

Slave Housing Data Base

Building Name: Presquile – Brick Duplex 1 (south building)

Evidence Type: Extant

Historical Site Name: Presquile Plantation

City or Vicinity: Remington (Fauquier County)

County: Culpeper

State: Virginia

Investigators: Andrew Stempel; Douglas W. Sanford; Dennis J. Pogue

Institutions: Center for Historic Preservation, University of Mary Washington; & University of Maryland

Project Start: 7/18/07; 11/5/17

Project End: 7/18/07; 11/5/17

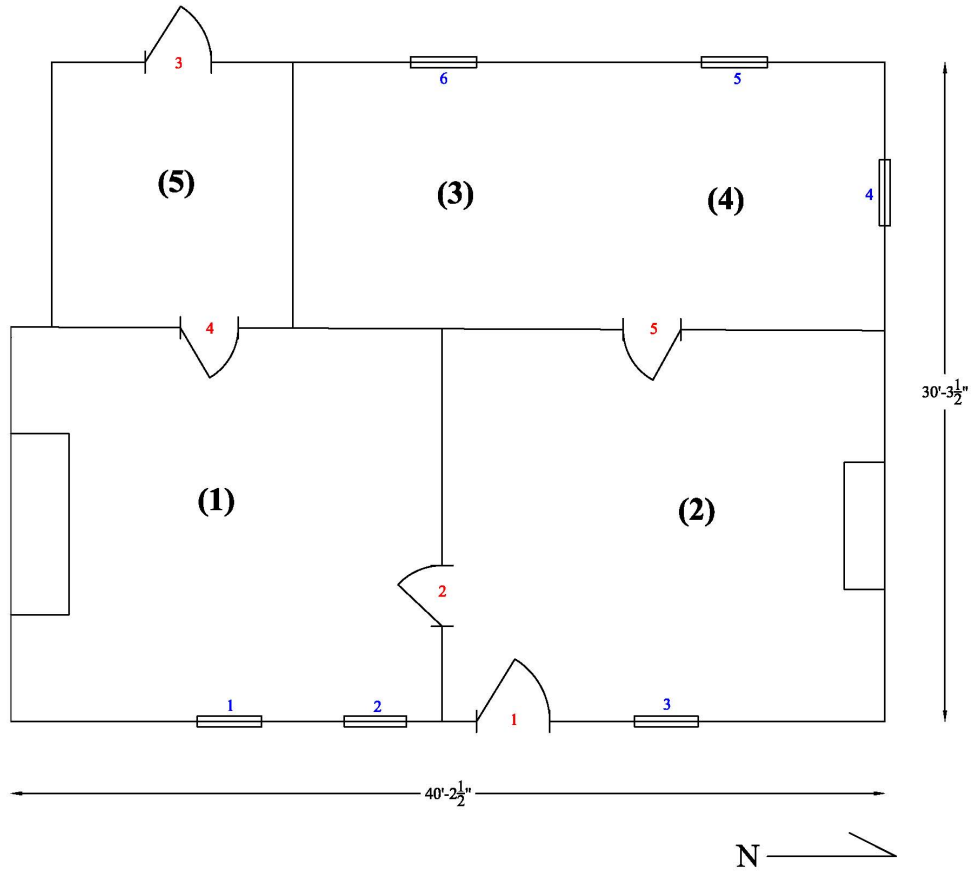
Summary Description:

This brick, one-story, gable roofed building with interior end chimneys has a duplex arrangement with an interior partition dividing the structure into two equal-sized rooms, each with end wall fireplaces. There are no stairs in either room and apparently there was no access to the attic above. Originally, each room had an exterior entrance door on the east-facing façade, although the doorway for the southern room later was converted to a window; this was likely a post-bellum alteration that accompanied the insertion of a doorway through the medial partition wall. Measuring approximately 40 ft. long by 18 ft. wide, this building has a symmetrical design, with modular rooms, regular placement of doorways, and aligned front and rear windows. The rear windows were later converted to doorways, providing access to the current cinderblock additions. All portions of the building now have standing seam sheet metal roofing.

This brick duplex demonstrates a greater degree of architectural elaboration than appears usual, with its 3:1 common bond using a single row of Flemish bond for every three rows of stretchers, along with gable-end brick parapets and a corbelled cornice with returns at each corner. The interior rooms had whitewashed surfaces; there are wooden nailers set in the walls, likely for hanging clothing or other possessions. While both rooms have the same dimensions, the southern room has a noticeably larger fireplace, perhaps indicative of a kitchen function. Dating evidence for this structure points to an antebellum period context, likely ca. 1820s-30s+, based on machine-headed cut nails, the three-course American bond, and the application of corbelling and parapets for the upper walls' brickwork. This building forms one of two brick duplexes that have the same dimensions, north-south orientation, and construction features.

Principal Construction Type: Masonry (Brick) **One Story**

Footprint:



Number of Rooms: 5 (2 original – Phase I; 3 in rear additions – not measured)

Dimensions: (1) 16.11.0 (E-W) x 18.11.2 (N-S); 8.1.2 (H)

(2) 17.0.0 (E-W) x 19.0.0 (N-S); 8.2.2 (H)

Doors: 5

	(1) Exterior, Rm. 2	(2) Interior	(3) Rm. 5
Type:	Board & batten (modern replacement)	5 panel (modern insertion through interior partition)	Not recorded, for modern rear addition (screen porch)
Dimensions:	2.10.2 (W) x 6.3.2 (H)	2.9.3 (W) x 6.9.2 (H)	
Hardware:	Modern butt hinges	Modern butt hinges	
Swing:	In	In (to Room 1)	
Replacement:	Yes	Yes	Yes

	(4) Rm. 1	(5) Rm. 2
Type:	Glass & 3 panel (modern)	2 panel (modern; dimensional lumber, wire nails)
Dimensions:	2.8.0 (W) x 6.7.0 (H)	2.8.0 (W) x 6.7.2 (H)
Hardware:	Modern butt hinges	Modern butt hinges
Swing:	In (into Rm. 1)	In (into Rm. 2)
Replacement:	Yes, former (original) window location	Yes, former (original) window location

Windows: 6 (modern windows not measured)

	(1) Rm. 1	(2) Rm. 1	(3) Rm. 2
Type:	6/6; single-hung sash	6/6; single-hung sash	6/6; single-hung sash
Dimensions:	2.4.0 (W) x 3.10.0 (H)	2.3.3 in. (W) x 3.10.0 (H)	2.4.0 (W) x 3.10.0 (H)
Hardware:	None	None	None
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	N/A	N/A – note as part of enclosure and fill for former, original door	N/A

EXTERIOR

Foundation:

Continuous Masonry: Brick

Thickness: Cannot be observed, partially covered with later concrete.
Foundation slightly stepped out on south side.

Height: N/A

Bond: American (3:1)

Mortar Type: Sand, with limestone

Joint: Flush

Repaired: Yes

Shed/Porch: Yes

Location: Modern screen porch on rear attached to Room 5

Roof:

Roof Form: Gable

Roof Covering: Metal – standing seam (replacement). Note end brick parapets and two-course corbelling with return at corners.

Roof Framing: No access to roof interior (small attic space).

Exposed: No

Form: Common Rafters – Principal Rafters – Other

Rafter Number:

Rafter Dimensions:

Collar Ties: No access to roof interior

Collar Dimensions:

Method of Joining:

Height from Roof Peak:

Height to Floor:

Building Height: @ SW corner, from ground to top of parapet: 12.2.1 in.; @ SE corner, from ground to top of parapet: 13.6.2 in.

Ground to Soffit:

Siding to Soffit:

Ground to Apex: at south center; 17 ft. to roof apex

Siding to Apex:

Ground to Top of Eave:

Siding to Top of Eave:

Walls:

Masonry: Brick

Number of Courses: N/A – run full height of building

Bond: American (3:1) – not a header course per se; but Flemish bond every 4th course

Mortar Type: Sand

Joint: Flush

Repaired: Yes

Chimney(s):

Chimney (1): South room (Rm. 1)

Material: Brick

Location: Interior/ End

Height:

Chimney (2): North room (Rm. 2)

Material: Brick

Location: Interior/End

Height:

INTERIOR

Wall Framing: Not applicable; brick wall surfaces

Wall Finish: Whitewash

Fireplace (1): South room (Rm. 1) End (fireplace filled with modern brick, fitted for wood stove)

Fireplace Material: Brick

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 8.4.2 (E-W) x 2.7.1 (N-S)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 5.6.0 (W) x ~4.10.3 (H) x unknown (D).

Hearth Material: unknown, removed

Hearth Dimensions: NA

Fireplace (2): North room (Rm. 2) End (fireplace filled with modern brick, fitted for wood stove)

Fireplace Material: Brick

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 5.9.1 (E-W) x 1.10.2 (N-S)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 3.11.2 (W) x 3.0.2 (H) x unknown (D)

Hearth Material: Stone

Hearth Dimensions: 2.0.0 (N-S) x 5.9.1 (E-W)

Stairs: No

Subfloor Pit: No

Floor: Wood

Floorboards Dimension: Room 2 with narrow (2.5 in.) floor boards with wire nails. A replacement floor that also has been raised 6.5 in. above the level of the Rm.1 floor. Room 1 with floor boards 5 in. wide with machine-cut nails.

Dating: Antebellum period context, likely ca. 1820s-30s+.

Dating Evidence:

Saw Marks: Sash Sawn

Nails: Machine cut

Masonry: 3:1 course American bond; corbelling and parapets for the upper walls' brickwork.

Field Notes:

Exterior

The structure is situated perpendicular to the main house across the gravel road. Modern additions to the rear of the structure are of cinderblock and frame/screen construction, with the same standing seam metal roof found on the original portion.

Note closers at every 4th course at SE corner. Front (east) façade windows with headers of 12 soldier bricks with a row of five stretchers above, which just out about ¼ brick. On the doors' interior there are double headers (with the upper member longer than the lower one) to allow for the soldier coursing on the exterior. The door header is about one course lower than the window header.

The exterior brick measure 8.75 in. long, 4.25 in. wide, and 2.75 in. high.

The same, green-painted standing seam, sheet metal roofing occurs on this building, the duplex to the north, and on the forge/blacksmith shop outbuilding, suggesting a larger scale of repairs, alterations, and improvements at one point in time, probably around the 1940s (same time as repair of roof at main house).

Interior

The window treatments (as to sash, some framing, and surrounds) look similar and likely date to the other 20th-century improvements (see above).

Room 1: The floor of Room 1 (south) has been lowered about 6.5 in. in comparison to the floor level in Room 2 (north). The Room 1 floor level matches the concrete floor of the cinderblock addition and likely is related to that space's use, perhaps as milk parlor. The replacement floorboards in Room 1 have a standardized width of 5.25 inches. The double door inserted to allow access between Room 1 and the cinderblock addition removed the original window opening at this location. The double door space has been partially filled in with the same 5.25 in. boards.

This room's fireplace is larger than that of Room 2, suggesting that the room also functioned as a kitchen. The fireplace formerly had a large wooden lintel, about one foot high. The lintel's top edge measures 5.9.2 above the current floor level. The fireplace's hearth has been removed and the current floorboards cover the former hearth area. Later, the fireplace was filled in with brick, allowing for the insertion of a woodstove pipe, the opening for which measures from 4.11.0 to 5.4.3 above the floor. The pipe hole is 6 in. in diameter. The chimney has wooden blocks at the corners, which served to support the former mantle. The blocks measure 3 in. high and 4 in. wide and are 6.0.1 from the floor. These blocks have been sawn off even with the chimney's face.

The room's ceiling is comprised of bead board.

Room 2: Room 2 has tongue-and-groove, narrow (2.5 in.) floorboards attached with wire nails. The ceilings in both rooms are modern replacements, with thin grooved boards held with wire nails.

Closet added to west side of chimney in Room 2, with modern dimensional lumber and sheet rock. In Room 2, note presence of nailers, two on east wall near door at chair rail height; and two to east and west of chimney at 5 ft. from floor (see similar evidence in second building to north).

The fireplace has a stone hearth, on top of which is a thin layer of concrete, likely serving to support the later installation of a wood stove. The fireplace later was filled in with brick, allowing for the insertion of a wood stovepipe. The pipe hole occurs from 4.6.0 to 5.3.0 from the floor level, and has a 7 in. diameter. As does the chimney in Room 1, this room's chimney has wooden blocks at the corners, the bottoms of which begin at 5.6.2 from the floor, with the top at 5.9.2 from the floor. The blocks are 4 inches wide and support a wooden mantle shelf, which is 1.5 in. thick and projects 11.25 in. from the chimney face. Machine-cut nails were used to attach the shelf to the blocks.

Wooden nailers (likely for hanging clothes or tools) are set into the brick wall on either side of the chimney. Those to the west side are about 1.6.0 long and are from 5.0.0 to 5.3.0 from the floor. The three nailers to the east side are 9 in. long and 3.5 in. high.