CAPSULE SUMMARY
Merkle Natural Resources Management Area
PG: 82B-42 and CT-1313
Upper Marlboro vicinity
Prince George's County, Maryland
NRMA=1970
Public

The Merkle Natural Resources Management Area (NRMA) encompasses approximately 1,678 acres along the banks of the Patuxent River; 113 acres are in Calvert County and 1,565 acres in Prince George's County. Merkle NRMA was established in 1970; land was assembled between 1970 and 1986. MdDNR began active management of the property following the death of Mr. Edgar Merkle in 1984. Mr. Edgar Merkle was a noted conservationist who supported the conservation of the Canada goose on Maryland's Western Shore between 1932 and 1960. Mr. Merkle is credited with bringing the Canada goose back to the Western Shore of Maryland by creating and managing a habitat at the Merkle Wildlife Farm to support migratory and wintering geese.

The portion of the NRMA incorporating the original Merkle Wildlife Farm that is managed under the Goose Management Protocol possesses the qualities of significance associated with conservation history in Maryland in the twentieth century. The former wildlife farm meets the definition of a historic vernacular landscape in that it was purposely shaped by Mr. Edgar Merkle to further the conservation of the Canada goose on Maryland's Western Shore (Criteria A and B). The 445 acres managed by the Goose Management Protocol represents the theme of wildlife conservation through the designed landscape of fields, cropland, fencing, and the system of freshwater ponds created to provide water to wildlife. The buildings on the property do not contribute to the goose conservation landscape.

Of the former agricultural buildings, the Trueman farmstead with a complex of buildings dating from ca. 1900 through ca. 1940 possesses the qualities of significance to illustrate an early twentieth-century farmstead that may qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The Trueman farmstead contains a main house, associated outhouses, a chicken coop, two corncribs, a silo, and three tobacco barns. The layout of the buildings is retained and the individual buildings, many of which are in poor condition, retain sufficient integrity to illustrate their property types. The ca. 1945 tenant house and its three outbuildings and the ca. 1955 horse barn and feeder trough do not contribute to the farmstead. No other buildings on the NRMA possess the qualities of significance necessary for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C.

CT-1313
PG: 82B-42

As an NRMA, the management practices instituted by MdDNR that have affected the whole NRMA are not yet fifty years old. The visitor center, boardwalk, and trails on the property were constructed in the 1980s. The relatively recent creation of these features has not allowed the development of sufficient historical perspective to assess whether the Merkle NRMA is a significant entity within the history of conservation. At this point in time, it does not appear that Merkle NRMA possesses the qualities of significance as an NRMA necessary for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-1313 PG:82B-42

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Merkle Natural Resources Management Area
other	

2. Location

street and number	~~11704 Fenno Road~~	___	not for publication
city, town	Upper Marlboro	X	vicinity
county	Prince Georges		

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

name	Maryland Department of Natural Resources				
street and number	580 Taylor Avenue, E-3			telephone	410-260-8164
city, town	Annapolis	state	MD	zip code	21401

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Prince George's County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	multiple
city, town	Upper Marlboro	liber	folio

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

___ Contributing Resource in National Register District
___ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
___ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
X Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
___ Recorded by HABS/HAER
___ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
___ Other

6. Classification

Category
X district
___ building(s)
___ structure
___ site
___ object

Ownership
X public
___ private
___ both

Current Function
___ agriculture
___ commerce/trade
___ defense
___ domestic
___ education
___ funerary
___ government
___ health care
___ industry
___ landscape
X recreation/culture
___ religion
___ social
___ transportation
___ work in progress
___ unknown
___ vacant/not in use
___ other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
51		Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory 17

CT-1313

7. Description

Inventory No. PG:82B-42

Condition

___	excellent	___	deteriorated
___	good	___	ruins
X	fair	___	altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

RESOURCE COUNT

Resources NR eligible = 11
Resources not NR eligible = 20
Resources not evaluated = 16

TOTAL= 47

SUMMARY

The Merkle Natural Resources Management Area (NRMA), also known as Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS), is located in the east-central region of Prince George's County on Maryland's interior Coastal Plain and extends across the Patuxent River into a small portion of Calvert County. The NRMA encompasses approximately 1,678 acres along the banks of the Patuxent River; 1,565 acres are in Prince George's County and 113 acres are in Calvert County (MdDNR 2002). The eastern boundary of the Merkle NRMA in Calvert County is located along the terrace line that rises out of the flood plain. The northern portion of the Merkle NRMA is bounded by Patuxent River Park, while the western and southern boundaries are bordered by private lands. The topography of the NRMA consists of a lowland marsh and flood plain along the banks of the river with two natural terraces, rising west of the marsh and flood plain.

The vegetation located within the Merkle NRMA ranges from wetland grasses to cultivated agricultural fields and natural secondary growth forest. The agricultural fields maintained by the NRMA are used to grow corn, millet, and other crops preferred by the geese and other waterfowl that frequent the grounds (MdDNR 2003). The natural secondary growth forest, found throughout the NRMA, comprises a mix of hardwood tree species and a low-lying understory.

In 1971, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Merkle transferred the 400-acre Merkle Wildlife Farm to the State of Maryland with the stipulation that the property be used as a wildlife sanctuary to support the restoration efforts of the Canada goose on Maryland's Western Shore. The former Merkle property forms the core of the sanctuary and is the property that Mr. Merkle managed to support Canada geese. At the center of the property is the visitor center, completed in 1986, that occupies the site of a cattle barn. The visitor center is sited on a hill and is one story with a full basement; both elevations have ground access. The building is constructed of wood and incorporates exterior viewing platforms and a large glassed interior viewing area. The former Merkle house is located south of the visitor center; the one-story, vinyl-clad house was constructed in 1964 (MdDNR DMI 2002). Post-1960 built resources were not surveyed under the scope of this project.

The NRMA was expanded through the purchase of additional agricultural property. The former Fenno farm comprising approximately 510 acres was purchased in 1970 and the former Trueman farm with 154 acres was purchased in 1981. Both properties transferred with agricultural complexes. The locations of two other farmsteads are evident from the locations of two isolated agricultural buildings. All extant buildings and structures on the NRMA were constructed during the twentieth century. No buildings were depicted on the property in 1892 (USGS 1892). Buildings were depicted on the 1905 surveyed map published in 1931 in the approximate locations of the Fenno and Trueman farms (USGS 1931).

Thirty-two (32) built resources constructed before 1961 are located within the NRMA. Fourteen archeological sites are recorded in the Maryland Historical Trust archeological site files, including ten prehistoric, two historic sites, and two sites with both prehistoric and historic components. The mounds have not been classified as a resource type due to lack of documentation. The Hurley House (MIHP # PG: 82B-41) was previously documented in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. This ca. 1900

house was not recommended for National Register eligibility by MHT in 1997 and was subsequently removed.

METHODS

Historical Research

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) forms and the archeological site files on file at MHT and MdDNR provided base-line data for historical research conducted for each MdDNR-owned land unit included in the survey. An analysis of the property types and occupation periods of cultural resources provided the basis for identifying the historic themes/historic contexts appropriate to evaluate the historic resources in each MdDNR-owned unit. The development of historic contexts that encompassed the history of each unit prior to state ownership was synthesized from the architectural and archeological forms and expanded to incorporate information contained in historic maps and other secondary sources, such as published county and local histories and National Register documentation. Research in primary archival materials, such as deed research or genealogical materials available in local historical societies, was not conducted for this project.

Historical research also was undertaken to document the history of the MdDNR land unit. Research was conducted at MdDNR to provide an overview of how each unit came into existence and how the lands that comprise each unit were assembled. The purpose of this research was to determine the reasons behind the establishment of land unit and subsequent management practices. Sources examined in this research effort included MdDNR real estate acquisition files, land unit files, personnel interviews, park master plans, and relevant secondary sources on the development of parks in the state of Maryland.

Field Survey

Archeological reconnaissance survey focused on the relocation of archeological sites recorded in the archeological site files maintained by MHT. The data in the archeological site files was augmented through review of published literature and unpublished reports available at the MHT library. The mapped or reported location of each recorded site was visited and its condition was assessed, based on surface conditions, (e.g., undisturbed, plowed, eroded, graded/contoured, collected, vandalized, dredged, or other).

Architectural field survey comprised built resources constructed prior to 1960, the landscape elements associated with the individual resources, and the overall landscape of the MdDNR-owned land unit. The list of built resources included in the survey was compiled from the MIHP forms maintained at the MHT and the Detailed Maintenance List (DMI) provided by the MdDNR. The DMI, compiled during the late 1990s, contained information about building materials and components, as well as information on location, estimated construction date, dates of renovations, and an assessment of condition. The list of built resources for survey was refined through a review of 1:600 scale maps provided by MdDNR and through interviews with MdDNR personnel.

Architectural field investigations were conducted on the exteriors of all pre-1960 buildings and structures. Properties owned by other state agencies were not included in the survey. For example, bridges owned by the Maryland State Highway Administration and recreation facilities maintained by county recreation departments were excluded from the current survey. Field survey verified the character-defining features and materials of previously identified historic buildings recorded on MIHP forms and assessed the integrity and overall physical conditions of the exterior materials of the resources. No additional architectural data or photographs were collected for pre-1960 MdDNR-owned buildings that are pending demolition for which MdDNR has obtained MHT concurrence letters or MHT Determinations of Eligibility classifying the resource as not eligible.

Construction dates assigned to the built resources are based on secondary documentation, historic maps, site inspection, and

personal communications. The MdDNR detailed maintenance inventory (MdDNR DMI 2002) provided some useful dates. It was not possible to reconcile all outbuildings listed in the DMI with the buildings surveyed in the field at Merkle NRMA.

Building conditions of excellent, good, fair, poor, or ruin were assigned during the architectural survey based on the physical appearance of the exterior materials present on the resource at the time of the site visit. The building classifications do not necessarily reflect those condition assessments recorded in MdDNR's DMI. For the purposes of this survey, excellent was defined as the overall absence of conditions requiring maintenance or cosmetic repairs. Good meant that building systems and materials appeared to be sound with minimal problems noted. Cosmetic conditions, such as minor paint failure due to age of paint or minor deterioration contained in wood elements, could still be classified as good condition if they appeared to be correctable with minor repair. Fair condition was used to denote problems in several types of exterior materials or systems, such as deteriorated wood elements in several systems, that could be corrected through maintenance, but without apparent structural damage. Poor denoted systematic problems in several materials or systems, such as large sections of missing siding or roofing, often resulting in evidence of structural failure. Ruin was used to classify buildings or structures that were no longer usable in their current condition.

DESCRIPTIONS

The following descriptions are organized by property type. The property classifications were assigned based on the primary historic function of the property as defined by the National Register of Historic Places (U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service 1997). The property categories are detailed in the accompanying table.

PREHISTORIC AND MULTI-COMPONENT ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Mataponi Creek (18PR16) is a multi-component Late Archaic to Late Woodland base camp that includes an unknown historic period component. The site is situated on a low terrace that extends along the western bank of the Patuxent River. Dissected by riverine marshes and unnamed tributaries, the terrace rises very gradually up to the west. The Critical Areas Driving Tour (CADT) road crosses through the approximate center of the site area. Richard Stearns first identified the site in 1951. Artifacts collected by Stearns were later analyzed by Laurie Steponaitis (1980:53-58), who identified Late Archaic, Transitional, and Early Woodland projectile points and Woodland period ceramic sherds within the assemblage. Mary F. Barse of the Maryland Geological Survey (Barse 1988) revisited the site in 1987 and conducted limited test excavations. The excavations identified an intact midden layer and two circular pit features that yielded diagnostic ceramic artifacts suggesting that the site included multiple, temporally discrete occupational phases dating from the Woodland period. Site disturbance was reported to include plowing and artifact collection. Barse recommended the site as potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (36 CFR60.4: Criterion D) (Barse 1988:114).

The location of the Mataponi Creek site (18PR16) is currently maintained in a combination of open agricultural fields, wooded areas, and marshlands. The majority of the site lies within a cultivated field that exhibits moderate surface erosion due to wind scouring. Ceramic artifacts identified as Moyaone and Accokeek sherds, cobble tools, fire-cracked rock, lithic debitage, a stemmed projectile point; bone fragments, and pieces of clam and oyster shell were visible on the surface of the field. Historic ironstone ceramic fragments, bottle glass, and brick were also visible. Site erosion along the wooded riverbank and marshlands is severe, with prehistoric and historic artifacts visible eroding from the nearly 1 m (3.3 ft) tall riverbank wall and scattered along the active shoreline. The condition of the site is fair, wind scour within the agricultural field and active shoreline erosion are impacting the site.

Nottingham North (18PR17) is a multi-component Middle Archaic to Late Woodland base camp that includes an eighteenth-century historic artifact scatter. The site is located along the western bank of the Patuxent River, on a low riverine terrace that

extends south from Lookout Creek. The site measures approximately 90 m (295.3 ft) by 200 m (656.2 ft) and occupies the opposing side of Lookout Creek from prehistoric Site 18PR340. Laurie Steponaitis (1980:53-58) analyzed artifacts collected from the site by Richard Stearns, who first identified the site in 1951. The assemblage included Middle Archaic, Transitional, and Woodland period projectile points and Early and Middle Woodland period ceramic sherds. Mary F. Barse conducted limited test excavations in 1981, which indicated major disturbance to the site from plowing. Barse recommended the site as potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (36 CFR60.4: Criterion D) (Barse 1988:122) due to the range of prehistoric occupation, the presence of a possible eighteenth-century domestic component, and the overall potential of the site to yield important information.

The location of Nottingham North (18PR17) is currently maintained as an agricultural field. The field is bound on the north by a tree line that borders Lookout Creek and on the east by a tree line that borders the CADT road. Prehistoric artifacts, including incised ceramic sherds and fire-cracked rock, were visible on the surface of the field. Fragments of brick, shell, iron slag, window glass, bottle glass, and red-bodied earthenware were visible also on the field surface. Current disturbance to the site consists of plowing, which has disturbed an unknown percentage of the site. The boundaries of the site were not evident; it is likely that a portion of the site extends into the adjacent woodlot bordering Lookout Creek and the CADT road. With the exception of past plowing (Barse 1988:122), the area of the site was not visibly disturbed. The condition of the site is unknown.

Nottingham South (18PR18) is a Middle Archaic to Contact period prehistoric base camp that includes an eighteenth-century historic domestic component. The site is located on a low, relatively level riverine terrace that is bordered by Kings Creek on the south and by marshlands along the Patuxent River on the east. The town of Nottingham is located on southern side of Kings Creek, less than 200 m (61 ft) south of the site area. Richard Stearns identified Nottingham South in 1951. Laurie Steponaitis (1980:53-58) later examined artifacts collected by Stearns and identified diagnostic projectile points spanning the Middle Archaic and Woodland periods. In 1981, Donald Shomette and Ralph Eshelman visited the site and conducted a non-systematic surface survey and limited test excavations. Based upon data derived from the MHT Site Files, Nottingham South appears to be located outside the boundaries of Merkle NRMA. The northern boundary of the site appears to abut the southern limit of the NRMA along a wooded area bordering an unnamed field road. There was no surface visibility in this area. The site area was not visibly disturbed. The condition and boundaries of the site remain unknown.

Site 18PR340 (Unnamed) is a Woodland period base camp located on a low riverine terrace that extends along the western side of the Patuxent River Dissected by unnamed tributaries of the Patuxent River, the terrace rises gradually westward, and, in the location of the site, includes small inter-tributary marshes. Occupying the same low riverine terrace, prehistoric sites 18PR16, 18PR341, 18PR342, and 18PR345 are situated just north of Site 18PR340. This series of sites were occupied at various times during the Late Archaic through Late Woodland periods; of these, Site 18PR340 is the most substantial. Site 18PR340 is bound by Lookout Creek on the south, the CADT road on the north and by a small, unnamed tributary of Lookout Creek on the west. Marshlands along the Patuxent River form the eastern boundary of the site.

Mary Barse (1988:105-111) identified Site 18PR340 in 1987 and conducted a non-systematic surface survey and limited test excavations that indicated major disturbance to the site from plowing. Barse recommended the site as potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (36 CFR60.4: Criterion D) (Barse 1988:111) due to the range of prehistoric occupation, the potential for intact cultural deposits, and the potential of the site to yield important information. Site 18PR340 is currently maintained as a woodlot that includes pond and marsh areas along Lookout Creek. The Lookout Creek hiking trail winds through the site area. With the exception of past plowing (Barse 1988:106) and the presence of hiking trails, the area of the site was not visibly disturbed. The condition of the site is unknown.

Site 18PR341 (Unnamed) is an unknown prehistoric lithic scatter located less than 30 m (98.4 ft) northeast of Site 18PR340 and the same distance southeast of Site 18PR342. Situated on a low riverine terrace along the western side of the Patuxent River, the site lies partially within an open agricultural field and partially within a wooded area. The site is bound on the east by marshes along the Patuxent River and on all other sides by the limits of the lithic scatter. Mary Barse (1988:114-117) identified Site 18PR341 in 1987 and conducted a non-systematic surface survey in the site vicinity. Fire-cracked rock and lithic debitage were identified within a 50 m (164 ft) by 40 m (131.2 ft) area; limited surface visibility prevented accurate delineation of the site boundaries. Site 18PR341 is currently maintained in a combination of agricultural field and wooded lot. No artifacts were evident within the agricultural field; there was no surface visibility in the wooded area. With the exception of plowing, the area of the site was not visibly disturbed. The condition of the site is unknown.

Site 18PR342 (Unnamed) is an unknown short-term resource procurement site located on a low riverine terrace along the western side of the Patuxent River. The site is situated between prehistoric Sites 18PR16 (Mataponi Creek) and 18PR341 and is one of five prehistoric sites identified along the terrace edge north of Lookout Creek. The CADT road crosses along the eastern edge of the site. Site 18PR342 was identified in 1987 by Mary Barse (1988:117), who conducted a non-systematic surface survey in the site location. Fire-cracked rock, lithic debitage and fragments of oyster shell were recovered from an area measuring 75 m (246.1 ft) by 100 m (328.1 ft). Surface visibility was moderate to poor and the site may extend beyond the current boundaries. Site 18PR342 is currently maintained as a woodlot of mixed pine, holly and deciduous species. The understory was variably dense. The area of the site was not visibly disturbed. The condition of the site is unknown.

Site MK#5 (18PR343) is a prehistoric base camp that was occupied during the Middle Archaic, Early Woodland, and possibly Middle Woodland periods. Situated on the crest of a high knoll overlooking Mataponi Creek, the site is the southernmost and largest of the five sites identified along Mataponi Creek. An access road surfaced in pea gravel crosses along the knoll crest and forms an informal boundary along the northern and western edges of the site. Site MK#6 (18PR344) is located on the opposing side of the access road, approximately 50 m (164 ft) north of MK#5. Mary Barse (1988:120) identified Site MK#5 in 1987 and conducted a non-systematic surface survey in the site location. Fire-cracked rock, lithic debitage, core fragments, projectile points, bifaces, a hammerstone, and a ceramic sherd were identified. Diagnostic artifacts included a Morrow Mountain II projectile point and a sherd of Accokeek ceramic. Barse (1988:120) recommended additional work at Site MK#5 to determine the site's integrity and research potential. The area of Site MK#5 is currently maintained as an agricultural field. Surface erosion was moderate to severe within the field and the topsoil horizon appeared severely deflated. With the exceptions of plowing and the presence of the access road, the area of the site was not visibly disturbed. The condition of the site is unknown.

Site MK#6 (18PR344) is a prehistoric short-term resource procurement camp of unknown temporal affiliation. The site is situated near the northwestern toe of a high knoll overlooking Mataponi Creek, adjacent to the head of a seasonal drainage. An access road surfaced in pea gravel crosses along the knoll crest, approximately 30 m (98.4 ft) south of the site location. Site MK#5 (18PR343) is located on the opposing side of the access road, approximately 50 m (164 ft) south of MK#6. Mary Barse (1988:120) identified MK#6, which is one of five sites located along the southern side of Mataponi Creek, in 1987. A non-systematic surface survey identified fire-cracked rock, lithic debitage, and oyster shell extending in a 30 m (98.4 ft) radius in the site location. Barse recommended the site as "not considered significant" (Barse 1988:120). The site area is currently maintained as an agricultural field. Surface erosion was moderate to severe within the site area and the topsoil horizon appeared severely deflated. With the exception of plowing and surface erosion, the area of the site was not visibly disturbed. The condition of the site is unknown.

Site 18PR345 (Unnamed) is a prehistoric base camp that was occupied during the Middle Archaic and Early to Middle Woodland periods. Situated slightly inland along a low riverine terrace fronting the western side of the Patuxent River, the site lies partially within an agricultural field and partially within a wooded area. Site 18PR345 is located about 30 m (98.4 ft) northwest of Site 18PR340. Lookout Creek is located approximately 120 m (393.7 ft) south of the site area; an unnamed tributary of that creek is

located about the same distance to the east of the site. Site 18PR345 was identified in 1987 by Mary Barse (1988:117), who conducted a non-systematic surface survey in the site location. Within an area measuring approximately 40 m (131.2 ft) by 60 m (196.9 ft), Barse identified fire-cracked rock, lithic debitage, bifaces, projectile points, and ceramic sherds. Diagnostic artifacts included a Morrow Mountain I projectile point and Accokeek and Pope's Creek ceramic sherds. Barse recommended the site as "considered significant" with additional work needed to determine site integrity and research potential (Barse 1988:117).

Site 18PR345 is currently maintained in a combination of agricultural field and wooded lot. Surface erosion in the field was low to moderate. Moderate erosion was observed within the eastern portion of the woodlot on the gentle slope leading down toward the tributary. Fire-cracked rock was observed in the field area, where surface visibility was low to moderate. With the exception of plowing, the area of the site was not visibly disturbed. The condition of the site is unknown.

Site MK#9 (18PR346) is a prehistoric Middle to Late Woodland short-term resource procurement site situated on a high knoll overlooking Mataponi Creek. One of five sites identified along the southern side of Mataponi Creek, Site MK#9 is the northernmost of a cluster of four sites situated along the northern edge of the knoll. Mary Barse (1988:120) identified the site in 1987 and conducted a non-systematic surface survey of the site area. Within a 30 m (98.4 ft) radius, Barse identified a scatter of fire-cracked rock, lithic debitage, and ceramic sherds. Diagnostic artifacts included Potomac Creek and Mockley ceramic sherds. Barse recommended the site as "potentially significant" with additional work needed to determine site integrity and research potential (Barse 1988:120). Site MK#9 is currently maintained as a woodlot. Vegetation within the woodlot was relatively young, suggesting the area was formerly open and likely cultivated. The topography slopes gently down to the north toward Mataponi Creek. With the exception of plowing, the area of the site was not visibly disturbed. The condition of the site is unknown.

Site MK#10 (18PR347) is a prehistoric short-term resource procurement site of unknown temporal affiliation. The site is situated on a high knoll that extends along the southern side of Mataponi Creek. Site MK#10 is one four sites situated along the northern margin of the knoll. Site 18PR346 is located less than 50 m (164 ft) northeast; Site 18PR344 is located about the same distance to the southwest, along the northern side of a gravel access road. Site MK#10 was identified in 1987 during a non-systematic surface survey conducted by Mary Barse (1988:120-121). Fire-cracked rock and a single piece of lithic debitage were identified within a 30 m (98.4 ft) radius during that survey. Barse recommended the site as "not considered significant" (Barse 1988:121). The site area is currently maintained as an agricultural field. Surface erosion was moderate within the site area and the topsoil horizon appeared slightly to moderately deflated. With the exception of plowing and surface erosion, the area of the site was not visibly disturbed. The condition of the site is unknown.

Site 18PR348 (Unnamed) is a prehistoric and historic period artifact scatter of unknown temporal affiliation. The site is situated on a low riverine terrace along the western bank of the Patuxent River. Extensive marshlands bordering the river extend east from the terrace edge along an unnamed tributary of the river. Topography in the site area is relatively level. The gravel surfaced CADT road, extending between the refuge observation tower and the Lookout Creek loop of the road, crosses along the western edge of the site location. Mary Barse (1988:119) identified the site in 1987 during a non-systematic surface survey, which revealed a low-density artifact scatter. A fire-cracked rock, several pieces of lithic debitage, and a hammerstone comprised the prehistoric assemblage. The historic artifacts were characterized as a secondary deposition, most likely associated with nearby Site MK#12 (18PR349), and included a grey gunflint and a piece of cream-colored earthenware. Barse recommended the site as "not considered significant" (Barse 1988:119). The site area is currently maintained in a combination of agricultural field and wooded lot. A nominal amount of surface erosion was evident within the field area. With the exception of plowing and surface erosion, the area of the site was not visibly disturbed and cannot be assessed without testing. The condition of the site is unknown.

Site Area 5 (18PR350) is a Late Woodland period short-term resource procurement site situated on a narrow terrace that defines a northward meander of Mataponi Creek. Situated along the southern side of the creek, the site is one of five identified along the

terraces and knolls fronting that side of Mataponi Creek. The site is bordered on the north and east by wetland areas along the creek, and on the west by a steep slope down to the creek. Mary Barse (1988:121) identified Site Area 5 in 1987 during limited sub-surface testing of selected terraces along the creek. Fire-cracked rock, lithic debitage, and ceramic sherds were recovered from plow and non-plow disturbed contexts within the site area. Barse recommended the site as "considered potentially significant" with additional work needed to determine site integrity and research potential (Barse 1988:117). Site Area 5 is currently maintained as a wooded lot with a variably dense understory of rhodendron, holly, and deciduous species. With the exception of past plowing (Barse 1988:117) and occasional tree falls, the area of the site was not visibly disturbed. The condition of the site is unknown.

HISTORIC ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Site MK#12 (18PR349) is an eighteenth-to-nineteenth century historic domestic site located on a low riverine terrace along the western bank of the Patuxent River. A deeply incised tributary head is located approximately 50 m (164 ft) north of the site location and empties into an extensive wetland area along that portion of the river. The gravel surfaced CADT road, extending between the refuge observation tower and the Lookout Creek loop of the road, crosses along the western edge of the site location. Mary Barse (1988:119) identified Site MK#12 in 1987 during a non-systematic surface survey in the site location. Barse identified fragments of oyster shell, brick, glass, and historic ceramics within a 45 m (147.6 ft) by 60 m (196.9 ft) area. Barse recommended the site as "considered potentially significant" with additional work needed to determine site integrity and research potential (Barse 1988:119). Site MK#12 is currently maintained as an agricultural field. Historic ceramic artifacts and mortar were identified within the field area. The additional presence of fire-cracked rock within the field suggests Site MK#12 may include a previously unidentified prehistoric component. With the exception of plowing and nominal surface erosion, the area of the site was not visibly disturbed. The condition of the site is unknown.

Site MK#8 (18PR351) is an eighteenth-century historic domestic site situated on the interior, upland portion of a broad riverine terrace along the western bank of the Patuxent River. Located between Lookout Creek and an unnamed farm road that parallels the southern boundary of the NRMA, the site occupies the same terrace as Nottingham North (18PR17). Mary Barse (1988:122-123) identified the site in 1987 during a non-systematic surface survey. Fragments of bottle glass, tobacco pipes, ceramic artifacts, English flint, metal, brick, and oyster shell were observed on the surface. Diagnostic ceramic artifacts included Westerwald, British Brown, and white salt-glazed stonewares, and Chinese porcelain. Barse recommended the site as "considered significant" with additional work needed to determine site integrity and research potential (Barse 1988:123). The site area is currently maintained as an agricultural field. A broad scatter of historic artifacts, including fragments of bottle glass, tobacco pipes, brick, metal, bone, ceramic artifacts and a piece of grey gunflint, were observed northeast of a standing tobacco barn. This location is slightly east of the MHT GIS mapped location of the site, but appears otherwise accurate and does not overlap the identified location of Nottingham North (18PR17). It is likely, based upon the proximity of Sites MK#8 and Nottingham North, that these sites represent associated eighteenth-century historic occupations. With the exception of plowing, the area of the site was not visibly disturbed. The condition of the site is unknown.

An area regionally known as "The Mounds" extends along southern side of Lookout Creek westward, for approximately 0.8 km (0.5 mi) from the mouth of the creek. Barse (1988:105) interpreted this series of earthen berms and ditches as the remnants of an eighteenth-century property boundary, possibly defining a boundary of "Reeds Farm," a parcel owned in the early eighteenth century by Captain Richard Reed. Historic domestic components identified at Nottingham North (18PR17), Nottingham South (18PR18), and MK#8 (18PR351) indicate that, by the eighteenth century, settlement occurred south of "the mounds." Alternative interpretations for the earthen mounds have included fortifications associated with the War of 1812 or prehistoric earthworks (MDNR 1983 Master Plan).

BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS

Agricultural Resources

The MERKLE WILDLIFE FARM contains the following built resources constructed before 1960: one tenant house constructed in 1960, a storage shed, a corncrib, wagon shed/corncrib, two tobacco barns, and a barn with attached silo. The agricultural outbuildings date from the first half of the twentieth century. No buildings were depicted on the property in 1905 (USGS 1931 map), but the buildings were in place by 1953 (USGS 1953 map). The tobacco barns pre-date Mr. Merkle's ownership of the property. No documentation suggests that Mr. Merkle grew tobacco on the property after he purchased the first 99 acres in 1932 and expanded his landholdings to 400 acres (O'Donnell 1983).

A storage shed, constructed ca. 1940, is located north of the visitor center. The one-story building is constructed of concrete block. The upper portions of the walls are clad in board-and-batten wood siding. The shed roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. The eave has a plain fascia. Two-light, metal-frame windows are located in the north, west, and south elevations. The windows have brick lug sills. A sliding wood door overlaid with metal is located in the center of the east elevation. The building is in fair condition. The wood fascia is deteriorated on all elevations. A crack through the concrete blocks below one window on the west elevation may suggest settlement. The red paint is flaking off the concrete blocks.

A wagon shed/corncrib is located north of the storage shed. Constructed ca. 1935, the one-story, wood-frame building is arranged with a central equipment storage area flanked by cribs. The wood sill rests on concrete-block piers that have been shored up with bricks. The exterior walls of the cribs are short spans of horizontal wood slats that are spaced to allow ventilation. The west elevation contains a sliding wood door constructed of vertical boards; the east elevation is open. The gable roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. The building is in fair condition. Deterioration was noted in the exterior siding. The wood sill of the building has been damaged by insect infestation; metal termite barriers have been installed along the base of the building.

The silo barn (MdDNR name) now serves as an equipment shed. A circular metal silo is attached to the east elevation of the barn through a hyphen. The building, constructed ca. 1955 (USGS 1977), probably was associated with Merkle's cattle raising operations between 1942 and 1964 (O'Donnell 1983). The barn is constructed of concrete blocks on the north, east, and west elevations. The seven-bay south elevation is open. The upper portions of the gable ends are clad in wood board-and-batten siding. The gable roof is sheathed in standing-seam metal; the rafter ends are exposed at the eave. The windows in the east, north and west elevations are metal-frame, two-light units. The windows have brick lug sills. A single door is located in the north elevation. The building is in good condition. The concrete blocks on the southwest corner exhibit damage and the wall is not completed. Some wood boards in the upper siding exhibit signs of deterioration. The metal on the silo is in good condition.

A metal windmill is located east of the silo barn. A tall metal framework supports a metal windmill. The windmill was installed approximately twenty years ago (ca. 1980); it was moved to its present location from the Eastern Shore (Smith 2002). The windmill powered a water pump, which supplied fresh water to ponds that were excavated ca. 1960 on the property to support cattle and geese. The ponds were depicted on the 1977 update of the 1953 USGS Lower Marlboro Quadrangle map. Fresh water ponds were added to the property in response to increasing pollution of the Patuxent River in the late 1950s and 1960s (O'Donnell 1983). The ponds were used as a water source for crop irrigation and cattle, which Merkle raised until 1964. Geese also used the ponds.

A gambrel-roofed tobacco barn, constructed ca.1930, is located in a field south of the visitor center (O'Donnell 1983; USGS 1931, 1953). The wood-frame, agricultural building rests on a poured concrete pier foundation. The spaces between the piers have been infilled with concrete blocks to form a solid foundation wall. The exterior walls are clad in vertical wood boards and painted red.

Exterior metal rods span several cladding boards to form hinged panels that allow for ventilation during the tobacco curing process. The gambrel roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. Wood sliding track doors are located in the north and south elevations. The building is in good condition. Signs of deterioration were noted along the base of the vertical wood board siding.

A second gambrel-roofed tobacco barn, constructed ca.1930, is located in the northeast corner of a field located north of the silo barn. The wood-frame tobacco barn rests on a concrete pier foundation. The exterior walls are clad in vertical wood boards and painted red. The exterior sheathing includes hinged boards that open to ventilate the tobacco during curing. The gambrel roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. Wood hinged doors are located in the north and south elevations. The barn has a one-story, four-bay, concrete-block addition on the north end. The main barn is in good condition. Some signs of deterioration were noted along the base and along the upper edge of the vertical board exterior siding. The one-story concrete-block addition is in fair condition. The windows are broken and partially boarded up. The gable roof of the addition incorporates a wood deck overlaid with composition roll. The sheathing is deteriorated; holes were noted in the west elevation of the roof.

The former Merkle Tenant House, constructed in 1960 (Smith 2002), replaced an older tenant house on the site. The one-story, four-bay by two-bay ranch house is located west of the loop road that leads to the visitor center. The building is set on a rise and accessed by a driveway along the south side of the house. The wood-frame house is clad with vinyl siding and rests on a concrete-block foundation. The main entry is in the south elevation, while a door in the east gable end accesses a two-bay, gable-roofed porch. The windows are one-over-one-light, double-hung sash. Paired windows are located in the east gable end overlooking the porch. The gable roof is sheathed with composition roll roofing. The porch deck along the east elevation is supported on tall concrete-block piers. The porch features a wood deck and wood columns. The entry on the south elevation is sheltered by a one-bay hood supported by metal brackets. The house is in good condition.

The former FENNO FARMSTEAD contains a house, a tobacco barn, two sheds, and a corncrib. Occupation of this area of the property was depicted on the 1931 USGS map. The building complex also was depicted on the 1953 USGS map. The buildings on the former Fenno property do not appear to be older than the 1920s based on massing, types, and construction materials.

The former Fenno house is a one-story, three-bay cottage constructed ca. 1922 (MdDNR DMI 2002). The wood-frame dwelling is clad with horizontal wood siding. The front gable roof is sheathed with composition roll roofing. The building rests on a poured concrete foundation. The primary entry is through the center bay of the south elevation. The door contains a wood-paneled unit with eight small lights. The windows on the south elevation are four-vertical-lights-over-one-light, double-hung sash units. The upper gable of the south elevation contains a metal-frame five-light fixed unit. The windows on the side elevations are one-over-one-light units. The windows on the west elevation are single, while the windows on the east elevation are paired. A full-façade porch spans the south elevation. The porch posts are concrete topped with battered wood piers. The wood deck is accessed by wood steps. A one-story, one-bay gable addition projects from the north elevation. A covered wood deck surrounds the addition. The dwelling is in good condition. The wood steps of the porch and the lattice work under the porch deck on the south elevation show signs of deterioration.

A tobacco barn constructed ca. 1920 is located west of the house. The wood-frame barn rests on a poured concrete foundation and is clad in vertical wood siding on the north, east, and west elevations. The north elevation retains hinged boards that were opened during the tobacco drying process. The cladding along the south elevation has been removed and replaced with plywood. The east-west-oriented gable roof is sheathed with corrugated metal and features two wood frame cupolas. Wide openings are located in each gable-end elevation. The openings contain corrugated metal doors that rise vertically. The building is in fair condition. The plywood panels on the south elevation replaced substantially deteriorated cladding. Some wood boards are missing along the north elevation. The wood cupolas on the roof show signs of deterioration.

A shed, constructed ca. 1920, is located south of the Fenno house. The one-story, three-bay by one-bay, wood-frame building rests on a poured concrete foundation and is clad with corrugated metal. The gable roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. A brick chimney projects from the west gable end. A door and two window openings are located along the south elevation; these openings are boarded up. A window opening is located in the upper gable of the east elevation. The building is in fair condition. A crack was noted through the northeast corner of the foundation. The metal siding and roofing is rusted and deteriorated. The wood soffit is deteriorated and missing in some sections.

A one-story, one-bay by one-bay corrugated metal shed constructed ca.1945 is located east of the wood-frame shed in the middle of a cornfield. The foundation was not visible with the exception of concrete noted along the west elevation. The front-facing gable roof is sheathed with corrugated metal. A four-panel wood door is located in the west gable elevation. The building is in fair condition. The metal cladding shows signs of rust.

The former Fenno corncrib, constructed ca.1945, is a narrow, one-story, wood-frame building. The wood sill rests on raised poured-concrete piers. The exterior cladding comprises regularly-spaced narrow, vertical wood boards, which ventilate the corn crib. The gable roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. Three hinged openings that contain vertical wood slats are set along the eave line of the east elevation. The north and south elevations contain exterior hinged doors constructed of vertical wood boards. The building is in fair condition. Some of the bases of the vertical siding are deteriorated. Holes were noted in the siding at the northeast corner. The concrete pier at the southeast corner is eroding.

A large tobacco barn, constructed ca. 1950 (USGS 1931, 1953), is located in the woods north of the former Fenno farm complex. The massive wood-frame building has a steeply-pitched, gable-roofed section with a shed-roofed section that spans the south elevation. The entire building is open on the interior. The building rests on a concrete pier foundation except for a section of concrete-block foundation located in the center of the shed addition along the south elevation. The building is clad with vertical wood siding. The roof is sheathed with corrugated metal. The west elevation contains two sets of paired exterior-hinged wood doors, one in the gable section and one in the shed section. The center of the south elevation of the shed addition contains a bank of nine, 12-light metal-frame windows set just above the concrete-block foundation. The building is in good condition. Deterioration was noted on some of the wood siding. Doors are missing on the east elevation, as well as some sections of wood cladding. Siding is also missing along the north elevation. The building is overgrown by trees and vines on the south elevation.

The former TRUEMAN FARMSTEAD is the southernmost agricultural complex on the NRMA property. The agricultural buildings are organized in a line that extends from the Patuxent River to the vicinity of Fenno Road. Two houses and the majority of the farm buildings occupy the west end of the property. Tobacco barns occupy the eastern portion of the property. The farm complex contains a main house with domestic outbuildings, a tenant house with domestic outbuildings, a horse barn and feeder, two corncribs, one tobacco barn, a springhouse/root cellar, and a silo. Two additional tobacco barns are located in the fields on the north side of a farm road that leads to the Patuxent River.

The former Trueman house dates from ca. 1900; it appeared on the 1904-1905 USGS Lower Marlboro quadrangle map (USGS 1931, surveyed 1904-05). The house is a two-story, four-bay by one-bay dwelling sited on a rise at the eastern end of the property. The building is a simple design devoid of architectural ornamentation. It occupies a T-shaped ground plan and faces east. The wood-frame building is clad with asbestos shingles over horizontal wood siding and rests on concrete piers. The side gable roof is sheathed with corrugated metal and has a box cornice. The east elevation is divided into four asymmetrical bays, two of which are doorways. The primary doorway contains a wood panel door with four small glass lights. The primary doorway is accessed through a three-bay porch with wood deck and steps. The shed roof of the porch is supported by two square wood posts. The secondary entry contains a six panel wood door. The windows are wood-frame, six-over-six-light units. A one-story addition projects from the west elevation. The building is vacant and in poor condition. Many windows are broken. The asbestos shingles

are chipped and broken. The roof sheathing is rusting. The box cornice is deteriorated. The door to the addition is missing. The front porch deck and steps are substantially deteriorated. The corner porch posts are missing.

A one-story, gable-roofed outhouse is located west of the main house. The building was constructed ca. 1900. The wood-frame building is clad with asbestos shingles. The gable roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. A single wood door is located in the east elevation. The building is in poor condition. Sections of the roof are missing on the south elevation. The door is missing panels. Asbestos shingles on the exterior walls are broken.

A former chicken coop, constructed ca. 1920, is located west of the outhouse. This wood-frame building has a dirt floor. The exterior walls are clad with flush vertical wood boards. The saltbox roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. The south elevation of the roof is supported by wood struts. The south elevation contains a central doorway with a four-panel wood door and two openings. One opening contains chicken wire, the other is boarded over. The building is in good condition. It is overgrown by trees and vines and the metal roof shows signs of rusts. Some wood boards along the west elevation are deteriorated.

A small, one-story, one-bay wood-frame outhouse is located south of the chicken coop on the edge of an open field. The building rests on a concrete-block foundation. The walls are clad with vertical wood siding and capped with a shed roof. A door is located in the north elevation. The former outhouse is in poor condition. The door is broken and the floor boards are broken.

The current Trueman house, constructed ca. 1945 (USGS 1953; MdDNR DMI 2002), is a one-story, three-bay cottage. The wood-frame building has been sided with aluminum and the foundation encased with a brick walls that extend to the window sills. The side gable roof is sheathed with red clay tiles. The windows are vinyl-sash, one-over-one-light units. A wood-frame bay window is located in the south elevation. A central doorway is located in the south elevation and contains a wood door with six glass lights. The south elevation is spanned by a three-bay porch with a shed roof integrated into the main gable roof. The porch supports are stylized wood posts of recent vintage. The porch foundation is concrete block and the floor is concrete. A carport is located on the east elevation. The house is in good condition and well maintained. However, continuous modifications and upgrades using modern materials have compromised to integrity of design, workmanship, and materials of the original appearance of the building.

A shed, constructed ca. 1945, is located north of the tenant house. The shed is a one-story, one-bay, wood-frame building located northwest of the house at the edge of lawn. The building rests on a concrete-block foundation. The walls are clad with asbestos shingles. The gable roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. A wood door occupies the south elevation. The upper south gable contains a one-light window. The building is in fair condition. The door in the south elevation is deteriorated.

The one-bay, one-story wood-frame outhouse, constructed ca. 1945, is set in the woods north of the house. The walls are clad with flush vertical wood siding. The shed roof is sheathed with composition roll. A vertical wood door is located in the south elevation. The former outhouse is in fair condition. It appears unstable on its foundation.

A former chicken coop, constructed ca. 1945, which has been converted into a storage shed, is located in a wooded area west of the tenant house. This wood-frame building is clad with flush vertical wood boards. The saltbox roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. The south elevation of the roof is supported by wood struts. The south elevation has three openings that have been covered with Plexiglas. A doorway containing a five-panel wood door is located in the west elevation. The building is in fair condition. It is overgrown by trees and vines. The metal roof is rusting. Wood boards are deteriorated along their bases on the north elevation. The door surround has been damaged.

The former Trueman tobacco barn, constructed ca.1930, is located southwest of the former Trueman tenant house. The wood-

frame, tobacco barn rests on poured concrete piers. The exterior walls are clad in vertical wood boards. Ventilation is provided by hinged three-board sections, which are opened by exterior metal hinges. The gambrel roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. Three windows are located in the northeast corner of the building. One window is broken, another opening contains a six-over-six-light, wood-frame unit, and the third opening contains a two-light, wood-frame unit. Sliding doors suspended from exterior metal tracks are located in the east and west elevations. The building is in good condition. Some exterior cladding boards are warped and need to be renailed to the frame. The sliding door on the west elevation has fallen. The metal roof shows signs of rust.

Two corncribs are located east of the tobacco barn and northeast of the former main Trueman house. One corncrib, constructed ca. 1940, is a one-story, wood-frame building that rests on a concrete-block foundation. The exterior walls on the north, east, and south elevation are clad with regularly-spaced, narrow, vertical wood slats. The west elevation is clad with flush vertical wood boards. The gable roof is oriented north-south and is sheathed with standing-seam metal. A four-panel wood door occupies the south elevation. Wire mesh has been applied to the interior walls. The building is in good condition. Some vines were noted on the building. Minor deterioration along the base of the vertical siding also was noted.

The second corncrib, constructed ca. 1920, is a one-story, wood-frame building that rests on a poured concrete foundation. The exterior walls on most elevations are clad with regularly-spaced, narrow, vertical wood slats. The cladding on the west and northwest and southwest corners is flush vertical wood boards. The gable roof is oriented east-west and is sheathed with standing-seam metal. A door constructed of vertical flush wood boards occupies the west elevation. The building is in fair condition. It is entirely overgrown with vegetation. Deterioration along the base of the vertical siding also was noted. The roofing is rusted.

A root cellar constructed ca. 1920, is located in the woods north of the corncrib. The rectangular, concrete-block structure is half buried in the earth. The structure has a gable roof. A wood door and a covered window opening are located in the east gable end. The structure is in good condition.

A horse barn and horse feeder, constructed ca. 1955, are located at the western edge of the former Trueman property. The horse barn is a one-story, wood-frame building clad with flush vertical wood boards. The shed roof is sheathed with metal. The building is in poor condition. It is entirely overgrown with vines and briars so that the building details are not visible.

The horse feeder is an open structure centered on an elevated hay/grain-feeding trough. The trough is constructed of wood slats. The trough is covered with a shallow gable roof supported by square wood posts at the corners. The gable roof is sheathed with corrugated metal. The structure is in fair condition.

A wood circular silo (Cantin 2003), constructed ca. 1930, is located in the woods south of the overgrown horse barn. This structure is constructed of vertical curved wood boards and has the appearance of a barrel with exterior metal rings. A door with large exterior metal hinges is located in the east side. The roof is sheathed with a pointed conical roof. The structure appears in fair condition. The wood soffit at the eave is missing.

Two tobacco barns are located in the fields east of the former Trueman tenant house. The easternmost tobacco barn, constructed ca.1930, rests on poured concrete piers. The exterior of the wood-frame building is clad in vertical wood boards. Hinged sections of the cladding comprising three boards and opened by exterior metal hinges provided ventilation during the tobacco curing process. The gambrel roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. Paired hinged wood doors are located in the end elevations. Two small, single light windows are located near the southeast corner of the east elevation. The windows are positioned approximately four feet above ground level and have metal covered sills. The building is in fair condition. The foundation is overgrown. The roof cladding is rusting and roof sections are missing from the upper gambrel. Deterioration was noted along the base of the wood boards; some cladding boards are missing along the north elevation. The doors on the north end are broken. On

the south end, the upper section of the cladding above the doorway is missing.

The westernmost tobacco barn, constructed ca.1930, rests on poured concrete piers. The exterior of the wood-frame building is clad in vertical wood boards. Hinged sections of the cladding comprising three boards and opened by exterior metal hinges provided ventilation during the tobacco curing process. The gambrel roof is oriented east-west and is sheathed with corrugated metal. Paired hinged wood doors are located in the east and west gambrel ends. The building is in poor condition. The building is overgrown. The northwest corner framing system is collapsing. The exterior wall cladding and the roof sheathing are missing from this corner. The bases of the wood boards are deteriorated and some cladding boards are missing on other elevations.

The former SASSCER SMALL ANIMAL BARN, constructed in 1945, is located at the north end of Merkle NRMA property. The two-story barn contains animal pens on the lower level and a hay mow on the upper level. The building is constructed on a concrete-block foundation. A date stone with "1945" is located in the foundation wall on the north elevation. The upper level is wood frame clad in flush vertical boards. The gable roof is sheathed with corrugated metal. Each elevation contains a doorway, but all doors are missing. The building is in fair condition. Deterioration was noted on the wood cladding. The building is becoming overgrown through vines and located in the woods.

The former HARPER EQUIPMENT SHED, constructed ca. 1940, is a wood-frame building located in the woods near the eastern edge of the NRMA. The one-story building has a gable roof sheathed with corrugated metal. The gable end elevations are clad with vertical wood boards. The centers of the side elevations are open to accommodate equipment storage. The building is in poor condition. No doors are in the openings. Roof cladding is missing. The vacant building appears unstable.

TABLE OF RESOURCES AT MERKLE NRMA

MIHP/Site #	SITENO (or DMI #)	MHT Name	MdDNR/Other Name	Quad	County	Property Category	Property Sub-Category	Property ID	Date of Resource	Condition	Resource Count		Notes	MHT Concurrence
18PR16	16	Mataponi Creek		Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Domestic	Camp	base camp	Late Archaic, Early Woodland, Middle Woodland, Late Woodland	Unknown	site-1			
18PR17	17	Nottingham North		Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Domestic	Camp	base camp	Middle Archaic, Late Archaic, Middle Woodland, Late Woodland, 18th	Unknown	site-1			
18PR18	18	Nottingham South		Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Domestic	Camp	base camp	Middle Archaic, Late Archaic, Early Woodland, Middle Woodland, Late Woodland, Contact, 18th	Unknown			Site edge adjoins WLS on south.	
18PR340	340	Unnamed		Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Domestic	Camp	base camp	Early Woodland, Middle Woodland, Late Woodland	Unknown	site-1			
18PR341	341	Unnamed		Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Unknown	Unknown	prehistoric lithic scatter	Prehistoric Unknown		site-1			
18PR342	342	Unnamed		Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Unknown	Unknown	short-term resource procurement	Prehistoric Unknown		site-1			
18PR343	343	MK #5		Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Domestic	Camp	base camp	Middle Archaic, Early Woodland		site-1			

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18PR344	344	MK #6		Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Unknown	Unknown	short-term resource procurement	Prehistoric Unknown		site-1			
18PR345	345	Unnamed		Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Domestic	Camp	base camp	Middle Archaic, Early Woodland, Middle Woodland		site-1			
18PR346	346	MK #9		Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Unknown	Unknown	short-term resource procurement	Middle Woodland, Late Woodland		site-1			
18PR347	347	MK #10		Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Unknown	Unknown	short-term resource procurement	Prehistoric Unknown		site-1			
18PR348	348	Unnamed		Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Unknown	Unknown	prehistoric lithic scatter	Prehistoric Unknown, Historic Unknown		site-1			
18PR349	349	MK #12		Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Unknown	Unknown	unknown structure	18th, Early 19th		site-1			
18PR350	350	Area 5		Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Domestic	Camp	base camp	Late Woodland		site-1			
18PR351	351	MK #8		Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Unknown	Unknown	unknown structure	18th		site-1			
18CV46				Lower Marlboro	Calvert								Site adjoins WLS on east.	
PG: 82B-41`		Hurley House	Hurley House	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Domestic	Single Dwelling	house	ca. 1900	Demo'd			MHT DOE not NR eligible 1997. Appeared on 1904-05 USGS map.	

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			Fenno Tobacco Barn	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Agriculture/ Subsistence	Storage	tobacco barn	ca. 1920	fair	building-1			
			Fenno Shed	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Agriculture/ Subsistence	Storage	shed	ca. 1920	fair	building-1			
			Fenno Shed	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Agriculture/ Subsistence	Storage	shed	ca. 1945	fair	building-1			
			Sasscer Barn	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Agriculture/ Subsistence	Animal Facility	small animal barn	1945	fair	building-1		Datestone	
			Fenno Large Tobacco Barn	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Agriculture/ Subsistence	Storage	tobacco barn	ca. 1950	good	building-1		Appears on 1953 USGS map.	
			Trueman Tobacco Barn	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Agriculture/ Subsistence	Storage	tobacco barn	ca. 1930		building-1			
	015		Fenno Corncrib	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Agriculture/ Subsistence	Storage	corncrib	ca. 1945	fair	building-1			
	005		Merkle Corncrib	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Agriculture/ Subsistence	Storage	corncrib	1935	fair	building-1		DMI	
	036		Former Fenno House	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Domestic	Single Dwelling	residence-life estate	1922	good	building-1		DMI	
	023		Former Trueman House	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Domestic	Single Dwelling	residence-life estate	1945	good	building-1		DMI	
			Former Trueman Shed	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Domestic	Secondary Structure	shed	ca. 1945	fair	building-1			
			Former Trueman Outhouse	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Domestic	Secondary Structure	outhouse	ca. 1945	fair	building-1			

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			Former Trueman Chicken Coop	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Domestic	Secondary Structure	chicken coop	ca. 1945	fair	building-1			
	028		Former Trueman House	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Domestic	Single Dwelling	residence	ca. 1900	poor	building-1		not on 1890 USGS map, but on 1904-5 USGS map	
	002		Former Merkle House, Field Office	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Domestic	Single Dwelling	house	1964	good				
			Merkle Windmill	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Agriculture/ Subsistence			ca. 1980	fair	structure-1		Smith 2002	
	008		Merkle Tenant House	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Domestic	Single Dwelling	residence-in kind	1960	good	building-1		Smith 2002	
			Merkle Tobacco Barn	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Agriculture/ Subsistence	Storage	tobacco barn	ca. 1930	good	building-1		Previous landuse to Merkle ownership.	
			Merkle Tobacco Barn	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Agriculture/ Subsistence	Storage	tobacco barn	ca. 1930	good	building-1		Previous landuse to Merkle ownership.	
			Trueman Outhouse	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Domestic	Secondary Structure	outhouse	ca. 1900	poor	building-1			
			Trueman Outhouse	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Domestic	Secondary Structure	outhouse	ca. 1920	poor	building-1			
			Trueman Chicken Coop	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Domestic	Secondary Structure	chicken coop	ca. 1920	good	building-1			
			Trueman Tobacco Barn	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Agriculture/ Subsistence	Storage	tobacco barn	ca. 1930	fair	building-1			

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			Trueman Tobacco Barn	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Agriculture/ Subsistence	Storage	tobacco barn	ca. 1930	fair	building-1			
			Trueman Corncrib	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Agriculture/ Subsistence	Storage	corncrib	ca. 1940	good	building-1			
			Trueman Corncrib	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Agriculture/ Subsistence	Storage	corncrib	ca. 1920	fair	building-1			
			Trueman Horse Barn and Feeder	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Agriculture/ Subsistence	Animal Facility	barn, feeder	ca. 1955	poor; fair	building-1; structure-1			
			Trueman Silo	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Agriculture/ Subsistence	Storage	silo	ca. 1930	fair	structure-1			
	006		Merkle Silo Barn	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Agriculture/ Subsistence	Storage	barn, silo	ca. 1955	good	building-1		Not on 1953 USGS map. Prob. Associated with Merkle's cattle raising.	
			Trueman Root Cellar	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Domestic	Secondary Structure	Storage	ca. 1920	good	building-1			
	017		Merkle Storage Shed	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Agriculture/ Subsistence	Storage	shed	1940	fair	building-1			
	003		Visitor Center	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Recreation/ Culture	Museum	Visitor Center	1986	good				
			Harper Equipment Shed	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Agriculture/ Subsistence	Storage	shed	ca. 1940	poor	building-1			
			Shop	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Recreation/ Culture	Shop	Shop	2001	good				
			Mounds	Lower Marlboro	Prince George's	Unknown	Unknown	unknown	Unknown	N/A	N/A			

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PG: 82B-42

CT-1313

8. Significance

Inventory No. PG:82B-42

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
___ 1600-1699	X agriculture	___ economics	___ health/medicine	___ performing arts
___ 1700-1799	___ archeology	___ education	___ industry	___ philospohy
___ 1800-1899	X architecture	___ engineering	___ invention	___ politics/government
X 1900-1999	___ art	___ entertainment/ recreation	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 2000-	___ commerce	___ ethnic heritage	___ law	___ science
	___ communications	___ exploration/ settlement	___ literature	___ social history
	___ community planning		___ maritime industry	___ transportation
	___ conservation		___ military	___ other:

Specific dates	ca. 1900-1940	**Architect/Builder**	Unknown
Construction dates	ca. 1900-1940		

Evaluation for:

X National Register X Maryland Register ___ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

SUMMARY

The Merkle Natural Resources Management Area (NRMA), also known as the Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS), is located primarily in the east-central region of Maryland's interior Coastal Plain. The NRMA encompasses approximately 1,678 acres along the banks of the Patuxent River, including 113 acres in Calvert County and 1,565 acres in Prince George's County (Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) 2002). The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) has designated Merkle WLS as a Natural Resources Management Area (NRMA). NRMAs are defined as areas managed "for the optimal use of resources on the site, including wildlife management and agriculture. NRMAs do not accommodate intensive recreational uses, and they are typically used for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, and water access" (MdDNR 2002). However, hunting is not allowed at Merkle NRMA.

The purpose of this Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) form is to evaluate the Merkle NRMA as a potential historic district and to assess each built resource owned by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) constructed prior to 1960 applying the National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR Part 60.4[a-d]) and the criteria for Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 83B, Title 5). As an entity, the Merkle NRMA was established in 1970 and land was assembled between 1970 and 1986. MdDNR began active management of the property following the death of Mr. Merkle in 1984. Thus, the buildings and the management practices instituted by MdDNR that have affected the whole NRMA are not yet fifty years old. The visitor center, boardwalk, and trails on the property were constructed in the 1980s. The relatively recent creation of these features has not allowed the development of sufficient historical perspective to assess whether the Merkle NRMA is a significant entity within the history of conservation. At this point in time, it does not appear that Merkle NRMA possesses the qualities of significance as an NRMA necessary for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

However, the portion of the NRMA incorporating the original Merkle Wildlife Farm that is managed under the Goose Management Protocol does possess the qualities of significance for its important association with conservation history in the twentieth century. The former wildlife farm meets the definition of a historic vernacular landscape in that it was purposely shaped by Mr. Edgar Merkle, a noted conservationist, to further the conservation of the Canada goose on Maryland's Western Shore between 1932 and 1960 (Criteria A and B). Mr. Merkle is credited with bringing the Canada goose back to the Western Shore of Maryland by creating a habitat to support the geese during their winter migration. The 445 acres managed by the Goose Management Protocol represents the theme of wildlife conservation through the designed landscape of fields, cropland, fencing, and the system of freshwater ponds created to provide water to wildlife. The buildings on the property are associated with tobacco farming or cattle raising and do not contribute to the goose conservation landscape. The former Merkle House and the visitor center, which were constructed after 1960, were not surveyed as part of this investigation.

Of the former agricultural buildings, the Trueman farmstead with its complex of buildings dating from ca. 1900 through ca. 1940 possesses the qualities of significance to illustrate an early twentieth-century farmstead that may qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The Trueman farmstead contains a main house, associated outhouses, a chicken coop, two corncribs, a silo, and three tobacco barns. The buildings are grouped at the western edge of the property and the agricultural outbuildings are located along a farm road. The layout of the buildings is retained and the individual buildings, many of which are in poor condition, retain sufficient integrity to illustrate their property types. The buildings that do not contribute to this entity include the ca. 1945 tenant house and its three outbuildings and the ca. 1955 horse barn and feeder trough.

HISTORIC CONTEXTS

The historic contexts relevant to the built resources at Merkle NRMA in Prince George's County have been organized around chronological periods and themes identified by the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) in its cultural resources documents (Weissman 1987; MHT 2000).

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Contact and Settlement Period 1570-1750

In 1632, King Charles I granted the portion of Virginia north of the Potomac River to Cecil Calvert, second Lord Baltimore. In 1634, Leonard Calvert established the first European settlement in the Maryland colony at St. Mary's City (Virta 1984:20). Since the Piscataway tribe were valuable participants in English trade, Leonard Calvert obtained their consent before establishing the settlement. The Maryland proprietor took other precautions to ensure amity with the tribe. He reserved lands for the Piscataway in the colony, and, in exchange, the Piscataway agreed to remain in the area to serve as allies against other hostile Indian tribes.

Cecil Calvert secured the Maryland charter for both religious and economic reasons. His father, George Calvert, a convert to Catholicism, first sought a land grant in the New World to establish a colony based on religious tolerance. The success of tobacco cultivation in the Virginia colony and the Virginians' lucrative beaver trade along the Potomac and the upper Chesapeake Bay promised financial rewards for further colonization in the region (Fausz 1984:8). George Calvert died before the crown granted the charter, leaving his son to become the first proprietor of Maryland.

Maryland's extensive number of waterways encouraged a dispersed settlement pattern. The Patuxent and Potomac Rivers and their tributaries served as the most important transportation routes for Prince George's County during the seventeenth century. By the end of the seventeenth century, settlements extended beyond the navigable portions of the rivers. In response to this expanded settlement, the Maryland Assembly created Prince George's County in 1696 from portions of Charles and Calvert Counties. Its name honored both Saint George and Prince George of Denmark, husband to Princess Anne. The number of taxable persons in the new county numbered 658; 514 were from Calvert County and 144 from Charles County. Approximately 500 patents existed in the new county by 1696 (Virta 1991:55-57; Hienton 1972:4; Wesler et al. 1981).

The increasing European population of Prince George's County pressured the indigenous tribes, such as the Piscataway, to move out of the colony. When white settlements surrounded the Piscataways' reserved lands during the late seventeenth century, minor skirmishes developed. Although the Maryland Assembly tried to intercede, the Piscataway withdrew from the colony and moved into Pennsylvania by 1738. After that date, Europeans completely dominated southern Maryland (Hienton 1972:27-36).

Rural Agrarian Intensification 1680-1815

Maryland colonists readily adopted the tobacco culture of Virginia. Tobacco was the chief export of Prince George's County, as well as the major form of currency in the colony. The volatility of the tobacco market caused the counties on the Eastern Shore to turn to the production of wheat during the eighteenth century. However, the rich soils, cheap labor, and higher prices for tobacco on the Western Shore insured the continuation of Prince George's tobacco production. Prince George's County became the leading producer of tobacco in Maryland (Watson 1962:23; Wesler et al. 1981).

Tobacco production required large amounts of land and labor. The extensive land patents issued by the colony suited the planter who wished to produce a yearly tobacco crop. Labor was provided by indentured servants and slaves. At first, those who completed their terms of indenture purchased their own farms. However, by the late eighteenth century, land had become both expensive and scarce. Newly freed indentured servants moved from Prince George's County to new lands opening in the west. Tobacco planters increasingly turned to slave labor; by 1790, slaves comprised 52 per cent of the county's population (Wesler et al. 1981).

During the eighteenth century, the government made an effort to establish towns. It re-established Charles Town and established the port towns of Queen Anne, Nottingham, Mill Town, Marlborough (renamed Upper Marlboro), and Aire at Broad Creek. Upper Marlboro grew the most rapidly. In 1721, the County Court was moved to Upper Marlboro (Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission [M-NCPPC] 1992:50).

In 1747, the Colonial Assembly initiated a tobacco inspection system that required the inspection of tobacco at government-regulated warehouses in designated port towns. Designated port towns included Bladensburg, Upper Marlboro, Nottingham, Aire at Broad Creek, Queen Anne, and Piscataway. By the late 1700s, Bladensburg was the largest tobacco port in Prince George's County. The boundaries of Prince George's County took their final shape in 1791, when the District of Columbia was established. The State of Maryland contributed portions of Montgomery and Prince George's counties to form the new city (Bowie 1947:vii).

During the War of 1812, the British marched through northern Prince George's County to attack Washington, D.C. The British sailed up the Patuxent River and landed 4,5000 men at Benedict on 19-20 August 1814 (Hickey 1990:197). The British moved north from their camp at Benedict towards Nottingham, twenty miles away, on 20 August 1814. The road the soldiers traveled paralleled the Patuxent River. General Ross was the British general in charge of British troops; Admirals Cochrane and Cockburn were in charge of seamen and marines. The British military was in search of Commodore Joshua Barney who was supposedly anchored at Nottingham. By the time General Ross reached Nottingham, Commodore Barney had left. Admiral Cockburn's forces were anchored off Nottingham by 21 August. The next day, the British continued north. The Americans were camped at Wood Yard. An important junction was the fork in the road in which the road from Wood Yard, Washington, and points west joined another road from Upper Marlboro and the north (Lord 1972:70). The Americans under General Winder were unsure which road the British would take. If the British followed the road towards Upper Marlboro, they were in pursuit of Barney and possibly heading north. If they went towards Wood Yard and the west, they could be heading towards Fort Washington and the nation's capital (Lord 1972:70). Ross eventually took the route towards Upper Marlboro. The Americans under General Winder camped at Long Old Fields. The British camped at Upper Marlboro, in the home of Dr. William Beanes, the only resident remaining in town when the British arrived (Lord 1972:79).

On 22 August, the British troops reached Upper Marlboro, where Ross ordered a halt (Hickey 1990:197). After stopping at Upper Marlboro, Ross proceeded towards Long Old Fields on 23 August and then swung to the north, towards Bladensburg (Coles 1965:177). Five hundred marines were left at Upper Marlboro as Ross led his troops toward Bladensburg. From Bladensburg, Ross could cross the Eastern Branch of the Potomac and approach Washington from the northeast (Hickey 1990:197). Cochrane remained with the fleet and eventually retreated on 24 August.

The forces defending Washington consisted of militia who was joined by regulars, and approximately 500 sailors and marines for a force of approximately 7,000 (Hickey 1990:197). The British approached and crossed the Eastern Branch, quickly outflanking one of the American lines. The Americans fell back. The withdrawal became a rout which was eventually referred to as the "Bladensburg Races" (Hickey 1990:198). The British quickly were able to control the battlefield; residents of Washington including government officials, soldiers, and civilians, fled (Hickey 1990:198). The British, under Ross and Cockburn, marched into Washington on 24 August 1814. The British burned several important public buildings, including the White House, the Capitol, and the treasury. The British left Washington on 25 August, and re-embarked at Benedict on 30 August (Hickey 1990:201). The British fleet under Admiral Cochrane anchored off North Point on 12 September.

Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870

During the antebellum period, Prince George's County remained the largest producer of tobacco in Maryland. During this period, slaves provided the labor force, and the county's black population continued to outnumber the white population.

Development of adequate transportation systems also was critical to Prince George's County's continued economic success. The Patuxent, Anacostia, and Potomac Rivers served as important routes for shipping products. Steamboat service, inaugurated in the early nineteenth century, facilitated passenger transportation and linked the region to Baltimore (Watson 1962:31).

The continuing need for good overland transportation prompted turnpike construction in northern Prince George's County during the first half of the nineteenth century (Greene 1946:9). The development of railroad lines followed within a few years. By 1832, the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) Railroad reached Bladensburg and was later extended into Washington (Watson 1962:34). The Baltimore and Potomac (B&P) Railroad crossed the eastern and southern sections of the county by the 1850s (Lawrence 1878:8; Watson 1962:34). Though villages and towns developed at crossings of county roads and along the railroad lines, these transportation improvements did not alter the essentially rural character of the southern portion of the county.

Tobacco remained the primary crop in Prince George's County during the nineteenth century. In 1840, county farmers produced 37 per cent of the tobacco grown in the state of Maryland (Wesler et al. 1981:141). By 1860, Prince George's County farmers produced over 13 million pounds of tobacco, a quantity larger than that produced in any other county in the Union (Lawrence 1878:8). Corn, rye, wheat, and oats also became staple crops. The sale of sheep and swine also constituted major components of the county's agricultural output (Wesler et al. 1981:147, 149).

Planters became interested in incorporating new scientific farming practices, prompting the establishment in 1817 of the first county agricultural society in Maryland. In 1858, the nation's first agricultural research center (now University of Maryland at College Park) was established. With the passage of the Land-Grant Act in 1862, the college received federal funds for its support (Education Research Service 1956).

The Civil War profoundly altered the social and economic fabric of Prince George's County. Although Maryland did not secede from the Union, most residents of Prince George's County strongly supported the Southern cause. An important line of Southern communication ran through Upper Marlboro and along the Potomac River (Watson 1962:42). As a result, the county was occupied by federal troops throughout the war.

Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

The Civil War brought drastic changes to the tobacco-based economy. The emancipation of slaves led to a severe labor shortage that markedly increased the cost of producing tobacco (Scharf 1892:113). In 1870, Prince George's tobacco production reached

only 3.5 million pounds, approximately one-quarter of the 1860 crop production level (Wesler et al. 1981:142). Impoverished landowners were forced to sell portions of their real and personal property in order to survive financially. Many former slaves migrated from Prince George's County to the nearby urban centers of Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

Two new approaches to farming developed as a result of emancipation: tenancy and truck-farming. In the most common form of tenancy, landowners furnished land, a dwelling, a horse team, and all necessary implements for working crops. In exchange, the landowners received two-thirds of the crop produced (Scharf 1892:124). Truck or truck-patch farming became common, particularly in the vicinity of Washington, D.C., and along railroad lines. Farmers with small acreage produced fruit, wheat, corn, rye, and, later, dairy products for nearby urban markets (Scharf 1892:124, 141).

Between 1870 and 1930, Prince George's County remained primarily rural. In 1870, approximately 65 percent of the land was in agriculture. By 1900, 85 percent of the county's lands were in agricultural production; by 1930, agriculture was reported on 67 percent of the county. The number of farms in Prince George's County nearly tripled, rising from 835 in 1870 to 2,427 farms in 1930. However, the average farm size markedly decreased from 242 acres per farm in 1870 to 85 acres in 1930 (Wesler et al. 1981:146). The number of white farmers numbered 1,682, while the number of African-American farmers numbered 591. The rate of tenancy in 1925 was 31.7 percent, with 403 white tenants and 317 black tenants (U.S. Bureau of Census 1926:11).

Tobacco was the primary crop. Tobacco production never reached the 1860 peak of over 13.4 million pounds, but remained between 3.5 and 5.5 million pounds per year between 1890 and 1920. In 1930, tobacco production reached over 5.9 million pounds raised on 7,779 acres representing 9 per cent of total cropland. Prince George's County remained the state's major producer of tobacco during this time period (Wesler et al. 1981:148; U.S. Bureau of Census 1926:22). Although tobacco remained an important crop, farmers began to diversify agricultural production. The two primary grain crops in 1930 were corn (411,796 bushels) and wheat (100,851 bushels). Between 1900 and 1930, the production of orchard and potato crops increased. The value of dairy products also increased from $188,488 in 1900 to $253,824 in 1930 (Wesler et al. 1981:148). In 1925, dairy cows numbered 3,865, while beef cattle numbered 907. In 1924, milk production reached 1.6 million gallons. The number of silos in Prince George's County in 1925 was reported as 36. Poultry production in 1925 reached $216,569 for eggs and $239,822 for chickens (U.S. Bureau of Census 1926).

The pattern of large landholdings divided into smaller farmsteads is evident in the history of land currently included in the Merkle NRMA. The 1892 USGS Prince Frederick 15 minute quadrangle map depicted no farmsteads on NRMA property. By 1905, the Fenno and Trueman farmsteads were established (USGS 1931). The deed transferring the Merkle Wildlife Farm to the State of Maryland indicated that four tracts of property acquired by Merkle between 1941 and 1964 were originally part of a larger landholding that was subdivided through sale in 1902 (MdDNR Prince George's County deed L4027/F445ff). As the land was divided into smaller farms, the new owners established new farmsteads, with housing and agricultural outbuildings to support crop production, livestock, and poultry. The typical building complex comprised a house with secondary domestic structures, such as an outhouse or chicken coop, and tobacco barns, generally located near the fields where tobacco was harvested. Tobacco remained the primary cash crop during this time. When Fenno transferred property to the Merkle NRMA, he retained tobacco rights on a defined amount of acreage.

Modern Period 1930-Present

During recent decades, development in Prince George's County has become increasingly suburban, and agricultural activity has diminished. During the 1940s and 1950s, Prince George's County continued to be the largest tobacco producer in the state of Maryland (Greene 1946:10). Tobacco farmers experienced a significant increase in prices during the 1930s due to the popularity of Maryland Type 32 tobacco for cigarettes (Bowie 1947). In addition to tobacco, county farmers produced corn and livestock to

supplement their income.

Southern Prince George's County remained primarily rural until after World War II. The increasing popularity of the automobile encouraged the spread of the suburbs beyond the railroad lines. Highway construction and expansion, such as the construction of Indian Head Highway during World War II and the continuation and widening of Crain Highway (U.S. 301), altered land use by promoting strip development and subdividing nineteenth-century crossroads communities (State Roads Commission 1958:73).

Suburban growth in Prince George's County has accelerated since the end of World War II. Increasing numbers of subdivisions, government agencies, and major expressways within the Washington metropolitan area have changed Prince George's County from an agricultural to an urban/suburban area. The county's population reached over 800,000 residents according to the 2000 census (http://www.mdarchives.state.md.us).

As the population in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area substantially increased, there was a growing concern to protect water resources and a growing recognition of the need to protect water supplies, to preserve land along streams and rivers, and to control flooding caused by increasing suburbanization and cutting of forests. The Patuxent River became a river of special concern to Maryland state planners. The Patuxent River with its 930 square mile watershed is the only river system that lies entirely within the State of Maryland and contains portions of seven Maryland counties. During the 1960s, the continuing pollution noted in the river prompted a series of legislative actions to protect the river. The Patuxent River Watershed Act (Natural Resources Article Section 8-1301) was enacted in 1969. In 1968, the Patuxent River was designated a Maryland scenic and wild river after passage of the Maryland Scenic and Wild Rivers Act of 1968. In 1977, a joint Executive-Legislative Committee was formed to determine actions to improve the environmental integrity of the watershed. The work resulted in the Patuxent River Watershed Act of 1980 and the development of a policy plan for the watershed (Maryland Department of Planning 1984). The policy plan was updated in 1996-1997. The Patuxent River also was designated as a greenway during the 1990s (MdDNR Patuxent River State Park file).

NRMA History

Merkle Natural Resources Management Area (NRMA) entered the MdDNR landholdings during the early 1970s. In 1970, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources acquired 510 acres from Henry Harrison Fenno. MdDNR secured an additional 400 acres from Edgar and Kathleen Merkle in 1971. The 1994 MdDNR land unit summary documented that these two properties were donated to the State of Maryland (MdDNR 1994). The Merkles supplemented the state's holdings by six acres in 1974. Richard L. Eisenman conveyed nearly 54 acres in 1977 and Marvin H. Fenno transferred 362.3 acres in 1978. Other parcels comprising the current NRMA are 154.24 acres conveyed by Flora Trueman in 1981; 28.75 acres conveyed by Marvin H. Fenno in 1984; 103.8 acres from Lansdale G. Sasscer in 1986; and, 49.1 acres conveyed by Clifton Whittingham in 1986. Together, land transfers totaled 1,678 acres (MdDNR 1986:1; MdDNR 2002).

The NRMA is named for Edgar Merkle (b. 1900-d. 1984), who was the owner of Merkle Press in Washington, D.C., and a noted conservationist. Merkle is credited with bringing the Canada goose back to the Western Shore of Maryland. Merkle began his conservation efforts through a breeding program. He began breeding Canada geese on a 99-acre farm that he purchased at auction in 1932 (O'Donnell 1983; MdDNR 1983). Over the ensuing decades, Merkle assembled the Merkle Wildlife Farm that totaled 400 acres. Through his efforts to establish a habitat, Merkle encouraged thousands of the birds to flock to the property to feed and rest during the winters (MdDNR 2003a). In addition, Merkle was an active supporter to protect the Patuxent River watershed and actively worked to pass legislation protecting the watershed during the 1960s (O'Donnell 1983).

In a 1983 interview, Merkle reviewed the history of his interest in goose conservation (O'Donnell 1983). The Merkles chose to raise geese due to their concern over the disappearance of the birds on the Western Shore. Mr. Merkle, an avid duck hunter,

reported that he hunted along the Patuxent River between 1920 and 1930 and had not seen a wild goose on the Western Shore of Maryland during those years. Merkle was aware that Canada geese wintered on the Eastern Shore.

Mr. Merkle recalled that he and Kathleen Merkle, his wife, began breeding their breeding program with the purchase of a breeding pair of geese with their five young. The Merkles shipped the geese from Arkansas to their home in Hyattsville, MD. The Merkles raised the geese in a cement pond on their property in Hyattsville. Shortly afterward, the Merkles purchased the 99-acre farm that is part of the present-day NRMA. Based on Merkle's 1983 interview, it appears that the couple lived on the farm seasonally, and maintained their residence in Hyattsville. During the first year that the Merkles owned the farm, the geese were cared for by neighbors. The following spring, the Merkles retrieved the parents, and returned them to Hyattsville for breeding. The same year, the couple bought four more pairs of geese from Arkansas and Illinois. These geese joined the initial group at the farm in the fall (O'Donnell 1983:71-2).

The five juvenile geese brought to the farm in 1932 were ready for release in 1934 (according to Merkle, geese do not mate until they are three years old). The geese flew to Canada with migrating flocks. Each year a few more geese would return to winter on the Merkle farm. In 1945, the five original young returned to the Merkle farm; that was proved by the bird bands that the Merkles had placed on their legs. (O'Donnell 1983:71-2). Merkle identified the major reason for the increased goose population was their efforts to create and sustain an appropriate habitat. The primary requirements to sustain Canada geese were fresh water, corn, high-quality grass, and gravel to aid in digestion (O'Donnell 1983:72-3).

Between 1941 and 1964, the Merkles increased their landholdings, acquiring four neighboring properties and eventually assembling 400 acres (MdDNR Prince George's County deed L4027/F445ff). In 1942, the Merkles also began breeding Angus cattle. By 1964, the goose population had grown so that the birds competed for the grass with the cattle. The Merkles chose geese over the cattle and sold the livestock. In 1982, a survey documented 19,000 geese on the Western Shore, and a 1983 survey reported that the number of Canada geese had risen to 31,000.

Meanwhile, efforts were made on the state, national, and international levels to preserve wildlife and to increase wild bird populations, especially the Canada goose. In 1916, the Dominion of Canada and the United States of America ratified the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which prohibited the killing, sale, or purchase of migrating wild fowl in the spring. In addition, in 1924-1925, Canada set aside 280,000 square miles of water and marshland in northwestern Canada as a game refuge and a geese breeding ground (Conservation Department Annual Report 1925). Mounted police patrolled the area to prevent people from gathering eggs and hunting. Because of these efforts, Maryland conservation officials reported that "thousands upon thousands" of Canada geese and other birds stopped in the state en route to breeding grounds in Canada.

In his 1923 report, State Game Warden E. Lee LeCompte recommended that the Maryland State Game Department buy as much land as possible to establish game refuges. At that point, the state already owned a game farm at Gwynnbrook, and leased several sites throughout the state (LeCompte 1923:42). The Maryland State Game Warden noted in his 1925 annual report that the United States needed to do its share in preserving wildlife. The game warden also praised the increasing public awareness of the need to conserve wildlife, and reported that several game refuges had been created throughout the state (Maryland Conservation Department 1925:65). One encouraging step was the Game Refuge and Public Shooting Ground Bill, introduced in U.S. Congress in the early 1920s. The bill included a provision for a $1 license fee paid by migratory bird hunters to raise funds to purchase breeding grounds. The bill failed, but was revised and reintroduced to provide funds for land generated from an excise tax on firearms and accessories (Maryland Conservation Department 1925:61-65).

In 1933, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service established the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Dorchester County, on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The refuge was principally established to protect the wintering grounds of the Canada goose under the

1916 Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This 23,000-acre refuge claims "one of the largest wintering concentrations of Canada and lesser snow geese along the Atlantic Flyway" (Maryland Department of Natural Resources 1997) in addition other wild life.

In 1935, live hunting decoys were banned, resulting in the release of captive flocks of domesticated or semi-domesticated geese. From the 1950s to the 1980s, wildlife agencies successfully encouraged the growth of geese populations in the Atlantic Flyway (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2002). According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the present year-round resident Canada goose population was "introduced and established during the early twentieth century by birds released by private individuals" (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2002).

Even though the land formally was deeded to MdDNR in 1970, Merkle and his staff continued to manage the refuge until 1982. In 1982, the Edgar and Kathleen Merkle Foundation entered into an agreement with the Maryland Wildlife Administration of the MdDNR to direct the management of the NRMA. The agreement specified that the foundation would contribute $10,000 a year to the state until 2021 to support efforts to conserve Canada geese on the Western Shore at the Merkle NRMA. The funds were to pay for administering the geese habitat on the former Merkle Wildlife Farm and 45 acres of the former Fenno property and to maintain the buildings. The agreement also contained an interpretive prospectus, "the plan that guides the development and implementation of an interpretive program for a state park, or in this case for a State Wildlife Management Area" (Maryland Department of Natural Resources 1982:1). The prospectus recommended concentrating interpretation at a visitor center. Limited interpretation on the grounds also was proposed as long as the program did not disturb the geese. Spring and summer programs were seen as ideal since the geese had migrated north by that time. The visitor center, completed in 1986, offers interpretive exhibits around two themes: wildlife management, especially related to the management of Canada geese at Merkle, and the significance of the Patuxent River to the area's natural and human history (Maryland Department of Natural Resources 1982:1).

A major element of the agreement between the Merkle Foundation and MdDNR was the Goose Management Protocol. Specifically, the Goose Management Protocol detailed land management practices controlling the original 400-acre Merkle Wildlife Farm and a 45-acre portion of the former Fenno property. The Goose Management Protocol was the result of Merkle's forty years of experience in fostering wintering geese. The protocol provided detailed instructions for managing 13 fields. An ortho-photograph of the fields and their designations hangs in the visitor center at the NRMA. The fields on the western part of the property near the visitor center are delineated by fences that are maintained in accordance with the 1982 agreement. The protocol specified the timing and types of crops cultivated in each field. Corn and wheat are the primary crops. In addition, permanent pasture fields are maintained. An excerpt from the instructions contained in the Goose Management Protocol are included below:
1. □45 acres – No. 1 Field. Always keep it heavy in pasture as it took thirty years to build and it is a favorite place of the geese. Never change it.
6.□45 acres – No. 4 Field below big lake. Always keep in corn. Strip out 15 rows of corn in three places for the corncrib and drill heavy with wheat. Also vary stripping each year. It helps maintain the soil.
9.□17 acres – Upper Rawling. Always keep in pasture. Drill with wheat in August. (This was a great clover field but we lost it).

The purpose of the Goose Management Protocol was to ensure that the habitat maintains the highest quality of corn, high-quality grass, and grain for the geese. Freshwater is supplied by a system of five ponds installed ca. 1960 (USGS Lower Marlboro Quadrangle Map 1953, revised 1977) supplemented by wells. Continued maintenance of the ponds, as well as the well and pumping system, were stipulations in the 1982 agreement. As summarized on the ortho-photograph (Merkle WLS ortho-photograph 1982):
"Schedule of caring for fields can be carried on forever along with customary up-keep of fertilizer, seed, and lime. It provides sufficient corn for corncrib to feed the geese when they first arrive from Canada. The grass and wheat will carry them through hunting season and provides them with standing corn to eat after the hunting season is over to put them in good health to carry them back to Canada. The above method also provides enough corn for the geese remaining on the farm – 2- to 30 who stay all summer.

Because geese stay on farm for six months (from October to March) it is impossible to plant and develop a good grazing field. Therefore, drill wheat to feed geese. Grass fields must be drilled with wheat in August and grass mixture in February for purpose of feeding geese."

Following the 1982 agreement, Mr. Merkle continued to reside at the NRMA in his house, constructed ca. 1964, until his death in 1984. Mr. Tilghman Smith, Sr., who was hired by Mr. Merkle to manage the property ca. 1955, ensured that the Goose Management Protocol was followed until his retirement in 2003 (Smith 2002).

In 1983, the Land Planning Services unit of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources developed a draft master plan for Merkle NRMA. The 1,500-acre NRMA drew many visitors to see the flocks of Canada geese since the state first acquired the land, but no comprehensive plan had been prepared. The master plan was prepared for four reasons. First, Merkle was located within the "Primary Management Area" along the Patuxent River and subject to the Patuxent River Policy Plan developed by the Maryland Department of State Planning in April 1984. The document was produced to satisfy the 1980 Patuxent River Watershed Act, in which the Maryland Legislature required a "cohesive watershed policy plan for the river" (Maryland Department of Natural Resources 1982:2). Second, the Merkle visitor center was scheduled for completion in fall 1984, and a plan was needed to manage the increased number of visitors expected at the NRMA. Third, a plan would assist the state in long-term coordination between Merkle and other nearby natural areas, including the Jug Bay Natural Area, a 2,000-acre area north of Merkle owned by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and a 300-acre parcel owned by Anne Arundel County across the Patuxent River, which was anticipated to grow to 600 acres. Fourth, in October 1983, management of Merkle was moved from the Wildlife Administration to the Capital Programs Administration, and the refuge designation was changed from Wildlife Management Area to Wildlife Sanctuary (Maryland Department of Natural Resources 1983:2-3).

The master plan divided the sanctuary into five tracts with corresponding uses. The Trueman tract bordered the sanctuary on the south. Public access to that tract was limited; the access road passed private property that included two residences. However, the Trueman property was viewed as important because it served as a buffer for Merkle's goose refuge, Lookout Creek, and a section of marsh next to the Patuxent River. The plan recommended that most of the Trueman land continue to be farmed, as long as a portion of the crop was left for the geese who rested and fed there in the fall. The plan recommended planting a wide hedgerow across the southern border of the property to provide nesting areas and shelter for wildlife, and to delineate the property line (Maryland Department of Natural Resources 1983:15).

The Merkle and Fenno tracts formed Merkle's primary public use area. The master plan recommended this area for the visitor center, an access road from Fenno Road, and a system of trails for outdoor use. The plan recommended the visitor parking lot be upgraded from gravel to asphalt, that the grass edge adjacent to the woods be planted with dogwoods and shad bush, and that a meadow wildflower mix be planted to add color. The master plan also recommended installing improved signs, especially at the sanctuary entrance at Fenno Road and along the road to the visitor center. A one-way, loop drive was planned through both tracts using existing farm lanes, but open only when no geese were in residence. Other options for the two tracts included hiking and birding trails, an observation tower overlooking the Fenno marshes and the Patuxent River, a spur boardwalk trail leading to a marsh, and a bluebird trail. An additional freshwater pond was also planned to increase nesting areas for wood ducks and geese (MdDNR 1983:16-20).

The Fenno marshes tract, the final tract the master plan discussed, was not slated for change. A five-year study was planned to determine whether annual burning would benefit the marshes (Maryland Department of Natural Resources 1983:20).

The master plan also proposed options for the management of wildlife, fish, vegetation, cultural features, and water. The top priority was to maintain the fields to provide adequate food and habitat for the geese who spend the fall and winter at Merkle. A

bubbler was recommended for installation in at least one pond so that open water was available for wildlife during the winter. Breeding opportunities were to be increased through the construction of more ponds, and duck populations were to be supported through raising ducks in captivity and releasing them into adjacent marshes. The master plan recommended increasing plant diversity where additional planting was proposed, and recommended not disturbing several specified natural areas with trails or other development. Those areas included the wooded slopes and floodplain along the south shore of Mataponi Creek extending one-half a mile east of Fenno Road, and for the woods surrounding Merkle Circle. In addition, the plan suggested conforming to 1983 agricultural field fertilization recommendations made by agronomists, installing vegetative buffer strips between farm fields and streams or wetlands, and maintaining the songbird garden near the interpretive center to attract songbirds and to provide food and cover (Maryland Department of Natural Resources 1983:21-24).

The only cultural feature the master plan recommended for further study was "the mounds." It recommended that the Maryland Geological Survey's Division of Archeology study the area and generate data for the interpretive center. Also, the plan suggested notifying the Division of Archeology if any artifacts were found at Merkle in the future (Maryland Department of Natural Resources 1983:24).

The master plan estimated yearly visitation at 15,000 to 20,000 for the first five years. The interpretive center was to be operated with regular daily hours including weekends, but access roads and parking areas remained open from dawn to dusk so that visitors could see the geese. The driving trail was planned with restricted hours, such as one weekday afternoon and all day Sunday, and was to be closed during the winter. The master plan also proposed that a staff of seven be employed to manage the visitor center, sanctuary operations, and educational programs (MdDNR 1983:27-28).

Altogether, expenses for the development, maintenance, and staffing proposed at Merkle NRMA totaled $250,000 (MdDNR 1983:30). Some financing became available from federal and state funds, and from the state's Program Open Space (Wagner 1987:5).

In 1984, the Department of Natural Resources began planning the exhibits for the visitor center. David McLean Associates Interpretive Planning & Design of Frederick, MD, submitted a bid to create and to implement an interpretive plan for Merkle NRMA. The firm estimated it would cost $30,000 to prepare the plans and $154,350 to implement. The linchpin of the exhibit plan was the visitor center, which was proposed to be an integrated space with exhibits visible at several horizontal and vertical levels. The building was planned to contain two open levels, with two bridges extending in a "V" formation in opposite directions toward observation decks. As proposed in the design, the center would use the life cycle of the geese as a theme (David McClean Associates 1984a:1-2; David McClean Associates 1984b:5-8). When construction began in 1984, the project was estimated to cost $400,000 (Maryland Department of Natural Resources 1984:9). The visitor center opened in October 1987 (Wagner 1987:5).

In 1988, Merkle NRMA was included as part of the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Driving Tour, which was created to educate Maryland residents about state and local efforts to protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The driving tour passed through the fields, forests, and wetlands of Merkle NRMA and the adjacent Patuxent River Park. At various points, drivers could enjoy educational displays, an observation tower, and a 175-foot boardwalk across a portion of wetland. A 1,000-foot long, elevated wooden roadway linked the two properties (Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Maryland Department of Natural Resources 1988). The four-mile, one-way road was open from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays and by appointment, and took travelers to previously inaccessible areas (Meyer 1988:1).

Approximately 8 acres of farm fields were transformed into non-tidal wetlands in 1995 to replace wetlands encroached upon elsewhere in Prince George's County. Inmates in a boot camp program and students planted 4,500 trees and shrubs. A handicapped-accessible path, a fishing area, and a pond also were constructed, for a total cost of $73,000.

As of 2003, the 1,678-acre Merkle NRMA remains the only wildlife sanctuary operated by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Geese arrive in mid-October and remain until late February or early March. More than 5,000 geese rest at Merkle at the peak of the season; approximately 100 stay the entire year. Other birds and wildlife at the sanctuary include fox, deer, ospreys, hummingbirds, and herons. Birdwatching, hiking, biking, horseback riding, and fishing are available. The visitor center, located on a rise, features two stories of windows, circular balconies, exhibits on the life history and management of the Canada goose, exhibits on other wildlife in the area, a Discovery Room for children, and a gift shop. The sanctuary remains a stop on the Critical Area Driving Tour (Maryland Department of Natural Resources 2003b).

EVALUATION

The purpose of this Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) form is to evaluate the Merkle NRMA as a potential historic district and to assess each built resource owned by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) constructed prior to 1960 applying the National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36CFR Part 60.4[a-d]) and the criteria for Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 83B, Title 5). Under this task, it is appropriate to discuss the NRMA as a cultural landscape applying National Register Criteria for Evaluation and Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes (McClelland and Keller 1999) and guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes (Birnbaum 1996). Elements examined as part of this analysis included spatial patterns and land use, topography, water features, circulation networks, cultural traditions, buildings and structures, clusters, and archeological sites. The archeological sites were not evaluated as part of this investigation.

The heart of the Merkle NRMA is the 400-acre former Merkle Wildlife Farm that was transferred to MdDNR in 1971. Mr. Edgar Merkle assembled the 400 acres over several decades, beginning with 99 acres in 1932. The previous land use was tobacco cultivation. Merkle bought the farm as wintering grounds for his goose-breeding program, although he raised cattle on the farm between 1942 and 1964. Until 1964, the cattle and geese co-existed by consuming the same grasses and grains. By 1964, the numbers of wintering geese increased so that the cattle and geese competed for the same grasses and grains at critical points during their life cycles. At that point, Merkle ceased cattle operations and devoted his entire acreage to geese conservation. Merkle developed a management strategy for his acreage to provide the best quality habitat for the wintering geese. He supplied fresh water by digging ponds that were filled by wells. His system of field planting provided corn, grass, and grain for the wintering geese. His system of land management became incorporated into the Goose Management Protocol signed between the Merkle Foundation and MdDNR in 1982. This management protocol, with its specific uses for each field, has guided the planting schedule on the 400-acre former Merkle property until the present.

Additional properties were added to Merkle NRMA through purchase, gift, donation, and condemnation. These properties also were former agricultural lands, primarily tobacco farms. The former farms located north of the former Merkle Wildlife Farm have been managed for wildlife habitat. Former fields have been reforested or left as open pastures. The former Trueman property that forms the southern border is farmed with corn and grains to support geese and has some cattle raising under lease.

As an entity, the Merkle NRMA was established in 1970 and land was assembled between 1970 and 1986. Thus, the buildings and the management practices instituted by MdDNR that have shaped the NRMA are not yet fifty years old. Historically, each farmstead was accessed separately from the main road. The circulation networks that unify the northern section of the NRMA were installed during the 1970s and 1980s. The former Trueman property that forms the southern boundary is not linked internally to the rest of the NRMA. Some agricultural fields on the former Fenno and Sasscer properties have been maintained while others are being allowed to reforest. The construction of a visitor center, boardwalk, and trails on the property occurred in the 1980s. The relatively recent implementation of these features has not allowed the development of sufficient historical perspective to assess

whether the Merkle NRMA is a significant entity within the history of conservation. At this point in time, since the NRMA is less than fifty years of age, there is insufficient scholarly work to evaluate the potential important associations of the NRMA with conservation history necessary for consideration for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

However, the 445-acre portion of the NRMA that incorporates the original Merkle Wildlife Farm and is managed under the Goose Management Protocol does possess the qualities of significance for its association with conservation history in the twentieth century. The 445 acres meets the definition of a historic vernacular landscape (Birnbaum 1995) that was purposely shaped by Mr. Edgar Merkle, a noted conservationist, to further the conservation of the Canada goose on Maryland's Western Shore between 1932 and 1960 (Criteria A and B). Mr. Merkle is credited with bringing the Canada goose back to the Western Shore of Maryland by creating and maintaining a habitat to support the geese during their winter migration. The 445 acres managed under the Goose Management Protocol illustrates wildlife conservation through the spatial patterns of fields, crop cultivation, the fencing, and the system of freshwater ponds installed to provide water to wildlife. The domestic buildings and agricultural outbuildings associated with tobacco farming or cattle raising do not contribute to the goose conservation landscape under Criterion A, are not associated with significant persons under Criterion B, and do not embody distinctive characteristics of their types, periods, or methods of construction under Criterion C. The former Merkle House and the visitor center were constructed after 1960 and were not surveyed as part of this investigation.

The former Fenno farmstead comprises a house, a tobacco barn, two sheds, a corncrib, and a large tobacco barn located north of the farmstead in the woods. This farmstead contains a disparate collection of buildings constructed between ca. 1920 and ca. 1950. The buildings in the complex lack individual architectural distinction and do not form a cohesive complex to qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The tobacco barn near the house is undergoing renovation with the replacement of the exterior wood siding. Other buildings in the complex appear to have been repaired and maintained using available replacement materials so that the buildings no longer possess integrity of materials, design, or workmanship to represent their original appearance. No documentation uncovered to date suggests that these buildings are associated with persons important in history under Criterion B.

The former Trueman farmstead is a self-contained farmstead that forms the southern boundary of Merkle NRMA. The former Trueman farmstead contains a complex of buildings dating from ca. 1900 through ca. 1940 that appear to possess the qualities of significance as a representative example of a farmstead in southern Maryland necessary for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The buildings that form this entity include the main house, associated outhouses, a chicken coop, two corncribs, a silo, and three tobacco barns. The building types reflect the agricultural trends of the period incorporating both tobacco agriculture diversified with corn, poultry, and livestock. The buildings are grouped at the western edge of the property and the agricultural outbuildings are located along a farm road. The layout of the buildings is retained and the individual buildings, many of which are in poor condition, retain sufficient integrity to illustrate their property types. The buildings that do not contribute to this entity include the ca. 1945 tenant house and its three outbuildings and the ca. 1955 horse barn and feeder trough.

The former Sasscer small animal barn and the former Harper equipment shed are isolated agricultural outbuildings. The agricultural or domestic complexes once associated with these two buildings have not survived to illustrate the broad patterns of agricultural history in the county under Criterion A. The two building do not possess the individual significance to embody their types, periods, or methods of construction necessary for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C and are not associated with persons significant in history under Criterion B.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. PG:82B-42

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	1,678 acres		
Acreage of historical setting	1,678 acres		
Quadrangle name	Bristol/Lower Marlboro	Quadrangle scale	1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the survey area comprise all property owned by Maryland Department of Natural Resources within the legal boundaries of Merkle Natural Resources Management Area as of December 2002.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	K. Grandine, C. Heidenrich, D. Grose, K. West, K. Child		
organization	R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.	date	6/30/04
street and number	241 East Fourth Street, Suite 100	telephone	301-694-0428
city or town	Frederick	state MD	zip code 21701

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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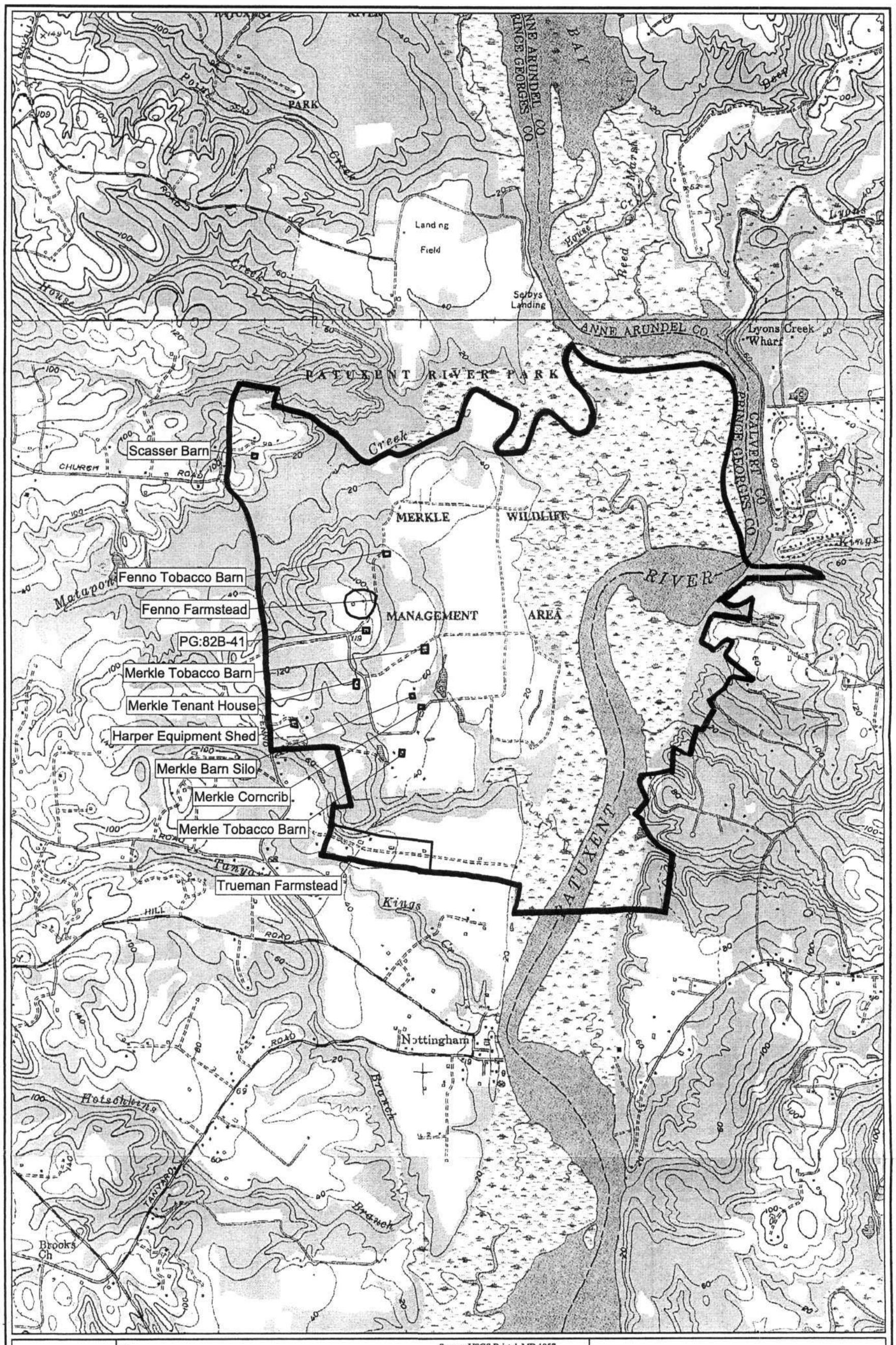

Key:

MERKLE BUILT RESOURCES

MERKLE NRMA

Source: USGS Bristol, MD 1957 (photorevised 1979)
Lower Marlboro, MD 1953 (photorevised 1979)

Disclaimer: This is for general depiction only

0 1000 2000 4000 Feet

MERKLE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AREA (MERKLE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY)
PG:82B-42
NOTTINGHAM VICINITY, PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY

DATE: 3/02/04	Prepared By: TAG

R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.
241 East Fourth Street, Suite 100 Frederick, MD 21701

CT-1313
PG: 82B-42

Lower Marlboro QUAD

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Inventory No. PG: 82B-42

Merkle Natural Resources Management Area (Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary), Prince George's County Maryland
Continuation Sheet

Number Photo log Page 1

The following information is the same for each photograph:

1. MIHP # PG: 82B-42
2. Merkle NRMA (Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary)
3. Prince George's County, Maryland
4. R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.
5. December 2002; January 2003; February 2003
6. MD SHPO

Photo #

1. Landscape with geese, view looking south from loop road towards southernmost Merkle tobacco barn.
2. Visitor center, looking southwest.
3. Merkle storage shed, looking east.
4. Merkle wagon shed/corncrib, looking northeast.
5. Merkle silo barn, looking northwest.
6. Southernmost Merkel tobacco barn, looking south.
7. Northernmost Merkle tobacco barn, looking east.
8. Merkle tenant house, view looking northwest.
9. Former Fenno house, looking north.
10. Former Fenno tobacco barn, looking west.
11. Former Fenno shed, looking east.
12. Former Fenno shed, looking east.
13. Former Fenno corncrib, looking west.
14. Former Fenno large tobacco barn, looking east.
15. Former Trueman main house, looking west.
16. Former Trueman outhouse, looking west.
17. Former Trueman chicken coop, looking west.
18. Former Trueman outhouse, view looking south.
19. Current Trueman house, looking north.
20. Trueman shed, looking north.
21. Truemen outhouse, looking north.
22. Trueman chicken coop, looking east.
23. Former Trueman tobacco barn, looking east.
24. Former Trueman corncrib, looking north.
25. Former Trueman corncrib, looking east.
26. Former Trueman root cellar, looking west.
27. Former Trueman horse barn, looking east.
28. Former Trueman horse feeder, looking east.
29. Former Trueman silo, looking south.
30. Former Trueman tobacco barn (easternmost) in fields east of house, looking east.
31. Former Trueman tobacco barn (westernmost) in fields east of house, looking east.
32. Former Sasscer small animal barn, looking south.
33. Former Harper equipment shed, looking east.

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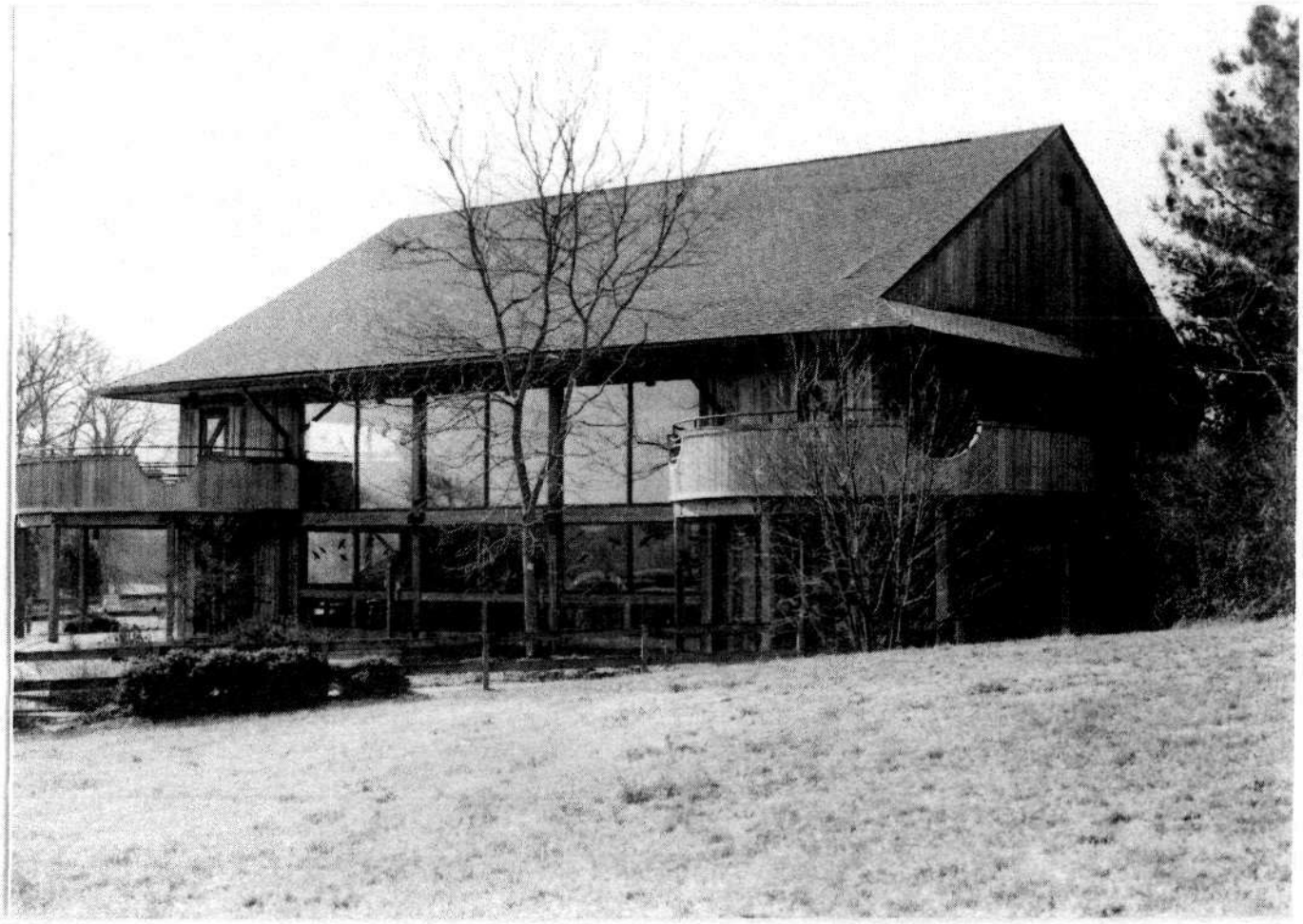

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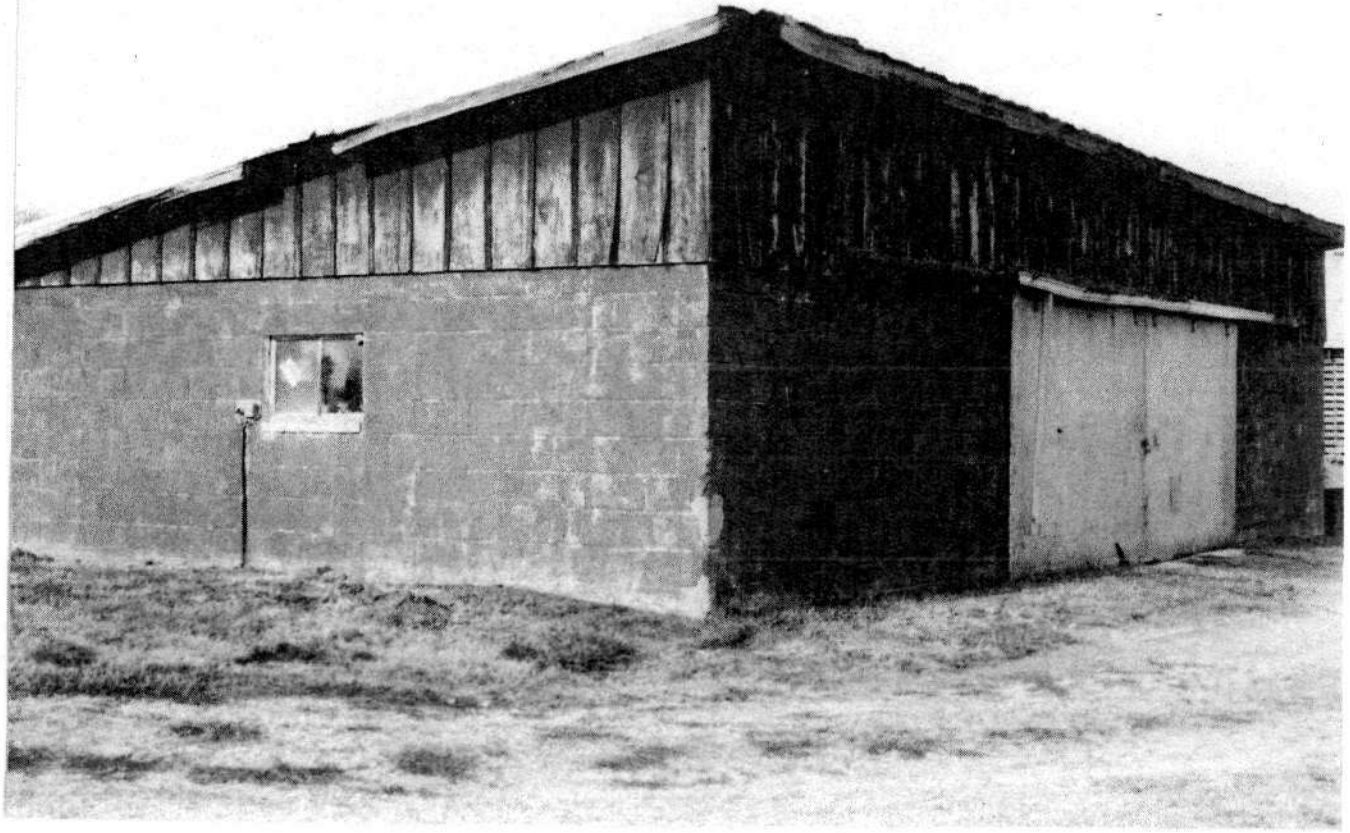

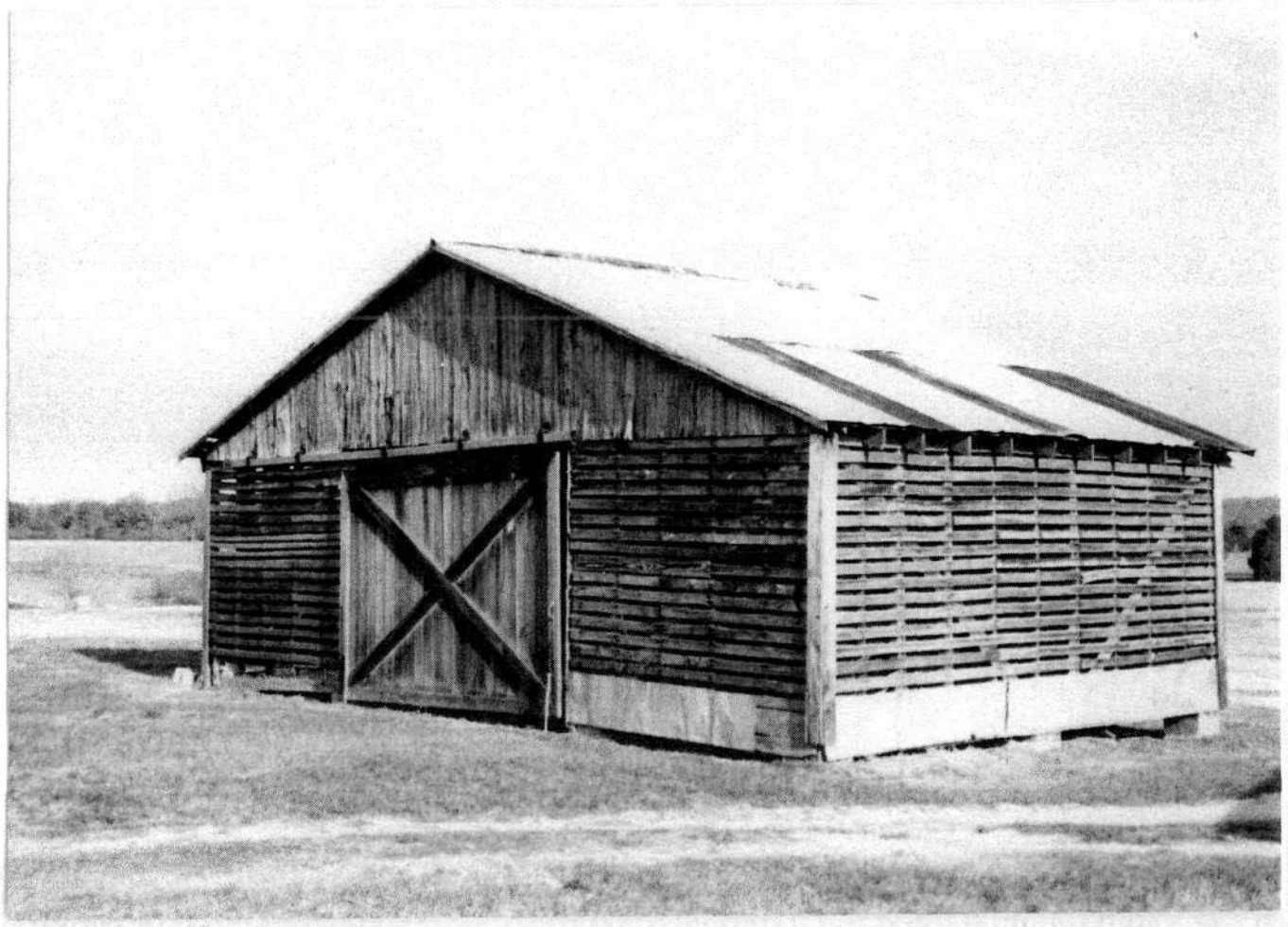

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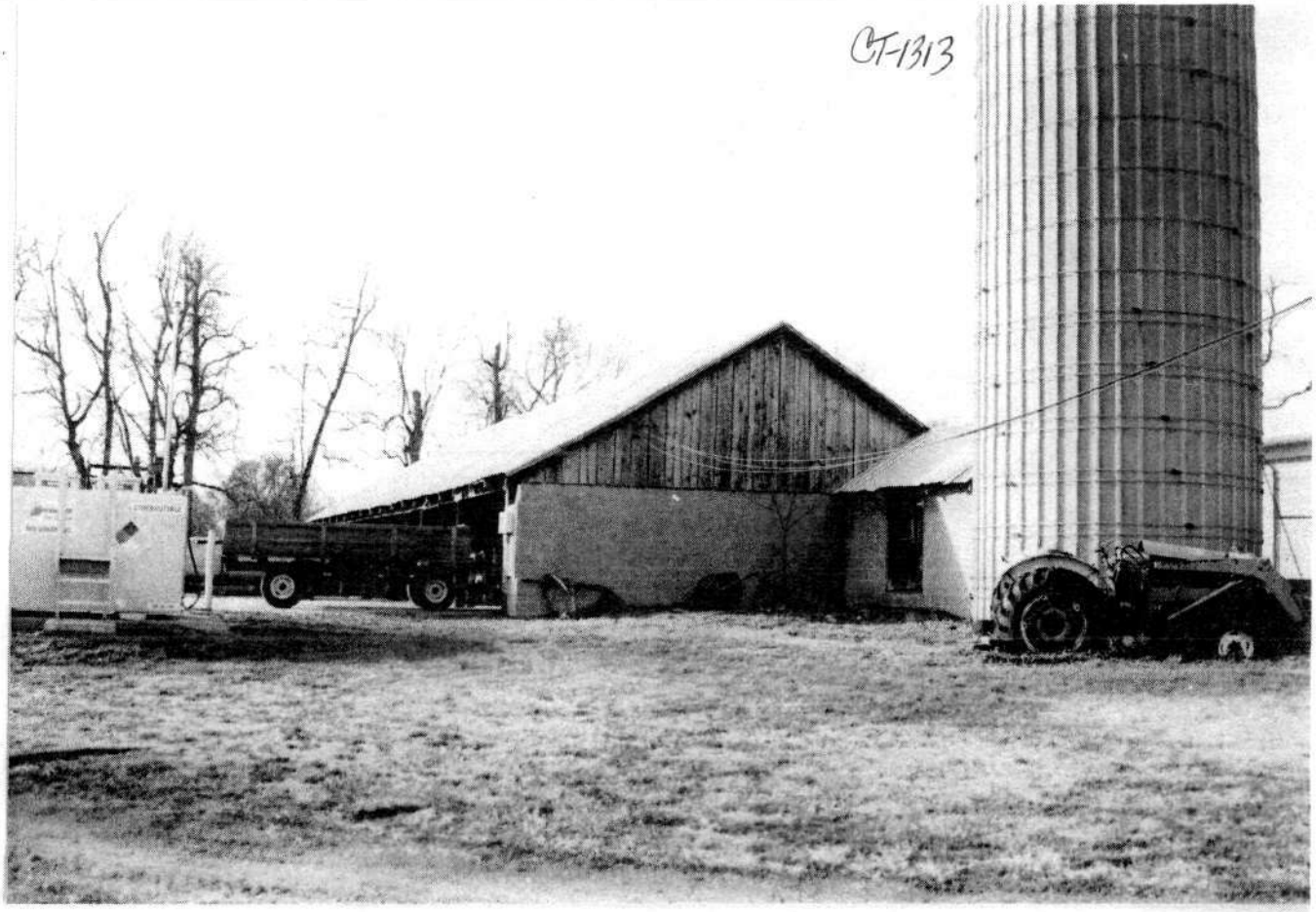

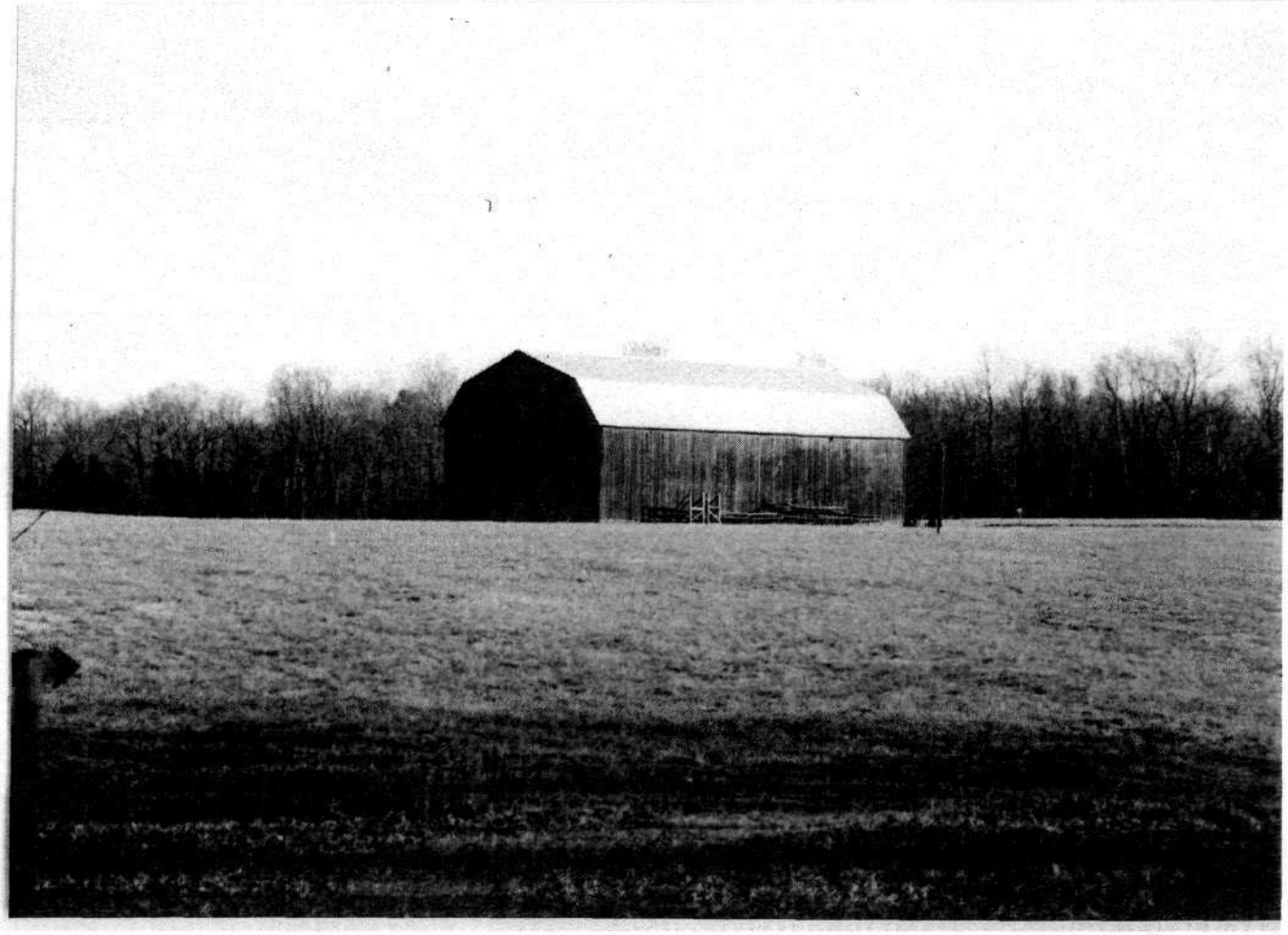

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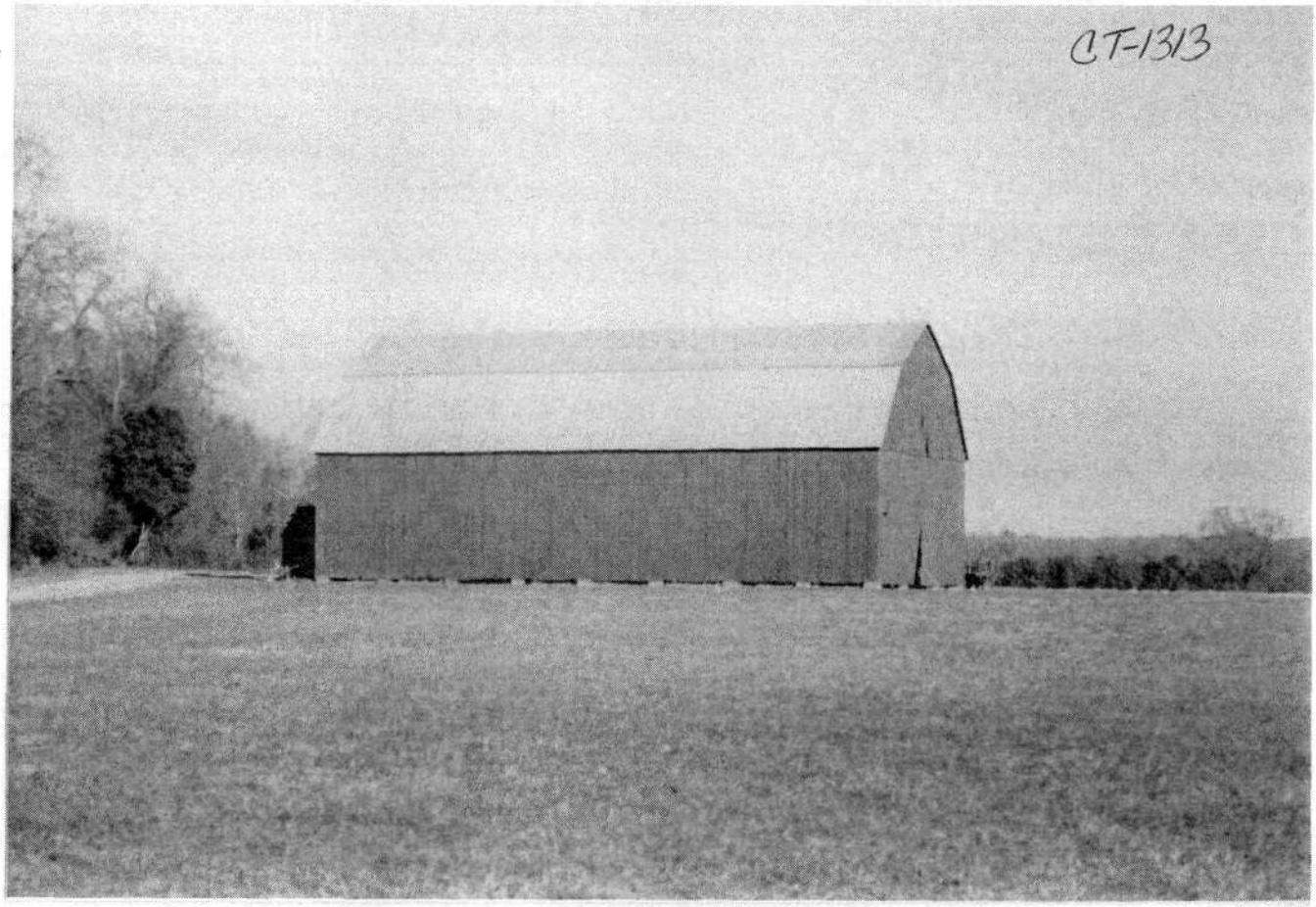

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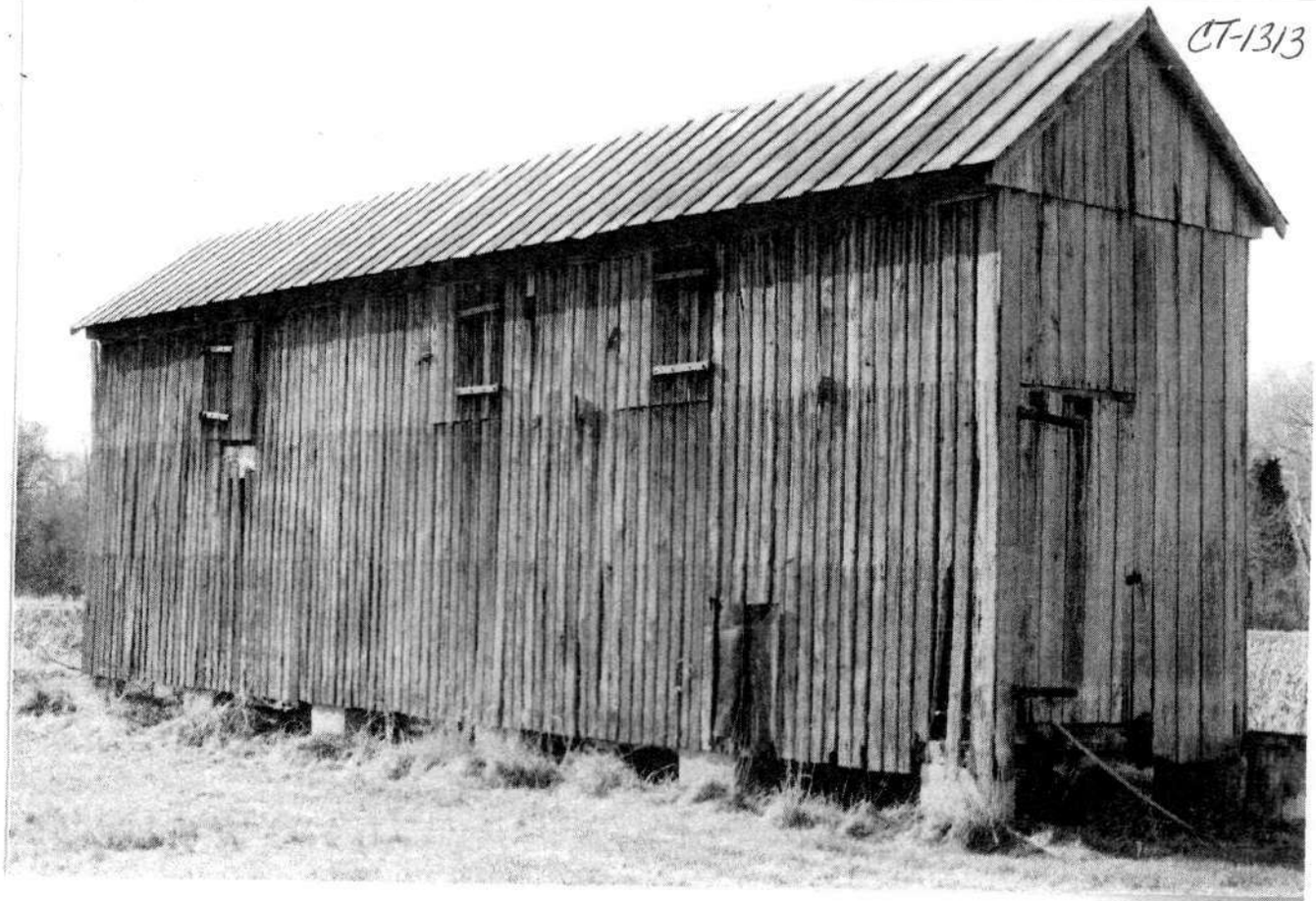

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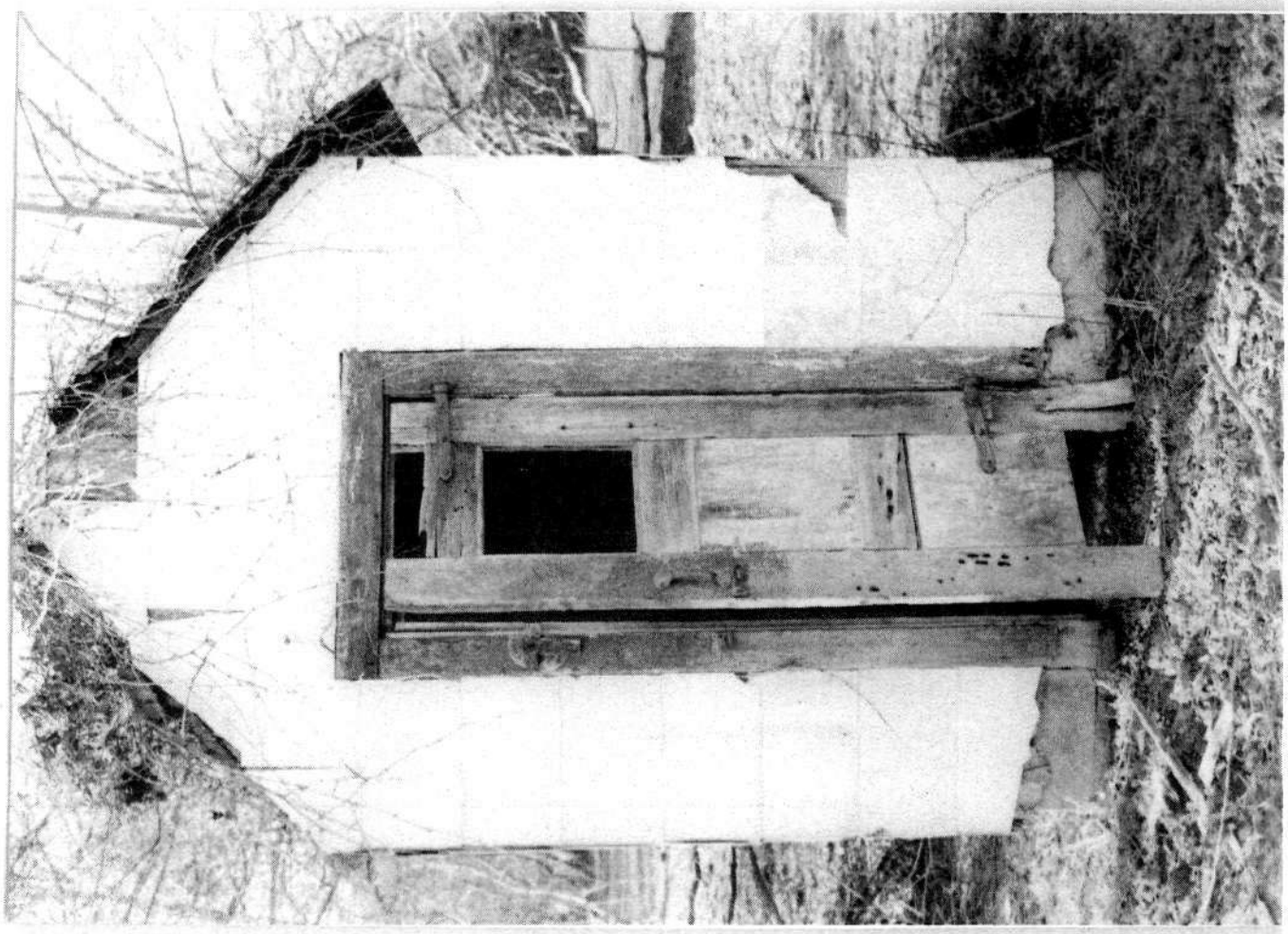

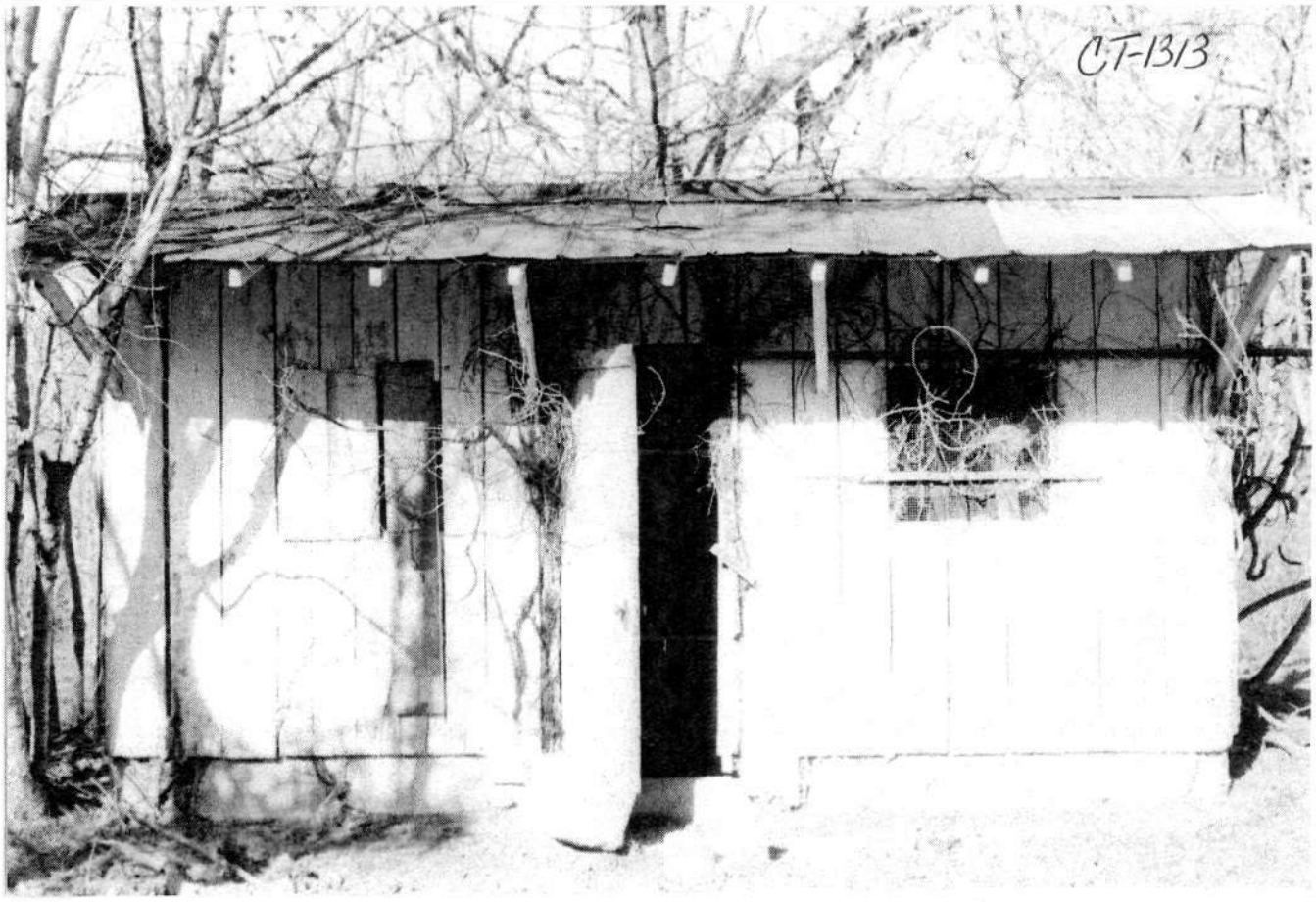
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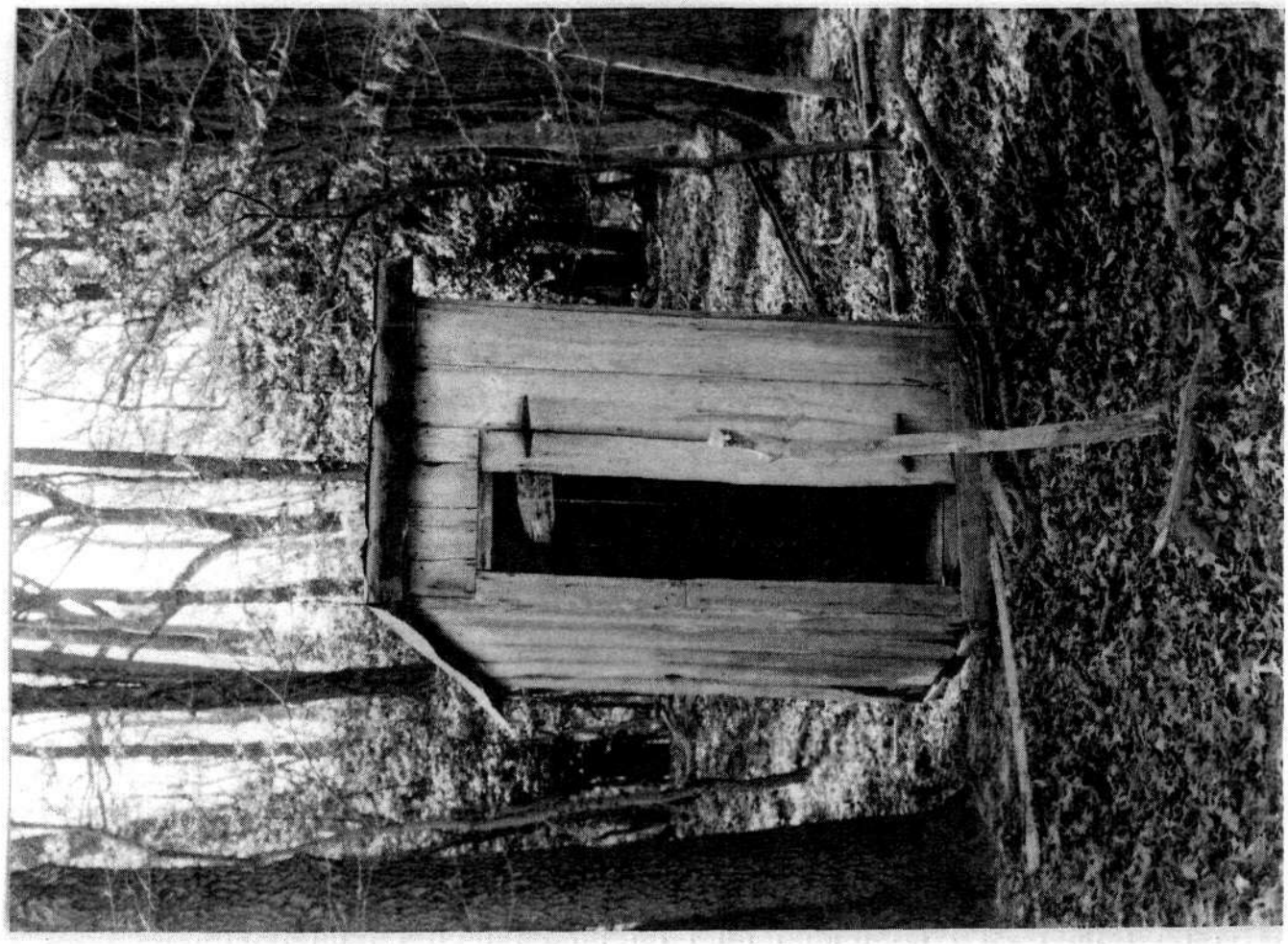

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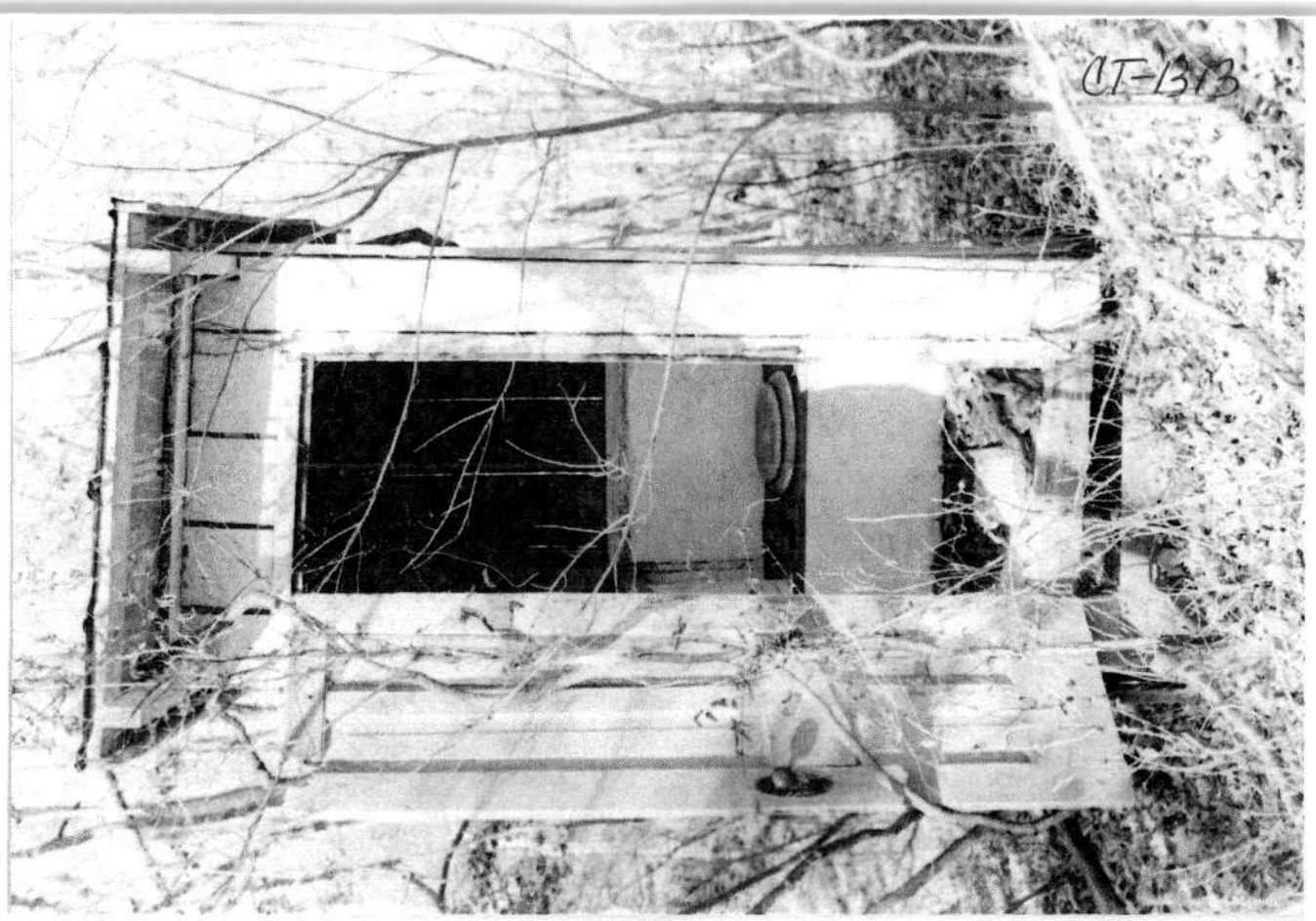
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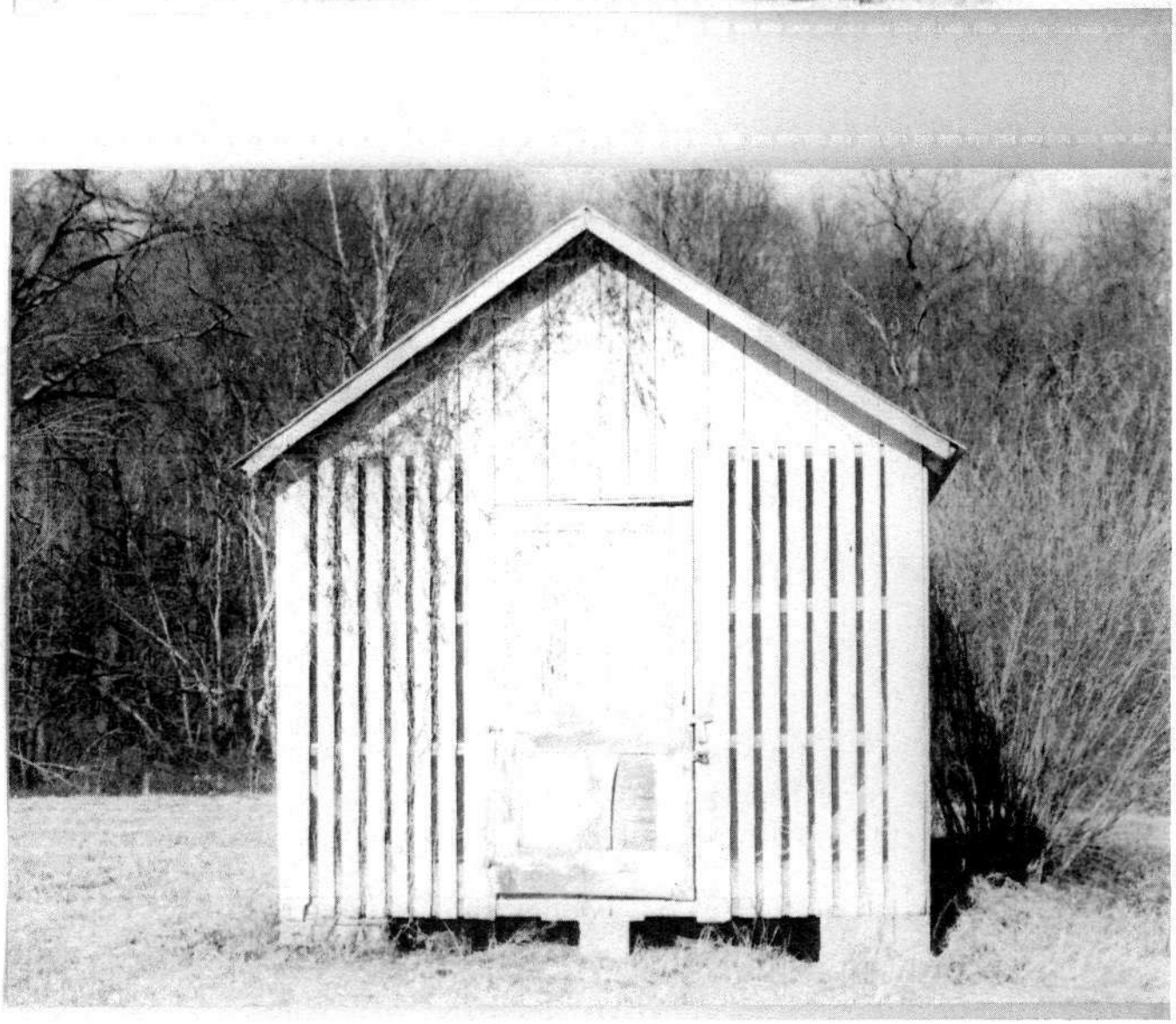

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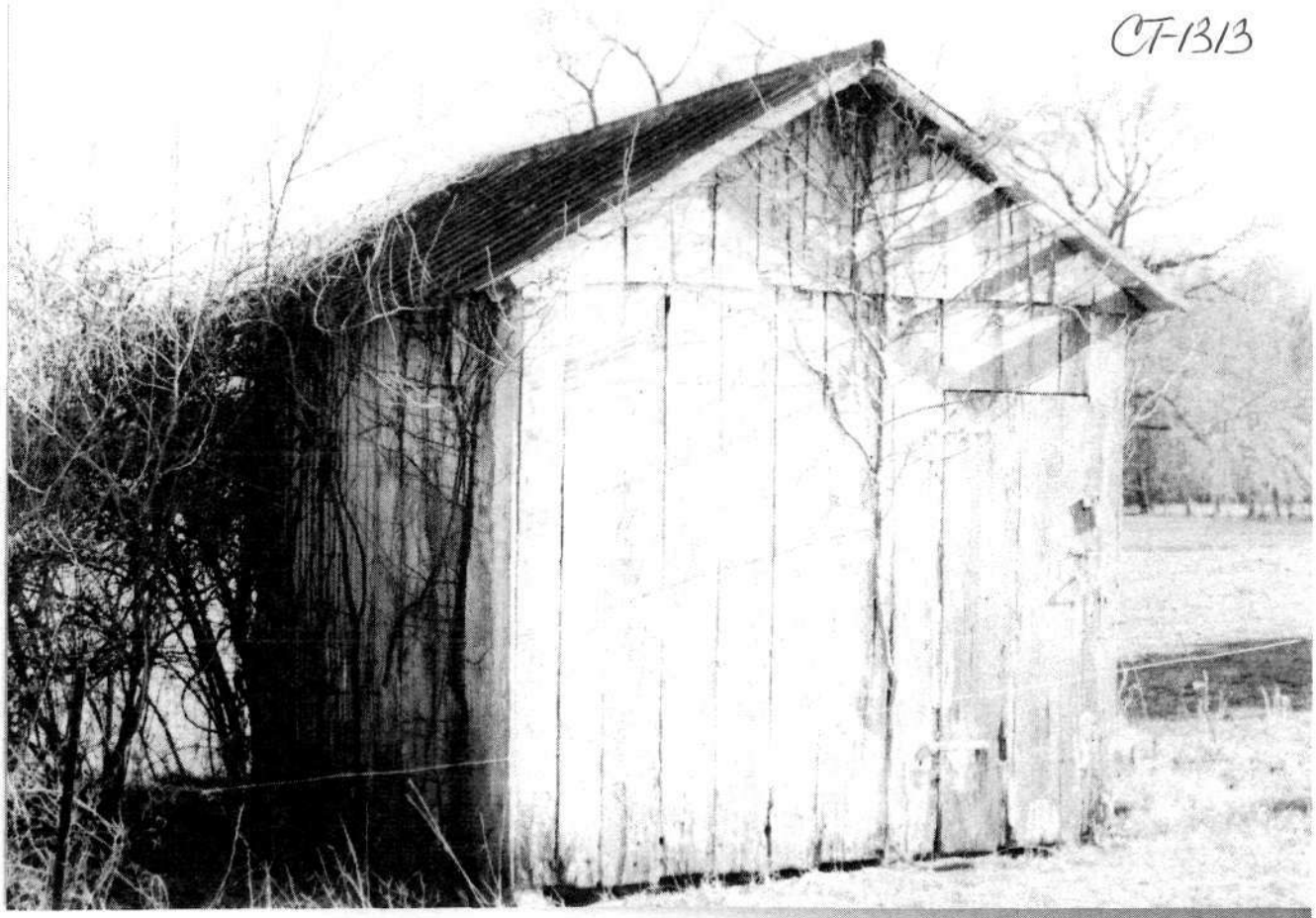

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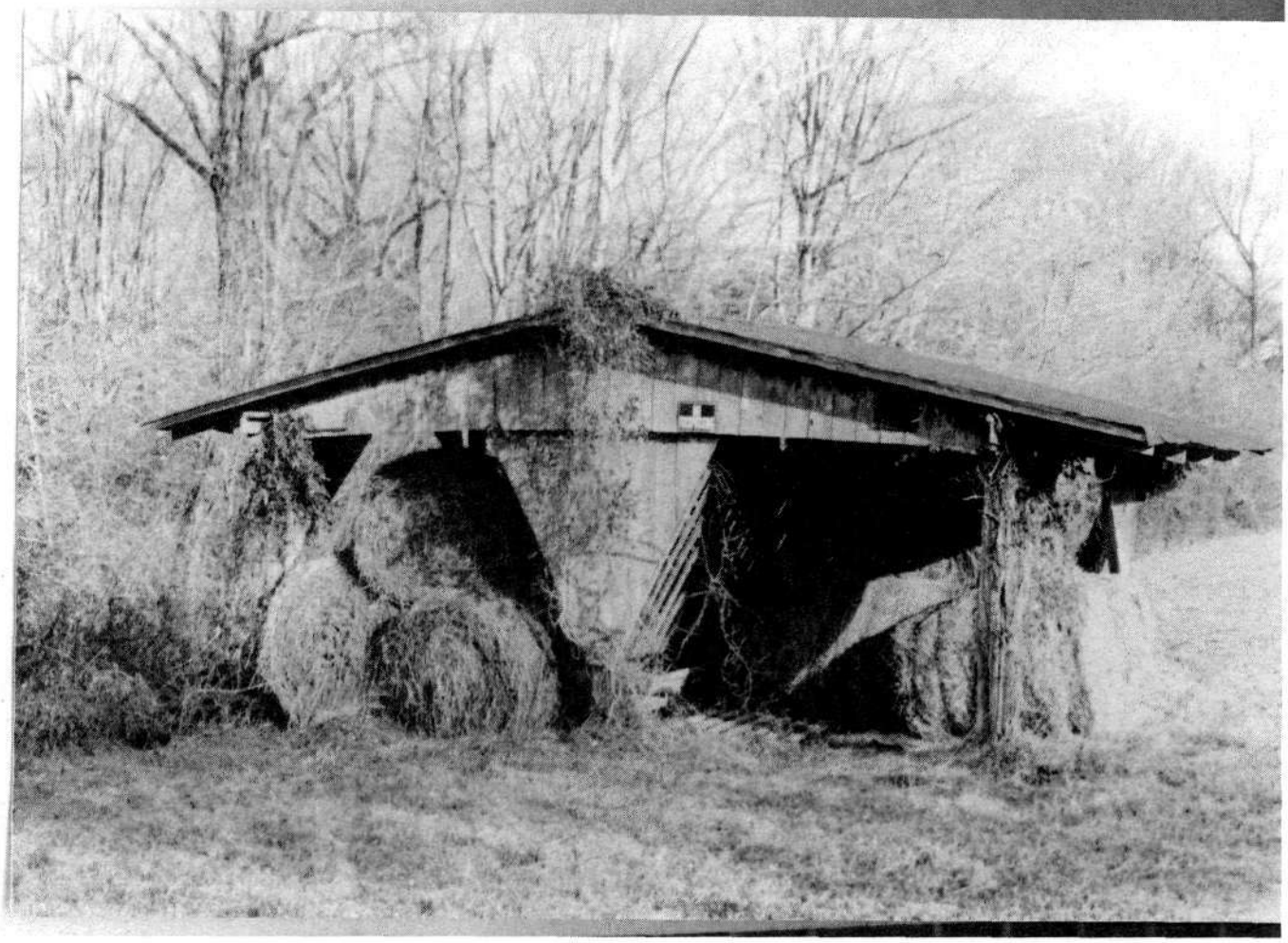

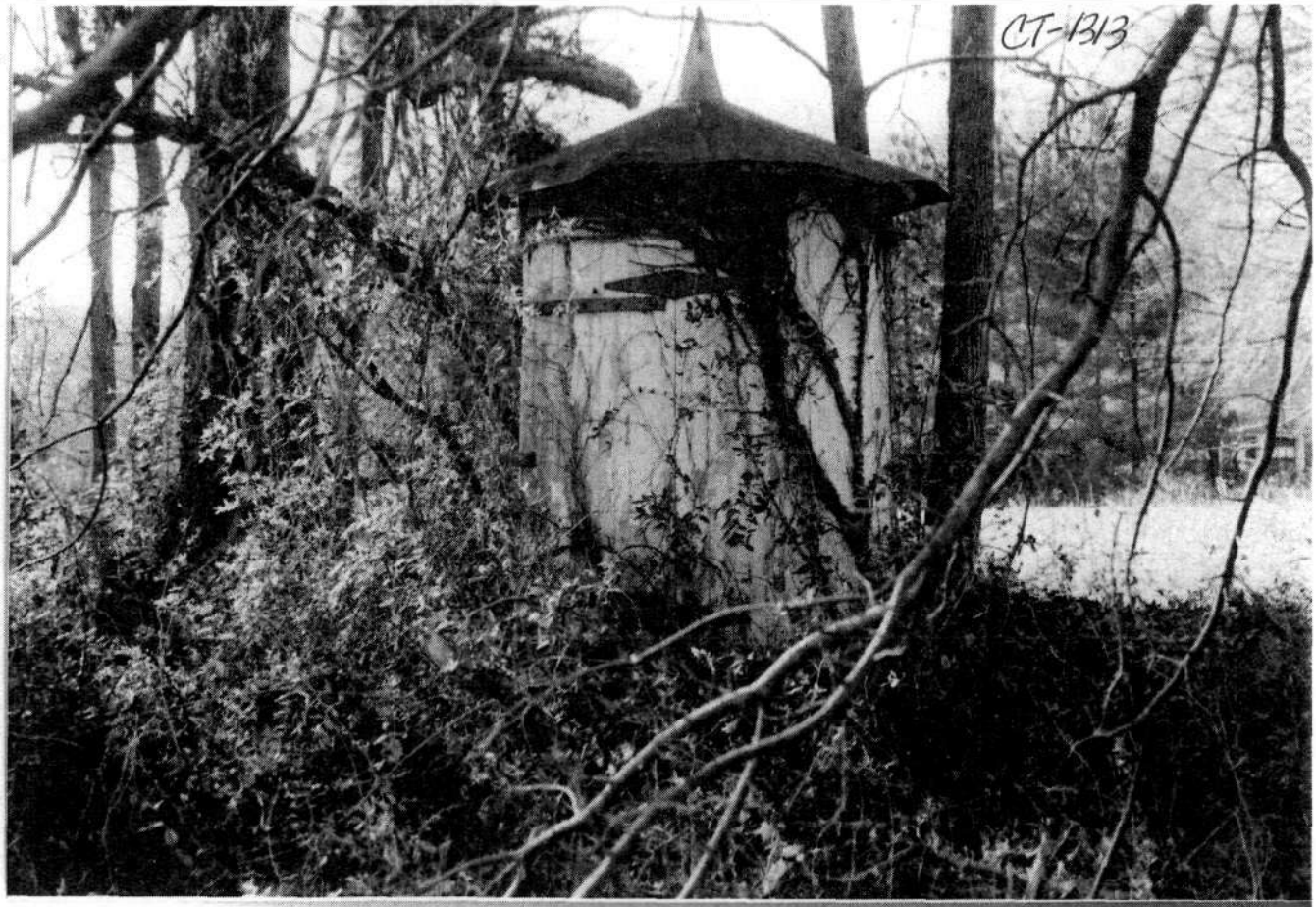
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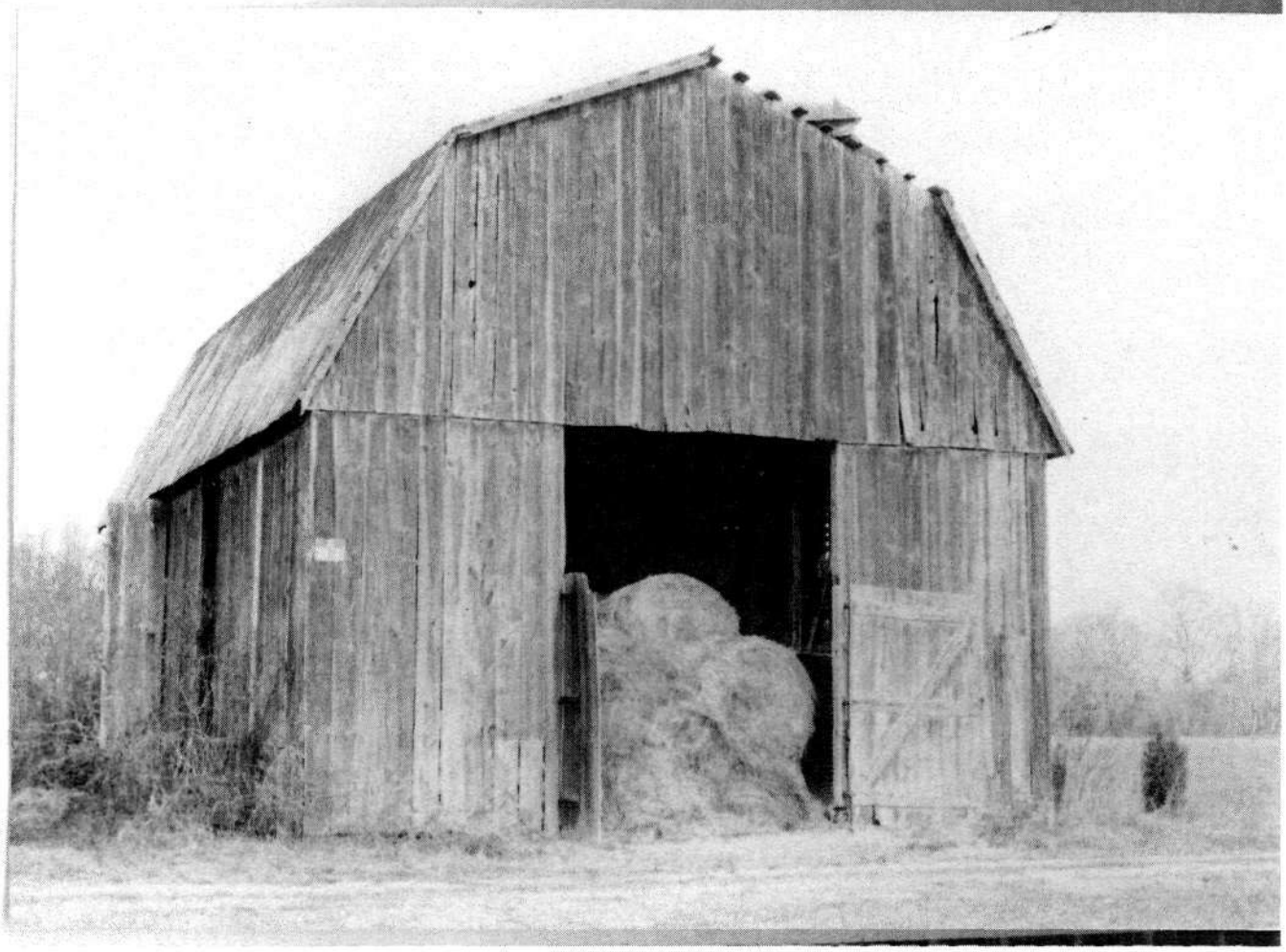

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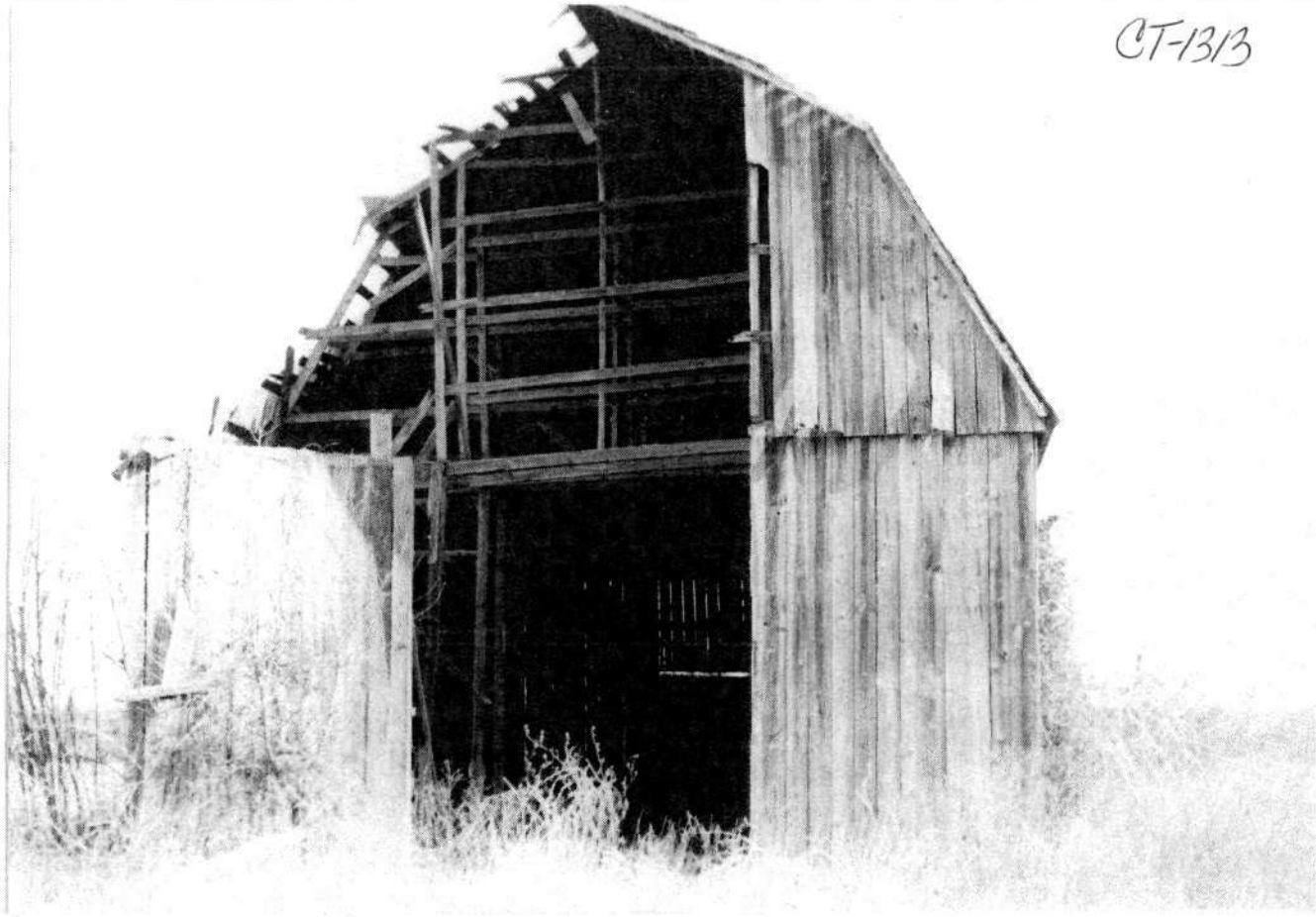

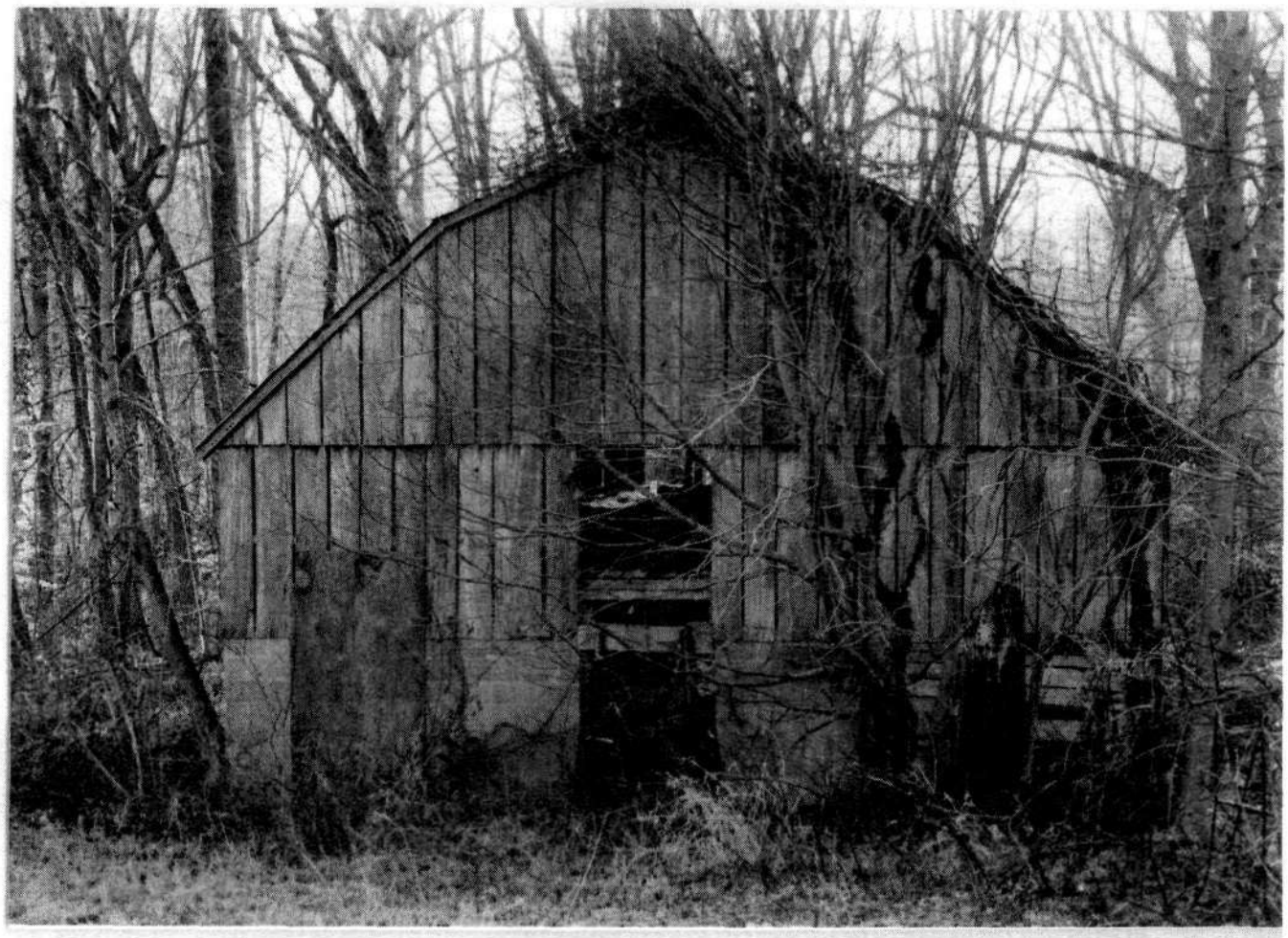

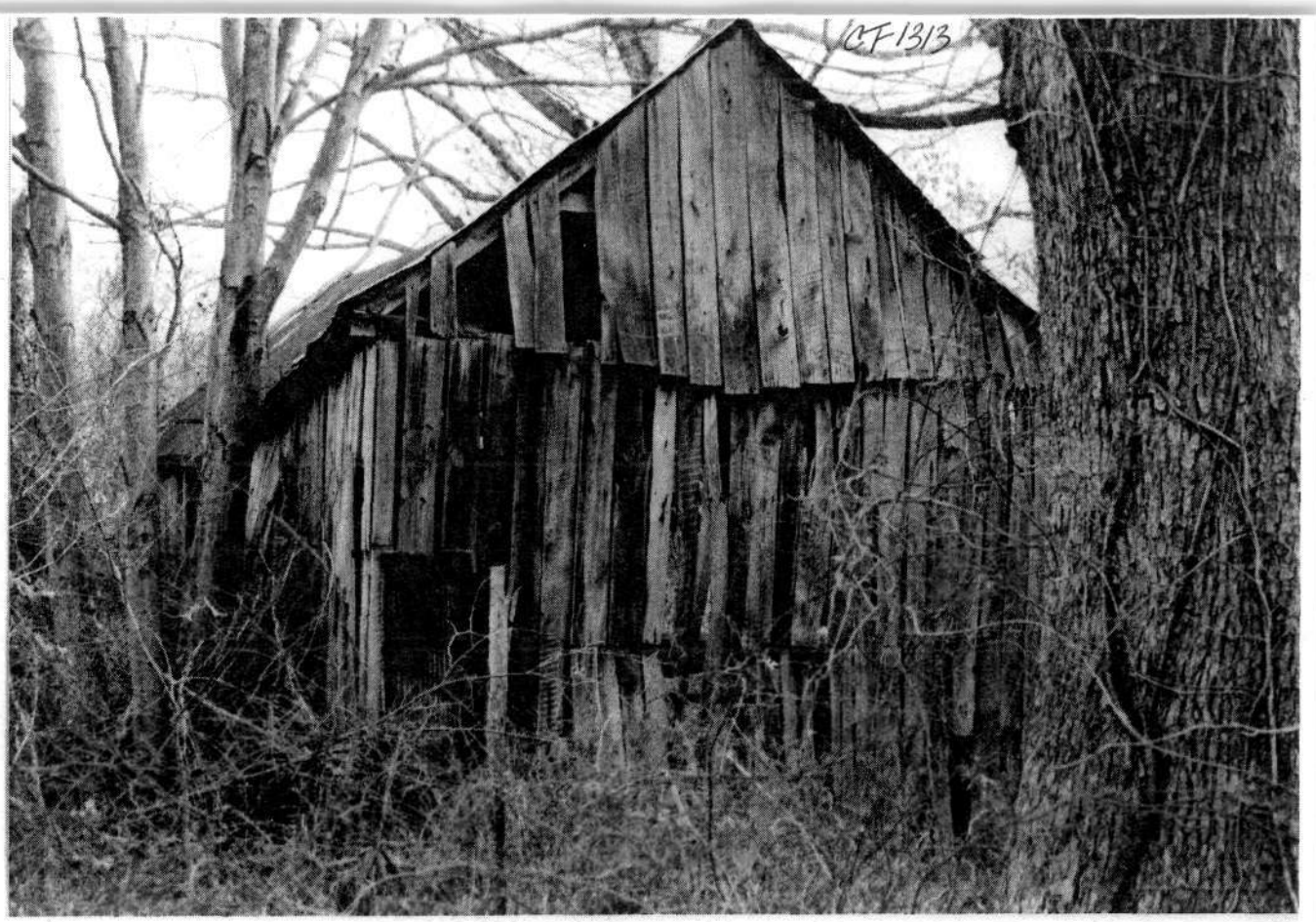
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