

# **Fox Hall - *Part 17*, Circa 1725-30 View**

By Dick Gresham

The circa 1725-30 as-built drawing presented here represents Fox Hall as it would likely have appeared shortly after construction. It is current as of 1 June 2021, based on what the restoration team has ascertained through study of Fox Hall and the actual restoration work the team has undertaken thus far in the project. The restoration project at Fox Hall is ongoing, and this north elevation drawing is subject to revisions as new evidence is discovered. Once the incorrect front porch at Fox Hall is removed, new information is likely to emerge.

An overview of and the completed restoration projects at Fox Hall have been discussed in detail in *Parts 1* through *16* already published on this website. You are encouraged to read them. This drawing is intended to accompany these published articles and those to follow in this series on Fox Hall.

Figure 1 has been reduced from a full-size architectural drawing of roughly 36" x 24" to fit into this article. For better viewing, simply zoom in on your computer.



Figure 1

## Update

While replacing a flooring patch at the head of the stairs in the passage above, the first-period stairwell header was exposed. This timber is hewn on its top surface, and there is a drilled hole to facilitate tightening floorboards before nailing. Several similar drill holes were encountered in the tops of the joists under the original kitchen floorboards. The discovery of this first-period header provides further evidence that the second-floor flooring structure provided a firestop preventing the circa 1815 fire from consuming the first-floor woodwork.



Circa 1725-30 stairwell header (ascending stair)



Note drilled hole for tightening floorboards (descending view)