

HOOOSIER 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 9, NO. 3
FALL 2022

2022 Indiana Barn Foundation Barn Tour

★ ★ ★ DAVIESS COUNTY ★ ★ ★

The Indiana Barn Foundation is excited to be taking its **ANNUAL BARN TOUR TO SOUTHWEST INDIANA!** Get your ticket today and plan to enjoy an early autumn day in southwest Daviess County touring **SIX HERITAGE BARNs.**

- ★ See the skilled craftsmanship of their construction.
- ★ Hear about their interesting histories.
- ★ Learn from a preservation expert how to assess a barn's rehabilitation needs.

Barn owners and docents will be on hand at each location to share historical information on the barns and point out interesting features of each. The Singleton Round Barn will serve as the tour base for day-of registration, ticket purchases and the location for several food trucks. Savor the flavors of Cheese Louise (gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches), Jose's Burritos, Cherry Ghost Coffee House and Scoops Homemade Ice Cream.

FOOD TRUCKS:



Jose's Burritos



INDIANA BARN FOUNDATION APPRECIATES OUR BARN TOUR SPONSORS:



LOOK INSIDE TO SEE THE HERITAGE BARNs >>>>

**BARN
TOUR**

2 0 2 2

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

**IBF MEMBERS \$15
NON-MEMBERS \$20
16 and under free with an adult**

TICKETS

**ORDER ONLINE
at www.indianabarns.org**

**OR PURCHASE
DAY OF TOUR**

**at Barn 1,
Singleton Round Barn**

BARN TOUR

☆☆☆ 2022 ☆☆☆

SATURDAY, SEPT. 24



10 A.M.-4 P.M.

REGISTRATION
& FOOD TRUCK
LOCATION

BARN
1

SINGLETON ROUND BARN

2074 W 450 S ☆ WASHINGTON, IN

A well-recognized Daviess County landmark, this true round barn built in 1908 has been lovingly maintained over the decades by the Singleton and Barber families. Still in agricultural use, the barn will serve as the tour base for the day.



BARN
2

WHITE BARN

WASHINGTON, IN

This Midwest 3-portal barn with its surprisingly large hay hood was saved by the current owners. After purchasing the property, they quickly repaired and prepared the barn to serve as a venue for their niece's wedding.



BARNs
3-4

ALLISON BARNs

WASHINGTON, IN

It's a twofer stop with an 1893 Midwest 3-portal horse barn and 1890s transverse frame cattle barn still in agricultural use. A bonus is the timber frame corn crib which predates the two barns.



LEARNING
LAB

BARN 5

STUTZMAN BARN

WASHINGTON, IN

Vacant and forgotten for decades, this early 20th century gambrel roof barn is being rehabbed for new use by the current owners who are recipients of a 2022 Indiana Barn Foundation barn grant.



BARN 6

FRETTE BARN

WASHINGTON, IN

This English bank barn built in the late 1940s is still in agricultural use with hay and equipment stored on the main level and cattle housed on the lower level. Enjoy the sweeping view of the surrounding countryside while visiting.



ROUND BARN DINNER AND SPECIAL PROGRAM

As a unique opportunity this year, the Indiana Barn Foundation is holding a fundraising dinner in the Singleton Round Barn the evening before the barn tour.

Dinner will be followed by a special program by author and award-winning photographer John Hanou, an aficionado of Indiana's round barns.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
7 P.M.**

SINGLETON ROUND BARN

COST: \$50 per person

Seating is limited

Make your reservation at www.indianabarns.org



BARN TOUR TICKETS

Order online at www.indianabarns.org ★ OR ★ Purchase day of tour at Barn 1, Singleton Round Barn

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!



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Round Barns on the Indiana Landscape

Some suggest round barns originated in Europe with possible roots in the round churches from early Christian and medieval times. There are European examples that come from northern Germany where several round barns were built in the early 19th century. One of the earliest known circular structures in the United States was said to have been built by George Washington in 1793.

Round barns embodied efforts to improve the efficiency and productivity of farm operations through innovative agricultural building design during Indiana's "Golden Age" of agriculture (1881-1920). The "Octagonal Era" of the round barn design existed from approximately 1850 until 1900. While round in shape these buildings were multi-sided. Some say they set the stage for the "ideal circular barn." The "True Circular Era" of round barn construction overlapped with the octagonal era, running from approximately 1889 until 1936.

The style offered a more open floor plan with self-supporting roofs that didn't require posts in the middle of the barn floor. The early barns were constructed of wood, while later versions were also sided in brick or glazed tile. Some later versions contained circular silos located in the center of the barn, many had a ramp leading to the second floor, and others were built as bank barns.

Roof types varied on both the multi-sided and true circular barns and were important considerations regarding the barn's performance. Used as a selling point, and in at least one case controlled by patent, roof styles were advertised as either unsupported or supported. Cupolas of all shapes and sizes typically capped round barn roofs bringing light and air into the structure and adding civic respectability.

Excerpted from IBF's *Indiana Heritage Barns: Their History, Uses, and Preservation*. Visit www.indianabarns.org for more details.

INDIANA BARN FOUNDATION

2022 Forum and Annual Meeting Wrap-up

This year's Forum and Annual Meeting was another great event! Over 45 people joined us on Saturday, July 16th, at the Art Sanctuary in Martinsville for an enjoyable day focused on Indiana barns.

The agenda included Dr. Darrin Rubino discussing the dating of buildings using

the science of tree ring data, and a round-table type time of discussion that one participant said was the best part of any annual meeting she's attended. The highlight for many was the field trip to Cedar Lane Farm in Green Township where Dr. Rubino revealed the date of the

older barn and demonstrated the science and data collection process.

This year's barn grant recipients were also highlighted and as part of the annual meeting business, we welcome Randy Miles from Montgomery County and Mac Williams of Hamilton County to the IBF board.

ASK INDIANA BARN FOUNDATION

Distinguishing the Twentieth Century Barn: Counting the Losses

A National Trust count in 1997 tallied three million barns nationwide. Ten years later, a Department of Agriculture census stated that 664,264 barns built prior to 1960 remained on working farms in America, which means that 78% of our historic barns were lost in the decade between the surveys.

Mauri Williamson, an IBF founder, estimated in 2002 that approximately 30,000 wooden barns remained in Indiana, one tenth of the number we had in 1900 when there were 221,897 family farms in the state. By 2013, the USDA estimated Indiana had 22,439 barns remaining, 25% fewer than in 2002. None of these figures should be too surprising when you consider that there are only 60,000 (mostly large commercial) farms in Indiana today — most of which have little use for historic wooden barns — and sprawl continues unabated.

Interestingly, of the barns remaining today, 70-80% were constructed in the twentieth century, and only 20-30% date from the nineteenth. These numbers are best estimates, and given the rate of losses a moving target, but they make sense considering that the oldest barns will deteriorate sooner, and that after 1900 new building practices improved the likelihood of a barn's longevity. Yet more barns are lost to the bulldozer than to age.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

After 1900 we begin to see continuous concrete or block foundations replacing fieldstone piers, asphalt or metal roofs replacing wood shakes, planed tongue-and-groove or shiplap jointed siding replacing rough sawn boards, and concrete floors replacing dirt, especially in dairy operations where improved sanitation mattered. Scientific advances promote roof ventilators, louvered openings, larger doors, and other ventilation mechanisms, as well as lightning arrestors, masonry milk houses, metal milking stanchions, silos,

and a greater separation of functions into specialized structures.

The twentieth century witnesses scientific and mechanical improvements to farming, including tractors and more efficient planting and harvesting equipment, the influence of which is felt in the barn structure itself. Shed additions proliferate, floor plans become more varied, and barns get taller, longer, and broader. As farms transition from subsistence to complex commercial operations, barn roofs, once simple gables, are altered to gambrel, helmet, and round configurations enlarging haylofts to accommodate more hay for larger herds.

Although the mortise and tenon timber frame remains largely the same during this period, its components are now nearly all sawn rather than hewn. Notably, loft framing transitions from bents (framework) that penetrate the loft floor and whose vertical posts support roof framing to bents with canted or angled purlin braces that eliminate cross ties and open up the center of the loft. These alterations begin in 1867 with the advent of hay tracks and hay hooks to free the loft of framing obstructions and facilitate hay loading, and culminates in laminated rafter systems and prefabricated trusses shaped to the curvature of the new roof profiles, eliminating the need for structural framing in the loft. Say hello to the loft's obstacle free basketball court!

DATING CHALLENGES

These attributes assist in dating 20th century barns, and as scientific and technological advances continued, barns continued to reflect the progress. But not unlike 19th century advances, the changes do not all happen at once; aspects of each progress at their own pace. Thus, the quality of concrete gets better and better over time, and foundation construction moves from a farm-centered task to professional installations. In the same way siding and roofing become



DUNCAN CAMPBELL
FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER OF
INDIANA BARN FOUNDATION

products to buy rather than to produce on the farm, milking stanchions and equipment are bought and installed, and prefabricated roof trusses are custom ordered and delivered to the site. So a better understanding of the component advances happening throughout the 20th century helps us discover the timeframe in which these barns are built, altered, and modernized, and determining precise dates of construction is every bit as complex for 20th century barns as for their predecessors.



**FOLLOW-UP
QUESTIONS?**

Submit to
info@indianabarns.org



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

**GET
INVOLVED**
WITH IBF

Seeking County Representatives

If you are interested in historic barns and want to help sustain them in your area, we are actively seeking county representatives and board members to support Indiana Barn Foundation's mission of supporting the preservation of historic Indiana barns.

Email info@indianabarns.org, if interested in this volunteer opportunity.

HOW TO SUPPORT IBF FINANCIALLY:

IBF DONATIONS

- Accepted on our website at www.indianabarns.org/donate, or
- Send a check to:
Indiana Barn Foundation
1201 Central Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46202

MAURI WILLIAMSON LEGACY ENDOWMENT

- www.indianabarns.org/endowment, or
- Send a check to:
CICF, Attn: Operations
615 Alabama St., Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204-1498

Please note IBF#4558 in check memo