

CAPSULE SUMMARY - HICKS BARN 'B' (CT-1074)

Hicks Barn 'B' is part of a complex of tobacco barns associated with a small tenant house in Lower Marlboro. This modern barn measures 78 x 28 feet and is oriented on a east-west axis. Internal partitions result in an unusual plan. Double doorways line up on the north and south sides with aisles running across the width of the barn. Further, a wire enclosed storage area and corn crib are located in the east gable end, and a partially underground cinder block stripping area is located in the west gable end. Materials and techniques all suggest a mid-20th century (or later) date of construction.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Hicks Barn B

2. Location

street & number St. John's Chapel Road _____ not for publication

city, 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	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: unused

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

name Mrs. Jean Hicks

street & number Highway 260, Maidstone _____ 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 & 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

pository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Survey No. CT-1074

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<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-1074

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-1074

Hicks Barn B is located on a flat plain to the west of Hicks barn A.

Two other barns associated with the property are located to the west along the farm road that branches off of John's Chapel Rd. The barn is on the south side of the farm road. The axis of the barn is east-west, parallel with the farm road. The terrain is relatively flat. Double doors are located on the north and south sides, and the barn is divided by a cross-sill into two rooms for hanging tobacco. On the east gable end there is a storage area/corncrib, and on the west gable end there is an underground stripping room.

The barn measures seventy-eight by twenty-eight feet. The double doorway on the north and south facades each lead into a separate room. These rooms are divided from each other by a cross-sill. An internal sill with posts on four foot centers runs down the central axis of these rooms and extends to the doorway aisles. The doorways were evidently designed for vehicle drive-through as an intentional effort was made not to block the aisleway. There is a combination of six, eight, ten and twelve foot bays. These bays are supported on a concrete block piers. The posts, down braces, cross sills, sills, and nailing rails are all circular sawn and toenailed with wire nails. Vertical wall siding with seventeen hinged ventilation doors on the facades, and three each on the gables, covers the exterior. Standing seam metal roof. The rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. Three collars and windbraces at each corner support the roof. The circular sawn tier poles are separated by forty-three and one half inches vertical distance.

There is a slat and wire-enclosed room in the northeast corner of the barn that measures twelve by fourteen feet. This is being used to hold tobacco stakes, but it looks like some of the modern corn cribs seen during this survey. A concrete block stripping room measuring twenty by twenty-eight feet that is partially underground extends across the entire west end of the barn. The ceiling of the stripping room three feet above the ground of the barn is floored. There are windows and a stove inside.

8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1074

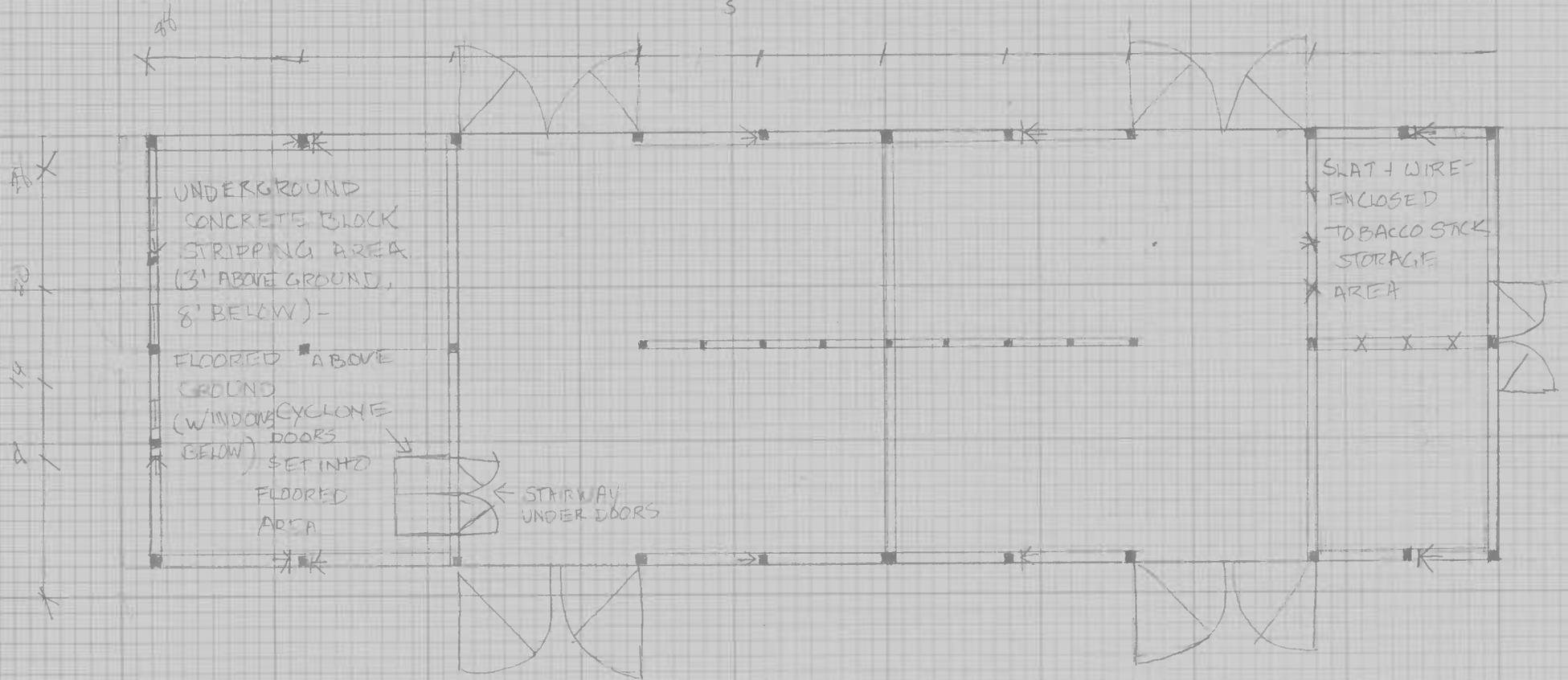
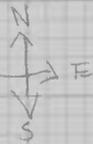
This barn dates to the twentieth century. The plan, the concrete block stripping room, and the prevalence of hinged ventilation doors make it appear to have been built during the mid-late twentieth century. The most unusual and significant item about this barn is its plan. The barn is divided into two rooms by a cross-sill, and these rooms are in turn divided by the a row of posts down the central axis of the barn that extends to the door way aisle. The barn was designed with vehicle access in mind. Also of significance is the wire-enclosed storage area, and the underground stripping room seen most frequently in barns of this period.

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-1074

4/2/90 BARN # 2047 HICKS BARN S W

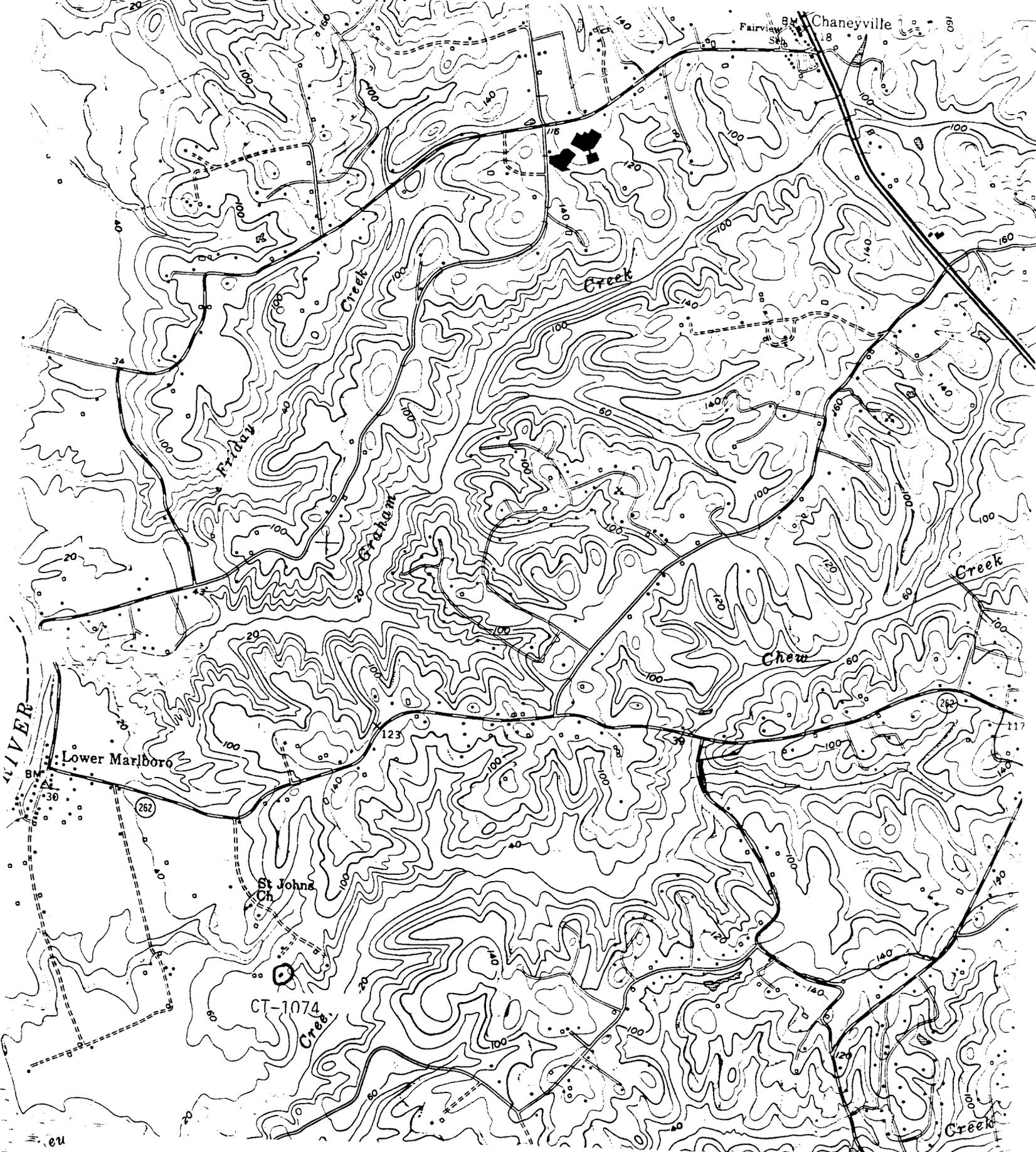


UNDERGROUND
CONCRETE BLOCK
STRIPPING AREA
(3' ABOVE GROUND,
8' BELOW) -

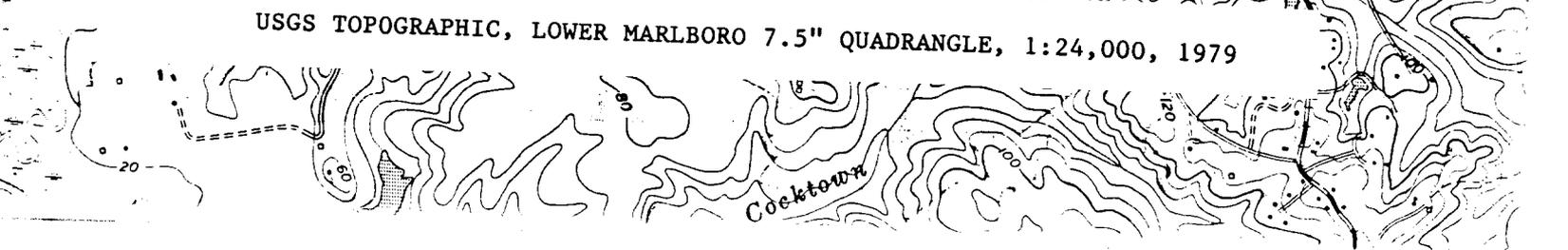
FLOORED ABOVE
GROUND
(WINDOWS CYCLONE
DOORS
BELOW) SET INTO
FLOORED
AREA

STAIRWAY
UNDER DOORS

SLAT + WIRE -
ENCLOSED
TOBACCO STICK
STORAGE
AREA



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





ET-1074 Hicks Barn "B"

Lower Marlboro

Tova L. Williamson

East

April, 1990