

CAPSULE SUMMARY

CH-1005

Wade Tobacco Barn

Chapel Point Road

Port Tobacco

Charles County, Maryland

Wade Tobacco Barn is situated on the west side of Chapel Point Road in the historic village of Port Tobacco. The barn is laid out in a transverse-aisle plan and measures twenty-four-and-a-half by fifty-six. Although most of the village of Port Tobacco no longer exists, the barn is located 0.10 of a mile from the reconstructed courthouse, which was once at the center of the village. The barn has a gable roof and exhibits construction materials and methods consistent with early twentieth-century building.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-1005

## 1. Name of Property

historic Wade Tobacco Barn

other

## 2. Location

street and number near 7309 Chapel Point Road \_\_ not for publication

city, town Port Tobacco \_\_ vicinity

county Charles

## 3. Owner of Property

name Mary Ann and Frank Wade

street and number PO Box 366 telephone

city, town Port Tobacco state MD zip code 20677

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. La Plata liber 1855/834 folio 84/17

city, town Port Tobacco tax map 43 tax parcel 137 tax ID number

## 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
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	1
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	_____ sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	_____ structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	_____ Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	_____
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
				0

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. CH-1005

### Condition

excellent     deteriorated  
 good         ruins  
 fair          altered

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

Wade Tobacco Barn is situated on the west side of Chapel Point Road in the historic village of Port Tobacco. The barn measures twenty-four-and-a-half by fifty-six and sits sixteen feet to the west of the road. Although most of the village of Port Tobacco no longer exists, the barn is located 0.10 of a mile from the reconstructed courthouse, which was once at the center of the village. The barn has a gable roof and exhibits construction materials and methods consistent with early twentieth-century building.

Oriented north to south, Wade Tobacco Barn has a transverse aisle plan with a large central aisle transecting the width of the barn wide enough to accommodate a motorized vehicle. The barn is divided into five twelve-foot bays with the exception of a central door bay measuring eight-and-a-half feet. Two single doors are centered on the north and south gable ends. The barn contains fourteen rooms. Timbers within the barn are circular sawn and joined with machine-cut nails. The barn's framing is supported by intermittent concrete blocks. Tie beams extend between the doorposts on either side of the central aisle from the east wall to the west wall. The tie beams are supported by bracing from the doorposts. Tier poles are stripped saplings and extend the entire width of the barn from the east wall to the west wall supported at their mid-point by a system of hanging tiers which drops down from the joists. Tier poles are sandwiched between and nailed with wire-cut nails to these hanging tiers.

The barn is sheathed with vertical board siding punctuated by intermittent side-hinged vertical board vents. A total of seven vertical board vents (two on each wall with the exception of the south wall), along with the doors and louvered vents in each gable, allowed air to pass through the barn. The roof is covered with corrugated sheet metal. Rafters are supported by three collars and rest on a flat false plate.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-1005

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

Specific dates	Architect/Builder
Construction dates 1900-1940	

Evaluation for:

National Register                       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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Wade Tobacco Barn is one of the last reminders of the agricultural economy that once fueled the village of Port Tobacco and the larger region. No longer used for tobacco curing, the barn has become significantly overgrown with vines and is threatened by neglect. Constructed during the first or second quarter of the twentieth century, this barn typifies framing construction of this era which increasingly valued regularity in both timber size and framing. The barn's proximity to the historic village of Port Tobacco warranted its inclusion in the Port Tobacco Historic District, although at that time it was not a contributing resource. Today the barn is one of a small handful of tobacco barns left in the area and is itself a threatened resource.

Information gathered from this barn can also be used to understand larger patterns of tobacco barn construction and curing processes across southern Maryland. Between 2007 and 2008, the Center for Historic Architecture and Design conducted intensive-level documentation across Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties on tobacco barns that represented both common and unique construction between 1750 and 1950. Like the Calvert County Tobacco Barn Survey conducted in 1990, the purpose of this study was to document and record tobacco barns as a highly threatened architectural and agricultural resource. The National Trust for Preservation cited the Southern Maryland Tobacco Barn as one of the eleven most threatened building types in the United States. Information from this study reveals specific patterns of change over time in use and construction of tobacco barns across the southern Maryland region.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property .25 acres

Acreage of historical setting

Quadrangle name Port Tobacco

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Anna Blinn Cole, Graduate Research Assistant		
organization	Center for Historic Architecture and Design, University of Delaware	date	February 2009
street & number	307 Allison Hall	telephone	302-831-8097
city or town	Newark	state	DE

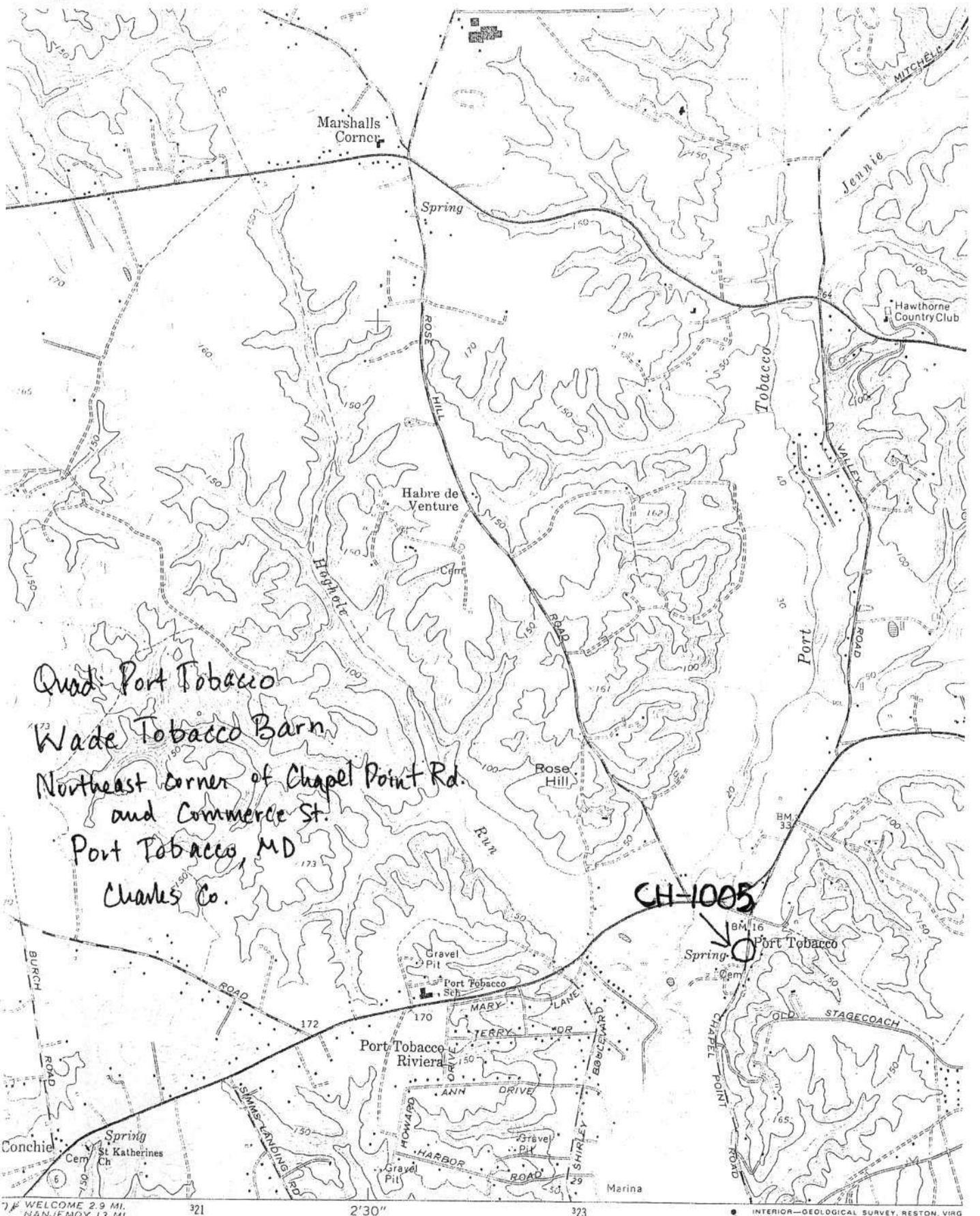
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

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Chapel Point Rd.  
Port Tobacco  
Charles County, Maryland

For additional documentation of this resource see the "Southern Maryland Tobacco  
Barn Project"; call number FRR Mary 21



WELCOME 2.9 MI.  
 NANJEMOY 13 MI.

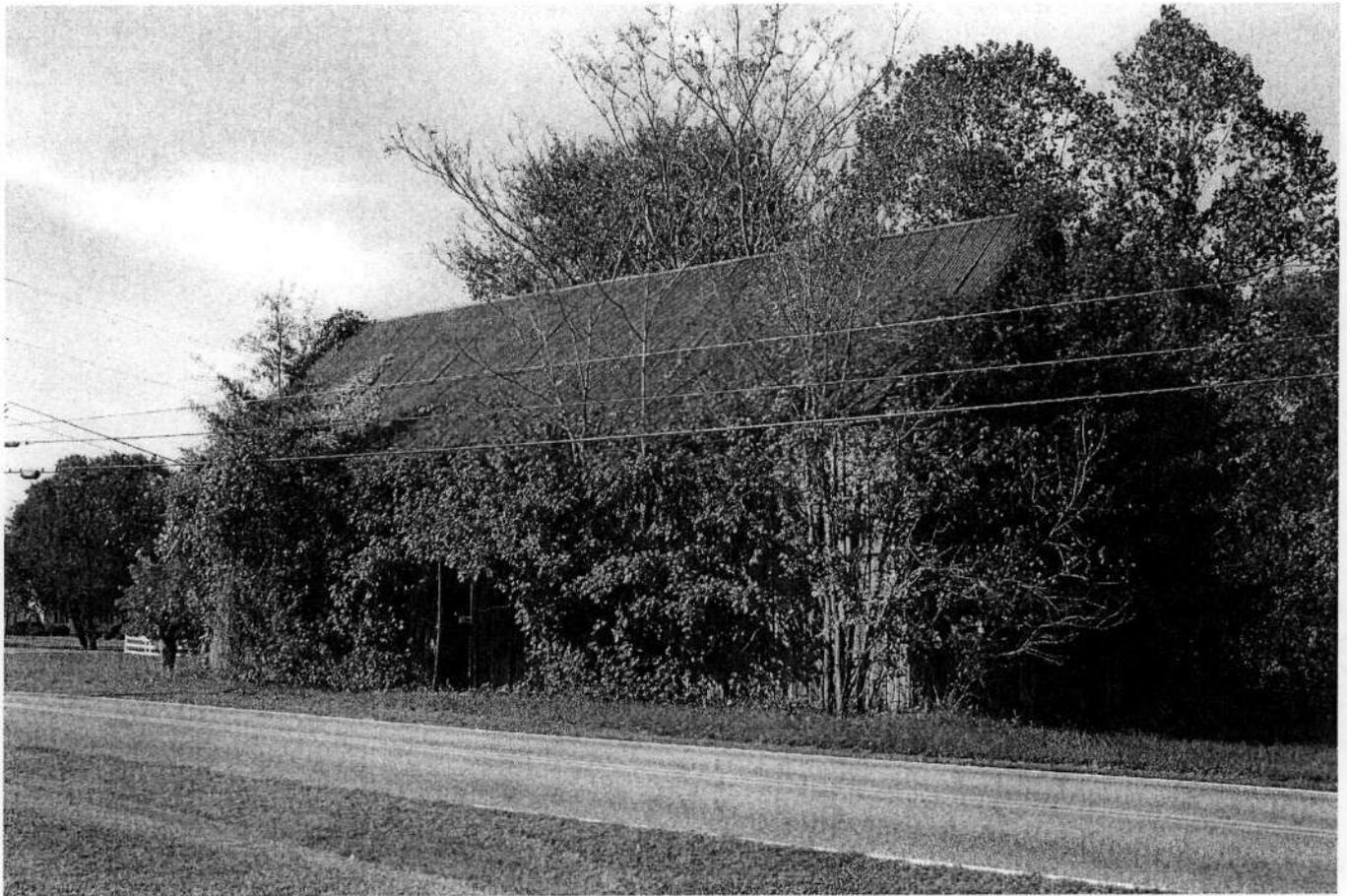
E 1:24,000



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 324 32

ROAD CLASSIFICATION



CH-1005 Wade Tobacco Barn  
Port Tobacco, Charles County  
Photo by Center for Historic Architecture and Design Staff  
Looking west  
October, 2008