



# Barn Quilt Loop Trail

*A 90-minute drive around Mars Hill, NC*

*A project of the Madison County Arts Council*

## MH-1

### Madison County Visitor Center

56 South Main Street

GPS: N35° 49' 57" W82° 32' 93"

The home of the Madison County Visitor Center was originally a service station—first a Sinclair Station and later a BP Station. Included among the several people who managed businesses in this building were town civil servants. In the 1950s Carl “Babe” Eller, ran a Sinclair Station and later served the town of Mars Hill as alderman for many years and as Mayor from 1970-71. The street intersecting with Main Street is named Carl Eller Road. The quilt design of the leaves was chosen to reflect the beauty of the seasons in Madison County and especially the fall when the Blue Ridge Mountains are awash in reds and yellows mixed with the green of the pines.



## MH-3

### Thomason Barn

1541 Silver Mill Road, 28753

GPS: N35° 53' 54" W82° 49' 01"

This old tobacco barn is over 120 years old and was built on land received in a land grant to a Captain White whose daughter Eliza married Dr. Jacob Tilson in the 1870s and built the current barn. The center of the barn still has the original logs although some of the buildings supporting timbers had to be replaced so that the sixth generation of the family can still enjoy the use of the old barn. The White family had other property. Eliza’s brother built the house overlooking the main street in Marshall as a wedding gift. The house was designed by architect Richard Sharp Smith (who was the head architect for the Biltmore House in Asheville).



## MH-2

### Doubletree Farms

835 Cargile Branch Road, 28753

GPS: N35° 52' 67" W82° 38' 23"

Doubletree Farm is the dream of owners Andy and Cathy Bennett who bought the property in 1999 with the goal of having all of the farm work done by draft horses. They built the barn on which the quilt is displayed and enlisted local artist Lois Simbach to help Cathy design a “quilt” which would have horses in it. The result has an Andy Warhol feel with the brilliant colors matching the trim of their house. Their business today includes logging with the use of draft horses and growing sweet sorghum.



## MH-4

### Ray Homestead Barn

Parkway View Road Corner

GPS: N35° 50' 32" W82° 32' 53"

The apricot-colored iris quilt on the barn visible across a wide field is a tribute to Lena Ray. This site was the original home of Hughie and Lena Ray who were educators and farmers in Madison County for their entire lives. Lena was a quilter and, for many years, sponsored square dance teams from Mars Hill School. Lena was well-known for the beautiful flowers that she always had growing on the property, even into her 80s. The view beyond the barn is of the Blue Ridge Parkway, creating a beautiful setting for their home.



# MH-5A

## Mudluscious Barn

2993 Hamburg Road

GPS: N35° 49' 53" W82° 25' 81"

The Tree of Forbidden Fruit pattern is regarded as a symbol of life, love, and humankind's connection with the earth. Rod Bowling and Cindy Trisler's farm and pottery business is truly a reflection of this. The pattern is composed almost entirely of triangles including the "leaves" of the tree which are triangles positioned together to create two-color squares. It took great attention to detail to place the squares accurately to create the rows of colors making it a very painstaking barn quilt to lay out and to paint.



# MH-5B

## Mudluscious Old Cabin

2993 Hamburg Road

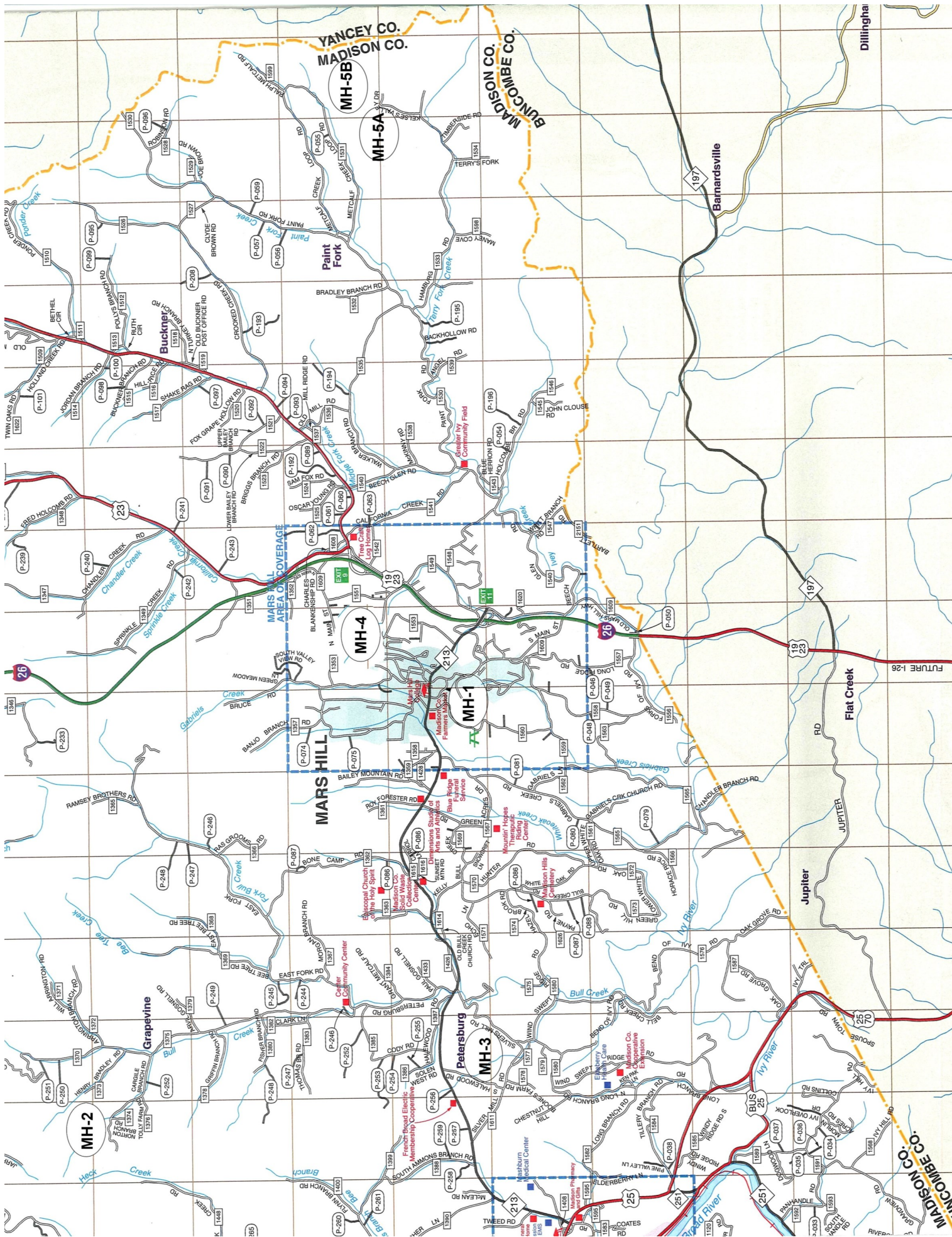
GPS: N35° 49' 53" W82° 25' 81"

The 4x4 quilt square called Poinsettia is an award-winning quilt design created by Cindy's mother—Jeannette McKim who has been sewing, quilting and hooking rugs for many years.



The cabin on which the quilt is displayed was built from timber taken from the home site around 1830. Construction is single-pen split logs, notched corners with beveled interiors. The single hearth is made entirely of stone and was chinked with the same material used for the logs. It was last used as a residence in the 1920s. This cabin was situated in three different North Carolina counties—without moving! It was originally part of Buncombe County. When Yancey County was formed in 1833 out of Buncombe, it then became part of that county. And last in 1851, when Madison County was formed out of Yancey and Buncombe, it became part of Madison County and has been since that time.





## **MARS HILL BARN QUILT LOOP DRIVING DIRECTIONS**

From Asheville, begin here

I 26 to Exit #11. Turn left toward the town of Mars Hill and travel approximately 1 mile on Hwy 213 (or Carl Eller Road) to the intersection of Main Street at a stoplight. Turn left and then an immediate right into the parking lot of the Visitor Center which is on the corner. The quilt is on the north side of the building. **Quilt MH-1**

From Mars Hill, begin here

Begin at the intersection of Main Street and Hwy 213 at the Visitor Center at 56 S. Main Street. Drive 3.9 miles west on highway 213 to Petersburg Road. Turn right and go 1.2 miles and take the left fork to follow Grapevine Road.

Drive for 2.6 miles and turn left on Cargile Branch Road. Continue for 0.8 miles to Doubletree Farms on the left side of the road. **Quilt MH-2**

Turn around and go back to the intersection with Highway 213 and go through onto Silver Mill Road. Travel 1 mile to 1541 Silver Mill Road (Rick & Ann Thomason) on the right side of the road. **Quilt MH-3**

Turn around and drive back to Highway 213 and turn right to return to Main Street in the town of Mars Hill. Turn left at the traffic light onto Main Street.

Go 1 mile to the intersection with Parkway View Road. The quilt is on a barn across the wide field to the right. (Ray homestead barn) **Quilt MH-4**

Continue on north Main Street for 1.4 miles to the T intersection with Highway 23A and turn right. Drive for .6 miles to the T intersection with Highway 19 and turn left. Drive for 0.7 miles and turn right onto Beech Glen Rd.

Go for 1.1 miles and turn left onto Paint Fork Road.

Drive on Paint Fork Road for 2.5 miles and turn right onto Hamburg Road.

Drive on Hamburg Road for 3 miles (almost to the end) to 2993 Hamburg Road (Mudluscious Pottery and Gardens) on the left side. **Quilts MH-5 A & 5 B**

Turn around and return to Paint Fork Road. Turn left and continue for 2.5 miles. Turn right onto Beech Glen Road and drive for 1.1 miles. Turn left on Highway 19 and follow signs for Asheville or Mars Hill.