

## Slave Housing Data Base

**Building Name:** Tuckahoe Plantation, Quarter A

**Evidence Type:** Extant

**Historical Site Name:** Tuckahoe Plantation

**County:** Goochland

**State:** Virginia

**Investigators:** Doug Sanford, Carter Hudgins, Gary Stanton, Dennis Pogue

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

**Project Start:** 10/16/2007

**Project End:** 10/16/07

### Summary Description:

The Tuckahoe Plantation Quarter A is part of a complex of service buildings, including four probable slave houses, situated a few hundred yards from the Tuckahoe house. The frame, side-gable-roofed, 1½-story building, with a finished garret, is supported by a brick foundation, with a central chimney serving fireplaces in each of the two first-floor rooms. Single doorways roughly centered on the bays of the façade (west wall) provide access to the first-floor rooms, with single windows set in the rear wall directly opposite the doorways. A doorway in the partition provides a direct connection between the two rooms, but this is a later feature. The unheated garret is divided into two rooms that are accessed via ladder stairs originating in the front corners of the first-floor cells. The exterior walls are sided with beaded weatherboards, at least some of which appear to be attached with rosehead nails; the double-hung sash windows have been replaced. Because of the change in grade, a short run of masonry stairs is necessary to access each of the exterior doors. A modern one-story frame room has been added to the south wall.

### Notes:

Quarter A is currently occupied, and almost all of the interior surfaces are well finished (plastered and painted), making it difficult to examine the original framing. One exception is in the knee wall in the south garret room where a section of plaster has failed, revealing riven lath attached with hand headed nails. The high level of finish precluded the possibility of undertaking dendrochronological testing at this time.

The structure appears to have been significantly altered over time. More recent modifications include replacing the shutters on the rear windows (east side) with modern versions held in place by screw pintles, recladding portions of the exterior walls, and adding a room (currently used as a bathroom) to the south end wall. A doorway has been added allowing direct interior access between the first-floor rooms, and to the addition. Limited access to the crawl space under the structure via a hatch in the south addition indicates that all of the visible floor framing (sills and joists) has been replaced.

The discovery of a remarkable survival is extremely suggestive, and seems to indicate

that the structure was subjected to a campaign of more significant modifications that occurred at an unknown date but which must have been in the relatively distant past. The frame for what appears to be an original doorway is set into the attic partition that currently divides that space into two rooms. The doorway is closed off, and the frame is visible just behind the chimney stack in the north garret room. This seems to be conclusive evidence that the central chimney is a later feature, and logically suggests that originally the structure was served by end chimneys, instead. The presence of the doorway indicates that the garret rooms were connected in Phase I, and an anomaly in the west wall of the south garret room (indentation in the wall) may mark the location of a single stairway providing access to the space from the south first-floor room. The existing ladder stairs positioned in the corners of each of the first-floor rooms, therefore, appear to be added features related to the later modifications.

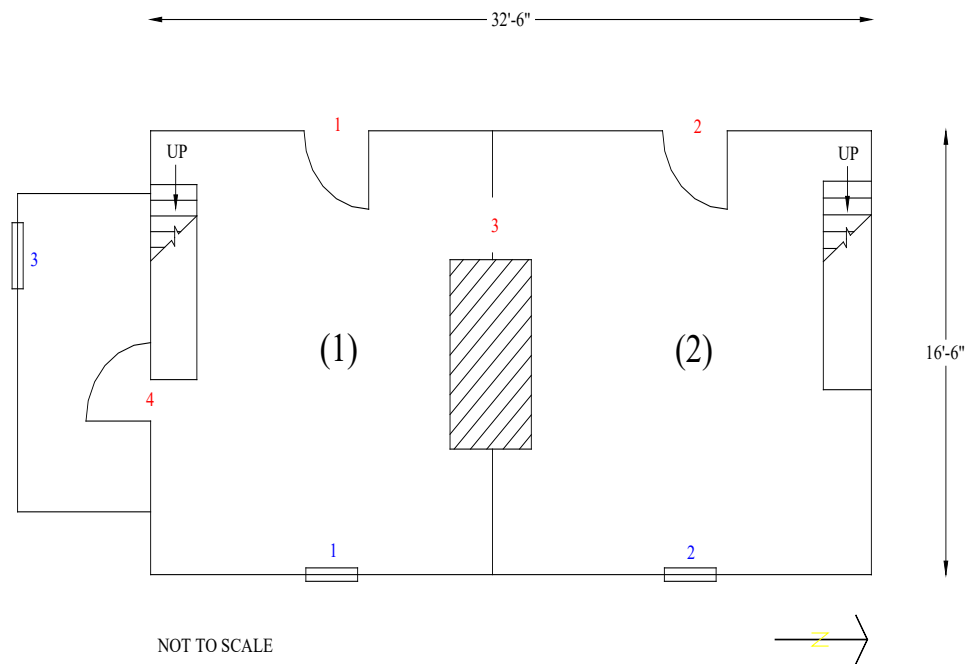
Upton (1982, 1988) hypothesized a second half of the 18th-century date of construction for this building, along with two (Tuckahoe B and C) of the other three presumed slave quarters located at the site.

**Bibliography:**

Dell Upton, *Slave Housing in 18th-Century Virginia* (1982) and *White and Black Landscapes in Eighteenth-Century Virginia* (1988); CWF Measured Drawings.

**Principal Construction Type:** Frame      **One Story with Garret**

**Footprint:**



**Number of Rooms:** 4 (2 up, 2 down)

**Dimensions:** (1) 15'-4" (E-W) x 15'-5"; height 10'-3"  
 (2) 15'-7" (E-W) x 15'-6 1/2"; height 10'-1"  
 (3) 10'-0" (E-W) x 13'-9"; height 6'-4 1/2", 6'-4" to collar (bottom)  
 (4) 9'-11" (E-W) x 17'-0 1/2"; height 6'-3 1/2"  
 1 shed added (5) 10'-11" (E-W) x 5'-8 1/2"

**Doors:** 4

	(1)	(2)	(3)
<b>Type:</b>	Board and Batten	Board and Batten	No Door
<b>Dimensions:</b>	3'-1" x 6'-5"	3'-1" x 6'-4"	2'-1" x 5'-11"
<b>Hardware:</b>	Pintle/ Strap Hinge	Pintle/ Strap Hinge	N/A
<b>Swing:</b>	In	In	N/A
<b>Replacement:</b>		Yes	

	(4)	(5)
<b>Type:</b>	Board and Batten	(No Door)
<b>Dimensions:</b>	2'-5" x 6'-4 3/4"	2'-6" x 5'-9"
<b>Hardware:</b>	Pintle/ Strap Hinge	
<b>Swing:</b>	In (to bathroom)	
<b>Replacement:</b>		

**Windows:** 4 (2 on the east side, 2 in the garret)

	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3)</b>
<b>Type:</b>	9/9 Double Hung Sash	9/9 Double Hung Sash	1/6 Single Hung Sash
<b>Dimensions:</b>	2'-8" (W) x 5'-10 1/4" (H)	3'-0" (W) x 5'-11" (H)	1'-10" (W) x 2'-11" (H)
<b>Hardware:</b>	N/A	N/A	
<b>Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:</b>	Shuttered	Shuttered	
<b>Replacement:</b>	20th Century	20th Century	20th Century

	<b>(4)</b>
<b>Type:</b>	Sash, Hinged at the Top
<b>Dimensions:</b>	2'-4" (W) x 2'-0" (H)
<b>Hardware:</b>	
<b>Replacement:</b>	20th Century

## EXTERIOR

### Foundation:

**Continuous Masonry:** Brick  
**Thickness:** unknown  
**Height:** 2'-5" (SW corner); 2'-2" (NW corner)  
**Bond:** English  
**Mortar Type:** Sand  
**Joint:** Grapevine, flush  
**Repaired:** Yes; Repointed

**Shed/Porch:** No

### Roof:

**Roof Form:** Gable  
**Roof Covering:** Wood shingles

**Roof Framing:**

**Exposed:** No

**Building Height:** @ NW corner

**Ground to Soffit:** 13'-1 1/2"

**Ground to Apex:** 21'-6 3/4"

**Walls:**

**Frame:**

**Material:** Wood

**Cladding:** Horizontal lapped weatherboard

**Beaded:** Yes

**Chimney(s):**

**Chimney (1):**

**Material:** Brick

**Location:** Interior center

**Height:**

INTERIOR

**Wall Framing:** Not exposed

**Wall Finish:** Lath and plaster

**Fireplace (1):** Center; Altered

**Fireplace Material:** Brick

**Fireplace Overall Dimensions:** 6'-3 3/4" (W)

**Fireplace Opening Dimensions:** 3'-2 1/2" (W) x 2'-9 1/2" (H) x 1'-1" (D)

**Hearth Material:** Brick

**Hearth Dimensions:** NA

**Fireplace (2):** Center; Altered

**Fireplace Material:** Brick

**Fireplace Overall Dimensions:** 6'-2" (W)

**Fireplace Opening Dimensions:** 4'-0" (W) x 2'-7" (H) x 1'-1" (D)

**Hearth Material:** Brick

**Hearth Dimensions:** NA

**Stairs:** Yes, one at each end of the building, rising to the east

**Type:** Ladder

**Stairwell Dimensions:** (1) 4'-6" x 2'-1" (2) 4'-8" x 2'-2"

**Number of Treads:** 15

**Stair Tread Dimensions:** 0'-7" to 0'-7 ½" (W)

**Subfloor Pit:** No

**Floor:** Wood

**Dating:**

**Dendrochronology Date:** NA

**Other Date:** 1750-1799 (Upton 1982, 1988)

**Dating Evidence:**

**Saw Marks:** Split lath attached in garret -- sash sawn and circular saw in later materials

**Nails:** Hand headed nails in lath – machine cut and wire nails in later materials