

Slave Housing Data Base

Building Name: Folly Farm (The Folly) Outbuilding/Quarter

Evidence Type: Extant

Site ID: 001-0018

Historical Site Name: The Folly

City: Accomac

County: Accomack

State: Virginia

Investigators: Dennis J. Pogue, Douglas W. Sanford

Institutions: Virginia Slave Housing Project

Project Start: 4/13/18

Project End: 2/2/19

Summary Description:

The outbuilding located along the entrance road leading to the Folly Farm domestic complex is a small (15'6" by 16'4"), one-story, frame structure, with a side-gabled roof, supported on brick piers. A substantial brick exterior end chimney (6'8") is centered on the north wall, serving a fireplace in the first-floor room. The chimney base has steep shoulders and the stack, capped with a corbelled, three-course cornice, is set back from the gable. Doorways are centered on the east and west walls, with a single-sash, six-pane window to the the south of the doorway on the west wall, and double-hung 6/6 sash windows centered on the south wall and in the south gable. Two small single-pane windows flank the chimney on the north wall. The walls are covered with lapped weatherboards, the oldest of which are sashsawn and are attached with mature cut nails.

On the interior, the stairway leading to the unheated attic is situated in the southeast corner, consisting of an open three-stair flight that meets the landing in the corner, with a second, enclosed run of five stairs rising along the south wall. The current stair is a replacement, comprised of circular sawn boards fastened with wire nails, but it is likely in the location of the original stairway. Four ceiling joists are exposed, which measure 4" by 6" and are sashsawn. The walls are covered with circular sawn, tongue-and-grooved horizontal boards attached with wire nails. The attic space is unfinished but with a butted wooden floor. The fireplace has been filled in to accommodate a stove, but the brick hearth remains.

A rectangular brick structure, extending from the ground surface to the underside of the floor joists, is visible below the north end of the building. The structure is roughly 5'10" by 6', and likely relates to a storage cellar. Although there is no apparent access to the cellar from above, the placement directly in front of the hearth suggests that it was used to store food products.

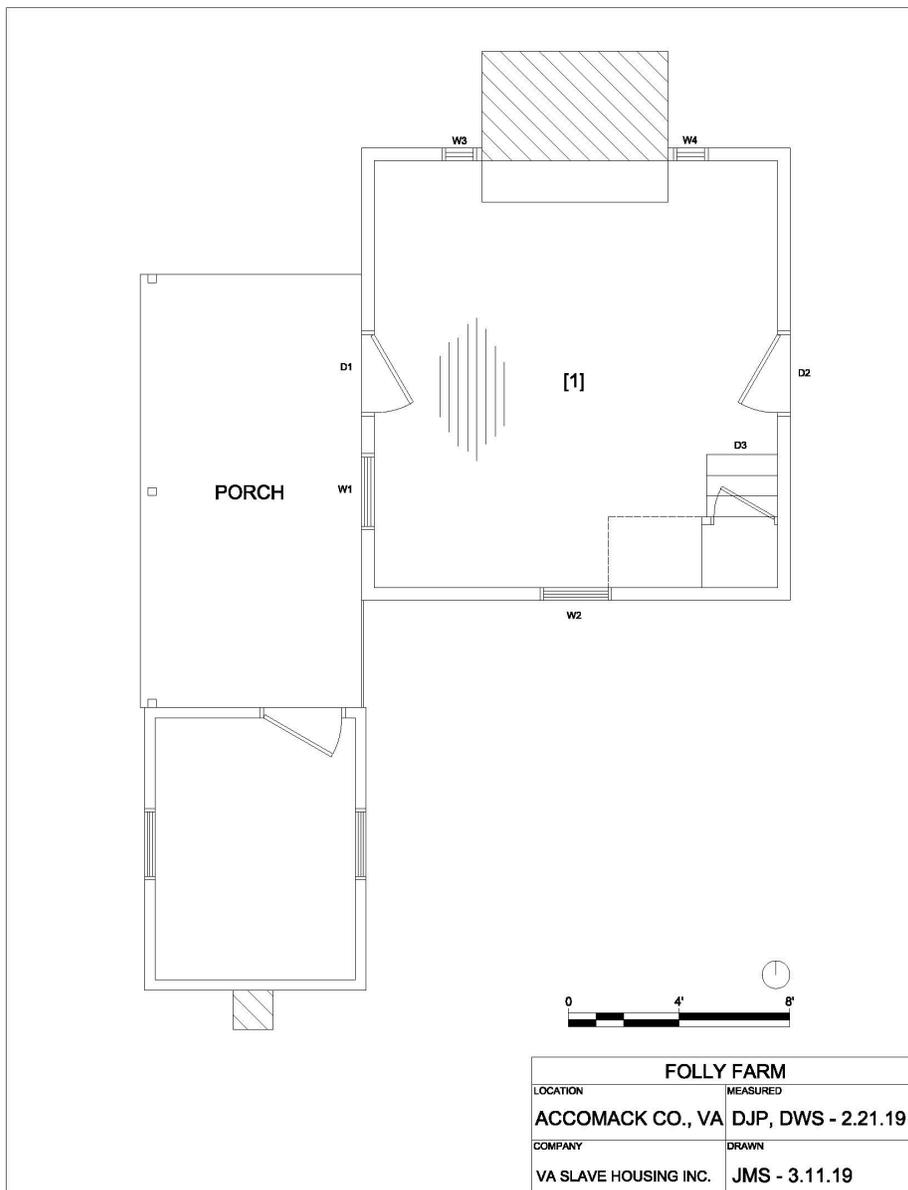
While the original character of the Folly Farm outbuilding is largely intact, several significant modifications have been made over the years. The current asphalt roof replaced the original wood shingles. The machine-made bricks in the piers do not match

the hand-made bricks in the chimney. In addition to changes to the staircase and the later wall covering, the windows in the south wall and in the gable are made of modern materials and at least the window in the gable is a likely insertion. A one-room structure to the southwest of the quarter is an addition, as is the shed-roofed open porch that connects the buildings.

Principal Construction Type: Frame

One Story – With Garret

Footprint:



Number of Rooms: 2 (1 down, 1 up)

Dimensions: (1) 15.3.2 (N-S) x 14.4.2 (E-W); Height: 7.7.1 to bottom of ceiling joists; 8.1.1 to bottom of floorboards above

(2) 15.3.3 (N-S) x 14.4.2 (E-W); Height: 5.4.2 to bottom of rafter collars

Doors: 3

	Rm. 1, W (1)	Rm. 1, E (2)	Stairs (3)
Type:	Board & batten; with chamfered battens	Unknown, removed	Board & batten; with chamfered battens
Dimensions:	3.0.0 (W) x 6.0.3 (H)	Doorway: 2.9.3 (W) x 6.2.0 (H)	2.2.2 (W) x 5.3.0 (H)
Hardware:	Repaired strap hinges and pintles (on west door post)	Unknown; none surviving	3-knuckle butt hinges
Swing:	In	Unknown	Out (into Room 1)
Replacement:	Possibly	NA	Replacement & reused (turned inside out)

Windows: 5

	Rm. 1, W (1)	Rm. 1, S (2)	Rm. 1, N (3)
Type:	6-pane single sash (partial slide)	6/6, single-hung sash	Single pane, fixed sash
Dimensions:	Opening: 2.4.2 (W) x 2.2.1 (H); Sash: 2.3.0 (W) x 1.11.2 (H)	2.4.2 (W) x 3.9.2 (H)	1.0.0 (W) x 1.4.0 (H)
Hardware:	None	None	None
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	Sash slides up & down a few inches.	Repaired	Located east of fireplace.

Windows: Continued

	Rm. 1, N (4)	Rm. 2, S (5)
Type:	Single pane, fixed sash	6/6, single-hung sash
Dimensions:	1.0.2 (W) x 1.4.2 (H)	2.3.1 (W) x 3.10.2 (H)
Hardware:	None	None
Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:	Located west of fireplace.	Replacement, reframed. Likely later insertion.

EXTERIOR

Foundation:

Masonry Piers: Brick

Number: 9 total (3 per long side, 1 at center of south wall, 2 at either side of chimney)

Dimensions: Common side/face length of 1.9.0, 0.8.1 thick

Height: from 1.1.0 (NW corner) to 1.10.0 (SE corner)

Mortar Type: Sand – Cement

Joint: Flush

Repaired: Yes (rebuilt with machine-made brick)

Shed/Porch: Yes – on west façade (not original)

Roof:

Roof Form: Gable

Roof Covering: Asphalt shingles (new, red-colored), covering 2 generations of wood shingles

Roof Framing:

Exposed: Yes

Form: Common Rafters

Rafter Number: 7 pairs

Rafter Dimensions: 2.88 (W) x 4.0 (H) inches

The roof rafter are sash sawn (tight, vertical marks) and have pegged saddle nothches; some of the rafter pairs have Roman numeral carpenter marks.

Collar Ties: Yes

Collar Dimensions: 0.2.2 (W) x 0.5.1 (H)

Method of Joining: notched (set flush)

Height from Roof Peak: 2.1.0 (to bottom of collar)

Height to Floor: 5.4.2 (from bottom of collar)

Building Height: @ NW corner

Ground to Soffit: 9.5.1

Ground to Apex: 18.2.2 (@ south gable end)

Ground to Top of Eave: 10.9.3

Walls:

Frame:

Material: Wood (some replacement with modern, hardy plank)

Cladding: Horizontal – Weatherboard/lapped

Beaded: No

Chimney(s):

Chimney (1): @ north gable end

Material: Brick

Location: Exterior – End

Height: 21.9.1 (9.2.0 to shoulder bottom, 10.10.3 to shoulder top)

INTERIOR

Wall Framing: Unknown

Wall Finish: Current tongue-and-groove horizontal boards

Fireplace (1): End – Center (Room 1, north wall)

Fireplace Material: Brick

Fireplace Overall Dimensions: 6.8.4 (E-W) x 0.4.0 (N-S)

Fireplace Opening Dimensions: 5.1.0 (W) x 3.9.0 (H) x unknown depth (filled with brick, converted to wood stove)

Hearth Material: Brick

Hearth Dimensions: 1.10.0 (N-S) x 6.7.0 (E-W)

Stairs: Yes, @ SE corner of Room 1

Type: Enclosed – two flights with landing

Stairwell Dimensions: 2.5.0 (N-S) x 3.4.0 (E-W)

Number of Treads: 3 to landing, 5 to garret

Stair Tread Dimensions: 1.11.0 (L) x 0.9.2 (W) x 0.10.0 (H)

Subfloor Pit: Yes (likely root cellar)

Number: 1

Location: Set in front of fireplace, with northern end abutting the chimney base.

Dimensions: 5.10.0 (N-S) x 6.0.3 (E-W), out-to-out. Brick lining measures approx. 8 inches wide.

Depth: Unknown, not accessible

Lined: Yes

Material: Brick (not established if fully lined)

Floor: Wood (Room 1 flooring is later, narrower board replacement)

Floorboards Dimension: 4 to 5 inches wide (Room 1)

Dating:

Dendrochronology Date: NA

Other Date: ca. 1840-60

Dating Evidence:

Saw Marks: Sashsawn

Nails: Mature Cut