

**Homer Reeves barn**  
**MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT**

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**Common Identity of Barn:** Homer Reeves livestock barn

**Address of Barn:** 13690 NC Highway 209      **GPS Location:** N35 – 45.620 / W82 – 52.588

**Elevation:** 2320'

**Township:** Spring Creek

**Vicinity:** upper end of west upper flats of Spring Creek

**Approximate Decade Built or year if known:** completed Oct 21, 1953 as written in concrete step

**Current Owner:** Sandy Reeves Rollins      **Phone No.:** 828-622-7404

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

**Historic Owner(s):** Homer Reeves, son Clyde Reeves

**Current Use:** storage

**Historic Use:** livestock barn: although it appears to be a classic dairy barn, it was never used as one.

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**Outbuildings:** large garage building, moved from Cold Springs, also used for milking the cow.

**Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use:**

**Historic Information:**

Homer Reeves had the barn built (1895 to 1989) by Mr. Arthur Gunter, whose name was written in the concrete as well as the date Oct 21 1953.

**Account from owner Sandy Rollins:** “According to Uncle Dean, the timber for the lumber used in the barn came from the mountain behind Uncle Floyd Askew’s and Grandpa Askew’s houses. (across road to the east) My grandfather, Homer Reeves, sawed the trees into lumber for the barn. He had a sawmill next to the highway in corner of the field below my house. My grandfather and my daddy, Clyde Reeves, drew the plans for the barn themselves. I remember my daddy saying he designed every crack in that barn and that he had a difficult time convincing my grandfather to put the vent things on top of the barn. Arthur Gunter from Meadow Fork built the barn.

The silo was built before the barn. The sand used to mix the concrete was hauled on a pick-up truck from the banks of the French Broad River in Hot Springs. The concrete was pulled up silo in buckets by ropes on pulleys. Uncle Dean helped in building the silo but went to work at Dayco (in Waynesville) before barn was built and didn’t remember much about the actual building of it.

The barn was used for cattle, storage for hay, and hanging tobacco in lower part when needed. The upper trough was used for feeding hay and the lower trough for silage. Spring time meant barn cleaning time to get the manure out of the barn which was used as fertilizer in fields.

As for storage of hay, loose hay was put in loft at first. Uncle Dean could not remember exactly when they switched to square bales. When I asked him how many bales the loft could hold, he had no answer except “a lot.” I can remember hay being stacked to the roof on both sides of the barn and stacked past the “picture window” from front of the barn to the back. There was only room to walk and throw hay down through floor to the troughs below.

Activity at the barn is pretty quiet right now. No cattle have been there in several years. The only animals you will find there now are our barn cat, the many barn swallows that make the barn their home every year, and of course bees. No hay has been stored in the barn for a while either. The barn is now mainly used to keep machinery and equipment in the dry.

As for the little barn, my dad and Uncle Fat (Earnest Reeves) bought an old shop building in Cold Springs, tore it down and put it back up on our farm. My Grandpa used this barn to park his old tractor in and was where he milked the cows. It is still where the tractor is parked.

Uncle Dean did not remember flue cured tobacco ever being raised here. Nor could he tell me who built the rock wall. It was there as long as he could remember.

There is another very old barn in the hollow behind the other rock house you can see from my house. Uncle Dean said it had been there for as long as he could remember also. It has wooden shingles and was used only as a tobacco barn. Last time I paid any attention to it, it was in very good shape. I remember hanging tobacco in that barn. It is fairly easy to get to but cannot be seen from the road. I don’t think you would want to take your car all the way to the barn but you could get really close to it if you wanted to see it. Someone lives on the road past the barn, but they drive a truck. My cousins in TN own this barn. If you are interested in seeing the barn let me know and I will give you further directions.

Hope this information helps. I have enjoyed learning about the details of the barn myself!

Sandy

## ORIGINAL BARN CHARACTERISTICS

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**Integrity:** High  Medium  Low:

**Condition of original barn:** Good  Fair  Poor  Ruined  Add. Info

**Function of original barn:**

**General purpose**  Livestock/hay  flue-cured tobacco  burley tobacco  dairy   
**Bull Face tobacco**  **Other**  **Add. Info:** lower level was sometimes used to hang burley tobacco

**Construction elements of original barn:**

**Post and Beam**  **Mortise and tenon**  **Sawn lumber from sawmill**  **Hewn Timbers**  **Notched Logs**  **stud frame**

**Additional Info:** timber was cut across the valley on the land of the Askew farm, then sawn by Homer Reeves on site near the barn site.

**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:** diagonal siding used at corners for structural stability

**Roof of original barn Pitch or Slope:** 12/24 lower and 12/5.25 upper slope

**Additional Info**

**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**

**Roof framing of original barn**

**Round pole rafters**  **milled rafters**  **cupola**  **split roof sections/monitor roof**  **Add. Info.:** this is a true gambrel roof with shallow trusses

**Foundation of Original barn:**

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

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

**Additional Info:** unusual extensive poured concrete foundation and slab built with materials of sand and lime hauled by pick-up truck from Hot Springs, a great distance.

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

**Other features of original barn**

**Species of wood used:** **chestnut**  **others:**  oak, pine, poplar

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

**List and describe:**

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

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

**Tobacco Tier poles: +/- 2 foot vertical spacing\_\_\_ +/- 4-foot vertical spacing\_\_\_ +/- 3 foot vertical spacing\_\_\_ (confirm in inches) Add. Info.:** burley tobacco hung in lower level, tier poles no longer present

**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):**

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

**Water supply if applicable (describe) not known**

**Additions and Alterations**

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

**Date Photos Taken:** 2014 to 2019

Submitted By:

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