

Slave Housing Data Base

Building Name: Tetley Plantation – Building 1

Evidence Type: Extant

City or Vicinity: Somerset

County: Orange

State: Virginia

Investigators: Doug Sanford, Andrew Stempel

Institutions: Center for Historic Preservation, University of Mary Washington

Project Start: 8/1/07

Project End: 8/1/07

Summary Description:

This one-story, one-room, side-gable-roofed frame building is square in plan, measuring approximately 14 ft. 3 in. per side, with an asymmetrically placed exterior end chimney (stone to roof peak, brick stack above). The façade is the south wall, with the single doorway and a window; windows are positioned in the north and west walls as well. The structure has been completely re-sided on the exterior with circular sawn, horizontal clapboards, while the interior has been refinished with horizontal boards, both surfaces attached with wire nails. Similarly, all of the window frames have been reworked with the same materials and fasteners. There is no evidence of a stair or access to the area within the roof, but the unusual placement of the fireplace suggests that it may have been in the NE corner.

This building provides an example of a single-cell house for slaves, those situated close to the main plantation house. While difficult to date given the extent of post-Civil War reworking of interior and exterior wall surfaces and the likely full replacement of the roof, the building's setting, its domestic function, and the evidence for larger frame members and hewn log sills, along with machine-cut nails, indicate an antebellum period origin.

Notes:

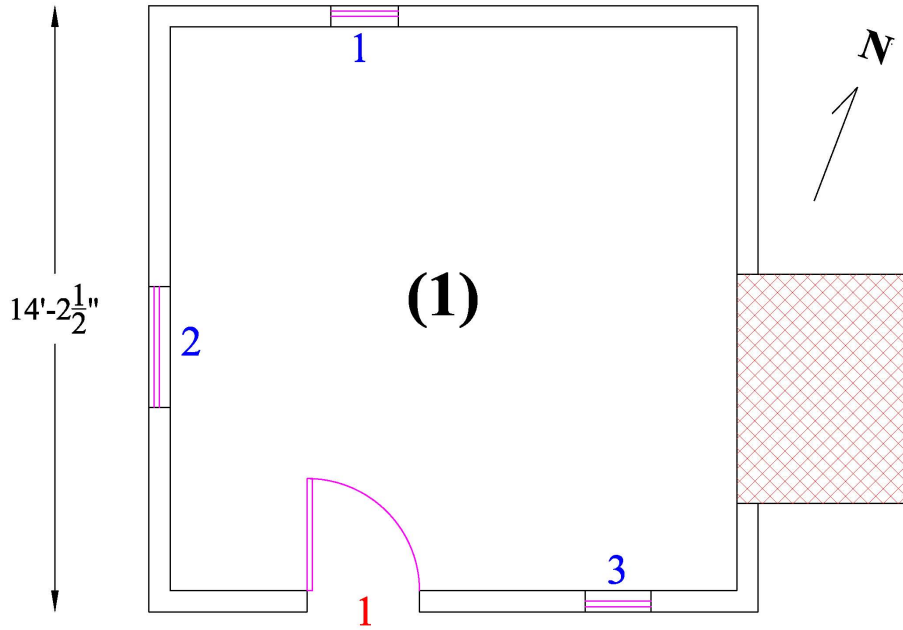
The structure's SE corner is 112 ft. at 278⁰ from the NE corner of the east wing/addition of the main house. The frame building has modern corner boards attached with wire nails. The ceiling joists extend past the wall line to the cornice and on the building's north side, are in tandem with sister joists.

Both roof eaves are enclosed with box cornices, with the southern side showing recent replacement (circular sawn, wire nails). Log sills are visible at the NE corner area of the foundation; except for flattening the tops the logs are left in the round and retain their bark. The SW corner post measures 9 in. x 3.5 in. and has axe marks.

Principal Construction Type: Frame

One Story (roofing inaccessible)

Footprint:



Number of Rooms: 1

Dimensions: (1) 13 ft. 0 in. (N-S) x 13 ft. 4 in. (E-W); 8 ft. 9 (H) in. from floor to plywood ceiling; from ceiling to bottom of exposed joists: 7.5 to 10.5 in.

Doors: 1

(1)

Type:	6 panel
Dimensions:	2 ft. 7.5 in. x 5 ft. 11 in. (H)
Hardware:	Modern butt hinges
Swing:	In
Replacement:	Recycled door; door frame redone with wire nails

Windows: 3

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Type:	6/6, single-hung sash	Casement	6/6, single-hung sash
Dimensions:	1 ft. 7.25 in. (W) x 3 ft. 9.25 (H)	2 ft. 9.5 in. (W) x 2 ft. 2 in. (H)	1 ft. 6.5 in. (W) x 3 ft. 8.5 in. (H)
Hardware:	None	None	Modern lock
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	N/A	Swings in & up	N/A

EXTERIOR

Foundation:

Continuous Masonry: Stone (dry laid; mostly “purple” mudstone/siltstone with some greenstone)

Thickness: 1 ft. 2 in.

Height: 1 ft. 3 in.

Bond: Random

Mortar Type: None

Joint: Not applicable

Shed/Porch: No

Roof:

Roof Form: Gable

Roof Covering: Modern asphalt shingles over plywood and dimensional lumber

Roof Framing:

Exposed: No

Form: Cannot be observed

Building Height:

Ground to Apex: 15 ft. 4.5 in. at west gable end (to roof peak)

Ground to Top of Eave: 11 ft. 3 in. at NE corner

Walls:

Frame:

Material: Wood

Cladding: Horizontal/lapped (5 in. wide; wire nails)
Beaded: No

Chimney(s):

Chimney: (1)

Material: Brick and stone

Location: Exterior – end (on east side)

Height: 20 ft. 10 in.

INTERIOR

Wall Framing: Not exposed

Wall Finish: Circular sawn horizontal boards with white paint and wire nails; variable width (9 to 11.5 in.)

Fireplace: (1) End -- fireplace surround and mantle are modern installations.

Fireplace Material: Stone (repaired and smoothed with mortar)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 2 ft. 11 in. (W) x 2 ft. 7.5 in. (H) x 1 ft. 3 in. (D)

Hearth Material: Brick (modern replacement)

Hearth Dimensions: 4 ft. 9.5 in (E-W) x 2 ft. 9.5 in.

Stairs: No

Subfloor Pit: No

Floor: Wood

Floorboards Dimension: Modern flooring; 3.5 in. wide.

Dating: Difficult to judge given extent of post-Civil War and modern repairs and replacement of exterior and interior surfaces. Antebellum date suggested by pre-Civil War framing type and mature machine-cut nails.

Dating Evidence:

Nails: Machine cut