

VDHR Reconnaissance Survey Form

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES
PROPERTY SURVEY FORM
RECONNAISSANCE LEVEL

IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

VDHR File # 104-0234-000

Property Name: Historic Turner-LaRowe House

NR Property Category: Building
Wuzit: House

Tax Code: Section Parcel
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9 44

County/City: Charlottesville (City)

USGS Map: USGS Quad: Charlottesville East

ADDRESS/LOCATION INFORMATION

Address: 1 University Court Street

Location:

Vicinity of: Municipality: ZIP: 22903

PROPERTY CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION

Property Boundaries:
Ownership: Private

RESOURCE COUNT -

#	Category	Contributing?	TOTAL:	
1	Building	Contributing	1	
			Contrib:	1
			Non-Contrib:	0

WUZIT COUNT -

#	Wuzit	Contributing?	TOTAL:	
1	House	Contributing	1	
			Contrib:	1
			Non-Contrib:	0

the entrance hall and one over the west side entrance have stained glass lights in the upper sashes. The main entrance is on the south, facing University Court. A one-storey verandah extends from the projecting bay on that side around the corner to the one on the east. It has a low-pitched hip roof covered with standing-seam metal with boxed cornice, spindle frieze and bracketed Eastlake posts and balustrade. There is a small second-storey porch above the entrance with matching balustrade and a pedimented gable roof. Another one-storey verandah covers the western elevation. The roof and balustrade match those of the other verandah, but this one has six Tuscan columns and a dentiled frieze. The floor plan is irregular. A 2-flight open stair with turned balustrade rises from the entrance hall in the southwest corner of the house and continues up to the third storey, which was probably used as servants' quarters. The ceilings are very high, and there is a fireplace with coal grate and Victorian mantel in every room. The house is being rehabilitated for use as a sorority house.

Brief Architectural Description of Additions and Alterations
See Architectural Description and Historical Description.

Brief Architectural Description of Secondary Resources:

Potentially Contributes to Historic District:

Potentially Associated with NR Multiple Property:

Architectural and Historical Summary:

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

In 1890 Mary P. Turner was awarded five acres of her husband Lawson C. Turner's estate as her dower tract (ACDB 93-368). Tax records show that she built this house in 1892. She sold it in 1907 to Francis Trevelyan (ACDB 135-6), and her children also sold their adjoining tracts. Ownership was transferred to the College Heights Land Company, Inc., in 1908 (ACDB 138-263). It was to be subdivided as Trevelyan's Addition. Trader's Land Company purchased a section of it in 1911 (ACDB 145-412) and sold the house to F. W. Twyman and A. V. Conway (ACDB 146-109). Fifteenth Street was known as Turner Street at that time. John S. LaRowe, boxing coach at the University, bought the entire tract in 1913 (ACDB 151-350, 152-133, 152-273). He subdivided it and lived in the Turner house. His widow sold the house in 1941 (City DB 107-370). Between 1945 and 1981, it was divided into five apartments. T. C. Hickman, John N. Stoner, and Michael A. Cernike purchased the house in 1981 and extensively rehabilitated it (DB 429-646). 1993: Tri Sigma Delta Chi sorority has occupied the building since the rehabilitation was completed in 1983 (DB 524-688, 441-716).

SIGNIFICANCE & RELATION TO EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Turner-LaRowe House is one of the first examples of late Victorian architecture in Charlottesville. Of special interest is the stained glass used throughout the building. Built in 1892, it is listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Charlottesville Multiple Resource Area. The Turner-LaRowe House was the home of Johnny LaRowe, one of

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Charlottesville's most colorful figures, for twenty-seven years. LaRowe was a local billiard parlor owner at the turn of the century. His establishment, located on "The Corner" across from the University of Virginia, at one time was the largest poolroom in the South. He is more famous, though, as the coach of the University's boxing team in the 1920s and 1930s, having coached several national champions and Olympic contestants. His motto was "Fight your best but never foul". In addition, this is one of the few Victorian style houses in the City without extensive alteration. This, along with the current owner's efforts to extensively restore the building, hopefully will make the Turner-LaRowe house one of the finest restoration projects in the City.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Type of Record	Citation
City Records	Charlottesville City Deed Book
County Records	Albemarle County Deed Books
Interview	J. Dean Tilman, Jr.

PHOTOGRAPHIC/DRAWINGS DOCUMENTATION

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MISSING DATA ELEMENT

Media	VDHR Neg #	Frames	Date
B&W 35mm photos	13468	32 - 37	1/ /1994

CRM MANAGEMENT EVENTS

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MISSING DATA ELEMENT

CRM Event	Agency/Organization	Date
Survey	Community Development-Bibb/Huppert	/ /1980
IPS data entry-PAVA (Smead)		