

CAPSULE SUMMARY - BOURDON-DIXON (CT-1069)

The Bourdon-Dixon barn is located on old Plum Point Road one mile north of its intersection with Stinnett Road. The barn is located in a deep hollow north of Plum Point Creek, and is not clearly associated with any other standing historic structure. The barn measures 32 x 24 and has a cross-axial plan. Sheds are located on the south, east and west sides, the east replacing an original shed, the south and west later additions. The barn is supported on wooden blocks except where replaced by concrete blocks. Hewn and pit sawn timbers and early machine-cut nails. An 1831 date of construction is suggested based on a carving "Aug 31/31" on the door frame of the east wall of the barn. Unusual architectural features include a combination of vertical and horizontal siding; an odd bay system, very tightly fitting boards; and the presence of brackets which were used to support the poles down the center axis. The new owners of this structure have plans to sell the barn and replace it with a new house.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Bourdon/Dixon Barn

2. Location

street & number Old Plum Point Rd. (Maryland Route 263) not for publication

city, town Huntingtown vicinity of Plum Point 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 type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

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

name Gail an Dave Bourdon

street & number 250 Armiger Rd. telephone no.: 535-5276

city, town Huntingtown state and zip code MD

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber JLB 180

street & number Main Street (MD 765) folio 338

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-1069

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input 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-1069

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
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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

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

See Attachment.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CT-1069

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Prince Frederick, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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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 L. Williamsen-Berry

organization C/O Calvert County Historic District Commission date June 30, 1990
Dept. of Planning and Zoning

street & number Courthouse telephone 535-1600

city or town Prince Fredercik 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-1069

The Bourdon/Dixon barn is located on Old Plum Point Rd., approximately one mile from its intersection with 263 east (Plum Point Rd.). The driveway to the barn is immediately across from Neeld's Peach Orchard. This is an old dirt road that goes down hill. Branching off of the old dirt road is a new gravel driveway. Follow this uphill to a summit. From the top of the hill of the gravel driveway, there is yet another steep descent. The barn is located at the bottom of this hill. The barn is for sale and will be torn down sometime in the near future. As one can decipher from the directions, this barn is located in an area of extremely steep topography. It is an early nineteenth century structure with a cross-axial plan and sheds on three sides.

The barn measures thirty-two by twenty-four feet. It has a door on the north, east and south sides. Pintel holes remain in the posts on the west side where a door once was. On the door frame of the east wall of the barn is carved "Aug 31/31". Unfortunately, the second "31" is not preceded by "18" or "19" so the century is not known. However, the style of writing appears early, and an 1831 date is consistent with the materials found in the barn. Thus, the barn had doors on all four sides centered along each wall. Eight rooms are contained within the barn itself. The bay system is eccentric. From south to north along the long east and west walls the bays measure eight, six, four, six, and eight feet. There was originally a shed on the east side. The east shed that stands now has been largely rebuilt. The south and west sheds are somewhat later additions.

The barn frame is supported on wooden blocks and concrete blocks have replaced these in some locations. The sills and cross sill are large hewn timbers eleven by eight inches. The south and east sills are original seven and one-half by eleven inch timbers. The west and north sills are circular sawn seven and one-half by seven and one-half inch timbers. The posts are hewn and pit sawn. The corner posts measure nine by eight inches and the internal posts measure six by seven inches. All posts are joined via mortise and tenon joints with trunnels. The down braces measure four by seven inches and are hewn and pit sawn, they are joined to the sill via half-dovetail notches held with trunnels. The horizontal nailing rails are mortised into the posts and are pit sawn timbers measuring three by three and one-half inches. The extant studs on the south side measure three by four inches, are pit sawn, and early machine cut nails attach them to the down braces. The top plates are original hewn timbers on the south east, and west sides. A four-foot long portion of the original hewn top plate remains on the north side. The original south top plate and the original portion of the top plate on the north side have studs and stud mortises remaining. The east and west original hewn top plates have no mortises.

7. DESCRIPTION (CONT.) CT-1069

The siding on the east and west sides of the barn is of one foot wide pit sawn boards fit snugly together. These boards are held with early machine-cut nails. The south side has riven clapboard siding in place. These clapboards have staggered seams and are attached with early machine-cut nails. The north side has seven inch wide boards and metal vertical siding attached with wire nails. The north wall siding is all replacement. There was apparently original riven clapboard siding on this wall, as evidenced by the empty stud mortises in the remaining portion of the north top plate.

The roof is steeply pitched. It has shingle nailers underneath the current corrugated metal covering. The rafters are on two foot centers and are hewn and pit sawn. These rafters rest on a flat false plate. There are circular sawn windbraces on each diagonal and four collars to support the roof.

The tobacco tier poles are peeled logs separated by three feet vertical distance and forty-four inches horizontal distance. These tier poles are supported by peeled log poles with holes cut out in order to pass the tier poles through. These poles run down the central axis and are separated by the same forty-four inch distance as the tier poles. Rather than half-lapped, the central poles are joined to the tie beam via a polygonal shaped bracket of hewn timber attached to the side of the tie beams. The poles are inserted into the opening between the tie beam and the bracket. The northwest and southwest corners of the barn are floored. Circular sawn joists are laid on logs and planks cover them to form the floor. This was perhaps done to raise the tobacco up off of the ground for storage purposes.

The west shed measures fourteen feet wide. It has an open doorway to the northwest and is divided into a somewhat unusual bay system measuring from south to north eight, eight, eight, six, ten and six feet. The posts are earth-fast. Visible materials include primarily circular sawn lumber and wire nails. There are also some re-used hewn timbers with mortises on two foot centers used as tie beams. It is possible these tie beams are portions of the original north plate of the barn. The siding on this west shed is a combination of horizontal weatherboard siding of metal and wood on the lower half and vertical siding on the upper half. There are shingle nailers underneath the metal roof that now covers the structure. Some of these shingle nailers extend in one piece into the south shed.

The fourteen foot wide south shed is constructed of similar materials and techniques as the west shed. An unusual bay system is also used in the south shed. It also has circular sawn lumber, wire nails, and earth-fast peeled log posts. The siding combines horizontal weatherboards on the lower half and vertical boards on the upper half. As in the west shed, some of the tie beams are hewn. The rafters and the rest of the tie beams are circular sawn.

7. DESCRIPTION (CONT.) CT-1069

Shingle nailers underlay the lower portion of the roof of the south shed whereas the upper half has widely separated planks. The south wall of the barn that faces onto this shed was and still is to a great extent, sided with riven clapboards. The southeast corner of the south shed has a stripping area that is entirely enclosed with tight-fitting circular sawn boards. It is lined with card board and there is an electric heater inside.

The twelve foot wide east shed has earth-fast posts. It is divided into bays measuring ten, eight, eight, and six feet. The east side of the barn shows little weathering, and there are no nails or nail holes in the rafters of the barn, below their intersection with the east shed rafters, so it is likely that there was always a shed in this location. However, the materials used, including the tie beams and rafters and the nailers, are all circular sawn. Therefore, it appears that the east shed has been largely rebuilt. Vertical siding covers the exposed north side of the east shed. The upper three feet of the east side of the east shed are enclosed with vertical boards, but the rest is open air. The roof to this shed is covered with metal and there are no shingle nailers underlying this metal.

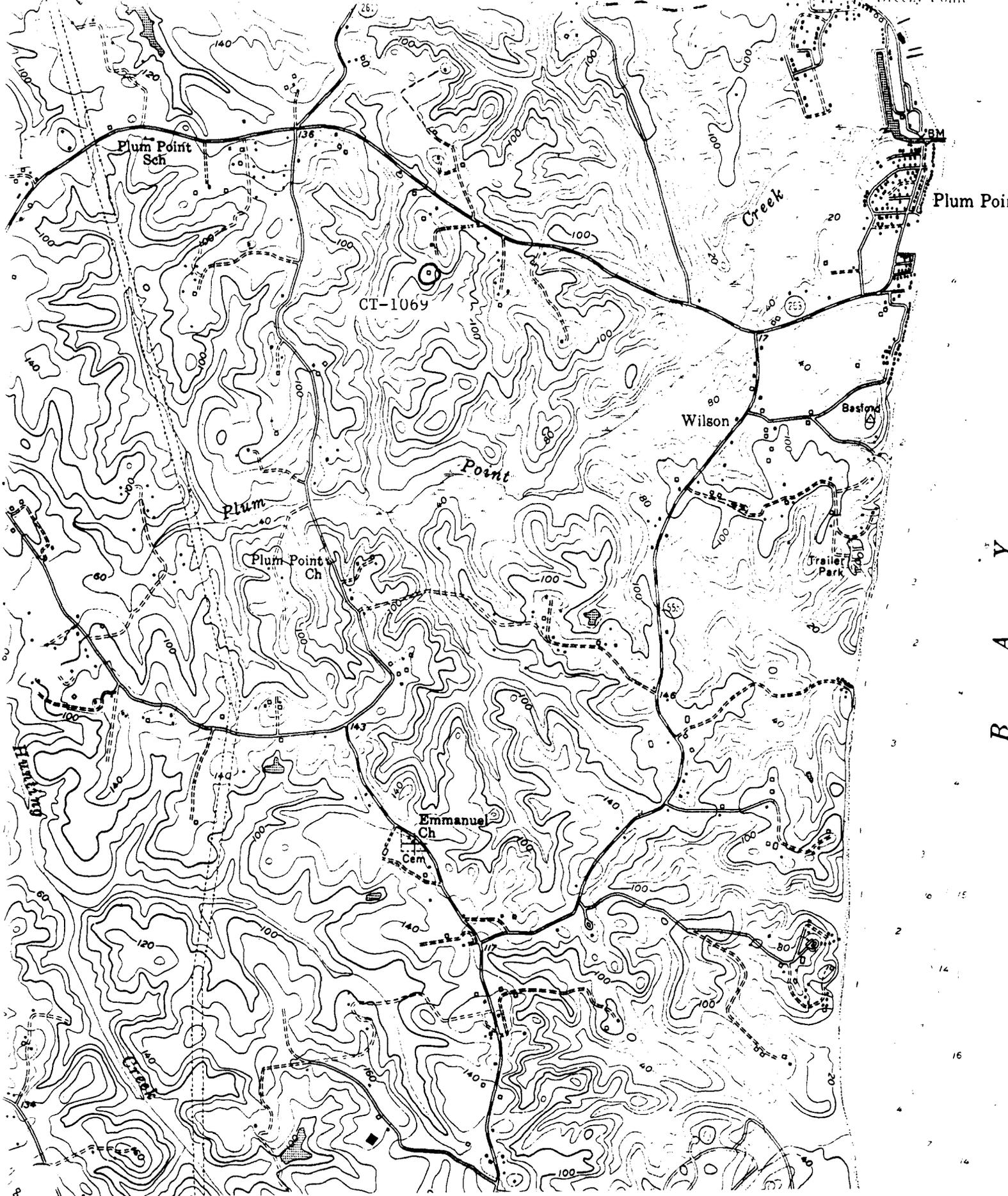
8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1069

This barn is architecturally significant for several reasons. An 1831 date, although not conclusive, is indicated by the evidence including the materials and the carved date in the door frame. It appears that a combination of both vertical and horizontal siding covered the barn, as indicated by the lack of stud mortises on the remaining original east and west sills and top plate, combined with the stud mortises on two foot centers on the remaining original north and south sills and plate. This is an unusual arrangement and has not been noted in any other barn surveyed in Calvert county. There are unusual tight-fitting wide boards on the east and west sides. Other unusual techniques are the brackets that were built in order to support the poles down the central axis. Although this barn is built of the same basic pattern as other nineteenth-century barns in the county, it has several unusual elements that distinguish it as significant.

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): ca. 1815-; Tobacco; Agriculture
Geographic Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert Cty MD
Chronological/Developmental Period: ca. 1815-present
Resource Type(s): Tobacco barn

Among the changes this barn underwent, are the removal of the north, south, and west doors. The north side of the barn was largely rebuilt, as was the original east shed. The north side probably had riven clapboard siding, all of which has been removed. Metal roofing has replaced the original shingle roof that covered the barn and the south and west sheds. Sheds were built on the south and west sides, probably at the time that the north wall was rebuilt, sometime during the twentieth century. The south and west sheds appear to have been built at the same time. The construction materials and techniques are similar, and they even share some timbers (posts do not occur at separation points, shingle nailers extend into both sheds). A stripping area was built in the southeast corner of the south shed.



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Y

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

E



CT-1069 Bourdon/Dixon Barn
Plum Point
Tora L. Williamsen
South
March, 1990