

HISTORY

1874-1903, WILLIAM E. PETERS

Although Pavilion IX was next assigned to Charles S. Venable, its subsequent resident was in fact Col. William E. Peters, who, like McGuffey, would occupy the building for a very long time.¹⁰⁰ A native Virginian and veteran of the Confederate Army, Peters had been a graduate student at the University of Virginia, and his return as a professor of Latin coincided with the division of the school of ancient languages and the establishment of a separate school of Latin.¹⁰¹ Peters originally occupied Pavilion III but began residing in Pavilion IX in 1874. He continued to live there until after his resignation in 1902.¹⁰²

Shortly after Peters moved into Pavilion IX, the Board of Visitors “had their attention directed to the decayed condition of the porch to the rear of Col. Peters Pavilion,” which had presumably been built for McGuffey, and they recommended an “appropriation of \$40.00 for the repair.”¹⁰³

On August 12, 1874, “a violent storm tore a large part of the roof” from the annex behind the Rotunda and caused other damage that required immediate outlays for repairs in the amount of \$325.00.¹⁰⁴ This storm may have exacerbated other problems that were slowly encroaching. The annual report from 1875, for instance, noted that the appropriation for repairs and improvements:

was cut down to the point *below* what is actually necessary to keep the extensive buildings and improvements in good thorough repair....The board has caused an estimate to be made of the amount which would be necessary to replace the worn out pavements, paint the buildings, add to the accommodation of some of the pavilions which are too small for the accommodation of any but very small families, and put the public property at the University in thorough repair, which has not been done since some years before the late war. For these purposes about \$25,000 will be necessary, and the sooner this sum is appropriated for that purpose the greater will be the economy of its application.¹⁰⁵

The same report notes repairs made to Pavilion IX, perhaps as a result of the previous year’s storm, in the amount of \$36.22, although the 1877 annual report lists this amount as being spent on the addition.¹⁰⁶

Coal had been used in the building for heating or cooking, or both. In 1877 two “Radiant Stoves” were installed and the fireplaces repaired.¹⁰⁷ In 1875 the blinds were painted.¹⁰⁸ There was work on the glazing on an almost annual basis between 1877 and 1893.¹⁰⁹

During the late 1870s extensive work was also done on the Lawn and the terraces. The 1878 annual report states that “In continuation of last year’s operations, almost the entire pavement of the University has been renewed, the brick having been burnt during the summer on our own premises. A good deal of new tin roof, and an extensive amount of roof-painting has been executed and all the usual repairs attended to.”¹¹⁰ The 1879 annual report provided these details: