

CT-92

John Plummer Barn Complex

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 10-16-2012

CAPSULE SUMMARY

CT-092

Plummer Tobacco Barn
Chaneyville Road
Chaneyville Vicinity
Calvert County, Maryland

Plummer Tobacco Barn, part of the John Plummer Tobacco Barn Complex, represents one farmer's efforts to build a utilitarian building with a nod toward architectural style. Plummer Tobacco Barn measures thirty by forty feet and is laid out in a cross-axial plan. The barn's gable roof slopes moderately and features a steeply-pitched cross gable, reminiscent of the Gothic-Revival style. The barn was built in the 1880s by John Plummer. Two additional sections were added to the barn at a later date. The tobacco barn, together with the other agricultural buildings in the complex, forms a square U-shape around an open yard. The barn is significant as one of the few stylized tobacco barns in southern Maryland.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John Plummer barn complex

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Chaneyville Road

Third

CITY, TOWN

Chaneyville

VICINITY OF

near Route 4

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

intersection

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Calvert

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

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

NAME

Mr. Charles Plummer, Jr.

Telephone #: 257-3371

STREET & NUMBER

Chaneyville Road

CITY, TOWN

Chaneyville

VICINITY OF

Route 4

STATE zip code

Maryland 20754

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Calvert County Courthouse

Liber #: JLB 75

Folio #: 379

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Calvert County Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE

March 1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CT-92

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Except for weathering and the replacement of some boards, the main barn and other structures in the complex appear to be in their original state. Different materials and uses, however, suggest that the complex may have evolved, making some buildings older than others.

(Building A)

The main structure is 40 feet in length (excluding the addition on the east end) and 30 feet deep. Although there is no actual second story, the building is equal in height to two stories. It is constructed with a frame of hand-hewn timbers joined by mortise-tenon and trunnels. The sills measure 8 inches by 11 inches in thickness, and the longest plates appear to run the entire length of 40 feet. The siding is made up of vertical boards of various types and ages. The original boards look like poplar, but many have been replaced with other kinds of wood. There are wooden shingles on the roof, and it is in a visibly deteriorating condition.

From its north side and ends the building looks like a typical tobacco barn, that is, rectangular with an A-framed roof. On the south side, however, the roof has a rather large and steeply pitched gable containing a loft door.

Beneath the gable and slightly off center is the main door. It is a double door with the opening measuring 11 feet 8 inches in width. A door of equal size is directly opposite on the north side. Both are about 9 feet in height.

Besides the main barn there are other structures in the complex placed in a symmetrical fashion to each other. Attached to the east end of the main barn is a semi-open shed (Building B) which runs west to east for approximately 40 feet. Three doorless, rectangular openings with rounded corners cause the south side of this building to be open.

Another oblong shed (Building C) is placed perpendicular to Building B. It is of similar construction to Building A and has the deep cornices of a Greek Revival structure. Building D is also a tobacco barn, and Building F is a corn shed. Building E was designed to be a carriage house. These buildings are all made of wood with vertical siding and A-frame, gable-end roofs. Building G is an open-ended utility shed with slant-back or single direction roof.

The exterior dimensions of these buildings are as indicated on the attached diagram.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1880's BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Plummer

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to the present owner this barn was built by his grandfather, Mr. John Plummer, in the 1880's. Mr. Plummer did the work himself, as he is said to have done on the main house which is no longer standing.

This barn is actually part of a complex of buildings which are situated at right angles to form half of a rectangle around an open yard. The enclosure is completed by a wooden and wire fence. These buildings serve various functions. Although it now houses cattle, the main barn appears to have been built as a tobacco barn, however, the other buildings indicate that they were designed for the storage of corn, hay, and equipment.

Although tobacco barns are a common sight in southern Maryland, they are a unique type of farm structure. Where most barns are designed to keep out the elements, tobacco barns are designed to let in air at least, and the countless crossbeams on which the tobacco is hung tend to obstruct the free movement and open interiors which other types seek. The Plummer barn has functional features of a tobacco barn, and yet its appearance makes it unique among its neighbors.

The most unusual feature is the large, central gable on the front (south). The use of a central gable and the deep cornices on the building which runs perpendicular to the main barn are features typical to the Greek Revival. The steep pitch to the gable, however, links it more closely with American Gothic architecture. Mid-Nineteenth Century pattern books contain designs for farm buildings, and in A. J. Downing's Country Houses one finds site plans as well as elevations. Pages 223 through 225 show designs and plans which are quite similar to the Plummer complex. The Gothic Revival saw various stages, and the gable is a prevalent feature in farm designs that were published up through the end of the Century. The door in the gable was a functional feature allowing for the loading of hay in barns with a hay loft, while in some barns a window in this space provided light. In the case of a tobacco barn it was an obvious source of ventilation. The inclusion of this loft door represents the adaptation of a common design to a specific regional need.

CONTINUED

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allan, L. F. Rural Architecture, N.Y., 1852-1865.
 Downing, A. J. The Architecture of Country Houses, N.Y., 1850.
 Fitch, J. American Building: The Historical Forces that Shape It, Boston, 1966.
 Klamkin, C. Barns, N.Y., 1973.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 66.58 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Wayne L. Nield II, Historic Sites Surveyor

May 1976

ORGANIZATION

c/o Calvert County Historic District Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

CONTINUATION
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
FLUMMER BARN COMPLEX

Another feature which is also found in pattern books is the fact that there are opposite doors in the north and south sides. This plan allows for easy entrance and exit of horse-drawn wagons which were difficult to back in or out of a building. Again, with respect to the specific needs of tobacco drying, such an arrangement of the doors provided for good cross ventilation as well.

Since Mr. Plummer is said to have built the barn himself, one can only guess what the source of the design was. He was obviously aware of Victorian traditions. Besides the functional value of a loft door, the inclusion of such a steeply pitched, central gable on a tobacco barn, in an area where such a feature is uncommon, raises the possibility of an aesthetic consideration in an otherwise purely utilitarian structure. Not unlike many houses of the same period, this barn shows an awareness of style and taste.

Another interesting feature of the Plummer barn complex is the stone foundation of the tobacco barn in the southwest corner of the yard (Building D). It appears to rest on a field stone and mortar foundation. The stone is deep red sandstone, and in it one can clearly see marine fossils.

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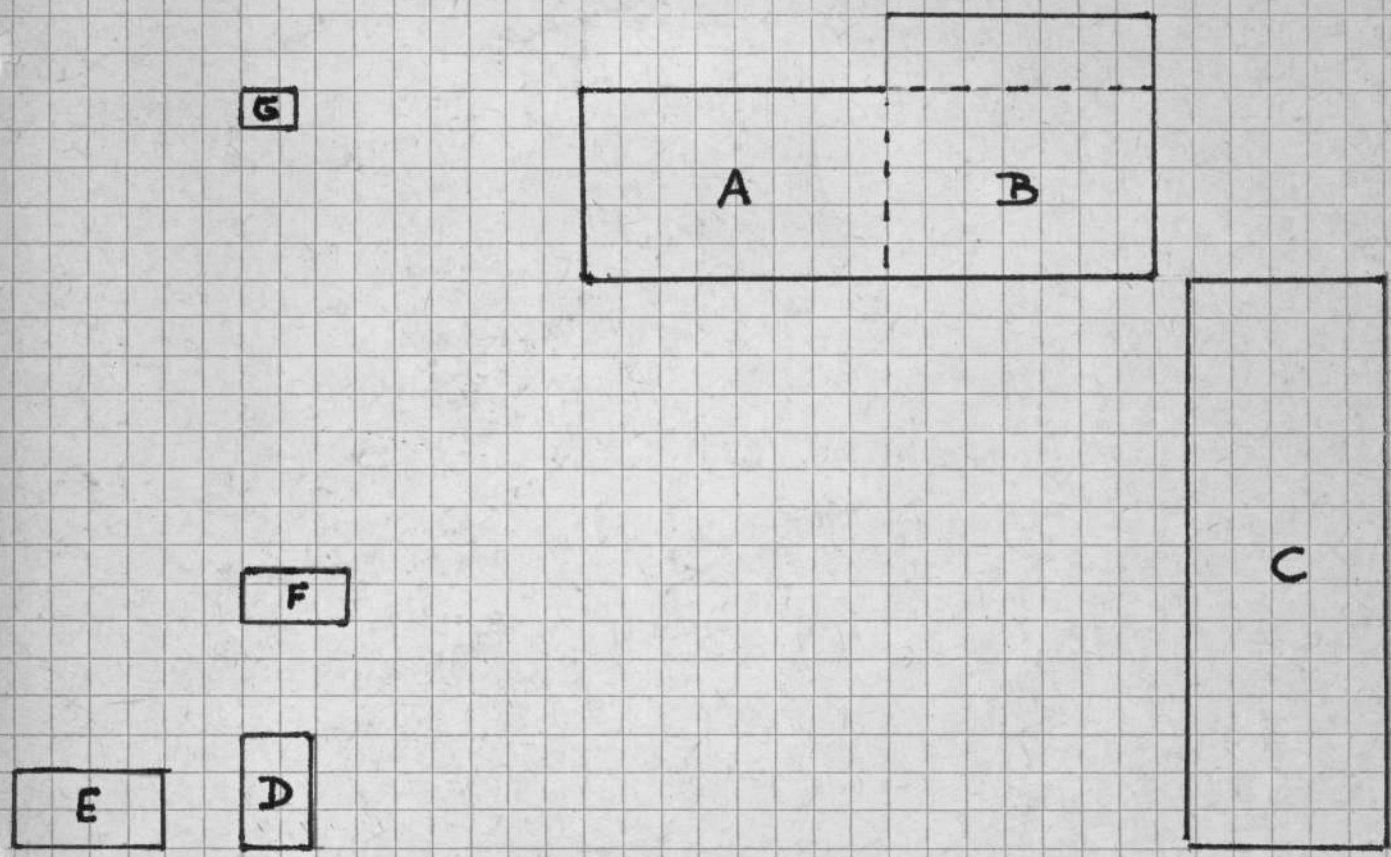
Plummer Tobacco Barn
Chaneyville Rd.
Chaneyville Vicinity
Calvert County, Maryland

For additional documentation of this resource see the "Southern Maryland Tobacco Barn Project"; call number FRR Mary 21

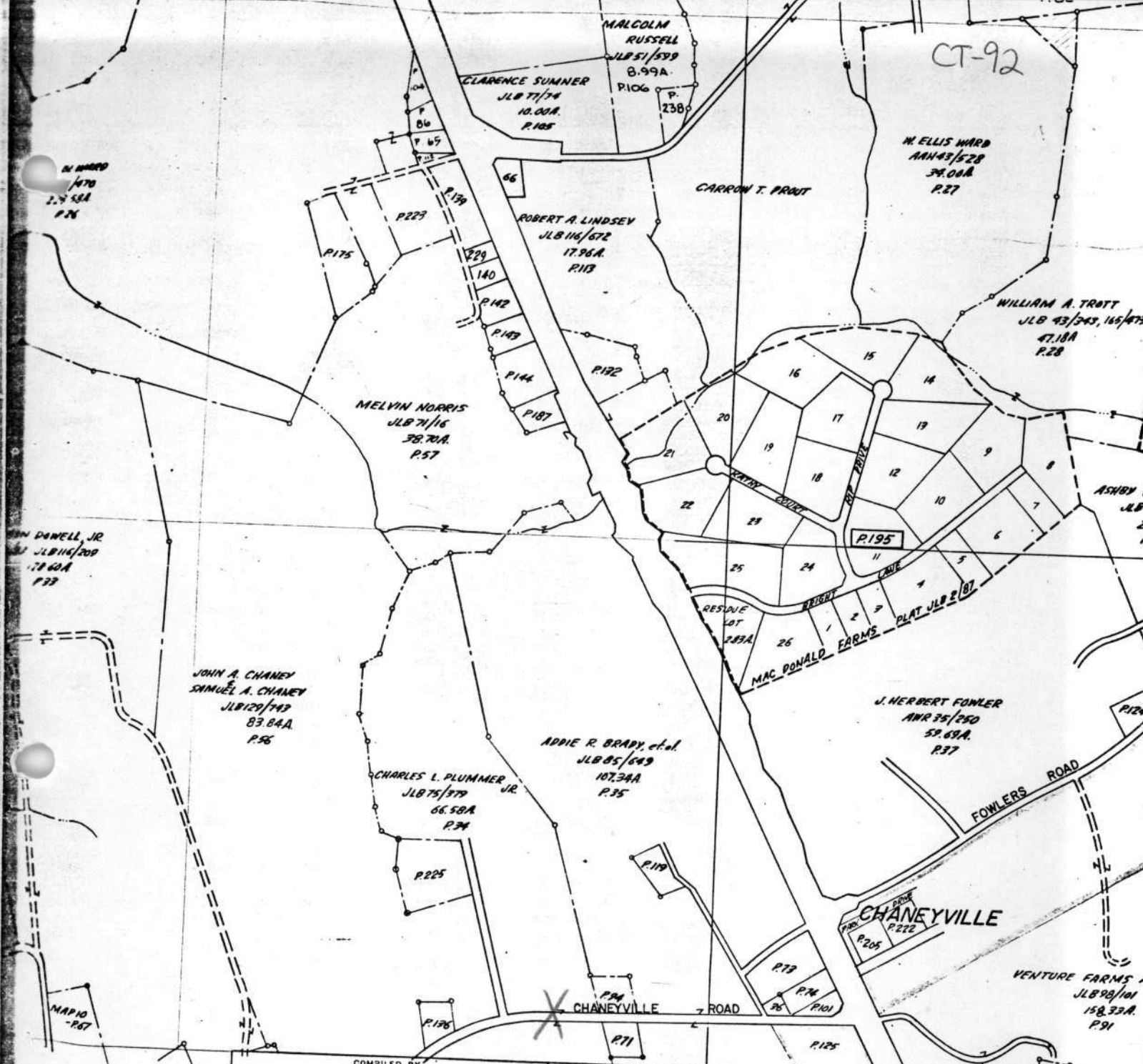
Plummer Barn Complex

5/5
49
not to scale
CT-92

Bldg	width	length (exterior measurements)
B	30'3"	40'
C	38'	40'4"
A	14'	80'3"
E	14'2"	20'9"
F	16'6"	30'
G	8'2"	18'4"
	8'	14'3"



Cheneyville Road



COMPILED BY
**DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION
 TAX MAP DIVISION**

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PROPERTY LINE
 SUB-DIVISION BOUNDARY - Z I.E. - Z I.E. - Z I.E. - Z I.E.
 CONTINUING OWNERSHIP - Z I.E. - Z I.E. - Z I.E. - Z I.E.
 PARCEL NUMBER - P. 349 (ASSIGNED TO IDENTIFY AND INDEX OWNERSHIP. MUST BE PRECEDED BY MAP NUMBER.)

SCALE: 1" = 600'

899

(10)

REVISED TO:	DATE OCT. -1975	LIBER 186	BY C. J. D.	LAST P. NO. 240	PHOTO 2MM-43 2MM-61	QUADRANGLE
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CT-92



Dunkirk

Hall

Fowler's

Mill

Chaneyville

Creek

Perkins

Graham

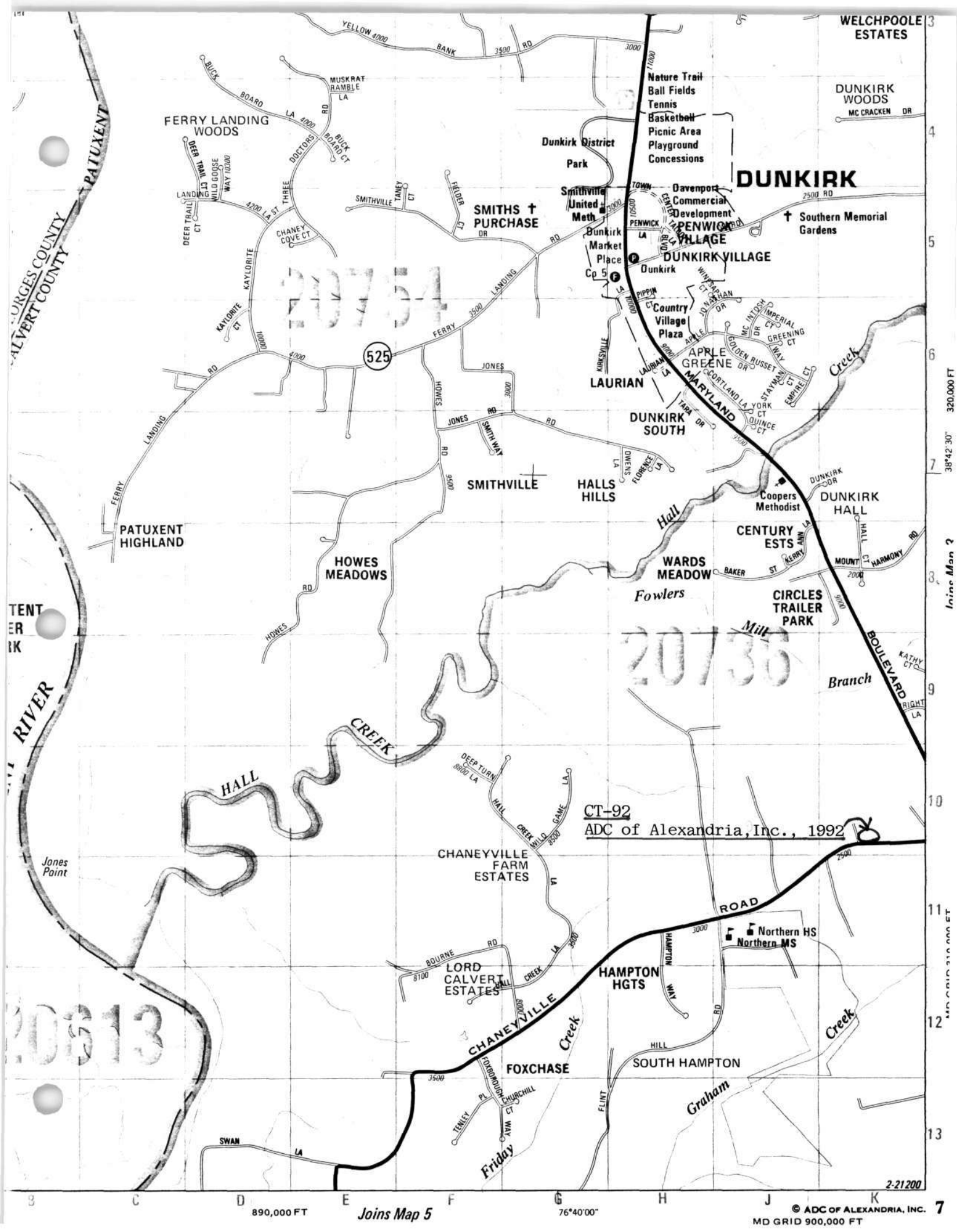
Chew

Lower Marlboro

St Johns

Extent of hydrographic information
 Jones Point
 CALVERT CO
 GEORGES CO

Burch RIVER



20754

20738

20813

CT-92
ADC of Alexandria, Inc., 1992

TUX

CT-92

Hall

Mill

Fowlers

Hall

Fairview BM

Jones Point

CALVERT CO
ST. GEORGES CO

CT-92
John Plummer Barn Complex
Lower Marlboro Quad, 1953, PR 1979

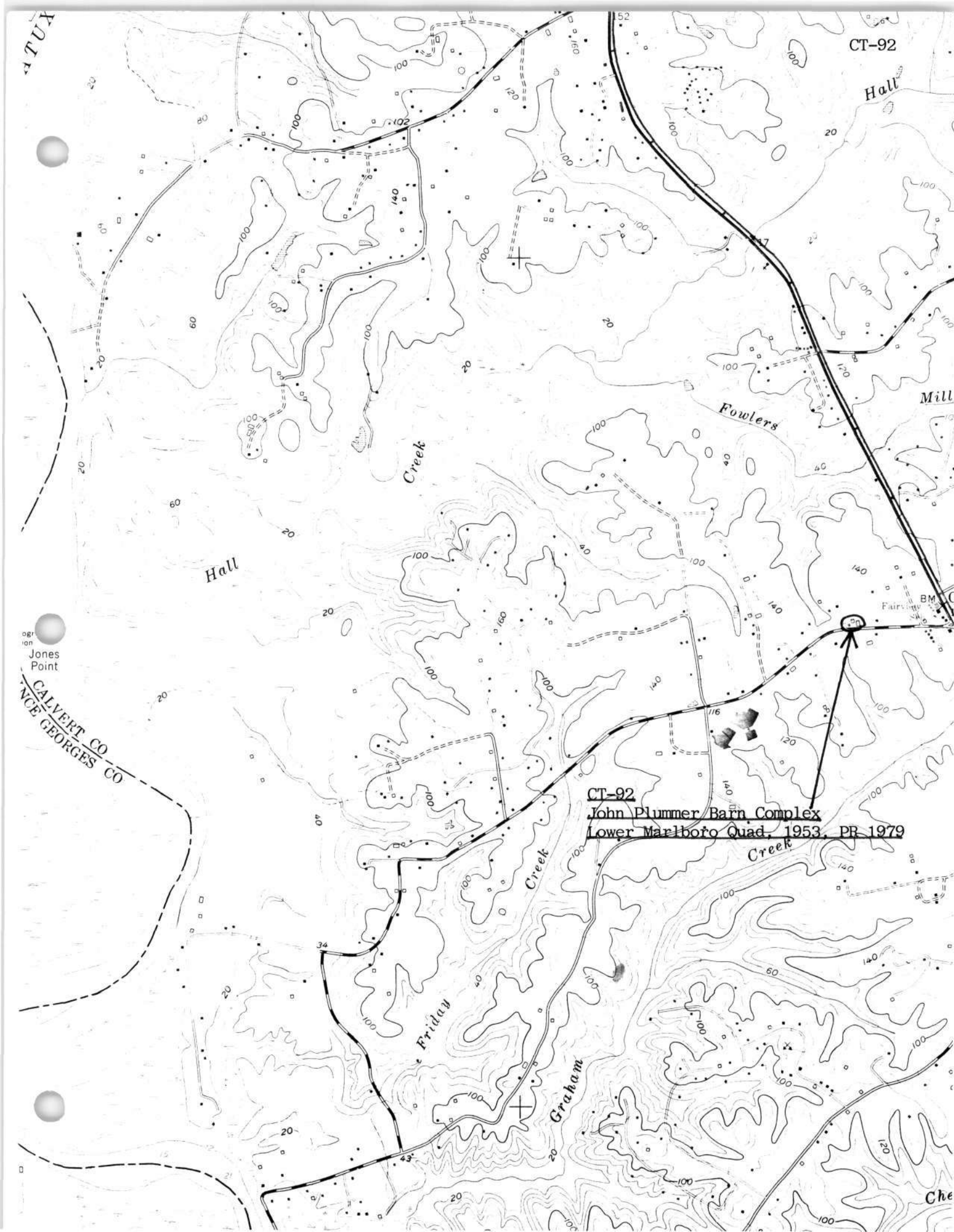
Creek

Creek

Friday

Graham

Che





~~CLVT-92~~
CT-92

PLOMME BARN COMPLEX
S. FACADE

B-9

W. HILLD
3/2/76



~~CLVT-92~~

CT-92

B-6

W. FIELD
SPRING



CT-92 CLUT-92

J. PLUMMER BARN Complex
CAR. HSE.

S.

B-4

W. FIELD
SPRING '76



CLVT-90

CF-92

134

W. FIELD
SPRING '76