

Architectural And Historic Survey



Identification

STREET ADDRESS: 1508 Grady Avenue
 MAP & PARCEL: 5-75
 CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK:
 PRESENT ZONING: R-3
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Lyttleton S. Macon, Jr.
 ORIGINAL USE: Residence
 PRESENT USE: Fraternity House
 PRESENT OWNER: Albemarle Associates, Inc.
 ADDRESS: 1118 Holmes Avenue
 Charlottesville, VA 22901

HISTORIC NAME: Macon Hall
 DATE / PERIOD: 1922
 STYLE: Colonial Revival
 HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 2½ storeys
 DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 150' x 156' (23,400 sq. ft.)
 CONDITION: Good
 SURVEYOR: Bibb
 DATE OF SURVEY: Summer, 1983
 SOURCES: City Records
 The Daily Progress, 11/6/67

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Macon Hall is a 2½-storey, 5-bay, double-pile Colonial Revival house set on a high concrete foundation. Walls are veneered with brick laid in stretcher-bond. The steep gable roof is covered with slate and has projecting eaves, close verges, and a boxed cornice with returns. There are four interior end chimneys with corbelled caps: two on the east side, one on the west, and one at the rear of the kitchen wing that covers the two western bays of the rear elevation. Windows are double sash, 6-over-6 light, with lintels with end blocks and louvered shutters. They decrease slightly in height from the first to the third storey. There are circular-headed air vents above the third storey windows in the gable ends. There are three dormers on the facade. They have slate walls, pedimented gable roofs, and pilaster flanking the 6-over-6 windows. A large shed-roofed dormer with slate walls is centered on the rear elevation. It has a boxed cornice and frieze and contains a tri-partite group of 6-over-6 and 4-over-4 light windows. Two-light hinged-sash and paired 2-light casement windows are used in the basement. A one-storey entrance porch covers the central bay of the facade. Four fluted Corinthian columns and two pilasters support a flat roof with a Colonial revival balustrade and an entablature with dentil moulding. The porch has a wrought iron balustrade and concrete floor and steps. The 6-panel entrance door has sidelights with wooden tracery and a semi-elliptical fan light. A one-storey sun parlor covers the rear half of the eastern elevation. It has single-paneled double-sash windows and a flat roof with a boxed cornice and plain frieze. The two-storey rear wing matches the main block in all details. A one-storey flat-roofed back porch with boxed cornice and frieze and square pillars covers its rear elevation. A porch with sleeping porch above covers the eastern elevation of the wing and the center bay of the main block. The first level has a concrete floor and steps, a simple balustrade, and square pillars, a door with nine lights over a panel gives access from the porch to the rear of the stair hall. There is a narrow window beside it. The second storey sleeping porch, set on the flat metal roof of the first storey porch, has single-panel double-sash windows and a nearly flat shed roof with boxed cornice. A tiny one-storey gable-roofed side entrance wing is centered on the western elevation. There is a door on the rear elevation and a window on the facade; the western elevation is blank except for a pierced brick air vent in the gable. The interior follows the central hall plan. A 2-flight open-well stair with simple balustrade rises to the third storey level. Windows and doors have plain surrounds, cornices, and friezes. Two pairs of 10-light French doors give access to the sun parlor. There are three fireplaces with Colonial Revival mantels. A brick 2-car garage with servants' quarters above has now all been converted to residential use.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

This was the second house designed for businessman Lyttleton S. Macon by Eugene Bradberry. The first was #20 University Circle, built in 1914 and sold in 1919 (City DB 33-452). Macon then purchased a block of six lots in Preston Heights in 1921 (City DB 39-51). Tax records show that he built this house the next year. It was his home for over four years. In 1965, the year after Macon's death, the house corporation of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity (Albemarle Associates, Inc.) purchased the houses (WB 10-87, DB 267-268), remodeled it for the fraternity use, and named it "Macon Hall".

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VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File No. 104-130

Negative no(s). 7215

HISTORIC DISTRICT SURVEY FORM

Page 1 of 2 (see attached Corks & Curls sheet, 1968)

Street address 1508 Grady Ave.

Town/City Charlottesville

Historic name Macon Hall

Common name Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity house

- Material
- wood frame (siding: weatherboard, shingle, aluminum, bricktex, _____)
 - brick (bond: Flemish, stretcher, ____-course American, _____)
 - stone (random rubble, random ashlar, coursed ashlar, _____)
 - log (siding: weatherboard, shingle, aluminum, bricktex, _____)
 - stucco cast iron
 - concrete block terra cotta
 - enameled steel glass and metal
 - other: _____

Number of Stories	Roof Type	Roof Material
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 1/2 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 1/2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> ____	<input type="checkbox"/> shed <input type="checkbox"/> mansard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gable <input type="checkbox"/> gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> pediment <input type="checkbox"/> parapet <input type="checkbox"/> hipped <input type="checkbox"/> flat <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> slate <input type="checkbox"/> tile <input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle <input type="checkbox"/> pressed tin <input type="checkbox"/> composition <input type="checkbox"/> not visible <input type="checkbox"/> standing seam metal <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Dormers	Number of bays — Main facade
<input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> shed <input type="checkbox"/> hipped <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> gable <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> ____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pedimented	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> ____

Porch	Stories	Bays	General description
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> ____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 (center) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 (side) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> ____	Colonial Revival, painted white; 2 sets paired composite columns. ALSO, a glassed (later) side porch on E. end.

Building type

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> detached house	<input type="checkbox"/> garage	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
<input type="checkbox"/> detached town house	<input type="checkbox"/> farmhouse	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial (office)	<input type="checkbox"/> school
<input type="checkbox"/> row house	<input type="checkbox"/> apartment building	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial (store)	<input type="checkbox"/> church
<input type="checkbox"/> double house	<input type="checkbox"/> gas station	<input type="checkbox"/> railroad	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

Style/period Colonial Revival Date ^{c. 1925 or} c. 1930 Architect/builder _____

Location and description of entrance At center of N. facade; sidelights and elliptical fanlight with traceried glazing.



Miscellaneous descriptive information (plan, exterior and interior decoration, cornice/eave type, window type and trim, chimneys, additions, alterations)

This house features many hallmarks of a ca. 1920s revival of a classic Federal-period Virginia country mansion, including dormer windows, symmetrical facades, and interior end brick chimneys.

The house is set on the side of a slope.

Extensions, besides the E porch, include a two-story brick rear ell, and a small closet-like extension on W end.

Historical information

This was built for Ch'ville businessman L.S. Macon, who called it Macon Hall. He lived there until his death in 1964. Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity bought it and has been there since 1965.

Real Estate Dept.;

Source Eugenia Bibb; City Directory; Daily Progress;

Surveyed by Jeff O'Dell, VHLC Date 4-83; 8-83



VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

HISTORIC DISTRICT SURVEY FORM

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Common name

- shingle, aluminum, bricktex, _____)
- _____-course American, _____)
- ar, coursed ashlar, _____)
- e, aluminum, bricktex, _____)
- cast iron
- terra cotta
- glass and metal



Roof Type

- mansard
- gambrel
- parapet
- flat

Roof Material

- slate tile
- wood shingle pressed tin
- composition not visible
- standing seam metal
- other _____

Number of bays — Main facade

- 1 4 7
- 2 5 8
- 3 6 _____

Bays

General description

- 1 (center) 2 4
- 1 (side) 3 _____



- government industrial
- commercial (office) school
- commercial (store) church
- road _____

Architect/builder

Additional information (plan, exterior and interior decoration, window type and trim, chimneys, additions, alterations)

Town Charlottesville



Date

5 ✓

R-3
150 x 156

#485

TKE - 1508 Brady

1118 Holman Ave

267-268
WB 10-87
39-51

albemarle associates, Inc 1965
LJ Macon Jr est (VNB spec) 1964
" _____ "

gs lat 267-273 & 291?

2 1/2, 1-3, + B, 15 rooms (orig 11)
conc. found, brick, slate gable
3 fireplaces
built 1925, good ^{for expense} const
"Macon House"

1 1/2 - 3 garage converted to 4 rooms + bath
1946 - re-roofed
1965 - remodeled

1508 Brady Ave

39.51

W O Watson → L S Mason Jr

\$6500

9/20/1921

lots 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 in Block 12 of Preston Heights

same as 38-278

Tax

1922 L.S. Maron B 12, K 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9 P 4 2500 + 0 = 2500 for W. Watson
1923 " " " " + 15,500 = 18,000 sld added

TKE - 1508 Brady

✓ 2½-5, 5-bay, double-pile

high cor found

stretchers bond

- steep ~~with~~ gable roof, slate, boxed cornice w/ return, proj eaves,
close verges

✓ * int. end chim w/ corbelled caps, 1 in 1st pile ^w each side, 2 E side
a ^{3rd} ~~3rd~~ in rear wing (W side)

- windows 6/6 w/ wooden sills, plain surrounds,
lintels w/ corner blocks, lowered shutters
basement - 2-l hinged + pr 2-l casement

26/6 in gables, all progressively just sl shorter

3 dormers on facade: pedimented gable roofs, slate sides,
nearly-full-sized 6/6, flanked by pilasters

1-5 cent ent porch


flat roof w/ Col Rev bal

entab w/ dentils

4 fluted Corinthian columns + 2 pilasters

wrought iron bal

con floor + steps

6-panel door w/  sidelights over panels, semi-ellip
fan, semi-ellip arch

full basement?
veneered?
window surrounds
& sidelights

circ - headed air vent above attic windows

large shed-roofed dormer cent rear
slate walls, boxed cornice & frieze
tripartite 4/4, 6/6, 4/4, plain trim

2-5 rear wing covers 2 W bays (1-bay wide); matches;

1-5 back porch covers its rear elevation:

flat roof, boxed cornice, pl frieze, sq ^{posts} pillars, conc floor
& steps, lattice

1-5 porch w/ sleeping porch above covers E side rear wing &
cent bay main block

1st level: same sq posts, simple bal, conc fl & steps,
pl frieze, flat metal roof

7 l/2 panel door rear of ent hall; narrow window beside

2nd level: ^{nearly flat shed} flat roof, boxed cornice, 1/1 windows

1-5 piazza. sun parlor covers rear half E elevation:

flat roof, boxed cornice, pl frieze, 1/1 windows, brick walls
below windows

(Both glassed-in porches may be wing)

sm 1-5 gable-roofed wing (wing) cent W

6-l casement front, 6 l/2 panel door rear, W blank except
for pioned brick air vent

2- fl open-well stairs w/ simple bal to 3rd level
sings

pl trim w/ cornice & fringe

3 ~~fire~~ fireplaces w/ nice col Rev mantels

2 pr 10-l 15-r doors to sun parlor

Brick ^{2-car} garage w/ servants qtr above now converted
to living space

The Late L. S. Macon, in His 60's, Remade Himself After the Crash

Fraternity Honors Man Who

By **BOYCE LOVING**
Progress Correspondent

A University of Virginia social fraternity, Tau Kappa Epsilon, has named its large Grady Avenue home, "Macon Hall," in honor of a generous, courageous man who was neither an alumnus of the University nor of the fraternity.

The honoree, the late Lyttleton Savage Macon, for almost the 1508 Grady Ave. his home. the 1508 Grady Ave. his home Macon died Jan. 18, 1964, in his 97th year. He built the 15-room dwelling after he moved to Charlottesville in 1897, although he lived in a small house on First Street NE, when he first moved here. The fraternity acquired the property in 1965.

On Oct. 13 a portrait of Macon by artist R. Carlyle Barritt was unveiled at the home and now hangs over the mantel in Macon's favorite downstairs room.

Macon himself was an alumnus of Randolph-Macon College at Ashland, founded by one of his ancestors, James Macon, and was an alumnus of the Kappa Alpha Fraternity chapter at his alma mater. The portrait, the gift of Mrs. Alfred M. Luttrell, for 18 years closely associated with Macon, was accepted by William Fitzgerald III, a charter member of the local fraternity chapter.

After a most successful career as a traveling furniture salesman, on the orders of his physician, Dr. James C. Flippen, Macon retired in 1929 at the age of 62. Three years later, when he was 65, almost his entire fortune was swept away during the depression.

At an age when most men would have been completely floored by his disaster, Macon collected his few remaining assets and hit the road as a salesman. When he first retired, he had turned over to Fred H. Glann, a young Cornell graduate, all his lines of furniture.

After he became a salesman



Gitchell photo

Mrs. Luttrell Unveils Macon Portrait

again, he took what he called "b u s h w h a c k i n g" (lesser known) lines and began his second career. Some 35 years later, his will was probated at \$340,000.

At first, Macon is said to have been "shaken up" by his loss, but he took the matter philosophically. As many will recall, the 1930s were rough years and cash and credit were hard to come by.

On several instances Macon was known to have guaranteed to manufacturers the amounts of orders of furniture he had sold to retailers. He once was guarantor for a carload of furniture bought by two brothers in

Charleston, W.Va. The brothers paid for the furniture—and later became millionaires.

Lyt Macon was a deeply religious man, but not a fanatic. He performed many small charitable deeds that were never known to any but the donor and the recipients. After his death, over \$20,000 in such gifts were tabulated from his check stubs and other records.

His interest in young men, especially University of Virginia students, led him to conduct a Sunday school class in his home for two years for two such students. One was studying medicine and the other law and both had breakfast with Macon, after which the class was held.

He also was for over 50 years a communicant of Christ Episcopal Church in Charlottesville and was an active member of

the Brotherhood of St. Andrew performing much missionary work with the Brotherhood. It also caused a number of students to join Christ Church, which he was an ordained reader and a member of the vestry.

Also, some University students lived in the Macon home. When one of these took his law degree and was about to leave for practice in a small Kentucky town, he took with him a \$50 certified check. Macon, who wrote the check, told the young man to keep the check until he was in dire financial need. The check was never cashed.

Macon possessed dozens of Bibles, some of them having belonged to his parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. Most of these contained profuse notes, as he was a studio reader. In his mother's Bible listed the names of famous ministers and evangelists he had heard preach. These included Phillips Brooks, Dwight L. Moody, Billy Sunday, Sam Jones, Gypsy Smith and others.

Macon's will is filled with bequests of varying sizes to organizations and individuals. One is for \$500 to the children's ward of the University of Virginia Hospital in memory of two small boys, Nelson and Fleming, for a valiant act performed when Macon was about 10 years old.

Macon was living on a farm in the Keswick community at the time and, like most country boys, enjoyed exploring haylofts for hen's nests and other quests. Nelson and Fleming, about his age, were among his playmates. When they came to play with him one day, they could not find him. Knowing his fondness for the hayloft, they went there—and found him, almost choked to death.

Apparently, he had slipped through the opening through which the hay was thrown down the racks above the manger. The rescuers found Macon with his neck tightly wedged between slats in the hay rack and gasping for breath. Their call for help proving futile, they finally freed their friend by the

Built the House It Occupies

own efforts, thereby possibly saving his life.

Macon also set up a \$5,000 trust fund to aid any young male members of Christ Church who might decide to study for the ministry.

The twice-successful furniture salesman received many tokens and expressions of appreciation from those he had helped. When his portrait was unveiled recently, the Tau Kappa Alpha Fraternity invited many former students and other friends to the ceremony.

One of these, the Cornell graduate who had taken over Macon's furniture lines on the latter's first retirement, was unable to attend, but sent the following telegram:

"Mrs. Glann and I regret our inability to attend the ceremony of the unveiling portrait of Lyttleton S. Macon tonight. I commend you for naming his home "Macon Hall," which will always be a monument to the memory of a great man. His moral and spiritual qualities, as well as his integrity, have won the respect of every one; and charity he gave to the needy through humble gifts of kindness and generosity will never be forgotten.

"My daughter, Margaret Lyttleton Rieck of Pittsburgh, his namesake, also regrets that she cannot attend this honorable ceremony tonight." (Signed) Fred H. Glann, Baltimore, Md.

But furniture, philanthropy and religion were not Macon's only interests. Until death, through newspapers and other media, he followed accounts of sports, finance, the out-of-doors, fox hunting, horse racing, and local, state, national and world news.

He was an avid reader of the Wall Street Journal, where he followed the ups and downs of his investments in stocks and bonds. In his later years, his eyesight failed to the degree that he had to be read to, but this didn't dull his interest in people and events.

The year 1932 was not the only occasion on which L. S. Macon was wiped out financially.



Photo by Loving

'Macon Hall' at 1508 Grady Ave.

When he was 19 and had to quit college after three years because of his father's death, he borrowed \$1,000 and went into business with another young man. The partner was to manage the manufacture of mattresses and Macon was to sell them.

Macon set out on a trip that resulted in the sale of many mattresses, leaving the manufacturing details to his partner. When he returned to Richmond, the site of the venture, he found that both his partner and his \$1,000 had disappeared.

Then he turned to selling insurance for which policyholders paid 10 cents a week. After a short time at this, he turned to selling furniture, at which he was twice an outstanding success.

Macon was born March 25,

1867, at "Clover Hill" in the Keswick neighborhood, the son of the late George William and Mildred Nelson Meriwether Macon. His family came to Albemarle from New Kent County early in the 19th Century.

Soon after he moved to Charlottesville he opened a furniture store at the present site of the Gilmore, Hamm & Snyder store. John A. Gilmore, one of the founders of the present firm, worked for Macon as a clerk.

Macon married twice, the first time to Miss Alice Holmes of Wilmington, N.C., and the second to Miss Elizabeth Stevens of Petersburg, Va. His second wife died in 1936. There were no children from either marriage.

He was related to the Meriwether, Savage and other prominent Virginia families and was a member of the Society of the Cincinnati.

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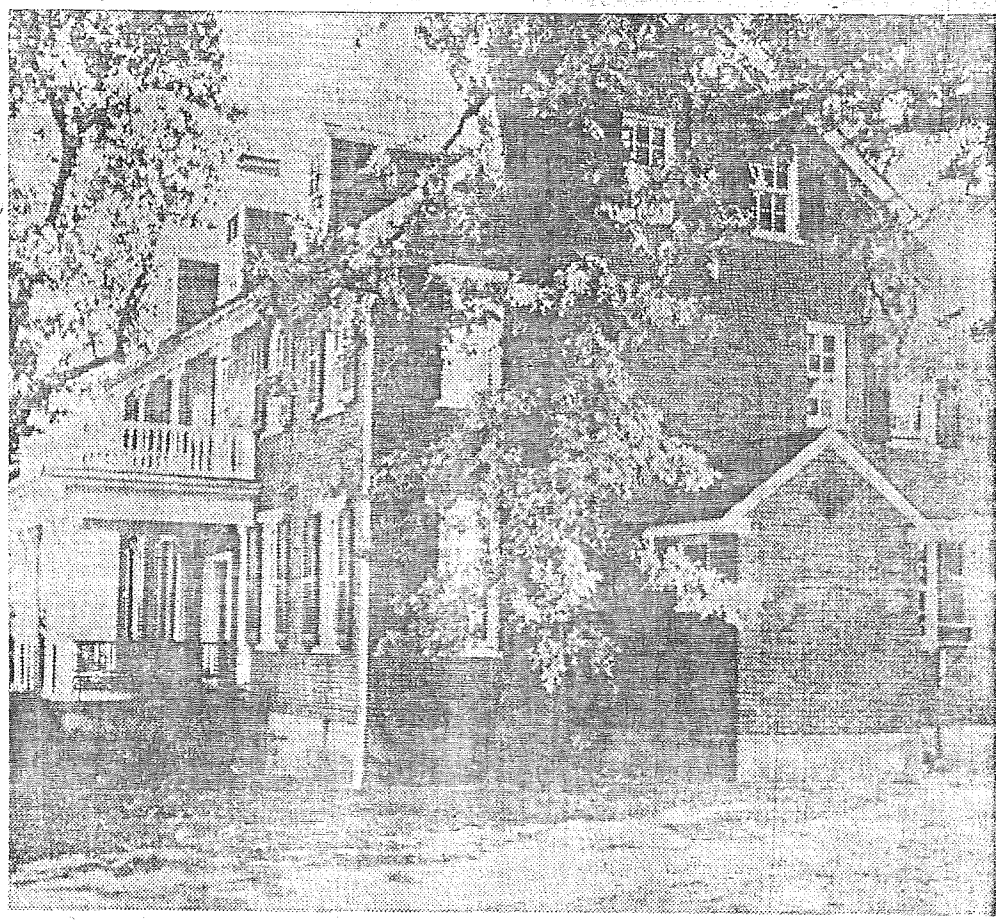
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...na, Baltimore, Md.
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Photo by Loving

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A chronic note: Macon outlived by many years the physician who advised him to stop work because of a heart condition.

...the... to Mrs. ...

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#485

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE

Department of Community Development

City Hall

Charlottesville, Virginia 22902

1508 Grady Avenue

