

CAPSULE SUMMARY - HICKS BARN 'A' (CT-1073)

Hicks Barn 'A' is located on Johns Chapel Road in Lower Marlboro. This barn is associated with a small post 1880 one and one half story tenant house and three other tobacco barns. The structure is privately owned. The roof axis is oriented on a north-south axis. The barn measures 40 x 30 feet with an aisle plan, and is constructed of circular sawn lumber and wire nails. There are double doors in both the north and south gable ends, and also on the east and west facades. A center aisle runs the length of the barn. The flanking sections are both divided by ground-laid sills running perpendicular to the barn's axis. In spite of modern materials and construction techniques, this barn does contain some unusual architectural features. Among these are four foot bay spacing, a three aisle plan divided by internal posts and plates. This support system provides extensive bracing and support.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Hicks Barn A

## 2. Location

street & number St. John's Chapel Road  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 type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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: unused

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

name Mrs. Jean Hicks

street &amp; number Maidstone, Highway 260 telephone no.: n/a

city, town Owings state and zip code MD 20736

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber JLB 56

street &amp; number Main Street (MD 765) folio 461

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-1073

<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

Survey No. CT-1073

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.



## 7. DESCRIPTION CT-1073

Hicks barn A is located at the end of John's Chapel Road. It is reached by taking Lower Marlboro Rd. turning left (south) onto John's Chapel road, and following it to the end of the road. A tenant house is located behind the barn to the south. Three other barns associated with the property are located to the west along a farm road that branches off of John's Chapel and runs to the west. The terrain is relatively flat. The barn is oriented on a north-south axis, parallel to John's Chapel Rd. It measures forty by thirty feet, has an aisle plan, and is constructed of circular sawn lumber and wire nails. There are double doors on both the north and south gable ends, and also on the east and west facades.

The barn contains ten rooms and is divided into four foot bays. It is supported by a poured concrete foundation. There is a ten foot wide central aisle that divides the barn. Ten foot wide side aisle are on either side of it. On both sides of the central aisle there is a sill laid on the ground that runs down the axis of the barn. This sill has posts on four foot centers that extend to an internal plate. There are down braces that support the aisles. This system serves to support the tobacco tiers and to add strength to the barn. The posts are separated into four foot bays and half-lapped against the top plate that is formed of two by four inch boards nailed together in an inverted L shape. All the rest of the joints are toe-nailed with wire nails.

Vertical wall siding with hinged ventilation doors covers the exterior. The rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. The roof is covered with standing seam metal. Four windbraces and four collars support the roof. The tier poles are circular sawn and separated by forty-one and one-half inches vertical distance.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1073

This barn dates to the mid-late twentieth century. Its aisle plan and construction techniques and materials are consistent with such a date. The three aisle form, divided by internal posts and plates on either side of the central aisle has not been seen in any early barns. It is somewhat unusual. One of the most distinctive and unusual elements in this barn is that, despite its twentieth-century date, the structural bays are separated by only four feet. In addition, there is extensive bracing and support. It appears that the barn was designed to withstand heavy winds and/or carry a very heavy load.

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.

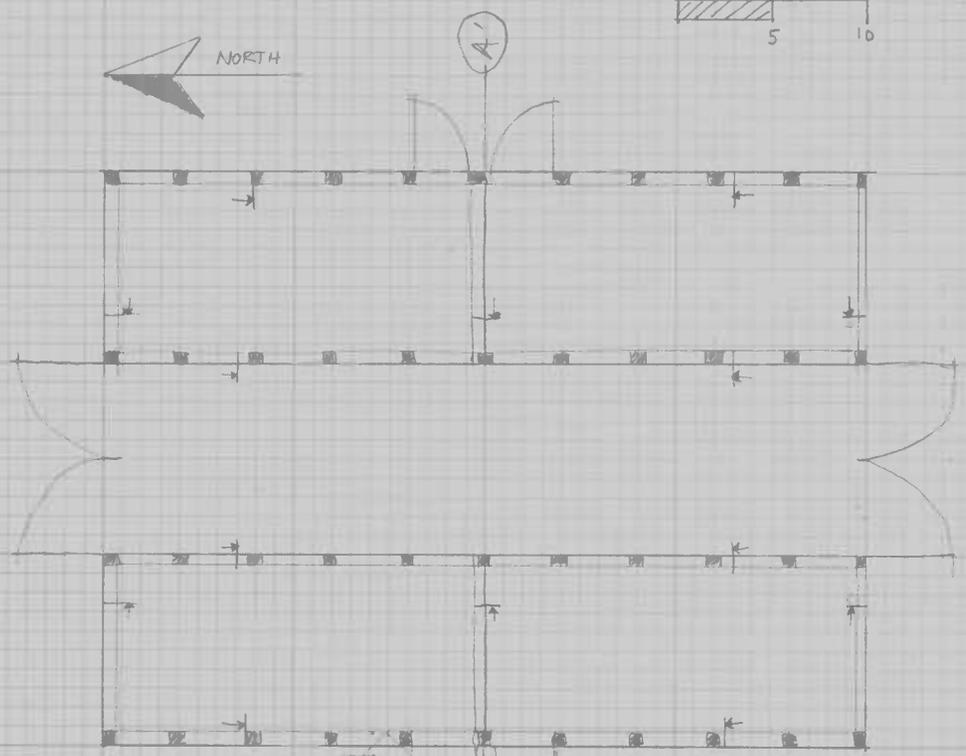
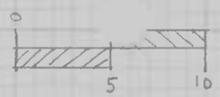
Historic Period theme(s): Mid-Late Twentieth Century  
Geographic Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert Cty  
MD  
Chronological/Developmental Period: Mid-Late Twentieth Century  
Resource Type(s): Tobacco Barn

CT-1073

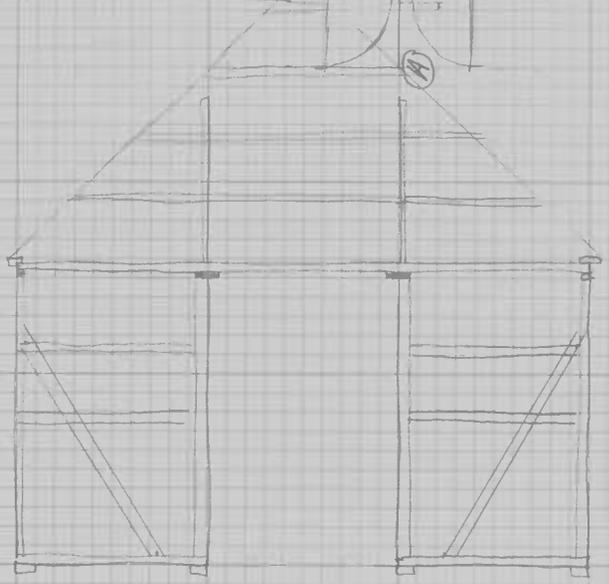
HICKS BAK #4  
LOWER MAIN ORO  
# 2046

03/31/1990

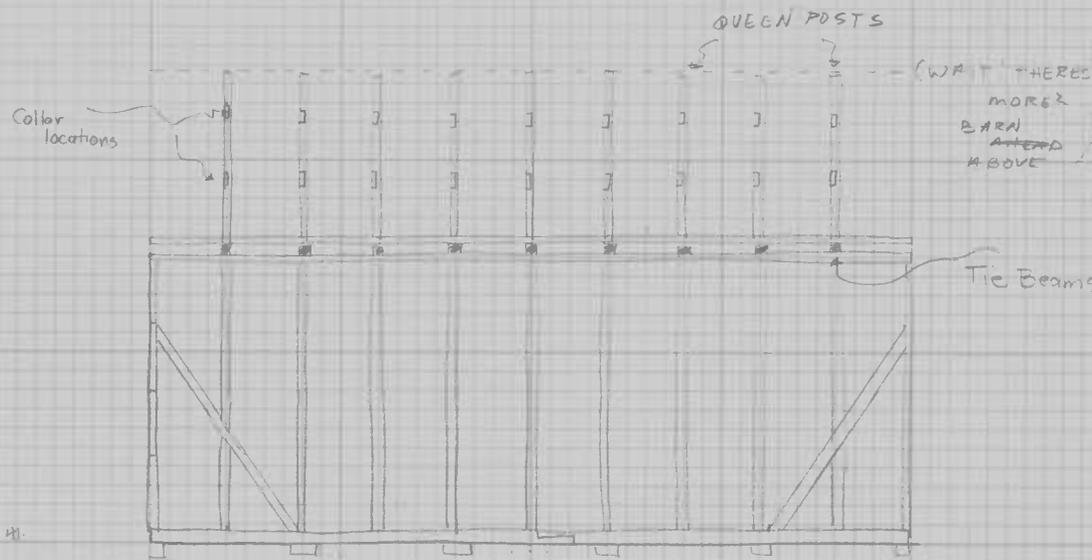
PJM



SECTIONS  
ROUGH -  
NOT TO PERCENT  
SCALE



SECTION AT INTERIOR CROSS  
SILL (A-A' ABOVE)



SECTION OF E SIDE OF AISLE



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



CT-1073 Hicks Barn 'A'

Lower Marlboro

Tova E. Williamson

Southwest

April, 1990