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THE TOWN OF DUMFRIES
AND
THE HONORABLE FOUSHEE TEBBS

Compiled by Lee C. Lansing, Jr.
Dumfries Town Historian



PART ONE
THE TEBBS HOUSE

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FOREWARD

The title of this paper, "The Town of Dumfries and the Honorable Foushee Tebbs", was chosen to exemplify the connection of the "number one" citizen of the town in the 1758-1763 period. His name is found in all aspects of the growth during this time (and later).

Although an attempt has been made to preserve the architectural aspects of the three featured buildings, Foushee Tebbs was so closely related to their origin, and his name was associated with these and other aspects of Dumfries, it was felt that his relationship should be highlighted in all due respect to him.

Only recently have lost records come to light which changes the numerical designation of the "third courthouse", to that of the "fourth courthouse", of 1762. Without Foushee Tebbs and the large ballroom of his home, which he permitted to be used as a court location, the story of Prince William County and its courthouses might have been very different. While the political maneuvering of prominent citizens of several areas vied for the court location, Dumfries won out due to the persistence of the likes of George Mason, Foushee Tebbs and others.



THE TEBBS HOUSE

THIRD PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE

RESIDENCE OF FOUSHEE TEBBS IN DUMFRIES, VIRGINIA.

Compiled by Lee C. Lansing, Jr.

Dumfries Town Historian

Much has been written of this fine example of Colonial architecture, both by professional Architects and lay persons in various forms of publication, some of which is unfortunately unfounded and without substantiation. This paper is an attempt to clarify some of the misconceptions; some of the incorrect location data and to present eye witness oral history by long time local residents who were, in their younger days, familiar with the "haunted house" of Dumfries.

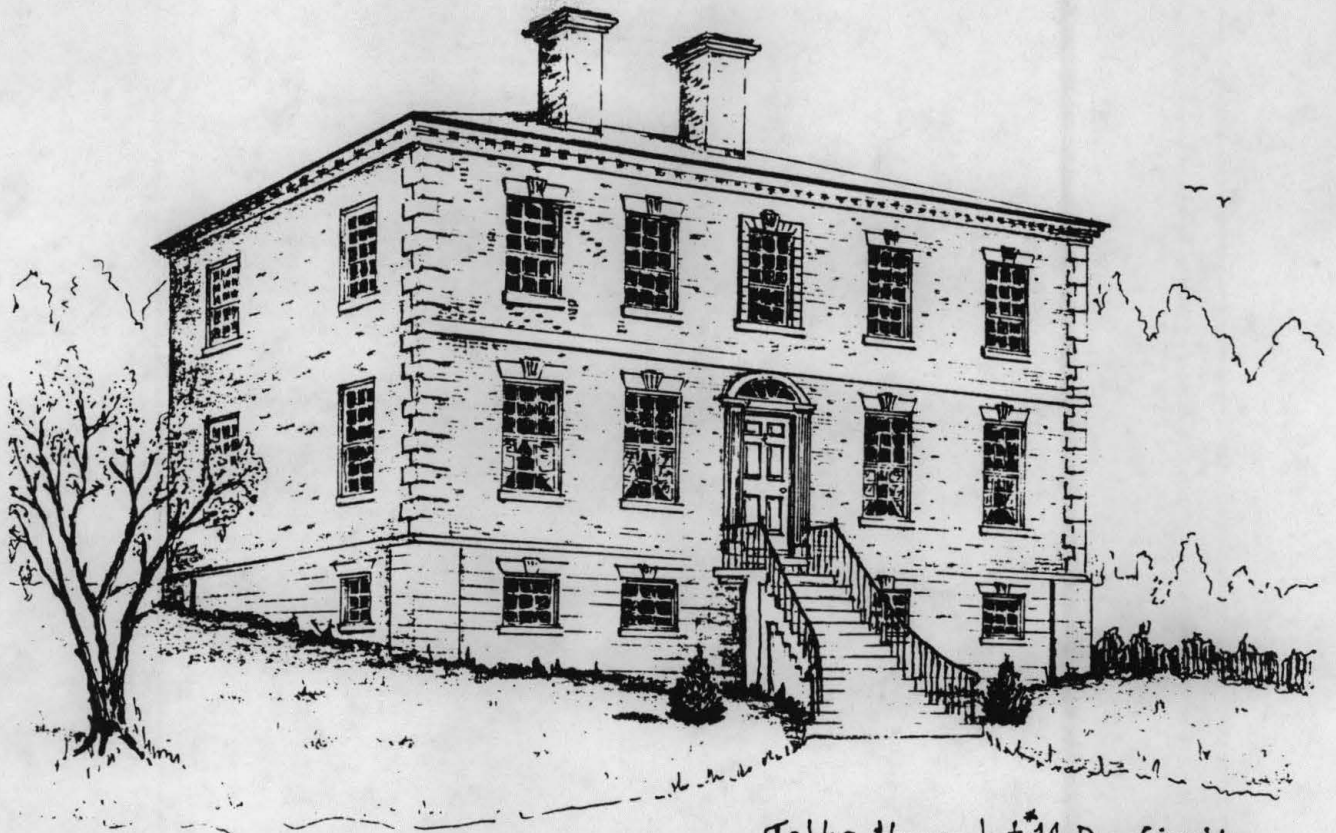
In light of recent discoveries of long lost Colonial documents, court records, old photographs and the 1984-1985 archeological explorations of the Fairfax street court house, it is appropriate that this new information be presented to alter the history of Dumfries and Prince William County.

FOUSHEE TEBBS was the seventh child of Daniel Tebbs, the immigrant, his birthdate is questioned, some give it as ca. 1753, but he died in 1784 which would make him only thirty-one years of age at his demise. His family established "Tebbsdale" plantation as early as ca. 1730 and his father died in 1742 so he had to be born prior to 1742. Many of the personal accounts, as to his appearance, make him "an old man" in the Revolutionary period - but looks could be deceiving.

A traveler thru Dumfries gives an account in his journal, of the post revolutionary period, a word description of Foushee as, "a character straight from Dickens; a friend to everyone, especially the dogs of the town, who followed him everywhere". His clothes were threadbare, of a fashion some thirty years before. He could be found, during the day, almost anywhere in the town - from the church to the blacksmith's shop, giving advise and discussing the politics of the day.

He married Mary, daughter of John Baxter, the date has not yet been discovered. Their issue is in doubt and is still a matter of research. He built the "house on the hill" for his bride, how long they lived there is conjecture.

In the minutes of Dettingen Parish his participation in church affairs is clearly evident. He served as Sheriff of Prince William County for a goodly period; was Trustee of the town; served as Henry Lee's colleague in the House of Burgesses representing Prince William County from 1765 to 1774 and was a member of the First Virginia Convention. He served as Justice and County Commissioner, especially during the period when the new court house was under construction.

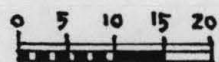
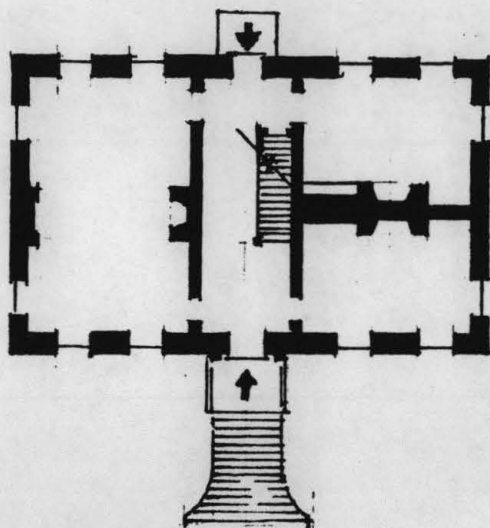


Tebbs House - Lot 14 Dumfries Va.
Lansing 1973/86new

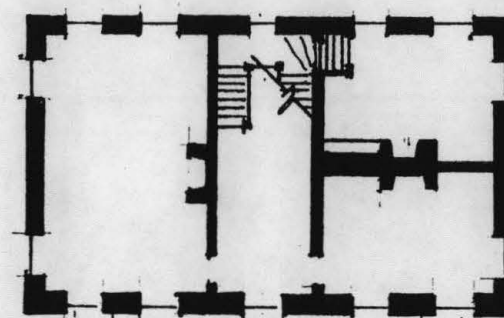
The family plantation, known as "Tebbsdale", on the north side of Quantico Creek has the remains of a family graveyard with the marked graves of Daniel Tebbs (-1742), Foushee Tebbs (-1784), Willoughby Tebbs (-1803), Willoughby Tebbs (-1872), Betsy (Carr) Tebbs (1771-1852), Dr. Foushee Tebbs (1797-1835) and other unmarked graves. During this part of the Colonial period, all plantations on Quantico Creek had their own wharf or landing from which they shipped tobacco and other plantation produce and received in return manufactured products from the mother country.

It is evident that Foushee preferred the town atmosphere to that of the plantation as he was ever active in civic affairs. After the 1761 enlargement of the town, he was appointed Trustee - this followed his renting of the Tebbs House to Prince William County for use as a court house.

The political pressure exerted by residents of the town caused the Governor and Council in Williamsburg to approve the relocation of the county court house from Cedar Run to Dumfries on 13, June 1759 and without waiting for a court house to be built the magistrates leased the Tebbs house for use as a court house. This was not known until the Court Order Book for 1759-1761 was found in the mid-west and was procured by the Virginia State Library. The volume proved to be easily read and while offering a fine example of Colonial handwriting gave an eye opening concept of life in Dumfries for that period.



Scale



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

TEBBS HOUSE FLOOR PLANS

Note; The exterior walls, in these floor plans, were thirteen inches in thickness and are purposely shown heavier to accent the massive masonry unique for the period. The basement walls were over eighteen inches in thickness - the face masonry being Aquia stone, of varying thickness, backed-up with free stone and plastered on the interior side. The Aquia stone can be seen today as a veneer on the face of the wall of the ca. 1940's residence on the Tebbs house foundation. Tool marks on the stone face are much in evidence even with the weathering of over two hundred years.

Most Virginia histories give the date of the court being moved to Dumfries as 1762, as this was the date when the courthouse, built by Benjamin Tompkins, was accepted and he was released from his bond. The courthouse was actually occupied in the summer of 1761. On 24, November 1760, the first item on page #222 of the court order book, of that date, gives to "Foushee Tebbs, for rent of his house, one year as court house"-L15.0.0.

This would mean that the contract between Prince William County and Foushee Tebbs was entered into about the middle of November 1759. Then as now it required a few months to get things approved as to where the magistrates would hold court while the new structure was being built—the result was the offering of his house by Foushee Tebbs. This could have been a last resort by the people of Dumfries to retain the court, once relocation was authorized, in the face of a possible attempt by "others" to place it elsewhere.

The house, which can be called the "Mansion of the Town", as it embodied the finest of Colonial architecture of any structure in the town, was designed and constructed by skilled artisans. Many articles have been written describing its floor plan; its exterior treatments and materials; its interior finishes and those items of unique interest for the period. The floor plans are best described by the drawings; the exterior treatment can be seen in the drawing of the front elevation.

The structure was essentially a three story house, built into a slope of about twenty-four degrees, rising rapidly from the rear wall to the heights beyond. The ground floor (front) was revealed from about its mid-point exposing its nine light windows without the need for window wells. The wall below the first floor line was composed of cut, coursed stone masonry with concave tooled joints which provided a moderate shadow line. All stone trim was of Aquia stone brought from Aquia creek by barge, no small feat for the time and technology. Access to the basement was available from the rear center, on the slope, entering at the first floor level and using the basement stairs below the first floor flight to the second floor. The basement contained the kitchen facilities and various storage areas along with what seemed to be servants quarters. A unique feature was a massive masonry extended pilaster, containing the kitchen fireplace and a cavity what was probably meant to be an oven, closely adjacent to the fireplace. This masonry ran from the corridor support wall, in the center of the building, northward to provide support for the upper floor fireplaces. Flues for the first and second floor fireplaces were canted or sloped at about a forty-five degree angle to permit symmetry about the centerline, for the flue penetration of the roof. The ground floor walls were massive and may be seen today as a foundation for the ca. 1940's stone veneer residence on the same foundation. The ground floor was composed of neatly fitted flagstone; the interior walls being plastered directly on the freestone interior.

FOUSHEE TEBBS PAID 15 POUNDS STERLING, RENT FOR HIS HOME.

222	Dr. Brought over	£700
	Went to Foushee & Tebbs	
	for rent of his house and	£150.0.
	for	
	Went to Foushee & Tebbs William Tebbs	
	for	£191.13.1
	for	
	To John Murray Gaoler's account of feeding water &c	2216
	To Thomas Matthews Gaoler's account	960
	To William Murchin's account	15
	To Joseph Davis Constable's account	100
	To Thomas Chaimy Constable's account	373
	To John Dickinson one Levy Overcharged	44
	To Charles Davis Gaoler's account	165
	To George Latham for Guarding Hugh Gullway three days and nights	15
	To William Powell one Levy Overcharged	44
	To Col. Henry Peyton Burgess's account	16.16.6
	To Col. Henry Law for Ditto	16.3.4
	To Daniel Kincheloe the Sheriff's account	2100
	To John Gallahue's Levy Overcharged	44
	To John Cheshire for three days Guarding Gullway	15
	To Henry Hingate for Ditto as of account	120
	To Rowley Dutton one Levy Overcharged	11
		£223.19.1
	To Levy to Discharge Cash accounts	10000
		572.12.
	To Cost for collecting	3133
	To fraction in collectors hands	11.7.1
		<u>61.0.6</u>

The house overlooked the harbor above the town square, with access by way of an earth ramp from about the level of Main street to the upper level of Fairfax street, approximately as it is today. This ramp also provided access to a group of houses above and beyond the Tebbs house on what would be the extended Cameron street area and at one point connected with the old Dumfries road beyond what is now route #95. The main frontal access to the house was by a large cut-stone splayed stairway, offset from the house to provide natural light at the center ground floor window. This feature was the same as the front treatment of Stage Coach Inn. The stair flight was of cut, matched, overlaid slabs forming the treads terminating in a flat arched landing. Some authors have observed that no railing was provided, as none was extant at the time of their observation. The compiler has seen portions of these slabs, probably broken at the time of demolition-or purposely so for reuse-and they contained inch square mortises, about four inches back from the tread side edge with traces of lead in the fissures indicating that at one time a wrought iron railing had been in existence. It is possible that the railing had been salvaged for reuse elsewhere, before the time of their observation and that the mortises had become filled with sand, earth or other debris requiring a close scrutiny as a basis for such a determination.

The immediate site of the house did not contain evidence of accessory structures except for a "necessary", during a cursory inspecting in the mid-forties, by the compiler. The compiler at that time was commissioned to provide a site plan for a proposed sub-division on the heights to the west of the Tebbs house site, by Mr. C.F. Brown, owner of the property. During this time a topography was made which gave the compiler a good opportunity to observe site conditions within this eighty odd acres, including a chance to observe, almost from a virgin condition (before metal detectors), the Dumfries Battery site and the gully to the south of the battery, containing the Confederate camp for operation of the facility.

One observation, which should not go without comment is the finding of a clay pit, of about one hundred cubic yards in size, with adjacent indications of a brick kiln having been in operation.

As a matter of observance, most Colonial period brick kilns left no evidence, to speak of, as all of the brick, either that produced by the kiln or from the kiln itself was salvaged for use in construction. In this instance the compiler found, after the bulldozer had skimmed the site, a small amount of brick batts (less than one quarter of a brick), but of most importance a discoloration of the sub-soil and evidence of charcoal which meant a rather hot prolonged fire-more so than that created by a woods fire, had been evident. All of this material was found in a gully created by soil erosion.

Most of the brick pieces were "culls", of that portion closest to the fire, of a deep purple color, heavily encrusted with a material similar to tailings from glass manufacture, possibly from throwing salt into the kiln to provide a glazed surface.

The brick of the Tebbs house and Stage Coach Inn are of the same dimensions and were probably made from this same kiln location. Brick of this period varied in dimension since their manufacture was unique to each location with the forms manufactured to satisfy each brick mason, not to any specified size. The stone quoins and other stone trim were from the same quarry; the same coloration and almost the same dimensions.

The first floor of the house consisted of a large ballroom to the south side of the house accessible from the center hallway. On the opposite or north side of the hallway were two equal sized rooms all with fireplaces. The stairs on the right consisted of a long flight to a landing, and a short flight returning back from the landing to the hall above. From the rear of the hallway, under the landing, one had access to the rear outside door; to the north corner room and to the south into the ballroom. This landing was about seven feet clear head room or just above the door casing. Access to the basement was by a door into the area under the main flight of stairs. From the landing one must turn right at the head of the stairs, up a few risers to the north west corner bedroom. The second floor was like the first, in plan, but without the fine cornices of the first floor rooms. A center window occurred on the landing, depressed below the line of the other rear windows, for accessibility to the double hung sash.

One must dwell on the description of the first floor rooms as they were fine examples of the joiners art of the period. All first floor rooms contained a fine plaster moulded cornice except for the ballroom which was provided with a fine, fully moulded wood cornice with a band of dentils, all at the ceiling line. The hallway was plain except for the plaster cornice and the moulded chair rail similar to that in the ballroom. The stair balustrade was simple with three balusters, of square design, on each tread supporting a heavy hand rail. The hall contained a panelled dado with pedestal-type base and chair rail similar to that in the ballroom. The moulding details can be seen on the accompanying drawing, as well as the mantel. The ballroom fireplace projected into the floor area about two feet with a mantel of the familiar Palladian type. The fireplace front evidently contained a stone or marble surround, which had been removed with the woodwork but was evident from the mounting mortar attached to the face brickwork.

**DETAILS OF WOODWORK
INTERIOR-TEBBS HOUSE**

Not to scale

Note:
Very little wood carving
was evident in the Tebbs
house-most of the wood
work exemplified the
joiners art.

**BALLROOM
CUPBOARD**

**CHAIR RAIL
HALLWAY**

**SECTION ON
CENTERLINE**

MARBLE OR STONE

**ELEVATION
CAP AND PEDIMENT**

**HALF ELEVATION
MANTEL - BALLROOM**

The ballroom contained two windows on each wall, and two access doors from the hallway. On the south wall was a cupboard extended from the wall by its columns and pediment; the cupboard made use of some of the extremely thick wall as evidenced by the chase left by the removal of the woodwork. The fireplace is shown in some existing photos as containing a cast iron fireback with a date of 1762. Much emphasis has been placed on this as the date of the house completion, but it should be noted that a fireback, of this type was rarely secured to the masonry; this one was not secured and was probably a product of the Neabsco iron foundry of John Tayloe, purchased after occupation of the dwelling. The mantel incorporated a frieze with scrolled brackets and above the mantel supports was found a full cornice shelf. The above mantel panel is typical of the textbook detail and is supported by a carved frieze and pediment. The wide tongue and grooved floor boards were from twelve to eighteen inches in width and were peg-secured to the floor sleepers (not joists). The floor framing was unique in that the load supporting beams, running north and south, (the short span), were wide spaced and in turn supported close spaced sleepers on which the flooring boards were secured with trunnels (tree nails) of hickory, driven home in gimlet holes and cut flush with the surface. The plaster lath on the ceiling of the ballroom was nailed to cross members secured to the bottom of the support beams. Many of the period Dutch homes in the Hudson valley used this same method and was referred to as a "cribbed" floor framing system.

Not to be forgotten are the one piece stone chimney caps, of considerable weight, which makes one wonder what method was used to raise them to the roof and onto the chimneys, in that time of limited technology and limited availability of weight handling equipment. The wood shingle roof, of cedar shingles, had been patched many times, (from existing photos), and probably was the downfall of this venerable mansion - as seen from the water stains on the walls and ceilings in many of the photos. The modillion cornice, it seems, was the first to show disintegration from the drip at the eaves entering behind the mouldings of the cornice.

Much of the exterior woodwork of both the Tebbs house and Stage Coach Inn, namely the mouldings, were from the same cutting tools, or moulding planes which indicates that the same joiners constructed both buildings. It is to be noted that artisans of that period did not lend their tools to others of the same trade, therefore the mouldings, from the same planes dictate that the same joiners built both structures. Many of the other architectural features such as, brick coursing, sizes of window openings, door frames and general dimensional treatments, of similarity, leads one to the conclusion that both buildings were constructed by the same group of artisans or under the supervision of the same man.

Archeological explorations of 1984 and 1985 of the Dumfries court house site, by Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and Mary Washington College have proved conclusively that the Buckland-Gunston sketches were of the Dumfries court house and were done by Buckland, perhaps in a time of discussion with George Mason. The design was taken from a text book proved to have been in Bucklands possession and many times employed by him. The quadrangular theory was disproven by these sketches and indicated an apse wall in the rear or south portion of the structure - this feature was borne-out when the site was excavated. Many other typical design features employed by Buckland can be found in his work, from Gunston to Annapolis. An item of note is his use of all-header bond masonry, while not proof of his work, shows the human element of habit or repetition when a feature is successfully used. The Tebbs house, the Stage Coach Inn and the Annapolis group of structures, all considered to be by Buckland successfully employed this treatment. The two first named structures with all header bond, to the knowledge of the compiler, were the only examples, of major importance , in Virginia.

All published information on William Buckland and his whereabouts after the completion of his indenture with George Mason, does not address where he might have been working until he went to the northern neck of Virginia. In the same vein he may have been allowed to come to Dumfries by his employer as he was vitally interested in the project of the court house. This supposition is based on the fact that in the final stages of completion, he could without detriment, leave the project in the hands of an employee.

The compiler, for many years, after close investigations and preparation of measured drawings has been of the opinion that the same artisans were involved in both structures and has attempted to relate William Buckland as the designer and probably the supervisory joiner, if not employed directly on the woodwork. It has been difficult to relate him to Dumfries and these structures with the limited documentary proof available after his release from Gunston Hall. Recently, however a section of frieze board removed from a window of Gunston Hall revealed several pencil sketches, as used by architects for discussion purposes, leave no doubt that they were preliminary to the design of the Dumfries court house. This places William Buckland in the position of architect for the court house in the time frame of 1758/1759 until he is found in the Northern Neck a few years later.

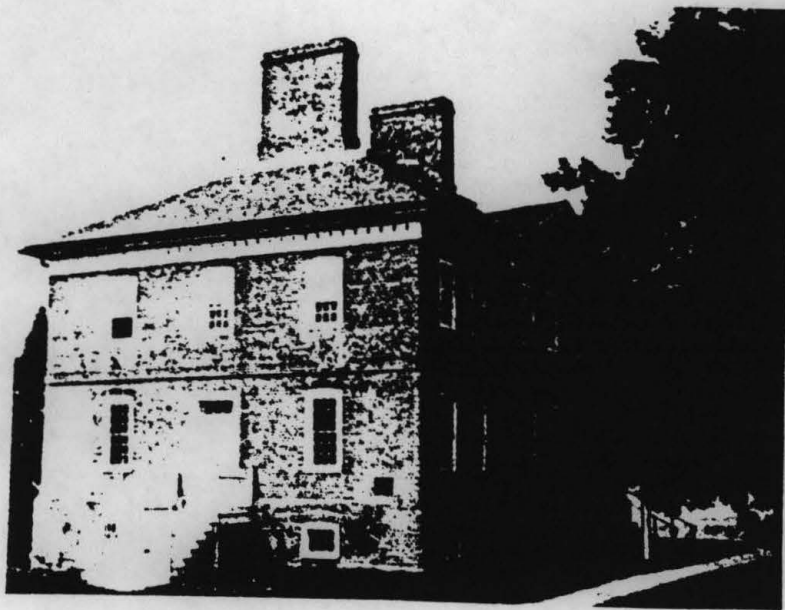
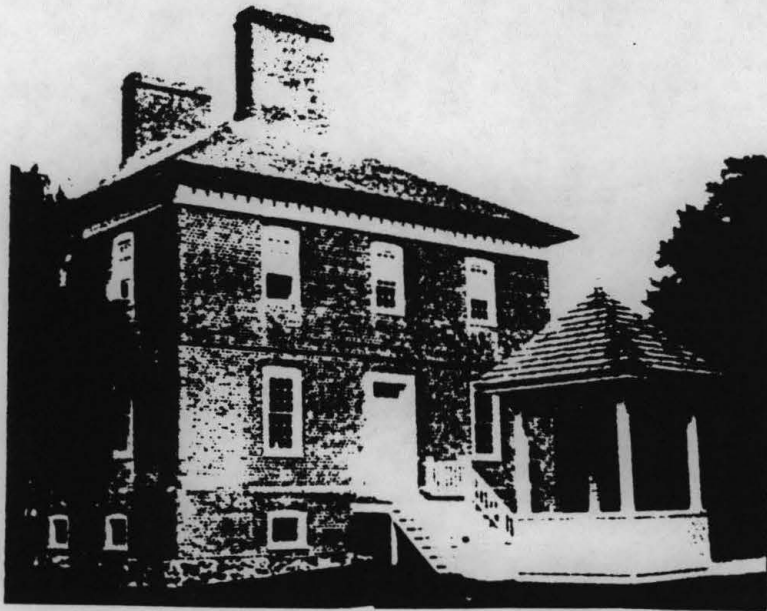
In an article published in the William and Mary Quarterly, of ca. 1924, the author became disoriented and placed the Stage Coach Inn, "a little south of the Court House", meaning the Tebbs House. His paragraph on this subject is as follows - -

"The old Court House is now the only building that remains under roof. It lies just to the southwest of the Main Street, separated from the ruins of other buildings by what, in the palmy days of the town, was evidently a plaza. It is an early Georgian building, much in the style of that of Londontown, Ann Arundel Co., Md., only it is trimmed with Aquia stone in the place of the entire brick of the latter. The large brick all-header house a little to the south of the Court House was the far famed Dumfries Tavern, kept about the end of the eighteenth century by Capt. George Williams. The ruinous house to the west of this building was the residence of Fouchee (sic) Tebbs. The furthestmost building to the west, not now visible from the street, was the dwelling of Alexander Henderson, an early vestryman of Truro Parish, with Mason, Fairfax and Washington. The Long Ordinary, referred to in the minutes of various Lodges as a meeting place, lay about three hundred feet to the south of Capt. Williams' Tavern, with the Alexander and Calvert houses nearby."

The Tebbs house was indeed much like the Public House of Londontown, Maryland, so much so that even the experienced eye might think they were both designed by the same person, but the Maryland location was not endowed with a sandstone quarry easily accessible by water.

While many photos are available as mementos of happier youthful experiences, they tell us of the details of this old house. Mr. Elvan Keys, when questioned of his experiences showed us photos of he and his young friends peering from the open window of the second floor - but they told us more - of the relative thickness of the masonry wall, where the window frame had been removed - the modillion cornice and its deteriorated condition, as a result of the roof failure and the location of the window frame in relation to the exterior wall face - his description of the interior and its wall features after the removal of the interior woodwork to be placed in a museum in a far away location. He put great emphasis on the 1762 date in the fireback of the great room fireplace as the beginnings of this structure and could not be convinced that it could have been placed at a later date, long after occupation of the house. Mr. Keys was an accomplished carpenter, with years of experience having worked on the restoration of Rippon Lodge, the Stage Coach Inn and other Colonial structures. He was an observer who collected items he thought would be of interest to his friends. He had retrieved a short section of the solid bed mould when it fell from the Tebbs cornice and later when he was employed by Mr. C.F. Brown in restoration of the Inn he had salvaged a short piece of the cornice mould and showed the compiler that they had come from the same plane.

LONDONTOWN PUBLIC HOUSE
ANN ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND



We placed the end section on paper and traced its contour, then placed the other moulding sample on top, for an exact match. Likewise a portion of the chair rail from the Inn was found to match a portion of the door casing from the Tebbs house. An overlooked brick from the Tebbs house was brought down to the Inn and compared to the brick there for size. It was found that they were of exactly the same dimensions.

The stonework below the first floor line was not included in the contract for demolition of the Tebbs masonry and remained untouched for a time until Mr. C.F. Brown decided to construct a residence on the old foundation. He salvaged the cut, coursed sandstone and rebuilt using this material for the new house. If one closely observes the shape and surface of these stones one can recognize the shape of some of the original step stones, the lintel stones and the coursed masonry sandstone of the ground floor walls. The stonework of the chimneys was constructed from some of the freestone originally employed in the back-up masonry of the exterior walls on which the plaster was applied. Mr. C.F. Brown was a collector of secondhand building materials which he obtained from many demolition projects on the Marine Corps Reservation and elsewhere. These materials were used to construct new residences in the Dumfries area and many times, salvaged stone from the Tebbs house, not used in the stone house of the Tebbs location, could be found in houses, built by Mr. Brown in the Triangle Quantico area. A limited search for the cast iron fireback has been unsuccessful.

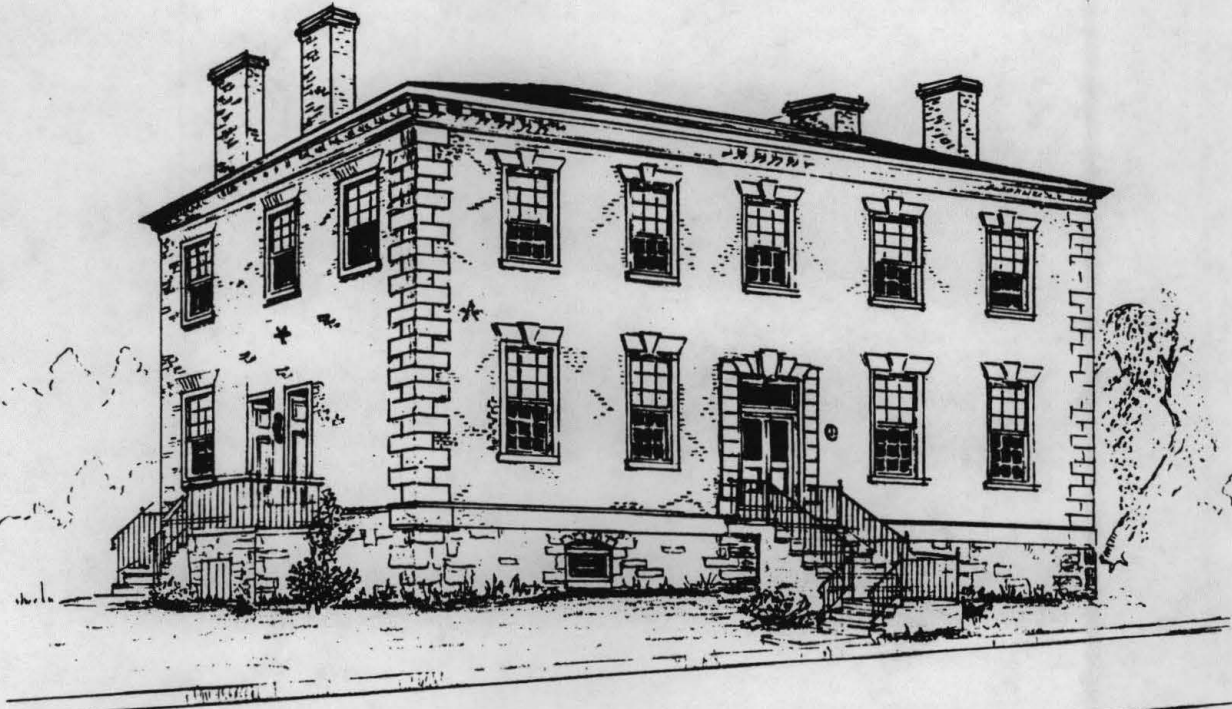
Mr. C. W. Garrison, a long time resident of Dumfries, whose father was employed by the Cabin Branch Mine as a store keeper, grew up about one block south of the Tebbs house, tells many interesting stories of his boyhood in playing in the "haunted house", or the Mundy house, named for a family which inhabited the house when it was in livable condition. He tells of Bob King, who owned the eighty-odd acres of the original Tebbs property. It was Mr. King who sold the brick masonry to Mr. Nelson Ashby of Fredericksburg who demolished the building and used the brick in structures in his home town. The demolition did not include the stonework which was left on the site. The property was then bought by Mr. C.F. Brown who shortly afterward built the existing stone house. Many of the timbers salvaged by Mr. Brown were piled in his storage yard in Oakdale subdivision, left to rot, probably due to their extreme size, they were not adaptable to modern construction methods.

THE TOWN OF DUMFRIES
AND
THE HONORABLE FOUSHEE TEBBS

PART TWO
THE STAGE COACH INN
A TAVERN AND ORDINARY

The exact date of construction of this fine old building has not yet been determined. It was closely linked to the Tebbs house which we know was employed as a County Court House in 1759, therefore both buildings had to be constructed prior to (allowing for construction time) 1758, or earlier.

Many design features of both buildings are identical, namely, the brick size, the stonework and brick coursing, some of the trim mouldings and other numerous incidental items. It is unfortunate that the mantels and much of the moulded interior woodwork had been removed many years ago but enough remains to tell of this example of Colonial architecture.

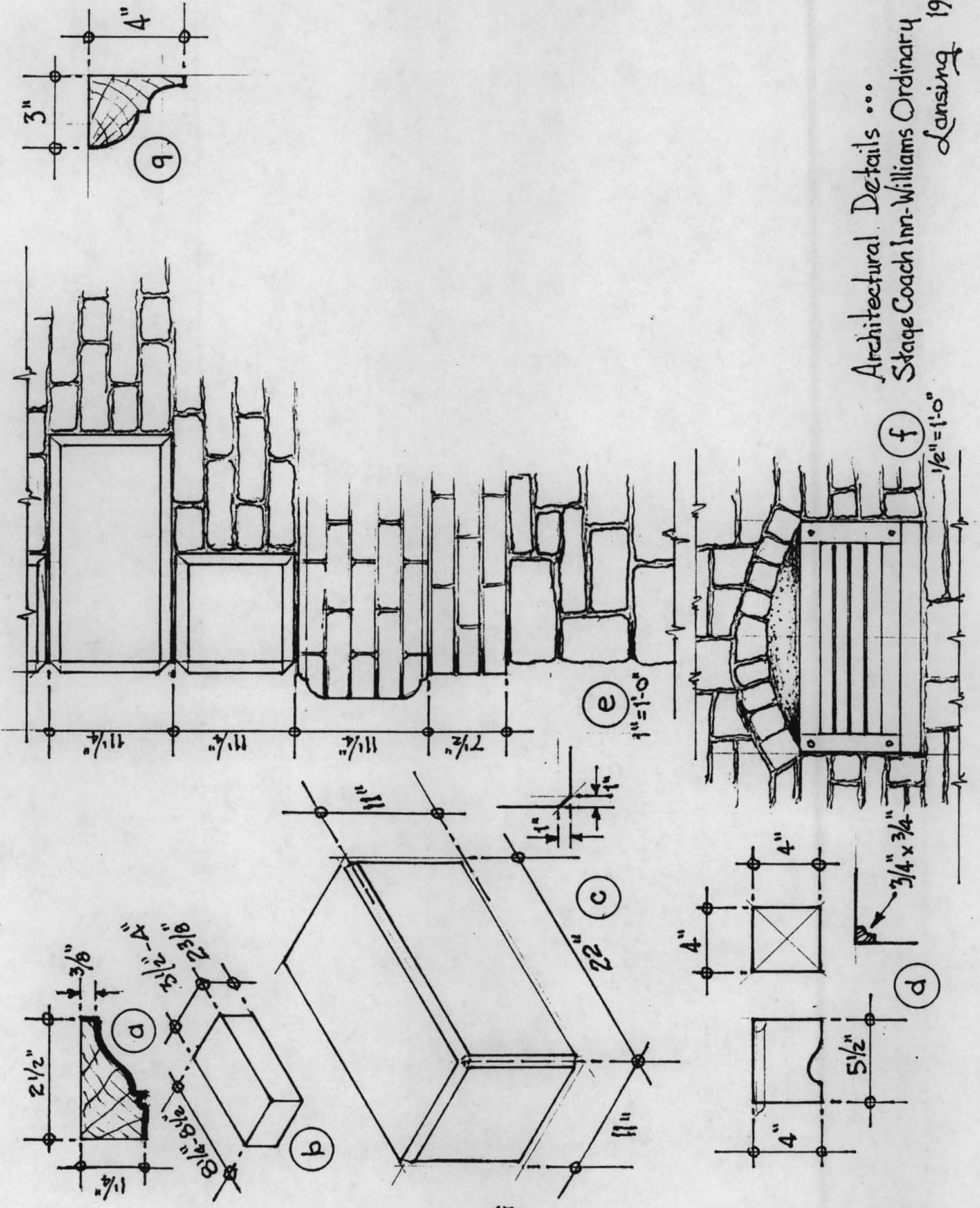


Stage Coach Inn - Williams Ordinary
Dumfries Virginia - Lanning - 1986

The Inn has through the years, received many scars, not the least of which was a lightning strike to the west chimney. This completely demolished the exposed brickwork, above the roof and followed down the flue exploding in the first floor fireplace forcing all of the face brickwork outward. The roof framing caught fire and it was only by quick firefighting that it was extinguished before it gained an insurmountable headway. The face brickwork, which was originally Flemish bond, was replaced by common bond and can be discerned today on the south elevation, from the first floor line to the second floor plate line between the west windows and the west door. The story has it that the occupant of the Inn, after the fire had been extinguished, was taken with a heart attack and nearly lost his life. The fire damage can be seen today in the roof framing above the west fireplace. The structure had settled in many places, mostly due to erosion and frost damage in the masonry, but due to the efforts of the current owner this has been arrested and repaired.

When Mr. Brown was in ownership the main stairway was changed and only by going into the basement and inspecting the area between the joists for evidence of mortices in the sub-floor, which held the studs, can the alignment of the original stair be determined. The first floor contained one large room on the northwest side and two rooms in the front, one almost twice the length of the small room, on the north, which contained the stairway to the second floor. This was the ladies room with its own entrance from the exterior. The use of two doors, one for male and one for female, was standard practice in this period, for Ordinarys in Virginia. The main great room, across the rear of the Inn had a center door for access to the kitchen and storage areas as well as the stables in the rear. This room was arranged with an arched cased opening on the north end which could be closed-off from the remainder of the room. A massive stone and brick wall ran north and south on the long axis of the building to support the second floor framing. This wall was plastered on the masonry and during the renovation the workers found a hidden cavity beside the access door to the front hall. In Mr. Brown's absence Mr. Elvan Keys decided to play a joke "on the boss" and placed a roll of Confederate bills in the cavity. Upon Mr. Brown's return the bills were brought to light - Mr. Brown was very happy with his find-never learning of the set-up.

Architectural Details ...
 Stage Coach Inn-Williams Ordinary
 Lansing 1986



LEGEND FOR ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS

- a Face or brick moulding on doors and windows - typical for both Tebbs house and the Inn. Material: Hard yellow pine.
- b Typical hard burned brick - for both buildings - believed to have come from the brick kiln on the heights above the Tebbs house - like all brick the exact size depended on its relative location to the fire which controlled the amount of shrinkage.
- c The Aquia sandstone rusticated quoins on the facade corners, both buildings employed the same brick coursing and thusly the same dimensions of the quoins.
- d The cornice modillions were of hard yellow pine with an ogee bottom cutout. The moulding which framed the modillions was of a soft pine of a cove pattern.
- e Elevation of treatment at the north east corner of the Inn watertable. This was typical of both facade corners. The brick watertable was employed around the whole periphery of the structure.
- f Detail of the basement ventilation grill. The frame of oak was mortised at the corners and pinned with trunnels (tree nails). The frame contained three, three quarters inch square iron bars mounted in mortises in the frame.
- g The modillion support (bed) moulding in the facade cornice, made from hard yellow pine - the same section was employed in both the Tebbs house and the Inn.

The masonry was well executed, its coursing and brick size was identical to that of the Tebbs house as was the quoins of Aquia stone. The windows and window flat stone arches were identical to the Tebbs house except for the keystones which were plain on the Inn and fluted on the Tebbs house. The watertable on the Tebbs house was of moulded stone and of moulded brick on the Inn. The facade on both houses employed the better of the treatment with the remainder of the exterior faces of the more common treatment with plain flat arches of brick and no keys. Both facades were of all header bond with the remaining walls of Flemish bond, the all header bond being unique in Virginia.

The exterior woodwork of both structures were identical; the moulded cornices contained modillions of the same size and shape (and ogee cut on the bottom face); the bed mould was identical, in fact, cut by the same moulding planes. (See part one for moulding description). The Inn cornice contained a base fascia in the present condition but is not evident in some of the older photos, and could have been added at a time when reconstruction of the deteriorated woodwork was required for continuity of alignment, particularly at the time of the lightning damage, when the surface was misaligned. The windows were of the same size and type with moulded box frames using the same face moulding details. Only a few photos exist which show the multi-paned sash of the Inn. Mr. Brown had retrieved a few of the Inn sash, upon replacement. The compiler was concerned with the large size of the muntins, nearly one inch in total width. The glass was held in place with small ovolo moulding and not by putty or glazing compound. The panel treatment at the south entrances was, due to its protection from the weather, maintained in fair condition; these were required due to the depth and close proximity of the fireplaces.

The framing system of the Inn was unique in that it was entirely of hand hewn members; the roof and second floor framing (ceiling framing) was of the king post type with ceiling members reflecting the hip framing interconnected with king posts at the converging points. The roof sheathing was mill sawn on a reciprocating water mill, probably from the Quantico creek area, of five quarters thickness, and varying widths from six inches to eighteen inches in width. The sheathing was originally open spaced for the application of wood shingles and had been filled, in the open areas, at a later date, to accommodate strip shingles.

When old photos of the Inn are examined it is to be noted that through the years, --- the exterior had been modified by the addition of porches and stoops of many types and styles of trim.

While the Inn has had many modifications to its exterior, through the years, it now has been renovated by its present, owner, on a slow but sure process, and presents a pleasing appearance appropriate with the architectural style of its period.

It is fortunate that the structure has come through the rigors of lightning; of the great fires of the town, such as that of 1833 when most of the combustible buildings were destroyed, along main street, and survived what meager gunfire occurred during the 1860's. It is unfortunate that some knowledge of the stables and other auxiliary buildings connected with the Inn, has not been preserved.

The meager gunfire of the 1860's is the way of saying that the shots from the Union gunboats which entered Quantico creek were wide of their mark and landed just short of the gun emplacement on Battery Hill. While working with Mr. C.F. Brown on the housing project for the hill behind the Tebbs house, the bulldozer uncovered a three inch, armor piercing, Hotchkiss shell of the type with a perforated skirt. The shell was designed to carry a lead sleeve, cast on the skirt, to engage the rifling of the bore, thus giving an accented twist to the shell. The lead sleeve had been lost in the flight and was not on the shell. I wanted the artifact very badly for a museum piece, but Mr. Brown claimed it for himself. Many years later, after his death, I received a call from Mary Moaller, his daughter, who was settling his estate. She told me he had left a note, attached to the shell which he used as a door stop. The note directed that the shell be given to me - I also use it as a door stop - until I find an appropriate location for its display - the note was still with the shell when I received it - neatly folded and tucked into the hollow base of the shell.

What little history is available regarding the battery on "Grayson's Hill" does not make mention of an engagement, either with army or navy personnel, - it was placed there to protect the rear of the Potomac batteries from troops coming south on Telegraph Road, but must have made itself known to the Union flotilla and as a result received at least a token shot in return.

It is fortunate that such a limited engagement took place, as both the Inn and Foushee Tebbs house would have been in the line of fire for shells falling short of their mark, as did the one just mentioned - the shell was found, on the hill, not far behind the Tebbs house. It must have struck a tree, or some object to arrest its velocity as it was buried only about a foot deep.

SOURCES of data for this paper consist of several publications and oral history from long time residents of the Town of Dumfries who as young boys played in the "haunted house".

COLONIAL INTERIORS, First Series, by Leigh French Jr., AIA

THE MANSIONS OF VIRGINIA, by Thomas Tileston Waterman.

LANDMARKS OF OLD PRINCE WILLIAM, by Fairfax Harrison.

WILLIAM BUCKLAND, by Rosamond Randall Birne and John Henry Scarff, FAIA

PRINCE WILLIAM-THE STORY OF ITS PLACES AND ITS PEOPLE, WPA in Virginia.

Oral History from Mr. CECIL GARRISON of Dumfries.

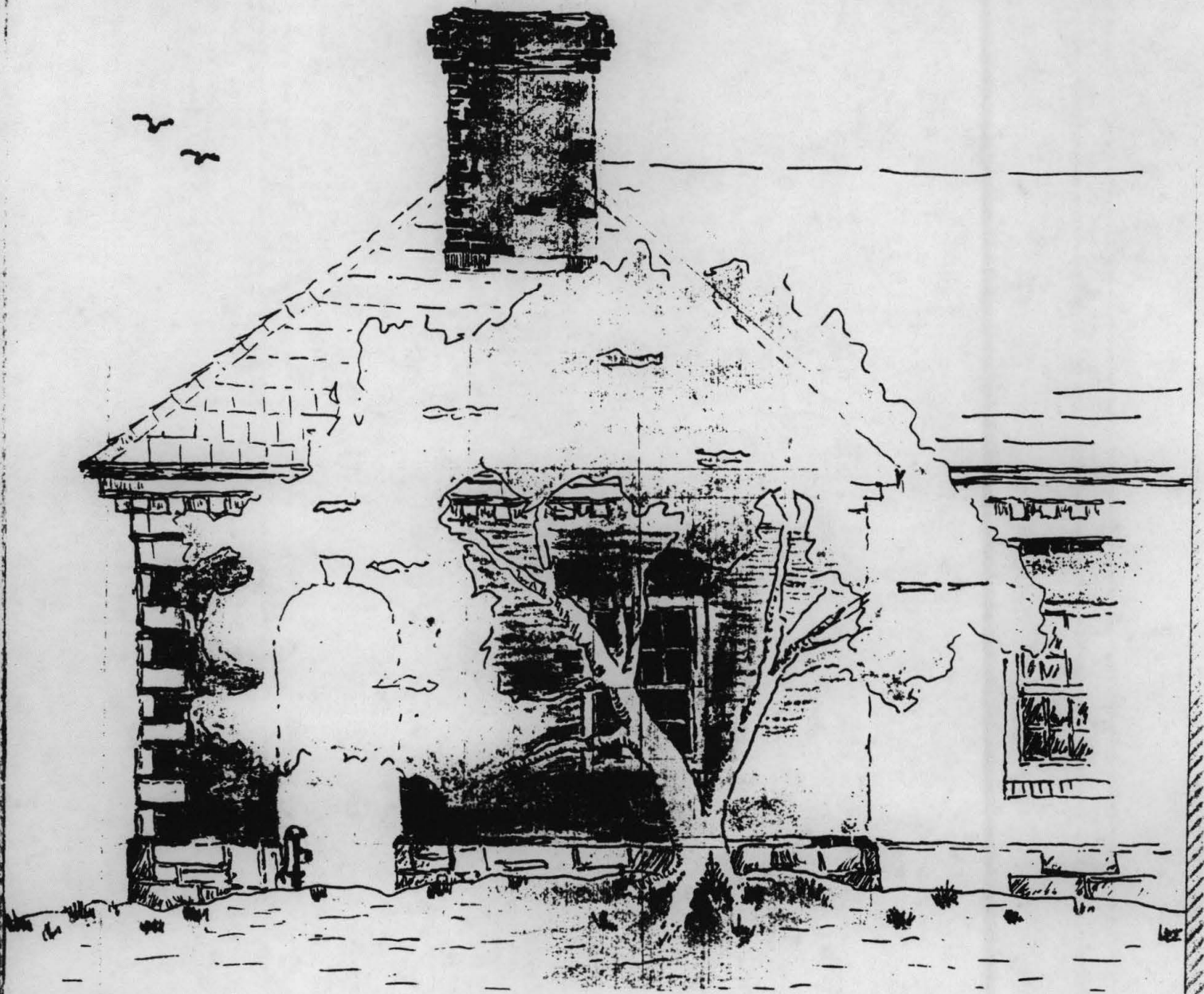
Oral History from Mr. ELVAN KEYS of Dumfries.

Oral History from Mr. C.F. Brown of Quantico.

Oral History from Mrs. ANNIE KEYS CLINE SHUMATE, from Dumfries.

In the search for knowledge of the houses of Dumfries, the compiler, in the period from 1943 to 1986, has received many stories, some "tall" and some "short", of which he has sifted the "wheat from the chaff", the best of which follows:

An elderly lifetime resident of Dumfries, in talking of the muddy street called "The King's Highway", namely just south of the Stage Coach Inn tells of its condition before paving in the early twenties. Touring in this period of shiny autos, windbreakers, goggles and the like accessories meant that, after a rain, many times the operator became stuck in the mud and had to rely on the local farmers and their teams of horses to pull them out of the mud. The fee was in the neighborhood of five dollars or what ever the traffic would bear. This gentleman, in his early teens (and later) soon found that he could work all night hauling water from the stream, and dumping it in the ruts in order to maintain a profitable business. He said that this provided him with his spending money and a nest egg with which he was able to marry the girl of his dreams. I asked if his conscience ever bothered him but received no reply, but a guilty look.



The Dumfries Architectural Ghost ..

-- no known photos, paintings, drawings or concise word descriptions have yet been found of the Third Prince William County Courthouse. Recently several Colonial Williamsburg Foundation experts opened the ground and found much of historic interest. -- This subsurface archaeological exploration is like looking at a print from a double exposed film -- with two centuries between exposures --

Lee C. Lansing Jr.
Town Historian

May - 1984

**THE TOWN OF DUMFRIES
AND
THE HONORABLE FOUSHEE TEBBS**

**PART THREE
THE COURT HOUSE OF 1762**

The exact date of construction of this structure had been conjecture for many years and was taken as 1762, since that was the date when Benjamin Tompkins completed his contract and was relieved from his securities. The actual work on the structure was started in early 1759 and the building was occupied in the summer of 1761 and Foushee Tebbs was then given the use of his residence without the intrusion of the citizenry of Prince William County.

It must be noted that this court house has been a well kept secret, for years, -we knew where it was located from oral history given by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bishop, and by Annie Shumate the guardian of the court house location thru the years. She tells of playing in its ruins, when a young girl and of watching its decay as the masonry walls tumbled and various citizens salvaged the brick and stone to build their homes in the town. Many people have spent time in research attempting to find photos of the structure; something of an idea of its floor plan or even narrative descriptions of its facade when it was used as a place of justice, or in later years when it was used as a house of worship. To the knowledge of the compiler none of this material has surfaced - until the summer of 1983 when, the administrators of Gunston Hall were effecting some repairs and came upon a section of removed window trim on which had been drawn details of what was taken to be a court house.

For many years the Historic Dumfries group had discussed the desirability of an archaeological sub-surface investigation. The finding of the sketches on the Gunston Hall frieze gave the proper emphasis for a concerted effort to find funds for the project.

Funds were finally provided for the project by the Prince William County Historical Commission; authorization to excavate was given by the property owners and On 9, May 1984 a contract was entered into between Colonial Williamsburg and the Prince William County Historical Commission.

Fieldwork was conducted from 21-26, May 1984 and analysis was conducted during June and July following.

This initial effort by Dr. Carl Lounsbury and his crew from the Dep't. of Archaeology, Dep't. of Architectural Research, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, approached the site both internally and externally and quickly defined the scope of the structure. It also, by judicious use of earth moving equipment defined the external latitude of immediate concern.

The team then confined themselves to the interior of the structure which revealed paving stone floors, internal wall configurations, entrance ways (with time worn threshold stones), differences in flooring materials, a surprising apse wall on the south side and many more points of interest too numerous to mention.

What follows is in a great part conjecture, due to the fact that only a small portion of the structure has been uncovered, but what has been brought to light is adequate to compare with the Gunston sketches and to a trained architectural mind some poetic license is permitted. Dr. Carl Lounsbury has provided this expertise in his report of the proceedings dated 1, August 1984. A further definition or progression by Dr. Lounsbury to project the findings has not defined the floor plan and, due to more pressing work for Williamsburg Foundation, probably will not be forthcoming.

For the foregoing reasons and in order to salvage what has been accomplished up to this time -- and to keep the project in the public eye, with a possibility to eventual further development and a hope of rebuilding the court house as a historic edifice, this attempt by the compiler should be considered in that light.

It is without question, that the Gunston sketches are borne-out to a very great degree by what has been found in the ground and is defined in a progression of drawings that follow and are self explanatory.

Plate A - Is a copy of the architects study sketches found at Gunston Hall - they are typical of the process, by progression, used today by architects in discussion with a client, starting with a given thought and as the conversation proceeds the sketch is modified and amplified until a common agreement is reached. It is then that final plans are drawn from the study sketches.

Plate B - Is a field layout of the immediate site of the structure with an overlay showing the location and progress of the investigation - and what it foretold. As with all archaeological investigations, a complete record was made as the work progressed - and as it was plotted, to scale, it became more evident that the structure was following very closely the Gunston sketches.

Plate C - Is an outline of the wall layout, without other data, resulting in the approximate size and shape of the found wall configuration.

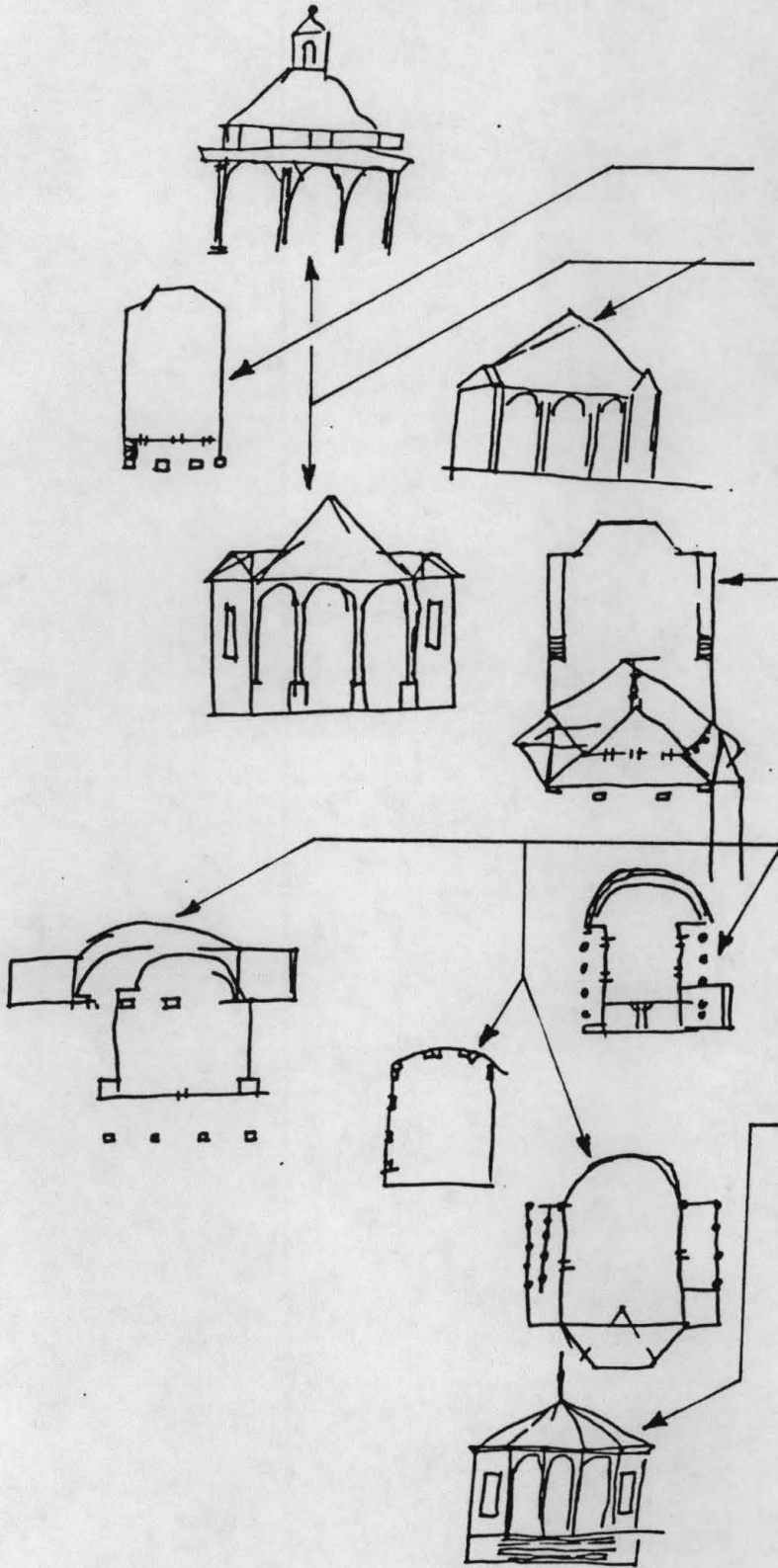
Plate D - Is a final floor plan, strictly conjecture, combining results of the sub-surface investigation, and using historical facts as to court room layouts of the period, as defined by Dr. Lounsbury in his report.

LEGEND FOR PLATE D

Area allocations are conjecture.

- ① Entrance vestibule
- ② Jury rooms
- ③ Arcade (side) entrances
- ④ Public area
- ⑤ Sheriff and/or cryer
- ⑥ Litigants and lawyers
- ⑦ Court clerk
- ⑧ Jury
- ⑨ Justices / Magistrates

GEORGE MASON AND WILLIAM BUCKLAN
CONFER ON A PROPOSED COURT HOUSE

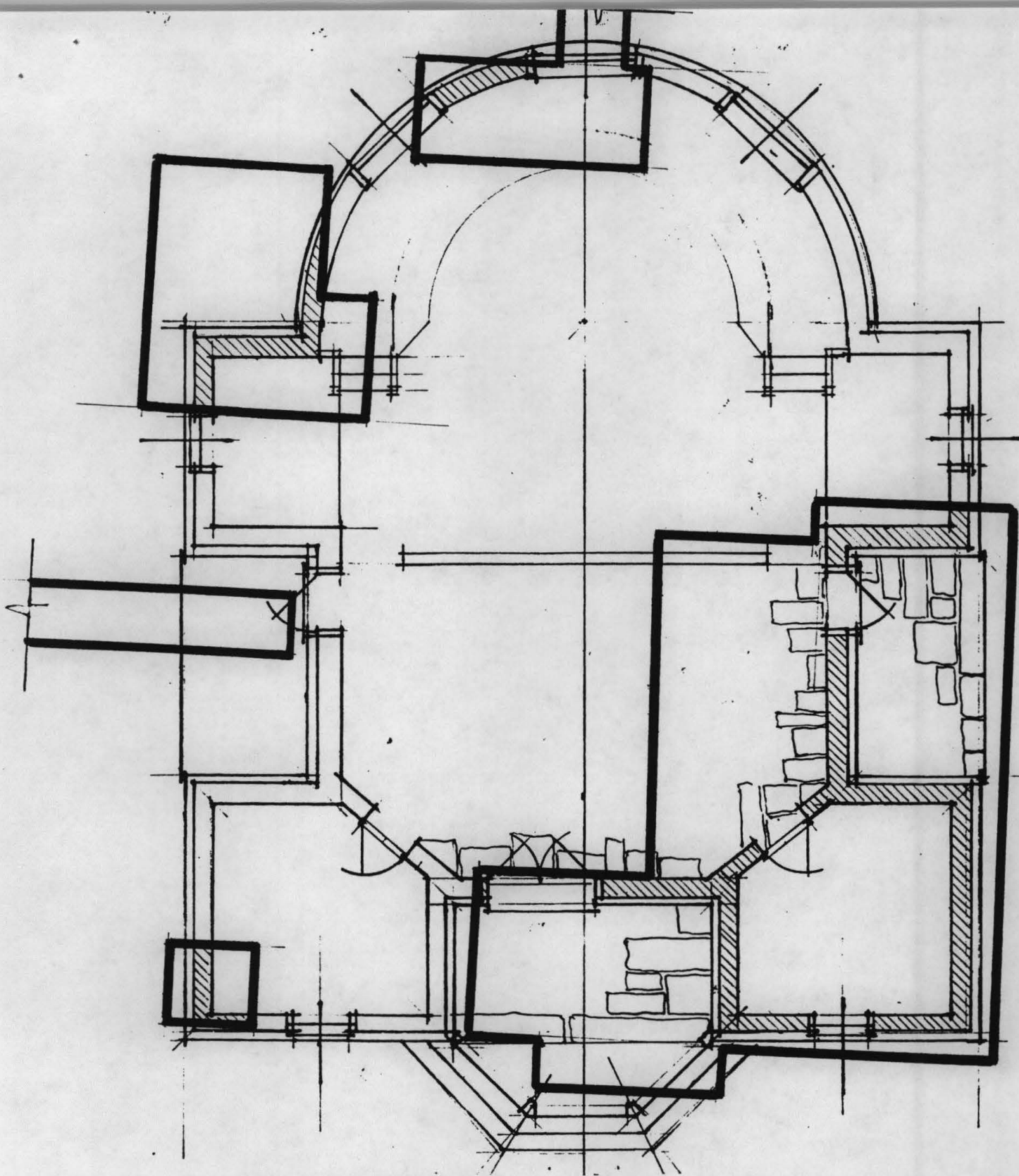


The discussion probably started with the floor plan (upper left) and progressed to a definition of the facade, the next three sketches.

Having arrived at an approximate satisfactory frontal treatment, the discussion progressed to a development of the floor plan. This no doubt was involved with acceptable court room procedure and the location of the stations for each of the participants, as prompted by George Mason.

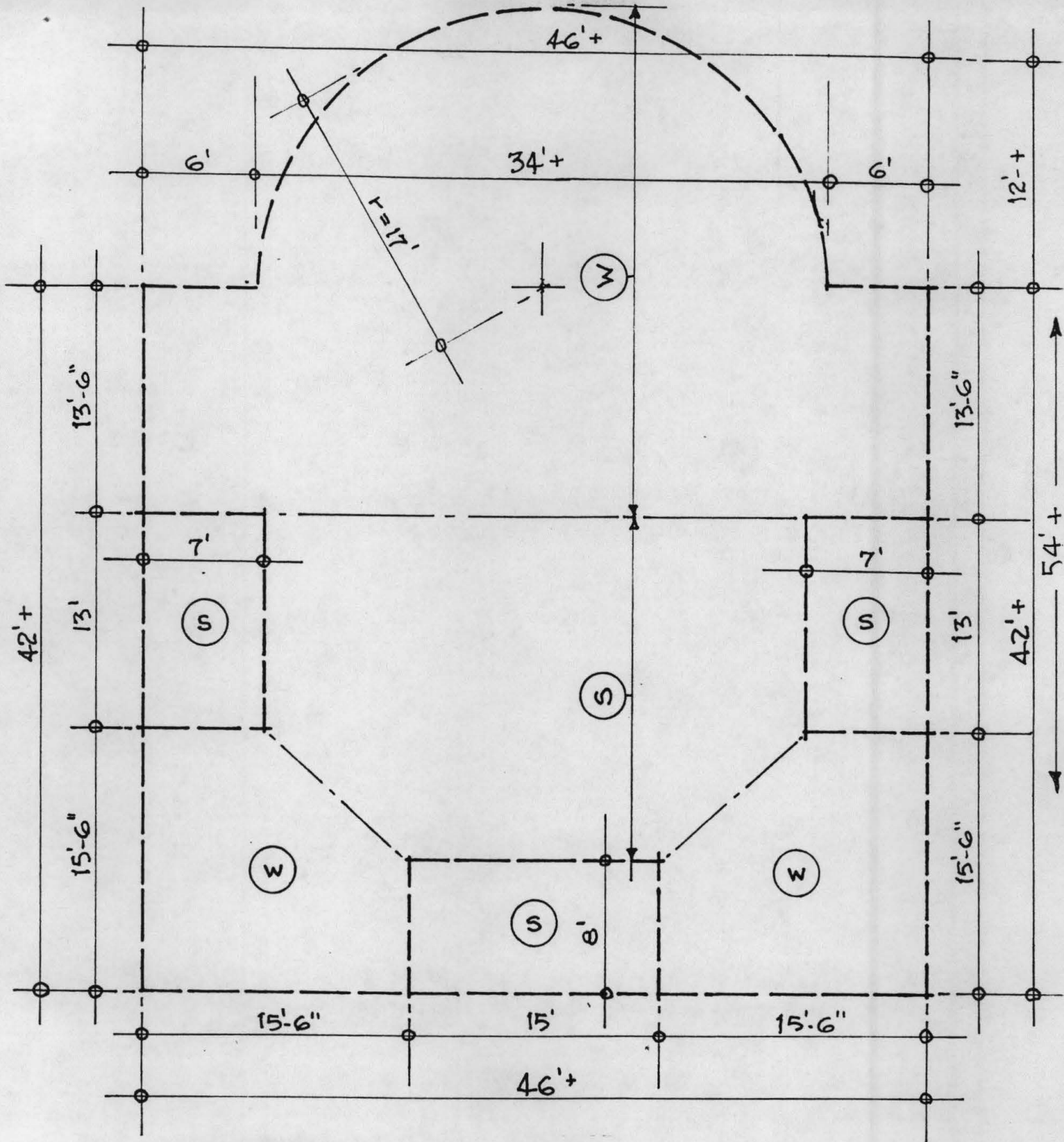
The arrangement of the floor plan then went to the embellishments - such as the apse wall, the entrance locations, the type finishes, and finally a revision to the facade. The cupola, for the bell, was shown in the first discussion of the facade, but was not carried thru to the final treatment, it was, however, a part of the final construction.

The facade followed closely plate #10 of Rob't. Morris's "Architectural Remembrancer", which William Buckland used in many cases, i.e. the river side entrance to Gunston Hall.



LEGEND

- Ultimate extent of exploration
- ▨** Wall exposed in exploration

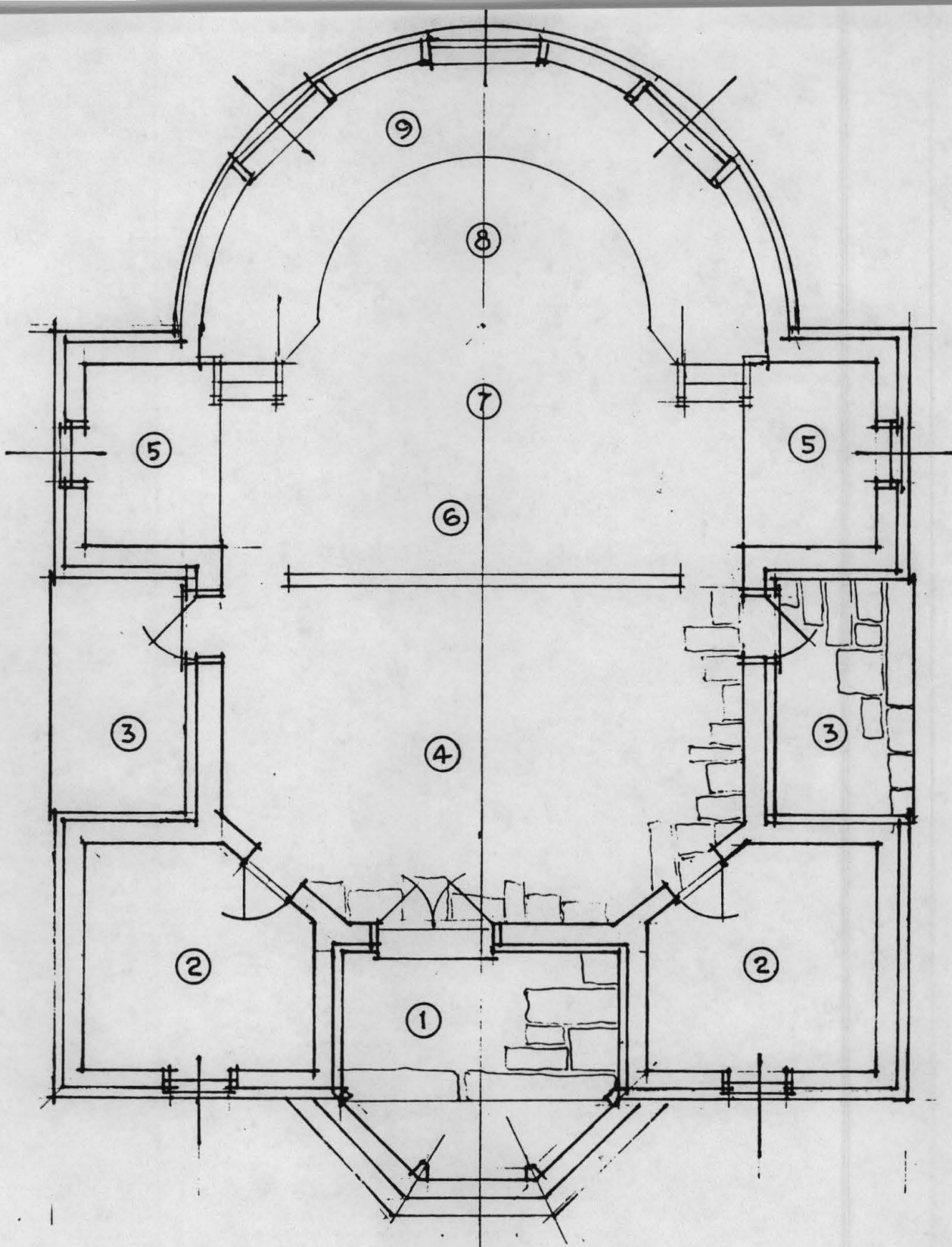


LEGEND

All dimensions are approximate

- (W) Indicates wood floor
- (S) Indicates stone paving

PLATE C

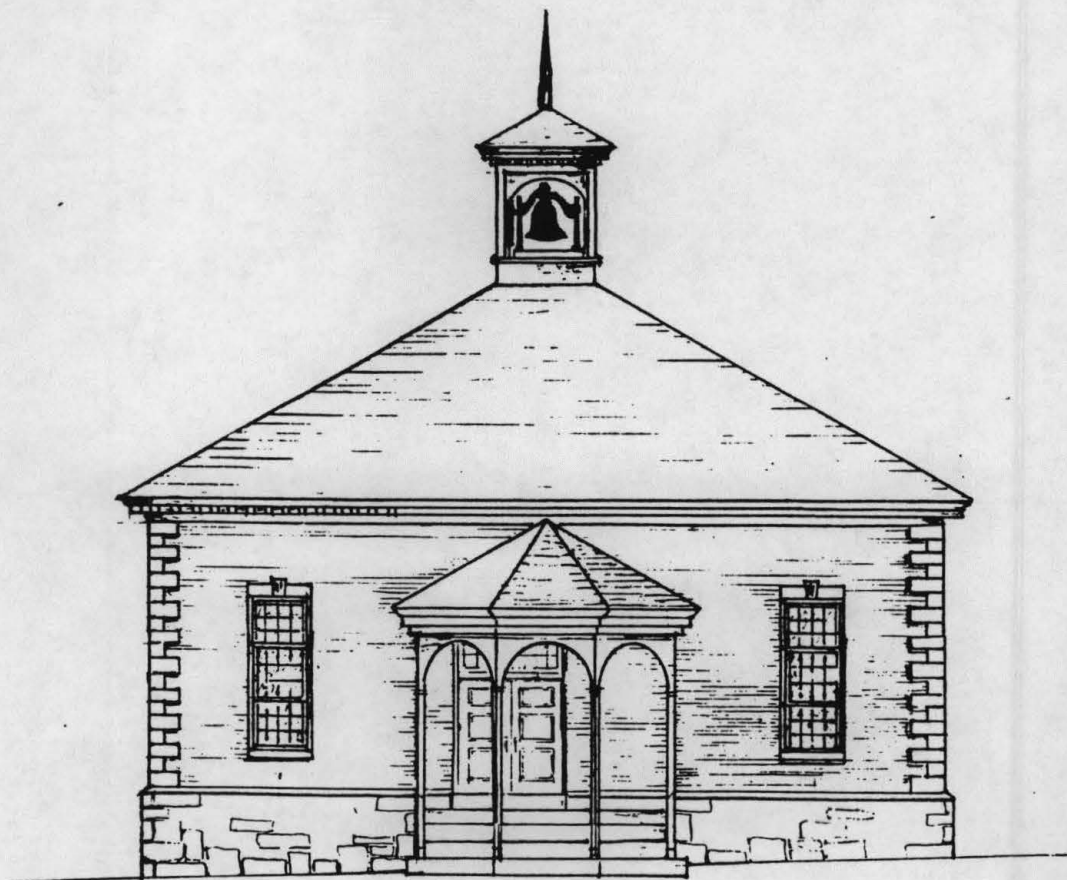


DUMFRIES COURTHOUSE FLOOR PLAN

PLATE D

From the meager findings, as a result of the explorations, and the fact that they "fit" very closely the sketches from Gunston Hall, it is evident that the courthouse was unique, a very different design than any other Virginia courthouse of the Colonial period, yet discovered.

Since we have no delineation of the exterior facade; no photos or paintings or word descriptions from which we may determine in a reasonable fashion, what the structure consisted of, we must employ the pieces of information that we do have, to put together, like a jig-saw puzzle, a conjectural picture of its facade. We know of its base stonework, its brick masonry and its stone trim; we know of its flag-stone and wood floors and a few other small details from which - with Dr. Lounsbury's report and the sketches of Gunston Hall a conjectural sketch can be formulated. Perhaps someday a photo will be found that will fill-in such things as the type and style of its windows; the ceiling height, the cornice and roof pitch which will permit us to determine just how closely the conjectural sketch has come to the real thing, without question a gem of Colonial design.



Of the significant architectural features found and highlighted by Dr. Lounsbury, it has been possible to determine much of the necessary points required to reconstruct the floor plan of the courthouse. Some of the more subtle and less evident findings are:

The stonework, while meager in its message, due to its lack of recognizable quantity, size and shapes can be found in close proximity to the courthouse lot. The front step cheek walls, of the Henderson House entrance porch contain quoins and other miscellaneous pieces salvaged from the courthouse lot across Fairfax Street. This construction was accomplished when Dr. Cline added the porch to the house, according to Mrs. Shumate.

Mrs. Shumate also pointed out the fence line, on the low ground, to the east of the courthouse, where she kept her cows. These old postholes were of much interest to the archaeologists in relation to a possible location of the jail and/or the clerk's office. Small pieces of broken brick, in the postholes, were placed there by Mrs. Shumate, to preclude broken limbs of the animals, after the fence was removed. This was a disappointment to the investigators, as postholes can reveal much by their contents.

The watertable brick, molded with a 45 degree angle, were a scarce item, but one good example was salvaged which contained a mortar mark indicating the wall setback above the watertable. This provided the compiler with one detail of wall construction, for the conjectural facade.

The front entrance doorway would normally be located on the centerline of the entranceway - not in this case, as the found threshold stone, well worn from foot traffic, was off center. Why this condition occurred is not evident at this time - perhaps when we know more of the interior arrangement its purpose will be revealed.

All of the threshold stones found showed signs of considerable wear.

Evidence of the backup brick, being of lesser quality than the face brick was obvious, particularly in the apse wall. Much of this material showed evidence of short burning in the kiln, or a salmon color, which did not weather well when exposed.

No clear indication was found to locate a fireplace within the structure. We were looking for a discoloration of the sub-soil, indicating presence of a concentration of heat. It is therefore evident that the fireplace was located on heavy masonry or perhaps raised on a heavy platform of masonry.

Insufficient excavation had been accomplished to reveal a fallen chimney by a domino or eschelon effect of brick lying just below the surface.

The contractors trenches, those excavations required to place the base masonry below the frost line, revealed very little of significance, indicating the trench had been well cleaned after the wall was built and before the backfill or that the workmen had been careful to dispose of all debris outside of the trench area, an unlikely situation. The backfill could have been applied in layers as the wall was completed which would have given the same final result. It is unique not to find mortar tailings in a wall trench - these contained very little.

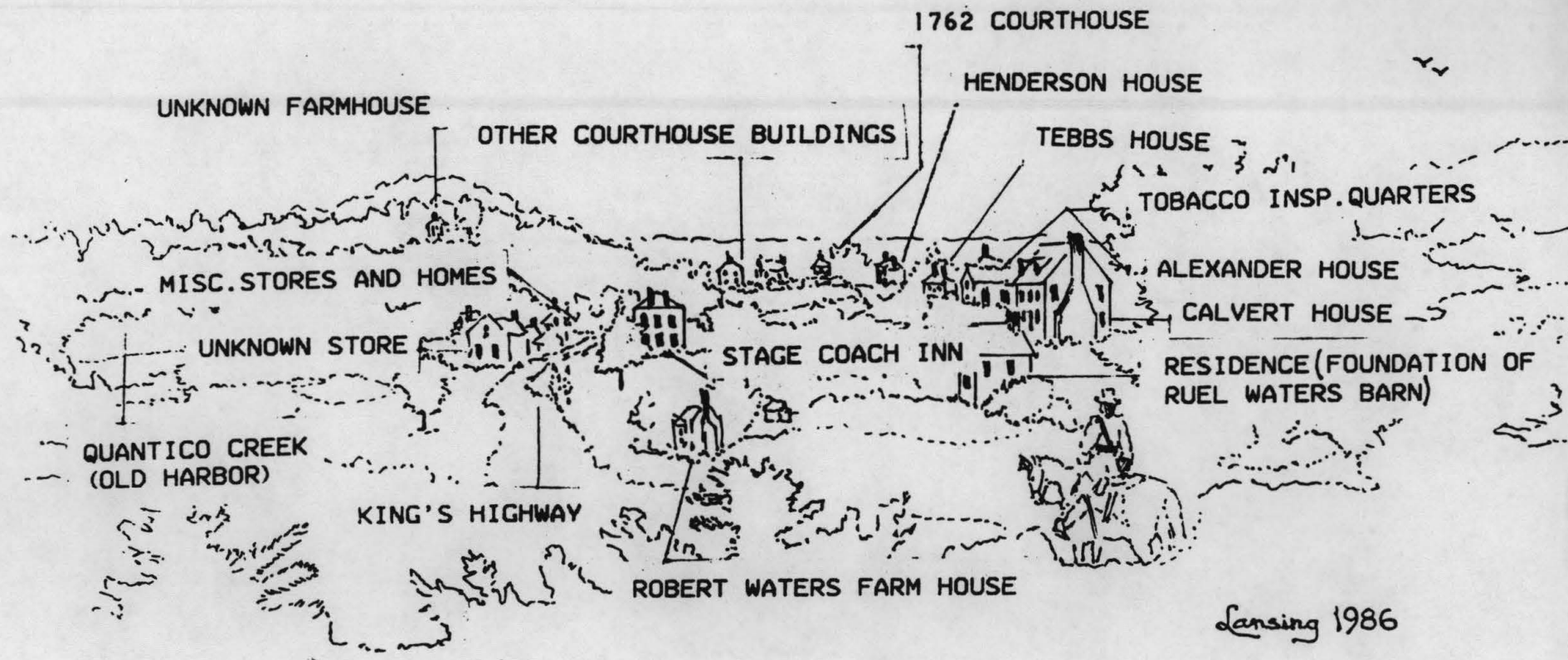
The use of slate to bring a course of masonry into alignment was very evident in the starting courses, even in the stone face course location where the stone had been salvaged, the slate was still in place with the mortar holding firm.

Those paving stones extant showed evidence of wear from foot traffic, like a path across a lawn, where habit had directed the passage of occupants. The paving stone had been set in mortar with slate used to level the mortar bed.

The existing hollow or excavation to the southeast of the courthouse beyond the fence line, where it is thought the jail or goal (there were two), was located could be the basement excavation and when investigated will probably yield some very interesting data.



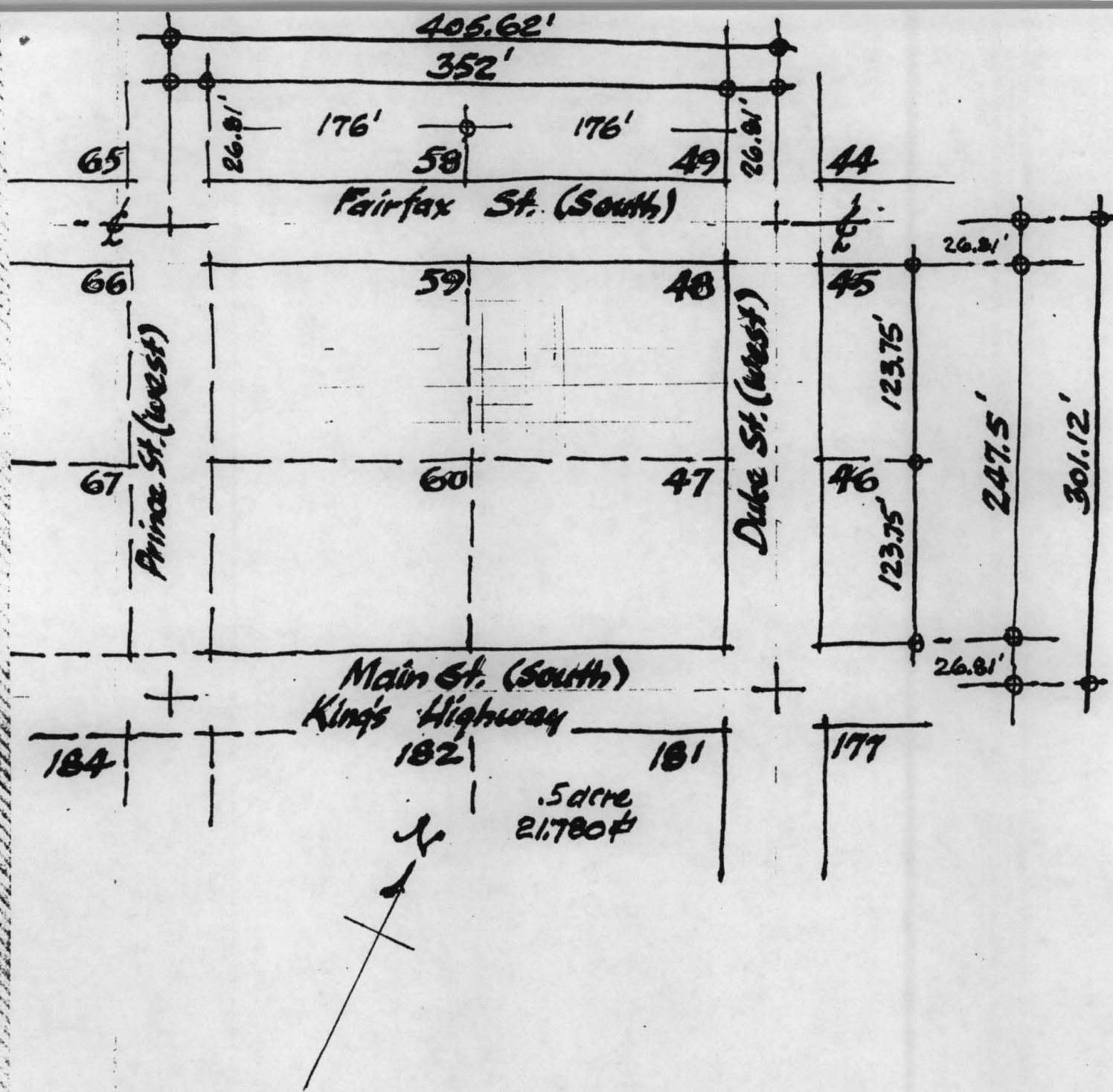
This is an 1862 illustration
from HARPERS BAZAAR magazine



From a sketch by A.R. Waud
for Harper's Weekly

DUMFRIES IN THE CIVIL WAR

PANARAMA FROM HILL AT OLD STAGE
COACH ROAD AND U S # 1 -- 1862



VICINITY PLAN
 DUMFRIES COURTHOUSE
 Scale: 1" = 100'