

Burgin Cemore Meadows barn, Spring Creek

MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

Common Identity of Barn: Burgin Cemore Meadows barn

Address of Barn: 12815 NC Hwy 209 **GPS Location:** N35 46.350/ W82 52.418 **Elev.** 2246'

Township: Spring Creek

Approximate Decade Built (year if known): early 1920's as recalled by owner rep.

Current Owner: Burgin C. Meadows heirs, Ethel Kirkpatrick, trustee **Phone #:** 622-7300

Gail Meadows, family member - 305-915-4348

Permission to visit property granted by: Ethel Kirkpatrick, owner family representative

Historic Owner(s): Burgin Meadows

Current Use: storage/utility **Historic Use:** general purpose livestock, altered for burley tobacco

Historic Information: (from owner Ethel Kirkpatrick) This barn is located at the home place of Burgin C. & Mollie Higgs Meadows, 12815 NC Hwy 209, where Caldwell Mountain Road leaves 209 to go to Meadow Fork.

"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 side loft areas. The hay hook and lift are not present anymore to unload wagons of hay. The tier poles are still there where acres of tobacco have been 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. “

Outbuildings: Several outbuildings remain, including a relocated outhouse. This barn is part of a farmstead that included a large boarding house for drummers (peddlers or traveling salesmen) and other tenants. It was also part of a network of youth hostels created by American Youth Hostels, on a 55-mile loop trail that connected to the Appalachian Trail. (See attached articles and material)

Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use: This farm represents that of a successful and resourceful family which ran a boarding house, a store, and farmed a large acreage in a large valley bottomland in the center of the Spring Creek community.

ORIGINAL BARN CHARACTER

REVISION OF CONDITION: A windstorm of January 2020 severely damaged the north side of the barn, which had begun to separate from the main body of the barn after a roof leak and deterioration caused failure of the basic structure. 1.24.20 TB

Condition of original barn: Good___ Fair___ Poor_X_ Ruined___

Has the original barn been added to or altered? yes_X_ no___ cannot determine___

Condition of additions and alterations to barn: Good___ Fair_X_ Poor___ Ruined___

Original Barn structure

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

*General purpose_x_ Livestock/hay_x_ flue-cured tobacco___ burley tobacco___ dairy___
Bull Face tobacco___*

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

*Post and Beam_x_ Mortise and tenon___ Sawn lumber from sawmill_x_ Hewn
Timbers___ Notched Logs___*

Additional Info: milled lumber throughout, with some let-in notched diagonal bracing.

Original Siding Materials: (check all that apply)

*Milled Boards_x_ Lattice_x_ Exposed logs___ Boards and Battens___ Metal___
Shingles___*

Orientation of siding materials: (check all that apply)

Angled on diagonal_x___ vertical_x___ horizontal_x___

Additional Info: unusual use of diagonal siding as sub-sheathing under horizontal 6" lapped siding yet used only on the longitudinal sides of the barn.

Roof of original barn Pitch or Slope: 12/17 and 12/5.5

Roof Shape of Original barn:

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

Gambrel *x* ___ **Shed** ___ **Other** ___ (Draw Sketch)

Roofing materials of original barn (if known)

Split wood Shingles ___ **3-V metal** *x* ___ **3-U metal** ___ **5-V metal** ___ **stamped metal shingle** ___
other _____ **Current materials:** the 3-V metal roofing is likely the original roofing and represents one of the earliest uses of metal roofing in the county.

Roof framing of original barn

Round pole rafters ___ **milled rafters** *x* ___ **cupola** ___ **split roof sections**

Additional information: this is a gambrel roof barn but does not have the gambrel shallow truss structure that allows for an open, column-free hay loft as the gambrel roof is designed to achieve. It has vertical posts instead, that provide support at the juncture of the roof two slopes.

Foundation of Original barn:

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

Concrete *x* ___ **Concrete Block** ___ **Columns/Wood Piers** ___

Additional Info: this is a unique use of poured concrete: a continuous concrete footing was poured as the foundation for the barn structure. The adjacent residence has extensive use of poured concrete for footings and slabs.

Flooring: **dirt floors** *x* ___ **concrete slab** ___ **wood flooring** *x* ___ (in storage or tack room areas,

built as a way to keep the rooms dry during creek flooding)

Other features of original barn

Species of wood used: **chestnut** *x* ___ **others:** variety of available wood species

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

List and describe: includes a hay hook rail and pulley which runs the length of the loft.

Hinges: leather___ wooden___ wrought iron___ commercial metal_x___

Tobacco Tier poles: +/- 2 foot vertical spacing___ +/- 4-foot vertical spacing_x___ added later
36-39 inch_____

Lightning rods___ grapevines on south wall___ leeks on downslope from barn___

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

Below-ground room or cellar___ Other:

Water supply if applicable (describe)

Additions and Alterations

This barn has been altered to accommodate the hanging of burley tobacco. The date of alteration is not known, although it was likely an early alteration in the 1920's.

The barn also had a large shed addition on the north side for a large corn crib and perhaps a chicken house. This addition was causing deterioration of the main barn north wall and was removed in the early 2000's.

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

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_____

Foundation of barn additions and alterations: concrete slab
Dry-Laid Stone___ Wood sills on stone___ Mortared Stone___

Concrete___ Concrete Block___ Columns/Wood Piers___

Roof: Pitch or Slope: unknown

Roof Shape of Alterations:

Gable End Extension ___ **Shed Addition_X** ___ **Gable Addition** ___

Date Photos Taken: June 18, 2012 and September 20, 2013

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