



# VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

## HISTORIC DISTRICT SURVEY FORM

File No. 104-130-1  
Negative no(s) 7211

Page 1 of 2

Street address No address (Rugby Road, just N of no. 180)  
Town/City Charlottesville  
Historic name \_\_\_\_\_ Common name **Beta Bridge**

**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  
 concrete block  cast iron  
 enameled steel  terra cotta  
 other: cast concrete  glass and metal

Number of Stories	Roof Type	Roof Material
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2½ <input type="checkbox"/> 1½ <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> shed <input type="checkbox"/> mansard <input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> shed <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> gable <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> pedimented <input type="checkbox"/> hipped	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> _____

Porch	Stories	Bays	General description
<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 (center) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 (side) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____

**Building type**

<input 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	_____

Style/period **Decorated Vernacular** Date **Ca. 1925-35** Architect/builder \_\_\_\_\_

Location and description of entrance **NA**



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

This railroad overpass is constructed of poured concrete and has an arched underpass. The parapet sides are about 4 feet high and have a molded cap. At either end of the bridge are a pair of decorative cast-concrete obelisks with metal urns atop.

Historical information

This bridge replaces an earlier, wooden one in the late 1920s or early 30s. The earlier bridge was used for streetcars as well as motor vehicles. Since the early 1960s it has served as an unofficial student bulletin board, being painted (usually at night) with graffiti and artwork. Having been repainted several times a month for the past two decades, it is now covered in hundreds of layers of paint.

Source Alexander Gilliam interview; Eugenia Bibb.  
Surveyed by Jeff O'Dell, VHLC Date 9-83



# VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

## HISTORIC DISTRICT SURVEY FORM

File No. 104-130  
Negative no(s). 7211

Page 2 of 2

Street address 100 Block Rugby Road (between 180 and 190 Rugby Rd.)  
Town/City Charlottesville

Historic name Chesapeake & Ohio Overpass Bridge Common name Beta Bridge

- 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
  - concrete block
  - enameled steel
  - other: \_\_\_\_\_
- cast iron  
 terra cotta  
 glass and metal

Number of Stories	Roof Type	Roof Material
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2½	<input type="checkbox"/> shed <input type="checkbox"/> mansard	<input type="checkbox"/> slate <input type="checkbox"/> tile
<input type="checkbox"/> 1½ <input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> gable <input type="checkbox"/> gambrel	<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle <input type="checkbox"/> pressed tin
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> pediment <input type="checkbox"/> parapet	<input type="checkbox"/> composition <input type="checkbox"/> not visible
	<input type="checkbox"/> hipped <input type="checkbox"/> flat	<input type="checkbox"/> standing seam metal
	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> other _____

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

Porch	Stories	Bays	General description
<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 (center) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 4	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 (side) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	

Building type

<input 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Architect/builder \_\_\_\_\_

Location and description of entrance \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date 4-83 File No. 104-130

Name Beta Bridge (100 block Rugby Rd)



Date \_\_\_\_\_

City of Charlottesville - Rugby Rd.-University Corner H.D.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCE  
RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY FORM

DHR Identification Number: 104-0133-0001

Other DHR Number: 104-70

Property Date(s) 1920s

## PROPERTY NAMES

Beta Bridge

## EXPLANATION

Historic/Current

County/Independent City: Charlottesville

State: Virginia

Magisterial District:

Tax Parcel:

USGS Quad Map Name: CHARLOTTESVILLE WEST

UTMs of Boundary:

Center UTM:

Restrict location and UTM data? N

## ADDRESSES

Number	Thoroughfare Name	Explanation
-	Rugby Road	Current

Vicinity: Town/Village/Hamlet: Charlottesville

Name of National Register Historic District:

Rugby Road-University Corner Historic District

Name of DHR Eligible Historic District:

Name of Local Historic District:

Physical Character of General Surroundings: City

Site Description/Notable Landscape Features:

Carries Rugby Road over one line of railroad tracks running in a ravine;  
brush-covered embankments adjoin bridge to each side.

Ownership: Private

NR Resource Type: Structure

## WUZITS

Seq. #	# of	Wuzit Types	Historic?
1.0	1	Bridge	Historic

TOTAL: 1

Historic: 1

Non-Historic: 0

PRIMARY RESOURCE EXTERIOR COMPONENT DESCRIPTION

Component	#	Comp Type/Form	Material	Material Treatment
Deck	0		Concrete	Paved
Railing	0	Solid	Concrete	
Abutments	0		Concrete	
Substructure	0	Arched	Concrete	

INDIVIDUAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

SEQUENCE NUMBER: 1.0 WUZIT: Bridge

Primary Resource? Yes

Estimated Date of Construction: 1920s

Source of Date: Site Visit/Written

Architectural Style: Other

Description:

Concrete bridge with broad arched substructure carrying two lanes of traffic and two sidewalks. Arch has molded edge, and meets solid parapet walls of concrete with caps, and concrete molding between parapets and arch. Parapets terminate in concrete piers, which support truncated obelisks topped with urn-shaped light fixtures. Bridge's parapet rails are painted with advertisements and slogans, as it has long served as an unofficial student community message board.

Condition: Good

Threats to Resource: Deterioration

Additions/Alterations Description:

The bridge remains largely in its original state, except that the light fixtures no longer function, and it has been coated with countless layers of paint.

Number of Stories: 2.5

Interior Plan Type:

Accessed? No

Interior Description:

BRIDGE INFORMATION

Type: Arch:closed spandrel

# of Spans: 1

Bridge Use: Road/Pedestrian

# of Traffic Lanes: 2

Type of Entity Spanned: Railroad

Name of Entity Spanned: CSX railroad

Relationship of Secondary Resources to Property:

None.

DHR Historic Context: Transportation/Communication

Significance Statement:

Beta Bridge was built to replace an earlier wooden bridge, and first appears on Sanborn maps in 1929. It carried street car traffic as well as automobiles, and formed the turn-around point for street cars traveling up Rugby Road from University Avenue. The bridge shares design characteristics

with two other Charlottesville bridges built a few years earlier, the West Main Street Bridge (demolished in 1995) and the Jefferson Park Avenue Bridge, both concrete bridges with solid concrete parapets, which were designed to carry vehicular traffic over the Southern Railroad line (now Norfolk-Southern). Beta Bridge displays stripped Classicism in its design, with Classical Revival elements characteristic of the period and also possibly intended to relate to the fraternity houses being built in the vicinity at the same time - its Classical elements include the arched substructure, obelisks, and urn-like light fixtures. Since the 1960s, the bridge has served as an unofficial message board for students, who regularly paint slogans and announcements on the parapet rails. The bridge is an important feature of the historic district (Sanborn 1907, 1913, 1920, 1929, 1941, 1969; O'Dell 1983).

#### GRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Medium	Medium ID #	Frames	Date
B&W 35mm Photos	14646	19 - 24	3/10/1996

#### BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA

Sequence #: 1.1 Bibliographic Record Type: Survey, Other  
Author: O'Dell, Jeffrey M.  
Citation Abbreviation:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission (VHLC) Survey  
Notes:  
Sept. 1983. VDHR Archives.

Sequence #: 1.2 Bibliographic Record Type: Map  
Author: Sanborn Map Company  
Citation Abbreviation:  
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Charlottesville, VA  
Notes:  
Published by Sanborn Map Company, 1907, 1913, 1920, 1929, 1941, 1969.  
University of Virginia Library Government Documents.

#### CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT EVENTS

Date: 3/ 2/1996  
Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey  
Organization or Person: Smead, Susan E.  
ID # Associated with Event:  
CRM Event Notes or Comments:

#### MAILING ADDRESS

Honorif:  
First :  
Last :  
Suffix :  
Title :  
Company:

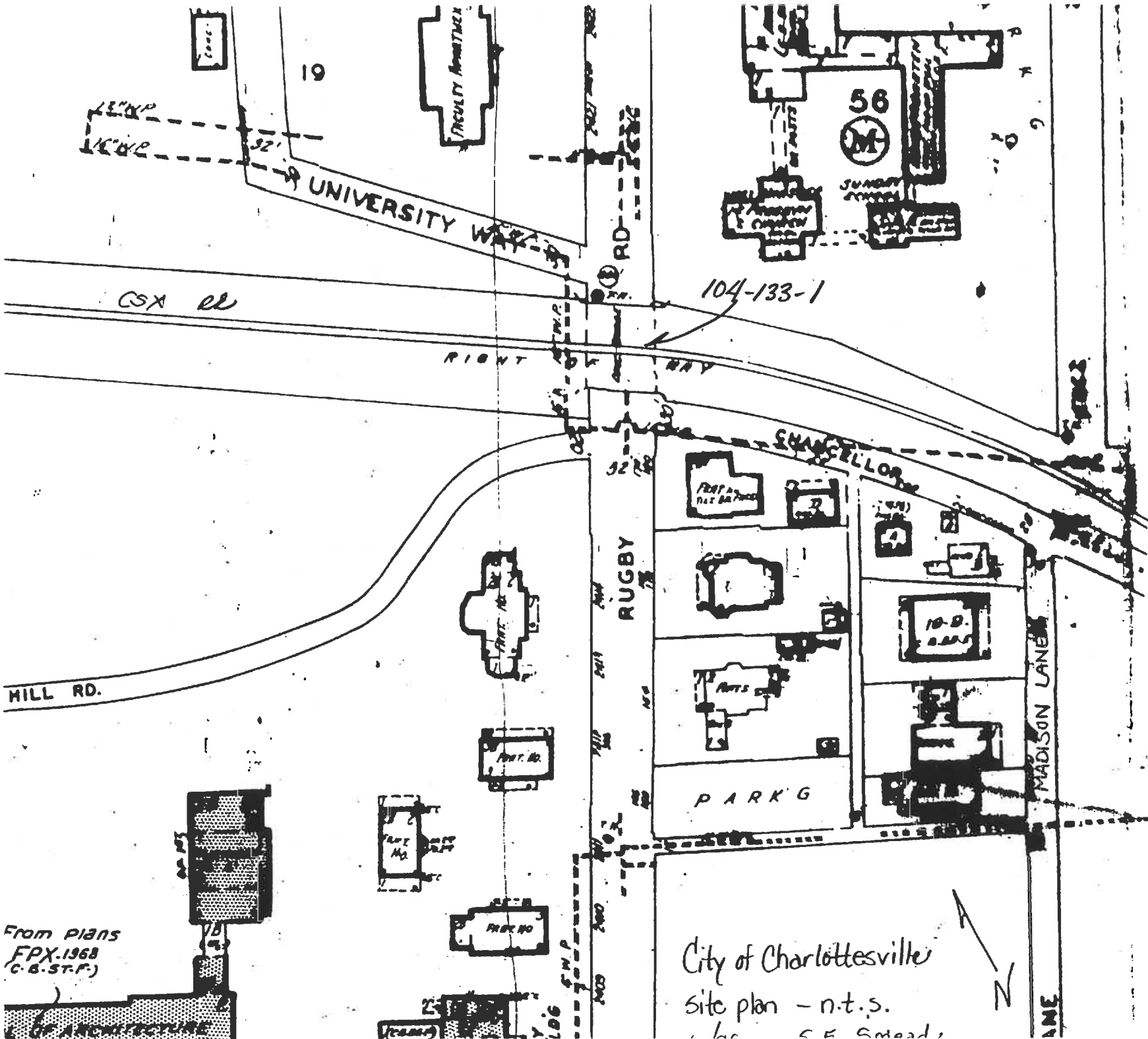
Address:

City : State:  
Zip : - Country:  
Phone/extension:

Individual Category Codes:

Mailing Address Notes:

Surveyor's Notes:

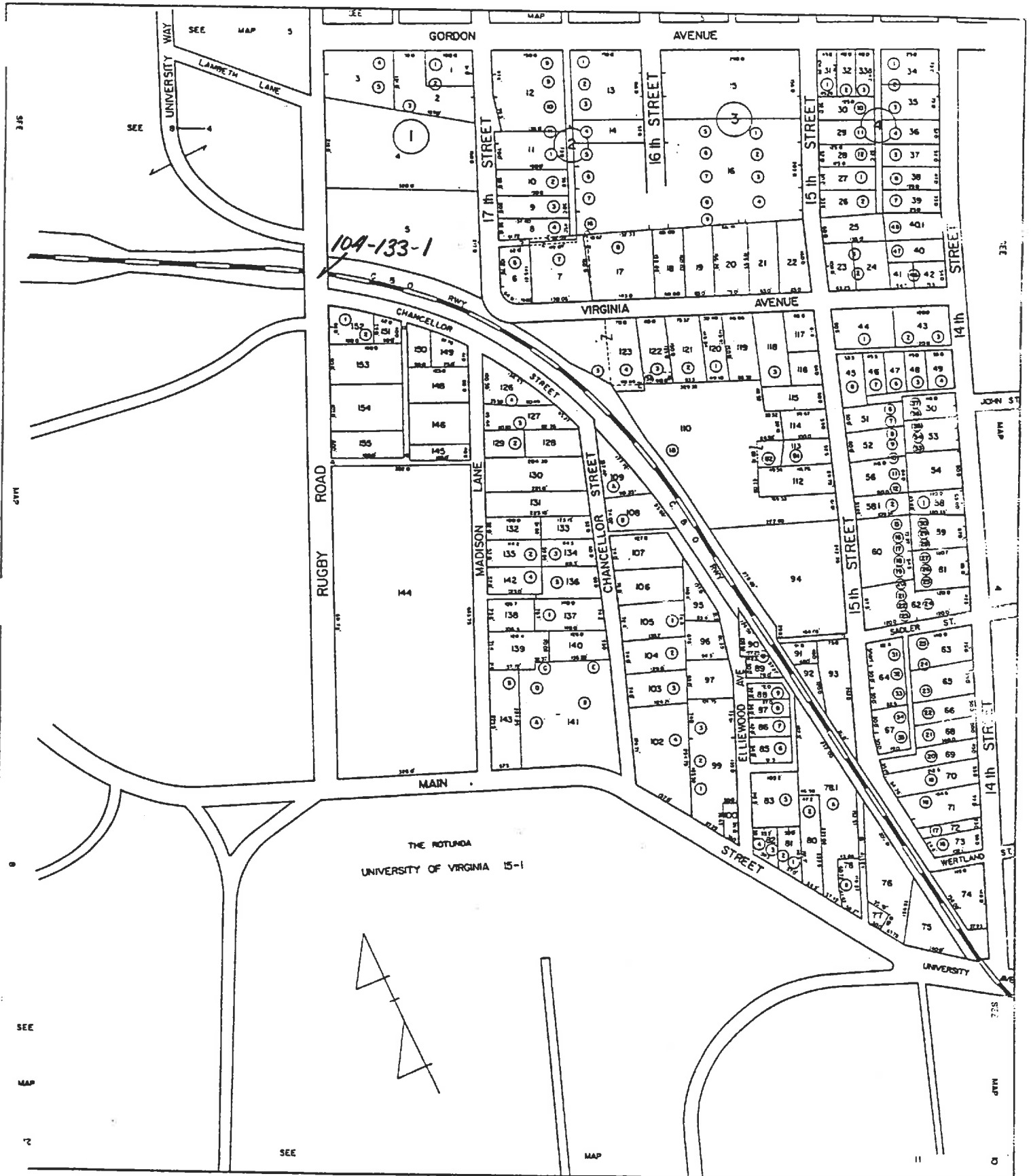


From Plans  
FPX.1368  
(C.B. ST.F.)

OF ARCHITECTURE

City of Charlottesville  
Site plan - n.t.s.  
by S.E. Smead

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



SCALE : 1" = 100'

SECTION 19