

## MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

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Common Identity of Barn: Job Stokes Ledford  
barn  
Address of Barn: 226 Beech Glen Rd., Mars Hill,  
NC 28754  
GPS Location: N35-48.093 / W82-31.823  
Elevation: 2050'  
Township: Beech Glen  
Vicinity: lower Beech Glen, near Forks of Ivy

Approx date/decade built: 1880 - 1890  
Current Owner: Taylor Barnhill  
Historic Owner(s): J. Stokes Ledford; Will and  
Sereni Metcalf; Jim and Jesse Metcalf Whitt  
Current Use: storage, shop  
Historic Use: livestock, storage, general purpose  
Permission to visit property by: Taylor Barnhill

### ORIGINAL BARN characteristics

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#### 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.: this barn has an uncommon structure in its use of round white pine poles and a hallway with no loft above it. It also has six free standing log cribs spaced +/- 11 feet apart, and open areas on either side of the log cribs. See drawings

This is the largest barn of this era and type found to date and may be the oldest. It has 6 log pen stalls, more than other barns found to date, and notching is half dovetail-notching. It has the only round pole rafters found, and a unique diagonal interior bracing using long white pine round poles. The primary vertical support posts in the loft section are round white pine poles. Horizontal wood members are square hewn beams, sills and plates. The outer-most sills were massive 12" X 8" sills hewn from single trees, the full length or 53 feet. These had rotted and were replaced in 2006. There are also 18 square hewn sills and plates, approx. half being of a single log, and the remaining of two logs lap-jointed in the center. There is a unique short post support 4 feet high flanking each tall post along the loft over the hallway that supports cross-beams and diagonal brace poles. Most nails found are wire nails but cut nails and wrought iron spikes are also present. The door openings at each end of the main hall are unusually tall at 11 feet and 10 feet. There are no surviving doors, but the last doors known included wire-covered framed doors. Floor joists supporting the loft floor are 6" diameter pine poles hewn flat on two sides spaced 31" on center. The log pens have a commonly found dimension of 11" 1" that occurs in several other barns of this type. This barn is only one of two found that have leeks growing on the downhill south slope.

#### Original siding materials

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

Add. Info.: lapped siding in high gable and side gable extensions; vertical boards on north and south sides.

#### Orientation of siding

- angled on diagonal
- vertical
- horizontal

Add. Info.: the lattice is on an angle, and is an unusually large dimension for this period barn.

Roof pitch or slope of original barn: 9.3/12

#### 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.: some split oak shingles were found on site, and an old photo shows them in place.

#### Roof framing of original barn

round pole rafters

milled rafters

gambrel shallow trusses

gambrel with post and beam support

round purlins

Add. Info.: this is a rare example of round pole rafters surviving to present day.

#### 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- loft, stair well, and tack room

concrete slab

Add. Info.:

#### Species of wood used in original barn

chestnut

other, list known species

Add. Info.: more white pine than most barns of this period

#### 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: mortise and tenon stall doors

#### ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS characteristics

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Has the original barn been altered or added to? Yes

Description of alterations and additions: Due to severe deterioration and neglect, the barn had partial new framing and partial new roof in 2006. The woodshed was damaged by wind in 2013 and was removed, replaced by a small shed roof for firewood. The garage addition was added mid- 20<sup>th</sup> century, sided in old reused 3-V metal roofing; roof has been replaced with 5-V and contemporary aluminum roofing; tier poles have been added for burley tobacco; a shed garage addition and wood shed were added; the north side was rebuilt using a different structure type in 2006.

#### Condition of alterations

- good
- fair
- poor
- ruin

Add. Info.: wood shed was removed in 2013, replaced with a smaller shed roof cover; the north side of barn was replaced with a different structure; and the south side was altered to install locust posts for support after the large hewn sills were removed because of deterioration. Burley tier poles are deteriorating.

Function of barn alterations and additions

- general purpose
  - livestock/hay
  - flue-cured tobacco
  - burley tobacco
  - bull face tobacco
  - dairy
  - other
- Add. Info.:

Type Construction alterations and additions

- Post and Beam
  - timber frame
  - mortise and tenon
  - sawn lumber
  - hewn timbers
  - notched logs
  - stud frame
- Add. Info.: see drawing

Siding materials of alterations and additions

- milled boards
  - lattice
  - exposed logs
  - board and batten
  - metal
  - shingles
  - other
- Add. Info.: garage addition has 3-V and 5-V metal roofing as siding

Orientation of siding

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

Roof pitch or slope of alterations and additions: 1.5/12 on shed 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.: tar paper was later covered with metal

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.: locust posts, misc other

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.:

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Outbuildings: the 1890 2-storey house remains; an unusual outbuilding remains that has a 36 foot deep dug well lined with creek rock, and also serves as a spring house, smoke house, and tool shed. This is the only dug well found in Madison County to date. Springhouse also had pipes bringing spring water to a concrete spring box, from three different springs on the ridge above, one at a distance of more than a half mile. This structure was also used as a meat curing salting house, with large boards for applying salt.

Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use: The house still stands and was built in 1890, on a site occupied by an earlier house, which is common, and the barn could have been built prior to the existing house. This barn is located on part of an original 380 acre tract of land that included all the land in sight of this homestead.

Historic Information: The Ledford family was involved in county leadership for several generations that included the grandson James Ledford, county commissioner in the 1980's and 90's, and great grandson John Ledford who was Sheriff and state Director of the Alcohol Law Enforcement agency, early 2000's. The family cemetery is across the creek and on a hill south of the barn and house, and owned by others. The homeplace was known as "Island Home", perhaps because of the small island in the bend of the creek, or because the structures are all located on a long bend of the creek surrounded on three sides. The house was run as a tourist home in the 1930's by Aunt Kate Ledford Gardner, married to Pender Gardner. Another resident in the 1940's was Viola Ledford Gardner known as "Butchie". A recollection passed on by family was that the men of the farm would sit around the well house for hours listening to the World Series on the radio. Cold soft drinks were kept in the well. The bottle opener is still on the post in the well house.

Date Photos Taken: Jan 1985; Jan 2013; July 2013; old photo 1932

Submitted By

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