

MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

Common Identity of Barn: Elmore Snelson Dairy Barn

Address of Barn: 190 Ramsey Snelson Rd.

GPS Location: 82.691/ 35.737

Elevation: 2095 feet

Historic Owner(s): Elmore Snelson, Ernest Snelson

Township: South Marshall

Current Use: equipment and misc. storage

Vicinity: south end Rector Corner Road

Historic Use: livestock barn supporting dairy operation

Approx. Date Built: 1917

Permission to visit property by: Maxine Snelson

Current Owner: Maxine Snelson

Historic Information: Ernest Snelson recalled for family members being six years old when his father Elmore, built the dairy livestock barn in 1917, one hundred one years ago. That makes this barn, a gambrel roof design, one of the earliest Madison County barns with this type of roof that utilized the newer metal barn roofing. Prior to metal roofing, all farm buildings and houses were roofed with split-oak wood shingles on steep roofs. This barn also features the traditional diagonal exterior board siding, and the lattice wood strips for ventilation of the hay loft level. This barn is also a “bank barn”, built into the hillside so that the bank on the upper level allows access to the loft level for horse-drawn wagons, then later for tractors. It has a poured concrete foundation, an innovative change from the rock foundations of the early twentieth century. The concrete silo is likely a later addition, as the use of silage silos was introduced later. This dairy building complex is a now-uncommon example of the twentieth century dairy farm, most of which are now gone. Ernest remembered that a preacher once tried to scare him by singing a “boogey woogey” song to warn him of his misbehavior.

Outbuildings: milking house, equipment building, 4 silos

Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use: This end of the Rector Corner ridge is a landscape of rolling hills southwest of the town seat of Marshall, consisting of many small hollows and less forested land, and an above average amount of pastureland, which was likely tillable crop land before the end of the Federal Tobacco Program. Much of this area overlooks the French Broad River to the east and down the hill.

Original Barn

Integrity:

- High
- Medium
- Low

Condition:

- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated
- Ruin

Addtnl Info.:

Function of original barn:

- general purpose
- livestock/hay
- flue-cured tobacco
- burley tobacco
- bull face tobacco
- dairy
- other

Addtnl Info.:

Type of Construction of original barn:

- Post and Beam
- timber frame
- mortise and tenon
- sawn lumber
- hewn timbers
- notched logs
- stud frame

Addtnl Info:

Original siding materials:

- milled boards
- lattice
- exposed logs
- board and batten
- metal
- shingles
- other

Addtnl Info.:

Orientation of siding:

- angled on diagonal
- vertical
- horizontal: limited, plus lattice

Addtnl Info.:

Roof pitch or slope of original barn:

Roof type of original barn: upper slope 12/6.8; lower slope 12/8

- gable
- broken gable
- gambrel
- shed
- monitor
- cupola
- other

Addtl Info.:

Roofing materials of original barn:

- split wood shingles
- 3-V metal
- 3-U metal
- 5-V metal
- stamped metal shingle
- tar paper
- unknown
- other

Addtl Info.:

Roof framing of original barn:

- round pole rafters
- milled rafters
- gambrel shallow trusses
- gambrel with post & beam supprt
- round purlins

Addtl Info.:

Foundation of original barn:

- Dry laid stone
- wood sills on rock piers
- mortared stone
- concrete
- concrete block
- columns/wood piers

posts on concrete footings

Addtl Info.:

Flooring of original barn:

dirt floor

wood flooring

concrete slab

Addtl Info.:

Species of wood used in original barn:

chestnut

other, list known species: misc., pine, oak, poplar

Addtl Info.:

Hinges:

leather

wooden

wrought iron

commercial metal

rubber

other

Add. Info.:

Fasteners:

wire nails

cut nails

wrought spikes

wood pegs

other

Addtl Info.:

Tobacco tier poles vertical spacing:

+/- 2 feet

+/- 3 feet

+/- 4 feet

other, list

Addtl Info.:

Additional traditional features, list:

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS - characteristics

Has the original barn been altered or added to? no

Date Photos Taken: April 11, 2018

Submitted By:

Name: Taylor Barnhill

Address: 226 Beech Glen Rd., Mars Hill, NC 28754

Phone Cell: 828-380-9336

Email: taylor.barnhill@yahoo.com