

## MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

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Common Identity of Barn: Harrison Roberts barn/ Joe Worley barn	Historic Owner(s): Harrison Roberts, Clyde Baker
Address of Barn: 7596 Big Pine Rd.	Current Use: abandoned
GPS Location: N35 48.308 / W82 47.796	Historic Use: possibly flue-cured tobacco, later burley tobacco
Elevation: 2342'	Current Owner: Rick Suttles
Township: Walnut	Permission to visit property by:
Vicinity: Big Pine Creek valley	Rick Suttles
Approx date/decade built: early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	7596 Big Pine Rd., Marshall, NC 29753
	828-649-1080; 828-779-2741

### ORIGINAL BARN characteristics

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#### Integrity

- High
- Medium
- Low

#### Condition

- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated
- Ruin

Add. Info.: the overall log structure is generally sound but has foundation problems, especially on the southeast corner where the soil is eroding from under the rock pier. The north wall has settled into the ground and deteriorating.

#### Function of original barn

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

Add. Info.: the vertical spacing of the tier poles is small which could indicate flue-cured tobacco, yet the footprint is not square, and the existing doorway is larger than a flue-cured barn door. The north wall has board battens over the log gaps which indicate flue-cured tobacco.

#### Type Construction of original barn

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

stud frame

Add. Info.: Saddle notches; wood framed above the log courses. The upper or north end of the barn is 2' higher and the lag walls are tapered to follow the change in slope.

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: 8/12

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 is current

stamped metal shingle

tar paper

unknown

other

Add. Info.: unable to determine if 5-V metal is original, or if split shingles were original.

Roof framing of original barn

round pole rafters

milled rafters

- gambrel shallow trusses
- gambrel with post and beam support
- round purlins

Add. Info.: sawn roof lath strips at 32' OC spacing, too wide for split oak shingles. Pole rafters are +/- 28" OC.

#### 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

Add. Info.: locust logs appear to be the first run of logs. Also oak, pine, poplar, and chestnut logs. Some of the chestnut logs have scarring, possibly indicating the trees were harvested after 1920.

#### 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

\_x\_ other, list

Add. Info.: Tier poles vertical spacing ranges from 26" to 30", and 43" to 48" horizontal. The short vertical spaces indicates that flue-cured tobacco could have been hung here. Tier poles are in the same orientation as the pole rafters.

Additional traditional features, list: The short dimension of this barn is 20'-10" +/-, conforming to a flue-cured log barn, but the long dimension is 27'-10"+/-. The current door is centered on the side wall, different from flue-cured barns, and most log barns which would have the door centered on the gable end wall.

#### ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS characteristics

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Has the original barn been altered or added to?

There are no apparent additions or changes.

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Outbuildings: none in the vicinity of this barn.

Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use: This barn is in a narrow stretch of the Big Pine Creek gorge with no bottom land nearby. It was part of an active farm when built, but most of the tillable land has returned to forest.

#### Historic Information:

Gathering the history of this large, log tobacco barn exemplifies the difficulty in dating and documenting these older barns. Oral tradition has this barn being built by Joe Worley prior to 1907 for landowner Harrison Roberts. That period predated the introduction of burley tobacco indicating this barn was built for flue-cured tobacco, a conclusion supported by the spacing of tier poles at 24" to 30", and the close spacing of the logs to accommodate mud chinking. Other information may conflict with those dates: the apparent chestnut blight scarring on some of the chestnut logs could indicate it was built after 1920 when the blight arrived in the western NC mountains; the rectangular footprint of this barn, at 28' X 21', differs from the square footprint of a flue-cured tobacco barn, and Joe Worley would have been 65 years old in 1920, perhaps too old to build this massive log barn. Regardless of the details, this is a wonderful example of a large log tobacco barn on a steep mountain farm on Big Pine Creek. The barn remained in the Roberts family until recent years; Harrison Roberts' daughter, Vineida, married Clyde Baker and they owned the land until the current owner acquired it.

Date Photos Taken: July 30, 2015

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