

CAPSULE SUMMARY CT-1111 PROUT BARN B

The Prout farm is located on Mt. Harmony Road, approximately one mile east of its intersection with Highway four in Dunkirk Maryland. Access to the farm is private. The farm is no longer growing tobacco. According to the owner, all of the old barns on the property were destroyed by a tornado ca. 1921. After this tornado, one barn was built of the remains of the old barns (Prout barn C; CT-1134). Three other barns on the property date to the years immediately following World War II. Prout barn B is one of the post World War II barns. Prout barn B is located to the north of the farm house. The roof axis is east-west. The barn measures forty-four by twenty-four feet and is divided into two section (one east and one west) by a twelve foot wide doorway aisle that transects the barn from north to south. A sixteen foot wide shed has been built onto the north facade. This shed has a twelve foot wide double door on its north facade situated in the same location as the original door of the north facade of the barn. The construction materials are all typical of the mid-late twentieth century. Ventilation is directly controlled in this barn by the sealing off of the area beneath the sill, the blocking of the eaves, and the existence of multiple ventilation doors.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Prout Barn B

## 2. Location

street & number W. Mt. Harmony Rd.  not for publicationcity, town Owings  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: storage

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

name Prout Farm

street &amp; number W. Mt. Harmony Rd. telephone no.: 257-3782

city, town Owings state and zip code MD 20736

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber ABE 330

street &amp; number Main Street (MD 765) folio 25

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-1111

**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-1111

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-1111 PROUT BARN B

The Prout farm is located on Mt. Harmony Road, approximately one mile east of its intersection with Highway four in Dunkirk Maryland. The farm is no longer growing tobacco. The farm house dates to the early nineteenth century and is named Elmwood. According to the owner, all of the old barns on the property were destroyed by a tornado ca. 1921. After this tornado, one barn was built of the remains of the old barns (Prout barn C; CT-1134). Three other barns on the property date to the years immediately following World War II. Prout barn B is one of the post World War II barns. Prout barn B is located to the north of the farm house. The barn measures forty-four by twenty-four feet and is divided into four eight foot bays and one twelve foot wide doorway aisle. A sixteen foot wide shed has been built onto the north facade. This shed has twelve foot wide double door on its north facade situated in the same location as the original door of the north facade of the barn.

There is a twelve foot wide double door on the south side of the barn facade, and pintel holes on the north side of the barn facade where a corresponding door once stood. The twelve foot wide north-south aisle divides the barn into east and west sections. The east sixteen foot wide section of the barn is floored above and has a room excavated beneath it. This room is a workshop/storage area built of concrete block and is accessed by an exterior door on the east side of the barn. Above the room the section is floored two feet above ground. The west section of the barn is designed exclusively for hanging tobacco. The barn frame is supported on cinder block masonry piers. It is a light timber frame with circular sawn lumber toe-nailed with wire nails. Queen braces from the tie beams to the second tier pole level provide bracing in addition to the down braces.

Plain vertical wall siding with hinged ventilation doors covers the exterior. There are three doors on the west gable end, three on the east gable end, and four on the south facade. The siding extends below the sill to the ground, and the eaves of the barn are blocked by an extra board nailed between the rafters and the false plate. The north side of the barn was once sided, but this was removed with the addition of the shed. The roof rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. There are two windbraces on the west end diagonals and two collars that support the roof. Standing seam metal covers the roof. The top plate is a circular sawn plate formed of two two by six inch timbers nailed together in an inverted L shape. The tier poles are separated by forty-three inches vertical distance and are circular sawn timbers. The posts down the central axis are circular sawn and have wooden blocks nailed to their sides on which the tier poles are supported.

## 7. DESCRIPTION CT-1111 PROUT BARN B

There is a sixteen foot wide shed addition on the north side, built into the slope that descends to the northeast. The frame of this shed is supported on concrete block masonry piers. The construction materials and techniques are the same as those in the barn. Vertical wall siding covers the exterior. There are five hinged ventilation doors on the north side. The north side of the barn is sided and enclosed beneath the sill. There is an enclosed partially underground stripping room in the northeast corner of the shed. It is floored eight feet above ground, and excavated approximately two feet below ground level. A door leads into the stripping room from the west shed. There is electricity and fluorescent lighting in this stripping room.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1111 PROUT BARN B

This barn is architecturally significant for a variety of reasons. An date of the mid-late 1940's is given for the construction of the barn. Since this barn is dated, it can serve as a gauge for the interpretation of other similar barns for which there is no known date. In addition, the barn is one of a group of structures documented on the same property. The relationships between these barns including their different construction materials and techniques provide valuable data for the interpretation of the evolution of barn construction and tobacco agriculture in Southern Maryland. There is a marked attempt to control ventilation in this barn. There are many hinged ventilation doors and the sills and eaves are blocked off from ventilation. This tendency is typical of barns built during the mid-late twentieth century. Despite its recent date the barn is not the long, narrow gable end aisle plan barn often seen during this period. Rather the barn retains doors on the facades and has one aisle opposite the roof axis that divides the barn in two sections.

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.

Historical Period theme(s): ca. 1946-; Tobacco; Agriculture  
Geographical Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert  
Cty MD  
Chronological/Developmental Period: 1946-Present  
Resource Type(s): Tobacco Barn

According to the owner, this barn was built in the years immediately following World War II. The shed is probably an addition. This conclusion is drawn from the fact that the north wall of the barn was once sided and once had a door, both of which have been removed. The enclosed partially underground stripping room in the northeast side of the shed is therefore also an addition.

#2084 /CT-1111 /Prout Barn B

Prout Farm, W. Mt Harmony Rd., Owings MD 20639 257-3782  
Rt. 4 south from Dunkirk to left on Mt. Harmony Rd. 1/4 mile to  
Elmwood on left. Barn is located behind (to north) of house.

Private ownership

Occupied

PM and TW recorders

Rain

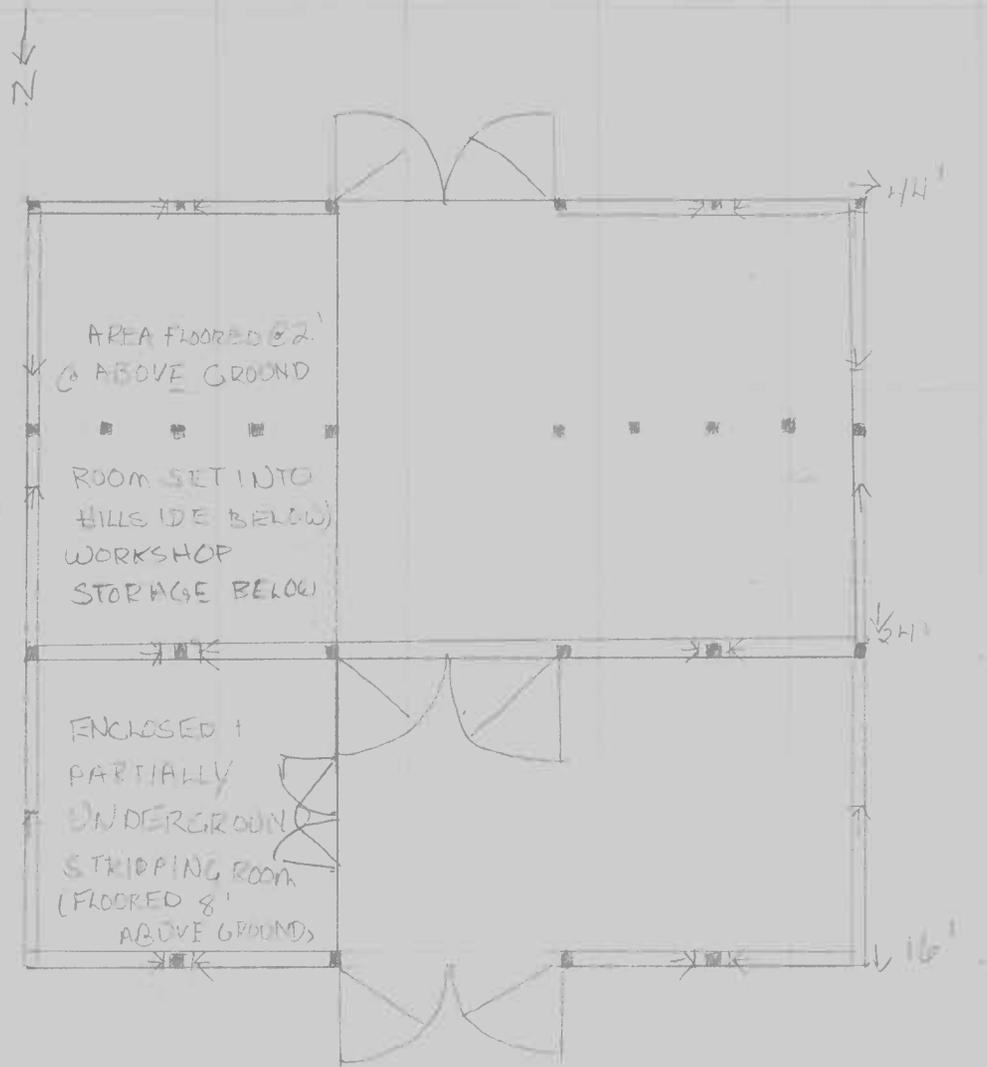
Unaltered, Original site

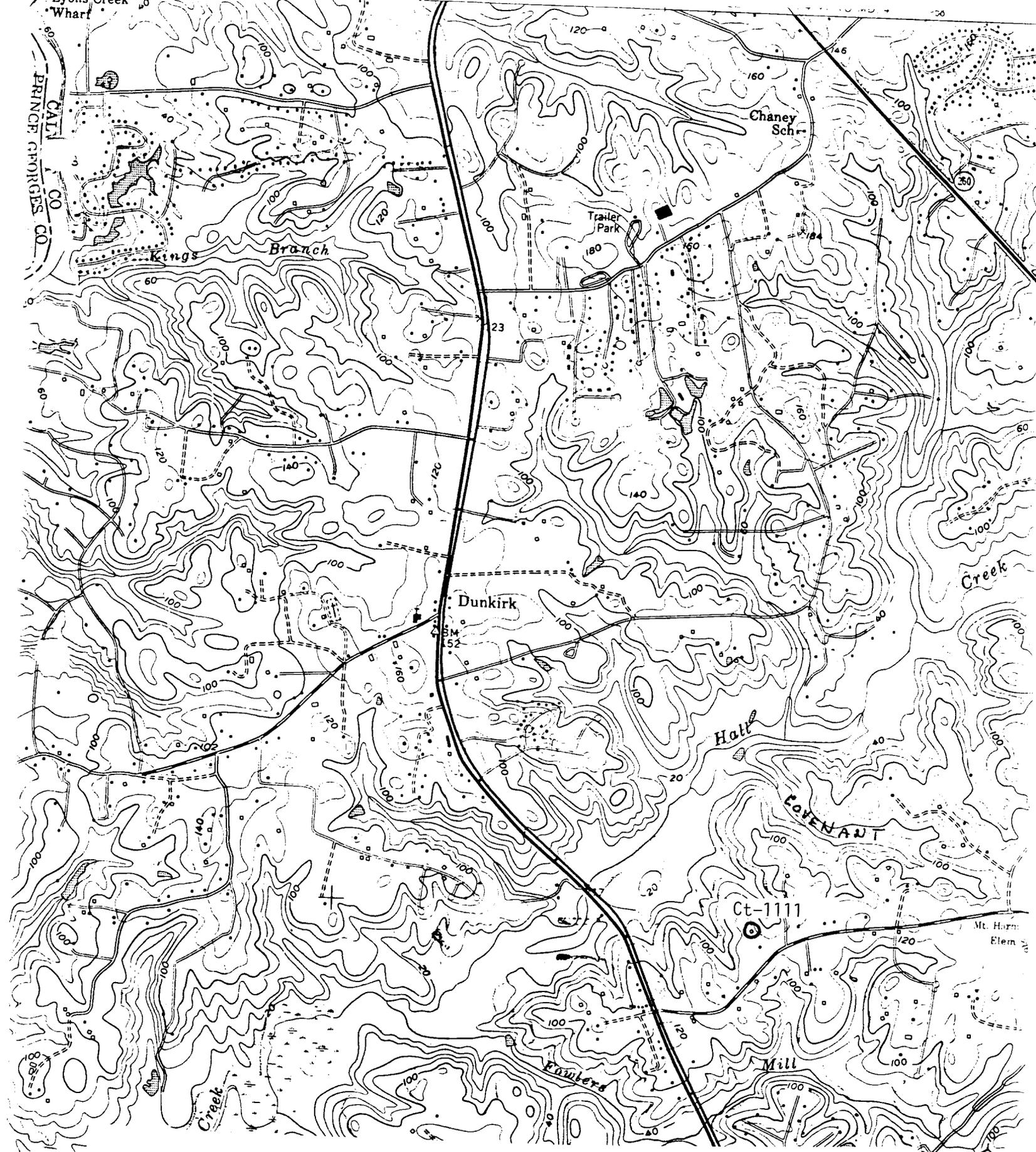
Excellent condition

There were doors in the posts on the north side. The easternmost sixteen feet of the barn is floored above and has a room excavated beneath it that is set into the hillside below. This room is a workshop/storage area built of concrete block and is accessed by an exterior door on the east side of the barn. Frame is supported on cinder block masonry piers. Light timbers frame with circular sawn lumber toe-nailed with wire nails. Queen braces from the tie beams to the second tier pole level provide additional bracing. Plain vertical wall siding with hinged ventilation doors covers the exterior. Three doors on west, three on east, four on south. The siding extends below the sill to the ground, and the eaves of the barn are blocked by extra board nailed between the rafters and the false plate. The north side of the barn was once sided. The roof rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. There are two windbraces on the west end diagonals and two collars that support the roof. Standing seam metal covers the roof. The top plate is a circular sawn plate formed of two two by six inch timbers nailed together in an inverted L shape. The tier poles are separated by forty-three inches vertical distance and are circular sawn timbers. The posts down the central axis are circular sawn and have wooden blocks nailed to their sides on which the tier poles are supported.

There is a shed on the north side, built into a descending slope. The frame of this shed is supported on concrete block masonry piers. The construction materials and techniques are the same as those in the barn. Vertical wall siding covers the exterior. There are five hinged ventilation doors on the north side. The north side of the barn is sided and enclosed beneath the sill. The shed is an addition. There is an enclosed partially underground stripping room in the northeast corner of the shed. It is floored eight feet above ground.

BARN # 2084  
CT-1111





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

Fairview  
Chaneyville  
18



CT-1111 Prout Run B

Chancyville

Tora W. Williamson

Southwest

Nov. 1990