

## Banie Winston Lusk Gambrel roof livestock barn

### **MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT**

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**Common Identity of Barn:** Banie Lusk barns (b1906 to d1981)

**Address of Barn:** 8661 NC Highway 209      **GPS Location:** N35 – 49.064 / W82 – 51.528      **Elevation:** 2022'  
**Township:** Spring Creek

**Approximate Decade Built or year if known:** Large round-log burley tobacco barn 1942; Dutch type gambrel roof livestock barn, 1954

**Current Owner:** Harold Hunter, Jr., 484 Bluff Mt. Rd., grandson of Banie Lusk      **Phone No.:** 828-622-3294

**Permission to visit property granted by:** owner

**Historic Owner(s):** Joseph Lusk, Banie Lusk

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**Outbuildings:** frame chicken house, good example of early hewn log smoke house moved from original homestead hollow to the north east, a rare surviving outhouse, garage and others.

**Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use: Include Separate Sheet if needed:** This is a classic 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead with 1904 I-house and remnants of other structures

### **Historic Information**

The Lusk family was one of the early settlement families in the Spring Creek valley: Samuel Lusk came to Spring Creek in 1808 from Asheville; William Lusk, brother, came in 1813. William Garrett came to Spring Creek in 1816 and was the father-in-law of Joe Lusk.

This farmstead was first established up the hollow north east of the house and barns where Joe Lusk (1810 to 1890) built a log house, the ruins of which are present. The large round-log barn was built around 1942, a late example of log barns in the county, built to air cure burley tobacco, and perhaps for smoking Bull Face tobacco. It was built while Joseph Gray Lusk was living and may have been overseen by him at age 71. The builders ran out of metal roofing because of the WWII metal scarcity and had to roof one side with the traditional split oak shingles, using chestnut oak. The hewn log smokehouse was moved from the earlier homestead. The poplar logs have been licked smooth on the outside over the years by cows seeking the salt that leached through the wood. The well-built large gambrel roof livestock barn was started in 1954, finished in 1960, and is an excellent example of the Dutch gambrel roof, with flared eaves, and diagonal siding, both of which are a signature feature in this township. Construction of the house was begun in 1890, thought to have been by Joe Lusk, and finished in 1904 by son Joseph Gary Lusk. Virgil Lusk, relationship not known, fought in the Civil War, and later became a state Representative, and prosecuted the Ku Klux Klan.

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smokehouse was moved from the earlier homestead, the poplar logs licked smooth over the years by cows after the salt in the wood. The well-built large gambrel roof livestock barn was built begun in 1954 and is an excellent example of the purer Dutch gambrel roof and diagonal siding that are a signature feature in this township. Construction of the house was begun in 1890 and finished in 1904.

Oral tradition holds that a Melton man hewed the original house logs in exchange for three days of free ginseng hunting. The previous owner, Harold Hunter, Sr., helped his dad when he was 12 years old, to harvest acid wood from chestnut trees to sell. They would peel hemlock bark in the spring for tan bark, would load onto a "limby" dogwood as a sled. There was large black walnut tree cut up the hollow that was 54" in diameter. Harold Hunter Sr., moved from Haywood County in 1947, and lodged with Banie Lusk there in the house, and later married his daughter.

Banie Lusk (1906 to 1981)

father Joseph Gray Lusk (1871 to 1947), mother Sarah Della Reynolds

Father of Joseph Gray Lusk was Joe Lusk, (1810 to 1890)

Samuel Lusk came to Spring Creek in 1808 from Asheville; William Lusk, brother, came in 1813;

William Garrett came to Spring Creek in 1816, and was the father-in-law of Joe Lusk

#### **ORIGINAL BARN CHARACTERISTICS**

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##### **Gambrel roof livestock barn 1954**

**Current Use:** part-time cattle shelter      **Historic Use:** livestock barn with storage

**Condition of original barn:** Good  Fair \_\_\_ Poor \_\_\_ Ruined \_\_\_

**Has the original barn been added to or altered?** yes  alterations to stalls no \_\_\_ cannot determine \_\_\_

**Condition of additions and alterations to barn:** Good \_\_\_ Fair  Poor \_\_\_ Ruined \_\_\_

##### **Original Barn structure**

**Function of original barn: (if known, check all that apply)**

General purpose  Livestock/hay  flue-cured tobacco \_\_\_ burley tobacco \_\_\_ dairy \_\_\_

Bull Face tobacco \_\_\_

**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:** thoughtfully designed and built livestock barn

**Original Siding Materials: (check all that apply)**

Milled Boards  Lattice  Exposed logs \_\_\_ Boards and Battens \_\_\_ Metal \_\_\_ Shingles \_\_\_

**Orientation of siding materials: (check all that apply)**

*Angled on diagonal*  *vertical*  *horizontal*

**Additional Info:** use of diagonal siding is common in this township

**Roof of original barn Pitch or Slope:** 12.3/12 on side slopes, 1.33/12 on center shallow slope

**Additional Info:** true gambrel roof with shallow truss structure and one of several "Dutch" roof with flared "Flemish" eaves

**Roof Shape of Original barn:**

*Gable End*  *Extended Gable*  *Broken Gable*

*Gambrel*  *Shed*  *Other*

**Roofing materials of original barn (if known)**

*Split wood Shingles*  *3-V metal*  *3-U metal*  *5-V metal*  *stamped metal shingle*  *Tar paper*   
*other*  *Current materials*

**Roof framing of original barn**

*Round pole rafters*  *milled rafters*  with shallow trusses  *cupola*  *split roof sections*

**Foundation of Original barn:**

*Dry-Laid Stone*  *Wood sills on stone piers*  *Mortared Stone*

*Concrete*  *Concrete Block*  *Columns/Wood Piers*

**Additional Info:** extensive poured concrete foundation with large stone aggregate

**Flooring:** *dirt floors*  *concrete slab*  *wood flooring*

**Other features of original barn**

**Species of wood used:** *chestnut*  *others:* oak, hemlock, other sawn lumber

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

**List and describe:**

**Hinges:** *leather*  *wooden*  *wrought iron*  *commercial metal*

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

**Tobacco Tier poles: NA +/- 2 foot vertical spacing\_\_\_ +/- 4-foot vertical spacing\_\_\_ +/- 3 foot vertical spacing\_\_\_ (confirm in inches)**

**Lightning rods\_\_\_ grapevines on south wall\_\_\_ leaks on downslope from barn\_\_\_**

**Barn bank, hill, ramp or bridge to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor loft level (describe): bank to within truck or wagon bed height**

**Below-ground room or cellar\_\_\_**

**Water supply if applicable (describe)**

### **Additions and Alterations**

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Only alterations appear to be in the rearrangement of stalls, and a few frame supports in the loft. This barn was not retrofitted for burley tobacco, atypical of the area.

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

**Milled Boards\_\_\_ 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\_\_\_**

**Additional Info: none**

**Date Photos Taken: June 20, 2014 / January 22, 2018**

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