

Name of Property: Myrtle Point Barn

MIHP Number: SM-377

Location: Patuxent Boulevard

Town/Vicinity: California

Date of Construction: Unknown

Access: Public Private

The Myrtle Point Barn is a late example of a wood-frame earthfast tobacco barn. It is located in a thick wooded site and is in deteriorated condition. The house and other outbuildings that may have been associated with the barn have been demolished and the surrounding area has been converted into a park with walking paths.

The barn is constructed of log posts and clad with circular sawn wood siding. The original massing is eight bays long and there is a shed addition on the northeast wall. The barn has a gabled standing seam metal roof that is partially collapsed.

The barn is located on land that was used for farming at least since the nineteenth century. Based on local agricultural practices and property values, it can be assumed that the cash crop for the property was tobacco. In the early twentieth century, which is the likely construction period for the barn, the land was owned by a Baltimore widow, Susan Keyworth, and a gentleman farmer, Frank Dent. Since the land owners did not live at the site, it is possible that the land was farmed by a tenant who stored tobacco at the site. By 1935, the property was sold to a single woman from Washington D.C., and then sold several more times in the 1940s and 1950s. In 1957, the land was purchased by the Washington Lumber and Turpentine Company, which later merged with the Tensaw Land and Timber Company, Inc. The Tensaw Land and Timber Company is notable as being founded by Alabama Congressman Frank Boykin in 1937. The company sold the land in 1966 and the Tensaw Land and Timber Company is now run by Boykin's heirs.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes
no

Property Name: Myrtle Point Barn Inventory Number: SM-377
Address: Patuxent Boulevard Historic district: yes no
City: California Zip Code: 23290 County: Saint Marys
USGS Quadrangle(s): Solomons Island
Property Owner: St. Mary's County Tax Account ID Number: _____
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): _____ Tax Map Number: _____
Project: MD-4: Thomas Johnson Bridge Historic Building Survey Agency: Hardlines Design Company
Agency Prepared By: Hardlines Design Company
Preparer's Name: Maria Gissendanner Date Prepared: 6/4/2009

Documentation is presented in: MIHP SM-379; Reeve, Stuart A., Jean B. Russo, Dennis J. Pogue and Joseph M. Herbert. "Myrtle Point: The Changing Land and People of a Lower Patuxent River Community." Crownsville, Maryland: Maryland Historical and Cultural Publications, 1991.

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: _____

Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: yes no Listed: yes no

Site visit by MHT Staff yes no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The Myrtle Point Barn is a late example of a wood-frame earthfast tobacco barn. It is located in a thick wooded site and is in ruins. The house and other outbuildings that may have been associated with the barn have been demolished and the surrounding area has been converted into a park with walking paths.

The barn is constructed of log posts and clad with circular sawn wood siding. The original massing is eight bays long and there is a shed addition on the northeast wall. The barn has a gabled corrugated metal roof and a central cupola.

The barn is located on land that was used for farming at least since the nineteenth century. Based on local agricultural practices and property values, it can be assumed that the cash crop for the property was tobacco. In the early twentieth century, which is the likely construction period for the barn, the land was owned by a Baltimore widow, Susan Keyworth, and a gentleman farmer, Frank Dent. Since the land owners did not live at the site, it is possible that the land was farmed by a tenant who stored tobacco at the site. By 1935, the property was sold to a single woman from Washington D.C., and then sold several more times in the 1940s and 1950s. In 1957, the land was purchased by the Washington Lumber and Turpentine Company, which later merged with the Tensaw

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Jim Jarman
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

7/20/10
Date

[Signature]
Reviewer, National Register Program

7/21/10
Date

Land and Timber Company, Inc. The Tensaw Land and Timber Company is notable as being founded by Alabama Congressman Frank Boykin in 1937. The company sold the land in 1966 and the Tensaw Land and Timber Company is now run by Boykin's heirs.

NRHP recommendation: Not eligible

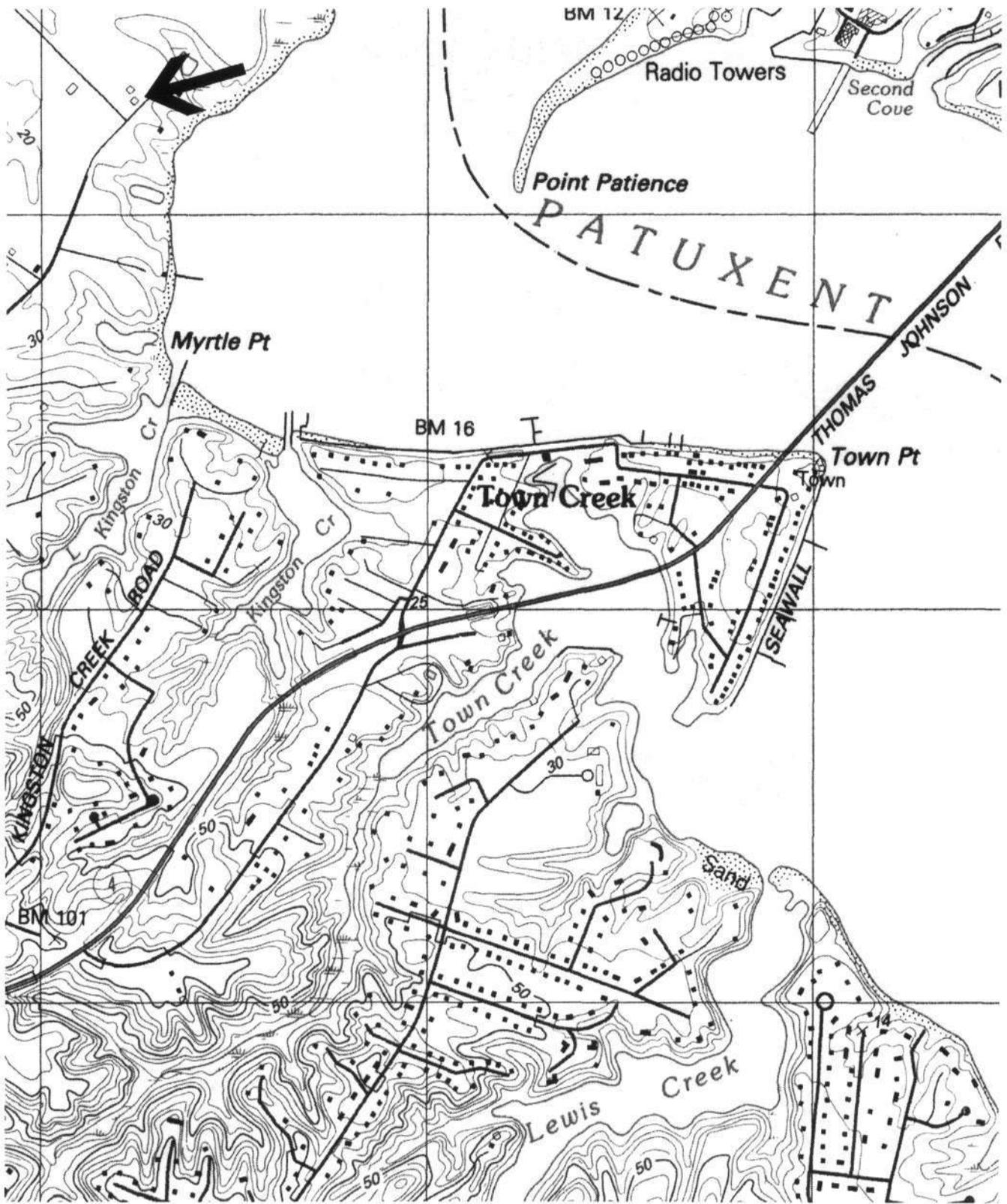
Criterion A: The barn is not associated with any historical events. It appears to be a common example of a tobacco barn, once a common site in the area. The surrounding land has not been used for farming in a long time and is now heavily wooded. The significance of the site does not appear to be sufficient to warrant NRHP eligibility and is recommended as not eligible under Criterion A.

Criterion B: No important historical persons were associated with this building and it is recommended as not eligible under Criterion B.

Criterion C: The structure is a common example of a vernacular tobacco barn and its original appearance has been altered by severe deterioration and thick vegetation, the structure is therefore recommended as not eligible under Criterion C.

Criterion D: The property was not evaluated under Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended _____	Eligibility not recommended _____
Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D	Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G
MHT Comments:	
_____ Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	_____ Date
_____ Reviewer, National Register Program	_____ Date



Myrtle Point Barn
SM-377
Solomons Quadrangle, Maryland
USGS 7.5' topographic series, 1987

**Maryland State Highway Administration
Cultural Resources Section
Photo Log**

Project No.: SM351C11

Project Name: MD-4 from MD-2 to MD-235

MIHP No.: SM-377

MIHP Name: Myrtle Point Barn

County: St. Mary's

Photographer: Jennifer Goold

Date: 06/30/2010

Ink and Paper Combination: Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Luster Photo Paper

CD/DVD: Verbatim, CD-R, Archival Gold

Image File Name	Description of View
SM-377_2010-6-30_01.tif	View facing northwest towards the property
SM-377_2010-6-30_02.tif	View facing northwest towards the property



SM-377

Marye Point 5000

St. Mary's MP

Jennifer Boold

June 30, 2010

View northwest

1 of 2



SM-377

Myrtle Point Barn

St. Mary's MD

Jennifer Gould

June 30, 2010

View northwest

2 of 2

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Myrtle Point Barn

2. Location

street & number Myrtle Point Road _____ not for publication

city, town California, MD vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county St. Mary's County

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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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: abandoned

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

name 347 Development Corporation

street & number 5184 Nesconset Highway telephone no.: (516) 473-3009

city, town Port Jefferson Station state and zip code New York 11776

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse liber 127

street & number folio 299

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title none

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Survey No. SM-377

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date of move _____

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

This earthfast tobacco barn is located on a flat site in thick woods and other brush within sight--in the winter--of the Patuxent River. Its ridgeline is oriented northwest-southeast. The original context of the structure is difficult to determine, but it seems fairly clear that it was not originally part of a complex of buildings but rather was an isolated structure--perhaps one of a series. The fabric of the building is all circular-sawn and wire-nailed.

The original part of the tobacco barn is supported on earthfast log posts that all measure about 8" in diameter. They are organized in three rows of eight posts each. The rows are spaced about 15' apart, and each of the eight bays of the structure is spaced about 8' apart. Early in the history of the building, an earthfast shed was added to the northeast long side of the building. It extended the width of the building by about 12'6". and is framed in a manner consistent with the original part of the building.

Below the level of the plates, the only horizontal stiffening the building enjoys is provided by the 2"x4" nailers that bridge the posts along the length of the building (and provided support for the tobacco stakes) and the 2"x4" nailers placed at about 3' intervals around the perimeter of the building to secure the 1"x6" vertical-board siding.

At the tops of the walls, 4"x6" plates connect the posts along the length of the building, and 4"x12" girts connect the posts along the gable ends. Joists measuring about 4"x6" are set on rough 4' centers. At the point where the joists lap over the plates, a rafter is also lapped over. The rafters measure about 2"x6". Each pair of rafters is stiffened by a 2"x4" collar nailed onto their sides. Roofing boards measuring about 1"x6" and spaced randomly connect the top face of the rafters and provide the foundation for the original roof covering of wood plain-butt shingles. This original roofing has been covered over by standing-seam sheet metal.

Note: measurements of distances between members are approximate because most of the building has collapsed: the shed addition is the most upright portion of the structure. Furthermore: the omission of doors in the northwest gable end and the southwest side of the building are conjectural--and probably wrong. There truly was no evidence of a door in the northwest gable end, but the southwest side of the structure is so completely ruinous that adequate investigation was impossible. Finally: The mid-building function of the central row of posts is unclear. I recorded no longitudinal horizontal summerbeam that was supported by these posts, but I think it's impossible that the joists were meant to span the more-than-30' width of the original section of the tobacco barn.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-377

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 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

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.

Myrtle Point Tobacco Barn is a late example of earthfast construction, a building technology that is apparently as old as English settlement in the Chesapeake. Adequate historical research should turn up a moderate quantity of information concerning the function and agricultural context of this nearly collapsed structure.

Myrtle Point Barn
 St. Mary's County, Maryland
 Camille Wells, Recorded 12/19/86

347 Development Calculations

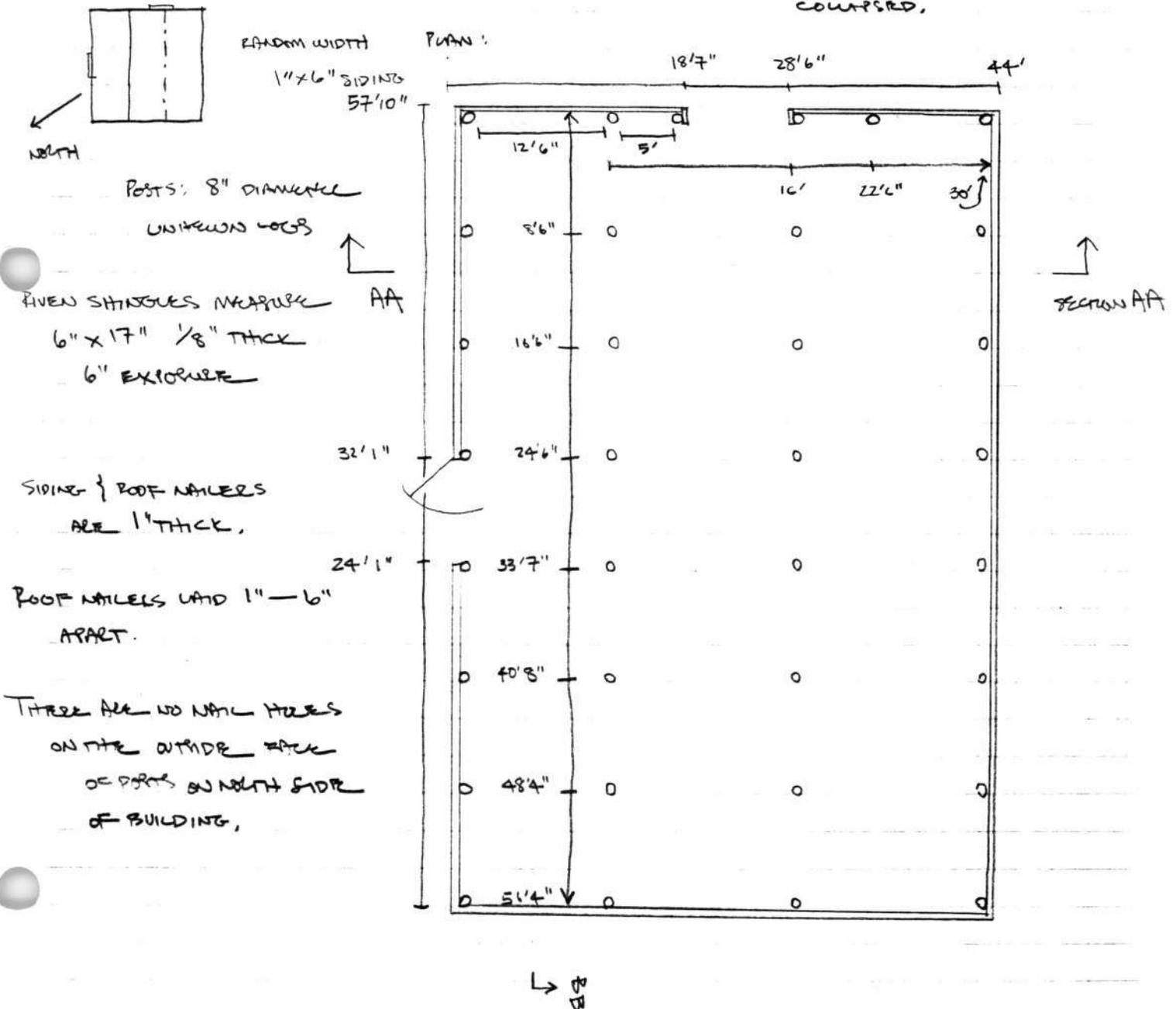
This earthfast tobacco barn is located in thick woods and other brush of Myrtle Point Road within sight of the Patuxent River. Its ridgeline is oriented northwest-southeast. The site is flat.

The tobacco barn is supported on earthfast posts--three rows of them. The central row is set in the plane of the ridgeline. It is gable roofed. Horizontal nailers affixed onto the backs of the posts carry random-width circular-sawn sheathing. The entire structure is wire nailed.

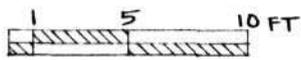
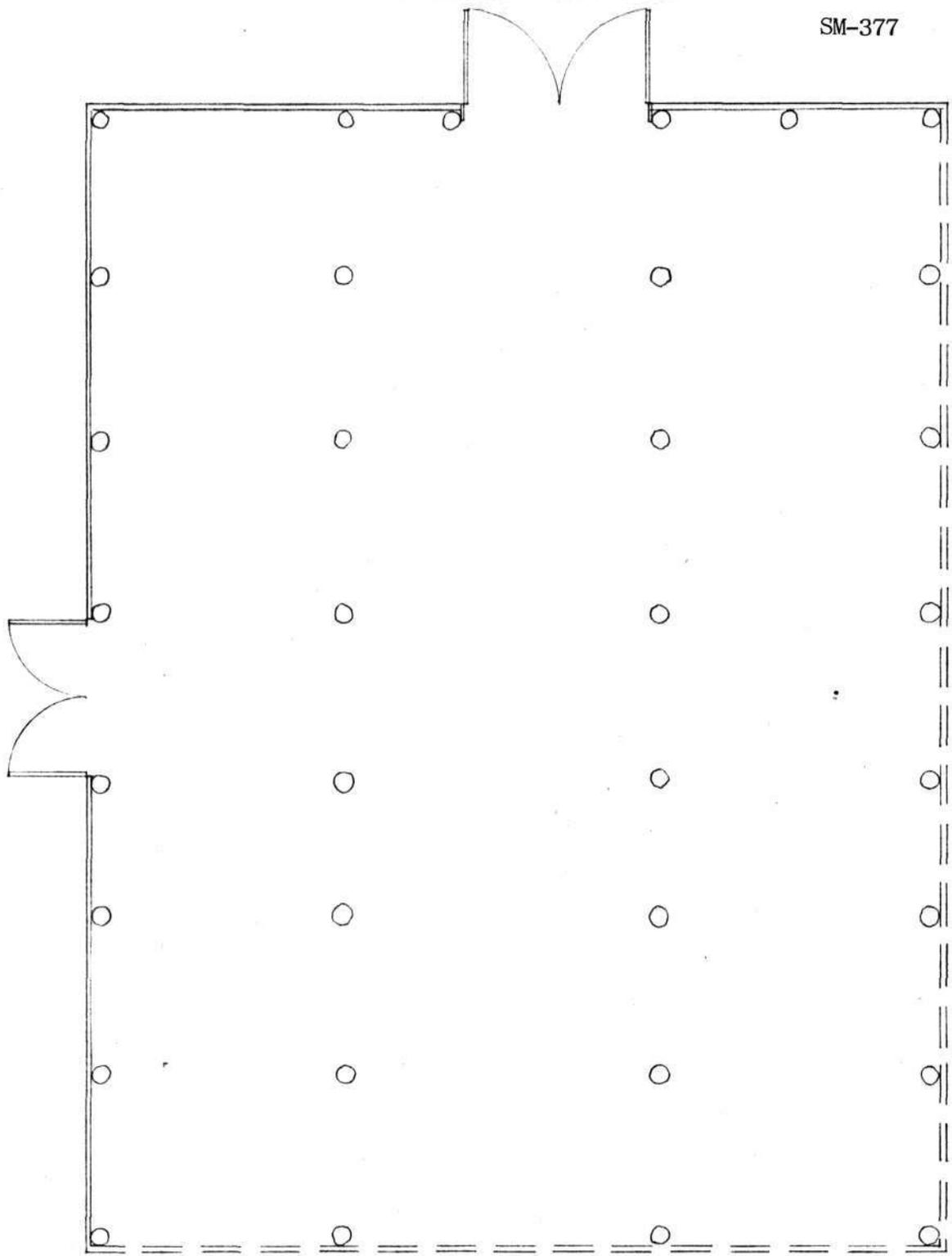
The gable roof was originally covered with wood shingles affixed to horizontal nailers, but this roofing was covered over with sheet metal.

At an early date, the original structure was extended on the northeast side by a shed addition that runs the length of the structure.

THE BARN HAS ALMOST COMPLETELY COLLAPSED.



SM-377



NORTH

MYRTLE POINT BARN

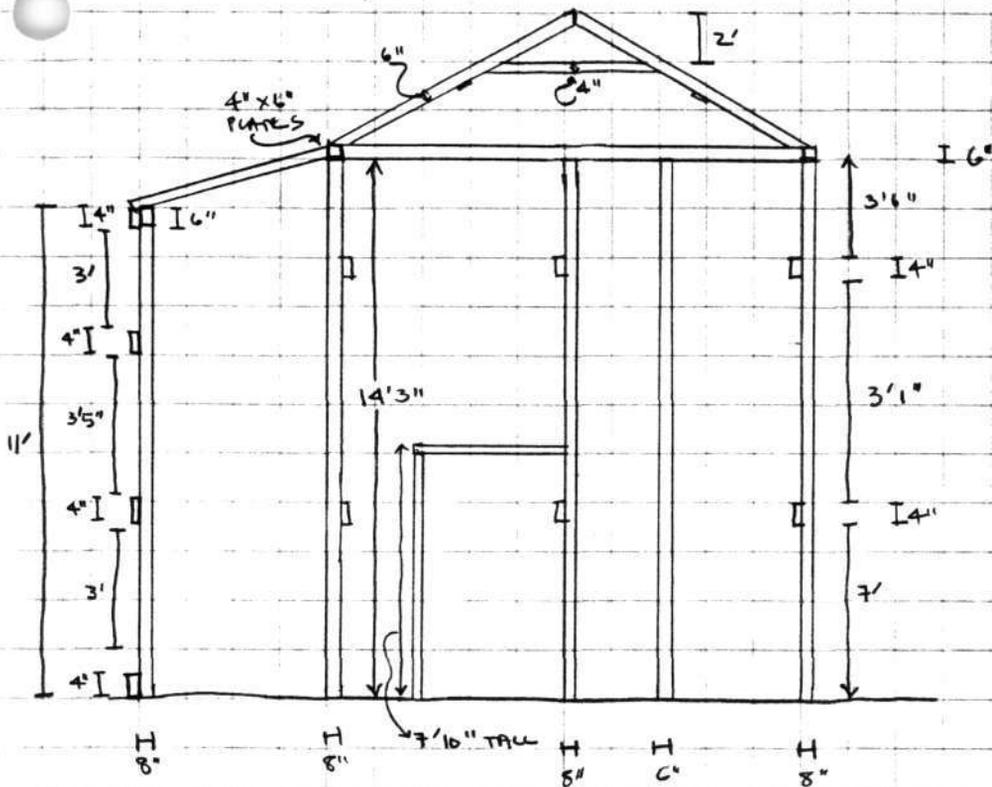
TOWN POINT VICINITY, ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

RECORDED 12.19.86 BY CAMILLE WELLS

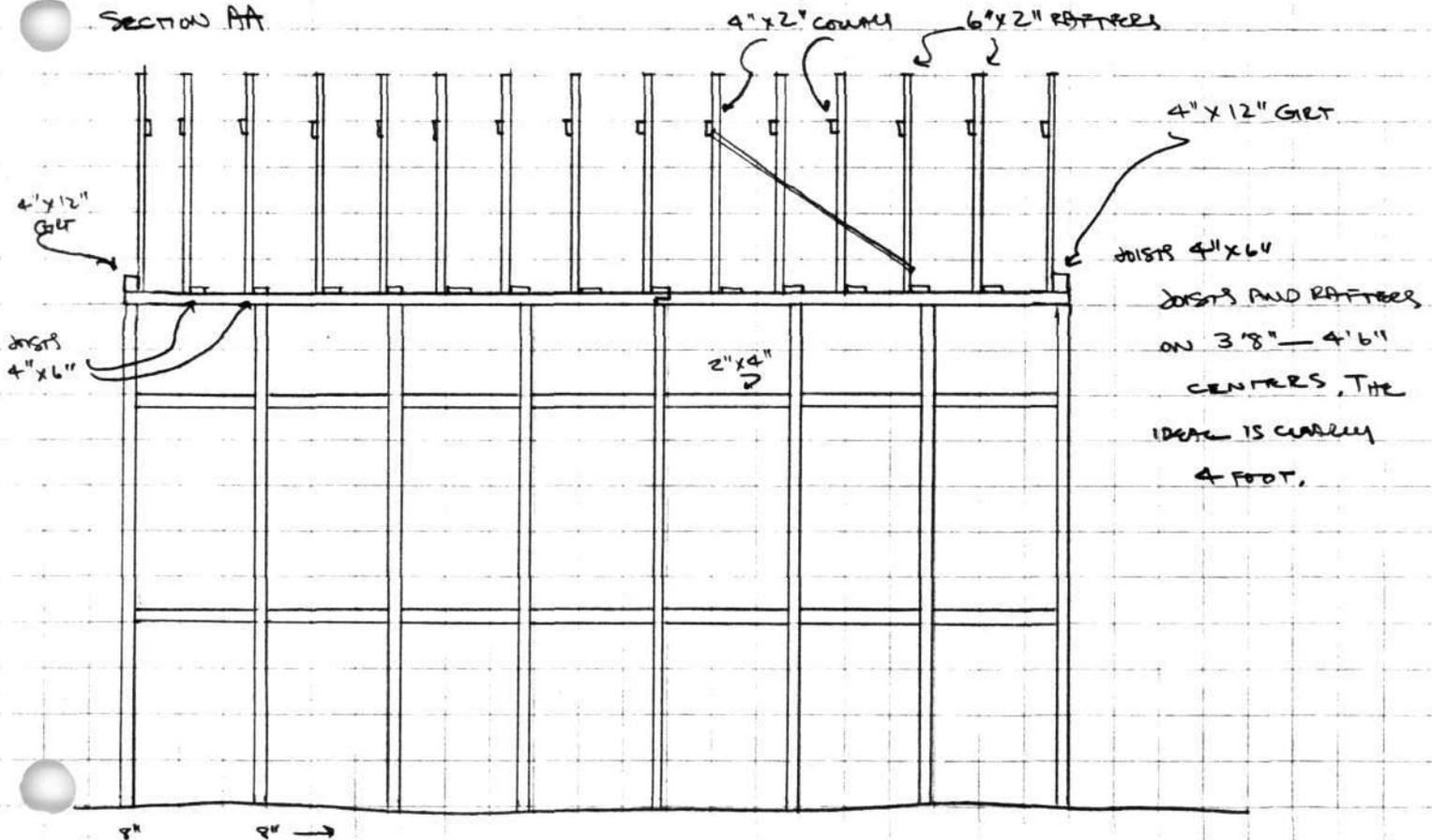
FIELD NOTES,

Recorded for:

Dennis Pogue, Archaeologist
 Jefferson Patterson Park
 Star Route 2
 Box 50A
 St. Leonard, Maryland
 20685



SECTION AA



SECTION BB



SM-377

Myrtle Point Tobacco Barn

Town Point vicinity, St. Mary's County, Md.

Camille Wells, Photographer

December 19, 1986

View from north of shed and collapsed barn.



SM-377

Myrtle Point Tobacco Barn

Town Point vicinity, St. Mary's County, Md.

Camille Wells, Photographer

December 19, 1986

Detail of vertical-board siding.



SM-377

Myrtle Point Tobacco Barn
Town Point vicinity, St. Mary's County, Md.
Camille Wells, Photographer
December 19, 1986
Detail of east gable-end door and Rambler.



SM-377

Myrtle Point Tobacco Barn
Town Point vicinity, St. Mary's County, Md.
Camille Wells, Photographer
December 19, 1986
Detail of roofing nailers and shingles.



SM-377

Myrtle Point Tobacco Barn
Town Point vicinity, St. Mary's County, Md.
Camille Wells, Photographer
December 19, 1986
Detail of earthfast post.



SM-377

Myrtle Point Tobacco Barn
Town Point vicinity, St. Mary's County, Md.
Camille Wells, Photographer
December 19, 1986
View from the interior of east corner.