

## **Slave Housing Data Base**

**Building Name:** Little Oatlands – Stone Duplex 2

**Evidence Type:** Extant

**Historical Site Name:** Little Oatlands (private property within former Oatlands Plantation)

**County:** Loudoun

**State:** VA

**Investigators:** Douglas W. Sanford, Dennis J. Pogue

**Institution:** Virginia Slave Housing Project, Inc.

**Project Start:** 9/20/18

**Project End:** 10/22/18

### **Summary Description:**

Two stone buildings are located at the property now known as Little Oatlands, which had been a part of the Carter family's Oatlands plantation. The structures are situated within a few hundred feet of each other and bear numerous similarities in form, materials, and methods of construction. Both structures have been extensively altered over the years, but they retain sufficient integrity to determine their original lay out as duplex residences for slaves.

Documentary and physical evidence combine to infer that the quarters were erected during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The eastern structure has been designated as Stone Duplex 1; the adjacent building is Stone Duplex 2.

The western slave quarter at Little Oatlands (Stone Duplex 2), has undergone extensive interior modifications and exterior additions in the Colonial Revival style of the 1930s-50s, a treatment that it shares with the other stone duplexes at Oatlands. The one-and-one-half-story, side-gable-roofed stone core is two bays wide, with two doorways on the south-facing façade and two roof dormers. A one-story, gable-roofed, stretcher-bond brick veneered wing is attached to the east end wall, which is accessed only from the interior of the main block. A one-and-one-half-story, shed-roofed frame addition extends across the southern two-thirds of the west end wall, with an exterior brick chimney for a stove flue, and an exterior doorway on the south. An open, three-bay porch with a shed roof runs the length of the south elevation of the stone main block. The entire structure is now covered with composition shingles. The porch, the west addition, and the dormers were in place by 1937, when architectural plans for the east addition were prepared.

### **Chronology:**

The original structure consisted of a two bay, one-and-one-half story building with a side-gable roof and an interior brick chimney. The approximately 19-inch thick walls feature irregular coursing and large, flat stones at the corners. Measuring roughly 21 feet wide and 28 feet, five inches long, the building fits the format of a double quarter or duplex, with its two exterior doorways on the south-facing façade providing separate access to two, equal-sized downstairs rooms, with the central chimney containing a fireplace for each room. Enslaved occupants likely used a set of stairs on the chimney's south side to reach two rooms upstairs, both of which have brick fireplaces. Original gable end windows on the ground and upper stories have been converted into doorways to connect with the additions.

Interior changes resulted in removing and replacing the original stairs, although the modern staircase and upstairs landing likely occupy the same position as the earlier versions. New wood floors with narrower boards were installed, as were modern utilities, with the additions containing a modern kitchen and bathrooms. Closets and a storage alcove were placed on either the south or north side of the fireplace in each duplex room. A systematic reworking of the doors and windows occurred during the 1930s or 1940s, with the replacement of doors and sash, along with a consistent treatment of the openings' surrounding trim.

**Bibliography:**

*The Journal of the Times* (1819)

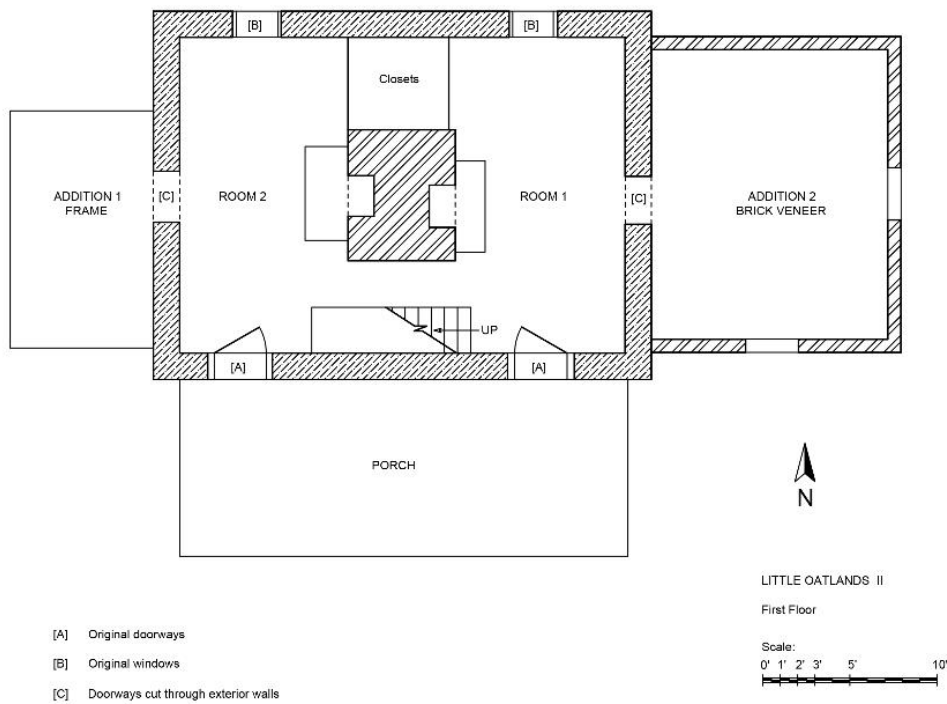
“Alterations and Extensions to Guest Cottage,” Fred M. Kramer, Architect, revised July 2, 1951

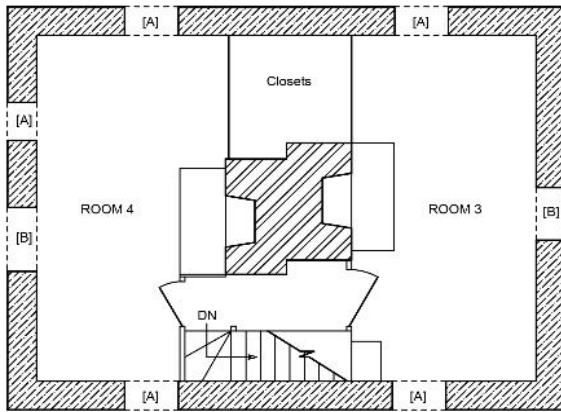
“The Early History of Oatlands,” (2017), Ms. on file, Oatlands Historic Site

**Principal Construction Type:** Masonry – Stone

**One and One-Half Story**

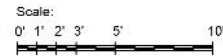
**Footprint (21.1.0 x 28.5.0) (Additions not shown, second floor plan):**





LITTLE OATLANDS II  
Second Floor

- [A] Window openings inserted in walls
- [B] Doorways inserted in walls to connect with additions



**Number of Rooms:** 4 total (2 down, 2 up)

**Dimensions:**

- (1) Downstairs, east: 9.9.1 (E-W) x 18.3.2 (N-S), 7.8.0 (H)
- (2) Downstairs, west: 9.9.2 (E-W) x 18.2.0 (N-S), 7.8.0 (H)
- (3) Upstairs, east: 9.4.2 (E-W) x 17.10.0 (N-S), 6.11.2 (H)
- (4) Upstairs, west: 9.8.2 (E-W) x 17.11.2 (N-S), 6.10.2 (H)

**Doors:** 13

**Rm. 1, S (1/A)**

**Rm. 2, S (2/A)**

**Rm. 1, E (3/C)**

<b>Type:</b>	4 panel door w/later inserted 3/3 sash with tracery in upper row	4 panel door w/later inserted 3/3 sash with tracery in upper row	Not described, modern insertion
<b>Dimensions:</b>	2.11.2 (W) x 5.9.2 (H), 1.5 in. thick	2.10.0 (W) x 5.9.0 (H)	Provides access to modern brick addition to the east
<b>Hardware:</b>	3-knuckle butt hinges (modern)	3-knuckle butt hinges (modern)	
<b>Swing:</b>	In	In	
<b>Replacement:</b>	Older door; sash possibly salvaged from Oatlands main house cupola	Older door; sash possibly salvaged from Oatlands main house cupola	

**Doors:** *continued.*

**Rm. 2, W (4/C)****Rm. 2, E (5)****Rm. 2, S (6)**

<b>Type:</b>	Modern insertion, not described (board & batten)	Modern insertion, not described (4 panel)	Modern insertion, not described (board & batten)
<b>Dimensions:</b>	Provides access to modern frame addition to the west	Provides access to stairs hallway	Door for modern closet beneath stairs, in room's SE corner
<b>Hardware:</b>			
<b>Swing:</b>			
<b>Replacement:</b>			

**Rm. 2, E (7)****Rm. 3, W (8)****Rm. 3, E (9/B)**

<b>Type:</b>	Modern insertion, not described (board & batten)	Modern insertion, not described (4 panel)	Modern insertion, not described (4 panel)
<b>Dimensions:</b>	Door for modern closet to north side of fireplace	Door providing access to stair landing	Provides access to upstairs portion of modern brick addition to east
<b>Hardware:</b>		3-knuckle butt hinges (modern)	5-knuckle butt hinges (modern)
<b>Swing:</b>		Out	Out
<b>Replacement:</b>			Probable location for original gable end window

**Rm. 3, W (10)****Rm. 3, W (11)****Rm. 4, W (12/B)**

<b>Type:</b>	Modern insertion, not described (board & batten)	Modern insertion, not described (board & batten)	Modern insertion, not described (4 panel)
<b>Dimensions:</b>	Door for closet on north side of fireplace	Door for closet in room's SW corner (beaded, circular sawn boards)	Provides access to upstairs portion of frame addition to west
<b>Hardware:</b>	H-L hinges, modern reproduction	3-knuckle butt hinges (modern)	3-knuckle butt hinges (modern)
<b>Swing:</b>	Out	Out	In
<b>Replacement:</b>			Probable location for original gable end window

**Rm. 4, E (13)**

<b>Type:</b>	Modern insertion, not described (board & batten, beaded boards)		
<b>Dimensions:</b>	Doorway within partition wall, providing access to upstairs stair landing		
<b>Hardware:</b>	H-L hinges, reproduction		
<b>Swing:</b>	In		
<b>Replacement:</b>			

**Windows: 6**

**Rm. 1, N (1/B)**

**Rm. 2, N (2/B)**

**Rm. 3, N (3/A)**

<b>Type:</b>	Single-hung sash, 6/6	Single-hung sash, 6/6	Single-hung sash, 6/6
<b>Dimensions:</b>	2.4.2 (W) x 3.9.0 (H)	2.4.2 (W) x 3.9.0 (H)	2.4.2 (W) x 3.9.0 (H)
<b>Hardware:</b>	Metal thumb latch	Metal thumb latch	Metal thumb latch
<b>Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:</b>	Modern replacement and trim	Modern replacement and trim	Modern replacement and trim

**Rm. 3, S (4/A)**

**Rm. 4, N (5/A)**

**Rm. 4, S (6/A)**

<b>Type:</b>	Single-hung sash, 6/6	Single-hung sash, 6/6	Single-hung sash, 6/6
<b>Dimensions:</b>	2.4.2 (W) x 3.9.0 (H)	2.4.2 (W) x 3.9.0 (H)	2.4.2 (W) x 3.9.0 (H)
<b>Hardware:</b>	Metal thumb latch	Metal thumb latch	Metal thumb latch
<b>Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:</b>	Modern replacement and trim	Modern replacement and trim	Modern replacement and trim

## EXTERIOR

Similar to the two other stone duplexes at Oatlands, this building is essentially aligned N-S, E-W. The compass bearing along the west gable end, looking northwards, is 348<sup>0</sup>.

### Foundation:

**Continuous Masonry:** Stone – fieldstone, painted white

**Thickness:** Approximately 19”

**Height:** NA

**Bond:** Irregular coursing

**Mortar Type:** Not visible due to repointing and paint

**Joint:** Not visible due to repointing

**Repaired:** Yes

**Shed/Porch:** Yes – on south facing façade, modern addition

### Roof:

**Roof Form:** Gable

**Roof Covering:** Composition shingles (asbestos?), modern

**Roof Framing:**

**Exposed:** No (not visible)

**Collar Ties:** Unknown (not visible)

**Building Height:** (SW corner)

**Ground to Soffit:** 13.6.2

**Ground to Top of Eave:** 14.2.1

### Walls:

**Masonry:** Stone

**Bond:** Irregular coursing

**Mortar Type:** Not visible, due to later repointing and paint

**Joint:** Not visible, due to later repointing

**Repaired:** Yes

### Chimney(s):

**Chimney (1):**

**Material:** Brick

**Location:** Interior – Center

**Height:** Not accessible

The chimneystack above the roofline is narrower at the top; at the bottom it is stepped outward for six to eight courses as it meets the shingled roof.

## INTERIOR

**Wall Framing:** NA, stone structure

**Wall Finish:** Plaster on stone

The wall height in the upper story, to the point where the ceiling slopes upward, is 4.8.1.

**Fireplace (1):** End – off Center to south; Room 1 – west wall

**Fireplace Material:** Brick

**Fireplace Overall Dimensions:** 7.5.0 (N-S) x NA (chimney mass is flush with wall)

**Fireplace Opening Dimensions:** 2.4.1 (W) x 2.7.0 (H) x 1.6.2 (D)

**Hearth Material:** Unknown – covered with modern concrete

**Hearth Dimensions:** 5.2.2 (N-S) x 1.9.2 (E-W)

**Fireplace (2):** End – off-center to north; Room 2 – east wall

**Fireplace Material:** Brick

**Fireplace Overall Dimensions:** 7.5.0 (N-S) x NA (chimney mass is flush with wall)

**Fireplace Opening Dimensions:** 2.4.0 (W) x 2.6.0 (H) x 1.6.0 (D)

**Hearth Material:** Unknown (removed)

**Hearth Dimensions:** 5.4.0 (N-S) x 2.5.0 (E-W)

**Fireplace (3):** End – off-center to south; Room 3 – west wall

**Fireplace Material:** Brick

**Fireplace Overall Dimensions:** 6.0.2 (N-S) x NA (chimney stack flush with wall)

**Fireplace Opening Dimensions:** 3.2.2 (W) x 2.9.0 (H) x 1.6.0 (D)

**Hearth Material:** Unknown, covered with concrete parging

**Hearth Dimensions:** 5.8.2 (N-S) x 2.1.2 (E-W)

**Fireplace (4):** End – off center to north; Room 4 – east wall

**Fireplace Material:** Brick

**Fireplace Overall Dimensions:** 6.3.0 (N-S) x NA (chimney stack flush with wall)

**Fireplace Opening Dimensions:** 2.10.2 (W) x 2.5.2 (H) x 1.6.2 (D)

**Hearth Material:** Unknown, covered with concrete parging

**Hearth Dimensions:** 5.8.0 (N-S) x 2.4.0 (E-W)

**Stairs:** Yes – modern replacement; on north side of chimney, extending into Room 1

**Type:** Open Winder (see plan drawing)

**Stairwell Dimensions:** 8.2.1 (E-W) x 2.6.0 (N-S)

**Number of Treads:** 10 treads, 2 winders to upstairs landing

**Stair Tread Dimensions:** 2.6.0 (L) x 0.10.0 (W) x 0.8.0 (H)

**Subfloor Pit:** No



**Floor:** Wood – downstairs and upstairs flooring is modern replacement, with narrow floorboards

**Floorboards Dimension:** NA

**Dating:** Before ca. 1819

The extensive alterations and additions to the structure have obscured original finishes and fasteners throughout. Access to the attic is quite limited, but the framing members appear to have been largely if not totally replaced. The overall character of the structure – the stone construction, symmetrical arrangement of the rooms, two exterior doorways, spacing, and central chimney – is similar to Stone Duplex 1. In combination with their proximity, therefore, the dating evidence for Duplex 1 is inferred to apply to Duplex 2 as well. The newspaper article (*Journal of the Times*) from 1819 refers to: “a neat and uniform row of stone-houses for the accommodation of the slaves, [and] form a village, having the public road for its street.” The proximity of Duplexes 1 and 2, along with the duplex at Oatlands Hamlet, and their location near the historic road leading to the Oatlands home complex, suggest that these are the buildings to which the article refers. Physical evidence found at Duplex 1 reinforces dating of that structure to before ca. 1819.

### Notes

#### **Interior:**

According to members of the Finley family, the window sash with arched panes set into the exterior doorways may have been salvaged from the cupola in the Oatlands main house.

*Room 2:* From the north side of the chimney to the north wall is a distance of 5.3.1; from the south side of the chimney to the south wall is a distance of 5.4.2. The fireplace has been partially rebuilt using modern brick. The original hearth has been removed, although the former limits remain visible due to a patch within the floorboards that front the fireplace.

*Room 3:* Originally the chimney/fireplace extended out (to the east) from the medial wall a distance of 2.6.1. Due to the construction of a modern closet on the north side of the fireplace, the fireplace/chimney construction is flush with the closet wall. Visible within the closet, at its south end, is the narrowing of the chimneystack by 0.10.2, creating a shelf within the closet.

*Room 4:* The modern closet to the north of the fireplace has double doors; beyond the closet (to the north) are four drawers below and a cabinet above for additional storage. Originally, the chimney/fireplace extended out (to the west) from the medial wall a distance of 2.4.0. Due to the modern closet's construction on the fireplace's south side, the fireplace/chimney is flush with the closet wall.

*Stairs:* The current construction is a later, modern replacement, presumably in the same area of the original stairs. The stairs' treads, risers, and stringers are all circular-sawn lumber, attached with wire nails. Downstairs, the distance (N-S) between the south side of the chimney and the building's south wall measures 6.1.0.