

10/28

Location:

around it  
(c 180 acres)

Morrison Tyler?

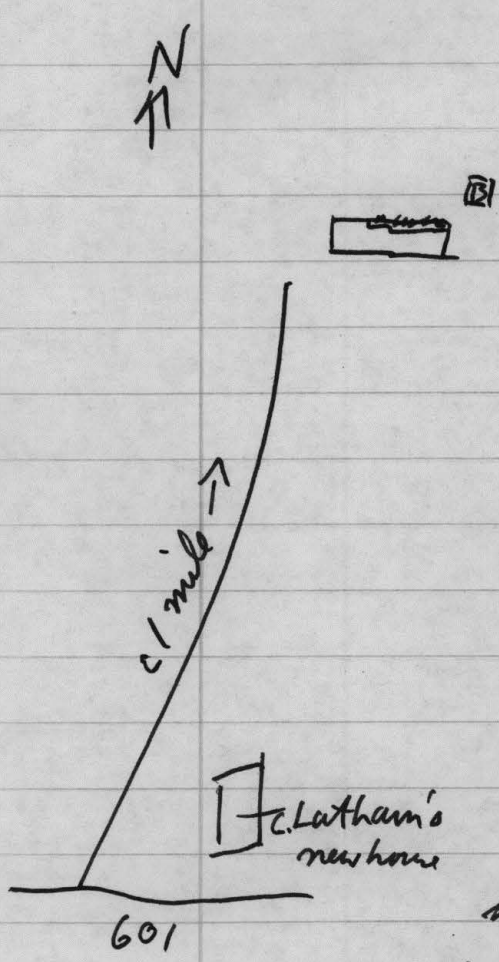
The shelter is owned by the Tyler family, but the land is leased to C. Latham for grazing cattle. [Cattle droppings are seen in the basement of the shelter - so deep that it was almost impossible to enter the basem. to inspect it.]

Shelter is located on a fairly high point in north section of PW County. c 375' high

If trees surrounding house were removed, you could probably see a full 360° around to neighboring hills. It's about 1 mile in from rt 601 (Shelter Lane) along a fairly straight, <sup>tree-lined</sup> dirt or farm road. Road is high + level + can see vistas on both sides along the way, esp. into Breerille Farm to the east.

The shelter is only a few hundred feet from Chestnut Slick, a long <sup>winding</sup> creek w/ many tributaries running east-west through the greater part of northeastern PW county. a pond on the shelter property feeds into a br. of Ch. Slick. <sup>+ feeds into Bull Run at PW LC line.</sup>

There is a cemetery associated with the shelter, but it is unfortunately on the adjacent property to the east known as Clifton + the owners have refused anyone permission to see the graveyard. A hostile caretaker protects the property.



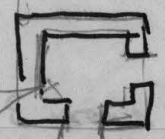
There may have been other out buildings on the property originally, but A a barn (bank barn) whose foundations of cut red sandstone only exists, along with the base of a circular concrete silo. about 37' square.

B. is a small (c 10x10) stone structure behind & to the <sup>east</sup> right of main house. ~~over~~ The structure, possibly a meat house, has a metal covered pent roof of a later vintage than the stone found. & walls. It is in very bad condition. The walls which are about 12" thick are whitewashed inside. There appear to be 2 entrances, one to the south, facing the house and one to the west, facing the barn & probably other former buildings.

Sheet 10/28

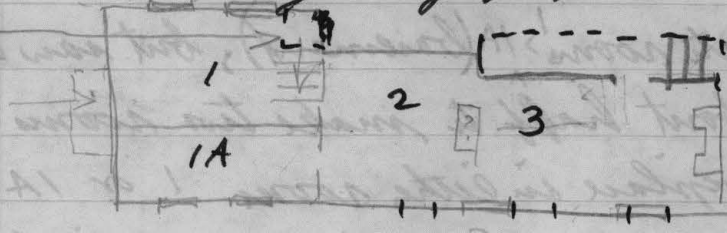
sm. stone str.  
w/ pent roof.  
v. bad cond.  
a meat house? but  
walls whitewashed

pipe  
for water?



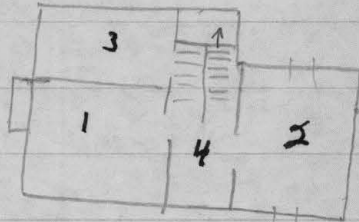
Basement House has a full basement. Room 3 has blackened ceiling + large fireplace. Roof over 3 protects entrance.

missing  
S.C.

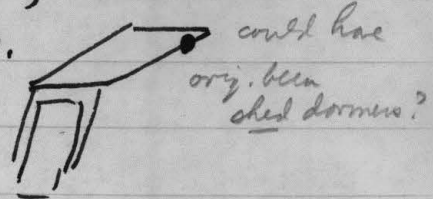


to room 3: down 3 wide steps + turn left.  
Basem. is well lighted w/ windows →

2d floor

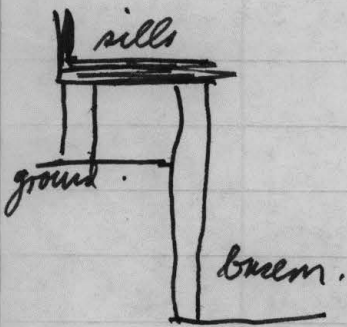
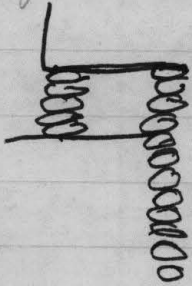


Rm. 1 has a f.p. to r. of E. wall. Rm 2 and 3 no f.p.? 2. has dormer windows (opposing.) dormer ceiling not level, seemed to slope out + down.



Findings

Foundation at rear of 2-story section:



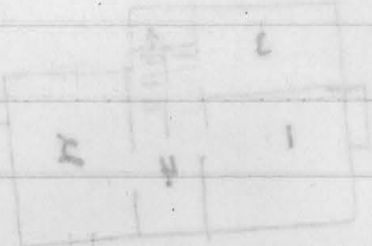
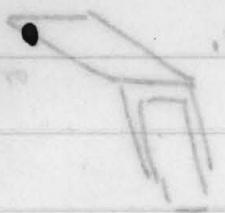
at the back and east side of the newest portion of the house there appears to be a double thickness foundation. It seems that the outermost foundation extends from ground to sill only, a matter of c 2 feet. Behind that, about a foot or so back, is the 2d foundation, which extends from the ~~sill~~ bottom of the house (joists rest on it) to the lowest level of the basement. Could be that newest part was built on found. of east room of older house? What about the chimney? Could it have been rebuilt later and ~~is~~ a little further E than it originally was?

Beams in ceiling of room 3 seem to be beaded, but not chamfered,  
Q. about 6 altogether + about 10" wide. ??

Did not get to look into rooms 1A (basement), but saw that  
it was divided in about half to make two rooms.

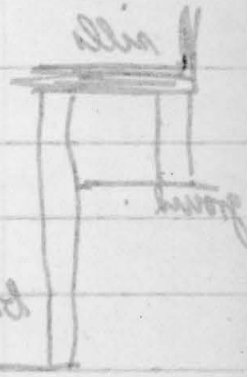
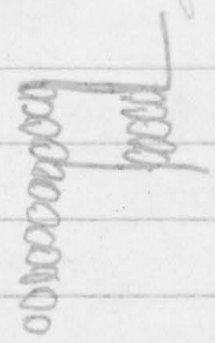
Did not see if a fireplace in either room 1 or 1A

Q. Did basement wall facing East have any windows?  
Suppose not.



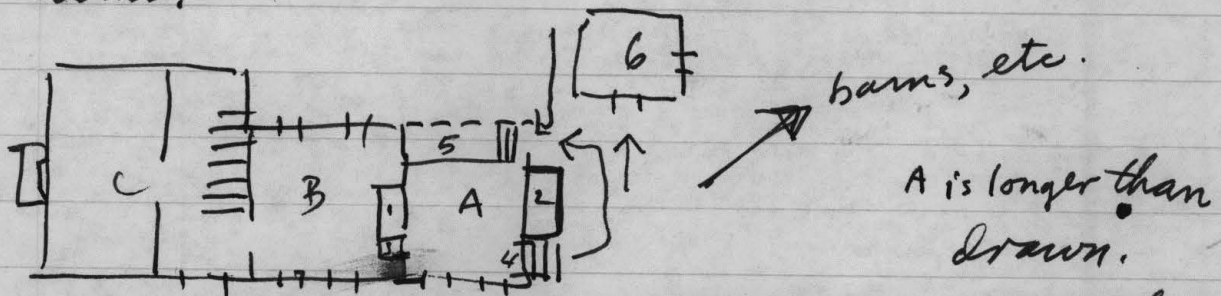
2d floor

at the base of 2-story section  
foundations at rear of 2-story section  
at the base of east side of the  
basement foundation of the house there  
appears to be a hole thickness  
foundations. It seems that the  
basement foundation extends from  
ground to all over a width of 2 feet.  
Believe that, about a foot or so  
back is the old foundation, which extends  
from the ~~east~~ west side of the house (point out on  
it) to the west end of the basement. Double  
that west part was built on found. of east room of  
other house? What about the chimney? Could it have been  
rebuilt later and ~~was~~ a little further S than  
it originally was?



the sketch 10/28

Entrance to the basement. is a mystery. not the entrance but the fact that it is well protected by ~~an~~ a projecting <sup>and</sup> ledge, and steps down to basem. are wide - c 42" and low (3 of them). Could cooking + food prep. have been done down there, then the food carried upstairs to the dining room. Which room was the dining room?



1. is a fireplace in the center portion of the house possibly the west parlor, or possibly the dining room.
2. is fireplace in <sup>quite</sup> a winter kitchen, final food preparation room, or dining room. b.p. is rather small.
3. is a pantry beside f.p. ① but it opened onto room A.
4. is a missing stair case to rear entrance of portion A of house.
5. is the entrance to the basement.
6. a small stone house w/ pent roof.

STATE Virginia  
 COUNTY Prince William  
 TOWN OR VICINITY Woolsey  
 STREET NO.  
 HABS SURVEY NO.  
 AIA

2. NAME The Retreat  
 SEE SPACE BELOW FOR MAP OR DIRECTIONS

HABS PRIORITY		
1	2	3

TO BE FILLED IN BY THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS			
INDEX NO.		NEGATIVE FILE	
PUBLISHED PHOTOS		PUBLISHED DWGS.	

4. ORIGINAL OWNER Harlin Cockburn  
 PRESENT OWNER Miss Moss Tyler (georgian(end)  
 DATE OR PERIOD 1740(end)1940(Main) STYLE Federal(main)  
 ARCHITECT unknown BUILDER unknown  
 ORIGINAL USE residence  
 PRESENT USE residence  
 CONSTRUCTION frame NO. OF STOR. 1 1/2 end  
 NOTABLE FEATURES in the early end of 2 1/2 main  
 the house there the original mantels, hand  
 carved, the original windows glass, heart pine

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE & DESCRIPTION  
 The Retreat is one of the very  
 earliest houses in this area,  
 it has received no care in the  
 last 75 years - poor condition,  
 CONTINUE IN SPACE BELOW

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE (OTHER)					
	IN DANGER	PRESERVE	REPAIR	RESTORE	RECONSTRUCT
EXTERIOR			X		
INTERIOR			X		

VAL. TO	NATION	QUALITY	VERY HIGH
	STATE		HIGH
	COMMUNITY		NOTABLE
	OTHER		MENTION

POSSIBLE USE  
 residence

10. NEIGHBORHOOD CONDITIONS  
 ZONED rural CLASS

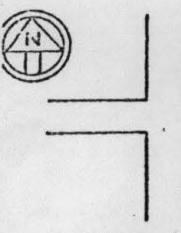
AVAILABLE FILES				
MEASURED	no	OLD PHOTOS	yes	FIELD REPORTS
DRAWINGS		OTHER		RESEARCH REPORTS

12. OPEN TO PUBLIC no  
 FEE  
 CONTROL BY

REFERENCES: AUTHOR, TITLE AND PAGES  
 The Good Housekeeping Club of Manassas-  
 Prince William - Its People and its Places  
 WPA- see index for page  
 DATE 1941

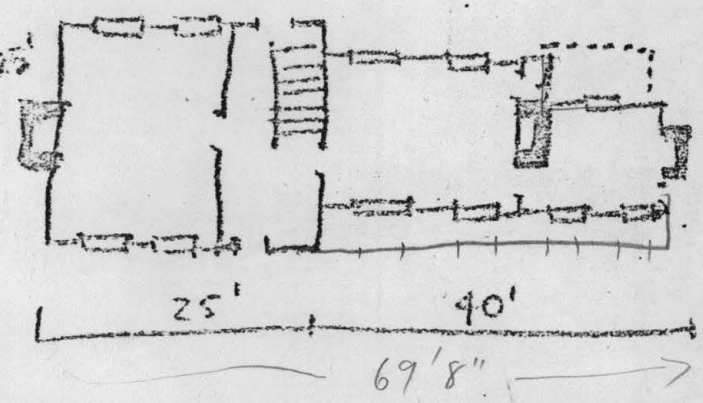
14. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER  
 W.B. Morton III  
 213 S. Pitt Street  
 Alexandria, Virginia  
 DATE OF RECORD August 5, '50

CONTINUE ADDITIONAL DATA, PHOTOGRAPHS, COMMENTS, SKETCH OR MAP IN SPACE BELOW



notable features cont'd-floors-The main part of the house built  
 in 1840 is a typical side hall ~~side~~ side room farm house of the  
 period, the only thing of note in this part of the house is the  
 stair which is a very good example of the simple federal stair.

LOCATION County Route 601 East of Route #15 at its intersection with Va. Route  
 PHOTOGRAPHS #324-drive 1 mile on state route 601, turn left on farm road 1 mile  
 to house.

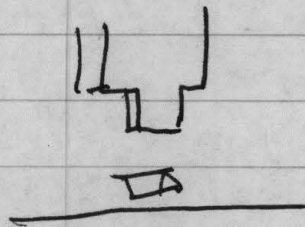
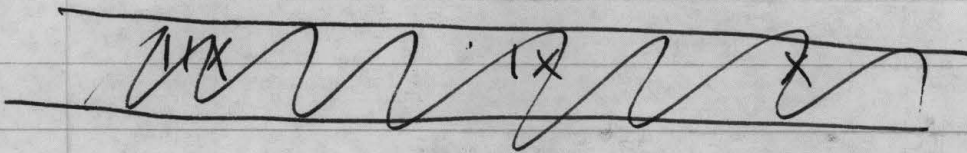


27  
 28 6  
 12  
 67 6

The Shetter 10/28

markings on sills.  
outside

at rear of center portion the numerals were seen  
on the sill at the point where upright joins sill.



IIX

IX

X

IIX  
must have  
been 8

To do: find out how many total #'s to see whether  
part house was rebuilt in 1800's on found.  
older found.

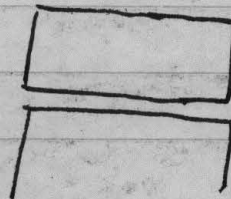
How far apart are the posts

could not count window panes as none remain.

Q. but may measure w/H of windows to  
estimate.

or see earlier photos.

Front door had overlight, but no panes rem.



McShetta 10/28

The front porch.

2 or 3 concrete steps lead to small porch attached to newer part of house at main entrance which is located to the right side of this section of the house. Inside, the staircase is immediately opposite the entrance.

porch ~~up~~ supports are box columns w/ simple trim.  
2 on either side of entr.

no rail, but perhaps it was removed

Q ch. nail holes for rail.

boxy-pilasters flank the main entrance.

✓ Note details of porch posts.

+ trim around door.

porch floor: tongue + groove c. 2-2½" wide boards.

Q porch has gable? roof or ~~some~~ ~~palms~~ ~~at~~ ~~g.~~ ~~end,~~  
or flat.



Shelter 10/28

# Chimneys

Water table.

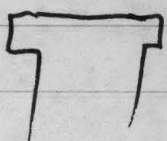
Ch 1. - there is a water table c 2 feet off ground. It is flat, runs all the way around stack and projects out about 5"

Ch 2 is not visible from outside except from where it emerges at roof. See later brick 1/2 way up.

Ch 3. has a water table at the sill of the house (rear entrance) It projects out about 5-6". Ch 3 also has another w.t. about 9-10 feet from floor of house.

Q. any weathervane on chimneys?

See photographs.



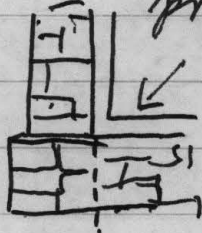
mate:

Ch. 1 ~~has~~ is made of large 9-12" high cut red sandstone laid apparently without mortar. This stack seems to

project out from the inner foundation

House rests on this platform.

But didn't get into this room to check.



Q

Think it has 1 weathervane. Tapers at <sup>mid-</sup> 2d floor

shelter 10/28

Q.

Chimney #2 ~~has~~<sup>is</sup> stone about half way up  
then brick. Brick facing v. deteriorated.  
note Bond on brick in Ch #2.

Ch. #1 lost its keystone. no mantel.  
See dwg. for measurements.

Ch # 2 + 3 both v. deteriorated.

## Framing + roof constr.

e. 3" sq. hewn posts mortise + tenoned into e. 8" sills. Saw corner bracing in newer sec.  $\frac{1}{2}$  doweled + prob. mort + tenoned. oak lath strips [ripen prob.] + nailed into studs w square headed nails. plastered throughout.

exterior covered w clapboards lpp. from 4" to 5"

Q.

Roof on newer portion metal?

underneath in older sections, roof is visible from <sup>inside:</sup> from

- $\textcircled{D}$  middle section, 2d floor
- $\textcircled{D}$  w. end, from 1st floor. rafters. lap joints or dovetails. \*

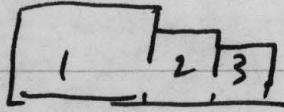
Q.  
type of  
roof  
+ covering

Saw [cedar?] shingles as under covering of roofs in both older sections. Ben ERC said he thought they looked too good to be orig. Shingles were small, not particularly long  $\textcircled{D}$  ~~and~~ been covered over w metal roof.

rafters in 1st. west wing are a curiosity: On the south side they appear to be rough posts, possibly w/ only the upper portion smoothed; while rafters on n. side are squared off timbers, which are shaped to meet the posts in a lap or dovetail joint.

Int. details.

Shelter 10/28.



### Floors.

Floor in room 1 and main hall is of fairly wide c 3½ - 4 tongue & groove possibly walnut.

Stair treads + newel likely walnut.

Floor in room 2 of narrow (oak?) boards c 2½" wide.

Did not notice type of floor in room 3 but think it was wider boards than 2 but ~~not~~ more worn than room 1. Possibly pine?

Floors upstairs: above room 1 were same as downstairs.

Q Above room 2 were wide boards but did not notice particularly.

### Mouldings.

Trim around windows + doors in downstairs room 1 incl. hall is fairly fancy + well done. all doors + mantels mssg, so don't know.

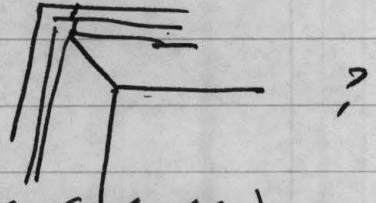
saw no evidence of either chair rail or wainscotting. all walls plastered. wall in <sup>E</sup> parlor had layer of wall paper, bits still visible.

- Mouldings upstairs above newer portions similar scale but no detail - just plain + flat.

mop boards all plain w/ no moldings.  
all painted dark color - black? or d. green gray?

no cornices inside.

Trim in older section had a fairly simple molding  
on it w/ mitered corners like a stone-mason  
would do. sort of beveled



inside + outside, both floors  
in middle section + 1st fl (only fl.)  
in West wing all the same trim.

Q. - draw the trim.