

PROPERTY INFORMATION

PROPERTY NAME	Hamm, Edward Leslie, Sr. and Dorothy House
PROPERTY ADDRESS	1900 North Cameron Street Arlington, VA 22207
TAX PARCEL	08010042
USGS QUAD (S)	FALLS CHURCH
COUNTY/INDEPENDENT CITY	Arlington (County)

ADDITIONAL PROPERTY INFORMATION

ARCHITECTURE SETTING	Suburban
OWNERSHIP CATEGORY	Private

SITE DESCRIPTION

December 2012: The single-family dwelling at 1900 North Cameron Street is situated on the northwest corner of the intersection of North Cameron Street and 19th Street North. Oriented toward the east, the building is set back from both streets on a grassy, sloping lot. A pedestrian sidewalk edges the east property boundary, separating the property from North Cameron Street. The lot is landscaped with shrubs, foundation plantings, and mature trees. A stone retaining wall holds back plantings along the façade. Chain-link fencing encloses the property, and a brick retaining wall elevates the property to the south. A curving concrete walkway connects the primary entrance with the pedestrian sidewalk. A curved concrete driveway provides access between the foundation-level garage and 19th Street North in the western side of the property. There are no secondary resources associated with this property.

August 2017: The house, which faces east, stands on a crest at the west side of N. Cameron Street at its intersection with 19th Street North in Hall's Hill (also known as High View). The lot is enclosed by a stone retaining wall along its south side bordering 19th Street North. Above the wall is an affixed chain link fence; the chain link fence continues along the lot's east, north, and west perimeter. Within, landscaping features are a grass lawn, manicured shrubbery surrounding the house, and at the back lot, separated by the poured concrete driveway and parking area located behind the house, a less cultivated space with grass, a cedar tree, sweetgum tree, and crape myrtles. A poured-concrete walkway extends to the street sidewalk from the house's façade.

November 2019: No major alterations to the site descriptions provided in August 2017 and December 2012 were observed during this field survey.

PROPERTY HISTORY

November 2019: Edward Leslie Hamm, Sr. (1917-2013) and his wife, Dorothy Bigelow Hamm (1919-2004) were longtime residents of Hall's Hill, dedicated to seeing the advancement of their local community and the African American community at large through their professional and personal lives (Hamm 2019; Jones 2018:73).

For 15 years the Hamm's have been involved in just about every phase of the civil rights struggle in Arlington, not to mention the fact that they as much as anyone are responsible for the neighborhood conservation program...Determined to change their neighborhood as well as the world, they joined everything, lent their time and effort and money to any project. The NAACP, Mount Salvation Church, the Arlington Council on Human Rights, Norther Virginia Fair Housing, Hurelco (a

land development company that is color blind), the County Advisory Committee on Health and Welfare, the County Neighborhood Conservation Committee, the League of Women Voters, the John M. Langston Citizens Association (she is outgoing president), and many more. (Buchard 1969)

Edward Hamm was an architect who apprenticed with architect Romulus Cornelius Archer, Jr., an African-American architect who opened a private practice in Washington, D.C. in 1921 and became the second licensed African American architect in the city in 1926 (ACHPP 2016: 30; Maas et al. 2017: 69). Romulus Cornelius Archer, Jr. studied architecture through the International Correspondence School in Scranton, PA and finished his architectural studies at Columbia in 1913. Hamm designed and constructed the residence located at 1900 N. Cameron Street “brick by brick and board by board, and Mrs. Hamm worked, first as a seamstress and then at Government jobs leading up to an administrative secretary in the Army Surgeon General’s office, to help put the materials, a pound of nails and a bag of mortar at a time. The building took five years” (Buchard 1969). Hamm graduated from the Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) in 1940 with a degree in Building Construction. From 1946 to 1960, Hamm worked as a Draftsman, Job Captain, Chief Draftsman, and Office Manager for R.C. Archer & Associates and Mills, Petticord & Mills, two private Washington, D.C. based architecture firms, before working with the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA). While with the GSA he was responsible for varying roles as an architect to include review, coordination, and construction management and design. Hamm was the Project Review Architect for the construction of the John F. Kennedy Cultural Center for the Performing Arts and Project Coordinator for the Federal Triangle Project. He also served as Acting Chief of the Architectural Section and the Office of Construction Management Coordinator on GSA Demonstration Projects which were designed to demonstrate environmental enhancement and energy conservation. Upon retirement in 1977, Hamm was Chief Architect and Energy Conservation Coordinator for the Professional Service Division (Hamm 2019; HDFH 2013; Maas et. al. 2017: 71).

In his local community, Hamm was the project architect for the renovation and expansion of the 1904 Calloway United Methodist Church (Calloway Church) at 5000 Lee Highway in 1979. The \$235,000 renovation almost doubled the original square footage of the church and featured an open bell tower, an expanded choir loft, a front entrance vestibule, and educational classrooms (ACHPP 2016: 18). Hamm and his family were congregant members of Calloway Church. As an active community member, Hamm served the Arlington Neighborhood Conservation Committee, Board of Directors for the Arlington Interchurch Committee on Housing for Low Income Families, the Arlington Council on Human Relations; the Northern Virginia Fair Housing Association; the County Advisory Board on Health and Welfare; and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for over 50 years (HDFH 2013; Maas et. al. 2017: 71; Bestebreurtje 2017:352-353, 361-365; Hamm 2019; Jones 2018:138).

Dorothy Hamm was also a prolific and active community member. She, along with members of the black and white communities, worked to integrate Arlington County schools (Maas et. al. 2017: 54). In 1956, she and her eldest son, Edward Leslie Hamm, Jr. joined a group of families in a civil suit to integrate the all-white Stratford Junior High (Stratford High) (Jones 2018:105); the suit was *Clarissa S. Thompson et al. v. the County School Board of Arlington, 159 F. Supp. 567* (E.D. Va. 1957). Though the 1956 civil suit was unsuccessful, in 1958, by order of the U.S. District Court, Stratford Junior High became the first white public school in Virginia to desegregate. Desegregation was an arduous process and Dorothy Hamm was a participant in challenging the Pupil Placement Act, which was designed to delay school integration while giving the appearance of compliance (Virginia Changemakers n.d.). The Hamms were collectively involved in challenging Virginia’s poll tax in 1963. Later the same year Dorothy Hamm was arrested for her involvement in the public protest to desegregate Arlington theatres. The arrest did not deter her efforts as she remained politically and civically active serving as a delegate to Arlington County and state conventions in 1964, was appointed assistant registrar and also a chief election officer in the Woodlawn precinct in Arlington. Ms. Hamm also worked to establish a local chapter of the Congress on Racial Equality organized in Arlington and participated in the 1968 “Poor People’s March on Washington” (Virginia Changemakers n.d.; Hamm 2019). She became the first recipient of the Arlington County Martin Luther King Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service in 1982 and the Virginia House of Delegates honored her lifelong contributions in a joint resolution in 2002. Dorothy Hamm’s most recent, post mortem accolades include recognition by the Virginia Women’s Monument Commission “Voices from the Garden” project and honor for the historic role she played in integrating Stratford Junior High School. The newly renovated Stratford Junior High, a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed resource,

Virginia Landmark and Arlington County Historic District, will reopen as the Dorothy Hamm Middle School beginning with the 2019-2020 school year (Jackson 2018).

SURVEYOR ASSESSMENT/RECOMMENDATION

November 2019: The single family dwelling at 1900 North Cameron Street is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A on the local level for its historical association with social and civil rights activism in Arlington County as well as the African American heritage in the Hall's Hill/High View Park (HHHVP) neighborhood. Under Criterion B, the single family dwelling is eligible for its association with the Hamm Family, who were known for their social and civil rights activism in the predominately African American HHHVP community. Under Criterion C, the single family dwelling is eligible as a good example of a Ranch style house and the work of Edward Leslie Hamm, Sr., who designed the house himself.

SURVEYOR RECOMMENDATION: NRHP ELIGIBLE

PRIMARY RESOURCE INFORMATION

RESOURCE CATEGORY	Domestic
RESOURCE TYPE	Single Dwelling
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	1950 (Local Records)
HISTORIC TIME PERIOD	The New Dominion (1946-1991)
HISTORIC CONTEXT (S)	Architecture/Community Planning, Domestic, Ethnic Heritage (Black)
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE	Ranch
FORM	Irregular
NUMBER OF STORIES	1.0
CONDITION	Good
THREATS TO RESOURCE	None Known

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

December 2012: Constructed in 1959, this single-story, rectangular-plan, Modern Movement dwelling sits on a solid, parged, concrete foundation. The concrete block structural system is dressed in six-course, American-bond brick. A stringcourse of soldier-bond brick marks the top of the windows. It is topped by an asphalt-shingled, hipped-roof with overhanging eaves. A projecting bay on the façade is capped by its own hipped roof. The south, east, and west slopes of the roof are pierced by small, semicircular dormers, fitted with vents. A shed-roof dormer lifts from the north slope of the roof. It has aluminum-sided cheeks, and a roof of asphalt shingles. It is pierced by three 2/2 double-hung, metal sash. An interior brick chimney with a plain cap completes the roofline. Fenestration throughout typically consists of 2/2 double-hung, metal sash with brick rowlock sills.

The façade (east elevation) is three bays wide, and the projecting north bay is set with a tripartite, metal picture window. The window has a fixed central pane, flanked by 1/1 double-hung, metal sash. The southern two bays hold the centrally located primary entrance, and a fixed, horizontally oriented window. The entrance is comprised of a single-leaf, wood door with a round light. The southern two bays are sheltered by a single-story, two-bay porch that extends flush with the projecting bay. The porch has a solid, concrete foundation, and the asphalt-shingled, shed roof is supported by metal

posts. The north (side) elevation is fenestrated with 2/2 double-hung, metal sash, and paired 2/2 double-hung, metal sash. A secondary entrance is located on the eastern side of the elevation and holds a single-leaf door. The south (side) elevation is fenestrated with a variety of windows, including 1/1 double-hung, metal sash; a tripartite metal picture window, similar to the picture window on the façade; and a glass-block window. A single-leaf, flush wood door with three lights is set into the western side of the elevation, and provides access to the three-bay-wide brick terrace that is appended to the southwest corner of the building. The terrace is screened-in and covered by a half-hipped roof of asphalt shingles. The west (rear) elevation is fenestrated with paired 1/1 double-hung, metal sash on the first floor. The foundation level was obscured by intervening vegetation.

August 2017: 1900 N. Cameron Street is a one-story, three-bay house combining Minimal Traditional style with some Contemporary exterior features. The house stands on a mostly non-discernible concrete foundation and has a full-height basement not visible from the front elevation. A hip roof with an overlapping hip roof front bay from the front elevation, and a circa-1970s shed dormer is on the roof's north slope. The brick exterior is laid in a 6:1 bond with quoining on the front projecting bay and projecting overlapping bay is repeated on the west elevation with a projecting, two-stage bay where the lower-level garage is incorporated. An interior brick chimney rises from the roof's ridge, its 1:4 banding echoing the front bay's corner quoining. Fenestration follows a regular pattern and windows do not appear to have been truncated or otherwise altered, including the retention of stretcher brick lintels and brick header sills. Unusual window openings include the horizontal opaque patterned glass on the façade wall and the elongated, narrow glass block window on the south elevation. Window openings are filled by single-hung replacement vinyl sash. The partial-façade front porch has a low hip roof with a series of metal pole supports along its south elevation and an enclosed brick balustrade; there is also early signage with plastic address numbers, apparently once delineated by paint, affixed to a wood board. The entrance bay is filled by a single-leaf grained poplar door, which appears to be original, with an inset circular light panel. There is a secondary entrance on the north elevation, accessed by a chain link gate, and a third entrance on the south elevation, within the open side shed porch.

November 2019: There were no major alterations observed from the August 2017 architectural description of this resource. Replacement fenestration includes one-over-one, single-hung metal sash windows and a new tripartite window on the northeast side. The replacement windows do not compromise the resource's ability to convey its historic appearance.

EXTERIOR COMPONENTS

COMPONENT	COMPONENT TYPE	MATERIAL	MATERIAL TREATMENT
CHIMNEYS	Interior	Brick	Coursed
ROOF	Hipped	Asphalt	Shingle
WINDOWS	Sash, Double-Hung	Vinyl	1/1
WINDOWS	Picture	Vinyl	--
STRUCTURAL SYSTEM/ EXTERIOR TREATMENT	Masonry	Brick	American/Common Bond
FOUNDATION	Solid/Continuous	Concrete	--
PORCH	1-story, 2-bay	Metal	Posts

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