

WO-256
Old Snow Hill Potato House
Snow Hill
private

c. 1900

The old Snow Hill potato house has been a distinctive architectural fixture on the eastern edge of Snow Hill since the early twentieth century. The two-story weatherboarded frame building was the location for the bulk storage of area farmers' potato harvests. With its proximity to the county road as well as the railroad, the building was advantageously sited for the bulk storage and shipment of potato filled baskets.

Aside from the loss of the chimney stack, this plank framed building has not been significantly altered since the early twentieth century. Board shutters remain on most of the original six-over-six or four-over-four window sash, and the interior is fully fitted with tongue-and-groove board walls. Stumps of various farmers' potato baskets are still decipherable on the walls.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: Snow Hill Potato House

MHT Inventory Number: W0-256

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture, Agriculture, Economic

2) Geographic Orientation:

Eastern Shore

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

1870-1930 Industrial - Urban Dominance

4) Resource Type(s):

1. Standing Structure

a. Bulk Storage Facility for
Potatoes Along Railroad Siding

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-256

Magi No. 2402565711

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common

SNOW HILL POTATO HOUSE

2. Location

street & number

North side of East Market Street

 not for publication

city, town

Snow Hill

 vicinity of

congressional district

First

state

Maryland

county

Worcester

3. Classification

Category district building(s) structure site object**Ownership** public private both**Public Acquisition** in process being considered not applicable**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 (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

Tri-State Oil Company c/o Paul Cox

street & number

303 East Market Street

telephone no.: 632-2225

city, town

Snow Hill

state and zip code MD 21863

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Worcester County Clerk of Court

liber

street & number

Worcester County Courthouse

folio

city, town

Snow Hill

state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

 federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. W0-256

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

The old Snow Hill potato house, now used as a storage building for the Tri-State Oil Company, stands on the north side of East Market Street on the eastern edge of Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame building faces south with the gable oriented on a northwest/southeast axis.

Probably built during the first decade of the twentieth century, the weatherboarded, western-plank framed structure is supported by a poured concrete foundation, and it is covered by a steeply pitched wood shingle roof. Also covered with wood shingles is a gable roofed louvered vent that provides air circulation through the two-story building.

The south (main) elevation is a balanced three-bay facade with a center double door entrance and a shuttered six-over-six sash window to the east. Originally another window was located west of the entrance but was later altered to a door that led into a small shed roofed addition that has been taken off the building. The second floor is lighted by a pair of six-over-six sash as well, and the east window opening still retains its board shutter.

The west gable end of the building is marked by two four-over-four sash windows on each floor all of which retain board shutters. An interior end brick stove stack formerly protruded through the gable end, and it has been removed below the roofline. The eaves are slightly extended beyond the wall surface.

The east gable end, on the other hand, is marked by single six-over-six sash window that light each floor and both openings are shuttered as well.

The north (rear) elevation is defined by a center double-door opening with shuttered six-over-six sash windows to each side, and a pair of identical windows light the second floor.

The interior of the building has not changed significantly since the early twentieth century. Tongue-and-groove horizontal board walls are consistent throughout both floors, and an open stair rises in the southwest corner. A trap door in the second floor allowed for the passage of things between floors. Fixed in the board ceiling on the second floor is a sliding board hatch closed when the stove was fired to warm the potato harvest through the winter months.

8. Significance

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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SNOW HILL POTATO HOUSE
Snow Hill, MD Quadrangle, 1966

