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Mo BARN logo!*

# Mo BARN News

**A Missouri Barn Alliance and Rural Network Publication**

November 2011, Issue 1

## **Mo BARN is Official!**

After three years of planning and several formation meetings, the Missouri Barn Alliance and Rural Network, Inc. (d/b/a Mo BARN) is official! Thanks to attorney and board member Megan McGuire, the Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Secretary of State on April 27, 2011. Mo BARN supports barn preservation efforts and documentation of the agricultural and rural heritage of the state. At least 17 states have organizations formed specifically to foster barn, farmstead, and rural preservation and Mo BARN is among the newest!



*Serious meeting at Susan and Bill Miller's in New Bloomfield*

The organization is part of a national preservation movement that has been gaining momentum the past six years to bring attention to these neglected and often threatened resources. Farm buildings, undervalued and understudied resources, are decreasing in number. During an educational session on barns at the 2008 Statewide Historic Preservation Conference in St. Charles, the preservation community was urged to survey barns and farmsteads to better understand their design and historic use. These surveys will form the basis of an agricultural historic context. The 2008 appeal, one of the first steps in recognizing a need for a Missouri barn alliance, was answered within a year with a demonstrated interest in founding such an organization.

Through the assistance of the Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation (thank you Bill Hart!), an initial barn group meeting followed at the 2009 Statewide Historic Preservation Conference in Independence. Conference participants toured Longview Farm to learn about its preservation and adaptive use as well as met with Kansas Barn Alliance representative, Sally Hatcher, to discuss successful barn preservation efforts across the border. The Kansas Barn Alliance hosted the annual National Barn Alliance (NBA) conference in the summer of 2010, an event that sparked further enthusiasm to formally establish a support group for historical Missouri barns and farms.

With a dedicated core group, more early Mo BARN meetings were held in homes, restaurants, old barns, and business offices in 2010 and 2011, first to draft and then finalize a mission statement and define the purposes of the organization. On January 23, 2010, Susan and Bill Miller welcomed prospective members to a business meeting at their unique residence in New Bloomfield, a red barn that is "green," recycled, that is. The Millers have creatively converted their barn into their home.

On May 8, the group met at the Westphalia Inn for fried chicken dinners, a barn typology presentation given by Toni Prawl, and a barn tour hosted by Terry Nuener. During this meeting, participants adopted bylaws and articles of incorporation, and drafted a slate of officers and board members. On October 21, 2010, the group met again in conjunction with the Statewide Historic Preservation Conference in Washington, and following an educational session on Farmstead Surveys led by Rebecca Rost and Toni Prawl, approved the custom designed Barn and Farmstead Survey Form.

One of the first goals of the organization has been to assist with the creation of an inventory form for historical Missouri farms. As a result of partnering with the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office and consulting examples from 10 other states as well as the NBA, the

form is now accessible online (see the following article for more information about this program).



Mo BARN members at Westphalia Inn

In the spring and summer of 2011, two more meetings were held with discussions on how to aid the historic Kofahl Farmstead, a publically owned property in Texas County. Rod Scott with the National Barn Alliance surprised members with his attendance at the Columbia meeting on April 30 and Marjo and son Robby Price sponsored a tour of their rehabilitated ca. 1900 barn at the Clatterbuck Farm in Ashland after the meeting. The group most recently met during the Ozark Ham and Turkey Festival on September 17, 2011, at Burger’s Smokehouse in California where owner Morris Burger shared stories about his family’s farms. Who would guess that a family tradition that took place in the brooder house/smokehouse would lead to the construction of a ham house in 1952, and grow to become the largest country ham and specialty smoked meat business in the nation?

Our group has been busy these past few years, yet the fun is just beginning. If you (or someone you know) appreciate historic farmsteads and believe they and other rural places enhance our lives, we encourage you to join us! Please spread the word and invite others. A gift membership would be something original and just in time for the holidays. Our next meeting will be November 4, 2011, 3:00 to 5:00 pm, in conjunction with the Statewide Historic Preservation Conference at Joplin. Although there is a registration fee to participate in the conference there is no charge to attend the Mo BARN meeting (<http://preservemo.org/>). All are welcome! To learn more about Mo BARN, see the bylaws at <https://www.sos.mo.gov/BusinessEntity/soskb/Filings.asp?3178537#>.

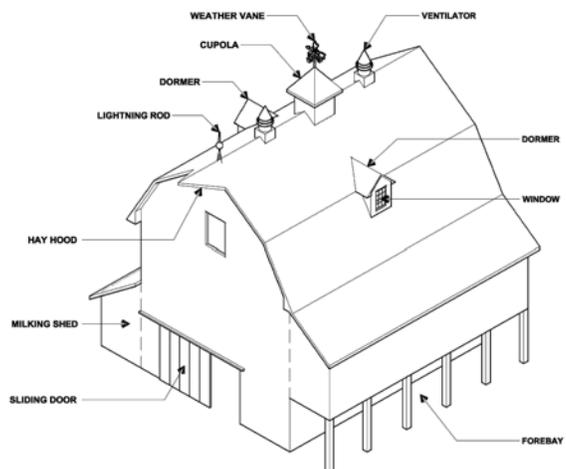
- Toni Prawl

## Do You Have a Historic Barn or Farm?

According to the 2007 Agricultural Census, Missouri is a great place to find one! Missouri ranks second in the nation for the number of farms with historic barns. If you or someone you know has an old barn or farmstead, please to join the growing number of individuals, agencies, and preservation consultants participating in the statewide barn and farmstead survey project!

The barn and farmstead survey project began in 2009 with the development of the Barn and Farmstead Survey Form and Instructions. Mo BARN, in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office (MO SHPO), developed this architectural survey form to learn about the types of farm buildings constructed in Missouri as well as improve our understanding of Missouri’s agricultural history.

By filling out the form, participants help to answer critical questions about Missouri’s farming industry. What types of buildings did farmers construct? How are construction methods and the use of native materials reflected regionally? How have farming practices changed over time? These are some of the many questions we hope to answer with this project.



***The instructions include pictorial guides, such as this, designed to aid even the most novice participant! This makes the form an ideal teaching tool for use by agriculture classes, 4-H, FFA, or other youth groups!***

There is no cost to participate in the survey program. All participants will receive a certificate of appreciation from the MO SHPO. Mo BARN plans to recognize participants by featuring a different historic farm on the cover of each newsletter! To access and download the form, please go to: <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/shpo/archisurvey.htm> or request that a hard copy is mailed to you from Rebecca Rost with the MO SHPO at: (573) 751-7958 or by email at:

rebecca.rost@dnr.mo.gov. Materials for teaching barn and farmstead survey will be available soon. Teachers, request your copy now!

- Rebecca Rost

### Rural Missouri: Barns and Churches and Schools? Oh, my!

On your next barn-spotting drive along country roads, keep your eye open for other rural resources. The white clapboard church, the one-room district schoolhouse, and the isolated family cemetery tell an important story of rural life and community.

By 1900, Missouri supported over 9,000 one-teacher schoolhouses. Rural churches, not quite as numerous, were common sights on country roads. Declining rural population and improvements in transportation had a profound effect on these rural community centers. Congregations disbanded or moved into town, and state school laws forced the closure of the last one-teacher public school by 1973. These closures meant the abandonment of thousands of historic rural buildings.

While thousands of buildings have been lost, organizations such as the Ozark Country School Association have made it their mission to interpret the

rural district school experience and to preserve and repurpose historic rural schoolhouses as community centers. On a smaller scale, groups such as the White Cloud Cemetery Committee in Callaway County have dedicated themselves to preserving their rural church buildings and grounds. These small but mighty groups are raising awareness of our state’s rural heritage and resources.

To deepen understanding of Missouri’s historic resources, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office (MO SHPO) has prepared historic context studies on rural churches and schools. “Rural Church Architecture, c. 1819 – c. 1945,” and “One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, c. 1774 to c. 1973” explore the development of rural religion and education and the common building types associated with this development. Both documents are designed to assist property owners to nominate rural buildings to the National Register of Historic Places.

For copies of the contexts or more information on the National Register of Historic Places program, contact Tiffany Patterson, MO SHPO Office, at 573-751-7800 or tiffany.patterson@dnr.mo.gov.

-Tiffany Paterson

### Missouri Barn Alliance and Rural Network Membership Information (d/b/a) Mo BARN

#### Membership categories

Student membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20	Name:		
Individual membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$30	Address:		
Family membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50	City:	State:	Zip:
Not for profit affiliate	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100	Phone:		
Corporate affiliate	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500	E-Mail:		
Unrestricted gift to Mo BARN <input type="checkbox"/>					

Make checks payable to: Missouri Barn Alliance and Rural Network, Inc.  
Mail to: Mo BARN, c/o Treasurer Megan McGuire, 616 Bingham Road, Boonville, MO 65233

## Everyone's Welcome!



***Come meet our Mo BARN family and join in the fun of exploring old barns, churches and schools with new friends. Help us discover and preserve our state's rural history!***

**For more information about Mo BARN, email us at: [missouribarn@yahoo.com](mailto:missouribarn@yahoo.com)**

*MoBARN is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation.*

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2-5: Missouri's Statewide Historic Preservation Conference in Joplin Missouri. For more information about the conference or to register online, please go to: <http://www.preservemoconference.org>

November 4, 2011: Mo BARN Meeting in Joplin, Missouri (held in conjunction with the Statewide Historic Preservation Conference. See website below for more information).

## A Word of thanks to...

- All our officers and board members,
- all who have hosted Mo BARN events,
- Megan McGuire for filing and preparing Mo BARN legal documents,
- the Inventory Form committee for creating a barn/farm survey form,
- Angelo Logan for his graphic design contributions,
- Bill Hart for coordinating/arranging meetings,
- Missouri Preservation for supporting Mo BARN, and
- members and potential members for helping us grow in strength and number!

**We appreciate you!**

Missouri Barn Alliance and Rural Network, Inc.  
 c/o Treasurer Megan McGuire  
 616 Bingham Road  
 Boonville, MO 65233

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