

The Mineral Hotel

Compiled by

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The former home of Reuben B. Davis which had been built by William F. Toler was very large and suitable for use as a hotel or boarding house.¹ It was included in the tract Weir R. Goodwin purchased from the heirs of Davis in 1890² thus becoming part of the land purchased by the Mineral City Mining, Manufacturing and Land Company and sold to the Equitable Investment Company.³ They probably used the hotel as their sales office and to house some of the miners.

In 1893 Equitable Investment Company sold the hotel to Mr. Harry W. Quarles, and he in turn sold it to Grace Curtis Adams in July of 1899. The hotel lot is designated on the plat by Bishop as "hotel lot" and is between First and Second Streets, the railroad and St. Cecelia Avenue. Grace Adams renovated and made additions to the hotel. She lived there at least part time until the death of her husband, Dr. Harold James Van Deursen, in 1907, when she sold the hotel lot to D. E. Bumpass, Sr.⁴ The hotel lot had been reduced by a small plot in the southwest corner which Mrs. Van Deursen had sold to Kate Foster in July of that year and where she had had a small home built for Kate Foster.

Mr. Bumpass and his family, Mattie C., his wife, and son, David Everette, Jr., lived at the hotel until it was sold to W. W. Smith, Jr.

Mr. Smith leased the property to Mrs. J. D. Palmore who operated the hotel as a business. Smith sold the hotel in 1916 to John M. McSween subject to the least of Mrs. Palmore.⁵ John M. and Louisa Boyd McSween, his wife, continued the lease with Mrs. Palmore as proprietress of the hotel until they sold it to J. P. Donnally.⁶ Mrs. Palmore was still running the hotel when it was sold to L. A. Kennon and G. R. Ergenbright in February 1919 by J. P. Donnally and his wife, Lucy G.⁷

Kennon and Ergenbright were partners of the Mineral Hardware Company. In

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the bankruptcy settlement of the Mineral Hardware Company in 1922, the trustees sold the Mineral Hotel to Peoples National Bank of Charlottesville.⁸

In 1929 the bank sold the hotel and land to R. S. Kritzer.⁹ During Kritzer's ownership various deeds of trust were given. This was evidently part of business deals and manipulations as some of these same people were involved with deeds of trust on the Coleman Hotel as well; R. S. Kritzer, Lawrence Mannoni of Richmond, and L. J. Kidd.¹⁰ The owners of the hotel property were in arrears in their town tax and the officials of Mineral opened the hotel building and rented it to Mr. Compton, the town policeman. The taxes were paid and Mr. Compton was asked to stay on for awhile as a watchman. The mayor of Mineral moved his family into the hotel and was asked to move by the owners. In early November 1932, the owners had some furniture moved from the Mineral Hotel and Coleman Hotel to other places.¹¹

The Mineral Hotel burned to the ground on 20 November 1932. In the Circuit Court of Louisa County, a case was presented by the Commonwealth against George O. Stine, Leonard J. Kidd, R. S. Kritzer and J. P. McDaniel saying they "feloniously and willingly did set fire to and burn a certain building at Mineral, Virginia, known as the "Bumpass Hotel (Mineral Hotel)," together with the furniture located in said building; which...at the time of the fire, were insured against loss and damage by fire, with intent to injure the insurer...." At the January 1933 term the jury found the defendants guilty of "procuring the burning of the building and contents." The case went to the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia and the verdict of the Louisa jury was reversed and set aside in June of 1934.

A trustee of the Peoples Bank of Charlottesville held a public auction due to the default on the loan of Kritzer and the Town of Mineral bought the "hotel lot" on 5 November 1938.¹² This lot has since been bought by the Mineral Fire Company as well as the lot where the home of Kate Foster was before it was torn down.

1. Louisa County Deed Book 6, p. 72.
2. Louisa County Deed Book 10, p. 422.
3. Louisa County Deed Book 12, p. 374.
4. Louisa County Deed Book 25, p. 207; 12 August 1907.
5. Louisa County Deed Book 36, p. 443.
6. Louisa County Deed Book 38, p. 465.
7. Louisa County Deed Book 39, p. 45.
8. Louisa County Deed Book 44, p. 12.
9. Louisa County Deed Book 49, p. 439.
10. Louisa County Deed Book 51, pp. 85, 311.
11. January 1935 Term court papers.
12. Louisa County Deed Book 57, p. 188.

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