

HISTORIC RESOURCE TASK FORCE
October 10, 2001 – 3:30 P.M.
BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Status of Tour Booklet and its Distribution
3. Discussion of New State Historic Markers
4. Discussion of Local Markers
5. Maplewood Cemetery – Sue Webber
6. Other Business

NOTE: You can park in the Market Street Parking Garage. Bring your ticket into the office with you to be stamped for two hours free.

**Historic Resources Task Force
Minutes
September 12, 2001
Basement Conference Room
3:30 p.m.**

Present:

Winston Churchill Gooding
Ingrid Smyer Kelly
Lynne Heetderks
Helena Devereux
Garrett Smith
Frances Fife
Rick Britton

Others Present:

Satyendra Singh Huja

It was moved by Mr. Churchill and second by Mr. Kelly to approve the minutes of August 8, 2001.

Mr. Huja showed three draft maps for the tour book, indicating that he needs more information on the tours. Ms. Kelley indicated that the historical society would be able to distribute the tour books. There was a discussion of the price of the tour book and the price discussion range from \$5.00 - \$10.00. Helen Devereux and Rick Britton will do more research on this matter. There was also a discussion of putting the tour book guide on the city website.

Mr. Huja informed the committee that he has sent out 2 state historic marker requests, to the state historic resource department, for the "farm" and Georgia O'Keeffe. Mr. Bednar, Mr. Jim Stultz and Mr. Britton were great help in providing the background information. Mr. Britton stated that he has some concerns about the historical validity of Daniel Boone being at the "Farm". He also indicated that the state marker on Tarleton should be corrected.

It was agreed that this year, we should have 3 local historic markers, 1 for Mt. Zion church, 1 for the university corner and 1 at vinegar hill. Mr. Rick Britton will reduce the wording to 200 words. It was also the feeling of the group that a number of local markers should be done around court square.

Ms. Lynne Heetderks presented the status of Maplewood and Oakwood cemeteries. (see attached) Mr. Huja also indicated that city is planning to designate them as local historic districts and he will explore the possibility from the CLG grant from the state, for restoration of Maplewood cemetery. Mr. Huja also shared with the committee the latest version of the Historic Court Square project. The committee was very supportive of the project as planned. He also indicated that he has received information from UVA about the procedure of historic markers on the grounds. Please see attached.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting will be October 10, 2001.

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Huja, Satyendra

From: Connie Warnock [cpw7k@virginia.edu]
Sent: Friday, August 24, 2001 9:51 AM
To: huja@charlottesville.org
Cc: hughes, mary
Subject: UVA & Historic Markers

Greetings Mr. Huja,

Mary outlined the following process for markers on the grounds of the University.

1. University Architect's office reviews submissions for design, layout and placement. Our office also coordinates the request with other interested parties. For example, any installation in the Academical Village would require review by Murray Howard. There are potentially many others, including our Landscape, Utility, Parking and Transportation departments.
2. The office of the University President reviews submissions for content.
3. The Rector of the BOV reviews prior to submitting to...
4. To Sandy Gilliam and the Board of Visitors for final approval. There is a Board resolution for historical plaques & markers.

Based on previous experience, it would be impossible to estimate the time required for such a process. Naturally, the time line increases with the number of interested parties and many, many other factors.

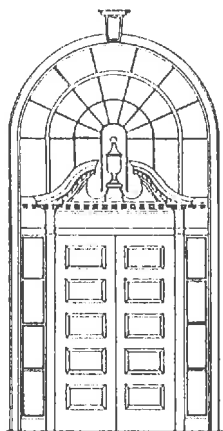
Please let me know if you have additional questions,
Connie

Connie Warnock

Office of the Architect
for the University of Virginia

The Rotunda South East Wing
PO Box 400304
Charlottesville VA 22904-4304

V. 804.924.6019
F. 804.924.6014



Albemarle County Historical Society

ONGOING PROJECTS – MAPLEWOOD, OAKWOOD, AND DAUGHTERS OF ZION CEMETERIES *as of 9/10/01*

The McIntire Building
200 Second Street, NE
Charlottesville, Virginia
22902-5245

Martha Jefferson Neighborhood Association (MJNA) – The MJNA has organized volunteers to conduct a plot-by-plot survey of the cemetery, gathering inscriptions and information on damage to stones. The association is working with the city parks department to consolidate information about burial sites, etc., and regularly patrols the cemetery to report damage inflicted by the landscaping crew using inappropriate equipment.

Parks Department – An intern from the University of Virginia, Jeanne Siler, is creating a database of all known sources of information on Maplewood, Oakwood, and Daughters of Zion cemeteries. She is also investigating conservation methods used by other historic cemeteries. The City has cancelled its contract with an outside landscaping company to mow Maplewood, in response to complaints about damage inflicted by inappropriate equipment. Parks employees will now do the work.

Library
Charlottesville-Albemarle
Historical Collection
operated in partnership
with Jefferson-Madison
Regional Library

Albemarle County Historical Society – The Society is creating a self-guided walking tour of Maplewood, and is offering research support to individuals working on these projects. We are also recruiting volunteers to help with the MJNA effort, and the Society will be a repository for information collected through the MJNA's work. On Sept. 16, the Society will co-sponsor with Preservation Piedmont and the African-American Genealogy Group a program on the African-American burials in Maplewood, Oakwood, and the Daughters of Zion cemeteries, followed by a brief walking tour of Maplewood. On October 26, 27 & 28, the Society will lead approximately 1,200 people through the cemetery as part of the 2001 Spirit Walk.

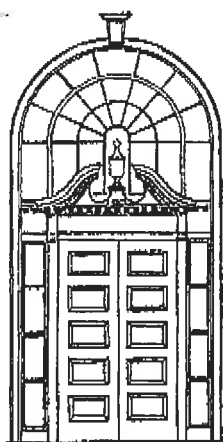
Office

(804)296-1492
facsimile (804)296-4576
e-mail acoahs@cstone.net

Department of Community Development – Intern Kathleen Durham has written two excellent reports on the history of Maplewood, Oakwood, and the Daughters of Zion cemeteries. These reports are part of a proposal to the Board of Architectural Review recommending these properties be designed individual historic districts. The BAR has unanimously recommended to the Planning Commission that this proposal be approved.

Library

(804)296-7294
e-mail acoahs2@cstone.net



Albemarle County Historical Society

August 27, 2001

BY HAND DELIVERY

The McIntire Building
200 Second Street, NE
Charlottesville, Virginia
22902-5245

Mr. Francis Fife
The Perry Foundation
114 4th Street, S.E.
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Re: Charlottesville Historical Resources Task Force/Albemarle County
Historial Society Guidebook

Dear Francis:

I write at the request of Mary Hill Caperton to provide the Perry Foundation with requested information. It is my understanding that Ms. Caperton, on behalf of the Charlottesville Historical Resources Task Force, has requested or received a contingent offer \$2000 to support the efforts of the Task Force and the Albemarle County Historical Society to develop a guidebook to historic Charlottesville.

The funding is needed to compensate the person who is providing design services for the booklet. The individual in question is Lorena Perez (d/b/a Image Design), who has provided us with a commitment to complete all the layout and design of the booklet for an estimated price of \$4,200 or 84 hours of work. We still owe her \$2,050. In addition, we are compensating a committee member, Rick Britton, for his film and developing expenses to photograph the sites on the tour. The Historical Society itself is funding these, and other expenses, while the City is providing mapping services. The booklet will be approximately 100 pages and will cover neighborhoods throughout the City. Ms. Perez has been of great assistance. For the Perry Foundation's information, I enclose a copy of the guidebook to date. Ms. Perez will be making some fairly substantial revisions for the second draft.

On behalf of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Historical Society's Publications Committee, which has been the author of the booklet, I want to

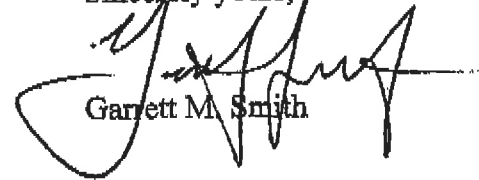
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express my appreciation to the Perry Foundation for supporting this worthwhile cause. Charlottesville has long needed a useful and comprehensive guidebook. Please call if you have any questions or if I can provide you with more information.

Sincerely yours,



Garrett M. Smith

GMS:jrh
Enclosure

cc: Ms. Lynne Heetderks
Ms. Mary Hill Caperton

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September 25, 2000

Jeffrey B. Werner
212 Wine Street
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902

Mr. Satyendra Huja
C/O Department of Neighborhood Planning and Development Services
The City of Charlottesville
PO Box 911
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902



RE: Historic Marker for the Monticello Wine Company

Dear Mr. Huja:

This is a follow-up letter to one I sent in May of 2000. I am proposing that a historic marker be erected somewhere in the vicinity of the former location of the Monticello Wine Company near Wine Street to celebrate its role in the community's history.

I reside in the historically designated Winemaker's House at 212 Wine Street (c. 1884). Though the house has suffered over the last 120+ years, I am working hard to return the house to better times. I have had the great fortune to get to know Mr. Edward Hase the grandson of the winemaker, Adolph Russow. Mr. Hase was born in the house in 1916 and has proven to be an invaluable source of information on my house and an inspiration for me to keep going when the house has gotten the better of me. More importantly, he has educated me about the Monticello Wine Company and the undeniable role that it played in establishing the Charlottesville-Albemarle area as a viable wine-producing region. I have enclosed an article from the Historical Society's magazine (The Wine Cellar is shown in a photograph on page 21). The Wine Company was a substantial operation and involved prominent members of the community. As I have peeled away and exposed the layers of history at my house, I have found that my neighbors have been particularly interested and enthusiastic to learn more about the history of this place. There is a sense of collective ownership of the history of Wine Street and I would like to foster that and share it with as many people as possible.

I have reviewed the series of Sanborn Fire Insurance maps on file at Alderman Library and have been able to determine, with relative precision, the location of the 50' X 100' 3-story brick Wine Cellar. It was located at the northwest corner of the intersection of 2nd Street, NE and present day Perry Street (See attached). The Monticello Wine Company was started in 1873 and the Cellar stood at this site until it was destroyed by fire in 1937.

I am proposing the erection of a sign indicating the relative location of the Wine Cellar and with the following inscription. The sign could be placed at the north side of Perry Street.

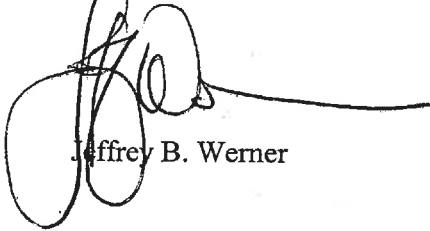
The Monticello Wine Co. and Winemaker's House

Just to the north (of Perry) stood the Monticello Wine Co. building and wine cellar. Founded in 1873, it operated until Va. Prohibition in 1914. It achieved worldwide recognition and established Thomas Jefferson's dream of locally produced wines. Winemaker, Adolph Russow, lived nearby, now 212 Wine Street. His c. 1884 home still stands.

Monticello Wine Co./Werner
9/25/01 Page 2

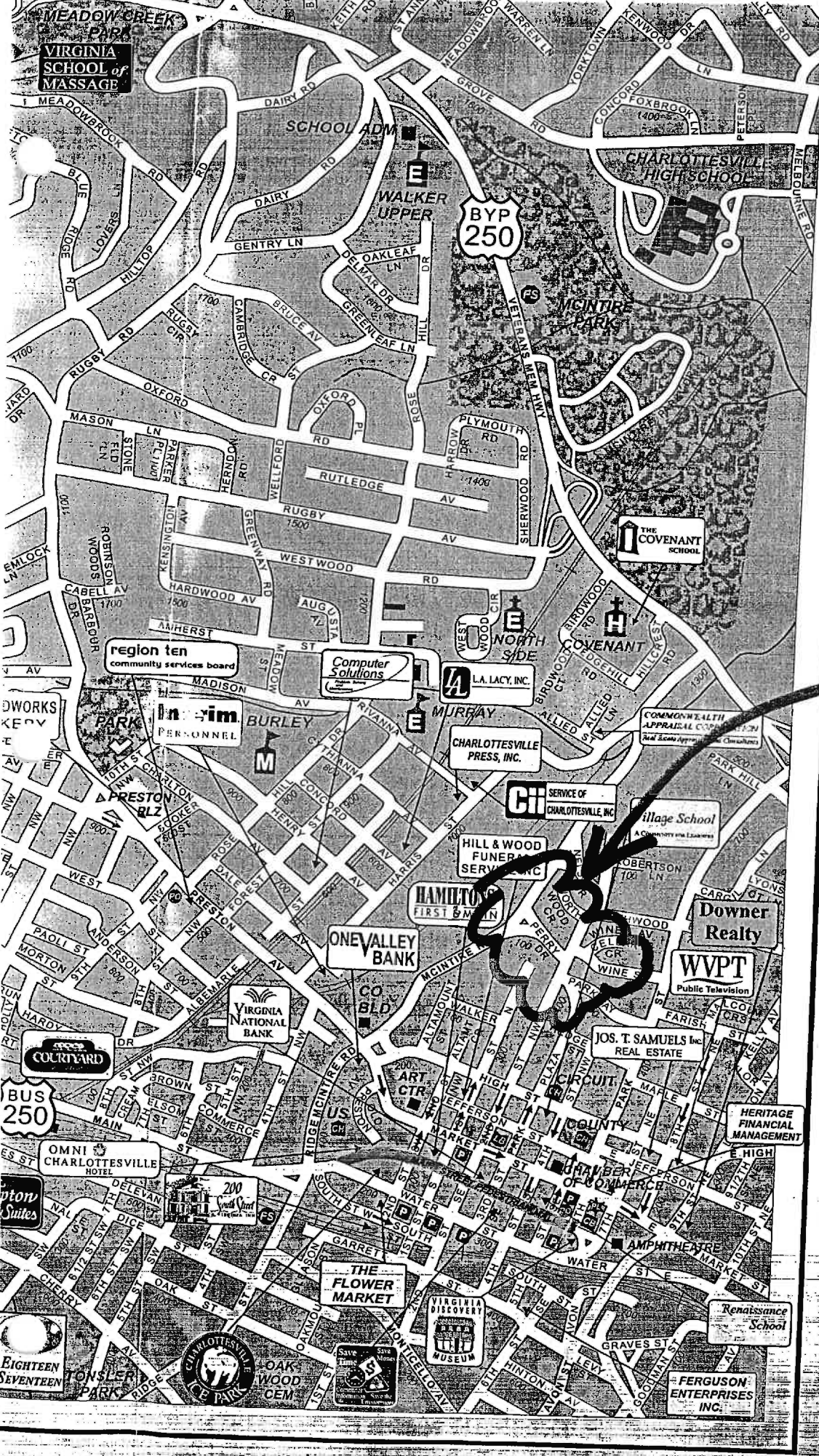
If there are any questions or additional information required please contact me either at home, 293-4839, or at work, 977-0830. Either myself or Mr. Hase (or both) would be more than happy to discuss this proposal at any time. Thank you for your consideration.

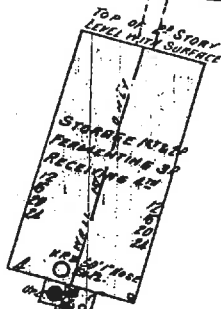
Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jeffrey B. Werner', with a long horizontal line extending to the right. The signature is written over the printed name 'Jeffrey B. Werner'.

Attached: 1913, 1920 and 1929 Sanborn Maps; article from 1988 Magazine of the Albemarle Historical Society, "Adolph Russow and the Monticello Wine Company."

CC: Edward Hase



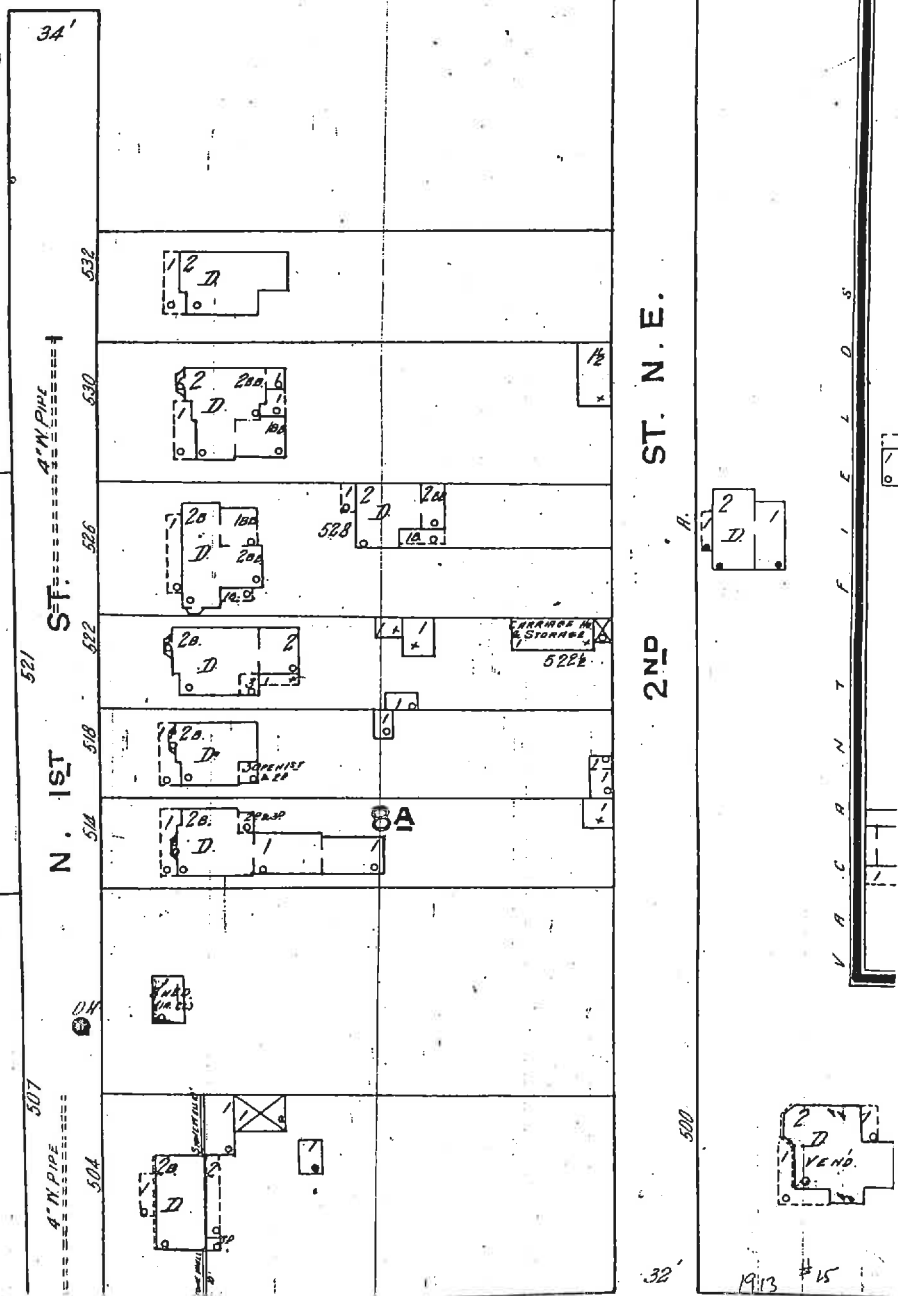


504 & 505
1/5260

1913 MAP

MONTICELLO WINE CO.'S CELLAR

HEAT: STEAM - LIGHTS: ELEC.
 FUEL: COAL - CEILING OF 1st
 STORY: 2' BRICK ARCHED.
 WAGON SHED.



Grade 2
52 1/2

89

32'

ST. N.E.

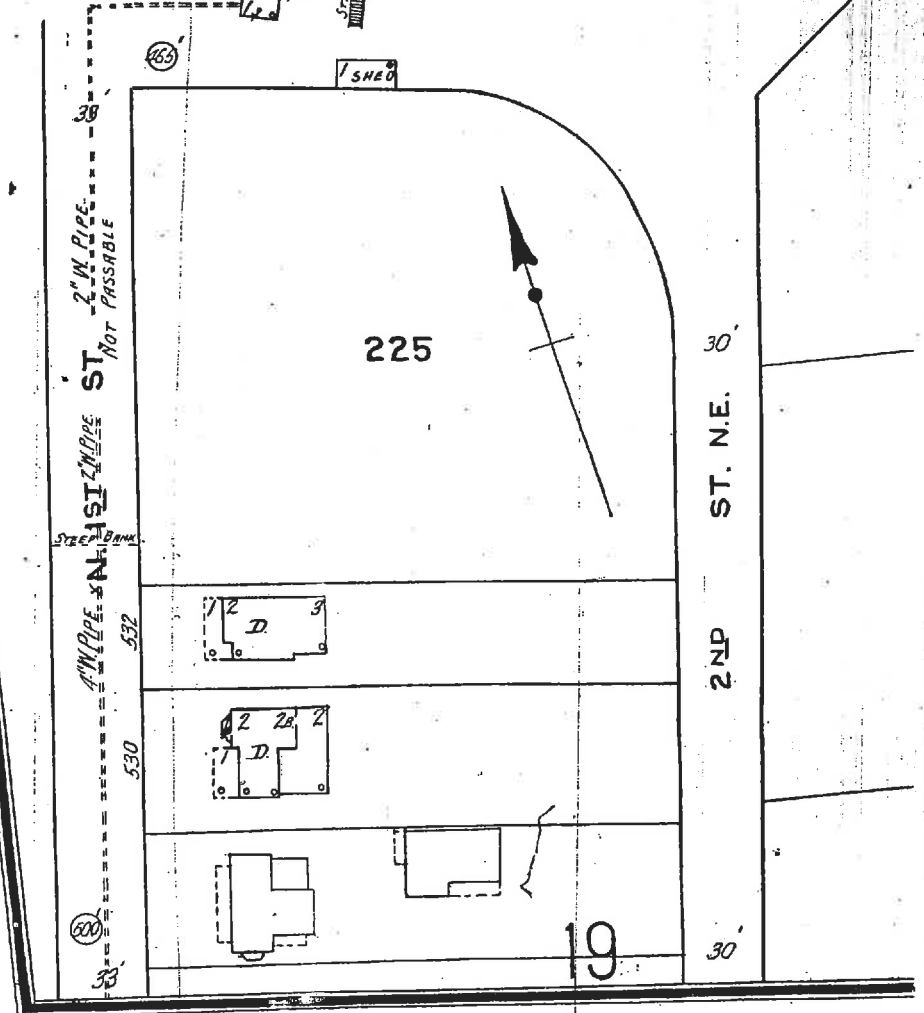
2ND

32'

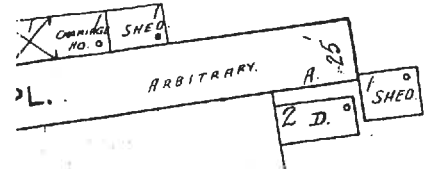
1913 #15

21

FEB. 1920
CHARLOTTESVILLE
VA.



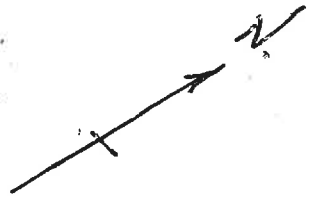
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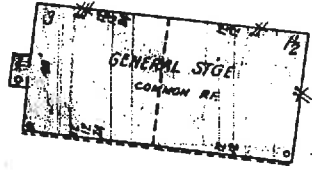
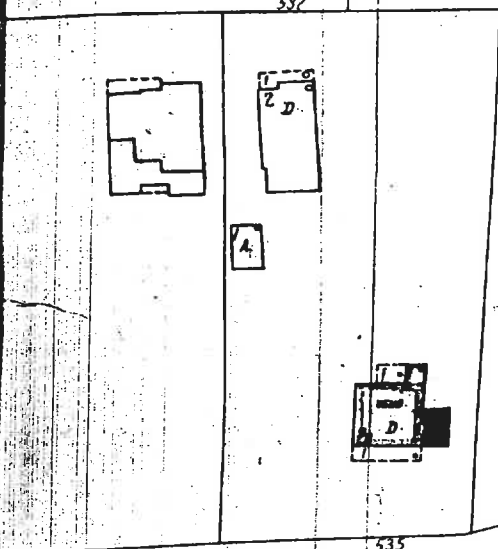
1929 SANBORN MAP

0

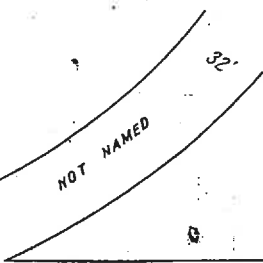
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ST. N.

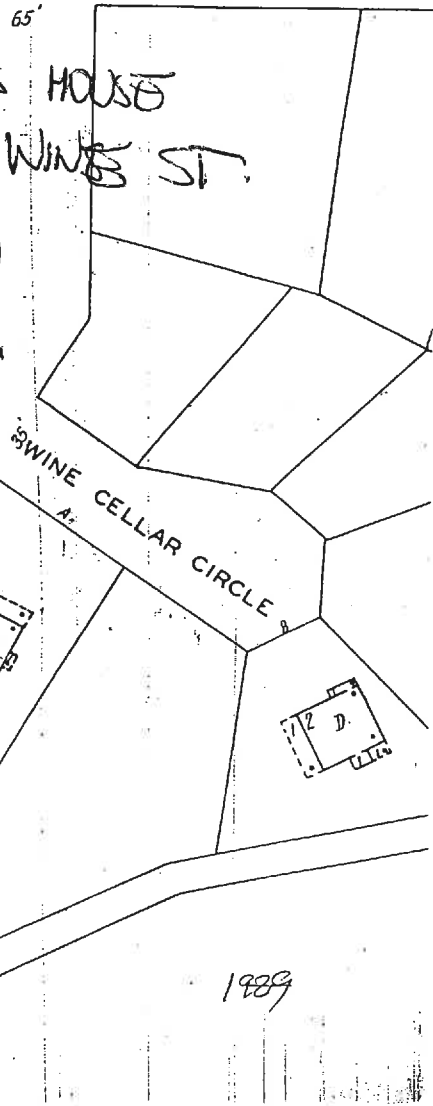
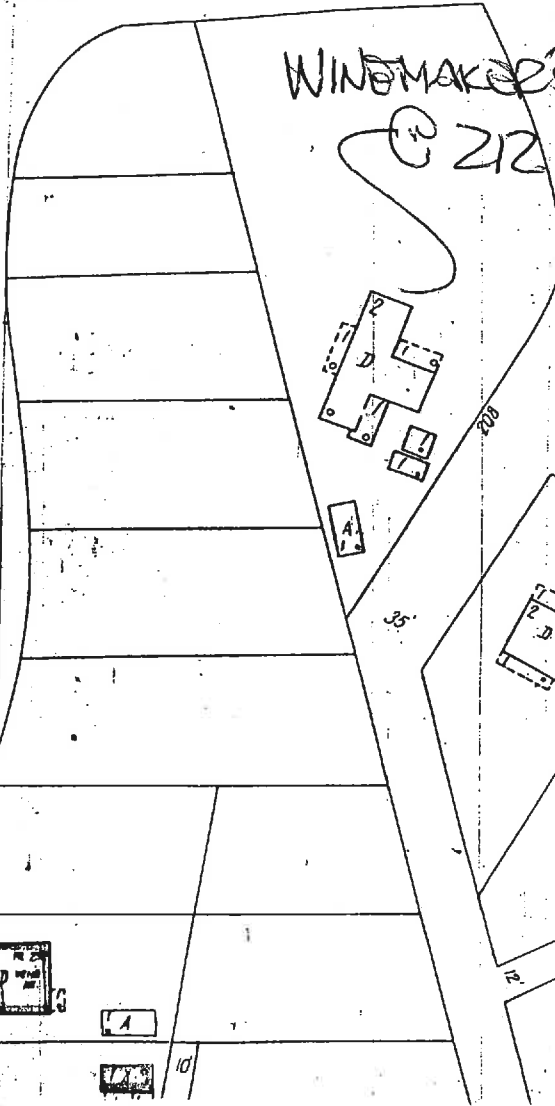
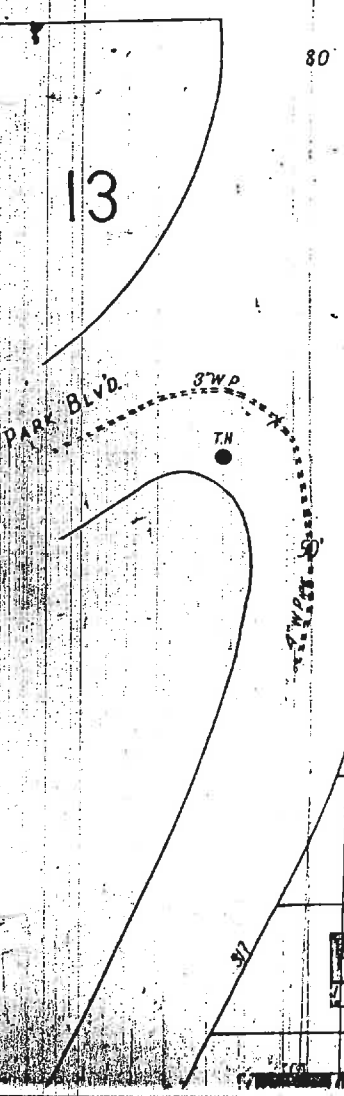


225



2ND ST. N.E.

NORTHWOOD



1929

Adolph Russow left behind a legacy of high principles expressed in many ways. Eloquent compliments revealed him as warm, gentle, friendly, frank, unselfish, thoughtful, generous, truthful, faithful, and understanding. A Charlottesville-Woolen Mills resolution passed on October 9, 1923, referred to his demise as "a hard loss for our community, a citizen of whom all had every reason to be proud."

Also a part of his legacy is the contribution he made in establishing Charlottesville as a major center for wine production. Now, a century after the Monticello Wine Company was incorporated, the city is again proclaimed "The Wine Capital of Virginia" and can boast to being the center of a flourishing wine producing industry with ten wineries in the area.

A few bottles of wine made by the Monticello Wine Company are still in private hands; others, and wine memorabilia, are on exhibit at the Museum of the Albemarle County Historical Society and at the Virginia Wine Museum in Michie Tavern.

The Russow Family

Father's parents

Mother's parents

J. C. Russow

b. 1820 August 12
d. 1909 March 26

Married to:

Wilhelmine (Schwarcke)
Russow

b. 1830 August 23
d. 1883 March 30

Ernest Jon. Adolph Liebeck

b. 1815 November 27
d. 1872 October 30

Married to:

Emilie Ottilie Augusta (Thor-
man) Liebeck

b. 1824 August 28
d. 1911 August 18

Father - Mother

Adolph C. H. F. Russow

b. 1851 April 9
d. 1923 October 8

Ida Emilie Elisabeth (Liebeck)
Russow

b. 1856 February 23
d. 1942 October 16

Married: 1872 November 18

<i>Children</i>	<i>Born</i>	<i>Died</i>	<i>Married to</i>
Adolph, Jr.	1873 Aug. 1	1962 Dec. 30	Unmarried
Marie Emma L.	1875 Jun. 8	1942 Dec. 7	Theodore F. Meinhardt
Wilhelmina E. M.	1877 Sep. 14	1964 Feb. 29	Edward W. Hase
Otto A. F.	1881 Nov. 29	1963 Feb. 23	Bertha C. Houchins
Anna M. S.	1885 Jul. 18	1976 Apr. 4	1. Charles R. Wunder 2. William J. Feiser
Hans E. A.	1887 Aug. 11	1946 Nov. 11	1. Lelya Titmus 2. Eugenia Davis
Theodore A.	1889 Feb. 14	1962 Sep. 3	1. Pearl Perry 2. Marie Sandridge
Virginia Germain	1898 Dec. 5	1984 Jan. 11	Waverly G. Diggs

directed the construction of McGuffey Primary School, which opened in 1916. He worked closely with then Superintendent C. Tools Dr. James G. Johnson on this project, and Johnson hung a portrait of Russow in the reception area of the school to recognize the efforts of the man he admired so much. The building now houses the McGuffey Arts Center.

Mr. Russow's expertise and influence also touched "Monticello," where he provided assistance to Thomas L. Rhodes, estate manager during the period when Jefferson M. Levy owned Jefferson's home. When prohibition caused the Monticello Wine Company to stop business, the Russow family was given the house on Wine Street in which they had lived so long.¹² The deed included sufficient land for gardening and raising chickens, and Mr. Russow used it for those purposes. He also received fees for writing on agricultural subjects for *The Country Gentleman* and other publications.

His interest as a member of the Board of Directors and stockholder in the Charlottesville Woolen Mills occasionally brought him there to escort family members and friends on tours of the facilities. It was there in an elevator accident, in which no one but himself was seriously injured, that he suffered a broken leg. He subsequently died of an embolism at the Martha Jefferson Hospital in the early morning of October 8, 1923, at the age of 72.

Funeral services at the family home were limited to family members and close friends only, but a large gathering of Midway School students, Masons from two lodges, and members of the Woolen Mills Board of Directors attended his interment at Oakwood Cemetery. The press described the arrival of the funeral procession for graveside rites as "unusual and affecting."¹³

In 1929, the large lot and frame house that had been deeded to Mr. Russow by the Monticello Wine Company was divided into three lots, and a stucco bungalow was built on the lot that adjoined the old frame house.¹⁴ The bungalow, 208 Wine Street, was occupied by Mr. Russow's widow, Ida, and by Mrs. Minna Hase, her widowed daughter, who was given a life interest in the new home. Ida Russow died here on October 16, 1942, at the age of 86, and is buried next to her husband in Oakwood Cemetery.

¹²Charlottesville City Deed Book 30, p. 227.

¹³Daily Progress, October 8, 1923, p. 1; October 11, 1923, p. 1.

¹⁴Charlottesville City Deed Book 67, p. 7.

Wine Company in 1914 when a prohibition enabling act became law in Virginia. The commonwealth voted in that year to "go dry," and it became so in November 1, 1916. The company stock of wine was sold, the equipment was disposed of, and the building was sold to the Michie Company, which used it for storing printing plates and bound law books. On April 26, 1937, fire destroyed this structure as it had the first Monticello Wine Company winery,¹¹ and the property was eventually subdivided for residences and surrounded by new streets, leaving no image of the wine cellar.

The Presidents of the Monticello Wine Company over a period of time included: William Horopp, R. W. Minor, Sr., W. W. Minor, Sr., and H. E. Magruder. Several men served as Secretary: J. R. Bryan, Jr., Oscar Reterson (who also served as President and Treasurer), D. R. Snow, and M. Kaufman. Many other residents of Charlottesville sat on the Board of Directors: J. W. Porter, R. T. W. Duke, B. C. Flannagan, J. D. Jones, A. R. McKee, and M. Woods. The only person ever responsible for the actual operation of the Company, however, was Superintendent Adolph Russow, who later became its General Manager.

Captain Adolph Russow, as many of his friends called him, was a large man, six feet and erect, weighing about 225 pounds. Blue eyes and light complexion went with sparse brown hair, mustache and goatee. In public he was always "dressed up," his chosen attire being a suit, white shirt and bow tie, with vest and gold chain for his pocket watch, and slip-on boots. He was seldom without his Havana cigar, procured directly from the Cuban capitol.

He was proud of his knowledge of agriculture and found pleasure in his work, and he enjoyed entertaining friends at home, playing cards, and reading. In 1869, he was a charter member of Charlottesville's first Immanuel Lutheran Church. Later, he became a Past Master of Masonic Order Lodge No. 55 and served as its treasurer for thirty years.

Mr. Russow joined the Charlottesville Chamber of Commerce in its early years and served as the Chamber's treasurer in 1909. For more than twenty-two years, he was also a member of the Charlottesville Public Schools Board, and he was always searching for ideas that could be applied for the betterment of the local public school system. While chairman of the Board's Buildings and Grounds Committee, he

¹¹Daily Progress, April 27, 1937, p. 1.

Grapes from vineyards including those of the Russow "Bellevue," the William Stevens "Piedmont" and the W. T. Hotopp "Pen Park" were delivered in barrels on small flatcars pushed by hand to the top floor of the building. A railway built on a small trestle extending from an inclined access road provided the necessary connection to the northern end of the building. Here the grapes were sorted by type and inspected, usually by D. R. Snow, an official of the Company. Cleaning followed, after which the grapes were dumped to the third floor to be pressed.

Juice from a particular type of grape was drained into one of the large fermenting vats, which was then closed to prevent the entrance of air. In from one to two weeks the sugars in the juice had turned to alcohol. At this time, the sediment that formed during fermentation was settled out through the addition of egg whites from freshly cracked and separated eggs. This process was frequently performed in an afternoon by Mrs. Ida Russow, her youngest daughter Virginia, and her granddaughter Augusta Meinhardt. After settling and clarifying, the wine was drawn carefully from the fermenting vats into smaller casks, where it was aged for up to a year.

Finished wine was drawn from the aging casks into freshly cleaned glass bottles (fig. 3). Cleaning reused bottles, which took place on the second floor, entailed shaking a mixture of soap, water, and buckshot inside each bottle by hand. The clean bottle was then filled with wine and closed with a water-soaked cork using a hand corking machine. The cork was covered with metal foil and each bottle, bearing a Company label, was placed in an individual straw sack and packed by the dozen in a wooden case.

According to a Monticello Wine Company sales directory printed shortly after 1900, the firm produced the following products:

White Wines

Delaware, Catawba (Dry), Virginia Hock, Virginia Sauterne, and Altar Wines

Red Wines

Virginia Claret, Extra Claret, Ives' Seedling, Norton's Virginia Seedling, and Cynthiana

Sweet Wines

Hermann (Virginia Sherry), Virginia Port, Virginia Blackberry, and Sweet Catawba.

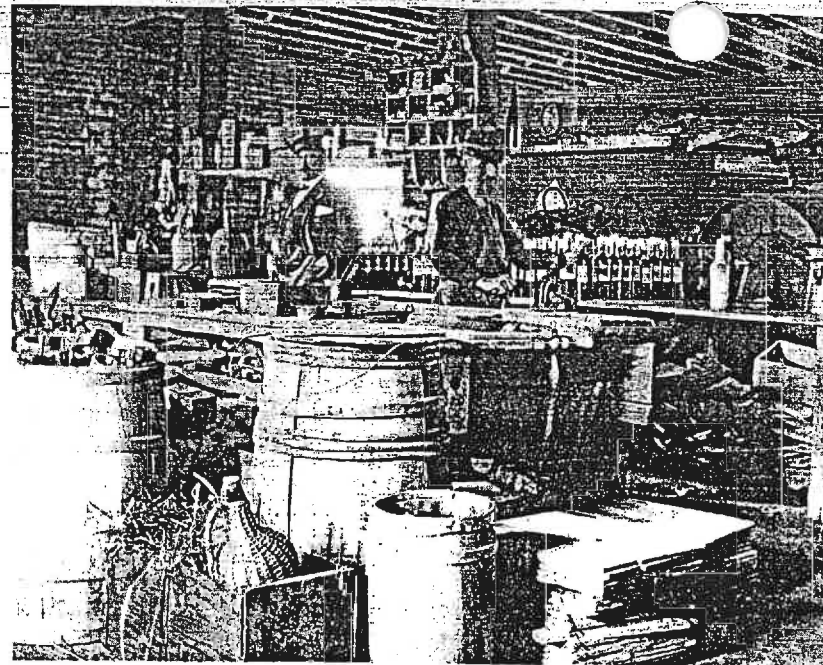


Fig. 3: The bottling floor.

Also listed are Pure Grape Brandy and White Rose of Virginia Champagne. The latter was used to christen the *USS Virginia*, a battleship constructed at the Newport News Shipbuilding Company prior to World War I. An account of the occasion reported that the ship's officers, consuming the remaining bottles of the case, pronounced the champagne "unexcelled!"⁹

The Company won a silver medal for red wine at the International Exposition at Paris in 1878, two first class medals at the New Orleans International Exposition in 1884-85, a silver medal at the Paris Exposition Universelle in 1889, two first class medals at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, a medal and diploma at the International Exposition in Paris in 1900, and a gold medal at the Jamestown Exposition of 1907. The recognition that accompanied these awards helped increase sales. Production soon exceeded 50,000 gallons per year, and the forecast for continued prosperity in the new century appeared excellent.¹⁰

⁹Daily Progress, April 3, 1904.

¹⁰Daily Progress, Illustrated edition (1906), p. 37.

wide, and three stories high. Within that structure were vats, grape presses, facilities for washing containers, and storage space to accommodate both unprocessed grapes and barrels and bottles of aging wine.

The wine making process appears to have been the same as that used in Europe, changing little over time. Yet annual production grew from 5,000 gallons in the first year to 22,000 gallons by 1880; a report to the directors in January, 1881, stated that 34,000 gallons of wine was in storage. Prospects seemed good, and the directors voted to double the capital stock. A scant nine months later, in September of 1881, the winery building was destroyed by fire.⁷ It was rebuilt by the following June, with the expanded capital probably expended in rebuilding along with \$16,000 from insurance.

The new winery was larger and better equipped. The Company building now measured 100 feet by forty-four feet and was four stories high (fig 2). Seventeen fermenting vats, having a total capacity of 180,000 gallons, were in a vaulted cellar that had the desirable features of being cool, dry, and dark. On the second floor were sixty-six casks with a capacity of 103,000 gallons, which were used for aging wine of various types and for filling bottles.⁸

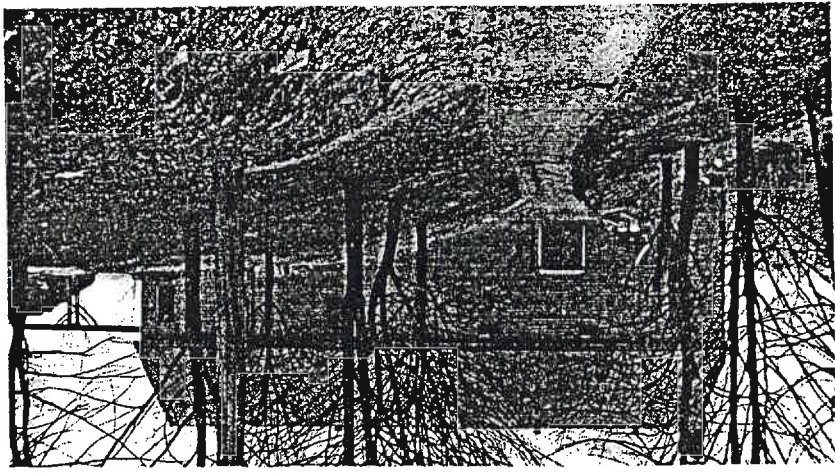


Fig. 2: The rebuilt Winery after 1882.

⁷Charlottesville *Chronicle*, August 29, 1879, p. 3.

⁸*Ibid.*, January 21, 1881, p. 3; September 9, 1881, p. 3.

⁹Albemarle County, p. 60; Sanborn Insurance Company Map, Charlottesville (1907).

"Red Hills" from Francis E. G. Carr. In November of 1884 Adolph and Ida Russow title to the property outright by obtaining all interests of the Gracks.

The Russows began raising a family in 1873, and seven of their eight children were born at "Red Hills": Adolph, jr., Mary, Mina, Otto, Anna, Hans, and Theodore. Their youngest, Virginia, was born after the Russows sold "Red Hills" to Samuel and Annie Buck and the family moved to Charlottesville in 1891. Their city home, now 212 Wine Street, was owned by the Monticello Wine Company and was only a few hundred feet from the winery. Mr. Russow spent most of the remainder of his life managing the business, while his son, Theodore, represented the company as a salesman (fig 1).

The Monticello Wine Company was located in a building owned by the corporation on a hill opposite the First Street cliff and at the foot of present day Wine Street, which was then an alley to Park Street that started at the end of North Second Street. The Company property bordered what is now Northwood Avenue and Northwood Circle, McIntire Road, and Perry Drive, streets that did not exist at that time.



Fig. 1: A Company calling card.

Albemarle Co. Deed Book 76, p. 343.

Albemarle Co. Deed Book 95, p. 441.

Mazzei also formed a stock company, to which many prominent Virginians subscribed, for viticultural purposes and to plant olive trees for olive oil production. Olive cultivation was never undertaken, but Mazzei did plant grape vines that he had ordered from Europe. Such young plantings would not bear for several years, and before they matured most were attacked by a root louse and perished. In 1780, Mazzei's service in the American Revolution sent him to Europe to represent our government, and his efforts to grow grapes were consequently suspended.

Thomas Jefferson was likewise interested in producing wine at "Monticello." In addition to being Mazzei's friend, he had shown a sympathetic interest in Mazzei's undertaking of growing grapes and making wine at "Colle." Jefferson became increasingly familiar with wines and wine making during his visits to Europe after the Revolution, and he corresponded with Giannini, who remained in America, about the progress of his undertaking. No wine had been made by 1786, however, and when Jefferson returned to Virginia he brought cuttings from Italy with him to plant on his land. But again, these were attacked by the root louse and most perished. Because repeated attempts to introduce European varieties of grapes in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries consistently failed, such efforts were abandoned.

Good wine was being made from native vines, however, which were resistant to the pest—the best came from New York and Ohio. Moreover, native vines were being bred for an improved fruit that made better wine. Viticulturalists were also soon beginning to enjoy success in importing European vines and grafting them to native roots, making the plants resistant to the root louse that had killed European seedlings in the past. The common varieties were Catawba, Concord, Delaware and Ives, all native, and Norton's Virginia, a hybrid variety similar to the Cynthiana brought from Arkansas. All these grapes grew well in loose and friable calcareous loam, especially on hillsides, where soil and site promoted good drainage. Land in Albemarle County met these conditions. By the mid-nineteenth century, then, conditions appeared favorable for renewed attempts at viticulture and wine-making as viable undertakings.

In Albemarle, viticulture for commercial purposes began in earnest after the Civil War. The first grower was William L. Hotopp, who lived on a farm called "Pen Park" and planted grape vines in 1866. During the first few years, Hotopp shipped his product for table use only, but by 1871 his grapes were so fine and plentiful that he decided to make some wine in his cellar.

The effort was a success, and others were soon also making wine in the county.¹ Among them were W. W. Minor, Sr., at Scar Reiersen, who procured casks and other equipment and established a wine-making plant in a house cellar in Charlottesville. They then proceeded to enlist the cooperation of others to form the Monticello Wine Company, which was chartered in May of 1873.² 2.6 acres situated at the north end of First Street were purchased from William J. Robertson,³ and a sound building was soon erected and equipped for the manufacture and bottling of wine. Adolph Russow was named the Superintendent of the newly formed Company.

Adolph C. H. F. Russow, who changed his initials to F. W. H. to make uneventful his leaving Germany, was born on April 9, 1851, in Lauenburg, Germany. His parents were J. C. Russow, a merchant, and Wilhelmine Schwarcke Russow. Considered a prodigy, he had at an early age received a liberal education, mastered fluency in three languages, and pursued graduate studies in agriculture.

His father was closely acquainted with Prince Otto von Bismark, First Chancellor of the German Empire, who advocated compulsory military service for German youth. Taking advantage of this close relationship, the elder Russow obtained an audience for himself and his son before the German leader to protest that general policy and the call to service that young Russow had just received. Enraged at the confrontation, Bismark tore up the family vital statistics before the son's face shouting, "You Russows no longer exist!"

Lacking identity for a life in Germany, young Adolph came to America in 1868. He first supported himself by operating streetcars in New York City. Further contacts and inquiries brought him to Virginia, where he engaged in farming and establishing vineyards in Fauquier and Nelson counties.

On November 18, 1872, he married Ida Elisabeth Liebeck in Washington, D.C. They made their first home in Albemarle County on the farm known as "Red Hills," near Proffit Station. Here, adjacent to his residence, he established "Bellevue Vineyards," which soon provided grapes for the Monticello Wine Company. How he paid in early years for use of the property, comprising 307.5 acres, is unclear,

¹Albemarle County, a Handbook, ed. W. Seamon (Charlottesville, 1888), pp. 55-59.

²Albemarle Co. Charter Book No. 1, p. 18.

³Albemarle Co. Deed Book 88, p. 542.

Edward W. Hase a grandson of pre-prohibition era Charlottesville winemaker Adolph Russow, was born in Charlottesville in the old Russow home at 212 Wine Street. Mr. Hase now resides in Washington, D.C., where he is retired from the Department of State Agency for International Development. Previously, he was with the passenger department of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad. During the "Golden Age of Radio" when Charlottesville radio station WCHV began operating in 1933 as WEHC, he was a broadcaster and program director until leaving the city in 1944. Charlottesville being his ancestral home, Mr. Hase is among the many enthusiastic life members of the Albemarle County Historical Society.

Robert M. Hubbard, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Virginia, was an Honorary Director of the Albemarle County Historical Society at the time of his death in January, 1988. His background in chemistry and his interest in local history prompted the contribution found in this issue; he was also researching a prospective companion piece on contemporary wineries in Albemarle County.

K. Edward Lay, Professor of Architecture at the University of Virginia, has been a member of the School of Architecture faculty since 1967. Mr. Lay has published and lectured widely, most recently on architecture and the historic preservation of buildings in Virginia. Among his many professional, academic and civic associations, he has served as chairman of the Charlottesville Historic Landmarks Commission and the Charlottesville Board of Architectural Review; he is also a former member of the Board of Directors of the Albemarle County Historical Society.

Gayle M. Schulman, an alumna of Mt. Holyoke College, took her Masters degree from the University of Virginia School of Education. She has lived in Charlottesville since 1965 and has written several guides and walking tours of Charlottesville and its environs. Most recently, Mrs. Schulman has directed her research interests to Charlottesville's history.

Richard H. F. Lindemann
Editor

Adolph Russow and the Monticello Wine Company

by Edward W. Hase, II, and Robert M. Hubbard

This is the fascinating and factual story of a man and his part in operating the first large commercial winery in Virginia prior to the Commonwealth's Prohibition Act and the passage of the Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Adolph Russow, a German graduate student of Agriculture, came to America in 1868 and became Superintendent and General Manager of the Monticello Wine Company, a Charlottesville business incorporated in 1873, to make wine from the grapes of Albemarle County.

Grapes native to this continent were plentiful in our temperate climate, but they were small and not always suitable for making wine. Before the era of the Monticello Wine Company, our immigrant ancestors had tried to make wine in many places in America with little success.

One such pioneer, Philip Mazzei, immigrated to this country in 1773 with the thought of starting vineyards and establishing a wine-making industry. Both Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Adams, whom he had met in Europe, had advised him to make the attempt. He landed in Virginia with several companions, among whom was Giovanni Antonio Ciannini, a vineyardist from Fribiala, in the Italian province of Lucca. In his search for available land, Mazzei stopped to visit Thomas Jefferson. A house and plot of 400 acres adjoining "Monticello" was for sale; Mazzei purchased it to house his craftsmen and obtained from Jefferson an additional 2,000 acres, on which he built his home, "Colle."

Mazzei selected six of the numerous varieties of grapes he found in the nearby woods, and he had success in making good wine from these. A severe freeze in May, 1774, froze the grapes and vines, however, and wine production was stopped for that year.

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The Society is composed of Individual, Contributing, Supporting, Sustaining, and Life Members. For fee rates and other membership information, please write to the Membership Chairman, 220 Court Square, Charlottesville, Virginia, 22901.

We wish to call attention to the fact that this publication normally is mailed at the non-profit organization rate and will not be forwarded unless regular postage is added. If your current address is different from the one we are now using, or if you intend to move, please notify us of the change so that we may continue to send you our notices and publications.

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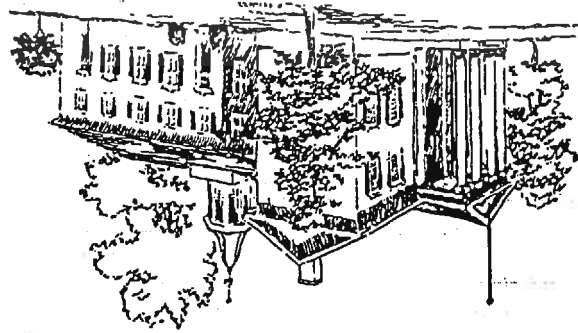
1988 marks the centennial anniversary of Charlottesville's incorporation as a city. *Volume 46* commemorates that event with a collection of articles devoted to the county seat of Albemarle. "Shall We Become A City?" gives an account of the political events that led to Charlottesville's incorporation. Annexation was an inextricable issue in the incorporation question, and readers will discover no less controversy surrounding the topic then as now. "Adolph Russow and the Monticello Wine Company" offers a biographical story as well as an account of one of the chief industrial enterprises that was flourishing during the period of incorporation. "Charlottesville's Architectural Legacy" reflects on the profound influences of the builders and architects of Charlottesville and Albemarle County; their works remain as visible testimony to the creativity, industry and achievement of its citizens.

The Magazine is indebted to many individuals for the production of this issue. The Publications Committee of the Society—Julius P. Barclay, Edmund Berkeley, Jr., Charles E. Moran, Jr., and Evelyn D. Wyllie—offered critical comments during the process of reviewing articles submitted for publication. The Manuscripts Division of the University of Virginia Library showed strong support for this undertaking. Special thanks are due Melinda B. Frierson for her managerial assistance.

About the Authors

Melinda B. Frierson has served as the Executive Director of the Albemarle County Historical Society since January of 1986. A graduate of Davidson College, Mrs. Frierson has also completed course work

**ALBEMARLE COUNTY
HISTORY**



ALBEMARLE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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Adolph Russow, General Manager of the Monticello Wine Company