SHARROCK - NIBLO FARM, DALLAS
DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

The Republic of Texas granted 840 acres in the W.S. Peters Colony to everhard sharrock, Jr., and three other members of his family in 1837. the land was surveyed in 1850, and sold to thomas j. young in 1853. the log house and barn date from this period. the young-family held the land until 1881. the plank barn was constructed around 1900. after several other changes in ownership, grady niblo purchased the property in 1954.

The portion of the farm with the buildings became the property of the city of Dallas as part of a development approval in 2006, with the intent to create a historic park for perhaps the only peters colony buildings in dallas county remaining on their original sites. the site also contains 20th century structures, including a modified frame house, chicken coop, and the remains of fences.

The one-room log house uses hand-hewn, saddle-notched square logs typical of north texas prairie construction of the period, and has a rare original, dry-stacked stone chimney with a large hand-hewn log mantle. the house had an adjacent root cellar and hand-dug well 12 feet in diameter and 25 feet deep cut into the limestone escarpment.

The log barn is a double-crib structure with a center passage using unchinked hand-squared logs with saddle-notched corners. there are contemporaneous plank and hewn log rooms on the north side of each crib. as with the house, the shake roof has been replaced with corrugated metal. a wood crib gate with mortised slats has the ends of its top rail inserted into wood hinges.

The plank barn is constructed of milled wood studs and planks with an interior face. the barn has a plank floor on heavy timbers. a side porch extending along the east side provided a protected work area. the barn was severely damaged by storms in 2007. evidence exists of an attached porch at the north end.

Documentation of the Sharrock-Niblo Farm was undertaken in Spring and Summer of 2007 under the direction of Robert S. Warden and David O. Woodcock of the Center for Heritage Conservation at Texas A&M University. the field recording utilized hand drawing and measurement, digital photography, laser theodolite measurements, and 3D laser scanning. the final drawings were produced in AutoCAD 2008.

The team members were architecture students Justin Curtsinger, Jeff Daulton, Filipa Godinho, Anne Green, Morgan Harrison, Leslie Leffke, and Alex McKinney and anthropology students Nina Chock and Dana Pertermann.

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FLOOR PLAN

LEAN TO LATER: SAWN LUMBER AND POLES
COLLAPECED LOGS
MISSING LOGS
HINGED GATE OVER

BOARDED ROOMS WITH 3/4" BOARDS VARY 8" TO 9" DEEP
WITH 4X6 FRAME ALL SAWN LUMBER

SADDLE NOTCHED
LOG CRIBS HAND
SQUARED 6' WIDE X
9" TO 11" DEEP

OLD FENCE LINE
ROOF LINE
FENCE LINE
BARBED WIRE AND
CORRUGATED METAL

CORRUGATED METAL
END WALL (LATER)
FEEDER 2 X 4
NAILED
8' FLOOR BOARDS ON 8' DIAMETER
LOG JOISTS ON BOSS DARC PERS.

DIRT FLOOR
HARRIS DIRT FLOOR
HARRIS GATE
GATE
8' FLOOR BOARDS ON 8' DIAMETER
LOG JOISTS ON BOSS DARC PERS.

METERS 1=24 0 1 2 3 4 5 6
FEET 121=1'-0"
LATER LEAN TO SHED PARTIAL COLLAPSE

COPPERATED METAL ROOF ON 1" X 3" BATTENS ON 4" RAFTERS

SADDLE NOTCHED LOGS SQUARED AT 9" X 9" TO 11" DEEP

SECTION A-A

SECTION B-B
6" x 8" LOG CONTINUOUS THROUGH END OF CRIB (TYPICAL), APPROX. 36'-0" IN LENGTH

SECTION C-C

CORUGATED METAL GABLE

STORE ROOMS WITH 3/4" SAWN BOARDS WITH BATTENS ON 4' X 4' SAWN FRAMES

9" FLOOR BOARDS ON 6" DIAMETER LOG JOISTS ON BOIS D'ARC PIERS

SECTION D-D
SHARROCK LOG HOUSE

The single-pen log house, possibly constructed by the Sharrock family, appears to date from circa 1850. The structure is 15 feet x 15 feet on plan and uses hand-hewn, saddle-notched squared logs 6 inches wide and varying from 6 inches to 12 inches deep. The original chinking, probably of mud, lime and a binding material, has been replaced with concrete, causing significant damage to some of the logs. The floor is rough concrete. There is no evidence of an earlier wood floor suggesting that the original floor was rammed earth.

The most significant feature of the house is the dry-stacked stone chimney at the west end, with an internal fire area of 4 feet by 2 feet, spanned by a large hand-hewn log mantle.

The house has a storage floor at the eaves level supported on four 7-inch by 3-inch hand-hewn wood joists.

ROOT CELLAR

The root cellar was dug into the limestone escarpment some 20 feet north west of the house. The cellar is 9 feet by 10 feet and the finished floor was some 6 feet below the original grade. The rough wood timbers that supported the dirt roof have largely collapsed. The stairs dug from the house side to reach the cellar room are covered by fallen debris. The root cellar dirt mound is approximately 20 feet in diameter.

HAND DUG WELL

The well is situated some 40 feet due west of the house, and has an internal diameter of 12 feet and approximate depth of 25 feet. The walls are corbelled in towards the surface of the ground and the opening, originally a stone wall, now partly brick, is 8 feet in diameter. The remains of an electric pump suggest that this water source was used for many years, serving the later house built on its south side.
DRY STACKED FIELD STONE CHIMNEY, FLUE DETAIL ESTIMATED

10' X 7' BEAM AT FIREPLACE OPENING

FIRE BOX PARTIALLY PARSED WITH CEMENT SLURRY

SECTION A-A

LATER CORRUGATED METAL ROOF ON 1' X 9' BATTEN NAILED TO 4' ROUNDED RAFTER, MALTED AND PEGGED AT RIDGE, AND NUMBERED I, II, III ETC. FROM FIREPLACE WALL

ROUGHLY NOTCHED LOG WALLS HAND HEWN TO 6' THICK

6' X 4' CEILING JOISTS TENONED INTO TOP WALL Logs

LOG WALL VARIES FROM 9' TO 11' LOGS WITH LATER PORTLAND CEMENT CHINKING

BASE LOG 9' X 5 1/2'

SECTION B-B

BASE LOG 10' X 7'
BOARD AND BATTEN GABLE END

WEST WALL COLLAPSED:
MAY 2007

SOUTH ELEVATION

LINE OF FALLEN NORTH LEAN TO PORCH. WALL FRAGMENT REMAINED: JUNE 2007

WEST WALL COLLAPSED AND CORRUGATED ROOF TORN OFF IN MAY 2007 STORMS

WEST ELEVATION