

Slave Housing Data Base

Building Name: Banks Farm Kitchen and Slave Quarter

Evidence Type: Extant

Historical Site Name: Within the Pamplin Historical Park property

City or Vicinity: Petersburg

County: Dinwiddie

State: Virginia

Investigators: Douglas W. Sanford, Dennis J. Pogue

Institutions: UMW Center for Historic Preservation; University of Maryland

Project Start: 9/11/2015

Project End: 9/11/2015

Summary Description:

The Banks Farm slave dwelling is a 1½-story frame structure, with a moderately pitched, wood-shingled side-gable roof, supported by stone piers and enclosed with horizontal wood weatherboards. The building is roughly 17'4" by 32'4", with a brick chimney positioned off-center, serving fireplaces in the two unequally sized ground floor rooms and two rooms in the garret. The east-facing façade is generally symmetrical, with a doorway located near each corner and two windows in between; two windows are regularly placed in the rear wall, and there is one four-pane window in the north gable. The structure is arranged as a duplex, with doorways opening into the two first floor rooms, which were separated by a partition, with ladder stairs in the front corners providing access to each of the garret rooms above. The expansive fireplace opening in the larger north room (stone below the lintel, brick above) supports the interpretation that this space served as the kitchen, serving the Banks farmhouse located a few hundred feet to the east; the other three rooms presumably served as dwelling space for the enslaved workers.

The structure underwent extensive renovations over the years, and was restored to its current configuration in the early 2000s when the Banks farm complex was incorporated into the Pamplin Historical Park. During that work the roof covering was replaced and the rafters were repaired and/or sistered with dimensional lumber and many of the skip-sheathing boards were replaced – original diagonal wind braces remain at the southeast and northwest corners. Much of the horizontal siding on the north and west walls also was replaced; the stone piers were rebuilt, the box cornice was altered, and the doors and windows were refurbished. On the interior, the first floor joists were replaced along with the floorboards (reused material), as well as sections of the plates and a number of the ceiling joists. The stairways to the garret were altered as well, although the stair in the southeast corner appears to consist of primarily original material; the garret partition has been removed. On the first floor the partition separating the two rooms was repositioned a few feet to the south, making the north room that much larger, and an opening was cut into the wall on the west side which now provides direct access between the rooms. The south room has been enclosed with unpainted horizontal boards; the walls of the north room are exposed, with posts in each corner and one post on each long wall near the

center of the structure; angled up-braces are attached to the posts. Studs are placed at roughly a 2' interval; the members are left in the round except for a flattened exterior face. Nail holes in the inner face of the studs and posts indicate that this room had been sided as well; there is no evidence of whitewash or plaster on the frame or the inner face of the siding on the first floor or in the garret.

References:

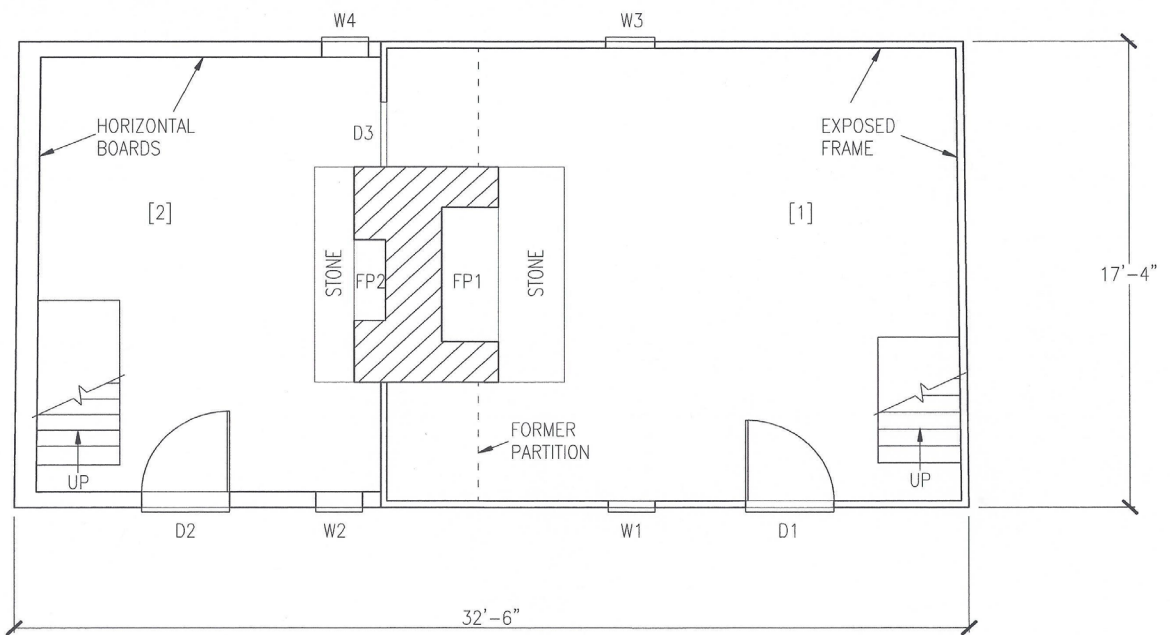
Don Swofford and Associates, Charlottesville, VA, *Historic Structure Report* (1999).

John Mott, et al., Correspondence and Specifications, John Miler Associates.

Principal Construction Type: Frame

One Story – With Garret (attic)

Footprint:



○ First Floor Plan
 Drawn by: Teresa Boegler

Scale: 3/2" = 1'-0"

Number of Rooms: two rooms downstairs; two rooms in garret

Dimensions: (1) 16' 9" (E-W) x 19'10"-20' 0" (N-S) x 8' 9½" (H)
 (2) 16' 8¼" (E-W) x 16'1½" (N-S) x 8' 9½" (H)

Doors: 2

	(1) Rm. 1	(2) Rm. 2
Type:	Board & batten	Board & batten
Dimensions:	3' ¾" (W) x 5' 5¼" (H) x 1" thick	2' 11½" (W) x 5' 7¾" (H) x 1" thick
Hardware:	Thumb latch; iron box lock; HL hinges w/wrought nails (reproduction)	Thumb latch; iron box lock; HL hinges w/wrought nails (reproduction)
Swing:	In	In
Replacement:	Yes	Old

Windows: 5

	(1) Rm. 1	(2) Rm. 2	(3) Rm. 1
Type:	4/4; single hung sash	4/4; single hung sash	4/4; single hung sash
Dimensions:	1' 7" (W) x 3' 9" (H)	1' 7" (W) x 3' 9" (H)	1' 7" (W) x 3' 9" (H)
Hardware:	None	None	None
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:			

	(4) Rm. 2	(5) N. Gable
Type:	4/4; Single hung sash	4-pane fixed sash
Dimensions:	1' 7" (W) x 3' 9" (H)	

Hardware:	None	None
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:		

EXTERIOR

Foundation:

Masonry Piers: Stone
Number: 5/3/5/3
Dimensions: 1' 3"--1' 8" x @9"
Height: 1' 1" (at the NW corner)
Mortar Type: Portland cement
Repaired: Reconstructed (modern)

Shed/Porch: No

Roof:

Roof Form: Gable
Roof Covering: Wood shingles (modern replacement)
Roof Framing:
Exposed: Yes
Form: Common Rafters
Rafter Number: 17 pairs
Rafter Dimensions: 3" (W) x 2³/₄" – 3 ³/₄" (H)
Collar Ties: Yes
Collar Dimensions: 3" mortise
Method of Joining: lapped & spiked w/2 rectangular nails
Height from floor to Roof Peak: 8' 0"
Height from bottom of Collar to Floor: 5' 10" to 5' 11¹/₂"

Building Height:

Ground to Soffit: 10' 6" (NW) **Siding to Soffit:** 9' 4³/₄" (NW)
Ground to Apex: 20' 3³/₄" (N) **Siding to Apex:** 19' 2¹/₄" (N)
Ground to Top of Eave: 11' 4³/₄" (NW) **Siding to Top of Eave:** 10' 6" (NW)

Walls:

Frame:

Material: Wood
Cladding: Horizontal
Beaded: No

Chimney(s):

Chimney (1):

Material: Brick (above fireplace), Stone (below)

Location: Interior – Center

INTERIOR

Wall Framing: Exposed; posts, up-braces, studs (4 3/5" x 5 1/4" dia.), plate (6 3/4" by 4 3/4")

Wall Finish: Horizontal boards (south room); nail evidence in north room

Ceiling Height: 8' 9 1/2"; joists 3 x 5", on 2' centers

Fireplace (1): Center (north side of partition)

Fireplace Material: Stone below lintel; brick above

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 8' 0" (E-W) x 4' 9" (N-S)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 4' 11" (W) x 4' 2" (H) x 1' 11" (D)

Hearth Material: Stone

Hearth Dimensions: 8' 0" (E-W) x 2' 3 1/2" (N-S)

Fireplace (2): Center (south side of partition)

Fireplace Material: Stone below lintel; brick above

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 8' 0" (E-W) x 4' 9" (N-S)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 3 ft. 0 in. (W) x 2 ft. 8 in. (H) x 1 ft. 1 in. (D)

Hearth Material: Stone

Hearth Dimensions: 8' 0" (E-W) x 1' 3" (N-S)

Fireplace (3): Center (Above Room 1)

Fireplace Material: Brick

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 6' 0" (E-W)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 2' 6 1/2" (W) x 2' 5" (H, top of arch) x 1' 6" (D)

Hearth Material: Brick

Hearth Dimensions: 6' 1" (E-W) x 1' 0" (N-S)

Fireplace (4): Center (above Room 2)

Fireplace Material: Brick

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 6' 0" (E-W)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 2' 6 1/2" (W) x 2' 4 3/4" (H, top of arch) x 1' 6" (D)

Hearth Material: Brick

Hearth Dimensions: 6' 1" (E-W) x 1' 0" (N-S)

Stairs: Yes (1 in each downstairs room)

Type: Ladder

Stairwell Dimensions: 4' 10" x 2' 10¼"

Number of Treads: 10 (in Room 2)

Stair Tread Dimensions: 2' 6¼" (L) x 0' 9" (W) x 0' 9½" (H, rise)

Subfloor Pit: No

Floor: Wood – current boards cut/scribed around wall studs

Floorboards Dimension: Range from 7-8" wide to 10-11" wide

Dating Evidence:

Saw Marks: Sash Sawn – [circular sawn for replacements]

Nails: Machine Cut – [wire for repairs, replacements]

Comments:

Structure underwent major restoration in the early 2000s.