Capsule Summary
SM-772
Cobrum's Wharf Farm
Oakley vicinity
Private circa 1900

Surrounded by cultivated fields and commanding an impressive vista of St. Clements Bay, Cobrum's Wharf Farm is a good example of an early twentieth century farm. Consisting of a house constructed circa 1900 and at least two mid-twentieth century tobacco barns, the property reveals how this neighborhood of St. Mary's County had a heavy focus on tobacco based agriculture. The relative isolation of the property and the lack of modern development in the neighborhood when accompanied by other large farms in the area such as the Stone farm (SM-771), makes Cobrum's Wharf Farm a particularly well preserved farmstead that deserves further documentation.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-772

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	
other	Cobrum's Wharf Farm

2. Location

street and number	39128 Cobrum's Wharf Road	__	not for publication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	Robert and Lynn Burton				
street and number	39128 Cobrum's Wharf Road			telephone	N/a
city, town	Avenue	state	Md	zip code	20609

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	St. Mary's County Courthouse	tax map and parcel	TM-39, P-268	
city, town	Leonardtown	liber	EWA 1380	folio 70

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
____district
_x_building(s)
____structure
____site
____object

Ownership
____public
_x_private
____both

Current Function
_x_agriculture
____commerce/trade
____defense
_x_domestic
____education
____funerary
____government
____health care
____industry
____landscape
____recreation/culture
____religion
____social
____transportation
____work in progress
____unknown
____vacant/not in use
____other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
3	1	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. SM-772

Condition

___ excellent ___ deteriorated
x__ 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.

Cobrum's Wharf Farm is located near the terminus of Cobrum's Wharf Road in the rural community of Oakley, Maryland. The houses sits amidst a 33.9 acre tract consisting of flat cultivated fields that overlook the confluence of Tomakokin Creek and St. Clements Bay. The property includes a main house approached via a long dirt drive that extends to the north of Cobrum's Wharf Road. Contributing resources include at least two mid-twentieth century tobacco barns and the main house. A non-contributing two car garage is located to the east of the main house. The property is bounded to the west by the Stone farm (SM-771), to the north by Tomakokin Creek, to the east by St. Clements Bay, and to the south by Cobrum's Wharf Road.

The main house is a two story, five bay, frame house oriented on an east/west axis. Featuring a one story wing on both the north and south sides, the house's exterior walls appear to be sheathed with clapboard while the low pitched hipped roof is covered with raised-seam metal. Two symmetrically placed interior chimney flues protrude from the roof. The symmetrical primary façade appears to be the west elevation. The main entrance, covered by a pedimented porch, is flanked on either side by two windows. The second floor is pierced by five windows. Above the central window of the second floor is a low cross gable topped by a pediment. It also appears to contain a diamond-shaped window. The one story wing to the south appears to be pierced by a door and four windows. The other wing is not visible.

Other elevations were not investigated.

8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-772

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

Specific dates **Architect/Builder**

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register _____Maryland Register ____x____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.)

Surrounded by cultivated fields and commanding an impressive vista of St. Clements Bay, Cobrum's Wharf Farm is a good example of an early twentieth century farm. Consisting of a house constructed circa 1900 and at least two mid-twentieth century tobacco barns, the property reveals how this neighborhood of St. Mary's County had a heavy focus on tobacco based agriculture. The relative isolation of the property and the lack of modern development in the neighborhood when accompanied by other large farms in the area such as the Stone farm (SM-771), makes Cobrum's Wharf Farm a particularly well preserved farmstead that deserves further documentation.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-722

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	33.9 acres		
Acreage of historical setting	33.9 acres		
Quadrangle name	Leonardtown	Quadrangle scale:	1:24 000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded to the west by the Stone farm (SM-771), to the north by Tomakokin Creek, to the east by St. Clements Bay, and to the south by Cobrum's Wharf Road. A more specific description of the properties boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber EWA 1380, Folio 70.

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-772
Cobrum's Wharf Farm
Oakley
St. Mary's County
Leonardtown Quad

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Kirk Ranzetta
Md SHPO
Nov/99
Looking N
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