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Correspondence - 1974, August 28

Thomas W. Cothran

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FRED. VAN WAGENINGEN, A. I. A.
THOMAS W. COTHRAN, A. I. A.

ARCHITECTS

SHELBY, NORTH CAROLINA

28 August 1974

A. A. Ramsey & Son, Inc.
P. O. Box 1456
Shelby, N. C. 28150

Re: Webb Administration Building, Gardner-Webb College

Dear Mr. Ramsey:

I went up into the Cupola with Mr. Byers last Saturday morning. It appears that the loose slate, on the new ridge of the existing building, has been re-fastened. The new ridge was installed, as an extra, as copper had been omitted, in the original installation and there were several leaks. From the Cupola, I could see roofing felt between the top joints. New joints are closed and I cannot see the material under. I will have to assume that copper has been used. It is not possible for an Architect to watch this work, as it is done. Therefore, before you make final payment to the Stroup Sheet Metal Works, have them to furnish me with a letter, certifying that copper is now under the ridge slate of both the new and existing building.

Looking down on the copper roof of the Portico, the 2 roof drains do not have the copper wire strainer on top as shown on our Drwg. No. 5. There are several trees near the building and it is important that strainers be on top of all downspouts. They are shown on the above drawing. On this class of work, using slate roofing and copper gutters, copper basket strainers are standard practice. Have the Stroup Company to install copper basket strainers. In addition to the 2 on the Portico roof there are 5 downspouts for the new building. There are 4 downspouts on the existing building which should have basket strainers if they are not now on. These strainers are very inexpensive. It is not asking too much to have the Stroup Company install copper basket strainers around this building, in view of the size of the roofing and sheet metal contract. Also they should be glad to contribute to the College that much. I will have the College maintenance personnel to examine the top of downspouts for me.

About 7 feet from the Cupola toward the north, a first slate under the ridge piece looks broken. The surface is scaly and flakes of scale would give this appearance. However, it could also be a broken slate and will later cause a leak if not fixed now. Have Stroup to check and replace if broken.

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Frankly I hope never to use another slate roof unless the best quality of slate can be specified and the best of skilled workmen make the installation. This thickness of slate is a potential source of trouble. It looks good but it is not worth the hazards involved. It is important that we get this roof off to a good start, without defects. We will then hope that it will give many years of satisfactory service. Let me know when the Stroup Company has completed the above and furnish the certifying letter. See above.

Mr. Byers said that you want him to reset the sump pump as it should be. See the Plumbing Check List which has been sent you several times. Mr. Byers is not a Plumber. Also there is a piece of black pipe and a black union which must be changed. Galvanized pipe and fittings were called for. Also the copper pipe, on the far side of the sump pit must be shortened. Only a skilled Plumber is qualified to properly fix the sump pump. The bottom of the pump motor must be at least 2" to 4" above the Mechanical Room floor. Show Mr. Hoyle, or another Plumber, the Plumbing Check List. Note that the List is dated 19 October 1973. Only Item No. 6 has been fixed. Your Contract is not complete until after all 6 Plumbing Items have been adjusted.

We have relieved you of the responsibility of having Mr. Caldwell complete his work. See correspondence. We will also relieve you of the responsibility of having Mr. Johnson complete his work. I will handle the balance of \$1,474.19, due Mr. Caldwell, directly with the College. I will also handle the 2 extra charges, by Mr. Johnson, of \$141.63 for drain pans in the Telephone Room and \$229.44 for relocating fan coil units from Lobby to Telephone Room. Mr. Caldwell has now finished all except one minor adjustment. Mr. Johnson has several items to do on his Check List.

Examine the Check Lists and correspondence in your file and let me know when all is ready. I know you will be glad when we can consider all satisfactorily finished. I shall be more than glad. I want to give later work my full time but I will slight no work, past or present.

Yours very truly,

Thomas W. Cothran

TWC:kj

CC: Dr. Poston ✓
Mr. Spangler
Mr. Mack