

Barn Preservation

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2004

During the last century, New Boston lost almost all of its working farms. The last remaining dairy herd was sold off in 2002. In fact, only six dairy herds now remain in Hillsborough County. Some farming continues, but the subsistence farming which once was the general way of life here has completely disappeared.

Barns remain as symbols of this vanished way of life. The original settlers gave as much care to their barns as they did to their houses. The survival of their livestock during our harsh winters depended on it. The early barns are masterpieces of design and function, built using massive hand-hewn beams and intricate mortise and tenon bracing. They are so well designed that, as long as the roof remains intact, a barn can survive for hundreds of years.

Historic barns are found in every part of the town. Perhaps the best-known is the "Cement Barn," a so-called "estate" barn built in 1881 by J. R. Whipple on the 1,000 acre farm which supplied his three Boston hotels. It is now owned by the Daniels family. The Horse Farm barn off Bedford Rd., the Nixon barn on Old Coach Rd., the Priest Bradford barn on Bradford Lane, and the Roger Noonan barn on Colburn Rd. are fine examples of early structures. An inventory by the Historical Society of all existing barns in the town is underway.

The question arises: what purpose do they now serve? Unless they are used for agriculture, they are essentially only garages or storage facilities. Their upkeep presents the property owner with a significant expense. But everyone agrees that they should be saved – they express the rural character of the town and highlight its landscapes. Whenever a barn is lost, everyone feels saddened to some degree.

We have lost a great number of barns over the past fifty years. Some have burned down; some have collapsed due to neglect; some have been dismantled and sold as material for "designer" interiors. Recognizing this, the state is attempting to encourage preservation whenever possible. RSA 79-D enables the Board of Selectmen to grant a Barn Preservation Easement to owners of historic barns and outbuildings. Up to a 75% reduction in property taxes on the building for periods ranging from 10 to 30 years may be obtained, which includes a commitment on the part of the town not to raise valuations during the span of the easement. As of 2004, four barns in New Boston have been protected in this way. Application forms are available at the Selectmens' office.

Another option is for the owner to convert a barn to another economic use while retaining its exterior look. The New Boston Clinic and the Apple Barn are good examples of this approach.

#	Owner	Barn Name	Address	Type of barn	Approx. age
Barns in south portion of New Boston					
1	Wm. Barss		Joe English Rd.	"American"	
2	Ken & Gloria Barss		538 Mt. Vernon Rd	small - (age?)	
3	Tom Mohan	"Half & Half Farm"	480 Mt Vernon Rd	American w/ cupola	
4	Brent Armstrong		135 McCollum Rd	2 small barns -- old, added garage	
5	Susan Martin		111 South Hill Rd	historic barn, English	
6	rental property of Dr. Towne		370 South Hill Rd	American, same design as Billy Barss' and Kritzon's barns	
7	Dr. Towne, c/o Brian Towne	"Hillcroft Farm"	266A South Hill	barn collapsed 1980's, rebuilt	
8	rental property of Dr. Towne		30 South Hill Rd		
9	??		170 South Hill Rd		
10	Mark & Rhonda Luedke		26 Hooper Hill Rd	"English" barn	
11	Peter & Lisa de Roeth		"Wellswood Farm, Hooper Hill Rd	barn & sugarhouse	
12	John & Heidi Palmer		114 Hooper Hill Rd	old barn moved here from Hopkinton fairgrounds, old barn converted to apartment house	19th century, wooden peg construction
13	Robert & Barbara Woodland		133 Hooper Hill Rd		
14	Rhoda Clark		1 Bradford Lane	orig. English barn 1790's, extended as horse barn 1920's former ice house, converted to garage. Moved from 1 Bradford Lane c.1936	18th century
15	Bud & Lori Piper		9 Joe English Rd		
16	David & Candy Woodbury		37 McCurdy Rd		
17	??	"Black Horse Farm"	63 McCurdy Rd		
18	Allyn Way-Daly		225 McCurdy		
19	Ramona DeRochemont		226 Joe English Rd		
20	Kevin & Katie Collimore		251 Joe English	stone foundation of former barn	
21	Greg & Toni Gualtiere		88 South Hill Rd		
22	Bob & Gail Furey		243 Mont Vernon Rd.	village barn	
23	Bing & Sylvia Chauncey		64 Wilson Hill Rd	old barn historic barn, under preservation easement	
24	Dick & Betsey Moody		15 Baker Lane	"Old Cochran Place" barn re-built	
25	Beth Ryan		?? Bedford Rd	1915	1915

Barns in the village area

26	Geoff & Cynthia Katz		5 Central Sq.		"The Creamery", now a residence	
27	Geoff & Cynthia Katz		5 Central Sq		"The Apple Barn", converted to office space	
28	Bill & Rita Manna		6 River Rd		village barn	
29	Muriel Bennet		10 River Rd		converted village barn	
30	?? new Kindergarten		20 River Rd			
31	Jean Lowell		22 River Rd			
32	Marsiello Realty office		26 River Rd		converted village barn	
33	Carl Chauncey		38 River Rd			
34	? Poiniski		48 River Rd			
35	Howard & Frances Towne		61 River Rd		one horse in barn	
36	Stephen Ives	"Harold Todd's place"	104 River Rd		barn converted or rebuilt?	
37	Randy & Gail Parker		14 Mill St		2 -- both sides of road	
38	Bill Morrissey		22 Mill St		converted to garage	
39	??		25 Mill St		both sides of road	
40	??		30 Mill St		attached village barn	
41	Leon & Ella Daniels		36 Mill St.			
42	Daniels' rental property		40 Mill St			
43	Jim & Maureen Ryan		9 Meetinghouse Hill Rd			
44	New Boston Sports		16 Meetinghouse Hill Rd		converted Village barn	
45	Gregg & Lynne Young		1 Cemetery Rd		large barn from tavern era	
46	Peter & Nancy Clark		6 Bedford Rd		several farm bldgs	
47	??		57 Meetinghouse Hill Rd		village barn	
48	??		60 Meetinghouse Hill Rd		village	
49	??	"Betty Hooper's place"	?? Meetinghouse Hill Rd		village	
50	Dean & Poly Yost		77 Meetinghouse Hill Rd		old barn village barn converted, several small farm bldgs	1826
51	Gordon & Donna Carlstrom		9 Cemetery Rd			
52	?? 2 family		?? High St.		1 barn	
53	Almus Chauncey		1 High St.		1 barn	
54	"Henry Dodge's place" (present owner?)		Rt. 13 south		2 village barns	

55	"New Boston Tavern"		35 Mt. Vernon Rd		"Neville's Mill" building
56	"New Boston Hardware" (Don Grosso)		** Mt Vernon Rd		in former barn
57	"Jean McCreary's place" (present owner?)		** Mt Vernon Rd		1 barn
58	Tingley's		90 Mt Vernon Rd		barn
59	John & Jeannine Ballou		22 Molly Stark Ln		English barn

Barns in SW area

60	Janet Nixon		201 Old Coach Rd		historic barn, under preservation easement
61	Tony & JoAnn Cardone		266 Cochran Hill Rd		
62	??		277 Cochran Hill Rd		
63	??		337 Cochran Hill Rd		
64	??	"Butterfield Mill Farm"	127 Butterfield Mill Rd		
65	??		50 Greenfield Rd		
66	??		72 2nd NH Turnpike		
67		"Fox Hill Farm"	178 Old Coach Rd		
68	??				
69	Thomas & Jeanne Bisceglia		448 Clark Hill Rd		
70	??		185 Lyndeboro Rd.		
71	Skip Gomes		41 Misty Meadow Rd		

Barns in Northeast area

72	Jay & Dot Marden		100 Gregg Mill Rd		2 barns
73	" " ?		66 Gregg Mill Rd		1 barn
74	Lou Comeau		41 Davis Lane		1 barn, Davis Lane
75	Peter Comeau		9 Davis Lane		1 barn
76	Byam farm		Rt. 13		old barn converted "Atwood estate" barn, now clinic
77	Ron Brenner		52 High St.		
78					
79	Wayne Daniels		11 Weare RD		Whipple Estate Barn, stucco carriage house, frame carriage

				house	
80	Fred Byam		490 Weare Rd	"Piggery Farm" barn	
81	Hogie Wilson		? Lull Rd	1950's chicken barn	
82	??		Parker Rd, near Howe Bridge	3 decker barn	

Barns in the northwest area

83	Richard and Elaine Hechtl		99 Francestown Rd		old barn, sugar house
84	Kritzon's (now Doug Hill)		137 Francestown Rd		historic barn, endangered
				(c/o Jim Dodge, 32 Dodge Rd)	
85	"Welch Farm"		Tucker Mill Rd		large historic barn
86	Jed Callen		Shedd Rd		1 barn
87	James Dane		184 Francestown Rd		barn & sugar house
88	"Bib" Elliot		Rt 136		1950's chicken barns
89	Robert & Laura Todd		336 Francestown Rd		historic barn
90	"Monastery"		Scobie Pond Rd		historic barn
91	Travis & Amy Daniels		88 Bunker Hill Rd		historic barn
92	"Hersey" farm (need present owner)		?? Bunker Hill Rd		3 barns
93	Samantha Hersey (married name?)		?? Bunker Hill Rd		1 barn
94	??		198 Saunders Hill Rd		2 rough barns
95	"Old Hawkins House" (present owner?)		83 Saunders Hill Rd		2 barns
96	Ursula Gordon		342? Tucker Mill Rd		1 barn (home) "Middle Brach Farm" historic barn, (preservation easement)
97	Roger & Lori Noonan		280 Colburn Rd		"Tucker Mill Farm" 1 barn
98	??		184 Colburn Rd		1 barn
99	Dan Teague		69 Colburn Rd		1 barn
100	"Dodge Farm" Jim Dodge		32 Dodge Rd.		several barns
101	?? Lavallee ?		West Lull Rd		1 barn
102	??		39*? Clark hill Rd		large barn and Ell
103	"Old Dane Barn" (present owner ?)		440 Clark Hill Rd		historic barn
104	"Reggie & Beulah Hayes'		260 Clark Hill Rd		2 barns (English)

	place" (present?)				
105	?? "Bradley ??		*** Clark Hill Road		1 barn
106	??		59 Dennison Rd		1 barn
107	??		?? Thornton Rd		"English lady's" barn and riding barn
108	?? (Gombuch?)		41 Thornton Hill Rd		chicken house
109	Katie Kachavos		200 Clark Hill Road		historic barn
110	"Elsie Warren's place"(present owner?)		52 Clark Hill Rd		historic barn
111	"Brick Cape Cod"		13 Clark Hill Rd.		1 barn
112	John Young		3 Valley View Ln		chicken house

Old Schoolhouses (in green on map)					
1	Nonah Poole		301 Joe English Rd.		well-preserved, attached to house
2	??		335 Francestown Rd		
3	??		493? Bedford Rd.		"Schoolhouse #2"
4	Jennifer Brown		89 Lull Rd		

Mills (in red on map)					
1	Parker's Mill		14 Mill St.		grist mill 1800-1810
2	Neville's Mill		35 Mt. Vernon Rd		grist mill, ax and "sharps" c. 1850
3	The Cider Mill		24 Francestown Rd		Cider mill of the Whipple Farm c. 1870?
4	Hadley's Mill		Tucker Mill Rd		

NEW BARNS					
	Todd Mueller/ Laurie Alwardt		17 Lewis Rd		new horse barn new -- c. 2002?
	??	"Joe Daniels' Place"	?? Laurel Lane		large equipment barn recent construction?
	Maggie Landsbury		339 McCurdy Rd		horse barn recent construction?
	Bob & Janet Beausoliel		210 Mont Vernon Rd		new barn

	Mame Anderson		88 Beard Rd		new barn (veternarian)	
	John King building		55 River Rd		new ?	
	Robert & Donna Chase		289 Francestown Rd		new horse barn	
			?? Bunker Hill Rd		new riding barn behind old barn	
	Tom & Pat Pine		269 Tucker Mill Rd		new barn	
	??		560 Clark Hill Rd		new barn	
	Jim & Joyce Smith		428 Clark Hill Rd.		new barn	
	??		34 Briar Hill Rd		new barn	