

Slave Housing Data Base

Building Name: Elk Hill Kitchen-Quarter – Building 1 (to north of Bldg. 2)

Evidence Type: Extant

Site ID: 037-0009

Historical Site Name: Elk Hill

County: Goochland

State: Virginia

Investigators: Douglas W. Sanford, Dennis J. Pogue

Institutions: Virginia Slave Housing Project

Project Start: 7/29/20 [7/31/20]

Project End: 9/4/20

Summary Description:

This brick, four-bay, two-story structure has a side-gabled roof covered with slate shingles, and a central interior chimney that contains fireplaces for each of the building's four rooms. The exterior walls are laid in three-course common bond, with the front and rear walls capped with three-course corbelled eaves, characteristic of the Federal style. Two exterior doorways on the north façade provide separate access to each of the downstairs rooms. Originally, there was no access between the two rooms on either floor, with stairs rising along the end walls of the downstairs rooms to reach the heated rooms above.

At roughly 22 feet wide and 43 feet long, providing over 950 sq. ft. of space per floor, this structure represented a substantial investment. The rooms were well lit, with 14 large sash windows. The first floor rooms functioned as a kitchen (to the east) and a workroom to the west, possibly a laundry, with two quartering rooms upstairs. The kitchen fireplace measured over eight feet wide and likely incorporated an oven at one end, along with an elevated warming niche. The western downstairs room had a smaller fireplace, but with two large flanking closets, one with multiple shelves. The interior brick walls were finished with whitewash. Given its Federal period stylistic elements, the building likely dates to the 1820s.

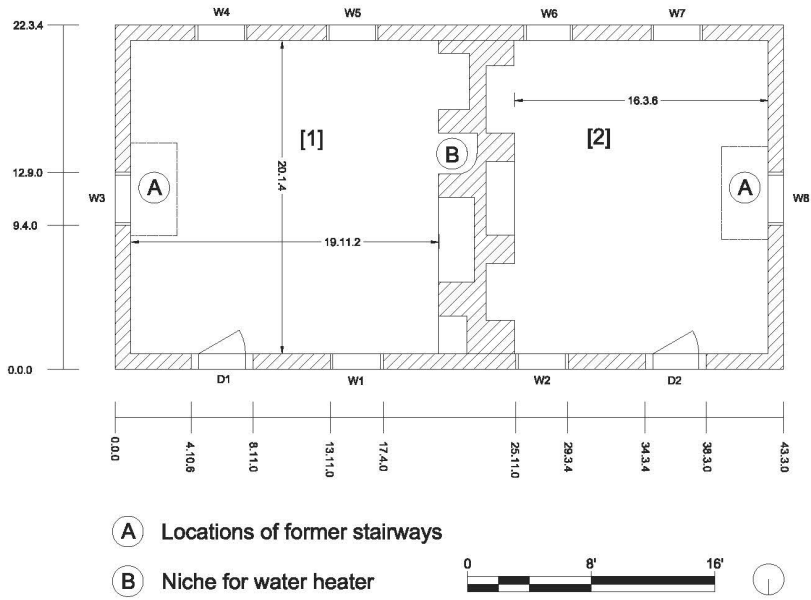
The main plantation house is parallel and located within a few hundred feet of the kitchen-quarter. The brick house was extensively modified in the 1830s, when the walls were covered with stucco. When they were constructed, it is likely that the two buildings shared Federal style characteristics, such as corbelled eaves, which were modified or removed from the house.

The exterior walls of the outbuilding initially were covered with a yellow-tinted limewash, with the mortar joints penciled in with a red pigment. The walls later were covered with whitewash, followed by white paint in the post-Civil War era. Later changes included removing all original window sashes and doors, replacing the wood flooring, introducing modern utilities, and inserting a hot water heater adjacent to the

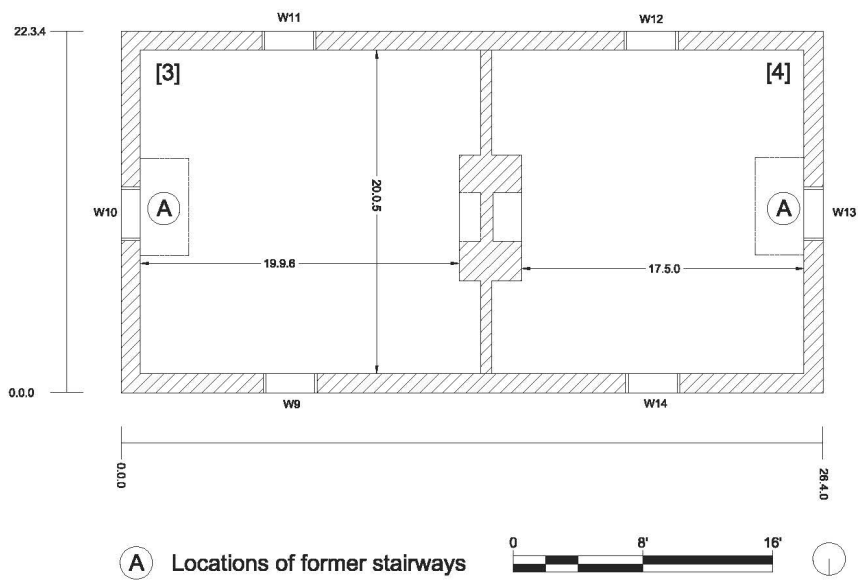
kitchen fireplace. The original stairs also were removed and replaced, and door openings were inserted through the medial wall on both floors.

Principal Construction Type: Brick
Two Story

First Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan



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

Dimensions: (1) Downstairs, east: 20.3.2 (N-S) x 19.11.2 (E-W), 9.1.2 (H)

(2) Downstairs, west: 20.1.2 (N-S) x 16.3.3 (E-W), 9.1.1 (H)

(3) Upstairs, east: 19.9.2 (N-S) x 19.9.3 (E-W), 8.5.1 (H)

(4) Upstairs, west: 20.2 (N-S) x 17.4.3 (E-W), 8.5.1 (H)

Doors: 2 original doors measured; other interior doors are later insertions, as is the exterior door at the SE corner

	Rm. 1, N (1)	Rm. 2, N (2)
Type:	3 panel	2/2 panel
Dimensions:	2.11.3 (W) x 6.9.3 (H)	2.11.2 (W) x 6.7.2 (H) 0.1.1 thick
Hardware:	5 knuckle butt hinges	5 knuckle butt hinges
Swing:	In	In
Replacement:	Yes, modern	Yes, modern

Windows: 14 total; **N.B.** All original window sashes have been removed, replaced by 6/6 double-hung sash vinyl windows. The measurements below reflect the distances from surviving window headers to either surviving sills or estimated tops of sills (height); and, the distances from one brick wall surface to another, for the outsides of the original window frames.

	Rm. 1, N (1)	Rm. 2, N (2)	Rm. 1, E (3)
Type:	Sash (removed)	Sash (removed)	Sash removed
Dimensions:	3.4.3 (W) x 5.1.0 (H)	3.5.0 (W) x 4.10.0 (H)	3.5.2 (W) x 4.10.2 (H)
Hardware:	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	NA	NA	NA

Windows: *continued*

	Rm. 1, SE (4)	Rm. 1, SW (5)	Rm. 2, SE (6)
Type:	Sash (removed)	Sash (removed)	Sash (removed)
Dimensions:	3.5.0 (W) x 4.11.2 (H)	3.4.3 (W) x 4.11.0 (H)	3.5.0 (W) x 4.10.0 (H)
Hardware:	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	NA	NA	NA

	Rm. 2, SW (7)	Rm. 2, W (8)	Rm. 3, N (9)
Type:	Sash (removed)	Sash (removed)	Sash (removed)
Dimensions:	3.5.2 (W) x 4.10.0 (H)	2.11.0 (W) x 4.9.0 (H)	3.5.2 (W) x 4.8.2 (H)
Hardware:	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	NA	NA	NA

	Rm. 3, E (10)	Rm. 3, S (11)	Rm. 4, S (12)
Type:	Sash (removed)	Sash (removed)	Sash (removed)
Dimensions:	3.5.2 (W) x 4.10.2 (H)	3.5.1 (W) x 4.8.2 (H)	3.5.2 (W) x 4.8.0 (H)
Hardware:	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	NA	NA	NA

Windows: *continued*

	Rm. 4, W (13)	Rm. 4, N (14)
Type:	Sash (removed)	Sash (removed)
Dimensions:	3.5.2 (W) x 4.9.0 (H)	3.4.3 (W) x 4.8.0 (H)
Hardware:	Unknown	Unknown
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	NA	NA

EXTERIOR

Foundation:

Continuous Masonry: Brick
Thickness: 0.1.1
Bond: Common 3:1
Mortar Type: Sand
Joint: Overhand struck
Repaired: Yes

Shed/Porch: No

Roof:

Roof Form: Gable
Roof Covering: Slate shingles
Roof Framing: not exposed, not accessible

Building Height: @ NW corner
Ground to Corbel base: 18.9.0
Ground to Top of Eave: 19.7.3

Walls:

Masonry: Brick
Number of Courses: NA
Bond: Common 3:1
Mortar Type: Sand
Joint: Overhand struck

Repaired: Yes

Walls originally covered with yellow-tinted lime wash, and penciled red pigmented mortar joints.

Chimney(s):

Chimney (1):

Material: Brick

Location: Interior - Center

Height: Not accessible

INTERIOR

Wall Framing: NA - brick

Wall Finish: Whitewash

Fireplace (1): End – Center (Room 1, kitchen)

Fireplace Material: Brick

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 8.5.0 (W, north-south)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 5.4.2 (W, at present) x 3.11.2 (H) x 2.4.0 (D);
original width: 8.6.0

Hearth Material: Unknown, removed (floor now lower)

Hearth Dimensions: Unknown

Fireplace (2): End – Center (Room 2, work room?)

Fireplace Material: Brick

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 8.4.0 (W, north-south)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 3.2.0 (W, at present) x 2.7.0 (H) x 2.1.2 (D);
original width: 4.6.3

Hearth Material: Brick (modern replacement, original material removed)

Hearth Dimensions: 4.6.3 (N-S) x 1.4.0 (E-W), from current fireplace front;
(3.0.2 (E-W) from original fireplace face)

Fireplace (3): End – Center (Room 3, east quartering room)

Fireplace Material: Brick

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 7.9.0 (N-S) x 1.6.0 (E-W)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: Unknown, enclosed & covered

Hearth Material: Stone

Hearth Dimensions: 7.6.2 (N-S) x 2.4.0 (E-W)

Fireplace (4): End – Center (Room 4, west quartering room)

Fireplace Material: Brick

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 7.9.0 (N-S) x 1.10.0 (E-W)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: estimated, 3.1.0 (W) x 2.8.1 (H) x 1.1.0 (D)

Hearth Material: Unknown, removed

Hearth Dimensions: Unknown

Stairs: Yes, 2 stairways – one at each gable end; original stairs not surviving

Type: Unknown (likely open ladder)

Stairwell Dimensions: Room 1: 2.9.2 (W (east-west)) x 6.3.0 (L (north-south))

Number of Treads: Unknown

Stair Tread Dimensions: Unknown

Subfloor Pit: No

Floor: Wood (upstairs); floorboards removed downstairs (now linoleum)

Floorboards Dimension: Approx. 1.0.0 wide

Dating:

Dendrochronology Date: NA

Other Date: Ca. 1820-1840

Dating Evidence:

Saw Marks: Sash sawn

Nails: NA