

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Pavilion VII, the first building constructed at the University, is the penultimate pavilion on the West Lawn. Begun in 1817 and completed in 1819, it consists of five bays, two stories, a gabled roof, and an arcade with balcony above. The smallest of the pavilions designed by Jefferson, it received an addition in 1855 to the rear or west facade which included a stair hall, two rooms for each floor, and gas lighting. Although no architect is mentioned, a P. Martin received payment for the work. When Professor Noah K. Davis moved out of the building in 1906, the newly formed Faculty Club rented the pavilion. To better serve the needs of the Faculty Club, in 1913 the building received another addition. The firm of Ferguson, Calrow, and Taylor added guest wings and a large reading room with a skylight on the west side. A pergola located outside the reading room had steps leading directly into the garden. With this addition, Pavilion VII, originally the smallest of the pavilions, became the largest. Although no further additions have been made, modifications to the interior have occurred, including the removal of the skylight in 1939, a restoration effort in the 1950's by Frederick D. Nichols, and minor remodeling work in the 1980s.

Thomas Jefferson's plan for Pavilion VII (frontispiece, Fig. 17) suggests a building 34 feet wide by 26 feet deep. The first floor contained a large lecture room, with a small hallway and stair on the north, allowing access to the second story. The second story had two principal rooms. The basement area may have been divided into three rooms. For the elevations, Jefferson turned to the Doric of Palladio (Fig 3, Fig. 18), most fully set forth on the east façade, which has an arched loggia at the first story surmounted by six

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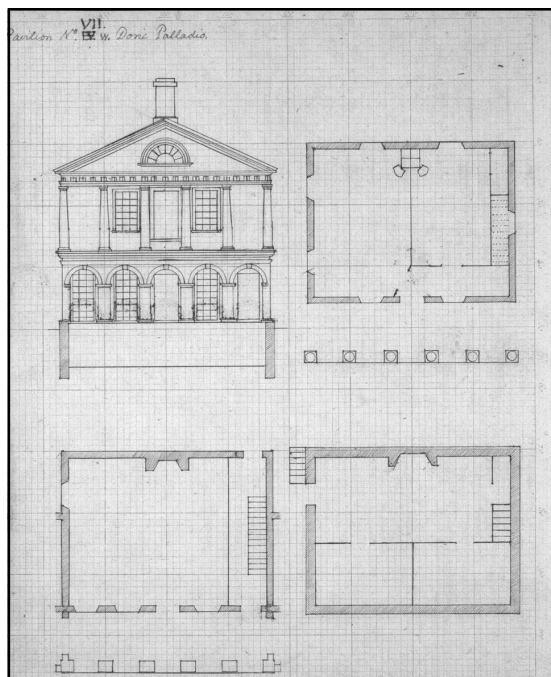


Fig. 17 "Pavilion No. VII Doric Palladio." N-311. Special Collections, University of Virginia.

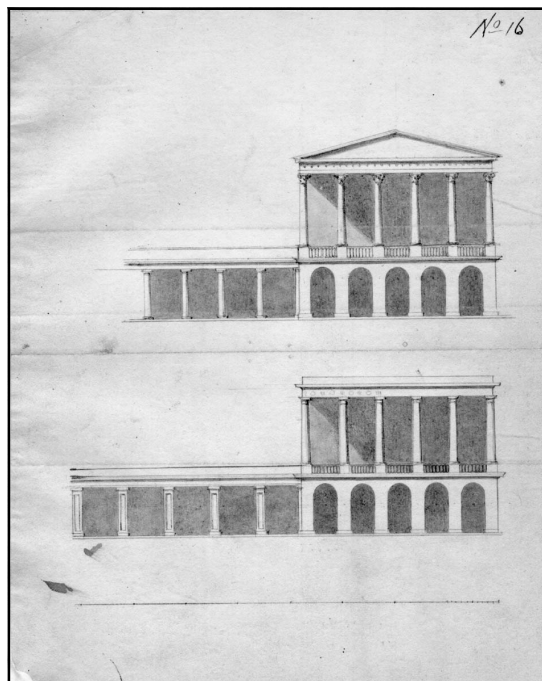


Fig. 18. William Thornton. Studies for a Corinthian (top) and Doric (bottom) Pavilion. May or June 1817. N-303/352, University of Virginia.

columns on the second story with a pedimented roof above. The wooden entablature, which extends around the three remaining sides of the original structure, consists of two fascias, a frieze of triglyphs and metopes, and a cornice with guttae and diamond-embossed mutules on the soffit. The 1855 addition copied this entablature on its south, west, and north elevations.

The gabled roof of Pavilion VII covers the original building and the 1855 extension. As historical research indicates, roofing for the original segment was likely metal, though none of that has survived at this building. By the late twentieth century, both segments exhibited a slate roof of some age, likely dating from the nineteenth century. Records clearly show that slate roofing was installed at Pavilion VII in 1837, and one might logically conclude that the 1855 extension first had a slate roof, too. But when chronic roof leakage provoked interest in restoring the entire gabled roof in 1988-89, that work took into consideration the philosophy developed during recent metal restorations at Pavilions VI and X – replication of Jefferson’s small plated metal shingles atop the original

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East façade of Pavilion VII

building segment in conjunction with late 19th-century metal roof technology for later segments – which is especially sensible when adjacent building segments share a common roof plane. Indeed, wedding Jefferson’s early metal shingle system with a slate system in the same roof plane was deemed infeasible. Thus we used only metal, differentiating the first and second building segments by use of shingle and standing-seam technologies. Admittedly this action implies a roof material that the 1855 segment might never have had, and future generations of preservationists may well render a different decision for Pavilion VII. For the 1913 extension, a single-ply membrane roof was installed in the mid-1980s, supplanting a tarred felt-and-gravel built-up roof. The inherent problems of felt built-up roofing, particularly the tendency to become brittle and rupture, made replacement in kind illogical.

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Entablature and column capital at center gable of pavilion



Colonnade and east porch from the south

EAST FAÇADE

The east facade sits behind an arcade with a balcony above. At ground level the arcade has a series of five semicircular arched openings. The piers of the arches are square, are made of stuccoed brick and sit on square stone plinths 21" x 26 ½." The arches have a three-fascia architrave with keystones. The entablature above the arches is a continuation of the entablature over the colonnade in front of the student rooms: two fascias with a plain frieze and a cyma reversa cornice. On the second story the balcony consists of a series of six Doric columns. The stuccoed columns have an intercolumniation of 64" except for the end columns, where the distance measures 69". The column plinth measures 21" square. A Chinese railing 40" high runs behind the columns. The columns support a wooden entablature and pediment above. The entablature consists of a Doric frieze, complete with triglyphs and metopes, and a cyma reversa cornice. The pediment itself has a soffit with guttae and diamond-embossed mutules. A lunette window in the center has a central mullion with radiating muntins and glazing.

The façade is constructed of hand-made brick (8" x 2 ½") laid in Flemish bond. The facade has five bays. The central bay and northernmost bay contained the original entrances to the building. The central doorway allowed access to the lecture room (Room 102) and the north door allowed a private entrance to the professor's rooms on the second floor. At an unknown date the central doorway was closed up, leaving the north door to serve as the main entrance to the pavilion. Windows in the first, second, and

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Blinded center door at east colonnade



Entrance door at east colonnade

third bays are triple hung sash with two-fascia 7" architraves. Sills are 8 ½" deep and 2 ½" thick. Chinese railings cover the lower sash and measure 3'-3" wide and 2'-3" high. In the center of the sills is metal hardware attendant to wood shutters (currently stored in Pavilion VII). Each of the windows has blinds/shutters, although only the second bay window still retains both the upper and lower sets. The first and fourth bay windows have only the upper set. A fragmentary collection of these shutters will be stored in Pavilion VII when restoration concludes. The blinds are 1'-8 ¼" wide and 4'-9" tall. They are attached to the window frame by iron pintles and 15" straps. Curled iron holdbacks are mounted into the brick wall—only one original remains (on the fourth bay, upper blind), two holdbacks at the bottom of the second window are later additions. The remaining holes are empty. The central bay opening is covered with blinds, but of a different type and size: they are full length and measure 2'-2" wide. The opening, which measures 5'-4" wide, has a one-fascia 6 ½" architrave with molding and a wooden sill 2 ½" thick. The fifth bay contains the current entrance. It has the same architrave as the windows and has three sets of pintles mounted on the frame but no shutters. The rail-and-stile door has six recessed panels and a brass knocker, knob, and lock. It also has a brass plate for a doorbell (no longer in operation). A fanlight with radiating muntins rests above the door. Two steps leading up to the door have 1'-1" treads and 7" risers. The threshold tread, similar to the sills of the windows, is 15" wide and 2 ½" thick; the jambs have inset panels. The door measures 39" across. Engaged piers, 13 ½" in width, are located at the corners of the façade carry a segmental arch across the colonnade walk to the arcade pier.

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South Façade of Pavilion VII

The brick façade of the second story is laid in Flemish bond with bricks 8" X 2½" (except for the lowest courses which consist of two rows of stretchers and one row of headers). The mortar joints are scored and painted. Two windows flank a central door. The windows have a two-fascia 6 ½" architrave and are 40" wide and 78" long; the sills are 2 ½" thick. Two sets of pintles mounted in the architrave hold blinds on iron straps. The blinds are 19 ¾" and 78 ½" long. Curled iron holdbacks (not original but similar to the holdbacks on first story) are located at the bottom of each blind. The central door is 38 ½" wide with a 6 ½" architrave. The door itself deserves special mention: although it initially appears to be a six-panel rail and stile door, it is in fact made of two pieces hinged along the central stile. It has a brass knob and lock. The door is 38 ½" wide with a 6 ½" architrave. The jambs and soffit have recessed panels and are 10" deep; the threshold is 14" deep and 2 ½" thick. The ceiling of the porch is simply plastered and runs flush to the architraves of the windows. The flooring on the balcony consists of small sheets of steel roofing covering plank flooring. The planks exhibit a seemingly unique top profile consisting of a flat central segment flanked by canted indentations that slope up to each corner, thus producing a ridge at each joint between abutting floor planks. This unusual detail would seem very effective in preventing leakage of water into the enclosed woodwork beneath the planks.

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SOUTH FAÇADE

The south facade originally had two bays. It is constructed of red brick (7 ½" x 2½") laid in Flemish bond, with the exception of the first half of the basement level, which uses a four course variation of common bond. The mortar is scored. The adjacent section of student rooms attach to the building at the eastern end. The basement level has one 6/6 sash window with a brick segmental arch over the lintel. The first floor has a triple-hung sash with two sets of blinds mounted on pintles. The second floor has two 6/6 sash windows also with blinds attached by pintles and iron holdbacks.

The addition of 1855, red brick laid in running bond, contains two bays. The size of the brick is 8" x 2 ½." A door into the basement has a 7" two-fascia architrave resting on baseblocks. There are five 6/6 sash windows, one at the basement level and two on each upper story. The architrave of the basement window is 5 ¼". It also has a segmental arch of brick over the lintel. A water table rises above both basement windows and the door, extending rectilinearly over the segmental arches of the windows. The addition continues the Doric frieze of the original structure.

The addition in 1913 consists of a basement with one story above. It is laid in common bond and has a two-stretcher ledge projecting two courses above the top of the basement windows. The bricks are 8" x 2". This addition has a simple entablature of two fascias and a cavetto-and-ovolo cornice (cyma reversa over a cyma recta). This wing of the 1913 addition is surmounted by a low wood railing reminiscent of Jefferson's Chippendale railings, but having piers between panels. On the east fronts of this guest wing are three windows at the basement level and four on the first floor. All have 6/6 sashes but the upper windows are larger (see individual room descriptions). They have architraves of one fascia with a molding and measure 7 ¼". All have blinds attached which are slightly different than on the rest of the building; the louver boards have a central lever for moving the slats. They all have curled wrought-iron holdbacks. On the south façade, there are three windows on each floor, the first floor windows being slightly larger. They have the same architrave as the eastern windows.

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West façade of Pavilion VII

WEST FAÇADE

The 1913 addition provides the primary west façade, directly abutting the gardens. Two guest wings flank a central block; a terrace with a wood pergola extends along the entire facade. Set behind the 1913 addition, the second story of the pedimented 1855 addition is visible, though window heights were reduced when the 1913 addition was built. The original Jeffersonian west facade was completely covered by the 1855 addition.

The 1913 facade is red brick, 8 ½" x 2 ½", laid in 4th course common bond. The central block projects 13" forward from the wings; it has three sets of French doors that open out onto the terrace. The architraves for these doors are 7" with one fascia and they have 11" deep jambs. Fanlights over the doors have thirteen lights with radiating muntins. The windows of the wings have 6/6 sashes with wooden panels underneath (see interior room descriptions for more details). Each wing has one set of French doors, originally opening into hallways on either side of the central room. Windows and doors have similar architraves (7" wide with one fascia) and lintels with a cornice of 6". All windows

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and doors have blinds: 23 ½” wide and 95 ½” long. They are attached by metal hinges at the midpoint and at each end; each also has a metal rod on the middle rail that acts as a brace to hold the blind open.

The terrace has a concrete floor 8'-9" wide for each wing, 12'-9" for the central block. Fourteen columns sit along the western edge, four in front of each wing, and six in front of the main block. Southwest and northwest corners of the facade have engaged ¾ columns. Intercolumniations vary slightly. The columns are Doric, made of brick coated with stucco, and rest on plinths 26" square. The base of each column flares slightly as it meets the plinth).

The columns support wooden joists. Abutting the pergola, a cornice runs the entire length of the facade. The central block has a parapet of brick above the cornice, articulated on the west facade by four equally spaced brick piers. Instead of a parapet the wings have a Chinese railing directly above the cornice.

Three sets of stairs lead from the terrace to the garden. The central set, 11' in length, has six steps, made of brick, with 14" treads and 6 ½" risers. At each edge of the terrace projection are 55" wide stairs leading to the north and south. Each set has a brick base with seven concrete steps, having 11" treads and 7" risers. Currently, the stair to the north is covered by removable ramp.

A brick wall supports the porch. In that wall two lunette windows flank the central stair. Each window has thirteen panes with radiating muntins and semicircular architrave with a 6 ½" sill.

NORTH FAÇADE

The north façade clearly exhibits the three periods of building: the original two bay structure, the 1855 addition and the guest wing. At the juncture of the 1855 addition and the wing is a projecting "shaft," from the first story to grade, containing a small toilet room at first-floor level. Only at the lower level a retaining wall holds soil away from the building.. The 1817 facade consisted of two bays laid in Flemish bond, at second floor level and in common bond with a row of headers every 4th course below. The original structure has one window on the second story. Alterations to the brickwork suggest that the ground floor window below might be an 1855 addition. The 1855 addition consists of

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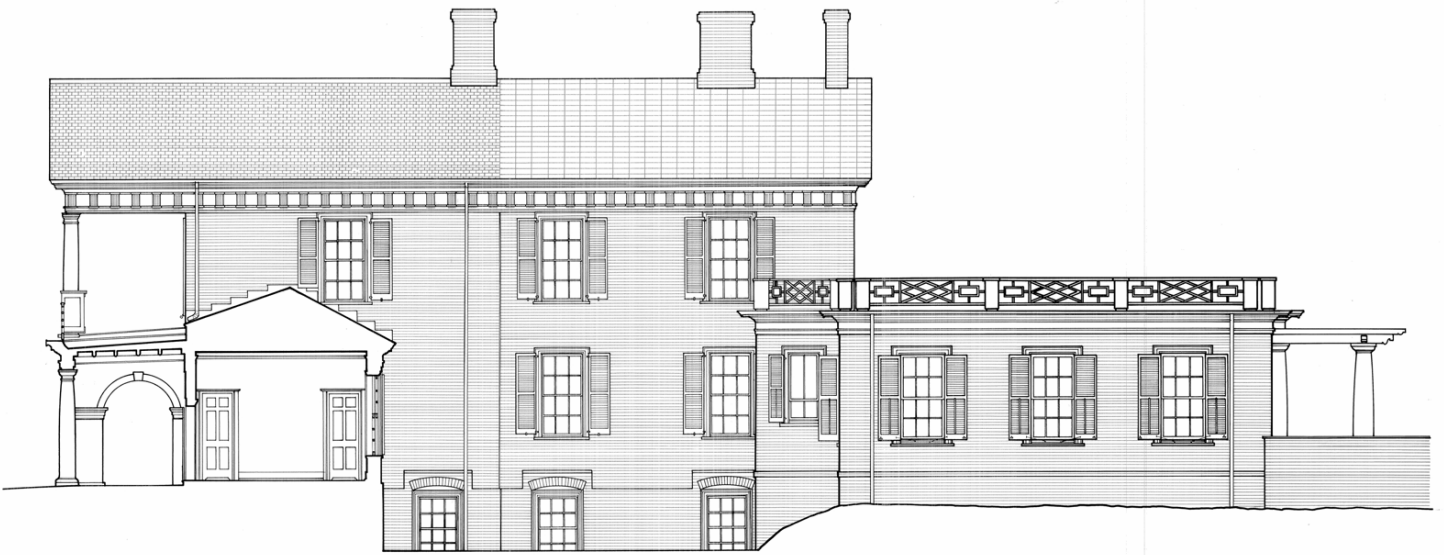
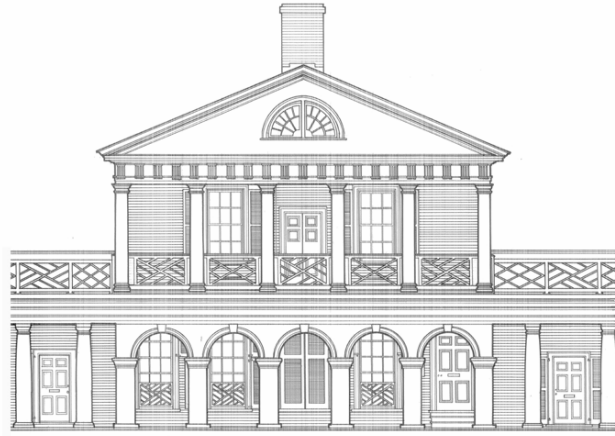


North façade of Pavilion VII

two bays. The windows and architraves imitate those on the original structure. Brick bonding is irregular but of two basic types: common bond with headers every 6th course at ground floor, common bond with alternating stretchers and headers every 6th course above.

The 1913 addition comprises one story and a basement, plus the shaft mentioned above. It is made of red brick, 8 ¼" x 2 ¼" laid in common bond with headers every 3rd course, except at the ground level portion of the shaft: where headers occur every 6th course. The windows have 6/6 sashes and blinds with curled wrought-iron holdbacks and metal adjustor rods.

The 1913 addition has a simple cornice of cavetto and ovolo moldings.



East, North and South Elevations