

The Barn Door



On the Hunt: How Unique is the Squire-Hennes Barn?

By Mona Hennes

A long-time NBA member, Mona Hennes has put extraordinary energy and effort into researching this beautiful and unique barn that holds a special place in her family history. She is very interested in this barn type and its construction methods, and is eager to identify others like it. If you know of a similar barn elsewhere in the country, please visit our blog, The Barn Journal (<http://barnalliance.org/the-barn-journal/>) and post a comment on her story to help her learn more!

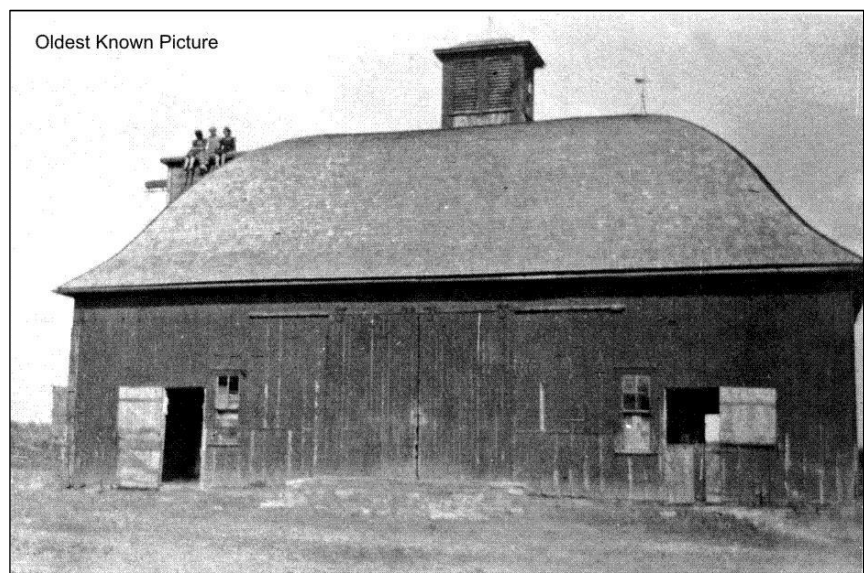
In 1850, the seven member John Squire Family were among thousands of immigrants who came to the United States in search of a better life. The ship manifest lists Frederick Squire at age 3 when he traveled to America. Frederick grew up in Iowa and Indiana and married Frances E. Dean in 1866.

Like hundreds of others, the young couple bravely carved out land as homesteaders in Lulu Township, Mitchell County, Kansas in 1870. Frederick and Frances Squire fulfilled their homestead requirements including building a house, digging a well, plowing, planting crops and living off the land. In the end, they raised a family and became respected Mitchell County land owners who were responsible for the construction of a most remarkable barn.

By 1887, Frederick Squire was often in the news. There were items about his herds, crops, farm equipment, civic duties and travel. In March 1888, Frederick Squire had an addition built onto his house and in October he had a new barn built. This is unusual because most homesteaders built their own barns. Mr. Squire's barn was 40' by 58' by 32' high. It was built by Hamilton Lee Wiley who was a contractor from Beloit. Mr. McElroy of Plum Creek Township applied its first coat of paint.

In 1893, twenty three years after he homesteaded his farm in Lulu Township, Frederick Squire moved to Beloit and left his 600+ acres of property to be farmed by others. In 1896 he harvested 550 acres of wheat—the largest acreage in the county owned by one man. Frederick F. Squire died suddenly of appendicitis in January of 1899. He was buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Beloit. His properties were divided among his children, each receiving a farm.

Historic Photograph of Squire-Hennes Barn, Courtesy of Mona Hennes



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Winter Storm Cancels 2014 Winter Meeting in Bucks County, PA, but will be giving it another go at BCCC in 2015!

The 2014 Winter Meeting was planned in conjunction with the Preservation Department at Bucks County Community College (BCCC) in Newtown, PA, but alas, nature intervened and a terrible storm dropped six-plus inches of snow, cancelling much of what was scheduled for the event. However, the NBA Board and other interested parties participated in a series of conference calls in effort to make snow cones of it all! Highlights of this effort included the creation of a Technical Advisory Committee, chaired by architect Chuck Bultman of Michigan; coordination of NBA efforts to lobby the USDA and get the “barn question” back in the 2017 Ag Census; and a discussion of the potential for establishing language to support the creation of local chapters of our organization. This year’s meeting is sure to have great things in store... Let’s just hope that Old Man Winter gives us a break in February 2015!

Meet Don Truax, the NBA’s New President!

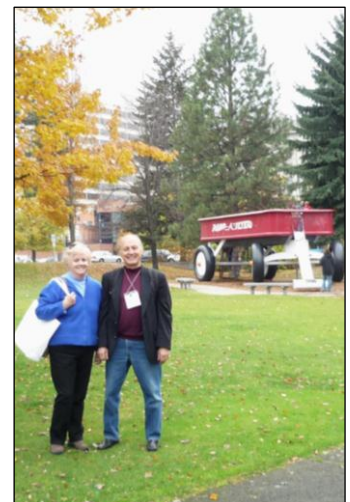


Don Truax has been a member of the Board of Directors of the National Barn Alliance since 2012; he is responsible for membership and the mailing list database. He also continues as a member of the board of directors of the Illinois Barn Alliance, where he created a website to promote the organization’s events and information exchange among interested individuals in the state.

Don grew up on a Centennial Farm in Osceola County, Michigan, where he recently built a vacation cottage on property homesteaded by his great- great-grandfather in the 1860s. He graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in electrical engineering and also holds a Masters in computer technology from the University of Michigan. After a long career at AT&T Bell Laboratories (Lucent Technologies) he retired to continue his interest in historic preservation. Recently he has served as a docent at the Farnsworth House in Plano, Illinois--leading 72 tours of the property in 2013!

Don has been a founding member and leader of the Aurora Preservation Commission since 1979. The commission, which serves the second largest city in Illinois, has formed four local historic districts including more than 1,200 properties, designated 28 local landmarks, and supported nominations of significant historic properties in Aurora. He also served as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions from 1999-2001, where he established several programs to promote historic preservation to local commissions and boards. In 2007 he formed a consulting business to help communities and community groups with preservation ordinances and guidelines.

Don and his wife Margaret have three adult children and five grandchildren, all of whom love spending time with Grandpa’s Michigan cottage.



Don & Margaret at the 2012 NTHP Conference on behalf of the NBA.

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On the Hunt: How Unique is the Squire-Hennes Barn? (Continued from Front Page)

Historic Photograph of Squire-Hennes Barn and Farmstead, Circa 1920.



The Squire family did not remain in Beloit. Lora Squire, a Beloit teacher, married Dr. Thomas E. Records. They moved to Manhattan KS where Lora died in 1912. Clayton L. Squire married Emily Smith and they had a farm 8 miles north of Hiawatha, KS. After visiting the west coast, they sold their farm and moved to Oregon, where Clayton became a Real Estate agent. John Ellery Squire was a Beloit and Scottsville merchant. He lived in the house on the Squire farm but never did any farming. He married E. Winifred Carney in 1904 and after his stores went bankrupt he also moved west. His family settled in Yakima, WA where John managed a feed store for over 30 years. Vera A. Squire married Claud Cross and they too moved to the state of Washington. Frances Elizabeth Squire, wife of Frederick, moved with her children. After her death in 1926, her body was returned to Kansas to be buried beside her husband, daughter and three infant sons.

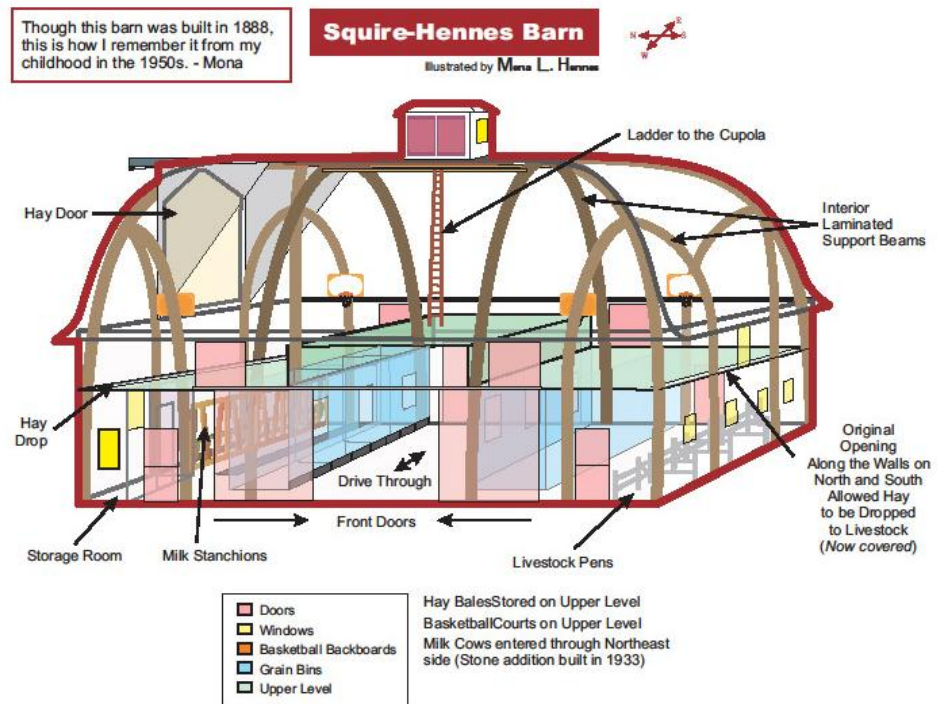
When John Squire left Kansas around 1915, he rented the Squire farm to Caspar Hennes, my grandfather, who was living just one mile west. Caspar Hennes (Grandfather), Fred Hennes (Dad,) and John Hennes (Uncle) farmed the property for the Squire family until ~1928, when Fred and John Hennes purchased some of the land, the farm house and buildings.

My Dad bought out the interest of his brother, John Hennes, around 1943. My brother Jim Hennes farmed the land and cared for the barn until the mid-1970s. He tinned the barn's roof which probably preserved the structure. My nephew, Mark Hennes, still farms land for the Records family. Howard Records, who lives in Arizona, is the great grandson of Dr. Thomas E. Records, husband of eldest daughter Lora E. Squire.

The French Connection

There is an important French Connection that highly impacts the story. For a short period of time, the barn builder, Hamilton Lee Wiley partnered with another carpenter; a man named Eli Pfrimmer Newbanks.

Newbanks was a second generation American of French descent. He grew in Corydon, Indiana and was married twice. First to Isabella Emory of Evansville, and after her death, to Delilah Jane White. Like Mr. Wiley, Eli Newbanks came to Mitchell County Kansas with his wife's family as a homesteader around 1871.

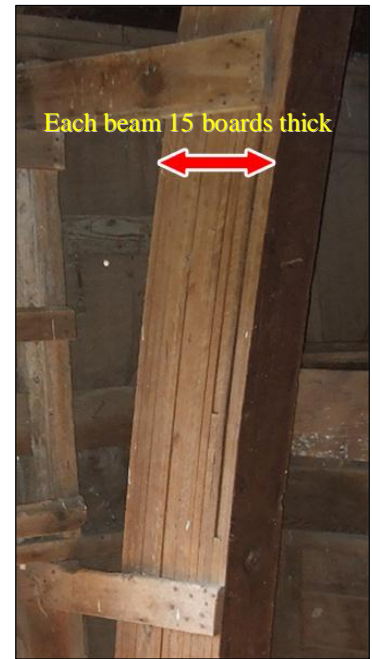


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Eli Newbanks came from a privileged background. He was well educated in carpentry and architecture. During his career, he worked on large construction projects including The Alpine Tunnel built for the D&RG Narrow Gauge railroad in Gunnison, Colorado. He also worked on projects in Louisiana, Texas and Missouri. For a short time (~1882 to 1886), after the untimely death of his wife Delilah, Eli Newbanks partnered with Hamilton Wiley in his Beloit Contracting Business. Their advertisement appeared weekly in the Beloit Gazette.

In 1884, Eli became the lead carpenter for a large local barn project; an octagon barn, built in Scottsville KS, just nine miles north and east of the Squire-Hennes barn. This barn, built for C. W. Culp, owner of Eureka Stock Farm, was the pinnacle of local construction jobs. While the barn no longer exists, it had the same ogee roof design as the Squire-Hennes barn. Winning this contract was a huge plus for Hamilton Wiley's business reputation. By 1886, Eli was again engaged with long term construction work that took him away from Mitchell County. It was Hamilton Wiley who built an addition to the C. W. Culp barn in 1887. He carefully repeated the ogee roof of the original structure. One year later, 1888, Hamilton Lee Wiley built the Squire-Hennes barn for Frederick F. Squire.



Above: Closer View of Framing System and Section of Rafter. Measurements taken by Byron Ulery indicate that each member of the roof's truss system are roughly 12.5 inches thick and composed of up to 15 sawn boards.

Below: View of Interior Framing Taken from Hayloft Floor.

Bottom Left: Historic Photograph of Squire-Hennes Barn and Author as an Infant – What a Family Treasure! All Photographs and Diagrams Courtesy of M. Hennes



New York, Old Barns!

NBA 2014 Annual Conference brings barn lovers to Tully, NY

This summer, a number of NBA members and barn-loving friends traveled to upstate New York to celebrate the state's beautiful barns and to talk about the three R's of barn preservation: Repair, Restore, and Reuse! The weekend kicked off Friday night with square dancing and merriment at the Apple Country Retreat—a rehabilitated barn that later hosted Saturday's lectures and lunch.

Though the weather remained cool, hot topics of barn preservation were covered in a series of educational sessions on Saturday that brought attention to New York

State's Barn Grant Program, regional examples of adaptive re-use, and a discussion of state barn types and other landscape features influenced by agriculture in the state.

The NBA would like to thank Mike Woodford, and others at Woodford Bros. Inc. for all the time and effort they put into coordinating the event on behalf of our organization, as well as the folks at the New York State Barn Coalition. Additional thanks to our wonderful speakers: Randy Nash, Cynthia Faulk, Charles Bultman, Carl Sterns, Lauren Stiles, Mark Lepetich, Craig Williams, and Bob Sherman. Highlights of the Annual Membership meeting included the approval BOD term limits, approval of NBA's booth at the 2014 NTHP conference, and the election of Keith Cramer, Ric Beck, and Jeff Marshall to the BOD. Danae Peckler also announced that she would not seek another term as President and asked that someone else take on the job for the next year.

To kick off the conference, Randy Nash discussed barn preservation legislation in New York that provided financial assistance to select barn owners from 2000-2006. These grants were administered through the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) as the purpose of the law was to preserve the scenic rural landscape and fortify heritage tourism, considering the fact that agriculture is still the leading industry in the state! The program has run its course, 532 barns were awarded grants in 56 counties at a total cost of \$12 million. Though 9 out of 10 barn grant recipients only spent the amount of money they were obligated to invest in the project, the program extended the life of these barns and kept them in agricultural use on farms across the state.

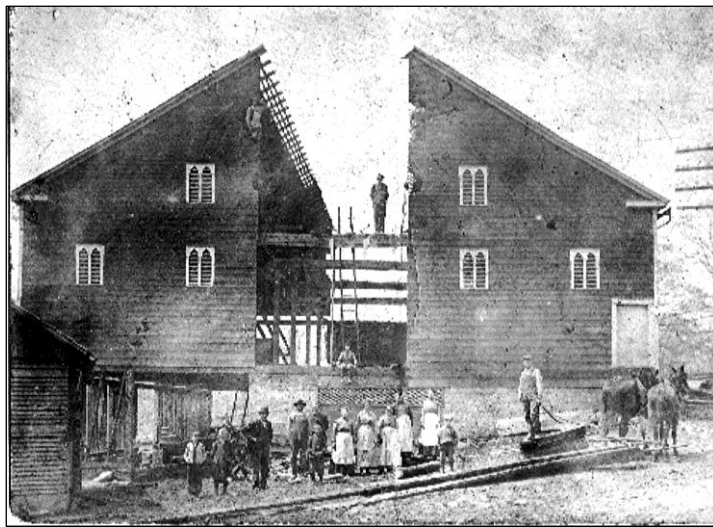
Chuck Bultman, architect and chair of the NBA's Technical Advisory Committee, addressed the growing concern over large barn conversions, particularly those being used for public and private assembly space like "wedding" barns. We also heard from Mark Lepetich from Woodford Bros. Construction detailing the firm's work to build a new barn with a lot of historic character for the circa-1911 Beak and Skiff Orchard.

Cindy Falk, professor at Copperstown Graduate Program and author of *New York Barns*, a book written as a statewide field guide to barns that also discusses the agricultural historic they reflect! Preservation architect, Carl Sterns told the crowd about the design details of the state's iconic hop houses and how some folks are getting back into their cultivation! Craig Williams discussed the history of the Erie Canal and its importance to the area's economy, spurring the construction of various barns and storage facilities for large shipments of salt, flour, hay, apples, and more! An expert on the four-level shaker barn at Mount Lebanon, Lauren Stiles spoke at length about the this Shaker community designed their barn to be a one-of-a-kind mix of form and function. The influence of this community of Shakers was important to the agricultural community at large in a time when the Shakers were highly revered among most American agriculturists. All in all, the annual conference was a great success providing the opportunity to get so many barn lovers in one room in a place as beautiful as upstate New York!



Extreme Restoration at Circa-1760 Wemple Barn, Schenectady, NY

NBA Board Member, Keith Cramer is helping to restore the threshing floor of this classic early Dutch Barn. For the first time, water from the nearby Normanskill Creek reached the barn's floor beams during Hurricanes Irene & Lee in 2011. This motivated the owners to restore the barn's wooden floor that had been mostly destroyed by decades of abuse and 'improvements' such as 4" of added concrete stalls and troughs. The center aisle of the original 'wheat' barn may be a unique survivor from the Colonial era. The few remaining floor boards show that they were originally single planks that went the entire length of the threshing floor (26 feet). The widest surviving plank is 23" wide, 6" thick, and nearly 24 feet long. The planks were joined with full 1" thick hardwood splines. Local trees have been found to reproduce these planks. *Detail of original floor board pictured at right.*



Above: Historic Photograph of Miller barn, Jefferson Township, Pa., during 14-ft. widening ca. 1920. Demolished 2013.

NBA Has a New Model: A Split-Barn from Southwest PA!

Synopsis by NBA & HBFF member, Fred Will

Somerset County located in Southwest Pennsylvania is home to a unique method of barn enlargement. During the early part of the 20th century many of the Standard open forebay bank barns were modified and enlarged. The most common practice was to enclose the forebay by adding a shed extension to the front of the forebay. This created an asymmetrical roof line, which can still be seen on many barns today.

For some unknown reason several farmers decided to use a more novel approach. They cut the timber framed second story of the barn from end to end. They then slid or moved the entire forebay half of the barn out 10' -15' unto a new support wall, and filled the timber framing, flooring, and roof peak back into the center of the two halves. This created more space in the center of the barn and retained a symmetrical roof line. There are now 44 barns and one church building documented and known to have been enlarged by this procedure. All but one of these, are located in Somerset Co.

In discussing this with Charles Leik it was decided to have a model built to better demonstrate this unusual procedure. Charles commissioned Andy Ebersol, a young Amish model builder from York Pa., to build the model. In addition to being used to demonstrate the splitting procedure, it was also decided to highlight the massive size of the timbers used to build a Pennsylvania Barn. It is built to 1/12 scale (1 inch=1foot), and the craftsmanship and detail is astonishing, down to the mortise and tenon joints.



View of new Split-Barn model.

The Challenge of Adapting Historic Barns into 21st-Century Event Spaces

Earlier this year, a piece of legislation pending in Michigan was brought to our attention that seeks to exempt all barns on farms (or in agriculturally zoned areas) from meeting any of the state's building codes—even when those barns are rented out for events, such as weddings. We in the NBA are not the least bit surprised that people want to get married in barns; they are beautiful spaces akin to cathedrals, some say!



We also know of many barns that have been elegantly and legally converted to serve as event places to host weddings and other events for a fee. However, we are also aware of the fact that not all historic barns are safe places to gather large groups of people. Barns present a challenge to fire and safety regulations—putting farmers, barn owners, and their patrons at some risk for the privilege to assemble within them.

Confronted with this pending legislation—which we have not heard exists in any other state at this point in time—we chose to weigh in with our opinion and sent a letter to important lawmakers in the state. This was one of our biggest challenges in 2014. On the one hand, this law would free barns to be used anyway someone would want with little input from modern construction professional and planning/ zoning regulators. On the other hand, we, as a society, have a long history of not wanting to put our citizens in harm's way when they come together to assemble and celebrate. As a matter of fact, the United States is one of the safest countries when it comes to our buildings; that safety is embodied in our build codes.

Ultimately, the BOD came to the conclusion that the need to ensure the safety of those old barns being converted into a new use as an assembly space was paramount. We could not, in good conscious, simply exempt all barns from the need to meet any codes at all while allowing them to provide shelter for an assembled group of the public citizenry. While we acknowledge that the building code can be overbearing in some ways with respect to barns and farms—eliminating it altogether oversimplified the complexity that arises in drastically altering the use of a barn from holding feed and livestock to sheltering human beings in sizable numbers.

It is important to note that while we chose to not support this proposed legislation in Michigan, we have offered to help shape new legislation. We reached out to leading congressional members to request that they entertain a compromise—looking first at how the building code currently affect barn conversions on farms, and second, at what zoning regulations and aspects of the building code would enable barns meet safety goals while also respecting the historic character of these special properties. Our hope is that such legislation might then serve as a model for other states. We felt that this was the right decision and are looking to be leaders in this ongoing conversation about how we can best adapt and re-use our barns in the future.

Below is a copy of our letter, sent to the Agriculture Committee of the Michigan House of Representatives in late September, regarding Michigan House Bill #5642:

Dear Ma'am/ Sir,

Since 1995, the National Barn Alliance (NBA) has been working to save and protect America's rural heritage and heart of every farm; the barn. These barns are tangible links to our agrarian past. They reflect our nation's history and culture, and are vital to preserving the American experience.

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The Challenge of Adapting Historic Barns into Event Spaces (Continued from Page 7)

As the only national organization focused exclusively on barn preservation, the NBA has worked to raise awareness of the importance of documenting historic barns and other rural structures; encourage the creation of statewide and local barn preservation organizations and programs; and to facilitate the sharing of information on barns, their history, and their physical preservation.

We are writing today to discuss that last sentiment; the physical preservation of barns.

Today we find ourselves at a crossroads. Today we are confronted with a piece of legislation seemingly aimed at preserving barns by allowing them to be used as event spaces for a portion of the year unfettered by the building codes. Is this a victory for barns? At this time we think it is not, and we would like to explain why.

While our organization strongly welcomes any, and all, actions that would help preserve barns and their place on the farm we see a simple exemption of all barns in Michigan from any building code as just... too simple. While all of us in the barn preservation community love to talk about the simple life of years gone by, and enjoy reliving some of those moments through demonstrations and reenactments, we live firmly in the 21st century. We can see from our vantage point that buildings, and building codes, have evolved for good reasons to the place where they are today. And as students of history we know both the good and the bad stories that history has to tell. As much as we enjoy reading of families working together to build a village, and of community barn raisings, we also know the stories of devastating fires that consumed whole farmsteads, or chunks of a town. We understand that these old wooden buildings allow fires to spread quickly. So while we dearly want underutilized barns to be adapted to other uses, so they will be here for years to come, we also want them to be safe for those many years. Or stated in a more simple way, there are many things we admire about the 19th century; fire safety is not one of them.

We also empathize with the plight of the family farm and would welcome a more sympathetic application of codes and regulations as they are applied to historic barns, and family owned farms. We know that there are many strong and proud barns, and barn owners, across Michigan where weddings and other events would be fantastic if held in those buildings. But sadly, Michigan also has some dilapidated barns on farms as well (as does all states which is partly why our organization exists). And the way Michigan's House Bill #5642 is written those struggling barns would be as eligible for exemption as would a strong barn; that is why we cannot support this bill.

The NBA understands the goals of our building codes and wants to ensure that when barns are used as gathering spaces they are certified to be safe for that use by the local and state building officials. The NBA would be more than happy to support an exemption of old barns as long as those barns would have to meet predetermined minimum safety and structural considerations, and be inspected based on those considerations, by a building official.

We are sorry that we cannot support this bill but the weight of what we know can happen is tipping the scales of us wanting to simply save all of the precious barns we have. The NBA believes that barns can serve us well for many years to come. However, we also know that every barn, in its current condition, should not be simply declared a place to assemble. We are therefore writing today to ask that you not support Michigan's House Bill No. # 5642.

Sincerely,

National Barn Alliance Board of Directors

Using New Technologies to Document Late-19th Century Barn in Albemarle County, Virginia

By Emily Anderson, Preservationist (& NBA's newest Board Member!)

Built during the late-eighteenth century, Clover Hill Farm's English bank barn is located within the Southwest Mountains Rural Historic District in Albemarle County, Virginia. The property was originally part of Cloverfields Farm, owned by the Meriwether family who obtained 18,000 acres of land in a land grant from King George II in 1730.

Present in a Mutual Assurance Policy dated 16 Sept. 1800 as part of William Meriwether's Cloverfields Farm, the barn was valued at \$500—a substantial sum for the period. The policy further describes the size of the barn at 36' x 46' along with three shed roof additions—two of which are present today.

This barn was documented as part of an independent study with the final project being a submission to the Leicester B. Holland Prize competition administered by the Heritage Documentation Programs of the National Park Service (HABS/HAER/HALS).

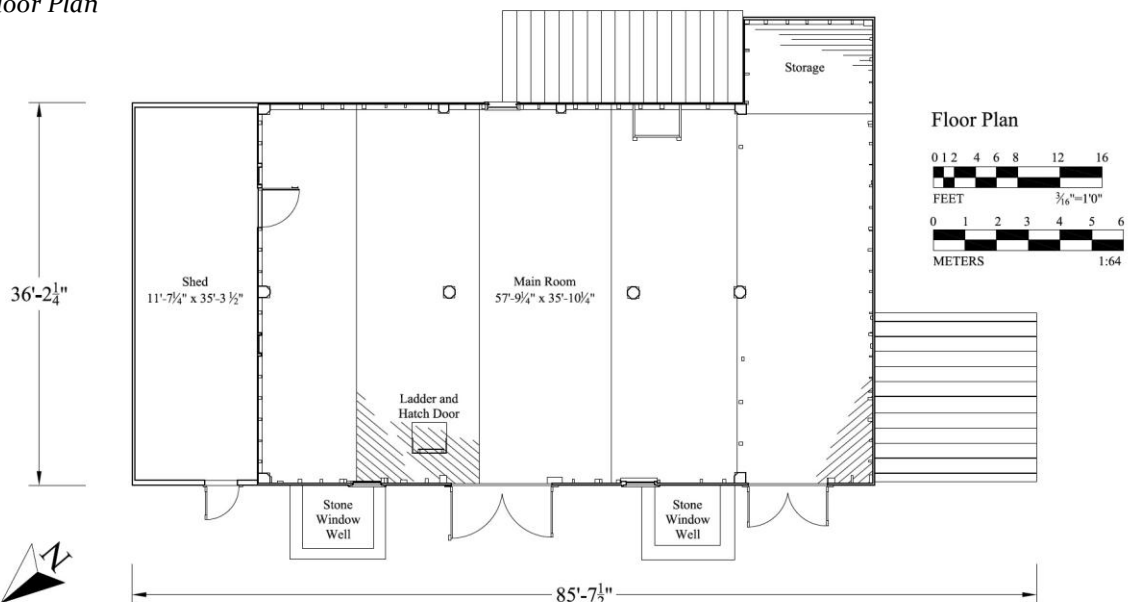
Using a variety of modern technology from my experience as a student at the University of Mary Washington's Department of Historic Preservation, I was able to create a complete floor plan of the first floor, a drawing of the primary elevation, a detail of the barns' chamfered post profile, and a site plan in the spring of 2014.

One device used for the barn's documentation was a Total Station, a tool commonly used in surveying. This machine integrates an electronic theodolite with an electronic distance meter taking into account both horizontal and vertical angles. The Total Station then translates those measurements into points in an AutoCAD (Computer Aided Design) file. Once in AutoCAD, these points can be used as anchors to raster and stretch images to fit the measurements. Once the stretched image is laid below these points, one can trace to follow the image, producing an almost perfectly scaled drawing.



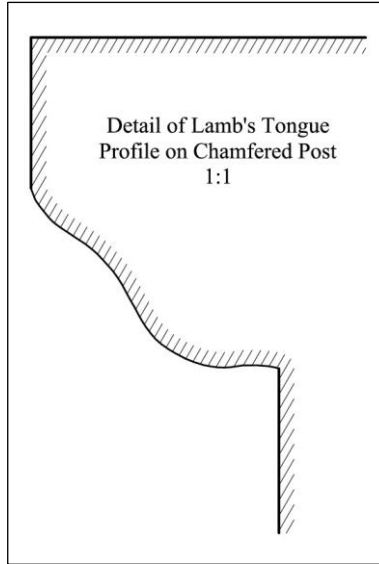
Above: Northeast Oblique of Barn.

Below: First Floor Plan



Using New Technologies
(Continued next page)





(Continued from Page 9)

Constructed using heavy timber framing techniques and clad with horizontal weatherboard siding, the barn displays little exterior ornamentation. However, the original interior posts are not only chamfered on all visible sides, but also display a Lamb's Tongue detail—a woodworking technique often used as a segue from a chamfered edge to a sharp corner—at both the top and bottom of each chamfer. Overall the building still retains integrity of both craftsmanship and material despite heavy agricultural use over the past 200-plus years.

At left, interior view of Clover Hill's English bank barn with NBA Past President, Danae Peckler, acting as scale bar at 5' 7" next to original chamfered posts. At right, detail of Emily Anderson's drawing of post profile.

Barns on TV: the NBA is Wild About Barns!

Old and new, simple and extravagant, urban and rural, barns remain a powerful symbol of the American landscape. Coming to cable network RIDE TV in January 2015, *Wild About Barns* is a new television series featuring historic, backyard and show barns, each built for different functionality and sport. "We are so happy to partner with the National Barn Alliance to bring these barn stories to life for our viewers," said Executive Producer and creator of *Wild About Barns* Pamela Kettle. "The alliance is helping us locate barns to cover for the series. We talk to barn architects, builders, horse trainers and horse owners who work with horses of every breed and discipline."



The National Barn Alliance mission is to document and preserve America's barns. "The Wild About Barns team shares in that mission and is working with the Alliance to showcase the barns and people who called them home," said Kettle. "We are shooting all over America this fall – from gypsy horses swimming seaside in Florida to the largest turn of the century Percheron Breeding farm in Kansas to Olympic Grand Prix jumpers in Connecticut," said Kettle.

So, saddle up and hit the trails with *Wild About Barns* and the National Barn Alliance in 2015. Equestrians and barn lovers across America want to hear your stories! For more information, please visit www.wildaboutbarns.com and follow us on Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram and Twitter.

Wild About Barns will air weekly on RIDE TV (www.ridetv.com) starting Tuesday, January 20, 2015.

Recent Legislative Efforts in Favor of Barns!

Recently, the National Barn Alliance has been examining a number of legislative measures to bring greater attention and support to barn preservation in various locations throughout the country. We have posted several stories discussing efforts to provide grants, tax relief, and other forms of financial aid to historic barn owners and developers interested in adaptive re-use in social media. The following information was published by the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation – one of the country’s leading advocates for historic barn preservation on a state-wide scale! An article entitled “Barns, Tax Credit Bills Passed” was published in the July/ August Legislative Report section of the *Connecticut Preservation News*.

“An Act Establishing a Property Tax Program to Encourage the Preservation of Historic Agricultural Structures” was recently approved following a 10-year project to document and designate historic barns throughout the state. “The new law allows the state’s towns and cities to set up mechanisms for offering property tax relief to owners who can demonstrate the public benefit of preserving their barns and other historic agricultural structures while agreeing to a 10-year renewable preservation easement on the exteriors.” Similar legislation exists in the state of New Hampshire which permits those owners “who (a) can demonstrate the public benefit of preserving their barns or other historic farm buildings, and (b) agree to maintain their structures throughout a minimum 10-year preservation easement.”

These Acts differ from legislation lately passed in Indiana. Signed by the governor last March, legislation in Indiana is designed to provide relief to owners of timber-framed “heritage barns,” and “permits a person to receive a 100% property tax deduction against the assessed value of a barn that qualifies as a heritage barn. [It also] requires the office of tourism development to promote heritage barns, [and] permits a county to impose a public safety fee up to \$50 for each heritage barn receiving a deduction.”

Over the past year, the NBA has also found a number of localities that go a step further, levying small taxes on a local level to support the preservation of farmland and historic buildings. Is your community or state on top of these things? Let us know what legislations affects historic barns in your neck of the woods!

NBA Works to Get the Barn Question Back in the Federal Agricultural Census

Back in the early oughts, and we mean 2000s, members of the NBA and other barn-friendly organizations came together to lobby the USDA for putting what we know call “the barn question” in the 2007 Ag Census. More specifically, the question reads like so: “**Does your farm have a barn built before 1960?**” The success of this effort led to the first ever count of American barns! Though it is not a perfect one, it was a start, and for all its flaws, we have worked to build upon this effort over the past year.

Some of our more electronically engaged members may have seen our call to action asking individuals and organizations alike to submit comments to the USDA and get the Barn Question in the 2017 Ag Census. We are not sure how many submissions were made, but have gotten good feedback from insiders at the agency.

It is our hope that by following up with the same question in 2017 that we might be able to get an idea of how many barns we have lost. Unfortunately, the question was only sent to a limited audience in 2007 – so we might not get the most scientific or accurate response, but we are sure open to the possibilities. According to Rod Scot, the NBA’s chief advocate and USDA liaison, we will just have to wait and see if our effort has paid off! We will certainly keep you posted on the news.

News from the Barnyard!

The latest from NBA-member organizations working to save barns in the USA

The Dutch Barn Preservation Society Organizes NY/NJ Tours!

The Dutch Barn Preservation Society’s mission makes them interested in one of country’s ethnic barn types, wherever they are located! This year, the DBPS has led three tours, two in NY and another in northern NJ. The NY tours were in Greene, Dutchess, and Rockland Counties. In NJ, the group looked at Dutch barns in Bergen County.

Barns & Brews in NY!

The Carey Institute is currently fundraising to start a model farmstead brewery in Rensselaerville, NY. The Dutch Barn Farm Brewery Incubator will host a new economic development and social networking hub, bringing farmers, brewers and the Capital Region community together. The Institute will reconstruct a 1760’s New World Dutch barn donated by Randolph J. Collins from the town of Guilderland. This icon of local history will be erected on their campus and adapted to house New York State’s first farm-to-glass classroom and farm brewery incubator to provide start-up brewing space and educational opportunities to emerging farm brewery enterprises, cultivating economic opportunities for farmers and brewers in New York State’s budding farm-to-glass industry. www.careyinstitute.org



Above: Rodgers Barn, Wappingers Falls, NY, is an original 1790 barn with a 1830 barn (moved whole in the mid-1800s) attached to the rear. This ‘new’ barn was lowered and tilted to make the two ridgelines match. Restoration included Dutch door design from another local barn.

Below: Bronck House Museum, Greene Co NY, 1830’s 13-sided Barn exterior and interior center pole to cupola ring



MBPN Announces 2014 “Barns of the Year”!

The Michigan Barn Preservation Network (MBPN) announced their 2014 Michigan Barns of the Year Awards at the 19th Annual Conference and Meeting, “*Preservation Roads*,” the Conference was held in March at Kellogg Center during Michigan State Universities annual Agriculture and Natural Resources Week activities. This is the 17th year the network has presented these awards. Including this year’s awardees, a total of 55 barns from across Michigan have been recognized for their unique qualities and/or preservation efforts. The Barn of the Year program annually honors existing Michigan barns that exemplify outstanding character in our state. Nominated barns must have been built before 1957 and be in-use for one of four purposes. Barns must retain their overall appearance, as well as interior and exterior barn characteristics. Nominations are open to the public, reviewed and determined by MBPN Awards Committee members.

Passion for Barn Preservation Comes in All Forms!

Earlier this year, we got a submission from NBA member, Marty McGahan, detailing the work his is doing to keep up his family's farm just north of Springfield Missouri. His grandparents, Wayne & Carrie McGahan, established the farm in 1937 as a dairy. The farm is 150 acres in size and currently in use for beef cattle. All photographs submitted by Marty McGahan



“My grandfather had built two beautiful barns during his period of operating the farm. The North Barn (24' x 36') is the older of the two; I would estimate it was built in the late 40s. It was attached to the milking parlor and the milk house.

This barn sustained some wind damage to it in 2009 from the tornado winds. We made the repairs that year... I felt the barn was worth restoring back to its original condition. I installed new R/S oak 1"x 9" boards on the lower section of the barn on all three sides. Plus I replaced any bad oak framing that had rotted out or had failed with time over the years. Re-cured the old oak siding boards in the two upper gable ends... I repainted the oak-board siding a custom Sherwin Williams barn wood grey paint to match the old weather grey oak appearance it had acquired over the years, and the door hinges in black paint. We made the needed repairs to the metal roof and repainted it a silver paint color. We cleaned up the electrical wiring terminations on the west end too.

I added the old rubble stone to the exposed sections of the foundation to match to the stone we installed on the milk house and milking parlor. I decided to restore the folks' old milk house and milk parlor at the same time. The rubble style stone I installed on the milk house and parlor matches the beautiful stone grandpa built the farm house out of. I decided to go back with a natural cedar board and batten look on the milk house and parlor... We reworked all the old existing window sashes and repainted them a hunter green accent color and installed a new entry door to the milk house. Plus we built new cedar board/batten style doors on the other doors around the milk parlor.”

- Marty McGahan of Springfield, MO



NBA Makes Good at the 2014 National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference in Savannah, GA!

The NBA has maintained a presence at the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) Annual Conference for many years now as it allows the opportunity to reconnect with old barn friends and make new ones with an interest in preservation. We thank all of the NBA members and barn friends, past and present, that have supported our presence at the conference, and we look forward to celebrating another year of growing interest in barn preservation with the NTHP!

To help pay for the NBA’s booth fee at this great event, we coordinated our own t-shirt campaign for the third year in a row—using monies collected from sponsors listed on the back! This year’s slogan got a lot of attention, as did our hats—which are always a big hit. Both items sell for \$15.00 each, plus the cost of shipping and handling. If you would be interested in purchasing either of these items, please contact us at info@barnalliance.org while supplies last!

And please consider sponsoring our 2015 NTHP efforts – this next event will be held in Washington, D.C.!



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