

# SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY HOUSE



**Year Built: 1898**

“In accordance with the general policy recommended in the report of the committee on society houses and subsequently adopted by the Trustees, four societies have received permission to build [*Shakespeare Society, Phi Sigma, Zeta Alpha, Tau Zeta Epsilon*]. This report provided for ‘the erection of any building or buildings suitable for meetings, literary or social, and at such moderate cost as not to entail embarrassment upon the Trustees or loss to the societies in case it should become necessary, in the remote future, for the Trustees to use otherwise the sites upon which they may be located; always provided that any permission to use land is temporary, and subject to withdrawal by the Trustees, and that such permission shall never be construed to be anything more than a license for such use during the pleasure of the Corporation, and that the title to any structures placed upon its land shall rest absolutely in the Corporation, without restriction upon their control or use thereof as future events may show to be wise.’ The house for which ground was broken by the Shakespeare Society, last June, is now in use. It stands at the foot of the hill opposite College Hall, and in the angle formed by the main avenue and the roadway to the Chemistry building. The exterior is of beams and plaster, in accordance with the Elizabethan design of the structure. On the lower floor are the library, reception-room, and ante-rooms. The upper floor affords a large hall, which will eventually be equipped for dramatic representations. The building promises to be admirably adapted to its uses, and its effect, as viewed from various points in the campus, is thoroughly good.” – 1898 Annual Report of the President of Wellesley College (dated November 3, 1898)

“First of all the chapter houses to be erected was that of the Shakespeare Society. In situation it is unequalled, standing as it does at the junction of the main driveways and overlooking the campus, half way between College Hall and the Farnsworth Art Building. It was opened last year in February. [*Completion date, however, determined to be 1898, consistent with above Annual Report of the President.*] In general effect, the house is an admirable reproduction of the Stratford-on-Avon house.” – New York Tribune: March 18, 1900