

Architectural And Historic Survey



Identification

STREET ADDRESS: 1320 East Market Street

MAP & PARCEL: 56-28

CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK:

PRESENT ZONING: R-2

ORIGINAL OWNER: William G. Gillespie

ORIGINAL USE: Residence

PRESENT USE: Rental Property (Residence)

PRESENT OWNER: Harry A. & Bella R. Wright

ADDRESS: Route 1

Keswick, Virginia

HISTORIC NAME: Gillespie-Wright House

DATE / PERIOD: 1887

STYLE: Victorian Vernacular

HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 2 storeys

DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 198' x 1150' (5.38 acres)

CONDITION: Good

SURVEYOR: Bibb

DATE OF SURVEY: Spring, 1980

SOURCES: City/County Records
Mrs. Harry A. Wright

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This two-storey white weatherboarded house, set on a brick foundation, is a three-bay, single-pile Virginia l-house with a one-storey rear wing. It has a medium-pitched gable roof now covered with composition shingles, with projecting eaves and verges, a bracketed boxed cornice, and a wide cornice board. There is an additional gable centered on the facade. There is an interior capped chimney on each side of the central hall. In each bay there is a pair of double-sash windows, 1-over-1 light, with architrave trim. Those at the second level are somewhat shorter except for the center bay of the facade under the central gable. That is the same height as the windows at the first level and has a belicasted gabled cornice on consoles, with relief decoration in a fan motif on the frieze. A one-storey veranda covers most of the facade. Its nearly flat shed roof is covered with composition shingles and has a projecting central gable on which the fan motif is repeated. It has a boxed cornice and a frieze pierced in a four-leaf clover motif. There are four pairs of chamfered square posts with brackets, and a sawn balustrade. The entrance door has 9 lights over a single panel and is flanked by sidelights over panels, and there is a five-light rectangular transom over all. A one-storey rear wing covers the western bay. Its gable roof continues over a partially enclosed back porch along its east side. It has a central chimney and 6-over-6 windows.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

William G. Gillespie purchased a 5½-acre lot in 1886 and built this house the next year (ACDB 89-376). He sold it to John Perry in 1892 (ACDB 98-198). The Perry Family only owned it for ten years, but it continued to be referred to in deeds as "the Perry property" for many years thereafter. There were eight owners between 1902 and 1919 when P. Z. Smith bought it (ACDB 171-192, 417). Harry A. & Bella R. Wright bought it from him in 1935 (ACDB 229-65). They lived in the house and conducted Wright's Wrecking Yard (now Harry A. Wright's, Inc.) from the rest of the 5½-acre tract. The house has been used as rental property since 1968, but a fenced yard still separates it from the business operation. Additional References: ACDB 123-259; 144-223, 145-14, 149-440, 162-406, 165-316; City DB 320-264.

SIGNIFICANCE

This is a fine example of a vernacular Virginia l-house with Victorian details.

*Architectural And Historic
Survey*



Graphics



LANDMARK



SURVEY

Bibb/Spring 1980

IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: *1320 East Market St.*
 Map and Parcel:
 Census Tract & Block:
 Present Owner: *Harvey A. & Bella R. Wright*
 Address: *Rt. 1, Keswick, Va.*
 Present Use: *Rental Property (Residence)*
 Original Owner: *William B. Gillegie*
 Original Use: *Residence*

BASE DATA

Historic Name: *Gillegie-Wright House*
 Date/Period: *1887*
 Style: *Victorian Vernacular*
 Height to Cornice:
 Height in Stories: *2*
 Present Zoning:
 Land Area (sq.ft.):
 Assessed Value (land + imp.):

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

GRAPHICS

CONDITIONS

Good

SOURCES

City/County Records
Mrs. Harvey A. Wright

1320

~~1201~~ East Market Street

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This two-storey white weatherboarded house, set on a brick foundation, is a three-bay, single pile Virginia I-house, with a one-storey rear wing. It has a medium-pitched gable roof now covered with composition shingles, with projecting eaves and verges, a bracketed boxed cornice, and a wide cornice board. There is an additional gable centered on the facade. There is an interior capped chimney on each side of the central hall. In each bay there is a pair of double-cash ~~xxxxxxxx~~ windows, 1-over-1 light, with architrave trim. Those at the second level are somewhat shorter, except for the center bay of the facade under the central gable. That is the same height as the windows at the first level and has a bellcast gabled cornice on consoles with relief decoration in a fan motif on the frieze. A one-storey veranda covers most of the facade. Its nearly flat shed roof is covered with composition shingles and has a projecting central gable on which the fan motif is repeated. It has a boxed cornice and a frieze pierced in a four-leaf clover motif. There are four pairs of chamfered square posts with brackets, and a sawn balustrade. The ~~xxxx~~ entrance door ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ is flanked by sidelights over panels, and there is a five-light rectangular transom over all. A one-storey rear wing covers the western bay. Its gable roof continues over a partially enclosed back porch along its east side. It has a central chimney and 6-over-6 windows.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION:

William G. Gillespie purchased a $5\frac{1}{2}$ -acre lot in 1886 and built this house the next year (ACDB 89-376). He sold it to John Perry in 1892 (ACDB 98-198). The Perry family only owned it for ten years, but it continued to be referred to in deeds as "the Perry property" for many years thereafter. There were eight owners between 1902 and 1919 when P. Z. Smith bought it (ACDB 171-192, 4417). The present owners bought it from him in 1935 (ACDB 229-65). They lived in the house and conducted Wright's Wrecking Yard (now Harry A. Wright's, Inc.) from the rest of the $5\frac{1}{2}$ -acre tract. The house has been used as rental property since 1968, but a fenced yard still separates it from the business operation. Additional References: ACDB 123-259, 144-223, 145-14, 149-440, 162-406, 163-316; City DB 320-264.

1320 E. Market

ACDB

229-65 PZ & Mary E Smith → Harry A & Bella R Wright
9/11/1935 lot of impte, 5.62 ac known as the "Poory Property"
same as 171-192, 10/1/1919, & Eugene Harris → PZ Smith & BT Gilbert
" " 171-417, 11/7/1919, ~~Smith~~ Gilbert's int → Smith
see plat 89-376, Lot 5

56-28 ✓ Gillespie-Wright house 198x1150 (5.38 ac)
R-2 & M-2

1320 E Mkt

320 PD 257, Ch'v Gillespie-Wright house
~~56~~ - 264 Harry A & Bella R Wright
ACDB " "
229-65

old residence - 25, 6x, so O base
built 1900
solid found, wood (WB), metal roof

5.69 Poory
same as 144-223

144-223 Daniel Harmon, comm in chancery case of Samuel O Mc Cue
12/17/1910 etc vs J W Mc Cue et al → Fannie B Marchant, et al
property of late Fannie M. Mc Cue at auction \$2500
H C Marchant bought at auction 7/20/10, dec 10/4/10
same as 123-259

Stubs, Early Settlers of the
re: Bibb fam
Manahan

- 123-259 J. Samuel McCue, tr → F M McCue auction \$2200
4/11/1902 same as 119-422, ¹⁹⁰¹ deed of trust fr CS & H M Perry to McCue
defaulted
same as 1894 Mary Anna Perry et al → CS Perry
" " 1892, 98-198 W B Bilbert → J Perry
- 98-198 W B & Cornelia B. Gillespie → John Perry of Alexandria \$3250
10/31/1892 5.62 ac
same as 89-376
- 89-376 John L. Cochran, Chas H. Harman, & Geo Perkins, ~~tr~~
9/14/1886 under 1884 deed of trust fr R. H. Brennan (ALDB 83-334),
→ Wm B. Gillespie \$673.43
5 ⁶²/₁₆₀ ac, part of land purchased fr T & Frank near Ch'ville
woolen mills
Lot 5, plat 89-377, back to
12 p x 70.3 p, back to 1840, Brennan legend
- 171-192 G. Eugene & J C Harris → P. Z. Smith & B T Bilbert \$4500
10/1/1919 same as 9/2/1919 fr heirs of Henry Clay Moore
- 171-192 TR & Effie S Moore, WR & Jennie Moore, CS & Annie Moore, J P & Sallie
9/2/1919 Moore, EE & Effie Moore, J L Moore (wid), Anna & W J
Taylor, VP & R L Williamson → G Eugene Harris \$4250
the Perry Property, 5.69 ac, same as 165-316
Henry Clay Moore da 7/21/1919

~~One 3523~~

1320 E Market

2. storey, 3-bay, double single pile Va I-house
weatherboarded; brick found, water table

med gable roof, ash shingles
proj eaves & verges, boxed cornice, sawn brackets,
wide cornice board
central gable on facade

windows narrow paired 1/1, arch trim
shorter 2nd level except center facade:




bellcast gable cornice on console
sunburst motif below cornice

veranda covers most of facade

very low ^{shed} roof, ash shingles

projecting central gable repeating sunburst motif
boxed cornice

wide (deep?) ^{all around} fringe of pierced , repeated in brackets

paired (coupled?) ^{flanking ent} sq chamfered square posts
w/ brackets (3 kinds porch brackets)

sawn balustrade

ent - 9 lights over panels, sidelights over panels
5-light rect transom over all

capped chimneys center on each side central hall

no attic windows

picket fence

1 storey west near wing w/ partially en shed-roofed
porch on the east side, 11 sills
6/6 wind
cent chm

rear - reg width wind
no brackets

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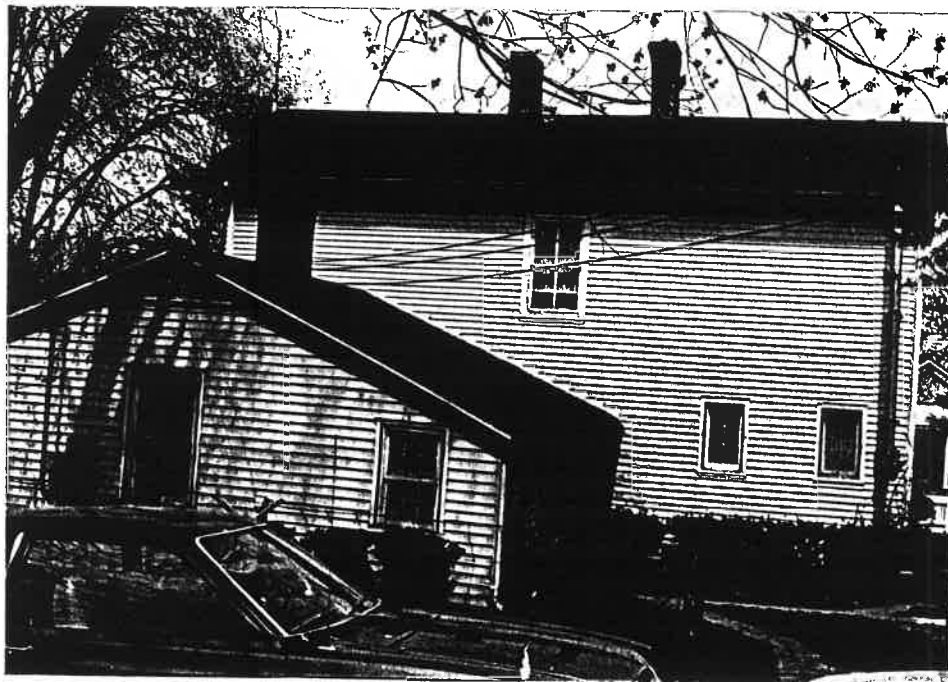
SIGNIFICANCE

This is a fine example of a vernacular Virginia I-house with Victorian details.

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Survey*



Graphics



NE

1320 E mbl

1888, 90 2nd WB Billegie 5.62 or Pyrene $\frac{3}{4}$ m SE ^{427.69} +1000 = 1427.69 ft Brennan
1887 Billegie, Brennan n l

Hungarians host a house-moving 'party' in Woolen Mills

House moving was more prevalent in the old days, when you had to use mules, than it is today, which is peculiar since now we have all kinds of appropriate equipment. I saw a contract dated 1730 in New Orleans where the owner stipulated that the contractor must bring a house built in 1723 down from the Bayou Road to the French quarter. "All existing boards must be saved as well as all the handmade nails, to be used again."

In Charlottesville many houses were moved from one part of North Downtown to another between the First and Second World Wars. Sometimes even brick houses were moved on flatbed platforms pulled by mules and then by big trucks. Sometimes the house was dismantled and the parts were re-used. Martha Gleason's brick house on Second Street is a case in point.

Martha Jefferson Hospital has gotten used to moving houses for its expansion. But City Council, City Planning and the preservationists got tired of the loss of the historic building inventory in the Locust-High street area.

Three years ago Dennis Woodruff and Mary Ann Parr decided they could save the old house in front of Wright's Wrecking Yard. The Harry A. Wright's had moved into the two-story, galleried vernacular frame house, with its rear kitchen and dining room wing, sometime in the '20s.

The house, built in 1891, was on the lot when they bought the land for the wrecking yard. Forty years later they built a house in the country, and they rented the old house on Market Street without modernizing it. Eventually,



Roulhac Toledano
ALBEMARLE LIVING

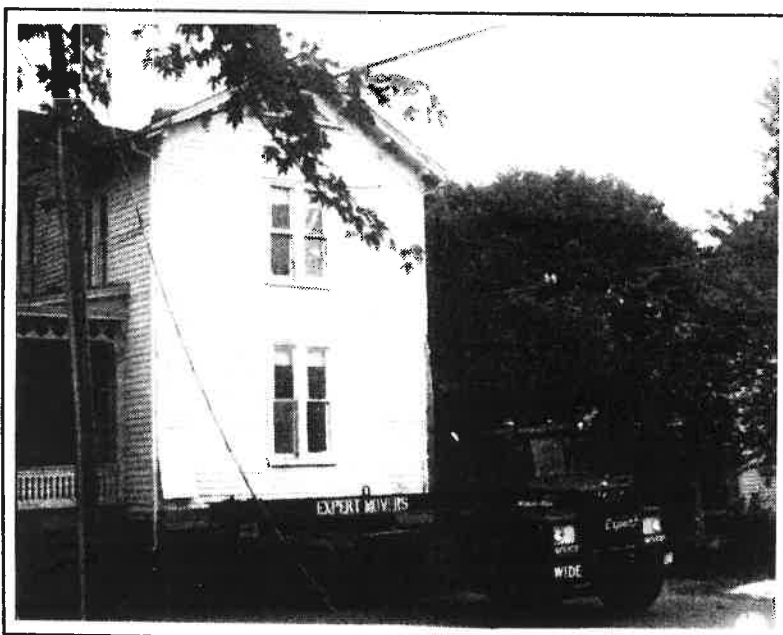


photo by TIMOTHY BURNS

The old Wright's Wrecking Yard house, on its way to its new location.

in the late 1980s, when they were just getting a couple hundred dollars a month rent, Mr. Wright decided the land was more valuable than the house.

Since neither Mr. Wright nor his son Alex wanted to live in the house, they could not justify restoring it. Demolition threatened. At the last minute Woodruff and Parr bought the house and moved it eight blocks down the street to 1612 East Market Street.

Restored, modernized and beautifully painted, they used the house as a rental property for three years. Recently Charlotte Damman, a realtor with McLean Faulconer, sold it for owner-occupied use by the new owners.

Woodruff's tale of moving the house is something to hear. "Expert House Movers of Virginia Beach got the bid because they were the only ones who could give me a definite price," Woodruff explained. "They know what they're doing because they move a couple of hundred houses a year. The whole process was lots of fun to watch."

This is an encouraging attitude for a man who thought he was going to have to pay not only \$25,000 to move the historic house down the street, but full renovation costs as well.

"They cut the house in two pieces. The three over three front part was kept intact. The kitchen wing was literally cut off with a chain saw. The wood on the

floor today shows the chain saw cuts from where they just came in and cut the floor and walls off. It just took two hours to move the house down the road to the new lot. Even the brick chimneys came along with the house, all in one piece."

"The movers were all Hungarians. One's son is a graduate of UVA where he was a champion wrestler. All the men had lots of gusto and energy, and their strength amazed me. They were fun people to get to know."

Woodruff went on to explain that they set the house down on the new lot but they jacked it up a foot higher than it would eventually rest. "That way I was able to build the new foundation to fit the house. When that was done the house was lowered to its permanent level."

The spacious lot never had a house on it, but had been a large garden patch, adjacent to another gracious galleried house that he and Parr own.

Woodruff then proceeded with a major renovation — electrical, plumbing, mechanical — the whole nine yards. "It's a new house now with old spaces, mantels, woodwork and floors. High ceilings of course remain and the old roof."

A gracious center hall with the stairway divides two rooms, originally 14 by 17 feet each. One now has been reduced for a bath. The original stairway leads to an identical floor plan above. The rear wing, which makes a T of the house, is just one story, containing the dining room and kitchen. The old porch is now a lovely sun porch running along the east side.

The exterior is the house's strong point. Pairs of windows with wide surrounds, an entrance door with handsome sidelights

and transom, and Italianate brackets at the eaves all add up to sophistication within the Virginia traditional vernacular.

Even the columns of the one-story porch are part of a rhythmic composition. Set in pairs, like the windows, a pierced frieze of four-leaf-clover design is carried through the brackets above the paired wood columns.

A little pediment with sunburst fretwork on the front porch is repeated in the central windows of the second level, and the whole is surmounted by a wide pediment with decorative brackets, centered in the roofline.

The use of historic colors from Benjamin Moore, was the choice of Woodruff's brother. Jay Chapman of Manhattan, Mont., completes and enhances the shapes and their combinations.

The historic house looks as if it has been at the site forever; most of the houses around it are similar in age, plan and decoration.

Despite its ill-planned commercial encroachments, Market Street, with the Woolen Mills, is considered the most interesting part of Charlottesville by many visitors and locals alike.

Today, many houses built as rental units are now owner-occupied, like this one at 1612 Market Street. Both the neighborhood and the old Wright House are now entering their own golden age.

It's something to think about, especially for the owner of the old brick industrial building down the road. Demolition by neglect is a shameful thing. Here is a building that would make great loft spaces and apartments, only it's overgrown and vandalized more each season. **tw**



photo courtesy MCLEAN FAULCONER INC.

Having survived being cut into two pieces, the Wright house rests quietly today at 1612 E. Market Street.



**Saturday & Sunday
OCT. 2 & 3**

APPLE HARVEST CELEBRATION

- Basket Weaving Demonstrations
- Pumpkins, Apples, Cider
- Special Antique Sales
- Tent Sales
- Funnel Cakes
- Private Guided Trail rides available at Mountain Spring Stable
- Bluegrass Music-Hazel River Band at Faith Mountain
- Apple Butter Boiling (Two in town)
- Live Entertainment
- Crafts

- Special Furniture Sales
- Catalog Closeouts
- Bake Sales
- Children's Games
- Outdoor Barbecue
- Homemade Food throughout the town

• John Jackson appearing Saturday & Sunday at Country Home Antiques

Festival Sponsored by: Sperryville Business Council
Admission & Parking Free

From Charlottesville, 29 North to Madison to 231 North to 522 North for 1 mile to Sperryville.

For more information call 703-987-8235, days or 703-987-8058, evenings.

Architectural And Historic
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1512
E. M. D. 1957

Graphics



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