

CAPSULE SUMMARY CT-1134

Prout barn C is located on the Prout farm on Mt. Harmony Road. The barn is on the south side of the road, approximately one mile from its junction with highway four. It is next to the road and set on top of a small hill. The nineteenth-century farm house is located on the north side of the road. The barn was built ca. 1924 after a tornado destroyed all of the barns on the property. The barn measures forty by twenty-four feet and has a sixteen foot wide shed on its south side. Much of the timber and other materials used in the construction of this barn are re-used and probably belonged to the original, earlier, incarnation of the barn prior to the tornado.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Prout Barn C

2. Location

street & number W. Mt. Harmony Rd. not for publicationcity, town Owings vicinity of congressional districtstate 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 Prout Farm (name withheld at owner's request)

street & number W. Mt. Harmony Rd. telephone no.: 257-3782

city, town Owings state and zip code MD 20736

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Main Street (MD 765) folio

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-1134

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-1134

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.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CT-1134

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Lower Marlboro, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

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

c/o Calvert County historic District Commission
 organization Dept. of Planning and Zoning date June 30, 1990

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-1134

Prout barn C is located on the Prout farm on Mt. Harmony Road. The barn is on the south side of the road, approximately one mile from its junction with highway four. It is next to the road, and set on top of a small hill. The nineteenth-century farm house is located on the north side of the road. The barn was built ca. 1924 after a tornado destroyed all of the barns on the property. The barn measures forty by twenty-four feet and has a sixteen foot wide shed on its south side. Much of the timber, and other materials used in the construction of this barn, are re-used and probably belonged to the original, earlier, incarnation of the barn prior to the tornado.

The barn is divided into five eight foot wide bays. It has a cross-axial plan, with a double door on its south side, and two four foot wide doors on its east and west sides. Wooden blocks and large unmortared field stones support the frame. The posts are large hewn timbers joined via mortise and tenon with trunnel joints. The down braces are hewn and toe-nailed. There are mortises in the sill next to the spot where they are toe-nailed, but these mortises are not used. It is likely that they were the original locations, prior to the re-building after the tornado. There are two cross sills. One is hewn and one is circular sawn. The horizontal nailing rails are both hewn and circular sawn, and they are toe-nailed. The remaining mortises from the early barn, are not used for the horizontal nailing rails, either. The first four feet of the north top plate has empty stud mortises on two foot centers. The rest of the north top plate is circular sawn and new. The south top plate has empty mortises every two feet. It is probable the original plate for the first incarnation of this barn. Sills and top plates are, therefore, a combination of both circular sawn and hewn (re-used) material. There are multiple scarf joints where the new material is joined to the old.

The re-used rafters are narrow, and there is one piece of lumber used as a nailer that is cut in a diamond shape, so the early barn possibly had rafters on two foot centers and a tilted false plate. There are shingle nailers on the north side of the roof. The south side of the roof and the shed have an original corrugated metal roof. The siding is vertical. There are some one foot wide pit sawn boards on the eastern half of the south wall of the barn, that are attached with fully mature machine cut nails. These boards probably remain from the siding that covered the early barn. The rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. There are two windbraces, one on each diagonal, along the north side, and three collars that help support the roof. The tier poles are peeled logs separated by thirty-nine inches vertical distance. There are peeled log poles down the central axis, that have circles drilled out and pegs inserted into them. The tier poles then rest on these pegs. A new central axis pole has been built, that is formed of two, two by six inch timbers with a block inserted in the middle, on which the tier pole rests. "TP" is carved into the doorpost, and "Thad E. Prout" is painted in red on the lintel above

7. Description CT-1134 (continued)

the doorposts. The south half of the east gable end of the barn has windows in the lower two tier pole levels, and the wall is double-sided. This area was probably once a stripping area.

The shed measures sixteen feet wide. The frame is supported on poured concrete piers. It is built of a combination of circular sawn and hewn, re-used material. More circular sawn material is used here than in the barn, including the tie beams and rafters. It seems probable that the barn, prior to the tornado, did not have a shed. The siding of the shed is vertical, and it has three hinged ventilation doors on the east and west sides, and six on the south. The roof is covered with corrugated metal.

8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1134

This barn is significant for a variety of reasons. It is part of a complex of barns built after a tornado destroyed all of the tobacco barns on the property in the 1920s. This barn is built almost entirely of re-used timbers from a much earlier, possibly eighteenth century, tobacco barn. As such, it provides an interesting example of how timbers are re-used in a newer structure. This can be studied in great detail in this barn.

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. 1920 Tobacco; Agriculture
Geographical Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert Cty MD
Chronological/Developmental Period: ca. 1920-Present
Resource Type(s): Tobacco Barn

An interesting case is presented by this barn. It provides clues to an earlier structure within its present incarnation. According to the owner, the original barn was blown down by a tornado in the 1920s. This barn was then built of re-used timbers from the original barn. These re-used timbers tell us that the original barn had horizontal siding, wide, tightly fit pit-sawn board siding, a tilted false plate, and, by inference, rafters on two foot centers. These elements date the original barn to the early nineteenth, or possibly even the eighteenth century. It is likely that this original barn also measured forty by twenty-four feet, although it may have been smaller. When the barn was re-built after the tornado, the old method of mortise and tenon joinery was abandoned for toe-nailed timbers, and a sixteen foot wide shed was added to the south either at this time, or at a slightly later date. The southeast corner of the barn was originally a stripping area.

8. Significance CT-1134 (continued):

The barn originally had horizontal siding with no shed. It probably measured forty by twenty-four feet, although it may have been smaller. This barn was blown down t\by the tornado in the mid 1920s. It was rebuilt with and added sixteen foot wide shed. The re-used rafters are narrow, and there is one piece of lumber used as a nailer that is cut in a diamond shape, so the early barn probably had rafters on two foot centers and a tilted false plate.

Field Notes

CT-1134

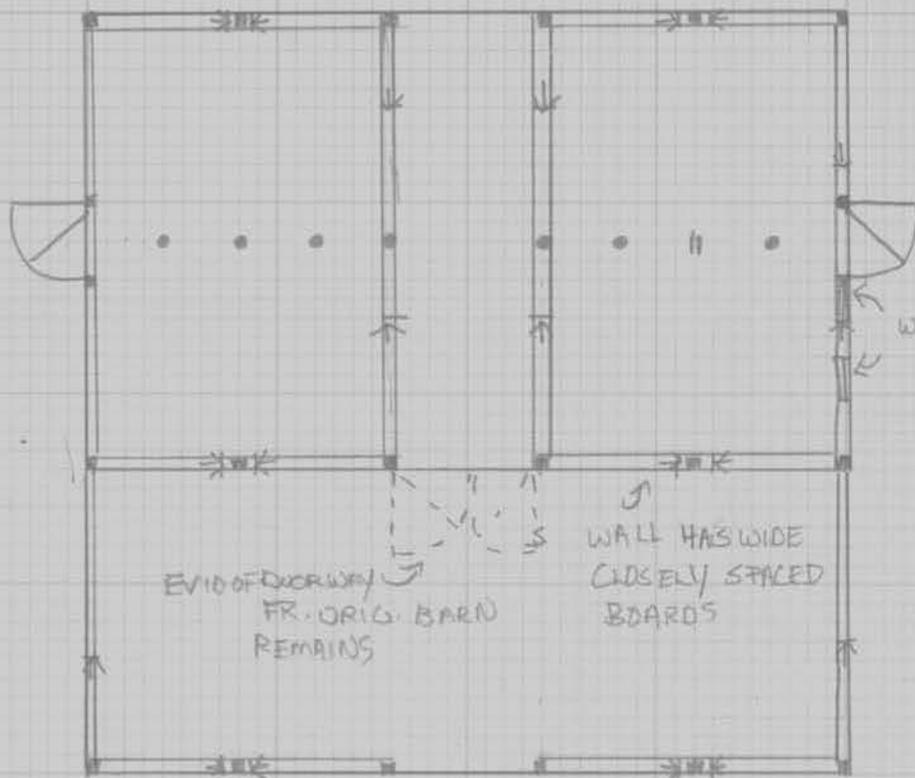
#2107 - 5/18/90 - Prout Farm, Mt. Harmony Rd.
Four to Mt. Harmony Rd. Private ownership, unoccupied. TW
recorder. Sunny and warm weather. Altered, fair-deteriorated
condition.

Barn located approximately one mile down Mt. Harmony Road, on the south side of the road. It is next to the road and set on top of a small hill. This barn was built of earlier materials. It was built in 1928 after a tornado destroyed all of the barns on the property. There is therefore, consistent with this story, much re-use of material.

Wooden blocks, large unmortared field stones and concrete blocks (on shed) support the frame. The posts are large hewn timbers mortised and tenon with trunnel. The down braces are hewn and toenailed. There are mortises next to the spot where they are toenailed in the sill, but they are not used. There are two cross sills. One is hewn and one is circular sawn. The horizontal nailing rails are both hewn and circular sawn. They are toenailed. The mortises from the early barn are not used. The first four feet of the north top plate has empty stud mortises on two foot centers. The rest of the north top plate is circular sawn and new. The south top plate has empty mortises every two feet. Sills and top plates are both circular sawn and hewn (re-used) material. There are multiple scarf joints where the new material is joined to the old. There are shingle nailers on the north side of the roof. The south side of the roof and the shed has an original corrugated metal roof. The siding is vertical. there are some one foot wide pit sawn boards on the south wall of the barn that are attached with f.m.m.c. nails. These boards probably remain from the early barn. The rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. there are two windbraces, one on each diagonal along the north side. Three collars also help support the roof. The tier poles are peeled logs separated by thirty-nine inches vertical distance. There are peeled log poles down the central axis that have circles drilled out and pegs inserted into them. The tier poles then rest on these pegs. A new pole has been built that is formed of two, two by six inch timbers with a block inserted in the middle on which the tier pole rests. "TO" has been carved into the doorpost, and "Thad E. Prout" is painted in red on the lintel above the doorposts. The south half of the east gable end of the barn has windows in the lower two tier pole levels and the wall is double-sided. This area may possibly have been a stripping area.

The shed is supported on poured concrete piers. It is built of a combination of circular sawn and hewn re-used material. More circular sawn material is used here than in the barn, including the tie beams and rafters. It seems probable that the barn, prior to the tornado, did not have a shed. The siding of the shed is vertical and it has three hinged ventilation doors on the east and west sides, and six on the south. The roof is covered with corrugated metal.

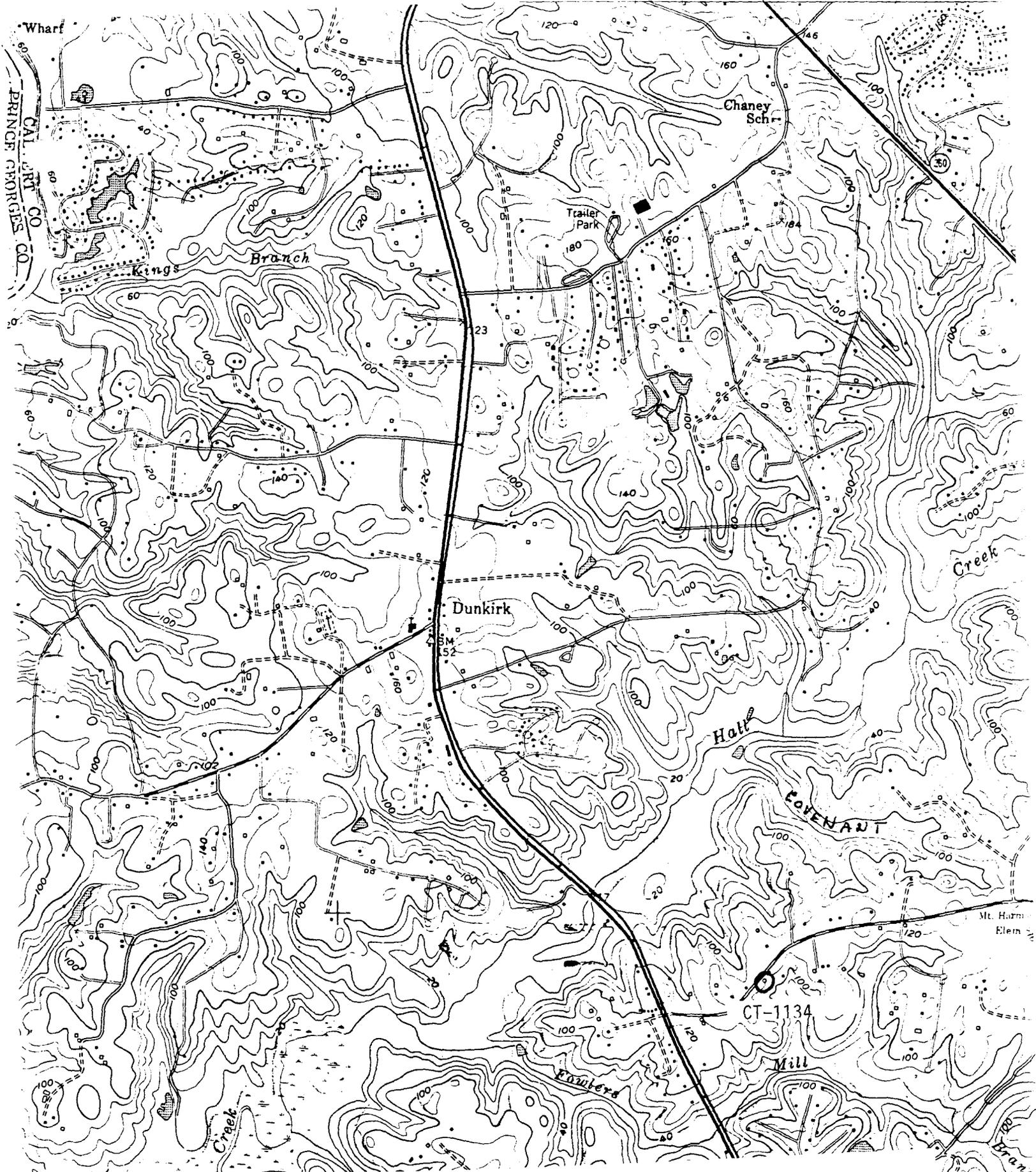
CT-1134
PROUT FARM BARN C
5/18/90 DW
#2107



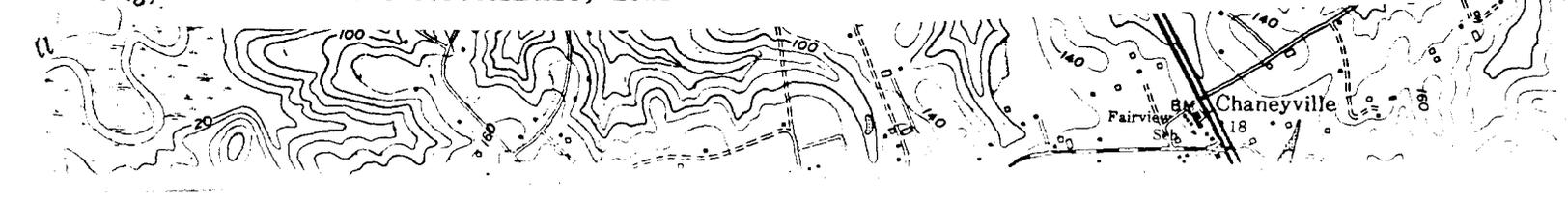
WINDOWS IN LOWER 2 TIERS + WALL DOUBLE-SIDED
STRIPPING AREA?

EVID OF DORWAY
FR. ORIG. BARN
REMAINS

WALL HAS WIDE
CLOSELY SPACED
BOARDS



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





CT-1134

FRONT BAY

DUNKIRK

TERA E. WILLIAMS

SOUTH WEST

MAY, 1990