

# Architectural And Historic Survey



## Identification

<b>STREET ADDRESS:</b> 502 Rugby Road	<b>HISTORIC NAME:</b> Alpha Tau Omega House
<b>MAP &amp; PARCEL:</b> 5-54	<b>DATE / PERIOD:</b> 1915-16, 1957
<b>CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK:</b>	<b>STYLE:</b> Colonial Revival
<b>PRESENT ZONING:</b> R-3	<b>HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES:</b> 2½ storeys
<b>ORIGINAL OWNER:</b> Delta Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega	<b>DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA:</b> 104' x 150' (15,600 sq. ft.)
<b>ORIGINAL USE:</b> Fraternity House Fraternity, Inc.	<b>CONDITION:</b> Fair
<b>PRESENT USE:</b> Fraternity House	<b>SURVEYOR:</b> Bibb
<b>PRESENT OWNER:</b> Alpha Tau Omega Holding Corporation	<b>DATE OF SURVEY:</b> Summer 1983
<b>ADDRESS:</b> 502 Rugby Road	<b>SOURCES:</b> City/County Records Bradbury drawings Sanborn Map Co. - 1929 Bishop, "Fraternities at U.Va."
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903	

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Alpha Tau Omega House is two storeys tall, double pile, and three bays wide at the first level and four bays at the second. It is set on a very low fieldstone foundation. Wall construction is of brick laid in English bond. A band of vertical stretchers forms the water table. The roof is a steep truncated gable with a simple balustrade. (The original was probably Chinese Chippendale). The roof is covered with composition shingles and has close verges. It may originally have been covered with slate. The boxed cornice with returns has modillions and dentil moulding. At each end of the house, there are two interior end chimneys with a curtain wall. Windows are double-sash, 12-over-12 light, with brick sills, architrave trim, and paneled shutters. They are the same height at both levels. There is a round-arched pair of 12-light casement windows in each gable end. There are three large gable-roofed dormers with composition shingled walls on the front and rear elevations. Each has a circular-headed 6-over-6 light window with a wooden arch with cartouche. Pilasters with inset panels support the cornice returns. The 8-paneled entrance door in the center bay of the facade has a 5-light rectangular transom. Engaged Tuscan columns support a pediment and an entablature with dentil moulding. A one-storey piazza covers the front half of the south elevation. It has a nearly flat roof, an entablature with dentiled frieze, three Tuscan columns, no balustrade, and a concrete floor. There is a concrete terrace at the north end of the house. Access to the piazza and terrace is by two pairs of French doors, 12 lights over a panel. There are matching French doors in the side bays of the facade, but with paneled shutters and round arches with concrete panels above the doors. Centered on the rear elevation is a small shed-roofed entrance porch with square pillars and simple balustrade. A one-storey flat-roofed contemporary wing projects from the northeast rear corner. It has English bond brickwork and a cornice and frieze below the top of the parapet. There is a large tripartite window with paneled spandrel on the facade. Other windows are metal casement.

## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

Delta Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega purchased this lot in 1902 (ACDB 122-37), but did not build until 1915-16, according to fraternity and tax records. The house was designed by Eugene Bradbury. An addition was built in 1957.

Additional References: ACDB 162-256; City DB 63-289, 77-270, 93-231.



# VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

## HISTORIC DISTRICT SURVEY FORM

File No. 104-130

Negative no(s). 7220

Page 1 of 2 (plus 2 enclosures)

Street address 500 Rugby Rd.  
Town/City Charlottesville

Historic name Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity House Common name same

- Material
- wood frame (siding:  weatherboard,  shingle,  aluminum,  bricktex,  \_\_\_\_\_)
  - brick (bond:  Flemish,  stretcher,  \_\_\_\_\_-course American,  English)
  - 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 type="checkbox"/> gable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> pediment <input type="checkbox"/> parapet <input type="checkbox"/> hipped <input type="checkbox"/> flat <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>deck on gables!</u>	<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 <u>front</u> <input type="checkbox"/> shed <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> gable <input type="checkbox"/> hipped <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> pedimented	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> _____

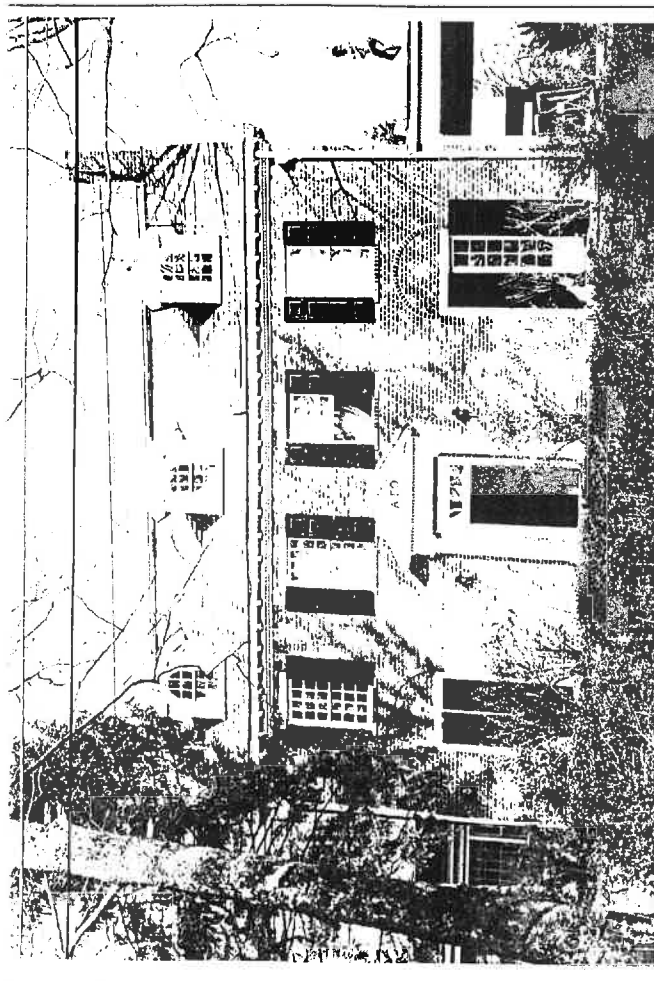
Porch	Stories	Bays	General description
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 (center) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 (side) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Side porch with wooden columns.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>fraternity house</u>

Style/period Georgian Revival Date 1915 Architect/builder \_\_\_\_\_

Location and description of entrance Entrance flanked by a pair of Roman Doric columns supporting a pediment.



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

Unlike most early Colonial Revival fraternity and private houses in the area, which follow Virginia precedents, this house is closer to Maryland and Delaware prototypes.

It has fine detailing, including English-bond brickwork (rare in Charlottesville), a modillion and dentil cornice; a balustraded roof deck, floorlength windows, slate roof and elaborate dormers with round-headed sash. The house features double interior-end chimney stacks joined by a parapet.

A cinderblock-and-brick north and rear ell was added between 1957 and 1969.

Historical information

The date but not the architect of this handsome house is known.

It was built in 1915 for Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, whose Delta Chapter was established at UVa in 1868.

Source Corks & Curls, 1954 and 1968; Sanborn Maps; Timothy Bishop, "Fraternity ... At UVa"

Surveyed by Jeff O'Dell, VHLC Date 4-83; 9-83



# VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

## HISTORIC DISTRICT SURVEY FORM

File No. 104-130  
Negative no(s) 7220

Page 2 of 2

Street address 500 Rugby Rd.  
Town/City Charlottesville

Historic name \_\_\_\_\_ Common name \_\_\_\_\_

- 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 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: _____



Number of bays — Main facade

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

Bays	General description
(center) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 (side) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> commercial (office) <input type="checkbox"/> school <input type="checkbox"/> commercial (store) <input type="checkbox"/> church <input type="checkbox"/> railroad <input type="checkbox"/> _____

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Architect/builder \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Date April 1983 File No. 104-130

Name 500 Rugby Rd.



Date \_\_\_\_\_

8-54 ✓

K-3  
104x150  
F493  
(15,600)

ATO - 502 Rugby

3	Alpha Tau Omega Holding Corp.	<sup>same add</sup> 1981	construction easement (sidewalk)
31	"	1937	

Hugh F. McFarlane

2 1/2 - 5 + B, 14 rooms,  
 core found, brick on masonry, slate & metal gables flat  
 built 1919, good conctr  
 3 fireplaces, 2 chim  
 1956 - impts (repair)  
 1957 - impts  
 1969 - asphalt shingle roof  
 #


Bishop: built 1915 by ATO, <sup>2nd:</sup> ~~1st~~ beyond Beta Bridge

'942 survey: built 1916

'20 Sanborn shows only one porch

'99 " : wing in CB faced w/ brick; main house brick

ATSL - 500 Rugby

2 1/2 - 3-bay ~~4~~ (4-bay 2nd)  = double pile  
low <sup>fieldstone</sup> found, (ground level); band vert. stanchion = water table  
~~Eng. band~~ Eng. band; ~~found~~ full pile

<sup>truncated</sup> steep gable roof, comp shingles, ~~open~~ close verges,  
boxed cornice w/ returns, mod., dentils  
(narrow fringe? - ~~in~~)

~~gabled gable?~~ original curtain wall bet 2 int end chim  
each end, sm caps; roof bal - now simple w/ ATO,  
prob was thin chip

windows at ~~2nd~~ level: 12/12, arch trim, brick sill, paneled  
shutters (most gone), same ht both levels

" 1st level - all F4 doors? - facade <sup>panels</sup> 12.2/panel  
conc diamond on brick below arch, paneled shutters  
gables: round arched pr 12 - l casement  
cent near 2nd level - shutter 5/8

cent ent: 8 - panel w/ 5 - l rosette, transom, arch. trim;  
engaged Tuscan column support entabl & pediment  
w/ dentils ~~on base~~; conc steps, flagstone terrace <sup>flank walk</sup>  
above yard

3 gabled dormers on facade, <sup>wood</sup> large  
shingled sides, pilasters w/ inset panels support cornice  
returns, circular-headed 6/6, round arch w/ cartouche,

1.5 5 side porch covers front half elevation  
nearly flat roof, <sup>real</sup> entabl w/ dentils <sup>fringe</sup>, Tuscan columns  
conc floor ground level



1 or 2 pr French doors on ends? ~~and~~

ent porch cent. rear

steep shed roof, shaped rafters  
of pillars, simple bal

1 1/2 N wing projects to rear & covers rear 1/2 end  
Brickwork matches

cornice & frieze below parapet

flat roof

metal casement windows

large tripartite window w/ paneled gable on ~~end~~ <sup>parapet</sup>

conc patio in place of porch N end, Fr doors, prob narrow, but lack of round arches indicates it may have been

Tax

1917 Delta change of ATO B4, 211412, PH 500 + 5000 = 5500 for Va Δ change



502 Rugby

73-231 Nora B. M<sup>rs</sup> Farlane (wid Hugh F), Hugh & Idella M<sup>rs</sup> Farlane,  
9/11/1937 Paul M<sup>rs</sup> Farlane, Hester & Lindsay Pitts → ATO Holding  
Corp

lots 11 & 12 in Block 14, Preston Heights; 104' x 150'

same as 77-270

wid Hugh F M<sup>rs</sup> Farlane <sup>Ac</sup> WB 35-234, 1935

77-270 David J Wood, under 1928 deed of trust for Delta Chapter  
9/3/1932 of ATO Fraternity, Inc (DB 63-289) → Hugh F. M<sup>rs</sup> Farlane  
of Chicago, at auction \$12,000  
lots 11 & 12... w/ imp'ts

63-289 same property as ACDB 122-37, 1/22/1902,  
James M Barnett → Va Delta Chap. of ATO (of UVA)  
& same as ACDB 162-256, 10/24/1915,  
Va Delta Chap of ATO of UVA → Delta Chap of ATO Fraternity, Inc.



