

CAPSULE SUMMARY CT-1114

Wesley Hall barn A is located on Sandy Point Road in southern Calvert county. At the bottom of the hill that descends to the river plains, one turns left into the Hall's driveway. Access is private. Barn A is located on the west side of the farm road to the south of the house. The barn is oriented on a north-south axis and has sheds on all four sides. The barn measures thirty-four by twenty feet and the four sheds range from ten to fourteen feet wide. There are eight foot wide double doors centered on the facades of the east, west, and north sheds, and one single four foot wide door into the south shed. According to Mr. Wesley Hall (85-90 years old), the barn was moved to its present location from a location near the river approximately 130 years ago by his father and uncle. Mr. Hall states his father was around twenty years old when the barn was moved. The barn is therefore, quite possibly older than the fully mature machine cut nails indicate. Indeed, much of the construction techniques and materials used in this barn are unusual and possibly indicate an earlier date.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Wesley Hall Barn A

2. Location

street & number off Sandy Point Road on Norwood Road not for publicationcity, town Bowens 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 Mr. Wesley Hall

street & number Sandy Point Road telephone no.: 535-1346

city, town Bowens state and zip code MD

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-1114

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-1114

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-1114

Wesley Hall barn A is located on Sandy Point Road in southern Calvert county. From highway four in Prince Frederick, it is reached by taking highway 231 west to highway 508. A right turn is then made on Sandy Point Road. approximately three miles down the road, near the river, is the Hall farm. At the bottom of the hill that descends to the river plains, one turns left into the Hall's driveway. There are two other, modern, gambrel-roofed barns located on the property on the east side of the farm road. Barn A is located on the west side of the farm road to the south of the house. The barn is oriented on a north-south axis and has sheds on all four sides. The barn measures thirty-four by twenty feet and the sour sheds range from ten to fourteen feet wide. There are eight foot wide double doors centered on the facades of the east, west, and north sheds, and one single four foot wide door into the south shed.

The barn is divided into a somewhat unusual bay system. The posts are separated by approximately eleven and one half feet and there are three of them on each facade. The gable ends of the barn have one post centered at the ten foot intermediate mark. Wooden blocks have been inserted underneath the sill and support the extremely heavy timber frame. The sill measures eleven by twelve inches, and is hewn and pit sawn. The sill junctions at the south end of the barn are interesting. Here the sills are laid on top of each other and the bottom one is lopped off in such a fashion as to form a pencil-shaped pointed corner. The sill has been cut out between the two central posts of the east and west facades of the barn, supposedly in order to allow vehicle access to the interior of the barn.

The posts are larger than those in most nineteenth-century barns and a cruder technique is employed in the construction. The northeast, southwest and southeast posts have been squared off. The rest of the posts are simply fourteen inch diameter trees with the bark peeled off that have not been squared at all. They are joined via mortise and tenon joints with trunnels. The down braces measure four by six inches, are hewn and dovetailed to the sill. Additional cross-bracing and support has been added to the north gable end of the barn. There are some nails with wrought heads remaining in the down braces, whether they are cut nails or hand-wrought could not be determined. The visible nails that could be exactly dated were all fully mature machine cut nails. There is no internal cross sill. There are peeled log horizontal rails approximately six inches in diameter along the sides of the barn on which the tier poles rest.

Plain vertical wall siding covers the exterior walls of the barn. There are some inserted hinged ventilation doors on the east, south, and north sides. The barn roof has wooden shingle nailers in place underneath a corrugated metal covering on the eastern half. The western half of the barn roof has been rebuilt and is

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1114 (CONT.)

covered with standing seam metal. The rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. There are two windbraces on the diagonals of the barn roof. Three collars also support the roof. Tier poles are peeled logs separated by four feet horizontal and three feet vertical distance. The poles down the central axis have been sawn off above ground, probably to permit greater vehicle access. One pole remains in the southern section of the barn. Evidence indicates that there were originally only three poles, separated by eight feet between. The south, north and east sheds are all original. North and south sheds are twelve feet wide and the east shed is sixteen feet wide. The ten foot wide west shed is a later addition. There is evidence that the west walls of the north and south sheds were once totally enclosed with siding. There are double doors centered along the walls of the sheds on the north and west sides, and there are pintel holes in the central posts of the east shed wall indicating that a double door was once located here also. The south shed has one four foot wide door in the southeast section. The bays of the sheds measure from eight to twelve feet on average.

Mr. Hall states that he placed the frame of the sheds on sills and inserted concrete blocks in order to replace the rotting earth-fast posts. In the original sheds, many of the timbers are circular sawn replacements and some are original pit sawn timbers. A combination of wire and fully mature cut nails are visible in the three original sheds. The west shed addition uses only circular sawn lumber and wire nails, but the top plate is hewn. The hewn top plate may be the result of re-use of an earlier timber. According to Mr. Hall, the barn originally had three sheds and the name for this type of barn was a "bonnet" barn, as it resembled a woman's bonnet. Corrugated metal covers the roof of the original north, south and east sheds. The roof on the added west shed is of standing seam metal. There are portions of a horizontal screw tobacco prize remaining in the south shed.

There is a nine by fourteen foot enclosed stripping shed built on to the southeast corner of the east facade. A five foot high door leads from the east shed of the barn into this stripping shed. The stripping shed is of circular sawn lumber and wire nails. It has largely deteriorated -- the roof is collapsed, and a tree has grown up inside of it. It was lined with tar paper and sided with narrow tightly fit boards. A pig pen was added to the east shed sometime during the twentieth century.

8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1114

This barn is architecturally significant both for its unusual construction, the oral history gathered about it, and for its early date. The owner states that the barn was moved approximately one hundred thirty years ago. This dates the moving of the barn to no later than 1860. This date is consistent with the date of the fully mature cut nails visible joining the frame of the barn. However, certain elements make the barn appear to be of an older date. The workmanship employs extremely large timbers and solid joints. In addition, the bay system and materials are unusual. The eleven and one half foot bays have not been seen in any other barn recorded by this survey. Neither have the large peeled logs for posts been seen. Also unusual is the use of peeled logs for horizontal rails. Generally the horizontal rails and posts are squared-off hewn timbers in nineteenth century barns. Also unusual is the pointed end created by the joining of the two sills. Such workmanship has not been witnessed previously. There are some nails with wrought heads visible in the down-braces. These nails could not be removed in order to determine if they had cut or hand-wrought shafts.

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.

According to Mr. Wesley Hall (85-90 years old), the barn was moved to its present location from a location near the river approximately 130 years ago by his father and uncle. Mr. Hall states his father was around twenty years old when the barn was moved. The barn is therefore, quite possibly older than the fully mature machine cut nails indicate. The land that the barn was moved from belonged to the Hammett family. Mr. Hall states that he believes the barn is around two hundred years old. The barn has not undergone very many changes. The most significant are the addition of a shed on the west side and the re-building of the west half of the roof.

8. SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED) CT-1114

When the shed was added to the west side the siding was removed from the west wall of the north and south sheds. Other changes include the removal of the sill from across the doorway and the addition of a stripping shed to the southeast corner of the east shed. The barn is now used solely for storage and is deteriorating.

Barn #2087/CT-1114

Wesley Hall, Sandy Point Rd., owner

Directions: Highway 4 to 231 west to 508 south. Turn right on Sandy Point Rd., and at bottom of hill turn left into driveway. Two other, modern gambrel-roofed barns are located on the property on the east side of the farm road. Barn A is located on the west side of the farm road to the south of the house. According to Mr. Wesley Hall (approximately 80 years old), the barn was moved to its present location from a location near the river approximately 130 years ago by his father and uncle. Mr. Hall states his father was around twenty years old when the barn was moved. The barn is therefore, quite possibly older than the nails indicate as it was moved. The land that the barn was moved from belonged to the Hammett family. Mr. Hall states that he believes the barn is around two hundred years old.

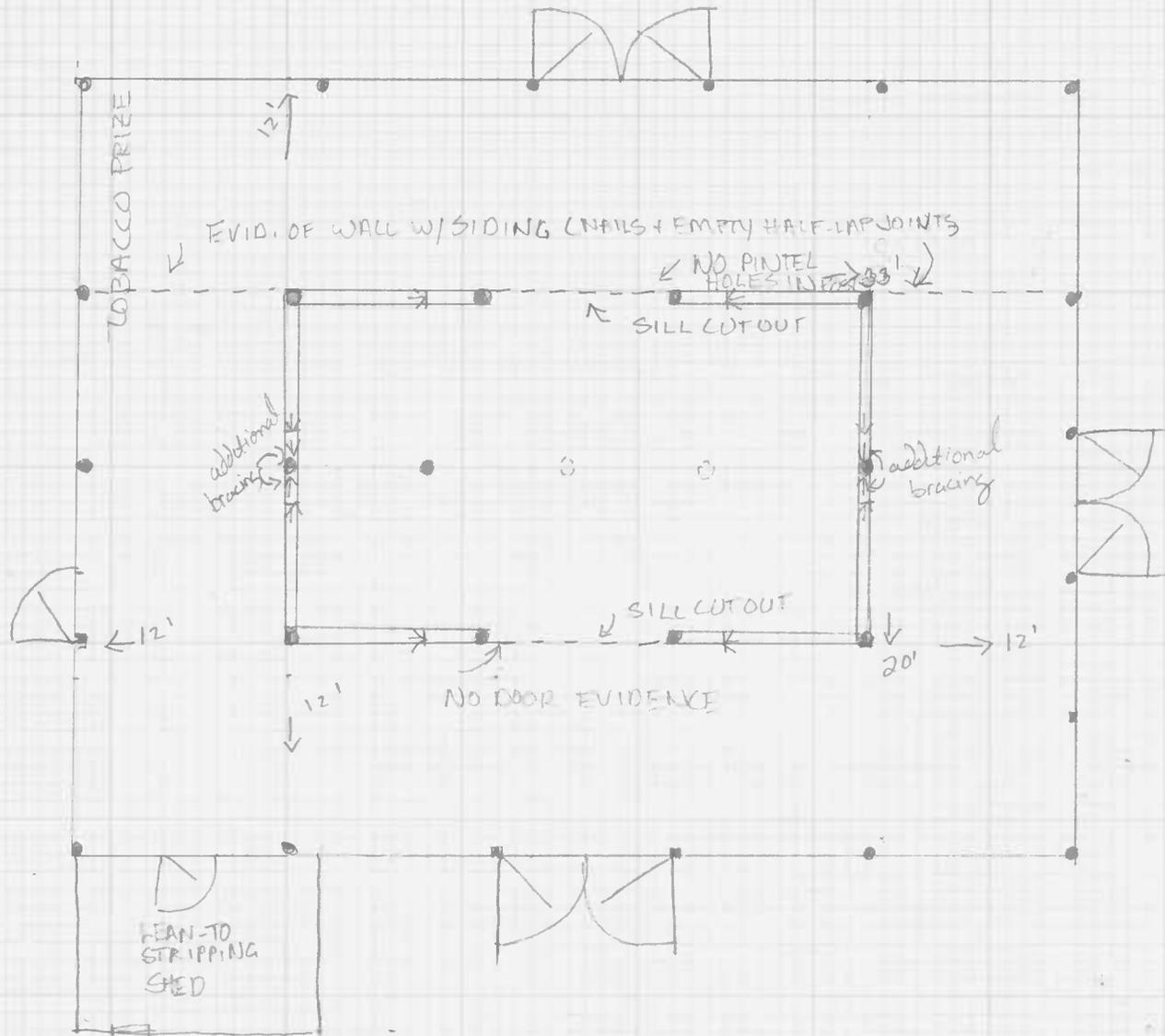
Wooden blocks have been inserted underneath the sill and support the frame. The sill measures eleven by twelve inches, is hewn. The side-view of the sill is interesting, as it is lopped off in such a fashion as to form an almost pencil--pointed corner. The posts are peeled cedar logs two feet four inches in diameter. They are joined via mortise and tenon with trunnel joints. The down braces measure four by six inches, are hewn and dovetailed. There is no cross sill. The horizontal nailing rails are also peeled logs approximately six inches in diameter. There are some nails with wrought heads remaining in the down braces, whether they are cut nails or hand-wrought could not be determined without removing them and it was judged best not to do so as they are serving a purpose.

Plain vertical wall siding covers the exterior of the barn. There are some inserted hinged ventilation doors on the east, south, and north sides. The roof has wooden shingle nailers in place on the eastern half of the barn roof, in addition to the south, north and east shed roofs. Corrugated metal covers the roof of the barn and the north, south and east sheds. The west half of the barn and the west shed have been re-roofed with a standing seam metal roof. The rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. There are two windbraces on diagonals of the barn. Three collars. Tier poles are peeled logs separated by four feet horizontal and three feet vertical distance. The poles down the central axis have been sawn off above ground, supposedly to permit greater vehicle access. The portions that remain indicate that they were peeled logs half-lapped with the tie beams. There are portions of a horizontal screw tobacco prize remaining in the south shed. There is an enclosed stripping shed built on to the southeast corner of the east facade. This stripping shed is of circular sawn lumber and wire nails. It has largely deteriorated -- the roof is collapsed, and a tree has grown up inside of it. It was lined with tar paper and sided with narrow tightly fit boards.

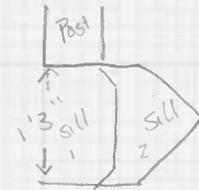
Sheds: sills set up on concrete blocks were added by Mr. Hall to replace earth-fast posts. Many members are circular sawn replacements some pit sawn timbers and a combination of wire and fully mature cut nails are visible in three original sheds. Only wire nails visible in east shed. Per Mr. Hall the barn originally had three sheds and the name for this type of barn was a "bonnet" barn.

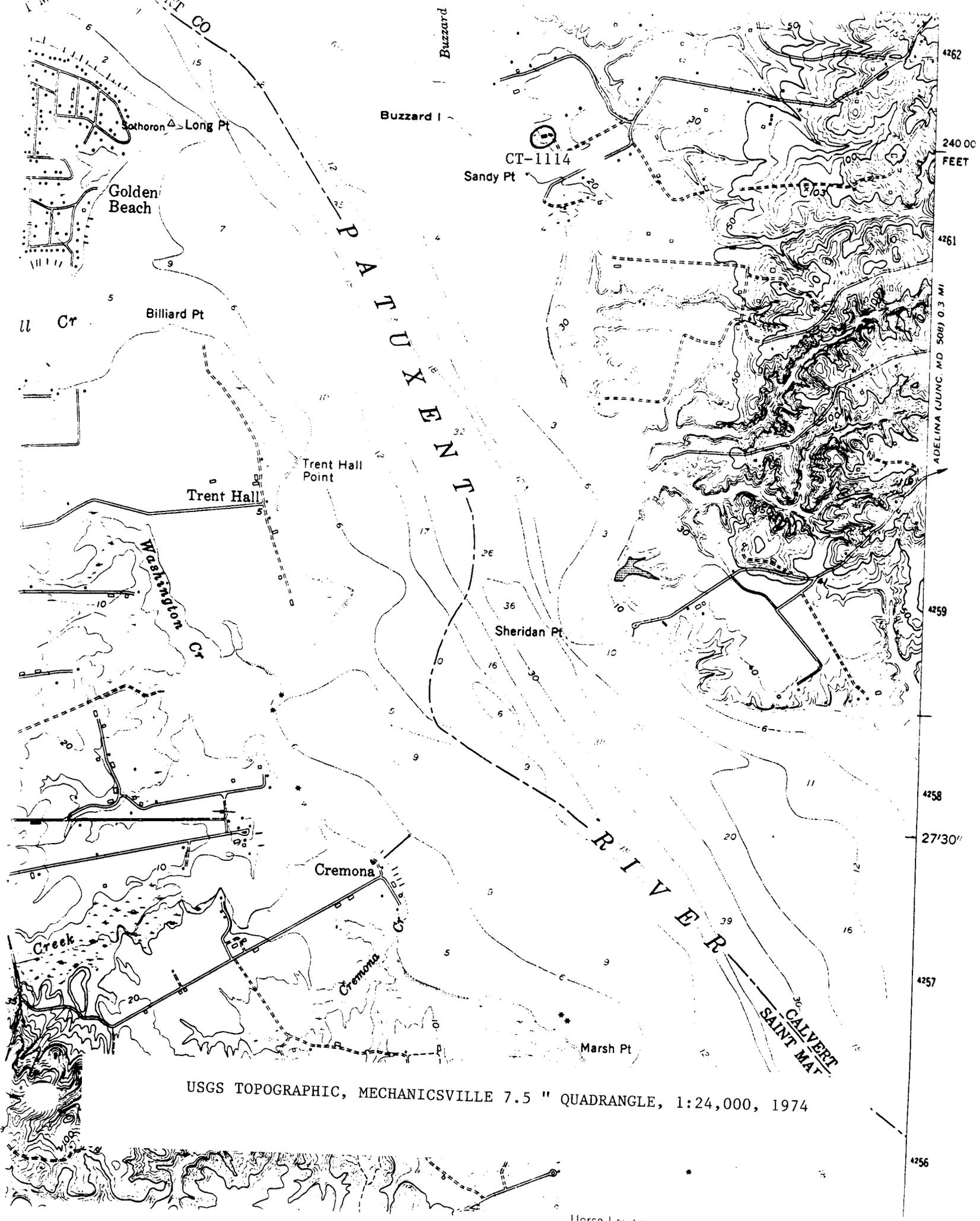
Pig pen added to east shed some time during the twentieth century. The entire barn is now used solely for storage.

BARN # 2087 - HALL BARN 5/7/90 → NTLW
 CT-1114



X-VIEW OF INTERSECTION
 SILLS AND POST AT
 CORNERS 3X SCALE





USGS TOPOGRAPHIC, MECHANICSVILLE 7.5 " QUADRANGLE, 1:24,000, 1974



CT-1114

W. Hall Barn 'A'

Sandy Point Rd / Browns Island

Tove L. Williamson

South

May 1990