

FORT HILL FARM, FOUR-ROOM CABIN
West of the Staunton (Roanoke) River
between Turkey Run and Caesar's Run
Clover Vicinity
Halifax County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-1288-D

HABS
VA
42-CLOV.V
2D-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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LOCATION: West of the Staunton (Roanoke) River between Turkey Run and Caesar's Run, Clover Vicinity, Halifax County, Virginia

SIGNIFICANCE: This building is a contributing element of Fort Hill Farm.

DESCRIPTION: This building is a one-story, four-room cabin, two bays square, framed with circular-sawn, dimensional lumber resting on brick piers slightly above grade. It is located about 400 feet southwest of the Fort Hill Mansion (HABS No. VA-1288-A) and is oriented to face north-northeast. The building is clapboarded and painted white with plain, green window and door surrounds. Each of the rooms, except the southwest, has its own entrance and at least one window. The southwest room has only one window, set in the south wall. A shed-roofed porch supported by four square posts covers the central three-quarters of the front (north) facade. The side-gabled roof is centered over the two front rooms and extends at the rear to cover the two smaller, rear rooms. The whole roof is covered with galvanized, corrugated seam roofing with a corbelled, brick chimney rising from the center of the rear (south) slope of the roof. Each of the four rooms has a corner fireplace with a plain mantel. A stove thimble has been inserted in the chimney breast above each mantel. The fireplaces are arranged so that they share the same chimney stack.

The interior walls, chimney breasts, and ceilings are finished with horizontal beaded boards, and the floors are tongue-in-groove, random-width boards. The windows are 6/6 sash set in plain surrounds. The door between the southeast and southwest rooms is of plank construction, but the others are four-panel doors of the same style and apparent vintage as those in the mansion, but of a slightly smaller width and with simpler moldings, all with wrought iron box-locks. Although the bluish paint on the walls of this cabin appears similar to the paint used in the south addition of the mansion, paint analysis indicates that the colors are in fact quite different.

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Floor joists are visible in the northwest and southwest rooms, and although the flooring is the same throughout the building, the framing is not. The joists in the northwest room are sycamore logs with dressed top surfaces and cut nails. The joists in the southwest room are circular-sawn, dimensional lumber with wire nails. This suggests two building episodes, with the south rooms, and possibly the chimney, being later additions.

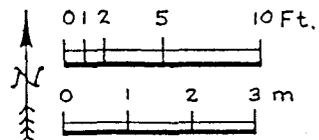
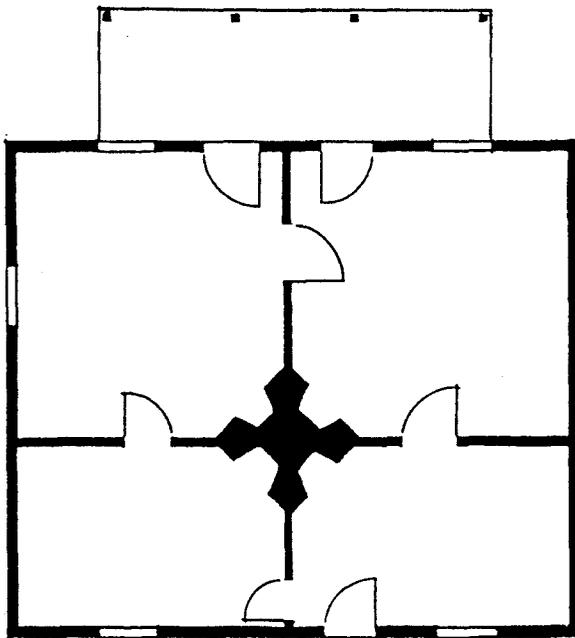
While this building shows no evidence of having had plumbing, there is an electric stove hook-up in the east wall of the southeast chamber.

HISTORY:

The one-story plan and the different methods of framing used in the construction of this cabin suggest that this building is older than the other cabins on the property. However, the interior finishing (wall and ceiling coverings) match those of the other cabins at Fort Hill, and this cabin may have been expanded and remodeled during the same period that the others appear to have been built.

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Typical Door

