County Representatives

The representatives promote the preservation of barns in their area and encourage membership in the Iowa Barn Foundation. Working with members of the board they will also help to oversee tours and other activities. We welcome volunteers for other counties.

Adams: Kathy West, (641) 335-2334
Allamakee: Marlene Fenstermann (563) 382-3439
Appanoose: Willard Vanderlinden (641) 856-2152
Audubon: Paul Walthier (712) 563-2779
Blackhawk: Keith Oltrogge (329) 984-52992
Boone: Jim Jordan (515) 432-2736
Buena Vista: April Dwyer (712) 296-4415
Butler: Menard Koop, (641) 985-2351
Bremer: Keith Oltrogge (319) (984)-2292
Calhoun:
Cass: Gary and Pam Wolfe (712) 764-7778
Cedar: Keith Whittatch (563) 942 6670, Sue Robinson (563) 432-7186
Cerro Gordo: Dale and Judy Mills (641) 424-1197
Clarke: Dianne Oswald (641) 342-6722
Clayton: Michael McConnell (206) 517-4136; Brian Lamson, (703) 553-0553
Clinton: Dan and Jolene Witt (563) 242-6598
Crawford: Terry and Tammy Wicks (712) 653-4009
Davis: Judy Combs (641) 664-3758; Sharon and Bill Hardy (515) 722-5224
Decatur: Jack Van Laar (641) 446-7473; Beth Kosman
Des Moines: Dale and Julie Bartelt (515) 446-7473
Dickinson: Alan Lyons (712) 336-8832
Dubuque: Kenneth Dunker, (515) 351-5913
Emmet: Terrence Jensen (515) 292-2049
Fayette: Vernon Oakland (563) 423-7122
Floyd: Michael and Rochelle Barrigan, (641) 228-3826; Jean and John Sebern (641) 228-2654
Franklin: Joe Pitsor (641) 456-3994
Greene: Mary and Larry Richards (515) 386-4750
Grundy: Rebecca Engelking (641) 366-3150
Guthrie: Karla Caltrider (641) 746-3309
Hamilton: Ron Adams (515) 832-4547
Harrison: Shirley Finken (712) 644 2355
Hardin: Ken Starek (641) 847-3018
Humboldt: Kurt Weinert (515) 332-4467
Ia: Don Poggensee (712) 364-3491
Jackson: Lori Evilsizer (563) 689-6447
Jan: Lori Eversizer (563) 689-6447
Jones: Roman Weltner (319) 465-4356
Kossuth: Evert Broesder (515) 295-5787
Linn: Tom Ispen (319) 895-8565
Lucas: Gary Webster (515) 961-7880
Madison: Dennis and Marlyce Schrodt (515) 462-4681
Mahaska: Charles Oldhams (641) 969-4272
Marion: Rob Bos (641) 628-8396
Marshall: William Stone (641) 753-8994; Eleanor Ward (641) 752-4714
Mills: Stan Allen (712) 822-7814
Mitchell: Rachel Shook, Rachel Doss (641) 839-9138
Muscatine: Anton Vanieck (563) 264-2497
Monona: Dean Lawson (712) 431-9831
Montgomery: Montgomery County Historical Society (712) 623-2289
O'Brien: Pamela Battaglioli (712) 727-3512
Osceola: George Braaksma (712) 754-2023; Carrie Jones (712) 832-3227
Page: Dave Williams (712) 826-8832
Palo Alto: Kate Johnson (712) 488-3455
Plymouth: Ron and Kathy Klemme (712) 552-2613
Pocahontas: Terry Ferguson (712) 845-4978
Polk: Ober Anderson (515) 964-0964; Don Jordahl (515) 274-1317
Potawatami: Jim Amend (712) 326-0774
Poweshiek: Eugene and Delores Lang (641) 236-4779
Ringgold: Joan Gunsoley (712) 734-5455
Sac: Jack and Jane Hogue (712) 668-4663
Scott: Joyce Lund Mears (563) 289-3334
Shelby: Linda Heffin (712) 744-3660
Sioux: Leroy Intveld (712) 439-2775
Story: Rochelle Mehlisch (641) 487-7690; Norma Johnson (515) 685-2800
Tama: Roy Lidtke (319) 929-5572
Washington: Jerry Strabala (319) 653-3400
Wayne: Brent Schmell (641) 898-7534
Webster: John Samuelson (515) 354-5359
Winneshiek: Marlene Fenstermann (563) 382-3439
Woodbury: Winsten and Sheryl Belfrage (712) 943-5184
Worth: Richard Stafford (641) 845-2299
Van Buren: Darlene and David McQuoid (389) 397-2340
Jim Jordan, Boone County representative to the Iowa Barn Foundation and retired veterinarian, wrote and photographed these Boone County barns for us. He admitted these barns are biased toward Gothic and gambrel roofed structures. And, he recalled the first wages he earned were by stacking baled hay for neighbors in barns in Iowa County. He has a fondness for these barns because they have high pitched roofs.

He warned that the Iowa Barn Foundation’s mission of assisting in the restoration and preservation of a type of rural architecture, that has been largely abandoned since the early 1950s, can be enhanced by maintaining roofs on these structures.

“They go back to nature very rapidly once the roofs start to leak,” he said.

**PETERSON BARN**

The Peterson barn was built in 1919 by Simon Peterson. The barn measures 72 feet x 42 feet; the poured concrete foundation is five feet below grade and four above. There were 11 box stalls, and the barn could accommodate over 20 Belgian horses. The hay mow, accessible by a stairway, has double doors and a grain bin. There is still some loose hay remaining in the barn. Simon Peterson had many of his mares bred to the world famous Farceur, which was owned by C. G. Good, Ogden.

**OLSON FAMILY BARN**

The Olson Family barn is located in the Big Creek Valley between Luther and Boone on 230th Street in Worth Township. Constructed between 1900 and 1910, this large barn measures 76.5 feet north/south by 57.5 feet east/west; has four horse stalls on its west side, four dairy stanchions and a tack room in the center; a two-tiered haymow above a central galley; and a lean-to wings on its north and east sides. This well-preserved barn has been in the Olson Family since the late 1940s and was used for draft horses as late as the mid-to-late 1960s. Currently, one of the Olson granddaughters and her family take care of the barn and the property on which it sits. It also serves as a workshop for an environmental initiative.

**PAULSON BARN**

This barn, 41x56 feet, was built by John and Kate Paulson about 1910. Their family consisted of six sons and one daughter. The home on the farm burned down around 1912, and some of the family lived in the barn temporarily while the new home was completed. John Paulson referred to the farm as the Daniel Boone Trail Farm. He was known for his Percheron horses. In 1927 horses were used to help grade the road by the farm which is now highway 169. This barn was extensively refurbished and stabilized in 1998 by Gerilyn Baldwin, great granddaughter of John and Kate. This included new foundation/footings and cement flooring, new haymow flooring, and re-roofing with cedar shingles. The barn has served as a pig nursery and sow farrowing area. The horse stalls still exist. The barn is located at 849 D Ave., Ogden, Iowa.
BAKLEY BARN
This barn is located on Highway 169 at 675 D Avenue, four miles south of Boxholm. This Gothic clear span roof barn utilizing Rilco laminated rafters was built in 1945 as a dairy barn for a herd of 20 cows. It measures 38’ x 56’. It has a manure carriage track behind the stanchions. The barn still has the original cedar shingle roof. A color photo of the barn and farmstead was featured on the back of an Iowa Department of Transportation’s highway map in 1951, as well as on a marketing brochure printed by the Iowa Department of Agriculture in that era. It served as a shelter for feeder cattle after dairying.

EPPERT BARN
This barn is located on R-27 three miles south of Boone. Constructed for D.P. Eppert in 1944, it replaced one destroyed by fire caused by lightning. At a size of 32 x 40 feet, the barn was adequate for the 80-acre farm, having a stall for a team of horses, one for cows, one for young stock, and stanchions for eight milk cows. It has been in the family since the 1920s and is currently owned by M. Jean Eppert Houston and her husband Dan. The barn was constructed by V.C. Brundage of Luther.

TINGWALD BARN
This 32 foot x 50 foot Gothic roofed barn was built in 1951 at the time Mark’s father, Darrell, was returning from the Korean War. It is one of several in the area built by the Ahrens brothers. The roof utilizes one-inch by two-inch laminated with six plies glued together. These were manufactured off site and are spaced at two-foot intervals. It is a clear span structure without internal bracing. The original cedar shingles remain. Walk up stairs provide access to the haymow. The barn served a small dairy cow herd and was later used for feeder cattle and swine finishing. A barn dance was held there shortly after its completion. The farmstead is located six miles north of Boone on county road E-18 at 1547-130th St.

OSWEILER BARN
This 34 foot x 60 foot barn was built in 1937. It is one of two by six feet construction in the walls. The Gothic roof is shaped by using laminated (with nails) one by fours as rafters with trusses every ten feet. This form of construction possibly allowed the roof to sag and the walls to spread slightly with some lean to the north. This may have been enhanced by cutting some storm bracing at the ends to accommodate larger sliding doors. Spliced and notched eight by eight hand hewn beams run the length of the barn. Two of them are 28 feet long. Current theory is that they were salvaged from another barn for use in this barn. Sue Osweiler’s father (Lawrence Miller) straightened and strengthened the roof in the early 1960s, and her mother hired the Ahrens brothers to straighten the frame and cable the haymow around 1980. Originally the barn was used for dairying. The Millers later used it for beef cows. It was used by their daughter’s horses in the fifties and early sixties. Sue and Gary’s family had horses there in the eighties. Cattle were back in the late nineties, and two Golden Retrievers (Chip and Dale) enjoyed it later in the nineties and thereafter. It currently supports their environmental efforts. The barn is located less than a half mile south of Highway 30 at 1251 Quill Avenue.
BOONE COUNTY HOME BARS

There are few county home barns remaining in Iowa, but Boone County has two of them.

Boone County purchased two hundred acres for a farm for indigent in 1867. This 86’x34’ hollow block barn with a Gothic style roof was built in 1937 as a dairy barn. The rafters were made by laminating one-inch by four-inch lumber with nails. Dairy-ing was abandoned in the very late 1960s or early 1970s. The stanchions have since been removed. The barn was then used for a beef herd and for swine finishing until late in the 1970s. The structure is extremely well built, with a straight and structurally sound roof, and has a 16”x4” steel I beam supporting the hay mow which expands the entire width in the dairying portion of the barn. Boone County sold the farm in 2005, and the county home across the road from this barn was razed. The home area is now a small county park named after the Long family who managed the farm for several years.

This A-frame mortised and wooden peg internally framed barn—57-feet x 46-feet— is thought to have been built in the early 1900s. It appears to be structurally sound with minimal sill deterioration. The hayloft flooring has been removed, and the associated floor joists remain intact along the sides. The corrugated tin roof which overlays the original cedar shingles is the main reason this structure remains in good shape. The barn has recently been used for hay storage (large round bales) stacked high from ground level in the central area. The barn is located about two hundred feet southwest of the hollow block gothic barn. Both barns are owned by John and Julie Kenyon and located at 391 Nature Road (R-21) about six miles north of Boone, Iowa.

Jim Jordan, Boone County Representative to Iowa Barn Foundation

Visit us on the web at www.iowabarnfoundation.org
JUNE AREA TOUR WILL HIGHLIGHT
- BARNs IN SOUTHWEST IOWA -

Historic barns in southwest Iowa, some in what is known as the “forgotten corner” of Iowa, will be opened on an Iowa Barn Foundation area tour June 12 and 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The tour, dedicated to the preservation of Iowa’s barns, is free and open to the public.

A highlight of the weekend will be a picnic on Sunday noon at the lovely Loess Hills farm of Jim and Shelda Baylor, Thurman.

On the property is a horse barn built by the family in the 1890s. In the late 1920s, Jim’s father had another barn built. Jim remembered, “My father told me once that when he went to school one morning there was no barn, but on his return, there it was. Well, not in its finished condition, but the sides raised with these poles that are today lying up in the loft.”

Some 10 barns will be on tour. Some of the barns on tour are aged and vulnerable, but they are historic and of interest. The barns include:

**BAYLOR BARN**
1816 Bluff Road, Thurman (two miles south of Thurman lying across west face of Loess Hills. Thurman is two miles east of Exit 20 on I-29). The Baylor barn was built in the early 1890s by a crew under the ownership of Ransdell Baylor, who was born in 1850. It is mortised and pegged—the poles used in raising are lying in the loft. It’s 40x 60 feet and built for horses. The barn has been beautifully maintained through the years.

**GEIGER BARN**
1466 Bluff Road, Thurman (Barn is beside a blacktop road one mile north of Thurman)—The barn was built in the 1870s by Blanks Moody Baldwin from native walnut using wooden pegs and limestone boulders for the foundation. At one time horse races were held on a dirt track across the road. People gathered to attend the races and watch the owner’s horse, Pluto, run. The barn was originally painted yellow and is now red. The barn has weathered two tornadoes and is without its cupola and weather vane. The barn is a major area landmark.

**WHITE BARN**
Kent (Union County). From US 34, find Clover Avenue and go south 3.5 miles to farm. Farm has an extensive corn crib and a barn that is 160x90. One barn has particularly great craftsmanship. The Schobert family lived on the farm in the forties.

**BIRKBY BARN**
2144 Bluff Road, Thurman, Iowa 51654 (From I-29, take the Persival exit (No. 15) and go east four miles on 200th Street (J26) which is gravel.) Turn south on Bluff Road (Blacktop L44) and go two miles to 2944 Bluff Road. The barn was built about 1870 as a basement horse barn with the stalls in the basement and grain bins and small equipment storage on second floor and hay mows overhead. Three fourths of the original brick foundation was replaced in the 1920s and is vulnerable. The barn was also damaged by a tornado in 1948 and rebuilt keeping original bins and stalls in place.

**LAKE NURSERY BARN**
Evergreen Street, Shenandoah (Coming from the north on Highway 18 or US 59, go east on East Ferguson to Argus Road. Turn south until the road “T”s into East Carter which becomes Evergreen. Turn east, and you’ll see cemetery and the barn.) This barn, built in 1870, is important to Iowa’s horticultural history. D.S. Lake moved to the area about 1870 from New Hampshire—coming via river boat through St. Louis and then by horseback. Lake brought with him fruit stock from New Hampshire which was used when he started the Lake Nursery. The barn was one of the first built in Shenandoah. Later area nurseries were influenced by Lake. The barn, now vulnerable, is owned by the Greater Shenandoah Historic Society which hopes to restore it. The nearby cemetery was given by the Lake family.

**HODDE BARN**
2993 250th Avenue, Hamburg. (Take Hamburg exit off of I 29 and go west on J 64 for 2.5 miles and then north one mile on L40.) The 100-year-old farm was was purchased by Fred Hodde after saving money earned from helping people pick corn by hand. The farm has been home to Hoddes since then. It is believed the barn was built in the early 1900s.

**SHIRLEY BARN**
2442 Bluff Road, Hamburg. (Take Highway 2 exit off of I 29. Travel east 4.5 miles to “blacktop”—L44. Go north one mile.) The Shirley family has been in Fremont County since 1858. They bought their land about 1860. The barn was built by the family about 1940.

**KOCHERSPERGER/ALLEN BARN**
64094 US 59, Emerson. (four miles south of Emerson and 14 miles north of Shenandoah.) This small, lovingly kept barn sits on beautiful land that has been in the family since 1870. Area is hidden Iowa treasure.

**SPENCER BARN**
1680 Highway 71, Villisca. This very unusual 16-sided hog barn, built in 1917, is 60 feet in diameter. This board and batten barn, on the National Historic Register, demonstrates the experimental shift in the traditional use of a barn. It has a two-pitch, self-supporting roof. It is board and batten over dimension plank lumber.

**NIMS BARN**
at Montgomery County Historic Society Center, Red Oak. (From Highway 34, go north three blocks on north 4th Street past the SW Community College Building to the T. with Ratliff Road. Turn right.) The barn was built in 1884 and actually moved to this site. The historic society has been very active in preservation in the area and exemplifies what a community can do working together.

**TAYLOR COUNTY ROUND BARN**
Bedford. (Highways 2 and 148) This National Register barn, built in 1907, was disassembled from a farm 20 miles away, moved to this location, and restored. This has been a community effort.

The price of the picnic, which brings everyone together for down home conversation, is $9. Please send checks made out to the Iowa Barn Foundation to Kelly Roberson, 2631 Ridge Road, Des Moines 50312 4417. For questions: 515 778 3798
2010 October All-State Barn Tour

The historic Mulford (Henry Felkner) barn near Iowa City will be one of the highlights of the Iowa Barn Foundation's all-state tour Saturday, October 16, and Sunday, October 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

This Iowa treasure at 3188 Highway 1 is 30x67 feet and has hewn timber posts and beams. It was built during the Civil War. It is large for a barn that has never been expanded. The interior of the barn is divided into three principal sections separated by solid wood partitions on the lower level. The barn recently had some work done with an Iowa Barn Foundation matching grant.

GRANT GUIDELINES

The Iowa Barn Foundation is dedicated to preserving Iowa barns through raising money and giving matching grants, thus making the entire country aware of barn preservation and Iowa's dear rural heritage.

Grants are given to private property owners with priority to those working in agriculture. The barn must have an agriculture-related use.

Questions to ask: Is the barn 50 years or older? Is it large? Was it built with stone walls? Is it of unusual shape? Is the barn important to the landscape? Is it visible from public roads?

The barn must be restored using the same material as when the barn was originally built or at the time of the last major remodeling—except for roofs. Metal roofs will be considered. Metal, plastic, masonry, and other materials cannot be used for siding, windows, trim, or other purpose unless such material was originally used. Grants are not made for interior restoration of the barn unless it supports the exterior.

A perpetual easement must be signed. To receive a grant form, please send $5 and a $25 membership to the Iowa Barn Foundation if you are not a current member. Send to Roxanne Mehlisch, 17590 730th Avenue, Zearing 50278.

Beloved Barn in a Pumpkin Patch

Jim Fenner, Ottumwa, wrote that he "fell in love with his property in '99". The owner had died, and he bought the barn and outbuildings from the wife.

"I just love it. It has horse stalls, milk parlor, feed storage, hay storage, and, the part I love the most, is a wooden floor throughout. I sell pumpkins and let anyone go through it, and everyone loves the old barn."
Hidden in Jones County is a collection of stone Romanesque Revival barns—unique to Iowa and even to America. The European looking barns are part of the Iowa Prison Industries Farm associated with the Anamosa State Penitentiary, Anamosa.

Sue Robinson, Cedar County representative to the Iowa Barn Foundation, discovered these barns on a drive through Jones County one day. She followed up researching the barns and touring them with Bill Gehl, farm director for the Iowa prison farms. Here she shares the exceptional information and photographs with us. Information in the National Historic Register application was helpful to Sue in writing this article. Many of these barns cannot be seen from the highway and are accessible only to prison industry employees.

These extraordinary barns hold a history that only they can reveal. We are grateful to Sue for her hard work which will benefit all of Iowa.

Just west of picturesque Anamosa, Iowa, on County Road E28, is one of six area farms associated with the Anamosa State Penitentiary. The land for this farm (Farm #1) was purchased by the state in 1904. The farm was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992 after there were rumors that the barns on the farm were going to be torn down. Farm No. 1 is the only Anamosa prison farm on the National Register of Historic Places.

The barns were built of ashlar limestone (stone that has been cut into regular sized blocks and given a smooth, planar face) in the Romanesque Revival design, inspired by the 11th and 12th century, and popular in 1870 to 1900s. This design, reminiscent of southern Europe, includes heavy stone texture and arched windows and entryways. The penitentiary is built in the same stone and design. The limestone was quarried from nearby. The seven remaining barns on Farm #1 were built by prisoners between 1912 and 1939.

From County Rd E28 just west of Anamosa one can view the glorious South Barn (cover photo) which is cross-shaped in plan with a center of three levels. The center section is flanked by two two-level side facing wings. The South Barn is a side hill barn, with the main floor or second level opening directly onto a hillside, and the basement level centered on the downhill side. The rough and smooth-faced ashlar limestone walls were set on a random foundation of naturally shaped stones. It is believed that the roof was originally slate shingle. The far east section of the barn has an open-sided animal shelter that rests on the former uphill stone foundation.

A vertical board sliding door closes the entrance to the opening along the north elevation of the east section. A wood gate, which operates on a vertical track, covers the third level entrance into the center haymow.

The massing of the stone barn conveys its solidity. Foundations stones are rough hewn. The west two-thirds of the barn has a rock-faced finish that contrasts with the smooth ashlar walls of the remaining third. Quoins (blocks of stone laid up at the corner of a wall to structurally reinforce the corner) define the edges of the building while heavy stone lintels (horizontal block that spans the space between two supports and are nestled on pillars made of piled stone) lug sills, and dentil embellishment of the sides frame the windows and doors. A date block inscribed "1912" is centered on the south gable of the barn's mid-section. The north entrance is framed with a voussoir, an arch composed of receding layers of arches.
Each floor of the barn is supported independently. The first floor rests on stone posts and sawn wood timbers. The upper levels of the center and west section are supported by wood trusses on wood posts. The east section contains a cattle loaﬁng shed on the first level and a hay storage area above. In the center section, the basement contains a cattle loaﬁng shed; the second level functions as a machine shop. A hay loft is located above. The ﬂoors of the ﬁrst two levels are concrete while the third is wood. The ﬁrst level of the west section contains a cattle loaﬁng shed while the second houses a machine shed.

The South Barn was built in two sections, one in 1912 and one in 1926. The barn’s basement originally functioned as a cattle loaﬁng shed. The upper ﬂoors of the east and center sections retain their original functions while the second level of the west section once contained cattle stalls.

With time, the barn has undergone alterations although the basic shape, materials, and design are recognizable. A concrete silo attached to the building’s northwest corner no longer remains.

THE GRANARY

Along the base of the hill, the rectangular, masonry granary faces uphill. The barn’s smooth-faced, coursed ashlar limestone walls stand on a foundation of naturally shaped stones. Building details are of rough-faced ashlar. A single arched entrance composed of heavy voussoirs (wedge shaped element—typically a stone used in building an arch) is located in the center of the north façade while a row of four smaller but similarly constructed entrances occur along the east end of the south elevation. The small, sparsely placed windows emphasize the heavy shaping of the building. Doors and windows are emphasized with heavy stone lintels and sills, and their sides are embellished by dentils. Entrances along the south and west are open while a sliding wood door covers the main entrance. Quoins—blocks of stone laid up at the corner of the wall—define the corners of the building. The date block under the west gable indicates 1915 while the name block along the south elevation states “Farm No. 1”.

Steel beams resting on stone posts support the main floor; the roof rests on a system of wood trusses. Both levels are open. The functions of the 1915 building appear to have altered little. Holding six grain bins, the ﬁrst ﬂoor continues to function as a granary. The hay track remains in the gable. The walls appear to be approximately two-feet thick. Inside the barn is open, emphasizing the massive interior and its detailed construction. Currently the second ﬂoor is used for mixing feed for the farm cattle, and the ﬁrst ﬂoor is used as a calving area.

The quaint seed house that was built in 1939, stored seed that was to be used on the farm. The masonry building’s rough-faced, coursed ashlar limestone walls rest on a natural limestone foundation. A slate shingle, gabled roof covers the rectangular building. The interior walls of the second level are faced with tile; the ﬂoor is concrete. The walls of the ﬁrst level or basement remain unfinished; there is a dirt ﬂoor. The ﬁrst level now functions as a calf shed while the second ﬂoor stores hay. Alterations to the building included the dismantling of an adjacent cold frame.

The Slaughter House, a rectangular single story building, is also of rough ashlar limestone. Masonry walls rest on a random limestone foundation. It has a wood shingle, gable roof. A metal aerator
The Seed house

rests in the center of its ridge. The wall dormer above the main entry is sided with clapboards. Rough faced stone lintels, smooth-faced sills, quoins, and dentils embellish the sides of the windows and define the buildings edges. As with most of the outbuildings, the slaughter house is now used for hay storage.

MEAT PROCESSING PLANT

The Meat Processing Plant, a rectangular one-story building with an asphalt shingle roof, stands in a valley below the farmstead. Its rough-faced ashlar limestone walls stand on a limestone foundation. An addition, constructed of the same materials, was placed across the north elevations and covered with a lean-to stone and tar roof. A brick chimney was added to the east elevation at the juncture of the two sections. Openings are symmetrically dispersed along the building.

A system of wood trusses placed on the solid masonry walls support the roof. The roof of the addition rests on rafters of dimensional lumber. The interior contains a single room in the south section and several rooms in the north portion. Walls are finished with concrete, and the ceiling is open. Erected in 1922, at the same time as the slaughter house, the meat processing plant now stores hay. A new roof and support system have recently been added.

ROOT CELLAR

There is a large root cellar with the same smooth-faced course ashlar limestone placed on a random natural stone retaining wall. A large door placed under a massive stone lintel closes the cellar. Inside, the main room is 36 by 80 feet. There is also a large room that extends to the north of the main room. This root cellar was constructed in 1918. For several years the root cellar was used to store the garden produce that was grown by and for the prisoners in the nearby reformatory. It is now used for storage. The farm continued to raise beef, dairy cattle, hogs, feed crops and vegetables for the reformatory until the late 1990’s when regulations ended the slaughtering of meat.

Beef and grain production still persist on the farm today, and the prison still raises approximately 5 acres of vegetables which supplements the meals for the 1,040 prisoners.

The Meat Processing plant is on the left and the Slaughter house in the foreground to the right.

Farm No. 1 is the earliest as well as the most intact example of the Iowa prison farms predating 1942. Approximately 6 to 8 minimum security prisoners, who are able to work here, do so on an honor system. This becomes one way of removing these men from inside the prison walls and engaging them in a more normal life style to prepare them for their future outside the walls.

As my tour of the barns and farms was winding to a close we drove to the other Iowa Prison Industry farms which are all within 5 miles of Farm No. 1. I was able to see the barns and buildings on the different farms. Most of the barns are used for hay storage as the Iowa Prison Industries has a large cow herd and several bulls. Several years ago some of the buildings on these farms were used for prison dormitories and dining halls for the prisoners that worked on those farms. The buildings are built with the same ashlar limestone as on Farm No. 1 and are well cared for. The barn roofs on the outlying farms have been covered with steel.

The Iowa Prison Industries farms include some 593 acres of row crops, nine acres of wetland, and 832 acres of pasture/timber that are used for the 300 cow/calf pairs in Jones County. Iowa Prison Industries Farms are self sustaining and receive no state appropriations. Due to State budget shortfalls however, there has been a recommendation to sell the prison farm ground even though Prison Farms are not the problem. Gehl feels that the farms have been a constructive influence on prisoners that have worked for him, and he hopes that the farms and barns stay intact for many more years. He dutifully maintains the barns, as he cares for the history of the barns as well as farms’ future.
Windmills

Today when a windmill is erected in Iowa, 99 per cent of the time, it will be used to generate electricity. We have all seen the huge towers, each with three blades, springing upon the landscape as our country thirsts for alternative energy sources.

There was a time when smaller windmills were erected most often on farms or even in remote pasture areas where they were used to pump water providing a reliable source of water needed for both man and beast. Often a companion to the well and windmill was a supply tank, which served as a reservoir of water stored for use when the wind didn’t blow.

Memories of the windmill, where he grew up, inspired Dale Den Herder of Sioux Center, to purchase—and save— a 50-foot windmill tower, which needed to be removed for industrial development. It was placed in horizontal storage until a suitable windmill head and weather vane were found, and the proper location was selected.

The summer of 2008, with the use of modern machinery, the windmill was set up on Dale’s farm north of Sioux Center. Serving only as a reminder of the past, this windmill is a welcome sight to the landscape along US 75. The barn in the background was built in the 1920s and used for dairy. In the late 1970s, it was restored and converted to a horse barn with a tack room, box stall, and tie stalls for seven Percheron horses. The barn was headquarters to young stock for the Den Herder Percheron six horse hitch for 20 years. Today the barn is safe haven for three Morgan carriage horses.

Memories of Haying

Many of us are familiar with haying of years past. I recall that the hay was mowed, allowed to dry, windrowed with a side delivery rake, and elevated onto a hayrack—equipped with slings—by a hay loader, towed behind the hayrack. A pair of black Percheron mares pulled the hayrack. This provided me with my first experience of driving horses, not a difficult one, because the horses straddled the windrow of hay and seemed to know the way. The hay was leveled by a couple of workers, and, when the hayrack was full (three slings), it was pulled beneath the open haymow door. The rope, with parts of the carrier, were lowered and attached to a sling filled with hay and, with a team of horses or tractor, was pulled into the barn via the carrier rail and hay rope. The sling was tripped, and the hay fell to the haymow floor.

The carrier and rail were most often made of metal. However, recently I was reminded again that some early rails were made of wood. Below find a photo of an open haymow door and exposed carrier with a wooden rail for the carrier to travel on, only second one that I have seen. The wooden rail was probably less costly but, was it as efficient, and did it last as long? Apparently so.

Contributions from Leroy Intveld,
Sioux County representative,
Iowa Barn Foundation
Cupola Repair... you can do it

By Mike Peterson, who led the restoration of the historic family barn south of Parkersburg.

As the restoration of our 115’ long, pegged barn in Butler County swung into high gear in 2007, two items, the large metal cupolas (ventilators), were in pretty good condition and would need only a couple of coats of paint. That all changed in June, 2008. Both were off the barn, chained together on the ground, while the roof was being worked on. They survived the May 25th F5 Parkersburg tornado unmoved, but a later storm blew them out into the field, damaging both extensively. One was broken in half and both sustained substantial tin and frame damage, plus both lightning rods and balls were destroyed.

Needless to say, it was a big disappointment, and at first I was resigned to the possibilities of finding new cupolas or going without. After talking to a few people and looking them over, I decided to try my hand at repairing them. I'm definitely not a skilled metal worker, but with a little help, I managed to get them back together and looking pretty good. The following paragraphs and pictures describe a few techniques and ideas I used that worked (and others that didn't), in the event you decide to refurbish your own cupolas.

Once I got over how big they were (the reason they were sitting outside), I had to figure out the best way to approach the job and what tools and supplies would be needed. To start with I assembled several types of hammers, large and small, rubber and metal, along with a couple of metal...
Starting disassembly

After pounding out some of the biggest dents, I realized that I would have to almost totally dismantle them in order to get everything straightened. I removed the large cone by cutting off the old rusty bolts. The top little cone had to come off, too. This was done by unsoldering the remaining triangle braces. The original lightning rods were unusable and were also removed. Fortunately the remaining parts didn’t need to be taken apart, but did need some general straightening and repair.

After disassembly I determined what needed to be replaced or fabricated. This included both lightning rods, both lightning rod balls and two of the triangle brace pieces. I made new lightning rods, using a combination of new and salvaged copper pipe. This required basic soldering with flux, solder and a portable torch. I bought two vintage lightning rod balls off of Ebay. Another option is to use substitutes, such as craft balls, but as long as I was going to all this trouble, I wanted the real things. I also needed to make two new triangle brace pieces, plus fix the other four. First I straightened the ones I had using various hammers and backings. I then traced them, including the angled bases, onto some tin and cut out with snips. I didn’t have a metal hole punch to make the holes, so I took them to the local Odebolt blacksmith, Merle Miller, and he plasma cut them.

Next it was time to start reassembly, however this presented some challenges, too. Since the triangle braces and small cones were originally soldered on, I first attempted to duplicate that. I was unable to make that work, so I used small sheet metal screws instead. Once the small cones and braces were aligned and in place, I installed the new lightning rods. The bottom ends of the rods were soldered into the top openings in the large cones. The original ball rings, caps, ferrules and finials were used, but if you need new ones, there are several on-line sources for these or other parts such as weather vanes, etc. One final hurdle remained …. putting the two halves of the split cupola back together. The original attaching seam is rolled and grooved and soldered in about six places. Despite much pounding and bending, I could not get the two parts to match up enough to mesh. This job was delegated to Alan Goodsell of Denver, Iowa. He is a master metalworker and had Humpty Dumpty back together in short order. The other cupola was in one piece, however a few of the solder joints on the main seam were broken, so, for good measure, I re-soldered those. Final metal work included straightening the iron frames and rectangle bases and mounting the two large cones, complete with lightning rods, braces, etc., with new bolts.

Fortunately, both cupolas were mostly rust-free, with no bullet holes, so surface preparation involved simple spot sanding, wire brushing and a good cleaning. I used a couple of coats of spray-on primer on all bare metal areas. For the final paint coats I used an oil-based aluminum (silver) grain bin paint from Menards and sprayed it on with a power painter. I’m sure there are other paints that would work as well, but I achieved good results with this. The icing on the cake was to put the new (old) lightning rod balls on the rods.
This article, in no way, is to be the final word in cupola refurbishing. I just wanted to pass on some information that might help make a seemingly daunting and expensive project a little less intimidating. It was a lot of work, but now, whenever I look up on the barn roof and see those silver cupolas in their glory, I get a lot of satisfaction knowing they'll be there for some time to come.

I was not directly involved with removing the cupolas from the roof, or putting them back up. Sam Nielsen, our contractor, tells me that, due to their relatively light weight, two people can handle the job. For removal, they walked them down the roof to a scaffold, then lowered with a rope. When putting them back up, they used a Telehandler to get them to eave level and then walked them up to the openings. The two cupolas are electrically bonded together but still need to be grounded, which will be done in the spring.
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If you would like more information, please call Jacqueline Schmeal at (505) 988-5917 or e-mail: jschmeal@earthlink.net

Please make checks payable to Iowa Barn Foundation and send:
c/o Community Bank, Box 436, Nevada Iowa 50201.

If we have incorrect address information or if you'd like to add friends to our mailing list, please notify
Ann Harvey, 2002 Cessna, Ames, 50014 (515) 292 9104; ach2002@aol.com

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Send to: Iowa Barn Foundation, PO 111, New Providence, Iowa 50206

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