

**CH-805**

**c. 1950**

**Waldorf Tobacco Warehouse**

**Waldorf**

**Private**

The Waldorf Tobacco Warehouse is one of only a few remaining tobacco warehouses in southern Maryland. The warehouse is a large metal structure standing on the west side of the Popes Creek Railroad and the east side of Old Washington Road. Erected around 1950, the large building includes a shallow front-gable roof and a continuous concrete foundation. The warehouse was used continuously for tobacco auctions and sales until the last few years. During the Depression, loose leaf auction markets were established in Southern Maryland. This system allowed small farmers to deal directly with company agents and buyers. The loose leaf auction replaced the state organized hogshead market used since the 17th century. By 1959 there were five tobacco warehouses in Charles County.



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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. CH-805

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### 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.

The Waldorf Tobacco Warehouse is a large metal structure standing on the west side of the Popes Creek Railroad and the east side of Old Washington Road. Erected around 1950, the large building includes a shallow front-gable roof, and a continuous concrete foundation. The building is interspersed with loading docking on all elevations, but the principle loading area is located on the southwest elevation. The interior includes a large open area with a small office on the southwest eave wall. The warehouse was used continuously for tobacco auctions and sales until the last few years. The site requires further study. Access to the site was not granted and the building was photographed from a public right of way.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-805

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 industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

<b>Specific dates</b>	1950	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	unknown
<b>Construction dates</b>	1950		

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.)

The Waldorf Tobacco Warehouse is one of only a few remaining tobacco warehouses in southern Maryland. Its location and design reflect changes in tobacco marketing and sales in the region. During the 17th century, tobacco emerged as the staple crop throughout the region. Like other southern Maryland counties, the exclusive cultivation of tobacco governed the physical development of the county throughout the 18th and early 19th centuries. Unlike corn and wheat, tobacco cultivation did not encourage the development of significant urban centers for the shipping and processing of the crop. Instead, the county's landowners remained isolated, on individual farmsteads that comprised small "villages" made up of the main dwelling house, several slave quarters, and ancillary domestic and agricultural outbuildings. Through the 1830s, 1840s, and 1850s, Charles County continued to thrive on its agricultural and growing commercial trade. Many diversified their interests, investing in corn or wheat cultivation or in commercial industries, such as milling, fishing, and commerce. However, tobacco cultivation continued relatively unchanged until the last quarter of the 20th century.

During the Depression, loose leaf auction markets were established in Southern Maryland. This system allowed small farmers to deal directly with company agents and buyers. The loose leaf auction replaced the state organized hogshead market used since the 17th century. By 1959 there were five tobacco warehouses in Charles County. This trend lessened the dependence on larger local farmers who served as agents. Under the latter arrangements, the small farmers paid for the services of a local agent and often waited months before seeing any of his profit. Hughesville, Waldorf and Upper Marlboro were three of the largest tobacco auction centers from the time of its development in 1938, until the 1980's.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property ~~unknown~~ 5.0Acreage of historical setting unknown

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

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 8, Parcel 73.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title	Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Charles County Planning	date	2/20/2003
street and number	200 Baltimore Street	telephone	301-396-5815
city or town	La Plata	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-805

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Waldorf Tobacco Warehouse

name of property

Charles County, MD

county and state

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**Major Bibliographic References:**

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*.  
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Hardy, Cathy Currey. "Phase III Final Report Charles County Historic Sites Survey."  
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KCI Technologies, Inc. *Draft--Historic Context For the U.S. 301 Southern Corridor  
Transportation Study*. August 1996.

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

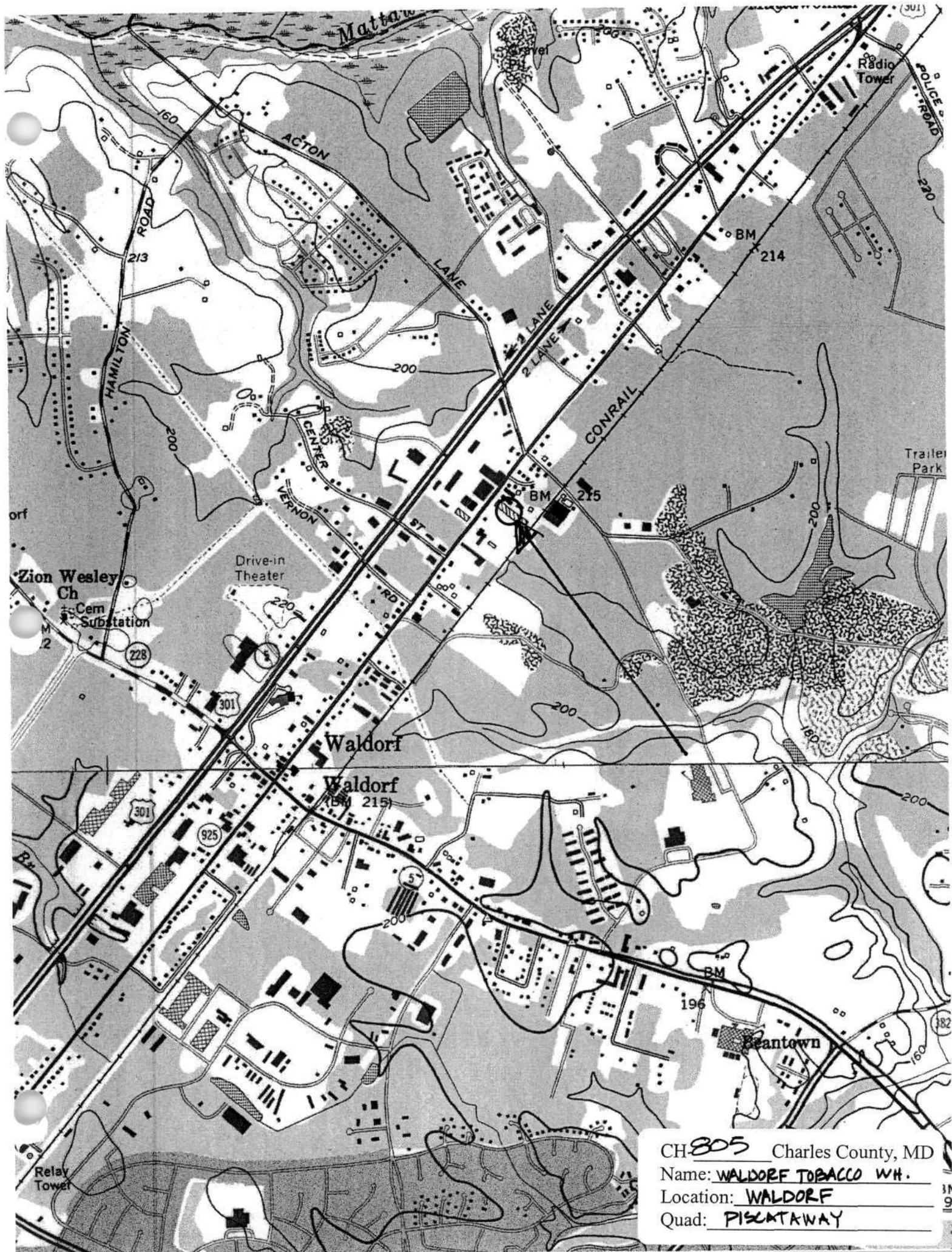
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Wasch, Diane Shaw. "The Cultivation and Curing of Tobacco in Maryland." Paper prepared for  
the Office of Research, Survey and Registration, Maryland Historical Trust. On file at the  
Maryland Historical Trust Library, Crownsville, MD.

Maps

Griffith, Dennis. *Map of the State of Maryland Laid down from an actual Survey of all the  
principal Waters, public Roads, and Divisions of the Counties therein....* Philadelphia, PA: J.  
Tallance, Engraver, June 6, 1795.

Martenet, Simon J. *Martenet's Map of Maryland and the District of Columbia*. Baltimore, MD:  
Simon J. Martenet, C.E., 1865; revised 1885.



CH 805 Charles County, MD  
 Name: WALDORF TOBACCO WH.  
 Location: WALDORF  
 Quad: PISCATAWAY

WALDORF WAREHOUSE



SEIU

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CH-805

WALDORF TOBACCO WAREHOUSE  
WALDORF, MD

C. HARDY

1/2004

MD SHPD

LOOKING ME

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