

CAPSULE SUMMARY - PROUTY BARN 'A' (CT-1083)

Prouty Barn 'A' is part of a large farm on the banks of Patuxent River in Huntingtown. This wonderfully preserved farm provides an opportunity to study agricultural practices in Calvert County over the past 200 years. This barn was built in 1932 by a Mr. Wilkerson. The barn measures 40 x 24 feet with original sheds on the north and south sides. Four other sheds have been added to these and form a structure with multiple functions and divisions, including stable, hayloft, and hog pens. Vertical siding with hinged ventilation doors is found on the east and west sides and tightly fit vertical siding (presumably because the south shed was designed for use as a stable) covers the south side.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Prouty Barn A

2. Location

street & number Pott's Point Road _____ not for publication

city, town Huntingtown _____ Cox 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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name John Prouty

street & number Pott's Point Rd. _____ telephone no.: 535-0977

city, town Huntingtown _____ state and zip code MD 20639

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse _____ liber JLB 30

street & number Main Street (MD 765) _____ folio 117

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-1083

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-1083

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		

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-1083

The Prouty farm is a wonderfully preserved farm, perfect for the study of the development of tobacco farming in Calvert County. It has five barns recorded by this survey, four of which are dated twentieth century barns, and one of which is an early, possibly eighteenth century barn with wrought nails. Prouty barn A is situated on a flat plain to the north of the farm house. Prouty barn E is located to the south of A, and Prouty barn B is to the north. All three barns are located on the same farm road. According to Mr. Prouty, barn A was built in 1932 by a Mr. Wilkerson. This barn measures forty by twenty-four feet and has original sheds on the north and south sides. Four other sheds have been added on to these original sheds and form a structure with multiple functions and divisions.

The forty by twenty-four foot barn has a central aisle eight feet wide and is divided into four eight foot bays. Access is gained through the two original sheds on the north and south sides. There are no doors along the east or west sides. The frame is supported by concrete blocks piers on the north and south sides that face the sheds, and by continuous mortared concrete block foundations on the east and west sides. All of the timbers are circular sawn and toenailed with wire nails. The plate is constructed of three two by six inch boards laid on top of each other. Vertical siding with hinged ventilation doors cover the east and west sides of the barn. The south side of the barn has tightly fit vertical siding, presumably because the south shed was designed as a stable. The north side of the barn is open to the shed and has never had any siding.

The roof covers the entire structure including the barn and both north and south sheds. The rafters are on four foot centers and rest on flat false plates on the shed exterior walls. Although there is an internal top plate for the barn, the rafters extend across the entire structure, including the sheds. The roof was originally covered with wooden shingles. According to Mr. Prouty, this roof leaked and was later replaced by the current corrugated metal roof. Windbraces on each diagonal and three circular sawn collars support the roof. The tier poles are circular sawn, and separated by forty-eight inches vertical distance. There is one post located in the center of each half of the barn. This post has horizontal rails nailed to it to support the tier poles.

The original north and south sheds each measure fourteen feet wide and are divided along an eight foot bay system. They are built of the same materials as the barn, with the exception that the posts are peeled logs. There is a stripping area in the northeast side of the north shed. This stripping area has been extended eight feet beyond the edge of the barn by a concrete block addition. There is one single and a set of double doors along the west side of the north shed. The south shed has stable divisions for livestock and a hay loft above. There was originally one eight foot wide doorway

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1083 (CONT.)

centered on the south facade of the south shed, and a four-foot wide door on the east end of the south facade still remains, but is no longer used. Access to the south shed is now gained by walking between the posts of the original doorway.

There is a twenty foot wide open-air shed built onto the original southern shed facade. According to Mr. Prouty, this shed was added after the original construction period. On the west side of the barn, extending from the four southernmost feet of the barn to the outside wall of the open-air shed addition is an enclosed tobacco and corncrib storage area measuring twelve by thirty-eight feet. This storage shed is tightly sided and completely floored. There are hog pens and other sheds that extend to the east of the open-air shed addition, and a lean-to equipment shed along the entire east wall of the structure from the southern shed addition to approximately twenty feet beyond the north wall of the north shed. This barn has many additions and lean-to sheds all of which add on to each other.

8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1083

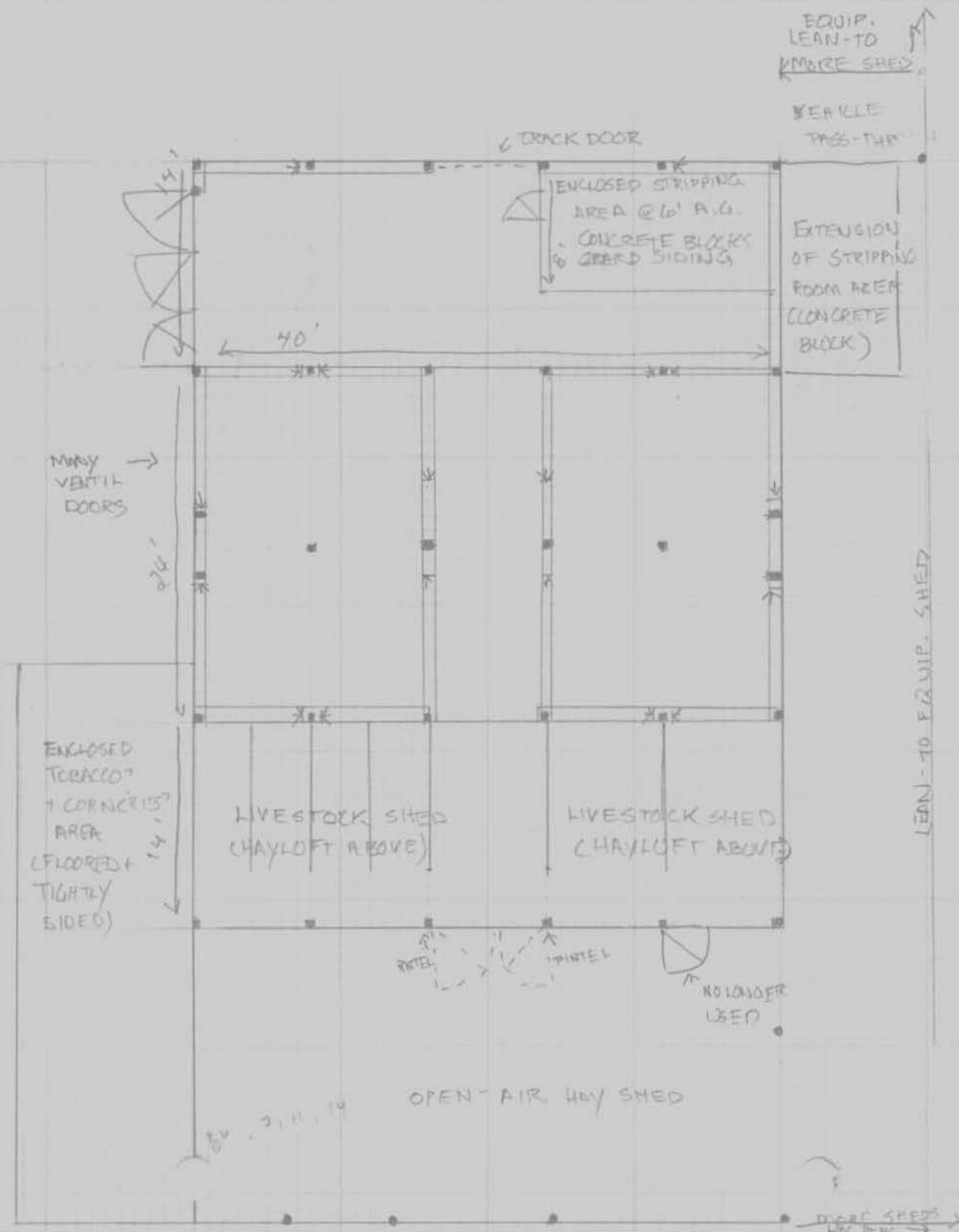
This barn is architecturally significant for several reasons. We have an exact date for its construction, 1932, and as such, it will enable us to interpret other undated twentieth-century tobacco barns. It was originally built as a traditional forty by twenty-four foot structure with an original shed on the north and south sides. The south shed served as a stable and hay loft. Over the years, multiple sheds with a variety of purposes were built onto the initial structure. This complex of buildings, each leaning on the other, is extremely unusual for Calvert County, where tobacco was king.

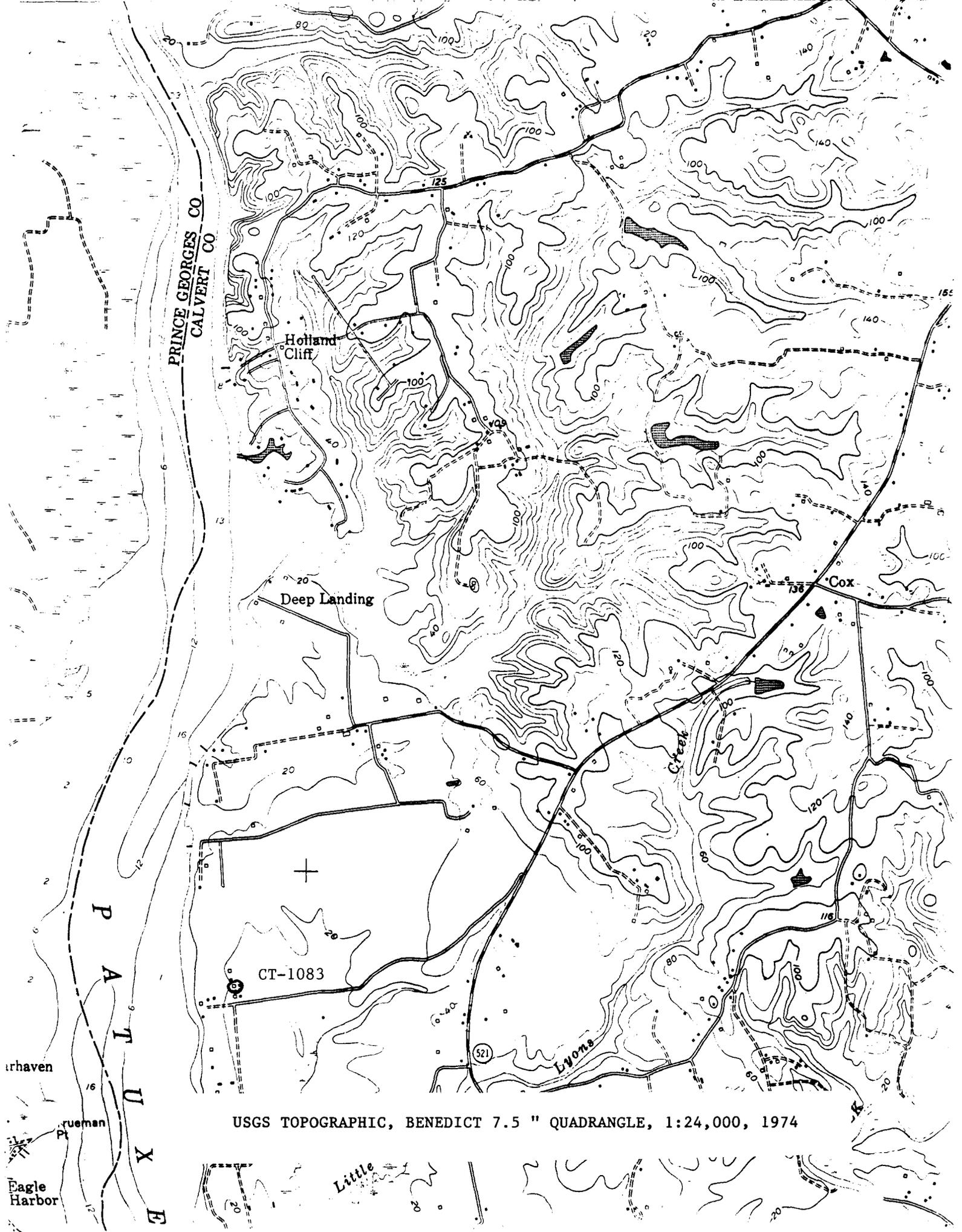
This barn also yields information regarding agricultural history in Southern Maryland. In February 1990, a tobacco barn survey was initiated in order to study the tobacco barns of Calvert County. Until fairly recently, tobacco was the most important farm crop of the county. More acreage was devoted to 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.

Historical Period theme(s): 1932-; Tobacco; Agriculture
Geographical Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert Cty MD
Chronological/Developmental Period: 1932-Present
Resource Type(s): Tobacco Barn

The original barn has had many changes over the years. These include the conversion of the south shed into stables and a hay loft, and the removal of doors from the south shed. The original shingle roof has been replaced by metal. The enclosed stripping room in the north shed has been extended by the addition of eight feet to the east. Multiple sheds have been built as lean-tos onto the initial structure.

CT-1083
BARN #2056 PROUTY 4/90





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



CT- 1083

Huntingtown

Tora L. Williamson

Southwest

April, 1990