

## PAVILION X

This quote reveals that Jefferson was forced to use an Attic feature from a Corinthian temple on his Doric building because there was simply no other model described well enough in Palladio for him to use. It is also very interesting to note that Jefferson had no qualms about simplifying a Palladian drawing to suit his more austere sensibilities. However, this statement should be understood within the context of his other buildings where he was known to “simplify” his moldings. This essentially means that the molding profiles and proportions remain the same, but the ornament carved into them as depicted on Palladio’s plates is eliminated.

Jefferson was clearly not reluctant to proportion the Attic story as he pleased to fit harmoniously with the rest of his elevation. His specifications for the rest of the Attic read:

“Our pediment being 7 f – 8.25 I high, the Attic must be of such height that it’s [sic] cap, or surbase may be clear above the Apex of the Pediment. this will be effected by giving a height of 8-10 to the Attic, exclusive of a Cavetto above it. it will give 8f – 1 I. very nearly”

The Attic parapet was designed to allow the upper molding profiles to miss the apex of the pediment by about one inch. Jefferson’s figures for the actual size of the parapet reveal that he simply proportioned the Attic parapet to fit his overall desired dimension. The “minutes” of the proportional system of the Attic story have no relationship whatsoever to the proportional system of the Doric order below except that the width of the pilasters within the parapet was specified to be the same as the width of the diminished diameter of the Doric columns.

### *Construction History*

At the time work on Pavilion X began, construction of the University had been underway for nearly three years. Under the auspices of Central College, Pavilions VII and III were the first two pavilions commenced. By the summer of 1819, work on Pavilions I and V was underway, and contracts had been let for three additional pavilions: II, IV, and VI, all on the East Lawn. The start of construction of Pavilions VIII, IX, and X in the early summer of 1820 signaled the completion of the pavilions, leaving only the Rotunda and the ranges along the streets to be built.

The building of Pavilion X and “dormitories 22 to 26 East Range” was assigned to William B. Phillips and John Neilson. Phillips, a brick mason and native Virginian, had been employed at the University during the previous building seasons working at Pavilion I (1822) and its adjacent student rooms. Upon completing Pavilion X, Phillips would go on to building Hotel F (1822), partner with Curtis Carter in building Pavilion IX (1823), and later go on to build the Anatomical Theatre (1826). Phillips had worked as a foreman for Anthony Turner, a master brick mason from Richmond. It was Turner who wrote Phillips ‘recommendation to Jefferson when he sought work at the University. Turner wrote:

I do hereby certify that William Phillips the bearer hereof, Served Seven years with me as an Apprentice to the bricklaying business, and afterwards worked with me as my foreman, the further term of Seven Years: He is trustworth; an excellent workman; of good Morrals and industrious and attentive to business. -- I do not know a better workman in that line. -- He has carried on Brickmaking and laying in this City for two Years, much to the Satisfaction of those who employed him.”<sup>2</sup>