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001465

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT
PART III
ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION
ON
MCLEAN HOUSE SLAVE QUARTERS

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Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

August, 1965

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PART III

ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION

ON

McLEAN HOUSE SLAVE QUARTERS

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

Prepared by
Orville W. Carroll
Architect
July 1965

for

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

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART III

ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION

ON

McLEAN HOUSE SLAVE QUARTERS

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

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

RECOMMENDED

/s/ Lloyd M. Pierson
Superintendent

Date 8-9-65

/s/ Robert G. Hall
Chief, EODC

Date 7/30/65

APPROVED

Aug. E. M. Riley Date 8/19/65
Regional Director, Southeast Region

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No. NHP-ACH 3027A, 3 sheets	
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I. FOREWORD

The contents of this report covers briefly the physical work involved in the reconstruction of the Slave Quarters building, one of three outbuildings constructed during 1964-65 on the McLean House property. The other two buildings being the Kitchen and Ice House.

Other than having a general knowledge of its location and that it was constructed of logs, the Slave Quarters (also referred to as Servant's Quarters) represents a conjectural study based wholly on wartime sketches, which do not entirely agree in detail, and upon a survey of log structures in the Appomattox area once used for housing owner's slaves prior to 1865. As the building now stands, it is intended to function as an exterior exhibit. Since the interior work was completed as part of the plans, it could conceivably be used as another look-in exhibit during the summer months, needing only furnishings to complete the scene.

Orville W. Carroll
Architect
July 1965

II. HISTORICAL DATA

A. The Master Plan

On the Base Map of the Master Plan for Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, the McLean House is indicated as Building No. 2 and the Slave Quarters as Building No. 2d. Positive identification was not found in locating the exact position of the structure, therefore it was placed approximately 63 feet south of the McLean House, off the southwest corner, some 25 feet west of the Kitchen.

B. Historic Structures Reports

1. Historical research documenting the property ownership of the land comprising the estate of Wilmer McLean, located in the village of Appomattox Court House during 1865, was executed and written by National Park Service Historian Ralph Happel in 1940. A written description of the McLean House and its numerous outbuildings is also part of the Happel report, a typescript copy kept on file in the Park office. A more concentrated study on the Slave Quarters building was completed by National Park Service Historian Wescoat Wolfe in 1962, which includes a historical narrative, most of the known wartime sketches and drawings of the building. Photographs of the structure are not known to be in existence.

2. Two Historic Structures Reports, Part I and Part II, Architectural Data Sections were prepared by Orville W. Carroll, November 1963 and February 1964. This Part III Report completes the three required sections for the Historic Structures Reports.

III. ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA

A sizeable area of the McLean House lot was excavated in 1941 by Preston Holder. A portion of ground to the rear of the house, approximately 28 feet south and extending west of the Kitchen site, 24 feet was examined at this time. There was no surface evidence of a building site uncovered during the exploration (Holder, 1942, p. 44). The site was excavated again in 1962 by John Walker, extending Holder's excavations farther south another 50 feet and west another 60 feet (or a total of 78 feet south of the McLean House and 84 feet west of the Kitchen). Walker's final analysis of his work was:

Nowhere in area excavated was a definite indication of the location of the slave quarters uncovered (Walker, 1963, Section I, p. 45).

Walker further concludes:

If the slave quarters is reconstructed, the basis for reconstruction will have to be the sketches and the description (reference to the sketches of 1865). While these do not give definite information, a general idea as to location and construction can be obtained from them (Walker, 1963, Section I, p. 47).

Walker's complete report is compiled in two sections entitled,

"Excavations at Appomattox Court House, 1962 Season."

IV. ARCHITECTURAL DATA

A. Contractual Work

The reconstruction of the Slave Quarters was part of a packaged contract No. 14-10-0131-1298, awarded to J. E. Sears and Company of Appomattox, Virginia, June 18, 1964. This contract included the reconstruction of the McLean House dependencies; the Slave Quarters, Kitchen and Ice House. The restoration of the Mariah Wright House was also part of this contract. Low bid for reconstructing the Slave Quarters was \$6,421.00. Added to the original contract price is the amount \$625.00, which represents the prorated cost of securing the oak wall logs and hand-made bricks used in building the chimney stem, or a total of \$7,046.00.

The oak logs were purchased from the Virginia State Forestry Department and were selected from standing trees located in the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest. The timber was felled, bucked and hauled to a mill for slabbing, then returned to the McLean House building site. This work was done by Ruben Almond, a local woodcutter.

Nine thousand hand-made bricks were ordered from the Locher Brick Company of Glasgow, Virginia. About 500 bricks were used in the construction of the brick chimney stem.

A pre-construction conference was held in the Park Office July 9, 1964. Present for the meeting were G. E. Steele, Park

Superintendent; Robert A. Sears, the Contractor; Donald Nutt, Supervisory Architect, EODC; and the writer, acting as Project Supervisor.

B. Exterior Work

Work started on the site July 16, 1964, when the carpenters set up batter boards to establish the location of the foundation piers and pier elevations. The footing pier holes were hand excavated while a back-hoe machine was used to remove most of the earth for the concrete footing under the stone chimney base.

The stone work was done by C. M. Worsham and crew of Madison Heights, Virginia. The stone piers supporting the building were built first, and the stone chimney base completed to ceiling height after the log wall partition was finished. This sequence allowed the partition logs to be tied into the stone work.

The brick chimney was built by the Roach Brothers of Appomattox, Virginia. Precedent used for the size and height of the brick stem was the Slave Quarters for the Clover Hill Tavern. The design of the chimney cap is identical to that used on the Kitchen chimneys (see Illustrations Nos. 4 and 5 of the Historic Structures Report, Part II, Architectural Data Section for the McLean House Kitchen).

All of the logs were hewn in the old traditional manner. The sides of the logs were first scored with a felling axe then trimmed to a straight line and relatively smooth surface with a broad-axe. This work was done by Jesse Kyle of Buckingham County (see Illustration No. 2).

Included in this report are progress photographs illustrating the sequence of construction. After the stone piers were built, the foundation sills were set in place followed by the round oak floor joists, notched over the sills. The wall logs were "notched and saddled" at the corners as well as the log partition. Door and window bucks were set in place as the building progressed, although a much easier method of construction would have been to cut the openings out after the solid log walls were up.

The building was virtually completed on the exterior after the ceiling joists, rafters, roof sheathing, gable weatherboarding and shingles were set and nailed in place. The setting of the door and window frames, hanging the doors and installing the window sash completed the exterior work.

Two coats of whitewash were used on the log walls and two coats of oil base paint were used on the weatherboarding, doors and window trim. One coat of simulated whitewash paint was brushed over the oil base paint to give a flat ropy appearance of

whitewash. This paint was prepared by using an acrylic paint mixed with a small amount of "Sta-Dri" powder (silica gel).

Utilities were not put into the Slave Quarters, however electrical service was installed into the Kitchen.

C. Interior Work

Although the Slave Quarters is intended to serve as an exterior exhibit to fill the visual scene of the McLean House yard, the interior of the structure was completed for two reasons. First, in this type of construction, one cannot divorce the interior and exterior wall surfaces, so when the logs were hewn both the finished interior and exterior surfaces were executed. Secondly, the fact that the public can see through the windows into both rooms make the interiors another visual exhibit, wanted or not. For these reasons, it was thought necessary to plan and complete the interiors much like a mid-nineteenth century building.

Whitewash was used on the log walls and the exposed stone work, while whitewash paint was used on the exposed beams and ceiling boards. The flooring on the first floor received three coats of wax to permit easier cleaning. The attic floor was left unfinished.

The paint chosen for the baseboards and window-door trim is that used in the rear room of the Kitchen; raw umber mixed with white paint.

ILLUSTRATION NO. 1

One mason in the foreground is laying stone for the Slave Quarters chimney base, while two other masons are laying stones for the foundation wall of the Kitchen. The McLean House is to the left and the recently reconstructed County Court House building is in the center background.

Photo: National Park Service
Orville W. Carroll, August 1964

Neg. on file at Park



ILLUSTRATION NO. 2

Jesse Kyle from Buckingham County,
Virginia, uses an old-time broad axe to hew the
sides of the wall logs, much as they were
originally done.

Photo: National Park Service
Orville W. Carroll, August 1964

Neg. on file at Park



ILLUSTRATION NO. 3

The men begin to place the wall logs above the foundation sill and floor joists. The foundation sill rests on six stone piers. View looking south.

Photo: National Park Service
Orville W. Carroll, August 1964

Neg. on file at Park



ILLUSTRATION NO. 4

The building begins to take shape but the work is slow in execution chiefly because the men were not accustomed to building log cabins in the old manner. A view taken from the rear porch of the McLean House, looking south.

Photo: National Park Service
Orville W. Carroll, August 1964

Neg. on file at Park



ILLUSTRATION NO. 5

View from the southwest. The last wall logs are going in place before setting the ceiling joists in position.

Photo: National Park Service
Orville W. Carroll, August 1964

Neg. on file at Park



ILLUSTRATION NO. 6

Work progress moved slowly but steadily during the summer months. By September 14th, the Slave Quarters had this appearance. One laborer cleans down the chimney stem after its completion.

Photo: National Park Service
Orville W. Carroll, September 1964

Neg. on file at Park



ILLUSTRATION NO. 7

Mr. Coleman of Appomattox County,
trowels in a mortar scratch coat between the
logs of the Slave Quarters. Galvanized metal
lath was used between the logs rather than
wood or stones which would have been the
original material used.

Photo: National Park Service
Orville W. Carroll, September 1964

Neg. on file at Park

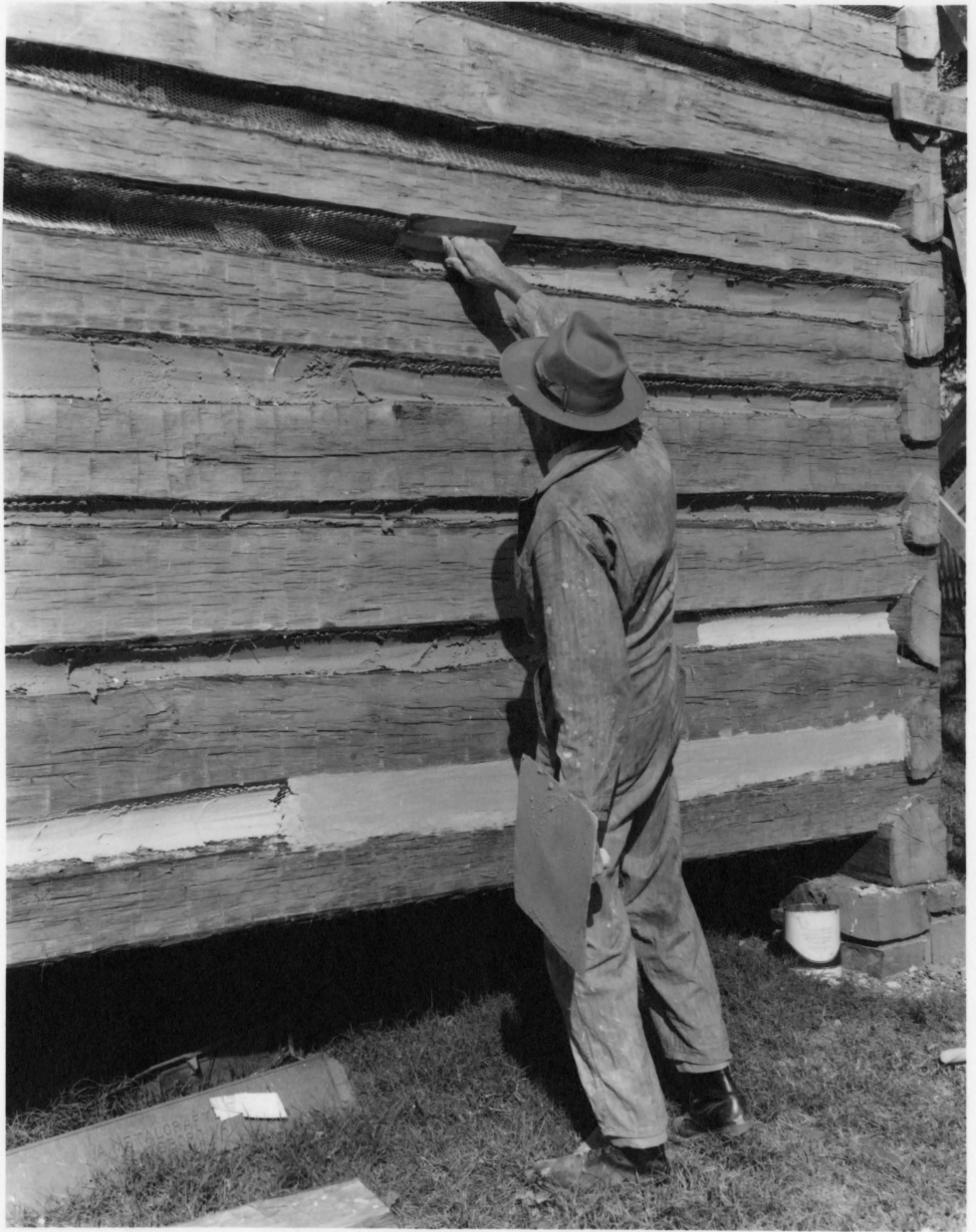


ILLUSTRATION NO. 8

Workmen are shingling the north roof slope with wooden shingles having clipped corners to give them a variation of the "fish-scale" design.

Photo: National Park Service
Orville W. Carroll, October 1964

Neg. on file at Park



ILLUSTRATION NO. 9

Interior view of the east room
looking at the fireplace between the two
first floor rooms (west wall).

Photo: National Park Service
Orville W. Carroll, February 1965

Neg. on file at Park

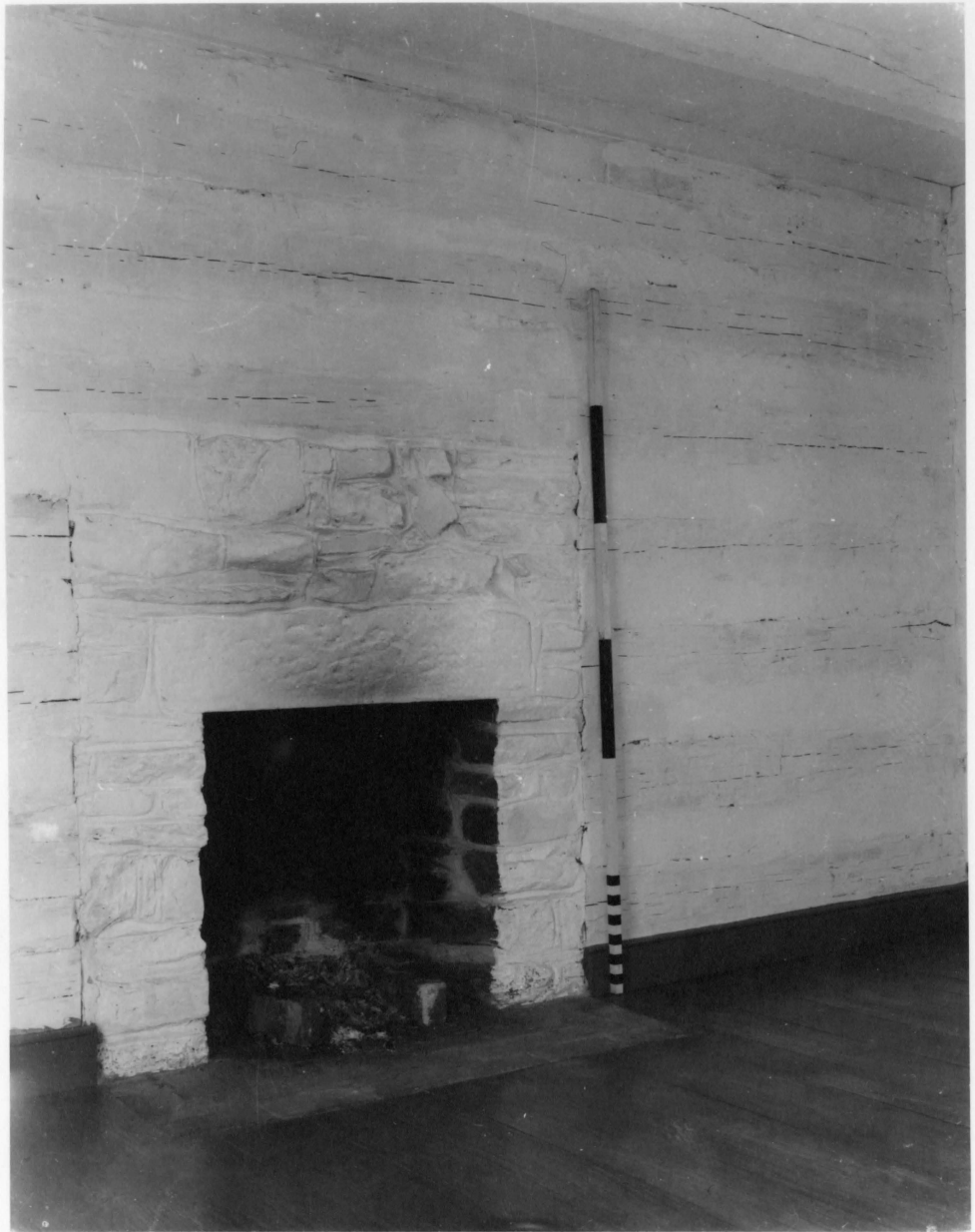


ILLUSTRATION NO. 10

Interior of west room, first floor,
with the stone chimney extending into the room.
Three Civil War sketches showed the Slave
Quarters with flue located in the center of the
roof.

Photo: National Park Service
Orville W. Carroll, February 1965

Neg. on file at Park



ILLUSTRATION NO. 11

A view from the southwest showing
the completed Slave Quarters.

Photo: National Park Service
Orville W. Carroll, March 1965

Neg. on file at Park



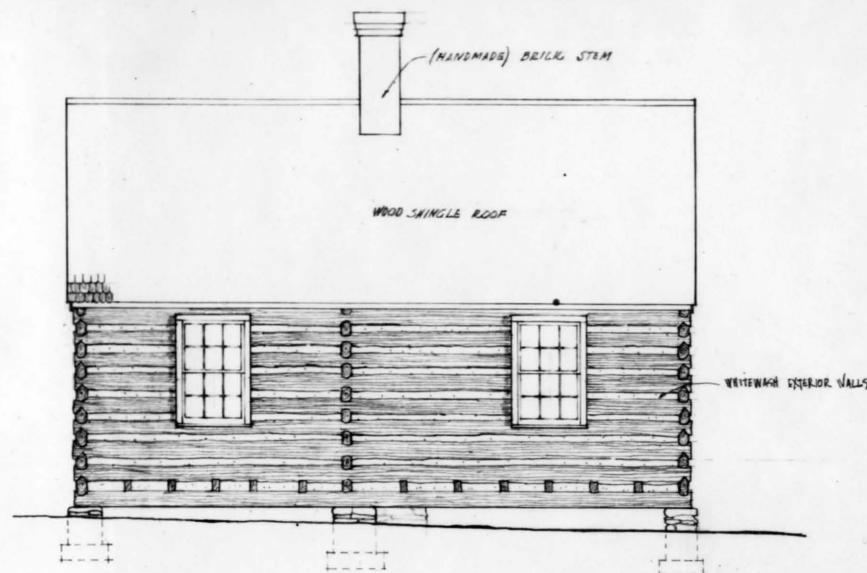
ILLUSTRATION NO. 12

The McLean House Dependencies as seen from the northwest. The meat house stood in the vicinity of the present fence line west of the McLean House. Its foundations have not yet been uncovered.

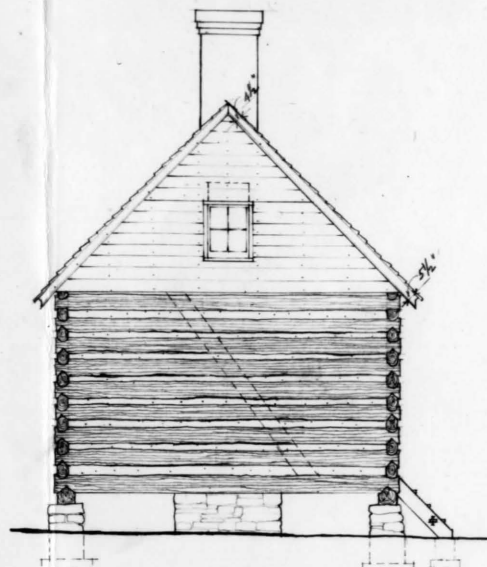
Photo: National Park Service
Orville W. Carroll, March 1965

Neg. on file at Park

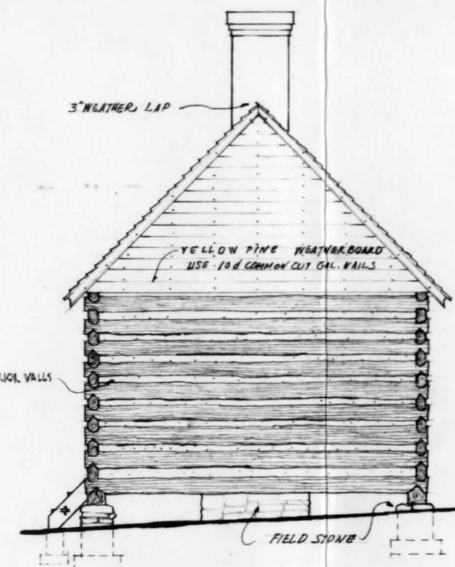




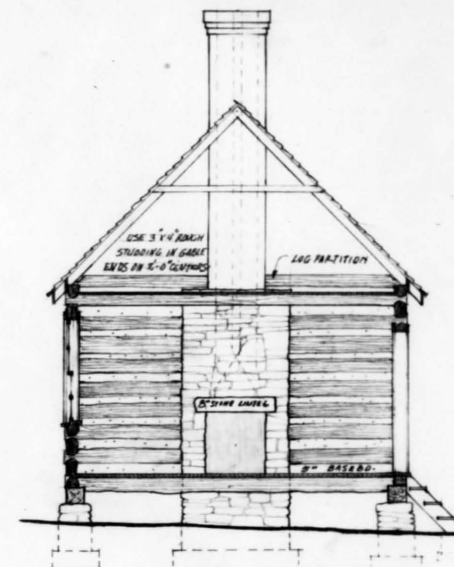
NORTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION



SECTION C-C WEST ROOM



ORIENTATION
REVIEWED

OPERATIONS
REGION

WASHINGTON

INTERP.
REGION

WASHINGTON

COOP. ACTV.
REGION

WASHINGTON

DES. & CONST.
STERN

A.
E.
L.A.
WASHINGTON

A.
E.
L.A.
OTHER

PREPARED
CARROLL

DESIGNED
CARROLL

DRAWN
H.A. Judd

CHECKED

REVISED
DATE INITIAL

DATE INITIAL

DATE INITIAL

DATE INITIAL

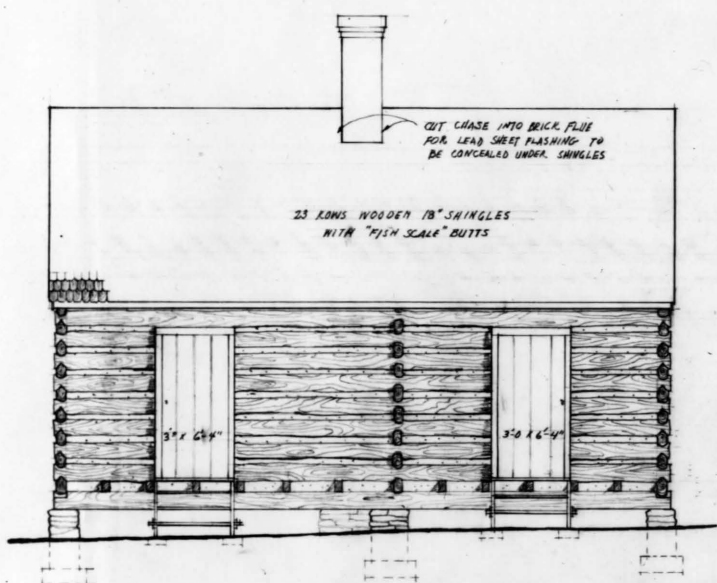
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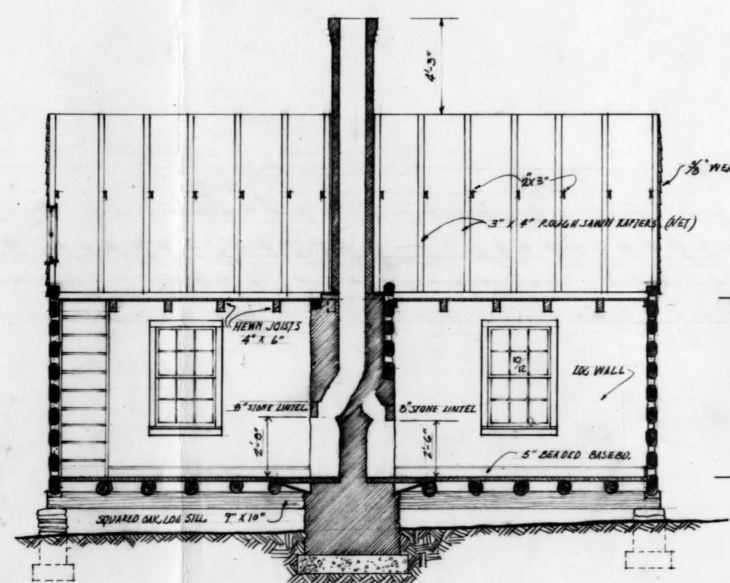
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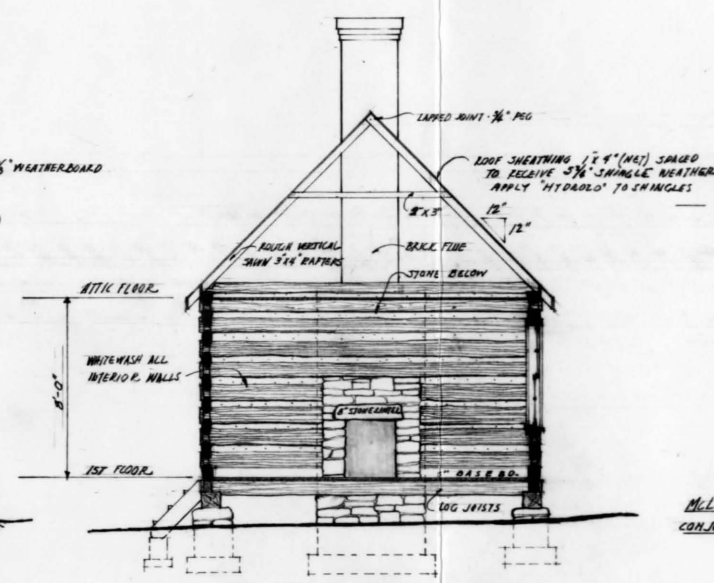
DATE INITIAL



SOUTH ELEVATION

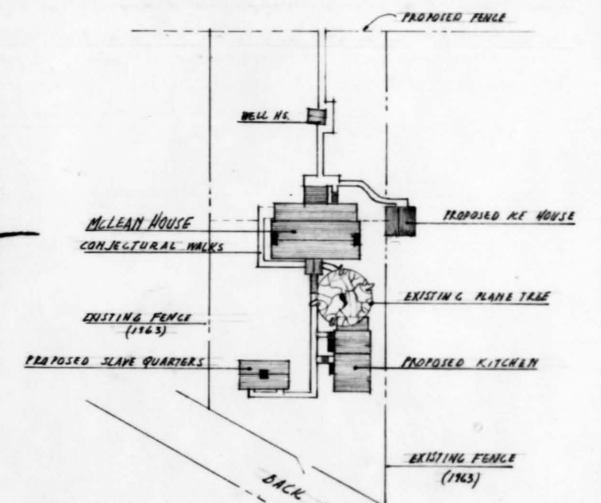


SECTION A-A



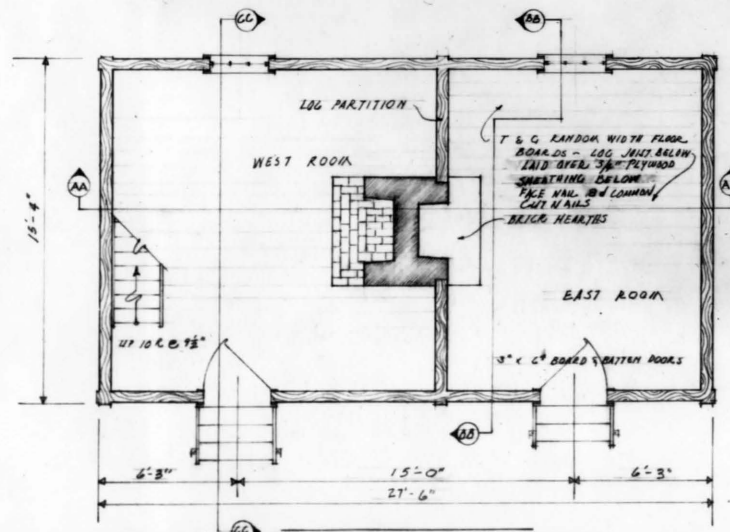
SECTION B-B EAST ROOM

RICHMOND-LYNCHBURG STAGE ROAD (TO BE RESTORED)

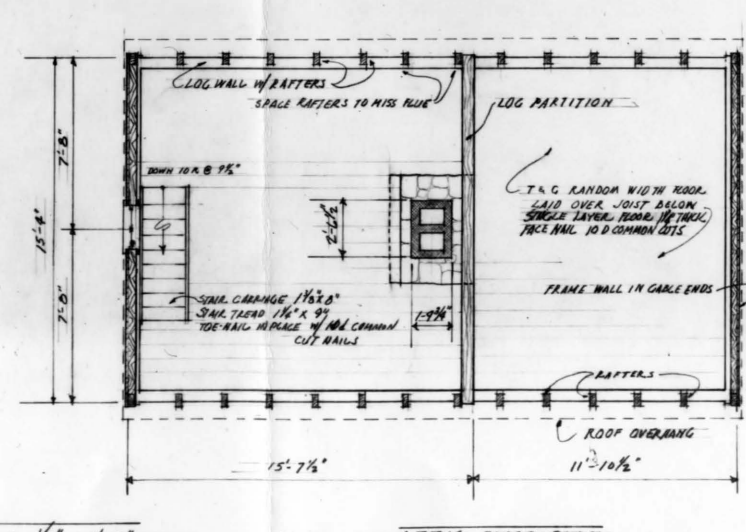


SITE PLAN

SCALE 1" = 50'

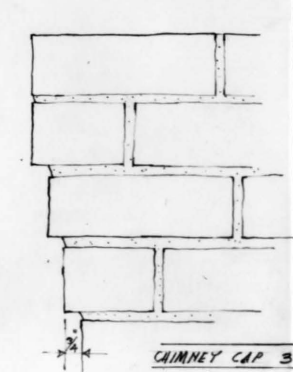


FIRST FLOOR PLAN



ATTIC FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



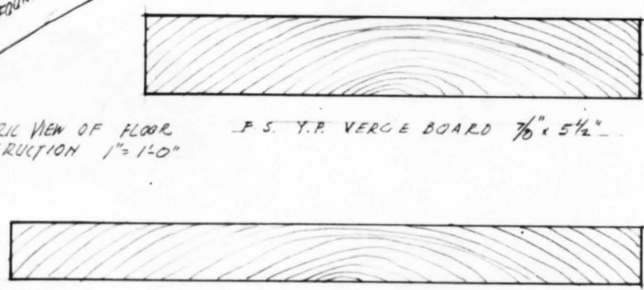
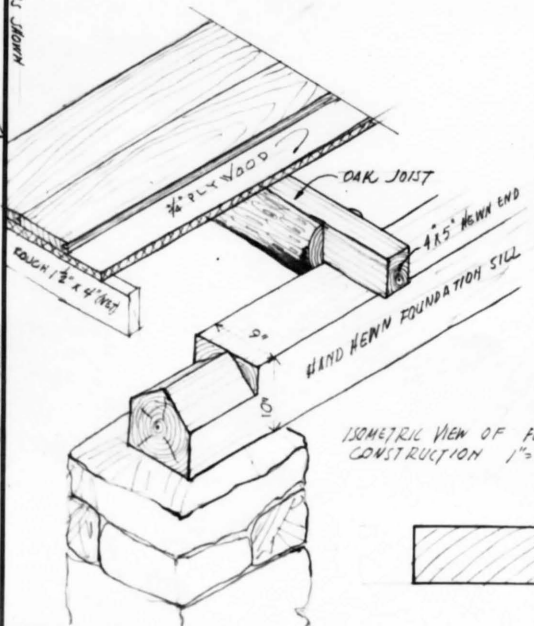
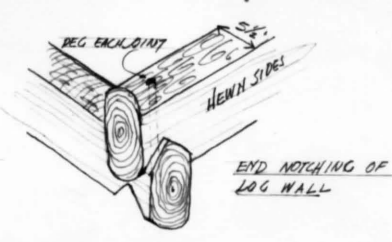
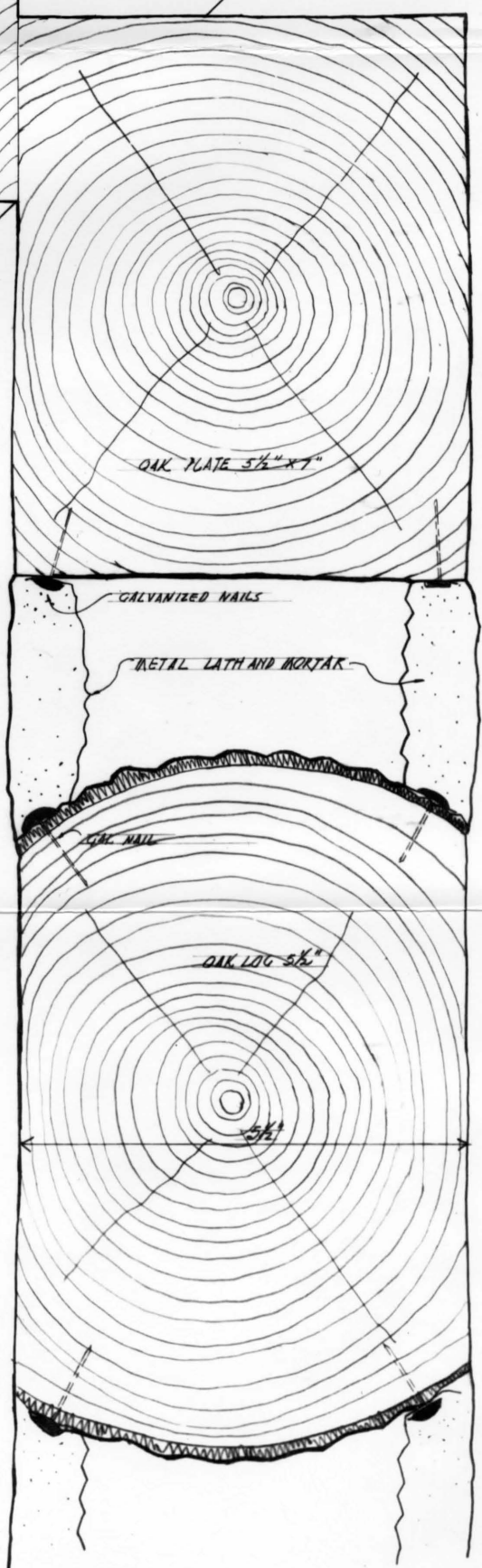
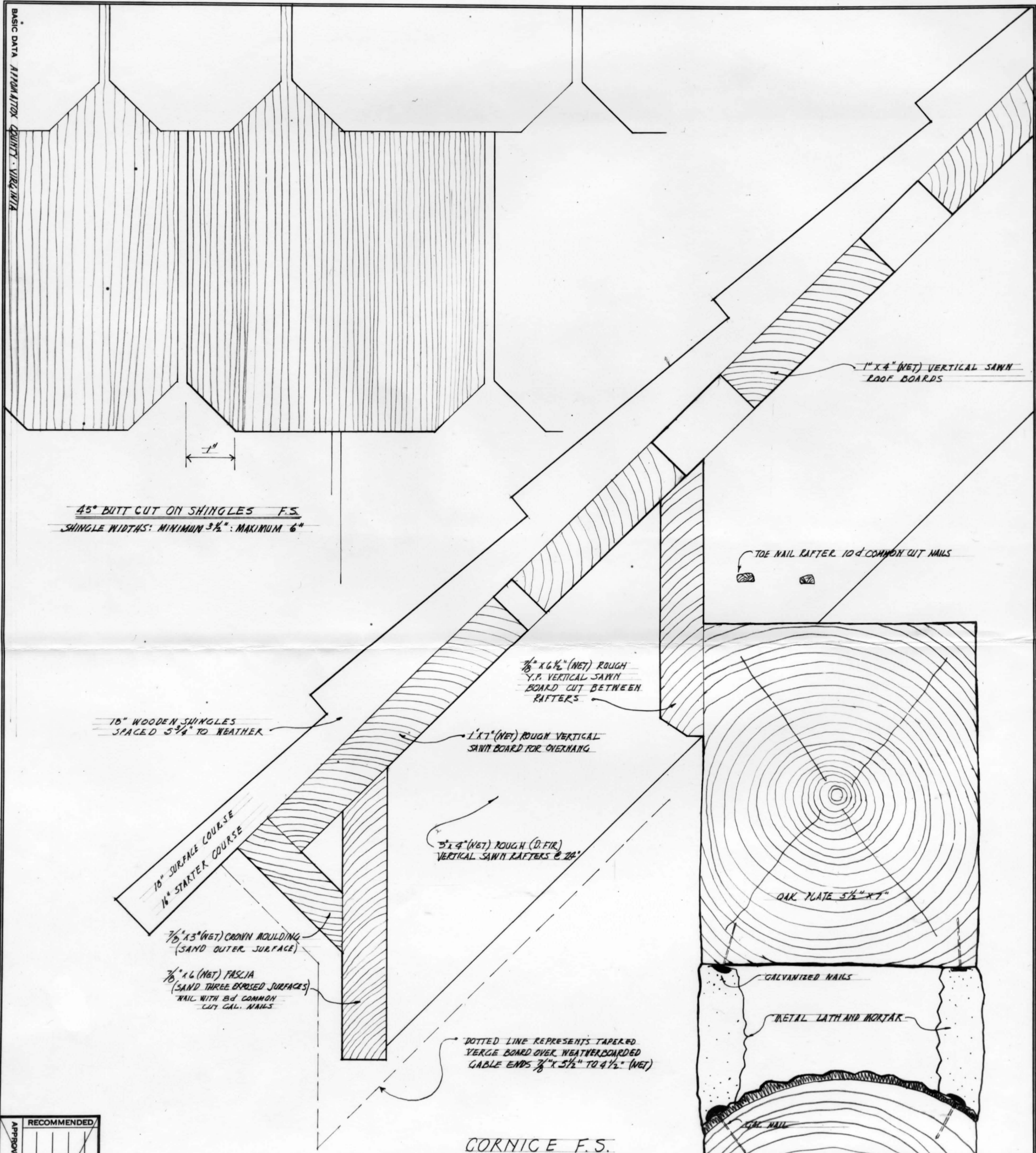
WORKING DRAWINGS

RECOMMENDED
CHIEF EDC:
SUPERINTENDENT ALNWP
REGIONAL DIRECTOR - QUINCY REGION
APPROVED
DIRECTOR

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DIVISION OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
PREPARED BY
EASTERN
OFFICE
RECONSTRUCTION OF MCLAN HOUSE SLAVE QUARTERS
TITLE OF DRAWING
VILLAGE AREA
LOCATION WITHIN AREA
APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
NAME OF AREA

REGION
SOUTHEAST
PCP B-37
SHEET 1 OF 3
DRAWING NO.
NHP:ACH
30:28-A
DATE MAY 1968

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



RECOMMENDED	
APPROVED	
DATE	
SCALE	AS SHOWN
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	
DIVISION OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION	
EASTERN REGION	
RECONSTRUCTION OF HILAN HOUSE SLAVE QUARTERS	
VILLAGE AREA	
APPROPRIATE COUNTY HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK	
PREPARED BY	CHADWELL
DESIGNED BY	CHADWELL
DRAWN BY	CHADWELL
CHECKED BY	
DATE	INITIAL
REVISED	
REGION	SOUTHEAST
PROJECT NO.	2-37
SHEET NO.	5 OF 5
DRAWING NO.	NHP-4-ACH
DATE	30-2-74
BY	CHADWELL

