

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Round and Polygonal Barns of West Virginia

and or common

2. Location

street & number (See Individual Inventory Forms) _____ not for publication

city, town _____ vicinity of

state _____ code 54 county _____ code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> thematic group	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. (See individual inventory forms)

street & number

town _____ state

Representation in Existing Surveys

Round and Polygonal Barns of West Virginia has this property been determined eligible? yes no

September 1, 1984 _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

key records Historic Preservation Unit, West Virginia Department of Culture and History

Weston _____ state West Virginia

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Although round and polygonal barns date back to the 1700's in this country, the period of their greatest popularity occurred between the latter part of the 19th century and World War I. By about 1900 they were being highly recommended by the agricultural schools of the country's land grant universities as more wind resistant than a square or rectangular barn, less expensive to build, and more efficient in terms of space. A popular folk saying, which may have originated with the Shakers, who built a number of early round barns, was that a round barn had no corners for the devil to hide in.

The earliest recorded example of a round/polygonal barn in this country is the structure designed and built by George Washington at his Dogue Run Farm in Fairfax County, Virginia, in 1793. Another early round barn, and probably the most famous, was the one built by the Shakers at Hancock, Massachusetts, in 1824-26. The walls were of stone, 30 inches thick, and the barn was 90 feet in diameter with stalls for 52 head of cattle. The top level was set aside for hay storage, and a central chute provided the means for transferring the hay to the ground floor. Although the original barn burned down, the Shakers rebuilt it in 1865, and it has served as a public museum since 1968.

Round barn construction seems to have fallen into two main periods: During the 1880's, the octagonal barn dominated in popularity, until advances in technology began to make the circular barn more practical to build, beginning around 1900 and reaching its peak in the 'teens. The tendency towards octagon barn construction may have been influenced by New Yorker Orson S. Fowler, who in the mid-1850's began advocating the construction of octagon houses and barns, first in his book A Home for All, followed by The House: A Pocket Manual of Rural Architecture. His writings prompted the building of numerous octagon houses, particularly in New York state, but it is difficult to trace any agrarian structures directly to his work, especially since several decades separate the publication of his books from the peak years of octagon barn construction.

Other early proponents of round and polygonal barns can be found in 19th-century agricultural newspapers and journals. In 1854 the Cultivator and Country Gentleman published illustrations of an octagon barn belonging to a Maryland farmer named George Calvert. In 1867 pioneer agriculturalist Lorenzo S. Coffin of Iowa put up an octagonal barn on his Willow Edge Farm near Fort Dodge, although he failed to publicize it until the late 1870's. Iowa's earliest known octagonal barn, the Willow Edge structure was 90 feet in diameter, built primarily of lumber taken directly from the farm. Coffin was a breeder of graded livestock, and built the octagon barn as part of his model experimental farm.

In spite of these early examples, the octagonal barn did not attract widespread interest until the mid-1870's when certain progressive-minded farmers, stock breeders, and editors of agricultural journals began to express enthusiasm for this somewhat eccentric shape. Probably the most influential was Albin W. Stewart of Erie County, New York, lecturer in agriculture at Cornell University and editor of a respected farm journal. In 1874, after four of the rectangular barns on his model farm burned, Stewart replaced them with one octagonal barn 80 feet in diameter, containing 5,350 square feet of space. Within three months he had published a description and engravings of his new barn in his journal, the New York Live-Stock Journal, and the octagon barn was launched.

Stewart's model was more than satisfactory. Editors of other agricultural journals reprinted Stewart's article in their sections on barn construction, noting that octagonal barns "are now regarded with much favor by many intelligent agriculturalists." Stewart continued to improve his octagonal barn, and by 1884 was able to state that "some 30 or 40 [octagon-barn] structures have been built in various parts of the country - among them five in Pennsylvania, three in Indiana, two in Illinois, two in Minnesota, and several in Kentucky." Whether any West Virginia barns are directly attributable to Stewart's work cannot be established.

(cont.)

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7. DESCRIPTION (cont.)

Although the true round barn was regarded as the ideal shape, it was considered too expensive to build. The octagon shape, on the other hand, closely approximated the ideal circle, used fewer building materials and contained more storage capacity than a comparable rectangular barn, and was touted as being as easy to construct as the common square building. Octagonal barn supporters believed the roof to be stronger than the roof of an ordinary barn, which would be particularly helpful in farming areas which experienced high winds, such as the Midwest. Because the roof was self-supporting, leaving the interior free of obstructing posts and beams, the octagon barn offered more room for storage of feed, stock, and equipment.

The argument made concerning roof strength proved interesting over the following century. Most round and polygonal barns that have since disappeared did so as a result of roof collapse. The problem lay in the fact that, if built correctly, such a roof did indeed prove stronger than an ordinary rectangular barn roof, but few farmers had any experience - or experienced help - in round barn construction, and built their roof as best they could, improvising a good deal as they went along. A self-supporting roof, if correctly built, could withstand great stress without buckling or collapsing. Roofs which had to be supported by interior posts were less stable, required more maintenance, and created obstructions in the interior, leaving less space available for storage and causing more than a little extra work and inconvenience for the farmer when moving hay or grain.

In West Virginia, the self-supported sectional cone roof seems to have met with the greatest success. Several of the state's circular barns were built with gambrel roofs, but this style appears to have posed some problems for local carpenters who had little experience in adapting a gambrel-type roof to circular construction. The major source of difficulty lay in achieving the proper pitch of the roof rafters above the break, to prevent too great a stress load being placed on the lower portions of the gambrel, which would eventually lead to structural failure and ultimately roof collapse.

Advances in construction techniques and engineering knowledge toward the end of the 19th century contributed to the popular decline of the octagonal barn and the consequent rise of true round barns. In 1891, Franklin H. King of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station published a study of the feasibility of building round wooden silos, which included research on circular barn construction. In 1889, King had designed a cylindrical barn with a central round all-wood silo for his brother at Whitewater, Wisconsin. The plan for this 92-foot diameter, balloon-frame structure appeared in the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station's Annual Report in 1890, and was later published in Hoard's Dairymen. King himself included it in all six editions of his agricultural textbook, and finally the Illinois experiment station adopted the circular barn idea, refining and improving King's plan and introducing the self-supporting roof as an integral element of the design.

Although octagonal and other polygon-shaped barns were still being built as late as the 'teens, by 1900 the circular barn had supplanted these other styles in agricultural literature and was being actively promoted by the agricultural schools of the country's land grant colleges. Many of the polygonal barns during this transition period incorporated King's design of a center cylindrical silo of wood and the arrangement of a central alley flanked by stalls gave way to a more efficient circular plan for the interior.

Another innovation in round barn design involved the use of hollow clay tile for the exterior walls instead of the more common wooden siding. The original idea may have come from the Iowa

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7. DESCRIPTION (cont.)

Experiment Station at Ames, where J. B. Davidson and Matt King in 1908 introduced the use of clay tile in circular silo construction. The Ames engineers subsequently designed a round clay tile barn, 60 feet in diameter with a 46-foot silo in the center, which proved so popular that more than half of the post-1890 round barns in Iowa were built of hollow clay tile, all of them erected after the experiment station circulated plans for such barns in 1910. However, only one round barn of hollow clay tile has been located in West Virginia, on Scott Ford Road near Elkins in Randolph County. Unfortunately, the barn is partially collapsed (after a 1977 windstorm which caved in a large portion of the roof) and under present ownership has little chance of restoration.

Between the turn of the century and the beginning of World War I, round and polygonal barns enjoyed a degree of popularity which surpassed the earlier flurry of octagonal barn construction. In fact, after 1900, round barns in particular joined the growing number of buildings actively promoted and marketed by contractors, architects, farm services, and pre-fab companies offering mail order service. Some companies, such as the William Loudon Machinery Company of Fairfield, Iowa, saw the marketing of round barns as a profitable means of promoting their agricultural equipment. As early as 1905, the Loudon company offered a patented track and hay fork for round barns, and their 1915 catalog featured two different designs for circular barns, one of wood and the other of hollow clay tile. Gordon-Van Tine, another Iowa firm, offered 19 separate barn designs, two of them round. Termed the "Barrel Barn" by the company catalog, these plans were advertised as easy to follow, with each piece of lumber numbered to correspond with the appropriate detail on the accompanying plans. Gordon-Van Tine, incidentally, also supplied the farmer with "the only successful hay-loading outfit for round barns that is on the market." And at least one mail-order concern, with the unlikely name of the Chicago House Wrecking Company, sold pre-fabricated round barns, partially assembled at the factory.

By the 1920's round barn building fervor tapered off. The Depression of the 1930's, followed by World War II, led to radical changes in agricultural methods and requirements. Round and polygonal barns, designed for the days of horse farming and hand feeding, are impractical in this day of large tractors, combines, and commercial truck farms. But the demise of the round barn must also be blamed in part on the ingrained custom and ease of building in rectangles and squares. A round or polygonal barn required the application of knowledge and skill beyond the scope and experience of ordinary carpenters. It required a determined and progressive farmer to fly in the face of both rectangular tradition and local

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1890-1916 Builder/Architect See Individual Inventory Forms

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The round barn is an anomaly in West Virginia, a poignant reminder of the state's agricultural past. The mass of literature generated by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture makes no special mention of round barns; neither does that of the agriculture experiment station or the West Virginia University Agricultural Extension Agency. Even historian Henry Glassie, in his survey of Appalachian barns, failed to include such structures, or even note the existence of these architectural rarities. In fact, a total of only 13 round and polygonal barns are believed to have been built in West Virginia, and there are only five still standing.

Agrarian structures as a whole are difficult to document. Although the underlying philosophy is beginning to change, farm buildings have in the past been of little concern to historians and architects and have been largely ignored in existing studies as well as agricultural literature. While a barn may be placed fairly easily in its broad historical context, specific references to a particular structure are obscure or entirely absent. Even public records in this state make little or no mention of barns and other outbuildings.

In most cases, family and local interest in a round or polygonal barn survives through several generations, and even through changes of ownership, although much detail is lost over the years. But although oral history and family anecdotes can provide valuable insights, they are not always the most reliable of sources for specific information. Determining exact construction dates for most of the state's round/polygonal barns, for example, proved to be almost impossible, but from the physical evidence, available documentation, and comparisons with other round/polygonal barns, the approximate dates given are believed to be reasonably accurate.

West Virginia's round and polygonal barns were for the most part built by wealthier farmers who had the income, the education, and the inclination to experiment with more innovative barn designs. Unlike the barns of the Midwest, West Virginia's round barns remained primarily the province of gentleman farmers. Both the Elkins Round Barn and the Rankin Octagonal Barn near Ravenswood are believed to have been built by state legislators. The Ralphsnyder Decagonal Barn, now at Masontown, the Kuykendall Polygonal Barn near Romney, the Waugh-Pauli Octagonal Barn near Wellsburg, and the Arbuckle Round Barn near Lewisburg were built by old established families with large working farms. The Hamilton Round Barn at Mannington was constructed by the family who owned the property where the first oil well in Marion County was drilled. The Bethany College Round Barn and the Saffel Round Tile Barn at Elkins were both experimental in nature, the Bethany College barn built as part of the school of agriculture's experimental farm, and the Saffel barn the first one in the state built of hollow clay tile.

The significance of West Virginia's round and polygonal barns lies in the fact that the wealth that made them possible came from an agricultural-based economy in transition to an economy financed by mineral resources. All of the state's round barns were built during the boom period from the late 1890s to the start of World War I when waves of new workers came in to help develop the rich coal, oil, and gas resources. The increase in population meant an increased demand for agricultural products and many of the native farmers with small holdings were giving up or selling off their farms to take more profitable jobs with the mineral companies. Mining of the natural resources and the railroads into the state, which in turn brought larger markets - and

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B. SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

additional profits - within easier reach of the remaining farmers.

In 1870 West Virginia produced 8,200,000 bushels of corn; by 1905 the state's farms were yielding 22,800,000 bushels. By 1907 West Virginia's crops were worth a total of \$72,000,000 - an amount 24 times the annual revenue of state government. Between 1870 and 1900 the total number of acres under cultivation more than doubled and the value of land used for agricultural production increased from \$96,714,190 to \$203,970,349.

The town of Mannington is a good illustration of the growth brought about by the exploitation of the state's mineral wealth. From a community of some 700 people in the late 1880's, the town grew to nearly 4,000 by the First World War, due to the discovery in 1889 of major oil and gas fields in the region. The first oil well in Marion County was drilled on property belonging to the Hamiltons, less than a mile from where the Hamilton Round Barn now stands. Mannington was one of the first towns in the country to offer its residents a community cable radio system - and the Hamilton Dairy Farm was one of the early subscribers.

The Ralphsnyder Decagonal Barn built at Indian Creek, Monongalia County, is a good example of a round barn come full circle. Erected in the 1890's by a local horse and cattle breeder to house his blooded stock, it eventually became the property of Consolidation Coal Company, the largest coal operator in West Virginia, which in the early 1970's planned to demolish the barn, even though the company had published a photo of the barn on the cover of a 1970 issue of Conoco magazine. Consol was surface mining the hill behind the barn and using the building itself for the storage of mine equipment, both factors contributing to the barn's rapid deterioration. Although the coal company's expressed intent was to demolish the decagonal barn, it eventually agreed to sell it on the condition that the barn be moved off Consol property. The barn was carefully dismantled by its new owners and moved to their own property where it was reassembled and now serves, once again, as a horse barn.

Whether any of West Virginia's round and polygonal barns were based on published designs in agricultural newspapers, pamphlets, or elsewhere could not be definitively established. The two likeliest candidates are the Hamilton Round Barn and the Waugh-Paull Octagonal Barn.

The Amos Hamilton Round Barn at Mannington is reported to have been based on a Pennsylvania round barn which Hamilton admired. After making a special trip to view the Pennsylvania barn, which was located between Greensburg and Pittsburgh, Hamilton is said to have returned again to Pennsylvania to acquire the plans of that particular barn from the owner. His own round barn is said by the family to have been built directly from blueprints of the Pennsylvania barn, but it is not known whether that barn was based on published plans, designed by the owner, or commissioned from an architect. Attempts to locate the Pennsylvania prototype have been unsuccessful.

The Waugh-Paull barn was one of only two octagonal barns known to have been built in West Virginia. It is the only round/polygonal barn for which the original architectural drawings still exist. The barn was designed by George S. Orth, architect, of Lewis Block Company out of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Orth's design, in turn, may have been influenced by Elliott W. Stewart's widely-known model, which dated from 1874. The Waugh-Paull barn, which was built in 1883-85, closely

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B. SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

resembles Stewart's design, and exhibits a number of features characteristic of octagonal barns based on the Stewart prototype. Unfortunately, although the architectural drawings and specifications are extant, the barn itself was dismantled in 1979 and sold to Meadowcroft Foundation who moved the barn sections to their historic village reproduction site in Avella, Pennsylvania. Meadowcroft has not yet reassembled the barn, however, and their chances of doing so are becoming increasingly remote since the barn sections have been left lying on the open ground for five years now rather than stored in a dry, sheltered area.

While the Kuykendall, Rankin, and Ralphsnyder barns were probably constructed with the aid of working drawings, they were most likely rough sketches and calculations made by the builders or chief carpenters, rather than actual architectural plans and blueprints produced by professional draftsmen.

The Waugh-Paull barn, incidentally, is an intriguing subject for speculation, since the designer was an architect with Lewis Block Company of Pittsburgh. The material used around the base of the building (there was no true foundation) was dressed stone block, which may have been quarried on the site or else supplied directly by Lewis Block. The company may have been taking advantage of the growing popularity of octagonal barns by marketing plans and drawings as a profitable means of promoting sales of their manufactured product, or advertising their architectural services in conjunction with the product. Although it could not be discovered if the company was actively marketing barn designs, octagonal or otherwise, or architectural services, if they actually were doing so, it would be one of the earliest known instances of a manufacturer expanding into this profitable market.

The possibility is supported in part by the fact that the Waugh-Paull barn was designed with a large root cellar with a vaulted roof, built entirely of the same dressed block as the foundation piers and siding, and located under the drive leading from the road into the barn. The root cellar itself was an entirely unique feature, but nevertheless is found rather infrequently in round and polygonal barn construction, since it meant additional expense for the owner in terms of both labor and material.

The Odd Fellows Round barn at Elkins is West Virginia's only hollow clay tile barn, although this building type was popular in the Midwest beginning around 1908 and increasing steadily throughout the rest of the round barn building period. Charles Saffel, the original owner and builder, was manager of the Elkins Brick Company which manufactured the tiles used to build the round barn. Saffel, known locally as the builder of the Odd Fellows Home in Elkins, reportedly collected the tiles over a time over a period of several years, starting around 1900, and finally completing the barn in 1910. The 1910 date is of particular interest, since this was the year in which the Iowa Barn and Silo Station began circulating its plans for a cylindrical barn of hollow clay tile, although whether or not Saffel was directly influenced by the Iowa plan cannot be confirmed.

Today, the Saffel barn is now partially collapsed after suffering severe damage in a 1977 windstorm. The owners have continued to use the barn to some extent, roofing over and enclosing the open sections with various materials. However, there is little hope that the barn will ever be restored, in its present state of deterioration; it most likely faces the same fate as so many other West Virginia barns, whether round, polygonal, or square. Unfortunately, since it is 50%-60% deteriorated, it cannot meet National Register eligibility criteria.

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B. SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

Other round/polygonal barns known or believed to have been built in West Virginia, but which are ineligible for National Register nomination, include the Bethany College Round Barn, built over a period of months in 1911-12 as part of the Department of Agriculture's experimental farm. The Bethany barn was 86 feet in diameter, with a concrete foundation and center silo, also concrete. The 1913 ^{yearbook} college contains a description of the barn, and photographs which show a classic circular barn on the order of the Hamilton Round Barn which was built the same year. Like the Saffel Tile Barn, the Bethany College structure was damaged by a windstorm, and in the mid-1970's was finally demolished at the urging of the College's insurance company. (The experimental farm had ceased operation in 1940). Today, the only physical reminder of the barn's existence is the concrete foundation and silo, which were considered too costly to demolish.

The Arbuckle Round Barn was located on Maplewood Dairy Farm in Greenbrier County, on Route 219 about four miles north of Lewisburg. It was built about 1914 by Newton Stuart Arbuckle, whose son still manages the farm. Built as a dairy barn during the peak construction period for round barns, the Arbuckle barn was circular in shape, with a central round wooden silo. Over the years it suffered from the same problems as many other round barns - defects in the structural system caused it to rack and sag. In 1981-82 the Arbuckle barn was demolished to make way for a new non-round barn on the site.

Another as yet unlocated round barn near Elkins may have once existed. The only evidence is a photograph which appeared in a 1918 history of Randolph County, captioned simply "Historical Round Barn, Built About 1832, Elkins, W. Va." From the photo, the barn appears to have been two stories in height, with vertical wood siding and a conical slate or wood shingle roof. There is no silo. If the 1832 date is correct, this would make the barn one of the earliest built in this country, and certainly the earliest in this state, predating the Waugh-Paul barn by 50 years.

A member of the State Historic Preservation Unit has reported that a round barn is believed to have once stood on the complex built by a fraternal order at Wellsburg, Brooke County. The barn was constructed sometime after the turn of the century, and burned in the mid-1920's. Further information on this barn could not be located, but it is interesting that a third round barn may have been built in Brooke County within a few miles of the Waugh-Paul barn and the Bethany College Round Barn.

There have been several reports of a now-demolished round barn located near Petersburg in Grant County, but no further information on such a barn has been found, and its actual existence is in doubt.

Another round barn is reported to have stood near Route 7 just outside Terra Alta, between Terra Alta and Kingwood. It is believed to have been either hexagonal or octagonal, and was demolished about 20 years ago. Nothing further is known about this barn.

The geographical distribution of the state's round and polygonal barns is interesting, since with two exceptions they are concentrated in three areas. As mentioned above, Brooke County alone had three round barns, built over a period of 30 years, with the oldest barn the last to be demolished. Hampshire County is also thought to have had three such barns, in this case all of them round. The Romney Round Barn at Romney and the Petersburg barn belong to Hampshire and Grant counties,

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

respectively, but were located within 20 miles of each other. The Hamilton barn in Marion County, the Ralphsnyder barn, originally in Monongalia County, and the Terra Alta barn in Preston County were, again, located within a 45-mile radius. The only isolated instances occurred in Greenbrier County (the Arbuckle Round Barn) and Jackson County (Rankin Octagonal Barn).

The self-sufficient family farm is a relic of the past in this state, a victim of the changing economy and burgeoning technology of the past half-century, which have both contributed to the disappearance of traditional agrarian structures when they cease to be functional. Round and polygonal barns, never numerous to begin with, face an even more immediate threat than rectangular barns since they are less easily adapted to accommodate larger modern farm equipment. The handful still standing owe their continued existence primarily to sympathetic owners, although all five are currently in use to varying degrees. Most of the owners are demonstrably proud of their barns, and all have stories of people who stopped to photograph the barns, or deliberately sought out an out-of-the-way polygonal or round barn simply to admire its distinctiveness. The owner of the Ralphsnyder Decagonal Barn uses a sketch of it on the masthead of her Skyview Farm stationery. But round barn owners also face the burden of the inflated costs of maintaining and repairing such barns, with the additional problem of locating contractors willing to take on the job.

Round and polygonal barns represent an era when farmers were experimenting with various means of improving agricultural efficiency and production. Today, they provide a solid - as well as charming - link with an intangible past. But how long these few eloquent tributes to man's desire for something a little different from his neighbors' will remain standing is uncertain.

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