

MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

NOTE: This barn has been deconstructed and moved to a property in the Big Pine valley in 2018, where it was reconstructed in a different configuration.

Common Identity of Barn: Richard Franklin, and son Roy Franklin barn
Address of Barn: 1045 Big Laurel Rd.
GPS Location: N35-55.433 / W82-42.322
Elevation: 2000'
Township: Laurel
Vicinity: Big Laurel near Guntertown

Approx date/decade built: late 19th century
Current Owner: Steve Kaple
Phone No.: 740-972-4060; 740-363-7228
office; skaple@columbus.rr.com
Historic Owner(s): Richard Franklin, Roy Franklin
Current Use: storage
Historic Use: livestock, general purpose, later adapted to burley tobacco
Permission to visit property by: Steve Kaple

Historic Information: Richard Franklin, born 1854, died 1914, wife was Lutecia Wallin. He was a successful farmer for this remote, steep mountain landscape. He was the son of Russell Franklin. (See Lovejoy Franklin cemetery) The barn is a pure example of a late 19th century livestock barn illustrating some of the best craftsmanship in the Laurel area. Like most livestock barns, it was retrofitted to hang burley tobacco in the 20th century. There are extensive large hewn timbers, including floor joists. The mortise and tenon joinery is relatively exceptional quality including a complex lap joint. Hay racks are built of angled split stake palings, also rare examples of an earlier period. This is a bank barn, using a short bridge, but the bank and ramp bridge have collapsed.

NOTE: Aug 9, 2017, from a conversation with Madison County community leader Jerry Plemmons: He recalls being part of a crew that removed wood shingles from the Richard Franklin barn, to be used in the roof of the historic reconstruction of the Joe Anderson cabin on Mars Hill College campus, but does not recall the year.

Outbuildings: none survive

Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use: This farm sits on the south-facing slope of the Big Laurel valley, a steep landscape with little bottomland or flat land. The site is also very isolated within the county.

Background history: obtained from Sloely Franklin, great-great nephew, Flo Wallin, daughter Danny Jean Ramsey, and Steven Tweed.

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.: adapted to burley tobacco

Type Construction of original barn

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

Add. Info.: This is a bank barn. It likely had a bridge to the loft level floor. All log notching is half dovetail notch. The original timber frame of this barn is typical of the period with hewn sills and plates that extend the length of the barn in some cases. There is an uncommonly large number of large hewn timbers, including floor joists. The mortise and tenon joinery is good quality, uses a complex lap notch, and includes numerous angled braces throughout. There are large sawn timbers also, used as posts, some of the saw marks are straight- from band saw?

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.: lattice on diagonals

Roof pitch or slope of original barn: 10 / 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.:

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: loft

concrete slab

Add. Info.:

Species of wood used in original barn

chestnut

other, list known species

Add. Info.: various typical

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: Hay racks are built of angled split stake palings, also rare and of an older period. There is a sled in the hallway, a good example of period equipment that includes the use of horse shoes for wood joint reinforcement.

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS characteristics

Description of alterations and additions: metal roofing added to replace wood shingles; conc. block retaining wall built to stabilize bank, but failed. Tobacco tier poles added to adapt to curing of burley tobacco.

Tobacco tier poles vertical spacing/ alterations and additions

+/- 2 feet

+/- 3 feet

__ +/- 4 feet
__ other, list
Add. Info.: +/- 36" to 42" _

Date of Photos: April 9, 2014

Submitted By

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