

# **BARN PRESERVATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**

## **(ILLINOIS)**

### **Program Collaborators:**

Stephenson County University Extension,  
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA),  
Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois (LPCI),  
Chicago area county preservation commissions,  
including Kane, McHenry and Will counties

### **Workshops:**

LPCI had a session on identifying and designating rural resources at the statewide preservation conference in Quincy in September. Marsh Davis participated.

Stephenson County Extension Unit sponsored a conference on "Giving Barns New Life" in October. Presentations by barn historians and IHPA, and barn contractors (Mike Woodford, New York) gave practical advice about repairing and restoring barns.

### **Other Activities:**

McHenry County (northwest of Chicago) HP Commission completed the re-survey of 4 townships in the SE corner of the county, the area most heavily impacted by urban sprawl. Updated information on barn, outbuilding, and house types is now available on a computer database.

Will County (south of Chicago) HP Commission has been taking a pro-active role in assisting small communities in the county to preserve their rural resources. These include remnants of farm and roadside properties - a tavern and a creamery.

Kane County HP Commission – “That Darn Barn” program continues and several barns have been converted to residential use. 16-sided Teeple Barn (NR listed) has been made an official “Save America’s Treasures” project - this will be a great help in raising local and nationwide awareness. The county barn is also working toward expanding the preservation ordinance to designate historic road systems, and a “rustic road” calendar will be printed this year.

Early in the fall of 1999, 22 volunteers of the Franklin Grove and Sugar Grove Historical Societies dismantled an 1855, three-bay English Barn on Wheeler Road in Kane County. It is currently restored and is in preparation for a “Barn Raising” at the 2000 Franklin Grove Fest.

The Nachusa Grasslands Preserve (Lee County) is relocating an 1868 timber frame, bank barn from nearby Ashton to the Preserve where it will be used as a dual-purpose headquarters/storage building.

Efforts to save the Lewis Round Barn in Adams County from demolition have been spearheaded by a state legislator. The plan is to move it to the county fairgrounds and open it to the public.

I’ve been noticing many more inquiries about barns on the NCSHPO national e-mail system - this is a great networking tool that I’ll share with the group.