

MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

Common Identity of Barn: Ernest English / Cline Shelton

Address of Barn: 352 Northern Orchard Drive Mars Hill

GPS Location: N35-55.650 / W82-30.449

Elevation: 3690'

Township: Ebbs Chapel

Vicinity: Upper Laurel

Approx. date/decade built: late 1880's – early 1900's

Current Owner: Scott Carswell

Historic Owner(s): Ernest English, Cline Shelton

Current Use: storage, abandoned

Historic Use: livestock and hay barn; later used for burley tobacco

Permission to visit property by: owner Scott Carswell / 850-524-6900

Historic Information

Little information is known about this barn and land: family members still live on the land but have little knowledge of its early history. Cline Shelton bought this farm in 1951, likely from Andy Ingle whose grave is on the hill above. This farm is a high elevation farm at 3690 feet and is typical of the Upper Laurel valley in its small amounts of tillable land and rocky soil..

A few anecdotes were noted: a log house nearby was sold and the rocks from the chimney were used for the retaining wall on the bank side of the barn. The draft horse last remembered was called an Iron Gray, likely similar to a Belgian draft horse, and was used for logging. Mules and oxen were used there as well. An Ox yoke hangs on one wall.

The barn had cradles, mangers or hay racks of split wood stakes. This barn also has the 3-U metal roofing found in the Beech Glen township.

There is a unique square wooden chute to drop ears of corn to the stalls below.

Not a bank orig but a bridge- called it a gangway.

Shed entrance blt 1990s.

Also used tire rubber hinges.

Roofing purlins are chestnut and small, 1x2 to 1X3, and 6" to 9" on center.

Unique hole in door as an arm hole to release latch.

High elevation farm at 3600' plus

Hole in south door is arm hole to unlatch latch to keep from horses

Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use: This farm is a rocky, high elevation farm typical of the Upper Laurel valley, with limited flat land and tillable fields.

ORIGINAL BARN - characteristics

Integrity:

- High
- Medium
- Low

Condition:

- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated
- Ruin

Addtl Info.:

Function of original barn:

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

Addtl Info.:

Type of Construction of original barn:

Beams are mostly oak, and are exceptionally large, including the four transverse beams running east to west connecting the log cribs, measuring 12"X13", 15.25"X15", 12"X12", and 11.5"X11.5", all of which are 22'-6" long.

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

Addtl Info: the log cribs on the ground floor level are unusual for a barn of this size, ast they were not hewn, but left round. They are also unusually large, with saddle notches.

Plate beams connecting log cribs on east and west ends run the full 40' length, and are 9"X8" and 10"X10' square.

Original siding materials:

- milled boards
- lattice

Orientation of siding:

angled on diagonal

vertical

horizontal

Addtl Info.: siding is planed poplar siding throughout.

Roof pitch or slope of original barn: 12/12

Roof type of original barn:

gable

broken gable

gambrel

shed

monitor

cupola

other

Addtl 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

Addtl Info.:

Shingles later replaced with 3-U metal roofing

Roof framing of original barn:

round pole rafters

milled rafters

gambrel shallow trusses

gambrel with post & beam supprt

round purlins

Addtl Info.:

Dry laid stone

wood sills on rock piers

mortared stone

concrete

concrete block

columns/wood piers

posts on concrete footings

Addtl Info.:

Foundation of original barn:

Flooring of original barn:

dirt floor ground level

wood flooring loft level

concrete slab

Addtl Info.:

Species of wood used in original barn:

chestnut

other, list known species

Addtl Info.: oak, poplar, pine, other

Hinges:

leather

wooden

wrought iron

commercial metal

rubber (from piece of car tire)

other. Add. Info.: interesting use of pieces of rubber tires for hinges

Fasteners:

- wire nails
- cut nails
- wrought spikes
- wood pegs

other

Addtl Info.: lapped joints between large hewn timbers but no mortise and tenon apparent, but notched joints.

Tobacco tier poles vertical spacing:

- +/- 2 feet
- +/- 3 feet
- +/- 4 feet
- other, list

Additional traditional features, list:

Large and long square hewn diagonal braces in both directions on the interior loft space.

Addtl Info.: no tier poles present

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS - characteristics

Has the original barn been altered or added to? yes

Description of alterations and additions:

The only apparent addition is the shed roof addition from the bank covering the bridging to the loft level, built in the 1990s.

Condition of alterations/addition

- good
- fair
- poor

ruin

Addtl Info.

Foundation of alterations and additions

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

Flooring of alterations and additions

- dirt floor
- wood flooring
- concrete slab

Addtl Info.:

Addtl Info.:

Species of wood used in alterations and additions

- chestnut
- other, list known species

Addtl Info.: mix

MISCELLANEOUS

Outbuildings: no original outbuildings remain

Date Photos Taken: various dates, see photo dates

Submitted By:

Name: Taylor Barnhill

Address: 226 Beech Glen Rd., Mars Hill, NC 28754

Phone Cell: 828-380-9336

Email: taylor.barnhill@yahoo.com