

Slave Housing Data Base

Building Name: Woodside kitchen-quarter

Evidence Type: Extant

Site ID: 043-0012

Historical Site Name: Woodside

County: Henrico

State: Virginia

Investigators: J. Mark Wittkofski, Douglas W. Sanford, Dennis J. Pogue

Institutions: Virginia Slave Housing Project

Project Start: 7/24/20 [8/4/20]

Project End: 9/4/20

Summary Description:

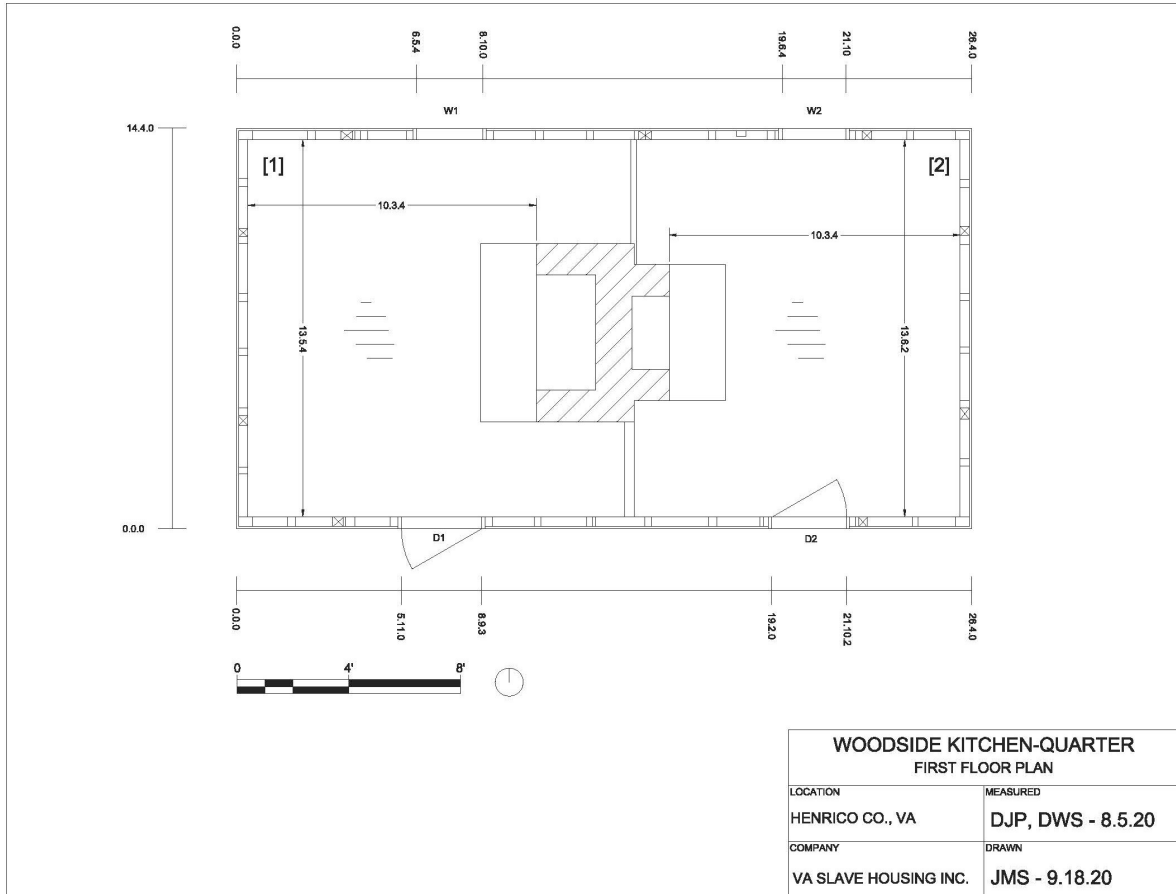
The Woodside outbuilding is a one-story, two-bay frame structure set on brick piers, measuring approximately 14 x 26 feet, with a side-gable roof covered in standing seam sheet metal. The exterior walls are clad with overlapping weatherboards, capped by plain boxed eaves. Two symmetrically placed doorways on the facade (south) provide separate entry for two rooms of roughly equal dimensions; two double-sash windows are regularly spaced on the rear (north) wall. The building has a central interior brick chimney and a lathed and plastered partition to either side that prevented access between the rooms. The west room likely functioned as a cook room, as indicated by the substantially larger fireplace, while the east room served as a quartering space for enslaved workers. The walls and ceiling in each room were once covered with lath and plaster, and plaster was applied to the exposed faces of both fireplaces. The fireplaces had masonry hearths and the floors are laid with wood planks. The building likely dates to the late 1850s, roughly correlated with the construction of the nearby main house.

In the post-Civil War era the original wood shingle roof was replaced with the current sheet metal covering. At this time builders replaced some roofing boards and removed the plaster ceilings. As the building's sills deteriorated and sagged over time, courses of bricks were added between the original brick piers as further support. Earlier in its history the structure received a coat of exterior whitewash, which later was covered by beige-colored paint. Weathering has largely removed traces of these finishes, except on the higher weatherboards and under the eaves.

The Woodside outbuilding is one of the smaller, extant duplex-type (two rooms, separate entries) slave buildings on record in Virginia. This is especially noteworthy given the likely function of the west room as a kitchen. In addition, the building's manner of framing is a noteworthy example of the hybridized construction methods that were gaining in popularity and spreading across the country in the decades preceding the Civil War. The kitchen-quarter incorporates a mixture of traditional timber framing and balloon framing and its builders used mass-produced materials available at the time -- fully machined cut nails and circular sawn, dimensional lumber.

Principal Construction Type: Frame
One Story – With Attic

Footprint:



Number of Rooms: 2

Dimensions:

(1) West: 10.3.4 (E-W, to fireplace) x 13.5.4 (N-S), 6.11.0 (to bottom of ceiling joist);

(2) East: 10.3.4 (E-W, to fireplace) x 13.6.1 (N-S), 7.0.0 (to bottom of ceiling joist)

Doors: 2

	Rm. 1, S (1)	Rm. 2, S (2)
Type:	Board & batten (3 battens)	Board & batten (3 chamfered battens, with wrought clinched nails)
Dimensions:	2.10.2 (W) x 6.0.0 (H) 1 inch thick	2.11.2 (W) x 6.0.0 (H) 1 inch thick
Hardware:	3-knuckle strap hinge, with screws	3-knuckle strap hinges with rounded, pinched ends
Swing:	In	In
Replacement:	Yes, modern construction with wire nails. Original door opening.	Likely original door

Windows: 2

	Rm. 1, N (1)	Rm. 2, N (2)
Type:	Sash, removed	6/6, single hung sash
Dimensions:	Opening: 2.4.2 (W) x 3.10.1 (H)	2.4.2 (W) x 3.10.0 (H)
Hardware:	None	None
Shuttered/Slide/Swing:	With later shutter: board & batten (chamfered battens)	With later shutter: board & batten, with wire nails

EXTERIOR

Foundation:

Masonry Piers: Brick

Number: 8 total: 4 L-shaped piers at the corners; 2 on north façade (1 at the approximate center, 1 on the eastern portion); 1 on south façade (center); 1 on west gable end (center)

Dimensions: L-shaped corner piers range from 1.5.4 to 2.1.0 per side; rectangular piers range from 1.0.0 to 3.3.0 in length; all piers measure about 0.8.0 thick

Height: @ SW corner: 0.6.0; @ NW corner: 0.1.0; @ NE corner: 0.7.0; @ SE corner: 0.6.0

Mortar Type: Sand – Clay

Joint: Flush

Repaired: Yes, with Portland cement

Shed/Porch: No

Roof:

Roof Form: Gable

Roof Covering: Standing seam sheet metal

Roof Framing:

Exposed: Yes

Form: Common Rafters

Rafter Number: 9 pairs (butted at roof peak)

Rafter Dimensions: 0.3.0 x 0.4.0

Collar Ties: Yes – later, partially added with scabbed materials

Collar Dimensions: Not measured

Building Height: @ SW corner

Ground to Soffit: 7.10.0

Ground to Peak: 15.4.3 (@ west gable end)

Ground to Top of Fascia: 8.6.3

Walls:

Frame:

Material: Wood

Cladding: Horizontal – Weatherboard/lapped

Beaded: No

Chimney(s):

Chimney (1):

Material: Brick

Location: Interior/Center

Height: Not accessible

INTERIOR

Wall Framing: Exposed

Wall Finish: Lath and Plaster

Fireplace (1): Center, east end Room 1

Fireplace Material: Brick

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 6.5.0 (N-S) x 3.2.2 (E-W)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 4.2.2 (W) x 4.2.2 (H, top of arch) x 2.1.2 (D);
3.8.0 (H, at cheek)

Hearth Material: Brick

Hearth Dimensions: 6.5.0 (N-S) x 2.0.0 (E-W)

Fireplace (2): Center, west end Room 2

Fireplace Material: Brick

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 4.11.0 (N-S) x 1.0.2 (E-W)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 2.7.2 (W) x 2.6.0 (H) x 1.1.0 (D)

Hearth Material: Brick – Stone (thin veneer on top of brick)

Hearth Dimensions: 4.11.0 (N-S) x 1.11.2 (E-W)

Stairs: No

Subfloor Pit: No

Floor: Wood, appears to be original, runs E-W

Floorboard Dimensions: vary in width, from 0.7.2 to 0.9.0, with most measuring 0.8.0 to 0.8.3 wide. Boards measure 0.1.2 thick.

Dating:

Other Date: ca. 1850-60

Dating Evidence:

Saw Marks: Circular Sawn

Nails: Mature Machine Cut

Comments: Hybrid of heavy timber frame and balloon frame techniques and materials.