

VDHR Reconnaissance Survey Form

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES
PROPERTY SURVEY FORM
RECONNAISSANCE LEVEL

IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

VDHR File # 104-0132-000

Property Name: Anderson Brothers Building
Historic

NR Property Category: Building
Wuzit: Store/Apartments

Tax Code: Section Parcel
9 76

County/City: Charlottesville (City)

USGS Map: USGS Quad: Charlottesville West

ADDRESS/LOCATION INFORMATION

Address: 1417- 1427 University Avenue Street

Location:

Vicinity of: Municipality: ZIP: 22903

PROPERTY CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION

Property Boundaries:
Ownership: Private

RESOURCE COUNT -

#	Category	Contributing?	TOTAL:	
1	Building	Contributing	1	
			Contrib:	1
			Non-Contrib:	0

WUZIT COUNT -

#	Wuzit	Contributing?	TOTAL:	
1	Store/Apartments	Contributing	1	
			Contrib:	1
			Non-Contrib:	0

RESOURCE - GENERAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Resource Level:

Estimated Construction Date: 1848, 91

Source of Date: Tax Records

Physical Status: Existing

Condition: Good

Threat: None Known

Degree of Historic Integrity:

Association:

Design:

Feeling:

Location:

Materials:

Setting:

Workmanship:

PRIMARY RESOURCE RECONNAISSANCE DESCRIPTION

Architectural Style/Derivative: Victorian (Italianate)

of Stories: 3.0 # of Bays Wide: 7 # of Bays Deep: 0

Arch Config: Geo Config:

Footprint:

Component	#	Form/Treatment	Material	Matr'l Treatment
Chimneys			Brick	
Foundation		masonry		
Roof		Shed	Metal	Standing seam
Windows		sash	Wood	1/1 Double-hung

Brief Architectural Description of Primary Resource:

This impressive building is the largest one with a metal-clad facade remaining in Charlottesville. It is three stories tall and seven bays wide. Construction is of brick laid in 6-course American bond. The two storefronts were rebuilt c. 1960 with brick walls and recessed entrances. Access to the apartments on the upper levels is through an entrance in the eastern bay of the facade. The door has architrave trim and is set within a round-arched recess. A two-flight open-wall stair with Victorian balustrade rises from the stair hall. A simple store-front cornice extends across the entire facade. Windows at the second and third levels are double-sash, 1-over-1 light, with architrave trim, the same height at both levels. They are flanked by pairs of short engaged Corinthianesque columns set on tall pedestals decorated with two rosettes. The columns at the second level support a simple cornice with decorated cornice stops. The columns at the third level support a massive parapet entablature, with a row of round discs connected by hyphens on the architrave, a plain frieze, and a projecting cornice with decorated modillions and cornice stops and two upper tiers decorated with stylized floral bands. Pairs of decorated cornice brackets support plaques, and the words

ANDERSON BROTHERS appear in raised letters below the plaques. Behind the parapet, a shed roof covered with standing-seam metal slopes fairly steeply to the rear. The stair hall section extends only half way back, so the rear elevation is six bays wide. It is covered with stucco, and windows are 6-over-6 light with architrave trim.

Brief Architectural Description of Additions and Alterations
See Historical Description.

Brief Architectural Description of Secondary Resources:

Potentially Contributes to Historic District:

Rugby Road-University Corner

Potentially Associated with NR Multiple Property:

Architectural and Historical Summary:

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

William N. Roach bought this lot in 1845 (ACDB 42-457) and erected a two-storey brick building in 1848. It was later doubled in size. A photograph taken c. 1880 shows it as two 2-storey, 2-bay buildings under a single hip roof covered with standing-seam metal. Brick was laid in Flemish bond on the facade, and it had a mousetooth cornice. Chimneys in the center and at the east end suggest that the interior followed the side hall plan at the second level, although each storefront had a recessed central entrance. A shingled awning with sawn trim covered the first level of the facade. Sophia Leschot bought the lot, "including all buildings erected by Roach," in 1852 (ACDB 51-101). A bookstore has occupied at least one of the store rooms since that time: Jones' Book Store, operated by George Jones 1852-1874; Massie's Book Store, operated by Henry Massie 1874-1876, and by Richard Dabney Anderson 1876-1878; and Anderson Brothers Book Store since 1881. R. D. Anderson bought the business in 1876, making it the oldest business in Charlottesville still in its original location. When John R. Anderson and R. D. Anderson purchased the building from Mrs. Leschot's estate in 1886, the deed stated that it was "occupied by the said Andersons as a general book and student's furnishings store" (ACDB 87-142). The present building was built around the old one in 1891-92. The metal-clad facade of a smaller building at 711 West Main Street is identical to a section of this one. This building was renovated and expanded in 1927, 1960, 1966, 1970.

Additional References: ACDB 97-139; City DB 50-381.

1993: The business (but not the building) has been sold and is now known as Follett's University Book Store.

SIGNIFICANCE & RELATION TO EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Anderson Brothers Building is the largest, and one of only two buildings with a metal-clad facade remaining in Charlottesville. This alone would make it an extremely important part of the architectural fabric of the City. Additionally, however, it is the most monumental and memorable building on the University Corner, and it has at its core one of the first commercial buildings erected there when the area began to be a center for student-oriented businesses. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a part of the Charlottesville Multiple

Resource Area, both individually and as a part of the Rugby Road-University Corner Historic District. Although the business has now been sold and is operating under another name, Anderson Brothers Inc., was for many years the oldest business in the City still in its original location.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Type of Record Citation

City Records
Charlottesville City Deed Book

County Records
Albemarle County Deed Books

Interview
John W. Williams

PHOTOGRAPHIC/DRAWINGS DOCUMENTATION

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MISSING DATA ELEMENT

Media VDHR Neg # Frames Date

B&W 35mm photos 13468 28 - 31 1/ /1994

CRM MANAGEMENT EVENTS

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MISSING DATA ELEMENT

CRM Event Agency/Organization Date

Survey Community Development-Bibb/Huppert / /1980

IPS data entry-PAVA (Smead)