

Roanoke, Town of  
(Cutright Log House)  
Highway 38 (Brownsville Road)  
Roanoke Vicinity  
Lewis County  
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-209-0

HABS  
WVA  
21-ROAN  
16-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ROANOKE, TOWN OF  
(Cutright Log House)

HABS No. WV-209-0

HABS  
WVA  
21-ROAN,  
16-

Location: Highway 38 (Brownsville Road), Lewis County, West Virginia.

Elevation: ca. 1035'

UTM References as given on the National Register of Historic Places Nomination form:

Zone: 17

Easting: 543880

Northing: 4314820

U.S.G.S. Map: Roanoke, West Virginia, 7.5' (1966 edition, photo revised 1979).

Present Owner: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Present Occupant: none.

Present Use: none.

Construction Date: late 19th century or early 20th century.

Informants: Donald Foster; Laura Cutright Foster.

Little is known about the log and frame dwelling/barn located along the West Fork River below (i.e., east of) the Cutright House (HABS No. WV-209-N). It is believed to date from the 1860s or 1870s, and Laura Cutright Foster and her husband, Randal, did live in it at one time (Laura Cutright Foster 1981, pers. comm.; Donald Foster 1981, pers. comm.). The log structure appears to have been built as a one room dwelling with a loft. Later, the single room was divided by a vertical board partition. The directly adjacent but detached frame dwelling also originally contained only a single room, but it was constructed with an attic. It seems clear that although probably built at different times, these two structures are so close to each other physically that they probably always were functionally interconnected as well. The frame structure may well have constituted what in terms of function was an "addition" to the story and a half log structure. It may have been built directly adjacent to the log structure as a way of increasing useful space while preserving the structural integrity of the log walls. For this presumed reason, the "two" structures are discussed below as though they constitute a "single" structure. The rooms are numbered consecutively in each portion of the "structure" although for the sake of simplicity and clarity doors and windows in each unit are discussed individually.

Architectural Information:

General Description: The Cutright log House consists of two gable-roofed structures which sit with nearly abutting corners and functionally constitute a single structure (Riedl, Ball and Cavender 1976: 19; Glassie 1968b); one component is a rectangular one and one-half story half dovetail-notched log structure; the other contributing component is a one and one-half story frame structure.

Exterior Description (Log component):

Overall Dimensions: 19' x 23'.

Foundation: The foundation consists of log sills that rest on corner piers consisting of one or two irregularly-sized blocks of sandstone.

Walls: The walls consist of 9"-15" logs which have been surfaced only on the interior and exterior faces and are laid together using half dovetail corner notching;

chinking between the logs consists of small pieces of riven boards and red clay; above the plates on the gable ends, the wall is constructed of clapboards attached to studs with cut nails. There is some indication on the south elevation that clapboarding may have been placed over the logs at one time and that horizontal board battens may have been used (at least on some portions of the log structure) over the interstices between the logs.

Framing: The framing consists of 2" x 7 3/4" circular sawed joists set on 2' centers.

Porch: none.

Chimney: On the north end of the exterior of the structure there is a single stack cut stone chimney; it measures 28" deep x 61" wide at its base; 19" above the ground, it diminishes to 23" in depth; at 8'2" above the ground, the base of the weatherings are reached; above the weatherings, the chimney is 23" deep x 46" wide; the cut stone retains chisel marks.

Roof: The roof is of the medium-pitch gable variety covered with raised seam sheet metal roofing; the plate logs are cantilevered ca 1' giving the eaves a "boxed cornice" appearance; the raking trim consists of open verges; pole rafters are used without a ridgeboard.

Interior Description (log component): Room 1 (numbers keyed to floor plans p. 18-19)

Function: a partial board partition divides the room into north and south sections. When the structure was used as a dwelling, the south section served as a bedroom, the north section as a living room and bedroom. Later, the entire room was used either as a stable or for storing hay/straw.

Dimensions: 17'8" x 21'6" (overall); 5'11" ceiling; south section: 7'6" x 17'8"; north section: 14' x 17'8".

Wallcovering (sequential order moving from the log wall outward): layers of burlap, newspaper and wallpaper cover white-washed horizontal 6" boards which are nailed directly to the logs and cover the interstices between the logs.

Floorcovering: plain boards covered with linoleum and felt paper.

Ceiling (sequential order moving from joists outward): layers of newspaper, burlap, wallpaper and paper feed bags nailed directly to joists.

Baseboard: 6" plain board; painted yellowish-brown.

Heating: fireplace.

Fireplace: sandstone; 22 1/2" wide x 36" high x 8" deep brick-lined firebox; cut sandstone lintel, 15" high x 60" long; no hearth.

Plumbing: none.

Lighting and Electricity: none.

TABLE  
Tract 323B (log and frame dwelling/barn): Door Details (log component)

Position	Opening	Style	Hinge	Latch/Lock	Interior Surround Trim	Exterior Surround Trim	Threshold
Room 1 to Exterior (west)	2'8 1/2" x 5'5"	door missing	2 7/8" butt	remnants of a rim lock and 2 hasps	5 1/2" plain boards	only a 1 1/2" plain board jamb on left	no
Room 1 to Exterior (east)	2'9" x 6'	7 boards (4 1/2"-5 1/4") and 2 battens; cut nails	3" butt	ornate cast butt thumb latch; wrought iron hook on interior	5 1/2" plain boards	only a 3 1/2" plain board header	no
Room 1 to inclined ramp to Room 3	2'7" x 6'9"	7 boards (4"-5 1/4") and 2 battens; wire nails	3" butt	--	--	--	no

TABLE  
 Tract 323B (log and frame dwelling/barn): Window Details (log component)

Position*	Style	Opening	Size of Pane	Number of Panes	Type of Sill	Interior Surround Trim	Exterior Surround Trim
WEST WALL First Floor	double hung (stiles missing)	28 3/8" x 46"	--	--	slip	--	only a 5 1/4" jamb on right
EAST WALL First Floor	missing; closed by 3 board (6 1/2"-1' 1/2") and 2 batten shutter	28 3/4" x 45 1/4"	--	--	slip	--	5 1/2" plain boards
SOUTH WALL First Floor	double hung (sashes missing)	27 1/2" x 46"	--	--	slip	2 1/4" plain board header; 2 1/4" plain board jamb on west side; 3" jamb on east side	--
Second Floor	missing	31" x 47"	--	--	--	--	--

\*For exact positions, refer to Figures

Stairway: previously, a steep stairway existed in the northeast corner of south section of room (Don Foster 1981, pers. comm.)

Interior Description (log component): Room 2

Function: storage.

Dimensions: 2'6" x 17'8"; 9' ceiling.

Wallcovering: white-washed logs; 6" plain boards above the eave line. Exposed 2" x 4" framing of gable covered with clapboards; unfinished.

Floorcovering: 6" plain boards; unfinished.

Ceiling: pole rafters hewed on two faces; unfinished.

Baseboard: none.

Heating: none.

Fireplace: none.

Plumbing: none.

Lighting and Electricity: none.

Exterior Description (frame component)

Overall Dimensions: 14' x 16.'

Foundation: The foundation consists of log sills that rest on corner piers composed of one or two irregularly-sized blocks of sandstone.

Walls: The walls consist of 4 1/2" clapboards attached to studs with wire nails; corner boards on north and south walls; unpainted.

Framing: light timber frame; 2" x 4" studs set on 1'11" centers.

Porch: remnants of a porch are found on south wall opposite doorway.

Chimney: opening for stove pipe through roof near northwest corner of building.

Roof: The roof is a medium-pitch gable variety covered with raised seam sheet metal roofing; 2" x 4" rafters are set on a ridgeboard; eaves trim consists of open verges; raking trim consists of a frieze board.

Interior Description (frame component): Room 3

Function: kitchen.

Dimensions: 13'4" x 15'3"; 7'8 1/2" ceiling.

Wallcovering: numerous layers of faded wallpaper over 4" horizontal tongue and groove boards.

Floorcovering: plain boards; unfinished.

Ceiling: 4" plain boards; unfinished.

Baseboard: 5 1/4" plain board; unfinished.

Heating: stove pipe opening through ceiling near northwest corner of room.

Fireplace: none.

Plumbing: none.

Lighting and Electricity: central ceiling fixture.

Other: loft area above room with a 17" x 2' access opening in the ceiling in the southwest corner of the room; no ladder or stairway currently exists.

Interior Description (frame component): Room 4

Function: storage.

Dimensions: 13'4" x 15'3"; 10' ceiling.

Wallcovering: 4" tongue and groove horizontal boards.

Floorcovering: 4"-8" plain boards; unfinished.

TABLE  
Tract 323B (log and frame dwelling/barn): Door Details (frame component)

Position	Opening	Style	Hinge	Latch/Lock	Interior Surround Trim	Exterior Surround Trim	Threshold
Room 3 to inclined ramp to Room 1	2'6" x 6'4"	missing	—	—	only a 1/4" plain board jamb on right	—	—
Room 3 to Exterior	2'9" x 6'3"	4 board (7"-9 3/4") and 2 battens; wire nails	upper, 3 1/2" pin butt; lower, 3" butt	automobile door handle; previously a 4 1/8" x 3 1/8" rim lock	5" ornate jamb on left; 4" plain board header	3" plain board jamb on left	—

TABLE  
Tract 323B (log and frame dwelling/barn): Window Details (frame component)

Position*	Style	Opening	Size of Pane	Number of Panes	Type of Sill	Interior Surround Trim	Exterior Surround Trim
WEST WALL First Floor	single sash (glass and stiles missing)	27 1/2" x 23"	--	--	slip	6" plain board jamb on left	6" plain board jamb
NORTH WALL First Floor	double hung (sash missing)	32" x 53 1/2"	--	--	slip	3" plain boards	--
SOUTH WALL First Floor	missing	29 3/4" x 52 1/2"	--	--	slip	3" plain board jamb on right; 3" plain board header	--
EAST WALL Second Floor	missing	24" x 33"	--	--	slip	--	--

\*For exact positions, refer to Figures

**Ceiling:** exposed rafters and underside of roof boards.  
**Baseboard:** none.  
**Heating:** none.  
**Fireplace:** none.  
**Plumbing:** none.  
**Lighting and Electricity:** none.

Site:

General Setting and Orientation : The Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn is situated on a terrace immediately adjacent to the West Fork River on the east side of the Brownsville Road connecting Roanoke to Brownsville, West Virginia. This road is also known as West Virginia County Route 38, and the site is ca. 4-5 miles south of Brownsville, West Virginia. Previously, the road extended along the river side (i.e., east) of the structure (Don Foster 1981, pers. comm.) so that what now appears to be the "front" of the building (i.e., the west elevation) was originally the "back."

Historic Landscape Design: The area around the structure is heavily overgrown with grasses, weeds and tertiary growth forest; there have been no occupants for as many as 15 years prior to 1981.

Outbuildings: none.

For project information and bibliography, see ROANOKE HABS No. WV-209.  
For other structures in the Roanoke area, see HABS No.s WV-209-A -S.

The report from which this HABS documentation was prepared, along with field notes and over 90 hours of interview tapes, will be archived at the University of West Virginia, Morgantown, West Virginia.



Perspective control photograph of the west elevation of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn in 1981. Before West Virginia County Route 38 was relocated such that it paralleled this elevation, this was probably the "rear" of the structure



Close-up of doorway in west elevation of log component of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn in 1981. Note the mortise to receive the loft floor joists.



Perspective control photograph of the west and north elevations of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn in 1981. Note the sandstone chimney.



Close-up of west side of the sandstone chimney attached to the north elevation of the log component of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn in 1981. Note also the half dovetail corner notching.



Close-up of north side of sandstone chimney attached to the north elevation of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn in 1981.



Perspective control photograph of the north elevation of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn in 1981.



Close-up of east elevation of the frame component of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn in 1981. The proximity of the West Fork River as well as dense vegetative growth prohibited the taking of a perspective control photograph of the east elevation of the structure.



Close-up of the east elevation of the log component of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn in 1981. West Virginia County Route 38 once paralleled this elevation which therefore was probably the original "front" of the structure.



Perspective control photograph of the east elevation of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn in 1981.



Close-up of the abutment of the frame and log components of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn in 1981.



Perspective control photograph of the south elevation of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn in 1981. Note the dense vegetation.



Perspective control photograph of the south and west elevations of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn in 1981. Directly in front of the door in this elevation, a small portion of West Virginia County Route 38 can be seen.



Close-up of the southwest corner of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn in 1981. Note remnants of clapboards over the logs on the south elevation as well as the half dovetail corner notching. The cantilevered log plates also can be seen in this photograph.



Close-up of half dovetail corner notching at the southwest corner of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn in 1981.



Interior of north wall in the log component of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn in 1981. Note doorway to the frame component of the structure at right  
The extreme degradation of the building's interior resulting from its use as a barn, vandalism and general neglect is clearly evident.



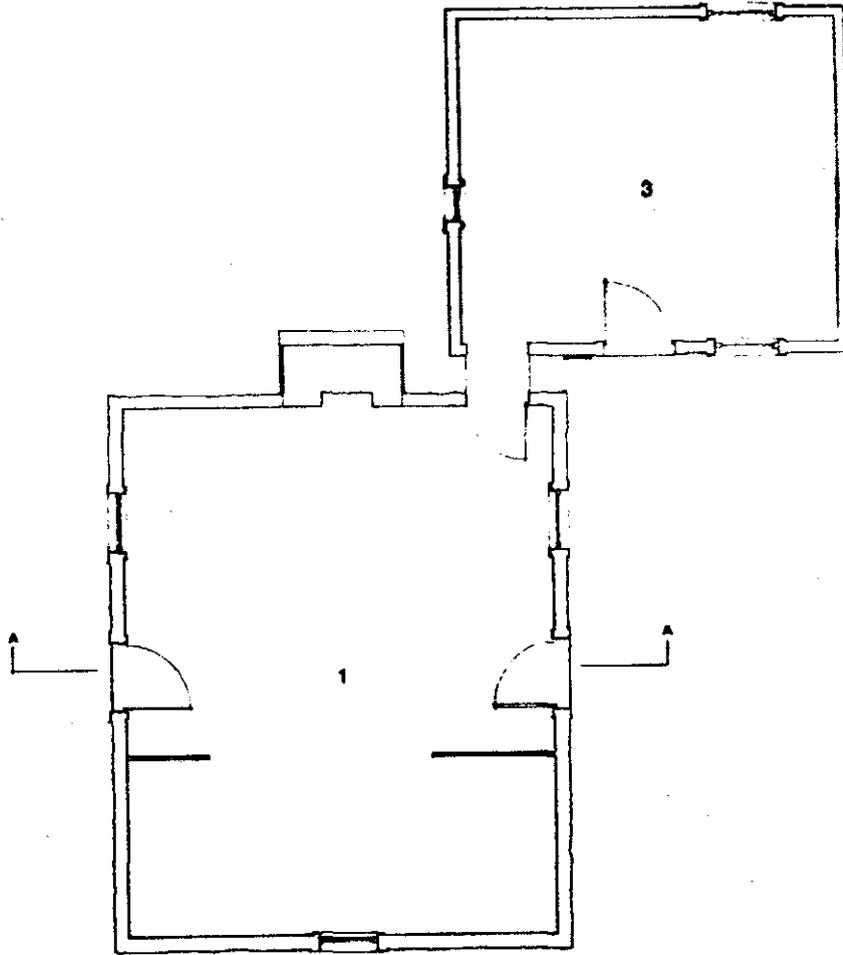
Close-up of fireplace in north wall of the log component of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn in 1981. Note tooled sandstone mantle.



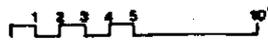
Interior of northeast corner of the log component of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn in 1981. The doorway leading to the frame component of the structure is visible at left. The exterior doorway in the east elevation can partially be seen at right. Note also roof rafters visible due to partial removal of loft floor.



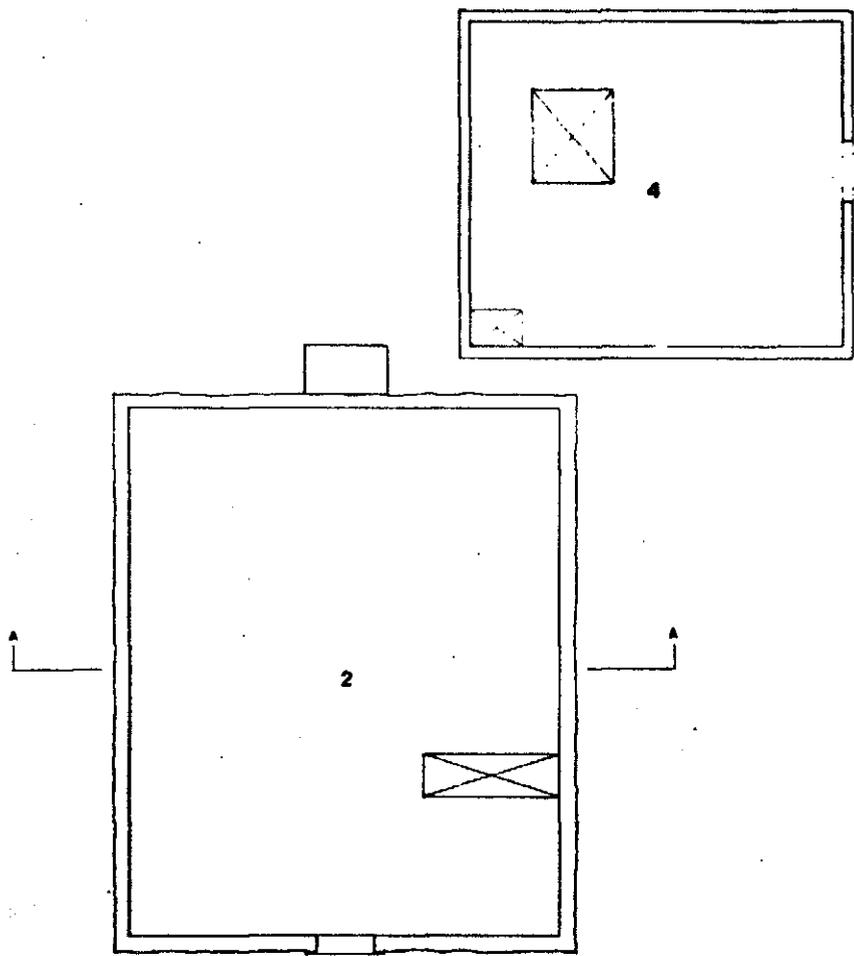
Close-up of interior of board and batten door in east elevation of log component of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn in 1981.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



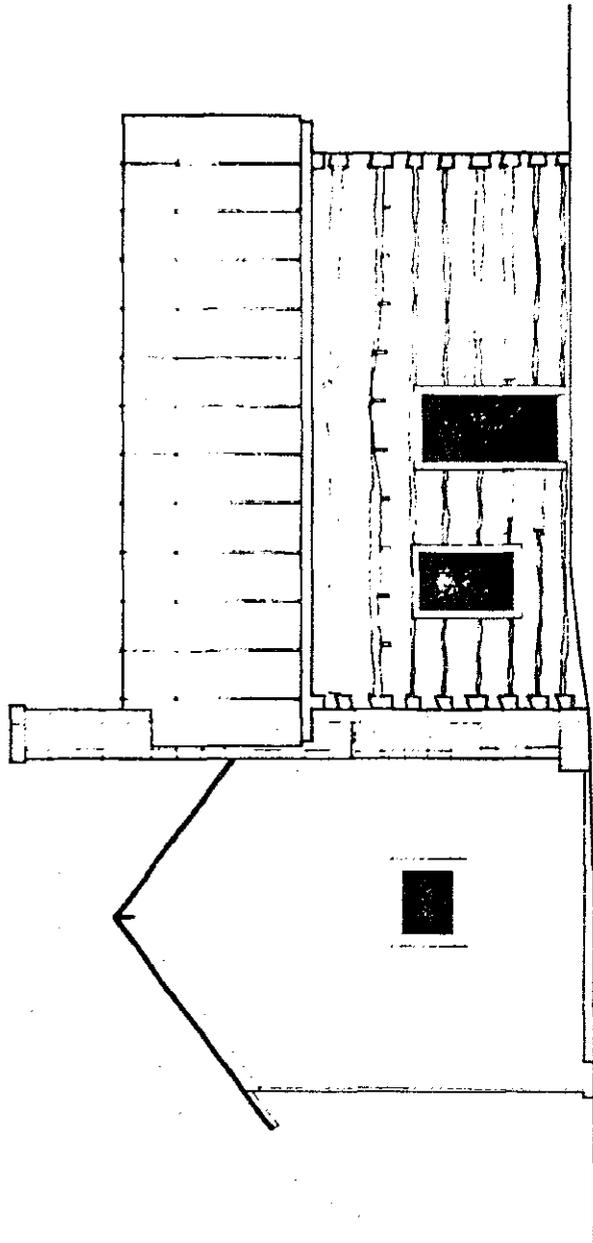
First floor plan of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn.



SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
1 2 3 4 5 10'



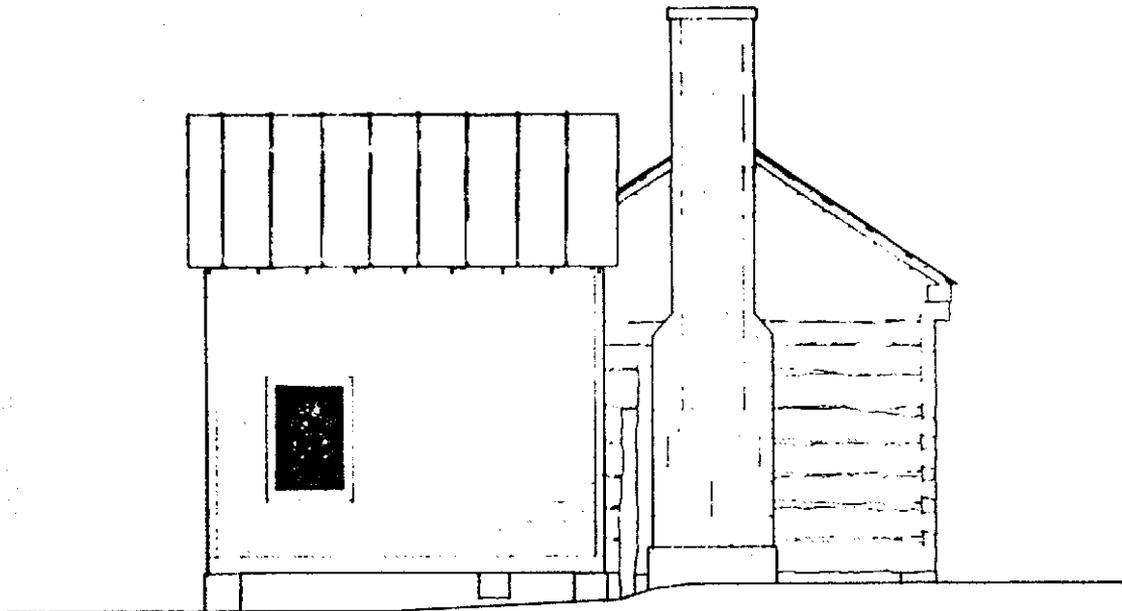
Second floor plan of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn.



WEST ELEVATION



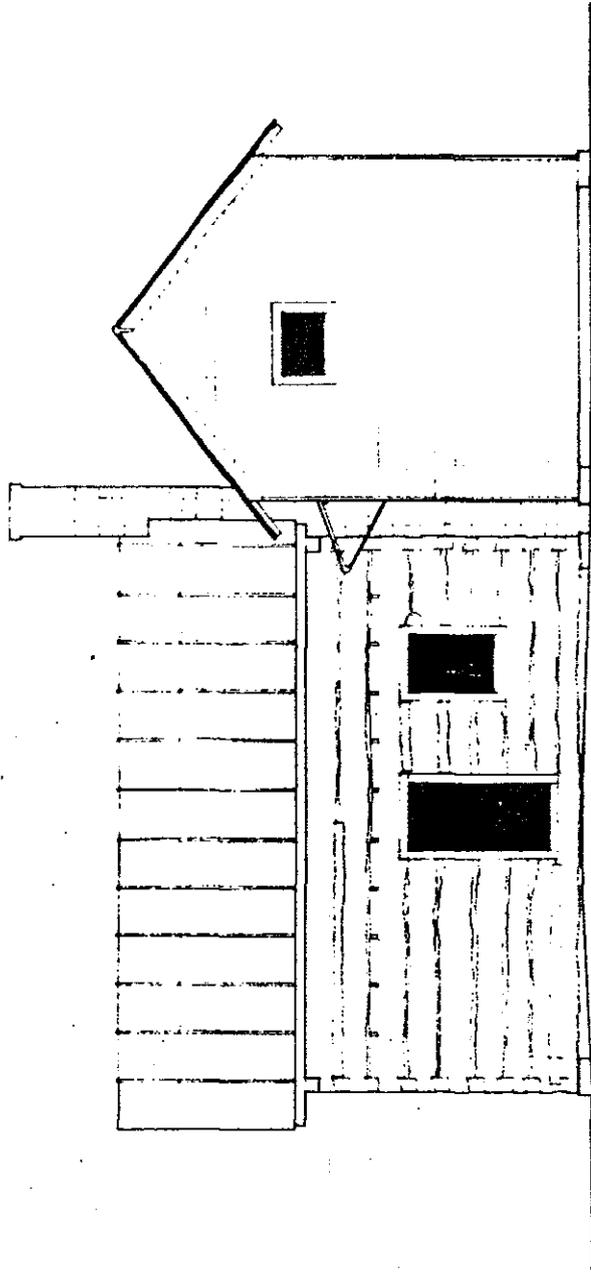
West elevation of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn.



**NORTH ELEVATION**



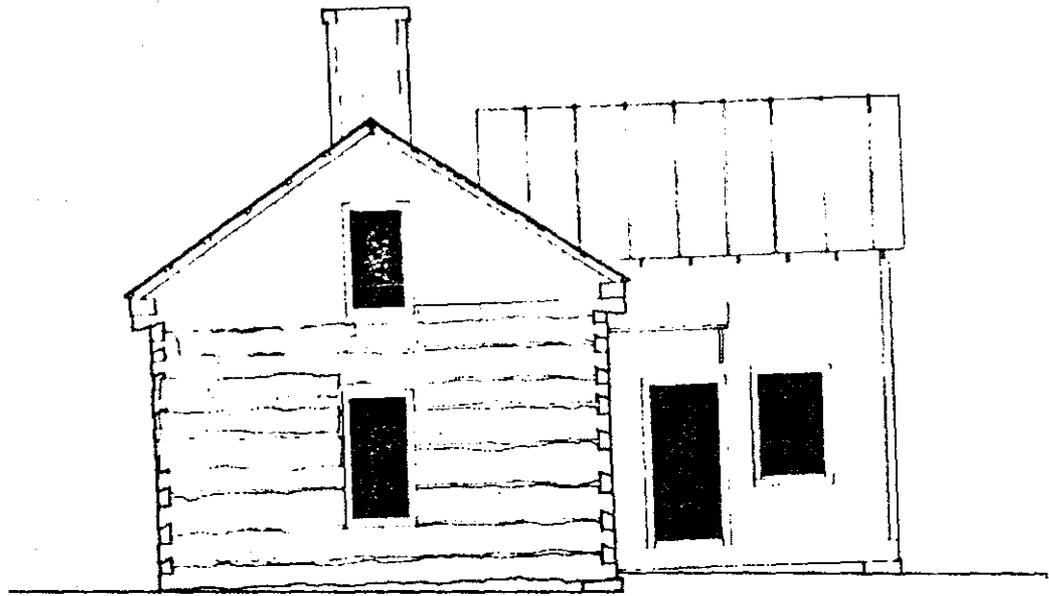
North elevation of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn.



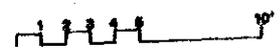
EAST ELEVATION



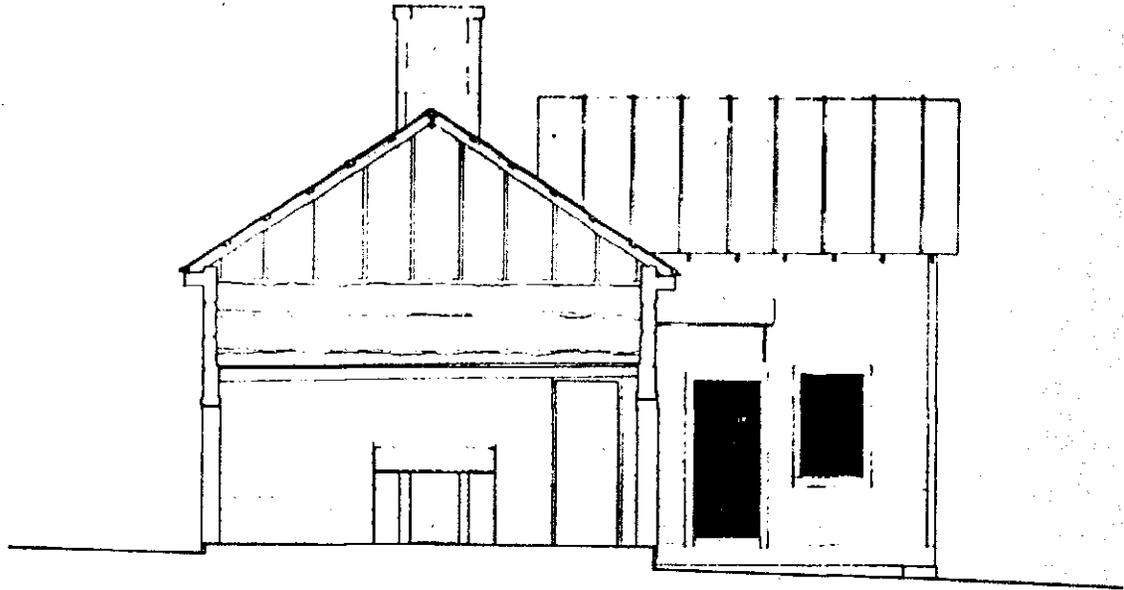
East elevation of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn. The window in the log portion of the structure is covered by a wooden shutter nailed in place. The shutter is not shown in the elevation drawing.



SOUTH ELEVATION



South elevation of the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn.



SECTION A-A



Longitudinal section (A-A) through the Cutright log and frame dwelling/barn.