

CAPSULE SUMMARY CT-1122

Yost/Williams barn A is located at the end of Williams Rd., approximately one mile from its intersection with Hallowing Point Road, outside of Prince Frederick Maryland. The property was previously held by the Williams family for several generations. Yost/Williams barn A is the westernmost of the three barns on the property. It is located on the north side of the main branch of the farm road. The nineteenth-century farm house is of Victorian Italianate style, and is located immediately to the south of Yost/Williams barn A. Both farm house and barn are set up on top of hills. The hill slopes down to the east and south below the barn. The barn itself measures thirty-two by twenty-four feet and has a cross-axial plan. There are sheds on all four sides. The ground on which the sheds rest, has been excavated into terraces below the barn. This excavation has resulted in earthen walls up to five feet high, beneath the sill of the barn where it joins with the shed walls. There is a large quantity of "strip" siding remaining on the body of the barn. The timbers are hewn and pit sawn, and the nails are fully mature machine-cut nails, thereby dating this unusual structure to ca. 1830.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Yost/Williams Barn A

## 2. Location

street & number J.W. Williams Rd.  not for publicationcity, town Barstow  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	<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: unused

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

name Paul Yost

street &amp; number Williams Rd. telephone no.: 535-4231

city, town Barstow state and zip code MD 20610

## 5. Location of Legal Description

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

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

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-1122

**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-1122

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:  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-1122

Yost/Williams barn A is located at the end of Williams Rd., approximately one mile from its intersection with Hallowing Point Road outside of Prince Frederick Maryland. At the end of Williams Road, one turns left (west) on to a dirt road that leads up to the Yost property. The property was previously held by the Williams family for several generations. There is a branch to the north off of the farm road that leads up to another tobacco barn, and at the intersection of the farm road and the branch, is yet another tobacco barn. Yost/Williams barn A is the westernmost of the three barns on the property. It is located on the north side of the main branch of the farm road, approximately fifty yards from where the farm road splits. The nineteenth-century farm house of Victorian Italianate style, is located immediately to the south of Yost/Williams barn A. Both farm house and barn are set up on top of hills. These hills slope down to the east below the structures. Associated with Yost/Williams barn A and slightly to the east of it is a nineteenth-century corn-crib/shed.

The barn itself measures thirty-two by twenty-four feet and has a cross-axial plan. There are sheds on all four sides. The barn is oriented on an east-west axis, and, as mentioned, set up on top of a hill. Due to the varying topography of the site, the barn and sheds rest on several different levels. This topography has been exaggerated by excavating the ground of the sheds in order to allow for a level structure to be built on a hillside. This excavation has resulted in earthen walls up to five feet high, beneath the sill of the barn where it joins with the shed walls. This is an extremely unusual barn for this reason. The timbers are hewn and pit sawn and the nails are fully mature machine-cut nails.

The facades of the barn are divided into bays, each of which measure seven feet, and one four foot wide doorway. The gable ends are divided into seven and four foot wide bays. There are two four foot wide doorways on the north and south sides. The doors have been removed from these locations, but pintel holes remain in the posts where they once were located. As discussed, the earth has been excavated out in the area where the sheds stand. The resulting earthen walls have had fieldstones and logs inserted for additional support, and have had mortar applied to glue it all together. The sills of the barn rest on these walls. The height of these walls/foundations varies from two feet, to five feet six inches, dependent upon the topography.

The barn has a heavy timber frame on continuous sills. The posts measure five by five inches, and four by six inches. They are joined via mortise and tenon with trunnels to the top plate, and nailed to the sill. The down braces are inserted beneath the post, and the post has been sliced at a diagonal in order to allow insertion of the down brace. Down braces measure seven by three inches and are hewn and pit sawn. They are joined to the posts via mortise and tenon. The nailers to attach siding are not used to support tier poles. The nailers are light timbers measuring two

## 7. DESCRIPTION CT-1122 (CONT.)

and one half by two and one half inches, and joined via mortise and tenon to the post. These nailers are separated by approximately forty-seven inches vertical distance and are hewn and pit sawn. The sill measures eleven by seven inches, is hewn, and held to the adjacent sill via mortise and tenon joints with trunnels at the corners. The north wall of the barn has some unusual small, peeled log poles, that are mortised into the sill and extend from it to the second tier pole level. There are two pairs of these poles, each pole is separated by four feet from its mate, and the pairs are inset between the barn posts on either side of the north door. It is unknown what function these posts served.

The siding on this barn is unusual. The north and west walls are entirely covered with narrow (one to two inch wide) vertical strips that are pit sawn and held with fully mature machine cut nails. These strips allow a great deal of ventilation, as they are separated by two to three inches between. The remaining nail pattern on the east and south walls, indicates that this strip siding was probably originally in place here also. Some of this strip siding remains in the southwest corner of the south wall of the barn, but most has been removed.

The roof was shingled. There are shingles in place underneath the corrugated metal, over the entire barn. The roof rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. The top plate is hewn, and the posts are joined to it via mortise and tenon with trunnel joints. The tie beams are hewn and lapped over the plate.

There are four peeled log poles down the central axis. They are separated by eight feet width between. They measure six inches in diameter. They are half-lapped to the tie beams above them. The tier poles are inserted into holes that are drilled out of these poles.

There are peeled log poles on the north and south walls. These poles serve as tier pole supports rather than the nailers (customary practice). They are four inches in diameter and supported on small round pegs. Fully mature machine cut nails nail these poles to the posts. They are separated by thirty-seven inches vertical distance. There are four levels of tier poles inside the barn before the tie beams.

All four sheds appear original. This is concluded by several pieces of evidence. All the sheds are connected by means of a continuous roof over them. The roof is hipped at the corners, and shingles and shingle nailers extend from the corner of one shed to the other. The entire barn once had strip siding, therefore it seems likely that the walls of the barn were not entirely exposed, and must have had sheds protecting the barn itself from the weather. There are no nails or nails holes visible at the junction of the shed rafters with the barn rafters, on any of the sheds. In addition, the materials and techniques used in the construction of each of the sheds, include similar hewn and pit sawn timbers and

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1122 (CONT.)

fully mature machine cut nails.

The north shed measures thirteen feet wide. The slope is least steep where this shed was built, and the floor of the shed is excavated only one to two feet below the level of the barn floor. The doors into this shed have hand wrought hinges and are centered along the north wall. The posts are now supported on concrete block masonry piers, but they were originally earth-fast posts. Tie beams measure six and one half by five inches, and are hewn and lapped. The plate is five by five inches and hewn. The false plate is flat and measures one by six inches. The nailers measure two and one half by two and one half inches and are pit sawn and hewn. The posts are unpeeled trees, ten inches in diameter, that are joined via mortise and tenon and held with trunnels. Concrete block supports have been inserted beneath them, and replace the original earth-fast post construction. Tier poles are peeled logs resting on the nailers. There is no sill on the north wall. The roof is covered with metal, but plain wooden shingles are visible underneath. The east wall of this north shed has "strip" siding, where it joins with the east shed. Separating the north shed from the west is a "wall" that is inset six feet to the east from the northwest corner of the barn. This "wall" has a five foot wide doorway and is sided with narrow strip siding. The exterior north wall of the north shed has plain vertical siding with minimal ventilation. Some of this siding consists of one to two foot wide boards that are pit sawn and nailed with fully mature machine cut nails. The lower half of the internal north wall of the barn has horizontal weatherboards nailed to it with wire nails. These must be a later addition, and probably replace the original strip siding that is in place on the upper half of this wall.

The west shed measures fourteen feet wide. It does not cover the entire length of the barn, rather it extends from the junction with the north shed, twenty-nine feet to the south. It ends seven feet before the southwest corner of the barn. There is a double door on the south wall of this shed that allows access into it. The timbers are the same as those in the north shed. A horizontal prize is located in its northern portion. It had a shingle roof, all of which has been removed. Some of the shingle nailers remain. At the north corner of the west shed, where it joins with the north shed, the tie beams switch directions and run east-west. This shed is excavated two feet below ground. All the posts now rest on a circular sawn replacement sill. It was originally of earth-fast post construction.

The east shed measures fourteen feet wide and extends across the entire length of the barn, including the width of the north and south sheds. It is excavated five feet below the level of the barn floor. There is a double door entrance centered along its east wall, and one four foot wide entrance on its south wall. Both the nailers and siding appear to be replacements -- they are circular sawn and nailed with wire nails. The tie beams, rafters and plate

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1122 (CONT.)

are hewn. The original earth-fast cedar posts are now set up on concrete blocks. Beyond the edges of the barn the tie beams run north-south. Inside the barn area, they run east-west. It has a combination of horizontal and vertical siding on its external north side, and plain vertical siding on the external east and south walls. There is narrow strip siding on the west walls of the east shed, where it joins with the north and south sheds, and the nailing pattern on the east wall of the barn indicates that this strip siding was at one time in place here also.

The south shed is fourteen feet wide. The posts were earth-fast, but concrete blocks have been inserted beneath. They are separated by eight to twelve feet between. The two twelve foot wide bays are both open-air. All of the timbers are the same as those described in the north shed. The shed has been excavated four feet below the barn ground level. The shed has shingles that are now covered with metal in place over its roof. The original four foot wide door into the south wall of the barn lies in the shed. There are hand-wrought strap hinges on this door.

### 8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1122

This barn is extremely unusual in several elements of its construction, and typical of nineteenth century-barns in others. The features of the barn that are typical, include its thirty-two by twenty-four foot measurements and its cross-axial plan. Unusual elements of this barn include the large amount of remaining vertical "strip" siding, an item encountered in several other nineteenth-century barns documented by this survey, but never in such abundance. This type of siding indicates one of the ways nineteenth-century barns were ventilated. Also unusual is the way the barn has been built on the summit of the hill, and the sheds have been built on the descending slope. The floor of the sheds has been excavated out beneath the barn thereby creating the effect of a barn built on a summit surrounded by sheds built on "terraces" below. By means of this method, the barn is supported on large mortared earthen walls. Other, remaining unusual elements include the fact that separate peeled logs are used, rather than the nailers, to support the tier poles. Also unusual are the pairs of peeled log posts located on the north wall of the barn, that extend only as high as the second tier pole level. The purpose of these posts is unknown. These elements, and the largely integral original elements of the barn, combine to form a structure of great historical and architectural significance and integrity for the study of tobacco barns in nineteenth-century Southern Maryland.

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

This barn has undergone relatively few changes over the centuries it has existed. The original shingle roof has been replaced by metal, and small portions of the siding have been replaced and/or removed. The earth-fast posts have been set up on concrete blocks in order to provide additional support. The barn is located on land that is currently under contract for sale, and will probably be demolished when the area is developed.

#2095 - CT-1122 Yost/Williams Barn A INTENSIVE LEVEL

Paul Yost, Williams Rd. Prince Frederick MD

Dir: Rt. 231 to Williams Rd. to end of road on left

Recorders: PJM and TW

Weather: 60 degrees slightly cloudy

Original site, altered (new siding and roof)

Good condition

East-west axis sheds on all four sides

Barn approximately four feet above ground (in s. shed); five feet above ground in east shed, one foot above ground in north shed;

Fieldstone and earthen foundations - mortared. Varied height from two to five feet six inches.

Heavy timber frame on continuous sills. Posts five by five inches, and four by six inches, mortise and tenon with trunnels. Interesting feature joint with down braces (down braces inserted beneath post and post bevelled in order to allow insertion), posts are nailed to sill. Down braces seven by three inches average hewn and pit sawn, mortise and tenon at top to post. Nailers to attach siding not used to support tier poles. Light two and one half by two and one half inches mortise and tenon approx. forty-seven inches apart, hewn and pit sawn. Sill eleven by seven inches, hewn, mortise and tenon with trunnels at corners. No cross sill no evidence of horizontal siding.

North and west walls have small, random-width five-seven inch pit sawn fully mature machine cut nails separated by two to three inches distance "Strip siding". Evidence (nail pattern) for this on east and south walls.

Roof was shingled (in place underneath corrugated metal). Rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. Top plate hewn, tie beams lapped, posts mortise and tenon with trunnel.

Peeled log posts on north wall approx. four inches diameter supported on small round shims - fm m.c. nails. These peeled log posts serve as tier pole supports. They are separated by thirty-seven inches vertical distance, and rest on pegs in posts. There are four levels of tier poles before the tie beam. Tier poles are mortised into poles down the central axis, and half-lapped to the tie beams above. Poles down central axis are peeled logs approximately six inches in diameter. There is a horizontal prize in the northwest shed. It is a screw prize with metal wheels and track made of circular sawn timbers combined with some re-used hewn timbers.

All four sheds appear original, have hipped roof, strip siding, no nails visible at the junction of the shed rafters with the barn rafters.

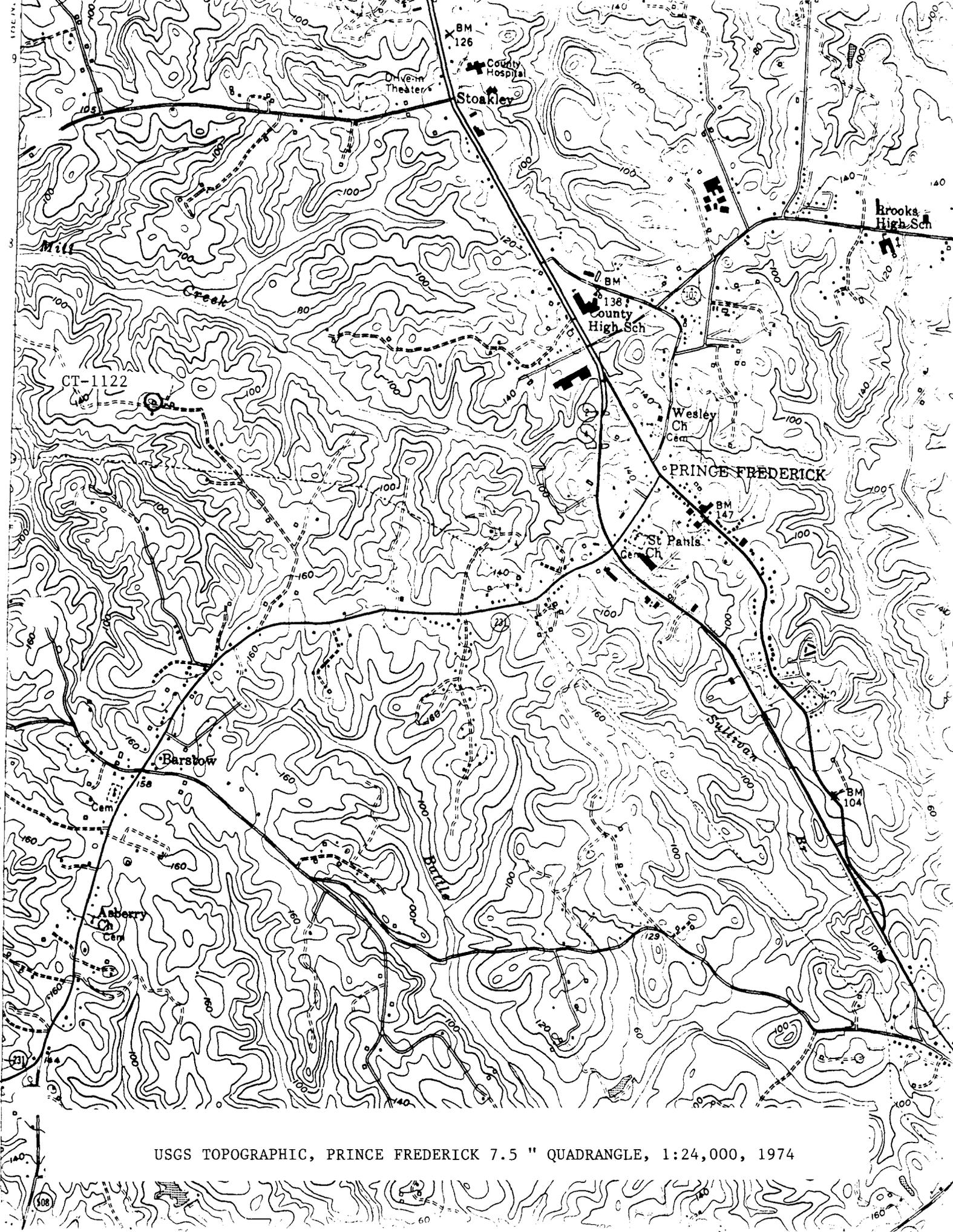
**North Shed:**

Door has a hand wrought hinge. Supported on concrete block masonry piers and by earth-fast posts. Tie beams six and one half by five inches, hewn and lapped. Nailers two and one half by two and one half pit sawn and hewn. Posts are unpeeled trees approx. ten inches in diameter mortise and tenon with trunnels, set on inserted concrete block supports. Plate is five by five inches and hewn. False plate is flat and measures one by six inches. Tier poles are peeled logs resting on nailers. No sill on north wall. The roof is hipped in the corners, covered with metal, but plain wooden shingles are underneath. The east side has "strip" siding, no siding on west or empty mortises, exterior north wall plain vertical siding with minimal ventilation some one foot to two foot wide boards pit sawn are on external wall. Internal north wall of barn has horizontal weatherboards on the lower half. These are circular sawn and nailed to the posts with f.m.m.c. nails.

West shed: Timbers same as in north shed. Has horizontal prize. Was shingle roof (all removed) some of shingle nailers remain. At north corner of barn, tie beams switch directions. Shed is excavated approx. two feet below ground. All posts now rest on circular sawn replacement sill (was originally earth-fast post construction).

East shed: has combination horizontal and vertical siding on north side. Nailers and siding appear to be replacements -- circular sawn and nailed with wire nails. Tie beams, rafters and plate are hewn. Beyond edges of barn tie beams run north-south. Inside barn area run east-west. Originally earth-fast cedar posts now set on concrete blocks. Excavated five feet six inches below barn ground level.

South shed: Earth-fast posts. Excavated four feet below barn ground level. Interior siding along east wall "strip" siding of east shed. Original shingle roof - shingles now covered with metal. Pintels in place for early barn door. Concrete block supports under original earth-fast posts. Old strap hinges on door. Tie beams and rafters hewn. Nailers are other timbers same as in north shed.



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



CT. 1122

YOST/WILLIAMS BARN

BARSTOW

TORA L. WILLIAMSEN

SOUTHWEST

JUNE, 1990