

## Slave Housing Data Base

**Building Name:** Spring Hill Farm 1 – Frame Duplex Building (northern building of 2)

**Evidence Type:** Extant

**County:** Culpeper

**State:** Virginia

**Investigators:** Andrew Stempel; Doug Sanford; Gary Stanton

**Institution:** University of Mary Washington, Center for Historic Preservation

**Project Start:** 7/12/07

**Project End:** 7/12/07

**Additional Investigators:** Dan Miles and Michael Worthington

**Institution:** Oxford Dendrochronological Laboratory

**Project Start:** 12/9/07

**Project End:** 12/9/07

### Summary Description:

This one-story, side-gable-roofed frame building is oriented north-south and is the more northerly of two surviving, similar duplex slave houses. A shed-roofed addition runs the entire length of the west wall. The building is sided with vertical board and batten; both sections have a standing seam metal roof covering, which is a later replacement. The façade is the east wall, where two doorways provided separate access to the first-floor rooms. As a consequence of converting the structure into a shop for farm vehicles, the north doorway has been widened into a double door and the south doorway has been reconfigured as a window. The overall dimensions are 29 ft. 11¼ in. long (north-south) by 24 ft. 6 in. wide (east-west), which includes the rear addition.

Two rooms on the first floor share the central chimney, composed of brick on a stone base, with some stone also used for the fireplace interiors. The original partitions to either side of the chimney have been removed, along with numerous floor boards. Access to the two rooms in the garret originally was via a stair in each first-floor room, positioned in a rear corner and running along the end walls. The open stringer stair in the NW corner of Room 2 appears to be original, although heavily repaired; the corresponding stair in Room 1 has been removed. The opening on the west wall of Room 1 providing access to the addition is a recent cut-through, not a doorway. The wall framing is exposed on the interior and has been whitewashed.

The garret was divided by a board partition into two rooms, roughly equal in size and corresponding with the rooms below. The partition is board and batten construction, using machine-cut nails. Although unheated, the north garret room also is whitewashed, and they both are lit by gable windows, indicating that they almost certainly were intended for domestic use.

Although not original, the rear addition is framed in a similar manner and has machine-cut nails, as in the Period 1 duplex; the floor is lower by 1 ft. 6 in. The addition also is

partitioned into two spaces. The main block has been dendro-dated to 1858; the rear shed was not sampled and is of unknown date.

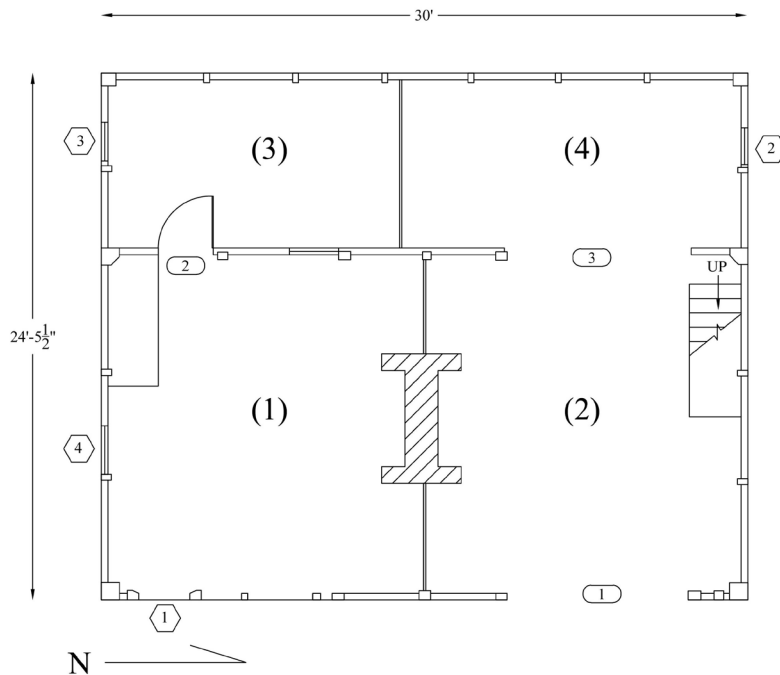
**Notes:**

From the SW corner of the main house to the NE corner of the brick spring house, on a compass bearing of 197 degrees, the distance is 117 ft. From the NE corner of the spring house, to the NW corner of the northern frame duplex (prior to rear addition), on a compass bearing of 180 degrees, the distance is 131 ft. From the SE corner of the northern duplex (prior to rear addition) to north window of southern duplex/tenant house, on a compass bearing of 218 degrees, the distance is 95 ft.

**Bibliography:**

Miles and Worthington, *The Tree-Ring Dating of Eight Virginia Slave Houses* (2009). Owner has some period documentation, including from Civil War occupation and use of the house/property. On hand-drawn modern map of the property, the northern duplex is building #13.

**Principal Construction Type: Frame One Story – With Garret Footprint:**



**Number of Rooms:** 6 (2 down, 2 up in duplex, 2 in rear addition)

**Dimensions:**

- (1) 16 ft. 0.5 in. (E-W) x 14 ft. 7 in. (south room); 7 ft. 6.5 in. high
- (2) 16 ft. 0.5 in. (E-W) x 15 ft. (north room); 7 ft. 3.5 in. high
- (3) 13 ft. 10.5 in. (N-S) x 17 ft. (north room; attic); 8 ft. 7 in. high
- (4) 16 ft. 1 in. (N-S) x 17 ft. (south room; attic), 7 ft. 4 in. high

- (5) 8 ft. 1 in. (E-W) x 13 ft. 8 in. (south room, addition); 5 ft. 10.25 in high on west side; 9 ft. 6 in. high on east side
- (6) 8 ft. 1 in. (E-W) x 16 ft. 2 in. (north room, addition); 5 ft. 8 in. high on west side; 9 ft. 5.5 in. high on east side.

**Doors: 4**

	<b>(1) North Room</b>	<b>(2) South Room</b>	<b>(3)</b>
<b>Type:</b>	<b>Double door, vertical boards</b>	<b>Unknown (not present)</b>	<b>Later opening, not a door (to rear shed)</b>
<b>Dimensions:</b>	<b>4 ft. 1.25 in. (W) x 7 ft. 7 in. (H) (each door)</b>	<b>2 ft. 6.25 (W) x 5 ft. 9 in. (H)</b>	<b>8 ft. 7.5 in. (W) x 7 ft. 1.25 in. (H)</b>
<b>Hardware:</b>	<b>Pintles &amp; Strap hinges</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Swing:</b>	<b>Out</b>	<b>Out</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Replacement:</b>	<b>Later insertion, at original door location</b>		

**Windows: 5**

	<b>(1) South Room</b>	<b>(2) Rear Shed</b>	<b>(3) Rear Shed</b>
<b>Type:</b>	<b>Board &amp; batten shutter (later insertion at orig. door location)</b>	<b>Slide (wire nails)</b>	<b>Shutter</b>
<b>Dimensions:</b>	<b>2 ft. (W) x 1 ft. 11.5 in. (H)</b>	<b>1 ft. 7.5 in. (W) x 1 ft. 11.5 in. (H)</b>	<b>1 ft. 9.5 in. (W) x 2 ft.</b>
<b>Hardware:</b>	<b>Modern butt hinges &amp; strap</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Hinge (wire nail)</b>
<b>Shuttered/Slide/Swing:</b>	<b>Shuttered Swing out</b>	<b>Slide</b>	<b>Shutter Swing out</b>

## EXTERIOR

### Foundation:

**Continuous Masonry:** Stone – dry-laid rubble, using local stone (quartz, greenstone, and conglomerate)

**Thickness:** 1-2 ft.

**Height:** 1 ft. 6 in. to 2 ft. (higher on west side given ground slope).

**Bond:** Random

**Mortar Type:** None

**Joint:** N/A

**Repaired:** Yes

**Shed/Porch:** Yes (Period II)

### Roof:

**Roof Form:** Gable

**Roof Covering:** Standing seam metal (replacement)

**Roof Framing:** Lapped and pegged rafters with collar boards nailed (machine-cut nails). On west side of roof, note slab-type boards (with bark surviving on some) and with machine-cut nails; while east side roof boards are replacements, using circular-sawn lumber. Whitewash on north room rafters, garret partition, and on chimney stack.

**Exposed:** Yes

**Form:** Common rafters (pit sawn; some completely sawn, others retain outer bark).

**Rafter Number:** 14 pairs.

**Rafter Dimensions:** ~ 3 x 3.75 in.

**Collar Ties:** Yes

**Collar Dimensions:** 4.5 in. wide

**Method of Joining:** nailed

**Height from Collar to Roof Peak:** 1 ft. 4. in.

### Walls:

#### Frame:

**Material:** Wood

**Cladding:** Vertical, some replaced with wire nails; while other wall sections show machine-cut nails. Board and batten construction observed on south, north, and east sides.

**Beaded:** No

### Chimney(s):

#### Chimney (1):

**Material:** Composite (stone, dry-laid base; with largely brick construction above, except for stone interior of fireplaces)

**Location:** Interior/Center

**Height:** Overall, chimney measures 6 ft. (E-W) x 3 ft. 8.5 in. Chimney stack in garret measures 2 ft. 2.5 in. (E-W) x 2 ft. 11.5 in.

## INTERIOR

**Wall Framing:** Exposed

**Wall Finish:** Whitewash

**Fireplace (1):** Room 1 (south) center

**Fireplace Material:** Brick and stone

**Fireplace Opening Dimensions:** At present, measures 2 ft. 11 in. (W) x 2 ft. 10 in. (H) x 1 ft. 1 in. (D); possible original fireplace measured 4 ft. 5.5 in. (W), with same height and depth as present.

**Hearth Material:** Removed

**Fireplace (2):** Room 2 (north) - center

**Fireplace Material:** Brick and Stone

**Fireplace Opening Dimensions:** At present – same dimensions as Fireplace 1 (see above). Possible original fireplace measured 4 ft. (W) x 2 ft. 9 in. (H) x 1 ft. 1 in. (D).

**Hearth Material:** Removed

**Stairs:** Yes, one in NW corner (Room 2) and one (formerly) in SW corner (Room 1).

**Type:** Stringer Stair (NW corner)

**Stairwell Dimensions:** 2 ft. 8.75 in. (W) x 6 ft. 2 in. (L); stair begins 1 ft. 8 in. from west wall and ends 7 ft. 10 in. from west wall.

Stair in SW corner measured 2 ft. 3 in. (W) x 5 ft. 9 in. (L). (Note distance of 6 ft. 9.5 in. from edge of stair opening to edge of wall to west).

**Subfloor Pit:** No

**Floor:** Wood

**Dating:**

**Dendrochronology Date:** ca. 1858

**Dating Evidence:**

**Saw Marks:** Sash sawn

**Nails:** Mature machine cut