

## MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

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NOTE: this file includes info from a 1985 survey  
Common Identity of Barn: Ruben "Rube"  
Caldwell (1860-1962) flue-cured tobacco 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: late 19<sup>th</sup>, early 20<sup>th</sup>  
century

Current Owner: Ricky Caldwell  
Historic Owner(s): Ruben Caldwell, McKinley  
"Doc" Caldwell, Floyd Caldwell  
Current Use: ruin  
Historic Use: flue-cured tobacco  
Permission to visit property by: Roy Caldwell,  
uncle of owner, Ricky Caldwell, who lives in S.C.

### ORIGINAL BARN characteristics

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#### Integrity

- High
- Medium
- Low

#### Condition

- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated
- Ruin

Add. Info.: this barn was the first documented flue-cured tobacco barn in 1985 by this investigator, as described and shown by McKindley Caldwell, son of the builder Rube Caldwell. The original barn sat approx. 200 yards east of its current site, having been moved in 1918.

#### 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 barn was the first documented flue-cured tobacco barn in 1985 by this investigator, as described and shown by McKindley Caldwell, son of the builder Rube Caldwell. The original barn sat approx. 200 yards east of its current site, having been moved in 1918. It is smaller than typical flue-cured tobacco barns, measuring 16 feet square instead of +/- 20 feet square.

Original siding materials

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

Add. Info.: logs are predominantly chestnut

Orientation of siding

- angled on diagonal
- vertical
- horizontal

Add. Info.: gables were framed lumber with board siding

Roof pitch or slope of original barn: approx. 8 / 12

Roof type of original barn

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

Add. Info.: roof has collapsed

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 has collapsed

#### 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.: most of the original rock has been removed

#### Flooring of original barn

- dirt floor
  - wood flooring
  - 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.:

Additional traditional features, list:

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS characteristics

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Has the original barn been altered or added to? Yes, but addition has been removed

Description of alterations and additions: simple wood shed addition on east side

Condition of alterations

- good
  - fair
  - poor
  - ruin
- Add. Info.: no longer exists

Function of barn alterations and additions

- general purpose
  - livestock/hay
  - flue-cured tobacco
  - burley tobacco
  - bull face tobacco
  - dairy
  - other
- Add. Info.: shed for processing tobacco

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.: no siding

Orientation of siding

- angled on diagonal
  - vertical
  - horizontal
- Add. Info.:

Roof pitch or slope of alterations and additions: 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.:

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: can house/root cellar /case house with rock ground level, frame second floor, may have also served as a granary. A livestock barn 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 this barn prior to 1918. It was the first flue-cured tobacco barn documented in 1985 by this investigator, as described and shown by McKindley Caldwell, son of the builder Rube Caldwell. The original barn sat approx. 200 yards east of its current site, having been moved in 1918. In 1985, McKindley Caldwell was proud to be able to describe the flue-cured tobacco process and barn features, knowing it was a nearly forgotten barn type and crop. He described the rock furnace built inside on the dirt floor of the barn, configured in a “U” shape and sealed with clay mud. One end of the “U” opened to the outside where the fire was built and tended, with the other end of the rock furnace built to accommodate a metal flue pipe that extended out and up. There were only a few of the original furnace rocks remaining, most of them taken to be used in other building projects.

Date Photos Taken: digital - Aug 27, 2015

B&W film photos taken April 23, 1985

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