



Michigan Barn Preservation Network

Promoting appreciation, preservation and rehabilitation of Michigan barns, farmsteads and rural communities.

2025 Barn of the Year Nomination General Information

Every year, the **Michigan Barn Preservation Network (MBPN)** acts to honor those who make the extra effort to maintain or restore their historic barn with integrity. It also recognizes that barns must adapt in order to survive, so it seeks as well to honor those who have modified their barns in a sensitive, creative manner to accommodate an alternative use. It also recognizes that a corporation may have more resources on hand with which to do the work than an individual farmer. To reflect these variables, the MBPN has developed the following award categories:

- Continuing Agricultural Use
 - Family/Private, Non-Profit or Commercial
- Adapted to Other Uses
 - Family/Private, Non-Profit or Commercial

The **Michigan Barn Preservation Network (MBPN)** invites you to submit your nomination for a “**Barn of the Year**” designation in one of the categories listed above. A nominated barn can, but need not be owned by the applicant. The application may be completed by the property owner, a contractor, a neighbor or relative, or anyone else who has a specific interest in the barn being nominated and who has the property owner’s permission to do so. Barns nominated in previous years may be nominated again.

In order to qualify, a barn must retain its integrity as a barn, regardless of its current use. Barns will be judged for (1) completeness of information presented in this application, (2) sensitivity and integrity of repairs or modification, (3) visual appeal, (4) creativity, (5) thoroughness of work, and (6) amount of effort expended to repair and maintain the barn. Those nominations selected for an award will be recognized at MBPN’s Annual Conference in March.

A completed application must include these parts:

- (I) Nomination Form (attached)
- (II) Written Narrative
- (III) Photos
- (IV) Michigan Barn & Farmstead Inventory (attached)

See next page for complete requirements for each section of the application.

In order to be considered, nominations must be emailed or postmarked by January 31, 2025.

Application materials must be scanned and e-mailed to: klanderson42@gmail.com or uploaded onto a thumb drive and mailed to:

MBPN Barn of Year Committee
11530 Peach Ridge Ave. NW
Sparta, MI 49345

For additional information, contact Keith Anderson, Chair, MBPN Barn of the Year Committee.

Mobile: (616) 540-6701 or Email: klanderson42@gmail.com

Application Requirements 2025 Barn of the Year Nomination

(I) NOMINATION FORM - Complete the information on the enclosed form.

(II) NARRATIVE -

Can be typed or written. Do not include photos in the narrative.

Please address as much as possible of the following:

1) Description-

Describe the exterior of your barn: What shape does its footprint have (include the length, width and height of the building, if known). What materials are used for the foundation, walls and roof? What kind of roof does it have—gable, gambrel (hip) or something else? Does it have an access ramp? A walkout basement level? Are there any decorations present (cupola, brackets, painted arches, etc.) that are not readily seen in the photographs? Is there an associated (paved? fenced?) barn yard? Describe any other unique features.

Describe the interior of your barn: How is it framed (logs, hand-hewn timbers, 2x4s, etc.)? How many bays does it have (a bay is the space between vertical support posts along the length of the building; most barns are three or more bays in length). Are a granary, stanchions/gutter system, or other features present? Any unique features?

2) History-

Please describe as much history of the barn and the associated farm as possible. Include date of construction, names of builder, original and subsequent owners, dates of ownership, dates and kinds of changes to the barn, past and present uses (with dates, if possible). You may tabulate some of this information if you prefer. Please also list other farm buildings present and those which have been removed.

3) Barn Rehabilitation-

Describe the work done to preserve the barn. Please be detailed. Has the barn been lovingly maintained throughout its life? Or was there a major rehabilitation project undertaken? What was the nature of the work?

(III) PHOTOS (12-24 photos maximum)

Please provide digital photos, as listed below, separate from the narrative. Do not send prints. Any prints must be converted to a digital format and uploaded to a thumb drive or sent via e-mail with your completed application. Identify each photo with a title. (Ex: front of barn after restoration)

- 1) **Exterior Photos** to include: Front, Left elevation, Right elevation, Back elevation, Oblique angle, Unique features
- 2) **Interior photos** to show framing and other construction details and unique features
- 3) **“Before” and “after” photos** if available

(IV) MICHIGAN BARN & FARMSTEAD INVENTORY

Please fill out and submit the form with your application. The inventory is used to establish a database of information about Michigan barns and other agricultural buildings.

2025 Barn of the Year Nomination Form



Owner Information:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

Member of MBPN? Yes No
(Need not be a member to be eligible)

Barn Information:

Barn Name: _____

Address _____

Township _____

County _____

Original address (if moved) _____

Township _____

County _____

Category of Submission:

Please check one under category A or B --

A. Continuing Agricultural Use

____ Family/Private

____ Non-Profit

____ Commercial

B. Adapted to Other Uses

____ Family/Private

____ Non-Profit

____ Commercial

Applicant Information (if not owner):

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

Member of MBPN? Yes No
(Need not be a member to be eligible)

Briefly About the Barn:

Date of construction _____

Date acquired by current owner _____

Date(s) of significant restoration _____

What inspired you to preserve it?

Most Unique Feature _____

Michigan Barn and Farmstead Inventory

DATE _____

PROPERTY ADDRESS _____

OWNER'S NAME _____

OWNER'S ADDRESS _____

COUNTY _____

TOWNSHIP _____

BARN

CONDITION	ROOF SHAPE	ROOF COVERING	SIDING	PAINTED?	OTHER FEATURES	FOUNDATION	FOUNDATION MATERIALS
<input type="checkbox"/> good <input type="checkbox"/> fair <input type="checkbox"/> poor <input type="checkbox"/> altered <input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> gable <input type="checkbox"/> gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> gothic <input type="checkbox"/> half monitor <input type="checkbox"/> mansard <input type="checkbox"/> monitor <input type="checkbox"/> ogee <input type="checkbox"/> round <input type="checkbox"/> shed	<input type="checkbox"/> asphalt shingle <input type="checkbox"/> slate <input type="checkbox"/> steel: corrugated <input type="checkbox"/> steel: ribbed <input type="checkbox"/> steel: standing seam <input type="checkbox"/> wood shake <input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> steel: corrugated <input type="checkbox"/> steel: ribbed <input type="checkbox"/> wood: battens <input type="checkbox"/> wood: horizontal <input type="checkbox"/> wood: v-groove <input type="checkbox"/> wood: vertical <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> yes Color: _____ NAMES, DATES OR DECORATIONS? <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> yes Describe: _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> cupola <input type="checkbox"/> dormer <input type="checkbox"/> lightning rod <input type="checkbox"/> ventilator <input type="checkbox"/> weathervane <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> bank <input type="checkbox"/> bridged <input type="checkbox"/> on grade <input type="checkbox"/> piers <input type="checkbox"/> raised <input type="checkbox"/> ramped	<input type="checkbox"/> boulders <input type="checkbox"/> cement block <input type="checkbox"/> field stone <input type="checkbox"/> field stone – split <input type="checkbox"/> field stone – dressed <input type="checkbox"/> glazed tile <input type="checkbox"/> poured concrete

Please check the box to indicate if the following buildings are on the farmstead:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farmhouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Milk House |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Coop | <input type="checkbox"/> Outhouse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corncrib | <input type="checkbox"/> Silo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Granary | <input type="checkbox"/> Windmill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hog House | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Machine Shed | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |