

## Patteson-Schutte (Richmond, VA)

Constructed in the second half of the eighteenth century, the Patteson-Schutte house is located at 5613 Kildare Avenue in Richmond, Virginia. This one-story frame dwelling is situated on the south side of the James River and was formerly part of a larger plantation, but in the twentieth century has been encroached by suburban development. It now sits on a small one acre lot in a cul-de-sac. The Historic Richmond Foundation now owns the house but is looking for a buyer to purchase it with protective easements. Said to be the home of an overseer of the Byrd family, the dwelling has a center passage with a staircase located at right angles at the back of the passage. Relatively few changes have been made to the plan of this house, which originally contained four rooms on the ground floor, three of which were heated by gable-end chimneys. Minor modifications have been made including the addition of two modern bathrooms in the mid twentieth-century, as well as a cedar closet added to the southwest corner of the building.

The present main entrance is located on the north side of the house. This entrance opens into the back stair passage. However, the original front entrance is located on the opposite or south side of the dwelling. The reversal of these entrances is a twentieth-century modification and likely due to the proximity of the north entrance to the modern street.<sup>1</sup>

The Patteson-Schutte House rests on a brick English bond cellar foundation. The framing members of are hewn and pit sawn. The common rafter roof pairs are secured by mortise and tenon joints, which are pegged at their apex. Collar beams are lapped and nailed with wrought nails. The exterior has weatherboard siding and maintains beaded weatherboards in some locations. Interior walls are plastered with evidence of riven lath secured by wrought nails found in the upper level. Nine-over-nine sash windows appear throughout the main floor, though these

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this house history, the original south entrance will be referred to as the main or front entrance.

windows are replacements. The original window frames survive on the north and south walls and included molded sills pegged to the jambs.

The two, gable-end chimneys are laid in Flemish bond. It should be noted that the inner side of the stacks at the top of both chimneys rest flush against the gable walls since they are partially built within the frame of the house. The eastern chimney heats both rooms on the east side of the house. The western chimney is slightly smaller and only heats the south front room. This smaller western chimney has also been rebuilt at the upper stack. Both chimneys have beveled shoulders of irregular lengths to accommodate the position of the hearths.

A raised six-panel door, hung on HL hinges opens in the south passage entrance. A mixture of replacement and original flat horizontal wainscot boards cover the walls in this passage between the baseboard and a molded surbase. Chatter marks seen on the chair board indicate that this has also been replaced. All major apertures are surrounded by single architraves with Roman cyma moldings with a beaded edge. This molding style appears throughout the house. Pine floor boards are found throughout the first floor; however, it is evident by circular saw marks that these floors are not original to the structure.

The principal room of this house, as indicated by its size and the presence of wainscoting, is located in the southwest corner. The entrance to this southwest room has been widened in recent decades to open up much of this room's east wall. The original placement of the doorway to this main room cannot be determined but is likely to have been opposite the fireplace. The beaded baseboard, wainscoting, and replacement chair board are continued in this room from the center passage. A large fireplace dominates much of the western wall of this main room. The original mantel no longer exists, as there is exposed brick on the chimney where it would have been. Paneled doors on either side of fireplace opened into shallow closets in the original plan.

The southernmost closet door now opens into a modern bathroom addition. The northern closet still maintains its shelving, which is cut in a segmental arch at the opening of the door, mimicking the curved display shelves of a buffet.

A small, unheated room communicates with this principal room via a six-panel door in the room's northern wall. The flooring in this room is face nailed. Beaded baseboards and a molded chair board can be found in this room. A single nine-over-nine sash window lights the space.

To the east of the center passage are two heated rooms of different sizes. Entrance to the southeast room is gained through a six-panel door. It is noteworthy that a small notch has been cut from one of the top panels of this door. The purpose of the hole is unclear, although it does appear to have been removed intentionally. This room also communicates with the northeast room. The doors in this room are attached with HL hinges. This room seems to be less important than the opposing front room, as it is smaller and there is no evidence of wainscoting. Wood trim includes a baseboard and a molded chair board. Another six-panel door on the east wall opens to a cedar closet, which was added in the twentieth century. This doorway is original and presumably opened into a shallow closet. Changes were also made to the fireplace and hearth in the mid twentieth century, and the original mantel and opening do not survive.

The third heated room can be found in the house's northeast corner. It is entered via the southeast front room and from the stair passage. The single-hung windows have nine-over-nine sashes. Remaining original finishes include molded chair boards and baseboards. The northeast room is heated by a corner fireplace. The original mantel has not been preserved and the fireplace opening was rebuilt in the late twentieth century.

The closed stringer stair is located at the back at the north end of the center passage. It has square newel posts and turned balusters. All stair timber is pit sawn and secured by wrought nails.

The center passage plan is not continued in the upper level of the house. Instead a landing at the top of the stairs communicates to heated bedchambers on the east and west. At the top of the stairs is an unheated room, now a bathroom with c. 1987 fixtures. Three six-over-nine sash dormer windows light the north and south roof lines. The framing for the dormers appear to be original. The wood floors in this level are jointed and face nailed. Six-panel doors appear throughout this upper level, as do the single architraves with Roman moldings. No original mantels survive on this level. The two heated rooms are relative mirror images and both contain a single shallow closet on the gable ends.

A paneled door under the stair provides access to the cellar. It is unclear if this is the original entrance to the cellar. There is a bulkhead entrance on the east of the house, which, though heavily rebuilt, may be original. A small half-height closet is located in the space under the stair to the upper level of the house. Original framing members in the cellar are pit sawn and secured by mortise and tenon joints.

A modern kitchen is currently located in the west end of the cellar. This room is heated by a small fireplace and lit by two, four-pane casement windows. A modern board and batten door provides communication from this room to the east side of the cellar, which was unheated with no indication that it was ever finished.

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