

Slave Housing Data Base

Building Name: Ivy Cliff Slave Quarter

Evidence Type: Extant

Historical Site Name: Ivy Cliff (“Otter Hills”/Brown Plantation)

City or Vicinity: (near New London)

County: Bedford

State: Virginia

Investigators: Douglas W. Sanford; Elizabeth Fedowitz; Arianna Drumond

Institutions: Center for Historic Preservation, University of Mary Washington

Project Start: 12/20/08

Project End: 12/20/08

Additional Investigators: Randy Lichtenberger

Institutions: Virginia Department of Transportation, Lynchburg

Additional Investigators: Douglas W. Sanford

Institutions: Virginia Slave Housing Project

Project Start: 1/25/19

Project End: 1/25/19

Summary Description:

The Ivy Cliff quarter is a one-and-one-half story, three-bay, log building supported on a continuous stone foundation, arranged in a double-pen, “dog trot” format, with two rooms (“pens”) separated by a central, open passage or breezeway. The structure has a side-gabled roof and exterior end chimneys of stone. Within the breezeway is a ladder stair (on the west side) used to reach the upper story rooms. The building measures 38 ft. 2 in. (E-W) by 18 ft. 8 in. (N-S) on the west, while measuring 38 ft. 2 in. (E-W) by 18 ft. 2 in. (N-S) on the east. The difference in the N-S dimensions reflects the two periods of construction. The breezeway is six feet wide. One room occupies the first floor in each pen, with a second room above. Three of the four rooms were heated originally by fireplaces; Room 3 on the second level of the western pen was unheated, with a wood stove retrofitted to this space, likely after the Civil War. The stone foundation of irregular coursing rises to a progressively greater height to the east, reflecting the terrain’s downward slope from west to east. The foundation has sufficient height at the east gable end to accommodate an exterior doorway at the southeast corner, adjacent to the chimney, providing access to a storage space under the east pen. A stone-framed window on the foundation’s south side near this corner allowed additional light to reach the storage space.

The two ground floor rooms are accessed by off-set doorways in the walls facing the breezeway. An open stringer stair is positioned against the west wall, which runs upward from south to north. Each of the ground floor rooms have single windows in the north and south walls, with evidence for a fifth, smaller opening located in the east end wall of the east pen, south of the chimney. This window was infilled with brick and stone and is blocked on the interior with a fitted board. The window placement appears seemingly random, with none of the openings matching another. Additional windows are positioned

in the outer gables of both garret rooms. An interior window is centered in the partition on each side of the breezeway on the upper level. The doorways for the garret rooms are placed roughly across from each other towards the northern end of the breezeway landing.

The walls of the pens are formed of debarked logs, hewn flat on two sides, joined with square notches at the corners. Mud and wood slats originally served to chink the gaps of the log walls, while stones and bricks were used in replacement chinking. The current sheet metal roof marks a post-Civil War replacement for earlier roofing stages of wood shingles. The exposed roof framing in the garret rooms shows a mixture of original sawn rafters with lapped and nailed collars, with later replacements and repairs using pole rafters with flattened tops. The north façade is clad with later dating, vertical, circular-sawn boards affixed with wire nails. The upper story gables are covered with board-and-batten siding attached with machine-cut nails, as are the breezeway partition walls. The interior log walls, the partition walls of the breezeway, and the roof framing had whitewashed surfaces.

A variety of evidence points to the Ivy Cliff duplex having resulted from two phases of construction, with the western pen established first, followed by the eastern pen and the intervening breezeway. Based on the presence of sash saw marks and mature machine-cut nails, the Ivy Cliff log quarter's second phase likely dates to the 1830s, while the earlier phase presumably dates to the 1810s, in keeping with the construction date of the plantation's main house. Differentiating characteristics include that on the first floor level, the western pen had square-shaped windows, including one with a sliding sash (Window 4), while the eastern pen's windows are rectangular, taller, and had 6/6 sash. The finish of the stone foundation differs as well, with the earlier western pen having courser, roughly laid stone, while the eastern pen had smoother, closer fitting stones with a more uniform composition.

In Period 1, workers erected a one-room log building (the western pen) with an unheated garret space above. This building had a full perimeter stone foundation, with portions of the original eastern wall foundation surviving later alterations. Its roof framing utilized sash-sawn rafters with notched and spiked collars placed higher, towards the roof peak. This log cabin had an interior stairway set against the east, gable end wall, rising from north to south. Surviving evidence includes the eastern stringer, an angled board with notches for the stair treads affixed to the wall. Vertical siding boards fastened with machine-cut nails are attached to the log wall, with notches in their bottom edges matching the shape of the treads. No clear evidence of the stairs' header remains, but a series of nails and short boards survive both at the top of the partition wall and on the first joist set out from the wall, likely used to frame the staircase. In addition, a patch on the floor above (in Room 3) corresponds to the opening, 2 ft. 4 in. wide, and measuring about five feet long.

The eastern pen was added using a stone foundation on three sides (none for the western wall), along with more stone to support the breezeway. Both the downstairs and the garret rooms had stone fireplaces. The interior stairs of the western pen's first floor room

(Room 2) were removed, and access to the upper floor was shifted to the breezeway, along with a landing upstairs. The landing's board-and-batten partition walls were constructed at this time, with that for the western pen replacing a former, exterior siding of vertical boards. Doorways for the two garret rooms were established, with both involving thresholds that incorporated the top log of the interior gable ends. Evidence indicates that a new roof was established for the now larger structure, including the dismantling and shifting of the western pen's sash-sawn rafter pairs, some of which were moved to the eastern pen, with other pairs either repaired or replaced with pole rafters. The sawn rafter pairs received new collars, lapped and nailed at the lower elevation. Wood shingles served to cover the new roof, as seen in the nail holes of the surviving roofing boards.

Later changes to the quarter, undertaken after the Civil War, first included the further use of pole rafters as repairs or replacements, along with narrower and un-whitewashed roofing boards to support the current sheet metal roof. Vertical, circular-sawn planks were nailed to the building's north wall and its northwestern corner. Doorways were added to enclose the formerly open, northern and southern ends of the breezeway, and the additional, lower windows were inserted in the eastern gable end of the garret (Room 4). Finally, the original stone fireplaces on the first floor were bricked in, with holes set for stove pipes. Upstairs, the eastern room's stone fireplace remained intact, while the formerly unheated, western room (Room 3) had a hole cut into the exterior chimney stack to accommodate a wood stove.

Suspected to be one of six slave buildings on the Brown family plantation, based on 1860 U.S. Census data for owner, Henry P. Brown.

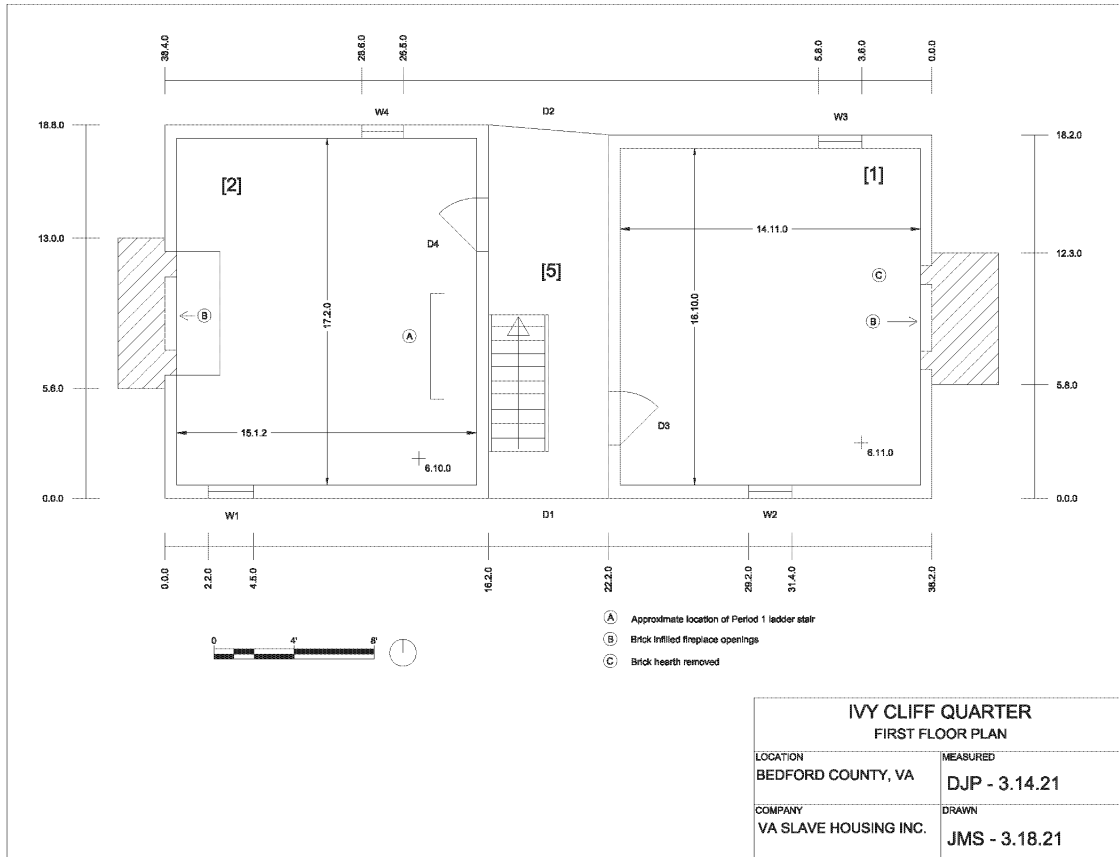
Principal Construction Type: Log

One and One-Half Story:

Number of Rooms: 4, 2 down (#'s 1-2) and 2 up (#'s 3-4)

- Dimensions:**
- (1) East pen: 16.10.0 (N-S) x 14.11.0. (E-W); 6.11.0 (H, from floor to bottom of ceiling joist; 7.5.0 to floor above).
 - (2) West pen: 17.2.0 (N-S) x 15.1.2 (E-W); 6.10.0 (H, to joist; 7.2.2 to floor above).
 - (3) West pen, upstairs: 17.7.0 (N-S) x 15.6.0 (E-W); 6.6.1 (H, from floor to bottom of collar; 9.7.2 to top of rafter peak).
 - (4) East pen, upstairs: 18.1.0 (N-S) x 15.5.0 (E-W); 6.5.2 (H, from floor to bottom of collar; 9.8.0 to top of rafter peak).
 - (5) Breezeway: 17.10.1 (N-S) x 5.10.2 (E-W; from siding board to siding board, 6.1.1 from log to log); 7.2.0 (H, from floor to bottom of joist for upper breezeway flooring).

Footprint:



Doors: 7

	B-way, S (1)	B-way, N (2)	Rm. 1, E (3)
Type:	Door absent (southern breezeway opening)	None (northern breezeway opening)	6 panel
Dimensions:	2.5.2 (W) x 7.3.0 (H)	6.3.0 wide opening	2.8.0 (W) x 5.10.0 (H)
Hardware:	Modern butterfly hinge	None	Modern butt hinges w/screws, wire nails
Swing:	Out	N/A	In
Replacement:	Yes (likely later insertion)		Yes (note earlier hinge marks)

Doors: *continued.*

	Rm. 2, W (4)	Rm. 3, W (5)	Rm. 4, E (6)
Type:	Board & batten	Board & batten	Board & batten
Dimensions:	2.9.0 (W) x 5.8.0 (H)	2.5.0 (W) x 4.6.0 (H), shortened height due to partition's base log	2.11.0 (W) x 5.1.2 (H), shortened height due to partition's base log
Hardware:	Butt hinges, wire nails	Modern butt hinges	Butterfly hinges (replacements)
Swing:	In	Out (to breezeway)	In (from breezeway)
Replacement:	Possibly original, likely that hinges are replaced	Yes	Yes

E. fdn. (7)

Type:	Board & batten
Dimensions:	1.9.2 (W) x 4.5.2 (H); within opening measuring 2.6.0 (W) x 4.8.3 (H)
Hardware:	Butterfly hinges, wire nails
Swing:	Out
Replacement:	Yes. Access to crawl space beneath east pen.

Windows: 14

	Rm. 2, S (1)	Rm. 1, S (2)	Rm. 1, N (3)
Type:	3/3 fixed sash	3/3, single hung sash (upper sash fixed)	6/6, single hung sash (upper sash fixed)
Dimensions:	2.4.2 (W) x 1.11.0 (H)	2.2.2 (W) x 3.11.0 (H)	2.2.2 (W) x 3.11.0 (H)
Hardware:	None	None	None
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	Fixed. Replacement sash & framing.	With molding trim.	N/A

	Rm. 2, N (4)	Rm. 3, W (5)	Rm. 3, W (6)
Type:	Sash removed; boarded over	3/3 sash (replacement)	Opening only (sash removed)
Dimensions:	2.3.0 (W) x 2.1.2 (H)	2.0.2 (W) x 1.10.2 (H)	2.3.0 (W) x 2.0.2 (H)
Hardware:	N/A, sash removed	None	None
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	N/A	Slide (on south side of chimney)	Formerly a fixed sash (on north side of chimney)

	Rm. 3, E (7)	Rm. 4, E (8)	Rm. 4, E (9)
Type:	Opening only; no sash	Removed	Removed
Dimensions:	0.10.0 (W) x 1.3.2 (H)	2.2.2 (W) x 1.10.0 (H)	2.3.0 (W) x 2.0.0 (H)
Hardware:	None	None	None
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	Opening only (within partition, slight interior framing)	Slide (lower part of wall, north side of chimney)	Slide (lower part of wall, south side of chimney)

Windows: *continued.*

	Rm. 4, E (10)	Rm. 4, E (11)	Rm. 4, W (12)
Type:	Opening only; fixed sash removed	Opening only; fixed sash removed	Opening only; fixed sash removed
Dimensions:	1.5.0 (W) x 1.10.0 (H)	1.2.0 (W) x 1.8.0 (H)	1.4.0 (W) x 1.6.3 (H)
Hardware:	None	None	None
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	Upper part of wall, above W8, north side of chimney.	Upper part of wall, above W9, south side of chimney.	Within breezeway partition, with framing trim.

	S. fdn. (13)	Rm. 1, E (14)
Type:	Opening only; framed by foundation stones and log bottom.	Opening only; filled with brick and stone
Dimensions:	3.10.0 (W) x 1.1.2 (H)	1.6.0 (W) x 0.7.2 (H)
Hardware:	None	None
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	Note wooden sill board. On east side of south foundation, below W2.	Filled on interior with wooden board. Cut into logs 6 & 7 from the floor.

EXTERIOR

Foundation:

Continuous Masonry: Stone (irregular coursing, local field stones)

Thickness: 16 to 18 inches in western half, up to 1.2.2 in eastern half

Height: variable, given slope involved; from 0.6.0 at western end to 4.7.0 at SE corner.

Bond: Irregular coursing

Mortar Type: Some dry laid; other stone with mud (clay) mortar

Joint: N/A

Repaired: Yes

Shed/Porch: No

Roof:

Roof Form: Gable

Roof Covering: Sheet metal (replacement)

Roof Framing:

Exposed: Yes

Form: Common Rafters (9 per room)

Rafter Number: 20 pairs, total (9 per room, 2 in breezeway).

Rafter Dimensions: sawn rafters: 3.0 – 3.5 in. x 4 in.; pole rafters: 3.0 – 3.5 in. diameter

Collar Ties: Yes (seen for sawn rafters only)

Collar Dimensions: 3 in. x 4 in. (H)

Method of Joining: Lap joints with 3-4 machine-cut nails at each end.

Height from Roof Peak: 2.9.2 - 2.10.3

Height to Floor: 6.6.0

Pitch: in Room 3, using collar, at 1 ft. mark, from top of collar to bottom of rafter above: 10.25 in.

Building Height: @ SE corner

Ground to Soffit: 13.11.1

Ground to Top of Eave: 15.2.0

Ground to Top of Foundation: 4.7.0

@ NW corner

Ground to Soffit: 11.4.0

Ground to Top of Eave: 11.9.3

Ground to Top of Foundation: 1.1.2

Walls:

Log:

Dimensions: approx. 1 foot high (10-14 in.) x 9 in. thick

Finish: Flat Sides – Hewn (debarked, with felling axe marks)

Notching: Square

Chinking: Mud – Wood Slats

Chimney(s):

Chimney (1): West

Material: Stone (with mud mortar)

Location: Exterior – End

Height: 20.11.2

Chimney (2): East

Material: Stone (with mud mortar)

Location: Exterior – End

Height: 25.11.2

INTERIOR

Wall Framing: Log

Wall Finish: Whitewash

Fireplace (1): Center (Room 1, east pen)

Fireplace Material: Stone (with brick infill)

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 4.8.0 (W) x 4.9.2 (H)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 3.4.0 (W) x 2.7.0 (H); no depth due to brick infill

Hearth Material: Removed, replaced with wood flooring

Hearth Dimensions: 4.8.0 (L) x 2.0.0 (W)

Fireplace (2): Center (Room 2, west pen)

Fireplace Material: Stone

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 6.1.2 (W) x 5.0.0 (H)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 3.10.0 (W) x 2.11.0 (H); no depth due to brick infill

Hearth Material: Stone

Hearth Dimensions: 6.1.2 (L) x 2.1.0 (W)

Fireplace (3): Center (Room 4, upper story of east pen)

Fireplace Material: Stone

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 5.8.2 (W) x 4.10.0 (H)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 2.10.2 (H) x 2.8.0 (W) x 0.10.3 (D)

Hearth Material: Stone

Hearth Dimensions: 5.9.0 (L) x 2.3.2 (W)

Stairs: Yes

Type: Ladder

Stairwell Dimensions: 2.8.3 (E-W) x 8.10.0 (N-S)

Number of Treads: 10

Stair Tread Dimensions: 2.9.0 (L) x 0.9.2 (W) x 0.7.3 – 0.8.2 (H); top narrower tread measures 0.7.0 wide.

Height: 7.2.0 from breezeway floor to bottom of joist for upper breezeway floor

Subfloor Pit: No

Floor: Wood

Floorboards Dimension: difficult to observe due to covering materials

Dating:

Dendrochronology Date: NA

Other Date: Period 1: Ca. 1810 – associated with construction of main house;
Period 2: Ca. 1830-1850

Dating Evidence:

Saw Marks: Sash Sawn (for sawn rafters)

Nails: Mature Machine Cut