

ADDENDUM

CH-149A

St. Catherine Farm, Agricultural Buildings

Charles County, MD

Bryantown vic.

Cathy Hardy, October 2003

7. Description

St. Catherine, also known as the Samuel Mudd Farm, was formerly listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. At the time of the nomination the property consisted of the Samuel Mudd House and several outbuildings on a ten acre parcel. Slated for residential development, in 2002 the Charles County Commissioners purchased the surrounding 189 acres which were part of the original tract known as St. Catherine in order to preserve the historic setting of the Mudd House. The property was purchased using funding from the Maryland Rural Legacy Program.

The farm is comprised of a rectangular parcel bordered by Dr. Samuel Mudd Road on the east, the 120 acre Gardiner farm on the north, Zekiah Swamp to the west and Devil's Nest, a smaller tributary of Zekiah Swamp to the south. Gently rolling, open cultivated fields characterize much of the farm which is bordered by woodland at Zekiah Swamp and Devil's Nest. Several clusters of trees are found in areas of steep slopes. Extant structures include a 1923 dairy/bank barn, a 1960 tobacco barn, a 1935 equipment shed, two late 20th century corncribs, and a circa 1980 metal shed. The site includes the location of several former structures including a stable and several tobacco barns.

1. 1923 Dairy/ Bank Barn

This barn measures 40' 5" in length with a north/south axis and 30' 5" in width. A 16' shed roof porch is attached to the west wall. The barn was built in 1923 by George Adams and is representative of the handful of bank barns built in Charles County during this period. It consists of a gambrel roof and a wood frame covered in vertical board siding. The foundation is poured concrete. The upper level, originally used to store hay and machinery is entered through a door which is centered on the east eave wall. The flooring consists of 2 1/4 tongue and groove boards. The lower level was originally used as a milking facility with nine stanchions, and is entered by the south gable wall. The floor is poured concrete and evidence of whitewashing is visible throughout. A row of windows was enclosed on the east wall, presumably around the time the rear shed was constructed. At a later date the barn was converted to air-cure tobacco. Hinged vents were added to the exterior, and the lower level was enclosed to accommodate a stripping shed. The chimney flue on the south wall was added to heat the stripping room.

2. c. 1960 Tobacco Barn

This double-isle tobacco barn includes a metal gable roof, wood vertical board siding and a concrete pier foundation. The vertical boards are interspersed with hinged vents. The barn has a north-south axis and a full-length shed addition stands on the east end. The roof is pierced with several vents intended to facilitate air circulation as part of the tobacco drying process. The barn measures 80'20" long and is 30'6" wide, in addition to a 16' 2" shed. The interior includes 8 tiers, or horizontal rows used to support rows of tobacco sticks. The barn has 20 rooms, or vertical bays to hold tobacco.

3. c. 1935 Equipment Shed

This center isle equipment shed measures 56' x 24' 3", and has a metal gable roof and a frame covered with vertical board siding. Double doors are found on each gable end. The structure has a poured concrete pier foundation.

Archaeological Sites

Structures known to have existed during the occupancy of Dr. Mudd, as mentioned in the Lincoln conspirator's trial testimony (www.surratt.org/documents) include a meathouse, corncrib, stable and tobacco barn. In addition, an area known as the "pines" located behind the house was where several men from Maryland Guard hid during early Union raids in the County at the onset of the Civil War. Finally, several former slaves who worked on the farm presumably had separate quarters somewhere on the property.

In addition to information provided by the testimony associated with the trial of Samuel Mudd, early aerial photography provides information on the farm during the second and third quarters of the 20th century. A 1937 ariel photograph identifies several structures no longer standing including two structures in the vicinity of the tobacco barn (a&b), a structure in an open field to the south near the road (c), a barn to the south of the current corncribs (d); and a structure to the far south near Devil's Nest (e). A tobacco barn located west of the corncribs which existed at the time of the aerials in 1972, has since been demolished (f). The 1937 aerial includes a clear area behind the house near Zekiah Swamp that may have provided a water source for cattle. This area was wooded by 1972. By 1972, all of the above structures were demolished.

8. Significance

St. Catharine, or the Samuel Mudd House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. At the time the property consisted of the Samuel Mudd House and 10 surrounding acres. In 2002 the Charles County Commissioners purchased the property to protect the site from development. The site is considered significant for its association with Dr. Samuel Mudd who at his residence, set the broken leg of John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln. The surviving structures, most notably the bank barn, tobacco barn and equipment shed, despite post-dating the period of significance for the Mudd House, generally enhance the rural character of the property and provide insight into the agricultural history of the property in the 20th century. The archaeological resources, including the stable and tobacco barns, have the potential to enrich our understanding of the property during the tenure of Dr. Mudd from 1857 to

1883.

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10. Geographical Data

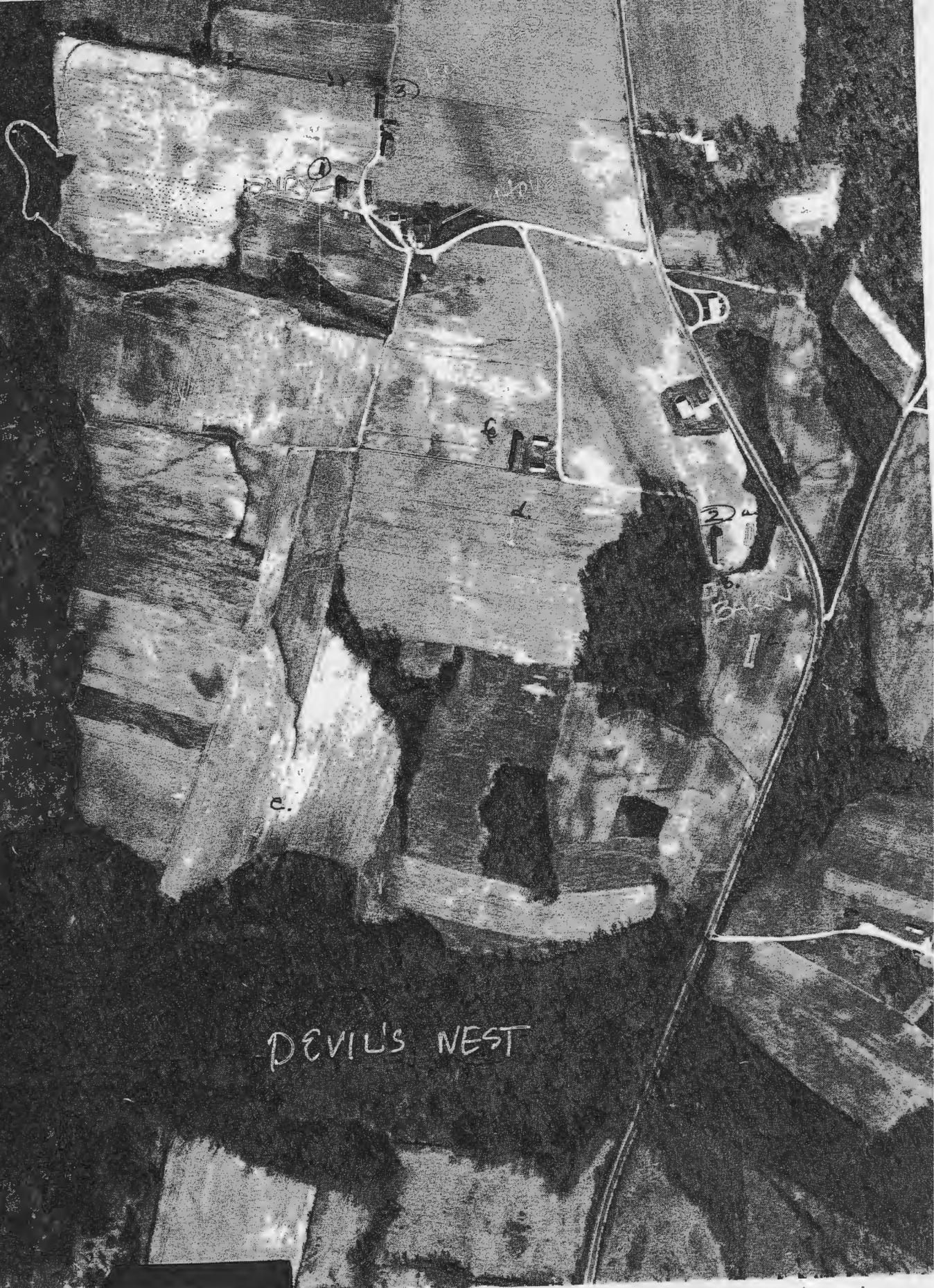
Acreage of Property: 189 acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The site is designated as Parcel 10 , Map 16 on the Charles County Property Tax Map.

12. Property Owner

Charles County Commissioners
200 Baltimore Street
telephone: 301-396-5815
La Plata, MD 20646



DEVIL'S NEST

CH149A

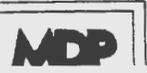
1972 aerial



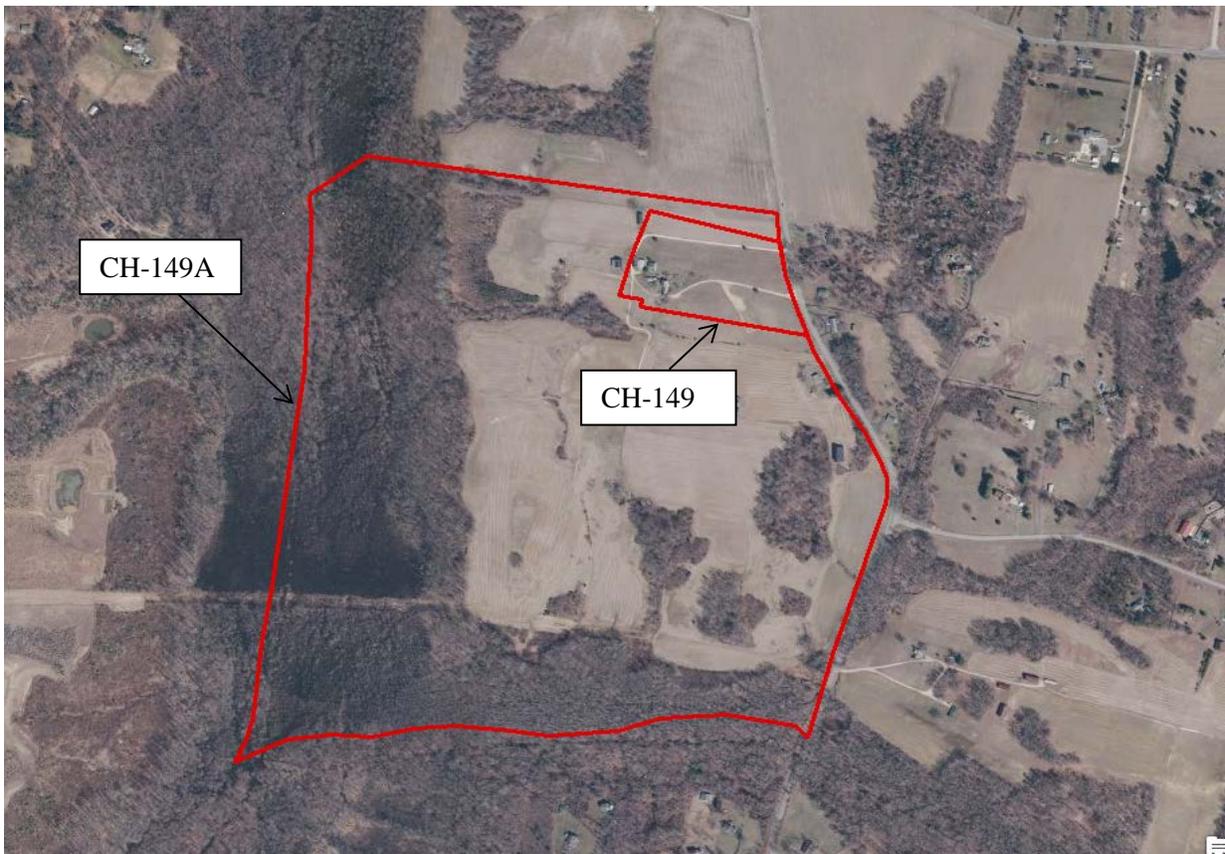
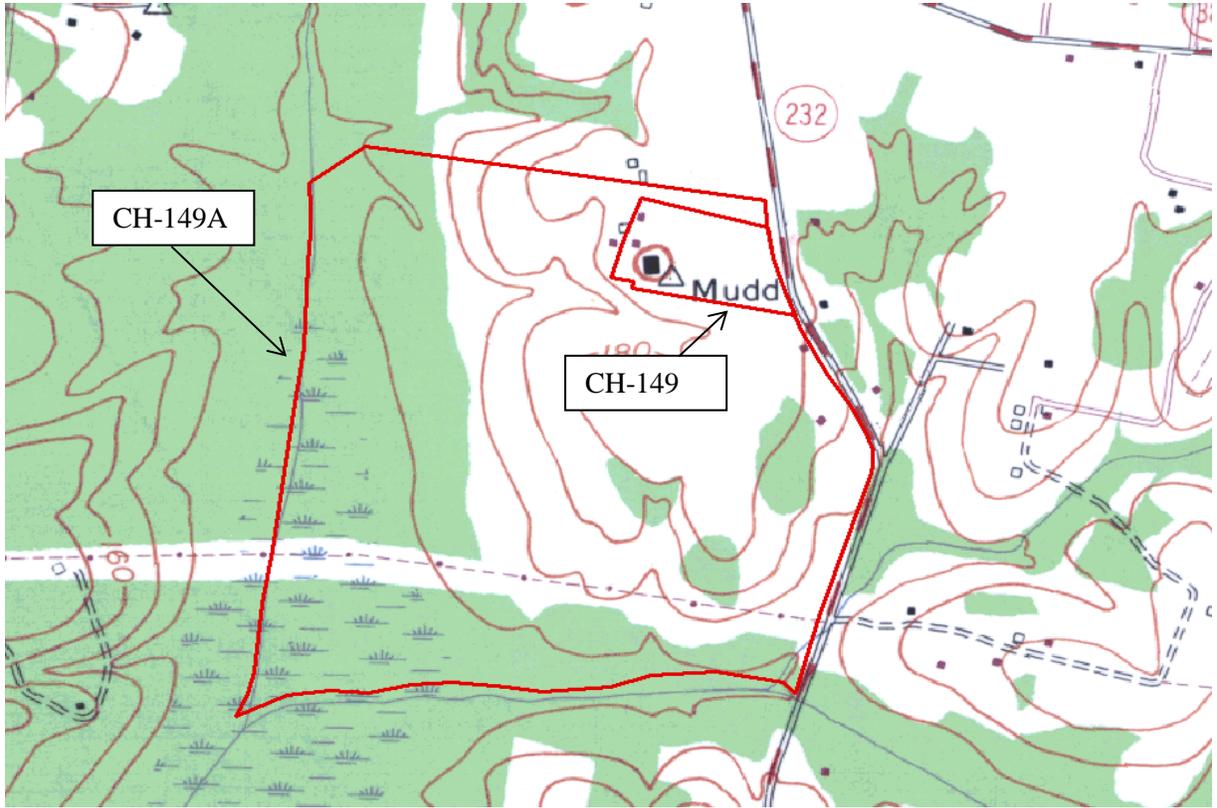
COMPILED BY
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
PROPERTY MAPPING SECTION

The information shown on this map has been compiled from deed descriptions and plans and is not an actual survey. It should not be used for legal purposes.

PROPERTY LINE
 SUBDIVISION BOUNDARY
 TOWN BOUNDARY
 PRIVATE ROAD
 STREAM LINE



CH-149A
St. Catharine Farm, Agricultural Buildings
Hughesville Quad, Charles County, MD





CH 149A

ST. CATHERINE

BRYANTOWN VIC.

C. HARDY

MD SHPS

DAIRY LOOKING NW

52003



04-149A

ST. CATHERINE

BRYANTOWN VIL.

C. HARBY

MD SHPO

DAIRY, LOWER LEVEL

5/2003



GH 149A

ST. CATHERINE

BRYANTOWN VIC.

C. HARRY

MID SHOPS

TOBACCO BARN

9/2003



CH 149A
ST. CATHERINE
BRYANTOWN VIC.
C. HARDY
MD SHPO
DAIRY, UPPER LEVEL
5/2003



0A-149 A

ST. CATHERINE'S

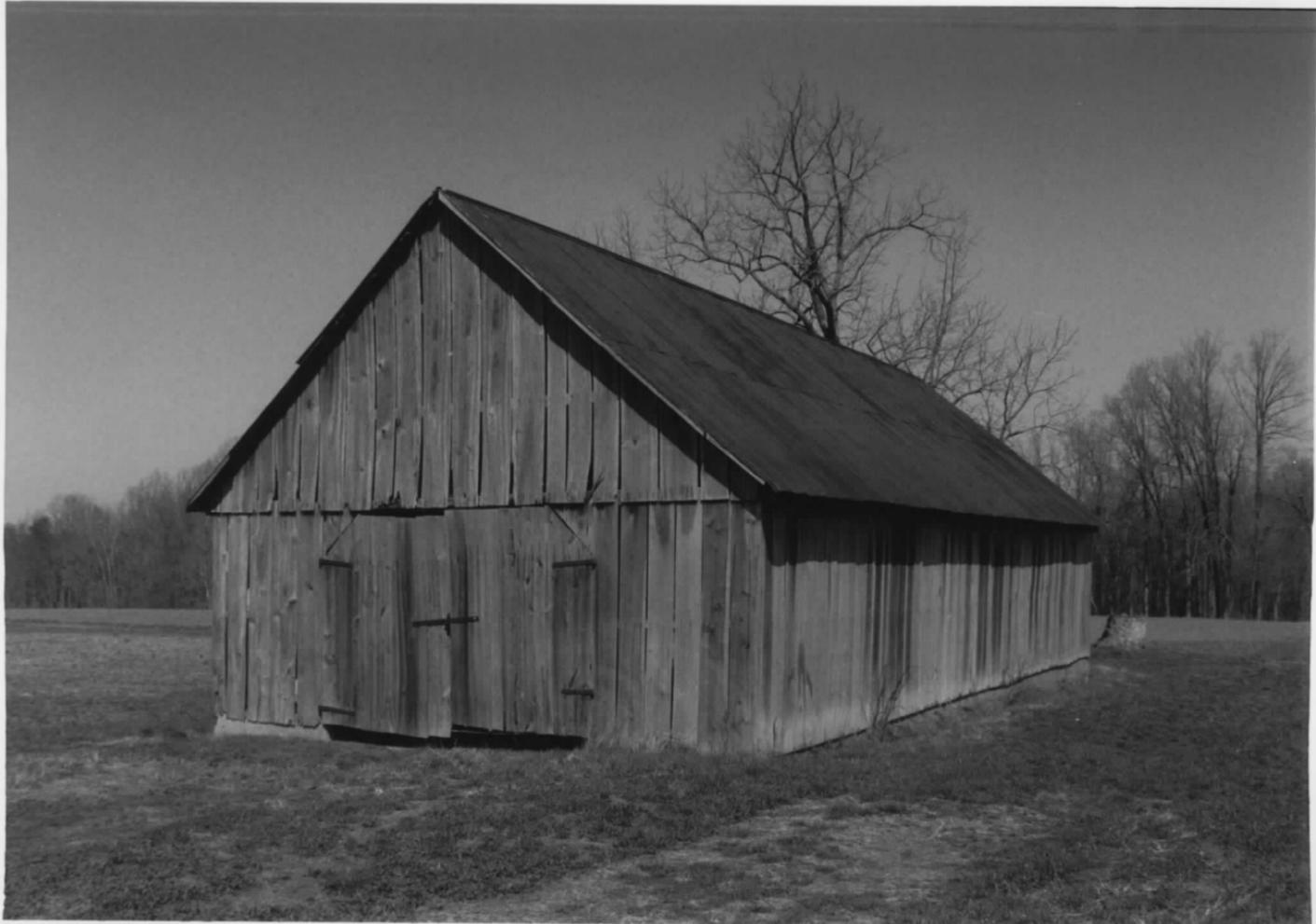
PRYNTON, N.J.

C. HARRY

MD 5410

TOBACCO BORN INTEREST

5/2003



CH-149A

ST. CATHERINE

BRYANTOWN, VIC.

C. HARRY

MR SUPD

SHED

3/2003