



74A-014 Seton Belt Barn at Oatland
Church Road (north of MD 214)
Mitchellville

Built circa 1880, the Seton Belt Barn is a large, multi-use frame barn with jerkinhead roof, decorated cupolas and returned cornices which retain remnants of the dark red and robin's-egg blue paint with which the barn was originally adorned. It was built as a livestock barn on the Home Farm of Eleanor Lee Belt, and adapted in this century for tobacco hanging. It is the only surviving example in Prince George's County of such a highly decorated barn, and represents the shift in agricultural practices after the Civil War. The period of its greatest use was during the lifetime of W. Seton Belt, Jr., who inherited the property from his parents and brother who lived and worked at the farm. It stands on part of a plantation known as Oatland, purchased in 1815 by George and Rosalie Calvert of Riversdale.