

Oatlands Historic District
Servants' Quarters
U. S. Rt. 15
Leesburg vicinity
 Loudoun County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-949-E

HABS
VA,
54-LEESB.V
4E-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

OATLANDS HISTORIC DISTRICT, SERVANTS' QUARTERS HABS No. VA-949-E

Location: U.S. Route 15, Leesburg vicinity, Loudoun County, Virginia

Present Owner: The National Trust for Historic Preservation
1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Present Use: Storage for maintenance materials and supplies

Significance: This is a major outbuilding of the main house, to which it is visually related. It also serves as the northern enclosure at the top of the terraced gardens.

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This structure, along with the studio, is an important compositional element in its relationship to the main house at Oatlands and to the formal gardens to the east. The western block of the structure is extended eastward to form the north boundary of the gardens. The condition is fair.
2. Overall dimensions: 19' x 83'-5". The western block is two stories high. The east wings are all one-story high, and step down the sloping grade.
3. Layout, shape: An elongated "T", beginning with the square mass on the west with telescoping stepped wings extending eastward as the stem.
4. Foundations: Rubble stone with a brick watertable exposed at the western block.
5. Wall construction, finish and color: Exposed red brick walls with common bond. Header courses occur every fourth course. The western block is panelled in a manner similar to the studio, to which it is visually related.
6. Structural system, framing: Brick bearing walls, in combination with interior wood framing.
7. Porches, stoops, bulkheads: On the north wall of the center section are two stone-and-brick stoops. On the south wall, there is also a stone stoop at the extreme east end on the south wall, and also one at the arched opening.

8. Chimneys: A high brick chimney terminates the gable wall in the first wing east of the western block. A lower second chimney is located on the ridge of the last wing on the east.
9. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: On the south wall there is a wooden picket gate at the arched opening and a vertical-board door at the extreme east end. In the open passageway through the arched opening, two four-panelled wooden doors are located in the frame partition to the east. There are three wooden doors with recessed panels on the north wall. The brick reveals of these openings are faced with flat boards. At the extreme east end of the north wall, down the slope, is a vertical board door leading to the basement. All openings have brick lintels which are typical of original openings in all the outbuildings at Oatlands. There is a trace of a former doorway, 3'-11" x 6'-3", in the north wall of the corner pilaster of the western block.
 - b. Windows and shutters: On the west wall of the western block are two small in-swinging casements with 1/1 lights, 10" x 11-1/2". At the second floor of both the north and south walls, there is a double-hung window with 6/6 lights, 8" x 10". These windows interrupt the string course at that level. On the first floor, south wall, is a similar double-hung window and a low in-swinging casement with a single 10" x 18" light. In the wings, the typical windows are double-hung with 6/6 lights, 8" x 10". There are two exceptions on the south wall, which are wider with 6/6 lights, 11" x 10". The brick reveals are trimmed with white boards and the lintels are flat brick arches.
 - c. Roof: Shape, covering: There is a hipped, shingled roof over the western block and shingled, gabled roofs over each of the projecting wings as they step down the slope.
 - d. Cornice, eaves: The cornice of the western block consists of flat wood with a simple crown moulding. In the projecting wings, the cornice is formed by three corbeled brick courses. The raking cornice of the gable ends is flat boards.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Except for the two-story unit on the west, the remaining units are one-story, which telescope in line down the slope eastward. Beginning at the west, Room 101 is a square room with an entrance door on the north wall. There is an enclosed stairway at the southeast corner leading to the second floor. On

the second floor there is a completely sealed space in the northeast corner. This space is tin-lined, and was presumably a water storage tank, supplied by a pipe cutting into the exterior cornice and an existing pipe protruding through the brick wall at that level. On the first floor, Room 102 is a smaller room connecting on the east to Room 101, through thick masonry walls. The next unit contains Rooms 103 and 104, which have a connecting door between them. Each has an exterior door on the north wall. The open passageway separates these rooms from the easternmost unit. It appears that this unit also consisted originally of two rooms, Rooms 105 and 106, with a connecting doorway. Room 105 has been subdivided with a wood partition to form the existing bath, Room 105A, in the southwest corner. Exterior doors from the passage lead to rooms 105 and 105A. An exterior door on the south wall of Room 106 leads to the garden.

2. Stairways: A stair leads from Room 101 to Room 201.
3. Flooring: All floors are pine, except for the concrete floor in the passage.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: With the exception of the east wall of the passage and the bathroom partitions, which are beaded vertical wood, all wall surfaces and ceilings are smooth plaster, painted white. The west wall of the passage is white-washed brick.
5. Doorways and doors: Interior doors are wood with recessed panels. Door trim and baseboards are moulded with simple profiles in Rooms 101, 102, 103, 104 and 201. All other trim at openings is flat.
6. Decorative features, trim, etc.: The fireplace in Room 103 is the only decorative feature of note. The opening is faced with stuccoed brick in poor repair. It is trimmed with wood membering identical to the door and window trim (including bullseye corner blocks), that is found in the drawing room of the main house. The independent shelf is supported by a series of classical mouldings. The fireplace is flanked by built-in-shelving.
7. Hardware: None.
8. Mechanical equipment: Heating, Lighting and Plumbing: In addition to the fireplace, there are flues in the chimneys with openings for stoves. Electricity and plumbing have been installed.

PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken through joint efforts and financing between HABS and the National Trust. Of particular value was the advice and cooperation of E. Blaine Cliver, Historical Architect, and Thomas M. Slade, Architectural Historian, both of the National Trust. This report was prepared by Woodrow W. Wilkins, A.I.A., Supervisory Architect, HABS Oatlands project, during the summer of 1973.

Note: A measured drawing of this building is located on the same sheet as that for VA-949 D and is filed under the number VA-949.