

MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

Common Identity of Barn: Delbert Shelton barn	Historic Owner(s): Delbert Shelton, heirs of, and Maurice and Paula Shelton McAllister
Address of Barn: 9131 NC Hiway 212	Current Use: livestock/hay barn
GPS Location: N35 59.455/ W82 59.928	Historic Use: was built for livestock and general purpose; never used for tobacco
Elevation: 2185'	Permission to visit property by: Maurice and Paula Shelton McAllister: 828-206-0347, 828-656-2310, 828-656-8107
Township: Laurel	
Vicinity: Shelton Laurel	
Approx date/decade built: 1951	
Current Owner: Paula and Maurice McAllister	

Outbuildings: corn crib, other small buildings on side of road at house

Historic Information: Delbert Shelton - Born: November 29, 1902; Died: September 27, 1964
Buried in the Aikens-Shelton Cemetery on Cutshall Town Rd.

In 1950 Delbert Shelton saw a barn in east Tennessee that he admired and recruited his brother Charlie and nephew Winfred to help him build one like it. They made many trips back to Tennessee to note the details. This example is the barn that became the iconic 20th century American classic with the gambrel roof and red paint. Unlike most barns in Madison County, the loft was never adapted to hang burley tobacco. The hay loft and roof are uncommon local examples of a structure with no interior posts, using free-standing shallow roof trusses allowing for a larger, open loft. The rail-mounted hay fork and pulley system remain, but became obsolete when baled hay replaced loose-stacked hay. The barn is a classic livestock gambrel roof barn with self-supporting roof structure of shallow trusses, allowing for a large unobstructed hay loft and using a rail-mounted hay fork and pulley system.

Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use: This barn is placed in the upper end of the Shelton Laurel valley in an area of large, prime bottom land where burley tobacco was the main crop for many generations. This makes it an unusual barn in that it was never converted to hang burley tobacco. It is approx. 60 feet from the creek in a flood plain and occasionally becomes flooded.

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.: This is an uncommon livestock barn which was never converted for burley tobacco

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 a true gambrel roof livestock barn in which the roof is self-supporting via framed rafters that include shallow trusses, uncommon in Madison County.

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.: the barn was originally painted barn red

Roof pitch or slope of original barn: 6.5 / 12 on top slope, 22 / 12 on side sections, and 6 / 12 on shed section.

Roof type of original barn

- gable
- broken gable
- gambrel: true 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.: Current roofing is corrugated aluminum metal.

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: equip room
- concrete slab

Add. Info.:

Species of wood used in original barn

- chestnut
- other, list known species: various typical

Add. Info.:

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 : None

Add. Info.: this barn never adapted to burley tobacco

Additional traditional features, list: hay fork and trolley lift, hay fork on site.

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS characteristics

Has the original barn been altered or added to? No

Date Photos Taken: March 27, 2014

Submitted By

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