

MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

Common Identity of Barn: Alfred Ramsey barn

Address of Barn: 1138 Turnpike Road

GPS Location: 82.703 / 35.782

Elevation: 2025 feet

Historic Owner(s): Jesse Mae Ramsey,
Garret Ramsey, Alfred Ramsey

Township: South Marshall

Current Use: storage

Vicinity: Bailey Branch

Historic Use: dairy, multi-purpose

Approx. Date Built: 1960s

Permission to visit property by: DeWayne
Ramsey

Current Owner: DeWayne Hensley

Historic Information: This large, well-built livestock barn, perhaps also used as a dairy barn, is thought to have been built in the 1950s. It utilizes materials and construction techniques that were becoming popular at the time: concrete block for the foundation, and “modern ” corrugated metal roofing. More tradition elements have been also carried over from earlier building methods, including the use of lattice at the eaves, for increasing ventilation, and a corn crib that is part of the main structure. It is also a bank barn with access to the second-floor loft level, provided by the high embankment that joins the road. Little is known of the specific history of this barn, yet the Ramsey family has been on this land since 1826 when Reverend Garrett Ramsey lived here. Ramseytown in neighboring Yancey County, was named for him when, as a traveling circuit preacher, he founded a church there before the Civil War.

Setting and Surrounding Land Use: the setting is the curve of the Turnpike Road, south of Marshall, which connects the valleys of Bear Creek to the west and Bailey Branch to the east. The land is primarily rolling hills with more pasture land than forested land, farmed for the common crops of tobacco and corn, later to be used for grazing cattle.

Out Buildings: there are no surviving outbuildings

Note: Information represented on this data form, and in the photographs, notes, articles, deed research, and correspondence with family and neighbors, seeks to provide as much information about this barn as was available at the time. Much information is based on oral tradition and availability of access to those family members, neighbors and others who were familiar with this barn and its history. New and more accurate information is welcomed.

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.: the use of this barn for dairy is unclear

Type of Construction of original barn:

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

Addtnl Info: large foundation level of concrete block

Original siding materials:

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

Addtl Info.: this barn includes a built -in corn crib as part of the south-east corner of the loft level.

Orientation of siding:

angled on diagonal

vertical

horizontal

Addtl Info.:

Roof pitch or slope of original barn: 12 / 5.25

Roof type of original barn:

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.: Corrugated metal

Roof framing of original barn:

round pole rafters

milled rafters

gambrel shallow trusses

gambrel with post & beam support

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- loft level
- concrete slab – ground floor

Addtl Info.:

Species of wood used in original barn:

- chestnut
- other, list known species: poplar, oak, pine

Addtl Info.:

Hinges:

- leather
- wooden
- wrought iron
- commercial metal
- rubber
- other

Add. Info.: exterior doors utilize door rail sliding doors

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.: no evidence of this having been for tobacco

Additional traditional features, list: lattice for upper story ventilation

Alterations and Additions characteristics: none

Has the original barn been altered or added to? Not evident

Date Photos Taken: August 27, 2018

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