

MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

Common Identity of Barn: "Big John" Metcalf
Address of Barn: 654 Bradley Branch Rd.
Mars Hill, NC 28754
Elevation: 2351 feet
GPS Location: N35 50.457/W82 28.193
Township: Beech Glen
Vicinity: Paint Fork valley

Approx date/decade built: 1880-1910
Current Owner: Ammons Mt. Properties
Historic Owner(s): Big John Metcalf (not original owner)
Current Use: livestock, storage
Historic Use: livestock, general, burley tobacco
Permission to visit property by: Woody Ammons

ORIGINAL BARN characteristics

Integrity

- High
- Medium
- Low

Condition

- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Ruin

Add. Info.: land is rented to cattle owner and not regularly maintained

Function of original barn

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

Type Construction of original barn

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

Add. Info.: The dimensions of the log cribs vary from the more common 11' dimension and measure 10'-1" X 16'-0", which is also a longer dimension than common. Log notches are a good half dovetail with v-notch at top log only, as a way of anchoring the logs from any lateral movement. Spacing of other stalls and hallway has a repeated 10'-1" dimension. The 10'-1"

dimension is also found in several other places, yet the reason is unknown. There is some use of mortise and tenon joinery. The large hewn timbers are typically 6X6 or 5X6 inches.

Original siding materials

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

Add. Info.: gable ends have an uncommonly large area of lapped siding. Siding has a 4.5" reveal.

Orientation of siding

- angled on diagonal
 - vertical
 - horizontal
- Add. Info.: lattice is on a diagonal

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
 - unknown
- Add. Info.: could have been round pole rafters originally

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 a bank barn with a massive rock retaining wall supporting the bank.

Flooring of original barn

- dirt floor
- wood flooring
- 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.: cut nails may be present but not apparent

Tobacco tier poles vertical spacing

- +/- 2 feet

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

Other Traditional Features:

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS characteristics

Has the original barn been altered or added to? yes

Description of alterations and additions: this barn was altered with vertical and horizontal tier poles to be adapted to hanging burley tobacco. A more contemporary sliding rail door was also added.

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

Type Construction alterations and additions

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

Add. Info.: tier poles have been added to adapt for burley tobacco, both round poles and sawn lumber.

Siding materials of alterations and additions

- milled boards
- lattice
- exposed logs

- board and batten
 - metal
 - shingles
 - other
- Add. Info.:

Orientation of siding

- angled on diagonal
 - vertical
 - horizontal
- Add. Info.:

Roof pitch or slope of alterations and additions:

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.: The corn has a unique type of 3-U early metal roofing reportedly provided on site by Alcoa aluminum traveling crews.

Roof framing of alterations and additions

- round pole rafters
- milled rafters
- gambrel shallow trusses
- gambrel with post and beam support
- round purlins

Add. Info.: unknown if original rafters were round poles

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.: 43" to 49"

Additional Traditional Features of additions:

Outbuildings: There remains an exceptional and unusually large corn crib structure built of small hewn pine logs with v-notches. The metal roof has the 3-U metal, reported to be site-made by Alcoa Aluminum Co. traveling crews.

Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use: This barn is part of a large cove farmstead, and includes a deteriorated late 19th century house.

Historic Information: Very little information has been found about this barn. The previous owner was known in the community as "Big John" Metcalf, but he was not the original owner, and was living during the latter part of the 20th century.

Date Photos Taken: Jan 2013

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Please Submit Information To: