

Capsule Summary
SM-546
Drydocking Farm Tobacco Barn
Tintop Hill Vicinity
Private

mid-nineteenth century, c. 1840s

Constructed in the mid-nineteenth century, the Drydocking Farm Tobacco Barn represents a significant structure that illustrates how farmers experimented with barn construction during the period. Measuring approximately 60' x 24', the braced frame barn utilizes a series of hanging braces that provide additional support for the tobacco ties. These ties could be easily removed allowing the farmer to use the structure for other crops or storage, if necessary. Evidence in the west gable end room of barn, also suggests that the barn once contained a vertical hogshead press. This functional versatility and specialization represents important themes that epitomized changes in the agricultural landscape during the mid-nineteenth century.

While documentary evidence fails to pinpoint its exact construction date, architectural evidence such as the braced frame, use of pitted and hewn framing members, use of stone and brick in the foundation, and the consistent use of cut nails on the framing members all suggest a c. 1840s date. During this period, the Drydocking farm was owned by Allen and Rachel Thomas who eventually sold the property to E. Leo Spalding in 1852.

SM-546, Drydocking Farm Tobacco Barn
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

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

Resource Type

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

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-546

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Dryadocking Farm Tobacco Barn

and/or common

2. Location

street & number SE side of Route 245, .1 mile N of the intersection of 245 & McIntosh Rd. not for publication

city, town Leonardtown vicinity of congressional district 3

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Joseph P. and Helen B. Wilkinson

street & number telephone no.: (301) 475-2629

city, town Leonardtown state and zip code Md 20650

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber CBG 14

street & number folio 369

city, town Leonardtown state Md

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-546

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input 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.

Contributing Resources: 1

The Drydocking Farm Tobacco Barn, a mid-nineteenth century farm building, stands at the southern end of a dirt lane and to the east of an early twentieth-century dwelling approximately 1 mile north of Leonardtown on Route 245. The barn is a one-story, braced frame, gable-sided structure composed of a central block with one original flanking shed on its south elevation. The central block measures 60 feet by 24 feet while the gable-side shed is roughly 16 feet wide. Vertical board siding, ranging in measurement from 8" to 18", covers the walls of the entire structure, while a common rafter, gable roof that changes pitch tops the building.

Entry into the barn is achieved by a pair of swinging doors on the north and south (gable-side) elevations and single doors on the east and west elevations. All of these doors exhibit wrought strap hinges and rosehead wrought nails that hold Z-shaped battens in place. The doors on the south elevation as well as the south wall of the main block are shaded by the open shed.

The barn currently exhibits three different foundations. On the east, west, and south elevations, the barn features a stone foundation with a row of brick headers laid as a leveling course. The foundation on the north elevation, however, was replaced in the twentieth-century with concrete piers when a new sill was inserted. This sill, as well as the others, lie well above the level of the current floor surface of the structure, as there is only a dirt floor. The shed, meanwhile, is supported by eight hole-set cedar or locust posts laid directly into the ground. These posts are modern replacements of earlier posts that rotted.

The interior of the main block is divided into three structurally integrated sections--containing eight bays in all. Two of the interior bays, however, exhibit 6" x 9" down braces that extend from 7 1/2" x 6 1/2" hewn posts into 9" x 7" intermediate sills--thus interrupting the interior space of the barn into the previously noted three sections. The posts of each bay are mortised and tenoned into both the wall plate and sill. Due to the length of the building, each wall plate contains a scarf joint held by four vertically inserted pegs. A series of pit sawn and hewn (structural) ties connect the two wall plates to each other and provide the main source of support for a series of hanging braces. Mortised, lapped, and placed vertically on top of the plate, each tie extends beyond the exterior wall surface to form an open cornice.

The main block's common rafter roof consists of skinned logs, butted at the peak with the rafters resting on a flat false plate. A set of three, half-lapped and dovetailed ties hold each rafter pair together. A corrugated metal roof currently covers the rafters.

The three structural sections of the main block are entered through various doorways located on every elevation of the barn. The middle section contains two sets of two doors on both the north and south elevations. Below the doorway on the south elevation, the hewn sill lies uninterrupted. The middle section contains three levels of horizontal tobacco poles that rest on v-shaped blocks as well as horizontal nailers located on the sides of the barn. These poles are supported at their center by hanging braces. These hanging braces or "swinging tiers" consist of

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-546

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 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

Builder/Architect

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.

Constructed in the mid-nineteenth century, the Drydocking Farm Tobacco Barn represents a significant structure that epitomizes barn construction during the period. The braced frame barn utilizes a series of hanging braces or "swinging tiers" that provided additional support for the tobacco ties and could also be easily removed--allowing the farmer to use the structure for other crops or storage. This functional versatility represents an important agricultural theme in St. Mary's County during the mid-nineteenth century.

Unfortunately, the documentary evidence for the property and barn does not support nor refute the above construction date. Due to a broken chain-of-title, the ownership during the mid-nineteenth century remains obscure. Benjamin Tippet, however, did survey the farm in 1852 as the result of the sale of the property from Allen and Rachel Thomas to E. Leo Spalding. The survey plat does not identify any barn on the property, but does note the location of a "dwelling house" and "grog shop". According to the current owner, Joseph P. Wilkinson, remains of the grog shop can still be seen. Apparently, the remains include two exterior end chimneys constructed of stone and brick.

The possession of the property from 1852 to 1887 is unclear due to a break in the chain-of-title. But in 1887 the property was purchased by Richard H. Garner, trustee for Billingsley Garner, a minor from Oscar and Eleanor Miles. The property was then purchased by George Y. McCully from Louis B. Schneider in 1909 and was sold twice more before the current owners bought the 140 acre farm in 1943. The farm currently consists of 119 acres.

SM-546, Drydocking Farm Tobacco Barn
St. Mary's County
7.1 Description

(cont.)

two pit-sawn or hewn vertical members spaced about one foot apart with pegs attaching the two together. These pegs, in turn, support the tobacco ties that extend across the width of the barn. The east section contains a similar arrangement of horizontal poles and hanging braces, but this section is entered from the gable end through a single door. The west section also contains a single door, but exhibits a slightly different function. While having the requisite horizontal poles for drying tobacco, it also exhibits a pair of longitudinal vertical set planks, bolted together suggesting the structural elements needed for a vertical hogshead press. Although the press no longer exists, the room is still cordoned off from the rest of the main block by wood slats and also features a plank floor as opposed to the dirt floor of the other two sections.

The shed addition is supported by a series of vertical, hole-set barked posts that are mortised and tenoned into a wall plate. These posts as well as the plate are modern replacements of previous members. The rafters of the addition are attached to and supported by the rafters of the main block and fall into a circular sawn plate supported by the hole-set posts. The gable ends of the shed are sheathed with vertical board siding held in place with wire and cut nails, while the southern end of the shed is left largely open. The shed also covers the south end of the main block. This wall is covered with pit sawn slats that permit ventilation into the main block. These slats are held in place by fully formed cut nails.

SM-546, Drydocking Farm Tobacco Barn

St. Mary's County

8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted)

Reference: CBG Liber 14, Folio 369

Grantee: Joseph P. and Helen B. Wilkinson

Grantor: Mabel E. Greenwell and R. Paul Greenwell and James F. Mattingly

Date: June 11, 1943

Note: The deed notes that James F. Mattingly is quitclaiming his rights to the property. It notes the name of the property as "Drydocking" and composed of 140 acres.

Reference: JMM Liber 7, Folio 25

Grantee: Mabel E. Greenwell

Grantor: Joseph A. Saunders

Date: May 12, 1930

Note: The property called Drydocking is listed as containing 140 acres

Reference: EBA Liber 9, Folio 25

Grantee: James Ford Greenwell

Grantor: George Y. McCully

Date: September 15, 1910

Note: The property is called Drydocking.

Reference: EBA Liber 8, Folio 210

Grantee: George Y. McCully

Grantor: Louis B. Schneider

Date: December 24, 1909

Note: The property called Dryadocking and Dryadocking Addition is listed as containing 200 acres.

Reference: JFF Liber 180

Grantee: Richard H. Garner, Trustee for Billingsley Garner

Grantor: Oscar Miles and Eleanor Miles

Date: August 23, 1887.

Note: Unfortunately, there is no mention of the property called Dryadocking. This deed did not contain a bean clause so the chain-of-title was broken.

Reference: JTB Liber 1, Folio 289

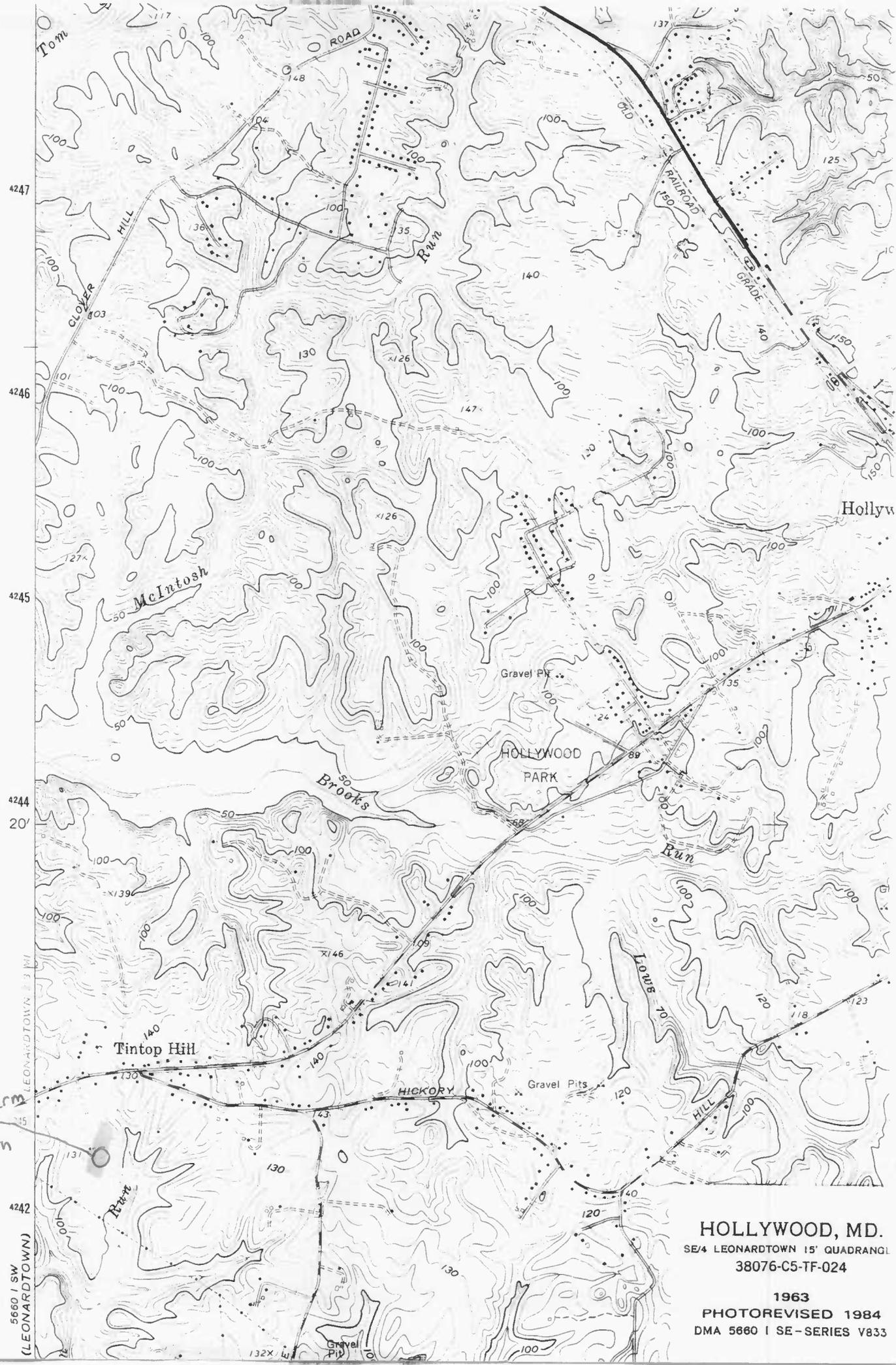
Grantee: E. Leo Spalding

Grantor: Allen Thomas and Rachel Thomas (wife)

Date: September 18, 1852

Note: This deed refers to Dryadocking and Benjamin Tippett surveyed the property. The plat is located in page 60 of Benjamin Tippett's survey books.

SM-546
Drydocking Farm
Tobacco Barn



4247
4246
4245
4244
20'
4242

Tom

5660 1 SW
(LEONARDTOWN)

LEONARDTOWN 3 MI

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

1963
PHOTOREVISED 1984
DMA 5660 1 SE-SERIES V833











SP-346

Scrapbooking from tobacco box

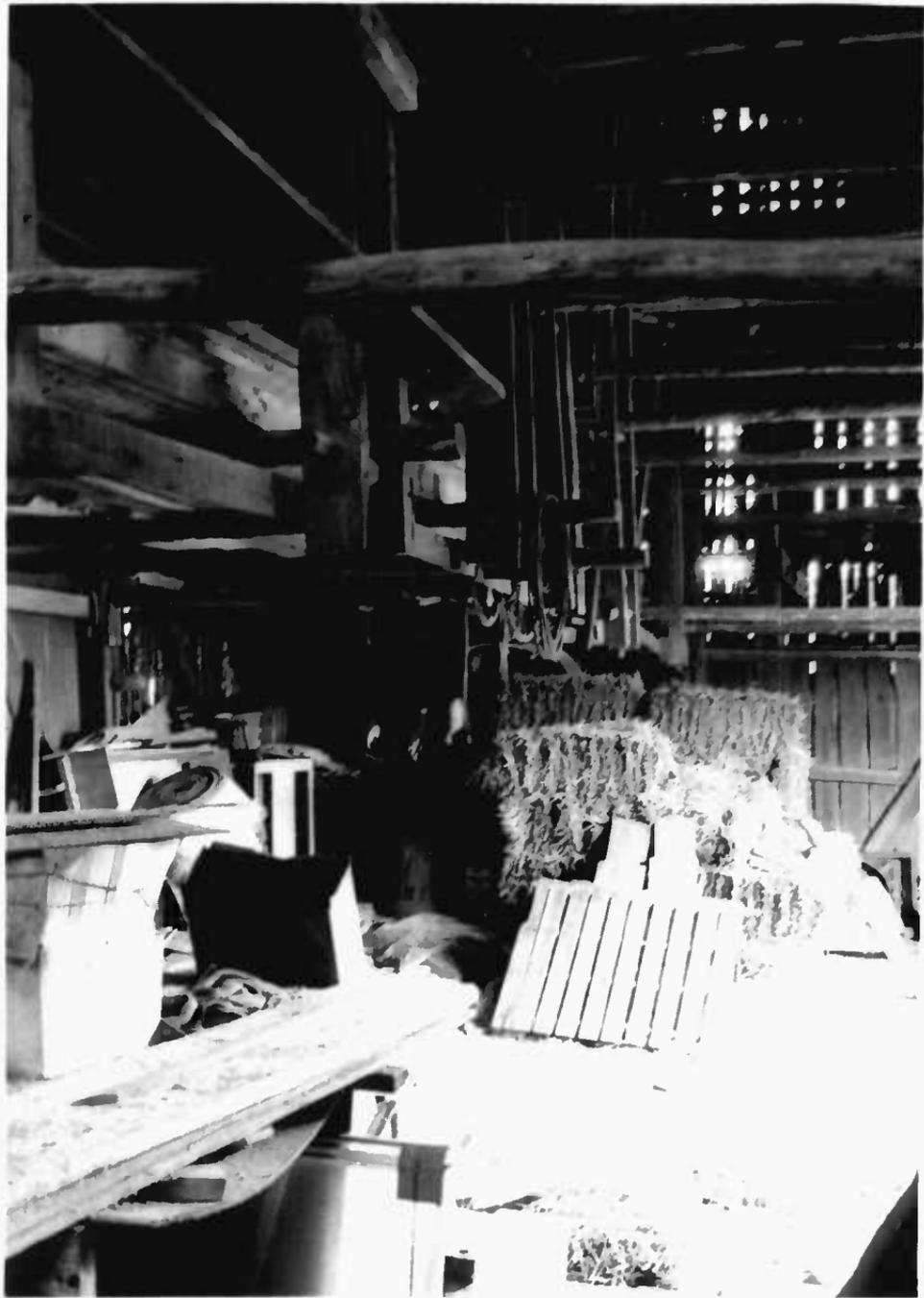
St. Mary's Convent

Rick Rausette

Md SHPO

Interior - looking W

2 of 2



SM-546

Drydocking Farm Tobacco Barn

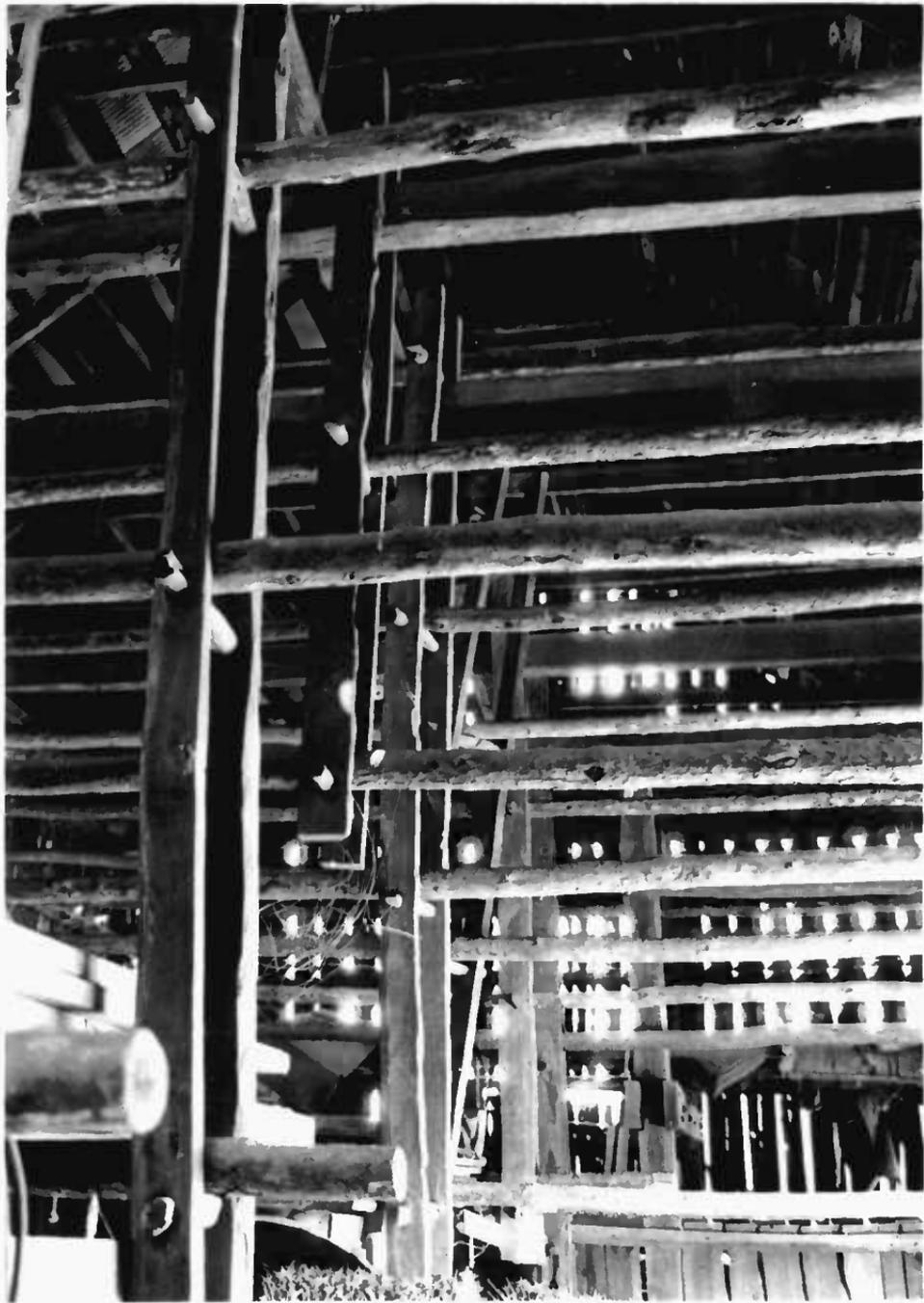
Lt. Mary's County

Rock Panzetta

MD 5440

Entire looking @

6 of 8



SM-546

Dredging Farm Tobacco Basin

St. Mary's County

Kirk Panzetta

MD SHPO

Enteric Isotopid

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