

RURAL PRESERVATION ACTIVITY IN ILLINOIS

A REPORT FOR THE ILLINOIS BARN ALLIANCE

SUBMITTED BY NICHOLAS HAYWARD
AUGUST 1, 2005

SUMMARY

A statewide survey of rural preservation activity in ninety of Illinois' one hundred and two counties conducted during the summer of 2005 shows that much interest exists in promoting and preserving farm structures - specifically barns - throughout the entire state. Interest in promoting and preserving barns is manifested through surveys, tours, books, artwork, restorations, and other activities. Additional activities in Illinois, although not focusing on barns, aim to preserve other components of rural heritage and represent a separate interest group with whom the Illinois Barn Alliance can possibly ally in the future.

Barn survey activity has occurred in twenty Illinois counties. Surveys have been conducted by county historic preservation commissions to support a county historic preservation ordinance, established organizations such as historical societies, and interested individuals. Some surveys have been completed, some are ongoing, and one has temporarily stopped.

Barn tours occur in ten Illinois counties. Some were originally designed as organized group tours and others were originally designed as self-guided tours. All tours still occur either as ongoing organized group tours, ongoing self-guided tours, or self-guided tours converted from organized group tours.

Other activities that promote historic barns occur in twenty-two Illinois counties. These activities include barn restorations, museum exhibits, calendars, videos, presentations, and the operation of a National Register-listed barn. Not included in this total are counties in which local barns are portrayed in artwork and written about in books.

Activities that promote other components of rural heritage occur in six Illinois counties. A farmland protection program, the production of a guide to local farms that sell farm-raised products, and the endeavors of a group that displays antique farm equipment are examples of these activities. The individuals and groups that conduct these activities are possible Illinois Barn Alliance allies.

A total of forty-six Illinois counties have conducted a barn survey, organized a barn tour, or engaged in another activity that directly promotes historic barns. At least one person spoken to via telephone from seventy-seven Illinois counties expressed interest in learning more about the Illinois Barn Alliance. These findings suggest that the Illinois Barn Alliance has significant potential for growth if a sustained effort is made to reach out to interested individuals and groups. Specific suggestions for conducting a sustained effort are listed at the end of this document.

ADAMS

The Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design published a historic barn brochure in 1992. The brochure has the location, owner, historic information, and a photograph of 87 barns in the county. The brochure also has maps and a style guide. Kristin Hoxie reports that no one currently on the museum staff has much information about the effort because the brochure was completed before the arrival of any current staff members.

The Adams County Historical Society did not have much knowledge of the barn brochure and suggested contacting museum board member Dennis Williams.

Museum board member Dennis Williams believes that Paul Larson, museum executive director at the time the brochure was created, was solely responsible for the brochure's production. Larson conducted all of the historic research but it is not known how the photographs were collected. The brochure won an award from the Illinois Association of Museums according to Williams.

Kristin Hoxie
Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design
332 Maine St.
Quincy, IL 62301
(217) 224-6873

ALEXANDER

Tammy Oppermart with the Alexander/Pulaski/Massac County extension office is unaware of any rural preservation activities occurring in Alexander County. According to Oppermart, little interest in rural preservation exists because the county is still predominantly rural and no significant threats to the rural way of life exist. Tammy suggested contacting the farm owners of the county whose farms are certified as centennial farms by the state of Illinois.

Jacquie Eddleman is working on a barn survey of the county. Nicole DeBoer and others are helping Jacquie.

Jacquie Eddleman
Illinois Barn Alliance
3520 St. John's Road
Dongola, IL 62926
(618) 827-3127

BOND

Lynn Weis of the Bond County extension office discussed Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation and Development, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation that accepts conservation easements on land and land donations for conservation purposes. The corporation is one of thirteen such corporations in Illinois.

A Bond County barn tour organized by the county Women's Club was held in 2002 and 2003 with a third tour planned for 2006. According to Wendy Amos, the tour focuses on a different area of the county each year and serves as a fundraiser for the organization. Tour participants purchase a ticket and receive a booklet with historic information about each barn and a map. The participants are free to visit any or all of the tour barns during a specified time period on a specified date and docents are stationed at various sites to provide historic information. The barn owners are very enthusiastic about the tour and most allow participants to enter the barn. The 2002 tour attracted 250 participants and visited 11 barns at 8 sites; the oldest barn was built in 1849 on the Bomberger Farm and was being restored at the time of the tour. The 2003 tour attracted 195 participants, fewer than in 2002 because it was held on Father's Day. Plans for the 2006 tour include demonstrations such as soap making and sheep shearing. Kevin Cagie of the Bond County Historical Society had the idea of a tour but the Women's Club was better equipped to organize the tour.

The American Farm Heritage Museum began operations in 2002. The museum is a lifelong ambition of Ollie Schaefer of the Schaefer Trucking Company and began as the work of six people. The museum leases 17.5 acres of land and is purchasing an additional 40 acres. The complex consists of a 60' x 30' building, a 50' x 100' pavilion, and a truck terminal moved to the site from St. Louis that will serve as a pavilion. The museum also has purchased a "16 gage" train. The museum's goal is to construct two large buildings; one will have office space, banquet space, and a gift shop while the other will house a permanent exhibit about the area's history from American Indian life to modern life. The museum also plans to replicate a nearby fort, construct both a rural village for interpretive purposes and several buildings to house tractor exhibits, and create a dairy farm exhibit. The museum's intent will be educational once its concept is fully developed. Currently the museum site hosts events such as a swapmeet, a tractor show, and "mini-fairs" with food and music. On July 29-31, 2005, the museum hosted craft demonstrations that included quilting, forging, and saddlery. Four hundred tractors participated in a "tractorcade" at the event. A similar event attracted 2,000 people in 2004. The museum activities are largely funded by donations; some families have donated \$2,500 and the local electric company donated \$25,000 in cash and \$16,500 in in-kind services. An admission fee will be charged when the museum is fully developed. The museum is located along Interstate 70.

American Farm Heritage Museum
1006 Ridge Avenue
Greenville, IL 62246
618-664-3050

Wendy Amos
1520 Killarney Drive
Greenville, IL 62246
618-664-0903

Lynn Weis
University of Illinois Extension Bond County
Box 187, Lake St. and Harris Ave.
Greenville, IL 62246
618-664-3665

John Goldsmith
Bond County Historical Society
P.O. Box 376
Greenville, IL 62246
618-664-1606

BOONE

Jerry Paulson is the owner of a historic barn and president of Farmland Protection Project, a non-profit organization in Boone County seeking to achieve strategic open space protection. The organization is working on accepting its first land easement and is negotiating with the county board to establish separation areas between municipalities in the county. The separation areas are similar to growth boundaries. The program is still being developed and may result in a purchase of development rights program to be operated by the county.

The Boone County Farm Bureau helps farm owners receive Centennial Farm certification by the state of Illinois. The Illinois Department of Agriculture has a Centennial and Sesquicentennial Farm program. The program recognizes farms that have been owned by the same family for over 100 years and 150 years. Certified recipients receive an official outdoor sign and a certificate. More than 7,200 Illinois farms have achieved Centennial Farm certification.

Jerry Paulson
Boone County Farmland Protection Project
320 S. Third St.
Rockford, IL 61104
815-964-6666

BROWN

Katherine Tracy possesses general knowledge of barns. She said that Illinois barns are not as durable as Wisconsin barns because Illinois barns generally lack stone foundations. She also said that today, financial resources are targeted to storage elevators and that farmers cover hay bales with plastic tarps. These are reasons why barns are increasingly forsaken. She knows of only one dairy farm in the county. She suggested contacting Eileen Renaker, a major organizer of the county museum. Renaker has no knowledge of rural preservation activities nor individuals interested in barn preservation and did not wish to receive any information about the Illinois Barn Alliance in the mail.

Katherine Tracy
217-773-2137

BUREAU

The Harold Steele Farmstead is a private farmstead that has open houses at which antique farm equipment is displayed and period dressers perform old-fashioned demonstrations such as making flour. According to Woody Wendt, executive director of Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce and Main Street, Mr. Steele collects antique agricultural tools and machinery and has developed a museum to which limited access is allowed. Wendt is married to Steele's niece and would like to see the collection preserved; he is unaware of Steele's plans for the collection.

Woody Wendt
PACCMS
Prouty Bldg., 435 S. Main St.
Princeton, IL 61356
815-875-2616

Harold Steele
815-643-2244

CALHOUN

Jennifer Russell of the Calhoun County extension office was unaware of any rural preservation activities occurring in the county but she is willing to receive information about the Illinois Barn Alliance.

Jennifer Russell
University of Illinois Extension Calhoun County
P.O. Box 366
Hardin, IL 62047
618-576-2293

CARROLL

A staff member of the Carroll County extension office discussed the agricultural and rural heritage guide produced by the office. The guide lists local libraries, recreational activities, lodging facilities, and has a schedule of local events. The guide also lists area farms available for private farm tours and area farms that sell farm-raised products. The guide has contact information for the farms and individuals must contact the farm to set up an individual tour and purchase goods. The staff member said she refers inquiries about barns to Wes Winter.

The county historical society was unable to be reached. The society's phone number is 815-244-3474.

CASS

The Cass County extension office produces a barn calendar in cooperation with the Schuyler County extension office, the Cass County Star-Gazette, and local 4-H members. The idea of a barn calendar came from a Star-Gazette worker who had seen a similar calendar be very successful in Indiana. The extension offices, Star-Gazette, and one or two families photograph the barns, although the barns are not necessarily historic and no historic information about the barns is collected. The calendar is financed by a grant from Cargill Meat Solutions and sold by 4-H members. The calendar has been published for two years and many, but not all, of the calendars get sold. The groups plan to continue publishing a barn calendar.

Jack Liddick
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Virginia, IL 62162
217-452-3211

CHAMPAIGN

The Women's Committee of the Champaign County Farm Bureau and resident John Schmale conducted a survey of county barns. The survey lasted one and a half years and collected a photograph, the location, previous owner information, and a history of approximately 660 barns. The members of the Women's Committee photographed the barns and filled out survey forms; Schmale checked facts and compiled the information onto a website, www.champaignbarns.com. The website is no longer operating. Schmale invested hundreds of hours in the project; placing the information about 4 barns onto the website per hour was the fastest he could do. The website received 20 to 30 visits a day and a woman in Australia emailed John to correct information on the website. The website won an award from the Preservation and Conservation Association.

Schmale estimates that 80% of the county barns were documented in the survey because the members of the Women's Committee who did not like the project did not document barns in their townships. Schmale also estimates that of the 2,500 barns that stood in 1965, just 900 remain.

Schmale's idea to conduct a survey evolved from his interest in county history, and he learned a great deal from the survey. The county's oldest barn was originally a church that was built around 1865. The church was cut in half and one half became a barn; the Gothic window lines are still visible. The high volume of barn building in the county began around 1890, but there were only a few principal barn builders. The builders would lay out the beams and rafters and the farmers would put on the siding. Some "ingenious" barns include a Mennonite barn with a windmill connected to a haymow water tank to provide water for the barn and house, a barn with a hot water heater, and a barn with DC power created by a windmill. East Friesian Germans and Mennonites are the two major ethnic groups in the county. The groups built many barns.

The major problem with barn preservation according to Schmale is that barns are a liability. The majority of barns he surveyed are used for storage, but primary equipment is not stored in the barns because insurance for the wood structures is too high. Schmale says there are fewer silos and even fewer windmills.

Schmale plans to produce a hard copy of the survey and donate it to the Champaign County Archives. He offers this advice for those embarking on a barn survey: begin by documenting just one township. Beginning the survey with a countywide focus can be daunting and hinder the effort.

John Schmale
505C CR 2500 N
Mahomet, IL 61853
217-586-7970

CHRISTIAN

A “partially organized” survey of farm structures coordinated by the Christian County extension office began in 2003 and is ongoing. The survey products are digital photographs of farm structures and written information about the owners and tenants that occupied the farm structures. The survey is being conducted by township and the extension office is the information repository, though some “voids and gaps” exist in the information because the survey process is a learning experience for the surveyors. The goal is to archive the information at the county historical society but that has not yet been done. The initiative to conduct the survey was a desire to preserve the memory of rural heritage so that future generations would know, at a minimum, the type and location of former farm structures. The Christian County Lady Landowners are active with the survey.

Several barns have been rehabilitated for new uses. The most common new uses are an agricultural use different from the original use and storage. A barn loft has been converted into an office but no residential rehabilitations have taken place.

Gary Letterly
University of Illinois Extension Christian County
1120 N. Webster St.
Taylorville, IL 62568
217-287-7246

CLARK

The Home Extension program, an arm of the county extension office, has produced a pictorial collection of Clark County barns. Ten women from the organization collected approximately 400 to 500 pictures of barns and histories of some of the barns, which average one page in length. Three copies of the collection in scrapbook format are located at the local genealogical library and are organized by township.

After approximately eight barns in the county were demolished, the Home Extension program decided to document the county's barns so that future generations would know of the county's rural heritage. A video that features twelve barns was produced and a presentation of the effort was given to various organizations, including Coles County and Cumberland County.

A barn tour that visited six to eight barns was held several years ago. The tour was initiated after the Smithsonian brought its traveling Barn Again exhibit to the local library. Approximately 45 people participated in the bus tour. The local chamber of commerce has a guide available for individuals interested in embarking on a self-guided tour of county barns. Approximately 200 people have participated in the self-guided tour.

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Marshall, IL 62441
217-826-5422

Deloris Maurer
21830 N. Clark Switchboard Rd.
Marshall, IL 62441
217-889-3716

CLAY

A member of the Clay County Genealogical Society has lived in the county for over 40 years and is very familiar with county activities. She is not aware of any rural preservation activity. She said the county historical society is “barely hanging on” and her society focuses on genealogy. She does not believe there would be any interest in the Illinois Barn Alliance so she did not wish to receive any information.

CLINTON

Miriam Huelsmann of the Clinton County Historical Society said no rural preservation effort has ever occurred in the county but that there is an interest in barns. She enjoys the Greene County barn tour and although one interesting barn stands near Trenton, county barns keep disappearing. She doubts any active Illinois Barn Alliance members will come from the county because the historical society has trouble finding enough volunteers, but she will take the information and place it out for interested individuals who visit the museum.

The society operates a plaque program in which bronze plaques are given to historic properties in the county. When a property is nominated a volunteer researches the history of the property. Age, history, former occupants, and evidence of original construction are considered during the nomination review. If a property is judged to qualify, a plaque with an outline of the county is placed at the property. Membership fees and donations support the program, which only honors a maximum of four properties each year. The society maintains a list of all properties with plaques and their histories. The historical society and the plaque program began in 1976 to commemorate the nation's bicentennial.

Miriam Huelsmann
Clinton County Historical Society
1091 Franklin
Carlisle, IL 62231
618-224-7695

COLES

Doug McDermand reports that a county historic preservation plan was created in the 1980s but after funding evaporated no historic preservation ordinance was ever enacted. A historic preservation advisory committee reports to the county commission and suggests resources to be listed on the county historic resources register. The register provides recognition but no protection for listed properties. A barn is one of the listed properties.

Doug McDermand
Coles County Reg. Plng. & Dev. Commission
651 Jackson Avenue, Room 309
Charleston, IL 61920
217-348-0521

COOK

No one in Cook County was contacted about current rural preservation efforts.

CRAWFORD

Kay Young of the Crawford County Historical Museum reports that the museum has a peg barn exhibit that displays a one-half scale model of a wood peg barn constructed by an area student. The exhibit is popular and very well-received. Barns with a painted Mail Pouch tobacco advertisement are located in Jasper County at the intersection of Route 33 and Route 130 and in Lawrence County off of Route 1. Round barns are located near Casey, north of Mt. Carmel, and in Crawford County north of Palestine near the federated church. A barn in Casey on the Richards Farm has been converted to a restaurant.

Kay Young
302 N. Garfield St.
Oblong, IL 62449
618-544-3087

CUMBERLAND

Marilyn Scott of the Cumberland County Camera Club reports that eight members of the club photographed approximately 300 county barns upon being asked by the historical society to document county barns. The original intent was to research the history of the barns in addition to photographing them but when the vast number of barns was realized, photography became the only activity. Each of the eight photographers photographed a different township and not all of the barns were documented. The project was completed in 2004 after about one year of work. A loose leaf binder of the photographs is located at each of the county's public libraries and the historical society. Nearly the entire collection is digital so the main costs associated with the project were paper, ink, and automobile fuel. The First Neighbor Bank of Toledo gave \$200 to help offset the cost of paper and ink. The project has been very popular; some have approached the historical society wishing that copies of the binders could be purchased. The cost of publishing and the legal implications surrounding copyright issues have prohibited the publishing of the binders; the club fears that publishing the photographs of private barns would be illegal. Some of the barns have been demolished since the project was completed. The club expressed high interest in the Illinois Barn Alliance conference.

Marilyn Scott
P.O. Box 187
Toledo, IL 62468
217-923-5224

DEKALB

Donna Gorski of the DeKalb County Farmland Foundation reports the organization grew out of Vision 2000, a county initiative to address future growth. Local citizens expressed enough concern about the loss of farmland to incorporate the DCFF in October 1998. The organization received 501(c)3 status in February 2000. The organization has no land holdings or easements. The board can have 15 members but currently has 7. All members are volunteers so it is difficult to actively pursue easements, donations, and raise funds. The organization is part of the Fox Land Alliance, an alliance of land preservation organizations from southeastern Wisconsin to northeastern Illinois. According to The Conservation Foundation website, the alliance consists of:

- Barrington Hills Conservation Trust
- Citizens for Conservation
- CorLands
- DeKalb County Farmland Foundation
- Fox Valley Land Foundation
- Geneva Lake Conservancy
- Land Conservancy of McHenry County
- Liberty Prairie Conservancy

The DCFF is the only all-volunteer organization in the alliance. All other organizations hold land easements.

The Sycamore Historical Society was unable to be reached. The society's phone number is 815-895-5762.

Donna Gorski
DeKalb County Farmland Foundation
P.O. Box 375
DeKalb, IL 60155
815-756-2580

DEWITT

Sheryl Hodges of the DeWitt County extension office reports no rural preservation activity occurs in the county but the office is interested in developing some sort of county preservation activity. The office will attempt to hold a meeting of interested parties in September or October after which Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois will be contacted. The meeting will be held after the Apple and Pork Festival, a “gigantic” event that centers around the Homestead, a significant historic property.

Sheryl Hodges
University of Illinois Extension DeWitt County
RR 3, Box 289U
Clinton, IL 61727
217-935-5764

DOUGLAS

The Douglas County Museum is not aware of any rural preservation activities in the county and the staff member did not wish to receive any information about the Illinois Barn Alliance in the mail. The county is home to Amish residents who farm with horses. Tourists visit the county in the spring and fall to watch the horse farming. Rockome Gardens is a tourist attraction that holds old-fashioned horse farming events.

DUPAGE

Steph McGrath of the DuPage County Historical Museum reports no organized rural preservation activity exists in the county. Kline Creek Farm, a living history farmstead, once had a list of county barns and may still; the majority of remaining county barns are on Forest Preserve district property. A barn may exist in a city park in Wheaton. Jerome Johnson of Garfield Farm has knowledge of area barns, Mike Ashby of the DuPage County Farm Bureau may be a good source of information, and the county planning department has an inventory of historically significant sites. Some municipalities have preservation ordinances but they are rather weak. The DuPage County Historical Museum has organized barn tours before in cooperation with the Midwest Open Air Museums Coordinating Council.

Steph McGrath
DuPage County Historical Museum
102 E. Wesley St.
Wheaton, IL 60187
630-682-7343

EDGAR

Patsy Berry reports that a photographic survey of the county's barns initiated by the Edgar County Historical Society is ongoing. The society's board of directors is composed of one person from each of the county's 15 townships and each director was charged with organizing the photographic survey of his or her township. The surveyors attempt to document the history of the barn when the opportunity arises but photography is the main concern because some barns are in disrepair and in danger of collapsing. A videotape has been produced showcasing some of the barns and a map of each township that shows the surveyed barns has been created. The goal is to document all remaining barns in the county, and some of the barns that have already been surveyed have likely disappeared. The survey was initiated by the historical society because it felt it was important to document the rural heritage for future generations. All of the surveyors are volunteers. The survey has been featured on a public television program entitled "Prairie Fire" and in Illinois Country Living magazine.

The historical society recently constructed a pole barn to house a permanent exhibit of farm implements. A 1950s John Deere plow is the most recent acquisition. An original cornstalk rake, a device invented and manufactured in the county, is also on display.

Mary Liz Wright
University of Illinois Extension Edgar County
210 W. Washington
Paris, IL 61944
217-465-8585

Patsy Berry
Edgar County Historical Society
408 N. Main St.
Paris, IL 61944-1549
217-465-4288

EDWARDS

Terry Harper of the Edwards County Historical Society reports that no rural preservation activity occurs in the county. The society once held a “mystery farm” contest in which residents viewed aerial photographs of county farms and tried to identify the farm, but the contest is no longer held. The society is busy restoring the Albion Jail, an 1859 brick building that was saved from being demolished by the county for a parking lot. The society may accept a donated log corn crib that will need to be disassembled and reassembled.

Terry Harper
Edwards County Historical Society
9 N. 5th St.
Albion, IL 62806
618-445-3433

EFFINGHAM

Local resident Craig Lindvahl produced a video of barns in cooperation with the arrival of the Smithsonian's traveling Barn Again exhibit in Illinois. Lindvahl has been traveling and efforts to contact him by phone have failed. He has expressed willingness to discuss the video through email correspondence. His phone number is 217-536-9182.

The Effingham Historical Society was not willing to discuss rural preservation activity.

FAYETTE

The Fayette County extension office is unaware of any activity to promote and preserve barns. Marilyn of the Fayette County Museum states that some art shows and exhibits at the museum feature paintings and photographs of local barns by local artists. Several years ago one photographer brought in photographs of nothing but barns. Marilyn is unaware of any organized activity to promote and preserve barns.

Marilyn
Fayette County Museum
301 W. Main St.
Vandalia, IL 62471
618-283-4866

FORD

Ed Karr, president of the Ford County Historical Society and a staff member of the Ford County Extension Office, reports no organized rural preservation activity occurs in Ford County. Karr has attended several McLean County Barn Keepers meetings and is interested in barn preservation. A Paxton restaurant displays pictures of Ford County barns in the restaurant taken by local photographer Rick Tyler. Tyler captures rural landscapes and has photographed over 200 barns in Ford, Iroquois, and Champaign County. Tyler sells prints for \$10 and mats for \$20.

Ed Karr
University of Illinois Extension Ford County
912 W. Seminary
Onarga, IL 60955
815-268-4058

Rick Tyler
P.O. Box 223
Elliott, IL 60933
217-714-2200

FRANKLIN

Bob Rea of the Franklin County Historical Society reports that no rural preservation activity occurs in the county. The historical society operates two museums and is “in over [its] head” conducting those activities. Rea is unaware of anyone in the county interested in barns but he is willing to receive Illinois Barn Alliance information because the society is well-connected with other organizations.

Robert Rea
Franklin County Historical Society
P.O. Box 399
Benton, IL 62812
618-439-7557

FULTON

The Fulton County extension office reports that no rural preservation activity occurs in the county. The Spoon River Drive is a popular annual tourist activity held in the fall that originally celebrated local crafts, but today out of town vendors participate in the event. An inventory database of tourist attractions in Fulton County is being created by the extension office, so the office believes the Illinois Barn Alliance could be of assistance in helping to increase tourism. The office has been contacted about funding opportunities for the repair of farm structures and landmarking procedures for historic resources.

Kevin McGuire
University of Illinois Extension Fulton County
15411 N. IL 100 Hwy., Suite C
Lewistown, IL 61542-9467
309-547-3711

GALLATIN

Mary Heath of the Gallatin County Historical Society reports no current rural preservation activity occurs in the county. Lucille Lawler, a member of the society prior to her death, wrote five books about the county's history and heritage. One book, Vanishing Landmarks, focuses on the county's barns. Copies of the book are still available from the historical society for \$15 plus shipping and handling.

Mary Heath
Gallatin County Historical Society
P.O. Box 693
Shawneetown, IL 62984
618-269-3716

GREENE

Alan Barber reports that Greene County has an annual fall festival called Greene County Days that will occur for the 21st time in 2005. Four towns participate in the festival, which includes crafts, food, a cemetery tour, and a barn tour. The barn tour was inspired by a covered bridge tour held in Indiana. A booklet with historic information about the barns and cemeteries and a map are produced for the tours. The barn tour focuses on a different township each year. The 2005 festival will visit 5 barns and 10 cemeteries. Two notable county barns are a round barn constructed of tile and a barn that was a stop on the Underground Railroad. Each year fewer and fewer barns remain in Greene County.

Alan Barber
Route 3 Box 179
Roodhouse, IL 62082
217-589-5251

GRUNDY

The Grundy County extension office is unaware of any rural preservation activities occurring in Grundy County. The office has been in contact with Wes Winter about the activities of the Illinois Barn Alliance.

Debra Jo Kinsella
University of Illinois Extension Grundy County
1802 N. Division St., Ste. 604
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-2725

HAMILTON

A member of the Hamilton County Historical Society reports that no rural preservation activity occurs in the county even though the county has “some great old barns.” Interest does exist in the barns of the county but the historical society has too small of a staff and not enough interest to pursue any activity. The member expressed interest in receiving information about the Illinois Barn Alliance and will publicize the conference at the county’s fall festival in early September.

Hamilton County Historical Society
118 S. Washington St.
McLeansboro, IL 62859
618-643-2125

HANCOCK

John Adkins of the Kibbe Museum in Carthage reports that the museum produced a brochure of historic Hancock County barns. The brochure is online and has a photograph of and historic information about 31 county barns. The website also has a map of the barns. The URL is <http://www.carthage-il.com/barns/>

The Kibbe Museum displayed a barn exhibit in the summer of 2003. The museum is always seeking exhibit ideas and a museum board member was a photographer who lived on a farm and offered the idea of a barn exhibit. The museum had a photographic display of barns and a barn tour was organized. The tour was held on two occasions and a fee was charged. The tour lasted all day and included a lunch stop at a barn converted to a meeting center. There was widespread involvement throughout the county in organizing the exhibit and tour and the museum still receives inquiries from people interested in seeing the barns. The photographic exhibit is in storage and three or four of the barns on the tour have been demolished.

Brenda Pyatt
Carthage Community Development Director
308 Walnut St.
Carthage, IL 62321
217-357-3800

John T. Adkins
Kibbe Museum
306 Walnut St.
Carthage, IL 62321
217-357-2012

HARDIN

No one in Hardin County was contacted about rural preservation activity.

HENDERSON

John Alleman of the Henderson County Historical Society reports that the society's main activities are the restoration of a one-room school house, the restoration of a fur trader's house, and the restoration of a covered bridge. The society has not sponsored or been involved with any rural preservation activities, but Alleman says that barns have been maintained and restored in the county. The society is interested in learning more about the Illinois Barn Alliance.

John Alleman
Henderson County Historical Society
Rural Route 1, Box 138
Turkwood, IL 61447
309-627-2069

HENRY

Denise McGowan of the Henry County Tourism Bureau reports that many old barns exist in the county. The bureau would like to organize a barn tour but has not yet had the opportunity. The bureau plans to contact the Macomb Area Convention and Visitors Bureau to learn more about the McDonough County barn tour.

The Friends of Johnson Park Foundation operates the Ryan Round Barn. According to Lorraine Owens, the barn was to be demolished in 1984 but the Friends was formed in 1985 to operate and maintain the barn, which is located on state property. Friends is a non-profit membership organization that recently raised over \$5,000 to paint the barn and build a new ramp. Money from the Memorial Fund, a fund that accepts donations in memory of an individual, was used to buy benches, vacuums, and space heaters for the barn. The organization sells T-shirts, sweatshirts, magnets, caps, and postcards that feature the work of a New Mexico artist. Friends schedules barn tours that are very popular; busloads of tourists visit the barn and visitors have come from Germany and Sweden. Donated antique farm equipment is displayed at the barn and the organization is seeking a wood wagon. Representatives of the Ryan Round Barn appear in two local parades and information about the barn tours appears on the local cable channel and a local radio station. The barn has also been featured in magazines.

The Richmond Hill Barn Theatre in Geneseo is a barn rehabilitated for use as a dinner theatre that hosts monthly shows. According to John VanDeWoestyne, the property on which the barn stands was originally the Richmond Farm. The farm was split when Interstate 80 was constructed in the 1960s. The northern section of the property is now Richmond Hill Park and the 1920s barn is located in the park at the top of the hill. The Richmond Hill Players, a non-profit theatre organization, located in the barn and originally had exclusive access to the hayloft. The group now has exclusive access to the entire barn and has extensively rehabilitated the barn. A recent \$370,000 project included the insertion of an elevator. Grants and donations have funded much of the work. For example, the Geneseo Foundation contributed \$100,000 to the group and an Illinois FIRST grant was received.

Lorraine Owens
Friends of Johnson Park Foundation
700 Willow
Kewanee, IL 61443-3064
309-852-4262

Denise McGowan
Henry County Tourism Bureau
307 W. Center St.
Cambridge, IL 61238
309-937-1255

John VanDeWoestyne
Richmond Hill Players
P.O. Box 181
Geneseo, IL 61254
309-944-2244

IROQUOIS

Judy Ficke of the Iroquois County Historical Society has revived a barn photography contest of many years ago. The county barns are falling down and being torn down so the goal of the contest is to document every barn in the county. The 2004 contest documented 66 barns and the 2005 documented about half as many. Due to the perceived decrease in interest surrounding barns, next year's contest will feature corn cribs. The contest may again feature barns as the plans are to continue featuring some type of farm structure. A barn calendar was produced in 2005 that featured the winners of the 2004 contest. The 2006 calendar will feature the winners of the 2005 contest.

Judy Ficke
Iroquois County Historical Society
103 W. Cherry St.
Watseka, IL 60970
815-432-2215

JACKSON

Ken of the Jackson County Historical Society reports that a local resident sketched barns and farm structures and gave some of the drawings to the society. Otherwise no rural preservation activity occurs in the county and the historical society does not know of anyone with a special interest in barns.

Ken
Jackson County Historical Society
1616 Edith St.
Murphysboro, IL 62966
618-684-6989

JASPER

Dick Grogg of the National Trail Ag Coalition and the Embarras River Tourism Council states that no rural preservation activity occurs in Jasper County. The tourism council has promoted natural heritage because of the nearby river. The tourism council attempted to follow the heritage demonstration project of the state bureau of tourism and pursue agritourism, but many in the county do not understand or embrace the concept. The idea of a multi-county barn tour had been mentioned but there was not enough interest in Jasper County. The tourism council is familiar with the concept, however.

A privately-owned round barn built in the 1910s by the University of Illinois is in disrepair. The owners thought money would be easily available but no funding source was found.

Dick Grogg
National Trail Ag Coalition
P.O. Box 216
Newton, IL 62448
618-783-3697

JEFFERSON

A member of the Jefferson County Historical Society reports that no rural preservation activity exists in the county. The member does not believe there is anyone in the county interested in barn preservation.

JERSEY

The Jersey County Historical Society is unaware of any barn preservation effort in Jersey County and suggested contacting Greene County about its annual barn tour.

Jerry Taetz of the Illinois Valley Cultural Heritage Association reports the organization is restoring a homestead in Eldred to which a barn will be moved. A federal grant is being obtained for the homestead and the barn will be dismantled and reassembled on the homestead site. The homestead will be a historic site that tourists will be able to visit. The barn is one of 18 barns built in Jersey County and Greene County by the area's principal barn builder during the late 1860s who traveled to the area as a carpenter looking for work. Local resident Eileen Cunningham is documenting the establishment of the historic homestead and has great knowledge of area barns. She has written books on the subject. Greater exposure to area barns will occur once the archaeological study for the homestead site begins.

Jerry Taetz
Illinois Valley Cultural Heritage Association
P.O. Box 177
Elsah, IL 62028
618-374-1684

JO DAVIESS

Julie Bruser of the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation reports the organization will hold its 4th annual farm tour on September 17, 2005. The farm tour is a guided bus tour of family farms that attracts 200 to 300 participants. Educators from the local extension office and farm bureau speak to the participants on the bus and the family members that occupy the farm speak to the participants on the farms. The foundation received a grant from the Jo Daviess/Galena Convention and Visitors Bureau to implement a motorcoach tour. The motorcoach tour is still being implemented.

The Jo Daviess Farm Bureau will hold its 3rd annual farm tour in 2005. The farm tour is self-guided; the farm bureau prepares a map and brochure and the participants transport themselves to the farms. The occupants of the farms allow the participants access to the farm and answer their questions. Attendance numbered 200 at the 2004 tour. The county has several centennial farms.

Julie Bruser
Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation
P.O. Box 216
Elizabeth, IL 61028
815-858-9100

Jo Daviess Farm Bureau
P.O. Box 501
Elizabeth, IL 61028
815-858-2235

JOHNSON

No one in Johnson County was contacted about rural preservation activity.

KANE

The county completed the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency Rural Survey in 1986 and enacted a historic preservation ordinance in 1988. Kane County deals with unincorporated areas so the vast majority of county landmarks are rural landmarks. The county operated “That Darn Barn,” a one-time demonstration project which focused on technical assistance for barns that is no longer active. Three current staff members have been involved with the project so technical assistance is still provided when inquired. ‘Rustic Roads’ is a corridor preservation program that creates rural historic districts. A ‘Rustic Road’ designation combines the thoroughfare (which can be a gravel road), the historic rural buildings and structures along the thoroughfare, and the scenic views across the agricultural land from the thoroughfare. The county’s second ‘Rustic Road’ designation was granted on June 14, 2005. The program is owner-driven; staff does not actively seek program nominations.

Individual townships operate their own open space programs and the county has a farmland preservation program called the Farmland Protection and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. The ordinance establishing this program was approved on April 10, 2001, and created the Farmland Protection Commission which consists of farmers, county board members, agricultural professionals, and Farm Bureau members. The commission makes recommendations to the County Board and the County Board can pursue three different actions: buy land outright, purchase development rights, or accept donated rights. To date the only action taken has been the purchase of development rights. The program is completely voluntary and initiated by the public and is the only such county program in the state. To date 20 farms and 2,669 acres have been protected and 3,000 acres are on the program’s waiting list. The program has received \$12,526,014 from riverboat gaming funds and \$4,464,582 from the Federal Farm and Ranchlands program. The federal program is a matching funds program. Farmland protection has been concentrated in Big Rock Township and Kaneville Township. A bus tour was held in 2004 to showcase county landmarks preserved thanks to money from the riverboat fund.

Garfield Farm is a living history museum occupying 280 acres that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The farm includes original farm buildings, display gardens, breeds of endangered livestock, and a prairie. The operation combines history, farming, and the environment and is historically intact. A neighboring farm was acquired as part of the operation. The farm contains 26 buildings built from between 1859 to 1940, several barns and sheds, a tavern, and 1840s houses. The farm has spent \$7 million and is now spending \$3 million on building restorations. The farm receives 10,000 visitors annually and offers school tours and guided tours. The farm’s goal is to implement seminar-like interpretations to offer a truly educational experience. Archaeological research has uncovered what appears to be an animal stable as some of the farm buildings are being relocated. Executive director Jerome Johnson spoke at the IBA Workshop in Bloomington.

Several other living history farmsteads exist in the county. The LaFox Farm Museum is being developed and is not yet open. Mike Zock is the director. LaFox is an unincorporated area that is a county historic district consisting of 15 to 20 structures. A granary is being rehabilitated to house historic farm implements. Primrose Farm is a county landmark operated by the St. Charles Park District that is being developed as a living history farm. Blackberry Farms is being developed as a living history museum. Fiedler Farm is owned by Batavia Park District and is

being rehabilitated as a living history farm. The county contacts these farms when an issue arises that may impact them. This advocacy is the relationship between the county and the farms.

Several examples of rehabilitated barns also exist. Many of the rehabilitated barns owned by private residents are county landmarks. The most common use is rentable storage for boats and other large items. Others have been converted into entertainment halls and housing spaces for horses or donkeys. Helmut Jahn rehabilitated a barn into a weekend retreat with a lap pool, studio, and kitchen. The future of the use of the Teeple Barn is still undecided; a prior idea called for an agricultural education center. Peck Farm is a county landmark operated by the Geneva Park District that has rehabilitated a granary into an art gallery and silo into an observatory.

The county is under significant development pressure and rural buildings are commonly lost. The “Prairie Parkway” is a proposed highway that threatens the Big Rock Township farms listed on the LPCI 2002 Ten Most Endangered Places List. The highway is still proposed and the Illinois Department of Transportation is studying alternative locations and gathering public comment at this time.

Jerome Johnson
Garfield Farm Museum
P.O. Box 403
LaFox, IL 60147
630-584-8485

KANKAKEE

Perry Farm is a working farm that was donated to the Bourbonnais Township Park District in 1986 after Mrs. Perry donated the property to the state. 50 acres of the farm's 376 acres belong to a state nature preserve and consist of caves and prairie. The remaining acreage is a working farm complete with an 1870s farmhouse and 2 restored barns. Preservation Trades, a suburban company, completed the restorations. The site also has an interactive children's museum.

Nicole Larson reports the park district obtained an Iowa barn, dismantled it, and moved it to Willow Haven, a brand new park at which the barn is being rebuilt. The park is a nature park so the barn will serve as a nature center. The district decided that using a barn as a nature center would be more attractive to visitors. Preservation Trades is in charge of the reconstruction. Bob Przewlocki of Preservation Trades completed restoration work for the park district in the past, so he was approached by the district about obtaining a barn to be used as a nature center. Przewlocki had a friend in Iowa who had just inherited farmland and farm structures so Przewlocki's friend donated a barn to the park district. The barn was disassembled, moved, and is now being reconstructed at its new site. The interior of the barn will remain intact but the exterior will change significantly. A documentary of the barn's journey and reconstruction is being made and reconstruction is scheduled to be completed by November 1. Bob Przewlocki and Preservation Trades can be reached at (630) 443-0411 and <http://www.preservationtradesinc.com>

Chad Miller
Kankakee County Farm Bureau
1605 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
815-932-7471

Nicole Larson
Bourbonnais Township Park District
459 Kennedy Drive
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
815-933-9905

KENDALL

Roger Matile of the Oswegoland Heritage Association gave a presentation about “town barns” in April 2005 at the Oswego Historic Preservation Commission Open House that focused on farms and barns. The presentation consisted of a PowerPoint slide show that showed barns built on urban lots that have since been modified into garages and, in one example, a residence. Approximately 40 people attended the open house and the presentation was well-liked. Matile is willing to give the presentation again, perhaps at an Illinois Barn Alliance event or conference. The Little White School Museum operated by the organization displays photographs of a barn raising and the organization is planning a “Barn Walk” for September.

Lyon Historical Farm was donated to the Kendall County Historical Society 30 years ago. Several historic buildings, such as a store and post office, have been moved to the farm. The farm hosts a homecoming event, threshing demonstration, Civil War reenactment, farm days festival, steam engine demonstration, and a Christmas program.

Roger Matile
Little White School Museum
P.O. Box 23
Oswego, IL 60543
630-554-2999

KNOX

The Walnut Grove Farm near Knoxville is owned by Janis King and holds annual activities.

LASALLE

The LaSalle County Historical Society owns an 1874 barn that was donated to the society. The barn was originally located 10 miles away from its current site before being disassembled, moved, and rebuilt in 1991. The exterior no longer resembles a historic barn but the original interior framing is intact. The barn is used as a display space for agricultural exhibits and a place where farmers talk about agriculture to students in the spring.

LaSalle County Museum
P.O. Box 278
Utica, IL 61373
815-667-4861

LAKE

No one in Lake County was contacted about rural preservation activity.

LAWRENCE

Mike Neal of the Lawrence County Historical Society reports no rural preservation activity occurs in the county. Local artists have photographed and painted barns and other historic structures in the county. Neal was interested in the Illinois Barn Alliance; he knows Kay Young of the Crawford County Historical Society and said that a “Hanging Man” barn once existed in the area that had a painting of a man hanging, presumably as part of an advertisement.

Mike Neal
Lawrence County Historical Society
P.O. Box 511
Lawrenceville, IL 62439
618-943-2300

LEE

The Nachusa Grasslands Preserve has relocated the 1868 timber-frame bank barn from nearby Ashton to the preserve where it is being used as a dual-purpose headquarters and storage building. A barn has also been rehabilitated for use as a private residence.

LIVINGSTON

A historic barn committee initiated as a loosely-formed “extension of the Extension office” has been surveying county barns for the past two and a half years. The committee is compiling photographs and histories of county barns and once the research is completed the committee hopes to organize a barn tour. Of the county’s 30 townships, 1.5 have been completely surveyed, 15 are being surveyed, and 10 or 11 have had no survey activity. The general reaction to the survey is positive but some barn owners have resented the activity and one barn owner’s attorney contacted the committee requesting it to cease and desist. The survey effort has experienced varying degrees of intensity. The core group of surveyors consists of 12 to 15 people and five of those are very energetic, but one of the five recently passed away which caused a lull in activity. Despite the recent effort the extension office estimates that 30 or 40 barns have been lost. The next committee meeting will be held in August or September and the group typically meets 4 to 5 times a year.

Several notable barns exist in the county. One barn has a unique elevator that hauled equipment to the loft for winter storage. Another barn has been featured in House Beautiful magazine. The National Register-listed Bill Nolan Round Barn had a new roof built within the last 5 years and is still standing.

Marion Shier
University of Illinois Extension Livingston County
1412 S. Locust St.
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-842-1776

LOGAN

A historic preservation ordinance was enacted over ten years ago. Upon its passing, the “people rebelled” and the ordinance is currently inactive. The community of Middletown adopted the ordinance to save a downtown landmark.

Paul Gleason reports that a photographic survey of county barns was initiated but the effort is lagging because the group taking on the project is small and “spread thin.” 4-H students and five or six adults were working on the survey, which has a goal of documentation. Gleason says that one problem with barn preservation is that property taxes increase when a barn is repaired. He also said that Logan County is losing quality farmland to development and that a minimum single family lot size of 5 acres has been enacted in rural areas.

Paul Gleason
Lincoln College Museum
300 Keokuk St.
Lincoln, IL 62656
217-735-5050

MACON

Kathy Merner of the Macon County Conservation District reports the district operates and interprets an 1860s homestead located on its original site as part of the Rock Springs Center. A garden shed and a woodshop are also part of the homestead because one of the homestead's occupants operated a sawmill.

The district also owns a historic barn. The date of construction is not known but the peg construction indicates that it was built in the late nineteenth century. The barn is on its original site and is empty save for occasional habitation by a bat colony and is only shown on tours. The barn is not in great condition but is stable enough to have visitors inside. The district expressed interest in receiving information about the Illinois Barn Alliance because a plan for the district's unused buildings, of which the barn is one, will soon be prepared and the Illinois Barn Alliance may be helpful.

Kathy Merner
Macon County Conservation District
3939 Nearing Lane
Decatur, IL 62521
217-423-4913

MACOUPIN

The Macoupin County extension office is currently looking for historic barns in the county to feature on the cover of the county plat book. The county plat book is made by the local 4-H group in cooperation with the extension office as a fundraiser for 4-H. The plan is to create a collage of 5 historic barns in the county to be placed on the cover of the plat book.

Paula Robinson
University of Illinois Extension Macoupin County
60 Carlinville Plaza
Carlinville, IL 62626
217-854-9604

MADISON

Dr. Joseph Helms moved and restored a 1929 dairy barn that was built by local builders with the assistance of Jamesway Company from Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. He grew up in the area near the barn, which belonged to four unmarried siblings that farmed the surrounding land using traditional methods. The barn was given to him by the family; he collected one of the family member's oral history. The barn was disassembled, moved, and rebuilt. Five trailers and three semi-trucks hauled the disassembled barn, which included the 72 feet tall center support beam and the rafters. The barn had two large holes and rotted wood elements. Restored elements include the cypress arches that support the roof, the floor, the hayrack, and the window sills. Re-inserted elements include the livestock pen, bull pen, and two heifer pens but not the 22 stanchions. An interior and exterior brick wall and ground source heat was added, and the barn was modified so that vehicles can drive into the building. The process lasted two years and was finished in 1999. The barn soon will be hosting a gala auction and dinner to raise funds for the county historical society. The barn is used as a workspace in the winter. The project won an award from the Goshen Preservation Alliance, a county-wide preservation organization.

The brick and tile was difficult to save because the old mortar is very weak. Cypress lumber used in the restoration was found in Tennessee through a man in Bunker Hill, Illinois. The keys to a successful barn restoration are sound planning and knowledgeable help.

Helms requested and received blueprints of the University of Illinois sheep barn that was available for relocation. He did not pursue the relocation because of the distance between the campus and his home. He believes the sheep barn has been moved. Helms said the University of Illinois dairy farms are being moved and that the dairy barns are to be demolished. He states the barns are very sound structurally and are possible candidates for preservation. He said the university would likely provide the blueprints.

Annette and Lew Haines
8176 Lebanon Rd.
Troy, IL 62294
MTCoSTL@aol.com

Suzanne Dietrich
Madison County Historical Museum
715 N. Main St.
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-656-7562

Dr. Joseph Helms
7126 Goshen Rd.
Edwardsville, IL 62025-7702
618-656-3781

MARION

The Centralia Historical Society reports that no rural preservation activity occurs in the county. The county museum contains no agriculture exhibits. The only other similar group in the county is the genealogical society. The society reports that many county barns have been replaced.

Centralia Historical Society
P.O. Box 1343
Centralia, IL 62801
618-545-0657

MARSHALL

The Marshall County Historical Society reports that a photographic survey of county barns was conducted about ten years ago. Society members took a photograph of every barn in the county. The survey was conducted by township, of which there are twelve in the county. A survey report and information about the “Barn Again” exhibit is available at the historical society, open on Mondays and Wednesdays. The society reports that many barns are being torn down in the county.

The “Barn Again” exhibit was displayed in Marshall County. The exhibit was very successful and generated much interest.

Jean Davis
Marshall County Historical Society
314 N. 5th St.
Lacon, IL 61540
309-246-2349

MASON

Nancy Glick of the Mason County Historical Society is very knowledgeable about barns in the county and has photographed some of the barns. The primary form found in the county is bank. An interesting note on Mason County barns is that despite the predominant German influence in the county, few gable-roof barns are seen. Some Carpenter Gothic barns are seen in the county. Many barns have been demolished, including the Sidney Barrow Barn, a three-story barn owned by a prominent Chicagoan that featured a mahogany interior. The society organizes cemetery tours and other walking and driving tours but has not featured barns.

Dan Sleaford is a member of Ag of the Past of Central Illinois, a non-profit organization dedicated to educating people about agricultural heritage. The group has about 70 members, many of whom own antique farming implements, and displays and demonstrates the use of the implements. The group displayed their implements in 2005 at Peoria's Heart of Illinois Fair, the Mason County Fair, the Tazewell County Fair, and the Manito Popcorn Festival. The group also holds a two-day plowing bee that demonstrates the old-fashioned plowing process. The event attracts 150 to 200 people. Members live in Mason County, Tazewell County, and Beardstown, and the group was recently featured in the Peoria Journal Star.

Nancy Glick
Havana Public Library District
201 W. Adams St.
Havana, IL 62644-1321
309-543-4701

Dan Sleaford
Weaver Popcorn
19598 NCR 2800 E
Forest City, IL 61532
309-597-2610

MASSAC

Tammy Oppermart with the Alexander/Pulaski/Massac County extension office is unaware of any rural preservation activities occurring in Alexander County. According to Oppermart, little interest in rural preservation exists because the county is still predominantly rural and no significant threats to the rural way of life exist. Tammy suggested contacting the farm owners of the county whose farms are certified as centennial farms by the state of Illinois.

The Metropolis library was unaware of a phone number for the Massac County Historical Society.

MCDONOUGH

The Macomb Area Convention and Visitors Bureau lists a self-guided tour of McDonough County barns as a tourist attraction. A website, http://www.makeitmacomb.com/historic_barn_tour/, has a photograph and brief historic description of 30 county barns. The website also has a map of the barns' locations.

MCHENRY

The county has a historic preservation ordinance and resources such as farmsteads and a tree have been designated as county landmarks. A windshield survey of historic resources was completed in 1987 and an intensive countywide survey is ongoing.

The county protects farmland via agricultural zoning districts. The A-1 classification allows uses with an agricultural purpose and mandates a minimum lot size of 40 acres for a single-family residence. The A-2 classification allows for residences in areas zoned as A-1. The minimum parcel size is 1 acre but the land rezoned as A-2 under one petition can only have one single-family residence. Activities on land zoned A-2 “shall be compatible with surrounding agricultural operations, and shall maintain, preserve, and enhance agricultural land.” Subdivision development is not a permitted use and rezoning is restricted. The county can designate land as belonging to “agricultural protection areas.” Landowners do not donate the land and do not relinquish ownership of the land. The land receives a legal title that forbids development.

The McHenry County Historical Barn Preservation Association is an active barn preservation group. Its 3rd annual barn tour will be hold in October 2005. A motorcoach will transport participants to different barns where local storytellers will provide background and share memories. The group sells a poster, ballcap, t-shirt, and books. The group conducts workshops and educational presentations, hosts a storytelling event, and presents a slide show. The group has requested to communicate with the county Council of Governments. Information about the group is available at <http://www.mchenrycountybarns.org/>

According to Nancy Fike of the the McHenry County Historical Society, the society coordinates a county barn registration program. In 1997 the Smithsonian Barn Again exhibit came to the county and generated widespread interest in historic barns. The county and townships in the county declared 1997 the “year of the barn.” The Barn Registration Program provides a certificate for barn owners who complete a registration form and submit photographs of the barn. The registration form asks for a physical description and history of the barn. The program works as a voluntary survey of county barns. The major problem with the program is obtaining accurate historical data from the registrants. Each certificate costs \$5.00 to be paid by the applicant; no other costs are associated with the program. 73 barns are certified under the program. Nancy Fike does not object to publicizing this program as a model for other counties throughout the state. Information about the program is available at <http://www.mchsonline.org/BRP.htm>

Nancy Fike
McHenry County Historical Society
6422 Main St.
P.O. Box 434
Union, IL 60180
815-923-2267

MCLEAN

The McLean County Barn Keepers is a rural preservation advocacy group. The group holds barn dances, sells a barn calendar, and conducts day trips to historic barns. The group is considering a barn tour for 2006. A volunteer from each of McLean County's 31 townships has conducted a photographic survey of all barns in the township. The group has also requested histories of the county's barns. Information about the Barn Keepers is available at <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/mclean/barn/>

MENARD

Mary Kleinschmidt of the Petersburg Public Library reports that no rural preservation activity occurs in the county. She is interested in receiving information about the Illinois Barn Alliance.

Mary Kleinschmidt
Petersburg Public Library
220 S. 6th St.
Petersburg, IL 62675
217-632-2807

MERCER

Doug McCaw of the Mercer County Historical Society reports that a county resident photographed Mercer County barns about 20 years ago. She has traveled all over the nation to photograph barns and is dedicated to preserving their memory for future generations. She had a presentation of Mercer County barns and the historical society is currently trying to convert the presentation to digital format so that the presentation can be accessed on computers. McCaw said most of the large barns in the county are in disrepair.

Doug McCaw
500 170th St.
Aledo, IL 61231
309-582-2615

Mercer County Historical Society
1406 S.E. 2nd Ave.
Aledo, IL 61231
309-582-2615

MONROE

County resident Ed Kueker wrote a book about southwest Illinois barns. The idea for his book resulted from meeting a man from Idaho who wrote a book about barns in the northwestern United States. Kueker's book documents barns of every style except strawpile barns. The book documents a hexagonal barn that, according to Kueker, is soon to be demolished. The book sells for \$12.

Ed Kueker
1000 Lakeview Dr.
Waterloo, IL 62298
618-939-7273

MONTGOMERY

According to Idabel Evans, a Hillsboro historian, no rural preservation activity exists in the county. She expressed interest in receiving information about the Illinois Barn Alliance.

The Montgomery County extension office reports that the Bremer Sanctuary has an old barn on its property. A representative of Bremer Sanctuary states that the barn has been renovated with new steel siding and was not restored. The barn is used for meetings, storage, and educational purposes of the sanctuary, which is owned by the Audubon Society. The sanctuary's mission is to provide a habitat for wildlife; none of its activity relates to rural heritage.

Idabel Evans
904 S. Main St.
Hillsboro, IL 62049
217-532-3329

MORGAN

Efforts to contact the Morgan County Historical Society failed. The society can be contacted at 217-243-3755 or 217-479-4063.

MOULTRIE

A website has images of and historical information about Moultrie County barns:
http://www.museum.siu.edu/university_museum/museum_classroom_grant/Museum_Explorers/school_pages/Lovington/web%20pages/LOVINGTON.TEST

The website was created by students at Lovington Junior High School in association with the University Museum at Southern Illinois University. According to Janet Roney, an artist who has painted and photographed barns, the Lovington Junior High School project was funded by a grant from the Southern Illinois University Museum. The project was completed 5 or 6 years ago and no follow-up work has been done. Roney believes 1 or 2 of the project barns have been demolished.

Roney said that no coordinated effort is underway to recognize or preserve Moultrie County barns. The extent of the effort is private individuals repairing their own barns. Roney says that while old Amish barns have been well maintained, some beautiful barns have been lost.

A photographer of rural life in central Illinois recently passed away. His photographs are museum-quality and should be acquired by a repository. Janet Roney can be contacted about the photographic collection.

Moultrie County is home to Amish residents who farm with horses. Tourists come to the county in the spring and the fall to see the farmers plant and harvest their fields with horses.

Janet Roney
Moultrie County Historical Society
P.O. Box 588
Sullivan, IL 61951
217-728-8287

Kaye Webb
Moultrie County Historical Society
P.O. Box 588
Sullivan, IL 61951
217-728-2076

OGLE

Efforts to contact Bill Lindenmeir at the Ogle County extension office failed. Lindenmeir can be contacted at 815-732-2191.

PEORIA

The Phelps Barn is a restored barn in Elmwood. The barn was built in the 1840s, served as a station on the Underground Railroad, and was part of an operating farm. The barn fell into disrepair and the private owner was persuaded to donate the barn to the barn committee of the Elmwood Community Foundation, the current owner. The roof, windows, and siding were all repaired during the restoration. Trillium Dell taught a week-long course on four-square carpentry and then invited four-square carpenters from all over the United States to come to Elmwood where they restored the barn. Local volunteers also provided labor. The barn was donated in 2002 and repairs and restoration took place in 2003 and 2004. The owners are interested in pursuing landmark status and have applied for grants. The owners have also talked to individuals in Piatt County about the Piatt County barn tour and the idea of a similar tour around Elmwood is being considered.

Alice Roffey
P.O. Box 506
Elmwood, IL 61529
309-742-8239

PERRY

William Timpner of the Perry County Historical Society reports that no organized rural preservation activity occurs in the county. Timpner says that Gothic style barns measuring 96'0" x 36'0" exist in the county. Timpner says that Jesse Phillips, a resident of Vergennes in Jackson County, has photographed barns in Perry, Jackson, and Franklin County. Timpner will share the Illinois Barn Alliance information with him.

Timpner mentioned several barn books that he owns. Barns of Illinois was written in 2003 by Harry Porter in cooperation with the Illinois Future Farmers of America. This Old Barn is a book that describes barn styles and construction published by Country Living Reminisce and Country Ranch and Farm Living magazine. Barns of Southwest Illinois was written by Edmund Kueker of Waterloo. The book features Timpner's barn on Page 65.

Timpner served on the Save Our Barns advisory committee for the Illinois State Historical Society. He said the advisory committee encouraged people to save barns but that no money was available and the effort stopped.

William E. Timpner
5001 Lindenwood Rd.
Pinckneyville, IL 62274
618-357-8112

PIATT

The Piatt County Museum will hold its 8th annual fall tour on October 7, 8, and 9. The tour is a three day event lasting from Friday through Sunday that also visits schools, cemeteries, and other historic properties in the township. The participants, which numbered over 600 for the 2004 tour, purchase a booklet and map.

Tari Bricker, who is active with the Piatt County Museum, reports that the 2004 tour consisted of 38 family farms and historic sites and attracted over 610 participants from 73 communities and seven states. The tour is self-guided and lasts from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on each of the three days. Local residents set up stands on the side of the roads to sell food and crafts to tour participants. Three people spend six months organizing the tour; one person writes the booklet, another person arranges the tour stops, and the other person does other work. The farm families receive a four-page questionnaire from which comes the material for the booklet. Historic information for each farm such as building date, historic use, previous owners, and previous occupants are researched by two of the tour organizers. The organizers announce the tour in barn publications and agricultural publications across the midwestern United States. Homemade signs announcing the tour are placed along highways. The tour costs approximately \$2500 to implement; these funds come from local business advertisements that sell for \$25, \$50, or \$100 and are placed in the tour guidebook. The tour also visits local businesses such as an apple orchard, a buffalo farm, and a greenhouse. The effort has received an award from the Preservation and Conservation Association.

Harry Porter is the author of Barns of Illinois, a photographer of barns, and a Piatt County resident. The idea for the book resulted from a talk he gave to the Macon County Farm Bureau about barns. An employee of Donning Publishing Company was in attendance and approached Porter about writing a book about Illinois barns. Porter agreed, and with seed money from Farm Credit Services, the book was produced as a fundraiser for the Illinois Future Farmers of America. Porter used his own photographs and photographs sent to the FFA for the book and researched some history of the barns. The photograph captions consist of the history of the barns. The entire process lasted six months and the book sold out in 13 months. Porter was named one of the state's top 32 authors for 2004 and presented the book to the Illinois State Library.

Tari Bricker
465 S. Charter
Monticello, IL 61856
217-762-3366

Piatt County Museum
315 W. Main
Monticello, IL 61856
217-762-4731

Harry Porter
232 W. Bowyer
Bement, IL 61813
217-678-4883

PIKE

The Pike County Extension Office and the Pike County Chamber of Commerce report no rural preservation activity occurs in the county. The chamber of commerce expressed interest in receiving Illinois Barn Alliance information in the mail.

Pike County Chamber of Commerce
224 W. Washington St., P.O. Box 283
Pittsfield, IL 62363
217-285-2971

POPE

Efforts to contact the Pope County Historical Society failed. The society can be contacted at 618-683-5037.

PULASKI

Tammy Oppermart of the Alexander/Pulaski/Massac County extension office reports no rural preservation activity occurs in Pulaski County except for Jacquie Eddleman's effort with the Illinois Barn Alliance. Little interest in rural preservation exists because the county is still predominantly rural and no significant threats to the rural way of life exist. Tammy suggested contacting the farm owners of the county whose farms are certified as centennial farms by the state of Illinois.

Jacquie Eddleman is conducting a barn survey in Pulaski County. Nicole DeBoer and others are helping her.

Jacquie Eddleman
Illinois Barn Alliance
3520 St. John's Road
Dongola, IL 62926
(618) 827-3127

PUTNAM

The Putnam County Historical Society operates the Putnam County Ag Museum. The museum displays antique farm equipment and the society salvaged material from a barn to be destroyed and incorporated the material into the museum. The salvaging of barn material was a unique activity and is not a regular activity. Sid Whittaker, a historical society board member, may have photographed barns of the county. Karen Bailey says a very large county barn in disrepair “makes [her] ill.”

Karen Bailey
Putnam County Historical Society
P.O. Box 74
Hennepin, IL 61327
815-925-7560

RANDOLPH

Efforts to contact Virginia Mansker of the Randolph County Genealogical Society failed. She can be contacted at 618-763-4427 and 618-826-3807.

RICHLAND

Efforts to contact the Richland County Chamber of Commerce failed. The office can be reached at 618-392-2241.

ROCK ISLAND

Mary Rogers and another member of the Rock Island County Historical Society report that a survey of 450 to 460 county barns was conducted from 1990 to 1991. A photograph and history was collected for each barn and the survey was organized by township. The survey was a “tremendous” undertaking completed by volunteers from each township and coordinated by Mary Rogers and Barbara Scott. The project lasted one year because a grant received for displaying photographs of the barns stipulated the project could last no longer. The photographs and historic information are collected in books organized by township at the historical society headquarters. A photographic exhibit of 42 barns accompanied the completion of the survey. H. Wayne Price provided advice and gave a lecture upon the completion of the survey that was well-received and attended by 200 people on June 28, 1992. The survey that culminated in a photographic exhibit received a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council. There was great interest in the project at first but interest has subsided since the project’s completion. The member reports that barns are falling down in the county. Mary Rogers offers this advice for conducting a barn survey: get organized, use the same survey form, divide the survey by township, push awful hard, consider all costs (such as photography), retired farmers are the best volunteers, and set a deadline. Setting a deadline helped very much.

Mary Rogers
Rock Island County Historical Society
822 11th Avenue
Moline, IL 61265
309-764-8590

SALINE

No one in Saline County was contacted about rural preservation activity.

SANGAMON

Curtis Mann of the Sangamon Valley Collection at the Lincoln Library reports that a historic preservation ordinance was recently adopted by Sangamon County. Mann also reports that the barn survey effort in Sangamon County ended with the death of H. Wayne Price. Price compiled a manuscript of Sangamon County barns that was never published. Mann believes that Floyd Mansberger has the manuscript. The Sangamon Valley Collection has vertical files of barn research conducted by Price.

Jerry Jacobsen of Save Old Springfield reports that the Sangamon County Historic Preservation Commission is applying for funds from the Illinois Department of Transportation to preserve a historic bridge that crosses the Sangamon River. A countywide historic resources survey is underway with each of the 9 commissioners responsible for surveying 2 or 3 townships. Jerry distributed information about the Illinois Barn Alliance to the commission and to chairman Chuck Pell.

Curtis Mann
Lincoln Library
326 S. 7th St.
Springfield, IL 62701
217-753-4900

Jerry Jacobson
Save Old Springfield
2617 Clifton Dr.
Springfield, IL 62704-4233
217-787-0939

SCHUYLER

The Schuyler County extension office produces a barn calendar in cooperation with the Cass County extension office, the Cass County Star-Gazette, and local 4-H members. The idea of a barn calendar came from a Star-Gazette worker who had seen a similar calendar be very successful in Indiana. The extension offices, Star-Gazette, and one or two families photograph the barns, although the barns are not necessarily historic and no historic information about the barns is collected. The calendar is financed by a grant from Cargill Meat Solutions and sold by 4-H members. The calendar has been published for two years and many, but not all, of the calendars get sold. The groups plan to continue publishing a barn calendar.

University of Illinois Extension Schuyler County
710 Maple Ave.
Rushville, IL 62681
217-322-3381

SCOTT

Jim, president of the Scott County Historical Society, reports that no rural preservation effort takes place in the county. He says the county has lost some great barns to demolition and deterioration. Barns are often lost to demolition because after the previous barn owners have moved to town, the new owners choose to increase their crop acreage by demolishing the barn. One barn that was demolished was a round barn with a cupola that Jim fondly remembers. Jim called the movement to preserve barns a “good” endeavor.

Jim
Scott County Historical Society
P.O. Box 85
Winchester, IL 62694
217-742-3926

SHELBY

The Shelby County Historical Society published a book about county barns several years ago. The book contains the history and photographs of 30 to 40 county barns, one of which is a Sears & Roebuck barn. Three to four individuals worked on the book, which sells for \$20. Book sales are going well; an order for 15 more copies was placed this past winter. A general interest in barns initiated the effort. No barn research is currently being conducted as the historical society has shifted its effort to the county's Sears & Roebuck houses.

Shelby County Historical Society
P.O. Box 286
Shelbyville, IL 62565
217-774-2260

ST. CLAIR

Norma Walker of the St. Clair County Historical Society reports the society has an awards program in which architecturally and historically significant buildings and sites are given bronze plaques commemorating their importance. Of the 300 to 400 award-winning properties, 2 are barns. The awards program began in 1965 with criteria that stipulated buildings constructed before 1918 of architectural significance that have not had major changes and still reflect their original appearance are eligible for consideration; the interior of a building is not considered. Members of the awards committee and the general public can nominate properties. If the awards committee decides a property should be awarded, the owners are contacted and asked to research the property. An awards dinner is held every two years at which the property owners present the history of their properties and receive a bronze plaque that can be placed on the building's exterior. Most of the owners are pleased to hear that their property has won an award, and the historical society, though lacking power to enforce its desire, asks that the property maintain its original appearance. The plaque is to be returned if a change alters the original appearance but most property owners comply and are willing to maintain the property's appearance. Sites such as cemeteries have also been awarded. A list of all award-winning properties is maintained at the historical society.

The society has approximately 350 members and annually organizes a candlelight house tour, fashion show, and "ritzy yard sale" as fundraising events. The society is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2005.

Norma Walker
St. Clair County Historical Society
701 E. Washington
Belleville, IL 62220
618-234-0600

STARK

Don Schmidt, president of the Stark County Historical Society, reports that local resident Marge Mowers has painted and photographed county barns. The artwork is “very well done” and Mowers has sold copies to local residents and businesses for display. Mowers also paints local historic buildings, such as the county courthouse. Schmidt describes Mowers’ activity as “a hobby with some income.” Mowers sells barn paintings for \$100 to \$150. She has many photographs of barns from Illinois and elsewhere that she uses to create her paintings.

A new history of Stark County will soon be compiled and published. One idea for the publication is to include an article about county barns.

Schmidt’s cousin wrote a poem about old barns that are falling down. The poem is titled “A Country Where Little But Corn Endures” and is written by Bradley Omanson. Omanson’s permission is required if the Illinois Barn Alliance is to use it in any manner. Bradley’s email address is skipper@labyrinth.net

A friend of Don Schmidt owns a deteriorated barn with solid timbers. The owner is donating the timbers to Rick Collins of Trillium Dell. Schmidt also reports that several horse barns located on lots within the town of Toulon still exist. Many of the town’s homes were built between 1890 and 1910 and included a horse barn. Collins has been hired to restore one of the horse barns.

Don Schmidt
Stark County Historical Society
302 W. Prairie Ave.
Toulon, IL 61483
309-286-3104

STEPHENSON

The county hosted a barn conference in 1999 and is home to seven round barns. Several polygonal barns also stand in the county. The Stephenson County extension office has information about barns and sells “That Darn Barn” booklet produced by Kane County.

Wes Winter
University of Illinois Extension Stephenson County
Highland Community College Bldg. R
2998 W. Pearl City Rd.
Freeport, IL 61032
815-235-4125

TAZEWELL

John Croft of the Tazewell County extension office reports that a meeting was held recently regarding a possible barn preservation program. The meeting was attended by Mr. Croft, the county administrator, and a representative of each historical society in the county; all have an interest in barn preservation. A course of action is yet to be decided. Croft was very interested in the topic and discussed the problems, in his opinion, that must be overcome to successfully preserve barns. He discussed a need for public education, raising people's awareness, and a tax incentive.

John Croft
University of Illinois Extension Tazewell County
1505 Valle Vista
Pekin, IL 61554
309-347-6614

UNION

Jacquie Eddleman is conducting a barn survey in Union County. Nicole DeBoer and others are helping her.

County resident Tony Calabrese created the “Barnstorming Union County” tour. The idea of such a tour came after he read that 1,000 Iowa barns were demolished in 1999 because the owners did not want to pay taxes on the structures. The tour was organized through the local chamber of commerce and consisted of stops at historic barns that house a new use. An antique shop and blacksmithing demonstration (located in his 1860 peg barn), a sheep-shearing demonstration, a flower shop, a bed and breakfast on a working farm, and a restaurant were stops on the tour. The tour, which occurred twice a year, lost chamber of commerce support so now private tours visit the sites through the Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau. Calabrese is working with Jacquie Eddleman on the Illinois Barn Alliance conference.

The loss of farmland is a significant problem in Union County. Calabrese reports that 54 new homes were built in the county. He says that developers pay several thousand dollars per acre of farmland, subdivide the property, and sell lots for tens of thousands of dollars.

Tony Calabrese
Shawnee Hill Bed & Breakfast
290 Water Valley Rd.
Cobden, IL 62920
shawnhil@intrnet.net
618-893-2211

VERMILLION

The Vermillion County Conservation District moved and restored the Lawry Barn. Ken Konsis, director of the Vermillion County Conservation District, reports that the barn originally stood at the site of a grist mill before being dismantled and rebuilt on a family farm. Several years ago the sisters who owned the family farm approached the VCCD about donating the barn because they feared the barn would be vandalized. The barn was donated to the district and placed at a site that has multiple threatened historic buildings acquired and moved by the VCCD. An Amish barn builder assessed the barn and the barn was dismantled and rebuilt for \$45,000. The replacement of rotted wood cost \$25,000. A new shake roof cost \$25,000. The replacement wood arrived from the Appalachian region in September 2001 and the barn was raised on December 7, 2001. 70% of the timber is new. A lean-to section was timber-framed by the staff and added to the barn. The barn will house an antique farm equipment exhibit and will have a kitchenette so that the barn can host large gatherings. Konsis estimates that \$100,000 was spent altogether on the barn. Rick Collins of Trillium Dell Timberworks has assisted with the project. The barn is available for rental; the minimum daily cost is \$150 for 75 people but Konsis said that the barn would be available to the Illinois Barn Alliance for free. Konsis expressed great interest in joining the organization.

Ken Konsis
Vermillion Co. Conservation District
22296-A Henning Rd.
Danville, IL 61834
217-442-1691

WABASH

Edna Anderson reports that a historic resources survey was being conducted in the county. The initiative for the survey was the Local Legacy Act legislation. Churches, bridges, and farm buildings were included in the survey, but the survey group has not met in six months. The group had been meeting regularly for one and a half years with a goal of identifying county sites worth preserving.

Anderson is proprietor of the Living Legacy Farmstead Bed and Breakfast. She returned to her parents' farm in 1992 and in 1999 received a matching grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce to restore the farmstead and create a bed and breakfast. The barn on site was restored in 2000 and she has promoted the farmstead as a historic farm site. She hosts "Good Old Days" in June, a festival that demonstrates horse plowing, craftmaking, old-fashioned laundry, broommaking, and other activities of yesteryear. Five acres of the site become a maze in September and October.

The barn on site has a gift shop and space for large group activities. The farmstead is on a hill and the barn provides a great view of the surrounding scenery. The interior of the barn is original complete with wood peg construction.

Edna Anderson
Living Legacy Farmstead
3759 N. 900 Blvd.
Mt. Carmel, IL 62863
618-298-2476

WARREN

Efforts to contact Alice Babcock failed. She can be reached at 309-774-4101.

WASHINGTON

Wanda Groennert of the Washington County Historical Society reports no rural preservation activity occurs in the county. The society has never organized any effort related to barn preservation. She said she would share information about the Illinois Barn Alliance with the other members of the society.

Wanda Groennert
Washington County Historical Society
14502 County Hwy. 1
Nashville, IL 62263
618-327-3756

WAYNE

Efforts to contact Judith Puckett of the Wayne County Historical Society failed. She can be contacted at 618-842-3711.

WHITE

Marge Fechtig of the White County Historical Society said that although there has not been any rural preservation activity in the county, there is interest in barn preservation. The historical society is busy right now preparing for the arrival of a traveling Smithsonian exhibit in November.

Fechtig mentioned that "Barn Again," the Smithsonian traveling exhibit, is soon to be retired and that 4 copies will be available for permanent display. The Smithsonian website, http://www.museumonmainstreet.org/admin/staff_admin/staff/Dispersion_Plan.pdf, has more information. Perhaps the Illinois Barn Alliance can help facilitate the acquisition of a display for a county.

Vanishing Landmarks by Lucille Lawler features photographs and histories of historic barns and schools in the area. The book was sponsored by the Gallatin County Democrat.

The husband of Marge Fechtig said that he recently saw a press release for the Illinois Barn Alliance Fall Workshop in the Carmi Times. He is interested in barn preservation because he grew up on a farm that had a gambrel-roof barn. He requested a brochure about the fall conference.

Marge Fechtig
P.O. Box 346
Norris City, IL 62869
618-378-3973

WHITESIDE

Orville Goodenough, a member of the Morrison Historical Society, has photographed many of the barns in the county. He has photographed and documented the location of 150 of the county barns as a hobby because barns are being lost rapidly. The project is ongoing and not yet complete. Goodenough has collected the history of some barns but the primary focus is on documentation by photography and location. He has given the 8" x 10" copies of the photographs bound in a book to the historical society. One section of the book compares historic pictures of farmsteads to contemporary pictures. There is local interest in his project but Goodenough laments that some great old barns have been lost. He also says that an octagonal barn near Mt. Carroll in Carroll County is in disrepair.

Orville Goodenough
Morrison Historical Society
P.O. Box 1
Morrison, IL 61270
815-772-4558

WILL

Will County has a historic preservation ordinance with jurisdiction over the entire county except for Plainfield, Lockport, Frankfort, and Joliet; these municipalities have their own ordinances. A historic resources survey began in 1999 and has been conducted in 7 of the county's 24 townships. The Koren Round Barn is a county landmark and the Village of Manhattan is attempting to develop the property for interpretive purposes.

Homer Township has an open space protection program and 48 acres are being preserved as an interpretive farmstead that is still being developed. The Will County Forest Preserve Commission approved in June 2005 a \$79.2 million bond issue to preserve 5,000 acres of open space and has an unofficial goal of establishing 30 acres of open space per 1,000 residents. The commission is interested in land preservation however and has demolished buildings in the past.

The development pressure in Will County is substantial. In April 2005 Will County ranked 10th nationally in population growth and 44th nationally in percent population growth. The county attempts to be proactive in surveying its historic resources.

Michael Lambert
601 N. Des Plaines St.
Plainfield, IL 60544
815-436-8133

WILLIAMSON

Jerry Covington organized a barn tour for a senior group from First Christian Church in Herrin. Covington organizes 1 tour a month and the barn tour occurred at least 6 months ago. The tour lasted all day and visited barns in Illinois and Missouri that cater to tourists; for example, one barn is used as a craft store. Covington learned about the barns from a published list of barns that cater to tourists. Approximately 20 people participated in the tour.

WINNEBAGO

David Byrnes of the Midway Village and Museum Center reports the museum has moved two barns from the Lyford farm in Winnebago County to its site. One barn is an 1850 English hay barn that has been restored and is used for interpretive purposes. The other barn is a 1905 milking barn that is currently being rehabilitated with plans to become an educational center, meeting facility, and playhouse that would host plays and barn dances. The impetus to move the barns was provided by members of the public who wanted the museum to rescue the barns. The museum has a group of volunteers that are dedicated to rural preservation and were active in the relocation of the Midway Village barns. The museum center also has a restored Greek Revival farmhouse around which it hopes to create a living history farmstead. The museum center hosts an antique farm equipment show every July. Information about the barns can be found at <http://www.midwayvillage.com/default.asp?nav=exhibits&page=exhibits&nexhibitid=7&nexhibitpageid=47>

The Severson Dells Farm is operated by the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District and the Warren Paulson Farm is a private museum that hosts functions for different groups.

David Byrnes
Midway Village and Museum Center
6799 Guilford Rd.
Rockford, IL 61107
815-397-9112

WOODFORD

Barb Bradle of the Woodford County Historical Society reports that a video showcasing barns was produced in conjunction with the Smithsonian traveling exhibit about barns. The video was shown in Marshall County. The video sold for \$10 and about 100 copies were sold. Bradle said at that time barns were “disappearing like crazy.”

First Farm Credit Services helped sponsor the printing of Harry Porter’s book about Illinois barns sold by the Future Farmers of America. More information about the book is online at

http://www.usfarmcredit.com/AboutUs/1st/CountrySpirit/2003/News_Release/Barns_of_IL_2003.asp

Barb Bradle
Woodford County Historical Society
203 S. Main
Eureka, IL 61530
309-467-3106

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ILLINOIS BARN ALLIANCE

BY AUGUST 15

Contact between an Illinois Barn Alliance board member and these individuals who appeared very interested in the Illinois Barn Alliance (HIGH INTEREST):

- Paul Gleason of Logan County
- William Timpner of Perry County
- John Croft of Tazewell County
- Tony Calabrese of Union County
- Ken Konsis of Vermillion County
- Edna Anderson of Wabash County

Contact between an Illinois Barn Alliance board member and these individuals who may have interest in the Illinois Barn Alliance that Nick Hayward was unable to contact:

- Bob Przewlocki of Preservation Trades, Inc.
- Craig Lindvahl, producer of a barn video created to commemorate the “Barn Again” traveling exhibition

BY SEPTEMBER 1

Contact between an Illinois Barn Alliance board member and these individuals who appeared quite interested in the Illinois Barn Alliance (MEDIUM INTEREST):

- Wendy Amos and John Goldsmith of Bond County
- Jerry Paulson of Boone County
- John Schmale of Champaign County
- Gary Letterly of Christian County
- Deloris Maurer of Clark County
- Kay Young of Crawford County
- Marilyn Scott of Cumberland County
- Sheryl Hodges of DeWitt County
- Patsy Berry of Edgar County
- Ed Karr of Ford County
- Kevin McGuire of Fulton County
- Alan Barber of Greene County
- Hamilton County Historical Society
- John T. Adkins of Hancock County
- Denise McGowan and Lorraine Owens of Henry County
- Dick Grogg of Jasper County
- Jerry Taetz of Jersey County
- Jerome Johnson of Kane County
- Roger Matile of Kendall County
- Mike Neal of Lawrence County
- Marion Shier of Livingston County
- Joseph Helms of Madison County
- Nancy Glick of Mason County
- Ed Kueker of Monroe County

- Janet Roney of Moultrie County
- Alice Roffey of Peoria County
- Tari Bricker and Harry Porter of Piatt County
- Mary Rogers of Rock Island County
- Jim Cowlick (sp?) of Scott County
- Don Schmidt of Stark County
- Marge Fechtig of White County
- Orville Goodenough of Whiteside County

AT SEPTEMBER CONFERENCE

Announce that the Smithsonian Institution is donating copies of the “Barn Again” traveling exhibit to local historical societies and possibly facilitate the acquisition of an exhibit by an Illinois historical society. The application deadline is November 1. Details are online at http://www.museumonmainstreet.org/admin/staff_admin/staff/Dispersal_Plan.pdf

AUTUMN 2005

- Contact between an Illinois Barn Alliance board member and the remaining individuals who expressed interest in the Illinois Barn Alliance (LOW INTEREST)
- Contact between Jean Follett and Janet Roney of Moultrie County regarding the location of a rural photography collection in a repository such as the Illinois State Museum

WINTER 2005-06

- Advise Cumberland County Camera Club on legality of publishing its collection of barn photographs
- Advise Macon County Conservation District on re-use options for its old barn
- Encourage the implementation of a rural preservation activity in DeWitt County
- Encourage the implementation of a barn preservation activity in Ford County
- Encourage the implementation of a barn tour in Fulton County
- Encourage the implementation of a barn tour in Henry County
- Encourage the implementation of a barn tour for Embarras River Tourism Council
- Encourage the implementation of a barn tour by the Mason County Historical Society
- Encourage the implementation of a barn tour in Peoria County centered around the Phelps Barn
- Encourage the Stark County Historical Society to compile an article about county barns for the upcoming county history
- Encourage the implementation of a barn preservation activity in Tazewell County

LONG TERM

- Accept Ken Konsis’ offer of holding an Illinois Barn Alliance event in the Lawry Barn owned by the Vermillion County Conservation District

- Create and distribute a “Barn Tour Manual” for those seeking to implement a barn tour. The manual will provide advice on how to establish a tour, examples of successful tours, and contact information for individuals willing to offer assistance.
- Create and distribute a “Barn Survey Manual” for those seeking to conduct a barn survey. The manual will provide advice on how to begin a survey effort, examples of successful surveys, and contact information for individuals willing to offer assistance.
- Create a recognition program in which the Illinois Barn Alliance endorses or “certifies” surveys, tours, and other successful barn promotion activities. The program could award certificates and list certified endeavors in Illinois Barn Alliance publications.
- Create and distribute an annual calendar of barn tours, perhaps in cooperation with the Agriculture & Tourism Partners of Illinois
- Encourage counties to apply for a grant to support a survey effort that will result in an exhibition (Rock Island County received a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council to support a survey effort that resulted in a museum exhibit)
- Invite Roger Matile to present his “town barn” presentation at a future Illinois Barn Alliance event
- Publicize and encourage the implementation of the McHenry County Barn Registration program by county historical societies that have not/will not conduct a survey