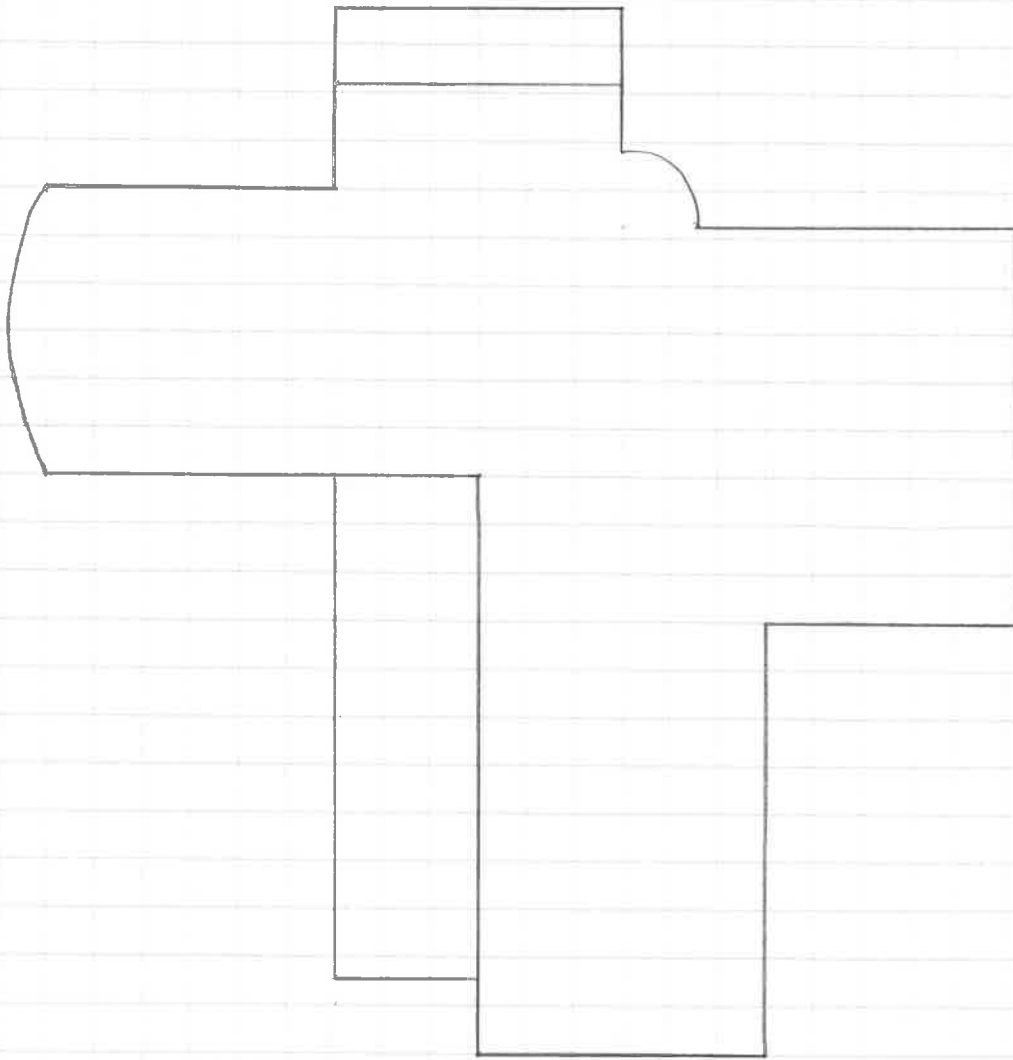
Built around the turn of the century, this unique house is an important and irreplaceable part of the architectural and historical fabric of Charlottesville. White Cross-Huntley Hall is listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Charlottesville Multiple Resource Area.

This interesting house has led three lives: first as the home for a member of a prominent Maury family, second as the outstanding Charlottesville School for Boys in the 1930's, and third as an apartment house. Four lives, if one believes the story that it was once used as a brothel. Through it all, the exterior has remained essentially unaltered except for the enlargement of the rear kitchen wing, and the interior has managed to retain much of its original fabric. It has even kept its spacious yard, which is probably the source of its greatest threat at the present time.

WHITE-CROSS HUNTLEY HALL  
214 STRIBLING AVE.

VDHR FILE NO. 104-236

*Stribling Ave.*



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ANN HUPPERT  
CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
SUSAN E. SMEAD  
PRESERVATION ASSOCIATES OF VIRGINIA

JANUARY 1994

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scrap material which had been on the land when I traded for it, and we landed in Virginia with notes, which we thought to be worth about \$40,000.

We had started to Virginia to lead a peaceful, pastoral life, enjoying our clever children, and we expected to build a nice home on a farm of 104 acres in Virginia, adjoining what is now Frys Springs.

We went directly to Piedmont and arrived there on the 23rd day of December, the birthday of both Eleanor and Judith. The roses were in bloom by the little sunny porch and it was almost as warm as it had been in Texas. But the next day there was a severe snow storm.

As my people were not rich and I didn't have a house of my own, I didn't want to be a burden to them, so I paid \$50 a month board. At that time the cost of living was about one third of what it is today.

→ When we got title to the land given by my father we started to build White Cross, now the University Inn, and like most young people we built more house than we could afford. When our home was being completed, I could not be idle or keep from undertaking some venture; and, dreaming of the possibilities of a subdivision with a city park and a hotel, <sup>in March 1890\*</sup> I bought twenty acres including Frys Springs. Then I bought 56 acres near the University from my father at \$100 a acre; mother gave her interest (1/3), with my wife and brother. Reuben, as endorser on a note for \$3,200.00. In later years, to pay this note we had to sell White Cross, the home we loved so dearly and the place where my only son was born. [Lewis Augustine Maury, born 7 March 1892]

We bought about 66 acres, at \$33. an acre, with stock. in the Jefferson Park Hotel and Land Improvement Co., which I had formed and was president and general manager of.

We built the Frys Springs Hotel of about a hundred rooms, which we furnished and developed the grounds around <sup>to</sup> the hotel and park, ~~and~~ <sup>to which we</sup> built about two miles of street-car line. But many of the stockholders were unable to pay for their stock, and it came to an end leaving the company badly embarrassed. As for the money which had been spent was mine, I was out about \$10,000.00, as I held

\* See "Early Street Railways and the Development of Charlottesville" by Randolph Kean

\$50,000 of the \$120,000 worth of stock. The property went into the hands of Receivers and was sold for \$12,000, or about one fourth of its cost. But I didn't have any friends that would help me to buy in the property, and today it is worth nearly a half million dollars.

After the company was closed, the same old question appeared; what next? I was then about 42 years old with a wife and six children on a Virginia farm with too much house and still owing \$3200 on the land which I had bought from my father. My family must have been very anxious to get the money, as I was notified by their lawyer to pay up or be sold out. It was then that I sold White Cross for at least a third of its value; \$4870 was the price I got, and when I paid the note of mine and my brother's, there was only \$780 left. With this amount and about \$700 more, I built Arrowhead and moved in, having lived on at White Cross through the kindness of Jack Lovell and his wife until our new home was completed.

My wife, who is an artist at building up a home, soon had the new place pretty and comfortable, although we couldn't have city water and lights. Labor was cheap then, but that barely enabled us to live on a farm with even a mill to help out. But we did live, and we kept horses to ride and drive and we also have <sup>r</sup>diver Jersey cows. We fitted up a four<sup>r</sup>hand into a camping outfit and made many expeditions to many of the beautiful spots in the Virginia Mountains, mostly Goshen Pass, one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen. When we camped there we swam in the sweet, clear water and the world looked very lovely to us. I remember we left Robert, our beautiful collie, sitting on the box holding the four reins in his mouth. I can see him now and how tired he looked, with the saliva running from his mouth — but holding on, the emblem of faithfulness.

These memories of so long ago, and with my charming family so far away, give me cause to ponder and ask: "Was I, really, worse than the average man that I should be left alone?" I must have deserved my great loss, or my dear family would be with me. For God is a just God and he does not punish us

persuasion couldn't induce him to stay with them, as he realized that his duty was done.

July 25, 1926. After this slight diversion in relating incidents of a happier day, I will continue the long, long Tale of the Black Sheep.

→ We lived quite comfortably at Arrow Head, with our horses, cows and garden. The house had nine rooms and a large back porch, the pillars of which were said to have been designed by Thomas Jefferson, the man whom Virginians are now trying to make into a god. Our \$250 stable was large and comfortable, and it sheltered under one roof, all our horses, cows, hogs, sheep, chickens and ducks, with our room enough for two vehicles. The house and outbuildings had only cost about \$1600, but there was an unpaid balance of \$800.

We had retained the greater part of the farm and we didn't miss the part which had been sold. But we gradually sunk deeper into debt, until finally, [1898] during the Spanish-American War, I went to work for the Government, at the Ship Yards in Norfolk, Virginia. I had been offered a commission in the Navy as Asst. Engineer, but when I reported for duty I was rejected on account of age and the loss of one finger from my right hand. The Hon. Thomas Martin, United States Senator from Virginia, introduced a Bill in Congress to remove my disabilities, but by the time the Act was consummated, the Spanish War ended. So I worked in the Navy Yard during the period of the war. Though it had been 17 years since I had seen service in England, I was rated at the Navy Yard as a 1st Class naval mechanic.

While I was away at work, the country was swept by a terrific snow storm, the worst, it was said, in sixty years, and great numbers of cattle were lost in the drifts. Mrs. Maury and the children, who were quite young, found it extremely difficult to exist, as they only had one trifling darkey to work for them. But their hearts were brave and they weathered the storm. The storm had worked havoc at the Navy Yard, and the ice was about eight inches thick on the docks.



I was one of the few out of five thousand men that worked outside every day. Commander Lovell insisted that I leave the yard for awhile, and he suggested that I return to Charlottesville and build a large rock addition to White Cross. This I did, but I didn't make very much money on the contract; in fact, I had to handle the greater part of the rock myself, to keep from losing money on the job.

In the meantime, something diverted my attention, which was never difficult to do, and I didn't return to my work at the Navy Yard. I kept trying to carry on with a family of six on a farm, but I was not a farmer and I couldn't stand the hard labor. Then long came a professor with larger ideas than capital, and I sold him Arrow Head for \$2750. After a few months the professor gave the place up, as he was unable to meet his payments. Then an old gentleman, who had once been rich, tried his hand with Arrow Head, but he quickly followed in the footsteps of his friend, the professor.

The last purchaser asked for possession within a week after the sale, and to keep the deal from falling through, I agreed. With two men to help me, I started and built a two-story frame building, on what was later the site of Crowswood — and on the 8th day we moved in. When moving, it is never a safe plan to have man and wife at the same point at the same time, so I loaded the furniture, the older girls drove the wagons, and their mother unloaded the things. The roof of the house was not quite completed when we moved in, but the next morning saw the children on time at school, and they didn't lose a day.

Mrs. Maury could make even a shanty into a home, and we lived comfortably in this new house — a sort of eight day wonder — until I built the Hut on Hob Hill. Then we moved again. The Hut is a two-story, box type house of Swiss style. It has seven rooms and it only cost \$604; but it still stands and rents for \$25 a month!

Our days at the Hut were limited and it was not long before we moved back to Arrowhead, as the buyer was unable to make his payments. In the meantime, while living at the Hut, I had started in to build our last residence,



Crowswood. This was the largest house that I had ever undertaken. It was built of rock, and it had three stories, with 19 rooms. Money was very scarce at the time and I had to do much of the rock work myself. Finally, we had an Episcopal preacher Mr. Walsh, who really bought Arrow Head for \$2750, and paid for it. With this money I was able to complete Crowswood, and we moved into what was a real Virginia home, built of beautiful rock laid with red mud, which was painted with concrete. The house was trimmed inside with handworked oak, and the house set in a splendid grove of native oak and pine. After twenty years the house still stands and grows more attractive with age, and looks every inch a gentleman's home.

I continued to operate the farm, but with only slight success. Labor was then about one-third of what it costs now, but there was little or no profit gained from the farm. I managed for awhile to patch out an existance by contracting for building and engineering work, but in the main it was difficult to keep clear of debt even with the occasional help of my wife's mother.

But in spite of hard times and the fact that we were creeping deeper into debt, we had a happy life, as money doesn't always bring happiness. Finally my wife's mother agreed, from the kindness of her heart, to pay off all of our indebtedness, which amounted to about \$4200, taking a mortgage herself, although I had understood it was to be a "bona fide" gift. Gift or not gift, we were very happy over it, as I had always had an unholy hatred for mortgages, which so often mean financial death.

My wife was spending a large part of her time in Texas with her mother, leaving some of the children, the older ones, with me. On one occasion she spent about six months in Texas, where she had a much more agreeable life than she would have had on a Virginia farm. But I don't believe that absence makes the heart grow fonder, and it certainly didn't in her case. As a whole, I think we were about as happy as the average family, and we lived that way for about 29 years, with the occasional, little misunderstandings that make man and wife unhappy. If we could only learn to forgive and try to forget, we would be

03/21/1994

## VDHR Reconnaissance Survey Form

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES  
PROPERTY SURVEY FORM  
RECONNAISSANCE LEVEL

## IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

VDHR File # 104-0236-000

Property Name:

Historic

White Cross-Huntley Hall

NR Property Category: Building

Wuzit: Apartment Building

Tax Code: Section Parcel

18A 33

County/City: Charlottesville (City)

USGS Map:

USGS Quad: Charlottesville West

## ADDRESS/LOCATION INFORMATION

Address: 214

Stribling Avenue

Street

Location:

Vicinity of:

Municipality:

ZIP: 22903

## PROPERTY CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION

Property Boundaries:

Ownership: Private

## RESOURCE COUNT -

#	Category	Contributing?
1	Building	Contributing

TOTAL: 1

Contrib: 1

Non-Contrib: 0

## WUZIT COUNT -

#	Wuzit	Contributing?
1	Apartment Building	Contributing

TOTAL: 1

Contrib: 1

Non-Contrib: 0

# RESOURCE - GENERAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Resource Level:  
 Estimated Construction Date: 1891  
 Source of Date: Tax Records  
 Physical Status: Existing  
 Condition: Good  
 Threat: None Known  
 Degree of Historic Integrity:  
   Association:  
   Design:  
   Feeling:  
   Location:  
   Materials:  
   Setting:  
   Workmanship:

## PRIMARY RESOURCE RECONNAISSANCE DESCRIPTION

Architectural Style/Derivative: Vernacular Victorian (Shingle Style)

# of Stories: 2.0 # of Bays Wide: 0 # of Bays Deep: 0  
 Arch Config: Geo Config:  
 Footprint:

Component	#	Form/Treatment	Material	Matr'l Treatment
Chimneys		Interior	Stone	
Dormers		gabled		
Foundation			Masonry	
Roof				
Windows		various	Wood	

### Brief Architectural Description of Primary Resource:

This is a Shingle Style House, despite the lack of shingled walls except in porch posts and railings, several of which have now been enclosed with shingled walls. Its horizontal lines, stone walls, Queen Anne massing, broad expanses of roof, circular tower, and small-paned windows are all typical of the Shingle Style popular in the 1880s and 1890s.

The two-storey house is built of random fieldstone with a combination of moderately pitched gable and hipped roofs, probably originally covered with wooden shingles, with projecting eaves and verges and exposed rafter ends. Wings project from the three sides of the central block, and its facade is covered by a low porte cochere with a small balcony above it and a touch of stickwork in the broad front gable. The entrance door is broad and fortress-like with multi-pane glazing and iron strap hinges. A three-storey circular stone tower is set into the corner beside the entrance. Its third level, reached by a very steep winding stairway, is a gazebo with shingled railing, stick-style posts and braces, and pyramidal roof. The windows represent a variety of styles, shapes and sizes. Many are small-paned,

either the entire window or just the upper sash or the outside edge. Although it has been divided into apartments, the original plan is still discernible, and much original fabric remains. There are five fireplaces, some very ornate with columns or pilasters and decorated frieze, each one different. The large sunken living room in the later west wing has Ionic columns above the steps at each end, and French doors lead onto a shingled porch with a bowed end (now enclosed). The kitchen appears to have been 1/2 stories tall originally, and it was separated from the rest of the house by an open porch.

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

Brief Architectural Description of Secondary Resources:

Potentially Contributes to Historic District:

Potentially Associated with NR Multiple Property:

Architectural and Historical Summary:

#### HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

In 1890, Stephen Price Maury was deeded a tract of 104 acres by his father, Jesse Lewis Maury of Piedmont (ACDB 94-157). He built this house the same year and named it "White Cross". There is a cross of white stones in the side of the tower. Maury built another house nearby and in 1898 sold White Cross with 23 1/2 acres to John Lovell (ACDB 110-230). The two-storey west wing was extended, under Maury's direction, in 1900, according to tax records. The Lovell family changed the name to "Huntley Hall" and owned it for 47 years, except for 1932-1934 when it was owned by Robert S. Osburn (ACDB 217-430, 226-6). Osburn founded the Charlottesville School for Boys which occupied the house for over a decade. It stood vacant for a while after the school closed, and then was sold in 1946 to Mrs. Marion Wise Richardson who converted it into six apartments (City DB 125-77). It was probably at this time that the kitchen was enlarged to a full two storeys and connected to the main house. Biro Realty purchased the house and two acres in 1966 (DB 274-407).  
Additional References: ACDB 250-218; City DB 120-290, 181-432, 183-325.

#### SIGNIFICANCE & RELATION TO EVALUATION CRITERIA

Built around the turn of the century, this unique house is an important and irreplaceable part of the architectural and historical fabric of Charlottesville. White Cross-Huntley Hall is listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Charlottesville Multiple Resource Area. This interesting house has led three lives: first as the home for a member of a prominent Maury family, second as the outstanding Charlottesville School for Boys in the 1930s, and third as an apartment house. Four lives, if one believes the story that it was once used as a brothel. Through it all, the exterior has remained essentially unaltered except for the enlargement of the rear kitchen wing, and the interior has managed to retain much of its original fabric. It has even kept its spacious yard, which is probably the source of its greatest threat at the present time.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

=====

Type of Record	Citation
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City Records  
Charlottesville City Deed Book

County Records  
Albemarle County Deed Books

Interview  
Ormond Dean

Interview  
Martin J. Romanac of Biro Realty

Interview  
Mrs. John Clark

Interview  
Mrs. Fred Tice (Judith Maury Tice)

Interview  
Gordon Granger, IV

Interview  
Mrs. George Maverick

Book  
S. P. Maury, The Tale of a Black Sheep

## PHOTOGRAPHIC/DRAWINGS DOCUMENTATION

### MISSING DATA ELEMENT

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Media	VDHR Neg #	Frames	Date
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B&W 35mm photos	13469	24 - 27	1/ /1994
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CRM MANAGEMENT EVENTS

MISSING DATA ELEMENT

CRM Event	Agency/Organization	Date
Survey	Community Development-Bibb/Huppert	/ /1977
IPS data entry-PAVA (Smead)		





Date JAN 1994 File No. 104-236

Name WHITE-CROSS HUNTLEY HALL

Town CHARLOTTESVILLE

County \_\_\_\_\_

Photographer ANN C. HUPPERT

Contents 4 EXT. VIEWS

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