

HISTORY

many other issues and concerns they raised in the attachment to their 16 June letter.

17. McKim, Mead & White's designs up to 1906 were well known for their decorative staircases. Stanford White was the partner primarily in charge of large residential commissions, and many of the highly decorative stair details found in the firm's houses from the turn of the century appear to have been designed, either in whole or part, by White. An example of a staircase with some similarities is found at Naumkeag, a house that McKim, Mead & White designed in 1885 for a site in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Although more complex in its plan, the stair leads down to an elliptical arch, creating a view that is remarkably similar to the view from the landing at the President's House. Similar treatments of the both newel post and of the stair stringer details can be found in other McKim, Mead & White designs. Stanford White also had a profound impact on the decorative arts in general in this era; the opulent details that marked staircases and other dramatic features in his commissions were carried over into other decorative arts.

18. Burt Leslie Fenner became a partner at McKim, Mead & White in 1906.

19. In spite of Kendall's numerous significant buildings, his best-known and most-memorable contribution to American culture is the phrase he wrote to be incised into the frieze of the Farley Post Office in New York City, a National Historic Landmark: *"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."*

20. A draftsman named "Edelheim" signed a couple of the other documents. One or two other documents have signatures that are not quite legible.

21. See the bibliography for a list of letters to and from various manufacturers that are to be found in the UVA Special Collections. One of the items in the Special Collections is a typescript listing all the fixtures and major furniture purchases, giving the name of the manufacturer and the value, as far as it was

known. The typescript appears to have been prepared shortly after the building was completed.

22. For example, in a letter from President Alderman to Horne & Brannen Manufacturing Company of Philadelphia dated 13 May 1909, President Alderman writes that he and Mrs. Alderman are "greatly inconvenienced in our new home for lack of the fixtures." On 28 May, he wrote to the same firm asking them to "hasten" the designs for the bedroom fixtures.

23. In early 1907, the Board of Visitors voted to apply a recent gift of \$5,000 "represented by bonds of the U.S. Steel Company" to the cost overruns at the house. The Special Collections contains several drafts of a letter Lambeth wrote around this time for a presentation to the Board of Visitors to cover what was then about an \$8,000 overrun by comparison to the figures used in the spring of 1906. In March 1909, the board allocated \$2,000 to pay for furnishings for the house.

24. See the bibliography for a list of letters to and from various manufacturers that are to be found in the UVA Special Collections.

25. The undated note written in longhand in pencil on "Office of the President" stationery and signed by Dr. Lambeth is archived among Dr. Alderman's papers at the Special Collections Library. Two sketches of brackets or moldings, apparently at the support point of a mantelshelf, appear on the reverse side of the paper. Above the stationery heading, a pencilled note in a different hand says: "Note to Mitchell about Summer School." Another note at the bottom, written in fountain pen, in a different hand again, says "Mess Hall." It is not clear if either one of the latter notes is intended to be the title for the note in question, or if the piece of paper was used as a place to write down some things that were unrelated. In any event, they show that Dr. Lambeth was struggling with the possibility of saving money by leaving mantelpieces out of contracts and by substituting pine for birch because of a 50% difference in price around the same time that the President's House was built.