Capsule Summary
SM-263
Murrays' Log Tobacco Barn
Horse Landing
Private

Circa 1840; 1880 - 1890

Murrays' Log Tobacco Barn is chiefly significant as one of the few surviving nineteenth century examples of the single crib log barn. Single crib tobacco barns of horizontal log construction were common up to the 1860s and 1870s. Yet, few of these barns have survived or have been documented. Built during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the central crib of the Horse Landing Barn has maintained a high level of architectural integrity. The roof system of this mature cut nail barn is also distinguished by its unusually late example of the tilted false plate.

Murrays' Log Tobacco Barn has a history of use from its construction in the second quarter of the nineteenth century until the mid-twentieth century. Located on a ridge overlooking the Patuxent River, this tract of land was described in an 1841 deed to William O. Reeder as "a part of Dela brook manor, called and known by the name of Murrys."

SM-263, Murrays' Log Tobacco Barn
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870 Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
Historic Period Theme:	Agriculture

Resource Type

Category:	Structure
Historic Environment:	Rural
Historic Function and Use:	Barn
Known Design Source:	Unknown

Survey No. SM-263

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Murrays' Log Tobacco Barn

2. Location

street & number Horse Landing Road ___ not for publication

city, town Horse Landing ___ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county St. Mary's County

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	X agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	X private	X unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
X structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Leonard Copsey

street & number 6240 Delabrooke Road telephone no.: 301-884-3470

city, town Mechanicsville state and zip code MD. 20659

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk of Court liber CBG78

street & number St. Mary's County Courthouse folio 422

city, town Leonardtown 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. SM-263

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
X fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

Murrays' Log Tobacco Barn is located at the end of Horse Landing Road, a dirt road which extends from the paved De La Brooke Road, runs parallel to the Patuxent River, and curves behind the barn. Originally, this road extended five miles to the west until it connected with Mt. Zion Church Road, formerly known as Dobie Road. The barn is situated on the highest point of a ridge in the landscape and is surrounded by old tobacco fields. Coatigan Run, formerly "Murry's Creek," is located on the south side of the barn. The Patuxent River and the western shore of Calvert County are visible from the Log Barn site. The gable roofline of Murrays' Log Tobacco Barn follows the north/south orientation of the ridge.

Although the barn stands alone on the site, two tobacco barns and a stripping shed are located at the base of the ridge. One of these barns dates to the late nineteenth century, while the second barn and the shed are twentieth century structures. It is unclear where the farm complex contemporary with Murrays' Log Tobacco Barn was originally located.

The barn is a long triple crib barn consisting of a second quarter of the nineteenth century central section, and two later nineteenth century additions on the north and south ends. The oldest section of the barn is a central, single crib structure of horizontal log construction which measures 20' square. The southern addition measures 34' by 20', and the northern addition measures 30' by 20'. Since the roof pitch of both the additions and the central section of the barn are the same, the roofline of the barn appears continuous. The barn is sheathed with plain vertical board siding and roofed with corrugated metal sheeting.

The organizational plan of the barn's central section consists of three 4' rooms and a fourth 5'5" room with a single door centered on the west facade. Each of the additions consist of six rooms which average about 5' in width. A single door centered on the west elevation of each addition provides access to the interior space.

The horizontal log construction of the barn's central section consists of cedar logs which have been partially skinned and saddle-notched into place. The ends of these logs are not trimmed and protrude between the vertical sheathing boards of the north and south elevations. No foundation was employed here and the logs of this central section rest on the dirt floor.

The roof is the only section of this crib which displays any carpentry work. The roof consists of pole rafters on two-foot centers with collars on alternate rafter pairs.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-263

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
1500–1599	X agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates Unknown **Builder/Architect** Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ___A ___B X C ___D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ___national ___state X local

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

Murrays' Log Tobacco Barn is chiefly significant as one of the few surviving nineteenth century examples of the single crib log barn. Single crib tobacco barns of horizontal log construction were common up to the 1860s and 1870s. Yet, few of these barns have survived or have been documented. Built during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the central crib of the Horse Landing Barn has maintained a high level of architectural integrity. The roof system of this mature cut nail barn is also distinguished by its unusually late example of the tilted false plate.

Murrays' Log Tobacco Barn has a history of use from its construction in the second quarter of the nineteenth century until the mid-twentieth century. Located on a ridge overlooking the Patuxent River, this tract of land was described in an 1841 deed to William O. Reeder as "a part of Dela brook manor, called and known by the name of Murrys." There is no patent or certificate of survey for a tract by this name on record at the Maryland Archives or in the Dent or Tippett survey books which might explain the origin of this tract name or plat its original boundaries. Yet, it is unclear whether this barn stood as an isolated landmark on the landscape or as one of a series of agricultural buildings which comprised a tenant farm or the William Reeder home farm. Although no dwelling stands near the barn today, the current owners note that a log house once stood on a second ridge closer to the river which may have been contemporary with the barn. This house burned in the 1960s.

Despite its apparent isolation, this site has a history as an active landing and public wharf. According to the current owners, Horse Landing is so named because this is one of the sites where British troops disembarked horses, soldiers, and supplies prior to their successful raid on the United States Capitol in the War of 1812. In 1849 this landing became important as a public wharf where St. Mary's County tobacco was shipped to Baltimore warehouses. Steamboats stopped at this wharf during the twentieth century and the old steamboat pier continues to extend into the Patuxent River from Horse Landing today. The current owners also note that evidence of Native American occupation, in the form of projectile points and oyster shells, can be found in the field next to Horse Landing Creek.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-263

Copsey, Leonard. Personal Interview. December 1993.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 acres

Quadrangle name Mechanicsville **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification See attached.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County DPZ **date** December 1993

street & number **telephone**

city or town Leonardtown **state** MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023

PS-2746

Diagonal windbraces reinforce the roof. The rafters are pegged together and rest on a tilted false plate. Originally sheathed with wood shingles, the barn's shingle nailers remain in place. Some of these nailers are riven.

The structural system used to hang tobacco in the barn's central section consists of four posts which rest on the ground at approximately 4' intervals. These intermediate tier pole supports are nailed to the tie beams and form a row down the central axis of the barn. Nailed to these supports are tier poles laid horizontally in transverse rows across the interior space. The ends of the tier poles are wedged between the horizontal logs of the barn's north and south walls.

The entry to the barn's central section measures 6'4" in height by 5' 6" in width. The bottom log of the stuctural frame is continuous and forms the entry sill. Similarly, a log forms the lintel. The entrance jambs are plain boards attached to the log framing with wire nails. A vertical board hinged with machine made metal hinges on the south side of the entry is all that remains of an entrance door to this crib.

The south addition consists of skinned logs which act as the principal posts. These posts rest on the ground and support hewn top plates. The top plates on the crib's east and west walls are threaded through the horizontal logs of the barn's central section.

The roof system is a common rafter roof on four foot centers reinforced with diagonal wind braces. The rafters rest on a flat false plate.

The structural system used to hang tobacco in the southern addition consists of horizontal rails nailed to the interior face of the crib's exterior walls. Intermediate tier pole supports rest on the ground, forming a row down the barn's central axis. Wedged into these poles at a 45 degree angle are wooden pegs which support the tier poles.

The entry to the southern addition is 7' in height and 6' 3" in width. A principal post acts as the southern side of the entrance door jamb, and a horizontal tier pole support acts as the lintel to the entry.

The structural system of the northern addition consists of hewn and milled principal posts which rest on the ground and support hewn top plates. The northeast and northwest corner posts are braced with diagonal posts. Unlike the southern addition, this crib has corner posts which stand next to the horizontal log crib. The top plates are then mortise and tenoned into these wooden posts and reinforced with a wooden peg.

The roof system consists of a common rafter roof on four foot centers. The

rafters rest on a flat false plate. This section of the roof is in poor condition.

The structural system used to hang tobacco consists of intermediate tier pole supports which rest on the ground and form a row down the central axis of the barn. These supports are nailed to the tie beams. A hole is bored through these poles at each tier pole level. The tier poles extend horizontally through these holes in transverse rows across the crib's interior space.

The entry to the western addition is 9'2" in height by 7' 3" in width. Two principal posts act as the jambs to the entry and a siding nailer acts as the lintel. The vertical siding on the south side of this entry is pierced with a pintel hole at its base and with a remaining pintel near the lintel. A machine made metal hinge is also attached to this plank.

The barn is sheathed with circular sawn, random width 1" vertical boards. Horizontal rails are nailed to the principal posts of the north addition and act as nailers for the vertical siding. Some of these rails are half-lapped and nailed with mature machine cut nails to the principal posts. The south addition's horizontal tier pole supports and siding nailers are the same members.

The barn has been altered with the resheathing of the roof with corrugated metal. According to the current owner, the barn's gable roof was originally covered with large wood shingles about 3' long by 6" wide. Most of the top plates in the north and south end additions are replacements.

SM-263, Murrays' Log Tobacco Barn
St. Mary's County
8.3 Significance

In the mid-twentieth century, Horse Landing became the center of Leonard Copsey's oysterhouse. For thirty years Copsey transported these oysters by truck to markets in Baltimore and Frederick, Maryland. Although the Copsey oysterhouse is no longer in operation, Horse Landing continues to be occupied by the Drift Inn Crabhouse, established by the Copsey family in 1955.

SM-263, Murrays' Log Tobacco Barn
St. Mary's County
10.1 Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

"Beginning for the same at the gate near a large Chestnut tree, where a stone is placed as a boundary of C. Morgan and running with the fence, northwest from the stone to a small branch, the first one that is reached, thence down the center of the said branch to De La Brooke line; thence running easterly with the Channel of Horse Landing Creek to the Patuxent River, thence running southeasterly with the Patuxent River to the lot of Lewis Copsey, thence running southeasterly with the Patuxent River to the lot of Lewis Copsey, thence running from said Lewis Copsey's lot with the Patuxent River to Murrys Creek, thence with the Channel of Murrys' Creek to a point or stone opposite the branch leading up to the property of the late Reeder on the horse shoe bend, thence to the branch and with this branch to the fence of said Morgan land and thence with a fence southwest to the Chestnut tree or stone, to the place of beginning, containing 227 acres, more or less."

Source: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber CBG 78, folio 422.

SM-263, Murrays' Log Tobacco Barn
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Leonard Edward Copsey
FROM: Mary R. Copsey and Clements William Copsey
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 78, folio 422.
DATE: December 9, 1958.
NOTES: Transfer of 227 acres.

TO: John E. Copsey
FROM: Hattie M. Quade and Theodore Quade, of Baltimore City.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 9, folio 535.
DATE: July 29, 1936.
NOTES: Transfer of 227 acres.

TO: Mrs. Hattie M. Quade
FROM: John E. Copsey and Emma L. Copsey
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 10, folio 3.
DATE: November 27, 1911.
NOTES: Transfer of "all that tract called and known as 'Murrays'." Transfer of 227 acres for $2000.

TO: Robert Reeder
FROM: Robert C. Combs, surviving trustee.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JJG 3, folio 350.
DATE: February 12, 1896.
NOTES: James S. Downs is now deceased. Transfer of three tracts including "Workington Park" 320 acres, "Part Della Brooke" 300 acres, "Murrays" 229 acres.

TO: Robert C. Combs and James S. Downs, Trustees.
FROM: William O. Reeder
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF 1, folio 279.
DATE: November 11, 1874
NOTES: Result of Circuit Court judgement in Equity Case No. 810 described in Decree Record JJG Liber 1, folio 475. Reeder is indebted to Henry Jones for $219.77 plus interest from 10/1/1867 and $21.05 in costs; to Henry Jones, assignee of Z.T.Spalding, $646.80 plus interest from 10/1/1867 and $11.70 in costs; to Henry Jones, assignee of A.Needham and Sons, $465.95 from 10/1/1867 plus $11.70 in costs; to Robert C. Combs and James S. Downs $150 plus interest from 11/7/1867 plus $22.40 in costs; to Francis Neale, Benjamin G. Harris and John H. Neale trading as Neale, Harris, and Company $1331.40 plus interest from 9/20/1871 and $10.85 in

costs. Sale of "Workington Park" 320 acres; "Part Della Brooke" 300 acres; "Murrays" 229 acres; also four horses, five work steers, two oxcarts, three heifers, one horse power and wheat fan, one grist mill, one screw prize, twenty seven head hogs to satisfy debts.

Title breaks into two chains here.

TO: William O. Reeder
FROM: John H. Reeder
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JTB 2, folio 578.
DATE: April 3, 1856.
NOTES: Transfer of "'Workington Park' and 'Murrays' situated...on the Patuxent River."
Price: $2023

TO: William Oliver Reeder
FROM: WIlliam Reeder
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JH 12, folio 132.
DATE: April 1, 1841.
NOTES: Transfer of a part of Dela brook manor, called and known by the name of Murrys, beginning at a bound Oak tree near the mill being the bound tree of the division line that divides the lands of the heirs of Thomas Reeder from William Reeder thence with line across the marsh to the southeast margin thence with the south east margin of the marsh and swamp to the path that goes from my mill to George Thomas thence with said path to the swamp that divides my land from George Thomas' thence with the margin of the said swamp to the mouth of Horse Landing Creek, thence with the River shore to the mouth of Currys Creek and thence to the beginning.." 150 acres.
Price: $750

S M -263
LOG BARN
Horse Landing
Private

Structure identified; requires further study.

SM-263

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON: LOG BARN

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Horse Landing Road

CITY, TOWN: Horse Landing — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: St. Mary's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
__BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN — VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

SM-263

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	__ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

SM-263

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

SM-263

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION DATE

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN STATE

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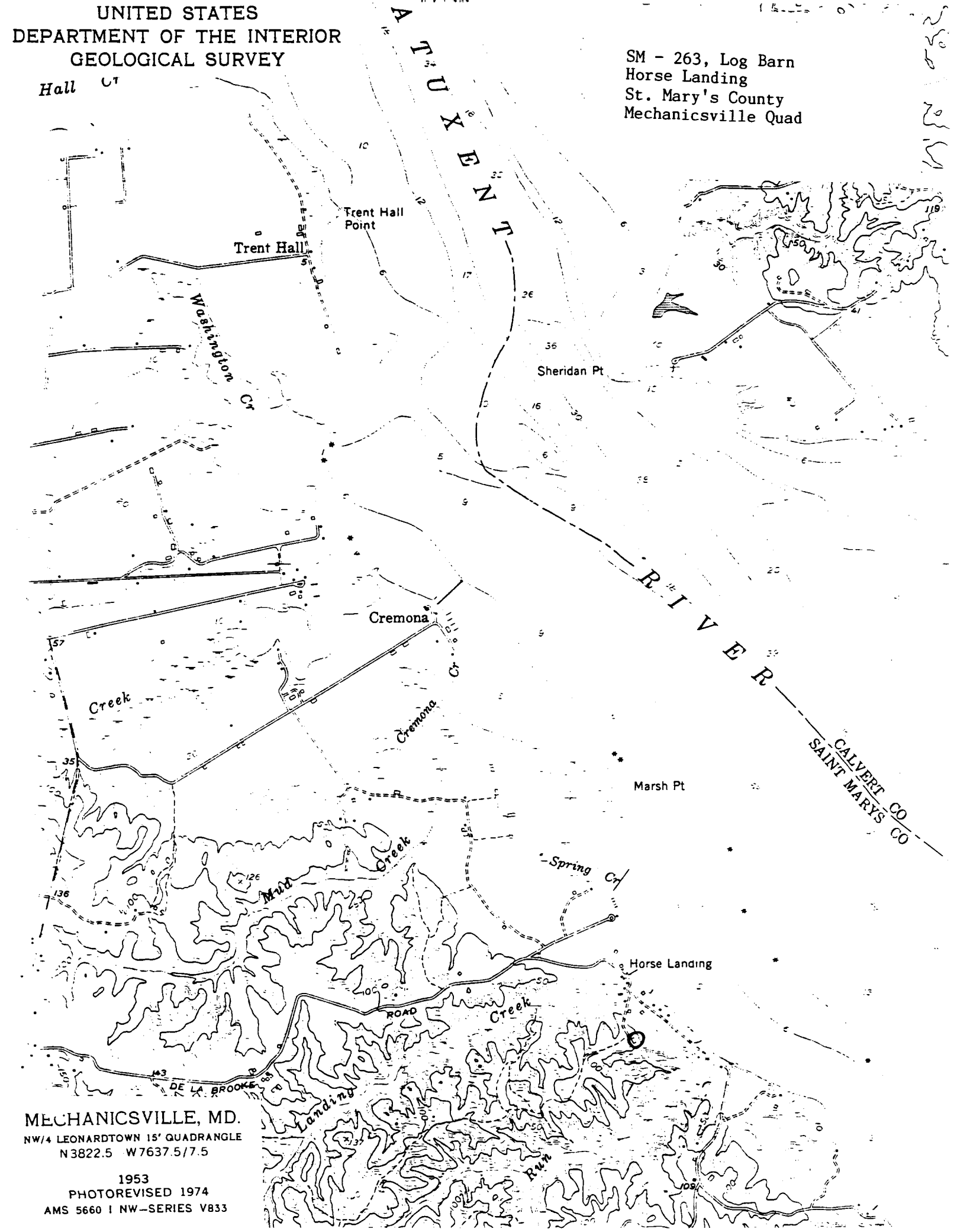
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SM - 263, Log Barn
Horse Landing
St. Mary's County
Mechanicsville Quad



MECHANICSVILLE, MD.
NW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE
N3822.5 W7637.5/7.5

1953
PHOTOREVISED 1974
AMS 5660 I NW—SERIES V833

[illegible]

SM-262 [illegible]

St Mary [illegible]

Elizabeth [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

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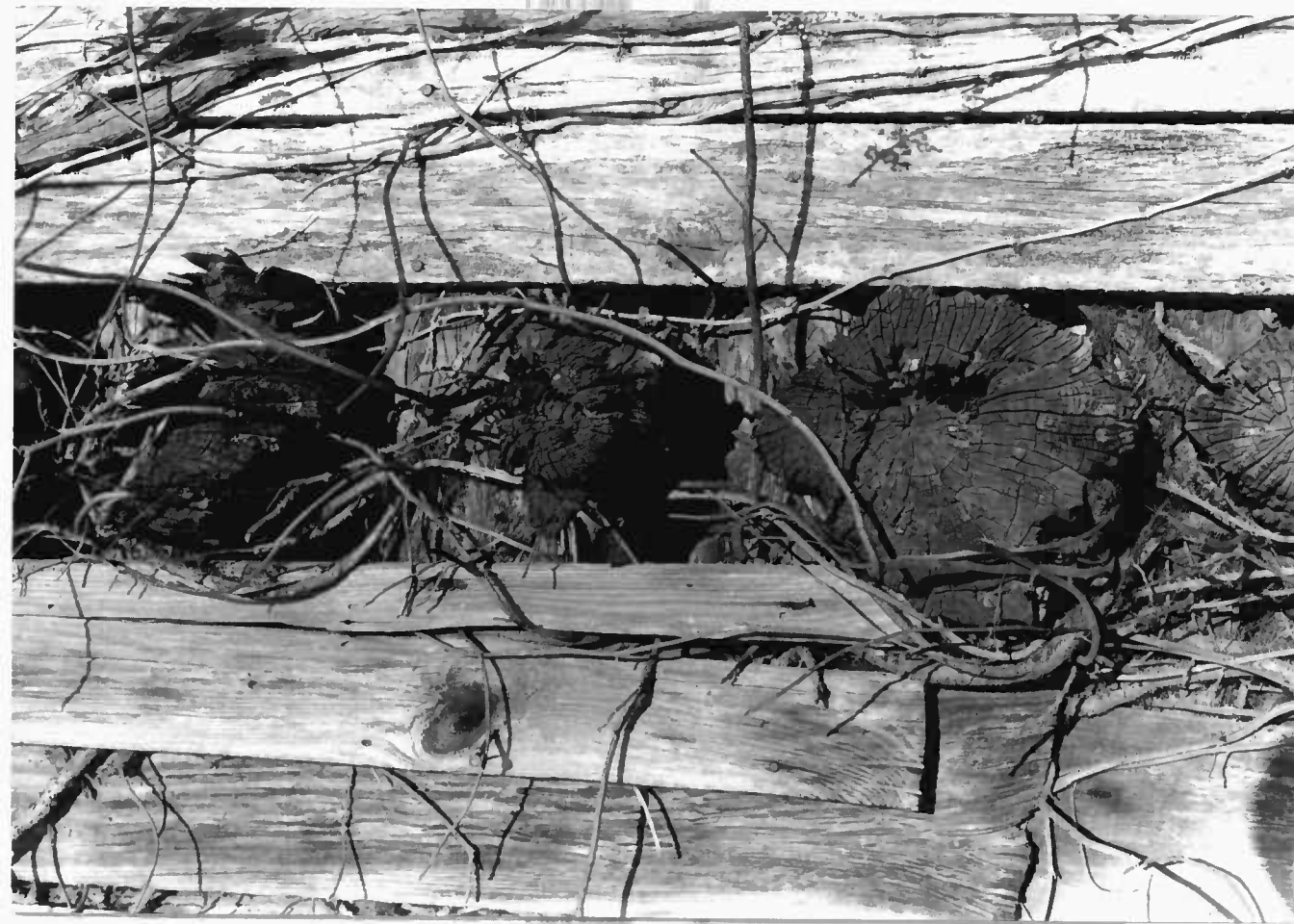
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