

## MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

---

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Common Identity of Barn: Wiley Metcalf barn                               | Approx date/decade built: late 19th  |
| Address of Barn: 2752 Upper Metcalf Creek Loop<br>Rd. Mars Hill, NC 28754 | Current Owner: John Metcalf; 828-689-2799<br>Historic Owner(s): Wiley Metcalf barn, Lee<br>Metcalf |
| GPS Location: N35-50.843/W82-25.997                                       | Current Use: storage   |
| Elevation:  | Historic Use: livestock, general purpose, burley<br>tobacco  |
| Township: Beech Glen  | Permission to visit property by: John Metcalf  |
| Vicinity: upper Paint Fork area   |  |

### ORIGINAL BARN characteristics

---

#### Integrity

- High
- Medium
- Low

#### Condition

- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated
- Ruin

Add. Info.:

#### Function of original barn

- general purpose
- livestock/hay
- flue-cured tobacco
- burley tobacco
- bull face tobacco
- dairy
- other

Add. Info.:

#### Type Construction of original barn

- Post and Beam
- timber frame
- mortise and tenon
- sawn lumber
- hewn timbers
- notched logs
- stud frame

Add. Info.: an exemplary example of this type of barn, of high quality log hewing and notching, with very tight half dovetail notches except for the top log which was notched using a V-notch.

There are large hewn beams throughout, some joined by mortise and tenon joinery, and many plates and sills that extend the full length of the barn, hewn of one log. There are also large doubled and sawn floor joists in lieu of hewn joists, and are unusual and perhaps a later replacement.

Original siding materials

- milled boards
- lattice
- exposed logs
- board and batten
- metal
- shingles
- other

Add. Info.: log pens are under cover

Orientation of siding

- angled on diagonal: lattice
- vertical
- horizontal: milled boards

Add. Info.: a remarkable example of a creative and expressive use of lattice, and extensive lapped siding

Roof pitch or slope of original barn: 11/12

Roof type of original barn

- gable
- broken gable
- gambrel
- shed
- monitor
- cupola
- other

Add. Info.:

Roofing materials of original barn

- split wood shingles
- 3-V metal
- 3-u metal
- 5-V metal
- stamped metal shingle
- tar paper
- unknown
- other

Add. Info.:

Roof framing of original barn

- round pole rafters
  - milled rafters
  - gambrel shallow trusses
  - gambrel with post and beam support
  - round purlins
- Add. Info.: it is assumed that these are original

#### Foundation of original barn

- Dry laid stone
- wood sills on rock piers
- mortared stone
- concrete
- concrete block
- columns/wood piers
- posts on concrete footings

Add. Info.: This is bank barn, the bank supported by a massive rock retaining wall.

#### Flooring of original barn

- dirt floor: ground level
- wood flooring: loft
- concrete slab

Add. Info.:

#### Species of wood used in original barn

- chestnut
- other, list known species

Add. Info.:

#### Hinges

- leather
- wooden
- wrought iron
- commercial metal
- rubber
- other

Add. Info.:

#### Fasteners

- wire nails
- cut nails
- wrought spikes
- wood pegs
- other

Add. Info.:

#### Tobacco tier poles vertical spacing

- +/- 2 feet
  - +/- 3 feet
  - +/- 4 feet
  - other, list
- Add. Info.:

Additional traditional features, list: This is bank barn, the bank supported by a massive rock retaining wall. This barn once had a hand-carved and crafted Masonic symbol in the top of the gable, but has deteriorated and fallen. *Note from Masonic web site:* Known as the Grand Geometer, the square and Compasses, tools of the trade, so arranged as to form a quadrilateral. The square is sometimes said to represent matter, and the compasses spirit or mind. Alternatively, the square might be said to represent the world of the concrete, or the measure of objective reality, while the compasses represent abstraction, or subjective judgment. Often the compasses straddle the square, representing the interdependence between the two. In the space between the two, there is optionally placed a symbol of metaphysical significance. Sometimes, this is a blazing star or other symbol of Light, representing Truth or knowledge. On this barn there was a letter G placed there, usually said to represent God and/or Geometry.

This barn is also one that was found to have a hand-carved feed trough that runs the length of the stalls, carved or gouged from a half-round log. This trough is unique in that the builder added a half-round of hickory sampling with the bark on, to provide a hard and durable edge that the animals could not chew through or damage by kicking.

There is also a grapevine growing on the south wall, a tradition.

#### ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS characteristics

---

Has the original barn been altered or added to? Yes

Description of alterations and additions: An addition was apparently built by C.M. Allen, "Mac", completed on Nov. 6, 1949, as indicated by this scratched into the wet concrete. Tier poles were also added to cure burley tobacco. The original split oak shingle roof has been replaced with metal roofing.

Condition of alterations

- good
- fair
- poor
- ruin

Add. Info.:

Function of barn alterations and additions

- general purpose
- livestock/hay
- flue-cured tobacco

- burley tobacco
- bull face tobacco
- dairy
- other

Add. Info.: shed addition may be case house or shop.

#### Type Construction alterations and additions

- Post and Beam
- timber frame
- mortise and tenon
- sawn lumber
- hewn timbers
- notched logs
- stud frame

Add. Info.:

#### Siding materials of alterations and additions

- milled boards
- lattice
- exposed logs
- board and batten
- metal
- shingles
- other

Add. Info.: asphalt sheet roofing

#### Orientation of siding

- angled on diagonal
- vertical
- horizontal

Add. Info.:

Roof pitch or slope of alterations and additions: 2.5/12

#### Roof type of barn alterations and additions

- gable
- broken gable
- gambrel
- shed
- monitor
- cupola
- other

Add. Info.:

#### Roofing materials of alterations and additions

- split wood shingles

- 3-V metal
  - 3-u metal
  - 5-V metal
  - stamped metal shingle
  - tar paper
  - unknown
  - other
- Add. Info.:

Roof framing of alterations and additions

- round pole rafters
  - milled rafters
  - gambrel shallow trusses
  - gambrel with post and beam support
  - round purlins
- Add. Info.:

Foundation of alterations and additions

- Dry laid stone
  - wood sills on rock piers
  - mortared stone
  - concrete
  - concrete block
  - columns/wood piers
  - posts on concrete footings
- Add. Info.:

Flooring of alterations and additions

- dirt floor
  - wood flooring
  - concrete slab
- Add. Info.:

Species of wood used in alterations and additions

- chestnut
  - other, list known species
- Add. Info.:

Hinges/ alterations and additions

- leather
  - wooden
  - wrought iron
  - commercial metal
  - rubber
  - other
- Add. Info.:

Fasteners/ alterations and additions

- wire nails
- cut nails
- wrought spikes
- wood pegs
- other

Add. Info.:

Tobacco tier poles vertical spacing/ alterations and additions

- +/- 2 feet
- +/- 3 feet
- +/- 4 feet
- other, list

Add. Info.: at ave. 53" vertical spacing

---

Outbuildings: a large corn crib

Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use: This site is a classic farmstead although, considering the size and quality of this barn, it is in a relatively narrow valley with little tillable land compared to farms with this type barn owned by more affluent family. The old house that once stood nearby was a typical 2-story I-house occupied by Lee Metcalf.

Historic Information: Surviving family members recall very little about this barn although they all know that it is a high quality example of this type of barn. Tradition held that it was built by Rev. Jim Corn and Joe Carter, two known and popular builders of the time.

Date Photos Taken: Feb 9, 2013

Submitted By

Name: Taylor Barnhill

Address: 226 Beech Glen Rd., Mars Hill, NC 28754

Phone home: Cell: 828-380-9336

Email: taylor.barnhill@yahoo.com