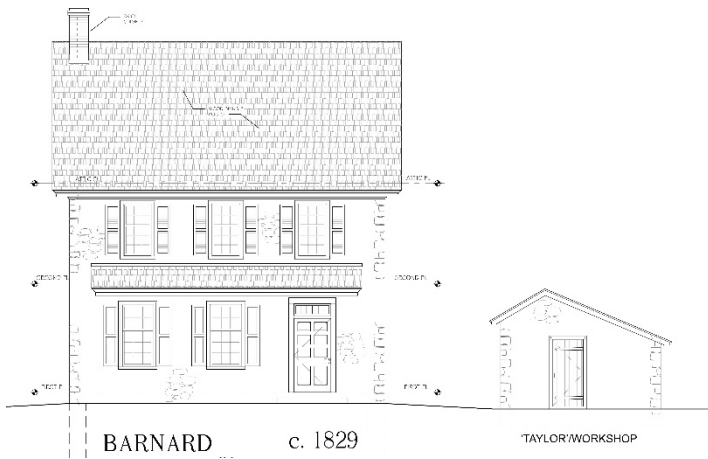
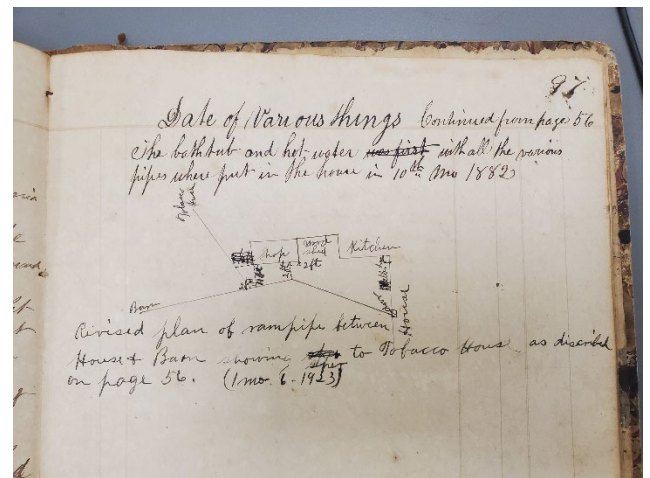


Evolution of the Barnard House Ell Wing



An 1824 advertisement in the *Village Record* newspaper announced the sale of property with a 'well of good water' and a 'Taylor shop'. The Taylor shop was not for making clothes as we understand today, but instead meant mechanical / workshop. Enos Painter purchased the property, tore down the main house and built a new one on top of the existing foundation in 1829. Enos's daughter Sarah and her husband Eusebius Barnard moved into the house. The nearby unattached Taylor building remained.

The original Taylor shop dates to the 18th century and was single storied with a back-slanted roof. Half of the space was likely enclosed with doors similar to barn doors. During the 1841 house expansion the shop was connected to the new kitchen and eventually used as a keeping room. In 1856 a new stone structure was added to what is called the Ell to serve as a workshop. Charles Barnard's farm ledger drawing on right shows the Ell as it appeared in 1882.



Sometime in the early 1880s a second story was added to the Ell. There is evidence in the stone wall in the rear farm workshop that the width of the Ell was increased when the second floor was added. A winder staircase was added for easy access from the first floor to the second. The packing of tobacco was the original purpose with a center room trap door which could be lifted so the tobacco could be dropped down into a wagon below. After the farm ceased tobacco production, the space was repurposed into other uses, eventually serving as storage and living space.



During the years that Dr. Dershimer owned the house, he used the 1st floor center space as a covered patio, installing a flagstone floor as seen in the 2010 photo on the left.

In 2010, the Ell looked basically the same as it did in the late 1800s including the 2nd floor storage area with the winder staircase in the corner.



However, in 2014 the first floor keeping room and center wood shed were changed drastically to accommodate what was planned to be the Kennett Underground Railroad Heritage Center. The center area was enclosed, the winder staircase removed, the floors raised along with installation of a modern bathroom and outside ADA ramp. The area is now used for the Barnard Station Welcome Center (photo below).

