

HISTORY

modation.” “These pavilions are of the best workmanship of strict architecture, intended as regular and classical models for the lectures on that subject. To each is annexed a garden and other conveniences. we fix the professors superiorly well in the hope of attracting them to the comforts of their situation, and by that means prevent their being seduced from us by other institutions.”⁴² On another occasion, when explaining the features of a pavilion to a prospective professor, Jefferson stated that the building “besides a large lecturing room, has 4. good rooms for family accom[m]odation, one of them below, large enough for your study & library; a drawing room & 2 bedrooms above. kitchen & servant’s rooms below.” He added that “the adjacent dormitories (14. f. square) can be used for your apparatus & laboratory.”⁴³

Nevertheless, the situation with the university’s funding wore on Jefferson, who wrote fellow Visitor James Madison in February 1820 that the “finances of the University are in a most painful state. the donation of 1820, is received & paid away, and we still owe 15,000 for work already done.”⁴⁴ Senator Cabell, however, was able to secure the consent of the General Assembly for a loan to the university from the Literary Fund.⁴⁵ At its April 1820 meeting the Board of Visitors had agreed that funds from the \$40,000 loan were to be used first to pay the university’s debts, including money owed to the contractors, and second to be put toward “the completion of the buildings now in hand.” Any balance was to be applied “towards the erection of three other pavilions & their accessory dormitories.” The Visitors also authorized the committee of superintendence to borrow an additional \$20,000 for the “erection of buildings of accommodation on the Eastern Back Street.” Jefferson asked the proctor to estimate the amount of funding that would be needed to pay outstanding debts and to complete all of the remaining construction except the Rotunda.⁴⁶ Pavilion IX was among the “three other pavilions” still to be built.⁴⁷

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF PAVILION IX

Thomas Jefferson prepared four studies for Pavilion IX, an elevation and three floor plans, arranged together on one modestly sized piece of engraved graph paper. On the back of the sheet are his specifications for the building, including his calculations for the extent of the walls, beginning with the “foundation below Kitchen floor,” the 8-foot height of the kitchen level, the 10-foot height of the rooms on the first story, and the “upper rooms, pitch” at 12 feet 6 inches. He also computed the height of the entablature, detailing the measurements for the cornice, frieze, and architrave. His notations indicate that he intended the classical order of the pavilion to be based on “adapting the Ionic with dentils from the temple of Fortuna virilis of Palladio” of ancient Rome. Similar calculations for Pavilion IX appear in Jefferson’s specification book for the University buildings.⁴⁸