

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Pleasant Fields

and/or common August Priebe Barn

2. Location

street & number 4801 Sundown Road not for publication

city, town Laytonsville vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no.	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

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

name Jeffrey A. & L. F. Jones

street & number 4801 Sundown Road telephone no.: 301-774-5583

city, town Gaithersburg state and zip code MD 20879

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber 5898

street & number folio 57

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title M-NCPPC Historic Sites Inventory

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records M-NCPPC Park Historian's Office

city, town Rockville state Maryland

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

This general purpose, or utility, barn was built by August Priebe in 1926. It has a sawn timber structure (mortise, tenon, and pegged) supporting a metal-covered, gambrel roof, and is sheathed with vertical board and batten wood siding. The foundation walls are rubble masonry. Although it is a bank barn, the south wall of the stabling area is not recessed beneath an overhang, but instead consists of a flush wall containing six windows on each side of a center opening. These windows contain six-over-six wood sash. The bottom sash is fixed; the upper sash tilts inward. The central doorway contains only a wood gate. A small Z-braced wood door with a six-light window in its upper portion is set in the east end of this wall. At the hayloft level, three large board and batten doors rolling on a horizontal track cover openings to the upper level of the barn.

The east elevation of the barn contains five small windows at the stabling level. Between the windows stands a roofless concrete stave silo with exterior steel bands. The west elevation of the barn contains new and altered windows and a doorway leading into the stabling area. There are no windows or louvered openings in the upper portions of either of these walls. A small concrete block dairy with metal-covered, hip roof stands a few feet from the west end of the barn. It has been remodeled for use as an office.

The north elevation consists of huge board and batten doors which roll horizontally on a track to reveal the large openings to the hayloft. The interior of this large barn is in excellent condition, is used for miscellaneous storage, and gives an excellent impression of the massiveness of such a building.

8. Significance

Survey No. M: 23/31A

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1926 Builder/Architect August W. Priebe

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

August W. Priebe, local farmer and barn builder, built this barn for himself in 1926, cutting down the trees on his property and sawing them into lumber on his steam-powered, circular-saw mill. Originally the barn was designed to house working stock (horses). It was later converted to a dairy barn, then a cattle barn, and finally a horse barn, before being relegated to storage.¹

This sturdy barn is a transitional structure between the bank barns common until the 1920's and the concrete block, gambrel roof barns which would proliferate after 1930. It may have originally had a recessed area beneath the southern hayloft wall. This lower wall may have been extended when the barn was modified to house beef cattle.

The use of battens on the vertical board sheathing is unusual. Although very few barns used battens after 1900, Mr. Priebe apparently thought them important, for he used them also on the Freeman barn which he built in 1944-46 a short distance away. Most barns built prior to 1920 had gable roofs. Priebe's use of the gambrel follows the suggestions of the farm manuals published at the time, but his structural system of heavy timbers is not typical with this roof form. More common is the braced rafter or self-supporting truss structure which allowed for a large, open hayloft. The Ira Jones barn used this system in the early 1920's.

Thus structurally and aesthetically this barn is significant in the development of early 20th century farm buildings. It is important, too, as the work of an identified and very talented local barn builder.

FOOTNOTES

1. Interview with Russell Priebe, son of August Priebe, August, 1987.

SANDY SPRING
CNT

4345000 N.

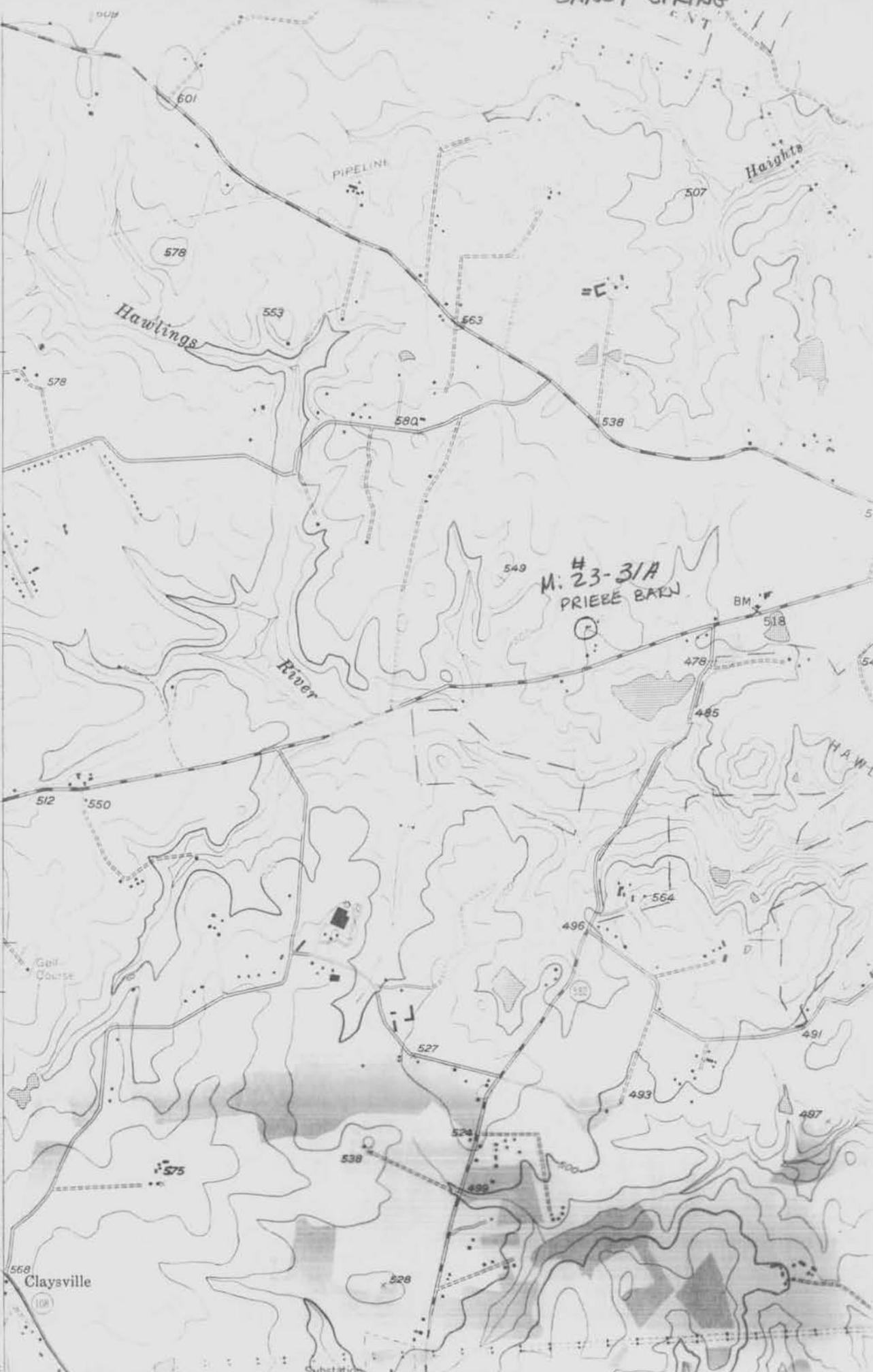
LAYTONSVILLE 1.2 MI

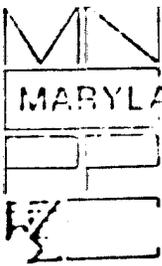
12'30"

DAMASCUS 8.5 MI
LAYTONSVILLE 1.0 MI

4340

(g)





M:23-31A

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated April 8, 1987

ACTION TAKEN

Final Draft Amendment to the Master Plan
OLNEY AREA HISTORIC RESOURCES

The purpose of this Amendment is to designate the following sites on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation thereby extending to them the protection of the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code.

M: 23/9	Elton
M: 23/29	Fair Hill II
M: 23/31	Pleasant Fields/Sundown Hills
M: 23/58	Gustavus Jones Farm
M: 23/63	Longwood
M: 23/66	Bordley's Choice (Merrywood)
M: 23/71	Far View
M: 23/73	Gittings Ha Ha
M: 23/79	Roslyn Bank Barn
M: 23/84	Brooke Meadow
M: 23/89	Walnut Hill
M: 23/98-4	St. John's Episcopal Church
M: 23/106 106	Oakdale-Emory United Methodist Church
M: 23/112	Sycamores
M: 23/113-1	Mount Pleasant Church
M: 23/119	Holland Store & House



#23-31

NAME PLEASANT FIELDS

LOCATION SUNDOWN Rd UNITY, Md

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 11/8/74 MDWYER



#23-31

NAME *PLEASANT FIELDS*

LOCATION *SUNDOWN Rd UNITY, Md*

FACADE *NW*

PHOTO TAKEN *11/8/74 MOWER*



#23-31

NAME GAITHER CEM. AT PLEASANT FIELDS

LOCATION SUNDOWN RD UNITY, MD

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 11/8/74 MDWYER



M:23/31 A

August Priebe Barn
4801 Sundown Road
Laytonsville, MD
Andrea Rebeck
Looking southeast

1987



M: 23/31A

August Priebe Barn
4801 Sundown Road
Laytonsville, MD
Andrea Rebeck
Looking northwest

1987