

## PAVILION IX

Professors, & for dieting & lodging the students of the University.” Given the “urgency of the advancing season,” it was very important, the Visitors further agreed, to contract with “workmen before they become generally otherwise engaged for the season.” More specifically, they recommended that “engagements may be entered into for building in the approaching season two more pavilions for the professors, one Hotel for dieting the Students and as many additional Dormitories for their lodging, with the necessary appendages as the said funds shall be competent to accomplish.” In addition, they went on record as approving “the propositions for covering with tin sheets the pavilions and hotels hereafter to be covered.”<sup>31</sup>

A round of criticism, however, came from an outgoing member of the Board of Visitors of the College, David Watson. Though realizing that he had been derelict in his duties by not visiting the grounds of the college since the foundation of Pavilion VII had been laid in 1817, Watson wrote another Visitor, John Hartwell Cocke, a few days after the February 1819 meeting that the “buildings are not upon a plan to meet my notions of convenience & utility.” Pavilion VII, he wrote, was “altogether unfit for the residence of a professor who has a family,” for the “cellar is barely sufficient for a kitchen; & where will meal, meat, & all the necessary articles of ordinary subsistence, which you can readily imagine, be kept?” Pavilion III, the second to be built, he admitted, “is larger, & of course less objectionable,” but he pointed out that “even that will be deficient in convenience.” He was also critical of the roofing: “I fear too that the flat roofs will leak, for I scarcely ever knew a flat roof in Virginia that did not.” Furthermore, he continued, the “interior of the pavilions are built too expensively. The floors, for instance, are too costly both as to materials and the manner of laying them.” “I am quite an ignoramus in architecture,” he admitted, “but I can *feel* what is convenient & inconvenient; and, by all our ardent prayers & wishes, let us not sacrifice the important, long sought object, for the want of suitable convenience in the plan of the buildings, & other arrangements.” “Mr. J. is sacrificing every thing to Attic & Corinthian order & chastity; about which I know nothing, & care almost as little,” he concluded, “tho’ I certainly should be pleased that the establishment should have an elegant & dignified appearance.”<sup>32</sup>

The Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia held its first meeting on March 29, 1819. Among its first actions was to authorize a committee of superintendence, made up of Jefferson and Cocke, which was to appoint Arthur S. Brockenbrough as the proctor of the university. The Board assigned the acting proctor, Nelson Barksdale, the responsibility of inventorying the university’s real estate, listing both the completed buildings and “those which are in progress.” The Visitors of the University also confirmed a resolution that had been passed by their predecessors “that it is expedient that the funds of the University be