

Architectural And Historic Survey



Identification

STREET ADDRESS: 327 ^{6th St.,} ~~Sixth Street~~, SW
 MAP & PARCEL: 29-188
 CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK:
 PRESENT ZONING: R-2
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Benjamin E. Tonsler
 ORIGINAL USE: Residence
 PRESENT USE: Residence
 PRESENT OWNER: Mabel T. Sampson
 ADDRESS: 327 Sixth Street, SW
 Charlottesville, Virginia

HISTORIC NAME: Benjamin Tonsler House
 DATE / PERIOD: 1879
 STYLE: No identifiable style
 HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 2 Storeys
 DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 65' x 93' (6045 sq. ft.)
 CONDITION: Poor
 SURVEYOR: Bibb
 DATE OF SURVEY: Fall 1980
 SOURCES: City/County Records
 Mrs. Harry E. Byers (Fannie Sampson Byers)
 Moore, Albemarle: Jefferson's County

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This is an interesting adaptation of elements of the Italianate and Second Empire styles to a very modest house. The asymmetrical massing and corner tower are in the style of the Italian villa, while the tower's Mansard roof is Second Empire, and the steep gable roof of the main block suggests the Gothic Revival style. Basically, it is a two-storey house with a rear wing and a tower projecting from one corner of the facade. It is set on a low foundation. The walls are stuccoed, but probably were originally covered with some kind of wooden siding. The central block is two storeys tall, three bays wide, and single pile. It has a high-pitched gable roof covered with standing-seam metal with boxed cornice and intricate scroll brackets at the peaks of the gables. Gable-roofed wall dormers, with the same brackets in the gables, are located just south of center on the front and rear elevations. A small one-storey veranda covers the center bay of the facade. It has a steep bellcast truncated hip roof covered with standing-seam metal with boxed cornice, a plain frieze, and turned posts. The balustrade has been lost. The four-paneled entrance door in the center bay has a two-light rectangular transom. Windows in the main block and rear wing are double-sash with plain surrounds, slightly shorter at the second level. They are 6-over-2 light on the facade, 6-over-9 light on the south end, and 6-over-6 light on the north end and in the rear wing. There is a pair of full-sized double-sash 4-over-4 light windows in the dormer on the facade; the rear dormer is narrower and contains only one window. There is a central chimney corbelled out over the roof and smaller chimneys in the wing and at the rear of the tower. All three are covered with stucco or concrete. The rear wing is one bay wide and located somewhat north of center. It is shorter than the central block, but it has lower ceilings so that the cornice is above the second storey windows. A one-storey back porch along the south side of the wing has been enclosed and stuccoed. The tower projects from the northeast front corner of the central block. It is a full two storeys tall, with its cornice about the height of the ridge of the main roof. Its Mansard roof is covered with metal plates. Windows are narrow paired 1-over-1 light at both levels of the tower.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

Benjamin E. Tonsler was Principal of Jefferson School, the first black public school in Charlottesville, from its opening in 1895 until his death in 1917. Tonsler Park at Cherry Avenue and Fifth Street, SW was named in his honor. Tonsler purchased this lot in 1876 (ACDB 73-293) and, according to tax records, built this house in 1879. His daughter, Mabel T. Sampson, bought the house from the other heirs in 1940 (City DB 107-382). Mrs. Sampson still owns the house and lived there until a few years ago.

SIGNIFICANCE

This house is an interesting vernacular combination of elements of the Italianate and Second Empire styles. It was the home of Benjamin Tonsler, a prominent local black educator.

UTM: 17/720230/4211700

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Tonsler, Benjamin, House (Charlottesville MRA)
Charlottesville (Independent City)
VIRGINIA

Substantive Review

Working No. 9/7/82-2435

Fed. Reg. Date: _____

Date Due: 10/14/82 - 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:

Discussion of Tonsler's contributions to education locally needs expanding.

Recom./Criteria Return
Reviewer h 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 _____ 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

Please expand the discussion of Toulser's contributions to local education. How long did he live here? Was this the period of his important contributions? Is this the property best associated w/ Toulser? Explain.

Building does not appear to have architectural significance.

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UNIT 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 Sandra McClelland Date 10/20/82 Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

Architectural And Historic Survey



Identification

STREET ADDRESS: 327 Sixth Street, SW
 MAP & PARCEL: 29-188
 CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK: 5.01 - 110
 PRESENT ZONING: R-2
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Benjamin E. Tonsler
 ORIGINAL USE: Residence
 PRESENT USE: Residence
 PRESENT OWNER: Curtis Morton
 ADDRESS: 916 Raymond Road
 Charlottesville, Virginia

HISTORIC NAME: Benjamin Tonsler House
 DATE / PERIOD: 1875-79
 STYLE: No identifiable style
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 DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 65' x 93' (6045 sq. ft.)
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SIGNIFICANCE

Benjamin E. Tonsler, who lived in this for house for 38 years, is remembered as one of Charlottesville's earliest and most well known black educators. Tonsler was principal of Jefferson school, the first school to offer a graded system of education to blacks, from 1895 until his death in 1917. A graduate of the Hampton Institute, Benjamin Tonsler was a friend of Booker T. Washington. More than 1,000 people attended a mamorial service for him after his death. Tonsler Park, one block from the house, is named after his memory.

This house is an interesting vernacular combination of the elements of Italianate and Second Empire styles.

UTM: 17/720230/4211700

4-83

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 6 of 9

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Charlottesville Multiple Resource Area
State Virginia

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

51. Wyndhurst
(611 Preston Pl.)

Substantive Review

Keeper

Ret.

Attest

52. Updike, Robert L., House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Linda McClelland 8/10/83

Attest

53. Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Substantive Review

Keeper

Ret.

Attest

54. Carey House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Ret.

Attest

55. House at Pereus

Substantive Review

Keeper

accept Patrick Andrus 8/10/83

Attest

56. Smith-Marshall House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Ret. PWA 8/10/83

Attest

57. Stonefield

Substantive Review

Keeper

accept C. Danino 1/10/84

Attest

58. Four Acres

Substantive Review

Keeper

Linda McClelland 10-28-82

Attest

59. Ebenezer Baptist Church

Substantive Review

Keeper

Ret.

Attest

60. Tonsler, Benjamin, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Ret accept Patrick Andrus 8/10/83

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Substantive Review

Tonsler, Benjamin, House (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:

Home of prominent local ^{Black} educator.

addition info. provided indicates the high regard & esteem he was held in by the community, development of black education is discussed in overview PWA 8/10/83

Recom./Criteria Accept B
Reviewer LA Chubb
Discipline A. Hist.
Date 8/10/83
_____ 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 _____ 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



Tonsler, Benj House



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Tonsler, Benjamin, House
NAME:

MULTIPLE Charlottesville MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: VIRGINIA, Charlottesville

DATE RECEIVED: 5/30/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/13/08
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 83003274

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ ACCEPT ___ RETURN ___ REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

~~removed from the National Register~~
~~additional documentation accepted~~
additional Documentation Accepted

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept

REVIEWER Edgar Beal

DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 7-2-08

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Benjamin Tonsler House, #104-0233
Charlottesville, Virginia**

Section 7, 8 Page 2

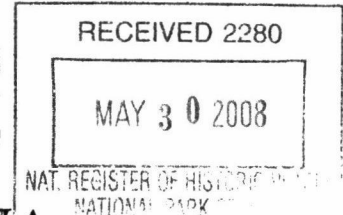
7. Architectural Description (additional information):

This ca. 1879 dwelling combines the Italianate, Second Empire, and Gothic Revival architectural styles, all of which were popular during the mid-to-late-nineteenth-century. The asymmetrical house is comprised of a one-and-one-half-story, two-bay, single-pile side-passage-plan, gable-roofed main block with an off-center gable-roofed front wall dormer that breaks through the overhanging eaves and gives the house its Gothic Revival aspect. This section contains the front entrance door which is topped by a two-light transom. The walls are stuccoed, and the standing-seam metal roof contains a central brick chimney. A three-bay hip-roofed front porch is supported by turned posts. The windows on this section are varied; the dormer contains paired four-over-four double-hung sashes, the front window is a one-over-one double-hung sash, and the side elevation has six-over-nine double-hung sashes. A two-story, two-bay, gable-roofed wing with six-over-six double-hung sash windows, and an enclosed one-story, shed-roofed, porch along the south side extends to the rear. A visually prominent two-story, one-bay tower with a Mansard roof projects forward along the northeast side of the main block, lending Second Empire and Italianate elements to the dwelling. A full two stories tall, the stuccoed tower features narrow paired one-over-one sash windows, overhanging eaves, a plain frieze and a steeply pitched Mansard roof clad with metal plates. The house was constructed between 1875 and 1879 and was in this basic configuration when it appeared on the 1907 Sanborn Map. It is a very interesting vernacular adaptation of popular Romantic architectural styles of the period and unlike any other in the proposed Fifeville-Castle Hill Historic District.

8. Significance Statement (additional information):

Originally listed as part of the Charlottesville Multiple Resource Area nomination, the Benjamin Tonsler House was placed in the Virginia Landmarks Register on October 20, 1981 and in the National Register of Historic Places on August 10, 1983.

The ca. 1879 house at 327 6th Street SW was owned by Benjamin Tonsler, a very prominent local black citizen, who had acquired the lot in 1876. Tonsler, a graduate of Hampton University and friend of Booker T. Washington, went on to become principal of Jefferson School and is remembered as one of Charlottesville's leading educators. The Tonsler House is one of the proposed Fifeville-Castle Hill Historic District's best examples of the additive quality of an early African-American dwelling.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick
Director

Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391
TDD: (804) 367-2386
www.dhr.virginia.gov

May 29, 2008

Mr. Paul Loether
Chief, National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Programs
National Park Service 2280
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20005

RE: Continuation Pages for the Following:
Fauquier County resources: Dakota, The Oaks, and North Wales
City of Charlottesville resources: Benjamin Tonsler House and Delevan Baptist Church
Albemarle County resources: Redlands, Morven, Christ Church Glendower, Monticola, Estouteville, Plain Dealing, Esmont, Edgemont, Mountain Grove, Westcote, Clifton, Cocke's Mill, Walker House, Guthrie Hall, Sunnyfields, High Meadows, The Rectory, Pine Knot, and Blenheim

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed continuation pages are to be added to the ends of all the above referenced individual resources previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In the last few years, there have been three historic districts surveyed which have included these resources in their inventories. Therefore, I am providing extra documentation to go along with the currently listed nomination material as it has been documented under the each resource within the inventories if the larger districts. None of this information changes, in any way, the current listing, but is strictly additional documentation for your files.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My direct phone line is 804-367-2323 at extension 102.

Sincerely,

Jean McRae, Historic Preservationist
National and State Register Program Coordinator

Enclosures

Administrative Services
10 Courthouse Avenue
Petersburg, VA 23803
Tel: (804) 863-1624
Fax: (804) 862-6196

Capital Region Office
2801 Kensington Ave.
Richmond, VA 23221
Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391

Tidewater Region Office
14415 Old Courthouse Way, 2nd Floor
Newport News, VA 23608
Tel: (757) 886-2807
Fax: (757) 886-2808

Roanoke Region Office
1030 Penmar Ave., SE
Roanoke, VA 24013
Tel: (540) 857-7585
Fax: (540) 857-7588

Northern Region Office
5357 Main Street
PO Box 519
Stephens City, VA 22655
Tel: (540) 868-7031
Fax: (540) 868-7033