

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 78-009

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Westphalia Barns (preferred)
other Talburtt Tobacco Barns

2. Location

street and number 11100 Westphalia Road ___ not for publication
city, town Upper Marlboro ___ vicinity
county Prince George's

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

name Thomas R. and Aleen G. Bean
street and number 11100 Westphalia Road telephone
city, town Upper Marlboro state MD zip code 20774-9469

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 1764 folio 135
city, town Upper Marlboro tax map 83 tax parcel 26 tax ID number 15 1711720

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>1</u>	<u>1</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:		
					Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
					<u>2</u>

7. Description

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Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

The Westphalia Barns are located on a 65.01-acre parcel in rural Prince George's County. Situated on the north side of Westphalia Road in Upper Marlboro, this grassy parcel is lined to the north by mature trees. The lot rolls gently with a slight slope to the south. There are no sidewalks lining Westphalia Road in this area. A small dirt road in the southwest corner of the property provides access to the westernmost barn. The site of the easternmost barn (no longer extant) is not accessible via a road.

BARN

The westernmost barn, based on its form and materials, is an early-nineteenth-century barn. The sill posts rest directly on the ground, and the corners of the barn sit on large chunks of conglomerate rock. This wood-frame structure is clad in an assortment of vertical boards that vary slightly in width and texture (due to sawn marks). Much of the exterior cladding is replacement or is missing altogether. The steeply pitched, front-gabled roof is covered with corrugated metal sheets. The roof has narrow overhanging eaves and is finished with a raking wood cornice. The barn features two shed-roofed wings on the north and south (side) elevations. These wings have the same material treatment as the main block. The east elevation has a large entry opening, the doors of which appear not to be extant. The opening is not full height, suggesting it is for animals or equipment.

SITE OF BARN

The easternmost barn, constructed circa 1937, was demolished after 1985. The 1985 on-site survey describes this barn as larger than the other barn. The ridge of its gable-roof ran roughly north and south; the roof sloped to shallower wings on the east and west sides. The east wing rested on a high concrete-block foundation; four windows illuminated the lower level enclosed by the foundation. The framing of the barn consisted generally of wide vertical siding; corrugated metal siding had been added on the west elevation. Entrance was through a hanging, sliding door on the south façade. The foundation was concrete block throughout, and the roof was tin.¹

INTEGRITY

The westernmost barn, which is extant, retains a low level of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Much of the exterior cladding and roofing material has either been replaced or is no longer extant. Although the building is not in good condition, it remains a prominent visual landmark. The barn maintains a moderate integrity of location, setting, association, and feeling as the parcel remains agricultural.

The site of the easternmost barn (no longer extant) retains no integrity. The site does not retain any integrity of association, feeling, location, workmanship, material, or design. However, the site may possess archaeological potential.

¹ Susan G. Pearl and Kathryn Henderson, "Westphalia Barns," Maryland Historical Trust, State Historic Sites Inventory Form (March 1985), 8:1.

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Overall, the Westphalia Barns property maintain a low level of integrity. The demolition of the easternmost barn has negatively affected, but not compromised, the integrity of the westernmost barn, which is in a state of deterioration.

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>

Specific dates	c. 1825, c. 1937	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	c. 1825, c. 1937, c. 1985		

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 Westphalia Barns, located along Westphalia Road, represent the agrarian theme of Prince George's County from the early nineteenth century to the late twentieth century. In the nineteenth century, the westernmost barn was part of the Talburtt/Osborn farmstead, known as "Alexandria." Although it has undergone repairs and is currently in a state of deterioration, the barn retains the form of a typical nineteenth-century Prince George's County barn and is thus a prominent visual local landmark. The easternmost barn (no longer extant) was constructed circa 1937 and demolished sometime after 1985. Despite their association with the agrarian theme, neither the westernmost barn nor the site of the easternmost barn retain sufficient integrity to convey the characteristics of early-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century agricultural resources in Prince George's County.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

When the westernmost barn was constructed in the early nineteenth century, agriculture had become essential to the development of Prince George's County. The majority of the county's agricultural labor force was slave labor in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and tobacco provided a livelihood for many farmers throughout this period. In the early nineteenth century, farmers began to experiment with growing new crops. In 1817, the Prince George's County Agricultural Society was founded. This was the first county agricultural society founded in the state of Maryland. After the Civil War (1861-1865), and the abolition of slavery, large tobacco plantations often did not survive; however small farms growing tobacco and other crops continued to play a prominent role in the county's economic prosperity.² Farming remains a way of life for much of the southern part of Prince George's County, although at a much smaller scale than before.

² Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Prince George's County Planning Department, *Historic Sites and Districts Plan* (1992), 52.

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When constructed in the mid-1820s, the wood-frame barn (westernmost barn) at 11100 Westphalia Road in Upper Marlboro was representative of the tobacco barns dotting the rural agrarian landscape of Prince George's County. The form, materials, and design of the building are typical of nineteenth-century tobacco barns throughout southern Maryland. The barn was constructed on the Talburtt/Osbourn farmstead, which was known as "Alexandria." The property was owned throughout most of the nineteenth century by the Talburtt family, prominent local landowners who produced tobacco among other agricultural products. Upon the death of Jesse Talburtt circa 1850, Alexandria was devised to his four surviving daughters. At that time, the property contained approximately 334 acres of land. The 1860 census records show that Sarah Ann, Caroline, Rebecca, and Rachel Talburtt all resided on the property, which was valued at \$25,000. Their niece, Sarah Ann Osbourn (born in 1835) also lived on the property. Following the death of Sarah Ann Talburtt in May 1868, the property was equally devised to Caroline and Rachel Talburtt as their life estate, with Sarah Osbourn to receive full ownership upon their death. The 1870 census records show that Caroline Talburtt lived on the property with Rachel Talburtt, Sarah Osbourn, and Ellen Winkler. The census for 1870 shows the property was equally owned by Caroline and Rachel Talburtt, with an assessed value of \$15,000. By February 1873, the property was to be subdivided and sold amongst the surviving daughter, Caroline Talburtt, and Jesse Talburtt's grandchildren, although this division appears never to have taken place as subsequent deeds document that property was largely intact. Within months of an equity case, J. Alfred Osbourn was deeded 330 acres that included part of "Alexandria" and "Vale of Benjamin" plus an additional four-acre lot, which he conveyed in July 1870 to Sarah Osbourn.

Osbourn retained ownership of the property until 1903, describing it as "all that tract of land in Mellwood District whereon I now reside containing 300 acres on road to Forestville." It was divided among Roger B. Berry, William Pinkney Berry and the heirs of Jesse Talbert [Talburtt] Berry. The property, which continued to consist of 334 acres which included the westernmost tobacco barn, was conveyed among the descendants of Jesse Talburtt throughout the early twentieth century.

Deed 59:286
January 27, 1910

Charles H. Stanley and Henry S. Matthews, Trustees, to Roger Bernard Berry. (334 acres)

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From 1918 till 1919, the property was conveyed four times.

Indenture 134:134 Annie Gertrude Hanson, Douglas Gordon Hanson, Louise Berry, Mary Elizabeth
May 11, 1918 Tasker, Mable Berry Thompson, A. Contee Thompson, Josephine Berry Clarke,
Charles B. Clarke, Roger B. Berry, Helena Berry, John Talburtt Berry, Edna Chapman Berry, Myer
Heath Berry, Mildred Lee Berry to Louise Berry and Roger B. Berry. (334 acres)

On September 25, 1919, Roger and Louise Berry (Trustees acting for heirs at law of Mary Elizabeth Berry) conveyed the property to Charles Ernest Smith for \$18,000.³ Smith, by all accounts was a reverend and pastor at multiple churches in the area. It is not known why Smith purchased the property or more importantly why he conveyed the property to someone else the same day he purchased it.

Later on September 25, 1919, Smith conveyed the property to Roger Bernard Berry.

Deed 148:274 Charles Ernest Smith to Roger Bernard Berry. (334 acres)
September 25, 1919

Trustees from the Berry family conveyed the property to Charles Ernest Smith, who, by all accounts was a reverend and pastor of multiple churches in the area. That same day Smith conveyed the property to Mildred Lee Berry and Arthur Newman Tasker.

Mildred Lee Berry and Arthur Newman Tasker conveyed the property to Roger Bernard Berry.⁴ Roger and Mary Berry had ten children, as was not usual for a farming family.⁵ Additional information about this family could not be located.

In 1925, the property was conveyed for the first time outside the Talburtt/Osborn/Berry family, when it was purchased by Arcenious Wiley Bean.⁶ Bean was married to Jane L. Bean, who was not a child of Roger and Mary Berry. Arcenious Bean, born in April 1881, was listed in the 1920 census as a dairy farmer and served in both World War I and World War II. It was during the ownership of Bean that the easternmost barn was most

³ Roger and Louise Berry, Trustees, to Charles Ernest Smith, Prince George's County Land Records, 148:273.

⁴ Mildred Lee Berry and Arthur Newman Tasker to Roger Bernard Berry, Prince George's County Land Records, 148:275.

⁵ 1900 U.S. Federal Census, Nottingham, Prince George, Maryland, Series T623, Roll 626, Page 20A, Enumeration District 94, Roger Bernard Berry.

⁶ Roger Bernard Berry and Helena S. Berry to Arcenious W. Bean, Prince George's County Land Records, 257:187.

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likely constructed as part of the dairy farm. Bean was a lifelong resident of Prince George's County and started his dairy business in 1905. Bean also farmed tobacco on this property.⁷

In 1954, a year before his death, Arcenious Bean 66.01 acres of the property to his son Thomas Reeves Bean and wife Aleen G. Bean, who are the current owners.⁸ No information concerning Thomas and Aleen Bean could be located. The westernmost extant barn is no longer used for tobacco, dairy operations, or agricultural use.

⁷ "Arcenious W. Bean." The Washington Post and Times Herald (1954-1959), September 30, 1955, <http://www.proquest.com.proxy.library.cornell.edu/> (accessed January 14, 2009).

⁸ Arcenious W. Bean to Thomas Reeves Bean and Aleen G. Been, Prince George's County Land Records, WWW 1764:135.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Planning Department, *Historic Sites and Districts Plan*, 1992.
Pearl, Susan G. and Kathryn Henderson, "Harrison Store and Dwelling" (PG: 66-11) Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form, 1985.
Prince George's County Land Records.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>65.01</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>334</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Upper Marlboro</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24,000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Westphalia Barns are located on a 65.01-acre parcel in rural Prince George's County. The southern boundary of the property follows Westphalia Road. The western boundary of the property follow a small chain-link and wood fence. The northern boundary of the property follow a tree line running east-to-west. The eastern boundary extends along Ritchie Marlboro Road. This resource is associated with Parcel 26 as noted on Tax Map 83.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul Weishar/Architectural Historian		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Inc.	date	January 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

Will PC 1:419 April 7, 1850	Testator, Jesse Talburtt: to (five) four single daughters: Sarah Ann, Caroline, Rebecca, Rachel (and Susan, deceased before 1845 codicil) – his plantation wherein he lives, circa 334; Sarah Ann Talburtt, executrix.
Will WAJ 1:385 dated May 7, 1868	Testator, Sarah Ann Talburtt: to sisters Rachel and Caroline, all real estate for their life, afterwards to niece, Sarah Ann Osbourn.
Equity #899 February 20, 1873	Caroline Talburtt, Louise Berry, and Charlotte Osbourn vs. William O. Talburtt; petition that Jesse Talburtt's 334-acre homestead, which he had deeded to his four single daughters, be sold, and proceeds divided among his heirs; (three of those daughters Rebecca, Sarah Ann, and Rachel now deceased).
Deed HB 7:74 April 4, 1873	Caroline Talburtt to J. Alfred Osbourn, all her right and title to the plantation (parts of "Alexandria" and "Vale of Benjamin" plus a four-acre lot adjoining) where she now lives, retaining to herself a life estate.
Deed HB 7:311 June 28, 1873	Caleb C. Magruder to J. Alfred Osbourn; part of "Alexandria" and "Vale of Benjamin" totaling 330 acres, plus four-acre lot; C.C. Magruder, appointed trustee by Court of Equity to sell plantation of Jesse Talburtt, deceased; did sell to Osbourn and now executes this deed.
Deed HB 7:503 July 31, 1873	J. Alfred Osbourn and Julia Osbourn to Sarah Ann Osbourn. (334 acres)
Deed 12:443 April 6, 1903	Sarah Ann Osbourn to Roger Bernard Berry, "all that tract of land in Mellwood District whereon I now reside containing 300 acres on road to Forestville" plus a four-acre tract adjoining; 1/3 interest to Roger B. Berry; 1/3 interest to William Pinkney Berry; and 1/3 interest to heirs of Jesse Talbert Berry.
Deed 59:286 January 27, 1910	Charles H. Stanley and Henry S. Matthews, Trustees, to Roger Bernard Berry for \$8,525. (330 acres)

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Indenture 134:134 May 11, 1918	Heirs of Mary Elizabeth Berry (Annie Gertrude Hanson, Douglas Gordon Hanson, Louise Berry, Mary Elizabeth Tasker, Mable Berry Thompson, A. Contee Thompson, Josephine Berry Clarke, Charles B. Clarke, Roger B. Berry, Helena Berry, John Talburtt Berry, Edna Chapman Berry, Myer Heath Berry, and Mildred Lee Berry) to Louise Berry and Roger Bernard Berry. (334 acres)
Deed 148:273 September 25, 1919	Louise Berry and Roger Bernard Berry, Trustees under a Deed in Trust from heirs of Mary Elizabeth Berry to Charles Ernest Smith for \$18,000. (334 acres)
Deed 148:274 September 25, 1919	Charles Ernest Smith to Roger Bernard Berry. (334 acres)
Deed 148:275 December 8, 1919	Mildred Lee Berry and Arthur Newman Tasker to Roger Bernard Berry.
Deed 257:187 December 31, 1925	Roger Bernard Berry and Helena S. Berry to Arcenious Wiley Bean. (319 acres)
Deed WWW 1764:135 August 27, 1954	Arcenious Wiley Bean to Thomas Reeves Bean and Aleen G. Bean. (66.01 acres)

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Photo: Westernmost Tobacco Barn, looking northeast. (October 2008)

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Photo: Westernmost Tobacco Barn, looking northwest. (October 2008)

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Photo: Westernmost Tobacco Barn, looking southwest. (October 2008)