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HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT
PART III

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION

on

KELLY WELL HOUSE

APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

FEBRUARY 1964

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART III

ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION

ON

KELLY WELL HOUSE

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park
Appomattox, Virginia

Prepared by
Orville W. Carroll
Architect
February 1964

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION

PART III

ON

KELLY WELL HOUSE

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park
Appomattox, Virginia

A P P R O V A L S H E E T

RECOMMENDED

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Superintendent

Date 2-26-64

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Date 2-19-64

APPROVED

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Date 3-4-64

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I. FOREWORD

Reconstruction work on the Kelly House (exterior only) was completed in March 1960, when the floor boards were laid on the first and second floor to provide rigidity for the building. The Well House, fences and walks were contemplated as an exterior exhibit in the further visual interpretation of the Kelly House grounds. A PCP for the reconstruction of the Well House and fences was prepared and ultimately approved for the 1963 program. Both of these features have now been constructed. The following report supplements the completion report written for the Kelly House in March 1960.

Orville W. Carroll
Architect
February 1964

II. REPORTS, SURVEYS AND DRAWINGS

The Kelly House is shown on the Master Plan as building number 17 and the Kelly Well House as building number 17a. At the beginning of the Park's establishment, many ideas were proffered as to the original use of the land depression west of the Kelly House. These ideas ranged from an ice house, a house cellar to a well site. When definite knowledge was received that a well once existed at the depression is not known. During 1959, Architect H. A. Judd and the writer interviewed Mrs. Lucy Stevens of Appomattox. Mrs. Stevens was born in the Kelly House, ca. 1877 and lived there until she was about eighteen years of age. Through this interview, we were able to ascertain the existence of a well and obtain the earliest known description of the Well House.

Two nineteenth century Well Houses were investigated at Red House, Virginia, south of Appomattox. By and large, these structures supplied most of the dimensions for the various parts of the structure as well as the structural details. The design of the gable roof was based on the selection by Mrs. Stevens between two cardboard models; one model having a gable roof and the other having a pyramidal roof and finial (see photograph of models).

An examination of the well site was conducted by Superintendent Norris in May 1963. Positive evidence of a well pit was found when the Park Maintenance men dug to a depth of approximately 12 feet. The excavation was recovered after the location and size of the well pit was re-

corded. No attempt was made to reconstruct the well pit as part of this program.

One sheet of working drawings, No. NHP-ACH 3020-A was approved June 25, 1963, and is included in this report. A set of specifications for the job is also included in this report.

III. ARCHITECTURAL WORK

The construction work for the Well House was done by J. E. Jamerson and Sons, Inc., of Appomattox, Virginia. Jamerson had submitted low bids during April and June of 1963 for the reconstruction of the Village Fences and the County Court House building. When the Well House project was started August 12, 1963, the fencing around the Kelly property was virtually completed with the exception of two panel sections in the plank fence near the Well site. These two sections were nailed in place upon the completion of the Kelly Well House job.

Project Supervisor for the job between August 16 and September 27, was Edward Benner. Work was completed October 8, when the lid to the well box was hinged in place and the diagonal struts changed to conform with the working drawings.

Stone masonry work was done by C. M. Worsham of Lynchburg, Virginia.

Further explanation of the work can be obtained by a study of the working drawings, specifications and photographs included as part of this report.

ILLUSTRATION NO. 1

Excavation of the well site in May 1963, with the Kelly House in the background. This work was carried out to positively identify the fact that a well existed at this location.

Photo: Thomas Norris, May 1963
Neg. on file, ACHNHP



ILLUSTRATION NO. 2

The size of the original dug well is shown in this photograph. The Park maintenance men dug to a depth of approximately 12 feet to establish the identity of the well pit. Raymond Godsey is standing on the lowest point of the excavation.

Photo: Thomas Norris, May 1963
Neg. on file, ACHNHP

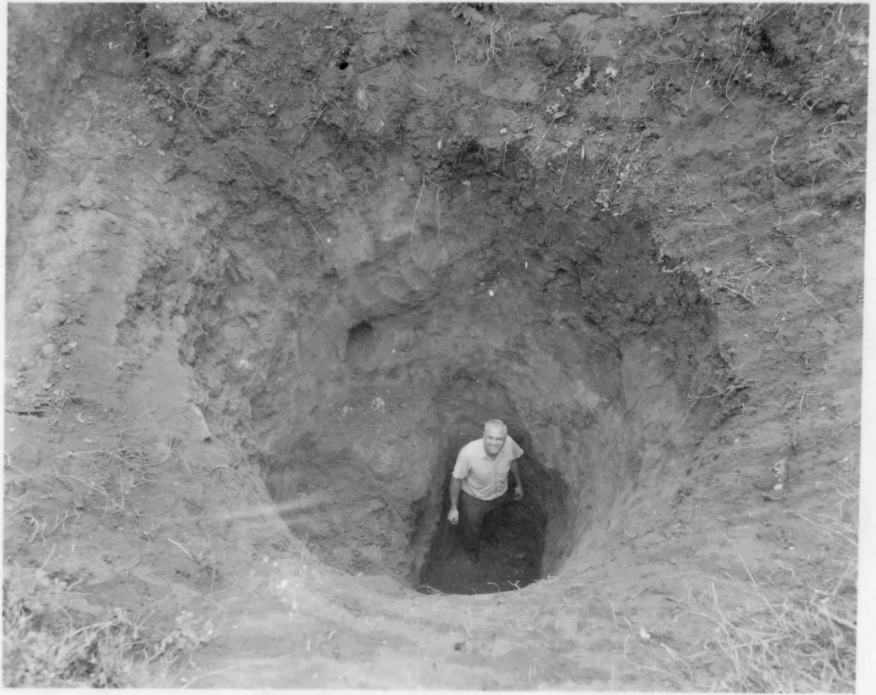


ILLUSTRATION NO. 3

The construction work started August 12, 1963. The finished foundation wall was completed by September 6. Enough yellow sandstone was found locally to match the stone used in the foundation of the Kelly House.

Photo: Edward Benner, September 6, 1963
Neg. on file, ACHNHP

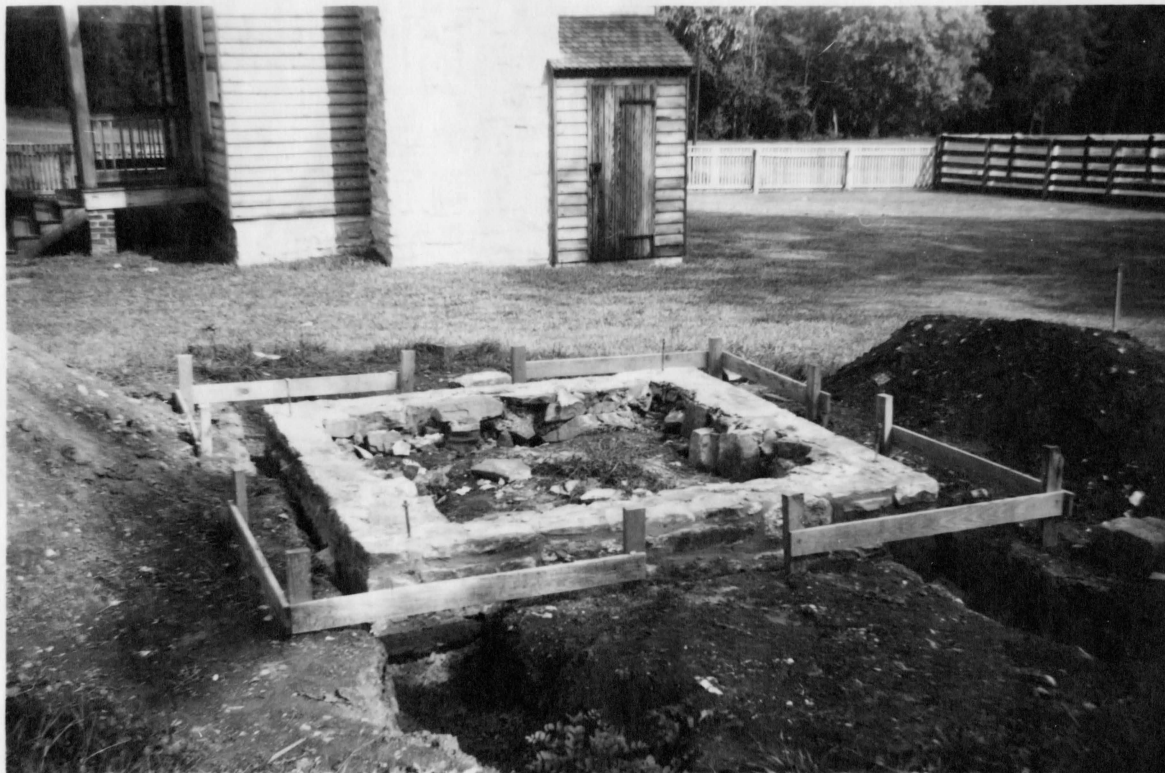


ILLUSTRATION NO. 4

The basic structure of the Well House shows in this photograph. Most of the carpenter work was done by Tom Ranson, an employee of J. E. Jamerson & Sons, Inc., of Appomattox.

Photo: Edward Benner, September 24, 1963
Neg. on file, ACHNHP



ILLUSTRATION NO. 5

The Well House, about 90 per cent complete. A view
looking east.

Photo: Edward Benner, September 26, 1963
Neg. on file, ACHNHP



ILLUSTRATION NO. 6

The completed Well House with the well box in place.
Notice the fences that were constructed during the summer of
1963.

Photo: O. W. Carroll, October 15, 1963
Neg. on file, ACHNHP



ILLUSTRATION NO. 7

A view looking north. All of the exterior surfaces exposed to the weather directly were treated with a colorless waterproofing agent. Scale to the subject matter is given by Park Guide, Charles Meadows.

Photo: O. W. Carroll, October 15, 1963
Neg. on file, ACHNHP



ILLUSTRATION NO. 8

An overall view of the Kelly House property today shows the results of the original concept in planning as outlined in the Part I, Architectural Data Section of the Historic Structures Report written May 1959.

Photo: O. W. Carroll, November 19, 1963
Neg. on file, ACHNHP



APPENDIX A

Specifications for the Reconstruction of the Kelly Well House

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Virginia

1. Location of Work: The work is to be done at the Kelly House, northwest corner of the house lot No. 30, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Virginia.
2. Scope of Work: The work to be done includes the furnishings of additional supplies and materials, labor, tools, equipment, and transportation as necessary to complete the erection and fabrication of a well house as outlined in these specifications and as shown on Drawing Number NHP-ACH 3020, 1 sheet.
3. Workmanship: The workmanship shall be done in the best practice of the trade. The Contractor shall use methods and materials acceptable and in accordance with approval of the Contracting Officer.
4. Supervising of Work: The Contractor shall give his personal superintendence to the work or have a competent foreman as superintendent, satisfactory to the Contracting Officer.
5. Time for Completion: The job shall be started and completed without any undue delay, working each consecutive day after notification to proceed until the job is completed.
6. Precautions: The Contractor shall cooperate with the Protection Division to prevent fires. The working area shall have proper protection against accidents to the public. All methods shall have the approval of the Contracting Officer.
7. Payment: Payment will be in one lump sum upon the completion of the job and the submission of proper invoices to the Contracting Officer. Final payment will be made upon the acceptance of the work by the Contracting Officer or his representative.
8. Clean Up: The Contractor shall at all times keep the premises clean, free of accumulations of waste material. The immediate working area will be clean and free of debris when the job is completed.

The following materials will be furnished by the National Park Service and will be brought to the job site.

1. Yellow sandstone above grade. Local stone below grade. Stone is presently on the site.
2. Cypress shingles (with starter course included). These shingles are already cut with the "Fish-scale" design.
3. Three (3) each 6" x 6" x 16-0 S4S DF treated sills (Note the Contractor will cut and fit foundation sills as shown).
4. Four (4) each 5-3/4" x 6" S4S DF treated posts (Note the Contractor will cut and fit posts as shown).
5. One pair cast iron hinges for lid of well box.
6. Hydrozo (to be applied by the National Park Service).
7. Water furnished at the site (within 15' of well site).
(Note: there is no electricity at the Kelly House site).

The following supplies and materials will be furnished by the Contractor.

1. 1" x 3" roof boards (net) rough vertical band saw marks.
2. 3" x 4" rafters (net) rough vertical band saw marks.
3. 3" x 3" gable studding (net) rough vertical band saw marks.
4. 2" x 5-3/4" top plate, rough vertical band saw marks.
5. Deck Boards, 1-3/8" x 5-1/2", 5-1/4" T&G DF treated 6 hours in pentachlorophenol.
6. 2" x 5-5/8" joist, rough or S4S under well box, treated with pentachlorophenol.
7. Verge boards, eave trim boards, diagonal braces, sill trim boards, weatherboarding, all exposed surfaces hand planed. Leave unpainted.
8. Well box, complete with windlass.
9. Shingle nails, galvanized or al. not to exceed thickness of shingles plus roof boards. 1-1/8" long maximum length.

10. Concrete, batter boards, form boards, 1/2" bolts, 1/2" reinforcing bars, bridge beam, mortar for stone work.
11. Galvanized cut common nails as required.

APPENDIX B

Mortar Mix for Well Foundation, Kelly House

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park
Virginia

14 shovels Appomattox River sand (approximately 2-1/2 cu. ft.) (Note Petersburg sand may be substituted)

1 bag Lehigh mortar cement

4 shovels white cement

1 shovel lime

1/2 brick bat, pulverized

1 pint white cement, hardened then pulverized

2 gallon local yellow clay

1/2 pint black Lynchburg sand

water