

Capsule Summary
SM-411
De La Brooke Tobacco Barn
Horse Landing
Private

Circa 1815 and earlier

The De La Brooke Tobacco Barn is a highly significant and well-preserved agricultural structure. Its pit-sawn lumber, wrought nails and hinges, and tilted false plate indicate a construction date of circa 1815 or earlier. Both its materials and method of construction reflect an unusually high quality of craftsmanship which renders the barn significant not only in the area of agriculture but in the area of architecture as well.

The De La Brooke Tobacco Barn stands on property which was originally part of De La Brooke Manor, granted to Baker Brooke in 1650. The original manor house was destroyed in 1835 and replaced by a brick Federal style building with a side hall/parlor plan (SM-94). This barn is one of the few outbuildings to survive from the site's earliest building period.

SM-411, De La Brooke 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: Tobacco barn

Known Design Source: none

**Maryland Historical Trust
 State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common De La Brooke Tobacco Barn

2. Location

street & number De La Brocke Road not for publication

city, town Horse Landing vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county St. Mary's

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 type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc.

street & number Highway 231 West, P.O. Box 1937 telephone no.:

city, town Hughesville state and zip code Md 20637

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk of Court liber CBG 86

street & number St. Mary's County Courthouse folio 347

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-411

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

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The De La Brooke Tobacco Barn is located on the north side of De La Brooke Road about three tenths of a mile west of the entrance to the De La Brooke manor house. This structure is one of a series of scattered tobacco houses on the De La Brooke farm. The barn is no longer used and the exterior has become overgrown with vines and briars.

The De La Brooke Tobacco Barn stands alone at the edge of a wooded ravine. A cornfield extends to the east of the barn. An old road bed is located near the barn, on the south side of De La Brooke Road. The barn faces east, with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

The barn is rectangular in form, measuring twenty feet wide by thirty-two feet long with ten foot sheds on the north and south elevations. The steeply pitched gable roof is an uninterrupted slope which extends over the north and south sheds to a height of about 6' above ground level. The barn is sheathed with vertical board siding and roofed with metal.

The organizational plan of the De La Brooke Barn is an eight foot structural bay system with four foot rooms. Four principal openings, one in each wall, provide access to the barn and form a cross-axial plan.

The barn rests on large ironstones, sections of a continuous brick foundation, and wood blocks which support continuous sills. These sills are pit-sawn and joined with mortise and tenon joints reinforced with wooden pegs. The framing system consists of hewn principal posts on eight foot centers with pit-sawn studs on two foot centers. Both the posts and studs are mortise and tenoned into the sills. The corner posts are reinforced with pit-sawn down braces which are half dove-tailed, pegged, and secured with wrought spikes at both ends. These framing members are marked with a Roman numeral system which was used in the barn's construction.

The roof is a common rafter roof on two-foot centers, supported by a tilted false plate. Collars on alternate rafter pairs have been added in order to make additional space for the hanging of tobacco.

The system used to hang tobacco constitutes one of the most interesting aspects of the De La Brooke Tobacco Barn. Pit-sawn, horizontal rails have been attached with rosehead nails to the interior face of the barn's four walls. Intermediate vertical tier pole supports run longitudinally down the center of the barn. These supports are clearly original, and are of a type rarely found in ante-bellum barns. Each

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-411

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 checked="" 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 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 unknown **Builder/Architect** unknown

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.

The De La Brooke Tobacco Barn is a highly significant and well-preserved agricultural structure. Its pit-sawn lumber, wrought nails and hinges, and tilted false plate indicate a construction date of circa 1815 or earlier. The overall level of craftsmanship is more typical of the eighteenth century. Both its materials and method of construction reflect an unusually high quality of craftsmanship which renders the barn significant not only in the area of agriculture but in the area of architecture as well.

Few eighteenth century tobacco barns survive in St. Mary's County. The De La Brooke Tobacco Barn stands out as a particularly interesting example because of its high degree of integrity. One of the barn's most unique features is its system of intermediate tier pole supports.

The barn stands on property which was originally part of the De La Brooke Manor, granted to Baker Brooke in 1650. The original manor house was destroyed in 1835 and replaced by a brick Federal style building with a side hall/parlor plan. This dwelling still stands on the property (SM-94).

According to the farmer who currently works this land, two old tobacco barns with brick foundations once stood near the original manor house site. A third barn with a second story loft stood on the property until the 1970s when it was burned. In addition to two twentieth century tobacco barns, an old tobacco barn with a gable roof and shed roof addition still stands on the De La Brooke property. This barn requires further investigation. The chain of title for the property lists five barns in a 1935 realty inventory: Tobacco-Springfield Barn, Slave Barn, Marsh Neck Barn-South, Marsh Neck Barn-North, and the Town Neck Barn. It is unclear which name refers to the De La Brooke Tobacco Barn discussed here.

One unusual story surrounding the De La Brooke barn was relayed by local resident Leonard Copsey. When Copsey was a child, he was told that someone, possibly a slave, was buried in the barn.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-411

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2 (being part of De La Brooke Manor)

Quadrangle name Mechanicsville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County DPZ

date January 1994

street & number

telephone 301-475-4662

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/De DL
 100 COMMUNITY
 CROWNSVILLE

SM-411, De La Brooke Tobacco Barn
St. Mary's County
7.1 Description

tier pole support consists of a pair of 3" by 5" pit-sawn vertical members set 9" apart. These vertical members rest on the ground, flanking each tie beam. At each tier pole level and above the tie beam, these members are joined by a short horizontal piece. The majority of these crudely shaped rungs are tenoned into the vertical members. In at least one instance a scrap of beaded material, presumably a siding remnant, has been used and secured in place with wrought nails. At each tier pole level, one tier pole extends horizontally from the northern wall of the barn in a transverse row across the interior space to the vertical support while a second tier pole extends from the barn's southern wall to the same vertical support. In some cases, split rails, presumably fence rails, have been used as tier poles. These tier poles provide support for the sticks of tobacco.

The sheds on the barn's east and west elevations are organized on the same bay system as the main block. The sheds are supported by a series of vertical posts which rest on the ground. It appears that these posts originally rested on a sill, now rotted away, as a partial sill survives in the barn's southeast corner. These posts support a top plate on which the pit-sawn roof rafters rest. The upper ends of the shed rafters are half lapped to the tilted false plate of the main structure. The shed tie beams are joined to the principal posts of the barn's main block with pegged mortise and tenon joints. Pit-sawn construction braces are attached to the shed roofs with wrought nails.

The vertical siding which now sheathes the entire barn consists of circular sawn, random width 1" planking. Two louvered ventilators are located on each of the barn's four elevations. A third and wider louvered ventilator is located above the door openings of the east and west elevations. These doors are attached to the exterior walls of the barn with twentieth century metal hinges. The structural system of posts and studs on two foot centers indicates that the building was originally sheathed with horizontal siding. One piece of wide weatherboard siding survives on the south wall, protected by the shed. It is secured with wrought nails and has a light beaded edge. Nail patterns in the exposed framing of the north and south walls indicate that the weatherboard siding originally extended up to the eaves on these two walls, and presumably was used on all exterior walls as well.

Hinged double doors open outwards on both the east and west gable elevations of the barn. The principal sills run continuous across these door openings which measure 10' in height by 7'8" in width. These doors consist of vertical boards with horizontal battens set with wrought metal strap hinges. The east elevation door is also reinforced with diagonal battens. Single door openings are located near the center of each longitudinal wall. A beaded door frame measuring 9' in height by 4'2" in width survives on the south elevation and is attached to the barn's framing members with T-head nails. On both the north and south elevations, pintel holes and latch

SM-411, De La Brooke Tobacco Barn
St. Mary's County
7.2 Description

recesses are visible on the posts which form the doorway. Still attached to one of these original door frames is an unusual "staple" form of pintel. Two single, vertical, board doors with horizontal battens provide access to the barn's sheds. The doors are on axis with the single doorways of the barn's main block and are badly deteriorated. These doors swing outward on wrought metal strap hinges.

Alterations to the barn include the replacement of its original sheathing material with circular sawn, vertical siding. The original roofing material has been removed and replaced with metal sheeting. One of the sills has been replaced with a circular sawn sill of comparable size. This new sill was mortised to fit the tenons of the other sills, but the barn's framing members were simply attached to the sill with mature machine cut nails. Many of the posts which support the barn's sheds have been replaced with 4" by 4" posts. The double doors on the west elevation are covered with corrugated metal sheeting.

SM-411, De La Brooke Tobacco Barn
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

To: Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative Inc. (SMECO)
FROM: John R. Drury, Agent, and James Thomas and Gladys H. Thomas
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 86, folio 347.
DATE: February 26, 1960.
NOTES: Transfer of "Spring Creek Farm" being part of larger De La Brooke Manor consisting of 300.548 acres. Subject to easement outlined in CBG 13/340.

TO: James Thomas
FROM: Martha G. Thomas, unmarried, of Baltimore
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 13, folio 340.
DATE: February 4, 1942.
NOTES: Transfer of parcel being a 221 acre part of De La Brooke Farm. The intent of this deed is to create a division of a larger tract and to establish the lines between the said Spring Creek Farm and Town Neck Farm which is now owned and retained by the Grantor.

TO: Martha G. Thomas
FROM: James Thomas of Baltimore
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 12, folio 172.
DATE: April 26, 1940
NOTES: Transfer of 395 acres of De La Brooke Farm except EBA 5/335, EBA 7/256, and JMM 5/58.

TO: James Thomas and Martha G. Thomas
FROM: Clarence Thomas
RECORD: St. Mary's County Orphan's Court Case
DATE: Date of death, January 16, 1935
NOTES: Clarence Thomas died intestate, and his personal and real property passed to James Thomas and Martha G. Thomas, his heirs at law. His realty inventory, see Realty Inventory Liber ACNT 1, folio 122, listed five tobacco barns on the De La Brooke farm property: Tobacco-Springfield Barn, Slave Barn, Marsh Neck Barn-South, Marsh Neck Barn-North, and the Town Neck Barn. It is unclear which of these barns refers to the tobacco barn discussed in this form.

TO: Clarence W. Thomas
FROM: George R. Gaither, attorney of Baltimore.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 5, folio 335.
DATE: January 12, 1906.
NOTES: Sale of property because of default on mortgage made by Howard ~~W. Thomas~~

SU-411

De La Brooke Tobacco Barn
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

Hammond on February 24, 1900 to Thomas H. Gaither and George A. Gaither, Jr.
Transfer of 750 acre tract of "De La Brooke." Price: \$4850

TO: Howard Hammond

FROM: Charlotte E. Hammond, Trustee for Francis E. Hammond under will of Ormond Hammond, Mary S. Hammond, Anna M. Hammond, Francis E. Hammond, Ormond Hammond, Annie E. Hammond, Charles P. Hammond, Maria A. Hammond, and Harry H. Hammond, the only children and heirs at law of Ormond Hammond, deceased, late of Talbot County.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 1, folio 253.

DATE: February 21, 1900

NOTES: Transfer of 750 acres of "De-la-brook."

TO: Ormond Hammond of Talbot County

FROM: Mary T. Smith, unmarried

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JJG 1, folio 33.

DATE: February 18, 1893

NOTES: Transfer of 750 acres of "De-la-brook."

TO: Mary T. Smith

FROM: Robert C. Combs, Trustee

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF 9, folio 340.

DATE: November 20, 1886

NOTES: Property sold at public sale on August 24, 1886 as the result of a Circuit Court judgement in the case of Mary T. Smith vs. James Thomas and Nannie E.N.Thomas. Court of Equity appointed Combs as Trustee to transfer property.
Transfer of 750 acres of "Della Brooke." Price: \$4550.

TO: James Thomas

FROM: George Thomas

RECORD: St. Mary's County Testamentary Record, JTMR 1, folio 1.

DATE: December 11, 1857.

NOTES: "I give and bequeath unto my wife, Mary Thomas, during her natural life, the plantation whereon I now reside, known as 'De La Brooke'...and from and after the death of my said wife I give and bequeathe the said real estate...to my son James Thomas."

SM-411, De La Brooke Tobacco Barn
St. Mary's County
10.1 Geographic Description

Verbal boundary description and justification

Source: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber CBG 86, folio 347.

corner of the land conveyed to Roger Page, Jr. and William D. Boling at Liber CBG No. 73, folio 498, thence running with Page and Boling N. 57° 56' 40" E. 132.11 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 60° 19' 30" E. 183.46 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 11° 31' E. 341.04 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 14° 05' W. 125.47 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 46° 13' 50" W. 189.64 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 65° 33' 30" W. 168.95 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 09° 15' 30" W. 180.71 feet to an iron pipe; thence with a marsh N. 21° 42' 30" E. 466.0 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 01° 47' 30" W. 196.38 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 49° 01' 30" E. 297.25 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 19° 55' 30" E. 221.09 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 41° 11' 30" E. 145.81 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 52° 30' E. 489.80 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 18° 29' E. 678.41 feet to the center line of a farm road (passing over an iron pipe at 12.0 feet from the end of this course); thence with the center line of said farm road and still with Page and Boling S. 78° 14' E. 276.26 feet; thence N. 88° 43' E. 327.75 feet; thence running across said road and running still with Page and Boling N. 04° 45' W. 797.43 feet to an iron pipe (passing over an iron pipe at 9.0 feet from the beginning of this course); thence N. 67° 29' E. 209.03 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 01° 32' E. 447.76 feet to a point on the Patuxent River (passing over an iron pipe at 63.0 feet from the end of this course); thence with said river S. 62° 42' 30" E. 481.21 feet; thence S. 75° 01' 40" E. 468.46 feet; thence N. 87° 35' 50" E. 250.26 feet; thence N. 67° 58' E. 117.17 feet; thence S. 71° 02' E. 266.64 feet; thence S. 70° 39' E. 494.03 feet; thence S. 22° 44' 10" E. 208.38 feet; thence leaving said river and running with the land of L. McCormick Goodhart (Liber JMM No. 5, folio 58) S. 71° 56' W. 815.52 feet to a concrete monument (passing over another concrete monument at 15.0 feet from the beginning of this course); thence S. 37° 34' E. 1149.0 feet; thence S. 63° 26' W. 1116.0 feet; thence S. 14° 34' E. 523.0 feet; thence S. 22° 49' E. 332.0 feet; thence S. 12° 49' E. 703.0 feet to a brick post; thence S. 00° 41' W. 960.0 feet to a cedar stake found (passing over a concrete monument at 491.71 feet from the end of this course); thence with a stream S. 48° 17' W. 85.32 feet; S. 24° 54' W. 101.91 feet; thence S. 78° 54' W. 155.21 feet; thence S. 73° 02' W. 178.77 feet; thence S. 80° 41' W. 303.55 feet; thence S. 87° 52' W. 151.37 feet; thence S. 46° 30' W. 270.15 feet; thence S. 65° 49' W. 484.28 feet; thence N. 87° 43' W. 175.22 feet; thence S. 80° 36' W. 235.50 feet; thence S. 65° 06' W. 241.07 feet; thence S. 58° 17' W. 212.59 feet; thence S. 80° 57' W. 100.31 feet; thence leaving said stream and running N. 09° 46' W. 936.01 feet to an iron pipe on the north side of the County road; thence running S. 80° 30' 40" W. 321.41 feet; thence N. 87° 04' 40" W. 87.0 feet to a pine tree; thence N. 04° 55' 20" E. 178.35 feet to a Red Oak tree; thence N. 07° 11' 50" W. 96.02 feet to a Red Oak tree; thence N. 22° 15' 40" W. 66.60 feet to a Locust tree; thence N. 33° 25' 30" W. 153.96 feet; thence N. 29° 29' 30" W. 67.62 feet to the beginning, containing 300.548 acres.

EXCEPTING therefrom a forty foot wide road through the property described herein from Oraville-New Market State Road to "Horse Landing", property of L. McCormick Goodhart, on the Patuxent River; conveyed to the County Commissioners for St. Mary's County, by deed dated November 4, 1946, and recorded among the Land Records of St. Mary's County, Maryland in Liber CBG No. 19, folio 406.

SM - 411

De La Brooke Tobacco Barn

Horse Landing Vicinity

Mechanicsville Quad



MECHANICSVILLE, MD.
NW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE
N 3822.5-W 7637.5/7.5

1953
PHOTOREVISED 1974
AMS 5660 I NW-SERIES V833









7th 4th 10th 12th 15th 20th 25th 30th

11th 13th 14th 16th 17th 18th 19th

Elizabeth 1558-1603

James 1603-1625

Charles 1625-1649
James 1649-1685
William 1689-1702

1



M. 41 - 1000 - 1000 - 1000 - 1000

to 1000 - 1000 - 1000 - 1000

Elizabeth Taylor

James 1914

110 2000

Tier pole supports



