

# Architectural And Historic Survey



# 348

## Identification

**STREET ADDRESS:** 206 Fifth Street, NE  
**MAP & PARCEL:** 53-93  
**CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK:** 1-112  
**PRESENT ZONING:** B-3  
**ORIGINAL OWNER:** Dr. J. E. Early  
**ORIGINAL USE:** Law Offices  
**PRESENT USE:** Offices  
**PRESENT OWNER:** Alwood Partnership  
**ADDRESS:** 404 Eighth St., NE  
Charlottesville, VA

**HISTORIC NAME:** J. E. Early Building  
**DATE / PERIOD:** 1903  
**STYLE:** Victorian  
**HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES:** 2 storeys  
**DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA:** 57.73' x 74.18 (4293 sq. ft.)  
**CONDITION:** Good  
**SURVEYOR:** Bibb  
**DATE OF SURVEY:** Fall 1979  
**SOURCES:** City Records  
Edward L. Eichman, Jr.

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This office building is two storeys tall and five bays wide, a wider center bay being flanked by two narrower ones on each side. Construction is of pressed brick laid in rusticated stretcher bond on the facade and painted medium gray with cream trim. The double entrance doors which opened into a small vestibule have been removed, leaving it as an open entry recess. A fanlight within a rectangular transom remains. The entrance is framed by a shouldered architrave supporting an entablature with cushion frieze and a triangular pediment with cartouche. The original windows at the first level were replaced, probably in the late 1920's, with two large display windows. The present fenestration is the result of the 1946 remodeling: A tripartite multi-light, fixed-sash window. Above this there is a storefront cornice. Windows at the second level are double-sash, 1-over-1 light, with concrete sills and jack arches. A wooden parapet entablature with dentil moulding and shaped modillions crowns the facade. Behind it a shed roof covered with tar-&-gravel slopes to the rear, broken by a third storey loft. Brick is laid in 5-course American bond on the rear elevation. It is six bays wide with narrow segmental-arched windows and doors functionally arranged. Windows are double-sash, 2-over-2 light, and are somewhat shorter at the second level. A shed-roofed two-storey gallery with simple balustrade covers the rear elevation, and there is a terraced brick courtyard.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

A small one-storey brick building housing law offices had occupied this site for many years when Dr. J. E. Early purchased it in 1896 and 1898 (City DV 7-387, 9-13). Tax records show that he replaced it with the present building in 1903. Early sold the building in 1927 (DB 55-494), and it was probably soon afterwards that the first level was remodeled for use as a coffee shop with a storefront facade. The building changed hands several times before Irlene M. Wood bought it in 1946 (DB 123-145). She was the owner of the Monticello Grill which occupied the building from the mid-1930's until the early 1960's. It was remodeled c. 1945-46 under the direction of Milton Grigg. The building again experienced several changes in use and ownership before the present owners purchased it in 1977 (DB 389-469). The architectural firm of Grigg Wood Browne Eichman & Dalglish, which now has its offices in the building, has extensively renovated it, added a third storey loft and two-storey rear gallery and courtyard, and painted the exterior. Additional References: City DB 58-92, 94-404, 115-50, 123-144, 263-421, 340-360, 370-109.

**HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION - DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

*Survey*

*And Historic*



*Architectural*

#348



# VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no. 104-72B  
Negative no(s). 5073-11

## SURVEY FORM

Historic name \_\_\_\_\_ Common name GRIGG, WOOD, BROWN, EICHMAN, DALG LIESH; ARCHITECTS  
 County/Town/City ALBEMARLE/CHARLOTTESVILLE  
 Street address or route number 206 N. 5TH ST.

USGS Quad _____	Date or period _____
Original owner _____	Architect/builder/craftsmen _____
Original use _____	
Present owner _____	Source of name _____
Present owner address _____	Source of date _____
	Stories _____
Present use <u>ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE</u>	Foundation and wall const'n _____
Acreage _____	
	Roof type _____

State condition of structure and environs GOOD

State potential threats to structure \_\_\_\_\_  
 Note any archaeological interest \_\_\_\_\_

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

Architectural description (Note significant features of plan, structural system and interior and exterior decoration, taking care to point out aspects not visible or clear from photographs. Explain nature and period of all alterations and additions. List any outbuildings and their approximate ages, cemeteries, etc.)

BRICK (STRETCHER BOND); 2 STORY; FLAT ROOF; 5 BAY.  
COMMERCIAL VERNACULAR WITH 20TH CENTURY COLONIAL  
REVIVAL DETAILS. <sup>CA. 1910</sup> LATE 19TH CENTURY. <sup>PEDIMENTED</sup> RECESSED DOUBLE  
DOOR ENTRY OCCUPIES CENTER BAY. TRIPLE 18 LIGHT WINDOWS  
FLANK 1ST STORY ENTRANCE. Patterned brickwork (each 5<sup>th</sup> course recessed)  
Cornice with modillions and dentils.

Interior inspected? \_\_\_\_\_

Historical significance (Chain of title; individuals, families, events, etc., associated with the property.)

## Renovated Office Retains an Air of the Past

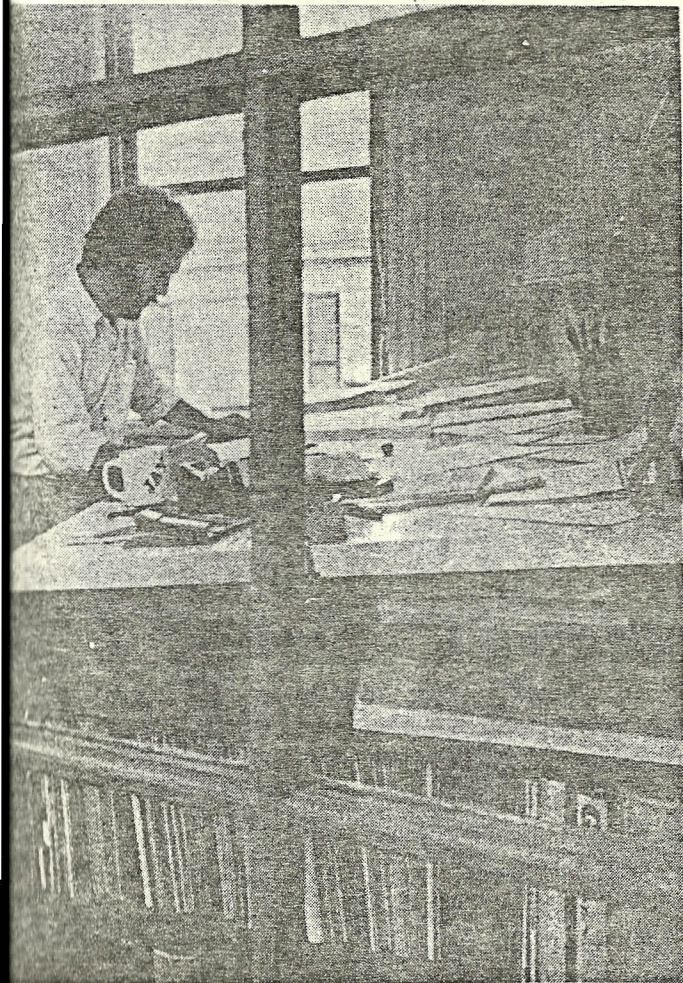
By NELL LEE  
of The Progress Staff

You can't smell the oysters and the beer-steamed shrimp at 206 5th St. N.E. anymore. The odors have long since evaporated. But there is a prevalent air of the past in the structure now occupied by Grigg, Wood, Browne, Eichman and Dalgliesh architectural firm. The brick building was constructed in 1890 and for many years served as a law office. In World War I, the local draft board was located there. However, most long-time Charlottesville residents remember the building as the Monticello Grill, owned and operated by Arlene Wood. Milton Grigg's firm did all of the renovation for the restaurant in 1945. The restaurant was divided into two sections on the first floor. One side contained booths and tables, in the other was a serpentine shaped bar and more tables. Upstairs were two spacious apartments.

In the 60s and 70s the building had more owners, and was at one time a boutique, a museum and a shoe store.

If anyone is suited to converting a rather archaic building into a modern office, it's a firm of architects. The firm frequently restores historic homes, so work on their own office was nothing new. Work was begun on the building (and the two adjoining ones) in 1976. The architects moved in July of 1978.

*Little was done to the*



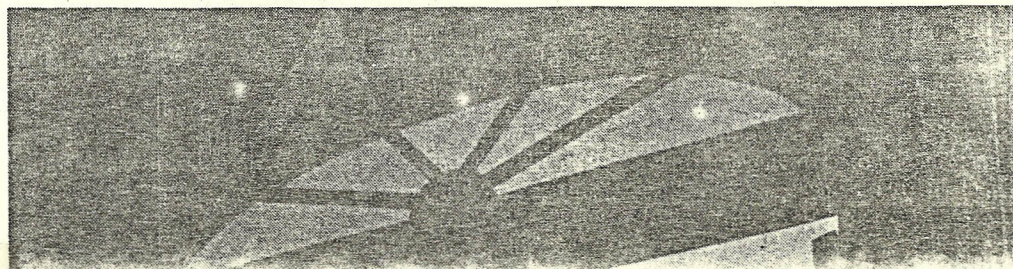
Progress Photo by Jim Carpenter

URES AIR OF SPACIOUSNESS  
Wall Hangings And a Fireplace



Progress Photo by Jim Carpenter

EXTERIOR OF GREG, WOOD, BROWNE EICHMAN AND DALGLIESH  
Old Monticello Grill Retains An Aura of Days Gone By



the brick a muted gray tone, and the pilasters and wood trim in a cream shade. The two large front bay windows had been previously constructed by Grigg during his earlier work on the building. A large 18th century lantern hangs over the doorway. The building has a vestibule with an ornate fan window overhead, but the outer doors have been removed. One of the architects (there are 15 in the firm) salvaged one of the doors as it was being hauled off. It is now the door to his own upstairs office.

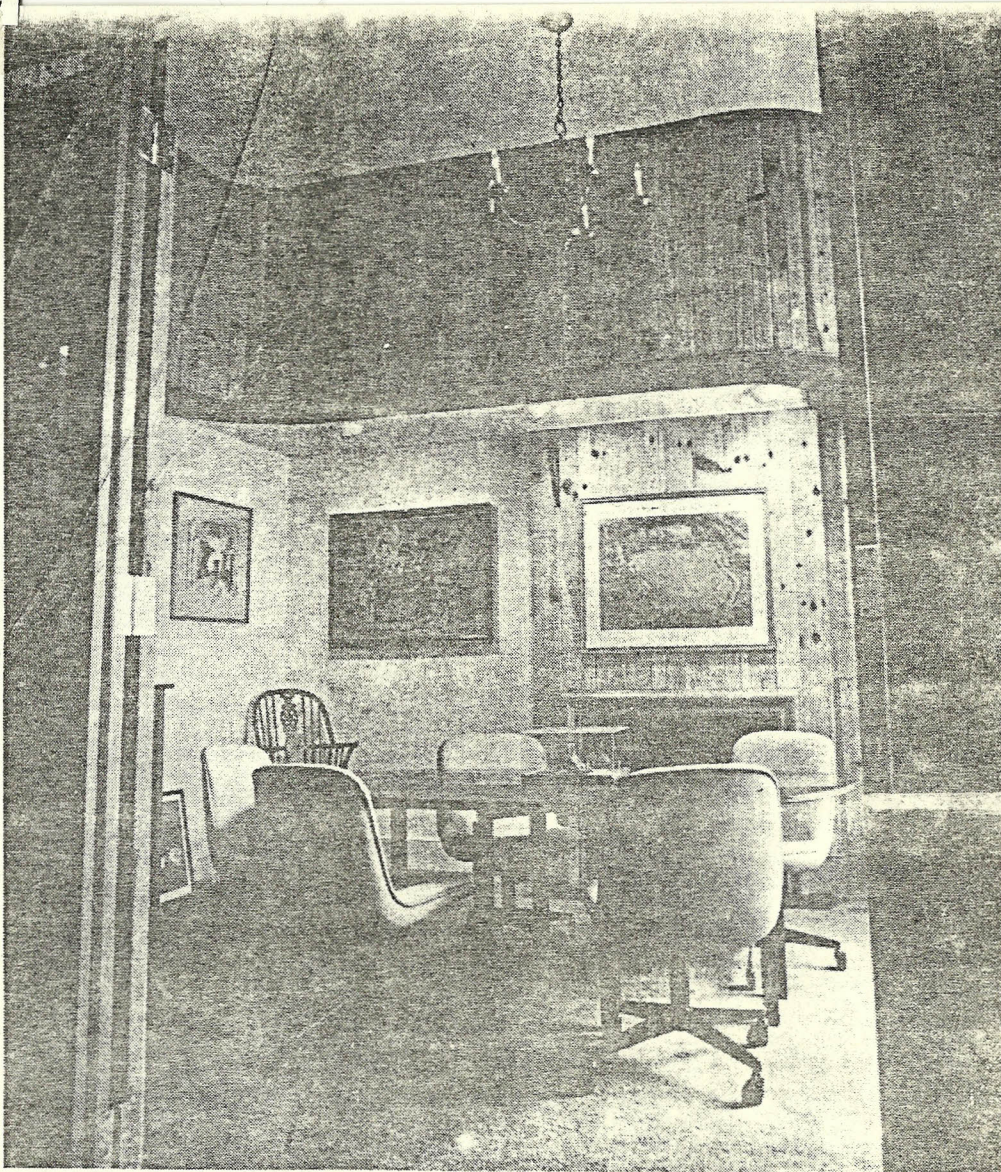
What was once the restaurant side of the building is now the reception area. Visitors sit on an antique deacon's bench beside a fireplace amidst large fig trees. Over the fireplace is an old plaster cast representing the firm's work. Figures are shown drawing, sculpting and constructing.

The original downstairs hardwood floors were so scuffed up by the thousands of customers through the years, that a completely new "old" floor was laid. The hard pine floor is made from beams from a barn well over 100 years old. A slate section was installed at the entrance, a major traffic area.

During its restaurant days, the reception area was one large open room. The architects put in a back partition to make room for an office, and sectioned off a portion of the large room for the office secretarial workers.

What was the bar part of the restaurant is now an elegant conference room, complete with art works of UVa on the wall. Although the bar was removed, the serpentine-shaped overbar remains. The pine walls of both rooms are the original pine panels.

Two back offices occupy what was once the restaurant's kitchen area. All of the offices in the building reflect the individuality of the occupants. One



Progress Photo by Jim Carpenter

### FORMER LOCATION OF GRILL'S BAR IS NOW CONFERENCE ROOM Serpentine Overbar Remains, Along With Prints of University of Virginia

downstairs office contains a lime green ceiling, an accent wall with concentric circles, exposed beams overhead and modern furniture. The neighboring office contains fluted pilasters salvaged from the old service station next to the building, an imposing leather top desk and an antique trunk

and drafting table. The two apartments upstairs were converted into smaller offices. Drafting tables and shelves take up most of the office space, but antiques are prevalent.

One major addition to the building was what is referred to as the penthouse suite.

floor drafting area was constructed, and on a clear day one can view Monticello.

In addition to restoring historical buildings, Grigg, Wood, Browne, Eichman and Dalgliesh design custom residences, churches and commercial structures.

## Architects' Renovated Office Retains an Air of the Past

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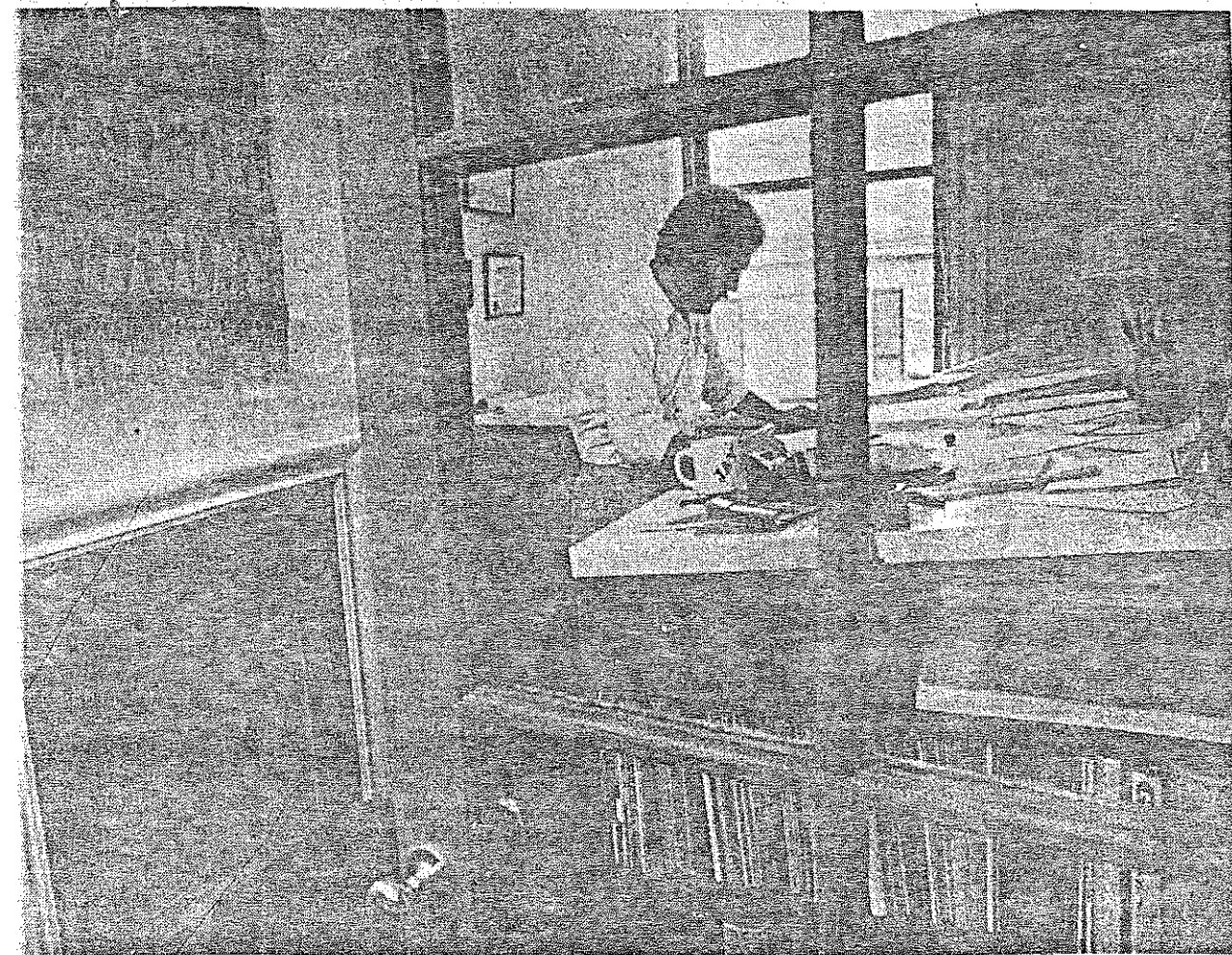
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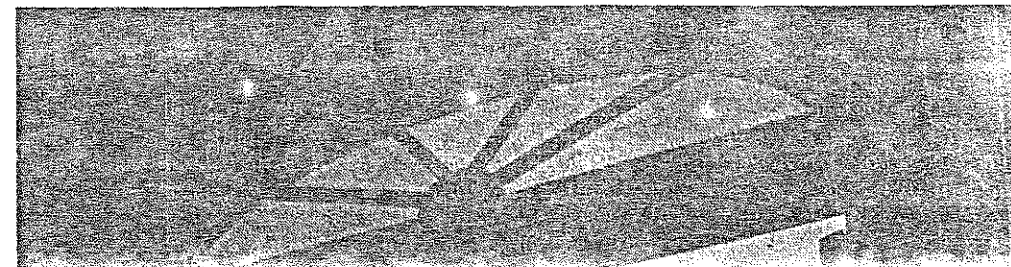
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**EXTERIOR OF GREG, WOOD, BROWNE EICHMAN AND DAUGLIESH**  
Old Monticello Grill Retains An Aura of Days Gone By



Progress Photo by Jim Carpenter

**ARCHITECT'S OFFICE FEATURES AIR OF SPACIOUSNESS**  
Renovated Working Space Has Wall Hangings And a Fireplace



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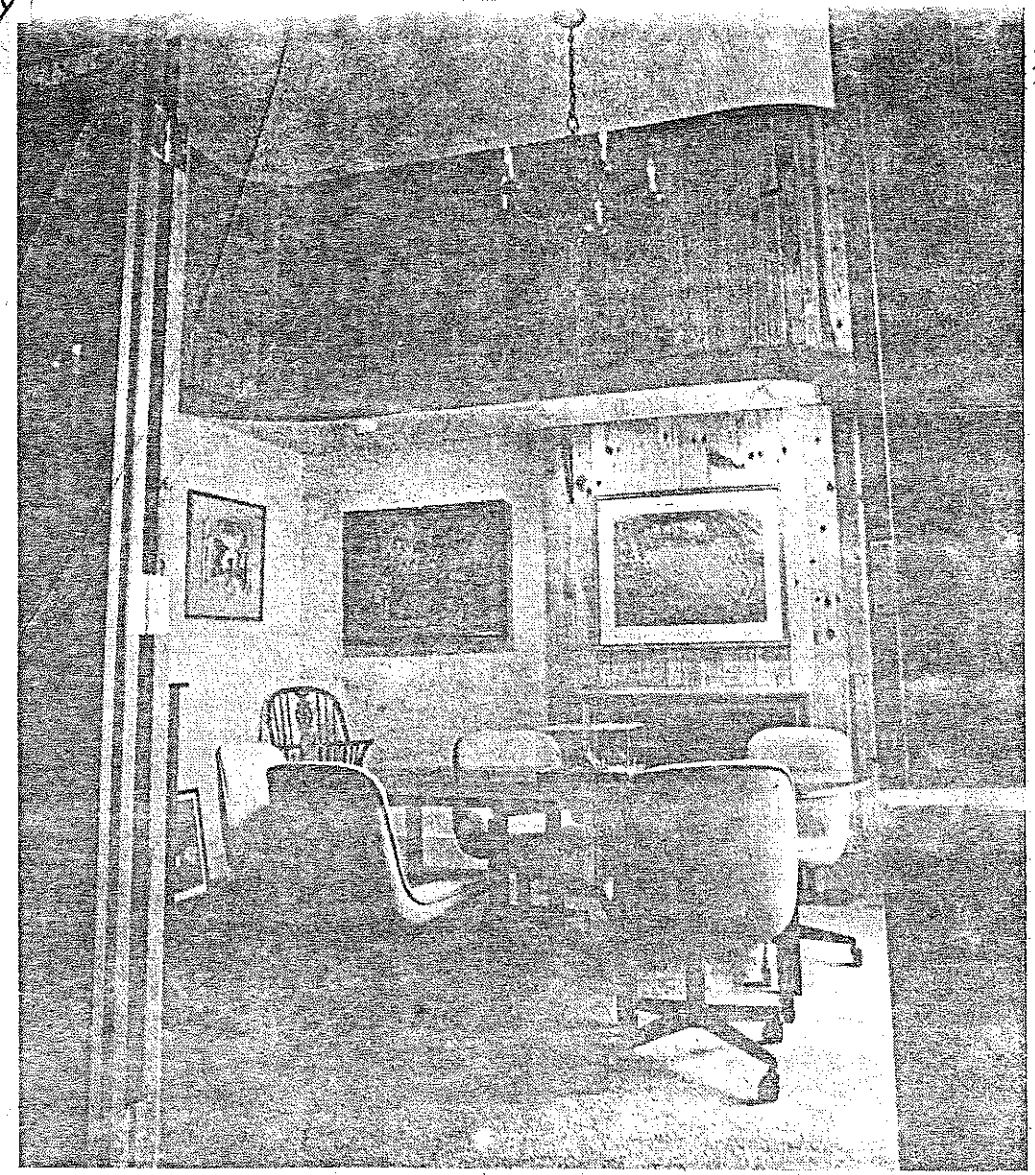
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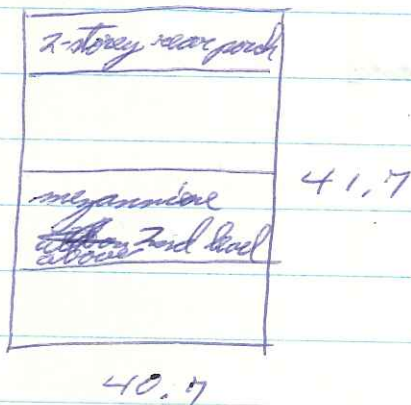
206 5th St NE

389-469 Alwood Partnerships 1977 \$73,000 plat 389-473  
370-109 Va Real Estate Investment Trust 1975- 369-482  
340-360 Monticello Plaza Ltd Partnerships 1972  
263-421 " Hotel Corp. 1965  
123-145 Erlene M. Wood 1946  
C. Edwin Dwing

block  
concrete found, brick walls, built-up flat roof  
old

11/77 - \$50,000 interior remodeled

11/79 canopy removed



⊕ built 1903 by Dr J E Early

Early 1903 - 1927 = 24 yrs



1-story duplex office bldg on 1886, 1891, 1896 Danborns

call Thurs <sup>11:00</sup> late morning or @ 2:00pm

Edw L  
Eichman Jr

hist uses

store display window?

built 1903

changes they made

" for rest.

what call penthouse

- 3rd <sup>storey</sup> fl, penthouse, loft, mezzanine

where name in - Brigg did to cover bad brick facing facade  
- when Brigg did facade for Mont Bull in '50's  
"partial 3rd fl", they call it a loft  
Foss's more like a loft

Foss Bldg - gable roof - ~~was~~ was, low pitched  
porch - none on any

~~the~~ Civic League award last year

206 5th

1938- Mont. Grill (non Delene Wood - l Fontaine del)

1936 " " in 206 only; lawyer 204

1929 Early Bldg —  
Mont Grill n l

1931 lawyers in 204, Coffee Shoppe Inc in 206  
(not Delene Wood)

lawyers 210, cleaner 208

1927 lawyers in 206, apt. above  
no 204

same 1924

206 5th St NE

123-145 <sup>(11)</sup> C. Edwin + Janice K Swing, → Delene M. Wood #14,000  
1/8/1946 206 5th St NE, 41' x 43'  
same as 115-50, 10/11/43, Lucie H. Dickerson, wid → Swing

123-144 <sup>(10)</sup> Samuel B + Lucretia B Woods → C E Edwin Swing  
7/3/1946 deed of correction:  
DB 9-13, 5/31/1898, Woods → J E Early, their  $\frac{1}{2}$  int in property  
actually owned  $\frac{1}{2}$  bldg + lot, not  $\frac{1}{2}$  int  
etc

~~same as~~ property acquired by Samuel B Woods in following 3 deeds:

DB 2-122 for Geo Lewis exec <sup>(1)</sup>

2-198 " C D Fishburne <sup>(2)</sup>

7-107 " " <sup>(3)</sup>

94-404 <sup>⑧</sup> NW & Mary N Pugh → Mrs Daisy H. Dickerson  
 3/17/1938 206 5th St NE, or the Early Bldg  
 same as 58-92

58-92 <sup>⑦</sup> Geo & Ruth D Bilmer → NW Pugh  
 9/6/1927 206 5th St, or the Early Bldg  
 same as 55-494

55-494 <sup>⑥</sup> J E & H P Early → Geo Bilmer  
 2/7/1927 206 5th, or the Early Bldg  
 acquired by 2 deeds

④ 7-387, 11/20/1896, for C D Fishburne

③ 9-13, 5/31/1898, for Samuel B. Woods

"... ~~The Early Bldg, created prior to 1905~~

"... incl not only land in these 2 deeds, but back to 43'  
 "which is covered by The Early Bldg created prior  
 to 1905, of same size as at present", land to 43'  
 "having been held cont, each adversely, openly . . .  
 since prior to 1900."

1898	1st Dr J E Early	22	2 side 5th	500 + 1500 = 2000	
"	"	"	"	100 + 300 = 400	
1904, 02, 03	"	"	"	400 + 400 = 800	
1905, 04	"	"	206 "	" + 2600 = 3000	Bldg added

2-story, 5-bay (center one wider - not the windows, but the spaces)

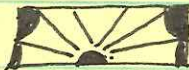
entire facade rusticated pressed brick, stretcher bond, med. gray  
of ocean brick

1st level - sort of frontispiece over entire; ~~simple~~  
 simple storefront cornice across whole, not to ends

old 2-bay display windows

(grouping of 3 multi-light fixed arch windows  
 w/ Roman Doric or Tuscan pilasters at each end  
 supporting entab w/ cushion frieze, all set within  
 beaded flush siding bet this & ent in center bay  
 ent: shouldered architrave w/ arch & cushion frieze,  
 cartouche, &  $\Delta$  pediment  
 fanlight in rect transom  
 double s-l doors over panels recessed behind this

planned by  
 multi-light by  
 windows



2nd level - 1/1, some sill, jack arch

heavy projecting wooden <sup>entab</sup> ~~cornice~~ w/ dentil moulding  
~~below frieze~~ (or on arch), shaped modillions (or brackets),  
 no steps, frieze & arch not to ends

shed roof to rear

rear: seq-arched <sup>3/2</sup> windows & doors, narrow, shorter 2nd level,  
 functionally arranged

2-story gallery or veranda covers rear; 5-bay, shed roof,  
 cham. sq. posts, simple balustrade, ext stair within