

CAPSULE SUMMARY - WELLS BARN (CT-1055)

The Wells barn is a beautiful example of a barn which exhibits both typical and rare elements of barn construction in Calvert County. Dating to the first quarter of the 19th century, this unique barn is situated in a level field on a farm in Huntingtown. Oriented on a north-south axis, sheds surround the original 24 x 40 foot block on all four sides. In spite of extensive renovation, the ten foot bay, four foot room structure of the barn is still evident. The east, west and north sheds all appear to have been built to expand the barn's curing capacity while the most recent south shed appears to have been built specifically for use as a stable area. Originally sided with horizontal riven clapboards; vertical pit sawn closely spaced weatherboards from a later date are also present.

CT-1055

CT-410

KENNETH M. WELLS FARM

(Mid-19th Century)

Chesapeake Beach

Private

This rectangular, frame tobacco barn is covered with a gable roof. The construction comprises a combination of posts and studs. Both horizontal and vertical board siding cover the barn. Several sheds have been added to expand the space in the barn.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Wells Barn

2. Location

street & number Hollands Cliffs Rd. not for publicationcity, town Huntingtown vicinity of 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 Kenneth Wells

street & number 4760 Huntingtown Rd. telephone no.: 535-0431

city, town Huntingtown state and zip code MD 20639

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber JLB 67

street & number Main Street (MD 765) folio 385

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-1055

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-1055

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

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.

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1055

The Wells barn is located on the south side of Hollands Cliffs Road, immediately past its intersection with Huntingtown Road. It is associated with the first house on the south side of Hollands Cliffs Rd. This house is modern and has no historical association with the Wells barn. The forty by twenty-four foot barn is oriented on a north-south axis and situated on a flat plain. The plan is cross-axial and there are sheds on all four sides. The materials and techniques used in the construction of the barn date it to the pre Civil War period.

The barn is divided into four ten foot bays and contains ten rooms. The original door locations could not be determined due to replacement of the original posts. It is thought likely that there was a door on the north side, due to the fact that one of the posts there is situated below the plate, thereby forming a lintel. All of the sheds are additions.

The barn is now supported on concrete block piers , but the support system was probably originally wooden blocks. The original barn posts are hewn and joined to the hewn top plate via mortise and tenon joints with trunnels. There are stud mortises on two foot centers in the top plate all around the barn. The central cross sill replaces the original upbraces that extended from four feet above ground to the upper tie beam. The nailing rails are hewn, and the siding that was attached to these nailing rails on the exposed sides of the barn is affixed with fully mature machine-cut nails. One original hewn stud remains on the east side of the barn. Some original riven clapboards remain in the upper gable of the south side of the barn. These clapboards are attached to the studs with early cut nails with hand-wrought heads. There is a raised ridge ventilator at the top. Shingle nailers are evident under the current metal roofing. The rafters of the roof are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate that in turn rests on hewn tie beams lapped over the hewn top plate. Windbraces on each diagonal, king posts and three collars support the roof. There is an unusual raised ridge ventilator that runs the entire length of the barn roof ridge. Tier poles are both early peeled logs and circular sawn replacements separated by forty-three inches vertical distance. There are poles down the central axis separated by four feet width between. These poles are half-lapped with the tie beams above.

Twelve foot wide shed additions surround the barn on all four sides. The bays in these sheds are generally eight feet wide, and there are doors approximately centered along each facade of the sheds.

The east, north and west sheds are similar in construction materials and techniques. They are supported on concrete blocks and have a sill that rests on these blocks. They have shingle

7. DESCRIPTION (CONT.) CT-1055

nailers that underlie the metal roof. All of the sheds have vertical wall siding with minimal ventilation. They have a sill laid on top of concrete blocks. The lumber is both hewn and pit sawn and nails are fully mature machine-cut. There are nails in the barn rafters below their junction with the shed rafters, on both east and west sides. There is no evidence of half-lap joints on the corner posts on either the northwest or northeast sides. Such joints would have indicated that the north shed was a later addition. There are also no nails or nail holes in the horizontal nailing rails on the north and west sides of the barn. On the east side of the barn there are but a few nail holes in the horizontal nailing rails.

The twelve foot wide south shed has earth-fast principal posts. It is built of both circular sawn lumber and wire nails. A door is centered along its facade and its bay system is irregular. The south wall that separates the south shed from the barn and the east and west sheds is tightly sided. The owner states that this south shed was used for cattle, and there are metal rings where the cattle were tied up remaining.

8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1055

This barn is architecturally significant for several reasons. The earliest materials found date it to the beginning of the nineteenth century. As such, it is among the earliest barns found during the survey. Its forty by twenty-four foot measurements make it part of the single most frequent measurements found among nineteenth-century barns during this survey of one hundred and fifty barns. The raised ridge ventilator along the roof is unusual. The presence of tight siding along the south wall of the barn and the remaining riven clapboard siding are both unusual. The tight siding was previously thought to have been indicative of the presence of flue-curing. When posts down the central axis are present, this theory must be ruled out. However, this tight siding is frequently, as in this case, associated with stabling. The addition of sheds on three sides during the nineteenth century has also been seen several times during this survey, and attests, perhaps, to the growing need for additional tobacco curing space.

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-; Tobacco; Agriculture
Geographic Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert Cty MD
Chronological/Developmental Period: 1830-Present
Resource Type(s): Tobacco barn

This barn underwent multiple changes over the years. The original twenty-four by forty foot barn had horizontal riven clapboard siding attached with machine-cut nails with hand-wrought heads, a shingle roof, and wooden blocks supporting the structure. These materials date the barn to ca. 1810. Upbraces rather than a cross-sill also served as support. At some time after the introduction of fully mature machine-cut nails (post 1830) and prior to the introduction of circular sawn lumber to the county (pre 1860), the horizontal siding was removed and sheds were built on the east, west, and north sides. The east shed may slightly post-date the construction of the north and west sheds, but the materials used and the absence of evidence 8.

SIGNIFICANCE CT-1055

for siding along the north wall of the north shed make it appear likely that the east shed is contemporary with the other shed additions to the north and west of the barn. It was not until after the introduction of circular sawn lumber and wire nails and metal roofs became common (ca. 1930), that a south shed for stabling purposes was built.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

ST-10-75
-GT-410-

MAG. OSC. 11-1-58
410

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Kenneth M. Wells Farm

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Holland Cliffs Road

CITY, TOWN

Huntingtown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Calvert

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Kenneth M. Wells

Telephone #: 535-0431

STREET & NUMBER

4760 Huntingtown Road

CITY, TOWN

Huntingtown

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
MD 20639

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Calvert County Courthouse

Liber #: JLB 67

Folio #: 385

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street (MD Route 765)

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

0-035

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This rectangular, frame tobacco barn is covered with a gable roof. The construction comprises a combination of posts and studs. Both horizontal and vertical board siding cover the barn. Several sheds have been added to expand the space in the barn.

An unusual feature is that these sheds begin near the barn's peak, rather than near the eaves. Corrugated sheet metal covers all sections of the roof.

A smaller, later barn stands about 100 yards away.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

CT-1055

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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is a typical late-19th century tobacco barn in Calvert County. It has no known historical significance.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Merry Stinson

ORGANIZATION

Calvert County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Route 5, Box 154

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Leitersburg,

STATE

Maryland 21740

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.

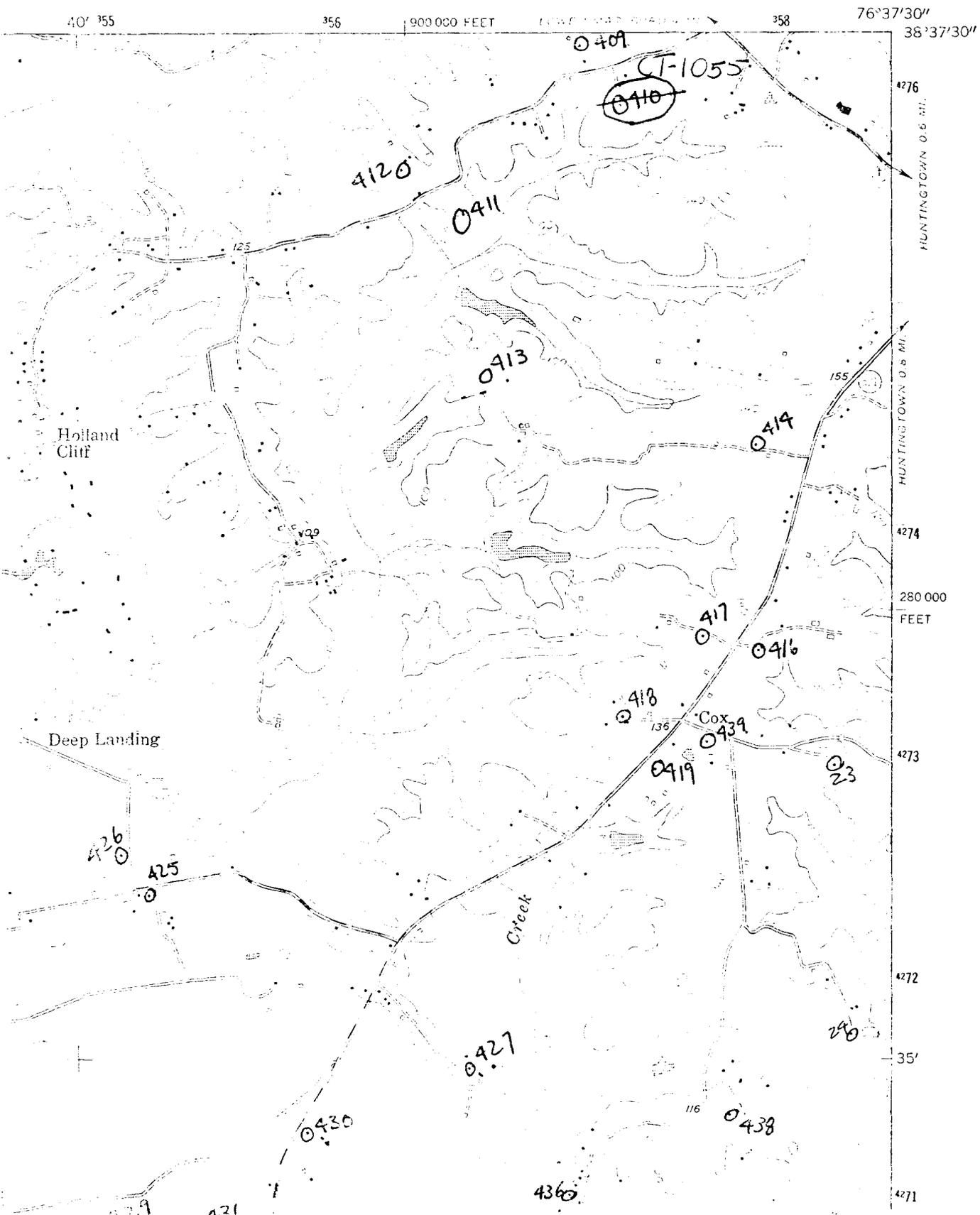
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

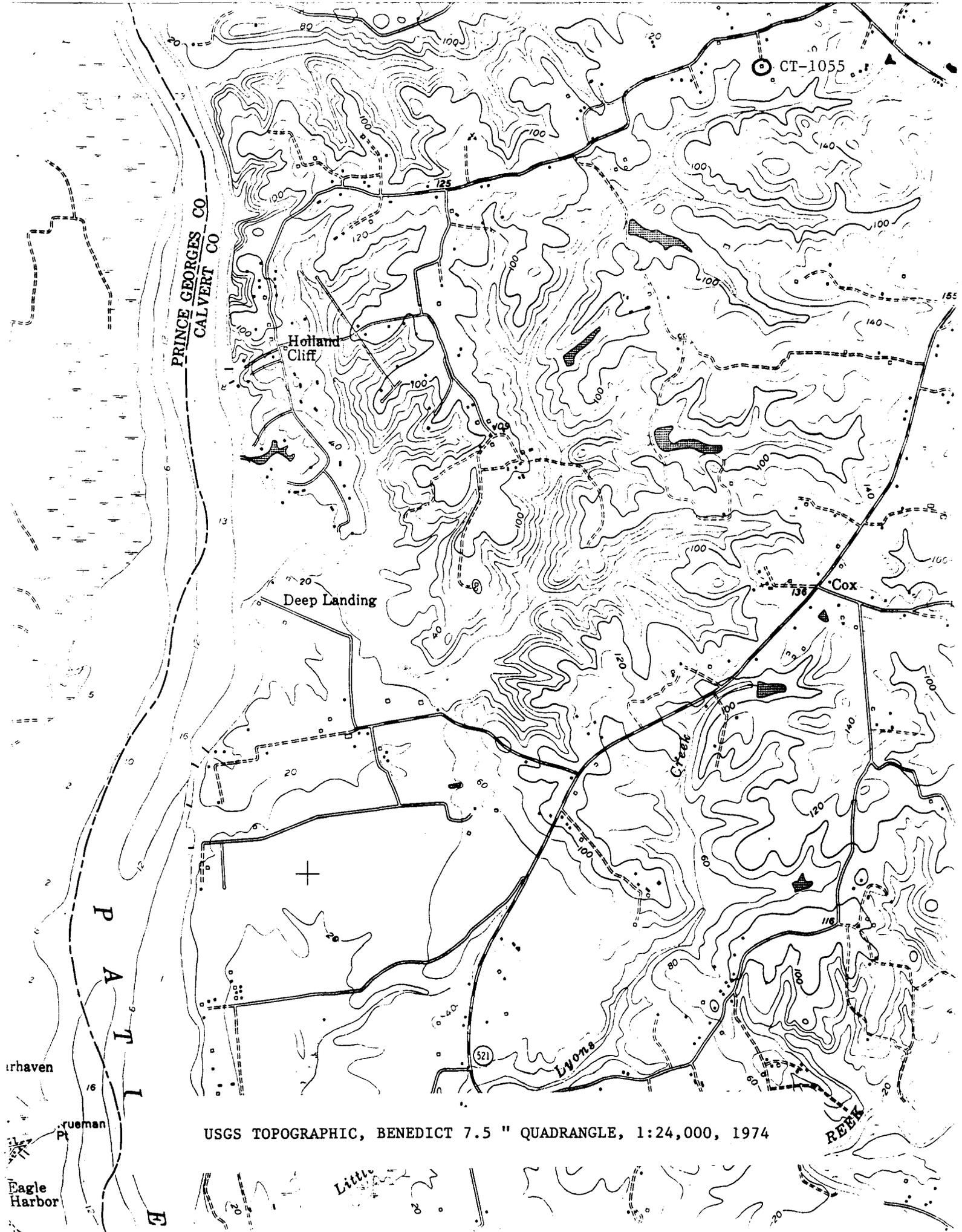
THIS MAP COMPLETES WITH PREVIOUS MAPS AND CANNOT BE USED SEPARATELY
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IN STON VIRGINIA, VA
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

5765
1000000 FEET
FATH

BENEDICT QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5681.11 NE
(NORTH BEACH)





USGS TOPOGRAPHIC, BENEDICT 7.5 " QUADRANGLE, 1:24,000, 1974



eT-1055 Weller Barn

Huntingtown

Tova L. Williams

Nest

April, 1970



CT-410 1055

Kenneth M. Wells Farm

Calvert County

Merry Stinson 4/81

E & N elevations