

CAPSULE SUMMARY CT-1112 MEADOR BARN

This barn is located at the Meador property on Mt. Harmony Road, approximately one mile from its intersection with Maryland highway four near Dunkirk Maryland. Access is private. The barn is to the northwest of the early twentieth century stucco farm house. The farm road passes by the west side of the house and leads up to the east gable end of the barn. The barn is oriented on an east-west axis. The house and farm were originally owned by the Gibson family, but were purchased by the Meadors in the 1960s. The barn dates to the ante-bellum period. Portions of its original horizontal siding remain, and its forty by twenty-four foot measurement and transverse axis plan are typical of this period. Hewn timbers and early machine cut nails were used in its construction. There is a shed on the south side that currently measures twenty feet wide. This south shed is largely rebuilt, but evidence indicates that there was previously a south shed with a loft on the barn.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Meador Barn

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 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 Richard Meador

street & number Mt. Harmony Rd. telephone no.: 257-7490

city, town Owings state and zip code MD 20736

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Main Street (MD 765) folio

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-1112

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-1112

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 checked="" 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-1112

This barn is located at the Meador property on Mt. Harmony Road, approximately one mile from its intersection with Maryland highway four. The farm is on the north side of Mt. Harmony Road. The barn is to the northwest of the early twentieth century stucco farm house. The farm road passes by the west side of the house and leads up to the east gable end of the barn. The barn is oriented on an east-west axis. The house and farm were originally owned by the Gibson family, but were purchased by the Meadors in the 1960s. The barn is significantly older than the house. Brick foundations for the earlier nineteenth-century farm house are extant immediately to the east of the current farm house location. The barn dates to the ante-bellum period. Portions of its original horizontal siding remain, and its forty by twenty-four foot measurement and transverse axis plan are typical of this period. Hewn timbers and fully mature machine cut nails were used in its construction. There is a shed on the south side that currently measures twenty feet wide. This south shed is largely rebuilt, but evidence indicates that there was previously a south shed with a loft on the barn.

The barn is divided into four eight foot bays. Double doors are centered on the north and south facades and single four foot wide doors are centered on the gable ends. Cinder block masonry piers support the frame. These piers probably replace wooden blocks, portions of which are still visible. The internal posts are hand hewn and pit sawn. They measure eight by six inches, and are joined via mortise and tenon joints with trunnels. The corner posts are larger, measuring eight by eight inches but are also hewn and joined via mortise and tenon with trunnels. Fully mature machine cut nails attach the down braces to the sill. The down braces measure four by eight inches and are pit sawn. The original sill remains on the south side. It is hand hewn and measures eight by eleven inches. On the north side the old sill has been pushed inside the barn and a new sill has been set in its place. The sill on the east side is a re-used top plate. It has stud mortises on two foot centers on both the top and bottom. This was probably the original top plate for the east gable end. The center of the barn has two tie beams with mortises on two foot centers. These are also probably re-used plates and/or sills. The horizontal nailing rails are hand hewn and pit sawn. They measure four by three and one half inches and are mortised into the posts. There are studs still extant in the west gable end of the barn above the top plate. There are no mortises visible in the lower part of this top plate. The top plate here is probably a replacement. The north top plate has stud mortises on two foot centers. The south facade has studs remaining in place. The east gable end has stud mortises in the sill but the top plate has been replaced. There are no extant studs in the east gable end.

There are extant riven clapboards on the south side of the barn. These clapboards have been protected by a south shed and this explains why they remain. The clapboards have staggered seams and

7. DESCRIPTION (CONT.) CT-1112

early cut nails with hand-wrought heads holding them in place. The clapboards have graffiti on them. The name "Mr. James I.M How" is carved into the clapboards immediately to the east of the door. This carving is weathered and probably dates to the period before the addition of the south shed. The hand-writing is in cursive and has flourishes typical of the nineteenth century. Also carved into the clapboards next to the initials of Mr. How is an unweathered message: "Becky Wuz here 8 + 1882". This carving is printed and was probably done either by a child or an uneducated person. The 1882 message probably dates to the period after the addition of the shed since it is unweathered. The east, west and north sides of the barn are all covered with vertical wall siding although they were originally sided with horizontal siding as evidence by the studs mortises in their top plates and/or sills. There are shingle nailers underneath the standing seam metal roof indicating that the roof was originally shingled. The roof rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. There are windbraces on the southwest, northwest, and northeast diagonals, but none at the southeast diagonal. Four collars and king posts in each four foot room help to support the roof. The tier poles are peeled logs separated by forty-two and one half inches. The separation between them has been changed. The old vertical distance was thirty-nine inches. There are poles down the central axis with holes drilled out of them for the insertion of pegs on which the tier poles rested. Bracing has been added to the barn. This bracing consists of circular sawn V braces from the tie beam to the second tier pole level and circular sawn V braces from the top of the tie beam to above the second collar.

The south shed was built before 1882 when Becky wrote her unweathered message, but after the barn was built, as evidence by the weathered inscription of Mr. How. The top plate on the west gable end of the shed has mortises on two foot centers, indicating that the shed was probably originally covered with horizontal siding. This is one of the few remaining original timbers. There is a built-in ladder of hewn timber, attached with cut nails on the west wall of the south shed, that ascends to the level above the tie beams. There are empty mortises in the posts of the barn on four foot centers at nine feet above ground level (the original shed tie beam level). These mortises probably once held the original tie beams/joists that may have supported a floored hay-loft to which the ladder led.

The shed has been almost entirely rebuilt. The original posts, tie beams and rafters have all been removed. All of the rafters and tie beams are new, as are the posts, nailers, and siding. These timbers are all circular sawn and attached with wire nails. It is likely that with the re-building of the shed it was enlarged to its

7. DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED) CT-1112

current twenty feet. The posts are earth-fast poles separated into four ten foot wide bays. Some are telephone poles and some are pressure treated lumber. The shed joins with the barn immediately below the rafters of the barn. The roof is covered with standing seam metal. The siding on the east and west walls of the shed is plain vertical wall siding. The south side is open-air.

8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1112 MEADOR BARN

This barn is architecturally significant because of the clarity of its chronology. The initial construction of the barn dates to the ante-bellum period ca. 1815-1830 as evidenced by the hewn timbers and early cut nails. The original barn had no shed on the south side. Sometime prior to 1882 a shed was added to the south side. This shed had horizontal siding and a floored loft on the upper levels. The ladder leading to this loft still remains. During the twentieth century the south shed was expanded and entirely rebuilt. The forty by twenty-four foot cross-axial plan and steeply pitched roof are typical of the nineteenth century. Barns with remaining horizontal siding are not frequently encountered. The name of Mr. How provides us, possibly, with the original owners of the barn.

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. 1815-1830; Tobacco; Agriculture
Geographical Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert Cty MD
Chronological/Developmental Period: ca.1815-Present
Resource Type(s): Tobacco Barn; Loft

This barn has changed over the years. Much internal rebuilding has taken place as evidenced by the replacements of many of the original sills and/or top plates. The sill on the north side has been replaced and no longer extends across the doorway. The studs and horizontal siding have been removed from all but the south side of the barn, but there is evidence that it was once extant on all sides. The doors and basic plan have remained essentially unchanged. The vertical spacing between the tier poles has been enlarged supposedly in order to accommodate the larger tobacco plants that the use of fertilizers and modern agricultural techniques yielded. The original barn had no shed on the south side. Sometime prior to 1882 a south shed with a hay loft was added. This shed has been mostly removed and replaced by the modern twenty foot wide south shed.

CT-1112 - #2085 - 4/5/90 - Meador Barn

Richard Meador, Mt. Harmony Rd., Owings MD
Rt. 4 South of Dunkirk, left of Mt. Harmony Rd. approx. 1 mile to
white stucco house set back from road. Barn and corncrib behind
house.

PM and TW recorders

Weather: Rain

Altered, original site

Deteriorated condition

Cinder block masonry piers support the frame. The posts are hand hewn eight by six inches, pit sawn and joined via mortise and tenon with trunnels. Corner posts larger. Fully mature machine cut nails. Down braces four by eight inches, pit sawn. Sill hand hewn except north side-old sill pushed inside barn and new sill in its place. Sill on south side is eleven by eight inches, hewn. Sill on east side is re-used top plate has mortises for a gable end in it. The center of the barn has tie beams with mortises on two foot centers -- probably re-used plate. The horizontal nailing rails are hand hewn and pit sane four by three and one half inch timbers mortised into the posts. There are studs still extant in the west gable end of the barn above the top plate. There are no mortises in the lower part of this top plate -- possibly replacement. The north top plate has stud mortises on two foot centers. The south facade has studs remaining. The east gable end has stud mortises in the sill but the top plate has been replaced and there are no studs in the gable either. There are extant riven clapboards on the south side of the barn underneath the shed. These clapboards have staggered seams and early cut nails with hand-wrought heads holding them in place. These extant clapboards have graffiti on them. The name of "Mr. James I.M How" is carved into the boards. This carving is weathered and probably dates to the period before the addition of the shed. Also carved into the clapboards and unweathered is the following message: "Becky wuz here 8 + 1882". The 1882 message probably dates to the period after the addition of the shed. The east, west and north sides of the barn are all covered with vertical wall siding although they were probably originally sided with horizontal siding. There are shingle nailers underneath the standing seam metal roof. The roof rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. There are windbraces on the southwest, northwest, and northeast diagonals, but none at the southeast diagonal. Four collars and king posts support the roof. The tier poles are peeled logs separated by forty-two and one half inches. The separation between them has been changed. The old vertical distance was thirty-nine inches. There are poles down the central axis with holes drilled out of them for the insertion of pegs on which the tier poles rested. Addition bracing has been added to the barn consisting of circular sawn braces from the tie beam to the second tier pole level and v braces from the top of the tie beam to above the second collar.

The south shed was built before 1882 but after the barn. The posts are earth-fast peeled logs. Many of them are replacements. Some

CT-1112

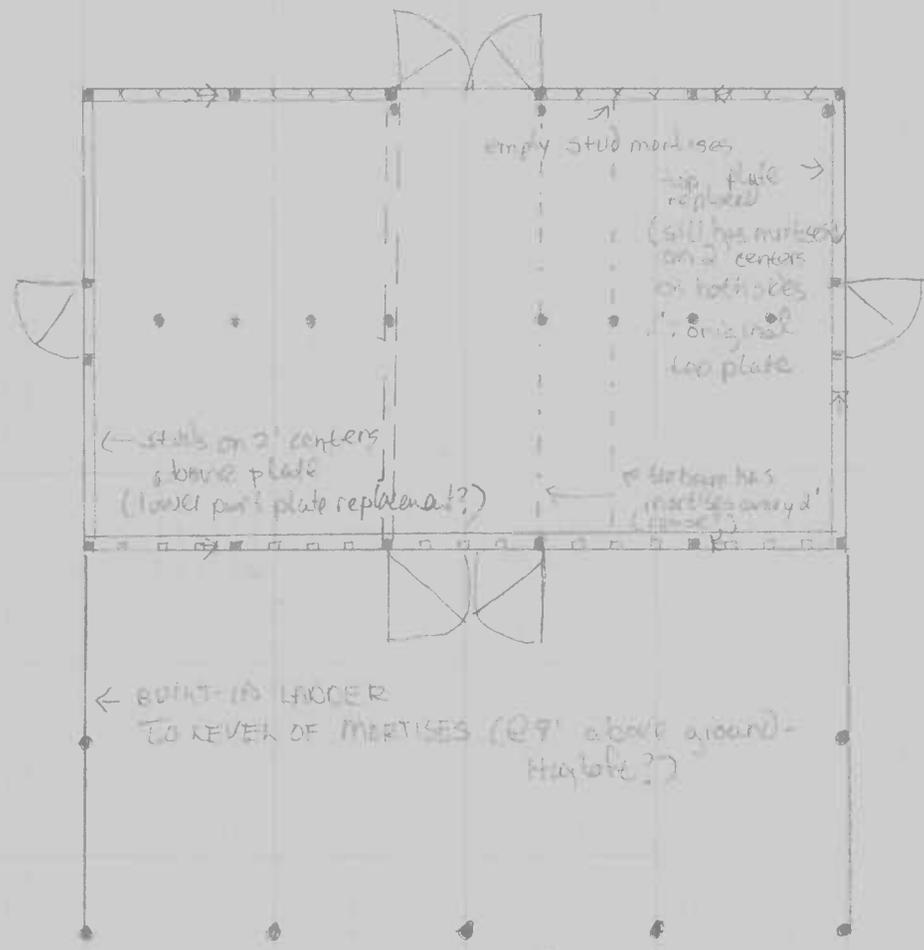
are telephone poles and some are pressure treated lumber, but their locations are original. The visible nailers and siding and nails in the shed are circular sawn and wire nails. The tie beams and rafters are all circular sawn timbers. The shed joins with the barn immediately below the rafters of the barn. The top plates on the gable ends of the shed have mortises on two foot centers. The roof is covered with standing seam metal. The siding on the shed is plain vertical wall siding. The south side is open-air. There is a built-in ladder on the west wall of the south shed that ascends to the level above the tie beams. There are empty mortises in the posts of the barn on four foot centers at the nine foot above ground level. These mortises probably once held the original tie beams/ joists that supported a floored hay-loft. These timbers are gone. Much of the shed has been re-built.

BARN # 3085 5/4/90

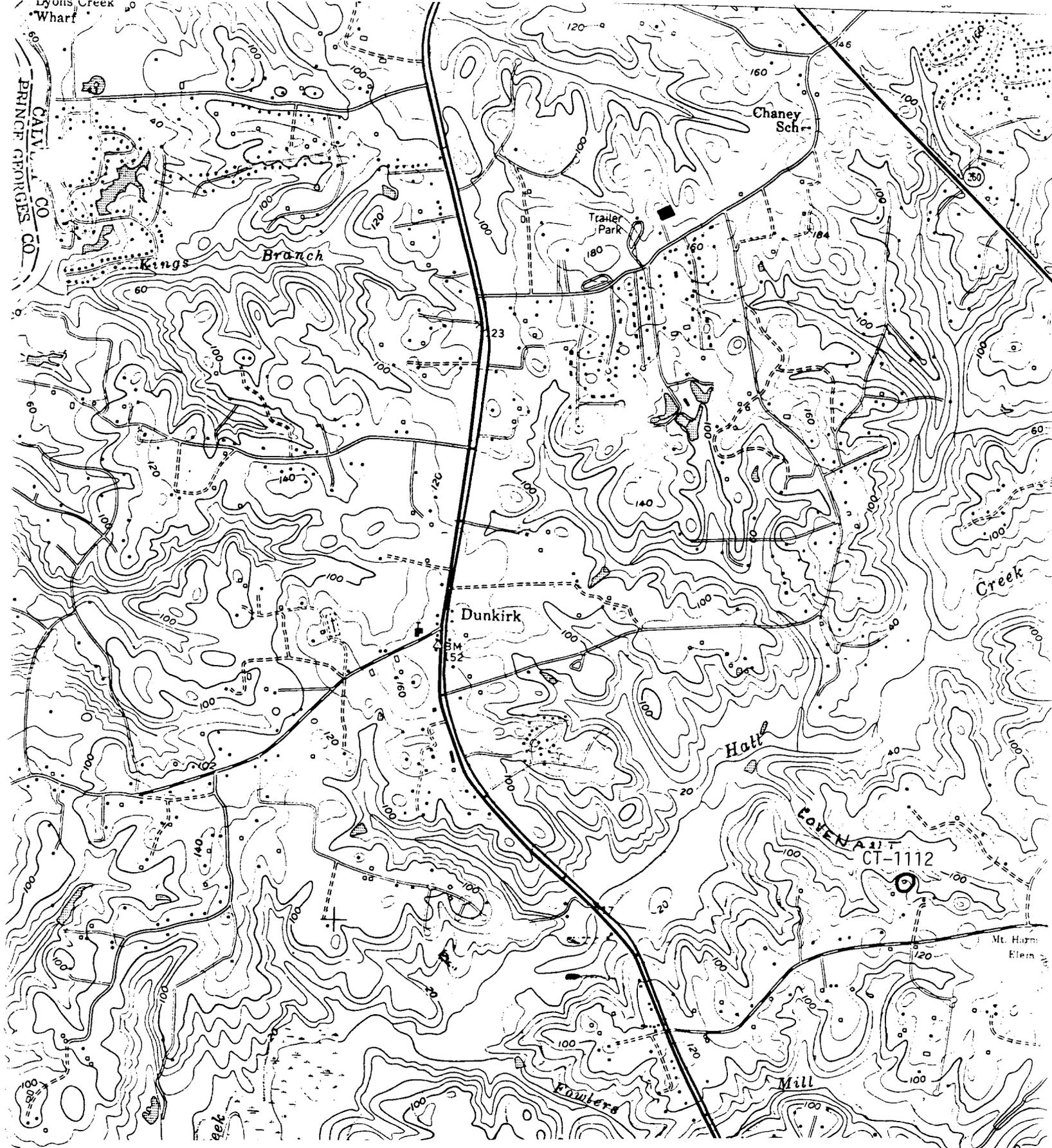


CT-1112

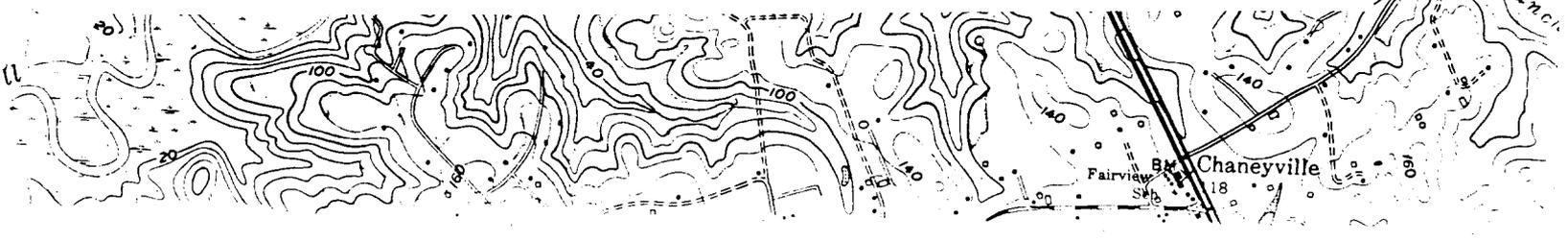
x = empty stud mortise in top plate
□ = stud
- - - - element removed



← BUILT-IN LADDER
TO LEVEL OF MORTISES (@ 9' above ground -
height?)



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





ET 1112

MEADOR BARN

HUNTINGTOWN

JORA L. WILLIAMSEN

NORTH EAST

MAY 1990