Capsule Summary
SM-255
Tobacco Barn on Half Pone Farm
Hollywood vicinity
Private Circa 1850

The Tobacco Barn on Half Pone Farm is significant as an example of a mid-nineteenth century tobacco barn that was later altered to house animals as well as tobacco. The barn is used for storage today and has begun to deteriorate. The setting of the barn, surrounded by cultivated fields that extend to the Patuxent River, is little changed.

The tract known as "Half Pone" consisted of 500 acres in 1839 when it was transferred to Lewis S. Gilliams by William B. and Ann Scott. Fifteen years later, the Gilliams sold the property to William Biles of Bucks County, Pennsylvania for $10,000. The deed does not make note of the acreage at this time.

In 1862, William and Sarah Biles sold 326 acres, a portion of their property, to Edmund R. Lusby of Baltimore for $10,000. Lusby owned the property for only two years, selling it in 1864 to Thomas H. Bond. From Bond, the farm was transferred to Henry Vanderford in 1867 for $20,000. Vanderford mortgaged the property and by 1871 was in default. In that year, 320 acres of "Half Pone" were sold to W. H. Briscoe for $8700. The property remains in the Briscoe family today.

SM-255, Tobacco Barn on Half Pone Farm
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Agricultrual - Industrial Transition, 1815-1870.
Historic Period Theme:	Agriculture

Resource Type

Category:	Structure
Historic Environment:	Rural
Historic Function and Use:	Barn
Known Design Source:	none

Survey No. SM-255

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Tobacco Barn on Half Bone Farm

2. Location

street & number Steerhorn Neck Road ___ not for publication

city, town Hollywood X vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county St. Mary's

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 John Hanson Briscoe, et al.

street & number Rt. 3 Box 568 telephone no.:301-373-2715

city, town Hollywood state and zip code MD 20636

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber MRB 157

street & number folio 52

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-255

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

The Tobacco Barn on Half Pone Farm is located at the end of an unpaved road that extends from Steer Horn Neck Road to the Patuxent River near Hollywood in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The barn is one of a small collection of agricultural buildings located on the site. Two granaries, a tobacco barn, and an implement shed are located north of the barn. These buildings are surrounded by cultivated fields. The barn is now used for storage and its condition is deteriorating. The barn faces east with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

The barn is rectangular in form, measuring 30 feet 6 inches wide by forty feet three inches in length with twelve foot sheds on all sides. The eaves of the barn are sheathed with weatherboard siding. The roof is covered with seamed and corrugated metal.

The interior of the barn is divided into two sections. The west end, measuring about twenty feet in length, is devoted to tobacco storage. The organizational plan here is an 8 foot structural bay system with 4 foot rooms. Two principal openings, one in the north and south wall, provide access to the barn, creating a central aisle. The east end appears to have been used for grain storage or as a stripping room. A doorway pierces both the east and west walls of this section of the barn.

The barn rests on brick, wood, and cement piers which support continuous sills. The sills, which are significantly deteriorated, are hewn and joined with pegged mortise and tenon joints. The framing system of the longitudinal walls consists of hewn principal posts on four foot centers and studs on two foot centers. The framing system of the gable end walls consists of principal posts on ten foot centers and studs on two foot centers. Most of the studs have been removed. Both the posts and the surviving studs are mortise and tenoned into the sills. The corner posts are reinforced with hewn down braces that are half lapped and pegged into place. The barn was originally fitted with a wood floor. The floor joists are skinned logs that rest on the ground. Random width, 1 inch thick floor boards are laid on top of these joists.

The roof is a common rafter roof on two foot centers, supported by the hewn top plate. The collars are skinned logs that are half lapped and nailed to alternate rafter pairs.

The system used to hang tobacco consists of two rows of hewn posts, placed on axis with the principal posts, that extend along the center aisle of the barn. These intermediate tier pole supports consist of skinned logs that rest on the ground and run longitudinally down the center of the barn. The ends of the horizontal tier pole

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-255

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	___ architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates None **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.

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In 1862, William and Sarah Biles sold 326 acres, a portion of their property, to Edmund R. Lusby of Baltimore for $10,000. Lusby owned the property for only two years, selling it in 1864 to Thomas H. Bond. From Bond, the farm was transferred to Henry Vanderford in 1867 for $20,000. Vanderford mortgaged the property and by 1871 was in default. In that year, 320 acres of "Half Pone" were sold to W. H. Briscoe for $8700. The property remains in the Briscoe family today.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-255

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acres

Quadrangle name Hollywood **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

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** June 1995

street & number **telephone** 301-475-4662

city or town Leonardtown **state** MD 20650

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

PS-2746

supports rest on pieces of wood that have been nailed to the intermediate supports. Movable ladder-like structures hang from the upper horizontal tier pole supports, providing rigidity when the post is weighted down with tier poles of tobacco.

The entry to the barn's central aisle consists of a double door opening measuring twelve feet in width by eight feet in height. The size of these openings was enlarged at some point as principal posts were removed from both walls in order to widen the doorway. Floor joists along the east side of the aisle were evidently sawn off as well. Only the doors on the south elevation survive. The doors consist of circular sawn vertical boards with horizontal battens attached with both wrought and machine made metal strap hinges.

None of the sheds are organized on the same bay system as the main block of the barn. All appear to be later additions. Like the other sheds, the south shed is supported by skinned logs that support a hewn top plate. Skinned and sawn rafters extend from the top plate of the shed to the top plate of the main block and are nailed into place. This shed has no exterior wall. The west shed is similar to the south shed except that it has an exterior wall sheathed with circular sawn, vertical boards. Beyond the west shed is a flat roof extension that was built to shelter animals. The north shed also has an exterior wall of circular sawn, vertical boards. Entry to this shed is by means of a double door on axis with the aisle of the barn. The entry measures ten feet eight inches in width by eight feet in height. The east shed has no exterior wall.

The pattern of nail holes in the principal posts suggests that the barn was originally sheathed with weatherboard siding. Today, the sheathing material of the barn main block varies. The east end of the north elevation is covered with closely spaced, reciprocal sawn, vertical boards attached with machine cut nails. The west end of this elevation and the west, south, and east elevations are sheathed with widely spaced, horizontal boards.

southerly with a strait line to a pine tree at the head of a valley with oyster shells around it said pine tree thence in a straight line southerly across the field nearly as the ditch and fence now run to a large poplar tree standing on the north side of the branch at the head of old Dicks Cove which cove makes into Cuckhold's Creek, then down and with said creek to the Patuxent River, thence up and with Patuxent River to the beginning at the mouth of Green Pond." Price: $9822

SM-255, Tobacco Barn on Half Pone Farm
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Hilda B. Dale and John Hanson Briscoe
FROM: Hilda M. Briscoe
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 157, folio 52.
DATE: September 8, 1983.
NOTES: Transfer of "Half Pone Point."

TO: John H. T. Briscoe and Hilda M. Briscoe
FROM: John H. T. Briscoe
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber DBK 210, folio 164.
DATE: May 9, 1964.
NOTES: Transfer of "Half Pone" or "St. Cuthbert's."

TO: John H. T. Briscoe
FROM: Maria F. Briscoe
RECORD: No estate on record.
DATE: 1939
NOTES: Maria F. Briscoe died intestate.

TO: Maria F. Briscoe
FROM: W. H. S. Briscoe
RECORD: St. Mary's County Estate No. 514
DATE: 1922
NOTES: W. H. S. Briscoe died intestate.

TO: W.H.S. Briscoe
FROM: W. H. S. Briscoe
RECORD: St. Mary's County Testamentary Record, Liber JBA 1, folio 108.
DATE: January 12, 1886
NOTES: After the death of his wife, the farm "Half Pone" to go to his son Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe "...together with farm utensils, four horses, one yoke of good oxen, two yearlings, two milch cows, ten sheep, one good breeding sow, seven shoats if my said wife's death should occur at any time in the year before the first of September..."

TO: W. H. Briscoe
FROM: Thomas H. Bond, Trustee
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JAC 5, folio 237.
DATE: May 23, 1871.
NOTES: Sale of "Half Pone" being 320 acres as a result of default on mortgage of Henry Vanderford to Thomas Bond in JAC 2/285 on February 23, 1867. Price: $8700

SM-255, Tobacco Barn on Half Pone Farm
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

TO: Henry Vanderford
FROM: Thomas H. Bond and Addie Bond
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JAC 2, folio 305.
DATE: February 1, 1867.
NOTES: Transfer of "Half Pone" lying on the Patuxent River being 326 acres.
Price: $20,000

TO: Thomas H. Bond
FROM: Edward R. Lusby and Emily Lusby
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record Liber JAC 1, folio 63.
DATE: November 9, 1864.
NOTES: Transfer of "Half Pone" being 326 acres, the same lately purchased of William Biles. Price: $5348.48

TO: Thomas H. Bond
FROM: Edward R. Lusby and Emily Lusby of Baltimore
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JTB 1, folio 161.
DATE: June 5, 1863.
NOTES: Bond of conveyance. This document outlines how outstanding mortgages will be paid and by whom. Notes that William Biles was resident on the property when it was sold in 1862.

TO: Edmund R. Lusby of Baltimore
FROM: William Biles and Sarah Biles
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JTB 4, folio 161.
DATE: December 30, 1862.
NOTES: Transfer of "Half Pone" being a portion of the land sold to William Biles by Lewis S. Gilliams and Charlotte L. Gilliams being 326 acres. Price: $10,000

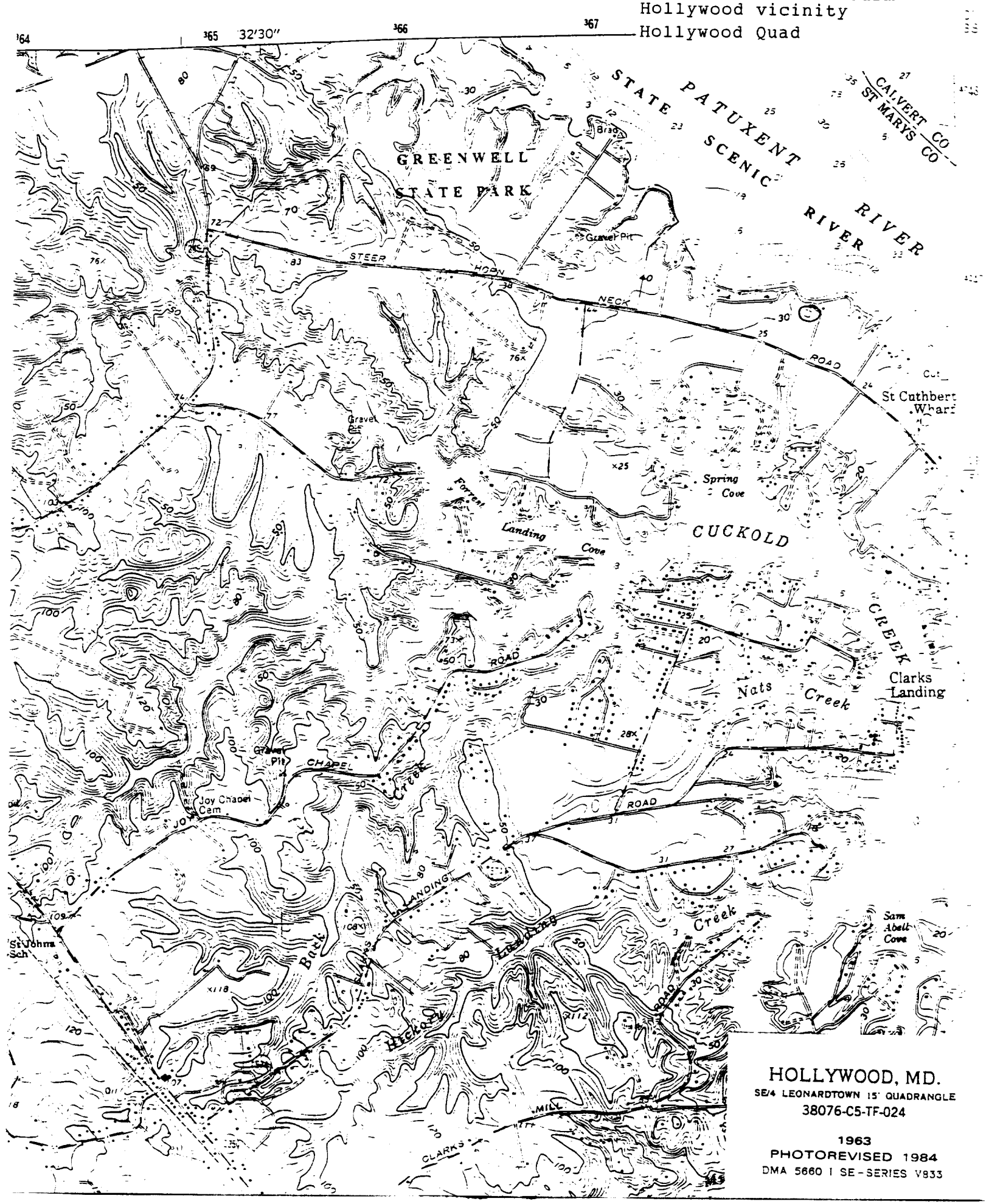
TO: William Biles of Bucks County, Pennsylvania.
FROM: Lewis Gilliams and Charlotte L. Gilliams
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JTB 1, folio 577.
DATE: March 10, 1854.
NOTES: Transfer of "Half Pone." Price: $10,000

TO: Lewis S. Gilliams
FROM: William B. Scott and Ann Scott
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JH 11, folio 415.
DATE: April 10, 1839.
NOTES: Transfer of "Half Pone" being 500 acres described as "Beginning at the mouth of Green Pond on the River Patuxent as it now runs thence up the said pond

HOLLYWOOD QUADRANGLE

SM-255

Barn on Half Pone Farm
Hollywood vicinity
Hollywood Quad



HOLLYWOOD, MD.
SE/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE
38076-C5-TF-024

1963
PHOTOREVISED 1984
DMA 5660 I SE-SERIES V833