

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 10, NO. 2
SUMMER 2023**



BEFORE THE TORNADO



AFTER THE TORNADO

LITTLETON-KINGEN ROUND BARN

Spring storms damage the Littleton-Kingen Round Barn

Across the state, powerful spring storms with wind, hail and tornadoes caused damage to numerous heritage barns. Perhaps the most notable among these damaged structures was the historic Littleton-Kingen Round Barn located just outside McCordsville in Hancock County. With a diameter of 102 feet, the round barn constructed in 1903 is Indiana's largest which aided its listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 1993 for state-level significance. The Littleton-Kingen

Round Barn was also part of the Indiana Barn Foundation's Barn Bus Tour and joint annual meeting with the National Barn Alliance in 2017.

On February 27, 2023, a direct hit by an EF-1 tornado caused extensive structural damage giving the barn a noticeable lean to the northeast. The Kingen family, which has been steward of the barn as part of its four-generation farming operation, immediately reached out

to the Indiana Barn Foundation and Indiana Landmarks seeking any assistance the organizations could provide. Quick action by the two organizations allowed the Indiana Barn Foundation to apply for a grant just two days after the storm from Indiana Landmarks to help fund an emergency assessment and repair/rehabilitation plan.

On March 6, Rick Collins of Firmitas, the engineering arm of

continued

Spring storms damage the Littleton-Kingen Round Barn *continued*

Trillium Dell, was onsite assessing the barn and collecting information necessary to determine the extent of the damage and to develop a scope of work for repair. Based in Galesburg, Illinois, Firmitas is a heavy timber specialist with extensive experience with historic barn rehabilitation including round barns. As part of the assessment, laser scanning of the barn was completed to provide more accurate detail as to the deformation of the barn caused by the tornado. The final assessment report and proposed scope of work provided by Firmitas in April identified proper

repair of the barn to involve lifting the upper portion of the barn off the foundation walls so the barn can be repositioned, rebuilding portions of the foundation walls, the addition of sheer walls to stabilize the floor system, installing a lateral support system from the central derrick to the plate ring of the barn roof including chevron bracing, and the reinforcement of all struts with diagonal bracing.

Although the estimated cost for this scope of repairs is substantial, the Kingen family has already committed

personal funding towards the project, but it continues to seek opportunities for funding assistance.

In keeping with its mission of preserving Indiana's rural heritage one barn at a time, the Indiana Barn Foundation is pleased it could quickly assist the Kingen family with the emergency assessment of the Littleton-Kingen Round Barn through a grant from Indiana Landmarks. Our organization will continue to support the effort to repair and preserve this landmark barn.

BARN TOUR

2 0 2 3

SATURDAY, OCT. 14
10 A.M.-4 P.M.
MIAMI COUNTY

The Indiana Barn Foundation is excited to be taking its Annual Barn Tour to Miami County, home of the International Circus Hall of Fame and the Historic Circus Winter Quarters.



HOME BARN: Museum Barn

The day-of-tour headquarters will be the Museum Barn, also known as the Elephant Barn. Built in 1922, it is one of the original barns remaining at Peru's own Historic Circus Winter Quarters.



INDIANA BARN FOUNDATION

2023 Forum and Annual Meeting

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2023

The Rustic Barn at Hopewell ★ Urbana, IN (near Wabash)



TO REGISTER: Scan the QR code, or go to: indianabarnfoundation.wildapricot.org/event-5138140

We are pleased to announce that timber framing specialist Rick Collins, owner of Trillium Dell in Galesburg, IL, will be our guest speaker. His talk is entitled, "Practical Stewardship: Barns and Historic Timber Structures - How everyday folks can save and preserve their timber buildings." Every building faces a common set of challenges. As a result, the areas likely in need of repair are predictable, and corresponding best practice repairs are the same. This overview and discussion are helpful to put things that might seem complicated, into perspective. Gain a broad understanding of how an individual, a family, or a lightly funded/small organization can maintain and care for a timber framed building now and into the future. Take home tools that will allow you to know your building better and anticipate what it will need. We'll review a broad range of completed projects to illustrate each section. Rick's talk is being sponsored by the Cornelius O'Brien

Lecture Series at Indiana University.

Following his talk, we will have an "Ask Rick" session and he will be on hand throughout the day for additional questions. Additionally, we will have a panel discussing barn reuse, a break-out session about the County Rep program and more including IBF annual meeting business. And as always, food and great fellowship with other barn owners and enthusiasts!

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and pastries. The meeting will run from 9 a.m. until approximately 3 p.m. Rick's talk will begin at 10:30 a.m. and per O'Brien Lecture Series funding requirements, is free and open to the public. Those wishing to attend the entire annual meeting event and have lunch are asked to register. Lunch is included in the registration fee. The forum and annual meeting being held at the Rustic Barn at Hopewell, located at 2238 N 500 E, Urbana, just 15 minutes NE of Wabash, IN.

GUEST SPEAKER

RICK COLLINS, of Firmitas and owner of Trillium Dell, will be the guest speaker at the Indiana Barn Foundation Forum and Annual Meeting at the Hopewell Barn in Urbana, Indiana.



TRILLIUM DELL

ABOUT TRILLIUM DELL

While Trillium Dell clients are all unique individuals, they share at least two things in common: they care deeply about the world that we are preserving and building, and they love the aesthetic and beauty of wood. Some of the people we help are preservationists and stewards of precious buildings and barns.

HISTORY OF THE HOPEWELL BARN

The 1890 classic post and beam bank barn and farm was purchased by Charles and Helen Shear in 1953 and was used as an operating dairy barn until the early 1970's. In 2009, Deb and Steve Conner (Charles and Helen's granddaughter) purchased the house, barn and a few acres and began an extensive renovation on the 1870 farmhouse.

In 2018, after many years of disrepair

and at the urging of family members and friends, Deb began a major renovation project on the barn. With the assistance of numerous historic preservation minded contractors, the deteriorating barn was transformed into the Rustic Barn at Hopewell.

The Hopewell Barn is located about 1/2 mile south of the historic Hopewell Church.

Built in 1872 and purchased by Deb in 2018, the church is listed on National Historic Register for its ties to Gene Stratton Porter. Gene was a famous author in the early 1900's and the area of 'Hopewell' was used as the locale for the settings for several of her books. The name 'Rustic Barn at Hopewell' was selected to pay tribute to historic roots of the Hopewell area.

The Rustic Barn at Hopewell is an indoor and outdoor event venue owned by Deb Conner, an Indiana Barn Foundation board member.



Go to visitwabashcounty.com for details on restaurants and accommodations and how you can make a weekend of your visit.

IBF's 2023 grant
program awarded
FOUR \$2,500 GRANTS
this year.

HOW TO SUPPORT IBF FINANCIALLY

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Please note IBF#4558 in check memo



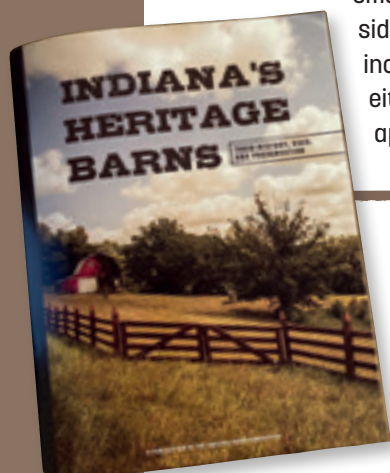
Barns on the Indiana Landscape:

WISCONSIN BARN

The Wisconsin Dairy barn is a special use barn that was promoted at the University of Wisconsin School of Agriculture during the height of the scientific agriculture movement in the late 19th century. A large (36' x 100' or more) barn popularized across the dairy belt from northern New York to Wisconsin and west, the style made special provision for adequate ventilation and light, two features particularly endorsed in the effort to improve the health and productivity of farm animals. A variant of the transverse barn with its primary wagon doors on the gable ends, the Wisconsin barn's central aisle could be large enough to accommodate wagons or narrower to serve the farmers' use as a feeding aisle. Often these barns also provided side wagon doors and several smaller entries along the sides or gable ends, and incorporated milk houses either within or as an appendage.

This style is readily recognized by its elongated rectangular shape, gambrel or round roof shape, and rows of small square windows that lined the sidewalls. Although the stalls on either side of the central aisle were frequently fitted with milking stanchions or stalls, one side was often used as a feeding run-in and had an open floor plan. Interior arrangements varied as to use, but a consistent feature was the huge hay loft accessed from one or both gable ends by large hay doors that were protected by hanging or projecting hay hoods.

Appearing as large prairie ships in the landscape, Wisconsin barns vary in size but are consistent in shape, and typically display large roof ventilators, often of ornate design. These two-story barns are usually painted, but can be constructed of wood, stone, or brick, and are often on a raised concrete or masonry foundation wall.



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.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Preservation Standard

In the Winter 2022 issue (Vol. 9, No. 4) of the Hoosier Barn Chronicle I wrote about the four most common preservation repair standards, Preservation, Rehabilitation, Restoration, and Reconstruction, and briefly described the distinctive characteristics of each.

If you think of these Standards as strategies for repair, they enable the application of a consistent methodology throughout a project, and provide a guide for evaluating each repair challenge as it arises. We all know how many times during a project that the question, “How should I proceed here?” comes up. It is not always a matter of what to do — this post is rotten and needs to be repaired — but of how to best accomplish the repair. The solution depends on the goal of the project.

THE PRESERVATION PROCESS

In the previous issue I described the Preservation Standard: Preservation is the process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, focuses on the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. The goal in this instance is to retain the building as it currently exists — its form, features, and materials. And here is the rub for many: Both the original historic materials and features are to be preserved, as well as all later changes and additions that have occurred over time. Repair is emphasized, replacement is minimized, and alterations are inappropriate.

The Preservation Standard for repair recognizes the passage of time, the accretion of additions and repairs and changing uses — the weight of time if you will — and works to preserve

the whole story of the building in form, materials, and features. Of course we have all seen poorly constructed additions, whimsical and sloppy repairs, and the application of inadequate materials. And it is often difficult to understand what a previous owner could possibly have had in mind when he/she radically altered the floor plan, put up vinyl siding, or boarded up the hay door.

But Preservation as a strategy is looking at the whole story, and not evaluating the merits of past decisions or alterations. As such, it is not for everyone, especially when one has specific ideas about how to use the building in question, and that use is accompanied by a whole new set of plans and aspirations. Yet as a strategy Preservation has its merits, particularly in the emphasis for repair over replacement. Repair is usually less expensive, and more sustainable, even if it sometimes adds time and trouble. And repair protects historic materials and features, and gives pause to the urge to undertake wholesale replacement with new (and often less adequate) materials.

THE BEST STRATEGY

So when is Preservation the best strategy for barn repair? When you have a barn that is structurally sound, shows few signs of significant alteration over its lifetime, and its form, features, and materials are especially significant — a hand hewn frame, a plank framed rafter system, an early crib form — Preservation “as is” can be a great strategy. It can also be a good strategy when the alterations and changes that time has wrought are particularly significant in their own right — a turn of the century silo on a log barn, a cross gabled addition that doubled the barn’s capacity, or a 20th century installation of an automated James manure carrier.

RESTORATION

In addition, returning a barn to its “original” configuration, a strategy known as Restoration, can be quite



DUNCAN CAMPBELL
FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER OF
INDIANA BARN FOUNDATION

daunting, and often not worth the expense or effort if saving the barn is the primary goal. The Preservation strategy acknowledges that all of the barn’s history has significance and deserves protection, and to its credit, intends to protect, maintain, and repair the structure and its parts, while minimizing replacement and additions, so unless previous alterations are failing, poorly designed, or just plain ill-advised, it can be a cost-effective strategy worth considering.



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