

MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

Common Identity of Barn:
George Washington Wild (b 1861) and
Laura Ratcliff Wild Livestock/ Dairy barn
Address of Barn:
31 South Fork Road, Marshall NC
GPS Location: N35 47.130 / W82 48.677

Elevation: 2509'
Township: Walnut

Vicinity: Upper Big Pine Creek valley
Approx date/decade built: early 20th century
Current Owner: Jeff and Cindy Moore
Historic Owner(s): George W. Wild, Claude Wild,
Donald and Geraldine Wild
Current Use: storage
Historic Use: livestock and dairy, burley tobacco
Permission to visit property by: Jeff Moore
Phone: 828-649-1143

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.:

Type Construction of original barn

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

Add. Info.: This large barn measures 52 feet by 58 feet and has an unusual 3-sloped gambrel roof, taking advantage of the newly introduced metal roofing. Hidden within the

rectangular barn is an octagon-shaped structure that forms eight animal stalls, coming together in the center to allow hay to be pitched into all eight stalls from a central hay chute in the hay loft above.

Original siding materials

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

Add. Info.: original siding conforms to the conventional use of lattice and lapped poplar board siding used on the large A-gable barns of the late 19th century and early twentieth century.

Orientation of siding

- angled on diagonal
- vertical
- horizontal

Add. Info.: for a large hayloft, the extent of cover of the siding is unusual, as it does not allow as much air flow.

Roof pitch or slope of original barn: 10/12; 6.5/12; 3.5/12

Roof type of original barn

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

Add. Info.: this is a 3-slope gambrel and the only one found in Madison County to date

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.: The 5-V metal roofing may not be the original. Older metal roofing was usually 3-V.

Roof framing of original barn

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

Add. Info.: rafters are at an uncommon 36" spacing

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.: this is a bank barn and has a massive rock retaining wall supporting the bank

Flooring of original barn

- dirt floor
- wood flooring – in loft, interior corn crib, and tack room
- concrete slab

Add. Info.:

Species of wood used in original barn

- chestnut
- other, list known species

Add. Info.: various other species

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: stall doors have varying latch types.

The interior may have the remains of a grain thrashing floor.

This is the only barn in Madison County found to date with a wood round silo.

Note: the silo was severely damaged by wind in the spring of 2015.

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS characteristics

Has the original barn been altered or added to? Yes

Description of alterations and additions: several shed additions have been added over the years, including a wood shed, a garage, a milking room, and two storage rooms.

The loft has been adapted to hang burley tobacco.

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.: milking room

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: 2 / 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.:

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.: average is 39" vertical spacing

Outbuildings: the remains of a spring house is behind the barn.

Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use: this farm is located at a large opening in the upper Big Pine Creek valley and is prime farm land, and at the junction of three roads that diverge into other valleys or up the mountain. It was the community center with a church, store, electric generator plant, and grist mill.

Historic Information:

The George and Laura Wild barn and silo represent uncommon innovations of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Born on Big Pine Creek in 1861, George Washington Wild bought 180 acres from A. M. Gudger of Buncombe County on April 5, 1884. He later demonstrated the expert farming and business acumen of his father Jacob, operating a dairy and tobacco farm, a saw mill, grist mill, post office, blacksmith shop, and store. In 1919 Wild was elected to serve in the NC General Assembly, during which time he introduced a law to require fencing of livestock in order to end the tradition of livestock ranging free. He also had the first electricity in the valley, generated first by a kerosene engine, then by an overshot water wheel. The wooden silo, damaged by wind in early 2015, was the first silo on Big Pine Creek, and is the only wooden silo to survive in Madison County. This large barn measures 52 feet by 58 feet and has an unusual 3-sloped gambrel roof, taking advantage of the newly introduced metal roofing. Hidden within the rectangular barn is an octagon-shaped structure that forms eight animal stalls, coming together in the center to allow hay to be pitched into all eight stalls from a central hay chute in the hay loft above. G. W. Wild's grandson Don later related the story of the origin of this unique barn design: a traveling salesman, or "drummer", from Tennessee sold Wild a set of blueprints for the barn design, an unheard-of innovation for these remote mountains. The large loft was later adapted to air-cure burley tobacco.

Date Photos Taken: August 3, 2012 by Diane Van Helden; Sept 10, 2013; May 5, 2015 by Taylor Barnhill

Submitted By

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