

CAPSULE SUMMARY CT - 1098

One of the earliest barns yet recorded in the County, the W. Dowell Barn 'A' has been so extensively altered that from the outside it appears to represent a early- to mid- 20th century structure.

Structural and material evidence suggests that the earliest section was a 20 x 40 foot barn with an eight-foot aisle bisecting its east-west axis constructed early in the 19th century. Empty stud mortises and remaining studs on all sides indicate that horizontal clapboards originally covered the barn's exterior.

The present owner recalls extensive renovations to the barn c. 1925-26, which included a 36-foot extension to the east, a 14-foot southern shed, and a new roof which was centered over the entire structure. A 14 x 26 foot cinder block stripping room was added to the east corner of the south shed in c. 1957/8, and replaced an earlier, enclosed stripping room.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common William Dowell Barn A

2. Location

street & number 310 Dalrymple Road _____ not for publication

city, town Sunderland _____ 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	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

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

name William Dowell

street & number 310 Dalrymple Rd. _____ telephone no.: 257-6348

city, town Sunderland _____ state and zip code MD 20689

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse _____ liber JLB 44

street & number Main Street (MD 765) _____ folio 546

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-1098

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-1098

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
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-1098

William Dowell Barn A is located on the Dowell farm on Dalrymple Road. The farm house is on the north side of the road. Two of the three barns on the property are also on the north side of the road, and are reached via a farm road that runs behind the house and to the east. The farm house is on a hill. The farm road goes down hill behind the house. At the bottom of the hill is a dairy barn. The road then climbs up the next hill. Barn A and barn B are located on this second hill, on the north side of the farm road. The farm road curves past the south sides of A and B and then lets out onto Dalrymple road approximately one-quarter of a mile from the farm house entrance. Behind barn A, to the north, is a steep slope. To the south of barn A are fields. Barn A is oriented on an east-west axis. The barn measures overall seventy-six by twenty feet and has a fourteen foot wide shed on the south side. Inside this structure of modern appearance is an early cross-axial plan barn that measured forty by twenty feet. The early portion has hewn timbers and wrought nails. A thirty-four foot long addition has been built onto the early structure towards the east.

The early barn measures forty by twenty feet. It is divided into five eight foot bays, and contains ten rooms. There is a set of eight foot wide double doors on the north side, and there are pintel holes in the corresponding door posts on the south side. There is no sill between these door posts, and it appears that this arrangement is original, and that, unlike many early barns, the sill has not been cut out. The shed to the south is a modern addition, as is the thirty-six foot long addition to the east.

The frame of the early barn rests on a combination of large unmortared field stones and replacement concrete blocks with wooden sheathing around them. The posts are pit sawn and measure five and one-half by seven inches. They are joined via mortise and tenon with trunnel joints. The studs are pit sawn and joined via mortise and tenon also. The studs are joined to the down braces with wrought nails. The sill on the north and south facades is the original hewn timber measuring nine and three-quarters by seven inches. The sill on the east and west sides is a circular sawn replacement. The down braces measure nine and one half by four inches are pit sawn and joined via mortise and tenon with trunnels. Tie beams are five by seven inches, pit sawn and half-lapped. There are extant studs on two foot centers all along the south wall, and empty stud mortises in the original sill and plate of the north wall. The top plates on the east and west gable ends have empty stud mortises also. The studs have been re-used as nailers on the north and west sides.

7. DESCRIPTION (CONT.) CT-1098

The west gable end and north facade of the barn are sided with plain vertical wall siding. There are some single plank top-hinged ventilation doors every four feet along the north side. There is evidence that the south wall was sided, as was the east wall. The circular sawn tier poles are separated by forty inches vertical distance. Early peeled log tier poles have been removed and are laying in a corner of the barn. There is only one post down the central axis, and this is on the east side of the door aisle-way. There is no nailing evidence on the tie beams of indicating that posts were ever extant down the central axis, although this is the standard arrangement.

The barn addition measures thirty six feet long. It has two sets of eight foot wide double doors on the north facade immediately past its junction with the early barn. There are corresponding open doorways along the south facade. The posts, down braces, sills, nailers, and other timbers in this addition are all toe-nailed with wire nails. The siding on the barn addition north and east walls is also plain vertical siding with hinged ventilation doors. The tier poles in the addition are separated by the same vertical distance as those in the early barn section.

The barn roof is centered over the entire structure, including the south shed. The roof over the early barn was entirely removed when the barn was renovated in 1925. The new roof is covered with standing seem metal. It has rafters on four foot centers that rest on a flat false plate. Windbraces and four collars support the roof.

The south shed is fourteen feet wide and extends across the entire length of the barn. The frame of this shed is supported on poured concrete piers. The timbers are all circular sawn and toe-nailed with wire nails. The siding along the south facade is vertical. There are multiple doors along this south facade. There is one set of double doors that correspond to the doors of the early barn. The south facade of the shed that extends across the barn addition is almost entirely covered with doors. There are a window and studs in the southeast corner of the south shed, that may indicate that this area was originally a stripping room.

Attached to the east corner of the south shed is a fourteen by twenty-six foot cinder block, partially underground stripping room. The stripping room has no electricity, and is lit by three south-facing windows. The roof over the cinder-block stripping room slopes from west to east, and is covered by plywood. The stripping room has recently been used, as indicated by the presence of a March 1989 Wall Street Journal.

8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1098

This barn is architecturally significant for a variety of reasons. The early part of the barn has wrought nails in place and may date as early as the eighteenth century. As such, it is one of the oldest barns encountered during this survey. The addition to the early section and the re-building of the roof disguise the barn from the outside, and make it appear to be much more recent than it actually is. Indeed, the external appearance is that of a long, narrow, modern twentieth century barn. As such, it represents the futility of judging a barn from the exterior. The expansion of the barn during the twentieth century is indicative of the increasing size of the tobacco crop.

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

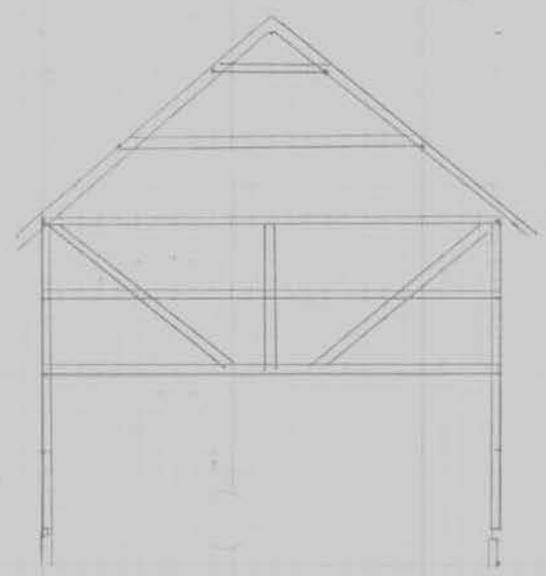
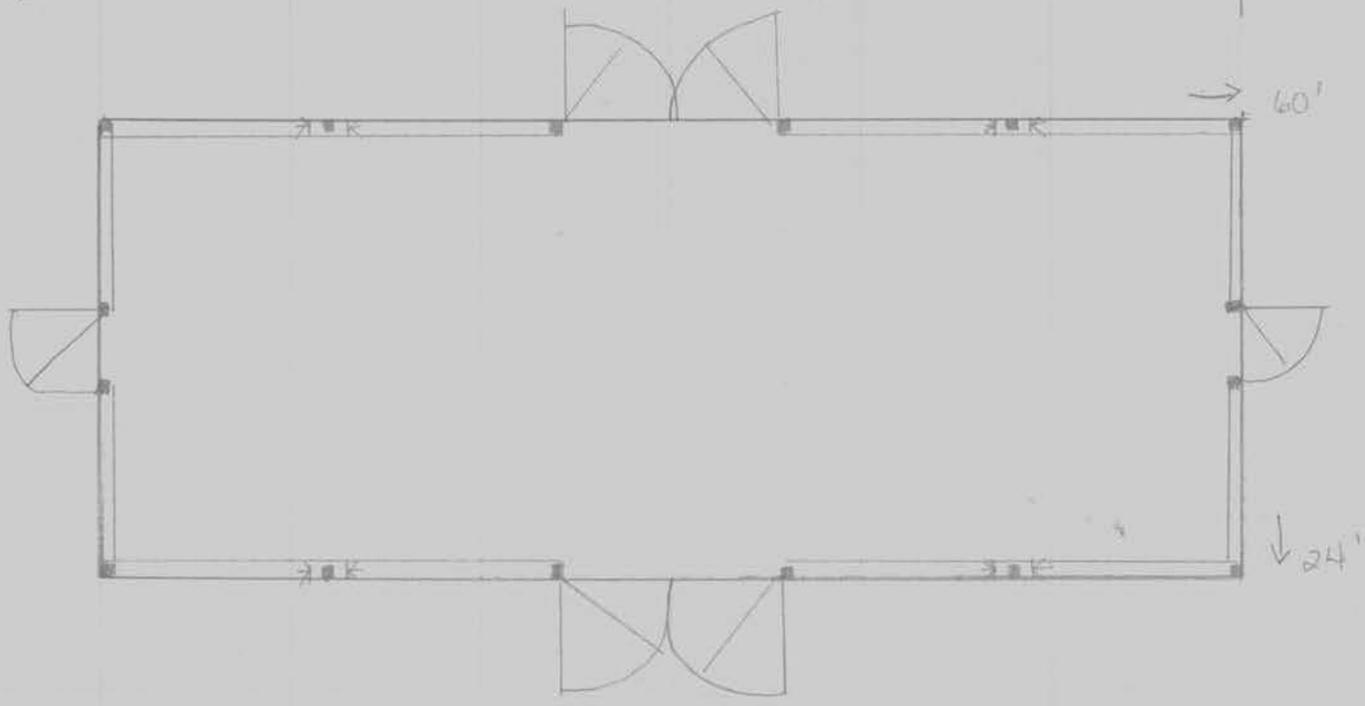
As stated on barn description, the structural evidence suggests the earliest section was a twenty by forty foot barn with an eight foot wide aisleway constructed prior to 1810. This early barn also had horizontal siding, as indicated by the empty stud mortises and remaining studs on all four sides. Empty mortises six feet above the sill level in all the major posts on the south exterior side of the early barn section suggest that there was an original shed on the south side. This corresponds with Mr. Leroy Dowell's recollection that there were originally "long" rafters in the south side. Extant nails and siding scars further suggest that this was a "stable" shed and was basically open-air. Both the present owner and his brother who also grew up on the farm remember the barn's renovation ca. 1925. At that time, a thirty-six foot long extension was added to the east and a fourteen foot wide shed spanning the entire seventy-six foot length was added to the south. The north wall of the barn was rebuilt at that time, and while the plate and posts were retained and some studs re-used as nailers, the north sill was removed. The horizontal siding was replaced

SIGNIFICANCE CT-1098 (CONT.)

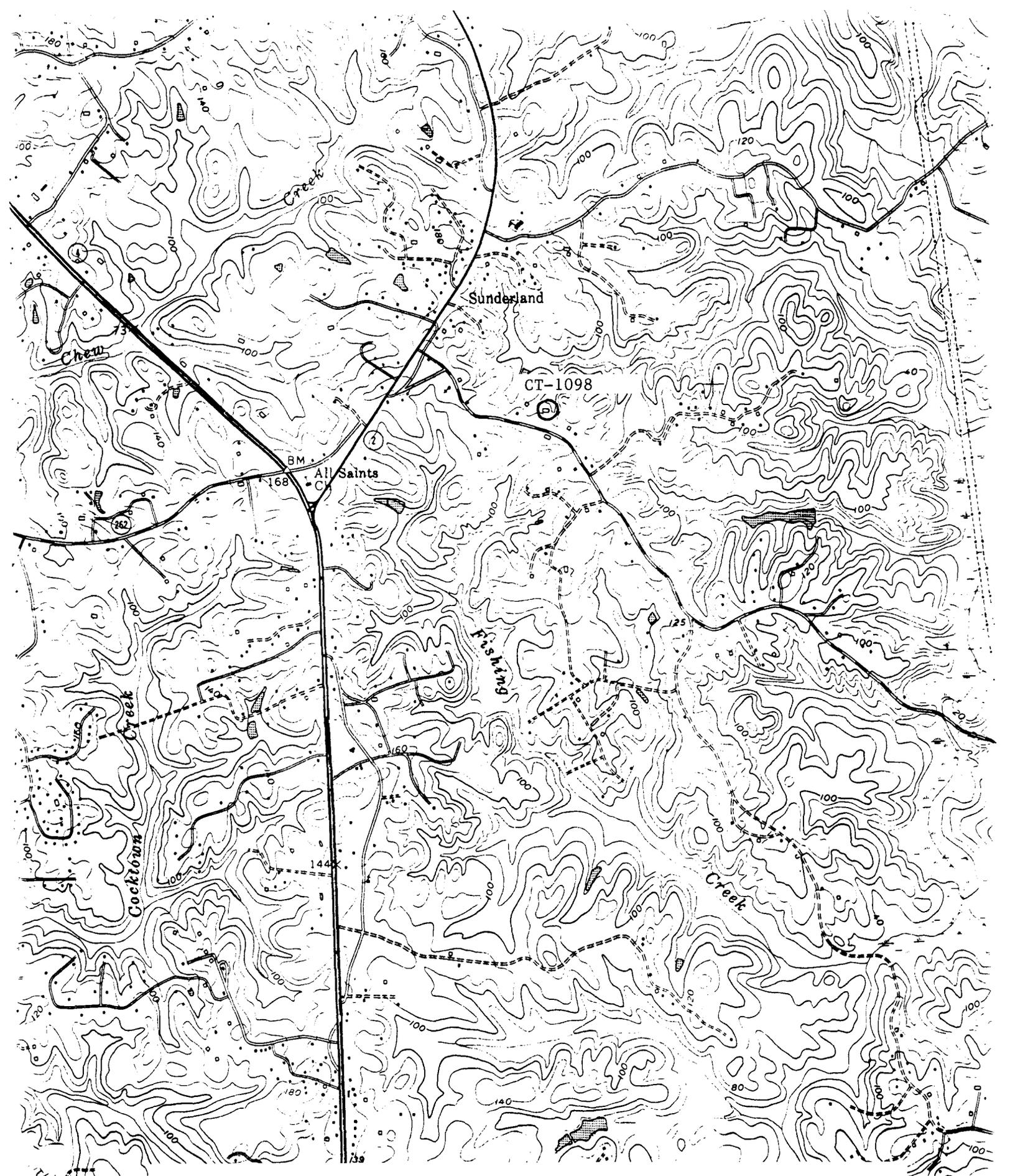
with vertical siding. Mr. Leroy Dowell remembers the roof being basically unchanged for about a year. In 1926 the roof over the old barn was changed to correspond with the roof over the new section and shed. The rebuilt roof was centered over the entire structure including the shed. All of the original members from the early barn roof were replaced. A horizontal nailer that cut in a diamond shape that may have originally been a tilted false plate remains in the early section of the barn. The support system was also updated at that time by inserting poured concrete where necessary, as replacements for the field stone supports. An enclosed stripping area was extant in the southeast corner of the south shed. Mr. William Dowell states that the cinder block stripping room dates to ca. 1957/58, and replaced the early enclosed stripping room.

BARN #2072 DOWELL BARN CT-1098

4/2/90



VERTICAL SECTION
LOOKING EAST AT 24'



USGS TOPOGRAPHIC, NORTH BEACH 7.5 " QUADRANGLE, 1:24,000, 1979



CT-1098

Sunderland

Tora L. Williamson

Southwest

April, 1990