

ADDENDUM

CH-67

Clifton No.2 (Demolished)

Charles County, MD

Newburg vicinity

Cathy Currey Hardy, January 2002

7. Description

Clifton No. 2 was first identified in the early 1970's by J. Richard Rivoire just prior to the site's subdivision, now Clifton on the Potomac. At the time it was believed that this was the home of Josiah Fendall and plans were underway to convert the structure into a museum. Later research revealed that the existing 18th c. structure was likely built as a dependency for a much larger dwelling. After learning this, the building and its plans were abandoned leading to its eventual collapse in the mid-1980's.

Although the exact location of the site was not identified, it is believed to be on the north side of Overlook Circle, south of Fendall Lane in a large cedar grove. Standing nearby was Clifton No.1 (CH-66). Both buildings were believed to have faced the Potomac River, with the post-Civil War Victorian dwelling to the east.

8. Significance

During the Civil War, the dependency now known as Clifton No.2 was part of a number of outbuildings belonging to Major Roderick Watson, of the Confederate Signal Corp. Watson worked with fellow agent Thomas A. Jones, who lived just to the North at the site of Raven's Crest. Watson died in 1861 after which time his daughter assisted in the Confederate cause.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Rivoire J. Richard , Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County. , La Plata MD: Southern Maryland Studies Center, 1990. pp.72-77.

Wearmouth, John and Roberta. Thomas A. Jones: Chief Agent of the Confederate Secret Service In Maryland. Port Tobacco, MD: Stones Throw Publishing., 1995, 2000.

10. Geographical Data

Clifton No.1 is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 79, Parcel 102 in Section M of Clifton Subdivision.

N. R. FIELD - JEFF CH 67

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: "CLIFTON" CLIFF DEVELOPMENT, THREE BROTHERS,

AND/OR HISTORIC: ADDITION TO THREE BROTHERS, BATTEN'S CLIFFS

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Clifton Development

CITY OR TOWN: Newburg

STATE: Maryland CODE: COUNTY: Charles CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP			STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes:	
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>	
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>	
No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	storage	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: Clifton Development Attn: Mrs. Josephine Fisher

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Faulkner STATE: Maryland CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Charles County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: La Plata STATE: Maryland CODE:

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER DATE

NAME Clifton (Cliffton) No. 2
LOCATION Charles County, Newburg, Maryland
ARCHITECT
DATES 18th century
OWNER Cliffton Development Corporation

This small, rural brick house is one of the few remaining single (room) dwellings of early date extant in the state. It deserves special consideration because it has survived significantly intact and thereby presents itself as a unique and valuable tool for interpreting the socio-economic development in the region to which it is so firmly associated. As an early example of architecture it establishes building use and construction techniques employed during the early years of Maryland's colonial period.

When constructed, Clifton was entirely of brick and had a steeply angled "A" frame roof, sheathed with horizontally fixed riven clapboards. The south elevation, river front, had a centered batten door with segmental arch flanked by a single small window. The interior flush gable chimney at the east end is set off-center to the roof ridge resulting in the illusion that the roof rake is set at two different angles. The chimney cap itself displays an eighteenth-century usage of the plaster necking-band. At the base of the structure the water table has a flat top course, now worn to a quarter-round effect, and the eave construction of the roof was not boxed but had its joist ends and secondary plates exposed.

The original interior of the house was purely utilitarian in character. The floors were of wood which ran flush to the front of an expansive fireplace opening and small flanking stair closet. The walls were plastered and the ceiling joists exposed, displaying beaded edges. Existing evidence indicates that the entrance to the attic was gained by a ladder-type stair enclosed within a board paneled closet at the southeast corner of the house. The

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interior of the attic, lighted by a single west gable window, had its end walls plastered but the roof frame remained completely exposed.

Between the years 1825-1835 the interior of the house was extensively renovated. All of the flooring was replaced and the previously exposed ceiling was covered with lathe and plaster. The stair closet was removed and a larger, more practical stair erected in its place. The most thorough alteration concerned the fireplace which had a much smaller segmentally arched opening constructed toward the south end of the original aperture. At the north end an interior flue wall was extended down to ground level and the resulting area utilized as a closet. In the attic the new ceiling and walls were framed out and plastered. A small fireplace with flanking closet was built at the east end, a partition wall with door was constructed at the stair area, and the brick gable at the west end was removed and replaced by one of frame construction. This new gable provided for a centered door flanked by a single four-over-four pane window to each side.

On the exterior the changes consisted of enlarging the existing south elevation window and installing another at the opposite side of the door, bricking in a closet window at the east end, and erecting an exterior stair at the west end giving access to the gable door.

In the late nineteenth century the riven clapboards on the roof were replaced with tin sheathing and the formerly exposed eaves were boxed with planked boards. In the early twentieth century the north elevation wall collapsed and was replaced by one of masonry block.

In 1658 Clifton was patented to Captain William Batten under the name "Battens Cliffs." From that time on it has had direct associations with several of Charles County's most notable families. It is known that Josias Fendall (a mid-seventeenth-century Maryland Proprietary Governor) owned the Clifton property and at various times lived on or near this property. Clifton, enlarged through the years, descended in the Fendall family until 1783 when it was sold by Philip Richard Fendall. By that time the Fendall family had erected an "elegant brick mansion" adjacent to the existing structure which then began service as a summer kitchen.

During the Civil War the location of Clifton was considered an important link in the Confederate underground railroad. This particular section of the river, known as the Potomac Narrows, was frequently used for transporting

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people and messages between Maryland and Virginia and the elevated bluff upon which the house is situated served as the necessary signalpost.

Archeological sites on the property include prehistoric and historic Indian settlements, a seventeenth-century river village known as Bristol, and the sites of both the Fendall Mansion and the circa 1810, one-story, frame house which later replaced it. There are also two eighteenth-century farm buildings standing in close proximity to the existing brick house, one of which, formerly a combination corn crib and private jail, may date to the early eighteenth century.

Recorder: J. Richard Rivoire
Maryland Historical Trust

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	

060675204

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		_____
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The house sits in the area of a Civil War signal post because this area is known as the Potomac Narrows, the shortest distance across the river from Md. to Va. The post was operated by a Richard Watson and his daughter. The house they lived in has since disappeared and a post-Civil War one erected in it's place. The house known here as Clifton stands directly to the rear of this house, nestled in a group of barns and out-buildings.

A number of gravestones have been found in the foundations of a nearby barn. One bears the name of Benjamin Fendall who was the grandson of Governor Josias Fendall Gov. Fendall did own land in this immediate vicinity and bequeathed it to his son John (1674 - 1734) who in turn bequeathed it to his son Benjamin (1708 - 1764).

The owners seem to have traced the land back to the patent of 1658 naming it Batten or Batten Cliffes and owned by one Richard Batten.
W.W.

The present owners are quite anxious to restore the house which would add greatly to the aesthetic appeal of the development however they are reluctant to proceed without some sort of professional guidance.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mrs. Josephine Fisher research papers, personal

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

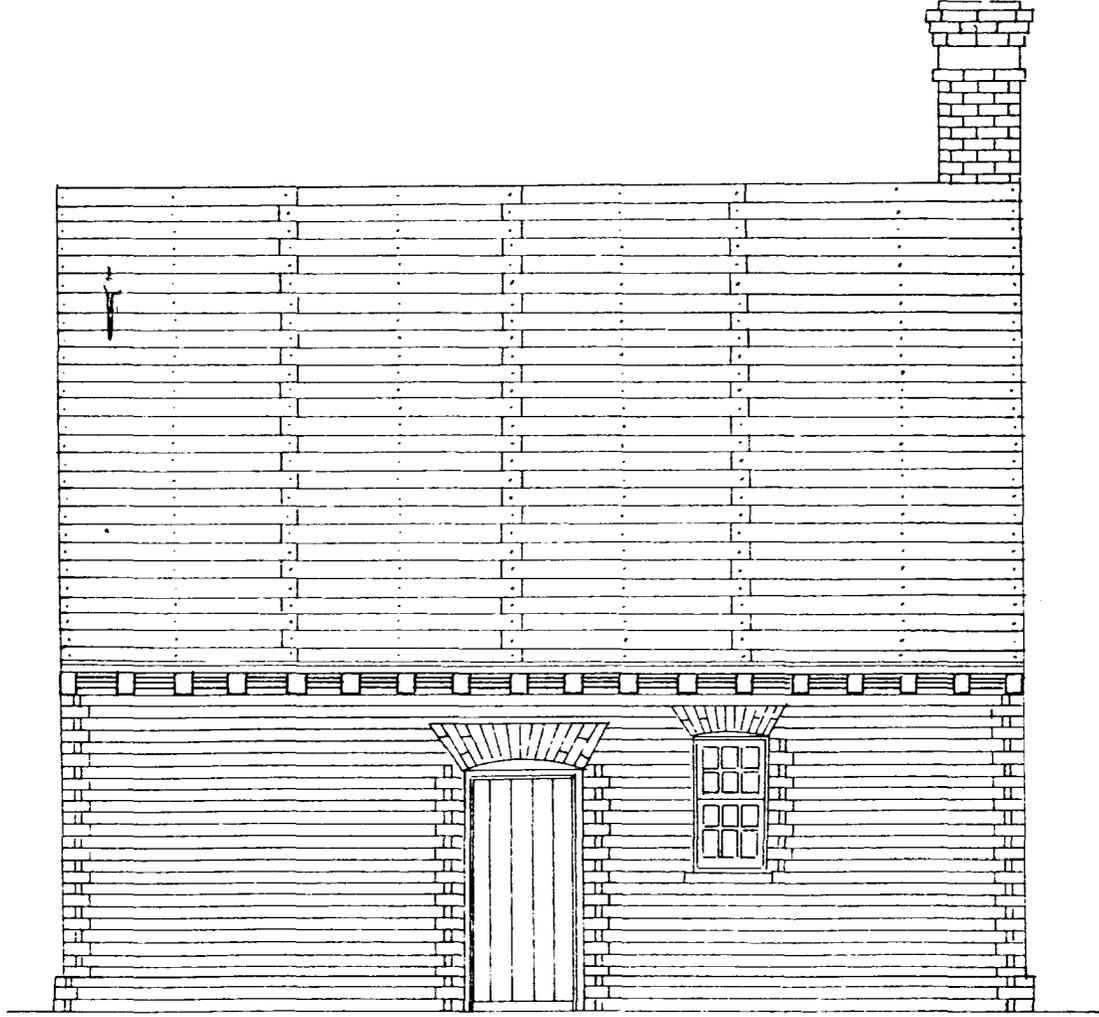
NAME AND TITLE: J. Richard Rivoire

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: _____

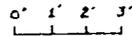
STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: _____

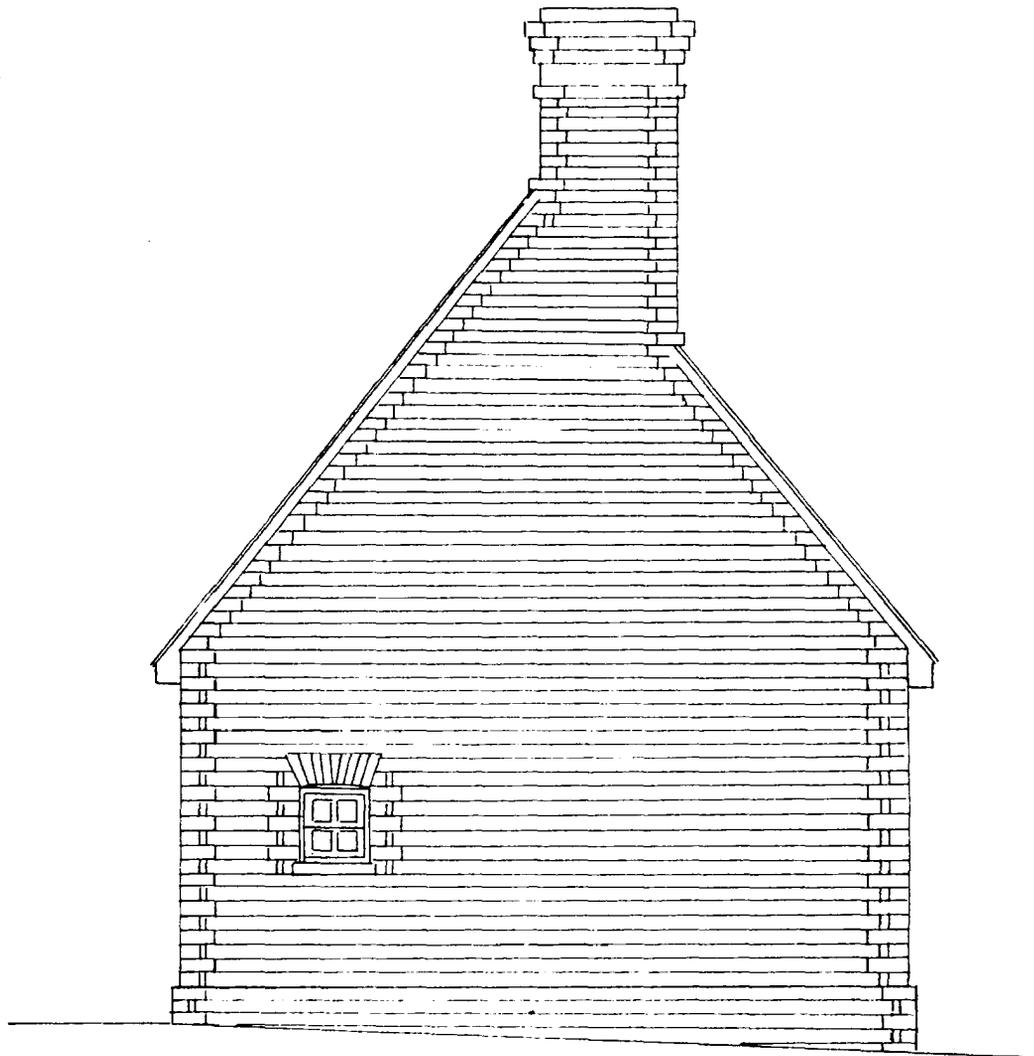
12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>



SCALE

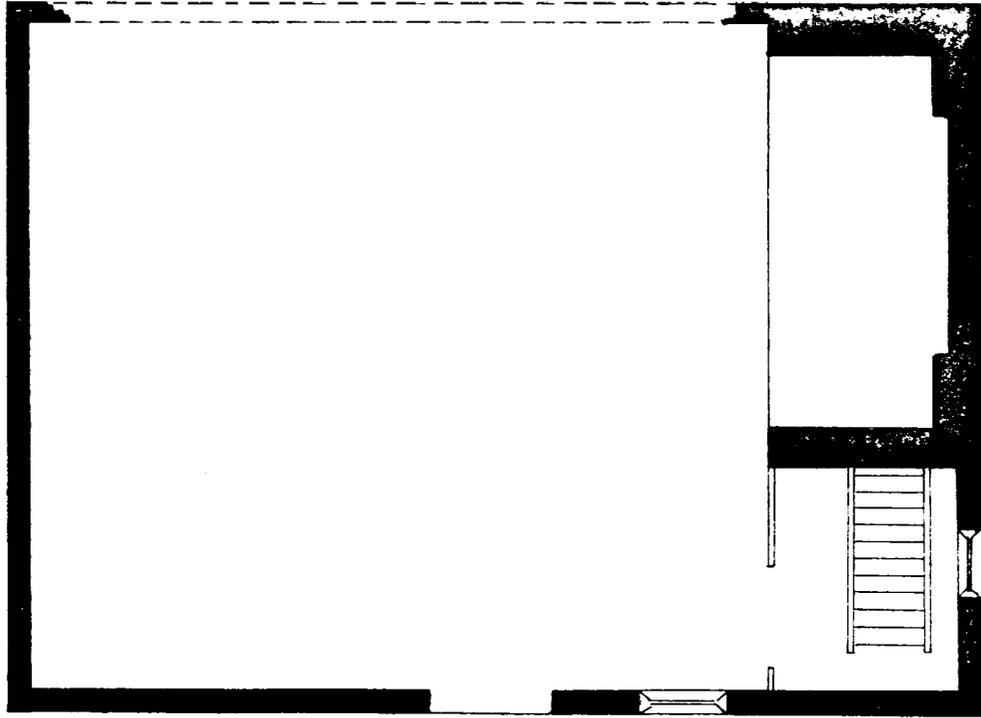


Cliffton, ca. 1725 S. (Rivier) facade - since this drawing
was made evidence of a window at other side of
door was revealed. Riviere 9/72



SCALE 0' 1' 2' 3'

Clifton, Ca. 1725, S. End Ele



SCALE

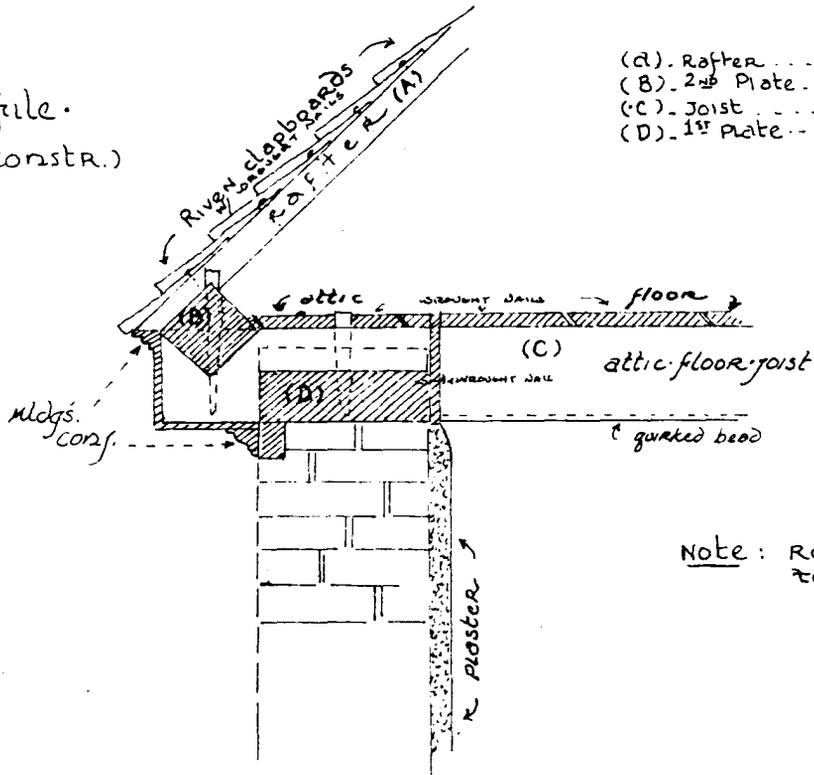
0' 1' 2' 3'



Clifton, ca. 1725
first floor plan

Clifton - Chas. Co. Mo. (before 1740)

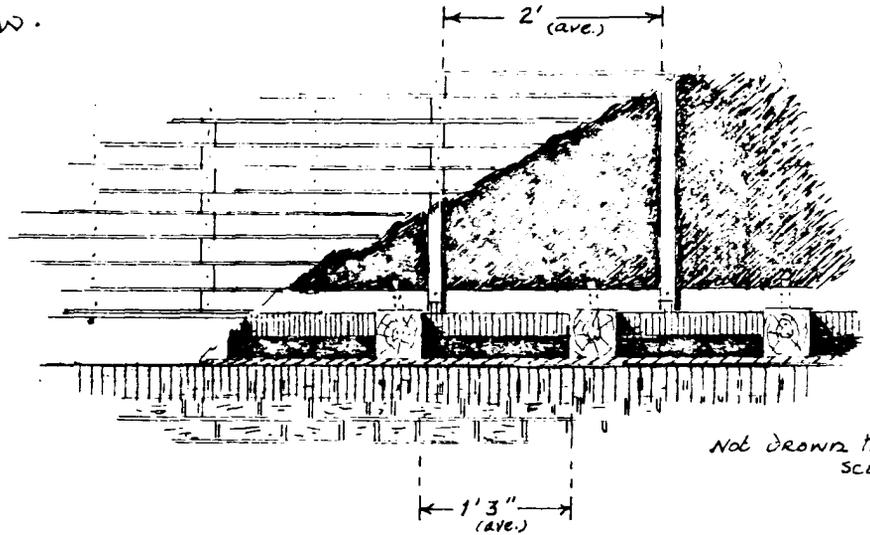
• Profile.
(eave constr.)



- (A). Rafter . . . 3 1/2" x 3"
- (B). 2nd Plate . . . 4 1/2" x 4 1/2"
- (C). Joist . . . 6 1/2" x 3 1/2"
- (D). 1st Plate . . . 8" x 4"

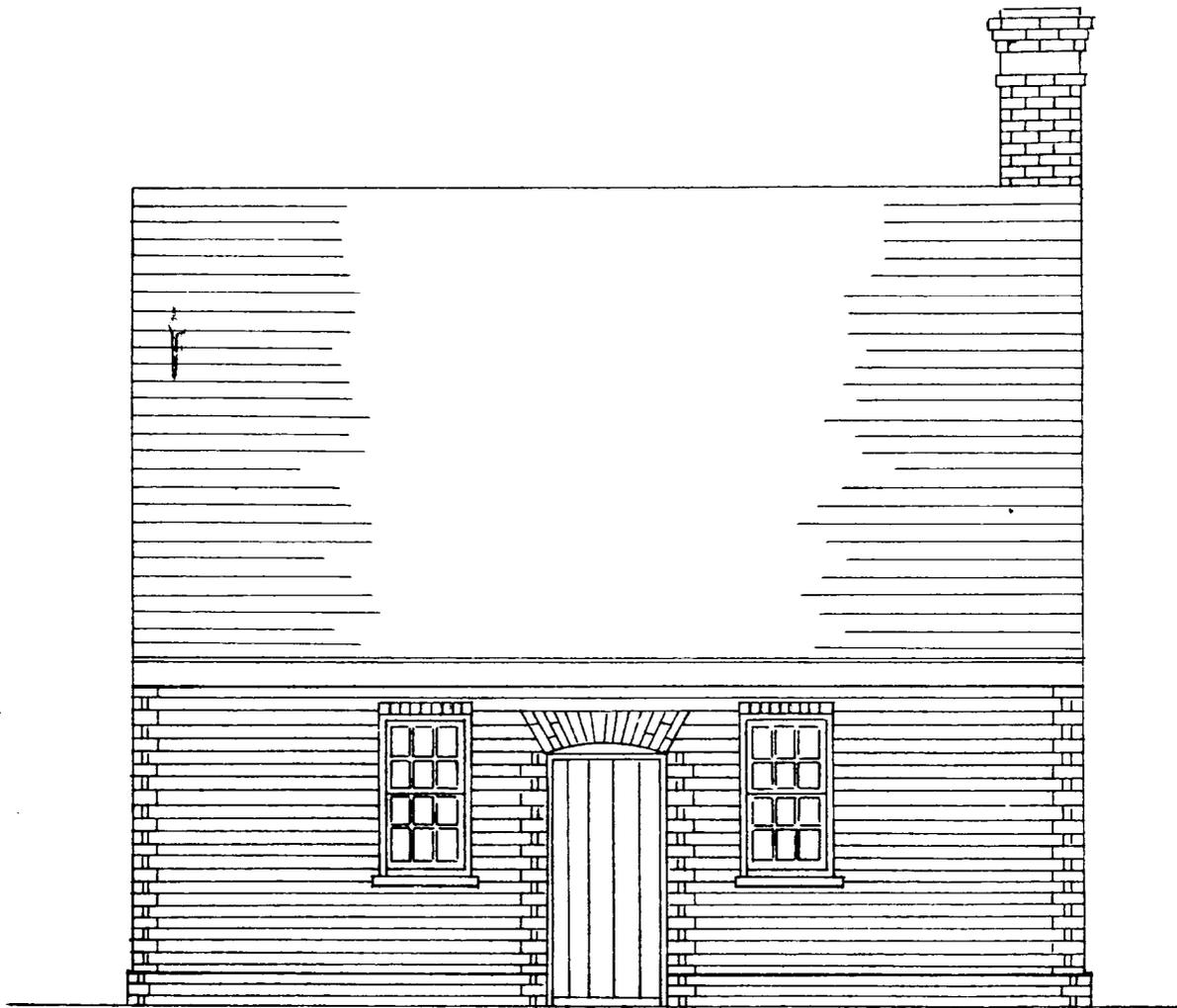
Note: rafters morticed, tenoned, & pinned at ridge

• Front view.



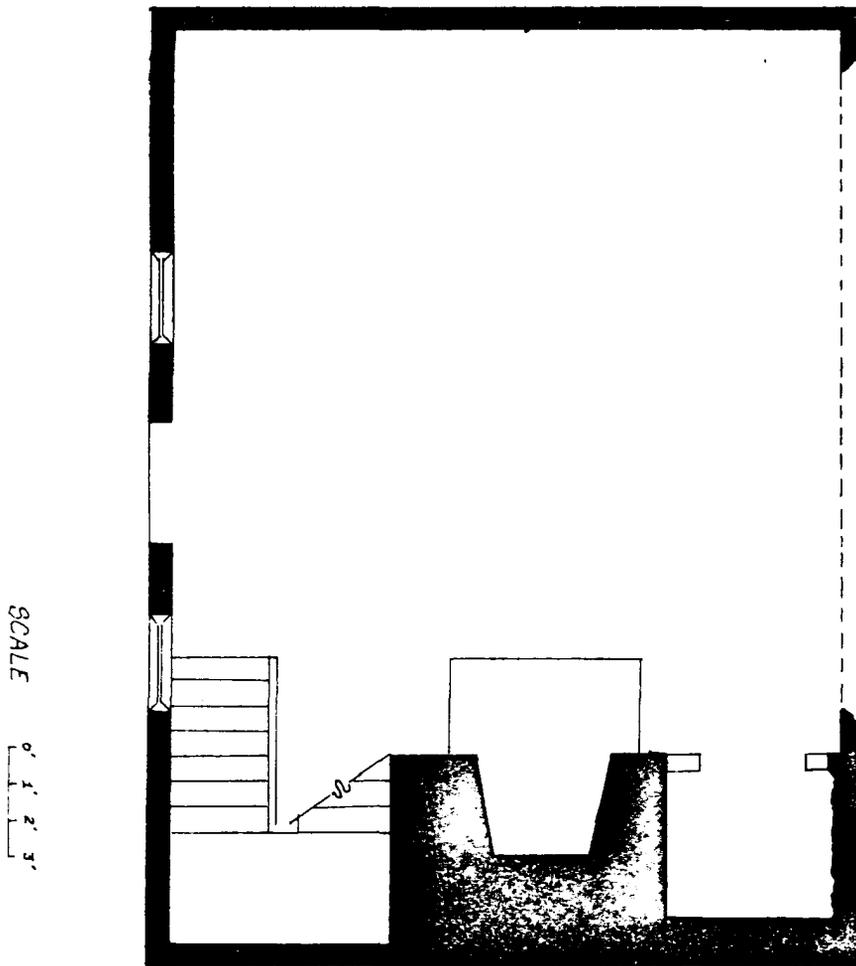
Not drawn to scale

J.R. RIVORE 4/71



SCALE 0' 1' 2' 3'

Cliffton, ca. 1835, S. (Ruined facade)



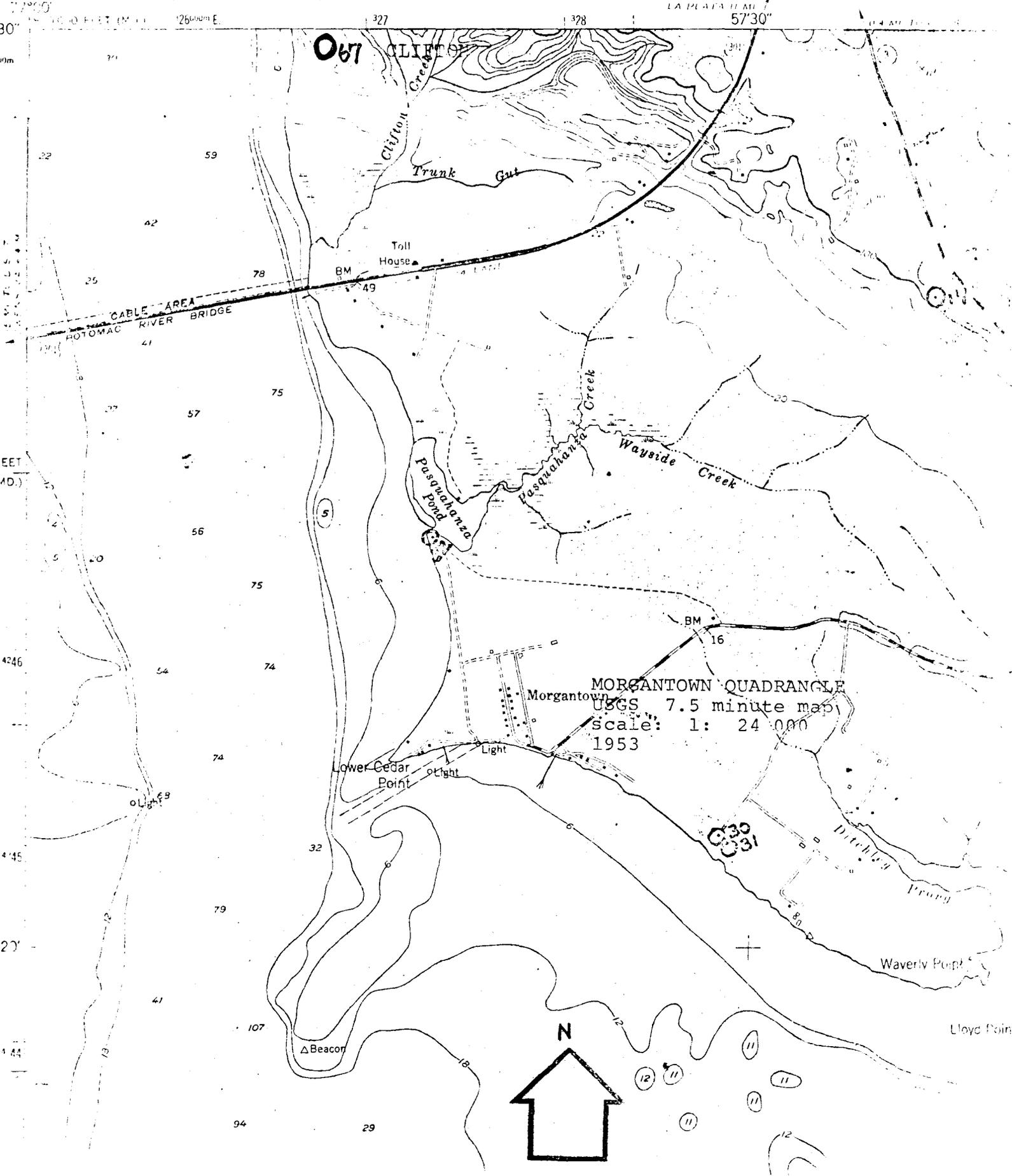
Cliffton, ca. 1835, 1st floor plan

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CH-67

1000

40 61 10 11 11
LA PLATA 11 11
57°30"



MORGANTOWN QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map
scale: 1: 24 000
1953





CH-67
Clifton



CH-67

Clyton



Clifton

HABS

CH 67-B

139

S. Ele. front



Clifton

HABS

CH 67

132

detail - S. Ele. front



CH-67A

P. 728 | 57%

Clifton

CH-67-A

HABS

501

NE 102



Clifton
HABS

CH 67

110

Eave Constr.



Clifton

HABS

CH 67

131

attic - toward W. end



10/1/61

Clifton

HABS

CH-67

106

attic - toward E. end



Clifton

CH 67

HABS

10 S

E. Ele. closet window

'CLIFFTON'

ON THIS LOCATION MAJ. R.G. WATSON AND HIS DAUGHTER MARY, BOTH CONFEDERATE AGENTS, LIVED AND OPERED ON A DIRECT MAIL AND SLAVE ROUTE BETWEEN THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH DURING THE ENTIRE CIVIL WAR. BECAUSE OF THE UNOBSTRUCTED VIEW FROM THESE CLIFFS, THIS WAS AN IDEAL LOCATION MAJ. WATSON WOULD MEET THE BOAT WHILE MARY WOULD WATCH FROM AN UPSTAIRS WINDOW AND SIGNAL IF IT WAS UNSAFE BY PLACING A BLACK FLAG IN THE WINDOW.

WITHIN A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THIS POINT JOHN WILKES BONDY, ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S ASSASSIN, CROSSED THE POTOMAC IN HIS HISTORIC FLIGHT.

CLIFTON
(HIST. MARKER)

CH 67

APR • 69



Clifton

CH-67

1969

Clifton

on Potomac River

near Pope's Creek

from John Hanson Mitchell 4.11.70

after