

Ellett-Todd-Lawrence Building
1019-1021 East Cary
Richmond
Virginia

HABS NO. VA-844
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ELLETT-TODD-LAWRENCE BUILDING

Location: 1019-1021 East Cary Street (southwest corner of Eleventh and East Cary Streets), Richmond, Virginia

Present Owner: Katherine M. Lawrence

Present Occupant: Lawrence Sanitary Company, Inc.

Present Use: Warehouse

Statement of Significance: This structure represents the simple canal warehouse architecture of the late-nineteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1868-1870.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners:
 - 1853 Lot 386, formerly a coal yard belonging to Richard and Thomas Crouch, was sold to L. D. and Joseph Crenshaw by Herbert A. Claiborne, special commissioner (D.B. 63, 479).
 - 1861 L. D. Crenshaw sold his share of the above property to Joseph H. Crenshaw (D. B. 77A, 185).
 - 1868 Joseph H. Crenshaw sold this property to Charles C. Ellett for \$3,744. The deed recorded that the property included the "parcel of ground with the walls, bricks and stones thereon," and that a tenement has formerly stood there. The original building was probably burned in the Evacuation fires of 1865 (D. B. 88B, 70).
 - 1870 Deed of partition whereby the land and tenement located thereon were conveyed to Lucy S. Ellett, widow of Charles Ellett. The property was valued at \$7,500, which would indicate that the present building was erected between 1868 and 1870. (D.B. 92B, 501).
 - 1898 William J. Leake, special commissioner in Ellett v. Ellett, sold, in accordance with the Chancery Court decision, the property to Thomas J. Todd for \$5,350 (D.B. 172C, 372). In this year the property was surveyed by James T. Redd and Son.

1946 The heirs of Thomas J. Todd sold the above property to Katherine M. Lawrence.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Deed books and tax assessor records in Richmond City Hall.

Prepared by J. R. Fishburne
Research Historian
9 May 1969

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This structure represents the simple canal warehouse architecture of the late-nineteenth century, which is oriented both towards the south for loading and unloading material and to the north street front. Placed as it is on the sloping north bank of the Great Basin of the canal, the loading entrance is on the basin level while the Cary Street entrance occurs one story lower.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: North front, 39 feet 9-1/2 inches, five-bay first floor, three bays above, four stories with attic; east front 40 feet 6 inches, two bays.
2. Foundations: Rough hewn, random size stone set in mortar.
3. Wall construction: Brick laid in five course American bond.
4. Framing: Wooden joists set into brick wall; additional support from two rows of beams running parallel north-south with supports consisting of chamfered posts with impost blocks alternating with lighter posts with a simple wooden plate.
5. Chimneys: Two interior end chimneys are incorporated into parapet wall on each gable end.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Rough chiseled stone store front surrounds five bay Cary Street first level. Double door

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with glass over lower wood panels is used on west doorway; east doorway now completely glass in.. Rear loading entrances on the south front also have glass upper sections over a single panel below.

- b. Windows: All windows have six-over-six sash and are framed by plain boards with a raised edge of rounded molding.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable roof covered with tin; parapet end walls.
- b. Cornice: Brick corbeled cornice partially covered by gutter.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: Most of this floor has been altered by office additions. Wooden posts with impost blocks remain in unaltered rear room. Stair descends to basement along south wall; stair ascends to second level attached to the large cross beam on the east.
 - b. Second floor: Stair ascends to third floor attached to east cross beam. Partition divides two narrow offices along east wall from open storage area. Two loading doors on south wall open on to Basin Bank Street, the center one being original.
 - c. Third floor: Stairs on south wall ascend to fourth floor. Remnants of office probably similar in size to second floor at southeast corner. Loading door on center bay south wall.
 - d. Fourth floor: Stairs on west wall ascend to fifth floor (attic).
- 2. Stairways: Treader set into plain stringer with rail of the simplest type used throughout. Central elevator addition runs from basement to attic.
 - 3. Flooring: Oak floor on first floor becomes random width pine on upper stories.
 - 4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are brick with exposed floor joists in the ceiling except for the first and second floor offices, which have plaster walls (the second floor offices have original plaster walls with a dado of vertical boarding).

5. Doorways and doors: No decorative trim or notable paneling; most doors are new and in the first floor offices.
6. Decorative features and trim: Mantels in offices on second and third floor have fluted vertical boards supporting a plain frieze.
7. Notable hardware: None.
8. Lighting: Modern electric lighting.
9. Heating: Gas heat.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Built between Cary Street on the north, Basin Bank Street on the south and 11th Street on the east. The structure on the west with party wall has been destroyed and a one-story brick building replaces it facing Cary Street and using the roof as a parking lot which may be entered from Basin Bank Street. The cobblestones have been retained on Basin Bank Street.

Prepared by Tucker H. Hill
Architectural Historian
Virginia Historic
Landmarks Commission
9 May 1969

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records are part of the Richmond Photo-Data Project, undertaken in 1967 by HABS in cooperation with the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. During the period from July, 1967 to October, 1969, records were made of 11 historic structures in Richmond. The project primarily recorded examples of the cast-iron commercial architecture for which the city is known, though other building types are also included.

The project was under the general supervision of James C. Massey, Chief, Historic American Buildings Survey. James W. Moody, Jr., Executive Director, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, directed the operation in Richmond. Professor Paul Delaney of the University of Virginia School of Architecture assisted in the selection of subjects covered. Historical and architectural data were furnished by Messrs. Tucker Hill and Calder Loth, Architectural Historians of the Commission's staff. Photographer was Edward F. Heite, also on the staff of the Commission.