

**Simpson's Supply Tobacco Barn**  
**CH-720**  
**Dentsville vic.**  
**Private**

**Circa 1860**

Simpson's Supply Tobacco Barn stands on a 68 acre parcel and is associated with a 19th century farmhouse and several late 19th and early 20th century outbuildings, surveyed in its entirety as CH-719. Likely constructed between 1853 and 1879, this is an excellent and well-preserved example of its kind. The barn is rectangular in form with a late 19th century shed used to store grains, and later modified to house equipment, attached to the northernmost gable end.

Since the 18th century, the tract known as Simpson's Supply has been associated with the Dent and Edelen families. In 1853, Harry F. and Eliza Ann Edelen sold "a part of Simpson's Supply" containing 180 acres to Peregrine Davis who substantially improved the property by constructing the existing main block around the earlier structure. In 1879, Peregrine Davis' daughter Victoria Hughes, sold the same property to Charles T. Bridgett who built the center block soon after. Bridgett family descendants own the property today.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-720

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Simpson's Supply Tobacco Barn

other \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street and number 9055 Kentucky Avenue \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Dentsville X vicinity

county Charles

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

name Beverly B. Williams

street and number 9055 Kentucky Avenue telephone 202-862-1087

city, town LaPlata state MD zip code 20646

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 56 p. 43

city, town LaPlata liber 2288 folio 571

### 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
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

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

## 7. Description

Inventory No. CH-720

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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

Simpson's Supply Tobacco Barn stands on a 68 acre parcel and is associated with a 19th century farmhouse and several late 19th and early 20th century outbuildings, surveyed in its entirety as CH-719. Likely constructed between 1853 and 1879, this is an excellent and well-preserved example of its kind. The barn is rectangular in form with a late 19th century shed used to store grains, and later modified to house equipment, attached to the ~~northernmost~~ <sup>east</sup> gable end. *southernmost*

The rectangular structure is of timber frame construction, with the principal posts, girders and downbraces attached using pegged mortise and tenon joinery. The frame sits on a fieldstone pier foundation and the steeply pitched roof is now sheathed with galvanized metal over the original lath. Although most timbers are hewn, some are pit sawn. Early machine headed cut nails are present. All three original entrances are visible, including tall narrow doors on each of the eave walls and under the shed on the gable end. The exterior was re-clad with vertical board siding in the 20th century.

The structures most outstanding feature is the extensive use of downbraces that span almost every bay. These braces begin just under the tie beams and attach to the plate. Down braces also extend into the interior at the center of the structure. Spans between the bays when a downbrace is present can range from 5-7 feet on the loadbearing eave wall and over 9 feet on the gable wall. Unbraced bays range from 4-5 feet in width.

The tobacco rested on nine tiers including the rafters. On the walls, these tier poles rested on horizontal nailers, which were mortised into the posts. These nailers also functioned as a surface upon which exterior plank siding was adhered. If not structural, tiers were de-barked logs, left in the round. Darkened timbers, most visible in the tie beams and rafters suggest the tobacco was "fired" at some point in the buildings history. Firing was a technique used in times of high humidity to remove the moisture from the curing tobacco crop. The rafters are supported by legs, extending upward from the tie beams, supported the next two sets of rafters. Four windbraces, extending from the corners to the roof center at the ridge, support the truss alignment. Apparently serving a similar function, a small board rests on top of the tie beams and extends the length of the barn at the apex. All are approximately 1" x 4". Rafters are supported on a false plate.

The shed addition is constructed with late 19th century materials including modern machine cut nails and circular sawn lumber. The existing shed was rebuilt from an earlier shed, as evidenced from empty mortises on the corner posts, that are partially filled with the existing shed tie beams. Narrow wood slats are nailed vertically to the frame and served to both divide the space and to store grain. Slats are adhered with modern machine cut nails.

Hinged vents were added to the vertical board in the 20th century.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-720

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input 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 industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Specific dates** 1853-1879 **Architect/Builder** unknown

**Construction dates** 1853-1879

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 reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

In 1853, Harry F. and Eliza Ann Edelen sold to one Peregrine Davis for \$200 a parcel of ground known as part of Simpson's Supply, containing 180 acres along with buildings and improvements. Although the extent of these improvements is not known, it is worth noting that the Charles County Tax Assessment of 1783, identifies "Part of Simpson's Supply" owned by John Edelen as containing "a very sorry house". Further architectural and archival research would be necessary to confirm that portions of this 1783 lie within the current Simpson's Supply dwelling.

Peregrine Davis' daughter Victoria Hughes, sold the same property in 1879 to Charles T. Bridgett for \$1400, seven times as much as the original purchase price. Considering the depressed local economy of the Reconstruction Period, it is a good indication that the parcel had been substantially improved. Bridgett family descendants own the property today. Charles Thomas Bridgett was the husband of Sarah Lucretia Dent.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. CH-720

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 68

Acreage of historical setting 180

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Simpson's Supply Tobacco Barn is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 56, Parcel 43.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning Dept

date 11/27/01

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town LaPlata

state MD zip code 20646

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 INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-720

Section 8 Page 1

Simpson's Supply Tobacco Barn

name of property

Charles County, MD

county and state

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**Chain of title:**

- 1853 Harry F. Edelen and Eliza Ann, wife to Pirigrini [also Peregrine] Davis \$200.  
180 acres w/ buildings and improvements. "Part of Simpson's Supply"  
**RNM No 1/722**
- 1879 Victoria Hughes, wife of John Hughes, now of Baltimore City [Victoria Huges,  
daughter of Pirigrini Davis] to Charles T. Bridgett. 180 acres "Part of  
Simpson's Supply" \$1400  
**BGS 4/127**
- 1937 Heirs of Charles T. Bridgett  
**64/392**
- 1945 Dennis O. Bridgett, to Francis E. Bridgett and Margeurite S. Stonestreet  
**79/410**
- 1958 Louella C. Huddle, widow to Francis E. and Louella Lennis Bridgett, wife  
180 acres on the public road leading from Cenerville to Newport adjoining the  
land of Hoskins Edelen  
**138/99**
- 1958 Francis E. Bridgett and Marguerite S. Stonestreet to Louella C. Huddle

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No.CH-720

Section 9 Page 1

Simpson's Supply Tobacco Barn

name of property

Charles County, Maryland

county and state

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**Major Bibliographic References:**

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.

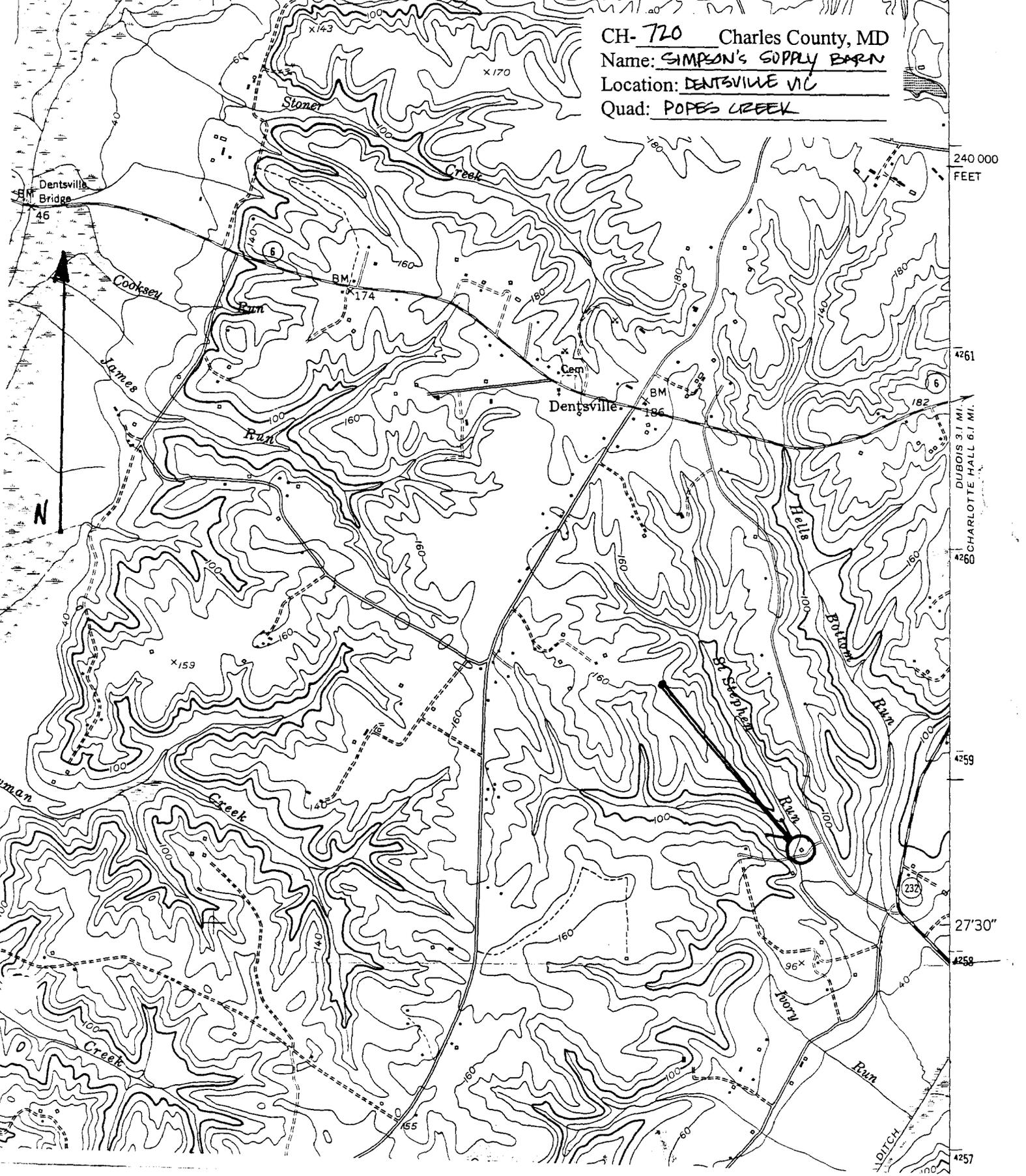
Klaphor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

POPES CREEK QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND—CHARLES CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5661 III SE  
(HUGHES VII)

332 55' 333 334 1830 000 FEET 336 76°52'30" 38'30"

CH-720 Charles County, MD  
Name: SIMPSON'S SUPPLY BARN  
Location: DENTSVILLE VIC  
Quad: POPES CREEK



240 000  
FEET

4261

DUBOIS 3.1 MI.  
CHARLOTTE HALL 6.1 MI.  
4260

4259

27'30"

4258

4257



CH-720  
SIMPSON'S SUPPLY TOBACCO BARN  
CHARLES CO, MD  
C. CURREY  
MD SAPO  
7/2001  
LOOKING W  
1013



CH-720  
SIMPSON'S SUPPLY TOBACCO BARN  
CHARLES CO. MD

C. CURREY  
MD 51100

7/2001

LOOKING N  
2 OF 3



CH-720  
SIMPSON'S SUPPLY TOBACCO BARN  
CHARLES CO, MD

C. CURREY  
MD SHPO

7/2001  
SW CORNER, INTERIOR  
3 OF 3