



Wisconsin Barn Raising Project

Photographed and Submitted by: Darlene Harmann

Location: N9449 County Highway S (Chippewa County)

Constructed in 1904.



The Harmann barn, located at N9449 Cty. Hwy. S. was photographed by Darlene Harmann. The barn and the buildings on this farm are owned by me (since my husband's death in '02) and operated by my son Kevin Harmann.

These buildings have been in the Harmann family since 1904 when they were constructed for Henry and Mary Harmann. Lawrence Harmann his son and my father-in-law told me that the family moved from the farm across the street to the new buildings when he was four years old. The windmill from the old farm still stands across the street.

What I like about this farm, aside of its history in the Harmann family includes the location along with the position and design of all three buildings. The barn being the largest building commands the greatest attention.

The barn is 40' wide 100' long and 40' tall. It was designed and built by a local craftsman named Andrew Mickelson. Mickelson's barns are many and distinguished by the pitch of their gambrel roofs, which then determines the proportion of the building. Each barn is identified by a five-pointed star located at the peak and each end of the building. Mickelson is reported to have said that the five-pointed star represented himself and his four sons all of whom worked with him.

The post and beam construction of the barn rises into three different levels, all above ground.

The bottom level, which housed the animals, is constructed of stone rubble, a cheap and readily available material. Its interior was cemented floors and gutters with a ladder opening to the above floor and shuts for throwing down hay.

The second level was accessed by massive sliding, external doors. Its plank floor was divided into three sections. The mid-section was where the wagons of hay were backed into and unloaded into the lofts on either side. The fork used to unload the cut hay and later bails is still in the roof peak.

Massive beams rise to support the roof which has two cupolas (windowed) for both light and air. Hay was stacked to the rafters for winter feeding.

Both the interior frame and the barn boards applied to the skeleton were constructed from trees harvested and dried on the property, according to Lawrence Harmann. They are all original to the barn.

Red barn paint with white trim was the original and although peeling continues to be the structure's color.

Additional photos:



