



VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

HISTORIC DISTRICT SURVEY FORM

File No. 104-130
Negative no(s). 7217; 9231

Page 1 of 2

Street address 41 University Circle
Town/City Charlottesville
Historic name ^{R.M.} Bird House 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: _____

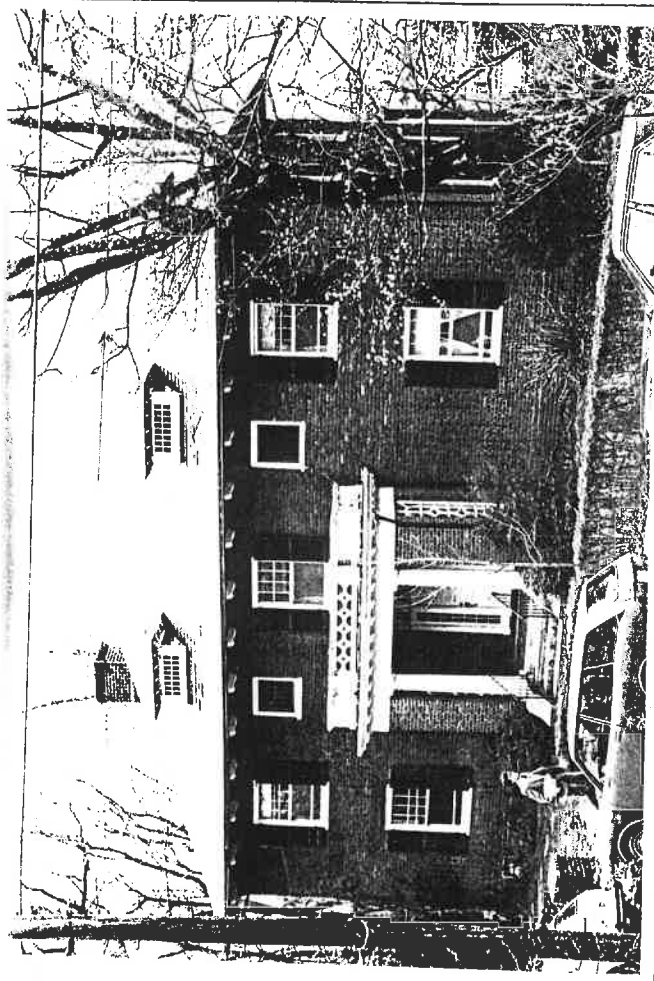
Number of Stories	Roof Type	Roof Material
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 1/2 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 1/2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> shed <input type="checkbox"/> mansard <input type="checkbox"/> gable <input type="checkbox"/> gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> pediment <input type="checkbox"/> parapet <input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 front <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> pedimented	<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 checked="" 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"/> _____	Monumental one-story front porch with balustraded deck supported by brick piers, wooden Roman Doric posts, and filled with latticework on the sides.
Building type			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> detached house <input type="checkbox"/> detached town house <input type="checkbox"/> row house <input type="checkbox"/> double house	<input type="checkbox"/> garage <input type="checkbox"/> farmhouse <input type="checkbox"/> apartment building <input type="checkbox"/> gas station	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> commercial (office) <input type="checkbox"/> commercial (store) <input type="checkbox"/> railroad	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> school <input type="checkbox"/> church <input type="checkbox"/> _____

Style/period Georgian Revival/Eclectic Date c.1910 Architect/builder

Location and description of entrance Main doors is surrounded by top- and side-lights filled with small rectangular panes of glass.



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

This idiosyncratic Georgian style house shares several distinctive features with other contemporary dwellings on the Circle, including those at nos. 31, 1845, and 1824.

The projecting roof is supported by molded brackets; the roof is pierced by two oddly-shaped dormers with geometric-pane casements; ^{and} two undersize windows flank the central window on the upper story.

The front porch is boldly conceived, forming a sort of vestibule and enlivening the rather severe main facade.

Historical information

This was the home of R.M. Bird, Professor of Chemistry for 20 years or more.

Source *Dauben map; University survey*
 Surveyed by Jeff O'Dell, VHLC Date 4-83; 9-83

Arch & Survey

#1 Univ. Ct.

~~This is a 2-story, 3-bay, double-pile brick house in the
wide bays~~

~~The width of the bays~~

This 2-story, 3-bay, double-pile brick house presents a very solid, heavy appearance, due in part to the width of the bays and in part to the combination of Tuscan columns & brick piers on ~~the~~ entrance porch.

It is set on a high foundation of brick laid in 6-course American bond with a 2-course stepped water table of vertical headers. ~~Wall~~ The walls are laid in Flemish bond on all four sides. The ~~slightly~~ medium-pitched, slightly bellcast, hipped roof is covered with slate and has deeply projecting eaves with shaped parlin, above an ~~architrave~~ ~~or~~ a corbelled brick architrave.

There are two ~~set~~ square interior chimneys. The wide windows are 8-over-1 light with louvered shutters. There are small, square, multi-light windows without shutters between the bays at the second ~~level of~~ story level of the facade. Two very ~~wide~~ low, hipped-roofed dormers on the facade and one on the western elevation, with wide, multi-light, hinged-sash windows, apparently are recent additions.

The heavy ~~one-story~~ one-bay entrance porch has a flat roof with a boxed cornice, with medallions & a plain frieze, supported on square brick corner piers. ~~The~~ Tuscan columns flank the porch entrance. There is a sawn roof balustrade with paneled corner posts.

The porch floor is brick & concrete, & the steps are concrete. The entrance door ~~has~~ with five horizontal panels has multi-light sidelights, rectangular transom, & corner lights.

The basement is above ground at the rear, & the rear elevation is covered by a complex of ~~additions including a one-story wing with roof balustrade at the western end and a 2-story porch with pergola (now enclosed) at the eastern end and an original sun parlor with sleeping porch above at the western end.~~

of original ~~additions~~ (or very early) additions which relieve the rigidity of the facade to some degree: at the eastern end, there is a sun parlor with a sleeping porch above. An interior end chimney suggests that there is a fireplace. ~~At~~ At the western end, there is a one-story addition. French doors in the

main block give access to its flat roof.
Between these two, a shallower 2-story addition
covers the central bay.

~~There~~

There is a low gravel hedge along the sidewalk
with low brick gateposts. Concrete walks are
bordered with brick.

Historic Descrip

R. M. Bird, ^{chemist} professor at the University, purchased this lot in University Place subdivision in 1905 ^(ACDB 138-234) & probably built the house soon afterwards. ~~The family ~~occupied~~ lived there for ~~that long time~~~~ then divided it into four apartments and used it as rental property for three more decades. They sold it in 1977 to University Circle neighbors Sally Cole Nelson and Donald E & Karen M. Dougald (City DB 383-138). Tax records note that the dormers were a mid-century addition.

Additional References: City WT 4-305;
City DB 146-266, 225-259, 345-593.

The 1912-13 City Directory shows the Bird family living on University Place. ~~After living~~ They lived there for four decades,

STREET ADDRESS: 41 University Circle
MAP & PARCEL: 6-86
VDHR FILE NUMBER:
CITY FILE NUMBER:
PRESENT ZONING: R-1
ORIGINAL OWNER: R.M. Bird
ORIGINAL USE: Residence
PRESENT USE: Apartments
PRESENT OWNER: Sally Cole Nelson, Donald E. & Karen M. Dougald
ADDRESS: 36 University Circle
Charlottesville, VA 22903
HISTORIC NAME: Bird House
DATE/PERIOD: c. 1908-1910
STYLE: Colonial Revival
HEIGHT IN STORIES: 2 stories
DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 100' x 146.6' (14,660 sq ft)
CONDITION: Good
SURVEYOR: Bibb
DATE OF SURVEY: Fall 1999
SOURCES: City/County Records
Sanborn Maps Co - 1920
Charlottesville City Directories