

## Virginia Slave Housing Project

**Building Name:** New Market Plantation Kitchen-Quarter

**Evidence Type:** Extant

**Site ID:** 016-0281

**Historical Site Name:** New Market Plantation

**City:** Bowling Green vicinity

**County:** Caroline

**State:** Virginia

**Investigators:** Douglas W. Sanford, Dennis J. Pogue

**Institutions:** Virginia Slave Housing Project

**Project Start:** 3/1/22, 5/18/22

**Project End:** 5/18/22

### Summary Description:

The brick outbuilding at New Market plantation is located less than 100' west of the main house and it almost certainly served as a combination kitchen and slave quarters. The one and one-half story, two-bay, side-gable-roofed building has a center chimney and a partial cellar below the west bay, which is accessed by an exterior entrance. The outbuilding measures roughly 18' (north-south) by 38' (east-west), and is laid in 5 to 1 common bond. The steeply pitched roof – covered with recently installed standing seam metal pans – features decorative barge boards, open eaves, and carved (“scalloped”) rafter feet that overshoot the false plate, and which follows the general Gothic design of the main house. The somewhat unusual plan of the building reflects its mixed-use function, with a large cook room, an inner heated room that served as living quarters, and a narrow stair hall leading to another heated living space in the garret.

The irregular placement of the three exterior doorways reflects the gently sloping grade and led to the asymmetrical fenestration found on three of the four elevations. The south façade has a 6/6 sash window on the west and the primary entrance, located near the southeast corner, which is closest to the main house. The doorway is accessed via a set of low stairs, then with a short step down to the surface of the floor in the kitchen room. A second doorway is positioned in the southwest corner of the west end wall, connecting with a hallway that provides both a second point of egress to the inner room on the ground floor, and the stair leading to the heated west room in the garret. Given the sloping terrain, the first-floor end doorway is elevated and must have been accessed by a set of stairs that no longer survive. The third doorway is also positioned in the southwest corner of the end wall at ground level, providing access to the unfinished cellar room. Two 6/6 sash windows are symmetrically arranged on the ground floor level in the north elevation, with a barred rectangular window in the exposed foundation to light the cellar. Matching 6/6 sash windows are centered in each gable and in the east end wall.

The principal room occupies the eastern half of the building footprint, which features a substantial fireplace, with gudgeons for a cooking crane, and a trammel bar. The

recessed floor was brick but has been replaced with concrete. Along with the placement of the doorway providing the most direct access to the main house, these features indicate that the space functioned as the plantation kitchen. A doorway set in the brick medial wall to the south of the fireplace provides access to the higher floor level of the smaller inner room, which is heated by a residential-scaled fireplace. Both rooms have exposed, unfinished ceilings and whitewashed brick walls. A plastered and whitewashed stud partition forms the fourth wall of the inner room, separating it from the stair hall on the west. A doorway at the south end of the partition provides direct access to the stair hall and indirect access to the exterior via the west doorway. The stairs leading to the garret are framed into the northwest corner of the hall, with an enclosure below for a closet with an out-swinging doorway. The enclosed stairs are accessed via a short step and a doorway, then proceed with a two-step winder and a steep straight run.

The garret is roughly divided in half, with a heated and finished room on the west and unfinished storage space on the east. The stair well in the west room is lighted by the gable window and was bounded by an open railing with two horizontal mid-rails. A small fireplace is roughly centered on the east wall, with a short, clipped doorway just to the south providing access to the east room. The west room is plastered throughout, and trimmed with a beaded baseboard. The flooring in both the west garret room and in the first-floor chamber and stair hall are sashsawn boards, gauged and undercut. On the other hand, the flooring in the east garret room and in the spaces within the knee walls on the west are circular sawn and butted.

This structure is distinctive for its combination of traditional carpentry techniques along with innovative materials, and supports a construction date roughly comparable with the main house in the 1850s. Traditional means and methods are reflected by riven lath for plastered walls, wrought nails to attach door hinges, hewn studs within the partition walls, and gauged and undercut floorboards in the two chambers and the stair hall. On the other hand, circular sawn boards were used for flooring in the unheated spaces of the garret, and in the framing for the stairway and the closet, with mature machine-cut nails used in most applications.

The separate exterior entrance on the west end leading into the stair passage suggests that the building was divided to allow a second enslaved household to occupy the finished room in the garret. The plaster work for this room and within the stair passage has a rougher finish, indicated by visible tool marks and the lack of a fine whitecoat, in contrast with the plasterwork in the downstairs chamber. The first-floor chamber probably was considered a higher status space, and was likely reserved for the enslaved cook and her family.

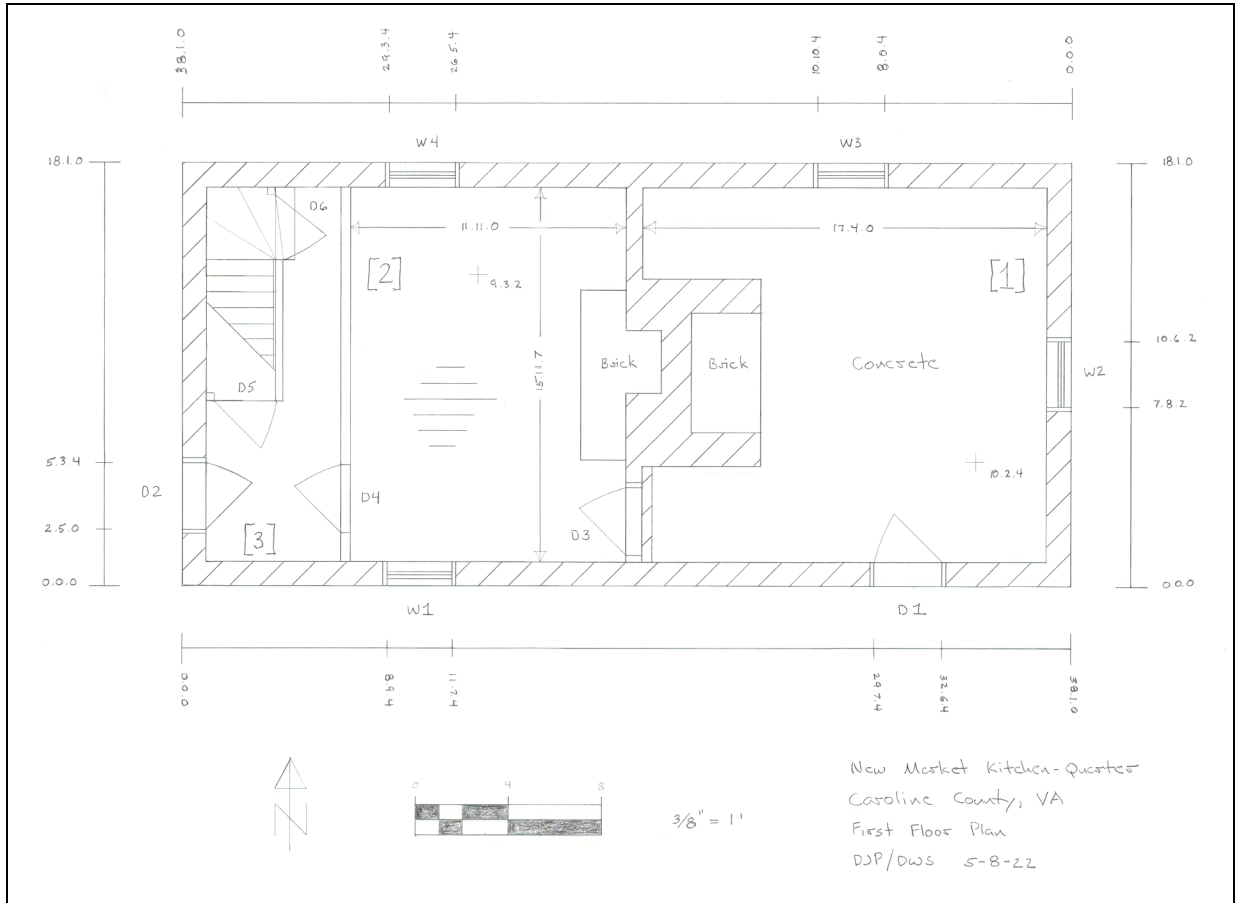
The kitchen-quarter at New Market is remarkably well preserved, with an impressive degree of survival for its mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century materials and finishes. The building never received modern utilities. At some later point, likely after the Civil War, the window frames and sash were replaced in a uniform matter. Modern changes largely are limited to replacing the original brick floor in the kitchen with concrete, repairing portions of the

exterior walls with machine-made brick and Portland-based mortar, and the recent installation of the sheet metal roof.

**Principal Construction Type: Masonry – Brick**

**One and One-Half Story**

**Footprint:**



**Number of Rooms:** 6 (1 cellar, 3 down, 2 up)

- Dimensions:** (1) Kitchen (east): 16.0.2 (N-S) x 17.0.2 (E-W, to medial wall), 10.2.3 (H, bottom of ceiling joists; 10.10.2 to floorboards above). 12.3.0 (E-W) from east gable end wall to front of fireplace.  
 (2) Downstairs, west: 15.11.3 (N-S) x 11.11.3 (E-W), 9.3.1 (H, bottom of ceiling joists; 9.10.3 to floorboards above).  
 (3) Downstairs, stair passage: 16.0.0 (N-S) x 5.9.2 (E-W), 9.4.0 (H, to bottom of ceiling joists).  
 (4) Upstairs, west: 11.6.3 (N-S) x 18.8.0 (E-W), 6.11.0 (H)  
 (5) Upstairs, east: 18.0.0 (N-S, edge of floorboards at rafter feet) x 17.11.2 (E-W, from east gable end wall to partition wall). 13.9.0 (E-W) from east gable end wall to front of chimneystack.  
 (6) Cellar: 15.10.0 (N-S) x 18.2.0 (E-W), 6.3.3 (H, from dirt floor to bottom of ceiling joists).

**Doors:** 8

	<b>Rm. 1, S (1)</b>	<b>Rm. 3, W (2)</b>	<b>Rm. 1, W (3)</b>
<b>Type:</b>	Board and batten (3 chamfered battens, vertical beaded boards)	Board and batten (3 chamfered battens, 5 vertical beaded boards)	Unknown, removed
<b>Dimensions:</b>	2.9.2 (W) x 6.4.2 (H), 0.1.0 thick	2.11.3 (W) x 6.4.2 (H), 0.1.0 thick	2.11.0 (W) x 6.4.0 (H)
<b>Hardware:</b>	Older H-hinges with leather washers; later 5-knuckle butt hinges	H-L hinges with clinched wrought nails	H-hinges, with wrought nails
<b>Swing:</b>	In	In	In (into Room 2)
<b>Replacement:</b>	Reused, older door (note other hinge locations). Note small machine-cut nails.	No. Note use of small, machine-cut nails.	NA; doorway within medial wall, southern end. Note grey paint on frame.

Doors: *continued.*

	<b>Rm. 2, W (4)</b>	<b>Rm. 3, Closet (5)</b>	<b>Rm. 3, Stairs (6)</b>
<b>Type:</b>	Unknown, removed	Unknown, removed	Board and batten (2 chamfered battens, 3 beaded boards)
<b>Dimensions:</b>	2.11.0 (W) x 6.4.0 (H)	2.5.3 (W) x 5.10.0 (H)	2.9.3 (W) x 6.2.2 (H), 0.0.3 thick
<b>Hardware:</b>	H-hing ghosts; hinged on west side	Possible H-hinges on west side of frame	5-knuckle butt hinges with screws
<b>Swing:</b>	In (into Room 2)	Out (into Room 3)	Out (from stairs and into Room 3 passage)
<b>Replacement:</b>	At south end of west wall; doorway into Room 3	Door for closet beneath stairs	Hand planed; clinched nails on battens

	<b>Rm. 5, W (7)</b>	<b>Rm. 6, W (8)</b>
<b>Type:</b>	Board and batten (3 chamfered battens, 1 removed; 5 beaded boards)	Unknown, removed (as is door framing)
<b>Dimensions:</b>	2.7.2 (W) x 5.5.1 (H, at north, highest end)	Doorway at brick: 3.4.1 (W) x 6.1.1 (H)
<b>Hardware:</b>	H-hinges with wrought nails	Unknown, removed
<b>Swing:</b>	In (into Room 5)	Unknown
<b>Replacement:</b>	Hand planed; pentagonal-shaped door; had lock on east side	Door opening brickwork has been repaired

**Windows: 7**

	<b>Rm. 2, S (1)</b>	<b>Rm. 1, E (2)</b>	<b>Rm. 1, N (3)</b>
<b>Type:</b>	Single hung sash, 6/6	Single hung sash, 6/6	Single hung sash, 6/6
<b>Dimensions:</b>	2.10.0 (W) x 5.0.1 (H)	2.10.0 (W) x 5.0.1 (H)	2.10.0 (W) x 5.0.1 (H)
<b>Hardware:</b>	None	None	None
<b>Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:</b>	Dimensions inside window framing (same for other windows)		

	<b>Rm. 2, N (4)</b>	<b>Rm. 4, W (5)</b>	<b>Rm. 5, E (6)</b>
<b>Type:</b>	Single hung sash, 6/6	Single hung sash, 6/6	Single hung sash, 6/6
<b>Dimensions:</b>	2.10.0 (W) x 5.0.1 (H)	2.10.0 (W) x 5.1.1 (H)	2.9.2 (W) x 5.0.3 (H)
<b>Hardware:</b>	None	None	None

	<b>Rm. 6, N (7)</b>
<b>Type:</b>	Casement (removed, hinged at top); vertical bars
<b>Dimensions:</b>	2.9.0 (W) x 1.5.0 (H), dimensions inside frame
<b>Hardware:</b>	2 sets of 3 hand-made screws on window lintel
<b>Shuttered/ Slide/ Swing:</b>	Opening: 3.4.0 (W) x 1.9.0 (H)

## EXTERIOR

### Foundation:

**Continuous Masonry:** Brick  
**Thickness:** Approx. 1.1.0

**Shed/Porch:** No

### Roof:

**Roof Form:** Gable  
**Roof Covering:** Standing seam sheet metal (recent replacement)  
**Roof Framing:**  
**Exposed:** Yes  
**Form:** Common rafters (saddle notched and pegged)  
**Rafter Number:** Not fully exposed in Room 4; 9 pairs in Room 5  
**Rafter Dimensions:** 0.4.0 (H) x 0.2.3 (W)  
**Collar Ties:** Yes  
**Collar Dimensions:** 0.3.3 (H) x 0.2.0 (W)  
**Method of Joining:** Half lapped, spiked with 3 machine-cut nails  
**Height from Roof Peak:** 3.1.0 (to collar bottom)  
**Height to Floor:** 6.10.0 (from collar bottom)

**Building Height:** @ SW corner  
**Ground to Top of Brick wall:** 15.0.2  
**Ground to Apex:** 24.7.0 (center of west gable end wall)

### Walls:

**Masonry:** Brick  
**Bond:** Common – 5 course  
**Mortar Type:** Shell – Sand  
**Joint:** Original joints not readily visible  
**Repaired:** Yes, with Portland cement; note some replacement with machine-made brick in various locations, often near doors and windows

Remnants of whitewash on bricks.

### Chimney(s):

**Chimney (1):**  
**Material:** Brick  
**Location:** Interior/Center  
**Height:** Inaccessible

## INTERIOR

**Walls:** Brick with a plastered wooden partition wall forming the west wall of Room 2; plastered walls and ceiling in Room 4.

**Wall Finish:** Whitewash on brick walls; lathe and plaster on partition wall and knee walls/ceiling.

The ceiling joists in Rooms 1 and 2 are sash sawn and spaced on two-foot centers. The joists measure 0.3.0 wide x 0.7.0 high. The joists are notched over a ledge at the top of the north and south brick walls, and let into sockets in the outer portion of the façade walls. There are 10 ceiling joists in Room 1; there are 6 ceiling joists in Room 2.

**Fireplace (1):** Center, Kitchen (Room 1), west wall

**Fireplace Material:** Brick

**Fireplace Overall Dimensions:** 4.9.0 (E-W) x 8.0.0 (N-S), projects out from medial (west) wall

**Fireplace Opening Dimensions:** 5.1.0 (W) x 5.3.0 (H, at peak of arch) x 3.0.0 (D)

**Hearth Material:** Unknown, removed (replaced by modern concrete floor)

**Hearth Dimensions:** Unknown, removed

**Fireplace (2):** Center, Room 2, east wall

**Fireplace Material:** Brick

**Fireplace Overall Dimensions:** NA, flush with medial wall

**Fireplace Opening Dimensions:** 3.9.0 (W) x 3.10.0 (H) x 1.6.0 (D)

**Hearth Material:** Brick

**Hearth Dimensions:** 2.0.0 (E-W) x 7.3.0 (N-S)

**Fireplace (3):** Center, Room 4, east wall

**Fireplace Material:** Brick

**Fireplace Overall Dimensions:** NA, flush with partition wall; brickwork measures 6.5.0 (N-S)

**Fireplace Opening Dimensions:** 3.2.0 (W) x 2.11.0 (H) x 1.1.0 (D)

**Hearth Material:** Brick

**Hearth Dimensions:** 2.0.0 (E-W) x 5.3.0 (N-S)

**Stairs:** Yes, NW corner of Room 3

**Type:** Enclosed – Winder

**Stairwell Dimensions:** 10.0.3 (N-S) x 3.4.1 (E-W), footprint on 1<sup>st</sup> floor; Stairwell opening in garret: 3.4.0 (E-W) x 5.9.0 (N-S)

**Number of Treads:** 14 total (2 treads from floor, 2 winders, 10 treads up to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

**Stair Tread Dimensions:** 3.0.0 (L) x 0.8.1 (W) x 0.7.3 – 0.8.2 (H)



**Subfloor Pit:** No

**Floor:** Modern concrete floor in Room 1 (kitchen); dirt floor in cellar; wood floors in other rooms

**Floorboards Dimension:** Room 4: 0.5.2 – 0.7.0 (mostly 0.6.2), attached with machine-cut nails; Room 5: 0.7.0 – 0.11.0, some circular sawn.

**Dating:**

**Dendrochronology:** NA

**Other:** 1840s – ca. 1860, based on mature machine-cut nails and combination of hewn, sash sawn, and circular-sawn members and traditional framing methods

**Dating Evidence:**

**Saw Marks:** Hewn and sash sawn frame; riven lath; circular sawn boards for staircase and floorboards

**Nails:** Machine-headed cut; wrought nails for clenching

## Notes

### Exterior

A compass reading taken at the building's SW corner, looking towards the NW corner, produced a bearing of 356<sup>0</sup>.

### Interior

The window frames and sash are highly uniform as to construction and dimensions, indicating a later phase of replacement. The upper sash is braced into a fixed position, while the lower sash, at present, is loose and unsupported. Closer inspection of the window frame revealed regular nail holes for the former vertical rails on the jamb's inside faces that would have held the lower sash in place and allowed it to be raised.

*Room 1, Kitchen:* There is a 9-inch stepdown from the exterior door sill (Door 1) to the concrete floor. The chimney base is centered on the west wall, a distance of 4.1.0 (N-S) from the south wall, 4.0.0 (N-S) to the north wall. All four walls of this room are brick and have whitewashed surfaces.

*Room 2, Domestic quarter:* This room has three brick walls, while the western wall is of frame construction with lath and plaster. The partition wall measures 0.5.3 thick (E-W), and its studs measure 0.3.0 x 0.4.0. The plaster on the partition wall has a finer (smoother) white finish, which later received a coating of grey paint. The same grey paint was applied on top of the whitewash on the room's brick walls. The doorways in this room have similar beaded trim.

*Room 3, Stair passage:* This room has three brick walls, the eastern wall is of frame construction with riven lath, attached with small machine-cut nails, and plaster. Lath and plaster also was used to finish the enclosed stairwell and closet arrangement that occupies

much of the space, leaving a narrower passage between the stairs and the partition wall. A wider entry space exists at the southern third of the room, with doorway in the partition to the east and the exterior door to the west. As compared to the plaster finish in Room 2, the plaster on the partition wall and stair enclosure is rougher, revealing tool marks, and it did not receive a finer white/finish coat. The studs for the partition wall are hewn.

*Stairway:* The framing for the stairs is a combination of hewn studs within the stairwell (and for framing the closet beneath) and circular sawn lumber used for the stringers, skirt board, and several of the treads and risers. In the garret, the stairwell opening begins 1.7.2 from the northern knee wall. The trim for the closet doorway parallels that of the partition wall's doorframe. The door for the stairs is angled back to the west to accommodate the two steps that lead up to the stairwell entrance.

*Room 4, West room of Garret:* The knee wall measures about 3.0.0 high. The rough plaster finish on the knee walls and ceiling of this room matches that seen in the stair passage (Room 3) below. The lath is riven and attached with small machine-cut nails. The tongue-and-groove floorboards have gauged and undercut bottom surfaces.

The stairwell opening formerly had a railing (2 rails) that was tied into the floor joist and notched into a "stud" that was inserted into the northern knee wall. This stud is smaller than the regular studs of the knee wall and did not follow their consistent spacing. The railing stud protrudes through the floorboards, but its bottom surface is even with that of the floorboards.

The fireplace on the west wall is off-center with respect to the chimneystack mass. Its northern cheek measures 1.1.0 wide (N-S), while its southern cheek measure 2.3.0 (N-S). The partition wall around the stack is plastered, with small lathing strips attached to the wall studs to closely fit around the masonry and between the stack and the door at the southern end.

*Room 5, East room of Garret:* Starting from the east gable end wall, it is a distance of 13.9.0 to the east face of the chimneystack; 15.7.0 to the second tier of the chimneystack; and, 17.11.2 to the east face of the partition wall. As compared to Room 4, the chimneystack's mass projects out into this room, from the west partition wall, a distance of 4.1.0.

*Room 6, Cellar:* This room at present has a dirt floor. The walls and the exposed ceiling joists (10 total) are unfinished. The joists are sash sawn and measure 0.3.0 wide x 0.9.0 high, and are spaced at two-foot centers. The joists are set into sockets in the north and south walls. The undersides of the floorboards for Rooms 2 and 3 are gauged and undercut. The window frame on the north wall (Window 7) is original and both the framing and sill are highly weathered. The former casement sash has been removed.

## **Roof Framing**

The rafters visible in Room 4 of the garret are hewn and sash sawn. The roofing boards visible in this room and Room 5 to the east are circular sawn and appear to have a single generation of machine-cut nails protruding through, related to the roof's original wood shingle covering. Some of the earlier roofing boards were removed and replaced with modern plywood when the recent standing seam metal roof was installed.

In Room 5, where the roof framing is fully exposed, most of the rafters have carpenter's marks (Roman numerals) at the north end of the collars. The last rafter pair at the room's western end is split and rests against the upper portion of the chimneystack. Remnants of the former collar exist on each rafter (at the collar joint), indicating that the original collar was largely removed when, at a later point, the chimneystack was enlarged. The rafters in this room mostly measure 0.3.0 x 0.4.0 and are placed on centers from 2.9.0 to 2.10.0 apart.