

VDHR Reconnaissance Survey Form

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES  
PROPERTY SURVEY FORM  
RECONNAISSANCE LEVEL

IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

VDHR File # 104-0236-000

Property Name: Historic White Cross-Huntley Hall

NR Property Category: Building  
Wuzit: Apartment Building

Tax Code: Section Parcel  
18A 33

County/City: Charlottesville (City)

USGS Map: USGS Quad: Charlottesville West

ADDRESS/LOCATION INFORMATION

Address: 214 Stribling Avenue Street

Location:

Vicinity of: Municipality: ZIP: 22903

PROPERTY CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION

Property Boundaries:  
Ownership: Private

RESOURCE COUNT -

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

WUZIT COUNT -

#	Wuzit	Contributing?	
1	Apartment Building	Contributing	TOTAL: 1
			Contrib: 1
			Non-Contrib: 0

RESOURCE - GENERAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Resource Level:

Estimated Construction Date: 1891  
 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: Vernacular Victorian (Shingle Style)

# of Stories: 2.0 # of Bays Wide: 0 # of Bays Deep: 0  
 Arch Config: Geo Config:  
 Footprint:

Component	#	Form/Treatment	Material	Matr'l Treatment
Chimneys		Interior	Stone	
Dormers		gabled		
Foundation			Masonry	
Roof				
Windows		various	Wood	

Brief Architectural Description of Primary Resource:

This is a Shingle Style House, despite the lack of shingled walls except in porch posts and railings, several of which have now been enclosed with shingled walls. Its horizontal lines, stone walls, Queen Anne massing, broad expanses of roof, circular tower, and small-paned windows are all typical of the Shingle Style popular in the 1880s and 1890s. The two-storey house is built of random fieldstone with a combination of moderately pitched gable and hipped roofs, probably originally covered with wooden shingles, with projecting eaves and verges and exposed rafter ends. Wings project from the three sides of the central block, and its facade is covered by a low porte cochere with a small balcony above it and a touch of stickwork in the broad front gable. The entrance door is broad and fortress-like with multi-pane glazing and iron strap hinges. A three-storey circular stone tower is set into the corner beside the entrance. Its third level, reached by a very steep winding stairway, is a gazebo with shingled railing, stick-style posts and braces, and pyramidal roof. The windows represent a variety of styles, shapes and sizes. Many are small-paned,

either the entire window or just the upper sash or the outside edge. Although it has been divided into apartments, the original plan is still discernible, and much original fabric remains. There are five fireplaces, some very ornate with columns or pilasters and decorated frieze, each one different. The large sunken living room in the later west wing has Ionic columns above the steps at each end, and French doors lead onto a shingled porch with a bowed end (now enclosed). The kitchen appears to have been 1/2 stories tall originally, and it was separated from the rest of the house by an open porch.

Brief Architectural Description of Additions and Alterations  
See Architectural Description and Historical Description.

Brief Architectural Description of Secondary Resources:

Potentially Contributes to Historic District:

Potentially Associated with NR Multiple Property:

Architectural and Historical Summary:

#### HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

In 1890, Stephen Price Maury was deeded a tract of 104 acres by his father, Jesse Lewis Maury of Piedmont (ACDB 94-157). He built this house the same year and named it "White Cross". There is a cross of white stones in the side of the tower. Maury built another house nearby and in 1898 sold White Cross with 23 1/2 acres to John Lovell (ACDB 110-230). The two-storey west wing was extended, under Maury's direction, in 1900, according to tax records. The Lovell family changed the name to "Huntley Hall" and owned it for 47 years, except for 1932-1934 when it was owned by Robert S. Osburn (ACDB 217-430, 226-6). Osburn founded the Charlottesville School for Boys which occupied the house for over a decade. It stood vacant for a while after the school closed, and then was sold in 1946 to Mrs. Marion Wise Richardson who converted it into six apartments (City DB 125-77). It was probably at this time that the kitchen was enlarged to a full two storeys and connected to the main house. Biro Realty purchased the house and two acres in 1966 (DB 274-407).  
Additional References: ACDB 250-218; City DB 120-290, 181-432, 183-325.

#### SIGNIFICANCE & RELATION TO EVALUATION CRITERIA

Built around the turn of the century, this unique house is an important and irreplaceable part of the architectural and historical fabric of Charlottesville. White Cross-Huntley Hall is listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Charlottesville Multiple Resource Area. This interesting house has led three lives: first as the home for a member of a prominent Maury family, second as the outstanding Charlottesville School for Boys in the 1930s, and third as an apartment house. Four lives, if one believes the story that it was once used as a brothel. Through it all, the exterior has remained essentially unaltered except for the enlargement of the rear kitchen wing, and the interior has managed to retain much of its original fabric. It has even kept its spacious yard, which is probably the source of its greatest threat at the present time.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Type of Record	Citation
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City Records	Charlottesville City Deed Book
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County Records	Albemarle County Deed Books
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Interview	Ormond Dean
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Interview	Martin J. Romanac of Biro Realty
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Interview	Mrs. John Clark
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Interview	Mrs. Fred Tice (Judith Maury Tice)
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Interview	Gordon Granger, IV
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Interview	Mrs. George Maverick
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Book	S. P. Maury, The Tale of a Black Sheep
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PHOTOGRAPHIC/DRAWINGS DOCUMENTATION

MISSING DATA ELEMENT

Media	VDHR Neg #	Frames	Date
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B&W 35mm photos	13469	24 - 27	1/ /1994
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