

Hoyle House Site Visits  
15 June, 29 June and 27 July 1996  
John C. Larson & David Bergstone

The primary purpose of the visits was to begin recording the building on the DataCAD program. The goal is to develop floor plans, a sectional view, and detailing as part of the recording process on the building. The advantage of using a CAD is the flexibility that the computer provides to update and modify the drawings quickly and inexpensively as new information is recovered.

A second goal was to continue gathering technical information such as nail types, sawing techniques, and construction details that would aid in the differentiation of the various periods of construction and appearance of the building.

A third goal was to gather information to allow the completion of the restoration of the frame outbuilding and begin ordering material for the well house.

#### **TASKS COMPLETED AND OBSERVATIONS:**

Measurements were taken to record the rafter system with a detail of the construction technique at the Junction of the rafters, collar beam, purlin, and post. Dimensions for floor plans and the sectional view were also recorded.

#### **Rafters:**

Pine, *record for report size, shaping technique and spacing*

The rafters have an open mortise.

The purlin posts are designed differently on the two ends.

The "collar" beams do not align with the rafters but are simply pegged into the purlins dividing the space into quarters.

The kick or false rafters extend beyond and below the ends of the joists. This would seem to indicate that the underside of the roof as visible from below and perhaps there was no cornice in the log period. These "kicks" were sawn off on the rear facade with the ell additions on the front the remain and incorporated into the new cornice.

Work to do: Investigate the cornice design for the log period, verify nailing for first period fascia board.

Detail the Kick and the Federal period cornice construction

#### **Roof:**

The existing lath seems to date to the period of the major Federal upgrade - it is applied with wrought head nails with cut shanks. A section of wooden shingles remain - protected by the ell addition. These are pine applied with cut nails and by the number of nail holes in the lath it appears to be at least the second wooden roof applied to the existing lath.

There are nail holes in the rafters for an earlier lath system but no nails were found.

Wrought nails were used to apply the false rafter or "kick" to the rafters and one would expect the same to have been used for the first lath.

*Hypothesis:* The roof lath for the first period was removed during the substantial renovation of the building in the Federal style. This again is an indicator that the log house stood for a reasonable period of time before the renovation.

Work to Do: Try to identify the spacing of the original lath.  
Look more thoroughly for a surviving first period lath nail.  
Look for shingle or board fragment from first period roof

**Flooring:**

Pine, tongue and groove, hand planed, inch thick and width varies from 10 to 12 inches (verify)

Verify size of bead

All flooring is face nailed with wrought nails. Nail sample taken.

A bead on the underside indicating that the ceiling joists on the second floor were exposed with a beaded board ceiling.

**Attic Summary:**

The attic was a floored space that looked originally much as it does today. How the gable ends were finished is not known at this time but based on the existing stud pattern it appears that weatherboard was used and perhaps riven clapboards. The box in the attic is nailed with wrought nails indicating storage or perhaps sleeping activities in this part of the house. The presence of a finished stair suggest regular usage. The roof lath has been replaced indicating a state of deterioration or a major change in style.

Investigate window framing in attic

Investigate "bed" for divider

**Second Floor Ceiling Joist:**

Pine, hand planed (*verify dimension and on center spacing*)

These are chamfered indicating that they were exposed in the first period.

The chamfering is interrupted in the center of the joist indicating the presence of a summer.

These rest on the top log (check notching) but do not extend beyond the outside plane of the logs.

**Summer:**

A fragment of this summer was located between the chimney and the stair to the attic.

This had to have been removed prior to the installation of the board partition wall on the second floor; there is no indication of this wall engaging the summer.

**Second Floor Ceiling**

The above evidence indicates that the original ceiling was composed of a chamfered summer and joists supporting wide beaded boards - all unpainted yellow pine.

The current ceiling was added at the time or just prior to the installation of the existing partition wall.

The size of these boards are wider in the rear of the house and become narrower toward the front.

Work to do:

Check nail type in ceiling  
Paint Sample

**Stair to Attic:**

The stair is constructed with wrought nails.

The partition wall is vertical walnut, tongue and groove, one inch thick boards with a bead on both sides (verify width of hoards and bead) These boards are hand planed and secured with wrought nails.

The trim around the door opening is applied with wrought nails.

The chair board and base board are applied with cut nails (verify)

The door to the attic is attached with cast iron hinges - there is some evidence of nails from an earlier hinge on the left jamb. (verify) Possible replacement door to match other doors on the 2nd floor.

Although the door to the space under the closet matches the attic door in panel design and its cast iron hinges, there is no casing and it appears that this opening was cut in at a later date, perhaps with the renovation of the second floor.

Work to do: Paint Sample

**Second Floor Partitions:**

These partitions are constructed of pine boards with cut nails (verify)

They have been relocated farther into the room with both installations below the existing ceiling.

The partitions were in-place prior to the plastering of the walls .

The doors in this partition seem to match the doors in the stair wall in design and hardware.

Work to do: Paint Sample

Check for evidence of nailing, the partition to the ceiling joists prior to installation of ceiling boards.

**Second Floor Flooring**

Matches the attic flooring with T&G pine beaded on the underside, unpainted.

The mortise located in one of the joists may have related to a post but there is no evidence in the floor board (nailed with wrought nails) that there had been a post. The top would have tied into the summer which is now gone. Current hypothesis is that the post was not installed as perhaps originally planned.

**Second Floor Summary:**

Originally, the second floor appears to have been one large open room. It had a stair in the front corner with a railing around the opening, a walnut board wall enclosing the stair to the attic, the existing fireplace, exposed chamfered ceiling joists, summer, and beaded ceiling boards all

unpainted. There were probably two windows in the front and another two in the rear, and two on the end opposite the fireplace. The wall were probably exposed logs white washed.

A renovation occurred with the removal of the summer and the addition of a board ceiling and board partitions creating two small room on the non fireplace end of the room. The walls were plastered' These two rooms were later enlarged by moving the partition toward the fireplace and capturing a window on the front and rear of the house. New door for the attic stair and a new door under the stair were added. Floor hatch in the closet maybe the result of a new fireplace created on the first floor.

*Is this a third period of alteration or date to the Federal renovation?*

### **First Floor Stair:**

There is clear evidence of the stair in the front corner of the house. The rise and tread size can be measured by the outlines from the boards used to panel the stairwell. There is a difference in the size of the bead on the boards from inside the stairwell to front wall of the room. This division point indicates the partition location.

*Measure bead sizes.*

A fragment of the stair enclosure partition is still nailed to the ceiling joists. The bottom of two posts are visible where the extant flooring cuts around them with the post and backband cut from a single piece of wood. The location of these two decorated posts seems to indicate the location of an under the stair doorway. An early six panel door was located being reused in a bathroom. It has wrought iron "H" hinges and is probably the original stairway door.

Work to do:      Paint sample - board walls, reused door, stairwell partition fragment.  
Detail stair drawing.

### **Partition Walls:**

Walnut panel partition appears to be from the first period probably unpainted *Evaluate chair rail, & base*

The dividing wall of the two side rooms has beading that may be the same size a's the ceiling boards and the attic stair wall boards.

*Draw detail of original cornice.*

### **Rear Fireplace:**

There is evidence to suggest that this fireplace is an addition.

- a.) The floor joists are cut is a very random pattern where they should engage the header for the hearth.

- b.) There is a large brick patch in the stone foundation indicating some later activity or modification such as the construction of this corner fireplace.
- c.) The flue for this rear fireplace does not penetrate the second floor but rather seems to return to main from the front room fireplace. Note floor patch in closet 2nd floor.

Work to do: Examine the flue system. Test the area where the two masonry masses meet.

**Rear Wall First Floor:**

Modern panels were removed revealing Federal period door and window openings.

**Front Room:**

There is evidence of the earlier floor under the existing modern floor.

*Work to do:*      Remove modern flooring  
                         Remove all modern paneling from the walls and ceiling throughout the first floor.

**Frame Outbuilding:**

Measured door opening, determined that the stops had been moved, proper door thickness one and one quarter inch with two four inch cast iron hinges.

Ordered a pair of four inch cast iron hinges, and a box lock with ceramic knob from Ball and Ball hardware.

Board and batten door designed and ordered from Bill Warlick, Winston-Salem

Survey was made of window sash in the house to match with outbuilding, one six light sash found in the kitchen ell matched in size and construction as an acceptable prototype to reproduce for the windows of the outbuilding. Sash to be duplicated by firm in Salisbury.

*Work to do:*      Paint exterior of building base color white  
                         Match trim color  
                         Sand the floor

**Brick Well House:**

The roof has been reworked - both the front and rear plate appear to have been patched; the front eave does not match the rear in overhang.

Braced lintel at doorway.

Took additional brick samples to Old Carolina Brick Co Salisbury.

Verified samples on site and adjusted order for 1000 brick.