

Virginia Slave Housing Project

Building Name: Point of Fork Plantation/ Log Duplex

Evidence Type: Extant

Site ID: 032-0024

Historical Site Name: Point of Fork

Vicinity: Columbia

County: Fluvanna

State: Virginia

Investigators: Doug Sanford, Sam Biggers, Julie Blanch, Catalina Oliver, Sarah Rogers, Meghan Page

Institutions: Department of Historic Preservation, University of Mary Washington

Project Start: 2/6/16

Project End: 2/25/16

Summary Description:

The Point of Fork Plantation slave quarter is a one-and-a-half story log building, with 3 bays, a slate covered side-gabled roof, and a single interior brick chimney. The structure measures 16 by 32 feet and rests on stone piers. The logs are hewn flat on two sides and are joined by square notches at the corners, reinforced by large, machine-cut spikes. The open shed porch on the east-facing facade was an addition. The building has two exterior doorways, one leading to each room on the first floor. The log partition exists on either side of the central brick chimney that provides each room with a fireplace, defining a duplex or “double quarters” arrangement. Each downstairs room has a centrally located window on the rear (west) wall, while the northern room also has a window on the façade. After the end of slavery, a doorway was cut into the partition providing access between the two downstairs rooms.

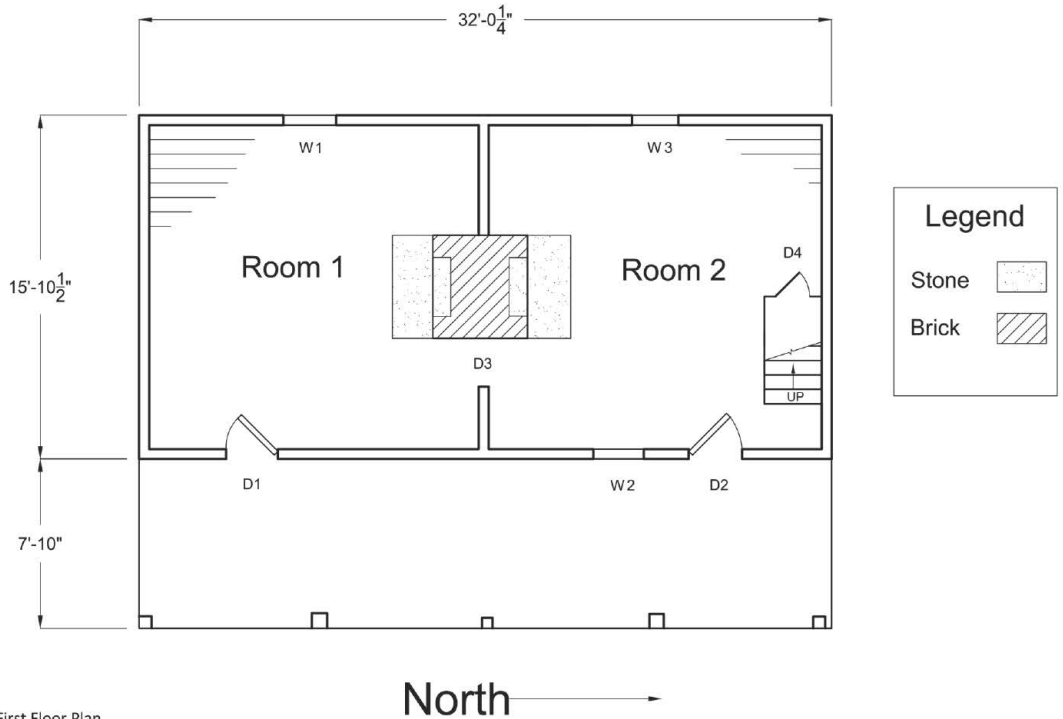
The northern downstairs room includes a staircase against the north end wall that leads up to the garret. The southern room formerly had a similar staircase against the south gable wall, but those stairs were removed. Evidence for the stairs survives in the broken pattern of flooring in the half-story above. The upper story or garret also contains two rooms, which were unheated originally, but later were outfitted with wood stoves, which were vented through stovepipe openings within the central chimney stack. The upstairs rooms are also separated by a centered partition, with a doorway on the west side marking a later insertion. The partition abuts the stack on both sides. There are two windows located in each gable.

Based on the use of sash sawn rafters and interior framing, along with more regular machine-cut nails, it is estimated that the Point of Fork log duplex dates to the mid-antebellum period, around the 1830s or thereafter.

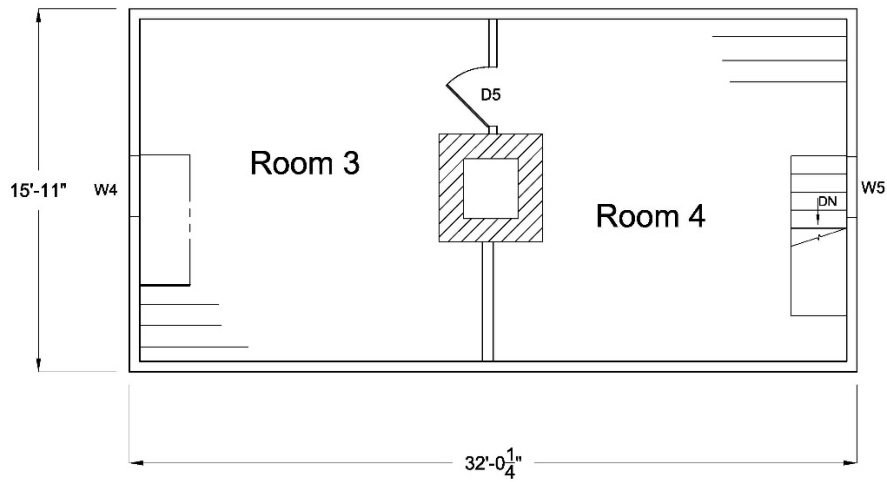
Principal Construction Type: Log

One and One-Half Story

Footprint:



First Floor Plan



Number of Rooms: 4 (2 up 2 down)

Dimensions: (1) 15.3.0 (N-S) x 14.11.2 (E-W); 6.8.1 (height to ceiling joist), 7.2.0 (height to floor above)

(2) 15.4.3 (N-S) x 15.2.2 (E-W); 6.4.0 (height to ceiling joist), 6.8.2 (height to floor above)

(3) 15.1.2 (N-S) x 15.5.1 (E-W); 7.4.2 (height to collar tie)

(4) 15.5.3 (N-S) x 15.3.0 (E-W); 7.4.3 (height to beadboard ceiling beneath collars)

Number of Doors: 5

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Type:	5 panel	4 panel? (partial door)	5 panel
Dimensions:	2.5.2 (W) x 6.4.1 (H) Thickness: 1 in.	2.6.2 (W) x 6.0.1 (H) Thickness: 1.5 in.	2.6.2 (W) x 6.6.1 (H) Thickness: 1 in.
Hardware:	2 knuckle butterfly hinge	3 knuckle hinge	3 knuckle butterfly hinge
Swing:	In	In	In
Replacement:	Replaced framing: w/circular sawn boards, wire nails	Replaced framing: w/circular sawn boards, wire nails	Replacement door

	(4)	(5)
Type:	Board and Batten	Board and Batten
Dimensions:	1.6.3 (W) x 2.5.3 (H) Thickness 0.0.2	2.7.0 (W) x 5.11.2 (H) Thickness 0.0.3
Hardware:	2 Strap hinges (unmatched); No latch	2 Butterfly Hinges w/wire nails, 1 knuckle
Swing:	Out	In (to Room 3, now detached)
Replacement:	No; Original	Inserted door into original log partition, note wire nails in casing

Number of Windows: 5

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Type:	Double hung sash 6 over 6	Double hung sash 6 over 6	Double hung sash 6 over 6
Dimensions:	2.4.0 (W) x 3.10.3 (H)	2.4.0 (W) x 3.8.3 (H)	2.4.0 (W) x 3.8.0 (H)
Hardware:	None	None	None
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	Replacement sash	Replacement sash	Replacement sash

	(4)	(5)
Type:	Fixed single sash, 3 x 3	Fixed single sash, 3 x 3
Dimensions:	2.3.3 (W) x 1.11.2 (H)	2.4.1 (W) x 1.11.2 (H)
Hardware:	None	None
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	Replacement	Replacement

EXTERIOR

Foundation:

Masonry Piers: Stone

Number: 6 -- On east wall, 3 original; others likely replacements using different size and height stones.

Dimensions:

Height:

Mortar Type: Dry laid

Repaired: Yes

Porch: Yes – 4-bays, open, located on east-facing façade (addition)

Roof:

Roof Form: Gable

Roof Covering: Slate shingles (later replacement, as are current rafters)

Roof Framing:

Exposed: Yes (partially- later beadboard covering some)

Form: Common rafters (circular sawn; butted & spiked w/wire nails)

Rafter Number: 8 pairs on each side of chimney

Rafter Dimensions: 0.3.2 (H) x 0.2.3 (W)

Collar Ties: Yes (modern replacements, circular sawn)

Collar Dimensions: Not taken; present on every other rafter pair
Method of Joining: Nailed
Height from Roof Peak: 1.8.0 (to collar tie)
Height to Floor: 7.8.0 (collar tie to floor)

Building Height:

@ SW corner	@ Center of south gable end
Ground to Soffit: 11.7.1	Ground to Bottom of Log: 0.11.0
Rafter ends Meet Top Log: 12.2.2	Bottom of Log Wall to Bottom of Framed gable end: 11.8.1
Ground to Top of Eave: 17.3.3	Ground to Roof Peak: 12.7.3

Walls:

Log:

Finish: Flat Sides; hewn; upper and lower surfaces w/bark
Notching: Square
Chinking: Mud; later mortar

Chimney(s): 1

Material: Brick

Location: Interior/Center

Dimensions: 4.6.0 (N-S) x 9.7.2 (E-W)

INTERIOR

Wall Framing: Log

Wall Finish: Chinking; whitewash, plus some paint

Fireplace (1): Center

Fireplace Material: Brick

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 2.3.0 (N-S) x 4.9.1 (E-W)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 2.8.3(W); 2.10.2 (H); 0.10.0 (Depth)

Hearth Material: Stone

Hearth Dimensions: 1.10.2 (N-S) x 4.11.1 (E-W))

***Flat Iron Lintel:** 0.2.3 wide

Fireplace (2): Center

Fireplace Material: Brick

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 2.3.0 (N-S) x 4.10.1 (E-W)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 2.8.2 (W); 2.11.2 (H); 0.10.1 (Depth)

Hearth Material: Stone

Hearth Dimensions: 2.0.0 (N-S) x 5.0.0 (E-W)

Stairs: Yes

Type: Enclosed

Stairwell Dimensions: 2.10.9 (W) x 7.11.1 (L)

Number of Treads: 10 to the floor

Stair Tread Dimensions: 0.9.2 (W) x 2.5.1 (L) x 0.8.3 (H)

Subfloor Pit: No

Floor: Wood

Floorboards Dimension: 1st Floor: 0.8.0 - 0.11.3 wide; 2nd Floor: most 0.9.0 wide, but others vary from 0.7.2 to 0.10.3 to 0.11.3 wide.

Dating Evidence:

Dendrochronology: NA

Other Date: ca. 1830-50

Saw Marks: Sash sawn

Nails: Machine-headed cut

Notes:

Exterior:

The replacement roof closely follows the same angle as the original roof. The replacement roof includes: slate shingles, circular sawn dimensional lumber for rafters and collar tie, and wire nails. At the chimney stack are a few, surviving rafters from earlier roofs. Some clearly are circular sawn, but towards the southern edge of the chimney, rafter segments on either side of the chimney appear to be sash sawn.

The front porch is a later addition, using roughhewn cedar posts, circular sawn floorboards, and reused rafters. It is raised on stone piers, elevated 2.2.2 feet above the ground surface. The floorboards on the porch measure between 6.75 and 8 inches wide.

At the SW corner are 6 large, machine cut spikes nailed into the square notches as additional reinforcement. The horizontal siding of the south gable end utilizes circular-sawn boards.

Interior:

The interior walls are whitewashed. Downstairs, the central partition wall is 6 inches thick. The heights of the logs vary from 8.5 to 9.5 to 10.5 inches.

In Rooms 1 and 2 downstairs, four ceiling joists were observed that are hewn logs, with flattened top and bottom surfaces. These joists are 6.5 to 8 inches wide and the distance between joists varies from 3.0 to 3.3.0 feet. The floorboards above rest on battens between these boards.

Both Rooms 3 and 4 have stove pipe openings in the chimney stack for a wood stove. The opening in Room 4 is now closed up, whereas the opening in Room 3 is still open. Originally, these rooms were unheated spaces. The average brick measurement for the chimney is 0.2.2 (H) x 0.8.1 (L).

On the second story the floorboards are replacement board and batten, with the boards as circular-sawn lumber. All boards cover the length of the room. In Room 3, the log walls reach a height of 4.3.1 on the east side and of 4.1.3 on the west side.

The log partition wall upstairs is 5.5 inches thick and originally came to the west side of the chimney stack. Later a doorway was inserted at this location and probably the lumber partition above the log wall was reworked at the same time, as it contains circular sawn materials and wire nails. The upper, framed portion of the partition wall on the chimney's west side (past the inserted door's framing) appears to be earlier, as it contains some possible pit sawn framing members and machine-cut nails. The log partition wall reaches a height of 4.0.3 on the chimney's west side and a height of 4.1.2 on chimney's east side.