

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes
no

Property Name: Adams Tenant Farm Inventory Number: D-823
 Address: 4919 Bucktown Road City: Cambridge (vicinity) Zip Code: 21673-3761
 County: Dorchester USGS Topographic Map: Cambridge
 Owner: Roger F. Adams Is the property being evaluated a district? yes
 Tax Parcel Number: 001 Tax Map Number: 53 Tax Account ID Number: 13 000026
 Project: OneEnergy Cambridge Solar, LLC Agency: CPCN/PSC
 Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name: _____ Date: _____
 Is the property located within a historic district? yes no

If the property is within a district

District Inventory Number: _____

NR-listed district yes Eligible district yes District Name: _____
 Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource yes no Non-contributing but eligible in another context

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible yes no

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None
 Documentation on the property/district is presented in: No previous documentation

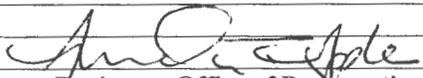
Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Summary Description

The Adams Tenant Farm at 4919 Bucktown Road is a 365.32-acre, central Dorchester County farm. Located approximately five miles southeast of the town of Cambridge, the eleven component complex is situated 500 ft. east of Bucktown Road, and is accessed by a slightly winding gravel driveway that is flanked on either side by farm fields. The property features buildings and structures constructed between c. 1903 and the mid-1990s. The dwelling and frame corn crib date to the first years of the 1900s, while the Natco tile silo is of a type generally constructed in the first quarter of the 20th century. The frame pump house and storage building appear later, but display a definite pre-World War II character. The multi-part cart shed and stable/poultry house probably date to the mid-century, though may incorporate earlier components. Aerial photographs indicate a late-20th century construction date for the large metal grain bins and storage buildings.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended
 Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None
 Comments: _____


 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services
 Reviewer, NR Program

7/15/13
 Date
 Date

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 1

D-823

Detailed Description:

The eleven buildings or structures associated with the Adams Tenant Farm are arranged in modified courtyard plan, where the farmyard and agricultural buildings are placed in a rectilinear grouping to one side (east) of the dwelling. The farm road runs in front of the house, and extends either in front of or behind building clusters, before continuing through the fields east of the house a distance of .40 miles. From there it runs south .46 miles, paralleling the course of Ross Creek, before turning west for .34 miles and connecting with the 4845 Bucktown Road.

1) Dwelling (c. 1903)

This plain, two-story, asymmetrical, side-gable, single-pile-plan, frame dwelling consists of a 40 ft. long main block and a 15 ft. telescoping kitchen wing. Both sections are 16 ft. deep. Walls are sheathed in aluminum siding. A shed-roofed front porch projects from the façade an additional 8 ft. The tubular metal supports and poured concrete floor clearly indicate this is not an original porch. In addition to being rebuilt, part of the porch has been enclosed to accommodate a bathroom.

The house faces north, which is not typical for old rural houses that relied heavily on natural light and ventilation. The façade's asymmetrical fenestration pattern is also unexpected. A classic center-hall-plan is much more typical in this agricultural context. These facts, combined with the rebuilt porch, may indicate that the house originally faced south. Countering this theory, however, is the lack of visible evidence for a south-side doorway or south side driveway.

As with the exterior walls, windows, cornice and soffits are also encased in metal. The composition shingle roof is of recent date. Original, two-over-two, double-hung, wood-sash windows (fitted with storm windows) are employed in all but one opening. Two doorways are present. The front opening is fitted with a relatively new door, while the glazed-and-panel door that leads into the kitchen appears to date to about the third quarter of the 20th century. Other notable features include the narrow, exterior, brick stove chimney that bisects the gable end of the kitchen wing.

A low, brick pier foundation, later infilled by concrete blocks, supports both sections of the house. The spacing and quality of the bricks supporting the wing is the same as that used under the main section. This identical treatment suggests that the two parts of the house were built at the same time.

The interior is heavily modernized. New drywall and wall paneling is used at least throughout the first level.

Stone Marker (1903)

Five feet north of the kitchen wing's northeast corner stands a stone marker dated "1903." The stone measures two feet in height and is approximately six inches square at the base. Its purpose is unclear. It is, perhaps, a survey marker, or a date stone associated with the construction of the house. A metal ring has been inserted into the top of the stone. Roger Adams, whose father acquired the farm in 1951, said that the stone was used to tether horses.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 2

D-823

2) Tile Silo (first quarter of the 20th century)

This structure is located on the north side of the farm drive. If common practice was observed, it was most likely built in close proximity to a now-demolished barn. This approximately 40 ft.-tall round structure is built of vitrified hollow clay tiles, and has an internal diameter of 10 ft. The roof is missing and the top rows of tiles are damaged. A metal plaque identifies the structure as a "Natco Imperishable Silo." It was manufactured by the National Fireproofing Company of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

3) Pump House (first quarter of the 20th century)

This 6 ft.-3 in x 8 ft. -3 in., shed-roofed, frame structure rests on a 6 in. poured concrete foundation. The vertical siding measures 6 in. x 1 in. The roof joists overhang at the front in a manner designed to protect the doorway. Materials were fashioned with a circular saw and are held together with wire nails. As its name indicates, it houses the farms electric water pump.

4 & 5) Equipment Storage (1980s)

These two large prefabricated corrugated metal buildings house farm equipment. They measure 50 ft. x 150 ft. and rest on a poured concrete pad. Track doors are located in the front gable end, with an additional pedestrian entrance located in a side wall.

6) Shed (first quarter of the 20th century)

This 10 ft.-5 in. x 14 ft. -3 in. gable roof structure has slightly overhanging eaves with exposed joist ends. The exterior siding is very similar to that displayed by the pump house. Walls rest on low, poured concrete piers. Most roof and wall members are fashioned with a circular saw and wire nails. However, the plate and floor boards are wider and older than the majority of the structural components, and are likely recycled from an older structure. The reason for the extreme pitch of the roof is not apparent. The area above the plate is now used for storage. The interior is whitewashed and provides no apparent evidence as to original purpose. It is located adjacent to a small vegetable garden plot.

7) Cart Shed (third quarter of the 20th century)

This three-part structure collectively measures nearly 150 ft. in length. The center section appears to be the most well-built section, and utilizes the least recycled material. The wooden sided, two-bay, west section has a poured concrete floor. The two-bay east section is the largest and most recently constructed. Utility poles on grade serve as structural supports. This somewhat decrepit structure is used to store equally decrepit farm equipment.

8 &9) Grain Bins (c. 1995)

These two, prefabricated, corrugated metal circular grain bins are used to store dry grain. The largest is formed up from eight rings, while the companion shed is built with seven rings. They measure about 50 ft. and 40 ft. respectively, and have a 30 ft. diameter. Both rest on a poured concrete pad.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 3

D-823

10) Corn Crib (early 20th century)

This light-dimensioned frame structure measures 10 ft. x 20 ft. Lower walls are sheathed in 4 in. vertical siding, spaced 1 in. apart, to allow for ventilation. The upper part of the gable is enclosed with 10 in. vertical boards. Structural members and siding are attached with wire nails. Walls rest on a poured concrete pier foundation. Now used for storage, the structure has been neglected for some time; the front door is missing. Despite condition problems, this is a classic example of an early 20th-century Delmarva corn crib. This type of small obsolete structure is rapidly disappearing from the landscape.

11) Stable/Poultry House (second and third quarter of the 20th century)

This two-part, shed-roofed, frame structure measures 15 ft. x 40 ft. The west section is partially enclosed in rusted metal siding. Two recycled fixed-sash windows are present. A pedestrian door is located in the west side wall. The floor is dirt and the wooden foundation rests directly on the ground. The interior indicates the building was once used as a stable. The nearly collapsed and older east section is formed up from utility poles. The horizontal wooden siding has mostly fallen off. The front (south) wall has been opened up to use for storage. The windows and wire suggest this section was previously used as a poultry house.

Summary Eligibility Determination

The Adams Farm does not appear eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The property lacks sufficient architectural distinction, physical integrity and historical significance necessary to qualify for National Register listing.

Criterion A: Event

This property relates to agricultural practices taking place in Dorchester County and the Delmarva Peninsula from the turn of the 20th century to the present day. Due to the loss of historic buildings and the imposing nature of the modern construction, this farm is, at best, a mediocre and incomplete example of an early 20th century farm.

Criterion B: Person

The Adams Farm is not known to be associated with the life of anyone significant in the past.

Criterion C: Design/Construction

The farmhouse neither represents a distinctive type of architecture, nor the work of a master, nor does it possess high artistic value. The frame granary, tile silo, pump house and storage shed are typical of a farm of this period, but their contribution is not sufficient to overcome the property's other shortcomings.

Criterion D: Information Potential

The standing structures on this property do not appear to have the potential to yield important information about our past.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 4

D-823

History and Significance

The 356 acres of land currently associated with the farm at 4919 Bucktown Road, Cambridge, Maryland is made up of three separate parcels. Most, if not all of the farm's 365 acres once belonged to Levin Mowbray, who acquired 368 acres in 1859.¹ The tract names associated with Mowbray's property have remained constant through time, and continue to be identified in present-day land records as *Addition*, *Enall's Forest of Friendship* and *Meadow Branch*. Since the time of Levin Mowbray, the land associated with the farm house has been repeatedly subdivided, sold and repurchased. The chain of title for the various parcels is complicated, involving nearly a dozen transactions between 1902 and 1951, which is the year the Adams Family acquired the farm.²

Based on the date inscribed on the stone marker, land records and limited architectural evidence, it is most likely that the house was built for Jacob Kurt and his wife about 1903.³ Jacob and his brother John Curt acquired 369 acres of land, identified in the sale as "Lot 2," from John W. Mowbray in 1902 for \$5,000.⁴ Seven years later, the Jacobs defaulted on their mortgage and the land was sold to Christian Jacobs for \$7,500.⁵ The increase in sale price suggests significant property improvements taking place between the two sales. The property changed hands again in 1913 and 1917, selling for \$10,000 and \$13,500 respectively. Again, this increase in price indicates further significant capital improvements and possibly crops in the field.

As Dorchester County entered the 20th century, major changes were taking place in agricultural practice. Truck farming (the cultivation of fresh fruits and vegetables) was quickly supplanting the traditional crops of corn and wheat. Truck's importance to the agricultural economy has since declined, but it remains an important economic activity. Located less than two miles south of the Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington Railroad stop at Thompson, this farm was literally well-positioned to take advantage of the demand for fresh produce. If the cultivation of truck took place at the Adams Farm, there is no evidence for it on the landscape.

The presence of the "Natco Imperishable Silo" does indicate the practice of both grain farming and animal husbandry. The Natco (National Fireproofing Company) vitrified hollow clay tile silo of the type seen at the Adams Farm appears in farm catalogues by 1914, and remained popular through the 1920s.⁶ Unlike the farm's frame corn crib, that stored dry fodder corn, the silo was used to store and preserve fresh green silage for animal consumption. Silage provided cattle with more nutrition than dried hay, which resulted in increased weight and milk production.⁷ However, except for a small, two-stall stable and attached poultry house, there are no surviving buildings associated with animal husbandry.

The silo's presence, however, is a clear indication of the former presence of livestock, and most likely points towards dairy as being a component of the farm's historic operations. Again, the farm's proximity to the railroad depot at Thompson would have provided a convenient shipping point for milk. However, the first quarter of the

¹ Land Records of Dorchester County, Liber FJH 12, Folio 381 (1859).

² Land Records of Dorchester County, Liber RSM 75, Folio 5 (1951).

³ It is possible that the house was built before 1903, but modern materials, both exterior and interior, literally cover up evidence of a potentially older structure. Furthermore, nothing in land or death records point to an earlier date of construction.

⁴ Land Records of Dorchester County, CL 26, Folio 666 (1902).

⁵ Land Records of Dorchester County, CL 34, Folio 668 (1909).

⁶ *Builders Handbook of Natco Hollow Tile Construction*. (Pittsburg: National Fire Proofing Company, Pittsburg, PA, 1917)

⁷ Gabrielle M. Lanier and Bernard L. Herman. *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), 212.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 5

D-823

twentieth century saw numerous laws related to hygienic dairy farming practices. By the second decade of the 20th century it was illegal to sell raw milk in many areas.⁸ Many poorer farmers who could not afford to upgrade their barns and pasteurize their milk discontinued dairy operations. As previously mentioned, land records indicate a history of mortgage default among the farm's owners. That this property was once a dairy farm remains speculation. It is not speculation that it is almost inconceivable that any farm would not have some sort of barn. It is likely that a barn was located adjacent to, or in close proximity to the silo. The lack of a barn that communicates the farm's historic associations detracts from the property's integrity and collective architectural significance.

For much of its history this was not an owner-occupied farm. Land transactions from the 1940s and 50s indicate occupation by at least two tenants; William Layton and Dorance Smith. Smith was the tenant when Claude Adams acquired the farm in 1951.⁹ Since that time the Adams have cultivated the land, but rented the house to family members or tenants. It currently serves as a tenant house for a family named Bennett. During their more than sixty years of ownership, the Adams family has alternated between the production of corn, wheat and soybeans. The Adams home farm is located nearby at 4845 Bucktown Road. The fact that tenants occupy the house, but do not farm the land, combined with this property's proximity to the home farm, are likely reasons for the poor condition of the farm buildings and absence of a barn.

Roger Adams, the tenant farm's current owner. He lives at the home farm at 4845 Bucktown Road. Mr. Adams is responsible for the construction of the two large equipment storage buildings and the metal grain bins. He retired from farming two years ago. The fields have been in cultivation through this year. Unfortunately he knows very little about the history of the tenant farm prior to his father's acquisition in 1951.

In its present form, the Adams Tenant Farm illustrates regional farming practices from the mid-20th century until the present day. The frame silo and frame granary hint at earlier agricultural practices, but not enough early farm buildings survive for the farm to communicate its history. Furthermore, the farmhouse is an altered and unremarkable example of a rural farm dwelling. While not without interest, the Adams Tenant Farm fails to achieve the level of historical importance necessary for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Bibliography

Jones, Elias. *History of Dorchester County, Maryland*. Baltimore: N.P., 1902.

Lanier, Gabrielle and Bernard L. Herman. *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997.

McMurry, Sally. *Transforming Rural Life: Dairying Families and Agricultural Change*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995.

Weeks, Christopher. *Between the Nanticocke and the Choptank: An Architectural History of Dorchester County, Maryland*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1984.

⁸ Lanier and Herman, p. 221.

⁹ Land Records of Dorchester County, Liber RSM 75, Folio 5 (1951).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 6

D-823

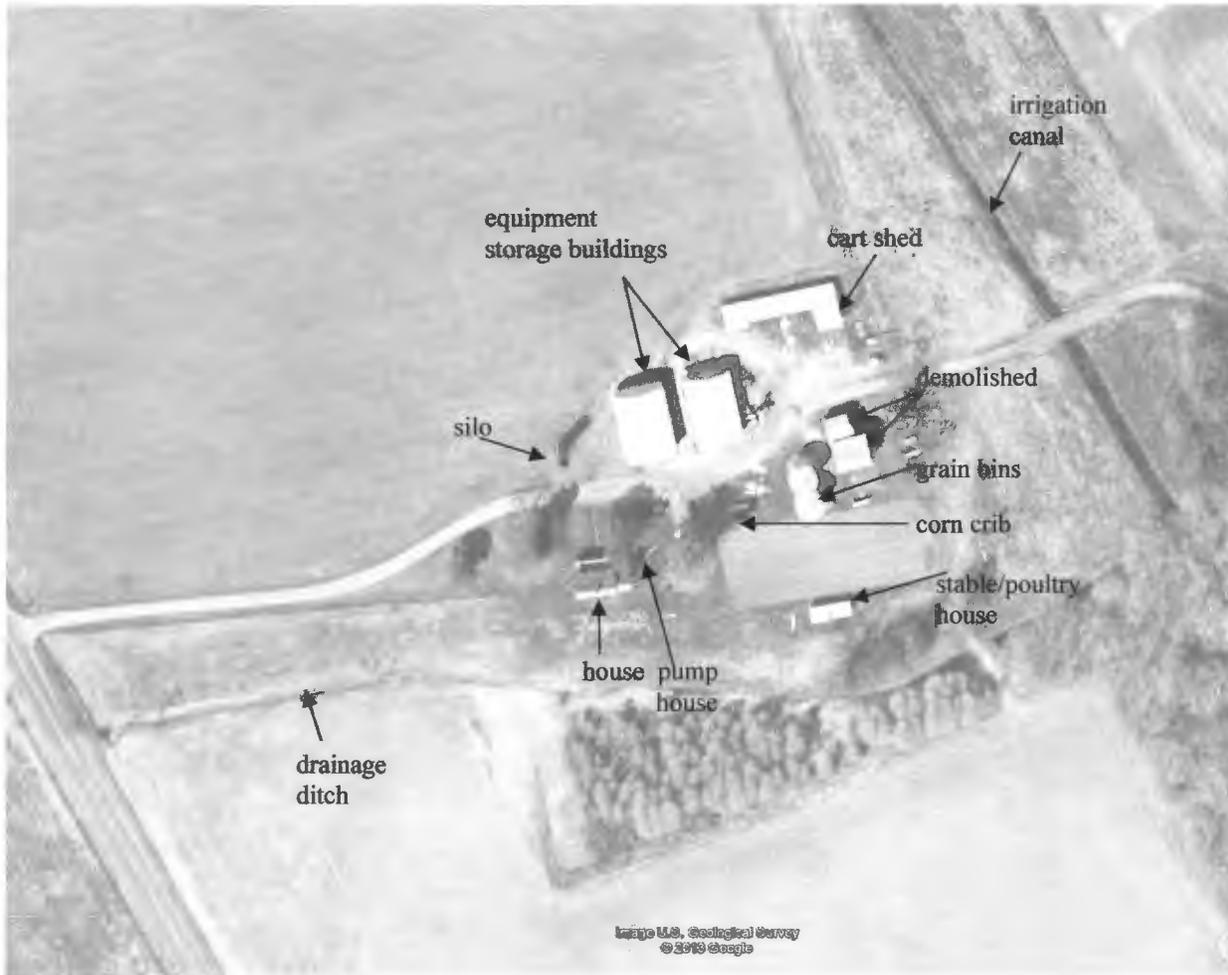
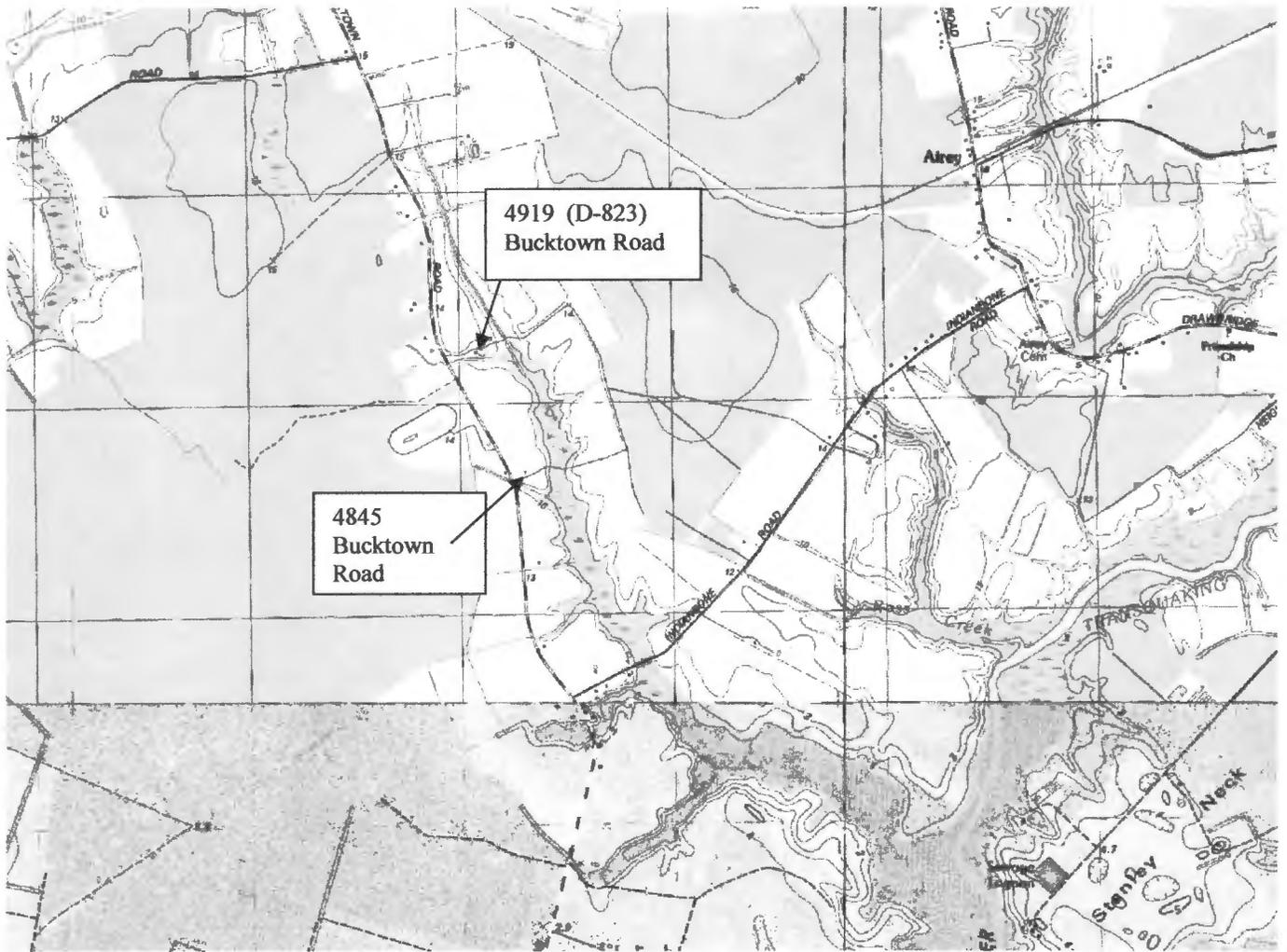


Figure 1: Aerial view of the Adams Farm. The farmyard arrangement is a variation of the type identified by architectural historian, Henry Glassie as a “courtyard plan.”

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 7

D-823

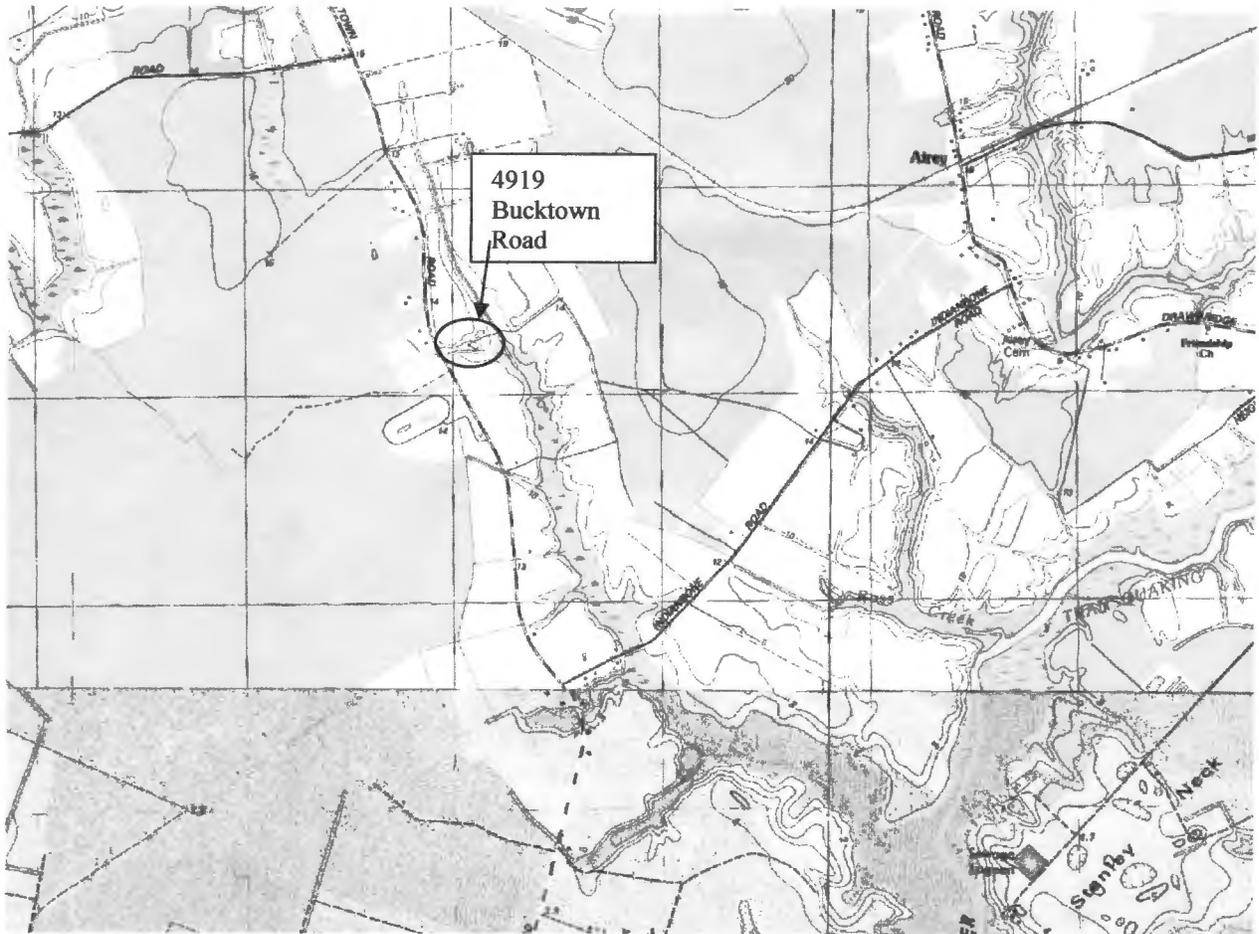


USGS map excerpt: Cambridge quad
Scale: 1:24,000

Source: Trails.com
Retrieved February 25, 2012

Prepared by: Sherri Marsh Johns

Date Prepared: February 26, 2013



Adams Tenant Farm (D-823)
4913 Bucktown Road, Cambridge (vicinity), MD

USGS map excerpt: Cambridge quad
Scale: 1:24,000
2012

Source: Trails.com
Retrieved February 25,

Photograph Log
Adams Tenant Farm (D-823)
913 Bucktown Road, Cambridge (vicinity), Maryland

Photographs by Sherri Marsh Johns
February, 2013

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. D-823_2013-02-01_01 | Farm complex, camera facing east |
| 2. D-823_2013-02-01_02 | Dwelling façade, camera facing south |
| 3. D-823_2013-02-01_03 | Dwelling rear, camera facing northeast |
| 4. D-823_2013-02-01_04 | Date stone |
| 5. D-823_2013-02-01_05 | Tile silo, camera facing northwest |
| 6. D-823_2013-02-01_06 | Pump house, camera facing northwest |
| 7. D-823_2013-02-01_07 | Metal equipment storage buildings, camera facing northeast |
| 8. D-823_2013-02-01_08 | Shed, camera facing southeast |
| 9. D-823_2013-02-01_09 | Cart shed, camera facing northwest |
| 10. D-823_2013-02-01_10 | Grain bins, camera facing east |
| 11. D-823_2013-02-01_11 | Corn crib, camera facing east |
| 12. D-823_2013-02-01_12 | Stable & poultry house |

Photographs printed by Fromex of California on archival Ilford paper using archival black and white ink.



ADAMS TENANT FARM

ID-823
SURVEY #

Bucktown Rd, Dorchester Co, MD

by S.M. Johns

6965828, Adams Tenant Farm Complex_001

Feb 2013

Digital MASTER at MHT

(ILFORD) (Frodox True 5011, 23/04/13

CAMERA facing East

1 of 12



Adams Tenant Farm

100 SURVEY #
D-823

Bucktown Road, Dorchester Co. MD

by S. M. Johns

6965828, Dwellings_000

FEBRUARY 2013

Digital Master at MHT

<ILFORD>, <From: True BEU>, 03/04/13

Dwelling. camera facing South

2 of 12



Adams Tenant Farm

NO SURVEY #

Bucktown Rd., Dorchester

D-823
CO. MD

by S. M. Johns

6965820, Duelline near_005

FEBRUARY 2013

Digital MASTER at MHT

(ILFORD), (Fronex True B&W), 03/04/13

Dwelling, CAMERA facing NE

3 of 12



1903

Adams Tenant FARM

NO Survey #
D-823

Bucktown Rd, Dorchester Co., MD

by S.M. Johns

6965828, Date Stone_004

Feb. 2013

Digital MASTER at MHT

<ILFORD>, <Fromex True 821>, 03/04/13

"1903" Date stone

4 of 12



Adams Tenant Farm

Plot Survey

823

Bucktown Road, Dorchester Co., MD

by S. M. Johns, Feb 2013

6965828, Silo_089

Digital master at MHT

Silo

<ILFORD>, <Fropex True 82U>, 03/04/13

5 of 12



Adams Tenant FARM

Survey #
D-823

Bucktown Rd, Dorchester Co., MD

by S. M. Johns, Feb 2013

6965828, Pump House_288

Digital MASTER at MHT

Pump House

(ILFORD), (Pump House 288), 03-04/13

6 of 12



ADAMSTENANT FARM
Bucktown Rd. Dorchester Co, MD

NO Survey #
D-823

by S. M. Johns, Feb 2013

6965828. Storage Buildings_811

Digital MASTER at MHT
Equipment STORAGE Bldgs

7 of 12
<ILFORD... True SOL... 83/84/13



ADAMS Tenant #ADAM
BUCKTOWN Rd. DORCHESTER CO., MD

D-823
100 Survey #

by S.M. Johns, Feb. 2013

6965828, Storage Shed_012

Digital MASTER at MHT

SHED (ILFORD), (From: True BSLD, 03/04/13)

8 of 12



ADAMS Tenant FARM
Bucktown Rd, Dorchester Co, MD
by S. M. Johns

6965828, Cart Shed_002

Feb 2013

Digital MASTER at MHT

<ILFORD>, <Promex True B20>, 03/04/13

CART Shed

9 of 12



ADAMS Tenant House

NO Survey #

D-823

Bucktown Rd, Dorchester Co., MD

by S. M. Johns, Feb 2013

6965820. Grain Bins_007

Digital MASTER at MHT

GRAIN BINS

KILFORDY Crown True 8217, 03/04/13

90 of 12



Adams Tenant FARM

D-823
NO Survey #

Buck Town Rd, Dorchester Co, MD

by S. M. Johns

6965828, Corn Crib_083

Feb 2013

Digital MASTER AT MHT

(ILFORD), (Frank True BSW), 03/04/13

CORN CRIB

91 of 12



Adams Tenant Farm

D-823
NO SURVEY #

Bucktown Rd, Dorchester Co, MD

by S. M. Johns

6965822, Stable/Poultry House_818

Feb 2013

Digital MASTER at MHT

<ILFORD>, <FRODOX TRUS 2342>, 83/04/13

STABLE / Poultry House

12 OF 12