LANDMARK SURVEY

IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 759 Belmont Avenue

Map and Parcel: 58-172

Census Track & Block:

Present Owner: George W. Seiler
Address: 1508 Rugby Avenue

Present Use: Apartments

Original Owner: John Winn

Original Use: Residential

BASE DATA

Historic Name: Belmont

Date/Period: circa 1837

Style: Late Georgian

Height to Cornice:
Height in Stories: 2

Present Zoning: R-2

Land Area (sq.ft.): 13,986 sq. ft.

Assessed Value (land + imp.): 2400 + 9960 = 12,360

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Belmont is an unusually large brick house seven bays in length, originally one room in width with a central stair hall. A great many changes have occurred in its long history. The main section is two stories on a raised basement with 9 over 9 windows on the first floor having six pane windows for the basement beneath them and 6 over 6 windows on the second floor. There are Jack arches over the first floor windows and the second floor windows almost touch the deep wooden cornice attached to a brick projection under the roof line. There are no windows on either end wall and the chimneys are flush with the end walls projecting from the gently sloping parapet gable. In the middle of the Belmont Ave. side is a projecting wing end gable to the street that was added by the present owner. It is half the size of the original building and both stories are brick. It is attached where a larger frame addition once was that reached the edge of the present Belmont Ave. There were also several dependencies shown as late as 1890 where the street now is. The other side of the building is the original front and now has a large two story neo-classical revival portico and is the same height at the outer windows, while the second story windows on either side of it under the portico are 9 over 9. The entrance door is under the upper doors' balcony and has a Greek Revival door frame with shouldered architrace trim. The pedimented portico is supported by four square paneled columns resting on a raised brick base. The entrance bay is wider than the end spaces and the whole one bay in depth. From this porch an extension and symmetrical stairways have been added by the present owner.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

759 Belmont Avenue, known as the Belmont Mansion (from which the area takes its name) or more recently as the "Ficklin Mansion" (DB28-387) was possibly built before 1837. John Winn, who died in 1837, mentions his residence on his 539 acre farm Belle-Mont in his will (WB 13-6). He acquired the property in 1820 from Charles Bankhead (ACDB 23-118). In pursuance of Winn's will the house was sold at auction to the highest bidder Slaughter W. Ficklin in Nov. 1847. In 1887 Ficklin's wife and children inherited the house and 551 acres of land. In 1906 the house with lots 10, 11, 12 in the Belmont Subdivision of the Belmont Land Co. and Charlottesville Land Co. (ACDB 96-72) was conveyed to Kate Farrish. It subsequently passed through several hands (ACDB 44-363; 151-445; 161-176)(DB 28-387; 34-56) until acquired by W. B. Nichols in 1915 (DB 35-492). The present owner purchased it in 1940 from Idah H. Nichols.

SIGNIFICANCE

Built early in the 19th century, Belmont was the manor house of a 500-acre farm which has become Charlottesville's large Belmont neighborhood. A Colonel Wells used the house as his headquarters during a brief Union occupation of Charlottesville in March 1865.

CONDITIONS

Good

UTM: 17/721420/4211330

SOURCES

George W. Seiler
City Records
County Records

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