

Ownership History of the
Emery Metcalf Barn/J. S. Houston Barn

Located on the Cristy Anne Price Property
Marshall Township
Madison County, NC

The Cristy Anne Price property is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Long Branch and North Long Branch Roads in the Marshall Township of south-central Madison County (Figure 1). The barn-of-interest, the Emery Metcalf barn, is located in the southwest corner of the tract, just off of North Long Branch Road. Based on the construction methods and materials, the barn was likely built between 1920 and 1935. Though the barn has remained in the Metcalf family since 1939 (after construction of the barn), the deeds could not be located to definitively identify the barn builder nor a more exact date of construction.

Figure 2 summarizes the ownership history of the barn tract using deed records and tract descriptions that clearly included the barn. Garrett Metcalf, grandson of James Metcalf (18xx-18xx, a common ancestor of many of the Metcalfs in Madison County), purchased 76 acres from J. S. Houston in February 1939 (Figure 3) that clearly contained the current barn tract. Though there is no mention of the barn in that deed, in a 1938 deed where E.W. Houston purchased the tract immediately north of the barn from his brother, J.S., the barn is referenced in one of the boundary calls. Though dozens of deeds were examined attempting to trace the barn tract back earlier than 1939, the search was unsuccessful. A number of parcels south of the barn tract were examined and mapped during the search, including a 110-acre tract acquired by the Houston brothers in 1931 that referenced the 'Metcalf Place', implying the Metcalf family did own land in the vicinity around the time of the barns construction, but nothing conclusive about the original owner of the barn itself was discovered.

The barn has remained in the Metcalf family, through marriage, since 1939 (Figure 4). The barn tract passed from Garrett to his son Dewey in 1974 upon Garrett's passing. Shortly before Dewey's death in 1984, the tract was deeded to his brother, Emery. When Emery died in 1991, his widow, Faye Ray Metcalf assumed ownership. Faye married John Troy Allen in 1999 (the second marriage for both) and Allen was deeded the property as part of the estate settlement of Faye in 2012. John's granddaughter, Cristy Price, is the current owner of the barn. Though it is clear the barn has been in the Metcalf family for most of its history, despite the current barn moniker, it is unclear if the Metcalf family itself was responsible for the construction. Depending on how long the Houston family owned the property, it is perhaps more likely that Houston, or an earlier landowner in the area, was responsible for its construction.