

LANDMARK



SURVEY

IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 917 Cherry Avenue
Map and Parcel: 30-156
Census Tract & Block: 5-417
Present Owner: Mary L. Patterson
Address: 917 Cherry Avenue
Present Use: Residence
Original Owner: Mary E. Fife (Mrs. W.J. Fife, Sr.)
Original Use: Residence

BASE DATA

Historic Name: Fife-Lupton Cottage
Date/Period: 1891
Style: Victorian Vernacular
Height to Cornice:
Height in Stories: 1
Present Zoning: R-2
Land Area (sq.ft.): 60' x 120' (7,200 sq. ft.)
Assessed Value (land + imp.):

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This is a one-storey, L-shaped cottage with a large rear wing. It is set on a very low foundation, but the slope of the land permits an above-ground basement at the rear of the wing. Originally weatherboarded, the house is now covered with green asbestos shingles. Light green composition shingles have replaced the original wooden shingles covering the steeply-pitched gable roof. It has deeply-projecting eaves and verges, boxed cornice, and a wide cornice board. There is a triangular-headed air vent in each gable. The earlier NW half of the rear wing has a medium-pitched gable roof which was also originally covered with wooden shingles. The later NE section has a shed roof of medium pitch. The original double-sash windows have architrave trim and unusual glazing: four vertical lights in the upper sash and single light in the lower sash. One on the facade has been replaced with a single-light stationary window. Those in the wing are single-light, double-sash, with plain trim. A shed-roofed veranda lines both sides of the ell. It has a boxed cornice, plain frieze, plain square posts with brackets, and a simple balustrade. There are two matching entrance doors, one in each leg of the ell. They have two tall circular-headed lights above two panels, all with moulded rails. A wide rectangular interior chimney is located in the corner of the ell, serving fireplaces with coal grates in all three high-ceilinged rooms in the main section.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

Mary E. Fife, widow of W.J. Fife, purchased Lot 55 West, of Fife's Addition in 1891 (ACDB 96-54). She built this house the same year and lived there until her death in 1899. The gable-roofed kitchen wing may be original, but if not, was added before 1907. Mrs. Fife left the house to her two grandchildren in Texas (ACWB 30-414) who sold it to Henry Lyman in 1912 (ACDB 150-312). He sold it in 1923 to Mrs. Myrtie Lupton (City DB 45-301) who deeded it to the Virginia Baptist Home, Inc., in 1963, after living there for 40 years (DB 243-30). The shed-roofed section of the rear addition was probably built during that time, and the entire house was covered with asbestos shingles in 1956. Robert L. Lamb bought it in 1964 (DB 260-389) and sold it to the present owner in 1972 (DB 337-462).

SIGNIFICANCE

This is an interesting Victorian cottage built by a member of the Fife family on part of the original Oak Lawn estate.

CONDITIONS

Good

SOURCES

City/County Records
Mary L. Patterson
Anne Fruedenberg
Sanborne Insurance Co. Maps, 1907 & 1920



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