



Preble County Historical Society, Inc.
7698 Swartsel Rd. Eaton, Ohio 45320

Dear Friends of Barns:

Why do a barn survey? What is so special about "barn awareness"? Few of man's creations enhance the natural world as much as a beautiful farm with its well-built barns. The loss of barns as land development, sprawl, and decay take place is unfortunate.

The beauty of the self-contained farm is slipping away as are the barns, because of the financial obligations to maintain equipment, buildings, and supplies. It is important to cultivate in our youth an appreciation for the local self-sufficient farm that once was a way of life in the Midwest, and is perpetuated by the dedicated and unbelievably hard working people we know as farmers.

The barn survey serves three purposes:

- 1.) To document the present rural landscape and the old barns.
- 2.) To open the eyes of more people to the value of barns to our rural landscape and heritage.
- 3.) To create a vehicle to organize people who appreciate these barns.

The survey process involves the following:

-Documenting certain information about the property on which the barn is located, such as the name of the township in the county, the property address, the name of the property owner and owner's address if different from the property address. Recording the correct owner's address is beneficial, especially when further information about the property is desired, which can be found by going to the auditor website at www.preblecountyauditor.org.

Survey information collected about each barn and its surrounding area should include the following:

- Barn condition
- Plan/shape and shed type
- Roof and roofing material, type, and shape
- Barn siding type and material
- Foundation type and material
- Other exterior features and decorations

Additionally, one to three photographs are requested of each barn. It is critical to photograph each barn for current condition and overall documentation. Please label each photograph on the back with a permanent marker with barn owner's name and address. Digital images will be accepted saved on a CD as jpg images with a 300 DPI resolution.

In addition, if older photographs of your barn are available, copies of the vintage ones would enhance the inventory which would show changes that might have occurred to the barn throughout the years.

Your assistance with inventorying the barns in Preble County is instrumental to preserving the existence of these fine structures. The barn survey forms are self explanatory and can be found on our website, www.pchs.preblecounty.com. Please do not hesitate to call the Historical Center with any questions you may have regarding the survey.

Additional help is needed to thoroughly document the barns of Preble County. If you can assist with inventorying more barns, your dedication of time and effort will help us accomplish our goal.

We appreciate your support of the Preble County Barn Survey and preserving these gems in our county.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Murphy
President, PCHS
937.787.4256

Jane Lightner
Executive Director, PCHS