

**Henry Davis livestock and general purpose barn
MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT**

Common Identity of Barn: Henry Davis or Danny Gillespie barn

Address of Barn: approximate to 310 Bluff Mt. Rd., on left before Indian Trails Rd. on left

GPS Location: N35-50.504 / W82-52.124

Elevation: 2040 ‘

Township: Spring Creek

Approximate Decade Built or year if known: 1930’s.

Current Owner: Harold Hunter, Jr. **Phone No.:** 828-622-3294

Permission to visit property granted by: Harold Hunter, Jr.

Historic Owner(s): Danny Gillespie, 3/30/1888 to 12/1/1974

Current Use: burley tobacco, storage

Historic Use: same

Outbuildings: none survived

Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use: This farm is part of several tracts of land that have been subdivided numerous times among local families.

Historic Information

This livestock barn represents a typical chestnut log livestock barn built during the first quarter of the 20th century in the Spring Creek township. The log corner notching is the simpler saddle notch that requires less time and skill than the earlier half dovetail notch or V-notch, and represents the later generation of log building in Madison County. This barn includes some logs that have scarring from the chestnut blight disease, indicating that those trees were cut after the chestnut blight infected the chestnut trees of the region, around 1924. Typical of most early 20th century log barns, this one has been adapted for use in the air curing of burley tobacco which became the primary cash crop in the early 1920’s as flue-cured tobacco was being phased out. Many of the chestnut logs still have their original bark, a material that no longer exists and is the only example of mature chestnut bark that people of this era will ever see.

ORIGINAL BARN CHARACTERISTICS

Integrity: High____ Medium __x__ Low_____

Condition of original barn: Good____ Fair_X__ Poor____ Ruined____

Has the original barn been added to or altered? yes_X__ no____ roofing upgrade cannot determine____

Condition of additions and alterations to barn: Good ___ Fair Poor ___ Ruin ___

Original Barn structure

Function of original barn:

General purpose ___ Livestock/hay ___ flue-cured tobacco burley tobacco ___ dairy ___
Bull Face tobacco ___ Other _____

Construction elements of original barn: (check all that apply)

Post and Beam ___ Mortise and tenon ___ Sawn lumber from sawmill ___ Hewn Timbers Notched
Logs

Additional Info: round logs with saddle notches, chestnut logs dominate, some with bark still present, some with chestnut blight scarring.

Original Siding Materials: (check all that apply)

Milled Boards Lattice ___ Exposed logs Boards and Battens ___ Metal ___
Shingles ___ Other _____

Orientation of siding materials: (check all that apply)

Angled on diagonal ___ vertical horizontal _____

Roof of original barn Pitch or Slope: 8.5/12

Roof Shape of Original barn:

Gable End Extended Gable ___ Broken Gable ___ Gambrel ___ Shed ___ Other ___

Roofing materials of original barn (if known)

Split wood Shingles assumed 3-V metal ___ 3-U metal ___ 5-V metal ___ stamped metal shingle ___ Tar
paper _____ other _____

Current materials: 5-V metal

Roof framing of original barn

Round pole rafters ___ milled rafters cupola ___ split roof sections

Foundation of Original barn:

Dry-Laid Stone ___ Wood sills on stone piers hewn log ___ Mortared Stone ___

Concrete ___ Concrete Block ___ Columns/Wood Piers ___

Additional Info:

Flooring: dirt floors concrete slab ___ wood flooring

Other features of original barn

Species of wood used: chestnut__X logs dominate__others: oak, pine , poplar

Hand-crafted doors, mangers, feed troughs, equipment hooks, hay forks, wrought iron:

List and describe: none

Hinges: leather__ wooden__ wrought iron__ commercial metal__X__

Wire nails **wrought spikes** **cut nails**

Tobacco Tier poles: +/- 2 foot vertical spacing__ +/- 4-foot vertical spacing__ +/- 3 foot vertical spacing__X__ (confirm in inches) 36" to 44"

Lightning rods__ **grapevines on south wall**__ **leeks on downslope from barn**__

Barn bank, hill, ramp or bridge to 2nd floor loft level (describe): none

Additions and Alterations

Siding Materials on additions and alterations: (check all that apply)

Milled Boards__x__ **Lattice**__ **Exposed logs**__ **Boards and Battens**__ **Metal**__ **Shingles**__

Orientation of siding materials on additions and alterations: (check all that apply)

Angled on diagonal____ **vertical**____ **horizontal**__x____

Additional Info: two shed additions of locust pole construction, sawn board siding likely added in the mid-20th century.

Date Photos Taken: May 28, 2014

Submitted By:

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