

CH-174
Plank Bridge Farm Corn Crib & Barn
La Plata vic.
Private

circa 1790-1830

Two historic agricultural buildings, a corn crib and a tobacco barn, stand on the west side of Bumpy Oak Road, just north of the U.S. Government Railroad at what is known as Rassmussen's Siding south of Pomonkey. The buildings were once associated with "Plank Bridge Farm," the main dwelling of which still stands across Bumpy Oak Road. (See CH-117, "Irvine House.") The barn and corn crib occupy a 75-acre parcel located on the north slope that rises up from a branch of Mattawoman Creek. The 2-part tobacco barn and standard corn crib remain in near original condition. In addition to the two historic buildings, a late-20th century barn and a 1960s frame dwelling occupy the property.

The Plank Bridge Farm Corn Crib and Barn site encompasses two late-18th-to-early-19th-century agricultural outbuildings once associated with a large farm. Built by the Tubman family who owned the property from the mid-18th century through to the early 20th century, the two buildings are prime examples of 18th-to-19th century agricultural outbuildings in Charles County. Both are well preserved, retaining many of their original features.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. CH-174

=====

1. Name of Property

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historic name "Plank Bridge Farm" Corn Crib & Barn
common/other name Dixon Corn Crib & Barn

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2. Location

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street & number 6335 Bumpy Oak Road not for publication
city or town La Plata vicinity X state Maryland code MD
county Charles code 017 zip code 20646

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes Name of Listing _____
No

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: AGRICULTURE/Storage Sub: Corn crib
AGRICULTURE/Processing Tobacco barn

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Storage shed
AGRICULTURE Barn

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: 18th-19th Century agricultural
outbuildings

Materials (Enter categories from instructions) (Corn Crib):

foundation pier: brick/ceramic block
roof front gable: corrugated metal
walls frame: mortise & tenon/vertical slats
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-174

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance ca. 1790 - 1830

Significant Dates ca.1790-1830

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*. La Plata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 75.4 acres

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

The property at 6335 Bumpy Oak Road is designated as Parcel 17 on Map 21, Grid 10 on the Charles County Property Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The outbuildings at 6335 Bumpy Oak Road have been associated with Parcel 17, Map 21 since their construction between 1790 and 1830.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Kathryn Gettings Smith, Architectural Historian
 organization Charles County Planning Dept. date Oct.14,1998
 street & number P.O. Box B telephone 301-645-0689
 city or town La Plata state MD zip code 20646

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12. Property Owner

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name Bernard L. Dixon
 street & number 6335 Bumpy Oak Road telephone 301-934-0241
 city or town La Plata state MD zip code 20646

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Section 7 Page 1

Plank Bridge Farm Corn Crib
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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Two historic agricultural buildings, a corn crib and a tobacco barn, stand on the west side of Bumpy Oak Road, just north of the U.S. Government Railroad at what is known as Rassmussen's Siding south of Pomonkey. The buildings occupy a 75-acre parcel located on the north slope rising up from a branch of Mattawoman Creek. The property around the two buildings is open and slopes down to the south towards the creek. In addition to the two historic buildings, a late-20th century barn and a 1960s frame dwelling occupy the property.

CORN CRIB:

The corn crib is the better preserved of the two outbuildings. It retains nearly all of its original materials and features. The structure consists of a 1-story, heavy-braced frame building set on a brick and ceramic block pier foundation. The front gable roof extends over the outer walls in wide eaves. The walls are formed by pitsawn vertical slats of approximately three inches in width. The slats are nailed to two horizontal cross-ties, one just above the sill and the other half-way up the wall. Five-by-five inch hewn corner posts and intermediate posts support a hewn plate overlaid by joists that support a false plate. Down braces reinforce the corners on the northeast, southeast, and southwest elevations. At the front, however, the structure is reinforced by up braces. The gable end plates sit approximately one foot below the full height of the walls in order to accommodate an area of angled slats bridging the gap between the sill and the last joist of the roof structure.

The roof structure was inaccessible at the time of the survey, but presumably consists of common rafters lapped or nailed at the ridge and attached at their bases to a false plate. The front and rear gables are clad in horizontal lapped wood siding, and the roof has been recovered with corrugated metal sheets. The building's sill appears to be crafted from reused materials, judging from several notches remaining on its underside. The presence of reused materials and the modern nature of the foundation indicates that the building was moved and/or rebuilt. The framing members are marked by engraved roman numerals indicating their order of construction. In addition, portions of the exterior of the building show evidence of painting or whitewashing.

The interior of the crib is accessed through a wide single-leaf door centered on the northwest gable end. Constructed of tongue-and-groove vertical boards attached to three interior tie rails

Section 7 Page 2

Plank Bridge Farm Corn Crib
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====

with wrought nails, the door hangs from the door post on large hand wrought strap hinges. The lower third of the door has been cut off, and the resulting opening covered with horizontal planks.

TOBACCO BARN:

The two-part frame barn located east of the corn crib is also of an early date and retains its original form, although many of its components have been replaced or altered. One story in height with steeply pitched gable roofs running northeast to southwest, the barn is composed of two barn structures abutted at their gable ends. A 1-story shed addition extends across the entire length of the building on the southeast. Both barns retain their steeply pitched roofs and horizontal lapped siding on their exposed gable ends. The northeast gable end contains a double-leaf vertical board entry door hung on modern strap hinges. Another double entry with clipped upper corners opens into the southwestern barn along its northwest wall. Centered on the southwest elevation is a deteriorated single-leaf vertical board door. The only other opening on this gable end is a louvered vent set near the roof's ridge. Both gable roofs are clad in corrugated metal sheets.

While the building appears in nearly its original form, several exterior elements have been replaced or added. Both double-leaf openings appear to have been added in the 20th century. In addition, the exterior has been reclad. The barn's northwest and northeast elevations have been clad in circular sawn vertical boards applied with wire nails. While the gable end siding more likely reflects the original exterior cladding, it was also replaced or reattached using wire nails.

Little is known about the building's internal structure since its interior was not accessed during the survey. Information provided by an earlier survey suggests that the barn has false plates and generally late 18th-to-early 19th century construction details.¹

¹ J. Richard Rivoire, "MHT Inventory Form, *Irvine House*, CH-117," Prepared September 1980.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 7 Page 3

Plank Bridge Farm Corn Crib
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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NON-HISTORIC RESOURCES:

20TH CENTURY BARN:

A modestly sized frame barn occupies the southern corner of the property. This building consists of a 2-story, front gable structure clad in vertical boards and covered by a standing seam metal roof. Two single-leaf vertical board doors are stacked on the front gable, providing access to the first story and an upper story loft. The building dates to the second half of the 20th century.

DWELLING:

The ranch-style 1960s frame dwelling consists of a 1-story cross gable building clad in vinyl siding and standing on a poured concrete foundation.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-174

Section 8 Page 1

Plank Bridge Farm Corn Crib
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====

The Plank Bridge Farm Corn Crib and Barn site encompasses two late-18th-to-early-19th-century agricultural outbuildings once associated with a large farm. Built by the Tubman family who owned the property from the mid-18th century through to the early 20th century, the two buildings are prime examples of 18th-to-19th century agricultural outbuildings in Charles County. Both are well preserved, retaining many of their original features.

Both buildings were likely associated with the Irvine House (CH-117) located across the road on the east side of Bumpy Oak Road. The Irvine House or "Plank Bridge Farm" was erected between the early and mid-19th century and may have been built as a tenant house on the Tubman estate, once known as "Forest Green."²

In the 18th century, Zephaniah Wade patented the property on which the corn crib and barn now stand. By 1763, Richard Tubman had possession of the same property, by then known as "Forest Green." In 1798, George Tubman devised "Forest Green" to his son Richard Tubman (II), who retained the tract until his death in 1833. Although childless, Richard Tubman (II) wanted the property to remain in the Tubman family, and thus, devised it to the youngest son of a relative, Thomas B. Tubman. Accordingly Thomas Tubman's son, Benjamin D. Tubman, acquired the land.

In 1905, Benjamin Tubman and his wife sold a 205-acre portion of the "Forest Green" tract, known as "Plank Bridge Farm," to Jens Rasmussen for \$4100. In 1929, Rasmussen's 205 acres of "Plank Bridge Farm," along with an additional 68.5 acres of Clark's Inheritance he acquired in 1919, was sold at public sale to the Maryland Tobacco Growers Association. The Association sold off a 78-acre portion of Plank Bridge Farm to Nicholin G. and Agnes W. Kragh in 1936. By 1945, the Kragh's had acquired much of the surrounding lands that once made up part of "Ashland" and "Plank Bridge Farm." That year they sold 245.5 acres to James E. and Mary A. Dixon of Prince George's County, Maryland. The current owner acquired the property from Mary A. Dixon in 1995.

The corn crib at "Plank Bridge Farm" bears some resemblance to the 1830-40 corn crib at Habre-de-Venture National Historic Site (CH-5). The wall construction and proportions are similar, although

² J. Richard Rivoire, "MHT Inventory Form, Irvine House, CH-117," September 1980.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 8 Page 2

Plank Bridge Farm Corn Crib
name of property
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the latter is larger with a side instead of a front gable entry. The "Plank Bridge Farm" Barn, however, bears little resemblance to other documented barns in Charles County. Its 2-part design and modest size are unusual among the County's documented 18th and 19th century barns.³

³ There are very few thoroughly documented barns of this era in the Maryland Historical Trust's Inventory of Historic Properties in Charles County, making comparison and assessment difficult.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-174

Plank Bridge Farm Corn Crib
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification,
1680-1815
Agricultural-Industrial Transition,
1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): AGRICULTURE/Corn Crib
AGRICULTURE/Tobacco barn

Known Design Source: Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-174

Plank Bridge Farm Corn Crib
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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Chain of Title:

Parcel A:

"Forest Green" patented by Zephaniah Wade
See Charles County Land Records
Liber L#3 Folio 246

1763: Richard Tubman owns property known
as "Forest Green"⁴

1798: George Tubman devised property to
his son, Richard Tubman
Charles County Register of Wills
Liber AK 11 Folio 460

July 1, 1833: Richard Tubman devised to Benjamin
D. Tubman
Charles County Register of Wills
Liber DJ 16 Folio 128

Parcel A1:

August 21, 1905: Benjamin D. & Cecelia M. Tubman to
Jens Rasmussen
\$4100
205 acres: "Part of Plank Bridge
Farm"
Being a subdivision of an entire
tract which Richard Tubman, late of
Richmond County, GA, devised to the
youngest son of Thomas D. Tubman
(that is, the above grantor) (in will
dated July 1, 1833)
Charles County Land Records
Liber FDM 16 Folio 443

⁴ J. Richard Rivoire, "MHT Inventory Form: *Irvine House, CH-117*," Prepared September 1980.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
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Plank Bridge Farm Corn Crib
name of property
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Parcel A2:

May 13, 1859: Edward & Cecelia A. Miles to Richard
T. Tubman
\$682
68.5 acres
"Clark's Inheritance"
Charles County Land Records
Liber GAH 1 Folio 307

July 9, 1919: Walter J. Mitchell, Trustee to Jens
Rasmussen of Big Stone County, MN
By decree of Charles County Circuit
Court in Equity in case of Sallie V.
Thomas, etc., et al. vs. Benjamin B.
Tubman, et al., infants, defendants,
June 5, 1912
Proceeding No. 1299 Equity
Sale held July 2, 1912
\$700
68.5 acres: "Clark's Inheritance"
Charles County Land Records
Liber WMA 35 Folio 44

Parcel A (A1 & A2):

October 11, 1929: R.L. Cooksey, Sheriff to Maryland
Tobacco Growers Association
Court ruling of August 6, 1929 in
case of Eastern Shore Trust Company
vs. Jens Rasmussen caused property
to be sold at public sale held
September 10, 1929
\$3900
Parcel A1: 205 acres: Part of "Plank
Bridge Farm"
Parcel A2: "Clark's Inheritance":
68.5 acres
Charles County Land Records
Liber WMA 51 Folio 40

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
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Plank Bridge Farm Corn Crib
name of property
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county and state

=====

Parcel B:

April 3, 1866: Pembroke A. & Matilda Brawner to
Edward Miles
\$9000
375 acres
A portion of the land now owned &
occupied by Pembroke A. Brawner,
adjoining the land of Edward Miles
on Mattawoman Run and along the
public road leading from Mattawoman
Run to Bumpy Oak Church
Charles County Land Records
Liber GAH 1 Folio 69

Parcel B1:

Between 1866 & 1882: Devised to Margaret J. Brawner in
division of the real estate of Dr.
Edward Miles (father of Margaret J.
Brawner)

December 12, 1883: Margaret J. Brawner to James C. Cox
109.5 acres "Ashland"
Charles County Land Records
Liber BGS 6 Folio 707

Parcel B2:

Between 1866 & 1882: Devised to Cecelia P. Hamilton in
division of the real estate of Dr.
Edward Miles (father of Cecelia P.
Hamilton)

March 5, 1901: Cecelia P. Hamilton to James C. Cox
122.8 acres "Part of Ashland"
Charles County Land Records
Liber BGS 11 Folio 532

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
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Inventory No. CH-174

Plank Bridge Farm Corn Crib
name of property
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Parcel B (B1 & B2):

February 12, 1914: James C. Cox to Albert Rasmussen
\$2950
232.32 acres
2 parcels
Parcel B1: 109.5 acres: "Ashland" or
"Part of Ashland"
Parcel B2: 122.82 acres: "Part of
Ashland"
Charles County Land Records
Liber 26 Folio 656

October 14, 1929: Walter J. Mitchell, Assignee to
Maryland Tobacco Growers Association
Mitchell acting as assignee of a
mortgage from Albert Rasmussen to
the Eastern Shore Trust Company
(February 12, 1914, Liber HCC 26,
Folio 659)
\$2600
2 parcels
Parcel B1: 109.5 acres: "Ashland" or
"Part of Ashland"
Parcel B2: 122.82 acres: "Part of
Ashland"
Charles County Land Records
Liber WMA 51 Folio 37

Parcel A & B:

September 18, 1936: Maryland Tobacco Growers Association
to Nicholin G. & Agnes W. Kragh
Parcel B (B1 & B2): 232.32 acres:
"Ashland" or "Part of Ashland"
Parcel A (A1 & A2): 257.773 acres:
"Plank Bridge Farm" & "Clark's
Inheritance"
Charles County Land Records
Liber WMA 63 Folio 522

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-174

Plank Bridge Farm Corn Crib
name of property
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February 1, 1945:

Nicholin G. & Agnes W. Kragh to
James E. & Mary A. Dixon of Prince
George's County, Md.
\$4500
245.5 acres
All the remaining subdivision of two
contiguous lots of land on the west
side of the county road from Port
Tobacco to Pomonkey called
(A) "Ashland" & (B) "Plank Bridge
Farm"
Charles County Land Records
Liber 81 Folio 100

July 20, 1995:

Mary A. Dixon to Bernard Leo Dixon
75.4 acres on the west side of
county road leading from Port
Tobacco to Pomonkey commonly called
"Ashland" & "Plank Bridge Farm"
Charles County Land Records
Liber 2140 Folio 13

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

CH-174

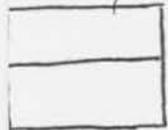
10/98

PLANK BRIDGE FARM CORN CRIB & BARN
6335 Bumpy Oak Rd.
La Plata Vic.
CHARLES COUNTY, MD



← Slope Down

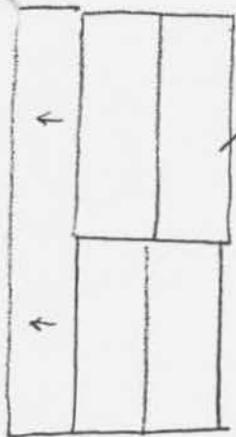
20TH C BARN



CORN CRIB

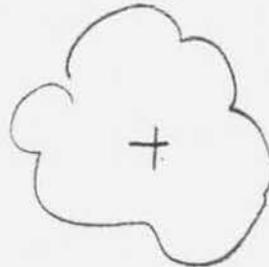
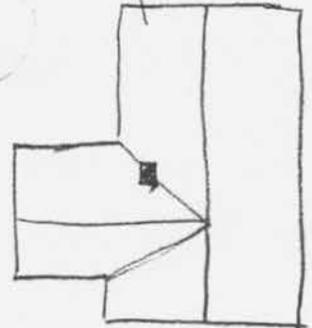


2-PART BARN



dirt driveway

1960s Dwelling



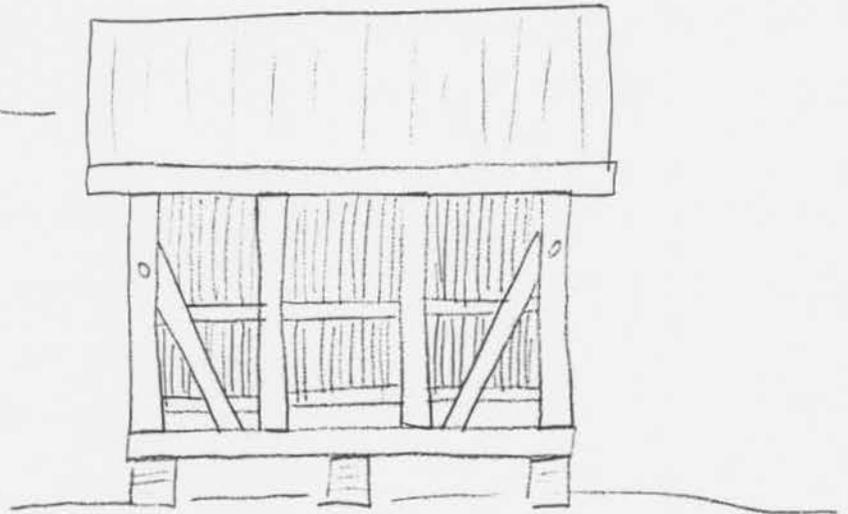
Bumpy Oak Rd

PLANK BRIDGE FARM CORN CRIB
AND BARN
6335 Bumpy Oak Rd.
La Plata Vic.
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

CH-174

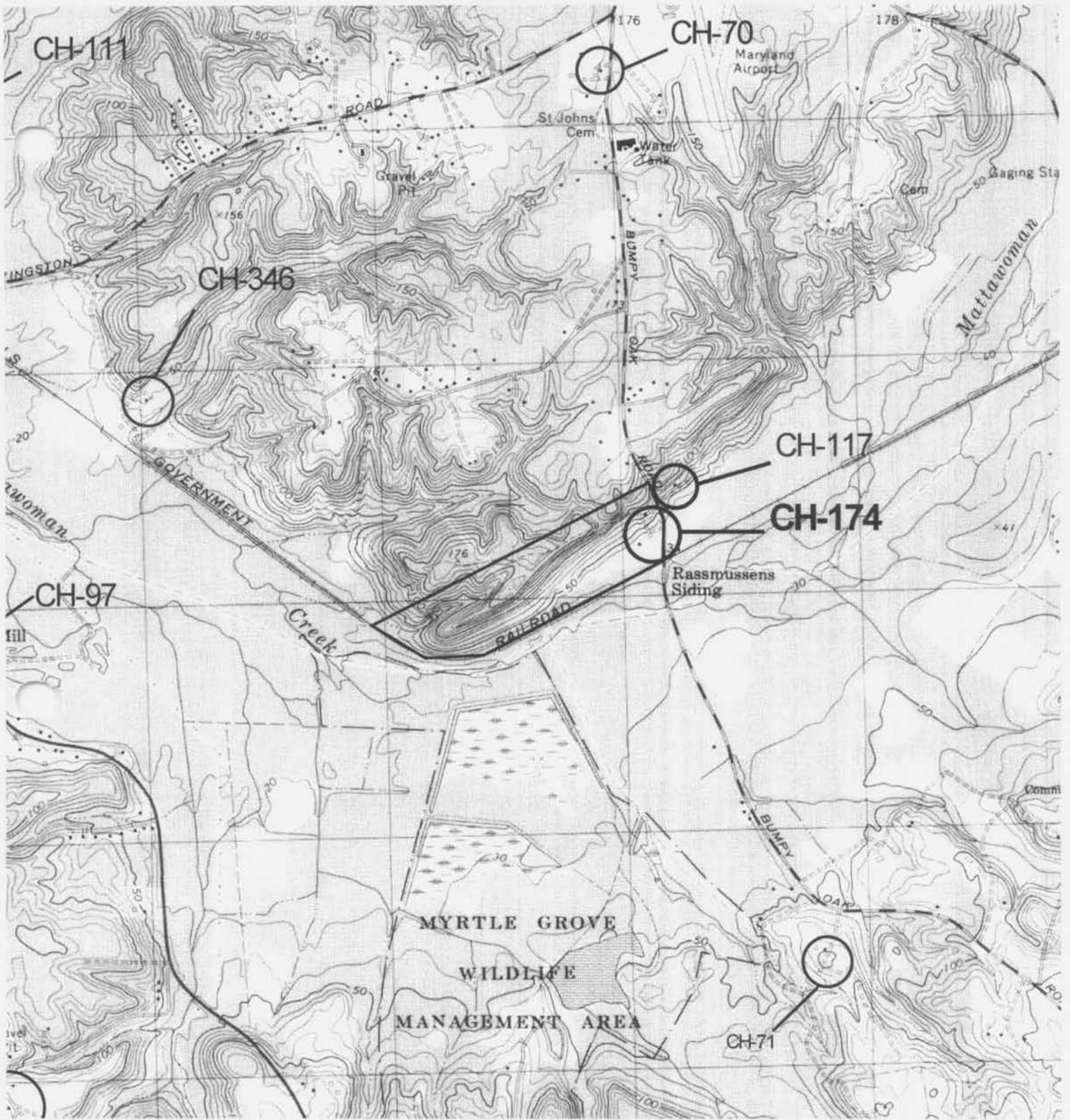


NW GABLE END



SW WALL

SKETCH ELEVATIONS
(NOT TO SCALE)



Plank Bridge Farm Corn Crib & Barn
 Charles County, MD

CH-174

PORT TOBACCO QUAD
 (1966) 1978



CH-174

PLANK BRIDGE FARM CORN CRIB & BARN

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH - 10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

CORN CRIB - LOOKING EAST

1 OF 7



CH-174

PLANK BRIDGE FARM CORN CRIB & BARN

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

KG. SMITH - 10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

CORN CRIB - LOOKING WEST

2 OF 7



CH-174

PLANK BRIDGE FARM CORN CRIB & BARN
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH - 10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

CORN CRIB - DETAIL OF NW ELEVATION

3 OF 7



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PLANK BRIDGE FARM CORN CRIB & BARN
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH - 10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

BARN - LOOKING SOUTH

4 OF 7



CH-174

PLANK BRIDGE FARM CORN CRIB & BARN

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH - 10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

BARN - LOOKING EAST

5 OF 7



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PLANK BRIDGE FARM CORN CRIB & BARN
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH - 10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

20TH CENTURY BARN - LOOKING SOUTH

6 OF 7



CH-174

PLANK BRIDGE FARM CORN CRIB & BARN

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K. G. SMITH - 10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

1960s DWELLING - LOOKING NORTH

7 OF 7