

HOOSIER BARN

C H R O N I C L E

Preserving Indiana's Heritage, One Barn at a Time

A PUBLICATION OF



**INDIANA BARN
FOUNDATION**

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The wagon barn, prior to restoration



The wagon barn, after restoration

Indiana Barn Foundation helps save a pre-1859 Wagon Barn

BY RANDY HAYMAKER

“Without the inspiration of Duncan Campbell (Indiana Barn Foundation advisor) I would have been reluctant to move forward,” says barn owner Bill Koressel of Bloomington after completing restoration of a pre-1859 wagon barn in the Monroe County Maple Grove Road Rural Historic District.

The district includes several farmsteads, mature trees and stone walls using Monroe County limestone, and is a very pleasant drive.

The district encompasses about 600 acres of historic farmsteads northwest

of Bloomington along Bean Blossom Creek that used to supply the Monroe County seat with product via flatboats pulled by horses and mules. The land was part of the Indian Treaty of 1809.

Bill and his wife purchased seven acres in 2017, part of the Delap-Fyffe family farm dating back to the 1840s, according to the National Register of Historic Places nomination. Their neighbor, David Fyffe, still retains other parts of the farm. The house is an 1859 Greek Revival built as a wedding present by David Delap to his wife, Alli. The Koressels are the first owners not descended from the original owners.

The house and outbuildings were all constructed by cutting and milling wood on site with frame construction, and primarily spaced vertical siding. There is also a limestone gabled well house partially banked into a hillside.

Amish and other contractors advised Koressel to either tear down or burn the wagon barn saying that it was too far gone and even dangerous to restore. But with patience, he installed some 70 floor jacks, moving them a quarter of an inch daily, to bring the structure upright. Along the way, steel cables anchored to nearby trees

continued

Indiana Barn Foundation helps save a pre-1859 Wagon Barn *continued*

and even thick tow straps had secured the barn. A companion wood shed could not be saved. Three quarters of the barn wood was usable, and the rest of the wood was milled on Rattlesnake Road in nearby Spencer.

The barn features blacksmith-made iron hardware, hand-hewn timbers and original bay doors that were salvaged. The Indiana Barn Foundation grant paid about an eighth of the cost of restoration.

Restoration had many hurdles, including retired neurologist Koressel twice contracting Covid-19 and necessitating seeking a time extension that the Indiana Barn Foundation granted. It also prompted his medical retirement.

Koressel had experience in restoration, however, as he and his wife had earlier restored an 1860 mansion and outbuildings in Texas. Besides his medical skills, Bill had earlier worked for Walt Disney Imagineering as the World Art Director in charge of authentic antiques used in Disney productions.

The Koressels hope to open the farmstead to students at least twice annually as an educational tool. They use the barn to house their



The wagon barn, fully restored

1951 Allis Chalmers B tractor and their Alpacas along with feed and tack.

David Fyffe has “caught the bug” as well and intends to restore his cattle and English barn and blacksmith shop that are all part of the original farmstead.

For those wishing to view the farmstead, they may find it at 1585 West Maple Grove Road, Bloomington.

“Without the inspiration of Duncan Campbell (Indiana Barn Foundation advisor) I would have been reluctant to move forward.”

— BILL KORESSEL

Four Grants Awarded to Preserve Indiana Heritage Barns

The Indiana Barn Foundation is pleased to announce the winners of the 2022 Indiana Barn Foundation Preservation Grant. A record number of applications were submitted this year and after reviewing the more than 40 submissions, the IBF Board of Directors voted to award four grants instead of two.

After receiving the recommendations of the Grant Committee, the Board of Directors has selected the following awardees for 2022:

- **PAUL RAAKE** (Harrison County)
- **JOSEPH STUTZMAN** (Daviess County)
- **DOUGLAS KEESLING** (Delaware County)
- **JARED AND CHANTEL SEALE** (Scott County)

Each winner will receive a \$2,500 matching grant that must be used to fund repairs to their historic barn. The grant amount must be matched by the barn owner through their personal funds,

other grants or loans, or an in-kind match. IBF looks forward to seeing these owners make progress with their projects throughout the year.

The Indiana Barn Foundation Preservation Grant program has been providing financial assistance to barn owners working to preserve their historic Hoosier barns since its creation in 2018. More information about the grant program and past winners can be found at www.indianabarns.org/grants.

AG ALUMNI FISH FRY

Board members of Indiana Barn Foundation attended the Purdue University Ag Alumni Annual Fish Fry April 30th. It was a great opportunity to share our mission of preserving Indiana heritage barns, share the new barn booklet, and promote the Mauri Williamson Endowment.





Indiana Barn Foundation board members attending the Purdue Ag Alumni Fish Fry: Chris Garvey, Kent Yeager, Randy Haymaker and Mike Thompson




Kent Yeager, President of the Indiana Barn Foundation, and David Williamson, the son of Mauri Williamson, the founder of the Indiana Barn Foundation.

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HOOSIER AG TODAY

PODCAST

A Mission to Save and Restore Indiana's Old Barns and Preserve Farm History

Kent Yeager, President of the Indiana Barn Foundation, talks to C.J. Miller at Hoosier Ag Today about his passion for preserving Indiana's barns as cultural and historical landmarks.



SCAN THE QR CODE, OR NAVIGATE TO THE LINK
BELOW FOR THE ARTICLE AND MINI-PODCAST

<https://hoosieragtoday.com/a-mission-to-save-and-restore-indianas-old-barns-and-preserve-farm-history/>



T.C. Singleton Round Barn

BARN TOUR

2 0 2 2

SATURDAY, SEPT. 24
10 A.M. - 4 P.M.
DAVISS COUNTY

Daviess County plays host to our 2022 Barn Tour scheduled for Saturday, September 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Join fellow barn enthusiasts in touring a variety of historic barns, including the Singleton Round Barn, in scenic Veale Township. See the stunning craftsmanship exhibited in their construction. Hear about their interesting histories. Learn from a preservation expert how to assess a barn's rehabilitation needs. Make it a weekend experience by attending a

special program the evening before featuring author and award-winning photographer John Hanou, an aficionado of Indiana's round barns.

FOOD TRUCKS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT T.C. SINGLETON ROUND BARN:

- ★ Cherry Ghost Coffee House — organic coffee
- ★ Cheese Louise — gourmet grilled cheese
- ★ Scoop's Homemade Ice Cream

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, JULY 16

Join us for the 2022 Forum and Annual Meeting of the Indiana Barn Foundation on **SATURDAY, JULY 16**, at the Art Sanctuary in Martinsville. The program will be held in person and begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude around 3:30 p.m.

The day will begin at the Art Sanctuary, a re-purposed church now serving as artist studios and event spaces, in downtown Martinsville. The program will include a special guest speaker, a round-table discussion for barn owners and barn lovers on what it will take to save more barns and what tools we all need to do it, updates on

INDIANA BARN FOUNDATION 2022 Forum and Annual Meeting

the barn preservation grant, and the IBF annual meeting. A BBQ lunch will be provided as part of registration.

Following lunch, attendees are invited to venture a short drive into the beautiful Morgan County countryside of Green Township to the 1847 Cedar Lane Family Farm that is listed as a Hoosier Homestead and was named a Bicentennial Barn. We'll visit the two barns with the owner and their contractors and talk about rehabilitation work that was tackled, work that is still needed, and what other barn

owners can look out for at their own barns and during similar projects.

Meeting attendees and the public will also be invited to attend a special art show opening at the Art Sanctuary on Friday evening presented by the studio artists. The focus will be artwork depicting barns and rural scenes.

Details are still being finalized for both the Friday evening event and the IBF annual meeting on Saturday so watch the IBF website, Facebook page, and your mail for further information and how to register for the meeting.

ASK INDIANA BARN FOUNDATION

How Old is Your Barn?

Dating the historic Indiana barn is not easy. “How old is our barn?” is the most common (and difficult to answer) question I am asked.

DATING A BARN

Although written documentation is often scarce, construction and finish details, as well as stylistic or period flourishes can date a barn. Most barns have been continuously repaired, renewed, and reconstructed as long as someone had a use for them. Alterations include additions as well as demolitions, so the more one knows about early barn typologies and the evolution of materials and agricultural practices, the better equipped he or she is to accurately place the barn in its historical period.

PRE-WORLD WAR I BARNs

Most Indiana barns constructed before World War I display log or timber frame construction, and the earliest (unlikely before 1800, and rare prior to the Civil War) are log. Hand hewn timber frames in Indiana date from the earliest immigrant settlement (c.1800) into the late 19th- and even early 20th centuries, although after 1845 circular sawn components appear. After 1870-80, however, most timber frames are sawn, although the longest timbers are often still hewn. The earliest rafters are cut poles measuring from three to five inches in diameter and approximately twelve to fourteen feet in length, arranged in multiple runs as required. Later rafters are hewn or sawn dimensional lumber. The timber frame, with its horizontal top and sill plates, and intermediate girts, was an ideal configuration for attaching vertical wood siding, which is the most common orientation. The spaces between these rough sawn planks were sometimes covered by narrow wood battens, which reduced wind and rain penetration; on more finished barns after c.1900, or on those with replacement siding, the planks were often milled with a shiplap or tongue-and-groove joint that enabled the planks to form a more weather resistant skin.

SAW MARKS

Most rough sawn planks bear the curved marks of the circular saw, which comes into use in sawmills after 1845. Those bearing vertical saw marks oriented across the plank were typically sawn on vertically operating (reciprocating, water-powered) saws that preceded the circular blade, although examples exist of band-sawn planks and braces after 1836, which leave a similar mark, and further complicate dating.

TELLTALE SIGNS

Saw marks are an important telltale and can be read in most wood barns by close inspection of the siding or interior planks. Vertically operating saws were relatively slow and many mills did not have carriages capable of handling logs of the length needed for barns, so vertically sawn timbers are uncommon. Consequently, hand hewing continues throughout the period of transition from one sawmill operation to another, making it difficult to accurately date many barns or determine when one technique left off and the other began. For example, it is possible to encounter hand-hewn timbers alongside sawn timbers and original circular sawn or band-sawn siding on the same barn. Replacement siding can further confound the issue, as can the continued application and even reuse of early types of nails. Therefore, it is important to look for consistency in style, or barn type, as well as in the framing technique, the siding, and the nails, since over the years alterations brought variations in each.

DECORATIVE DETAILS

Stylistic flourishes also inform the age of a barn, most notably those from the Victorian period — generally from 1870 to 1910. Decorative details, other than advertising or painted door arches and windows, are found in stylized ventilator cupolas, ornamental shingles and bargeboards, or decorative spool work imitating domestic architecture. Many Indiana farmers may not have had either the money or the inclination to



DUNCAN CAMPBELL
FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER OF
INDIANA BARN FOUNDATION

express these taste preferences in their barns, although it is clear that barns were constructed with great care, and were a significant source of pride for their owners, who often demystified the dating conundrum by painting their names and construction dates on their barns.

Excerpt from Indiana Barns, written by Duncan Campbell and Marsha Mohr. Publisher: IU Press.



**FOLLOW-UP
QUESTIONS?**

Submit to
info@indianabarns.org

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

Distinguishing the
20th century barn



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INDIANA LANDMARKS

Transverse Frame Barns on the Indiana Landscape

The Transverse Frame barn is a highly adaptable style that has evolved to meet the changing needs of American farm practices. Although it is generally considered to be an American form, examples of the Transverse Frame barn were known in Northern Germany. The German barns featured wagon doors on the end gables, an important aspect of the style as it evolved in the United States. In this country this vernacular typology was likely an integration of the Northern German design and a modification of the log crib barn.

The first floor of the Transverse barn form is typified by an arrangement of bays or stalls on either side of a central aisle, which runs parallel to the roofline. The central aisle is accessible by a wagon door on one or both gable ends. The bays that flank the central aisle function as animal stalls, grain storage or workrooms. Above the first floor is the loft area, used to store hay.



With the introduction of dimensional lumber, the Transverse Frame barn became a popular style in the Midwest in the late nineteenth century due primarily to its versatility as a mixed-use barn. This functional versatility influenced the evolution of the form, and the type gradually increased in size and complexity as it was adapted to new uses.

A common variation in the Transverse Frame barn includes the addition of one or two single-story side sheds that flank the main, two-story structure. These were often added for machinery storage as farms mechanized. When the flanking

sheds have their own wagon door entries adjacent to the primary gable-end entry, this variant is sometimes referred to as a Three Portal barn or more generally as a Midwestern barn, because it was popularized in the Midwest. Today, however, the form is commonly seen throughout the West as well and may be the most common American barn form.

The above text is excerpted from the newly published, [Indiana Heritage Barns: Their History, Uses, and Preservation](#). Visit www.indianabarns.org for a PDF version or a list of locations with hard copies available.