

VDHR Reconnaissance Survey Form

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES  
PROPERTY SURVEY FORM  
RECONNAISSANCE LEVEL

IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

VDHR File # 104-0222-000  
104-0247

Property Name: Historic King Lumber Company Warehouse

NR Property Category: Building  
Wuzit: Warehouse

Tax Code: Section Parcel  
32 14

County/City: Charlottesville (City)

USGS Map: USGS Quad: Charlottesville East

ADDRESS/LOCATION INFORMATION

Address: 608 Preston 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	Warehouse	Contributing	1	
			Contrib:	1
			Non-Contrib:	0

RESOURCE - GENERAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Resource Level:

Estimated Construction Date: 1909  
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

# of Stories: 3.0 # of Bays Wide: 3 # of Bays Deep: 5  
Arch Config: Geo Config:  
Footprint:

Component	#	Form/Treatment	Material	Matr'l Treatment
Chimneys		none visible	Brick	
Foundation			Masonry	
Roof		Gable	Metal	Standing seam
Windows		sash	Wood	single light

Brief Architectural Description of Primary Resource:

This three-storey brick building has stepped gables and corbeled cornice stops. Brick is laid in 6-course American bond and is now painted white on the sides visible from the street. The very low pitched gable roof is covered with standing-seam metal. The facade is three bays wide with warehouse doors in the center bay at each level. Those at the upper levels have now been bricked or boarded up, as have all the windows. There are entrance doors in both side bays at the first level. Windows and doors are segmentally-arched. There is a wheel window in the gable end. The sides of the building are five bays long, also with warehouse doors in the center bay at each level. Fenestration is irregular on the rear elevation, and there are no warehouse doors.

Brief Architectural Description of Additions and Alterations

Upper level doors and windows have been bricked or boarded up.

Brief Architectural Description of Secondary Resources:

Potentially Contributes to Historic District:

Potentially Associated with NR Multiple Property:

Architectural and Historical Summary:

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

W. W. King bought this lot in 1899 (City DB 9-308) and in 1917 transferred the title to King Lumber Company, of which he was president (DB 30-217). Tax records indicate that this large brick warehouse was built in 1909. King Lumber Company apparently went out of business during the Depression, and this and an adjacent lot were sold to A. P. Walker in 1933 (Db 80-213). He owned the property until 1942 (DB 110-71). It was then subdivided, and Earl H. Vaughan bought this warehouse and large lot in 1943 (DB 114-304). For the next 22 years he used the warehouse to store plumbing and heating supplies. The Carter Agency, Inc., bought it from Vaughan's widow in 1972 (DB 336-400).1993: William M. Carter's widow sold it to Douglas P. and Patricia B. Jensen in 1988 (DB 522-482). Additional References: City DB 22-192, 112-100, 114-304, 351-481, 408-194; City WB 24-69.

SIGNIFICANCE & RELATION TO EVALUATION CRITERIA

Built in 1909, the King Lumber Company is listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Charlottesville Multiple Resource Area. The King Lumber Company was one of Charlottesville's principal industries at the turn of the century. Founded in 1899 by Walter King, the King Lumber Company manufactured building materials that were used throughout the United States, including in many buildings at the University of Virginia. By 1920, the company was Charlottesville's largest employer, employing over 300 people with an annual payroll of over \$400,000. By the 1930s, the King Lumber Company had gone out of business, particularly because of the Great Depression, but largely because of the suicide of its owner. This building is all that remains of that once large manufacturing concern.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Type of Record	Citation
City Records	Charlottesville City Deed Books and Will Books

PHOTOGRAPHIC/DRAWINGS DOCUMENTATION

MISSING DATA ELEMENT

Media	VDHR Neg #	Frames	Date
B&W 35mm photos	13469	7 - 9	1/ /1994

CRM MANAGEMENT EVENTS

MISSING DATA ELEMENT

CRM Event	Agency/Organization	Date
Survey	Community Development-Bibb/Huppert	/ /1980
IPS data entry-PAVA (Smead)		