

The Cabin at Innsbrook

12/24/2016

The smokehouse at the log cabin in Innsbrook is really a tobacco barn!

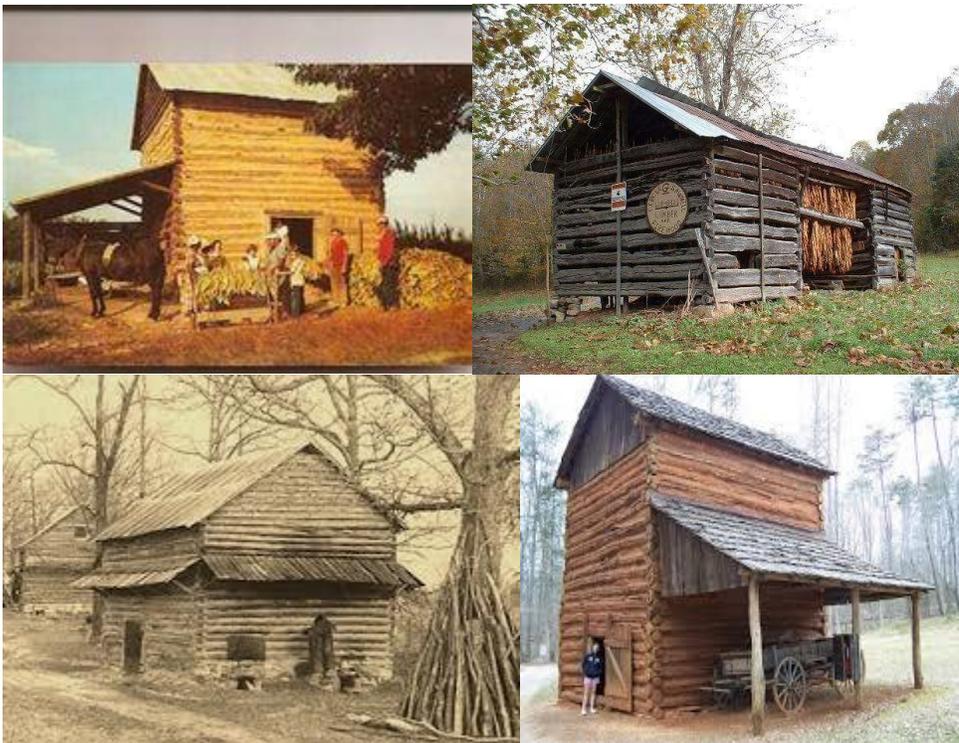
Wayne Edwards results from “googling” tobacco barns and the history of tobacco in Missouri.

Here is what he have learned which leads him to conclude that the barn was originally built as a tobacco barn. This conclusion is consistent with input we received from some other Innsbrook property owners who grew up in tobacco growing country and inspected our building.

- Tobacco is dried in barns, primarily of two types – 1) enclosed or relatively air tight and heat is used to dry the tobacco (fire cured), and 2) the open type where tobacco is air dried. The type of barn/drying method depended to a large degree on the type of tobacco and the ultimate purpose of the tobacco – cigarettes, chewing, snuff, pipe or cigars.
- The types of barns and drying methods are similar in Europe, Cuba, South America and in the states. Although the type of construction varied depending on available building materials. I found pictures of similar barns from all over the world.
- The construction of the barn at the cabin does not have chinking between the logs to make it air tight so I would conclude that tobacco was air dried. (However, there is some indication that smoke was used in the barn at some time in its existence. This could be at a point in time when it was no longer used as a tobacco barn and was used as a smokehouse????)
- The log beams in the ceiling of the Innsbrook barn are very typical of beams in tobacco barns (See picture below.) Notice the small “sticks” holding the tobacco are hung across the horizontal log beams which go from wall to wall.



- There are some very notable examples of restored tobacco barns in the states – in the Carolinas, Maryland, Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee and Missouri. Many of them have been “repurposed” and turned into living quarters (homes).
- Drying barns came in virtually every size or shape or building material, but the common characteristic was the horizontal beams which were used to hang the tobacco sticks for drying, whether air dried or “fire cured”.

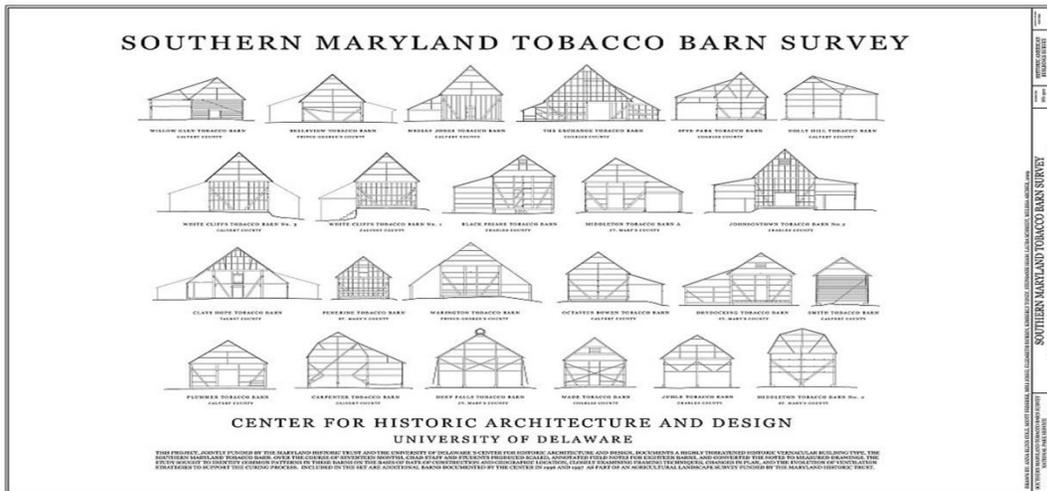




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- Tobacco was important to St. Louis. J.E. Liggett and Brother Tobacco Company was established in St. Louis (1849). Later became Liggett and Myers.
- In 1880, the leading industries of St. Louis included brewing, flour milling, slaughtering, machining, and tobacco processing.
- Other interesting factoids about tobacco and St. Louis:
 - (1880) JB Duke Tobacco Company's aggressive salesman Edward Featherston Small hired the first female cigarette saleswoman, Mrs. Leonard. *"In St. Louis, when retailers ignored him, Small advertised for a saleswoman. A petite, thin-lipped widow, a Mrs. Leonard, applied for the job and was accepted. This little stunt gave the Dukes thousands of dollars of free publicity in the local newspapers."*
 - Connorton's Tobacco Brand Directory of the United States lists St. Louis as No. 1 in tobacco output. (1887).

- Several of the mansions in the Chase Hotel neighborhood were originally built by early tobacco barons.
- Tobacco farming was common in parts of early Missouri and is still grown in certain sections. See the linked article about tobacco on the Western part of the state. (<http://www.farmcollector.com/equipment/tobacco-farmers-keep-family-tradition-alive.aspx>) Another link (<http://westonmo.com/?page=history-history>) contains the history of Weston, Missouri and the importance of tobacco to the area.