

PAGE'S STORE
Albemarle County Country Stores Survey
Intersection of Route 692 & Route 635
Batesville
Albemarle County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-1383

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
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PAGE'S STORE

HABS No. VA-1383

Location: At the intersection of Route 692 and Route 635 in Batesville, Virginia.

Built in the late nineteenth century and added onto in the twentieth, Page's Country Store stands at the intersection of two major thoroughfares in the crossroads community of Batesville. The building is on the north side of Route 692 and faces to the south southeast.

Present Owner: Charles Page.

Present Use: Page's Country Store is an L-shaped, wood frame structure originally used as a country store. The entire structure is sheathed in weatherboards; the roof is made of metal standing seam. The oldest portion stands on a brick pier foundation. The space between the piers is filled with stone. Later additions have concrete foundations. The original section was constructed late in the nineteenth century, with additions in the 1910s and 1985. The 1985 portion is now used as a post office.

Architectural Description:

Exterior: The store is a two-story, eight bay frame building on a foundation that is part brick piers, later in-filled with stone, and part concrete. It is built in the shape of a large L with the long leg of the L fronting the street (fig. 1). The entire structure has a standing seam metal roof and is sheathed in wood weatherboards. The weatherboards and trim have been repainted many times, obscuring evidence of building technology.

The western end of the building is the short leg (called Section A here). It is a two-story, three bay, gable-roofed mass. The gable end faces the street. A one-story, three bay porch with a shed roof stretches across the entire facade of this portion of the structure. The porch is reached by a set of seven concrete steps that run perpendicular to the building. The posts, railings, and balusters of the porch are made of wood. The posts and balusters are square, but the newel post is turned. The first floor wall is pierced by a door (solid wood) flanked by sash windows glazed with two-over-two lights. Both windows have wood shutters. On the second story, there is one sash window, also glazed with two-over-two lights, centered in the gable end. The western side of this portion of the structure has a solid wood door near its northern end (fig. 8). Just to the

north of this door is a small fixed six-light window. The only opening in the rear of the structure is a solid wood door that provides access to the second floor (fig. 2). This is reached by a footbridge that runs between the building and hillside road to the north of the structure. The eastern elevation of the building has a solid wood door at its northern end. There is a brick chimney in the northern portion of the ridgeline (fig. 5).

The next section of the building (Section B) comprises one-third of the long leg of the L. This is a two-story, three bay structure with a shed roof. On the first floor, the openings running from west to east are as follows: a two-over-two light sash window, a double leaf paneled door, and a two-over-two light sash window. The roof of the porch from the western section extends above these three openings. The second floor has a single, two-over-two sash window at the east end of the section. There is a single fixed, six-light window at the basement level. The northern elevation of this portion of the structure has two wood sash windows, glazed with two-over-two lights, but no door openings. There are no west and east elevations for this section.

The next portion of the building (Section C) comprises the middle third of the long leg of the L-plan. It is a one-story, one bay structure although it is the same height as the preceding two-story section. On the ground floor, the only opening is an old loading dock door that allowed trucks direct access to the interior of the structure. This opening has been filled in with wood weatherboards. There is no fenestration in the north elevation and no east or west elevations to describe.

The eastern-most portion of the building (Section D) is a one-story, two bay shed roofed entity that reaches the same height as Sections B and C. This portion of the structure has a poured concrete porch reached by two sets of steps that run parallel to the building. The shed roof of the porch is supported by square wood posts. The railing and the balusters are also square shaped and made of wood. There is a fixed window glazed with a single light at the western end of the south elevation, and a single glass door at its eastern end. The north and east elevations lack any fenestration and there is no west elevation to note.

From the exterior it becomes clear that either Section A or B is the original portion of the building. This is due to the composition of the facades; both have symmetrically arranged fenestration and, based on their physical composition, could stand alone. It is more likely, however, that Section A is the first period

building because it is heated. Due to the modern windows and doors used in Section D, it has been recently renovated but more likely recently built. Its late construction date was verified by the owner.

Interior:

On the first floor interior, Sections A, B, and C are unified into one large room that is finished with wood floors and wood wall coverings of various sorts. Because of the building's original use as a store, there are shelves lining many of the interior walls. There are no original light fixtures remaining; strip fluorescent lighting has been added in their place.

Section A is long and narrow; a partition wall between Section A and B divides the interior into two distinct but connected rooms. The eastern and western walls are both lined with shelving that was used to house shop goods. There is a single shelf on the northern wall, just below the ceiling. The interior walls and ceiling of Section A are sheathed in beaded boards (fig. 6). The floor is made of wood planks and the boards run parallel to the short side of the structure.

Sections B and C read as one room on the interior (fig. 7). Here the true period-one becomes most clear. The west interior wall of Section B is sheathed in wood weatherboards, in the same manner as the exterior. It is clear that this is the original exterior cladding of the Section A portion of the store and that the later additions were simply butted against the original structure. The remaining walls in Section B are sheathed in wood planks. The floor is made of hardwood, but the boards run perpendicular to those in Section A. The ceiling has been covered with drywall. HVAC ductwork and fluorescent lighting have been added to the ceiling as well. Section B is categorized as period-two because of its position adjacent to - but butted against rather than incorporated into - Section A.

Section C has been assigned the period-three date primarily because it originally comprised the portion of the door that held the loading dock. The loading dock has now been filled in with wood floor boards; these are much wider than the rest of the room's flooring making its location obvious. The symmetry and balance of the openings on both the southern and northern elevations of Section B are disrupted by the addition of Section C. Especially notable is the fact that there are no windows in the northern elevation of Section C, but there are in the north elevation of Section B. Moreover, a metal column supports the ceiling along a line that would form the imagined seam between the two sections. It appears to have been added because the load bearing wall was

taken down. This wall would have been the original east wall of Section B.

Section D is now used as the local post office and it is inaccessible. It has been assigned a period-four designation because of exterior considerations and its location in relation to the other accretions on the building.

The second story of Section A is unfinished attic space. The second story is currently accessed from an exterior door in the northern elevation of the building. Originally a pull-down stair counter balanced with buckets of stone provided communication between the first and second floors. The walls are framed with a typical wood frame system of wall studs. There is no bracing and there are no posts. The roof framing system is a common rafter arrangement with no ridgeboard. The boards are all circular sawn.

Historian(s): Heather Massler, May 2003.

Project Information: The documentation of Page's Country Store took place as part of Louis Nelson's (2003) field methods class at the University of Virginia, School of Architecture, Department of Architectural History. Students recorded various structures through measured drawings and written description; the record the students created was dependent on their ability to read what the structure was telling them about its construction history rather than on traditional documentary research. This structure was recorded as part of the Albemarle County Country Stores Survey.



Figure 1. The front facade of the building, seen from the southwest.



Figure 2. The rear of the structure. On the right is the footbridge and door the second story of Section A. The jog in the standing seam metal shed roof indicated the location of Section D.

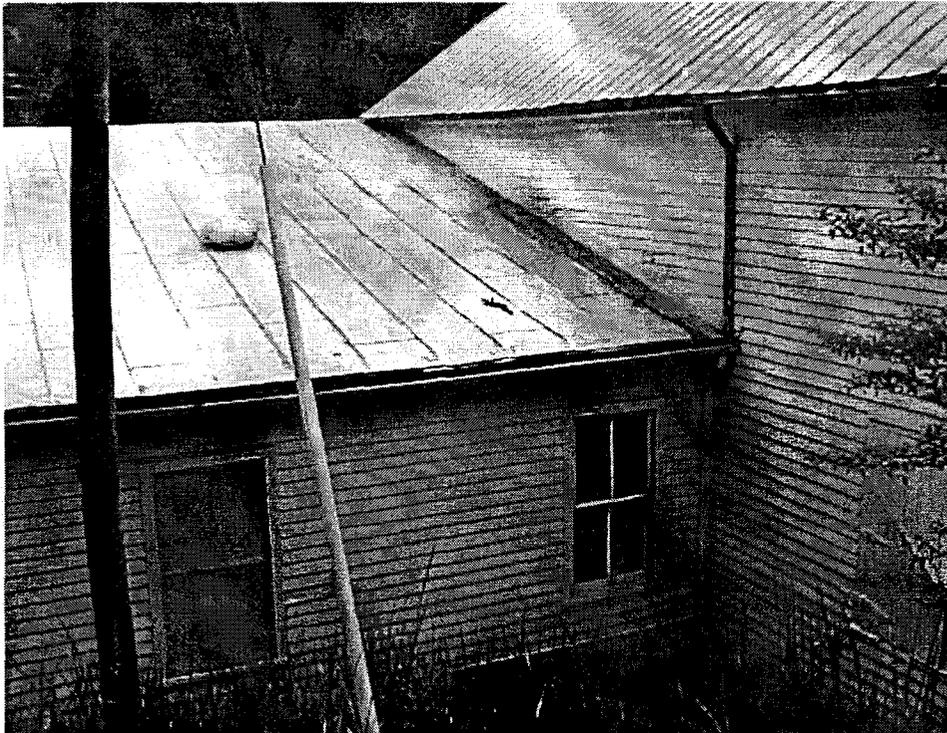


Figure 3. The joint between Section A and B on the northern elevation.

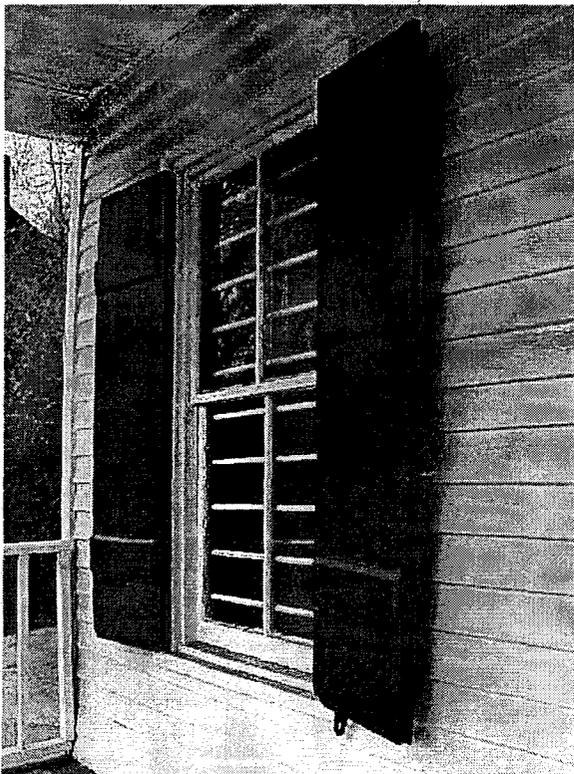


Figure 4. An original two-over-two wooden sash window flanked by shutters. This window is from the southern elevation of Section A.



Figure 5. The brick chimney on the ridgeline of Section A.



Figure 6. The interior of Section A, looking to the north.



Figure 7. The interior of Sections B and C looking to the northeast.

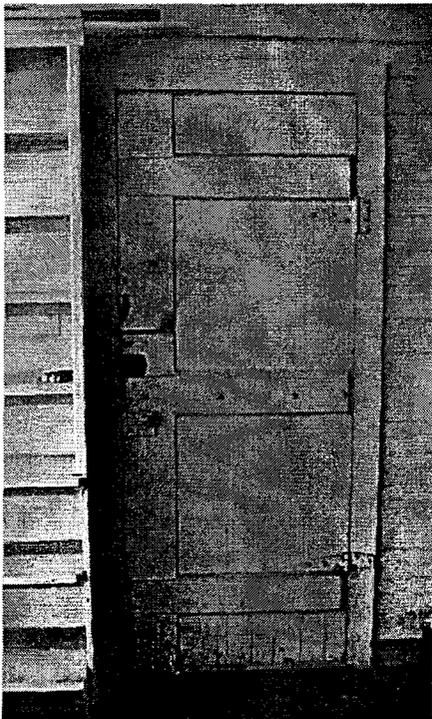


Figure 8. The interior of the door in the western wall of Section A.