

Architectural And Historic Survey



Identification

STREET ADDRESS: 120 E. Main Street	122 E. Main St.	HISTORIC NAME: Sterling-Hawkins Building
MAP & PARCEL: 28-26	28-27	DATE / PERIOD: 1897
CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK 1-122	1-122	STYLE: Victorian
PRESENT ZONING: B-4	B-4	HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 2 storeys
ORIGINAL OWNER: Sallie W. Sterling	Sallie W. Sterling	DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 120 - 26.62' x 115' (3062 sq. ft.)
ORIGINAL USE:	Grocery Store?	CONDITION: Good
PRESENT USE: Drug Store	Jewelry Store	SURVEYOR: Bibb
PRESENT OWNER: P & L Properties	Lucia A. Adair, et al	DATE OF SURVEY: Spring 1979
ADDRESS: c/o Page Foster	c/o VNB	SOURCES: City/County Records
100 E. Main Street	300 E. Main Street	Page Foster
Char'ville, Virginia	Char'ville, Virginia	Mrs. Hugh M. Hawkins
		Alexander, <u>Recollections of Early Charlottesville</u>

Sanborn Map Co. - 1896, 1907, 1920, 1969
The Daily Progress, 1906 special edition.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Half of the arcaded facade of this handsome building has been covered with a metal false front. The entire building is two storeys tall and six bays wide, the eastern three bays remaining uncovered. Construction is of pressed brick laid in stretcher bond on the facade and ordinary brick laid in 5-course American bond elsewhere. A metal false front covers the entire western half of the facade (120 E. Main) between the cornice and the modern glass storefront. The eastern half (122 E. Main) is painted white. The original storefront cornice, with cornice stops and dentil moulding, remains above a new Colonial Revival storefront with high display windows and a recessed entrance loggia with square pillars at each side supporting an entablature. At the second storey level, the facade is arcaded between piers of rusticated brick. The tall windows are covered by louvered shutters. Round arches of moulded brick spring from bands of egg-and-dart moulding at the tops of the piers. A projecting metal cornice stretches across the entire facade below a plain parapet. It has a raised band of egg-and-dart moulding below a narrow recessed frieze with small, closely spaced brackets. Behind the parapet, a shed roof covered with tar-and-gravel slopes to the rear. One bay of the storefront is repeated on the Second Street elevation, but the treatment of the upper part of the facade is not. On the rest of the side elevation, three widely spaced half-round windows at the first level and three segmental-arched windows at the second level have been filled in with brick. The wall is painted red and still shows traces of painted advertisements for Pence & Sterling Drug Company. A small storefront entrance gives access to a shop in the basement. An addition covers the rear elevation of 120 E. Main; 122 E. Main is three bays wide with segmental-arched 6-over-6 light windows.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

Alexander wrote that part of the 2-storey brick and frame building that formerly stood on this site was "one of the original houses," built long before 1828. Jesse W. Jones bought it in 1843 from the estate of David Isaacs and sold it the next year to his brother Robert S. Jones, who made numerous additions to it (ACDB 41-238, 42-253). The old building was finally replaced with the present structure in 1897 by Sallie W. Sterling (Mrs. Charles H. Sterling), who had apparently inherited the property from her father Robert S. Jones. The eastern half (122 E. Main Street) is still owned by the Sterling family (City WB 4-460, 9-339). It housed a grocery store, T. J. Wills & Co., until c. 1912; then Pence & Sterling Drug Co. occupied the building for about 30 years, until the mid-1940's; Glassner Jewelers has occupied it since the mid-1950's. Hawkins Brothers & Co. bought the western half of the building (120 E. Main Street) in 1909 (City DB 20-268) and conducted one of the city's leading dry goods stores there for more than half a century. H. M. Gleason, Oscar E. Hawkins, and Hugh R. Hawkins were the original partners in the firm, founded in 1896. Clarence L. Hawkins joined when Gleason died in 1927 (DB 80-489). The partnership was dissolved in 1941 and reorganized by Hugh R., May G., and Hugh M. Hawkins. This half of the building was extended to the rear c. 1916 and connected to another building. Miles Shoe Store remodeled the building and put up the metal facade in 1961, several years after Hawkins closed, and occupied the store room for about a decade. GBP Inc. purchased the building in 1962 and sold it to the present owners in 1975 (DB 230-91, 363-256). Additional References: City DB 9-88, 25-479, 28-247, 80-489; City WB 8-22.