

CT-504A

St. Leonard Shores Tobacco Barn, site
St. Leonard, Maryland
Bond Street

Tobacco Barn CT-504A Destroyed

The ruins of a mid-19th^{*}-century tobacco barn lie approximately ¼ mile north of the St. Leonard Shore House. This barn had undergone several major repairs. Mortise holes for 2' studding remained in original sections of the sill and plate. This studding would have been covered with 4' riven clapboards placed horizontally. Several original studs had been re-used to form horizontal rails for later vertical weatherboards and vents. Bent-over cut nails in these studs remained in evidence of the original clapboard sheathing. One western room was divided from the barn by a transverse sill.

All original framing members were hewn. They were mortise-tenon-and pegged together. Many circular-sawn members were used to repair and modify the barn. Visible roof trusses built of circular-sawn lumber were half-lapped at the collars and joined by wire nails. The barn may have been re-roofed in the later 19th or early 20th century.

* see page 173

**CT-504A St. Leonard Shores Tobacco Barn Constructed
Fall-Winter, 1824**

This building was destroyed before it could be fully recorded, but it seems to have been a typical, early 19th-century barn for air-curing tobacco. It was nine curing scaffolds ("rooms") long and three scaffolds ("tiers") high in the body. Function (4 ft. wide "rooms") and walling material (4 ft. long clapboards) combined to create multiples divisible by 2. The barn was studded on 2 ft. centers and framed in 8 ft. bays. It now is not possible to tell if the odd room was from a one room, central, door bay, or from a three room bay at the barn's east end. The barn was dirt floored. Its sills were supported by large rocks.

The barn was extensively rebuilt in the early 20th century--the roof reconstructed and the clapboard siding replaced by vertical plank. By the 1970s, the building was derelict. It was bulldozed during the fall of 1979.

Prices do not explain the construction of this barn. Preceding and during its construction, tobacco prices were below average and wheat prices varied from fair to poor. The barn is associated with a well built, well finished, one story dwelling of c.1825. These structures may have been built to replace housing burned by the British in 1814. Alternately, they may mark the redevelopment of the plantation by a new generation or new owners. The buildings are associated with a 19th-century graveyard of the Dalrymple and Dawkins families.

References:

Marks, "Economics and Society," pp.92, 136.

Smolek, Michael A., Kutler, Emily, and
Stinson, Merry

"A Survey of the History and Prehistory of
St. Leonards Shores, Calvert Co., Md."
(March 1980. Report on file with the Maryland
Geological Survey and the Maryland Historical
Trust), pp. 134-163.

THE KEY-YEAR DENDROCHRONOLOGICAL
PATTERN FOR THE OAKS OF
MARYLAND'S WESTERN SHORE 1570-1980

American Institute of
Dendrochronology

APPENDIX

Building Descriptions

Garry Wheeler Stone

Historic St. Mary's City

1987

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PLATE 43 : TOBACCO BARN CT 504A. MID-19th CENTURY. DIRECTION: APPROXIMATELY NORTHWEST.



PLATE 44 : TOBACCO BARN CT 504A AFTER BEING BULLDOZED. DIRECTION: APPROXIMATELY NORTHWEST.