

**Eulas “Billy” Askew barn**

**MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT**

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**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

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**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**

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**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 2<sup>nd</sup> floor loft level (describe):** NA

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

**Water supply if applicable (describe)**

**Additions and Alterations**

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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

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