

MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

Common Identity of Barn: Rubin "Rube"
Caldwell (1860 – 1962) livestock barn
Address of Barn: 8578 Big Pine Road
GPS Location: N35 47.807 / W82 48.416
Elevation: 2316'
Township: Walnut
Vicinity: Big Pine Creek
Approx date/decade built: 1924
Current Owner: Ricky Floyd Caldwell

Historic Owner(s): Rubin Caldwell, McKinley
"Doc" or "Mac" Caldwell, Floyd Caldwell
Current Use: storage, utility
Historic Use: livestock, burley tobacco, utility
Permission to visit property by: Roy Caldwell,
uncle of owner, Ricky Caldwell, who lives in S.C.
140 Becknell Dr., Roebuck, SC 29376

ORIGINAL BARN characteristics

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.: also used for curing burley tobacco as well.

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 one of several monitor roof barns in the Walnut Township which were an innovation likely introduced by Claude Wild with his monitor roof barn in 1918. Other than the monitor roof, it is a typical livestock barn of log cribs and large hay loft above.

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.: lattice at various angles

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.:

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 - loft
- concrete slab

Add. Info.:

Species of wood used in original barn

- chestnut
- other, list known species: oak, pine, poplar

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.:

Tobacco tier poles vertical spacing

- +/- 2 feet
- +/- 3 feet

___ +/- 4 feet

___ other, list

Add. Info.: average 42" vertical spacing

Additional traditional features, list: attached corn crib on south side, known to be part of the original barn.

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS characteristics

Has the original barn been altered or added to? Yes

Description of alterations and additions: simple wood shed addition on east side, mid-20th century.

Outbuildings: can house/root cellar /case house with rock wall ground level, frame second floor, may have also served as a granary. A flue-cured tobacco barn ruin is also on site. See other file for 1985 photos and data on that barn.

Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use: This barn is in a stretch of the Big Pine Creek valley with minimal bottom land. It was part of an active farm when built, but most of the tillable land has returned to forest.

Historic Information: Rubin Caldwell, 1860 to 1962, built the monitor roof livestock barn in 1924, when he was 64 years old. He lived to be 102. This barn is one of the five distinctive monitor roof barns in the Big Pine Creek valley, with the signature diagonal lattice work and milled lapped board siding. Caldwell was likely influenced by the Claude Wild monitor roof barn built in 1918, farther up Big Pine Creek valley. Unlike the other monitor roof barns, however, this variation continued the tradition of using logs for the lower level for animal stalls, in four log cribs. Like the Claude Wild barn it is also a bank barn, providing drive-in access to the second level hay loft for unloading horse-drawn wagon loads of hay. The farm includes the remains of an old flue-cured log tobacco barn that was revered by Rube's son Mac Caldwell who, until his death, enjoyed telling about the original but long-forgotten flue-cured, or "fire-cured" tobacco that was an economic boon to the mountains in the late 19th century, well before burley tobacco was introduced.

Date Photos Taken: digital - Aug 27, 2015

B&W film photos taken April 23, 1985

Submitted By

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