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THREE COMMON OUTBUILDINGS OF THE LATE EIGHTEENTH
TO THE
MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY

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Three Common Outbuildings of the Late Eighteenth to the Mid-Nineteenth Century

In the days of the colonial South the architecture and layout of the buildings was somewhat different than present day. On many mansions and farms the house was set apart from various outbuildings which today, because of modern technology, are obsolete or encompassed into a single unit. Of these many outbuildings there are three which I feel are particularly relevant to the Liberty Hall excavation: the smokehouse, the dairy or milkhouse, and the necessary or outhouse. The foundations and floors which have been uncovered in all the operations leave many doubts as to what their previous functions were. Although we know there were outbuildings at the Liberty Hall site, the positive location of these structures is vague as well as the exact dimensions.

The smokehouse was a structure that was used during the period that is now obsolete. Its prime function was the smoking of meats for preservation purposes because refrigeration had not become the mode of preserving foods as ^{of} the mid-nineteenth century. To achieve this function a smokehouse had to be correctly constructed so as to keep the smoke from escaping at too fast a rate. In the late eighteenth, early nineteenth century, smokehouses were built with heavy wooden planks and brick. The wood smokehouses were the earlier models needing less ventilation holes than a brick smokehouse because of its greater porosity. This wood smokehouse is demonstrated at Burley Manor on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland.

The brick smokehouse started to take over architecturally in the early nineteenth century. The reason for this phenomenon is

now being uncovered which will hopefully determine the dimensions of the building.

In operation thirty-one an eleven foot five inch by eleven foot five inch foundation of stone and brick has been excavated. There has been good period ceramic found both inside and outside the ^ufoundation along with a six inch diameter circle of dark soil in which charcoal and charcoal bricks were turned up, indicating some type of firing activity. The missing link to these discoveries, though, is the finding of any related artefacts such as tools that might have been used in the area like knives or large amounts of metal or wood. There has been some finished wood in operation thirty-one but only in small quantities (handles, etc.). Also a whetstone (used to sharpen knives) was uncovered, but this is not an exclusive find to the area. The artefacts will make the difference on what the areas will be determined as being, but, until then, the possibility of either of the structures being a smokehouse is still evident.

Another possibility that the outbuilding foundation could be is a milkhouse or dairy. Most plantations, mansions, or large aced households were practically self-supporting units similar to medieval warlords' castles and grounds. The dairy house was a wooden shingled building with a brick or stone floor and windows for ventilation. The main function of a milkhouse is to keep the milk ^{cool} so it would not spoil. Therefore the designs of the cottages were adapted for this purpose. The dairy house at Rigby's Lott,⁷ in addition to the normal cooling factors, had cold water running in the house by way of wooden troughs. In accordance to the cooling problem these houses were also erected in the shade by way of an over-

architecture is important. The first is identified as structure sixty-three. It is small, six foot six inches by seven foot four inches, but made of a totally brick foundation, some of it fallen off around the area. The ~~foundation~~ ^{is} eighteen inches wide (on the side that is still intact) with the average size of the brick being eighteen and a half inches by four and a quarter inches by two and a quarter inches. This structure has the possibility of being any of the three outbuildings: smokehouse, dairy house, or necessary house. The other structure is known as structure 113. It also has the possibility of being one of the three outbuildings. Its measurements are eleven feet north to south with the south wall measuring twelve feet five inches and the north wall fourteen feet four inches. This foundation at best was two feet four inches wide of brick, but this is uncertain because of a large amount of disturbance. Most of the bricks were eight ^{feet} and five eights inches by four feet and one eighth inches by two feet and one half inches laid on the ground without mortar preparation. The artifacts date their structure back to the late seventeenth century.

At Liberty Hall the foundations that have been turned up indicate the presence of outbuildings, although the history is vague in terms of how many outbuildings were built and what size they were. What we do know is that these three types of outbuildings were popular for large houses of the period. With the ambiguity of the history of the Hall, there is no telling how many buildings were not described in the Trustees' minutes.

FIGURE I: FURLEY HALL SMOKEHOUSE (16 FT. SQ.)

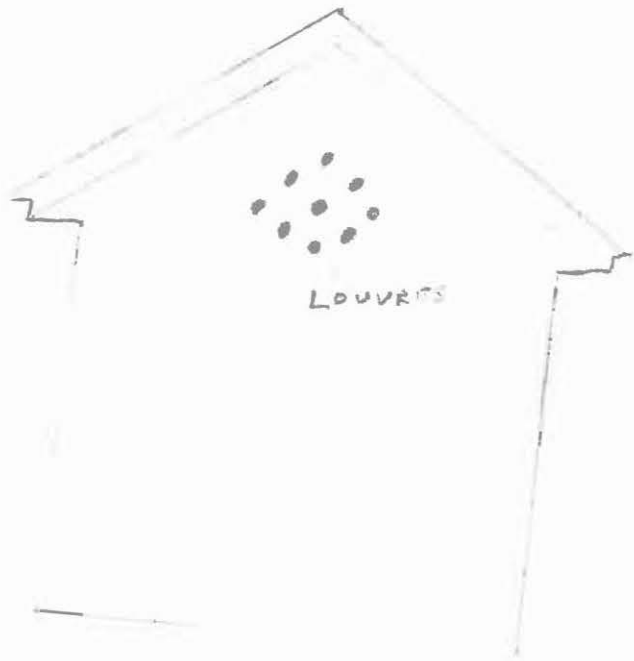
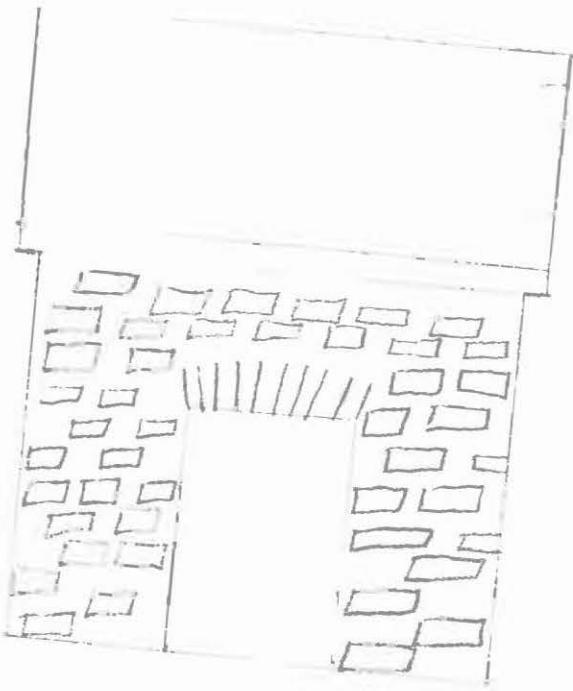
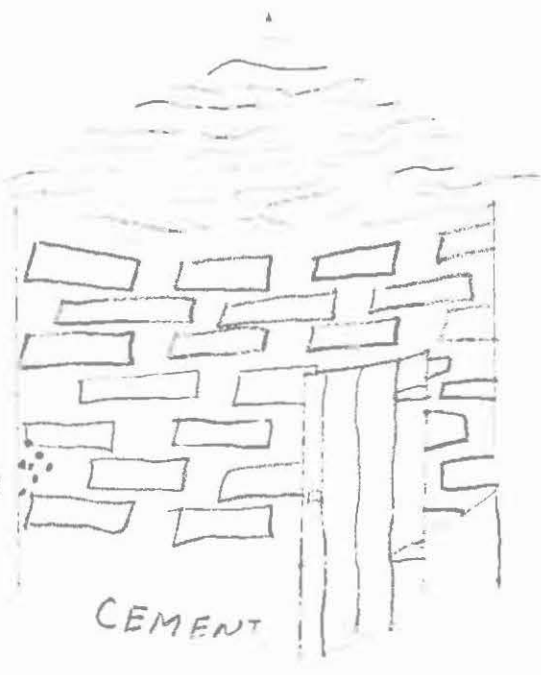


FIGURE II: CROOKED PLANTATION SMOKEHOUSE



GURU III: LATE GEORGIAN SMITHFIELD TO KENTUCKY,



GURU IV: KENTUCKY ATTACHED SMITHFIELD

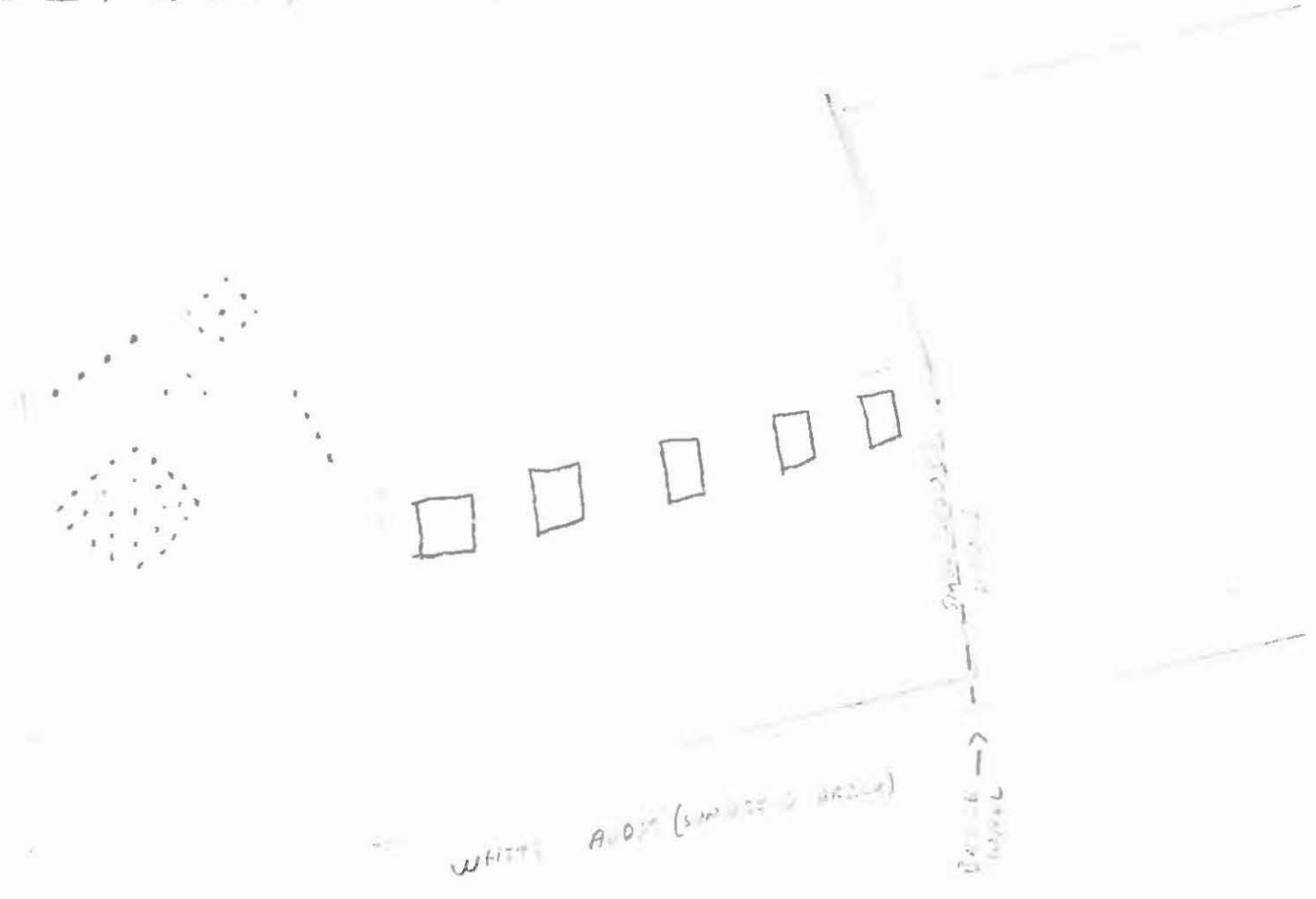


FIGURE IV: SAN DOMINGO DATING 1600-2 (APPROX 2'2" x 2'2")
ROOF (APPROX 10' x 10')

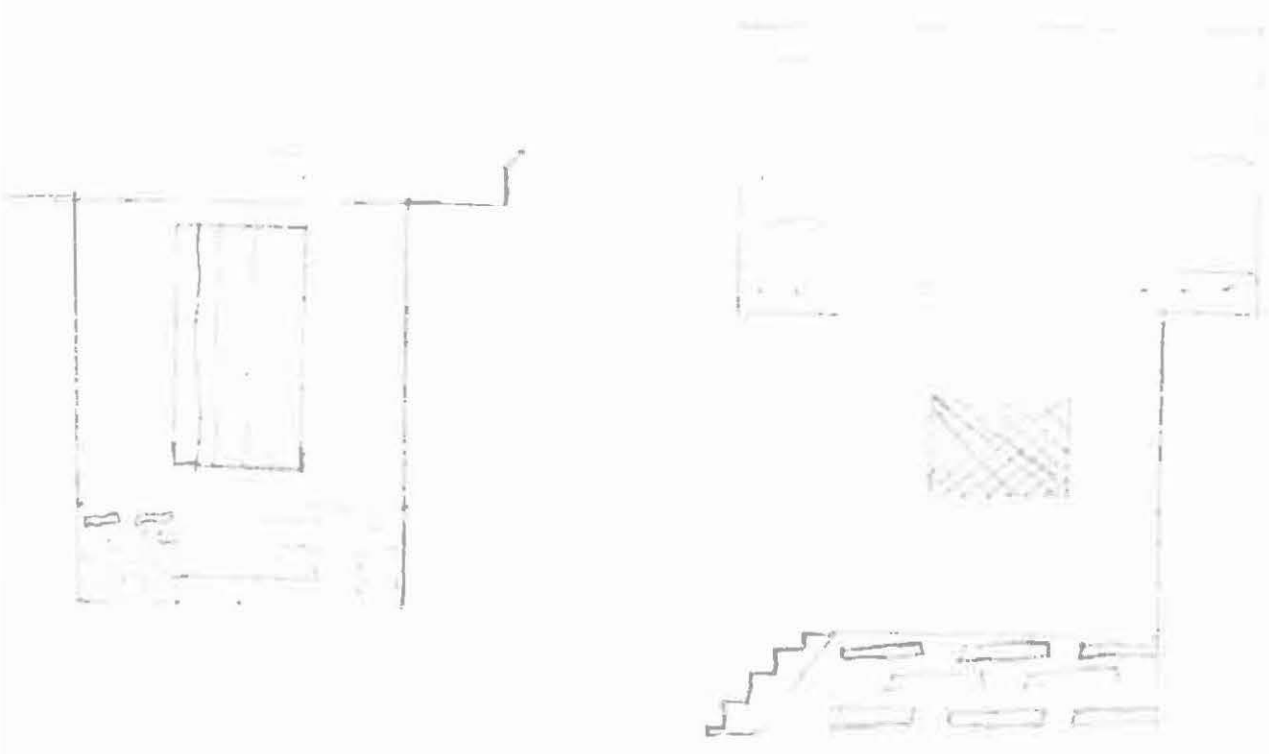


FIGURE VI: PENNY HALL DATING

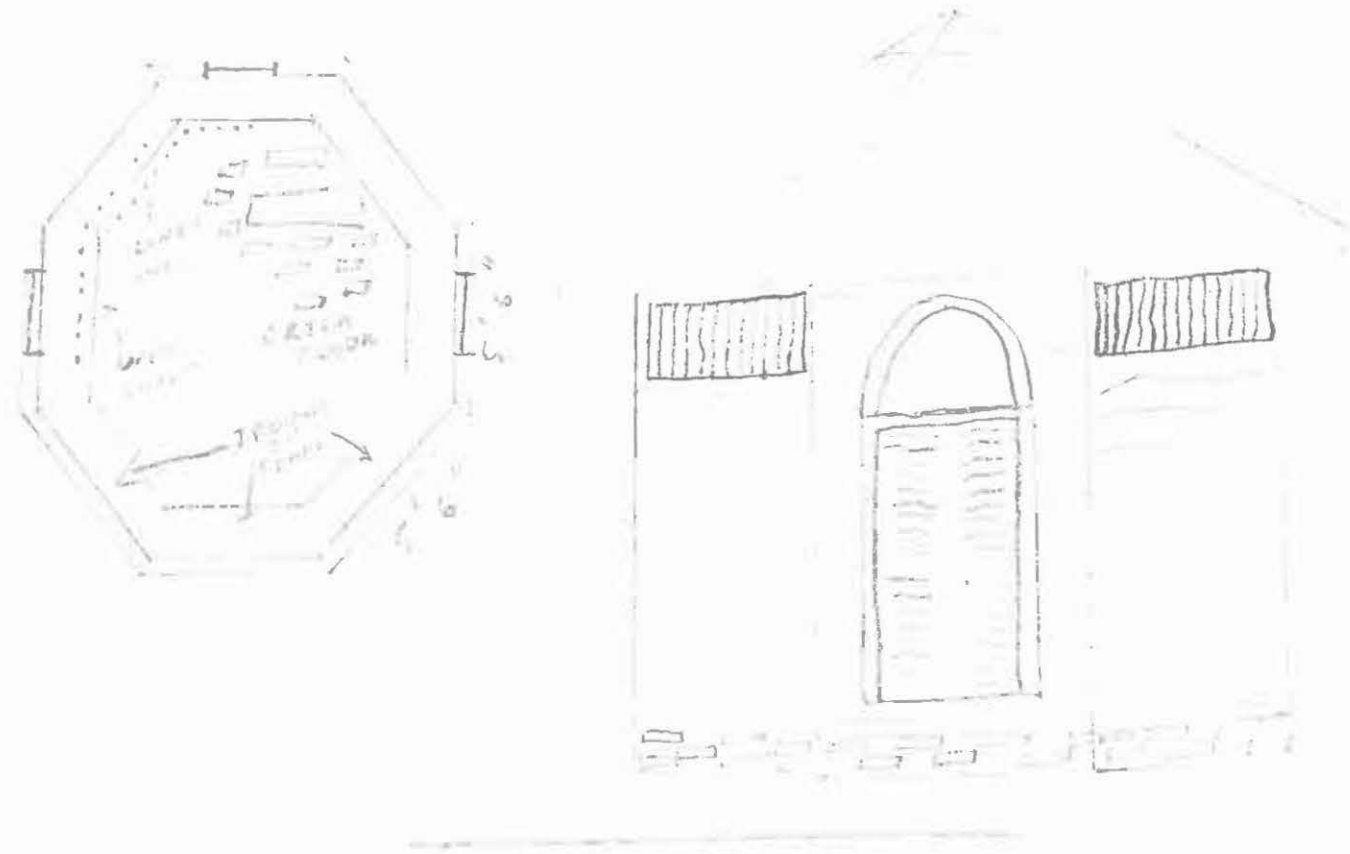


FIGURE VII: PLAIN DEALING NECESSARY HOUSE (7'4" x 8'3")

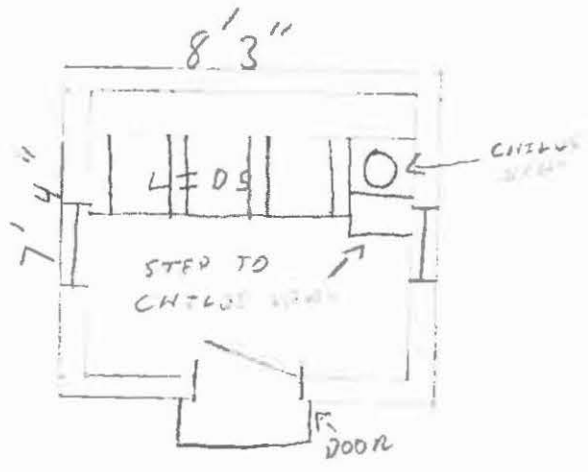
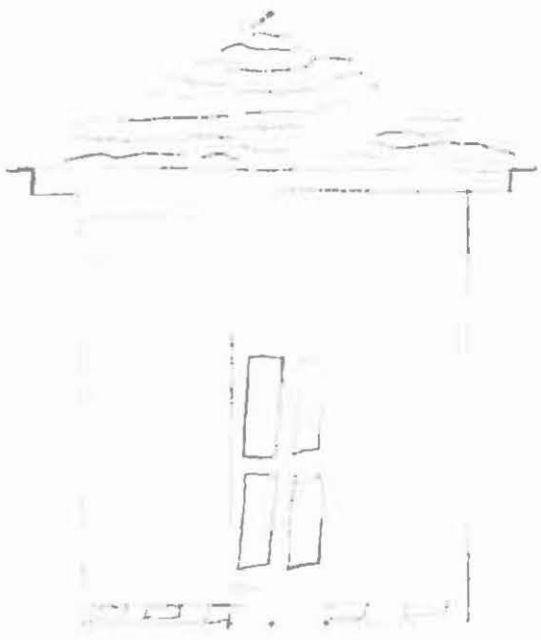
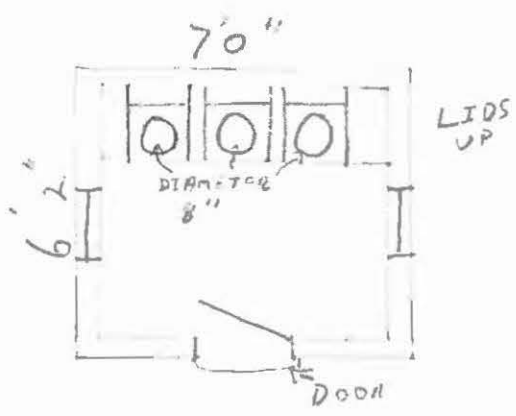
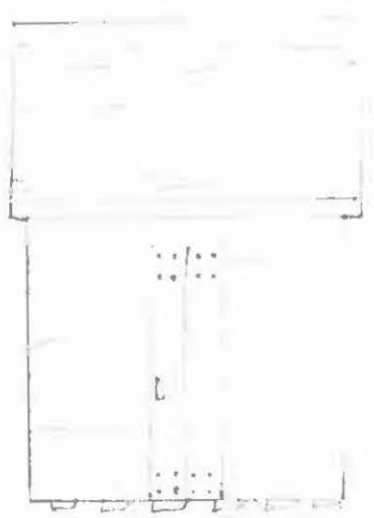


FIGURE VIII: PERRY HALL NECESSARY (6'2" x 7'0")



FOOTNOTES

¹Harry Chandlee Foreman, Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens (New York: Architectural Book Publishing Company, 1956), p.20.

²Ibid., p.63.

³Ibid., p.84.

⁴Rexford Newcomb, Architecture In Old Kentucky (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1953), p.72.

⁵Clay Lancaster, Ante Bellam House of the Blue Grass (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1961), p.54.

⁶Ibid., p.74.

⁷Foreman, Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens, p.74.

⁸Ibid., p.67.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Ibid., p.84.

¹¹Ibid., p.67.

¹²Ibid.

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