

Ceiling: Prior to the fire, the original plaster-on-lath portico ceiling was positioned above a full entablature that duplicated the exterior entablature. An 1892 photograph records this important feature.

The existing plaster ceiling is trimmed at the edge with an entablature set on the column capitals. A plaster eagle, a copy of the ornament on the hall ceiling at Monticello, ornaments the center of the ceiling. This ornament was first placed here by Stanford White. A 1914 Holsinger Studio photograph records the eagle with an electric light fixture suspended from its belly [*Figure 88*]. Two large intake panels and eight light fixtures were inserted in the ceiling in the mid-1970s.

Floor: The south portico floor was historically paved with marble. In 1824, 1,400 square feet of Italian marble was ordered for the front portico floor and platform of the back steps. The current marble surface, installed in 1939, includes 1'-6" x 4'-6" slabs forming rectangular fields bordered by 1'-6" square slabs. Photographs from the 1930s work shows that beneath the marble there is a subfloor of brick pavers [*see Figure 93*].

Stairs: From the portico floor, stairs descend south in fifteen risers to the sidewalk. The marble steps, installed in 1939 over a brick substructure to replace the deteriorated concrete steps from the post-fire construction, have 6-1/2" high risers and 1'-1" deep treads. The bottom tread extends out to the east and west, and ends in a volute.

The first stone steps were not installed until about 1832. Pre-fire photographs reveal that originally there were fourteen risers. There were no handrails. Although all of the Jefferson and Neilson drawings show massive cheek walls flanking the steps, these walls were never constructed.

The wrought metal handrails were installed in 1998.

Stair windows: In each of the stair cheek walls, an original lunette window opening is trimmed by a 6" wide single fascia architrave with a key block, and is fitted with a single-paned hopper sash. Original semicircular iron grilles with radiating rods cover the openings. These openings and grilles are visible in pre-fire photographs.

ROTUNDA: SOUTH ELEVATION

The three-bay-wide south elevation is the flat south surface of one of the "buttresses" that Jefferson designed to support the dome. The original brick is laid in Flemish bond, such that ten courses are approximately 2'-4 1/4" high. Engaged pilasters project 6" from the east and west ends of the elevation extend up to Corinthian capitals to support the portico roof; the entablature of the portico ceiling extends across the facade. The base of the facade is trimmed with a marble fascia. The brick wall surface, as it returns north