

Slave Housing Data Base

Building Name: Presquile – Brick Duplex 2 (northern building)

Evidence Type: Extant

Historical Site Name: Presquile Plantation

City or Vicinity: Remington (Fauquier County)

County: Culpeper

State: Virginia

Investigators: Douglas W. Sanford, Andrew Stempel

Institutions: Center for Historic Preservation, University of Mary Washington

Project Start: 7/18/07

Project End: 7/18/07

Additional Investigators: Douglas W. Sanford, Dennis J. Pogue

Institutions: University of Maryland

Project Start: 11/5/17

Project End: 11/5/17

Summary Description:

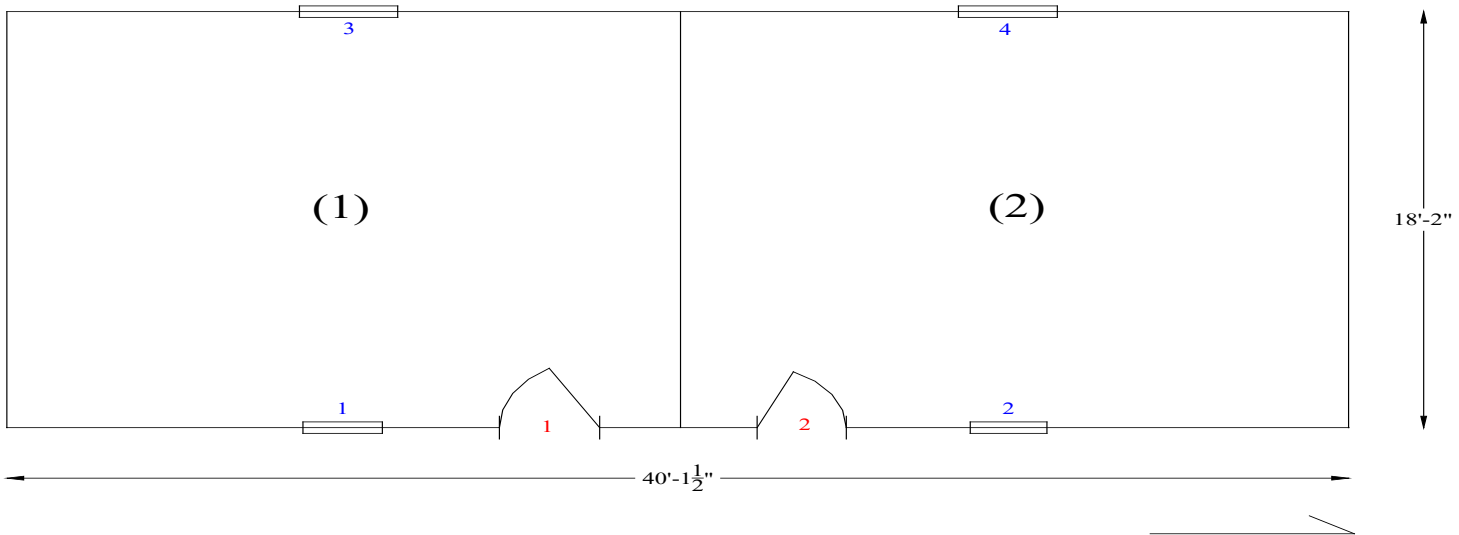
This brick, one-story, gable roofed building with interior end chimneys has a duplex arrangement with an interior partition dividing the structure into two nearly equal-sized rooms that have end wall fireplaces. There are no stairs in either room and apparently there was no access to the attic above. This structure matches the brick duplex to the south and offers a better case of survival for original doorways and window openings. Each room has an entrance door on the east-facing façade and single windows on the front and rear sides that align with one another. Post-bellum alterations include the insertion of a doorway through the medial partition wall and a modern front addition. Measuring approximately 40 ft. long by 18 ft. wide, this building has a symmetrical design, with similar-sized rooms and the regular placement of doors and windows. The structure has a more recent standing seam metal roofing.

This brick duplex demonstrates a greater degree of architectural elaboration than usual, with its 3:1 common bond using a single row of Flemish bond for every three rows of stretchers, along with brick gable-end parapets and a corbelled cornice with returns at each corner. The interior rooms had whitewashed surfaces along with wooden nailers set in the walls, likely for hanging clothing or other possessions. Dating evidence for this structure points to an antebellum period context, likely ca. 1820s-30s+, based on machine-headed cut nails, the three-course American bond, and the application of corbelling and parapets for the upper walls' brickwork. This building forms one of two brick duplexes that have the same dimensions, north-south orientation, and construction features.

Principal Construction Type: Masonry (Brick)

One Story

Phase I Footprint:



Number of Rooms: 2 (original; modern front addition not recorded)

Dimensions: (1) South room (Rm. 1): 16.9.0 (E-W) x 18.11.2 (N-S); 8.7.2 (H)

(2) North room (Rm. 2): 17.2.0 (E-W) x 19.1.2 (N-S); 8.5.0 (H)

Doors: 3

	(1) Rm. 1	(2) Rm. 2	(3)
Type:	Board & batten	Board & batten	No door; insertion in partition wall
Dimensions:	2.8.0 (W) x 6.6.0 (H)	2.9.0 (W) x 6.6.0 (H)	2.9.0 (W) x 6.6.0 (H)
Hardware:	Modern butt hinges	Modern butt hinges	Wire nails present
Swing:	Out	In	N/A
Replacement:			Yes, post-bellum insertion through medial partition wall

Windows: 4

	(1) Rm. 1	(2) Rm. 2	(3) Rm. 1
Type:	Not present	6/6; single-hung sash	6/6; single-hung sash
Dimensions:	2.3.0 (W) x 3.10.0 (H)	2.3.0 (W) x 3.10.0 (H)	2.4.0 (W) x 3.9.0 (H)
Hardware:	None	Modern lock	None
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	N/A	N/A	N/A

	(4) Rm. 2
Type:	6/6; single-hung sash
Dimensions:	2.3.0 (W) x 3.9.0 (H)
Hardware:	None
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	N/A

EXTERIOR

Foundation:

Continuous Masonry: Brick (8.5 in. x 4 in. x 2.5 in.)

Thickness: Cannot be observed

Height: N/A

Bond: American (3:1)

Mortar Type: Sand

Joint: Flush

Repaired: Yes

Shed/Porch: No

Roof Form: Gable

Roof Covering: Metal – standing seam (replacement)

Roof Framing: No access to roof
Exposed: No

Collar Ties: No access to roof

Building Height: heights not established due to exterior overgrowth

Walls:

Masonry: Brick
Number of Courses: Full height of building
Bond: American (3:1)
Mortar Type: Sand (with limestone)
Joint: Flush
Repaired: Yes

Chimney(s):

Chimney (1): South room (Rm. 1)
Material: Brick
Location: Interior/End
Height:
Chimney (2): North room (Rm. 2)
Material: Brick
Location: Interior/End
Height:

INTERIOR

Wall Framing: Exposed brick
Wall Finish: Whitewash

Fireplace (1): South Room (Rm. 1) - End (covered with plywood)
Fireplace Material: Brick
Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 5.9.2 (E-W) x 1.10.0 (N-S)
Fireplace Opening Dimensions: unknown; obscured by plywood.
Hearth Material: Brick (originally)
Hearth Dimensions: 2.1.0 (N-S) x 5.9.2 (E-W)

Fireplace (2): North Room (Rm. 2) - End (covered with plaster/wood, fitted for wood stove)
Fireplace Material: Brick
Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 5.9.3 (E-W) x 1.10.3 (N-S)
Fireplace Opening Dimensions: obscured by covering, estimated as 3.9.0 (W), 3.0.2 (H), 1.10.0 (D)
Hearth Material: Brick (originally)
Hearth Dimensions: 4.3.2 (N-S) x 5.8.3 (E-W)

Stairs: No

Subfloor Pit: No

Floor: Wood (replacement)

Floorboards Dimension:

Dating: Antebellum period, ca. 1820s-30s+.

Dating Evidence:

Saw Marks: Sash sawn

Nails: Machine cut

Comments: Three course American bond; corbelling and parapets for upper walls' brickwork.

Field Notes:

Exterior

Duplex 2 is located 33.4.0 north of Duplex 1. In 2007 the building largely was obscured by overgrowth. During the 2017 visit this vegetation had been removed. This building was later electrified, but has no plumbing. The structure's front (east) 20th-century addition was not recorded: it involves frame construction on stone piers, vertical siding, and a shed roof, and measures 16 ft. (N-S) x 11.7.2 (E-W), consisting of a single room with a door and two windows.

In contrast with Duplex 1 to the south, the east and west facades have rectangular ventilation holes near the walls' bottom surfaces. The exterior walls have a bond of three stretcher courses followed by a course of header-stretcher (Flemish bond-like). The west façade also has former put-in holes for scaffolding, now filled with brick. Both chimney stacks have collapsed. At the southwest and southeast corners (on the east and west facades, respectively) there are closers every 4th course. The same closers occur at the NE corner, on the north gable end wall.

The southern exterior door (on the east façade) has a replaced header, as well as a replaced soldier courses above the window frame. The south window on the east façade looks to have an original sill and has retained its vertical soldier course above the opening. The building retains its original window openings. The window frames have large jambs with mitered corners. Both the door and window openings have soldier courses above and a "bump-out" of a narrow, cut bricks above the soldier course.

Interior

Both rooms have wooden blocks at the corners for attaching a mantle shelf. Both rooms have replacement floorboards, which now run east-west, as compared to the original

north-south orientation, indicating that the floor joists below have been removed and that the replacement joists run north-south

As in Duplex 1, there are “long” nailers inserted into the brick walls for Rooms 1 and 2 for hanging clothes or other objects. In Room 2, the nailer occurs on the west (rear) wall between the SW corner and the window. In Room 1, the nailer occurs on the west (rear) wall between the window and the NW corner (at the medial wall).

Room 1: Due to its covering, we cannot observe the dimensions of the fireplace opening. The nailer block at the chimney’s western corner begins 4.10.3 from the floor and is 3 inches high. The stovepipe hole occurs from 6.3.2 to 6.11.1 from the floor and is 8 inches in diameter. The hole is not centered and begins 2.11.2 from the chimney’s eastern corner.

The exterior door looks to retain its original sill and framing, with the latter (jamb) measuring 3 inches x 7.5 inches. It has been attached with machine-cut nails. The original hinges or hardware do not survive. The current tongue-and-groove board door is a replacement and swings out. The east wall window also appears to retain its original framing.

Room 2: This room has wooden nailers set in the brick walls, as seen in the southern brick duplex. Room 2 also has the addition of shelves and/or a closet-like space to the sides of the chimney/fireplace on the north, gable end wall. The “closets,” as later insertions, utilize circular sawn framing, and the western closet has sheet metal lining on the interior. The wooden portions of the closets have an older surface of whitewash, with a later layer of gray paint.

The nailer blocks at the chimney’s corners jut out 5.75 inches, while measuring 3 inches high and 4 inches wide. The ghost of the removed mantle shelf indicates a board about 1.25 to 1.5 inches thick.

The fireplace opening has been covered with plywood. The hearth has been repaired, likely for a later wood stove. There are two wood stovepipe holes. The upper hole measures from 6.6.2 to 7.1.1 from the floor and has a diameter of 6.25 inches. It occurs from 2.3.0 to 2.10.0 from the west side of the chimney. The lower hole measures from 2.6.0 to 2.11.3 from the floor and has a 6-inch diameter. It begins 2.9.0 from the chimney’s west side. Using logical breaks within the chimney’s brickwork, we estimate the fireplace cheeks to be about 1 foot or 13 inches wide (east-west).

The exterior door (on the east façade) has an old jamb on the north side, measuring 2.75 inches x 7 inches. Large dimpled spikes have been used to attach the framing board. Later, the doorway was narrowed and in-filled. There is a surviving hook and leather strap remnant on the door’s southern side (interior side of the jamb).