

LANDMARK



SURVEY

Johnson, Fall 1977

IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 1901 East Market Street
Map and Parcel: 55A-149
Census Tract & Block: 3-101
Present Owner: Hallie Johnson Shisler
Address: 1901 East Market Street
Present Use: Residence, Single-family
Original Owner: William Hunter Meriwether
Original Use: Store (?)

BASE DATA

Historic Name: Pireus Store
Date/Period: 1835-40
Style: No Identifiable Style
Height to Cornice:
Height in Stories: 1, 2
Present Zoning: R-2
Land Area (sq.ft.): 15,825
Assessed Value (land + imp.): 13,000

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Pireus Store is a simple vernacular structure whose appearance has been much reworked during its lifetime. The store is rectangular in form with the narrower, gable-end fronting on East Market Street. Actually two storeys in height, only one storey shows on Market Street because of the sharp ground rise. A finished attic has provided an additional half storey. The facade is two bays in width (door and a window, side hall and one room), and the store is two rooms deep. Construction is brick laid in Flemish bond on the facade (but only partially into the gable) and laid in five-course American bond elsewhere. The roof is gable (with gable-end facade) and has an obviously later central gable on the Riverside Avenue side. Along the sides, the sloped, overhanging eaves nearly obscure a corbelled-brick cornice with mouse-tooth dentils. This detail and the obviously later side gable strongly suggest that the entire roof system is a later addition. The store has two interior, gable-end chimneys of brick that, upon close inspection, appear to have been later additions to the structure. Windows are six-over-six-light, double-hung sash, with two, four-light, casement attic windows flanking each chimney in the gable. Original windows are surrounded by a heavy, three-quarter round molding. A single-storey, Victorian porch covers the Market Street facade.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

In the year 1825, William Hunter Meriwether purchased from Isaac and Molly Miller 148 acres on the Rivanna River that was Molly's share of her father Nicholas Lewis' estate (Co. DB 25-212, DB 26-342). Meriwether was an active entrepreneur and developer and immediately began to improve the area around the confluence of the Rivanna and Moore's Creek as "Pireus" (The "port city" of Charlottesville, just as the original Piraeus was and is the port of Athens, Greece). By 1840, Meriwether had operating mills on the far (east) side of the River, had erected a toll bridge, and was constructing on the near side a flour mill, which was leased and completed as a cotton factory (Co. DB 38-363), the beginnings of the Charlottesville Woolen Mills. The Woolen Mills Store was part of this development, and was most likely built no earlier than 1835 and no later than 1840 (tradition assigns a date before 1825, but tax records dispute this). In 1844 the "store" house was sold to James R. Jones for \$1,200 (Co. DB 42-213) and then after several years of ownership by H.C. Marchant, passed to the Charlottesville Woolen Mills in 1875 (Co. DB 69-587) and was converted to a residence. See also: Co. DB 67-651, DB 93-389, DB 330-230, WB 14-552.

SIGNIFICANCE

This house is closely associated with the development of the Charlottesville Woolen Mills, the most important industry in Charlottesville in the late 1800's. It is one of two houses remaining from the "Pireus" phase of industrial development along the Rivanna River, which began with the construction of a bridge across the Rivanna by William H. Meriwether in 1826. The store was most likely built to serve workers at the "Charlottesville Factory" a forerunner to the textile plant that eventually became the Woolen Mills. At its peak, the Woolen Mills area was a self contained community with this store, a church (nomination #21), a school and houses for the workers (nomination #56 is an example of such housing)

CONDITIONS

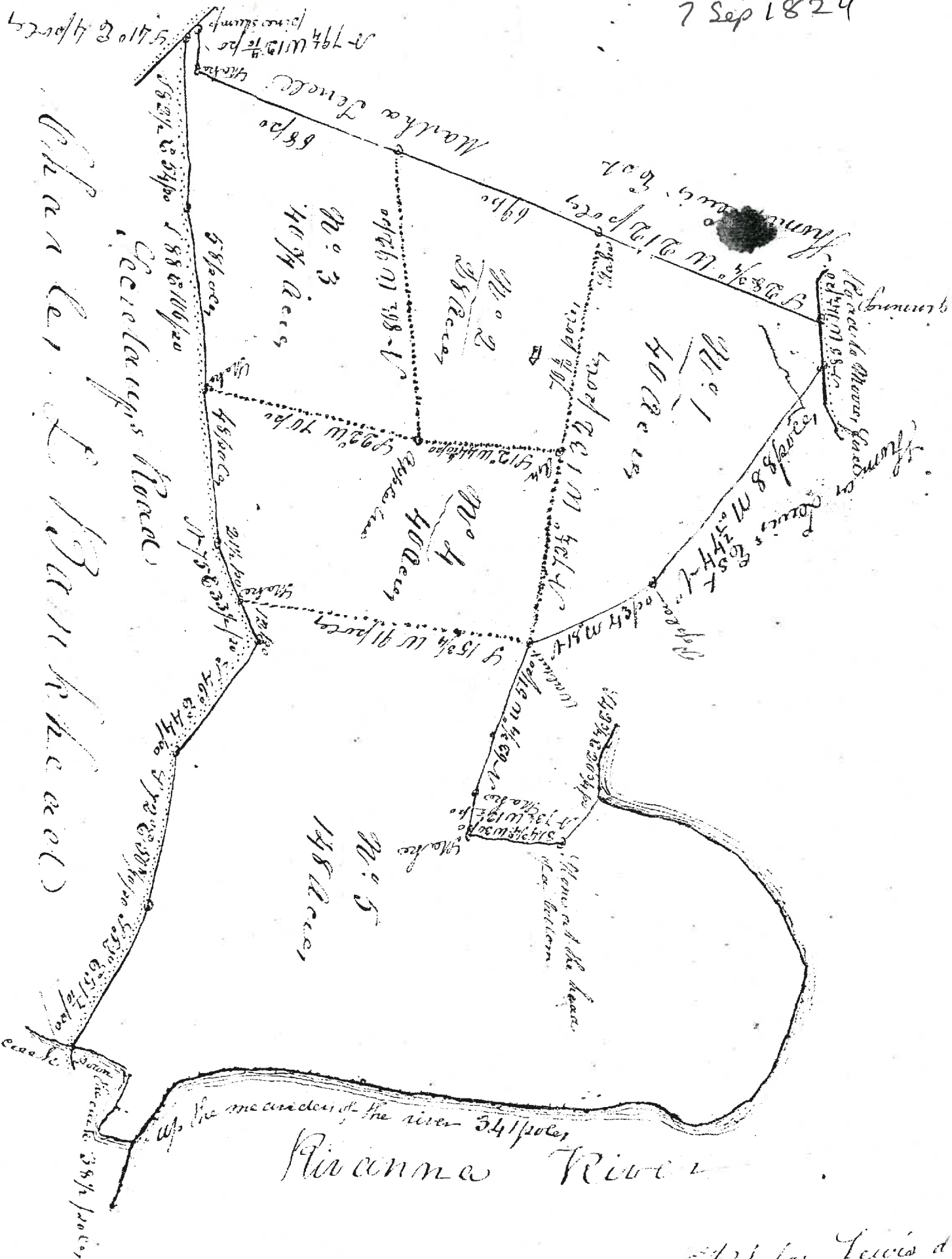
Good

SOURCES

City and County Records
Hallie Johnson Shisler

WB7-426

7 Sep 1824



Charles Ferrrell's Road

Rivanna River

This is a Plat of Land belonging to the Estate of Nicholas Lewis & in the County of Albemarle on the west side of the Rivanna River adjacent to Charles Ferrrell's Thomas Lewis Estate & Martha Ferrrell's. A Branch of the Rivanna River is shown at the bottom.

Dec. 15th 1824





Board of Architectural Review (BAR) Certificate of Appropriateness

Please Return To: City of Charlottesville
Department of Neighborhood Development Services
P.O. Box 911, City Hall
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902
Telephone (434) 970-3130

Please submit ten (10) hard copies and one (1) digital copy of application form and all attachments.
Please include application fee as follows: New construction project \$375; Demolition of a contributing structure \$375;
Appeal of BAR decision \$125; Additions and other projects requiring BAR approval \$125; Administrative approval \$100.
Make checks payable to the City of Charlottesville.
The BAR meets the third Tuesday of the month.
Deadline for submittals is Tuesday 3 weeks prior to next BAR meeting by 3:30 p.m.

Owner Name	<u>J.D. Fink</u>	Applicant Name	<u>J.D. Fink</u>
Project Name/Description	<u>1901 E. MARKET ST / ADDITION</u>	Parcel Number	<u>55A199000 / 55A10000</u>
Project Property Address	<u>1901 E. MARKET ST, 22902</u>		

Applicant Information

Address: 1901 E. MARKET ST.
Email: JDFINK@JVI.COM
Phone: (W) _____ (C) 434-825-6777

Property Owner Information (if not applicant)

Address: _____
Email: _____
Phone: (W) _____ (C) _____

Do you intend to apply for Federal or State Tax Credits for this project? _____

Signature of Applicant

I hereby attest that the information I have provided is, to the best of my knowledge, correct.

Signature: [Signature] Date: 3/3/2022
Print Name: J.D. Fink Date: 3/3/2022

Property Owner Permission (if not applicant)

I have read this application and hereby give my consent to its submission.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Proposed Work (attach separate narrative if necessary): _____

List All Attachments (see reverse side for submittal requirements): _____

For Office Use Only	Approved/Disapproved by: _____
Received by: _____	Date: _____
Fee paid: _____ Cash/Ck. # _____	Conditions of approval: _____
Date Received: _____	_____
<i>Revised 2016</i>	

Pireus Store, ca. 1821

In the late 18th Century, William Hunter Merriwether, nephew to Merriweather Lewis, inherited with his wife 168 acres of bottom land along the Rivanna River. Mr. Merriwether, along with Thomas Jefferson, was a founding member of the Rivanna Company, whose main aims were commercial in nature.

In 1809 The Rivanna Company begun construction on a damn across the Rivanna just above it's confluence with Moores Creek.

Once the damn was completed with its accompanying lock on river left, Bateaus were able to unload their cargo. This area became known as "Pireus", Greek for port, and the dirt trail on River right leading into Charlottesville was renamed Market Street.

Pireus Store was built sometime late in the first quarter of the 19th century. The structure was built with a Tavern on the ground floor, a General store and the 2nd floor, and storage with a tiny living space on the top floor. Historic preservationists have identified building elements such as brick mouse tooth dentil work as historically indicative of that time period.

Pireus Store, remained a tavern and general store into the early 20th century. I purchased this home in 1990 and begun an intensive interior renovation. Early in the process I was visited by a neighbor, Mr. Taylor, who at that point was well into his nineties. He informed me in 1906 he was a delivery boy for the store and occasionally for the tavern as well.

The renovation included a full excavation of the tavern floor, where various pieces of pipes, gaming balls, and other period artifacts were identified, catalogues, and then donated. The structure had a slate roof returned as originally built. We were fortunate that nearly every element original to the interior of the structure has been covered over instead of being removed.

In 2002, I applied for and received permission from the BAR to construct an addition. This was a tricky application because there was an understandable concern to ensure that the new construction respected the original structure. In the end we completed a very respectful and sensitive addition.

That addition though did constrain space on the top floor due to the roof pitch matching the original structure. In our new addition we have designed more living space.

Our current application reflects the needs of our growing family and our desire to create more livable space. We purposely differentiated this design in both form and material pallet. We did not illustrate but plan to have voltaics installed on the southern roof face. Our plan will be to build in maximum energy efficiency while still respecting existing roof peaks. We have very large boxwoods and dogwoods that already visually shield the 1st addition and will also shield a good part of the proposed addition.

We appreciate your attention to this application and please direct any questions you might have to me, Jon Fink, jfink@jvi.com, or to Mr. Andres Pacheco, architect, apachecomail@gmail.com. See you in April.

Thank you very much,



Southwest Face



South Face





West
Face



East
and
North
Face

