

CAPSULE SUMMARY - HORSMON BARN 'B' (CT-1066)

Horsmon Barn 'B' is one of four barns on a large farm that includes a 19th century farmhouse. This barn is a complex structure formed of an original transverse axis plan barn measuring 41 x 32 feet. A 20 foot wide shed was added to the south. At a later date a 32 x 32 foot addition was made to the north side, and a corresponding 20 foot wide shed. These additions did not include modifications to provide easy access among the different sections of the barn. Each area is served by a doorways that could accomodate vehicle entry. Interestingly this barn complex is all of modern construction, employing circular sawn lumber, wire nails, poured concrete piers, and an original metal roof. The southeast corner of the original section contains an enclosed stripping area and a horizontal screw prize marked "John Wells and Sons, Baltimore". A corn crib enclosure is found in the early south shed. The Horsmons currently use the barn for hay and equipment storage.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Horsmon Barn B

## 2. Location

street &amp; number Intersection of Mackall and Parran Rds. \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town St. Leonard \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district

state MD county Calvert

## 3. Classification

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

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

name Mr. Richard and Mrs. Phyllis Horsmon

street &amp; number Mackall and Parran Rds. telephone no.: 586-0936

city, town St. Leonard state and zip code MD 20685

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber ABE 263

street &amp; number Main Street (MD 765) folio 32

city, town Prince Frederick state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. CT-1066

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

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-1066

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 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				

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Specific dates	Builder/Architect
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check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

See Attachment.



## 7. DESCRIPTION CT-1066

The Horsmon farm is situated at the intersection of Mackall and Parran roads. There are four barns on the farm. Horsmon barn B is slightly to the west of Horsmon barn A, the easternmost of the barns. Barn B is oriented on a north-south axis. Barns C and D are near each other, approximately one-quarter of a mile to the southwest from A and B. All four barns and the farmhouse are connected by farm roads. The old farm house sits on a hill to the west of A and B and to the north of C and D. Horsmon barn B is a complex structure formed of an original barn with an added shed to which an addition was made. The plan of the original barn is cross-axial. All of the parts of the barn are built of circular sawn lumber and wire nails.

The original transverse axis plan barn had doors on the south, east, and west sides. It measured forty-one by thirty-two feet. A twenty-foot wide shed was then added to the south. A thirty-two by thirty-two foot addition was added to the north at a later date. The addition had double doors on the west and north. This addition may have included the corresponding twenty-foot wide southern shed with a ten-foot wide doorway centered on its facade. Overall the barn measures seventy-two feet by thirty-two feet and contains eighteen rooms. The bays in the original barn are each seven feet wide, with the exception of the twelve-foot wide door. The bays in the addition are ten and twelve feet wide.

The entire barn is supported by concrete blocks and poured concrete supports. The timber frame used in all sections is circular sawn lumber toe-nailed with wire nails. Vertical wall siding with hinged ventilation doors covers the exterior of the entire structure. The roof between the sections differs somewhat. The original barn roof is covered with a corrugated metal roof. Its rafters are on four foot centers but, unusually, do not rest on a false plate. Rather, the tie beams are lapped over the plates and the rafters rest on the tie beams. There are no windbraces, but king and queen posts and four collars support the roof of the original barn. The roof of the barn addition is covered with a standing seam metal roof. Three collars and king posts support this addition roof. Also differentiating the early barn from the rest of the structure are the peeled log tier poles separated by three feet three inches vertical distance. The tier poles in the barn addition and the sheds are circular sawn and separated by forty inches. Both the original barn and the barn addition have only two poles down the central axis connected by horizontal rails to support the tobacco tiers. There is an enclosed stripping area/holding room in the southeast corner of the original barn section, and a tobacco prize marked "John Wells and Sons, Baltimore". Nailers have been added to the posts of the original barn section in order to build the addition.

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1066 (CONT.)

The south shed that corresponds with the original barn contains a partially enclosed corn crib area in the northeast corner, and tobacco sticks in the southeast corner. It measures twenty feet wide and has a double door centered along its forty-one foot length.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1066

The date of this barn is unknown. The materials and techniques used are modern. These include circular sawn lumber, wire nails, toe-nailed joints, a metal roof, and the few poles down the central axis. Nevertheless, the original transverse axis plan is most often seen in nineteenth and early twentieth-century barns. The amount of expansion and changes this barn has undergone perhaps indicate an early twentieth-century date. This barn is significant as one among the pool of barns studied. It provides both an understanding of the tobacco economy and the changing desires for tobacco curing through the twentieth 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): Twentieth century; Tobacco; Agriculture

Geographic Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert Cty MD

Chronological/Developmental Period: Twentieth Century

Resource Type(s): Tobacco barn

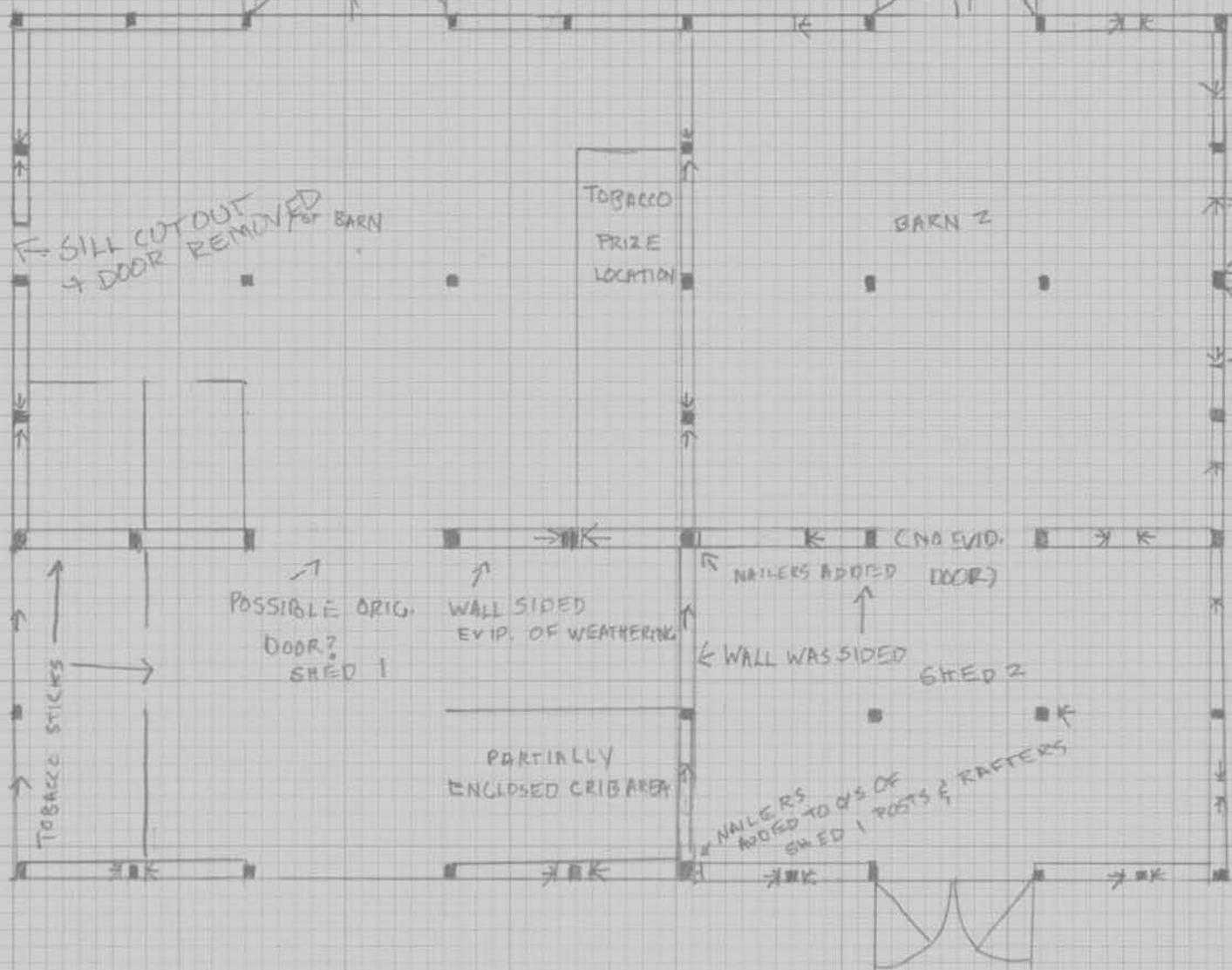
The sequence of developments in this barn are complex. The barn probably originally stood by itself as a forty-one by thirty-two foot unit. A shed was then built on the east side. The east side of the barn was once sided and is weathered. There is also some slim evidence of an original door on this east side. Shortly thereafter or possibly at the same time, the thirty-two by thirty-two foot addition was built to the north. The north wall of the original barn was once sided. Nailers were added to the exterior of the posts, and the barn was expanded. The timbers, nails, and construction methods used in the east shed portion attached to the original barn, and in the addition, are extremely similar. The north wall of the shed was once sided, indicating that it stood at one time prior to the addition of the shed to the north addition. It seems most likely in considering the evidence and plan, that the east shed was the first addition to the barn and that shortly thereafter, using similar materials, the north addition and its shed were built. However, the striking similarity in materials between the east shed on the

8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1066

original barn and the barn addition, and the evidence for siding along the east wall of the barn addition make it possible that these two components were built at the same time while the shed to the addition was built at a somewhat later date.

BARN #2029 HORSMON BARN (3/31/89 TW)

CT-1066



SILL CUT OUT + DOOR REMOVED FOR BARN

TOBACCO PRIZE LOCATION

BARN 2

POSSIBLE ORIG. DOOR? SHED 1

WALL SIDED EVID. OF WEATHERING

(NO EVID.) NAILERS ADDED (DOOR)

WALL WAS SIDED

SHED 2

PARTIALLY ENCLOSED CRIB AREA

NAILERS ADDED TO QS OF SHED 1 POSTS & RAFTERS

TOBACCO STICKS





CT-1066

HORSMON BARN 'B'

ST. LEONARD

TORA L. WILLIAMSEN

NORTA

MARCH, 1990