

Slave Housing Data Base

Building Name: Brown Patterson brick outbuilding

Evidence Type: Extant

Site ID: 007-0887

City or Vicinity: Fishersville

County: Augusta

State: Virginia

Investigators: Douglas W. Sanford, Samuel Biggers

Institutions: University of Mary Washington

Project Start: 7/9/16 **Project End:** 7/9/16

Summary Description:

The outbuilding at the Brown Patterson farm property is a one-story, three-bay, brick structure with a low-pitched side-gable roof and a central interior chimney, supported on a stone foundation. The building is situated to the southeast of the main house and is built into the steeply sloping terrain, measuring 14.11.0 wide (north-south) and 30.0.0 long (east-west). A basement room is positioned under the western half of the building, which is accessed on-grade via a doorway in the west end wall. The idiosyncratic north facade has an off-center doorway with flanking single windows that are radically different in form. The eastern window is vertical with 6/6 sashes and matches with a similar window centered on the rear wall. The western window is horizontal and much shorter, to fit into the narrow wall space due to the sloping terrain; a matching window is centered on the south wall. The exterior doorway to the basement is centered on the west wall and there is a window in the story above.

The building has an unusual split-level design, to allow a full-height ceiling in the basement room. The floor level of the room over the basement is elevated four feet above that of the adjoining east room; they are connected by a short flight of stairs. The exposed brick walls, ceiling joists, undersides of the floorboards, and roof frame are all whitewashed. The widely divergent character of the three rooms indicates equally varied functions. With exterior access to the eastern room, the heated space is the likeliest to have served a domestic function. The low, poorly lit and unheated room to the west seems more likely to have been used for storage. The unheated, but well-lit basement room seems better suited as a workshop of some kind.

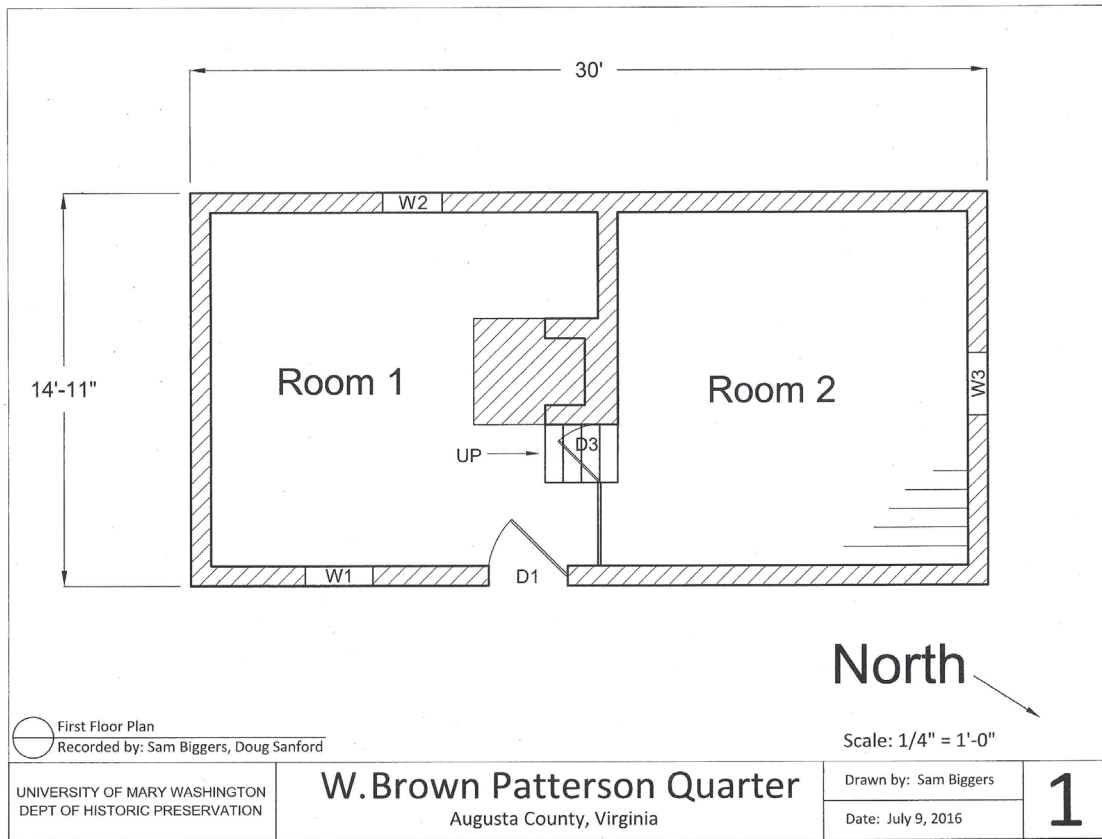
A black-and-white photograph dated to 1981 shows this building in poor condition. Relatively recent repairs include the replacement of window sashes with vinyl materials and the likely replacement of an earlier sheet metal roof with the current one. The roof framing has been replaced as well, but with a mixture of reused, sashsawn and circular sawn lumber. A wooden landing has been added to the front door entrance. Recent efforts to replace the flooring in the western room have left the floor joists exposed and partially removed. Some of the ceiling joists have been removed and replaced, as well. At present, the building is not occupied and is used for storage.

The brick slave quarter at the Brown Patterson property likely dates to ca. 1840-60, based on its 7:1 common bond brickwork and the presence of sash-sawn timber and mature machine cut nails.

Principal Construction Type: Masonry – brick; stone on interior walls of Room 3

One Story

Footprint:



Number of Rooms: 3 (2 at ground level, 1 into slope)

Dimensions: (1) West room: 13.5.0 (N-S) x 13.10.1 (E-W), 6.11.0 (H; between floor and ceiling joists)
(2) East room: 13.4.2 (N-S) x 13.11.3 (E-W)
(3) Basement: 13.3.2 (N-S) x 14.2.2 (E-W)

Doors: 3

	Rm. 1 (1)	Rm. 3 (2)	Rm. 2 (3)
Type:	Board & batten	Board & batten	Board & batten
Dimensions:	2.10.1 (W) x 6.3.3 (H), 0.1.0 thick	2.8.0 (W) x 5.7.0 (H), 0.0.3 thick	2.0.0 (W) x 4.3.3 (H); 0.0.3 thick
Hardware:	H-L hinges (reused)	Strap hinges; evidence of former handle	Hasp
Swing:	In	Out	Out, into Room 1
Replacement:	No, but frame has been replaced & repaired	Probably	Yes (door in partition between Rooms 1 & 2)

Windows:

Number: 6

	Rm. 1, N (1)	Rm. 1, S (2)	Rm. 2, W (3)
Type:	Double hung sash, 6/6	Double hung sash, 6/6	Double hung sash, 6/6
Dimensions:	2.3.3 (W) x 3.10.1 (H)	2.2.0 (W) x 3.7.2 (H)	1.11.2 (W) x 3.5.0 (H)
Hardware:	NA	NA	NA
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	Replacement (vinyl, as is the framing)	Replacement (vinyl), original sill and jamb survive	Replacement (vinyl)

Windows: *continued.*

	Rm. 3, N (4)	Rm. 3, S (5)	Rm. 1, E (6)
Type:	Double hung sash, 6/6	Double hung sash, 6/6	Vertical wooden bars
Dimensions:	2.7.2 (W) x 2.0.2 (H)	2.8.2 (W) x 1.11.0 (H)	Inaccessible (not measured)
Hardware:	NA	NA	NA
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	Replacement (vinyl), earlier framing survives	Replacement (vinyl), earlier framing survives	At attic level at east gable end

EXTERIOR

Foundation:

Continuous Masonry: Stone – Rubble (limestone)

Thickness: 1.4.0

Height: @ NE corner: 0.4.0; @ NW corner: 2.2.0

Bond: Irregular coursing

Mortar Type: Sand

Joint: NA (irregular)

Repaired: Yes, with Portland cement mortar

Common bond brickwork, 7:1 on the north-facing façade, but varying on the other walls as to the number of stretcher courses per row of headers.

Porch: No, current step landing is a modern addition or replacement

Roof:

Roof Form: Gable

Roof Covering: Standing seam sheet metal

Roof Framing:

Exposed: Yes

Form: Common rafters

Rafter Number: 13 pairs

Rafter Dimensions:

Collar Ties: Yes (in Room 1)

Collar Dimensions: inaccessible

Method of Joining:

Height from Roof Peak:

Height to Floor from bottom of collar tie: 6.5.3

The rafters in Room 1 (6 pairs) are butted and spiked at the peak. There is one rafter pair at the chimney, followed by 6 more pairs in Room 2. The rafters in Room 2 are a mixture of circular-sawn lumber and reused, sashsawn timbers, some of which have mortises and Roman numerals. These rafters are lapped and spiked with machine cut nails and have been whitewashed. At the top of the knee wall in Room 2 are outriggers, likely for the original roofing system, placed on 2.0.0 to 2.2.0 centers.

Building Height: @ SE corner

Ground to Soffit: 8.4.3

Ground to Top of Eave: 9.3.3

Ground to Top of Stone foundation: 1.0.0

Ground to Roof Apex (@ east gable end): 13.0.1

@ SW corner

Ground to Soffit: 10.8.3

Ground to Top of Eave: 11.10.0

Ground to Top of Stone foundation: 3.4.2

Ground to Roof Apex (@ west gable end): 15.8.2

Walls:

Masonry: Brick

Number of Courses: NA

Bond: Common, 7:1 on (north) façade, varies on other walls

Mortar Type: Sand

Joint: Flush (with evidence of penciling)

Repaired: Yes, with Portland cement mortar

Chimney(s): 1

Chimney (1):

Material: Brick

Location: Interior – Center

Height: NA

INTERIOR

Wall Framing: None

Wall Finish: Plaster – Whitewash (on brick)

Fireplace (1): Center.

Fireplace Material: Brick

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 4.0.0 (N-S) x 1.0.2 (E-W)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 2.7.0 (W), 2.4.0 (H), 1.6.0 (D)

Hearth Material: Brick

Hearth Dimensions: 4.0.0 (N-S) x 2.8.0 (E-W)

Stairs: Yes, in partition between Rooms 1 and 2

Type: Open

Stairwell Dimensions: 2.0.0 (E-W) x 2.2.2 (N-S)

Number of Treads: 5

Stair Tread Dimensions: 2.2.0 (L) x 0.8.0 (W) x 0.9.3 – 0.10.0 (H)

Subfloor Pit: No.

Floor: Wood

Floorboards Dimension: Varies from 0.7.2 to 0.9.2

Dating:

Dendrochronology Date: NA

Other Date: ca. 1840-60

Dating Evidence:

Saw Marks: Sash sawn

Nails: Mature machine cut