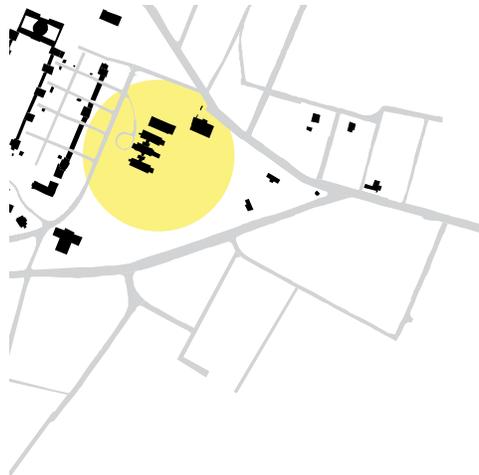


of medical care facilities for students was a detriment to the health of the on-Grounds population. In 1857, the University's Board of Visitors authorized construction of an infirmary (Varsity Hall) for students. The infirmary offered beds and meals to sick students along with physicians' services and nursing care.

In 1889, Dr. Paul Brandon Barringer joined the University faculty as a professor of physiology and surgery. Instrumental in establishing modern clinical facilities, he saw the idea of a University hospital through to completion. Among the many improvements in medical education he instituted at the University were increased attention to laboratory investigations including the use of the microscope, and a steady expansion in the years of study required for a medical degree; from one year in 1891 to four years in 1899. Barringer particularly valued clinical work and as Chairman of the Faculty, then the University's highest administrative position, he promoted the establishment of modern clinical facilities at the University.

From 1891-1892, the Board of Visitors (BOV) approved funds for a new Dispensary building. Construction began immediately on the University Avenue site, and the structure soon opened with several examining rooms, a large lecture hall and facilities for sterilization and pharmaceutical storage (a remnant of which remains as a portion of the West Complex). In 1893, the medical faculty recommended to the BOV that a modern hospital be constructed on the University Grounds. Architect Paul J. Pelz developed the designs for a 150-bed facility consisting of a central building linked by a single corridor to a pair of flanking pavilions, which opened in 1901 on Thomas Jefferson's birthday. This first building of the complex contained an operating theater, solarium, and laboratories. Pelz's scheme provided a master plan for growth, but the rapid success of the hospital and the demand for new spaces outstripped the relatively diminutive pavilions he had envisioned. The 1905 and 1907 flanking wings serving as patient wards were built with two stories rather than the one originally designed.

Subsequently Pelz presented an enlargement of the original scheme for the hospital, expanding the composition to include nine pavilions linked by an enclosed corridor. His intention was to restate in a modern yet complementary architectural language Jefferson's original conception for the University buildings —the Rotunda, pavilions, and dormitory rooms linked by covered passageways.



Health System development 1895 to 1920



Central wing, University Hospital, ca. 1900



The 1906 Manning Plan focused on Hospital Drive - note the differences between the layout of the hospital in this plan, Pelz's pavilion scheme and eventual build-out of Hospital Drive