

Source - Prince William A Past to Preserve

Historic Name – Libeau Row

Date or Period – about 1905

Original Use – Residences

These four adjacent row houses are two-story, brick buildings with metal covered, gabled roofs. They were all built at the same time by Donation Libeau, a Manassas builder who emigrated from New Zealand to Manassas in the late 1890s. Considered an eccentric by many, Libeau was a religious fanatic, teetotaler, champion walker, and bicyclist. Libeau was responsible for bringing Carry Nation, woman's suffragist and alcohol opponent, to Manassas. Each row-house home is designed on a cross plan, with each bay one room deep. Set unusually close together, they are designed to make maximum use of their small, narrow lots. Townhouses such as these were found in Washington DC, Alexandria, and other more urban areas in the early twentieth century but were unusual in Manassas, where homes were larger and on more spacious lots and were built of wood instead of brick.