






Welcome to Cazenovia Heritage's **2024 Self-Guided Driving Tour of Historic Barns!** There are 9 examples on this tour of the historic dairy, horse, and threshing barns of the Cazenovia landscape. The barns on this tour are those that can be viewed easily and safely from the road.







While the age of barns is best determined by an interior examination, exteriors also provide clues: Look at the foundation material, shape of the roof, barn height, and whether the barn may have been raised to accommodate cows. As you drive around Cazenovia and based on what you learn, you will see other examples of similar age and purpose. You can choose a route based on proximity or by age of barn. Also, several of the barns on the tour are accompanied by a historic home. Be sure to notice both the house and the barn!

All of the owners on the tour have agreed to participate for **exterior viewing only**. Except the for one noted below, **there is no expectation of seeing interiors**. You are welcome to use their driveways to view more closely or to turn around. **Please respect their privacy.**

The one exception is **on Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup> between 2:00 and 3:00 PM**, when the 3-bay 1790s threshing barn at Meadowood Farm will be open for public viewing. This barn is not visible from the road; park along the road and you will be guided to its location. **Because the tour occurs in lambing season and the ewes will be milking, this one-hour window will be strictly adhered.** Come see up close the barn's timber-framed construction and hand-hewn beams!

Between now and then, enjoy the tour through our beautiful Town, now through Sept 1st!

Rte/ Prox.	Rte/ Age	Address	Photo 2024	Age Built	Original Use	Comments
1	1	3133 Lyon Rd		1790's	Threshing	Settlement period; 3-Bay English Threshing Barn; timberframed; central door; raised to allow cows in lower level.
2	4	Intersection of Stone Quarry Rd & Balina Rd ("Abel Corners")		1870s	Dairy	Converted from small-scale dairy in late 19th century to larger dairy operation in 1930. Continued as dairy until 1940 when established lumber mill. # & placement of windows are unusual but sashes are original to barn. Board & batten siding, ornamental woodwork in gabled ends, stone foundation. Rear, banked entrance for cows.
3	8	2500 Holmes Rd		1940	Dairy	gambrel roof; plank truss, 2 x 10's; high side walls, concrete block foundation, probably replaced a 19th century barn that had burned down.

Rte/ Prox.	Rte/ Age	Address	Photo 2024	Age Built	Original Use	Comments
4	9	3780 Rte 13 South		1958	Dairy	Gambrel roof, no side walls, concrete block foundation, baled hay. Example of construction from WWII to 1960s, after which large scale agri-business and pole barns began to take hold.
5	6	3660 Pompey Hollow Rd		ca. 1932	Dairy	Gothic arch roof; "Sears Kit" buildings; poured concrete foundation. Historic home.
6	5	3 Willow Place		1880s	Horse Barn	Carriage house with architectural details to match house, gabled roof; probably would have had double center door. Historic Italianate 1880s home.
7	3	115 Lincklaen St		1840-1850	Horse Barn	Carriage house with attached shed still standing (view from Lincklaen Terrace). 9x6 and 6x6 windows, gabled roof. Appears on 1859 Map.
8	2	4635 Ridge Rd		1790s	Threshing	Settlement Period. 3-Bay English Threshing Barn, raised & converted to Dairy; Originally unpainted, vertical hemlock & pine boards. Current exterior siding added 19th century. Original interior. Historic Federal-Greek Revival home.
9	7	5157 Ridge Rd		ca. 1940	Dairy	Built as a stanchion barn (ie., with individual cow stalls) and for loose hay; Gambrel roof, plank truss, poured concrete foundation; barn raised 2 ft in early 2000s. <b>BONUS:</b> on 9/1/24, from 2:00 - 3:00 PM only, interior of threshing barn at rear of property will be open to public.





New York State's early barns have regionally distinct styles that often can be traced to the heritage of its settlers. In some areas, for example, German or Dutch immigrants built barns based on those of their native countries. Central New York, and specifically Cazenovia, can trace its barn styles to the New England families who settled the area in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries ("Early Settlement" 1793 -1803).

### **Three-Bay Threshing Barn**

Their preferred style was a single story "English" barn, also called a "Yankee" barn and also called a **three--bay** threshing barn – the latter term describing both its layout and primary function. These buildings were rectilinear, typically 30 ft x 40 ft, gabled roof, with wagon doors on the long side, leading into the center bay. An end bay stored un-threshed hay or grain; the middle or center bay served as a threshing floor; the other end bay stored threshed grain. Animals might be housed at the back, but often in a separate shed. Timbers for beams were hand hewn. These earliest barns sat on the ground or typically would have a dry-laid stone foundation.

### **Dairy Barns**

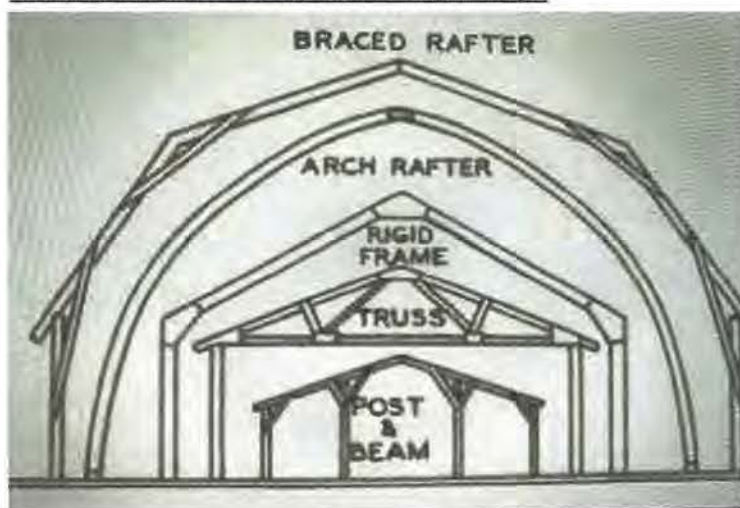
The Erie Canal (1825) and railroads (1860s and 1870s) changed agriculture from family-oriented sustenance farming to market-driven, commercial farming. Dairy farming replaced crops, and the early threshing barns were converted into dairy barns. Larger herds created the need for more housing. Existing barns were raised up or newly built on top of a new fieldstone or masonry basement that housed the dairy herd. The earlier timber barn became a second story to house the hay.

- These "basement barns" became more prevalent in mid-19<sup>th</sup> century (1850s). If the basement were built into the hillside, it became a "banked barn."

### **Horse Barn or "Carriage House"**

Whether in the Village or in the Town, almost all families would have had a horse barn. This was a two-story building with stalls and room on the ground floor for the carriage, buggy, or sleigh. Hay or grain was stored on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor ("hay mow"). Horse barns can be timber-framed, balloon-framed, or in combination. Small windows installed for horses in the outer walls indicate the number of stalls. The carriage house often had decorative treatment or architectural details which reflected extra care being given to the horse and building.

### **Evolution of Barn Structures and Roof Shape**



**Gable roofs:** late 18<sup>th</sup> to late 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Gambrel Roof barn:** Double-pitched roof, wagon doors on long side; with or without a basement; hay on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The invention of the hay track after the Civil War (a fork and trolley system that could lift hay off the wagons), the gambrel roof became popular because the form provided more storage space. With the aid of trussed rafters, a clear span could be created allowing for the use of hay trolleys. Has come to epitomize "Classic" American Barn. Adapted for balloon-frame construction using sawn planks rather than hewn timber.

Above chart from *Anatomy of a Barn*, Dept of Archeology & Preservation, 1110 Capitol Way, Olympia WA; accessed via [dahp.wa.gov](http://dahp.wa.gov) accessed 12 Jun 2024



- **Plank Trussed frames** came in late 1800s. Beams were nailed together versus the mortise and tenon of timber-frame construction. Between WWI and WWII, most all barns using plank truss
- **Balloon or stick frame** introduced in early 1900s
- **Arched truss/Gothic truss** in 1920s
- **Pole barns** > 1960s

#### **Foundations:**

- **Dry-laid Stone:** < 1840
- **Mortared Stone:** 1820 – 1915
- **Poured Concrete:** began in 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 20<sup>th</sup> century
- **Concrete Block:** mass production in early 1900s, more widespread use

Then as now, old timber, beams, and hardware often were re-used in new barns, complicating the dating of barns.

#### **Other Miscellaneous Notes:**

- **Cupola on the roof:** Post-Civil War. Provided ventilation for aeration of hay and ventilated the basement
- **After 1850,** sliding doors with wheels on a track became popular. Before that, doors swung out on iron strap hinges.
- **Throughout 19<sup>th</sup> century,** roofs had wood shingles.

Above extracted from:

- a. Deidre Cunningham, "Upstate Barns as Iconic Structures," *Ithaca Times*, Ithaca NY, 17 June 2016; accessed via [ithaca.com](http://ithaca.com) 04 Aug 2024
- b. Cynthia G. Falk, *Barns of New York: Rural Architecture of the Empire State* (Ithaca NY Cornell Univ. Press: 2012)
- c. Ann G. Gabler and Mirko Gabler, "About Barns," *The Hudson River Valley Review*, Vol 18, No. 1 (2001); accessed via [www.hudsonrivervalley.org](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org) 04 Aug 2024
- d. Oral Interviews June 2024 – July 2024, Randy Nash, President of New York State Barns, Cazenovia NY
- e. Eric Sloane, *An Age of Barns* (Ballantine Books: New York NY 1967)

Prepared by: Anne B. Ferguson, Cazenovia Heritage, August 2024