

Addendum to Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-411

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Name of Property: De La Brooke Tobacco Barn

Location: Horse Landing (vicinity)

The purpose of preparing this addendum to the De La Brooke Tobacco Barn historic sites inventory form (prepared in 1994) is to document the changes that have occurred to the property since that time, as well as to report on the findings from several relatively recent structural investigations.

4. Ownership of Property

The other change to the status of the property that has occurred is a transfer in ownership; the current owner is the Cremona Dodge Revocable Trust, 41000 Cremona Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659.

7. Description

The De La Brooke Tobacco Barn is located in St. Mary's County, Maryland; approximately five miles southeast of Mechanicsville, on the first terrace overlooking the Patuxent River less than one-half mile to the east. The building is sited at the edge of a field that had been used to grow tobacco in the past, but which now is slated for cultivating soy beans and corn, bounded by a steep ravine on the west and by De La Brooke road just to the south. It stands on property that originally was part of De La Brooke Manor, a substantial tract that was granted to Baker Brooke in 1650. The manor house was destroyed by fire in 1835, and this barn, which has been dendro-dated to ca. 1797, is likely to be the earliest surviving structure associated with the history of the property. The parcel on which the barn is located is presently owned by the Cremona Dodge Revocable Trust. The De La Brooke barn has been cited as significant as a rare example of an early and historically important agricultural building type, with a remarkable degree of integrity, and exhibiting an unusually high level of craftsmanship (Hughes 1994; Ranzetta n.d. and 2005:88).

The timber-framed, gable-roofed barn is rectangular in form, 32x40' in dimension, with a 20'-wide central bay and two 10'-wide sheds. The central bay is supported by substantial sills, with a fifth (intermediate) sill bisecting the plan. Intermediate sills were somewhat rare, adopted as needed to bind the two long walls in unusually large barns (Ranzetta 205:88). The frame is comprised of hewn and/or pit-sawn oak timbers, using mortise-and-tenon joints fastened with wooden pegs. Secondary members, such as studs and collars, and tobacco hanging rails and

Prepared by: Dennis J. Pogue

Date: 2-5-15

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struts, are fastened with wrought iron nails. Substantial double doors, each carried by three pairs of wrought iron strap hinges (and unusual double pintles), are centered in both the east and west end walls. The structure is oriented running approximately E-W, with the sheds on the north and south, and the façade facing east. The ground surface slopes to the west, with the bottom of the sill of the central bay east wall only a few inches above the ground surface, while the west wall sill is 1'6" above grade at the NW corner and 1'8" at the SW.

The steeply pitched (@44°) common-rafter gable roof reaches roughly 24'5" at the peak, angling to 6' above the ground surface at the eaves of the sheds. The rafters lap over a tilted false plate, a feature that was often used in barn construction in Maryland from the early 18th century until well into the 19th century (Ranzetta n.d., 2005:88; Thursby and Schomig 2010). The original wooden roof covering has been substituted with metal, the exterior horizontal beaded weather boards have been replaced with vertical circular-sawn board siding (boards and rails have been inserted within the frame as needed to act as nailers for the replacement siding), and boards attached with hinges were installed to swing open to facilitate ventilation. The structure is generally well preserved, otherwise, with most of the central bay timber frame intact, notably excepting the north and east sills which have been replaced. The sheds are in poorer condition, with each missing the five original exterior wall posts and the plate; the joists and rafters, and portions of the gable end wall framing survive. Remnants of masonry, including short sections with several intact courses of brick, indicate that the central bay had been supported by a nearly continuous foundation, augmented by substantial iron-stone boulders at the NW and SW corners and midway along the north and south walls. The foundation is in disrepair, and the boulders (which may be original features) and recently installed (2013) concrete and wooden piers now serve as the primary supports. Although it is not certain at this time, the shed walls likely were supported originally by earthfast posts.

The structure is currently unused, which was also the case in 1994 when the barn was surveyed for listing in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (Hughes 1994). All of the significant changes to the structure outlined above likely had occurred by that time; the shed walls and posts already had been replaced, but those later materials continued to deteriorate, apparently as a consequence of their greater exposure. In 2012 the owner initiated the process to study and preserve the barn, beginning with testing selected structural members via dendrochronology in order to arrive at a more precise date for its construction. The results of

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those investigations were highly successful, indicating that the wooden members used in the central bay were cut between spring 1796 and winter 1796/97. The findings from testing the sheds were less conclusive, given the loss of considerable original wooden material and the smaller number of available samples. But two of the members yielded felling dates of spring 1796 and circa 1795-97; a third sample yielded a date of circa 1799-1800 (Miles 2013). Other structural evidence, such as the type of materials used and the method of construction, supports the interpretation that the sheds were likely built at the same time as the central bay. The ca. 1797 date of construction means that the De La Brooke barn is one of only a few Maryland tobacco barns to have been dated before 1800 (Ranzetta 2005; Thursby and Schomig 2010).

The second phase of the project entailed undertaking a variety of temporary repairs, primarily related to stabilizing the deteriorated sheds. Gus Kiorpes, restoration carpenter, was engaged to secure both shed walls, underpin sections of the south and north wall sills, and replace deteriorated siding boards on the east and west.

With the structure secured for the time being, the next phase of work consisted of closely examining the barn to address a number of detailed questions relating to its construction history, and to further document the barn by preparing a set of measured drawings. This investigator was engaged to conduct the work, prepare the drawings, and submit a report detailing the results. That effort began in May 2014 and was completed by the following November, with the relevant findings presented below.

8. Significance

The De La Brooke Tobacco Barn appears to meet the criteria for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, and listing the structure should be considered. The specific requirements for including this specific type of resource – air-curing tobacco barns -- have been spelled out in the *Tobacco Barns of Southern Maryland* National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form (Thursby and Schomig 2010). Air-curing tobacco barns in Southern Maryland that date between the 1630s and 2005 have been found significant under Criterion A for their association with the agricultural history of Maryland. They also are significant under Criterion C for illustrating a distinctive type, period, or method of

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construction. In order to be eligible under Criteria A and C, the barn must be: in its original location in one of the five Southern Maryland counties; must have been built before 1960; should be in a setting that conveys a sense of the agricultural character of the area; and should include the majority of the character-defining features of air-curing barns; new materials such as siding and a metal roof are acceptable alterations (Thursby and Schomig 2010). The De La Brooke Tobacco Barn meets all of these criteria, and also has the distinction of being one of the earliest dated tobacco barns in Maryland.

The De La Brooke barn is rectangular in plan and is laid out to reflect its original, and seemingly almost continuous, function of curing tobacco. Its 32' length is divided into regular bays formed by substantial posts set at an 8' interval; each of the bays are further divided into 4' "rooms" to accommodate hanging tobacco. The rooms are delineated by a row of pairs of tier pole supports that run down the middle of the barn, each of which is attached to the joist above.

Two levels of collars spanning between every other pair of rafters accommodated hanging tobacco within the roof as well.

Double doors are positioned in the center of the east and west walls, serving the dual purpose of providing access to the central core of the building and helping to regulate the supply of air during the curing process. Of particular note are the two-pronged (or double) pintles which have not been altered even though the doors were replaced. The unusually elaborate pintles almost certainly were a security measure, as they would have kept the doors from being lifted and easily removed. As the existing doors are 20th-century replacements, they must have been installed while the pintles and hinges remained in place.

In addition to the double doors on the end walls, single-width doorways are located near the center of the north and south walls of the central bay. Secondary posts are positioned 4' to the east of the middle post on each long wall, framing an opening for a door that swung outward on a pair of strap hinges; neither of the doors survive. The openings were trimmed (surviving on the south doorway) with beaded boards attached with T-head wrought nails, and there is a mortise in each middle post to receive a sliding bolt. The level of finish is higher than what would be expected for an interior doorway in a tobacco barn.

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Probably the most notable feature of the structure is the almost pristine condition of the scaffolding system used to hang tobacco. These elements include pairs of posts, running from ground level (and the top of the intermediate sill) to the joists, which are joined by dowels (and by later replacement scraps) set to support three tiers of hanging poles. Corresponding horizontal rails are nailed to the frame to carry the poles at their other end. The attic frame has been reinforced to withstand the weight of the additional two tiers of leaf that were accommodated within the roof. Three levels of collar beams span every other rafter pair (4' interval) to match the tier posts, with the bottom two collars in each bay braced by a pair of posts (struts). The struts lap over and are nailed to the joist and the upper collar; they are notched around and nailed to the lower collar. Half-dovetail joints were cut to attach a single collar spanning each of the remaining rafter pairs, but if the collars were installed they are absent now; in any case they would have interfered with hanging the tobacco. The sticks with attached tobacco leaves were supported on each end by the system of poles, joists, and collars. Dendrochronology confirmed that the tier posts are original features, as one of the three samples that were analyzed was precisely datable to the winter of 1796/97. With four levels of tobacco hanging below the plates, the @3'6" spacing of the tiers is at the narrower end of the normative range found in Chesapeake tobacco barns (Ridout 2013:181-187).

The results of the dendrochronology have confirmed that both sheds were almost certainly original elements of the structure – not later additions as is so often the case in surviving early barns. But the exact nature of the original function of the sheds remains somewhat in question, as the evidence indicates that they were retrofitted at some point, but relatively soon after construction, for hanging tobacco. Evidence supporting this hypothesis comes from the structural relationship of the sheds to the central bay, specific building details such as tool marks and fasteners, and from tracing the sequence of changes that were made. These findings indicate that although the sheds were an integral element, the central bay was completely enclosed and with four exterior doorways which could be secured. The sheds may well have been supported by earthfast posts, which was a relatively common practice, and left open-sided. In this form fresh air would have been allowed to circulate into the central bay as needed through the two side doorways, and the sheds could have served as the location for a range of agricultural tasks, such as stripping tobacco, storing equipment, and even sheltering livestock (Ridout 2013:184-185).

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The exterior of the central bay was clad with beaded weatherboards; three fragments of boards survive attached to the sill at the southwest corner, and a regular pattern of nail holes indicates that the siding covered both long walls. Two rows of narrow (2½"-3½") boards are nailed as battens to the underside of the projecting joists, likely intended as another security measure to discourage intruders from entering the barn through the openings, while still allowing air to circulate. Another function of the continuous foundation would have been to close off another potential point of entry beneath the sills. Evidence for an original set of brackets for a wooden sliding bar intended to fasten the west doors (and the lack of similar evidence on the east) suggests that standard procedure was to secure the barn by engaging the sliding bolts for the north, west, and south doors, before locking the east door from outside.

The weatherboard siding on the long walls of the central core must have been removed relatively early on, and the doors there likely were abandoned at the same time. A number of boards of varying sizes and lengths are nailed horizontally to both faces of the central bay frame at heights relating to the tobacco tiers. Wooden blocks are nailed at intervals @3'6" above the top of the sills in the sheds, also to serve as rests for hanging poles. A rail nailed to the underside of the shed roof acted as a support for the upper tier poles; the supports that must have been nailed to the shed posts to match those on the inner walls do not survive. The differing types of members and fasteners indicate that the rests and rails were periodically replaced as needed over a 200-year span. The hanging features in the sheds must have been installed after the weatherboard siding had been removed, as they are attached flush to the exterior faces of the central bay framing members. Several of the rails and one rest are attached with rosehead nails, suggesting that this probably occurred relatively soon (certainly within a few decades) after the barn's construction. One rail is particularly intriguing, as it has the profile of a section of cornice molding that is 18th century in shape; it is unpainted and gives no sign of having been used elsewhere before this application. As for the block forming the early rest, it is nailed to the north door post, and only could have been installed after the door casing was removed.

Another complication relating to the sheds is the question of the character of the original outer long walls (north and south), as all of the original framing elements are gone. The shed rafters and the joists survive, however, indicating that the rafters lapped over the rectangular plate and were secured by wrought nails; the joists were attached to the plate with mortise (plate)

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and tenon (joist) joints. A fragment of a squared and hewn beam survives, which probably is a remnant of the shed wall plate. Mortises were cut in the end of the beam, and two wooden pegs used to secure the tenons for the joist and post remain. Therefore, the relationship of the plate to the posts, joists, and rafters can be determined. There is no evidence for studs having been attached to the bottom face of the plate, which supports the idea that the walls originally were open, but which also raises the question of how the later siding was attached.

Two of the five sills for the central bay (north and east) have been replaced, adding to the difficulty of determining the original framing plan of the sheds. The significant slope of the ground surface from east to west probably served as at least a slight complication for the builders. As with the core of the building, if the walls were supported by sills attached to the posts, the west corners of the sheds would have been raised at least 1'6" above the ground surface. If the lower portions of the shed walls were enclosed, this could have been done by using stones and/or bricks, as with the central bay, or by rigging a system to attach the weatherboards inserted below the sill. (One benefit of the current vertical siding is that the boards simply extend below the bottom rail as far as needed.)

In either case, the end sills would have been joined to the corners of the central bay. Evidence for how this was done survives on the south wall, although it presents a puzzle. An open mortise (with surviving peg) was cut into the face of the east end of the sill, which is sized and in the expected position to have held the tenon for the sill framing the shed's east end wall. There is no surviving member or a matching tenon in that location at the west corner, however. Instead, a rail is lapped and nailed onto the outside of the corner post, just above the junction with the sill. Empty mortises in the top of this member line up with notches in the joist above to indicate where the original gable wall studs had been fixed.

The difference in the elevations of the rail and the mortise relating to the framing for the shed end walls is puzzling. The sloping ground surface may have been a factor, but if so it would seem that setting the sill somewhat lower at the west end of the building would be more beneficial than the opposite. To add more complexity, there is no evidence for a rail having been attached to the NW corner post for the north shed; unfortunately, the replaced north sill makes it impossible to determine whether mortises ever had been used at either end. In any case, the difference means that joined sills running from the east corner of the shed to the west

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corner could not have been level. This condition makes it almost certain that the posts were set in the ground, presumably with no connecting sills at the time when the sheds were open-sided. At the time the sheds were enclosed, sills spanning from post to post likely were installed to support the new wall frame.

By 1994 the long walls of the shed had been replaced with obviously later materials. Doorways were positioned in each wall opposite the earlier door openings in the central bay, thus retaining the original air ventilation plan. At that time what was identified as a sill ran along the ground surface (Hughes 1994); the surviving (but not original) posts are earthfast, with no evidence of having been attached to a sill. Possibly by 1994 the sill simply was laid on the ground, held in place by pressure against the posts and by the wall frame.

It appears likely, therefore, that the sheds originally were supported by earthfast posts, and that the north and south exterior walls were originally left open. There are a number of examples of other tobacco barns in the state with similarly arranged sheds where posts are set directly into the ground (Ranzetta 2005; Ridout 2013; Thursby and Schomig 2010). Open sides for the sheds would correlate with the central bay having been completely enclosed, with four exterior doorways, and the other security features. When the sheds were converted for tobacco curing, the siding and the side doors in the central bay were removed, rails and rests were installed in the sheds to hang two tiers of tobacco, and the walls were fully enclosed.

Another finding relates to the form of the barn roof. At present it is an uninterrupted slope on both north and south, seamlessly incorporating the sheds within the overall roof line. This condition is relatively recent, however, as the investigations confirmed that the central bay and shed roofs had slightly different slopes, meeting at the plates to form a distinct break. The long term deterioration of the sheds caused their frames to sag, and the recent repairs included shoring up the sheds by installing temporary plates and posts, which left the roof with the altered slope.

9. Major Bibliographic References

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11. Form Prepared By

Dennis J. Pogue, PhD

University of Maryland

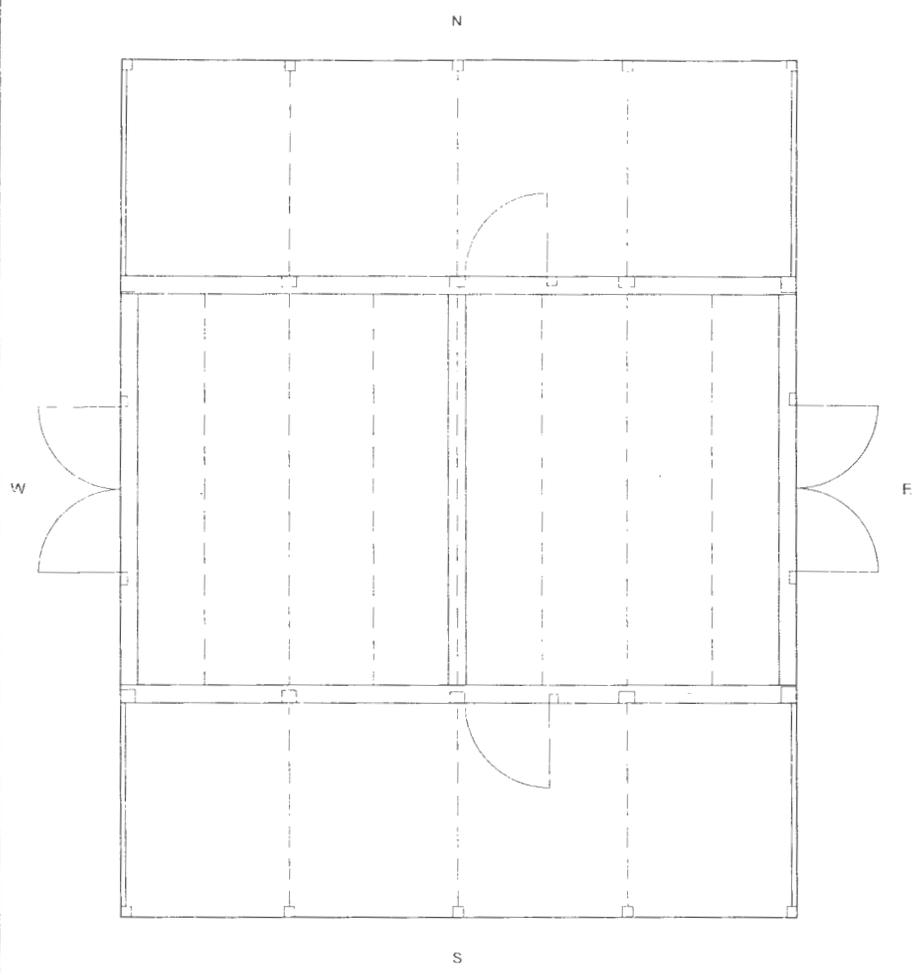
School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation

College Park, MD 20742

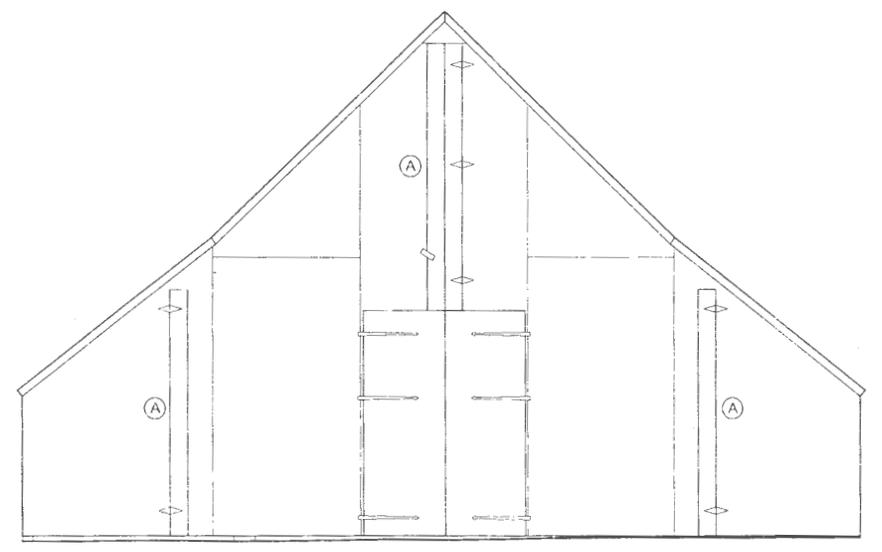
dpogue@umd.edu (703) 314-6485

Prepared by: Dennis J. Pogue

Date: 2-5-15



1 COMPLETE BUILDING PLAN



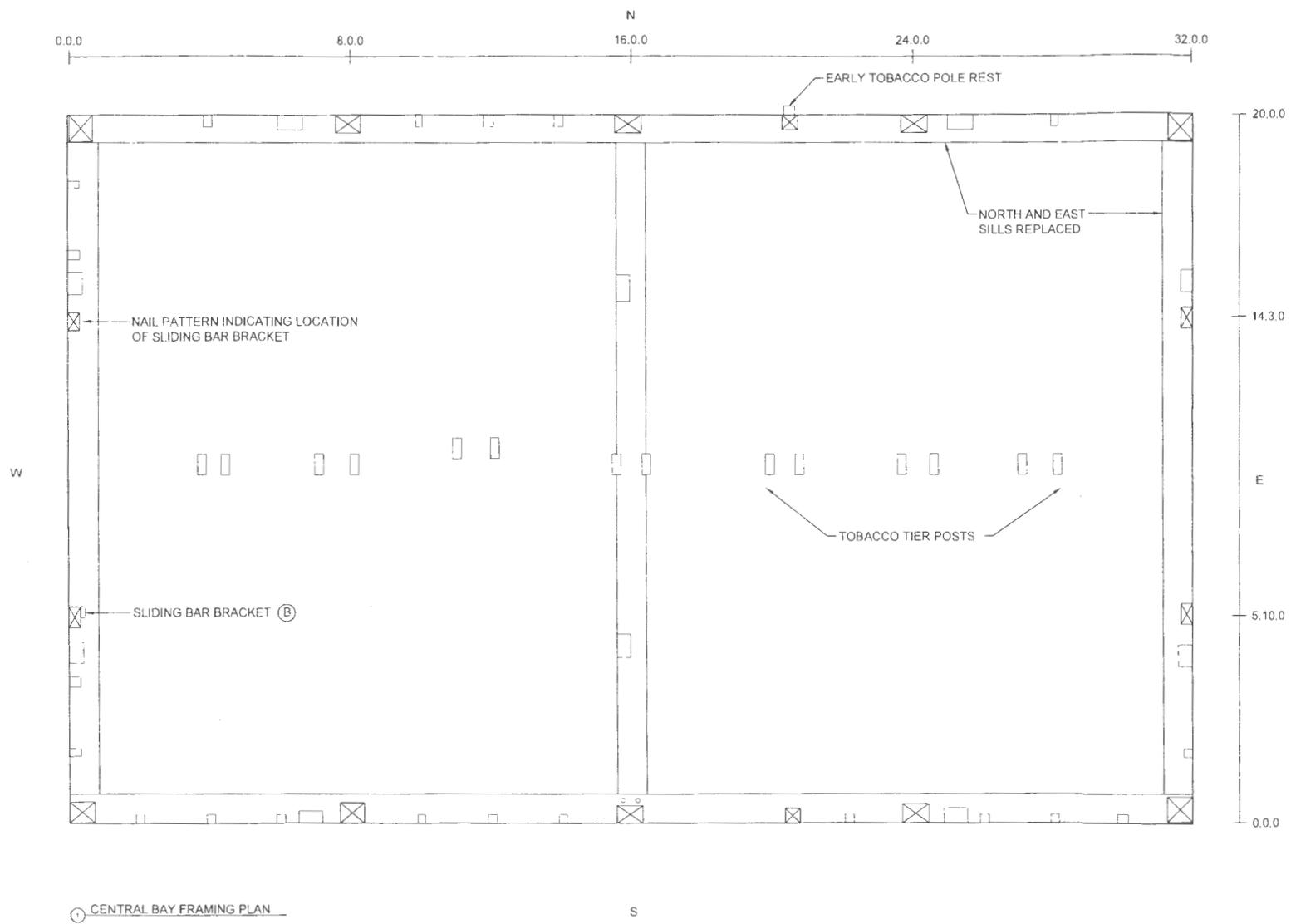
2 EAST ELEVATION

(A) VENT DOORS (3)

NOTES:
 INDICATING SILLS AND OUTER WALL LINES, POSTS AND JOISTS.
 ALL CENTRAL BAY POSTS ORIGINAL. ALL SHED POSTS REPLACED OR MISSING.
 ALL EXTERIOR SIDING CURRENTLY VERTICAL PLANKS. ORIGINAL SIDING BEADED WEATHERBOARD - SURVIVING REMNANT.
 ROOF CURRENTLY METAL.
 SHED POSTS LIKELY ORIGINALLY EARTHFAST.
 ALL ORIGINAL WOODEN MEMBERS HEWN AND/OR PITSAWN.
 ALL ORIGINAL HARDWARE AND FASTENERS HAND WROUGHT.
 REMNANTS OF WHAT WAS LIKELY AN ORIGINAL/EARLY BRICK FOUNDATION.
 INDIVIDUAL DOOR AND SIDING BOARDS NOT SHOWN.
 ROOF SLOPES SHOWN AS ORIGINAL.

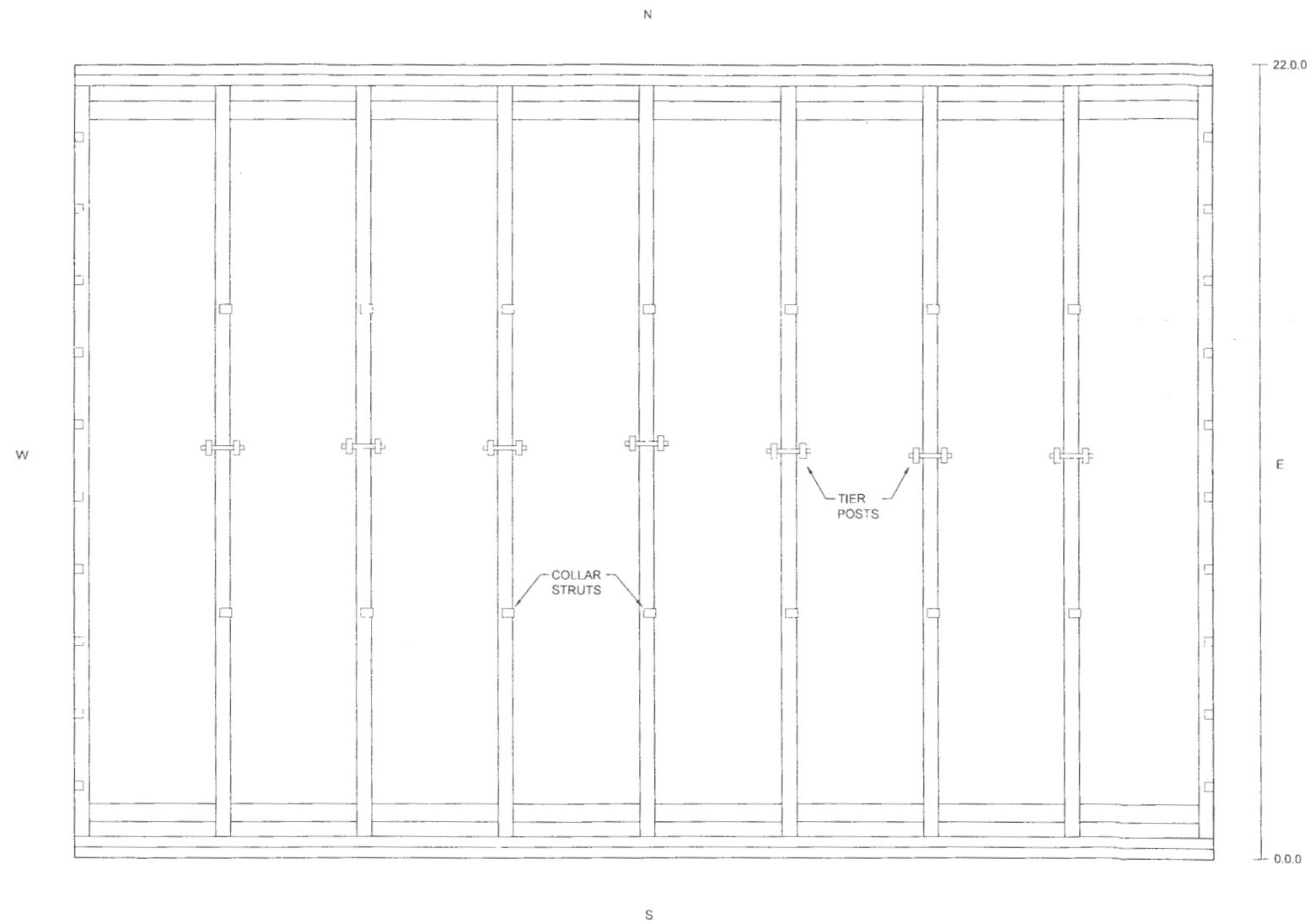


De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411)		SM-411
St. Mary's County, MD		
MEASURED BY: J. H. HARRIS	DATE: JANUARY 2013	SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"
CAD DRAWING BY: LARRY CONNORS		1 OF 10



NOTES:
 (B) DOUBLE DOOR SLIDING BAR BRACKET, WEST WALL - SEE SHEET 9

De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411)		SHEET NO
St. Mary's County, MD		2 OF 10
MEASUREMENTS & HAND DRAWINGS BY: DENNIS J. POGGE		
CAD DRAWINGS BY: EMILY CONNORS		
DATE: JANUARY 2015	SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"	

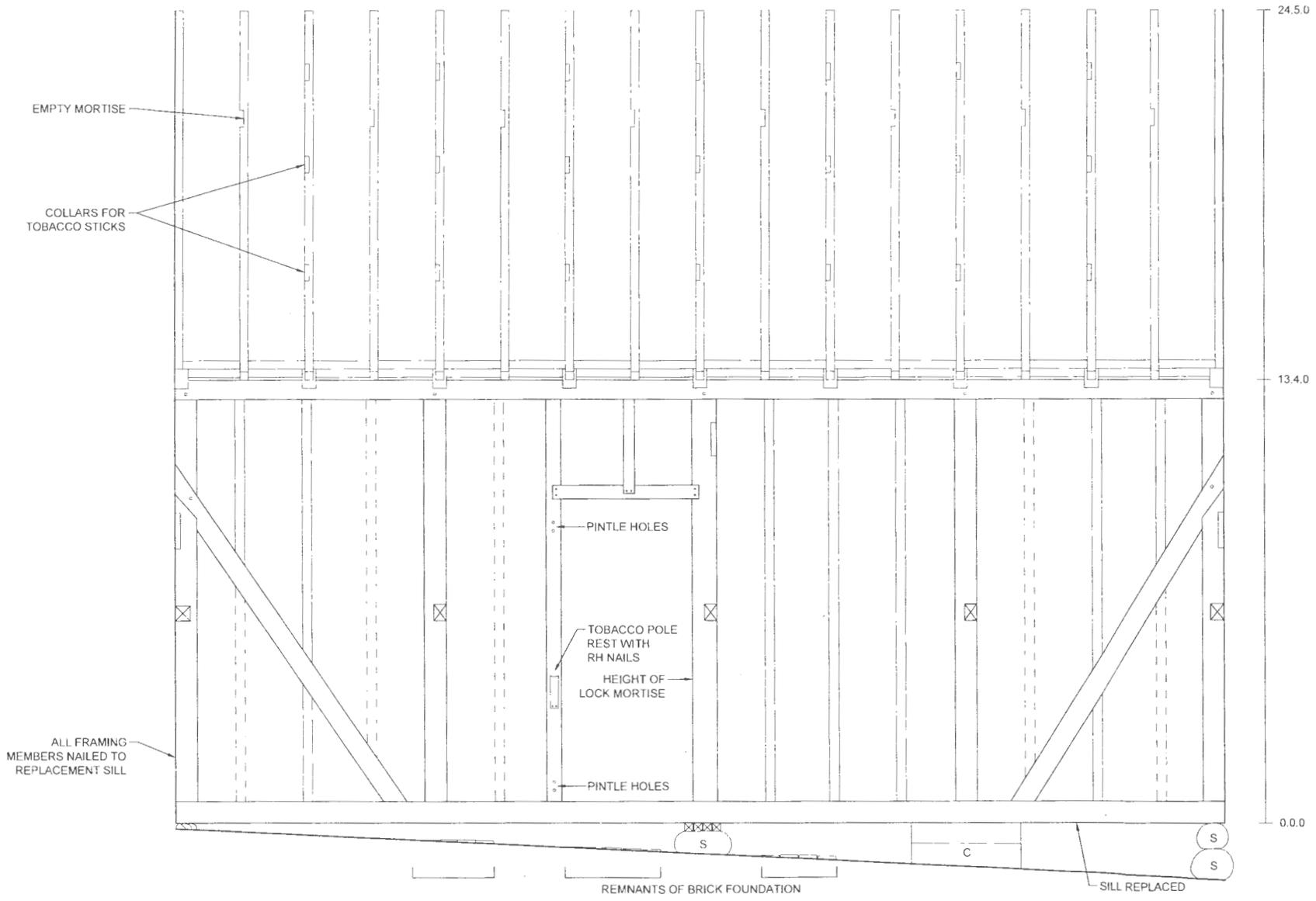


1 JOIST LEVEL FRAMING PLAN



De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411)		SHEET NO.
St. Mary's County, MD		3 OF 10
MEASUREMENTS & HAND DRAWINGS BY	DRANIS J. POLJE	
CAD DRAWINGS BY	TM, LLC/CONORS	
DATE	JANUARY 2011	SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

SM-41



1 NORTH WALL FRAMING

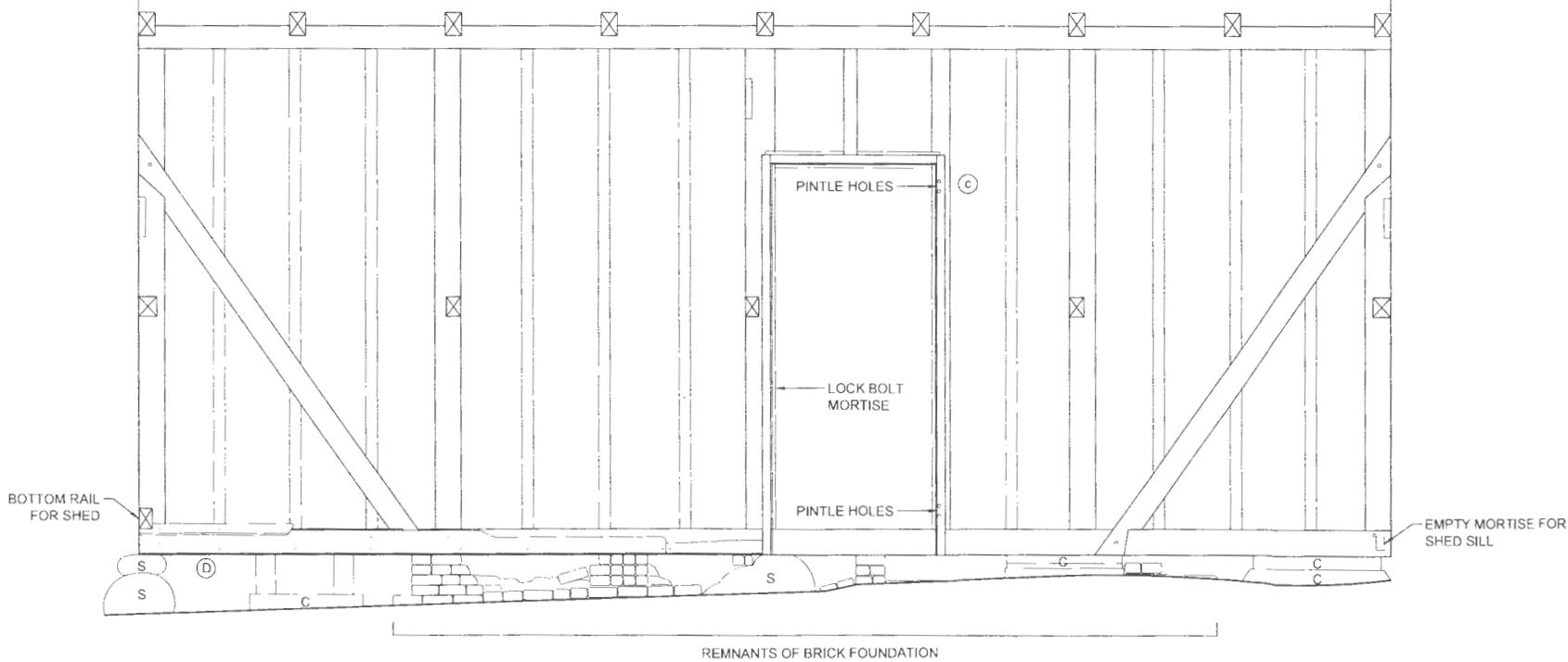
NOTES:
 S - STONE
 DASH-DOT LINE (- · -) INDICATES MISSING ORIGINAL ELEMENTS.
 REPLACEMENT TOBACCO POLE RESTS AT SAME HEIGHT ON OTHER POSTS.
 STUDS, AND BRACES, NOT SHOWN.



De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411)
 St. Mary's County, MD

MEASUREMENTS & HAND DRAWINGS BY: DUNN / FOGLE	SHEET NO.
CAJ DRAWINGS BY: LIMEY CONNORS	4 OF 10
DATE: JANUARY 2015	SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

FRAMING SAME AS SHEET 4

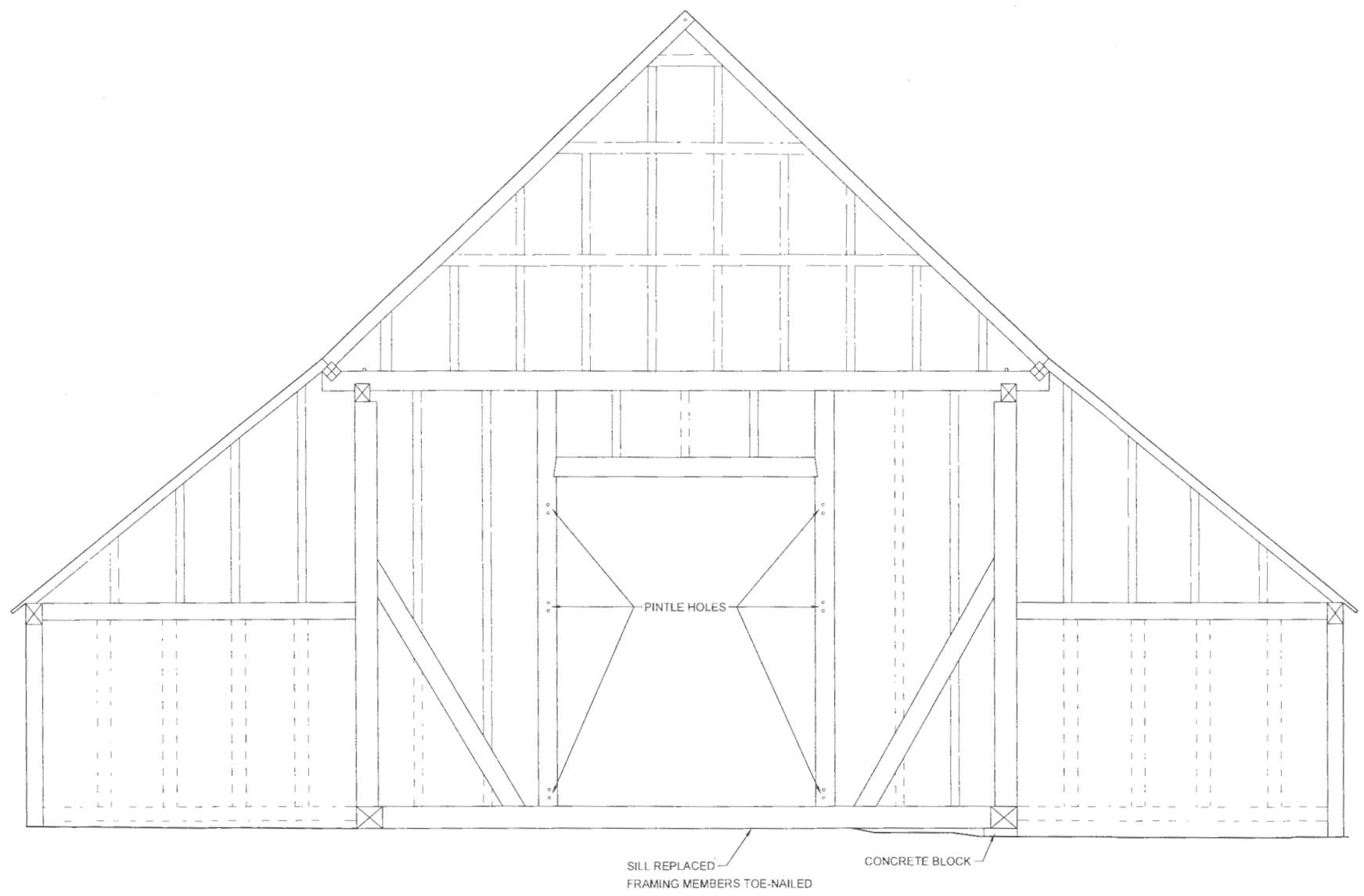


① SOUTH WALL FRAMING

- NOTES:
 S - STONE
 C - CONCRETE
 ① SOUTH DOORWAY CASING DETAIL - SEE SHEET 9
 ② WEATHERBOARD PROFILE - SEE SHEET 9



De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411)		SHEET NO.
St. Mary's County, MD		5 OF 10
MANAGER: MATHIE & HARGREAVES BY: DEANIS J. ROGUE	DATE: JANUARY 2015	SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"
CAD DRAWING BY: EMILY CONNORS		

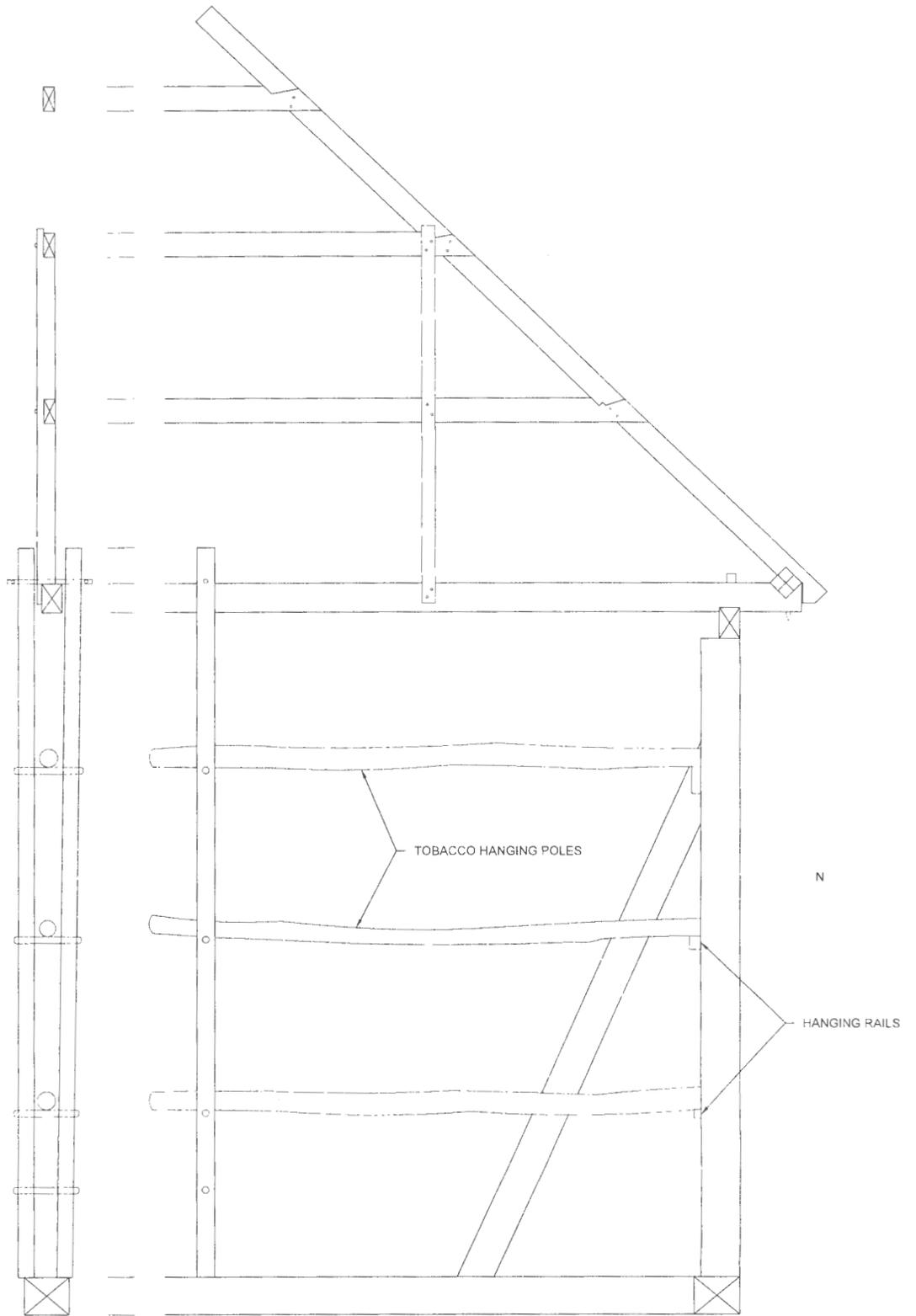


① EAST WALL FRAMING

NOTES:
SHED POSTS REPLACED, SHED PLATES SHOWN BASED ON SURVIVING FRAGMENT.



De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411)		SHEET NO. 6 OF 10
St. Mary's County, MD		
MUSKAMBERTS & HAND DRAWINGS BY: DENNIS J. FORD, JR.		
CAD DRAWINGS BY: EMILY CONNORS		
DATE: JANUARY 2015	SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"	

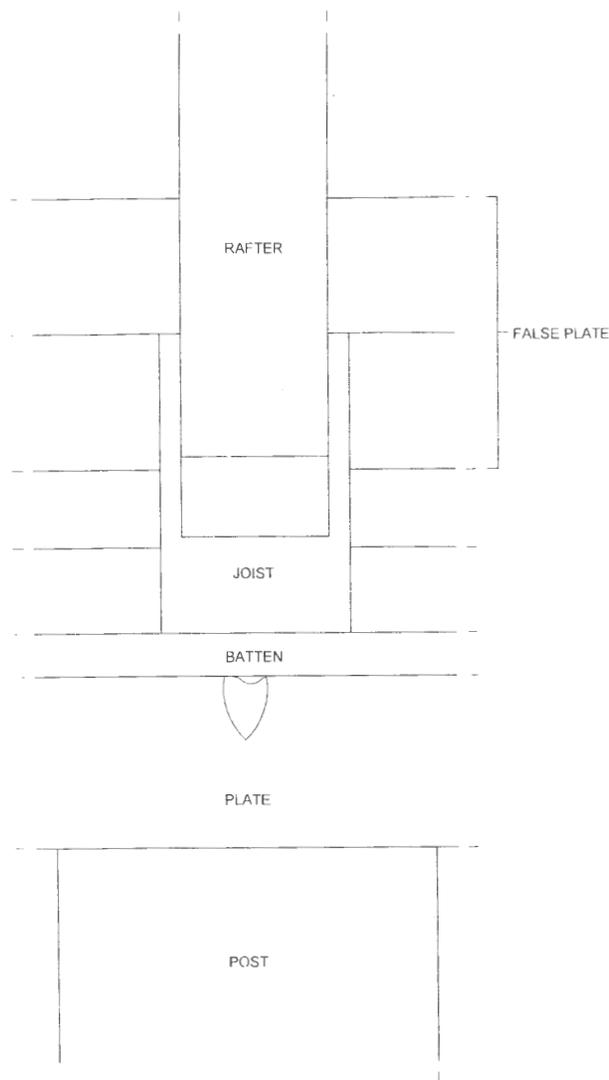


1 TIER POSTS, COLLARS, AND COLLAR STRUTS ASSEMBLY, WITH TOBACCO HANGING POLES - FACING WEST

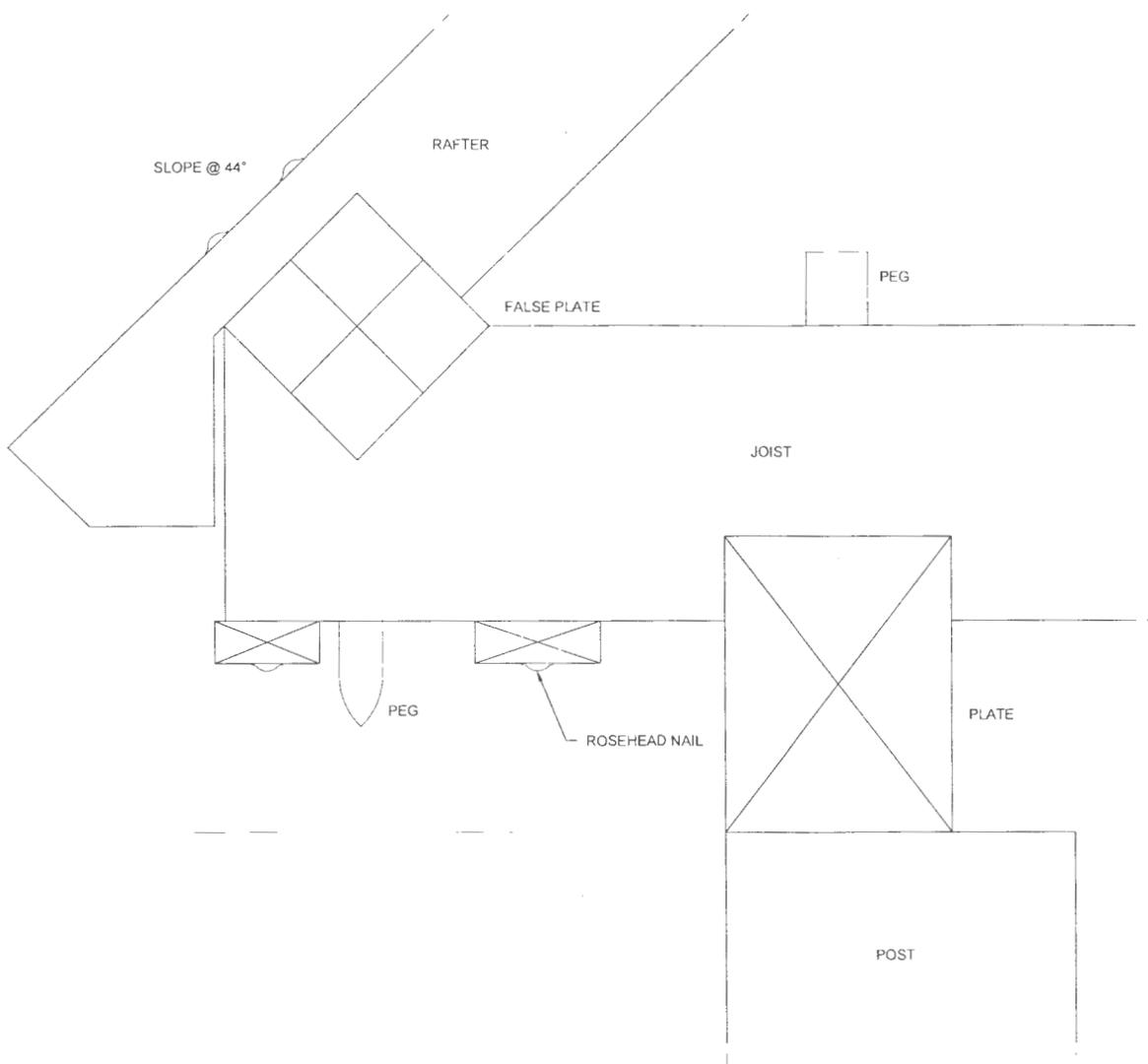


De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411)
 St. Mary's County, MD

ARCHITECT: LEONARDT & ASSOCIATES, INC. DRAWN: J. ROSS
 CAD DRAWINGS BY: LHM / COMPTON
 DATE: 06/04/2015 SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"
 SHEET NO. 7 OF 10



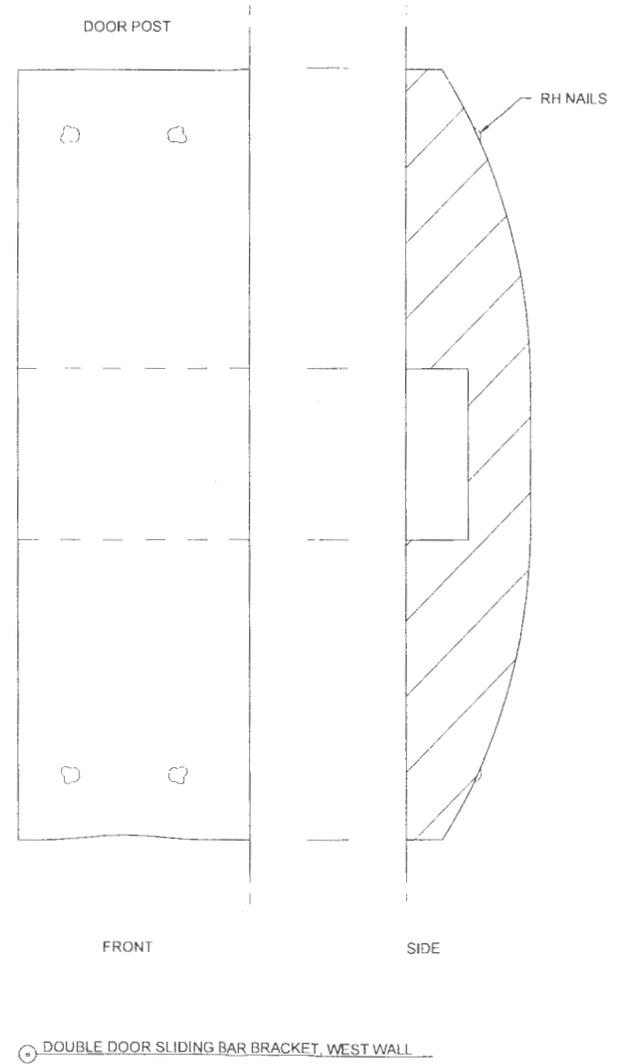
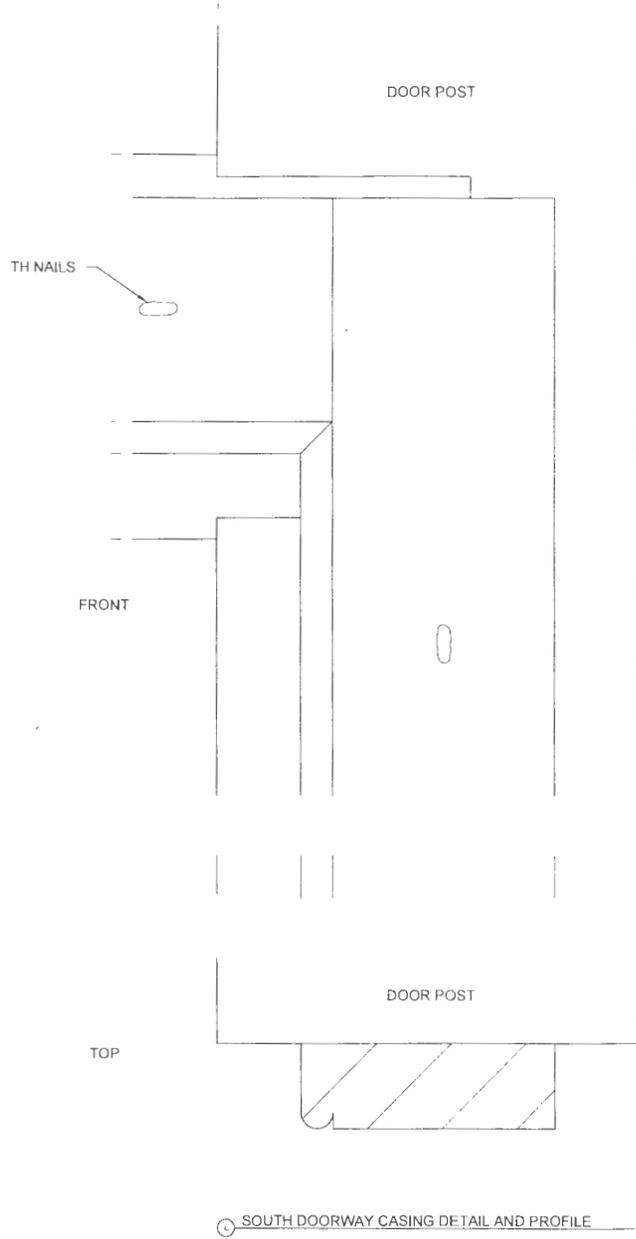
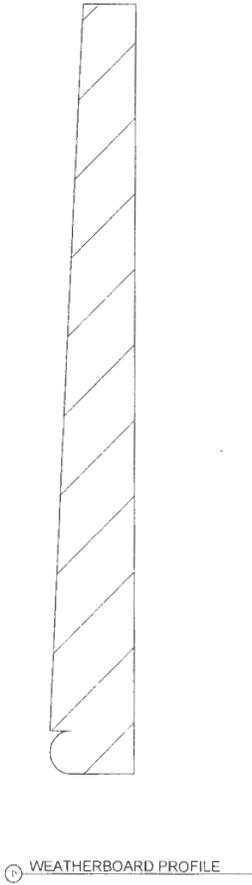
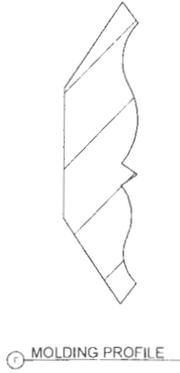
1 TILTED FALSE PLATE EAVE ASSEMBLY - FRONT VIEW



2 TILTED FALSE PLATE EAVE ASSEMBLY - SIDE VIEW



De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411) St. Mary's County, MD	
MEASUREMENTS & HARD DRAWINGS BY: DENNIS J. FOGUE	SHEET NO.
CAD DRAWINGS BY: EMILY CONNORS	8 OF 10
DATE: JANUARY 2016	SCALE: 1/2" = 1'

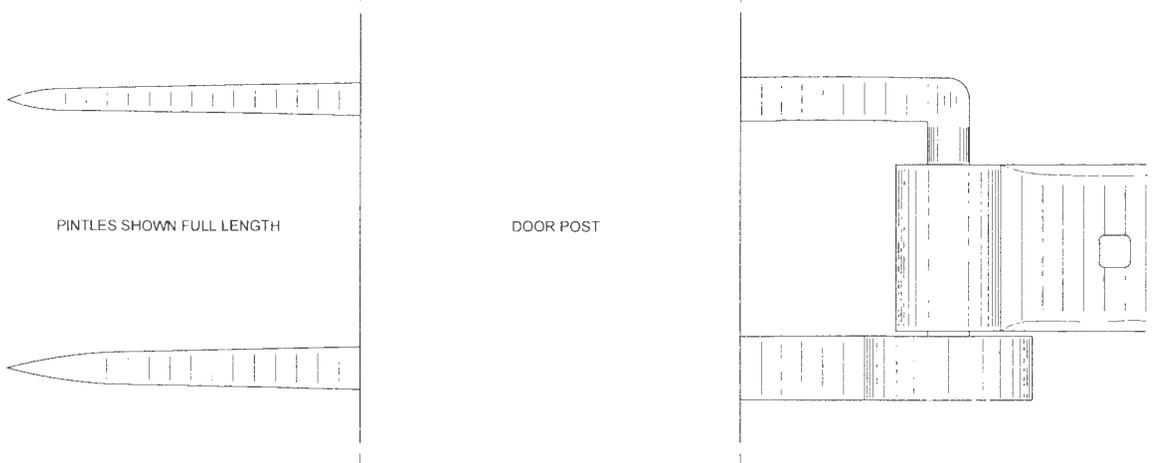


NOTES:
MOLDING PROFILE FROM RAIL INSTALLED (RH NAILS) AS
SUPPORT FOR TOBACCO POLES.

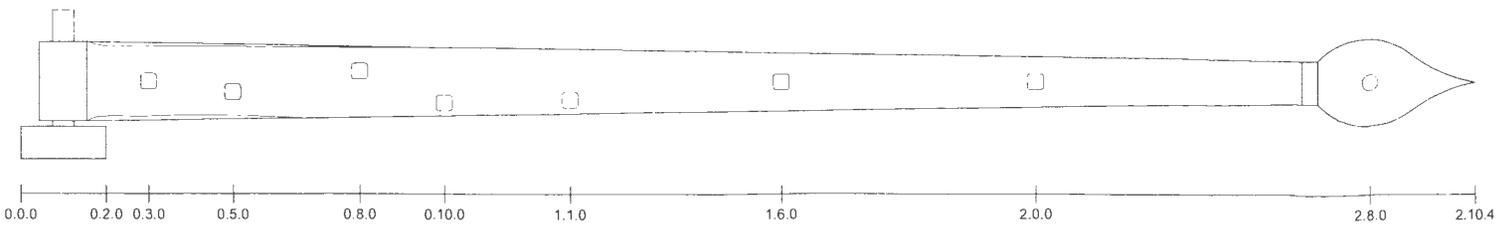
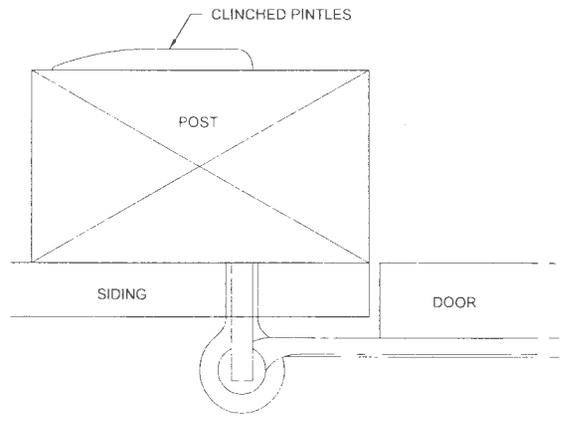


De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411)
St. Mary's County, MD

MEASUREMENTS & HAND DRAWINGS BY: OLIVINS / POGUE	SHEET NO.
CAD DRAWINGS BY: EMELY CONNORS	9 OF 10
DATE: JANUARY 2015	SCALE: 1" = 1'



1 EAST EXTERIOR DOOR HINGE - DETAIL SCALE 1" = 1"



1 EAST EXTERIOR DOOR HINGE - DETAIL SCALE 1/2" = 1"



De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411)
 St. Mary's County, MD

MEASUREMEN'S FIELD DRAWINGS BY: DELMAS, JESSE	SHEET NO.
CAD DRAWINGS BY: FAMILY CONNORS	10 OF 10
DATE: JANUARY 2015	SCALE: 1/2" = 1" & 1" = 1"

Capsule Summary
SM-411
De La Brooke Tobacco Barn
Horse Landing
Private

Circa 1815 and earlier

The De La Brooke Tobacco Barn is a highly significant and well-preserved agricultural structure. Its pit-sawn lumber, wrought nails and hinges, and tilted false plate indicate a construction date of circa 1815 or earlier. Both its materials and method of construction reflect an unusually high quality of craftsmanship which renders the barn significant not only in the area of agriculture but in the area of architecture as well.

The De La Brooke Tobacco Barn stands on property which was originally part of De La Brooke Manor, granted to Baker Brooke in 1650. The original manor house was destroyed in 1835 and replaced by a brick Federal style building with a side hall/parlor plan (SM-94). This barn is one of the few outbuildings to survive from the site's earliest building period.

SM-411, De La Brooke Tobacco Barn
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Agricultural/Industrial Transition 1815-1870.
Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme: Agriculture

Resource Type

Category: Structure

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use: Tobacco barn

Known Design Source: none

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common De La Brooke Tobacco Barn

2. Location

street & number De La Brocke Road ___ not for publication

city, town Horse Landing -X vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county St. Mary's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	X private	-X unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
-X structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	-X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	-X not applicable	___ no	___ military	-X other:

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

name Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc.

street & number Highway 231 West, P.O. Box 1937 telephone no.:

city, town Hughesville state and zip code Md 20637

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk of Court liber CBG 86

street & number St. Mary's County Courthouse folio 347

city, town Leonardtown state Md

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-411

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" 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.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The De La Brooke Tobacco Barn is located on the north side of De La Brooke Road about three tenths of a mile west of the entrance to the De La Brooke manor house. This structure is one of a series of scattered tobacco houses on the De La Brooke farm. The barn is no longer used and the exterior has become overgrown with vines and briars.

The De La Brooke Tobacco Barn stands alone at the edge of a wooded ravine. A cornfield extends to the east of the barn. An old road bed is located near the barn, on the south side of De La Brooke Road. The barn faces east, with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

The barn is rectangular in form, measuring twenty feet wide by thirty-two feet long with ten foot sheds on the north and south elevations. The steeply pitched gable roof is an uninterrupted slope which extends over the north and south sheds to a height of about 6' above ground level. The barn is sheathed with vertical board siding and roofed with metal.

The organizational plan of the De La Brooke Barn is an eight foot structural bay system with four foot rooms. Four principal openings, one in each wall, provide access to the barn and form a cross-axial plan.

The barn rests on large ironstones, sections of a continuous brick foundation, and wood blocks which support continuous sills. These sills are pit-sawn and joined with mortise and tenon joints reinforced with wooden pegs. The framing system consists of hewn principal posts on eight foot centers with pit-sawn studs on two foot centers. Both the posts and studs are mortise and tenoned into the sills. The corner posts are reinforced with pit-sawn down braces which are half dove-tailed, pegged, and secured with wrought spikes at both ends. These framing members are marked with a Roman numeral system which was used in the barn's construction.

The roof is a common rafter roof on two-foot centers, supported by a tilted false plate. Collars on alternate rafter pairs have been added in order to make additional space for the hanging of tobacco.

The system used to hang tobacco constitutes one of the most interesting aspects of the De La Brooke Tobacco Barn. Pit-sawn, horizontal rails have been attached with rosehead nails to the interior face of the barn's four walls. Intermediate vertical tier pole supports run longitudinally down the center of the barn. These supports are clearly original, and are of a type rarely found in ante-bellum barns. Each

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-411

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2 (being part of De La Brooke Manor)

Quadrangle name Mechanicsville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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

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

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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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

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

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County DPZ

date January 1994

street & number

telephone 301-475-4662

city or town Leonardtown

state Md.

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
DHOP/DHDP
100 CONSTITUTION
CROWNSVILLE

SM-411, De La Brooke Tobacco Barn
St. Mary's County
7.1 Description

tier pole support consists of a pair of 3" by 5" pit-sawn vertical members set 9" apart. These vertical members rest on the ground, flanking each tie beam. At each tier pole level and above the tie beam, these members are joined by a short horizontal piece. The majority of these crudely shaped rungs are tenoned into the vertical members. In at least one instance a scrap of beaded material, presumably a siding remnant, has been used and secured in place with wrought nails. At each tier pole level, one tier pole extends horizontally from the northern wall of the barn in a transverse row across the interior space to the vertical support while a second tier pole extends from the barn's southern wall to the same vertical support. In some cases, split rails, presumably fence rails, have been used as tier poles. These tier poles provide support for the sticks of tobacco.

The sheds on the barn's east and west elevations are organized on the same bay system as the main block. The sheds are supported by a series of vertical posts which rest on the ground. It appears that these posts originally rested on a sill, now rotted away, as a partial sill survives in the barn's southeast corner. These posts support a top plate on which the pit-sawn roof rafters rest. The upper ends of the shed rafters are half lapped to the tilted false plate of the main structure. The shed tie beams are joined to the principal posts of the barn's main block with pegged mortise and tenon joints. Pit-sawn construction braces are attached to the shed roofs with wrought nails.

The vertical siding which now sheathes the entire barn consists of circular sawn, random width 1" planking. Two louvered ventilators are located on each of the barn's four elevations. A third and wider louvered ventilator is located above the door openings of the east and west elevations. These doors are attached to the exterior walls of the barn with twentieth century metal hinges. The structural system of posts and studs on two foot centers indicates that the building was originally sheathed with horizontal siding. One piece of wide weatherboard siding survives on the south wall, protected by the shed. It is secured with wrought nails and has a light beaded edge. Nail patterns in the exposed framing of the north and south walls indicate that the weatherboard siding originally extended up to the eaves on these two walls, and presumably was used on all exterior walls as well.

Hinged double doors open outwards on both the east and west gable elevations of the barn. The principal sills run continuous across these door openings which measure 10' in height by 7'8" in width. These doors consist of vertical boards with horizontal battens set with wrought metal strap hinges. The east elevation door is also reinforced with diagonal battens. Single door openings are located near the center of each longitudinal wall. A beaded door frame measuring 9' in height by 4'2" in width survives on the south elevation and is attached to the barn's framing members with T-head nails. On both the north and south elevations, pintel holes and latch

SM-411, De La Brooke Tobacco Barn
St. Mary's County
7.2 Description

recesses are visible on the posts which form the doorway. Still attached to one of these original door frames is an unusual "staple" form of pintel. Two single, vertical, board doors with horizontal battens provide access to the barn's sheds. The doors are on axis with the single doorways of the barn's main block and are badly deteriorated. These doors swing outward on wrought metal strap hinges.

Alterations to the barn include the replacement of its original sheathing material with circular sawn, vertical siding. The original roofing material has been removed and replaced with metal sheeting. One of the sills has been replaced with a circular sawn sill of comparable size. This new sill was mortised to fit the tenons of the other sills, but the barn's framing members were simply attached to the sill with mature machine cut nails. Many of the posts which support the barn's sheds have been replaced with 4" by 4" posts. The double doors on the west elevation are covered with corrugated metal sheeting.

SM-411, De La Brooke Tobacco Barn
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

To: Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative Inc. (SMECO)
FROM: John R. Drury, Agent, and James Thomas and Gladys H. Thomas
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 86, folio 347.
DATE: February 26, 1960.
NOTES: Transfer of "Spring Creek Farm" being part of larger De La Brooke Manor consisting of 300.548 acres. Subject to easement outlined in CBG 13/340.

TO: James Thomas
FROM: Martha G. Thomas, unmarried, of Baltimore
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 13, folio 340.
DATE: February 4, 1942.
NOTES: Transfer of parcel being a 221 acre part of De La Brooke Farm. The intent of this deed is to create a division of a larger tract and to establish the lines between the said Spring Creek Farm and Town Neck Farm which is now owned and retained by the Grantor.

TO: Martha G. Thomas
FROM: James Thomas of Baltimore
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 12, folio 172.
DATE: April 26, 1940
NOTES: Transfer of 395 acres of De La Brooke Farm except EBA 5/335, EBA 7/256, and JMM 5/58.

TO: James Thomas and Martha G. Thomas
FROM: Clarence Thomas
RECORD: St. Mary's County Orphan's Court Case
DATE: Date of death, January 16, 1935
NOTES: Clarence Thomas died intestate, and his personal and real property passed to James Thomas and Martha G. Thomas, his heirs at law. His realty inventory, see Realty Inventory Liber ACNT 1, folio 122, listed five tobacco barns on the De La Brooke farm property: Tobacco-Springfield Barn, Slave Barn, Marsh Neck Barn-South, Marsh Neck Barn-North, and the Town Neck Barn. It is unclear which of these barns refers to the tobacco barn discussed in this form.

TO: Clarence W. Thomas
FROM: George R. Gaither, attorney of Baltimore.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 5, folio 335.
DATE: January 12, 1906.

NOTES: Sale of property because of default on mortgage made by Howard ~~Smith~~

SM-411

De La Brooke Tobacco Barn
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

Hammond on February 24, 1900 to Thomas H. Gaither and George A. Gaither, Jr.
Transfer of 750 acre tract of "De La Brooke." Price: \$4850

TO: Howard Hammond
FROM: Charlotte E. Hammond, Trustee for Francis E. Hammond under will of Ormond Hammond, Mary S. Hammond, Anna M. Hammond, Francis E. Hammond, Ormond Hammond, Annie E. Hammond, Charles P. Hammond, Maria A. Hammond, and Harry H. Hammond, the only children and heirs at law of Ormond Hammond, deceased, late of Talbot County.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 1, folio 253.
DATE: February 21, 1900
NOTES: Transfer of 750 acres of "De-la-brook."

TO: Ormond Hammond of Talbot County
FROM: Mary T. Smith, unmarried
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JJG 1, folio 33.
DATE: February 18, 1893
NOTES: Transfer of 750 acres of "De-la-brook."

TO: Mary T. Smith
FROM: Robert C. Combs, Trustee
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF 9, folio 340.
DATE: November 20, 1886
NOTES: Property sold at public sale on August 24, 1886 as the result of a Circuit Court judgement in the case of Mary T. Smith vs. James Thomas and Nannie E.N.Thomas. Court of Equity appointed Combs as Trustee to transfer property.
Transfer of 750 acres of "Della Brooke." Price: \$4550.

TO: James Thomas
FROM: George Thomas
RECORD: St. Mary's County Testamentary Record, JTMR 1, folio 1.
DATE: December 11, 1857.
NOTES: "I give and bequeath unto my wife, Mary Thomas, during her natural life, the plantation whereon I now reside, known as 'De La Brooke'...and from and after the death of my said wife I give and bequeathe the said real estate...to my son James Thomas."

SM-411, De La Brooke Tobacco Barn
St. Mary's County
10.1 Geographic Description

Verbal boundary description and justification

Source: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber CBG 86, folio 347.

BEGINNING at the southwest corner of the land conveyed to Roger Page, Jr. and William D. Boling at Liber CBG No. 73, folio 498, thence running with Page and Boling N. 57° 56' 40" E. 132.11 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 60° 19' 30" E. 183.46 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 11° 31' E. 341.04 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 14° 05' W. 125.47 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 46° 13' 50" W. 189.64 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 65° 33' 30" W. 168.95 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 09° 15' 30" W. 180.71 feet to an iron pipe; thence with a marsh N. 21° 42' 30" E. 466.0 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 01° 47' 30" W. 196.38 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 49° 01' 30" E. 297.25 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 19° 55' 30" E. 221.09 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 41° 11' 30" E. 145.81 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 52° 30' E. 489.80 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 18° 29' E. 678.41 feet to the center line of a farm road (passing over an iron pipe at 12.0 feet from the end of this course); thence with the center line of said farm road and still with Page and Boling S. 78° 14' E. 276.26 feet; thence N. 88° 43' E. 327.75 feet; thence running across said road and running still with Page and Boling N. 04° 45' W. 797.43 feet to an iron pipe (passing over an iron pipe at 9.0 feet from the beginning of this course); thence N. 67° 29' E. 209.03 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 01° 32' E. 447.76 feet to a point on the Patuxent River (passing over an iron pipe at 63.0 feet from the end of this course); thence with said river S. 62° 42' 30" E. 481.21 feet; thence S. 75° 01' 40" E. 468.46 feet; thence N. 87° 35' 50" E. 250.26 feet; thence N. 67° 58' E. 117.17 feet; thence S. 71° 02' E. 266.64 feet; thence S. 70° 39' E. 494.03 feet; thence S. 22° 44' 10" E. 208.38 feet; thence leaving said river and running with the land of L. McCormick Goodhart (Liber JMM No. 3, folio 58) S. 71° 56' W. 815.52 feet to a concrete monument (passing over another concrete monument at 15.0 feet from the beginning of this course); thence S. 37° 34' E. 1149.0 feet; thence S. 63° 26' W. 1116.0 feet; thence S. 14° 34' E. 523.0 feet; thence S. 22° 49' E. 332.0 feet; thence S. 12° 49' E. 703.0 feet to a brick post; thence S. 00° 41' W. 960.0 feet to a cedar stake found (passing over a concrete monument at 491.71 feet from the end of this course); thence with a stream S. 48° 17' W. 85.32 feet; S. 24° 54' W. 101.91 feet; thence S. 78° 54' W. 153.21 feet; thence S. 73° 02' W. 178.77 feet; thence S. 80° 41' W. 303.55 feet; thence S. 87° 52' W. 151.37 feet; thence S. 46° 30' W. 270.15 feet; thence S. 65° 49' W. 484.28 feet; thence N. 87° 43' W. 175.22 feet; thence S. 80° 36' W. 235.50 feet; thence S. 65° 06' W. 241.07 feet; thence S. 58° 17' W. 212.59 feet; thence S. 80° 57' W. 100.31 feet; thence leaving said stream and running N. 09° 46' W. 936.01 feet to an iron pipe on the north side of the County road; thence running S. 80° 30' 40" W. 321.41 feet; thence N. 87° 04' 40" W. 87.0 feet to a pine tree; thence N. 04° 55' 20" E. 178.35 feet to a Red Oak tree; thence N. 07° 11' 50" W. 96.02 feet to a Red Oak tree; thence N. 22° 15' 40" W. 66.60 feet to a Locust tree; thence N. 33° 25' 30" W. 153.96 feet; thence N. 29° 29' 30" W. 67.62 feet to the beginning, containing 300.548 acres.

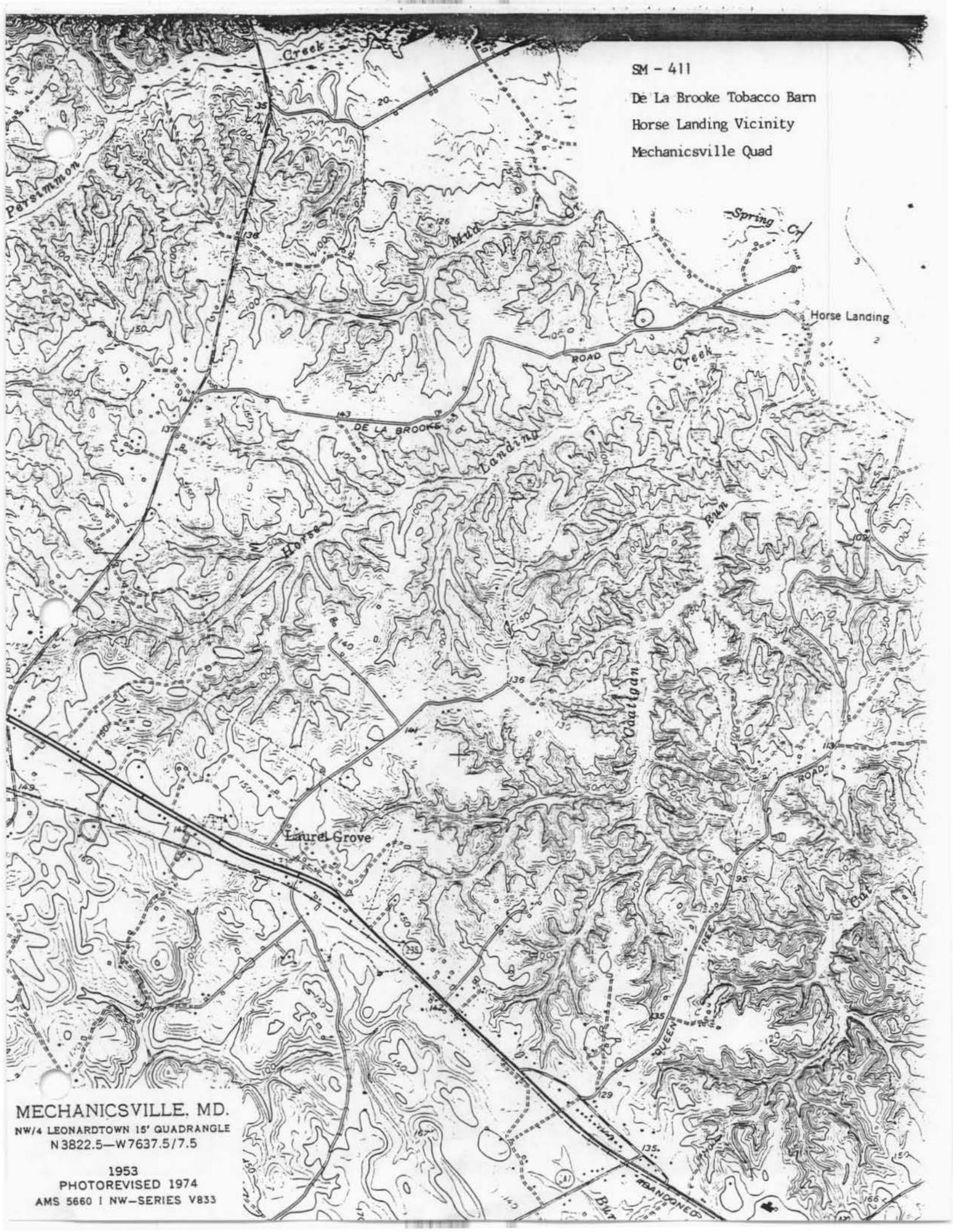
EXCEPTING therefrom a forty foot wide road through the property described herein from Oraville-New Market State Road to "Horse Landing", property of L. McCormick Goodhart, on the Patuxent River, conveyed to the County Commissioners for St. Mary's County, by deed dated November 4, 1946, and recorded among the Land Records of St. Mary's County, Maryland in Liber CBG No. 19, folio 406.

SM - 411

De La Brooke Tobacco Barn

Horse Landing Vicinity

Mechanicsville Quad



MECHANICSVILLE, MD.
NW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE
N 3822.5—W 7637.5/7.5

1953
PHOTOREVISED 1974
AMS 5660 I NW—SERIES V833



SM-411 De La Brooke Tobacco Barn

St. Mary's County, MD

Historical Marker

1844

SHPO

Elevation

1/6



SM- 411 De La Brooke Tobacco Barn

J. Mary's Grady, MD

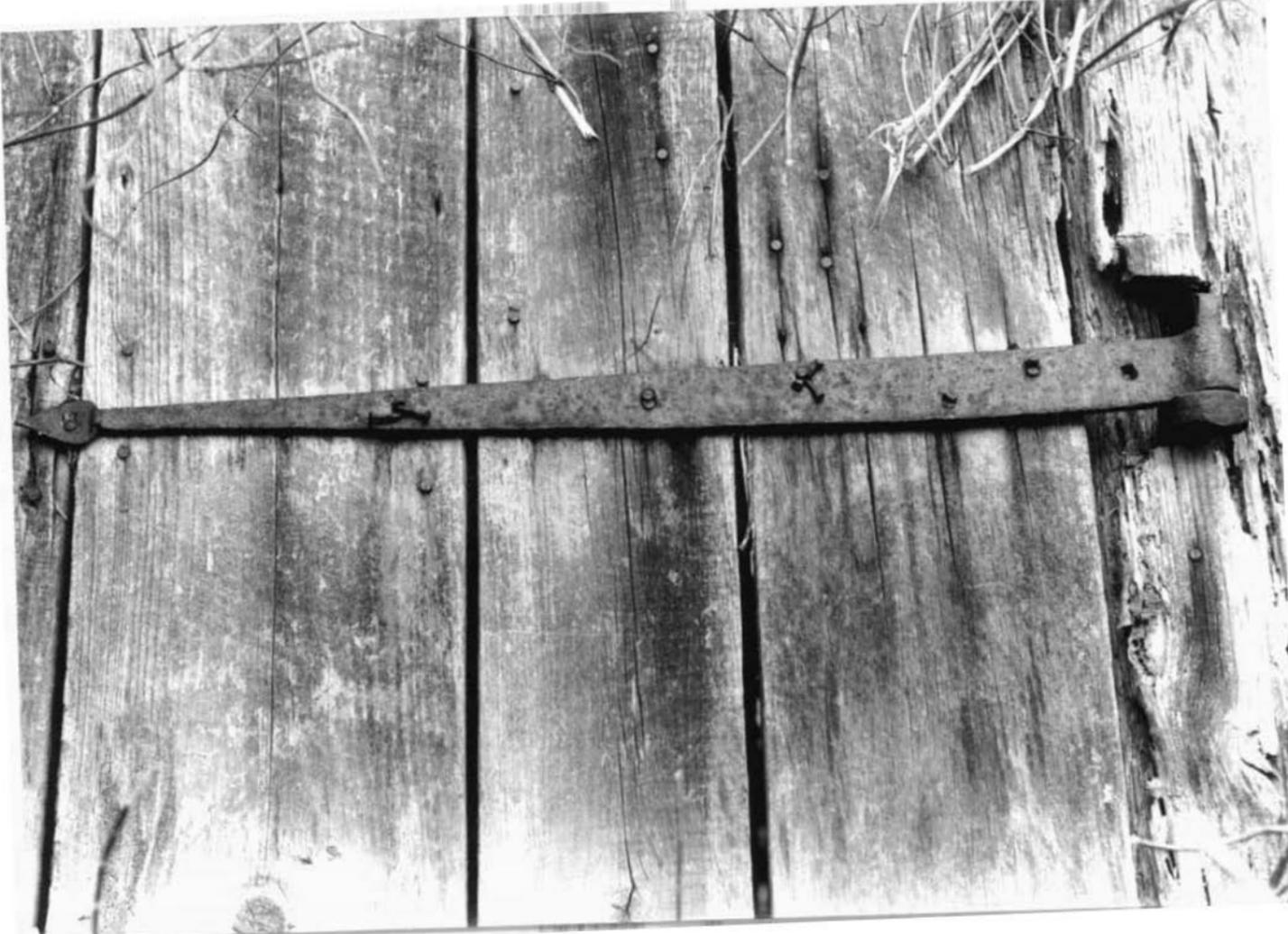
Elizabeth Hughes

January 1979

MD SHPO

NW Elevation

15









SH-411

Co. 1st Regt. 1st Div. 1st Army

1st Army, 1st Div. 1st Regt. 1st Div.

1st Army, 1st Div. 1st Regt. 1st Div.