

CAPSULE SUMMARY - HICKS BARN 'C' (CT-1075)

Hicks Barn 'C' is part of a complex of tobacco barns associated with a small tenant house on John's Chapel Road in Lower Marlboro. Access to the property is private. Dating to the early 19th century, the 40 x 24 transverse axis plan barn is greatly deteriorated. In spite of this, much of its original material is still in evidence. Tightly-fit siding of wide boards are found along the southeast wall of the barn. Although not common, the siding has been seen in several other barns of similar date. Additional, unusual, "corn-crib" style siding, consisting of long, narrow, pit-sawn, is found along the south east wall of the barn. An original or early shed is found along the barn's south wall and a modern shed is located on the west side.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Hicks Barn C

2. Location

street & number St. John's Chapel Road not for publicationcity, 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 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: unused

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

name Mrs. Jean Hicks

street & number Maidstone, Highway 260 telephone no.: n/a

city, town Owings state and zip code MD 20736

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber JLB 56

street & number Main Street (MD 765) folio 461

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-1075

Condition
 excellent deteriorated **Check one** original site
 good ruins unaltered moved date of move _____
 fair unexposed altered

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-1075

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: <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-1075

Hicks Barn C is located on a flat plain to the west of Hicks barn A and B. Two other barns associated with the property are located to the west of barn C along the farm road that branches off of John's Chapel Rd. Barn C is on the north side and at the end of the farm road. The axis of the barn is east-west, parallel with the farm road. The terrain is relatively flat. Barn C is greatly deteriorated and a portion of it lies in ruins. It has a forty by twenty-four foot transverse axis plan and sheds on the south and west sides. The materials used include hewn and pit-sawn lumber and early machine-cut nails.

The barn measures forty by twenty-four feet. It is divided into a somewhat unusual bay system, with the bays measuring from east to west, eight, four, four, eight, eight, and eight feet. The entire western half appears to have been greatly rebuilt. The frame is supported on large fieldstones, several of which are conglomerates of brick and stone mortared together. The east half has hewn and pit sawn timbers joined via mortise and tenon with trunnels. The west side has circular sawn posts, down braces and nailers toe-nailed with wire nails. The west side sill is also circular sawn. The west half top plate on the south side has been replaced, and the top plate on its north side has been partially replaced. The barn has tightly fit vertical wall siding constructed of wide pit-sawn boards along all sides except the southwest side where narrow strip siding one inch wide and four feet long is held in place with cut nails. There is a standing seam metal roof on the north side, and a corrugated one on the south side. Shingle nailers are in place underneath the roof throughout the barn. The rafters are on four foot centers. The tier poles are peeled logs separated by forty-five inches vertical distance. These are supported on peeled log poles that run down the central axis.

The south shed measures sixteen feet wide. It is largely in ruins, and its roof has collapsed. The posts are peeled logs set on concrete piers, the piers remain where they stood, but only one is standing. Most of the timbers, including the rafters of the shed are peeled logs. The shed roof was originally shingled, but this has been replaced by a corrugated metal roof. There are nails visible in the rafters of the barn below their junction with the shed where shingles were once nailed. This indicates that the shed is an addition. There is a vertical tobacco prize in the shed.

The west shed is sixteen feet wide, and is significantly newer than the rest of the barn. There is a double door centered on the forty foot length of the west wall of the shed. It is built entirely of circular sawn lumber and wire nails. It has a sill laid on the ground, and an internal cross-sill that extends from the southwest corner of the barn to the west wall. Tobacco was hung here also. The vertical wall siding on this shed has spacing between to aerate tobacco. The roof is of lean-to construction and is covered with corrugated metal.

8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1075

Hicks barn C dates to the early nineteenth century. The materials and techniques used in its construction (hewn timbers, early cut nails, and mortises and tenon joints) are indicative of this date. There are several elements of the construction that are architecturally significant. Tightly-fit siding of wide boards was in place on the south east wall of the barn. This siding has been seen in several other barns of similar date. It is not common, and prior to this survey, it was thought to be indicative of flue-curing. Long, narrow strips side the southeast wall of the barn. These are also unusual, having been seen in only four of the one hundred fifty barns surveyed. This type of siding may be one of the ways early nineteenth-century barns were ventilated.

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.

The west side of the barn is largely built of circular sawn timbers and wire nails. There are mortises in the tie beam at twenty-four feet that would correspond with a four foot wide doorway centered along the west wall. The hewn top plate on the north side has a scarf joint in it at the twenty-eight foot mark. The sills and south top plate on the west half have been entirely replaced. There is an "extra" post along the north wall of the west half that divides it into four foot bays. All of these factors combine to make it appear that the barn might have originally measured twenty-eight by twenty-four feet. However, there is no evidence of siding at the twenty-eight foot mark, and there is no evidence of a door at this twenty-eight foot mark but rather along the tie beam at the twenty-four foot mark. It seems most likely that a total rebuilding of the western half was necessary for some reason. Additional evidence confirming this are the early machine-cut nails attaching the narrow strip siding to the southwestern portion of the barn.

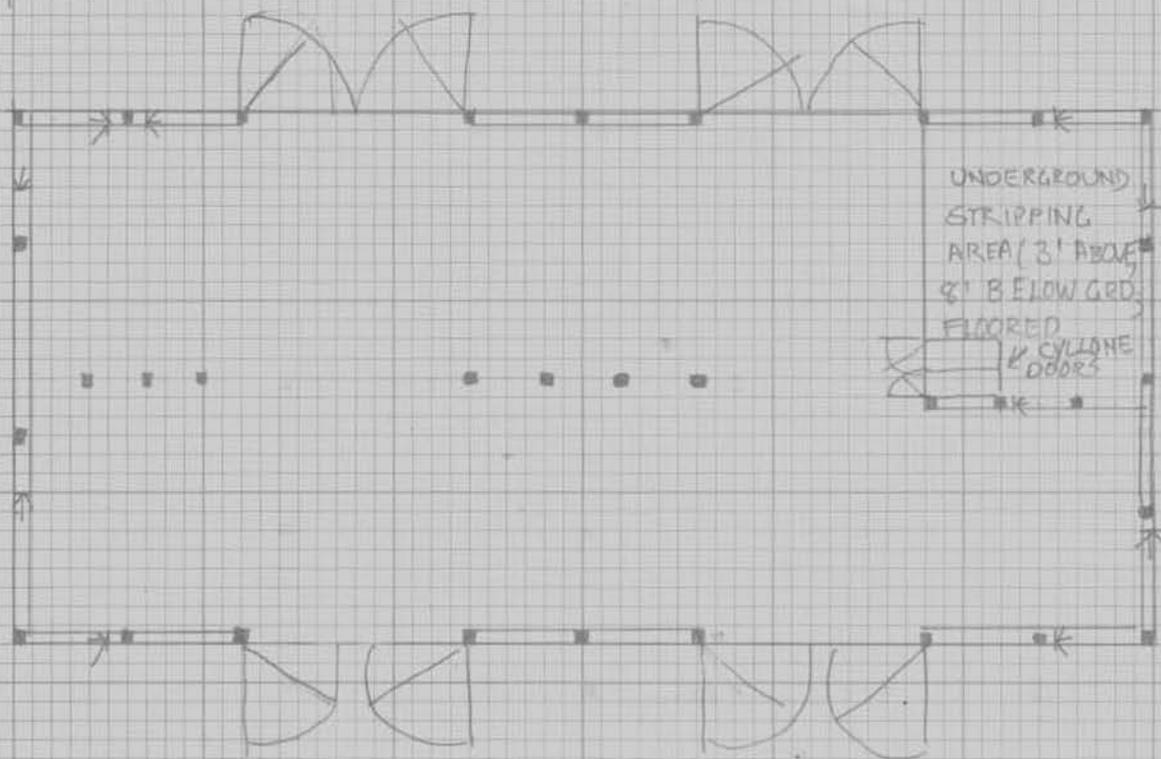
Historic Period theme(s): ca. 1830-; Tobacco; Agriculture
Geographic Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert Cty
MD
Chronological/Developmental Period: 1830-Present
Resource Type(s): Tobacco Barn

8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1075 (CONT.)

Among the other changes this barn has undergone are the addition of a shed to the south, at which time, presumably, the southwestern corner was covered with the narrow strip siding. This must have occurred not long after the barn was built, as early materials are seen in the south shed, and the strip siding is attached with early cut nails. At some time during the twentieth century a shed was added to the west. When the west shed was added, a doorway was cut out of the siding on the west wall of the south shed in order to allow passage into the new west shed. In addition, the barn and south shed have had the original shingle roof removed and replaced by metal.

CT-1075

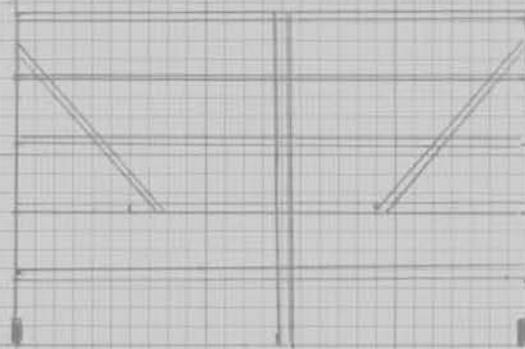
HICKS BARN 7 2049



$$\begin{array}{r} 12 \\ \times 42.5 \\ \hline 210.5 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 15 \\ 12 \overline{) 212.5} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 12 \\ 12 \overline{) 42.5} \end{array}$$



Section of E side

every other room in center of barn
lies permanently braced & nailed
like this

CT-1076

190 BARN #2048

HXKS BARN 6

40° 1/2

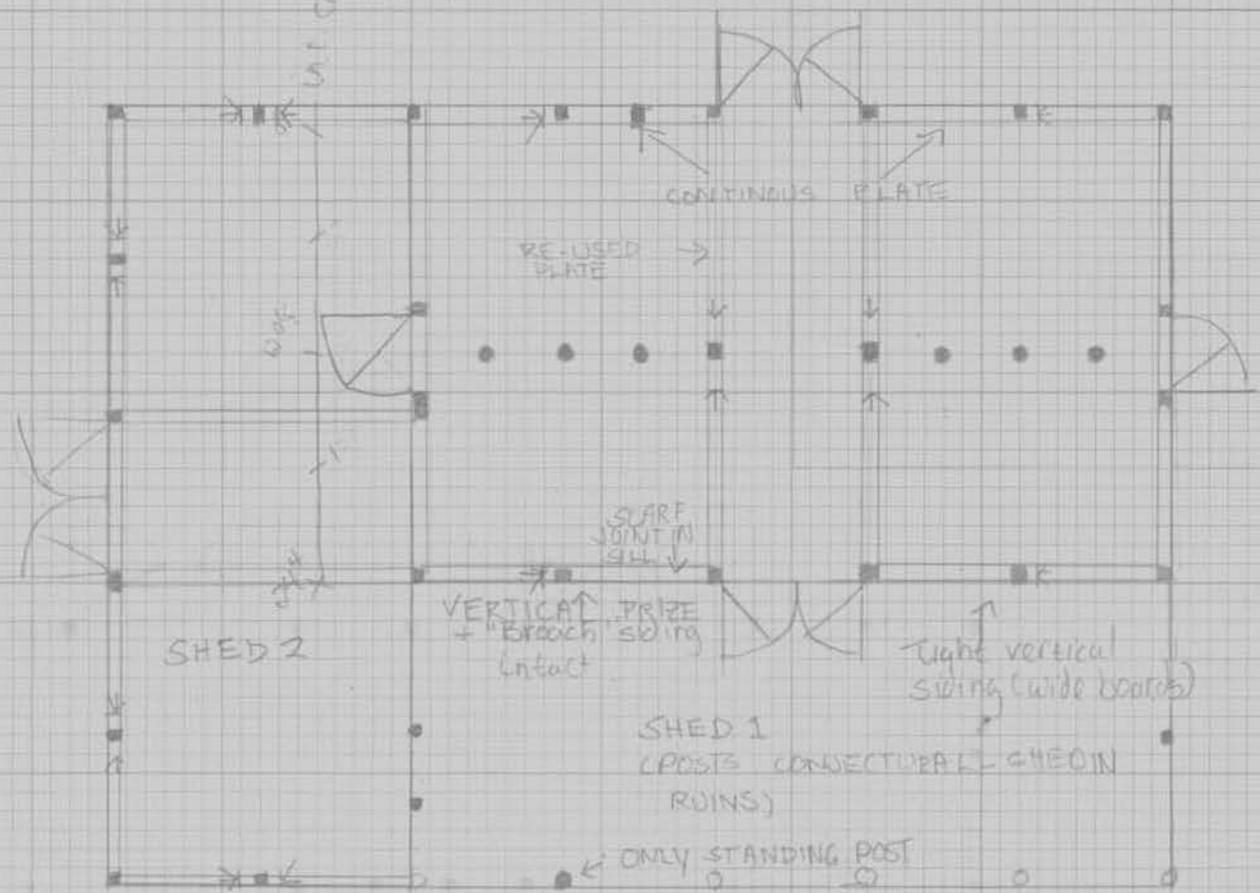
33° 3/4

33°

33°

158

8





CT-1075 Hicks Barn 'C'
Lower Marlboro
Tova L. Williamson
Southeast
April, 1990