

CAPSULE SUMMARY

PG: 86B-038

Sasscer Tobacco Barn

13400 Molly Berry Road

Brandywine, Prince George's County, Maryland

c. 1917

Private

The Sasscer Tobacco Barn was constructed c. 1917. It was originally associated with the farm at the Sasscer House at Keys Quarters (13907 Candy Hill Road, PG: 86B-003), located approximately 550 feet east of the barn. In 1996, the remaining acreage of the Sasscer farm was subdivided and platted as Keys Quarters, a subdivision consisting of 18 lots that vary in size from 3.36 acres to more than six acres. The subdivision of the Sasscer House property resulted in this tobacco barn being separated from the house and farm with which it was historically associated. The barn is located in its original location east of Molly Berry Road, south of the intersection with Candy Hill Road. The barn and a new house, currently under construction, are the only two resources on the property. The Sasscer Tobacco Barn is an excellent example of a tobacco barn dating from the first quarter of the twentieth century and is significant as a reminder of Prince George's County's agricultural past. The vertical ventilators and the interior of the barn, complete with the original lattice of tier poles (or ties) on which the tobacco was hung, remain intact. Further, the property is representative of the gradual subdivision and development of the rural land of Prince George's County, which has resulted in the loss of resources such as tobacco barns.

The Sasscer Tobacco Barn is located approximately three miles south of Croom and five miles east of Brandywine on the east side of the road. The 3.3417-acre parcel of land also contains a new house that is currently under construction. This large one-story tobacco barn has a rectangular form. Based on the barn's form, construction techniques, and materials, it is likely that the barn was constructed c. 1917. The wood-frame building sits on a solid concrete foundation. The building is clad with vertical-board wood siding that is spaced slightly apart to allow for ventilation. One hinged vertical ventilator is visible on the southernmost bay of the east (side) elevation. Other ventilators are obscured by the overgrown vines that cover the majority of the barn. The gambrel roof is covered with corrugated metal and has overhanging boxed eaves. Both the façade (north elevation) and rear (south elevation) contain double-leaf batten doors with metal strap hinges that are cross-braced on the interior. The interior of the barn is remarkably intact. The barn is supported by large square wood posts with diagonal bracing. The lattice of tier poles (or ties) on which the tobacco was hung, are still located within the barn. As noted by the notches in the vertical posts, the lower level of tier poles were removed to provide for additional storage in the barn when it was not being used to cure tobacco.