

LANDMARK



Thomson / Fall, 1977

SURVEY

IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 105 & 107 West Main Street
 Map and Parcel: 33-256, 33-257
 Census Tract & Block: 1-312
 Present Owner: Pappas Y Makris/Rausch-Stine Real Estate
 Address: 107 W. Market St.
 Present Use: Bar and Retail Store
 Original Owner: Letterman Company
 Original Use: Department Store

BASE DATA

Historic Name: Letterman Building
 Date/Period: 1899, 1911
 Style: Victorian
 Height to Cornice:
 Height in Stories: 3
 Present Zoning: M-1
 Land Area (sq.ft.): 6045
 Assessed Value (land + imp.): 105,100

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Letterman Company building is of no identifiable style, but rather a good example of late Victorian eclecticism. Above the periodically altered ground-floor display windows of the two businesses in the separate halves, the building presents a four-bay, two-storey facade: two arched central bays are flanked by projecting pavillions. Construction is of grey, pressed brick (painted red on the No. 107 side). Three projecting courses alternating with two inset create the appearance of rusticated banding across the facade. In the flanking pavillions, a single, one-over-one-light sash window with rectangular transom light is located at the second floor, and a square single-pane half-window lights a low third-storey. Both second and third floor windows are covered with large, rusticated brick jack arches above granite lintels. Central bays are formed by a large, shallow bay window which reaches to the third floor and which then continues above the third floor level as a semi-circular thermal window. A brick surround borders the window, inset below an arch of molded brick supported on pilasters. Pilasters are of rusticated brick with a short fluted section capped by a pseudo-classical capital at the top. A heavy, ornate, classical style cornice with shaped modillions crowns the facade on a parapet wall. A shed roof of standing-seam tin drains gently to the First Street side. With the exception of the rebuilt corner section (about 25 feet square) the building extends back along First Street as a two storey structure. Before alterations in 1911, the Letterman building extended a full six bays - four central arches flanked by the corner pavillions.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

When the Letterman Company formed in January 1899, S. Letterman sold to the company the lot he owned on the north-west corner of Main and First Streets (City DB 9-222). Simultaneously, the Letterman Co. deeded the property in trust to John M. White as security for a total of \$25,000 in bonds (DB 9-224, DB 9-232) probably at least partially a construction loan. Tax records of 1900 note a "building added". The building sold in May 1911 at auction for debts due under the above deeds of trust, and Isaac Hutzler was high bidder (DB 22-269). Hutzler made substantial changes, removing two of the four central, arcaded bays and moving the eastern (corner) pavillion over in their place. The corner lot (#101, 27' 10" width) was then sold to the Jefferson National Bank (DB 22-311), who built a new facade but left the rear intact. The remainder of the Letterman Building was divided in two and sold separately in 1913 and 1914 to W. T. Walp (#105, DB 25-367) and to T.C. Conlon (#107, DB 26-432). Walp operated a department store at #105 until 1926, when he rented, and eventually sold in 1945 (DB 122-402) to William Pappas, who opened the "New York Billiard Parlor" now more commonly known as "The Brass Rail". Gus Pappas now owns and operates his father's business at #105, while the most recent tenant of #107 is "Joe The Motorists' Friend".

GRAPHICS

CONDITIONS

Fair

SOURCES

City Records



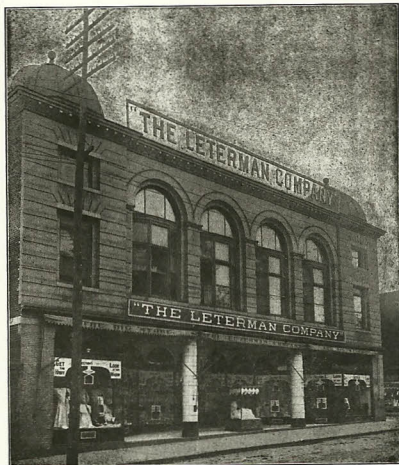
Alderman Library - Manuscripts Room
 Photo files:
 Charlottesville:
 First Folder - Postcards ca. 1900

The Leterman Company.

Department stores have proved a boon to shoppers, as they enable a person to purchase everything in one place and thus save much time and walking. The undisputed leaders in this line here are The Leterman Company, whose mammoth building contains nearly 50,000 square feet of floor space. To enumerate everything carried in this vast establishment would require a volume, for there is nothing for men, women and children's wear that cannot be found in this house. Aside from apparel, they have a complete assortment of carpets, mattings, oilcloths, notions, toilet articles, fancy goods, etc. The building is lighted by gas and electricity, there being 266 incandescents and 25 arc lights. The Lamson cash trolley system is used, and a large force of courteous and competent clerks are employed. The business was established in 1852 by Mr. Simon Leterman, father of the present proprietors. In 1899 the company was incorporated. The officers are: Phillip Leterman, president; J. J. Leterman, vice-president and treasurer, and B. W. Leterman, secretary, all of whom are natives of Charlottesville.



The Leterman Company's Big Department Store.



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