

MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

Common Identity of Barn: *Theodore Plemmons*
(buried at Station Gap Cemetery)
Address of Barn: 695 Sharp Hollow Rd.
GPS Location: N35-50.450 / W82-44.308
Elevation: 1805'
Township: Walnut
Vicinity: Lower Brush Creek Road

Approx date/decade built: late 19th, early 20th
century
Current Owner: ***R. J. Plemmons, son***
Historic Owner(s): unknown
Current Use: storage
Historic Use: flue-cured tobacco, burley tobacco
Permission to visit property by: R. J. Plemmons;
828-649-3364

ORIGINAL BARN characteristics

Integrity

- High
- Medium
- Low

Condition

- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated
- Ruin

Add. Info.: This set of connected structures used for burley tobacco, various storage and mechanical shop work over the years but not been well maintained. There is another log flue-cured barn but it has been altered significantly to serve as a livestock barn and other uses.

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 is a hewn log flue-cured barn with log walls continuing into the gable ends, with purlin poles supporting the roof structure. The notching is saddle notches. The notching of the other log barn is V-notches.

Original siding materials

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

Add. Info.: saddle notches

Orientation of siding

- angled on diagonal
- vertical
- horizontal

Add. Info.: NA

Roof pitch or slope of original barn: 7.3 / 12

Roof type of original barn

- gable
- broken gable
- gambrel
- shed
- monitor
- cupola
- other

Add. Info.: round pole purlins on notched gable end logs support the roof.

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.: replaced with 5-V metal roofing

Roof framing of original barn

- round pole rafters
- milled rafters

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

Add. Info.: purlins approx. 18" O.C. and range in diameter 4" to 5". 1"x6" boards span the purlins, with 1"x6" sheathing boards perpendicular to those as nailers for oak shingles.

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.: oak, pine, poplar

Hinges

- leather
- wooden
- wrought iron
- commercial metal
- rubber
- other

Add. Info.: a mix of hinges on various doors

Fasteners

- wire nails
- cut nails
- wrought spikes
- wood pegs
- other

Add. Info.: could include cut nails but not apparent

Tobacco tier poles vertical spacing

- +/- 2 feet

- +/- 3 feet
- +/- 4 feet
- other, list

Add. Info.: flue-cured tier poles at 2'-2" to 2'-9" vertically; 44" to 45" horizontally.

Additional traditional features, list: grape vine on northwest wall;

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS characteristics

Has the original barn been altered or added to? Yes

Description of alterations and additions: two extension additions built for burley tobacco curing, built in line with and the same size as the original log barn.

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

Add. Info.: additions to the primary log barn include two additions that mirror the original barn and roof shape, built for burley tobacco. Other shed additions include a garage and various storage/workshop buildings, some as shed additions.

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: 7.3 / 12; 3 / 12

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.: oak, pine, poplar

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.:

Outbuildings: an early 20th century gable roofed workshop/shed is adjacent to the barns, and may be of boxed frame construction.

Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use: this farm is in the lower Brush Creek community between upper Brush Creek and Walnut. It is a narrower part of the watershed with less tillable bottom land, as the terrain begins to drop off toward the French Broad River.

Historic Information:

The Theodore Plemmons barn is a rare example of a log, flue-cured tobacco barn, and includes the older tradition of continuing the log end walls into the triangular gable area of the roof. This requires that the two gable ends be part of a roof structure of round pole “purlins” that span the distance between log walls, and lock the gable end logs in place. Remnants of the mud chinking used to fill the spaces between logs are still present, a surviving feature found in less than ten barns in Madison County. The upper log barn may also be a flue-cured tobacco barn, but alterations have changed its original form. The two barns were adapted to air-cure burley tobacco after the 1920’s, and were later connected by shed additions built to add to the tobacco hanging capacity and multi-purpose work areas. The grapevine growing on the north wall represents an old mountain tradition of growing grapes on a barn wall. Theodore Plemmons bought the farm in 1948, but nothing is known of its history or previous owner.

Date Photos Taken: July 17, 2015

Submitted By

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