

CAPSULE SUMMARY - BROBST BARN (CT-1072)

The Brobst Barn is located in the back yard of a 19th century farmhouse in the former tobacco shipping town of Lower Marlboro. The privately owned Brobst Barn measures 44 x 16 and is oriented on a east-west axis. A cross sill is located approximately midway along the barn's length. The barn is rather unusual in plan, and is served by five doors. Circular sawn lumber, wire nails, and an original metal roof are all typical of a 20th century date of construction.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Brobst Barn

## 2. Location

street &amp; number Lower Marlboro Lane \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Lower Marlboro \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district

state MD \_\_\_\_\_ county Calvert

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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 Dennis and Cheryl Brobst

street &amp; number Lower Marlboro Lane \_\_\_\_\_ telephone no.: 257-7883

city, town Lower Marlboro \_\_\_\_\_ state and zip code MD 20736

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse \_\_\_\_\_ liber ABE 341

street &amp; number Main Street (MD 765) \_\_\_\_\_ folio 876

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-1072

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 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-1072

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 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.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CT-1072

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A            
 Zone Easting Northing

B            
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

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

street & number Courthouse telephone 535-1600

city or town Prince Frederick 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-1072

This barn is one of several tobacco barns located in the back yards of houses in Lower Marlboro Maryland. Lower Marlboro served as a tobacco shipping town for many years. The house in front of it dates to the nineteenth century, and possibly earlier. The barn has an aisle plan measuring forty-four by sixteen feet. It has no exterior sheds. The axis of the barn is east-west, opposite the axis of the road that runs north-south in front of the house (Lower Marlboro Lane). The barn is constructed of circular sawn lumber, wire nails, and has toe-nailed joints and half-lapped joints. It has doors on all sides. It is separated by an internal cross-sill into two different rooms. The west room has one four foot wide door on the west side, and one four-foot wide door on the south. The east room has a four foot wide door on the north and east sides, and a double door on the south side.

The bays of the barn are divided on a ten, ten, eight, four, four, and eight foot system. The cross-sill dividing the two rooms is at twenty feet from the west side. In addition to this cross-sill, internal bracing in the form of a diamond is used to support this center section. The barn is built entirely of circular sawn lumber and wire nails. The sill is lifted approximately eight inches above the ground. The plate is formed of two by four inch boards nailed together in an inverted L shape. The posts are half-lapped to this plate. All the rest of the joints are toe-nailed. Vertical wall siding with minimal ventilation covers the exterior. The roof rafters are on four foot centers and support a corrugated metal roof. The rafters rest on a flat false plate. Windbraces on each diagonal and two collars help support the roof. The tier poles are circular sawn peeled logs separated by forty-one inches vertical distance.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1072

This barn is architecturally significant for a variety of reasons. The most important among these is its membership in the group of tobacco barns associated with domestic residences in the town of Lower Marlboro. The pattern of tobacco barns directly connected with residences and small parcels of land is unusual in the county and has not been seen elsewhere. The materials and techniques seen in this barn are consistent with those of one built during the mid twentieth century, yet, the plan and measurements are unusual and more closely resemble a cross-axial plan than a twentieth-century aisle plan. The separation into two different rooms appears to be original. This causes one to speculate if perhaps different activities were being conducted in the two rooms.

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

Geographic Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert Cty  
MD

Chronological/Developmental Period: Twentieth Century

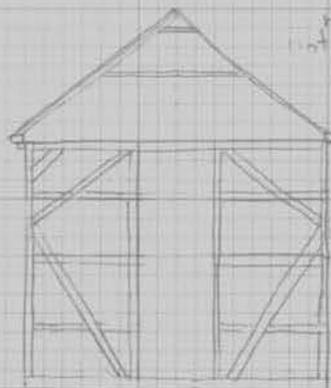
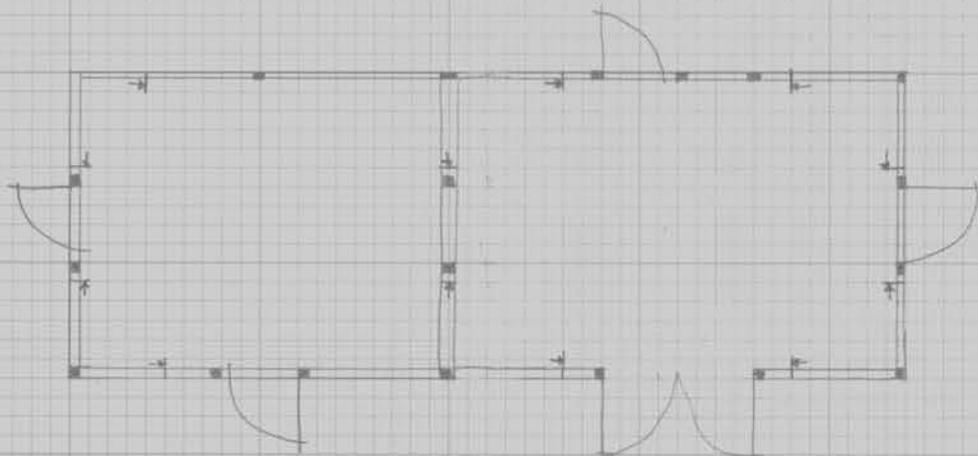
Resource Type(s): Tobacco Barn

CT-107a

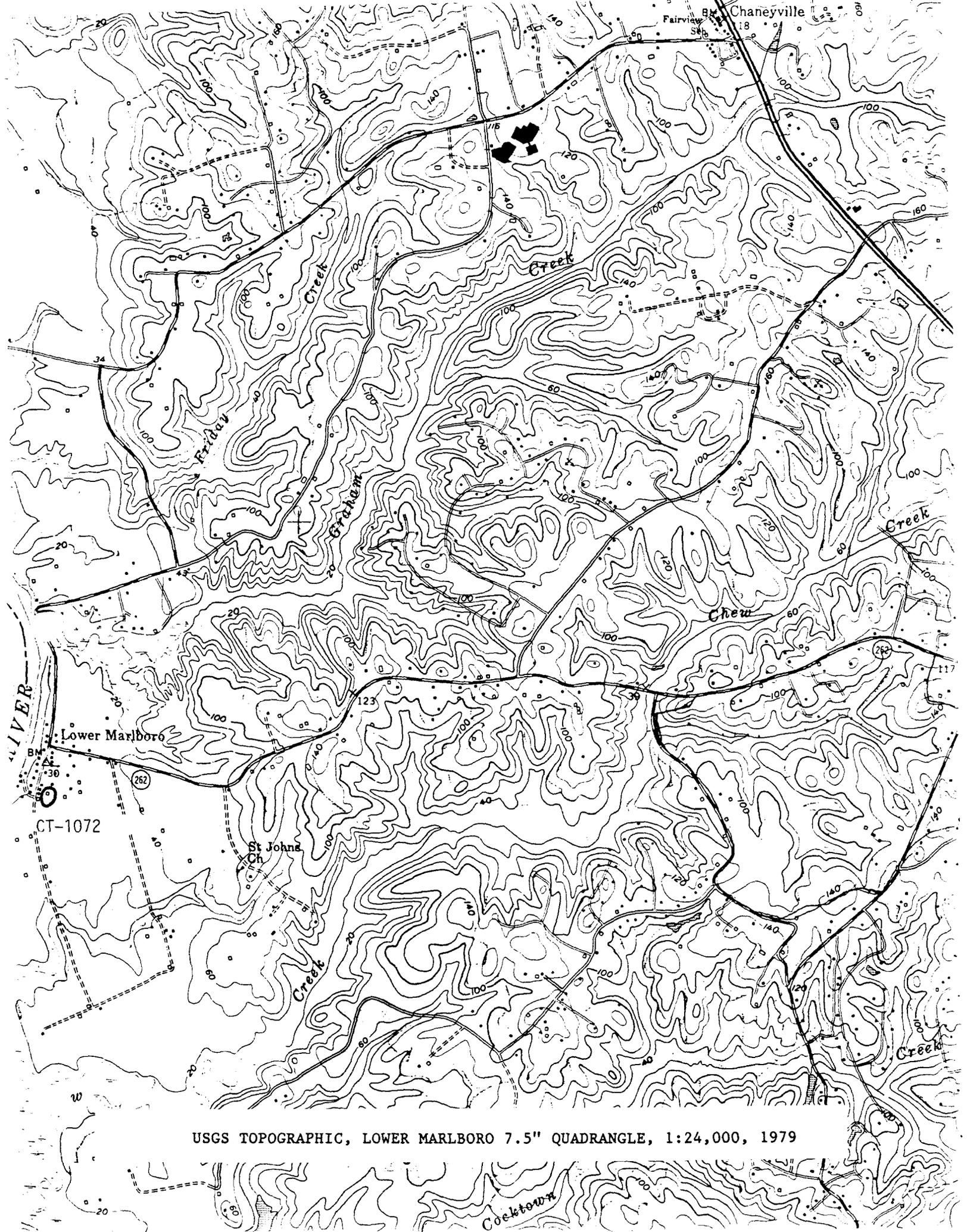
BARA # 2045  
DENNIS AND CECYL BROBST  
LOWER MARLBORO, MD

03/31/1970

PJM



rough sketch  
of  
center  
section



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



CT-1072

BROBST BARN

LOWER MARLBORO

TORA L. WILLIAMSEN

NORTHWEST

MARCH, 1990