

Burgin C. Meadows Barn

This tobacco barn is located at the home place of Burgin C. & Mollie Hipps Meadows, 12815 NC Hwy 209, just where Caldwell Mountain Road leaves 209 to go to Meadow Fork and Spring Creek has woven its way past the rock school and under the bridge.

The barn has steps on the inside and a ladder on the outside going up to the loft where there is a raised center and two lower sides. The hay rake and lift are not there anymore to unload wagons of hay. The tier poles are still there where acres of tobacco have hung, and those poles were not always the correct width for the person standing on them.

The right side of the main floor of the barn had two rooms with doors, one on either end, for storage, both off the ground 3 plus feet so the creek wouldn't flood them. There is one long stable on the right side and on the left are 6 rooms, for one or two animals at a time. Each area has feed troughs. Sometimes the chickens liked to lay their eggs in them.

The stables were used for work animals and for riding horses belonging to the boarders who stayed with Mrs. Meadows. She kept traveling salesmen, schoolteachers, and even ran a hostel during the 1930's.

There was also one feed trough outside in the center aisle for her milk cow, since she (Mrs. Meadows or the cow) didn't like to be closed in. This made it lighter and much easier to see the mouths of the kittens one was directing milk into.

In this photo by Tim Barnwell you can see on the left side, a corncrib, used for storing corn to feed the horses, cows and pigs. When the corncrib was torn off the barn a concrete slab was uncovered. The entire barn is sitting on a concrete foundation. Since we are pretty sure there were no concrete trucks bringing loads to the work site, this must have been a real job to mix that much concrete by hand, carrying the water from the creek, not to mention hauling it in from wherever it was purchased.

By Ethel Kirkpatrick, owner

Appeared in the News Record newspaper 2013