

QA-304

Florence Mason Bank Barn
Ruthsburg vicinity
Private

late 19th century

The Florence Mason barn is a rare example of a barn type commonly associated with Pennsylvania and parts of western Maryland, but rarely found on the Eastern Shore. This building is believed to date to the late 19th century, and was probably built by the Beck family of Northumberland County Pennsylvania, who owned this farm at that time, as well as the Willis Redden farm nearby, on which an earlier bank barn also survives (see QA-382).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Florence Mason Bank Barn

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side of Md. Rt. 304, 1/2 mile east of Ruthsburg

CITY, TOWN

Ruthsburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

 VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

William I. Mason

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

RD#1

CITY, TOWN

Queen Anne

 VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21657

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: ASG Jr. 4

Folio #: 379

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-304

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 _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Florence Mason farm is located on the north side of Maryland Route 304 about one-half mile east of Ruthsburg. The barn is located to the east of the house within several hundred feet of the road.

This seemingly innocuous looking barn is, on closer examination, one of the few known examples of a Pennsylvania bank barn surviving on the central and lower Eastern Shore. Sited on relatively flat ground, the "bank" is man-made, and consists of a wide earth ramp on the north side of the barn, allowing wagons and machinery to be driven up the ramp and through huge sliding doors into the mow. The south facade has the overshot bay typical of this type of barn, with a series of "dutch" stable doors allowing access to stalls on the ground floor. The brick foundation is laid in common bond, and is carried out the full extent of the overshot bay, but is not carried across the south facade.

The barn is four bays long. On the north facade, the two center bays are left open, with large doors mounted on rails that can be opened to allow access to the mow. The doors are now gone.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

There are no other openings on this facade. The west gable has three small window openings in the brick foundation wall. Two of these have been closed up, but the third remains open. On the main floor level, there are two doors, and on the upper level there are two window openings with louvered vents. There is a single six-over-six window in the upper gable.

On the south facade, there are sliding doors at each end of the forebay, and four stable doors between them. These are hung on machine made strap hinges. The forebay wall is covered with german siding. On the main floor of this facade, above the forebay, there are two large doors in the center, a ventilator in the east bay and a six-over-six window in the west bay. On the upper level, two six-over-six windows in the center bays are flanked by one ventilator on either side.

The east gable has three small windows in the brick foundation, and no openings on the upper levels.

The interior of the barn is divided into animal stalls on the ground level, while the main floor and loft are designed to store hay

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

and grain. The eastern three bays of the loft are left open, but the western bay has been partitioned off up to the tie beam, and was used for storing grain. The loft space above the granary was also used for hay.

A steep, open stair descends from the main floor to the lower level at the north side of the west bay. Wooden ladders rise from the main floor to the upper reaches of the loft.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

Construction Details

The barn rests on a brick foundation laid in common bond. The sills are laid directly on top of the masonry walls. Joists are let into the facade sills, and run parallel to the gables. The joists are supported by three girts running parallel to the ridge of the roof, which are in turn supported by heavy posts. The sill on the south facade is supported by the joists, which are cantilevered from a girt, supported by posts, which are also used to frame the exterior wall of the forebay.

The framing bents consist of two end posts and two intermediate posts, tied together with two sets of tie beams and a top plate. Two queen posts are mortised into the top plate, and are stabilized with a tie beam. Each queen post supports a purlin. The individual framing bents are joined together by the facade top plates, two longitudinal tie beams, and the purlins. All junctions are reinforced with heavy up-braces. The rafters are continuous from the top plate to the peak, where they are mitred, butted, and

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

nailed. The roof pitch is 34.5° . All framing material is circular sawn oak, secured with mortise and tenon joints. Wire nails are used for all stud framing, suggesting a date of circa 1900 for this building.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

QA-304

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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 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 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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Florence Mason barn, believed to have been built circa 1900, is the only recorded example of a "bank barn" in Queen Anne's County. This type of barn is often called a "Pennsylvania barn" because of its widespread use there, and is also relatively common in Maryland along the Pennsylvania border and west of the fall line separating the Tidewater region from the Piedmont. Ideally suited to the rolling hills and steep terrain in those areas, the bank barn is relatively unusual on both the Eastern Shore and in Southern Maryland. Only one other example is known to survive on the Eastern Shore south of the Chester River.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

5/23/79

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

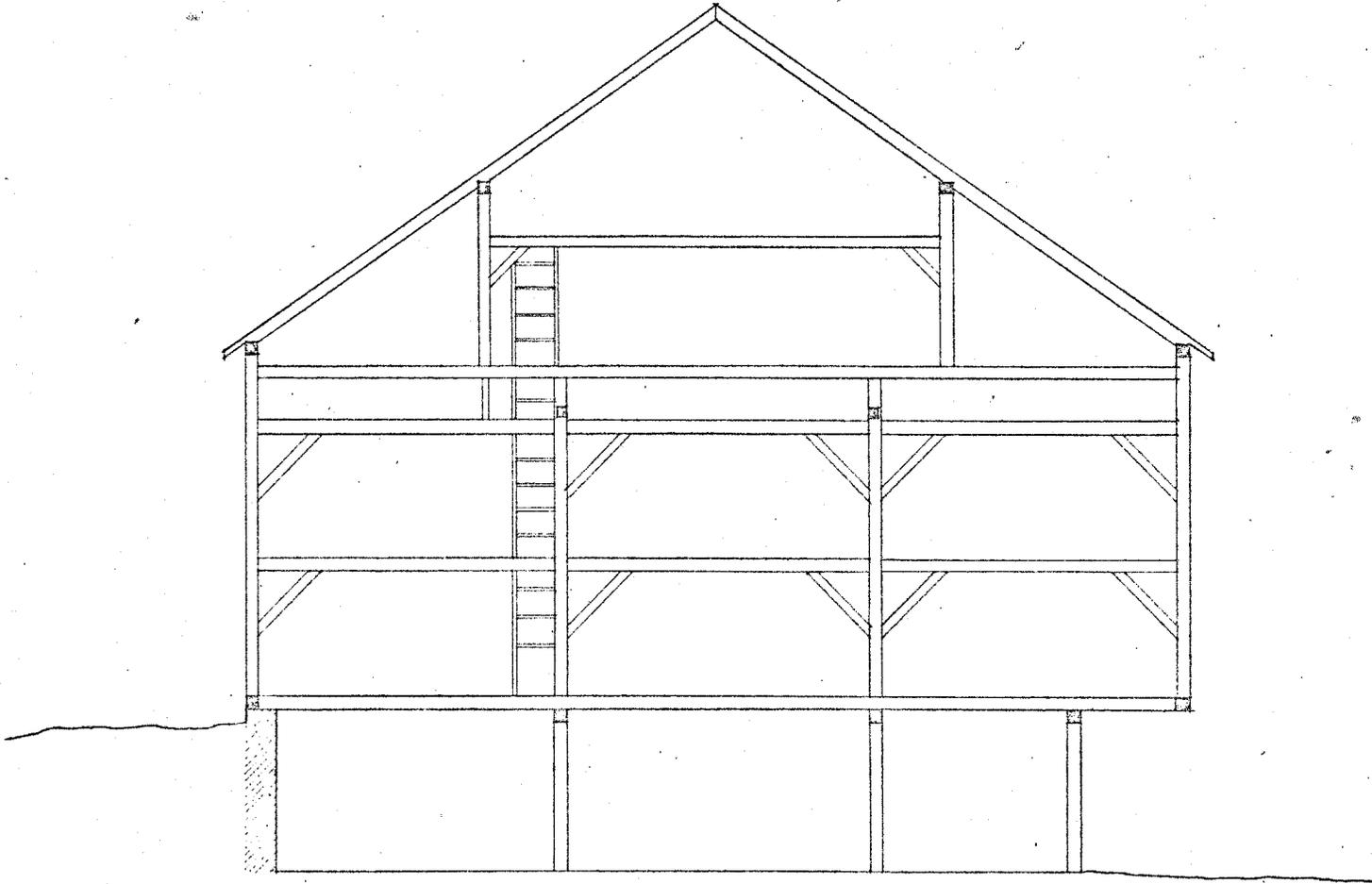
STATE

Maryland 21617

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438




SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

FRAMING SECTION

ORLANDO RIDOUT V

QA-304

FLORENCE MASON BANK BARN
RUTHSBURG, MARYLAND

JULY 9, 1978.



QA-304 Florence Mason Bank Barn
Ruthsburg, Md.
Orlando Ridout V, 1978 (MHT)
NW facade, camera facing SE



QA-304 Florence Mason Bank Barn
Ruthsbury, Md.
Orlando Ridout V, 1978 (MHT)
SW gable, camera facing NE



QA-304 Florence Mason Bank Barn
Ruthsburg, MD
Orlando Ridout V, 1978 (MHT)
Detail of forebay, camera facing NE

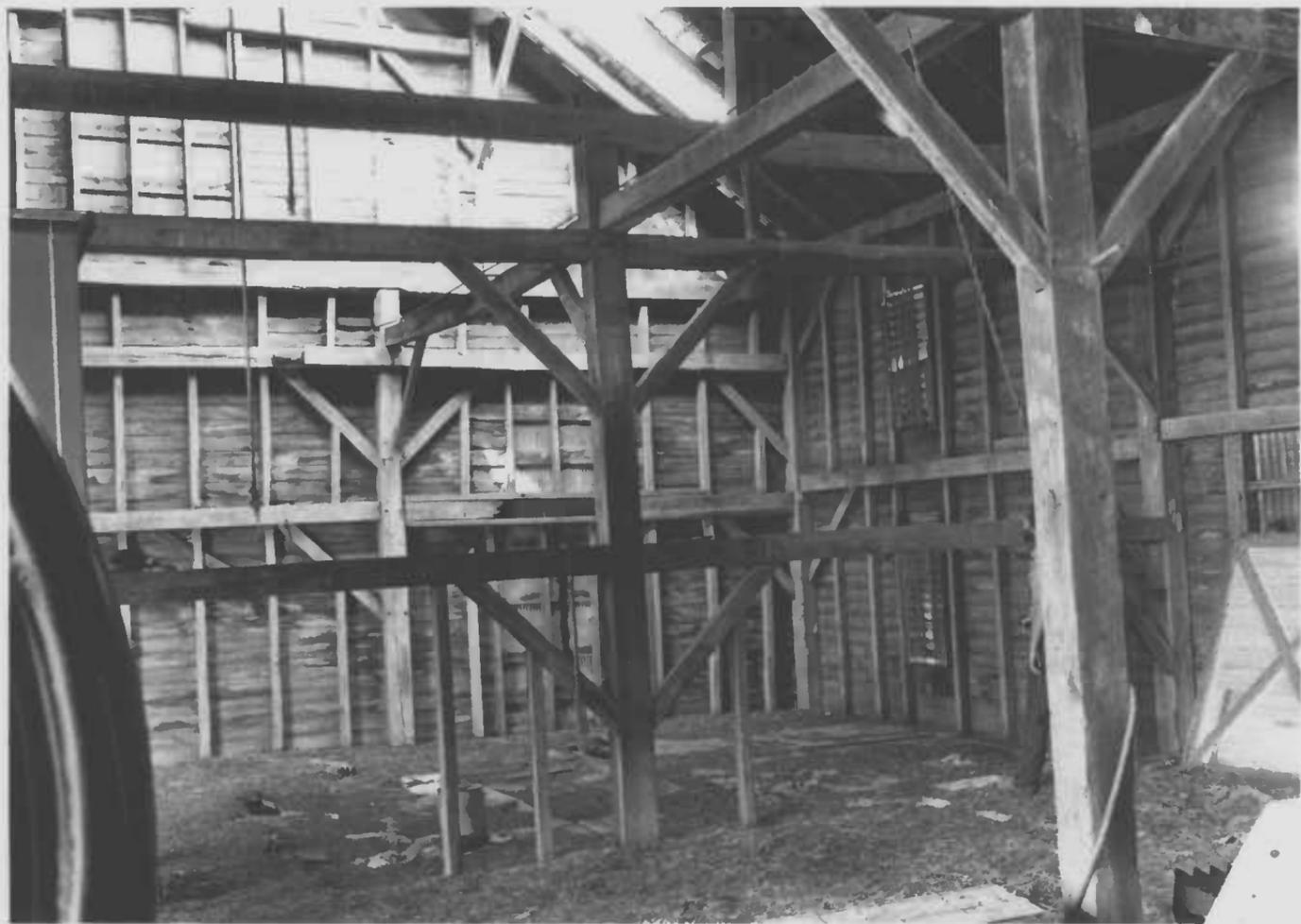


EA-304 Florence Mason Bank Barn

interior of loft

Ruthtsburg Md.

Mark Edwards 1978.



QA-304 Florence Mason Bank Barn
interior framing
Ruthsburg, Md
Mark Edwards 1978