

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

001458

PART I

6

ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION

ON

McLEAN HOUSE KITCHEN

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park
Appomattox, Virginia

Prepared by
Orville W. Carroll
Architect
November 1963

D-6

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART I

ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION

ON

McLEAN HOUSE KITCHEN

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park
Appomattox, Virginia

Prepared by

Orville W. Carroll
Architect
November 1963

ON MICROFILM

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DENVER SERVICE CENTER
BRANCH OF MICROGRAPHICS
LIBRARY COPY

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

B&W Scans

3/3/2004

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART I

ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION

ON

McLEAN HOUSE KITCHEN

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 L. Hall
Chief, EODC

Date 11-19-63

Regional Director, Southeast Region

Date _____

APPROVED

Director

Date _____

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. FOREWORD.....	i
II. ARCHITECTURAL SECTION	
A. General Background.....	1
B. General Description.....	1
C. Architectural Recommendations.....	4

I. FOREWORD

A Historical Data Section for the Historic Structures Report, Part I, on the McLean House Kitchen was completed in 1962, by Park Historian Wescoat Wolfe. His report, which contains most of the known photographs and drawings of the Kitchen, should be consulted whenever reference is made to the exterior appearance. Prior to the completion of Wolfe's report, an archeological investigation of the detached kitchen site was completed by John Walker in 1962. His report was distributed in finished form during 1963. This report forms the basis of determining the physical dimensions of the floor plan and other architectural features. To complete a thorough study of the Kitchen reconstruction, other structures of a comparative nature will need to be examined in detail.

Much of the photographic evidence, the drawings during the Civil War period and other documentations which formed the basis for the above reports, was collected by former Superintendent Hubert A. Gurney and National Park Service Historian Ralph Happel.

Orville W. Carroll
November 1963

II. ARCHITECTURAL SECTION

A. General Background

It is generally accepted that the McLean House was built by Charles A. Raine in 1848, for use as a tavern.¹ It was probably at this same time that the Kitchen was erected some 38 feet to the south or rear of the house. We have photographic evidence to support the fact that the Kitchen was standing in 1865, the historic period with which we are dealing. The Kitchen is best seen in the O'Sullivan photograph no. 222, taken in April 1865. It appears again in photograph nos. 221 and 224 of the same date but not as clearly.² What few field sketches were made and printed during 1865 should be largely ignored, in view of the fact that existing photographs taken between 1893 and 1914 reveal the architectural details more accurately.³

B. General Description

The McLean House Kitchen was built with a somewhat unconventional design. It appears to be a story-and-a-half log structure with a lean-to added along the south wall. Archeological investigation

¹Happel, Ralph; N.P.S. Study on the McLean House, December 1940, p.2.

²Wolfe, Wescoat; N.P.S. Study on the McLean House Kitchen, 1962, see Photograph Nos. 1-2. Photo No. 224 on file ACH-NHP, Va.

³Wolfe, Ibid, Photograph Nos. 4-5-6-7-8 & 9.

has proven however, that the Kitchen was constructed all at one time and not in the manner described.⁴ It is evident, that the north half of the building was constructed of logs while the south half of the structure was of frame construction. The basic plan of the Kitchen was 33' x 20', two rooms deep; each room measuring overall about 16' x 20'. Both rooms had a fireplace centrally located in the west wall. The north chimney block being the larger of the two suggests that perhaps there was a fireplace on the second floor. The chimney caps are identical to those of the McLean House. With the exception of the stone base, about 20 inches above the ground, the chimneys were constructed of brick.

One architectural feature that appears in the photograph of 1865 (No. 222) but is missing from later photographs, is a shed porch running across the north side of the Kitchen. The porch shows up clearly under a five power magnifying glass, enabling the viewer to count the number of wooden shingle courses and to determine that the shingles of the historic period were of the "Fish Scale" design (rounded butts) similar to the McLean House and the well in front. No porch footings were found in 1941-42 when Preston Holder examined the area north of the existing stone foundation. This would indicate that the porch was constructed over loose stones, probably one flat stone under each porch column.

⁴Walker, John; N.P.S. Report on Excavations at McLean House Kitchen Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Va., 1962

As previously stated, the north section of the Kitchen was of log construction with mortar chinking between the logs. This appears to be both its original and post-war appearance. The exterior of the log walls could have been whitewashed. The south part of the Kitchen was weatherboarded as was the gable ends of the log section and they were either whitewashed or painted white.

We have some photographic information as to the location of the doors and windows. We know for certain the second floor had three windows; one in the center of the east gable wall and one placed on each side of the chimney in the west gable wall. On the first floor there appears to be a door in the northwest corner of both rooms adjacent to the chimneys (See Wolfe, Photo. Nos. 5 & 9). Beyond this we have to rely upon other sources of information. Ragland Featherston, who was born in the McLean House in 1874, recalls a door and window in the north wall facing the McLean House, but there is no mention of the remaining walls or rooms which undoubtedly had light from windows.⁵ The location of other doors and windows will have to be conjectural.

We have no photographic or written evidence of the interior. The basis for the interior design will rely heavily upon the examination of other existing log houses in this area. There are several log buildings still remaining in the Appomattox area that will be suitable for this purpose.

⁵Happel, op cit, p. 2. See Hancock specifications in Appendix.

C. Architectural Recommendations

- a. Reconstruct the north half of the Kitchen with logs and the south half with frame construction. Exterior log wall to be exposed with mortar chinking; rear portion to be whitewashed and/or painted white.
- b. Reconstruct north porch.
- c. Reconstruct interior rooms with similar design lines and building practices of the Appomattox area.
- d. Provide electrical service from the McLean House.
- e. No heating is contemplated. Working fireplaces could provide heat on special occasions.
- f. No water is being considered.