

Slave Housing Data Base

Building Name: Ben Lomond Quarter
Evidence Type: Extant
Historical Site Name: Ben Lomond Plantation
City or Vicinity: Manassas
County: Prince William
State: Virginia

Investigators: Dennis Pogue
Institutions: Mount Vernon Ladies' Association
Project: NEH
Start: 7-19-07 **End:** 12-12/07

Additional Investigators: Michael Worthington
Institutions: Oxford Dendrochronological Laboratory
Project: NEH/Dendro
Start: 12-12-07 **End:** 12-12-07

Summary Description:

The Ben Lomond Quarter is a one-story, side-gable roofed stone building, @23'2" by 18'1" in dimension, which originally consisted of two rooms on the first floor, each with an end chimney (fireplaces now blocked), divided by a wooden partition (no longer extant, but undergoing restoration in December 2007) nailed to the face of the sixth joist from the west. Each room is accessed directly from the outside via doorways placed in the south façade, with windows positioned opposite the doorways in the north wall; the window in the west room had been enlarged into a doorway (and was undergoing restoration in December 2007). A slow doorway located in the east gable provided exterior access to the garret, but there is no stair at present and there is no visible evidence to indicate where it may have been located. Remnants of mud-and-hair plaster remain on the surface of the first floor walls; there is evidence for whitewashing in both the first-floor rooms and the attic space. The building has been dendro-dated to circa 1834. The building was moved circa 1979 from a location on one side of the main house to its current site on the other side.

A framed opening between the joists in the ceiling in room no. 1 (positioned between the window and the non-extant partition) provides access to the attic, but round nails used to attach the header indicate that the opening was a later addition. Evidence consisting of ghosts and nail holes indicate that there were two iterations of the partition, now gone, with the first partition attached with cut nails (based on rectangular nail holes). Framing throughout is oak, pitsawn and hewn. Windows were positioned in the rear wall, one in each room. The window in room no. 1 has been broken out to accommodate a doorway. There is one window in each gable in the attic, along with what appears to be a short door in the north gable.

As of December 2007, the building was undergoing restoration by the Prince William County Parks Department. The major changes consisted of reinstalling the partition and a stairway to the

garret, and reestablishing the window in room no. 1.

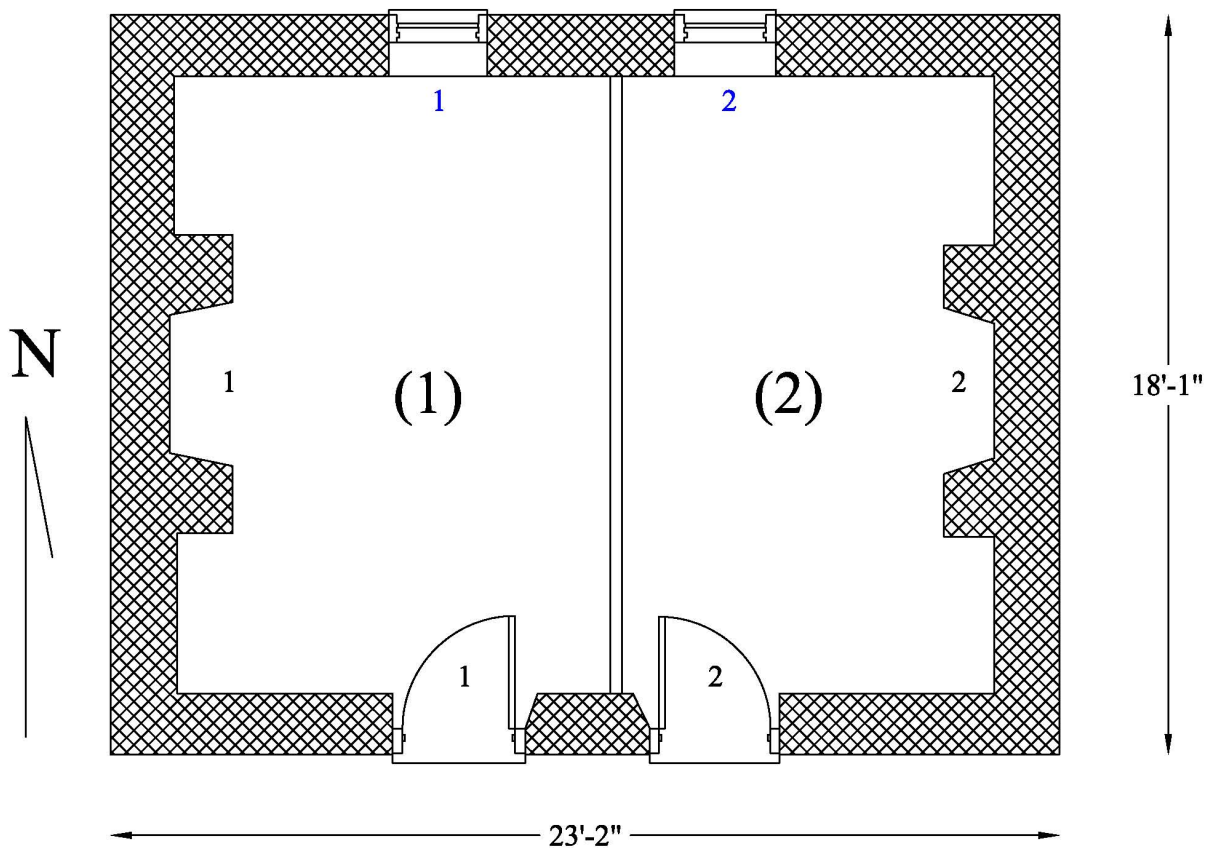
Bibliography:

Miles and Worthington *The Tree-Ring Dating of Eight Virginia Slave Houses* (2009)

Principal Construction Type: Masonry (stone)

One Story – with Garret

Period I Footprint:



Exterior Dimensions: 23' 2 1/2" by 18' 2"

Current Number of Rooms: 2 (1 down, 1 up)

Dimensions of downstairs room: 20' 1" by 15' 2"

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

Dimensions: (1) 15' 2" by 10' 10"

(2) 15' 2" by 9' 3"

Doors: 2 (both modern replacements) on first floor; 1 (modern replacement) in gable in garret

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Type:	B&B	B&B	B&B
Dimensions:	74" by 38 ½"	75" by 41"	48" by 25"
Hardware:	modern	modern	modern
Swing:	In	In	Out
Replacement:	Yes	Yes	Yes

Windows: 4 (2 on first floor – one of which has been enlarged to accommodate a door – 2 in garret)

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Type:	shuttered	shuttered	shuttered
Dimensions:	44" by 28 ½" (original opening)	44" by 28 ½"	22" by 182"
Hardware:	modern	modern	modern
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	?	?	?

	(4)
Type:	shuttered
Dimensions:	22" by 18"
Hardware:	modern

EXTERIOR

Foundation:

Continuous Masonry: Stone (Rubble)

Thickness: @18"

Height: 6"

Bond: Random

Mortar Type: Concrete

Joint: Flush

Repaired: Yes

Shed/Porch: No

Roof:

Roof Form: Gable

Roof Covering: Wooden shingles (replaced)

Roof Framing:

Exposed: Yes

Form: Common Rafters

Rafter Number: 12 pair -- irregular spacing (18-36")

Rafter Dimensions: ranging from 3 1/2" by 3 3/4" to 2 1/2" by 3 1/4" –
pitsawn/hewn

Collar Ties: Yes

Collar Dimensions: irregular: 1 1/2" by 2 1/2" to 2" by 3 1/2"

Method of Joining: half-dove-tailed, pitsawn/hewn

Height from Floor to Roof Peak: 7' 1"

Height from Floor to Collars: 5' 4"

Roof pitch: Rise over run: 9 3/4" over 12"

Building Height:

Ground to Soffit: 7' 10"

Walls:

Masonry: Stone -- 18" thick

Bond: Random

Mortar Type: Cement

Joint: Flush

Repaired: Yes

Chimney(s):

Chimney (1):

Material: Stone

Location: Interior/End

Height: from ground surface to top of chimney 19' 2 1/2"
Chimney (2):
Material: Stone
Location: Interior/End
Height: from ground surface to top of chimney 19' 4 1/2"

INTERIOR

Wall Framing: none
Wall Finish: Clay/plaster – whitewashed

Fireplace (1): End

Fireplace Material: Stone
Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 7' by 18"
Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 4' by 3'
Hearth Material: none
Hearth Dimensions: unknown

Fireplace (2): End

Fireplace Material: Stone
Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 7' by 18"
Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 4' by 3'
Hearth Material: none
Hearth Dimensions: unknown

Stairs: No

Type: Unknown
Stairwell Dimensions: 5'5" by 2'9"
Number of Treads: unknown
Stair Tread Dimensions: unknown

Joists: 12 (4 replaced) -- spacing: 18"-26"
Joists: 2-2 3/4" by 5 3/4-6"
Floor to bottom of joists: 7' 1"

Subfloor Pit: No evidence – building moved
Floor: Wood (modern)

Dating:

Dendrochronology Date: circa 1834
Dating Evidence:

Saw Marks: Pit Sawn
Nails: Machine cut in original elements -- wire in stair opening