

HISTORY

END NOTES

1. Stanford White was murdered by Harry Kendall Thaw, a resident of Pittsburgh and heir to a large industrial fortune. Thaw had married Evelyn Nesbitt, a Pennsylvania native who had been a New York City chorus girl. Around the time of their marriage, Thaw learned that his wife had once been Stanford White's mistress. Nesbitt's account of the affair enraged Thaw, who eventually went to Madison Square Gardens, found White in a dining space (White also kept a private room there for his personal use), and shot him to death. Both men had unusually eccentric personal habits lurking in their backgrounds that became public knowledge in the trial that ensued. The trial was so heavily covered in the press that a number of words and phrases came into the American vocabulary as a result. In the first court proceeding ever to be widely publicized as the "trial of the century" (even though it was only 1906), Thaw was found "not guilty by reason of insanity." The story is central to the plot of the E. L. Doctorow's 1974 novel *Ragtime* and the 1981 movie that was based on it, as well as an earlier movie, *The Girl in the Red Velvet Swing* (1955).

2. Letter from Stanford White to Dr. Edwin A. Alderman, 20 June 1906, UVA Special Collections.

Note: Almost all the letters referred to in this section are from the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia. It is filed under "Papers of the Presidents," and chronologically within the various parts of that particular collection. The letters documenting correspondence about the building to or from Dr. Alderman's office may be found in Box 6, in the folder on "Buildings and Grounds." Some McKim, Mead & White correspondence is also archived at the New York Historical Society. Dates are given in the text for most letters referenced in the body of the history narrative. The most complete sets of drawings on file are to be found at UVA's Facilities Management Office Archives, although duplicate copies of most of the McKim, Mead &

White drawings are also on file in the Special Collections Library.

3. The McKim, Mead & White collection at the New York Historical Society contains drawings of four other buildings, some of which were mechanical facilities, and some of which may have only been schematic studies.

4. The Rotunda restoration was completed in 1898, and at their 18 March 1898 meeting, the Board of Visitors passed a motion to approve a final payment to McKim, Mead & White. However, at the board's 2 March 1899 meeting, a second motion was made, putting the earlier motion on hold until further notice. At the same meeting, the board accepted drawings from architect Paul J. Pelz for the Randall Building. The board's action suggests some kind of rift between the university and McKim, Mead & White. Whatever the difficulty was, it was part of a broader concern about running a rapidly expanding university, with various building projects underway, without a president. It appears that the work that McKim, Mead & White had been performing was completed prior to President Alderman's arrival, and that the president's office had the opportunity in 1906 to choose a new architect at his pleasure. However, in ultimately hiring McKim, Mead & White to design the President's House, President Alderman also asked the firm simultaneously to design a new dining hall. That building, once known as "The Commons," is now named Garrett Hall.

5. Dr. Alderman lived in a rented house prior to the completion of the house on Carr's Hill in 1909. In 1907, at their January meeting, the Board of Visitors took special action to approve extending the president's lease on a month-by-month basis. This may be an indication of a delay in the original plan, that the board had expected the house to be completed just before or after this action; it may also reflect uncertainty in general about how the project was progressing after the death of Stanford White.