

Blue Ridge Parkway
Saunders Farm
Historic Structures Report



June 2005

Historical Architecture, Cultural Resources Division

Southeast Regional Office

National Park Service



The historic structure report presented here exists in two formats. A traditional, printed version is available for study at the park, the Southeastern Regional Office of the NPS (SERO), and at a variety of other repositories. For more widespread access, the historic structure report also exists in a web-based format through ParkNet, the website of the National Park Service. Please visit www.nps.gov for more information.

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Southeast Region
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2005
Historic Structures Report
Saunders Farm
Blue Ridge Parkway
Peaks of Otter, VA
LCS#: Saunders House 006493
 Saunders Meat House 006495
 Saunders Chicken House 006496
 Saunders Hog House and Pen 006497

Cover image: NPS, photo by Sam P. Weems, 9
February 1949

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Foreword

We are pleased to make available this historic structure report on Saunders Farm, part of our ongoing effort to provide comprehensive documentation for the historic structures and landscapes of National Park Service units in the Southeast Region. Many individuals contributed to this work, but we would particularly like to thank Al Hess, the park's NHPA specialist, and the rest of the staff at the Blue Ridge Parkway for their assistance. Special thanks go to Jackie Holt, museum curator at the park, for her work in searching the park's collection for historic photographs. We hope that this study of Saunders Farm will prove valuable to park management in efforts to preserve the site and to everyone in understanding and interpreting this unique resource.

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Management Summary

Located just off Virginia Highway 43 near the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Peaks of Otter Recreational Area, Saunders Farm is reported to have been owned by three generations of an African-American family in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century but has been unoccupied since at least 1947. The two surviving buildings on the farm are excellent examples of vernacular architecture, and the materials and craftsmanship with which they were constructed are a primary component of the site's significance.

Historical Data

Although limited by time and budget, historical research has been sufficient to understand the nature of the historic building, if not to fully interpret its significance. A historic resource study of the site should be a high priority if the site is to be properly interpreted. In addition to the single oral interview with the Saunders' daughter and the more recent interview with the Saunders' neighbor William R. Wright, a cursory survey of documentation at the Bedford County Courthouse found a record for George Saunders' birth in 1880 and for his marriage to Bettie Ross in 1905. Courthouse documents also include the deed recorded for George Saunders' purchase of the 22-acre farm from his father in 1912, his sale of six acres to the Federal government in 1927, and the sale of the remainder of the farm to the Federal government in 1942. A plat of the property was also recorded in 1942.

The Federal censuses 1850-1930 were searched during the course of this project. George Saunders was located in the Federal census in 1880, 1920, and 1930, but he has not been located in the censuses of 1900 and 1910 (the 1890 census schedules no longer

exist). His father was located in the 1870, 1880, and 1910 census but not in the 1900 census. The identity of George Saunders' grandfather, who presumably bought the land sometime after the Civil War, has not been documented.

There are a number of avenues of research that might be pursued, but the interviews being conducted for the park's currently ongoing ethnographic study may be the most productive. Children and grandchildren of George and Betty Saunders are still living in the area, and interviews would certainly yield significant amounts of new information.

Architectural Data

Located on the rocky southern slope of Flat Top Mountain above Little Stony Creek, the Saunders Farm site is at an elevation that ranges from around 2,100 feet to as much as 2,500 feet. The site is completely overgrown with hardwood saplings and undergrowth that have grown up in the last thirty years. As a result, the house is almost completely hidden from view during the growing season and difficult to access at any time of the year.

See page 23 for plans illustrating the building's evolution and page 45 for a plan of the existing building.

The site is notable for the series of sixteen man-made terraces that made agriculture possible, but the most prominent features are the Saunders House and the nearby meat house, both of which are of log and wood-frame construction. Two other outbuildings, also of log construction, are in ruins,

one located about fifty feet east of the house and another about a hundred feet north. The site of the barn that stood southeast of the meat house has not been located.

This HSR is based on an initial inspection of the site in April 2005. At that time, the large amount of debris - including animal waste, bones, and nests, some of it potentially hazardous - limited the work inside the house. In spite of decades of neglect and some vandalism, the main house and the meat house remain in surprisingly good condition, with most of their historic features intact. It is assumed that this HSR will be updated after a more thorough inspection and condition assessment once the building is cleared of debris.

Ultimate Treatment and Use

Management objectives for Saunders Farm have not been formally established, but it is generally assumed that Saunders Farm would be preserved and restored to its historic appearance for use as a museum exhibit in a manner similar to the nearby Johnson Farm. Saunders Farm could interpret the African-American experience of farming the rugged hillsides of western Virginia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, providing an opportunity to compare and contrast that experience with the experience interpreted at Johnson Farm, which was owned by a white family.

Treatment should not attempt to restore the buildings to their original appearance. Not only is the "original" appearance of the buildings difficult, if not impossible, to define, it is the larger story of the Saunders' use of the land that is significant and not some particular event or point in time. In essence, the recommended approach to treatment would repair and preserve the buildings at Saunders Farm as they existed when the Saunders vacated the property in the late 1940s.

Summary of Recommendations

Adaptation and stabilization of Saunders Farm to allow for public access will require a considerable

investment, as will the additional historical research, building investigation, restoration, and reconstruction needed for interpretation. Following is an outline of the necessary work, presented in the general order in which it should be accomplished.

Stabilization

- Clear access into site
- Clear trees and underbrush from on and around the historic structures
- Clean interior and re-evaluate
- Map, catalog, and store building detached artifacts inside and outside structures
- Cover holes in floors
- Secure exterior by closing opening on north side
- Install vented covers at windows and front door
- Install temporary door at east end of Room 102
- Clear roof of debris and cover roof of Room 102 with a tarpaulin
- Monitor site and maintain building security

Repair and Rehabilitation

- Repair and repoint foundation on north and east side of house
- Avoid reconstruction and repoint foundation under Room 102
- Monitor foundation at southwest corner for continuing movement
- Devise means to tie south and west foundation together without reconstruction
- Repair sills on north and east side
- Repair floor and roof framing of enclosed porch (102)
- Locate source of and repair damage to northeast corner of log pen

- Repair siding, soffit, and fascia, replacing material only as necessary using quarter- sawn pine as a replacement material
- Repair existing window sash; replace missing window sash
- Replicate five- panel front door and install at east end of enclosed porch (102)
- Install vertical rim locks with brown mineral knobs at front and back door
- Repair standing- seam metal roof covering
- Rework surface grade surrounding house to insure rapid rain water run- off away from house
- Repair and clean flooring as necessary
- Recreate stairs to front door

Research

- Develop a comprehensive historic resource study for Saunders Farm
- Re- evaluate interior of house after cleaning

- Establish construction date through dendrochronological analysis

Restoration

- Develop historic furnishings plan
- Recreate wall coverings in Rooms 101 and 201
- Whitewash interior of log pen

Outbuildings

- Repair roofing on Meat House
- Reconstruct Meat House door
- Replace missing flooring in Meat House
- Reconstruct shed on Meat House
- Preserve stone foundations of ruins in place
- Reconstruct ruined buildings only if deemed necessary for interpretation

Site Security

- Implement vandalism control measures outlined in *Vandalism Control Management for Park Districts*

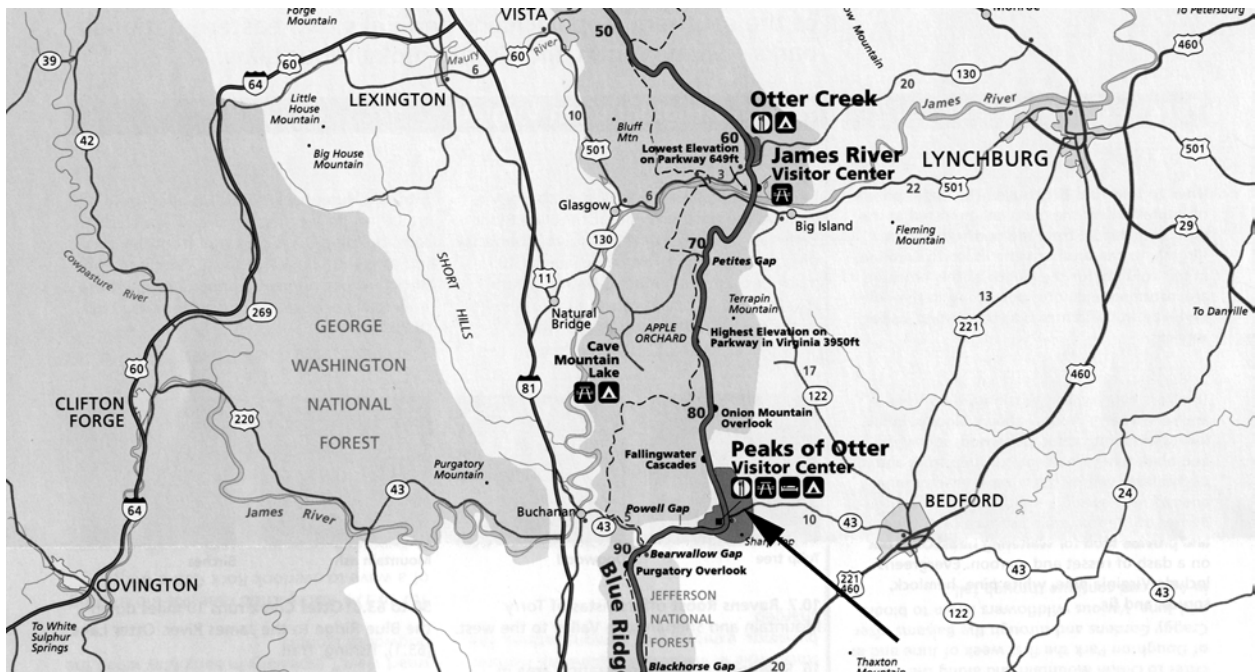


FIGURE 1. Location map for Saunders Farm, indicated by arrow. (NPS map)

- Prohibit smoking at the site
- Maintain site to reduce risk from wild fire
- Maintain fire extinguishers in both buildings
- Consider installation of solar- or battery-powered security system

Saunders meat house 006495
 Saunders chicken house 006496
 Saunders hog house and pen 006497

Administrative Data

Location Data

Name: George Saunders Farm
Location: Va. 43 near Blue Ridge Parkway and Peaks of Otter Recreation Area; Bedford County, VA.
LCS#: Saunders House 006493

Related Studies

Firth, Ian J. W. "Parkway Profiles: Brief Background Statements on the Major Cultural Resources of the Blue Ridge Parkway." Athens, GA, School of Environmental Design, 1992.

Cultural Resource Data

National Register of Historic Places: eligible for designation
Period of Significance: c. 1900- c. 1947
Proposed Treatment: Preservation.

Historical Background and Context

Located on the old Bedford- Buchanan Turnpike near Peaks of Otter in Bedford County, Virginia, the George Saunders Farm is significant as one of a few African- American farmsteads on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The site, which is considerably overgrown, includes a log and wood- frame house dating to the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, a contemporaneous log outbuilding called the “meat house,” the ruins of two other log outbuildings, and at least sixteen rock- walled terraces. According to Saunders’ daughter Mabel, who was interviewed by the park in 1975, her father was the third generation of the family to farm the land, although a chain of

title has been proven only through two generations of the Saunders family.

Saunders

Saunders is one of the more common names in Bedford County, with as many as thirty- two African- American households (and almost as many white households) in Bedford County with that surname shown in the 1880 Federal census.¹ George Saunders, whose middle name may have been Edward, was born in Bedford County on 16 March



FIGURE 2. View to southeast of Saunders farm, 1949, showing residence, meat house, and a glimpse of the barn. (NPS, BLRI Coll.)

Historical Background & Context

1880.² He was the son of Edward Saunders, whom the census reports was born about 1853, and his wife Mary E. Saunders, reportedly born about 1854.

Edward may have been the same Edward Saunders whom Bedford County birth records show was born to Anzoletta and Frances Saunders in August 1854, but the 1870 Federal census of Bedford County indicates that he was the son of Edward or Edmund Saunders, born about 1824, and his wife Mary, born about 1830. Additional research is necessary to definitively prove George Saunders' ancestry and particularly to prove the tradition that the Saunders Farm was owned by three generations of the Saunders family.

Copies of deeds, a plat, and selected census schedules may be found among the appendices to this report.

The 1870 census appears to show George's parents living with his grandparents, both couples named George and Mary. The younger Saunders couple are shown with a single, un-named child, who was probably their oldest son John, born in 1869.³ When the census was taken again in the summer of 1880, the younger Edward and "Mollie" Saunders are shown in a separate household with a son Albert and a daughter Poky. Their eldest son John Saunders is also in the household, but the census taker's notation of a second John Saunders, born in March of 1880, must surely have been a mistake and was, in fact, the infant George E. Saunders.

Nothing is known about George's childhood, although he apparently learned to read and write, while his parents remained illiterate.⁴ He cannot be located in the 1900 Federal census (the 1890 census schedules have been lost), but he was certainly in Bedford County in 1905 when he married Bettie Pearl Ross at her grandmother Polly Ross' house on the tenth of May. Bettie's mother, whom the mar-

riage license identifies as Laura Ross, was apparently still alive, but her father was not identified on the license. The marriage ceremony was performed by T. H. Cunningham, a minister in the Missionary Baptist Church, probably Antioch, the historic African-American church nearby.⁵

The Saunders raised nine children in the house, beginning with daughter Mabel Pulver, who was born in 1908. Seven sons followed: Ervin Hagan in 1910, Russell Edward in 1912, Cory Sander, in 1914, Elmer Johnson in 1916, Homer Roy in 1918, Willie Nichols in 1920, and Hilton Hamilton in 1924. In 1928, their last child, a daughter named Katherine, was born.⁶

Saunders Farm

When interviewed in 1975, George Saunders' daughter Mabel stated, "My daddy bought it [Saunders Farm] from his dad and he bought a part of it from his father."⁷ In both the 1870 and 1880 Federal censuses, Edward Saunders, whose occupation was listed simply as "laborer," was living in Staunton township, which is on the south side of Bedford County, so it is assumed that he had not yet acquired the farm near the Peaks of Otter. Unfortunately the 1890 census has been lost, the Saunders cannot be identified in the 1900 census, and no record of Edward Saunders' purchase of land in Bedford County has yet been located.

Mabel Saunders Swain indicated that the farm was her parents' home for around forty-five years, as she recalled it, probably meaning that they occupied the house their entire married life, which began in 1905. Significantly perhaps, George Saunders' occupation was listed as "laborer," not farmer, when he married in 1905. It is not clear if this is an indication that they were not yet farming their own land or simply were laboring elsewhere while maintaining a farm on the side.

Bedford County's record of deeds and mortgages documents George Saunders' purchase of his farm

1. Images of the Federal census schedules were researched on line at <www.ancestry.com>. Saunders was enumerated as George P. Saunders in 1920 and George E. Sanders in 1930.
2. Bedford County Birth Records confirm the date and place of birth.
3. 1870 Federal Census, Bedford County, Staunton Township, p. 27.
4. Federal census documents literacy.

5. Bedford County Marriages, 2-412.
6. Interview with Mabel Saunders Swain documents children's names; 1930 census documents birth dates.
7. There are two transcripts for the interview. Transcript B omits reference to George's grandfather's ownership of part of the land.

from his father. On 8 May 1912, Edward and Mary E. Saunders sold him twenty- two acres of land on Little Stony Creek for \$200, although George and his family were probably living on the farm for several years before that. The irregularly shaped tract was described as being located in the Central District of Bedford County on the Bedford- Buchanan Turnpike near the Peaks of Otter. The elder Saunders reserved “a 16 foot Right of Way Through the above Described land to the B & B Pike,” suggesting that the elder Saunders’ house, which Mabel Swain said was where George grew up, was somewhere east or northeast of George’s land.⁸ The right- of- way noted in the deed probably followed the trace of an old road that runs in a southeasterly direction across the south side of Saunders’ Farm.

It is likely that George Saunders had already made most if not all of the major improvements to the land by the time he took title to the property in 1912. In addition to the house, which he built himself with the help of a neighbor, Saunders also apparently built the “meat house,” which is still standing, and a “corn house” and a “chicken house,” both of which are in ruins. His daughter remembered a barn as

well, “for his horse,” but the structure is no longer extant.⁹

The Saunders’ neighbor, William R. Wright, who was a contemporary of their older children, characterized the Saunders’ farm as a subsistence farm, but that should not be taken as implying grinding poverty. They grew much of their own food, but Saunders had cash crops, too, or did work for hire and was able to afford to put a standing- seam metal roof on his house, which was no small investment. One source of cash, according to Wright, was tomatoes grown on the terraced hillside above the house. These Saunders sold to the cannery that was located further down the mountain, with the proceeds, Wright said, used for “Christmas money.”¹⁰

On 10 January 1927, the Saunders sold 6.57 acres to the U. S. for \$42.70 under authority of the Weeks Law.¹¹ The law, which was signed by President Taft in March 1911, authorized the federal government to purchase land for stream- flow protection and to maintain the acquired lands as national forests.¹² In

8. Bedford County, VA, Deed Book 107, p. 127.

9. Mabel Swain interview.

10. Interview with William R. Wright by Philip E. Coyle, 15 May 2005.

11. Bedford County, VA, Deed Book 149, p. 106.



FIGURE 3. View to east of Saunders Farm, 1949. (NPS, BLRI Coll.)

Historical Background & Context

1924, the Clarke- McNary Act was passed amending the Weeks Law and authorizing purchase of forest land for timber production, in addition to stream-flow protection.¹³

On 16 December 1942, George E. and Bettie P. Saunders of Route 2, Bedford, VA, sold the remainder of their farm, encompassing 15.6 acres, to the Federal government for \$2,000. The deed gave George and Bettie Saunders

the right to occupy and use for residential and agricultural purposes the following described premises, to- wit: the house, barn and other farm buildings, the cleared land on the hillside above the house and the land under fence below the house for a period of five (5) years from the date of recordation of this deed. The parties of the first part [George and Bettie Saunders] also reserve the right to gather from land not covered by this reservation fuel wood, the type and location of which shall be designated by an authorized representative of the United States.¹⁴

The property was designated Tract 463a on a plat that was recorded at the same time (Figure 4, opposite).¹⁵

According to the Saunders' youngest daughter, Katherine, the family moved away from the farm in 1940 or 1941.¹⁶ The earliest photographs that have been located of the property date to 1949, and the farm's condition at that time suggests perhaps that the house may have been occupied until 1947, as specified in the deed.

After they sold their farm to the government, the Saunders moved to Thaxton, a small community about six miles west of Bedford.¹⁷ Bettie Ross Saunders died in 1961 at the age of 75, and George Saunders apparently spent the last few months or years of his life in Suffolk, in southeastern Virginia, where he died in January 1969, almost 90 years old. He is apparently buried near the house he built at Thaxton after he moved from Peaks of Otter.¹⁸

12. Mar. 1, 1911, ch. 186, Sec. 11, 36 Stat. 963).

13. See <http://www.lib.duke.edu/forest/Research/usfscoll/policy/Agency_Organization/NF_System/weeks_law>.

14. Bedford County, VA, Deed Book 199, pp. 517-519.

15. Bedford County, VA, Plat Book 2, p. 79.

16. Interview with Katherine Saunders West by Philip E. Coyle, July 9, 2005.

17. Interview with William Wright.

18. Social Security Death Index.

Chronology of Development and Use

This section of the Historic Structure Report summarizes the physical construction, modification, and use of Saunders Farm. The text is based on historical documentation with corroboration from investigation and observation of the existing structures. A limited budget did not support laboratory analysis of materials, but dendrochronological analysis in the future could help establish a more precise date for construction of the buildings at Saunders Farm.

Limited historical documentation for the development of Saunders Farm has been located, and the earliest photographs date to 1949. Title to the property passed from Edward Saunders to his son

George Saunders in 1912, but the deed makes no reference to buildings nor is there a record of Edward Saunders' acquisition of the land. The deed does, however, reference Edward Saunders' reservation of a right-of-way through his son's farm, most likely to reach his own farm that may have been located where his son Elder's farm was shown on the 1942 survey (Figure 4).

In an interview in 1975, George and Betty Saunders' eldest daughter Mabel Saunders Swain stated that "[m]y daddy bought it [the Saunders Farm] from his dad and he bought part of it from his father."¹⁹ She also stated that the farm was her parents' home for "about 45 years," probably meaning from around



FIGURE 4. View southeast at Saunders Farm, 1949. (NPS, BLRI Coll.)

Chronology of Development and Use

the time of their marriage in 1905 until they vacated the property around 1947.

The Saunders' youngest daughter, Katherine, was interviewed in 2005 and believed that her father built the house with help from a neighbor George Vaughan and perhaps another carpenter as well. Because she was born some twenty years after the house was constructed, she could not recall its original appearance.

If the main building campaign included most of the present house, that does not necessarily imply rapid construction. It is quite likely that Saunders began married life living with his parents or other relatives, and worked on the house only as he had time and money. Certainly, establishing a working farm would

have been the highest priority and, considering the terracing alone, would have been no small task. Likewise, his later alterations to the building may have occurred over a longer period of time than might have been typical for his more prosperous contemporaries.

The House

It has been suggested that the house was constructed in the mid- nineteenth century and that there were later additions, presumably including the wood- framed portion of the house. However, the log pen and the wood- framed portion of the house that contains the Kitchen are almost certainly contemporaneous, with the lack of nail holes in the log pen's roof decking that is visible from the Rear Loft being the primary proof of that assumption. It is possible, of course, that the log pen was built, roofed, and occupied alone for some period of time,

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19. There are two transcripts for the interview. Transcript B omits reference to George's grandfather's ownership of part of the land.



FIGURE 5. View southeast of Saunders Farm, c. 1950. (BLRI Coll.)

and that the original roof decking or lath, perhaps for a wood-shingled roof, was pulled off the log pen when the kitchen and back porch were built at some later date. The similarity between the joists and rafters in the log pen with those in the wood-framed portion of the house suggests that was not the case.

Date of Construction

The nature of the building materials confirms what the preponderance of the historical evidence suggests: that the house was not built before 1880 and quite probably was not constructed until around 1905 or even as late as 1912. The use of circular-sawn joists, rafters, and studs; wire nails; and a fully-developed balloon frame in the rear part of the house are the best evidence supporting that assumption. The use of similar materials in the meat house suggests that it was more or less contemporaneous with the house itself. Judging from historic

photographs and functional requirements of a working farm, the two other ruined buildings probably were as well.

Materials

Much of the framing lumber and logs in the house may be chestnut, an extremely durable wood that is resistant to rot and insect damage and was still plentiful in the early twentieth century. Saunders himself is likely to have cut the timber and carried it to a sawmill for milling.²⁰ The tongue- and- groove flooring and paneling may not have utilized Saunders' own lumber, but like the three panel doors that were originally present, hinges and nails would have been purchased from the local lumber company, probably in Bedford.

20. Dendrochronological investigation could help prove the building's age.

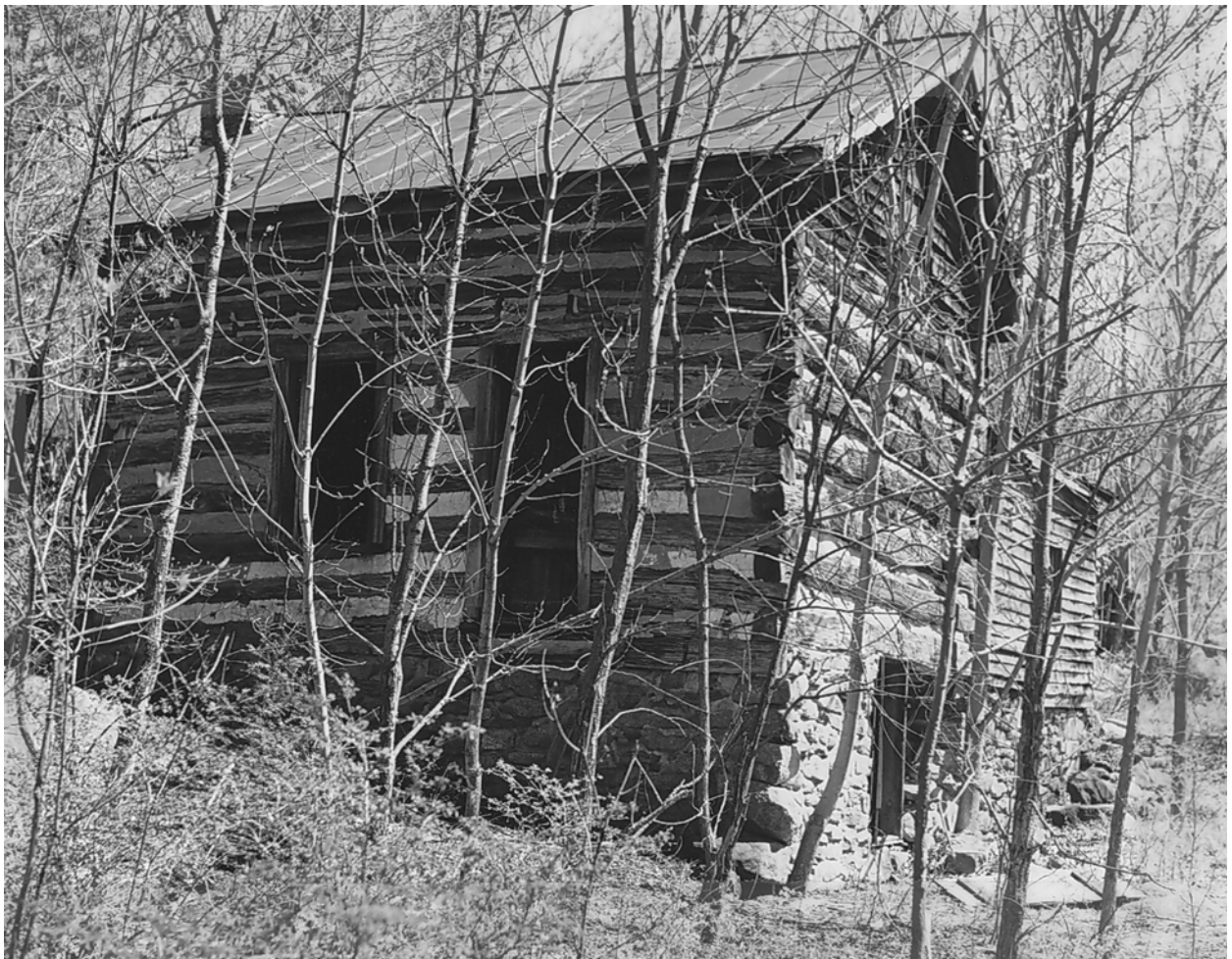


FIGURE 6. View of house in 1974. (NPS, BLRI Coll.)

Chronology of Development and Use

The standing- seam metal roof may have been the only material that Saunders himself did not install, since it seems unlikely that he would have had the necessary skill for that task. Installation of a metal roof was no small investment for Sanders and is one of the house's more striking features.

Form and Plan

As discussed above, the house most likely was built to more or less its present form and plan, with the log pen and its second floor and the wood- framed kitchen and its second floor. From the beginning, too, the house probably had a shed- roofed porch, now enclosed, running across the south side of the kitchen. Porches were an essential space and present on nearly every house prior to World War II. A place to cool off in hot weather and to do chores in rainy weather, a porch would have been one of the most-used spaces in the house. Although it cannot now be documented and no physical evidence has yet been located, the house most likely was not considered complete until the porch was in place.²¹

21. Because the porch was enclosed before she was born, Katherine Saunders West did not believe the house ever had a porch.

Differences in the stone foundation under the log pen and the stone foundation under the south wall of the present enclosed porch suggest that the porch was constructed some time after the house was initially completed, or that the stone foundation was a later addition to an original porch.

Although the original roof structure and part of the floor framing remain intact, because of later alterations and its generally poor condition, the porch's original appearance cannot be described with any certainty. Most likely, however, flooring was plain boards, similar to those that remain in the present space, and there was no ceiling. Posts may have been sawn, around 4" by 4", with a simple railing made from one or two 2" by 4" studs.

Finishes

The earliest interior finishes were whitewash, which was applied to the walls of Room 100 and to the ceilings of both Rooms 100 and 101. In the kitchen, Saunders covered the walls with a thin, fibrous, cardboard- like material, no more than 1/32" thick. The material runs behind the north end of the wall enclosing the stairs, suggesting that the wall covering



FIGURE 7. View of house in 1977. (NPS, BLRI Coll.)

was an original or very early feature of the house. Most of the material has now been removed, although a large section remains at the north end of the closet under the stairs. Two layers of paint are evident, one a light sky-blue similar to that which remains visible on the ceiling. The exterior of the house was probably never painted. The galvanized metal, standing seam roof was most likely an original feature of the house and may have been painted when it was first installed, but probably not after that.

Later Alterations

There is no documentary evidence for alterations to the original house, but physical evidence suggests that a number of changes were made. When these might have occurred is not known, but it is likely that they were made in the first quarter of the twentieth century, and all of them were certainly made by Saunders himself.

Enclosed Porch. It is clear that the most notable alteration was enclosure of the back porch, and that it probably occurred in two stages. A straight seam in the siding on the south side of the enclosed porch

suggests that the west end of the porch was enclosed at an early date. The shelves at the west end of the present space were probably part of that construction, which created a pantry for the kitchen. The sequence of alterations to the openings on the south wall of the kitchen are not clear. Neither of the two openings shows hinge marks or other evidence of whether a door or a window was originally present. However, the width of the western opening suggests that it was originally framed for a door, while that of the narrower eastern opening is framed in the same manner as the window opposite on the north wall. It is likely that when the pantry was created, the original back door was relocated to what had probably been a window opening. At a later date, the remainder of the back porch was enclosed, and the door was then relocated to the east end of the enclosed space.

Stove Flues. At two locations, holes were made in exterior siding to allow for installation of stove flues, a sequence of construction that appears to indicate that the two flues were not original features of the house. This is most clearly evident at the north end of the Front Loft, where the opening through the siding and into the chimney were



FIGURE 8. View northwest of house, c. 1974. (NPS, BLRI Coll.)

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clearly made after the original construction. On the south wall of the kitchen, the evidence is less conclusive, but it seems likely that the brick chimney at that location replaced a sheet- metal flue that was originally installed at the same location. It is also possible, but less likely perhaps, that the cook stove was originally located in the Front Room and utilized the flue that remains in the chimney breast there. Under that scenario, at some later date, the brick chimney would have been constructed and the cook stove relocated to the south side of the Kitchen. Mabel Saunders Swain mentioned no such circumstance. By World War II, the house had a conventional cast- iron cook stove in the kitchen and two “tin stoves,” which were made of sheets of galvanized steel, in the Front Room and the Front Loft. The Rear Loft apparently remained unheated.

Wall Coverings. As noted above, the kitchen walls appear to have been covered with a cellulose wall covering at an early date. The walls of the rear loft were also covered with sheets of a different material, but there is no way to place its installation in the sequence of changes to the house. Almost 1/16” thick, only fragments of the material remain on the

walls, but it appears to be an asphalt- impregnated, cellulose- based “tar paper.” It appears to have had a patterned surface and is considerably heavier than the asphalt- impregnated material typically given the name “tar paper” and used as underlayment for roofing and siding.

Closets. As noted above, the placement of the wall covering in the kitchen behind the north end of the curtain wall that encloses the stairs indicates that the wall was added and the closet below the stairs created sometime after the house was finished and occupied. Constructed of 3’- 1/4” wide, tongue- and- groove boards, the wall encloses the stairs and creates a closet underneath the stair. It is not clear if the wall enclosing the stairs and closet in the front room is original or if, like the kitchen wall, it was added after the house was constructed.

North Door Opening. The present entrance into the house is through a section of the north wall of the kitchen that has been removed. When and why the opening was created is unknown. It could have been a window, but if that were so, it is difficult to imagine a reason to later close it entirely. It is also



FIGURE 9. View west of rear of house, 1977. (NPS, BLRI Coll.)

possible that the porch was not constructed until some time after the house was finished and that the house's back door was at this location. When the house was first photographed in 1949, however, the opening had already been reframed and covered with siding.

Utilities

The house never had running water, indoor plumbing, or even an outhouse, which was not uncommon in the rural South prior to the New Deal's privy-building campaign of the late 1930s. Saunders' daughter Mabel remembered that water was brought from "Ford Spring... up there a long way." The location of that spring has not been identified, but it must have been near where Va. Hwy. 43 forded Little Stony Creek, about three or four tenths of a mile west-northwest of the house. It might even have been what is now known as Big Spring. The house was never wired for electricity, also not unusual before the New Deal's rural electrification program in the late 1930s. Lighting was always provided by kerosene lamps.

Outbuildings

In establishing his farm, Saunders needed not only a house for the family, but also a series of outbuildings to serve a variety of needs. It can only be assumed that the outbuildings were built around the same time as the house itself. How much family and neighbors helped in construction has not been documented, but Saunders must have had some help. Even so, it might have been years, perhaps as late as 1912 when George Saunders took title to the property, before Saunders Farm reached more or less its present configuration.

Although the other outbuildings are in ruins, the circular-sawn lumber, wire nails, and hinges used in construction of the meat house do not differ appreciably from those used in constructing the main house and suggest that the meat house and the main house were more or less contemporaneous in their construction.

Because different sources use different names for the outbuildings, it is not clear exactly how many outbuildings were present on the Saunders Farm.



FIGURE 10. Detail from 1949 photograph of house, showing meat house at center and, at left, a building that is probably the barn. (NPS, BLRI Coll.)

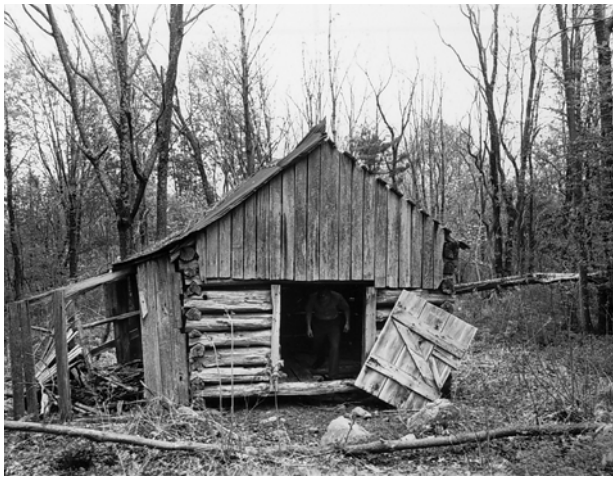


FIGURE 11. View of meat house, c. 1975. (NPS, BLRI coll.)



FIGURE 12. View of meat house in 1975. (NPS, BLRI Coll.)



FIGURE 13. A glimpse of the south end of the chicken house, with its door open, c. 1950. (NPS, BLRI Coll.)

Certainly there were four: the meat house, which may actually have been a corn crib and which is still extant, the chicken house and the hog house, which are in ruins, and the barn, which has disappeared. There may also have been a fifth outbuilding, noted as the “tack house” in Firth’s “Parkway Profiles,” but which is no longer extant.

“Meat House”

The only out-building still standing is the so-called “meat house,” a term often used interchangeably with “smoke house,” although rarely so in Virginia. Many households in the rural South smoked their meat, mainly for flavor, but Saunders apparently did not. When interviewed in 1975, the Saunders’ daughter stated that her father did not have a “smoke house,” nor did she refer to a meat house being present on the farm. Her father did keep hogs, however, and would have cured and preserved his meat by salting it in barrels or other containers and, when dry, hanging the sides of salt pork in bags until it was to be used. The present building shows no signs of use as a smoke house, nor are there any signs of use as a place for salting meat. Saunders may have hung some of his meat in the building, but the rather loosely constructed nature of the structure, suggests that it was incapable of having kept out any but the largest vermin.

It is possible that the meat house is the “corn house” Mabel Saunders Swain remembered in her interview. This building, often called a corn crib, would have been necessary for storing the corn which fed the animals and the family through the winter. With



FIGURE 14. View west of chicken house, 1974. (NPS, BLRI Coll.)

the internal partition and the shed on the east side, the structure could also have been used for general storage of farm implements. If the meat house was not in fact the family's corn crib, then the location of the "corn house" has been lost.

Chicken House

Clearly, there is some confusion regarding the use of the buildings, with the "chicken house" being the only one of the present buildings mentioned by that name in the interview with the Saunders eldest daughter, Mabel, in 1975. The building is located about 50 feet east of the house and, unlike the Main House and the meat house was built entirely of logs except for the sawn lumber used to deck the roof and probably to cover the floor inside as well.

Log purlins tied together the two gables, which were also log, and boards were nailed perpendicular to the purlins for decking. Like the meat house, the roof would probably have been covered with sheets of corrugated metal, but that material was already missing when the structure was first photographed in the 1940s. Without a roof, the building deteriorated and sometime after 1977 collapsed entirely.

Hog House

Located about 50 feet north of the main house, the hog house was within a larger hog pen constructed of split rails. The hog house was entirely of log construction and, since it was meant for hogs, most likely did not have a floor. The building was apparently roofed only with short slabs of wood, laid and lapped in three tiers on each shed of the roof. When



FIGURE 16. View northeast of chicken house in 1977. (NPS, BLRI Coll.)



FIGURE 17. View east of hog house and pen, c. 1950. (NPS, BLRI Coll.)



FIGURE 15. View east of hog pen, c. 1950. (NPS, BLRI Coll.)



FIGURE 18. View of south end of hog house in 1975. (NPS, BLRI)

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first photographed around 1950, a number of the slabs covering the roof were already missing, and by the time the next photographs were taken in 1975, the building was in ruins. No trace of the fence remains.

Barn

In her interview in 1975, the Saunders' daughter Mabel also recalled that her father had a barn "for his horse," and the 1942 deed also mentions a "barn and other outbuildings." This building has apparently disappeared entirely. It has been suggested that the meat house was actually the barn, but that cannot be, since neither the meat house itself nor the attached shed are large enough to have housed a horse. In addition the family had a milk cow and, since it is unlikely that it would have been left without shelter, there must have been at one time a larger structure to house those animals.

The 1942 deed reserved the Saunders' right to continue farming the terraced land north of the house and the use of "the land under fence below the house." The latter was undoubtedly the pasture for the family's horse and cow, and it is probable that the building that appears in one of the 1949 images of the farm is in fact the barn, which has since completely disappeared.

Other Outbuildings

There was a fifth building mentioned in Firth's description of the farm in "Parkway Profiles." Known as the "Tackhouse," it was reportedly a log structure, 8' by 11- 1/2', located "below the Saunders Farm, beside Route 43." It was roofless and in ruinous condition when surveyed at that time, and Firth was not sure that it was even associated with Saunders Farm. Its location has not been identified.

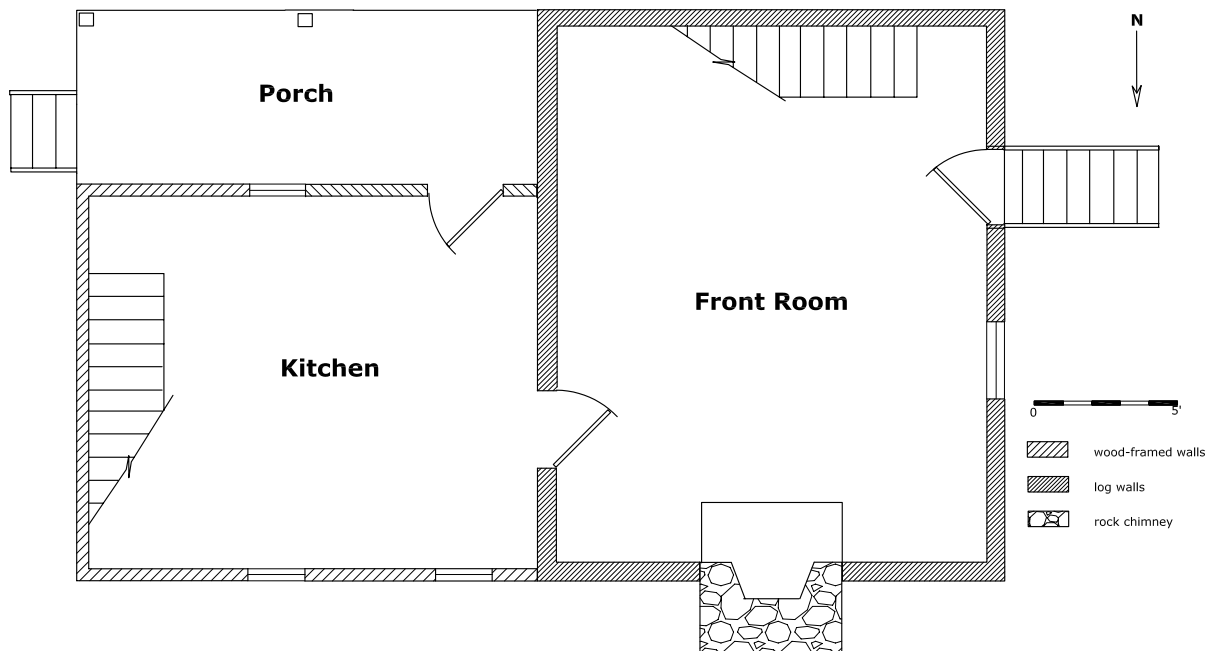
Saunders Farm Chronology

c. 1853	Edward Saunders born
c. 1854	Mary, Edward Saunders' future wife, born
c. 1868	Edward and Mary Saunders marry
c. 1869	their first child, John, is born
16 March 1880	George E. Saunders born
c. 1881?	Edward Saunders buys land at Peaks of Otter
July 1885	Bettie Pearl Ross born
1904	Introduction of blight leads to extinction of American chestnut
10 May 1905	George Saunders marries Betty Pearl Ross
1908	Saunders' first child, Mabel Pulver, born
1910	Saunders' second child, Ervin Hagan, born
1912	Saunders' third child, Russell Edward, born
8 May 1912	George Saunders buys 22-acres from his mother and father
1914	Saunders' fourth child, Cory Sander, born
1916	Saunders' fifth child, Elmer Johnson, born
1918	Saunders' sixth child, Homer Roy, born
1920	Saunders' seventh child, Willie Nichols, born
1924	Saunders' eighth child, Hilton Hamilton, born
10 January 1927	Saunders sells six acres to the U. S. government
1928	Saunders' ninth and last child, Katherine, born
September 1935	Construction begins on Blue Ridge Parkway
January 1942	CCC construction crews phased out; two-thirds of parkway complete
16 December 1942	Saunders sells remainder of his farm to U. S. government, reserving the right to continue to occupy the property for an additional five years
c. 1947	Saunders vacate farm
1949	earliest photographs of the house and farm
1961	Bettie Ross Saunders dies
January 1969	George Saunders dies
1975	Park conducts oral interview with Saunders' daughter Mabel Saunders Swain
1977	Some work is done to stabilize house, including reconstruction of part of the foundation that collapsed, but no work was apparently done on the outbuildings
1987	Construction of Linn Cove Viaduct completes the Blue Ridge Parkway

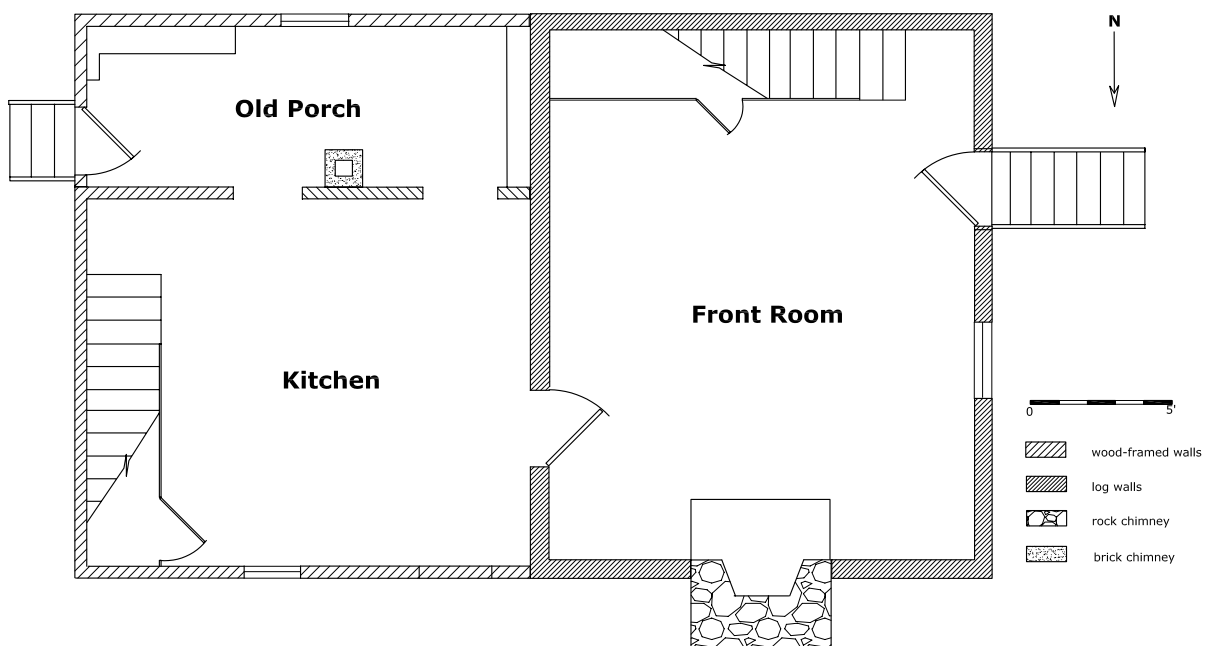
Chronology of Development and Use

Reconstructed Floor Plans

Probable Floor Plan as Originally Constructed



Probable Floor Plan in 1942



Chronology of Development and Use

Physical Description

Located just off Virginia Highway 43 near the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Peaks of Otter, Saunders Farm was developed by an African- American family in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century but has been unoccupied since at least 1947. Located on the rocky southern slope of Flat Top Mountain above Little Stony Creek, the farm site is at an elevation that ranges from around 2,100 feet to as much as 2,500 feet.

The site is completely overgrown with hardwood saplings and undergrowth that have grown up in the last thirty years. As a result, the house is almost completely hidden from view during the growing season and difficult to access at any time of the year. The site is notable for the series of sixteen man-

made terraces that made agriculture possible, but the most prominent features are the Saunders House and the nearby meat house, both of which are of log and wood- frame construction. Two other outbuildings, also of log construction, are in ruins, one located about fifty feet east of the house and another about a hundred feet north.

This physical description is based on an initial inspection of the building in April 2005. At that time, the large amount of debris- - including animal waste, bones, and nests, some of it potentially hazardous- - limited the work, and it is assumed that this description will be updated after a more- thorough inspection once the building is cleared of debris.

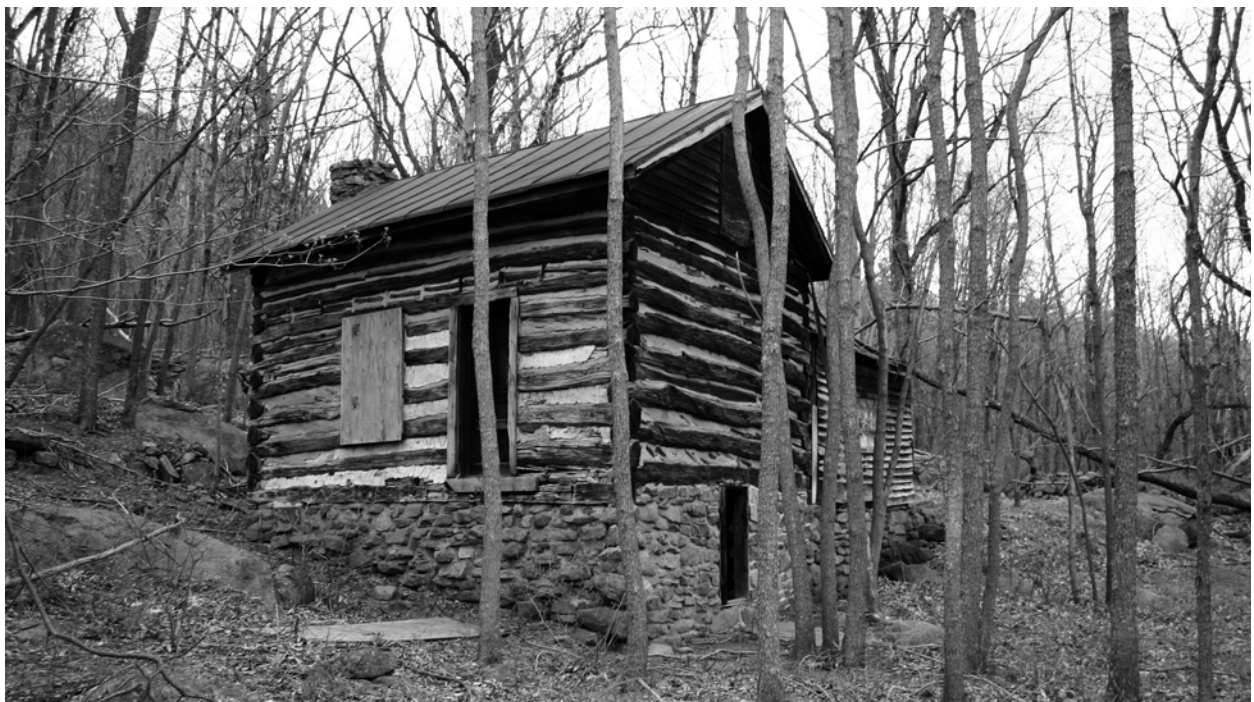


FIGURE 19. View to northeast of Saunders House. (NPS, 2004)



FIGURE 20. View of historic masonry near the southwest corner that has not been repointed. (NPS, 2005)



FIGURE 21. View of historic masonry that has been repointed with Portland cement. (NPS, 2005)

Saunders House

The Saunders House is a small, story- and- a- half building consisting of a single- pen log structure with a loft above and a contemporaneous wood-framed kitchen and loft projecting from the rear, all built on a stone foundation. What may have originally been a back porch on the south side of the kitchen was enclosed at an early date. The house occupies a footprint of around 640 square feet and, including the two lofts, has around 1,200 square feet of floor space.

Foundation

One of the most remarkable features of the house is the high, stone foundation on which the house was built. Constructed of stone that was no doubt gathered from the surrounding hillside, the foundation is

A plan of the house can be found at the end of this section.

continuous and, because of the sloping terrain, the house's sills are nearly five feet above grade around the southwest corner while they are close to grade on the north side of the structure.

There has been no laboratory analysis of the mortars, but visual analysis distinguishes three separate mortars. The oldest that has not been repointed is that found on the west side of the cellar door and along the front of the house. This mortar is relatively



FIGURE 22. View of foundation at south end of house, showing cellar doorway.

hard, but utilized a coarse aggregate that was probably taken from one of the nearby creeks and gives the mortar a pinkish- tan cast. It appears similar to the mortar used for chinking of the log pen. On the east side of the cellar door, the historic masonry was reconstructed in 1977 using a hard light- grey mortar that contrasts sharply with the areas that have not been repointed.

The rock foundation under the south side of the wood- framed portion of the house was constructed by Saunders but must have been built sometime after the house's original construction. The foundation here has the appearance of having been dry laid, but in fact, the mortar appears to have contained much less cement and has mostly eroded away.

Cellar

Near the center of the foundation on the south side of the log pen is an opening around 2' by 4' that allows access into a cellar where Saunders probably stored potatoes and other produce. A board- and- batten door was originally hung in the opening, but

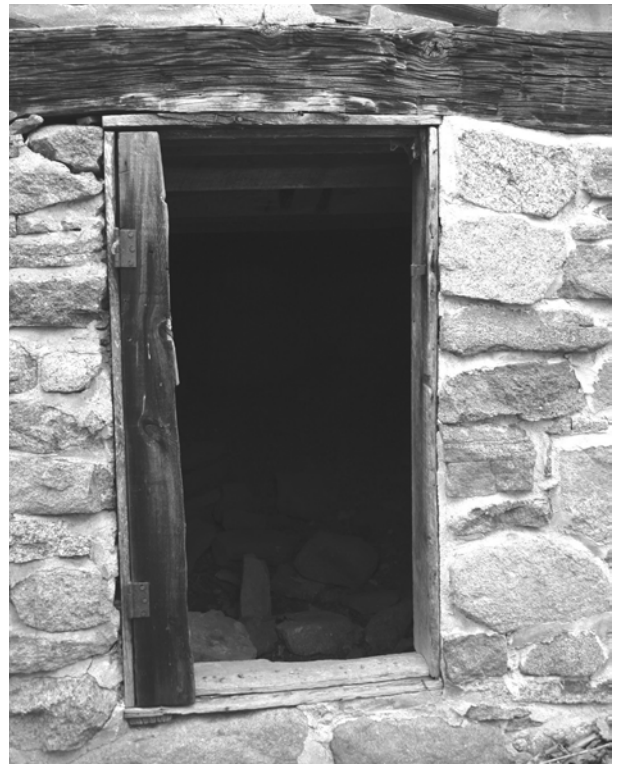


FIGURE 23. View of cellar door. (NPS, 2005)



FIGURE 24. View north in cellar, with rocks from collapsed north wall in foreground. (NPS, 2005)



FIGURE 25. View of chimney. (NPS, 2005)



FIGURE 26. View of fireplace. (NPS, 2005)

only the board on the hinge side of the door remains intact.

There appears to have been some excavation to create or enlarge the cellar, but it is not clear if the floor was ever level. It was probably never paved. The cellar extends about 13' under the log pen of the house and ends at some large boulders, some of which may form the foundation for the fireplace and chimney. The west, south, and east walls of the cellar are formed by the stone foundation under the log pen, and the north side of the cellar appears to have originally been closed by another stone wall that has now mostly collapsed.

Chimneys

The house was apparently always heated with wood stoves. Initially, there may have been a stove only at the fireplace in the log pen, but eventually the cook stove was moved to the kitchen, and wood stoves were added in the log pen on both the first and second floors.

Stone Chimney. A stone fireplace and chimney stand at the north end of the log pen. The chimney stack is around 30" by 60", corbeled in to around 30" by 36" at the top of the log pen, and rising to about a foot above the roof ridge or a little over 18' above grade. A few brick were used in constructing the fire box, which is relatively small at around 30" by 30" by 20". The interior of the firebox appears to have had few if any fires, probably because the Saunders must have always used a wood stove. It appears that a mantel was never present.

In the Front Room, a piece of terra cotta stove- pipe flue liner was built into the interior face of the chimney breast, probably originally. A similar piece of yellowish terra cotta flue liner was once mounted at the top of the chimney, but it is now lying in pieces at the north end of the house. Sometime after the original construction, an opening was made on the back side of the chimney to serve a flue for a stove at the north end of the log pen loft. The chimney is in fair condition, but some stones have been dislodged from the sides of the firebox inside the house.

Brick Chimney. The wood- burning cook stove in the kitchen was served by a small brick chimney with a flue on the south wall of the kitchen. Constructed of red, hard- fired brick with a modern

Portland mortar, the chimney is around 16" by 16" and is set on a small wooden platform braced off the wall in Room 102 with 2" by 4" lumber about 4'-7". The chimney must have risen some distance above the roof, but bricks have been dislodged, perhaps by a falling tree, so that the chimney top is now practically flush with the roof line.

Log Pen

The main body of the house is a single- pen, log structure measuring about 16' north to south and 20' east to west, with the walls rising nearly 11' above the foundation. Logs are relatively small, probably second- growth timber cut on the site, and were only roughly hewn to square the logs. Logs are laid up with simple V- notched corners. The specie of the logs used has not been identified but may include hickory and/or chestnut, but apparently no pine, oak, or poplar.

The relatively large gaps that exist between most of the logs were filled with short lengths of milled lumber, lapped in a diagonal fashion. Chinking was completed using a hard cement mortar, similar to that used to mortar the rock foundation, and would have covered all of the blocks of lumber between the logs.

Three generations of chinking material are evident. The first is a reddish material that is visible at a few places, especially around the northwest corner of the house. It is composed of a fine, silt- like aggregate resembling mud along with some amount of cement that gives it a hardness not typical of plain mud chinking sometimes used for the purpose. It may have been formulated to facilitate filling of holes and gaps with the intention of immediately covering it with a harder material. It is also possible that this chinking was simply a formulation with which Saunders experimented and then abandoned.

The second layer of chinking, which appears to have been installed at the same time as or shortly after the house was constructed, appears to have a higher proportion of cement and a much coarser aggregate than the first layer. The aggregate, which is probably sand taken from nearby, perhaps from Little Stony Creek, gives this layer of chinking a tan color. This material is found all over the house.

On perhaps a third of the west (front) side of the house, Saunders employed a rather unusual tech-

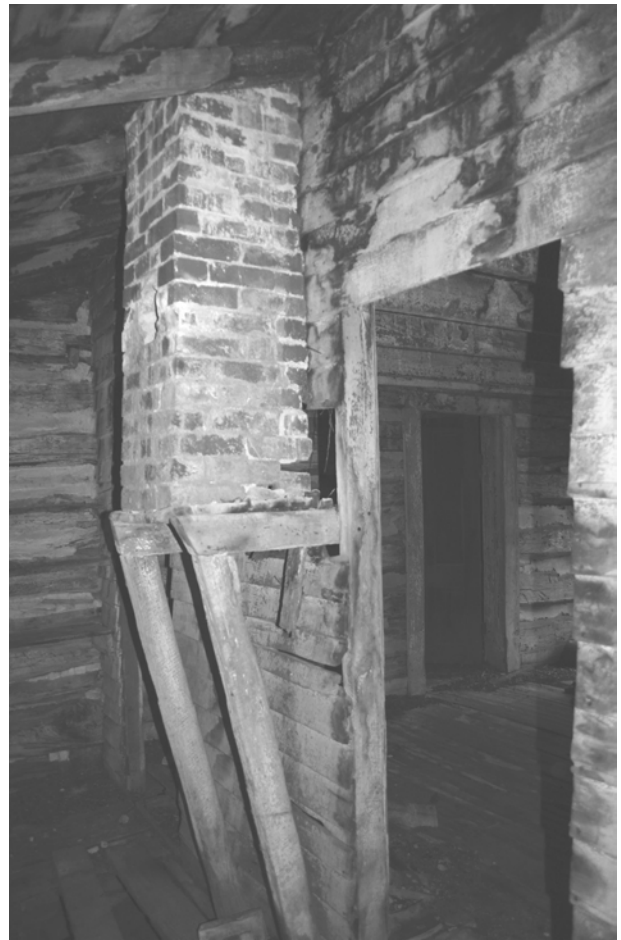


FIGURE 27. View of kitchen chimney. (NPS, 2005)



FIGURE 28. View of northwest corner of house, showing typical V-notch corners, all three generations of mortar chinking, and wire lath. (NPS, 2005)

Physical Description

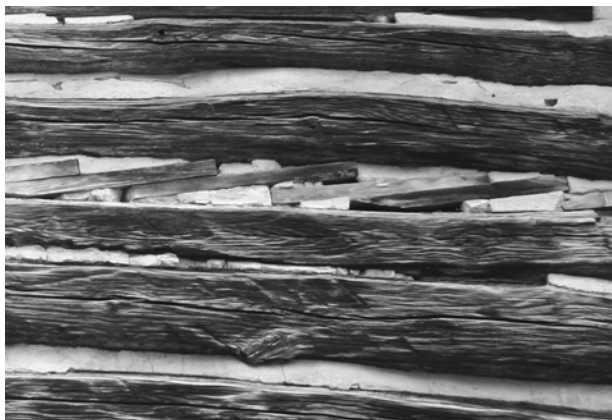


FIGURE 29. View of a portion of south wall, showing typical treatment of gap between the logs. (NPS, 2005)



FIGURE 30. View of floor framing in log pen. (NPS, 2005)



FIGURE 31. View of framing at southeast corner of the kitchen. (NPS, 2005)

nique in completing the chinking. Wire around 12 or 14 gauge was looped over nails and run back and forth across the gaps of the logs to form a sort of lath for the cement chinking material. Although the wire lath appears at first glance to be associated with the last layer of chinking, close inspection reveals that the second, tan layer of chinking was placed over some of the wire lath. It is not clear why Saunders employed this technique only on part of the house, but he may have had second thoughts about its durability or someone may have informed him that the technique might create problems. Whatever, the reason for abandoning the technique, it was fortuitous, since wherever the wire was installed, nearly all of the original mortar apparently deteriorated and had to be replaced.

Deterioration of the mortar chinking was probably due to moisture penetration that caused the wire to rust or else it was due to thermal expansion and contraction of the metal which cracked and dislocated the mortar. The replacement chinking material, which only appears where the wire lath was installed, was apparently formulated using a high proportion of cement and a fine aggregate that gives the chinking a whitish color.

Wood Frame

Much of the house is framed with dimensional lumber, including the floor, ceiling, and roof of the log pen and most of the rear half of the house. All lumber is circular-sawn and in more- or- less standard dimensions. Although there is some variability, rafters, studs, and wall plates are generally 2" by 4" (actual dimension); floor and ceiling joists are generally 2" by 8". Most framing members were placed with 24" between centers. Wire nails appear to have been used exclusively, with large iron spikes used to secure some sill corners and other members.

Joists and Studs. Floor joists for the log pen run east to west and are notched into the logs, with the ends of the second floor joists readily visible across the front of the house. Ceiling joists, which serve as floor joists for the second floor, are set about 7' above the first floor of the log pen. Joists are cross-braced in a manner typical of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The rear half of the house is essentially balloon framed with down-braced corners. Joists are set on 1" by 6" ledgers and nailed to adjacent studs, all on

centers approximately 24" apart. Ceiling joists are about 6'-10" above the first floor in the kitchen. Unlike the rest of the house, the floor joists for the old back porch are log. Around 6" in diameter, these are laid running east to west.

Rafters. Rafters are set on a 1" by 6" plate set on top of the log walls and on a standard 2" by 4" plate on the wood-framed walls. Rafters are joined at the ridge by a nailed connection without a ridge board. Collar beams, 2" by 4", were used at every other rafter pair.

Exterior Finishes

While the structure of the house is in reasonably good condition, years of neglect have taken their toll on the finishes, both inside and outside the house. There is no apparent evidence that the house was ever painted on the exterior. However, there is some paint or whitewash remaining on the south wall of Room 102, which was originally an exterior wall, but that may have been applied after the porch was enclosed.

Siding and Trim. The wood-framed portion of the house, including the end gables of the log pen, are finished with lap siding around 5/8" thick by 6" wide. Siding material appears to be mostly quarter-



FIGURE 32. View of typical rafters and collar beam. (NPS, 2005)



FIGURE 33. View of northeast corner of building showing typical exterior finishes. (NPS, 2005)

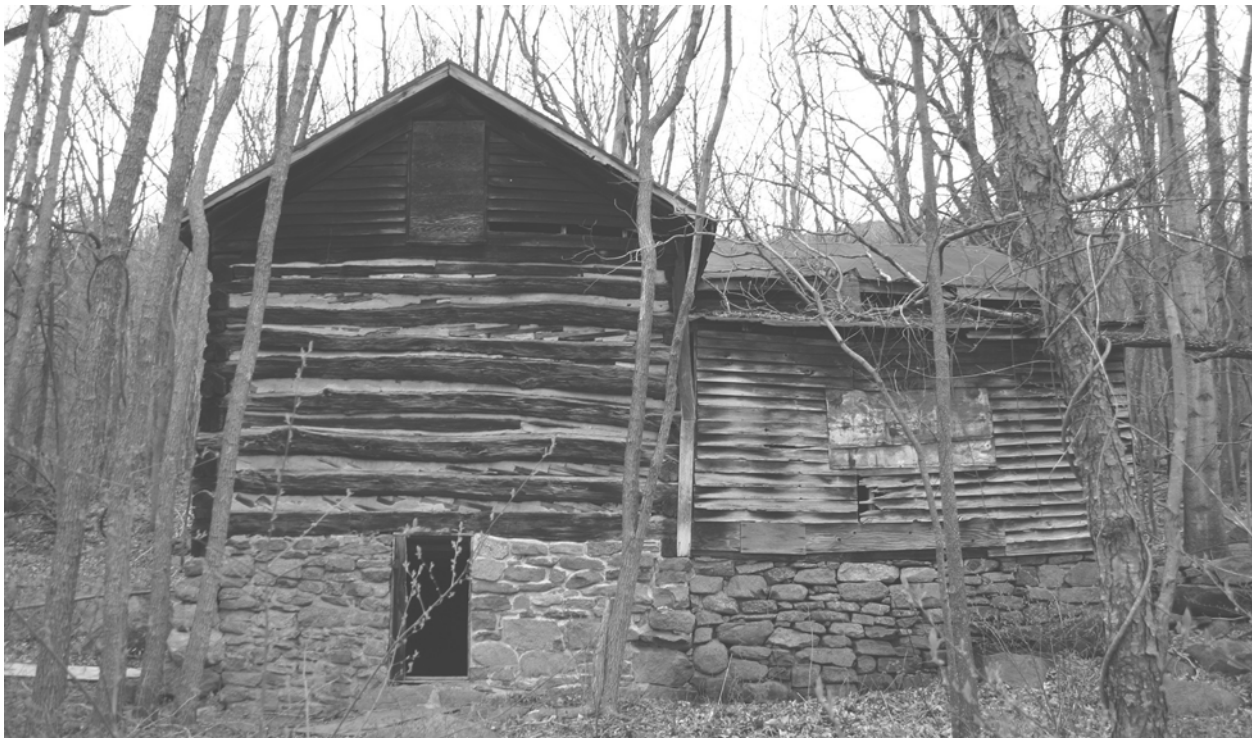


FIGURE 34. View of south side of house. (NPS, 2005)

Physical Description



FIGURE 35. View of east gable. (NPS, 2005)

sawn on the original outside walls of the kitchen, but siding used to enclose the porch is a mixture of straight- sawn and quarter- sawn material.

Siding was laid with an exposure of about 5- 1/2", and put up with wire nails. Single boards, 2" by 4", are used as corner boards against which the siding is butted. Siding is missing on the north side to a height of about two feet, and several runs of siding are missing from the east end of the house as well. Eaves extend about a foot beyond the face of the walls and do not have rafter returns. Eaves are boxed to a frieze board around 1" by 6". Windows and doors are cased with plain boards about 6" wide.

Roofing. The rafters are decked with circular-sawn lumber, generally 3/4" thick and around 4" to 11" in width. Roofing is standing- seam metal, probably galvanized steel but badly rusted. For the most part it remains functional except where it has been damaged by falling trees. On the north shed of the kitchen roof, a large area has been roughly patched with sheet metal. Significant damage has been done



FIGURE 36. View of north side of house. (NPS, 2005)

to the roof of the enclosed back porch by a fallen tree that is still lying across the roof.

Windows. The house has only five windows, but only one of those still retains its original sash. At the front of the house is a large window measuring about 2'-9" by 4'-6". Sash are missing, but historic photographs show that the window originally had six- over- six sash. The only surviving sash is in the single window on the north side of the kitchen. Around 2'-0" by 4'-4", the window has a pair of sash, four- over- four. No hardware is present nor is there evidence that any ever existed.

At the south end of the loft of the log pen is another window opening, also measuring around 2'-0" by 4'-4". Sash are missing, but historic photographs show they were originally four- over- four like those in the kitchen.

At the east end of the kitchen loft is a smaller opening around 2'-0" by 2'-4". There is no evidence for sash at this window, which may have been closed with a simple board- and- batten door. The fifth window was located on the south side of the



FIGURE 38. View of window in south gable. (NPS, 2005)



FIGURE 37. View of front of house. (NPS, 2005)

Physical Description

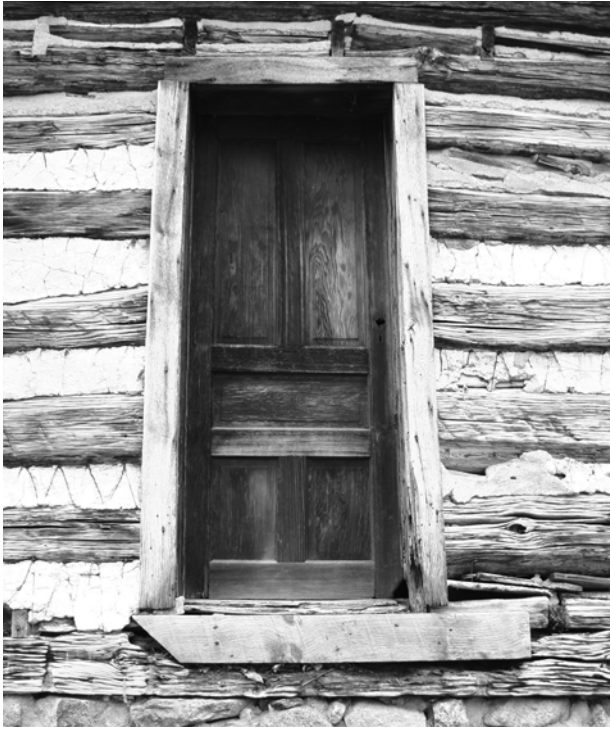


FIGURE 39. View of front door. (NPS, 2005)

enclosed back porch. The exact size of the opening cannot now be determined since the sash and frame are missing, but the window appears to have been around 2'-6" by 2'-6", and photographs from the 1970s show it to have had a single sash with two vertical lights.

Exterior Doors. The house originally had two entrances, a front door and a door off the back porch. An opening in the north wall of the kitchen, which had been present but was then closed prior to 1949, now provides access into the house. Framing and siding that once filled that opening are now laying on the ground beside the house.

Only the front door remains in place; the back door, which is not in its original location, is covered with plywood and the door is missing. The front door is a pine door, 2'-8" by 6'-5", with five raised panels. The door is hung with plain 3" butt hinges and was originally fitted with a vertical rim lock about 3" by 4", but the lock is now missing. The back door may have been similar.



FIGURE 40. View west-northwest of rear and south sides. (NPS, 2005)

Steps. There is no evidence that the house ever had a front porch, and although steps to the front and to the back door are now missing, a single flight of steps was probably originally present at the front door and at the east end of the back porch.

Interior

Typical of rural housing for poor farmers, black or white, the Saunders House was only roughly finished on the interior, and most of what wall finishes that were present have now been destroyed.

Front Room (100). The log pen encompasses the largest room in the house, which can be entered through the front door or through the door from the kitchen (101). This room probably served as both a living room for the family, a bedroom for George and Betty Saunders, and a nursery for babies and small children.

Flooring is tongue- and- groove pine around 2- 1/2" wide. It appears to be mostly intact although the large amount of debris in the room, particularly in the southeast corner, made assessment of its condition impossible.

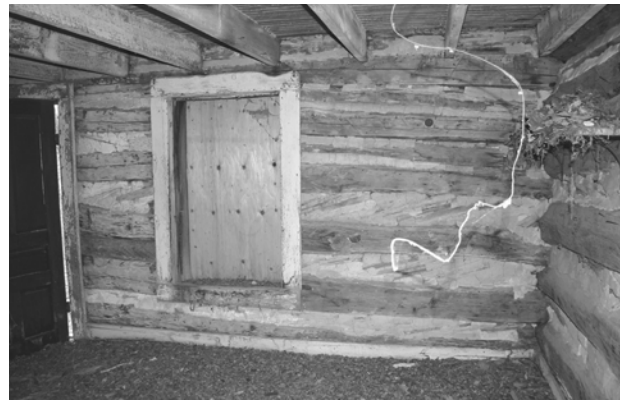


FIGURE 41. View west in Room 100. (NPS, 2005)



FIGURE 42. View of north wall of Room 100. (NPS, 2005)

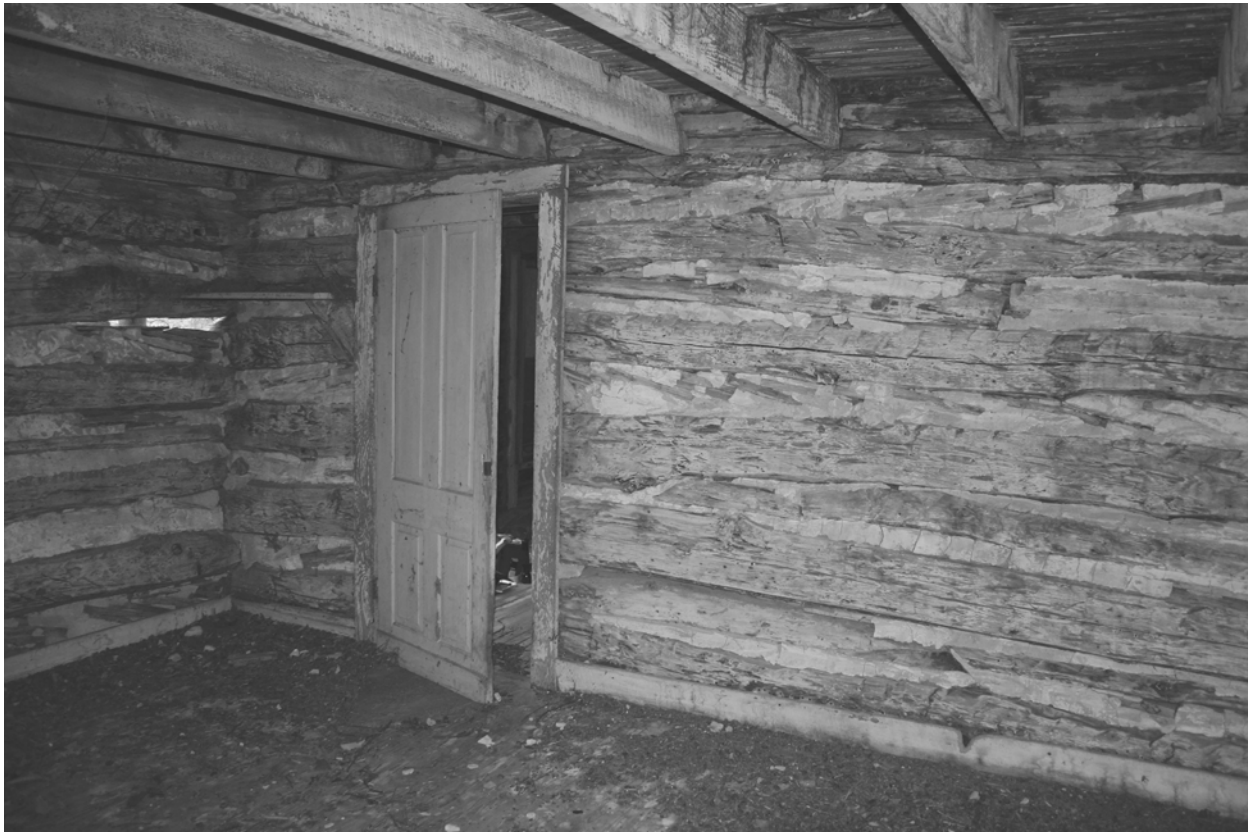


FIGURE 43. View northeast in Room 100. (NPS, 2005)

Physical Description



FIGURE 44. View of stairs to second floor of log pen. (NPS, 2005)

The walls are formed by the logs and chinking of the log pen itself, and the ceiling is the open joists and exposed flooring of the loft above. Walls and ceiling were apparently whitewashed at one time, although large areas of the log walls are now devoid of white-wash.

The original six- over- six sash are missing from the window, but the front door described above remains intact as does the door to the kitchen. The door to the kitchen measures 2'- 8" by 6'- 6" and has four vertical raised panels. Its original rim lock is missing.

Windows and doors are cased with plain boards around 6" wide, and a 6" baseboard runs around the perimeter of the room. A small wooden shelf is mounted on brackets in the northeast corner of the room and another on the west side of the chimney breast.

The house's lone fireplace is located on the north wall. Unusually, the opening for the fire box is created by a wooden header, and there is no evidence

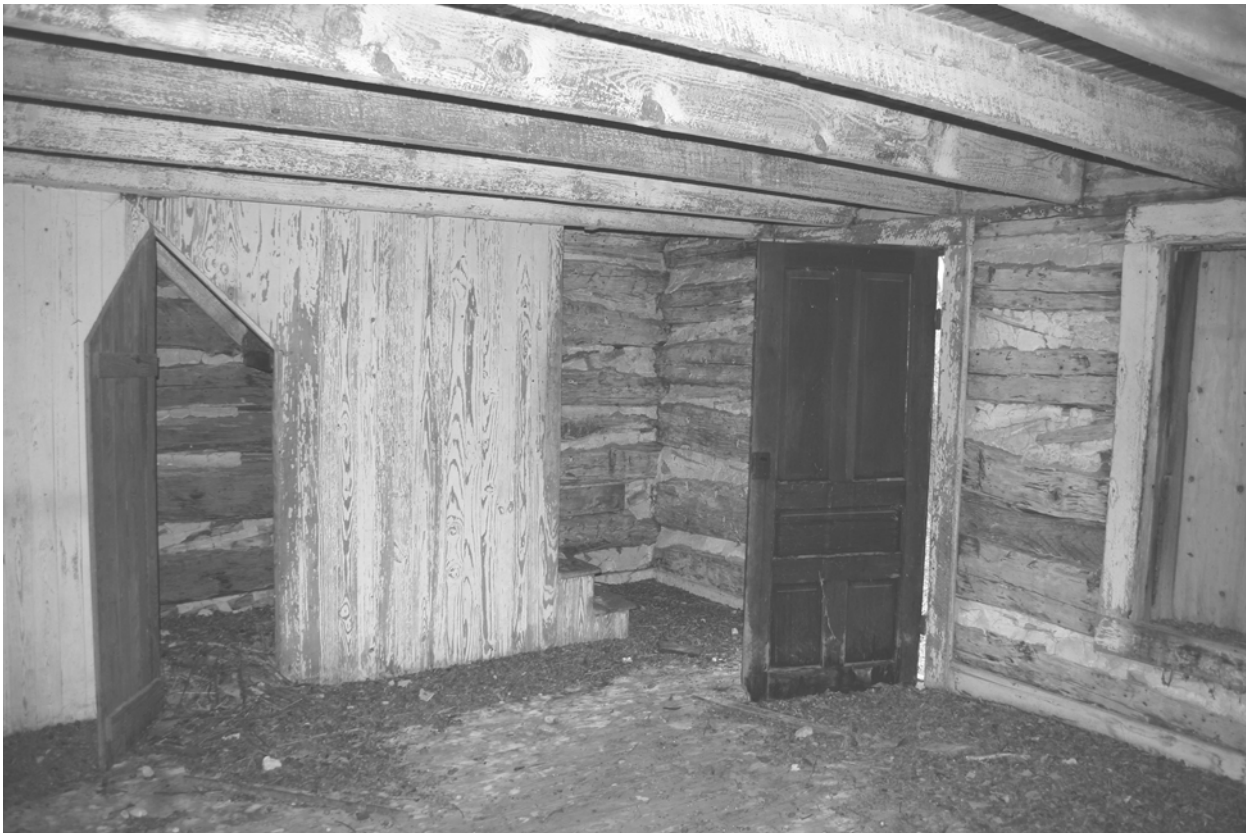


FIGURE 45. View to southwest in Room 100. (NPS, 2005)

that there was ever a mantelpiece. The absence of soot or discoloration inside the fire box suggests that it might not have been much used, but it is also possible that Saunders relined the firebox when a wood stove was installed. Above the fire box and near the center of the exposed chimney breast is a terra-cotta flue for a wood stove, which was probably the house's primary source of heat.

An unframed curtain wall of tongue- and- groove boards runs across the room about 32" from the south wall. Composed of tongue- and- groove boards 3- 1/4" wide, the wall encloses the staircase to the second floor and a closet beneath the stairs. The stairs, which have a closed stringer and rise to the east, are about 29" wide with steps 10" wide and a rise of 8". The closet is entered by way of a narrow door less than 20" wide and rising to a height of 75". It is a board and batten door composed of the same tongue- and- groove material as the adjacent wall. Animals have been nesting in the closet, and as a result, there is a large amount of debris mounded inside the closet.

Front Loft (200). The stairs in the front room rise to a loft or second floor. Knee walls around 27" high

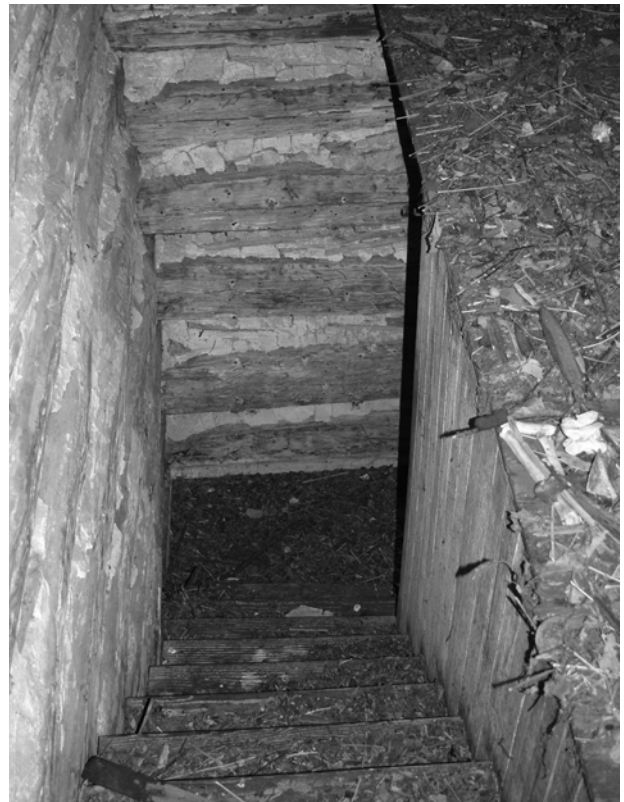


FIGURE 46. View of stairway from Room 200 to Room 100. (NPS, 2005)



FIGURE 47. View south on second floor of log pen. (NPS, 2005)

Physical Description



FIGURE 48. View of junction of rafters and sill plate on west side of Room 200. (NPS, 2005)



FIGURE 49. View of junction of rafters and sill plate on west side of Room 200. (NPS, 2005)

and formed by the log walls of the house surround the room, which has no partitions. Flooring is tongue- and- groove, 2- 1/2" or 3- 1/4" wide and covered with debris. On the front (west) wall and rear (east) wall, the gap between the rafters, roof deck, and top of the logwalls is filled with boards covered with the same mortar used for the chinking of the log walls. Where the wood- framed portion of the house meets the log pen, the gap was left open.

The room is open to the rafters and underside of the roof decking, and the wood- framed end walls are open as well. At the north end of the room, a flue for a stove was added after the building was constructed.

Kitchen (101). This room, which is part of the wood- framed portion of the house, served as a kitchen. Now entered from the outside through a portion of the north wall that has been removed, it was originally entered off the back porch (now enclosed as Room 102) or from the Front Room (101).

Flooring is a mixture of boards, including tongue- and- groove flooring 3- 1/4" wide, plain 6" boards,



FIGURE 50. View south in Room 200. (NPS, 2005)

and even some double-beaded tongue-and-groove pine, which was typically used for walls and ceilings and not for flooring. None of the flooring runs the full width of the room, with some boards only 24" long. Some of the material differences may be the result of repairs, but it is possible that Saunders was simply using up all of the material that he had on hand.

Walls are open stud walls with the back side of the exterior siding fully exposed. Historically, however, the walls were covered with a fibrous material, much like cardboard, but only fragments of the material remain on the studs. An unframed curtain wall similar to the one on the south side of the Front Room runs parallel to and about 32" from the east side of the Kitchen. As in the Front Room, it encloses a staircase to the second floor and a closet beneath the stairs and was constructed with 3-1/4" tongue-and-groove boards like those used in the Front Room.

As in the Front Room, the ceiling of the kitchen is simply the exposed joists and underside of the flooring of the floor above. The ceiling was white-washed at one time.

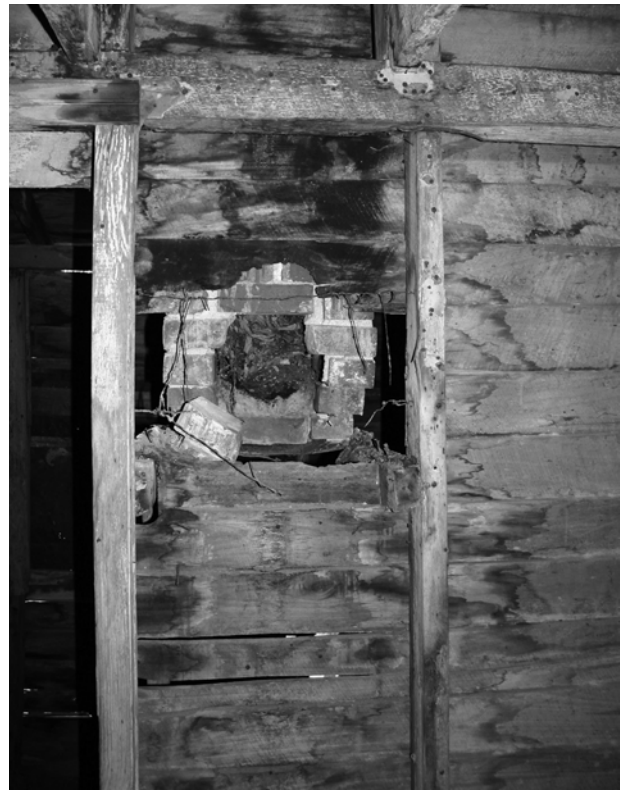


FIGURE 52. View of cook stove flue on south wall of kitchen. (NPS, 2005)



FIGURE 51. View northeast in Kitchen. (NPS, 2005)

Physical Description



FIGURE 53. View of west wall of Kitchen. (NPS, 2005)

In addition to the four- panel door opening into the Front Room (see above), there are four other door openings in this room. On the north wall, part of the wall was cut out to create what is now the only entrance into the house, but historically entrance from the outside into the kitchen was through the opening at the eastern end of the south wall. The door at that location, which is now missing, was apparently around 2'- 4" by 6'- 6".

At the west end of the south wall, there is a large, uncased opening, measuring 2'- 8" by 6'- 7". There is no evidence that a door was ever hung at this opening, which appears to have provided access to the pantry that occupied the west end of the back porch.

The door to the closet under the stairs is a board-and- batten door about 2'- 3" by 6'- 0". It was hung with plain 3" butt hinges but is now detached and leaning against the wall.

The door into the Front Room is cased with plain boards, 1" by 6" and the eastern opening on the are



FIGURE 54. View southeast in Room 101. (NPS, 2005)

not cased. Additional building investigation might be able to determine how these openings were trimmed originally.

The stairs to the second floor rise to the north against the east wall of the room. They have a closed stringer and the same 10" run and 8" rise as the stairs in the Front Room.

Between the two door openings on the south wall is a flue opening for the Saunders' cook stove. The terra- cotta flue liner lies in pieces on the floor.

Old Porch (Room 102). The evolution of this space is uncertain, but it seems most likely that it was originally an open porch with a small pantry at the west end that was accessible from the Kitchen. The room is now in nearly ruinous condition, with much of the flooring missing and serious damage from a leaking roof. Sash for the window opening on the south wall and the door on the east wall are both missing.

At the west end of the room, three shelves, roughly made, run the width of the space. The two lower shelves are around 10" wide; the upper shelf is around 6" wide. An L- shaped shelf, is mounted on the southeast corner of the room and consists of a 7"- wide shelf on the east wall and a 10"- wide shelf running about 5'- 3" along the south wall.

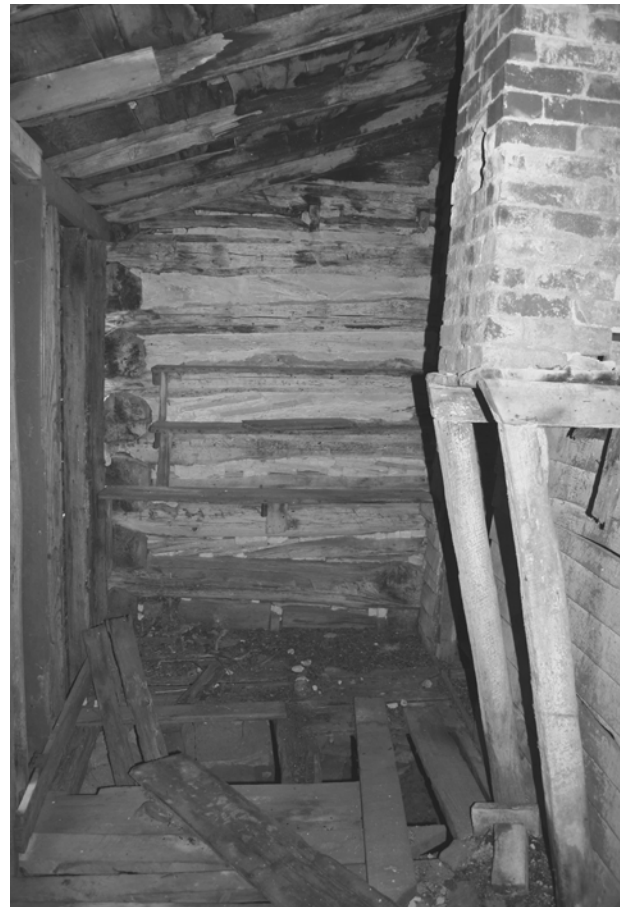


FIGURE 56. View west in Room 102. (NPS, 2005)



FIGURE 55. View of exterior of enclosed porch, showing two generations of siding. (NPS, 2005)

Physical Description

Rear Loft (201). The stairs from the kitchen rise to a second loft at the rear of the house. Much like the front loft, it has no real interior finishes other than the tongue- and- groove flooring, which is a mix of 2- 1/2" and 3- 1/4" material.

Outbuildings

One outbuilding, the meat house, remains standing south of the house about a hundred feet down the hill. The ruins of two smaller outbuildings remain as well, one about fifty feet east of the house and the other about one hundred feet north of the house. The historic functions of these buildings are not clear. Mabel Saunders mentioned only three outbuildings when interviewed in 1975. She reported that her father had a "chicken house" and a "corn house" and stated that there was a barn where her father "kept his horse" (and perhaps the Holstein cow she said the family also owned).

Ian Firth's study of the major cultural resources along the Blue Ridge Parkway in conjunction with drafting an historic resource study for the park in 1992 stated that "there was a chicken house made of hewn logs near the meat house in 1976 but this has now disintegrated." The study also notes "a hog house and pen about 50 feet east of the main house

[that] were in ruins in 1976." A small log "'tack house', below the Saunders Farm, beside Route 43" was also mentioned, but it is not clear if it was part of the Saunders Farm or was associated with one of the other adjacent farms. There is no mention of the log ruins north of the house.

Meat House

Saunders Farm did not have a smokehouse, according to the interview with Saunders' daughter, nor was a "meat house" mentioned in the interview. The terms "smoke house" and "meat house" are used interchangeably in some locales, although rarely so in Virginia.²² It is not clear, however, if the building was historically known as a meat house, or if that is a modern designation for the structure. There is none of the accumulation of soot in the rafters that is typical of a smoke house, nor is there the degradation of flooring and joists typical where salt curing of meat had been conducted.

Saunders kept chickens and hogs for meat, and although the former would have been killed and eaten fresh, hogs were typically butchered in late fall, and he would have preserved at least part of the

22. "Smokehouses," *The Journal of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation*, Winter 2004/2005, viewed on line at <<http://www.history.org/Foundation/journal/Winter04-05/smoke.cfm>>, 18 April 2005.



FIGURE 57. View of front and east side of meat house. (NPS, 2005)

meat by some means. Smoking could have been done, at least on a small scale, in the fireplace inside the house, or in some other container that could expose the meat to heat and smoke. Most likely, Saunders relied more on salt-cured methods of meat preservation, which entailed packing the meat in salt for a number of weeks, then removing the meat from the salt, covering it with black pepper (which would also discourage insects), and hanging it in cloth bags in a well-ventilated area to continue curing. Since the existing building shows no evidence of being used for smoking meats nor for the initial brine curing of the meat, it is likely that the present building, if in fact it was used as a meat house, was used only for storage of cured meat.

Structure. Facing north, the meat house is a simple end-gabled structure measuring around 13'-6", north to south, and around 11'-3" east to west. The structure is set on low, stacked, stone sills that elevate it about 6" above grade on the front or north side and around a foot on the south side.

Like the other outbuildings on the farm, the meat house was constructed with hewn log walls that are relatively small, averaging less than 10" in diameter. Walls are laid up with simple V-notch corners and rise. Walls rise about 6'-7" above the tops of the floor joists.

Floor joists are log, around 6" in diameter and running east to west. The end-gabled roof is framed with circular-sawn rafters rising to a ridge a little over ten feet above the building's sills. End-wall studs are 2" by 4", and the roof is decked with circular-sawn boards 10"-12" wide.

Finishes. There is no evidence for chinking between the logs, which would be somewhat unusual if the building were actually used as a meat house. It is possible that moss or some other organic material originally filled the space between the logs but has now disintegrated.

The roof is covered with 24"-wide panels of corrugated steel, which are badly rusted but still without major leaks. The end gables are finished with vertically installed, circular-sawn boards, 6" to 8" wide and attached with wire nails. Floor boards are circular-sawn, 10"-14" wide, but several are missing or only loosely attached to the joists.



FIGURE 58. View of west side of meat house. (NPS, 2005)

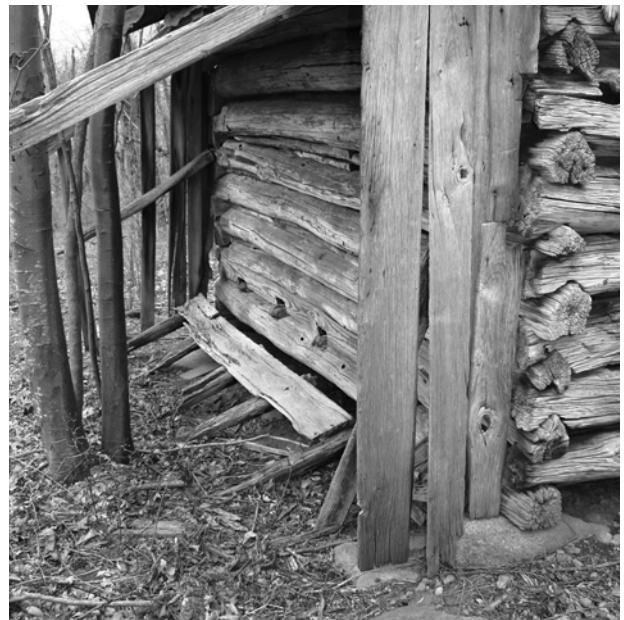


FIGURE 59. View of east side of meat house. (NPS, 2005)

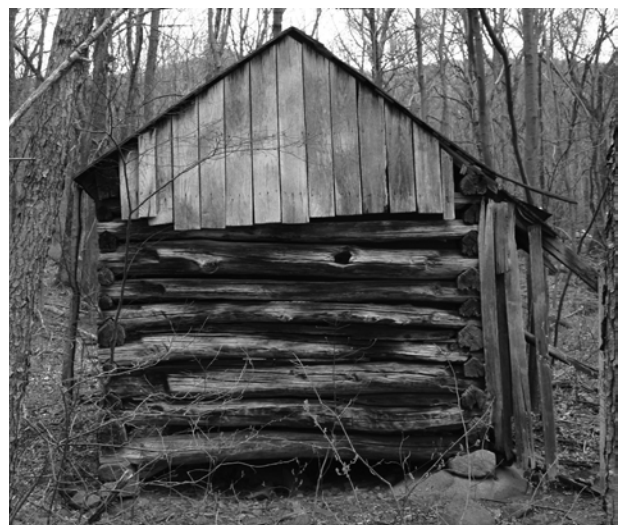


FIGURE 60. View of south end of meat house. (NPS, 2005)

Physical Description



FIGURE 61. View north of chicken house



FIGURE 62. View southeast of chicken house ruin. (NPS, 2005)



FIGURE 63. View southeast of ruins of hog house. (NPS, 2005)

The building has one door opening, which is about 3'-7" wide by 4'-3" high. The badly deteriorated door itself is lying on the ground in front of the building, but was composed of vertical boards, 6" to 8" wide, with two horizontal 4" battens on the inside. It was hung with 6", steel, strap hinges nailed to the face of the door and to the frame of the door opening.

Shed. The ruins of a shed remain along the east side of the meat house. Remains of a rafter as well as a series of stones that appear to have formed a foundation for the shed indicate that the shed extended about eight feet from the meat house. The pitch of the two remaining rafters indicates that the outside wall of the shed would have risen less than four feet above grade.

There are also the remains of a floor system for the shed. It was composed of six log joists, running east to west and floored with circular sawn boards, but only about three feet of each joist and a single floor board remain intact. The shed was also enclosed with vertical boards, but only a few of these remain next to the main structure at the front and rear of the shed. Like the boards in the end gables, the boards are attached with wire nails.

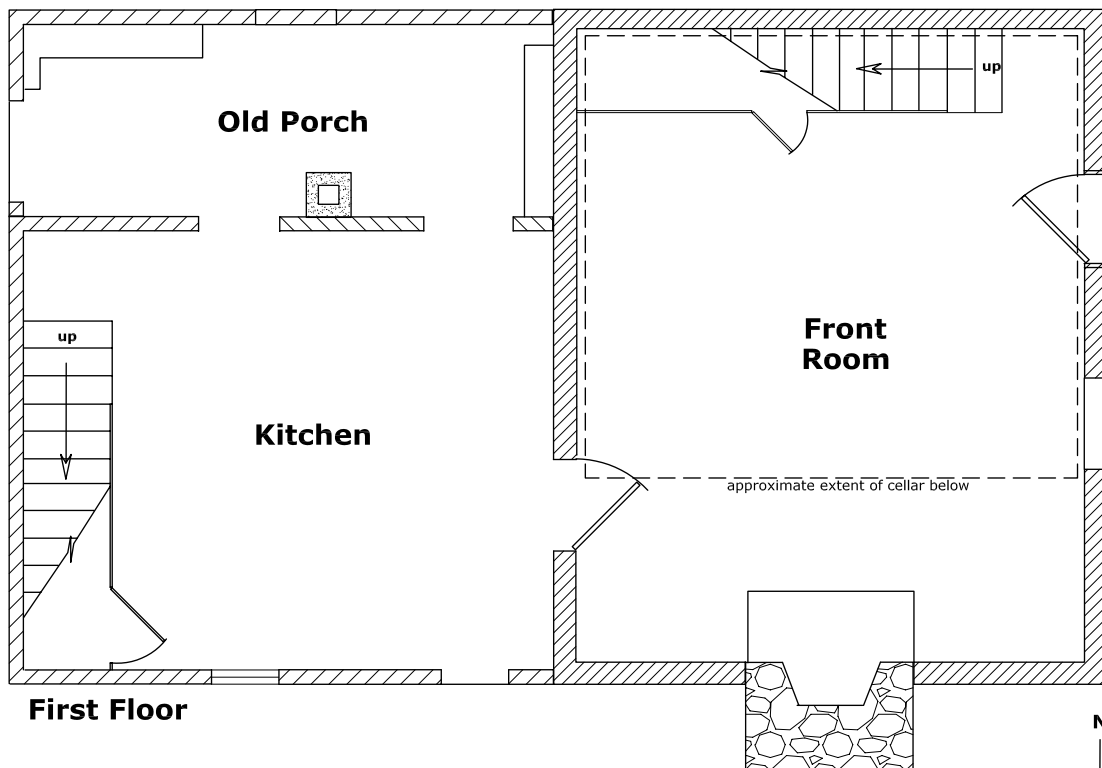
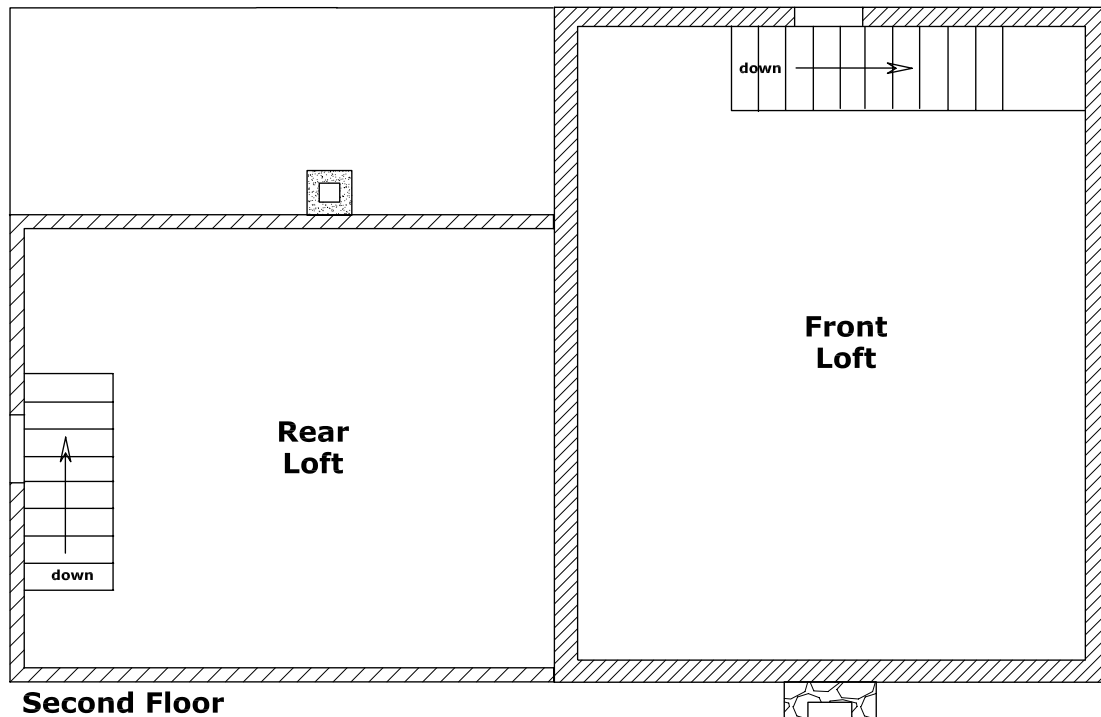
Interior. The interior of the building is open to the rafters. Irregularly placed boards above the front door have nails on which items could be hung, but as noted above there is no clear evidence that these were used for hanging meat. On the east side of the interior, a roughly made partition is set about 6'-8" from the door and extends about three feet into the space. Why the space was partitioned in this manner is not known.

Ruins

The ruins of two structures remain visible on the site. Both were log buildings, around 8' by 10', with V-notched corners. Historic photographs show that both buildings had wood-framed, end-gabled roofs.

The ruin north of the house was reportedly used as a hog house and was associated with a hog pen. The other ruin, which is reported to have been a chicken house, is located about a hundred feet east of the house. What appear to be two stone steps are apparent on the south side of the ruins, where the door into the structure was originally located.

Plan of Existing Building



wood-framed walls

log walls

rock chimney

brick chimney

0 5'

N

Physical Description

Treatment and Use

The primary purpose of this historic structures report is to begin documentation of the buildings at the Saunders Farm and to provide preliminary recommendations for stabilization, treatment, and use for the structures. The buildings date to the early twentieth century, when George Saunders began developing his farm on the slopes of Flat Top Mountain, but there were alterations to the buildings as late as the 1920s or 1930s. The property was acquired from the Saunders family in 1942, although they appear not to have vacated the property until around 1947. The structures are excellent examples of vernacular architecture, and the materials and craftsmanship with which they were constructed are a primary component of the site's significance.

The immediate environs of the buildings were kept clear of underbrush, but little or no work was done on the structures until 1977, when part of the foundation, which had collapsed, was reconstructed. Since that time, two of the smaller outbuildings have fallen into ruin, but the main house and the so-called "meat house" remain in relatively good structural condition and much of the historic fabric remains intact.²³

Requirements for Treatment and Use

Good stewardship of an historic structure requires careful control over treatment and use, beginning with basic, common-sense guidelines. The building should be carefully monitored, particularly after storms or heavy rains, and should be thoroughly inspected at least once a year. Data documenting the building's condition should be recorded and

analyzed to determine any necessary treatment or changes in use. Any ground disturbance around the buildings should always be cleared or monitored by an archeologist.

Any work on the buildings, including routine maintenance, should be done by qualified people in conformance with approved plans and specifications or work procedures. All maintenance personnel who work in, on, or around the building should be given appropriate training, and the entire park staff should be made aware of the significance of the buildings and the major threats to their preservation.

Legal Requirements

A number of laws, regulations, and functional requirements circumscribe treatment and use of the historic structures in our National Parks. While not formally listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the buildings at Saunders Farm are clearly eligible for listing. In addition to protecting the cultural resource, these requirements also address issues of human safety, fire protection, energy conservation, abatement of hazardous materials, and handicapped accessibility. Any treatment must be carefully considered in order that the historic fabric of the structure be preserved.

National Historic Preservation Act. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (NHPA) mandates Federal protection of significant cultural resources. In implementing the act, a number of laws and authorities have been established that are binding on the NPS.

A routine step in the park's planning process for the treatment of historic structures is compliance with Section 106 of NHPA, which requires Federal agencies "to take into account the effect" of any undertaking involving National Register properties. To

23. "Historic" fabric includes but is not limited to the original features and materials. All features and materials in the present buildings should be considered part of the historic fabric.

satisfy the requirements of Section 106, regulations have been promulgated (36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties") that require, among other things, consultation with local governments, State Historic Preservation Officers, and Indian tribal representatives. Prior to any undertaking at the Main House, the NPS is required to "afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation established under Title II of this act [NHPA] a reasonable opportunity to comment with regard to such undertaking."

In 1995, in an effort to expedite the review process, a programmatic agreement was made between the Advisory Council and the NPS that allows for a categorical exclusion of some activities from the Section 106 review process. These excluded activities are limited to routine repairs and maintenance that do not alter the appearance of the historic structure or involve widespread or total replacement of historic features or materials.

Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. The Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) establishes comprehensive civil rights protection for disabled Americans, both in employment and in their right to free, unaided access to public buildings. While people with restricted mobility have most frequently benefited from ADA, protection also extends to those with other disabilities. This would include visitors with impaired vision or hearing, for whom printed tour scripts and audio tours allow for interpretation of the site.

Requirements for full compliance with ADA regulations are extensive and easiest to apply to new construction. Full compliance for historic buildings is more difficult and sometimes would require significant alterations to the historic character of the property. Where that is the case, ADA authorizes a process for arriving at alternatives to full compliance that can preserve historic character while maximizing a disabled visitor's access to the historic building.

International Building Code. Building codes are generally applicable to all buildings whether they are historic or not. As a matter of policy, the NPS is guided by the International Building Code, which includes this statement regarding codes and historic buildings:

3406.1 Historic Buildings: The provisions of this code related to the construction, repair, alteration, addition, restoration and movement of structures, and change of occupancy shall not be mandatory for historic buildings where such buildings are judged by the building official to not constitute *a distinct life safety hazard* [emphasis added].

Threats to public health and safety should always be eliminated, but because this is an historic building, alternatives to full code compliance are always sought where compliance would needlessly compromise the integrity of the historic building.

NFPA Code 914. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has promulgated codes for historic buildings, most notably NFPA 909, "Code for the Protection of Cultural Resources Properties - Museums, Libraries, and Places of Worship," and NFPA 914, "Code for Fire Protection of Historic Structures." Because there is no water or other utilities at the site, and none are planned in the foreseeable future, protection must focus on fire *prevention* through prohibiting storage of flammable materials and smoking in or around the buildings. Special care should be taken to keep the surrounding site clear of underbrush and other debris in order to protect against destruction by wild fire. Hand-held fire extinguishers should be maintained on site, especially when work is underway on the structures.

DOI and NPS Policies and Regulations

In addition to Director's Order #28, which has guided development of this historic structure report, there are policies and regulations that have been issued by both the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service which circumscribe treatment of historic buildings.

Secretary's Standards. The Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* have established a framework in which to plan and execute treatment of historic structures. Guidelines for interpreting the *Standards* have been issued, and the NPS has also published forty-two *Preservation Briefs* that provide detailed direction for appropriate treatment of a variety of materials, features, and conditions found in historic buildings. Regardless of treatment approach, the *Standards* put a high priority on preservation of existing his-

toric *materials* and not just the architectural form and style. Replacement of a column, for instance, even when replacement is “in kind,” diminishes the authenticity of the building, if for no other reason than the elimination of the evidence of the passage of time, which after all is fundamental to the authenticity of an historic structure.

The *Standards* also require that any alterations, additions, or other modifications be reversible, i.e., be designed and constructed in such a way that they can be removed or reversed in the future without the loss of existing historic materials, features, or character.

General Management Policies. Finally, the NPS General Management Policies (2001) guide overall management of the Saunders Farm, especially Chapter 5 “Cultural Resource Management.” Based upon the authority of some nineteen Acts of Congress and many more Executive orders and regulations, these policies require

planning to ensure that management processes for making decisions and setting priorities integrate information about cultural resources, and provide for consultation and collaboration with outside entities; and stewardship to ensure that cultural resources are preserved and protected, receive appropriate treatments (including maintenance), and are made available for public understanding and enjoyment.²⁴

Section 5.3.5, “Treatment of Cultural Resources,” provides specific directives, including a directive that “the preservation of cultural resources in their existing states will always receive first consideration.” The section also states that

treatments entailing greater intervention will not proceed without the consideration of interpretive alternatives. The appearance and condition of resources before treatment, and changes made during treatment, will be documented. Such documentation will be shared with any appropriate state or tribal historic preservation office or certified local government, and added to the park museum cataloging system. Pending treatment decisions reached through the planning process, all resources will be protected and preserved in their existing states.²⁵

Ultimate Treatment and Use

Management objectives for Saunders Farm have not been formally established, but it is generally assumed that Saunders Farm would be preserved and restored to its historic appearance for use as a museum exhibit in a manner similar to the nearby Johnson Farm. Saunders Farm could interpret the African- American experience of farming the rugged hillsides of western Virginia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, providing an opportunity to compare and contrast that experience with the experience interpreted at Johnson Farm, which was owned by a white family. Such an approach will require the kind of research that has gone into development of Johnson Farm, especially interviews with family members and development of a comprehensive history of the family and the site.

Treatment should not attempt to restore the buildings to their original appearance. Not only is the “original” appearance of the buildings difficult, if not impossible, to define, it is the larger story of the Saunders’ use of the land that is significant and not some particular event or point in time.

Alternatives for Treatment and Use

Consideration of alternatives for treatment and use is recommended for any historic structure for which a program of treatment and use has not already been established. In the process, NPS guidelines put the “emphasis . . . on preserving extant historic material and resolving conflicts that might result from a structure’s ‘ultimate treatment’.”

Use

Alternatives to use of Saunders Farm as what amounts to a museum exhibit are few, since rehabilitation and adaptive use for residential use, visitor contact, or other such modern use would inevitably compromise the resource to an unacceptable degree. Floors would have to be restructured, modern utilities added, and the building finished to a degree that it never was historically. The result would be a significant degradation of the building’s historic character.

24. NPS General Management Policies (2001), p. 50.

25. NPS General Management Policies (2001), p. 56

Treatment

At a minimum, the main house and the meat house must be stabilized to prevent further deterioration and loss of historic fabric. The other outbuildings must be considered lost.

There are several alternatives to treatment of the remaining buildings, ranging from simple preservation that would repair and conserve existing historic materials and features to full restoration which would replace missing features as an aid to interpretation of a particular period in the site's history. These phases could be accomplished consecutively over a short period of time as a more or less single project or, depending on available resources, there could be intervals between the phases.

Restoration of the house to its original appearance might be considered. This would necessitate recreation of the open porch on the south side of the house, removal of the brick chimney, and reconstruction of the window and door openings on the south side of the kitchen. However, there would be a certain amount of speculation in reconstructing the porch, particularly regarding the configuration of the posts and railing, if any was present, and there seems to be no compelling reason to remove later alterations and eliminate part of the history of the Saunders time in the house. Preservation of the house and the meat house as they were when the Saunders moved out in the late 1940s would maximize interpretive opportunities.

Recommendations for Treatment and Use

Adaptation and stabilization of Saunders Farm to allow for public access will require a considerable investment, as will the additional historical research, building investigation, restoration, and reconstruction needed for interpretation. Following is an outline of the necessary work, presented in the general order in which it should be accomplished.

Main House

Stabilization

This phase of the work would aim simply to prevent further loss of historic fabric and should be implemented immediately. In effect, the house would be mothballed as outlined in *Preservation Brief* #31.²⁶

Access. Nothing can be accomplished without first providing access from Va. Hwy. 43 so that workmen, materials, and equipment can be brought into the site. The historic roadways are being identified in the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) that is being conducted in conjunction with this Historic Structures Report, and presumably, clearing of some of these roads would provide adequate access. The immediate environs of the historic structures should also be cleared of the trees and undergrowth that have sprung up over the last thirty years, with the extent of clearing consistent with the findings of the CLI.

Artifacts. As this work proceeds, the numerous artifacts, including portions of doors and other building features, that litter the ground around the buildings must be mapped, catalogued, and archived. All building-related artifacts should be tagged and stored in the front room (100) of the

house. The entire area should be posted against trespassing until such time as the site is ready for presentation to the public.

Interior. The interior of the house must be cleared of the large amount of debris that covers the floors in every room. Holes in flooring on the first floor should be covered temporarily with plywood, anchored without the use of nails or screws but secured against animal entry. Plywood can also be laid over the loose boards on the enclosed porch (102).

Exterior. The portion of the north wall of the kitchen that has been removed should be repaired and the opening closed, using as much as possible of the existing material now lying on the ground outside the opening, or by simply covering the opening with plywood. The front door and the window openings should be secured with vented plywood panels screwed to the frames at the outside of each opening. A temporary door should be installed at the east end of the old porch (102) to provide access into the building.

The roof of the enclosed porch (102) has been badly damaged by a falling tree. The tree should be removed and the area covered with a tarpaulin to prevent water entry. Rafters can be temporarily braced up on the interior. The remainder of the roof appears to be generally shedding water, but if additional leaks are found they should be closed. Since the entire roof covering will have to be replaced, cold asphalt patching compound could be used if necessary.

Once these temporary measures are taken to stabilize the structure, there must be regular inspection of the site and, at a minimum, continuous maintenance.

26. Available on line at <<http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/brief31.htm>>.

nance to keep it secure from the elements, nesting animals, and vandals.

Summary of recommendations for stabilization.

- Clear access into site
- Clear trees and underbrush from on and around the historic structures
- Clean interior
- Map, catalog, and store building detached artifacts inside and outside structures
- Cover holes in floors
- Secure exterior by closing opening on north side
- Install vented covers at windows and front door
- Install temporary door at east end of Room 102
- Clear roof of debris and cover roof of Room 102 with a tarpaulin
- Monitor site and maintain building security

Repair and Rehabilitation

Once a program of use and interpretation for the site is firmly established and as resources become available, more permanent repairs and rehabilitation can be commenced. These would aim to preserve the historic form and features of the building as they exist today.

Foundation. The foundation on the west and south sides of the log pen is in relatively good condition, but once the site is cleared, the remainder of the foundation will need repointing and, on the east and north sides, minor repairs. Care should be taken to use a mortar that is formulated to match the visual qualities of the historic mortar. The mortar for the foundation under the enclosed porch (102), which was added sometime after the house was constructed, should have an appearance that is slightly different from that used on the rest of the foundation.

At the southwest corner of the house, the west foundation and the south foundation walls have separated. Crack monitors should be installed to

determine if the separation is stable. If not, poor drainage is probably destabilizing the foundation and drainage problems should be corrected. The walls should not be reconstructed but a means should be devised to tie the two walls together and prevent further separation.

Structure. Structural repairs should be made as necessary to replace deteriorated members, but damage to the framing of the building appears to be limited, probably because of the use of chestnut and/or hickory in the original construction. Repairs will be probably need to made to the sills on the north and east sides of the house and to the floor and roof framing of the enclosed porch, which have been damaged by water penetration. Repairs should not seek to restructure the building's framing to meet modern codes, since that could severely compromise the historic character of the building. If public access to the interior is ever contemplated, the floor structure can be braced from below without replacing the entire floor system.

Either the sill or the foundation or both at the northeast corner of the log pen have been damaged, allowing the lower portion of the wall on the east side of the chimney to settle as much as two inches. The area will need some excavation to determine the cause of and to repair the damage, which will include raising the lower half of the log wall on the east side of the chimney back to its original position.

Exterior Finishes. Most of the exterior finishes remain intact but are in need of significant repairs. Most of the existing siding on the north and east sides can be re-nailed where necessary and preserved. Siding is entirely missing from the lower half of the north wall and some is missing from the east end. Much of the siding on the south side of the enclosed porch, which is not contemporaneous with the other siding, may require complete replacement. If that is necessary, the vertical seam on the west side of the window opening should be replicated. Most of the soffit is intact and can be preserved, but some of the fascia will need replacement.

The exterior woodwork will remain unpainted, and it is therefore necessary that particular care be taken in selecting replacement material. Since chestnut is no longer available, quarter-sawn pine might be the most appropriate substitute. All material should be

graded clear and better. Common wire nails are the appropriate fasteners.

Windows and Doors. All but one window is missing its sash and one of the two exterior doors is missing. New six- over- six sash will need to be replicated for the front window and installed in the existing frame. The upper sash will be fixed in place; the lower sash will be movable but without hardware. Four- over- four sash should be installed in the window in the south gable in the same manner as the front window. The existing four- over- four sash in the kitchen window can be repaired. Frame and sash will have to be recreated for the window on the south wall of Room 102, using a pair of four-light sash that match the sash used in the window on the north side of Room 101.

The front door can be preserved, but a new door will be needed at the east end of the enclosed porch (102). Since there are no historic photographs of the east side of the house, it can only be assumed that the door there was similar to the existing front door, which can then be used to recreate the back door.

All locks are missing, but a vertical rim lock is ghosted on the front door and would be an appropriate substitute for the original. Brown mineral knobs were most typically used with rim locks during the period in which the house was constructed.

Roofing and Drainage. The standing- seam metal roof covering should be repaired if possible, but if upon close inspection it is determined that leaks cannot be repaired, then it should be replaced in kind. The house never had gutters, and there has been no control of rain water run- off from the roof. This has probably precipitated the differential settlement of the foundation around the southwest corner of the house and, with uncontrolled surface runoff, the collapse of the stone wall on the north side of the cellar. Since the ground may be too rocky to consider a subterranean French drain, the surface grade should be such that water is turned away from the house on all sides.

Exterior Stairs. The back door can be entered from the ground without a step, but wooden stairs to the front door were present at one time. These should be recreated with open stringers and no landing. Cedar might be the most appropriate material for the steps since it will rapidly age to a

color that would be compatible with the rest of the house.

Interior Finishes. Interior repairs would be quite limited, beginning with a thorough cleaning of the interior to clear it of the large amount of debris presently in the building. As on the exterior, care must be taken to ensure that any artifacts remaining in the building are preserved.

Missing or rotted pieces of flooring should be replaced in kind, maintaining the patchwork nature of the kitchen floor and material differences in all the floors. The flooring will not be varnished or painted but can be scrubbed with water and detergents, as it would have been cleaned historically. Alternatively, the floors might be sanded using fine-mesh screen, although that approach risks excessive removal of wood and/or creation of a raw look that would clash with the patina of other interior surfaces.

Summary of Recommendations for Repair and Rehabilitation. ■

- Repair and repoint foundation on north and east side of house
- Avoid reconstruction and repoint foundation under Room 102
- Monitor foundation at southwest corner for continuing movement
- Devise means to tie south and west foundation together without reconstruction
- Repair sills on north and east side
- Repair floor and roof framing of enclosed porch (102)
- Locate source of and repair damage to northeast corner of log pen
- Repair siding, soffit, and fascia, replacing material only as necessary using quarter- sawn pine as a replacement material
- Repair existing window sash; replace missing window sash

- Replicate five- panel front door and install at east end of enclosed porch (102)
- Install vertical rim locks with brown mineral knobs at front and back door
- Repair standing- seam metal roof covering
- Rework surface grade surrounding house to ensure rapid rain water run- off away from house
- Repair and clean flooring as necessary
- Recreate stairs to front door

Research

Archival research for the present project has been very limited, and if interpretation of the farm is to go beyond the barest outline of the site's history, additional historical research will be necessary. Development of a historic resource study for Saunders Farm should be a high priority if there is to be a serious effort to interpret the site. Potential sources of documentation include the county courthouse, the local historical society, the Federal census, and memories and family traditions gathered from interviews with family members and others.

A cursory survey of documents in the Bedford County Courthouse produced a chain of title to the property stretching back to George Saunders' acquisition of the property in 1912. Courthouse records should be exhaustively researched which might prove successful in documenting ownership of the farm by three generations of the Saunders family as well as providing additional documentation of the Saunders family.

The oral history project now underway has begun to locate Saunders family members, although none have been interviewed as of this writing. The 1975 interview with Mabel Saunders mentioned the existence of a family Bible, and family members may have other useful sources for documenting the family's history. This line of research should be vigorously pursued while some of the Saunders' children remain alive.

Finally, dendrochronological analysis of the wood used to construct the Saunders' house and out-

buildings could help establish a more precise date for construction of these buildings.

Summary of Recommendations for Research. ■

- Develop a comprehensive historic resource study for Saunders Farm
- Re- evaluate interior of house after cleaning
- Establish construction date through dendrochronological analysis

Restoration

The treatments outlined above would preserve the house and make it presentable to the public. For interpretive purposes, additional restoration work might also be considered after the historical research outlined above has been completed.

A historic furnishings plan would need to be developed if the house is to be fully restored and the interior opened and interpreted. The oral history work noted above should include questions that would elicit information on the historic interiors of the house.

If the interior of the house is to be refurnished and opened to the public, an appropriate substitute for the wall coverings in the kitchen (101) should be located. Analysis of surviving fragments can determine the original color so that it can be repainted appropriately. Whitewashing the interior of the log pen could also be considered but, like the kitchen wall covering, would not be warranted unless the house were being refurnished and opened as a house museum.

A replacement for the missing wall covering in the rear loft (201) would be more difficult to locate, but may not be necessary if, as will probably be the case, the public is not allowed access to the lofts. If replacement is deemed necessary, common asphalt- impregnated building paper commonly used for underlayment might be substituted, but it would not be durable and would give a somewhat misleading appearance to the room.

Summary of Recommendations for Restoration. ■

- Develop historic furnishings plan

- Recreate wall coverings in Rooms 101 and 201
- Whitewash interior of log pen

Outbuildings

The meat house and the ruins of the other two outbuildings are critical to site interpretation. All should be preserved.

Meat House

Although the existing corrugated metal roofing continues to shed water, one panel at the southeast side of the structure is detached from the decking and in danger of being torn completely off with high winds. It should be reattached and the entire roof system carefully monitored for leaks.

The remains of the door to the building are lying on the ground in front of the structure. Using these remains and the historic photographs of the building, the door should be recreated and re-installed. Missing flooring should be replaced, using material similar to that which remains in place. The existing partition should be preserved.

The shed on the east side of the structure has all but disappeared. Like the ruins of the chicken house and hog house, little can be done to preserve its ruins. It would be helpful to interpretation of the site if the shed were reconstructed before all evidence for its structure and finishes is lost. Surviving elements and historic photos would support accurate reconstruction.

Ruins

The chicken house and the hog house are in ruins and little can be done to preserve what remains. Shelters could retard deterioration but the advanced state of decay and the nature of the structures does not warrant such intervention.

Care should be exercised in preserving the stone foundations of the buildings in place, although these are little more than stones placed on the surface of the ground. Historic photographs of the structures would support reconstruction of both buildings, if that would be necessary for interpretation of the site.

Summary of Recommendations for Outbuildings.

- Repair roofing
- Reconstruct door
- Replace missing flooring
- Reconstruct Meat House shed
- Preserve stone foundations of ruins in place
- Reconstruct ruined buildings only if deemed necessary for interpretation

Site Security

There has already been some vandalism of the site, including breaking of windows and, apparently, gunshot destruction of the terra-cotta cap on the main chimney. Proposed improvements in access to the site will bring a dramatic increase in visitation, but also a corresponding increase in the risk of vandalism. To some degree vandalism is an ongoing problem at virtually all parks, and while it can be controlled, it can rarely be eliminated entirely. Monty Christiansen's *Vandalism Control Management for Park Districts*, developed for the NPS in 1982, provides a series of common-sense guidelines for minimizing the threat of vandalism.²⁷

As noted above, because there is no water or other utilities at the site, and none are planned in the foreseeable future, protection must focus on fire *prevention* through prohibiting storage of flammable materials and smoking in or around the buildings. Special care should be taken to keep the surrounding site clear of underbrush and other debris in order to protect against destruction by wild fire. Hand-held fire extinguishers should be maintained on site, especially when work is underway on the structures.

The park might also consider installation of a totally wireless, solar- or battery- powered alarm system, but design and placement of sensors could prove

27. Monty L. Christiansen, *Vandalism Control Management for Park Districts* (Philadelphia: National Park Service, Technical Services Program, 1982; on line at <<http://www.lib.niu.edu/ipo/ip840120.html>>).

difficult. Such a system could prove useful in detecting fire, and its mere presence might help to reduce, if not prevent, vandalism.²⁸

Summary of Recommendations for Site Security.

- Implement vandalism control measures outlined in *Vandalism Control Management for Park Districts*
-

28. For an example of these systems see <<http://www.smartersecurity.com>>.

- Prohibit smoking at the site
- Maintain site to reduce risk from wild fire
- Maintain fire extinguishers in both buildings
- Consider installation of solar- or battery-powered security system

Sources of Information

Bedford County, Clerk of Superior Court, Records of Births, Marriages, Deeds and Mortgages.

Firth, Ian J. W. "Parkway Profiles: Brief Background Statements on the Major Cultural Resources of the Blue Ridge Parkway." Athens, GA, School of Environmental Design, 1992.

Swain, Mrs. Mabel Saunders. Interview by Rosemary Johnson, 21 April 1975. Original transcripts and oral

history tape located in BLRI archives collection, catalogued.

Wright, William R. Interview by Philip E. Coyle, 13 May 2005, contractor for BLRI oral history project. CD of recording, no transcript, in HSR project files, SERO.

United States Federal Census, 1850-1930.

Appendix A:

Federal Census Schedules

1880 Census

Page No. 23.

Supervisor's Dist. No. 2

Enumeration Dist. No. 20

Note A.—The Census Year begins June 1, 1879, and ends May 31, 1880.

Note B.—All persons will be included in the Enumeration who were living on the 1st day of June, 1890. No others will. Children BORN SINCE June 1, 1890, will be OMITTED. Members of Families who have DIED SINCE June 1, 1890, will be INCLUDED.

Note C.—Questions Nos. 13, 14, 22 and 23 are not to be asked in respect to persons under 10 years of age.

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in East Staunton ^{District} Magnolia in the County of Bedford, State of Virginia, enumerated by me on the 19th day of June, 1880.

338

R. Shaw

Enumerator

[illegible]

NOTE D.—In making entries in columns 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 to 23, an affirmative mark only will be made—thus //, except in the case of divorced persons, column 23, when the letter "D" is to be used.

NOTE E.—Question No. 12 will only be asked in cases where an affirmative answer has been given either to question 10 or to question 11.

NOTE F.—Question No. 14 will only be asked in cases where a judicial separation has been reported in column 23.

NOTE G.—Under column 7 no abbreviation in the names of the month may be used. as Jan., Aug., Dec.

1930 Census

[illegible]

Appendix B:

Bedford County Deeds

747.

This Deed, made this 8th day of May in the year one thousand nine hundred twelve between Edward Saunders & Mary E. Saunders his wife Parties of the first part, and George E. Saunders Party of the second part, WITNESSETH, That in consideration of the sum of two Hundred Dollars cash in hand the said Edward Saunders & Mary E. Saunders does grant unto the said George E. Saunders with General Warranty, all of a certain Lot or Parcel of Land situated in Bedford County Va and Lying on the Bedford City and Buchanan Pike adjoining the lands of William Vaughn Miller Estate & others and Bounded as Follows Beginning at a stump and Pointers corner to Mrs. Dora Watson and Edward Saunders Thence with Mrs. Watsons line S.15 E.53 Poles to a stake & Pointers in Mrs. Watsons line corner to William Vaughn Thence with his line S 48 W 15 Poles to the Pike Thence along the Pike N.62 W.20 Poles to Pointers on the Pike Thence off the Pike N.11 W.140 Poles to a chestnut oak & Pointers corner to Vaughn & the Miller Estate Thence with the Miller line S.65 E.20 Poles to a chestnut oak by a large Rock Boulder corner to Edward Saunders Thence a new line with Edward Saunders S.20 E. 94 Poles to the Beginning containing 22 Acres More or Less.

The Parties of the First Part Does Hereby reserve a 16 foot Right of Way Through the above Described land to the B. & B. Pike

The said Parties of the first Part covenant that they have the right to convey the said

28

land to the grantee; that they have done no act to encumber the said land; that the grantee shall have quiet possession of the said land, free from all encumbrances, and that They the parties of the first part, will execute such further assurance of the said land as may be requisite.

Witness the following signature and seal

his
Edward + Saunders (SEAL)
mark
her
Mary E. + Saunders (SEAL)
mark

.50
1.25
rl.00
\$2.75

STATE OF VIRGINIA,

d. County of Bedford to-wit:

I, L. L. Brown, a Notary Public for the County aforesaid, in the State of Virginia, do certify that Edward Saunders and Mary E. Saunders whose name are signed to the within writing, bearing date on the 8th day of May, 1912, has acknowledged the same before me in my County aforesaid. Given under my hand this 8th day of May 1912.

noted
after
L. L. Brown
t, Sept
1912

L. L. Brown Notary Public.

My commission expires Feb. 2nd. 1914.

Bedford Circuit Court Clerk's Office, September 20th., 1912.

This Deed was this day presented in said Office, and, upon the annexed certificate of acknowledgment, admitted to record at 2:25 O'Clock, P.M.

Teste,

S. M. R. R. R. Clerk.

Notary Public.

Virginia:

In Bedford Circuit Court Clerk's Office January 28th 1927.

This Deed of Trust was presented in said office and, upon the annexed certificate of acknowledgment, admitted to record at 12:14 o'clock, P. M.

Teste:

P. P. Nichols, Clerk.

114.

THIS DEED made this 10th day of January, 1927, between G. E. Saunders and Bettie P. Saunders, his wife, of the County of Bedford and State of Virginia, parties of the first part, and the United States of America, party of the second part,

W I T N E S S E T H: That for and in consideration of the sum of Forty-two Dollars and Seventy Cents (\$42.70), cash in hand paid, by the United States of America, by the Secretary of Agriculture, under order of the Act of March 1, 1911 (36 Stat., 961), the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the parties of the first part do hereby bargain and sell, grant and convey, with general warranty, unto the United States of America, its successors and assigns forever, all of that certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in Bedford County, Virginia, in Liberty District, adjoining the lands heretofore acquired by the United States from the Miller heirs, E. D. Saunders and others, near the Peaks of Otter, being a portion of the land conveyed to the said G. E. Saunders by E. D. Saunders and Mary E. Saunders, his wife, by deed of record in the County Clerk's Office of Bedford County, Virginia, in Deed Book No. 107, p. 127, and more particularly bounded and described according to a survey made by the Forest Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, as follows, to-wit:

(All bearings from this description were turned from the true meridian.)

BEGINNING at Corner 1, which is Corner 1 of the E. D. Saunders Tract No. 237, in Line 2-3 of the Peaks of Otter Tract No. 67c, at Corner 2, plus 17.54 chains, on a very rocky south slope, at foot of cliff, a chestnut oak with old corner marks, blazed and scribed S 1;

A 6" chestnut oak bears S 15° E .30 chain distant, blazed and scribed BT S 1;

Thence S 17° 56' E 12.57 chains to Corner 2, which is Corner 2 of the E. D. Saunders Tract No. 237, on a rocky south slope, a chestnut oak, blazed and scribed S 2;

Thence S 85° 40' W, with one line of land reserved by G. E. Saunders, 5.86 chains to Corner 3, in Line 3-4 of the W. L. Vaughan Tract No. 27, at Corner 3, plus 12.90 chains, on the top of a ridge, a black oak, scribed S 3;

Thence N 12° 54' W, with one line of the W. L. Vaughan Tract No. 27, reversed, 12.90 chains to Corner 4, in Line 2-3 of Peaks of Otter Tract No. 67c, at Corner 2, plus 12.73 chains, which is Corner 3 of the last-named tract, a point below a large cliff where a dogwood and hickory are called for;

Thence S 87° 28' E, with a line of the last-named tract, 4.81 chains to the place of BEGINNING, containing 6.57 acres, be the same more or less,

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD FOREVER. And the said parties of the first part covenant

tax 2.40
fee 1.50
\$3.90
Pd.
2-24-27
to Hunter
Mr.

that they have the right to convey said land to the grantee; that the grantee shall have quiet possession of said land, free from all encumbrances; that they will execute such further assurances of the said land as may be requisite; that they have done no act to encumber the said lands, and that they are seized in fee simple of said lands.

Witness the following signatures and seals the day and year first above written.

G. E. Saunders (SEAL)

Bettie P. Saunders (SEAL)

STATE OF VIRGINIA, }
COUNTY OF BEDFORD, } ss:

I, Junia E. Graves, a Notary Public in and for the County and State aforesaid, hereby certify that this day personally appeared before me in my said County, G. E. Saunders and Bettie P. Saunders, his wife, whose names are signed to the foregoing writing bearing date the 10th day of January, 1927, and acknowledged the same before me to be their act and deed.

Given under my hand this 26th day of January, 1927.

My commission expires November 4, 1928.

Junia E. Graves,
Notary Public.

Virginia:

In Bedford Circuit Court Clerk's Office January 28, 1927.

This Deed was presented in said office and, upon the annexed certificate of acknowledgment, admitted to record at 3:15 o'clock, P. M.

Teste:

P. P. Nichols, Clerk.

115.

THIS DEED, made this the 29th day of July, 1926, by and between FRANK M. MERIWETHER and EMMA J. MERIWETHER, husband and wife, parties of the first part, and L. C. WRIGHT and JOSEPH P. WILLIAMS, parties of the second part:

W I T N E S S E T H :- That for and in consideration of the sum of EIGHT HUNDRED, TWELVE DOLLARS and FIFTY CENTS, (\$812.50), of which TWO HUNDRED, THREE DOLLARS and THIRTEEN CENTS (\$203.13) has been paid in cash to the said parties of the first part by the said parties of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged while the balance of SIX HUNDRED, NINE DOLLARS and THIRTY-SEVEN CENTS (\$609.37) is evidenced by the three negotiable notes of the said parties of the second part for TWO HUNDRED THREE DOLLARS and THIRTEEN CENTS (\$203.13) each, bearing even date herewith, and payable one, two and three years from the date hereof and interest thereon

Tax None
Fee 1.75
Com 1.00
\$2.75
Pd.

Exp. 2-16-27
+ add. 7c
W. L. Newman

veyed hereby, all of which is more fully set out in the deed from the party of the first part to said Company dated November 24, 1936, and of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Deed Book 181, page 118.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD FOREVER.

The said party of the first part covenants that she has the right to convey said land to the grantee; that the grantee shall have quiet possession thereof, free from all encumbrances; that she will execute such further assurances of the said land as may be requisite; that she has done no act to encumber the said land; and that she is seized in fee simple thereof.

WITNESS the following signature and seal.

Dora C. Watson (SEAL)
Dora C. Watson

STATE OF VIRGINIA

COUNTY OF BEDFORD, to-wit:

I, Mabel W. Ballard, a Notary Public for the County aforesaid, in the State of Virginia, do certify that Dora C. Watson, widow, whose name is signed to the writing above bearing date on the 15th day of December, 1942, has this day acknowledged the same before me in my County aforesaid.

My commission expires April 6, 1943.

Given under my hand this 15 day of December, 1942.

Mabel W. Ballard (L.S.)
Notary Public

VIRGINIA:

In Bedford Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Dec. 19th 1942.

This deed was this day presented in said Office, stamped with \$1.10 United States Internal Revenue Documentary Stamps, cancelled, with plat & survey attached and, upon the annexed certificate of acknowledgment, admitted to record at 8:35 o'clock, .. M.

No tax
Fee 2.00
Com 1.00
3.00

Exd. 1-1-43
+ mld. to
R. R. Cochran
Forest Service
Roanoke, Va.

Teste:

W. D. Nichols, Clerk.

THIS DEED IS RECORDED IN
BOOK NO. 2 PAGE 74

1142.

THIS DEED, made this 16 day of December, 1942, by and between George E. Saunders and Bettie P. Saunders, his wife, of Route #2, Bedford, Virginia, parties of the first part, and the United States of America, party of the second part.

WITNESSETH: That for and in consideration of the sum of TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,000.00), cash in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the parties of the first part do hereby bargain, sell, grant and convey, with general warranty of title, unto the United States of America and its assigns forever, all that certain tract or parcel of land lying in Central District, Bedford County, Virginia, on the east side of the Blue Ridge Mountain near the Peaks of Otter, on the Bedford-Buchanan Turnpike, being the same land conveyed to George E. Saunders by Edward Saunders and wife by deed dated May 8, 1912, which deed is of record in the Clerk's Office of Bedford County, Virginia, in Deed Book 107, page 127, less a tract conveyed by the parties of the first part to the United States of America by deed dated January 10, 1927, which is of record

ACREAGE, LAND DESCRIPTION, AND CON-
SIDERATION CORRECT (FLETCHER 10)

from G. E. Saunders and E. D. Saunders, respectively, designated as corner 12 on the map of the Group #1 inclusive survey made by the U. S. Forest Service, a chestnut oak scribed S2; thence southeasterly, in part with the west boundary of the said Tract 237a and in part with the west boundary of Tract 811, now being acquired by the United States of America from Mrs. Dora C. Watson, to the southeast corner of instant tract, a common corner to Tract 27a, now being acquired by the United States of America from W. L. Vaughn Estate, in the west boundary of the said Tract 811; thence leaving the said Tract 811 and with the boundaries of the said Tract 27a, southwesterly and northwesterly to corner 10 of the said inclusive survey, a common corner to the said Tract 27a and which is also corner 4 of Tract 27, acquired by the United States of America from W. L. Vaughn, a chestnut post in a mound of stones scribed V4; thence continuing northwesterly, leaving the said Tract 27a and with a part of line 3-4 reversed of the said Tract 27, to corner 11 of the said inclusive survey, which is corner 3 of Tract 463 previously acquired by the United States of America from G. E. Saunders, the northwest corner of instant tract, in line 3-4 of the said Tract 27, a black oak scribed S3; thence easterly, leaving the said Tract 27 and with line 2-3 reversed of the said Tract 463 to the place of Beginning, containing 15.6 acres be the same more or less and being the tract of land designated 463a on the Group #1 inclusive survey map attached hereto and made a part hereof; together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining.

The parties of the first part reserve the right to occupy and use for residential and agricultural purposes the following described premises, to-wit: the house, barn and other farm buildings, the cleared land on the hillside above the house and the land under fence below the house for a period of five (5) years from the date of recordation of this deed. The parties of the first part also reserve the right to gather from land not covered by this reservation fuel wood, the type and location of which shall be designated by an authorized representative of the United States.

The rights reserved herein shall be subject to the following Rules and Regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture:

1. The reservation so created shall not be assigned, used or occupied by anyone other than the grantor without the consent of the United States.
2. All reasonable precautions shall be taken by the grantor and all persons acting for or claiming under him to prevent and suppress forest fires upon or threatening the premises or other adjacent lands of the United States, and any person failing to comply with this requirement shall be responsible for any damages sustained by the United States by reason thereof.
3. The premises shall not be used or permitted to be used, without the written consent of the United States, for any purpose or purposes other than those specified in the instrument creating the reservation.
4. The grantor and all persons acting for or claiming under him shall maintain the premises and all buildings and structures thereon in proper repair and sanitation and shall comply with the National Forest laws and regulations and the laws and lawful orders of the State in which the premises are located.
5. The reservation shall terminate (a) upon the expiration of the period named in the deed; (b) upon failure for a period of more than one calendar year to use and occupy the premises for the purposes named in the deed; (c) by use and occupancy for unlawful purposes or for purposes other than those specified in the deed, and (d) by voluntary written relinquishment by the owner.

quired by the United States of America from E. G. Saunders, which is also corner 2 of Tract 463 and corner 2 of Tract 237, previously acquired by the United States of America from G. E. Saunders and E. D. Saunders, respectively, designated as corner 12 on the map of the Group #1 inclusive survey made by the U. S. Forest Service, a chestnut oak scribed S2; thence southeasterly, in part with the west boundary of the said Tract 237a and in part with the west boundary of Tract 811, now being acquired by the United States of America from Mrs. Dora C. Watson, to the southeast corner of instant tract, a common corner to Tract 27a, now being acquired by the United States of America from W. L. Vaughn Estate, in the west boundary of the said Tract 811; thence leaving the said Tract 811 and with the boundaries of the said Tract 27a, southwesterly and northwesterly to corner 10 of the said inclusive survey, a common corner to the said Tract 27a and which is also corner 4 of Tract 27, acquired by the United States of America from W. L. Vaughn, a chestnut post in a mound of stones scribed V4; thence continuing northwesterly, leaving the said Tract 27a and with a part of line 3-4 reversed of the said Tract 27, to corner 11 of the said inclusive survey, which is corner 3 of Tract 463 previously acquired by the United States of America from G. E. Saunders, the northwest corner of instant tract, in line 3-4 of the said Tract 27, a black oak scribed S3; thence easterly, leaving the said Tract 27 and with line 2-3 reversed of the said Tract 463 to the place of Beginning, containing 15.6 acres be the same more or less and being the tract of land designated 463a on the Group #1 inclusive survey map attached hereto and made a part hereof; together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining.

The parties of the first part reserve the right to occupy and use for residential and agricultural purposes the following described premises, to-wit: the house, barn and other farm buildings, the cleared land on the hillside above the house and the land under fence below the house for a period of five (5) years from the date of recordation of this deed. The parties of the first part also reserve the right to gather from land not covered by this reservation fuel wood, the type and location of which shall be designated by an authorized representative of the United States.

The rights reserved herein shall be subject to the following Rules and Regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture:

1. The reservation so created shall not be assigned, used or occupied by anyone other than the grantor without the consent of the United States.
2. All reasonable precautions shall be taken by the grantor and all persons acting for or claiming under him to prevent and suppress forest fires upon or threatening the premises or other adjacent lands of the United States, and any person failing to comply with this requirement shall be responsible for any damages sustained by the United States by reason thereof.
3. The premises shall not be used or permitted to be used, without the written consent of the United States, for any purpose or purposes other than those specified in the instrument creating the reservation.
4. The grantor and all persons acting for or claiming under him shall maintain the premises and all buildings and structures thereon in proper repair and sanitation and shall comply with the National Forest laws and regulations and the laws and lawful orders of the State in which the premises are located.
5. The reservation shall terminate (a) upon the expiration of the period named in the deed; (b) upon failure for a period of more than one calendar year to use and occupy the premises for the purposes named in the deed; (c) by use and occupancy for unlawful purposes or for purposes other than those specified in the deed, and (d) by

6. Upon the termination of reservation the owners of personal property remaining on the premises shall remove same within a period of three months.

7. The said reservation shall be subject to rights-of-way for the use of the United States or its permittees, upon, across, or through the said land, as may hereafter be required for the erection, construction, maintenance and operation of public utility systems over all or parts thereof, or for the construction and maintenance of any improvements necessary for the good administration and protection of the national forests, and shall be subject to the right of officials or employees of the Forest Service to inspect the premises, or any part thereof, at all reasonable times and as often as deemed necessary in the performance of official duties in respect to the premises.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD FOREVER.

The said parties of the first part covenant that they have the right to convey said land to the grantee; that the grantee shall have quiet possession thereof, free from all encumbrances; that they will execute such further assurances of the said land as may be requisite; that they have done no act to encumber said land; and that they are seized in fee simple thereof.

WITNESS the following signatures and seals:

George E. Saunders (SEAL)
George E. Saunders
Bettie P. Saunders (SEAL)
Bettie P. Saunders

STATE OF VIRGINIA

COUNTY OF BEDFORD, to-wit:

I, G. G. Ballard, a Notary Public for the County aforesaid, in the State of Virginia, do certify that George E. Saunders and Bettie P. Saunders, his wife, whose names are signed to the writing above bearing date on the 16 day of December, 1942, have this day acknowledged the same before me in my County aforesaid.

My commission expires January 16 1943.

Given under my hand this 16 day of December, 1942.

G. G. Ballard (L.S.)
Notary Public

VIRGINIA:

In Bedford Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Dec. 19th 1942

This deed was this day presented in said Office, stamped with \$2.20 United States Internal Revenue Documentary Stamps, cancelled, with plat & survey attached and upon the annexed certificate of acknowledgment, admitted to record at 8:35 o'clock, A. M.

THE PLAT IS RECORDED IN
"PLAT BOOK" No. 2 PAGE 79

Teste:

W. D. Nichols, Clerk.

1143.

THIS DEED, made this 14th day of December, 1942, by and between Weaver E. Holland and Winifred A. Holland, his wife, of Dallas, Texas, parties of the first part, and the

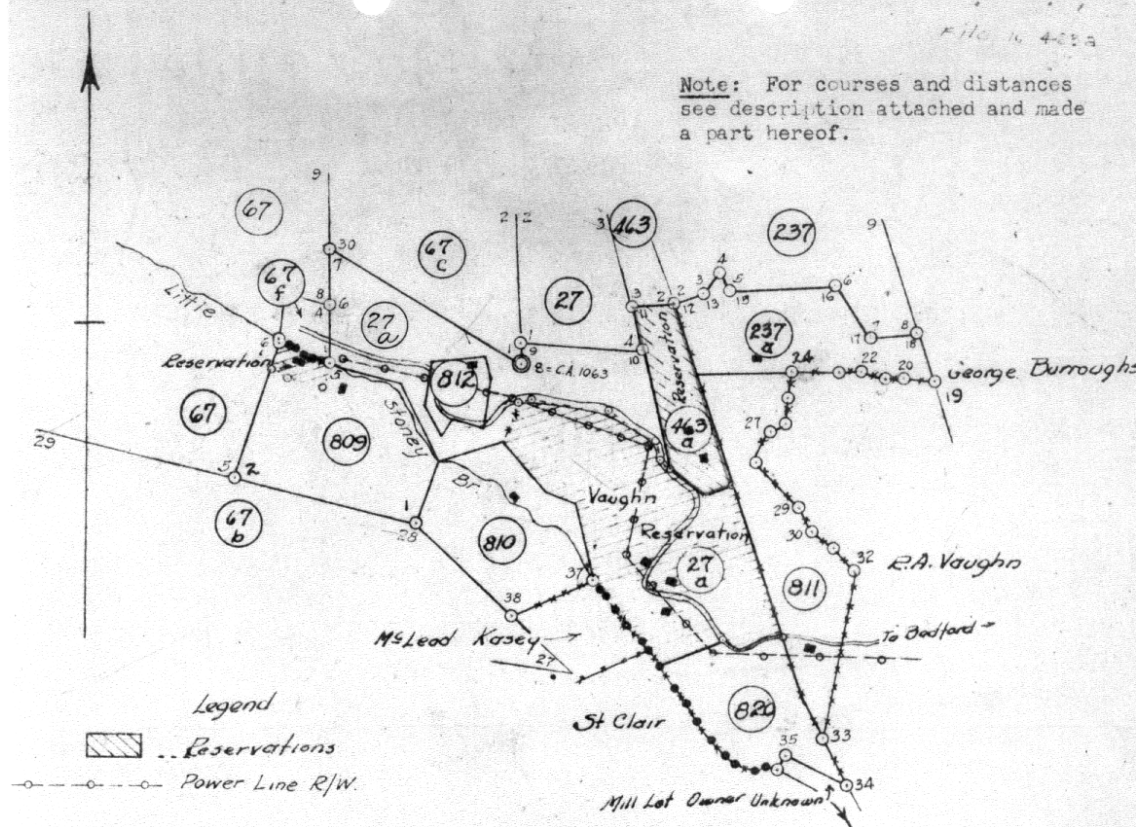
No tax
Fee 3.00
Com 1.00
4.00

Epd. 1-1-43
4 mld. to
R. R. Cochran
Great Service
Roanoke, Va.

ACREAGE, LA
AND CONSIDER
C FLETCHER

Appendix C:

1942 Plat



JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST

Inclusive Survey
Group #1

F. K. Saunders Estate	#809
W. E. Holland	#810
Mrs. Dora C. Watson	#811
Laura J. Davidson & Lula E. J. Parker	#812
Peoples National Bank of Bedford	#820
W. L. Vaughn Estate	#27a
Elder Saunders	#237a
George Saunders	#463a

310.40 ACRES

BEDFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Scale 1" = 20 chains

Survey by U.S.F.S.

Atlas Sheet #1
Note Book #C120

REFERRED TO IN DEED
BOOK 199 PAGE 517



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

NPS D- 738 June 2005