

CAPSULE SUMMARY - RAFF BARN 'B' (CT-1050)

Cherry Hill or Raff Barn 'B' is a very interesting example of one of Calvert County's oldest tobacco barns. Alterations and modifications to this barn completely obscured its original structure and plan. Without an internal examination of this structure it would have been impossible to determine its early date. Oriented on a east-west axis, the barn originally measured 32 x 24 feet with riven clapboard horizontal siding attached with horizontal nails, a roof on two foot centers and a tilted false plate. An addition and shed along the south facade were built at a later date.



# 7. Description

Survey No. CT-1050

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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-1050

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. See Attachment.



## 7. DESCRIPTION CT-1050

Raff Barn B is located on the historic Cherry Hill property. This property is on Chaney Rd., just beyond its intersection with Brickhouse Rd. Barn B lies to the west and slightly below the main house. According to Mrs. Raff, an earlier barn was located somewhat to the east of barn B, approximately at the location of the current storage shed. The original barn measured thirty-two by twenty-four feet. A twenty-four foot long addition and a shed that extended the entire south facade of the barn were built at a later date. The early transverse axis barn has hewn timbers and wrought nails.

The early barn is divided into four eight-foot bays, and contains eight rooms. There are stud mortises on two foot centers on the top plate and sill of the old barn, with the exception of the eight foot section that has been replaced on the north facade. There are some original studs remaining on the south wall. There were two double doors on the north and south facades. These doors were located in the second bay from the west on the old barn. There were no doors on either the east or west gable ends. There is a new replacement sill on the west side of the barn that serves also for a sill for the south shed. Why this was done, rather than replacing the original west sill, or building the shed sill by attaching it to the original sill is unclear. The early barn was initially supported by wood blocks, but concrete blocks have replaced these throughout most of the barn. The large hewn posts of the early barn are joined to the plate via mortise and tenon joints with trunnels. The sill and top plate are both original hewn timbers with the exception of the circular sawn replacements in the second and third bays from the west on the north side. The roof has a tilted false plate and rafter on two foot centers, both of which are indicative of an early barn. The south side of the early barn has pit sawn and hewn studs that are attached with wrought nails that still remain.

There are some horizontal weatherboards on the south side of the early section. These boards are both pit and circular sawn and have cut nails holding them in place. The rest of the barn has vertical wall siding and some occasional hinged ventilation doors. The siding on the southwest side of the early section is tightly fit but there is no evidence of any closure under the sill.

The roof over the early section of the barn attests to the early age of the structure. The rafters are on two foot centers and probably supported a board roof. These rafters rest on a tilted false plate, an element that is generally dated to the eighteenth century. Four collars and windbraces support this revealing early roof.

7. DESCRIPTION (CONT.) CT-1050

The twenty-four foot wide section is built of lighter circular sawn timbers and wire nails. It is divided into three eight foot bays. All of the timbers are circular sawn and toenailed. There is an eight foot aisle between the early barn and the addition section. The roof over the addition has rafters on four foot centers that rest on a flat false plate. It is of the same pitch as the roof over the early section, and therefore has four collars. It has no windbraces.

There are peeled log poles down the central axis in both sections. Also in both sections, the tier poles are circular sawn replacements separated by forty-two inches vertical distance.

There is a sixteen foot wide shed on the southern end of the barn. The south wall is almost completely open-air, with the exception of a part in the southeast corner that may have served as some sort of stabling area. The side walls are covered with plain vertical siding. Concrete blocks support the frame of the south shed that is constructed of circular sawn lumber and wire nails. There are nail holes in the barn rafters of the early section below their intersection with the shed roof, but none in the rafters of the addition. This indicates that the shed was constructed at the time the addition was built. Also providing evidence of this chronology is the existence of an early door along the south side of the early section of the barn, and the evidence that the south side of the barn was once totally sided.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1050

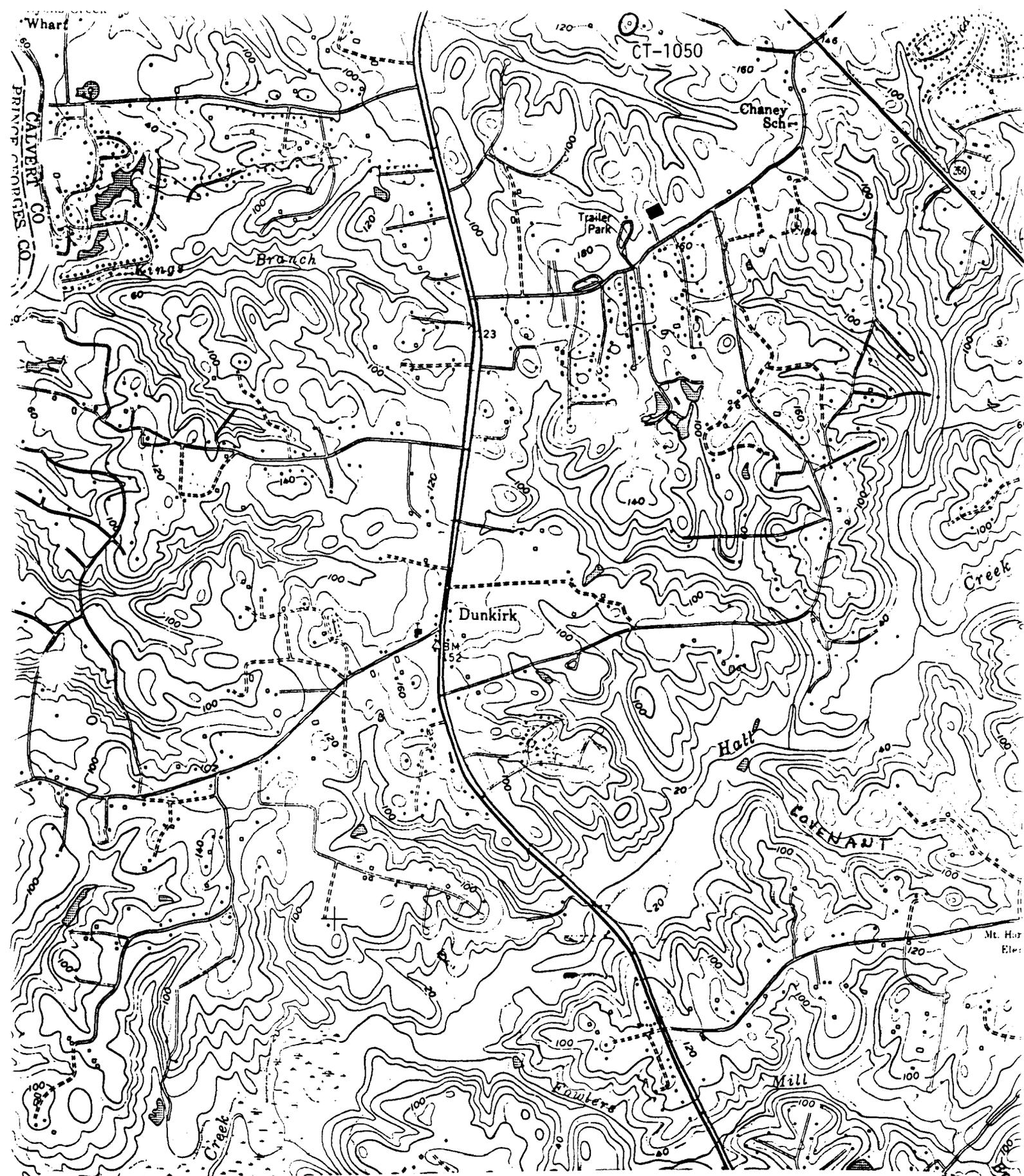
This barn is significant in that its original component may date as early as the eighteenth century. The rafters on two foot centers that rest on a tilted false plate and the wrought nails all contribute to support this date. As such, the barn is extremely unusual in Calvert County. The expansion of the barn make it appear very similar to many twentieth-century barns from the exterior, and without an internal examination of the building it would have been impossible to determine its early date.

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.

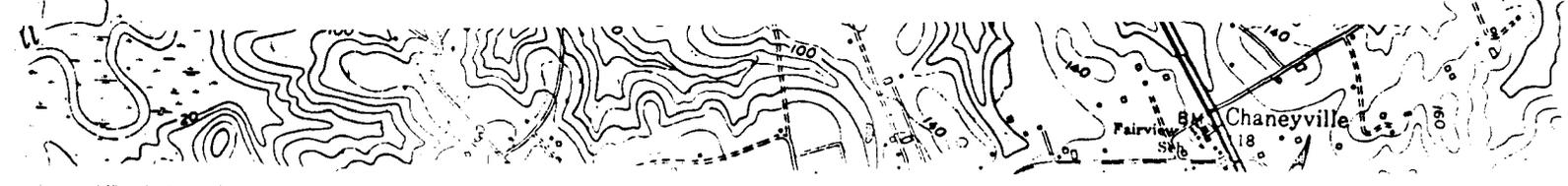
Historic Period theme(s): 18th century-present; tobacco, agriculture  
Geographic Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert Cty MD  
Chronological/Developmental Period: 18th century-present  
Resource Type(s): Tobacco barn

The major modifications to the barn are its twentieth century expansion and the contemporaneous addition of the south shed. In addition to this, the barn is witness to several changes in building technique. Its horizontal siding has been removed, and the original board roof has been replaced with metal. Mrs. Raff knew that the barn was old, but was unaware of the extreme age of the barn. She thought it was probably about one hundred years old. Her family (the Chaney's) have owned and lived on the property since the seventeenth century.





USGS TOPOGRAPHIC, LOWER MARLBORO 7.5" QUADRANGLE, 1:24,000, 1979





CT-1050 Raff Barn 'B'  
chaney

Tova L. Williamson  
Southwest  
March, 1990



CT-1050 Robt Bark 'B'

Charley

Tora L. Williamsen

Southwest

march, 1990