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### **Historic Farming Systems and Historic Agricultural Regions: a Word about Definitions**

The concept of a “farming system” is helpful as a framework for understanding how agriculture in Pennsylvania evolved. A “farming system” gathers physical, social, economic, and cultural factors together under the assumption that all these factors interact to create the agricultural landscape of a given historical era. Physical factors like topography, waterways, soils, and climate set basic conditions for agriculture. Markets transportation shape production too. Other components, equally important but sometimes less tangible, form part of a “farming system.” Cultural values (including those grounded in ethnicity) influence the choices farm families make and the processes they follow. So do ideas, especially ideas about the land. Social relationships, especially those revolving around gender, land tenure, labor systems, and household structure, are crucial dimensions of a farming system. Political environments, too, affect agriculture. The idea of a “farming system,” then, opens the way to a more comprehensive and accurate interpretation of the historic rural Pennsylvania landscape. Whether we seek to interpret German Pennsylvania, the “Yorker” northern tier, home dairying areas where women dominated, or sharecropping regions in the heart of the state, the “farming system” approach is the key to understanding the landscape. Conversely, the landscape can tell about the farming system.

Extensive primary source research and fieldwork has helped to characterize Pennsylvania’s historic farming systems, and also to establish a number of “Historic Agricultural Regions” where historic farming systems shared fundamental qualities over a long period of time, within a reasonably well defined geographic area. These regions differed significantly from one another in soil quality and topography; product mix; mechanization levels; social organization of production; and cultural practices. The six Historic Agricultural Regions are as follows: Northern Tier Grassland; Central Limestone Valleys Diversified Farming; North and West Branch Susquehanna Diversified Farming; Potter County Potato and Cannery Crop Specialty Area; River Valleys Diversified Agriculture and Tobacco Culture; and Allegheny Mountain Diversified Part-Time Farming. Though overlap surely occurs (especially in the twentieth century), each of these areas has characteristics that distinguish it from the rest. For example, the Northern Tier Grassland area was shaped not only by the limitations of glaciated soil and the proximity of urban markets, but by Yankee/Yorker culture, while farm households in the North and West Branch Susquehanna Diversified Farming region

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followed a diversified strategy that featured hogs and corn. In the Central Limestone Valleys, Pennsylvania German cultural influence was strong, and customs of share tenancy and rich limestone soil permitted one generation after another to raise wheat and livestock in a highly mechanized farming system. For a brief time in scattered river valley bottoms in the north and center of the state, tobacco culture forced significant alterations to farming patterns, and to landscapes. Potter County's specialty system flourished in the twentieth century, and for a time relied upon African American migrant labor. And finally, in the poor soils of the Allegheny Mountain Diversified Part-time Farming region, mining and manufacturing households used farming as a means to ensure family subsistence when wages were low.

Research into Pennsylvania's historic agricultural heritage quickly establishes an important point. No matter what the region or time period, where production was concerned the typical Pennsylvania farm unit was family-based, and survived by pursuing a wide variety of strategies; while particular *regions* of the state came to emphasize some products over others, *individual farms* rarely could be regarded as being specialized. So, we cannot approach historic Pennsylvania as if it were today's specialized, thoroughly commercialized agriculture writ small. The true essence of past Pennsylvania farming can only be captured by attending to the close-grained texture created by a multiplicity of small-scale, flexible enterprises, all of which served multiple purposes, including on-farm use, *or* off-farm sale, *or* barter. Thinking about Pennsylvania farms in terms of diversified production will allow for the most faithful interpretation of the Pennsylvania farmstead and rural landscape, which after all consist of a rich variety of buildings and landscape features -- with a variety of specialized spaces such as smokehouses, poultry houses, potato cellars, woodlots, summer kitchens, springhouses, and perhaps workshops or mills, not to mention intricate field and boundary patterns. This perspective also preserves -- indeed reclaims -- the contributions that a preoccupation with specialized market commodities tends to obscure: those of women, children, and farm laborers.

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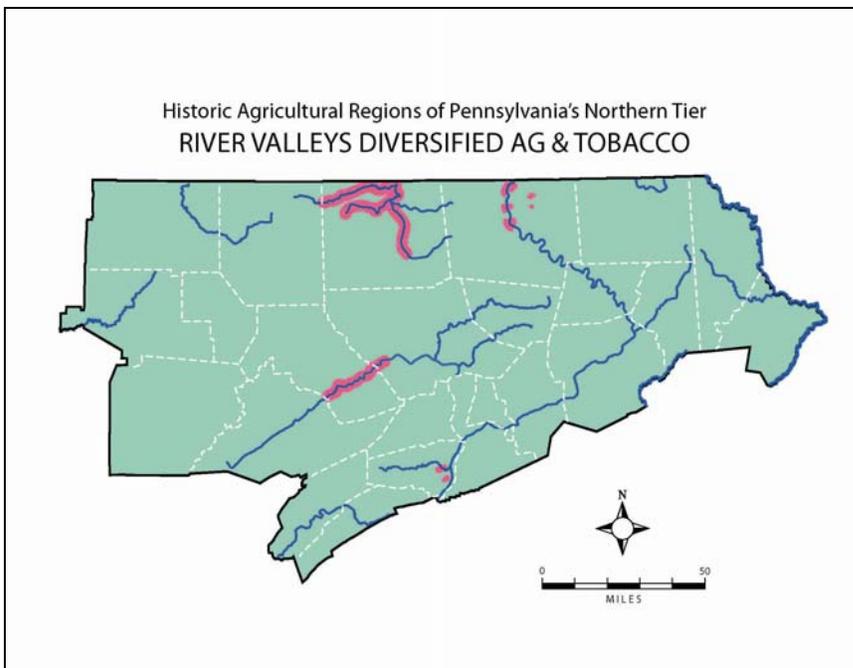
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## River Valleys Tobacco Culture, 1870-1930

### *Location*

From about 1870 to 1930, tobacco was raised in several small, concentrated areas of central Pennsylvania and the Northern Tier.<sup>1</sup> The 1880 United States Census special report, "Tobacco Production in the US," noted that Pennsylvania ranked third in the US behind Kentucky and Virginia, with fifteen counties producing 100,000 or more pounds of tobacco. "The tobacco counties," the report continued, "form a belt from north to south across the state. Midway north and south the belt is about 40 miles wide, and the Susquehanna divides the lower half. That portion of the belt lying east of the Susquehanna produces over 75 percent of the entire amount of tobacco grown in the state; and that portion extending from the center of the state southward, on both sides of the Susquehanna, will be found to produce 90 percent of the whole."<sup>2</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> Ralph Watts noted that Clinton, Lycoming, Bradford, and Tioga Counties raised tobacco even before 1850. See Ralph Watts, *Rural Pennsylvania*, New York: The Macmillan Company, 1925, 166,

<sup>2</sup> *Tobacco Production in the United States*, U. S. Census published reports for 1880, Chapter XIV, "Culture and Curing of Tobacco in Pennsylvania," pp. 147-167. Quoted excerpt is from page 148.

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This map from the 1880 census shows major tobacco producing areas in the U. S. The Pennsylvania area is Havana seed leaf. *Report on the Productions of Agriculture as Returned at the Tenth Census*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1883.

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Thus though in percentage terms the amount grown outside of Lancaster County was small, still at its peak there still were concentrated pockets of significant tobacco production. By 1900, the census showed that 9,621 Pennsylvania farms reported tobacco production. Most of these were in Lancaster County, but across the Northern Tier, tobacco was raised in Tioga and Bradford Counties; and also outside the Northern Tier in Clinton, Lycoming, and Snyder Counties. In Tioga County, it was grown in the Cowanesque and Tioga River valleys and along some of their tributaries, for example Crooked Creek, Marsh Creek, Seeley Creek, and Elkhorn Creek.<sup>3</sup> Tioga County listed 1,785 acres in tobacco in 1900, yielding 2.8 million pounds; Bradford County claimed 1,210 acres and nearly 1.7 million pounds. The upper Susquehanna River valley and tributary valleys provided a few localized sites for tobacco culture, notably Bald Eagle Valley and Island (Dunstable Township) in Clinton County,<sup>4</sup> and Jersey Shore in Lycoming County.<sup>5</sup> In the 20<sup>th</sup> century some tobacco was also grown in Snyder County, “in the neighborhood of Kantz, Verdilla, and Freeburg.”<sup>6</sup> However, in most of these places production peaked around the turn of the century, and was inconsequential by around 1930.

***Climate, Soils, and Topography***

In northern and central Pennsylvania, tobacco was primarily grown on alluvial soils in narrow river-valley belts; it was highly localized. Topography therefore was mostly flat to gently rolling. Soil types in the Cowanesque River Valley of Tioga County are loams of the Chemung shale series. In Bradford County, in Troy Township along Sugar Creek,

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<sup>3</sup> Agricultural Extension Agent Report, Tioga County, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, PSU Special Collections.

<sup>4</sup> John McCool, Jr., *A Study of Farm Management Practices in Growing General Farm Crops, Clinton County, Pennsylvania*, MS thesis, Agricultural Economics, Pennsylvania State College, 1993, 10; D. S. Maynard, *Historical View of Clinton County*, Lock Haven, Pennsylvania: Enterprise Print, 1875, 114; Agricultural Extension County Agent Reports, Clinton County, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1922, 1924, 1925, 1947, 1948, 1949, PSU Special Collections; John Franklin Meginness, *History of Tioga County Pennsylvania*, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, R. C. Brown and Co., 1897, 117.

<sup>5</sup> United States Census for 1900, volume 2, Agriculture, 569, 499-508; John Franklin Meginness ed., *History of Lycoming County, Pennsylvania*, Chicago: Brown and Runk, 1892, 427.

<sup>6</sup> George Dunkelbarger, *The Story of Snyder County From Its Earliest Times to the Present Day, Prepared by George Dunkelbarger, With the Assistance of Other Members of the Snyder County Historical Society*. Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania: Snyder County Historical Society, 1948, 356-359. The diary of “Uncle Aaron Stauffer” notes that he worked in the tobacco fields regularly in the immediate post-World War II period. Enos E. Stauffer ed., *Uncle Aaron Stauffer’s Diary 1947-1956. Abridged, Condensed, and Annotated by a Nephew Enos E. Stauffer of Port Treverton, PA*, Port Treverton, Pennsylvania: E.E. Stauffer, 1995. PSU Special Collections.

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glacial and alluvial soils of the Catskill formation supported tobacco culture.<sup>7</sup> These areas probably were “micro-climates,” situated as they were in protected valley areas at lower elevations than the surrounding country.

***Historical Farming System***

The River Valleys Tobacco Culture was a highly localized system that flourished for a limited period along river valley bottoms of the Susquehanna and its tributaries. The date 1870 was chosen for the beginning of the period, because primary documentation indicated that only after the Civil War did tobacco culture really become a significant force in these places. 1930 marks the end of the period, because while tobacco production peaked around 1900 or so, agricultural extension agents in Clinton County especially spent a good deal of time on tobacco-related issues until about 1930, and mention of tobacco in Snyder County also reaches into the 1930 period.

***Products***

The historical sources suggest that while a few tobacco growers focused on tobacco alone, most tobacco culture in the PENNDOT District 2, 3, and 4 region was generally undertaken within a context of other crops and products. However, the data do not support associating tobacco with any one characteristic mix of complementary crops or products. Families found varied ways to incorporate tobacco into their economic strategies. The manuscript census for 1880 shows that in Tioga County, some tobacco growers raised Indian corn or Irish potatoes; and that where farms grew significant tobacco crops, they often did not keep livestock. This is surprising, since tobacco is a heavy feeding crop (ie it depletes soil nutrients quickly), and Lancaster County tobacco farmers complemented tobacco culture with intensive livestock husbandry. However, by 1899, the Tioga County directory suggests that tobacco growers had shifted to treating tobacco as a part of a more diverse mix. This directory lists local farm people and their main products. If we look just for those who list tobacco, we can find out not only where they were located (there is a map with keys included in the directory), but what else they were producing. So, for example, Calvin L. Phoenix of Austinburg farmed 75 acres; had a dairy of eight cows; raised 2 ¼ acres of tobacco, and also was a “breeder and dealer in Hambletonian horses.” Luther J. Davis of Little Marsh raised six acres of tobacco; had a dairy of ten cows; and owned twenty sheep, on a 100 acre farm. Charles Lee of Academy Corners worked “on shares for Mrs. Eleanor Faulkner,” raising 3 ½ acres of

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<sup>7</sup> Franklin Menges, *Soils of Pennsylvania*, Harrisburg: W.S Ray, 1914, 472.

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tobacco and farming 90 acres. Some combined tobacco culture with fruit raising, beekeeping, or poultry keeping, as well as general farming. Sometimes they combined tobacco growing with business or artisan work, such as hay pressing, threshing, or merchandising. No correlation could be found between tobacco raising and farm value.<sup>8</sup>

The tobacco raised in these areas, as in southern Pennsylvania, was destined to end up in cigars. Several types of tobacco went into cigars. *Filler leaf* was chopped up for the inside of the cigar. (By about 1875, a steam powered chopper had been developed by the agricultural implements industry and was widely used.) This filler was kept together by *binder leaf* wrapped around it. Lastly, a single, high-quality, unblemished *wrapper leaf* enveloped the outside of the cigar.<sup>9</sup> Each type has its peculiar qualities that suit it to its purpose. Pennsylvania-produced tobacco was predominantly filler and binder, though a small percentage of it was wrapper leaf. In Pennsylvania, many types had names; varieties that were favored included the “Glessner,” “Rustica,” “Pennsylvania Seed Leaf,” “Connecticut seed leaf,” “Cuba,” “Duck Island,” “Havana Seed,” and “Lancaster-Broad Leaf.” Scientists added their own names (actually numbers) such as Pennsylvania Type 41.<sup>10</sup> Some of these varieties were clearly identifiable and possessed specific botanical characteristics, but in other cases, particularly those with local or folk names, their provenance wasn’t as clear. In any case, the ultimate quality of the leaf was profoundly affected by soil type, climate, and processing technique. All of the tobacco raised in Pennsylvania was air-cured (in contrast to some Southern grown types, which are flue cured, meaning that they require a fire to reach proper curing.)

***Labor and land tenure***

No matter what type of leaf was grown, tobacco culture was extremely labor intensive. Most tobacco fields were under ten acres for this reason. The seed bed, a small area

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<sup>8</sup> *Directory of Tioga County, Pa. with Map*, Elmira, N. Y.: G. Hanford, 1899, PSU Special Collections; Manuscript Census of Agriculture, Tioga County, 1880.

<sup>9</sup> James O’Gorman, *Connecticut Valley Vernacular: The Vanishing Landscape and Architecture of the New England Tobacco Fields*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2002; *Tobacco Production in the United States*, 501-504; Patricia Cooper, ““What this Country Needs is a Good Five-Cent Cigar,”” *Technology and Culture*, Vol. 29, No. 4, Special Issue: Labor History and the History of Technology. (Oct., 1988), 779-807; Jason Hughes, *Learning to Smoke: Tobacco Use in the West*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003; Egon Corti, *A History of Smoking*, New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1932, 206, 254.

<sup>10</sup> The names appear in the agricultural extension county agent reports; *Tobacco Production in the United States*, 16, and the US Patent Office annual reports.

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located in a protected place, had to be meticulously prepared, sometimes by steaming or burning, to kill microbes and insect pests in their various life stages (eggs, pupae, etc). The miniscule seeds were sown there in early spring, then tended carefully until they reached transplanting size. In the meantime, the tobacco ground where the plants would mature had to be carefully manured and cultivated. Transplanting occurred in the last weeks of May. Then, as the young plants grew in the field, they had to be monitored, cultivated, and cosseted, protected from too much sun and too dry conditions. Workers passed through the rows removing cut-worms, tobacco worms, and their eggs. “The hunt for worms,” said the report, “continues until the day the tobacco is carried from the field.”<sup>11</sup> Once the plants had a good start of growth, it came time to top and sucker – that is, remove selected leaves so the plant’s energy could flow to the remainder. By late summer, it was time to cut the crop. By this point, the plant had a hefty stalk and a sharp saw or hatchet was needed to do the job. Then, the stalks were speared on laths, then hung from a scaffold in the field (though reportedly not in Bradford County).<sup>12</sup> Finally, the laths were transferred to the barn. Filling the barn was a complex choreography in itself; it proceeded from the top downward in tiers, as laths, filled with stalks, were placed across the framing, carefully spaced to allow for air circulation. As winter approached, the work shifted indoors, to stripping and [sometimes] packing the crop. This work, too, took place in or near the barn, and lasted nearly throughout the cold months until the whole cycle began again. As we will see, tobacco barn design clearly accommodated to the unique requirements of this demanding crop.

Who did the work? Almost no research has been done on labor patterns for tobacco in this geographical area. In other parts of Pennsylvania, labor was furnished from a combination of family, hired workers, and share tenants.<sup>13</sup> In the Connecticut River Valley tobacco area of New England, immigrant families often worked small tobacco farms, while the huge, industrialized shade-grown wrapper leaf industry was staffed exclusively by cheap, badly exploited wage laborers, including women, migrants, and children.<sup>14</sup> North Central and northern Pennsylvania sit between these two major tobacco

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<sup>11</sup> *Tobacco Production in the United States*, 151.

<sup>12</sup> *Tobacco Production in the United States*, 163.

<sup>13</sup> In Lancaster County, tobacco raising in the mid to late twentieth century was associated with the Old Order sects, who viewed the work as suitable for family members. However, in 19<sup>th</sup> century Lancaster County almost all farms produced tobacco and this means the main producers were not Plain Sect people, since they were a small minority of the farming population.

<sup>14</sup> O’Gorman, *Connecticut Valley Vernacular*.

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areas of the Northeast, and it is not definitively known whether the “Connecticut” or “Pennsylvania” labor patterns were more common. However, we can make some inferences. None of the central and northern Pennsylvania tobacco enterprises took up a scale anything like that in the Connecticut Valley, so it is fairly certain that huge crews were not used. The Tioga County directory suggests that family labor was important; and quite a few (about 18 percent, slightly higher than the overall tenancy rate for the area) tobacco growers farmed on shares (a much more common occurrence in Lancaster County.) Women, children, and men all probably worked in the tobacco culture. We know that in both Connecticut and Lancaster County, women, children, and men did field work (though tasks varied depending on age and sex; for example, children did not do worming, and spearing was considered a man’s job). Stripping throughout the winter was something everybody did both in New England and Pennsylvania.<sup>15</sup> In northern Pennsylvania, it would seem, winter tobacco work provided a good seasonal complement within a dairying economy, since dairy work was slower in the winter. However, it must have conflicted with spring and summer dairy work, especially for women.

Despite the small acreages and large labor demands, tobacco was a very remunerative crop. The popularity of the famous “five-cent cigar” created a boom for Northern tobacco growers. Domestic cigar factories claimed a huge output of “stogies, cheroots, and other low-grade cigars” in 1900.<sup>16</sup> For a time, prices were high enough that even a few acres could yield a handsome return – sometimes more than the rest of the farm enterprises put together. The Tioga County history of 1883 reported: “The amount of tobacco raised on an acre is from 1,500 to 2,500 pounds, and at 10 cents per pound it proves the most remunerative crop the farmer can raise. Even it does require a considerable amount of fertilizers,... still the profit on the investment far exceeds that of any other crop raised in the county.”<sup>17</sup> The 1900 census estimated that the average revenue per acre was over a hundred dollars, and that on a per-acre basis, tobacco outdid all other crops.

Processing the leaf afforded employment as well, not only for hired field labor, stripping, and packing, but also for cigarmaking; the industry was very decentralized until about

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<sup>15</sup> Robert Barakat, “Tobaccuary: A Study of Tobacco Curing Sheds in Southeastern Pennsylvania,” Ph. D dissertation, Folklore, University of Pennsylvania, 1972.

<sup>16</sup> US Census Report for 1900, Volume II, Agriculture, 504.

<sup>17</sup> John L. Sexton, *History of Tioga County Pennsylvania: With Illustrations, Portraits, and Sketches of Prominent Families and Individuals*, New York: W. W. Munsell, 1883, 62.

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1920, and small scale cigar manufactories sprang up in urban centers and rural hamlets all over the Commonwealth. (Interestingly, cigar making was an important employer of women.) In Knoxville, Tioga County, the *Centennial History of 1951* noted: “the raising of tobacco in the vicinity of Knoxville around the turn of the century added to the commercial activity of this period. During the first years of the new century there were two tobacco warehouses in Knoxville. Morris Rosenberg & Co, with E. E. Woodbury as manager, operated a tobacco warehouse in the D. L. Freeborn Foundry building. This company employed about fifty people seven or eight months of the year.”<sup>18</sup> The 1883 history of Tioga County announced that “Large packing and store houses have been erected in Corning and Elmira, designed to receive the crops of this county and Steuben and Chemung in NY. A sound and reliable firm has been organized at Tioga and Wellsboro to purchase the leaf and also manufacture cigars upon a large scale, about 100 persons being employed at each of those places.”<sup>19</sup> Shippers and retailers added tobacco products to their stock in trade, and even tiny rural crossroads like Sabinsville, in Tioga County, had their “travelling tobacco salesman.”<sup>20</sup>

### ***Buildings and Landscapes***

Limited field study has been undertaken of tobacco landscapes in north central and northern Pennsylvania. Results to date suggest that Northern Tier tobacco growers built “New England” type tobacco barns, and in the central counties, they imitated “Lancaster County” types. This pattern coincides with the general cultural background of the respective regions, since the Northern Tier counties were peopled by New Englanders and the central valleys largely by Pennsylvania Germans.

### ***Tobacco Barns***

Pennsylvania tobacco was air-cured, and it also needed to be stripped and sometimes boxed before it went to market. From these requirements flowed the design logic of the tobacco barn.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Edwin A Glover, *Centennial History of Knoxville, Tioga County, Pennsylvania*, Elkland, Pennsylvania: Elkland Journal Press, 1951, 61. This description suggests not only a warehouse but also a factory.

<sup>19</sup> John L. Sexton, *History of Tioga County*, 62.

<sup>20</sup> Tioga County Directory, 1899, Clymer Township.

<sup>21</sup> Tobacco barns are discussed with designs illustrating location of cellar and stripping room in Pennsylvania State Board of Agriculture, *Agriculture of Pennsylvania*, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: Lane S. Hart, 1880, 189-191.

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*Lancaster County versus New England style tobacco barns:* Since the study area lies between these two regions, both “Lancaster County style” and “New England style” tobacco barns appear there. Both of these areas raised broadleaf tobacco for filler and binder. In the Connecticut Valley, however, around 1900 there also arose a highly capitalized, industrial style production of shade-grown Sumatra leaf for wrappers. Thus the Connecticut Valley actually had two tobacco economies; the broadleaf culture was usually on a small family scale, while the shade-grown culture was undertaken by large corporations.<sup>22</sup> However, New England style tobacco barns were the same in their fundamentals whether or not they were erected by small or large concerns.

Tobacco barns in New England and Pennsylvania share the following characteristics:

- They are gabled
- They are predominantly frame construction (though may have stone foundations and sometimes roof frames are assembled with metal bolts)
- They are rectangular in shape
- They are fitted with means of ventilation, usually by hinges that permit cladding boards to be opened, either horizontally or vertically
- They usually have roof ventilators also – sometimes clerestory-style vents that run almost the length of the roof ridge, sometimes evenly spaced cylindrical vents with conical tops
- Their interiors have framing in bents about 10-15 feet apart on which laths loaded with tobacco leaves can be hung

There are some differences in the two regional variations of tobacco barns.

- 1) In general, “Lancaster County style” tobacco barns are banked, and New England style tobacco barns are not banked.
- 2) Most “Lancaster County style” tobacco barns incorporate the stripping and damping rooms within the main barn, usually in the ground-level, banked section. New England style tobacco barns sometimes incorporate stripping rooms in the main barn, but as they are not banked, the stripping and damping rooms in these cases are in a ground level that (while not necessarily a full story, often partly underground) extends under the entire

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<sup>22</sup> O’Gorman, *Connecticut Valley Vernacular*.

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structure. But equally often, New England style tobacco barns often have a separate, attached, or adjoining, one-story structure for stripping. It can be identified by its chimney and windows.

3) "Lancaster County style" tobacco barns often (not invariably though) have a lower length: width ratio than do New England style tobacco barns. Lancaster County style tobacco barns are seldom longer than 75-80 feet, while New England style barns can reach more than 100 feet in length. Width of both is about 30-40 feet. Published documentation indicates that barns this long existed in the Northern Tier, but none were found in fieldwork. For example, the 1880 US Census special report noted that in Clinton County, a 24 X 100 barn cost \$500; this implies a New England style barn. The same report noted that in Tioga County, "the tobacco-houses are of the ordinary character, framed and battened, from 28-30 feet wide and 60-250 feet long. The crop throughout is cultivated, handled, and marketed more after the methods pursued in New York."<sup>23</sup>

4) "Lancaster County style" tobacco barns are an integral part of the farmstead. They are near the house and main barn and are often painted to match other outbuildings. By contrast, New England style tobacco barns sometimes are located near the house and/or main barn, but are often located at the edge of the field, rather isolated and at a distance from the other buildings.

5) "Lancaster County style" tobacco barns have a drive-in door in one gable end, but often not both – partly because the structures so often are banked. New England Style tobacco barns often have doors in both gable ends, creating a drive-through structure.

Field work to date has yielded few examples of extant tobacco barns in the Northern Tier. Very few tobacco barns remain along the Cowanesque River – Route 49 corridor, an area where there was significant tobacco growing. A few were seen from the road but not documented. One tobacco barn was documented. No adaptations were found in interiors of other barns, but no access was gained, so this is still unknown. These barns all seem to have more characteristics of the Connecticut River tobacco barn than of Lancaster County tobacco barns. They are not banked; at least one had a separate stripping shed; they are not painted. However, the Tioga County tobacco barns were located along the

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<sup>23</sup> *Tobacco Production in the United States*, 166.

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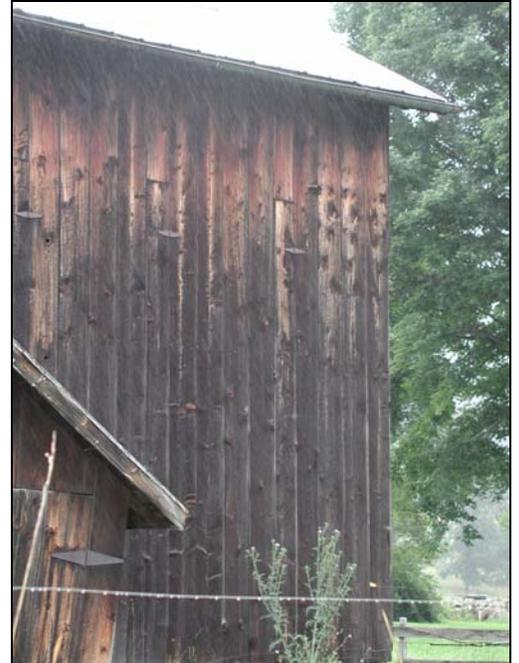
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road and within the farmstead – not at the edge of the farmstead as in the Connecticut Valley. This probably reflects the fact that family labor was used. On the Josephus Campbell farm in Bradford County, there was a multipurpose outbuilding that had a basement which could have been a stripping room.



117-DE-001-06 Tobacco barn  
south and east view. Tioga  
County, Route 49 corridor,  
Cowanesque River Valley



117-DE-001-11 Tobacco barn east end closeup of hinges

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015-LI-001-07 W. Side of Tobacco Barn. Bradford County tobacco barn with horizontal siding.

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Josephus Campbell mystery bldg west side 2004. Possible stripping shed on lower level. Bradford County. This farm is known to have had a tobacco barn at one time. The indicators for its use are the windows for light, and the stove in one corner to provide heat for the workers.



Photo of Tobacco Shed in Sabinsville by Joyce M. Tice February 1997, suggests New England characteristics: its proportions are long-ish, it isn't banked, it seems to be on the edge of a field, it isn't painted. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~srgp/1900/tobacco.htm>, accessed 7/3/06

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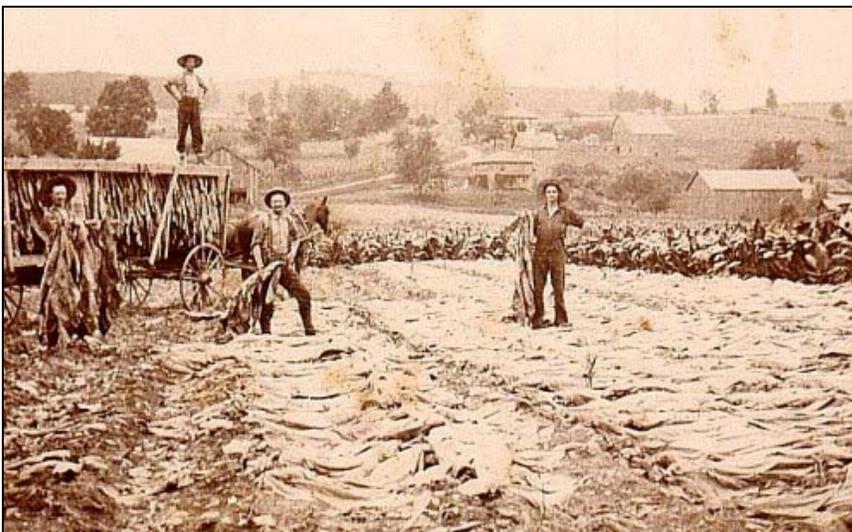
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Reuben Cook and Fred Benn in Sabinsville's Tobacco Shed  
October 1900. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~srgp/1900/tobacco.htm>, accessed 7/3/06



"This photo at Bailey's Corners Hill in Leroy shows in the background, the Milton Craney home, the John Fellow home that burned, the John Fellows tobacco fields (Foreground) and the Hickcock house and barn."  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~srgp/business/tobacco.htm>, accessed 7/3/06

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Field survey in Snyder County identified several farms with tobacco barns, located along tributaries to the Susquehanna River. These, in contrast to the Northern Tier barns, were built in the “Lancaster County” style. Since Snyder County was heavily Pennsylvania German, this is not surprising.



Farm near Kantz, Snyder County. This Lancaster County style tobacco barn is banked, and it has vertical slats, ground-level stripping and damping rooms, and gable end access.

Future field work should look for adaptations made to other barns. In both Lancaster County and New England, pre-existing barns were often adapted for tobacco. This adaptation could be as radical as changing the cladding of a bank barn or New York-style basement barn to install hinges and movable boards. Or it could be something more subtle, such as an addition to a barn of a section with hinged cladding. Or, it could



This interior view (left) of a c. 1875 Pennsylvania barn in Lancaster County shows the cleats on the upper beams which hold tobacco laths in place. In fact, the laths are still secured in the cleats. This type of adaptation could occur in any barn with post and beam framing.

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be the installation of cleats in any barn's framing, to hold laths. Visser's book shows a picture of a New York style basement barn that has been adapted by changing the cladding. Noble has a picture of a Pennsylvania barn in Lancaster County that has had its cladding changed.

*Landscape Features*

Landscape features in this farming system really don't differ significantly from those of the surrounding area. Thus, Northern Tier landscape features are found in Tioga and Bradford Counties, and North and West Branch Susquehanna Valley features in Snyder and Clinton Counties. The one exception is the alluvial flats on which tobacco fields were situated. No good field documentation of these areas has yet been obtained.

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