



City of Winchester

2 North Cameron Street

Tax Map Number: 193-1-O- 1-

DHR Resource Number: 138-0042-1096, 138-0045

Resources: 1 commercial building

Date/Period: 1836/ca. 1897

Style: Second Empire

Sources: Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps



Architectural Description

Site Description: This lot, located at the northeast corner of North Cameron Street and East Boscawen Street, slopes gradually to the north. The large commercial building, situated in an urban setting, is immediately fronted by the brick-paved city sidewalk on the west and south elevations. A stone retaining wall outlines a grassy area north of the building, delineating it from the large asphalt-paved parking lot with grassy medians to the north and rear (east). Another stone retaining wall outlines the south boundary of the lot's rear section. A walkway, edging the rear east elevation of the building, is composed of both brick and concrete paving. Mature trees and shrubs landscape the lot.

Secondary Resource Summary: There are no secondary resources associated with this property.

Primary Resource Description: The main block of this building is three-and-a-half stories high, three bays wide, and three bays deep. It is front-gabled with a rectangular form. Attached to the façade is a full-width overhang (canopy) with flat roof. North of the main block is a two-story addition (1), which is one bay wide and three bays deep. The western facade of this addition is capped with a mansard roof that elevates this portion to three-and-a-half stories. The rear of the main block has been extended another two bays with a three-and-a-half-storied, front-gabled addition (2). North of this addition and attached to the rear of the two-story north addition is a two-story addition (3) with a gently north-sloping shed roof. The overall structural footprint of this building forms a square.

Original Main Block: The original portion of the building, constructed circa 1836 (according to plaque), is set on a solid Flemish-bond brick foundation. This masonry structure is of Flemish-bond brick, which has been painted. The words "Chamber of Commerce" is faintly written in large letters across the west façade. The front-gabled roof is covered in standing-seam metal. It features an ogee-molded wood cornice supported by wood carved brackets and a decorative metal railing on the roofline. Above the gable peak is intricate scrolled decorative ironwork. The small area, at the very top of the gable ends, is clad with a carved wood design, imitating brick header stringcourses. This section is delineated from the exposed Flemish-bond brick of the building by a thin ogee-molded wood cornice supported by modest wood-carved brackets. The façade of the main block is very ornate. The first story features two one-light, storefront windows set within square-edged wood surrounds with engaged wood columns. These flank either side of the central double-leaf glass door. This entry has a one-light wood transom and is set within a wood Colonial Revival-style surround consisting of engaged columns and ogee-molded cornice. Sheltering the first story is a flat-roofed awning held with metal tie-back chains. This awning is of wood construction. The decorative scalloped cornice is constructed of wood inset with colored glass. The second- and third-story windows are symmetrically fenestrated. Each is 6/6, double-hung, wood-sash set within square-edged wood surrounds. They are topped with splayed brick jack arches. The surrounds and jack arches are largely obscured by carved wood surrounds that are fluted and decorative carved wood lintels. Within the upper gable is a one-light lunette window set within an ogee-molded wood surround. This window has painted lettering: "Kurtz 1836." Only the south elevation of the main block is visible because large additions have been added to the east rear and north side elevations. The first story of the south elevation features three large, one-light, storefront windows. They are framed by Colonial Revival-style wood surrounds with ogee-molded architrave cornices. These openings are not original. The first and second stories of the south elevation are symmetrically pierced by three bays of 6/6, double-hung, wood-sash windows set within square-edged wood surrounds. Each has a wood sill and a splayed brick jack arch.

North Addition (1): Sanborn Map research reveals that this addition was likely attached to the north elevation of the main block sometime between the years of 1891 and 1897. It is Second Empire style, as indicated by the mansard roof topping the front (west) bay. The foundation and structural system are both of five-course, American-bond brick. The north façade of this addition is pierced by a double-leaf, glass door (replacement) with narrow sidelights and a two-light transom. The Colonial Revival-style surround of this entry features wood pilasters and an ogee-molded cornice. The second and third stories of the façade are pierced by paired 2/2, double-hung, wood-sash windows set within segmental-arched wood surrounds. They have wood sills and are topped with two arched rows of brick headers. These windows are more elongated than any on the main block. The high, square mansard roof is covered in diamond-shaped wood shingles. It features an ogee-molded wood cornice supported by elaborately carved wood brackets. An ogee-molded wood cornice is also present at the very top of the mansard roof, supporting an intricate iron railing with decorative corner spires. A dormer window on the north slope of the mansard roof has a front-gabled roof. The eaves feature an ogee-molded wood cornice. The roof covering is not visible from the public right-of-way. Decorative wood detailing is visible in the tympanum, above a pair of window openings. Each opening holds one 2/2, double-hung, wood-sash window set within a square-edged wood surround. The cheeks of the dormers are barely existent, consisting mostly of the wood window surround. The north elevation of this addition, two stories in height, has three symmetrical bays of 6/6, double-hung, wood-sash windows with splayed brick jack arches. The rear elevation is not visible due to an extension addition.

West Rear Addition (2): This addition, once a printing office, is attached to the rear of the main block. It extends the building by two more bays to the east. The front-gabled roof is covered in standing-seam metal and continues the ridgeline of the main block. The foundation, structural system, and a front-gabled rear parapet are all of seven-course, American-bond brick. The north elevation is pierced by 6/6, double-hung, wood-sash windows. A single-leaf, paneled wood door on the first story has a boarded transom light. A modest, half-hipped awning shelters this entry. The rear elevation is two bays wide. A double-leaf, paneled wood door on the first story has a wood carved Colonial Revival-styled surround with engaged pilasters. This entry is flanked by 6/6, double-hung, wood-sash windows. These openings are all sheltered by a flat roof projection supported by wood beam braces. The roof is covered in metal sheeting and features a boxed wood

cornice. The first and second stories of the rear elevation is symmetrically pierced by four window openings, all within square-edged wood surrounds with wood sills. All contain 6/6, double-hung, wood-sash windows except for the opening in the southern bay of the second story, which is empty. It appears the louvered wood vent in the upper gabled end of the parapet used to hold a window, as it is the same size as other openings on this elevation. A small louvered vent is also located in the upper gable, north of the larger vent.

North Rear Addition (3) : This addition, attached to the rear of the north Second Empire-style addition and to the north of the west addition, is two stories in height. It is two bays deep and one bay wide with a north-sloping shed roof covered in standing-seam metal. A flat and shallow wood cornice outlines the eaves of the roof. Constructed of seven-course, American-bond brick, this portion is pierced by 6/6, double-hung, wood-sash windows. All have wood sills and are set within square-edged wood surrounds. Six-light, wood casement windows are located at the foundation level.

Significance Statement: This building, constructed in 1836, is representative of the commercial architecture constructed in the City of Winchester during the early to mid-nineteenth century. When this property was first documented by the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map in 1885, the main block was a furniture wholesale/cabinet making shop. The north addition was attached between the years of 1891 and 1897; this building phase also resulted in the Second Empire stylistic elements applied to the facade. All portions of the building are historic. This gives the building a high level of integrity in regards to materials, workmanship, and design. By 1885, the building was commercially used as a furniture wholesale store. Throughout following years, the building was also used as a funeral home and the Winchester Chamber of Commerce. All of these functions have contributed to the cultural evolution of Winchester. It has served as a central meeting point for Winchester citizens and has been influential to the history of the community. Therefore, the combinations of this building's architectural and cultural offerings make this property eligible under both Criteria A and C. This building is a contributing resource to the Winchester Historic District.

