

CAPSULE SUMMARY - O'CONNOR/WOLFORD BARN (CT-1046)

The O'Connor/Wolford barn is located on the north side of Williams Wharf Road on a knoll approximately one mile east of the Patuxent River, and is associated with a small 19th century farm house. The 36 x 56 barn is of modern construction, using mostly circular sawn materials, poured concrete piers, and wire nails. Occasional re-used hewn timbers may have come from an earlier barn which has since disappeared. An old barn was originally located approximately one-half mile to the east but was razed in 1989 for the development of single family residential lots. The barn's most unique feature is the presence of three cupolas evenly spaced along the ridge line. A partially subterranean stripping room is located in the southeast corner. Small windows along the south wall provide light for this workspace.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common O'Connor/Wolford Barn

2. Location

street & number Quarles Rd. /Williams Wharf Rd. not for publicationcity, town St. Leonard vicinity of Williams Wharf congressional district

state MD county Calvert

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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 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: storage

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

name Mr. William Wolford, Ms. O'Connor

street & number SR 1 Box 145 telephone no.: 586-1478

city, town St. Leonard state and zip code MD

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber ABE 399

street & number Main Street (MD 765) folio 201

city, town Prince Frederick state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county localpository for survey records DEPT. OF PLANNING & ZONING
COURT HOUSE

city, town PRINCE FREDERICK, MD. 20678 state

7. Description

Survey No. CT-1046

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input 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 Attachment.

8. Significance

Survey No. CT-1046

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. See Attachment.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CT-1046

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Broomes Island, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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 Tora L. Williamsen-Berry

c/o Calvert County Historic District Commission

organization Dept. of Planning and Zoning

date June 30, 1990

street & number Courthouse

telephone 535-1600

city or town Prince Frederick

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

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1046

The O'Connor/Wolford barn is located on a property to the north side of the intersection of Williams Wharf Rd. with Quarles Road. It is associated with a nineteenth century farm house. The barn is oriented with its axis east-west and sits on a flat plain. The unusual roof has three cupolas on top. The lumber is primarily circular sawn and wire nails are used throughout. The barn measures thirty-six by fifty-six feet.

The bay system is eleven, eleven, ten, nine, seven, and eight feet. The barn contains fourteen rooms. There are two sets of main doors on both the north and south sides, and one door near the stripping room on the east side. Poured concrete masonry piers support the structure. Posts are circular sawn and nailed to the plates. Some of the timbers are re-used sills empty mortises and half-lap joints are evident on these re-used timbers. Horizontal nailing rails are circular sawn and have wire nails. All joints are toe-nailed.

The barn has vertical wall siding. It also has irregularly spaced single and double board side-hinged ventilation doors. Along the southeast corner of the barn area where the stripping room is, battens were nailed over all the seams of the siding. It has always had a metal roof. The rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. The top plate is circular sawn. There are two windbraces that cross over each other on either side of roof and three collars. Three cupolas are placed along the roof ridge. They are eight feet long and four feet wide. There is one each in rooms two and three, seven and eight, and eleven and twelve. The tier poles are peeled logs separated by forty-two inches vertical distance. The posts down the center that support the tier poles occur along each major bay fourteen feet from the south facade. These posts are square circular sawn timbers nailed with wire nails.

There is an interior stripping room in the southeast corner measuring fourteen by seventeen feet. Its total height is five feet eight inches. It extends twenty-two inches above grade, and this area is floored. Poured concrete steps descend to the bulkhead entrance and doorway. There is also a cyclone door above for passing tobacco down into the stripping room.

8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1046

The O'Connor Wolford barn is architecturally significant because of the unique nature of its structure. The three cupolas placed on the top are not typical of tobacco barn construction in this county. The nineteenth-century farm house with no older tobacco barns nearby is unusual, and it is likely that the re-used timbers in this structure were from an earlier tobacco barn near the same location.

This barn also yields information regarding agricultural history in Southern Maryland. In February 1990, a tobacco barn survey was initiated in order to study the tobacco barns of Calvert County. Until fairly recently, tobacco was the most important farm crop of the county. More acreage was devoted to its cultivation than for both of the next most extensive farm products (corn and wheat). The barns and stripping houses related to this "Tobacco Culture" are widely recognized as the most common element on the rural landscape. These structures are also the most threatened, as the market for tobacco declines. They seem to have, at present, only limited capabilities for re-use. Many barns and stripping houses now stand empty. The purpose of this survey has been to gather information and document a wide sample of these structures before they disappear from the landscape.

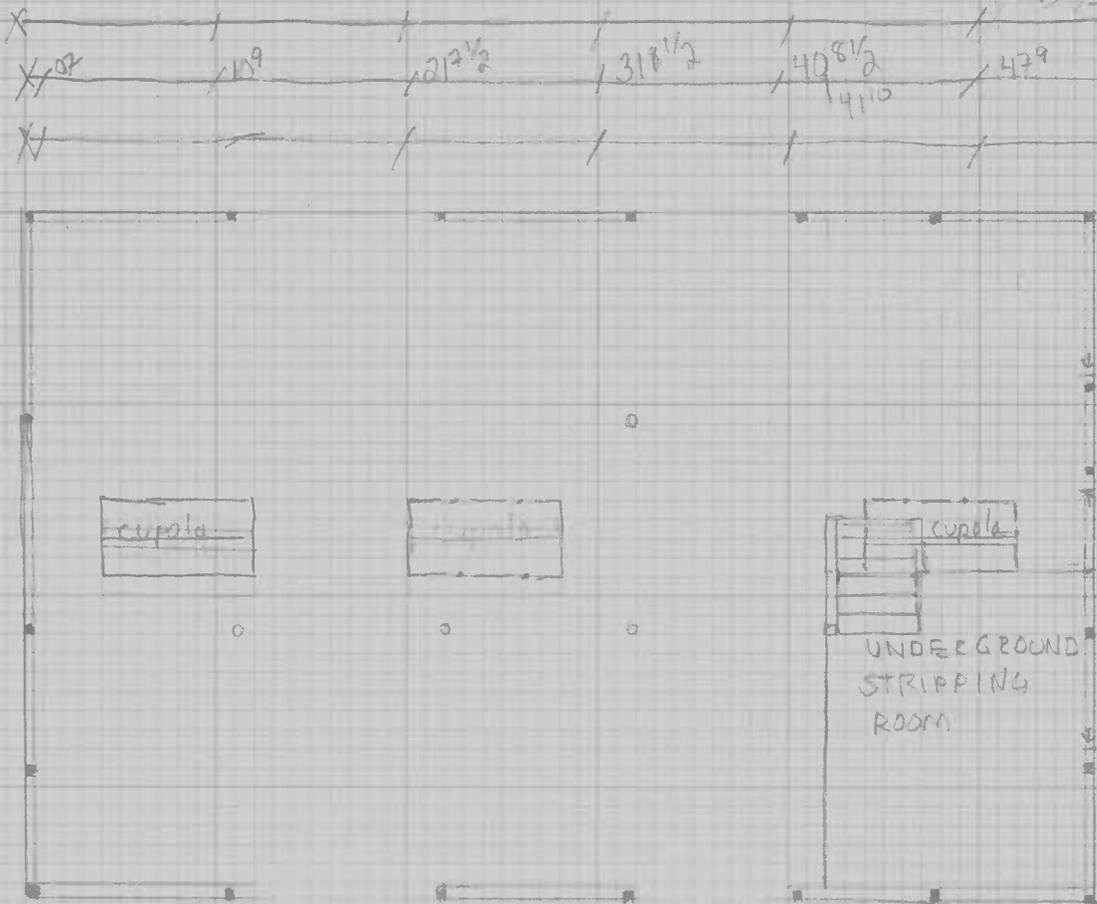
Historic Period theme(s): Twentieth Century
Geographic Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert
Cty MD
Chronological/Developmental Period: Twentieth Century
Resource Type(s): Tobacco Barn

3/16/90 BARN #2019 O'CONNOR - WOLFORD

SCALE 1"=10'

CT-1046

X W side



X
 X 10' 21 1/2' 31 1/2' 40 8 1/2' 43 9' 59 1/2' 60'
 N
 X
 W
 N side same
 S side
 Poles (center)

10' 10" + 22' deep

Door

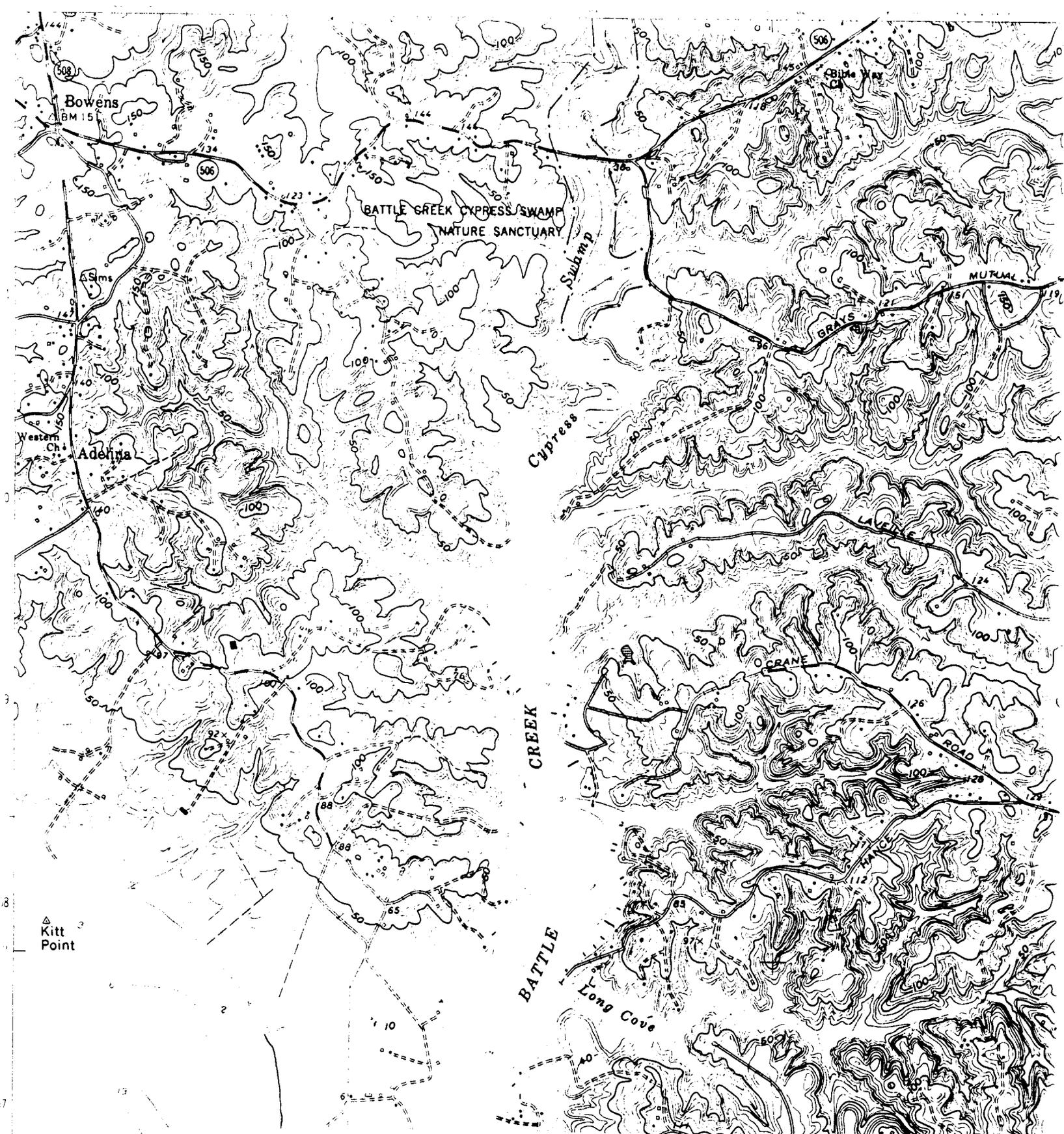
UNDERGROUND STRIPPING ROOM

cupola

cupola

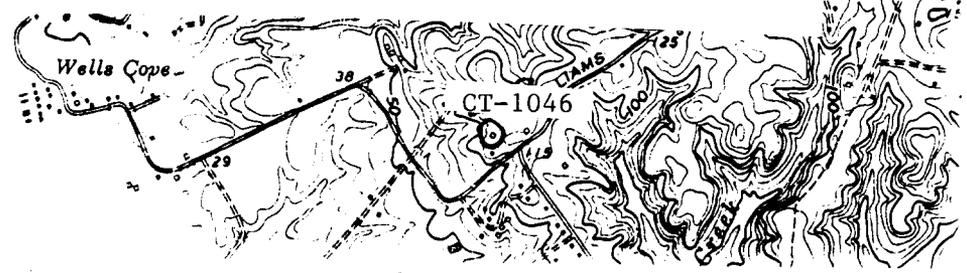
cupola

9'
 9'
 13 5/8'
 18 8/16'
 22'
 29'
 30 3/10' 4 1/2'
 S side



USGS TOPOGRAPHIC, BROOMES ISLAND 7.5 " QUADRANGLE, 1:24,000, 1986

Battle
Prison
Point





ET-1046

O'CONNOR/WULFORD BARN

FORT REPUBLIC

TORA L. WILLIAMSEN

NORTH EAST

FEBRUARY, 1990

