

Capsule Summary  
SM-859  
Earnshaw Tobacco Barn  
Mechanicsville  
Private

circa 1850

Largely divorced from its former surroundings, the Earnshaw Tobacco Barn reveals how quickly the rural landscape in St. Mary's County can change. Originally constructed circa 1850, the barn is a braced-frame building entirely ringed by original sheds. Lying on a sloppily laid ironstone foundation, the barn's framing consists of sills, intermediate sills, posts, braces, wall ties, plates, false plates, rafters, and collars. The main block of the barn is eight rooms long and eight tiers high. Each of the rooms measure approximately four feet. Even though the surroundings of the barn have depreciated its historic value, it should nonetheless be documented with measured drawings prior to the building's impending demolition. Oral history surrounding the barn should also be collected from the Earnshaw family who remember hanging tobacco in the building.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-859

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other Earnshaw Tobacco Barn

### 2. Location

street and number near 26740 Earnshaw Way \_\_ not for publication

city, town Mechanicsville x vicinity

county St. Mary's

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

name Robert and Carolyn Earnshaw, et al

street and number PO Box 82 telephone N/a

city, town Mechanicsville state Md zip code 20659

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse tax map and parcel TM-13, P-83

city, town Leonardtown liber EWA 644, MRB 61 folio 214, 344

### 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		
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	1	7+ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	_____	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	1	7+ Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
				0	

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. SM-859

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### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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

The Earnshaw Tobacco Barn is located on the east-side of Earnshaw Way near the establishment of Earnshaw Gravel and Stone. Situated on a knoll overlooking a stone and gravel business, the tobacco barn is oriented on a north/south axis. Although the barn is situated in the midst of a 289 acre property, only about 150 acres is visible from the roads. A majority of the property consists of rolling hills, while most of the gravel business is shielded from the road by mature trees. At least three non-contributing modern dwellings, an office, an equipment shed, a trailer, and a workshop are immediately near the barn. The property is bounded by Point Lookout Road to the south and west and wooded tracts to the north and east.

The Earnshaw Tobacco Barn is a circa 1850, braced-frame agricultural building with a gable roof. Entirely ringed by original 10-12 foot sheds, the barn features a foundation consisting of loosely laid local ironstone and hole-set posts. In some places the foundation is no longer visible as the sills are now lying directly on the ground. The barn's exterior is sheathed with vertical boards with horizontal clapboard largely reserved for the gable ends. The roof is sheathed with raised-seam metal.

Entered via double doors on the south and north sides, the interior of the main block consists of eight rooms. Eight tiers, three of which consist of rafter collars, are also visible. The framing of the main block consists of sills, intermediate sills, posts, corner braces, plates, wall ties, false plates, rafters and collars that are all either pit-sawn or hewn. All beams are mortise-and-tenoned at joints with pegs and mature cut nails used as fasteners.

The building has slowly begun to deteriorate. In the early to mid-twentieth century, the sills of the shed additions failed resulting in the need for repairs. The repairs consisted of earthfast posts sunk into the ground to support the plates of the shed.

Tobacco is no longer stored in the barn and the owners of the barn are presently considering demolishing the building.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-859

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input 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**

**Architect/Builder**

**Construction dates**

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

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.)

Largely divorced from its former surroundings, the Earnshaw Tobacco Barn reveals how quickly the rural landscape in St. Mary's County can change. Originally constructed circa 1850, the barn is a braced-frame building entirely ringed by original sheds. Lying on a sloppily laid ironstone foundation, the barn's framing consists of sills, intermediate sills, posts, braces, wall ties, plates, false plates, rafters, and collars. The main block of the barn is eight rooms long and eight tiers high. Each of the rooms measure approximately four feet. Even though the surroundings of the barn have depreciated its historic value, it should nonetheless be documented with measured drawings prior to the building's impending demolition. Oral history surrounding the barn should also be collected from the Earnshaw family who remember hanging tobacco in the building.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-859

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Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge, Md: Self-published, 1994.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 150 acres  
Acreage of historical setting 289 acres  
Quadrangle name Mechanicsville      Quadrangle scale: 1:24 000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded by Point Lookout Road to the south and west and wooded tracts to the north and east. A more specific description of the properties boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Libers EWA 644 & MRB 61, Folio 214 & 344.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Mary's County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	August, 2000
street & number	22740 Washington Street	telephone	301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtown	state	Maryland

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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.

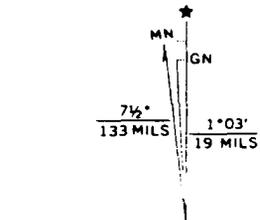
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:      Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

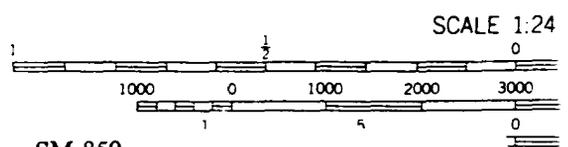


CHAPTICO 2.5 MI. 1349 1880 000 FEET 42'30" 1351 LOVEVILLE 1.5 MI. 1352 (LEONARDTOWN 7.3 MI. 5660 1 SW

and published by the Geological Survey  
 USC&GS  
 Photographs by stereophotogrammetric  
 photographs taken 1952. Field check 1953  
 Part 539 dated 1951  
 1927 North American datum  
 on Maryland coordinate system  
 are shown in brown  
 Transverse Mercator grid ticks.  
 e  
 Data compiled from aerial photographs;  
 information not field checked



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH-  
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



SM-859  
 Earnshaw Tobacco Barn  
 Mechanicsville  
 St. Mary's County  
 Mechanicsville Quad

ERVA  
 ERVICA  
 N FEE  
 APPFC  
 OF 10

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL



SM- 859

Earnshaw Tobacco Barn

Ev. Mag's County

Rick Lanzetta

Sept /00

MD SHPO

Looking NE

1 of 2



SM-859

Freshens Tobacco Barn

St. Mary's County

Kirk Panzetta

Sept/00

MD SHPO

Looking NW

2 of 2