Name Historic Lever Building

Location 1613 Main Street

Common

Classification Building

Owner Lever Building Partnership
Post Office Box 1898
Columbia, S.C. 29202

Representation in Existing Surveys

Description The Lever Building is a three story brick and terra cotta structure with elaborate entablature and balustrade.

Although first floor storefront has been altered, cast iron pilasters on far sides of building and denticulated cornice extending the width of building survive.

Second and third floors are four bays wide. Second floor has 1/1 light rectangular windows. Two middle windows have a continuous stone sill with three projecting sections which serve as bases for three pilasters which rise to the third floor. Windows on the far left and right are enframed by a brick Gibbs surround.

Center bays of second and third floors are separated by rectangular panels which have terra cotta bands with egg and dart motif.

Third floor windows are boarded up. Center two windows have round headed brick arches and stone sills. The terra cotta pilaster capitals serve as imposts of the arches. (Continued.)

Significance Built about 1903 by the contractor C. M. Lide, Jr., the Lever Building is a three-story structure with a facade of brown brick and terra cotta. Decorative details are in the Classical Revival mode. Walter D. Lever, the original owner, was a successful Columbia merchant know as "Lever-The-Shoe-Man." In the 1920s the building was used by Draughon's Practical Business College, a Nashville based business school with thirty locations in the Southeast.

A new corporation, "1910 Downtown Columbia Restoration Company", plans to renovate the now vacant building.

Acreage .19 acre

Verbal Boundary Description TMS 20-06-13; running 32' along Main Street with side line of 260'

UTM Reference Point Columbia North 17/496620/3762700

Other Information

Description continued

Each arch has a terra cotta archivolt and central console.

Flanking third floor windows have splayed brick arches with brick keystones. Balconies have stone floors, supporting consoles, and iron railings.

In the terra cotta frieze is the word Lever flanked by swags and torches. Cornice has 16 evenly spaced modillions. Above cornice is balustrade flanked by rectangular brick sections with recessed panels.