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HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT
PART II

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION
on the
McLEAN ICE HOUSE

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APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

FEBRUARY 1964

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART II

ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION

on the

McLEAN ICE 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

PART II

ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION

ON THE

McLEAN ICE HOUSE

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park
Appomattox, Virginia

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

RECOMMENDED

Superintendent

Date _____

Robert G. Hall
Chief, EODC

Date 2-28-64

APPROVED

Regional Director, Southeast Region

Date _____

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I. FOREWORD

The following report proposes the architectural recommendations for the reconstruction of the McLean Ice House. It expands the original recommendations outlined in Part I, Historic Structures Report, Architectural Data Section, recommended for approval by Chief, EODC, November 20, 1963. The photographs and drawings of the Ice House, which were omitted in the Part I Report, are included in this report.

Further investigation of the ice pit was accomplished in the Fall of 1963, to determine its overall dimensions. This information has been incorporated into the Preliminary Plans which proposes to reconstruct the log cribbing of the ice pit to a depth of six feet for visitor interpretation. Archeological examination of the Ice House site in 1962, determined that the original ground level was approximately twelve inches lower than the present ground level. Because of the close proximity of a very fine locust and pear tree, it has been decided to forego any lowering of the grade to preserve these trees. Future lowering of the grade could be done at a time, if for any reason, the trees are removed.

Orville W. Carroll
Architect
February 1964

II. INTRODUCTION

The McLean Ice House was programmed for reconstruction during Fiscal Year 1964. Construction funds provided in PCP B-10-1 total \$6,000.00 an estimate prepared by the Southeast Regional Office. Further cost analysis has not been made.

Like the McLean House Kitchen and Slave Quarters, the Ice House was constructed in part, of hewn logs. Construction costs will be reduced if all three structures can be erected at the same time. If the work is to be done on a contractual basis, a complete set of working drawings is needed, and a rigid set of specifications should be written to permit an accurate reconstruction and to reduce the guess work for bidders and on the site work. The specifications should be written with close liaison between the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park Field Office and EODC, prior to bid invitation.

III. ARCHITECTURAL RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended by the writer, that the Ice House be constructed in the manner described herein and as shown on Sheet 1 of the Preliminary Drawings No. NHP-ACH 3024, included as part of this report.

A. Masonry

It is proposed to build the Ice House on four concrete supported field stone piers, with the mortar kept back two inches from the exposed face of the pier. The pier at the northeast corner, which is the highest point in ground elevation, should be kept as close to the ground as possible to avoid building a high pier at the southwest corner.

B. Carpentry Work

1. Exterior

The basic shape of the Ice House is a 45° triangle, resting over a log foundation. The roof forms the east and west sides, while the south and north ends are covered with weatherboarding, drop-lapped boards 8" to 11" wide and hand-planed. It is recommended that the weatherboarding be left unpainted but treated with a colorless, waterproofing agent.

The Preliminary Drawing best illustrates the design of the triangulated barge board covering the eight inch eave extension of the north gable. The south gable has the eight inch eave overhang, but does not have a decorative barge board (see Illustration No. 2).

It is proposed to make the north access door out of matching pieces of wall weatherboarding. The top of the door is held in place with

3.

a lipped edge and the bottom with two wooden thumb latches. An interior batten will rest upon the log sill to prevent its sliding downward.

It is recommended that a wood shingle roof be used to conform with the McLean House. The proposed shingles would be No. 1 grade, 18" long with square butts, kept between 3-1/2" - 6" in width and laid six inches to the weather. The top shingle row on the west slope would form a four inch weather projection as seen in Illustration No. 1.

It is proposed to install a four inch terra cotta drain tile along the east and west walls of the Ice House to catch the rain water. The tile drain would extend underground to the porch of the McLean House on the east side where it can connect into an existing drain. The existing brick walk near the Ice House site would have to be removed and the bricks salvaged for reuse on the west side of the McLean House. The area around the Ice House will require landscaping after the construction work is completed. The landscaping could become part of the fencing and walk project.

2. Interior

It is proposed to rebuild the Ice House over a log foundation resting on stone piers with logs used as fillers between the voids of the log wall. Mortar chinking was probably not used on the Ice House. The interior frame, as shown in the Preliminary Drawings, consists of rough vertical sawn 3" x 4" rafters and studding. The rafters are notched and

lapped at the ridge with a 3/4" wooden dowel used for a connector. The rafter seat and the studs are toe-nailed with galvanized cut nails. A log cribbing, 11'-2" square and six feet deep is proposed for the ice pit. Round logs are used rather than hewn, and held in place with a "saddle-notch" end joint. Moisture-proof paper can be used as backing next to the soil backfill to prevent decay of the logs. The logs should be pressure treated against insects and rot. The bottom of the ice pit will be covered with sawdust.

C. Utilities

No utilities, water, electrical or heating units are planned for the Ice House.

ILLUSTRATION NO. 1

The Ice House stood approximately 14 feet east of the McLean House on the property line of Lot No. 21. This view is looking at the northeast corner of the Ice House with the detached kitchen showing in the background.

Photo: W. E. Burgess, ca. 1915
Copy Neg. No. EODC 4477



OLD ICE HOUSE, McLEAN PLACE, SURRENDER GROUNDS, APPOMATTOX, VA.

DT-108862

ILLUSTRATION NO. 2

A rear view of the Ice House can be seen to the extreme right of this photograph. Evidently the south or rear side did not have the decorative barge board seen in Illustration No. 1.

Photo: A. H. Plecker, ca. 1892
Neg. on file ACENHP



ACHNWM 9/4

ILLUSTRATION NO. 3

Second copy of the P. C. Hubard drawing executed in 1893 and annotated by Ragland Featherston in 1940. The Ice House was still standing in 1893 during the dismantling of the McLean House. The dimensions are shown as well as the distance from the McLean House. These dimensions compare with the archeological findings in 1962.

Original Hubard drawings on file ACHNHP

main st

Cross St

Hancock Specifications

1



