

CAPSULE SUMMARY - ALLEN BARN 'C' (CT-1044)

This barn is an example of one which has been extensively modified and expanded. Constructed during the interim when circular sawn lumber was available but machine-cut nails were still being used. Oriented on a east-west axis this 36 x 20 original section of this barn is the virtual twin of barn CT-1043. An original lean-to shed is located on its south side. Further additions and modifications resulted in the present structure which measures 84 x 34 and includes a built-in horizontal screw prize which was powered by a tractor's power take-off (and used, according to the present owner Edward Allen to prize tobacco for sale at the Baltimore hogshead market until 1964/65), two tobacco storage areas (floored), a floored stripping area and an enclosed stripping room.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Allen Barn C

2. Location

street & number 3915 Hallowing Pt. Rd. ___ not for publication

city, town Barstow ___ vicinity of congressional district

state MD county Calvert

3. Classification

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

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

name Mr. Edward Allen

street & number Spider Hall Farm
3915 Hallowing Pt. Rd. telephone no.: 535-5980

city, town Barstow state and zip code MD 20610

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber JLB 129

street & number Main Street (MD 765) folio 31

city, town Prince Frederick state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records

DEPT. OF PLANNING & ZONING
COURT HOUSE

city, town

PRINCE FREDERICK, MD 20678

state

7. Description

Survey No. CT-1044

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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.

See Attachment.

8. Significance

Survey No. CT-1044

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 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: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CT-1044

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Prince Frederick, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tora Williamsen-Berry

c/o Calvert County Historic District Commission

organization Dept. of Planning and Zoning date June 30, 1990

street & number Courthouse telephone 535-1600

city or town Prince Frederick state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1044

There are a total of four barns on Spider Hall farm. Allen barn C is on the north side of the farm road across from Allen barn B. The other barns are also along the same farm road. The barns nearest the nineteenth-century farm house are the most recent in date. Allen barn C is located uphill from Allen Barn A. It is oriented on an east-west axis. It measures thirty-six by twenty feet and has a transverse axis plan. The timbers are circular sawn and the nails are fully mature machine-cut. It has one original shed, and two other large shed additions on both the east and west ends. The entire barn is floored with planks in order to allow tobacco storage.

The barn itself is divided into an eccentric bay system, with seven, ten, four, seven, and eight foot bays. It contains nine rooms. There is a door on the north side of the barn. The rest of the entrances are into the sheds. The barn has a brick and concrete pier support system. The medium weight timber frame rests on continuous sills. The posts are circular sawn, and joined to the plate via mortise and tenon joints with trunnels. The down braces are circular sawn and joined via mortise and tenon to the sill. There are no cross sills, but rather, upbraces from the door posts lead up to the large tie beam above. Horizontal nailing rails are circular sawn and mortised into the posts.

The barn has plain vertical wall siding with minimal ventilation. The barn was originally covered with a shingle roof on all sides, as attested by the shingle nailers. The north side of the roof is still covered with wood shingles. The south side of the roof is now covered with metal. The rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. There are no windbraces, but three collars help support the roof. The top plate is hewn. The tie beams and rafters are circular sawn. The tier poles are peeled logs separated by forty inches vertical distance. Peeled log poles run down the central axis.

The twelve foot wide south shed is original. It is divided into bays that correspond to the structural bays of the barn. A double door is located in the second bay from the east. There is no evidence of siding on the southern wall of the barn. There is evidence for siding having extended along both the east and west walls of the south shed, thereby indicating that the barn and shed stood as one unit prior to the further additions to the east and west. Some of the posts are earth-fast and some are supported on masonry piers. It has vertical wall siding with hinged ventilation doors that are side-hinged on occur every eight feet. Some of the early pieces of siding are up to one foot wide. A metal roof covering has replaced the original shingle roof. The posts are peeled logs and the shed has no down braces. The nailers are also circular sawn. Both fully mature machine-cut nails and wire nails are visible in the shed construction. The tier poles are peeled logs. The only visible

7. DESCRIPTION (CONT.) CT-1044

purpose for this shed was the curing of tobacco. The twenty foot wide east shed is a later addition. It is divided into ten foot bays. Concrete piers support the shed. All timbers in the east shed are circular sawn and a combination of cut and wire nails are visible. All joints are toe-nailed. There are ventilation doors every eight feet. The tier poles are peeled logs. A floored stripping area and tobacco prize are located in this shed. The prize is in the southeast corner of the east shed and used to pass through the shed to the outside. The prize gears were driven by the tractor drive shaft. Mr. Allen stopped using the prize following the 1964 shift to a loose leaf market.

The west shed is a lean-to, and the most recent addition. It is divided into three sections, including one long narrow aisle, and two adjacent square rooms. The west shed measures twenty-eight feet wide. Its long aisle serves for equipment storage. The two adjacent sided and enclosed rooms serve as a stripping room and tobacco storage room, respectively. The west shed is built of a combination of wood and cinder block construction. The metal roof that covers the shed is original.

8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1044

This structure is architecturally significant in that it shows a barn of very similar original construction to barn B that has been greatly modified and expanded. The structure was built during the interim when circular sawn lumber was available in the county but machine-cut nails were still being used. Each expansion has served to accommodate a different function, and probably became necessary as tobacco agriculture changed and developed. Among the new functions fulfilled by the expansion of the barn are the creation of a floored stripping area, the accommodation of a tractor-driven tobacco prize, a sided and enclosed tobacco holding are and stripping room, and vehicle storage.

(east side of barn was sided and is weathered). In addition, this barn also has closing spaced siding boards that are up to one foot wide. This type of board has often been associated with flue-curing but there is no other indication of this practice with this barn.

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.

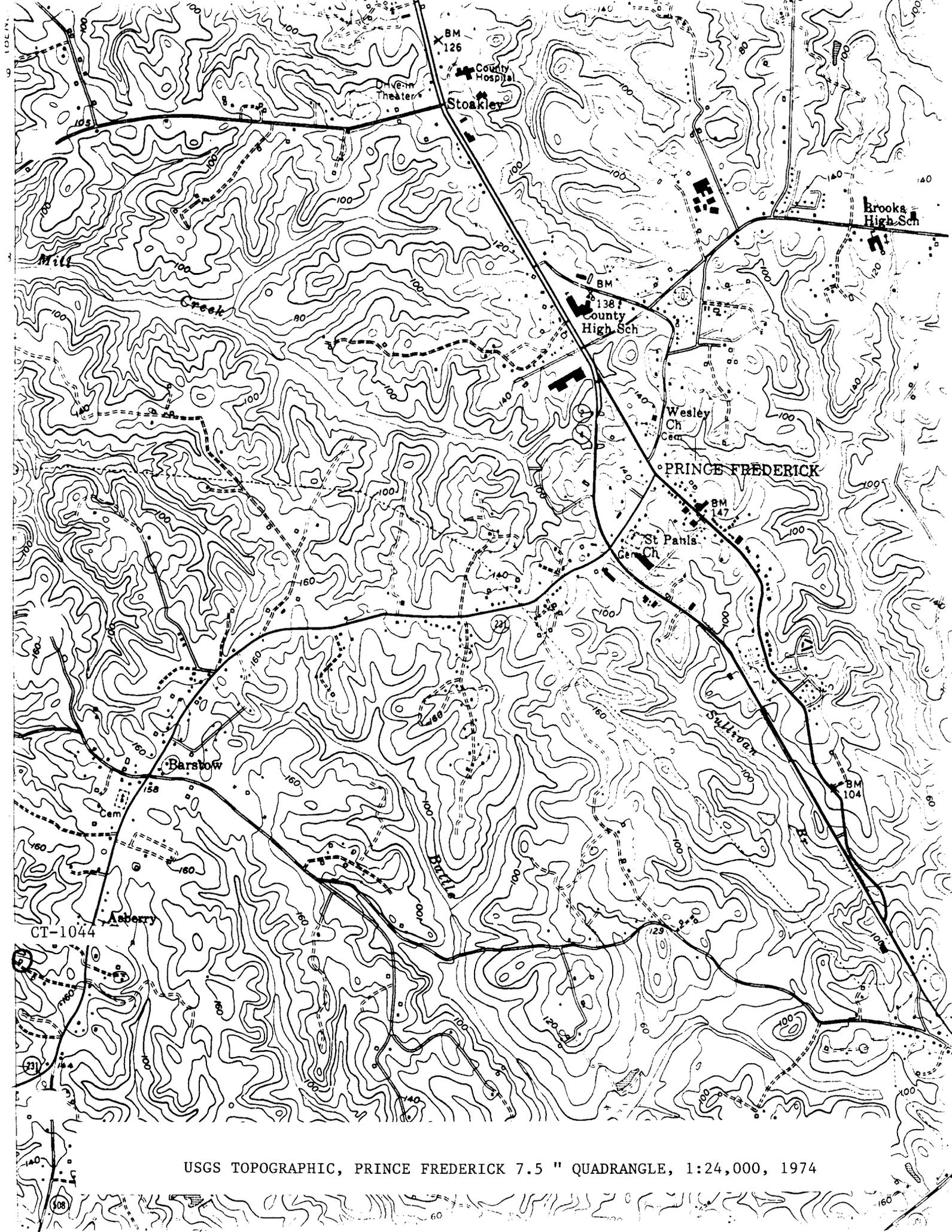
Historic Period/theme(s): 1860-1880 Agriculture, Tobacco
Geographic Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert
Cty. MD

Chronological/Developmental period: 1860-Present

Resource Type(s): Tobacco Barn, Stripping room, Tobacco Prize

8. SIGNIFICANCE (CONT.) CT-1044

The barn has undergone multiple changes over the years. The original structure measured thirty-six by twenty feet wide and had a twelve foot wide shed to the south. Evidence for siding exists along the east and west walls of the south shed confirming that this shed dated prior to the addition of the others. A shed was added to the east some time after the introduction of wire nails and while cut nails were still being used (ca. 1890). At some later date, the shingle roof covering the barn, south shed, and east shed was replaced by a metal roof. At some point presumably during the mid-twentieth century the lean-to equipment and tobacco stripping shed was built to the west. The cinder block construction and original metal roof serve to date it to this period.



USGS TOPOGRAPHIC, PRINCE FREDERICK 7.5 " QUADRANGLE, 1:24,000, 1974



CT-1044 Allen Barn 'C'
Prince Frederick
Tova L. Williamson
Southeast
March, 1990