

Jefferson Log House References and Research

TJ Building Abstracts

c. 1774?]

[specifications for windows. Pine with a quarter round: weaving room; smoke room; meal-room; laundry; kitchen; spinning room; summer dairy; dry well & pantry; etc.] Windows....Dry well...[other rooms in dependencies]

(Monticello. Notebook for building, N107, MHi)

[drawings. See also: Kitchen yard (dry well); landscape]

See WLB notes in his N107 file: The mahogany sash, also specified, were ordered from England in mid-1774 (see TJ to Archibald Carey and Benjamin Harrison, 9 Dec. 1774), which suggests an estimated date for this building book entry. The drawing of the dependencies in its second iteration on N56 must date after this memorandum since several room names listed here are erased from the drawing. Hence N56 in its revised form would be from 1774 or later. But if this is so then the early sketch N55 must date no earlier than 1774 as it shows rooms corresponding to N107. See also N44, a measured plan drawing of the central portion of cellar of house (copy in Drawings notebook).

1787

The private buildings are very rarely constructed of stone or brick; much the greatest proportion being of scantling and boards, plastered with lime. It is impossible to devise things more ugly, uncomfortable, and happily more perishable. There are two or three plans, on one of which, according to its size, most of the houses in the state are built. The poorest people build huts of logs, laid horizontally in pens, stopping the interstices with mud. These are warmer in winter, and cooler in summer, than the more expensive construction of scantling and plank (152)...But all we shall do in this way will produce no permanent improvement to our country, while the unhappy prejudice prevails that houses of brick or stone are less wholesome than those of wood (153)...These houses have the advantage too of being warmer in winter and cooler in summer than those of wood; of being cheaper in their first construction, where lime is convenient, and infinitely more durable. The latter consideration renders it of great importance to eradicate this prejudice from the minds of our countrymen. A country whose buildings are of wood, can never increase in its improvement to any considerable degree (154).

(TJ in *Notes on the State of Virginia*, Peden ed. 1954:152-154. Copy in Misc. section of Excerpts notebook)

1792 Sep. 2. "Memorandums with respect to Watson....he is to work in the shops near the sawpit [and?] he must lodge there till Claxton moves then his wife is to live in Claxton's house till I return and can fix them elsewhere....in rainy weather the carpenters are to be employed in splitting, planing, jointing, and rounding shingles, which may be under the eye of Watson." [also deals with Johnny (John Hemmings) and wheel making]. (TJ memo, DLC 16).

1792 Sep. 23. "Memorandums for Mr. Clarkson....[pay] yourself for overlooking the 5. workmen-----5-0-0. Fencing. mend up the fences of the inclosure round the house, the orchard, and inclose the calf pasture Eastward of the spring....Make Phill bring in immediately with the oxcart the plank I have bought of Calvert and lock it up in the shop, and what more he may saw. 150. perch of stone are to be raised at the bottom of the park and brought up here by the oxcart....Jupiter, Abram and Phill are to raise the stone and while they are raising, Phill should be employed in bringing away all the large stone which will require more than one hand to lift it into the cart, leaving the small stone which he can load himself to be brought after Abram and Jupiter shall have finished raising, which they will do much faster than he can cart it....1000 bushels of limestone to be raised by Jupiter and such other of the above gang for a striker as can be best spared from time to time. This quantity will fill two [pens?] 10 feet square and 6. feet high. Let them make the pens by the road side where the stone may be conveniently taken away, and throw the stone into them day by day as they raise it. This will enable you to judge of their progress. Tools and powder will be wanting for this....The sawyers are to get 9 stocks 9 feet long and 16. Inches square of the best poplar, clear of sap, and 3. stocks 11 feet long and 16. Inches square, and they are to split them with the saw thro' the middle, crosswise, into peices 8. Inches square. This to be done as soon as possible that they may be seasoned for window frames by the spring. Let [them?] be hauled in as they are cut, and piled across one another [in?] the shop. When the oxcart is not otherwise employed, let it be [bringing?] up good clean sand from the river side, fit for mortar. Five log houses are to be built at the places I have marked out. Of chesnut logs, hewed and [?] two sides and split with the saw, and dovetailed. Mr. Randolph will shew the places, and direct the kind of houses. they are to be covered and lofted with slabs from Mr. Henderson's. Racks and mangers in three of them for stables...King if well enough Goliah, Mingo, Fanny and Dinah to be employed in grubbing the orchard [clearing?] and other things as Mr. Randolph will direct." (ViU 4).

Slab (wooden) – OED a. A rough outside plank of timber cut from a log or a tree-trunk preparatory to squaring the main portion, or sawing it into planks.

<http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/181189?rskey=vG0T6G&result=1&isAdvanced=false#eid>

TJ to Thomas Mann Randolph, Jr. [Philadelphia, October 12, 1792]

.... - I have been considering that it would be better to floor my stables with slabs from Henderson's. In this case the edges of the slabs must be taken off to a sufficient substance with a drawing knife, and the sleepers should be so laid, as that the end of the slab under the manger may be a couple of inches higher than that at the front.—

[Post-1792?]

X. Building [pl. 102] ...Stone. [pl. 103]...

good stone work, of unhewed stone, takes from 2. to 3 bush. of lime per perch.

the price for laying is 2/6 an 18 l. wall. in Augusta it is 2/

Such stone work is cheaper than brick in the proportion of £ 1056- s 4 to £ 581- s 5.

everything calculated accurately by a workman at Georgetown, his brickwork coming to D 9.6 per thousand, & his stonework 2. D. per perch, including the cost & carriage of every article, even of the rough stone.

A man lays generally 3. perch a day. & even 5. in very thick wall.

calculation of stone work at Monticello...

Wood. see page 37.

The sawmills over the mountains saw for 20/ the thousand, or one half for the other.

2 mawler & 3. rivers will rive 750. pine slabs a day, of 14 f. long, and double that number 6.f.long. every slab clear about 4. l. that is to say 30. Slabs properly lapped clear 10. f.

Another estimate is that 3 men will get only 450. slabs a day of 6. f. long & 5. l. broad.

To rive & draw 500 shingles is a common day's work.

A man may joint 3000. a day.

4. men got out and out 600 chesnut pales a day, 7. f. long for the garden

A waggon bring in 300. of them at a load.

Paint. To a Square, i.e. 10. f. square, 1. lb. Span. Brown & 1. pint of oil gives 1 coat.

(Betts\FB 1953\1976:pl.103-4)

[see also: **Building E**]

This is dated after the establishment of Washington because the entry for stone preceding this in the FB refers to an observation at Paris. - MH.

TJ to TMR, Jr – Philadelphia, Jan. 21 1793

I now inclose you a bill of scantling to be got by the sawyers. It is material that the stocks should be got as soon as possible, lest the sap should begin to rise, which would occasion the timber to rot very soon. By getting the stocks now too, they may find employment for the oxcart and waggon when the roads from the stone quarry shall be rendered too miry and laborious. In laying off the stocks for the triangular sleepers, as mentioned in the paper, the sawyers will probably need to be shewn by you once or twice how to do it.—The bringing slabs from Henderson’s is another job, when the others cannot be proceeded on.

Instructions on Timber for Monticello (ca. January 21, 1793)

Scantling for the operations of 1793

10. Sleepers.	23. feet long:	10 Inches deep. 4. Inches thick.
30. do.	12. feet long.	same depth and breadth.
17. do.	18. feet long.	same depth and breadth.
10. do.	23. feet long	} all these are to be triangular, and to be got in the manner pointed out on the next page.
30. do.	12. feet long	
17. do.	18. feet long.	
10. do.	16. feet long.	
15. Joists.	25. feet long.	} for the depth and thickness of these, measure those of the Study at Monticello.
15. do.	11. f. long	
20. do.	31. f. long	

24. do. 24. f. long

180. Rafters 16. f. long. of the same depth and thickness of those over the Study.

The Sleepers, joists and rafters must, I presume, be got of Pine. But they must be absolutely clear of sap. Poplar is not strong enough for sleepers: it would do for joists or rafters; but I imagine there is not enough of it to be had at Monticello. Chesnut is bad, because it very soon corrodes the nails. Oak is bad, because it springs so as to throw the floors into swells and hollows.

- 5000. square feet of bastard plank, for sheeting. No matter of what breadth or length. The stocks need not be hewed.
 - Manner of getting and laying off the Triangular sleepers.
- Cut down a tree, of at least 18. Inches diameter besides the sap and take off the bark. It is not to be hewed.
- Cross-cut it as square as possible to it's proper lengths.
- When laid on the pit, strike a circle of 9. Inches radius at each end.
- hang a plumb-line over the center c. and mark the points a. and b. where the line intersects the circle.
- then with the same opening of the compasses with which the circle was struck, that is to say, with the radius, mark the circle at d. and e. on one side, and at f. and g. on the other side.
- draw the three diameters ab. dg. ef.
- lay off the other end of the stock in the same manner. Indeed it will be best, immediately after marking the points a.b. with the plumb-line at one end, to mark corresponding points with the plumb line at the other end, lest the stock should by any accident be justled a little, in which case the corresponding diameters at the two ends would not be in the same plane.
- this done at both ends, the stock will be lined¹ from a. to the corresponding point at the other end,² from d. to it's corresponding point, and so on, and then sawed through.
- the convexity of one side of the sleeper, or any roughnesses it may have, will be of no consequence, as that side will lie between the floor and cieling. The sap may be left on till we come to work: but all pieces which will not yeild a triangle of 9. I. on every side, clear of sap, will be to be rejected.
- I imagine it will be best to bring the stocks home before they are sawed, that (a slab cover being put over the pit) they may be sawed even in wet weather.

MS (DLC: TJ Papers, 79: 13723); undated; written entirely in TJ's hand on two sides of one sheet; docketed on recto at a later date by Thomas Mann Randolph, Jr.: "Th: Jefferson Instructions respecting timber for his house Nov: '92."

¹ TJ here canceled "at top."


² TJ here canceled "and at bottom."

TMR to TJ – Monticello, February 7, 1793

The horses have been employed a part of two days only, in bringing two loads of slabs, the oxen have brought two more and these are all we have. Indeed I am much afraid that the quantity you desired cannot be got as the saw is frequently stopped and the slabs are in great demand. The store of them which you saw at the saw-mill was exhausted by a neighbouring black-smith who took it into his head to make Charcoal of them, and those which the waggons brought away were such as had just fallen from the saw. Your directions concerning the scantling will be exactly attended to, altho' I am apprehensive that it will not be brought in before your return as it must be sawed on the other side of the river there being no timber fit on this side. - <http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/default.xqy?keys=TSJN-search-1-10&expandNote=on#match>

1793 May 19. Philadelphia. "...I am now quite unable to pay that attention to my own affairs, which to be of any use should be followed up. I had entertained hopes of running up one flank of my house this fall. But I now apprehend we shall have to weather another winter as it is. Were it adviseable to continue the carpenters at their occupation in that line, I believe with you it would be better to employ one to work with them. In this case he should undertake to find enough work in the neighborhood to pay his own share, and to accept these debts as payment....But I doubt whether it would not be better (as I scarcely expect now to do any thing to the house this fall) to devote this season to my canal. It is a great object, and enters materially into my plan of renting my estate. To carry it on with vigour will require that all our force be centered on it, and everything else laid by for it....I have reason to expect daily the arrival at Richmond of a mason and house joiner from Scotland. The person is now here who engaged them before he came away, and says they would come in the first ship bound to Richmond. It becomes necessary to think of something which may employ them till I come home. I would wish in the first place that they should not stay one day in Richmond: as even an hour may give them ideas which may destroy their utility to me afterwards. The mason may be employed in cutting columns for the porticoes, exactly like those now standing. 6 more will be wanting. I intend Moses to be his disciple. as the raising and bringing up such large pieces of stone will require considerable force, this will occasion so far an interruption of the canal. It will be the less if he is first employed in making the bases and Capitels, because these peices are small, and will yet give him a great deal of work.--as to the house joiner, I mean Johnny (Betty Heming's son) to work with him. The first plain and simple job for him will be to make 10. window frames, exactly of the size of those now in the house and of the same mouldings, but without entablatures. The poplar stocks 9. feet long and sawed into peices 8.1. square, mentioned in <my> the memorandum I left when I came from Monticello, were intended for these. Before he could get through this I could add another job of time. **He will have to vamp up my old set of tools and make the most of them, and what is necessary in addition to these, and cannot be made by himself and George I will send from hence,** on his notifying them. **As I destine the stone house for workmen, the present inhabitants must remove to the two nearest of the new log-houses, which were intended for them;** **Kritty taking the nearest of the whole, as oftenest wanted about the house.**---.....The moment I receive the model of the threshing machine, I will forward it to Monticello...." (TJ to TMR, DLC 18).

TMR, Jr. to TJ – Monticello, June 19, 1793

All the timber you ordered, except the joists of 31 feet, is lying hewn and ready for the saw. I was not anxious to have it sawed immediately, knowing, that it would cut better dry, that the pieces would be less apt [326 

c. 1793 Oct. 25. "Memorandums with respect to Watson....He is to work in the shop near the sawpit [?] he must lodge there till Claxton moves then his wife is to live in Claxton's house till I return and can fix them elsewhere....in rainy weather the carpenters are to be employed in splitting, planing, jointing and rounding shingles, which may be under the eye of Watson." (TJ Memorandums; at 2 Sep. 1792, DLC). [similar to directions given Watson in Memo to Clarkson--see above].

Undated [post-1794]

Laborers build the Negro houses near together that the fewer nurses may serve & that the children may be more easily attended to by the super-annuated women (Betts\FB 1953\1976:pl. 77)

1796

The great declivity of the fields...has induced Mr. Jefferson to construct on each field a barn, sufficiently capacious to hold its produce in grain; the produce in forage is also housed there, but this is generally so great, that it becomes necessary to make stacks near the barns. The latter are constructed of trunks of trees, and the floors are boarded. The forests and slaves reduce the expense of these buildings to a mere trifle. (Duc de la Rochefoucauld-Laincourt 1799, visitor's account in Petterson 1989:25)

[1798]

Houses for Laborers
Davy & Lewis & Abram have done the carpenters work of Bagwell's [b. 1768] house in 6 days, getting the stuff & putting it together.

Outfield granary took 24 . Days work to get the logs, rafters & slabs & put them up completely. it may be valued then @ 48/ exclusive of floors & doors.

(Betts\FB 1953:pl. 67) [Bagwell was born 1768]

[see also: cf. smokehouse/dairy]

See Stanton 2000:43 for estimate of date of construction

TJ to TMR 1798 Jan. 25.

Philadelphia. "...Richardson (whom I expect here daily) wrote me word he had hired 3. hands for me, and expected to get some more: they are to work with John....I expect some new tools I have sent on for George will be in Richmond by the time you get this. As soon as Smith George receives them, **Isaac is to have his anvil, vice and beak iron, as also the large new bellows nearly finished when I left home.** I must get you to write a line to Bates, and send Jupiter with it to bring me a certain answer from him whether I am to depend on him for my flooring plank. You will be so good as to send on the answer by post. I am uneasy about it, as I have never heard from him in answer to my letter, inclosing him the bill of plank...." (, DLC 21).

TMR to TJ; April 29, 1798

he has got 3000 chesnut shingles for you and has cut a number of Stocks at Pounceys

TJ to Richard Richardson 1800 Mar. 31. Philadelphia.

"In yours of the 21st. you acknolege mine of Feb. 17th. Since that I wrote to you on the 16th and the 25th. inst. The last was merely to inform you of the departure of a box of plants and 4. casks of plaister of Paris. I would have Fagg's plank immediately sorted by Mr. Perry. What is fit for flooring to be kiln dried directly, that not fit for it to be spread by way of floor in the loft of the dwelling house. Mr. Perry should proceed with the floors the moment the pland [plank] is dry....**The nail rod is all arrived at Richmond from Monticello.** I would not have you delay the plaistering the rooms for the plaister of Paris. Especially my room which must be ready by the time I get home. Tho' I suppose the plaister will arrive in Richmond certainly in the course of the present week." (, ViU 4).

TJ to TMR - 1801 Jan. 9.

Washington. "...**That Craven's house should not have been in readiness surprises me. I left J. Perry's people putting up the last course of shingles, and the plank for the floor and loft planed, and they assured me they could finish every thing in a week.** They must have quit immediately. But the most extraordinary of all things is that there should have been no clearing done. I left Monticello on Monday the 24th. Nov. from which time there were 4. weeks to Christmas and

the hands ordered to be with Lilly that morning (except I think two) and according to his calculation and mine 3. or 4. acres a week should have been cleared. But the misunderstanding between him and Richardson had before cost me as good as all the labour of the hired hands from Jany. to June when I get home....[discusses clearing, and hands to be involved in the work]." (, DLC 22).

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TJ to James Oldham 1803 June 18.

"yours of the 3d. was recieved last night. would not riven pine slabs make a better moveable cover for the plaistered part of the house, than linen? if slabs 10.f. long and 2.f. apart were first laid cross ways thus [sketch of several parallel lines] horizontally and then others nailed up & down close, & breaking joints and the nails clinched on the under side, it would hang together strongly, and might be laid on, & laid in pannels very handily. if pannels 10.f. wide would be too unhandy, they might be only 8. or 6.f. wide. I think this would be best. linen would soon be stolen. however if there be no other way effectual but linen, mr. Lilly must get that for you, for we must not permit the plaistering to get wet on any account.

With respect to help, if Lewis be not sufficient, I must get you to consult with mr. Lilly, who will endeavor to assit you, on better terms for me than giving mr. Perry a dollar a day for a hand which he talks of asking. I could get the best house joiner here to go for much less than that: but it seems not worth while for a mere job, & especially as a coarse hand I imagine will do." (PP Tatcher, Phila-- WLB typescript only).

1804 Sep. 24 Mr. Perry...

- ✓ lath the Wood-room & put a good door.
- ✓ pale in the Nursery, enlarging it to what it used to be.
- pales 4. F. high, to be rived, & made close enough to keep out hares
- ✓ make the chicken coop

do the roof of the N.W. offices. mr Stewart will put on the sheet iron when it comes.
(Monticello. Memoranda for workmen, N147k, MHi)

[See also: **Blacksmith/Nailery; fences; landscape; Stewart/Watkins house**]

1807 May 13. [Monticello?]. "Memorandums for Mr. Bacon.

Do the abutment of the dam as soon as the skow is ready & get the skow made immediately. Then deliver the skow with a good strong chain of sufficient length to Mr. Shoemaker.

Stop the leak under the bridge just above the waste

Fill up the stone wanting at the waste

Strengthen the <sidings?> bank of the Canal at the toll mill.

Make the waggon way on the South side of the great mill.

Dig the foundation of the wall in the ground floor of the great mill whenever Mr. Maddox is ready to do the wall, and level the floor.

Keep the thorns constantly clean wed [?].

In harvest time send all your hands to assist Mr. Randolph & let them be with him through his whole harvest except when wanting to secure out own oats.

Wormly must be directed to weed the flower beds about the house, the nursery, the vineyards, & raspberry beds when they want it.

I wish him also to gather me a peck or two of clean broom seed, when ripe.

I have bought 3. mules of Peter Minor in Louisa which we are to bring home immediately but should not be worked more than half their time.

Put the Jenny and our 2. mares to the Jack.

Give wool to any of my negro women who desire it, as well those with Mr. Craven as others. But particularly to the house women here.

I think you should scarcely miss a day visiting the mill, and the top of the mountain also, to see that everything is right at both places, and particularly that no animals of any kind get into the inclosure at the mountain, or are turned at large into it.

Memorandums

The first work to be done is to finish everything at the mill, to wit the dam, the stone still wanting in the South abutment, the digging for the addition to the toll mill, the waste, the dressing off the banks & hollows about the mill house, making the banks of the canal secure everywhere. In all these things Mr. Walker will direct what is to be done & how.

The 2d. job is the fence from near Nance's house to the river. The course of which will be shewn. Previous to this a change in the road is to be made which will be shewn also.

As this fence will completely separate the River field from the other grounds that field is to be cleaned up, the spots in it still in wood are to be cut down where they are not too steep for culture; a part of the field is to be planted with Quarentine corn, which will be found in a tin cannister in my closet. The corn is to be in drills 5.f. apart & the stalks 18. inches asunder in the drill. The rest of the ground is to be sown in oats and red clover sown on the oats. All ploughing is to be done horizontally in the manner Mr. Randolph does his.

180. cords of coal wood are next to be cut. The wood cut in the River field will make a part, and let the rest be cut in the flat lands on the Meadow branch South of the Overseer's house which I intend for a timothy meadow. Let the wood be all corded that there be no deception as to the quantity. A kiln will be wanting to be burnt before Christmas, but the rest of the wood had better be seasoning till the spring when it will be better to burn it.

When these things are done, the levelling of the garden is to be resumed. The hands having already worked at this, they understand the work. John best knows how to finish off the levelling.

I have hired all the hands belonging to Mrs. & Miss Dangerfield for the next year. They are nine in number. Moses the miller is to be sent home when his year is up.

With these will work in common Isaac, Charles, Ben, Shephard, Abram, Davy, John, & shoemaker Phill; making a gang of 17. hands. Martin is the miller, & Jerry will drive his waggon.

Those who work in the Nailery are Moses, Wormly, Jame Hubbard, Barnaby, Isbel's Davy, Bedford John, Bedford Davy. Phill Hubbard, Bartlet, & Lewis. They are sufficient for 2. fires, five at a fire. I am desirous a single man, a smith, should be hired to work with them, to see that their nails are well made, & to superintend them generally. If such an one can be found for 150. or 200. D. a year. Tho' I would rather give him a share in the nails made, say one eighth of the price of all the nails made, deducting the cost of the iron. If such a person can be got [rest of line & half of next crossed out & illeg.] Isbel's Davy may be withdrawn to drive the Mule waggon, & Sampson join the labourers. There will then be 9. nailers besides the manager, so that the 10. may still work at 2. fires. The manager to have a log house built, and to have 500. lb. of pork. The nails are to be sold by Mr. Bacon, & the accounts to be kept by him, & he is to direct at all times what nails are to be made.

The toll of the mill is to be put away in the two [garners? granaries?] made, which are to have secure locks, and Mr. Bacon to keep the keys. When they are getting too full, the waggons should carry the grain to the overseer's house to be carefully stowed away. In general it will be better to [word crossed out & illeg.] use all the bread corn from the mill from week to week, and only bring away the surplus.

Mr. Randolph is hopper-free and toll-free at the mill. Mr. Eppes having leased his plantation and gang, they are to pay toll hereafter.

Clothes for the people are to be got from Mr. Higginbotham of the kind heretofore got. I allow them a best striped blanket every 3. years. Mr. Lilly had failed in this. But the last year Mr. Freeman gave blankets to one third of them. This year 11. blankets must be bought and given to those most in need, noting to whom they are given. The hirelings, if they had not blankets the last year, must have them this year. Mrs. Randolph always chuses the clothing for the house servants, that is to say for Peter Hemings, Burwell, Edwin, Critta and Sally. Coloured plains are provided for Betty [Brown?], Betty Hemings, Nance, Ursula, and indeed all the others, the nailers, labourers, and hirelings may have it if they prefer it to cotton. Wool is given for stockings to those who will have it spun and knit for themselves.

Fish is always to be got from Richmond by writing to Mr. Jefferson, and to be dealt out to the hirelings, labourers, workmen and house servants of all sorts as has been usual.

600. lb of pork is to be provided for the overseer, 500. lb for Mr. Stewart, and 500. lb for the superintendant of the nailery if one is employed. Also about 900. lb more for the people, so as to give them half a pound of a piece once a week. This will require in the whole 2000. or 2500. lb. after seeing what the plantation can furnish, and the 3. hogs at the mill, the residue must be purchased in the winter a hogshead of molasses must be provided and brought up, which Mr. Jefferson will furnish. This will afford to give a jill [gill] apiece to every body once or twice a week.

[Joe?] works with Mr. Stewart, John Hemmings and Lewis with Mr. Dinsmore, Burwell paints and takes care of the house. With these the overseer has nothing to do except to find them.

Stewart and Joe do all the plantation work, and when Stewart gets into his idle frolicks, it may sometimes be well for Moses or Isabel's Davy to join Joe for necessary work.

*The servants living at the top of the mountain must have a cart load of wood delivered at their doors once a week through winter.

The fence inclosing the grounds on the top of the Mountain must be well done up. This had better be done before they begin the fence down the mountain. No animal of any kind must ever be loose within that inclosure. Mr. Bacon should not fail to come to the top of the mountain every 2. or 3. days to see that nothing is going wrong, and that the gates are in order. Davy and Abram may patch up the old garden pales when work is going on from which they can best be spared.

The thorn hedges are to be kept clean [?] at all times.

Mr. Dinsmore is to be furnished with bread grain from the mill. The proportion of corn and wheat is left to his own discretion. He provides his own provisions, and for Mr. Nelson and Barry.

There is a spout across the canal near the head, which if left as at present will do mischief. I will give verbal directions about it.

As soon as the Aspen trees lose their leaves, take up one or two hundred of the young trees not more than 2. or 3. feet high, tie them in bundles with the roots well covered with straw.

Young Davy being to carry Fanny to Washington, he is to take the little cart (which must be put into the soundest order) to take these trees on board, 3. boxes in my study marked to go by him, and Fanny and her things. They must take corn for their [meals?], and provisions for themselves to Washington. Fodder they can buy on the road. I leave 6.D. with you to give them to pay unavoidable expenses. If he could have 2. mules without stopping a waggon it would be better. They are to go as soon as the Aspen leaves fall.

The Nailers are to work on the dam till finished, and then go to their shop.

The verbal directions which I gave Mr. Bacon respecting Carrol's farm, will be recollected and observed.

Pay great attention to the hogs and sheep. We must get into such a stock as to have 30. killable hogs every year, and fifty ewes. Colo. Coles is to have a ram from us of this year. Let it be the best. He will send for it when weaned.

Use great economy in timber, never cutting down a tree for firewood or any other purpose as long as one can be found ready cut down and tolerably convenient. In our new way of fencing the shortest cuts and large branches and even hollow trees will come in for use. The lappings will do for fire wood and coal wood.

If a couple more of good mules two or rather three years old can be got for fifty or sixty Dollars at a credit of not less than 90. days from the time I am informed of it, I shall be glad to have them bought. I am told very fine may be got, and cheap, in Fluvanna, and particularly that a Mr. Quarles has some to sell." (TJ memos for Mr. Bacon; from Gene Sheridan).

1807 July 3. Monticello. "I have received yours of 28th. June am Astonished at Mr. Pery [Perry] to right [write] you he could not Proceed with the stable for want of Timber. I hope sir you Certainly can put as much Confidence in me as to let nothing of yours under my direction be undone of so much Importance as the Prepareing of your stable heare. I should thought Mr. Pery aught to informed you in full of what was the cause of his not being about the stable. Mr. James Clark this day was heare for nails who informed me Mr. Pery had a barn on hand to finish to put the present Crop wheat in which he had not yet raised. Therefore if you will take it on yourself so far as to Inquire into the matter when you come home you will find that barn is the Cause of his not being about your stable. If Mr. Pery had of Come ready to set in on the stable Rather than he should of went away I would of Hired a waggon if it had not been in my power to Hauld the timber for there was nothing to haul but shingles and sills. The sills has been lying thare for some time. I am Truly sorry you cannot be heare to see all those matters. Then you could direct thou I will Certainly do all in my power to get the stable done, and will I hope without Dobt I flatter myself I could Give you full Satisfaction in your business if you could only be heard. I have mended my horse very much I hope he will be in good auder for you when you come home." (Edmund Bacon to TJ, ViU 6).

1808 **Oct. 17**

I expect mr. Madox is now about the stable, & the house laid off where an old loghouse stands, & of course that he draws off some of your force. I think it will be better to employ the rest on the garden & let us have that off of our hands.

(TJ (Washington) to Edmund Bacon, CSmH, in Betts\GB 1944\1974:378)

[See also: **1809 stone house; stables; washhouse**]

1809 Jan. 12. Monticello.

"[...] we filled the ice house Last week in two days with 6 waggons the first day and 8 the second. [statement of money owed to Johnson Row, Richard Johnson, Anderson Row, and Charles Hauchins, totalling L6-0-0 follows] [...] we are ingaged in the garden and shall get 40 f. more done by 2 or 3 days Labour more. [...] (Mr. Watkins took possession of his hands this day) the stone mason are now ingaged on the stone house we do not no whither you wish the gable ends to be of stone or wood. and if you wish the roof to be put on before you come home Mr. Wa[t]kins had better begin to get the timbers for it. [...] NB. all the hands of Mrs. Dangerfield are heare but the runaway one he has gone home [...] [additional listing of accounts follow in Jefferson's hand at the foot of the last page, along with the note "roof of Stone house"]." (Edmund Bacon to TJ, ViU 6).

1809 Feb. 27. Washington.

"Yours of the 24th. is recieved, and I will send a bunch of good bell wire by the waggon. I would wish the Piazza to be plaistered [plastered] as soon as the weather will permit. It is not to be white washed. I have given directions through Mr. Bacon to Mr. Watkins as to the manner of finishing the stone house now building, to wit, with a roof hipped every way, so that there will be no pediment. He was not however to begin this till he had got every thing for the garden. I expect to be with you soon after the middle of March [...]." (TJ to James Dinsmore, MHi).

1809 Feb. 27. Washington. "As the two cooks which are here will take the place of Peter Hemings in the kitchen, it will be necessary that one of them should have his room next the kitchen, and that it should be vacant on their arrival. I would wish you therefore before your departure to let him make choice of any one of the log-houses vacant, on the Mulberry row, and to direct your people to proceed immediatly to fit it up in an entirely comfortable and decent manner. It should be done at once that the cramming may be dry.

As the waggon will have valuable things in it, and therefore liable to be robbed, would it not be well to have with you a good dog who will lie by it, if you have such an one. I recommend to you to come

exactly on the rout which I have so often noted to Davy, that is to say by the court houses, Ewell's mill, Songster's, Lane's, and Ravensworth. The other roads are now absolutely impassable."

1809 **Jan. 24**

I am afraid the work put up by the stone mason in the winter will all tumble down. The house he builds is to have no gable ends, but the roof to be hipped every way. But mr Watkins had better not meddle with that till he has got his whole garden stuff. after that he may get the shingles, rafters, joists &c.

.(TJ (Washington) to Edmund Bacon, private collection, W. Beiswanger compilation)

1811 December

The smiths should make the plantation nails of the old bits of iron. [spinning, weaving]

Several of the negro women [at Tomahawk] complain that their houses want repair badly. This should be attended to every winter. For the present winter, repair, of preference those of the women who have no husband to do it for them.

(Memorandum, TJ (Poplar Forest) to Jeremiah A. Goodman, Memorandum for 1812 indoor work, crops, slaves, animals at Tomahawk Plantation, New York Public Library, George Arents Tobacco Collection, TJF Research, excerpted in Betts\GB 1944\1974:466, copy in Jefferson Retirement Papers)

[See also: **Blacksmith/Nailery; Building E; coal; fences**]

1812 Aug. 9

I shall have then [after work at Poplar Forest] to propose to you a large job to be executed here, to wit a barn, which with it's sheds will be 66 by 42. feet, to be executed this winter or early next spring as may suit you. The sawing will be done at my own sawmill which is now far advanced.

(TJ (Monticello) to Reuben Perry, ViWC, TJF Research, Long Files, Workmen)

[See also: **sawpit**]

1815 **May 14**

Pd. For tar 4.D. (Bear and Stanton\MB 1997:1309)

1816 **Jun. 12**

Pd. Dick & Gill for a barrel of tar 4.D. (Bear and Stanton\MB 1997:1324)

1816 **Aug. 23**

Paid E. Bacon for tar of Shifflet 4.D. (Bear and Stanton\MB 1997:1325)

[1817] My next instruction was to get ten able-bodied hands to commence the work [at the University]. I soon got them, and Mr. Jefferson started from Monticello to lay off the foundation and see the work commenced. An Irishman named Dinsmore and I went along with him. As we passed through Charlottesville, I went to old Davy Isaacs' store and got a ball of twine, and Dinsmore found some shingles and made some pegs, and we all went on to the old field together. Mr. Jefferson looked over the ground some time and then stuck down a peg. He stuck the very first peg in that building, and then directed me where to carry the line, and I stuck the second. He carried one end of the line, and I the other, in laying off the foundation of the University. He had a little rule in his pocket that he always carried with him, and with this he measured off the ground and laid off the entire foundation, and then set the men at work.

(Edmund Bacon [overseer from 1806 to 1822] in Bear, ed. 1967:32-33)

1819 Aug. 7.

"I found very readily the two bundles of papers which I inclose. Capt. Peyton who has been with us lately says that he has your cement, and books, but that the river is so low that not a boat can float--the smith's shop took fire a few days since and but for the circumstance of his being here with Mr. Randolph & F. Gilmer it would certainly have burnt down. There was no man upon the mountain but for Joe and old John, and whilst Joe was disengaging the bellows the gentleman passed on their way to visit the president when they perceived the fire. Capt. Peyton tore the planks off of the roof by main force the rafters were so much burnt that they fell in immediately both Mr. Randolph and himself were smartly burnt particularly Mr. R--whose cloath caught. Nothing was lost but the roof which they are repairing with all speed. Captain Peyton will probably be with you, as he had some intention of returning that way and of calling upon you. He will give you a better account of the president than I can. But he appears so entirely exhausted that i should think him in danger. He sits almost double from weakness and his voice is so low that you can hardly hear what he says [...]" (Martha Jefferson Randolph to TJ, MHi 14).

1819 **Dec. 12**

[report of spinning operation at Poplar Forest]... Since sowing wheat we have been engaged in...and repairing & building cabins for People.

(Joel Yancey (Poplar Forest) to TJ, MHi, TJF Research)

1821 **Nov. 29**

...Nace takes every thing out of the garden and carries them to his cabin and burys them in the ground and says that they are for the use of the house [Jefferson's].

(John Hemings (Poplar Forest) to TJ, MHi, TJF Research, Vertical Files, John Hemings)

Sub-floor pit.

April 23, 1823

Pd. Wm. Suttle by order of Edmd. Meeks 25.D.
 Davy has burnt a kiln of 40. cords yielding 1276. bushels,
 to wit 32 bushels to the cord, at .05 to the bush. is
 1.60 his premium. Note the coal house now built is 10.
 by 19. clear. The body 8 f. high, roof 3.f.
 The body holds 1520. cub.f. = 1213. bushels
 roof 270 = 217
 ----- -----
 1790 1430

1824 **Mar. 4**

Pd. Davy for tar .44 (Bear and Stanton\MB 1997:1402) See other tar entries.

Poplar Forest 1812 Oct. 10. Monticello. "A fall which I got from my horse a fortnight ago by the breaking of a girth, and by which I have recieved considerable hurt inwardly, will prevent my being with you by the middle of the month as I had intended. The external swelling is subsiding, but very slowly, so as to render the time when I may venture to travel uncertain. In the meantime Chis[h]olm will proceed to do the plaistering [plastering] of the house, or he will not finish this season. We expect Reuben Perry to whom a summons was sent to attend our court on Monday (the 12th) with James Hubberd [Hubbard] as a witness. With him Chisholm will return, say in all next week. In the mean time 100. bushels of lime must be got of Mr. Clarke and **a load of it brought home to put into the log house near the dwelling house.** About 200 bushels very clean gritty sand will also be wanting. The waggon had better bring light return loads of this from Lynchburg as it carries the wheat there. I do not know whether the sand at Blackwater where the road crosses it is clean and gritty. If it is it will be most convenient Chis[h]olm had better lodge in the large room below which should be cleared out for him. He can use some of my bedding but for sheets I think we must get some oznabrigs at Lynchb[g?] and have a pair made immediately. The meat laid by for me must be used for him. You may either have his dinner given him at his own room or with you as you please. I do not wish to disturb your own convenience as to that. Yourself and Mr. Darnell will have to furnish him one hand to make his mortar

and attend on him. Be so good as to do every thing necessary to expedite him till I come, which I hope may be not long after him." (TJ to Mr. Goodman, Amer. Phil. Soc.; taken from WLB transcription; see letter of 13 Oct. 1812 to Goodman, CSMH).

Poplar Forest? 1821 Dec. 11. "Sir Plese to examon the boy before he Leves hear that he starts right he must Cary the same mules & collar fore each and one Pair of [tuge? hames?] all the rest of the things is at Poplar forest I shal be ready to Leave poplar forest on the 18th ate any rate I shud wish the boy to gite to poped [poplar] forest on the 1st of early a nought fore an early starte his naxe day puting the architrave on the sky Light [skylight] has made all the in Provement [improvent] amagenible I have finish the roome all to a Little of [?] fer base which I shal git done in a day mour the boys is Dressing the shingels [shingles] and the other jobs be four me [...]." (John Hemings to TJ, MHi 11).

Feb. 25, 1825 MHS14

Francis Eppes to TJ Poplar Forest

I should have written to you sooner, my dr. grandfather, and given all the particulars of our late accident, had I not supposed them already detailed by Elizabeth, who writes every mail to some one of your family. It occurred during the last snow, which by its depth induced me to burn the chimnies become very foul from long neglect. The wind it seems had blown the snow off in several places, and in two of these the fire caught: one under the balustrade and the other at the bottom of the platform, which supports the top railing. The first notice given us of the fire was the houses's filling with smoke. I ran up to the top immediately & thought all over, for the fire was burning rapidly under the balustrade and platform, and except the hostler my hands a mile off shut up in a tobacco house: it was nearly an hour before we had any help, and in that time we had scarcely got the railing down and floor off to come at the fire, but it was soon extinguished on the arrival of sufficient force. And now to the damages which I am glad to say are not as serious as you apprehend. 2000 shingles with some of the sheeting were burnt and torn off the n. w. corner. The balustrade in the same quarter burnt and cut down. The entire ralling at top nearly destroyed. The platform and shingles under it in the same quarter burnt and pulled off. The cornice of the dining room was saved. by the thickness of the plaistering, tho a large hole over the fire place is burnt in the ceiling. This I believe is the total damage sustained at present, but such an accident in the night, or in windy weather, would be fatal to the house and perhaps its inhabitants; and from the tinder like state of the shingles which are extremely old and decayed I think the occurrence not at all improbable. **Thinking your carpenters engaged, I had the roof repaired in a temporary manner with slabs, and had intended to make my carpenter tho' a rough hand, reshingle the whole if you think it desirable,** but the balustrade and railing are I am afraid beyond his art(?). The terrace too is entirely gone. The joists and floor are rotted completely, and nothing but an entire renewal can render the offices again habitable. If you can furnish it I should be much obliged to you for

a plat of the land upon which I live. A difficulty has occurred on the line between Cobbs and you, where I have cleared out to the Waterlick road, not being able to find any but corner trees, and I wish very much to have the tract surveyed for the purpose of laying off the fields equally. Have Cummings and Hiliard arrived? And if they have are you still willing to take my Coke and give me the value in other books? My love to you all. Believe me ever and affectionately yours.

N-171, p. 4.

Shingles. 23,280 viz. 12. shingles per foot for 1940 f. of rafters runng. measure
equal to 39. squares @ 600. shingles to a square.

[line crossed out & illegible]

Sheeting plank. 3800.f. for a horizontal coat. + 3800.f. in cuts 20.f. long for upright do.

shingles should be 4.l. wide, & 20.l. long, to shew 6.l."

n.d. (N-139, p. 2)

Shingles. 23,280 viz. 12. shingles per foot for 1940 f. of rafters runng. measure
equal to 39. squares @ 600. shingles to a square.

[line crossed out & illegible]

Sheeting plank. 3800.f. for a horizontal coat. + 3800.f. in cuts 20.f. long for upright do.
shingles should be 4.l. wide, & 20.l. long, to shew 6.l."

Other References:

Cornelia J. Randolph to Ellen W. Randolph Coolidge

Monticello July 6 1828

This place never looked so lovely & the house never so beautiful as now T the very luxuriance of the wild things growing up in the yard has a beauty in it, the thickening shade of the unpruned trees [. . .] closing round the house as if to conceal it from the prophane eyes of those who respect no more the house of Thomas Jefferson than that of one of themselves & who would turn it into a boarding house probably if it was sold to them; to me this seems like prophaning a temple & I had rather the weeds & wild animals that which are fast taking possession of the grounds should grow in and live in the house it self; when I came I was sad to see the negro **cabins** lying in little heaps of ruin every where but I would see the house itself in ruins before I would see it turned into a tavern. since the pictures [. . .] have been taken down, & the rooms in grandpapa's suite which we use have been opened, & the furniture is gone I have admired the house more than I ever did; the old furniture we had disfigured it. we could live here with much comfort & much trouble but I would take it as it comes rather than go away. Mama I think will go to Philadelphia, that place will be equally distant from her children [. . .] is cheap, & besides she has an affection for it & if she is pleas[. . .]

<http://retirementseries.dataformat.com/Document.aspx?doc=15095328>

Painting the interior of the storehouse for iron:

“Three other kinds of human modification are present in the assemblage. Four non-identifiable bones were covered with white paint. It was a common practice for slaves to whitewash their cabins, sometimes inside as well as outside (Genovese 1972), and it seems that these bones may have been accidentally coated with paint as they lay on the ground beside the walls of the structure.”

Zooarchaeology of the Storehouse and the Dry Wall At Monticello – Crader – *American Antiquity*, vol. 49, No. 3, July 1984 (p. 549). SAH

1888

“Ben Brancher” a stalwart black took him on his back and carried him to his “wife’s house,” there cuddled up on “Bettie’s” bed he slept ‘till the negros return...Old Betty...had a pot of hot coffee, fried meat & eggs, and a dish of honey ready... “Mars Jeff” was roused from his slumber, and seated at a little table covered with the best...
...when my father was over eighty years old, he climbed up a rickety ladder that he might stand “once more” on the floor of his mammy’s room.

The unroofing of an old building at “Edgehill” exposed it, after having been covered for fifty years.

(“Monticello ‘Child Life.’ Memories of what we heard from our parents, E.W. Harrison & M.J.T. Burke, finished July 16, 1888, TJF Research, Vertical Files, Family. Copy of complete transcript by Frances Burke filed in Letters notebooks under 1888 date.)

[See also: **Buildings r, s and t; First Roundabout; fences; furniture; Joinery; landscape; MR residents**] See post-1808 and post-1796 above.

“Negro Quarter/MRS 4” Extract from Martha Hill’s summation of archaeology at the site.

“Among the intriguing remains of the Negro Quarter are the quantity of fragments of chinking. Sanford (1985) reports that the chinking fragments were composed of local red clay and contained impressions of various sized logs, boards, finger marks and small branches used as lathing, such as that described by the Monticello slave, Isaac Jefferson, at Mazzei’s house (Betts, ed. 1967:22-23 Betts)(p. 40).

Several of these chinking fragments are sizable. My recent examination of them did reveal the rounded impressions of debarked logs consistent with the chinking of a log structure. I did not discern any marks suggesting lathe or twigs, however. Rather, examination of all the fragments suggests that finger marks are consistently on one side of the noggling and the negative impression of boards are on the other. The impression of boards is consistent with sheathing of the exterior with riven clapboards. Two fragments from the study collection show the “step-down” profile of the backs of overlapping clapboards. One piece of chinking has the impression of the overlap where two clapboards in the same course meet. Charred fragments of wood from ER 984 G1 appear to be portions of oak or chestnut 1/2" riven clapboards. One fragment has the “feathered” edge commonly fashioned on the ends of clapboards where they overlap horizontally.

Either clapboards were applied to the outside of the log structure and clay was pushed against them from the inside, or the clapboards were pressed against the wet clay as it was applied. The former seems more likely. The clay used in the chinking was probably dug from an area not previously occupied; it has only quartz inclusions and none of bone, shell, glass or ceramics. **Measurements [made by Nick Bon-Harper] on the curvature of the log impressions on only the largest and most complete pieces from the archaeology lab study collection indicate that the logs were small in diameter, averaging 6" in diameter and ranging in size between 3.6" and 6.9".** (See data, Archaeology, volume XI, section 19.12-13). The small size does suggest that the material came from a chimney, but there is no evidence on any pieces of the creosote that would be evident on the interior of chimney daubing. Additional work could be profitably undertaken with this material.

One enigmatic artifact of the excavation comes from 984 C. It is a whole brick with mortar on one side and edge. The side bears the impression of a riven clapboard and wraps around to accommodate a log of approximately 12" in diameter that was against the bottom of the brick. Either the brick was laid up inside the sheathing or the sheathing was applied quickly after the mortar was applied to the brick. F. Neiman observes that this may be consistent with an interior, hooded hearth, such as that measured at Road View Farm Kitchen (see HABS drawing in Archaeology, volume XI, section 19.14-18) and at one other structure measured by Colonial Williamsburg's Architectural History Department on the South side of Virginia. The log would be a sill and the brick filled in the back of a hearth against which fires were built. A hood drew smoke out through an interior chimney.

July 2002
Martha Hill"

Joseph Gardner Swift to Thomas Mann Randolph, enclosing a Plan for Huts at French Mills

Head Q^{rs} Fr: Mills 15th Nov. 1813.

The Huts will be [. . .] 16 feet square in the clear inside, Built of Logs covered and floored with Boards similar to the plan annexed 7 feet high to the Eves 3 feet pitch to the Roof —

Two Huts will be connected together by a Partition of Logs, in the center of this partition a chimney of Stone or Brick will be Erected which will afford two chim fire places 5 feet wide one for either room.—

Each Hut will have one **Door** six feet by three feet and one window 3 feet by 3 feet The **Door** of Plank six feet six inches from the corner farthest from the chimney—the window to have a wooden shutter 'till Sashes with Glass can be furnished; Each Hut will accommodate Twenty five men.—

(Signed) J. G. Swift

MS ([MHi](#)); dateline above signature; addressed: "Co' Randolph"; drawing of hut plans subjoined; endorsed by Randolph: "Hutting at French Mills Nov. 15. 1813."

War of 1812, Canada, housing for soldiers?

John French c1825

The Ex- President accompanied me two miles on my route, and I now directed my course to Monticello, the seat of Mr. Jefferson. I came to the banks of the Rivanna and passed over in a boat to the opposite shore. Advancing towards the mansion, I was struck with the appearance of the negro huts which, as in all Virginia estates, are placed at a small distance from the residence of the proprietor.

Memorandum Book

September 1769

Walls;8

To be grouted.

Openings for windows 4 f. 4 l. - 1 inch for two rabbets by
7 f. 3 1/2 l. - 1/2 inch one rabbet.

Opening for sash 2 f. 10 3/16 l. from floor.

Opening for pedestal;9 2 f. 3 3/16 l. - 2 l. = 2 f. 1 3/16
l. from floor.

Sleepers, joists &c. not to be let into wall, but laid on,
and small space left between wall & end.

Stock bricks for outside rubbed before burnt.;s1;s0

Note. I do not find that the mouldings of the capital are
ever given to the wall, but I observe that the upper
mouldings of the base of the shaft, and sometimes a
bare zocco;s1;s1 only are given to the wall of the
house and sometimes nothing at all, and qu. which
handsomest?;s1;s2

Have hidden arches over doors and windows to prevent door
and window frames from too great pressure.

Doors

To be pannelled on both side.

10 peices 8 by 10 l. 8 1/2 f. long. + 16. for O. H.;s1;s3

7 do. 8 by 10. 5 1/2 f. long. + 14 for O. H.

For no. & disposn. of panels see Pall.;s1;s4 B. 4. Pl. 36.

Must be 6. only.

For proportn. of panel to border see do. Pl. 72.

For moulding on edge of border see do. Pl. 60.

Bottom panel range with pannelling of wainscoat.

Style of door 2 1/8 l. thick. The panel may sink 1/4 inch
on each side. By Saunders.;s1;s5

Style has ogee, fillet, quarter round.

Panel has fillet, quarter round, fillet, faint hollow,
[birch?]

Roofs.

External covering of plank put on with their ends up and down. To be tongued and planed.

Rafter for every joist. Joists twice their thickness apart. Rafters to be supported by framed work.

Windows.;s1;s6

Outside architraves locust or cedar 7 l. by 10. l.
<6> [24?] peices f. 5 1/2 long + 8 four;s1;s7 outhouses.

12. do. 8 1/2 f. long + 8 for O. H.

Frize solid of chesnut or cedar. 6 1/2 l. by 4 1/4 inches.
6 peices 5 1/2 f. long.

Cornices solid, of chesnut. 11 1/2 l. by 8 1/2 l. 6 peices
7 f. long.

Cap of base for bottom of window. 8 l. by 4 l. 6 peices 5
1/2 f. long + 4 for O. H.

Pullies to be covered by under sash.

<upper and under sash joined with a rabbet.>;s1;s8

Mutual Assurance Record

JEFFERSON	THOMAS	ALBEMARLE	1800	2 (reel)
14 (Volume)	389 (Policy)	D	5300	
MONTICELLO	FY	DWE.1_CW	OFF.1_BW	JOS.1_WW
STA.1_WW				OUT.1_SW

Agreement to build a Mill for George Bronaugh by Anthony R. Thornton

Document: Thornton vs Bronaugh, Fredericksburg Circuit Court, 1811. Box 577-61.

Included in Sundry work list:

2 cabbins log boddies coverd with slabs – 9 00 0

http://resources.umwhisp.org/Fredericksburg/contracts/thornton_vs_bronaugh,agree.htm

An agreement made this 25th day of August 1809 between Walker R. Carter of the Town of Fredericksburg & Larkin Stanard of the County of Spotsylvania which is as follows

Robert MaKay vs Larkin Stanard, Fredericksburg Superior Court of Law-Appeal, Court Records, 1827. ID 448-52.

The said Larkin Stanard is to build for the said Carter one house of the following size to wit, **Two Roomes sixteen feet square and to be set twelve feet apart and all to be under one rought [roof]. The roomes to be built of hewed logs, The lower floor to be nine feet pitch & the upper part to be run up half a story before the rough is put on,**

The said Stanard is to cut and hugh [hew] the logs, hall them in, place & put them up, saw the rafters & shingling laths and put up the rough & shingle it, to lay floors make the doors & windows. The shingles, plank & such as is called English miter cut & are to be formed by the said Carter. The said Stanard agrees also to build a shop for the said Carter which is to be **two 16 feet roomes set twelve, and to be under one rought, to be built with round logs, and covered with slabs in the common cabbin way.** The said Carter to find the timber for both houses. For which the said Carter agrees on his part to build & compleat in every respect a neat elegant and convenient Coachee which is to be built of the best seasoned wood & materials. To have pannel boddy storm [?] & Venetian Blinds instead of Curtains. be line with real leather, to be hung on swingle leather and to have neat fashionable springs. The houses to be compleated by the middle of November next. The Coachee to be compleated by the same time. The Coachee to be painted any color the said Stanard chooses. To the faithful performance of this agreement the parties hereunto subscribing their names bind themselves each to the other in the penalty of five hundred dollars.

Larkin Stanard
W. R. Carter

http://resources.umwhisp.org/Fredericksburg/contracts/carter_vs_larkin.htm

A history of the commonwealth of Kentucky

cutlery for families never deficient in their numbers The furniture of the cabin was appropriate to the habitation the table was composed of a slab or thick flat piece of timber split and roughly hewn with the axe with legs prepared in the same manner This latter instrument was the principal tool in all mechanical operations and with the adze the auger and above all the rifle composed the richest mechanical assortment of Kentucky Stools of the same material and manufacture filled the place of chairs When some one more curiously nice than his neighbors chose to elevate his bed above the floor often the naked ground it was placed on slabs laid across poles which were again supported by forks driven into the floor If however the floor happened to be so luxurious as to be made of puncheons another larger sort of slabs the bedstead became hewed pieces let into the sides of the cabin by auger holes in the logs It is worth while to mention that the cradle of these times was a small rolling trough much like what is called the sugar trough used to receive the sap of the sugar maple Still the food in

these rude habitations and with this rough and inartificial furniture was the richest milk and finest butter furnished by the luxuriant pasture of the woods covered with the rich pea vine and the luscious cane. P 133, 1834

Literary and Miscellaneous Memoirs: Village memoirs : in a series of letters ...

By Joseph Cradock, John Bowyer Nichols

Our lodgings were in log cabins with mattresses and some beds to lay on The log cabins are generally built about 20 feet long and about 16 feet wide with round logs piled upon each other like a pen after they get them about seven feet high they keep laying them up and drawing them in which forms a roof After this they cover it with slabs or boards about four feet long without the help of a nail then they lay a plank of floor and then they sop the body of the house between the logs with mud to keep the air out after this gets dry they generally whitewash the whole house inside and out In each of these cabins there are generally about three people lodging the cabins. Page 365

<http://books.google.com/books?id=K4QVAAAAYAAJ&dq=slab%20covered%20cabin&pg=PA365&ci=153%2C873%2C726%2C372&source=bookclip>">img src="http://books.google.com/books?id=K4QVAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA365&img=1&zoom=3&hl=en&sig=ACfU3U3ze_uUMk-k10k_ayqOCDHmQKuSTQ&ci=153%2C873%2C726%2C372&edge=0

A new guide for emigrants to the West: containing sketches of Ohio, Indiana ...

By John Mason Peck 1836

in every cabin 2 Dwellings Cabin is the name for a plain rough log house throughout the west The spot being selected usually in the timbered land and near some spring the first operation of the newly arrived emigrant is to cut about 40 logs of the proper size and length for a single cabin or twice that number for a double one and haul them to the spot A large oak or other suitable timber of straight grain and free from limbs is selected for clapboards for the roof These are four feet in length split with a froe six or eight inches wide and half an inch thick Puncheons are used for the floor These are made by splitting trees about eighteen inches in diameter into slabs two or three inches in thickness and hewn on the upper surface The door way is made by cutting out the logs after raising of a suitable width and putting upright pieces of timber at the sides The shutter is made of clapboards pinned on cross pieces hung by wooden hinges and fastened by a wooden latch A similar aperture but is wider made at one end for the chimney The men of the settlement when notified collect and raise the building Four stout men with axes are placed on the corners to notch the logs together while the rest of the company lift them up After the roof is on the body of the building it is slightly hewed down both out and inside The roof is formed by shortening each end log in succession till one log forms the comb of the roof The clapboards are put on so as to cover all cracks and held down by poles or small logs The chimney is built of sticks of

wood the largest at the bottom and the smallest at the top and laid up with a supply of mud or clay mortar The interstices between the logs are chinked with strips of wood and daubed with mortar both outside and in A double cabin consists of two such buildings with a space of 10 or 12 feet between over which the roof extends A log house in western parlance differs from a cabin in the logs being hewn on two sides to an equal thickness before raising in having a framed and shingled roof a brick or stone chimney windows tight floors and are frequently clapboarded on the outside and plastered within A log house thus finished costs more than a framed one Cabins are often the temporary dwellings of opulent and highly respectable families The axe auger froe drawing knife broad axe and crosscut saw are the only tools required in constructing these rude edifices sometimes the axe and auger only are employed Not a nail or pane of glass is needed Cabins are by no means as wretched for residences as their name imports They are often roomy comfortable and neat If one is not sufficient to accommodate the family another is added and another until sufficient room is obtained 3 Furniture and mode of living The genuine backwoodsman makes himself and family comfortable and contented where those unaccustomed to his mode of life would live in unavailing regret or make a thousand awkward apologies on the visit of a neighbor or traveller A table is made of a split slab and supported by four round legs Clapboards supported by pins stuck in the logs answer for shelves for table furniture The bedstead is often made in the corner of the room by sticks placed in the logs supported at the outward corner by a post on which clapboards are laid the ends of which enter the wall between the logs and which support the bedding On the arrival of travellers or visitors the bed clothing is shared with them being spread on the puncheon floor that the feet may project towards the fire Many a night has the writer passed in this manner after a fatiguing day's ride and reposed more comfortably than on a bed of down in a spacious mansion All the family of both sexes with all the strangers who arrive often lodge in the same room In that case the under garments are never taken off and no consciousness of impropriety or indelicacy of feeling is manifested A few pins stuck in the wall of the cabin display the dresses of the women and the hunting shirts of the men Two small forks or bucks horns fastened to a joist are indispensable articles for the support of the rifle A loose floor of clapboards and supported by round poles is thrown over head for a loft which furnishes a place to throw any articles not immediately wanted and is frequently used for a lodging place for the younger branches of the family A ladder planted in the corner behind the door answers the purpose of stairs The necessary table and kitchen furniture are a few pewter dishes and spoons knives and forks for which however the common hunting knife is often a substitute tin cups for coffee or milk a water pail and a small gourd or calabash for water with a pot and iron Dutch oven constitute the chief articles Add to these a tray for wetting up meal for corn bread a coffee pot and set of cups and saucers a set of common plates and the cabin is furnished The hominy mortar and hand mill are in use in all frontier settlements.

GW to Anthony Whitting – Philadelphia, April 21, 1793

It did not occur to me to direct, when I ordered the frame for Dogue run Barn to be got, or rather, as my people knew I had often directed it before, I thought it unnecessary to repeat—that the Stock were to be hewed on two sides only, because the Slabs, for bridges & other purposes, wd be extremely useful. Now, I suppose it is too late to do it to much effect; yet, it may be done, as far as the case will admit.

Thomas Parker to GW, October 31st, 1799

I have proceeded to Huting my Regiment in the Manner prac-ticed [382] during the Revolutionary war with this difference that we are obliged to Cover with plank instead of the Common Cabin Slabs Timber for which Cannot be procured in this Country.

The Farmers Almanac and Calendar – Cuthbert Johnson, William Shaw – 1844

“Clapboard roof of boards merely placed on and secured by poles placed across the roof about two feet apart.” P. 167

History of the Discovery and Settlement of the Valley of the Mississippi, Vol 2, John Wesley Monette, 1846

2 Habitations The log cabin was the primitive abode of the agricultural population which first advanced west of the mountains upon the waters of the Ohio These habitations of the western settlements were rude and simple and well adapted to the circumstances by which they were surrounded Almost the only tools possessed by the first settlers were axes hatchets knives and a few augers They had neither sawmills nor carpenters nails nor glass bricks nor masons Each house erected was of similar construction and consisted of one or more log pens in the shape of a square or parallelogram with the logs notched at each end and riding transversely on each other forming the body of the house The logs were cut to one length and were selected of nearly the same size they were put up either round and with the bark on or were neatly hewed on two sides just as the taste and means of the builder might prompt After the pen was raised to the height of eight or ten feet from the foundation the gable ends were carried up with ridge poles extending lengthwise for the support of the clap board roof The clap board shingles were laid in regular courses over each of which a weight pole was laid and retained in its place by short blocks of wood at right angles intervening The roof being completed a door was cut out and faced and also a window if it were deemed necessary or desirable The spaces between the logs of the house were closed by chinking or small blocks of wood riding upon each other and afterward daubed and plastered with tempered clay or mud An opening was also cut out for the chimney and a wooden square stack of small pieces of wood rudely dove tailed to one end of the house was built up tapering to the top It was so connected with the house as to form a large fireplace and chimney literally outside of the house This chimney was chinked daubed and plastered similar to the house except that the plastering was chiefly inside and quite thick to protect the wood en structure from the action of the fire within The jambs and back of the fireplace were also further secured by three upright large flat stones laid in mud The earth was often the only floor but more commonly the floor was made of puncheons or slabs split from logs hewed smooth on the upper side and resting bedded upon poles raised above ground The loft or attic story sometimes had a puncheon floor and a rude ladder in one corner served as a stairway The door was made of thick clap boards split from oak logs and pinned to cross pieces and were hung upon wooden hinges and fastened by a wooden latch The open door or the broad chimney admitted light by day and a rousing fire and a bear grease lamp or a buffalo tallow candle were their resource at night As soon as the mechanic and merchant appeared sashes with two or four lights of glass might be seen set into gaps cut through the side logs Contemporaneously old barrels began to constitute the tops of chimneys and joists and plank sawed by hand took the place of puncheons At first log cabins were built in villages or clusters and surrounded with stockades formed by logs set upright in the ground and made bullet proof for mutual protection against Indian surprise and massacre The location of the house was generally in some vale or dell near a running stream of water or near some permanent spring Thus they consulted their own convenience in obtaining a constant supply of water and also considering that every thing coming to the house from abroad is more easily carried down hill than up the house was seldom placed upon an eminence In all the first locations the bottoms were selected and the contiguous ridges formed the boundaries of the tract This continued until the system of square surveys was introduced when the boundaries of tracts were straight lines and not the natural features of the country The inside appearance of a frontier habitation was also unique and adapted to the circumstances of the times Bureaus side boards and armors were unknown and so were their uses The whole furniture of a room

consisted of one home made bedstead and one trundle bedstead under it for children both well furnished with bear skins and buffalo robes instead of blankets a few split bottom chairs and a few three legged stools a small movable bench or table supported by two pairs of cross legs for the family meals a shelf and water bucket near the door The naked wood and clay walls instead of the ornamental paper and tapestry of the cities were embellished with the whole wealth of the family wardrobe The frocks dresses and bed gowns of the women the hunting shirts pantaloons and arms of the men all were suspended around the walls from wooden hooks and pegs and served as a good index to the industry and neatness of the mistress of the house The cooking utensils and table furniture consisted of a few iron pots pewter plates and dishes spoons knives and forks which had been transported from the east with their salt and iron besides these a few wooden bowls or trenchers noggins and gourds completed the list of cooking and eating utensils The domestic employments of the women were chiefly in the household affairs They milked the cows and prepared food and clothing for the family washed the clothing and regulated the minutice of domestic affairs. P. 5-7

cat-clay chimney

Historical Collections of Ohio: Containing a collection of the most... Henry Howe - 1850

Among the best sketches of backwoods life is that written by Mr John S W illiams editor of the American Pioneer and published in it in October 1843 In the spring of 1800 his father's family removed from Carolina and settled with others on Glenn's run about six miles northeast of St Clairsville He was then a lad as he relates of seventy five pounds weight From his sketch Our Cabin or Life in the Woods we make some extracts

“Our cabin was twenty four by eighteen The west end was occupied by two beds the center of each side by a door and here our symmetry had to stop for on the opposite side of the window made of clapboards supported on pins driven into the logs were our shelves I on these shelves my sister displayed in ample order a host of pewter plates basins and fishes and spoons scoured and bright It was none of your new fangled pewter made of lead but the best London pewter which our father himself bought of Townsend the man oiacturer These were the plates upon which you could hold your meat so as to cut it without slipping and without dulling yo r knife But alas the days of pewter plates and sharp dinner knives have passed away never to return To return to our internal arrangements A ladder of five rounds occupied the corner near the window By this when we got a floor above we could ascend Our chimney occupied most of the east end pots and kettles opposite the window under the shelves a gun on hooks over the north door four split bottom chairs three three legged stools and a small eight by ten looking glass sloped from the wall over a large towel and combcase These with a clumsy shovel and a pair of tongs made in Frederick with one shank straight as the best manufacture of pinches and blood blisters completed our furniture except a spinning wheel and such thmgs as were necessary to work with It was absolutely necessary to have three leggt d atools as four legs of any thing could not all touch the floor at the same time....

....cabin from the fireplace would have extinguished our paper window and rendered it as useless as the moon at noonday We got a floor laid over head as soon as possible perhaps in a month but when it was laid the reader will readily conceive of its imperviousness to wind or weather when we mention that it was laid of loose clapboards split from a red oak the stump of which may be seen beyond the cabin That tree grew in the night and so twisting that each board laid on two diagonally opposite comers and a cat might have shook every board on our ceiling It be well inform the unlearned reader that clapboards such lumber pioneers...

It may be well to inform the unlearned reader that clapboards are such lumber as pioneers split with a frow and resemble barrel staves before they are shaved but are split longer wider and thinner of such our roof and ceiling were composed Puncheons were planks made by splitting logs to about two and a half or three inches in thickness and hewing them on one or both sides with the broad axe Of such our floor doors tables and stools were manufactured The eave bearers are those end logs which project over to receive the butting poles against which the lower tier of clapboards rest in forming the roof The trapping is the roof timbers composing the gable end and the ribs the ends of which appear in the drawing being those logs upon which the clapboards lie The trap logs are those of unequal length above the eave bearers which form the gable ends and upon which the ribs rest The weight poles are those small logs laid on the roof which weigh down the course of clapboards on which they lie and against which the next course above is placed The knees are pieces of heart timber placed above the butting poles successively to prevent the weight poles from rolling off."

http://books.google.com/books?id=FC4WAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA63&img=1&zoom=3&hl=en&sig=ACfU3U3Rz-7Jv8XH_vWhLI0zdP1yR0fw&ci=60%2C249%2C806%2C518&edge=0

The Far West, or A tour Beyond the Mountains Embracing Outlines... Vol 1, Edmund Flagg

The roof is covered with thin clapboards of oak or ash and in lieu of nails transverse pieces of timber retain them in their places Thousands of cabins are thus constructed without a particle of iron or even a common plank. P. 188

Essays, Literary, Moral and Philosophical - Benjamin Rush – 1806 (also The Edinburgh Magazine or Literary Miscellany, page 100 – 1787)

The first object of this settler is to build an addition to his cabin this is done with hewed logs and as saw mills generally follow settlements his floors are made of boards his roof is made of what are called clapboards which are a kind of coarse shingles split out of short oak logs. 216

Pictorial Geography of the World, Vol. 1 Samuel Griswold Goodrich

Middle States:

Our buildings are made of hewn logs on an average 24 feet long by 20 wide sometimes a wall of stone about a foot above the level of the earth being raised as a foundation but in general four large stones are laid at the corners and the building is raised on them The house is covered sometimes with shingles and sometimes with clapboards The advantage of the latter kind of roof is it requires no lathes nor rafters and no nails and is put on in much less time It has been called a poor roan's make shift and its use can only be justified by the poverty and other circumstances of the country The ground logs being laid a saddle shaped on the upper edge is cut with an axe at the ends as long as the logs arc thick then the end logs are raised and & notch cut to fit the saddle This is the only tie or binder they have and when the building is raised as many rounds as is intended the ribs are raised on which a course of clapboards is laid the butts resting on a butting pole A press pole is laid upon the clapboards immediately over the ribs to keep them from shifting by the wind and the pole is kept to its hirth by stay blocks resting in the first course against the butting pole and then against each preceding pole The logs are run up on the building on skids by the help of wooden forks The most experienced axe men axe placed on the building as corner men the rest of the company are on the ground to carry the logs and run them up In this way a building is raised and covered in a day without a mason and without a pound of iron The doors and windows are afterwards cut out as the owner pleases As the country becomes rich

and more densely settled these hastily constructed buildings will give way to more durable and more comfortable ones but at present there are very few buildings in the country except on the turnpike 01 any other material than logs American Farmer. P. 28

The Register of Pennsylvania, Vol 5. Edited by Samuel Hazard – March 20, 1830.

Article - Pennsylvania – in 1708 by J. Oldmixon

We have hinted before there were few English when Mr Pen went over to take upon him the Government of his Province which was in the year 1681 He carry'd along with him and there came in the first year near 2000 souls and before the new comers built houses they ran up huts for their reception These huts were generally 30 foot long and 18 foot broad with a partition near the middle and another to divide one end of the house into two small rooms For this use they took eight trees of about 16 inches square cut off ten posts of about 15 foot long upon which the house stood and 4 pieces 2 of 20 and 2 of 18 foot long for plates to lay a top of those post They had 10 giests of 20 foot long to bear the lofts and 2 false plates of 30 foot long to lie on the ends of the giests for the rafters to be fix d upon There were 12 pair of rafters of about 20 foot to bear the roof of the house with windbeams braces studds Etc They used clapboard for the covering of the house ends and sides and for the loft this clapboard is rived feather edged 5-1/2 foot long and if well drawn lies close and smooth They lin'd the lodging room with it and filled it up between which made it very warm The lower floor was earth the upper clapboard. But these mean dwellings served only till the Pennsylvanians were settled a little And then having fell d their trees clear d and cultivated their ground rait d stocks and planted a great part of their purchases they began to leave their cottages for stately as well as convenient houses and to imitate the inhabitants of the other Colonies in the grandeur of their buildings. Page 177

http://books.google.com/books?id=Zw4QAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA177&dq=clapboard+roof&hl=en&sa=X&ei=bsV-UfvYBY_F4AOBmIGIBA&ved=0CFcQ6AEwBThG#v=onepage&q=clapboard%20roof&f=false

The Works of the Late Aaron Hill Esq: - Aaron Hill, Urania Hill Johnson, 1753

The roof should consist of strong rafters at a distance of two foot from each other resting their points in obtuse and low angles Feather edge all this raftering with a close nailed strong covering of shingle which is a kind of rived clapboard commonly us d for the roofing of houses throughout our American settlements. p 109

Lieutenant August Wilhelm Du Roi on the cabins built for the Convention Army in Albemarle County. Taken from Wikipedia but quoted from Philander Chase's "Years of Hardship and Revelations: The Convention Army at the Albemarle Barracks, 1779-1781". *The Magazine of Albemarle County History*, 1983. There is also an engraving showing what one of the barracks looked like.

"The rank-and-file, however, dealt with miserable living conditions as the small amount of money appropriated to build the barracks proved inadequate. "Each barrack," observed Lieutenant August Wilhelm Du Roi, "is 24 feet long, and 14 feet wide, big enough to shelter 18 men. The construction is so miserable that it surpasses all that you can imagine in Germany of a very poorly built log house. It is something like the following: Each side is put up of 8 to 9 round fir trees, which are laid one on top the other, but so far apart that it is almost possible for a man to crawl through ... The roof is made of round

trees covered with split fir trees..." And then, "a great number of our men preferred to camp out in the woods, where they could protect themselves better against the cold than in the barracks."

Log House Architecture in the Eighteenth-Century Virginia Piedmont

2003, Christopher C. Fennell - <http://www.histarch.illinois.edu/harper/demoryarch.html>

Warren Roberts' analysis of the spread of German horizontal log construction methods in Dubois County, Indiana illustrates a diffusion of styles across ethnic groups. German immigrants moved into the Dubois County area in the 1830s and 1840s, settling in areas already occupied by approximately 5,000 Anglo-Americans who had moved into the region after 1807 (Roberts 1986:265). Due to the distribution of fairly inexpensive farm land throughout the area, the German immigrants settled in an interspersed pattern among the Anglo-Americans (1986:265-67).

Examining a sample of 28 standing log houses from this period, Roberts found 26 shared the basic design layout of a "log, one-and-a-half-story, two-room house with a frame lean-to across the rear" (1986:267). The two rooms were side-by-side on the ground floor, with one typically two feet wider than the other. The main house footprint (omitting the lean-to and porch) typically measured 33 feet 6 inches by 18 feet 6 inches. Most houses had no hearth, and used stoves instead, and they had boxed-in staircases in one corner of a lower room leading to the sleeping loft overhead (1986:267). Interestingly, he also found these houses typically included logs projecting out from the end walls and center wall to support a porch roof on the front and the frame of a lean-to on the rear. Thus, these logs were likely incorporated in the design from the outset (1986:268).

Other typical features of the German American houses which Roberts examined included foundations of local sandstones stacked into cubical support piers. The houses had no cellars, and British American log buildings in the area similarly lacked cellars. Windows were double-hung sash, again closely resembling the style used in British American houses in the area, and much different from window styles used in Germany. Rafters were usually paired and spiked at the top. Most houses had no plates, and rafters rested on top of the topmost log on the side walls. This differed from the typical British American log houses, which had rectangular shaped plates "cantilevered out over the wall so that the roof extends several inches out over the wall" (Roberts 1986:273). In both German American and British American log houses, logs were not used above the top of the first floor walls, and the gable ends of the half-story roof were completed with vertical timbers or studs fastened to the top logs and end rafters (1986:274).

Comparing these German houses with "296 British American log houses measured in several counties in southern Indiana" revealed interesting contrasts and commonalities. The majority (65%) of these Anglo-American houses "were one-and-a-half-story houses with a single room on the ground floor," in contrast to the typical two-room layout of German houses (Roberts 1986:269; see also Glassie 1978:404-11; McAlister & McAlister 1997:83). Comparing the

15.5% of Anglo-American houses that were "one-and-a-half story houses with two rooms on the ground floor" with the German examples, Roberts found:

In two-room, one-and-a-half British American log houses, the two rooms are nearly always the same size. In the German American log houses, one room is slightly larger than the other. The British American log houses usually have two front doors symmetrically spaced, while the German American Dubois County houses usually have one front door which is not centered on the facade. Most "Yankee" log houses have a fireplace in every room. Only two of the German American log houses had a fireplace, and that only in one of the two rooms. (It seems likely that the German people who came to Dubois County in the 1840s and 1850s had become accustomed to stoves in their homeland. Although stoves were expensive and difficult to obtain in Indiana, these people were not ready to do without them.) (1986:269)

Construction techniques showed commonalities again, with both German and British houses using the half-dovetail notch for joining log timbers at the corners of the structures (1986:270). Both house types typically had exterior siding of clapboards installed at the time of construction, while some exterior walls were instead whitewashed (1986:270).

Based on these commonalities between British American and German American approaches to log house construction, Roberts concludes that the "German immigrants to Dubois County learned how to build with logs from British Americans" (Roberts 1986:272). He finds the "hewing of the sides of the logs but not the tops and bottoms, the use of chinking, the half-dovetail corner notching, and the use of siding are identical" between German American and British American houses in Indiana at this time, and these are distinct from the design and construction methods in Germany (Roberts 1986:272). I believe it is an overstatement to assert that these German immigrants "learned how to build with logs from the British Americans." The German immigrants likely possessed comparable building traditions from Germany, but modified them rapidly when constructing houses in interaction with the British Americans among whom they were settling.

Kniffen and Glassie contend that the half dovetail was derived over time from the full dovetail as an easier technique:

In half dovetailing, also known to all woodworkers, the head of the notch slopes upward but the bottom is flat. It is, in effect, half of a V notch, yet it seems to have been developed from a full dovetail. The top angle of a full-dovetail notch is more acute than the bottom angle, and the bottom angle was easily straightened to produce the half dovetail, which is no less effective than the full dovetail but much easier to make. (Kniffen & Glassie 1966:56)

While half dovetailing appears to have been used more by Anglo-Americans and Scots-Irish in the Virginia region, Kniffen and Glassie do not identify one group as the creators of this technique. Weslager finds this appropriate, since the German and Scots-Irish settlers of Pennsylvania and Virginia "were so closely associated with the diffusion of the log cabin that it is strictly an academic exercise to try to assign weights of relative importance to each [group], except on a regional basis, and this is only a small part of a complex whole" (Weslager 1969:236). I believe this would be true of the German Americans and Anglo-Americans examined by Roberts in Indiana as well.

An extensive array of architectural history studies address the question of the sources of design and construction methods used in many forms of log house construction in the American colonial period. Fred Kniffen and Henry Glassie summarized the sources of log building techniques for houses which would be imported into the Virginia Piedmont in the early 1730's as follows:

Beginning in the late seventeenth century, and reaching a peak in the early eighteenth, great numbers of Scotch-Irish and Germans arrived in Pennsylvania and settled just west of the English. The Pennsylvania Germans used horizontal log construction of the type which they had known in Europe, and which may still be found there, primarily in Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia. The previously stone- or mud-using Scotch-Irish quickly adopted Pennsylvania German log construction, primarily because of its practicality in timber-rich America. Pennsylvania German log work, and subsequent American log work, were characterized by logs notched near the end, a method that eliminated overhang and produced a box corner. Spaces between the logs were filled - "chinked" - with clay, stones, poles, or shingles. The logs were usually squared, split and faced, or planked. Logs were hewn for a variety of reasons. A large log could be handled more easily when reduced in size; and a large round log took up interior space and produced an irregular wall that was hard to utilize. Primarily, however, hewn logs were thought to produce a tighter building, more finished in appearance. (Kniffen & Glassie 1966:59, footnote omitted)⁽¹⁾

Scots-Irish immigrants moved during the eighteenth century from initial settlements in Pennsylvania and Delaware across the Potomac and into Virginia and along the Blue Ridge into the Carolinas and Georgia (Weslager 1969:226). Edward Lay observes that the Scots-Irish tended to settle in hilly regions close to natural springs, and often settled in lands near the western frontier in each region (Lay 1982:3). He finds that German immigrants in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries tended to settle more in clusters, maintaining their ethnic identities and traditions (1982:3). Lay summarizes Scots-Irish building styles of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in American colonies as follows:

Their houses were small and usually log ones, better adapted to their constant moving with the expanding frontier. They preferred the single-cell of the hall-and-parlour plan, but unlike the English version, it had enclosed stairs, single board partitions, exposed joints, and a stone chimney. Sometimes they employed German builders. (1982:18; see also Glassie 1978:394-96)

Scots-Irish settlers likely found the existing modes of Pennsylvania German house designs fit their preferences for a hall-and-parlor layout, and they may have used the German log construction techniques to take advantage of ready supplies of timber, while modifying those building techniques over time (Perdue 1985:9, 13).

Edward Chappell's study of the distribution of German log house construction in the Shenandoah Valley finds a rapid dissipation of German ethnic building traditions around 1800 (1986:28). Like the rest of the Virginia Piedmont, this area was settled in the mid- and late-seventeenth century by Germans, Scots-Irish and English. The traditional German log house forms in this area included a central chimney, Stube and Küche. A front and rear door entry to the house opened into the Küche, which was located to the right of the central chimney in 80% of the traditional German houses examined by Chappell. An enclosed boxed stair led from the Küche to the second story sleeping chamber (1986:28-30). He found other varied characteristics in these

houses, including storage areas in cellars and placement of the houses typically on slopes (1986:34-36).

Based on these patterns of architectural features and construction techniques, Chappell argues that a distinctively German house style was evident:

Despite variations, the surviving buildings form a coherent group that is recognizably distinct from the contemporary house forms of the other ethnic groups in the region, and that is indicative of the separate nature of Germanic culture in eighteenth-century Virginia. The shared characteristics of the buildings represent an architectural vocabulary that was one aspect of a transported cultural heritage. (1986:37)

However, this distinctness was not to last. Chappell finds the German house tradition began to evolve in the late 1700's in this region as German immigrants experienced pressures from Anglo-Americans to become more assimilated and acculturated to broader lines of social and political relationships in this region (1986:42). Some houses were built in this period with hybrid designs combining traditional German plans with the features of the largely Anglo-American "I" house design with a central passage:

When acculturation took place, it was not a rapid process that erased all levels of ethnic distinction. Families that first accepted features of eastern Virginia living patterns did so within a familiar building form, although the exterior of the house might resemble an Anglo-American house. The traditional house model, like the German language, was finally replaced because it represented a conspicuous symbol of ethnic division. (1986:43)

After 1800, the traditional German design was largely abandoned, and families of German heritage began building houses following the central passage, "I" house style (1986:42-43; see also Glassie 1968:74-75).

The cross-notch technique used at the Loudoun house is a basic V notch, which was of continuing popularity among German settlers in the eighteenth century, even as far south as Texas. The Loudoun house lacks a plate for rafters, which are fastened instead onto the top-most log of the side walls. The use of plates on top of the top log was more frequent in Anglo-American houses. The window sashes at the Loudoun house, if part of the original design, would be consistent with any of the German, Scotch-Irish and Anglo-American construction methods of the period.