



The Old BARN POST

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A unique Ohio farm building at risk on National Park land in Ross County

In the mid-1840s Ephraim Squier and Edwin Davis left their occupations to go and survey Native American earthworks in the Miami, Scioto, and Licking river valleys. Their work was published as the first publication of the new Smithsonian Institution, entitled *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley*. These earthworks included the famous Serpent Mound in Adams County, Ohio and the extensive earthworks around Chillicothe and Newark, Ohio. The people who built these earthworks have been named for the places where some of the works were located. The Adena culture was named for the Adena Homestead built by Thomas Worthington on a high ground overlooking the Scioto River. A conical mound excavated on his estate is the source of that culture's name today. In the nearby Paint Creek Valley is the largest earthwork in Ohio. Located on the Mordecai Hopewell farm, this earthwork and others with similar characteristics around Ohio have since been referred to as the Hopewell culture.

The Hopewell earthwork along Paint Creek is very large and would have taken some time to investigate and measure. Since most of the native forests had been removed for purposes of farming, it would have been a large site exposed to the weather, sunny, rainy, windy, or otherwise. While Squier and Davis were surveying this extensive site it is likely they took refuge from time to time in a barn located on



Front view of Hopewell barn with side additions and man door.



Rear view of Hopewell barn with side and rear additions. Gable roof defines the dimensions of the original hand hewn structure.

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CALEB'S CORNER

For quite a few years now I've been hearing about the quality and grand time that the Algonquin Mill Festival is. Especially after the 2018 Barn Conference where the mill and other structures on their property were opened up to members, but I missed that chance. My time finally came earlier this month when I spent Saturday (the second day of the festival) helping Paul Knoebel staff the FOB tent. My day was happily spent working with the hordes of children who passed through our area throughout the day. They each had the chance to use a hand crank boring machine to bore holes into a pine timber. Others took already made pegs and tried driving them into a bench specifically made for that purpose. Some of the older kids and even adults jumped into the action of riving white oak billets and shaping 1" pegs from the billets.

Perfectly nestled in a valley a few miles south of Carrollton, the location instantly transported your mind to the 19th century before even entering the festival. I can't speak highly enough about every aspect of this fall festival. Most communities in eastern Ohio have some type of festival, but none like this! The various craftsmen, demonstrators, and collectors of 19th century tooling and equipment provided engaging activities for people of all ages. Couple that with the seven tons of sauerkraut made specifically for the event, steam engine driven sawmill, and the still operational stone mill, and you end up with an event worth driving from the furthest corner of the state to attend. It makes sense why this year's organizers reported 12k-15k visitors.

I want to publicly thank Paul Knoebel for the opportunity to assist him this year and for all the work he and others like him in that community have done over the years to make this festival what it currently is and will be for many years to come!

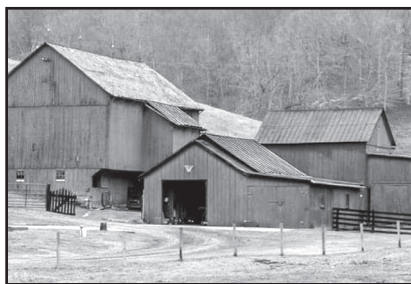
Caleb Miller, President – Friends of Ohio Barns

Monroe County barn

Monroe County, in eastern Ohio on the unglaciated Allegheny plateau, abutting the Ohio River has a region referred to as the Little Switzerland of Ohio. Probably more because of the large number of Swiss immigrants rather than any real likeness to the Alpine landscapes of the fatherland.

The barns of Monroe County appear to be a combination of mostly New England barns and German barns.

The small collection of farm buildings in this image includes a barn with an overhanging forebay with some sort of an outshot roof where one would normally find a set of wind doors.



Barns of Ohio

The Barns of Ohio Facebook page features a large number of barn photos each day. The page has more than 6,000 members. There seems to be a second BARNS OF OHIO Facebook page in a different font with more than 10,000 members. These barn enthusiasts are posting images of barns from all over the state. Wonder if they have ever heard of Friends of Ohio Barns!

The barn in this image, appears to be a three bay New England bank barn with shed additions to the rear. It is located in Muskingum County. The first shed addition would have enclosed the wind door opposite from the front door seen in the image. That addition was likely added a very long time ago and precluded any further threshing of grain on the barn floor in the traditional way.

Image by Tim Hoover, an enthusiastic contributor of barn photos on the Barns of Ohio Facebook page.

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Agriculture was the engine of Ohio's early economy

The 19th century Ohio countryside was covered with farms and barns. At the same time the large and growing cities of Ohio were consuming, processing, and transporting agricultural products. The cities were full of factories producing farm tools. Row upon row of grindstones spinning in unison to sharpen plow blades, scythes, hoes, and other cultivating tools filled large industrial buildings. Nearby were other factories making wheels for farm implements, wagons, and horse drawn buggies. In the vicinity were other factories tanning and stretching hides over saddles and carriage seats. Blacksmith shops were fashioning horse shoes and axles that keep the agriculture industry moving. Dairies and granaries were some of the big industries in cities and small towns. Canal boats plied the waters of an extensive internal artery system while riverboats hauled produce up and down the Muskingum and Ohio rivers. Sloops, schooners, and other vessels transported Ohio goods to ports on the Great Lakes. After the Civil War trains began conveying Ohio commodities to cities in other states and to the coast for international shipments.

When Agriculture was fueling the Ohio economy the factories were not producing automobiles, appliances, and plastic. Industries were processing the harvest and manufacturing farm tools and machinery. That's what built Ohio and America. It was a considerably more sustainable economy than that of the late 20th and early 21st century American economy.

The condition of the majority of Ohio's barns is as good of an indicator of the real state of Ohio's economy today. It is likely that well over half of Ohio's barns are long gone. Many are in a state of decline, from not-too-bad to way beyond repair. In the 19th century the barns of Ohio, overflowing with hay, were a sign of a good harvest and a strong economy. Today's decaying barns and dumpsters overflowing with garbage and untold volumes of briefly used and quickly wasted



A very large, classic New England barn, in very good condition, still sporting its original slate roof, at St Rt 37 and the National Road at Luray, Ohio. The barn was demolished and the number of dumpsters at this intersection has increased.

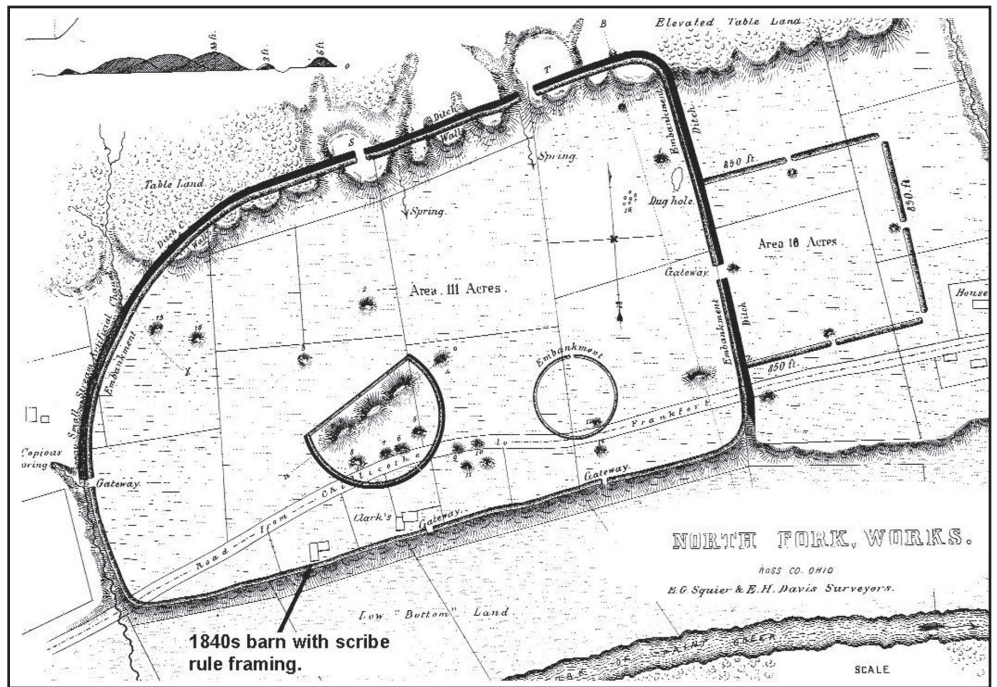


An old barn on ST Rt 550 in Washington County was neglected until it was demolished. The dumpster remains in service.

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Compromised roof had led to much of the decline of this historic building on National Park property.



Squier and Davis map of the Hopewell site from *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley* published by the Smithsonian Institution in 1848. The historic barn is in the lower left of the sketch.

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the site. They depicted that barn on their survey of what has come to be known as the Hopewell Group.

It is an unassuming barn — until one gets inside. The original hand hewn timber framed structure has a footprint of approximately 20 feet by 22 feet. Sometime much later a timber framed addition was attached to three sides of the original structure. These timbers are all circular sawn.

The original hand hewn portion is a scribe rule production. All mortice and tenon joints are identified with marriage marks. The bracing, all hand hewn, was measured on a four foot layout. The pole rafters are pegged together at the ridge. The old section of the barn had no large barn door — only a man door, thereby indicating it may not have actually been used as a barn. However, if it wasn't a barn, it is not clear what type of farm structure it was. It is not an obvious granary. It has remnants of a waste wall indicating it may have been used for threshing in the past.

This early farm building is an important Ohio heritage asset. We have much to learn from this structure. It is located on National Park property in Ross County outside of Chillicothe. It has been neglected for many, many years. Missing roof panels have allowed tremendous ingress of



Brace connecting to tie beam with marriage marks at joint 4 (IIII).

water for long periods. Some of the original structure is seriously compromised.

The National Park Service was going to give it away or demolish it almost 15 years ago. When members of Friends of Ohio Barns brought the importance of this building to their attention there was some brief enthusiasm about preserving it. Some remedial work was done to stabilize it and prevent continued rainwater damage. For-



Brace connecting to tie beam with marriage marks at joint 9 (VIII). Presumably the 4 had an odd use of Roman numerals to prevent confusion between IV and VI and — 4 and 6. Similarly the 9 could get confused with an 11 — IX and XI.

mer FOB president, Rudy Christian visited the building and submitted a plan to the park service more than a decade ago. As of spring of 2021 no progress has been made and more roofing panels have blown

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AGRICULTURE, Continued from Page 3



This image shows the 4 foot layout on the bracing, remnants of the waste wall, boards added for temporary stability, and a view into a side and rear addition.



The man door (not visible) is to the immediate left of the bracing on this inside view of the front wall.



The barn has no ridge pole. The rafters are pinned together with wooden pegs.

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off the structure. It is in serious jeopardy.

A National Park Service architect from Oklahoma visited the barn in the spring of 2021 to do some preliminary drawings. It was clear from a brief conversation that the architect was completely unfamiliar with the rich tradition of Ohio barns and

the uniqueness of the structure on National Park land.

We hope that the Park Service will revisit the plans submitted by Rudy Christian and begin moving in that direction immediately.

Tom O'Grady

resources is a good indicator of the real state of today's economy. The mass production of throwaway products in throwaway packages that litter the nation's roadsides and streams and glut its landfills and create giant ocean-going garbage patches is a more accurate indicator of the state of the economy than any market forecast on the evening news. As more and more farmland gives way to sprawling development the economy becomes less and less sustainable regardless of what politicians and economists argue. The soil is the foundation of the economy and when we continue to pave it over, pollute it with chemicals, and cause it to erode into the Gulf we undermine and weaken the sustainability of agriculture and therefore the foundation of the economy.

We fool ourselves with money. When we hear 'economy' we think 'money.' Economy, by definition, is the management of the home. The ecosystem is the foundation of the economy. All of the resources for food, shelter, clothing and all the tools and toys we humans want and need come from and are sustained by the ecosystem. The workers in the economy also come from and are sustained by the ecosystem. When we extract materials from the ecosystem and dispose of wastes in the ecosystem we destabilize and weaken the economy. Yet an economist and a politician may praise such industriousness as economic growth. Anything that weakens the foundation of your home is not economical. The word economical, by definition is "marked by the thrifty and efficient use of resources and the minimization of waste." The American economy doesn't minimize waste. It makes an increasing amount of waste each year. The evidence is available in plenty of statistics — but who is paying attention? There is no glamour in garbage so most people pay no attention to the rising tide of waste. It is a tragic thing that the American economy is not economical and therefore it is unsustainable.

The state of the Ohio barn and the growing number and size of dumpsters is an obvious sign of economic decline. Think about the real state of the economy next time you see an Ohio barn going to waste.

Tom O'Grady

Barn on the Backbone

Built on high ground on Ohio's glaciated plain near the border of Richland and Crawford counties, this Pennsylvania German barn, with a posted forebay enjoyed a brief period as a tourist attraction. Around the turn of the last century the public's imagination was captured by the fact that due to the barn's location rainwater falling onto the barn flowed to the Atlantic Ocean by two very different routes. That barn was built on the continental divide or the backbone of Ohio.

Rain hitting the north face of the roof flowed toward the Sandusky River watershed that emptied into Lake Erie and flowed over the Niagara Falls, into Lake Ontario and out the Saint Lawrence Seaway to the Atlantic. Rain hitting the other side of the roof flowed into the Mohican River Watershed beginning a much longer journey into the Walhonding River which meets the Tuscarawas at Coshocton and forms the Muskingum. That rainwater flows with the Muskingum to the Ohio and thence into the Mississippi. Not until it has been fed into the Gulf of Mexico does it have any chance of getting picked up in a current that will eventually deliver it to the Atlantic Ocean.

People rode the inter-urban train from Mansfield to the town of Crestline which straddled the county border. That streetcar passed closely enough that passengers could disembark briefly to take a picture of the barn. Others would come from further away to see this 'remarkable' phenomenon — even when it wasn't raining! It attracted enough visitors to cause a small picnic grounds to take root nearby to accommodate the sightseers.

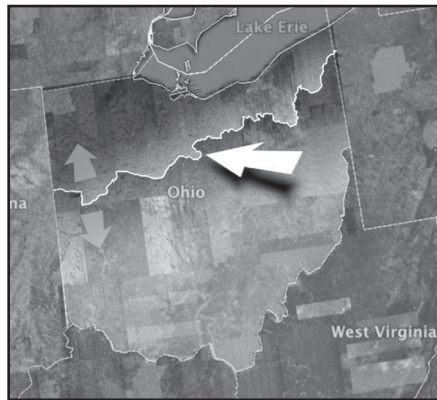
The Watershed Barn had its fifteen minutes of fame. By the 1950s the crowds had found other distractions and the barn lost its fans. When highway expansion kicked into high gear the landscape was getting flattened out far and wide for four lane highways. The once famous barn was demolished without a flinch. The barn, farm buildings, and a good deal of the farm were converted to exit ramps.

Today's steady flow of traffic along the historic Lincoln Highway is exposed to far fewer of the interesting features that at one time helped define the American landscape. Now the highways themselves



Images from: https://www.richlandsource.com/area_history/richland-county...

This Pennsylvania German barn, with a posted forebay, was built on the glaciated till plain along the continental divide. Rainwater drained from this high ground into north flowing and south flowing watersheds.



Left: The white arrow points to the general location of the once-famed Watershed barn built along the backbone of Ohio. Darker arrows indicate the direction of stream flow on opposite sides of the divide (white line).

Below: A widened Lincoln Highway (U.S. Rt. 30) and a late 20th century church building mark the site where the Watershed barn sheltered the harvest for three quarters of a century. Unsure about the destination of rainwater falling on opposite sides of the church roof.



and the edge cities of gas stations, eateries, and convenience options erase and reconfigure the geography — natural and cultural — until the landscapes and routes of former times leave few reminders of what went before. The characteristics and qualities of the landscape are eroded far quicker with the ceaseless expansion of highways and the sprawl they encourage than by the streams that were the agent of erosion for

epochs upon eons before.

Our history and our landscapes define us as a society and as a people and that definition is changing constantly in the modern era as the farms and fields and barns give way to the sprawl of an increasingly unsettled and mobile people. The rainwater still runs off the backbone of Ohio the way it used to — for now.

Tom O'Grady

It's a Barn. It's a Bar. It's a Synagogue.

It is a synagogue today. It was a restaurant. It was built over a century ago to stable horses. This round barn was built by a carriage maker who invented the tapered roller bearing to help heavy freight wagons make sharp turns with less difficulty. Henry Timken, born in Germany, started his business in St. Louis, Missouri. Timken Roller Bearings relocated to Canton, Ohio to be closer to the action around the turn of the last century. Between 1916 and 1918 the industrialist built the 125-foot-diameter brick horse stable. It was one of many round barns built around the turn of the 20th century. The design was considered economical and eye-catching.

It is said to have boarded horses and carriages owned by Thomas Edison, Henry Ford and President William McKinley, who lived in Canton before being elected president. The four 26 foot diameter turrets once stored hay and grain for the horses. When it was built, the circular stable had a substantial open arena at the center used for training. The brick structure — originally part of the Henry H. Timken estate — has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1978. The barn was abandoned for a number of years. A spokesperson for the Canton Preservation Society said at the time “the barn is making a valiant stand on its own. Everything that could be done to abuse that building has been done,” she said, “but it still stands.”

The historic barn was enclosed with



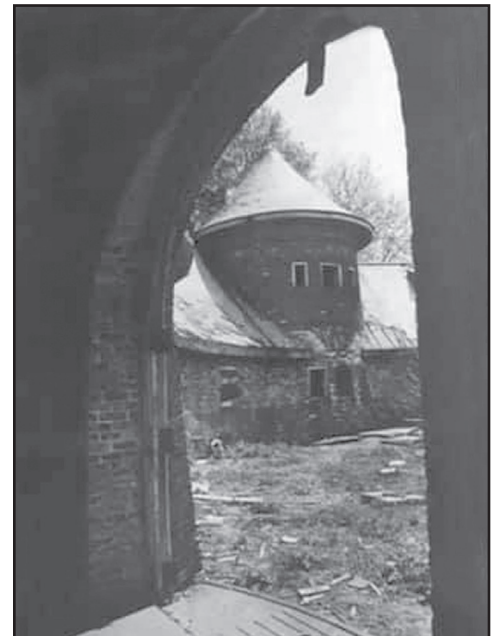
From: Canton Repository – Scott Heckel

Messianic Synagogue.

a roof using metal ceiling beams from an old high school when the stable was repurposed to house a restaurant in the 1990s. The Stables restaurant went out of business. It was repurposed again and leased for several years for religious services. Around 2013 the historic stable, once owned by an industrialist, was purchased and is now being used as a Messianic Synagogue.

Barns were built for farms but they can serve for centuries in other capacities if maintained like the barnbuilders intended.

Right: Timken estate horse stable 1990s.
from: Pinterest



from: Canton Repository – Bob Rossiter

The Stables restaurant in the 1990s.



Image: Ted Wahn

Abandoned Timken barn in Canton Ohio in the 1970s.



Image: from Dalton Gazette and Kidron News

Who needs a barn?

With so many outdoor structures flooding the markets and a relative shortage of skilled timber framers roaming the countryside — who needs a barn? You can have one of these delivered, installed, and put in use with a short phone call — or you can probably order one online.

For every Ohio barn that has been lost to sprawl or neglect or arson in the past 50 years a few dozen or more of these icons have likely been added to the countryside. Maybe someday there will be a Friends of Ohio Pole Buildings, Pre Fabs, and Outdoor Structures (FOPBPF&OS).

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