

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	PAGE 1
DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING	PAGE 2
BUILDING 1-8, SLAVE LIVING QUARTERS	PAGE 3
BUILDING 9, BARN	PAGE 5
BUILDING 10, 11, KITCHEN AND RELATED BUILDING	PAGE 5,6
BUILDING 12, PLANTATION HOUSE	PAGE 6
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER DOCUMENTATION	PAGE 7
DRAWINGS	
PHOTOGRAPHS	

## INTRODUCTION

The Archive Department, under the direction of Dr. Gail Saunders, and with the help of Ms. Grace Turner, and Ms. Kim Outten, had directed Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions in the documentation of the know ruins at the Wylly Plantation, at Clifton, New Providence Island, in the Bahamas.

On November 7-12, Caribbean Volunteer Expedition members Anne Hersh, Architect, Jane and Michael Frederick, Architects, Terry Schy and Helen Ross, photographed and prepared measured drawings of existing ruins.

Several of the buildings had been partially cleared with help from Pericles Maillis and the Bahamas National Trust. These included three slave houses, the plantation house, and a small building along the road. CVE was able to complete measured plans and elevations of two of the slave dwellings. The other buildings were so overgrown that only floor plans were completed. In order to complete measured drawings, CVE had to clear walls at the plantation house, the kitchen and several slave living quarters. Because so many of the buildings were densely overgrown, measurements and photography were difficult.

CVE members explored some of the area west of the slave living quarters to see whether more structures existed. Again, because the area was so thickly overgrown, we were only able to identify a total of twelve buildings at this site.

## DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING RUINS

### **General:**

Twelve building ruins were located. These consisted of eight buildings which were apparently slave living quarters. Seven small (approximately 15 feet x 20 feet) buildings are lined up in a straight line, almost parallel to Southwest Bay Street. An eighth building is 24 feet directly west of the south most living unit.

About eight hundred feet to the south, a barn is located on the west side of Southwest Bay Street; a Plantation House with two smaller related buildings is located to the east of the street.

All the buildings are cut stone, some with some rubble stone, and some with plastered walls. No original roofs exist, and many of the walls have collapsed.

**Buildings # 1-8, Slave Living Quarters.** CVE was able to find and document eight buildings which apparently were slave living units. These buildings are located about 900 feet north of the plantation house and barn. Seven small buildings about 15 feet x 20 feet are parallel to the road, about 50 feet apart. One building was found directly to the west of Building #7. The buildings are quite similar: there are doorways centered in the east and west walls. Most buildings have a window opening on the south wall. Most buildings appear to have had gable roofs with the ridge running north and south. The walls were about 18 inches thick made of cut and rubble stone which was plastered, often still pink in color. Digging down several inches revealed large flat stones on the floors.

The side wall height was about 6 feet 6 inches from the rock floor and the gable ends were about 12 feet high, at the ridge. Originally, there were wood casings at window and door openings. Still existing window lintels were made from branches, about 2 inches in diameter, as well as 1½ inch boards.

**Building #1.** This building measures 15 feet x 20 feet with 18 inch wide plastered stone walls. This building is in fairly good condition, with all four walls intact. A high window exists in the north gable end, as well as a window opening in the south end.

**Building #2.** This building is also about 15 feet x 20 feet outside dimensions. Again we find intact gable ends on the north and south, and door openings on the east and west walls. There are two windows - one on the south wall and one on the east wall. In the east wall, on the

northern window jamb and incised in the plaster is a sailing craft.. In the same wall, on the other side of the door are indecipherable letters.

**Building #3.** Again we find a 15 feet x 20 feet rectangular building, with plastered stone walls 18 inches thick. The northern wall had been heavily damaged and was only 32 inches high; no gable remains on the south wall.

**Building #4.** This building, again, 15 feet x 20 feet, is in the best condition of all these ruins. Rafters and corrugated siding (modern) exists on part of the roof. The building has the usual east and west doorways and a south facing window. The gable ends are intact. The building was heavily overgrown and measurements were too difficult to undertake with out substantial clearing,

**Building #5.** This building is in poor condition with only a few four feet high wall fragments from the southwest and northwest corners remaining. Foundation edges remain and the building appeared to be larger than the first four dwellings - about 27 feet 6 inches x 17 feet 4 inches outside dimensions.

**Building #6.** This 15 feet x 20 feet building is also in fairly good condition with its east and west wall gable ends 5 feet 6 inches high. The building was heavily overgrown as was #4, 5, 7, and 8, and measurements and photographs were difficult.

**Building #7.** This building is in poor condition with only 4 foot high fragments existing on the south and west walls. The building appears to have been 27 feet 6 inches long and 17 feet wide -larger than some of the other buildings.

**Building #8.** This building is 24 feet directly west of Building #7. It is in quite good condition with 5 foot high walls on four sides. The tops of the north and south walls are flat, which indicates that there were no masonry gable ends.

The building is about 27 feet 6 inches long by 17 feet wide and has an east and west centrally located doorway as well as four window openings on the west, south, and east walls. 3 feet x 6 feet x 30 inches high stone platform exists in the southwest corner.

**Building #9 - Barn.** This building is across the road from the house and kitchen: the building measures about 44 feet by 24 feet. The walls were about 22 inches thick made of plastered cut stone. On three sides are ventilation slots which are about 3 inches wide on the exterior and 12 inches wide on the interior. The building has a pier in the center. Two exterior stone walls extend to the west and south. The wall height on the barn is about seven feet and part of the northern wall has fallen down.

**Building # 10 - Building.** This building as located north and a little to the east off the Main House. The plan is 16'-9" by 20' - 10" in dimension. The walls are comparatively in good condition and there is no indication of a gable end. There is in indentation (well?) in the interior on the floor, which is cut stone. On the north side is a stone floor on grade, which may

have been a type of porch. The walls are 2'-2" thick- much thicker than other walls of other buildings surveyed. This building may have been used in conjunction with food preparation, or with the great house.

**Building #11- Kitchen.** This building is approximately 32 feet from the Plantation House. The building measures about 32 feet 6 inches x 16 feet 6 inches and has part of a dividing wall, separating it into two rooms. The building was constructed of cut stones, some measuring 19 inches x 12 inches x 10 inches. The walls were plastered and were about 12 inches thick. Many of the walls have fallen down. There was a remnants of a chimney near the center of the building.

**Building # 12 Plantation House.** This building is 48 feet long by 24 feet wide, with 2' - 11" thick interior walls dividing the space into three sections. The west elevation has a 10' - 3" wide porch with a 5' - 3" wide stair centered on the 48 foot elevation. A 5' - 2" wide door opening is also centered at the top of the porch. On either side of the door are walls rising approximately 10' - 8" from the sill. The east elevation is further deteriorated and has a porch with a 45" wide stone staircase which is off center. There is another 45" wide stair which leads to the out-buildings. To the south of the building is a good deal of rubble which appeared to have been walls that started at the building's corner. The building is mainly constructed of cut stone approximately 5" tall and 20" long with a plaster finish. A cut keystone was found that made up the lintel above the crawl space vent opening.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER DOCUMENTATION

1. Investigate Site. It is very important to identify the extent of the building ruins at this site. It is unknown how many buildings may have been at this plantation, and what ruins may still remain. We recommend that, before further deterioration by weather, or by other forces, that a thorough investigation and exploration of this area be done.

2. Cleaning. The buildings have become very overgrown. This made documentation impossible at most buildings. In order to establish what is remaining, proper clearing should be done around each building and at the whole site.

3. Site Survey. After the site has been cleared, a survey of the entire site would be possible. This could determine how many buildings or ruins still exist.

4. Stabilization. The ruins are quickly deteriorating, due to vegetation and weather. Again careful clearing of the walls would retard this type of deterioration. Stabilization of existing walls using proper techniques for preservation would help in preserving the remaining walls.

5. Protection. This important historical site should be protected, so that it becomes a cultural resource for the public.

6. Cultural Resource. The site would be an excellent site for an interpretative center about plantation life.

The site

and buildings should be cleared; and some of the buildings could be adapted for an interpretative center. This site could be a historic and cultural center. Because there are many buildings of different types here, proper restoration of this site would be an exciting way to show an important example of plantation life in late 1700 and early 1800's Bahamian history.

**Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions**  
**Box 388, Corning, New York 14830**

The purpose of Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions is to record and document historic buildings and sites in the Caribbean area, to add information the about history, and the architecture of this area. We recruit volunteers to spend time assisting local agencies with their preservation efforts.

Participants of this trip:

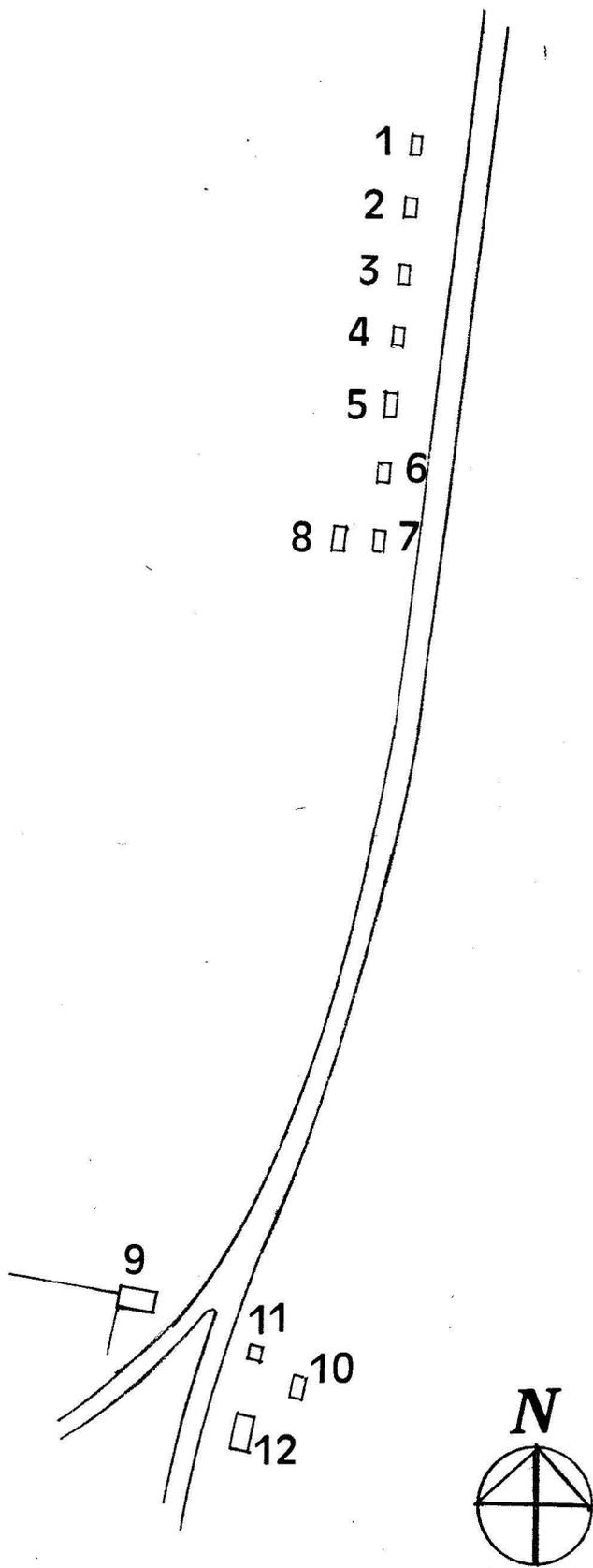
Anne Hersh  
5 East Market Street, Corning, NY 14830

Sharyn Thompson  
1229 Sarasota Dr. Tallahassee, FL. 32301

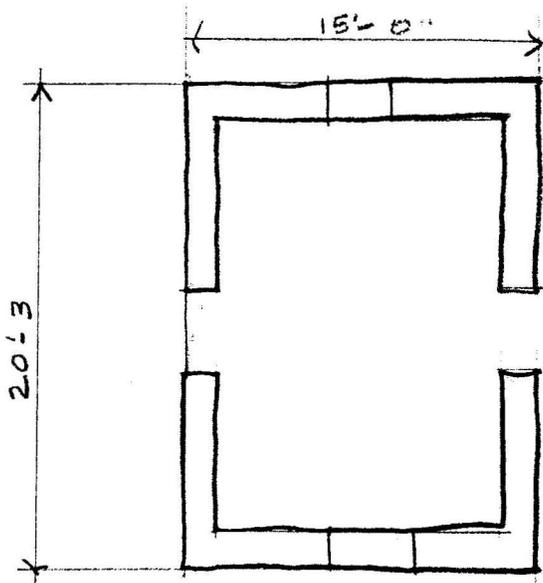
Terry Schy  
2257 West Grand Ave. Chicago, IL 60612

Helen Ross  
3010-8 Spanish Ct., Raliegh, NC 27607

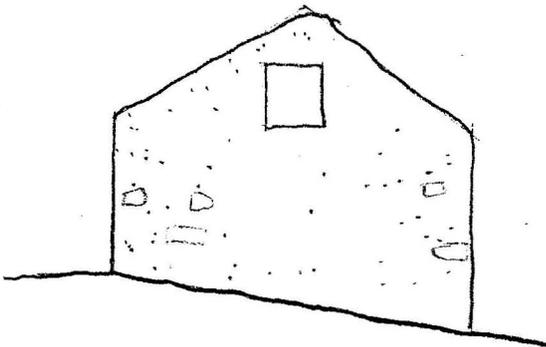
Jane and Michael Frederick  
326 Meridian Rd. Beaufort, SC 29902



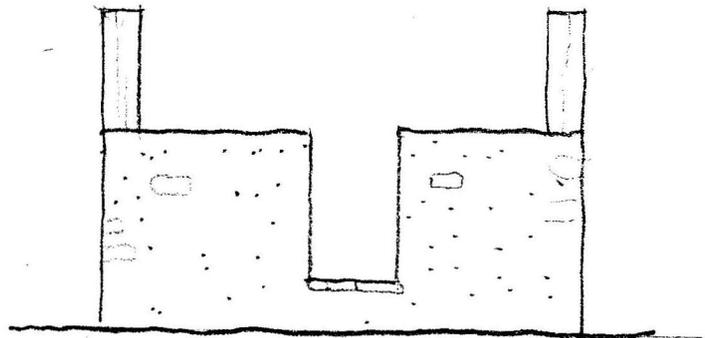
KEY SITE PLAN	Date: 11/1993
WYLLY PLANTATION CLIFTON, NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND BAHAMAS	
Measured and Drawn by:	Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions Box 388, Corning, New York 14830 USA



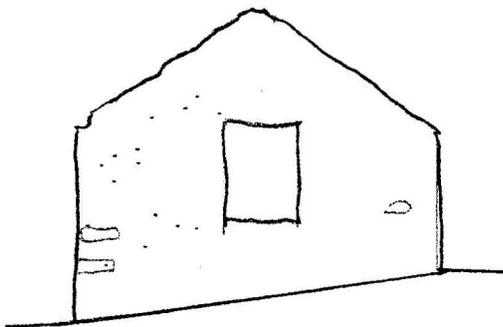
PLAN



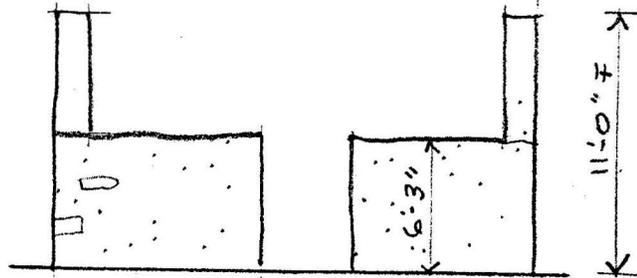
NORTH



WEST

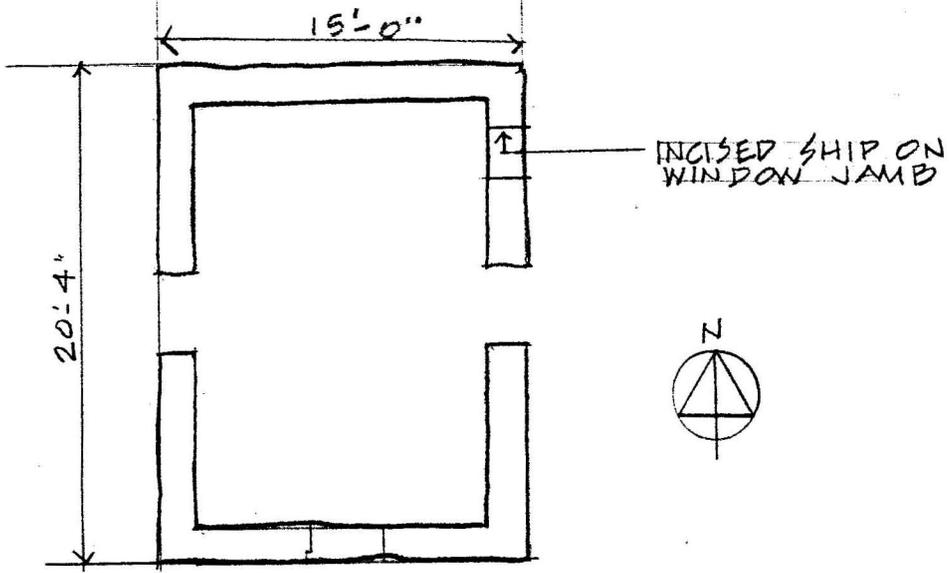


SOUTH

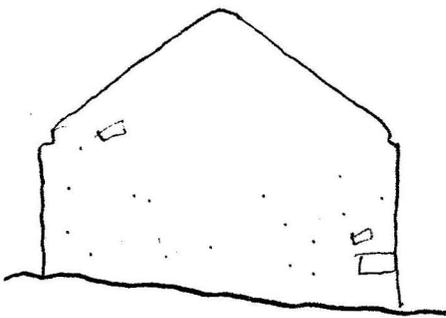


EAST

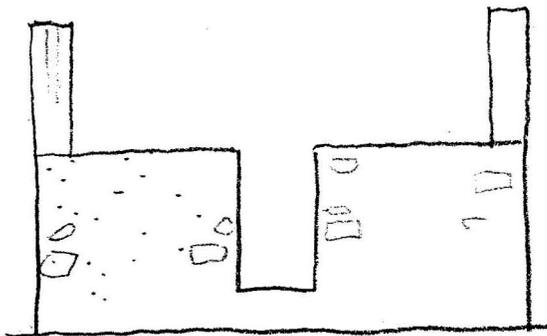
BUILDING # 1 SLAVE HOUSING	Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"	Date: 11/1993
WYLLY PLANTATION CLIFTON, NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND BAHAMAS		
Measured and Drawn by: Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions Box 388, Corning, New York 14830 USA		



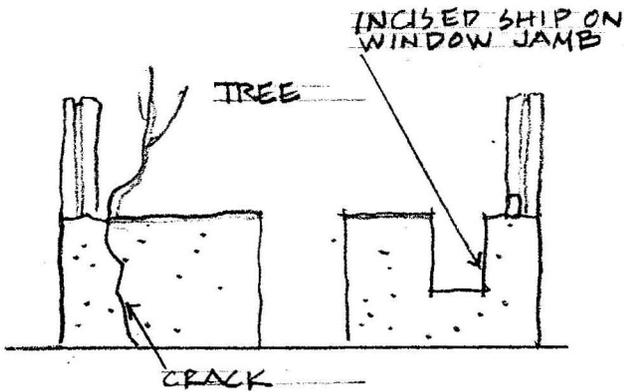
PLAN



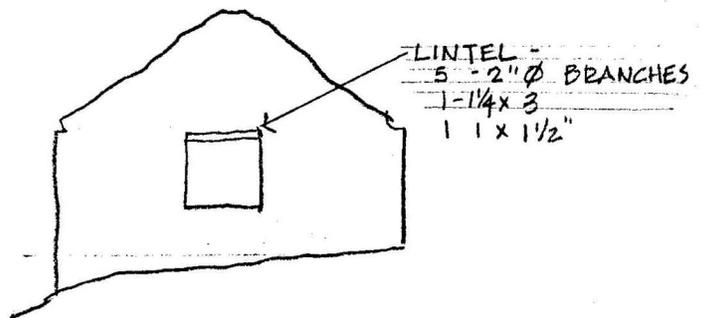
NORTH



WEST

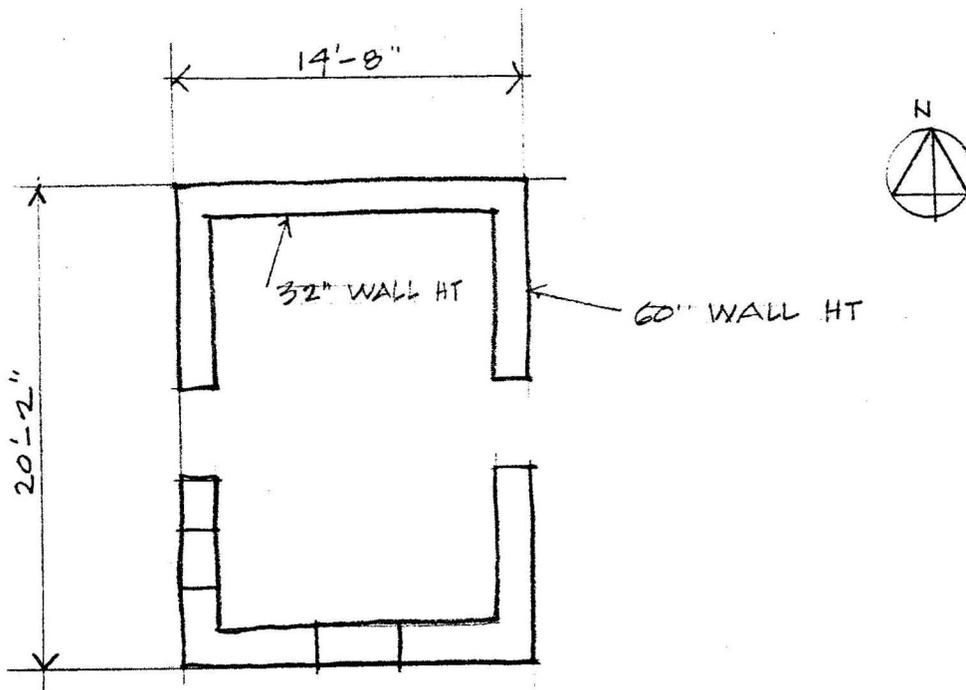


EAST

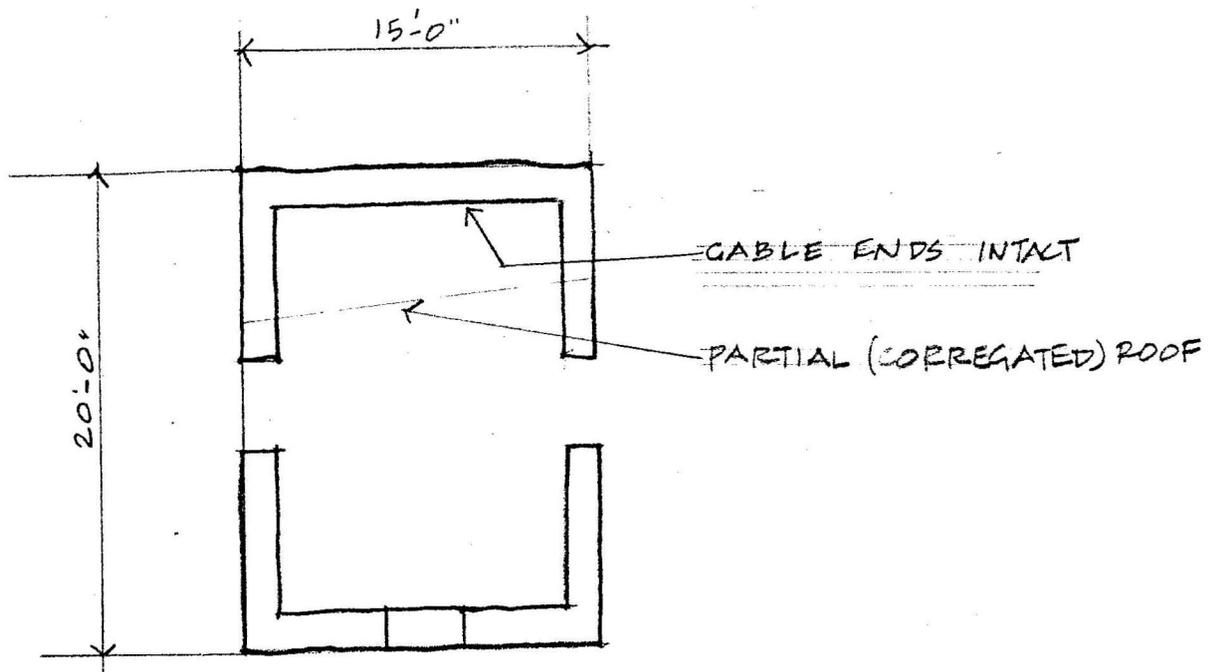


SOUTH

BUILDING # 2 SLAVE HOUSING	Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"	Date: 11/1993
WYLLY PLANTATION CLIFTON, NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND BAHAMAS		
Measured and Drawn by:	Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions Box 388, Corning, New York 14830 USA	

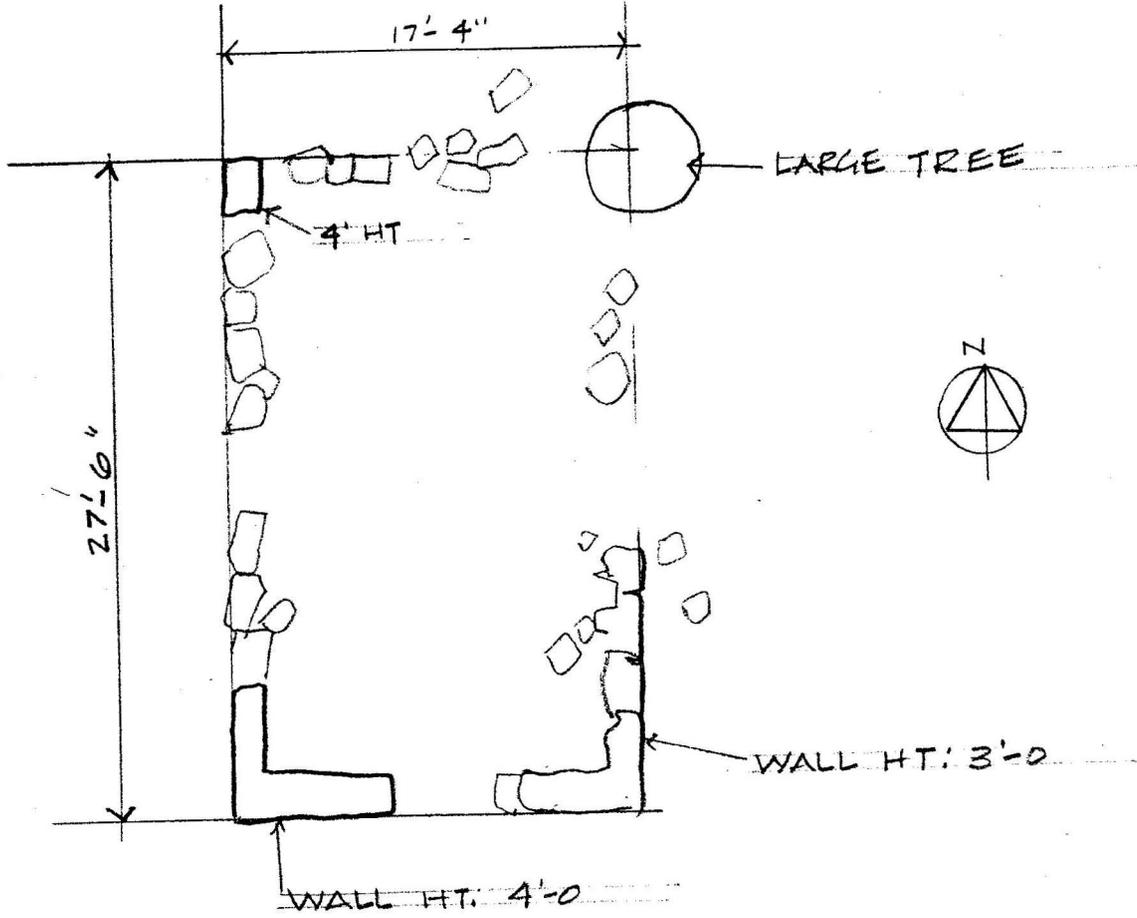


PLAN: BUILDING # 3

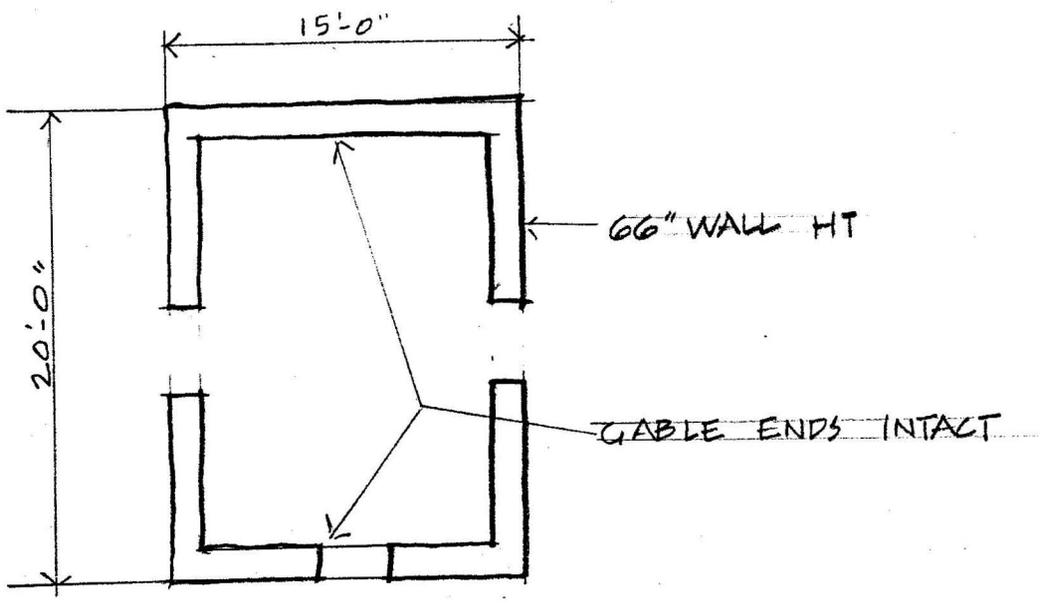


PLAN: BUILDING # 4

BUILDING # 3, 4 SLAVE HOUSING	Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"	Date: 11/1993
WYLLY PLANTATION CLIFTON, NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND BAHAMAS		
Measured and Drawn by:	Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions Box 388, Corning, New York 14830 USA	

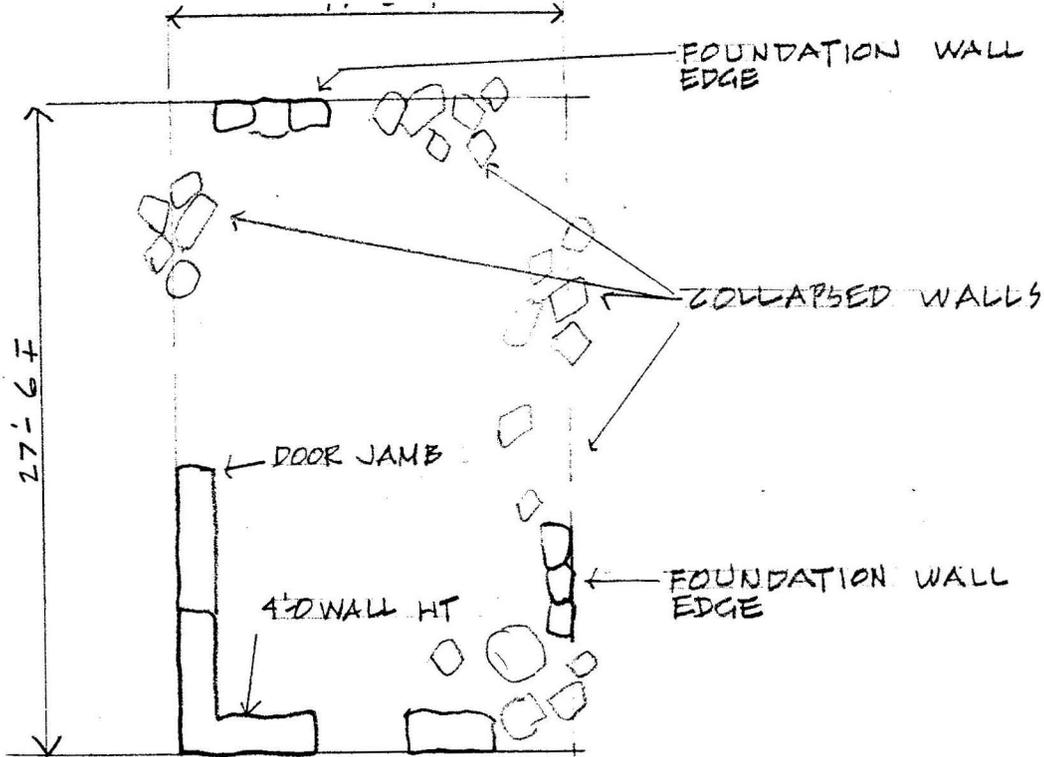


PLAN: BUILDING # 5

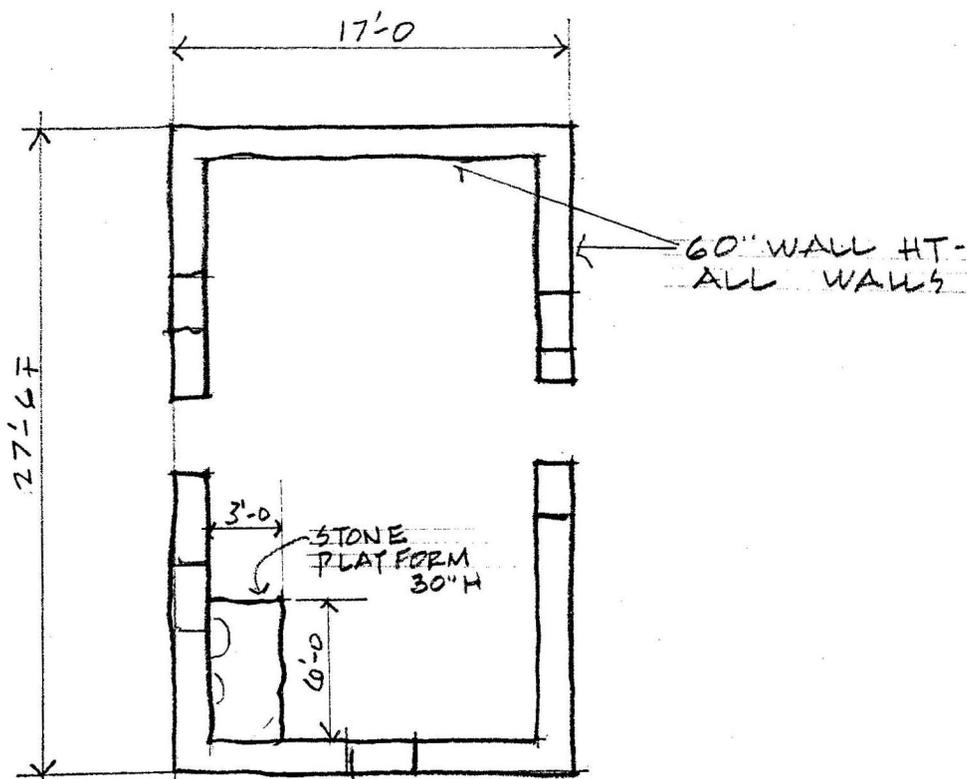


PLAN: BUILDING #6

BUILDING # 5, 6 SLAVE HOUSING	Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"	Date: 11/1993
WYLLY PLANTATION CLIFTON, NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND BAHAMAS		
Measured and Drawn by:	Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions Box 388, Corning, New York 14830 USA	

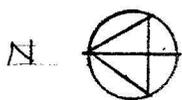


PLAN: BUILDING # 7



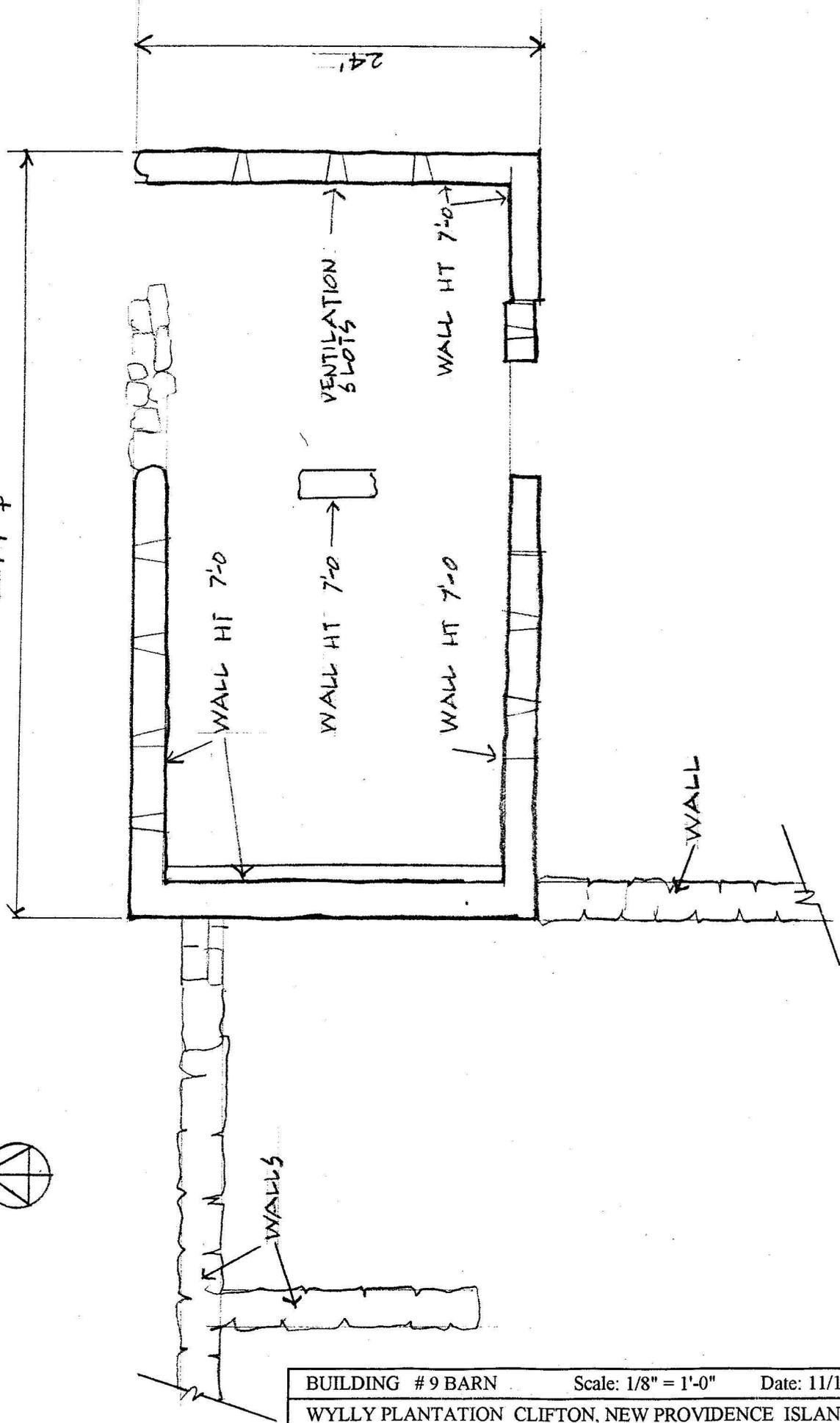
PLAN: BUILDING # 8

BUILDING # 7, 8 SLAVE HOUSING	Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"	Date: 11/1993
WYLLY PLANTATION CLIFTON, NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND BAHAMAS		
Measured and Drawn by:	Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions Box 388, Corning, New York 14830 USA	

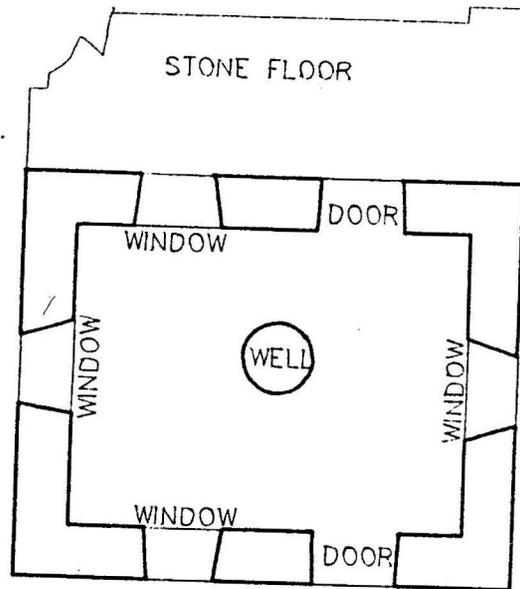


44' 7"

24'



BUILDING # 9 BARN	Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"	Date: 11/1993
WYLLY PLANTATION CLIFTON, NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND BAHAMAS		
Measured and Drawn by: Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions Box 388, Corning, New York 14830 USA		



BUILDING # 10 OUT BUILDING

Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

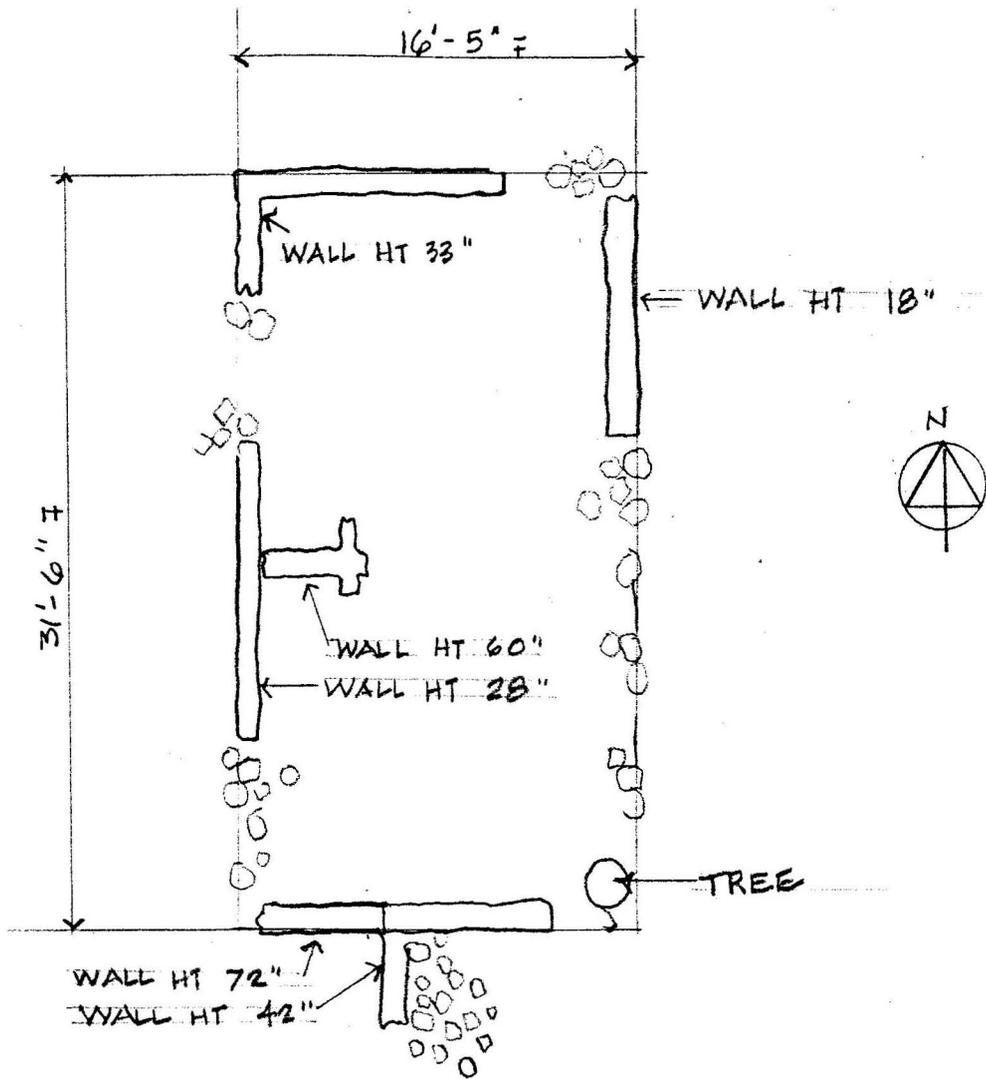
Date: 11/1993

WYLLY PLANTATION CLIFTON, NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND BAHAMAS

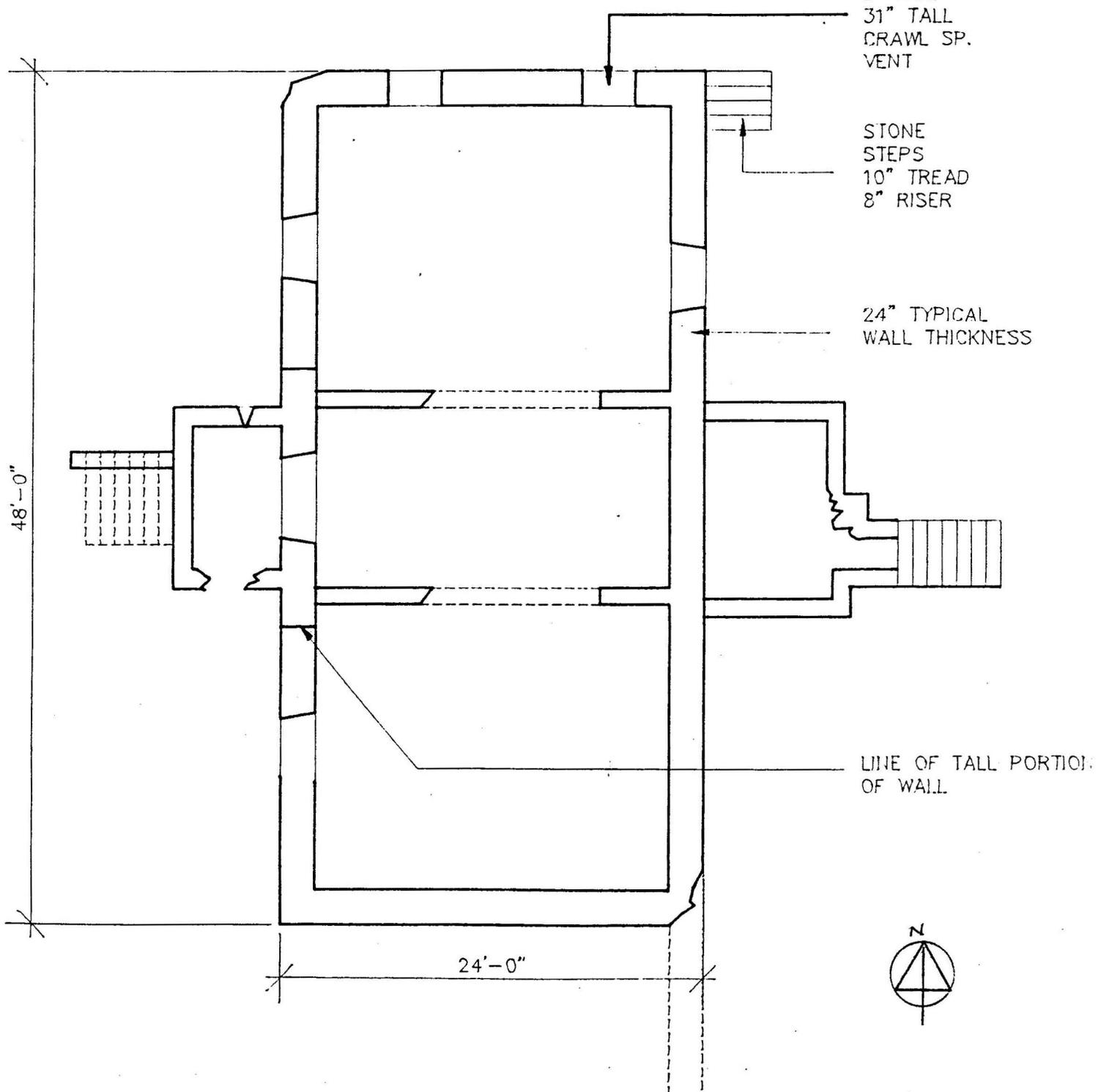
Measured and Drawn by:

Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions

Box 388, Corning, New York 14830 USA



BUILDING # 11 KITCHEN	Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"	Date: 11/1993
WYLLY PLANTATION CLIFTON, NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND BAHAMAS		
Measured and Drawn by:	Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions Box 388, Corning, New York 14830 USA	



BUILDING # 12 PLANTATION HOUSE	Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"	Date: 11/1993
WYLLY PLANTATION CLIFTON, NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND BAHAMAS		
Measured and Drawn by:	Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions Box 388, Corning, New York 14830 USA	



BUILDING # 1 SLAVE HOUSING

Date: 11/1993

WYLLY PLANTATION CLIFTON, NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND BAHAMAS

Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions

Box 388, Corning, New York 14830 USA



BUILDING # 2 SLAVE HOUSING

Date: 11/1993

WYLLY PLANTATION CLIFTON, NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND BAHAMAS

Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions

Box 388, Corning, New York, 14830 USA



BUILDING # 3 SLAVE HOUSING

Date: 11/1993

WYLLY PLANTATION CLIFTON, NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND BAHAMAS

Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions  
Box 388, Corning, New York 14830 USA



BUILDING # 4 SLAVE HOUSING

Date: 11/1993

WYLLY PLANTATION CLIFTON, NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND BAHAMAS

Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions  
Box 388, Corning, New York 14830 USA



BUILDING # 5 SLAVE HOUSING

Date: 11/1993

WYLLY PLANTATION CLIFTON, NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND BAHAMAS

Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions

Box 388, Corning, New York 14830 USA



BUILDING # 6 SLAVE HOUSING

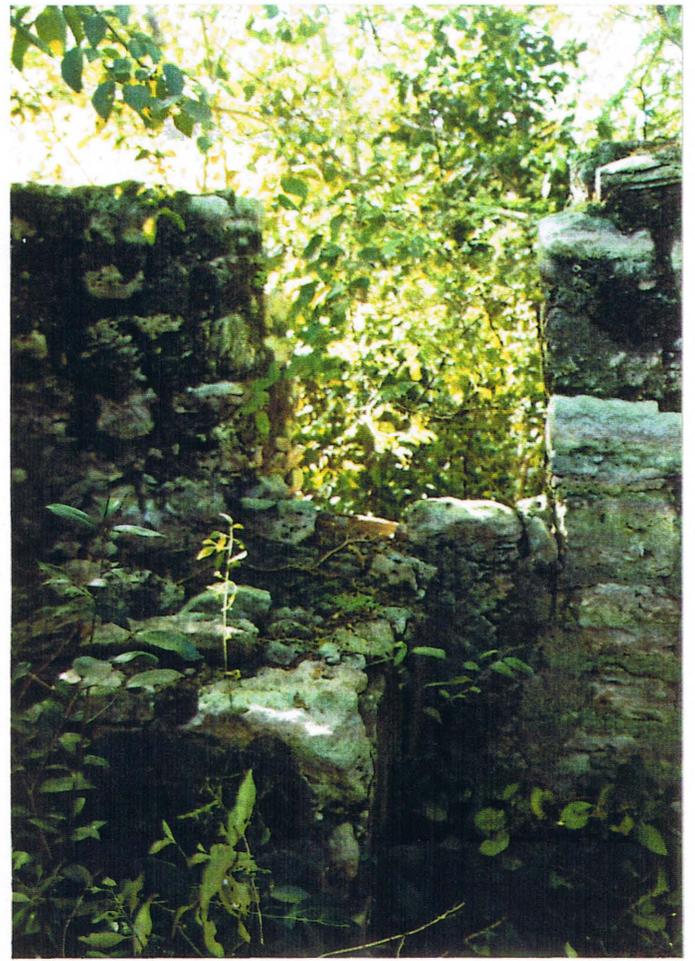
Date: 11/1993

WYLLY PLANTATION CLIFTON, NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND BAHAMAS

Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions  
Box 388, Corning, New York 14830 USA



BUILDING # 7 SLAVE HOUSING	Date: 11/1993
WYLLY PLANTATION CLIFTON, NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND BAHAMAS	
Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions Box 388, Corning, New York 14830 USA	



BUILDING # 8 SLAVE HOUSING

Date: 11/1993

WYLLY PLANTATION CLIFTON, NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND BAHAMAS

Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions

Box 388, Corning, New York 14830 USA



BUILDING #9 BARN

Date: 11/1993

WYLLY PLANTATION CLIFTON, NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND BAHAMAS

Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions  
Box 388, Corning, New York 14830 USA



BUILDING # 10 OUT BUILDING

Date: 11/1993

WYLLY PLANTATION CLIFTON, NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND BAHAMAS

Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions  
Box 388, Corning, New York 14830 USA



BUILDING # 11 KITCHEN

Date: 11/1993

WYLLY PLANTATION CLIFTON, NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND BAHAMAS

Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions  
Box 388, Corning, New York 14830 USA



BUILDING # 12 PLANTATION HOUSE

Date: 11/1993

WYLLY PLANTATION CLIFTON, NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND BAHAMAS

Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions

Box 388, Corning, New York 14830 USA

DOCUMENTATION OF RUINS  
AT THE WYLLY PLANTATION  
CLIFTON, NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND  
BAHAMAS

November 1993

By  
CVE  
Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions  
Box 388, Corning, New York 14830

For  
Bahamas Department of Architves  
Ministry of Education