

## Slave Housing Data Base

**Building Name:** 2302 East Grace St. Outbuilding

**Evidence Type:** Extant; Kitchen-Quarter

**Historical Site Name:** Hillary Baker property

**City or Vicinity:** Richmond

**State:** Virginia

**Investigators:** Douglas W. Sanford, Dennis J. Pogue

**Institutions:** Center for Historic Preservation, University of Mary Washington;  
University of Maryland

**Project Start:** 6/10/15

**Project End:** 6/19/15

### Summary Description:

The substantial brick outbuilding associated with the main house at 2302 Grace St. is a two-story, two-bay, side-gable-roofed structure, laid in 7:1 common bond and measuring 16' 3" (E-W) by 20' 11.5" (N-S). The building is positioned to the rear (north) of the main house, on the east side and @two-thirds of the way back on the lot. Along with its proximity to the dwelling, the quality of the outbuilding's construction – made of brick, with a symmetrical façade, and two occupied floors with one heated chamber – fits the pattern for multi-use buildings that combined housing for slaves with spaces used as kitchens, laundries, and other support functions, frequently found in Richmond and in other southern urban contexts.

The west-facing façade is symmetrical, composed of a doorway and a window on the first level and two windows directly above. A wide opening for a set of double doors has been inserted in the north end wall. The rear elevation has two windows irregularly spaced on the first floor. Two windows are on the second floor, which align with those on the façade, and two doorways are positioned side-by-side and centered on the wall between the windows. An open wood stair rises along the rear wall from the south to a covered landing in front of the entries. An interior chimney is centered on the south end wall, serving a fireplace in the single downstairs room and one of the two chambers on the second floor. The upstairs rooms are roughly equal in size, separated by a thin (0.75") vertical board wall; the floors are wood. The three single-leaf doors are board-and-batten; all the windows are wood, 6/6 double hung sash.

At roughly 300sf the first floor would have been more than adequate to serve as a kitchen, although the fireplace, which has been infilled, was relatively small at 4'6.5" wide and is the same size as the one in the chamber above. The floor of the first level currently is earth, and there are no indications of a previous wood floor supported by joists, or for a brick-laid surface. An opening in the ceiling joists indicates that a stairway was located in the NE corner of the first floor room rising along the north wall to provide access to the chamber above. As the north chamber was unheated the connection with the downstairs may indicate that the upper space was quarters for workers associated with activities carried out on the floor below. Remnants of a second opening in the ceiling

indicates that the original staircase was later replaced, probably by a removable ladder, very likely when the double doors were installed. Another as yet unexplained alteration consisted of rebuilding the lower six feet of the south wall on either side of the chimney.

The main house was constructed ca. 1813 and the outbuilding is indicated as a “kitchen” – brick with a wood roof – on policies of the Mutual Assurance Society from 1817, 1829, and 1834. The main house and the outbuilding were constructed by Hillary Baker, who was listed in the 1820 U.S. Census as owning three slaves, and employing six “free colored persons.” The character of the two second floor rooms points to their having served as quarters, with the kitchen below. The fireplace opening was closed off and a stove was later installed, with traces of the hole for the stove pipe evident above the infilled opening. Both documentary sources and evidence from other buildings indicate that stoves began to replace fireplaces in slave quarters by the second decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, used both as a heat source and for cooking. It is highly unlikely that the outbuilding at 2302 Grace St. could have been built many years before ca. 1817, the date of the Mutual Assurance Society policy that identified the building as a kitchen.

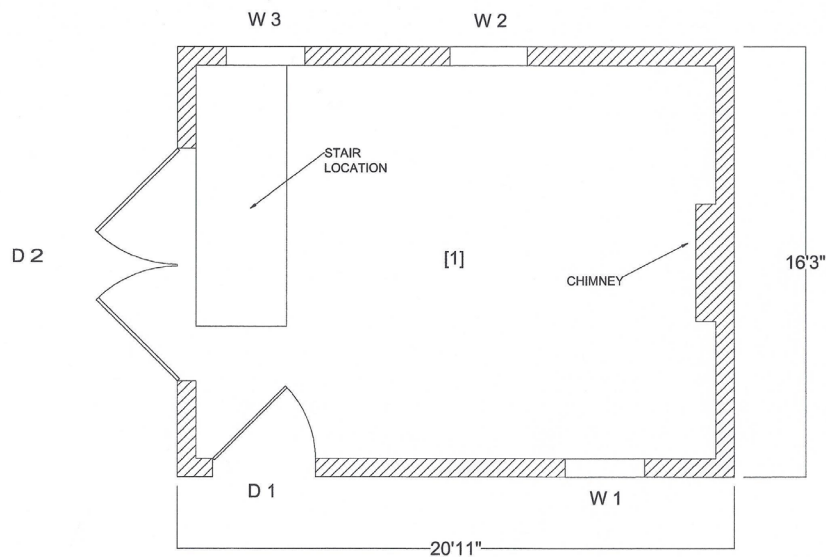
### **Bibliography:**

Mutual Assurance Society Policy (1817, 1829, 1833)

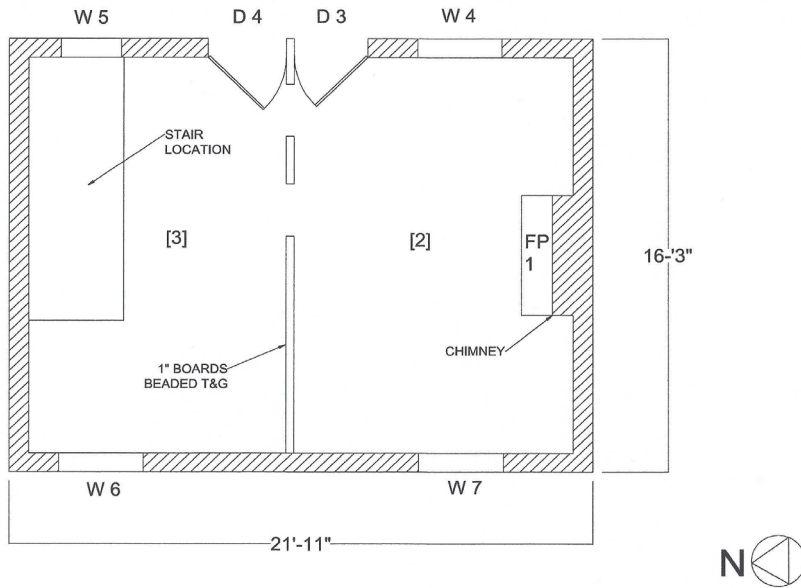
**Principal Construction Type:** Masonry, brick

**Two Story**

**Footprint: First Floor**



**Footprint: Second Floor**



**Number of Rooms:** 3 (1 down, 2 up)

- Dimensions:** (1) Downstairs; 14'10" (east-west) x 19'5.5" (north-south); 7'9" high (to bottom of ceiling joists)  
 (2) Upstairs, south room; 14'10" (east-west) x 10' (north-south); 7'1.5" high  
 (3) Upstairs, north room; 14'10" (east-west) x 9'3.5" (north-south); 7'1.5" high

**Doors: 6**

	(1) Rm. 1, W. wall	(2) Rm. 1, N. wall	(3) Rm. 2, exterior
<b>Type:</b>	Board & batten; tongue & groove beaded boards	Board & batten (double door)	Board & batten; tongue & grooved beaded boards
<b>Dimensions:</b>	Doorway - 3 ft. 4.5 in. (W) x 6 ft. 6.5 in. (high, header to brick threshold); Door measures 2 ft. 8.25 in. (W) x 5 ft. 10.5 in. (H)	8 ft. 9.75 in. (W, brick to brick) x 7 ft. 7.5 in. (H, header to brick threshold); framed opening is 8 ft. 1.75 in. wide	2 ft. 6.75 in. (W) x 5 ft. 11.5 in. (H)
<b>Hardware:</b>	Modern cross garnet hinges; modern hasp and hook & eye	Strap hinges (modern)	Modern hasp; stock lock & ceramic knob; sliding bolt (modern); 3 knuckle butt hinges
<b>Swing:</b>	In	Out	In

<b>Replacement:</b>	Yes	Yes, post-Civil War insertion	Possibly original door
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	<b>(4) Rm. 3, exterior</b>	<b>(5) Partition, E. end</b>	<b>(6) Partition, middle</b>
<b>Type:</b>	Board & batten; tongue & groove beaded boards	Missing	Beaded, tongue & groove boards
<b>Dimensions:</b>	2 ft. 7 in. (W) x 5 ft. 11.5 in. (H)	1 ft. 11 in. (W) x 6 ft. 0 in. (H)	1 ft. 11.75 in. (W) x 5 ft. 10.25 in. (H)
<b>Hardware:</b>	Earlier dating locks; now w/slide bolt; 3 knuckle butt hinges	Missing; eye hooks present	Butterfly butt hinges
<b>Swing:</b>	In	In (into Rm. 2)	In (into Rm. 2)
<b>Replacement:</b>	No; likely original	Later insertion into original partition	Later insertion into original partition; has been nailed shut

**Windows: 7**

	<b>(1) Rm. 1, W. wall</b>	<b>(2) Rm. 1, E. wall</b>	<b>(3) Rm. 1, E. wall</b>
<b>Type:</b>	Double hung sash, 6/6	Double hung sash, 6/6	Double hung sash, 6/6
<b>Dimensions:</b>	Opening: 3 ft. 0 in. (W) x 4 ft. 8 in. (H)	Opening: 2 ft. 11 in. (W) x 4 ft. 5 in. (H)	3 ft. 0.5 in. (W) x 4 ft. 4.75 in. (H)
<b>Hardware:</b>	None	None	None
<b>Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:</b>	Replaced frame and sash (modern reuse)	Replaced frame and sash (modern reuse)	Replaced frame and sash (modern reuse)

	(4) Rm. 2, E. wall	(5) Rm. 3, E. wall	(6) Rm. 3, W. wall
<b>Type:</b>	Double hung sash; 6/6	Double hung sash; 6/6	Double hung sash; 6/6
<b>Dimensions:</b>	Brick opening: 3 ft. 1 in. (W) x 4 ft. 6 in. (H)	Brick opening: 3 ft. 0.5 in. (W) x 4 ft. 4 in. (H)	Brick opening: 3 ft. 0 in. (W) x 4 ft. 5 in. (H)
<b>Hardware:</b>	None	None	None
<b>Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:</b>	Replacement	Replacement	Replacement

	(7) Rm. 2, W. wall
<b>Type:</b>	Double hung sash; 6/6
<b>Dimensions:</b>	Brick opening: 3 ft. 0.5 in. (W) x 4 ft. 5 in. (H)
<b>Hardware:</b>	None
<b>Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:</b>	Replacement

## EXTERIOR

### Foundation:

**Continuous Masonry:** Brick

**Thickness:** 8.5"

**Height:** continuous with wall above

**Bond:** Common – 7:1

**Mortar Type:** Sand

**Joint:** cannot observe, covered by repairs

**Repaired:** Yes, extensively

**Shed/Porch:** No; but shed roof over rear stair landing

**Roof:**

**Roof Form:** Gable

**Roof Covering:** Standing seam sheet metal

**Roof Framing:**

**Exposed:** No (visible thru holes in plaster ceiling)

**Form:** Common Rafters

**Rafter Number:** 9 pairs

**Rafter Dimensions:** 4" (H) x 3" (W)

**Collar Ties:** Yes

**Collar Dimensions:** 3.5" to 5.0" high (cannot reach collars for lengths)

**Method of Joining:** spiked with machine-cut nails

**Height from Roof Peak:** cannot be reached

**Height to Floor:** bottom of collar to top of joist: 3'0"; top of joist to rafter peak: 6'6.5"

**Building Height:**

**Ground to top of chimney:** 21'11.75"

**Ground to roof Apex:** 18'11.5"

**Ground to Top of Eave:** 16'0"; to bottom of eave: 15'5" (at NW corner)

**Walls:**

**Masonry:** Brick

**Number of Courses:**

**Bond:** Common – 7:1

**Mortar Type:** Sand

**Joint:** cannot be observed due to extensive repairs

**Repaired:** Yes

**Chimney(s):**

**Chimney (1):**

**Material:** Brick

**Location:** Interior, south end wall

**Height:** 21'11.75 " (from ground)

INTERIOR

**Wall Framing:** N/A; brick

**Wall Finish:** Whitewash and paint on brick

**Fireplace (1):** Centered on south end wall (Room 1); infilled with brick

**Fireplace Material:** Brick

**Fireplace Overall Dimensions:** 4'6.5" (east-west) x 0'9" (north-south)

**Fireplace Opening Dimensions:** 2'4" (W) x 2'9" (H) x 0'9" (deep)

**Hearth Material:** None observed

**Fireplace (2):** Centered on south end wall (Room 2)

**Fireplace Material:** Brick

**Fireplace Overall Dimensions:** 4'6.5" (east-west) x 0'9" (north-south)

**Fireplace Opening Dimensions:** none observed; only hole for stove pipe (likely original)

**Hearth Material:** Stone

**Hearth Dimensions:** 4'8" (east-west) x 1'10.5" (north-south)

**Stairs:** Yes -- Rm. 1, former interior stairs, removed; exterior stairs are modern a replacement

**Type:** In Room 1, presumed open stringer (none surviving at present)

**Stairwell Dimensions:** 3'0.5" (wide) x 9'10.5" (long, east-west)

A second, later stair opening exists at the eastern end of the above stair opening. It measures 3'0.5" (north-south) x 2'11" (east-west). It presumably had a simple ladder stair, which likely was used when the original interior stairs were removed when the double doors on the north gable end wall were inserted.

**Subfloor Pit:** No

**Floor:** Room 1, earth; Rooms 2-3, wood

**Dating:**

**Dendrochronology Date:** none

**Other Date:** ca. 1817 based on Mutual Assurance Society policy

**Dating Evidence:**

**Saw Marks:** Sash Sawn

**Nails:** Machine Cut

**Comments:**

The documentary records indicate that the structure functioned as a kitchen (MAS and personal communication of the property owner); the physical evidence points to the two second floor rooms having served as quarters. The fireplace in the single first floor room is somewhat small for a kitchen function, however. It is highly unlikely that the outbuilding at 2302 Grace St. could have been built many years before the ca. 1817 date provided by the Mutual Assurance Society policy, which identified the building as a kitchen in that year.

**The structure was extensively renovated in 2017.**