Bringing an old building back to life has been the center of many of OSU’s recent construction projects. The finishing touches are still being applied to Old Central, OSU’s oldest building.

Many of the projects still being finished are just fine tuning of the building.

“Right now they are finishing up the retaining wall between Conoco Phillips Alumni Center and Old Central,” Robert Spurrier Director of the Honors College.

The retaining wall will help the area behind the Alumni Center to drain better and reduce the flooding problems it has when it rains, he said.

“The fire alarm system at Old Central will be upgraded to include the Campus Wide Mass Notification system,” Mike Lambert, assistant director of long range facilities planning said.

The upgrade will take place during Christmas Break. The new system will enable OSU police to put out messages in case of an emergency such as a fire or tornado, he said.

“The mass notification system is being installed across campus,” Lambert said. “It already has been installed in the Classroom Building, Willard Hall, Architecture Building, Murray Hall, Whitehurst, Vet Med OADDL and elsewhere.”

The lawn area to the south of Old Central is still gravel, it will be replaced by sod eventually, Spurrier said. The classrooms in Old Central are also waiting on audio/visual equipment to arrive.

Whether or not the construction is behind Spurrier said he does not mind.

“Anything that is done, I’m happy with the schedule,” he said.

Some of the problems previously fixed in Old Central were foundation problems, which is normal since the building was built in 1894.

“The idea of good construction in those days appears to be to dig a ditch and put sandstone and rubble in the ditch with some mortar,” Spurrier said.

After a century of moisture it is easy to see why it might not be the world’s greatest foundation, he said.

Although there is still construction around Old Central Spurrier said he is just happy to be back in the building.

“We think it’s wonderful to have the original campus building,” Spurrier said.

He said occasionally they hear some strange noises or feel some random vibrations, but overall the construction does not bother him.

Although the budget does not allow for a person on staff to give tours of Old Central, anyone can visit and see the building. The building is open Monday through Friday when the university is open and usually from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Spurrier said they put together a paper that is a walking tour brochure that can be read as a person tours the building to give insight to what visitors are seeing.

We took and 1894 building and have been trying to bring it up to 21st century standards, Spurrier said. We encourage to come see the first building on the OSU campus.