

VLR-10/20/81

NRHP-10/21/82

## LANDMARK



## SURVEY

## IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 810 Locust Avenue  
 Map and Parcel: 51-74  
 Census Tract & Block: 3-316  
 Present Owner: Downing Smith  
 Address: 810 Locust Avenue  
 Present Use: Residence  
 Original Owner: George Sinclair  
 Original Use: Residence

## BASE DATA

Historic Name: Locust Grove  
 Date/Period: 1840-4  
 Style: Late Georgian  
 Height to Cornice:  
 Height in Stories: 2  
 Present Zoning: R-2  
 Land Area (sq.ft.): 90,685 sq. ft.  
 Assessed Value (land + imp.): 6600 + 11,850 = 18,430

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Locust Grove is a fine example of the survival of eighteenth century Georgian forms well into the nineteenth century. Characteristically, the house is five bays wide, two stories high, with a hipped tin roof and end chimneys. The entrance is sheltered by a formal portico of coupled paneled columns. The brick walls are laid in common bond, the wooden cornice is very simple, and the window and door architraves are not treated with moldings. To preserve the effect of symmetry, blind windows are fitted into the north and south sides. The interior is based on the double pile plan with a fine double run stair. All the mantels are identical, simple Greek revival designs. The high basement houses a rare set of double parlors, one of which served as a dining room. The original kitchen and smoke house are still standing, as is the pre-1844 residence.

## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

On September 19, 1839, George Sinclair purchased 534 acres from Thomas Meriwether for \$16,000. The land was originally a part of "The Farm" granted to Nicholas Meriwether in 1735. Construction on the existing house was begun shortly after the purchase and lasted over a period of four years. During Sheridan's raid a regiment encamped here and carried off horses, servants and other valuables. The property was purchased by the Locust Grove Investment Co. in 1876 and subdivided. In 1893 the mansion and five acres were sold to Judge John White. Judge Lemuel Smith, a Justice of The Supreme Court of Virginia, purchased the property. It is presently owned by Justice Smith's son, Downing Smith.  
 Deed references; ACDB 37-438, 98-341, 98-427, 99-175, 159-146, City DB 45-361, 140-353, 159-147, 195-139, 209-379.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Locust Grove is a very late example of the Georgian style. It was the manor house of a 534-acre farm now comprising most of the northeast portion of Charlottesville.

## CONDITIONS

Good

UTM: 17/722200/4212580

## SOURCES

City and County Records, Mrs. Downing Smith,  
 Stevens, Virginia House Tour, p. 131.

*Architectural And Historic  
Survey*

*Graphics*

