

# MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

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Common Identity of Barn: Zebulon Baird Vance Jarrett

Address of Barn: 4137 Rector Corner Rd.

GPS Location: 35-45-26N / 82-41-16W

Historic Owner(s): Zeb Jarrett, Olin Jarrett

Elevation: 2165'

Current Use: storage

Township: south Marshall

Historic Use: livestock barn

Vicinity: Rector Corner

Permission to visit property by: Forrest Jarrett, owner

Approx date/decade built: 1880s

PO Box 399, Leicester, NC 28748

Current Owner: Forrest Jarrett

828-231-5796

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use: The Rector Corner community of the south Marshall Township is a long ridge, steep, farming landscape that continues for several miles with most of the farm land on the eastern slope of the ridge, the land dropping off dramatically to the east and down to the French Broad River in the distance, and not usually in sight of the ridge. Farmland on the west side slopes up to a boundary ridge separating Rector Corner from the Bailey Branch valley.

Historical Information: The Obediah and Polly Odell Jarrett family moved from what is currently known as Jarrett Cove in the Big Laurel Creek area of Madison County, approximately in the mid-1800's, to Blow Hole Road off Rector Corner Road. The original house was a small log cabin on, which was later relocated to the owner's farm in Buncombe County, and still exists. They later moved to the existing farm.

The original part of the frame farm house is said to have been listed in the county tax books in 1882, the addition built in 1888. The barn is believed to have been built around the same time by Obediah's son, Zebulon Baird Vance Jarrett, born in 1864. The hewn log corn crib is believed to have been built around 1895.

Family oral tradition describes Obediah as a Civil War Confederate soldier who deserted three times, but was favored by Governor Zebulon Vance for reasons unknown, likely political, and was given a 90-day stay from punishment by Governor Vance, then apparently was freed. Obediah named his first son, Zebulon Baird Vance Jarrett, after Governor Vance as a result. Zeb Jarrett married Zade Ponder, sister of Zadock Ponder, who was a son of Robert Ponder, one of the first Ponders to settle in the area.

Zeb Jarrett had a son, Olin, who was skilled at carpentry, and was the father of the current owner, Forrest Jarrett. Olin's wife attended Dorland Bell Institute in Hot Springs.

Owner Forrest Jarrett remembers "barn raisings", where he watched the men get all the logs cut and ready, then hew the sides "grave smooth". The women would assemble long tables from saw horses and boards to lay out the food to feed the many men helping with the work.

The garage has a casing house underneath, also used for storing apples, potatoes. The can house or root cellar was under the main house. There was once a carriage house and a smoke house with a granary on the second floor. In the fall of the year they would prepare for hog killings by scalding all the implements and containers in a pot of boiling water. A killed hog would be lowered by block and tackle and mule into a heated 55 gallon drum of water to scald the hair off. After butchering, the meat would be rubbed in salt that had borax, black pepper, and brown sugar mixed in, then rubbed in a large wooden trough made from a half-round section of log; the salt trough or box. In the smoke house, they used old rags and corn cobs to set a smoldering fire for smoking. A ham had to be smoked 1 day for each pound of weight, for each day above 32 degrees. Then the ham was put into a feed sack and hung from the smoke house rafters. The first meal from a hog slaughtering day would have been the tenderloin. Rabbits were also a common meat, and were also trapped or shot to sell to the local butcher man, E. Y. Ponder (later Sheriff), who picked them up at each house hanging from a fence post, along with butter if they had it, and paid 10 cents each rabbit to the farmer.

Electricity was first available at this farm in 1946. Before that, Aladdin lamps were used for light.

Outbuildings: high quality corn crib, garage/casing house/root cellar, misc sheds; house is present, reported to have been built in 1888.

### **ORIGINAL BARN - characteristics**

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Integrity:

- High
- Medium
- Low

Condition:

- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated
- Ruin

Addnl Info.: Stable condition

Function of original barn:

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

Addnl Info.:

- Post and Beam
- timber frame
- mortise and tenon
- sawn lumber
- hewn timbers
- notched logs
- Half dovetail
- Saddle
- Lap notch

stud frame

Addnl Info: log structure continues beyond log cribs into loft level

Type of Construction of original barn:

- other

Original siding materials:

- milled boards
- lattice
- exposed logs
- board and batten
- metal
- shingles

Addnl Info.: lapped siding in gable ends is 5"X1/2"

Orientation of siding:

- angled on diagonal
- vertical

horizontal  
Addtnl Info.:

Roof pitch or slope of original barn: 12/10.25

Roof type of original barn:

- gable
- broken gable
- gambrel
- shed
- monitor
- cupola
- other

Addtnl Info.:

Roofing materials of original barn:

- split wood shingles- original
- 3-V metal
- 3-U metal
- 5-V metal
- stamped metal shingle
- tar paper
- unknown
- other

Addtnl Info.: Original would have been split oak

Roof framing of original barn:

- round pole rafters
- milled rafters
- gambrel shallow trusses
- gambrel with post & beam supprt
- round purlins

Addtnl Info.: with round collar ties; 3 hewn beams tying the side walls, 7"x7" square hewn

Foundation of original barn:

- Dry laid stone
- wood sills on rock piers
- mortared stone
- concrete
- concrete block
- columns/wood piers
- posts on concrete footings

Addtnl Info.:

Flooring of original barn:

- dirt floor – grnd floor
- wood flooring
- concrete slab

Addtnl Info.:

Species of wood used in original barn:

- chestnut
- other, list known species

Addtnl Info.: pine, oak poplar, other

Hinges:

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

Add. Info.: corn crib has wood carved

hinges

Fasteners:

- wire nails
- cut nails – a few
- wrought spikes
- wood pegs
- other

Addtnl Info.:

Tobacco tier poles vertical spacing:

+/- 2 feet

+/- 3 feet

+/- 4 feet

other, list: N/A

Addtl Info.: none

Additional traditional features, list:

Unusual lack of tier poles. This barn may have never had tier poles, as there are no signs of connections to the side walls.

### **ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS - characteristics**

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Has the original barn been altered or added to? No additions are present, nor old ones apparent.

Date Photos Taken: April 10, 2018

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#### **Submitted By:**

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