

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

VOLUME 8, NO. 1
SPRING 2021



Shooting hoops in the barn with dad starts at a young age in Indiana. Photo by Abby Wagner, used with permission. See more of her work at abbykwagner.com

Indiana, Basketball and Barns

BY CAROLYN MEYER MARKER

Indiana has long been associated with basketball, and most Hoosier kids had a nearby place to shoot hoops while growing up. In rural areas, barns often served as the 'neighborhood' basketball courts. During summer there were always parks and driveways with basketball goals, but during winter months, dedicated hoopers were lucky if they knew someone with a barn where they could keep up their skills and burn energy.

THE GONGWER BARN

If you were to ask people from the rest of the country what comes to mind when they think of Indiana, basketball might be the number one answer. Many would also describe images of rural scenes that included barns. So it's natural that if one wanted to tell the story of Indiana basketball, they might include "barn ball." When the Showtime

Sports channel set out to make a basketball documentary featuring the Notre Dame basketball team, they contacted Indiana Barn Foundation. They wanted to portray an idyllic Indiana farm scene, complete with a red barn and a basketball hoop. It didn't take long for us to locate several barns for the producers to choose from, as it seems almost every

continued

Indiana, Basketball and Barns *continued*



This Elkhart County barn was featured in a scene in the Showtime Sports Documentary, "HOOPS U"

Indiana barn has a basketball hoop, and stories to go with each one. After receiving photos from IBF, they decided on an Elkhart County barn owned by the **GONGWER FAMILY**, and did a lovely job of capturing the barn with its basketball hoop at sunrise. When the documentary, "HOOPS U" aired, IBF members, county reps and the Gongwer family watched with anticipation for the 'barn scene'. We were not disappointed!

THE NEIGHBORHOOD BARN

In 2015, IBF was part of a thrilling barn save. As the city of Indianapolis expanded, farms that were once on the outskirts of the city were bought up by developers. We were contacted by a family whose farm had been sold, and the barn slated to be torn down. The family's hope was to find someone who would buy the barn and move it to a new location. Working with Indiana Landmarks, we were able to connect them with a buyer and a barn contractor who could disassemble the structure. We were fortunate to meet **NUPI MCCREARY** and her sister **ANNE CREMER**, who had grown up on the farm. Meeting at the barn was an emotional experience for all of us. Nupi recalled, "This was where the whole neighborhood, including Indiana basketball legend Oscar Robertson gathered. Other **BASKETBALL GREATS** who have played at the barn include Todd Lickliter, Detlef Schrempf, Randy Wittman, Greg Dilling, Eric Gordon, Bob Netolicky, Don Buse, George McGinnis, Bill Newton, Tyrone and Ronnie Johnson." While visiting the barn, we were amused to see that someone had arranged basketballs to say I.U.

THE HARTOG BARN

While a basketball hoop can be found in most Indiana barns, the Hartog family of Georgetown must have one of the most well-outfitted barn courts in Indiana.

PATTI AND LARRY HARTOG

purchased a property with an old round-roofed dairy barn near Floyds Knobs. In 2008, when their son Ted was 13 years old, they hired a contractor to convert the loft to a basketball court. The floors were reinforced to allow a proper basketball floor, the entire loft was insulated, and heating and cooling systems installed. The loft was brightened by fluorescent lights, and the walls were decorated with logos and quotes from basketball legends. One wall says "Be Legendary", from Michael Jordan, and the opposite wall displays the University of Louisville logo. The court is adorned with jerseys from Larry Bird, Magic Johnson, and others players. On the back wall is the Michael Jordan quote, "I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. I've been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed."

"As March Madness rolls around and hoosters' thoughts turn to basketball, we're reminded of how big a role the game plays in Indiana's identity, and how many of these players' skills were polished in an Indiana barn."



Photo by Patti Hartog, used with permission. See more of her work at pattihartogphotography.myportfolio.com

Larry and Patti Hartog were first motivated to provide a place for their kids to gather with friends and shoot hoops during the winter. At the time, Ted and his sister Rachel were playing ball in school for the Floyd Central Highlanders, and the family was "entrenched in school basketball." The Hartogs shared that when their children were in high school, the barn was used often. Patti recalled, "Sometimes they would come to the barn before games to play and warm up. Sometimes they came after games and played until 1am. I have good memories of driving by the barn and seeing all their cars."

Ted recalls that it wasn't just the basketball team that played ball in the barn. He had friends in choir and with other interests who came to the barn, and it brought people from different backgrounds together. When Ted and his friends had graduated and gone off to college, they would come home and get together in the barn. At times it could be awkward to come back home and reconnect with old friends, but the barn allowed them to play ball together and enjoy easy conversations again.

It is fitting that the majority of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament will be held in Indiana. As March Madness rolls around and hoosters' thoughts turn to basketball, we're reminded of how big a role the game plays in Indiana's identity, and how many of these players' skills were polished in an Indiana barn.



Indiana basketball legends including Oscar Robertson once played in this barn court.

WELCOME

OUR NEW INDIANA BARN FOUNDATION MEMBERS

Leonard & Linda Ashwill
Harry Fahrenkamp
Patricia Grayson
Tess Kuntz
Brian Lautenbach
Robert Lovell
Bill Narwold
Samuel Reynolds
Levi & Erica Seymour

FUN FACT

Indiana Barn Foundation
recently launched a
YOUTUBE CHANNEL.

You'll find our virtual barn
tour and other barn videos
from around the state.
Subscribe to our YouTube
channel today!



CONNECT WITH US

-  Indiana Barn Foundation
-  Indiana Barn Foundation
-  @indianabarnfoundation
-  @IndianaBarnFND
-  info@indianabarns.org
-  www.indianabarns.org

Indiana Barn Foundation Receives Grant

BY DANIELLE BACHANT-BELL

The Indiana Barn Foundation board is pleased to announce receipt of a Historic Preservation Education Grant from Indiana Landmarks, Indiana Humanities, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The matching grant will be used to produce *Indiana's Heritage Barns: Their History, Uses, and Preservation*, an educational brochure in booklet format about historic Indiana barn types and their uses and evolutionary history.

The publication will include additional information explaining specific architectural components and features of barns and will be

accompanied by color photographs, line drawings of barns, and additional barn and farm-related history.

The brochure is intended to be an educational and informative tool for laypersons and students, architecture/history professionals and volunteers, educators, youth service leaders, and anyone who has both an interest in barns and who comes into contact with them in their work or other activities.

Completion and distribution of the publication is slated for the summer of 2021. Stay tuned for future announcements about availability.



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

DID YOU KNOW?

Every year IBF provides two grants to help preserve barns. Find out more information about our grant program at www.indianabarns.org/grants



FEATURED BARN

MEYERS-RYAN-REED BARN in Monroe County, part of the 2017 Indiana Barn Foundation's barn tour and runner-up in the Indiana Bicentennial Barns contest.

Photo by Shelley Pike, Indianapolis Camera Club.

To view additional beautiful barns, please view our website at www.indianabarns.org.

Chasing Indiana's Game

BOOK BY CHRIS SMITH
AND MICHAEL KEATING

For those of you who are dedicated fans of high school basketball in Indiana, as am I, a must read or purchase is *Chasing Indiana's Game* published by IU Press and available for just \$25 on Amazon or Barnes & Noble and featuring photos of many basketball gyms throughout the state.

The 206-page book features 149 color photos by noted photographers Chris Smith and Michael Keating who started what they called the Hoosier Hardwood Photo Project in 2013 and then spent years traveling more than

50,000 miles and visiting 300 Indiana gyms or remnants of them.

In speaking with co-author Chris Smith, he noted one of his favorite barns was a northern Indiana Amish barn that was surrounded by an unkept farm, but inside was a beautiful basketball court in the haymow. It's featured at the beginning of those photos on their webpage at www.hhphotoproject.com. Viewing many photos is free on their site but at \$25 the beautiful book is a bargain.

Among his stories was a Napoleon, (southeast of Greensburg) Indiana barn where a grandfather was seeking a court on which his grandchildren could play. He found a gym that was being torn down and with the help of volunteers he salvaged the gym's 1,500 square feet of the floor and it is now in his barnloft.

Another of Smith's stories was corresponding with a Spaniard who was a great fan of the movie "Hoosiers". The Spaniard brought his family to Indiana and of course visited the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame at New Castle and then took



Northern Indiana Amish barn with a beautiful basketball gym in the haymow. Photo by Chris Smith.

them to the Knightstown gym where the movie was filmed. While they were there they ran into the movie's director David Anspaugh and the producer Angelo Pizzo who dreamed up the movie loosely based on Milan's 1954 state championship after having been roommates at Indiana University.

Review by Randy Haymaker,
randyhaymaker@sbcglobal.net

Three Indiana Farms Nominated to the National Register of Historic Places

BY DANIELLE BACHANT-BELL

We are pleased to announce that three historic Indiana farms along with their barns were nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 2020.

In Michigan Township in LaPorte County, the **TRYON FARM** was established in the 1870s by Charles Tryon, Sr., and his wife, Jane. Their sons, Charles C., Jr. and Harvey H. Tryon inherited the farm and constructed the currently extant buildings as part of the dairy operation, Tryon Bros. The property includes an 1896 Queen Anne style house, a large bank barn used

for dairying built in 1892, and a c.1900 chicken coop and drive-thru granary.

Near the village of Walesboro in Bartholomew County, the **JAMES AND ANNETTA DAUGHERTY HOUSE AND BARN** sit on a farm established by James's parents in the 1820s. The brick Italianate house dates to 1870, while the 1870 barn was substantially rebuilt after an 1880 fire. The barn's cross-gable form has a double-aisle interior. When it was rebuilt the barn housed several operations under one roof, a bit forward-thinking for the time.

Just north of the community of Sanders in Monroe County, the **TATE-TATUM FARM** was established by pioneers, John and Susannah Tate in 1822. The farm was inherited by their daughter, Martha, and her husband, Seth Tatum, and remained in the family until the current owners purchased it in 2016. The property retains the 1822 two-story log house and 1822 double-crib log barn, and eight additional contributing resources dating between c.1822 and c1925. The property is one of those featured in IBF's Virtual Barn Tour available on YouTube.

Photos from SHAARD database of the Indiana DNR Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology



Barn at Tryon Farm. Photo by Kurt Garner.



Daugherty barn. Photo by Darrin and Shelly Keiser.



Tate-Tatum Farm log barn.
Photo by Danielle Bachant-Bell

ASK INDIANA BARN FOUNDATION

Barn Foundation Inspection

DUNCAN CAMPBELL

FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER OF INDIANA BARN FOUNDATION

This column is the first in a series to help barn owners assess the condition of their barns — a do-it-yourself guide to barn inspection. Each installment will consider a physical component of a barn's construction and provide a straightforward list of things to look for that suggest both problems and possible remedies to those problems. Areas to be considered include the foundation, the roof, the exterior walls, doors and windows, structural frame, floors, interior partitions, ventilation, and perhaps others, but overall the items that any on-site inspection by a qualified inspector should include.

Differential settlement is a term that describes building failure where the foundation has settled unevenly, most often on corners or along one end or side. Settlement that is even usually does not cause too many problems, and to a certain extent comes with age, but uneven settlement leads to foundation cracking, tilting, and/or crushing of foundation materials, including footings (where present). These symptoms inevitably lead to settlement of the building that is resting on the foundation structure, which can cause further structural failure: cracked timber sills, hogging of sills (bowing upward), displacement of timber columns, sunken floors, leaning/tilting walls, and sagging rooflines are typical, depending on how advanced the differential settlement is. These are all telltales to look for when suspecting foundation problems.

DETERMINE FOUNDATION MATERIALS:

dry-laid stones; mortared stone, tile, or brick; concrete blocks; poured (reinforced) concrete. Each can have its own set of telltales when settlement is present, and repair strategies can be specific to the materials in question.

DETERMINE FOUNDATION TYPE: single piers or continuous walls. Piers will occur at each corner and at regular intervals along the walls below vertical columns of the frame, including on either side of large openings. Piers

will also be placed under any vertical columns on the interior. Continuous foundation walls will be under the entire building perimeter, and sometimes under structural interior walls. It is common to see continuous foundation walls on the perimeter, and piers on the interior to support vertical structural columns. Remember, barns change, and it is common to see old and new alongside one another. An early barn may be set on stone piers, some of which are replaced with concrete piers, and it is not uncommon to see several types of foundation under one building.

ASSESS FOUNDATION CONDITION: If piers, look for tilting or leaning out of plumb. If composed of stacked stones, bricks, etc., have they slipped, is the mortar sound, missing? Are there signs of crushing or deterioration? If continuous walls, look for signs of movement and cracking. Cracking will occur in concrete walls commonly; if cracks are vertical there may not be a problem, but if they are slanting diagonally it is a sign of settlement, more advanced if the cracks are wide. Is there displacement in the plane of the wall, or bulging? If the walls are stone or other masonry units, look for signs of movement, loose, broken, or missing mortar, as well as leaning. Look for old repairs; they are usually a sign of past problems. Mortar cracks that track diagonally down through stone or brick walls are signs of settlement, but tight cracks between stones and mortar are signs of age. Make note of suspected problem areas and now step away from the barn to assess the structure itself. This is key — not all foundation problems are signs of differential settlement, they may just be deterioration that has not affected the structure above, yet.

ASSESS SETTLEMENT: Walk around your barn staying far enough away to view an entire side or end at a time, including the roof. Look closely. Examine the building for sagging at the corners, around door openings,



and along the bottom of walls. Look for uneven roof lines at the eaves and at the ridge, bowed or leaning walls, bowed or broken siding. Now walk around the interior perimeter and look for wood sills in contact with the ground, slanting or bowed vertical columns, sloping floors, especially in the loft, slippage of sills or columns off of the foundation piers or walls, splayed or broken connections in the structural frame — open or cracked mortise joints. Inspect the frame to see if it is leaning or remains straight. Any and all of the above may be signs of differential settlement. The worse the symptom, the more advanced the problem.



FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS?

Submit to
info@indianabarns.org

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

What you can do to
correct differential
settlement in your barn.



INDIANA BARN FOUNDATION

INDIANA BARN FOUNDATION
1201 Central Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46202

EMAIL: info@indianabarns.org
WEB: www.indianabarns.org

PROUD AFFILIATE OF



INDIANA LANDMARKS



A remnant of an old net still clings to the time worn hoop.

**BARN
TOUR**
2021

Save the Date: September 25

The Indiana Barn Foundation is sponsoring the eighth annual barn tour in Allen and DeKalb counties on September 25, 2021. The barn pictured to the left will be one of the barns open for touring during the annual event.

BASKETBALL IN INDIANA'S BARN HISTORY

BY GWEN GUTWEIN

During the 1950s into the early 1970s, barn basketball was a popular weekly event in northeast Indiana, particularly in DeKalb County.

DeKalb County is home to an old arch-roofed barn where basketball was a very popular draw for basketball enthusiasts. This particular old barn, built around 1937, still portrays its old well-worn basketball hoop. The barn owner reminisces about the popularity throughout the county for games held in his barn and in many other barns in the area.

That enthusiasm has not waned. Barn basketball continues to pull players into barns scattered throughout Indiana.