

EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR DESCRIPTIONS

For the following descriptions, certain generalizations were made for dating the various periods of construction, modification, reconstruction, and restoration.

- The date 1819 refers to the plans, section, and elevation completed by Jefferson in that year.
- The term “original” and the date 1827 refer to conditions that resulted from Jefferson’s design and the construction that continued over several years; the Rotunda was not completed until after Jefferson’s death.
- The date 1841 includes all work carried out to remodel and enclose the southeast and southwest terrace wings.
- Work carried out in the Rotunda and wings in succeeding years is specifically dated when possible. This includes the expansion carried out from the designs of Robert Mills and completed in 1853.
- The disastrous fire in 1895 nearly destroyed the entire Rotunda complex. Fortunately, masonry walls of the Rotunda and the flanking south wings survived and were repaired as part of the reconstruction by McKim Mead & White of New York City. In the description, their work is dated to 1898, the year that the complex project was fully completed.
- The next round of significant work is dated to 1939, the date on the set of drawings produced by architect Stanislaw J. Makielski of Charlottesville, Virginia. This project included extensive exterior work on the Rotunda and wings, as well as work in the interior of the wings.
- For the ambitious restoration project carried out by the firm of Ballou & Justice, the term “mid-1970s” is used, unless a more specific date is known.

The exterior and interior descriptions not only record the existing features and conditions, but also include information about previous and original conditions. This includes information and speculation about original and later nineteenth-century heating, lighting, and furnishings, as well as architectural features.

The room numbering follows the system already established by the University. Note that doors are described in detail, with their hardware, with the room into which they open.