

University of Virginia, Pavilion IX
West Lawn, University of Virginia
Charlottesville
Virginia

HABS No. VA-193-G

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, PAVILION IX

HABS No. VA-193-G

Location: East Lawn, University of Virginia,
Charlottesville, Virginia.

Present Owner: University of Virginia.

Present Occupant: Currently occupied by Professor Norman Knorr and
his family as a private residence.

Significance: Pavilion IX is part of one of the nation's most
important architectural collections. The
University of Virginia, chartered in 1819, was
founded by Thomas Jefferson. Located on the
southwest section of the lawn, Pavilion IX is one
of ten pavilions designed by Jefferson that
comprise the original portion of the University.
The Palladian layout of the lawn is composed of
10 pavilions and 54 student rooms. Designed as
"models of good taste and architecture", the
pavilions are, for the most part, based on
specific models from classical architecture.
Pavilion IX is unique, demonstrating a break from
the traditional, and introducing the French
Neo-classic style, popular in the early
eighteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The original pavilion was completed in
September of 1821. Additions to the west facade occurred c. 1830
and 1860.
2. Architects: Thomas Jefferson was responsible for the original
design, possibly influenced by Benjamin Latrobe. The architect
of the additions is unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Pavilion IX was constructed as
part of the University of Virginia and has remained in the
University's ownership.

4. Building, contractor: Richard Ware, a resident of Philadelphia erected several of the public and private buildings at the University. It is probable that he was responsible for the construction of Pavilion Nine.
5. Original plans: Photocopies of the original Thomas Jefferson drawings are on file in the Manuscripts Room of Alderman Library at the University of Virginia. They are also available in, Thomas Jefferson's Architectural Drawings, by Fredrick D. Nichols, published in 1978, by the University of Virginia Press.
6. Alterations and Additions: Detailed information concerning the alterations and additions to Pavilion Nine is not available. Possible dates for any changes to the structure can be found in the Board of Visitors Minutes. The first alteration to Pavilion Nine occurs between 1829 & 1837, when the building was occupied by Professor Tucker. At this time the west facade was altered by a small addition, the remaining additions were added c. 1860.

The interior of the Pavilion has been altered slightly. On the basement level the rooms remain as they were, with the exception of the flooring and the fireplace in the southwest room which has been sealed. The ground floor has been opened up with the removal of the doors. A Tuscan arch was constructed in the dining room, opening it to the additions. With the addition to the west facade, several windows were sealed on the first and second floors, and a doorway constructed at the western end of the central hallway.

B. Historical Context:

The University of Virginia, chartered in 1819, was founded by Thomas Jefferson. An advocate of quality education for the common man, Jefferson began planning his academical village as early as 1816. By 1817 the site had been selected and 200 acres of land conveyed to the University by John M. Perry for \$1,518.75. Thomas Jefferson was responsible for the design of the University; possibly inspired by Union College in Schenectady New York, constructed in 1812, as well as the curriculum. With the advice of several important architects, most notably William Thornton and Benjamin Latrobe, the designs were finalized

and work began. Although Jefferson was still designing the Pavilions on the east lawn, the first corner stone was laid October 6, 1817 on Pavilion Seven, located midway on the west lawn. President Monroe officiated the opening ceremonies. Work began on the remainder of the pavilions on the west lawn soon after Pavilion Seven was started. Pavilions Three, Five, Seven and Nine were completed by September 30, 1821. The total cost of Pavilion Nine was 8,785.04, the least expensive of all the buildings.

Funds for the University were obtained by subscription. Joseph C. Cabell, John H. Cocke, and Thomas Jefferson each made an initial subscription of one thousand dollars. Each subscriber was asked to make the donation payable on April 1, 1818, in whole or in part to be paid in four installments. Through this approximately thirty-eight thousand dollars was raised. In addition, materials for construction were contributed.

Richard Ware, a resident of Philadelphia, is credited with the construction of several of the University's public and private buildings, including Pavilion Nine. Answering an ad in the Philadelphia Journal, he visited Charlottesville, submitted a bid and accepted the contract on the condition he be allowed to hire better trained brick-makers and layers from the north.

All of the materials used for the construction of the University were local, with the exception of the carrara marble, imported from Italy. The marble was used for the capitols of the Rotunda Columns, when local stones were found unsuitable for carving. The bricks manufactured by local men, Perry, Thorn, Carter, and Chamberlin, were burnt and molded in the neighborhood. The hydraulic mill, also owned by Perry and other local firms was used to supply the lumber. John Van Lew and Company, Brochenbrough and Hume, two companies from Richmond supplied the glass and hardware. The painting and glazing is credited to Edward Lauber, also of Philadelphia, and the ornamentation of the entablatures in the Pavilion drawing rooms is credited to W.J. Coffee, an expert from the north. The labor for the construction of the University was supplied by slaves, who were hired on one year contracts. John Herron, the overseer, supervised thirty-two laborers in 1821.

The first professor appointed to the University was Dr. Samuel Knox of Baltimore. Two months before construction began he accepted the professorship of languages, letters, history, geography and rhetoric. Dr. Knox's salary was five hundred dollars annually plus an additional fee of twenty-five dollars for each student enrolled in his classes.

Dr. Thomas Cooper of Pennsylvania was accepted on October 7, 1817 as professor of chemistry and also law until it could be filled. He was hired several years before classes began for a fee of three thousand, five hundred dollars per year. In 1820 the Board dismissed Dr. Cooper, due to poor financial circumstances, although Jefferson highly favored Dr. Cooper. The University settled with him for approximately one third of his annual salary.

Of the American men solicited at this time, George Tucker was the first to accept, Francis Walker Gilmer was the first to be approached but did not accept until later. Dr. John Patton Emmet, was engaged at this time to teach Natural History and Chemistry. He assumed the position of Chairman of the Faculty. The remaining professors were sought in Europe. This created a controversy, many people believing there should be enough qualified Americans to teach at the University. Professor Gilmer, selected to make the trip, traveled through Europe acquiring the services of: Dr. Roby Dunglison, as head of the Medical Department; Charles Bonneycastle as Professor of Natural Philosophy; Dr. Thomas Heuitt Key, Professor of Mathematics; Dr. Bluetterman, Instructor of Modern Languages and George Long as Professor of Latin.

These men arriving from Europe in early 1825 were the only professors present when the University opened its doors in March 7, 1825, to sixty-eight students. Professor Emmet was appointed later, George Tucker was traveling and Professor Gilmer was ill.

Professor George Tucker was the first person assigned to Pavilion Nine. In May of 1824 he was invited to accept the Chair of Ethics. At that time he was a member of Congress, representing the Lynchburg, Virginia district. Professor Tucker, almost fifty years old at the time of his appointment, was the oldest member of the faculty. Due to his experience and age he was the first elected Chairman of the Faculty. Born in Bermuda to a family important politically and socially, Tucker came to America to study law. He choose William and Mary, possibly to be close to a cousin who resided in Williamsburg.

Tucker was the most popular of all the professors "whose genality never ran dry, and who never failed to delight with his keen sense of humor, his inexhaustable fund of anecdotes and his racy information on every subject that arose in conversation."¹

In addition to his political aspirations, Tucker was also an author. He wrote several books and poems, the most popular being Valley of Shenandoah, which was reprinted in England and translated into German. Tucker also wrote numerous articles for periodicals and journals. He took his writing seriously although none of his colleagues admired his efforts, finding his reputation distracting. Though none of his books survive today in popular form, Tucker had a small following in his day. Tucker remained at the University twenty years; in 1845 he retired moving to Philadelphia in order to pursue his writing.

During his years with the University Professor Tucker was a well liked and outgoing man. While living in the Pavilion, he and his wife Maria made several changes: in 1829 and in 1837 "additions were made to the west facade, extending the whole length and elevation of the building about ten feet in width."² Tucker made the additions and changes to the rear and was later reimbursed by the University. It was also Tucker who planted the now famous McGuffey Ash.

Professor Tucker also played a role in establishing rules and regulations to govern the students. "It was due to an attack on Professor Tucker and Professor Emmet, during an early student riot, that strict rules and regulations came into force. The young men at the University were accustomed to drinking, carrying firearms, and gambling at home, with almost complete freedom they became disorderly. One evening the students had gathered and were yelling "down with European professors." Tucker and Emmett trying to break it up were attacked with a cane. This incident provoked the faculty into demanding an effective regulating policy or they would resign. The Board of Visitors under Jefferson's recommendations adopted strict regulations: students had to be in their room by nine, up at dawn, eat breakfast by candlelight and wear uniforms. Gambling, smoking and drinking were forbidden and all funds were deposited with a proctor who doled it out in small sums."³ The students remained quiet for several years, but the disturbances arose again and continued to do so throughout the University's early history.

After Tucker's retirement in 1845, Reverend William Holmes McGuffey resided in Pavilion Nine. He remained at the University until his death in 1873. McGuffey had a wide reputation as a metaphysician and lecturer. His classes were very popular and students would break into applause during his lectures. "It is said of McGuffey that he possessed an

extraordinary power to stimulate his pupils to think and reason for themselves. "He never seemed so happy," remarks Judge R.T.W. Duke, Jr., one of his pupils, "as when, with his class around him, in his lecture room, he threaded the mazes of psychological inquiry, pouring a flood of illustration on points the most obscure and perplexing, now luring on by the beauties of his imagery, now arousing the glowing fervor of his style, now going back on his course to encourage those who sluggish minds had been unable to follow him, mingling incident, and antidote, humor and pathos".⁴

In addition to being a well liked and dynamic professor, Rev. McGuffey was also the first clergy to become a member of the faculty. Although he preached in pulpits of other denominations, he was a member of the strictest sect of Presbyterians. McGuffey fought for religious reformation at the University and continued to do so until his death. In 1849 the Sons of Temperance were organized, McGuffey as well as Professors Minor and Cabell played a large role in bringing total abstinence to the University. In 1856 a Temperance Hall was dedicated (on the site of what is now referred to as The Corner). The religious instruction of the community was also important to McGuffey, who played a large role in setting up and supplying teachers to local missions. He along with other faculty members and students supplied gospel instruction in Sunday schools and worked with local negro families.

McGuffey's widest fame is derived from his McGuffey Reader's. The Eclectic Readers and Spellers were the most popular works of that type for years, over 122,000,000 copies have been sold. According to legend the Ash tree was named for McGuffey, who was said to have gathered small children under the tree teaching them from his readers.

During the Civil War the Pavilions fell into disrepair. Although it is not clear exactly what additions and repairs took place after the war, it is probable the porch on the west facade was added. McGuffey an ardent supporter of the south remained in the Pavilion through the war and until his death in 1873.

After Reverend McGuffey's death, Colonel William E. Peters resided in Pavilion Nine until 1906. Peters was a professor of latin concentrating on grammar and syntax. Also part of his curriculum was a course in sanskrit. His most noted quality was his love of accuracy and exactness, "he had a pervasive and insistant personality in the classroom and was a postmaster

in the art of cross questioning. He did not use the club of sarcasm or the rapier of ridicule in dealing with his students. He demand^d proper respect for recognized authority and proper performance of known duty. But he was heartily loved."⁵ He was a domineering figure and successful instructor.

Col. Peters was held in high regard by his peers and the students. As well as being a distinguished and demanding professor, Peters was also admired for his bravery in the Civil War.

An intense and earnest man, Peters was instrumental in the construction of Fayerweather Hall, a new gym which opened in September of 1893. He also served on the faculty committee to solicit funds for the reconstruction of the Rotunda after the fire. In July of 1893, Peters supported a petition advocating the admission of women to the University. Recommendations were drawn up and filed in 1894 by the committee. Peters was one of four out of sixteen professors supporting the proposal which was voted out on September 15, 1895. Professor Col. W. E. Peters remained with the University until just after the turn of the century.

In 1902 Professor Thomas Fitzhugh took over the Chair of Latin occupied by Peters. Fitzhugh, a student from 1879 until 1883, received his masters of Arts from the University of Virginia. Upon his resignation in 1899, Peters urged the appointment of Fitzhugh, who was approved. After his approval he was given a leave of absence to complete his studies in Europe. Upon the death of his wife, Fitzhugh returned to America and came to the University. At this time the School of Moral Philosophy and Mathematics were the only original schools that had not been altered by subdivision.

Acheson Hench was the next occupant of Pavilion Nine, he remained there until 1963, when Bob J. Harris moved in. Professor Harris occupied the pavilion until 1978. After the Harris' departed the family of Norman Knorr, the current occupants, moved in. Detailed information on the careers of Professors Hench, Harris and Knorr is not available. For further information on the history of the pavilion occupants or the University of Virginia see the bibliography listings.

Footnotes

¹Phillip Alexander Bruce, History of the University of Virginia (New York: Venis Publishing Company, 1904), p. 33.

²Board of Regents Minutes, University of Virginia. VLI, p. 227.

³Virginius Dabney, Mr. Jefferson's University (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1981), p. 8.

⁴Bruce, p. 91.

⁵Dabney, p. 3.

II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Pavilion Nine is two stories, resting on a full basement. The federal style building constructed in 1821 illustrates the influence of the French Neo-classic style. Originally square in form, subsequent additions have given it a rectangular shape. "The major motif of the pavilion is a block with low wings and a domed niche door opening, it is similar to C.N. Ledoux's Hotel Guimard, constructed in 1770. Jefferson's expressed concern for what he calls cubic and spherical architecture illustrates his awareness of the trends of the French Neo-classic. Pavilion Nine represents a contemporary approach to architecture."¹

Endnote

1. William H. Pierson, Jr., American Buildings and Their Architects (Garden City, New York: Anchor Press/Doubleday, 1976), p. 330-332.
2. Condition of the Fabric: Pavilion Nine is well maintained and in good physical condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: The East (front) facade is divided into three bays, originally all facades consisted of three bays. Currently, the east facade is the only one to retain its original appearance. The symmetrical building measures 30'2" across and 40'4" in depth. The east facade features an exedra, with two Ionic columns set in antis. The design of the columns was taken from the Temple of Fortuna Virilis.
2. Foundation: The structure rests on a full basement constructed of brick, with a plain watertable.
3. Roof: Pavilion Nine is covered by a low pitched hipped roof, finished with slate shingles.
4. Chimney: Located centrally in the hipped roof the chimney serves six fireplaces. The chimney is constructed of brick corbeled at the top.

5. Openings

- A. Doors: The front double doorway is located centrally in the curve of the exedra. The three paneled doors are set in a 4'6" by 7'3" opening. Each door measures 1'8½" wide with brass hardware. The opening is finished with a decorative molding.

The west facade consists of a porch on both levels, on the first floor, two doors open onto the porch. The main entrance is a three paneled door topped by an overscaled fanlight. The secondary entrance is a double door also topped by a light. The second floor has a centrally positioned paneled door, balanced on either side by a double hung window.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plan: Pavilion Nine is based on a central hall plan with two rooms on either side. This plan is reflected in the basement and second floor. The ground floor has one large room on the south side which originally served as a classroom, now functioning as the living room.
2. Basement: The full basement follows the plan of the second floor, with two smaller rooms to the north of the hallway, a large room (originally the kitchen) and the stair hall to the south.
3. First Floor: The main entrance leads into a central hall. On the north is the living room, which measures 29'2" by 14'10½". Following the living room is the kitchen, a modern addition. To the south of the hall is the stair hall and the dining room. The arched opening in the dining room leads to a study which is a later addition.
4. Second Floor: To the north of the central hallway are two bedrooms. Directly beyond the bedrooms is a modern bathroom. To the south of the hall is the stair hall and a large bedroom, which originally functioned as the parlor.
5. Stairway: Pavilion Nine is the only Pavilion designed with an open stairwell. The stairs running the full height of the house open into a large stair hall on each level. The open staircase is decorated with ornamented brackets and a plain stair railing. The balustrade and newel are undecorated.

6. Flooring: The flooring in the Pavilion is of pine wood. The planks running in an eastwest direction are of random widths, approximately 4½" to 7". The basement floor originally bricked is now covered with linoleum. The kitchen and bathrooms are also linoleum.
7. Wall and Ceiling Finish: The walls and ceilings are plastered, each room is trimmed with a baseboard and an undecorated cornice, with the exception of the northwest bedroom on the second floor, which has a highly decorated cornice.
8. Doors & Doorways: Typical doorways measure approximately 4'4" by 7'6", and are trimmed by a simple molding. The doors on the first floor have been removed.
9. Fireplaces and Mantels: Each of the rooms has a brick fireplace located in a projecting chimney breast, ^{with} it has a rectangular opening trimmed with architrave molding and dentil work. The basement fireplace in the northeast room has been plastered; the fireplace in the southeast room, originally used for cooking measures 8'3", has an arched opening trimmed in bricks. All of the fireplaces have brick hearths.

D. Site

1. General: As part of the original portion of the University, Pavilion Nine has maintained its original form. The structure faces east onto the lawn, with gardens to the west of the building. Pavilion Nine is balanced on either side by student rooms and is tied to the rest of the lawn by the colonades.
2. Landscaping and Enclosures: The gardens, part of Jeffersons original design, located west of Pavilion Nine, are enclosed by serpentine walls. The garden measures approximately 88' by 115'. Pavilion Nine's garden consists of an informal plan focusing on the McGuffy Ash planted in 1826.

E. Sources of Information

1. Barringer, Paul Brandon, James Mercer Garnett and Rosewell Page. University of Virginia: Its History, Influence, Equipment and Characteristics. New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1904.

2. Board of Regents Minutes, University of Virginia, 1829-1982.
3. Bruce, Phillip Alexander. History of the University of Virginia. New York: MacMillan, 1920-1922.
4. Cabell, Nathaniel Francis. Early History of the University of Virginia: As Contained in the Letters of Thomas Jefferson and Joseph C. Cabell. Richmond: C.H. Wayne, Printer.
5. Culbreth, David M.R. The University of Virginia: Memories of Her Student Life and Professors. New York and Washington: The Neale Publishing Company, 1908.
6. Dabney, Virginius. Mr. Jefferson's University. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1981.
7. Patton, John Shelton. The University of Virginia: Glimpses of its Past and Present. Lynchburg: J.P. Bell Company Printers, 1900.
8. Pierson, Jr., William H. American Buildings and Their Architects; The Colonial and Neo-Classical Styles. Garden City, New York: Dutton Press/Doubleday, 1976.

III: PROJECT INFORMATION

This documentation was produced by the School of Architecture at the University of Virginia, under the direction of K. Edward Lay, Professor of Architecture. It was done during the Spring Semester of 1982 by Sharman E. Roberts, Graduate Student in Architectural History. The documentation was donated to the Historic American Buildings Survey. It was not produced under the supervision of HABS, nor edited by members of the HABS staff.

Addendum to
University of Virginia, Pavilion IX
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Albemarle County
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