

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 87B-036-22

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Selby Tobacco Barn Site

other

## 2. Location

street and number 15900 Saint Phillips Road \_\_ not for publication

city, town Aquasco \_\_ vicinity

county Prince George's

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

name Clinton S. Holland, Helen F. Holland, and Renee M. Holland

street and number 15900 Saint Phillips Road telephone

city, town Aquasco state MD zip code 20608-9656

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Land Records liber 11823 folio 246

city, town Upper Marlboro tax map 182 tax parcel 3 tax ID number 08-3245487 08-0833152

## 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: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Planning Department

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social		<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
				<u>1</u>	

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## 7. Description

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### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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

The Selby Tobacco Barn, no longer extant, was located at 15900 Saint Phillips Road, near Aquasco, Maryland. The sloping, grassy lot is situated at the end of the one-lane unpaved Saint Phillips Road, extending west from Aquasco Road (MD 381). Mature trees are positioned throughout the property, with a concentration located along the northern boundary of the property. Agricultural fields are located to the west, south, and east of the site.

### SITE

The Selby Tobacco Barn, no longer extant, was one of only a few mid-nineteenth-century tobacco barns still standing in Prince George's County before it was destroyed c. 1980. During a 1974 on-site survey, the tobacco barn was described as being abandoned and derelict.<sup>1</sup> This wood-frame structure consisted of a one-and-one-half-story barn clad in weatherboard siding. It was capped by a steeply pitched gable roof. The gable ends were clad in vertical board siding. An "apron roof," beginning at the eaves of the main barn, sloped gradually from the center on all four sides of the structure. The outside walls had vertical siding, with several doors. It was also noted that the main timbers and drying poles were separate from those of the main barn.<sup>2</sup>

Currently, there are three other structures associated with this property. A one-story, rectangular barn clad in vertical board siding and capped by a gable roof covered with a metal roof, is located to the southeast of the site of the Selby Tobacco Barn. A similar, one-story, rectangular barn clad in vertical board siding and capped by a gable roof covered with a metal roof, is located to the east of the site of the Selby Tobacco Barn. Based on photographic evidence, the western barn was constructed c. 1970 and the eastern barn was erected in the third quarter of the twentieth century. These barns are currently vacant and are in poor condition. Overgrown with vegetation, the barns are missing pieces of their exterior cladding and roofing material. A dwelling, located east of the site, was constructed in 1978.<sup>3</sup>

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## INTEGRITY

The Selby Tobacco Barn is no longer extant, and as a result it does not retain sufficient integrity to convey its significance as an example of the economic and architectural heritage of Prince George's County. The site may retain archaeological potential. Overall, the Selby Tobacco Barn site has lost its integrity and is indistinguishable from its surroundings.

The two extant barns and the 1978 dwelling are considered non-contributing resources based on their recent construction dates.

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<sup>1</sup> Michael F. Dwyer, "Selby Tobacco Barn" (PG: 87B-22), Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey (1974) 7:1.

<sup>2</sup> Michael F. Dwyer, "Selby Tobacco Barn" (PG: 87B-22), Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey (1974) 7:1.

<sup>3</sup> Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation, "Real Property Data Search," [http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp\\_rewrite/](http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp_rewrite/) (accessed February 8, 2008).

## 8. Significance

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

<b>Specific dates</b>	c. 1850	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	Unknown
<b>Construction dates</b>	c. 1850, c. 1980		

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

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.)

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Selby Tobacco Barn, no longer extant, represents the economic and agricultural significance of tobacco in the history of Prince George's County. Agriculture was the basis of the county's economy and, directly or indirectly, provided the livelihood for many. The heart of this agricultural economy, and foremost in the social history of the county, was tobacco.<sup>4</sup> Dating from the mid-nineteenth century, Selby Tobacco Barn documents the procedure of air-curing of the tobacco and the siting of such buildings on agricultural properties. The decline of tobacco production resulted in the intentional demolition of the Selby Tobacco Barn through abandonment by 1980. As a result, this site does not retain sufficient above-ground integrity to convey its significance as a mid-nineteenth-century tobacco barn in southern Prince George's County. However, the site may retain archeological potential.

### HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Selby Tobacco Barn site is located near Aquasco, Maryland, a rural agricultural village located in southeastern Prince George's County. Aquasco Road (MD 381) serves as the major north-south transportation route in the community. The village's location between the Patuxent River on the east and Swanson's Creek on the west creates a fertile area of farmland, primarily used to grow tobacco. Historically, tobacco was an important commodity in the community. The area's proximity to the Patuxent River not only contributed to the lands fertility, but also allowed access for the shipment of goods in and out of the community. By 1746, the production of tobacco was significant enough that a inspection warehouse was proposed for construction close to the community at Trueman's Point. Although the inspection station was never established, the landing was integral to commerce and trade.<sup>5</sup>

In the eighteenth century, the area around Aquasco was divided into large tobacco plantations.<sup>6</sup> By the end of the eighteenth century, Aquasco Road was established through the area, resulting in the formation of a small village known as Woodville.<sup>7</sup> Today this rural community is known as Aquasco. By the mid-nineteenth century, *Martenet's Map of 1861* documents a grist mill, several stores, a tavern, blacksmith shop, several

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churches, and a wind mill.<sup>8</sup> In 1861 a building on the property, known today as 15900 Saint Phillips Road, was occupied by Mr. Davis, however Davis does not appear in the deed records. It is possible that this land was leased to Davis. It is probable the building denoted on the Martenet map is the Selby Tobacco Barn based on its location and estimated date of construction.

Currently, little is known about the history or development of the Selby Tobacco Barn in the nineteenth century. The land was owned at the time the barn was constructed by Albert H. Scott, who owned several large parcels in the mid-nineteenth century. Scott, born 1808, was married to Elizabeth Scott. He is noted in the census as a planter with real estate holdings assessed at \$10,000, which is comparable to neighboring planters.<sup>9</sup> In an unrecorded deed, Scott conveyed the property known today as 15900 Saint Phillips Road to his son, Richard M. Scott. Partial interest in the property was also conveyed to May Scott, Columbus F. Connick and Rebecca H. Connick.<sup>10</sup> Both Scott and Connick were planters.

In 1891, the Scotts and Connicks conveyed the property to Michael C. Scott.<sup>11</sup> Information concerning Michael C. Scott could not be located. In 1911, as a result of an equity case, Rhoda M. Fenwick, et al., received the property from the heirs of Michael C. Scott.<sup>12</sup> In 1924, Andrew Scott conveyed six acres to Fenwick.<sup>13</sup> Later that same year, Scott conveyed 0.75 acres of property that he had received from the 1911 equity case. Rhoda Fenwick, born 1880 was married to William B. Fenwick, who was born in 1874. William Fenwick was employed as a watchman at a botanical garden. The Fenwicks had seven children.<sup>14</sup> In 1954, Rhoda M. Fenwick conveyed the property to Clyde I. Fletcher and his wife, Ethel R. Fletcher.<sup>15</sup> No information related to the Fletchers could be located. In 1975, Lucy F. Canter, trustee of the estate of Ethel R. Fletcher, conveyed the property to Carolyn Albright, Lucy F. Canter, Leo Fenwick, Margaret Gooding Hampton, and Alice B. Summers.<sup>16</sup> In 1975, the current owners, Clinton S. and Helen F. Holland purchased the property.<sup>17</sup> It was during the ownership of the Hollands that the Selby Tobacco Barn was lost. The property continues to be used for agricultural purposes.

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<sup>4</sup> Prince George's County, "Three Hundred Years of County History - Susan G. Pearl", <http://www.pghistory.org/PG/PG300/threhund.html> (accessed February 14, 2008).

<sup>5</sup> Pearl, *African-American Heritage Survey*, 106.

<sup>6</sup> Mark Andrich, et al., "Aquasco Historic District (PG: 87B-36)," Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form (1984), 7:1.

<sup>7</sup> Pearl, *African-American Heritage Survey*, 106.

<sup>8</sup> Simon J. Martenet, "Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland, 1861, Adapted from Martenet's Map of Prince George's County, Maryland" (Baltimore: Simon J. Martenet C.E., 1861).

<sup>9</sup> 1860 U.S. Federal Census, District 8, Prince Georges, Maryland, Series M653, Roll 478, Page 43, Image 535, Albert H. Scott.

<sup>10</sup> It cannot be positively confirmed that Columbus Connick was related to the Connick family that owned Connick's Folly (87A-009)

<sup>11</sup> Richard M. and May Scott, and Columbus and Rebecca Connick to Michael C. Scott, Prince George's County Land Records, JWB 18:174

<sup>12</sup> John K. Scott vs. Rhoda M. Fenwick, et al., Prince George's County Equity Case #3904, February 8, 1911.

<sup>13</sup> Andrew Scott to Rhoda M. Fenwick, Prince George's County Land Records, 223:339 and 231: 230.

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<sup>14</sup> 1920 U.S. Federal Census, Aquasco, Prince Georges, Maryland, Series T625, Roll 674, Page 1A, Enumeration District 79, Image 507, Rhoda M. Fenwick.

<sup>15</sup> Rhoda M. Fenwick to Clyde I. and Ethel R. Fletcher, Prince George's County Land Records, 1793:14.

<sup>16</sup> Lucy F. Canter, trustee of the estate of Ethel R. Fletcher, conveyed the property to Carolyn Albright, Lucy F. Canter, Leo Fenwick, Margaret Gooding Hampton, and Alice B. Summers, Prince George's County Land Records, CEC 4467:508.

<sup>17</sup> Carolyn Albright, Lucy F. Canter, Leo Fenwick, Margaret Gooding Hampton, Alice B. Summers, and Andrew H. Scott to Clinton S. and Helen F. Holland, Prince George's County Land Records, CEC 4467:512.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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1860, 1910, 1920 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule). Online: The Generations Network, Inc., 2007. Subscription database. Digital scan of original records in the National Archives, Washington, DC. <http://www.ancestry.com>.

Dwyer, Michael F. "Selby Tobacco Barn" (PG: 87B-22), Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey, 1974.

Hopkins, G.M. *Prince George's County, from Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington*. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1878.

Martenet, Simon J. *Martenet's Map of Prince George's County, Maryland*. Baltimore: Simon J. Martenet, 1861.

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Prince George's County Planning Department, *Historic Sites and Districts Plan*, 1992.

Prince George's County Land Records.

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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 31.73

Acreage of historical setting 33

Quadrangle name Benedict

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The site of the Selby Tobacco Barn is associated with Parcel 3, as noted on Tax Map 182. The southern boundary of the property is formed by Saint Phillips Road. The western boundary follows a line through a stand of mature trees located just to the east of the residence at 15810 Saint Phillips Road. The northern boundary follows a small stream running west-east. The eastern boundary runs north-south, extending from Saint Phillips Road to the small stream to the north. The Selby Tobacco Barn has been historically associated with Parcel 3 as noted on Tax Map 182 since its construction in the mid-nineteenth century. The barn has been determined to have been razed by 1980.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul Weishar and Maria Dayton/Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Inc. for M-NCPPC	date	March 2009
street & number	1121 Fifth Street, NW	telephone	(202) 393-1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

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  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

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CHAIN OF TITLE  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY LAND RECORDS

Deed  
JWB 18:174  
March 18, 1891

Richard M. Scott and May Scott, and Rebecca Connick and Columbus  
Connick to Michael C. Scott.

Equity # 3904  
Chancery Record  
BDS #10, folio 82  
1911

Heirs of M.C. Scott (Andrew and Michael Scott, et al.) to Rhoda M. Fenwick.

Deed  
223:339  
December 18, 1924

Andrew Scott to Rhoda M. Fenwick. (6 acres)

Deed  
231:230  
December 18, 1924

Andrew Scott to Rhoda M. Fenwick.

Deed  
1793:14  
August 14, 1954

Rhoda M. Fenwick (widow) to Clyde I. Fletcher and Ethel R. Fletcher, his  
wife.

Deed  
4467: 508  
March 4, 1975

Lucy F. Carter, personal representative of the estate of Ethel R. Fletcher to  
Carolyn Albright, Lucy F. Center, Leo Fenwick, Margaret Gooding Hampton  
and Alice B. Summers.

Deed  
4467:512  
March 14, 1975

Carolyn Albright, Lucy F. Canter, Leo Fenwick, Margaret Gooding Hampton,  
Alice B. Summers, and Andrew H. Scott to Clinton S. and Helen F. Holland.



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Photo: Selby Tobacco Barn Site, Aquasco, view of site, looking northeast to non-historic barn. (January 2008)

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Photo: Selby Tobacco Barn Site, Aquasco, view of site, looking northwest to non-historic barns. (January 2008)