

D-780
Thomas Holiday Hicks Granary
Vienna
Public

Sheathed on all sides by corrugated metal, this unassuming frame structure is the last of the waterfront granaries to remain standing on the lower Eastern Shore. Its location at the edge of the Nanticoke River speaks to its original use as a safe storage location for grain harvests awaiting shipment. Built between 1833-40, the braced timber frame structure, supported on its original brick piers, retains ell-shaped corner posts, a common rafter roof system, and portions of interior board sheathing. Long, hand-wrought strap hinges remain in use on the waterfront door. Architectural evidence inside points to the building's former exterior appearance with three narrow openings on each side, most likely fitted with louvers now gone. These openings aided in the maintenance of the valuable grain stored inside the tall wooden bins.

With an estimated date of construction around 1833-40, the single-story rectangular frame structure was built during the resident ownership of Thomas Holiday Hicks, who held title to the two-story, three-bay Federal dwelling that stands at the corner of Water and Church streets in a direct line with the granary. Hicks held title to the water lot in front of his dwelling, all of which was sold to Henry Wilcox in August 1841. The description of the transferred property in 1841 outlines the premises as

....all those lots or parts of lots of land and parcels lying in the town of Vienna and partly adjoining the said town of Vienna together with the dwelling house, store house, office, outhouses, and garden fences and improvements, except the house known as the Vienna Academy which now stands on one of the said Lots as also the large new wharf and granary thereon situated on the east side of Water Street in the said town and projecting out and running into the Nanticoke River...

The mention of the "large new wharf and granary" suggests strongly that they were built since Thomas Holiday Hicks purchased the property of Jeremiah Colston in January 1833. During the second half of the nineteenth century the old Hicks granary and lot were assumed into Vienna's steamboat wharf complex, and the structure was adapted to another use. It was later yet incorporated into the canning operation of Albert Walter Webb & Son. The town of Vienna acquired the property from the heirs of Clay M. Webb in 1994.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-780

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Thomas Holiday Hicks Granary Clay M. Webb Canning House Property
other Old Steamboat Wharf Property

2. Location

street and number Water Street not for publication
city, town Vienna vicinity
county Dorchester

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

name Town Commissioners of Vienna
street and number P. O. Box 86 telephone
city, town Vienna state MD zip code 21869

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber MLB 313 folio 543
city, town Cambridge tax map 500 tax parcel 192 tax ID number 03-044602

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-780

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 Thomas Holiday Hicks Granary, also known as the Old Steamboat Wharf property or the Clay M. Webb canning house property, is located between Water Street and the edge of the town wharf on the Nanticoke River, in Vienna, Dorchester County, Maryland. The single-story, rectangular frame granary structure, built around 1830-40, is supported on its original brick pier foundation. The exterior is clad with corrugated metal that cover a resheathing of diagonal boards. The hewn timber frame of the granary, consisted of ell-shaped corner posts, a heavy timber plate and a common rafter roof system survives as well with a partially intact sheathing of horizontal boards fastened with cut nails. A series of narrow rectangular vents marked each side and are indicated by the rough openings across each side wall.

The southeast (main) elevation is a gable front façade with a board door piercing the center of the wall surface. The door swings on long, wrought iron strap hinges with a spade shaped end tip. The hinges swing on driven pintels. The entire exterior is sheathed with corrugated metal, which rises to the edge of the roof that has a slightly extended eave.

The northeast and southwest side walls are completely covered by corrugated metal, which rises to deteriorated boxed cornices.

The northwest (rear) elevation is marked by a center door opening fitted with a board door that swings on twentieth century strap hinges. The remnant of a former gable roofed section, with a shorter roof height, hangs on the gable end of the former granary.

The interior of the granary survives with a heavy braced timber frame of hand hewn surfaces. Ell-shaped corner posts support a heavy timber plate, on which a common rafter roof system rests. Each pair of common rafters is stabilized by a collar beam. Marking the side walls of the granary interior is a partial sheathing of horizontal boards fastened with mature cut nails. Three narrow openings on each lateral side indicate former locations of louvered openings that aired the grain crop during storage. A series of heavy tie beams that spanned the structure have been cut out, and the butt ends remain fixed along the side walls. A metal tie rod has been inserted at a higher level to keep the walls from spreading.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-780

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

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

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.)

Sheathed on all sides by corrugated metal, the last of the waterfront granaries to remain standing on the lower Eastern Shore stands along the Nanticoke in the town of Vienna. Built between 1833-40, the braced timber frame structure, supported on its original brick piers, retains its common rafter roof system and portions of its interior board sheathing. Long, hand-wrought strap hinges remain in use on a waterfront door. Architectural evidence inside points to the buildings former exterior appearance with three narrow openings, probably fitted with louvers, on each long. These openings aided in the maintenance of the grain stored inside the tall wooden bins.

With an estimated construction date around 1830-40, this single-story rectangular frame structure was built during the resident ownership of Thomas Holiday Hicks, who held title to the two-story, three-bay Federal dwelling on the corner of Water and Church streets. Hicks held title to the water lot in front of his dwelling, all of which was sold to Henry Wilcox in August 1841.¹ The description of the transferred property in 1841 outlines the premises as

...all those lots or parts of lots of land and parcels lying in the town of Vienna and partly adjoining the said town of Vienna together with the dwelling house, store house, office, outhouses, and garden fences and improvements except the house known as the Vienna Academy which now stands on one of the said lots as also the large new wharf and granary thereon situated on the east side of Water Street in the said town and projecting out and running into the Nanticoke River...

The mention of the “large new wharf and granary” suggests that they had been built since Thomas Holiday Hicks purchased the property of Jeremiah Colston in January 1833.² During the second half of the nineteenth century the old Hicks granary and lot were assumed into Vienna’s steamboat wharf complex, and later as part of the canning operation of Albert Walter Webb & Son, according to the chain of title. The town of Vienna acquired the property from the heirs of Clay M. Webb in 1994.

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, ER 18/551, 26 August 1841, Dorchester County Courthouse.

² Dorchester County Land Record, ER 13/64-65, 3 January 1833, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Thomas Holiday Hicks Granary
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Thomas Holiday Hicks Granary
(Old Steamboat Wharf Property, Albert W. Webb & Son Canning Company Complex)
Water Street and Nanticoke River
Vienna, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 500, Parcel 192

MLB 313/543

Deborah E. Webb and Linda W. Gorman

to

12.1.1994

Commissioners of Vienna

Canning house property formerly owned by Clay M. Webb et al.

PLC 310/726

Deborah E. Webb, Personal Representative of Idella M. Webb, dec'd

to

2.1.1994

Deborah E. Webb and Linda W. Gorman

RSM 78/298

Nellie M. Webb, Clay M. Webb, Jr., et al.

to

5.14.1952

Albert Walter Webb

Lot No. 1 land conveyed as "Fourth" in a deed from Albert Webb and
Wife to Clay M. Webb, dated 12.31.1917, WHM 4/457

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Name Thomas Holiday Hicks Granary
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

WHM 4/457

Albert Webb and Mary J. Webb

to

12.31.1917

Clay M. Webb

\$115,000 "Fourth" all that lot or parcel known as the "Steamboat Wharf property

Albert Webb & Son canning company

CL 16/226

William S. Craft, trustee

to

12.12.1891

Albert Webb

Steamboat Wharf property \$1610.00

Whereas by virtue of a certain deed of trust from W. Spry Sherman, of Dorchester County, to the aforesaid William S. Craft, trustee, dated 2.25.1888, CL 11/69,70,71,72

FJH 12/283

James M. Thompson

to

2.2.1878

W. Spry Sherman

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Name Thomas Holiday Hicks Granary
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

FJH 9/545 Clement Sullivane, Trustee

to

10.24.1874 James M. Thompson

BREAK IN CHAIN

ER 18/551 Thomas Holiday Hicks

to

8.26.1841 Henry Wilcox

\$3250 all those lots or parts of lots of land and parcels lying in the town of Vienna and partly adjoining the town of Vienna together with the dwelling house, store house, office, outhouses, and garden fences and improvements except the house known as the Vienna Academy which now stands on one of the said lots as also the large new wharf and granary thereon situated on the east side of Water Street in the said town and projecting out and running into the Nanticoke River...

ER 13/64-65 Jeremiah Colston and Jane his wife

to

1.3.1833 Thomas Holiday Hicks

\$2250 all them Lots, or parts of Lots of ground lying and being in Dorchester County aforesaid in the Town of Vienna that is to say all that Lot or part of a lot or parcel of Ground that was heretofore to wit on the twenty eighth day of February 1823 conveyed to John C. Henry trustee appointed to sell and dispose of a part of the real estate of Isaac Nevitt Steele for his benefit to the said Jeremiah Colston...which said Lots or lot of ground is at present occupied

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Name Thomas Holiday Hicks Granary
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

by Ebenezer Owens now tenant, which said Lot is to run from the outer part of the Garden of the said Ebenezer Owens with a straight line on each side to the front street of Nanticoke, And also all that water lot lying and being in the said Town of Vienna which was heretofore to wit on the fifth day of June in the year 1830 sold by Thomas Hayward, Trustee, appointed by Dorchester County to sell and dispose of a part of the real estate of Robert Dennis, deceased, for the payment of certain Legacies in the last will and testament of the said Robert Dennis, to the said Jeremiah Colston...

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-780

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 41,087 square feet
Acreage of historical setting Water lot
Quadrangle name Mardela Springs, Md Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

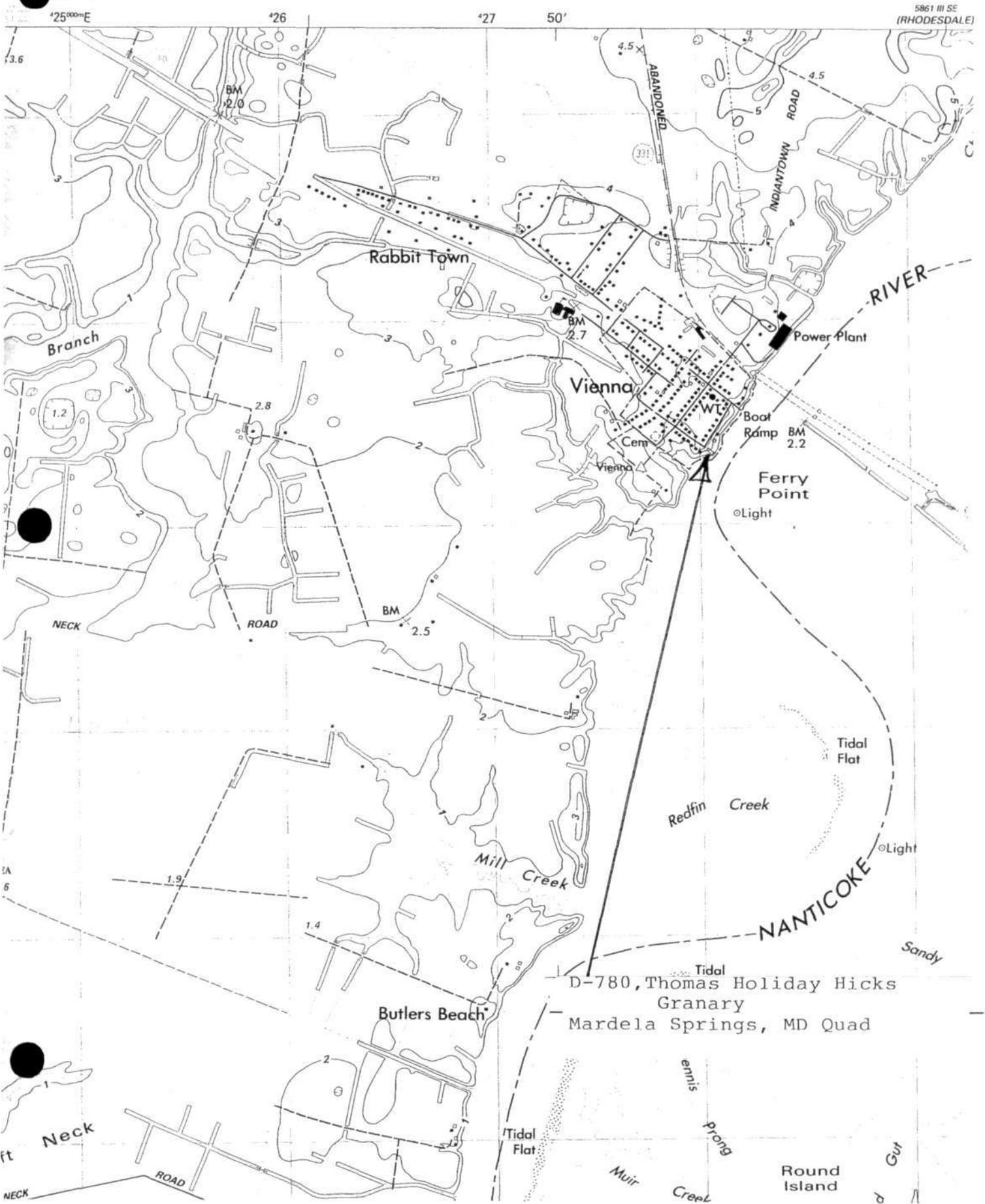
name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	8/26/2009
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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 21032-2023
410-514-7600

TATES
THE INTERIOR
SURVEY



D-780, Thomas Holiday Hicks
Granary
Mardela Springs, MD Quad



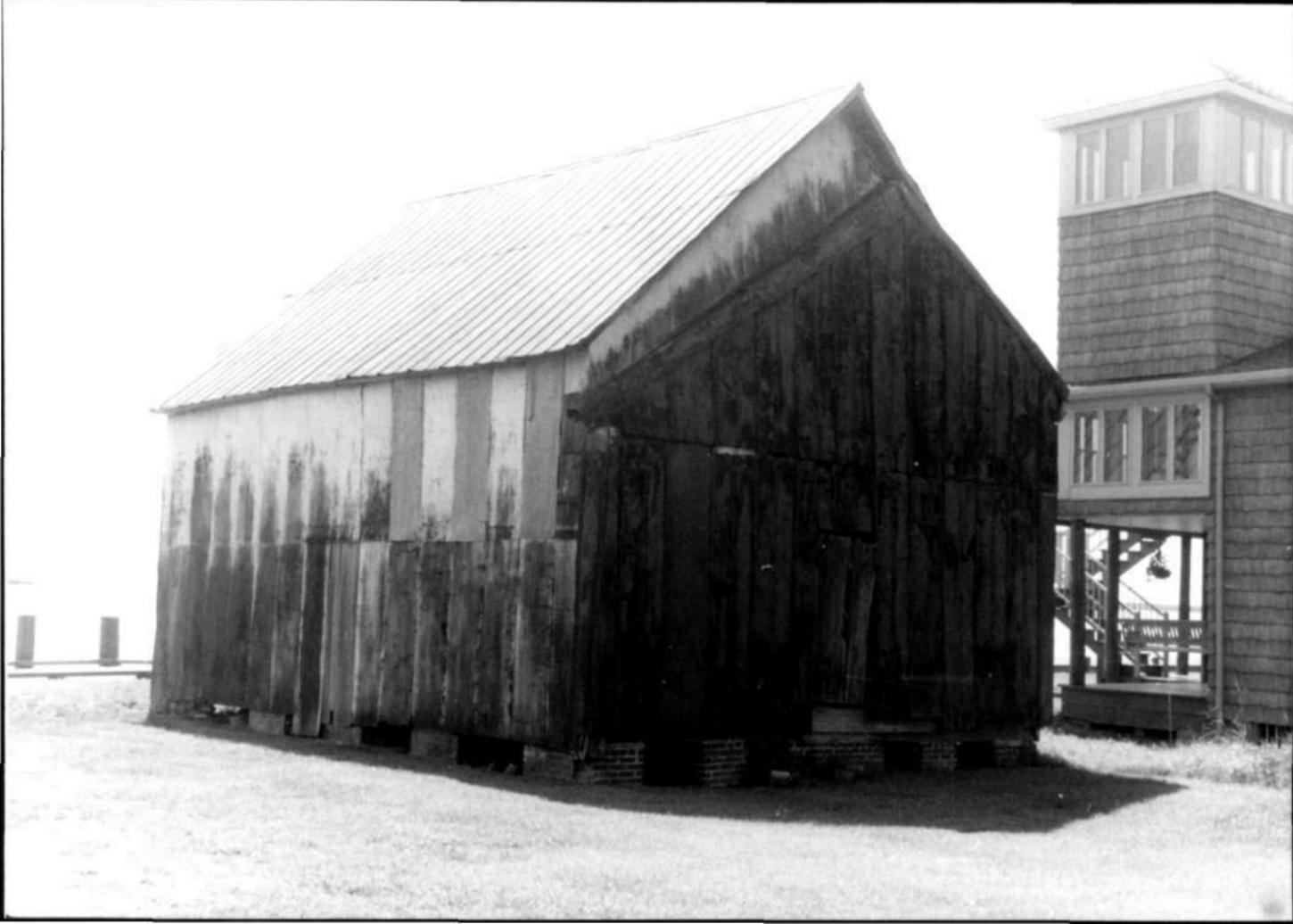
D-780

Thomas H. Hacks Granary
Vienna, DORCHESTER Co, MD.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

7. 2009, PAUL B. TOUANT, PHOTO.
WES. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 of 3



D-780

Thomas H. Hicks Brewery
Vermont, Dorchester Co., ME.
NORTHEAST ELEVATION

7. 2009, PAUL B. TONSANT, PITOTU.
W.F. / M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

2 of 3

D-780

TITOMAS H. HICKS GRANTING
VIENNA, DORCHESTER CO. MD.

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION
WITH DOOR ON STRAP
HINGES

7. 2409, PAUL B. TOWANT,
PITTSV.

WETZ./MO. HIST. TRUST

3 of 3