Capsule Summary
SM-859
Earnshaw Tobacco Barn
Mechanicsville
Private

circa 1850

Largely divorced from its former surroundings, the Earnshaw Tobacco Barn reveals how quickly the rural landscape in St. Mary's County can change. Originally constructed circa 1850, the barn is a braced-frame building entirely ringed by original sheds. Lying on a sloppily laid ironstone foundation, the barn's framing consists of sills, intermediate sills, posts, braces, wall ties, plates, false plates, rafters, and collars. The main block of the barn is eight rooms long and eight tiers high. Each of the rooms measure approximately four feet. Even though the surroundings of the barn have depreciated its historic value, it should nonetheless be documented with measured drawings prior to the building's impending demolition. Oral history surrounding the barn should also be collected from the Earnshaw family who remember hanging tobacco in the building.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-859

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	
other	Earnshaw Tobacco Barn

2. Location

street and number	near 26740 Earnshaw Way	__	not for publication
city, town	Mechanicsville	x	vicinity
county	St. Mary's		

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

name	Robert and Carolyn Earnshaw, et al				
street and number	PO Box 82			telephone	N/a
city, town	Mechanicsville	state	Md	zip code	20659

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	St. Mary's County Courthouse	tax map and parcel	TM-13, P-83
city, town	Leonardtown	liber EWA 644, MRB 61	folio 214, 344

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	
1	7+	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	7+	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. SM-859

Condition

___ excellent ___ deteriorated
___ good ___ ruins
x__ fair ___ altered

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

The Earnshaw Tobacco Barn is located on the east-side of Earnshaw Way near the establishment of Earnshaw Gravel and Stone. Situated on a knoll overlooking a stone and gravel business, the tobacco barn is oriented on a north/south axis. Although the barn is situated in the midst of a 289 acre property, only about 150 acres is visible from the roads. A majority of the property consists of rolling hills, while most of the gravel business is shielded from the road by mature trees. At least three non-contributing modern dwellings, an office, an equipment shed, a trailer, and a workshop are immediately near the barn. The property is bounded by Point Lookout Road to the south and west and wooded tracts to the north and east.

The Earnshaw Tobacco Barn is a circa 1850, braced-frame agricultural building with a gable roof. Entirely ringed by original 10-12 foot sheds, the barn features a foundation consisting of loosely laid local ironstone and hole-set posts. In some places the foundation is no longer visible as the sills are now lying directly on the ground. The barn's exterior is sheathed with vertical boards with horizontal clapboard largely reserved for the gable ends. The roof is sheathed with raised-seam metal.

Entered via double doors on the south and north sides, the interior of the main block consists of eight rooms. Eight tiers, three of which consist of rafter collars, are also visible. The framing of the main block consists of sills, intermediate sills, posts, corner braces, plates, wall ties, false plates, rafters and collars that are all either pit-sawn or hewn. All beams are mortise-and-tenoned at joints with pegs and mature cut nails used as fasteners.

The building has slowly begun to deteriorate. In the early to mid-twentieth century, the sills of the shed additions failed resulting i. the need for repairs. The repairs consisted of earthfast posts sunk into the ground to support the plates of the shed.

Tobacco is no longer stored in the barn and the owners of the barn are presently considering demolishing the building.

8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-859

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	x agriculture	__ economics	__ health/medicine	__ performing arts
__ 1700-1799	__ archeology	__ education	__ industry	__ philosophy
x 1800-1899	x architecture	__ engineering	__ invention	__ politics/government
__ 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.)

Largely divorced from its former surroundings, the Earnshaw Tobacco Barn reveals how quickly the rural landscape in St. Mary's County can change. Originally constructed circa 1850, the barn is a braced-frame building entirely ringed by original sheds. Lying on a sloppily laid ironstone foundation, the barn's framing consists of sills, intermediate sills, posts, braces, wall ties, plates, false plates, rafters, and collars. The main block of the barn is eight rooms long and eight tiers high. Each of the rooms measure approximately four feet. Even though the surroundings of the barn have depreciated its historic value, it should nonetheless be documented with measured drawings prior to the building's impending demolition. Oral history surrounding the barn should also be collected from the Earnshaw family who remember hanging tobacco in the building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-859

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	150 acres		
Acreage of historical setting	289 acres		
Quadrangle name	Mechanicsville	Quadrangle scale:	1:24 000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded by Point Lookout Road to the south and west and wooded tracts to the north and east. A more specific description of the properties boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Libers EWA 644 & MRB 61, Folio 214 & 344.

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

nd published by the Geological Survey

USC&GS

photographs by stereophotogrammetric
ographs taken 1952. Field check 1953

C&GS chart 539 dated 1951

1927 North American datum
on Maryland coordinate system

are shown in brown

Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
e

ple compiled from aerial photographs
rmation not field checked

MN GN
7½° 133 MILS
1°03' 19 MILS

UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24

1000 0 1000 2000 3000

SM-859
Earnshaw Tobacco Barn
Mechanicsville
St. Mary's County
Mechanicsville Quad

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THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL

SM-859
Earnshaw Tobacco Barn
St. Mary's County
Kirk Ramsette
Sept/00
Md SHPO
Looking NE
1 of 2

SM-959

Freeshow Tobacco Barn

St. Mary's County

Rick Parcells

Sept/00

Md SHPO

Looking NW

2 of 2