

## MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

---

Common Identity of Barn: Curtis Buckner barn  
Address of Barn: John Allen Road  
GPS Location: 82 33'49"W / 35 48' 51"E  
Elevation: 2118'  
Township: Mars Hill  
Vicinity: Gabriels Creek  
Approx date/decade built: 1930's

Current Owner: Meg Pressley  
Historic Owner(s): Bob Allen-Q  
Current Use: storage, hay storage  
Historic Use: burley tobacco  
Permission to visit property by: Jim Allen, Rex Allen

### ORIGINAL BARN characteristics

---

#### Integrity

- High
- Medium
- Low

#### Condition

- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated
- Ruin

Add. Info.: beginning to show weathering

#### Function of original barn

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

Add. Info.: As an early burley tobacco barn, it has no apparent venting along the exterior walls, as was common later. The monitor roof appears to have been thought to cover the venting needs. Burley tobacco was relatively early in its history and this was one of the earliest barns built exclusively for burley air-curing, and venting would likely not have been well-understood or needed. Blue mold disease likely became a problem, requiring more venting in later year.

#### Type Construction of original barn

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

Add. Info.: pole construction on 4' centers

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.: no diagonal nor vert. siding, uncommon

Roof pitch or slope of original barn: 12/12 and 5/12

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.: 2x6 rafters 24" 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.: oak, pine

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.: a very high barn with 7 tier levels of tier poles

Additional traditional features, list:

#### **ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS characteristics**

---

Has the original barn been altered or added to? Appears to have had a shed addition on the east side at some time.

---

Outbuildings: a drive-thru corn crib is on the site, neglected and dilapidated.

Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use: The farm is part of an original landholding of 200 acres of rolling land within the valley of Gabriel's Creek.

Historic Information: This farm is thought to be part of an early speculative development on Gabriel's Creek, owned by Gabriel Keith and John Allen in 1830s, who came from Philadelphia via Roanoke VA as land speculators. An original log house is on the property thought to have been built in 1856. Descendants include Lawrence Allen and James Keith, primary Confederate officers in the infamous Shelton Laurel Massacre of the Civil War in 1863. Curtis Buckner married Sallie Allen, daughter of Tommy Allen, and acquired the land through that marriage.

Date Photos Taken: July 1, 2016

**Submitted By**

Name: Taylor Barnhill

Address: 226 Beech Glen Rd., Mars Hill, NC 28754

Phone 828-380-9336

Email: taylor.barnhill@yahoo.com