

PAVILION X

By the end of August 1819, Phillips was likely nearing the end of his portion of work on Pavilion I, for he wrote to Arthur Spicer Brockenbrough, the Proctor of the University inquiring, "...which will be my next job, so an arrangement may be made for me to begin...,"³ Phillips may have been anxious to secure future work owing to the arrival of Richard Ware and his contingent of Philadelphia workmen that coming July.

Ware, a master carpenter and foreman, had a well established reputation in Philadelphia and shared a mutual friend with Thomas Jefferson, the Philadelphia scientist Dr. Thomas Cooper. It was Dr. Cooper who enticed Ware to visit Charlottesville and see the work going on at the University. In March 1819, Ware made his way to Charlottesville. Ware's letter of introduction, written by Robert Mills to Jefferson, describes him as a "... respectable Master Carpenter... Mr. Ware bears with him recommendations from Gentlemen well known to you in Philadelphia, with whose names I will cheerfully associate mine, as I have had business with Mr. W -- during my residence in [Philadelphia]."⁴ Ware must have been impressed with what he saw going on, for while he was there, he submitted a proposal to, "... undertake three portions mentioned in the advertisement & upon the conditions there specified at fifteen percent below the Book of Prices published by M Cary in 1812...."⁵ Such a reasonable proposal together with Ware's ability to bring with him a sizable work force of brick makers and layers, carpenters, and specialized craftspeople, such as plasterers and tin workers, likely made him a desirable resource.

Though Richard Ware's arrival brought with it the much needed labor necessary to advance the construction of the University, it also unexpectedly complicated matters. While Ware's proposal was found to be most favorable and his services eagerly anticipated, events unfolded that jeopardized this relationship. Ware, in an attempt to escape creditors in Pennsylvania who had received word he may be leaving for Virginia, had fled to Delaware. While in Delaware, Ware was apprehended and jailed. Word of this situation had soon made it back to Jefferson. The Board of Visitors had already awarded Ware the work for building two pavilions and a hotel. Not knowing the state of Ware's affairs and how long he would be detained, the Board of Visitors decided to assign these pavilions to Virginia workmen already on the site. Pavilion I was awarded to Curtis Carter and William B. Phillips and Pavilion V to John Perry. What followed is best articulated by Jefferson himself:

mr. Ware from Philadelphia offering those which were most acceptable two of these buildings were reserved for him. he went back, promising to return here immediately with a sufficient number of workmen. we waited & waited without hearing any thing definitively from him, & at length received private information that he was detained by his creditors, and in actual jail in Delaware. it was now July, half the season gone, his services despaired of, and we deemed it our duty to engage others immediately. the Proctor accordingly engaged the buildings reserved for him to others who had been competitors from Richmond, and they had come on to the place to begin their operations. at this moment mr Ware arrived, informed us he had about twenty hands on the way coming on by water, and they soon arrived. our embarrassment was extreme; as, to send these people back again, was ruin to him. under this difficulty we resolved, without authority from the board, to engage to him two more pavilions with their adjacent dormitories, making seven with those already on hand, which and more we knew would be ultimately wanting.⁶