

WI Barn Adaptive Reuse Projects

University of Wisconsin- Extension

Present Use: Museum - Watson's Wild West Museum

Type of Barn: Dairy Barn originally built in 1908

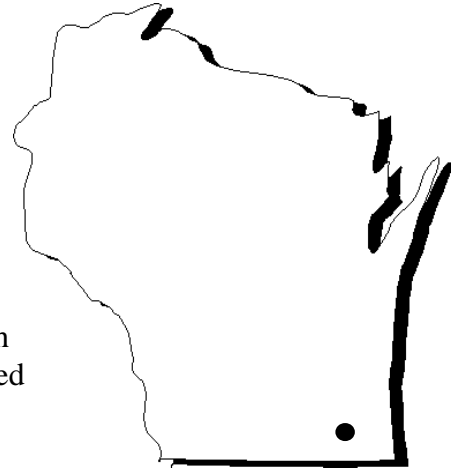
Owner's/ Contact Person's Name: Doug Watson

Address: PO Box 962
Elkhorn, WI 53121

Date of Conversion: 1990-93

Approximate Project Cost(s): NA

Brief Outline of Project: This former Dairy Barn located just outside Elkhorn originally had 10 stanchions. The structure sat vacant for 33 years and was almost burned down. Today, the structure houses a Museum with an old west theme. Inside you can find the mock-up of a general store and saloon with over 200,000 items of interest. Interior walls have all been paneled and insulation added. The barn was also opened up to 24'.



Success of Project: The project took three years but they found the work very enjoyable. It was so much fun that they are interested in doing another barn project. In order to accommodate the growing museum they may move another barn to the site to use as an addition.

Contractors Used: The owner did all of the work himself and has extensive documentation on the project. 2000 pictures were taken from start to finish, plus a daily log regarding all the work - step by step.

Project Photographs:

