

IOWA BARN FOUNDATION

M A G A Z I N E

SPRING 2023 • VOLUME 29 • NO. 1



Van Buren County
Barn Tour

June 24-25





Iowa Barn Foundation Magazine
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The magazine, as well as the foundation, is an all-state, effort founded in 1997.

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Cover Photo:

Cramlet Round Barn in Van Buren County. The 1921 barn was designed by Loudon Machinery Company in Fairfield, Iowa. It is a must-see stop on the June 24-25 barn tour.
Photo by Dave Austin

County Representatives

The representatives promote the preservation of barns in their area and encourage membership in the Iowa Barn Foundation. Working with members of the board they will also help to oversee tours and other activities. We welcome volunteers for other counties. Please contact our county representative coordinator, Craig Stephens, at 515-681-1009 or cdstephens@fngi.net.

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Adair, Adams, Benton, Buchanan, Butler, Chickasaw, Clayton, Crawford, Dallas, Decatur, Dickinson, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Fremont, Greene, Hardin, Harrison, Henry, Howard, Kossuth, Louisa, Lyon, Mills, Mitchell, Palo Alto, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Union, Van Buren, Winnebago, Worth, Wright

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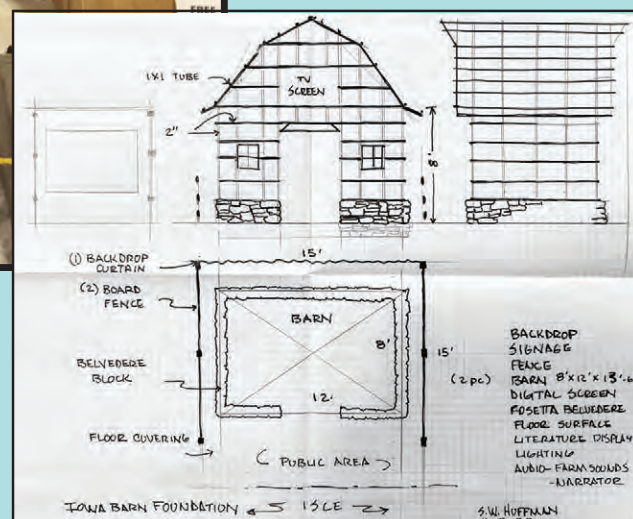


SEE YOU AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR!

Sketch of new 2023 IBF Iowa State Fair booth by MetalScapes artist Steve Huffman. Construction of the new display is 100% funded by the generous donations of IBF board members Dwight Hughes and Roy Reiman.

The foundation's booth earned a second place award at the 2022 Iowa State Fair.

The Iowa Barn Foundation would like to thank all of our volunteers who staffed our booth at the 2022 fair. Our booth earned 2nd place, which came with prize money for the foundation as well.



New location at 2023 fair! Visit us at our new barn display in the center of the Agriculture Building





We started the foundation with no money. In 26 years, we have gathered small donations one-by-one and saved over 270 barns with 1,300 members that give annually to further our mission in the years to come. Please see the 2018 reprint below that highlights how it all started.

— BY JACQUELINE ANDRE SCHMEAL —

REPRINT OF ARTICLE FROM SPRING 2018 MAGAZINE
WITH UPDATED VIEWS OF OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGES

2018 brings the 21st anniversary of the Iowa Barn Foundation. We thought it might be appropriate to give everyone a little background on this all-state effort and the people who have made an idea a reality.

How did the Iowa Barn Foundation Evolve?

During the “golden age of agriculture” the barn was the foundation of a farm—a place that sheltered animals and protected crops. The farmer needed the barn before he could have a livelihood.

By 1997, barns, no longer a necessity, were being neglected. Fewer and fewer barns dotted the countryside. The symbols of Iowa's beginnings—of Iowa's work ethic—were disappearing.

Over dinner in Ames on a 1997 winter night, a group of folks with Iowa rural roots met and discussed starting a foundation to preserve barns. It was floated as an idea. Knowing it was a big undertaking, the group decided to start a foundation which would raise money and give matching grants to owners for the restoration and/or rehabilitation of their barns.

At that time the group had no bank account, no non-profit status—just an idea. But, within a few days, members of the group had scoured Iowa looking for support, publicity, and barns that needed restoration. Neil Harl, Ames and Darrell Sunderman, Carroll, went to Des Moines to talk to legislators about the idea. Within two days, lawyer Neil Harl, put by-laws together. Don Geiger, Iowa State graduate, who had a career at DeLoitte

and Touche in Des Moines, when asked, said, “There aren't many barns left.” But, he joined the effort and has kept track of all of the finances since the beginning. He communicates with all of the donors.

At the meeting Robert Harvey, professor of landscape architecture at Iowa State, suggested names for the group. His wife, Ann, offered to help with some of the detail work. Harvey and Dan Hisel, Ames architect, worked out grant application forms to folks wanting to apply for grants.

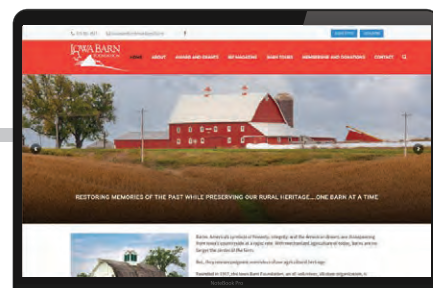
Tom Lawler, New Providence native and Parkersburg lawyer, showed interest in the foundation's work. He joined the board and became long-term vice president—and current president—and the group's legal expert. He has worked out all of the grant applications.

Volume I, Number 1, a simple Iowa Barn Foundation publication was published in the spring of 1998. The lead story was focused on Ken Starek, Ackley, who, at that time, had photographed 4000

barns in Iowa. In the issue, Wendell St. Clair, Conrad, then 88, said, “You drive through the country and see the old barns falling. Some people say, ‘Let them fall.’ I say, No, this is the way it used to look.”

The Iowa Barn Foundation has tried to save this look. Board member, Steve Garst, Coon Rapids, offered his farm for a picnic, that turned out to be an annual event. While there was a good turnout, but only one person signed up for a membership. Jo Patterson, Iowa City area, was one of our original members and supporters. Bringing her physically-challenged son with her, she dutifully attended every picnic. Anne Fitzgerald, then Des Moines Register agriculture reporter, wrote articles that brought calls from folks all over the state concerned about the state of their barns and asking for grants. Jim Jordan, Boone veterinarian, and his wife,

The Iowa Barn Foundation website received a modern makeover in late 2022 and now supports online membership donations.



Pat, made a creative and important early contribution. They won a calf at a fair, fed it, gave it to the foundation. The foundation sold it and put the money toward barn restoration.

Some others who propelled the organization along in the beginning included Paul Crockett, Carl Zurborg, Charles Manatt, Wayne Northey, Jo Ella Helmers Robinson.

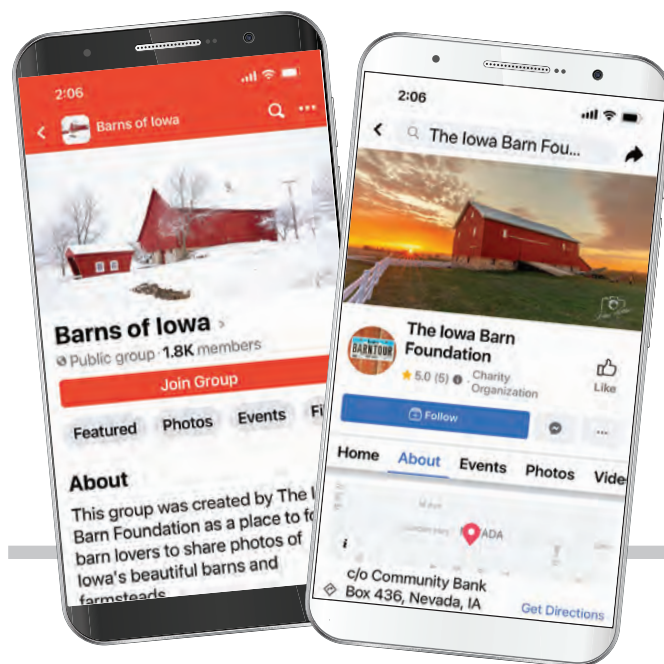
Paul Ramsey, native of Des Moines who spent summers with his aunt in Mount Ayr, read a small item about the Iowa Barn Foundation in a farm magazine. He joined the effort and restored his family barn near Mount Ayr with help from the first matching grant the group gave for barn restoration. That was the first project.

He invited Bill Krause, owner of Kum and Go and native of an Eldora farm, to join the board. Bill brought ideas to the board. His dedication was punctuated when, while very ill, drove to a barn meeting held in a cold barn near Winterset a few months before he passed. The meeting was to discuss a barn picnic in his home county.

Joe and Norma Lyon were there in the beginning days of the Iowa Barn Foundation and never left. Both had good hands-on advice after a lifetime of farming. Norma, the “butter cow lady”, known for the cows she sculpted for the Iowa State Fair, sculpted a barn for the fair one year.

Dr. Solon (Bud) Ewing, long-time distinguished professor of animal science at Iowa State, joined the board. He saw the need for a publication focusing on the history of the barns at Iowa State. He was ill, but he took on the project that took months. It is now the guide to the famous Iowa State barns. It was published in an Iowa State Barn Foundation magazine and is also on the web under Iowa State University animal science.

In the beginning were barn stalwarts like Bill Stone, Marshalltown, who was always first to get a new edition of the



2023 Facebook Updates

(Left) The newly launched Barns of Iowa FB group provides a place for you to share your Iowa barn photos and stories.

(Right) The Iowa Barn Foundation FB page helps you stay up to date with the latest news and activities.

magazine. Eleanor and Charles Ward, Marshalltown, filled in where needed for years along with Ober Anderson, Ankeny, and Don Jordahl, Des Moines. Also, Dennis Schrodt, Prole, and Maggie O'Rourke Earlham were helpful getting the endeavor launched.

Ames architect, Ken Dunker, offered to make note cards that we could sell at some of our events. Roxanne Mehlich Zearing, spent several years as an “executive assistant” helping wherever needed. She is now secretary of the foundation board. Terrence Jensen, Ames scientist, has been delivering magazines to barn owners prior to the tours for years. Boxholm native, Ray McFarland, a barber in Ames for years, has let us use his shop, All Cuts, as a “headquarters” for magazine distribution.

All of our barn photographs, which will always be beloved for their history, have been taken and given as contributions. Our photographers have included Don Poggensee, Ida Grove; Wilford Yoder, Iowa City; Ken Starek, Ackley; Ken Dunker, Ames.

Jeff Fitz-Randolph, Fairfield, creates our renowned web site, iowabarnfoundation.org. Michael Lanning, Ames, zealously volunteered to do the graphics

for our first semi-annual magazine and continued doing this for years. With the help of many, Jacqueline Andre Schmeal, has edited the Iowa Barn Foundation Magazine for 21 years.

Marlene and Duane Fenstermann, Decorah, have worked tirelessly as county representatives of the organization to make northeast Iowa renowned for its barns. Sherry Gribble, Ft. Atkinson, has also promoted barn preservation around the state. Ginnie Hargis and Ron McBroom have been organizers and writers. Recently Wayne Rimathe, Slater, has been coordinating county representatives.

Funding for grants has come from individuals and foundations. The Brown Foundation, Houston, and the Maytag Family Foundation (blue cheese), have been major funders of the effort.

This has been a major volunteer effort dedicated to preserving the history of Iowa. The list of folks from Iowa and beyond who have promoted this effort is endless.

Roy Reiman, Iowa native and owner of “Our Iowa”, appreciates barns and has been helpful to the foundation from the beginning with interest, donations, and ideas.

Editors Note by Dave Austin | I would like to personally thank Jacqueline for her 26+ years of dedication to the launch and success of the Iowa Barn Foundation. There is no single person in the state of Iowa who has done more to preserve Iowa's agriculture history.

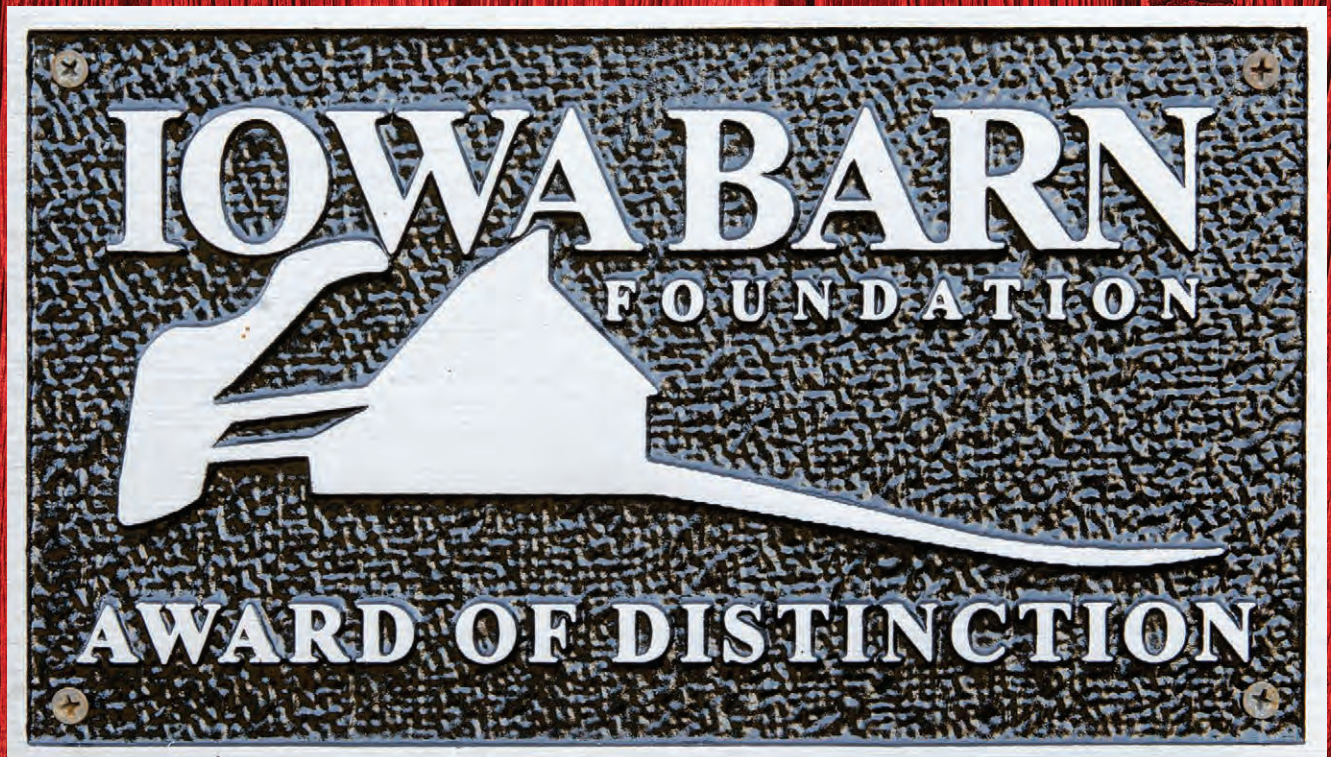
I was honored to be recruited by her to take over as the editor of the magazine last year. She remains as the Editor Emeritus, as I know that I will have frequent requests for guidance and advice going forward.

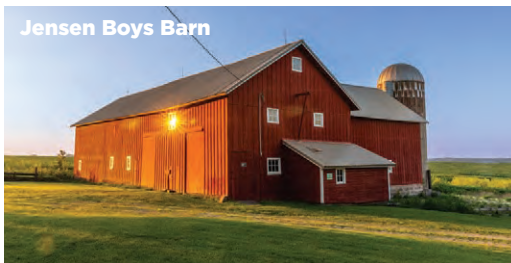
I would also like to thank Jeff Fitz-Randolph for his years of service to the Iowa Barn Foundation as the website editor. I worked closely with Jeff to give the website a makeover late last year, and it gave me a true appreciation for all of the time and effort Jeff put into making the site a hub for Iowa barn information.



Iowa Barn Foundation Award of Distinction

Class of 2022





Jensen Boys Barn



Lassance Barns



Maasdam Barns



Holtkamp Round Barn



Nelson Round Barn

Jensen Boys Barn (Bremer County) | This barn was built in 1888 and an addition was added in 1903. The barn was built to house dairy cattle and draft horses. The 1899 corn crib and 1903 machine shed are still standing.

Lassance Barns (Dubuque County) | The Lassance farmstead features two beautiful barns. One barn is a dairy barn built in 1923, and the other is a livestock barn built in 1910. Both barns have been featured in numerous calendars over the years.

Maasdam Barns (Jefferson County) | The Maasdam Barns at the Evergreen Ridge Stock Farm are an illustration of an early 20th-century draft-horse breeding business. The three barns on the Evergreen Ridge Stock Farm were restored by the Maasdam Barns Preservation Committee as a recreational, historical and educational center. Learn more at jefferson-countyheritage.org/maasdam-barns

Holtkamp Round Barn (Henry County) | The barn was built in 1917 by B.J. Holtkamp, and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1986. The ground floor was designed for livestock with the first floor used for grain and machinery storage, and the second floor loft contained space for loose hay and straw. The roof has a two-pitch gambrel design with a ventilator and windows set in to admit light.

Nelson Round Barn (Wayne County) | The round barn was built in 1912 by Ed Nelson for landowner George Fennell. The 50-foot diameter true round barn features a loft free of support columns due to a unique spider web construction. Eight milking stanchions, animal holding stalls and granary complete the main floor of the barn. The barn is a part of the International Center for Rural Culture and Arts. Learn more at theroundbarn.org. Photo by michaelcallisonimages.com


The Iowa Barn Foundation Award of Distinction was created to recognize barns that have been restored by their owners, and we were pleased to have 5 new recipients in 2022. Recipients receive a plaque to proudly display on their barns, and they are invited to participate in the all-state barn tour held each September.

To qualify for the award, barns must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- › The structure must be no less than 50 years old.
- › The structure exhibits unique or distinctive methods of construction, materials, finishes, or examples of craftsmanship.
- › The structure contributes in a significant way to the appearance of the rural landscape and/or the community identity.
- › The structure is associated with the lives of persons or events significant to Iowa's history.

There is no application fee for members of the Iowa Barn Foundation to apply. If not a member, a \$50 application fee also covers the membership application. Members receive the bi-annual Iowa Barn Foundation Magazine which includes the spring and fall tour guides.

An application can be downloaded from the foundation's website at iowabarnfoundation.org/award-and-grants. For questions, please contact Roxanne Mehlich, 641-751-1406 (mehlich@netins.net).



The Stalzer Family (Tony, Michelle, and daughter Lily) shared their beautiful American Cream Draft Horses, Jack and Kinnick, with visitors at the Rierson Barn in Radcliffe.

SPRING 2022 BARN TOUR

The 2022 Iowa Barn Foundation Spring Tour was held June 25-26 in Story, Hardin, and Hamilton counties. The foundation would like to give a big thanks to all of the barn owners who shared their piece of Iowa's rural heritage.

The foundation's barn tours are a great experience for both our barn owners and visitors. Barn owners Wayne and Connie Wahlert shared their 1920s barn in Williams, and they had 302 guests sign their guest book. Visitors came from nine

different states, including one from Hawaii! Connie's observations summarized the experience of most barn owners who participate in the tour. "We had so many more visitors than expected, from all over Iowa and beyond. People came and went all day, many with cameras in hand. We didn't go overboard getting things ready since we have a "working barn" which is still in active use. A lot of people had barn memories and stories to tell, with many multi-generation families enjoying the

experience together. Many visitors thought they had found a long-lost treasure."

One of the most popular stops on the tour was the Rierson Barn in Radcliffe, which played a key role in the origin of the American Cream Draft Horse. Owner Danny Bradshaw partnered with the Stalzer family from Zeiring to host their team of American Cream horses at the barn both days. The horses, Jack and Kinnick, were interacting with guests of all ages throughout the weekend.



Karen Hermanson provided history on how the 1912 turkey barn in Story City played a key role in the Woodland Farms family business.



Wayne and Connie Wahler graciously shared their early 1920s barn with over 300 guests from nine different states.



Kate Feil, Director of the Museums of Story City, shares the barn display inside the Carriage House Museum.



Al Hermanson and Mrs. Phil Hermanson grilled up a delicious turkey lunch provided by Woodland Farms.

A Success!

Our spring tour features a number of barns in one area of the state, which gives us the opportunity to partner with local museums that have a common connection to Iowa agriculture heritage. The Museums of Story City served as our 2022 tour lunch host, and the Bartlett House and Carriage House Museums were included as tour stops highlighting local history. We would like to give a special thanks to Kate Feil, director of the Museums of Story City, for all of her assistance.

Woodland Farms, a sixth-generation family farm in Story City, provided the turkey lunch on Sunday graciously donating all of the lunch proceeds to the Iowa Barn Foundation. Several members of the Hermanson family were on hand preparing and serving the grilled turkey lunch.

If you are interested in hosting a future spring barn tour in your area, please email us at iowabarnfoundation@gmail.com.



Jenna (Hermanson) Royer serves up the turkey lunch to tour guests.



Iowa Barn Foundation Board Vice-President Roxanne Mehlich welcomed guests as they checked in for lunch. She also coordinated tour logistics and made sure all barn stops were clearly marked with IBF signs.



— BY DANIEL LUNDY —

Putting up the hay crop, circa 1960.

WHY I SAVED OUR BARN

If barns could
speak, they would
tell a powerful story.

A story of the remarkable feat of design, engineering and construction well ahead of its time. A story of challenging yet rewarding farm work, of economic successes and failures, of generations of farm families living, working and fulfilling their dreams in the early days of U.S. food production.

The centerpiece of farmsteads 100 years ago, barns were a majestic symbol of the rural skyline. They were a hub of the animal and crop production activities of the day. Dairy cows, beef cattle, work horses, hogs and chickens have all been residents of the barn at Lincoln Heights Farms, northwest of Zearing, Iowa. Crops of hay and oat straw were put up in the barn each summer, as neighbors would come together to help

each other in this time sensitive and labor intensive endeavor.

To the best of our knowledge, the Lincoln Heights barn was built between 1890 and 1900. It is a monitor style building, utilizing wooden peg construction, large support timbers, stone/mortar foundation and wood shake shingles. The large barn door facing the north accommodates the rope and pulley trolley system to lift a fork load of 10-12 hay bales at a time. Horses would have originally powered the lifting of the hay, later replaced by tractor power. One of my earliest jobs as a young boy was to slowly back the tractor to raise the hay to the top of the big door, and then carefully watch and listen as the trolley/hayfork would make



Barn at Lincoln Heights Farms after 2020 restoration.

its way to the desired drop area. The hay-mow crew would yell down to the man on the hayrack to trip the rope to release the bales to free fall, making a thunderous sound as they landed below.

My grandfather, Thomas Lundy, purchased the property in 1944. He named the farm Lincoln Heights, due to the farm being located at a relatively high elevation in Lincoln Township in Northeast Story County. My parents, Paul and Donna Lundy, moved into the old Victorian style farmhouse in 1951 where they lived, farmed and raised their family.

To save the barn was never in question. The historical significance, family farming legacy, and the awe and beauty of the structure all were compelling reasons to preserve this piece of Iowa history. To an even greater degree, I consider saving the barn a tribute to my father and grandfather, who in their lifetimes invested countless hours maintaining the building in good working condition.

What undoubtedly were the most critical barn saving improvements were the addition of a metal roof over the original wood shake shingles in the 1980's, and replacement of the original stone and mortar foundation with clay block in the late 1940's.

The recent 2020 restoration project included replacement of wood siding as needed, replacement of all windows, repair/replacement of door hardware, exterior painting, internal structural bracing, electrical upgrades, lighting and a new concrete floor.

Ironically, the day the painting was scheduled to begin was August 10, the day of the devastating derecho. The crew had begun assembling the scaffolding in the morning, but as midday approached the skies darkened, and we heard reports of a major windstorm barreling through Iowa. Equipment was quickly loaded up and everyone headed for safety. The derecho did major damage to the farm,

including the destruction of grain bins, major damage to the house and out-buildings, and loss of 23 trees. And the fate of the 100+ year old barn? It stood like a soldier, with only minor damage to the metal roof from flying debris. It is clearly a testament to its superior construction all those years ago.

Lincoln Heights Farms is an active grain producer, but we haven't raised livestock for years. The cattle shed portion of the barn is currently used for equipment storage. The milking parlor and creamery holds tools, equipment and memorabilia of days gone by. The barn's tall, large center section has been repurposed as a basketball and pickle ball court for the fourth and fifth generations of the Lundy family to enjoy.

In closing, the preservation of such a historical gem is really satisfying beyond words. Honoring the past, enjoying the present, and looking forward to the future, the barn brings pride to all who pass through its doors. Anyone who has the privilege of owning their own vintage barn should strongly consider doing all they can to help that barn tell its own unique story for generations to come.

Editors Note – The Lundy barn is a recipient of the Iowa Barn Foundation Award of Distinction and is eligible to join our all-state barn tour each September.



Approximately 4,500 square hay bales could be stored in this area when stacked to the roof, with additional storage for straw bedding located on the upper level.



Former milking parlor now houses work bench and vintage tools



The framing and wooden pegged mortise and tenon joints come together like a work of art.

THE MORRIS PARK BARN & FARM HERITAGE MUSEUM



The Morris cabin was rebuilt in 1938 by the family as the first step in establishing the park.



The original Morris barn was also rebuilt early in the establishment of the park. It now houses a blacksmith shop.

Morris Park is a wonderful, whole-family place to enjoy nature, the birth and early years of a farming community, a hundred years and more of farming contraptions, and whatever you want to celebrate in a beautiful woodland setting. It has a long history beginning with a family farm started up in September 1838, the same month that Iowa Territory separated from Wisconsin. Henry and Jane (“Jennie”) Morris had traveled 700 miles on horseback from Kentucky in June with eight children, including a babe in arms. After a brief stopover in Lee County, they arrived in Cedar Township of Van Buren County and settled into a rented log cabin 16 feet square north of where Spencer Cemetery is now located. The crowd soon grew to include their eldest daughter and her husband and child. As one of the sons wrote, “there was not a house on this fine prairie,” the log cabin at the edge of the woods being the only fixed residence for miles around. From these beginnings rose one of the most prosperous farming communities in the state.

The Morris's arrival was at the cusp of a population explosion that nearly doubled the county's population in two years, from 3,174 to 6,166. As Van Buren County continued to grow, the Morris's farm grew with it, reaching 350 acres by 1850. By that time the Morrises had built their own cabin north of their original place of settlement. They had 4 horses, 3 milk cows, 6 beef cattle, 20 sheep, and 25 pigs, and were growing wheat, corn, oats, buckwheat, and hay. This was typical of the diversified farming of their day in Iowa. Corn led the way, but all else except hay were also grown for both sustenance and market.

The 1868 schoolhouse sits next to a beautiful pond with a windmill standing nearby.



Morris Park's barn will be headquarters of the 2023 Barn Tour.

Maps of the tour and a limited supply of country maps will be available. Lunch will be available from 11 to 2 on Saturday (purchase in advance - see tour pages for details).

Tours of the barn museum and machinery (various Friends of Morris Park)

Timber Framing and Barn Restoration (restoration specialist Rick Collins)

Timber Framing Demonstration (Nile and Gloria Dielschneider)

Sustainability through Preservation (historic preservation specialist Terry Philips)

Louden Farm Machinery and Equipment (Roger Elliott)

Our Rural Heritage (Joe Mischka, editor of Rural Heritage)

Lessons in a One-room School (retired theatre artist and school teacher Pamela Larson)

Rug Weaving (Gloria Brown)

Spinning and Weaving (fiber artist Leliani McDonald)

Corn Grinding (Christie Daugherty)

Hacklebarnery Horse Rides (Tony Garrett)

Life in 1838 (naturalist Chloe Profit)

Small Animal Demonstration (Tarver Gerig)

The demonstrations and workshops will be presented by a mix of Friends of the Park and experts provided through the Iowa Barn Foundation. All are welcome.

When Henry and Jennie died a few months apart in 1871, their children and grandchildren owned over 1000 acres of farmland in Cedar and Union townships. This continued through the children's generation, but by the late 1930s the Morris clan had largely dispersed. In 1938 two of the youngest grandchildren, John and Arthur, turned 30 acres of the original Morris farm into a park memorializing their family's history on the land, beginning with a rebuilding of the original log cabin and barn. Over the next thirty years the Morris brothers added a mill, two hollow-tile buildings, two machine sheds, a shelter house, and a summer kitchen. They also brought in an 1868 school from neighboring Union Township.

In 1969 the Morris family donated the park to Van Buren County Conservation Board, which has since maintained and upgraded the park to include a caretaker's residence, an expansive new barn to contain the growing collections, playground equipment, and a second shelter house. Among the larger items in the collection are a glass-sided horse-drawn hearse, wooden two-man corn planter, Utica huckster wagon, replica of a McCormick reaper, and a rare hay stacker.

The park hosts a variety of activities throughout the year. School tours arrive in April and May, followed by a busy season for receptions, reunions, and other group gatherings. The Friends of Morris Park provide guided tours for visiting families. A naturalist is often on hand for guided nature walks on the grounds and the woodland trail. An addition of 30 acres provides land for camping and a woodland trail widened and graded for handicap accessibility. Fifteen camping spaces offer both primitive and modern amenities, including a second shower house that just went up this spring. There is also good fishing on a one-acre pond stocked with bass and bluegills, with the old schoolhouse perched above the northern shore.

The Van Buren County Conservation Board continues to manage and operate the park as a place to renew and relax. The atmosphere of the land around the museum buildings typifies the peaceful fields and woodlands that greeted Iowa's earliest pioneers.



Pictured far left: This steam tractor is one of many unique pieces in the extensive agriculture implement collection.

Pictured left: The museum has a beautiful collection of early farm implements.

THE CREATION AND PRESERVATION OF THE **MORRIS-CLARK BARN**

— ARTICLE BY PAUL CLIFFORD LARSON —

In Dedication to Tony Clark

Morris-Clark Farms LLC lost a beloved brother and barn lover last fall. Tony took great pride in our barn, and he dedicated many man hours to its preservation. It is an honor to share the barn with others in his memory.

— Dena, Tammy, and Madge Clark



In a county distinguished for its many bank barns, the Morris-Clark barn is one of the finest and best-preserved examples. Through four generations of ownership, it has stood up to high winds, the inevitable wear of just being there, and rapidly evolving farming practices.



A view of the front of the barn from the 1920s.

The land on which it stands was first tilled by Iowa pioneer Jesse Hughes (1809-1888), who began assembling a large farmstead when the state was still a territory. Most of it was woodland, which he was still converting to agricultural use when he died without a will in 1888. The farm was broken up into multiple parcels, leaving it to Schuyler Morris (1868-1956) to put Humpty-Dumpty—or at least 90 of his best acres—back together again between 1899 and 1903.

A grandson of Van Buren County pioneers Henry and Jane Morris, Schuyler married Isabella Spencer (1870-1952) of

Cedar Township in 1892. By 1900, the two of them had a single child, Birdie, and Schuyler had begun farming in neighboring Union Township, where Schuyler assembled his farm. By 1906, they had moved the center of the old Hughes farmstead to the south side of the road and built a house and barn. A second barn went up in 1912. For reasons unknown, in 1916 the first barn was replaced on its foundation with the landmark structure we admire today. The most prominent survivors of the early barn are a pair of massive octagonal posts in the basement.

Bank barns like Morris's utilize a sloping terrain to allow animals entry into the basement from the rear, with a ramp leading up to the threshing floor at the front. Morris's barn is of the English type, with animals admitted through doorways in the stone basement rather than between column in an open forebay. Early animal stalls illuminated by square windows remain today, as do stanchions, mangers, grain bins, and much of the the barn fittings installed during the Morris's tenure.

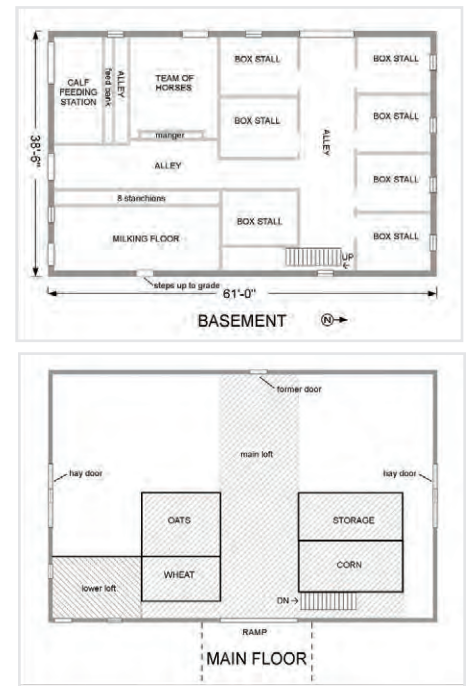
Aside from these remarkably intact survivors, the most noteworthy feature of the barn is the structure of the third floor, where the hay was stored. Instead of relying on a system of heavy braces branching out from the beams supporting the loft floor, the roof is supported by upright posts rising to a second beam. Equally unusual is a loft space restricted to a T-shape, creating open vertical spaces from threshing floor to roof for more than half of the loft level. Another distinctive feature is a small second loft several feet lower than the main. The functional reason for the reduced-area split-level loft is not known.

In the first two decades on his farm, Morris made a name for himself with prize-winning Percheron horses. But in the 1930s, with the Great Depression in full swing, he switched to dairy cattle and hogs, erecting a tile milking house in 1935. The barn was reoutfitted with numerous Loudon iron fittings. Loudon Machinery

Company in Fairfield was a nationwide leader in barn and farming equipage, with a line that ran from hay rakes to automatic watering bowls, steel cupolas, and full plans for barns. Morris retained his barn's very old-fashioned wood cupolas, but he had already installed Loudon's system of transporting hay in the loft with a trolley running on a monorail. With his expanded dairy operation Morris added other Loudon products, such as 21 cattle stanchions and a system of vertical rails and weighted ropes that served to lower the hay doors, an innovation on the usual use of hinges. The hay door and hay track rails are still in place, as are 8 of the stanchions.

On his death in 1956, Morris's farm and its three decades of buildings passed to his daughter Birdie. She had married Milo Clark, and that initiated three generations of Clark ownership, creating a new name for their landmark structure: the Morris-Clark barn. The barn has had its usual share of aches and pains through the years: a hay door blown off twice, a cupola blown down, a snapped hay-chute beam, broken sills from overloaded grain, rotted exterior stairs, a stolen weather vane, a deteriorated horse stall floor, worn-out roofing, and of course, the endless cycle of repainting.

Through it all the Clarks have proven to be outstanding stewards of the barn, repairing or matching original elements as required and removing nothing that was key to its historic character. Each generation of



Basement and main floors

Clarks has handled adversities as they arose, preventing damage from spreading to other areas of the barn. Currently the barn and its farmstead are the flagship of Morris-Clark Farms, Inc. Thanks to a multiple-generational commitment to its preservation, the barn looks today like that mythical old personage with smooth skin and an upright bearing who will survive us all.

In recognition of the tremendous care and preservation efforts of the family, the barn is a 2023 recipient of the Iowa Barn Foundation Award of Distinction.



The barn has six spacious box stalls that were built to house Percheron horses.



The barn had capacity for 8 milking cows.



Detailed view of framing showing mortise and tenon joints.



The box stalls feature a unique rotating feeding tray.



Wide view of the unique framing used in the barn's construction.



Rear view of the barn showing the more recently installed windmill.



2023 SPRING BARN TOUR

Touring the Barns of Van Buren County

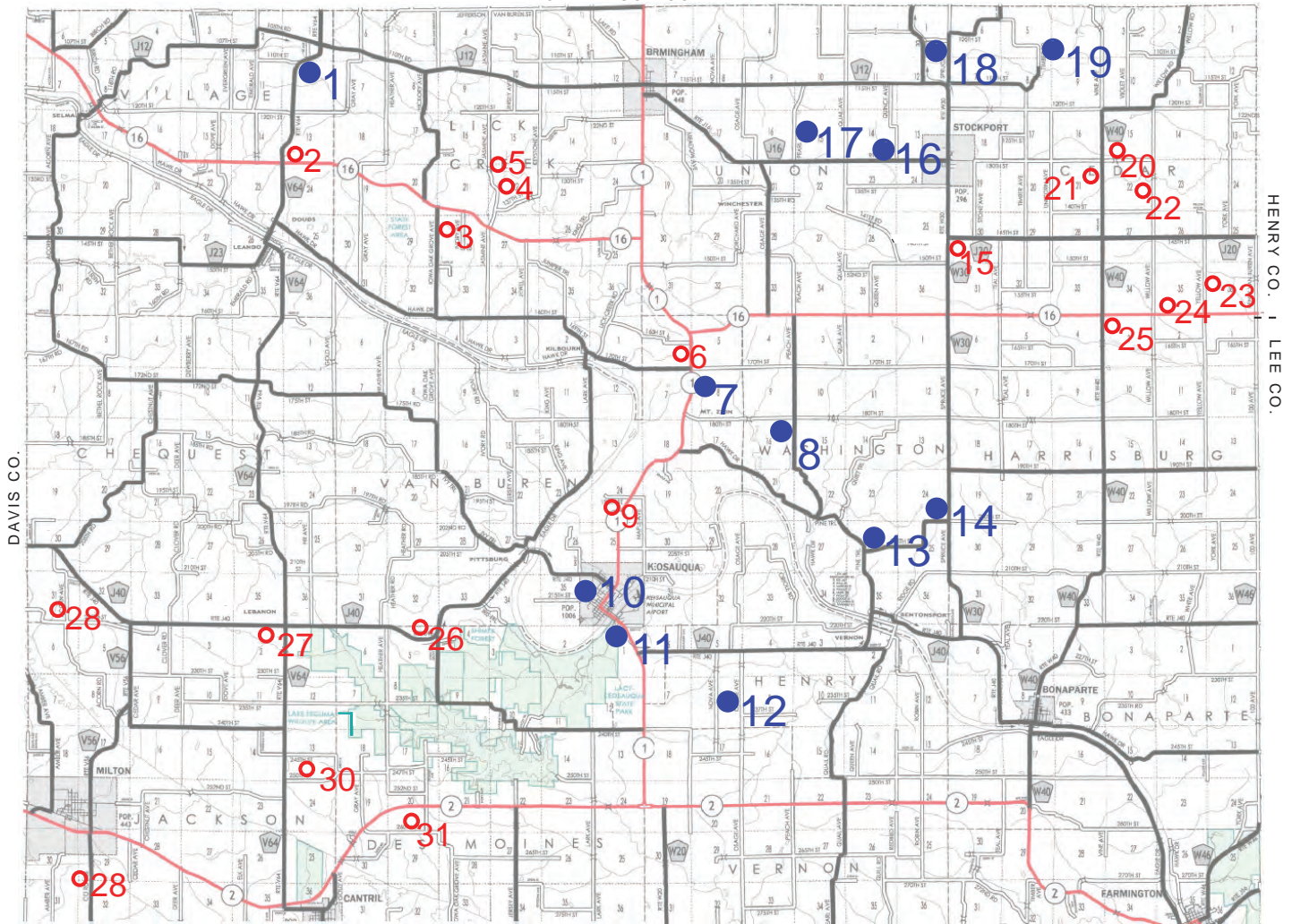
On June 24-25, a tour of Van Buren County will take participants into some of southeast Iowa's finest surviving wood barns. The county has a trove of classic barns, spanning 180 years of Iowa history. Many have fallen prey to weather, gravity, and changing farming practices, but painstaking preservation and restoration have saved some of the best for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

The headquarters of the tour will be Morris Park, the site of an extensive agricultural museum. Morris Park's programs are detailed in a separate article. The park and 12 barns are part of the official tour and will be open for visitors from 9 to 5 (except where noted), with an interpreter, generally the farmer himself, on site. These barns are indicated in bold face below.

Other barns of special interest for windshield view are also listed in the "drive-by barns" section. Some are along the way of the main barn tour, and others are in a scattered cluster near tour headquarters in Morris Park. For the ambitious driver, a handful of the county's most remarkable barns, located in the southwest part of the country and out of the way of the main tour, are also highlighted. A more comprehensive self-guided tour can be found in the brochure *The Barns of Van Buren County*, available on-line on the Iowa Barn Foundation website. An earlier edition is available in hard copy at the Cramlet Barn and in Morris Park during the tour.

The tour map includes both the official spring tour barns and the supplemental windshield tour drive-by barns.

Special thanks to Paul Clifford Larson for organizing the tour and gathering all the barn history.



Solid blue dots indicate barns open for viewing. Hollow red hollow dots indicate drive-bys of special interest.



**1 • Frank and Katie Cramlet Barn,
11256 V64, 3 miles north of Douds**

One of the rare round barns designed and built by Loudon Machinery Company of Fairfield, a manufacturer with a nationwide market in farm machinery and equipment. Constructed in 1921, it has lost its tall cupola but has otherwise been meticulously restored. Initially lauded by schools of agriculture for their efficiency, round barns enjoyed a decade of popularity before difficulties and expenses in construction brought the fashion to an end. Close by the barn are two buildings that preceded it: a large farmhouse built in 1915, and a poultry house of 1918.



**7 • Charles and Bess Bogle Barn,
17248 Hwy 1, 5 miles north of
Keosauqua (OPEN SUNDAY ONLY)**

A turn-of-the-century bank barn which was recently moved to a new foundation, restored, and returned to its original red color. In typical English bank barn fashion, the animals entered through doorways in the rear basement, with grain stored on either side of the threshing floor above. In lieu of a cupola, the threshing floor and hay loft both vent through louvered windows at the ends. The associated house dates from the same period. Open on Sunday only.



**8 • Barker Barns, Peach Ave. at 170th
St, 1 mile north of 17388 Peach, 5
miles northeast of Keosauqua
(UPDATE - DRIVE-BY ONLY)**

A pair of English barns built by father and son in 1860 and 1870. Both barns have their peculiarities, the older for a massive central silo, the newer for a basement partially open to the rear, edging it toward the Pennsylvania type. The skewed relationship between the barns is also unusual, though it contributes to the picturesqueness of the site. By 1900, the Barker clan held almost 1500 acres of farmland in the north-west corner of Washington Township. The farmhouse once stood to the west on 170th.



10 • Marshall and Mary Myers Barn, 807 Country Lane Road, Keosauqua

A magnificently sited bank barn at the northern edge of town. Built in the 1880s, it is said to have functioned as a stagecoach stop for a time, with travelers put up on the main floor. The interior has been altered by successive owners, with milled lumber adjoined to the old hewn timbers. Once associated with other farm buildings, it is now a solitary sentinel of the former farmyard.



11 • Rigsby Hill Barn, 22053 Hwy. 1, immediately south of Keosauqua (SATURDAY ONLY)

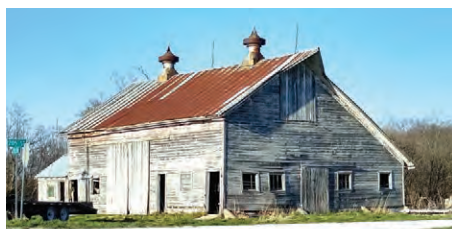
Built by the Walker brothers around 1870, but now more familiarly known as the Parsons barn for the three generations of Parsons that ensued. It is a classic Pennsylvania barn, with an open forebay for sheltering animals. Because the forebay extends the building to the rear, the barn also has the form of a saltbox. It recently underwent a meticulous scraping and repainting of its exterior.



12 • Henry and Elizabeth Grages Barn, 23535 Osage Ave., 4 miles southwest of Keosauqua

An 1870s Pennsylvania bank barn with a basement open from the rear

for sheltering animals. Henry was a German immigrant and Civil War veteran, marrying and bringing his wife to Iowa in the early 1870s to raise corn, cattle, sheep, and 10 children. Still in use for sheltering a cow and a horse, the barn will undergo restoration this summer.



13 • A. J. Zook & Yoder Barns 26318 and 26417 205th St. at Pine Trail, 1½ miles north of Bentonsport

An eye-catching pairing of an eclectic World War I-era barn with a spacious new barn across the road, showing that the gambrel-roof form is still very much alive. The old barn needs care but retains its picturesque profile and composition. It is particularly noteworthy for combining pegged timbers with a poured concrete foundation, suggesting that it may have been moved onto its present site. The new barn has been beautifully outfitted for housing Percheron horses and the family's wagons and buggies.



14 • Henry and Millie Westergreen Barn, 19871 W30 (Spruce Ave.) at 200th St., 3 miles northeast of Bentonsport

A large gambrel cattle barn built during World War I at the southeast corner of what was then a 600-acre farm. The loft floor has been removed and the wagon entry greatly enlarged to allow the conversion to farm machinery storage. Framed in an unusually intricate manner to hold together the wide spread of the gable, it retains its hay track just under the ridge. At 60' x 80', it is one of the largest barns in the county.



16 • Elm Cove (James and Anna Clark) Barn, 26581 J16, 1 mile west of Stockport

A well-appointed and well-kept gambrel bank barn variously dated to 1903 and ca. 1914. Hand-hewn timbers and the use of square nails point to the earlier date for at least some of its materials, but it also incorporates milled lumber and horizontal siding rather than the conventional board-and-batten. It has many unusual features, including stall bars made of ax handles and stairways running from the basement to the loft. It housed dairy cattle, hogs, and horses.



17 • Warren Brown Barn, 12698 Pearl Ave., 3 miles southwest of Birmingham

(Open Saturday Only)

A small but elegant round barn built of hollow tile manufactured in nearby Stockport. Used as a milking barn, the cattle stood in stalls around the perimeter, with the hay loft above accessed via a drop-down ladder. Warren and his brother Clarence built nearly identical barns 3 miles apart in 1918 and 1921, respectively, at the height of the round barn fashion. Clarence's barn is no longer standing.



18 • Schuyler and Isabella Morris (Morris-Clark Barn), 27882 107th St, 2 miles north of Stockport

A fine English bank barn built in 1916, unusual for canted cupolas and interior vertical supports that run to the roof, eliminating the need for large struts. It is also known as the Morris-Clark barn because of three generations of Clark ownership and preservation. Animal stalls and stanchions and grain bins are still in place. Originally built to house Percheron horses, it converted to a cattle barn in the 1930s. The “new” hollow tile milk house close by went up in 1935.



19 • Morris Park Farm Museum, 10938 Timber Rd., 3 miles north-east of Stockport

A museum complex begun in 1938 by two grandchildren of the farmers who first settled there a century before. It has a replica of Henry and Jane Morris’s log cabin and early barn and numerous other buildings, centering on a vast old-style monitor barn built in 1980 and housing an extensive collection of early farm machinery as well as other historical artifacts.



The Friends of Morris Park will be hosting a lunch to fund Morris Park projects on Saturday from 11-2 and advanced reservations are recommended. Purchases made at the event will be cash only. The lunch will include a Maid-Rite sandwich, chips, side dish, dessert, and drink. Please send a donation of \$12 per person with checks made out to “Friends of Morris Park” to the following address by June 15: Dorothy Gilbert, 23916 Rte J 16, Stockport, IA 52651. Purchases can also be made online at iowabarnfoundation.org/product/2023-spring-lunch



Spectacular view looking up into the roof of the Cramlet Round Barn. The original domed roof collapsed about 1970 and was replaced with the current cone roof.”

Windshield Tour

For the enthusiastic and ambitious, you can drive by these additional barns which are not open for touring



2 ◦ Howard L. Ratcliff Barn, 15141 Hwy. 16, 1 mile north of Douds

Ratcliffe operated two coal mines on his property before putting up his ca. 1920 horse barn.



3 ◦ Paul Stewart Barn, 14190 Iowa Oak Grove Ave. just south of Hwy. 16

A picture-perfect ca. 1910 western barn, remarkable for its square footprint and perfect symmetry.



4 ◦ Boyd-Swartz Barn, 13592 Jasmine Ave., 1/2 mile north of Hwy. 16

A rare gable-front barn, the best preserved of a remarkable cluster of pre-World War I barns, sheds, and granary.



5 ◦ Louis C. Elerick Barn, 13326 Jasmine Ave., 3/4 mile north of Hwy 16

A massive 1870s bank barn built on a rubble foundation and paired with a 1940s granary.



6 ◦ William Barker Barn foundation, 16677 Hwy 1, 6 miles north of Keosauqua

Only the foundation remains of a former landmark 4-story stock barn built in 1886. The associated brick Italianate house went up a decade earlier.



9 ◦ Edwin Manning Barn, 20007 Hwy 1, 1 mile north of Keosauqua

Built in 1901, the year of Manning's death, the barn and its associated square corn crib were among the last things Manning built on his vast agricultural holdings.



15 ◦ Earle Niederhuth Farm Buildings, W30 (Spruce Ave.) & 145th St., 1 mile south of Stockport

This remarkable complex grew up just after World War II, with a 1947 house, a 1949 barn, a 1960 gambrel-roofed machine shed, and a 1964 quonset utility building.



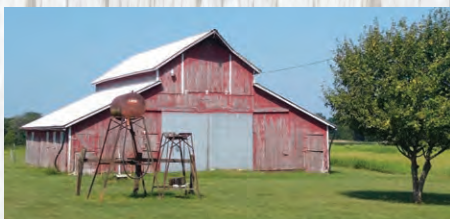
20 ◦ Tapley Taylor Barn, 31295 130th St., 3 miles east of Stockport

A ca. 1895 barn, one of two surviving barns on Taylor's Rock Creek Stock Farm. There was a small fairgrounds in between, which Taylor likely used as a showplace for his animals.



21 ◦ Andrew Jacobs Barn, 13077 W40 (Vine Ave.), 3 miles east of Stockport.

A classic English bank barn from the 1890s with its ramp and attached milk house still in place.



22 ° Harold Johnson Barn, 13641 Willow Ave., 4 miles east of Stockport

A 1918 monitor barn with high wings, one originally housing animals, the other farm equipment.



23 ° George Newbold Barn, 15712 Yellow Ave., 7 miles southeast of Stockport

A well-preserved front-gabled barn of 1911, not a common barn type in the county.



24 ° William Watson Barn, 32281 Hwy. 16, 6 miles southeast of Stockport

An interesting pairing of an 1891 saltbox barn with a 1965 quonset.



25 ° Samuel Sprott Barn, 16040 W40 (Vine St.) at Hwy 16, 5 miles southeast of Stockport

A ca. 1894 barn with split levels and tree trunks for main posts



26 ° Riley Thomas Barn, 17727 J40, 6 miles west of Keosauqua

A small gambrel barn dating to 1924, with dormers added during a thorough rehabilitation in 2016.



27 ° John Fisher Barn, 14682 J40, 9 miles west of Keosauqua

One of three barns built by the Fisher brothers, who used bolts instead of pegs or nails.



28 ° Maguire/Klodt Barn, 21483 Acorn Av, 5 miles north of Milton

An 1895 gambrel barn moved in from Jefferson County and magnificently restored in 2002.



29 ° Arlie Wilson Barn, 26947 V56, 1 mile south of Milton

The largest classic gambrel dairy barn in the county, built in the 1920s and finely detailed.



30 ° William McBride Barn, 15785 250th St., 3 miles north of Cantril

The oldest surviving Pennsylvania barn in the county, as stately as it is well-preserved.



31 ° Wickfield Pavilion, 17451 260th St., 3 miles northeast of Cantril

Once one of the county's great showpieces. Its surrounding farm boasted the largest Hampshire hog production in the world.



THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE
Daughters of the American Revolution

Historic Preservation Committee

*Certificate of Award
presented to*

*The Iowa Barn
Foundation*

for

Excellence in Historic Preservation

September 25, 2021
Date

Krista Young VanBuren
President General
NSDAR

Andie Rogers Miller
National Chair
Historic Preservation Committee

Dorinda J. Madigan
Chapter Regent / State Regent

In 2021, the Iowa Barn Foundation proudly accepted the Historic Preservation Award from the Daughters of the American Revolution. The award honors an individual or group that has done recent remarkable volunteer work at the community level. The award recognizes achievements in all areas of historic preservation: buildings, landmarks, monuments, cemeteries, historic districts, statues, museum collections, manuscripts, documents, and archival materials.

Save the Date
23rd Annual All-State Barn Tour
September 16 & 17

BARN
ALL-STATE
2023
TOUR

The all-state tour highlights barns that have received matching grants from the Iowa Barn Foundation for their restoration and those that have received an Award of Distinction for restoration by the owner.

The self-guided tour is free and open to the public and makes for a great multi-generation family weekend adventure. Participants have the unique opportunity to experience and appreciate Iowa's agriculture heritage as they walk through these majestic barns.

IOWA BARN FOUNDATION



LIFETIME CONTRIBUTORS (From 1997-2022)

Greater than \$1,000,000

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