

Slave Housing Data Base

Building Name: St. Julien Log Duplex

Evidence Type: Extant

Historical Site Name: St. Julien plantation

City or Vicinity: New Post

County: Spotsylvania

State: Virginia

Investigators: Douglas W. Sanford, Dennis J. Pogue

Institutions: Center for Historic Preservation, University of Mary Washington;
University of Maryland

Project Start: 3/4/15, 6/30/15

Project End: 6/30/15

Summary Description:

The slave building at St. Julien plantation is a one-story, side-gable-roofed log structure covered with weatherboards, with a central brick chimney, resting on a brick foundation. The roof covering is standing seam metal, likely replacing original wood shingles; a shed-roofed porch (asphalt shingles) has been added to the main south-facing elevation and an enclosed frame addition runs the length of the rear wall. The approximately 32'6" x 16'6" structure is arranged as a duplex, with two rooms on the first floor (originally separated by a partition but now accessible via a doorway), with a symmetrical four-bay facade composed of doorways nearer the corners and two windows between. The garret is accessible via a stairway positioned in the west room (but a second stairway may have been located in the east room); remnants of a partition located at the chimney indicate that the garret was divided into two rooms with a connecting doorway, and it is floored with tongue-and-grooved boards, but it is otherwise unfinished and unheated. The two windows symmetrically positioned in the rear wall on the first floor have been enlarged to serve as doorways providing interior access to the rear addition; a single window is located in each end wall on the first floor and another in each gable. Electricity has been brought to the building, but there is no capacity for running water. The building is located a few hundred feet to the north of the two-story brick plantation house and associated outbuildings.

The owner of St. Julien in 1860 was Francis E. Brooke (born 1812), listed in the US Census as residing in Spotsylvania County and owning 46 slaves and 11 slave houses. His occupation was recorded as a "farmer," whose household (Family #854) included his wife (Ella) and five children. Brooke's holdings were valued at \$52,000 for real estate and \$70,000 for personal property.

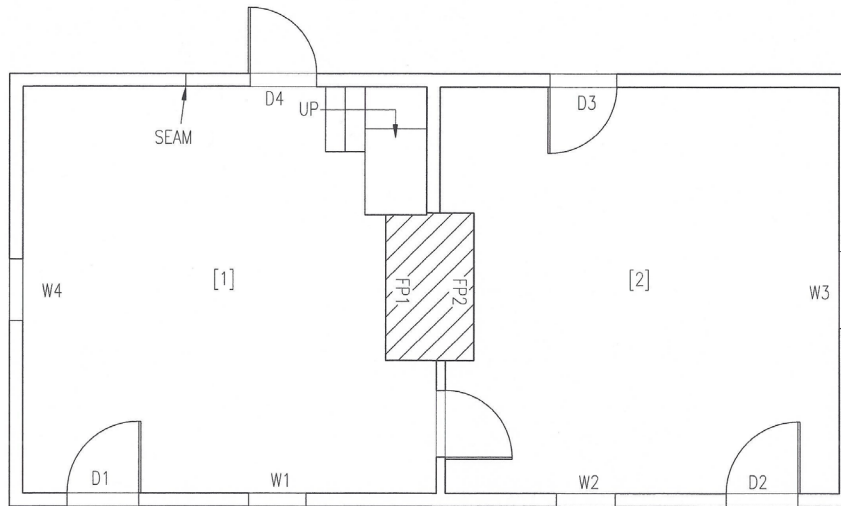
According to the current owner, the house was occupied into the 1960s-70s by an African American family that worked for the property owners. He also stated that he had seen pictorial evidence to indicate that at least two other buildings similar to the structure

under discussion were located some distance away to the west, in what is now a cultivated field.

Principal Construction Type: Log

One Story – With Garret

Footprint:



First Floor Plan
Drawn by: Teresa Boegler

0 1 2 3 4
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"

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

Dimensions: (1) Downstairs, west side: 15' 5 1/2" (east-west) x 15' 5" (north-south); 8' 5 1/2" (high, to bottom of ceiling joists)
(2) Downstairs, east side: 15' 10" (east-west) x 15' 5" (north-south); 8' 5 1/2" (high, to bottom of ceiling joists)
(3) Garret, west side: 15' 5" x 15' 5"
(4) Garret, east side: 15' 10" x 15' 5"

Doors: 6

	(1) Rm. 1, S. wall	(2) Rm. 2, S. wall	(3) Rm. 2, N. wall
Type:	5 panel (horizontal)	5 panel (horizontal)	No door present
Dimensions:	2' 8" (W) x 6' 7" (H)	2' 8" (W) x 6' 5½" (H)	2' 6" (W) x 6' 4" (H) – opening
Hardware:	Lock & metal knob; 5 knuckle butt hinges (early 20 th century)	Lock & ceramic knob; 5 knuckle butt hinges (early 20 th C.)	None present
Swing:	In	In	In (into Rm. 2)
Replacement:	Yes	Yes	Yes, later insertion

	(4) Rm. 1, N. wall	(5) Medial wall	(6) Stair closet
Type:	None present	5 panel	Vertical beaded board
Dimensions:	2' 6" (W) x 6' 7" (H)	2' 6" (W) x 6' 7" (H)	1' 4" (W) x 3' 7" (H)
Hardware:	None	Box lock & metal knob; 5-knuckle butt hinges	3-knuckle butt hinges
Swing:	Out (into modern addition)	In (into Rm. 2)	Out (into Rm. 1)
Replacement:	Yes (later insertion)	Later insertion	Within replacement stair

Windows: 6

	(1) Rm. 1, S. wall	(2) Rm. 2, S. wall	(3) Rm. 2, E. wall
Type:	Double hung sash; 6/6	Double hung sash; 6/6	Double hung sash; 6/6
Dimensions:	2' 2" (W) x 3' 7" (H)	2' 2½" (W) x 3' 7" (H)	2' 4" (W) x 3' 8" (H)
Hardware:	None	None	None
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	Replacement; band sawn, wire nails	Replacement; band sawn, wire nails	Replacement; band sawn, wire nails

	(4) Rm. 1, W. wall	(5) Garret, W. gable end	(6) E. gable end
Type:	Double hung sash; 6/6	Double hung sash; 4/4	Double hung sash; 4/4
Dimensions:	2' 4" (W) x 3' 8½" (H)	1' 8" (W) x 3' 9" (H)	1' 8" (W) x 3' 9" (H)
Hardware:	None	None	None
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	Replacement; band sawn, wire nails	Casing w/wire nails, nailed to studs; no header	Same as Window 5

EXTERIOR

Foundation:

Continuous Masonry: Brick

Height: 1' (at NE & SE corners)

Bond: Random – mostly stretcher, some row lock at top course

Mortar Type: High lime, sand

Joint: Not visible (extensive repointing)

Repaired: Yes, with Portland cement

Shed/Porch: On front (south) side; later addition; circular sawn boards and wire nails

Roof:

Roof Form: Gable

Roof Covering: Standing seam sheet metal (in panels)

Roof Framing:

Exposed: Yes

Form: Common rafters; half-lapped at peak, spiked with 3 machine-cut nails

Rafter Number: 16 pairs; with Roman numerals

Rafter Dimensions: 2½" to 3" (W) x 4" (H)

Collar Ties: Yes

Collar Dimensions: 1" thick x 4" to 5½" (H)

Method of Joining: Half lapped; spiked w/machine-cut nails

Height from Roof Peak to floor: 8' 7"

Height from Floor to Bottom of Collar: 6' 4"

The eaves originally were finished with a fascia board nailed to the ends of the joists; later the eave was lengthened with extensions nailed to the joists and half-lapped on the rafters; the extensions are circular sawn, projecting 1' 5" and measuring 3' by 4".

Building Height: at east gable, SE corner

Ground to Apex: 20' 1¾"

Ground to Top of Eave: 10' 8¾"

Walls:

Log:

Dimensions: 9" to 9½" high (gaps vary from 2" to 5")

Finish: Hewn; round tops and bottoms

Notching: cannot observe

Chinking: Mud; wood slats (small logs, saplings) – whitewashed

Currently the walls are covered on the exterior with wood weatherboards, painted yellow, affixed with wire nails; there appear to be multiple generations of siding, but remnants of the earliest covering survive beneath the porch: beaded with machine cut nails, painted white. The most recent siding was installed after the windows and doors were replaced, ca. 1900.

The joists are notched over the top log, cut at an angle to match the rafters, which rest on top of the joists; there is no false plate.

Chimney:

Material: Brick

Location: Interior – center

INTERIOR

Wall Framing: Logs covered with wall board, furred out 3" on all sides: originally exposed and whitewashed; hewn sides and rounded tops/bottoms, 9-9½" high x 5" thick;

Wall Finish: Whitewash

Partition: Vertical planks @10" wide, whitewashed, attached with machine cut nails

Ceiling joists: 7-8" x 3" thick, hewn

Fireplace (1): Center

Fireplace Material: Brick

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 5' 7" (north-south) x 1' 11" (east-west)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: filled in with brick, for wood stove; unclear dimensions, except 2' 8½" (H)

Hearth Material: Stone

Hearth Dimensions: 1' 8" (W) x 5' 7" (L)

Fireplace (2): Center

Fireplace Material: Brick; arched opening supported by iron lintel

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 5' 7" (north-south) x 1' 10" (east-west)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 3' 4" (W) x 2' 7" (H, top of arch) x 1' 1½" (D)

Hearth Material: Stone

Hearth Dimensions: 1' 6" (W) x 5' 7" (L)

Stairs: Yes

Type: Open, 2 runs with a landing

Stairwell Dimensions: 4' 11" (L) x 2' 3" (W)

Number of Treads: 2 to landing, 7 to garret floor

Stair Tread Dimensions: 2 steps to landing w/9½" tread and 7" riser; steps to garret w/5½" tread and 10" riser

Subfloor Pit: No

Floor: Wood – replaced, 1st floor; garret floor @10" wide, whitewashed on bottom

Dating: ca. 1830s-50s

Dating Evidence:

Dendrochronology: NA

Saw Marks: Sash sawn on original; circular sawn replacements

Nails: Mature machine cut nails