CAPSULE SUMMARY CT - 1058

Clarke-Owings Barn 'B' is located on a private farm in Owings which includes a second tobacco barn, a nineteenth century farm house and a tenant house. The cross-axial plan barn is oriented on a east-west axis and has been altered significantly. Family history dates the barn to c. 1890 when the present family acquired the property, and further dates the additions to c. 1905. The present 64 x 28 foot structure with doors on the north, south, and east facades contains an original 40 x 28 center aisle plan section and a 44 x 24 foot room addition. A 16-foot wide shed on the north side is believed to have been added at the same time. The barn has a ridge ventilator which runs the length of the structure, and which appears to date to the early 20th century remodeling.

Survey No. CT-1058

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Clarke-Owings Barn B

2. Location

street & number (Highway 778) Old Solomons Island Road ___ not for publication

city, town Owings ___ vicinity of congressional district

state MD county Calvert

3. Classification

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

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

name Adele Clarke

street & number (Highway 778) Old Solomons Island Road telephone no.: 257-2225

city, town Owings state and zip code MD 20736

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber ABE 238

street & number Main Street (MD 765) folio 539

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-1058

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ 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-1058

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	X agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
? 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ 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-1058

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name North Beach, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

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 Williamsen-Berry

organization c/o Calvert County Historic District Commission ~~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

PS-2746

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1058

The Clarke-Owings Barn B is located on the Clarke-Owings farm in Owings, Maryland. This farm is on Highway 765, approximately one quarter mile north of its intersection with highway 260. One other tobacco barn, a nineteenth century farm house, and a tenant house are also located on the farm. Clarke-Owings barn B is located to the southwest of the farm house, and to the west of Clarke-Owings barn A. The roof axis is east-west. The barn has been altered significantly. The plan is cross-axial, and there are doors along both the north, south, and east facades. The sixty-four by twenty-eight foot barn originally measured forty by twenty-eight feet and had a central aisle. A twenty-four foot addition was built onto the east side. The original barn was extremely similar in plan to Clarke-Owings barn A (CT-1057), and, like it, was divided by internal cross-sills into four separate quadrants with an internal aisle. The timbers are a combination of circular sawn and hewn materials, and wire nails are combined with mortise and tenon joints with trunnels. These construction materials and methods date the barn to ca. 1890.

The forty by twenty-eight foot section of the barn is the original portion. It is divided into five eight foot bays and has one eight-foot wide central aisle transecting its entirety. An internal sill and two cross-sills divide the barn into four unevenly sized quadrants. Pintel holes from an early door remain centered in the large room in the southeast quadrant. Concrete, large unmortared fieldstone, and some mortared rocks support the frame. Some of the posts are hand hewn, some are circular sawn. All of the posts in the original section are joined to the plate via mortise and tenon joints with trunnels. The cross-sills and internal sill are hewn. Down braces and nailing rails are circular sawn and have wire nails affixing them. Vertical wall siding with some hinged ventilation doors sheathes the exterior. There are shingle nailers in place under the corrugated metal roof. The roof has a vented ridge. The roof has probably been rebuilt, as it is not centered above the original barn, but rather over the entire structure including the added sixteen foot wide shed. The rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. Four windbraces and three collars support the roof. Peeled log tier poles rest on horizontal rails that extend between the posts of the internal cross sill.

The barn addition measures twenty-four by forty-four feet and continues the room separation technique. It is of newer construction than the original barn section with no hewn timbers or mortise and tenon joints. All of the timbers in this section are circular sawn and toe-nailed. The east wall of the original barn shows evidence of siding. There is a tobacco prize extant in this section. The markings on it are unfortunately illegible. A small (four foot high) door in the northeast quadrant of the addition was related to the use of the prize.

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1058 (CONT.)

The sixteen foot wide shed is probably an addition built onto the barn at the same time the twenty-four foot wide addition was built. The south wall of the original section of the barn was sided at some point. The shed is divided along the same bay system as the barn. Concrete block piers support the frame of circular sawn lumber and wire nails.

The shed has vertical wall siding and some hinged ventilation doors. Shingle nailers are in place under the corrugated metal roof. The shed has a below ground stripping room area built of concrete blocks. The roof of this stripping room is four feet above the ground floor of the shed and is covered with tar-paper.

8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1058

Clarke-Owings barn B is architecturally significant for several reasons. Oral history, construction materials and techniques allow it to be closely dated. It is unusual in plan, with the four-quadrant idea that is present in barn A also being used here. The addition to the barn and the shed have expanded it in size to where it is not recognizable from the exterior as the late nineteenth-century structure that it is.

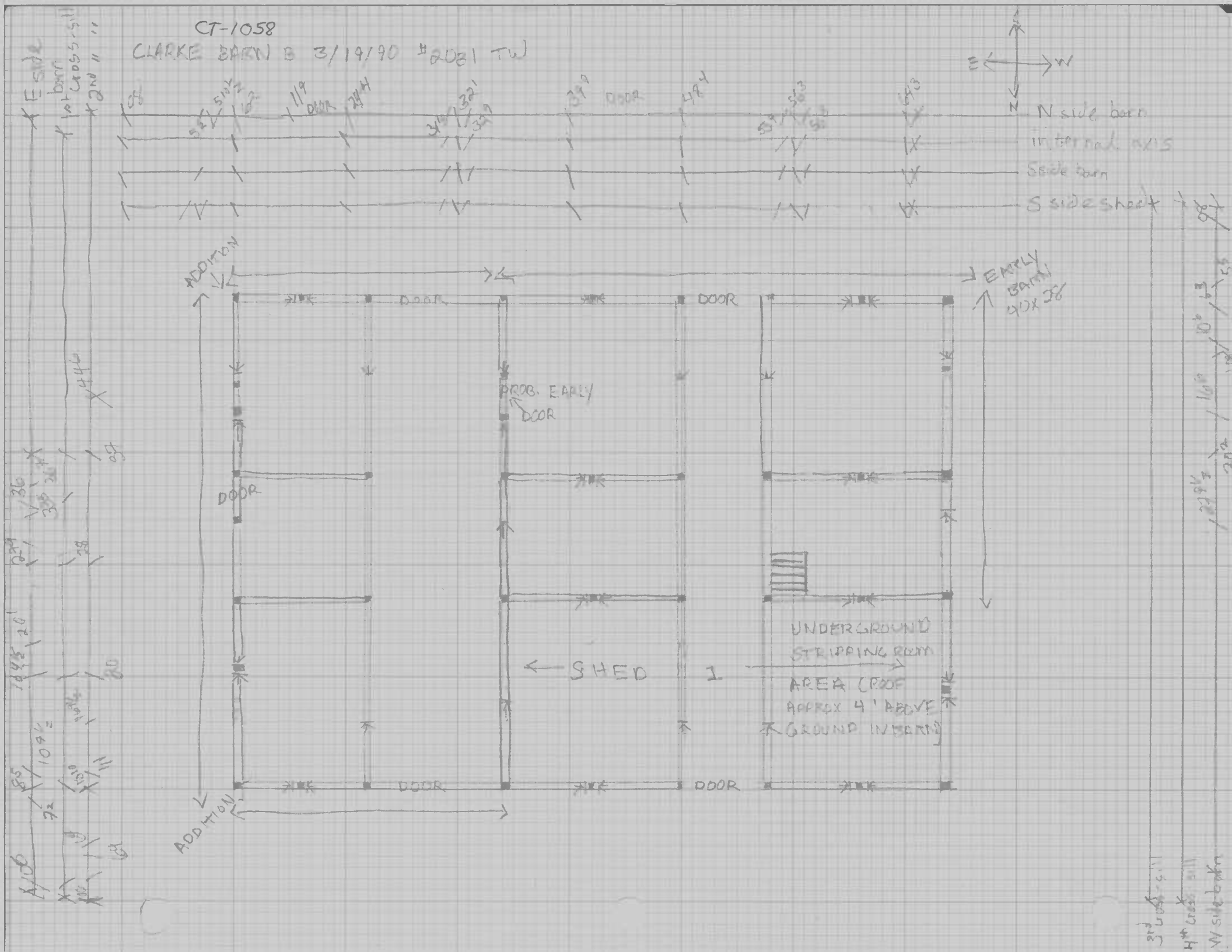
This barn also yields information regarding agricultural history in Southern Maryland. In February 1990, a tobacco barn survey was initiated in order to study the tobacco barns of Calvert County. Until fairly recently, tobacco was the most important farm crop of the county. More acreage was devoted to 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.

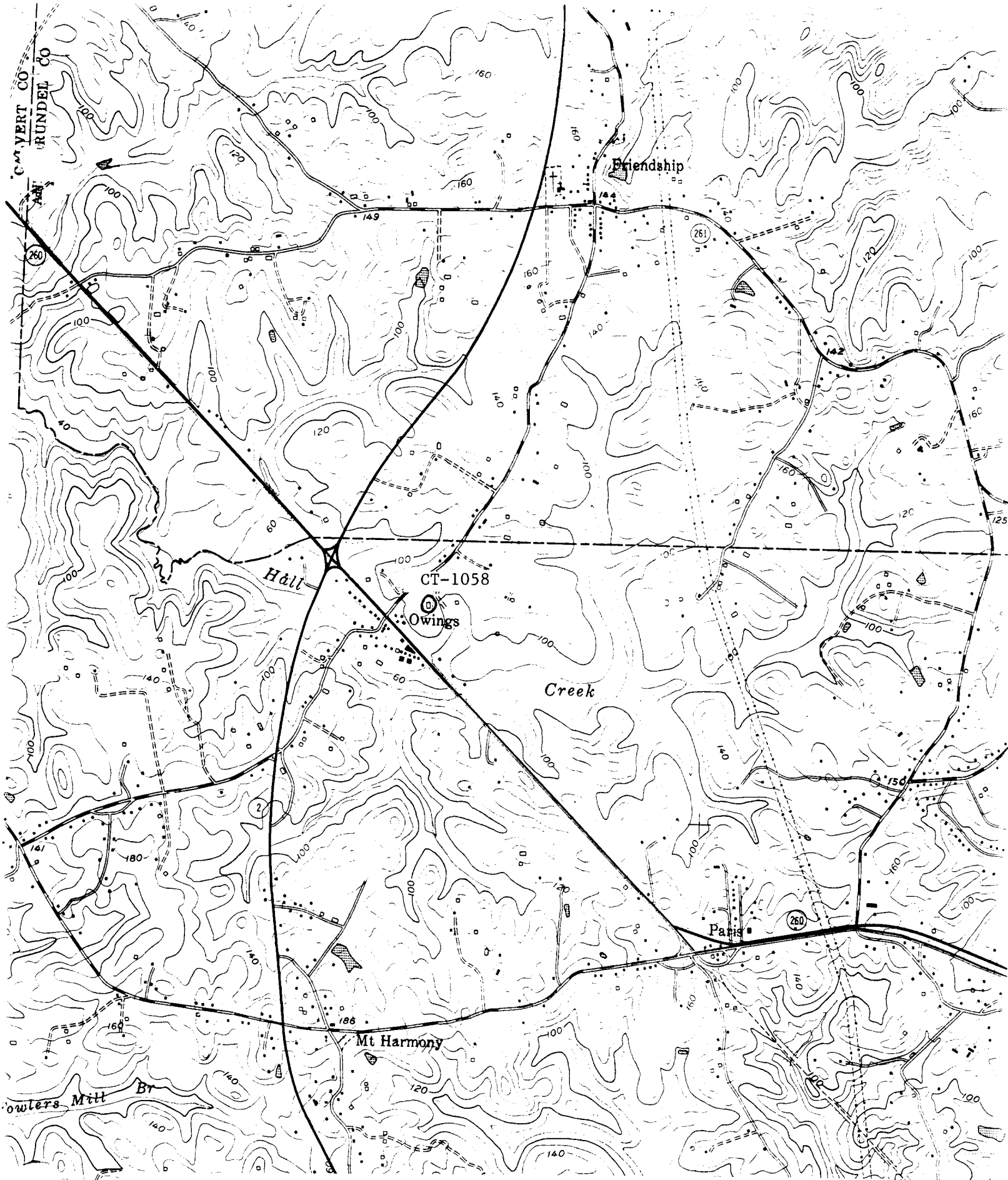
Historic Period theme(s): 1890-; Tobacco; Agriculture
Geographic Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert Cty MD
Chronological/Developmental Period: 1890-Present
Resource Type(s): Tobacco Barn

This barn has a very interesting and complex history. According to the owner's nephew, Mr. Thomas Owings, the barn was built approximately 1890 shortly after the purchase of the land by the Owings. This nephew also states that the shed was added ca. 1905. The dating given by Mrs. Clarke's nephew is consistent with the materials and techniques seen in the barn. The materials could date anytime after 1890, but the construction techniques, particularly the mortise and tenon joints, are early. The changes and modifications to the barn include the addition of a twenty-four foot wide section, and the addition of a shed area on the north side. This addition and shed are similar in construction materials and techniques, and there is no evidence of siding where it would have been if either of these pre-dated the other, so it is assumed that they were built at the same time. The roof has been rebuilt and centered over the entire building. The siding has been removed from the north wall of the old barn and the original east door of this barn has also been removed. Concrete blocks have been inserted in order to support the structure. The shingle roof has been replaced by metal.

CT-1058

CLARKE BARN B 3/19/90 #2081 TW





USGS TOPOGRAPHIC, NORTH BEACH 7.5 " QUADRANGLE, 1:24,000, 1979

C.T. 1058
CLARKE BATH 3
OWINGS
TORA L. WILLIAMSEN
NORTH WEST
MARCH, 1990