

## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1111 W. Main- 1824-1930

Significant Dates

1824

1113 W. Main and  
kitchen- 1839 1930's

1839

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

1111 W. Main- James Dinsmore (?)

Significant Person

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

### Summary Statement of Significance

The houses at 1111 and 1113 West Main Street are significant and well-preserved examples of the Federal style and are two of only a handful of buildings from this period still standing on Main Street in Charlottesville. The townhouses share many similarities with other brick residences built during this period on Court Square, East Jefferson and Fourth Streets in downtown Charlottesville. The John Vowles House (1111 West Main Street) differs from these in the sophistication of its design, as reflected in the entrance and transom with its delicate tracery, the elaborate carved wood cornice and the large amount of interior Federal style woodwork. The detached kitchen of the adjoining 1839 house is a rare example of an early nineteenth century service building in Charlottesville.

The John Vowles House stands on property sold in 1823 by James Dinsmore, the Scottish carpenter brought by Thomas Jefferson to Virginia to assist in the construction of the Rotunda and academic buildings at the University of Virginia. The similarity between many of the architectural features and woodwork of this house and those seen at his other documented commissions is strong evidence that Dinsmore was responsible for the construction of Vowles' house. Dinsmore, who practiced in Charlottesville until his death, exercised a strong influence on the quality and style of architecture in the city before the Civil War.

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce: office

Domestic: single dwelling

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic: Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls brick

roof slate

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The John Vowles House (1111 West Main Street) and the adjoining house at 1113 West Main Street are a pair of Federal style two-story, three-bay, gable-roofed town houses located at the northeast corner of Twelfth and West Main Streets in Charlottesville. The John Vowles House, built in 1824, features 6/9 sash windows on the first floor, 6/6 windows on the second story, a door with decorative transom on the south-east corner and an elaborate wood cornice on the front facade. There is an unusual round headed window with double-hung sash and a circular window on the rear facade. The facade of the house at 1113 West Main Street features a brick mousetooth cornice and a rare example of a triple-hung sash window above the door. The interior floor plan of the John Vowles house consists of the typical Federal period side-passage, double-parlor arrangement, with the original kitchen and dining room located in the basement. Nearly all of the interior woodwork is original. The original floor plan of the adjoining house has been altered somewhat and contains less of its original woodwork. To the rear of 1113 West Main is a small one-and-one-half story, L-shaped, gable-roofed brick outbuilding built as a kitchen and added on to in the 1920s.

## RECONNAISSANCE LEVEL SURVEY REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCE  
RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY FORM

DHR Identification Number: 104-0040

*Reviewed by Margaret Peters*

Other DHR Number:

Property Date(s) 1824

## PROPERTY NAMES

Vowles, John, House (1111-13 W. Main St.)

## EXPLANATION

Historic/Location

County/Independent City: Charlottesville

State: Virginia

Magisterial District: N/A

Tax Parcel: 10-55

USGS Quad Map Name: CHARLOTTESVILLE EAST

UTMs of Boundary:

Center UTM:

Restrict location and UTM data? N

## ADDRESSES

Number	Thoroughfare Name	Explanation
1111 -1113	W. Main St.	

Vicinity: Town/Village/Hamlet:

Name of National Register Historic District:

Name of DHR Eligible Historic District:

Name of Local Historic District:

1111-3 West Main Street Minor Design Control District

Physical Character of General Surroundings: City

Site Description/Notable Landscape Features:

House marks the beginning of a section of West Main Street that is more residential in character than surrounding areas. In front of the house are modern raised planting beds with brick retaining walls, planted with shrubs and small trees. Behind is a small yard with several trees.

Ownership: Private

NR Resource Type: Building

## WUZITS

Seq. #	# of	Wuzit Types	Historic?
1.0	1	Single Dwelling	Historic
2.0	1	Kitchen	Historic

TOTAL: 2

Historic: 2  
Non-Historic: 0

#### PRIMARY RESOURCE EXTERIOR COMPONENT DESCRIPTION

Component	#	Comp Type/Form	Material	Material Treatment
Structural System	0	Masonry	Brick	Stretcher Bond
Roof	0	Gable: side	Asphalt	Shingle
Chimney	3	Interior end	Brick	Stretcher Bond
Dormer	3	Hipped and gabled	Wood	
Window(s)	0	Sash, double-hung	Wood	6/6

#### INDIVIDUAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

SEQUENCE NUMBER: 1.0  
Primary Resource? Yes  
Estimated Date of Construction: 1824  
Source of Date: VDHR Survey File  
Architectural Style: Federal

WUZIT: Single Dwelling

#### Description:

The house was constructed in two phases. The oldest section--the east side, 1111 W. Main--was built in 1824 and has a three-bay front elevation indicative of a side-passage plan within. Other exterior features of this section include an enriched cornice with modillions interspersed with rosettes, a front entry with an unusual decorative transom and a six-panel door, and simple door and window lintels. The west section (1113 W. Main) was built in 1839 and shares with the older section a three-bay facade with an off-center front entry. This section features a west gable parapet incorporating a chimney (probably originally two chimneys), a houndstooth cornice, a front entry with lenticular motifs in the transom, and 6/6/6 triple-hung windows. Both sections have louvered wooden shutters and basement levels.

Condition: Good

Threats to Resource: None Known

#### Additions/Alterations Description:

Two front steps of brick with metal railings appear to be modern (mid-20th-c.). To the rear is a tow-story frame wing.

Number of Stories: 2.0

Interior Plan Type:

Accessed?

Interior Description:

Relationship of Secondary Resources to Property:

DHR Historic Context: Architecture/Community Planning

#### Significance Statement:

The John Vowles House (1824; 1839), listed in the national and state registers and designated a local design control district, is apparently West Main Street's oldest surviving building. The well-preserved house is one of Charlottesville's finest examples of Federal domestic architecture. The house stands on a lot sold by James Dinsmore to John Vowles in 1823, and stylistic

# LANDMARK



# SURVEY

## IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 1111-1113 West Main Street  
 Map and Parcel: 10-55  
 Census Tract & Block: 2-303  
 Present Owner: Bernard Caperton  
 Address: 611 Preston Place  
 Present Use: Antique Shop and Offices  
 Original Owner: John Vowles  
 Original Use: Residences

## BASE DATA

Historic Name: John Vowles House  
 Date/Period: cir. 1823  
 Style: Federal  
 Height to Cornice:  
 Height in Stories: 2 1/2  
 Present Zoning: B-3  
 Land Area (sq.ft.): 54 x 208  
 Assessed Value (land + imp.): 17,500 + 11,130 = 28,630

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

While appearing to be one structure, 1111 & 1113 W. Main were built at different times and have slightly different floor plans. The house to the east (1113) is the older, built around 1823, and is the typical side hall two room deep plan with two interior chimneys in the western, now party, wall. The original mantles in the Georgian-Federal style remain. The stair landing between the first and second floors is lit by a circular headed window, and a round window is between the second and third floors. This is a common Georgian feature, but this example is unique to Charlottesville. The original staircase with its slender newel and square balusters remains as does the entrance transom with a circular motif pattern. The dormer on the rear also appears to be original. 1111 was probably built shortly after 1113. The continuous Flemish bond brickwork of the facade indicates that it is a veneer on the older structure and is intended to unite the separate units. Both houses employ double hung sash windows, although those at 1111 are larger suggesting a later date, and diminish on the second floor. Both have the characteristic wooden lintels and originally shared a common cornice level. The transom at 1113 is the fish eye pattern seen at 224 Court Square and the Carter Gilmer House. However, 1113 is 3 rooms deep with corner fireplaces in the front two rooms and an interior chimney in the rear room. The chimneys are connected by a curtain. 1111 is not as deep as 1113, and the juncture of the two structures verifies that they were built as separate units.

## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

James Dinsmore, the carpenter brought from Philadelphia by Jefferson to work on Monticello and the University, sold John Vowles a half acre lot on the road from the town west to the University in 1823 for \$150. (ACDB 23-342). Vowles probably built his residence (1113 W. Main) shortly thereafter. In 1830 he purchased the half acre lot "adjoining the lot and present residence of said John Vowles" to his east (ACDB 29-86). The adjoining structure was probably built shortly after Vowles completed his residence and was certainly standing when Vowles sold the property to Michael Johnson in 1839. The houses have had many owners in their 150 year history. Bernard Caperton, the present owner, purchased them in 1969. It is interesting that these two structures have always been conveyed as one property.

## GRAPHICS

170 (L)

170 (R)

## CONDITIONS

Average

## SOURCES

City/County Records  
 Velora Thomson

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name John Vowles House  
other names/site number 1111 and 1113 West Main Street

## 2. Location

street & number 1111 and 1113 West Main Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Charlottesville N/A vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Charlottesville code 540 zip code 22901  
(city)

## 3. Classification

## Ownership of Property

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

## Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

## Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>3</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>3</u>	<u>      </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/ANumber of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register N/A

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the  
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Director, VA Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined eligible for the National  
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.  
☐ removed from the National Register.  
☐ other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

# LANDMARK



# SURVEY

2-4  
104-40

## IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 104 12th Street, N.W.  
Map and Parcel: 10-55  
Census Tract & Block: 2-302  
Present Owner: Bernard M. Caperton  
Address: 611 Preston Place  
Present Use: Rental Property (residence)  
Original Owner: John Vowles?  
Original Use: probably kitchen & servants quarters

## BASE DATA

Historic Name: Vowles House Kitchen  
Date/Period: c. 1839? and c. 1920's  
Style: Vernacular and Colonial Revival  
Height to Cornice:  
Height in Stories: 2, 1 1/2  
Present Zoning: 3-3  
Land Area (sq. ft.): 54' x 208' (11,232 sq. ft.)  
Assessed Value (land + imp.):

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This building is in two sections: the older two-storey section with its gable end toward 12th Street, and the newer, 1 1/2 storey section at right angles to it. The entrances to both sections are in the brick-walled courtyard in the resulting ell. The older section is a two-storey, three-bay, single-pile structure on a low foundation. Its steep slate gable roof has close eaves and verges. Brick is laid in seven-course American bond with corbelled cornice. There is one interior chimney centered on the north wall, serving one fireplace on the main level. Windows are double-sash, six-over-six light, with architrave trim. Most or all of those on the first level were probably added when the building was remodeled. Both side bays on the south side, toward the main house, appear to have been doors at one time. Triple four-light casement windows on the east end also are not original. The west wall, on the street, has always been blank. There is one room on the first level and two on the second. A two-flight open staircase with simple balustrade is located in the SE corner. The newer 1 1/2 storey section faces west toward 12th Street. Brick is laid in seven-to-ten-course American bond with corbelled cornice. It has a very steep slate gable roof with close eaves and verges. There is a shed-roofed, slate walled dormer on each side with a six-light casement window whose wide, flat surrounds cover the entire face of the dormer. There are two tiny six-light casement windows in the gable end, on either side of the very small exterior and chimney. On the

## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

main level, there are double three-light casement windows on the west facade, a six-over-six double-sash window replacing a door on the north end, and a thermal window on the east side. Ten-light sidelights frame the ten-light French doors. There are two rooms on each level and communication with the older section at each level.

John Vowles purchased a half-acre lot "on the road leading from Charlottesville to the University" from James Dinsmore in 1823 (ACDB 23-342). He built one house (1111 West Main Street) before 1830. The adjoining house (1113 West Main Street) was probably built soon after the first one. The date 1839 was found on a brick on the inner face of a chimney. It has been assumed that the older section of the small brick building behind was built at the same time as the second house and was used as a kitchen with servants' quarters above. The brickwork, however, suggests a later date for it: the two main buildings have facades laid in Flemish bond and other sides in five-course American bond, while the brick in the outbuilding is laid in seven-course American bond, which

## GRAPHICS

did not come into general use until after the Civil War. The Sanborne Insurance Co. maps show it as a frame building in 1907 and brick in 1920, but that must be an error, as the building does appear to be nineteenth century. The building was completely remodeled for use as a residential cottage, and the wing was added, probably in the late 1920's. (The 1931 tax appraisal shows an unexplained increase in building value). The owner at that time was Margerite E. Burthe, daughter of Josephine Mallet who had purchased the property in 1909 (City DB 20-467, WB 3-235). The cottage later housed Red Gate Interiors, an interior decoration firm, for a number of years. The present owner purchased the property in 1969 and renovated it (DB 313-412). Additional Deed References: ACDB 37-243, 49-78, 69-304, 73-248; City WB 1-32, 13-474; City DB 18-149, 138-34, 223-443, 241-97, 277-361.

## CONDITIONS

Good

## SOURCES

City/County Records  
Bernard M. Caperton  
Sanborne Insurance Co. Maps, 1907 & 1920  
104 12th Street, N.W. Unpublished U.Va. Studies in  
Vernacular Architecture report, Olga Barmine & Stephen H. R.

evidence suggests that Dinsmore--one of Thomas Jefferson's foremost builders--also built the house. Court records and a dated brick suggest the addition and kitchen were added to the property in 1839. The kitchen is significant as one of Charlottesville's few surviving antebellum domestic dependencies. In the late 1920s, during the ownership of Margerite E. Burthe, an addition was added to the kitchen as part of a make-over of the structure as a picturesque cottage. The kitchen/cottage later housed Red Gate Interiors.

#### GRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Medium	Medium ID #	Frames	Date
B&W 35mm Photos	14635	28 - 36	2/ /1996
B&W 35mm Photos	14704	25 -	3/ /1996

#### BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA

Sequence #: 1.0 Bibliographic Record Type: Report  
Author: Henry, Geoffrey  
Citation Abbreviation:  
John Vowles House National Register nomination  
Notes:

Sequence #: 2.0 Bibliographic Record Type: Local Records  
Author: City of Charlottesville  
Citation Abbreviation:  
Charlottesville Architectural and Historic Survey files  
Notes:

#### CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT EVENTS

Date: / /1996  
Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey  
Organization or Person: J. Daniel Pezzoni, Preservation Con  
ID # Associated with Event:  
CRM Event Notes or Comments:

#### MAILING ADDRESS

Honorif:  
First : Mary HN & Mary G  
Last : Caperton  
Suffix :  
Title : trustees  
Company:

Address: 611 Preston Place

City : Charlottesville State: VA  
Zip : 22903- Country: USA  
Phone/extension:

Individual Category Codes:

Mailing Address Notes:



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

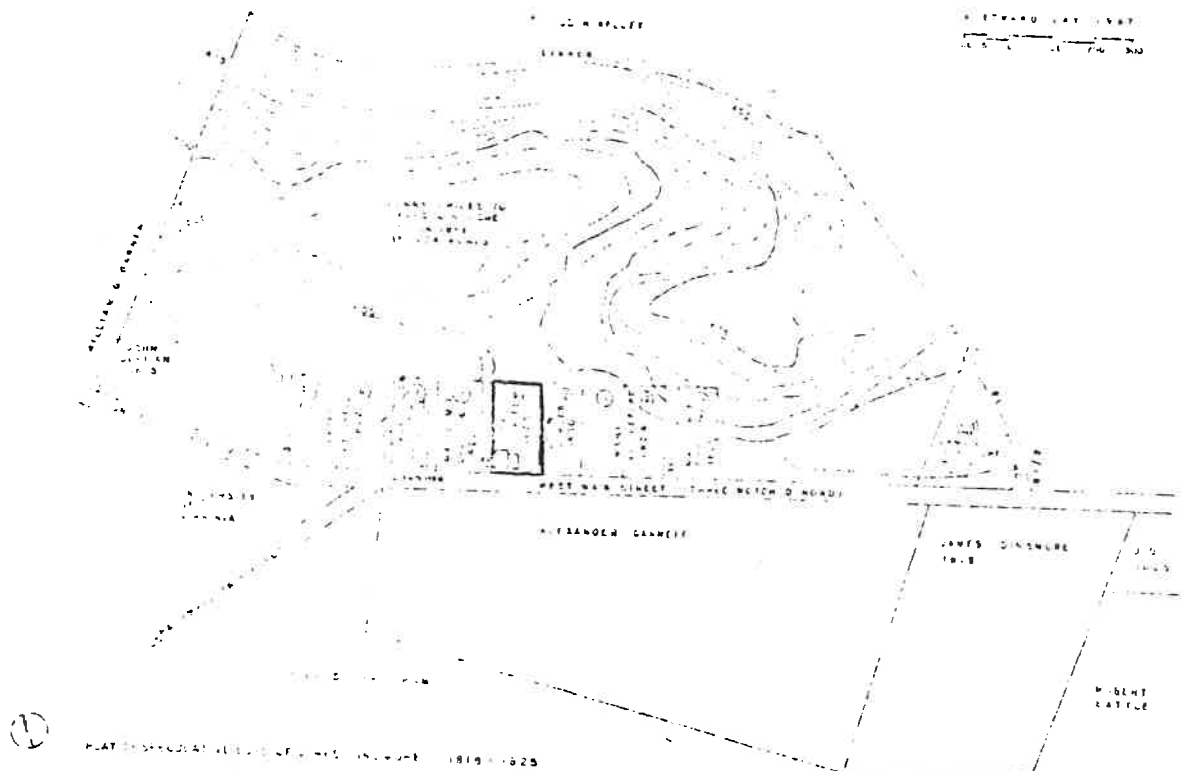


Fig. 2 Plat of James Dinsmore's speculative lots, 1818-1825.

Plat showing location of 1111 and 1113 West Main Streets, part of James Dinsmore's speculative lots. (Courtesy K. Edward Lay)  
Source: "Charlottesville's Architectural Legacy", The Magazine of Albemarle County History, Volume 46, May 1988, page 34.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Statement of Significance

The houses at 1111 and 1113 West Main Street are significant as well-preserved examples of Federal style architecture and are two of only a handful of buildings from this period still standing on Main Street in Charlottesville. West Main Street, which connects downtown Charlottesville with the University of Virginia, was once made up of early and mid-nineteenth century brick residences, rooming houses and small stores. Of these, only the buildings at 333, 503 and 1211 West Main Street, along with the two nominated houses, still remain.

The townhouses share many similarities with other brick residences built during this period on Court Square, East Jefferson and Fourth Streets in downtown Charlottesville. Features common to these buildings include Flemish bond brickwork, mouse tooth cornice, a "fish-eye" design in the transom window (seen at 224 Court Square and the Carter-Gilmer house on East Jefferson Street) and the usual side hall/double parlor floor plan. The John Vowles House differs from these in the sophistication of its design, as reflected in the entrance and transom with its intricate tracery, the elaborate wood cornice and ceiling medallions, and the large amount of original interior Federal style woodwork.

The detached kitchen of the adjoining building at 1113 West Main Street is a rare example of an ante-bellum service building in Charlottesville. Only a few such buildings remain; behind 333 West Main, 810 Locust Avenue and Oaklawn (built 1822) on Cherry Avenue.

The John Vowles House stands on property sold to Vowles in 1823 by James Dinsmore.<sup>1</sup> Dinsmore (1771-1830), a Scottish carpenter, was brought from Philadelphia by Thomas Jefferson to assist in the construction of Monticello and his retreat at Poplar Forest in Bedford County.<sup>2</sup> Along with the carpenter John Neilson, he was responsible for the design and/or construction of a number of important buildings including John Hartwell Cocke's Bremo in Fluvanna County (1817-1820), James Madison's Montpelier in Orange County (1809-1810) and Oaklawn in Charlottesville (1822).<sup>3</sup> Jefferson, who had recommended Dinsmore to Benjamin Latrobe for restoration work at the U.S. Capitol<sup>4</sup>, also employed him at the University of Virginia. He was principal master carpenter for Pavillions III, V, and VIII, fourteen dormitories, and together with Neilson, the Rotunda and Anatomical Theater. He resided in Charlottesville for most of this period and between 1818 and 1825 subdivided thirteen contiguous lots, one of them being the Vowles property. (See accompanying map) Land and tax records, along with the strong similarities between the design of the Vowles house and Dinsmore's other commissions are strong evidence that he was responsible for this house.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

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Land and tax records, along with a dated brick, fix the construction of the adjoining house at 1839. At some point in the mid nineteenth century, doors were inserted to connect the two houses and by the late nineteenth century the two houses were being sold together as one property. The townhouses were operated as boarding houses for students and transients. Physical reminders of this era include the rooms' numbers carved on some of the second floor doors as well as Greek fraternity letters scratched on mantels and windows. After the 1930's the townhouses were converted to commercial use, a function they have retained to the present day.

Footnotes --

- <sup>1</sup> Albemarle County Land Record DB23, P342.
- <sup>2</sup> Cote , p. 27.
- <sup>3</sup> Lay, p.33.
- <sup>4</sup> Lay, p.22.

# Conditional Individual Resource Superfield Screen

Number of Stories 2  
Interior Plan Type side pass  
Accessed? yes

If not, why not? Denied  
Interior Description Not Accessible

Relationship of Secondary Resources  
Behind pc 35 by kitchen (ca. 183) w/c was  
removed + removed into during in  
kit was 6/6, state changed, by drum (at)  
reconstruction main screen 5 of 7  
Historic Context

DRR Historic Context(s):  
Agriculture/Subsistence  
Architecture/Landscape Architecture/  
Community Planning  
Commerce/Trade  
Domestic  
Education  
Ethnicity/Immigration  
Funerary  
Health Care  
Industry/Processing/Extraction  
Landscape  
Military/Defense  
Recreation/Arts  
Religion  
Settlement Patterns  
Social  
Traffic Engineering  
Transportation  
Other

## Significance Statement

Medium: Medium ID 1  
reconstruction main screen 6 of 7  
Graphic Documentation  
Frames  
Data

2 x 2 B & W photos  
4 x 5 B & W photos  
B & W 35 mm photos  
Color 35 mm photos  
Historic photos  
Measured drawings  
Slides

Seq. # 1  
Type 1  
Citation 1  
Bibliographic Data

Sequence #: 1  
Bibliographic Record Type: 1  
Citation Abbreviation: 1  
Author: 1  
Notes:

Sequence #: 1  
Bibliographic Record Type: 1  
Citation Abbreviation: 1  
Author: 1  
Notes:

Date: 1  
Cultural Resource Management Event: 1  
IDF Associated with Event: 1

Date: 1  
CBM Event: 1  
reconstruction main screen 7 of 7  
Cultural Resource Management Events  
Agency/Individual  
Assoc. ID#

Date: 1  
Cultural Resource Management Event: 1  
IDF Associated with Event: 1

3

## Notes or Comments

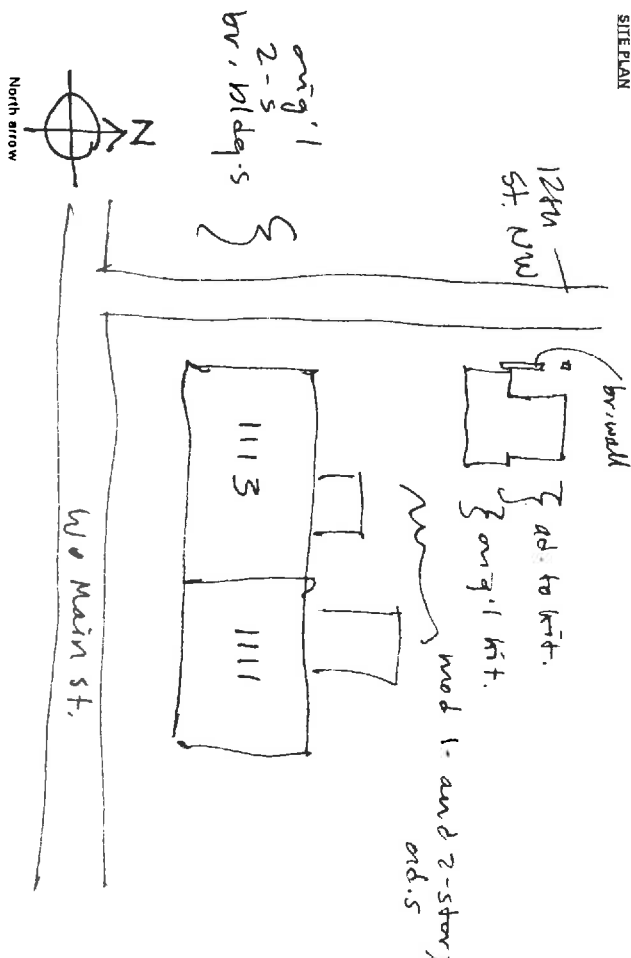
HONORIF: 1  
FIRST: 1  
LAST: 1  
SUFFIX: 1  
TITLE: 1  
COMPANY: 1  
ADDRESS: 1  
CITY: 1  
STATE: 1  
COUNTRY: 1  
ZIP: 1  
Individual's Category Code  
Notes

Informant 1 Occupant 1 Owner 1 Specimens (owner of specimens) 1 Tenant 1

## Surveyor's Notes

Date 1 Event 1  
Data Processing Events  
Person 1

## SITE PLAN



N.T.S.  
Date: 1  
SES: 2/98

Drawn by: 1  
Agency: 1

4

Vowles

reconnaissance main screen 1 of 2

Where is data filed at DHR? \_\_\_\_\_  
DHR iden. # \_\_\_\_\_  
Other DHR no. \_\_\_\_\_

Property date(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Prosperity Names

SSA # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation \*

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate spelling \_\_\_\_\_  
Address-current \_\_\_\_\_ Current \_\_\_\_\_  
Alleged \_\_\_\_\_ Historic \_\_\_\_\_  
Alternate name \_\_\_\_\_ Historic/current \_\_\_\_\_

Historic/location

Original

VLR listing

NHL listing

NRHP listing

County/Ind. City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ VA \_\_\_\_\_

Map(s) District \_\_\_\_\_

USGS Quad Map Name \_\_\_\_\_

Center UTM-Zone/East/North \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Parcel Number \_\_\_\_\_

UTMs of Boundary \_\_\_\_\_

reconnaissance main screen 2 of 2

Restrict Location and UTM data? \_\_\_\_\_

Address

Explanation

Sequence Number \_\_\_\_\_

Main Street Number \_\_\_\_\_

Number Suffix \_\_\_\_\_

Street Name \_\_\_\_\_

Vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ Town/Village/Hamlet \_\_\_\_\_

Address Superfield Screen

Address Explanation

Alternate

Current

Name Change

Number Change

Name of National Register Historic District

Name of VDR Eligible Historic District

Name of Local Historic District

reconnaissance main screen 3 of 2

Physical Character of General Surroundings \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Hamlet \_\_\_\_\_ Suburban \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ Village \_\_\_\_\_

Site Description/Notable Landscape Features

not a planting hedge

Ownership \_\_\_\_\_

F Public-Federal \_\_\_\_\_ P Private \_\_\_\_\_

L Public-Local \_\_\_\_\_ S Public-State \_\_\_\_\_

NR Resource Type \_\_\_\_\_

B Building \_\_\_\_\_ S Site \_\_\_\_\_

D District \_\_\_\_\_ U Structure \_\_\_\_\_

O Object \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Historic \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Historic \_\_\_\_\_

Wxrit Count \_\_\_\_\_

Wxrit Types \_\_\_\_\_

Historic? \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Non-Historic Undetermined

reconnaissance main screen 4 of 2

Primary Resource Extent Component Description

Material

Material Treatment

Material

Material

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Material

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# LANDMARK



# SURVEY

## IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 1111-1113 West Main Street  
 Map and Parcel: 10-55  
 Census Tract & Block: 2-303  
 Present Owner: Bernard Caperton  
 Address: 611 Preston Place  
 Present Use: Antique Shop and offices  
 Original Owner: John Vowles  
 Original Use: Residences

## BASE DATA

Historic Name: John Vowles House  
 Date/Period: cir. 1823  
 Style: Federal  
 Height to Cornice:  
 Height in Stories: 2 1/2  
 Present Zoning: B-3  
 Land Area (sq.ft.): 54 x 208  
 Assessed Value (land + imp.): 17,500 + 11,130 = 28,630

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

While appearing to be one structure, 1111 & 1113 W. Main were built at different times and have slightly different floor plans. The house to the east (1113) is the older, built around 1823, and is the typical side hall two room deep plan with two interior chimneys in the western, now party, wall. The original mantles in the Georgian-Federal style remain. The stair landing between the first and second floors is lit by a circular headed window, and a tondo window is between the second and third floors. This is a common Georgian feature, but this example is unique to Charlottesville. The original staircase with its slender newel and square balusters remains as does the entrance transom with a circular motif pattern. The dormer on the rear also appears to be original. 1111 was probably built shortly after 1113. The continuous Flemish bond brickwork of the facade indicates that it is a veneer on the older structure and is intended to unite the separate units. Both houses employ double hung sash windows, although those at 1111 are larger suggesting a later date, and diminish on the second floor. Both have the characteristic wooden lintels and originally shared a common cornice level. The transom at 1113 is the fish eye pattern seen at 224 Court Square and the Carter Gilmer House. However, 1113 is 3 rooms deep with corner fireplaces in the front two rooms and an interior chimney in the rear room. The chimneys are connected by a curtain. 1111 is not as deep as 1113, and the juncture of the two structures verifies that they were built as separate units.

## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

James Dinsmore, the carpenter brought from Philadelphia by Jefferson to work on Monticello and the University, sold John Vowles a half acre lot on the road from the town west to the University in 1823 for \$150. (ACDB 23-342). Vowles probably built his residence (1113 W. Main) shortly thereafter. In 1830 he purchased the half acre lot "adjoining the lot and present residence of said John Vowles" to his east (ACDB 29-86). The adjoining structure was probably built shortly after Vowles completed his residence and was certainly standing when Vowles sold the property to Michael Johnson in 1839. The houses have had many owners in their 150 year history. Bernard Caperton, the present owner, purchased them in 1969. It is interesting that these two structures have always been conveyed as one property.

## GRAPHICS

180 (L.)

180 (R.)

## CONDITIONS

Average

## SOURCES

City/County Records  
 Velora Thomson

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Architectural Description

The John Vowles House (1111 West Main Street) and the adjoining house at 1113 West Main Street are a pair of Federal style brick townhouses located at the northeast corner of Twelfth and West Main Streets in Charlottesville. The houses, located three blocks east of the Rotunda and University of Virginia and one block south of the Wertland Street Historic District, are in a neighborhood of one-and-two-story twentieth century commercial buildings and nineteenth century residences.

The John Vowles House, built in 1824, is a two-story, three-bay, gable-roofed townhouse with a facade laid in Flemish bond. There are six-over-nine sash windows on the first story and six-over-six windows on the second story, all with plain lintels and corner blocks. A door with panelled jambs and a decorative transom is at the southeast corner. An unusual round-headed double-hung sash window and a circular window with its central axis slightly askew are on the second story of the rear facade. The elaborate cornice on the front facade is the only one of its kind from this period in Charlottesville and features a frieze of egg-and-dart moulding, foliated modillions and a floral design set in the coffered soffit.

The interior floor plan consists of the typical Federal period side hall/double parlor arrangement on both floors, with the original kitchen and dining room located in the basement. Nearly all of the interior woodwork is original, including the six fireplaces, panelled window jambs, stairway, chair rail and interior doors. The fireplace mantels are all well-executed examples of Federal period craftsmanship and feature a variety of reeded, wall-of-troy, and rope moulding designs.

The adjoining house at 1113 West Main Street was built in 1839 and is a two-story, three-bay, gable-roofed townhouse with Flemish bond facade, mousetooth cornice and a double chimney at the west gable end. Above the door on the southeast corner is an unusual six-over-six-over-six triple hung sash window. The original floor plan of a side-hall/triple parlor arrangement has been altered somewhat and less of the original woodwork survives in this house than at the Vowles house, although all three corner fireplaces survive on the first floor. In the late nineteenth century doors were inserted to connect the two houses on both floors.

The small detached brick kitchen located to the rear of 1113 West Main Street was also built in 1839. There are two rooms on each floor and some original woodwork survives. A perpendicular wing was added in the 1920s.

All three buildings are in a good state of preservation.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Land Records- Albemarle County Land Records Deed Book 23, page 342 and Deed Book 29, page 86.  
Charlottesville City Land Records Deed Book 313, page 412.  
Lay, K. Edward, "Charlottesville's Architectural Legacy", The Magazine of Albemarle County History, Volume 46, May 1988, 67 pages.  
Cote, Richard C. "Jefferson's Workmen and the Virginia Landmarks Register", Notes on Virginia, Number 28, Spring 1986, pages 26-29.  
Martin, Joseph, Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia and the District of Columbia, (Charlottesville, Virginia: Mosely and Thompkins) 1835.  
Chataigne and Gillis, Virginia Business Directory and Gazetteer and Richmond Directory, (Richmond, Virginia) 1877-1878, also 1880, 1890, 1893 and 1911.

☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)  
has been requested  
☐ previously listed in the National Register  
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register  
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark  
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings  
Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than 1 acre

UTM References

A 17 719695 4212260  
Zone Easting Northing  
C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing  
D \_\_\_\_\_

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies city lots 9 and 10 as shown on Tax Map 10, Parcel 55 in the Charlottesville City Clerk's Office and commonly known as 1111 and 1113 West Main Street at the northeast corner of 12th and West Main Streets.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire two city lots that have been historically associated with the property.

☐ See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Geoffrey Henry  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date March, 1988  
street & number 1515 Rutledge Avenue telephone 804-293-8006  
city or town Charlottesville, Va. state Va. zip code 22901



Street Address: 1111 - 1113 W. Main

Map & Parcel: 10 - 55

Census Tract & Block:

Present Owner:

Address: 611 Preston Pl.

Present Use:

Original Owner: B. CAPERTON

Original Use:

Historic H no:

Date/Period: 1824 - 1825 or

Style:

Height to Cornice:

Height to Stories:

Present Zoning: B-2

Lot Area (sq. ft.): 54 x 208

Assessed Value (land + imp)

7940 + 20370 = 28310

#### Architectural Description

EXCELLENT FLEMISH BOND w/ QUEEN CLOGERS

1111 - LATER CORNICE 1113 - MOUSETOOTH -

WOODEN LINTELS -

LATER SHEDD DORMERS - LOOKS AS IF BUILT AS ONE STRUCTURE

1113 { INTERIOR - ORIGINAL CORNER FIREPLACES - ONE WITH ORIGINAL  
JEFFERSONIAN MANTEL

1111 - 2 OLD MANTELS - ONE w/ FEDERAL ROPEING -

BEAUTIFUL STAIR w/ STEP ENDS & PANELED UNDERSTAIR -

2 UPSTAIRS - ORIGINAL MANTELS / LOST ITS SHELF -

#### Historic Description

# 1111 RESIDENCE BUILT BY JOHN VOWLES c. 1824

1111 BUILT FIRST - UPSTAIRS EXTERIOR BRICK PENCILED

Caper ton - 1969 313-412

Corinnz Poolz 1969 - WB 13-474  
Nathan " 1963 - 241-97

Nancy G. Rutledge 1960 223-448

Burthe, M.E. 1810- 23-342

Bernard buy at auction - 68,000 33-412 - 1969

277-361 - Nathan Poolz & Corrine to D.B. Marshall  
Poolz get from Nancy Rutledge in 1963 (241-97)

Rutledge from Burthe 138-94 42,000  
marguerite

Burthe get from mother Mrs. Josephine Mallet - 1922  
Mallet from Char. W. Kent 1909 - 20-467

91-323 = plat 54'

next house = 70' Frances Trevelyan 18-199

20-467 - " those 2 certain houses & lots being numbered 1111-1113  
Main St"

Kent from R.A. Lancaster & Ella Smithson & others - 1907  
18-149

1878 - 73/248 S.W. Ficklin convey property to Martha Smithson  
she die 1896 & go to her children who sell to Lancaster -  
Lancaster sell to Kent

73-248 Slaughter  
2 certain lots N side road - commonly known as "Duncum  
property" refer to buildings.

1839 - John Vowles conveyed to Michael Johnson 1839 a certain  
parcel of land - 2 lots 1/2 acre each w/ buildings

He sell to James Saunders who sell in 1850 Mrs. M.E.

Duncum - 1875 Ficklin - 1/2 acre

23-342 - 1823

James Dinsmore to John Vowles 1850 Dinsmore lot #9

1830 - 29-86 next to residence of John Vowles  
north side - "joining the lot & present  
residence of said John Vowles" house to west

1875 69-804  
23-342  
201-006  
300-438

342 Dinamore → Vowles  
#9

at bet #8 & #9, west of #9

208 1/2' X 99' (S)

from corner N 13 E 208 1/2', S 77 E 99', S 13 W 208' to rd to U Va,  
up rd N 77 W 99'

∴ twice as wide as present lot,  
not half as wide.  
That puts 1830 lot far to east.

1830 Dinamore → Vowles

1/2 ac "adjoining lot & present residence of rd John Vowles  
bounded by Vowles on west, rd leading from rd to Union on  
south, Mary Littleford M<sup>rs</sup> Wilson on east, Dinamore on north  
#10 (no dimensions)

∴ orig lot was present depth & nearly twice as wide, 1830 addition  
made it still wider, maybe 200', which would have incl. Sec 16.  
Vowles' ~~land~~ 2 lots were prob. re-divided into the 3  
on 1937 plat. 1896 Sanborn shows a wide (prob 54' + 40') lot  
w/ another house east of these townhouses, & 1871-1880 or '98 lay  
like lot as 1 acre, ~~or maybe some~~ maybe?

1824 + 2000 for imp

1840 + 500 " "

1857 + 400 " "

+ also 1871 - 1400 unexplained - sold off a house & lot?

18-149 estate of Mrs Martha E. Smithson <sup>(dec 1896)</sup> → Charles W. Kent <sup>\$16,000</sup>  
1/1/1907 2 houses & lots at 1111 & 1113 ~~and~~ Main St, 54'x

~~1878 deed~~

ACD B John & Lucy Ann Vowles → Michael Johnson \$2850  
37-243 ~~the~~ two  $\frac{1}{2}$ -acre lots on N side sd Ch'co - 74 acres:  
6/19/1857 a) for <sup>James</sup> Dinsmore 1823, D's Lot 9  
b) " John " 1830, " " 10  
w/ bldgs & impts

1896 Sunborn - no porch, as new

1907 " " "

1920

both  
1920 " - <sup>sep.</sup> 1-5 verandahs across whole facade

1929-37 " " " (single wide)

## City Directories

11/18

11/11

1940 M. Estelle Barthe

Chas H. Davenport

1945 Ely Evans

~~Leonard~~ Tilman

1950 3 shops

"

1955 vacant ~~buildings~~

3 shops (incl 2nd)

1957 ~~antiques~~  
~~dry shops~~

Dry Shop

- ACD 533-342. *John Dimmore* → *Vowles* #150  
1823
- # 29-56 *John Dimmore* → *Vowles*, only *Vowles*'s residence #163  
1830
- 37-243 *Vowles* → *Michael Johnson* #2850  
1839 "w/ bldgs"
- 49-48 *Johnson* → *Mary E. Dunkum* #3350  
1850
- 69-804 *Dunkum* → *Slaughter W. Ficklin*  
1875
- 73-245 *Ficklin* → *Alexander M. Hamilton*, trustee for *Martha E. Smith*  
1875 (dau. of *Wm. & Mary Garland*, wife of *Wm. Smithson*) #3500
- City, 40  
Bk 1-52 *Martha E. Smithson* → *dau. Ella Smithson*, *Maggie S. Avery*  
1896 *Eliy S. Paxton*
- 18-149 *Ella Smithson* → *Charles W. Kent*  
1907
- 20-467 *Kent* → *Josephine Mallet*  
1909
- B 3-235 *Mallet* → *dau. Margerite Estelle Parthe* & *Marie Andre Parthe*  
1922

# Summary

824-1834 John Vowler. 2cc adj. line  
 840-1835 Michael Johnson of Magdalen  
 857-1840 Wm Marg E. Dunham  
 871-1882 " / Fiddler / Hamilton / Smithson  
 885-1895 Wm Martha Smithson  
 891-1905  
 896

2 Livers house = 3000,  
 so this is only one house.

" + 2000 = 2011  
 150 + 2500 = 2650  
 100 + 3400 = 3500  
 + 2000 = 3000  
 " = 2500  
 " = 2800  
 + 2500 = 4000

for James H. Hensmore,  
 \$2000 added for dwelling, then  
 for John Vowler,  
 \$500 added for ingate  
 \$900 added for ingate

2 Livers = 2500  
 ∴ this is prob both houses

Livers = 2878, 2500  
 (but for 2 houses?)  
 ∴ this might be both

Livers = 2000





Sanborn for veranda

Vocals

Q both

stairs  
5-c dm 21-  
windows lit  
facade brick  
roofs  
new cornice

6/6 w/ ~~single arch~~ trim & shingles of corner blocks  
shorter 2nd, downward shingles  
2nd match, 1st taller W  
queen closer bet  
comp shingle  
neither front corner shows signs of veneer

E → prob had triple sash W bay  
→ cornice w/ modillions & egg & heart   
6-panel, paneled recess,  transom  
5-c dm w/ Flem side, 5-c dm recess found  
basement ent & wind on facade  
1 gabled dormer rear  
one had veranda & whole?  
pl cor & arch. rear



W 5-c dm w/ Flem sides & rear, 5-c dm found  
→ triple sash over door  
→ mouse toothings front & rear  
double doors 12/1 panel  
fish eye transom  
parapet  
extends farther back  
stair removed



Am I positive dead trace in for both?  
Is there a measured drawing study?

E older - larger w window

w older - tax - closer to Livers at first, little addn later  
mousetooth cornice

same age

1111-1113 W. MAIN ST.  
(see also 104 12 ST. NW)

1824° (assessor)



#1111 ↑ #1113 ↑

#1113 bld. 1824, by John Vowles  
(from John Dinsmore 1823, who was bldg.  
the Porches at the time & needed it)  
Caperton thinks Dinsmore also helped  
with this one, from woodwork, mantels.

Caperton antique  
shop, lawyer's  
office; realtor

#1111 bld. a few yrs. later, by another  
Caperton

2 houses once own.  
on second floor

#146



Fabrics •  
Wallpaper  
Carpeting  
Furniture

Small Antiques  
Gifts  
Needlepoint  
Accessories

# Sally Worthington INTERIOR DESIGN

1111 W. Main Street  
Charlottesville, Va. 22901

804-977-4719







14635  
14704

Date 2. + 3. 1996 File No. 104-40  
Name John Vowles House (1111-13 W. Main St.)  
Town \_\_\_\_\_  
County Charlottesville  
Photographer Dan Perzavi  
Contents 10 ext. views.







14635  
14704

Date 2. + 3. 1996 File No. 104-40

Name John Vowles House (1111-13 W. Main St.)

Town \_\_\_\_\_

County Charlottesville

Photographer Dan Perzani

Contents 10 ext. views.





**VIRGINIA**  
**HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION**  
**SURVEY FORM**

File no.	104-71
Negative no(s).	5066-6 5078-36&37 5077-34

Historic name <b>John Vowles House</b>		Common name <b>Caperton Antiques</b>	
County/Town/City <b>Charlottesville</b>			
Street address or route number <b>1111-1113 W. Main St.</b>			
USGS Quad <b>Charlottesville East</b>	Date or period <b>ca. 1823 &amp; ca. 1830</b>		
Original owner <b>John Vowles</b>	Architect/builder/craftsmen		
Original use <b>residence</b>			
Present owner <b>Bernard Caperton</b>	Source of name <b>Charlottesville Landmark</b>		
Present owner address <b>611 Preston Place</b>	Source of date <b>Survey, vol.2</b>		
	Stories		
Present use <b>antique shop &amp; offices</b>	Foundation and wall const'n		
Acreage	Roof type		
State condition of structure and environs <b>good</b>			
State potential threats to structure			
Note any archaeological interest <b>structural failure of brick walls is beginning in the western half</b>			
Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> <b>individually? no</b>			
Architectural description (Note significant features of plan, structural system and interior and exterior decoration, taking care to point out aspects not visible or clear from photographs. Explain nature and period of all alterations and additions. List any outbuildings and their approximate ages, cemeteries, etc.)  <b>1111-1113: brick(Flemish bond); 2½ story; gable roof, asphalt shingle; 2 hip dormers on front; 6 bays; Federal style; ca.1823 (eastern half), ca. 1830(western half); eastern half has modillion cornice; west end has parapet; openings have wood lintels with corner blocks; low brick wall in front contains plantings; entrances in 1st and 4th bays from the east; rectangular transoms in fish eye pattern; windows are double hung sash, 6/9 and 9/9 on first floor, 6/6 on second floor except in the 3rd bay from the west which is 6/6/6 triple hung; 2 interior end chimneys on the west and 2 internal chimneys.</b>			
Interior inspected? <b>no</b>			
Historical significance (Chain of title; individuals, families, events, etc., associated with the property.)  <b>John Vowles purchased the lots in 1823 and 1830. The adjoining structures were probably built shortly after each purchase. Throughout many transactions in their history, the two properties have always been conveyed as a single property.</b>			
<b>Charlottesville Landmark Survey, vol.2</b>			



Sources and bibliography  
Published sources (Books, articles, etc., with bibliographic data.)

Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.)

Names and addresses of persons interviewed

Plan (Indicate locations of rooms, doorways, windows, alterations, etc.)



Site plan (Locate and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)



Name, address and title of recorder  
**Jack Abgott, Charlottesville**

Date  
**March 1980**