

Slave Housing Data Base

Building Name: Dunlora Log Quarter

Evidence Type: Extant

Historical Site Name: Dunlora

City: Charlottesville

County: Albemarle

State: Virginia

Investigators: Douglas W. Sanford and Dennis J. Pogue; Ben Ford; Sara Bon-Harper; Fraser D. Neiman

Institutions: Virginia Slave Housing Project; Rivanna Archaeological Services; James Monroe's Highland; Thomas Jefferson's Monticello

Project Start: 3/26/21 [4/4/21]

Project End: 4/16/21

Summary Description:

The Dunlora structure is a small, one-story, two-bay, log building, with a modestly pitched side-gable roof, supported by a low stone foundation. The cabin is roughly 22'3" by 16'5" in dimension, and the plan consists of one room on the first floor, with an enclosed stairway against the north wall providing access to the attic room. The current stairway dates to the 20th century, but likely replaced an original, less substantial stair in the same location. A unusually large stone chimney is centered on the south end wall, which served a fireplace in the first-floor room. The fireplace was replaced by a stove, and the firebox opening has been closed and the hearth covered in concrete. The log walls are joined at the corners with V-notches, and are clad on the exterior with lapped, horizontal siding boards, and on the interior with butted horizontal planks; the applied siding on both surfaces may be an original condition. A frame addition runs the length of the west elevation, consisting of two rooms covered by a low-pitched shed roof. Doorways were inserted to provide direct access between the log structure and the additions.

The original condition of the attic cannot be determined, but, if not the case originally, the space was finished off and heated. Evidence for a circular opening in the south wall in the attic indicates that a stove had been located there in the past; it was not possible to determine whether a second fireplace had preceded the stove. The walls of the attic room are covered with beaded siding, and a substantial window was installed in the north gable, indicating that the attic was upgraded to be a more comfortable living space. These changes may well have occurred when the stairway was altered.

Much of the original fabric other than the walls, the foundation, and the chimney have been lost. All of the observable framing and trim for the doorways and window openings, and the doors and the window sashes, appear to be 20th century in date. Even with these additions and the modifications to the attic, the original character of the structure is relatively intact.

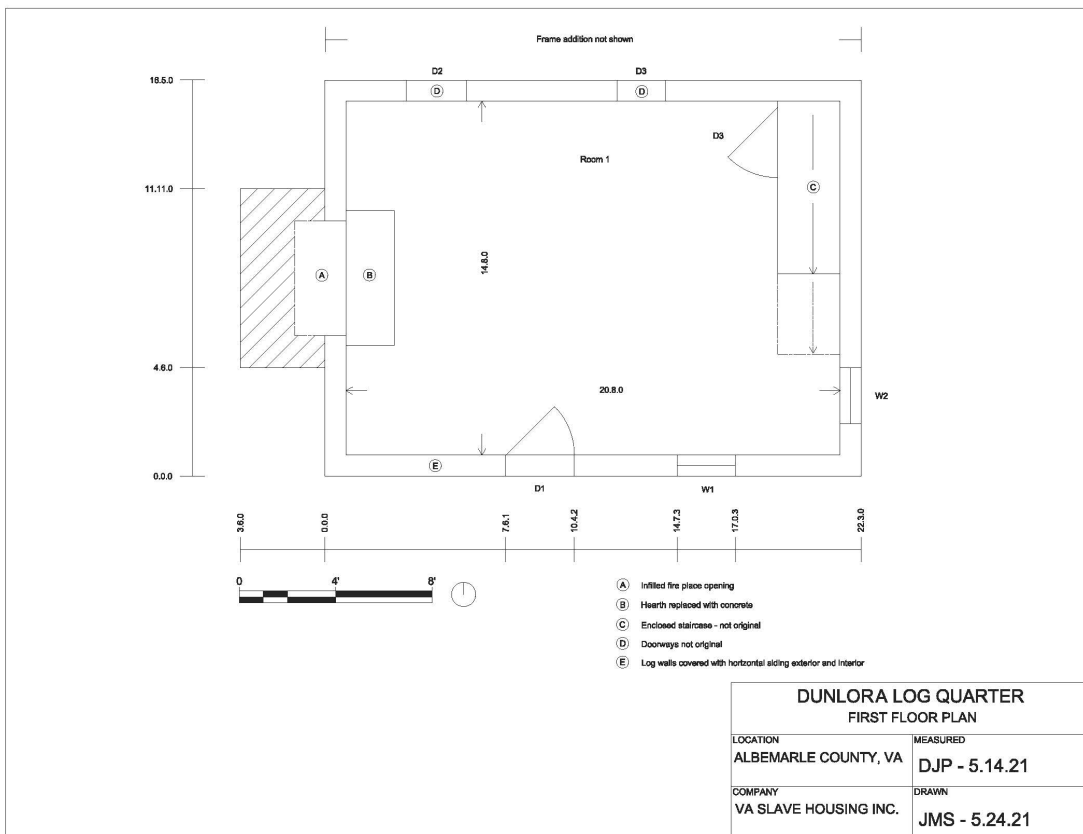
With the lack of documentary evidence it is a challenge to establish a date of construction for the building. Careful examination of the physical evidence to determine the methods and materials that were used generally will allow investigators to postulate a range of years when a structure of this type likely was erected. In this instance, the overall character of the structure and the physical investigation suggests that the Dunlora cabin was erected between 1840 and 1860.

A 1929 sketch map of the Dunlora property shows four slave quarters in this area arranged in a line, located about 500 feet from the main house complex.

Principal Construction Type: Log

One Story – With Garret

Footprint:



Number of Rooms: 2

Dimensions: (1) 1st floor: 20.7.2 (N-S) x 14.8.1 (E-W), 7.4.0 (H, to bottom of ceiling joist)
 (2) Garret: 20.10.2 (N-S) x 14.6.2 (E-W, knee wall to knee wall), 6.9.0 (H, to later installed bead board ceiling)

Doors: 4

	Rm. 1, E (1)	Rm. 1, W (2)	Rm. 1, W (3)
Type:	Modern, plywood (hollow)	6 panel	None (doorway only)
Dimensions:	2.11.3 (W) x 5.11.1 (H), 0.1.3 thick	2.6.0 (W) x 6.6.1 (H), 0.1.1 thick	2.6.0 (W) x 5.11.0 (H)
Hardware:	5 knuckle butt hinges (modern)	5 knuckle butt hinges (modern)	NA
Swing:	In	Out (into modern bathroom addition)	NA (doorway to access modern addition)
Replacement:	Yes, note reworked frame, trim, and sill	Yes, later insertion for modern addition (northern portion of west wall)	Later insertion, likely at former window location (southern portion of west wall)

Rm. 1, N (4) Stairs

Type:	4 panel
Dimensions:	2.9.1 (W) x 6.3.2 (H)
Hardware:	5 knuckle butt hinges (modern)
Swing:	In (into Room 1)
Replacement:	Yes, modern. Door for stairs in NW corner.

Windows: 5

	Rm. 1, E (1)	Rm. 1, N (2)	Rm. 2, S (3)
Type:	6/6 double hung sash	6/6 single hung sash	2 x 3 panes, single sash (casement)
Dimensions:	2.4.1 (W) x 3.9.1 (H)	2.4.1 (W) x 3.9.1 (H)	1.11.1 (W) x 2.4.2 (H)
Hardware:	None	None	3 knuckle butt hinges; hinged on west side
Shuttered/Slide/Swing:	NA, Modern replacement, note modern trim	NA, Modern replacement, note modern trim	Swings in; Eastern portion of south wall.

	Rm. 2, S (4)	Rm. 2, N (5)
Type:	2 x 3 panes, single sash (casement)	4/6 single hung sash
Dimensions:	1.11.0 (W) x 2.4.2 (H)	2.4.2 (W) x 3.8.0 (H)
Hardware:	3 knuckle butt hinges (hinged on west side)	None
Shuttered/Slide/Swing:	Swings in; Western portion of south wall	Modern replacement or insertion, with modern trim

EXTERIOR

Foundation:

Continuous Masonry: Stone (greenstone and sandstone)

Thickness: not ascertained

Height: 0.2.3 (NE corner); 1.6.0 (SE corner)

Bond: Irregular coursing

Mortar Type: Unknown, original mortar difficult to observe

Joint: Flush

Repaired: Yes, with Portland cement.

Shed/Porch: No

Roof:

Roof Form: Gable

Roof Covering: Asphalt shingles

Roof Framing:

Exposed: Yes

Form: Common Rafters

Rafter Number: 10 pairs

Rafter Dimensions: 0.2.3 (W) x 0.4.0 (H)

Collar Ties: Yes

Collar Dimensions: 0.1.0 (W) x 0.2.2 (H)

Method of Joining: Spiked at rafters with 2 machine-cut nails

Height from Roof Peak: 1.8.0 to top of collars

Height to Floor: 7.4.1 from top of collars

Building Height: @ SE corner

Ground to Soffit: 11.5.1

Ground to Top of Eave: 12.8.0

Ground to Apex: 19.6.0 (at north gable end)

Walls:

Log:

Dimensions: 0.5.2 – 0.6.0 (W) x 0.9.2 – 0.9.3 (H)

Finish: Flat Sides – Hewn – Debarked

Notching: V

Chinking: Mud (sandy composition), with a few small stones

Ceiling joists measure 0.2.1 wide x 0.8.0 high and are spaced about 2.1.0 apart, center to center.

Chimney(s):

Chimney (1):

Material: Stone

Location: Exterior – End

Height: 22.10.2

INTERIOR

Wall Framing: Log (not exposed)

Wall Finish: Horizontal boards (tightly fitted), with whitewash (later with white paint)

Fireplace (1): End – Center (original fireplace filled with brick and modern cement)

Fireplace Material: Stone (presumably, not visible)

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: not visible

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 4.9.2 (W) x 3.10.0 (H), unknown depth

Hearth Material: Unknown as to original material, now covered with concrete
Hearth Dimensions: 5.9.1 (E-W) x 2.2.2 (N-S)

Fireplace (2): End – Center (assumed to have existed originally, not visible due to modern wall covering, but note stovepipe hole at this location)

Fireplace Material: Unknown, presumably stone

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: Not ascertained (inaccessible)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: Not ascertained (inaccessible)

Hearth Material: Unknown (not visible)

Hearth Dimensions: Unknown (inaccessible)

Stairs: Yes

Type: Enclosed

Stairwell Dimensions: 8.7.0 (E-W) x 2.6.2 (N-S)

Number of Treads: 9 above landing (2.7.0 (E-W) x 2.8.0 (N-S))

Stair Tread Dimensions: 2.6.2 (L) x 0.10.0 (W) x 0.9.0 (H)

Subfloor Pit: No

Floor: Wood

Floorboards Dimension:

Room 1: 0.3.2 wide, running N-S (modern replacement)

Room 2: 0.4.2 – 0.5.2 – 0.9.2 wide, running N-S (possibly mixture of older and replacement flooring)

Dating:

Dendrochronology Date: NA

Other Date: 1840-60

Dating Evidence:

Saw Marks: Sash Sawn

Nails: Mature machine cut

Comments: Main house at Dunlora (non-extant) dated ca. 1828.

Condition:

The overall structural condition of the cabin is poor. The worst situation relates to the gable roof. The plate on the east side has failed, causing the rafters to deflect and the east face of the roof to collapse. In addition to the deteriorated condition of the roof structure, its failure has allowed water to penetrate into the body of the building, causing extensive deterioration of framing members and the logs. Long-term water penetration has occurred at several other points along the foundation and where the exterior siding has failed. The connections of the log walls at the corners are especially prone to deterioration, which is quite extensive at the northeast corner, where the upper logs in the connecting walls are completely compromised by rot. The horizontal siding boards in this location are similarly deteriorated. In addition to extensive rot, insect damage was observed in

numerous locations. The better condition of the west side of the roof, and the two frame additions, have protected the rear wall of the log structure, and conditions there are better than on the other three sides.