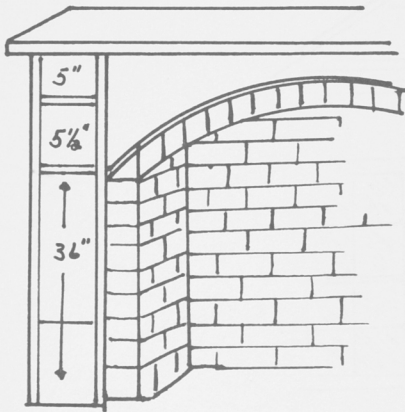
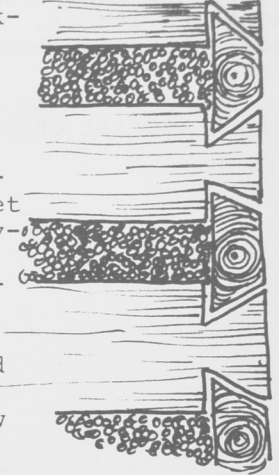


## THE ROBERT SHIELDS CABIN

The land on which this beautiful and well-preserved house sits is part of a tract that was granted to Jonathan McSwain from King George III on April 22, 1767. I have designated this dwelling as "The Robert Shields Cabin" because he is the most likely builder, purchasing the land from Jonathan McSwain. Shields bought 50 acres from Jonathan McSwain in 1820 and another 50 acres in 1823 from George McSwain. Shields sold it to Benjamin Isberll, who sold it to Lewis Sanders and in 1835, he sold it to Matthew Bankhead (1800-1865).

This house is of log construction with mud chinking with clap board added about ten (10) years after construction. The house sits on field stones as a footing and was underpinned at the front with field stones. It is a two-story cabin with raised wood floors and having one chimney, at the East end. The main room is sixteen and one-half (16½) feet by fourteen (14) feet with a ceiling height of seven (7) feet and seven (7) inches. The window openings are twenty-eight (28) inches wide by sixty (60) inches high. Doorways are thirty-four (34) inches wide and eighty-one (81) inches high. The walls and ceiling of this room have been covered with one-quarter (¼) inch by three (3) inch beaded boards. Flooring is of dressed pine, two (2) inches in width. Baseboards are nine and one-half (9½) inches wide and the door and window facings are of four and one-half (4½) inch dressed lumber.

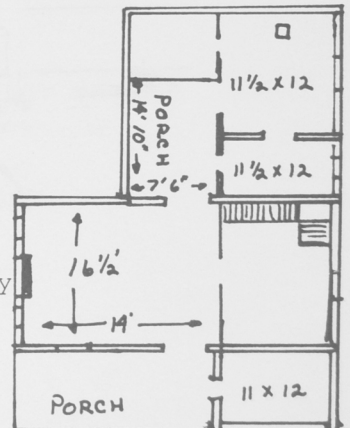


The mantle and fireplace are the eye-appealing features of this room. The opening is seventy and one-half (70½) inches wide and forty (40) inches at the highest point. The mantle is seven (7) feet and two (2) inches long and joins the window facings on either side.

The second room of the original structure is sixteen and one-half (16½) feet by ten (10) feet. This room shows no signs of ever being ceiled and the walls are covered with boards ten and three-quarters (10-¾) inches wide. The last three steps of the stairway cut into the ceiling in the Southwest corner. The partitioning is of one-plank thickness (with the main-room side covered as mentioned before).

The stairs are ten (10) inches wide and thirty-five and one-half (35½) inches long with an eight and one-half (8½) inch rise. There are eight (8) steps to the landing and then turning to the right and proceeding three (3) more steps onto the second story. The railing around the stairwell is of no consequence and is crudely constructed of undressed lumber.

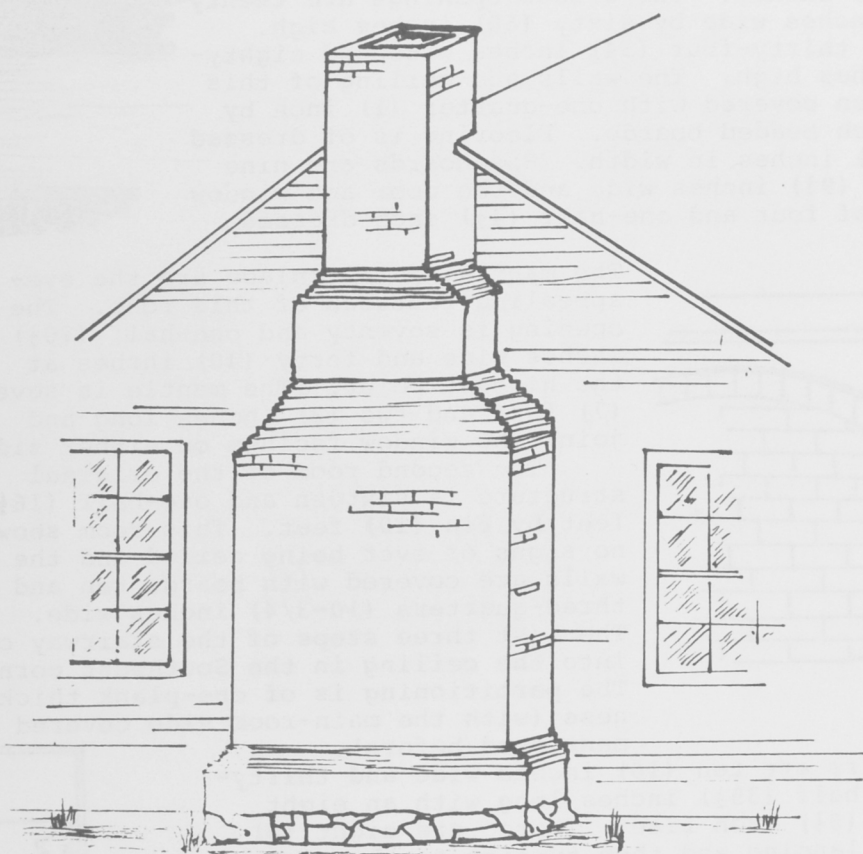
The roof is constructed of axe-hewed pine poles --thirteen (13) on each side and placed approximately twenty-six (26) inches on center; and are pegged together at the crest of the roof. The room has never been ceiled and the walls are covered with rough lumber with circular saw marks of various widths--fifteen (15), twelve (12), ten (10), eight (8) and seven (7) inches. The flooring is of pine



boards measuring nine and one-half (9½) to ten and one-half (10½) inches wide. A small window, twelve (12) inches square, opens to the West. In the Southeast corner, an iron turnbuckle has been placed connecting the East and South walls to pull them together.

Some years later, the porches and rooms to the rear of the house, as well as the "prophet's chamber" at the front, were added and covered with clapboard to match the original structure. The rooms to the rear were open to the roof (overhead flue in the last room), the walls were never paneled and the partitioning wall was of undressed lumber. Overall, this portion was of inferior construction. The "prophet's chamber" was done a bit nicer and matched the living area.

This house is located on Hoodtown Road, one-half (½) mile past Shiloh Baptist Church and one and one-tenth (1.1) miles from Highway 97.



WILLIAMSBURG STYLE CHIMNEY