



Historic Vienna, Inc.

131 Church Street NE ♦ P.O. Box 53 ♦ Vienna, VA 22183

August 1, 2019

Mercury Payton
Town Manager
Town of Vienna
Vienna Town Hall
127 Center Street South
Vienna, Virginia 22180

Re: 131 Wade Hampton Drive, SW

Dear Mr. Payton,

At its July board meeting, Historic Vienna, Incorporated voted to recommend that the application of the house at 131 Wade Hampton Drive, SW be approved for inclusion on the town's Historic Properties Register.

The homeowner's application states that the house was built around the turn of the century, based on deed and tax records. The Fairfax County tax database suggests it was built in 1910.

The chain of title for this property is like a Vienna "Who's Who" of ownership. Some highlights from this list include:

- The property belonged to Moses Commins, known among other things for his plow company.
- Commins sold it George and Harmon Salsbury, who had the 250 acre dairy farm that included this property, Salsbury Spring, and the beautiful (now demolished) Italianate style Salsbury House on Walnut Lane
- Arthur Lewis, after whose family Lewis Street was named, purchased the property along with all of Windover Heights' Block 24 from Salsbury in 1903. Arthur's father William and family had arrived in Vienna from Onondaga NY in 1855. William had a blacksmith shop and wheelwright business on Church Street. Arthur Lewis was one of two men on the School Committee when the town was incorporated in 1890. His brother William Burdette Lewis was appointed councilman at incorporation. William Burdette Lewis later gave the land for Vienna's original library.
- Albert H. and Rosilla M. Greenwood bought the property in 1908. A.H. Greenwood was a local builder/developer who later built my home on Chain Bridge Road in 1916/1917. He may have built this home. Greenwood was a member of Vienna's town council by 1910. Mrs. Lewis was a member of the Ayr Hill Garden Club, Republican Women's Club, and the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and was appointed Vienna's deputy treasurer in the 1930s.

- The Greenwoods sold to Peter V. Staats at some point. Peter's main home was on the other side of town at Wolf Trap. Staats' family had moved to Vienna from New Jersey after the Civil War. Peter's uncle Abram was a founder of the Presbyterian Church in 1871 and served as a Vienna postmaster and was a member of the town's council at incorporation in 1890.
- Norman Cobb, local banker and insurance company owner, owned the home for a few years in the late 1930s. He was a prominent member of the Vienna Lions Club.
- Orlo and Joanne Paciulli bought the home in the late 1950s. Joanne was a granddaughter of county surveyor and Vienna resident Joseph Berry and his wife Annette Berry, who founded the Ayr Hill Garden Club. The Berry's 1898 home is still standing at the corner of Park and Church Streets.

131 Wade Hampton Drive is at the inside corner of the intersection of Wade Hampton and Roland. The house is a two story frame dwelling, with a cross-gable roof. The house now has aluminum siding but was originally clad in weatherboard. The original weatherboard probably remains under the siding. The original windows are double-hung sash. There are three old chimneys. The front porch is original. The front gable end has a bay window on the ground floor. There have been additions to the building over the years, but the original structure of the house still has its original floors, plaster and woodwork. There is an old outbuilding on the property that is currently being used as a garage. It may be the same age as the house.

In recommending this application for inclusion on the Town's Register of Historic Structures, Sites and Places, Historic Vienna, Inc. believes that it has significance related to the development of the town and to persons of local prominence, and that it also is an excellent example of the type of homes being built in Vienna at the time. Section 25.9 of Vienna's code gives the following guidance for structures that are 50 years or older and were built after 1900:

In developing recommendations and taking action on applications for inclusion on the Register of structures, sites and places other than those described in 25-8 hereof, the Town Manager, the Board of Historic Vienna, Inc., and the Town Council shall consider:

(a) Structures, sites and places that are more than fifty (50) years old, and possess significance related to the founding or development of the Town of Vienna or to persons who have achieved local, regional or national prominence;

(b) Structures, sites or places which are over fifty (50) years old and considered to be symbolic of the Town's history by reason of their architecture or in the way they have been used

We are lucky that this house continues to survive to this day as a reminder of Vienna's past. We will be thrilled for it to be added to the town's Register.

Sincerely,



Anne G. Stuntz
Historic Vienna, Inc.
President