

CAPSULE SUMMARY - BROACH BARN (CT-1038)

This barn is one of the earliest recorded during the tobacco culture survey. Located on Adelina Road, the barn is situated on a terrace approximately one mile southeast of the Patuxent River on land associated with the Bowen family. Oriented on a east-west axis, the 32 x 24 foot barn has sheds on all four sides as well as a rather eccentric bay system. All but the east shed appears to be original. The structure is supported on large mortared field stone piers which raise the sills approximately three feet above the ground. In spite of the presence of original sheds, exterior siding once covered the north, south and west walls. The siding is very unique, consisting of three inch wide riven strips nailed vertically with wrought nails. The wide spacing of these strips would allow for maximum ventilation between the barn and sheds.

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic _____

and/or common Broach Barn

2. Location

street & number Adelina Rd. (Maryland Route 508) not for publicationcity, town Prince Frederick vicinity of Adelina congressional districtstate MD county _____

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: <u>storage</u>

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John and Valerie Broachstreet & number Adelina Rd. telephone no.: 301-535-0479city, town Prince Frederick state and zip code MD 20639

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber ABE 342street & number Main Street (MD 765) folio 931city, town Prince Frederick state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title _____

date _____ federal state county localpository for survey records DEPT. OF PLANNING & ZONING
COURT HOUSEcity, town PRINCE FREDERICK, MD. 20678 state _____

7. Description

Survey No. CT-1038

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The barn is located on the west side of Adelina Rd., approximately one-quarter of a mile past its intersection with Sheridan Rd. The barn is situated on a flat plain above the river that is down hill and to the west. A modern large gray workshop building is to the right of the barn. Farm road to south of barn, detached stripping house at west end. It is associated with the Bowen farm and family. The Bowens were a large land-owning family in Calvert County. A nearby area was known as Bowen, Maryland. The timbers are hewn and there is a mixture of wrought and fully mature cut nails in the structure. Sheds surround the thirty-two by twenty-four foot barn on all four sides. The plan is transverse axis, with access to the barn on the south, east and west sides. The Broach barn is among the earliest tobacco barns recorded during this survey and has several interesting architectural details that will be discussed below.

The thirty-two by twenty-four foot barn has a slightly eccentric bay system, comprised of one eight foot bay followed by a five foot bay, a four foot bay, another five foot bay, and a subsequent seven and one-half foot bay. The structure contains eight rooms for curing tobacco. Pintel holes indicative of doors are extant on the remaining door posts. These doors were double on the east and west sides, and four feet wide on the south side. The north, south, and west sheds are original. The east shed is apparently an addition. Access to the sheds is gained through small doorways scattered across their walls.

The support system consists of large mortared field stone piers approximately four feet wide and two feet eight inches high, upon which the sill is laid. The piers vary greatly in width, and their extension beyond the sill, particularly on the west side, indicates the amount of shifting which has taken place in the barn. There are three piers each on the north, west, and south sides. The east side had continuous mortared fieldstone foundations, a portion of which has been removed or eroded. This lends credence to the theory that the shed here is an addition.

The main posts are hand hewn, and the hewn top plate rests on top. Intermediate posts vary in size and are also hand hewn. The posts on the north and south walls are joined to the plate via mortise and tenon joints with trunnels. The posts on the east and west walls are joined half-lapped against the end plates and held with trunnels. There are two hewn down braces on each side joined to the sill via half-dovetail notches. The nails in place in these down braces are both cut and wrought. The barn has no cross sills, the hewn sills measure from nine inches to one foot wide. The horizontal nailing rails are hewn, a combination of cut and wrought nails are visible in these also. Some of the nailing rails are half-lapped over the down braces, some are mortise and tenon, and the newest ones are toe-nailed to the down braces.

8. Significance

Survey No. CT-1038

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> ? 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Broach barn is one of the earliest barns recorded as part of this survey. Its use of wrought nails and early construction techniques are indicative of its date. Also of architectural significance are its rare massive foundations, strip-like siding, and vertical tobacco prize. One of the major differences between modern tobacco barns and nineteenth-century barns is the apparent indifference of the builders of barns in the nineteenth century to ventilation. This contrasts with twentieth century barns that have built-in ventilation doors and closers below the sills. If the strip-type siding seen here was used with any frequency during the nineteenth century, this would certainly force us to alter our interpretations of nineteenth century attitudes towards ventilation. No explanation can be found for the use of the massive foundations. The vertical tobacco prize is seen much less frequently than its more modern counterpart, the horizontal prize. The small building to the east of the barn, now largely deteriorated and choked by vines, is thought to have possibly been a detached stripping house. It has a brick chimney and is covered with tight board and batten siding.

This barn also yields information regarding agricultural history in Southern Maryland. In February 1990, a tobacco barn survey was initiated in order to study the tobacco barns of Calvert County. Until fairly recently, tobacco was the most important farm crop of the county. More acreage was devoted to its cultivation than for both of the next most extensive farm products (corn and wheat). The barns and stripping houses related to this "Tobacco Culture" are widely recognized as the most common element on the rural landscape. These structures are also the most threatened, as the market for tobacco declines. They seem to have, at present, only limited capabilities for re-use. Many barns and stripping houses now stand empty. The purpose of this survey has been to gather information and document a wide sample of these structures before they disappear from the landscape.

Historic Period theme(s): ? -1810
 Geographic Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert Cty MD
 Chronological/Developmental Period: ? (Pre-1811) - 1880
 Resource Type(s): Tobacco Barn, Stripping House



USGS TOPOGRAPHIC, BROOMES ISLAND 7.5 " QUADRANGLE, 1:24,000, 1986

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1038

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7. DESCRIPTION-CT-1038 (CONT.)

The interior barn walls have extant siding on the southeast corner formed of riven strips three inches wide and four feet long nailed to the horizontal nailers. This siding was attached with wrought nails (c. 1810). There is an open space left between these strips of approximately one inch. Although not extant everywhere, this siding appears to have been used on all but the east side of the barn. The same nailing pattern appears on all except the eastern side of the barn. There is no evidence of horizontal siding ever having been in place anywhere on the barn itself. This type of siding and the high interrupted pier foundations suggest that all except the east shed are original sheds. The open siding effect would have allowed for maximum ventilation between the barn and the sheds. The absence of the nailing pattern on the eastern wall is consistent with the theory that the eastern shed is a later addition, because if it were exposed, it would have needed to be sided in a more weatherproof fashion.

The current roof is corrugated metal, but plain butt wooden shingles once covered the barn (shingle nailers are still in place, and fallen shingles lie on the ground around the barn). The rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. The false plate rests on tie beams that are lapped over the large hewn top plate. Three collars help support the relatively steeply pitched roof.

Peeled log tier poles are separated by three and one half feet both horizontally and vertically. Three peeled cedar posts run down the central axis. They are separated by eight feet. Holes have been cut out of the poles and pegs inserted on which to rest the tobacco tiers. There are the remains of a vertical prize in the southwest corner of the southern shed. No date or inscription is visible on the prize.

All four sheds are ten feet wide. They encompass the building on all sides. They do not have any standard bay system. The earth-fast posts are separated by anything from ten to four feet. All except the eastern shed are original. The posts are peeled logs, and the nailing rails consist of the lumber stripped off of logs in order to create posts such as these. The top plates are hewn. All the sheds have vertical siding except the southwest corner of the southern shed which has some horizontal weatherboards, and the western shed which has vertical siding on the upper half and horizontal weatherboards on the lower half. The roofs of the sheds were covered with shingles but are now metal. The eastern shed is the same as the others with the exception that the nailing rails are made of circular sawn lumber.

8. DESCRIPTION-CT-1038 (CONT.)

Although significantly deteriorated, the Broach barn has not undergone many major changes since its initial construction. The plan has remained essentially the same, with the exception of the addition of the eastern shed. The original barn, with sheds on three sides, was what is known as a "Bonnet Barn" (Wesley T. Hall, oral informant, May 1990). The doors that were in place on the east, south, and west sides of the barn have been removed. The "strip" siding has been removed from all but the southeast portion of the barn wall. The roof has been changed from shingle to metal. Sometime after the introduction of circular sawn lumber to the county, but still during the time of manufacture of fully mature machine-cut nails (1860-1880), the eastern shed was added. Mrs. Broach (age approx. 30), does not know at what time the barn was built, but says her grandmother stated it was there when she was born.

3. SIGNIFICANCE - CT-1038

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CT-1038 Broach Barn

Adelina

Tova L. Williamsen

Northeast

February, 1990