

## MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

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Common Identity of Barn: D. Nelson Anderson	Approx date/decade built: circa 1935
Bull Face tobacco barn	Current Owner: Evelyn Anderson
Address of Barn: 1129 Paint Fork Rd., Mars Hill, NC 28754	Historic Owner(s): D. Nelson Anderson; Oscar Anderson, Sr. and Jr.
GPS Location: N35-49.855 / W82-28.392	Current Use: burley tobacco barn
Elevation: 2238'	Historic Use: Bull Face tobacco barn
Township: Beech Glen	Permission to visit property by: Evelyn Anderson
Vicinity: Paint Fork and Walker Branch	

### 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

#### 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 is a very large log barn of round logs, measuring 30 feet wide by 38 feet long, and 24 logs high, or +/- 16 feet high to the top log. Logs were placed with some hewn surfaces, using V- notches and a variety of wood species including white pine, yellow pine, oak, and some chestnut. Log diameter ranges from 9.5 inches to 5 inches.

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: 6/12

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.: this barn could have had either split oak shingles or, the metal roofing could be original.

Roof framing of original barn

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

Add. Info.: the milled rafters may have replaced round pole rafters, but not confirmed.

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.: rock piers at corners and midway on long sides, and either side of doors.

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.: misc species, chestnut, oak, white pine, perhaps "black" (short leaf) pine.

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.: the ave. spacing is 39" and was explained by a neighbor to be for Bull Face chewing tobacco, 5 tiers high, unless cut off at lower south end.

Additional traditional features, list: Bull Face tobacco was smoke cured, and the fact that this barn was built over a drainage swale may relate to the smoking process whereby the ashes from the smoking fire could be washed out by surface rain water.

#### ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS characteristics

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Has the original barn been altered or added to? No

Description of alterations and additions:

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.:

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.:

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.:

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Outbuildings: see files for the other Anderson barns.

Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use: This is an unusual setting in that the barn is placed in a steep swale draining a several-acre pasture, with the flow running through the middle of the barn. The question arises as to the reason, with one explanation being that the swale would also carry the air drainage through the barn. A later explanation may have been found in that,

since this was a barn in which green branches and limbs were lighted on fire used to smoke the tobacco, the drainage swale may have served to flush out with surface rain water, the remains of the smoking debris when the smoking was complete.

**Historic Information:** Family members do not know the age of this barn. Being a tobacco barn, it is not older than the large livestock barn, but has the atypical tier pole spacing.

A third and earlier type of tobacco raised in this area, called Bull Face, was raised for chewing tobacco marketed in twists. This type of tobacco, also called dark tobacco, grew only 36" +/- tall, thus the 39" tier pole spacing.

It was considered that this may be a large flue-cured tobacco barn, but here is no clear evidence of mud chinking although there is some soil in between some logs which could be from mud dauber wasps that are present. It was not known if the logs were chinked in this type barn.

A neighbor explained that the Bull Face tobacco was smoke cured by building a fire on the dirt floor of the barn composed of green branches that smoke heavily but never ignite, thus slowly smoking the tobacco. Other material was added to the smoking to add flavor, such as apple culls and cherry bark.

It is currently used for burley tobacco and likely has been since burley tobacco has been grown on this land, beginning in the 1920's.

Date Photos Taken: Jan. 7, 2013 and July 2013

Submitted By

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