

# Architectural And Historic Survey



## Identification

STREET ADDRESS: 605 Preston Place  
 MAP & PARCEL: 5-111  
 CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK: 2-502  
 PRESENT ZONING: R-3  
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Sally Ann McCoy, et al  
 ORIGINAL USE: Residence  
 PRESENT USE: Rental Property (4 apartments)  
 PRESENT OWNER: Preston Court, Inc.  
 ADDRESS: c/o Mrs. J. L. Hartman  
 Box 254  
 Charlottesville, Virginia

HISTORIC NAME: Wyndhurst  
 DATE / PERIOD: 1857  
 STYLE: Vernacular  
 HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 2 storeys  
 DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 100' x 171.7' (18,880 sq. ft.)  
 CONDITION: Good  
 SURVEYOR: Bibb  
 DATE OF SURVEY: Winter 1980  
 SOURCES: City/County Records  
 Mrs. J. L. Hartman

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Wyndhurst is a typical 2-storey, 3-bay, double-pile white weatherboarded house with Greek Revival details. It is set on a high foundation of brick laid in 5-course American bond. It has a low-pitched hip roof covered with standing-seam metal with projecting eaves and boxed cornice. Capped chimneys centered between the two rooms on each side of the central hall serve fireplaces in all the original rooms. Windows are double-sash with architrave trim and black louvered shutters, 6-over-9 light at the first level and shorter 6-over-6 light at the second. A one-storey entrance porch covers the center bay of the facade. It has a low-pitched hip roof with boxed cornice and plain frieze, four square pillars with inset panels, and a simple balustrade. The 4-paneled Greek Revival style entrance door has sidelights over panels and a rectangular transom. Interior doors are also 4-paneled with architrave trim. Ceilings quite high. A 3-flight open stair with turned newels and simple balustrade rises from the extremely wide central hall. A small one-storey addition with bowed end covers the south (front) bay of the east elevation. Its windows are 6-over-6 light. A one-storey enclosed sun parlor with wide 8-over-8 light windows covers the north bay of the east elevation. These two additions are connected by a one-storey hyphen and both have foundations of brick laid in stretcher bond. A complex series of one- and two-storey additions covers the rear elevation. They are weatherboarded and set on cinderblock and concrete foundations. Some windows are 2-over-2 light. There is one circular-headed window at the second level.

## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

In 1857 Sally Ann McCoy et al purchased a 102 $\frac{1}{2}$ -acre tract that had been part of the Opie Norris estate (ACDB 56-214). Tax records indicate major construction activity, probably this house, in 1857. She sold the entire farm to Thomas L. and Anna M. Preston in 1863 (ACDB 61-156). The house was raided by Union soldiers during the brief occupation of Charlottesville in March 1865. The farm was subdivided in 1892, (Preston Heights plat ACDB 97-346), reserving ten acres with the house. After the deaths of Colonel and Mrs. Preston, that was also subdivided (City DB 34-28 and 478). The house had four owners between 1919 and 1930 when it was purchased by Charity S. Pitts (Mrs. William Pitts) (DB 70-489). For many years Mrs. Pitts operated a popular boarding house for University students. The east side additions and the first two-storey rear addition had been made by the Prestons; most of the others were probably made by Mrs. Pitts. Preston Court, Inc., which had built Preston Court Apartments on what had originally been Wyndhurst's front lawn, bought the house when Mrs. Pitts retired in 1970 (DB 314-104) and divided it into four apartments, retaining most of the original fabric. **Additional References:** ACDB 106-139, 126-130; ACWB 32-95; City DB 50-596, 34-349, 35-305, 57-334, 58-358, 59-485.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Wyndhurst was the manor house of the 100-acre farm now comprising the Preston Heights section of the city. It was raided by Yankee soldiers during the brief occupation of Charlottesville in March 1865. It is a large vernacular structure with Greek Revival details.

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