

## MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

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Common Identity of Barn: Dr. Jacob Tilson barn, Fred Osborne Tilson barn	Approx date/decade built: between 1887 and 1892
Address of Barn: 1541 Silvers Mill Rd.	Current Owner: Ann and Rick Thomason
GPS Location: N35-48.877/W82-37.214	Historic Owner(s): Dr. Jacob Carson Tilson
Elevation: 2110 ‘	Current Use: livestock, storage, shop
Township: Mars Hill	Historic Use: possibly flue-cured tobacco, burley tobacco, livestock
Vicinity: Silvers Mill Rd. area	Permission to visit property by: Ann Thomason

### ORIGINAL BARN characteristics

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#### Integrity

- High
- Medium
- Low

#### Condition

- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated
- Ruin

Add. Info.:

#### Function of original barn

- general purpose
- livestock/hay
- flue-cured tobacco: possible
- burley tobacco
- bull face tobacco
- dairy
- other

Add. Info.: assumes burley tobacco was cured in this barn at some time.

#### Type Construction of original barn

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

Add. Info.: the core structure of this barn is a rectangular log barn, 18’ X 22’, which for this period, could have been a flue-cured tobacco barn, but there is no clear evidence of that. The construction dates of the shed additions, if they are additions, is not known.

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.:

Roof pitch or slope of original barn: 12 / 7 +/-

Roof type of original barn

- gable
- broken gable
- gambrel
- shed: see note
- monitor
- cupola
- other

Add. Info.: the shed roofs on each side of the log center structure may be original.

Roofing materials of original barn

- split wood shingles: assumed
  - 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
  - concrete slab
- Add. Info.: assumes no wood floor in original

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.:

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.: no tier poles present

Additional traditional features, list:

## ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS characteristics

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Has the original barn been altered or added to? A shed addition has been built during the latter 1900's. The shed structures surrounding the log core structure are likely additions but that is not known for certain.

Description of alterations and additions: 1. simple 20<sup>th</sup> century shed addition on north side. 2. Possible additions around log core, that include the traditional lattice, likely built during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century or early 20<sup>th</sup> century. 3. Several structural additions have been made to replace rotting wood/beams, etc.

### 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.: could have included burley tobacco but no tier poles are present.

### 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: lattice  
 vertical  
 horizontal  
Add. Info.:

Roof pitch or slope of alterations and additions: 6.3 / 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: assumed on the older addition  
 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: on older addit.  
 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: on newer addit.

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.: pine oak 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.: none present

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**Outbuildings:** springhouse across the road at toe of the hillside. A round-log house is below the barn, built in the 1930s to 1940s.

**Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use:** The farm is on the rolling hills approx. a mile from the Petersburg community and the Silvers Grist Mill, and near the Sexton community near the Ivy River, and is approx. half way between Marshall and Mars Hill. Another White farm, the W. W.

White property is nearby on Windswept Road. Another prominent family, the John Grifus Roberts family, owned the farm across the road. The well-known Flint Knob School was nearby.

**Historical Information:** This barn was built on land received from a grant to a Captain Allen White (fought for the Union Army) whose daughter Eliza married Dr. Jacob Carson Tilson (born Mar 14, 1860, Flagpond, Unicoi County, TN) in the 1887. Eliza's brother built the White House, now Marshall House, on the hill overlooking Marshall, a Richard Sharp Smith design, he being the supervising architect for the Biltmore House. Known as Jake, he was a mountain fiddler.

Jake Tilson's son, Fred Osborne Tilson (born 1892) was father of the current owner, Ann Thomason. He was awarded the 1950 TVA Forest Timber Award.

The homeplace sat across the road, the old springhouse still intact. The barn quilt was crafted by Pat Franklin.

Date Photos Taken: Feb 24, 2014

McGowan photos taken Dec 27, 2016

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