

Slave Housing Data Base

Building Name: Clermont Farm Log Building

Evidence Type: Extant

Historical Site Name: McCormick Farm

City or Vicinity: Berryville

County: Clarke

State: VA

Investigators: Douglas Sanford, Luan Cao, Liz Fedowitz, Katie Hummelt; Dennis Pogue

Institutions: Department of Historic Preservation, University of Mary Washington;

University of Maryland

Project Start: 3/1/2010

Project End: 8/31/15

Additional Investigators: Dan Miles

Institutions: Oxford Dendrochronological Laboratory

Project Start: 5/23/10

Project End: 5/23/10

Summary Description:

The Clermont Farm log building is a one-story, four-bay structure that was built to serve as quarters for enslaved workers and then was adapted as housing for tenants and farm employees; the building has been dendro-dated to 1822. The log building is located @100 feet to the west of the main Clermont house, which is a highly evolved structure with an original component dendro-dated to 1756. The property is owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia and is administered by the Clermont Trust.

The log structure is supported by a stone foundation and has a steeply-pitched, wood-shingled side-gable roof with a central brick chimney. Most of the exterior wall surfaces were covered with horizontal and/or vertical siding at different times. The logs are joined at the corners with v-notches. Four double-hung, wood 6/6-sash windows are placed roughly symmetrically in the rear elevation, while four doorways – of which the two located in the middle are original – penetrate the east wall. An early 20th-century frame addition runs the full length of the east-facing façade, divided into a screened-in three-bay porch in the center, with enclosed rooms at either end. The south enclosure is divided into a kitchen and bathroom; the north enclosure is a single room that was heated at one time with a stove. A hatch in the north room of the cabin provides access to the attic, but the lack of a permanent stairway and no other amenities in the space indicates that it was not regularly inhabited.

As built, the roughly 41.5'x18' structure was divided by a medial log wall into two separate equal-sized rooms, apparently heated by stoves served by a centrally placed chimney. Two exterior doorways provided access to the rooms; two windows likely were located in the façade flanking the doorways; four windows with 4/4 sash were symmetrically arranged on the rear wall, with two windows in each room. The logs were exposed on both the interior and the exterior and were covered with whitewash. The roof

covering was side-lapped oak shingles. The rooms were subdivided with plank partitions in 1861, and the entire interior was whitewashed; a third exterior doorway was installed at that time, which probably replaced an original window opening.

Significant additional alterations were carried over the course of the first decades of the early 20th century, presumably to better accommodate the needs of hired workers and, in at least one instance, the family of the farm manager. The exposed ceiling joists were enclosed, the interior walls were finished with vertical beaded board paneling, and the 10'- wide front porch was added. The fourth doorway was inserted in the façade, and each of the openings for the four rear windows were enlarged @4" to accommodate the current 6/6 double-hung sashes. The roof framing also likely was repaired and altered at this time, with the west rafters and the gable studs and siding replaced; the original pole rafters survive on the east side, but they had shifted significantly to the south and were repaired and fixed in that condition. Horizontal siding was installed on the north, south, and west elevations; the porch was clad with vertical board and batten siding. The chimney was completely rebuilt in the 1980s.

In 2015 the structure was extensively repaired, to include: installing a new wood shingle roof; repairing and/or replacing the wood siding throughout; repairing window frames and sashes; repointing and in some instances rebuilding the stone foundation; repairing and/or replacing deteriorated wall logs; replacing the fascia and soffit; and filling and painting.

Bibliography:

Maral Kalbian, Dennis Pogue, and Ken Livingston *Clermont Historic Structure Report* (2013)

Carole Nash and Clarence Geier, *Archaeological Examination of the Area of Foundation Restoration: Slave Quarter, Clermont Farm (44Ck152), Clarke County, Virginia* (2015)

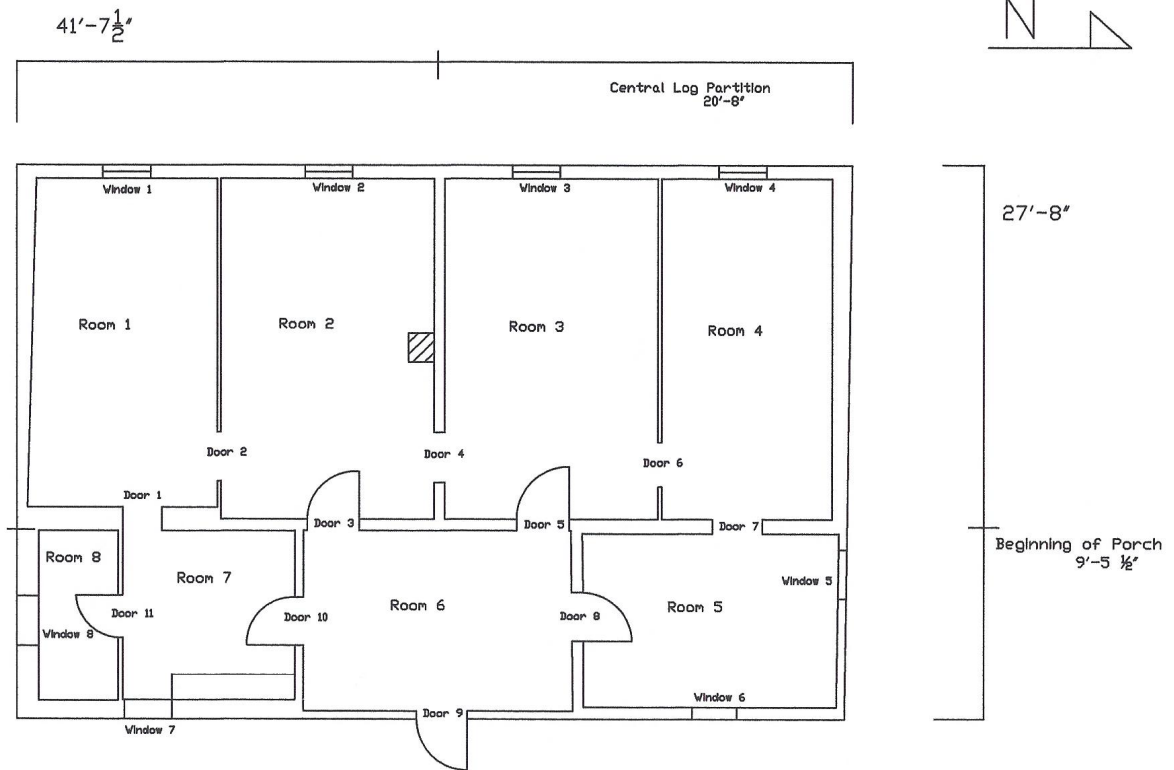
Dan Miles and Michael Worthington, *Dendrochronological Testing of the Clermont Slave Quarter* (2010)

Dennis J. Pogue, *Clermont Slave Quarter: After Action Report, Historic Fabric* (2017)

Principal Construction Type: Log

One Story – With Attic

Footprint:



Number of Rooms:

- Dimensions:**
- (1) 8'-6" (N-S), 16' 6" (E-W), 7' 10.75" (Height)
 - (2) 10' 6.25" (N-S), 16' 10.75" (E-W), 8'-0.25" (Height)
 - (3) 10' 8.5" (N-S), 17' 2.25" (E-W), 7' 8.75" (Height)
 - (4) 8' 7" (N-S), 17' 0.75" (E-W), 7' 9.5" (Height)
 - (5) 12' 6.5" (N-S), 8' 8.5" (E-W), 7' 5.75" (Height)
 - (6) 13' 5.75" (N-S), 8' 1.75" (E-W), 8' 7.5" (Height)
 - (7) 8' 8.75" (N-S), 8' 4.75" (E-W), 7' 5" (Height)
 - (8) 3' 11.5" (N-S), 8' 5.75" (E-W), 7' 4" (Height)

Doors: 9

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Type:	Door Opening	Door Opening	6 Panel
Dimensions:	1'-11" (Width) 5'-7" (Height)	2'-5.5" (Width) 5'-11" (Height)	2'-5" (Width) 5'-7.5" (Height)
Hardware:	n/a	n/a	Butt Hinges with modern pin drops. Metal Door knob, Stock Lock
Swing:	n/a	n/a	Inward towards North
Replacement:	Addition		Replacement door/doorframe

	(4)	(5)	(6)
Type:	Door Opening	2x2 Window Panes over 3 Panels	Door Opening
Dimensions:	2'-6" (Width) 5'-6.5" (Height)	2'-7" (Width) 5'-5" (Height)	2'-2.5" (Width) 6'-4" (Height)
Hardware:	Left Over Hinge Hardware Facing Room 3	Butt Hinges with Pin, Stock Lock	n/a
Swing:	n/a	Toward the North	n/a
Replacement:	Inserted in partition	Yes; Door and Frame	

	(7)	(8)	(9)
Type:	Door Opening	6 Panel	Screen Door
Dimensions:	2'-7" (Width) 5'-5.5" (Height)	2'-5" (Width) 6'-2" (Height)	2'-6" (Width) 6'-2" (Height)
Hardware:	Strap Hinge with butt hinge (modern), place for wooden bolt	Butt hinges place for stock lock	Butt hinges

Swing:	n/a	Into Room 5 toward East	n/a
Replacement:	Frame	n/a	n/a

Windows: 8

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Type:	6x6 double hung sash	6x6 double hung sash	6x6 double hung sash
Dimensions:	2'-3" (Width) 2'-9" (Height)	2'-4" (Width) 2'-9" (Height)	2'-3.75" (Width) 3'-0" (Height)
Hardware:	20thC replacement	20thC replacement	20thC replacement

	(4)	(5)	(6)
Type:	6x6 double hung sash	6 panes fixed, 3x3	6 panes fixed, 3x3
Dimensions:	2'-4" (Width) 3'-8.5" (Height)	2'-4.5" (Width) 1'-11" (Height)	2'-4.5" (Width) 1'-11" (Height)
Hardware:	20 th C Replacement	Swing Screen inward towards North	Swing Screen inward towards North

	(7)	(8)
Type:	3x3; 6 panes fixed	3x3; 6 panes fixed
Dimensions:	2'-4" (Width) 1'-11" (Height)	2'-4.5" (Width) 1'-9.75"
Hardware:		Swing Screen, opens towards East.

EXTERIOR

Foundation:

Continuous Masonry: Stone
Thickness: 1'8" (Width), 7" (Height, north side)
Bond: Random
Mortar Type: Sand, clay and lime
Joint: Flush
Repaired: Yes

Shed/Porch: Yes

The porch is overwhelmingly composed of circular sawn dimensional lumber attached with wire nails. Based on the physical evidence, the porch was an addition, erected in multiple phases, and outfitted with a kitchen and toilet in the mid-20th century.

Roof:

The wood shingles installed in 2015 are likely to be the fifth roof covering installed over a span of roughly 190 years. The roof originally was covered with oak side-lapped shingles, and was attached with cut nails. The roof frame has been extensively repaired and modified. Original pine pole rafters survive on the east side resting on the original flat false plate; the rafters and plate on the west have been replaced, along with several of the gable wall studs.

Roof Form: Gable
Roof Covering: Square-butted cypress shingles nailed to skip sheathing (2015).
Roof Framing:
Exposed: Yes
Form: Common Rafters
Rafter Number: 16 on east, 18 on west
Rafter Dimensions: Pole rafters on east @5" round; originally lapped and pegged; rafters on west 20thC replacements
Collar Ties: No
Height to Roof Peak: 8' 9.5"

Building Height: SE Corner

Ground to Soffit: 11' 5"
Ground to Roof: 13' 4 3/8"
Ground to First Log: 2' 9.25"

SW Corner

Ground to Soffit: 10' 4.5"
Ground to Roof: 11' 10.75"
Ground to First Log: 2' 3"

South Gable End

Ground to Apex: 20' 10.125"
Ground to First Log: 3' 1.75"

Walls:

Log:

Dimensions: @8" (Height) by 4" (Width)

Finish: Hewn on two sides; bark on top and bottom

Notching: V

Chinking: Wood (primarily reused material), daubed with clay, sand, lime mixture

Chimney(s): No evidence of exterior end chimney; only a brick stack for a wood stove, in Room 2; composed of machine-made bricks; holes in either side of chimney for stove pipes for Rooms 2 and 3; holes for stove pipes in the ceilings of rooms 1, 2, 3, and 4

INTERIOR

Wall Framing: Exposed in some locations: logs, whitewashed, covered with 20th – century matchstick paneling in Rooms 2, 3, and 4; horizontal board siding in Room 1

Wall Finish: Paneled walls painted; logs whitewashed

Joists: There are 16 ceiling joists, spaced at 2'5" – 2'6" (center to center); measuring 8.5" – 9.5" x 4.5" – 4.75"

Fireplace: None; centrally located brick chimney with holes for stove pipes in rooms 2 and 3; also holes for stove pipes in the ceiling in rooms 1, 2, and 4

Chimney Dimensions: 1' 3" (N-S), 1' 5.5" (E-W)

Floor to Center of pipe hole in Room 2: 5' 1.5"

Floor to Center of pipe hole in Room 3: 6' 2.5"

Stairs: No; only access by hole in ceiling of Room 4

Subfloor Pit: No

Floor: Wood

Floorboards Dimension: All the current floors are later, superimposed over original (and in case of room 3 with two floor layers over original; original floor boards tongue and grooved, face nailed. Stone foundation stepped on the interior to support a false plate on which the floor joists rest.

Dating:

Dendrochronology Date: 1822

Dating Evidence:

Saw Marks: Sash Sawn

Nails: Machine Cut

Notes on Chronology:

Period 1 (ca. 1822): Log duplex, heat source presumably provided by stoves; two front doors; two front windows; four rear windows, 4/4 sash; tongue and groove flooring; whitewashed inside and out; machine cut nails.

Period 2 (1861): Two partitions inserted to divide into four rooms; one additional exterior doorway; new T&G flooring overlaid on original; exterior vertical siding likely installed on north end wall; circular sawn lumber; machine cut and wire nails.

Period 3 (early 20th Century): Doorways in all three partitions at this time, fourth exterior doorway added; wood stoves likely heating all four rooms; interior paneling in all four rooms; porch addition; four west windows enlarged to 6/6 sash; horizontal siding likely installed on three exterior walls.

Period 4 (mid-20th Century): Roof framing repaired; chimney repaired; plumbing for sewerage and electricity installed.

Period 5 (2015): Extensive repairs: new shingle roof; repaired/repointed foundation; repairs to logs, including several replacements; horizontal siding installed on three exterior walls; board and batten siding replaced on porch; exterior drains installed on north and west.