

Capsule Summary
SM-770
Four Tobacco Barns
Oakley vicinity
Private

circa 1950s

The construction of tobacco barns tends to be associated with rises in market prices. It is therefore not surprising that four of the largest tobacco barns in the county were constructed on the east side of Oakley Road in the mid-twentieth century. As the Agricultural Schedules of the United States Census for the years 1940-1950 reveal, large increases in tobacco yields were reflective of the rising price of Maryland tobacco. In combination for increased needs, improvements in fertilizers and mechanical planting also resulted in increased yields. In order to house this the crop, farmers had to erect larger buildings and more of them. The expansive fields that surround the barns are indicative of the near industrial operation that occurred at this particular farm in the mid-twentieth century.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-770

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other Four Tobacco Barns

2. Location

street and number near 38822 Middletons Farm Lane __ not for publication

city, town Oakley x_ vicinity

county St. Mary's

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

name Edward Dyer Middleton

street and number General Delivery telephone N/a

city, town Clements state Md zip code 20624

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse tax map and parcel TM-31, P-284

city, town Leonardtown liber MRB 543 folio 231

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	4	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	_____	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	4	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
			0	

7. Description

Inventory No. SM-770

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Located on the east side of Oakley Road near Oakley, Maryland, four tobacco barns stand in the middle of an expansive cultivated field. Oriented on a north/south axis, the barns are situated on a flat, cultivated tract consisting of 101.79 acres. Only about 50 acres immediately visible from the road were surveyed. The property is bounded by Oakley Road to the west, a residential subdivision to the south, and agricultural and wooded tracts to the east and north.

Probably constructed in the mid-twentieth century, the four frame tobacco barns feature long rectangular plans with side gable entries. Standing on concrete pier foundations, the barns are sheathed with vertical boards. The gambrel roofs are covered corrugated metal. Unlike many contemporary barns, all of the tobacco barns feature four side gable through tractor-ways rather than axial plans that extend the entire length of the building from gable end to gable end.

8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-770

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The construction of tobacco barns tends to be associated with rises in market prices. It is therefore not surprising that four of the largest tobacco barns in the county were constructed on the east side of Oakley Road in the mid-twentieth century. As the Agricultural Schedules of the United States Census for the years 1940-1950 reveal, large increases in tobacco yields were reflective of the rising price of Maryland tobacco. In combination for increased needs, improvements in fertilizers and mechanical planting also resulted in increased yields. In order to house this the crop, farmers had to erect larger buildings and more of them. The expansive fields that surround the barns are indicative of the near industrial operation that occurred at this particular farm in the mid-twentieth century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-770

Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge, Md: Self-published, 1994.

United States Census, Agricultural Schedules, 1940-1960.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 50 acres
Acreage of historical setting 101.79 acres
Quadrangle name Leonardtown Quadrangle scale: 1:24 000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded by Oakley Road to the west, a residential subdivision to the south, and agricultural and wooded tracts to the east and north. A more specific description of the properties boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber MRB 543, Folio 231.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Mary's County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	August, 2000
street & number	22740 Washington Street	telephone	301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtown	state	Maryland

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
 DHCD/DHCP
 100 Community Place
 Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
 410-514-7600



SM-770
Four Tobacco Barns
Oakley
St. Mary's County
Leonardtown Quad



