

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

PG:
Inventory No. 86A-35

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic _____

other Sansbury Tobacco Barn

2. Location

street and number 12201 Croom Road _____ not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro _____ vicinity

county Prince George's

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

name Louise B. Sansbury & Linda B. Kehm

street and number 3712 Bay View Drive telephone _____

city, town Chesapeake Beach state MD zip code 20732-3514

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. _____ liber 15431 folio 715

city, town _____ tax map 137E3 tax parcel 22 tax ID number _____

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	
_____ district	_____ public	_____ agriculture	Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	_____ commerce/trade	_____	_____ buildings
_____ structure	_____ both	_____ defense	_____	_____ sites
_____ site		_____ domestic	_____	_____ structures
_____ object		_____ education	_____	_____ objects
		_____ funerary	_____	_____ Total
		_____ government		
		_____ health care		
		_____ industry		
		_____ landscape		
		_____ recreation/culture		
		_____ religion		
		_____ social		
		_____ transportation		
		_____ work in progress		
		<u>X</u> unknown		
		_____ vacant/not in use		
		_____ other:		
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	

7. Description

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Condition

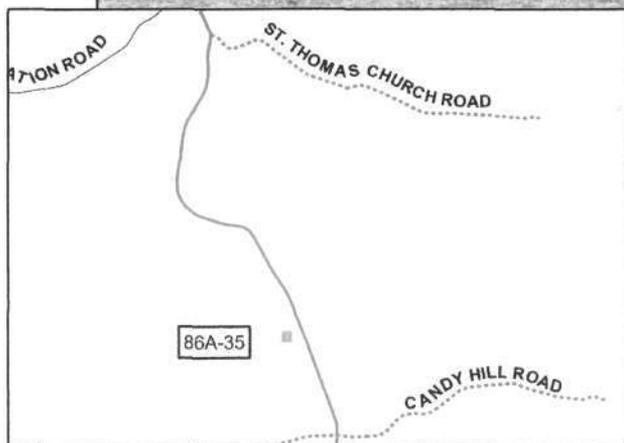
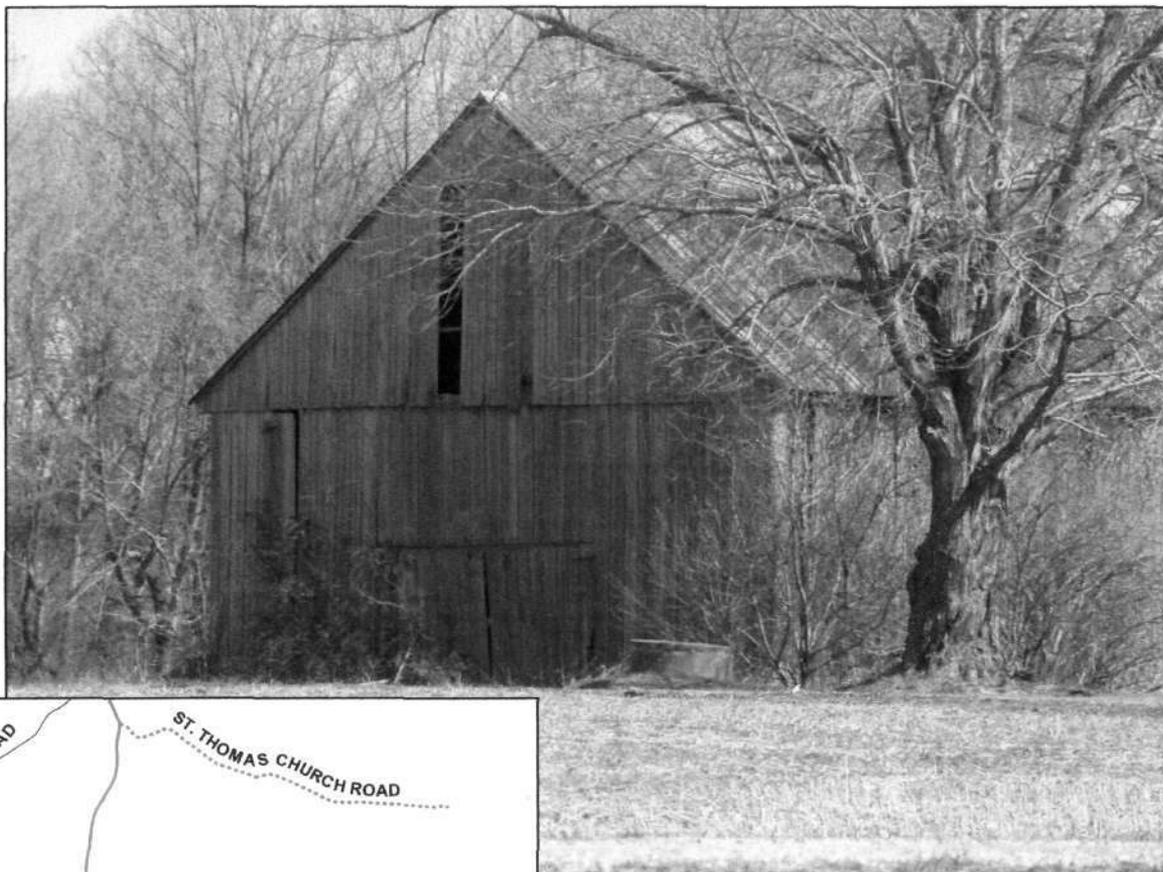
excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

Sited behind a dwelling to the west of Croom Road, this barn is located on the edge of a field near mature trees.

Built circa 1900, the barn has a wood frame structural system clad in vertical boards and capped with a gable roof covered with standing-seam metal. Hinged vertical air doors line the north and south elevations. Double-leaf vertical board wood doors are centrally positioned in the gable ends. Some vertical boards have fallen off the building.

Access to this tobacco barn was not granted. Tobacco is no longer cultivated on any land associated with this building.



8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates	c.1900	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	c.1900		
Evaluation for:			
<input type="checkbox"/> National Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland Register	<input type="checkbox"/> 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.)

During the more than two centuries in which tobacco served as the money crop in Prince George's County, planters, indentured servants, slaves, and farmers developed utilitarian structures for tobacco curing and packing that have remained essentially the same to the present day. Early barns were square in plan and constructed of notched logs with open spaces between the logs to permit the circulation of air (a log dwelling had chinking and caulking between the logs to prevent the infiltration of air). Inside, scaffolding held the tobacco sticks with the leaves suspended from them in such a way as to allow air to flow over the drying tobacco to prevent mold. Farmers employing the fire-curing method lit small fires on the barn's earthen floor to lower the relative humidity (Percy 1979:33). The Prince George's County barns differed from those constructed in Virginia and North Carolina for the flue curing of bright-leaf tobacco, which employed a stove or firebox with a flue and require a different type of barn—one that was essentially airtight to hold the heat. By the 19th century, the increasing availability of sawn lumber enabled southern Maryland's farmers to construct timber-frame tobacco barns covered with wooden siding, usually vertical board siding. Southern Maryland's air cured tobacco utilized barns constructed with air doors along the sides that could be opened to facilitate the circulation of air. These air doors were three or four vertical boards fastened together and usually hinged that could be opened.

The earliest tobacco barns identified in the survey along Croom Road are the ca. 1820 Duvall Tobacco Barn (87A-31) and the 1800-1830 Watson Tobacco Barn (87A-55) and the most recent barns date to the middle of the twentieth century such as the Stielper (87A-48), Jackson (87A-47), and Chase (87A-44) tobacco barns. Although the dates of construction for the surveyed barns range over one hundred and thirty years, the construction materials, methods of construction, and form of the tobacco barn changed very little. All of the barns surveyed are wood-frame and clad in vertical boards; all of the barns contain four-foot by four-foot rooms to hang the tobacco; and all of the barns have hinged vertical board air doors to control the circulation of air within the barns. The changes in form are very minor but provide the most insight into the date of construction. Early nineteenth century barns have steeply pitched gable roofs. From about 1830 until 1900 the barns have more standardized gable roofs, sometimes with one side of the gable extended to create a shed roof over a stripping room. Around 1900, the use of tractors increased in Prince George's County and central double-leaf doors opening onto a wide central passage began to appear in the barn. The final form change was the advent of the gambrel roof, which created more space within the barn to hang tobacco. Gambrel roofs begin to appear in the 1930s and 1940s.

This barn is significant as an example of a c.1900 tobacco barn in Prince George's County, Maryland and fit into the third period of tobacco barn construction. The form, gable roof, and double-leaf doors indicate the c.1900 date of construction.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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David O. Percy, *The Production of Tobacco Along the Colonial Potomac. The National Colonial Farm Research Report No. 1, Agricultural History Series* (Accokeek, Md.: The Accokeek Foundation, 1979), 10-11.]

National Register of Historic Places, Red Fox Farm, Mecklenburg Co., Va., File 58-131, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Va.

Calvert County Historic District Commission, "Tobacco Barns Calvert County Maryland," Prince Frederick, Md: Calvert County Historic District Commission, 1991), brochure.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 88.5121

Acreage of historical setting _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale: Brandywind

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Jana Shafagoj, Architectural Historian		
organization	Ashley Neville, LLC	date	March 1, 2006
street & number	11311 Cedar Lane	telephone	804.798.2124
city or town	Glen Allen	state	VA

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

