

CAPSULE SUMMARY - SCHROM BARN 'A' (CT-1051)

The early age, unusual framing techniques and evidence of multi-use all combine to make Schrom Barn 'A' one of Calvert County's most interesting structures. This privately owned structure is located in Huntingtown. Hewn timbers and machine-cut nails date this barn to the ante-bellum era. In spite of extensive repairs in the 1960's, extant studs and riven clapboards remain from the barn's original exterior treatment. An extant mill stone and associated use of the structure as a grain mill place it among the most significant structures in the County.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

(See also (CT-417) William Schrom House)

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Schrom Barn A

2. Location

street & number Hunting Creek Rd. (Maryland Route 521) not for publicationcity, town Huntingtown ^{Cox} vicinity of 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Mr. William Schrom

street & number Hunting Creek Rd. telephone no.: 535-0751

city, town Huntingtown state and zip code MD 20639

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber JLB 59

street & number Main Street (MD 765) folio 659

city, town Prince Frederick state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CT-1051

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.
See Attachment.

8. Significance

Survey No. CT-1051

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 checked="" 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.

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1051

The property now owned by the Schroms is located on Hunting Creek Road. The farm has been owned by both the Cox and Williams families in the past. Schrom Barn A is located at the bottom of a slope that is downhill and to the west of the house. This early barn measures thirty-two by thirty-two feet, and its axis is north-south. The south shed may be original. The timbers are hewn and the nails are primarily fully mature machine-cut. The barn underwent extensive repair when the Schroms acquired the property in the early 1960s.

The unusual frame of this barn is supported on a combination of bricks, fieldstones, and concrete blocks. The barn has studs on four foot centers on both the east and west sides. These studs/posts determine the bay system. The north and south sides have studs every two feet wherever enough of the original material remains to determine the structure. The west side of the north facade of the barn has been totally rebuilt, and a twelve foot wide doorway has been inserted. There is a large beam measuring nine by nine inches that is nine feet above the ground and runs on a north-south axis. According to Mr. Schrom, this beam was four and a half feet above the ground prior to the renovation of the barn. The south side of the barn is also very interesting. Although a portion of the south side has been rebuilt, several early elements remain. There is a large twelve foot wide door on the south side. The original door was eight feet wide and was located in the next bay. There are round mortises remaining in the beam above from where the doorposts were inserted. According to Mr. Schrom, this farm served as a grain mill, and oxen were attached to one of these doorposts. The method of pay was for the owner to take a portion of the ground grain. There is a mill stone in situ labeled "S.L. 050". There is a large hewn beam nine feet above ground on this south side. It rests under the cross beam. It has studs and/or mortises on four foot centers, and mortises for several down braces.

A combination of riven clapboards and horizontal weatherboards cover the exterior of this barn. The roof is covered with wood shingles. The rafters of the roof are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. Four windbraces help to support the roof. The tier poles are separated by forty-one inches vertical distance. There are no poles down the central axis in this barn to support the tier poles.

There is one eighteen foot wide shed on the south side of the barn. The posts are earth-fast peeled logs. The tie beams are hewn and pit sawn. The primary purpose of this shed is to house cattle. Most of it is open-air. There is a cattle chute in the west corner, and a gate to contain the cattle in the eastern half. There is some vertical wall siding on the upper level of the shed above the posts. The original wooden shingle roof has

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1051

been replaced by metal. The timbers and materials in the shed indicate that the shed is early if not original. It was not possible to determine the chronology for certain due to the fact that the shed is lower than the rest of the barn, and is located at the gable end.

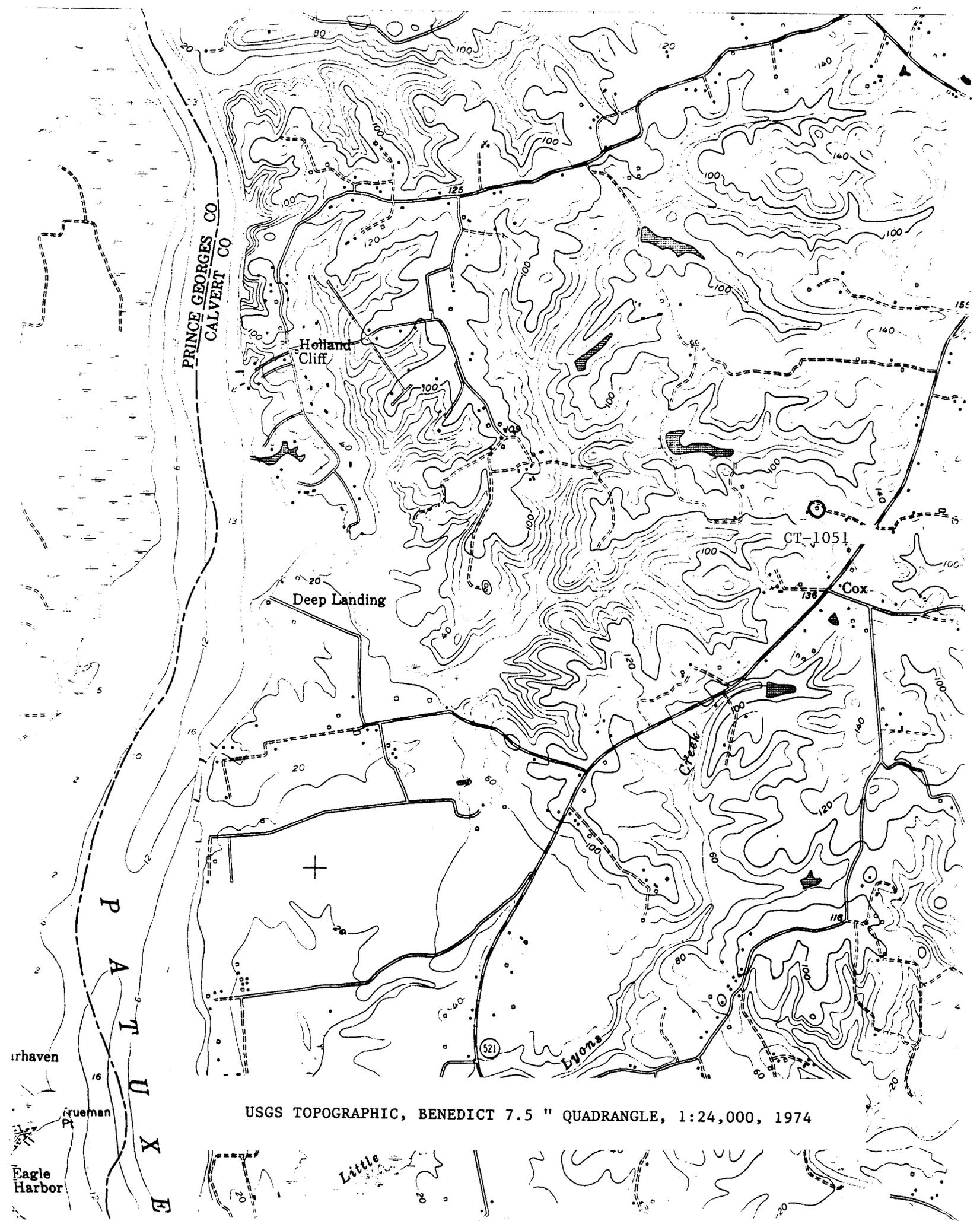
8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1051

This barn is architecturally significant because of its unusual framing structure, early age, and evidence of multi-use. The placement of stud/posts on four foot centers is probably indicative of the extensive use of horizontal weatherboard siding. The hewn timbers and cut nails date it to before the Civil War. The presence of a mill stone and its use as a grain mill place it among the most significant barns for the history of the county.

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): ca. 1830-; Tobacco; Agriculture
Geographic Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert
Cty MD
Chronological/Developmental Period: 1830-Present
Resource Type(s): Tobacco barn

The barn has changed over the years. Extensive rebuilding during the 1960s elevated the cross-sill and south end beam to nine feet above plan, while they presumably were originally only four and a half feet above the plan. Nevertheless, the essential plan of the barn has remained unchanged. Owner oral history indicates that the property was originally in the Williams family and was later in the Cox family. According to Mr. Schrom, this barn was built by the grandfather of 97 year-old Mr. Cox.



PRINCE GEORGES CO
CALVERT CO

Holland
Cliff

Deep Landing

CT-1051

Cox

Creek

Lyons

Harbor

rueman Pt

Eagle Harbor

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC, BENEDICT 7.5 " QUADRANGLE, 1:24,000, 1974

Little



CT-1051

Honoring

Tara L. Millman

Southwest

March, 1990