

Eulas "Billy" Askew barn

MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

Common Identity of Barn: Eulas "Billy" Askew barn, Carroll Askew barn

Address of Barn: 13581 NC Highway 209 GPS location: N35 – 45.626 / W82 – 52.493 **Elev:** 2388'

Township: Spring Creek

Approximate Decade Built or year if known: c.1925

Current Owner: Carroll Askew **Phone No.:** 828-622-7236

Permission to visit property granted by: owner

Historic Owner(s): Eulas "Billy" Askew

Current Use: equipment storage **Historic Use:** livestock, mostly draft horses, storage, utility

Outbuildings: multiple outbuildings that include a large corn crib, a chicken house, and equipment garage. A log flue-cured tobacco barn is located in the large bottomland across the highway.

Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use: This farm and barn is located at the upper, south end of a the large "upper flats" bottomland area of Spring Creek. The Askew family has been on this land since C. C. Askew first settled here in 1820.

Historic Information

The Billy Askew barn, built by Eulus "Billy" Ray Askew (1897 to 1952). His father was T. W. Billy Askew, mother was Dell Woody.

The C. C. Askew family was one of the first to settle in this valley in 1820. This classic true gambrel roof livestock barn is one of the earliest of its type and sits at the south end of the large "upper flats" bottom land of Spring Creek. It has a true gambrel roof structure in which the roof rafters form a shallow roof truss, allowing the loft area to be free of vertical posts and thus better accommodating the moving and storage of hay. Another innovation of the times in this barn is a vertical pipe that houses the pulley rope for the hay fork mounted on the ridgeline rail. A horse would be stationed in the ground level hallway and walk forward, pulling the loaded hay fork into the large loft area in the floor above. The animal stalls were built to house the large draft horses that Billy Askew used in all aspects of the farm operation, and much of the original draft horse gear is present. The metal roofing, which appears to be the original roofing, is the unusual 3-U roofing which, according to oral tradition, was formed on site by a traveling roofing crew from Alcoa Aluminum Company, using a horse-drawn metal forming machine.

ORIGINAL BARN CHARACTERISTICS

Condition of original barn: Good___ Fair_x__ Poor___ Ruined___

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: lumber was sawn across the road at the Reeves' cousins' sawn mill.

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: much of the lumber is chestnut, some boards 20" wide, and framing appears to be hemlock.

Roof of original barn Pitch or Slope: top gambrel slope at 6/12; side gambrel slope at 13/12; shed slopes at

4.5/12

Additional Info: these slopes are close estimates since access is limited

Roof Shape of Original barn: true gambrel

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 ___

Addit. Info: oral tradition relates a story of the 3-U metal panels being shaped on site with metal panel machine run by a traveling Alcoa Aluminum crew. It could have been a horse drawn machine.

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 Mortared Stone ___

Concrete Concrete Block ___ Columns/Wood Piers ___

Additional Info: main barn is on poured concrete footings, sheds are wood sills on rock piers.

Flooring: dirt floors_x__ concrete slab___ wood flooring_x__ in tack room and granary room

Other features of original barn

Species of wood used: chestnut_x__ others: oak, pine, various woods

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

List and describe: hay fork with metal pipe for horse-drawn cable run;

Hinges: leather___ wooden___ wrought iron_x__ commercial metal_x__

Wire nails __x_ wrought spikes ___ cut nails_____ Addit. Info: exterior door hinges may be made from metal wagon or carriage tires

Lightning rods___ grapevines on south wall___ leaks on downslope from barn___

Barn bank, hill, ramp or bridge to 2nd floor loft level (describe): NA

Below-ground room or cellar___

Water supply if applicable (describe)

Additions and Alterations

Shed additions appear to be part of the original barn. Part of the loft space has a burley tobacco tier pole framework that was added later.

Tobacco Tier poles: +/- 2 foot vertical spacing___ +/- 4-foot vertical spacing_x__ +/- 3 foot vertical spacing___ (confirm in inches)

Date Photos Taken: Sept 4, 2014

Submitted By:

Name: Taylor Barnhill

Address: 226 Beech Glen Rd. Mars Hill 28754

Phone: Home: 828-689-5530 Cell: 828-380-9336

Email: taylor.barnhill@yahoo.com