

Marshall County Barn On the Move

If you've ever been on Elm Road just north of Bremen, you may have noticed a big white barn on the east side of the road. Then again, you may not have. For those of us who grew up in Indiana, the Weiss-Snyder barn may not appear extraordinary. But for the Weiss and Snyder children, who spent their days exploring and playing in the barn, it is something special.

Brent Snyder and his siblings grew up across the road from the Stan and Roberta Weiss family. The older Weiss children babysat the Snyder kids, and together they rode the horses that were housed in the barn, and played in its haymow. But when Roberta passed away, the Weiss children prepared to sell the family home. They feared that the barn, which needed some work and was no longer part of a farm, would be torn down when the house was sold.

Brent Snyder and his wife Linda had built a home on what was once his father's property, but the property had been divided when a highway that bypassed Bremen went through. Brent and Linda now lived on the north side of US 6, and their childhood home was south of the highway. Brent had always appreciated his rural roots, and when his children were in 4H they considered renting the Weiss barn to raise farm animals. When word that the Weiss homestead was going to be sold, Brent and Linda approached the Weisses about buying the barn and moving it to their property. For the Weiss



family, "This was an answer to prayer." But there was a catch. How do you move an 80 foot, 130-year-old barn a half mile, across a county road and a US highway? Well, you call Adin Ramer of Wakarusa, who's done this kind of work more than a few times.

Ramer took a look at the 80x40' barn and said, "This will be an easy move." Encouraged by Adin's confidence, the Snyders prepared for the barn move. In April of 2017 they began cleaning out the barn, and had a new foundation poured on their property. They faced a few hurdles, such as permits and permission to temporarily close a US Highway.

On August 5th, 2017, the details had been worked

out and the barn made its move. "There was a lot of excitement in town. People wanted us to contact the local TV stations. A lot of people came out to watch the move. The police were there and closed the highway, and when one semi driver learned why the highway was closed he pulled over to watch rather than use the detour." IBF's County Rep RT Henke was there to document this historic move as part of his work with IBF, Historic Bremen, and the Bremen Barns project.

Prior to the big day, Ramer's crew had lifted the barn off its original foundation and placed two 78' steel beams down the length of the barn, and seven crossbeams across its width. These crossbeams were attached to four dollies, each with four steel wheels. The dollies could be loosened and their wheels rotated when it came time to

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Hay Hoods

by Duncan Campbell

One of the most distinctive features of barns built to store loose hay is the hay hood. Also referred to as the hay bonnet, it can take several forms, and appears to have evolved from simple to more complex shapes as the hay barn itself grew and became more mechanized. In some hay barns, hay is loaded from the inside, so there is no need to extend a pulley system or hay track to the exterior, or for an opening in the upper gable end of the barn through which hay can be loaded into the loft. These barns do not have hay hoods. In barns where hay is loaded from the exterior, however, to protect from exposure to the weather, hay hoods were conceived to shield the loft door and the exterior projection of the pulley apparatus or hay track.

Prior to the nineteenth century, and the adoption of the hay track and hay fork, there is an earlier, hoodless version of this exterior arrangement, in which a simple block and tackle is hung from an uncovered extension of the ridge pole in order to raise hay up to the loft door, but this arrangement left the rope and pulley exposed to the elements and did not protect the often uncovered loft door immediately below. In its simplest form, the more protective hay hood evolved as a triangular or rectangular extension of the roof surface beyond the gable end, to which the pulley or later hay track was attached. This style of hood is known as a hanging gable, and though an earlier form in the evolution of the hay hood, is still quite prevalent.

According to Allen G. Noble, the hay track and fork came into general use in the nineteenth century as the primary means for raising loose hay to the hay door, and presented the need for further protection from the weather. This led to the boxed gable, which elaborated on the rectangular hanging gable by enclosing or "boxing-in" the front gable of the elongated roof extension and adding triangular side brackets for additional support. This eventually led to an enlarged boxed gable that further extended the hood and fully enclosed its sides, eliminating the need for exposed gable-end loft doors by raising the gable opening into the interior of the boxed gable.

The hanging gable, as well as a variety of boxed gable hay hoods are commonly found on Indiana barns, and reflect a general evolution of farm practice. But study does not appear to have fully confirmed the hay hood's regional origins. Noble mentions that Southern barns from the crib-barn family, the Appalachian Barn for instance, are associated with exterior hay loading more than other types, and more commonly display hay hoods. Across Indiana hay hoods often occur on Appalachian Barns (mostly in southern counties), and are seen on most Transverse Frame barns and Three Portal Barns, both of which also derive from the crib-family. But hay hoods also routinely appear on more recent large hay and livestock barns, which may be less associated with barn genealogy than with an owner's preference for exterior loading.

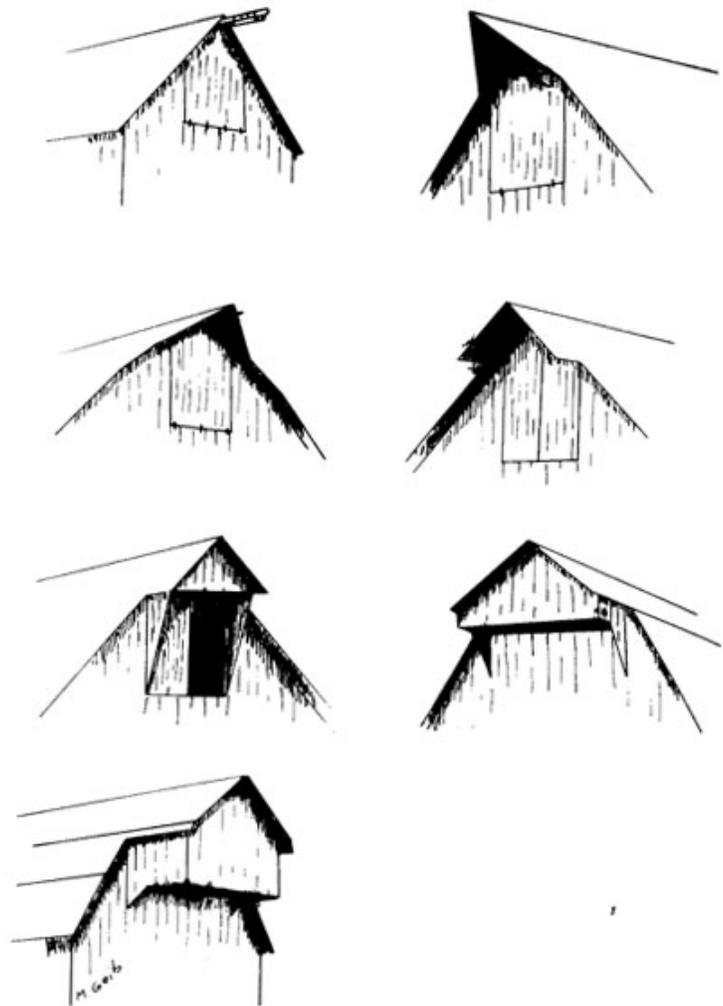


Fig. 3.23 Various types of hay hoods and hanging gables. (Courtesy of M. Margaret Geib and the University of Massachusetts Press)

Landmark Timbers

Circus Act

Kurt West Garner

My line of work often allows access to those really great places we preservationists and barn enthusiasts pass by and think I'd love to see inside that old building. For more than 20 years, my architecture training coupled with a love for history has resulted in opportunities to write National Register nominations, 130 to-date. What I enjoy most are the histories uncovered of farming pioneers that tamed the Hoosier landscape and pushed Indiana to the forefront of agriculture by the 20th century. This column will be about Indiana barns listed on the National Register of Historic Places. While they won't all be family farm barns, or have impressive designs, they'll tell the story of Hoosier barns, albeit humble or exceptional, by their landmark timbers.

We'll start this column with a rather untraditional set of barns not associated with farming. Rather, they housed livestock of another sort. Elephants, lions, tigers, and, you get the idea. On U.S. 31, just north of Grissom Air Reserve Base in Miami County is a strange little complex of buildings that was the winter quarters for the Terrell Jacobs Circus during the 1930s-1950s. Jacobs was a nationally-recognized lion tamer advertised as The Lion King who developed his own circus and winter complex in 1939, which housed other



national acts through the 1950s including Cole Brothers and Barnes.

The complex's most important buildings are two large, broad-faced gambrel roof barns built in 1939 and 1945, modified from traditional design for, well, obvious reasons. If you've driven past the site and wondered why there were die-cut metal elephants atop the roof ventilators on the south barn, now you know. The elephant barn was built in 1945 with a C-shaped footprint of gambrel-roofed wings that housed elephant stables, large (of course!) training rings with rigging for acrobatic acts, and a dormitory for performers and trainers. The south barn was built in 1939 for the show's large cats. It also included training rings and elaborately painted cages around the perimeter. A monkey cage and large stable with a pool for seals and a hippo named War Baby (born during WWII) are also part of the cat barn.

Unfortunately, time has not been kind to the Jacob's Winter Circus Quarters. The center, main portion of the elephant barn's roof collapsed in the past year and the property seems key for development, particularly as INDOT continues to develop plans for a U.S. 31 freeway-grade highway. The barns, though far from the agricultural tradition of Indiana farms, highlight an important part of Hoosier history nonetheless.



Monroe County Barn Tour

Photography by Joe Runkle





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turn the barn, so when the barn was in place one set of wheels could be locked and used as a pivot point, and the other three sets rotated to a different direction. Each dolly has the capacity to hold 40 tons. The barn weighed 55 tons.

Watching the move was a bit tense for the Snyders, and the onlookers likely felt a bit nervous as they watched the massive structure make its slow but steady progress across Elm Road and then US 6, pulled by a Steiger tractor. The move took four and a half hours and involved a crew of ten people. "I have to admit there was a little doubt on my part about whether it would make the trip. I imagined it coming off its support and crashing apart on the highway. I didn't want to be responsible for Highway 6 being closed for ten days while they cleaned up the debris from my barn! During the move a hitch broke, but our DeSchepper friends ran back to their shop, got supplies and welded it." Brent recalls that at one point "the tractor was facing one way and the barn the other, and we were facing slightly downhill. Adin said, 'No problem. Just go brace the wheels with a 2x6 board.'"

"It was really amazing. This guy has an eighth grade education, but he's been doing this since he was eight years old. An engineer friend of ours looked at the setup and said, 'This should not have been able to happen.'"

The barn was moved off the road onto Brent's brother's property on August 5th, 2017. On September 23rd, the barn made the remainder of its half-mile journey to its permanent home on Brent and Linda

Snyder's 10-acre farm. By looking at the barn today, one would never guess that it hasn't stood there for all of its 130 years.

"People ask why I would move a barn", reflects Snyder. "There are a lot of reasons for me. One is that the Weisses are related to us, and that's important to me. It also holds a lot of childhood memories. I have a love for agriculture, and I don't want to see old things torn down."

The barn now sits solidly on its new foundation, at its new home. "We'll use the barn for what a barn was made to be used for." Brent and Linda were not able to have a barn when their children lived at home, but they have already brought two heifers into their barn and plan to add more livestock and some pasture. They plan to offer it as a place where their grandchildren, nieces and nephews can raise some 4H animals and experience the farm life that the Snyder and Weiss families have enjoyed.

For an in-depth look at the Weiss-Snyder barn, more photos are available at

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/145661073@No4/albums/72157685685639456>

This and other German Township, Marshall County barns are being documented in the Bremen Barns project and can be seen at [historicbremen.org/collections/digital archives](http://historicbremen.org/collections/digital%20archives).



What's New?

Barn Inventory App Training To Be Held April 7th

All those interested in learning to use the new Barn Inventory App, please join us on April 7th, 1 to 3 p.m. at Carrol County Event and Education Center, 102 N. Fourth St., Suite A. Just east of Flora, off SR 18 at the 4H Fairgrounds.. This workshop is open to any IBF member who is interested in assisting with a county by county barn inventory. This app has been especially developed for Indiana Barn Foundation by board Secretary and webmaster Tim Sheets. Please RSVP to Janet Ayres at ayres.janet.sue@gmail.com.

Have You Visited IndianaBarns.org lately?

If you have not been on the IBF website recently, please take a look at it! Webmaster Tim Sheets has done a wonderful job of creating a useful and easy-to-use website and keeping it current! The latest editions include a frequently-requested list of Timber Construction Contractors. There is also a new Forum, where barn owners can ask questions and engage in discussions with other barn enthusiasts.

Mauri Williamson Barn Grant Program Underway

The application deadline for the 2018 barn grant program was January 31st, 2018. For its first year, grants will be awarded to two recipients, who will be announced in March. Thank you to those involved in developing guidelines, to those who donated funds toward this much-anticipated program, and to those who have applied for grants.

<http://www.indianabarns.org/>



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Thank you photographer Joe Runkle!

Joe Runkle is an action sports photographer (skateboarding, surfing and snowboarding) who attended the Monroe County Barn Tour in October and shared his photographs with us. Runkle has lived in Southern California for the past 15 years, but is originally from Lafayette. He continues to spend time in Indiana visiting family in the spring and fall. He enjoys landscape photography and taking timeless classic barn, farm, covered bridges and old mill photographs, and believes Indiana is underrated for Photography! Joe's photos appear on pages 4 and 5 of the Hoosier Barn Chronicle.

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