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HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT
PART II

001464

ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION
on the
McLEAN HOUSE SLAVE QUARTERS

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APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

FEBRUARY 1964

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART II

ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION

ON THE

McLEAN HOUSE SLAVE QUARTERS

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 HOUSE SLAVE QUARTERS

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

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 _____

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. FOREWORD.....	i
II. INTRODUCTION.....	1
III. ARCHITECTURAL RECOMMENDATIONS	
A. MASONRY WORK.....	3
a. Foundation	
b. Fireplaces, Hearths and Chimney	
B. CARPENTRY WORK.....	4
a. Exterior	
b. Interior	
C. UTILITIES.....	6
IV. PHOTOGRAPHS	
V. DRAWINGS	

I. FOREWORD

This report expands the original architectural recommendations for the reconstruction of the McLean House Slave Quarters which were outlined in Part I, Historic Structures Report, Architectural Data Section, recommended for approval by Chief, EODC, November 21, 1963. Since we lack adequate photographs and sketches for this building, the Clover Hill Tavern was used as precedent for dimensional size, and other log structures in the Appomattox area for architectural details.

Orville W. Carroll
Architect
February 1964

II. INTRODUCTION

The reconstruction of the McLean House Slave Quarters was programmed for Fiscal Year 1964. Construction funds provided in PCP B-37 total \$10,200.00, an estimate prepared by the Southeast Regional Office. No further cost estimate has been undertaken. It has been suggested that the cost of construction will be much less if the Slave Quarters can be built concurrently with the McLean House Kitchen and Ice House, programmed for Fiscal Year 1964.

The exterior and interior design of the Slave Quarters is conjectural since we have no surviving photographs of the building. The writer is confident that the Slave Quarters is the log structure appearing in the right background of the Brady Photograph No. 223 (see Illustration No. 1). This is further substantiated by Mr. Ragland Featherston, who was born in the McLean House in 1874, and when interviewed by Park Historian Ralph Happel in 1940 recalled the Slave Quarters as being a one story log cabin. Featherston indicated the approximate location of the building on a 1893 drawing. This sketch (Illustration No. 6) is included in this report. The selection of the site for the Slave Quarters on Lot No. 21, as shown on the site plan in Drawing No. NHP-ACH 3023, included in this report, is based on the traditional pattern in Virginia, of having one or more exterior walls of a building align with the walls of another building. Here the south wall of the Slave Quarters and the Kitchen are in line.

An investigation into the availability of oak logs meeting the specifications as to proper diameter and length required for the construction of the Slave Quarters building, should be conducted prior to construction (or letting of Invitations to Bid, if placed on a contractual basis). The selection of the logs should be the responsibility of the Project Supervisor. Less of a field problem would be created if a source of logs can be located and selected in advance. This would also apply to the source of field stone and hand-made brick used in the foundation work, fireplace and chimney construction.

If the reconstruction of the Slave Quarters is to be done on a contract basis, a rigid set of specifications should be written in a close liaison between the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park Field Office and EODC, prior to issuing Invitations to Bidders.

III. ARCHITECTURAL RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended by the writer that the Slave Quarters for the McLean House be reconstructed in the manner described herein and as shown on sheet one of the Preliminary Drawings No. NHP-ACH 3023, included as part of this report. If approvals are given, working drawings will be required to supplement the construction details.

A. MASONRY WORK

a. Foundation

It is proposed to build the Slave Quarters over a foundation consisting of six field stone piers, with the mortar raked back two (2) inches from the exposed face.

b. Fireplaces, Hearths and Chimney

It is proposed to build the chimney of field stone from the foundation to the attic level, then continuing the flue stem through the roof with hand-made brick. The brick would match those used in the Kitchen chimneys, 2-3/4" x 4-1/8" x 4-3/8" with a 7/16" mortar joint.

The Kelly House, ca. 1854, and the Mariah Wright House, ca. 1824, set the precedent which exists within the Park area for a stone chimney base with a brick stem.

The fireplace openings would be supported by an 8" stone lintel. No dampers or flue lining are planned. The hearths would consist of hand-made brick, laid tightly together without mortar joints. Concrete

footings are planned under the six foundation piers and chimney block.

No mantels are planned for the fireplace openings.

B. CARPENTRY WORK

a. Exterior

It is recommended that the exterior walls of the Slave Quarters be exposed, hand-hewn logs, assembled in the same manner as described for the McLean House Kitchen. (See Part II, Historic Structures Report, Architectural Data Section for the McLean House Kitchen).

The fenestration as shown in the Preliminary Drawings is conjectural. The precedent for using two exterior doors in the south wall is from other slave quarters erected in the Appomattox vicinity (see Illustrations No. 4 and 5). Slave Quarters, ca. 1850, having two exterior doors can be seen on the Sears property about four miles from the Park area on the Hixburg Road.

The attic window in the west gable end is based on the field sketches of 1865, cited in the Part I Report. The north window in each room provides the minimum amount of light and ventilation. There is one window for each room on the rear wall of the first floor (see Illustration No. 5).

The construction of porches is not proposed. Steps would be located at each door as shown on the drawings. The doors would be board and batten, hung on cast iron butt hinges (or strap hinges) held closed by

wooden drop latches operated with a leather thong. One night latch would be required on each door for security purposes.

The roof construction would be similar to the Kitchen, using rough vertical sawn 3" x 4" rafters, spaced 24" on centers with a 12" eave overhang covered by a 1" fascia board and a canted crown moulding. The gable ends would be weatherboarded and covered along the rake with a 1" beaded and tapered (4" to 5") verge board. The roof sheathing, because it is exposed on the exterior overhang and the interior, should be spaced rough vertical sawn boards 1" x 4" (net) No. 1 common grade (not a utility grade). Spacing of the roof boards is dependent upon the recommended spacing of 5-3/4" for the shingles. (Note: the number of shingle courses cannot be based upon photographic evidence for accuracy as was the Kitchen). The shingles have the same butt pattern as the Kitchen shingles; 45° clipped corners about one inch long. The width of the shingles should be kept between 4" and 6" using a No. 1 grade 18" wood shingle.

At the juncture of the roof and chimney, sheet lead flashing should be chased into the brick flue approximately 3/4" along the roof slope and the joint sealed with tamped lead wool. This would conceal all of the flashing and present the appearance of 1865.

A first class exterior reconstruction job means achieving the quality of the mid-nineteenth century craftsman. This quality is represented by the hand-planing of the exterior weatherboarding, steps, doors,

door and window casings, cornice and rake boards, hand-hewn wall logs and the use of common cut nails (preferably galvanized).

It is recommended that the exterior trim be painted two coats of off-white lead paint and the weatherboarding fully primed. The log walls and log floor joists are to be pressure treated with an insect repellent prior to construction and left unpainted after the building is completed.

b. Interior

It is recommended that the interior log walls be left exposed and whitewashed. The ceiling would be exposed hand-hewn oak joists with roof boards nailed on the upper surface and painted with a simulated whitewash to prevent flaking. It is planned that both floors are to be random widths, 8"-10", full length T&G boards, which can be new material treated with an aging solution and darkened with a wax treatment, (first floor only). A 1" x 5" (net) beaded baseboard is planned for the first floor rooms. A steep stair to the attic loft, consisting of 10 treads with a 9-1/2" rise, is proposed for the larger west room.

c. UTILITIES

No electrical, water or heating facilities are planned for the Slave Quarters building.

ILLUSTRATION NO. 1

The author believes that the log walls of the Slave Quarters can be seen in part above the picket fence to the right of the McLean House. There is a suggestion of a window outline in the east part of the Slave Quarters where the foliage has not entirely obscured the building.

Photo: Brady Collection, No. 223, April 1865
Copy Neg. No. EODC 4478

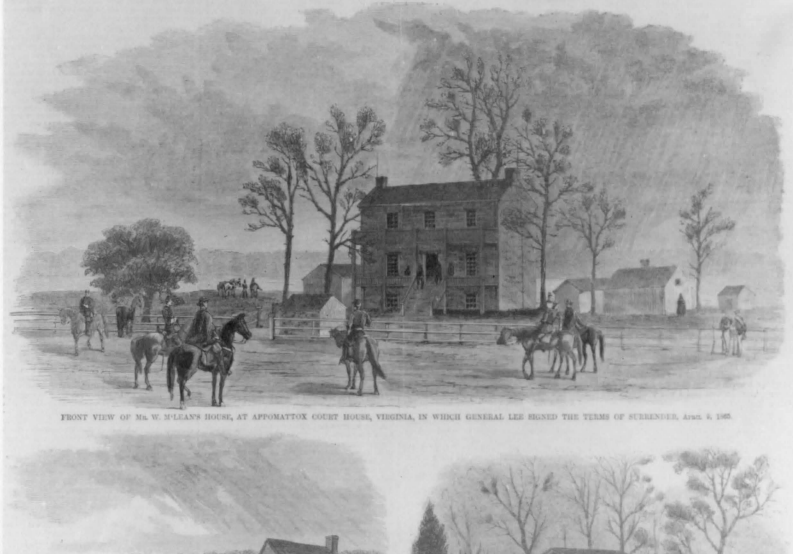


ILLUSTRATION NO. 2

A field sketch of the McLean House property executed in 1865. What the author takes to be an indication of the Slave Quarters is the building to the right with the central chimney.

Photo: Sketch by Colonel Battersby in 1865
Neg. on file ACHNHP

SURRENDER OF GEN. LEE'S ARMY, APRIL 9, 1865.—FROM SKETCHES BY COL. BATTERSBY OF THE 1ST NEW YORK CAVALRY.—[SEE PAGE 698.]



FRONT VIEW OF NO. 1111'S HOUSE, AT APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA, IN WHICH GENERAL LEE SIGNED THE TERMS OF SURRENDER, APRIL 9, 1865.

ILLUSTRATION NO. 3

A watercolor painting of the village area probably painted under field conditions in 1865. The McLean House property figures prominently in this view and what the author interprets as the Slave Quarters is the building the artist shows to the extreme right with the central chimney.

Original watercolor painting by Frankenstein on display at ACHNHP
Copy Neg. No. EODC 4480



ILLUSTRATION NO. 4

The Slave Quarters for the Clover Hill Tavern, Appomattox Court House village, is shown here prior to its reconstruction. This is a good example of a building precedent to use for the McLean House Slave Quarters structure.

Photo: Charles W. Porter, 1937
Copy Neg. No. EODC 4479



ILLUSTRATION NO. 5

A typical example of a log constructed building used during the mid-nineteenth century for housing slaves. This building stands at Enonville, Buckingham County, Virginia, about 20 miles away.

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

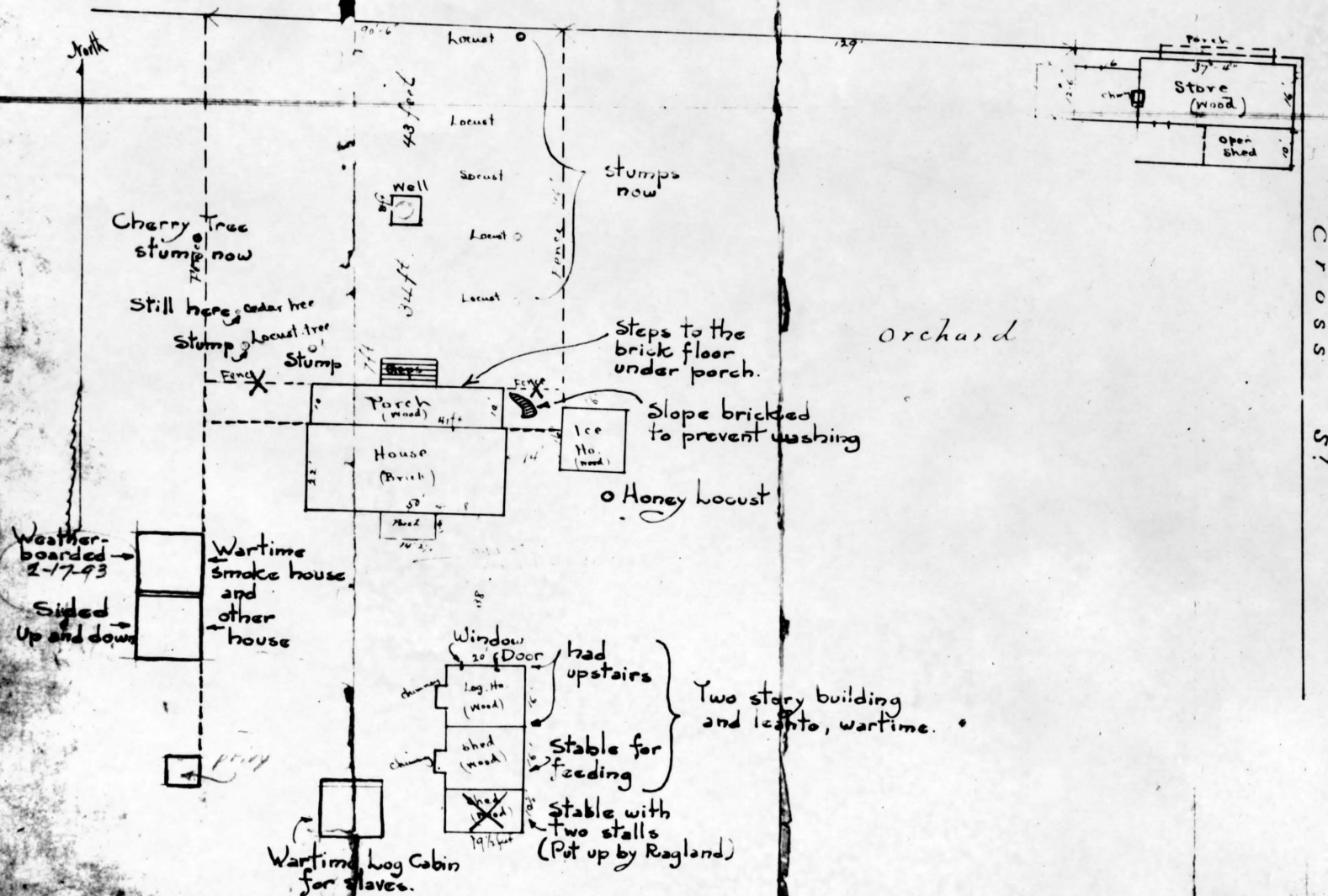


ILLUSTRATION NO. 6

Second copy of the P. C. Hubbard drawings, executed in 1893 and annotated by Ragland Featherston in 1940. Featherston recalled the Slave Quarters in "runious condition" and indicates on the drawing its general location as west of the Kitchen.

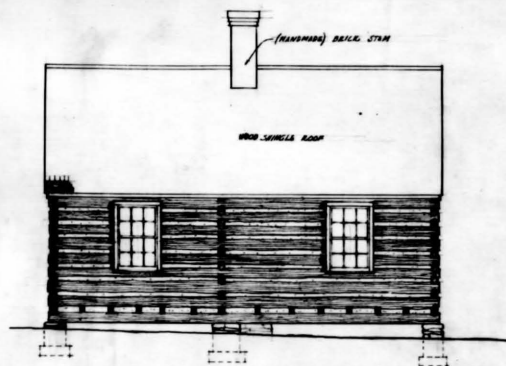
Original Hubbard drawings on file ACHNHP

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Handwritten Specifications

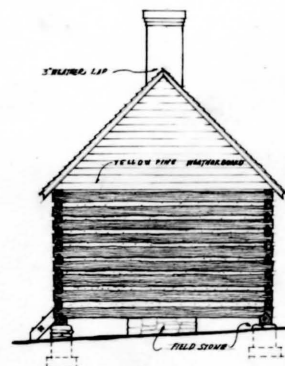
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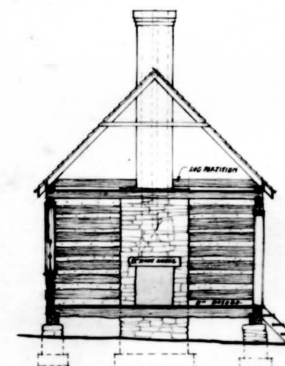
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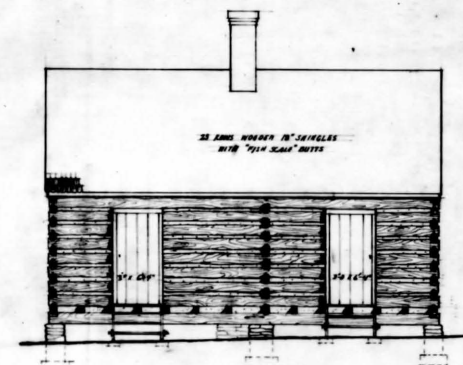
WEST ELEVATION



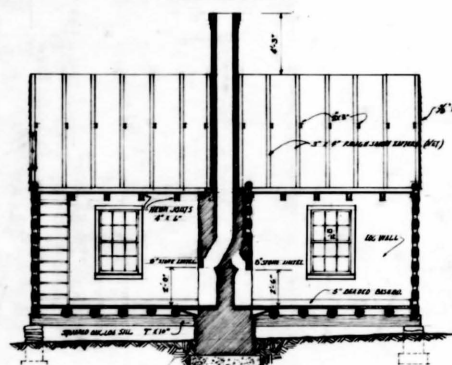
EAST ELEVATION



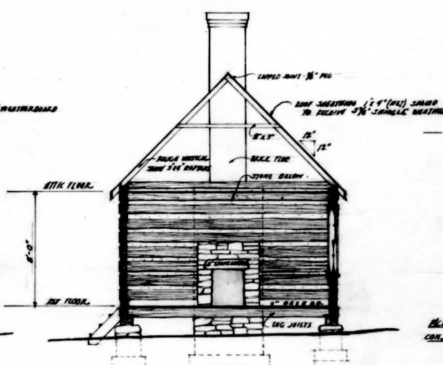
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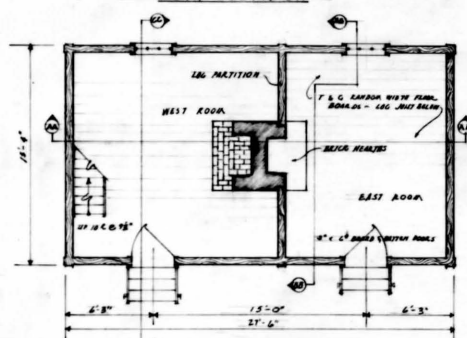
SOUTH ELEVATION



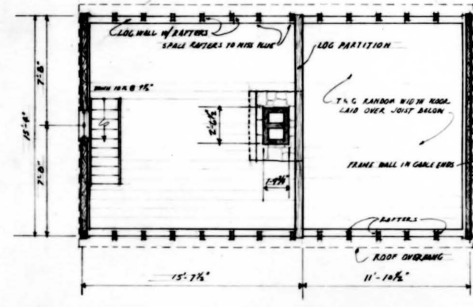
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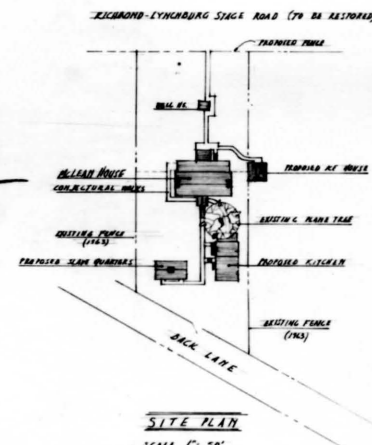
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FIRST FLOOR PLAN



ATTIC FLOOR PLAN



SITE PLAN



ORIENTATION

REVIEWED

OPERATIONS

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WASHINGTON

INTERP.

REGION

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BASIC DATA
RECONSTRUCTION BASED ON INFORMATION CITED IN HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT - APPOMATOK COUNTY - VIRGINIA

PRELIMINARY DRAWINGS		SHEET NO. 1 OF 1	
CHIEF ENG.		DESIGNED	SAUTREAST
SUPERINTENDENT ARCHT.		DRAWN	PCP 8-37
REGIONAL DIRECTOR - SHIRLEY REAGAN		CHECKED	SHIRLEY REAGAN
APPROVED		DATE	DEC 1963
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DIVISION OF HISTORIC AND CONSERVATION		RECONSTRUCTION OF ALLEN HOUSE DAY QUARTERS NHP, ACN 5023 DATE DEC 1963	