



Packhouse c. 1901

Once tobacco leaves had been cured, they were moved to the packhouse to be rehydrated and stored for sale. After essentially being baked for a week, tobacco leaves become dry and brittle. Sticks hung with now dry leaves are placed in the lower level “ordering pit,” where leaves absorb the moisture from the exposed ground. The leaves are then pliable enough to be graded—sorted based by size, color, texture, and leaf injury. Leaves would be bundled into “hands” of about 15 similar quality leaves, then stored in the upper level pack house until it was time to go to market. This packhouse was built c. 1901 by the second owners of Duke Homestead, the Newtons.