

CAPSULE SUMMARY - THOMPSON BARN (CT-1047)

Located on Hance Road in St. Leonard, this is an interesting variation of the ante-bellum tobacco barn. Measuring 28 x 24 feet on an east-west axis, this cross-axial plan structure has several unique characteristics. These include an irregular bay system, and miscellaneous extant or re-used timbers. The structure employs hewn timbers and fully mature machine cut nails. An original open-air shed apparently served as a stable. A modern machine or equipment shed with one double door entrance is located on the west side of the structure.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Thompson Barn

2. Location

street & number Hance Rd. not for publicationcity, town *St. Leonard* vicinity of ^{Mutual} congressional district

state MD county Calvert

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Rick Thompson

street & number Hance Rd. telephone no.: 586-0332

city, town St. Leonard state and zip code MD20685

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Main Street (MD 765) folio

city, town Prince Frederick state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CT-1047

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-1047

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.

THOMPSON BARN

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1047

The Thompson house site and barn are located on a hill above Hance road. The house is to the east of the barn, and in between the barn and the house is an early corn crib structure in excellent condition. It is a pre Civil war structure utilizing hewn timbers and fully mature machine cut nails. The barn has a transverse axis plan and measures twenty-eight by twenty-four feet. There is an open-air shed on the south side, and an added long narrow shed on the west side.

The cross-axial plan of the barn is divided into an unusual bay system, with the bays measuring seven, three, four, four, five, and four feet wide (from west to east). Pintel holes in the north facade central four foot bay indicate that there was a door here. Similar pintel holes indicate that there was a door along the south facade. Large fieldstones, that are occasionally mortared support the structure.

The hewn posts are joined via mortise and tenon joints with trunnels. The down braces are pit sawn and hewn. All the sills have been replaced. The nailing rails are hewn and pit sawn. Fully mature machine cut nails are visible attaching the nailing rails to down braces and also in some of the siding. An extremely unusual feature of this barn is that the tie beam, four feet in on both the east and west side, has mortises on two foot centers. If this did not occur in the same location, it could simply be explained as a matter of re-use of an old top plate. However, since it occurs on both tie beams and in the same location this interpretation must be questioned. Is it possible that when the change from horizontal to vertical siding was made, the barn was expanded four feet on either side? This seems like a lot of work to go to in order to expand only a total of eight feet but it may be the explanation. The current top plates have no stud mortises.

Plain vertical wall siding with some ventilated doors covers the barn. The original wooden shingle roof has been replaced by metal. There is one vent door, centered on the east gable, and another vent door six feet from the northeast corner. Along the west wall there are five unevenly spaced top-hinged ventilation doors. The rafters that are on four foot centers rest on a flat false plate. Windbraces and three collars help support the roof. The tier poles are peeled logs separated by forty-four inches vertical distance. There were poles down the central axis fourteen feet from the south side. These poles have ben removed and only the nailing pattern on the tie beam attests to their existence.

THOMPSON BARN

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1047 (CONT.)

The open-air shed to the south measures fourteen feet wide. There are no nails in the barn rafters below their junction with the shed rafters, thereby implying that this shed is original. The fact that the south side of the barn was completely sided and had a door makes it seem likely that this shed was originally open-air and was possibly used to stable animals. The shed construction is similar to that of the barn. Mr. Thompson has replaced many of the original hewn posts, but has kept them as evidence of the construction. Empty mortises where they were once placed, remain. The west wall of the south shed was sided. This confirms the interpretation based on the circular sawn lumber and wire nails used in the twelve-foot wide west shed that it is a modern addition. Its main purpose appears to have been as a vehicle storage shed.

THOMPSON BARN

8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1047

The Thompson barn is representative of pre Civil-War era barns in Calvert County. Its square form is less common than the forty by twenty-four foot form, and it may be that this indicates a date during the early nineteenth century. It is also associated with a very early corn-crib that is rare in this county. Its large mortared fieldstones, hewn timbers and mortise and tenon joints are indicative of the type of heavy construction that took place in the nineteenth century.

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): 1830-Present; Tobacco, Agriculture
Geographic Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert
Cty MD

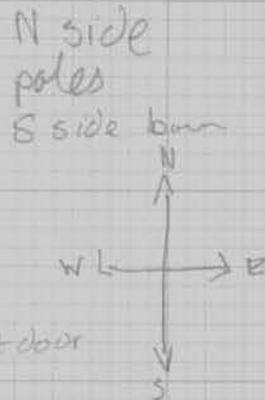
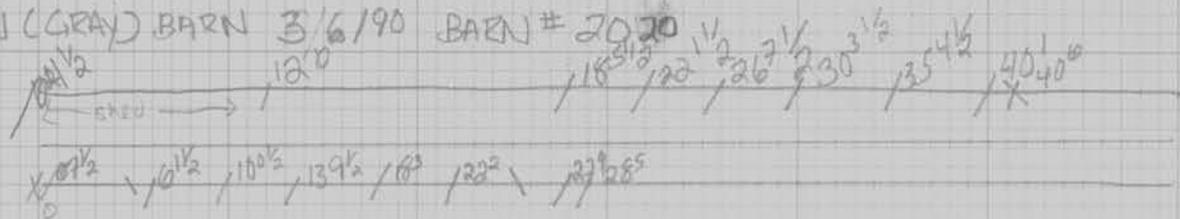
Chronological/Developmental Period: 1830-Present

Resource Type(s): Tobacco Barn, Corn Crib

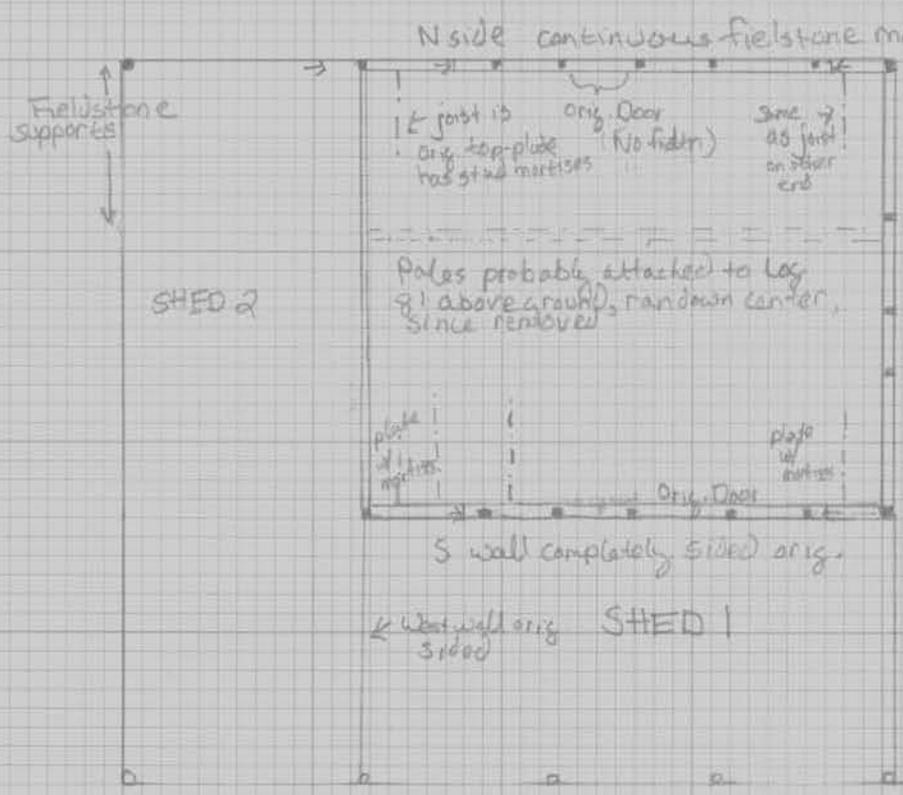
The existence of the two end plates with empty stud mortises now serving as tie beams on either end of this barn may indicate that the barn was expanded when the siding changed from horizontal to vertical. In addition to this change, the original doors have been removed, and the shed was added to the west at some point during the twentieth century.

CT-1047

THOMPSON (GRAY) BARN 3/6/90 BARN # 2020



10 1/2
 16 1/2
 10 1/2
 13 1/2
 16 1/2
 27 1/2
 18 1/2
 20 1/2
 26 1/2
 30 3/4
 35 1/2
 40 1/2



N side continuous fieldstone mortared foundation except door

E side continuous mortared fndtn. 3' above ground

Loose Fieldstone Foundation

S wall completely sided orig.

SHED 1

SHED 2

Fieldstone supports

West wall orig sided

orig. Door (No fndtn)

Some 7' 40 joint on floor end

Poles probably attached to log 8' above ground, random center, since removed

1st joint is orig. top plate had stud mortises

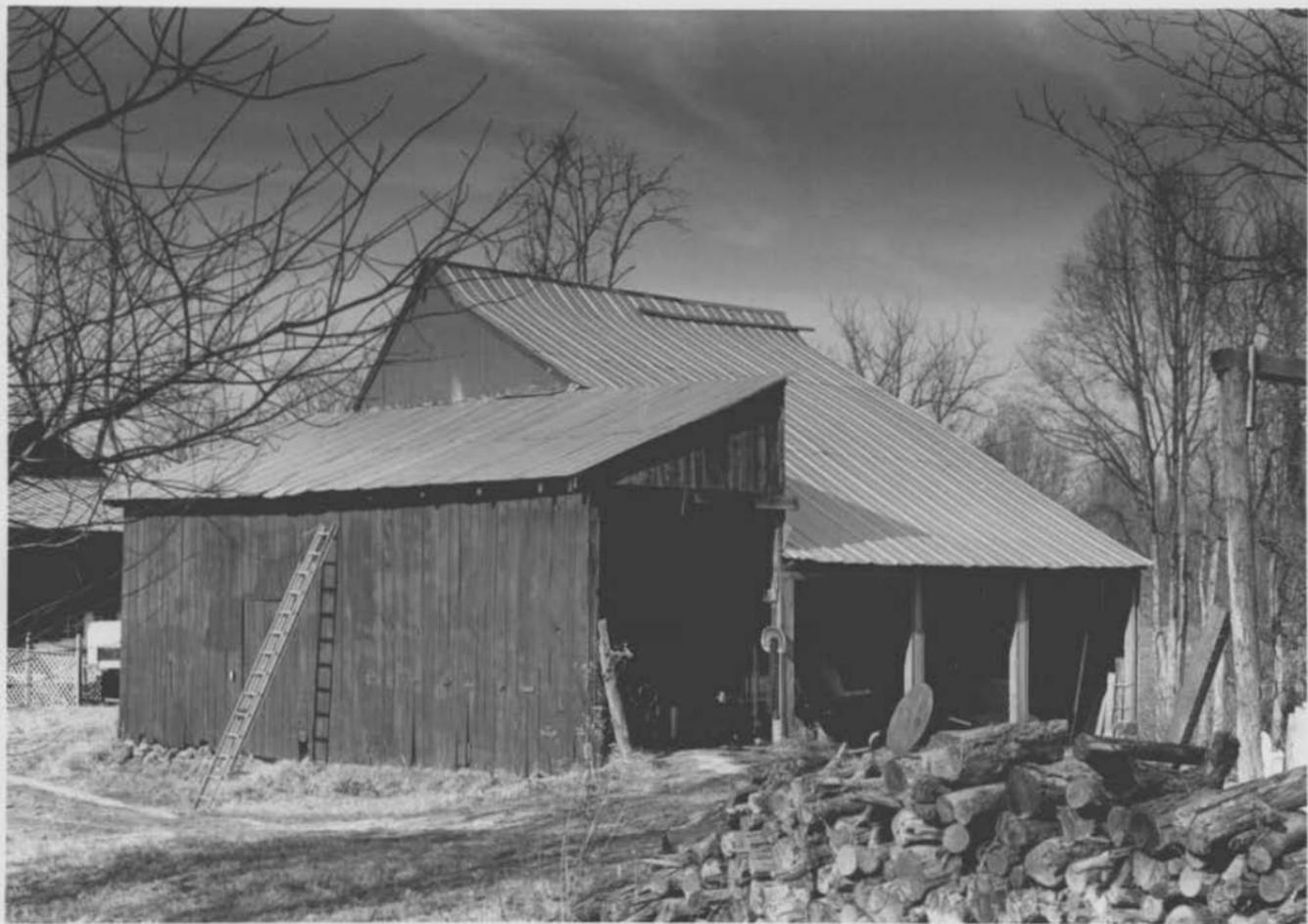
plate w mortises

orig. Door

10 1/2
 16 1/2
 10 1/2
 13 1/2
 16 1/2
 27 1/2
 18 1/2
 20 1/2
 26 1/2
 30 3/4
 35 1/2
 40 1/2



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



CT-1047 Thompson Bank
Port Republic
Tava B. Willidnisen
South
February, 1990