

## SOUTH WINGS

The wings flanking the south portico were designed by Jefferson to join the Rotunda to the east and west covered walks and the Pavilions flanking the lawns. The wings served as gymnasias for the students. The 1825 Maverick plan shows that the rectangular wings were nine bays wide and three bays deep, with arcades along the north, east and west elevations; the south elevations had lunette openings at the higher grade.

While accounts of the 1895 fire infer that these wings were “blown up” to prevent the fire from spreading, post-fire photographs reveal that the exterior walls seem to have survived without serious damage; only the later hipped roofs and interiors were partially destroyed. The McDonald Brothers partially reconstructed the southeast wing, and subsequently both wings were fully reconstructed/restored by McKim Mead & White.

The wings, as they now exist, are still nine bays wide, with arched open passages in the end bays. The walls are brick, laid in a Flemish bond. Along the north elevations, and the end elevations, the arched bays are delineated by brick piers. The piers rise from plain plinths and two-course-high bases up to two-course-high corbeled “capitals.” The brickwork of these piers varies slightly, perhaps due to the repairs after the fire. For instance, in the southwest wing, the shafts at the three northeast openings are seventeen courses high, while the shafts at the three northwest openings are made up of larger bricks, and are sixteen courses high.

**Windows:** The arched openings in the south elevations spring from 7-1/2" high water tables. Each of the lunette openings is framed by a 2-3/4" wide ogee molding and is fitted with a pair of nine-light, quarter-round casement sash with radiating muntins. In each opening, only the west sash is hinged, opening into the corridor. Similar sash appear in photographs taken before the fire, and it is possible that some sash survived the fire. The sash were installed in 1841, when the “gymnasias” were enclosed to create interior spaces.

On the north elevations, the seven center openings of each elevations were filled in and fitted with arched window sash in 1841. The openings have 6-1/2" wide two-fascia architraves, and sit above simple square-cut sills. Each opening has a 6/6 wood sash and a 6-light semicircular fanlight, dating to the 1898 post-fire reconstruction. Storm sash have been installed over the wood sash. The space between the window frames and the original, wider arched openings was infilled with masonry covered in cement parging.

**Balustrade:** At the top of the walls, a 1'-5 3/8" high marble cornice includes a bed molding (composed of a frieze, a fillet, a bead, and ovolo) and a crown molding (composed of a corona, a fillet, a bead, and a cyma recta molding). Above the cornice, a 2'-9 1/2" high marble balustrade extends along the edge of the terrace roofs. The cornice and balustrade were installed in 1939 to replace the cast cement McKim Mead & White