

PG:71A-36
Bowie Tobacco Barn
Route 450 at Hillmeade Road
Collington, Maryland

Capsule Summary

The Bowie Tobacco Barn, located on the south side of Route 450 in Collington, Maryland, is an architecturally significant ca. 1800 tobacco barn that was expanded in the nineteenth century. The original structure includes such construction features as tilted false plates, half-lapped joints with wrought nail connections, and primary, hand-hewn framing members joined by mortise and tenon connections.

The barn consists of a core that measures 24-by-40 feet and terminates in a gable roof with a 55 degree pitch. It has a unique framing system composed of four-foot rooms within 10-foot structural bays. The Bowie Tobacco Barn is one of three documented southern Maryland tobacco barns that retains evidence of original vertical siding. Horizontal nailing rails are attached to the wall framing on two-foot centers in the Collington example.

The original core barn was expanded during the late-nineteenth century through the addition of sheds along all four sides of the structure. The barn is abandoned and in a deteriorated condition; it is scheduled for demolition the week of 23 September 1996 for a private housing development.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Bowie Tobacco Barn

and/or common Westwood Property

2. Location

street & number South of Route 450 at Hillmeade Road not for publicationcity, town Collington vicinity of Bowie congressional district

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant |

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

name Donatelli & Klein

street & number 7200 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 310 telephone no.:

city, town Bethesda state and zip code Maryland 20814

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber

street & number Main Street folio

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site | |
| <input 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.

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

8. Significance

| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input 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 **Builder/Architect**

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.

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG:71A-36

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 254 Acres

Quadrangle name Lanham

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

| | | | |
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| A | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

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| B | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

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| H | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
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Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE ATTACHED MAP

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11. Form Prepared By

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| name/title | Lori O'Donnell | | |
| organization | R. Christopher Goodwin & Assoc., Inc. | date | |
| street & number | 337 East Third Street | telephone | (301) 694-0428 |
| city or town | Frederick | state | Maryland |

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
 Shaw House
 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
 DROPPED
 100 COMMUNITY PLACE
 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
 410-771-0000

Description Summary

The Bowie Tobacco Barn is located on the south side of Route 450 (Annapolis Road) approximately 700 feet west of Hillmeade Road. The property consists of former agricultural fields and wooded areas. The barn is situated on the northwest edge of the property, and is one of three extant buildings from the former Bowie family farmstead. A tobacco barn and shed dating to the early-twentieth century also survive intact on the property (see PG:71A-36, July 1995).

The tobacco barn is abandoned and in a deteriorated condition. Intact building fabric illustrates several significant construction features. The structure, which predates 1810, consists of the original core that measures 24-by-40 feet, and is constructed of hand-hewn and pit-sawn timber secured by wood pegs and wrought iron nails. The walls are reinforced by both down and up braces, an unusual design feature. Original horizontal nailing rails, which are attached to the wall framing, indicate that the barn originally was sheathed with vertical wood siding. Other significant features tilted false plates, and four-foot rooms within 10-foot structural bays. The original core was expanded during the late-nineteenth century through the addition of sheds along all four sides of the structure.

Description

The barn was constructed in two major building periods: the original 24-by-40-foot core, which dates to the late-eighteenth to early-nineteenth century, and the 14-foot-deep shed additions, which were appended to all four sides during the late-nineteenth century. The original section terminates in a steeply-pitched gable roof oriented on a northwest-southeast axis. The addition of the sheds to all four sides results in a "hip with gablet" roof type.

The primary supports of the heavy timber framing system of the original core consist of hand-hewn vertical posts centered on 10-foot bays. An unusual feature of the wall framing is the use of both down- and up-bracing for reinforcement. The northeast and southwest elevations employ up braces that are

mortised into the tie beam; down braces at the gable end walls are mortised into replacement circular-sawn sills. The mortised joints are secured by wood pegs. Down- and up-bracing also was used to reinforce interior bents; only a portion of one of the down braces remains. Horizontal nailing rails are fastened to the face of the wall framing, including the gable faces, by wrought nails and wood pins. The original wood siding subsequently was removed from the core section; however, the presence of the horizontal nailing rails as opposed to vertical studs indicates that this section was sheathed in vertical siding. The sills, which are joined at each corner with a long single tenon, are raised from the dirt floor by cut tree trunks of various heights which are positioned beneath the primary posts. Because of the different heights of the tree trunks, as well as differential settlement, the sills are not level.

The northeast and southwest elevations incorporate secondary supports located four feet from the corner posts. A single row of replacement, earthfast, stripped-log poles bisects the barn longitudinally from northwest to southeast. Tier poles are lapped to the tie beams and the log poles on four foot centers, resulting in a four-foot room system largely independent of the ten-foot structural bays. The first level of tiers is positioned 7'-2" above the ground. The average vertical spacing of the tiers is three feet.

The roof framing is supported by tilted false plates. The 3 3/4" square plate is inset into the end of the extended tie beams and supports pit-sawn rafters pitched at a 55-degree angle. Each rafter pair is joined at the ridge by half-lapped joints, and is secured by four pit-sawn collar beams. The average spacing of the rafter pairs is four feet, and the average vertical spacing of the collars is 3'-10". Wrought iron nails are used to fasten the rafter pairs at the ridge, the half-lapped joints between the collars and rafters, and the pit-sawn horizontal shingle nailers. Interestingly, wrought nails found on the top faces of the nailers are spaced approximately three feet apart, suggesting that the original roof cladding was three-foot-wide wood "shingles." The roof currently is clad in standing seam tin roofing. The roofing system is completed with 1-by-2 3/4-inch diagonal wind braces secured to the underside of the rafters by wrought nails.

Two entries to the structure were identified. Each entrance is centered on the long (northeast and southwest) elevations of the shed additions. The doorways measure 8'-7 ½" in width, which suggests they were double doors wide enough to allow vehicular entry; no doors remain. To accommodate a center aisle, the sill was discontinued across the opening, and a circular-sawn vertical post was added five inches next to an original hewn post. A pintel located on the northwest elevation of the shed addition suggests that a single door was located along this wall. Door placement on the original core structure was not determined due to the lack of intact hardware. In addition, most of the lower framing members of the walls have been removed, and the sills have been replaced. There is no structural evidence of a stripping shed on the interior or exterior of the barn.

The late-nineteenth century sheds are composed of circular-sawn timber with lapped joints secured by machine-cut nails. Flat false plates support their slightly less than four-foot (3'-11") centered rafters. The sheds' rafters are connected to the tie beam or tier poles of the original core by half-lapped joints. Horizontal nailing rails mortised between the earthfast vertical posts support hinged vertical board siding, the majority of which is missing. The southeast shed has collapsed; charred timbers at the eastern side of the barn provide evidence of fire damage. Abandoned for quite some time, the barn is in a deteriorated condition. The barn is slated for demolition.

Significance Summary

The Bowie Tobacco Barn is a significant example of an early tobacco barn in Prince George's County. It is a relic of tobacco cultivation, the mainstay economic pursuit in southern Maryland for over 300 years. The barn is in a deteriorated condition, yet retains the majority of its original framing members. The building supports a steeply-pitched gable roof with tilted false plates. Framing members consist of hand-hewn and pit-sawn timbers secured by wrought nails; up braces are employed to provide additional support. All these elements are important construction features diagnostic of the late-eighteenth or early-nineteenth century. In addition, the Bowie Tobacco Barn is significant as one of only three recorded examples of southern Maryland tobacco barns to employ vertical board siding. The original core section is surrounded by late-nineteenth century shed additions on all four sides, a change that is indicative of the evolving technology in tobacco cultivation during that time period. Other modifications include the replacement of the sills and replacement of the wood shingle roof sheathing with standing seam tin.

History and Support

Agricultural Context

Agriculture was the economic base of Prince George's County from the seventeenth century through the first half of the twentieth century. From its introduction, tobacco remained the staple crop produced by Prince George's County farmers until more recent times.

During the colonial period, tobacco was exported to England in exchange for necessary goods and luxury items. Tobacco plantations were dispersed along the Chesapeake Bay and the inland water routes of the Patuxent and Potomac rivers. These locations facilitated access by English ships, and proximity to a water source made the land some of the most arable available.

The tobacco market fluctuated during the seventeenth century, but ultimately tobacco planters in Prince George's County prospered. Tobacco plantations multiplied and expanded as the population

increased. Eventually, however, tobacco production escalated beyond the demand and by the end of the century, the market was flooded. In order to survive financially, many farmers diversified their output by cultivating cereal crops. In 1747, after four decades of a stalled tobacco economy, Maryland's General Assembly intervened and established a formal system of tobacco inspections at designated public warehouses (Virta 1984:40). This system required crops to be inspected and graded prior to sale and resulted in a rebound of the tobacco economy and renewed prosperity for the county's farmers.

The height of tobacco production in the county occurred during the antebellum period. In 1840, county farmers produced 37 per cent of the tobacco grown in the state of Maryland. By 1860, Prince George's County farmers produced over 13 million pounds of tobacco, a quantity larger than that produced in any other county in the Union (Virta 1984:88).

Prince George's County's farmers utilized a large labor force to cultivate such sizable quantities of tobacco. Tobacco production is labor intensive; a single tobacco grower was capable only of tending to two to three acres. During the colonial period, tobacco planters utilized indentured servants to establish their plantations; however, this labor force was short-lived as the terms of the servants expired. Consequently, planters turned toward slave labor, which until the early-eighteenth century was limited only to the wealthiest plantation owners. Gradually, slaves were brought to Maryland. By the 1750s, slaves constituted almost half of Prince George's County's population (Virta 1984:38-39).

The Civil War brought drastic changes to the tobacco-based economy. The emancipation of slaves led to a severe labor shortage, which markedly increased the cost of tobacco production (Scharf 1892:113). Although the practice of tenant farming evolved after the Civil War, tobacco production in the county never again reached antebellum levels. In 1870, Prince George's tobacco production reached only 3.5 million pounds, approximately one-quarter of the 1860 crop production level (Wesler et al. 1981:142). Impoverished landowners were forced to sell portions of their real and personal property in order to survive financially.

Between the Civil War and 1900, the number of farms in Prince George's County doubled, but their size decreased markedly (Virta 1990:60). Tobacco production increased slightly, averaging approximately 4.5 million pounds per year between 1890 and 1930 (Wesler et al. 1981:141, 142, 148; Lawrence 1878:8). Despite changes in labor force and farm size, tobacco remained the most important crop in the county until the 1980s (Virta 1984:263). Although tobacco historically was the leading crop in Prince George's County, individual farmers also practiced diversified agriculture. Area farmers grew wheat, Indian corn, tobacco, Irish potatoes, and hay (U.S. Agricultural Census 1850, 1880). Livestock raising and truck farming developed at the end of the nineteenth century (Scharf 1892:4-5).

During the late 1920s and 1930s tobacco prices rose as the county's tobacco production rose. The type of tobacco grown in southern Maryland during the twentieth century was a special type (Type 32) that had a special taste and commanded a higher price at market (Bowie 1947:x). Prices escalated further after 1938 when Prince George's County adopted the loose-leaf marketing system for tobacco sales. Prior to this time, tobacco was shipped and sold in a hogshead, or a large wooden cask. The shape of the cask allowed the tobacco to be rolled to market. Although loose-leaf marketing was used widely in other states by the 1930s, Baltimore tobacco merchants continued the practice of selling hogsheads of tobacco from which samples were drawn. Selling tobacco in hogsheads tended to keep prices lower (Bowie 1947:ix-x).

Changes to the agricultural character of Prince George's County began in earnest after World War II. The proliferation of the automobile encouraged the spread of suburbanization beyond the railroad lines, and highway construction altered land use by promoting strip development and subdividing nineteenth century crossroads communities (State Roads Commission 1958:73). Increasing numbers of subdivisions, government installations, and major expressways within the Washington metropolitan area also contributed to changing the overall character of the county. By 1988, Prince George's County had become one of the

most heavily populated jurisdictions in the state of Maryland, with a population almost as large as that of Baltimore City.

Cultivation Process

Tobacco production is a year-round labor-intensive agricultural activity. It requires approximately 200 hours of hand labor during the agricultural cycle, which in Maryland is 18 months (Martin 1991). From the field to the market, tobacco leaves are handled over 15 separate times (Robert Cole Films 1994). The process includes cultivating, planting, topping, cutting, hanging, stripping, and packing. Because of the labor-intensive tasks involved in tobacco cultivation, a small amount of acreage is devoted to the crop.

The cycle begins in late winter when tobacco beds are seeded. During early spring the fields are plowed in preparation for transplanting the young tobacco plants to the fields. When the plants are about eight inches in height, they are drawn out of the tobacco beds by hand and planted in the fields two rows at a time. As the tobacco plants grow, the fields are cultivated against weeds and the plants are sprayed with pesticide. Toward the end of the growth stage in mid-summer, they are topped to stimulate further growth. Topping is the removal of the tobacco flower off of the top of the plant (McGrath and McGuire 1992).

Harvesting, the most arduous activity, begins in August. The tobacco is cut and speared on tobacco sticks, which are four and one-half feet long wooden sticks with a steel spear attached to one end. The sticks of tobacco are transported to the tobacco barn and hung on horizontal poles to air-cure until October. Throughout the winter, the cured tobacco is stripped, sorted, and packed in preparation for market sale during the first week of April. Simultaneously, the tobacco beds are being prepared for seeding in late February or early March; thus, continuing the cycle.

The Tobacco Barn

The tobacco barn is a distinctive architectural form and an important vestige of the agricultural past of Prince George's County. Tobacco barns have played an essential role in tobacco production since the seventeenth century. Tobacco barns are used to cure, store, and process tobacco for market.

Like other agricultural buildings erected during the colonial period, tobacco barns generally were impermanent construction, serving as a fast, cheap means for the planter to establish his crop until he earned economic stability. Impermanent construction in Maryland consisted of earthfast construction, which utilized a framing system of heavy timber posts set directly on or in the ground. Down or up braces, mortised and pegged to interrupted sills for the former and to a tie beam for the latter, reinforced the wall framing. Tilted false plates were employed to support paired rafters. The tobacco was pegged directly to the interior framing. The exterior was sheathed only partially with clapboards, but roofed entirely to protect the tobacco from rain (Main 1982:34). No extant Maryland tobacco barns of earthfast construction have been recorded.

Post-colonial tobacco barns were built for longer life-spans. An architectural survey of more than 150 tobacco barns in Calvert County, Maryland identified two types of Maryland tobacco barns. The antebellum tobacco barn generally measures 24-by-40 feet, and is characterized by a steeply-pitched gable roof. The structure is often surrounded by sheds (generally as additions), and is clad in horizontal wood siding. This type of tobacco barn adopts a cross-axial plan with wide doorways located on the long elevations. Some of the early tobacco barns also have single doors positioned on the gable ends. Continuous sills resting on stone or wood piers limited access to only foot traffic.

The framing of antebellum tobacco barns consists of horizontal beams or poles, called tiers, that tie into transverse rows of vertical posts and tie beams to support the tobacco sticks. Primary and secondary vertical posts spaced at regular intervals and reinforced with down braces compose the wall framing. Primary structural bays of eighteenth century barns were typically on five- or 10-foot centers; this

dimension gradually changed to eight-foot centers by the end of the eighteenth century. The framing timber is hand-hewn or pit-sawn with the heavy members joined by pegged mortises and tenons. Lapped joints at secondary connections are secured by wrought nails in the oldest barns, or machine-cut nails.

The horizontal space between tiers is called a "room." The size of a room is dictated by the length of the tobacco stick; five-foot rooms were supplanted during the last quarter of the eighteenth century by four-foot rooms when four and one-half foot tobacco sticks became the norm (McGrath and McGuire 1992). Since tobacco is hung in several levels from floor to roof peak, vertical spacing is dependent on the size of the leaf. The Type-32 tobacco grown in southern Maryland is approximately four feet in length.

Early tobacco barn types employed tilted false plate eave construction, a distinctive framing system seldom practiced after 1800 (Orlando Ridout, MHT, personal communication, 27 August 1996). A tilted false plate system employs a square or rectangular plate set diagonally into the end of the tie beams. The end of the rafters are fastened to the false plate. Although the origin of tilted false plate construction is not known, it provides significant structural stability to a roof fully-loaded with tobacco in contrast to the traditional flat plate (Orlando Ridout, MHT, personal communication, 27 August 1996). Steeply-pitched rafters are supported by three to four collar beams. Clapboards or wood shingles finish the roof.

The exterior walls of the barn are designed to protect drying tobacco from the weather. Early tobacco barns are sheathed with horizontal board siding, typically riven clapboards or weatherboards. Ventilation is provided through slats between the siding or roof cladding, open eaves, or open footings. Larger tobacco barns utilize wide doorways (Ware 1990:57). To facilitate air circulation, tobacco barns were built on a hill or ridge crest with its openings facing the direction of the prevailing breezes (Hart and Mather 1961:284).

As technology and theories toward ventilation changed, the tobacco barn form changed. A late-nineteenth and twentieth century tobacco barn assumed a long, boxy configuration and terminated in a moderately-pitched gable roof. The building typically was sheathed in vertical board siding. These barns

may be quite large, and thereby employ hinged vertical board siding for a more efficient means of ventilation. Although the interior framing system retains the same components as earlier barns (i.e., vertical posts, tiers, bracing, and collars), the interior plan changed to a single or double aisle plan to allow access by wagon teams and machinery through wide gable end doors. After ca. 1885, no hand work was used in the construction of tobacco barns; all timber is circular-sawn and fastened with wire nails.

Many twentieth century tobacco barns are designed for multipurposes, incorporating a loft for hay storage and two to four lean-to sheds for stabling and storage of farm implements. One of the sheds is typically used as a stripping shed. Stripping sheds generally are added to the north side of the barn. These sheds typically only employed windows on the north elevation to take advantage of indirect light; glare from direct light impedes sorting, which is done by the color of the leaf (McGrath and McGuire 1982:38). If a stripping shed is not appended to the structure, the tobacco is stripped in a partitioned section of the barn.

Data Analysis

The Bowie Tobacco Barn was part of an extensive farm complex that operated from the eighteenth through the twentieth centuries and included a main dwelling and several outbuildings; the main dwelling was demolished in 1974. Approximately 3000 feet east of the barn is a post-1930 tobacco barn and ca. 1945 shed. The house was located west of the twentieth century tobacco barn and south of Route 450 in a grove of trees. A row of trees still delineates the location of the main driveway which led from Route 450 to the main house site.

Archival records indicate that the Westwood property, including the tobacco barn, was associated with the Bowie family. Tax records from 1798 list Walter Bowie as the owner and occupant of Willow Grove, a 962 acre plantation. Bowie's Willow Grove plantation contained 18 buildings, seven of which were 40-by-24-foot tobacco houses. Walter Bowie, Jr. inherited the plantation after his father's death.

After Walter Bowie, Jr.'s death in 1839, his eldest son Walter W.W. controlled both the land and slaves of the estate. He eventually sold it to his younger brother, Richard W.W. Bowie. The property, which at some point was renamed Locust Grove, remained in the Bowie family until the early-twentieth century, when Amelia M. Bowie Belt, Richard's daughter, died (Bowie 1971). An 1860 Martenet map, and the 1878 and 1894 G.M. Hopkins atlases indicate the progression of ownership of the estate during the nineteenth century. The Bowie family was prominent in tobacco planting as well as Maryland politics (Bowie 1947). A Bowie family cemetery originally was situated in the vicinity of the main dwelling; it has been moved to the cemetery at the Holy Trinity Church located on the north side of Route 450.

The Bowie Tobacco Barn is an example of the antebellum-type tobacco barn, with a core that measures 24-by-40 feet, a steeply-pitched gable roof, and four-foot rooms. In addition, significant features such as the tilted false plate construction, and half-lapped joints with wrought nail connections are evidence of a late-eighteenth to early-nineteenth century dating. However, originally the barn was framed for vertical siding, which is somewhat unusual for that time period. Antebellum tobacco barns typically were clad in horizontal wood siding, with vertical siding not taking preference until the mid- to late-nineteenth century. There are two documented examples of early tobacco barns designed for vertical framing: Belleview (PG:81B-1) and Linthicum Walks (AA-782) (Orlando Ridout, correspondence, 14 March 1996).

The 1790s Belleview tobacco barn has several construction features similar to the Bowie Barn in addition to the original vertical siding, including its approximate 24-by-40-foot size, tilted false plate construction, and wrought nail fasteners. It, too, has sheds, but only on two of the elevations. The Belleview barn, however, has a five-foot room system. Linthicum Walks (AA-782), a tobacco barn in Anne Arundel County, was constructed before 1815. This 24-by-40-foot barn exhibits hand-hewn and pit-sawn heavy timber framing secured by wrought nails, tilted false plate eave construction, and four-foot rooms.

The Bowie Tobacco Barn framing system also is unique for its employment of up braces, an

earthfast construction technique, and four-foot rooms within 10-foot structural bays. Somewhat awkward and inefficient to construct, these framing methods probably represent the struggle of the transition from five-foot to four-foot rooms during the eighteenth century, and/or are the result of the cultural traditions of the barn's carpenter.

The Bowie Tobacco Barn is one of three buildings comprising the Westwood Property. A tobacco barn and shed dating to the early-twentieth century also survive intact on the property. The buildings initially were evaluated collectively as representative of Prince George's County's agricultural past (Criterion A) and individually for their ability to represent distinctive architectural types, periods, or methods of construction (Criterion C) (see PG:71A-36, July 1995). The site as a whole lacked integrity and did not represent Prince George's County's agricultural practices. It therefore does not meet Criterion A.

The Bowie Tobacco Barn was evaluated under Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places for illustrating a distinctive architectural type, period, or method of construction, specifically as an example of late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth century tobacco barn construction. The barn is in a deteriorated condition due to its abandonment several years ago. The majority of the framing system, its most important aspect, remains intact, allowing for the identification of such significant construction practices as tilted false plates, up braces, half-lapped joints secured by wrought nails, and original horizontal rails designed for vertical siding. The Bowie Tobacco barn conveys sufficient integrity to represent its type of construction; therefore, it is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

The Bowie Tobacco Barn is scheduled for demolition to enable redevelopment of the property. Documentation of the structure was undertaken by Donatelli & Klein, Inc., the developers of the site.

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815

Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870

Historic Period Theme(s):

Agriculture

Architecture

Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use: Agriculture/Tobacco Barn

Known Design Source: None

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Main, Gloria

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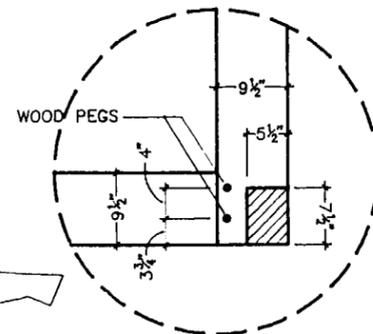
Federal Tax Records, 1798.



A

DOUBLE DOOR
OPENING

REPLACEMENT
SILLS



TYPICAL CORNER DETAIL
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

B

ORIGINAL
LATE 18TH-EARLY 19TH
CENTURY CORE

B

SINGLE DOOR
OPENING

COLLAPSED
SHED ADDITION

A

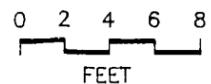
DOUBLE DOOR
OPENING

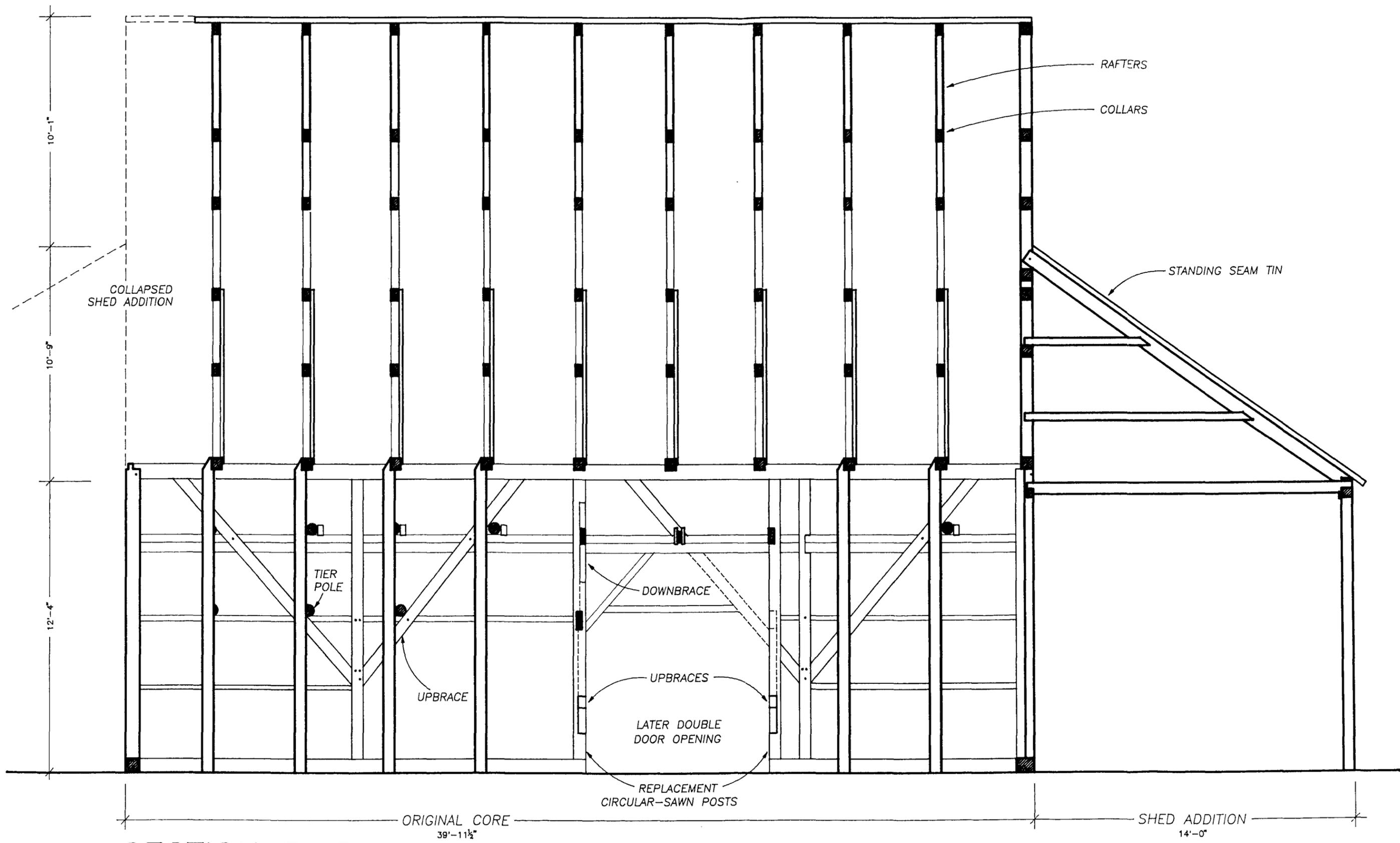
PLAN VIEW

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

■ HAND HEWN POST

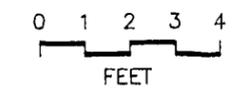
□ REPLACEMENT POST

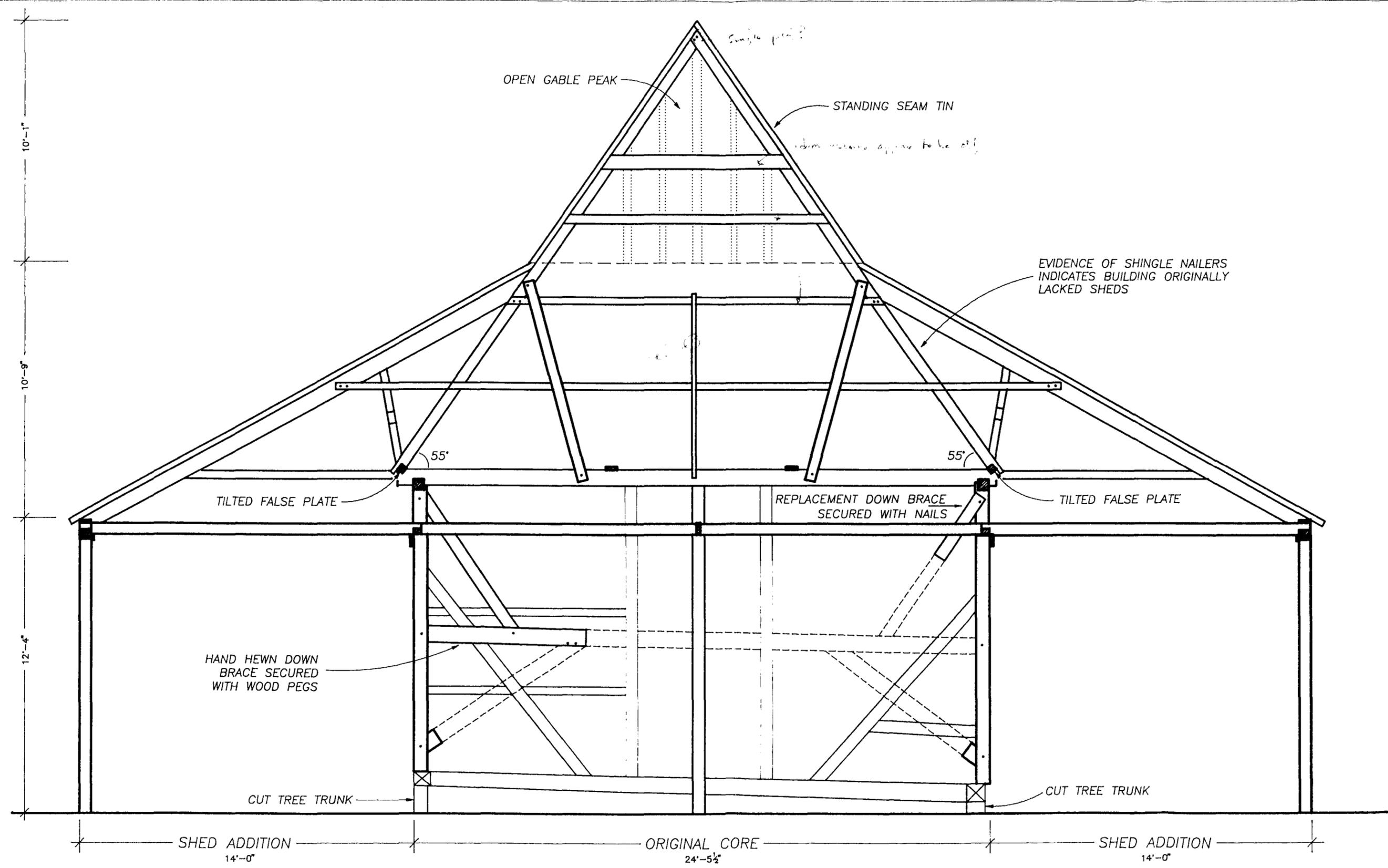




SECTION B-B

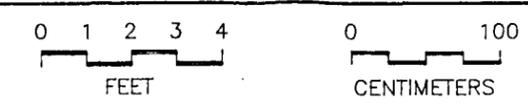
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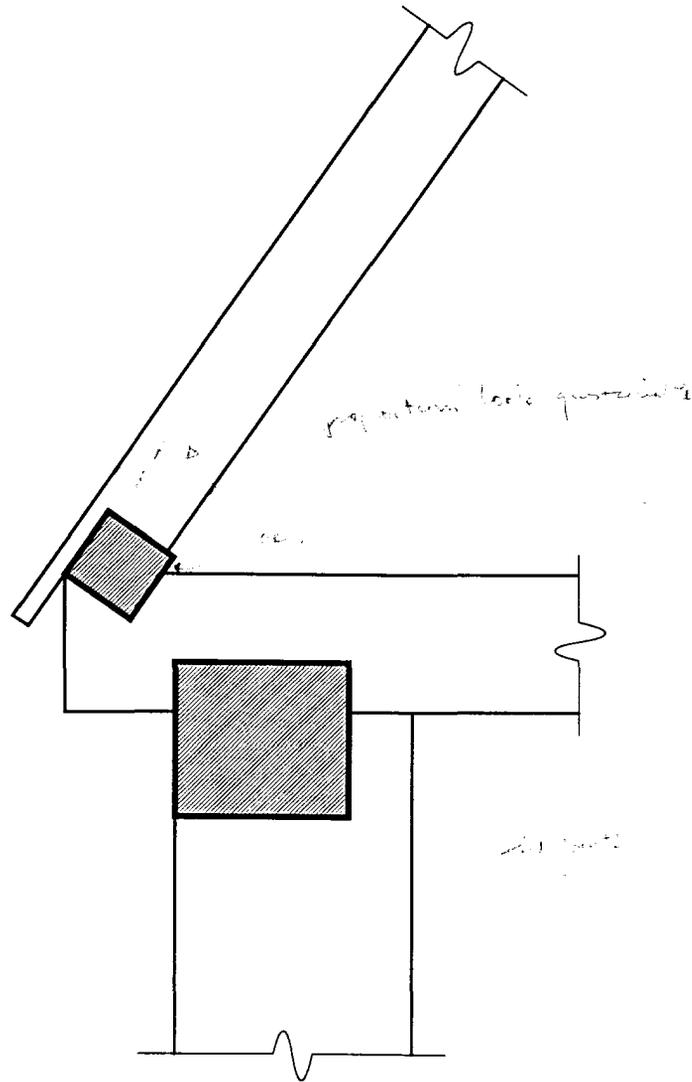
SECTION A-A

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



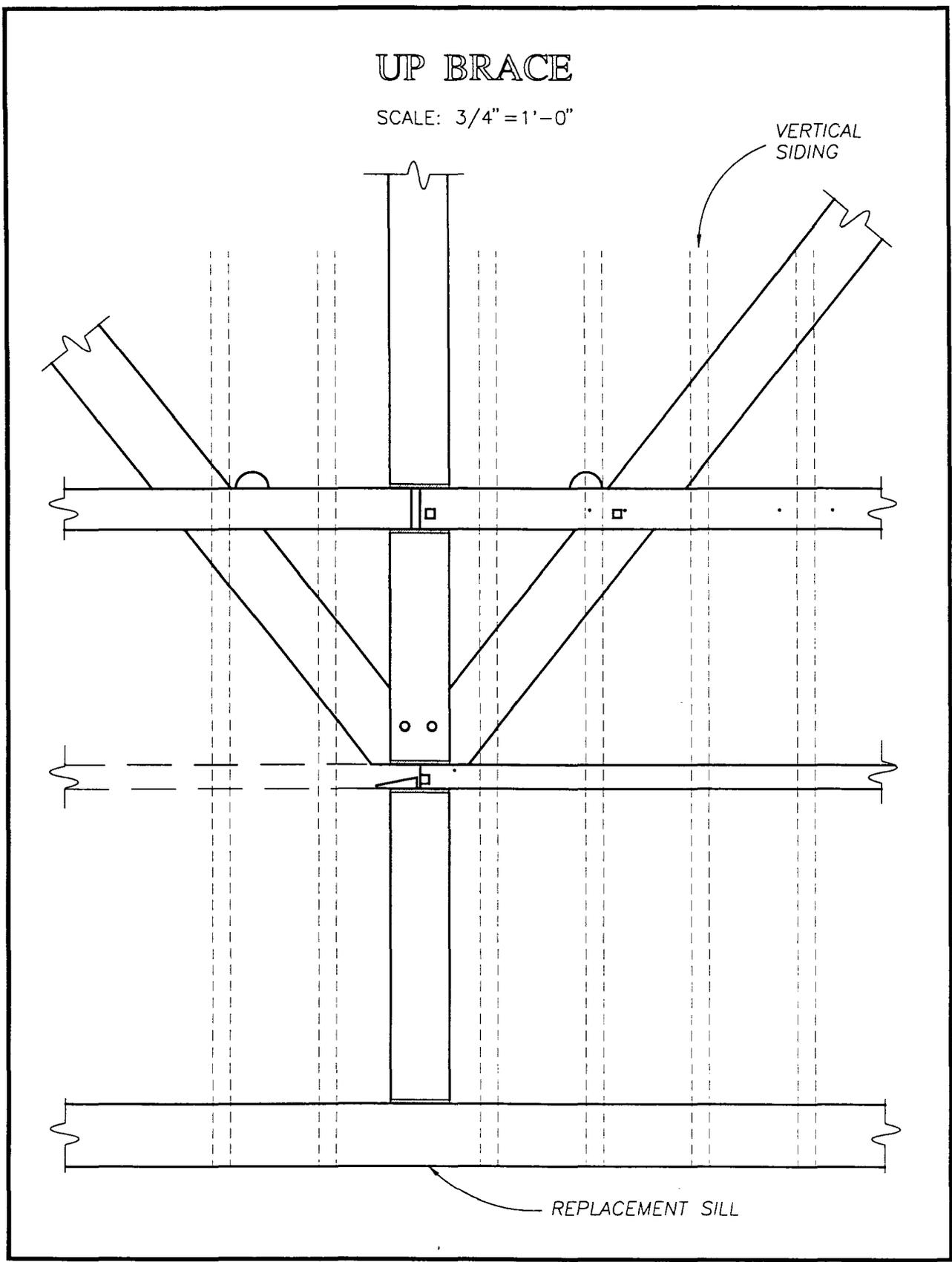
TILTED FALSE PLATE (CORNER POST)

SCALE: 1" = 0'-6"



UP BRACE

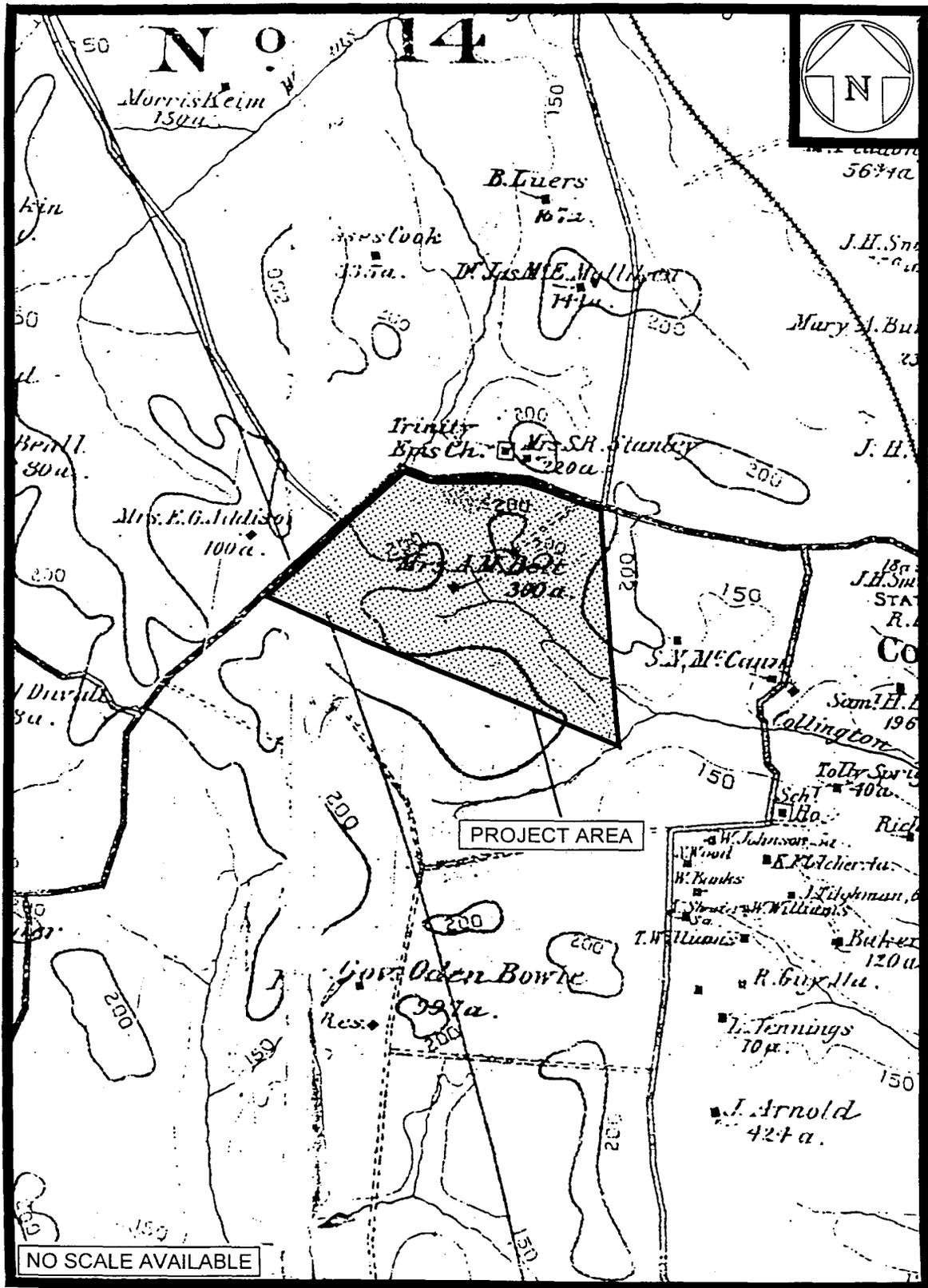
SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"



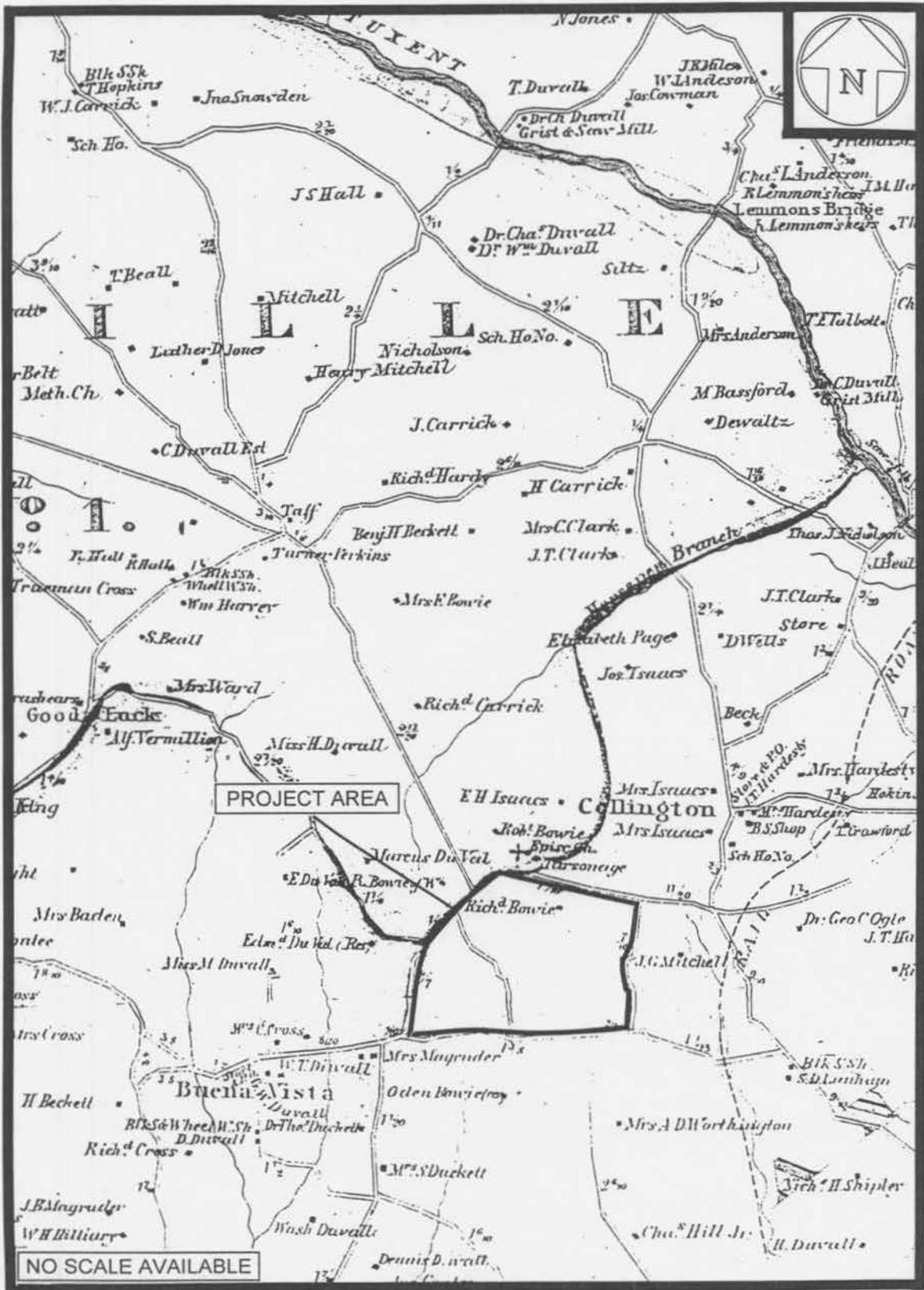
VERTICAL
SIDING

REPLACEMENT SILL

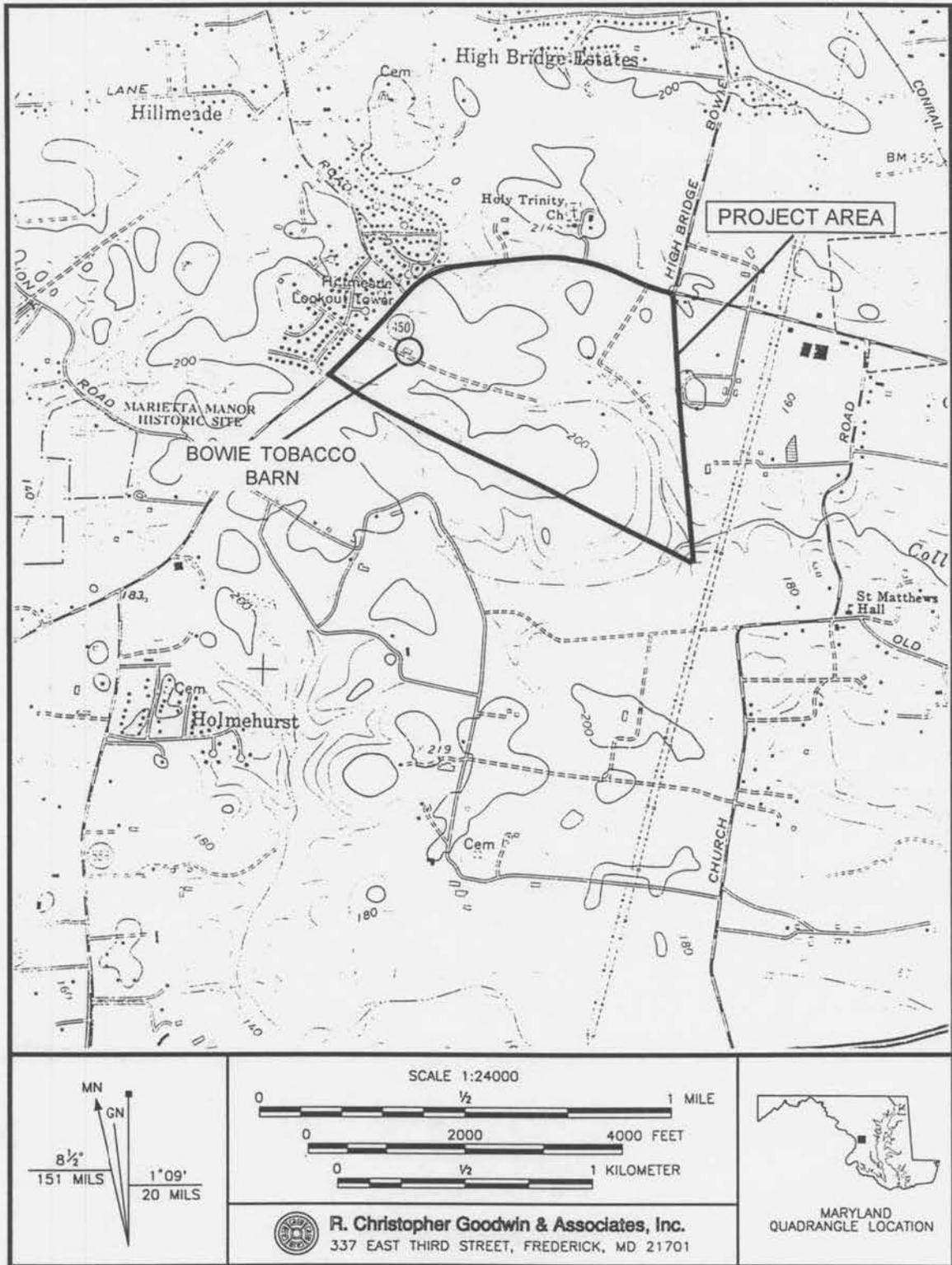
Drawn by [unclear] [unclear] et al.



Portion of G.M Hopkin's Atlas of Prince George's County, 1894, showing the location of the A(melia) M. Belt property.



Portion of Martenet's Map of Prince George's County, Maryland, 1860, showing the location of the Bowie property.



Locational map showing the boundaries of the Westwood Property (PG:71A-36), including the Bowie Tobacco Barn, in Collington, Prince George's County, Maryland; USGS Lanham, Maryland topographic quadrangle, 1957, photorevised 1979.

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- Photograph 5 Interior View Southeast.
- Photograph 6 Interior View Southwest.
- Photograph 7 Interior View South of North Corner of the Original Core.
- Photograph 8 Interior View South.
- Photograph 9 Detail of Tilted False Plate at a Corner Post.
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- Photograph 11 Detail of Tie Beam and Corner Post Connection.
- Photograph 12 Detail of Sill Connection.
- Photograph 13 Southwest View of Up Brace at Southwest Elevation of the Original Core.
- Photograph 14 Interior View Southeast of Mortised Posts of Northeast Shed Addition.



PG: 71A-36

BOWIE TOBACCO BARN

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

W. PATRICK GIGLIO

9/96

R. CHRISTOPHER GODWIN & ASSOCIATES, INC.

VIEW SOUTH OF NORTHWEST AND NORTHEAST ELEVATIONS.

1 OF 14

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PG: 71A-36

BOWIE TOBACCO BARN

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

W. PATRICK GIGLIO

9/96

R. CHRISTOPHER GOODWIN & ASSOCIATES, INC.

VIEW NORTH OF SOUTHEAST END.

2 OF 14

THE ORIGINAL IS IN THE



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BOWIE TOBACCO BARN

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

W. PATRICK GIGLIO

9/96

R. CHRISTOPHER GOODWIN & ASSOCIATES, INC.

VIEW EAST OF NORTHWEST END.

3 OF 14

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BOWIE TOBACCO BARN

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

W. PATRICK GIGLIO

9/96

R. CHRISTOPHER GOODWIN & ASSOCIATES, INC.

VIEW WEST OF NORTHEAST AND SOUTHEAST ELEVATIONS

4 OF 14

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BOWIE TOBACCO BARN
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD
LORI O'DONNELL

7/96
CHRISTOPHER GOODWIN & ASSOCIATES, INC.

INTERIOR VIEW SOUTHEAST.

5 OF 14

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PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

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INTERIOR VIEW SOUTHWEST.

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INTERIOR VIEW SOUTH OF NORTH CORNER OF THE ORIGINAL CORE.

7 OF 14

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BOWIE TOBACCO BARN

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

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INTERIOR VIEW SOUTH.

8 OF 14

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BOWIE TOBACCO BARN

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

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2. CHRISTOPHER GOODWIN & ASSOCIATES, INC.

DETAIL OF TILTED FALSE PLATE AT A CORNER POST.

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DETAIL OF TILTED FALSE PLATE AT AN INTERMEDIATE POST.

10 OF 14

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BOWIE TOBACCO BARN

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

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DETAIL OF TIE BEAM AND CORNER POST CONNECTION.

11 OF 14

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BONIE TOBACCO BARN
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD
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9/96
2. CHRISTOPHER GOODWIN & ASSOCIATES, INC.
DETAIL OF SILL CONNECTION.
12 OF 14

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BOWIE TOBACCO BARN

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

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SOUTHWEST VIEW OF UP BRACE AT SOUTHWEST ELEVATION OF ORIGINAL CORNER

13 OF 14

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PG: 71A-36

BOWIE TOBACCO BARN

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

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INTERIOR VIEW SOUTHEAST OF MORTISED POSTS OF NORTHEAST SHED
ADDITION.

14 OF 14.

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