

## **Your Old Barn Study Checklist (May 4, 2024)**

- **\*Barn Owner – name, mailing address, phone number, email address**
- **\*Barn Location – mailing address, county/township/concession/lot, GPS coordinates**  
Use Google Maps to locate your barn, place the pointer on the roof of the barn and right click the mouse to read the latitude and longitude coordinates e.g. 42.175092 and -81.434679.
- **Year the barn was built, or best estimate of the year the barn was built:**  
The OBP website has a document which may help with aging the barn.  
Observe for stone or concrete foundation, hand-hewn or sawn beams, round or square head nails, width of siding boards, shingles or steel roof sheeting, wrought iron hinges/hardware, written dates on posts or walls, hay track on the roof peak, wagon rack hoist, written or scratched records on granary walls/doors or threshing floor beams/posts.
- **Barn Roof shape (style and slope):**  
Take an end-on picture of the barn for reference to the examples and diagrams are in the Study.
- **Physical condition of barn:**  
Note or take photos of the roof, walls, floor, foundation/stone walls, structural members (interior posts and beams). There is table in the Study to assist with the assessment.
- **Barn construction method and material:**  
E.g. heavy timber frame, stone, light board  
Observe the roofing, timbers, siding, and foundation walls for reference to the examples in the Study.
- **Compass Orientation of the barn:**  
Either use Google Earth or a compass to record the direction of the barn roof peak.

- **Barn measurements (in feet):**

- **outside width** – measure either outside or inside the barn – if inside include the corner posts in the overall outside width
- **outside length** – measure either outside or inside the barn – if inside include the corner posts in the overall outside length
- **wall or corner post height** – measure the height from the barn floor to the top of the wall beam where the rafters rest on – estimate if needed for safety
- **stable (basement) height** – measure from the floor to the underside of the upper floor

- **Special features of the barn:**

As you walk through the barn take photos of any interesting features for reference.

Open barn doors and windows to get the best photos with natural light.

Below are examples of barn special features. Pictures and descriptions of these features are listed in the Study.

**Roof** – cupola, dormer, hayhood, lightning rods, ventilator, weathervane, windmill, wood shingles

**Outside of barn walls** – earth ramp to mow doors, board and batten wall, brick foundation, carved dates, decorations or carvings, diamond cross, decorative window, Dutch door, embrasure, forebay, bridge ramp to mow doors, horizontal wood cladding, owl hole, Pedlar siding or roof, pentice, vertical wood cladding

**Inside the uppers or mow** – anchor beam, beams > 12 inches, canted queen post, carved or written dates, double threshing floor, fire letters, granary, haydoor, hayfork and trolley, king post, marriage or carpenter mark, mortise and tenon joints, tenon pins > 1.5 inch diameter, mow ladder, mowstead wall, scarf joint, swing beam, carved symbols, temporary joist holes, tongue and groove floor boards, wagon rack lifter, wooden pinned floor boards, writing note or initials, ventilator, vertical queen posts

**Stable/basement** – walls > 18 inches, curry comb holder, manure gutters, manure litter carrier, wood or metal stanchions, stovewood walls, tapered windows, threshold or doorsill

**Hardware** – wood or metal latches, rollers, rings, pintles, forged nails, gudgeons, hasps with hooks, hinges, door handles, rope making device

- **Barn complex:**

List of any structural additions attached to the original barn.

Examples are silo, milk house, root cellar, another barn, feed room.

- **Farm/Barn complex:**

Aerial photo or sketch/diagram or Google Maps aerial map.

To use Google Maps, take a screenshot of the Google satellite view of the barn and surrounding buildings, then save this photo as a JPEG to your computer for uploading to the Study.

- **Sketch/diagram/photo of the barn's stable floorplan or layout:**

You may include doors and windows.

Take a photo of the sketch and save as a JPEG to your computer for uploading to the Study.

- **Current Use of the Barn:**

Examples are house livestock, storage, business, dwelling.

- **A short barn story (history or memory of the barn) and submit up to 4 historical photos:**

Take a camera picture of the historical photo to convert to JPEG format for uploading to your computer and then into the Study.

- Barn photos:

Photo Type	Example
<p><b>Perspective</b> - End, side and roof in one photo</p>	
<p><b>End</b> - “Straight on” photo including the basement, wall and roof outline. The end of the barn with any special features or decorations is preferred. If the end of the barn is obscured with things in the way, take the best photo you can.</p>	
<p><b>Side</b> - “Straight on” including the basement, wall, and entire roof. Please take both sides of the barn if possible. If not, the side featuring the big doors is preferred.</p>	
<p><b>Bent</b> - Bents are the cross-sectional structures of the barn, i.e., posts, beams, purlins, braces. Please take photo(s) to show the structure of one entire bent, and preferably one bordering the threshing floor. Stand with your back to the outside wall and take a photo of an entire bent across the barn floor.</p>	

**Threshing floor** - The threshing floor is the central bay of a barn located between two bents and usually inside the big doors.

Stand with your back to the outside wall and take a photo of an entire threshing floor.



**Roof underside** - Attempt to include as much as possible of the roof structure.



**Mortise and tenon joints** - A mortise (hole or groove) and tenon (tongue) joint connects two pieces of wood in the barn structure. Attempt to take a photo of the mortise and tenon where the biggest beams meet the biggest posts, which is likely to be on the bent adjacent to the threshing bay.

