

Memorandum



To: Trustee Gianopulos, Health, Environment, Buildings & Grounds
From: Sarah Kenney, Planning & Zoning Coordinator
Date: May 23, 2011
Re: Quilted Barn Program Overview

The McHenry County Historical Society sponsors a program known as the Quilted Barn Program. This program enhances cultural and esthetic qualities upon the Village Hall grounds, as well as throughout the community. One such milestone worth noting is this year's 15th anniversary of the building of the Barrington Countryside Fire Protection District fire station. The architecture of the fire station resembles that of prior buildings/barns built to carry out the duties of the National Brotherhood of Teamsters at the turn of the century. The program requires that two eight foot by four foot plywood boards be connected and painted a unique quilting design of choice. The Village has its own unique identity with the branding of the flying geese logo. The quilt square pattern chosen for this project is known as "Flying Geese" and will mimic the official pantone colors of the Village.

Sources

VBH Board of Trustees Minutes <http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov/archive/vboard/archive.htm>
Underground Railroad, Illinois <http://www.freedomtrails2legacies.org/ugrr.htm>
Urban horse <http://www.manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/uploads/docs/240177.pdf>
Horses in Fire Service, Fire Barn <http://www.firehorses.info/>
Quilt Trail History http://www.quilttrailgathering.com/uploads/Genesis_of_a_Dream.pdf

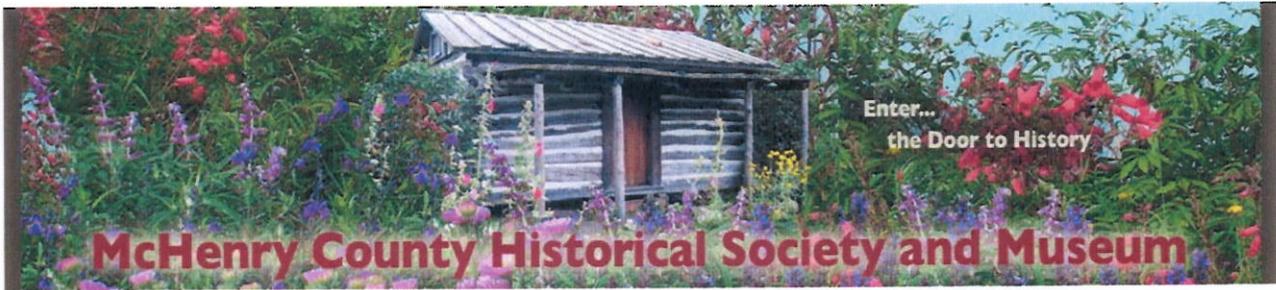
QUILTED BARN PROJECT

A HISTORY

The Quilted Barn Program is an effort by the quilting community to promote quilting and its significance of rural structure and landscape. The ground-breaking for the Fire Station building was fifteen years ago. Its design was selected to emulate an equestrian teamster barn, the original locomotion of fire trucks. Once constructed, it was the most expensive and modern public safety building in the Barrington area until Barrington constructed its public safety building. The building continues to be a testimony of intergovernmental cooperation and an especially germane topic today. It was constructed on property owned by the Village of Barrington Hills by a joint endeavor by the Village and the Barrington Countryside Fire Protection District. Once completed, it was and is occupied by fire personnel employed through a joint agreement between the District and the Village of Barrington, all of which is reflective in the share fire and EMS coverage for the Village of Barrington Hills by five fire protection districts. The attention of the quilt square promotes the history and benefit of the building but its design has a purpose. Quilt squares have established designs of which the most basic and thereby popular is the Flock of Geese (a symbol reflective of that used by the Village, but also used in the markers of the Underground Railroad). Illinois was a noted path on the route out of slave states and the quilt pattern would denote a message for the guides or conductors such as with the Flock of Geese "this way North". The quilt square program, from the guidelines promoted through the McHenry County Historical Society, would be the attachment of the Flock of Geese square to the North wall of the station in the adopted colors of the Village. The square would remain from Memorial Day to Labor Day so that the motoring public, some 35,000 cars on a daily basis, would see a symbol that denotes the history, heritage and may engage an interest to learn more about the story of the Flock of Geese.



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Barn Program Links

- Barn Programs
- Barn Registration Application
- Quilted Barn Program**
- Quilted Barn Application
- Three Bay Threshing Barn

How to create Barn Square

Paint the quilt pattern on exterior grade plywood, 3/4" AA or AC, meaning that it is finished on one or both sides. Use two 4 foot x 8 foot sheets. Prime the plywood with two coats of paint, with four coats on the edge. For final painting use a high quality semi-gloss exterior oil paint. Quilt pattern samples shown are suggestions only. Participants may select their own design.



The easiest way to apply a pattern is to create a 3 inch border all the way around. This will leave 7 1/2 feet for the pattern. Print out a 7 1/2" line drawing. Then use a scale of 1 inch=1 foot to transfer the pattern to wood.

McHenry County Quilted Barn Program

Several years ago a local newspaper featured a photo of a barn shadowed in the light of the setting sun. The caption read, "Nothing is more beautiful than seeing the sunset behind a McHenry County barn." The thought that such a scene in this once prominent Illinois dairy farming county may soon end up as this generation's memory is giving impetus to a new program.

It is a public art related project that may be the answer for barn appreciation, preservation, and agri-tourism. It combines the tradition and beauty of quilt designing with the long lasting durability of American barns and their adaptability as showcases for public art. Following the lead of states like Iowa and Ohio, McHenry County, Illinois is setting the stage for a similar "Quilted Barn" program in this state.

Basically the program would involve selecting a quilt pattern, painting it onto two 4 x 8 foot plywood sheets, thus making an 8 x 8 foot quilt painting. It will then be attached to a barn close enough to a road to be seen from either direction. Information about the quilt patterns, be it "Log Cabin" "Grandma's Flower Basket," "Flying Geese," the barn, the sponsors and/or artists will become part of one or more self-driving or biking tourist brochures. One county in Iowa already has 48 quilted barns while in Ohio half of the 88 counties have them.

We have the opportunity to do likewise. Our barns are located in close proximity to each other. They are diverse historic structures that will be enhanced by the use of art and quilt designs. Public art in and of itself can be shared by everyone. The program opens up agri-tourism opportunities and quilted barns reconnect all areas of McHenry County to their common origins.

For information on ways to participate in the Quilted Barns program or questions contact the McHenry County Historical Society at 815-923-2267 or info@mchsonline.org. Participation in the McHenry County Quilted Barn Program is open to owners of barns and other rural structures suitable for display. Other groups like quilt clubs, 4-H Clubs, Scout Troops, Artists, religious and civic groups are encouraged to participate in this program by sponsoring the creation of a barn quilt and/or actually making a barn quilt.

The requirements of this Public Art/Barn Preservation Program are minimal purposely to encourage greater participation. For barn sites located within a municipality, please contact those Building/Zoning Departments directly for any restrictions.

Nancy J. Fike

McHenry County Historical Society
Museum Administrator

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Visit Quilted Barn Projects Across the Nation

[LINK](#) To see the Quilt Barn project of the Greenfield Historical Society of Greenfield,

[LINK](#) To see Harrison County Ohio Quilt Barn Project.

[LINK](#) To see The Barn Quilts of Sac County Iowa

[LINK](#) To see Barn Quilts of Grundy County Iowa

[LINK](#) To see the Barn Quilts of Ashe County, North Carolina

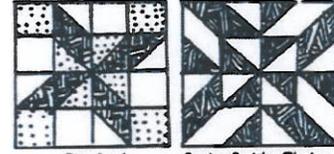
[LINK](#) To see Barn Quilts of Marshall County, Indiana

Quilted Barn Blocks



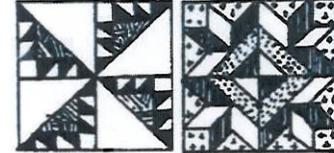
Autumn Leaves

Oregon Trail



Pinwheel

Squire Smiths Choice



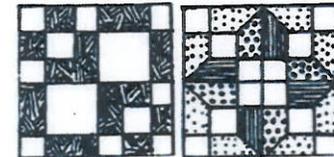
Delectable Mountains

Kansas



Log Cabin

Square Compass



Domino Net

Lucky Clover



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