

Slave Housing Data Base

Building Name: Tuckahoe Plantation, Quarter B

Evidence Type: Extant

Historical Site Name: Tuckahoe Plantation

County: Goochland

State: Virginia

Investigators: Doug Sanford, Carter Hudgins, Gary Stanton, Dennis Pogue

Institutions: University of Mary Washington Center for Historic Preservation; Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

Project Start: 10/16/2007

Project End: 10/16/07

Summary Description:

The Tuckahoe Plantation Quarter B is one of a complex of service buildings, including what are likely to have been four slave quarters, located a few hundred yards distant from the 18th-century Tuckahoe house. The frame side-gable-roofed, 1½-story building, with a finished garret, is supported by a brick foundation, with a central chimney serving fireplaces in each of the two first-floor rooms. Single doorways in the west wall, roughly centered on the bays, provide direct access to the first-floor rooms, with single windows set in the rear wall directly opposite the doorways. The doorways are accessed via sets of short masonry stairs. A later doorway has been cut through the first-floor partition providing direct access between the two rooms. A closet has been inserted against the partition and to the west of the central chimney in the north room. A single ladder stair located in the north room provides access to the garret. The unheated garret is divided by a partition, but what is likely to be a later doorway provides access between the two spaces. A bulkhead entrance to the partial cellar, apparently a later addition, is located in the north end wall. The exterior walls are clad with painted weatherboards; the north and east walls at least have been replaced with modern material. The windows have replacement shutters, although what appear to be old pintles remain in place; at least some of the sash and frames have been replaced.

Notes:

Quarter B is currently occupied, and all of the interior surfaces are well finished (plastered and painted), making it difficult to examine the original framing. The high level of finish precluded the possibility of undertaking dendrochronological testing at this time.

Like the other quarters located on the site, the structure was significantly altered over time. These changes include replacing the shutters and at least some of the windows, re-siding at least the north and east walls of the exterior, and punching a doorway through the partition to allow direct access between the two main first-floor rooms. In addition, according to the owner, the building was severely damaged by fire in the early 1980s, and there is evidence of significant rebuilding and replacement of original fabric that is

clearly visible from the modern utility cellar (accessed by a bulkhead entrance located on the north end wall) that has been inserted below the north end of the structure.

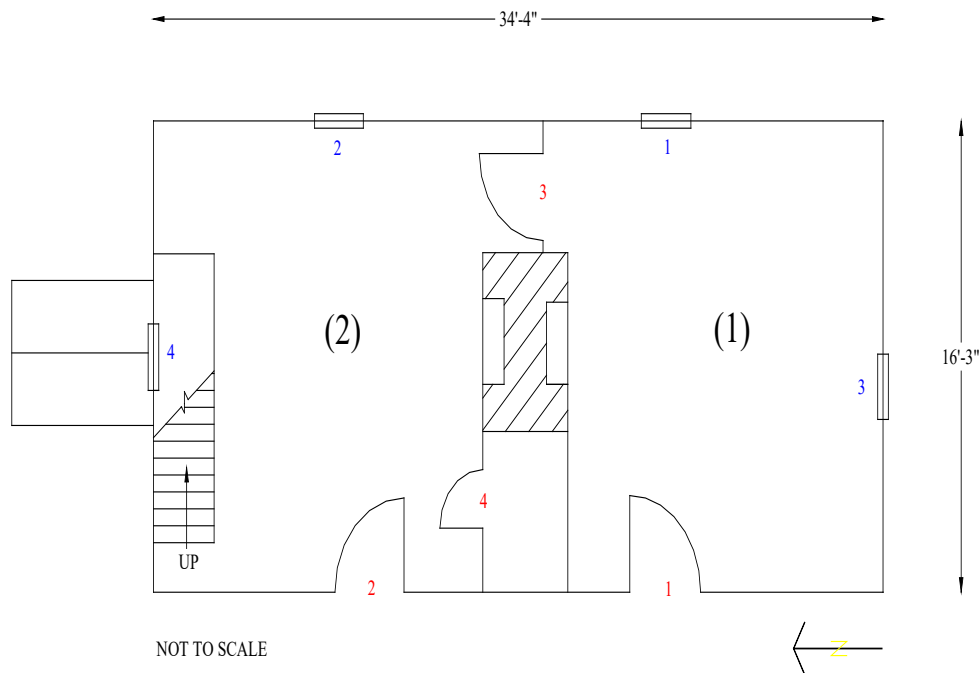
No evidence for an original doorway connecting the garret rooms survives, unlike in Quarter A, so no direct evidence has been found to suggest that this structure also was originally configured with end chimneys and a single stair to the garret. A single stairway that appears to be a later addition that is located in the front corner of the north room currently provides access to the upper level. This at least raises the possibility that Quarter B underwent alterations that were similar to those made to Quarter A.

Upton (1982, 1988) hypothesized that this structure was constructed in the second half of the 18th century, although no direct evidence for that assessment was apparent during this investigation.

Bibliography:

Dell Upton, *Slave Housing in 18th-Century Virginia* (1982) and *White and Black Landscapes in Eighteenth-Century Virginia* (1988).

Principal Construction Type: Frame **One Story with Garret**
Footprint:



- Number of Rooms:** 4 (2 up, 2 down)
Dimensions: (1) 14'-2" (N-S); 15'-4" (N-S) x 15'-3"; height 10'-3"
(2) 14'-6" (N-S); 17'-4 1/2" (N-S) x 15'-4"; height 10'-2 1/2"
North garret (3) 15'-1/2" (N-S) x 11'-5"; height 5'-8" ~ collar

South garret (4) 15'-0" (N-S) old partition, 18'-0" x 11'-1 1/2" current partition

Doors: 4

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Type:	Board and Batten	Board and Batten	Board and Batten
Dimensions:	3'-3 3/4" x 6'-3 1/2"	3'-4" x ~6'-4 1/2" (blocked)	3'-0" x 6'-4 3/4"
Hardware:	Pintles/ Strap Hinges	Pintles/ Strap Hinges	Butt and Strap Hinges
Swing:	In	In	In (to North room)
Replacement:			

	(4)
Type:	Board and Batten
Dimensions:	2'-0 1/4" x 6'-3 3/4"
Hardware:	Butt and Strap Hinge
Swing:	Out
Replacement:	

Windows: 6

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Type:	6/9 Single Hung Sash	6/9 Single Hung Sash	6/9 Single Hung Sash
Dimensions:	2'-4" x 4'-8 1/2"	2'-3 1/2" x 4'-9 1/2"	2'-3 1/4" x 4'-8 1/2"
Hardware:	N/A	N/A	N/A
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	N/A	N/A	N/A
Replacement:			

Room	(4)	(5) S. Garret Room	(6) N. Garret
Type:	6/9 Single Hung Sash	4-pane Fixed Sash	4-pane Fixed Sash
Dimensions:	2'-3 1/2" x 4'-10 1/2"	1'-7" (W) x 1'-10 1/2" (H)	1'-7 1/2" (W) x 2'-1 (H)
Hardware:	N/A		
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	N/A		
Replacement:			

EXTERIOR

Foundation:

Continuous Masonry: Brick

Thickness: 0'-9 1/2" at SE corner; 0'-11" at NE corner

Height: 2'-0" at SW corner; 1'-9" at NW corner
Bond: American
Repaired: Yes, repointed

Shed/Porch: No

Roof:

Roof Form: Gable

Roof Covering: Wood Shingles

Roof Framing:

Exposed: No, but partially observable in the garret closet

Form: Common Rafters; 2'-2" center to center

Rafter Number: Unknown

Rafter Dimensions: 0'-3 ³/₄" x 0'-2 ³/₄"

Collar Ties: Unknown

Building Height: SW corner

Ground to Soffit: 12'-11 ¹/₄"

Ground to Apex: 21'-0 ¹/₂"

Walls:

Frame:

Material: Wood

Cladding: Horizontal lapped weatherboard

Beaded: Yes

Chimney(s):

Chimney (1):

Material: Brick

Location: Center

INTERIOR

Wall Framing: not visible

Wall Finish: plaster

Fireplace (1): Center

Fireplace Material: Brick

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: ~ 6'-2" (W) (hidden by closet bathroom)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 2'-10 ¹/₂" (W) x 2'-8" (H) x 1'-0" (D)

Hearth Material: Brick

Fireplace (2): Center, Altered

Fireplace Material: Brick

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: ~ 6'-2" (W) (hidden by closet bathroom)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 2'-11 ½" (W) x 2'-7" (H) x 1'-2" (D)
Hearth Material: Brick

Stairs: Yes. There is a stair in the north room, but not in the south room. There is no evidence in the south garret room for an earlier stair opening, but modern floor replacement obscures visibility. There are cracks in the plaster and a possible board at 3'-7" from west wall that may be a trim board.

Type: Ladder
Stairwell Dimensions: 4'-4 ½" x 2'-10 ¼"
Number of Treads: 16

Subfloor Pit: No

Floor: Wood

Dating:

Dendrochronology Date: NA

Other Date: Hypothesized circa 1750-1799 date by Upton (1982, 1988).