

## **Slave Housing Data Base**

**Building Name:** Pruden Farm Quarter

**Evidence Type:** Extant

**Historical Site Name:** Pruden Farm

**County:** Isle of Wight

**State:** Virginia

**Investigators:** Andrew Stempel, Doug Sanford, Dennis Pogue

**Institutions:** University of Mary Washington – Center for Historic Preservation;  
Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

**Project:**

**Start:** 08/15/2007

**End:** 8/15/07

### **Summary Description:**

The Pruden Farm quarter is a frame duplex, one story with a garret, with a side-gable roof and horizontal siding, supported by a brick foundation (@28'11" by 16'4" in dimension). Two doorways on the west-facing façade provide access to the first-floor rooms. A window positioned off-center between the doorways provides light to the larger south room. There is a single window in each end wall; one window is located in the east wall roughly opposite the doorway to the room to the north. A substantial brick-lined cellar is located below the floor in the south room. Each of the rooms is heated by substantial fireplaces served by a brick central chimney; although the fire boxes remain the chimney stack is largely dismantled. Windows in each gable light the garret, but there is no evidence for a stair, or for it having been floored. A doorway has been cut into the partition west of the fireplaces to provide direct access between the two first floor rooms. The doors and windows of this structure have little framing with no headers, which seems to be the norm in this area. The sills have been replaced with modern dimensional lumber and wire nails. The structure is located 128 feet from the NE corner of the main house, at 270°. Both sections of the main house have 3:1 bond in the chimneys and the raised basement.

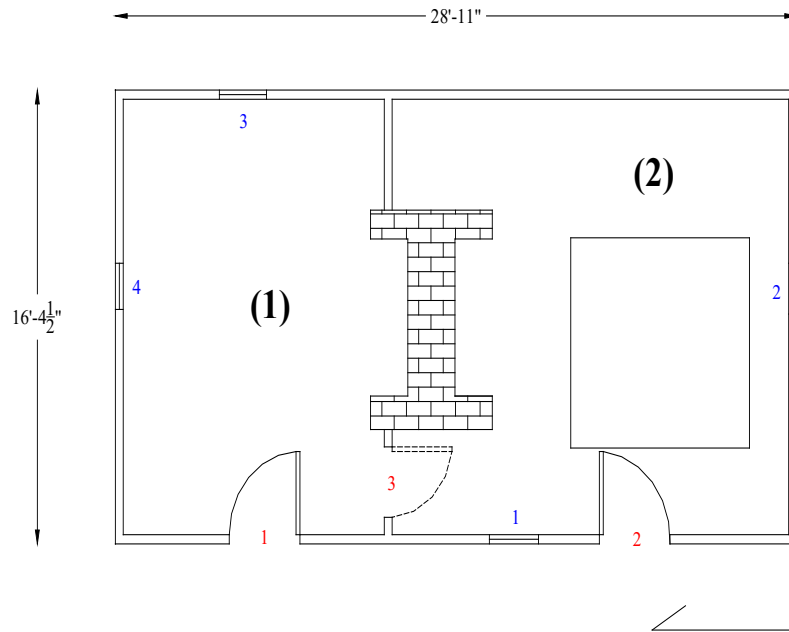
### **Bibliography:**

*The Early Architecture of Tidewater Virginia* (2002)

**Principal Construction Type:** Frame

**One Story:** There is no evidence of flooring on the upper side of the ceiling joists.

**Footprint:**



**Number of Rooms:** 2

**Dimensions:** (1) ~15'-5 1/2" (E-W) x 11'-1 1/2" (N-S)  
 (2) 15'-5 1/2" (E-W) x 16'-10" (N-S); 9'-3" (H) from top of brick cellar to bottom of ceiling joist

**Doors:** 3

(1)

(2)

(3)

Type:	4 Panel	Board & Batten	No Door
Dimensions (W/H):	2'8 1/2" by 6'5 1/2"	3'0 1/2" by 5'11"	2'6" wide
Hardware:	Modern triangle hinges	Butt hinges w/wire nails	NA
Swing:	In	In	Into room 2

**Windows:** 6 (cannot access two gable windows):

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

Type:	Board & Batten shutter	Board & Batten shutter	Boarded Over	Boarded Over
Dimensions (H/W):	2'0" by 2'0"	2'11" by 1'10 1/2"	2'2" by 2'	2'6" by 1'7"
Hardware:	Wire Nails	Wire Nails		
Shuttered:	Yes	Yes	No	No

**Exterior:**

**Foundation:**

**Continuous Masonry:** Brick

**Foundation Thickness:** ~0'-9"

**Foundation Height:** 1'-5" at the SE corner

**Bond type:** American 3:1

**Shed/Porch:** No

**Roof:**

**Roof Form:** Gable

**Roof Covering:** Standing seam metal

**Roof Framing:**

**Exposed:** Yes

**Form:** common rafters

**Rafter No:** 15 pairs with same number of ceiling joists, but 4 have been sawn off

**Rafter dimensions:** (not accessible)

Rafters are mortise and tenoned with pegs; collars are lapped with spikes

**Building Height:** 11'-4" to eaves from ground surface at the SW corner; 21'-4" to roof peak at the south gable end

**Chimney Height:** N/A

**Walls:**

**Frame:**

**Material:** wood

**Cladding:** horizontal, lapped; sash sawn

**Beaded:** no

**Chimney(s):**

**Chimney (1):**

**Material:** Brick (8 ¼" x 4" x 2 ½") with shell mortar

**Location:** interior center

**Interior:**

**Wall Framing:** Exposed; rectangular corner posts with down braces in both directions; mortise/tenon and peg; the corner post is tenoned and pegged to plate; whitewashed

**Fireplace:** Brick

**Fireplace Location(s):**

**Fireplace (1):** center; south room

**Hearth material:** brick

**Hearth dimensions:** 5'8" (W) x ~4'3" (H) x 1'7" (D)

**Fireplace (2):** center; north room

**Hearth material:** brick

**Hearth dimensions:** 5'8" (W) x ~4'3" (H) x 1'7" (D)

**Stair:** No evidence that a stair ever existed

**Subfloor Pit:** Yes

**Number:** 1

**Location(s):** South Room

**Dimensions:** 7'7" x 7'7"

**Depth:** 3'4"

**Lined:** Yes; sides

**Material:** brick

**With Posts:** No

**Floor:** wood

**Dating:**

**Dendro Date:** none

**Other Date:** 1830s-1850s

**Dating Evidence:** Sash sawn wood and machine cut and headed nails