

# BARN PRESERVATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES (INDIANA '99)

**Brief History:** The *BARN AGAIN!* in Indiana program began in November 1995 through the work of Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, its Rural Preservation Council (a standing committee of the Foundation), the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service through the leadership of Janet Ayres, and with the guidance of Bill Kimball. In 1997, Historic Landmarks Foundation became the first to be licensed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to use the *BARN AGAIN!* trademark in its programs.

**Program Focus:** *BARN AGAIN!* in Indiana took its lead from Bill Kimball's Michigan program as well as from the concept developed by the National Trust and *Successful Farming* Magazine. It emphasizes regional barn history, types of barn rehabilitation, technical guidance, and connecting barn owners with appropriate barn experts. These workshops continue to provide a unique and highly important contact with a specific audience: owners of old barns.

**Program Collaborators:** Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana (statewide, not-for-profit, membership organization) coordinates with county extension educators in presenting the workshops. Historic Landmarks sets the agenda, speakers, and budget items while the extension staff handles local logistics (site, food, transportation during tour, and local speakers). Indiana's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has been represented among the speakers. We successfully collaborate with Michigan (Bill Kimball) and Ohio (Jim Papritan). Both have spoken at our workshops to great acclaim. We intend to preserve the multi-state partnership in as many future Indiana workshops as possible. Other valued out-of-state presenters include Ann Christy (Ohio) and Mike Woodford (New York).

**Workshops:** Since November of 1995, we've held seven full-day workshops (in addition to numerous barn preservation related programs). Our eighth full *BARN AGAIN!* in Indiana program will be held in Rensselaer on March 27. Our goal is to continue to present two day-long *BARN AGAIN!* in Indiana programs per year, moving the workshops throughout the state. The format includes an introduction to regional barn history, perspectives on barn rehabilitation, technical guidelines, use of state and federal rehabilitation tax credits, contractor and barn owner case studies, and tour of local barns. Importantly, local extension educators and local preservationists are highlighted as resources for barn owners. We also stress the *BARN AGAIN!* concept, acknowledge the leadership of the National Trust and *Successful Farming* in creating the program. The two 1998 workshops were our most successful yet with good content and a combined attendance level of over 150.

**Publications:** For the workshops we have assembled a folder of booklets, most from the National Trust and the National Park Service, on barn rehabilitation. Included are brochures published by Historic Landmarks Foundation on rehabilitation tax credits, National Register, and further sources of information. The SHPO provides packets on tax credits and National Register properties in Indiana. We also make available published inventories of county-wide surveys that Historic Landmarks Foundation prepares for the SHPO. Approximately thirty-six of these published in the last twelve years include listings of barns according to type and/or function and an illustrated guide to the various types, specific to each county.

**Grants/Fund-raising:** Funding for the *BARN AGAIN!* workshops is provided by Historic Landmarks Foundation, with costs off-set by registration fees. The Foundation also seeks local and corporate sponsorship. No public grants have been used to date.

**Beyond BARN AGAIN!**

**Collaboration in Barn Programs:** We are pleased that through the leadership of Indiana's SHPO (Larry Macklin) and Deputy SHPO (Jon Smith), collaborative efforts with respect to barn and rural preservation continue. A chief product of this collaboration between Historic Landmarks Foundation and the SHPO will be an illustrated guide to Indiana's historic barns. Work on these products was begun last summer with the assistance by an intern from US/ICOMOS. This project will also result in a poster showing barn types and promoting barn preservation.

**Other Activities:** Staff members of Historic Landmarks Foundation continue to present programs on barn history and rehabilitation throughout the state. Through the Foundation's seven field offices and through our library and information center we have reached hundreds of barn owners by providing information, referrals and in some cases personal visits. Historic Landmarks Foundation also maintains and operates a restored barn as part of its Huddleston Farmhouse Inn Museum, an excellent example of adaptive use of a barn, now sporting a new (1998) wood shingle roof. In 1991-92, Historic Landmarks prepared, through a grant from the Indiana SHPO, an inventory of all round barns in the state (c. 105) and National Register nominations for nineteen, representing one of each type of round barn. 1998 saw the listing, after more than five years of work by Historic Landmarks Foundation, of Indiana's first rural historic district in the National Register. This includes twelve farmsteads, numerous barns and smaller agricultural buildings. We have nominated several other farmsteads to the National Register.

Also, Historic Landmarks Foundation promotes barn preservation through its annual rural preservation award-- the John Arnold Award named in memory of an outstanding young farmer who was both a preservationist and successful modern farmer. This is presented at Farmers' Day at the Indiana State Fair to an audience of thousands. The Indiana Farm Bureau co-sponsors the award.

Historic Landmarks Foundation assisted--both through a grant and through on-going technical assistance--the Indiana Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage which has relocated to its site one of Indiana's grandest barns, saving it from all but certain demolition.

**Member/Support Organization:** Our approach has been to encourage existing local preservation organizations to adopt barn preservation as part of their mission, when appropriate, and to maintain it as a priority at the state level through Historic Landmarks Foundation, rather than forming a new, single-issue group. The Foundation, in addition to maintaining barn-related staff goals, maintains its Rural Preservation Council which includes representatives from the SHPO, Purdue Extension, Indiana Farm Bureau, 4-H, agriculture, landscape preservation, and rural economic development. The Council has been instrumental in guiding rural programs in general and in providing useful contracts for the *BARN AGAIN!* programs in particular.

**Legislation:** In 1999, Historic Landmarks Foundation is supporting legislation to expand the amount of state rehabilitation tax credits from \$450,000 to \$1,000,000.

**Last Words:** The rehabilitation of historic barns continues to stand as a high priority at Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. We are encouraged by indications of the past year that the National Trust's commitment to the *BARN AGAIN!* program is strong, and that the National Barn Alliance is emerging with a focus on supporting statewide and national barn preservation programs. The partnership among interested states, as experienced through these occasional meetings, electronic communications and through sharing programs and events, continues to benefit Indiana's barn preservation efforts.