

HISTORY OF EXISTING STRUCTURES

3.2.2 WEST WING

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees on 22 November 1836, the condition and possible disposition of the old Steward's House was discussed. The decision was made to dismantle and sell the Steward's House and not rebuild it, but, instead, to consider the possibility of moving the steward's activities into a new building adjacent to the existing college building (the East Wing). A resolution was adopted saying "Resolved, that the Vice President, together with Mssrs. B.L.C. Wailes, Monette, Newman, and Davis constitute a committee to enquire into the plan, expediency, and cost of adding a wing to the College Edifice as the Steward's department and report on the same to the next meeting of the Board."¹

About eight months later, at a meeting of the Board on 18 July 1837, the committee appointed to investigate the advisability of erecting a second building recommended "the erection of the West Wing of the College Edifice as originally contemplated, corresponding with the East Wing as to dimensions and external conformation. A space of fifty feet should be left between the wings on which to erect the center building." The recommendations continued with detailed specifications for the building. A resolution was adopted at the same meeting, saying "Resolved, that the Vice President be authorized and requested to advertize for proposals for building the West Wing of Jefferson College and a kitchen in accordance with the plan adopted and to report to the board such offers as he may receive previous to 1 October next for adoption at the earliest day practicable ..."²

On 16 April 1838 the Board of Trustees entered into a contract with the firm of Montgomery and Keyes for the construction of the West Wing and an "out building or kitchen" (later called the West Kitchen). The West Wing was not designed by an architect. Its plan was based upon that of the East Wing, with certain modifications directed by the Board of Trustees. A very elegant ink drawing of the floor plans of the West Wing, made in 1838, is filed in the Jefferson College Papers.³ The drawing is signed by Montgomery and Keyes and by John A. Quitman, President of the Board of Trustees, but there is no indication as to who the draftsman was. However, considering that B.L.C. Wailes, a long-time member of the Board of Trustees, was an accomplished surveyor and draftsman, and that he had drawn up the plans for the proposed house for the President (which was not built, because the existing President's House was purchased instead), it seems likely that he drafted the floor plans for the West Wing as well.

The contract with Montgomery and Keyes for the construction of the West Wing and one outbuilding is transcribed as follows:

¹ A report presented to the Board of Trustees on 22 November 1836, and a resolution adopted on that date, recorded in Volume 4 of the minutes of the Board of Trustees, pp. 6-7, in the Jefferson College Papers, Z/0059.000, Box 2.

² Minutes of the Board of Trustees, Volume 4, pp. 41-43, in the Jefferson College Papers, Z/0059.000, Box 2. A copy of the report and a rough draft of the resolution are filed in the Jefferson College Papers, Z/0059.000, Box 15, Folder 69.

³ The ink drawing of the floor plans of the West Wing, made in 1838, is filed in an unprocessed accretion to the Jefferson Military College Records, Z/U/1977.002, Box 3.

Articles of agreement made and concluded this sixteenth day of April eighteen hundred and thirty-eight between Montgomery and Keyes of Natchez of the first part and the Trustees of Jefferson College of Washington, State of Mississippi, of the second part.

Witnesseth that the said Montgomery and Keyes of the first part undertakes and agrees to build, erect, finish and complete a building known and represented as the West Wing of Jefferson College – by plans adopted and exhibited by the Trustees of said College – which bear the signatures of the parties to this agreement, and an out building designed for a kitchen described in the following specification in a manner not inferior and in all respects to correspond with and agreeable to the following specifications and plans.

Specification of the West Wing of the Jefferson College to be erected in Washington on or near the premises where the East Wing of said College now stands.

Article 1st. Outlines

The structure of this building is to be constructed of Brick, seventy feet front and forty-eight feet rear, on a line at right angles to front side and three stories high and an attic above the eaves. The interior arrangements are to be the same as represented by the plan.

Article 2nd. Mason Work

The whole to be of the same elevation and to correspond in all respects with the present East Wing or College Edifice. The walls of the first story are to be two and half bricks thick, the second and third story walls are to be two bricks thick, the attic wall to be one brick thick, the partition walls on each side of the Hall in each story to be one and half brick thick; the remainder of the partition walls are to be of wood six inches thick. The bricks are to be of good quality, well burned and laid in good lime and sand mortar. The front wall is to be laid Flemish bond. The walls of all the rooms and halls represented by the said plan are to be plastered with three good coats of best mortar. There are to be marble sills and keystones to the front windows and stone sills to the exterior doors similar to those in the East wing.

Article 3rd. Carpenter Work

The first floor timbers or sleepers are to be of cedar and laid sufficiently close to make a substantial job; the second story joists are to be three by fifteen inches, the third story joists are to be three by fourteen inches and the fourth or attic story joists are to be three by twelve inches and all to be laid sixteen inches from center to center. The collar beams and timbers over all the openings to be suitable dimensions to insure solidity. The roof timbers to be three by six inches, placed two feet from center to center. The partition studs are to be three by six inches and placed sixteen inches from center to center. The roof to be boarded and shingled with good cypress shingles in the same

manner as East wing, and gutters around the dormer windows to be laid with sheet copper.

Article 4th. Joiner Work

All of the joiner work to this building is to be executed in a neat, substantial manner and in a chaste modern style of architecture. The general proportions of the work such as windows, doors, stairs, base, mantels, etc., to be the same as those in the East wing. The windows and doors are to be set, arranged and the same in number as represented on ground plans. The windows to be cased with plain flaring jambs and architrave casings with Grecian moldings. All the doors are to be panel doors one and three quarter inches thick with six inch rim locks and best butt hinges, plain jambs and architrave casings the same as the windows. The stairs to be executed in a strong and substantial manner extending to the several stories. Each of the fire places are to be finished with a first rate plain chimney piece in imitation of marble mantels. The floors are all to be of good cypress one and a fourth inches thick, dressed, matched, and laid in a workmanlike manner. The dormer windows to be finished in the same style and manner as those in East wing. There are also to be tin gutters and conductors same as in the East wing.

Article 5th. Painting

The joiner work is all to be painted with three good coats of white lead paint except the floors and handrail to stairs, the handrail to be stained and varnished.⁴

Article 6th. Description or Specifications of Out Building

The out building or kitchen is to be built of brick twenty by thirty-two feet, two stories high. The first story is to be ten feet high, the wall two bricks thick. The second story is to be nine feet high, the wall to be one and a half bricks thick. Each story is divided into two rooms with a chimney in the center and a cellar under the whole of eight feet deep paved with brick. Floors to be laid with cypress dressed, matched and grooved. There is also to be a plain stair case leading from the first to the second story, also a stairway to the cellar. There is to be a door, two windows and a fire place of suitable dimensions in each room. The walls to have two good coats of plaster in the first and second stories and a gallery of ten feet in front and the floor or pavement made of brick. All of the joiner work except the floors are to be painted with two good coats, the windows to be glazed and finished with shutters.

Article 7th. Conclusion of Specifications

All of the materials used in the above specified work are to be furnished by the said Montgomery and Keyes at their own cost and are to be of the best and most suitable quality for the several places they are destined to occupy and shall be such as are approved by the Building Committee and all the work is to be executed in a strong, substantial and workmanlike manner, subject to the inspection and examination of the building committee. And the said

⁴ As was the custom at the time, the floors would have been left as bare wood, without any applied finish.

Montgomery and Keyes of the first part further agrees to have the aforesaid work commenced by the first day of May next and the buildings finished and completed by the first day February, eighteen hundred and thirty-nine, for the sum of nineteen thousand dollars (\$19,000).

For and in consideration of which the said Trustees of the Jefferson College of the second part agree to pay to the said party of the first part the full sum of nineteen thousand dollars, in the following manner, to wit: The sum of two thousand dollars on the first day of July next and the further sum of two thousand dollars on the first day of each and every successive month thereafter until the first day of January next and the further and last sum of five thousand dollars on the first day of February one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine if the said buildings shall be completed. The several payments to be made by the Treasurer of Jefferson College in the funds received and paid out at the time by the Planters Bank of Mississippi in the city of Natchez on the warrant of the building committee if the work shall progress to the satisfaction of said committee.

For the faithful performance of the above Contract and every clause, matter and thing contained therein the parties of the first part, the said Montgomery and Keyes, with Murchison & Doyal and John P. Walworth securities do bind themselves, their heirs, executors, and administrators jointly and severally to the Trustees of Jefferson College aforesaid in the penal sum of twenty-five thousand dollars to be paid to the said Trustees and their successors in office if the said parties of the first part shall fail in the performance of their engagement above expressed but to be void provided the said party of the first part shall fully perform their covenants and engagements aforesaid.

In witness whereof the said parties of the first part with their securities and the party of the second part by John A. Quitman their Vice President have hereunto set their hands the day and year first above written.

Supplemental article: It is further understood and agreed that any providential circumstances or any event beyond the control of the Contractors which may occur to delay the progress or Completion of the work shall not operate to a forfeiture of this contract; But the Board of Trustees under such circumstances will allow a sufficient time for such completion; Or if the time allowed shall not be found sufficient to finish the whole buildings, the board will allow until the first day of April 1839 to complete the third story and attic on the College Edifice provided the basement and second story thereof and the kitchen be completed according to contract.

Montgomery & Keyes

Murchison & Doyal

J.P. Walworth

The chairman of the Building Committee, John W. Bryan, presented a report to the Board of Trustees on 2 July 1838, stating that the contractors had begun making the bricks and preparing lumber for the project. He estimated that they would have 300,000 bricks made “and commence laying the walls by the last week in the present month.”⁶

At a meeting of the Board on 13 August 1838, the building committee presented a report, stating that the walls had been erected nearly to level of the first joists, but there were apparently problems with some of the brick not being well made. A resolution was subsequently adopted, in response to this report, requiring that when there were objections made by building committee members about the materials being used, future payments would be withheld (presumably until the matter was resolved).⁷

In November 1838 the Board authorized the construction of two cisterns for the West Wing.⁸ They were built in the spring of 1839 by O. Blenis.⁹

Two resolutions concerning the West Wing were adopted by the Board on 16 February 1839:

[1st] Resolved, that the building committee cause a closet to be made in each of the lodging rooms on the second and third floors of the west wing of the College, in the recesses adjoining the chimneys, and also in each room on the first floor of the Kitchen.

2nd. Resolved, that said committee procure sixteen Venetian blinds ¹⁰ and cause them to be put up on the inside of each window opening to the south and west of the apartments on the second and third floors of the west wing of the college, also that suitable tables and benches for the Refectory and Kitchen be procured.”¹¹

[In both of these resolutions, the word “Kitchen” is used in the singular, but it must refer to the “West Kitchen” (the Steward’s Building), because the “East Kitchen” was not yet built. The East Kitchen would be constructed by Seaman and Smith later in 1839.]

Unlike the construction of East Wing, in building the West Wing all of the construction work was managed by Montgomery & Keyes, though they may have had subcontractors for

⁵ The contract with Montgomery & Keyes is filed in the Jefferson College Papers, in Box 15, Folder 75.

⁶ Minutes of the Board of Trustees, Volume 4, p. 101, in the Jefferson College Papers, Z/0059.000, Box 2.

⁷ Minutes of the Board of Trustees, Volume 4, pp. 104-105, in the Jefferson College Papers, Z/0059.000, Box 2. The manuscript of this report is filed in the Jefferson College Papers, in Box 15, Folder 75.

⁸ Minutes of the Board of Trustees, Volume 4, p. 117, in the Jefferson College Papers, Z/0059.000, Box 2.

⁹ The proposal from O. Blenis for this work is filed in the Jefferson College Papers, Box 11, Folder 3. Partial payment for this work is shown in a treasurer’s report presented to the Board on 4 October 1841, on page 228 of Volume 4 of the Minutes of the Board of Trustees. The receipt for this payment is recorded in the Receipt Book of 1837-1845, in the Jefferson College Papers, Box 5.

¹⁰ Louvered exterior shutters. See Carl R. Lounsbury, editor, *An Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Architecture and Landscape* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1999), pp. 34-35 and 388-389. (The book was originally published in hardcover by Oxford University Press, 1994.)

¹¹ Minutes of the Board of Trustees, Volume 4, p. 132, in the Jefferson College Papers, Z/0059.000, Box 2.

some of the work. The College did not have separate contracts for the interior carpentry and for the plastering as they had when building the East Wing. There is, therefore, no record in the Jefferson College papers of the names of the craftsmen who did the interior carpentry and the plastering.

The building was evidently completed by about the end of February 1839, for on 9 March 1839, the Board of Trustees adopted a resolution authorizing the Building Committee “to receive the new building from the contractors.”¹² The tenth and final payment to Montgomery and Keys under the terms of their contract for the construction of the West Wing was paid on 20 April 1839. They received a payment on 2 April 1839 for additional work beyond the scope of the contract, and they were paid a further sum of \$300 on 2 May 1839 for the installation of “Venetian blinds” on the West Wing.¹³

About January or February of 1840 John L.C. Seaman and William T. Smith, the contractors who built the building now known as the East Kitchen in 1839, installed two doors with transoms in brick walls of the new West Wing.¹⁴ These were clearly the two double-leaf doors with rectangular transoms located in the north wall of the West Wing that do not appear on the original floor plans. One of these doors opened directly into the Refectory (Room W105), and was obviously intended to allow easy access between the Refectory and the kitchen, which was located in the East Kitchen building immediately to the north. The other new double-leaf door opened into the northwest corner room of the first story (Room W103). This room is labeled as the “West Steward’s Sleeping Apartment” on the 1974-75 measured drawings, but it seems unlikely to have been used as a bedroom, since it opened directly to the outside. The exterior door would have provided convenient access between this room and the so-called “West Kitchen,” referred to in some documents as the Steward’s Building. It seems more likely, therefore, that Room W103 would have served originally as an office or work room for the Steward.

It is interesting to note that the Board had directed, on 16 February 1839, as mentioned above, that sixteen sets of “Venetian blinds” be installed “on the inside of each window opening to the south and west of the apartments on the second and third floors of the west wing of the college.”¹⁵ Sixteen sets of blinds would have been sufficient for four of the five south front windows and all four windows on the west side of the second and third stories, leaving out the center window on each floor (which opens to the center hallway). The directions of the Board did not include blinds for the north windows of the second and third stories, nor blinds for any of the windows of the first story. The term “blinds” or “Venetian blinds,” as used in the early nineteenth century, was somewhat ambiguous and could be used to mean either of two different things – either a set of hanging slats connected by cords, mounted on the inside of a window (as the term “blinds” is customarily used today), or a set of hinged wooden shutters, fitted with louvers, usually

¹² Minutes of the Board of Trustees, Volume 4, p. 136.

¹³ These payments are listed in a Treasurer’s Report that was presented to the Board at its meeting on 31 July 1839, as recorded in the Minutes of the Board of Trustees, Volume 4, pp. 156-158, in the Jefferson College Papers, Z/0059.000, Box 2. The receipts for these payments are recorded in the Receipt Book of 1837-1845, in the Jefferson College Papers, Box 5.

¹⁴ A voucher for payment to Seaman & Smith, dated 10 February 1840, “for furnishing materials, making two large door frames, doors and transom sash for the space, and cutting out brickwork in the West-wing of the College, erecting and completing the same,” in the Jefferson College Papers, Z/0059.000, Box 16, Folder 84.

¹⁵ Minutes of the Board of Trustees, Volume 4, p. 132. (Underlining added for emphasis.)

mounted on the outside of a window (but they could, less commonly, be mounted on the inside instead).¹⁶ That the blinds proposed in 1839 were to be installed on the inside of the windows suggests that they were to be hanging slatted blinds and not interior shutters.¹⁷

A resolution adopted by the Board seven years later, on 6 July 1846, called on the Executive Committee to “procure a sufficient number of Venetian blinds and cause them to be put up on the front of both buildings [the East Wing and the West Wing] and at the back windows of the Library apartment [of the east Wing].”¹⁸ In 1847, thirty-one pairs of “Venetian blinds” were made and installed by Thomas Rose.¹⁹ In this case (unlike the “blinds” ordered for the West Wing in 1839), it is clear from the documentation that the “Venetian blinds” were louvered wooden shutters, mounted on the outside of the windows.²⁰ A competing bid for this job proposed making

... the blinds required for the college buildings, say thirty-one pair. The work to be complete including materials, that is to say the best seasoned clear cypress plank, best butt hinges, patent iron fastnings [*sic*] with ketch [*sic*] on the wall, to be painted green with best materials and best manner and fitted and hung to the satisfaction of the committee for nine dollars a pair.²¹

On the back of that proposal is a note saying “Mr. Rose proposes to do the work within nine dollars per window but will furnish the best seasoned clear white pine for the job.” There is a further note saying that the committee preferred white pine to cypress for the shutters and selected Thomas Rose for the job.²² Thirty-one pairs of shutters would have accommodated the fourteen windows on the front of the East Wing, the fourteen windows on the front of the West Wing, and the two windows at the back and one window on the east side of the Library on the first floor of the East Wing. There were no shutters placed on the west side or the rear of the West Wing at this time. The fact that these shutters were placed only on the south front windows of the East and West Wings, and on the other three windows of the Library, indicates that they were intended for the control of light and ventilation (and, in the case of the Library, for security), not for privacy. Privacy, where needed, would have been provided by curtains, not shutters.

¹⁶ See entries for blind and Venetian blind in Carl R. Lounsbury, editor, *An Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Architecture and Landscape* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1999), pp. 34-35 and 388-389.

¹⁷ Interior shutters, of the type originally installed at the Old Capitol in Jackson, and seen on many houses from this period in Natchez, would probably have needed to have been installed as part of the original construction of the window cases, as they were at the Old Capitol, and not simply put in as an afterthought. In the 1830s and 1840s, these tended to be solid panel shutters, not louvered “blinds.”

¹⁸ Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on 6 July 1846 (Minutes of the Board of Trustees, volume 5, page 87, in an accretion to the Jefferson College Papers, Z/U/1994.001). The draft of the resolution is filed in the Jefferson College Papers, in Box 17, Folder 102.

¹⁹ A note, dated 28 December 1846 and signed by Thomas Rose, concerning his proposal for this work, is filed in the Jefferson College Papers, Z/0059.000, Box 17, Folder 104; and a voucher for payment is filed in Box 18, folder 106. A prominent Natchez contractor, Rose was the builder of “Stanton Hall” (1851-57) and “Edgewood” (1859-60).

²⁰ Again, see the entries for blind and Venetian blind in Carl R. Lounsbury, editor, *An Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Architecture and Landscape* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1999), pp. 34-35 and 388-389.

²¹ A proposal from James Ormond (?) with note, dated 28 December 1846 and signed by Thomas Rose, concerning his own proposal for this work, is filed in the Jefferson College Papers, Box 17, Folder 104.

²² Proposal from James Ormond (?) with note dated 28 December 1846 and signed by Thomas Rose.

It was not until 1872 that shutters were placed on the other windows of the West Wing. In June 1872, carpenter James McCabe was paid for installing shutters on the north and west sides of the West Wing²³ and making “82 fastenings for uplifted sash in both edifices.”²⁴

During the fifty years after the completion of the West Wing in 1839 there were apparently few if any changes made on the interior. The first mention of interior alterations is in 1889, when J.P. Tierney submitted a proposal, with specifications, for work that included installing a partition in a room in one of the main buildings. The specifications called for a “tongue and groove partition to be run in a room 27 feet long, 10 feet high, with 1 button door, & a cross partition 17½ long. 1 door to be cut [in] brick wall about 4 feet wide & cut a full ½ circle.”²⁵ The 27-foot partition and 17½-foot cross-partition were evidently installed in the southeastern room on the third story of the West Wing, dividing that room into two smaller rooms and a lateral corridor. This work could only have been in that location, for the specifications call for cutting a door with a half-circle top in a brick wall, and the only round-arched opening in a brick wall in the interior of either of the main buildings is from the third-story corridor of the West Wing into that room.

Although a slate roof was installed on the East Wing in 1842, the West Wing retained its original wood-shingle roof for over fifty years, until it was covered with metal sheeting in 1890. A contract was made on 3 October 1890 with sheet metal contractor P.W. Mulvihill for removing the shingle roof on the “West Building of Jefferson College” and installing a roof of standing-seam sheet steel, warranted for 5 years, to be completed on or before 1 November 1890.²⁶ In December 1971 the roof of the West Wing was inspected by preservation architect Charles E. Peterson, who wrote of it in his report, made in January 1972:

The next morning inspection of the buildings was continued. Carpenter [Arliss] Holland removed some of the fancy pressed tin roofing on the West Wing to see what was underneath. This turned out to be a layer of very wide, ragged-edge boards which still show underneath the tin a set of cut nails driven in flush. They were evidently what fastened the metal roof (probably tinplate) which shows clearly in photographs taken before the gymnasium was added in 1894 [*sic*].²⁷

²³ There are no windows on the east side. Evidently in 1872 the original shutters from 1847 were still in place on the south windows.

²⁴ A voucher for payment to James McCabe, dated 13 June 1872, filed in the Jefferson College Papers, Box 20, Folder 159. Eighty-two fastenings would have accommodated every window in both the East and West Wings, including the dormer windows.

²⁵ This proposal, dated 11 July 1889, is included in Box 23, Folder 244, of the Jefferson College Papers. A typed transcription of this proposal was included as Appendix 18 on page 43 of the unpublished report, “The Buildings and Grounds of Jefferson College in the Nineteenth Century” that was compiled by Dawn Maddox in 1971. (The appendices were not included in the version of that report that was published in the *Journal of Mississippi History* in 1973.)

²⁶ A contract for this work, dated 3 October 1890, with P.W. Mulvihill, and an invoice from P.W. Mulvihill, dated 29 December 1890, for installing sheet roofing and some other work, are filed in the Jefferson College Papers, Box 24, Folder 251. Payment for this work, made on 12 January 1891, is recorded on a treasurer’s report presented on 7 February 1891, in the Minutes of the Board of Trustees, Volume 8, page 59, in the Jefferson College papers, Box 4.

²⁷ A report, in the form of a memorandum from Charles E. Peterson to Elbert R. Hilliard, dated 21 January 1972, currently filed (inappropriately) in Official Records Series 125, the “Education in the Old South West”: Editors’ Files, 1972-1976, in a folder labeled “A memorandum on Jefferson College, Washington, MS, 1971-72.”

In 1895 (not 1894), a new building, the Gymnasium, was constructed in the space between the East and West Wings. It was apparently completed in June 1895.²⁸ The erection of this building created a continuous architectural ensemble that functioned in many regards as a single building. Indeed, the combination of the three buildings was often referred to, during the next 75 years, as if it were a single building, called the “Main Building” or the “Administration Building.”²⁹

Also in 1895, at the same time the gymnasium was built, matching two-story cast iron galleries were installed on the main facades of the East Wing and the West Wing. These galleries were built by the firm of Fox & Purnell, a partnership of Natchez-area carpenters William Henry Harrison (W.H.H.) Fox (Sr.) (1840-1926) and his son-in-law Charles R. Purnell (1852-1901).³⁰ The galleries were installed according to the plans and specifications of Mesker Brothers company, a nationally-prominent firm based in St. Louis, Missouri, that specialized in the manufacture and sale of pressed-metal storefronts.³¹ This suggests that the galleries were built from prefabricated kits purchased from the Mesker Brothers Iron Works. There is no record in the Jefferson College papers of direct communication between the Board of Trustees of the College and the Mesker Brothers company. Instead, an invoice from Fox and Purnell, dated 2 May 1895, states that they were responsible for “Furnishing the materials & Building two Galleries one to each of the Old College Buildings ...”³² This appears to indicate that Fox and Purnell had ordered the gallery components from Mesker Brothers themselves.

The two-story galleries extended across the center three bays of the five bay façade of each of the two older buildings. They can be seen in many photographs of the “Main Building” of Jefferson College made between 1895 and 1972. The installation of the galleries required holes to be cut into the brickwork of the façade to receive the beams that supported the galleries and the installation of a double-leaf door, surmounted by a two-light transom, in place of the center second story window to allow access to the upper story of the gallery. These exterior changes can be seen on Sheet 15 of the 40-page set of measured drawings of the older buildings of Jefferson College made in 1974-75.³³ (The galleries were removed in 1972.)³⁴

²⁸ There is no specific mention of the date of completion of the Gymnasium in the minutes of the Board of Trustees, but the last payment was made to the contractor, P.L. Murray, on 22 June 1895, and Natchez photographer Henry C. Norman was paid on 29 June 1895 for photographing the College, which implies that the work was completed in June 1895.

²⁹ Examples of this include a photograph on the cover of an issue of the school newspaper, *The Jeffersonian*, dated 23 October 1938 (filed in an unprocessed accretion to the Jefferson College Papers, Z/U/1977.002, Box 3), which identifies the complex as the “Jefferson Administration Building,” and a set of undated floor plan sketches, probably made in the 1940s or 1950s (filed in the Jefferson Military College Papers, Z/0059.001, Box 74, Folder 833), which depict the complex as a single building identified as “Main Building – JMC.”

³⁰ A receipt, dated 23 February 1895, for payment to Fox and Purnell for part of this work, was signed by both W.H.H. Fox and Charles R. Purnell (Jefferson College Papers, Z/0059.000, Box 24, Folder 264). According to a family tree on the ancestry.com web site, viewed on 18 August 2011, Charles R. Purnell married Caradine “Carrie” Mary Fox, the daughter of W.H.H. Fox, Sr., on 19 June 1891.

³¹ Information about the Mesker Brothers Company found on the Internet on 8 June 2011.

³² This invoice is filed in Box 25, Folder 276, of the Jefferson College Papers. (Underlining added for emphasis.)

³³ There are several sets of these measured drawings. One complete, full-size set of 40 pages is filed in Official Records Series 1332, Box 5448 (Restricted Access). A second complete, full-size set of the final version of these drawing is filed in Series 1764, Box 6525 (Restricted Access). A half-size complete set is filed (incorrectly) in an unprocessed accretion to the Jefferson Military College Records, identified as collection Z/U/1977.002, Box 1, in the MDAH Manuscripts Collections.

³⁴ The date of the removal of the galleries is noted on the measured drawings made in 1974-75, as well as in other documentation. The galleries appear in the HABS photos made in April 1972, but had been removed by the time some photos in the MDAH Historic Preservation Division photograph collection were made on 15 October 1972.

Apart from the installation of the iron galleries, the construction of the gymnasium building and the incorporation of the three buildings into a single functional unit initially involved little physical change to the West Wing. There was already an existing, original doorway on the east wall on the first story, which provided access between the two buildings, so no interior changes were initially required to unify the buildings. In 1899, however, the upper part of the gymnasium was converted to eight dormitory rooms,³⁵ and it was probably at that time that a doorway was cut near the center of the east wall on the second story to provide access to the second story of the gymnasium. Around this time a partition wall was built across the southern third of Room W205 to create a passageway connecting to that newly-cut door. (It is possible that the partition could have been installed two years earlier. In February 1897 carpenter C.K. Barker submitted an invoice for “putting up partition and door.”³⁶ The location of that work was not specified, but it could perhaps have been in Room W205. The door in the east wall could perhaps have been cut at that time, allowing access to the upper story of the gymnasium building before it was converted to dormitory rooms in 1899.) The partition across Room W205 was removed in 1972.³⁷ In 1910, the Gymnasium was remodeled and repairs were made to the East and West Building. Repairs that may have been made to the West Wing are not specified in the surviving documentation, but they evidently did not include the installation of bathroom facilities in the faculty apartments. At a meeting of the Board on 10 April 1911, a few months after the repairs and renovations had been completed Major Anderson, the commandant of cadets, “called attention to the fact that the special improvements at the College did not include water, sewage, or fixtures in his private apartments. He estimated that the cost thereof would not exceed \$230.00. The necessity for same being manifest, on motion by Mr. J.W. Henderson the chairman of the building committee was instructed to have the work done at a cost not exceeding \$230.00, and with the assistant supervision of Major Anderson.”³⁸

From the 1910s through the 1940s, numerous changes were evidently made to the faculty apartments in the West Wing. In the “Jefferson Military College Papers” (the second major group of Jefferson College archives in the collections of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, filed as Z/0050.001), which consist mainly of twentieth century documents, there is a set of three pencil sketches of the floor plans of all three floors of the “Main Building, JMC” that were probably made sometime in the 1940s or 1950s.³⁹ These sketches, marked with measured room dimensions, show the usage of all of the rooms. It is not clear whether this was the actual room usage or a plan for proposed room usage, but in any case most if not all of the room usages shown would have been as indicated. On these sketches, Room W102 is labeled as the Board Room, W103 (the northwest corner room, which has an exterior door) is shown as a Cloak Room, and Room W104 is the Superintendent’s Office. On the second story, the rooms on the west side are grouped

³⁵ At a meeting of the Board of Trustees on 22 November 1899, the special committee on the gymnasium “reported that they had converted the upper portion of that building into a dormitory consisting of eight rooms, at a cost of \$801.47 ...” (Minutes of the Board of Trustees, Volume 8, page 253, in the Jefferson College Papers, Box 4).

³⁶ Invoice from C.K. Barker, dated February 1897, in the Jefferson College Papers, Box 25, Folder 289.

³⁷ This partition, along with a note indicating its removal in 1972, can be seen on Sheet 9 of the 40-page set of measured drawings of the older buildings of Jefferson College made in 1974-75.

³⁸ Minutes of the Board of Trustees, Volume 9, page 99.

³⁹ Set of three undated floor plan sketches, filed in the Jefferson Military College Papers, Z/0059.001, Box 74, Folder 833, “Architectural drawings.”

together as “Teacher’s Apt. or Infirmary,” and the two large rooms on the east side are shown as having been divided into offices and a teachers’ lounge, arrayed on either side of a passageway. The third story is shown as containing two teachers’ apartments. In the same folder in which these sketches are filed is another sketch floor plan, labeled “Second Floor Apartment.” It shows that by some time around the 1940s or 1950s, the teachers’ apartments had been provided with kitchens and bathrooms.⁴⁰ In 1972 all of the later partition walls, kitchen and bathroom fixtures, cabinets, and closets were removed.⁴¹

Another change made to the West Wing sometime in the early to mid-twentieth century was the construction of a new kitchen, attached directly to the rear wall, immediately behind the Refectory. From the completion of the West Wing in 1839 until the closing of the College in 1964, the large room on the eastern side of the first story (Room W105) served as the main dining room, variously called the Refectory, the Dining Hall, or the Mess Hall. For many years, the preparation of the meals served in that room was done in the detached brick kitchen, now called the East Kitchen. In 1893, carpenter W.H.H. Fox built a “shed leading from Dining room to Kitchen.”⁴² This was a one-story wooden structure obviously intended to provide shelter from the weather to the cooks or dining room attendants (perhaps students tasked for that duty) who conveyed food to the dining room. (It is remarkable that for 54 years there was not a covered passageway between the kitchen and dining room!) This wooden shed can be seen in a photograph of the rear of the West Wing, viewed from the northwest, made by James Butters for the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) on 15 April 1936, which can be seen among the Jefferson College photos on the HABS web site.

In the fall of 1948, the shed which linked the Dining Room and the East Kitchen was taken down, and in its location a new, modern kitchen was built, attached to the rear of the West Wing directly behind the Dining Room. The new kitchen was described in a report presented to the Board in October 1948, soon after its construction:

A new kitchen was constructed to replace the lean-to structure formerly used for washing dishes and to discontinue use of the out-building [the East Kitchen building] as a kitchen. The lean-to structure was rotten and the old kitchen needed extensive repairs.

The new kitchen was constructed with concrete floors, concrete block walls, wood roof structure, and composition roofing.⁴³

The new kitchen can be seen as a one-story, flat-roofed structure of concrete block construction with steel windows in exterior photographs of the rear of the West Wing and the Gymnasium that were made in December 1971 under the direction of Charles E.

⁴⁰ Sketched floor plan labeled “Second Floor Apartment,” filed in the Jefferson Military College Papers, Z/0059.001, Box 74, Folder 833, “Architectural drawings.”

⁴¹ Indications of some of the partitions, along with notes indicating their removal in 1972, can be seen on Sheets 9 and 10 of the 40-page set of measured drawings of the older buildings of Jefferson College made in 1974-75.

⁴² A note from Board members J.H. Roman and R.R. Ford regarding the completion of the “shed leading from Dining room to Kitchen” by William H.H. Fox, and some minor repairs, in August 1893, in the Jefferson College Papers, Box 24, Folder 264.

⁴³ From a report of work done at Jefferson College under the overall direction of Col. James C. Stowers, Superintendent of Jefferson College, dated 26 October 1948.

Peterson and also in photographs made in April 1972 for HABS. Its location is shown by dashed lines on Sheet 1 of the measured drawings prepared by Martin & Booth Architects in February 1972, with the notation "REMOVE LEANTO BUILDING."⁴⁴ (This kitchen wing was removed later in 1972.)

Also in 1948, at the same time that the new kitchen was built, new lighting and plumbing fixtures were installed in the "Faculty Building" (apparently the West Wing).⁴⁵

In March 1951, a substantial donation was made to Jefferson Military College by William Kirkman Gray and Matilda Geddings Gray, in memory of John Geddings Gray, Jr., who had attended Jefferson College in 1903 and 1904.⁴⁶ In appreciation, the Board officially changed the name of the West Wing to Gray Hall, and had a marble plaque made, which was inscribed "GRAY HALL, named in memory of John Geddings Gray, Jr., a veteran of World War I, who attended Jefferson College in 1903 and 1904, and in grateful recollection of the generosity of William Kirkman Gray and Matilda Geddings Gray."⁴⁷ This plaque was mounted on the front wall of the West Wing, just to the right of the frontispiece surrounding the front door. It can be seen in that position in photos of the front of the West Wing made in 1971 and 1972. (When the front of the West Wing was restored, the plaque was removed. It is now mounted on the concrete base of the flagpole in front of the East and West Wings.) On the architectural drawings of the East and West Wings made under the direction of architect Beverly Martin, completed in February 1972, the West Wing is identified as "Grey Hall" [*sic*] and the East Wing is identified as "First Building."⁴⁸

There are some documents in the Jefferson Military College papers, however, indicating that by the summer of 1956 the name "Gray Hall" was being applied to the entire Administration Building complex, comprising the East Wing and "Center Section" as well as the West Wing.⁴⁹

Jefferson College closed in 1964, and not long afterward its buildings and grounds were conveyed to the State of Mississippi in exchange for paying off the institution's debts.⁵⁰ The property was initially placed under the management of the Mississippi State Building Commission, which, having no use for the property, simply boarded up the buildings and

⁴⁴ Sheet 1 of an odd-size set of blue-line drawings (about 24" x 40"?), labeled as "Renovations and Repairs to Principal Buildings at Jefferson Military College, for the State of Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Martin & Booth, Architects, 325 Main Street, Natchez, Mississippi," dated February 1972, filed in Official Records Series 1332, Box 29635 (Restricted). This "box" is actually a huge flat folder (measuring about four feet by five feet), labeled "Jefferson College Blueprints."

⁴⁵ From a report of work done at Jefferson College under the overall direction of Col. James C. Stowers, Superintendent of Jefferson College, dated 26 October 1948.

⁴⁶ Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on 15 March 1951, in the Transactions of the Board of Trustees, 1948-1955, currently retained at Historic Jefferson College.

⁴⁷ Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees on 8 August 1950, in the Transactions of the Board of Trustees, 1948-1955. Documents concerning the renaming of the building and the text of the plaque are filed in the Jefferson Military College Papers (Z/0059.001), Box 74, Folder 838.

⁴⁸ The blueprints are filed in Official Records Series 1332, Box 29635 (Restricted). The Specifications are filed in Series 1332, Box 12458, folder 1.

⁴⁹ Estimates and bids for proposed repairs to "Gray Hall" in the summer of 1956, in the Jefferson Military College Papers, Z/0059.001, Box 43, Folder 568, and Box 52, Folder 686.

⁵⁰ Blain, *Education in the Old Southwest* (1976), p. 132.

abandoned them. For a period of seven years the unattended buildings were subjected to extensive theft and vandalism.⁵¹

In August 1971 the Jefferson College property was placed under the administration of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH). One of the first actions taken by MDAH regarding Jefferson College was to arrange for the older buildings to be examined by noted preservation architect Charles E. Peterson of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Peterson made a visit to Jefferson College on 15 December 1971 to assess the condition of its older buildings and make recommendations for their preservation. His recommendations were written in a report, dated 21 January 1972.⁵² Peterson recommended that the Gymnasium be removed immediately, as it was a fire hazard which imperiled the historic buildings at either side. Under Peterson's direction, Natchez photographer Edward H. Prince made some large-format photographs of the older buildings.⁵³

Accompanying Peterson on his inspection of the buildings was Natchez architect Beverly W. Martin, of Martin & Booth Architects. Martin had been hired to prepare plans and specifications for "Renovations and Repairs to Principal Buildings at Jefferson Military College." He completed the working drawings and specifications in February 1972.⁵⁴ Although these were prepared as working drawings for the renovation project, they can serve, to some limited extent, as "as found" drawings documenting the appearance and configuration of the East and West Wings and the East and West Kitchens as they existed shortly after being acquired by MDAH. On 15 April 1972, Jack Boucher, photographer for the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), photographed Jefferson College. The photos he made on that date can be seen on the HABS web site. These photographs show the buildings before any of the proposed renovation work had been done. In July 1972 it was announced that Druetta Construction Company of Natchez had been awarded the contract for the first phase of exterior work on the four oldest buildings. This work was to consist of "demolition of the gymnasium building; removing the 1895 front balconies on the East and West Wings; a new slate roof on the West Wing; repairing all windows; and other exterior repairs."⁵⁵

In the fall of 1972, the Gymnasium building was demolished, the iron galleries were removed from the fronts of the East and West Wings, and partitions and fixtures that did not date from before the 1890s were removed from those buildings. On 15 October 1972, Bill Wright, historical archaeologist with MDAH, and Glen Little, a consulting historical

⁵¹ The abandoned and deteriorating condition of the property can be seen in numerous photographs accompanying an article, "Jeff Academy's Fate: State Park or Ruins?" that appeared in the *Clarion Ledger* (Jackson, Miss.), 20 October 1968. A xerographic copy of the article is filed in the Subject File, **Jefferson College: Preservation and Restoration, 1964-1972.**

⁵² This report is currently filed (inappropriately) in Official Records Series 125, the "Education in the Old South West": Editors' Files, 1972-1976, in a folder labeled "A memorandum on Jefferson College, Washington, MS, 1971-72."

⁵³ Prints of several of these photographs are included in Peterson's report. Four of these images are in the HABS collection at the Library of Congress, and can be seen on the HABS web pages for Jefferson College, the kitchen at Jefferson College, and the President's House.

⁵⁴ The blueprints are filed in Official Records Series 1332, Box 29635 (Restricted). This "box" is actually a huge flat folder (measuring about four feet by five feet), labeled "Jefferson College Blueprints." The Specifications are filed in Series 1332, Box 12458, folder 1.

⁵⁵ "Jefferson College Newsletter" 1:2 (July 1972) (published by the Friends of Jefferson College) (xerographic copy in the Subject File, **Jefferson College: Preservation and Restoration, 1964-1972.**)

archaeologist, made numerous photographs of Jefferson College.⁵⁶ By the time these photographs were made, the iron galleries had been removed from the East and West Wings, but the structural skeleton of the Gymnasium building was still in place.

Before the renovation work proceeded much farther, however, work was halted. “Recognizing that the scope of the project was actually restoration, the Building Commission, at its meeting on April 13, 1973, voted to terminate all contracts and architectural agreements.”⁵⁷ The contracts for the initial design and construction work on the restoration of Jefferson College were terminated “because those firms with whom the contracts were made lacked knowledge of restoration techniques.”⁵⁸

Over the next several months, the overall program of restoring the older buildings of Jefferson College was completely reorganized. In March 1974 it was announced that Fred Wagner, of Bay St. Louis, had been selected as project architect for restoration work at Jefferson College.⁵⁹ At a meeting of the Jefferson College Advisory Committee on 13 May 1974, Elbert R. Hilliard, who was then the director of the Division of Historic Sites and Archaeology for MDAH, presented a document titled “Program Outline, Selective Restoration and Development, Historic Jefferson College, Washington, Mississippi,” which provided a detailed list of work items underway and work yet to be done, including the completion of the report on the building and grounds of Jefferson College by MDAH architectural historian Dawn Maddox⁶⁰, the writing of a “Socio-Cultural History of Jefferson College” by Tom Blain,⁶¹ the preparation of HABS-quality “as-found” drawings by Fred Wagner, and the preparation of a topographic site map by Jordan, Kaiser & Sessions and Michael Baker, Inc.⁶² In July 1974 a “restoration team” was formed to guide and coordinate the restoration efforts.⁶³

In the later months of 1974 and the early months of 1975, a very detailed set of 40 pages of measured drawings of the East and West Wings and the East and West Kitchens was prepared by C.J. Heitzman, delineator, under the direction of Fred Wagner.⁶⁴ These

⁵⁶ The negatives for these photographs are filed in the MDAH Historic Preservation Division as photo rolls 30 through 41.

⁵⁷ Elbert R. Hilliard, in his Introduction (February 1975), in Blain, *Education in the Old Southwest* (1976), p. viii.

⁵⁸ Robert J. Bailey, “Preservation in the Past: A Brief History,” Chapter 3 of *Historic Preservation in Mississippi: A Comprehensive Plan* (Jackson: Mississippi Department of Archives and History, 1975), p. 63.

⁵⁹ “Bay St. Louis Architect to Restore Famed College,” *The Daily Herald* (Biloxi-Gulfport, Miss.), Monday, 11 March 1974, p. 26 (xerographic copy in the Subject File, **Jefferson College: Preservation and Restoration, 1973-1976**).

⁶⁰ Dawn Maddox, “The Buildings and Grounds of Jefferson College in the Nineteenth Century,” (Typescript, Jackson, Miss., Mississippi Department of Archives and History, 1971) [MDAH library call number 727/M26b], and a later, published version, “The Buildings and Grounds of Jefferson College in the Nineteenth Century,” which appeared in *The Journal of Mississippi History*, 35:1 (February 1973), and which was also printed and bound separately as a booklet. There are several copies of the separately-printed booklet in the MDAH collections, including copies in the MDAH library collection [MDAH library call number 727/M69bu]. Dawn Maddox’s report summarizes the history of the buildings of Jefferson College only to the end of the nineteenth century. The Program Outline noted that the study “should be carried through to the closing of the school,” but that was not done.

⁶¹ This is the book by William T. Blain, *Education in the Old Southwest: A History of Jefferson College, Washington, Mississippi* (Washington, Miss.: Friends of Jefferson College, Inc., 1976). [MDAH library call number 378.762J/B57e]

⁶² This topographic site map is filed in Series 1332, Box 20009, with a printed copy in Box 29635.

⁶³ Robert J. Bailey, “Preservation in the Past: A Brief History,” Chapter 3 of *Historic Preservation in Mississippi: A Comprehensive Plan* (Jackson: Mississippi Department of Archives and History, 1975), p. 63.

⁶⁴ There are several sets of these drawings in the MDAH collections. The most definitive set is included as part of a much more extensive 85-sheet set of architectural drawings, labeled as “Restoration of Historic Jefferson College, Washington, Mississippi,” dated 1 April 1975, filed in Official Records Series 1764, Box 6525 (Restricted Access). Preliminary sets are filed in Series 1332, Box 5448. There is also a reduced-size set of the drawings, in white-line on blue background, filed (incorrectly) in an unprocessed accretion to the Jefferson College Papers, Z/U/1977.002, Box 1. (These drawings are incorrectly filed, because they

drawings also constitute the first 40 pages of the complete 85-sheet set of architectural drawings for the restoration work that was done from 1975 to 1977. This complete set of working drawings, dated 1 April 1975, is filed in Official Records Series 1764, Box 6525 [Restricted].

Restoration of the West Wing and the West Kitchen was resumed in 1975. The work was done by the Carter and Mullings Construction Company under the supervision of architect Fred Wagner, and was completed by April 1977⁶⁵. A photograph that appeared in the *Columbian Progress* of Columbia, Miss., on 28 April 1977 bore the caption “Robert Carter of Carter and Mullings Construction Company presents the key to the front door of the West Wing to E.J. Lacoste III, executive director of the State Building Commission, at the final inspection of the West Wing and West Kitchen.”⁶⁶ In July 1977 “Historic Jefferson College” was opened to the public as a historic site administered by MDAH.⁶⁷

Planning for restoration work on the interior of the West Wing was begun in 1981 by William Lampton Gill, AIA, an architect from Jackson. The “Jefferson College Newsletter” of January 1981 reported that “Architect Bill Gill of Jackson is completing the drawings this month for the restoration of the hall and stairs, Steward’s parlor and the two sleeping rooms in the West Wing. This will complete restoration of the first floor of the building once known as Grey Hall [sic] ...”⁶⁸ The newsletter was not accurate about the time involved in planning for the project. Initial plans for this work were completed by William Lampton Gill in August 1981 and revised plans were finalized in February 1982.⁶⁹ The specifications and working drawings for this work are filed in the MDAH collections. Work done during this project included closing-in two doors that had been cut in the northern parts of the east and west walls of the inner northwest room on the first story of the West Wing (Room W104), one of which opened into the center passage and the other into the northwest corner room (Room W103). The walls were replastered after the doors were filled in. (These doors can be seen on Sheet 8 of the 40 page set of measured drawings that were made in 1974-75, shown as doors W-1-9 and W-1-12.) Other work done at that time included rebuilding the hearth in Room W102, replacing the floors in Rooms W102, W103, and W104, replacing parts of the staircase between the first and second stories (including the installation of a new mahogany handrail), and installing electrical wiring and outlets in W102, W103, and W104.⁷⁰

were made after the property came into the ownership of the Department of Archives and History, and should therefore not be considered part of the private manuscripts collection, but rather part of the Official Records.)

⁶⁵ A photograph from the *Columbian Progress* (Columbia, Miss.), 28 April 1977, a xerographic copy of which is in the Subject File, **Jefferson College: Preservation and Restoration, 1977-1979.**

⁶⁶ A photograph from the *Columbian Progress* (Columbia, Miss.), 28 April 1977, a xerographic copy of which is in the Subject File, **Jefferson College: Preservation and Restoration, 1977-1979.**

⁶⁷ “Oldest College to Open Soon,” *Clarion Ledger*, July 11, 1977, and “Jefferson College Reopens,” *Natchez Democrat*, July 18, 1977. Copies of both of these articles are included in the Subject File, **Jefferson College: Preservation and Restoration, 1976-1979.**

⁶⁸ “Jefferson College Newsletter” 10:1 (January 1981) (published by the Friends of Jefferson College), in the Subject File, **Friends of Jefferson College.** The correct spelling of the name bestowed on the building in 1951 was *Gray* Hall (with an ‘a’ not an ‘e’).

⁶⁹ William Lampton Gill, AIA, working drawings for “East and West Wing Restoration, Historic Jefferson College, Washington, Mississippi, Project #SBC 501-029,” dated 31 August 1981 and 22 February 1982. The blueprints are filed in Official Records Series 1332, Box 29635 (Restricted). The specifications, dated 22 February 1982, are filed in Series 1764, Box 6498, folder 2.

⁷⁰ Working drawings for “East and West Wing Restoration, Historic Jefferson College, Washington, Mississippi, Project #SBC 501-029,” dated 22 February 1982, in Official Records Series 1332, Box 29635 (Restricted).

In the Mississippi Landmark file for Jefferson College at the Historic Preservation Division, MDAH, is correspondence dated July 1997 between Jim Barnett of the Historic Properties Division, MDAH, and Roger Walker, Review and Compliance Officer, Historic Preservation Division, MDAH, regarding the application of Nochar Fire Preventer, a water-based fire retardant, on bare wood floors and attic surfaces in the East Wing, West Wing, East Kitchen, and West Kitchen. (The product was not intended for exterior surfaces.) Also in the file is a Mississippi Landmark permit, dated 24 February 1998, authorizing the use of the fire retardant.

Also in the Mississippi Landmark file for Jefferson College is a Mississippi Landmark permit, dated 14 December 1999, for work at Historic Jefferson College which would include new wood shingle roofs on the West Wing and the West Kitchen and painting the exterior woodwork on the East Wing, West Wing, and kitchen buildings. The work was to be performed under the direction of Johnny Waycaster, AIA, of Waycaster & Associates, Architects, of Natchez.