

MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

John Gardner barn

Livestock barn (early 1900's)

Common Identity of Barn: Jasper Ebbs (1851-1937) barn or John Garrett Gardner barn (1873-1967)

Address of Barn: across from 1181 Highway NC 63 **GPS Location:** N35-44.466 / W82-51.259

Elevation: 2614'

Township: Spring Creek

Vicinity: Friezeland Creek and NC Highway 63

Approximate Decade Built or year if known: early 20th century (Jasper and Tilitha were married in 1877; rear section of house is log.)

Current Owner: Annie and Walt DeHart **Phone No.:** 828-622-9336 wdehart@frontier.com

Permission to visit property granted by: DeHarts, owners

Historic Owner(s): Jasper Ebbs (1851-1937) barn or John Garrett Gardner barn (1873-1967) wife Cartie Ebbs

Current Use: abandoned

Historic Use: livestock, adapted to burley tobacco

Outbuildings: small storage shed, contemporary

Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use: The Jasper Ebbs and John Gardner farm is located approx. one mile east of the junction of NC Highway 63 and NC Highway 209 where Friezeland Creek joins Spring Creek, known as the Trust community and an important location for commerce and travel, east on NC 63 to Asheville, and south on NC 209 to Waynesville. This valley is a relatively high elevation valley of typical mountain farms with few large bottomland areas.

Historic Information

Jasper and Tilitha Plemmons Ebbs were successful farmers and store owners here on Friezeland Creek in the upper end of this township. Married in 1877, they built the two-story frame house onto an existing two-room log house. Jasper, and later his son-in-law John Gardner, ran the Trust community store and post office down the valley at the junction with NC 209. This large barn was likely built by John Gardner. A large livestock barn, it is over 52 feet across, built of sawn lumber, with a massive rock retaining wall forming the bank at the south end. Large hand-hewn wood sills are placed on rock piers, with hewn plate beams across the tops of the framed walls. Like most livestock barns, it was later adapted for hanging burley tobacco. It is notable for its unusual standing seam metal roofing, some the earliest metal roofing to be used in this township, and the only standing seam type roofing found to date.

From Annie Webb DeHart, owner: Jasper Ebbs (11/10/1851-1937) and Tilitha Plemmons Ebbs (1852-1938) my great grandparents are buried on Hwy. NC 209 just past the schoolhouse at the New Flats Cemetery. My grandparents, John Garrett Gardner (1873-1967) and Cartie Ebbs Gardner (1886-1950) daughter of Jasper and Tilitha Ebbs, are also buried at the New Flats Cemetery. Thelma Gardner never married and lived her life here in this house and took care of John and Cartie, her parents in their old age. She also helped John Gardner run the store where Hwy. NC 63 and NC 209 intersect. She and her two brothers, Glenn and Craig, are also buried in the family plot at the New Flats Cemetery. Mamie Gardner and Garrett Gardner, Uncle Craig's wife and son and my brother, John Clyde Webb, are also buried in the family plot. It is at the very top of the cemetery. Also helpful is the book, My Memories of Spring Creek by Clyde Webb.

ORIGINAL BARN CHARACTERISTICS

Condition of original barn: Good___ Fair___ Poor_x___ Ruined___

Has the original barn been added to or altered? yes___ no___ cannot determine_x___

Additional Info.: the barn may have had additions over its life, but none survive, although the side shed sections may have been built soon after the original center section was built, because of the slight weathering of interior siding and slightly different framing. The barn was also adapted for burley tobacco with tier poles additions.

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_x___ Notched Logs___

Additional Info: hewn oak sills in parts of the barn. This barn is an early framed lumber barn with no hewn log cribs, not typical of the period. It is also a bank barn with a large dry-laid rock retaining wall allowing access to the loft level.

Original Siding Materials: (check all that apply)

Milled Boards_x___ Lattice___ Exposed logs___ Boards and Battens___ Metal___

Shingles___

Orientation of siding materials: (check all that apply)

Angled on diagonal___ vertical_x___ horizontal___

Additional Info: the exclusive use of vertical siding only is uncommon in this area, where most barns would also have diagonal siding.

Roof of original barn Pitch or Slope: 12/9.5

Roof Shape of Original barn:

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** rare example of a standing seam metal roof, and appears to be the original roofing **Current materials** original

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: the barn is a bank barn with large dry-laid rock retaining wall

Flooring: **dirt floors** **concrete slab** **wood flooring** on loft level

Other features of original barn

Species of wood used: **chestnut** **others** variety of local species

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

List and describe:

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

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

Tobacco Tier poles: too few tier poles surviving to measure spacing

+/- 2 foot vertical spacing **+/- 4-foot vertical spacing** **+/- 3 foot vertical spacing** (confirm in inches)

Lightning rods **grapevines on south wall** **leeks on downslope from barn**

Barn bank, hill, ramp or bridge to 2nd floor loft level (describe): bank barn with dry-laid rock retaining wall.

Below-ground room or cellar ____

Water supply if applicable (describe)

Additions and Alterations: none known

Date Photos Taken: July 29, 2014

Submitted By:

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