

Barns of Van Buren County



**Four self-guided auto tours
through the scenic highways
and byways of southeastern Iowa**

2nd edition

Farming is a very different operation today from what it was when our classic barns were being built. New developments in feeding and sheltering animals and raising, harvesting and storing grain have spurred new ways of building. This has pushed many of our most familiar and best-loved farm buildings toward obsolescence and turned rural landmarks into relics.

Yet much remains of the beauty and craftsmanship of classic barns and the trove of historic information that they encapsulate and preserve. When farm owners rise to the challenge of preserving their legacy buildings, we and our children owe them our deepest appreciation and gratitude. May this guide lead all who use it to a deeper knowledge and understanding of our enduring agricultural heritage!

Table of Contents

Glossary	1
Types of Barns	2
General Map and Guide	4
Northwest Tour	6
Southwest Tour	12
Northeast Tour	18
Southeast Tour	24
Additional Barns	30
Notes and Credits	32

This brochure is produced by the Van Buren County Historic Preservation Commission with the generous assistance of Van Buren County, the Van Buren Foundation and our advertizers. The HPC alone is responsible for its content, This is a selection and does not embrace all of the noteworthy older barns in the county.

Paved roads are clearly indicated on the maps. Please drive with particular caution on gravel roads. View with courtesy as well. Driveways and land associated with the barns are private property and should not be entered without owner consent.

2nd edition

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Glossary of Barn Terms

arched roof

An evolution of the gambrel into a round or gothic arch. Often requiring laminated beams or metal ribs, few were built in Van Buren County until the rise of large-scale metal buildings after World War II.

bank barn

A barn with a raised basement, allowing entry to the threshing floor at the front and to animal stalls in the basement at the rear.

board & batten

The standard wall sheathing of classic barns, consisting of wide vertical boards with their seams covered by narrow strips of wood moulding.

cupola

A small roof structure, commonly at the center of the ridge. Originally of wood and an integral part of the ventilation system; later, of metal, sometimes serving a more decorative than functional purpose.

forebay

The open, full-width, porch-like exposure of the basement floor at the rear of Pennsylvania barns.

gambrel

A kind of roof gable with two slopes on each side, expanding the second level interior for hay storage. The roof rafters are braced to each other, allowing the use of lighter framing materials.

hay hood

An extension of the roof to form a canopy above the hay window. It often secured a pulley or the end of a trolley rail for transporting hay into the loft.

loafing shed

A small structure often attached to the side or rear of the barn, initially used to shelter animals but later frequently used for machinery storage.

raised foundation

A foundation extending upward to expose a full story at the rear of the barn; a universal feature of bank and ramp barns of all types.

ramp barn

A variation of the bank barn, built on level ground but with an earthen or wooden ramp leading up to the raised threshing floor. Like the bank barn, its basement story is fully exposed at the rear.

wagon entry

A broad entry that closes with a sliding door. The open space behind it has evolved from threshing floor to tractor or machinery storage.

Classic

English Barn



An abundant gable-roofed type with an ancient lineage. The wagon door is on an eave side, commonly at the center. Often has projecting sheds.

Bank Barn



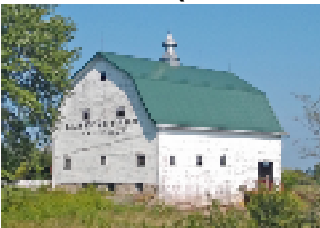
A raised barn of any type, on a slope with the basement opening to the rear; distinctive of Van Buren County. The **ramp barn** is a variation on a level grade.

Gable-front Barn



Like the English barn, but with the wagon door at the gable end. More common for small barns, it often expanded at the sides to form a western barn.

Gambrel (or Gambrel-roof) Barn



The quintessential dairy barn, with bent roof slopes, square animal stall windows, and a large hay loft. The wagon entry can be on either an eave or gable side or both.

Pennsylvania Barn



A picturesque bank barn with a basement open to the rear (the forebay). Ours are considerably smaller than their celebrated Pennsylvania models.

Barn Types

Western Barn



A broad, gable-front barn, its roof slopes extending over low wings. This creates additional rooms for animal stalls and/or machinery.

Saltbox Barn



A gabled barn with a long and a short slope. Placement of windows and wagon and animal doors is often idiosyncratic to suit specific uses.

Monitor Barn



Resembling a western barn but with the center component raised, generally to accommodate windows at either side. Often a large barn.

Prairie Barn



Not a true barn type but a catch-all for eclectic barns with a large hay door and assorted doors and windows placed to suit the owner.

Round Barn

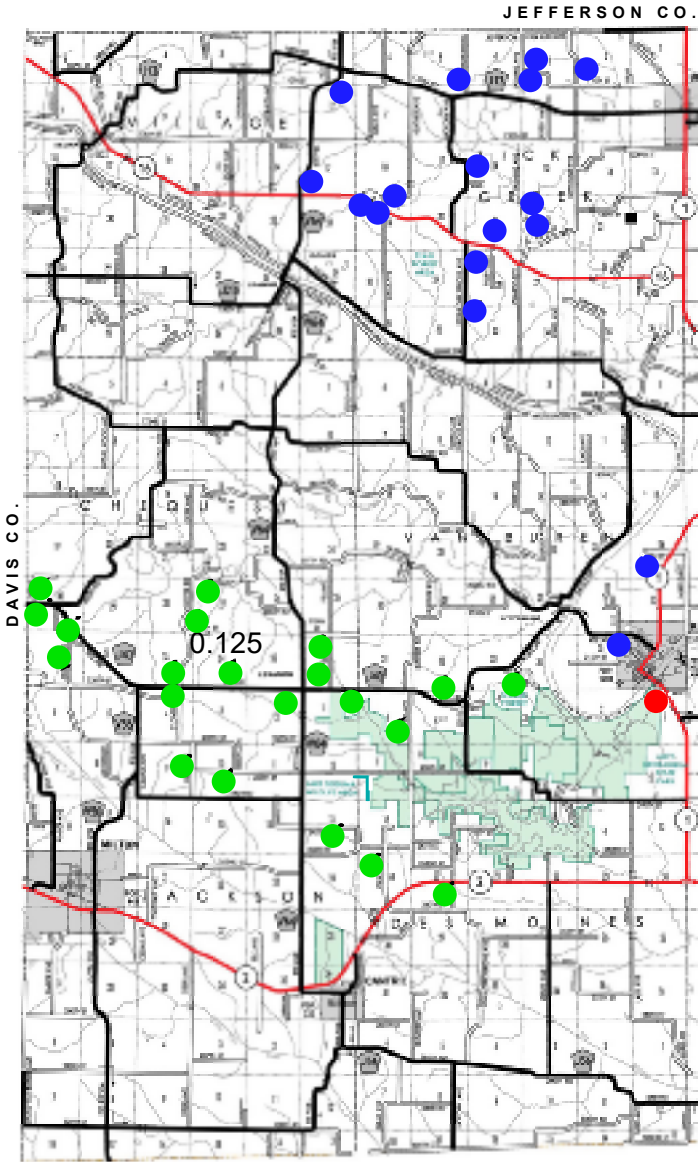


Popular in the early 20th century for its purported economy and efficiency. The challenge of building and maintaining it led to its decline by 1930.

Each tour takes you through a quadrant of Van Buren County past 18-21 barns of particular interest. The order and inclusiveness of the tours can be altered to suit your mood and time frame. Many of the barns are easily visible from paved roads, but some of the best require a cautious foray down gravel county roads.

● barns on NW tour

● barns on SW tour

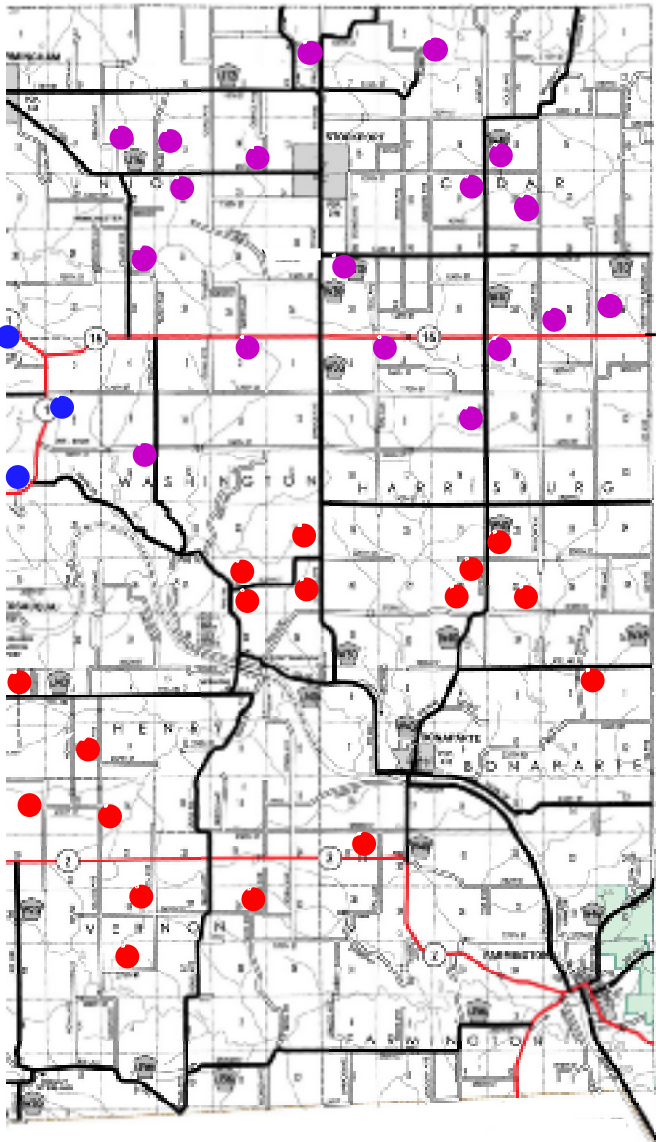


scale in miles

Observe the farmsteads associated with the barns. A number of them include outbuildings and a house as full of history as the featured barn. Along the way you will also see numerous barns that are nearing the end of their life but retaining enough form to hint at the beautiful structures they once were.

● barns on NE tour

● barns on SE tour



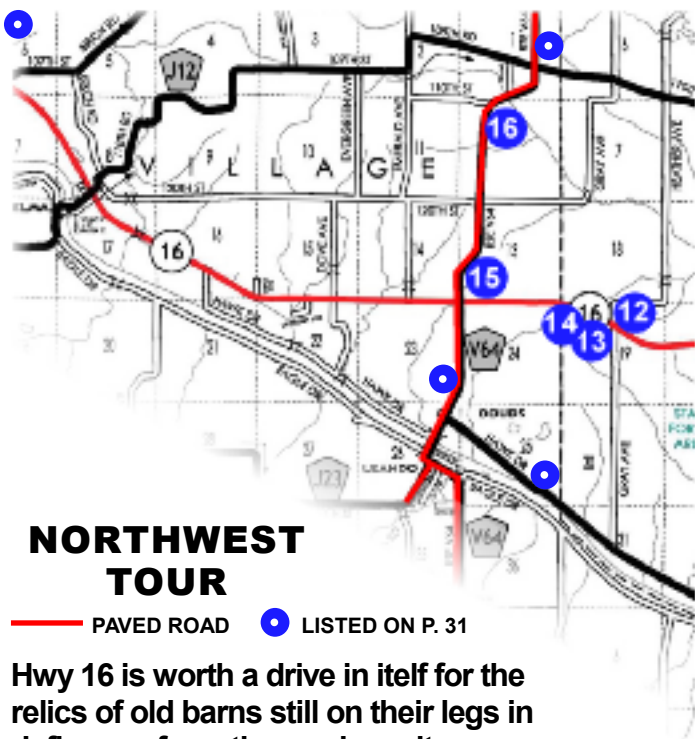
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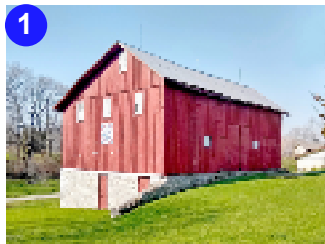
10



NORTHWEST TOUR

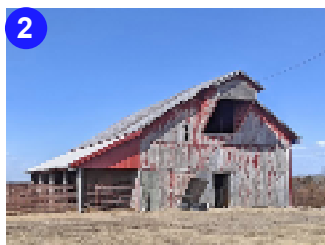
— PAVED ROAD ● LISTED ON P. 31

Hwy 16 is worth a drive in itself for the relics of old barns still on their legs in defiance of weather and gravity.



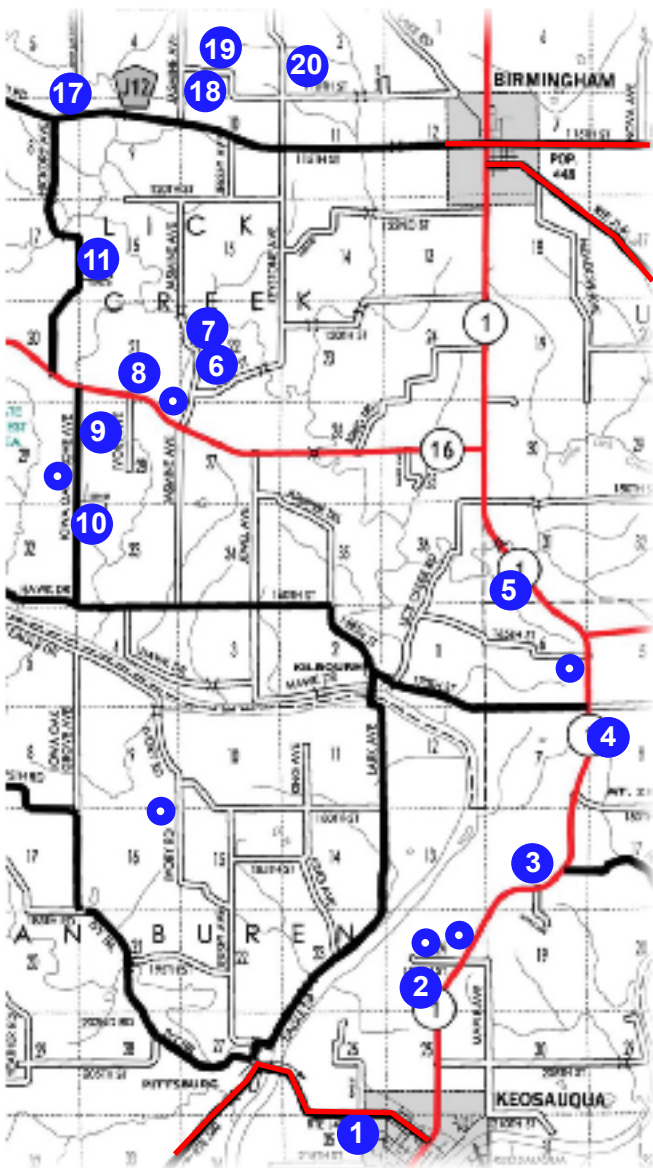
1 Marshall Myers Barn
807 Country Road
1880s
48' x 32'
Owner: Jack &
Laurie Dorothy
Life Estate

A picturesque English bank barn with the traditional three stories for livestock pens, multiple small grain bins, and a hay loft. The farmstead also served as a stagecoach stop.



2 Stanley Manning Barn
20007 Hwy. 1
1901
52' x 52'
Owners: Lucas and
Cody Goehring

A gable-front barn built on one parcel of the 7000 acres accumulated by Stanley's father, pioneering entrepreneur Edwin Manning. In front of it is an unusual 24' square corn crib of uncertain date.



3

Chester Barker Barn
 18813 Hwy. 1
 1943
 40' x 40'
 Owners: Gary &
 Mary Jo Debner



A gambrel-front barn with small upper windows providing limited light and ventilation to the hay mow. The loafing sheds spanning one side and the back were added in the 1980s.



Charles Bogle Barn
17248 Hwy. 1
ca. 1898
48' x 38'
Owners: Michelle &
Jerald Starks

An English bank barn recently moved forward onto a new foundation. One of three barns built by William Barker for his daughters, it vents through louvred windows in lieu of a cupola.



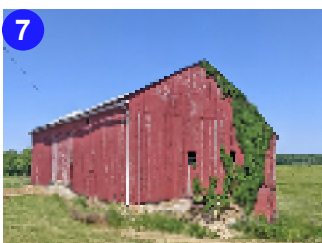
**William & Adeline
Etko Barn**
15923 Hwy. 1
1896
43' x 34'
Owner: Myron L.
Williams

A classic English Barn erected a few years after the Etko marriage. As it remained in her hands, it must have been built from an inheritance or her dowry.



Boyd-Swartz Barn
13592 Jasmine Ave.
1905
28' x 32'
Owner: Martha Mae
Goemaat et al

A small gable-front barn, part of a turn-of-the-century cluster of farm buildings begun by Stephen Boyd and added to by his successor, Sam Swartz. A 1915 granary stands behind the barn.



Louis C. Elerick Barn
ca. 1880s
13326 Jasmine Ave.
60' x 40'
Owner: Pedrick Farms,
Inc.

A venerable, nearly windowless English bank barn, with massive, hewn 12 x 12 main timbers of mixed oak and walnut. Animals occupied both floors, with a low loft and a granary nearby.

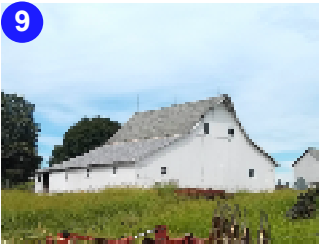
8



**Earle & Verle Baker
Barn**
18577 Hwy. 16
1952
40' x 74'
Owner: Philip Lee
Goemaat et al

A hybrid English/western barn showing the varied window and door placement and size that typify modern adaptations of classic types. A long machine shed attaches to one side.

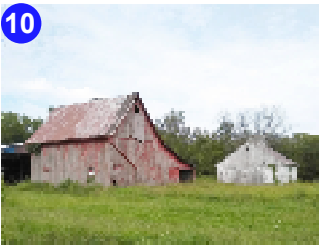
9



Paul Stewart Barn
14190 Iowa Oak Grove
ca. 1910
48' x 49'
Owners: Robert &
Diana Goemaat

A grand western barn that arose 40 years after Paul and Ruhama Stewart established their farm. It is notable for its nearly square footprint and the strict symmetry of its design.

10



Wilson Reneker Barn
15141 Oak Grove
ca. 1908
30' x 48'
Owner: Arthur
Andrew Davis

A saltbox picturesquely paired with a 1962 granary that looks as old as the barn. They are bookended by modern buildings: a long, metal-sided machine shed and an earthhome.

11



Ronald Benge Barn
18033 127th
1938
30' x 46'
Owner: Ronald L.
Benge Revoc. Trust

A late Depression-era English saltbox barn with a sliding door track that runs the length of the main gable on both sides. It retains its original doors, windows, and siding.

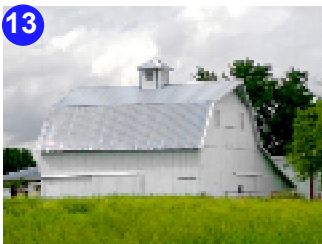
12



David S. Hill Barn
16847 Hwy. 16
1913
48' x 48'
Owners: Trenton &
Danelle Dvorak

A square western barn with hay window and wagon door facing the fields. The steel cupola, board-and-batten siding, and square windows for animals stalls are all original.

13



Lawrence Bennett
Barn
16468 Hwy. 16
ca. 1912
40' x 48'
Owner: Dwain
Greenfield

A gambrel feed and livestock barn. Wagon doors are on both the front and one side, and an expansive, low-roofed loafing shed spreads from the other side.

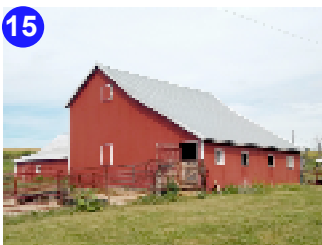
14



Howard Baird Barn
16234 Hwy. 16
ca. 1916
50' x 36'
Owner: Linda
Laughlin

Two small gable-front barns attached together in an L. A residential addition extends to the rear, and a dormer and prominent hay hood give the front a picturesque profile.

15



Roy Ratcliffe Barn
15141 Hwy. 16
ca. 1920
41' x 32'
Owners: Ralph &
Shirley Caves

A picture-perfect saltbox barn, modest in size to suit a 40-acre plot that had a coal mine just west of the barn. Ratcliffe worked the deposit as well as the farm until the coal ran out.

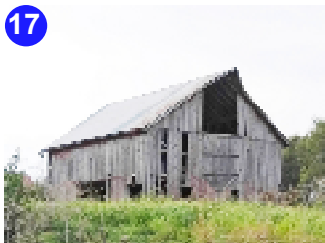
16



Frank Cramlet Barn
11256 V64
1921
ca. 50' diameter
Owner: Carrie
Fessler

A round barn designed by Loudon Machinery Company of Fairfield. An earthen ramp leads to the second of three stories. Horse stalls and cattle stanchions were located in the basement.

17



Reid Bogle Barn
110th Rd east of
Hickory Ave.
1930
30' x 40'
Owner: Wm. & Heidi
Gerrits Revoc. Trust

An English barn dramatically sited atop a ridge. Note the great size of the pentagonal hay door, hinged down to the wall when open but rising to the top of the hay hood when closed.

18



Joseph and John
Woodrow Barn 2
19221 107th St.,
south side
ca. 1917
32' x 44'

19



Joseph and John
Woodrow Barn 1
19221 107th St.,
north side
1899
30' x 56'

20



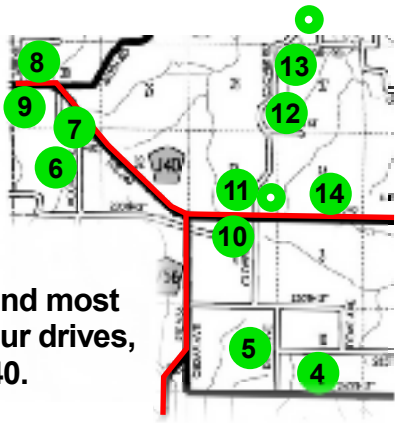
Andrew Woodrow
Barn
Keystone north of
107th St., east side
1878
40' x 48'

Owners: Kathy Woodrow Morris & Ola Woodrow
Three variations of the English barn built over a period of 40 years by Andrew Woodrow and his two sons. Now part of a century farm, they are well worth a short jaunt on a gravel road.

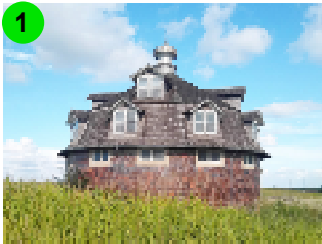
SOUTHWEST TOUR

 PAVED ROAD

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This is the richest and most varied of the barn tour drives, particularly along J40.



Silver Sale Pavilion
aka Wickfield Pavilion
17451 260th St.
1919
52' diameter
Owner: Jack &
Linda Sharp

Wickfield Farm boasted the largest Hampshire hog operation in the world. Its centerpiece was this round barn, housing a sales floor, dining room, kitchen, dormitory, and social parlor.



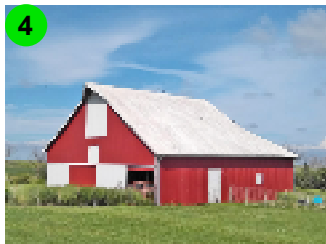
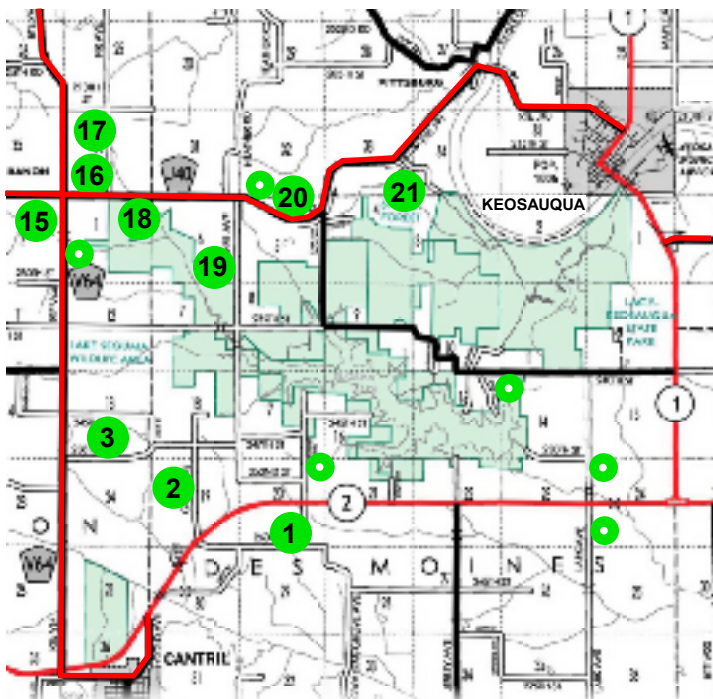
Smith Barn
Gray Ave. south of
245th St., west side
1914, possibly earlier
36' x 36'
Owners: Enos &
Barbara Detweiler

A small gable-front barn, one of the last remains of a 275-acre farm established by John J. Smith and worked by his sons Frank, Thomas, and George and their families in the 1910s and 20s.



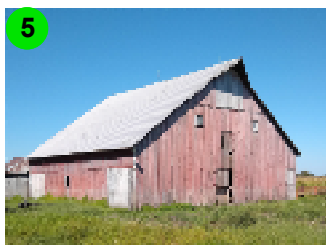
William McBride Barn
15785 250th St.
1856
34' x 42'
Owner: Merle and
Patricia McDonald
Living Trust

The oldest surviving Pennsylvania barn in the county. Tall, louvred windows provide ventilation. The wagon entry has been narrowed to a hinged door and its ramp removed.



Oliver Leaverton Barn
 13575 240th St.
 1909
 58' x 54'
 Owner: Kyli Hanna-Kite

An English barn with a double wagon entry and a wrap-around loafing shed housing multiple machinery bays at the rear. Leaverton grew up in the 1880s house still associated with the barn.



J. C. Weatherington Barn
 23505 Deer Ave.
 1912, possibly older
 46' x 48'
 Owner: John Wilson

A nearly square English barn originally housing horses and cattle. Interior supports of stripped tree trunks suggest an earlier age, but the practice continued well into the 20th century.



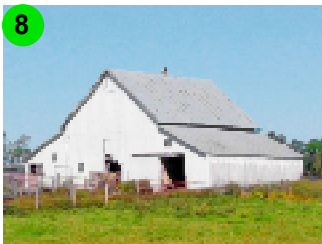
6 Maguire-Klodt Barn
21483 Acorn Ave.
1895, 2002
56' x 34'
Owner: Brad Klodt

An English barn moved from Jefferson County and meticulously restored. It is noteworthy for its oak timbers, beautifully scaled and placed windows, and new ornamental cupolas.



7 Samuel & Viola
Strait Barn
21100 Acorn Ave.
1916
54' x 36'
Owners: Joni &
Miriam Bontrager

A beautiful western barn viewed from both J40 and Acorn Ave. The hooded main facade faces the farmyard, but the barn has wagon doors on all but the west side.



8 Arthur E. Brown Barn
10183 J40
1921
50' x 42'
Owners: Doran &
Tammy Weatherington

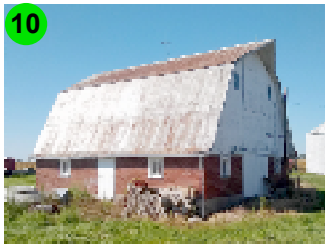
A gambrel-front barn with two sizeable loafing sheds. Unusual for its loft opening in the middle of the barn and its prominent stairway, it has housed horses, cows, goats, and sheep.



9 Clayton Bunner Barn
10240 J40
ca. 1938
45' x 42'
Owners: Bruce &
Le Anne Huggins

A gambrel barn with a wide loafing shed, creating a dramatic profile from the road. The loafing shed appears to have been part of the original barn. Bunner grew up in the house nearby.

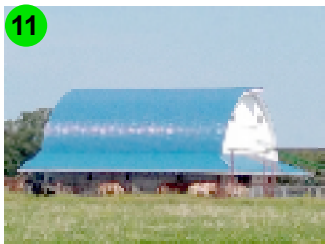
10



Willis & Della Wilson
Barn
12688 J40
1951
30' x 46'
Owner: Danny Lee
Shirkey

A gambrel-front barn built for housing sheep. It is distinctive for its walls of structural tile, a fire-proof building material popular for agricultural buildings in the 1930s and 1940s.

11



Allen Miller Barn
21803 Clover Rd.
2018
40' x 50'
Owners: Allen &
Rachel Miller

A modern gothic-arched barn with a steel roof laid on laminated wood ribs. The Gothic roof was in common use by 1910 but failed to catch on locally until metal sheathing became the building standard.

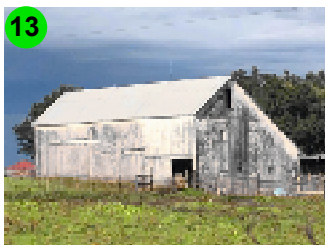
12



Ed Fisher Barn
12995 210th St.
1914
42' x 60'
Owners: Clifford &
Heidi Shafranek

A gambrel barn built by the first Fisher brother to leave the old family farm. Its beams are of walnut harvested from the 360-acre plot. A modern milking parlor juts to the west side.

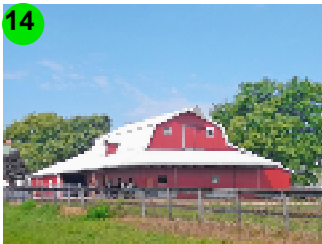
13



Henry Fisher Barn
Clover Rd. south of
200th St., east side
1902
38' x 66'
Owner: John
Stokesbury et al

A saltbox built by the eldest of the four Fisher brothers, establishing the sturdy construction practice that his brothers would eventually follow, using bolts rather than pegs or nails.

14



Weaver Barn

13675 J40

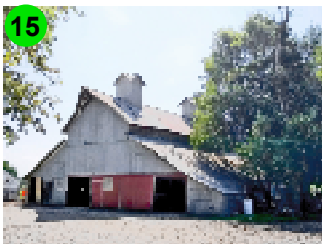
1960+

32' x 45'

Owners: Delmar &
Pauline Weaver

Shed roofs and loafing sheds turned an ordinary gambrel barn into a dramatic assembly of wings and roofs, the open sheds wrapping two sides in the manner of a Victorian veranda.

15



John Fisher Barn

14682 J40

ca. 1920

52' x 76'

Owner: Devon &
Barbara Weaver

A large, multi-purpose monitor barn built by the youngest Fisher brother, who turned to farming after a brief career as a piano tuner. The original Loudon hay transfer system remains in place.

16



Giles Ten Eyck Barn

15197 J40

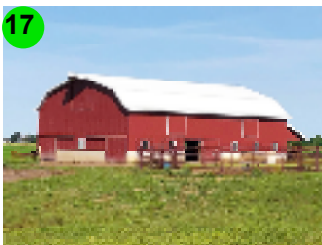
1846

28' x 36'

Owners: Leroy &
Anna Bortrager

A small English barn built by a carpenter and cabinet maker in the year that Iowa became a state. Constructed of hewn oak logs harvested on the property, it is the oldest extant barn in the county.

17



Mervin Miller Barn

21149 Fir Ave.

2017

42' x 76'

Owners: Mervin &
Lizzie Miller

A spacious, modern barn in the traditional gambrel-roofed style. Nearby is a 120' buggy and machine shed that grew out from the the house in the same year the barn was built.

18



Detweiler Barn
 16164 J40
 2003
 36' x 58'
 Owners: Daniel & Esther Detweiler

A gambrel barn, traditional in form but modern in construction. Two beams salvaged from a bridge run the length of the barn, and the main posts are of hedge. The remainder is of oak.

19



Lengacher Barn
 22583 Heather Ave.
 2001
 40' x 70'
 Owners: Joe and Barbara Lengacher

The gambrel barn updated with concrete and steel but retaining the classic lines of its predecessors. The haymow is entered directly at the rear, while livestock is housed in the basement.

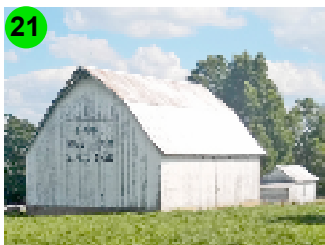
20



Riley Thomas Barn
 17727 J40
 1924, 2016
 30' x 40'
 Owner: Paulek Living Trust

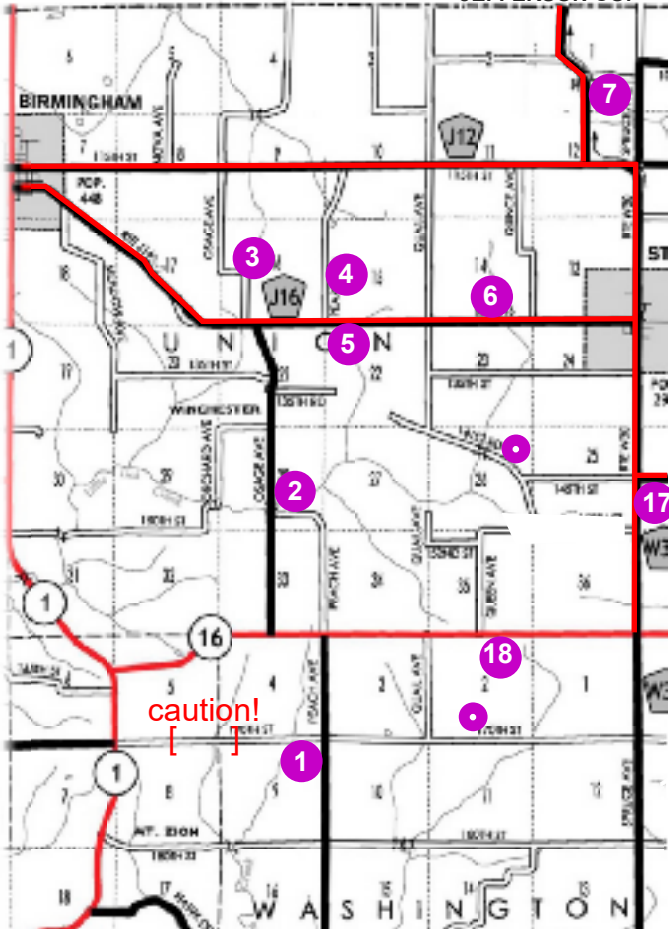
A gambrel barn revisioned and restored by David Paulek. Unusual for its multiple wagon entries, a trio of added dormers, use of natural finishes, and exterior lighting.

21



Otto Thomas Barn
 21659 Iris Tr.
 1925
 32' x 42'
 Owner: Sonja Hoie

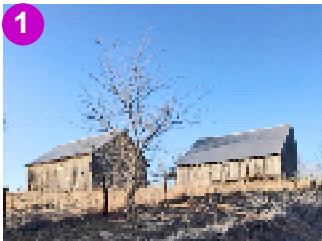
A gambrel barn built when Thomas moved the center of his farm closer to the road. His 1858 farm was the first in the county to achieve century farm status.



NORTHEAST TOUR

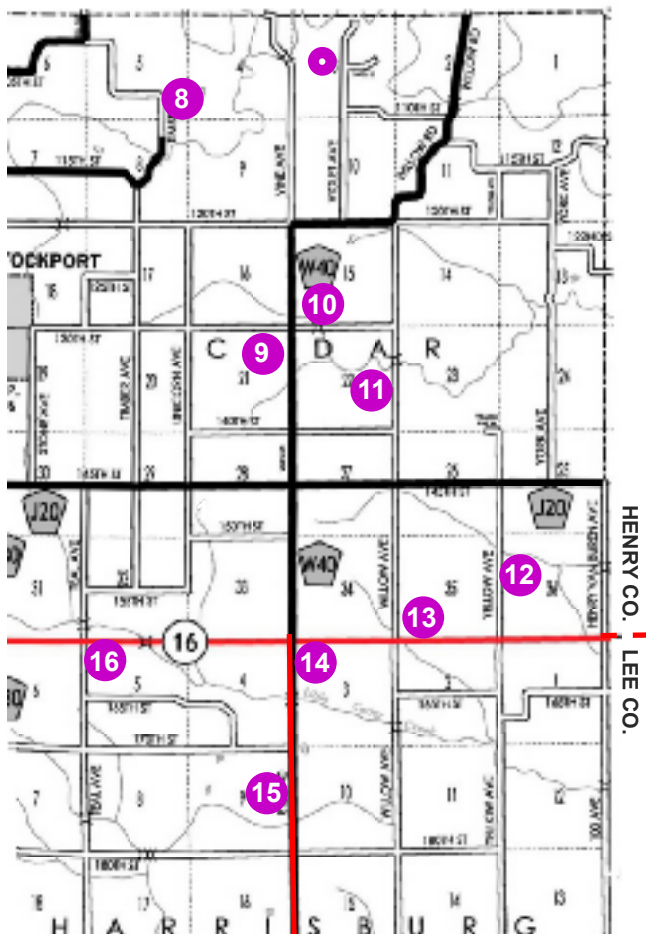
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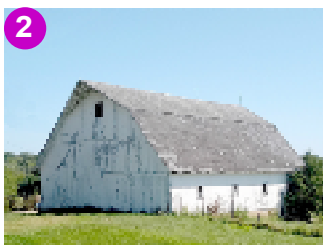


1 Barker Barns
Peach Ave., sw corner
170th St.
1860, 1870
42' x 36', 28' x 32'
Owner: Christin A.
Vickerman

An unusual pairing of English barns built by 1839 pioneer Joseph Barker and his son, Arnold. The older is built around a silo, the younger built with a partial rear forebay, recalling the Pennsylvania barn.



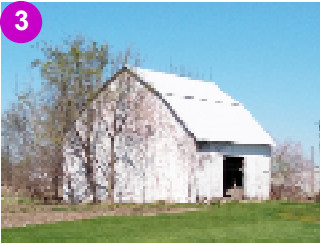
The most interesting barns are on unpaved or gravel roads. Go slowly, and exercise caution. Do not approach #1 from the east, for that road is ungraveled with a steep hill.



Orion Meek Barn
14500 Osage Ave.
1923
40' x 54'
Owner: Janet Meek

A gambrel barn built in the year that Meek's father died and passed the property on to him. It belongs to a subtype known as a Dutch barn because of the upturned lower edge of the roof.

3



George Kerr Barn
12706 Osage Ave.
1913
46' x 40'
Owners: Michael &
Connie Dickinson

A simple gambrel barn with a near-gothic form because of the similar gradient of the roof slopes. Kerr built the barn not long before moving to Birmingham to become a livestock broker.

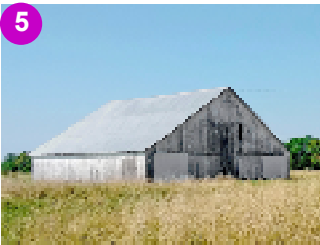
4



Warren Brown Barn
12698 Pearl Ave.
1918
24' diameter
Owner: Monty Heston

A small, round milking barn, worth a jaunt on a country road. The Brown brothers, Warren and Fred, built two nearly identical barns a few miles apart, using clay tile manufactured in nearby Stockport.

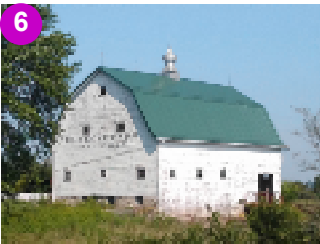
5



Gerald Beswick Barn
25608 J16
1954
48' x 52'
Owner: Longview
Acres

A pure example of the late western barn, with wide doors flanking the front to accommodate tractors and machinery or animals. The doors are the only means of natural lighting.

6



Elm Cove Barn
26581 J16
ca. 1914
64' x 42'
Owner: Poole
Cedar Creek LLLP

A gambrel bank barn built for James and Anna Clark. It incorporates salvaged hand-hewn timbers, milled lumber, and horizontal siding rather than the conventional board-and-batten.



7

Schuyler Morris Barn
(Morris-Clark Barn)
27882 107th St.
1916
60' x 40'
Owner: Morris-Clark
Farms, LLC

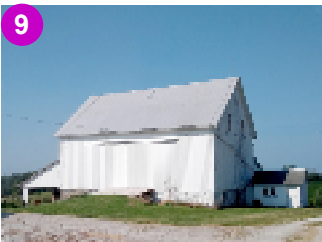
A raised English barn with animal entries uncharacteristically facing west, exposing them to the weather. It is also unusual for interior posts running to the roof, eliminating the need for braces.



8

Morris Park Barn
10938 Timber Rd.
1980
72' x 104'
Owner: Van Buren
County

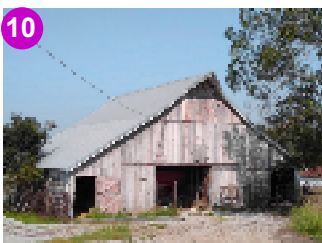
A classic monitor barn constructed of a rebuild of a 19th-century barn, adding wings to either side to enhance its use as the centerpiece of an historical museum complex.



9

Andrew Jacobs Barn
13077 W40 (Vine Ave.)
1890
62' x 50'
Owner: Clarice
Bradfield Trust

An English bank barn with its ramp still in place. Attached to one end is a diminutive ca. 1900 milk house, balanced at the other end by a modern shed. The barn uses milled lumber throughout.

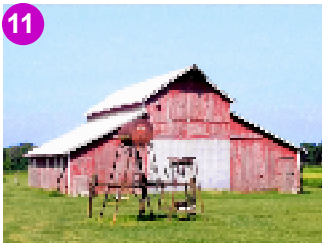


10

Tapley Taylor Barn
31295 130th St.
ca. 1895
48' x 48'
Owner: Cordell
Filson

An early form of the western barn, with a threshing floor at the center and animal sheds on either side. It was built for Taylor's Rock Creek Stock Farm.

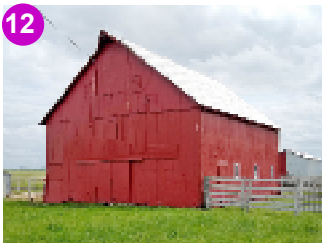
11



Harold Johnson Barn
13641 Willow Ave.
1952
50' x 55'
Owners: Marcus &
Mercedes Taeger

A monitor barn with western overtones because there is so slight a jump up to the central section. One wing originally housed animal stalls, the other, grain bins.

12



George Newbold
Barn
15712 Yellow Ave.
1917
36' x 40'
Owner: Eldon Taeger

The best of the few remaining gable-front barns in Van Buren County, small but well maintained. Across the road and set back from it is the ca. 1870 bank barn built by George's father, Cyrus.

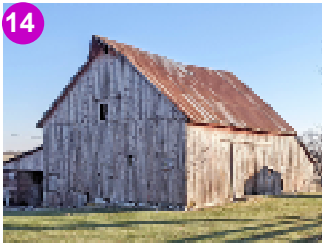
13



William H. Watson
Barn
32281 Hwy. 16
1891
42' x 44'
Owner: Gary Page

An saltbox barn with an open loafing shed at the rear, much like a Pennsylvania barn. Across the drive is a 1955 Gothic-roofed quonset with arching oak beams and pine rafters.

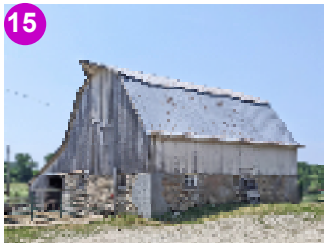
14



Samuel Sprott Barn
16040 W40
ca. 1890
40' x 48'
Owner: Amy Eden

An English ramp barn unusual for its split levels, the floor dropping down halfway back from the wagon entry. It has tree trunks for posts. Loafing sheds attach to one side and the rear.

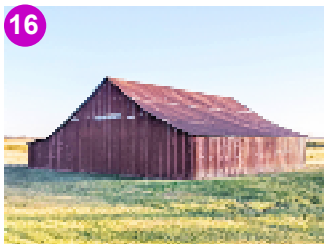
15



Henry J. Easter Barn
17607 W40
ca. 1910
38' x 58'
Owners: Russell &
Kathy Noll

A gambrel bank barn unusual for having its high basement entry facing the farmyard rather than the fields, exposing to streetview the beautiful color variations of local limestone.

16



William Morris Barn
16116 Teal Ave.
ca. 1904
50' x 50'
Owners: Barry &
Marlene Kelderman

An early western barn, most clearly visible from Hwy. 16. It now stands alone, with no trace remaining of the original farmyard that stood across Teal Avenue.

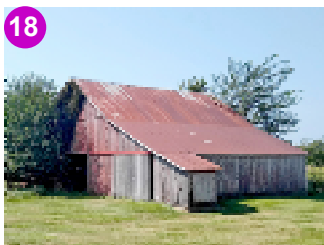
17



Earle Niederhuth
Machinery Building
14558 W30
1960
50' x 80'
Owner: Niederhuth
Farms

The last and grandest of three post-World War II farm buildings on the Niederhuth property. It has a low profile, its use not requiring the second-level hay loft of the classic gambrel barn.

18



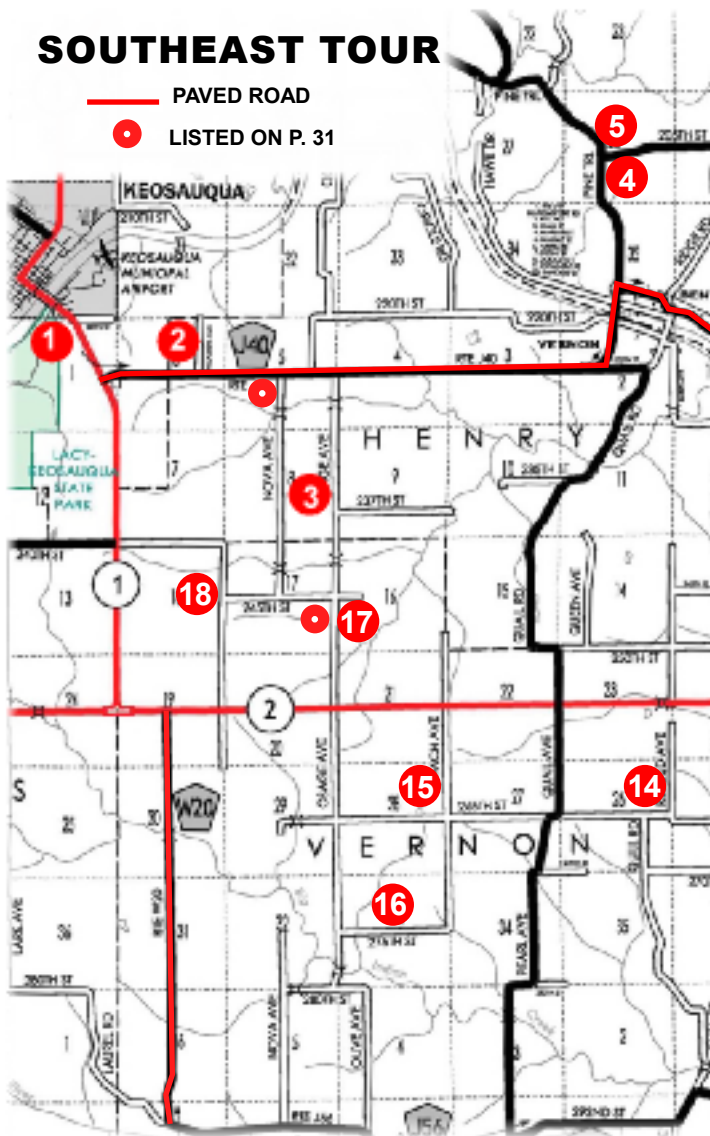
Albert M. Davis Barn
26794 Hwy. 16
1905
42' x 56'
Owner: Sorin Equity
Partners III, LLC

A western barn closely related to the William Morris Barn in form. Davis purchased the farm from Civil War veteran Henry Warner a few years after he married, with the new barn soon to follow.

SOUTHEAST TOUR

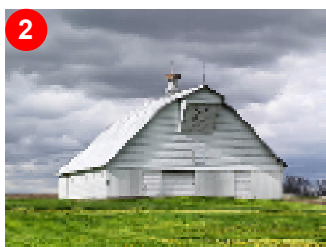
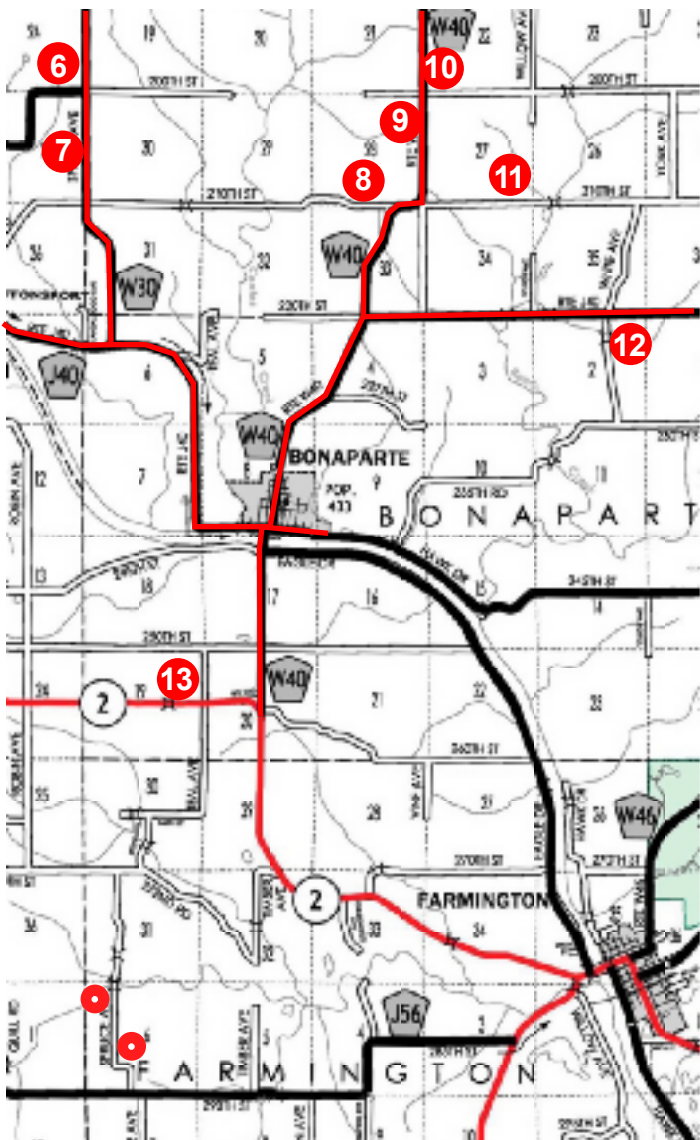
 PAVED ROAD

 LISTED ON P. 31



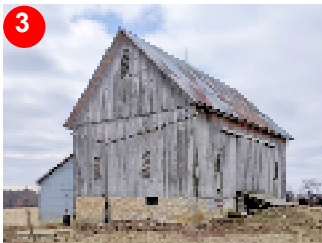
Rigsby Hill Barn
 22053 Hwy. 1
 1870s
 38' x 70'
 Owner: Fred &
 Sheila Parsons

A Pennsylvania barn with a saltbox form, it was first owned successively by the Pennsylvania-born Walker brothers. The basement housed sheep and horses in bays of differing heights.



Arthur & Sadie
Rinabarger Barn
J40 east of Hwy. 1
1928, 1977
56' x 62'
Owners: Raymond
& Valli Dittman

A wide-fronted gambrel barn built by renowned barn builder Earl Pratt, then extended 14' to the rear. Originally a sheep barn, it retains its original openings beneath a steel veneer.



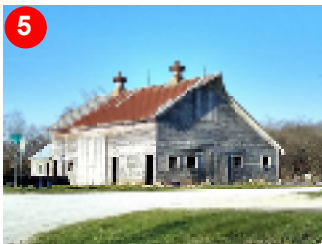
3
Henry & Elizabeth
Grages Barn
23535 Osage Ave.
ca. 1875, ca. 1890
40' x 46'
Owners: Richard &
Karen Weatherall

A Pennsylvania barn built by Prussian-born Heinrich Grages. After serving in the Civil War, Henry married, had 3 children, moved to Iowa, had 7 additional children, and raised cattle and sheep.



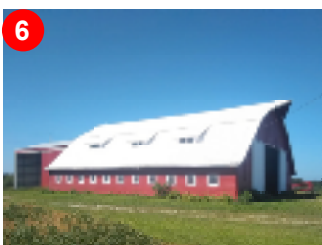
4
James Yoder Barn
205th St. SE corner
Pine Tr.
2019
38' x 64'
Owner: James Yoder

A modern gambrel barn that functionally replaced the prairie barn across the road. Even though sheathed in steel and sporting a large shed to one side, it has the classic gambrel roof line.



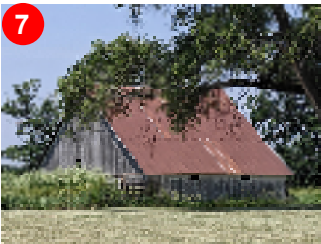
5
Abraham Zook Barn
Pine Trail NE corner
205th St.
ca. 1920
40' x 46'
Owners: James &
Rebekah Yoder

A hybrid saltbox in the corner of a 277-acre farm owned by a physician in Adair, Iowa. Zook sold the farm to the U. S. in 1936. It was an FSA project for many years before returning to private hands.



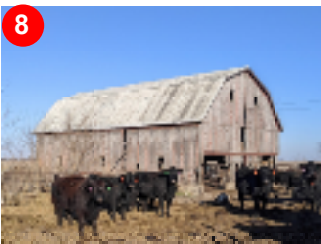
6
Henry & Minnie
Westergreen Barn
19871 200th St.
ca. 1918
60' x 80'
Owner: Curtis Richers

An outsized gambrel "feeder" barn, unusually wide to accommodate feeding stalls at either side. Framed with bolted planks, its loft has been removed to allow for large machinery storage in the center drive.



Jessie Davis Barn
20805 Spruce
ca. 1908
32' x 40'
owner: Larry Brereton

A low-slung western barn, the first of a cluster of pre-World War I farm buildings put up by a widow who prospered in her own right. A 1940s gambrel barn pokes up behind them.



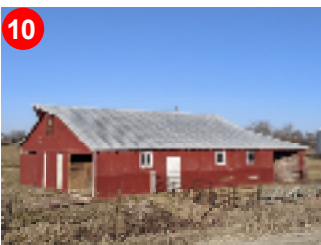
Walter Dannenhauer
Barn
30463 210th St.
1949
32' x 48'
Owners: John &
Dayle Eden

A post-World War II gambrel barn with a gable-end entry and unusually tall levels. For many years the loft was a popular venue for farm kids' football games.



John & Lizzie
Wallingford Barn
20179 W40
1935
45' x 40'
Owners: Curtis &
Bonnie Nelson

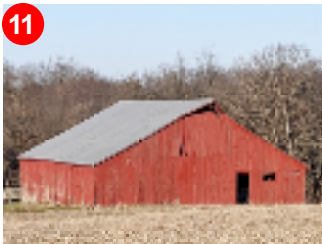
An English barn with multiple doors on the gable ends and a long loafing shed. Built of walnut timbers and oak floors, it originally housed horses, which gave way to sheep, cows, and hogs.



John & Nellie
Stecker Barn
31005 200th St.
1953
46' x 62'
Owner: Irma Elliott

A prairie barn that defies more exact classification. Unusual for its depth relative to its width, it houses livestock on either side with a finely integrated loafing shed at the rear.

11



W. Sturdivant Barn
210th St., NW corner
Willow Ave.
ca. 1920
40' x 30'
Owners: William &
Linda Vance

A visually striking western barn that retains its vertical siding but few of its openings. It is all that remains of a 200-acre farmstead, whose farm-yard stood across Willow Ave.

12



George Page Barn
22136 White Ave.
ca. 1918
54' x 40'
Owners: Eli &
Marie Schwartz

A saltbox barn with an unusual asymmetrical arrangement of doors. The lateral loafing shed has been extended into a garage for horse-drawn carriages and buggies.

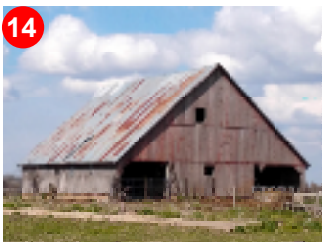
13



Henry & Alma Huston
Barn
25455 Teal Ave.
1897
42' x 32'
Owner: Zane Farms,
Ltd (John Zane)

A small, recently restored Pennsylvania barn, its new metal sheathing concealing the rear door of the threshing floor. A dramatic siting exposes the forebay to the state highway.

14



Thomas & Martha
Simmons Barn
26799 265th St.
ca. 1918
48' x 48'
Owner: Linda Green

A square western barn that retains its distinctive, tiered board-and-batten siding. Born and raised on this farmstead, Simmons was nearing retirement when he built this barn.

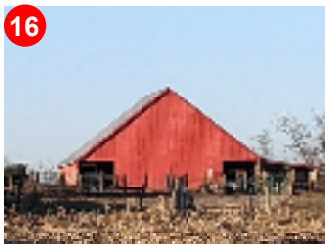
15



Curtis & Amanda
McIntosh Barn
26291 Peach Ave.
1912
36' x 48'
Owner: Karen Livesay

A wide gambrel barn, probably a grainery with vehicular storage in the center. It was part of a farmstead split off from the Linneaweaver farm, possibly as a dowry for Amanda Linneaweaver.

16



George Hardin Barn
24517 275th St.
ca. 1920
50' x 40'
Owner: Kyle
Horstman

A western barn built by one of the George Hardins, father and son, shortly after World War I. Still sheathed in wood, it houses animals on either side in the manner of the earliest barns of its type.

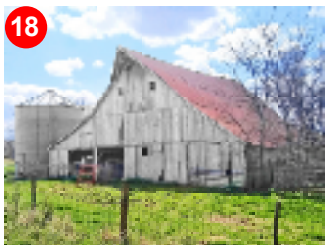
17



Arthur McBride Barn
24672 Osage Ave.
ca. 1914
50' x 32'
Owner: Van Buren
Farm Trust

A prairie barn that likely began as a saltbox. The original wood siding remains, vertical and 3-tiered on the main barn and horizontal on the loafing shed.

18



Charles Carney Barn
Nickel, NW corner
245th St.
ca. 1910
48' x 53'
Owners: Gary &
Suzy Lee

A western barn with multiple roof slopes, creating a wind-swept profile. The front has the wide entries at either side typical of its type. The left entry leads to two aisles for animal stalls.

Many outstanding barns were not included in this brochure because of their distance from tour routes, visual inaccessibility from public roads, or recent or threatened disappearance. These are the foremost of them.

remote from tours



Arlie L. Wilson Barn
26947 V56
1920s
54' x 90'
Owner: Elmer D.
Hostetler

In a county teeming with gambrel dairy barns, this is among the largest and most elegantly detailed. During the Great Depression the farm tossed from bank to bank until Howard Kitch bought it in 1939.

without public access



Daniel Reneker Barn
16106 Hawk Dr.
ca. 1865
32' x 48'
Owners: Dan & Emily
Reneker

This splendid Pennsylvania barn has a dramatic forebay, shaved logs for floor joists, and a fine level of craftsmanship. Equally impressive is its associated Italianate house, restored with equal attention to detail.

blown down



William Barker Barn
16677 Hwy. 1
1886
40' x 62'
Owner: Bob &
Sharon Galloway

Leveled by a tornado in 2018, this four-story English bank barn began life as the centerpiece of the Midway Stock Farm. In 1918 Barker's son converted it to a dairy barn, installing a hay carrier and a wealth of other Loudon equipment.

Some Other Barns Worth Noting

Northwest

A. C. Jones Barn	21546 195th St.	1947
	Owner: Jolene Davis	
Clarence Strait Barn	19179 Hwy 1	1935
	Owner: Wayne Strait	
Glenn Kerr Barn	Ivory Rd south of 177th St.	1932
	Owners: Wayne and Margaret Boyer	
Lester Hootman Barn	14855 Iowa Oak Grove	1912
	Owner: Hootman Acres	
Elza Loeffler Barn	18903 Hwy. 16	1955
	Owners: Gary & Marshall Loeffler	
Orville Morrow Barn	13903 V64	1928
	Owners: David & Karoline Thornsberry	
Ross Greenfield Barn	NE corner V64 and 10th St.	1919
	Owner: Brandon Rodibaugh	
Arthur Hayden Barn	10201 102nd St.	1939
	Owners: Richard & Sarah Rupe	

Southwest

Leroy D. Betz Barn	20142 240th St.	1890
	Owners: Terry & Jane Morris	
Willis & Della Wilson Barn	25026 Lark Ave.	ca.1915
	Owner: Catherine Owens	
W. J. & Eliza Hanna Barn	26138 Lark Ave.	ca.1900
	Owner: Wenda Dixon	
Samuel Anderson Barn	Hickory Ave. no. of 252nd St.	1931
	Owners: Michael and Lindee Thomas	
P. G. Wilson Barn	J40, NE corner Clover Ave.	1928
	Owners: Ian & Brenda Henderson	
George Groves	13435 200th Rd.	1901
	Owner: Douglas Turner	
Lester Mathesen Barn	17411 J40	1959
	Owners: Nathan & Inez Detweiler	
John DeFord Barn	22778 V64	ca.1910
	Owners: Mark & Millie Yoder	
Walter Winn Barn	11589 255th St. (ns)	ca.1910, 1982
	Owners: Chrissie & Martha Hochstetler	

Northeast

Antrum Kisling Barn	16723 Quail Ave.	ca.1910
	Owners: Garry & Sandra Philips	
Elmer Marshall Barn	26325 170th St.	1928
	Owners: Roger & Janet Haganmam	
Seth Fordyce Barn	26557 141st St.	1873
	Owners: Dustin Silver, et. al.	
Watson Granary & Scale House	10495 Violet Ave.	1914, 1917
	Owners: James & Linda Stevens	

Southeast

Oran Hanson Barn	22595 Nova Ave.	ca.1915
	Owner: Robert Andrew Barker	
John Muntz Barn	28xxx Spruce Ave.	1910s?
	Owners: Brian W. & Billy Jo Alderton	
Robert Muntz Barn	28796 Spruce Ave.	1941
	Owners: Brian W. & Billy Jo Alderton	
George Hardin Barn	24517 275th St.	ca.1920
	Owner: Kyle Horstman	
George Miller Barn	32664 200th St.	ca.1900
	Owner: Larry Lee Moore	

Notes

Credits

Inspiration and research for this brochure began with barn tours spearheaded by Preservation Commissioners Brad Klodt and Dorothy Gilbert. Their research grew into a book project and a Facebook page, "The Barns of Van Buren County Iowa". Though the book project is still waiting to take off, we are indebted to the many Facebook contributors who provided fresh leads as well as the following images:

p8 #4, p14 #6, p16 #16, p17 #20, p30 top and middle

We are also indebted to other photographers for the use of the following images:

front cover: Scott Ide

p11 #16: Dave Austin

p 24 #1: Wilford Yoder

p 30b: Jeffrey Fitz-Randolph

All other photos were taken expressly for this publication by Preservation Commissioner Paul Larson, who also contributed additional research, writing, and design.

Our thanks to Van Buren County administrative offices and the many farm owners who have helped us research their barns. This publication would also not have been possible without the support of the advertizers below, who enabled us to match the Van Buren Foundation grant.

The Van Buren Foundation, Inc.

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