

MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

Common Identity of Barn: Will (William Clark) Cook livestock and burley tobacco barn	Approx date/decade built: 1925 to 1935 Current Owner: Jean Chandley
Address of Barn: NC 212 at intersection of NC208	Historic Owner(s): William Clark Cook
GPS Location: N35-56.044 / W82-44.514	Current Use: storage
Elevation: 1725'	Historic Use: livestock and burley tobacco
Township: Laurel	Permission to visit property by: Lois Ramsey, caretaker and sister of owner
Vicinity: Belva	

NOTE: barn was demolished in spring 2016

Historic Information: Little is known by descendants of Will Cook about the history of this barn. It is a rare example of an advertising barn, once common in the county. The house served as the local post office at one time.

Outbuildings: a small building behind house may have been a smokehouse or shop, built same time as house in 1920s.

Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use: Farm sits at the junction of NC 212, Shelton Laurel Creek valley, and NC 208, Little Laurel Creek valley, an important junction for travel and trade. This was part of the Gahagan land that extended from Walnut to the TN state line, and this community, now called Belva, was once called Gahagan. There was a large water-powered mill and mill pond nearby on NC 208.

ORIGINAL BARN characteristics

Integrity

- High
- Medium
- Low

Condition

- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated
- Ruin

Add. Info.: barn is leaning, needs stabilization and foundation repair

Function of original barn

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

other

Add. Info.: it is not known if the original barn was used for burley tobacco – if so, it would have been a very early use of a livestock barn for burley.

Type Construction of original barn

Post and Beam

timber frame

mortise and tenon

sawn lumber

hewn timbers

notched logs

stud frame

Add. Info.: diagonal bracing used throughout; framing lumber appears to be hemlock which is uncommon for the extent of its use here; dimension is typically 2 x 6.5 inches, often doubled to form posts, beams and plates; posts in loft are mostly 6.5 x 6.5"; tier poles are combination 2 x 4s and round poplar poles, ave. 4 feet on center.

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 at top of exterior walls

Roof pitch or slope of original barn: 7.5 / 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.: 5-V appears to be original but it is not certain

Roof framing of original barn

- round pole rafters
- milled rafters
- gambrel shallow trusses
- gambrel with post and beam support
- round purlins

Add. Info.: rafters are 2 x 4 hemlock

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.: wood sills on dry laid stone

Flooring of original barn

- dirt floor – lower level
- wood flooring - loft
- concrete slab

Add. Info.:

Species of wood used in original barn

- chestnut
- other, list known species

Add. Info.: mostly hemlock framing, siding is pine and poplar, some chestnut used thruout

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: stall doors are mortise and tenon; stall doors are unusually large at 41" x 73"; hallway end doors are also large.

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS characteristics

Has the original barn been altered or added to? The tier poles may have been added later to adapt the loft to hanging burley tobacco – this is not confirmed.

Date Photos Taken: April 11, 2014

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