

MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

Common Identity of Barn: Jim Phillips livestock barn

Address of Barn: 418 Stone Cottage Rd.

GPS Location: E35-49-43 / W82-34-05

Elevation: 2275'

Township: Mars Hill

Vicinity: west Mars Hill

Approx date/decade built: late 1800s

Current Owner: Christine Phillips-Bell

Historic Owner(s): Jim Phillips, Samuel L. Philips, Dewey Phillips, Bruce Phillips

Current Use: storage

Historic Use: livestock, burley tobacco

Permission to visit property by: Christine Bell:
435-668-5238 magicbell1313@yahoo.com

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 is an older surviving log-crib barn

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 / 9

Roof type of original barn

- gable
 - broken gable
 - gambrel
 - shed
 - monitor
 - cupola
 - other
- Add. Info.:

Roofing materials of original barn

- split wood shingles: assumed
 - 3-V metal
 - 3-U metal
 - 5-V metal: replacement
 - 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.: foundation settles into soil, barely visible

Flooring of original barn

- dirt floor
- wood flooring
- concrete slab

Add. Info.: unusual spacing of loft floor joists – 4'-6" to 5' spacing, requiring flooring boards to span large distance

Species of wood used in original barn

- chestnut
- other, list known species

Add. Info.: predominant chestnut, in logs and rafters and poles, many with the bark on; also oak, pine, poplar

Hinges

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

Add. Info.: this is a rare surviving example of carved wood hinges, on two of the six stall doors

Fasteners

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

Add. Info.:

Additional traditional features, list: grape vine south side of barn

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS characteristics

Has the original barn been altered or added to? Altered with tier poles to hang burley tobacco in loft.

Tobacco tier poles vertical spacing/ alterations and additions

+/- 2 feet

+/- 3 feet

+/- 4 feet

other, list

Add. Info.: inaccessible but thought to be approx. 42" ave.

Outbuildings: the original farm had numerous barns, including at least two surviving burley tobacco barns, one built in 1930-31, one of the older burley tobacco barns. A smoke house remains on the property of the old farm house. The smoke houses were always a favorite of the cows and horses because they could lick the salt from the outside logs, polishing them smooth. There is an old corn crib, thought to be one of the older buildings.

Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use: This is a typical farmstead of the rolling hills around Mars Hill located approximately 2 miles from downtown Mars Hill on the old highway to Marshall, now called Phillips Valley Road. The original farm has been divided into many smaller properties. The original land included the south side of Bailey Mountain.

Historic Information: Farm house built after or during Civil War Reconstruction period, 1865 to 1877, at a cost of \$1 a day for 180 days, plus a mule, and replaced a log house, perhaps two, built lower in the hollow below. Jim first purchased lumber but it was burned from a lightning strike. The farm has a rare, (only the third found to date in Madison County) hand-dug, rock lined well, 16 feet deep, dug by a traveling Scotsman in the 1920's. Local saying is "Colder than a well-digger's behind".

Property thought to have been obtained by James L. Phillips (b1853 to d1930), from a land grant after Civil War. He took his mother's name, who never married. Oral tradition has the father as being the famous Big Tom Wilson of Yancey County. James Phillips and Dewey Phillips are buried at Gabriels Creek cemetery.

Samuel Lafayette Phillips, Sr. (1888 to 1972) was also a Justice of the Peace and married many people in the house. The old road ran in front of the farm house and had a resting place with water for horses, since they tired after having to pull a long hill before getting to this place.

Sam Philips had seven children included Dewey, Pauline, Clara Bowman, Hattie, (husband Rick Howell), Clyne (Estor Brown), Glen (wife Jackie Green, son Butch), Sam, Jr. He married Sue Bailey of Bailey Mountain land and family. Levi Bailey is

buried in the island of trees across from the French Broad Baptist Association. To divide the land among his children, Samuel held a lottery.

Dewey Phillips: Sam Phillips' oldest son, (1911 to 1984). He was the oldest of seven children. Dewey is grandfather of the current barn owner, was an amateur horticulturalist who grafted grapes and apple trees now found all over the various properties. (Dewey was Bruce Phillips father) He cultivated grapes that were simply described as "red, white, and blue grapes". He has the Guinness Book of Records record, 1972, for the longest gourd ever grown, and would grow gourds and tie them into knots. He also tried to cure the chestnut trees of the chestnut blight by graphing around it, long before anyone else considered treatments for the blight. He also bought land from family members to grow burley tobacco. He married Hazel Ballard, daughter of Lin Ballard.

Date Photos Taken: Oct 30, 2016

Submitted By

Name: Taylor Barnhill

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

Phone home: Cell: 828-380-9336

Email: taylor.barnhill@yahoo.com