

ACCOKEEK FARM, HOUSE  
175 Big Spring Lane  
Stafford  
Stafford County  
Virginia

HABS VA-1496  
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS  
FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
ACCOKEEK FARM, HOUSE**

**HABS No. VA-1496**

- Location:** The Accokeek Farm House is located at 175 Big Spring Lane in Stafford, Virginia, approximately one mile southeast of the I-95 corridor and two miles northwest of the Stafford County Regional Airport.
- Coordinates:** Latitude: 38.399518 Longitude: -77.418665
- The coordinates were obtained using NAD1983 (assumed) and there is no restriction on the release of the locational data to the public.
- Significance:** The Accokeek Farm House attributes its significance to its unique design and pattern of development. Comprised of two log structures linked together by a center frame structure, the house is unusual locally in its form. Paired with its isolated location in a wooded clearing, which helps to maintain the original setting, the Accokeek Farm House is an exceptional example of mid nineteenth- century vernacular construction.
- Description:** The building is two-stories in height, one pen deep, and three bays across. Both form and plan are associated with the dogtrot house type found throughout Virginia. The east and west pens are of log construction and are connected by the frame enclosed dogtrot. The building is clad with lapped, horizontal wood siding and a cut stone veneer, and sits atop a continuous stone and poured concrete foundation. The second story of the building's central mass is unique and features a large shed dormer. A rear wood framed kitchen addition is attached to the first pen, creating a rear ell of this portion of the building. The structure is flanked on both the north and south ends by exterior stone and brick end chimneys. An interior chimney is situated in the enclosed dogtrot, on the east side of the west pen. Two small sheds, one utilized for storage and one which descends down into a cellar space, abut the south end of the structure. Both sheds feature exterior entrances.
- Windows:** The typical windows are six-over-six, double-hung, wood windows, the exception being the modern windows on the rear kitchen addition which are one-over-one, double-hung, wood windows. Windows on the primary facade are flanked by fixed, green louvered shutters. While featuring exterior storm windows, most of the windows frames appear to be original to the structure.
- Doorway/  
doors:** The primary entrance is located on the building's primary facade. While two doorways exist on this side of the structure, the main pathway of entry

is directed toward the central doorway, which is found in the center of the enclosed dogtrot. While initially intended as entrance to the third pen when it was a singular log structure, the door found in the third pen now serves as a secondary entrance. This door is original and displays nineteenth-century hardware, still in working order. The primary entrance in turn features a paneled wood door with a fixed rectangular transom above. The exterior of the entryway features a modern secondary screen door made of plexi-glass and metal. A large porch frames the primary facade, encompassing only the second and third pens.

**Porch:** The porch is simple in design and construction, made of wood with no great ornamentation and sits on a cinderblock foundation. Supported by six posts approximately six inches in diameter, the porch features a simple railing with square spindles, and grey colored wood floorboards. Two cut stone steps are located near the center of the porch leading to the main entrance. Three smaller wood stairs are attached to the southern end of the porch near the two exterior sheds.

**Roof:** All three sections of the structure are side gabled in design and feature red colored, standing seam metal roofs. Due to the placement of the house on a hill, the structure is stepped in its design, the roof of the first pen higher than the second, and the second higher than the third.

**Dimensions:** 63'-1" x 40'-6"

**Interior Plan/**

**Significant Features:** The original log walls of the first and third pens of the building can be seen exposed on the interior, this being the case on all three walls of the third pen, and the south wall of the first pen. Tongue and groove wood floor boards original to the second and third pens of the structure have been maintained and can be dated based on nail joinery. Original window glass dating to the mid nineteenth century can be found in multiple panes in the rear facing window on the second floor, of the second pen of the structure. Due to its vernacular nature, the interior of the structure is plain without any elaborate ornamentation.

**Structural Systems/**

**Framing:** Load bearing walls are log for the first story of the first and third pens, and wood frame for the second pen in addition to the second story of the first pen.

**Outbuildings/**

**Features:** The property includes six additional structures. Most notably of these is a rare, surviving crib barn dating to the mid to late nineteenth century which

was recently reroofed with metal sheathing. The rest of the structures feature construction methods dating them to the twentieth century and include three storage sheds, a small well, and a two-story horse barn. A small spring is located just south of the horse barn. A dirt road way leads from the house, down the hill to each of the structures. The property itself is located down a gravel road, approximately one half of one mile from the main road.

**History Notes:**

Due to its agricultural nature, little written documentation exists with regard to the construction/evolution of the Accokeek Farm House. The majority of what is presently known about the structure's history is taken from oral accounts and material interpretation. Based upon evidence provided by materials and construction methods, the Accokeek Farm House underwent a unique evolutionary process. The two log structures comprising of the present day first and third pens were constructed first as independent log buildings. This is affirmed by the difference in construction materials found in the second pen which serves as a connector between the two. Material evidence and oral history reveal that the southernmost window on the first floor of the first pen was one a door, further supporting the existence of two separate log structures. The presence of hand hewn logs and the use of nineteenth century joinery techniques are able to provide a construction period of the mid nineteenth century for the first and third pens. Door hardware found within the enclosed dogtrot portion of the building dates to the late nineteenth century. This hardware, in addition to the presence of wire cut nails, supports a construction date of the late nineteenth century for the enclosed dogtrot linking the two log structures.

**Historian:**

Sarah Sanders, 2013.

**Project Information:**

Documentation was completed as part of an independent study in Advanced Documentation Methods at the University of Mary Washington in the spring of 2013. The project was supervised by faculty advisor Michael Spencer, Assistant Professor of Historic Preservation at the University of Mary Washington. The complete project was then submitted for consideration to the National Park Service's 2013 Annual Leicester B. Holland Prize. The second floor of the structure was unavailable for documentation per request of the current property owner.