

Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity

HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
CERTIFICATION APPLICATION -

Office Use Only

Property Name

1820 Carr's Hill Road, Charlottesville, VA

Property Address

Project Number:

Owner Name/Social Security or Taxpayer ID Number

5. Description of physical appearance:

Not quite as large as most University of Virginia fraternity houses of the same period, the Delta Kappa Epsilon house consists of a pedimented 2-storey, 3-bay central pavilion flanked by 2-storey, 1-bay side wings. Its brick is laid in Flemish bond throughout. The medium-pitched hip roof is covered with slate and has a boxed cornice with dentil moulding. There is a wheel window in the pediment. An un-capped chimney is located interior to the rear wall of each side wing. Windows are double-sash, 8-over-8 light, with architrave trim. Those at the first storey level are somewhat taller and jack-arched. A one-storey entrance portico covers the center bay of the facade. Four Tuscan columns support a flat roof with an entablature and roof balustrade. The 6-paneled entrance door is flanked by paneled pilasters and sidelights and has a semi-elliptical fanlight with wooden tracery.

Date of Construction: 1914

Source of Date: University of Virginia records

Date(s) of Alteration(s):

Has building been moved?  yes  no. If so, when?

6. Statement of significance:

Among other things, the Rugby Road-University Corner Historic District is important because of the large number of historic and/or architecturally significant fraternity houses located there. Built mainly between 1910 and 1940, these houses represent an important aspect of student life at the University of Virginia.

Delta Kappa Epsilon is the oldest fraternity at the University of Virginia, Eta Chapter having been established in 1852. In 1888 it was the first fraternity to be granted permission to build on University land. Fund-raising was a problem, however, and this house was not built until 1914. (Meanwhile, the fraternity became the first to own a house, with its purchase of a house on Fourteenth Street in 1899).

More architecturally conservative than some of the other houses, the DKE house has been called "one of the most academically Palladian Georgian houses". Unfortunately the architect is unknown. The facade is highlighted by the handsome semi-elliptical arched entrance with its delicate wooden tracery. On the interior, the focal point of the great hall is the five staircase with spiral newels and delicate balustrade, which rises seven steps to a landing and then branches into two separate flights which rise along the rear wall.

It was the first fraternity to build on the steep and somewhat isolated western slope of Carr's Hill.

7. Photographs and maps.

Attach photographs and maps to application.

Continuation sheets attached:  yes  no