

Register now for
Ohio Barn Conference XIII

to be held

April 27-28, 2012

in

Summit County, Ohio.

**Speakers, topics, barn tour photos and information,
 and a registration form are included in this issue.**

Background photo: Example of joinery in one of the barns scheduled for the Friday barn tour. Photo by Pam Gray



FRIENDS OF OHIO BARNs
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The Old
BARN POST

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Exceptional speakers slated for OBC XIII

This year Friends of Ohio Barns is working in collaboration with the National Barn Alliance to bring you another entertaining and informative conference and barn tour. Summit County is home to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the Cuyahoga Countryside Conservancy Program. This year we will be touring some of the barns in the conservancy as well as learning about the program from the incorporator and executive director himself, Darwin Kelsey. This program was started in 1999 to rehabilitate old farms and put them back to work under the Conservancy's guidance. It has been very successful on many levels, and Mr. Kelsey will have a lot to say on the subject. We also have a panel of farmers from the program, Alan Halko, Daniel Greenfield, and David Wingefeld, to talk about their experiences and how they fit into the Conservancy program.

We are excited to have the chance to collaborate with the National Barn Alliance and Charles Leik. Charles has been president of the NBA since 1997 and has helped effect many advancements through their organization to aid in fulfilling their mission to "provide national leadership for the preservation of America's historic barns and their rural heritage." Charles will be speaking on the subject of the future of America's barns and will be available to discuss the National Barn Alliance programs and their accomplishments.

Our keynote speaker will be Scott Carlson, timber framer, woodworker, and craftsman extraordinaire. Although Scott would say, "I'm just a simple carpenter," you will find that is not the case after seeing some of his work. Scott graduated from the

University of Montana as a forester, which has helped him immensely in finding just the right trees to craft his cruck frames. We are thrilled to be able to have him take us on a journey from "Tree to Frame" on Saturday at the conference.

History buffs will thoroughly enjoy David Snider from Somerset, Ohio. His topic for the conference is titled "Agricultural juggernaut:

The Jeffersonian agrarian vision meets the best damned farm ground on God's footstool." According to David, he "comes from a long line of barn builders, lumbermen, and Ohio pioneers." He is a graduate of Hocking College and Ohio University and works as a modern agricultural structure designer/builder. He is a past president and trustee of the Perry County Historical Society and "an unreconstructed devotee of early Ohio History." A must-see presentation.

Of course the conference would not be complete without the Barn Detectives, Rudy Christian and Larry Sulzer. They will be on Friday's tour to point out unusual joinery and will present their findings at the conference on Saturday. The annual members' meeting will be conducted during the lunch break, and the silent auction will be ongoing all day along with other exhibits, demonstrations, and vendor presentations.

— Kendal Taylor

The Countryside Conservancy Barn is being adapted from an English ground barn into the Cuyahoga Valley National Park System corporate headquarters. The barn has interesting framing and several noteworthy examples of repairs that could serve as suggestions for other barn owners.

Photo by Pam Gray



We're busy as ever

On the first true snowy, wintery day of 2012, I sit here writing with spring on my mind.

I appreciate the positives of winter ... the hibernation of plant and some animal life, the chance to reflect and plan for the new year, and the hopes for brighter days.



As I've said before, change is a constant for all of us. Friends of Ohio Barns has seen its share of changes in the last 12 years. Most have been positive or at least hopeful.

It is with that thought I look forward to a good 2012 for FOB.

Friends will collaborate with the National Barn Alliance this year on our barn conference. The NBA is pursuing the goal of being the national liaison between preservation organizations and statewide barn groups. They are doing a splendid job of embracing the social media as a means to get the word out about all things barns.

We look forward to continued partnerships with the NBA and other statewide barn organizations.

Our 2012 barn conference promises to be one of the best yet! Local heroes Denny and Judy Hendershot plus Jim and Kendal Taylor have been working feverishly putting together a remarkable barn tour and conference in the beautiful Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

We will all get a chance to learn of a most unique program there called the Countryside Conservancy Initiative. Begun in 1999, the goals of the program are to sustain the agricultural heritage of the valley and preserve the remaining agricultural land and buildings by rehabilitating and revitalizing many of the old farms that once operated there. This ambitious partnership between the non-profit CCI and the CVNP enables farmers to lease park land and practice economically viable and environmentally friendly agricultural growth.

We are working on a new logo for the organization—one that will add name recognition and help promote the cause. We are hoping for a conference unveiling!

We are also looking for more local heroes to suggest an area of the state for this year's fall picnic and next year's conference, as well as lead the volunteer effort to make it happen!

Those of you who are interested in doing a county barn survey, now is the time to let us know, as it takes a fair amount of leg work to get an effort rolling. We have had great success in Wayne County recently and look forward to another county stepping up.

Finally, please remember to consider contributing to the FOB endowment fund. Once we reach our goal of \$10,000, we will deposit the money with the Columbus Foundation's Power Philanthropy. There it will have a chance to grow and better serve us to help serve you and your preservation efforts. Check our website for more information and ways to donate.

Stay warm, and hope to see you in the spring!

Membership renewal time is here!

Each year we are excited to send out our Ohio Barn Conference newsletter to all our past members. We do so to invite all Ohio stewards of our magnificent barns to see more excellent examples of barns in the state and be better informed of what is being done by Friends of Ohio Barns and our current members to help preserve Ohio's barn heritage.

We also do this in the hopes that you consider re-joining us by renewing your membership with Friends of Ohio Barns. Your membership helps us maintain valuable programs such as the barn survey, our junior barn detective evaluation, the kids' mini-barn raising, and most important all the educational and awareness programs that arm enthusiasts with information and aid in their preservation efforts.

So please consider renewing your membership! Check out our web site for costs and our secure online payment method. Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you in April!

Friends board member elections

Friends of Ohio Barns will once again be seeking candidates to fill board positions of members whose terms are expiring. There are three open positions.

Responsibilities include participating in the annual barn conference, attending board meetings and conference calls, and representing Friends at festivals and events with the satisfaction of knowing that you are doing something to help save a part of Ohio's rich agricultural heritage.

If you are interested in a board position, please send a short biography with your goals and ideas to Friends of Ohio Barns, P.O. Box 203, Burbank, Ohio 44214, or e-mail friendsohio-barns@gmail.com. Remember, new blood brings fresh ideas and keeps the organization alive with promise!

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Barn Conference 101: A crash course

Let me tell you about my experience with setting up a barn conference. Last year at the end of our conference I was talking to some of the board members and asked, "Where will the next conference be?" The answer was, "We haven't decided yet." Here's the part where I say, "We could do it in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park area." And we're off!

That's how it started, and about a year later I am just now finishing up. It has been great fun and an awfully rewarding experience that consumed a lot of time and effort not only on my part, but on my wife Judy's, as well as her cousin Kendal and her husband Jim Taylor. Oh, did I forget to mention that I volunteered them too? Surprise! We called ourselves "The Search Committee."

We had no experience doing something like this before, so we just started working away without a plan or guideline. Hey, nobody said I was smart! Anyway, I figured the best place to start would be the conference site, so I got out the phone book and went to work. After some dead ends I got hold of Dave Johnson of the Clarion Inn Hudson and presented that to the board. Clarion won. Dave came up with a plan including food service that is just the best. He also gave me good advice on the "how to" of doing this. People will help if you ask. Step one done.

Now here is the fun part for a barn enthusiast. THE TOUR. Easy, huh? No!

Jim and I figured we would just drive around and talk to people, and that would be that. Well, in the first place the Cuyahoga Valley National Park is HUGE, and second the park is surrounded by cities and townships. Finding the right person was critical. I first contacted Darwin Kelsey of the Countryside Conservancy to get his okay to seek out the farmers in his group. Then Jim and I stumbled onto Nancy Fay in conversations with some of them. Both kept me going for days when I was about to give up. Nancy Fay owns The Bake Shop in Ghent. So Jim and I stopped in one morning. We lucked out. Nancy provided us with a list of barns and her picks for solid leads in Bath. She also owns a barn that has been in her family for generations.

The list was extensive and a great help. That led us to others, and we visited lots of them, so between Darwin and Nancy we found most of what we were looking for. Dan, Nancy's husband, also gave us some solid leads that led us to some very interesting people. All of the folks we met greeted us with enthusiasm and appreciation that we were working on bringing our group here. We were always met this way, even if we determined that a particular barn wouldn't work for one reason or another. The response was always positive.

Jim and I traveled the back roads and highways from one end of the Valley to the other looking for that "Oh, wow!" barn and just couldn't seem to find it. As Judy and I were driving one evening, we stumbled across a very unusual re-use, a Buddhist temple that had been a barn at one time. It took us a long time, and again Nancy Fay was the key, but we got inside, and what a treat. It didn't make the cut, but we enjoyed the experience. We saw some other re-use barns in the area, including a theater and several homes, but again, for one reason or another, they didn't make it. Several things come into play when determining what makes it and what doesn't, like what can be seen structurally, the ability to get to the barn, parking, and the willingness of the owner to allow a hundred people to walk through their barn, or home in some cases.

Jim and I and our wives all worked hard to come up with

a short list we had the board members view in October and November. The final choices included a giant three-storey barn (the "Oh, wow!"), two raised English barns, a modified Wisconsin dairy barn, and an adaptive re-use barn used as an educational tool and CSA operation. We also included The Boston Store from the National Park, which serves as a visitor center with canal artifacts and history.

We also had to come up with a lunch stop and catering for the bus tour, which is no small task. This part was the work of Judy and Kendal. They viewed several sights and came up with a gem. The Church in the Valley is centrally located on the tour and has a really neat history (go to their web site and find out about the "Angel of the Valley"). Lunch catering was also selected with care. Friends recommended a caterer, and that ended up being it.

We are working on a couple of interpreters to ride along on the buses to give some interesting history between stops. At the Brown/Bender barn we will get a park interpreter to give us some history there as well. Step two done.

Looks easy? Not so fast. There are literally dozens of hours and lots of miles involved. There are several dozen people to talk to and layers of coordination with a bunch of groups and our board. I tried to keep them informed as I went, and there are a lot of e-mails—just ask them. I hope in the not-too-distant future to write some guidelines to help the next conference leader avoid stumbling along as we have. In the meantime, whoever is the next in line can call me and I will help as I can.

We lined up some of the speakers as well, and will continue to work right up to the date making this conference the best we can make it.

The four of us have had a great time doing this job and have met great people and learned a huge amount about an area we have all lived in most of our lives. In the end I hope you all enjoy Friends of Ohio Barns Conference XIII and Barn Tour as much as we have preparing it.

— Denny & Judy Hendershot, Jim & Kendal Taylor



Photo by Denny Hendershot

Participants in Friday's barn tour will get to see the fruits of the barn planners' labors, including the Bender Barn, the highlight of this year's tour. This 1886 three-storey multiple trussed barn has an interior wood silo, a unique U-shaped turnaround in the central drive bay, and a granary in the middle. The barn was to be restored to become a conference center, but the funding dried up. A park spokesperson in period costume will tell of the barn's history. Because of uncompleted renovations, we will view this structure in small groups.



Photo by Pam Gray

See the interior of this barn close-up during this year's barn tour.

Donate to the silent auction!

Part of the fun we have each year during the Ohio Barn Conference is, of course, the silent auction. FOB encourages everyone to bring silent auction items for the Saturday event. The proceeds help us offset the costs of the conference and still provide you, the members, with a quality program.

We hope you can contribute an item or two—something handmade, collectible, store bought, or something interesting you've found in your travels. The more you bring and the better the items, the more exciting the auction gets!

If you can't find anything to bring, at least come prepared to make someone else bid a little higher before walking off with a treasure!

"The distribution of settlers in the Ohio Country, and too the appearance of barn types and other expressions of culture in the rural landscape, was controlled by a number of factors, not the least of which were existing pioneer routeways that focused on the Ohio River and Lake Erie, certain land claims or purchases by individuals, companies, or states allocating land for specific migrant groups, and cultural affinity or the desire of settlers to move toward areas where like-minded people were located."

— Hubert Wilhelm, Professor emeritus of settlement and Ohio geography at Ohio University

Update your address book!

Please note that Friends of Ohio Barns' old e-mail address ending in aol.com is no longer in service. Though this is not a recent change, some people are still using this address, which no longer exists. Please update Friends' e-mail address in your address book to friendsohiobarns@gmail.com. Thank you!



Image along the Ohio-Erie Canal in the Cuyahoga Valley. James A. Garfield, born and raised in the Western Reserve, took a job in his youth steering boats on the Ohio Canal.

Barn tour explores Summit County

The 2012 Ohio Barn Tour will visit half a dozen sites in Summit County and the Cuyahoga Valley. The all-day tour will take place on Friday and will include a lunch stop at the "Church in the Valley" along the way. The tour includes a stop at the canal locks and the Boston Store, built in the 1830s along the Ohio and Erie Canal.

Barns on the tour include a number of New England barns, as would be expected up in Ohio's Connecticut Western Reserve. Some are built into a bank and at least one was raised onto a basement after many years in service as a ground barn. One of the banked barns appears to have Pennsylvania German influence with its posted forebay. Tour attendees will be treated to some interesting and unique timber frame joinery inside some of these old structures.



Photo by Pam Gray

The Dan and Nancy Fay farm in Yellow Creek typifies homesteads in this area. The barn is representative of area ground barns with one little twist. It has been moved and had a basement put underneath it. Of note are the framing differences in the old and new structures. Nancy Fay is a member of the Bath Business Association and Historical Society.



Image from U.S. Park Service

A small cluster of canal village buildings, the Canal Locks Boston Store Visitor Center has a great display of canal history with murals, artifacts, tools, and a partial canal boat showing the timber framing that made them.



Photo by Pam Gray

The Crown Point Eco Center (above) is an interesting 40-by-80-foot gabled barn built circa 1900. Circular sawn materials make up its unique double square wooden interior silos. Originally for storage, this barn is a great example of adaptive re-use. It functions in its new life as a CSA facility with many volunteers helping to raise and sell a variety of produce.

Left: The Canal Corners Farmers' Market, built circa 1905, is a gambrel-roofed 40-by-108-foot Wisconsin style dairy barn. Mill cut, this frame allegedly was shipped from Tennessee. It too has some interesting joinery, namely some double framed posting in the drive bay walls. Its new life is as a weekend farmers' market to sell local produce and wares.

Cuyahoga Valley and Summit County rich in natural and cultural heritage

The thirteenth Ohio Barn Conference and Barn Tour take us to the Summit County portion of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and some of the farms in the river's watershed. The Cuyahoga River rises in northern Geauga County and flows south into Portage County and then west toward Akron in Summit County, where it is turned back northward by the high ground of Summit County, part of the backbone of Ohio. Rainwater runoff north of this divide is diverted into the Lake Erie watershed, which flows out the St. Lawrence Seaway into the North Atlantic. The Cuyahoga carries runoff northward through a broad valley before it empties into Lake Erie in downtown Cleveland. Rainfall dropping just south of the backbone runs to the Ohio River and heads for the Gulf of Mexico.

Situated along the western edge of the Appalachian plateau in northeast Ohio, the Cuyahoga River flows through glacial deposits that filled an even earlier stream valley, a tributary of the northeastern-flowing but now-extinct Erigan River, carved long before the ice age. The river drains the very wet soils of the glaciated plateau in Geauga, Portage, and Summit counties before it flows northward into the Cuyahoga National Park. The park is situated where the glaciated plateau meets the eastern extremity of the glacial till plain that covers most of western Ohio. From there the

river runs north and crosses the Huron-Erie lake plain, a remnant of an earlier and larger pre-glacial lake. The stream's dramatic south-to-north turnabout prompted native people to call it the Cuyahoga, or crooked river.

The convergence of these diverse physiographic regions and the ice age activity that preceded the re-carved Cuyahoga Valley have had a profound impact on the soils and ground water, which in turn have had great influence on the development of the watershed.

These prehistoric natural activities have left many fine natural features in and around the valley, including the exposed shale and sandstone escarpments of the Brandywine falls and the sedimentary features of the Ritchie Ledges in Virginia Kendall Park. Other effects of the glacial action include steep and contorted linear moraine deposits where the glacier met the Allegheny escarpment. Artesian wells are common in some areas, while other areas are devoid of groundwater. Remnant ice age lake deposits have left fertile soils on river terraces and other wetlands and bogs that are home to species more commonly found in Canada.

Traces of human occupation reach back ten thousand years in the Valley. The Cuyahoga was one of the major routes to the Ohio Valley. Following foot trails and carrying canoes over the Portage Summit, early Ohioans moved from the Erie watershed into the Ohio River drainage and followed the Tuscarawas to the Muskingum. The Portage Path was a significant route. Along with the Cuyahoga River, the Portage Path marked the western boundary of the United States as part of the Greenville Treaty following the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794.

The Cuyahoga River Valley and its watershed fall almost entirely within the Connecticut Western Reserve subdivision of Ohio. The underlying bedrock,

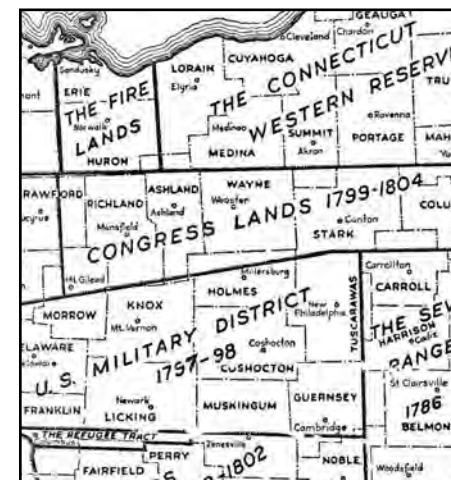
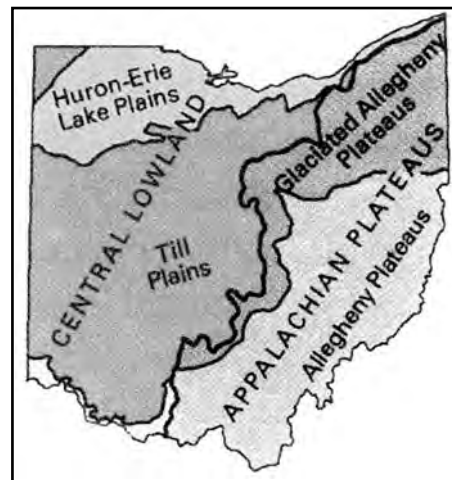
glacial deposits, and ten thousand years of forest succession climaxing in the beech-maple hardwood forest all prepared the soils for the agrarian settlers coming to the newly opened Ohio country after the American Revolution. The Western Reserve was peopled largely by migrants from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Vermont. These Northeasterners were largely of English extraction and followed New England traditions of settling in small towns, attending

Fort Detroit. These wheat and livestock farmers, whose roots were in Pennsylvania-Dutch culture from southeastern Pennsylvania, came into southern Portage and Summit counties and headed into the forests along the watershed divide into western Ohio. Their German settlements left a highly visible element in the landscape—their traditional bank barn with the overhanging or posted forebay. They emphasized grain production from relatively large farm units and needed spacious

entific farming practices through new residents, farm journals, and agricultural fairs. By 1850 the region was contributing to the agricultural and industrial transformation of Ohio.

The thirteenth annual Ohio Barn Conference is being held in an area of very rich heritage, much of which remains evident.

— Tom O'Grady



Left: The Cuyahoga River traverses three of Ohio's five physiographic regions. Rising on the Allegheny Plateau, it skirts the edge of the glacial till plain and flows across the lake plain on its way to the lake. Right: Summit County spans the Western Reserve and the Congress lands to the south, where there is a greater abundance of Pennsylvania German settlement influence.

Congregational churches, and raising cattle and sheep. Farmsteads commonly feature New England cottage homes and three-bay New England barns built either on the ground, into a bank, or raised on a basement with a ramp to the threshing floor. It is not uncommon to see square silos attached to the barn.

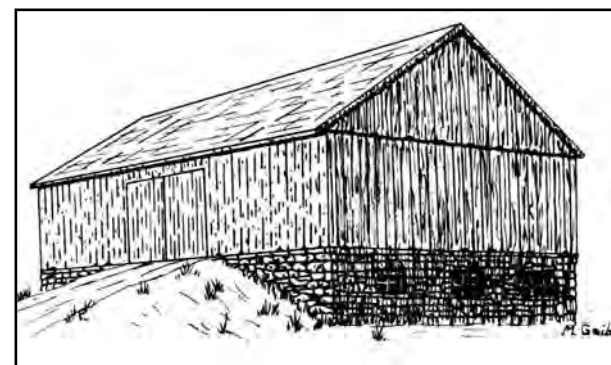
The southern portion of Summit County reaches down into the Congress lands. This area attracted settlers from Pennsylvania, who migrated due west from Pittsburg on the Great Trail leading from Fort Pitt to

many locks needed to negotiate the canal over the Portage Summit. The canal provided Ohioans access to Lake Erie and the Ohio River, thereby connecting them to eastern markets as well as ports on the Great Lakes and in the Ohio and Mississippi valleys. Today one can follow the old towpath and visit locks, lock quarries, and other remnant artifacts of this historic thoroughfare.

Growing to become a part of the larger state and regional economy, Cuyahoga Valley and Summit County farmers learned about new equipment and sci-

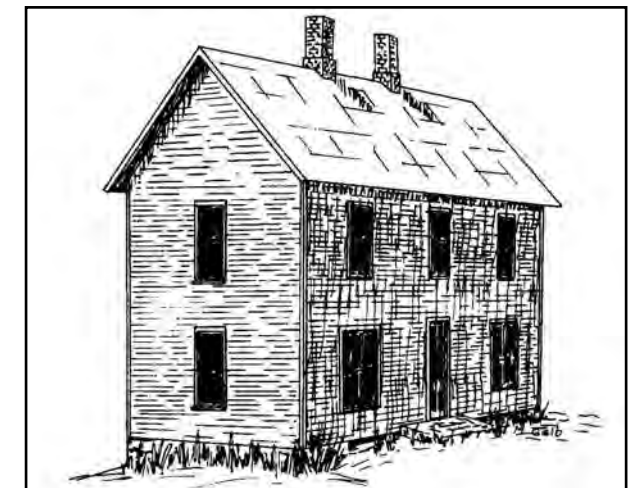
Watersheds

A watershed is an area of land where all the water that drains off it goes to the same place. John Wesley Powell, scientist geographer, first to lead a river expedition through the Grand Canyon, and an Ohioan from Jackson County, put it best when he said that a watershed is "that area of land, a bounded hydrologic system, within which all living things are inextricably linked by their common water course and where, as humans settled, simple logic demanded that they become part of a community." Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes and cross county, state, and national boundaries. In the continental U.S. there are 2,110 watersheds.

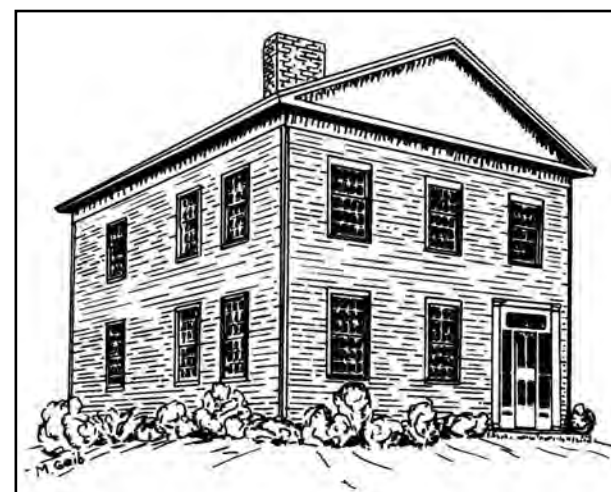


All drawings by Margaret Geib

New England three-bay barn raised on basement. Many barns in the Western Reserve are ground barns.



Northern I-house with central chimneys to retain heat. Commonly seen in Pennsylvania.



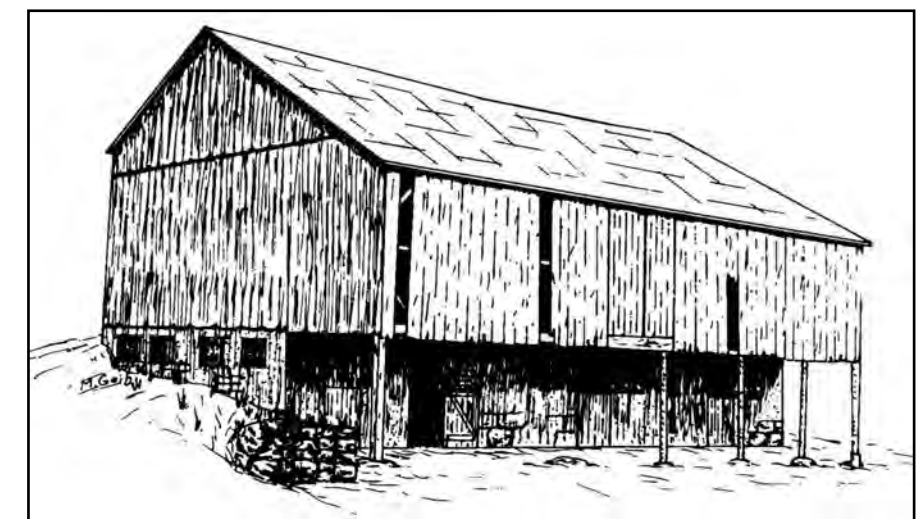
Gable front New England house. Gables are more commonly on ends of houses throughout Ohio.



Upright and wing New England house of northern Ohio. House has gable front with returns on the eaves. Note the Federal-style door.



New England one-and-a-half cottage. New England style houses can also be seen in southeastern Ohio communities in the Ohio Company Purchase, another New England enterprise in the Ohio Country.



Pennsylvania German bank barn with posted forebay.