SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 98000544 Date Listed: 6/1/98

Maple Leaf Farm Potato House — Wicomico — MD
Property Name: County: State:

_____
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus — 6/12/98
Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

A Level of Significance was not selected in section 3 of the form; the State has clarified that the building is of a Local level of significance. The form is officially amended to include this information.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Maple Leaf Farm Potato House

other names/site number Rounds Farm, WI-336

2. Location

street & number 26632 Porter Mill Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Hebron ☒ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Wicomico code 045 zip code 21830

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 4-15-98

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Maple Leaf Farm Potato ıse
Name of Property

Wicomic County, Maryland
County and State

WI-336

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/Subsistence/storage

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Brick
roof Wood/shingle
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Maple Leaf Farm Potato ıse
Name of Property

WI-336

Wicom.) County, Maryland
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☒ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)
Agriculture

Period of Significance
c. 1920 - c. 1928

Significant Dates
c. 1920

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibilography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Maple Leaf farm potato house stands on a property known as Western Fields in the vicinity of Hebron, Wicomico County, Maryland. The brick potato house was moved during July 1997 from its original site on the north side of US Route 50 southeast of the intersection of White Lowe Road. On its new site, the Maple Leaf farm potato house is located behind an historic farm dwelling, and it is surrounded by fields.

Supported on a parged brick foundation, the common bond brick structure measures 40'2" by 24 and it is covered by a medium pitched gable roof of asphalt shingles. The south elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows. The second floor is pierced by three evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows. Exposed brick walls and exposed framing characterize the interiors of each floor. Supported by a scarfed summer beam, the split floor joists are set on 1' center in order to carry the load of potatoes stored on the second floor.

The period of significance, c. 1920 - c. 1928, corresponds to the period during which the building was actively used for the storage of sweet potatoes.

DESCRIPTION

The Maple Leaf farm potato house is a two-story, three-bay common bond brick structure erected around 1920 with its main elevation originally built to face southwest with its gable roof oriented on a northwest/southeast axis. During the summer of 1997, with the pending construction of a Route 50 By-Pass north of Salisbury, the brick potato house was moved to a new farm site off Porter Mill Road. Now standing on a property known as Western Fields, the potato house was repositioned with its main facade oriented south and its gable roof follows an east/west axis.

Supported on a parged brick foundation, the base of the potato house is defined by a slightly projecting watertable, and the seven-course common bond walls include a Flemish bond row in lieu of the more commonly found header course. The walls rise to a medium pitched gable roof that is covered with asphalt shingles over wood shingles. Piercing the gable roof is an off-center brick stove chimney. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave and a sloped soffit is enclosed with narrow boards.

The southwest elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking windows. Each opening is defined by a segmental arch laid in double courses of rowlocks. The entrance is fitted with a beaded board door assembled with Z-shaped battens. Each of the adjacent window openings are filled with two-over-two double-hung sash windows framed by half round window surrounds. The second floor is defined by three six-over-six sash window openings that are currently boarded over and missing their sash. Double rowlock arches span each of the window openings.

The southeast gable end is pierced by a single six-over-six sash window opening on the second floor. The upper wall construction above the second floor height is stud framed and sheathed with plain weatherboards. Centered in the gable end is a boarded over window opening.

The northeast (rear) elevation is an asymmetrical three-bay fenestration with three small two-over-two sash window openings on the first floor. A board-and-batten door is located in the center bay of the second floor and a small six-over-six sash window is fixed in the northwest second floor bay. The opposite bay on the second floor is not defined by a matching window.

The northwest gable end is a blind brick wall with a framed gable end sheathed with plain weatherboards. Centered in the gable end is a boarded up window opening.

The interior finish of the potato house is characterized by a concrete floor, exposed brick walls, and a series of closely set second floor joists. The joists are positioned on 1 foot centers and supported by a scarfed summer beam. Piercing the stove chimney is a terra-cotta thimble for a stove pipe. The second floor is accessed through a small opening in the floor directly above the front entrance. The second floor boards were laid with narrow spaces between each board.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Maple Leaf farm potato house is significant as an excellent example of a particular type of agricultural building erected in Wicomico County, and across the southern Delmarva peninsula in general. Potato~~es~~ houses were erected for the specific purpose of curing sweet potatoes, a crop that escalated tremendously in production during the early twentieth century, especially between 1900 and 1920. Distinguishing the Maple Leaf farm potato house from others in Wicomico County, and adjacent Sussex County, Delaware, is its brick wall construction. (See Thematic nomination of Sweet Potato Houses of Sussex County, Delaware, Judith A. Quinn and Bernard L. Herman, January 1988) The relocation of the Maple Leaf farm potato house was triggered due to its pending destruction. The original site is in the future path of a US Route 50 by-pass. On its new site at Western Fields (WI-37), the Maple Leaf farm potato house will retain a rural, agricultural setting behind a historic farmhouse.

As a building type significant to the agricultural history of Wicomico County, the potato house was of critical importance as the curing and storage location for a cash crop that required a consistent warm temperature through the winter months. The export of the county's sweet potato crop was accomplished by means of local transportation networks. Regular steamboat and train schedules provided reliable means of conveyance to distant markets. Early twentieth century improvements in local road and highway systems as well as the mass production and availability of trucks spawned the formation of early trucking ventures, which expedited the shipment of all sorts of farm products including sweet potatoes. Currently, the sweet potato house is one of the few architectural manifestations on peninsula farms that represent the early twentieth century shift into truck farming and modern agricultural marketing. (Quinn and Herman, Section E, p. 14)

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The property on which this potato house was erected was known during the twentieth century as the Maple Leaf dairy farm. The land, comprising parts of two tracts known as "White Fields" and Maddux Chance," was purchased by Elisha Henry Rounds in 1908 for $4150.00 (Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 58/392) Bounded by US Route 50 and White Lowe Road, the farm included 150 acres. According to Samuel Rounds, Henry

(Continued)

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

Rounds' grandson, the potato house was erected around 1920, although he is not aware of who actually did the construction. (Personal Interview with Samuel Rounds, August 1997) The brick potato house was one of many buildings that improved the farm. Standing near the potato house was the main farmhouse, a two-story frame dwelling that Sam Rounds described as long and narrow with a parlor, dining room, and kitchen on the first floor and four bedrooms on the second. The house had running water that served to fill a bath tub. The toilet was located outdoors in the privy. Other outbuildings included a barn, two silos, and a milk house. Electric lights for the house and outbuildings were provided by way of a carbide generator.

The growth of sweet potatoes on this farm took place over a ten to twenty year period with the construction of the brick potato house around 1920. The substantial brick walls were built in order to insure the safe storage and curing of the crop. A sixty degree temperature kept the potatoes from freezing, but it was cool enough so that they weren't cooked. According to Sam Rounds, they never had a problem with frozen sweet potatoes. When the potato house was built initially, the interior was fitted with storage bins in the same tradition found in other regional potato houses. The bins, however, were removed sometime later when Henry started to use bushel tubs for storage. Henry Rounds transported his potato crop by a two-horse wagon into Salisbury and sold them to a local wholesale/retail buyer Patrick Doughty, whose market was located on Mill Street.

Around 1928, the family entered into the dairy business and assembled a Guernsey herd of 135-140 milk cows. In lieu of potatoes, the family grew corn and alfalfa hay. The potato house was used as a storage building for milk cans and other farm equipment.

In 1933, Henry Rounds' brother Robert was killed in an automobile accident. Since Robert was largely in charge of the cows, the dairy operation was shut down after his death. Henry Rounds died in 1953 after a long twelve-year period of being restricted to bed. After his death the farm was divided between the five children; Joe, Harry, Lottie, Emma, and Sam's father, George. Although the main house burned between 1950 and 1955, the potato house and other outbuildings were used for farming purposes. Sam and his father grew potatoes and stored them in the brick structure until the 1960s.

Within the past five years the State Highway Administration has acquired the necessary land on which to build a new path for US Route 50 that will divert traffic north of Salisbury. The pending road construction triggered the relocation of the potato house, and T. J. and Fran Mumford hired local house mover Jerry Matyiko to move the building to their property known as Western Fields.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Personal interview with Sam Rounds, August 1997, Hilltop Market, Hebron, Maryland.

Quinn, Judith A. and Bernard L. Herman, "Sweet Potato Houses of Sussex County, Delaware," National Register nomination produced by the Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware, 1988.

Wicomico County Land Records, various volumes, Wicomico County Courthouse, Salisbury, Maryland.

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The National Register boundary of the relocated potato house is defined as a rectangle measuring approximately 60' by 44' whose sides lie 10' from, and parallel to, the four walls of the structure.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The potato house was moved to its present location to prevent its demolition for highway construction. Its present setting is consistent with its historic agricultural function; it is located within the boundaries of Western Fields, a farm complex with elements dating from the late 18th century through the early 20th century, which was listed in the National Register on June 12, 1987. The nominated property, approximately 2640 square feet, encompasses the relocated potato house within its immediate setting, while distinguishing the structure from other resources on the property with which it is not historically associated.

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Maple Leaf Farm Potato use
Name of Property

Wicom.) County, Maryland
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References Hebron, MD - DE quad
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	439790	4254340
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 7/28/97

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover state Maryland zip code 21871

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

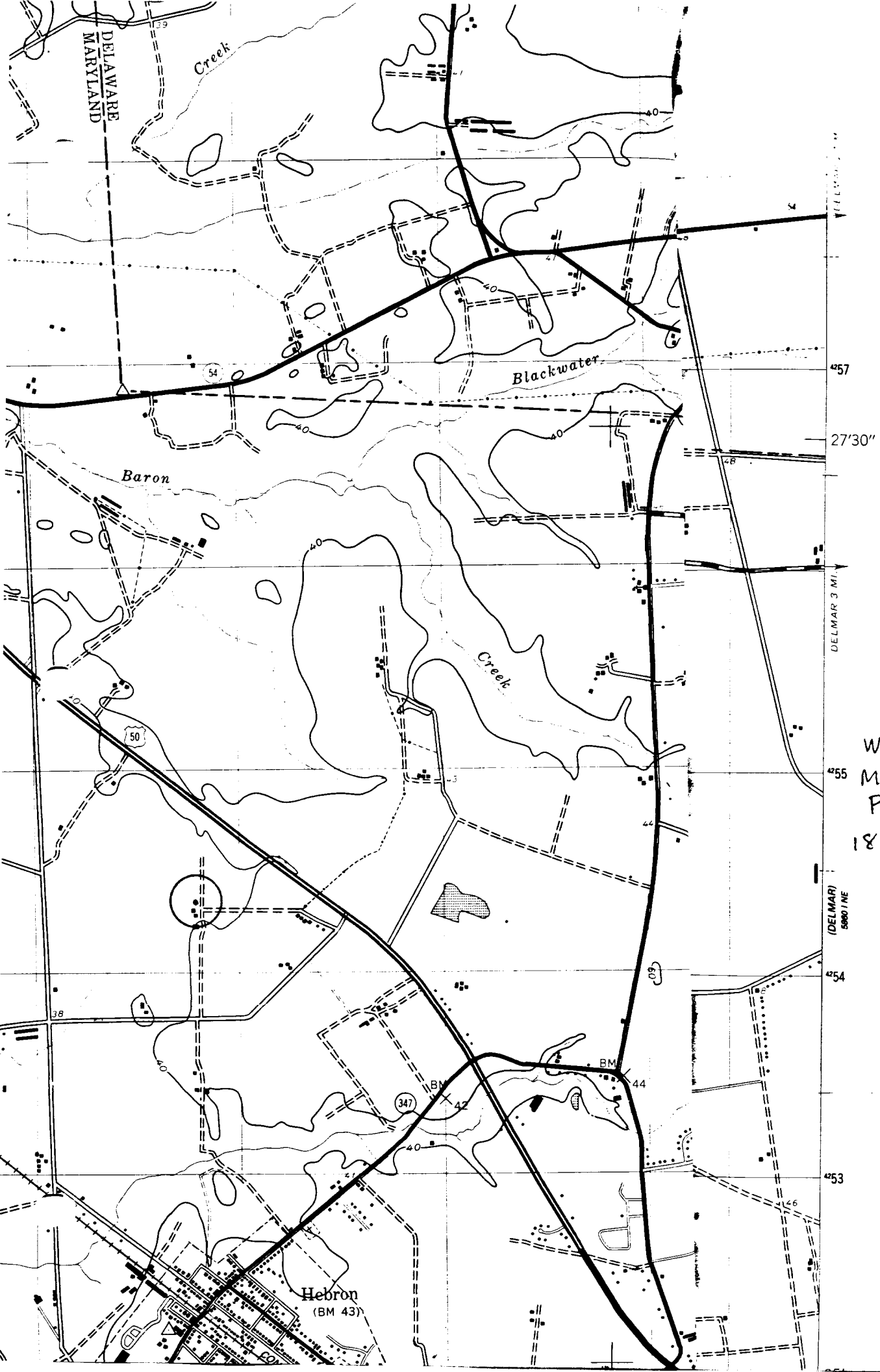
name T. J. and Fran Mumford

street & number Western Fields 26632 Porter Mill Road telephone 410-543-8977

city or town Hebron state Maryland zip code 21830

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



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MAPLE LEAF FARM
POTATO HOUSE
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4254340

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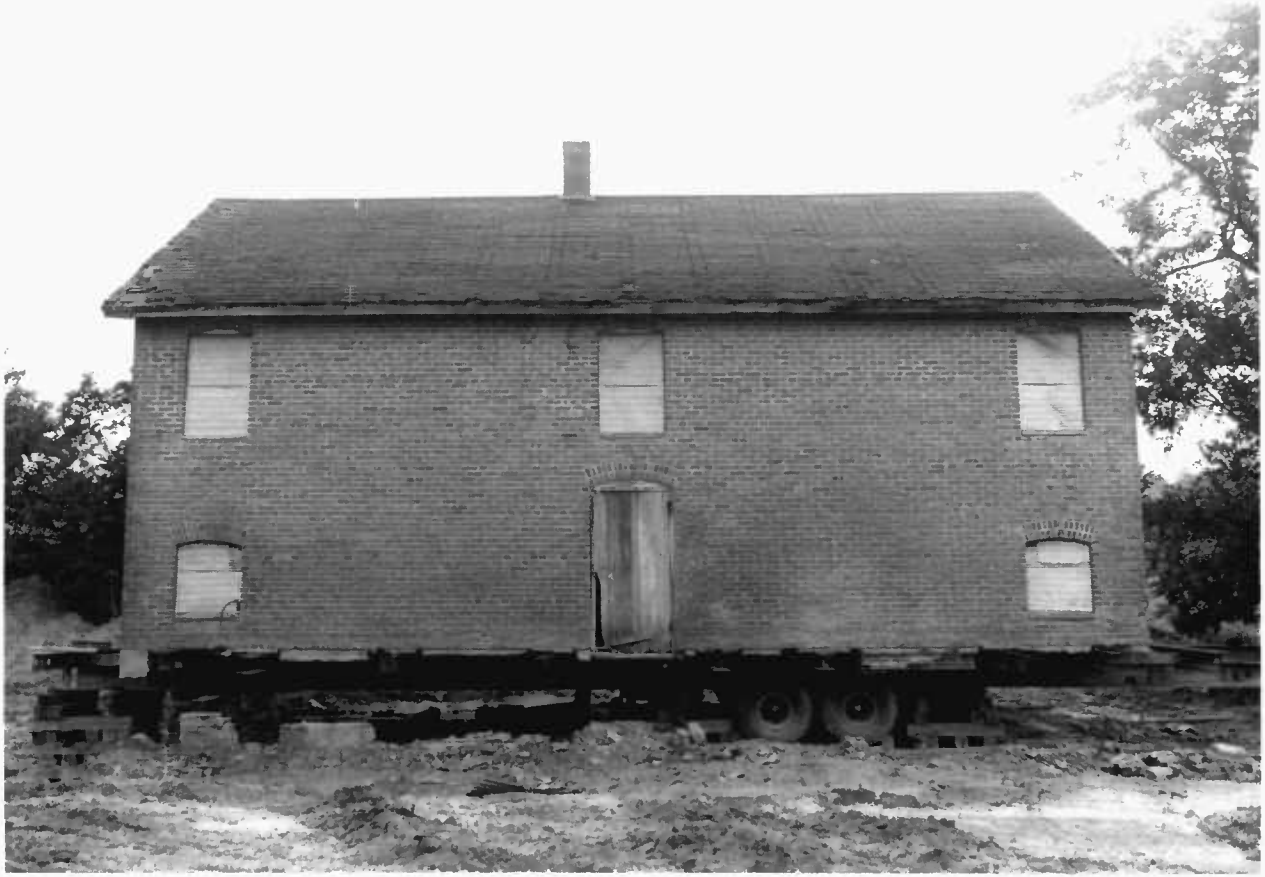

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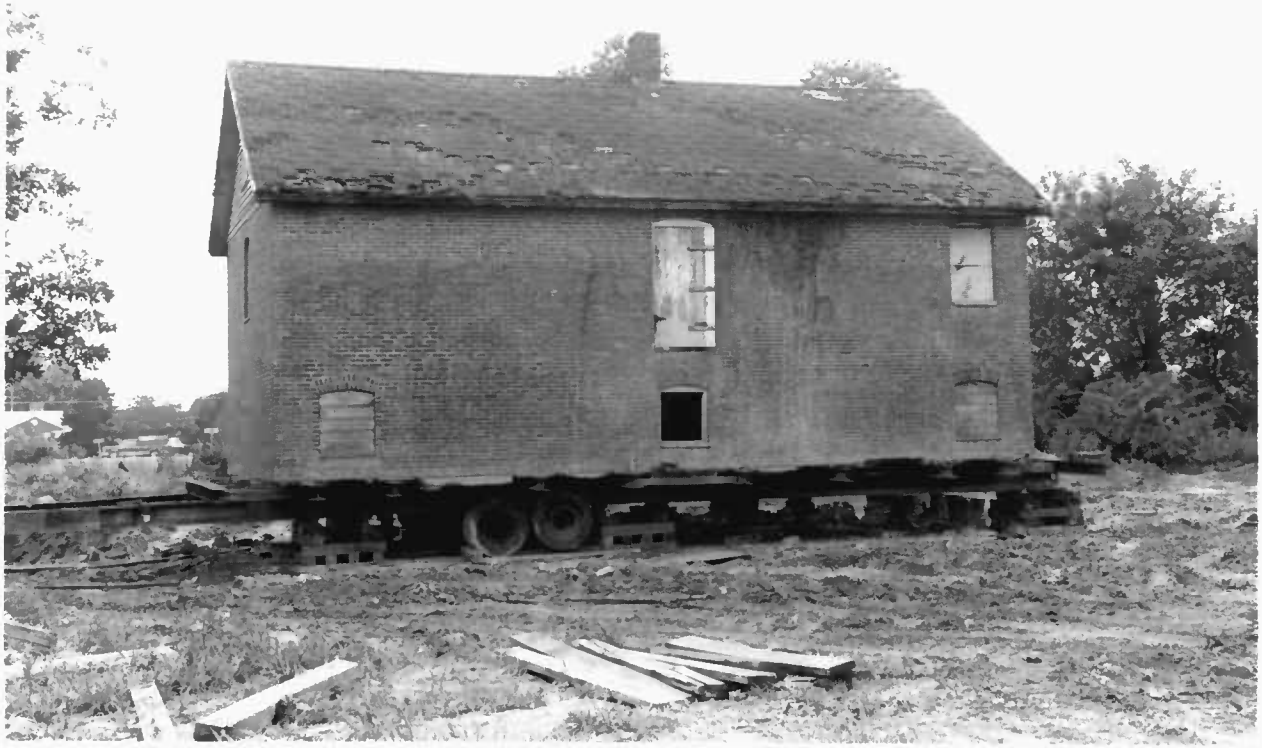

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Northeast [illegible]

6/97, Paul Tomart, [illegible]

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C.

WI-376

Maple Leaf [illegible]

Hebron vicinity, Wicomico [illegible]

Northeast [illegible]

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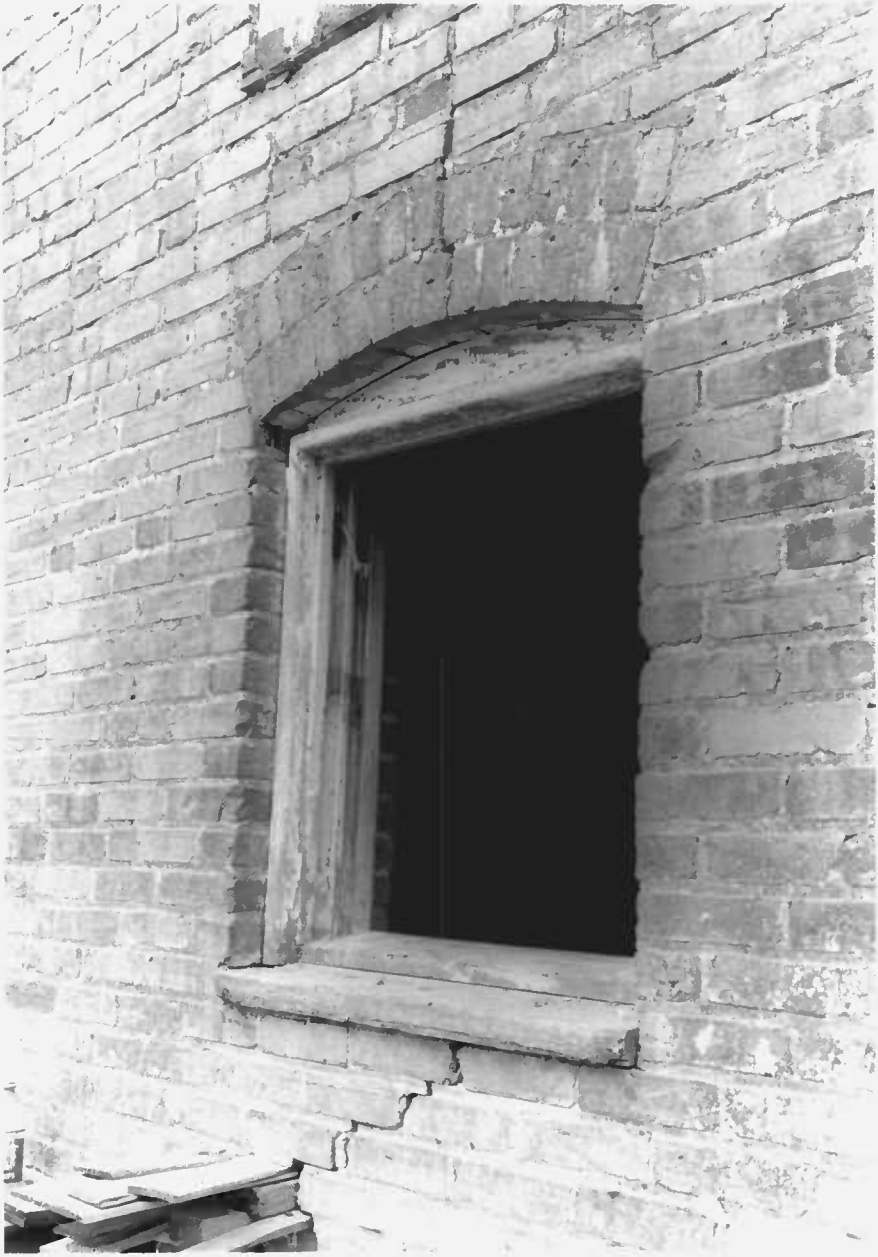

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