

CAPSULE SUMMARY - BROBST BARN (CT-1072)

The Brobst Barn is located in the back yard of a 19th century farmhouse in the former tobacco shipping town of Lower Marlboro. The privately owned Brobst Barn measures 44 x 16 and is oriented on a east-west axis. A cross sill is located approximately midway along the barn's length. The barn is rather unusual in plan, and is served by five doors. Circular sawn lumber, wire nails, and an original metal roof are all typical of a 20th century date of construction.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. CT-1072

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Brobst Barn

## 2. Location

street & number Lower Marlboro Lane  not for publicationcity, town Lower Marlboro  vicinity of congressional district

state MD county Calvert

## 3. Classification

| Category  | Ownership                                   | Status  | Present Use                            |  |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" 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                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process         | <input checked="" 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 Dennis and Cheryl Brobst

street &amp; number Lower Marlboro Lane telephone no.: 257-7883

city, town Lower Marlboro state and zip code MD 20736

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber ABE 341

street &amp; number Main Street (MD 765) folio 876

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

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|  |                                       |   |   |                    |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| <b>Condition</b>                         |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                              | <b>Check one</b>                                  |                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |                    |
| <input checked="" 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

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| 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/<br>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.



## 7. DESCRIPTION CT-1072

This barn is one of several tobacco barns located in the back yards of houses in Lower Marlboro Maryland. Lower Marlboro served as a tobacco shipping town for many years. The house in front of it dates to the nineteenth century, and possibly earlier. The barn has an aisle plan measuring forty-four by sixteen feet. It has no exterior sheds. The axis of the barn is east-west, opposite the axis of the road that runs north-south in front of the house (Lower Marlboro Lane). The barn is constructed of circular sawn lumber, wire nails, and has toe-nailed joints and half-lapped joints. It has doors on all sides. It is separated by an internal cross-sill into two different rooms. The west room has one four foot wide door on the west side, and one four-foot wide door on the south. The east room has a four foot wide door on the north and east sides, and a double door on the south side.

The bays of the barn are divided on a ten, ten, eight, four, four, and eight foot system. The cross-sill dividing the two rooms is at twenty feet from the west side. In addition to this cross-sill, internal bracing in the form of a diamond is used to support this center section. The barn is built entirely of circular sawn lumber and wire nails. The sill is lifted approximately eight inches above the ground. The plate is formed of two by four inch boards nailed together in an inverted L shape. The posts are half-lapped to this plate. All the rest of the joints are toe-nailed. Vertical wall siding with minimal ventilation covers the exterior. The roof rafters are on four foot centers and support a corrugated metal roof. The rafters rest on a flat false plate. Windbraces on each diagonal and two collars help support the roof. The tier poles are circular sawn peeled logs separated by forty-one inches vertical distance.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1072

This barn is architecturally significant for a variety of reasons. The most important among these is its membership in the group of tobacco barns associated with domestic residences in the town of Lower Marlboro. The pattern of tobacco barns directly connected with residences and small parcels of land is unusual in the county and has not been seen elsewhere. The materials and techniques seen in this barn are consistent with those of one built during the mid twentieth century, yet, the plan and measurements are unusual and more closely resemble a cross-axial plan than a twentieth-century aisle plan. The separation into two different rooms appears to be original. This causes one to speculate if perhaps different activities were being conducted in the two rooms.

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

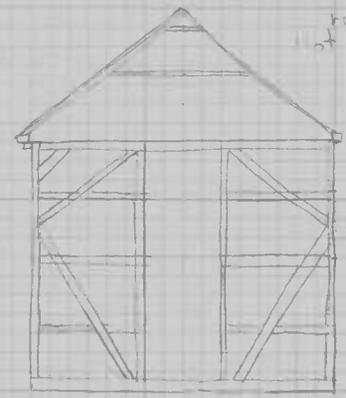
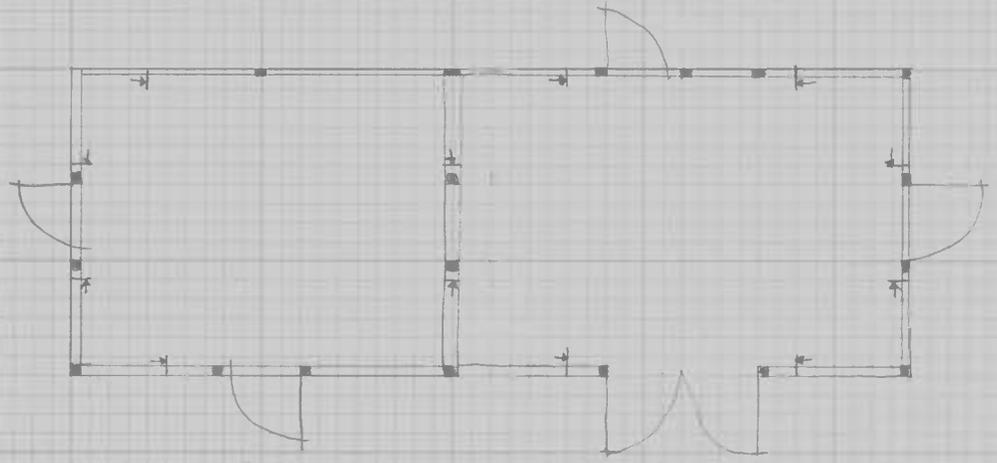
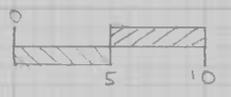
Resource Type(s): Tobacco Barn

CT-1072

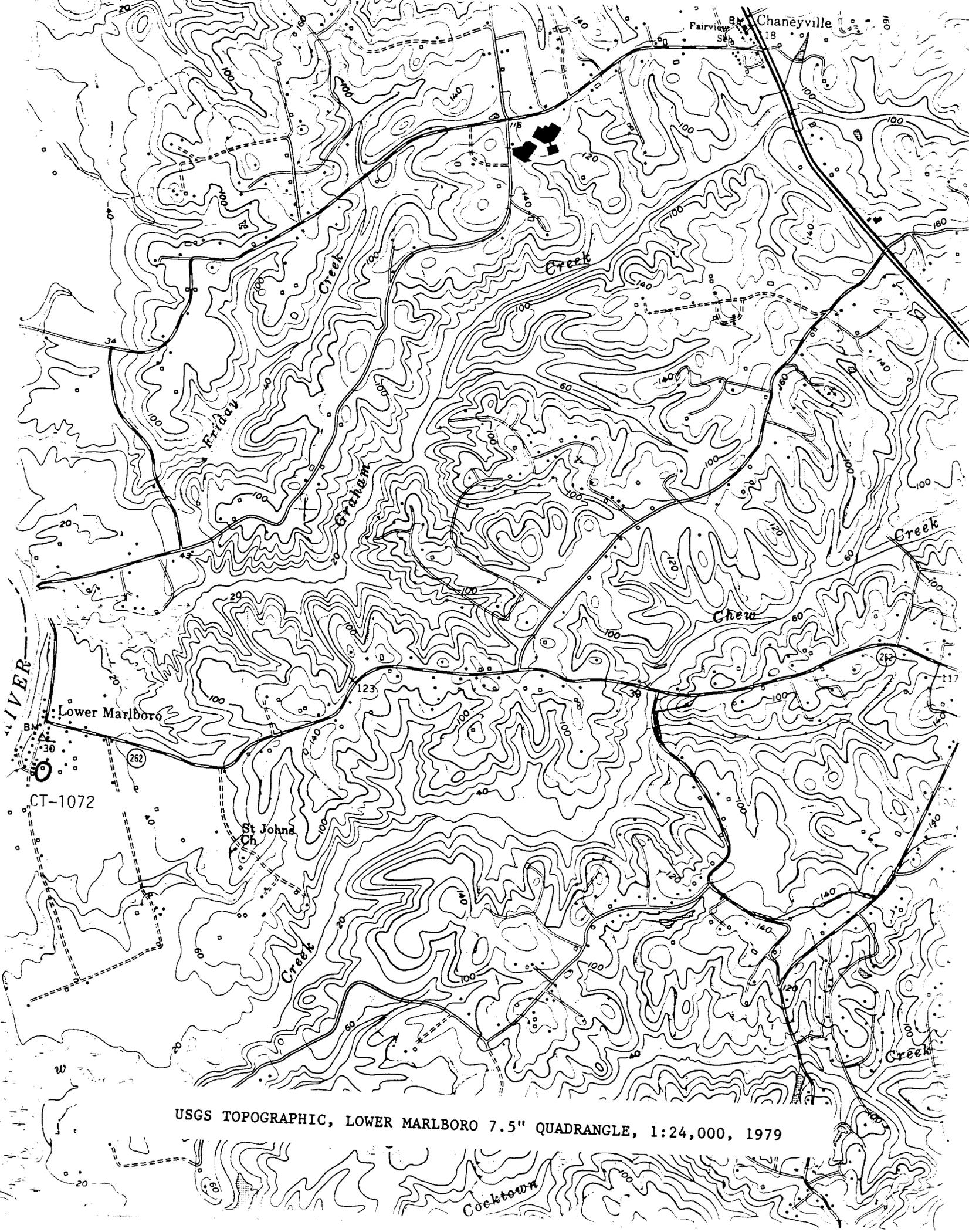
BARN # 2045  
DENNIS AND CHRYL BROBST  
LOWER MARLBORO, MD

03/31/1990

PJM



rough sketch  
of  
center  
section



USGS TOPOGRAPHIC, LOWER MARLBORO 7.5" QUADRANGLE, 1:24,000, 1979



ET-1072

BRUBST BARN

LOWER MARLBORO

TORA L. WILLIAMSEN

NORTHWEST

MARCH, 1990