

Slave Housing Data Base

Building Name: Marmion Kitchen-Quarter

Evidence Type: Extant

Site ID: 048-0012

Historical Site Name: Marmion

Vicinity: Comorn

County: King George

State: Virginia

Investigators: Douglas W. Sanford, J. Mark Wittkofski, Dennis J. Pogue

Institutions: Virginia Slave Housing Project

Project Start: 12/17/20 [12/22/20, 1/5/21, 1/16/21]

Project End: 2/21/21

Summary Description:

The kitchen-quarter at Marmion is a frame, three-bay, one-story building, and heated garret, with a clipped side-gable roof covered with reproduction wood shingles. The structure is supported on a brick perimeter foundation, much of which has been replaced, and measures approximately 20.5 feet wide (north-south) by 36.5 feet long (east-west). A T-shaped interior brick chimney is positioned off-center to the east. The façade (north) has a central door set between evenly spaced windows, with a doorway positioned in each end wall. The fenestration of the south wall consists of a doorway in the west bay and a window in the east. The ground floor west room likely served as a cook room, as it is larger and features a substantial fireplace; it has brick nogging within the wall frame members. The smaller quartering room to the east has a smaller fireplace and formerly had plastered walls and ceiling. A doorway to the north of the fireplace allows direct access between the spaces; a closet may have been located between the south wall and the fireplace. Originally, stairs in each room led to the two additional quartering rooms in the garret, both of which had brick fireplaces. The eastern garret room had interior wall plaster, while the larger western garret room had walls finished with horizontal clapboards.

The structure has a complex construction history, with several building phases beginning in the mid-18th century. In Period 1, the structure was unheated, and a partition divided the first floor into roughly equal-sized rooms, with a roughly centered connecting doorway. A stairway for access to the attic was likely located along the west wall in the west room. In Period 2, ca. 1770, the partition was removed, the chimney and the fireplaces on both floors were installed, and a second stairway was raised in the east bay. Improvements to the building were made in the mid-19th century, consisting primarily of installing new finishes in the garret. After the Civil War, the stairway in the west room was lengthened and repositioned, and the doors and windows on the north and south walls reconfigured. Photographs of the structure made by HABS in the 1930s shows the changes to the fenestration.

In the late 1970s a series of alterations were carried out as part of an extensive campaign of renovation. The entire brick foundation was replaced along with the sills. All of the

first-floor windows and doors were rebuilt, with the latter involving reproduction wrought nails and reused period hardware. Large sections of the exterior beaded weatherboard siding were replaced, again using reproduction wrought nails. The composition shingle roof covering visible in the 1930s HABS photographs was removed and replaced with wood shingles. On the interior, builders removed much of the brick nogging in the kitchen, replacing the brick and using a Portland cement-based mortar. The original wood floors of the first story were removed and replaced with brick pavers.

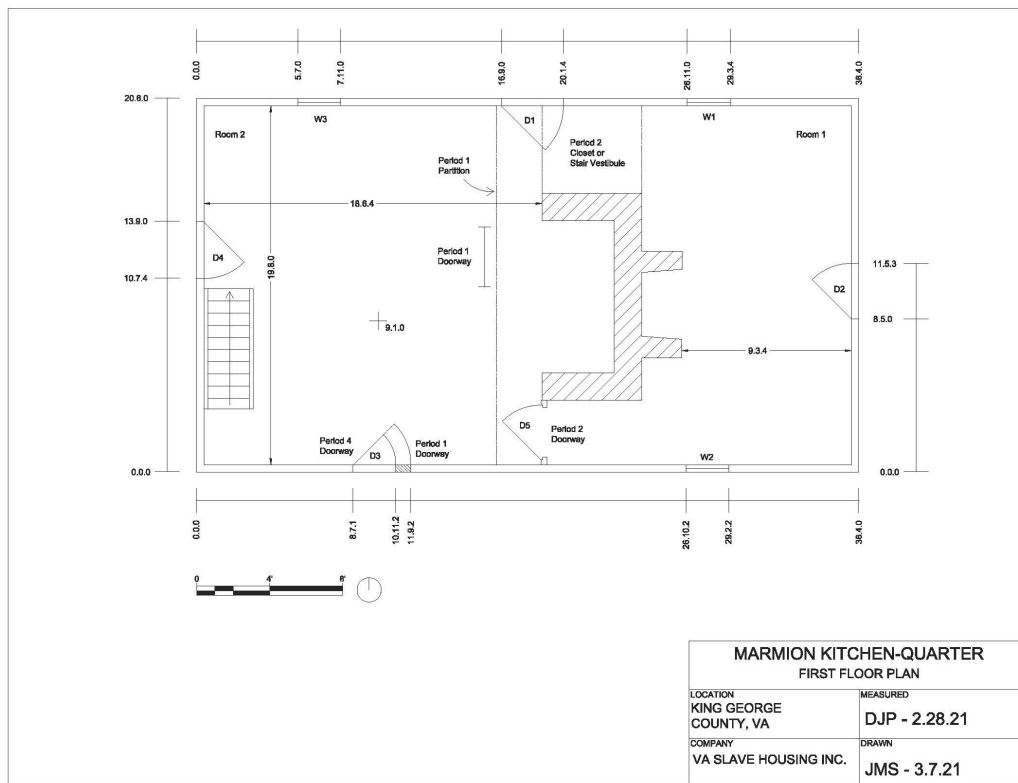
Bibliography:

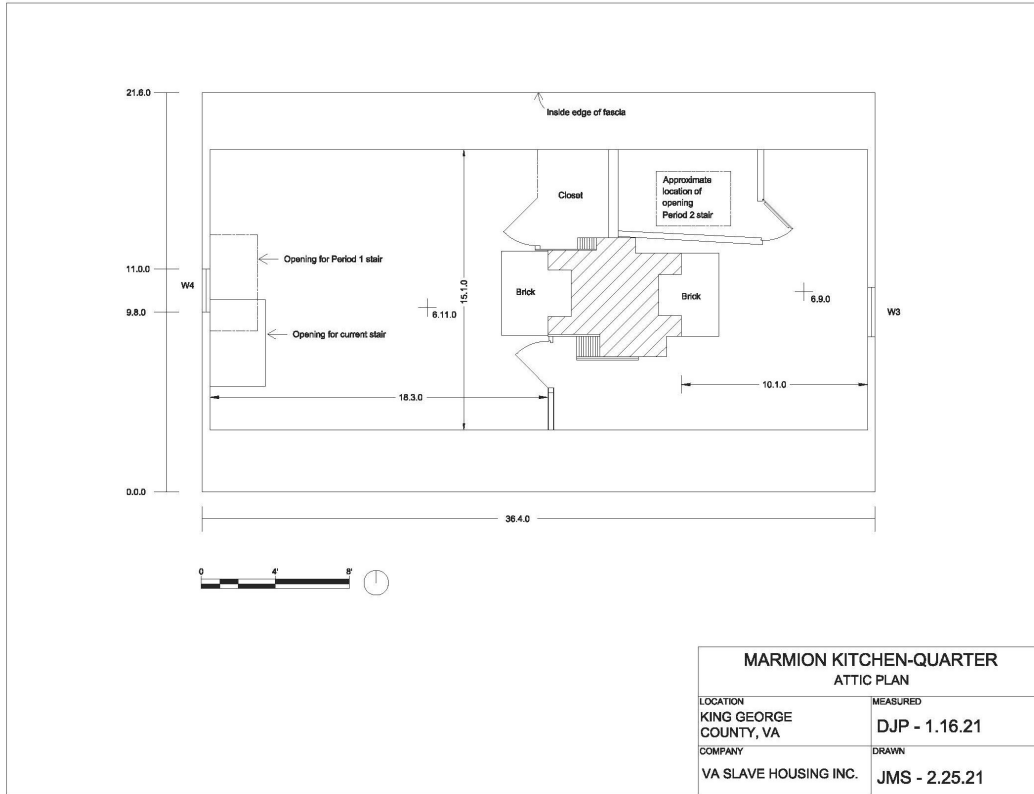
HABS; National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Chappell, Edward, "Housing Slavery," in *The Chesapeake House* (2013), edited by Cary Carson and Carl Lounsbury, pp. 166-167.

In 1983 and 1997, architectural historians from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation recorded this building.

Principal Construction Type: Frame
One Story with Garret
Footprint:





Number of Rooms: 4 total (2 downstairs, 2 upstairs)

Dimensions:

- (1) Downstairs, east: 19.5.2 (N-S) x 16.11.0 (E-W, to west partition wall; 11.6.0 to east face of fireplace), 9.1.0 (H, to bottom of ceiling joist)
- (2) Downstairs, west: 19.5.2 (N-S) x 18.6.2 (E-W, to west face of fireplace), 9.1.0 (H, to bottom of ceiling joist)
- (3) Upstairs, east: 14.2.2 (N-S, knee wall to knee wall) x 10.0.0 (E-W, from east gable end wall to east face of fireplace; 17.0.0 from east gable end wall to partition wall in SW corner), 6.11.0 (H)
- (4) Upstairs, west: 14.8.1 (N-S, knee wall to knee wall) x 18.4.3 (E-W, from west gable end wall to west face of fireplace; 21.5.1 from west gable end wall to partition in closet), 6.9.0 (H)

Doors: 7

	Rm. 2, N (1)	Rm. 1, E (2)	Rm. 2, S (3)
Type:	Board & batten, 3 battens with clinched wrought nails	Board & batten, 3 battens with clinched wrought nails	Board & batten Dutch door; with clinched wrought nails
Dimensions:	3.5.1 (W) x 5.10.0 (H), 0.1.0 thick	3.1.2 (W) x 5.10.0 (H)	2.4.2 (W) x 5.0.2 (H)*
Hardware:	Reused wrought strap hinges on pintles	Reused wrought strap hinges on pintles	Reused wrought strap hinges on pintles
Swing:	In	In	In
Replacement:	Yes, circular sawn lumber, modern reproduction wrought nails	Yes, circular sawn lumber, modern reproduction wrought nails	* Current door (see field notes on original opening)

	Rm. 2, W (4)	Rm. 2, S (5)	Rm. 4, E (6)
Type:	Board and batten, 3 battens with clinched wrought nails	Unknown, removed	Unknown, removed
Dimensions:	3.1.2 (W) x 5.11.3 (H), 0.1.0 thick	2.11.0 (W) x 5.6.0 (H), current opening	3.6.2 (W) x 5.0.0 (H), current opening
Hardware:	Reused wrought strap hinges on pintles	Removed, note wrought plate or hasp for former boxlock	Unknown, removed
Swing:	In	In (into Room 2, hinged on southern side)	In (into Room 4, hinged on southern side)
Replacement:	Yes, circular sawn lumber, modern reproduction wrought nails	No door at present	No door at present

Doors: continued

Rm. 3, Stairs (7)

Type:	Board and batten, 3 chamfered & molded battens
Dimensions:	2.3.1 (W) x 5.3.3 (H)
Hardware:	Wrought H-hinges; hinged on north side
Swing:	In
Replacement:	No. Note beaded vertical boards.

Windows: 5

Rm. 1, N (1)

Rm. 1, S (2)

Rm. 2, N (3)

	Rm. 1, N (1)	Rm. 1, S (2)	Rm. 2, N (3)
Type:	9/6 single hung sash	9/6 single hung sash	9/6 single hung sash
Dimensions:	2.5.0 (W) x 4.10.1 (H)	2.5.0 (W) x 4.10.1 (H)	2.4.3 (W) x 4.9.1 (H)
Hardware:	None	None	None
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	NA; replacement sash and window framing (see field notes)	NA; replacement sash and window framing	NA; replacement sash and window framing

Windows: continued

	Rm. 3, E (4)	Rm. 4, W (5)
Type:	Unknown, sash removed (wood shutter at present)	Unknown, sash removed (wood shutter at present)
Dimensions:	2.7.0 (W) x 4.3.0 (H)	2.4.0 (W) x 4.0.0 (H)
Hardware:	None	None
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	Opening likely a later insertion (see field notes).	Opening likely a later insertion (see field notes)

During the 1970s renovation the windows were removed and most evidence for their original character and dimensions has been lost or obscured. Based on the 1930s HABS photos, the two windows on the north façade had 6/6 sashes, as compared to the current 9/6 sash windows.

EXTERIOR

Foundation:

Continuous Masonry: Brick

Thickness: approximately 010.0

Height: 0.9.0 (NE corner); 1.4.2 (SE corner)

Bond: English

Mortar Type: Shell – Sand

Joint: Ruled

Repaired: Yes; modern replacement, rebuilt foundation with concrete repair/footer at west gable end.

Shed/Porch: No

Roof:

Roof Form: Gable, clipped

Roof Covering: Reproduction wood shingles

Roof Framing:

Exposed: Yes, partially (but not originally)

Form: Common Rafters

Rafter Number: 18 pairs

Rafter Dimensions: 0.3.2 (flat side) x 0.2.3 (Room 4); 0.3.3 – 0.4.0 x 0.2.3 – 0.3.0 (Room 3)

Collar Ties: Yes

Collar Dimensions: 0.2.2 (wide) x 0.3.0 (high)

Method of Joining: Lap joint, with 2 wrought nails at each end
Height from Roof Peak: 3.8.0 to collar bottom
Height to Floor: 6.11.1 from collar bottom to floor

Building Height: @ NE corner
Ground to Soffit: 9.9.2
Ground to Top of Eave: 11.7.1
Ground to Apex: 17.2.2 (east gable end; bottom of clipped gable)

@ SE corner
Ground to Soffit: 10.4.2
Ground to Top of Eave: 11.11.1

Walls:

Frame:

Material: Wood
Cladding: Horizontal – Weatherboard/lapped
Beaded: Yes; many weatherboards are modern replacements, with reproduction beading and wrought nails

The ceiling joists are hewn, lapped over the wall plates. The joists measure 0.3.2 to 0.4.0 wide and are 0.7.0 to 0.8.0 high, set on two-foot centers. The sides and bottoms of the joists, along with the undersides of the floorboards above, are whitewashed. The floorboards are undercut and gauged.

After the building was converted to serve as a kitchen and quarter, Room 1 had fully plastered walls and a ceiling. Most of the riven and wrought-nailed lathing has been removed, and remnants of whitewash on the joists and studs indicate that the space was subsequently whitewashed.

Chimney(s):

Chimney (1):

Material: Brick
Location: Interior/ off Center (to east)
Height: Not accessible; note T-shape of chimney mass and stack

INTERIOR

Wall Framing: Exposed – Brick nogged, in part
Wall Finish: Lath and Plaster, Whitewash, Horizontal clapboards

Fireplace (1): End - Center (on west side of room)

Fireplace Material: Brick
Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 2.0.0 (E-W) x 5.10.2 (N-S)
Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 3.9.0 (W, currently), 3.6.0 (H, top of brick arch), 2.0.0 (D)

Original width: 4.6.2 (N-S); original height likely to wooden lintel: 4.2.0

Hearth Material: NA (likely brick to match Fireplace 2)

Hearth Dimensions: NA; original hearth removed, replaced with brick pavers that extend into the fireplace

Fireplace (2): End – Center (on east side of room)

Fireplace Material: Brick

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 5.6.2 (E-W) x 11.4.0 (N-S)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 8.5.2 (W), 5.5.2 (H), 4.0.0 (D)

Hearth Material: Brick (based on 1930s HABs photographs)

Hearth Dimensions: Not available, original hearth removed, replaced with brick pavers.

Fireplace (3): End – Center (on west wall)

Fireplace Material: Brick

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 0.9.0 (E-W) x 4.6.1 (N-S), for portion of chimney projecting into Room 3 from main mass

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 2.3.2 (W), 2.3.0 (H), 1.2.2 (D)

Hearth Material: Brick

Hearth Dimensions: 2.0.2 (E-W) x 4.4.2 (N-S)

Fireplace (4): End – Center (on east wall)

Fireplace Material: Brick

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 2.8.0 (E-W) x 4.9.0 (N-S), for portion of chimney projecting into Room 4 from main mass

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 2.7.0 (W), 3.4.0 (H), 1.3.2 (D)

Hearth Material: Brick

Hearth Dimensions: 2.7.0 (E-W) x 4.7.2 (N-S)

Stairs: 2 - Stairs 1 in Room 1 removed; Stairs 2 in Room 2 have been altered and moved.

Type: Open ladder

Stairwell Dimensions: 2.10.0 (E-W) x 4.9.0 (N-S), current opening (not original)

Number of Treads: 9 treads

Stair Tread Dimensions: 2.5.0 long x 0.9.0 wide x 0.8.2-0.8.3 high from top to bottom; 0.11.0 high from top to top

Subfloor Pit: No

Floor: Wood – 1st floor originally had floorboards, which were later removed and replaced with brick pavers during the late 1970s renovation.

Floorboards Dimension: 0.7.0 – 0.8.0 (Room 4)

In Room 2, the garret floorboards are undercut and gauged, with battens fastened to cover the seams.

Dating:

Dendrochronology Date: NA

Other Date: Ca. 1770 Period 2 construction, conversion to kitchen-quarter

Dating Evidence:

Saw Marks: Pit Sawn

Nails: Hand Wrought