

CAPSULE SUMMARY CT-1143

The Norfolk farm is located on the east side of highway four, just slightly south of Dunkirk town center. Access is private. The farm is relatively large, and once served as both a tobacco and dairy farm. The Norfolk family purchased the property in 1913 and moved here from the Lower Marlboro area, where Mr. Norfolk's father had been a tenant farmer. Norfolk barn B is on the east side of the highway, directly west of barn A. The farm road runs east off of the highway until it reaches the west gable end of barn B, then it turns and heads north. The original farm house is set on top of a hill, a little bit to the northwest of barn B. According to Mr. Norfolk, this barn was built in the 1930s. Norfolk barn B is built into a hillside that slopes down to the south. It has two levels and an open-air shed on the south side. The upper level was used to hang tobacco, and the lower level was a stripping area. The open-air shed was used to hang tobacco in its upper levels, and to house cattle in the lower portion. The barn measures forty-eight by thirty feet plus the thirty foot wide shed on its south side.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Norfolk Barn B

## 2. Location

street &amp; number (Highway 4 ) Southern Maryland Boulevard \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Dunkirk  Chaneyville 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	<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 Mr. Calvert Norfolk

street &amp; number So. Maryland Blvd. telephone no.: 257-6372

city, town Dunkirk state and zip code MD 20736

## 5. Location of Legal Description

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

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

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-1143

**Condition**

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered

altered

**Check one**

original site

moved

date of move \_\_\_\_\_

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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-1143

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.  
See Attachment.



## 7. DESCRIPTION CT-1143

The Norfolk farm is located on the east side of highway four, just slightly south of Dunkirk town center. The farm is relatively large, and once served as both a tobacco and dairy farm. The Norfolk family purchased the property in 1913 and moved here from the Lower Marlboro area, where Mr. Norfolk's father had been a tenant farmer. Norfolk barn B is on the east side of the highway. The farm road runs east off of the highway until it reaches the west gable end of barn B, then it turns and heads north. There are two other tobacco barns on the farm, one on the opposite side of highway four, to the west, and the other on the same side of highway four, just slightly to the east of barn A. There is also a dairy barn on the farm that is located to the north near the new farm house. The original farm house is set on top of a hill, a little bit to the northwest of barn B.

According to Mr. Norfolk, this barn was built in the 1930s. Norfolk barn B is built into a hillside that slopes down to the south. It has two levels and an open-air shed on the south side. The upper level was used to hang tobacco, and the lower level was a stripping area. The open-air shed was used to hang tobacco in its upper levels, and to house cattle in the lower portion. The barn measures forty-eight by thirty feet plus the thirty foot wide shed on its south side.

The upper level measures forty-eight by thirty feet. It is built onto the lower level of concrete blocks twelve feet above ground. It has a double door centered along its north facade, and two ten foot wide track doors built in to the northern corners of the east and west gable ends. The frame of the barn is supported on concrete block piers. All of the timbers are lightweight, circular sawn, and toenailed and half-lapped with wire nails. Plain vertical wall siding with hinged ventilation doors covers the exterior. The barn has a standing seam metal roof. Rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. The posts are toe-nailed to the top plate. There are poles down the central axis separated by four-eight feet between, out of which notches have been cut and internal supports are inserted. The tier poles are then placed on these supports. The tier poles are circular sawn and separated by forty-five inches vertical distance. There is a cyclone door in the southwest section of the barn that can be lifted and has stairs that lead down into the stripping room below. A chimney from the lower stripping room passes through this southwest section. There is a stairway centered along the south facade of the barn that leads from the open-air shed into the barn. Since it is an upper story, the barn is entirely floored.

The lower level also measures forty-eight by thirty feet. It is built entirely of concrete blocks. A double doorway is centered along its south facade. It is divided into three sections. The east section measures twenty-eight by thirty feet and has internal

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1143 (CONTINUED)

support walls with posts every four feet. This area was used for hanging storage and for housing cattle. The southwest corner of this section has a double doorway that leads into the stripping room. Stairs lead from this room to the upper story. There is a chimney that extends from this stripping room to the upper level. This chimney was for the propane heat that was used to heat the stripping room. The stripping room measures twenty by eighteen feet. Behind the stripping room is a holding room for tobacco that measures twelve by twenty feet. This holding room can be accessed through a four foot wide doorway from the stripping room, or through the large storage room adjacent to it to the east. The south wall of this lower level has five windows total. Three are associated with the eastern storage room, and two are associated with the stripping room.

There is a thirty foot wide shed that was built on to the southern facade of the barn in the 1940s. This open-air shed was used to hang tobacco. It is formed of two rows of earth-fast creosote pole posts. There is one row at fifteen feet south of the barn, and one at thirty feet south. The poles are separated into six ten foot wide bays. This shed has a metal roof and vertical siding.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1143

This barn is architecturally significant for a variety of reasons. The barn was built by Mr. Norfolk at a known date, ca. 1930, and the shed was added ca. 1940. The barn is unusual because it has two levels, and is built into the bank of the hillside. Also unusual is the extremely wide shed to the south. The barn was built with multiple uses in mind. Not only was tobacco to be hung here, but it also contained a stripping and holding room, and an internal area for hanging equipment and housing cattle. The addition of the shed to the south expanded the tobacco hanging capacity and also provided shelter for animals when necessary. Typical of its twentieth century date, the barn has an essentially axial plan which allows for vehicles to enter the barn, and it has strict control over ventilation through its multiple ventilation doors and blocked sill.

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. 1930-; Tobacco; Agriculture  
Geographical Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert  
Cty MD  
Chronological/Developmental Period: ca. 1930-Present  
Resource Type(s): Tobacco Barn

This barn has not changed significantly. The major changes are that the shed to the south was added ca. 1940, and that the barn is no longer used to cure tobacco. The sole purpose of the barn is now storage.

#2016 - Calvert Norfolk, owner. Private ownership, unoccupied, altered, good condition. Supported on concrete block piers. All timbers are lightweight, circular sawn, toenailed and half-lapped with wire nails. Plain vertical wall siding with hinged ventilation doors covers the exterior. Standing seam metal roof. Rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. The posts are toe-nailed to the top plate. The tier poles are circular sawn and separated by forty-five inches vertical distance. There are poles down the central axis out of which notches have been cut and internal supports are placed for the tiers.

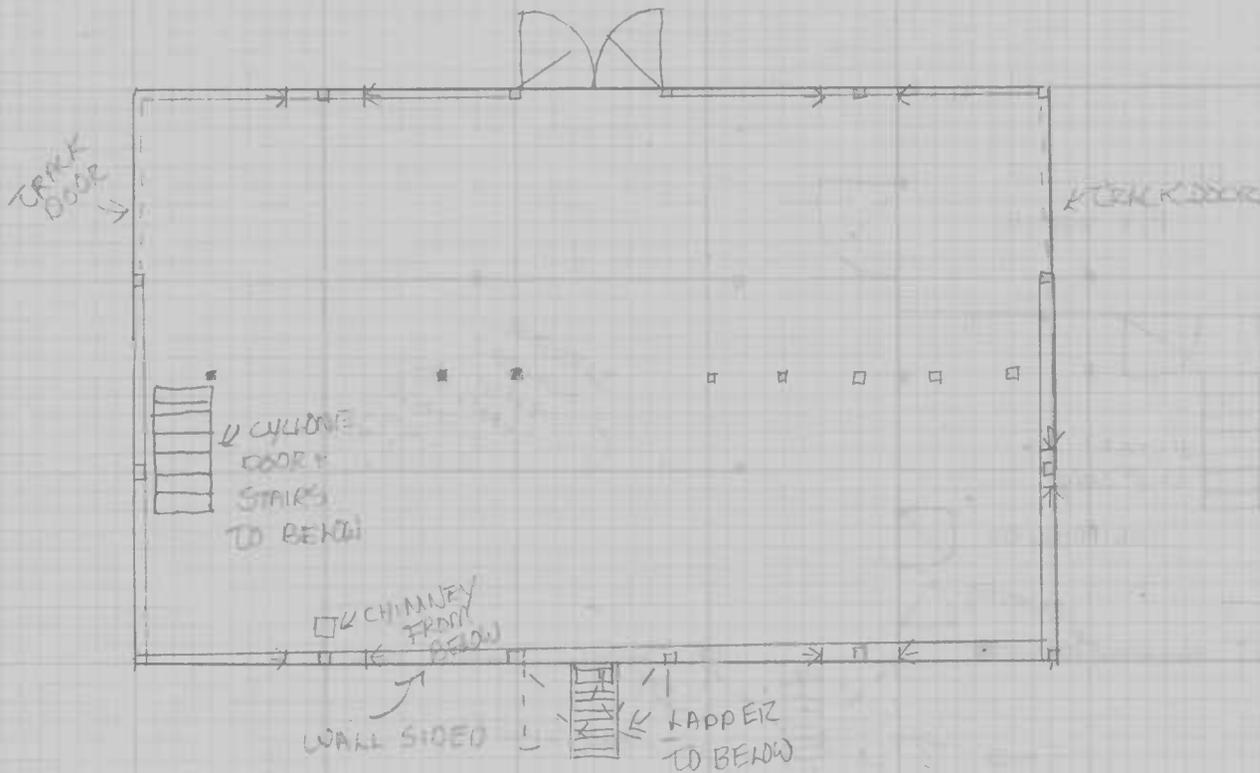
Barn served multiple purposes -- lower level used for cattle and to hang tobacco. The open-air section was used to hang tobacco and house cattle. It is formed of earth-fast principal posts, has a metal roof and vertical siding. The posts are creosote telephone poles. The lower level beneath the barn is an underground stripping structure built of cinder block. There is a cyclone door and stairs to the lower level in the second level, and a chimney that leads from the lower level through the second level. There are steps that ascend from the open-air shed to the second story.

Barn built in 1930s, shed added later (c. 1940). Barn located on east side of hwy. four, to the west of the farm house and barn A. The farm road runs past the west gable end. The barn is oriented on an east-west axis and built on a slight slope, that slopes down to the south.

CT-1143

BARN # 2016 NORFOLK BARN B

5/21/90 TD

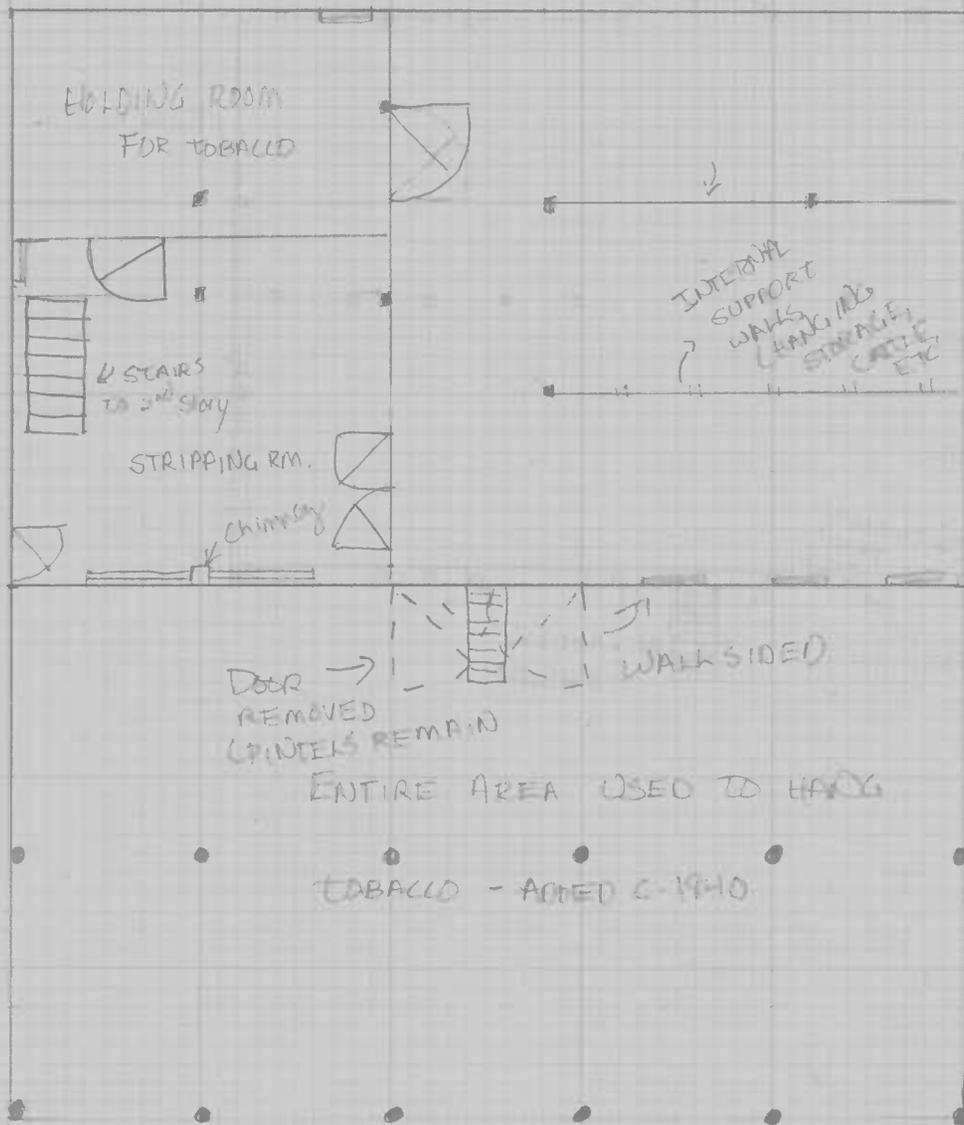


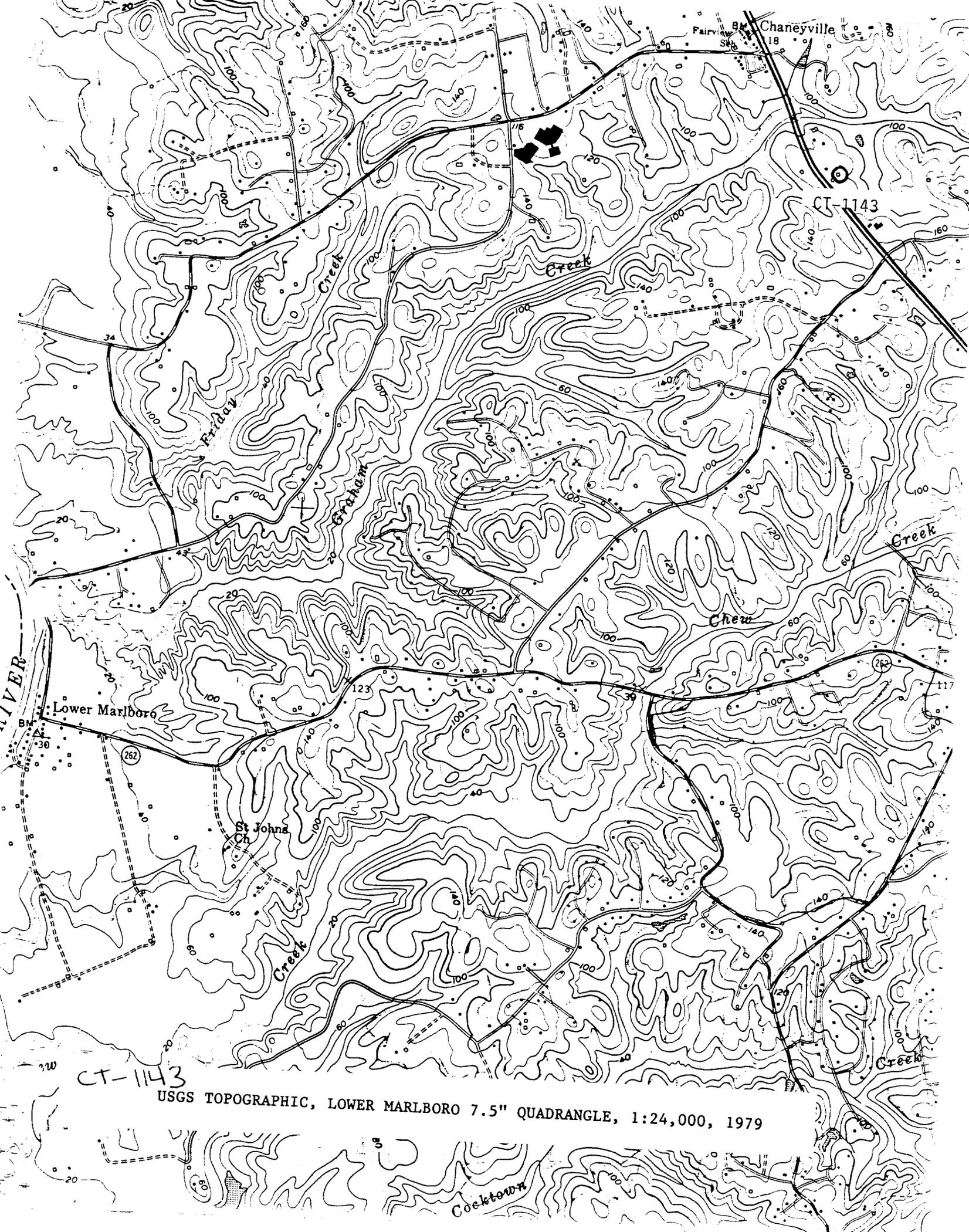
CT-1143

BARN #2016 NORFOLK BARN B

5/24/90 TW

LOWER LEVEL





Fairview St  
Chaneyville

CT-1143

RIVER

Lower Marlboro

St Johns Ch

CT-1143

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

Cocktown



CT-1143

NORFOLK 'B'

CHANEY VELLE

FORA L. WILLIAMS

SOUTH WEST

MAY, 1990