

MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

Common Identity of Barn: Roy Ledford, Sr.
Address of Barn: 2300 Old Mars Hill Highway
Mars Hill, NC 28754

GPS Location: N35 – 47.808 / W82 – 32.111
Elevation: 2002’
Township: Beech Glen

Vicinity: Forks of Ivy area near Mars Hill
Approx date/decade built: 1945-47
Current Owner: Roy Ledford, Jr.
Historic Owner(s): Roy Ledford, Sr.
Current Use: storage, dilapidated
Historic Use: burley tobacco
Permission to visit property by: Roy Ledford, Jr.

ORIGINAL BARN characteristics

Integrity

- high
- medium
- low

Condition

- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Ruin

Add. Info.: this structure was blown off its foundation, but stayed intact

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.:

Original siding materials

- 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 original barn: 2/12 +/-

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.:

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.:

Flooring of original barn

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

Species of wood used in original barn

- chestnut
 - other, list known species: mostly pine boards and posts, some poplar poles
- Add. Info.:

Hinges

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

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:

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS characteristics

Has the original barn been altered or added to? No

Outbuildings: none

Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use: This barn sits at the end of a creek bottomland field that was intensively cultivated for burley tobacco, now used for hay. It was part of an original large landholding of over 300 acres once owned and farmed by James Stokes Ledford whose homestead is approx. 1 mile to the northeast. The land is situated along Little Ivy Creek approx. ½ mile before it joins Big Ivy Creek to form the Ivy River.

Historic Information:

This is a burley barn and is one of the earliest burley barns built with a single slope shed roof, just after WWII, circa 1945-47. It is a typical post and beam construction yet does not have diagonal siding as do many similar barns, perhaps because it is an early version of this type of burley barn and may be an effort to change from diagonal siding on gable and gambrel roof barns.

Construction of the barn: Mr. Roy Ledford, Jr. told the story he heard from his uncle James Ledford about a mule named Coley that was used to drag the logs to construct the barn. The builders were getting the log poles from trees on the ridge above the bottomland. A couple of men would work on the barn construction at the site while others were cutting the tree poles on the ridge. They would attach one or more poles to the mule's harness and send him down the hill alone to the site. The men at the site would unhook the poles and send Coley back up the hill by himself to where the men were cutting the trees. Coley lived to be 45 years old.

Date Photos Taken: ___ February 5, 2013

Submitted By:

Name ___ Taylor Barnhill _____

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

Phone: Home: ___ 689-5530 _____ Cell: ___ 380-9336 _____

Email: ___ taylor.barnhill@yahoo.com _____

Please Submit Information To: