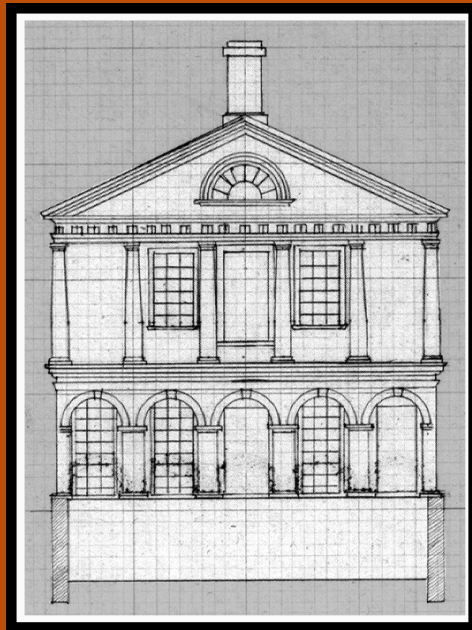


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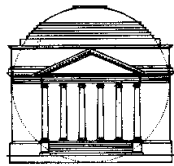
PAVILION VII



HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT

PAVILION VII

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HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT

*We would like to thank the following groups and individuals
for their assistance in the preparation of this report.*

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FOREWORD

This historic structure report for Pavilion VII, also known for the past century as the Colonnade Club, is the fifth in a series of some twenty volumes anticipated for the entire Academical Village of Thomas Jefferson. Yet it is the first such volume to be made available electronically. Since inception of the comprehensive Academical Village restoration program almost twenty years ago, advances in electronic communications and development of the world wide web are now allowing the University of Virginia to share this document with a broad array of interested parties without the complications associated with printed editions of limited quantity. Also the open-ended nature of the electronic medium enables those who have worked on Pavilion VII during its restoration to include insights gained during that work, in contrast to prior restoration efforts here, for which the historic structure report ended as restoration began. Additionally, future insights and work can be recorded. Thus, the open-ended electronic historic structure report, a concept long awaited, is now a reality at the University of Virginia.

Documentary research for the current era of restoration began in the mid-1990s. We are indebted to noted historian S. Allen Chambers for his investigation of many fragmentary documentary sources in writing the history of Pavilion VII. His work on this, the first of Jefferson's academic buildings, has significantly deepened current understanding of the earliest years. He has also continued the inevitable task of separating historical fact from many decades of fictional lore.

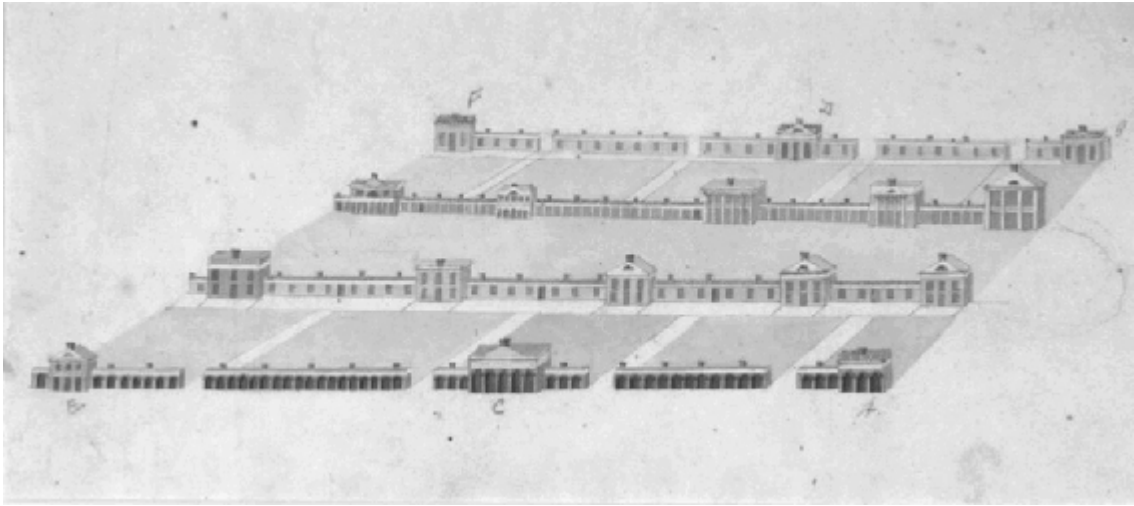
Between research and physical restoration endeavors, the Pavilion VII project has required a total of seven years. During those years, the program's educational mission has directly benefited four young professionals and nineteen student interns in historic preservation from the University's School of Architecture. The Office of the Curator and Ar-

chitect for the Academical Village has, during the past twenty years, employed graduating students, each for about three years, allowing them to serve their professional apprenticeships while working with Jefferson's buildings. The three young architects who have worked on Pavilion VII were Ashley Robbins, Constance Warnock and Steven Cornell. I am deeply gratified by their educational and professional successes and thankful for their excellent work. Student interns have worked each summer and, in some cases, during the academic year. Without them the restoration documents would not have been so thoroughly compiled nor would this electronic report have been produced so effectively. I offer sincere thanks to each one – Victoria Ballard, Marissa Cato, Jessie Chapman, Ruth DeBoer, Kathryn Dyll, Walter Eayrs, Clifton Ellis, Daniel Fay, Erin Hannegan, Bronwen Ferguson, John Hellmuth, Katie Marages, Frank Nelson, Scott Sottile, Leah Stearns, Jonathan Strand, Vivian Su, Cabell Vest and Jeffrey Werner.

Work in the present era at Pavilion VII, the most public of Jefferson's academic buildings after the Rotunda, comes near the halfway point in the comprehensive Academical Village restoration program. Today it is the largest of the pavilions and the most complex functionally, serving many needs for public gatherings and overnight accommodations. A club devoted to faculty enjoyment for the past century, it can now serve an enlarged audience, presenting the intimate nature of Jefferson's remarkable architecture at its best to the local community and guests from faraway.

We encourage you to enjoy this report and a restored Pavilion VII. We also encourage you to support the comprehensive Academical Village restoration program as it continues in the twenty-first century.

JAMES MURRAY HOWARD, PhD, FAIA
Curator & Architect for the Academical Village
Kenan-Lewis Fellow in Historic Architecture



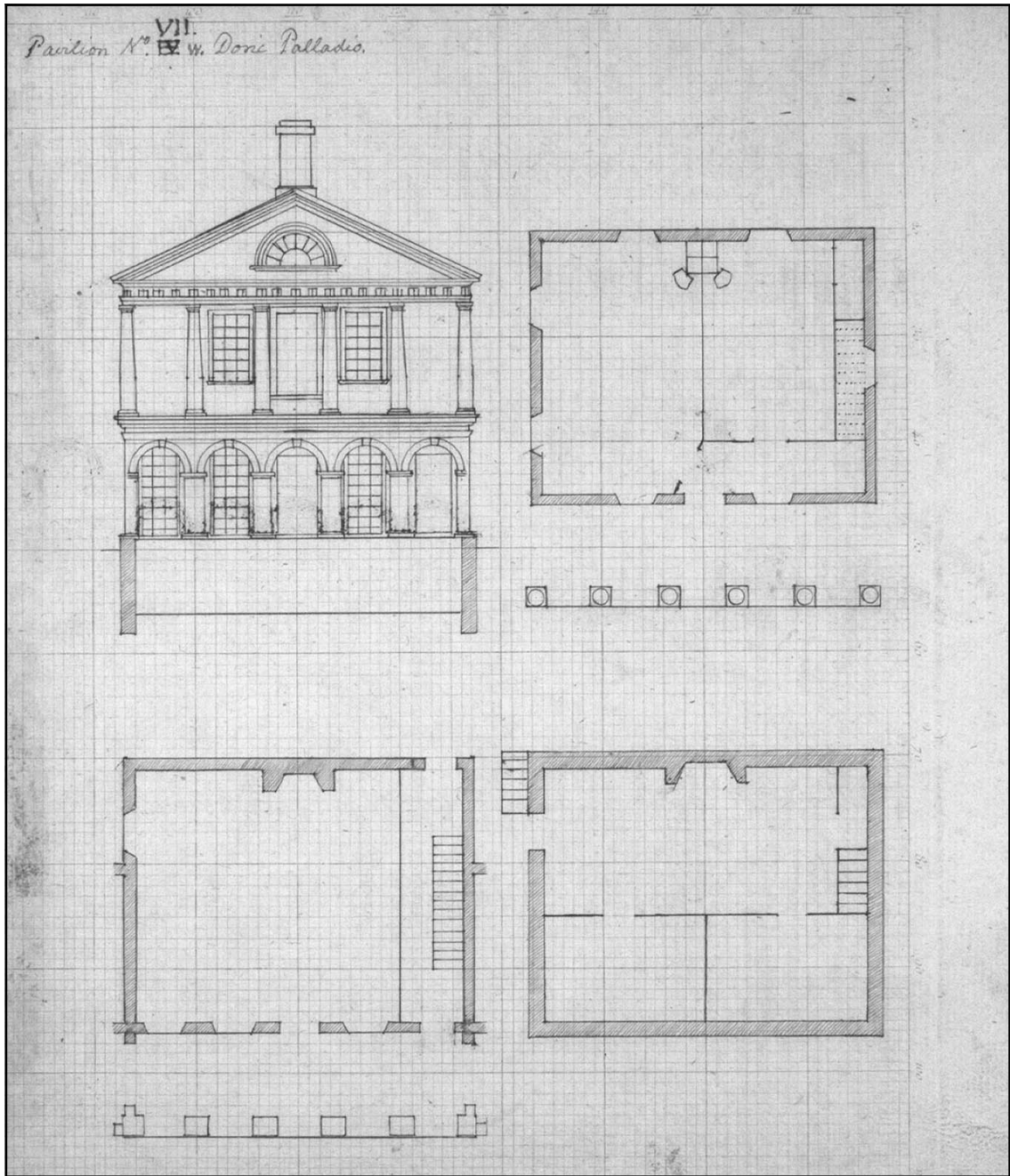
Perspective of Lawn and Ranges, c. 1820. 5-3/4" L x 12-1/2" W. Pencil and watercolor on heavy cold pressed paper. Thomas Jefferson or Cornelia Randolph Jefferson. N-335, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia.

INTRODUCTION

This fifth in a series of historic structure reports to be prepared for the buildings of Thomas Jefferson at the University of Virginia continues the documentary recording effort initiated in 1988. Reports now also exist for Pavilion I (1988), Pavilion VI (1991), Pavilion II (1992) and Pavilion V (1994).

Pavilion VII, the first building to be erected by Jefferson before 1820 in his struggle to establish Virginia's premier seat of higher learning at Charlottesville, more than quadrupled in size with two successive phases of work, in 1855 and 1913. These major additions rendered the early building more commodious and spatially richer. Centrally located hallways and stairs allowed greater freedom of movement. Emphatic use of natural light in the final addition constituted perhaps the most creative architectural act in the Academical Village in the twentieth century. But that addition, offering a low lateral façade to the garden, rather than the tall narrow façades of neighboring pavilions, altered the building-to-garden relationship fundamentally. Decorative elaboration within the final addition also marked a departure from Jefferson's more masculine, somewhat over-scaled classical details.

This report differs from prior volumes by introduction of a chapter entitled RESTORATION AND RENOVATION, supplanting RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REPAIR AND RESTORATION. This change reflects the open-ended nature of the electronic medium and its use during the present work to rehabilitate Pavilion VII. Thus we have been recording the fruits of archival research as well as fieldwork in process, not stopping with a prediction of measures that might or might not become reality. Attendant to but separate from this report are electronically developed construction documents for the present phase of work, executed between 1998 and 2001. When complete, the full series of historic Structure reports will constitute a fundamental repository of knowledge about this World Heritage Site. — J.M.H.



Frontispiece: "Pavilion No. VII Doric Palladio." Thomas Jefferson's drawing of Pavilion VII shows the front elevation, facing the Lawn, and three floor plans. The second-floor plan is at the upper right, the basement floor plan is below it, and the main, first-floor plan is directly below the elevation. The drawing likely dates from July 1817. N-311, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia..

PAVILION VII

SUMMARY

Pavilion VII, more than any other building at the University of Virginia, is a tangible reminder of Thomas Jefferson's educational aims and ideals. Begun in 1817 as the first building of Central College, the predecessor institution to the University of Virginia, Pavilion VII is the oldest Jeffersonian building on the Lawn. Planned to serve both as classroom and residence for a member of the faculty, it originally consisted solely of "a hall below for his class and two chambers above for himself." Jefferson had developed the concept of such a plan for other institutions long before seeing it take physical form here.

Like so many of Jefferson's designs, Pavilion VII is indebted to Palladian principles and prototypes. In this instance the specific architectural order was taken from Plate 5 of a publication by Fréart de Chambray, which shows the Doric Order as interpreted by Palladio. Even so, the appearance of Pavilion VII is strikingly different from the other nine pavilions. With a second-story portico resting on an arcaded base, it represents its author's first thoughts on the architectural expression the academic pavilions should take, prior to the time he incorporated suggestions from others such as William Thornton and Benjamin H. Latrobe.

In its construction history, Pavilion VII shows well the problems Jefferson encountered, not only with builders and their often erratic schedules (not to mention their varying degrees of skill and talent), but with funding from a recalcitrant Virginia legislature. In addition, its construction story reveals a great deal about building practices of the time, and the manner in which such projects were carried out.

Pavilion VII was the smallest of the ten pavilions. A mid-19th century addition provided additional rooms, and remains as an extremely sensitive architectural response to Jefferson's original design. Early in the twentieth century a much larger rear addition, or

annex, was built as the pavilion was called upon to serve a new use as the home of the Colonnade Club, the University's faculty and alumni club. Ironically, with this addition, what had been the smallest of the University's ten pavilions is now the largest.

Above all, the story of Pavilion VII is the story of Thomas Jefferson's determination and his ability to rise above almost insurmountable odds to achieve one of his greatest goals -- the creation of the capstone of the educational system of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Had he not designed and built Pavilion VII, there would be no University of Virginia. — S.A.C.

PAVILION VII

THE JEFFERSONIAN PRECINCT

Originally called the Academical Village, the present Jeffersonian Precinct of the University of Virginia occupies a twenty-eight-acre site in the rolling hills just east of the Shenandoah Valley. The original U-shaped complex of buildings is situated on an elevated site that slopes gently down toward the south. The Rotunda, which originally housed classrooms and the library, is located at the heart of the complex at the northern end of the central green space, called the Lawn. Two rows of five pavilions, each connected by dormitory rooms, form the east and west sides of the Lawn on either side of the Rotunda. Behind each row of pavilions is a row of three hotels, which were built as eating facilities, and connecting dormitory rooms. Between these inner and outer ranges are gardens bounded by serpentine walls.

The ten pavilions are numbered I to X. Odd-numbered pavilions are on the west, and even-numbered pavilions are on the east. The lower the number of the pavilion, the closer it is to the Rotunda. Each of the pavilions originally housed one of the university's ten original, separate schools. Each contained classrooms and the professor's living quarters. The professors lived on the upper floors and taught their classes on the lower floors.

The pavilions are connected by a continuous colonnade, which offers shelter from the weather and partially screens the dormitories from public view. The walkways on the colonnade roofs connect the second-floor levels of the pavilions and are reserved for the private use of the faculty and their families.

Each of the pavilions was designed by Thomas Jefferson with elements drawn from classical models as published by Andrea Palladio, Roland Fréart de Chambray, and Charles Errard. Each is different, thereby offering a separate lesson in classical orders and architecture.

— S.A.C.