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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name De La Brooke Tobacco Barn
other names SM-411

2. Location

street & number De La Brooke Road not for publication
city or town Oraville vicinity
state Maryland code MD county St. Mary's code 037 zip code 20659

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Elizabeth Hugel
Signature of certifying official/Title

11.10.15
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that this property is:
- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 - Determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper
Date of Action 12.29.15

De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411)
Name of Property

St. Mary's County, Maryland
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Tobacco Barns of Southern Maryland

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/processing

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Nineteenth-Century Maryland Tobacco Barn,
1800-1830s

foundation STONE – Ironstone; BRICK; WOOD
walls WOOD – Vertical Boards

roof METAL

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
B Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

Ca. 1815

Significant Dates

Ca. 1815

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411)
Name of Property

St. Mary's County, Maryland
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.68 acre Mechanicsville, MD USGS Quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1	8	3	5	5	5	1	8	4	2	5	5	7	6	9
	Zone			Easting			Northing								
2															

3															
	Zone			Easting			Northing								
4															

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lori Thursby/Senior Architectural Historian

Organization TEC Inc. date 8/2009; rev. 10/2015

street & number 619 Severn Avenue, Suite 202 telephone (410) 990-0299

city or town Annapolis state MD zip code 21403

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name Nancy Dodge

street & number 41000 Cremona Road telephone (301) 884-3140

city or town Mechanicsville state MD zip code 20659

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411)

Name of Property

St. Mary's County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 1

Description Summary:

The De La Brooke Barn is located on the north side of Delabrooke Road near Oraville, Maryland. The barn stands at the edge of a small agricultural field that is surrounded by forest. The barn has not been used for many years and is in a deteriorated condition.

The barn was constructed ca. 1815 or earlier. Intact building fabric illustrates several significant construction features of Southern Maryland tobacco barns from the late-eighteenth to early-nineteenth century. The barn's structure is built of pit-sawn timber with mortise and tenon joints secured by wood pegs or wrought iron nails. Down braces reinforce the framing. The barn's framing system and nail patterns reveal that it was originally sheathed with horizontal siding. Other significant features include tilted false plates and a unique system of vertical tier supports. The barn was expanded through the addition of sheds along the longitudinal sides. The sheds, which consist of pit-sawn timber, are likely early additions to the structure.

General Description:

The De La Brooke Tobacco Barn is located approximately 2.5 miles northeast of Oraville, in northern St. Mary's County. The barn is situated on the north side of Delabrooke Road, approximately 1.5 miles east of New Market Turner Road (Maryland Route 6). Delabrooke Road traverses a densely forested area. Both sides of the road are dotted by clearings for agricultural fields or house lots. The De La Brooke Tobacco Barn stands at the west edge of one of these clearings, which comprises a small plowed field. A wooded ravine is behind the barn. An abandoned lane, now overgrown with grass and other vegetation, leads from the road to the southeast side of the barn. Abandoned for quite some time, the barn is in deteriorated condition. The current property owner periodically clears away vegetation that grows around and on the exterior of the barn.

The barn measures 36 feet long and 42'-6" feet wide, which includes two 10-foot-deep sheds on the longitudinal sides. The barn terminates in a steeply-pitched gable roof oriented on a northwest-southeast axis. The slopes of the roof extend uninterrupted over the northeast and southwest sheds. The roof is sheathed with corrugated metal sheets.

This barn has a cross axial plan with one entry on each wall for access. The gable ends have 7'-10"-wide and 10-foot-tall entries with double-leaf doors that open outward. Each set of doors is built of vertical boards with horizontal and diagonal battens and has wrought metal strap hinges. Vines have grown up the exterior of the southeast wall, preventing the set of doors on this side from opening. The northwest set of doors is in very poor condition and has been covered entirely with various scraps of sheet metal to protect the existing wood and cover openings.

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created from missing wood. The longitudinal walls each had an entrance positioned near the center of the wall. Evidence of the former entrances is provided by pintel holes and latch recesses that are visible on the posts that framed the doorways.

The barn has continuous sills with mortise and tenon corner joints secured by wood pegs. The sill on the northeast side has been replaced with a circular-sawn one of comparable size. This new sill was mortised to fit the tenons of the other sills, but it is secured to the framing members with machine cut nails. A sill bisects the barn from northeast to southwest. All the sills are raised above the dirt floor by ironstone, bricks, and wood blocks at various heights to level the sills. Ironstone is underneath the corners of the sill on the northwest side and where the additional sill joins the sill on the southwest side. Brick is positioned beneath segments of the sill on the southwest side of the barn, including at the south corner. Wood blocks prop up other segments of the sills. At present, the sill on the northeast side and the additional sill are underpinned just at the corners.

The framing system consists of hewn principal posts centered on eight-foot bays and pit-sawn studs on two-foot bays. Both the posts and studs are tenoned into the sills. Down braces reinforce the wall framing. The down braces are tenoned into the sills and corner posts and secured by wood pegs and wrought nails. The system of closely-spaced wall studs indicates the core section was originally clad in horizontal siding. In fact, one piece of weatherboard survives on the southwest wall. It is secured with wrought nails. Nail patterns on the two exposed longitudinal walls of the core also provide evidence that horizontal siding was once the exterior sheathing.

The exterior of the barn is now sheathed in vertical board siding. The boards are non-uniform in width. Gaps between the boards help with air circulation. Additionally, each gable end wall exhibits three side-hinged ventilators, one on each side of the doorway and one above the doorway. The majority of the vertical board siding on the northeast and southwest walls (the outer walls of the sheds) is missing, but these two elevations also had two hinged ventilators at one time (Hughes 1994).

The barn employs a unique system of vertical supports for the tier poles. Bisecting the barn longitudinally is a row of pit-sawn vertical posts. The posts are aligned in pairs and each pair is on four-foot centers and flanks a tie beam. The pairs stand directly on the ground (earthfast) except for the center pair, which stands on top of the sill that bisects the barn. Each pair of 3"-by-5" posts is nine inches apart and is joined together by horizontal pieces of wood positioned at three-foot intervals. These "rungs" of wood are tenoned into the vertical posts. Two tier poles are laid on top of each wood rung. One pole extends from the vertical support to the northeast wall and the other extends from the same vertical support to the southwest wall. The ends of the

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De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411)

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tier poles rest on top of pit-sawn horizontal rails that are attached with wrought iron nails to the interior faces of the northeast and southwest walls. The majority of the tier poles consist of stripped log poles.

The roof framing is supported by tilted false plates. The plates are inset into the ends of the tie beams and support pit-sawn rafters. Each rafter pair is spaced two feet apart. Three pit-sawn collar beams are attached to alternate rafter pairs. Pit-sawn horizontal shingle nailers are fastened on top of the rafters. Currently the roof is clad in corrugated metal sheets, but the original roof cladding was probably wood shingles.

Both of the sheds are early additions to the barn, as they feature pit-sawn members, some with tenons, and wrought nail fasteners. The sheds' longitudinal walls are composed of a series of vertical posts, although many are missing or have been replaced with posts of circular-sawn lumber. The positions of the extant posts indicate the sheds were built using the same structural bay system as the original core. The tier poles were also likely spaced on four-foot centers like the core. The posts are earthfast, although a decomposed wood sill at the northwest side of the northeast shed indicates the posts may have once set on sills. The end walls of the sheds have three horizontal nailing rails to support vertical board siding, which is in poor condition. The rails are secured to the core of the barn by wrought nails. Existing physical evidence indicates the longitudinal walls incorporated one horizontal nailing rail to support the vertical board siding, nearly all of which is missing from both sheds. Also missing are the doors to each shed, which were single, vertical doors with horizontal battens positioned on axis with the doorways of the core structure (Hughes 1994).

Each shed includes pit-sawn tie beams tenoned into the primary vertical posts of the core of the barn; the joints are secured with wood pegs. Tenons evident at the lower ends of the tie beams indicate they were joined with a mortised top plate, which is missing. The lower ends of the sheds' rafters are chamfered flat, indicating they rested on a flat surface. The upper ends of the rafters are half-lapped to the tilted false plate of the core structure.

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Section 8 Page 4

Summary Statement of Significance:

The De La Brooke Tobacco Barn is locally significant under criterion C in the area of Architecture as described in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), *Tobacco Barns of Southern Maryland*. Based on the historic context "Southern Maryland Tobacco Barns, 1790s–1959," it is a significant example of a Southern Maryland air-curing tobacco barn from the period 1800–1830s. The De La Brooke barn embodies the hallmark design and construction features of an early-nineteenth century tobacco barn from this region. The barn also employs a unique system for supporting the tier poles in the barn. Although in a deteriorated condition, the barn retains a good level of integrity. For these reasons, this barn meets the registration requirements of the Property Subtype: Air-Curing Tobacco Barns of the Nineteenth Century, as defined in the Multiple Property Listing. The period of significance for the barn is ca. 1815, which is the approximate date of construction of the barn.

Elaboration:

The De La Brooke Tobacco Barn stands on the property that was originally part of De La Brooke Manor, which was granted to Baker Brooke in 1650. The original manor house was destroyed by a fire in 1835 and replaced by a brick Federal-style dwelling (SM-94). George Thomas was the owner of the 750-acre plantation at that time. The property was sold out of the Thomas family in 1886. In 1906, Clarence W. Thomas acquired the tract. The property passed to his heirs, James Thomas and Martha G. Thomas, when he died intestate on January 16, 1935. His real property inventory listed five tobacco barns on the De La Brooke farm: Marsh Neck Barn-North, Marsh Neck Barn-South, Slave Barn, Town Neck Barn, and Tobacco-Springfield Barn. It is unknown which of these barns refers to the subject tobacco barn. James Thomas and Martha G. Thomas sold portions of the large tract and subdivided the remaining land into two separate farms, Spring Creek and Town Neck. James Thomas retained the 300.55-acre Spring Creek Farm until 1960, when he sold it to the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (Hughes 1994). Nancy Dodge of Cremona (SM-93) is the current owner of this property.

The De La Brooke Tobacco Barn is locally significant under criterion C in the area of Architecture as a distinctive example of an early-nineteenth century air-curing tobacco barn in Southern Maryland. The tobacco barn meets the registration requirements outlined in the MPDF *Tobacco Barns of Southern Maryland*. The building retains the major physical characteristics of the Property Subtype: Air-Curing Tobacco Barns of the Nineteenth Century. These characteristics include: a braced frame of pit-sawn timber underpinned by stone and brick, primary structural bays on eight-foot centers, mortise and tenon joinery with wood peg and wrought nail fasteners, a cross axial plan, and a steeply-pitched gable roof built of common

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rafters strengthened by collar beams. The ca. 1815 barn also incorporates tilted false plates to support the common rafter roof. This and the other architectural elements comprise a pattern of features common to air-curing tobacco barns constructed in Southern Maryland in the period 1800–1830s. Moreover, the sheds also incorporate pit-sawn members, wrought iron fasteners, and tenoned tie beams, indicating they were early additions to the barn.

The framing of the barn employs an interesting system of supports for the transverse rows of tiers on which the tobacco was hung, which enhances the architectural significance of this barn. Pairs of earthfast, intermediate vertical posts run longitudinally down the center of the barn, flanking the top of each tie beam. Each pair of posts is joined together by short horizontal pieces of wood. These rungs are tenoned into the posts and support the tier poles; thus, they are vertically positioned at each tier level. The ends of two different tier poles rest on the rungs: one tier pole extends horizontally from the vertical support to the northeast wall of the barn and the other extends horizontally from the same vertical support to the southwest wall of the barn. Original to this barn, this distinctive system of vertical tier pole supports is rare in Southern Maryland tobacco barns.

The period of significance for this property is ca. 1815, the approximate date of construction. The building retains a good degree of integrity. The barn's integrity of materials has been partially compromised by the loss or replacement of some original building materials. The barn has not been used in quite some time so the exterior envelope of the building is deteriorating. Much of the vertical board siding on the northeast and southwest sides of the barn is gone and some of the vertical posts on these two outer walls have been replaced. One sill has been replaced. Sheets of metal cover the double-leaf doors on the northwest elevation to compensate for the loss of the majority of the wood boards. The magnitude of the material degradation is relatively minor compared to the amount of original materials that remain in good or fair condition and are capable of conveying the significant architectural and construction features of the barn.

The most significant alterations to the barn are the replacement of the original horizontal siding with vertical siding and the replacement of the original roof cladding, which was probably wood shingles, with the current corrugated metal sheets. There are few surviving examples of early-nineteenth century barns in Southern Maryland, and of these, few have their original horizontal siding intact. The removal of horizontal siding and subsequent replacement with vertical siding was a common modification to these tobacco barns. The De La Brooke Tobacco Barn, however, retains the closely-spaced wall studs to signify the original cladding system. Thus, the absence of the cladding itself does not affect the ability of the barn to convey the historic design. Moreover, in accordance with the registration requirements in the MPDF, the

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integrity can be less dependent on retaining all the principal exterior materials because of the relative rarity and threatened status of early heavy timber braced frame barns.

The replacement of wooden roof cladding with a metal roof was also a common modification to tobacco barns in Southern Maryland. As discussed in the property type registration requirements in the MPDF, a new metal roof is an acceptable alteration in this case because the barn otherwise retains the majority of the attributes from its original architectural design. The barn possesses all other aspects of its integrity to the period of significance.

Major Bibliographical References:

Hughes, Elizabeth. 1994. De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411). Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. MSS on file at the Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the nominated property is shown by the red line on the accompanying satellite photograph labeled National Register Boundary and drawn to a scale of 1" \approx 120'.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary encompasses the tobacco barn and the adjacent field. Other than this small tilled field, the barn is surrounded by dense forest. Tobacco was likely grown in this field and cured, sorted, and stripped in the nominated barn. Thus, this field demonstrates the historic setting of the barn and its physical and functional context.

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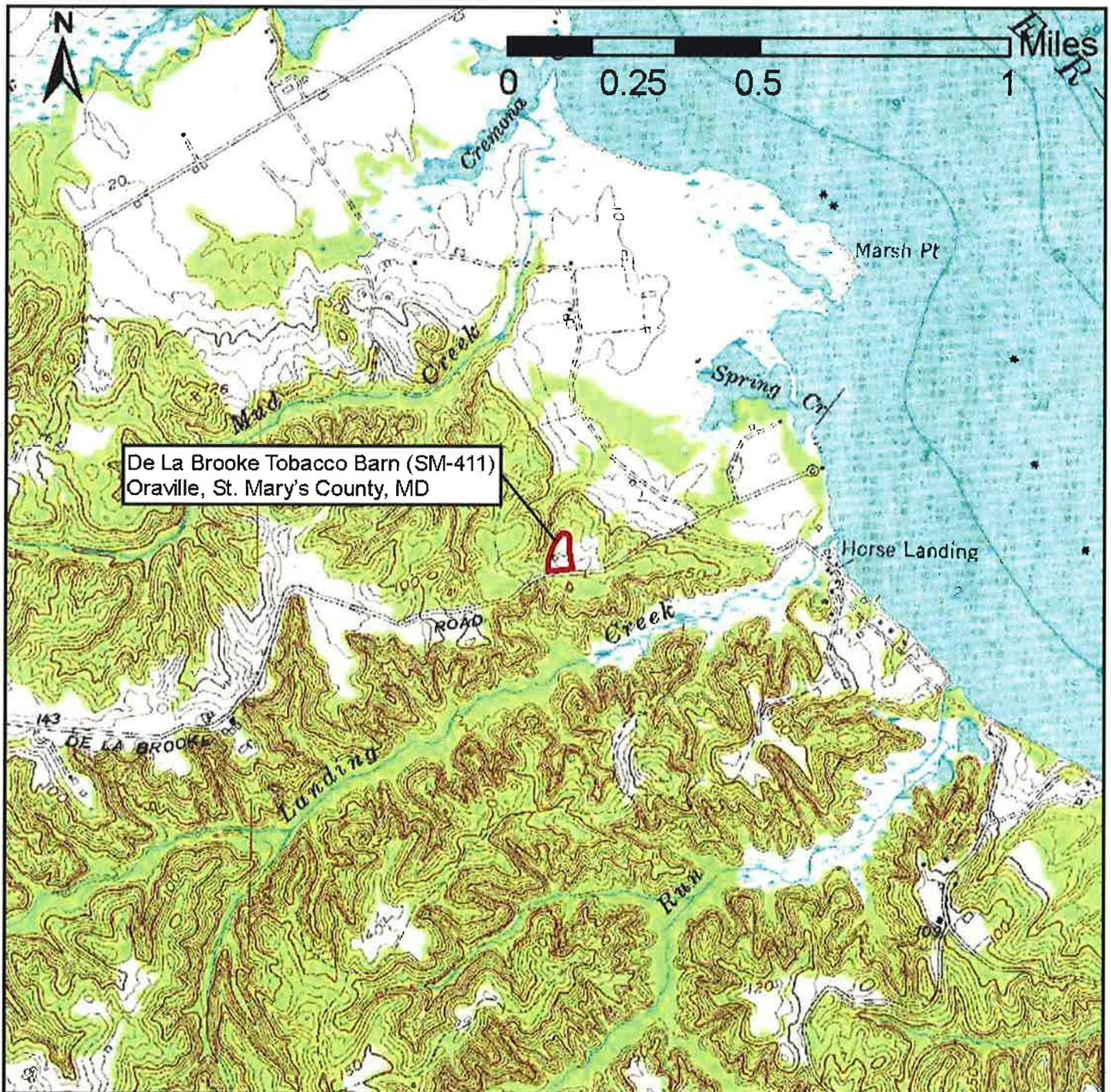
De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411)

Name of Property

St. Mary's County, Maryland

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USGS Map





De La Brooke Barn (SM-411), St. Mary's County, MD

National Register Boundary

(Scale: 1" ≈ 120')

Photographs

De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411), St. Mary's County, Maryland



Barn exterior, view from west, 4/5/2014

Photographer: Dennis Pogue

Location of digital image file: MD SHPO

MD_StMarysCounty_DeLaBrookeBarn_001.tif

Photographs

De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411), St. Mary's County, Maryland



Barn exterior, view from south, 4/5/2014. Siding repair in progress.

Photographer: Dennis Pogue

Location of digital image file: MD SHPO

MD_StMarysCounty_DeLaBrookeBarn_002.tif

Photographs

De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411), St. Mary's County, Maryland



Barn exterior, view from east, 4/5/2014

Photographer: Dennis Pogue

Location of digital image file: MD SHPO

MD_StMarysCounty_DeLaBrookeBarn_003.tif

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Photographs

De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411), St. Mary's County, Maryland



Barn exterior, view from north, 4/5/2014. Siding repair in progress.

Photographer: Dennis Pogue

Location of digital image file: MD SHPO

MD_StMarysCounty_DeLaBrookeBarn_004.tif

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Photographs

De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411), St. Mary's County, Maryland



Interior framing and foundation detail, view from southeast, 8/11/2014

Photographer: Dennis Pogue

Location of digital image file: MD SHPO

MD_StMarysCounty_DeLaBrookeBarn_005.tif

Photographs
De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411), St. Mary's County, Maryland



Interior framing, view from southwest, 8/11/2014

Photographer: Dennis Pogue

Location of digital image file: MD SHPO

MD_StMarysCounty_DeLaBrookeBarn_006.tif

Photographs

De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411), St. Mary's County, Maryland



Roof framing detail showing tilted false plate, 8/11/2014

Photographer: Dennis Pogue

Location of digital image file: MD SHPO

MD_StMarysCounty_DeLaBrookeBarn_007.tif

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Photographs

De La Brooke Tobacco Barn (SM-411), St. Mary's County, Maryland



Roof framing detail showing tilted false plate (from below), 8/11/2014

Photographer: Dennis Pogue

Location of digital image file: MD SHPO

MD_StMarysCounty_DeLaBrookeBarn_008.tif



North
County













