31 October 2016

Dear Mr. Cullaty,

I just want to thank you again so much for this wonderful opportunity. The Kenan Fellowship not only allowed me to investigate the idea of literary societies at the University of Virginia as student self-governance and a proto-honor system, but it also allowed me to examine deeper physical impacts on the Academical Village made by students. With your support, I was not only additionally able to confirm rumors of a secret tunnel in 19 W. Lawn, I was able to improve 3D scanning and printing skills. Through my work, I have not only become familiar with the early Board of Visitor minutes up to 1873, but this also laid the groundwork for more research. All of my notes and plans for future projects have been included in this submission. In it, you will find the following...

- Minutes about the hotels, students, and societies from the Board of Visitors (1825-1873)
- A visual analysis of Jefferson Hall and Washington Hall today
- Interpretation of the minutes and visual analysis
- Other observations around the Academical Village
- Images and photographs
- Notes on the secret hatch in 19 W. Lawn
- Notes on the doors of student rooms, documenting their changes over time.
- A 3D scanned nail from the attic of Jefferson Hall, Hotel C, for printing.

I will present these findings to the Jefferson Literary and Debating Society and speak in front of it about this fellowship. If it would interest you to hear me speak, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Baxter Craven
AGENCIES OF EDUCATION AND OF POLICE:
LITERARY SOCIETIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA (1825-1873)
AND OTHER NOTES ABOUT STUDENT IMPACT ON THE ACADEMICAL VILLAGE

Kenan Fellowship | Baxter Craven | Summer 2016

Tiger lilies blooming outside Washington Hall, Hotel B. Photo by Baxter Craven, 2016.
OCTOBER 1825

• “That it is requested of them to make known to the Students that it is with great regret that some breaches of order, committed by the unworthy few who lurk among them unknown, render necessary the extension to all, of processes afflicting to the feelings of those who are conscious of their own correctness, and who are above all participation in these vicious irregularities. while the offenders continue unknown, the tarnish of their faults spreads itself over the worthy also, and confounds all in a common censure. but that it is in their power to relieve themselves from the imputations and painful proceedings, to which they are thereby subjected, by lending their aid to the Faculty, on all occasions towards detecting the real guilty. the Visitors are aware that a prejudice prevails too extensively among the young, that it is dishonorable to bear witness, one against another. while this prevails, and under the form of a matter of conscience, they have been unwilling to authorise constraint, and have therefore, in their regulations on this subject indulged the error, however unfounded in reason or morality. but this loose principle in the Ethics of school boy combinations, is unworthy of mature and regulated minds; and is accordingly condemned by the laws of their country, which, in offences, within their cognisance, compel those who have knowledge of a fact, to declare it for the purposes of justice, and of the general good & safety of society, and certainly, where wrong has been done, he who knows and conceals the doer of it, makes himself an Accomplice, and justly censurable as such. it becomes then but an act of justice to themselves, that the innocent and the worthy sould throw off with disdain all communion of character, with such offenders, should determine no longer to screen the irregular and the vicious under the respect of their cloak, and to notify them, even by a solemn association for the purpose, that they will cooperate with the Faculty in future, for the preservation of order, the vindication of their own character, and the reputation and usefulness of an Institution, which their country has so liberally established for their improvement, and to place within their reach those acquirements in knowledge, on which their future happiness and fortunes depend. let the good and the virtuous of the Alumni of the University do this, and the disorderly will then be singled out for observation, and deterred by punishment, or disabled by expulsion, from infecting with their inconsideration the institution itself, and the sound mass of those which it is preparing for virtue and usefulness. Altho' nocturnal absences from their Chambers, occasionally happening, are not entirely forbidden, yet if frequent, habitual, or without excusable cause, they should be also noted and reported, with other special delinquencies to the parent or guardian...”

• “On complaint from the Faculty of certain riotous proceedings of some of the Students on the nights of Sep. 30. and Oct. 2. and of insults on some of the Professors the whole of the Students were called before the board of Visitors...”
APRIL 1826

- “It being suggested to the board that a young man named Robert Beverley abiding for the time in the town of Charlottesville, habitually indulges habits of intemperance and disorder, violating the laws of the land, setting an evil example to the Students, and seducing them from their duties, and the Visitors deeming it their duty to procure the punishment of such offences, in order that the offender and his example may be removed, therefore Resolved that the Proctor be instructed to give information to the Attorney for the Commonwealth for the county court, and Superior court of law for Albemarle, and to take such measures as either of the said Attorneys shall advise, for binding the said Robert Beverley to his good behavior, and for punishing his violations of the law…”

- “Resolved that the Proctor be instructed to consult with the Attorney for the Commonwealth for the Superior court, and take such measures as may be proper to continue the prosecutions commenced against Philip Clayton and William L. Eyre, late students of the University, or to institute new prosecutions if necessary…”

- “Resolved that Students heretofore or hereafter expelled from the University, shall be absolutely inhibited from coming within it's precincts for the period of five years after such expulsion, unless by leave of some Professor; and if any such expelled Student shall come within the precincts in violation of this resolution, it shall be the duty of the Proctor to warn him off, and if he do not depart, or afterwards returns, the Proctor consult with the Attorney employed for the University, and take such measures as the law will allow for punishing the offence, and preventing it's repetition…”

- “The keepers of the Hotels are expected to be men of discretion and firmness, willing at all times to co-operate with the Faculty and Visitors in executing the laws of the Institution: it is therefore, at present, recommended to them as proper, and after the existing leases expire, it is expressly enjoined upon them as a duty that they shall whenever called on, either by the Visitors, or by the Faculty freely give evidence upon honor, of all matters within their knowledge touching the conduct of the Students…”

- “In all future leases of the Hotels, the Proctor is required to insert an express covenant that the tenant shall, during the continuance of the lease, conform to the laws of the institution existing at the date of the lease, and a condition that for the wilful violation of such law the lease shall be void, and the tenant removed or continued on special conditions as provided by the eighty fourth enactment…”

- “The expulsion of Philip Clayton from the University by an order of the Faculty, made on the 14th. of October last is approved and confirmed by this board…”

- “The expulsion of William Lewis Cabell by an order of the Faculty made on the 30th. of January last is also approved and confirmed…”

OCTOBER 1826

- “Resolved, that enactment 84. shall be amended as follows: after `their own family' add and farther, that it be a condition expressed in the same lease that no hotel keeper shall entertain in his hotel, or within the precincts, any expelled student, for the term of five years after such expulsion; nor any dismissed or suspended student, during the continuance of such admission or suspension…”

- “Resolved that enactment 90. be amended by the following addition: and it is farther enacted that no student shall, for the time above specified, admit any student into
his dormitory who has been, or shall be expelled from the institution; nor shall he admit any student who has been or shall be dismissed or suspended from it, during the continuance of such dishonour or suspension: under pain of such punishment as the faculty (CB0105) may choose to direct...”

- “Resolved that every student shall be required to have his name painted on the door of his dormitory; and no student shall be allowed to change his dormitory without permission from the faculty...”

- “The student shall not choose his quarters at pleasure;—but his hotel & dormitory shall be assigned by the proctor, under the control of the faculty; and they shall be so distributed among the different hotels, as to preserve equality of numbers at each, as nearly as convenient. In this assignment, the wishes of the student will be respected, as far as may comport with equality of numbers at the hotels, and fitness of residence in the dormitories: but students, being once located, must not be compelled to change their residence for the mere purpose of equality, and shall not be allowed to change either their hotels or dormitories, without the consent of the faculty...”

- “The keepers of hotels shall not furnish luxurious fare to their boarders: but the fare shall be plentiful, plain, of good and wholesome viands, neatly served and well dressed; and, in all its details, conformable to such rules as the faculty may prescribe pursuant to this enactment...”

DECEMBER 1826

- “No hotel-keeper shall furnish any entertainment in his tenement, for pay or compensation of any kind, to any one who is not a student of or attached to the University, or a member of his own family. Nor shall he entertain in his hotel or within the precincts, any expelled student, for the term of five years after such expulsion, or any dismissed or suspended student during the continuance of such dishonour or suspension. Nor shall he permit his tenement, or any part of it, to be used for any other than the purposes of a boarding house. Nor shall he suffer any game of chance to be played; or any ardent spirits or wine, mixed or unmixed, to be drank within his tenement: but nothing herein contained shall be construed to prohibit the moderate use of wine or ardent spirits by the members of the family of the hotel-keeper and his invited guests...”

- “The dress of the students, wherever resident, shall be uniform and plain. The coat, waistcoat & pantaloons, of cloth of a dark gray mixture, at a price not exceeding six dollars per yard. The coat shall be single breasted; with a standing cape, & skirts of a moderate length with pocket flaps. The waistcoat shall be single breasted, with a standing collar; and the pantaloons, of the usual form. The buttons of each garment to be flat, and covered with the same cloth. The pantaloons & waistcoat of this dress may vary with the season; the latter of which, when required by the season, may be of white; the former of light brown cotton or linen. Shoes, with black gaiters in cold weather, and white stockings in weather,—and in no case, boots—shall be worn by them. The neck-cloth shall be plain black, in the cold; white, in the warm season. The hat round & black...”
• “The students shall wear this dress on the sabbath, on examinations and public exhibitions, in the University; and whenever they appear without its precincts. On all other occasions, within the precincts, they may wear a plain black gown, or a cheap frock-coat. A surtout of cloth of the color and price above described, may be worn, but shall not be substituted on the public occasions specified, for the uniform coat first prescribed...”

JULY 1827
FIRST MENTION OF A SOCIETY IN BOV MINUTES. IT IS THE JEFFERSON

• “In answer to the communication of this date, from a committee of the Jefferson Society, the proctor is requested to inform them that while the board cannot permanently appropriate to their use, the room which they now occupy, they will not be unnecessarily disturbed in the use of it, but will be permitted to occupy it as heretofore, till it shall be required for some other purposes of the University...”

HOTEL KEEPERS REDUCED

• “Resolved that if at the end of the present year, the number of students boarding at the hotels do not exceed one hundred & seventy five, the hotel keepers shall be reduced to five; and if the number do not exceed one hundred and forty, the number of hotel-keepers shall be reduced to four. And the executive committee are requested to cause the necessary previous notice to be given to such as are to be removed...”

JULY 1828

• “The application of the Librarian, for leave to occupy a vacant hotel, is referred to the Proctor, who will act upon it according to his discretion; so as, however, to reserve full power to resume the building whenever it may be required for the purposes of the Institution...”

JULY 1829
PATRICK HENRY SOCIETY MOVED INTO A VACANT HOTEL.

• “Resolved, That the executive committee cause the following improvements to be made in the pavilion and garden occupied by the Demonstrator of Anatomy and Surgery; viz. the floors of the pavilion to be planed, where they require it; and a partition to be erected across the west end of the large room on the first floor of that pavilion, so as to extend the entry of that pavilion to the south side of the house; and also the garden to be enlarged...”

• “Resolved, That the Patrick Henry society be no longer permitted the use of the large room in the aforesaid pavilion, and that, in lieu thereof, they be allowed the use of such apartment, in one of the unoccupied hotels, as may be assigned for that purpose by the Faculty...”

JULY 1831

• “Resolved, That the application of the Jefferson Society to be allowed the use of the Pavilion No.7. for their meetings be referred to the Executive committee, who are required to extend to the Society such accommodations as may be found practicable...”
JULY 1833

- “Resolved, that the application of the Academick’s Society to be allowed the use of a room in one of the Hotels of the University be referred to the Executive Committee who are required to extend to the Society such accommodation as may be found practicable…”
- “Resolved that the application of the Librarian, for accommodation in one of the vacant Hotels, be referred to the Proctor, with authority under the Control of the Executive Committee to assign to him, in lieu of his Dormitory, such room, in a vacant Hotel, as he may deem proper…”
- “Resolved that John N. Rose have permission to exchange the Hotel now occupied by him for that at present occupied by Wm. Wertenbaker, and the Executive Committee shall have authority to cause the cellar room in the latter Hotel to be fitted up for a dining room, and any other small repairs made in or about the said Hotel which the committee may deem essential…”
- “Resolved, That the Proctor repay to Professor Dunglison the amount of his advances for Venetian doors in front, & for a small porch in the rear of his pavilion, & for an alteration in the stair case; that he cause blinds to be annexed to the chamber & parlour windows of Mr. Conway’s Hotel, and such repairs to be made in the roof, cellar & offices of Mrs. Gray's Hotel as the Executive Committee may approve…”

OCTOBER 1833

- “Resolved that the office of proctor and work shop of the Janitor be removed to Hotel B…”
- “Resolved, that the proctor under the direction of the Executive Committee provide suitable furniture in pavilion No. 7 for the accommodation of the Visitors at their meetings, that he preserve it in good order, and that the rooms in the upper story of that pavilion be applied in the intervals to no other use that prior to each meeting the proctor make arrangements with some Hotel Keeper for the board of such of the Visitors as may require it; and that he provide…”

JULY 1834

- “Resolved, that the Executive Committee be authorised to cause the arcades to be lighted by the insertion of thick glass of the kind called Bull's eye over the Doors of the Dormitories…”
- “Resolved, that the application of Mrs. Conway respecting certain improvements in Hotel A be referred to the Executive Committee…”

JULY 1835

- “Upon the application of Mr. A. Penci praying the Board of Visitors to erect a building within the Precincts, suitable for a gymnasium and asking permission of the Board to occupy with his family the upper rooms of the S.E. Hotel…”
- “Resolved, that the proctor be authorized to assign to Mr. Penci the upper apartments in the S.E. Hotel for the accommodation of himself and Family, provided that they be…”
- “Daniel Perrow, one of the Hotel keepers of the University, having been convicted before the Faculty of a breach of duty; and, as reported by them still failing thereafter to perform the duties required of him by the enactments…”
• “Resolved, that the said Daniel Perrow be removed from his office of Hotel keeper, & that the Secretary give him notice thereof forthwith...”

AUGUST 1837

• “Resolved that the Faculty be authorised, in their discretion, to assign one of the public rooms for the periodical meetings of the debating Societies of the University, subjecting the privilege thus granted to such regulations as shall adequately guard against the danger of its abuse...”

JULY 1838

• “Resolved that Thomas Woodley be permitted to occupy the room in Hotel D. lately occupied by Mr. Jas: H. Davis...”

JULY 1839

• “A Letter from John K. Wilson to the Visitors requesting permission to occupy a room in the eastern part of Hotel D. Western Range during the next session, having been laid before the Board...”

JULY 1841

• “Resolved that the petition of the Jefferson Society for leave to alter Hotel C. be referred to the executive committee with power to allow the alterations to be made under the direction of the Proctor, so far as they may think it can be done without material injury to the building...”

JUNE 1846

• “Resolved that Wm. L. Kemper be & he is hereby appointed Proctor & Patron of the University...”

• “Resolved that the building designated as Hotel F. within the precincts be, and the same is hereby assigned to him as his residence with the grounds appropriate, or which may be added by arrangement with the Executive Committee; & that the same be repaired & fitted up under the regulations prescribed by the enactments...”

• “Resolved that the Faculty be authorised, & they are hereby requested to assign to the "Washington Society" some room in the buildings appropriate & convenient to the purposes of the Society in lieu of that occupied by it in the building now assigned to the Proctor...”

JUNE 1847

• “The Board having received and taken into consideration the application of the Washington Society asking for the assignment to their use of a more convenient hall than the one they now have...”

• “Resolved that the Board regret that it is not in their power to comply with the request of the Washington Society...”

JUNE 1848

• “The last duty discharged by the Committee was to examine & inspect the buildings and grounds of the University; in relation to which they submit the following remarks. They
regret to say that they discovered the most marked evidence of wanton injury and dilapidation, to many of the Dormitories upon both the back ranges; & especially to the walls, doors, & windows of the same. The Venetian doors were in numerous instances cut defaced, & broken, & the walls disfigured & injured. This has been done evidently by the Students; and necessary steps ought to be taken, in the opinion of your Committee, to arrest this growing evil, & which can only result in great injury & destruction of the public property. The Proctor who accompanies your Committee thinks that this will be difficult to do, but the Committee think differently. They would therefore recommend to the Board to authorise the Proctor to have the Venetian doors & windows repaired & repainted, before being again occupied & the inside walls & arches stained & white washed; and then assigned to the Students at the commencement of the next session; to draw their attention to the state and condition of their respective apartments, & in case of injury, to enforce the enactments of the Institution for the preservation of its property...”

• “Your Committee are gratified to report that the general state of the grounds and other property is in good condition and greatly improved under the superintendence of the present Proctor...”

JUNE 1849

• “The Board of Visitors have considered the requests respectively preferred by the Philomathean and Washington Societies for the use of a hall for their respective Societies, to be assigned and appropriated to them within the precincts of the University; and whilst fully appreciating the benefits resulting both to the Students and the University from such literary associations and admitting, the propriety and advantage of having a separate hall appropriated to each, they are yet left only to regret that the present buildings at the University will not allow such accommodation, whilst the necessities of the University and the condition of the Finances, will not admit of the construction of additional buildings for such use...”

• “Resolved, that the two rooms adjoining that occupied by the Washington Society in Hotel A be assigned to the Moot Court for their uses...”

JUNE 1851

• “On motion of General Cocke, resolved that Dr. Cabell be allowed, at the pleasure of the Board to occupy the lot, attached to the building occupied by the Societies and the moot court, and for that purpose to open a communication between his garden & said lot. But the University to be subjected to no expense by the arrangement...”

JUNE 1852

• “A communication from the Washington Society asking for an enlargement of their hall...”
• “A communication was received from the Parthenon Society asking additional accommodations, which was referred to the Commee on inspection...”
• “The Committee subsequently reported a recommendation that the said communication, and a similar one from the Washington Society, be postponed until after the completion of the new building...”
JUNE 1853

- “In examining the various parts of the University we found great delapidation and injury to many parts of the buildings &c; many of the doors of the dormitories have been cut & injured & some of them actually torn down from their hinges. The glass in many of the windows of the offices attached to the Hotels are broken out and defaced. The plastering beneath the terraces in many places have fallen down from leaks in the covering, which is rotting down and which require immediate and suitable repairs…”
- “They found the public water closets filthy & a perfect nuisance & endangering the health of the students…”
- “We also found in front of many of the dormitories a part of the brick under pinning broken down for the purpose of ventilation; instead of having it done in the rear of the buildings…”
- “We also found the stone steps of the Rotunda in a state requiring attention and repair. In the present state of the steps the bases of the columns are in danger, & the Committee recommend immediate reparation of the same…”
- “The Committee are decidedly of opinion that in relation to the preservation, weakness and condition of the buildings &c of the University, some more efficient guards should be provided and enforced to protect & preserve them…”

JUNE 1854

- “The memorial of the Washington Society was taken up and on motion, Messrs Tomlin and McDonald were appointed a committee to examine into the propriety and expediency of the petition presented in their memorial…”

MARCH 1856

- “Resolved That the Secretary inform the Columbian Society that the Board of Visitors have had under consideration their application to the Board to be furnished with a Hall, in which to hold their meetings, and have referred the subject to the Executive Committee…”

FEBRUARY 1857

- “Resolved That the Executive Committee enquire into, and report to the next annual meeting, upon a plan for enlarging the Dining rooms of the several Hotels within the University, so as to afford convenient accommodations for as many as 100 students in each, if practicable…”

SEPTEMBER 1858

- “On consideration of the memorial of the Columbian Society it is ordered that the Proctor be authorized to cause two of the rooms in the Hotel on the Eastern range lately occupied by Mr Ward to be thrown into one in the case the Society desire it, and that the Board decline to pay the rent of a Hall for the said society for the last year…”
MARCH 1859

• “Resolved that the Executive Committee be authorized and instructed to take immediate measures for erecting dormitories to accommodate fifty students, upon the western part of the University grounds- and also such a building to be attached to the Hotel now occupied by Mrs Ross as has been added to the Hotel now occupied by Dr Hamner...”

JUNE 1859

• “It being understood that the Columbian Society is dissolved Resolved that the house in which a Hall was set apart for their use be appropriated for the future to the superintendent of buildings and grounds...”

JUNE 1860

• “The Hotels shall be vacant at the end of the session of 1860-61 at which time the Board will receive proposals for renting them thereafter. The Proctor shall advertise for such proposals under the direction of the Executive Committee....”
• “The Rector laid before the Board a communication from the Jefferson Society asking for a new Hall. Upon consideration whereof it was resolved...”
• “That the Board of Visitors entertain a high opinion of the importance of the Literary Societies as agencies of education and of police in the University and are disposed to furnish them with encouragement in the form of suitable accommodations for their meetings...”
• “That while this is the disposition of the Visitors the financial condition of the University renders it impracticable at present to grant the assistance asked by the Jefferson Society...”
• “Resolved that permission be granted to the Faculty and such others as may unite with them to build by private subscription upon the precincts of the University a house to be used as a place of religious worship. The location and plan of the building shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee and the house shall be the property of the University and at all times subject to the control of the Visitors...”
• “Resolved that leave be given to the two literary societies to build Halls upon the same terms and subject to the same conditions...”

JUNE 1866

• “In regard to the enlargement of accommodations for the Washington Society, the Committee that they would be pleased to favour the application, but that at present it cannot be done...”

JUNE 1867

• “The use of the Chapel (from the commencement of the next session) is hereby granted to the Washington Society for the purpose of holding their meetings. Upon the express conditions that the Society at its own expense shall furnish the room suitably - keep it at all times in proper condition for publick worship or morning prayer meetings, and surrender it upon due notice from the Board of Visitors. Leave is granted the Society to make any changes or improvements it may wish during the vacation...”
“Resolved, That the Proctor be instructed to fit up the Hall about to be vacated by the Washington Society, as a Lecture room for the Professor of History & Literature...”

SEPTEMBER 1867

“General S. H. Lewis moved that the order made at the annual meeting in June giving the use of the chapel to the Washington Society be rescinded...”

JUNE 1869

“Resolved that the application of the Committee of the Washington Society for an appropriation of $500, to be applied in part payment of the expense incurred in the enlargement of their Hall, be referred to the Committee on Grounds & Buildings...”

“The Board of Visitors having considered the application of the Washington Society for aid in payment of the debt incurred by said Society in the recent improvement and extension of their Hall, have reached the following conclusion- that they will direct the Proctor to pay to the Contractor the sum of $500 at the earliest practicable moment, and out of money not otherwise appropriated- Upon the express condition that the Washington Society within the next two years shall refund to the University the said amount- and that a formal acceptance of this condition must be given through the Society and its Officers, before the provision of this loan shall become binding...”

JUNE 1870

“On motion Resolved that the Secretary be instructed to call the attention of the proper officers of the Washington Society to the loan of $500 made by the Board at its last annual meeting, and to enquiry if any and what steps had been taken by the Society to meet its obligation in paying back the amount...”

JUNE 1873

“Resolved, That the Washington Society be and is hereby relieved and discharged from the debt of $500 due to the University for an advance to enlarge their Hall, made some years ago by the Board of Visitors...”
NOTES ON A VISUAL ANALYSIS
OF JEFFERSON HALL AND WASHINGTON HALL TODAY

WASHINGTON HALL, HOTEL B

Washington Hall, Hotel B, has unfortunately been too heavily remodelled to be evaluated as is. The Washington Society no longer controls this space as they have come and gone several times from existence. Rather, it is now used as an office for the University. There is not much beyond the façade unless elements of an older interior survive above drop-ceiling tiles. However, as the interior walls are too thin and modern, it can be imagined that the space would have been similar to Jefferson Hall, Hotel C. Yet, the interior is far too subdivided in its current state for photographs. What can be gathered though can be understood from evaluating its exterior walls. The physical evidence points to Hotel B having been smaller by one-third its current size. A brickwork seam down the back facing Garden II clearly supports the Board of Visitors minutes previously mentioned in “Agencies of Education and of Police,” which mentioned the expansion of this structure after the American Civil War. This addition drastically altered the site both physically and in terms of movement. Whereas it can be imagined that one would have entered Hotel B from its doors opening out onto the eastern Range arcade, a new entrance was built looking north. These doors are sheltered by a small classically inspired portico with two ionic columns on bases. A yellowing marble plaque above the door reads, “Washington Society, 1869.” The triangular pediment of this portico is repeated in windows to both sides, but not carried around to other elevations. Adding to Hotel B would have necessitated a new roof and it appears that the Washington Society also re-did its cornicing at this time. Hotel B is the only hotel with an ionic cornice in keeping with its two columns out front. It is unclear how the side facing Garden II would have been used, but members of the society would have entered through
the northern end and entered a large hall. The officers and speakers imaginably would have sat up against the wall adjoining 2 E. Range, facing out through these doors. It should be noted that because of its expansion, Hotel B is considerably larger than Jefferson Hall and could have seated more when finished.

JEFFERSON HALL, HOTEL C

Jefferson Hall, Hotel C, is still maintained by the Jefferson Literary and Debating Society. It is also contained within the original exterior walls of Hotel C, despite request for a larger space as noted in the “Agencies of Education and of Police.” Space however was maximized by combining all rooms on the main floor inside into one large meeting hall. It should be noted however that the counterparts to these three rooms exist down in the basement. By comparing upstairs and downstairs, it can be surmised that the dining room existed along the western Range arcade with two smaller rooms in back. The dining room could have been accessed through two external doors. One would have been for students entering from the arcade, the other would have been for servants carrying up food from the basement. There does not appear to have been any internal staircase connecting the two levels. This side door still exists and is currently used as a handicap accessible entrance. Both entrances are double doors and visual analysis suggests them to be absolutely original to when the University first opened. A third set of door on the main level would have been in back letting out onto the garden. Although walled over from the inside, this set survives on the backside and also appears to be original, although apparently suffering from dry rot and general neglect. This door would have likely been used by the hotel manager who would have had their bedroom and private office behind the dining room.
These three rooms would have been heated in winter by centrally combined fireplaces. It is possible that their counterparts downstairs survive but are plastered over. The old kitchen and service areas have been converted to a mechanical room, a semi-public bathroom for UVA students, and the largest room is a private bathroom for male graduate students living on the Range. The kitchen would have been directly below the dining room and it has an external door for enslaved people to carry food up. From conversations, I have been told that the cooking fireplace survives behind three showers but I cannot confirm this. When the Jefferson Society all three rooms upstairs into one large hall, the central fireplaces were demolished which would have rendered the ones downstairs useless. It is unclear what the basement would have been used for before conversion to bathroom facilities. It is also unclear how Jefferson Hall would have been heated in the winter time before electricity or radiant heating. Likely, there would have been stoves pipes out through the windows but no photographs of any were found in my research. Society members may have simply kept warm by wearing coats or by warmth generated from body heat in a crowded room. It should be noted that the removal of these fireplaces may have negatively impacted the structure.

Investigation of the attic, accessed through a hatch above the servants’ entrance, shows that the roof of Jefferson Hall is floating above its supports by an inch or two. Its rafters do not touch down on the queen post and appears to kept down purely because of its own weight. This was pointed out by Prof. Louis Nelson who joined me and James Zehmer in going up. It seems to follow that the removal of walls and other structural elements below have caused the ceiling joists to drop. Whether or not this will require attention and bracing is unclear to me but should be investigated. However, there are no visible cracks in the ceiling which suggest the roof and Hall are safe for now. Other finds in the attic include a large number of corn cobs and loose nails. The nails suggest that there would have been
flooring originally but this has since been torn out for the installation of electric lights if not early perhaps for has lighting in the nineteenth century. It was permitted for me to take one of the nails for analysis and 3D scanning. I successfully digitized it and printed the nail in plastic. A digital version of this nail will be included in my submission of this project.

How old the corn cobs are or why there are so many up in the attic is unclear. Nothing suggests that the attic would have been inhabited despite having floorboards once and two lunette windows. The space simply is not easily reached and doing so by ladder felt dangerous as it is high up. Yet, this has not discouraged a number of students over the years from going up in it. Several names with dates can be found scratched into the front facing rafters, including:

- Carl Zeisburg, 1912
- FM Dixon, 1912
- Don Lewis, 1968

The interior of Jefferson Hall has been altered many times since its expansion but the dining area still has its original floorboards from 1825. They are badly splintered and warped but dutch repairs have been made to them. These floorboards are of various sizes running from north to south. The back half of Jefferson Hall has smaller, more uniform floorboards which run east to west. This change in direction suggests to me that Jefferson Hall would have been carpeted when initially expanded. It would be a curious decision to lay the boards in a different direction if they were meant to be seen. From conversation, the line between these two areas has come to be known recently as the Mezick Line, named in honor of a former Society officer. Other important interior elements to note are the window casings. Those which would have been in the dining room and private office are completely plain but those in the northeast corner (where the hotel operators bedroom would have been) is inset
with panels. This indicates a certain degree of hierarchy as one moves from public to private spaces. Such transition in detail is consistent with that seen in the pavilions where details become finer and more elegant as one goes into the private spaces intended only for faculty and their families.

Much of the furnishings inside Jefferson Hall date to the 20th Century but there are two older pieces of note. From conversations, they are described respectively as being the Treasurer’s Chair and the Secretary’s Chair (also known as Poe’s Chair). The Treasurer’s Chair is the oldest piece of furniture in the hall but my research did not turn up when it would have been acquired. Visual analysis suggests that it dates the 1830s or 1840s making it nearly as old as the Society itself. The chair is a simple, elegant style popular during the time period with a mahogany veneer. The veneer is cracked and flaking off, and one of the legs has snapped. It is currently unusable and badly in need of repair. Poe’s Chair, on the other hand, appears to date to the 1880s. It is in much better condition and is carved in the aesthetic style. Both are upholstered in leather to match the President’s Chair but this latter armchair is not of particular interest. Most chairs found in Jefferson Hall are Windsor style, many of which are broken.
Minutes from the Board of Visitors between 1825 and 1873 indicate that spaces in hotels and pavilions were given to literary societies so as to help control student behavior. This point is especially made clear in the minutes from June 1860 reading, “The Rector laid before the Board a communication from the Jefferson Society asking for a new Hall. Upon consideration whereof it was resolved that the Board of Visitors entertain a high opinion of the importance of the Literary Societies as agencies of education and of police in the University and are disposed to furnish them with encouragement in the form of suitable accommodations for their meetings. That while this is the disposition of the Visitors the financial condition of the University renders it impracticable at present to grant the assistance asked by the Jefferson Society.” The idea of the Jefferson Society being an agency of “education and of police” completely supports the idea that the University of Virginia attempted to control students through student organizations rather than directly. This seems to build off of a note from August 1837 which read that hotels would be assigned for societies to hold meetings but that this privilege would come with rules to guard against abuse. It stands to say that any unruly students risked losing their clubhouse although no note is made of any such action having been taken. Instead, the only notes of a society losing their clubhouse is when they themselves broke up.

To make this form of self-governance happen, the Board of Visitor allowed for societies to modify spaces in hotels to better suit their needs. This not only helped make literary societies attractive to join, giving students a clubhouse to call home, but it also would have invested them with a sense of ownership. It was completely surprising to find that several hotels were vacated within the first few years of the University opening, being
immediately handed over for students or other faculty to use. This suggests that the Board of Visitors were equally aggravated by some of the hotel operators as much as student troublemakers. Minutes from as early as 1826 strongly suggest that some hotel operators were contributing to their delinquency such as: “Nor shall [hotel operators] suffer any game of chance to be played; or any ardent spirits or wine, mixed or unmixed, to be drank within his tenement: but nothing herein contained shall be construed to prohibit the moderate use of wine or ardent spirits by the members of the family of the hotel-keeper and his invited guests.”

The removal of these operators also went along with several major changes to student life at the University of Virginia. Not only were plain uniforms created, hotel operators were told not to serve indulgent dishes, but lights were installed and names were painted on doors. It is curious to note that the first attempts to light arcades and colonnades (in the form of bullseye lanterns over student rooms) around the Academical Village was done so as to better see any troublemakers moving about at night. Furthermore, it is also completely surprising to find that names were painted on student rooms not as an honor but rather so as to know who lives where in case troublemakers tried hiding in them. It is often said nowadays that the tradition of nameplates on Lawn and Range rooms is an honor, but this simply not the case according to these minutes. The change in attitude about these names adds an interesting element to my research.
• The Jefferson Literary and Debating Society has embedded the brick walkway outside 7 W. Lawn with a stone memorial reading:

MCMLXXXVII
THE JEFFERSON SOCIETY
ΦΠΘ
FOUNDED
JULY 14, 1825
7 WEST LAWN
HAEC OLIM MEMINISSE JUVABIT

• Kappa Sigma (ΚΣ) and Pi Kappa Alpha (ΠΚΑ) fraternities were both established within the Academical Village. Plaques outside two student rooms mark where they were both founded. Kappa Sigma at 46 E. Lawn reading, “HERE ON DECEMBER THE TENTH MDCCCLXIX THE KAPPA SIGMA FRATERNITY WAS FOUNDED BY WILLIAM GRIGSBY McCORMICK, GEORGE MILES ARNOLD, JOHN COVERT BOYD, EDMUND LAW ROGERS, FRANK COURTNEY NICODEMUS. MANET MANSURAQUE EST.” Pi Kappa Alpha at 47 W. Range reading, “ON MARCH 1, 1868: THE PI KAPPA APLHA ALPHA FRATERNITY WAS FOUNDED HERE AT 47 WEST RANGE.” In the corner of this second markers are the Greek letters “φ,φ,K” and the latin letter “a.” Members of Pi Kappa Alpha visiting from other universities have scratched the Greek letter designation of their own Chapters into the bricks around it. This is seen as one of many UVA traditions rather than vandalism. 46 E. Lawn has not been damaged likewise.

• The Raven Society has maintained 13 W. Range as Edgar Allan Poe’s honorary room for nearly one hundred years now. A plaque above the door reads, “EDGAR ALLAN POE, MDCCXXVI: DOMUS PARVA MAGNI POETAE.” An electronic speaker has been installed,
which is activated by a push button, telling visitors about Poe’s brief time at the University of Virginia in 1826. The entry has been fitted with a glass door, allowing one to look inside. Although the room is supposedly decorated to look like 1826, the Raven Society has added a bust of Pallas, a raven sculpture, and a banner. All of which distract from that idea. Yet, 13 W. Range is perhaps the most original room out of all spaces in the Academical Village. Its change of use to display means that the room has not needed updates for habitation. Floorboards appear to be completely original and the wooden door has not been cut for a mail slot. Nor has it (the wooden door) been fitted with a modern lock. In addition, the brick hearth has not been painted black with fire-resistant paint like occupied student rooms.

- The University Guides have been given the old classroom inside Pavilion VIII as their meeting place. It is the only room inside one of the ten pavilions given over to a student organization. Other spaces in the main and ground floor are used as classrooms, but the upstairs is maintained as a private residence. Their meeting room has not been fixed up as a showplace but rather as a personalized space with bric-a-brac. They also have a curious tradition of signing their names behind the Rotunda’s clock. The attic space above the Lawn-facing portico is covered in signatures, imaginably including some who are not Guides, written in pen, pencil, marker, and scratched into bricks. This is not well known by students, perhaps making the University Guides into a quasi-secret society.

- Countless students have written their names on the mortar between bricks throughout the Academical Village and Brown College on Monroe Hill. In many cases, Lawn and Range residents sign their own rooms. Signatures with dates can be found from as
earlier as the 1830s, many being from the American Civil War, making them an interesting and valuable resource. In some cases, the scribblings even celebrate important moments in history. One such one on Monroe Hill refers to the Spanish-American War reading, “HURRAH FOR CUBA! GO TO HELL SPAIN!” Other signatures sheltered under the Hotel A portico were written as pairs. One name male, the other female, suggesting that the hotel may have been used for dances in the late 1800s. Students have also scratched and carved their names into bricks over the years. A recent effort to restore crumbling brickwork may destroy these signatures. Consideration should be made for digitally recording them

- Several rooms throughout the Academical Village have had the letters “NM” painted on bricks outside their doors, 42 E. Lawn and Crackerbox 1 included. It is done in white paint, imitating secret societies like the Zs and 7s who have been allowed to paint logos on the Rotunda steps and elsewhere. However, their crudeness goes to say that they were done without permission from the University. Rumors heard in conversation say that they stand for the “Naked Marauders.” A group of fraternity boys who supposedly streaked (or streak) through sorority houses. If true, it is almost certain that the members would have lived in these rooms. It cannot be guessed how old these are, but Housing or Facilities may have made note when they first appeared. Whether or not they should be seen as yet another UVA tradition is up for debate, but they likely cannot be removed without damaging the brickwork.

- Four floorboards in 19 W. Lawn have been cut for a secret hatch, hidden behind the door when swung open. These planks have been cut with great attention paid to the spacing
of joists below. The opening is just wide enough for someone thin to crawl through, but entrance has been blocked by the installation of a wine rack. According to rumors, it dates to the Civil War and a nerf gun is kept inside to remember a rifle found there once. However, visual evidence seems to suggest that it dates to the 20th Century. It can be better imagined that this hatch is from Prohibition or even later, but further research is needed. Illuminating the crawl space with a flashlight reveals a vertical seam in the bricks between 19 W. Lawn and Pavilion V, buy any possible connection has since been filled-in. See notes on for rough measurements.

- Doors on the student rooms are also an interesting resource. Please refer to notes for assessment. Visual analysis suggests about 75% to be original. These single doors swing away from the fireplaces, imaginably so as to not snuff out any fires when opened. Most of these exist on the Range, whereas half of the Lawn have been replaced with double doors. From conversations with the Office of the Architect, it has been learned that Murray Howard (a former architect for the University of Virginia) replaced these doors on an unsupported hunch fifteen or so years ago. The double doors are not correct, nor are they wide enough to work well. Both halves must be opened for one to pass through them easily. Three doors are consistent with Greek Revival details (31 W. Range, 49 W. Range, and 20 E. Lawn). It may be that these date to when the Board of Visitors examined the Academical Village in June of 1848, finding it to be in bad repair (see notes). The original doors may have been torn from their hinges either by faculty, trying to forcibly remove troublemaking students, or by the students themselves. I have also learned from conversation that the doors of 1 and 3 W. Range date to the 1920s when a boiler exploded under them, burning down Hotel A and these spaces. Other interesting
doors include 22, 24, and 26 E. Range which are adjacent to Hotel D. It appears that these rooms were taken over by the hotel operator for private use as some point. 22 E. Range is unusual in that it has four panels rather than six insets like everywhere else in the Academical Village. However, 24 and 26 E. Range are more unusual in that they are original but the upper four panels were removed and later replaced with plain boards. It may be that they were replaced with glass like the front door of Pavilion VIII to allow in more natural light as East Range is darker than West or the Lawn. 51 W. Range, 53 W. Range, 50 E. Lawn, and 52 E. Lawn are more recent restorations of single doors. The variety of door types in the Academical Village tell histories of UVA and one cannot help but imagine what information has been lost by replacing 25% of them on a hunch. I have been told that plans call for reverting all double doors back to singles but even these have become part of the Village’s history now. Perhaps one or two should be kept for character and as examples.
1. Looking out from the attic of Jefferson Hall, Hotel C, on his bicycle. Photo taken by Baxter Craven, Fall 2015.

2. Interior of Jefferson Hall, Hotel C. Photo taken by Baxter Craven, Fall 2015. This photo shows the interior as one large space whereas it would have been three smaller rooms originally. Access into the attic is through the hatch above the door pictured here.
3. The roof of Jefferson Hall, Hotel C, floats above a queen post. Photo taken by Baxter Craven, Fall 2015.

4. Nails and corn cobs litter the attic of Jefferson Hall, Hotel C. Photo taken by Baxter Craven, Fall 2015.
5. “Dixon, 1912” is scratched on a rafter in the attic of Jefferson Hall, Hotel C. Photo taken by Baxter Craven, Fall 2015.

7. Exterior of Washington Hall, Hotel B, showing the difference in brickwork between the original part and its expansion after the Civil War. Photo taken by Baxter Craven, 2016.


10. Secret hatch in 19 W. Lawn opened, showing the wine rack and a nerf gun kept in it. Photo taken by Baxter Craven, 2016.
