

Architectural And Historic Survey

Identification

STREET ADDRESS: 327 Sixth Street, SW
 MAP & PARCEL: 29-188
 CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK: 5.01 - 110
 PRESENT ZONING: R-2
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Benjamin E. Tonsler
 ORIGINAL USE: Residence
 PRESENT USE: Residence
 PRESENT OWNER: Mabel T. Sampson
 ADDRESS: 327 Sixth Street, SW
 Charlottesville, Virginia

HISTORIC NAME: Benjamin Tonsler House
 DATE / PERIOD: 1875-79
 STYLE: No Identifiable Style
 HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 2 Storeys
 DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 65' x 93' (6045 sq. ft.)
 CONDITION: Poor
 SURVEYOR: Bibb
 DATE OF SURVEY: Fall 1980
 SOURCES: City/County Records
 Mrs. Harry E. Byers (Fannie Sampson Byers)
 Moore, Albemarle: Jefferson's County

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This is an interesting adaptation of elements of the Italianate and Second Empire styles to a very modest house. The assymetrical massing and corner tower are in the style of the Italian villa, while the tower's Mansard roof is Second Empire, and the steep gable roof of the main block suggests the Gothic Revival style. Basically, it is a two-storey house with a rear wing and a tower projecting from one corner of the facade. It is set on a low foundation. The walls are stuccoed, but probably were originally covered with some kind of wooden siding. The central block is two storeys tall, three bays wide, and single pile. It has a high-pitched gable roof covered with standing-seam metal with boxed cornice and intricate scroll brackets at the peaks of the gables. Gable-roofed wall dormers, with the same brackets in the gables, are located just south of center on the front and rear elevations. A small one-storey veranda covers the center bay of the facade. It has a steep bellcast truncated hip roof covered with standing-seam metal with boxed cornice, a plain frieze, and turned posts. The balustrade has been lost. The four-paneled entrance door in the center bay has a two-light rectangular transom. Windows in the main block and rear wing are double-sash with plain surrounds, slightly shorter at the second level. They are 6-over-2 light on the facade, 6-over-9 light on the south end, and 6-over-6 light on the north end and in the rear wing. There is a pair of full-sized double-sash 4-over-4 light windows in the dormer on the facade; the rear dormer is narrower and contains only one window. There is a central chimney corbelled out over the roof and smaller chimneys in the wing and at the rear of the tower. All three are covered with stucco or concrete. The rear wing is one bay wide and located somewhat north of center. It is shorter than the central block, but it has lower ceilings so that the cornice is above the second storey windows. A one-storey back porch along the south side of the wing has been enclosed and stuccoed. The tower projects from the northeast front corner of the central block. It is a full two storeys tall, with its cornice about the height of the ridge of the main roof. Its Mansard roof is covered with metal plates. Windows are narrow paired 1-over-1 light at both levels of the tower.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

Benjamin E. Tonsler was Principal of Jefferson School, the second black public school in Charlottesville, from its opening in 1895 until his death in 1917. Tonsler Park at Cherry Avenue and Fifth Street, SW, was named in his honor. Tonsler purchased this lot in 1876 (ACDB 73-293) and, according to tax records, built this house before 1880. His daughter, Mabel T. Sampson, bought the house from the other heirs in 1940 (City DB 107-382). Mrs. Sampson still owns the house and lived there until a few years ago.

SIGNIFICANCE

Benjamin E. Tonsler, who lived in this for house for 38 years, is remembered as one of Charlottesville's earliest and best known black educators. Tonsler was principal of Jefferson School from 1895 until his death in 1917. A graduate of Hampton Institute, Benjamin Tonsler was a friend of Booker T. Washington. More than 1,000 people attended a memorial service for him after his death. Tonsler Park, one block from the house, is named for him.

This house is an interesting vernacular combination of the elements of Italianate and Second Empire styles.

29-188 ✓

65' x 93'

327 6th SW

R-2

Mabel Sampson ^{ramp} 1968 plat 304-157 - ³⁰⁴⁻¹⁵⁶ redivided *

107-382

" " 1942

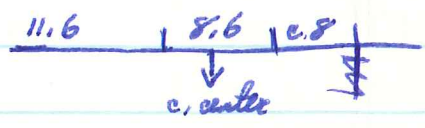
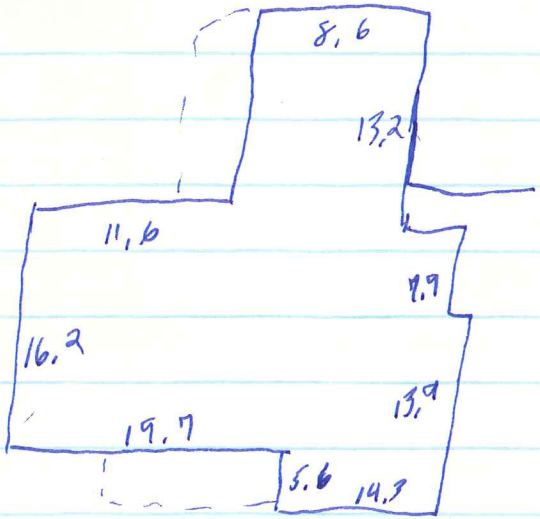
Ben E Tonder

* 333 6th to Harry E. & Fannie S. Byers

2-storey, wood & stucco walls, metal gable & hipped roof
stoves

8 rooms

cheap construction



$$\begin{array}{r}
 16.2 \quad 7.9 \\
 \underline{5.6} \quad \underline{14.3} \\
 21.8 \approx 22.2
 \end{array}$$

.4' diff

$$\begin{array}{r}
 19.7 \quad 11.6 \\
 \underline{14.3} \quad \underline{8.6} \\
 34.0 \quad 20.2
 \end{array}$$



Mrs Sampson &/or Mrs Byers

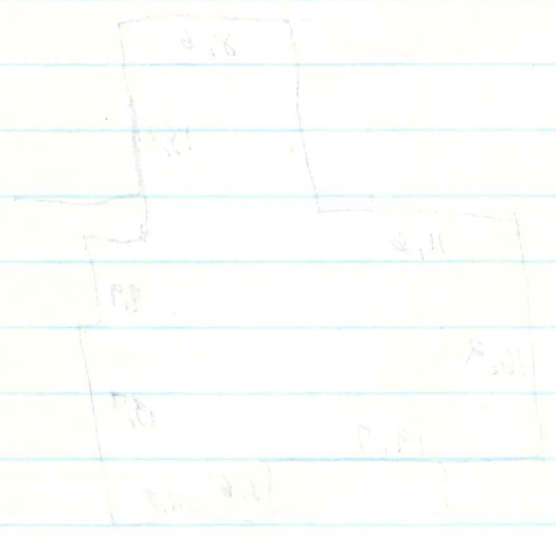
6-6939

knows of no address
very poor cond., fam trying do something
Come before 4pm

Mrs Sampson is nearly 70, the next youngest & only surviving child.
principal of Jefferson

Bicen Prog: Jefferson built 1894, improved 1924

Moore: Tomler - prin. Jeff 1895-1918
Jeff enlarged & h.s added 1926; 8 grades before



93
+65
465
558
6045

327 6th SW

107-382

Basil Broadus Tonsler (s), Jolliffe T & T L Curtis, Emma T &

10/1/1940

Cornelius Harris, Gildersleeve & Fannie Tondor, Emma T
Stratton (wid), Hortense T & A & B Macklin, Thelma T
& Highland Moore, & Emma Tonsler (wid)

→ Mabel T. Sampson

Lot 16, 1/4 acre, ~~on~~ on 6th St SW see plat ACDB 70-258

except 35' strip x 120' → Compton Tonsler 1908 (27-252)

part of ACDB 73-393

Benj E. Tonsler dec. intestate 3/6/17

his wife Fannie Tonsler dec 6/8/37

Chn: Basil

Jolliffe

Mabel

Emma

Gildersleeve

Compton - dec 2/8/39 leaving wid Emma

& Chn Emma

Hortense

Thelma

ACDB 73-393

293

John N & Mary E Fry → Benj. E. Tonsler

\$150.00

3/15/1876

Lot 16, 1/4 acre, fronting ~~east~~ east & adj Lots 11, 17, & 21

part of land purchased by Fry & John T Barshalek for
the Rev James Fife ~~site~~ south of Delvan property

Tax

1889 4th Benj E Tensler Fry Rd (100) + 200 = 300

1913 4th N " " 327 6th 300 + 500 = 800

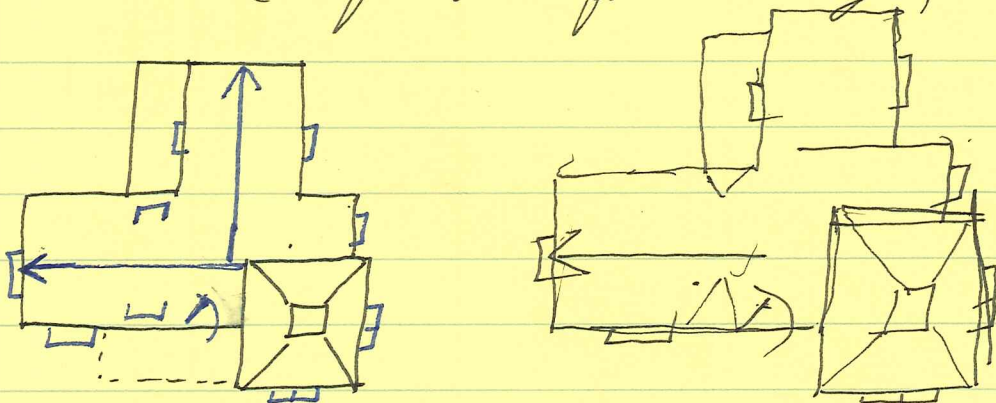
1879
 1880, 81, 83, 84 " " $\frac{1}{4}$ ac, $\frac{1}{4}$ m S (50) + 0 = 50
~~1884~~ " + 150 = 200 \$150 added for imp'te
 1885 " + 250 = 300

327 6th

(circled signature)

1 1/2 2-story, 2-bay, irreg plan
med green stucco, dk green trim
low found.


med- high-pitched gable roof, silver 55m, boxed cornice,
intricate scroll bracket at peak of gable
gable-roofed wall dormer ~ center facade, bracket, ^{full depth} ~~or 7/4~~
^{smaller on rear of tower}
mansard-roofed tower full 2-story, shingled ^{tin}



windows 6/8 & 6/2, pl surrounds, sl shorter 2nd
tower: pr narrow 1/1 each level facade & N side

central chim, stuccoed, 1 1/2 x 2 sm

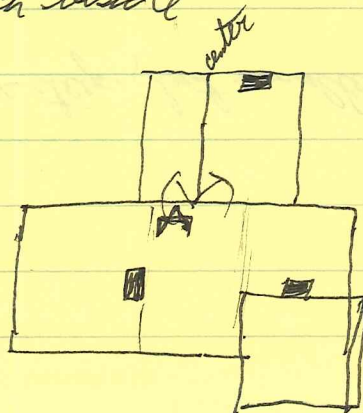
veranda - 1.5, cent bay, 5 hys ^{sheet tin} 55m, boxed cornice, pl fringe,
turned posts, no bal now (had one once)

ent door cent bay - rect transom, 4 panel 

steep shed roofed 2-story behind tower, 6/6 wind
- no! its rear slope of main gable roof!

rear wing 6/6; encl 1-5 porch beside
gable?

→



ridge rear wing lower & ~~roof~~ pitch as steep, but smaller wing, &
cornice same ht

ceilings lower in rear wing, so dormers not needed

no windows at rear of wing

tower cornice = ht ridge main section
no 1st storey rear windows on main block

