

One of the many intriguing barns in the Mars Hill township is the Samuel Moore barn; a distinctively different style of barn introduced in response to the growing burley tobacco market in Madison County. Built by Samuel Moore in the mid-1930's, this was one of the first barns built exclusively for burley tobacco. Prior to this barn type, burley tobacco was air cured in the old log flue-cured barns or the hay lofts of livestock barns. Another unique feature of this barn is its "monitor" roof, making it the first to be built of this type in eastern Madison County. The monitor roof employs a raised section along the ridge line which provides ventilation and a chimney effect, drawing air from near the ground up through the drying tobacco and up through the roof vents. Moore's grandson, Gordon Moore, recalls, "It was his creation, that type of barn, first one in the area of that roof type." Samuel's brother asked him after it was completed, "Sam, is that what you had in mind for that barn?" Sam said, "Well, if it wasn't I'd have to tear it down and start over". This barn is said to hold 3 acres of tobacco on 8 tier pole levels, and was built on rock piers laid "by the signs" to avoid frost heaving.