

Slave Housing Data Base

Building Name: Logan Farm
Evidence Type: Extant
City or Vicinity: Ivor
County: Isle of Wight
State: Virginia

Investigators: Andrew Stempel; Doug Sanford; Gary Stanton; Dennis Pogue
Institutions: Center for Historic Preservation, University of Mary Washington; Mount Vernon Ladies' Association
Project Start: 8/16/07 **Project End:** 2/22/09

Additional Investigators: Dan Miles, Michael Worthington
Institutions: Oxford Dendrochronological Laboratory
Project Start: 12/7/07 **Project End:** 12/7/07

Summary Description:

The quarter at Logan Farm is a frame duplex structure, one story with an attic, covered by a side-gable shingle roof. It has horizontal siding (at least two generations of which survive) and rests on brick piers; it measures @28' by 16'4" in dimension. Each of the two first-floor rooms is accessed via a single doorway located in the east facade, with a third doorway (added) in the west wall of the south room. The fenestration has been substantially altered, possibly more than once, currently consisting of single sash windows in each room on the east facade, and two windows in each room on the west. Both spaces likely were heated originally by fireplaces served by exterior end brick chimneys, but if so the one to the north is completely absent, while the chimney serving the south room survives but largely has collapsed. Direct communication between the rooms is provided by a doorway set into the partition, which probably was added. A substantial brick-lined pit/cellar is positioned beneath the south room. The partition appears to be comprised of reused siding boards, and several of the structural members also likely were salvaged from an earlier structure. There is no stair to the attic, but empty mortises in two of the joists in the north room suggest its probable location. A section of flooring currently covers the joists above the south room, but it is unclear whether the space was floored originally. The core of the structure has been dendro-dated to circa 1838.

Notes:

The fireplace/chimney at the north end seems more likely to have been removed rather than never built. A 5'9" space between the major posts on the north wall would have accommodated a fireplace/chimney in that location; the sill has been replaced, presumably at the time the fireplace was removed. A series of empty mortises also indicates that the window layout has been altered significantly over time; the third doorway, on the west facade, is a later addition.

Although a window is placed in the south gable, there are no traces of whitewash on the framing or nail evidence for flooring in the garret; no stair currently exists, but empty mortises found in joists in the north room may indicate its original location.

Based on the presence of different finishes and a bead incorporated into one or more corners, it appears that several structural elements (posts and floor joists) were salvaged from another building. The results of dendrochronological testing support this hypothesis, as the date for the apparently reused elements is circa 1785, while the balance of the structure dates to circa 1838.

The brick-lined subfloor pit/cellar that lies beneath the south room (Room 1) is rectangular in shape, approximately 4'4" by 5'10" in dimension, with the walls extending to just below the bottom face of the floor joists. The distance from the exterior face of the pit to the outside of the west sill is 5'; from the pit to the exterior face of the south sill is 9'4". It is positioned so that the south wall of the feature is aligned with the first joist in from the south end wall. Short wood boards are nailed to the face of the joist, spanning the space between the joist and the top of the brick wall. If this was done to extend the wall of the pit higher, no evidence was found for a similar treatment on the other three sides.

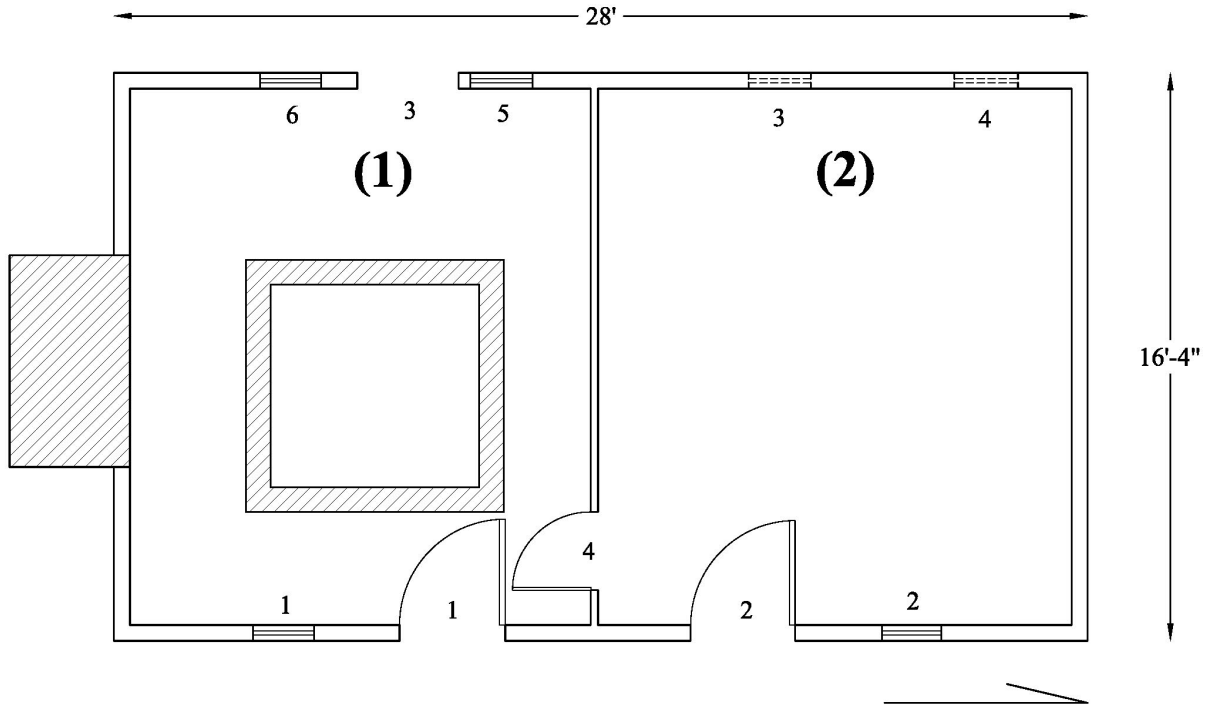
The floor joists have both hewn and sawn faces, and range from 6" to 10" high by 3½" to 4" wide. They are half-lapped over the sill with a ¾" notch, with most of the joists flush with the bottom of the sill. Several courses of brick extend from the SE corner of the building to the chimney, similar to a foundation; this is in contrast to the rest of the building, which rests on true brick piers.

Bibliography:

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

Principal Construction Type: Frame
One Story – With Garret

Footprint:



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

Dimensions:
 (1) South Rm.: 13'-3" (N-S) x 15'-5" (E-W); 7'-5 (H) to flooring
 (2) North Rm.: 13'-7 1/2" (N-S) x 15'-5" (E-W); 7'-6 1/2" (6" joist)
 (3) Garret:

Doors: 4

	(1) Rm. 1	(2) Rm. 2	(3) Rm. 1
Type:	4 panel (reused)	Board & batten	Board & batten
Dimensions:	2 ft. 10 in. (W) x 5 ft. 11 in. (H)	2 ft. 9.75 in. (W) x 5 ft. 8.25 in. (H)	2 ft. 10 in. (W) x 6 ft. 0 in. (H)
Hardware:	Modern butt hinges with screws	Strap hinges with screws	Not hinged
Swing:	In	In	N/A
Replacement:			Modern insertion, with current door as enclosure

(4) Interior partition

Type:	Board & batten
Dimensions:	2 ft. 8 in. (W) x 5 ft. 11 in. (H)
Hardware:	Modern butt T hinges with wire nails; bottom strap on pintle with machine-cut nails
Swing:	In (into south room, Rm. 1)
Replacement:	Later insertion into interior partition wall

Windows: 6

	(1) Rm. 1	(2) Rm. 2	(3) Rm. 2
Type:	2 pane fixed sash	Not surviving	Not surviving
Dimensions:	1 ft. 9 in. (W) x 2 ft. 6 in. (H)	1 ft. 10 in. (W) x 2 ft. 6 in. (H)	1 ft. 9.5 in. (W) x 2 ft. 6 in. (H)
Hardware:	None	Not surviving	Not surviving
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	N/A	Unknown; likely original, later covered	Unknown; likely original, later covered

	(4) Not surviving, Rm. 2	(5) Rm. 1	(6) Rm. 1
Type:	Unknown	Absent; likely fixed sash	4 pane, fixed sash
Dimensions:	1 ft. 10 in. (W) x 2 ft. 9 in. (H)	1 ft. 9.5 in. (W) x 2 ft. 1.5 in. (H)	1 ft. 9 in. (W) x 2 ft. 0 in. (H)

Hardware:	Not surviving	None	None
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	Unknown; original window, later covered	N/A	N/A

EXTERIOR

Foundation:

Masonry Piers: Brick

Number: 8

Dimensions: ~ 3 ft. 1 in. (L) x 0 ft. 8 in. (W)

Height: ~ 0 ft. 7 in.

Mortar Type: Shell – Sand – Clay Only – Other – Unknown

Joint: Grapevine – Undercut – Flush – V – Tuck Pointed – Other

Shed/Porch: No

Roof:

Roof Form: Gable

Roof Covering: Wooden shingles with wire nails

Roof Framing:

Exposed: Yes

Form: Common Rafters; hewn and pit sawn; with mortise and tenon joint and pegs; collars with half lap joint and machine cut nails

Rafter Number: 15 pairs; on 24 in. centers

Rafter Dimensions: 3.5 in. x 2.75 in. to 4.5 in. x 2.5 in.

Collar Ties: Yes

Method of Joining: Half lap and nails

Walls:

Frame: Wood

Cladding: Horizontal lapped weather boards with machine-cut and wire nails (especially at north end along with evidence of chimney removal and wall replacement)

Beaded: No

Chimney(s): Note hypothesized removal of chimney at north end of building

Chimney (1): south end

Material: Brick (with shell mortar)

Location: Exterior – End

Height: Not available due to partial chimney collapse

Chimney (2): north end, removed

Material: Unknown

Location: Exterior – End

INTERIOR

Wall Framing: Exposed

Wall Finish: Whitewash

There are vertical boards in the SE corner of the south room (Rm. 1), while circular sawn boards with wire nails exist on the south and west walls. The downstairs partition is lapped siding (some beaded) with whitewash, with these boards having both machine-cut and wire nails.

Fireplace (1): South room (Rm. 1) End (centered on south wall)

Fireplace Material: Brick (with shell mortar)

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: Approx. 5 ft. 7 in. (covered over).

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 4 ft. 3 in. opening

Fireplace (2): North room (Rm. 2) End

Fireplace Material: Presumably brick, but removed

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: Unknown

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: Unknown

Stairs: No stair survives, but evidence points to stair along south wall of Room 2 (north); note wider spacing of joists and cuts in joists for headers.

Subfloor Pit: Yes

Number: 1

Location(s): Beneath south room (Rm. 1)

Dimensions: Approx. 4 ft. 4 in. (N-S) x 5 ft. 10 in. (E-W)

Depth: Unknown

Lined: Brick construction appears to continue downward

Floor: Wood

Floorboards Dimension: approx. 11 in. to 1 ft. 0.5 in. wide

Dating:

Dendrochronology Date: Circa 1838 for construction; with reused elements dating ca. 1785.

Dating Evidence:

Saw Marks: Sash sawn

Nails: Machine cut and headed