

# BARN PRESERVATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES (INDIANA)

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 workshops borrowed from Bill Kimball's Michigan program format 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 serve as an effective means of reaching 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 assists with 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 nine full-day workshops (in addition to numerous barn preservation-related programs). Our tenth full *BARN AGAIN!* in Indiana program will be held in Indianapolis on March 25 in a relocated and restored barn that now serves as the headquarters of the Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage. We continue to present day-long *BARN AGAIN!* programs twice each year, moving the workshops throughout the state.

Publications: For the workshops we have assembled packets of information published by the National Trust, the National Park Service, the Indiana SHPO, and Historic Landmarks Foundation on a variety of barn rehabilitation topics: tax credits, National Register, technical matters, etc. We also make available published county-wide inventories (surveys) of historic sites and structures that Historic Landmarks Foundation prepares for the SHPO. Approximately thirty-nine of these published in the last thirteen years include listings of barns according to type and/or function and feature 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 grant funds have been used to date. The *BARN AGAIN!* in Indiana program received its greatest amount of outside financial assistance this year with commitments from the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service and the Central Indiana Community Foundation.

**Collaboration in Other Barn Programs:** Through the leadership of Indiana's SHPO, Directed by Jon Smith, collaborative efforts in barn and rural preservation continue. Most important are the inventory publications mentioned above. Another product of this collaboration between Historic Landmarks Foundation and the SHPO will be a poster displaying historic Indiana barn types. Illustrations for the poster will be based on fieldwork and drawings completed in 1998 and 1999 by an intern from US/ICOMOS. Some of the fieldwork will also be incorporated into a field guide to Indiana barns. In 1991-92, Historic Landmarks, through a grant from the Indiana SHPO, prepared 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.

We are also participating with the Indiana Humanities Council and other agencies and organizations in planning the Smithsonian's (SITES) *BARN AGAIN!* exhibit in Indiana in 2001 and 2002.

Since 1992, Historic Landmarks Foundation has partnered with the Indiana Farm Bureau in promoting barn preservation through the annual John Arnold Rural Preservation Award, named in memory of an outstanding young farmer who was both a preservationist and successful modern farmer. The Arnold Award is presented annually at Farmers' Day at the Indiana State Fair before an audience of thousands, mostly farmers.

In 1998 and 1999 we joined forces with virtually every agriculture-related organization in planning and presenting land-use conferences called *Communities at the Crossroads*. The 1999 event focused on the sprawl issue.

**Other Historic Landmarks Foundation Activities:** Staff members 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 reach hundreds of barn owners by providing information, referrals and in some cases personal visits.

We continue to encourage existing local preservation organizations to adopt barn preservation as part of their mission, when appropriate, and to maintain barn preservation as a priority at the state level through Historic Landmarks Foundation, rather than by forming a new, single-issue group. The Foundation maintains its Rural Preservation Council which includes representatives from 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 contacts for the *BARN AGAIN!* programs in particular.

Historic Landmarks Foundation also maintains and operates a restored barn as part of its Huddleston Farmhouse Inn Museum, an excellent example of adaptive use. 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 now routinely propose rural districts in surveys we prepare for the SHPO.

Historic Landmarks Foundation continues to assist--through grant and loan programs and through on-going technical assistance--the Indiana Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage, now relocated (1999) to its site in one of Indiana's grandest--and once most endangered--barns.

Historic Landmarks Foundation was again pleased to sponsor the BARN AGAIN! Affinity Breakfast (our fourth) at the National Trust's annual conference in Washington in October and to coordinate an outstanding educational session on barns at the 1999 conference.