

LANDMARK



SURVEY

IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: ~~617~~⁶¹⁷⁻⁶¹⁹ W. Main Street
 Map and Parcel: ~~619 W. Main Street~~
 32-167
 Census Track & Block: 1-325
 Present Owner: Charles W. Hurt
 Address: 1290 Seminole Trail, City
 Present Use: Shops and Apartments
 Original Owner: Michael S. Gleason
 Original Use: Hotel

BASE DATA

Historic Name: Hotel Gleason/Albemarle Hotel,
 Imperial Cafe (C.M.R.F.)
 Date/Period: 1896, 1911-13
 Style: Victorian
 Height to Cornice:
 Height in Stories: 4
 Present Zoning: M-1
 Land Area (sq.ft.): 31,017
 Assessed Value (land + imp.): 137,500

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The "new" Hotel Gleason at 617 W. Main Street is Victorian Edwardian as was its predecessor at 611 W. Main Street. The building presents a three-bay, three storey pressed-brick facade raised above the ground-floor, recessed loggia. The loggia is supported on four Corinthian columns and covers a recessed display-window front (much altered). The loggia is covered with a pressed-tin, coved ceiling. The columns of the loggia support a simple cornice from which rise the three floors above. The two flanking bays are inset one-brick's depth from the plane of the central bay and the corners; and these recesses are lined with rounded brick on the sides and molded egg-and-dart bricks above the fourth floor. The central bay at second floor level consists of a portico-in-antis, with two square columns with inset panels standing on pedestals supporting an elaborately beswagged entablature of pressed tin. A smaller pressed-tin panel rests on this entablature just below the third floor windows. A wide, palladian window is located within the recess of the portico. Flanking windows on the second floor are one-over-one-light, double-hung sash with wide molded brick surrounds. Fourth floor windows match those of the second, with the central bay's being paired and slightly narrower. Third floor fenestration follows fourth, but window heads are semi-circular rather than square. A simple boxy, overhanging cornice crowns the facade. When the Imperial Cafe was purchased in 1911 to become part of the Hotel Gleason, the original building was either extensively remodeled or completely rebuilt so that its facade conformed -- although with lateral compression because of a narrower lot -- to the hotel facade.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

In April 1896, Michael S. Gleason bought the lot immediately adjacent to his Hotel Gleason on the west from the executors of Caroline M. Hase (City DB 7-252). Gleason immediately sold the western 28 feet (frontage) of the lot to Henrietta H. Hase (DB7-117); and a June 1896 agreement with Hase (DB 7-253) to share the party wall indicates his new building under construction. 1897 tax records show new buildings on both lots: Gleason's "new" Hotel Gleason (\$12,000) and Hase's Imperial Cafe (\$3,000) - the latter described in a later reference (DB 10-350) as a new three-storey, pressed-brick-front store building. The years 1910 and 1911 saw the consolidation by J.L. Veal and George D. Smith of the Hotel Gleason (DB22-74) and the Imperial Cafe (DB22-207) into an expanded "New Hotel Gleason" (DB24-209). Improvements included on the Tax records of 1912 and 1914 note the extensive renovation of the Imperial Cafe (619 W. Main) to conform to the Hotel Gleason (617) facade and probably expansion of both buildings. In 1933 the Hotel Gleason, Inc. was sold for indebtedness (DB80-399), and in October 1934 ownership passed to the Albemarle Hotel Corp. (DB83-366). 611 West Main Street, a wing of the Hotel, was demolished in 1980.

SIGNIFICANCE

The hotel is an impressive example of the Victorian Edwardian style. It is the last survivor of a half dozen hotels and inns that once stood along West Main Street near Union Station.

CONDITIONS

Poor

UTM: 17/720370/4212050

SOURCES

City Records

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Hotel Gleason/Albemarle Hotel, Imperial Cafe
(Charlottesville MRA)
VIRGINIA

Substantive Review

Working No. 9/7/82-2435
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: 10/7/82 - 10/22/82
Action: ACCEPT
 RETURN 10/21/82
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Building appears to have been gutted recently. Architectural character and its significance is unclear. ^{Define style} ^{Identify sign features}

Recom. / Criteria Return
Reviewer J. McClelland
Discipline A. Hist.
Date 10/20/82
 see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Area of Significance—Check and justify below _____
Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) _____

Please expand the statement of significance for this hotel's historic role and architectural style. What makes it a good local example of early 20th century hotel architecture? What is "Victorian Edwardian" style and what are its distinctive features? How did the role of this hotel compare to that of its contemporaries? Explain importance of this hotel and others along West Main St. in Charlottesville's history. Please discuss recent changes, gutting, and overall integrity.

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____
USGS References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:
_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____
title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to L. McClelland

Signed Linda McClelland Date 10/20/80 Phone: 202 272-350

Architectural And Historic Survey



Identification

STREET ADDRESS: 617-619 West Main Street
MAP & PARCEL: 32-167
CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK: 1-316
PRESENT ZONING: B-3
ORIGINAL OWNER: Michael S. Gleason
ORIGINAL USE: Hotel
PRESENT USE: Shops and Offices
PRESENT OWNER: Charles W. Hurt
ADDRESS: 1650 State Farm Blvd.
 Charlottesville, VA 22901

HISTORIC NAME: Hotel Gleason/Albemarle Hotel/Imperial Cafe
DATE / PERIOD: 1896, 1911-13, 1981
STYLE: Victorian
HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 4
DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA:
CONDITION: Rehabilitation in 1981
SURVEYOR: Thompson/Bibb
DATE OF SURVEY: 1977/1983
SOURCES: City Records
 City Directories

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Hotel Gleason/Albemarle Hotel building presents a three-bay, three story pressed-brick facade raised above the ground-floor, recessed loggia. The loggia is supported on four Corinthian columns and covers a recessed display-window front (much altered). The loggia is covered with a pressed-tin, coved ceiling. The columns of the loggia support a simple cornice from which rise the three floors above. The two flanking bays are inset one-brick's depth from the plane of the central bay and the corners; and these recesses are lined with rounded brick on the sides and molded egg-and-dart bricks above the fourth floor. The central bay at second floor level consists of a portico-in-antis, with two square columns with inset panels standing on pedestals supporting an elaborately beswagged entablature of pressed tin. A smaller pressed-tin panel rests on this entablature just below the third floor window. A wide, palladian window is located within the recess of the portico. Flanking windows on the second floor are one-over-one light, double-hung sash with wide molded brick surrounds. Fourth floor windows match those of the second, with the central bay's being paired and slightly narrower. Third floor fenestration follows fourth, but window heads are semi-circular rather than square. A simple boxy, overhanging cornice crowns the facade. When the Imperial Cafe was purchased in 1911 to become part of the Hotel Gleason, the original building was either extensively remodeled or completely rebuilt so that its facade conformed -- although with lateral compression because of a narrower lot -- to the hotel facade.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

In April 1896, Michael S. Gleason bought the lot immediately adjacent to his store and saloon at 611 West Main Street from the executors of Caroline M. Hase (City DB 7-252). Gleason immediately sold the western 28 feet (frontage of the lot to Henrietta H. Hase (DB 7-117); and a June 1896 agreement with Hase (DB 7-253) to share the party wall indicates his new building under construction. 1897 tax records show new buildings on both lots: Gleason's Hotel Gleason (\$12,000) and Hase's Imperial Cafe (\$3,000) - the latter described in a later reference (DB 10-350) as a new three-storey, pressed-brick front store building. The years 1910 and 1911 saw the consolidation by J. L. Veal and George D. Smith of the Hotel Gleason (DB 22-74) and the Imperial Cafe (DB 22-207) into an expanded 'New Hotel Gleason' (DB 24-209). Improvements included on the Tax records of 1912 and 1914 note the extensive renovation of the Imperial Cafe (619 W. Main) to conform to the Hotel Gleason (617) facade and probably expansion of both buildings. In 1933 the Hotel Gleason, Inc. was sold for indebtedness (DB 80-399), and in October 1934 ownership passed to the Albemarle Hotel Corp. (DB 83-366). By the time the present owner purchased the property in 1970, the Albemarle Hotel had deteriorated and was being used as a hotel for transients. In August, 1976 the City condemned the building and the Hotel closed. While stores occupied the lower floor for the next year or so, the building was mostly vacant between 1977 and 1981, when the building was extensively rehabilitated as part of the City's Starr Hill Community Development Block Grant neighborhood revitalization program.

SIGNIFICANCE

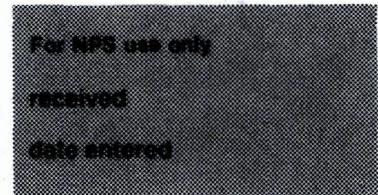
Following the route of the old Three-Notched Road, West Main Street has been a major thoroughfare since Colonial days, as well as being the link between Charlottesville and University of Virginia since the early 19th century. The coming of the railroads made it the transportation hub of this part of Virginia when, in 1885, the C & O Railroad, Charlottesville and Rapidan Railroad and Virginia Midland Railway built Union Station in the 700 and 800 blocks of West Main St. at the intersection of their lines. The Hotel Gleason opened ten years later, the first large, modern hotel in the City. It proved to be one of the most successful, operating for three-quarters of a century and sustaining its popularity after the automobile had replaced the railroad as the principal means of travel and all the other West Main Street hotels had closed. Although replaced as the City's "best" hotel in 1926 by the Monticello Hotel on Court Square, it maintained its high standards and kept its #2 position until the 1950's, when motels began to draw increasingly on its clientele. It continued operation, mainly as a residential hotel, until the late 1970's.

UTM: 17/720370/4212050

4-83

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 8 of 9

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Charlottesville Multiple Resource Area
State Virginia

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

71. Enderly Servants' Quarters *Substantive Review* Keeper et

Attest _____

Reserve
72. C & A Ry Co.-Va. Public Service Co.

Substantive Review

Keeper Regina Duhon 1/10/84

Attest _____

Reserve
73. Sparks-Garrett House

Substantive Review

Keeper et et 1-10

Attest _____

74. Pitts-Inge

Substantive Review

Keeper Linda McClelland

Attest 10-20-82

75. Wheeler House

Substantive Review

Keeper et

Attest _____

76. Wheeler-Dyer House

Substantive Review

Keeper et

Attest _____

77. Paxton Place

Substantive Review

Keeper Linda McClelland

Attest 10-21-82

78. ~~Hotel Gleason/Albemarle Hotel,
Imperial Cafe~~ *Substantive Review*

Keeper accept Patrick Andrews 8/10/83

Attest _____

79. Holsinger-Thomas Building

Substantive Review

Keeper et et 1-10-83

Attest _____

80. Delevan Baptist Church

Substantive Review

Keeper Linda McClelland

Attest 10-21-82

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Substantive Review

Hotel Gleason/Albemarle Hotel, Imperial Cafe
(Charlottesville MRA)
Charlottesville (Independent City)
VIRGINIA

Working No. 9.7.82-2435
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 8/13/83
Action: ACCEPT 8/10/83
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

additional info. provided adequately details integrity of building, and clears up confusion over claim that a "wing" was demolished. additional info. on survey sheet and main cover form (item #8, p. 11) provided on resubmission shows that the hotel is architecturally & historically significant within

Recom./Criteria accept A&C
Reviewer Patrick Andrews
Discipline Historian
Date 8/10/83
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below *the context of the MRA.*
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name _____

2. Location _____

3. Classification
Category _____ Ownership _____ Status _____ Present Use _____
Public Acquisition Accessible

4. Owner of Property _____

5. Location of Legal Description _____

6. Representation in Existing Surveys
Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description
Condition: excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed
Check one: unaltered altered
Check one: original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 ____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

Architectural And Historic



Survey

Graphics

