

Architectural And Historic Survey



Identification

STREET ADDRESS: 701 Elm Street	HISTORIC NAME: Updike Brick Yard Commissary
MAP & PARCEL: 29-232.2	DATE / PERIOD: c. 1915, c. late 1920's
CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK:	STYLE: Vernacular
PRESENT ZONING: R-3	HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 1 storey
ORIGINAL OWNER: Eston Updike	DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 41.1' x 179.6' (7382 sq. ft.)
ORIGINAL USE: Commissary	CONDITION: Fair
PRESENT USE: Rental Property (Residence)	SURVEYOR: Bibb
PRESENT OWNER: Otis L. Lee	DATE OF SURVEY: Spring 1985
ADDRESS: Route 10, Box 1876	SOURCES: City/County Records Waddell Updike
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901	Carl L. Updike
	Sanborn Map Co. - 1920, 1929-57, 1969

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This single-storey building was originally used as a company store and was probably converted to residential use in the 1920's. It is two bays wide and double pile, the rear portion showing evidence of having been built at a different time. It is set on a low foundation, and wall construction is of brick laid in 6-course American bond. A semi-octagonal projecting bay dominate the facade. Windows throughout the building are segmental-arched, double-sash, 6-over-6 light, with moulded trim. The 6-paneled door in the narrow eastern bay of the facade is a replacement. The building has a medium-pitched hip roof covered with composition shingles. It has projecting eaves, and it appears that exposed rafter ends have been boxed in. The roof extends over a veranda on the facade. It now has a plain frieze, square piers, and a concrete floor, but one bracket has survived. The small interior chimney now has a cinderblock stack.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

The Updike Brick Yard was a family business founded in 1889 by Robert L. Updike. In 1904, Updike contracted to purchase a 12-acre tract between 5th and 7½ Streets, S.W. About 1901, a younger brother, Eston Updike, purchased the brick yard property (City DB 20-341, 23-442, 46-221) and became a manager of the business, which was then moved from the 5th Street side of the tract to the area at the end of Elm Street. The firm manufactured and laid the brick in many local buildings, including the First Baptist Church on Jefferson Street. One of these was the commissary. The Updike Brick Yard minted its own copper scrip, which was accepted by four other businesses in the City as well. The Updike family sold the brick yard to the Monticello Brick Corporation in 1925 (DB 50-226), and it continued in operation until the early 1940's. The Updikes retained the portion of the brickyard property on which the commissary and several brick houses stood. They converted the commissary into a residence and used all the buildings as rental property. The trustee of the W. D. Haden estate bought the old commissary in 1955 from Mrs. Eston Updike's estate (DB 183-422) and sold it to Otis L. Lee in 1970 (DB 322-57). The building deteriorated during the 1970's, but has now been rehabilitated and is occupied again. Three other houses on the brickyard property - one on Elm Street across the commissary and two some distance to the south and overlooking the brick yard - were demolished c. 1970-71.

Additional References: City DB 46-223, 126-391, City WB 7-315

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