

## House of Pestilence aka “Pest House”

The Pest House was built in the 1840s and was the place of Dr. J. J. Terrell’s practice. Its name is derived from the word “pestilence,” and it was a specialty hospital used to quarantine diseases that were considered to be dangerous to the general public. Such diseases include: the measles, typhoid, and most importantly smallpox. In fact, because smallpox was so prominent among patients at the Pest House, it was often referred to as the “smallpox hospital.”



Dr. John Jay Terrell’s “Pest House” on exhibit at [Old City Cemetery](#) in Lynchburg, Virginia



Click to watch a video tour of the Pest House

*The stench from the sores and poor hygiene was so pungent that drunkenness was the only way patients and staff could tolerate it. Doctors, even preachers, shunned visitation duties to the Pest House. It was no wonder that this ‘smallpox hospital’ was conveniently located next to the Confederate graveyard – a short trip for the hearse-wagon to carry the corpses. A Prototype of a Confederate Hospital Center in Lynchburg, Virginia by Peter W. Houck.*