

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Myrtle Point Barn

2. Location

street & number Myrtle Point Road not for publicationcity, town California, MD vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county St. Mary's County

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: abandoned

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

name 347 Development Corporation

street & number 5184 Nesconset Highway telephone no.: (516) 473-3009

city, town Port Jefferson Station state and zip code New York 11776

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse liber 127

street & number folio 299

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title none

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-377

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

This earthfast tobacco barn is located on a flat site in thick woods and other brush within sight--in the winter--of the Patuxent River. Its ridgeline is oriented northwest-southeast. The original context of the structure is difficult to determine, but it seems fairly clear that it was not originally part of a complex of buildings but rather was an isolated structure--perhaps one of a series. The fabric of the building is all circular-sawn and wire-nailed.

The original part of the tobacco barn is supported on earthfast log posts that all measure about 8" in diameter. They are organized in three rows of eight posts each. The rows are spaced about 15' apart, and each of the eight bays of the structure is spaced about 8' apart. Early in the history of the building, an earthfast shed was added to the northeast long side of the building. It extended the width of the building by about 12'6". and is framed in a manner consistent with the original part of the building.

Below the level of the plates, the only horizontal stiffening the building enjoys is provided by the 2"x4" nailers that bridge the posts along the length of the building (and provided support for the tobacco stakes) and the 2"x4" nailers placed at about 3' intervals around the perimeter of the building to secure the 1"x6" vertical-board siding.

At the tops of the walls, 4"x6" plates connect the posts along the length of the building, and 4"x12" girts connect the posts along the gable ends. Joists measuring about 4"x6" are set on rough 4' centers. At the point where the joists lap over the plates, a rafter is also lapped over. The rafters measure about 2"x6". Each pair of rafters is stiffened by a 2"x4" collar nailed onto their sides. Roofing boards measuring about 1"x6" and spaced randomly connect the top face of the rafters and provide the foundation for the original roof covering of wood plain-butt shingles. This original roofing has been covered over by standing-seam sheet metal.

Note: measurements of distances between members are approximate because most of the building has collapsed: the shed addition is the most upright portion of the structure. Furthermore: the omission of doors in the northwest gable end and the southwest side of the building are conjectural--and probably wrong. There truly was no evidence of a door in the northwest gable end, but the southwest side of the structure is so completely ruinous that adequate investigation was impossible. Finally: The mid-building function of the central row of posts is unclear. I recorded no longitudinal horizontal summerbeam that was supported by these posts, but I think it's impossible that the joists were meant to span the more-than-30' width of the original section of the tobacco barn.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-377

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: <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.

Myrtle Point Tobacco Barn is a late example of earthfast construction, a building technology that is apparently as old as English settlement in the Chesapeake. Adequate historical research should turn up a moderate quantity of information concerning the function and agricultural context of this nearly collapsed structure.

Myrtle Point Barn
St. Mary's County, Maryland
Camille Wells, Recorded 12/19/86

347 DEPARTMENT COLONATIONS

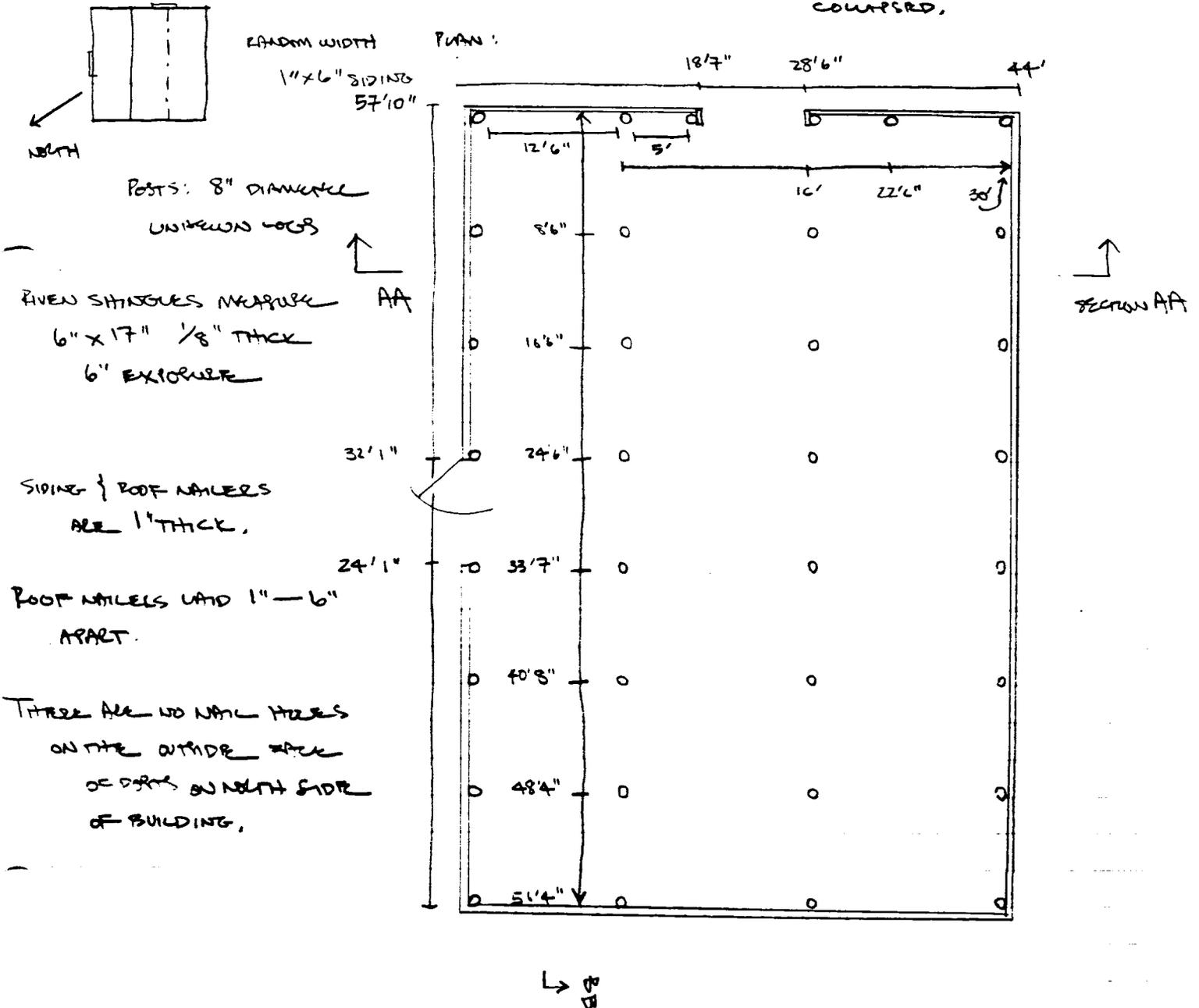
s earthfast tobacco barn is located in thick woods and other brush of Myrtle Point Road within sight of the Patuxent River. Its ridgeline is oriented northwest-southeast. The site is flat.

The tobacco barn is supported on earthfast posts--three rows of them. The central row is set in the plane of the ridgeline. It is gable roofed. Horizontal nailers affixed onto the backs of the posts carry random-width circular-sawn sheathing. The entire structure is wire nailed.

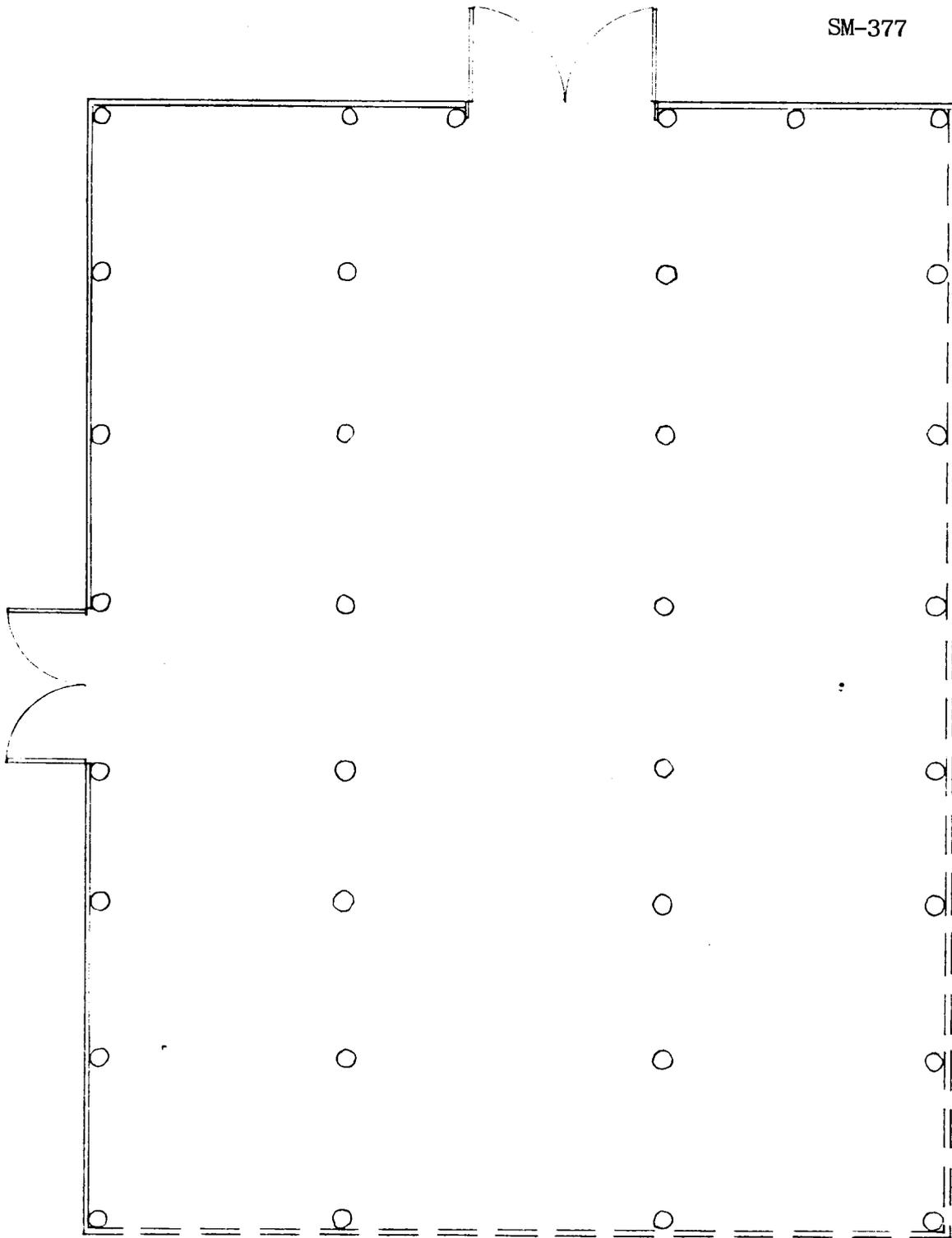
The gable roof was originally covered with wood shingles affixed to horizontal nailers, but this roofing was covered over with sheet metal.

At an early date, the original structure was extended on the northeast side by a shed addition that runs the length of the structure.

THE BARN HAS ALMOST COMPLETELY COLLAPSED.



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MYRTLE POINT BARN

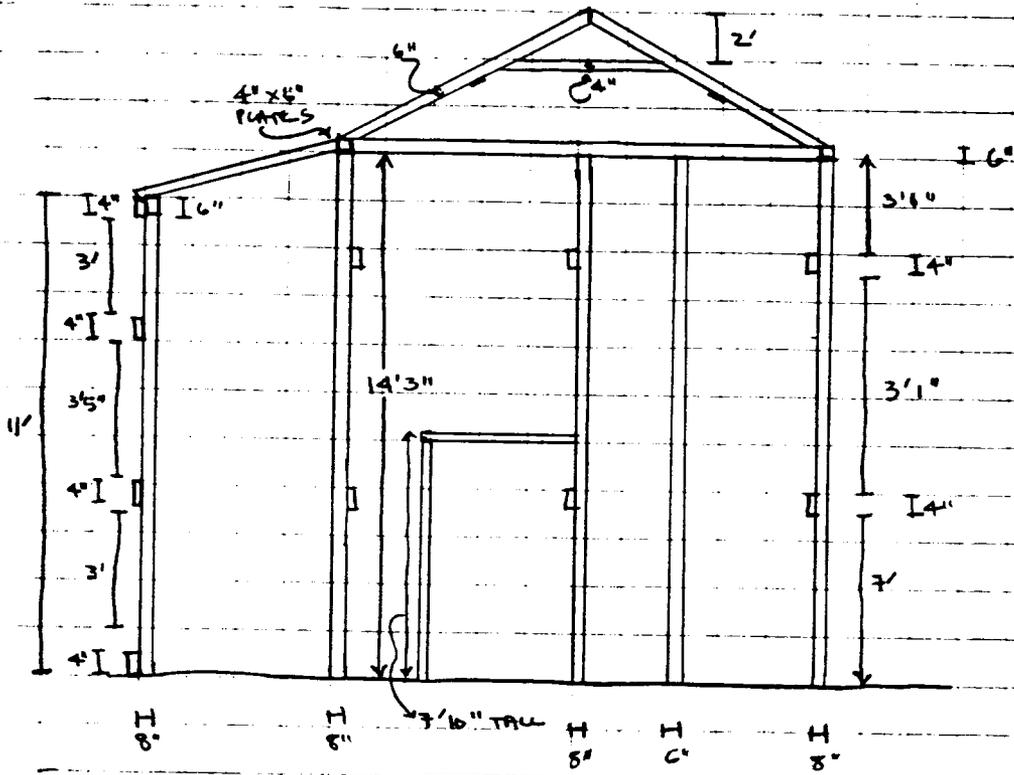
TOWN POINT VICINITY, ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

RECORDED 12.19.86 BY CAMILLE WELLS

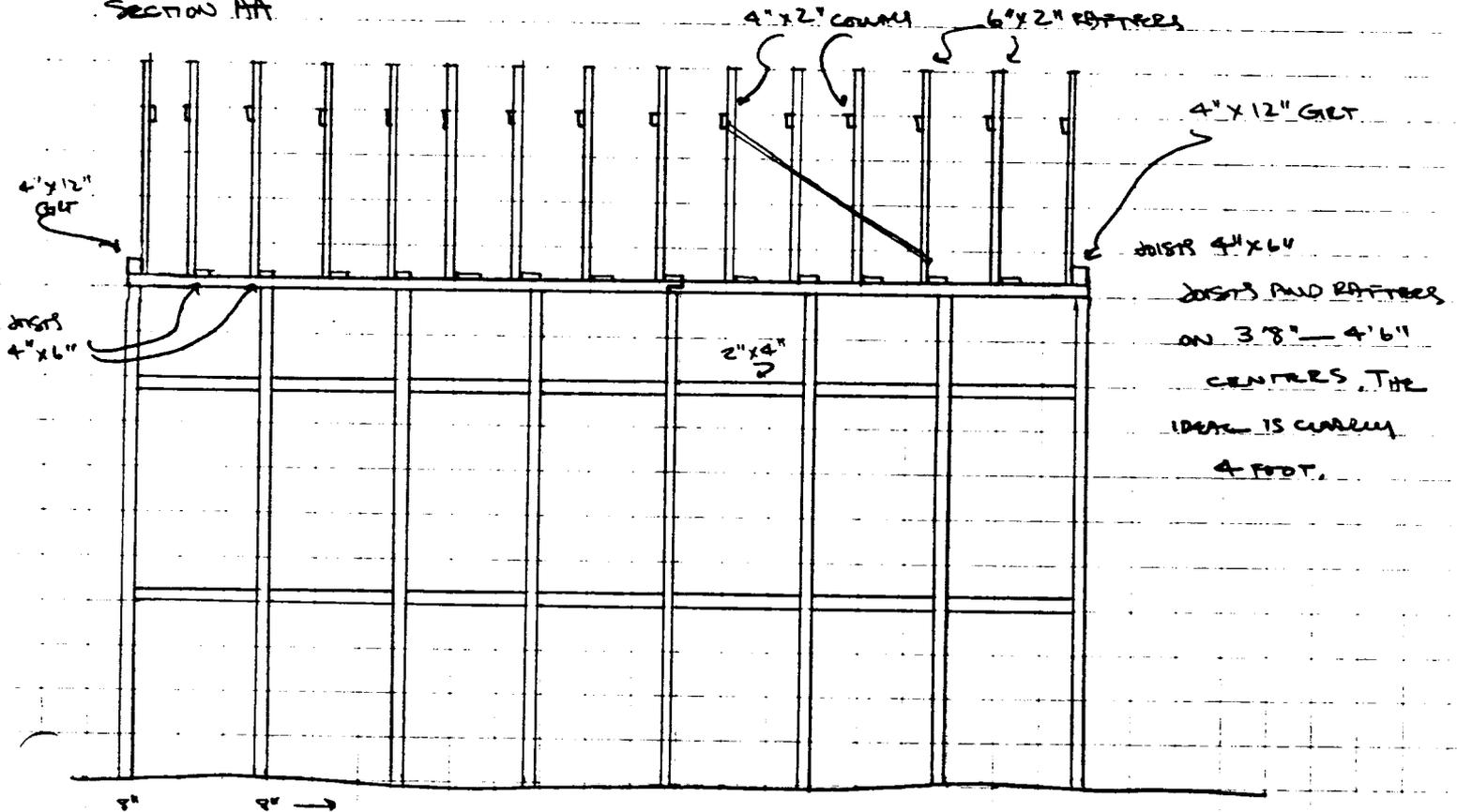
FIELD NOTES,

Recorded for:

Dennis Pogue, Archaeologist
Jefferson Patterson Park
Star Route 2
Box 50A
St. Leonard, Maryland
20685



SECTION AA



SECTION BB



Myrtle Point Tobacco Barn

Town Point vicinity, St. Mary's County, Md.

Camille Wells, Photographer

December 19, 1986

View from north of shed and collapsed barn.



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Myrtle Point Tobacco Barn
Town Point vicinity, St. Mary's County, Md.
Camille Wells, Photographer
December 19, 1986
Detail of vertical-board siding.



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Myrtle Point Tobacco Barn
Town Point vicinity, St. Mary's County, Md.
Camille Wells, Photographer
December 19, 1986
Detail of east gable-end door and Rambler.



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Myrtle Point Tobacco Barn

Town Point vicinity, St. Mary's County, Md.

Camille Wells, Photographer

December 19, 1986

Detail of roofing nailers and shingles.



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Myrtle Point Tobacco Barn
Town Point vicinity, St. Mary's County, Md.
Camille Wells, Photographer
December 19, 1986
Detail of earthfast post.



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Myrtle Point Tobacco Barn
Town Point vicinity, St. Mary's County, Md.
Camille Wells, Photographer
December 19, 1986
View from the interior of east corner.