He described the building as "plain and devoid of architectural ornament . . . convenient, well constructed and satisfactory to all those who occupy it." In summer 1887, Carpenter prepared plans for an addition to the Mechanical Building and was construction superintendent.

In 1886, at Carpenter's request, he was relieved of his fire department duties, including the weekly fire drills he used to run. Responsibility for the weekly drills was turned over to the military department. He remained engineer of the campus water works, recommending that the water works be extended to the professors' residences and to the barns for fire protection.

During 1889–1890, Carpenter was superintendent of construction for a new Agricultural Laboratory.

In August 1890, at the end of the school year, he went to Cornell University to take a professorship in the department of mechanical engineering.

His last report to the State Board of Agriculture, dated June 30, 1890, states: "So far as I know I leave everything connected with my department in excellent condition, and I leave not unfinished work for my successor to take up. All the work requiring such means of identification will be found mapped in a large book or file in my office. In that book will be found descriptions and maps of all heating lines, water lines, sewers and drains, also the various surveys that have been made from time to time of the college property."

Carpenter died in Ithaca, N.Y., on January 19, 1919.

Editor's note: Carpenter was also a patent expert and a prominent writer of engineering textbooks. Some publications authored by Carpenter are still in print and available through Amazon.com.